

# The TEXAS JACK SCOUT

Volume XV, Number 2

April 2000

## Texas Jack Association Round-up 2000 to be held in Oklahoma City Home of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame



LEFT: life-size diorama of a chuckwagon crew, at Cowboy Hall of Fame.



RIGHT: poster of John Wayne in Hall's celebration of great western stars

It's time to make your reservations for the biennial Round-up, to be held this year in Oklahoma City, June 14 - 17.

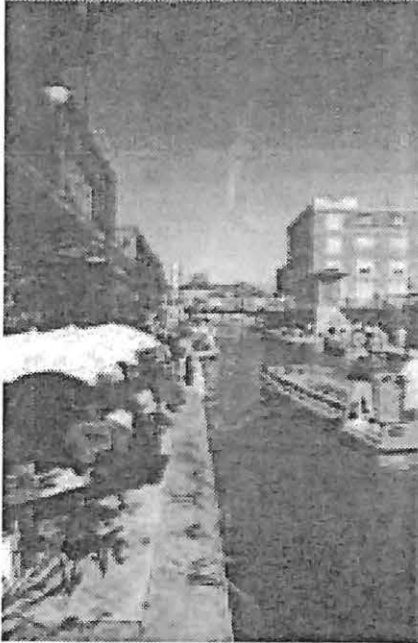
Round-up organizers and long-time association supporters Jack and Jane Omohundro, of Crowley, Louisiana, have been working hard to plan a memorable get-together featuring Cowboy Country, the Sooner State, and the fabulous National Cowboy Hall of Fame.

... continued on page 3

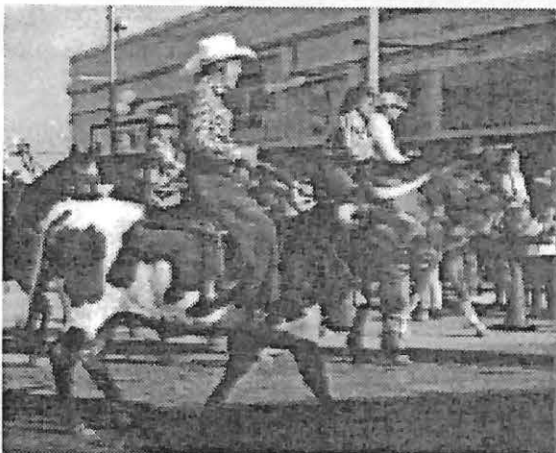
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# Scenes of Oklahoma City



Clockwise from left: The canal in Bricktown; Ben, a 2100 lb. Clydesdale at Express Ranch; riding the herd (?) at the Stockyards; diorama of Cherokee boy at Red Earth Native American Culture Center. Much, much more!



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### OFFICERS

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Historian and author of *Buffalo Bill*

Round-up, continued from page 1

Here are the particulars:

## WHEN

Wednesday, June 14 through Saturday, June 17. Departure before noon on Sunday.

## WHERE

The Hilton Oklahoma City Northwest  
2945 NW Expressway  
Oklahoma City, OK 73112  
Tele. (405)848-4811, 1-800-HILTONS  
Fax (405)842-4328 445-8667

Each person is responsible for his/her own hotel reservations. Be sure to act before June 1.

Hotel rates:  
\$69.00 single/double/triple/quad for a standard room  
\$79.00 single/double/triple/quad for "cabana" room, poolside.

These are special rates, so *be sure to mention you're with the Texas Jack Association* when making your reservations. A block of rooms is being held until June 1.

The association will have the use of a hospitality suite at poolside during our stay.

If you wish to arrive early or stay on, the hotel will extend the special rates for two days before and two days after the Roundup. (Information on local attractions and special events can be acquired from Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept., PO Box 60789, Oklahoma City, OK 73146-0789 or

phone 1-800-652-6552)

## REGISTRATION

The cost is \$90 for adults and \$75 for children. A registration form is enclosed with this Scout and should be returned along with your check to Edna Nees.

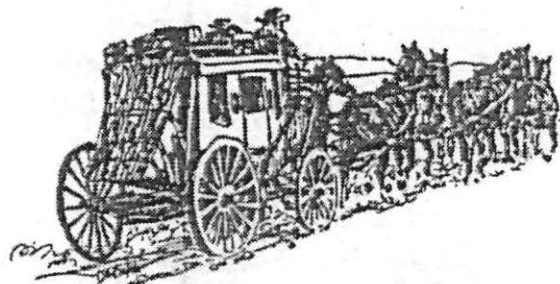
This fee covers the cost of Thursday's bus tour and lunch at the Cattlemen's Cafe, Friday's guided tour of the Cowboy Hall of Fame and buffet lunch, Saturday's banquet at the hotel, and use of the hospitality suite.

So you see, you get a lot for your money!

## TRANSPORTATION

The hotel furnishes free shuttle service from the airport to the hotel. They have also promised to cooperate with us on transport to various sites in the vicinity if a group desires to visit areas such as Bricktown, shopping malls, etc.

For those desiring to rent a car, Enterprise Car Rental will deliver your car to the hotel and pick it up at the hotel, so there is no need to get from and to the airport. Call them at their local number (405)848-2499 and give



them our TJA account number GK0054 for reservations. Alternatively, those "on the net" can e-mail to Lara Harwell at Lharwell@erac.com and she will send back a confirmation. Mention any special requests and that you are Texas Jack Association members. Enterprise Car Rental has given us a corporate rate account starting at \$30.00 a day for an economy car. Other sizes are available, of course, and also vans if a group wants to travel together. All the prices are very reasonable with 200 miles included.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday June 14: Check-in and registration at the hotel begins at 3:00 p.m. Gathering and "attitude adjustment" in the hospitality room afterwards.

