



Outlaw Gazette

BILLY THE KID FATALLY MEETS PAT GARRETT

VOLUME II, NUMBER 1

SPRING, 1989

INTREPID YOUNG DESPERADO SHOT DEAD BY SHERIFF PAT GARRETT

ENCOUNTER TAKES PLACE IN A HOUSE AT FT. SUMNER ABOUT MIDNIGHT

By H. Franklin Greene, Special Correspondent
Thursday, July 14, 1881

News of the killing of the redoubtable Billy "the Kid" was circulated about this morning causing intense excitement. Doubt of the truth of this report was terminated by a statement from Sheriff Garrett.

From an interview with Sheriff Garrett and other authentic sources, we are able to give the *Gazette* readers the full account of the death of the desperado, who, while living under numerous aliases, has been known the length and breadth of the country as Billy "the Kid."

LETTER REVEALS HIDING PLACE

Sheriff Garrett was written to by Mr. M. S. Brazil, who stated that Billy was in the neighborhood of Ft. Sumner. The Sheriff immediately left Lincoln with John W. Poe and Tip McKinney to search out the outlaw. They arrived at Sumner about midnight last night.

Without any delay, the party dismounted and went directly to the house of Pete Maxwell, an acquaintance of the Sheriff. Knowing where he slept, Garrett entered the house and went to Maxwell's bedroom after posting Poe and McKinney as guards outside. He saw Mr. Maxwell lying on his bed and took a seat at the head of the bed. He asked Mr. Maxwell if he knew the whereabouts of "the Kid." Mr. Maxwell informed him that he was in the neighborhood. Moonlight streamed



Sheriff Pat Garrett, 1881

into the room through an open window, but by sitting at the head of the bed, Garrett was obscured in the shadows as he talked with Mr. Maxwell.

A SURPRISE VISITOR

Suddenly a man entered the room — Garrett at first did not recognize who it was. The visitor slowly walked to Maxwell's bedside and stood near Garrett. As the visitor leaned over to wake Mr. Maxwell, he noticed Garrett. Stepping back, the Kid asked, "Quien es?" (who it is?)

Garrett, realizing that the visitor was the Kid and that any delay could prove fatal, reached for his gun. The Kid stepped back but for some reason did not attack Garrett. Whatever the reason, the Kid's delay proved fatal. Garrett, always

cool, no matter how trying the circumstances, rose up and fired. The shot struck the Kid in the heart and he fell on his back, a dead man. Garrett fired a second shot before he had time to see the effect of the first one, but this shot missed its mark.

Below is given Sheriff Garrett's report which contains also the verdict of the coroner:

REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR

Fort Sumner, New Mexico,

"To His Excellency, the Governor of New Mexico:



Billy the Kid (a.k.a. William Bonney), 1880

BILLY THE KID Outlaw Gazette

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H. Franklin Greene
Publisher, Director of Publications
Bonnie Greene
Editor

BILLY THE KID OUTLAW GANG, INC.

Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, Inc., is a historical society whose purpose is to promote, preserve, and protect Billy the Kid/Pat Garrett History in New Mexico. Address correspondence to the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang (BTKOG) at: P.O. Box 1881, Taiban, New Mexico, 88134. Telephone: (505) 355-9935.

Janean Grissom, *President*
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Maryln Bowlin, *Life Executive Director*

BTKOG is a tax-exempt, non-profit educational organization (I.R.S. #85-0359296), founded in 1987 by Maryln Bowlin, born in New Mexico and raised near Billy the Kid's grave. All those interested in joining BTKOG are welcome. Annual dues are \$10.00 in the U.S. and \$14.00 outside the U.S. Members are entitled to the BTKOG Gazette, brochure, and newsletter, when available, a membership card, and a colorful Billy the Kid license plate. All members and friends are invited to the BTKOG annual Billy the Kid/Pat Garrett Historical Days, held on or around July 14th (in commemoration of Billy's death) at various locales in New Mexico. Consult the Gazette, brochure, or contact the BTKOG office for location and events scheduled. The BTKOG welcomes any and all contributions, whether financial or in the form of books, manuscripts, or other items related to Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, Lincoln County War, Santa Fe Ring, or other New Mexico history. Send all contributions to: Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, Inc., P.O. Box 1881, Taiban, New Mexico, 88134.

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I have the honor to inform your Excellency that I had received several communications from persons in and about Fort Sumner, that William Bonney, alias the Kid, had been there, or in that vicinity for some time.

In view of these reports I deemed it my duty to go there, and ascertain whether there was any truth in them or not, all the time doubting the accuracy: but on Monday, July 11th I left home taking with me John W. Poe and T. L. McKinney, men in whose courage and sagacity I relied.

We arrived at Fort Sumner about midnight and I went to Mr. P. Maxwell's room. I found him in bed, and had just commenced talking to him about the object of my visit at such an unusual hour when a man entered the room in stocking feet, with a pistol in one hand and a knife in the other.

He came and placed his hand on the bed just beside me, and in a low whisper said, "who is it?" and repeated the question he asked of Mr. Maxwell.

I at once recognized the man, and knew he was the Kid, and reached behind me for my pistol, feeling almost certain to receive a ball from him at the moment of doing so, as I felt sure he had now recognized me, but fortunately he drew back from the bed at noticing my movement, and although he had his pistol pointed at my breast, he delayed to fire and asked in Spanish, "Quien es? Quien es?"

This gave me time to bring mine to bear on him and the moment I did so I pulled the trigger and he received the death wound, for the ball struck him in the left breast and pierced his heart. He never spoke, but died in a moment. It was my desire to have been able to take him alive, but this coming upon me so suddenly and unexpectedly leads me to believe that he had seen me enter the room or had been informed by someone of the fact: and that he came there armed with pistol and knife expressly to kill me if he could. Under that impression I had no alternative, but to kill him or to suffer death at his hands.

CORONER'S VERDICT

I herewith annex a copy of the verdict rendered by the jury called in by the justice of the peace (ex-officio coroner), the original of which is in the hands of the First Judicial District. (The verdict is given in Spanish in Garrett's report, and upon being translated is as follows:)

"We, the jury, unanimously say that Wm. Bonney came to his death from a wound in the breast in the region of the heart, fired from a pistol in the hand of Pat F. Garrett, and our decision is that

the action of the said Garrett was justifiable homicide and are united in the opinion that the gratitude of all the community is due to said Garrett for his action, and that he deserves to be compensated." Signed: M. Rudolph, foreman; Antonio Savedra; Pedro Antonio Lucero; Jose Silva; Sabel Guterrez; Lorenzo Jaramillo.

I am, Governor, very respectfully your Excellency's obedient servant.

WHAT BROUGHT THE KID TO MAXWELL'S HOME

The Kid lingered at Fort Sumner because he was believed to be seeing a lady friend (possibly Pete Maxwell's sister or Manuela Bowdre, Charlie Bowdre's widow). He was allowing his hair and beard to grow and was putting his skin through a coloring process which he fondly hoped would so completely Mexicanize him as to give him a thorough disguise.



Photograph purported to be of Billy the Kid's mother

On this fatal night, he was in search of food, and had gone to Mr. Maxwell's to secure some fresh mutton. This seems to provide the reason he was carrying a butcher knife.

The Kid's disguise evidently worked on Poe and McKinney, as they later stated that the Kid passed them in the dark and they thought he was a Mexican. The Kid was without a coat and in his stocking feet, thus he did not die with his boots on.

BILLY THE KID REMAINS A MYSTERY

The actual birthplace of Billy the Kid is unknown; however, the date and place most often listed are November 29, 1859, in New York. The Kid's real name was Henry McCarty. His mother's name was Catherine McCarty and his older brother's name is Joe. Henry's father is unknown.

