



1998 Roundup in Cody, Wyoming

by Rand McKinney

So, what's in Cody, Wyoming?

As you all know by now, the 1998 Texas Jack Association Roundup will be held in Cody, WY, on July 1-4. Cody is a fascinating western town, home of the Buffalo Bill Historical Center, gateway to Yellowstone National Park, and many other attractions. Here is some background information on Cody and its environs and a few suggestions to help you start your planning for the 1998 Roundup.

Since before its beginnings as a town in the late 19th century, Cody has had the stuff to spark Western imaginations. Lewis and Clark party alumnus John Colter traveled through the area in 1807, observing unearthly thermal activity that led to his descriptions of what came to be called "Colter's Hell." Mountain man Jim Bridger and Theodore Roosevelt were among others fascinated by the physical beauty and bounty of the land.

But it was William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody who gave the town its name and fame. Spurred by the Carey Act of 1894, which encouraged the settlement of arid Western lands, a partnership led by George Beck invited Cody to take part in developing a town. Cody enthusiastically agreed, helped promote the town through his Wild West shows, and ultimately made his home there. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad arrived in 1901, helping establish Cody as a tourist center and a gateway to Yellowstone National Park. The following year, Buffalo Bill built the Irma Hotel to serve vacationers— a role it still

plays today. By 1909, Cody was the seat of Park County.

Cody's past— and that of the West as a whole— is lovingly preserved at many sites throughout the town. The best known and most comprehensive is the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. In addition to its role as a Yellowstone National Park gateway, Cody is the headquarters for the Shoshone National Forest and an outfitting spot for backcountry adventures throughout western Wyoming. With about 8,000 people, Cody is today among the largest towns in north-west Wyoming.

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center

The Buffalo Bill Historical Center is widely regarded as housing America's finest western museums. The Center features four internation-

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Dear TJA Members,

I hope each of you enjoyed the past holiday season and are now ready to embark upon a new year. Although this is only the beginning of the year, July will be here before you know it. Start making your plans to attend the 1998 Roundup in Cody, WY, soon. Fill out the registration sheet on page 7 of this edition of *The Scout*. Also, see page 6 to make your room reservations for the Roundup.

There is still much work to be done on the Texas Jack stamp and mountain peak projects. We each need to get behind these projects and pursue them with vigor this year.

The new web page created by VP Dick Omohundro has generated new interest in our Association and we have gained at least one new member as a result. If you have not seen it yet, and you have access to the Internet, point your browser to the Texas Jack web page at

<http://www.texas-jack.org>

Once again, it is time to send in your dues. Remember, we are a not-for-profit organization and, with recent projects depleting our funds, your dues are essential for our continued operation. This will be the last issue of *The Scout* for those that show a 1996 date on their mailing label. Please send your dues to the Association secretary, Edna Nees at the following address:

Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590-3916

She can then update our database and forward the money to treasurer R.C. Omohundro.

Richard W. Omohundro
President, Texas Jack Association
PO Box 91
Salt Lick, KY 40371
Email: romohundro@mail.kytc.state.ky.us

Watch the Spring (May) issue of *the Scout* for information on Schedule of Events for the Cody Roundup, including

- Visit to the Buffalo Bill Historical Center
- July 4 Parade
- Cody Nite Rodeo
- Texas Jack Association Banquet
- and other planned outings and receptions

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The Texas Jack Association
Edna Nees, Secretary
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590-3916

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Virginians Explore Western Wilderness

a book review by Rand McKinney

Undaunted Courage

By Stephen E. Ambrose

New York: Touchstone Paperbacks, 1996

We all know that Texas Jack hails from Virginia. But did you know that almost seventy years before Texas Jack's heyday, three other Virginians paved the way for Jack and every other Western pioneer? They were Thomas Jefferson, Meriwether Lewis, and William Clark, the subjects of Stephen Ambrose's *Undaunted Courage*. If you were fortunate enough to catch the PBS television special, "Lewis and Clark," by Ken Burns, then you got a good introduction to the excitement and historical significance of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Burns documentary featured a number of interviews with historian Stephen Ambrose, and is a good way to whet your appetite for this excellent book.