Thursday June 15 9:00 a.m. A bus leaves the hotel for a tour of Oklahoma City with lunch at The Cattlemen's Cafe. Free time after return to hotel.

Friday June 16 9:00 a.m. Leave for Cowboy Hall of Fame. We will have a VIP guided tour and buffet lunch at the Hall. Free time afterwards.

Saturday June 17 9:00 a.m. Business Meeting.  
afternoon: free time  
7:00 p.m. Banquet at hotel

Sunday June 18 Morning Goodbyes, farewells, au revoirs, auf wiedersehen and best wishes until we meet again in 2002.

Jack reminds us that this is a *proposed* schedule and is subject to last-minute adjustments as circumstances dictate.

All events will be posted on the hotel bulletin boards.

Also, the hospitality room will be open at various times for group activities. Again, check the bulletin board.

If you seek more information about Roundup arrangements, you can reach Jack and Jane Omohundro at:

425 North Avenue K

Crowley, LA 70526

Home phone 337-783-0396

Email O1066@aol.com (that's "oh one zero six six")

## ARRIVE EARLY, STAY ON

Some attractions to enjoy while keeping your hotel special rates:

- The Omniplex, one of America's top science museums with nearly 300 exhibits
- Oklahoma Firefighter's Museum: equipment dating from the turn of the century.
- The Overholser Mansion: A Victorian Gothic landmark in historical Heritage Hills.
- Remington Park: A world-class pari-mutual race track
- Space Museum: Exhibits and aircraft from Kitty Hawk to Mars.
- The Hara Homestead: A Land Rush era farm with one-room schoolhouse.
- The Oklahoma State Capitol: The only capitol in the world atop an oil field.
- 45th Infantry Division Museum: Featuring military history from the 13th century to Desert Storm.
- Historic Stockyard City: Home of the largest cattle market in the world.

\* \* \*

*Some Suggestions for*

**WHERE TO DINE  
in Oklahoma City**

Jane and Michael Stern, authors of *Roadfood* (HarperCollins 1992) have some restaurant suggestions for Oklahoma City. The Sterns have made a practice of seeking out regional specialties and unpretentious locales across the country. They make it clear that Oklahoma City is THE place for those seeking hearty food centered around beef or barbecue. Some restaurants they mention:

**1. Leo's Barbecue**, 3631 N. Kelley Ave; 6816 N. Western; and 5508 S. Penn.

They like to start with dessert, the banana-strawberry cake. The meats are ribs, beef, hot links, or bologna, available as a dinner, plain, in a sandwich, or by the pound. "The plainness of the menu in no way reveals the complexity of flavors each of these foods conveys. The beans, for instance, are a true pitmaster masterpiece, loaded with shreds and pieces of beef and pork. The plump hot links are explosively spiced. Sauce is available hot or mild. . . And barbecued bologna? Yes, indeed; it is a favorite in this part of the country . . ." Leo's is described as a barbecue shrine "with atmosphere to spare," located in a former gas station, and usually packed with customers.

**2. Sleepy Hollow**, 1101 NE 50th St.

"There is no written menu at Sleepy Hollow; you choose one of three entrees: steak, chicken, or shrimp. We . . . highly recommend the steak, either a ten-ounce club steak or a one-pound Kansas City strip. This is superbly cooked beef with a blackened crust that yields readily to a sharp knife to reveal a great, juicy, blood-raw slab of protein . . . The chicken is terrific, too: fried to a golden crisp, with the kind of deep, nearly buttery flavor to its meat that somehow chickens in the North never have."

**3. Split T Bar**, 57th & N. Western

"The Split T Bar is the home of the Caesarburger, a provocative combination of a hamburger and Caesar salad that has been a long-

time favorite in Oklahoma City, where oddly dressed hamburgers of all kinds are beloved. This particular burger is a handful of edible chaos . . . It is a sloppy sandwich all right, but what a winning combination of flavors! The hamburger is thick enough to ooze natural gravy, with a sharp, charred crust. The salad is a wild combination of garlic, pepper, and sharp cheese."

**4. Classen Grill**, 5124 Classen Blvd.

This offers a "perfectly satisfying lunch menu," with all kinds of burgers and sandwiches. "But the great meal of the day at the Classen Grill is breakfast. Whatever else you get, get cheese grits. They are mild, just faintly garlicky, pillowy-soft, and sunny yellow. Get them with tenderloin and eggs, pork chops and eggs, or eggs Benedict. Get them on the side of taquitas, which is eggs, sausage, potatoes, and tomatoes rolled up in flour tortillas and topped with green chili sauce and sour cream. The one breakfast with which you may not want to order cheese grits is the one they refer to here as 'biscuit debris'-- a colossal plate loaded with approximately 80,000 calories worth of biscuits and fried potatoes crowned with melted cheese and smothered with cream gravy loaded with hunks of ham and sausage. That, friends, is OK eating!"

**5. Lady Classen Cafeteria**, 6903 N. May Ave

This is described as a "refined" cafeteria, located in a shopping center, decorated in Colonial style. "Most of the food presented in the cafeteria line is traditional southwestern fare: pan-fried catfish and hushpuppies, baked chicken and cornmeal mush, baked ham and potato royale" along with Jell-O, breads, vegetables and many desserts.

