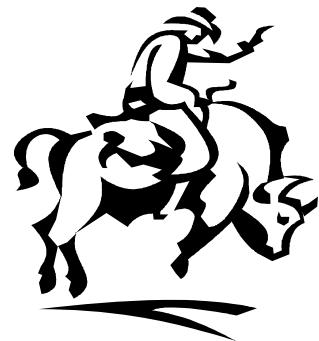
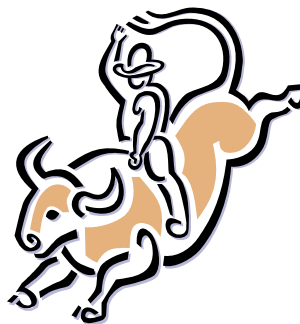




Volume XXI, Number 1

www.texasjack.org

March 2006



2006 Roundup in Cody, Wyoming

by Kelly Wyche

The 2006 Round Up in Cody, Wyoming is scheduled for July 1st through July 5th. This remarkable western town has been the location of two previous Round Ups – in 1984 and in 1998. It was such a crowd pleaser that we look forward to our visit there again this summer! **Please return your registration forms and make your hotel reservations by May 15th – details within *The Scout*.**

History of Cody

Colonel William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody first entered the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming in the 1870’s with Professor O.C. March, a distinguished geologist of Yale University, who was studying the natural resources of the West. The apparent opportunities for land development (rich soils, abundance of fish and game, proximity to Yellowstone Park, and the magnificent scenery) brought the Colonel back to the area with several friends in the mid 1890’s to build a community. The original site was located at the east end of the Shoshone Canyon, but was later moved to its present location. The site was named Cody, in 1895, at the insistence of his fellow developer friends. The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad arrived in 1901. By 1902, the town was incorporated. The economy was bolstered further when President Teddy Roosevelt was persuaded by W.F. Cody to establish the Bureau of Reclamation and to build the Shoshone Dam and Reservoir (later renamed the Buffalo Bill Dam and Reservoir).

Continued on page 3

From the Editor's Desk....

I must admit that I can be a slow starter....but once I get started, interest in my Texas Jack ancestry and the Wild West is kindled. Thanks to all of you who have devoted their time and interest in our organization, in *The Scout*, and in the planning and organizing our upcoming RoundUp. I've heard various stories from family members about the fun times had at the previous Cody Roundups - the "all American" parade, the special secret tour at the Buffalo Bill Museum, "guns, guns, guns", the rodeo, and the adventurous white water rafting ride....tons of possibilities await us this year!

I have never been to Cody, but I have been lucky enough to visit some of our most awesome National Parks - including Yellowstone and the nearby Grand Tetons. Our National Parks are such an incredible resource, and they should not be taken for granted. They can be experienced from any number of different perspectives, be it cultural, environmental, scientific, historical, or spiritual. In reading John and Susan's write-up on Texas Jack in Yellowstone, it was easy to envision what life in the area might have been like in the 1870's.

As a child visiting Yellowstone, I mostly remember being fascinated by the various types of geysers: the large and powerful Old Faithful, the muddy, bubbly geysers and the steamy, crystal blue hot springs with a sulfur-like odor. When I went back as an adult, I was captivated by the beauty of the open, expansive land sliced by slender waterways that were gracefully being worked by fly fisherman.

So "spur" your interest in Texas Jack and the Wild West, and volunteer to be a guest editor for an upcoming edition of *The Scout*. See ya at the hoedown!

Kelly Wyche

The Texas Jack Scout

Vol. XXI, no. 1

An Occasional Publication of
The Texas Jack Association, Inc.
A Non-Profit Corporation
www.texasjack.org

Subscription is included in annual membership dues. Contact:
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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.

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Historian of the Plains

What to do?

Our days will be packed with fun and interesting activities as well as free time for rest or adventures of your choosing.



Yellowstone

Cody is the only gateway community with two entrances to Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone is not only the oldest national park, it is also the largest national park in the lower 48 states comprised of 2.2 million acres or roughly 3,472 square miles! Yellowstone is filled with more than 10,000 geothermal geysers, hot springs, steam vents, and mud-pots, each with their own unique characteristics. It is within these thermal features that one can see the product of millions of years of geology at work. Much of Yellowstone sits inside an ancient volcanic caldera (the exploded crater of a volcano). For hundreds of thousands of years following, subsequent lava flows slowly filled in most of the caldera. Even now, there are some places that nearly molten rock resides 2-5 miles below the surface. It is this heat from the volcanic activity that heats the ground water and creates the thermal features we now see.

Elevations in the park range from 5,000 to 11,000 feet. Rivers, streams, waterfalls and Yellowstone Lake are the major water resources. Wildlife is diverse and abundant; critters such as elk, moose, bear, bobcats, coyotes, bison, and recently reintroduced wolves, not to overlook the birds and amphibians, live in the park. It is said that 'Ever since wolves were restored to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem all of the

major players in the ecosystem's intricate web of interactions are back in place, making Yellowstone one of the best locations for ecosystem study on Earth.' [National Park Service website]



The Buffalo Bill Historical Center

This attraction is widely regarded as America's finest Western museum. Its 300,000 square feet houses five internationally acclaimed museums and a research library. It was founded in 1917 as the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association and consists of:

- Whitney Gallery of Western Art
- Buffalo Bill Museum
- Plains Indian Museum
- Cody Firearms Museum
- Draper Museum of Natural History
- Harold McCracken Research Library

The Whitney Gallery of Western Art showcases a collection of masterworks from the American West, including original painting, sculptures and prints from the early 19th century to present. It includes works by revered artists such as George Catlin, Alfred Jacob Miller, Tomas Moran, Albert Bierstadt, Frederic Remington, Charles M. Roussell, Alexander Phimister Proctor, W.R. Leigh, Joseph Henry Sharp, N.C. Wyeth, and through most of the summer, a visiting exhibit of the Art of William Ranney. The museum also includes reconstructed studios of Frederic Remington and W.H.C. Koerner and the original studio cabin of J.H. Sharp.

The Buffalo Bill Museum examines the life and times of W.F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody (1846-1917). The collections here interpret the history of the American West and expand on such areas as the American cowboy, dude ranching, Western conservation, frontier entrepreneurship, and the source of our concepts about the West. One source was the Wild West shows whose performances in the United States and Europe brought the experience of the West to the doorsteps of millions of people.

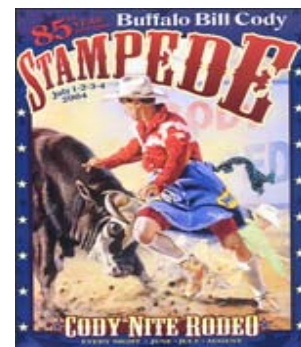
The Cody Firearms Museum houses the world’s largest and most important assemblage of American arms, as well as European arms dating to the 16th century. Almost every significant manufacturer in world is represented, and visitors are able to trace the evolution of modern firearms technology from its earliest days.

The Plains Indian Museum tells the story of the lives of Plains Indian peoples, their cultures, traditions, values and histories. The majority of the collection is from the early reservation period, ca. 1880-1930, and relates primarily to Northern Plains tribes, such as the Lakota, Crow, Arapaho, Shoshone, and Cheyenne. The Plains Indian Museum reopened to the public in June 2000 with a new look and interpretation.

The Draper Museum of Natural History opened to the public in June 2002 – the first American natural history museum established in the 21st century. It is a state of the art natural history museum that explores human interaction with the natural world in association with the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Buffalo Bill’s Boyhood Home is located at the Center’s Greever Garden. It was originally built in 1841 on the banks of the Mississippi River in Iowa. It was a typical house on the agricultural frontier and was

built according to the memory and skill of the carpenter (no plans were used). The house was built of sawed lumber with hand-hewn beams and corner posts. The walls have hand-split oak lathe covered with a homemade plaster of lime, sand and cement. The floorboards were evened with an adze, and additional smoothing done with hand planes. The two-story building is rectangular in shape, approximately 25’ x 18’ and 20’ feet high at the gable peak. The house was purchased by Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in 1933, sawed into two sections, and hauled by rail to Cody. This was during a height of Yellowstone tourism and was anticipated to be an additional attraction adjacent to the Burlington Inn. The house was subsequently moved three more times; once when the Railroad gave the home to the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association in 1948, again in 1969 the museum was moved to the new Buffalo Bill Historical Center across the street, and most recently in 2004 the house was moved a fourth time to its current location at the Greever Garden where its landscape will soon resemble Iowa – without the Mississippi River, of course. During the summer of 2005, the exterior was completely restored using lumber that was an exact copy of the original 19th century siding ordered from a mill in Montana.