The first recorded whereabouts of the McCarty family was Marion County, Indiana, at the close of the Civil War. While there, his mother met her future husband, William H. Antrim.

On March 1, 1873, "Mr. William H. Antrim and Mrs. Catherine McCarty, both of Santa Fe, New Mexico," were joined in matrimony by Rev. D. F. McFarland. Henry and Josie (Joe) McCarty were recorded as witnesses. Almost immediately thereafter the family departed for Silver City, New Mexico.

During Henry McCarty's short life (he was 21 when he died), he used many aliases: Billy Bonney (Bonney could have been his real father's last name), William Henry Antrim (he was sometimes called by the name of his stepfather, Billy Antrim), Kid Antrim, and Billy the Kid.

The move to Silver City may have been in search of a better climate for Catherine to live in, as she suffered from tuberculosis. On September 16, 1874, Catherine died. Henry lived with his stepfather and at times in boarding homes.

Henry's school teacher, Miss Mary Richards, recalled that "Henry was no more of a problem in school than any other boy," and that he was "always quite willing to help with the chores around the schoolhouse."

FIRST BRUSH WITH THE LAW

While his stepfather was working at a mill near Georgetown, Henry remained in Silver City. He boarded at Mrs. Brown's house and referred to it as "home." It was at this time that young Henry McCarty, age 15, found himself in trouble with the law — and in jail.

The trouble started with what R. Athon of Silver City referred to as merely a "kiddish prank" which ended up with him being charged with stealing the clothes of two chinamen. *The Grant County Herald*, dated September 26, 1875, reported the circumstances:

"Henry McCarty, who was arrested on Thursday and committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury, upon the charge of stealing clothes from Charley Sun and Sam Chung, escaped from prison yesterday through the chimney. It is believed that Henry was simply the tool of "Sombbrero Jack," who done the actual stealing whilst Henry done

the hiding. Jack has skipped out."

"Sombbrero Jack" may have thought that filching a bundle of wash from the chinamen a funny joke, as did Henry when he hid the clothes, but after two days in jail the fun had worn off. Fearful of punishment from his stepfather, Henry squeezed his way up the jail chimney to freedom and lit out for Arizona.

For the next two years, Henry lived the ordinary life of a saddletramp ranch hand. It was in Arizona that Henry — or Billy — first became known as "Kid," a handle which would come naturally to a boy working with older men.

BILLY THE KID KILLS HIS FIRST MAN

On August 17, 1877, the Kid killed his first man near Camp Grant, Arizona. The victim was a husky blacksmith named Frank "Windy" Cahill. According to accounts, Cahill took delight in bullying the Kid. On the fatal day it is said that a card game quarrel erupted outside Adkin's dance hall between Cahill and the Kid. The two scuffled, but the Kid was no match for Cahill, and was thrown to the ground. As Cahill lunged for him, the Kid pulled out his gun and shot him. Cahill died the next day, and the coroner's jury declared that the killing "was criminal and unjustifiable, and the Henry Antrim, alias Kid, is guilty thereof."

The Kid was arrested and locked up in the post guardhouse pending trial. Somehow, possibly with the help of a friend, the Kid was able to escape. The Kid made his way to the ranch house of his friends the Knights, located about forty miles south of Silver City, New Mexico. Not wanting to get his friends into trouble, he decided to head for Mesilla Valley. His friends offered him his choice of their horses and he is said to have taken the "scrubbiest" of the lot.

During his brief stay at the village of Mesilla, the Kid may have met the notorious John Kinney and Jesse Evens gang, but it is doubtful that he has ever joined into any of their activities.

The Kid and a companion named Tom O'Keefe departed for Seven Rivers. On the way they met up with a hostile band of Indians and the Kid was separated

from his companion and both of their horses. About the first of October, 1877, the Kid wandered onto the Jones Ranch at Seven Rivers, tired, hungry, and with blistered feet.

With the help of Ma'am Jones, the Kid's feet quickly healed and the Kid took a strong attachment for the Jones family. The Kid was loaned a horse and rode out in search of employment. His first stop was at John Chisum's South Spring River ranch. There is no record that the Kid worked for Chisum. He made his way up the Rio Hondo, stopping along the way at various farms and ranches, finally ending up at George Coe's farm where he spent most of the winter.

At some time during the winter, the Kid went to work for John Tunstall, and a strong friendship developed between the two.

On February 18, 1878, John Tunstall was murdered, which brought about what has come to be known as the Lincoln County War.

Revenge for Tunstall's murder put the Kid on the wrong side of the law and brought about his death at the hands of Sheriff Garrett.

There are many legends about the Kid's past which are inaccurate. Among the myths are the supposed knife killing of a man who insulted his mother when the Kid was twelve years old; the killing of three Apaches near Fort Bowie; or his being part of the Evens gang of thieves. It is also doubtful that the Kid killed 21 men.

Henry McCarty, alias Billy the Kid, was buried today just inside the gate of the Fort Sumner cemetery, and only a plain head board marks his grave, with just the words . . . BILLY THE KID.



H. Franklin Greene — Outlaw and Publisher and Chairman, Director of Membership B.T.K.O.G.

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Maxwell House, Fort Sumner, New Mexico. It was in a bedroom on the ground floor of this building that Sheriff Pat Garrett slew The Kid on the night of July 14, 1881.

Patrick Floyd Garrett was born on June 5, 1850, on a large plantation in Chambers County, Alabama. Pat was the second oldest of eight Garrett children. His father was John L. Garrett, and his mother was Elizabeth Garrett.

In 1853, his father purchased an eighteen hundred acre plantation in Claiborne Parish, Louisiana, and the family settled there when Pat was three. Cotton and produce were grown on the planta-



Pat Garrett, about 1890

tion, which was prosperous at the time. Little is known of Pat's education, although it is believed to have been limited.

Pat developed keen skills as a pathfinder and marksman by stalking wildlife near his home. Growing like a string bean, Pat eventually grew to be six feet, five inches in height.

Pat claimed that during the Civil War his father was a colonel in the Confederate Army, but family descendants deny this claim. Following the war, the Yankees confiscated much of the plantation's cotton, forcing the Garrett family deep into debt.

GARRETT HEADS WEST

Tragedy struck the Garrett home on March 25, 1867, when at the age of thirty-eight, Mrs. Garrett died. Less than a year later, on February 5, 1868, Pat's father died of unknown causes. A battle over the estate soon followed, and Larkin Randolph Lay, Pat's brother-in-law, was appointed administrator. Lay did not endear himself to Pat by selling the Garrett plantation, and Pat and Lay became increasingly hostile to each other. Pat had a quick temper, and at one point threatened to kill Lay. On January 25, 1869, Pat headed west, knowing that if he remained, there could be serious trouble between him and his sister's husband.

When Garrett left home, he was only a boy of 19, and he spent the next ten

years drifting through Texas and New Mexico, becoming a hardened cowboy.

About 1875, Garrett met Skelton Glenn and Luther Duke. They formed a buffalo hunting partnership, and soon headed west in a buckboard out of Fort Worth, bound for Fort Griffin. Fort Griffin, often called Hide Town, was a bizarre center for soldiers, gamblers, outlaws, drifters, prostitutes and misfits — and buffalo hunters. Most peaceful, intelligent folks avoided Fort Griffin because it meant trouble — vigilante committees frequently lynched people, and even the sheriff was not safe. One sheriff in particular, John Larn, was shot to death in his own jail by masked men from the Fort who suspected him of rustling and murder.

