

The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

VOLUME II No. 4

OCTOBER 1986

No. Platte Convention — ROARING SUCCESS!

More than forty enthusiastic members of the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION met in North Platte Nebraska for four days in August for a memorable, educational and enjoyable third bi-annual convention.

Nellie Snyder Yost Lydic, her husband Frank, the "Friends of Buffalo Bill" and the North Platte Buffalo Bill Corral of the "West-erners" hosted an unforgettable program for the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION.



Julie Greene in front of No. Platte Holiday Inn

The festivities commenced with a "wine and cheese" party on Friday night, at which we all got better acquainted, met our hosts, and learned a lot about Texas Jack and the history that surrounded his warm friendship and association with Buffalo Bill Cody in the area of North Platte.

The Association breakfast on Saturday morning was well attended, and we were given a formal welcome to Nebraska by Sen. James Pappas. This was followed by the symbolic groundbreaking for the heroic sized statue of Buffalo Bill, which is to be erected in his home town of North Platte, and which is being sponsored by the "Friends of Buffalo Bill."

These festivities were attended by North Platte Mayor James Kirkman who addressed the crowd, and we were privileged to have our president, Julie Greene break the ground with the ceremonial shovel for the erection of this statue. It was particularly fitting that the Texas Jack Association took an important part in this event, as it served as a reminder of that long ago day in 1908, when Buffalo Bill Cody was responsible for a ceremony honoring the memory of Texas Jack Omohundro, and arranged to have a granite headstone mark his gravesite in Leadville, Colorado.

A visit to SCOUT'S REST RANCH, the home of Buffalo Bill Cody occupied the group's afternoon. The ranch became a state historical park in 1965. Since that time, the house and barn have been restored and a wealth of Cody memorabilia have been acquired.

Cody built his North Platte home during the



Front row (l to r) Audrey Kamm, Nellie Yost, Virginia VanLeu, back row (l to r) Stuart Omohundro, Kitty Wyche, Charlie Evans, M.H. Omohundro, Dennis Greene, Julie Greene, Angela Wyche, Randy McKinney, Frank Sullivan.



The President's MESSAGE

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PAST PRESIDENT

The last two years have really flown by. They have been a lot of fun, and very rewarding. When Dennis and I took over the helm of the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, we had no idea where it would lead. We only knew that J.B. (Texas Jack) Omohundro was very deserving of renewed and revitalized recognition, and that the purposes of our organization were most worthy ones. What we didn't know, was how many really great and wonderful people we would meet, both personally, and through the mails, and how much we were to learn about Old West history from you, our members.

I have to admit that I am really very enthusiastic about the future of the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION. Angela Wyche, our new president, is highly qualified to lead us to greater heights, and if she can expect the interest and support which most of you have given to me, we have nowhere to go but UP!

We have met together in Leadville, Colorado (where Texas Jack spent his last days and was buried), in Cody, Wyoming (where the Buffalo Bill Historical Center houses the finest collection of Buffalo Bill, and other western memorabilia), and in August of 1986, North Platte, Nebraska (where Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill became best friends as scouts for the U. S. Government). All who attended those three get-togethers came away with a feeling of

(continued pg. 13)

My first official message must be to our immediate past president, Julie Greene, and her vice-president and husband, Dennis Greene. In two years they have turned a fledgling, relatively undefined organization into an international, very stable corporation for the purpose of perpetuating the memory of the famed Texas Jack Omohundro. Their most visible accomplishment was the superb newsletter "The Texas Jack Scout." (This created an interest among western buffs and historians and I hope to continue it as an avenue for communicating and dispensing information about the western period in our U.S. History and Texas Jack himself.) A resounding thank you, Julie and Dennis, for the many hours you spent developing our organization.

We had a wonderful time in North Platte in August. The Buffalo Bill Association and the Chamber of Commerce were gracious hosts and made us feel like honorary citizens. Thank you, North Platte, for rolling out the "Welcome mat." We shall never forget our Duke of Alexis camp site experience!

Our next meeting will be in Richmond, Virginia in 1988. We invite and urge you, members and friends, to begin making your plans, now; resolve to spend three days in August 1988 with fellow Texas Jack Scouts. We are already making plans to visit his birthplace in Fluvanna County and to tour a Civil War battlefield where Texas Jack carried messages to and scouted for General "Jeb" Stuart. Wouldn't we have fun at a country square dance? Did you know that Texas Jack sometimes "called figures" for square dances at Fort McPherson?

I am excited about our organization; I am proud to be the president; I expect and appreciate your support! Please keep in touch!

At this writing our membership is two hundred plus. I challenge you out there to solicit and educate the populace and thereby double the membership by 1988!

Angela

WHAT IS THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES??? AND A TAX DEDUCTION FOR YOU AS WELL!???

(Answer...A membership in the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, naturally!)

THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC. A NON-PROFIT, TAX DEDUCTIBLE CORPORATION

OFFICERS:

Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond, VA	Chairman
Angela G. Wyche, Virginia Beach, VA	President
Kitty Van Lew Wyche, Virginia Beach, VA	Vice-President
Audrey Kamm, Van Nuys, CA	Secretary
Malvern H. Wyche, Virginia Beach, VA	Treasurer
Julie Green, Palos Verdes, CA	Director
Dennis J. Greene, Palos Verdes, CA	Director
Carol McLaughlin	Newsletter Editor
Frank R. Sullivan, Springfield, IL	Founder
Nellie Snyder Yost, No. Platte, NE	Historical Advisor
Frank A. Lydic, No. Platte, NE	Poet Laureat

HONORARY MEMBERS

Mrs. Henry H. R. Coe: Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY
 The Earl of Dunraven VII: Grandnephew of the Earl of Dunraven IV (author of "The Great Divide", "Hunting in the Yellowstone" and "Canadian Nights"), County Limerick, Ireland
 Dr. Paul Fees: Curator, Buffalo Bill Historical Center, Cody, WY
 Mr. Fred H. Carlow: Grandson of William F. (Buffalo Bill) Cody, Cody, WY
 The Knight of Glin: Great Grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV
 Mr. Herschel C. Logan: Author of "Buckskin and Satin" (Biography of Texas Jack), Santa Ana, CA
 The Earl of Meath: Grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV, Co. of Wicklow, Ireland
 Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost: Author of "Buffalo Bill", "Medicine Lodge" and "The Call of the Range", North Platte, NE

"THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT"

is a publication of THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.

3075 Bray Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452

Subscription is included in membership

dues of \$10.00 annually from January 1st.

(from page 1 NORTH PLATTE CONVENTION)
 heyday of his famous Wild West Show. He owned some 4,000 acres here, which were appropriately named SCOUT'S REST RANCH. The park encompasses 16 acres of the original ranch, including the house and barn.

Cody raised cattle and horses and introduced blooded stock to this part of the country. He bought throughbred horses and high-grade herefords, shorthorns, and polled-angus cattle. His hereford bull, Earl Horace, was a noted sire of the time.

In 1886, Cody instructed his brother-in-law and ranch manager to build the large house. He evidently left the main design to his sister Julia Goodman. His one stipulation was that it contain a parlor and a bedroom with a bathroom. A contractor was engaged to furnish the material and build the house for \$3,900. In 1909, an addition was built onto the back of the house.

During the period, the Wild West Show was a profitable venture and money for the development of the ranch and Cody's other interests was plentiful. No expense was spared in the building and furnishing the ranch. Neither was cost considered in entertaining many guests, who included many wealthy and famous figures of the time. There were actors, businessmen, royalty, army officers, and friends from Cody's frontier days.

Tom Morrison, Superintendent of the Ranch conducted a personal tour for our group.

Later on we were treated to an Old-Fashioned "Bean Feed" in Cody Park, hosted by the "Friends of Buffalo Bill" and the "Westerners." We were served delicious bean soup (which was Mrs. Cody's private recipe) along with corn bread, fruit salad and home-made apple pie. We each went away with a gift package of beans along with the recipe, so



Mayor and Mrs. Kirkman at the Bean Feed that we could re-produce the treat at home. Dee Roebuck kindly arranged this picnic feast for us.

A special event that evening was a visit to the local rodeo. Many of us had never seen one, so it was a particularly enjoyable experience.

While there, Mayor Kirkman introduced our group to the local audience, and after that the announcer really brought us "into the program."



Stuart, Stephen and Astrid Omohundro and Audrey Kamm at the Bean Feed.

Sunday, August 10th was a highlight of the convention. We took an all day trip in two busses, first to Fort McPherson, which is now a veteran's cemetery, in itself an epilog of the history which permeates the area. Many famous soldiers and frontiersmen have been buried there, and our guide related to us tales of Indian massacres, and famous battles whose participants now occupy these grounds. An old pard of Texas Jack, California Joe, who was shot in the back by an unknown assailant is buried there.

Next, we traveled some 50 miles south of North Platte. Several historic spots were



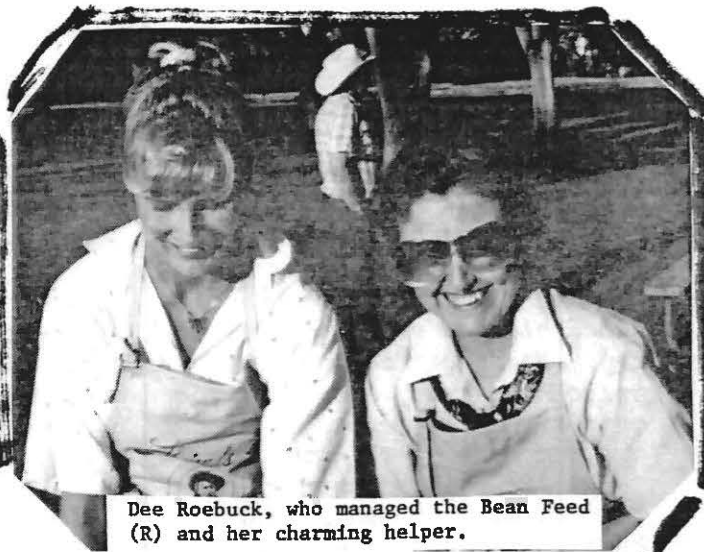
Nellie Yost surrounded by members of the North Platte "Westerners"



Charlie Evans and Nellie Yost at the Buffalo Bill Memorial ceremonial ground-breaking.



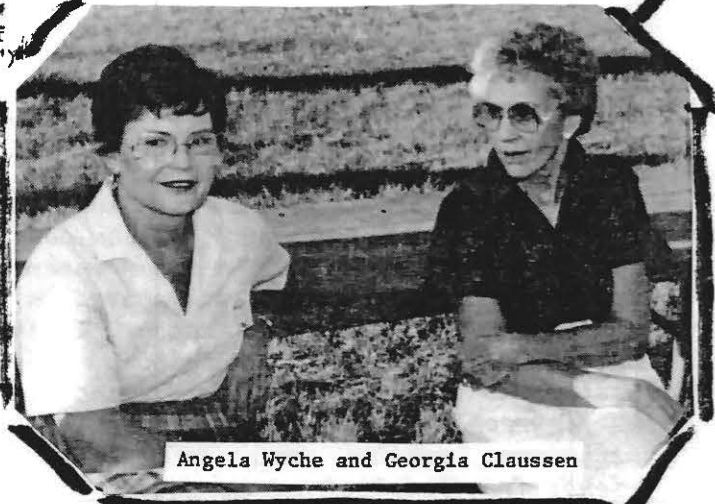
Ken Roebuck (President of "Friends of Buffalo Bill")



Dee Roebuck, who managed the Bean Feed (R) and her charming helper.



Grace Mae and Virgil Egle



Angela Wyche and Georgia Claussen



Frank Sullivan talking with Georgia Claussen



Ardrey Kamm conversing with Mayor James Kirkman



Outgoing President, Julie Greene and incoming president, Angela Wyche.



Ben Wyche and Dennis Greene

(from page 3 NORTH PLATTE CONVENTION)

visited, such as the site of Cottonwood Springs, where once was located a general store owned by a man named McDonald.

It has been recalled by William H. McDonald (first white child born at Cottonwood Springs) that it was in 1869 when Texas Jack, in the employ of a Mr. Borwn, drove a small herd of Texas longhorns to the vicinity of Cottonwood Springs. Something about the country or the people must have appealed to the young scout from Texas. Perhaps it was the activity in the great mid-West, and there was activity a-plenty--Indian raids, buffalo hunts and frontier army life. Here, too, in the center of this sphere of activity were to be found most of the noted men of the Old West, names of prominence even at that time. It is logical that all this offered a special



At the site of McDonald's General Store, which served as the main hub of Cottonwood Springs, where Texas Jack first stayed near No. Platte.

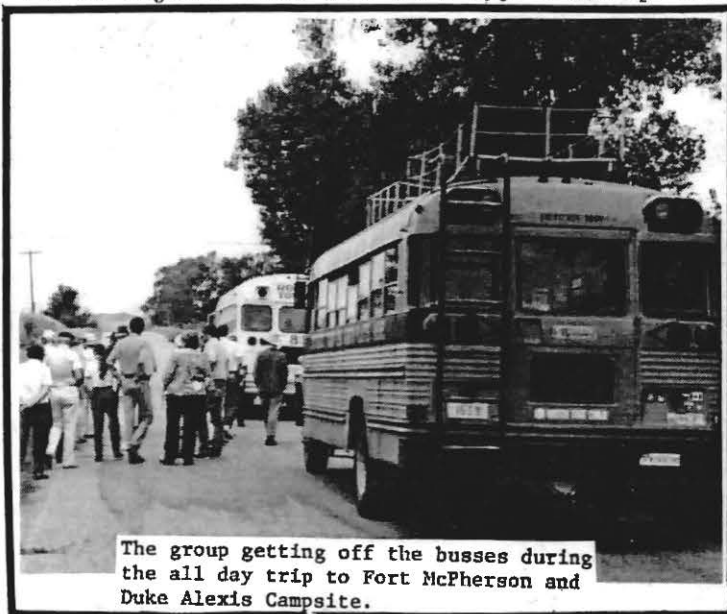
hunt was to be a remarkable occasion.

The OMAHA WEEKLY HERALD in its issue of January 17, 1872 contained nearly four columns devoted to the arrival of the Grand Duke Alexis and his party. A descriptive excerpt reads:

"The permanent camp for the buffalo hunt is on Red Willow Creek, about fifty miles southwest of this post...At 8 o'clock on the 14th, being the Duke's birthday, he mounted a galant charger, properly armed and accoutred for the hunt, accompanied by Generals Fowler, Clark, Stevens, Thomas and about twenty soldiers. They rode about seventeen miles before finding game, but here came upon a fine herd on a splendid hunting ground. The Grand Duke was anxious for the onslaught and was given the first hunt, which after a short chase resulted in his bringing down his first buf-



(from left) Nancy Phillips, Virginia Van Leu, Kitty Wyche and Julie Greene



The group getting off the busses during the all day trip to Fort McPherson and Duke Alexis Campsite.

inducement to the young man from the South. From his early life, the love of adventure and the great outdoors had been an integral part of him. To him the great plains beckoned and to them he came.

On we went in our two school busses, over seldom traveled dirt roads to a staging area where we abandoned the busses for four-wheel pick-up trucks (kindly driven by the local residents), which transported us to the Duke Alexis Camp Site - five miles over hill and valley with no roads to follow.

There, where the marker commemorating the famous spot was located, we picnicked on box lunches that were brought with us.

On January 13, 1872, the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia arrived in North Platte, for a buffalo hunt. Accompanied by his own staff and surrounded by a host of military dignitaries including the host Officer, General Phil Sheridan and Lt. Col. George A. Custer, the



Steve & Kendel Cornwell, Ben Wyche and M.H. Omohundro



Tom Morrison



Virginia Van Leu and Virgil Egle enjoy the Bean Feed.



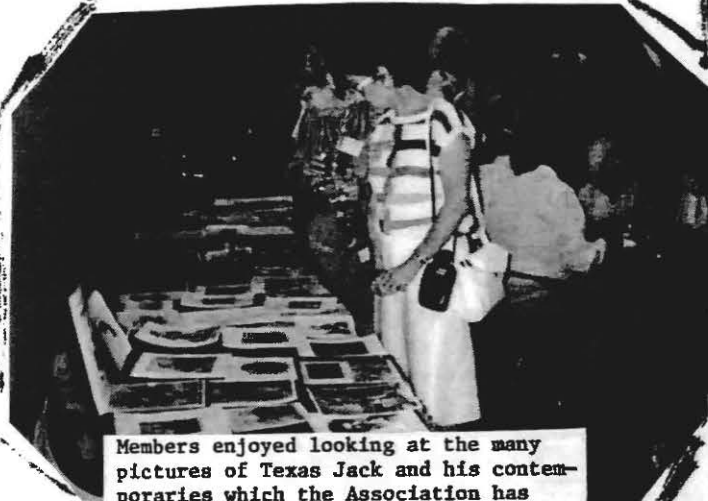
The Bean Feed.



M.H. Omohundro speaking to the group.



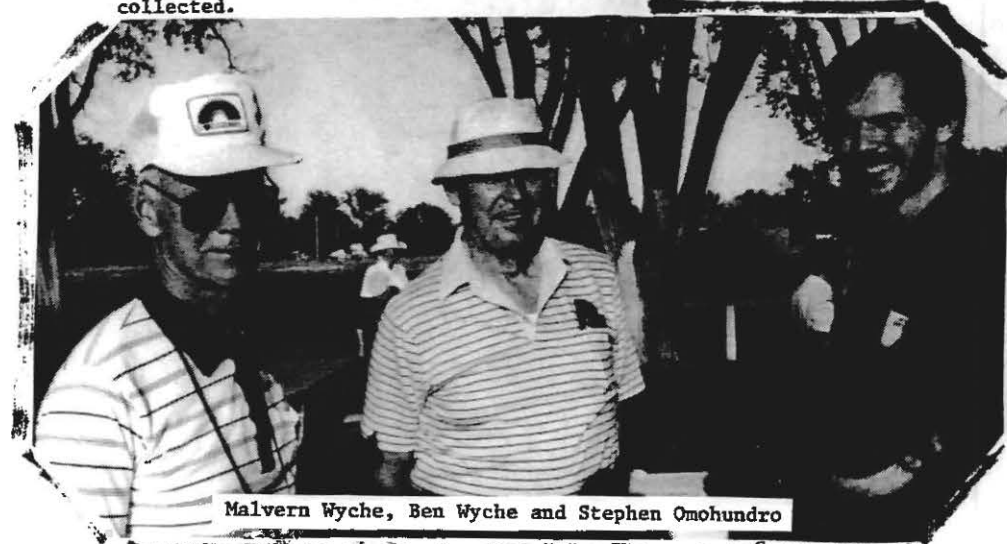
Frank Sullivan and Nellie Snyder Yost.



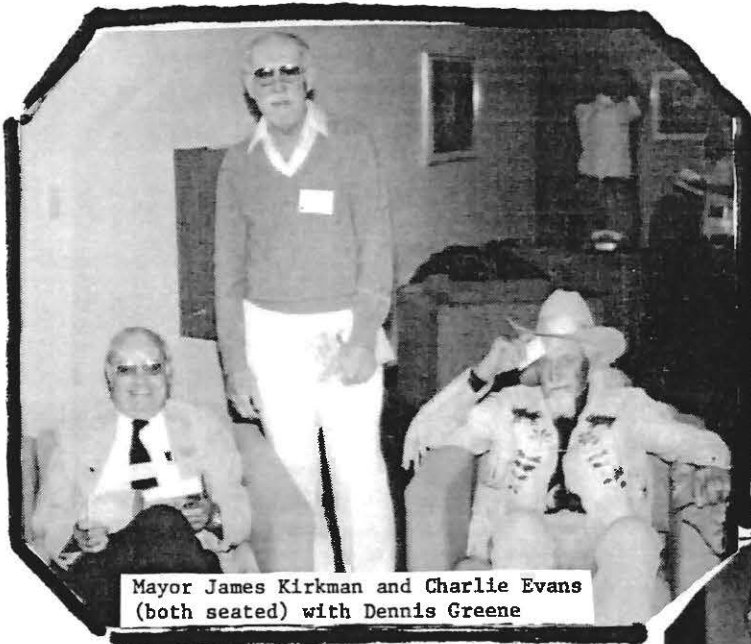
Members enjoyed looking at the many pictures of Texas Jack and his contemporaries which the Association has collected.