Cody Stampede Rodeo

This year marks the 87th Anniversary of the Buffalo Bill Cody Stampede in the “Rodeo Capital of the World”. This is a true western

event that has its roots in ranch contests and games as well as spectacle and drama borrowed from the world famous Wild West Shows produced by Col. William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody. Top professional cowboys and cowgirls compete under the lights against a picturesque backdrop of the Shoshone Canyon and Heart Mountain.



The Irma Hotel

Built by Buffalo Bill in 1902 in the middle of town, he named it after his youngest daughter. It was opened with considerable fanfare as a luxury hotel epitomizing the essence of western hospitality. A huge carved French-made Victorian cherry wood backbar highlight’s one of the dining rooms; Queen Victoria presented it to Buffalo Bill in 1900 in appreciation for his command Wild West Show performance. The hotel today is billed as “a place fancy enough for royalty and plain enough for cowboys and cowgirls”.

Other Cody attractions:

* Cody Murals Visitors Center has a mural covering a domed ceiling 36 feet in diameter and 18 feet to the top of the domes. Historical scenes, painted by Edward T. Grigward, from the first seventy years of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are perfectly blended. Another part of the building has displays and art telling the story

of the colonization of Wyoming’s Big Horn Basin.

* Old Trail Town is an eclectic collection of historic buildings representing an old Wyoming town created with frontier structures dating from 1879 to 1900. Included in the collection are the Hole in the Wall Cabin used by Butch Cassidy, the Sundance Kid, and the Hole in the Wall Gang; Curley’s Cabin, the Crown Indian scout to General Custer in the Battle of Little Big Horn; and the River Saloon frequented by cowboys, outlaws and gold miners. There is also a cemetery located here.

* Buffalo Bill Dam Visitor Center is located 6 miles west of town and includes a natural history museum, dam overlook, and striking view of the Shoshone River Canyon.

* Tecumseh’s Old West Village museum and trading post.

* Heart Mountain Relocation Center is located between Cody and Powell. This was the Relocation Center that housed Japanese Americans during World War II. The site features a memorial and self-guided walking tour.

* Foundation for North American Wild Sheep has been the leading voice in wild sheep conservation and includes a wild sheep exhibit, hands on displays, and Animal Wheels for children.

* Trolley Tours

* Water Rafting, Fishing, and Hiking in and on the Shoshone River and Shoshone National Forest.

Sources:

www.codychamber.org

www.bbhc.org

www.nps.gov

HOTEL INFORMATION FOR ROUNDUP JULY 1-5, 2006

Holiday Inn

At the Buffalo Bill Village Resort

1701 Sheridan Avenue

Cody WY 82414

Sales Office Telephone: 307-587-3654

Toll Free Telephone: 800-527-5544 Ext. 635

Must refer to **Code TJA**. Please let Hotel know that you are with Texas Jack Association in order to get discount.

***INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE YOUR OWN ROOM RESERVATIONS!!**

***Reservations must be made before May 15, 2006.**

Rooms released to general public on May 15, 2006.

We can arrive as early as Thursday, June 29, 2006 and depart as late as Sunday July 8, 2006 at the discount rate.

Check In is not allowed prior to 3:00 PM. **Check Out** is required prior to 12 Noon.

\$129 Single, \$139 Double, \$149 Triple, \$159 Quad

Rates are quoted in US Dollars. Rates are commissionable to registered IATA travel agents. Rates do NOT include the 8% tax. This negotiated rate is not subject to additional discounts, coupons, or promotional programs with the EXCEPTION OF 1) Priority Club at Holiday Inn. 2) Miles for Meetings (provided that program criteria is met by meeting planner. Children 19 or under, in same room as adults, with same bed/linen configuration will be no charge. Roll-a-way beds are limited and are an additional \$20 per unit per night plus tax.

**Texas Jack Association 2006 Roundup
 Holiday Inn
 1701 Sheridan Avenue
 Cody, Wyoming
 Tel. 800-527-5544, ext. 635**

REGISTRATION FORM

(Roundup participants must make their own hotel reservations before May 15, 2006)
You must tell hotel that you are with The Texas Jack Association to get discount rate. Code TJA

___ Adult Ordering Oven Baked Salmon at the banquet @ \$135.00/person = _____

___ Adult Ordering Roasted Herb Chicken at the banquet @ \$135.00/person = _____

___ Adult Ordering Prime Rib at the banquet @ \$135.00/person = _____

___ Youth 10 years and up or college student w/proper ID
 Oven Baked Salmon at the banquet, @ \$130.00/person = _____

___ Youth 10 years and up or college student w/proper ID
 Roasted Herb Chicken at the banquet, @ \$130.00/person = _____

___ Youth 10 years and up or college student w/proper ID
 Prime Rib at the banquet, @ \$130.00/person = _____

MUST HAVE STUDENT ID FOR DISCOUNT!

___ Children age 5-10 years old ordering
 Oven Baked Salmon at the banquet, @ \$110.00/person = _____

___ Children age 5-10 years old ordering
 Roasted Herb Chicken at the banquet, @ \$110.00/person = _____

___ Children age 5-10 years old ordering
 Prime Rib at the banquet, @ \$110.00/person = _____

___ Children under 5 years old ordering
 Oven Baked Salmon at the banquet, @ \$105.00/person = _____

___ Children under 5 years old ordering
 Roasted Herb Chicken at the banquet, @ \$105.00/person = _____

___ Children under 5 years old ordering
 Prime Rib at the banquet, @ \$105.00/person = _____

TOTAL _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

____ Senior membership in Texas Jack Association \$20/person = _____

____ Individual membership in Texas Jack Association \$25/person = _____

____ Family membership in Texas Jack Association \$40/family = _____

____ Junior Membership in Texas Jack Association \$10/person = _____

Enclose a check to The Texas Jack Association for a total = _____

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

First and Last Name: _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

_____, _____

E-Mail address (Print carefully): _____

Anticipated arrival date and time: _____

Anticipated departure date: _____

Please send this completed form and check by June 10, 2006 to:

**Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville VA 24590
E-mail: andeseen@earthlink.net**



JUST A REMINDER: PLEASE MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS BEFORE MAY 15, 2006. YOU MUST TELL HOTEL THAT YOU ARE WITH THE TEXAS JACK ASSOCIATION TO GET DISCOUNT RATE. USE CODE TJA.

You can get to Cody by air via the Yellowstone Regional Airport in Cody, with connections through Denver and Salt Lake City.






