



Volume XXXVII no. 3

www.texasjack.org

November 2022



2023 ROUNDUP!

By Larry Tyree



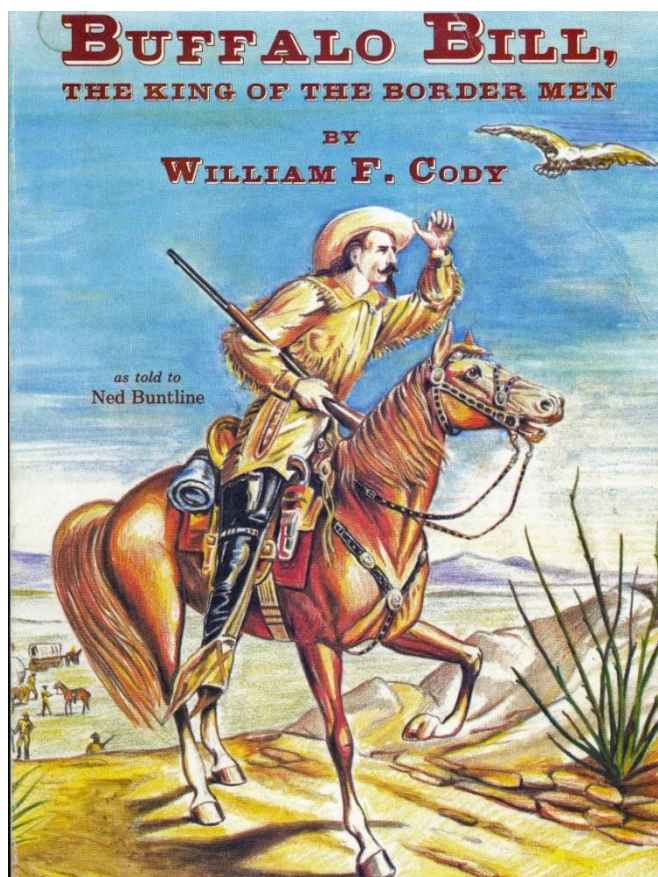
The 2023 ROUNDUP will be held June 14-18 in Chicago!! It is time to begin planning for the Roundup. It might be a good idea to get your room reservations in *now* rather than waiting until later in March or early April—to be sure you have a room.

Members will be given discounted rooms at the Hotel Indigo Naperville Riverwalk. The address is 120 Water Street, Naperville, IL. Reservations may be made online, but would be best by calling 630-778-9676 in order to get into the Texas Jack Association pricing.

**120 Water Street Naperville, IL
630-778-9676**

<https://www.reservations.com/hotel/hotel-indigo-naperville-riverwalk>

Continued on page 3



The Texas Jack Scout

from the Editor's Desk...



Hello All, I'm back to sitting in that editor's highchair with that funky green visor on my head, just like the icon of the editor's desk depicts it! Another fall is in full color or winter has settled in, depending on where you are reading this from.

Fall is the season for hunting and do we have tales for you, two of them, both colorful as the fall season itself. One is passed on to us from John Omohundro of Saranac Lake. It is about four seasoned hunters in pursuit of the big buck known as Old Blue. One of them being Texas Jack's second cousin, Tipton Omohundro a.k.a. Pistol Smoke Tip! The second article, a Classic Article is from John H. Pierce, a member of one of the hunting parties that Texas Jack had with the Earl of Dunraven. This first appeared in the Volume I, No.3, back in October of 1985.

Also, just as colorful, and entertaining, we have another poem from our own Driftin' AaronG! The big news from our president, Larry Tyree, is about the coming Roundup '23. Yes, it's going to be great, and IN-PERSON! Another article covers the question, the proverbial question, "Why Chicago?" There is also important information and forms.

In the last issue we had an article about the Tabor Opera House in Leadville, CO. It mentioned how Jack never entertained there, but his funeral was held there. We asked Matthew Kerns if he could provide more details about that than made it into his book. Fortunately for us, in this issue he indeed relays more details about that event.

Exactly one hundred years later, there was a Centennial observation of that event. We have an eye witness account, and Larry Tyree has pulled a real rabbit-out-of-the-hat in unearthing the programs from those days.

Good reading everyone!

Robert Omohundro, VP and Guest Editor

The Texas Jack Scout

Vol. XXXVII, no.3

An Occasional Publication of
The Texas Jack Association, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation

www.texasjack.org

Subscription is included in annual membership dues of \$25.00. Contact:

The Texas Jack Association

Rick Omohundro, Treasurer

PO Box 91

Salt Lick, KY 40371

The Texas Jack Association was founded in 1980 by Frank Sullivan to commemorate John Baker Omohundro, prairie scout, western hunting guide, and Wild West showman.

The Texas Jack Scout publishes articles about John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, the times and places in which he lived, and individuals who have contributed substantially to maintaining his memory.

Officers

President: Larry Tyree, Lees Summit, MO

V. President: Robert Omohundro, Modesto, CA

Secretary: Melisa Brown, Nipomo, CA

Treasurer: Rick Omohundro, Salt Lick, KY

Director: Carole Brown, Nipomo, CA

Scout Editors: (current issue): Production Mgr. – Larry Tyree, Guest – Robert Omohundro, Layout – Linda Omohundro

Founder: Frank Sullivan, Springfield, IL

First Chairman: Malvern H. Omohundro, Jr., Richmond, VA

Honorary Members

Julie Greene, Carmel, CA

Mario Morlacchi, Milano, Italy

Past Honorary Members

Edna Nees, Scottsville, VA

Dennis Greene, Carmel, CA

Mrs. Henry R. Coe, Cody, WY

The Earl of Dunraven VII, Co. Limerick, Ireland

Mr. Fred H. Garlow, Jr. Cody, WY

Grandson of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody

The Knight of Glin, Co. Limerick, Ireland

Great-grandson of the Earl of Dunraven IV

Mr. Herschel C. Logan, Santa Ana, CA

Author of *Buckskin and Satin*

Mrs. Nellie Snyder Yost, North Platte, NE

Historian of the Plains

The Texas Jack Scout



Continued from page 1

In addition, the Texas Jack Association will help reduce the price, so that the total price per night will be **\$168**, excluding taxes, etc. The entire area surrounding the Indigo Hotel is full of excitement, shopping, restaurants galore, parks, a nice Riverwalk, and areas of historic interest (just 2 blocks away)! See below for more details. Registration for the Roundup is **\$150** per person, with discounts for youth and children under 12. See the November 2019 *Scout* for hotel photos.

THINGS TO DO IN NAPERVILLE, IL

By Candice McKinney

Naper Settlement

Just steps from downtown Naperville, Naper Settlement is Chicagoland's outdoor history museum, offering interactive activities for all ages. Tour historic buildings, visit with interpreters in time-period clothing and enjoy programs on and off-site. The village tells the story of how life changed throughout the 19th century for the people of northern Illinois in towns such as Naperville. Naper Settlement has more than 40,000 historic objects and archival materials, over 10,000 photographs related to local history, and a research library. Caroline Martin Mitchell laid the groundwork for Naper Settlement by donating her family's Victorian mansion and surrounding 212 acres to the City of Naperville in 1936. Today, her home has been brought back to its original Victorian splendor and is open to visitors.

Naper Nights

Rock out to great music at Naper Settlement's Naper Nights Community Concert Series and dance the night away on our beautiful 13-acre grounds. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, your family and friends for a summertime tradition that features cold drinks and great food and fabulous music!