I wonder if Texas Jack and his pards ever ate anything resembling the Caesarburger. Somehow I doubt it. But they might have had "biscuit debris."

\* \* \*

## Oklahoma's Wild West Show: the Millers' 101 Ranch

John and Susan Omohundro

Texas Jack Omohundro's Wild West stage shows with Buffalo Bill and Wild Bill Hickok, and then on his own with Mlle Morlacchi make up one brief but glorious moment in a long history of Wild West shows. Two books published recently introduce Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill fans to a broader historical panorama of Wild West shows, from the 1830s to the 1930s. Paul Reddin's *Wild West Shows* (University of Illinois Press, 1999) and Michael Wallis' *The Real Wild West* (St. Martin's Press, 1999) have spurred our interest in the "lineage" of entertainers celebrating America's West of which Texas Jack was a branch.

It seems appropriate as we head to Oklahoma City this June for the Roundup that the *Scout* should describe in this issue the Miller brothers' 101 Ranch, headquartered in northeast Oklahoma. In its time, the 101 Ranch put on the biggest Wild West show in America. Its show had features in common with Buffalo Bill's outdoor Wild West extravaganzas, such as bucking broncos, trick shooting, stagecoach chases, and full-dressed Indians. But clearly the organizers and the themes of the two shows were quite different, as we shall show.

Our story begins with George Washington Miller, the patriarch, born 1842 and raised on a Kentucky plantation. Miller fought for the South in the Civil War and returned to an impoverished plantation. So in 1869 he sold his share of the estate and struck out for



A 1910 advertising poster for the Miller Brothers' 101 Ranch Wild West Show. Photo from Reddin, *Wild West Shows*

the west with his young wife, Mary Ann Carson, who was also his stepsister and second cousin, and their son, Joe. Bound for California, he discovered enticing prospects in Newtonia, Missouri, near the Oklahoma border, for taking over the local hog industry and selling swine to Texas. He bought land, opened a general store and grocery, and stayed for ten years.

G. W. Miller traveled to Texas often, trading hogs or gold for steers, and came to know cowboy life well. With his profits and a partner he leased a cattle ranch, the L K Ranch, on Cherokee land in the northeast corner of Oklahoma. His business prospered and he raised three more children: Alma, Zach, and George. The three brothers would become the entrepreneurs of a family empire that had less in common with "Ponderosa" and more in common with "Dallas."

The Millers claim to have staged the first commercial rodeo, in Winfield, Kansas, in 1882, just before Buffalo Bill was joining up with Nate

Salsbury to stage his first big outdoor shows. Whether the claim is true or not, the family caught the show biz bug when young Joe, aged 15, was assigned to stage a cattle roundup for the Alabama State Fair in 1883. Joe flavored his show with a crowd of Oklahoma's Ponca Indians and made good money on his 25-cent tickets.

The 1880s marked the end of the old cattle era, precipitated by bad weather and changing markets. The open range and cattle drives were replaced with fences and feedlots. The Millers moved to consolidate their struggling cattle business in 1889, when the Oklahoma land rush opened Cherokee lands. Young Joe raced 40 miles on horseback to claim the family's leased lands, near Ponca City. This became the famed 101 Ranch, named perhaps after a cafe which father George frequented in San Antonio.

Ranching remained a volatile occupation.

In the Panic of 1893 the 101 Ranch went broke and sold most of its herd, switching to wheat farming instead, and found this profitable. Clearly the Millers were resourceful and prepared to shift with the winds.

The Millers were excellent horsemen, hardy outdoorsmen, sharp horsetraders, and willing to take aggressive risks, with mixed results. The niceties of civilization didn't trouble them at the 101 Ranch. Shady deals were common. Father George set the tone, when he feuded with a ranching rival and was tried for cattle rustling. In 1897 Joe was jailed for two years for passing counterfeit money. In 1902 a railroad agent with whom the Millers were on bad terms was murdered, but three trials ended in hung juries. The death of the "old man," in 1903 at 61, ended the matter. On his deathbed, George called upon his sons to work together to realize the new West and make the name of the 101 Ranch famous in America.

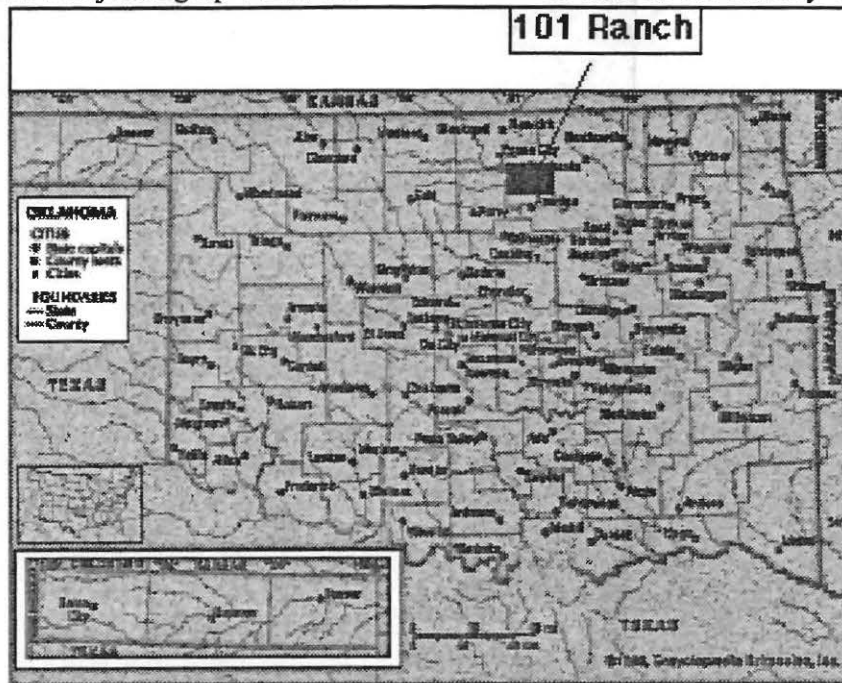
The turn of the century was a time when

the West of myth and the West of history were thoroughly blended in the American mind.