ITINERARY FOR ROUNDUP IN CODY, WYOMING***MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!*****MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!!****JULY 1– 5, 2006**

Saturday, July 1, 2006	Reception	4:00-6:00 PM
Sunday, July 2, 2006	Sunday in Yellowstone Self guided & partner tour of Yellowstone* Old West Cookout from Roosevelt Lodge 4:00 PM* Dutch Treat Reservations should be made early* (307) 344-7311 If eligible-should get a Golden Age Pass - One time fee \$10.00 (Good at all National Parks, age 62, from National Park Service) Email: parkspass@nationalparks.org or call toll free 1-888-GoParks (1-888-467-2757) or 307-344-7311 Under age 62 fees are \$20 for private vehicle for 7 days	
Monday, July 3, 2006	Buffalo Bill Museum	10:00 AM
	Followed by Lunch	12:30 PM
	Free time	
	Rodeo	7:00 PM
Tuesday, July 4, 2006	Free all day for Parade, Water Rafting, Old Trail Town, Golfing, Shopping, Trolley Ride Shoot Out at Irma Hotel 6:00 PM Evening Buffet at The Irma 7:00 PM	
Wednesday, July 5, 2006	Business Meeting	9:00 AM
	Afternoon Free	
	Social Hour (Cash Bar)	6:00 PM
	Banquet	7:00 PM
	Adjournment	

***NOT INCLUDED IN RESERVATION PRICE. YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS FOR TOURS AND COOKOUT—ASAP (307) 344-7311**



Texas Jack Conference

Vehicle		Similar to	Daily	Weekly	Mileage
Compact Car		Dodge Neon	\$34	\$204	Unlimited
Mid-size Car		<i>Dodge</i> <i>Stratus</i>	\$37	\$222	Unlimited
Full-size Car		Ford Taurus	\$40	\$240	Unlimited
Mini-Van		Dodge Minivan Seats 7	\$52	\$312	Unlimited
Standard Jeep 4x4 SUV		Grand Cherokee Seats 5 people	\$62	\$403	Unlimited
Full-Size 4x4 SUV		Dodge Durango Seats 7 people	\$72	\$468	Unlimited
12-Pass		Ford E-Series	\$129	\$839	150/day; \$0.35/additio nal

--Additional Driver Fees are waived. Underage Driver Fees are waived.

--Rates are based on vehicle availability; 48-hour cancellation policy or one-day charge. Rates are non-commissionable.

--Renter must present valid credit card and driver's license.

--Unlimited mileage applies in the state of rental & surrounding states.

VEHICLE REQUEST FORM

TO REQUEST A
A VEHICLE

PHONE (406) 259-1025; TOLL FREE 888-794-1025

FAX RESERVATIONS TO: (406) 245-7565

E-MAIL – Carla@wearethrifty.com

or Bruce@wearethrifty.com

Please Circle Pick Up Location:

Billings, MT Bozeman, MT Cody, WY Jackson, WY Idaho Falls, ID

Renter _____ Pickup Date ___/___/___ Time: _____ AM PM

Vehicle Size _____ Drop Date ___/___/___ Time: _____ AM PM

Rate From Above Chart: \$_____ per DAY WEEK

Comments: _____

Credit Card # _____ Exp. _____

Name on Card _____

THRIFTY USE ONLY

CORPORATE DISCOUNT #

CD#: 1853

Edna Ness, rates valid from June 22-July 15,

Conference Dates: June 29-July 8, 2006 Tel: 434-286-2957

Confirmation # Booked by:

Comments



This is the last issue of *The Scout* before the 2006 Roundup in Cody WY. This issue will provide all the details. Be sure to make your reservations at the Holiday Inn before May 15. Although everyone is free to stay wherever they wish, I want to encourage you to stay at the Holiday Inn. Not only will it put you closer to the rest of the members, for socializing and convenience, but The Association has reserved a block of rooms, and gets various benefits from having a minimum number of rooms rented, such as discounts on facilities rental. So, it is to everyone's benefit.

This is the third roundup we've had in Cody, WY, and each time it has been a lot of fun. One of the highlights is the Fourth of July parade and fireworks show. Once again, Edna Nees has worked hard to organize everything. As you can see, there is a full schedule of activities this year, but with plenty of free time and optional activities. There should be something for everybody. Many folks may choose to extend their trip and explore Yellowstone National Park before or after the roundup. It is one of America's natural wonders, and the first National Park. Texas Jack was fond of the Yellowstone country, and everyone who visits the area becomes likewise enamored.

Once again, I would also like to remind everyone to renew their membership in the Association. With everyone's busy lives, it's easy to forget to renew, but The Association depends on your dues to keep functioning. Each year, we have members who fail to

renew their membership, but continue to receive *The Scout*. It's an ongoing issue for The Association to figure out a way to keep memberships current. One possible approach would be to make it easier for members to pay their dues online, for example using PayPal. Perhaps we could make it possible for members to set up an automatic annual renewal, so that dues would be automatically paid each year, unless the member canceled...like a magazine subscription. These are just some ideas that we will discuss at the business meeting this year. If you have other ideas to help with this issue, please bring them to the business meeting.

Finally, I want to bring everyone's attention to the other major point of business at each roundup: election of the new slate of officers. If you are interested in becoming involved in The Association, I encourage you to nominate yourself (or ask a friend to do so if you're too shy!) If you have any questions, feel free to email me at president@texasjack.org.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Cody!

Rand



Watching the Cody Stampede Rodeo 4th of July Parade from the historical Irma Hotel

Yellowstone and Texas Jack

by
Susan and John Omohundro



John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro in his deerskin show suit. His hunting attire is unknown, but surely it was less colorful so as not to alarm the game.

Part I: Yellowstone Before Texas Jack

Texas Jack Omohundro's trip to Yellowstone with Lord Dunraven has been described before in these pages (for example, Winter 1997, Spring 1998, and Fall 2005), but their trip becomes even more interesting when put in the context of Yellowstone's history. That history has been undergoing much revision in recent years, with the growth of the field of environmental history. The new scholarship is emphasizing how important the railroad and developers were to the establishment of the Yellowstone Park.

Early Visitors

European-Americans first saw the Yellowstone Basin in the nineteenth century, but Native Americans had been visiting the area to hunt, gather, and fish for thousands of years. Yellowstone was an important source of obsidian, mined by western Indians, and placed in the great Hopewellian trade network that carried the obsidian to mound-builders in Ohio and Mississippi as early as 200 B.C.

The First European Americans

Before the Civil War, for most European Americans, "the Yellowstone Basin was regarded as nearly the last remaining unknown area in the country" (Merrill p. 10). The first known visitor was John Colter, a Virginian and veteran of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. After his trek through in 1807-1808, he reported to his old boss, Clark, then the governor of the Missouri Territory. At that time, the new nation was more concerned with getting the British out of trading with the Western Indians than it was with natural wonders, so little happened as a result of Colter's report.

Travel to the Yellowstone Basin picked up in the 1820s, as trappers entered the area for pelts of exotic mammals, such as lynx and cougar, for the fashionable people in Eastern cities. Few of these trappers were men of the quill, but Joseph Meeks and Osborne Russell were among those few who wrote about the marvels of the region. Being rustic fellows and tall tale tellers, they were not widely believed—a problem for visitors until the federal expeditions after the Civil War. Trapping diminished in

the 1840s (Did furs go out of fashion? Did the trappers devastate the fur-bearing populations?), so many of the trappers became army scouts or guides for wealthy sports hunters.

Such guides led one early tourist, Warren Ferris, who entered the region in 1834 out of simple curiosity. Fur trader William Sublette guided Scottish sportsman Sir William Drummond Stewart in 1843. Reports of the two men's trips are still controversial: did they really get into the area? Needless to say, their contemporary readers considered them to be exaggerating about the scenery, the hot springs, and bubbling mud holes. The same disbelief greeted the reports by Jim Bridger, guide, James Gemmell, trapper, and Kit Carson, general adventurer, published in the late 1840s. All tall tales, the civilized world concluded.

Gold! (. . .or maybe not?)

Prospectors began venturing into the Yellowstone area in the 1860s in search of gold. Walter deLacy, a civil engineer, led a prospecting party in 1863, later publishing his notes, as did John C. Davis, a member of deLacy's party. The Jesuit Father Francis Kuppens, after touring the area, met with Territorial Governor Thomas Meager in 1865, when he spoke so enthusiastically of the Yellowstone, that Meager considered underwriting a major scientific expedition and a campaign to reserve the territory for a national park. Meager's untimely drowning postponed such plans for a few more years. Fortunately for the Yellowstone, prospectors' attention was diverted to gold strikes in the mountains to the north and northeast.

Postwar Popularity

At the same time that Kuppens and Meager were meeting in Montana, the Civil War was ending. Veterans, including John B. "Texas Jack" Omohundro, came west to homestead or to work in the army forts. Settlers' pressure on Indian land was intensifying, and violence was common until the 1880s. Plainsmen like Texas Jack Omohundro and Buffalo Bill Cody were valuable intermediaries between the angry Indians and the hard-line generals, recently victorious in the Federal cause, and in no mood to tolerate Indian resistance.