Trolley Tour

Learn about old Naperville, and see the new Naperville! This one-hour Historic Tour of Naperville blends the past with the present, highlight's Naperville's growth, and includes some fun stories! Offered every Friday, departing at 11:00am during June, July, and August (and special dates/times may be added between September and December). It's a "must do" while in town! Ding! Ding!

Century Walk

Genevieve looks up at us from her bench outside of Barnes and Noble on Washington Street. The Cat and the Hat practically takes our hand and strolls with us into Nichols Library. Officer Friendly, known to us today as Mayor Pradel, reminds the children of Naperville to be careful on one-way streets ensuring the safety of our town's youngest citizens. We are reminded of uncommon valor when we gaze upon five of Naperville's most highly decorated servicemen

The Texas Jack Scout



from World War II immortalized in the bronze sculpture Veterans' Valor in the plaza next to the YMCA.

Each of these works is just one of the 40+ pieces of public art that make up Naperville's Century Walk. In 1996, Century Walk began as a public art initiative featuring murals, mosaics, reliefs, mobiles, and sculptures throughout downtown Naperville. Each of the first 30 pieces in some way represents the history of Naperville during the twentieth century through people, places and events. It is a fascinating way to portray the history of Naperville through public art. Several of the last pieces were not limited to historical themes as they expand the body of artwork throughout Naperville.

What makes the Century Walk stand out among public art projects is that the art work embraces the community which it represents, and the community which it represents becomes involved in the pieces of art themselves. As you look upon the faces in the crowd of The Great Concerto at the Community Concert Center in Central Park, do you recognize anyone? Look closely. This was Century Walk's 23rd piece of public art, and the faces of over 56 residents of our community are depicted on this epic work. The inclusion of the faces was part of a fund-raiser by Century Walk to help fund the project. The muralist, Bart Gunderson, spent 1,600 hours creating The Great Concerto. Because of the timelessness of this historic piece, we can delight in finding the faces of our friends, family and neighbors, not only in the crowd during summer concerts, but also in the artwork itself.

Naperville Riverwalk



Considered the "crown jewel" of Naperville, the Riverwalk is a place of beauty and tranquility along the West Branch of the DuPage River. It features 1.75 miles of brick paths, fountains, bridges, meeting and event places, outdoor sculpture and artwork, recreational facilities, and celebratory memorials. The Riverwalk is a preferred destination and an ideal place to stroll, unwind and reflect. Come relax and enjoy the scene. The Riverwalk has something for everyone. Best of all, it's a place to be enjoyed for generations to come.

The Naperville Riverwalk was created in 1981 as a permanent commemorative to honor Naperville's 150th anniversary. Embraced as a gathering place for all ages, the linear park is a focal point of the community. Its covered bridges, fountains, landscaping, and distinctive shepherd's crook light poles are symbolic of Naperville's ties to its historic past as the oldest

The Texas Jack Scout



settlement in DuPage County. In the early 1980s, residents donated their time, money, and materials to transform a once-forgotten riverfront into a beautiful park that is enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The Riverwalk is highlighted with exceptional amenities along its path. To the east, visitors enjoy the stunning beauty of Fredenhagen Park with its landmark clock tower and Exchange Club Memories Fountain. Midway, the Dandelion Fountain, Paddleboat Quarry and unique bell tower can also be found. Further west is historic Centennial Beach, a popular family destination, with its inline skating/skateboarding facility and the Jaycee Playground—an ADA-accessible recreational area.

Morton Arboretum

This is an outdoor museum that also hosts a library, herbarium, and tree research program. With 1,700 acres, there are more than 4,000 plant species (all of which you can research in their online database before you go). There are certain areas of the arboretum that have been restored, including a tall grass prairie. For recreation, there's hiking, driving trails, cycling trails, an interactive children's garden, a maze, and you can hunt for trolls!



Catigny Park



The former estate of the publishers of the Chicago Tribune, Catigny Park is a gorgeous spot to visit. There are lovely formal gardens, the McCormick Mansion (of which you can book a guided tour), the First Division Museum, 27 holes of golf, outdoor concerts, children's playgrounds, fine dining, shopping, picnic grounds and three miles of trails. It's truly a very relaxing and beautifully upscale park

to visit, and not your average, run-of-the-mill county park with a few swings and picnic tables.

The First Division Museum

Even if you don't make a full exploration of Catigny Park, the First Division Museum is still worth a visit. Colonel McCormick served within the First Division during World War I, and so the museum features exhibits and artifacts surrounding this division, not only during World War I, but also in later wars. The Tank Park is located outside the museum, and it's one of the largest collections of tanks and artillery pieces that you'll find in the area (plus, you get to climb all over them! It's pretty fun, regardless of your age).



The Texas Jack Scout



Bites and Sites

Our guided, narrated downtown Naperville tour visits 6 food tasting locations in the historic, delicious downtown and train station area. All food tastings, enough for lunch, are included in the ticket price. We cover a wide range of different tastings. Beside the food tastings our guides will dish up a side order of fun facts on the rich history that makes Naperville so awesome.

Along the way our guides will point out many of the architectural buildings, and hidden works of art, sculpture and murals throughout the area. Whether you have lived in Naperville all your life, just moved into the area, or visiting, on the Naperville Food Tour you will discover some great tastes and history facts that makes Naperville an outstanding city. The Naperville Food Tour is a great activity for groups of friends, team building, wedding parties, bachelorette parties, foodies, or for anybody looking to discover the hidden gem of Naperville just outside of Chicago.

Centennial Beach

Jump into summer as you swim in Centennial Beach's historic stone quarry. It's not a swimming pool, it's not a lake, but a swimming experience like no other! Wade into the zero-depth entry and swim to depths of 15 feet. For generations, Centennial Beach has been the local "swimming hole" for many Naperville residents and their guests. It's a great place to meet friends, gather with family, or simply relax and enjoy.

Moser Tower and Millennium Carillon



This musical tower is open to visitors on the weekends, so you can climb all 253 steps to the top, where you can enjoy gorgeous views of the surrounding city, plus, learn all about the tower's history and unique features. Keep in mind — while 253 steps may not seem like that many, Moser Tower is actually taller than the Statue of Liberty! The reward from the top is great, though, and you'll be able to see not only Naperville, but also the Riverwalk, Centennial Beach and even the Chicago skyline.

iFLY

iFLY is the experiential entertainment company that created modern indoor skydiving...they make the dream of flight a reality by giving their customers "wings" in a safe and reliable environment. iFLY started in 1998 as SkyVenture, LLC. Once they had developed the technology to create a stable, wall-to-wall cushion of air in a flight chamber, they knew they could offer an incredibly realistic and safe indoor skydiving experience. They opened our first indoor skydiving facility in 1999. Between 1999 and 2005, they opened three more facilities. In 2005, they rebranded themselves iFLY, maintaining SkyVenture as their design and manufacturing company.



The Texas Jack Scout

Riddle Box Escape Room

The Old Tavern escape room will take you back to medieval times. You are a traveler who stopped to rest and eat at this tavern. You thought that the tavern master was the greatest host you ever met, but little did you know he is nothing but an evil murderer and a thief. All that food and wine that you indulged in was laced with a deadly poison. The tavern master left for one hour, hoping that you will be dead by then, and he will be able to rob you off all your possessions without a struggle. Now you must race the time and search for the hidden antidote.

Bowlero



Bowlero is immersive entertainment at its best-the kind of interactive fun that lets you forget about everything and just enjoy the moment. When you roll in, you'll find a wonderful distraction in every corner of their hipster-inspired, retro-awesome venue. Bowl on blacklight lanes. Hit up the interactive arcade. Join a laser tag battle or traverse rope courses (at select locations). Or just explore the over-the-top culinary creations of the inventive menus.