Enormously popular that year were painter Frederick Remington, novelists Zane Grey and Owen Wister (*The Virginian*), Buffalo Bill, T. R.

Roosevelt, and Jack London. Also, the early silent film, "The Great Train Robbery" was released, a hint of future trouble for live Wild West shows.

Without abandoning their farming and ranching enterprise, the brothers Miller branched out into entertainment. Joe persuaded a convention of editors in St. Louis to make a trip to the 101 Ranch for a roundup spectacle. The brothers hired entertainers with cowboy skills, including a young Will Rogers and Tom Mix. Geronimo was also featured. The show was previewed in New York City, and ultimately attracted 100,000 to the



ranch that summer. Delighted spectators saw Geronimo shoot a buffalo and cowgirl star Lucille Mulhall perform rope tricks. The show put the ranch in the news, so the Millers decided to take the 101 Ranch show on the road. At that time, there were 30 Wild West show companies, of which the most famous was Buffalo Bill's, but most were small and short-lived. The Millers' 101 Ranch show was to become for a time the biggest in America, eclipsing Buffalo Bill's in profits and publicity, if not in popular affection. Among the Millers' more glorious venues was Jamestown, Virginia, where they helped celebrate its 300th anniversary. The show tried extending its season by touring Mexico, which was in some turmoil preceding the revolution against Porfirio Diaz' dictatorship. The Millers and the Mexicans took a dislike to each other, and little money was made. But the showmen won a wager that its black cowboy star Bill Pickett could bulldog a Mexican bullfighting bull. Pickett had more or less invented his own form of bulldogging, by throwing steers and holding them down by clamping his teeth on their snouts, as bulldogs used to do. He managed to cling to the powerful bull for 7 minutes, although he was badly injured in the process.

The Millers embraced the new medium of movies. The first film using the ranch as a setting was made in 1909 and featured riding stunts by Tom Mix. Soon many films used the ranch and its employees. The 101 Ranch show toured California in 1911 and wintered there. They partnered with the New York Motion Picture Company to create the Bison 101 Company to make westerns, which they filled with Indians and stuntmen on horses. Universal Studios bought out the Ranch in 1912 and moved to California to start that moviemaking empire, cutting Oklahoma out of the industry. Historian Michael Wallis observes,



A Ponca member of the 101 Ranch Show. Photo from Wallis, *The Real Wild West*.

... in a cruel twist of irony, the Millers, by fully embracing the film industry, signed the death warrant for the Hundred and One. Although it would take many years, the advance of competitive western movies-- which continued to gain in popularity-- steadily chipped away at the audience base for the Millers' Wild West extravaganzas. (p 362).

Undeterred, the Millers' 101 Ranch show embarked on a European tour the next season. The Buffalo Bill - Pawnee Bill show had fallen on hard times that year, and the Millers bought up most of their stock, making them the preeminent successors and inheritors of the most famous Wild West show in American history. Buffalo Bill joined the show in 1916 for his last public appearances.

The years of "tented entertainment" would lose out to the "westerns," but shows were also in stiff competition with rodeos and circuses. Another problem for the Millers' show, according to historian Paul Reddin, was its emphasis on the glory of the cattle kings and the modernizing business of western ranchers, rather than the mythic plainsman and Indians of earlier Wild

West shows. The public wasn't as interested in celebrating big business. The Millers resented audience enthusiasm for the "cowboy," whom they viewed as the hired hand of western empire. They never exploited the themes of patriotism and American history as Buffalo Bill had done, except to highlight the Mexicans as the villains during Pancho Villa's raids across the border.

The 101 Ranch grew as a business empire to include Wild West shows, cattle ranching, dude ranching, a company store, farming, and oil prospecting. The three brothers lived hard, divorced badly, and "horse traded" boldly. Zach made a profit buying and selling all the stock of the Mexican Army after Pancho Villa chased them into the U.S. The Ranch pled guilty to accusations of cheating Indians on leases and wages, but a little contrition and a fine didn't prevent them from reaping handsome profits on land speculation. In general, however, the Millers' relations with Indians over the years were good.

By the 1920s the Wild West show was in trouble. The 101 Ranch continued to experiment with attractions, by adding troupes of professional dancers, auto stunts, clowns, and film star guest appearances. They added spectacles featuring the ancient classical world and Asian civiliza-

tions, sideshows and freak acts. Joe died in an accident in 1927 and George was killed in a car wreck in 1929. Zach soldiered on bravely but the Great Depression broke the ranch and the show, which closed in 1931.