The era of hides was beginning. Between 1870 and 1883 hunters swarmed over the plains, killing buffalo to supply eastern tanneries with millions of hides. It was well understood, also, that when the buffalo were eliminated, the natives would be forced to settle down and give up their land claims. Just north of the Yellowstone region in 1868, the three Bottler Brothers established a ranch that served as staging area and safe zone for many parties entering the Yellowstone. The Bottlers collected hides from hunters in the park and on the plains.



Native Americans had lived near Yellowstone and visited it regularly for furs, meat, fish, and stone for thousands of years. They were still violently resisting settler expansion into Wyoming and Montana when Omohundro and Dunraven traveled there in 1873. From Merrill, Yellowstone and the Great West.

The Expeditions

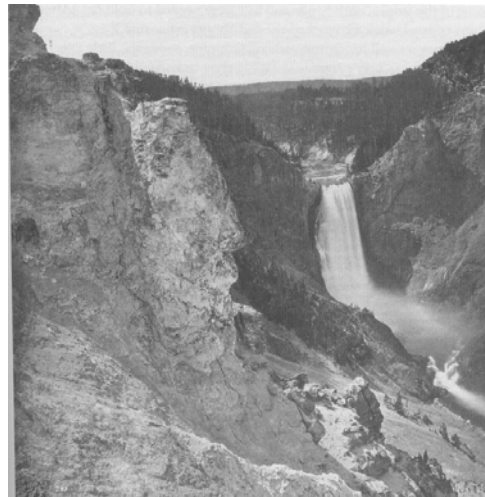
After the Civil War, large expeditions, some commercial and some federal, entered the Yellowstone Basin to conduct more rigorous exploration. The first was a group of businessmen, D. E. Folsom, Charley Cook, and William Peterson, in 1869. Their travels were published in *Western Monthly Magazine*. The Folsom expedition produced a good map, and like some visitors before them, they too were impressed enough to advocate for protection of the region. But because the members were relatively unknown, the Folsom report was largely ignored by the public. It did, however, inspire H. D. Washburn, Surveyor General of the Montana Territory, to mount a federal expedition.

The stakes in the Yellowstone Basin's future were going up. The last spike in the intercontinental railroad was driven that year not far to the north of the Yellowstone, and big eastern investors such as Jay Cooke were making plans to open up the west for settlement and tourism. Cooke wanted a railroad down from Montana into the Yellowstone, "America's Switzerland."

So, with Cooke's money and best interests in mind, in 1870 the Washburn Expedition, escorted by the U.S. Cavalry, entered the Yellowstone Basin from the north, launching from Bottlers' Ranch, climbing (what would be) Mount Washburn, traversing (what would be) Dunraven Pass. They witnessed the famous falls, the great lake, and the geysers. One of the members of the group, Truman Everts, became separated from the group in September. As weather and provisions deteriorated, the expedition abandoned the search for him and returned north. Amazingly, Everts was found in October, having lost all his gear and nearly dead from starvation. Reports of his adventure

generated additional publicity for this expedition.

Several of the Washburn Expedition members wrote reports for the public, and one, the publicist Nathaniel Langford, embarked on a popular lecture tour. America was finally beginning to believe what it heard about the Yellowstone. The Washburn reports also advocated protection of the region for public use. Its publicity inspired the last big Federal expedition before Texas Jack and Lord Dunraven arrived: the Hayden Expedition of 1871.



Lower Yellowstone Falls as photographed by William Henry Jackson on the Hayden Expedition, 1871. From Merrill, Yellowstone and the Great West.

Ferdinand Hayden was head of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories and a peer of John Powell, explorer of the Grand Canyon. Hayden's expedition comprised a large troop of scientists and artists, including such luminaries as photographer William Henry Jackson, painter Thomas Moran, and panorama artist Henry Wood Elliott. These artists' depictions of Yellowstone were widely distributed and admired by Americans, who were beginning to relish western wilderness as a distinctive national asset.

Yellowstone Becomes a Park

The combination of these prestigious, well-documented expeditions and the arrival of the railroad accelerated America's decisions about the Yellowstone. The railroad promoters had in fact spurred the expeditions, funded, and transported them. Eastern investors, western landowners, and promoters of tourism and settlement all were interested in the place—and fortunately, not for settlement or natural resources, but for scenery, from which plenty of money could be made. The area's profitability depended on remaining pristine. Worries about its overuse had repeatedly surfaced since Father Kuppens' talk with Territorial Governor Meager: there was too much uncontrolled hunting and gold prospecting in the area, it was felt. The tawdry example of a crowded, devastated landscape like Virginia City, Nevada, was held up as a warning of what might happen to the Yellowstone.

So, partly for nationalism ("Europe's got nothin' like *this*"), partly for romantic love of sublime wilderness, and partly for a keen appreciation of its profit potential, the movement to do something about Yellowstone was swift and successful. Congressmen with railroad sympathies initiated a bill, Geologist Hayden supported it, and the imagination of the public had been won, so the Yellowstone Park Act was passed in Congress in 1872.

The next year, the Panic of 1873 put railroad plans on hold, thus postponing commercial schemes for the park by a decade. The following year, Omohundro and Dunraven saddled up for some good hunting in the nation's new premier wilderness park.

Part II: Texas Jack in Yellowstone

The Earl of Dunraven was an early tourist, as he says himself, not an explorer. He frequently cites Hayden's data on geysers and springs. He was there, of course, when it was still hard to get there. That's probably why he wanted Texas Jack's company. In 1874, they could shoot as much game as they wished, catch fish, and camp anywhere. (Hunting was not outlawed in the Park until 1883.)

The Earl seems to have been someone who liked travel and adventure. He visited Labrador and was an excellent sailor. He was also an intelligent observer and sprightly writer.

Texas Jack had served as his guide in 1871, in North Platte, before he became famous, along with Buffalo Bill. Texas Jack's career is best described in the Earl's own words:

My first act after making up my mind to undertake the trip to Geyserland was to write to my old friend, hunting companion and guide, Mr. John Omohondro [sic], better known as Texas Jack, and endeavour to secure his services for the expedition Jack and I in company had run wapiti and buffalo many times upon the plains. He started for me my first bison, a solitary savage old bull, down on one of the tributaries of the Republican; under his auspices I slew my first elk also, and, though it was not a very large one, I thought it the most magnificent animal the world had ever produced; together we once made the most successful run at elk that I have ever heard of, and enjoyed a day's sport such as I shall never see again, but to which I hope to allude later on in this volume, if space will permit me. Many a long day had we hunted together, and been in at the deaths of numerous antelopes and white-tail and black-tail

deer; and many a waggon-load of meat, the produce of our chase, have he and I sent into the Fort. I cannot tell you exactly what fort it was, O sporting reader, because if there be any game left in that locality, which I very much doubt, I want selfishly to reserve it for my own special benefit, for I hope to shoot there once again before I die.

I had had plenty of experience therefore of Jack, and knew him to be just the man I wanted; but since those merry days among the sandhills and on the plains, he had settled down in life and married; and whether he could be induced to leave his wife and comfortable home, and to brave the hardships and dangers of a hunting or exploring trip to the far West, I was very much in doubt. I was therefore much pleased one fine day, as I was lying dozing during the heat of noon in my tent, pitched close to the never-melting snows on Long's Peak, to receive a letter from Jack, forwarded from the post-office of the rising little town of Longmont, saying that he was ready for anything, that he would be delighted to come, and was prepared to accompany me anywhere, He added that I should find him at Charriot's Restaurant, Denver, in a couple of days.