Kayaking

Take a river trip down Naperville's gorgeous DuPage River. We offer river trips down the DuPage River, starting at Knoch Knolls in Naperville. See the quiet corners of Naperville like you've never seen, and a range of wildlife from blue heron, jumping fish, river otters, turtles, and much more. We only offer our river trips when the river is safe for all paddlers. We have plenty of single kayaks, tandem kayaks, and large inflatable stand-up river paddleboards. Booking online strongly recommended to reserve a spot; however, walk-ins are welcome.

Buffalo Bill Museum and Homestead, LeClaire, IA



The Texas Jack Scout



ROUNDUP SCHEDULE

Wednesday 6/14/23: Arrivals and check-in

3:00 to 5:00 pm—Meet and Greet

6:00 pm Dinner on your own or in groups

Thursday 6/15/23: Chicago area historical visits

9:00 am Leave for **Jackson Park** (site of 1893 Chicago World's Fair)

10:15 am Tour **Field Museum**

12:30 pm Lunch at Giordano's

2:00 pm **Site of Nixon's Amphitheater** (First Stage Play of Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack)

2:15 pm Tour **Chicago History Museum**

4:30 pm Arrive at Indigo Hotel

6:00 pm Dinner on your own or in groups

Friday 6/16/22: Visit Buffalo Bill's Birthplace and home

9:00 am Leave for Le Claire, IA

11:00 am Visit **Buffalo Bill Museum**

12:30 pm Lunch at Crane & Pelican Restaurant

2:00 pm Visit **Buffalo Bill Homestead**

5:00 pm Arrive at Indigo Hotel

6:00 pm Dinner on your own or in groups

Saturday 6/17/22: Business and Banquet

10:00 am **TJA Business Mtg** Santo Cielo meeting room

12:00 pm Lunch " "

2:00 pm Free time to visit local sites, shopping, etc...

6:00 pm **TJA Banquet:** Santo Cielo Restaurant

Sunday 6/18/22: Departures

The Texas Jack Scout



The Texas Jack and Earl of Dunraven Buffalo Hunt

by “Ranger” John H Pierce

A Scout classic from Volume 1 No 3 of *The Texas Jack Scout*, October, 1985.

We are indebted to the Nebraska State Historical Society in Lincoln Nebraska for the following newspaper account of Texas Jack and Lord Dunraven’s Buffalo Hunt. It is a letter to the Omaha Bee, published on November 11, 1874

Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory, November 2, 1874

Editor *Omaha Bee*:

Almost the first man to greet us when we left the Union Pacific train at Cheyenne, was the far-famed John Omohundro, or “Texas Jack.” Only the day before he had returned, in company with the Earl of Dunraven, Capt. Quinn of the British army, Dr. Kingsley the eminent scientist, and a troupe or retainers, from one of the most remarkable hunting expeditions on record. The Earl of Dunraven had mapped out a route through an unexplored region, teeming with hostile Sioux Indians, and even the famous “Buffalo Bill” had declined to escort the party, unless they had a strong military guard, but Texas Jack, the biggest dare-devil on the plains, was more than pleased at this opportunity for adding another page to the history of a life spent in wild adventure with Indians and grizzlies.



Mules packed with elk horns

https://dpul.princeton.edu/uploads/spotlight/attachment/file/765/Screenshot_278.png

Early in the summer the expedition was organized and started from New York City, with Texas Jack as guide and scout. On the 10th of July the party left Denver, and after “taking in” Salt Lake, Fort Bridger, Corinne, Virginia City, and other places of interest, they fitted up a pack train, and started up from Bozeman City out into a mountainous wilderness filled with Indians. All the

The Texas Jack Scout



tribes were disposed to be friendly except the Sioux, who frequently threatened to attack them, but they had a wholesome dread of Jack's unerring aim, and the well-armed and resolute little band that were with him; and although they were frequently ordered to leave the Sioux country on pain of having their scalps taken, yet the Indians never dared to fire shot at them. While on the Yellowstone River, Jack had a very close call. The party was following a fresh grizzly trail, and while riding through a thicket they caught up with the huge monster, who instantly turned and sprang towards them with a fierce growl. Jack was considerably in advance of the party, and his horse not being used to seeing such rude strangers reared and fell over backwards. The bear was quick to take advantage of the situation, and springing upon the prostrate plainsman, he dealt him a blow in the breast, and another in the face, which laid him senseless. All this was done in an instant, and before a shot could be fired by any of the party the animal had escaped. Poor Jack was badly hurt, and even now the cuts made by those knife-like claws are scarcely healed, and as long as he lives, he will carry the imprint of that bear's paw.

A few days after this, while the party was proceeding up the Yellowstone, they saw a small party of Indians on the opposite side of the river, who were running off a lot of horses they had stolen from a ranch farther up. Jack, true to his instincts, swam his horse across the river and started in pursuit—one man after three; but the Indians were well mounted and he never got a shot at them.

After viewing the wonders of the geyser basin, the party started back for Bozeman City; where they arrived safely, everyone well satisfied and highly please with their nomadic life in the mountains. They brought back with them, as trophies of the chase, skins of the grizzly and horns of the elk, antelope and rocky Mountain sheep in great profusion. One pair of sheep horns weighs 41 pounds, and elk horns were truly magnificent in size.



Luxury accommodations at Yellowstone
[https://dpul.princeton.edu/uploads/spotlight/attachment/file/652/Screenshot_272 .png](https://dpul.princeton.edu/uploads/spotlight/attachment/file/652/Screenshot_272.png)



Packing a Recalcitrant Mule
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/11145/11145-h/images/216.jpg> From the
book *Discovery of Yellowstone Park*
by Nathaniel Langford

The Texas Jack Scout



All of these, together with a choice assortment of mineral specimens will be shipped across the ocean to adorn the ancestral halls in “Merry England.” The Earl of Dunraven was so highly pleased with American hunting grounds that he proposed to remain here for some time yet; at present he goes to Canada to hunt moose, but will return in January, and with Texas Jack for [his] guide, he will spend several months in the Indian Territory and the neighboring plains.

The tall, magnificent form, handsome face, and jovial ways of Texas Jack, together with his ornamental buckskin suit, causes him to be noticed wherever he goes, but his reputation as an Indian killer makes some persons rather afraid of him.

These people are, however, mistaken in their man, for Texas Jack is no ruffian, but quite the opposite. Those who know him best unite in saying that he is the best hearted fellow that ever told a story, or cracked a joke, and is withal a thorough gentleman. Although many an Indian has bit the dust when the smoke curled from the muzzle of Jack’s rifle, yet he claims he never harmed anyone, except in defense of life or property. Texas Jack started for Boston last night, for although his life is principally spent as a shot, yet his home is in the East, and he showed us the picture of as sweet and gentle face as fancy could paint, and very tenderly he said, “This is my wife.”



“PISTOL SMOKE” TIP’S DEER HUNT

By John Thomas Omohundro

John B. Omohundro is not alone in taking up pen to regale newspaper readers with exciting big game hunts. He’s also not alone in adopting a moniker (“Texas Jack”), rhapsodizing about his pards such as Buffalo Bill and Arizona John, and enjoying the hospitality of the rich.