Arriving in Fort Griffin, Garrett and his partners went straight to the general store, where they purchased hunting rifles, food, and camping provisions. In 1875, cartridges cost eight cents each, coffee was twenty-eight cents a pound, and flour eight dollars for a hundred-pound sack. Laden with supplies, the group headed for the buffalo range.

At first the buffalo were plentiful, and a good shot like Garrett could kill sixty to one hundred buffaloes a day. But by November, 1876, the buffalo were almost hunted out. Additionally, the Indians who depended on the buffalo for food and clothing, were becoming increasingly angry about the excessive killing by the white men, and the Indians began raiding the camps. On February 1, 1877 a Comanche named Nigger Horse led his braves in an attack on the Garrett camp, destroying about eight hundred hides and stealing all the horses. A second Indian raid on May 1, 1877, resulted in the loss of most of the hunters' possessions, and Garrett decided to give up on buffalo hunting. Selling most of what was left, he traveled to St. Louis, where he gambled away what money he had.

Garrett returned to the Fort Griffin area and worked briefly again hunting buffalo, but by now the herds were almost hunted out. In January, 1878, Garrett drifted towards Fort Sumner, New Mexico.

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Pat Garrett and his second wife, Apolinaria Gutiérrez, January 14, 1880. Photograph taken at Anton Chico, New Mexico, on the Garrett's wedding day.

THEY CALLED HIM JUAN LARGO

Arriving at Fort Sumner in February of 1878, Garrett was running low on money and needed a job. Noticing a herd of cattle being worked nearby, Garrett approached the owner for a job. The owner was Pedro "Pete" Maxwell, son of Lucien Maxwell, the New Mexico land baron. Maxwell had inherited his father's home located in Fort Sumner. After much pleading by Garrett, Maxwell agreed to hire him.

Fort Sumner was a small settlement of Spanish-American families with adobe and straw business houses, a post office, and a Catholic church. Newcomer Garrett's large size caused much conversation among the citizens, and they jokingly nicknamed him Juan Largo (Long John).

The women were infatuated with his good looks and courtly Southern manners. However, it is said that Garrett married a Mexican girl shortly after arriving in Fort Sumner, although according to rumors, his wife died within a few weeks from unknown causes.

Garrett then married Apolinaria Gutiérrez on January 14, 1880. Apolinaria was a very refined lady, the daughter of a well-known New Mexico freight company owner. She gave Garrett eight children, and stood with him throughout the rest of his turbulent life.

HENRY McCARTY MEETS PAT GARRETT

For some reason (some say because of a dispute), Garrett quit his job with Maxwell, and became bartender for

Beaver Smith's saloon. While working at the saloon, Garrett met most of the cattlemen, outlaws, and saddletramps that passed through the territory.

It was during this time that Garrett met a young cowboy named Henry McCarty, alias William Bonney, Kid Antrim, and Billy the Kid. The Kid had arrived in Lincoln County a few months earlier, and was now working for John Tunstall as a ranch hand. Garrett and the Kid hit it off very well together: they drank together, gambled together, rode together, and became close friends. The duo made an odd-looking pair — Garrett was 6'5", while Billy was 5'7", and were jokingly referred to as "Juan Largo" and "Little Casino." Garrett learned much about the Kid during this time. He found out how the Kid reacted to situations, and about his quick temper that could flare up suddenly in a roar of gunfire.

Friends, drinking buddies, companions — and then, only a short year later, they became enemies, and friend shot former friend, when on July 14, 1881, Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid.

DID YOU KNOW?...

...that over 40 major films have been made either about Billy the Kid, or involving Billy the Kid? Here are some famous examples:

- "The Left-Handed Gun," starring Paul Newman
- "Billy the Kid," starring Robert Taylor
- "The Outlaw," produced by Howard Hughes and featuring his discovery, Jane Russell
- "Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid," produced by Sam Peckinpah
- "Dirty Little Billy," starring Michael J. Pollard
- "One-Eyed Jacks," based on the novel "The Authentic Death of Hendry Jones," a takeoff on the Billy the Kid Legend
- "Young Guns," starring all the young hunks of Hollywood, including Charlie Sheen, Emilio Estavez, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Kiefer Sutherland

... maybe a "Billy the Kid" Film Festival should be considered for a future BTKOG gathering!!

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NEWS FROM BILLY THE KID LAND

FAMED AUTHOR DEBUNKS HICO, TEXAS' BRUSHY BILL ROBERTS AS PURE NONSENSE TO BTKOG FOUNDER

Nov. 9, 1987.

Dear Maryln Bowlin:

The idea that Brushy Bill Roberts was Billy the Kid is pure nonsense. I know of at least three others who made the same claim and there are a half dozen who claimed to be Jesse James.

The basic stories about Billy's last hours are true; Billy was killed by Garrett at Pete Maxwell's house in 1881.

When I arrived in Fort Sumner and worked there for a time a few of the old timers were still around. Deluvina Maxwell was still alive at Old Fort Sumner and remembered Billy well. She prepared his body for burial.

I had not yet become a writer but was interested in all aspects of American history and talked with as many old timers as I could find. George Coe was alive then and so was Tom Pickett. Sarah McQueen Barker was living further south in New Mexico.

I was in Ft. Sumner in the early 1920s.

I cannot be considered a Billy the Kid historian although I've known two women and five men who knew him well, and are on record as having known him. At the time I listened to their stories but did not have the skills or the knowledge to ask the proper questions. I did hear the stories from their lips. I was just a drifter with a lively interest in all things historical.

George Coe had a store at Ruidoso for a time.

Sincerely,
Louis L'Amour

Louis L'Amour



Mr. Joe Bowlin, former president of Fort Sumner, New Mexico, Chamber of Commerce. Born in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Also former member of Fort Sumner City Council, and presently among many other civic duties owns the museum at the grave site where Billy the Kid is buried. Mr. Bowlin is a charter member of BTKOG.



The three original outlaws who became B.T.K.O.G., which has rocked the world.

THE THREE WOMEN WHO REALLY ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE BTKOG HISTORICAL SOCIETY:

Maryln Bowlin, historian and wife of Joe Bowlin, and founder of the historical society, Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang. A New Mexico native, Maryln was raised on the Pecos River near Billy the Kid's grave. In business with her husband, and lists her occupation as "outlaw."

Janean Grissom: clerk of the district court, currently president of the BTKOG society. She and her husband, C. W. Grissom, own the ranch on which Stinking Springs is located, where Bill and his gang surrendered to Sheriff Pat Garrett in December, 1880. The arrests lead to Billy's death at the hands of Garrett in Fort Sumner, July 14, 1881. Janean is also the former secretary of BTKOG.

Jean Hancock is a rancher in the Fort Sumner community, and is a charter member of the BTKOG historical society. She acts as an advisor to historians on William Bonney's life, his associates, and his death and burial.

Last year, one of our featured guests was Michael Running Wolf from New Mexico's State Parks, who served as our Indian interpreter. Regional manager Terese Ulivarri has informed us that Michael Running Wolf will be with us again this year at the BTKOG festivities in July.



This grave marker is one of several replacements. The original was made of wood, and was promptly stolen. For years after, the grave remained unmarked.

OUTLAW GAZETTE HISTORY

Let it be known that the purpose of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang is to preserve, protect, and promote Billy the Kid/Pat Garrett history in New Mexico.

Maryln Bowlin and her husband Joe got boiling mad upon returning from Hico, Texas, late in the summer of 1987, after receiving a shocking experience — "Brushy Bill Roberts," said the town of Hico, "was really Billy the Kid, and he's buried here (in Hico)."