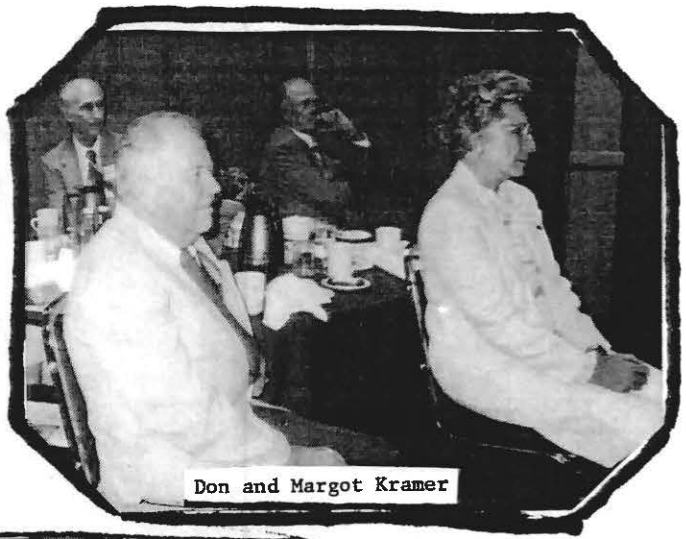
Buffalo Bill look-a-like, Charlie Evans.



Malvern Wyche, Ben Wyche and Stephen Omohundro



Mayor James Kirkman and Charlie Evans (both seated) with Dennis Greene



Don and Margot Kramer



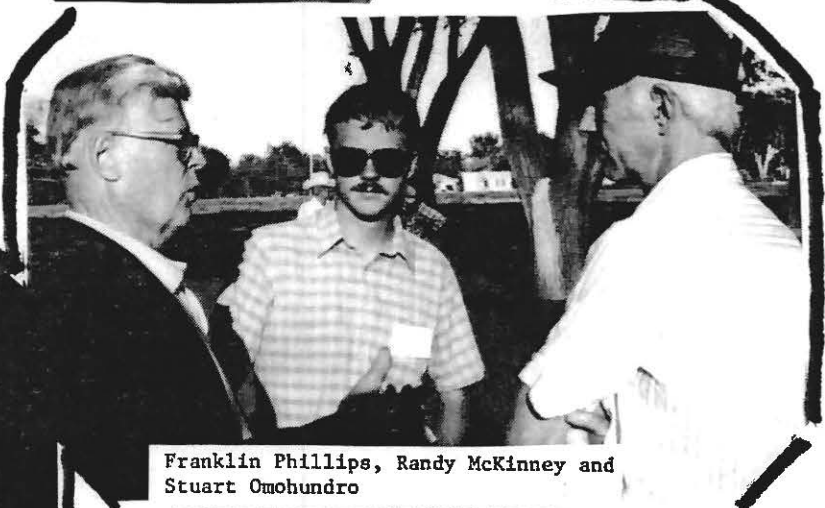
Nellie Yost Lydic shows husband Frank (and other members of the Texas Jack Assn) the plaque of appreciation awarded her by the Association.



Virgil Egle chats with Frank Sullivan



June Wyche



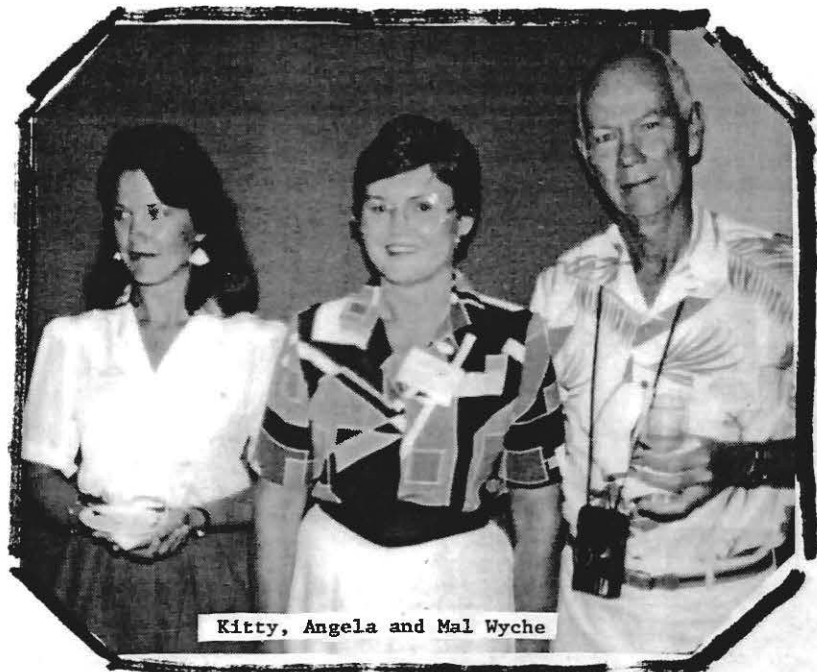
Franklin Phillips, Randy McKinney and Stuart Omohundro



Frank and Mary Margaret Noonan Sullivan (seated) and Astrid Omohundro chats with Audrey Kamm (background)



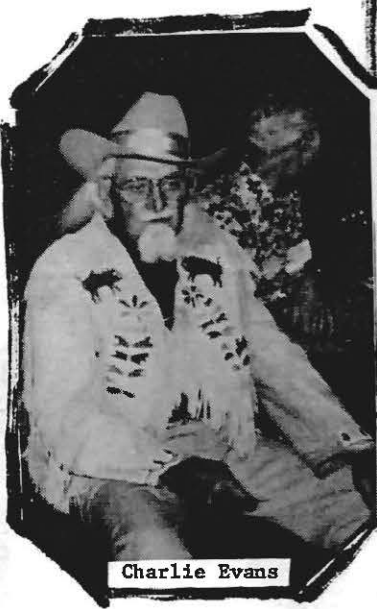
Steve and Kendel Cornwell



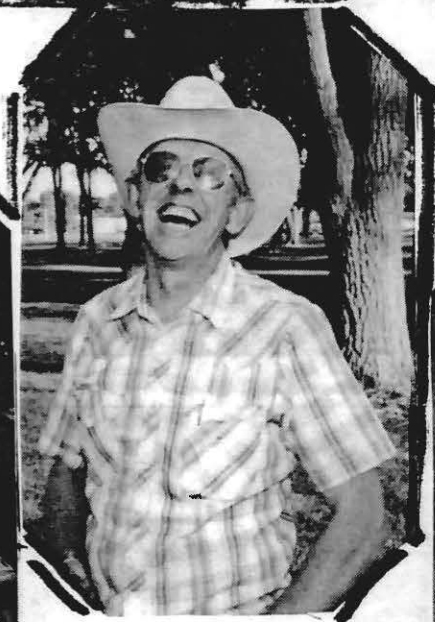
Kitty, Angela and Mal Wyche



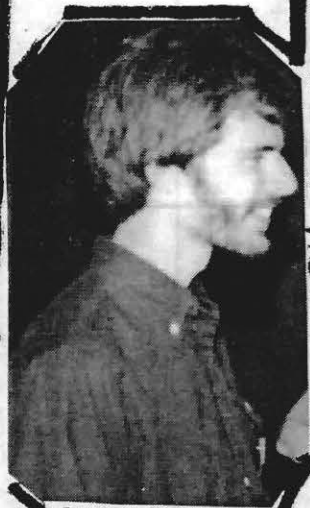
Frank Sullivan blowing out his birthday candles (in background, Mary Margaret Sullivan (seated) and Julie Greene.



Charlie Evans



Our WONDERFUL bus driver, Mike Rumery



Stephen Omohundro



Kendel and Steve Cornwell



Nellie Yost poses with other members of "The Friends of Buffalo Bill"



Franklin Phillips and Julie Greene



Astrid Omohundro chatting with Nancy Phillips



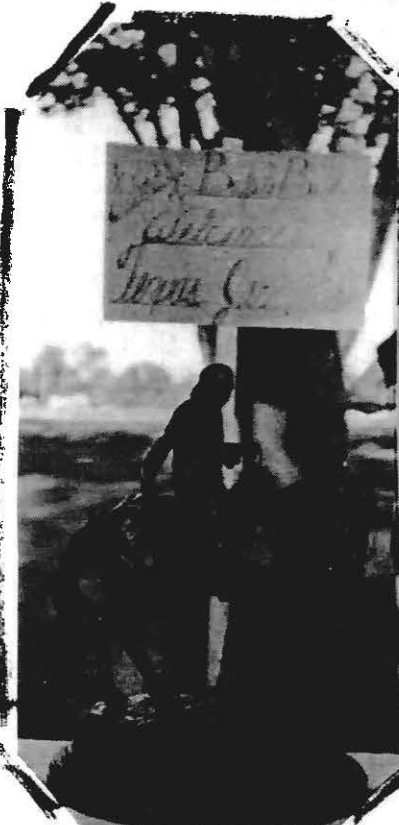
Angela Wyche, Ben Wyche, Mal Wyche, Nancy Phillips, M.H. Omohundro, Hughes Diller and Franklin Phillips.



The Bean Feed.



Our hosts: Nellie Snyder Yost and Frank Lydic.



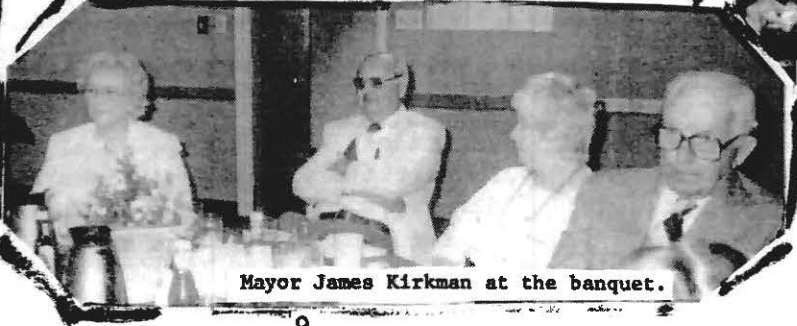
The bronze replica of the heroic sized statue of Buffalo Bill to be erected in North Platte.



Tom Morrison Banquet speaker



Margot Kramer



Mayor James Kirkman at the banquet.

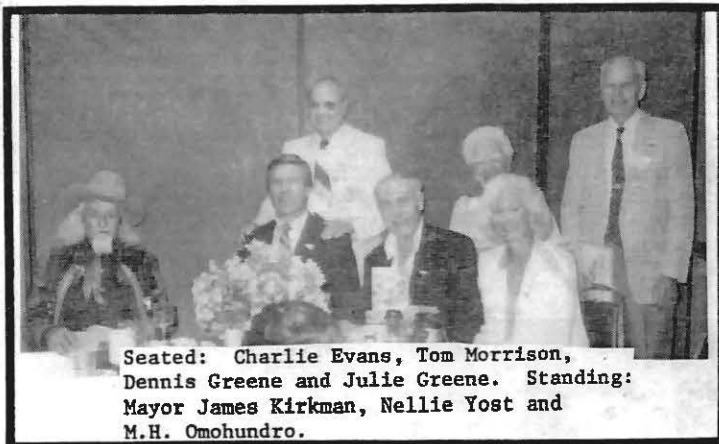


M.H. Omohundro, Frank Sullivan, Virginia Van Leu, Nellie Yost and Dennis Greene at marker commemorating the site of the Duke Alexis Camp Site.

falo in splendid style, and proving himself a masterly horseman. The hunt resulted in killing between twenty and thirty buffalos.

Much has been written of the fine work done by the renowned Buffalo Bill as scout on the hunt, which is as it should be. However, what is not so generally known is, that the mild mannered scout upon whom Cody had come to rely so much at Fort McPherson and who had contributed so much to the successes of the hunt in his quiet way, was none other than Texas Jack. It was he whom Cody first called to guide the royal party as it started forth on its mission from North Platte.

Buffalo Bill tells of it in his own words: "When the whole party was mounted they started south, Texas Jack acting as guide until such time as I could overtake them." That his name should escape notice on this and other notable occasions is a tribute to his self-effacement and his desire to let others bask in the limelight.



Seated: Charlie Evans, Tom Morrison, Dennis Greene and Julie Greene. Standing: Mayor James Kirkman, Nellie Yost and M.H. Omohundro.

The group was enthralled to hear tales from Nellie Yost and Alfred Meyer about the camp that occupied this spot. There were, in addition to the Duke's aids and the military contingent, about 1,000 Indians camped

nearby...and they all had a royal feast. Nellie brought this long abandoned area to life with her vast historical knowledge of the area. Needless to say, the experience was unforgettable.

That night, the Texas Jack Association had its grand banquet. Charter Members who were present were given certificates of appreciation, and outstanding Association members such as Frank Sullivan and M.H. Omohundro were honored. Guest speakers were Nellie Snyder Yost, author of 11 historical books concerning plains history, Tom Morrison, Superintendent of SCOUT'S REST RANCH and Charlie Evans, famed Buffalo Bill look-a-like who has been responsible for continuing the true image of his famed predecessor, both in



Kitty Wyche, Randy McKinney and Stephen Omohundro display their Charter Membership Certificates.

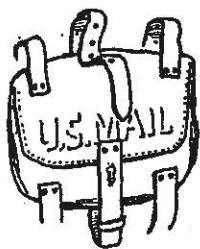
this country and in Europe. Association past President and Founder, Frank Sullivan was surprised with a birthday cake and the vocal well wishes of the group, Nellie Yost and Frank Lydic were presented with a plaque of appreciation for hosting our get-together, and Julie Greene was presented with a farewell gift by Angela Wyche, who is following her as President of the Texas Jack Assn.

The Association had several business meetings at which we defined the future aspirations of the Association, and at which new officers were elected.

At our final breakfast meeting on Monday morning, members received a report from the out-going officers on the current status of the Association after which new president, Angela Wyche formally acknowledged her new position.

It was a great and enjoyable get-together, and as we all headed home, we all certainly looked forward with much anticipation to our next meeting together in Richmond, Virginia in the summer of 1988.

FROM THE MAIL POUCH . . .



Approximately 13-14 years ago I had great luck in finding three copies of BUCKSKIN AND SATIN in a relatively short time through International Bookfinders, Inc., Box 1, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272.

Bettie Blue Omohundro
Arlington, VA

A suggested project (for the Assn.) is to request the National Park Service to name a pass, a mountain, a valley or a geyser after Texas Jack (in Yellowstone Park). Several years ago I made such a request that as Texas Jack was an early pioneer, his name should be recognized. I had an answer from the Park Service that was not satisfactory. I suggest that if you would...request that the membership contact the National Park Service and perhaps their representatives in Congress something might be done about it.

Frank Sullivan
Springfield, IL

...I have a Smith & Wesson which was presented to the Earl of Dunraven by Texas Jack.

I am quite interested in Texas Jack and his friends, and have (another) gun in my collection that may have a Texas Jack connection: It is a Winchester Model 1873 presented to "Arizona Joe" by the Winchester Company. The only reference to Arizona Joe I have found is a dime novel written by Col. Prentiss Ingraham titled "Arizona Joe The Boy Pard of Texas Jack - A Story of the Strange Life of Captain Joe Bruce, a Young Scout, Indian Fighter, Miner, Ranger, and a Protege of J.B. Omohundro, the Famous Texas Jack."

Greg Martin
San Francisco, CA

...I'm a retired medical doctor, (pathologist) with an interest in history, especially the mid and late 19th century. I have a relatively large collection of Civil War articles, relics, books, tintypes, CDVs, albums, firearms, swords, uniforms, medical items, and assorted memorabilia. I also have many "old west" artifacts such as Wells Fargo firearms, documents etc. I collect Wild West Show items such as Buffalo Bill, Pawnee Bill, 101 Ranch and other related material. I've been a collector for over thirty years.

I have a small ranch near Dallas with

Longhorn cattle, horses etc...this has been my pride and joy since I've been retired.

Recently I acquired a copy of "BUCKSKIN & SATIN" (mint condition with dust cover) and have been further fascinated by our friend, Texas Jack. I want to do some research on his activities in north Texas.

I was especially interested in the story regarding Texas Jack, Jr. - there must have been some newspaper reports about the Indian depredation leading to the rescue of the little boy. If you have further information on this, please let me know...

Marc Garza, M.D.
Dallas, TX

I always thought the Omohundros were Huguenots but since discovering that we are Powhatan Indians I've traded the Brooks Bros. suit for a breechclout, the Olds for a pinto pony, the telephone for a drum and am now faced with the task of re-printing 50,000 biography sheets. Plus my dog won't stop barking at me.

Don't know how I'm going to break the news to my wife - she didn't like me too much when I was a Frenchman. Lord only knows what her reaction will be when she discovers that she's been married to a redskin for 26 years. Maybe if I told her I was a chief...

Jim Omohundro
Lexington, KY

I cannot tell you what a wonderful time we had at the Texas Jack Meeting in North Platte! I have always wanted to meet and talk to Nellie Yost. It was the high point of my whole trip!!

...You have done a beautiful job with the SCOUT newsletter. I just wish I could do the same justice to my Buffalo Bill as you have done to your Texas Jack.

...After being around the Omohundro family today, I can understand why Will Cody valued John Omohundro's company so much!! I am your true pard,

Kendel Cody Cornwell
Redondo Beach, CA

...Hello! (from Nebraska). We were the one's in the tan GMC pickup (at the Duke Alexis Campsite).

Eldon's great grandfather Joseph K. Paxton came to this place in 1870 as a government surveyor so was here when the hunt was on. We are still on the land - 4th generation and have a son who is farming - 5th generation.

(continued pg. 24)

Introducing . . .



Texas Jack Association Honorary Member

NELLIE SNYDER YOST LYDIC

One must wonder, after being around Nellie any length of time, how so much energy, enthusiasm and talent can be packed into such a little package. While she will never see the other side of 5 ft., or even 90 lbs., you always know when Nellie is around, because things are HAPPENING!

Nellie Snyder Yost Lydic was born in a sod house in northwest Lincoln County, and grew up on her parents ranch in the beautiful Sandhill lake country of McPherson County, Nebraska. Daughter of Bert (Pinnacle Jake) and Grace McCance Snyder, Nellie graduated (valedictorian) from Maxwell High School in 1923. She taught one year in a rural McPherson County school, riding horseback, six miles a day, to her school. After spending two years in Salem, Oregon, where she worked in the Miller Department Store office, she married David Harrison Yost in 1929 and returned to Maxwell, NE. She has one son, Thomas Snyder Yost, four grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

With eleven books published, Nellie started her writing career in 1963 when she wrote the Fort McPherson Centennial Pageant, produced in North Platte, and she was the Grand Marshal of the Old Glory Blowout that same fall, the only woman to date to be chosen for that honor.

She was a Colonel in the Cody Scouts of North Platte, and since 1966 has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska State Historical Society, where she served as president from 1974 to 1976. She is a trustee of the State Historical Society Foundation.

She is a past president and life member of the Nebraska Writers Guild and was Secretary-Treasurer of the Western Writers of America. She is a charter member of the North Platte Buffalo Bill Corral of Westerners, where she served as secretary, and is an honorary member of the Omaha Westerners Corral.

Nellie was appointed to the Fort Robinson

Centennial Commission by Gov. Exon in 1973, and was a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame Commission. She was appointed by the Nebraska Legislature to the Poet Laureate Commission.

Nellie was first listed in WHO'S WHO IN AMERICA in 1972 and was the recipient of the Nebraska Optometric Society's "Eyes on Nebraska" award in 1970. In 1972, she was selected Beta Sigma Phi's first "First Lady of the Year" in North Platte, and was made an Honorary International Member of that organization the same year.

She received the Golden Saddleman in June, 1975, highest award given by the Western Writers of America for "Bringing Dignity and Honor to the History and Legends of the West." She was appointed to the board of directors of Westerners International of Tucson, and awarded the WRANGLER trophy by the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City for BUFFALO BILL, the best non-fiction book published in 1979.

Nellie was interviewed by the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL and invited to New York to appear on GOOD MORNING AMERICA with David Hartman, which aired on February 22, 1980...all in connection with her book, BUFFALO BILL.

She edited Bartlett Richards' book, NEBRASKA SANDHILLS CATTLEMAN, published by the State Historical Society in 1980. She also edited WOMEN WHO MADE THE WEST, and wrote one chapter for it. The book was published by Doubleday in 1980. She wrote foreword for TRAILS OF YESTERDAY, reprint of 1920 book published in 1980 by Nebraska University Press, and edited BACKTRAILING AN OLD COWBOY, published in 1982 by Nebraska Univ. Press.

Nellie read papers at the Madison, SD History Conference in 1980, '82, '83, '85 and '86. She won the 1979 Society of Midland Authors award for the best biography (BUFFALO BILL) published in 1979.

Nellie was appointed an Honorary Colonel in the Nebraska National Guards in 1980, and has been a member of The Little Big Horn Association since 1978. She is a member of the Oregon and California Trails Association and of The Order of Indian Wars, and is a proud Admiral in the Great Nebraska Navy as of 1982.

She has won a WWA Stirrup, just last June, for a "best of 1984" article, and will receive a second Golden Spur for another "Best of 1985" feature this June in Fort Worth.

Nellie travels extensively, giving lectures and programs in many states, as well as Nebraska.

Nellie became Mrs. Frank Lydic in 1984, and she and Frank reside (when they're not off lecturing somewhere) in North Platte, Nebraska.

Gifts From Members

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the following members who have given monetary gifts to the Association:

Paul Omohundro	\$40.00
Don & Margot Kramer	\$50.00
(In honor of Founder and Past President, Frank Sullivan).	
Benjamin Wyche	\$50.00
Frank Sullivan	\$50.00
Malvern Wyche	\$50.00
Nellie Yost	\$10.00
Frank Lydic	\$10.00
Audrey Kamm	\$10.00
June Wyche	\$60.00
Virginia Van Leu	\$100.00
Stuart Omohundro	\$100.00
Judy & Ken O'Mohundro	\$40.00
Kendell Cornwell	\$ 5.00
Malvern Hill Omohundro	\$100.00

CONGRATULATIONS...

* Gail and Max Price of Hillside Colorado on the birth of their daughter Silver Dawn (named after Baby Doe Tabor's daughter, Silver Dollar), on July 2, 1986.

* Dr. Stephen Omohundro, who has accepted a position as professor of Computer Science at the University of Illinois, in Champaign, IL.

* Heather Omohundro, who on September 21st, became Mrs. Scott Gilbert, in Palos Verdes, CA. Scott (who is a paratrooper), and Heather, will make their home in Fayetteville, North Carolina where they are stationed for the next two years.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

Melody Kramer Dallas, TX	Oct 3	Richard E. Omohundro, Jr. Belmont, MA	Nov 16
Robert L. Omohundro Santa Teresa, NM	Oct 5	Yolande Knight Aurora, IL	Nov 17
Judith A. Phillips Newport News, VA	Oct 6	Angela Wyche Virginia Beach, VA	Nov 20
Kitty V. Wyche Virginia Beach, VA	Oct 7	Kelly Wyche Arlington, VA	Nov 23
Gloria Palmer Santa Ana, CA	Oct 9	Fred Hayles Westminster, CA	Nov 24
Nancy M. Phillips Newport News, VA	Oct 9	June Wyche Arlington, VA	Nov 25
Barbara Ella Omohundro Tustin, CA	Oct 13	Joyce O. Miller Hohokus, NJ	Nov 30
Carol B. Horstman Springfield, IL	Oct 14	Alice Phillips Richmond, VA	Dec 2
Betty Woods Springfield, IL	Oct 17	Stephen Omohundro Champaign, IL	Dec 10
Dr. Henry Doerge Middleburgh, NY	Oct 19	Mrs. Frank P. Foster Tampa, FL	Dec 11
Alex Hendrie Glendale, CA	Oct 20	Kelly O'Mohundro Santa Ana, CA	Dec 18
David R. Spencer Willow Creek, MT	Oct 25	Mary Nees Golladay Scottsville, VA	Dec 19
Marie Nees Banton Prospect, VA	Oct 28	Jeff O'Mohundro Santa Ana, CA	Dec 20
Linda L. Stratz Santa Ana, CA	Oct 28	Chester T. Bolling Goochland, VA	Dec 23
Berryman L. Omohundro Sykesville, MD	Oct 29	Mrs. Henry H.R. Coe Cody, WY	Dec 25
Paul Granell Anaheim, CA	Nov 9	Nancy Jo Gunter Springfield, IL	Dec 26
James Moyer Vienna, VA	Nov 12	Evelyn Emple Palos Verdes, CA	Dec 28
Heather M. Omohundro Manhattan Beach, CA	Nov 16	Kristy O'Mohundro Santa Ana, CA	Dec 29

ASSOCIATION MOVES HEADQUARTERS TO VIRGINIA

Please be sure to change your records, and note the NEW ADDRESS of the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION. It is:

THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
3075 Bray Rd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23452

(804) 340-3875

Letters or phone calls to the Association or to the TEXAS JACK SCOUT newsletter, should be directed to the above address.

Please send us your news. We would like to share it with the membership. If you come across any news items or articles that you feel would be of interest to other members, please send them for consideration. We are anxious for your participation.

13

(from pg. 2 MESSAGE FROM PAST PRESIDENT)

great enthusiasm for the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, and comradery for fellow members who attended. I am really looking forward to Richmond, Virginia in 1988, which is the area where Texas Jack was born, and where he became "the boy scout of the Confederacy" during the Civil War. May I strongly suggest that all of you who possibly can do it mark your calendars now, and plan to attend. You won't regret it, I promise you!

Julie

'87 ASSOCIATION DUES NOW DUE!!

AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, OUR TOTAL INCOME IS DERIVED FROM THE MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE THEREFORE, ASKING THAT, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE IMPORTANT FUNCTIONS OF THE ASSOCIATION, YOU SEND IN YOUR DUES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

BUFFALO BILL

Col. William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was born on February 26, 1846, near LeClaire in Scott County, Iowa. In 1853, his family moved to the Salt Creek Valley in Kansas, where they were among the first settlers.

Young Cody began his colorful career at the ripe old age of 11, when he signed on as an ox-team driver for 50¢ a day. Two years later, he hired on as an "extra" or messenger boy with a westbound Russel, Majors and Waddell bull train. In 1858, he became assistant wagon master on a bull train headed for Fort Laramie, where he joined a party of trappers on the Chugwater River.

The next year, Cody attended school for nearly a month. In 1859, young Bill joined the gold rush to Pikes Peak, CO. Then in 1860, he became a Pony Express rider, one of the youngest on the line at age 14. He once rode 322 miles in 21 hours, 40 minutes, exhausting 20 horses.

While too young to enlist in the Army during the early years of the War Between the States, Cody served the Union forces as a ranger, dispatch bearer, and scout in Missouri, Kansas, and the Santa Fe Trail. In 1864, he enlisted in the Kansas Volunteer Infantry and served until the end of the war. At that time he drove a stage between Fort Kearny and Plum Creek (Lexington), Nebraska.

On March 6, 1866, he married Louisa Frederici of St. Louis and ran the Golden Rule House hotel in Salt Creek Valley, Kansas. Later the same year, he went to work as a government scout at Fort Elsworth, Fort Fletcher, and Fort Hays, Kans. On December 16, his daughter Arta was born.

In 1867-68 he was employed by the Goddard brothers to provide buffalo meat for workers on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He was paid \$500 a month and is said to have killed 4,280 buffalo in 8 months. Cody claimed the title of "Buffalo Bill" in a buffalo hunting contest near Sheridan, Kan. He outshot Bill Comstock, another buffalo hunter, shooting 69 buffalo to Comstock's 46.

As a government scout in 1868, headquartered at Fort Larned, Kan., he performed remarkable endurance rides, once covering 355 miles in 58 hours of day and night riding. From 1868 to 1872, he served with the Fifth Cavalry in various expeditions against the Indians. In 1870, his son, Kit Carson Cody was born, but the youngster died at the age of 5 in Rochester, NY, in 1876.

Cody kept plenty busy in the year 1872. He



William (Buffalo Bill) Cody, shown with Sitting Bull. Photo from the Denver Museum - Western Collection.

guided the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia on a hunting trip and was almost elected to the Nebraska Legislature on the Democratic ticket at age 26. In August, his daughter Orra was born. In November, Cody resigned his position as a U.S. Army scout to go back East with Texas Jack to act in Ned Buntline's stage play about the frontier. It was Cody's first taste of the world of grease paint, and he cottoned to it right off.

Still, Cody returned to the West in 1876, when Colonel Mills requested his service to guide General Crook into Indian territory of Wyoming. After the Custer Massacre on the Little Big Horn, Cody, who was serving under General Merritt, found himself on July 17, 1876, near Hat Creek in Northwest Nebraska. It was here that Cody allegedly killed a Cheyenne sub-chief called Yellow Hair (misinterpreted as Yellow Hand).

Later that year, the stage lured him back, and he went on tour until 1878, portraying scenes from the Sioux War. However, in 1877, he went into partnership with Frank and Luther North to establish a cattle ranch near North Platte, where he took up residence the following year.

In response to a plea from the townsfolk of North Platte to organize an appropriate western shebang for the Fourth of July, Cody staged the first Old Glory Blowout in 1882. The "Blowout" has since been heralded as the beginning of rodeo in the U.S. It could also be considered a trial run for his Wild West Combination, which was unveiled in Omaha on May 17. Earlier that year, his daughter Irma

was born on February 9.

From 1883 to 1886, Cody successfully toured the United States with his Wild West Show, taking the wild and woolly frontier to the doorsteps of eastern dudes. In 1887, he took the show on a triumphant tour of England. That same year he was appointed "aide-de-camp", with the rank of Colonel, by Nebraska National Guard. He crossed the Atlantic again in 1889 to enthrall Europe with America's real West.

Buffalo Bill's "Wild West" played adjacent to the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, and in 1896 he founded the town of Cody, WY. In 1898, August 31 was celebrated as Cody Day at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in Omaha. Then, in 1900, Cody went into partnership with James A. Bailey (Barnum and Bailey). In 1902, an enlarged show again toured Europe.

During the decade of 1900 to 1910, Cody poured his money into a variety of projects from irrigation systems to mines and financed friends and relatives. Many of his ventures were ill-fated and disastrous financially, leaving him in dire monetary straits. As a result, he borrowed money from Bonfils

& Tammen of Denver in 1912, pledging his services as collateral. From 1913 to 1917, his already bleak financial situation gradually worsened.

He joined with William Lillie (Pawnee Bill) in the Buffalo Bill's Wild West and Pawnee Bill's Far East Show in 1908. This combine toured for a time, but misfortune seemed to follow, and this show also failed. Cody then appeared with the Sells-Floto Circus. The season of 1916 was Cody's last appearance on the circuit.

At the close of the 1911 season Cody was in need of money and sold Scout's Rest Ranch and some 3,000 acres to his show partner Pawnee Bill for \$100,000. The Cody family remained at the ranch until April of 1913 when they moved to Cody, Wyo.

Taken advantage of by friends and foes alike, Cody was a tired, but ever optimistic old man. He had made and spent fortunes. He died on January 10, 1917, at the home of his sister, May Cody Decker, in Denver. He was buried on Lookout Mountain near there just before his 71st birthday.

* * * * *

SPRINGFIELD, IL CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The Springfield TJA Chapter had a coffee hour on June 22, 1986, at the Illini Country Club. Twelve were present.

The following officers were elected: Edward English Woods - President, Hughes Diller - Vice President, and Donald C. Kramer - Secretary/Treasurer.



Front row (l to r) Margot Kramer, Betty Woods, Nancy Jane Snyder and Dorothy Joyce. Back row (l to r), Don Kramer, Mary Margaret Noonan Sullivan, Phil Trutter, Bill Snyder, Frank R. Sullivan and Hughes Diller



Springfield IL Association members, Nancy Snyder and Carrol Hall.

N.P. MEDIA COVERAGE (from pg.19)

the women and children, the finale of all wild west shows.

"The smoke from the burning wagon train, the screams and whoops...it all made an indelible impression on me," Omohundro recalled.

FRANK LYDIC, our poet Laureat, composed this poem while we were meeting in North Platte. He read it as a surprise tribute to our Founder, Frank Sullivan, at our farewell breakfast, on August 11, 1986.

Texas Jack! Oh Texas Jack!
His fame shall always grow;
And I Salute the person
Who caused it to be so.

Jack and famed William Cody,
Were comrades of the plains.
As scouts and guides and actors,
They both made noted gains.

Jack expired at thirty three,
While Bill beat three score, ten.
Soon Jack was near forgotten.
Such fate comes to most men.

He had succumbed in Leadville,
A Colorado town.
His life too soon had ended,
For gaining wide renown.

A board was his grave marker,
'Til many years had sped,
Until Cody came to town,
And left a stone instead.

But as years sped onward,
Decades of time were crossed.
It seemed renown of Texas Jack,
Would be forever lost.

In Springfield, though, a lawyer,
Frank Sullivan by name,

Vowed to restore the luster
To Omohundro's fame.

After much researching,
Plus outlay of time and cash,
He resolved to hold in Leadville,
An Omohundro bash.

He secured N. Yost as speaker,
And assured her with some smiles,
That between Leadville and Casper,
Were much more than ninety miles.

There Texas Jack was honored,
In Tabor's opera room,
Followed by a visit to
The Omohundro tomb.

In Eighty four, in Cody,
At a meeting duly called,
Officers for Texas Jack
Were quite legally installed.

Though problems still beset us,
It now would quite truly seem
That we have seen fruition,
Of the Springfield lawyer's dream.

Then praise Jack Omohundro!
May tales of him grow rife,
As we commend Frank Sullivan,
Who brought him back to life.



New TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION officers. From left to right: M.H. Omohundro, Jr., Chairman; Kitty Van Lew Wyche, Vice-President; Angela Wyche, President; Malvern Wyche, Treasurer; Audrey Kamm, Secretary.

WELCOME NEW TJA MEMBERS

CHARTER MEMBERS

June Wyche
Kelly Wyche
Steven Votaw

ACTIVE MEMBERS

Betsy O. King
Dr. William B. Omohundro
Mrs. Marc Garza
Joyce O. Miller
Helen Monterio
H.S. Dickerman
Don Fortney
William B. Perkins

The Texas Jack Commemorative Knife

The TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION has been extremely fortunate to obtain a limited issue commemorative knife, produced in honor of Texas Jack Omohundro by John T. Floyd.

The Knife was a gift to the Association from our Chairman, M.H. Omohundro, Jr., who purchased one of the only 25 produced before the mold was destroyed. We are certainly very appreciative of this kind gesture by our Chairman.

The idea of producing the knife was inspired by Texas Jack Association members John and Edna Nees of Scottsville, VA, when they met the designer, Mr. Floyd. John Nees is the grandson of Arabella Nees, sister of Texas Jack. Following are excerpts of a letter written to the Nees by John Floyd, explaining something about himself, and about his interest in Texas Jack that resulted in the production of the knives:

"...I was born in Spartanburg County, township of Woodruff, South Carolina. As a boy, I worked on the farm and in my grandfather and father's general store. After college, I enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and spent 39 months in the South Pacific during WWII. My wife being a native of Staunton, VA, and not caring to return to South Carolina after the war, I was selected as Administrator for the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind and served in that capacity for 37 years, retiring in January, 1980.

After a couple of months of retirement, I became quite bored (you can't put a work horse out to pasture). Having been a knife collector for over 50 years and knowing that there was not an exclusive knife store within a radius of over 500 miles, I decided to open one on a very limited basis just to have something to do. Well this part time hobby of a business developed into a second career.

By nature, having a creative instinct and always looking or thinking of something new and different, I started designing and having produced inexpensive novelty type knives. In early 1981, I was approached by the Virginia State Police to design a knife commemorating their 50th anniversary. This I did. It was accepted and I had 2,000 produced. From this production, many requests started coming in to do a commemorative knife; some of which I did and some I rejected.

About a year ago when (John and Edna Nees) were in my shop, I showed (them) one of the latest commemorative knives (made by BOKER), "Buffalo Bill". This led into a conversation of "Texas Jack." During the conversation, I could readily feel the pride of her-

atige and commented 'There should be a TEXAS JACK commemorative.' This planted the idea and the creativity in me came to the forefront.

Shortly thereafter, (I saw) a copy of the history of TEXAS JACK. When I read about the part that my great, great grandfather, John Buchanan Floyd was responsible for getting John (Baker) Omohundro into the Confederate Army, I really became inspired and started drawing and writing specifications. My first consideration being to do a knife befitting the subject.

Now about the knife:

The blade is made of surgical steel; the handles are made of polished stag bone and the bolsters are nickel silver.

The blade is acid etched PAWNEE with a spear going through it. Here I tried to capture the fact that Texas Jack was known as the 'White King (or Chief) of the Pawnee.' The blade also bears my trademark, to insure authenticity. It will never be made again, after production I destroyed the dies and plates.

The stag bone handle is deep engraved, in blue: Texas Jack - John Baker (Omohundro)-1846-1880. Note here that Omohundro is in parenthesis. I designed it this way so that it can be read Texas Jack Omohundro or John Baker Omohundro.

The left bolster is engraved 1985, the year that I designed the knife; also on the bolster is the name of the company that does my manufacturing. The right bolster is engraved 10F025 on the top line and the knife serial number on the second line.

One very unique feature of design in this knife is that it has a sliding side lock so that the blade will close. Most all lock back knives have a lock release on the bottom that has to be depressed."

* * * * *

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS HERE!!!

May we suggest that the gift of a membership in the TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION is the perfect one for those people on your Christmas list that have an interest in American History and the lore of the Old West?

Be sure to get your orders in early for gift memberships. Along with their membership card and Texas Jack pen, the recipient of your thoughtfulness will receive a special Texas Jack card stating that their new membership is a gift from you.

Not only will you be giving the perfect gift, but its cost is tax deductible to you!

North Platte Media Covers Texas Jack Association Meeting

NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA citizens were certainly made well aware of the Texas Jack Association convention which took place there in early August. In addition to two television interviews with President Julie Greene and Nellie Snyder Yost, as well as radio coverage of the ground-breaking for the Buffalo Bill statue in downtown North Platte, the following newspaper articles were published by the North Platte Telegraph:

August 8, 1986

TEXAS JACK GROUP MEETS IN NORTH PLATTE

The Texas Jack Association this weekend will meet for its third annual convention in North Platte, the city where Texas Jack Omo-hundro met William "Buffalo Bill" Cody in 1869 and became a good friend of the western showman.

About 30 members of the nationwide organization are expected to attend the convention, which in the past two years has been in Leadville, CO, where Texas Jack is buried, and in Cody, Wyo.

Activities at the Holiday Inn begin today with registration this afternoon and a get-acquainted mixer tonight.

Saturday's events begin with a ground-breaking ceremony at the proposed site for the Buffalo Bill statue, Pioneer Park, at 10:30 a.m. Members will spend the afternoon at Scout's Rest Ranch and will gather at Cody Park Saturday night at 6p.m. for an old-fashioned bean soup feed.

On Sunday at 8:30 a.m., members of the Texas Jack Association, along with members of the Friends of Buffalo Bill and the Buffalo Bill Corral of Westerners, will leave

the courthouse for Fort McPherson. Then, the group will head south to the Duke Alexis Hunting Camp at Camp Hayes for lunch. The group will return to North Platte for a banquet Sunday night. The convention will conclude with breakfast Monday morning.

TEXAS JACK went to Texas after the Civil War and came to North Platte in 1869 with the first Texas trail herd. The rest of the group went back to Texas, but Texas Jack remained in the area, wintering at Fort McPherson, where he met Buffalo Bill, said Nellie Snyder Yost Lydic of the Friends of Buffalo Bill. Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill scouted together and became good friends, doing western shows on stage together. Texas Jack later started his own show and died in 1880 at Leadville. Many members of the Texas Jack Association are descendants of Texas Jack's brothers. Texas Jack himself had no children.

Helping coordinate the convention this weekend are the Friends of Buffalo Bill and the Buffalo Bill Corral of Westerners.

The general public may attend activities, but must register at the Holiday Inn after 4 p.m. today or Saturday morning.

Telegraph photo



Steve Cormwell of Redondo Beach, Calif., is served by Julie Swanson while Mayor Jim Kirkman waits in line, during a bean feed for the Texas Jack Association in Cody Park, Saturday.

GROUP SPREADS TEXAS JACK'S FAME

by Mary Frederick
Telegraph Staff Writer
August 10, 1986

An intense interest in American history and a fascination with Western folklore brought members of the Texas Jack Association to their third annual convention in North Platte this weekend.

About 30 members of the organization chose to meet in the city where Texas Jack Omohundro met William "Buffalo Bill" Cody in 1869 and became a good friend of the Western showman.

"We are dedicated to the memory of Texas Jack and spreading the story of his fascinating life," explained Julie Greene of Palos Verdes, Calif., president of the organization.

Greene's grandfather was Texas Jack's younger brother.

An estimated 200 members from across the United States as well as several in England share Greene's interest in her famous ancestor.

Texas Jack went to Texas after the Civil War and arrived in North Platte in 1869 with the first Texas trail herd. The rest of the group returned to Texas but Texas Jack remained, wintering at Fort McPherson, where he met Buffalo Bill.

Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack then became good friends, scouting and staging Western shows together. Texas Jack later started his own show.

The purpose of the organization is to someday make Texas Jack as well-known as Buffalo Bill and some of his contemporaries, Greene said.

"The story of Texas Jack is fantastic - his biography reads like a novel" Greene said, referring to "Buckskin and Satin."

Greene recounted how Texas Jack met his wife Josephine Morlacchi who later starred as the female lead in his wild west show.

"Josephine was an Italian ballerina appearing on stage in the East before joining the show," Greene said. "She was the first person to bring the cancan to the United States and was beautiful.

"Her legs were insured for \$100,000 and she had many suitors," Greene added.

The couple was married for six years before Texas Jack died in 1880 at the age of 33 of pneumonia. He is buried in Leadville, CO. Josephine returned to Boston and never appeared on the stage again.

If it weren't for Frank Sullivan of Spring-

field IL., there wouldn't be a Texas Jack Association.

Sullivan describes himself as an attorney with an interest in American history.

"It's been a very interesting hobby," he said.

Sullivan's interest in Texas Jack goes back about 25 years when he visited Estes Park, CO, and picked up several books about the Rocky Mountains.

One of the books was written by the Earl of Dunraven, a wealthy Irishman who traveled to the United States periodically to hunt. On his first hunting expedition, the earl arrived at Fort McPherson and Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill were his scouts.

The Earl of Dunraven went on to write a book describing the exploits of the two men he much admired. On a return trip, Texas Jack served as the earl's guide through Yellowstone. The earl's description of Texas Jack sparked Sullivan's interest in the scout.

Fifteen years later, Sullivan met Malvern H. Omohundro Jr., a nephew of Texas Jack, at a convention in Boston.

"Now it's not everyone who has the name Omohundro," Sullivan said with a chuckle. "We struck up a friendship immediately."

Sullivan and Omohundro then made a lunch date to meet in Ireland in a few months where they entertained about 20 of the Earl of Dunraven's family members. Through Omohundro, Sullivan contacted other relatives of Texas Jack. Sullivan honored the centennial of Texas Jack's death in 1980 with a gathering at Leadville.

Although Omohundro never met his famous uncle, he had heard stories of Texas Jack's exploits all his life.

Omohundro's father, Malvern H. Omohundro Sr., also is the author of the Omohundro genealogy, a tome that took him 45 years to complete.

Although Omohundro Jr. had visited his uncle's grave in 1931, it wasn't until meeting Sullivan that he became actively interested in Texas Jack.

"The thing that inspired me was that he was one of the openers of the West," Omohundro said of his uncle.

And although the nephew never got to see his uncle's wild west show, he was taken to see the Buffalo Bill Cody show at Richmond, VA, in 1912.

"I was 7 years old," Omohundro said, his voice catching the excitement of the memory.

"We were given a box seat and I remember the Indians coming out and setting a wagon train on fire in the arena."

Of course, the cavalry charged in, saving

(continued pg. 15)

TEXAS JACK, JR.

This story of TEXAS JACK'S namesake is not one that is widely known. Hershcel Logan, in his biography of John B. Omohundro, unfolded it through his research in THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILL ROGERS, correspondence with the WILL ROGERS MEMORIAL in Claremore, OK, through letters from Texas Jack's youngest brother, Malvern H. Omohundro, and the October 19, 1940 issue of THE SATURDAY EVENING POST.

Tradition has it that Jack had several brushes with the Indians, cattle thieves and renegades during his cattle days on the Texas plains. It was while returning one day from another encounter with hostile Indians that he came upon a pioneer home which had been ransacked and pillaged but a few hours before. Nearby lay the still bodies of a young man and woman, slain defending their home. After inspecting the scene, and as he was about to mount his horse, his sharp ears detected a slight whimpering sound. Investigation disclosed that before the father and mother had sold their lives so dearly they had hid their four or five year old boy in a small hole under the floor with the warning that he was not to make a sound. When his parents failed to appear after the shouting and shooting had ceased, the little fellow, frightened as he was, could contain himself no longer. It was the muffled sobs that Jack had heard.

Years later, in Charlottesville, VA, this young lad then grown to manhood told the story to M.H. Omohundro, an only half-brother of Jack's. He told how Jack had rescued him and how he had taken him to Fort Worth on horseback. Here he was placed in good hands and provision made for his care and raising. Not knowing his own parents' name, the boy in appreciation had taken the name of his benefactor. At the time of his visit with Jack's brother he was with a show troupe billed as "Texas Jack."

Twenty years after the death of his idol, the boy Jack had befriended had become a noted showman. He owned his own circus and had performed in many important cities around the world. In 1903 while the show, "Texas Jack's Wild West Show and Circus" was showing in Ladysmith, South Africa, he was approached by an energetic young man who explained that he was looking for a job and would like to go to work with a lasso. The youth was promptly hired and billed as "The Cherokee Kid" - later to be admired the world over as America's own Will Rogers.

Will wrote home from South Africa that he had heard of this Texas Jack and wanted to meet him for three reasons:

1. To inquire if he was an American.
2. To find out if he was from Texas.
3. To see, if by any chance, he knew any of his friends in Texas.

He found the answers and stayed with the show troupe for many months. His association with Texas Jack was regarded by Will Rogers as one of the most important periods of his life. He thoroughly admired the skill and experience of the showman from Texas, and in



TEXAS JACK JR. EARLY 1880's
(Obtained from Malvern H. Omohundro)

(continued pg. 21)

(from pg. 20 TEXAS JACK JR.)

turn Texas Jack took a genuine liking to the kid from Oklahoma. He gave him much attention and help in perfecting new tricks and in polishing up the old ones. Judging from Will's letters home, Texas Jack was a man who never drank, smoked or gambled and preferred that his showmen follow his example. Later in life Will Rogers paid this tribute to his employer and tutor:

Texas Jack was one of the smartest showmen I ever met. It was he who gave me an idea for my original stage act with my pony. I learned a lot about the show business from him. He could do a bum act with a rope that an ordinary man couldn't get away with, and make the audience think it was great. So, I used to study him by the hour and from him I learned the great secret of the show business - learned when to get off. It's the fellow that knows when to quit that the audience wants more of.

Thus does history record how the Boy Jack Omohundro befriended, later became the noted showman from whom the matchless Will Rogers said he learned so much. He, too, was a young man, around forty, when the grim reaper struck him down in Kroonstad, South Africa in 1905. It is one of the ironies of fate that he also lies in a silent grave, far removed from his homeland.

* * * * *

Photograph obtained from Will Rogers Memorial Collection. It is a page from an English publication entitled "Prominent People." In the verse, note how he refers to his "noble namesake." The verse reads as follows:

I was raised among the cowboys, my saddle is my home.
And I'd always be a cowboy no matter where I roam;
And like my noble namesake, my help I'll volunteer,
And try to be of service to the Western Pioneer.
I am a roving cowboy, I've worked upon the trail,
I've shot the shaggy buffalo, and heard the coyote wail,
I've slept upon my saddle, and covered with the moon,
And I expect to keep it up until I meet my doom." - *Texas Jack*

TEXAS JACK. A NOTED AMERICAN SCOUT.

"I was raised among the cowboys, my saddle is my home.
And I'd always be a cowboy no matter where I roam.
And like my noble namesake, my help I'll volunteer,
And try to be of service to the Western Pioneer.