My grandfather did these too. In August 1955 Tipton Turner Omohundro (1874-1957), a second cousin of Texas Jack, published in the *Nashville (Arkansas) News* a four-part story of a deer hunt he conducted with friends in Arkansas. I came across the yellowed news clippings when sorting through some documents left by my late father, Thomas Tipton Omohundro (1918-2008). The old clippings were missing the final episode, so I requested the Arkansas State Archives send that to me.

Titled, “Veteran Sportsman Tells of Famous Deer Hunt,” the article begins with a short editor’s note. Tip, living in Cairo, Illinois, at the time, is a “fine old hunter and philosopher and sportsman” who worked the Nashville area as a salesman for Peters ammunition and Remington firearms and knows many local residents.

Tip’s tale is published verbatim. Here are the highlights, which I have lightly edited.

The Texas Jack Scout



Tip calls what follows a “factual account of a grand and glorious deer hunt in the Wonder State of Arkansas.” It is glorious fall weather. The date of these events is not given, but I’m assuming sometime in the 1930s.

“For deer hunters and fishermen who love the music of the hounds on a hot trail after the old buck, or the large big-mouth bass that has so often broken the front tip off the fine bamboo fly rod...it was an ideal day...”

Tip’s companions are Arkansas residents W. P. Strait, a judge “widely known for his cogent reasoning,” Bob Caviness, “the savior of needy people in the Fourche River Valley,” Billy Hodge, head violinist of the orchestra at the American Theatre in Little Rock, and Ben Davis, an expert with deer hounds.

Tip refers to himself at times in the third person. He introduces himself as “a shooter-salesman known all the way from Roswell, New Mexico to Troy, South Carolina.” Sometimes called “the parson” for his double-breasted suits, he is known as a friend to all. “Even bird dogs and foxhounds seemed ever to recognize him as their friend...” Switching from his parson suit to his hunting garb, he became “the red-blooded, dare-devil he-man that got him the name of “Pistol Smoke Tip.”

The hunters begin the day with a sumptuous Sunday breakfast of sausage and pancakes at Nashville’s Marion Hotel, calling upon their favorite waitress, Mrs. Irene Brown, to confirm their jokes of seediness and unreliability in each other. They speak with anticipation of a glorious week of hunting for the big swamp deer, “made fat by large alfalfa fields and golden yellow corn.”

After this breakfast, Ben Davis proposes that the quintet caravan to Forrest City, where his two sisters have prepared a grand turkey dinner for them. Tip is driving and Billy Hodge is singing the praises of the landscape—the cotton fields, the white-faced cattle, the rice ponds, and the paper-shell pecan orchards.

The feast hosted by Ben’s sisters receives lavish description, as does the repartee, political talk, and limericks during coffee. Then off to Hughes, to the Belle Meade Plantation, the mansion of J. O. E. Beck, where our party of five is joined by nine others to celebrate the opening of this deer hunt.

Ben introduces Tip and his traveling mate to Beck and the other guests, as follows:

“Fellow hunters, I take great pleasure in introducing to you two of the reddest-blooded hunters and outdoor enthusiastic he-men in Arkansas, Billie Hodge and his pal, “Pistol Smoke Tip Omohundro.”

While chatting with their host, Tip learns of whispers among the others:

“That preacher-looking feller called Tip is such poor specimen of a red-blooded hunter that “Old Blue” would make a face at him and run off and leave him.”

The Texas Jack Scout

Thus our hunters first learn of Old Blue and vow to rise to the challenge of their fellow guests. So keen is their woods-sense that no turkey turned a leaf in the woods, no watercress was nipped, and no velvet rubbed from antlers onto a branch that they didn't notice it.

Soon host Beck leads his guests into a spacious dining room, complete with liveried servants. Tip and his cronies are awed:

"...it was grand and glorious. Words are but empty hollow sounds when one tries to give a true picture of it all."

The next day, Beck assigns them all their hunting positions and they drive into the country, but Tip jumps out first at a different spot, arguing that if the hounds drove the deer toward the St. Francis River canal, then Billie would get the shot. Otherwise, Tip knows the deer might double back through the woods before cutting across fields to reach a protected island in the Mississippi.



*Ready for the hunt. Pistol Smoke Tip Omohundro,
c. 1923, Arkansas. Author's photo.*

Toting his 12-gauge shotgun and 35-calibre rifle, Tip creeps through the woods to a dried-up pond surrounded by cypress trees, where he comes upon traces of Old Blue. He notes that the massive deer made false trails through the mud to fool the hounds. He returns from this pond to his hunting buddies, who saw no deer and "only got a chance to hear the dogs on the trail." Others had flushed and killed two deer elsewhere. These were dressed and "some fine, fat venison was made ready for a bunch of hungry hunters" at the plantation.

After the noon meal, the hunters go fishing. Tip and his boat-mate reel in some handsome crappie, as big as two and a half pounds. Beck invites Tip to his office after supper, where Tip describes his hunting plan to his host. His host approves, assuring him that those massive prints Tip saw were not

cows, because there are no cattle in that forest. Old Blue seemed to live a charmed life: "...he had come up at night with some of the tenants' milk cows and when the milkman or maid returned with a gun, Old Blue had vanished. Another man on a stand two years earlier shot at

The Texas Jack Scout



him but the bullet glanced off a tree. On another occasion the great deer was right in front of the hunter but the gun snapped, so Old Blue got away again.”

The next morning, taking up his position again beside the dried pond amidst cypress trees, Tip listens to the hounds, “Old Limber” and “Old Trim,” baying through the woods. He sits patiently for a couple of hours, when...

“...the hounds came on directly toward the lower end of the pond so fast that it seemed they were chasing the deer by sight on a very warm trail. Lo and behold—the deer came quickly into view...his hand closed tightly on the pistol grip of his Remington...What did he see—three buck deer coming directly at him. The two in front were the average size swamp deer, but the third deer, three lengths behind the other two, was a GIANT one ... a master animal of the deer tribe.”

Tip continues, still in the third person,

“With the poise and calm becoming a real seasoned veteran of many battles, the eagle eye of Pistol Smoke Tip was focused on these gigantic deer...”

As he had predicted from his study of the hoof prints the day before, Tip watches Old Blue turn away from his fellows and bound towards the woods near where he is hiding.

“...He was within less than ten feet of Pistol Smoke Tip, who did not even place the gun to his shoulder but from his hip he put all twelve buckshot squarely behind his outstretched fore shoulder. Old Blue fell, never to rise again! ! !”

Tip blows his fox horn and Ben Davis, who had been driving deer with the hounds, rides up on his pony, rushes over to Tip and cries,

“Pistol Smoke, I jumped three, I jumped three; one was Old Blue, so help me God!... Well, did you see ‘em? [the hounds and stags]”

“Yep, I see’d ‘em.”

“There were three of them and one was Old Blue.”

“Yep, you are correct. There *were* three of them.”

“Well, did you shoot at one? What in the devil makes you so evasive? Did you kill one?”

“Yep, I guess I did, or else he died of heart failure after I pulled the trigger... Take a look under that big cypress tree just behind you.”

Ben waves his fox horn in the air. “You have killed Old Blue, you lucky rascal. You lucky devil, Tip! I do believe if you were to fall in a sewer, you’d come out smelling like the essence of roses.”

The beast is loaded into the back of a pickup truck with two other deer shot that day.

“The massive size of Old Blue made the other deer look small, yet they were the average size of the big Mississippi River swamp deer.”

The Texas Jack Scout

When Tip emerges from the woods he meets Beck, who flinches at the sight of his blood-smeared face. Tip reports that two servants held his arms while Ben spread Old Blue's blood on him.

The deer taken that day are dressed and hung in Beck's big ice house. The next day, having decided they'd enough deer, the party goes bear hunting, but without success.