The day she returned, Maryln went into action, and founded the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, or BTKOG, as it is affectionately known, with help from Bob Craig, who came up with the name, and many other Fort Sumner area citizens.

Within the period of just one and one half years, over 600 members worldwide have become outlaws, so to speak, among them: former President Ronald Reagan, First Lady Barbara Bush, Illinois Governor Jim Thompson, just to name a few. The membership list also includes desperadoes from Germany, England, Thailand, and Austria.

Maryln contacted attorney Mike Wells, who obtained a non-profit corporation with tax exempt status. Bob and Barbara Craig became the editors and publishers of Volume I, numbers 1, 2, and 3, issues of excellent background of BTKOG history. All of the enthusiasm of Maryln and her friends generated an overflow of events, including a real Billy the Kid dinner for outlaw novices complete with beef stew and cornbread furnished by current president Janean Grissom as well as BTKOG floats for various Fort Sumner parades.

At the first board meeting, 21 mem-

bers were elected to the board. BTKOG members arranged Billy the Kid grave replicas and other memorabilia for distribution, including a replica tombstone presented to Washington, D.C., representative, Manuel Lujan. One of the BTKOG's more memorable moments occurred when board members Maryln Bowlin, Jean Hancock, and Janean Grissom, along with local beauty pageant participant Shelly (Lopez) Dean, drove to Hico, Texas, and poured some Stinking Springs water over Brushy Bill Roberts' grave, declaring that "this was as close as the man ever came to Stinking Springs."

Ironically, on March 5, 1988, the New Mexico Highway Department and the Economic Development and Tourism Department erected and dedicated a new state historical marker to commemorate Stinking Springs as the site where Billy and his gang members were captured. The sign, however, has been torn down and destroyed by vandals. State authorities are investigating as to who and why such destruction of federal property occurred. This historical marker was part of the Billy the Kid Historical Project plan throughout New Mexico, marking Billy's trail across the state. Could it have been Brushy Bill Roberts' revenge? The honorable Judge Bob Hefner of Hico doesn't think so, because he is a member of the BTKOG, and has already been invited to attend again this year.

If it is the work of Brushy Bill, he could be in for some real trouble, and a lot of work: there are many more markers in the works, including the Ruins of Blazers Mill, the Old Jail site in Las Vegas, the Coe Ranch, the spot deep within Lincoln National Forest where John H. Tunstall was murdered in 1878 (the main incident to start the Lincoln County War) — these are only a few of many future New Mexico Highway Department and the Economic Development and Tourism projects. At this writing, the BTKOG markers at Los Portales and Sunny Side Springs are still intact.

Billy the Kid is fast becoming one of the news media's favorite subjects, with articles featured in the *National Examiner*, the *Houston Chronicle*, *Dallas Morning News*, *El Paso Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and the *Chicago Tribune*, to name a few. And when *Albuquerque Journal* writer Larry Galloway asked BTKOG president Janean Grissom what she would do if he wrote that Billy the Kid was a "heartless, psychopathic punk," she replied, "I would poke you in the nose." Billy would be proud of such staunch defenders as Janean!!

The original enthusiasm of the group is still strong, as evidenced by the upcoming plans of BTKOG. One of the new programs is the "Adopt-A-Mile" project, designed to follow along the Billy the Kid trail — great for outlaws who want to get down to the basics. Another idea is a brochure to be published by BTKOG which will provide a clear concept of Billy's travels in New Mexico from his grade school days to the killing of his first man to his death at the hands of Sheriff Pat Garrett, and ending with the death of Garrett himself. And the proclamation of De Baca County as "Billy the Kid Country" and July 14th as "Billy the Kid/Pat Garrett Day" has helped solidify an organization that is one of the fastest-growing historical societies in the world.

BTKOG president Janean Grissom would like to thank the following members for all their hard work in making BTKOG such a success — Silver Bullets to all!!!

Chico Silva	Maryln Bowlin
Jean Hancock	Alma Emmert
Dr. E. D. Fikany	Elizabeth Canipe
Patsy Nelson	Joe Bowlin
John Eastwood	Jean Carey
H. Frank Greene	Allen Barker
Don Cline	Michael Wells
Laree Perez	Terry Brown
Bernie Huffman	La Hondze Fox
Bob Hart	Don McAlavy

LATE NEWS REPORT

Absolutely no one should miss the Caprock Ampitheatre's "Billy the Kid" historical drama near San Jon, New Mexico, just off Interstate 40. Don McAlavy, the playwright and production manager, plays the character of Bob Ollinger, and makes the drama come alive. The map on pages 8-9 shows Billy the Kid Country — note the location of Caprock. See Caprock ad in the advertising section for more information — and see you there!

WANTED: ALL BTKOG MEMBERS, AND PROSPECTIVE OUTLAWS AS WELL...

Need to know how and where to find the action? Just check the map on pages 8-9 for all the sites you'll want to see during "Billy the Kid-Pat Garrett Days" in Lincoln County, July 14-16, 1989. (Don't forget to check your pistols at the state line!!)

SILVER CITY: A-6

The Kid briefly attended school and allegedly killed his first man; thus the explosive trail of *America's Most Enduring Legend* began in this city.

By the time Billy's mother, Catherine Antrim, died in 1874, Bill had earned a gambler's reputation and developed into a fast, polished marksman with a pistol and rifle.

The cemetery has the grave of Billy's mother and is contemplating a Billy The Kid Park and recreating his boyhood home.

SEVEN RIVERS: E-5

One of the toughest, hell-bound for trouble towns in New Mexico. Since there was no authorized law in the town, it attracted the lawless from all over the Southwest. It was here, later, that the Kid banded together his first "Gang." Site now inundated by Brantley Dam waters. Museum in Artesia.

SAN PATRICIO: D-5

Established by Irish soldiers, mustered out of service in 1866. The Church of Saint Patrick was erected in the 1870's. The Kid rode from Seven Rivers to the ranch of Frank Coe, near here. He liked Frank and tried to avoid trouble.

TUNSTALL RANCH-Rio Feliz: D-5

A strong bond developed between Billy and his employer. John Tunstall, a well educated, wealthy Englishman was new to the way of life he found in the territory. A writ, on a drummed up charge, was served on Tunstall, and 30 miles from the ranch, near Glencoe, a drunken posse ambushed and killed him. Billy saw the whole affair and vowed to avenge Tunstall's brutal death.

DOWLINS MILL: in Ruidoso D-5

Learning that two gunmen were trying to find him, to avenge the death of their friend he shot in Mesilla, Billy sought safety at the mill and hid in a flour barrel until the two men departed.

Captain Paul Dowlin was killed in 1877, by one of his former employees, Jerry Dillon; however, the Legend lives on! The quaint old water wheel stands stately, in remembrance of the past.

LINCOLN: D-4

Relatively untouched by the march of time, where the drama of rival businessmen, vying for economic control, triggered the Lincoln County War.

This frontier town of the West has history creeping out of the ancient woodwork. Entire village preserved as a historic district. Museum and monuments.

BLAZERS MILL: near Mescalero D-5

A posse engaged Buckshot Roberts in battle near the Mescalero Indian Reservation. George Coe was shot in his right hand and lost his trigger finger. Dick Brewer was killed by Roberts. Federal court in Mesilla charged all of the gang with murder or accessory; however the warrants were never served.

CHISUM RANCH: near Roswell E-5

Cattle baron and government beef contractor made his headquarters into a luxurious compound. His niece, Sallie, was mistress of the house. It was a meeting place for both factions of the Lincoln County War.

BOB HARGROVE'S SALOON: E-3

Joe Grant, the bragging, swaggering drunk was killed here in Old Fort Sumner, by the Kid. Legend is, the Kid removed two cartridges from the man's pistol, and when the braggart forced Billy's hand, Joe was just another number to be added to the list.