Jack was a great acquisition to our party, which consisted, besides myself, of Dr. G. Kingsley; my cousin and good friend, Captain C. Wynne; Maxwell, a gentleman of colour, who fulfilled the important functions of barber and cook; Campbell, my henchman or servant, a limber-limbed lengthy Highlandman, whose legs were about as long as his drawl; and last, but not least, in his own estimation at any rate, if not in mine, the faithful companion of many wanderings, my much-beloved colley dog 'Tweed.' ... (Pp. 31-32)

It was late in the month of July when I got Jack's letter, and, acting upon it, I

on the following day bade adieu to the happy hunting-grounds of Estes Park and drove down to Denver, the capital of Colorado, a distance of 60 miles. While still at some distance from the town I became aware of a great coruscation, which I took to proceed from a comet or some other meteorological eccentricity, but which on approaching nearer resolved itself into the diamond shirt-studs and breast-pin shining in the snowy 'bosom' of my friend Texas Jack, who had already arrived from the classic east winds of Boston to share the fortunes of the trip. Pork and beans and pickled cucumbers had failed to sour his genial smile; aesthetic dissipation had not dulled the lustre of his eye. Jack at Denver in broadcloth and white linen was the same Jack that I had last seen upon the North Platte, grimy in an old buckskin suit redolent of slaughtered animals and bodily deliquescence. How we did 'haver' and talk over old times that night, occasionally making enquiries as to the tenor of the historical telegram sent by the Governor of North Carolina to the Governor of South Carolina, which I may as well mention is said to have been to the effect that it 'was a long time between drinks.' Far into the night we discussed our future plans, and finally decided that as General Sheridan, who had kindly given me the benefit of his advice in Chicago, would by no means recommend the route via Camp Brown, which he considered dangerous for a small party that year, owing to hostilities having broken out with the Sioux, our best plan would be to take the ordinary road from Corinne by stage. ... (Pp 33-34).

Having a great antipathy to stage travelling in promiscuous company, I determined, throwing prudence to the winds, to make myself as comfortable as circumstances would allow, regardless of expense; and accordingly I sent Jack on ahead to Salt Lake City to negotiate

terms and charter the entire vehicle for our own sole and particular use, while we took our ease in our inn at Denver. On receiving a telegram from him to say 'all right,' we joined him at Deseret [Salt Lake City], and spent a couple of days in that city of saintly sinners, making a few necessary purchases, such as saddles, buffalo robes, and bridles.

Deseret is a very pretty town . . . Formerly it enjoyed a very evil reputation; but, allowing for the discordant elements that mingle there, it may be said to be a tolerably respectable, though very peculiar place....

I enjoyed myself very well, and was introduced by Jack to many estimable acquaintances, and to many curious scenes. But I am not sure that on the whole I benefited much, pecuniarily, from his assistance. True, I acquired a considerable amount of second-hand renown, and, like the moon, shone with borrowed splendour. Jack was dressed in beaded buckskins and moccasins, fringed leggings and broad felt hat. Jack is a tall, straight, and handsome man, and in walking through the well-watered streets of Deseret in his company I felt the same proud conscious glow that pervades the white waistcoat of the male debutant when for the first time he walks down St. James's Street, arm in arm with the best dressed and most fashionable man about town. It was obvious to all that I was on terms of equality with a great personage, and on that account cigars were frequent and drinks free. But I don't know that there was any great reduction in buffalo robes and saddles. (Pp. 35-36).

So they set off in first week of August from Salt Lake City to Corinne, Utah, where they met their stagecoach and proceeded.

At Stirling [Montana] we found a most extraordinary little Irishman. He was very diminutive, could drink six or

eight quarts of milk at a sitting, called himself Mr. Mahogany Bogstick, never touched beer, spirits or tobacco, was partial to petticoats, and held that if only England would legislate justly for the Sister Isle, all the Irishmen in the world could reside comfortably and happily at home with plenty to eat and drink, lots of land to live upon, and not a hand's turn of work to do. I think he invented his extraordinary name on the spur of the moment, from a mistaken notion that Jack was chaffing him, when it reply to his inquiries he informed him that Omonhondro was his nom de famille. He was a very funny character, and amused us greatly during the evening.

We bought a pony at Stirling, and, having now been joined by Dr. Kingsley, on Friday we left this fiasco of a city and drove to Fort Ellis, a distance of 45 miles. Our recent purchase was the occasion of some little anxiety to us at starting. He was a native pony, of mixed Spanish and American blood. Like all half-bred mustangs, he was not destitute of the diabolical accomplishment of 'buck-jumping,' and he exhibited a slight disposition to indulge in the pastime; but, as he evidently was not a thorough proficient at it, Jack found no difficulty in subduing his early efforts; after which his behaviour was most exemplary. The doctor and I drove in the buggy, and Jack (whom I beg to introduce pictorially to the reader, on p. 58) on the newly-acquired Broncho, galloped gaily alongside in great form, full of spirits - I mean animal spirits, not whisky - singing, whooping, and yelling. It was a lovely morning . . . (pp. 50-51).

Jack made arrangements at Fred Boteler's to get pack animals and to hire Fred as a guide in Yellowstone. Dunraven amusingly describes the aggravation of traveling with mules. As routines developed, each man would take on certain

tasks. Commonly, Jack would ride ahead to choose the campsite. Jack and Dunraven shared a tent, which Jack would set up. After dinner,

Jack, who is of course also smoking - he always is smoking, except when he is eating, and the few minutes he is obliged to devote to mastication are grudgingly given - is holding forth to the rest of us, telling us some thrilling tale of cattle raids away down by the Rio Grande on the Mexican frontier; graphically describing some wild scurry with the Comanches on the plains of Texas; or making us laugh over some utterly absurd story narrated in that comical language and with that quaint dry humour which are peculiar to the American nation. Boteler is lying on his stomach, toasting on a willow-wand a final fragment of meat. He does not use tobacco, and eats all the time that others smoke. He is greatly relishing Jack's story, except when some not over-complimentary allusion to the Yankees comes in; for Boteler served in the Federal Army during the great Civil War, while Jack, Virginian born and raised in Texas, naturally went in for the Southern side. (Pp. 146-47).

About one or two in the morning I awake (probably Tweed has got cold and, leaving his nest at my feet, has tried to get nearer to my body) and find the fire burning brightly, and Jack sitting up in bed smoking, for he is of a wakeful disposition, and has been out to look about and put on some fresh fuel. We have a smoke and a talk, see what time it is, get sleepy and curl up again. The next time consciousness invades me I hear Jack outside, yawning, stretching, stamping on the ground, and making all manner of strange Indian noises. The morning star is high, the east is getting white, and it is time to get up. A muttered damn from the other tent, grunts and growls from Campbell and

the cook announce that the camp is awake. One by one the inmates crawl out of their beds; toilets don't take long, consisting as they do of a shake and a stretch and a little eye-rubbing. The fire is freshened up. Jack, after the manner of his race, takes a good square honest drink of whisky 'straight,' while hot coffee dispels the vapour of the night and clears the cobwebs from the brains of the rest of us. The stock is driven in, and while breakfast is preparing, we make ready for the work of another day. (P. 148).

Jack's encounter with a grizzly bear is described on pp. 154-156. He wounded the bear. The group tried to track it but eventually gave up after much trouble in the swamps. This when they spent several days hunting game, with rather poor results, in wet nasty weather. This was before going into the geologically active region. They looked at lots of geysers and other exotic features. Dunraven draws a comparison with New Zealand.

"We left this extraordinary district with great regret: fain would we have tarried longer in it." (P. 204). But the season was growing late. The author feels there's lots left to explore. The group retraced their steps to Boteler's camp. Along the way, Dunraven climbed Mt. Washburn, the highest point in the park. It's an easy climb, rewarded by an impressive view. As the day grew late, everyone straggled into camp, their horses worn out.

The next day they went on to Mammoth Hot Springs. They found no game, so everyone was hungry; they were also wet, and the horses were played out. So they looked forward to the hotel, but found it closed up, and no food. Wynne had a newspaper clipping touting tourist facilities: *"According to this document I hold in my hand, the weary visitor will find a first-class hotel, a luxurious club-house, and several quiet, retired boarding-houses.All the luxuries, in and out of season, are to be had in*

abundance, at moderate prices.... Now there was not a solitary human being in the whole establishment." (P. 344). They found the water too hot to bathe, so were denied even that comfort. They made it to Boteler's next day.