At their final dinner that night, amidst the speeches of thanks, Tip offers Beck the mounted head of Old Blue, which pleases him. Beck replies,

"As the years come and go and as they all marched down life's uneven road, he would ever remember Tip's true friendship [even] after this deer head and gold gifts were lost or forgotten."

Tip's tale ends with a long, flowery toast he offers after dinner to his buddy Bob Caviness, although we're never sure why. In the toast Bob converses in the middle of the night with an angel writing in a gold book of those God blesses. Bob asks his name be added, and the angel puts him at the top of the list. Tip must have thought this poetic touch brought his story to a high dramatic end.

I'm not a deer hunter, but as an anthropologist I'm interested in people's ways of life. What I see in this essay is the close relationship between deer hunting, feasting, and good friends, as still occurs here in Northern New York during hunting season (which is in full swing this week.) There's attention to the details of nature and what those signify, an almost supernatural feeling for the quarry, and a sentimentality about male bonding.

Tip's narrative of his hunt is not much different from ones that his cousin Texas Jack related, eighty years earlier. Such a story is still told today, for example in *Field and Stream* magazine



and local television productions of turkey hunts, but it's not the norm anymore. A lot of people today would prefer that Texas Jack, Tip, and those dudes in camo didn't live that story at all. It's been a pleasure, however, to be out there in the woods, at least vicariously, with my grandfather and cousin.

With his Pard. Tip Omohundro (front right) with deer hunting buddies, c. 1923, Arkansas. Author's photo.



A New Way to Help the TJA!

By Matthew Kerns

Do you shop on Amazon?

If you do, you can help the Texas Jack Association with every purchase you make! Here's how:

AmazonSmile is the charitable arm of Amazon. When customers designate a not-for-profit, like the Texas Jack Association, as their choice of charitable organizations, Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible AmazonSmiles purchases to that charitable organization.

What does this mean for you? If you simply go to smile.amazon.com instead of your usual amazon link, you can designate the Texas Jack Association to receive a small portion of what you're already spending with Amazon. This is an easy way for you to continue to support the mission of the Texas Jack Association without doing anything more than clicking the link and designating the TJA as your charitable organization of choice!



The Texas Jack Scout



Ghosts of The Prairie ©...January 2021



By: Driftin' AaronG



*I often think back to the old days of wagon trains, cowboys an'
every western wild tale
Great wonders of adventure go through my mind as I think about ever' cowboy that did prevail*

*I think of the wild an' great adventures of made-up stories and those that were true
The made-up stories bring about joy in fiction, an' the real stories of old and new*

*The true stories of Texas Jack Omohundro, Buffalo Bill Cody an' Wild Bill Hickock, a few of the
many
And of course all the true tales, an' not so true of Jesse James, an' the wild bunch, an' those are
plenty*

*From the rising sun to the western frontier is ever' kind of wild folklore
An' lay the graves of many wild adventures of the greatest heroes an' outlaws you cannot ignore*

*When you ride across the wide prairie to search for adventure an' fun
Look out for what you might find, cause history in the making might find you overheated by the
sun*

*To find your way back from where you might go
You may find yourself returning very tired and oh so very slow*

*The many ghosts of the prairie lay out there an' should never be found
Cause when you disrupt their quiet sleep, you might always hear some strange distant sound*

*Yes, they're all asleep now, but just waiting for someone to raise them from the dead
Western history an' folklore show us the ghosts are alive an' well in our hearts an' minds instead*

*All the great men an' women who rode to fame an' glory throughout all the West
Became ghosts of the prairie an' have been laid to their final rest*





Texas Jack's Funeral

From a letter by Matthew Kerns

Texas Jack did not play at the Tabor Theater while he was in Leadville. His show, which I believe at the time was "The Trapper's Daughter" (though I have seen it listed inexplicably as "The Professor's Daughter"), played for perhaps a week or two at Leadville's Chestnut Street Theater, which had been one of the main venues prior to the Tabor's opening.

Morlacchi was playing at the Grand Central Theatre, first in "The Black Crook" (the show she came to America to compete against in "The Devil's Auction"), and later in "Around the World in 80 Days". I wonder if, on days where Morlacchi wasn't performing, if the couple took in a show or two at the Tabor. Looking at newspapers from Leadville at the time, I see that some of the productions that happened there while Jack and Morlacchi were in town were "Tom's Cabin", "HMS Pinafore", "Dead Heart"!, "Our Boys", and "The Hunchback".

Jack's funeral was of course at the Tabor, and the interest it generated meant that all the other venues were shut so that their workers and performers could attend the ceremony. The best contemporary reference I can find to the funeral was from the *New York Clipper*. *The Clipper* was an entertainment newspaper and had followed Jack from the first show with Buffalo Bill throughout his career as a showman. It had reported on Morlacchi, who was a media darling from before her arrival in America, and it filed three reports, for three consecutive weeks, on Jack's death and funeral. The second of these reports, July 17, 1880, gives a very good account of the funeral.

"Texas Jack - Further particulars concerning the funeral of the well-known scout and actor, received during the past week, may prove interesting. Shortly before two o'clock PM on June 29, a military guard of honor, composed of the Tabor Light Cavalry, under command of Capt. W. N. Browne, reported at the undertaker's establishment, received the body, and escorted it to the Tabor Opera House.

The elegant coffin, which bore a silver plate having inscribed upon it 'J.B. Omohundro, aged 39 years,' was borne by the following pallbearers on foot: T. C. Howard, master of ceremonies; E. B. Holmes, representing the Tabor Opera House company; Wiley Hamilton, the present company at the Grand Central Theatre; Charles Chriside, the late company of that theatre; Harry Buckley, the Fay Templeton Star Alliance; Sam Dearin, Gardner's Minstrels; Ned Lang, Wood's Opera House; and Capt. E. A. Ebhardt, for the military—regular service.

The escort was preceded by the largest brass band that ever appeared in the streets of Leadville. It consisted of the entire Grand Central Band, Gardner's Minstrel band entire, two members of the Coliseum band, and one from Wood's band, all under the leadership of Prof. J. Caspari (*I wonder if this is Professor John Kerns [no relation] that was in the crowd and mentioned by Buffalo Bill in his elegy of Jack years later*).

The Texas Jack Scout



On arriving at the Opera House, the remains were placed within the orchestra enclosure, with a sentinel at the head and another at the foot, both holding their muskets at present-arms. The religious ceremonies were performed by Rev. T. J. Mackay, who wore his side-arms and the equipment of his rank as chaplain of the Light Cavalry. The music was furnished by members of the Fay Templeton Star Alliance, who rendered two of the numbers with so much pathos that there was scarcely a dry eye in the large assemblage.

After the close of the services the large assemblage was invited to view the remains, of which opportunity hundreds availed themselves. After the last of the throng had departed, his widow approached the coffin, embraced it, and pressed her lips to the glass which covered his face, when her physical faculties gave way, and she lost consciousness.

The remains were removed to a hearse and E. Kelly, representing the company of McDaniel's New Theatre, replaced T. C. Howard as a pallbearer. Mlle. Morlacchi, still insensible, was placed in a carriage, and the cortege started for Evergreen Cemetery, where, after interment, volleys of musketry, according to military usage, were fired over his grave."

I don't know if you've been to Leadville or to the Tabor, but when I went there a few years back I stood on the stage and thought about Jack's coffin in the orchestra pit, about Morlacchi kissing the coffin and passing out, of the huge crown shuffling through to pay their respects. Very touching that so many people should be so affected by the life and death of this cowboy.




The Centennial of the Funeral and Burial of John B. Omohundro

By Robert Omohundro


In June of 1980, according to an eyewitness, my cousin John S. Omohundro, there was a 100-year anniversary observance of Jack's passing with, "much of the doings occur[-ring] at the Tabor Opera House" including a follow-up ceremony at his gravesite. John was 21 at the time and attending with his dad, Arthur S. Omohundro. They had driven up from Buena Vista for the day. His dad, Art, was part of the Buena Vista Harmonizers barbershop quartet which sang as part of the theatrical event. As for the building itself, John recalled that the auditorium seating being, "in the 'half-round,' ...not a particularly large room, and the seats—even the balcony seating—are quite close to the stage. It would have been fun to be there back in the hay days of Leadville to see." He goes on to mention how the "backdrops were torn in places and the room seemed dark and in need of some love to bring it back to life. (...) After the program at the theater, many went out of the cemetery where Texas Jack is buried, and there was a short ceremony there under typical blue Colorado skies. It was pretty neat to see the name Wm. F. Cody on his headstone. There were a few Omohundros in attendance but not too many. Our cousin Stephan was there with his Aunt Astrid, and I believe our cousin Alice (Sid and Stella's daughter) with her husband. I'm sure there were others."

The Texas Jack Scout

The program mentions that it is an occasion being convened by two men (who had originally met at a meeting of the Sons of the American Revolution); Frank Sullivan and Malvern Hill Omohundro Jr. These images of the program could be showing the first public use of term Texas Jack Association. I wish I had more details but, the *TJA Scout* didn't cover it. It wouldn't send out its first issue until April of 1985!



THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
(John Burwell Omohundro)
A Colorado Nonprofit Organization



Chairman:
Malvern Hill Omohundro, Jr.
Richmond, Virginia

President:
Frank R. Sullivan
750 First National Bank Bldg.
Springfield, Illinois 62701
1-217-528-7528

Directors:
Joseph J. Murphy,
New York
John Weston Phillips,
Virginia
Martha M. Sullivan,
Colorado

Texas Jack Centennial Program
Taber Opera House-Leadville, Colorado
June 28, 1980- 11 A.M.

Welcome!

The Buena Vista Harmonizers
The Honorable John W. Moore, Mayor of Leadville
Douglas Lockhart, President of the Leadville Chamber of Commerce
Malvern Hill Omohundro, Jr., (nephew of Texas Jack; Chairman, Texas Jack Association)

Texas Jack

Nellie Snyder Yost-Secretary, Western Writer's Association-Author of the prize-winning and best seller biography, "Buffalo Bill-His Family, Friends, Fame, Failures and Fortunes"

Drawings

(I) "The Great Divide - Travels in the Upper Yellowstone in 1874"-
The Earl of Dunraven
(II) "Tales From the Old Timers-Book 2" by Helen Skala
(III) "A Gallery of Dudes"-by Marshall Sprague
(IV) "Buffalo Bill" -by Nellie Snyder Yost

Remarks


Frank R. Sullivan-President, Texas Jack Association

"It's Springtime In The Rockies"

The Buena Vista Harmonizers
(Through the courtesy of Arthur S. Omohundro)


The use of the Opera House is by courtesy of its Owner, Evelyn E. Furman.

YOU ARE INVITED TO



TEXAS JACK DAY
JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO
LEADVILLE
COLO.
JUNE 28, 1980


YOU ARE INVITED TO



TEXAS JACK DAY
JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO
LEADVILLE
COLO.
JUNE 28, 1980


Texas Jack Centennial Program
TABER
OPERA HOUSE
Leadville, Colo
June 28, 1980. 11 A.M.
Texas Jack Association Inc

YOU ARE INVITED TO



TEXAS JACK DAY
JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO
LEADVILLE
COLO.
JUNE 28, 1980

YOU ARE INVITED TO



TEXAS JACK DAY
JOHN BURWELL OMOHUNDRO
LEADVILLE
COLO.
JUNE 28, 1980

The Texas Jack Scout



THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION, INC.
(John Burwell Omohundro)
A Colorado Nonprofit Organization



Chairman:

Malvern Hill Omohundro, Jr.
Richmond, Virginia

Directors:

Joseph J. Murphy,
New York
John Weston Phillips,
Virginia
Martha M. Sullivan,
Colorado

President:

Frank R. Sullivan
750 First National Bank Bldg.
Springfield, Illinois 62701
1-217-528-7528

THE TEXAS JACK SCOUT

June 18, 1980

**LAST CALL! LAST ROUND UP! TEXAS JACK DAY,
LEADVILLE, SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1980**

SCHEDULE

Friday, June 27, 1980

7p.m. Leadville Early Bird Round Up for Texas Jack Day--Dutch Treat
Dinner-Second Floor "Banquet Hall"-Silver King Motor Inn,
2020 North Poplar, Leadville.

Saturday, June 28, 1980

11:00 a.m. Centennial Program of Texas Jack Association, Inc., The Tabor
Opera House, 306-310 Harrison Avenue, Leadville.

The speaker is Nellie Snyder Yost, Secretary, Western Writer's
Association-Author of the prize-winning and best selling biography,
"Buffalo Bill-His Family, Friends, Fame, Failures and Fortunes"

Funeral services for Texas Jack were conducted on the stage of
the Tabor Opera House following his death in Leadville on June 28, 1880.

12:30 p.m. Presentation of Wreath-Texas Jack Association, Inc., Evergreen
Cemetery, Leadville. **NOTE:** Evergreen Cemetery is in the Northwest
Section of Leadville (See accompanying map).
Drive North on Harrison Avenue to Eighth Street. Turn left on Eighth
Street. Drive West five blocks to the Lutheran Church located on the
Northeast Corner of West Eighth and James Street. Turn right on James
Street. Drive about one block across RR tracks--across Mt. Massive
Drive to Main Gate of Evergreen Cemetery.

Next Page



Texas Jack
Centennial Program
**TABOR
OPERA HOUSE**
Leadville, Colo.
June 28, 1980 11 A M
Texas Jack
Association, Inc.



The Texas Jack Scout

Saturday, June 28, 1980 - continued

1 p. m. Dutch Treat Lunch--Second Floor "Banquet Hall"-- Silver King Motor Inn, 2020 North Poplar--Sponsored by Leadville Chamber of Commerce.

2p. m. to 4 p. m. -Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social--Sponsored by the Lake County Civic Center Association as its contribution to Texas Jack Day. The Social will take place in Prospector Park, located by the Heritage Museum, Ninth and Harrison. "If the weather is unpleasant everything will move into the museum." This is the opportunity for us to get acquainted with the Civic Leaders of Leadville and thank them for their participation in Texas Jack Day.

Hoping to see you in Leadville on June 27th and 28th. Your friends are welcome. The Texas Jack Association is not a family group or a genealogical society; it is for those who are Westerners in heart (of the Class of 1872) and those who in their fantasies gallop madly over the Western Plains on great hunts with Texas Jack, Buffalo Bill and their friend Lord Dunraven IV.

Frank R. Sullivan
Leadville address on June 27-28, 1980
is Silver King Motor Inn



Frank Sullivan from State Journal Register article

The Texas Jack Scout



By Larry Tyree

They say “**third times a charm**”. Right? Some say that one of Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s letters in 1839 was one of the earliest uses of the expression. In a letter addressed to R. H. Horne she said: “The luck of the third adventure is proverbial”. The notion that the saying is proverbial implies that people have said it for a very long period of time. So perhaps it pre-dated Elizabeth. The British updated the expression to say “**third time lucky**”. (*The saying appeared in Alexander Hislop’s The Proverbs of Scotland, 1862*).