LOS PORTALES SPRING: F-4

The Kid found a little ranch he wanted. Since the new stage line would go through near the spring, he hoped to operate a way station. This didn't materialize, but it served as one of his hideouts.



"Visit BILLY THE KID"

PATRICK FLOYD GARRETT:

Arrived in Old Fort Sumner and Roswell and was in the cattle business before becoming sheriff of Lincoln County. After election, he was in immediate pursuit of the most notorious outlaw of the Southwest. Considering the obstacles Garrett had to overcome, it is remarkable that in less than a month he lodged the Kid in jail in Santa Fe.

GREATHOUSE STAGE-STATION: near Corona D-4

Jim Greathouse, early in 1880, purchased a ranch and established a stage station 40 miles north of White Oaks. There, Billy and his gang were besieged by a posse. In an attempt to negotiate the surrender of the gang, deputy Carlyle was caught in the crossfire and killed. In retaliation, a mob burned the station down and a little later Greathouse was found dead, shot in the back.

ANTON CHICO: E-2

Once a boom town for freighters, cattlemen, sheepmen, and a hub between the many military forts of New Mexico. Billy often went to the bosque and Anton Chico.

Pat Garrett, Barney Mason and Sallie Chisum all married their respective spouses here in January, 1880.

Frank Stewart, Lee Hall, and others, sent by the Texas Cattlemen's Association, met here with Pat Garrett, and joined his posse to pursue Billy and his gang, in December, 1880.



Mileage: 1 inch equals approx. 100 miles

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"Billy The Kid"

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Mid-June to Mid-August

LAS VEGAS: E-2

A thriving western metropolis welcomed the railroad in 1879. Garrett brought Billy and his gang here to be held in jail overnight. Dave Rudabaugh had killed the jailer in April, 1880, and the townspeople had long memories; they wanted Rudabaugh hanged. Leaving Rudabaugh, the next day Garrett loaded his prisoners in a railcar and shipped them to Santa Fe.

SANTA FE: C-2

Territorial capital and home of the infamous Santa Fe Ring. Billy was held in jail for three months awaiting completion of the railroad to Mesilla. Governor Lew Wallace failed to make any contact with the Kid concerning his previous offer of amnesty.

OLD MESILLA: B-6

Sheltered the Kid many times. One day while leaving Gower's Bar, a brawler challenged the Kid and it took only two shots to be rid of the antagonist. Court ruling? Self defense. The Kid returned some years later to be tried for the murder of Sheriff Brady. The sentence; to be hanged until dead in Lincoln Town on May 13, 1881. Escape denied that hanging date.

OLD FORT SUMNER: Sites, Billy's Real Grave E-3

On U.S. 60-84, between mile post 330 and 331, go south 3½ miles on Billy The Kid Road. Walk where the gunfighters, soldiers and Indians walked and relive the past.

See the tombstone that marks the real grave. This was stolen in 1950. For 26 years it remained a mystery until Joe Bowlin recovered it from Granbury, Texas. The marker was reset in a ceremony by the N.M. State Tourist Director and bound with iron shackles, as seen on CBS, Paul Harvey, and other news media; only to be stolen again and taken to California. It has been retrieved and back in place at Billy's feet. See the stone marking the graves of Billy The Kid and his "Pals" Charlie Bowdre and Tom O'Folliard; and the site of the Maxwell House, where Pat Garrett shot and killed Billy The Kid in the darkened bedroom. Billy died as he had lived. The Old Fort Sumner Museum and Monument are near the authentic Grave site of Billy The Kid.

ROSWELL and the Irrigation Project: E-5

Owning a large tract of land on the Hondo River four miles below Roswell, Garrett began his holdings, building a home and acquiring a large number of cattle and fine horses.

Through his efforts, an irrigation ditch was built which took its supply of water from the Hondo and distributed it over what was then an arid plain for miles around. A rapid succession of others followed with their schemes until the entire valley became fertile farms.

EL PASO, Texas: C-6

After several months of political battles between Texas and President Teddy Roosevelt, on January 6, 1902, the Senate's first order of business was to confirm the appointment of Patrick Floyd Garrett as Collector of Customs. Garrett held this office for four years before politics again became violent, and Garrett was replaced.

Organ Mountains: DEATH OF GARRETT C-6

The leasing of Garrett's Bear Canyon Ranch was the final controversy in Pat's life. Cattle and horses, was the "verbal agreement"; however, Wayne Brazel chose to run "Goats" which were an anathema to Garrett. On February 29, 1908, Brazel burst into the sheriff's office in Las Cruces, exclaiming; "Lock me up. I've just killed Pat Garrett!!!"

**BILLY THE KID
OUTLAW GANG**

PUERTO de LUNA: near Santa Rosa E-3

Alexander-Grzelachowski set up a mercantile business and became alcalde, postmaster, wool buyer and rancher He gave his clerks to understand that Billy The Kid was not to be denied ammunition and supplies whenever he wanted them. Pat Garrett went there often, in hopes of trapping Billy and his gang. Puerto became the county seat, but was short lived, as the railroad bypassed and Santa Rosa was born.

The church, "Our Lady of Refuge," is fascinating with its quasi-Byzantine dome, and its moorish shaped windows showing the French Padre influence.

STINKING SPRINGS: near Taiban F-3

In December 1880, Billy The Kid, Dave Rudabaugh, Billy Wilson, Charlie Bowdre, Tom Picket, and two horses for warmth, holed up in the abandoned rock house. Three horses were tied to the vigas outside the door. Pat Garrett and posse tracked the gang here before morning, split up and surrounded the house. At day break, Bowdre stepped out and was killed. Billy tried to pull another horse in but Garrett shot and it fell dead in the door, eliminating any further attempt to escape. Garrett sent to Brazil ranch for feed for the horses and food for the men. Freezing bodies and craving stomachs overcame brave hearts, so Billy and the gang surrendered. They were fed and taken to Old Fort Sumner, where they were bound and shackled. This surrender eventually led to Billy's death.



The Lincoln jail where Billy the Kid escaped, killing two deputies named Bell and Ollinger.

EDITORIAL

UNSOLVED MYSTERY, OR TEXAS HOAX?

Many of our members no doubt watched the TV program "Unsolved Mysteries" a few months ago wherein it depicted an old man named Brushy Bill Roberts, who claimed he was the *real* Billy the Kid. Further, a noted historian presented the legend as a true story, citing factual evidence that Brushy Bill was indeed the genuine Billy the Kid. It made a good story, and apparently made the TV studios a lot of money, but what was the real purpose and background of this old coot?

On November 30, 1950, Brushy Bill traveled to Sante Fe to seek his pardon from the Governor for the killing of Sheriff William Brady at Lincoln, New Mexico, on April 1, 1878. Governor Mabry, a well-versed historian and expert on Lincoln County history, met with him, although it wasn't a private meeting. Several people were informed of the meeting, including newspaper reporters and historians, and even Sheriff Pat Garrett's two sons, Oscar and Jarvis. All in all, a large crowd was in attendance to hear the old criminal in his seeking of a pardon for his crime. The Governor invited him into his dining room, and the elderly outlaw hobbled in, using a cane, and sat at the table.

The questions came, at first, in Spanish, which the old man could not speak or understand. From the beginning,

Brushy Bill was confused, with little, if any, conception or facts about the Lincoln County War. He nervously gave his name as Ollie Roberts, and he testified he was born in Buffalo Gap, Taylor County, Texas, later moving to New Mexico at the age of 14, where he lived with his aunt, Mrs. Antrim, in Silver City. He said he knew nothing about the Lincoln County War, and, although asking pardon for the crime itself, said he did not know who shot Sheriff Brady.

He was also completely unaware of the killing of the two guards at the Lincoln County jail, although he claimed he was in chains at the time, and he recalled some shooting going on but did not know who did it. Brushy Bill continued with his testimony, saying that some friend helped him escape and that he stole a horse from the county clerk and made his getaway.

Brushy Bill claimed he knew John Chisum only slightly, and that he had never stolen any cattle. Furthermore, he said that he was unaware where the Chisum Ranch was located. He claimed he only helped other men recover their

cattle — "it was dog-eat-dog in those days."

Brushy Bill knew Pete Maxwell and his sister, but could not remember her name. He further claimed he didn't recall where Fort Sumner was located. But when the crowd asked for details of what happened on the night of July 14, 1881, Brushy Bill replied that he was asked to go to Pete Maxwell's house for some meat. Suspecting a trick, Brushy Bill sent Drunken Billy Barlow, who was shot by Pat Garrett. Brushy then said he ran out into the yard, and was shot in the head. Some women dragged him into their house and dressed his wounds. He then escaped toward the Mexican border. End of Brushy Bill's testimony. And 28 days later, Brushy Bill died.

To summarize and compare, let's review the facts as the court records and newspapers reveal:

1. All court records show Billy the Kid was born in New York, November 29, 1859.
2. Catherine Antrim was Billy's mother, not his aunt.
3. Billy could speak excellent Spanish.
4. Billy was the leader of the McSween faction in the Lincoln County War.
5. The murder of Sheriff William Brady was the crime Billy was charged with which caused his incarceration in the Lincoln County jail.
6. Billy was the one who shot the two guards, Bob Ollinger and James Bell, when he made his escape from the Lincoln County jail.
7. It was rancher John Chisum for whom Billy the Kid worked, and the primary reason he was fired was because he stole Chisum's cattle.
8. Fort Sumner was where Billy the Kid lived, and it was Pete Maxwell's sister, Paulita, that the Kid was keeping company with.

In conclusion, just why did Brushy Bill Roberts seek a pardon for something he knew nothing about? What was his motive? The solution is easy — Brushy Bill knew that the *real* Billy the Kid was alive and well and living in Chicago under the alias of Frank Greene. Brushy Bill died a martyr — may he rest in peace.

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OUTLAW GANG UNVEILS PLANS FOR '89 CELEBRATION, HISTORICAL MARKERS

The Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang plans to celebrate its popular Billy the Kid-Pat Garrett Historical Days in Lincoln County this summer.

The gang, whose inaugural festival a year ago attracted about 1,000 overnight tourists to Ft. Sumner, will hold the event in the villages of Ruidoso and nearby Lincoln, on July 14-16.

"We're really excited about the celebration this year," exclaimed Janean Grissom, President of the 600-member nonprofit regional tourism promotion organization. "Ruidoso's chamber of commerce and tourism industry together with the Lincoln County Heritage Trust approached us last Fall about hosting the event this year. They've thrown their support behind us. We would have loved to have held it again in Old Fort Sumner, but we simply had a better offer."

Among the planned festivities on Friday, July 14, will be a gang-sanctioned quarterhorse or thoroughbred blanket race at Ruidoso Downs, the dedication of the John H. Tunstall ambush site historical marker, and the gang's annual membership meeting. Scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, July 15-16, are the Stinking Springs Cookoff, and the Billy the Kid-Pat Garrett-Susan McSween-Deluvina Maxwell Lookalike Contest.

The membership meeting will be held at the Flying J Ranch, eight miles north of Ruidoso. The meeting will coincide with the ranch's popular Chuckwagon Supper and Western Show. The nightly supper and show are open to the public. The cookoff and lookalike contest will be held in Lincoln, 32 miles northeast of Ruidoso.

Grissom also noted that three new state historical markers will be installed this summer about historic sites important in the lives of the Kid and Garrett.

"One is the Whiskey Jim Greathouse Ranch site near Corona," the Taiban rancher explained. "The one about the Tunstall ambush site is near Glencoe, about 15 miles east of Ruidoso. That's where we'll dedicate the marker. The third is the Garrett murder site near Las Cruces."

The Greathouse Ranch was the scene of a shootout between the Kid and his companions and a pursuing Sheriff's posse in November, 1880, in which Deputy Jim Carlyle was shot and killed. The Kid and his gang escaped.

The Tunstall ambush in February, 1878, touched off the bloody Lincoln County War. Tunstall, an Englishman and local rancher, was fatally wounded while he and his men were driving a herd of horses to Lincoln. The Kid was among those men.

Garrett, the Lincoln County Sheriff who gained fame for having shot and killed the Kid in Old Fort Sumner in July, 1881, was found shot to death in February, 1908. His killer was never found.

Grissom also touched upon several other related developments in 1989.

She said that the Lincoln County Heritage Trust is funding a high-tech project to learn more about the Kid. Los Alamos National Laboratory consultant Tom Kyle of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and nationally renowned forensic pathologist Clyde Snow of Norman, Oklahoma, will improve the image of the only known authentic photograph of the Kid, and compare it to several other photographs that claim to be of him.

"That should put to rest once and for all that the Kid really was shot and killed by Garrett in 1881," Grissom explained.

"At the same time, it should end the controversy about Ollie Roberts."

Roberts, also known as "Brushy Bill", claimed to be the Kid. He died in Hico, Texas, in 1950.

She also noted that *Young Guns*, the Western film featuring Emilio Estevez, Charlie Sheen, Lou Diamond Phillips and other "Brat Pack" stars, was the 23rd highest grossing film in the country last year. *Young Guns*, which was filmed in New Mexico, was the 41st film in Hollywood history that featured the character of Billy the Kid. According to *Film Variety Magazine*, it grossed \$19.5 million.

John Fusco, who wrote the script, has been commissioned to write the sequel.

Grissom also announced that the gang has published a new tourism promotion brochure about the Kid and Garrett. The brochure, entitled *The Billy the Kid & Pat Garrett Trail*, links together specific historic sites in New Mexico that were important in the lives of the Kid and Garrett.

"For the first time, Old West fans will be able to follow in their footsteps," she added. "They can travel to a few of them during the course of a weekend, or to all of them over a period of several days. The availability of the brochure should provide a big boost for the tourism industry, especially to some of the smaller communities."

For a copy of the brochure, Grissom asked people to send \$2 and a 25-cent stamped, self-addressed business envelope to the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, Inc., P.O. Box 1881, Taiban, New Mexico 88134 (505/355-2555).

Annual memberships in the gang are just \$10 per year (\$14 in Canada). New members receive complimentary license plates (as long as the current supply lasts). New and renewed memberships receive copies of the gang's quarterly newsletter, the *Outlaw Gazette*.

1989 BILLY THE KID/PAT GARRETT DAYS SCHEDULE RUIDOSO DOWNS AND LINCOLN, NM

Friday, July 14 — US Highway 70, near Glencoe

- 9:00—
12:00 a.m. Guided tours to site; high clearance vehicles recommended
- 1:00 p.m. TUNSTALL MURDER SITE HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
- 5:00 p.m. Ruidoso Downs Racetrack, Ruidoso Downs, "A UNIQUE HORSE RACE"
est.
- 6:30 p.m. Flying J Ranch, Ruidoso (BTKOG HQ for day)
MEMBERSHIP MEETING (CHUCKWAGON DINNER AND WESTERN SHOW)

Saturday, July 15 — Lincoln, NM

- 3:00—
6:00 p.m. STINKING SPRINGS STEW COOKOFF
(\$10.00 entry fee; limited to 21 contestants; event behind Montano Store)
- 6:00 p.m. COOKOFF JUDGING
- 6:30—
8:00 p.m. WESTERN MUSIC SHOW (Larry Buchanan, Caprock)
(\$3.00 adults, \$1.00 children)
Event at pageant grounds, next to Old Courthouse
- 8:15 p.m. BTKOG SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION
- 8:30—
10:00 p.m. BTK MOVIE (to be announced)

Sunday, July 16 — Lincoln, NM

- 3:00 p.m. BILLY THE KID PRESENTATION (Caprock Theater Group
Event at pageant grounds, next to Old Courthouse)
- 4:00 p.m. LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST — BILLY THE KID, PAT GARRETT,
DELUVINA MAXWELL, SUSAN McSWEEN (\$5.00 entry fee)
- 5:00 p.m. CHILDREN'S LOOK-ALIKE CONTEST (no entry fee)

JULY 15-16: NM State Parks Interpreter MICHAEL RUNNINGWOLF
time and place in Lincoln to be announced

For additional information or changes, please contact: BTKOG, Box 1881, Taiban, NM or Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce, Box 698 Ruidoso, NM 88345, PH: (505) 257-7395

IN RETROSPECT

On June 26, 1926, the *New Mexico State Tribune* published a number of old timer's versions and viewpoints about Billy the Kid's last days, his death, funeral, and burial at Old Fort Sumner where he was killed in Pete Maxwell's ranch house, July, 1881. Following are a few of their published statements some 45 years after his death.

C. W. Foor "There need be no further controversy concerning this matter as there are numerous people yet living in this community who knew Billy the Kid intimately in life and viewed him in death and witnessed his funeral. I have lived here 44 years and know the facts of his life and death. Billy the Kid lies buried in an old abandoned cemetery near Old Fort Sumner, eight miles south of the present town of Fort Sumner. Respectfully, C. W. Foor, Fort Sumner, New Mexico."

J. V. Stearns *Tribune* reporter, in an interview with two daughters of Lucien B. Maxwell, Mrs. Odellia Maxwell Abreu and Mrs. Paulita Maxwell Jaramillo, along with Jesus Silva, one of the coroners, and Frank Lovato, who dug the Kid's grave: "Mrs. Abreu pointed out the Kid's grave, just inside of the old and now fallen adobe wall of the ancient burying ground of the old fort. Ten feet away are the graves of (sic) Tom O'Phallion and Charley Bowery (claimed Jesus Silva and Frank Lovato), and further both (sic) O'Phallion and Bowery were killed by peace officers near the old fort site."

"There is living at the old Maxwell home, which is about half a mile from the site of the old fort, an aged Navajo woman Deluvina now over 80 years of age. A friend of Billy the Kid, often doing his washing, she was present in the house on the night Garrett shot the Kid, and attended his funeral the next day."

Mrs. Odellia Maxwell Abreu "On the night the Kid was killed, Pat Garrett and two deputies came to the old fort, or more properly speaking, to the Maxwell



Old Fort Sumner Cemetery is about 7 miles south-southeast of present Fort Sumner Township.

home, looking for the Kid to capture him. The deputies were left outside on watch while Garrett went inside to talk to Pete. Garrett was sitting on the side of the bed, talking to Pete, questioning him about the Kid. The room was in darkness as a lamp had not been lighted. In the meantime, as the day was hot, the Kid had hobbled his horse and started to Maxwell's house to get a piece of meat to cook for his supper. With his boots slung over his shoulder and in bare feet, he walked through the sand making no noise. He stepped into Pete's room, and sensed that someone else was there, and spoke "Quien es?" (who is it?). As the Kid spoke, he began backing toward the fireplace. Garrett fired two shots guided only by the sound of the Kid's voice. The Kid dropped to the floor and Garrett broke and ran for the outside. Later a light was brought and it was found that Billy the Kid had been killed instantly."

Coroner's Verdict "The next morning a coroner's jury was formed and the jury's verdict was that Billy the Kid had come to his death at the hands of Pat Garrett, while resisting arrest."

J. V. Stearns The reporter continued his report with the grave where Billy was buried: "Only a few families remain buried at the old cemetery. Among them are Pete Maxwell and Manuel Abreu. The grave of Billy the Kid is unmarked (1926) and only the old timers know its exact location, and but a few of them will care to point it out. The reason they give is so much 'bunk' has been written about the Kid they do not care to have a hand in starting another "history saga" or some such named mess."

B. S. Rodey "I knew the late Patrick F. Garrett, the sheriff that killed Billy. I

knew John W. Poe, who was at Fort Sumner at the time and he never said anything contrary to Billy's death. I traveled about a thousand miles with Garrett in my first campaign for Congress and naturally I learned to know him well. I have never heard it doubted that the Kid was killed as reported before. The Kid was of a character that could not be alive and the public during all these years not know it."

Frank Coe When asked what he thought of the "Billy Controversy," said: "That is all newspaper talk. The Kid was killed by Pat Garrett."

Rosalio Baldonado The county jailer said, "of course he is dead. My father was present at the shooting and he knew Billy well. There could have been no mistake."

The people who came forward in 1926 to tell their stories had never heard of Brushy Bill Roberts, and now, some 63 years later, we are still engulfed in the legends and sagas surrounding the Billy the Kid story. It seems Louis L'Amour knew what he was talking about. But there is another version from *National Geographic* Smithsonian Institution expeditions, led by Neil M. Judd, 1920-1927, that has never been talked about, concerning the legend of Billy escaping to Mexico after being shot: "Billy was killed all right," Mark Sloan of Lincoln replied in his laconic drawl of the New Mexico range country. "Pat Garrett was too smart to go after Billy with only a pistol. He had a shotgun, and that's a fact, because our neighbor Lorenzo Spitz, whose father went over to see the body, told me his father said the Kid was not only dead but you could of throwed a hat through him." A new twist of the legend?

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO?...

...The rest of Billy's gang after his death? Here's the lowdown:

Dave Rudabaugh went into Arizona to rustle cattle... later caught, he served time in Tombstone... escaped to Mexico, where he made the fatal mistake of underestimating the Mexicans... killed by a Mexican mob after killing one of their own... his severed head was placed upon a pole, and his headless body was buried with the head thrown in after it... dead February 23, 1886.

Tom Pickett also went to Arizona... worked on the Hash Knife Ranch... married Catherine Kelly who died in childbirth... the deeply affected Pickett

reformed, and received a full pardon... became a Deputy Marshall in Nevada... went back to the Hash Knife... lost a leg due to many injuries sustained in fights... died at Pine Top, Arizona, May, 1934, at the age of 76... buried in Winslow, Arizona.

Billy Wilson was convicted of forgery... escaped from jail, fled to Texas... reformed, got married, started a family... with Pat Garrett's influence, received a full pardon from President Grover Cleveland on July 24, 1896... Wilson became sheriff of Terrell County, Texas... was killed tragically in the line of duty, June 14, 1918.



Alexander McSween. Courtesy Fulton Collection, University of Arizona Library Archives.

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THE LINCOLN COUNTY WAR

The encounter known as the Lincoln County War had been simmering some time before Pat Garrett wandered into its path. The Lincoln County War was a struggle for economic power between two groups known as the Murphy-Dolan faction and the McSween-Tunstall-Chisum group. The territory became polarized with the citizens forced to align themselves with either one or the other of the two groups.