We had brought to a safe termination a most enjoyable expedition, the pleasant recollections of which will never fade from my memory but we had also experienced a somewhat rough time. Our horses and mules were scarcely up to the work; we had been greatly hurried; we were unfortunate as regards weather, and still more unlucky in not getting half enough game to keep us properly supplied. So the pleasures of the trip were mixed up with just enough hardship to make the return to civilisation exceedingly pleasant.

We lay at Boteler's for three days, full up to our eyes of hominy, milk, and other products of the dairy and the farm. We also managed to get hold of some whisky, and not very bad whisky either. The evening of our arrival Wynne and I noticed a keg, but, fearing that our honesty might not prove equal to the temptation which a conversation on the subject would have held out, we avoided the cask and the topic, and asked no questions about it. We thought that if we resisted the Devil he would 'flee from us.' We did resist that keg manfully, but it did not budge an inch. The next day Jack came in and hovered round it like a hungry fish about a hook, getting bolder all the time. Finally he tapped it to see if it was full, and found it was. It gurgled pleasantly when he shook it, and that gurgle finished Jack. He asked Boteler 'what it was anyhow?' and Boteler replied it was some of the best whisky that could be got in Bozeman. Upon which Jack looked unutterable things and walked away, speedily returning to renew the interesting conversation. It turned out that the keg was on its way to

the man who used to live at the Hot Spring. 'But,' we all cried in a breath, 'there is nobody at the Springs at all.' 'Well,' said Boteler, 'I don't know anything about that. It was left here for me to send on by the first chance. I don't suppose there will be any chance now till next spring; and, if you fellows feel like taking some and leaving ten dollars a gallon for it, I don't know that there will be any great harm done; but you must take in on your own responsibility.' Jack was quite willing to take it on his own responsibility; and it was not long before there was an auger-hole in the head of that cask. (Pp. 347-48).



A camp of the Hayden Expedition, 1871, at Mystic Lake in Yellowstone Basin. The photograph suggests what Dunraven's and Omohundro's camps were like two years later. From Merrill, Yellowstone and the Great West.

They decided to spend a few days hunting. They were also appreciative of the scenery thereabout. They hunted sheep. Jack shot and failed. Dunraven got one, after much trouble, but others' shots went wide. They moved camp to look for deer, found none, but enjoyed the terrain.

So one afternoon, coming in tired and disgusted, we suddenly determined to go back to Boteler's, and, hastily packing up, started for the ranch. Jack was the only one of the party absent, but leaving a square drink of whisky suspended in a flask from a tree with an intimation of where we had gone, we abandoned him

to his fate. It was a pitch dark night; but Jack, guided by the instinct of an old prairie man, had no difficulty in finding his way, and joined us long before we reached Boteler's, bearing on his saddle a quarter of lamb. (P. 362).

This was followed by more unsuccessful hunting there. The weather began to turn, so they gave up the chase.

They retraced their steps to Fort Ellis, then Virginia City. From there they took the stage to Corinne.

Oh that drive! Can I ever forget it? It occurs to my mind like the memory of some horrid dream - some dreadful nightmare.

Four days and four nights in the interior of that vehicle; worse a great deal than Jonah's three in the whale's belly; - four mortal days and nights going 340 miles, or thereabouts. We got on pretty well for the first two days, thanks to the unfailing cheerfulness and indomitable good-humour of Jack; but the third night was very severe, and on the fourth our miseries culminated, and we collapsed....

Jack sat beside me on the front seat, his six feet of lissom [lithesome] frame tied and knotted up into inextricable confusion, his head appearing in strange and unexpected places, hands and feet turning up promiscuously, and without the slightest regard to the anatomical positions which they are usually supposed to occupy. He would fall over asleep on my shoulder, and the next moment I would awake to the consciousness that his toe was intruding into my mouth; or, if he lay in the other direction, with his feet in my lap, I would be astonished to find him grabbing wildly at my hair to prevent himself falling into the bottom of the coach. Jack, best and cheeriest of companions, was for once out of humour. Fervent and frequent were his prayers, having

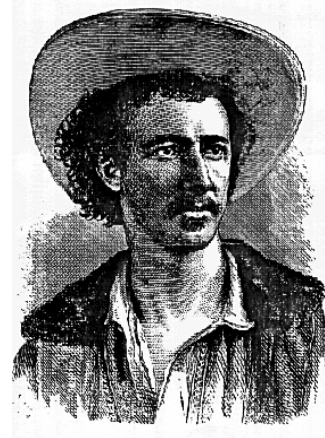
reference to the future condition of driver, horses, coach, road, those that made it, the teams that had cut it up, and everything and everybody that had to do with the line. But swearing did not last long. Things soon got too bad for that. Language, even the most violent language, is quite inadequate to express one's feelings on certain occasions....

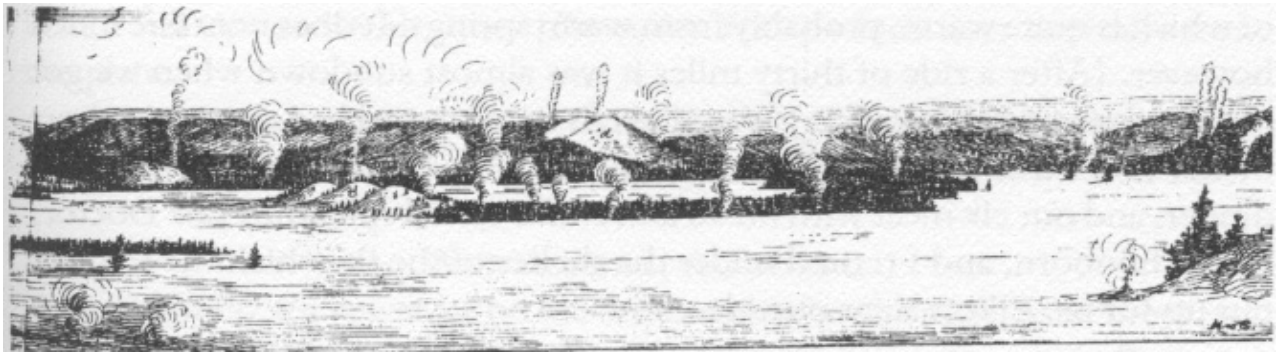
[W]e soon gave relapsed into and up the attempt to express our sentiments, and maintained a gloomy silence. Pp. 375-76.

At Corinne, the party boarded a Pullman car to the east. It seemed luxurious after their previous hardships.

Having now fairly returned to civilisation, I must say good-bye, reluctant to banish from memory the souvenirs of an extremely pleasant tour.

At this distance of time, the recollections of annoyances and discomforts have faded and grown dim, and scarcely cast a shadow across the bright and happy memories that crowd my brain. Could I but transcribe and paint the scenes and pictures that pass before me when I shut my eyes and think, I should, I am sure, induce some of my readers to spend a holiday in those far-away Western wilds, and to make a pilgrimage to the 'Great Divide.' (P. 377).





Geysers in Yellowstone, one of the panoramas drawn by the Hayden Expedition's Henry Wood Elliott, whose work had both scientific and publicity value. From Merrill, Yellowstone and the Great West.

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Call for Nominations!

A new slate of officers will be elected at the business meeting of the 2006 Roundup in Cody. Get involved! Nominate yourself or someone you know! The only requirement is that the nominee must be current member of the Association. Officers assume their duties on October 1, 2006. At that time, the current Vice President will assume the office of President and the current President will assume the office of Director.

The Association is now seeking nominations for the following three officers. Duties of the officers are described below: Vice President (President-elect); Secretary; Treasurer.

Send the name of the nominee to the current Vice President, who chairs the Nominating Committee:

Peggy Greene, 19329 Loxahatchee Rd., Jupiter, FL 33458. Email: mgreene39@hotmail.com

Duties of the officers

President

Assuring that the organization functions in compliance with the bylaws.

Monitoring the activities of the organization and reporting on their status to the Board of Directors and the membership.