Some sources suggest that the adage was invoked by an Old English law in which anyone who lived through three hangings would be freed. This law comes from the tale of John “Babbacombe” Lee, who was convicted of murder. He was sentenced to hang at the prison in Exeter, yet three attempts to hang him failed. Thereupon he was set free.

The number three has often been seen by many societies through the ages as being a representation of divinity. In fact, we only need to look to numerology for our fascination with the number three, among other numbers. To Greek Philosophers the number 3 was considered as the perfect number, the number of harmony, wisdom and understanding. To Christianity it represents the Trinity.

Regardless of how it is stated or how it is used, the phrase is here to stay. Is the expression really valid? Or is it just our attempt to try to make events work out?

The Texas Jack Association is now in the midst of proving the validity of the saying “third times a charm”. Here is how we got to this point:

1. We had planned to hold our next Roundup in 2020. Then the pandemic hit and we were forced to postpone it to 2021.
2. In March of 2021, the coronavirus was running rampant, and we had to postpone it until 2022.
3. In late February 2022, with high rates of infection still occurring, the Roundup was once again postponed until 2023.

It now appears that we are at a point where life is getting back to a pre-pandemic normal. Sort of. I still wear a mask and many others still do. You can’t visit a doctor, dentist, or hospital without wearing one. But the environment does feel different now. People are more optimistic and slowly, things are changing back. Oh, there are other things in the mix nationally and internationally. But I for one feel a sense of optimism nonetheless.

We are now seeing the light at the end of the tunnel, and it does not appear to be an oncoming train! **Three** is a number that inspires hope and expectation. I know that I certainly have those sentiments in regard to the upcoming Roundup. After all, “*third times a charm*”!

The Texas Jack Scout



Texas Jack Association 2023 ROUNDUP

REGISTRATION FORM

June 14-18 Chicago, IL

****Roundup participants must make their own hotel reservations* before May 17, 2023***

**** HOTEL INDIGO, 120 Water St., Naperville, IL 60540 (630) 778-9676 ****

ROUNDUP REGISTRATION:

____ Adult(s) @ \$150.00/person = _____
____ Students (13 yrs to college)(s) @ \$140.00/person = _____
____ Children (5 yrs to 12) @ \$100.00/person = _____
____ Children (4 and younger) free..... = _____

Enclose a check payable to: **Texas Jack Association** for: **TOTAL =** _____

NOTE: All attendees must be current members of the TJA. See following page.

Please select one Banquet item from each column:

____ Chicken Confit ____	____ Lobster Bisque
____ Short Ribs	____ Soup of the Day
____ Chilean Seabass	____ Zucchini & Squash Salad

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email address: _____

*** Please give names of all who are coming so name tags can be made.**

First and Last Names:

**Send completed form and check to: Rick Omohundro, Treasurer TJA
P.O. Box 91
Salt Lick, KY 40371**

The Texas Jack Scout



TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Note: Membership in the Texas Jack Association is open to all interested persons. Your information will not be shared. Please fill out and send with your check to:

The Texas Jack Association
Rick Omohundro, Treasurer TJA
PO Box 91
Salt Lick, KY 40371

Please choose from one of the four basic types of membership:

___ Individual adult @ \$25/person = _____
___ Junior (under 18) @ \$10/person = _____
___ Senior (55 or over) @ \$20/person = _____
___ Family (all persons residing at same address) @ \$40/family = _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the following membership(s) in the Texas Jack Association.

*Required

*NAME(s): _____

*ADDRESS (street, apt., city, state, zip, country):

E-MAIL: _____@_____

PHONE: (_____) _____ MOBILE PHONE: (_____) _____

*Please indicate if this is New or Renewal membership.

___ NEW MEMBERSHIP or ___ RENEW MEMBERSHIP or ___ ALREADY A MEMBER

BIRTHDATE: _____ (Optional)

ARE YOU RELATED TO THE OMOHUNDROS? _____

IF SO, PLEASE GIVE KNOWN LINEAGE. FEEL FREE TO ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS:

The Texas Jack Scout



MIDWAY

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

<https://www.flychicago.com/midway> About 30 miles to hotel.



O'HARE

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

<https://www.flychicago.com/ohare> About 28 miles to hotel.

Also:

Bolingbrook's Clow International Airport

DuPage Airport



Car Rental at Chicago O'Hare Airport



500 N Michigan Ave #600, Chicago, IL 60611

Phone: +16468451888

Car Rentals at **Chicago Midway Airport** must call each individually.
Google "midway airport car rental" for companies and phone numbers.

Aurora & Naperville Airport Taxi

Flat rate to and from O'Hare & Midway airport. All major credit cards excepted
Open 24 hours. 10% off your ride on Tuesday and Wednesday to or from the airport.



The Texas Jack Scout



CHICAGO ROUNDUP WORD SEARCH

P L A Y B I L L N C M U P O E L L I V R E P A N R
S O Z J U U V T M O P O X M I R Z X O I R C M M I
P F E Y Y G Y U M Y X J D O D N M S C Q I O O D V
H O M E S T E A D J Q I Y H L I D O F U A W R S E
J T E X A S J A C K O E N U E L N I S T L B L A R
P U J Z U F H I E M N H Z N I I I D A G C O A I F
B K G M A I N G F I B W N D F D R B I N E Y C R R
T U O C S D M C L P K X T R N R I I O G L A C P O
Z R E T A E H T I H P M A O O E E M A L O L H L N
K F O N H I N A U L Q S I C S K F T E R A P I A T
J R C O C U B N E G A T S Z K J H I A N P F D N Y
Y E R A B E T A M O C X U D C J S X N E O Y F E X
M S G D G U I S E P P I N A A W O H S K H V D U Z
E O E C O Z Y J U T H G U G J U X U X V H T E L B
Z N W I L D B I L L H I C K O K Q J R H Q A Z L M

ACTOR
BAKER
BUFFALO
COWBOY
DUNRAVEN
GUN
HOMESTEAD
INDIAN
JACKSON
KNIFE
MUSEUM
NEWSPAPER
OMOHUNDRO
PLAYBILL
RIFLE
SHOW
THEATER

AIRPLANE
BANQUET
BUNTLINE
DANCE
FIELD
HICKOK
HORSE
INDIGO
JOHN
LECLAIRE
NAPERVILLE
NIXON
PARK
PRAIRIE
RIVERFRONT
STAGE
WILD

AMPHITHEATER
BILL
CHICAGO
DIME
GUISEPPINA
HISTORY
HUNT
JACK
JUNE
MORLACCHI
NED
NOVEL
PLAY
RESTAURANT
SCOUT
TEXAS

The Texas Jack Scout



CHICAGO VENUES WE'LL BE VISITING



Original site of Nixon's Amphitheater <https://drloihjournal.blogspot.com/2019/12/nixons-parisian-hippodrome-and-amphitheater-in-chicago.html>



Chicago History Museum Wikipedia



Field Museum Wikipedia

The Texas Jack Scout

NEXT SCOUT ISSUE INFORMATION

The deadline for the March 2023 issue of *The Scout* is
March 1, 2023.

Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editor:

Larry Tyree

ltyree5353@gmail.com

Thank you, Larry!