In the mid-1860's, John Simpson Chisum rode into New Mexico from Texas and established a ranch at Bosque Grand (Big Grove) some 40 miles south of Fort Sumner. After five years, he located a new ranch five miles south of Roswell and called it the South Springs Ranch. Although he suffered from cattle rustlers and thieves, Chisum was a shrewd and manipulating businessman, and he became the largest cattle baron in the Pecos Valley. His ranches grew fast, and most of the cattle in the valley were branded with the Jinglebob, Chisum's notable brand.

The Murphy-Dolan group was headed by a former Army officer named Major Lawrence G. Murphy, and his partners James Dolan and his two friends, John

Riley and Emil Fritz. The Murphy-Dolan group had aligned themselves with a politically corrupt group known as the Sante Fe Ring, lead by politician Thomas B. Catron. Murphy had been discharged from his Army post by his commanding officer for dishonest dealing, but soon after his discharge, he was up to his old tricks, using bribes and lending money to Army personnel. He quickly became the Army source for beef and provision supplies through his crooked schemes. Most of the beef he supplied to the Army was stolen from John Chisum, which intensified the hatred already brewing.

John Chisum's other two partners were Alexander A. McSween, a young lawyer from Atchison, Kansas, and John H. Tunstall, a wealthy young man from England. McSween and his young wife had left their home in Kansas for the developing territory of New Mexico. John Tunstall's father, John Partridge Tunstall, was the owner of one of England's powerful mercantile companies. Young John had come to America on business for his father, and decided to stay. With his father's financial backing, he became a small rancher on the Penasco and the

Rio Feliz.

McSween, upon arriving in New Mexico from Kansas, first worked as a lawyer for Murphy, but soon realized Murphy was a cattle rustler, and he quickly parted company with Murphy's group. John Chisum just as quickly hired him, and thus discovered who was stealing his cattle.

Soon after McSween joined Chisum, he met John Tunstall, and both being English, became fast friends. Tunstall became a partner with Chisum and McSween, and now the stage was set for the Lincoln County War to begin.

John Tunstall had studied the situation in Lincoln, and decided that he could apply his knowledge of the mercantile business to his advantage as a partner with Chisum and McSween. He reasoned that a new, well-financed, completely stocked store with a reputation for fairness would be a successful venture. McSween and Chisum both liked the idea, and even added a bank to the store with Chisum money. The McSween-Tunstall-Chisum group soon became the leading cattle merchandising and banking business in Lincoln, and began cutting into the Murphy-Dolan group's pocket, including challenging them for supply contracts.

Murphy soon realized that to continue to successfully rustle Chisum's cattle, he needed to hire an organized band of outlaws to carry it out. Fortunately for him, there were several organized bands roaming New Mexico, the most notable of which was headed by Jesse Evans and called "the banditti." It was soon common knowledge that Evans was an associate of James J. Dolan.

Chisum now knew he must also hire young guns to protect his cattle empire. He quickly hired a group of gunfighters that he could depend on to stop the Murphy-Dolan group, one of whom was a young, bucktoothed kid named William Bonney, better known as Billy the Kid. Bonney quickly took to John Tunstall, whose Christian influence and Bible readings to Billy helped to overcome much of the Kid's insecurity. At Tunstall's urging, Billy tried to become a better citizen, and worked hard to become a good cowhand and obedient employee.

Although John Chisum was in a large measure involved in the Lincoln County War, he did not participate in it. He never carried a rifle or pistol during the entire period, and greatly depended upon his hired guns to keep his cattle from being stolen.

And then the Murphy-Dolan group made a big mistake. They instructed one of their crooked cohorts, a sheriff named William Brady, to deputize the outlaw Jesse Evans and his gang, with the group acting under sheriff Brady. This lawless gang ambushed and murdered the unarmed John Tunstall, and the war became bloody. Billy, with his idol and mentor Tunstall slain, swore to kill all the outlaws involved, sheriff Brady included. This, he did, including Brady. The Lincoln County War, now the throes of agony and hate, cost many lives on both sides: McSween was slain by the Murphy-Dolan group, along with many of the gunfighters for both groups. In fact, so many lives were lost, the U.S. Government had to intervene. To aid in ending the feud, even the territorial Governor had to be replaced: the governor at the time, Axtell, used his high-handedness and favoritism to the advantage of the Murphy-Dolan group, which proved to be his downfall. Lew Wallace, a former Civil War general, was Axtell's replacement, and he took immediate

action. Governor Wallace issued a proclamation to the people of the U.S., and New Mexico in particular, which said in part: "To induce them to lay aside forever the divisions and feuds . . . proclaim a general pardon for misdemeanors and offenses in the said county." As both sides were well worn down by this time, they agreed upon a peace parlay.

By now, Billy the Kid had not been paid any wages for almost two years, and he approached John Chisum for the remuneration of his back wages. Chisum refused to pay Billy, and Billy took recourse, rustling Chisum's cattle to get his pay. Chisum turned against his former employee, and arranged to have Billy jailed, using his influential friends to elect Pat Garrett as sheriff and trump up charges even though Billy had been pardoned by the Governor along with the rest of the Lincoln County War participants. The charge was for killing the crooked sheriff Brady, and sheriff Pat Garrett killed Billy the Kid in an attempt to capture him. The Lincoln County War was finally at its end.

WANTED... MEMBER NEWS

All of our BTKOG members are special — that goes without saying, since outlaws always stick together. But maybe you know something particularly special about a fellow member: an honor bestowed, an unusual occupation, a timely trip taken to discover more about the old West, or just someone or something notable. Share it with your fellow members! Just send any all such information to: Bonnie Greene, Editor, 4125 W. Washington Boulevard, Hillside, IL 60162, to see you fellow members in print.

OLD FORT MUSEUM

Site of Billy the Kid's Real Grave
3½ mi. south on Billy the Kid Road
Old Fort Sumner, New Mexico

BILLY THE KID FAN BRINGS BILLY TO LIFE



Jim Easterbrook

Mr. Jim Easterbrook of Colorado Springs, Colorado, is an actor, published author, cowboy historian, and stunt man for many action films. Jim also presents a Billy the Kid one-man show which he authored throughout the U.S. and Canada, making an appearance at the BTKOG's first rendezvous last

year at Fort Sumner. As Jim claims: "I just want to keep a period of history from being forgotten."

Jim's fascination with Billy the Kid goes back a long way, from stories related to him by his grandfather, who personally knew Billy and his companions. Jim's grandfather was only a boy of ten and living in Santa Rosa, New Mexico in 1878 when the Kid came through town.

Easterbrook is presently touring colleges and cities with his one-man play, "Spirit of the West," a story of the turbulent Lincoln County War in which he portrays Billy the Kid in the first act. In the second act, Easterbrook is Pat Garrett, and he tells the tale from Garrett's point of view.

Jim has written two Western books, had numerous articles published, and has completed a manuscript on — what else? — Billy the Kid.

Jim is a college graduate, did a hitch in the Air Force as an officer, and was a regional vice-president in a large Florida corporation until he realized he was only a "misplaced cowboy," and became a teacher to stuntment in California. Easterbrook has appeared in such movies as "The Long Riders," "Legend of the Lone Ranger," "Dutchess," "Dirt Water Fox," and "The Train Robbers," to name a few. And, most importantly, Jim is also a BTKOG member!!!



John Simpson Chisum, Cattle Baron

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Vol. I



This cover of a "Five-Center" novel was published in August, 1881, only one month after Billy's death. Research shows the author knew about Billy and his lifestyle and physical features. Here it shows Billy as right-handed, as Billy really was. A large number of published articles showing Billy with his rifle in his right hand and his pistol on the left side were, in fact, copies of a reversed negative. This error misled many writers to believe Billy was left-handed: remember the movie, "The Left-Handed Gun"?