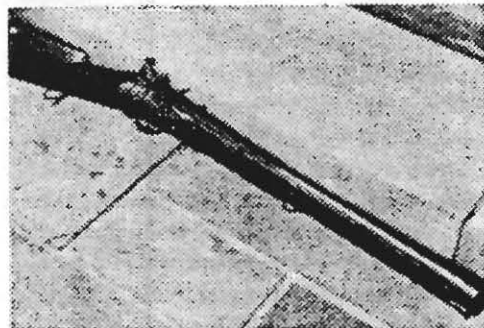
During Texas Jack Omohundro's time, just after the Civil War, the western frontier was still rough and ready, populated by numerous Indian tribes and herds of buffalo. But at least there were reliable maps, and pioneer settlements dotted the landscape. When Lewis and Clark began their expedition, the West was almost completely unknown: no reliable maps existed of the area west of the Mississippi River, and white men had not yet penetrated the vastness of the Rocky Mountains. Some naturalists, including Jefferson, speculated that the Great Plains might harbor such fantastic denizens as woolly mammoths or the lost tribe of Israel! Others thought the West to be a great desert, of little interest to a growing young nation. After Lewis and Clark, though, the popular imagination was fired with reports of fertile plains and valleys, vast game herds, rich fur-trapping areas, and exotic natives. Almost immediately, the great westward expansion that characterized the nineteenth century began.

The significance of Lewis and Clark in the genesis of the American West cannot be underestimated. In 1803, Jefferson masterminded the Louisiana Purchase from France, adding the vast region drained by the Mississippi river to American territory. He naturally wanted to explore this new territory, and in particular wanted to find the fabled "Northwest Passage," the all-water route between the Mississippi and the Pacific Ocean. He appointed his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to head an expedition. Lewis, in turn, chose his compatriot from army days, William Clark, to be his co-captain. Thus, the "Corps of Discovery" was born.

Undaunted Courage provides a blow-by-blow account of the planning and execution of the most significant expedition in American history. Based largely on the journals of Lewis, Clark, and other expedition members, the story is gripping. From the exacting preparation starting more than a year in advance, to the laborious journey from Saint Louis up the Missouri River where only a handful of Europeans had ventured previously, to the treacherous passage through the mountains and into the great unknown, Ambrose provides a compelling narrative and background.

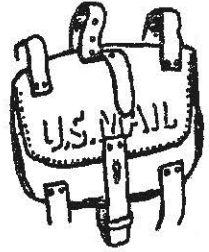
Lewis and Clark had a number of close calls with hostile Indians, starvation, and the elements. A few times along the way, you are left wondering if they are going to make it! After exhaustive efforts over almost three years, they finally complete their trans-continental trek to the Pacific coast and back. On their return to Saint Louis they are treated to a hero's welcome and once back east, they are instant celebrities. While Clark settled into a happy life with his childhood sweetheart, Lewis' fate was not so fortunate. Appointed governor of the Louisiana Territory, a position for which he was ill-suited, he slipped into depression and alcoholism, and in 1809 came to a tragic end by his own hand. Controversy still surrounds Lewis' final hours: a group of scholars recently proposed to exhume his body to show that he did not commit suicide, but instead was a victim of foul play.

In the final analysis, though, Lewis' tragic end is not nearly as important as what he and his compatriots accomplished for America. They opened the floodgates. Because of them, the watchwords of the nineteenth century were "Go West, young man," and in the ensuing years hundreds of thousands of men and women did just that, including our favorite son, Texas Jack Omohundro. Ambrose's book provides a comprehensive overview of just how important this beginning was. I heartily recommend this book to any student of the Western frontier.



Flintlock blunderbuss like that Lewis and Clark mounted to the gunwales of their pirogues

From the Mail Pouch . . .



Tipton Thieme Omohundro, of Irvine, California, writes,

“ . . . While I was in England in the summer of 1995 I made some inquiries into the origin of the name Omohundro. My findings don't quite agree with what Stephen M. Omohundro of Berkeley has on his web page.

I went to the main London Library and searched the telephone directories all over England, Scotland, and Ireland. Nothing. Nor in the genealogical books. But I read a history book on prominent Irish families and clans, and there I found that O'Mohun (not Mohun, as Steve's web page says) was a name in northwest Ireland. It is an offshoot of Mohun, who were prominent landowners and on the losing side of the political upheaval of the time (?).

In this same book, in the glossary, was a suffix, “dro,” from the old gaelic meaning “in the hills or the high ground,” or “from the high ground,” which would distinguish these O'Mohuns from others, as O'Mohun'dro. At that point my time ran out, and so did I. “

hmmm... We'd like to know the title of that book, assess its validity, and get some dates for those events. My pet theory is that Richard, the first Omohundro in the new World, arriving in Virginia in the seventeenth century, was anglicized Irish or a descendant of one. Tip's finding fits nicely with that.

TJA member Courtney Omohundro, of Fork Union, reports talking with a man who had lived in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and claimed the phone books there were filled with Omohundros. Can anyone confirm that? ...and explain it?

History Thesis Explores Richard Omohundro's Material Conditions

John T. Omohundro

Texas Jack's great-grandfather, Richard (IV), has become the subject of an honors thesis at University of Pennsylvania.

Virginia (“Ginny”) Davis, returning to university after twenty years as a dental hygienist, came upon reports of archaeology digs at the Omohundro homestead in Breomo Bluff, Virginia, while visiting her friends Bill and Kathy Marshall, Richard's descendents through Bill's maternal grandmother.

Upon receiving a prestigious Derish M. Woolf Undergraduate Research Grant, Ginny began investigating Richard's middle class status as recorded in archaeology, biography, estate inventory, and tax records. She consulted SUNY archaeologist Steve Marqusee, who showed her the artifacts from excavating Richard's house and grounds (see photo) and pored through records at the county clerk's in Palmyra, Fluvanna County, Virginia.

Ginny began her interest in history with research about her own relatives during the Civil War. She has taken up exploring Richard's social status and lifestyle to learn more about Revolutionary War times.

We'll report more fully on Ginny's thesis in a future issue.



University of Pennsylvania history student Ginny Davis examines artifacts collected in excavation of Richard Omohundro's homestead

1998 Roundup in Cody

(continued from page 1)

ally acclaimed museums under one roof: the Buffalo Bill Museum; the Whitney Gallery of Western Art; the Plains Indian Museum; and the Cody Firearms Museum. Additionally, the Center houses the Harold McCracken Research Library. The Buffalo Bill Museum contains a number of fine exhibits related to Texas Jack.

The complex devotes more than 250,000 square feet to displays as varied as Buffalo Bill's boyhood home (moved to Wyoming from Iowa in 1933), artifacts from the Plains Indians' Ghost Dance movement of the late 1880s, and artist Frederic Remington's studio.

The Buffalo Bill Museum (established in 1927) contains a wealth of material relating to the life of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and the pioneer culture of the western frontier. This museum examines both the personal and public lives of Buffalo Bill and seeks to interpret his story in the context of the history and myth of the American West. It is regarded highly as a research center focusing on the life and times of "Buffalo Bill."

The Whitney Gallery of Western Art (established in 1958) presents an outstanding collection of masterworks of the American West.

Original paintings, sculptures and prints trace artistic interpretations of the West from the early 19th century to today. Highlights include documentary art by George Catlin and Alfred Jacob Miller, landscapes by Albert Bierstadt and Thomas Moran, the classic West of Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell, illustrations by N.C. Wyeth and W.H.D. Koerner and contemporary works by James Bama, Harry Jackson and Fritz Scholder. Special features include the Frederic Remington Studio, W.H.D. Koerner Studio and the Joseph Henry Sharp Cabin.

The Plains Indian Museum (originally established in 1969, then rededicated in its own building in 1979) features one of the country's largest and finest collections of Plains Indian art and artifacts. Through exhibitions and interpretative programs, this museum explores the cultural histories and artistry of the Plains Indian people, including the Arapaho, Crow, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, Blackfeet, Sioux, Gros Ventre, Shoshone and Pawnee, from their buffalo

hunting past to the living traditions of the present.

The Cody Firearms Museum (dedicated in 1976 as the Winchester Museum, then rededicated in 1991 in a new structure as the Cody Firearms Museum) contains the world's most comprehensive assemblage of American arms, as well as European arms dating back to the 16th century. The nearly 4,000 firearms document the influence of firearms on the settlement of the United States as well as the fundamental contributions of the firearms industry to the industrial revolution.

In addition to the four museums, the Center houses the Harold McCracken Research Library, containing nearly 15,000 books and manuscript collections, some 250,000 historic photograph prints and negatives and the Yale Western Americana microfilm. This library's collections provide a solid foundation of both contemporary and retrospective works for research, including an increasingly popular archive of traditional cowboy songs and range ballads.

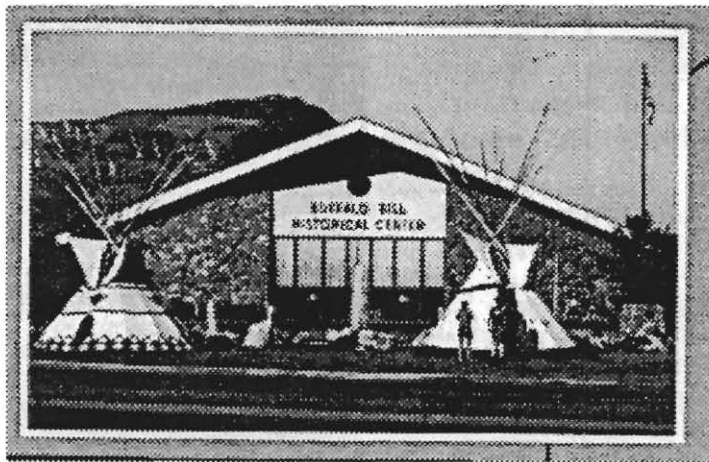
Yellowstone National Park

Yellowstone National Park is about 50 miles west of Cody via US Highway 14/16/20. Yellowstone is our nation's oldest national park. The one hour trip from Cody to Yellowstone is through the Wapiti Valley, which Teddy Roosevelt called the most scenic 50 miles in America. Wapiti

Valley is in the Shoshone National Forest. Part of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness is in this area also. Just two miles from Yellowstone Park is Buffalo Bill's original hunting lodge, Pahaska. Northwest of Cody, near Cooke City, is Sunlight Basin. These areas offer many opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, skiing,

camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, biking, and wildlife viewing.

At 2.2 million acres or 3,472 square miles, Yellowstone is the largest national park in the lower 48 (larger than Delaware and Rhode Island combined!) Yellowstone has over 300 species of animals, including 60 different mammals, 18 types of fish and over 225 species of birds. Elevations range from approximately 5,300 feet at the north entrance to nearly 12,000



Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in Cody, Wyoming

feet at Eagle's Peak on the park's east boundary (most roads lie at 7,500-8,000 feet).

The park has 9 visitor centers, 97 trail-heads and 49 picnic areas. Over 1100 miles of trails are available for hiking, with 300 miles of public roads for driving.

Other Attractions in the Cody Area

- The Cody Nite Rodeo has been held since 1938, earning Cody the title of rodeo capital of the world.. The rodeo can be seen every night, from June 1 to August 31, at 8:30 pm, at the rodeo grounds on Yellowstone Highway.

- The Shoshone River, among others, offers excellent whitewater rafting and kayaking. Raft trips range from two hours to all day in length. The Shoshone National Forest offers vast tracts of wilderness, abundant wildlife and recreational opportunities.

- Trail Town, located on the West Cody Strip near the Cody Nite Rodeo, has a collection of more than 20 historic buildings and many western relics. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid's Hole-in-the-Wall cabin has been moved to Trail Town. The Historic Wyoming Territory Old West Miniature Village and Museum features a diorama of Western history.

- Buffalo Bill State Park is 6 miles west of Cody. Buffalo Bill Reservoir offers Wyoming's best windsurfing. Buffalo Bill Dam, completed in 1910, is designated a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The grounds include a natural history museum, dam overlook, and striking views of the Shoshone River Canyon.

- Other popular summer activities include wagon rides, golf, mountain biking, horseback rides, and scenic flights.

- Take a gallery stroll. The Cody Gallery Association hosts leisurely walks through the town's art galleries, which have special evening hours on Thursdays all summer long.

- Music lovers will want to stop by the Cody City Bandshell for concerts at 6 p.m. each Friday during July and August.

- Go fishing. Cody is surrounded by blue-ribbon trout streams, and knowledgeable local outfitters can help you find the best spots.



Roundup Rooms and Transportation

Make your room reservation now:

at the Holiday Inn -
call 1-800-527-5544

Group room rates are:

Single - \$79.92
Double - \$85.32
Triple - \$90.72
Quad - \$96.12

All rates include an 8% tax

Children 19 and under stay free with adults.

Don't forget to tell them you are with the TJA in order to receive the group rate.

Travel Arrangements

If flying: Connections to Cody out of Salt Lake City can be made with Delta. Connections out of Denver can be made with United Express.

The Cody Airport is 5 minutes from downtown Cody. Complementary shuttle service is available to the Holiday Inn. Car rentals are also available but reservations should be made in advance. Hertz and Avis are available but a better deal with Thrifty can be made if you mention you are staying at the Holiday Inn. The Thrifty car rental reservation number is 307-587-8855.

1998 Texas Jack Roundup

Registration Form

I (we) plan to attend the 1998 Texas Jack Roundup at Cody, WY, on July 1-4, 1998.

Name(s):

Address:

Number of Adults: _____ x \$70 = _____

Number of children (16 and under): _____ x \$60 = _____

Total = _____

Enclosed is a check payable to the Texas Jack Association for the registration fee of \$70 per adult and \$60 per child (age 16 or under).

Tear this form and send with check to:

Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590-3916

The deadline is June 1, 1998, but please register early to help our planning.

This registration form and fee **does not** cover lodging. See page 6.

from the Editor's Desk...



NEXT EDITOR!

The May 1998 edition of the *Scout* will have a new editor.

She is:

Kitty Pelkan
6021 37th Ave. SW
Seattle, WA 98126
206/932-5393

Submission Deadline: April 15, 1998

Texas Jack Scout
Rand McKinney
1138 Settle Ave.
San Jose, CA 95125

To:

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
1998**

The Texas Jack Association Member

THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION
Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590-3916

Kitty Wyche Pelkan
6021 37th Ave. SW
Seattle WA 98126

(1997)