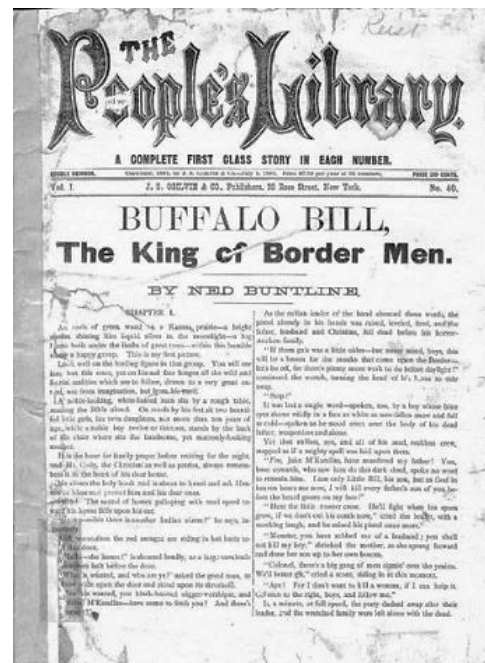
WHY CHICAGO?

By Larry Tyree

It all started in Chicago in December 1872. The various forms of the Buffalo Bill Stage Performances and Wild West Shows grew and became more sophisticated over a period of five decades as they moved all over the United States, and into many world venues as well. During the 2023 Roundup, we will visit some of the locations and museum memorabilia that remain from some of those events.

In total there were over 10,000 performances by those Wild West Shows in just the US alone. It is fitting that we become familiar with the genesis of what made Texas Jack and Buffalo Bill into superstars of their day and time—in the “Windy City”, Chicago.

Ned Buntline introduced William F. Cody “Buffalo Bill” to the world in the first issue of a series of many dime-novels written by Ned Buntline entitled *Buffalo Bill: The King of the Border Men*. It first appeared in the headlines of the *Chicago Tribune* on Dec. 15, 1869. It rapidly spread to other newspapers around the country. The novel brought the 23-year-old Cody into the national spotlight and fame. Cody had been born just 135 miles to the west in Le Claire, Iowa, where we will also visit.



The Chicago Tribune series appeared prior to the books being printed.

The Texas Jack Scout

Buffalo Bill's first performance in show business was in Chicago, Illinois, on December 17, 1872. Ned Buntline had written a play entitled "Scouts of the Prairie," and Cody was joined on stage by his good friend and well-known scout John Baker "Texas Jack" Omohundro along with Buntline. They also added

Giuseppina Morlacchi, a well-known dancer as a "draw" for the advertisements, as well as her craft.ⁱ The drama was performed in Nixon's Amphitheater, a foul-smelling, canvas-topped venue on Clinton Street not far from today's Ogilvie Transportation Center. While the show was a success, one critic observed that Cody was "a good-looking fellow, tall and straight as an arrow, but ridiculous as an actor."ⁱⁱ Theatergoers didn't care. Chicagoans loved Buffalo Bill.

Full of sound and fury, the play, with its tall, ridiculously handsome leading man, "attracts more people than the house can hold," noted the *Tribune*. "Crowds are turned away nightly."ⁱⁱⁱ Another critic observed that Cody had a way of charming audiences, and that brought a sense of realism to the performance. Despite his awkward manner on stage,

Buffalo Bill proved to be quite a showman.^{iv}

Cody formed his own troupe called the "Buffalo Bill Combination" the following season in 1873 to 1874 and opened "Scouts of the Plains" with players Buffalo Bill Cody, Texas Jack Omohundro and Wild Bill Hickok. Wild Bill's tenure in the troupe was not long lived, but he did last most of the season. Giuseppina Morlacchi continued with the troupe and toured in many cities. Texas Jack and Morlacchi married on August 31, 1873, and formed their own troupe around 1876.



*Buffalo Bill, Ned Buntline, Copyright
Buffalo Bill Museum & Grave
Texas Jack*

SOME INTERESTING FACTS

- In 1869, Edward Zane Carroll Judson (aka Ned Buntline) reportedly had been looking to find Wild Bill Hickok in order to write a novel about him. When Buntline arrived at Fort McPherson, he ran into Wild Bill who disabused Ned of the notion. Not to be dissuaded from his project, Buntline went looking for someone who knew Wild Bill. He soon ran into Texas Jack Omohundro, who indicated that Buffalo Bill knew him well, and history was changed.^v
- In 1872, when Texas Jack heard that Buffalo Bill was headed to star in a stage play in Chicago by himself, he said that he would like to accompany him. Bill had been asked by Buntline to go to Chicago, having previously made Cody the star character in the dime novel *Buffalo Bill: The King of the Border Men*. Ned Buntline wrote the dime novel

The Texas Jack Scout



about Bill three years earlier, and Buffalo Bill was well known largely because of the novel. Jack himself was also the star of one of Buntline's stories and Bill mused that he would be as good a "star" as himself.^{vi} As it turned out, the pair both made a good fit in the new roles.

- Giuseppina Morlacchi was a well-known and beloved star in her own right at the time that Cody and Omohundro met her. Pairing her, both visually on posters, as well as on stage, further enhanced the appeal and sensation of the Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack stage plays.
- "Scouts of the Plains" opened five days after they arrived in Chicago with a script that had not yet been written when they met with the owner of the theater. The script that was eventually hammered out did not matter much however. According to Buffalo Bill, he hesitantly performed "...without once speaking a word of my part; nor did I speak a word of it the whole evening."^{vii} He basically "ad-libbed" and followed Buntline's prompting with questions that he answered, at times to the howling of the audience...which ended up being a stroke of genius.

The answer to the question "Why Chicago?" is self-evident by now. Both Jack and Bill were very talented as US Army Scouts, crack shots, frontiersmen, hunting trip guides, and more in their earlier lives. But everything that took place after Chicago was largely due to those first years as stars on stage to audiences that were hungry to know more about the "Wild West". **It all began in Chicago!**

END NOTES

ⁱ *Story of the wild West and camp-fire chats*, by Buffalo Bill, (Hon. W. F. Cody), R. S. Peale & Co., Chicago, Ill., 1888.

ⁱⁱ Brief History of William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody, Buffalo Bill Museum and Grave, Lookout Mountain, www.buffalobill.org

ⁱⁱⁱ Chicago Tribune Online, 'Buffalo Bill' Cody wowed Chicago with his 'Wild West' shows Feb. 23, 2017, Geoffrey Johnson, <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/ct-buffalo-bill-cody-flashback-perspec-0226-md-20170223-story.html>

^{iv} Ibid

^v *Texas Jack, America's First Cowboy Star*, Matthew Kerns, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing, Lanham, MD, 2021, pp. 46-48.

^{vi} *Story of the Wild West and Campfire Chats*, by W. F. Cody, pp. 644-645.

^{vii} Ibid., p. 651.

The Texas Jack Scout



In This Issue:

2023 Roundup.....	1
From the Editor's Desk.....	2
Things To Do in Naperville.....	3
Le Claire, IA.....	7
Roundup Schedule.....	8
The Texas Jack and Earl of Dunraven Buffalo Hunt.....	9
"Pistol Smoke" Tip's Deer Hunt.....	11
A New Way To Help the TJA.....	16
Ghosts of the Prairie.....	17
Texas Jack's Funeral.....	18
The Centennial of the Funeral and Burial of John B. Omohundro.....	19
The President's Message.....	23
Registration Form.....	24
Membership Form.....	25
Transportation Information.....	26
Chicago Roundup Word Search.....	27
Chicago Venues.....	28
Next Scout Information.....	29
Why Chicago?.....	29



The Texas Jack Scout

405 Commons Rd., Apt 142

Naperville, Illinois 60563

TO