Nominating an interim replacement for any officer or committee chair who does not carry out the duties of his or her position.

Presiding at all meetings of the board of directors and the membership.

President-Elect (previously called Vice President)

Assisting the President in the duties of that office.

Chairing the Membership and Nomination Committee.

Carrying out any of the duties of the presidency at the request of the President.

Succeeding the President upon completion of the President's term of office or upon the incapacity or resignation of the President.

Secretary

Preparing minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors and the membership held during their term of office.

Retaining copies of all Association records received from the previous secretary or generated during the previous secretary's term of office and transferring them to the succeeding secretary at the end of his or her term of office.

Treasurer

Ensuring that a bank account has been established in the name of the Texas Jack Association.

Issuing payments from the Texas Jack Association's account after confirming that the payments are consistent with the current Association budget or have been otherwise approved by the Board of Directors.

Receiving and depositing all Association income into the Texas Jack Association's account.

Maintaining a record of all Association income and expenses.

Providing the Finance and Legal Committee with quarterly income and expenditure reports.

Dance in the Old West

by Richard Duree

submitted by Kitty Pelkan, member of Northwest Folk Dancers Inc. (NFDI)

Dance historians and ethnologists are familiar with the importance and universal practice of dance in folk cultures in Europe, Latin America, Polynesia and elsewhere, but we may not realize the importance of dance in our own Old West.

The folk culture of the Old West closely paralleled those in Europe, though very different in many important ways. In the folk life of pre-Industrial Europe, dance served as a vehicle for social interaction, courtship and even social control. In tribal societies (such as the American Indian) dance was, and is, a form of communication with unseen spirits, a form of prayer, and a psychological preparation for war or the hunt.

In America's Old West, dance became a social activity of utmost interest and importance. Though American and European folk dance were both developed in an impoverished life of hard, unending toil, with wealth concentrated in the hands of an elite few, America was unique. One was not bound by social strata, a new and unique concept in history, which allowed an unrestrained mixing of all levels of society and the possibility of aspiring to higher economic and social status.

Dance was for socializing and release from unending drudgery, a convenient form of recreation and social interaction not available by other, more expensive and less accessible means. It was fun, it was free (or cheap), it brought opposite genders together in an acceptable venue (remember, this is in the middle of the Victorian era), and it provided both physical and artistic expression. So, dance they did, lowly cowboys rubbing elbows with cattle barons, lawmen and horse thieves, proper ladies and soiled doves alike.

Immigrants came in a flood from the eastern coastal regions of New England, the Old South, and Europe, fleeing from rocky

New England farms, the destroyed Old South, feudal poverty, crowded cities, memories of slavery, a criminal past; everyone had their own reasons, admirable or otherwise. It became a fashionable and common practice to yield to the desire to travel that lies in all of us, and it became infused into the American spirit.

Eastern and European accents and traditions were everywhere on the frontier. The Old West must have been a colorful mixture indeed with cattlemen, sheep men, miners, loggers, gamblers, outlaws, lawmen, adventurers, merchants, teamsters, bankers, gunmen, lawyers, artists, clerks, scions, prostitutes, preachers, and migrant laborers - all the ingredients for the creation of a rugged, new society. It was a population of strong-willed, independent individuals driven by powerful forces common to adventurous souls.

In a normal folkloric process, the new Westerners adapted the traditions and customs they brought with them to suit their new situation and tastes, altering old ones, or replacing them with new ones to create a new, unique Western folk culture with dance at its center.

That dance was a far cry from today's Country-Western dance.

The European waltz, polka, schottische, and mazurka were widely known and practiced almost unchanged from their European versions. To be sure, new steps and styles were created to better interpret the music played by local fiddlers, or to accommodate rough floors and heavy boots. The endlessly turning European waltz was slowed and given new figures. Among the most charming variations of the European couple dances are those developed in northern Mexico by settlers whose descendants still live in the south Texas and northern Mexico border region.

The influence of West Point was prominent. Dance was considered an important requirement to becoming an officer and a gentleman, and the military balls on the frontier were led by men and ladies who were skilled in dance. Many enlisted men were directly from Europe, especially Ireland, where the waltz was part of the common dance repertoire. Military balls were major events at the various forts across the West, well-attended and fashionably attired.

It must be mentioned that dance etiquette required men to remove swords, sidearms, and spurs to dance. It was considered very rude to risk catching a lady's skirts in a cowboy's spur rowels. Hats, however, were traditionally worn while dancing.

Since newcomers were unfamiliar with the sequences and finer points of the New England Lancers, contras and quadrilles, the memorized, dance-master-created figures gave way to called figures. The clog of the Appalachian Mountains' Irish and English settlers was impossible in Western and cavalry riding boots and was discarded in favor of a smooth gliding step. Big Circle dance figures from the Appalachians, called by a leader, blended nicely into the quadrilles, and our national square dance was born.

Dances were held on every occasion, whether it be a barn raising, Saturday night, a wedding, the end of a trail drive, or the arrival of a new wagon train in town. Even then, dances were held only rarely and under sometimes trying circumstances. Impromptu dances were often held outside on a large wagon sheet spread over the burrs and prairie dog holes, often in a blazing Texas sun.

A rough-hewn log floor (called a puncheon floor) sometimes served as a dance floor, necessitating a change from the smooth, gliding steps possible on a smooth floor, hence, some of the high lifting movements still found today in some of the

Western dance styles. Ladies detested the puncheons because they quickly wore out their dancing shoes.

When women were scarce (as frequently was the case in the early days), it was common practice for several rough-hewn men to "heifer brand" themselves by tying a scarf around an arm or donning an apron -- sometimes even a dress and bonnet -- and unabashedly assuming the role of the fairer sex in a waltz or polka with another equally grubby gent. For Americans and Europeans raised on Puritan and Victorian rules of conduct, this indicates how far they were willing to go for a dance.

Folks took their dances seriously. One story recounts the effort made by one young cowboy to take his best girl to a dance. She lived 12 miles from the ranch where he worked; he rode 24 miles to ask her to the dance and return home. It was 16 miles from the ranch to town; he rode there and back, another 32 miles, to rent a buggy and return to the ranch. Then he drove the buggy 12 miles to her home, 8 miles to the dance, 8 miles back to her home and 12 more miles to the ranch. Finally, he rode the 16 miles to return the buggy and 16 more miles to return home - 128 miles of riding to take his best girl to a dance.

That kind of dedication wasn't unusual. Near Amarillo, two cowboys spent a total of six days going to and returning from a dance with their partners; the dance lasted seven hours.

More than a decade before the Old West began (generally considered to be 1865, following the Civil War), the hardy "49ers" of the California Gold Rush took their dancing seriously, too. Gold-crazed miners, hardened by the unbelievably harsh life in the mines, took eagerly to the Mexican Californios' passion for dance, adding their own contributions to the Spaniard's graceful fandango, the word becoming synonymous with dance and applied to every occasion in which dance

was a part. Though the Spanish danced their elegant native dances and waltzes, it is noted that the polka was the major dance of the camps, recorded here in the early 1850's -- less than 10 years after it was first recorded in Bohemia in 1844!

The arrival of a woman in the mines was cause for a ball, and the mines were deserted for the evening on a remote chance to see - maybe even speak to, or dance with - the rare fair sex. Every man considered every woman to be beautiful, and no woman remained unmarried long after arriving in camp. There must be some very interesting stories, long untold, of mining camp romances.

The square dance seems to satisfy the American character better than any other dance by combining the various parts from which it was created into a complex, smoothly functioning, cooperative dance, all working together like a well-timed piece of machinery. That co-operative attitude is a gift from our German, English, Irish, and Czech pioneers, to whom precision and quality of workmanship were paramount, and it ensured the teamwork necessary for successful occupation of the West and development of the American culture.