The Millers' 101 Ranch was Oklahoma's contribution to the end of a fascinating lineage of Wild West shows and "galleries unique" extending back to George Catlin, P. T. Barnum, and Thomas Barnett (see *Scout* vol. XIV no. 2), followed by the stage shows of Texas Jack and Wild Bill Hickok (*Scout* vol. X no. 1, XII no. 2), and then the grand "spectacle of America" by Buffalo Bill and his imitators. The ranch's successors from the 1930s to the 1950s were very different in format, being delivered on radio, in movies, and eventually on television. The next generation of westerners, such as the singing cowboys Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, differed also in their portrayal of the West and its characters. Nevertheless, some of the most popular successors of the Wild West show, including Tom Mix, Hoot Gibson, Ken Maynard, and Will Rogers, got their start at Oklahoma's 101 Ranch.

\* \* \*



A "50 Bucks" bill used as currency on the 101 Ranch. Author Michael Wallis reports the claim that the term *bucks* originated with this use. Photo from Wallis, *The Real Wild West*.

# ROUND-UP 2000

## REGISTRATION

The Hilton Northwest  
Oklahoma City  
Wed. June 14 through Sat. June 17, 2000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of other family members attending with you  
(please include ages of children)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$90.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children @ \$75.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send check for registration to:

Edna Nees, Secretary/Treasurer  
213 Coles Rolling Rd.  
Scottsville, VA 24590-3916

### **Please note:**

- Write "Round-up Registration" on your check to insure that it is credited properly.
- You must book your own hotel reservations. Details found in this issue of the *Scout*.
- And most importantly: Be prepared for another fabulous get-together with other TJA members!

**SEE YOU THERE!**

# Membership/Order Form

Name  
 Address  
 Town, State, Zip code  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues** (includes subscription to *Scout*) ..... **\$15.00**

**Texas Jack Gear** (see this issue)

<u>Item</u>	<u>quantity</u>	<u>size</u>	<u>price per item</u>	<u>total</u>

**Dues and Gear total** ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**one check** for gear and dues made out to  
 TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION may be included with this form

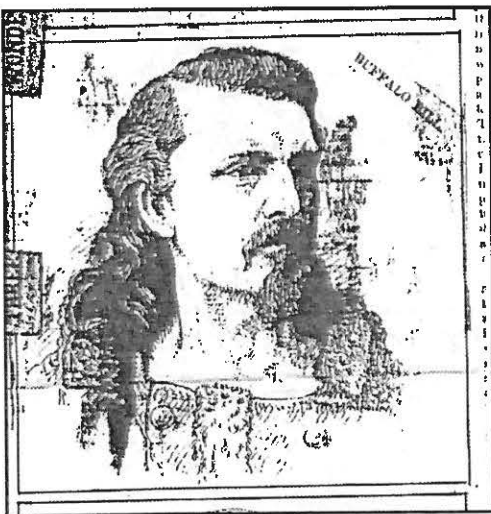
**send to** Edna Nees, 213 Coles Rolling Rd, Scottsville VA 24590-3916

## Quote for the Day, or, Why the World Needs the Texas Jack Association

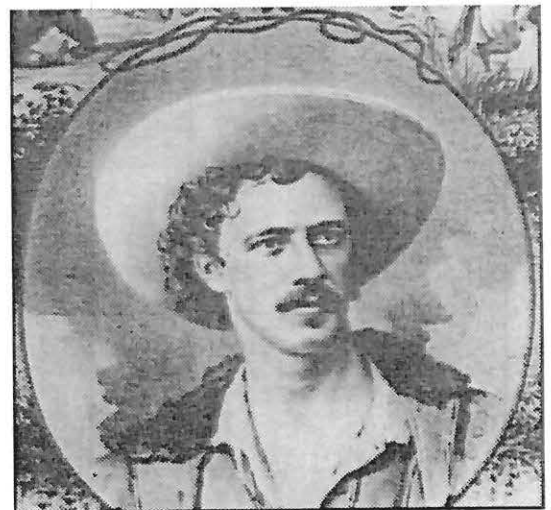
“Joy seems to be a product of the geography, just as deserts can produce mystical ecstasy and English moors produce gloom. Once happiness gets rolling in this open place, not much stops it. And if the Great Plains are like that today, what must they have been like in the nineteenth century, when man didn't have to share the stage with laws or institutions or machines. The Great Plains provided an obligingly blank backdrop for Custer, for the Sioux, for gamblers and buffalo hunters and river pilots and outlaws and trappers and cowboys. People pursued happiness here so fiercely that sometimes they touched it just as it was disappearing; and when their "real" lives were over—when Custer was dead, the Indians subdued, the open range fenced, the easy money gone—Great Plains adventures became theater. Only a few years after Little Bighorn, Buffalo Bill Cody, the former Army scout better known as an impresario, hired some of the same Indians who had fought Custer to reenact the battle in his travelling Wild West Shows. In arenas all over Europe and America, Custer died thousands of times more. The Wild West Shows also featured cowboy gunfights, trick shooting and roping and riding, stagecoach robberies, buffalo, bucking horses, etc. Old-time plainsmen who would never have "real" fun again were paid to have imitation fun.

Wild West Shows toured until the 1950s, but by then they had competition from rodeos, cowboy-and-Indian movies, and Westerns on radio and television. . . In the late 1950s, there were thirty Western series on prime-time television. Nobody makes Westerns for series TV anymore, and Western movies are rare. Like the plains themselves, the genre has been mostly forgotten or abandoned. Western movies are box-office death. . .”

from Ian Frazier, *The Great Plains*, Penguin Books, 1989. Highly recommended!



LEFT: Buffalo Bill Cody;  
from a newspaper advertisement



RIGHT: Texas Jack  
Omohundro; detail of a  
poster promoting his  
stage show

Conference co-organizer Jane Omohundro reports, "The enclosed clipping appeared in the Baton Rouge Sunday newspaper. Our Round-up participants will be attending or enjoying almost everything mentioned here. In fact, we shall be having lunch at the cafe described in the article.

After lunch we are allowing time for shoppers to peruse some of the Western wear stores in the vicinity. It should be a really fun time for everyone attending. There will be something for all ages. See you in June."

# Oklahoma's Cowboy Culture in City of Booms, Busts

Rochelle Hines, Associated Press (excerpted)

It began at noon on April 22, 1889, with a starting gunshot. Settlers called "boomers" made a mad dash to claim free land west of Indian Territory in the area designated unassigned lands by the federal government. (Settlers who illegally sneaked into the area and staked out their claims before the starting gun came to be called "sooners," thus the nickname of the University of Oklahoma football team.)

By nightfall, a tent city of thousands had sprung up around Oklahoma Station, a train stop the Santa Fe Railroad had established a year earlier, and Oklahoma City was born. "They had 10,000 people that night mingling around with no law and not a hell of a lot of a notion about what to do," says Max Nichols, spokesman for the Oklahoma Historical Society. At a mass meeting a few days later, a committee was formed to lay out the city and in May the boomers set up a provisional local government. Without jobs and only one water well, the city struggled with chaos initially. Eventually, companies, newspapers, eateries and a bank (which began in the back of a wagon) sprung up.

Since then, Oklahoma City has developed into a metropolitan center rooted in the culture of the American West. . . Urban renewal wiped out many of Oklahoma City's historic buildings. . . but today, downtown is in the midst of a renaissance.

It is Western culture that still permeates the image Oklahoma promotes. Even at the state Capitol building, there are paintings of cowboys and their horses and five American Indian ballerinas from Oklahoma.

But the best display of the city's Western image is the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center, the world's largest exhibi-

tion of Western lore. There are paintings and sculpture by Frederic Remington and Charles Marion Russell, as well as the National Rodeo and Western Performers Hall of Fame and a re-created Western town.

Or, instead of looking at Western history, you can sample the smells, the food and the garb of the Old West. In a part of southwest Oklahoma City known as Stockyard City, you are met with the smells of the Oklahoma National Stockyards, where the packing companies of the early 1900s opened plants. The annoying odor doesn't have to last long, for there are restaurants and Western-wear stores to duck into.

Cattlemen's Steakhouse, for instance, has long been known as a place where cowboys, ranchers and cattle haulers could stop and get a good steak and libation. It opened in 1910 as Cattlemen's Cafe, but changed hands in a scenario straight out of Gunsmoke. On Christmas Eve in 1945, owner Hank Fry lost the restaurant in a crap game to Gene Wade. Since then, the city's residents and visitors alike, including former President George Bush, have flocked to the restaurant in search of the "perfect steak," aged cornfed beef that is handcut and charbroiled. There's also the house specialty, lamb fries, which for the novice are beef testicles that are deep-fried in batter and served either as an appetizer or as an entree.

But the West and downtown attractions aren't all Oklahoma City has to offer. The city boasts one of the top zoos in the nation. It has a new minor-league baseball park. It has the Kirkpatrick Center, a 350,000-square-foot science, technology and education facility housing five museums. Not as educational but just as much fun are Frontier City and White Water Bay, members of the Six Flags amusement park family.

\* \* \*

## Association Members

### New Members - Welcome!

Rex Gile  
4372 Alta Vista Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Edna de la Houssaye  
426 North Avenue J  
Crowley, LA 70526

William Skala  
PO Box 532  
Leadville CO 80461  
Husband of Helen Skala, author of *Tales: From the Old Time*

Dorothy Tenos  
2388 Bellwood Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Thadd Turner  
PO Box 282  
Deadwood, SD  
Thadd plays Texas Jack in Deadwood

### Renewed Member

Peter Alexis  
575 Scarsdale Rd.  
Crestwood, NY 10707

TJA members who attended the Roundup in Lowell, Mass. in 1994 will remember that Peter was a historian instrumental in assembling information on Mlle. Morlacchi's years in Lowell. Now Peter is a Divinity student at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary pursuing an MA degree. He and his wife now live in Crestwood, New York. We welcome Peter back to the Association.

### Changes of Address

Alybel Johnson  
5031 Hillsboro Rd., Apt. 403  
Nashville, TN 37215

Gloria O. Palmer  
2480 Irvine Blvd., Apt. 232  
Tustin Ranch, CA 92782

Elizabeth O. Omohundro  
Box 130  
Gloucester, VA 23061

### Missing Members

If anyone can supply a current address for any of these people, please send it to Edna Nees.

Barbara Omohundro, formerly at 138  
Evergreen Cr., Poca, WV 25149

Elmer Omohundro, III, formerly at 182 N.  
Brisco Rd., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Aaron G. Poff, formerly at PO Box 1261,  
Libby, MT 59923

### Don't Move, Partner. . .

. . . without informing your Texas Jack Association. Send notification to Edna Nees. Use email if you like:

andeseen@aol.com

# Texas Jack Gear

Send information on items, quantities, and sizes with a check to TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION to Edna Nees (order form on insert).

**T-shirts..... \$15.00**

The popular "Texas Jack Combination" poster nearly covers the front of this 50/50 tee, cream with brown ink. Always a conversation starter! Sizes: a few children's, a few S, some M, numerous L and XL, some XXL.

**Sweatshirts..... \$20.00**

By popular demand: the same poster as on the tee, on a medium-weight long-sleeve crewneck blended-cotton sweat by "Fruit of the Loom," cream with brown ink. Sizes: some M, many L and XL, some XXL. SEE PHOTO AT RIGHT.

**Coffee mugs.....\$15.00**

Cream-colored straight-sided porcelain mug, 3 3/4 inches tall. See photo. Caption includes names and nicknames of Cody, Omohundro, and Hickok.



**Polo shirts.....\$20.00**

Smart-looking smooth-surface short-sleeve banded-cotton polo by "Jerzee" with knit collar and cuffs, in white with brown revolver, bust and autograph, as portrayed on back cover of newsletter. Without pockets. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL.

**John Burwell Omohundro's Descendants.....\$50.00**

by Edna Nees. First edition, 1993, Charlottesville, VA. 212 pp., photos, hardbound, 7.5 in. x 10 in. John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro's father, his brothers and sister, and their descendants.

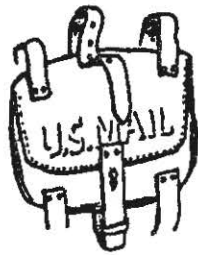
**Texas Jack poster..... \$15.00**

11 by 17 inch four-color reproduction of original in Cody Museum, Wyoming. Sepia tinted, on heavy paper, suitable for framing. Includes shipping and handling. Sent rolled in mail tube. See poster in recent issues.

**BE SUITABLY ACCOUTERED  
IN THE SOONER STATE!**

## From the Mail Pouch

*Editor's note: Ellen found me through the internet when looking for research in environmental issues. I asked her for a bio, and she replied:*



From: Ellen Omohundro  
<elomo@mail.wsu.edu>  
Pullman, Washington

Texas Jack is a relative of my father, Gleeves Logue Omohundro (named after his father and grandfather too I believe). He grew up in Kansas City, MO, and Little Rock, MS. His mother was a big socialite in those circles but she died before I was born. My father, a career engineer, also spent several years in the Detroit, MI area and Jackson, MS but currently resides in Knoxville. I've never lived in the south myself, just visited. I grew up just outside of Detroit (Pontiac to be exact) with my mother.

I received a bachelor's degree in Psychology and Special Education from Western Michigan University in 1983. After working with children and adults, many of which had preventable handicaps, I became interested in epidemiology and research. I received a M.S. in Environmental Health (with an emphasis in epidemiology and biostats) from Colorado State University. Greeley, CO is where I worked in public health as an epidemiologist. Then I worked at a little place called the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington State as an environmental/occupational epidemiologist. That opened my eyes to a lot of sociological factors that significantly impact health and I became particularly interested in risk perceptions and risk decision making at the community level.

This new awareness lead me to pursue a Ph.D. in Sociology at WSU. I'm now A.B.D. (perhaps better translated as all but dead! Just kidding!), just a dissertation to go. So while it is true that I was a freshman in college 20 years ago and that I am still a student, I have not always been a student. Of course, when all of one's degrees are in different fields, it does take a little longer.

I'm also involved in rescuing and retraining

abused dogs, am an outdoor enthusiast (mountain biking, skiing, photography, etc.), and currently a single mother of two 2-year-old canines (both rescues), Shadow and Freckles. My older (the first of the bunch) sister Gail is happily married to Dan Beyers and a full-time mother of Alec (4) and Regan (1.5), 2 dogs and 1 cat, in Tulsa, OK. She previously had a career as a analytical chemist on the marketing and financial end of things. My older brother, Paul Omohundro, is a successful investment banker in Chicago, is happily married to Gloria and the father of Sarah (6), Michael (4), and 1 dog. My mother Carol Omohundro (formerly Carol Poss) resides in Ludington, MI.

\* \* \*

*Similarly, a book I wrote fell into Sue's hands, an Omohundro on her mother's side, and this conversation started. . .*

From: Sue Aki <saki@hawaii.edu>  
Honolulu, Hawaii

The TJ Association looks like fun. I first heard of Texas Jack back in 1958 or so when I began my first college career. At that time I was getting a BS in Education. I majored in social studies then, so had lots of US history.

I remember when the [Malvern Omohundro's] genealogy came out. My mother wanted to get one but we couldn't afford it at the time although I think my Aunt Helen has a copy. Believe me, I'm in it, since I was born in 1940.

Today, Tuesday, I am leaving for Raleigh-Durham to visit my son Steve and his wife and my three grandchildren who live in Virginia. They're moving to Ft. Drum [*ed.: only 75 miles from us in New York*].

By the way, are there any twins in the Omohundro history--aside from my father and his brother and my own two? My grandmother always said she didn't know of any in the family. I'm not about to get into the genetics of twins at this point!

I will definitely keep in touch. I do like e-mail!!  
Aloha, Sue

\* \* \*

## from the Editor's Desk...



by John and Susan Omohundro  
P O Box 299  
Hannawa Falls, NY 13647-0299  
omohunjt@potsdam.edu

Our interest in Texas Jack Omohundro's career on the stage has led us to a number of recent books on the history on Wild West shows. Our local used book store has yielded more good information about Buffalo Bill's shows, the Pawnee Bill Wild West shows, buffalo hunts, and other topics. Expect more on the subject in future issues!

Edna reminds us all to **bring and wear our Texas Jack shirts** at the Round-up in Oklahoma City.

Working on this issue, especially assembling the Mail Pouch, has brought home to us the power of the internet to connect relatives, both to meet each other through electronic mail and to publish genealogical information through the web. Out there in cyberspace are not only our

own Texas Jack website by Dick Omohundro, but also the Omohundro genealogy website by Lorrie Tenos. And then there are individual websites by association members, like Stephen Omohundro, which also publish genealogical and family historical details.

See you in Oklahoma!

**Deadline for materials for  
Volume XV, no. 3,  
is August 15, 2000.**

Send ideas, letters, and articles to:

Kitty Pelkan  
6021 37th Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA 98126  
ph 206/932-5393  
kpelkan@pop.seanet.com

### DONATIONS

... toward the cost of enhancements to Texas Jack's burial plot have recently been received from the following members:

Richard Omohundro (of Pennsylvania)  
Tipton Omohundro  
Helen Skala  
Penney Immel  
Gloria O. Palmer

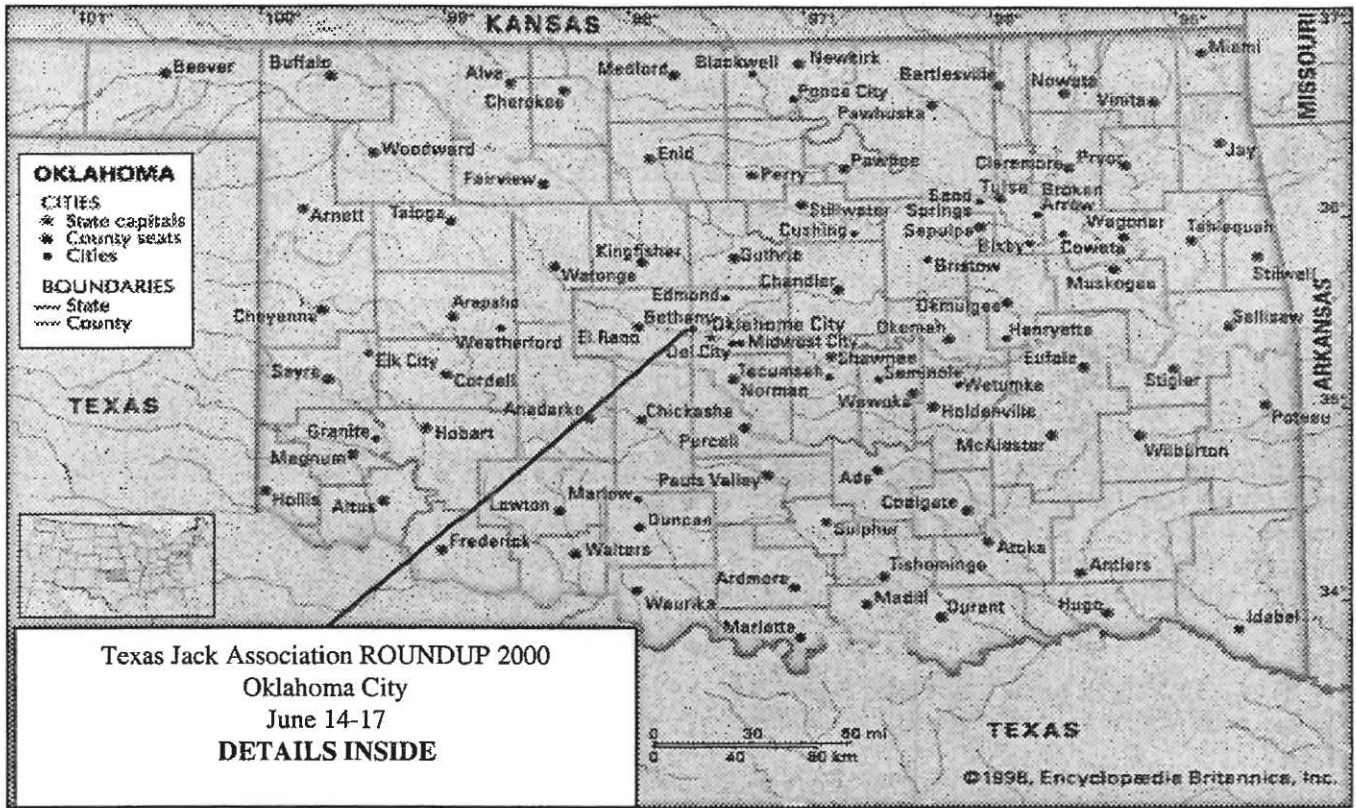
Your generosity is appreciated!

### DUES

Texas Jack Association Treasurer Edna Nees wishes to remind readers who have not yet paid dues this year to pay when they register for the Round-up.

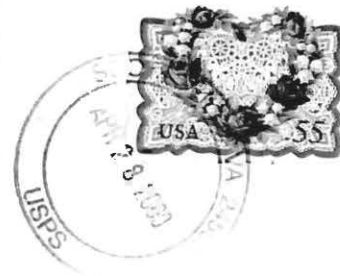
Use the form on the insert in this issue.

If members fall two years behind in dues, they are dropped from the mailing list!



Texas Jack Association ROUNDUP 2000  
 Oklahoma City  
 June 14-17  
**DETAILS INSIDE**

*The Texas Jack Scout*  
 Edna Nees  
 213 Coles Rolling Road  
 Scottsville, VA 24590



**To:**

Kitty Wyche Pelkan  
 6021 37th. Ave. SW  
 Seattle WA 98126 2000