I am a roving cowboy, I've worked upon the trail,
I've shot the shaggy buffalo, and heard the coyote wail.
I've slept upon my saddle, and covered with the moon,
And I expect to keep it up until I meet my doom." - *Texas Jack*



TEXAS JACK — Born in Texas, he imbued at an early age a love for the wild roving life of the cowboy, and before he was out of his teens had become so proficient in the tricks of the trade that his name became a household word amongst American scouts. Jack has given his remarkable exhibition of expert shooting and rough riding in nearly every city of the world, including San Francisco, Honolulu (Sandwich Islands), Auckland (N.Z.), Sydney (Australia), Java, India, Egypt, Paris, London, and New York.

TEXAS JACK

A Noted American Scout.

(Following is the text written above.)

TEXAS JACK - Born in Texas, he imbued at an early age a love for the wild roving life of the cowboy, and before he was out of his teens had become so proficient in the tricks of the trade that his name became a household word among American scouts. Jack has given his remarkable exhibition of expert shooting and rough riding in nearly every city of the world, including San Francisco, Honolulu (Sandwich Islands), Auckland (N.Z.), Sydney (Australia), Java, India, Egypt, Paris, London and New York.

NOTICE! IT IS NOT TOO EARLY TO SEND IN YOUR DUES FOR 1987. EVERY REMINDER THAT THE ASSOCIATION DOES NOT HAVE TO SEND OUT REPRESENTS THE SAVING OF MEMBERS DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE IMPORTANT WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION!

TEXAS JACK EYED FOR FILM



Above: Alex Hendrie (Desparado Films), Herschel C. Logan (author of BUCKSKIN & SATIN) and Julie Greene, president, TJA.

In June, 1986,, a meeting was held at the home of Herschel C. Logan, author of BUCKSKIN AND SATIN (The biography of Texas Jack Omohundro), between Logan, TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION officers, Julie and Dennis Greene, and Alex Hendrie, a partner in DESPARADO FILMS. The purpose of the meeting was for Desparado Films to acquire the film rights to Herschel's book. Negotiations have subsequently been finalized, and the result could very possibly be a feature film based on the life of Texas Jack.

Alexander G. Hendrie and his partner, Clayton R. Hartley, both long active in the film industry, took an immediate interest in the true adventure and love story of John B. Omohundro and his charming wife Mlle. Josephine Morlacchi. And after reading the book which they were able to acquire through the

efforts of Dennis Greene, they have actively been pursuing the possibility of bringing Jack's story onto the screen.

Alex, who is an attorney, is originally from Texas where he graduated from St. Mary's University School of Law, and passed the bar in the state of Texas. He also attended Franklin College in Switzerland, and studied law at Cambridge University in England.

He most recently was Practices Policy Manager for NBC in Los Angeles, CA, which means he was responsible for keeping everything "above board" on various network game shows. He was lead man for feature films at Paramount Pictures Corp, and Location Manager for Universal Pictures, Inc. and New World Pictures Inc. He has been on both sides of the camera, having done some acting in films as well. He was involved with the CBS after school special "Dead Wrong."

Clay comes from a family long involved in the construction industry near Chicago. His home town is Geneva, Wisc. He has worked as Art Director and Construction Coordinator for Hemdale Film Corp., whose films were released through Paramount Pictures, he has worked as Set Designer and Construction Coordinator for CBS Children's Mystery Theater. He was Studio Manager for Filmways, Inc. on the feature film, "Easy Money."

Alex and Clay have been best friends since 1983 when they worked together in the production of a film project. They established a relationship whereby they would write and produce feature films. Their first effort was an original script, "City Boy," and it appears that their second could well be the story of Texas Jack Omohundro.

* * * * *



A rancher was irked by a rattlesnake that raided his hens' nests--so he contrived a trap.

Just outside the small hole through which the snake was accustomed to crawl into the henhouse, the ranchman placed an egg. Then he put another just inside the opening.

That night, the snake came along, swallowed the first egg, started to crawl into the hole but couldn't go all the way be-

cause of the egg he had swallowed.

Then he saw the second egg, swallowed that--and then was trapped. He could neither go forward nor backward and so fell an easy prey to the rancher the next morning.

TJA Member Sets Sights On Old Guns — Bags A Museum

GREG MARTIN, Texas Jack Association Charter Member, got quite a bit of publicity concerning an acquisition he recently made near his home in San Francisco, in late July. We spotted this article in the Los Angeles Times, and thought TJA members might enjoy reading about a fellow member.

By MARK STEIN, Times Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO—Ever since he was 12 years old and spied his first, rusted 1853 Colt pocket pistol hanging from a nail in a Santa Clara County junk shop, Greg Martin has been hooked on the hot-lead hardware of the Old West.

Just how hooked became apparent recently when the wealthy San Francisco gun fancier set his mind on buying three particularly fetching firearms.

The only catch: They were in a museum, and the museum would not sell them.

So he bought the museum.

Not just any museum, either, but the extensive Harrah's Pony Express Museum in Reno.

But then, the guns Martin coveted are not just *any* guns.

They are the shotgun favored by Black Bart, poet laureate of stage robbers; a lever-action carbine given to a sympathetic lawman by legendary outlaw Billy the Kid, and an ornately engraved rifle owned by stagecoach czar Ben Holladay.

With these prizes in hand, along with a few selected Victorian dresses for his wife, Petra, and some old Wells Fargo strongboxes to decorate his house, Martin is auctioning off the rest of the museum — from a pair of stagecoaches to a convention of cigar-store Indians and hundreds of smaller items as well.

The auction is scheduled to last all day Tuesday at the Butterfield & Butterfield auction gallery here, and Martin said he is determined to see that every item is sold. "If somebody bids one dime, it's gone," he said.

For Martin, his latest three acquisitions were well worth the bother—and the \$1 million or more he put up for the museum.

"The only way I could get the three guns I wanted was to buy it all," the retired real estate broker and developer said casually. "They were adamant. So was I."

Martin is recognized as perhaps the country's leading collector of historic Wild West weapons, from one of Sam Colt's original revolvers to a set of three gold-plated, pearl-handled pistols given to Annie Oakley by her husband, Frank Butler.

"I was always fascinated with the Old



TJA MEMBER, GREG MARTIN

West," said Martin, who was raised on a ranch in rural San Martin. "When I was growing up, in the 1940s, there were all those old Western movies—Gene Autry and Hoppy (Hopalong Cassidy).

"As I know more about the fictional West, I wanted to know more about the factual West."

Indeed, Martin specializes in guns from historic Old West figures, such as Oakley's Tiffany-engraved shotgun and a rifle given as a gift by Indian scout Texas Jack to the Earl of (Dunraven), an Irish nobleman.

He also collects the weapons of famous personages from other periods, such as a pair of flintlock pistols owned by Alexander Hamilton in the 1790s and a long gun used by Teddy Roosevelt on his 1909 African safari.

...Although he has gotten what he sought from the Harrah's museum, Martin said he is still ambivalent about having to sell the rest of the collection.

"I wanted to keep it all, but I just can't," he said surveying the stuff already cluttering a large part of his small house. "When you live in a city, there are not too many places to keep two stagecoaches and a fire truck."

(from pg. 11 MAIL POUCH)

Was nice having you all come to our part of the country.

Geraldine Mintling
Hays Junction, NE

There is a picture of Texas Jack, Buffalo Bill and Wild Bill Hickok and the "Idols in the public eye" on page 194 and 195 of the Time Life Book (Old West Series), entitled "The Scouts." There is also a picture and article on pages 210 and 211 that is not shown on the index. It is the account of Ned Buntline's 1872 play "Scouts of the Prairie." The picture is of Buntline, Buffalo Bill, Guiseppina Morlacchi and Texas Jack. It is interesting to see that Time-Life had these pictures in 1978 when the book was published.

A suggested article for the Texas Jack Scout is a list of the books that contain information about Texas Jack.

Frank Sullivan
Springfield, IL

...Thus far, I have been unsuccessful in my efforts to obtain more information about Texas Jack's activities in North Texas, but I haven't given up. I am sending you a copy of a postcard photograph of a Texas Jack. He certainly is not J.B. Omohundro and he looks too old to be T.J., Jr. who died in his early forties. What do you think?

I received my Charter Membership Certificate of which I am very proud. I was "green with envy" because I was unable to attend the North Platte meeting. It sounded great. Maybe next year we'll make it.

The last Newsletter was excellent, as usual. I want to make a comment about the article about the Chisholm Trail. I was born

and reared in Brownsville, Texas which is in the southern "tip" of the Texas Valley. Since I was a child, I remember seeing a large, round plaque on the corner of Palm Blvd. and Elizabeth St., stating that at that spot was the beginning of the Chisholm Trail. In a reference book which I have entitled: BROWNSVILLE-A PICTORIAL HISTORY by Ruby Wooldridge & Robert B. Vezzitti, 1982, published by Donning Co., pg. 149, there is a picture of the plaque showing a Longhorn with the caption "Going up the Chisholm Trail". The text of this Brownsville book states: "Due to the lack of rail transportation in the 1800s, cattle from South Texas ranches were organized into cattle drives and moved to railheads in Kansas and North Texas for shipment to eastern markets. The route taken, actually a number of routes which converged on the railheads, was called the Chisholm Trail. The marker indicates a southernmost terminal of the trail."

So, "somewhat south of San Antonio" (as the origin of the Chisholm Trail) is in Brownsville, Texas, according to the above-mentioned plaque.

My other comment is in regard to Professor Gillette's article about the "Tame" West. I disagree with the Professor's impression of the Old West. Perhaps it was not actually as wild as depicted; conversely I do not think it was as "tame" as Professor Gillette thinks - at least in the Texas of the 1870s and 1880s.

Marc Garza
Dallas, TX

(ed note: The photocopy of the post card showing "Texas Jack" is in too poor a condition to print, but it definitely is not J. B. Omohundro. But, we think, could possibly be Texas Jack, Jr.).

* * * * *




WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

We would appreciate knowing how you feel about the newsletters that you have been receiving. Do they contain information that you find interesting? Or not? Do you have any suggestions or contributions? If so, we welcome them, and we need them!

TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
3075 BRAY ROAD, VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23452

Ambulance 1860s
83USA



Ms. Kitty V. Wyche
953 E. Piney Branch Dr. #102
Virginia Beach, VA 23451