It is interesting to note that in the early years of this century, the square dance nearly became extinct as attention turned to the new Ragtime or Jazz music and the more fashionable "new" dances of the Roaring '20s. It remained for Lloyd "Pappy" Shaw, a school administrator of Colorado Springs, Colorado, to realize the endangered state of the dance and almost single-handedly revive it, incorporating it into his school curriculum. By interviewing old-timers he was able to reconstruct the figures and determine the music used in the Old West. The rest is history, as the square dance movement grew from his efforts and has not slowed since. It has been officially declared our national dance.

Modern culture has long since smothered and replaced the Old West culture, in fact, if not in spirit. Sociologists tell us it still strongly affects America's cultural personality and how we are perceived by the rest of the world. Indeed, it can be argued that the 35 years of the Old West's glory days still affects us all in more ways than we know.

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AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Richard Duree is a dance ethnologist and historian who has researched and taught dance for over 35 years. He was raised on a Texas cattle ranch with real, working cowboys. His family has a long history in Texas and Oklahoma. He is a retired Associate Professor of Dance and a free-lance writer and has taught authentic Old West dance in several Old West events in California. He is also a member of the SASS (Single Action Shooting Society) whose members use only firearms (or replicas) that were used during the years 1865-1900 - the Old West.

Note this excerpt from Buckskin and Satin by Herschel C. Logan about Texas Jack and the dance (page 173): "Texas Jack was of a mild disposition, soft spoken, with a smile and joke for all. But woe be to him who excited his anger, for he was a dangerous adversary when aroused. He loved sports and social events. Mrs. Cody recalls that on numerous occasions, while living at Ft. McPherson, she had heard him call dances."



FROM THE MAIL POUCH...

From Edna Nees to the Editor:

Hello,

Just want to let you know that I have contacted Evelyn Furman's son in-law. Evelyn is well and staying with her daughter and son in-law in NM. She is 92 now. She would love to hear from the TJA members. (She owned the Tabor Opera House in Leadville). Her son in-law and daughter are running the Opera House.

Her address is 3081 La Mirage Ct. SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124.

To Edna Nees:

December 27, 2005

I always wanted to find the Origin of the Omohundro family name, now at age 91, completing 5 ½ months in the hospital with a broken left leg, Marie (my wife) and I go home on January 10, 2006. I'd like to contribute what I can, very little other than speculation, to whoever carries on the hunt. In 1941 or 1942, during the early days of my military career at Ft. Bliss, TX, I read an article in the El Paso newspaper on the Omohundro clan or Klan, in Ireland. Since I was pretty busy learning how to be a soldier and an Officer in the U. S. Army, I did not save the article, assuming the information would be available later. As I recall, the article identified the area in Ireland where the family originated.

After I retired from USDA, my good wife and I decided to take a trip to Europe to see her family and to Ireland to find my relatives, hopefully. We drew a blank in Ireland and were badly disappointed. We were more fortunate on her side and established a great relationship with them.

Now comes the speculation:

In the early 1600's the Spanish amassed a huge Armada of Ships and a large army. They decided to conquer the Irish and occupy their territory. So the Armada loaded with an Army set out to conquer Ireland. Fortunately for the Irish and unfortunately for the Spanish, a terrible Atlantic storm hit the Irish coast at the same time the Spanish Armada arrived there and practically destroyed the Armada, drowning most of the soldiers and wrecking the ships. Many Spanish soldiers were washed ashore and many of them were absorbed into the Irish populace. The Chinese and the Central and South Americans had no trouble pronouncing and spelling my name. However, time spent in India and Pakistan did not produce any familiarity.

More speculation: In the early days of the Colonization of North America, people came here to get away from an unpleasant situation. Many of these Colonists could not read or write. So when the authorities of the time tried to develop some accuracy in their ancestry, someone had to interpret

and record their names and country of origin. There were reasons why their names and origins may have been misinterpreted. I hope someone unravels the origin of our surname. I am 91 years old and probably won't make anymore trips to Europe or Central and South America, so the origin of the name still remains a mystery.

Marie and I are happy to be going home and I seriously doubt if we will make the South Dakota convention this year. Please give our congratulations to those who do attend.

Enclosed find my check for \$40.00, for our family membership. We will be thinking of you.

Sincerely your friends,

Marie and Richard E. "Gene" Omohundro

February 11, 2006

Mrs. Edna Nees, Sec. and Treas.
Texas Jack Association
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville VA 24590

Dear Edna:

I read the latest Scout by Harvey Willard. He is an outstanding member of our organization. I received a letter from our friend in LA, formerly an Air Force Pilot and a Retired Pan American Pilot, and at the moment I can lay my hands on his document. He said he had discussed my proposal for a source of our Omohundro name. He didn't agree with my proposal but instead gave a French proposal, which would easily be the source. However, in our hunt for the names origin, I wouldn't give up completely. I think that if we all do some head scratching we will eventually come up with the origin. I note that someone else has come up with a possible Spanish origin.

I have no concern about my authorship; you have my permission to print my proposal in The Scout and anything else that I might propose. It would be fun to know the real source.

You have devoted a lot of your time to our Organization, and I for one think you should receive some recognition. I'm sorry I can't attend the Roundup this year. There are days I'm not sure what I can and can't do, but driving to South Dakota is not on the to do list.

Long live the name of Texas Jack Omohundro and the Organization of which you are the guiding light.

Sincerely yours,
Marie and Richard E. Omohundro

[Editor's note: The Roundup is in Cody, WY, not South Dakota]

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Jason Scribner,
Bland B. Omohundro,
George C. Omohundro,
Joegil Lundquist and 2 grandchildren,
Ann O. Dunlap,
Al Jankowiak

Welcome Back charter members:

Steve Banton,
Edna Marie Nees Banton
Meghan Banton

We are thrilled to have you aboard!

Historical Note: *(from the BBHC website)*

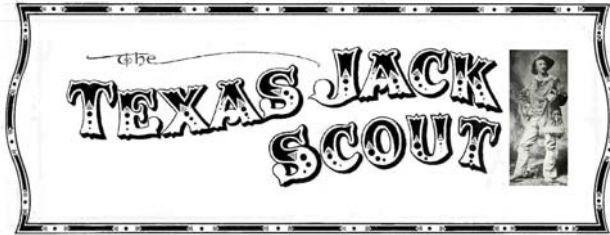
As early as the 1880s and continuing beyond the end of World War II, Yellowstone National Park was one of the great focal points for open-booking railroad tours. There were two Yellowstone entrances accessible by rail. The Northern Pacific Railroad serviced the park's northern entrance in Montana, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (the Burlington) serviced the east entrance at Cody. Between these two railheads, the Yellowstone Park Company offered tours of the park. They owned the hotels, camps and a fleet of stagecoaches - later motor buses - that accommodated the tourists moving from one entrance to the other. The tours varied from 10 to 14 days under horse power, three to five days under motor power. These tours reached a peak of popularity in the 1920s and 1930s. In those decades it was not unusual for 40 to 80 or more of the Park Company's yellow painted, folding-top touring buses to travel in convoy along the gravel-surfaced roads. Dusty and rough going - but the tourists loved it!



Visit <http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/todo/concessn.htm>

for current tours.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2006



It is time to renew your membership in the Texas Jack Association! To continue to receive the *Texas Jack Scout*, and other membership benefits, please fill the card below and send it to the address indicated below.

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- Family Membership \$40.00 (1 copy of the *Scout*)
- Junior Membership \$10.00 (18 and under)
- Senior Membership \$20.00 (per person)

Please send your check made payable to **Texas Jack Association** to:

Edna Nees
213 Coles Rolling Road
Scottsville, VA 24590

NEXT SCOUT ISSUE INFORMATION

The deadline for the July 2006 issue of *The Scout* is July 15. The issue will be published in August, and will feature a report on the Cody, Wyoming Roundup. Please send ideas and materials to our Guest Editor:

Laura Greene
18329 Loxahatchee River Road
Jupiter, FL 33458
mgreene39@hotmail.com

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**LOTS OF INFORMATION ON TEXAS JACK'S HISTORY AND TIMES,
NEWS AND EVENTS, AND EVEN BACK ISSUES OF *THE SCOUT*!**

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The Texas Jack Scout
 Edna Nees
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 Scottsville, VA 24590

TO: