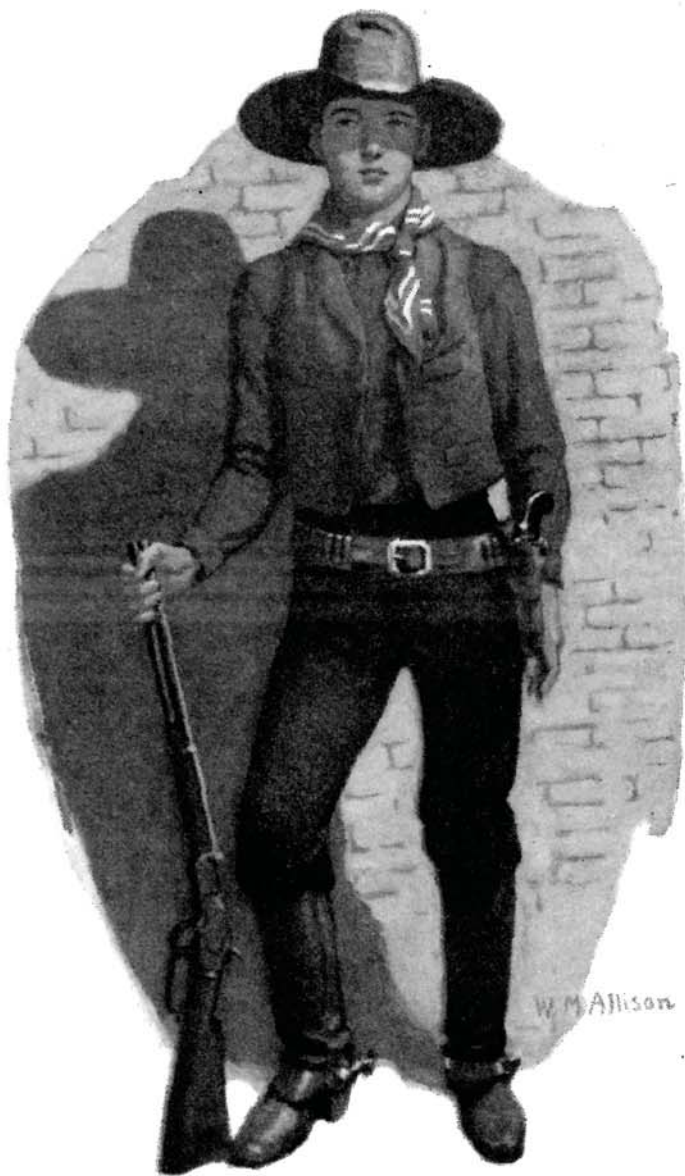


*The* **OUTLAW  
GAZETTE**



*Dedicated to Frederick Nolan*

Volume XIII - Published by the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, Inc. - November 2000



**Above:** It to rt: Bob "Doc" Sproull, Wes Owens, & Ron Hadley, taking care of Outlaw Gang stuff.



Lt to rt: Terry Story, Dene Hagen, Don McAlavy, and Dannie Vinning, debating finer points in the famous Stinking Springs Stew Cookoff Contest. Terry's stew won!



Dene Hagen and his secret ingredients.

**Top row:** It to rt: Carol Hesseling cowchip toss; below Carol is roper Lucas Speer; Gentlemen Outlaws: Manny Portillo, Joe Hesseling, Kirk King, Stan Wright, Doc Albersmeyer; B. J. Vinning little cowboy.

**Second row:** Bert Garcia at debate; three western women: Kathy McAlavy, Carolyn Allen, and Carol Hesseling; Stinking Springs stew for dinner, on right Bob Logue; entertainers at campfire: Wayne Buchanan, Cory Williams, and Jill Buchanan Nixon.

**Bottom row:** Kirk King, Arizona Kim King, and Stan Wright; The Valdezes: Jannay, Gabby, Lisa, and Austin; The kid winners are: Brittany, Blake, Eric, Bert, Geisha, Faithy, Dallas, Gabby, Austin, Casey, B. J., Patrick, Irene; and bottom right photo is of Faithy Portillo and her father Manny Portillo in background. **All photos courtesy of Joe Micalizzi, independent film producer, Calif.**



(Go to inside back cover for more photos.)

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The words of the contributors of articles are their own, and not necessarily supported or verified by BTKOG, in their use as to accuracy. Members of BTKOG have a right to speak their piece. - Editor

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**Editor's  
Comments**

To our members and other readers  
having an interest in Billy the Kid  
and the Lincoln County War . . .

This 13th annual issue of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang's *The Outlaw Gazette* is dedicated to **Frederick Nolan**, the absolute authority today on Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County War. Being on the leading edge of research into all facets of the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid, his support of the *Outlaw Gazette* is that much more meaningful to this editor.

Some of the articles herein are credited to some of the old time researchers and authors on Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County, such as:

**William H. Keleher**  
**Norman Cleaveland**  
**Jack Hull**  
**Fred Egloff\***  
**Rose P. White**

(\*Four of the five above are deceased. Don't know Fred Egloff's age, but I would guess he's older than Frederick Nolan and myself, maybe. Don't know if he wrote about the Lincoln County War or its participants or not. I imagine he will tell me.)

I first learned about Billy the Kid from William H. Keleher's 1957 *Violence in Lincoln County 1869-1881*, then read Frazier Hunt's 1956 *The Tragic Days of Billy the Kid*, and then Edwin Corle's 1953 *Billy the Kid*. I based the *Billy the Kid* outdoor musical-drama I wrote in 1986 on these three books. As newer books came out with newer research I kept updating my play each year it was produced. I never got to the point though that I wrote in a part for Brushy Bill. Shucks!

Lucas Speer's piece on the truth of Brushy Bill is a good read. His website is also a good one to see. He will be helping upgrade the BTKOG website soon.

Editor Don McAlavy  
[dmcalavy@plateautel.net](mailto:dmcalavy@plateautel.net)

**The Painting on the cover . . .**

The painting on the cover was done by **W. M. Allison** for the 1927 book *Pat F. Garrett's Authentic Life of Billy the Kid*, edited by **Maurice Garland Fulton**.

# FIRST BLOOD:

## Another Look At The KILLING Of "WINDY" CAHILL.

*History and photos courtesy of Frederick Nolan*

Built in 1873 at an initial cost of \$18,000 (a further \$25,000 was allocated a year later to furnish the post), Fort Grant, Arizona, was designed to accommodate three companies of cavalry and one of infantry. Situated at an altitude of 3,985 feet, in the towering shadow of 10,516 foot Mt. Graham, the 42,341-acre reservation was declared by an executive order dated April 17, 1876, published as General Order No. 17, Dept. of Arizona, 1876.

By that time, clinging to the southeastern border of the military reservation like a small child hanging on to its mother's skirt, was a then-unnamed settlement (it did not become Bonita until 1887, but is referred to by that name for convenience) with perhaps at its peak a transient population of one thousand souls. It consisted of two buildings actually on the military reservation – a four-roomed adobe called the Hotel de Luna operated by notary public and justice of the peace Miles Leslie Wood, and the building that housed post sutlers Norton & Stewart – and, maybe half a mile to the south and west down one of the half dozen or so wagon trails emanating from the Fort, a further scatter of buildings that included Milton McDowell's store, an adobe *cantina* owned by George Atkins, Lou Elliott's dance hall and a blacksmith shop operated by ex-infantryman Frank Cahill. Four or five hundred yards away on the east side of Grant Creek and near the Tucson trail was a brothel run by George McKittrick; the soldiers who were its main clientele called it "The Hog Ranch," which speaks volumes about the pleasures to be found inside.

Today, apart from the Bonita Store (originally McDowell's), a huge barn of a place with fifteen foot high ceilings, every one of those buildings is gone: only a few scattered stones here, or a half-buried footing over there, indicate where they once stood. They, and every single one of the men and women who lived and worked in them would probably be completely forgotten today had it not been for one single event: the arrival there in the spring of 1876, of a teenage fugitive from Silver City justice who went by the name of "Kid" Antrim.

"[He] came to Bonita about April 19," wrote Miles Wood, who owned the Hotel de Luna. "[H]e worked for a few days for [me] but he got to running with a gang of rustlers [here] this place was the headquarters of the gang." Although perhaps no more than sixteen years of age, the Kid was already a practicing, if not very successful, gambler, a probability underlined by the fact that soon after his arrival at Bonita, as noted by Miles Wood, he went into the horse stealing business with a young ex-soldier known as Johnny Mackie.

Born John R. McAkey in Glasgow, Scotland, on July 21, 1849, Mackie (the name also ap-

pears on company registers as Mackay) had been a 14-year-old schoolboy when he enlisted as a musician in the 1st P.H.B. Maryland Volunteers [later part of the 13th Maryland Infantry]. Captured at Harper's Ferry on September 15, 1862, just a couple of months after his enlistment there, and paroled the same day, he was sent to Alexandria, Va., from which place he deserted in January 1863. Discharged at Baltimore May 29, 1865, he dropped out of

would steal the saddles and saddle blankets from the horses and occasionally they would take the horses and hide them out until they got a chance to dispose of them. A Lt [Lieutenant] and a doctor from the Fort came down they said they would see that no one took their horses so they had a long Pick[e]t rope they carried the end of the rope in their hands and went to the bar inside. Macky talked to the officers while Billy cut the ropes from the horses and



**Site of Billy's first killing: On right is a horse trough and between it and the camera is a faint line which marks the footing of the wall of the Atkins' saloon. Photo made 1999.**

sight for a few years before re-enlisting in Company G of the 6th Cavalry at Harrisburg, Pa. December 30, 1871, and being posted to Fort Richardson, Texas.

He had also seen service in Kansas and New Mexico before coming to Arizona and was still in uniform when on Sunday, September 19, 1874, in McDowell's saloon in Bonita, he shot and badly wounded one T. R. Knox in a dispute over cards. Arrested and confined in the military guardhouse, Mackie stood trial on October 2, and was acquitted on grounds of self defense. His military career ended shortly thereafter and he was discharged at Camp Grant, Arizona on January 4, 1876. Dark-complected, with dark hair and hazel eyes, he was a little runt of a guy, only five feet tall, but sharp as a tack and a smart talker.

"Soldiers would come from Fort Grant to visit the saloons and dance Houses here," Miles Wood recorded. "Billy and his chum Macky

run off] with the horses leaving the officers holding the pieces of rope. The Q[uar]ter M[aster: Capt. Gilbert Cole Smith] came to me and I issued warrants for the two of them, but they had gone to Globe, so I sent the warrants to Globe. The constable [at Globe] arrested Billy but he gave the slip to the constable and got away. He arrested Billy again and started down to Grant with him [but] when he arrived at Cedar Springs [at the southern end of Eagle Pass] Billy escaped again."

On November 17, 1876, although his commanding officer Major Charles Elmer Compton had promulgated an order placing the Hog Ranch off limits to soldiers, First Sergeant Louis C. Hartman, 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, decided to take a chance and sample its delights. When he came out, his horse, saddle, bridle and blanket – estimated worth \$150 – were gone. Knowing he would be held personally responsible for the loss, Hartman reported the theft to his C.O., who directed the sergeant to raise a detachment of

four men and pursue the thief or thieves. They caught up with Kid Antrim riding the stolen horse near Globe City on November 25; lacking warrants they could not arrest him, but they reclaimed the horse, and left the Kid afoot. If they hoped that would put an end to his thieving, however, they were sadly deceived.

On February 10, 1877, the Kid and Mackie stole three army horses at Cottonwood Springs; they belonged to Company F, Camp Thomas. That did it: six days later, First Sergeant Hartman appeared before justice of the peace Wood to swear a complaint against "Henry Antrim, alias Kid" for the theft of his horse and its accouterments the preceding November. "I issued warrants," Wood recalled. "I sent an old man, a constable down to arrest the boys. He came back and said he could not find them. I sent him down three times, but he always said he could not find them. I knew he did not want to find them."

Just a few days later, on March 25, Miles Wood was looking out of the window of his Hotel de Luna when he saw the Kid and Mackie coming his way. "I told the waiter I would wait on them myself," he said. "I had the breakfast for the two placed on a large waiter [tray] and I carried it in to them. I shoved the platter on the table in front of them and pulled a six gun from under it and told them to put up their hands and then to go straight out the door."

Two and three quarter miles up the long straight road leading to the Fort he marched the discomfited thieves at gunpoint; there, they were thrown into the guardhouse, a shaky-sounding 12-foot high building made of overlapping boards standing upright in a foundation of stone and mud mortar with a dirt floor and a wood shingle roof. Just to be on the safe side, Wood arranged for the prisoners to be shackled by the local blacksmith, Frank Cahill, known to everyone locally as "Windy."

Just exactly who was "Windy" Cahill? He may have been the Francis Cahill, occupation horse-shoer, who enlisted in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in New York in 1868 at the age of 22, although there is some room for doubt, first, because he gave his birthplace as Dublin (on his deathbed he said it was Galway) and second, because his army records give his height only as 5' 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ ", which hardly makes him the "large man with a gruff voice and a blustering manner" one contemporary, cowhand Gus Gildea, recalled.

The year after his enlistment, Cahill's regiment was consolidated with the 21<sup>st</sup> Infantry; he appears to have served most of his three-year stint at Camp Crittenden, near Sonoita and the Mexican border. When, in accordance with the issuance by the Adjutant General's Office of General Orders 23 dated March 16, 1871, which specified that as a result of an act of Congress which required the Army to reduce its total complement to 30,000 men, all company commanders were to recommend for discharge any "indifferent soldiers" in their command. One of these "indifferent soldiers" was Cahill, which indicates he should not be confused with the far from indifferent soldier John F. Cahill, also a blacksmith who appears in John G. Bourke's *On the Border with Crook*.

Frank Cahill was discharged from the US Army on June, 30, 1871 and went to work as a blacksmith at old Camp Grant on Aravaipa Creek near its junction with the San Pedro River, (scene of the infamous April 30, 1871 massacre). When the Army terminated Camp Crittenden in 1873 and moved its complement of troops to the "new" Fort Grant, Cahill seems to have transferred his blacksmithing activities to the civilian settlement there that later became Bonita. Which raises an interesting point. In that time and that place, "blacksmithing" was also a slang term for pimping. If, as at least one earlier chronicler of these events seems to have believed, Cahill was also running a saloon and brothel, he may well have been blacksmithing in both senses of the word, which would certainly add resonance to the exchange between him and the Kid in their final, fatal encounter.

"Windy" – they called him that, said cowboy Gus Gildea, "because he was always blowin' about first one thing and another" – started picking on the Kid soon after the boy first came to Bonita. "He would throw Billy to the floor, ruffle his hair, slap his face and humiliate him before the men in the saloon," Gildea recalled. If that was so, maybe Windy Cahill used the occasion of his shackling to humiliate Billy some more. If he did, it was not something the Kid would readily forget.

"That night," Wood continued, "my wife and myself were at a reception at the Colonel's house when the Sergeant of the guard came to the door and called the Colonel out. In a few minutes he came in and said the Kid was gone, shackles and all."

But not for long. Less than six months later, and in spite of the fact that he knew there were warrants outstanding against him, the Kid was back in Bonita. Which raises another interesting, if probably unanswerable question: did he come back specifically to settle his grudge with Cahill? If not, why did he go there at all? Reflect: during that summer of 1877, the best au-

thorities suggest the Kid went to work at the hay camp of army contractor H. F. "Sorghum" Smith near Camp Thomas. "He hadn't worked very long," said Smith, "until he wanted his money. I asked him if he was going to quit. He said 'No, I want to buy some things.' I asked him how much he wanted and tried to get him to take \$10 ... [but he] asked for \$40. I gave it to him. He went down to the post trader and bought himself a whole outfit: six shooter, belt, scabbard and cartridges."

Bearing in mind the fact that the Kid couldn't have earned much more than the standard dollar a day laborer's wage in a hay camp, it follows he would have had to work for Sorghum Smith for at least a couple of months, and maybe longer, to have been good for a \$40 advance. Which begins to make it look suspiciously like the only reason he took the job was so he could buy a gun. And that as soon as he got one, he went back to Bonita.

On Friday, August 17, he turned up in George Atkins' *cantina* "dressed like a country Jake," according to Gus Gildea, "with store pants on and shoes instead of boots. He wore a six gun stuffed into his trousers." And he may have been hunting trouble, because before too long he and "Windy" Cahill got into an argument. In Cahill's own version of events, he said he called the Kid a pimp and Billy called him a sonofabitch. It would be interesting to know why. Perhaps, as another version suggests, the argument was a carryover from the preceding night when Cahill had kibitzed a card game in which the Kid was involved, loudly advising him how to play his hand. Yet another infers trouble between the two men over a woman, perhaps Cahill's.

Whatever the reason, they "got to wrestling to see who could throw the other down," said Wood, who was an eyewitness. The wrestling escalated into a scuffle that took them out of the building. "Cahill was larger and stouter than the Kid and threw him down three times which made the Kid mad," Wood said, "and he pulled



This is the old road going up from the Bonita store (more of a saloon, actually) to Fort Grant - the road up which Miles Woods herded the Kid and Mackie to take them to the military hoosegow.



Windy Cahill's grave. "We got to Bonita maybe half an hour before sundown, which strongly added to its atmosphere but by the same token rendered the idea of going to find Windy Cahill's grave a bit unlikely (anyway, I already had a photo of it: Jim Browning, using my instructions, found what we both believe to be his grave a couple of years ago.)" - *Frederick Nolan*

his gun and stuck it in the stomach and fired and killed Cahill."

As the gutshot blacksmith writhed on the floor – in fact he did not die until the following day – the Kid ran to a nearby hitching rail and fogged out on John Murphey's racing horse Cashaw, known to have the fastest feet in the Sulphur Springs valley. There being no doctor in the settlement, Cahill was carried two and a half miles to the post hospital at Fort Grant where Assistant Surgeon Fred Crayton Ainsworth did what he could for him. When told he could not live, Cahill asked Miles Wood to take down his last words:

*I, Frank P. Cahill, being convinced I am about to die, do make the following as my final statement: My name is Frank P. Cahill. I was born in the county and town of Galway, Ireland; yesterday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1877, I had some trouble with Henry Antrim, otherwise known as Kid, during which he shot me. I had called him a pimp, and he called me a s—of a b—; we then*

*took hold of each other; I did not hit him, I think; saw him go for his pistol, and tried to get hold of it, but could not and he shot me in the belly; I have a sister named Margaret Flannigan living at East Cambridge, Mass., and another named Kate Conden, living in San Francisco.*

Shortly after making this statement Cahill died. Miles Wood convened an inquest at which the six jurymen – James L. Hunt, Milton McDowell, Bennett E. Norton, T. McCleary, Delos H. Smith and Chisum foreman George Teague delivered a verdict that the shooting had been "criminal and unjustifiable, and that Henry Antrim, alias Kid, is guilty thereof."

As all the world knows, the Kid rode East, into New Mexico Territory and legend. Until now, however, no one has ever been able to write *finis* to the story of Windy Cahill. But history left us one clue that perhaps now makes that possible: the military roster of interments at the Fort Grant cemetery which records that on

August 19, 1877, "a citizen" was interred in Grave Number 12. Who else but Cahill could that civilian – for that is what the word infers – have been?

The old Fort is today an Arizona State Prison, off limits to civilians, but it is still possible to access what was once the post cemetery, which is now adjacent to a later, larger one. In the former military section a row of stones extends about halfway across the plot, equally spaced and periodically painted white by the local community which uses the newer burial ground. These stones mark the original graves, fourteen in all. Although one or two of the stones are missing the simple tablet over the 12<sup>th</sup> grave is still there, and it does not seem unreasonable to conclude it marks the last resting place of Francis P. "Windy" Cahill, the first man – but not the last – to make the fatal mistake of underestimating the vengeful nature of Billy the Kid.

Taken from *Pistolero*, published in the *New Mexico Magazine*, July 1984

## A Jose Chaves y Chaves Shoot-Out

*Pistolero* written by Albert A. Baca

(Editor's note: Al Baca and the editor were friends in Clovis, NM in the early 1980s. Finally found him and he gave me permission to use his story.)

Las Gorras Blancas (The White Caps) hired the best pistoleros in the Territory of New Mexico and among them was Jose Chaves y Chaves. Jose was opposed to this group that formed in 1890 calling itself the People's Party, but when they offered Jose money he rode with the hooded gang. This gang held San Miguel County in a tight fist of terror in their effort to take back from settlers vast tracts of land that had been common pasture under the land grant system.

This secret gang of night riders (like the Ku Klux Klan) terrorized anyone standing up to them, from cutting fences to beatings, in order to force out the small ranchers.

Jose, was after all, a pistolero for hire. His reputation was such that many ranchers left the county when told that Jose had been hired to deal with them. He was known as the right hand of Billy the Kid and was feared throughout New Mexico. It was with this deadly gang and Jose Chaves y Chaves that my grandfather, Liberato Baca, was forced into a gunfight.

In 1890, Liberato Baca was twenty years old. He was no pistolero and at that age fear was something that had not yet come into his life. He knew Las Gorras Blancas for the cowards they were and spoke out against them. The night riders had tried to run him and his family out of the county many times, but each raid was turned aside by Liberato and his two brothers.

After four unsuccessful raids on the Baca ranch, the gang made the decision to get rid of Liberato and his brothers. To show the other people that they meant business, Las Gorras Blancas decided to kill Liberato in broad daylight. As added insurance, they put out \$3,000 and hired the pistol of Chaves y Chaves to do the job.

They waited until Liberato made a trip alone into Anton Chico for supplies on a spring day in 1890. Liberato loaded his wagon and was at the first river crossing between the lower and the upper town when he heard his name being called. He stopped his wagon in midstream and turned to see four hooded men standing on the bank with their hands on their belted .44s.

"Que lastima, Baca, te morirtes sin rezar!" ("What a pity, Baca, you're to die without saying a prayer!") yelled out the tall, thick man standing to the far right. Liberato felt his stomach tighten as he recognized the voice as none other than Jose Chaves y Chaves. Liberato was at first

puzzled since he knew Jose as a good friend of his father. He also knew the rumor of how three killings credited to Billy the Kid really belonged to Jose. He thought of running, but something in his young heart told him to die like a man, and he stood his ground. Stepping off the wagon he looked at the four men and yelled back at them, "Que muerte tan pobre que no me ensena su cara." ("What a poor death that doesn't show me its face!")

"Que sea pobre! Y lastima que te conosco, pero trabajo es tabajo y aqui esta tu muerte!" yelled Jose as he pulled his pistol and fired three times at Liberato. ("A poor death it is! And it's a shame that I know you, but a job is a job, and here is your death!")

Liberato stood his ground and laughed as two slugs buried themselves in the wagon and the other kicked up water to



Liberato Baca, drawing by Herb Mott

his right. He stood only for a second to show he had no fear, then jumped on and off the seat of his wagon and landed with a .38 in his hand. He blasted off four shots and dived behind the wheel of the wagon. The four men scattered, firing as they ran, and a hail of slugs rained around the wagon spraying water over Liberato. In that first exchange of fire, the only victim was one of the mules who fell to its knees, mortally wounded. Liberato dug into his vest pocket and came up with ten rounds

for his pistol. As he swore at himself for not bringing his rifle, another rain of .44 bullets buried themselves around him.

Liberato peeked around the wagon wheel and saw a hooded figure running for better cover. His .38 barked out its last two rounds, each falling wide of the running man. He reloaded as the wagon above him flew apart from the fire. Six more times he answered, then loaded his last four rounds. He knew they would be coming if he took too long in returning his fire. Slowly he spaced out two shots, then held his breath, said a short prayer, and stood up.

The four outlaws fell silent as if they couldn't believe their eyes. "Ya basta Baca!" ("Enough is enough, Baca!") yelled one of the outlaws as he also stood up. The two men eyes each other, with Liberato knowing full well there was three other guns trained on him.

"Si voy a morir, no voy solo!" ("If I am to die, I won't go alone!") yelled Liberato as he started to bring up his pistol. Ten or fifteen shots rang out as he tried to remain calm. "Just like shooting a rattlesnake," he used to say, "I sighted along the barrel, took a deep breath, let it halfway out, and squeezed the trigger. The .38 kicked in my hand, and it looked like a giant's hand slapped the hooded man as the slug spun him around, taking a chunk out of his hip."

"Me mato! Me mato!" ("He killed me! He killed me!") screamed the wounded man as two other men ran to his aid. Again Liberato's .38 spoke, and a second man hit the ground grabbing at a wound on his thigh. Liberato felt like a heavy blanket had been lifted off him as Jose broke cover and ran to his men.

"Otro dia, Baca! Otro dia!" ("Another day, Baca! Another day!")

The four Gorras Blancas rode off leaving my grandfather standing in the middle of the Pecos River. He calmly unhitched the dead mule and climbed back onto his wagon. Later, he said his hands shook for two days. My grandfather became known by Las Gorras Blancas as a pistolero, and he and his brothers were left alone from that day on.

It's ironic that Jose Chaves y Chaves should end up as he did. He is almost forgotten in New Mexico history, and yet he is a known and feared pistolero before Billy the Kid ever saw a gun and was a lieutenant to the famous Vicente Silva of Las Vegas.

Jose spent his last years not two miles from Liberato Baca's ranch, telling my father and uncles how they were almost never born. When death came for Jose in 1923, he died holding my grandfather's hand, and among his last words were these: "Well, Baca, I never could shoot very well when it was somebody I knew."

????????????????????????????????

**H**istory tells us that Billy the Kid was killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881. However, there are many people who claim that a man by the name of Billy Barlow was killed by Garrett instead and that the real Billy the Kid escaped and lived to the ripe old age of 90 years old going under the name of Ollie (Brushy Bill) Roberts.

Over the years it has been said by many people that Brushy Bill Roberts of Hico, Texas, had to be Billy the Kid because he knew too much about Billy's life and involvement in the Lincoln County War. However, you should ask yourself: How much did he really know?

This article will first present the evidence that exists to prove that Billy the Kid was killed by Garrett. Then, it will show how little Brushy actually knew about the life of Billy the Kid by revealing the numerous historical errors he made during his testimony with his attorney William Morrison.

It has been asked many times over the years, "What evidence do we really have that Billy the Kid was killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett on July 14, 1881?"

Actually there is a lot of evidence to support the fact that Billy the Kid was indeed killed.

The coroner's jury report signed by all the members is a very hard hitting piece of evidence in itself. Not to mention the fact that nearly the whole population of Fort Sumner was on hand at Pete Maxwell's house within moments of the shooting. Some people, known to recorded history, to have viewed the body are: Pat Garrett, John W. Poe, Kip McKinney, Pete Maxwell, Dona Luz Maxwell, Paulita Maxwell, Odila Maxwell, Don Manuel Abreu, Don Pablo Beaubien, Dona Rebecca Beaubien, Deluvina Maxwell, Paco Anaya, Vicente Otero, Sabal Gutierrez, Celsa Gutierrez, Jesus Silva, Jose Silva, Marie Lobato, Lorenzo Jaramillo, Antonio Savedra, Milnor Rudolph, Charles Rudolph and Higinio Garcia. There is no telling how many more were present and saw the body but are now lost to recorded history.

If the coroner's jury report signed by all of the members and at least 23 witnesses who viewed Billy's body aren't enough evidence to convince you that Billy was killed then perhaps it should be mentioned that there are at least five first-hand accounts in existence that were written by people who were there. You will find that



**Billy the Kid**  
Age: 20-21 years

**Brushy Bill**  
Age: Late 20's

## **BRUSHY BILL and THE TRUTH**

By Lucas Speer

these first-hand accounts written by Pat Garrett, John W. Poe, Paco Anaya, Milnor Rudolph, and Pete Maxwell (his account was written down in the coroner's jury report) agree on the major points and say that Billy was killed by Garrett.

It should also be mentioned that most of Billy's friends and people who actually knew him were certain that he was killed. Jesus Silva, who was Billy the Kid's friend and was present the night he was killed was asked by Jack Hull in a 1937 interview for the Clovis News-Journal called "One Man Living Who Saw Billy the Kid in both Life and Death" about the recent rumors that Billy the Kid was still alive and in hiding somewhere. Silva replied: "that may be the rumor my boy, but if there are dead men in this world, then Billy the Kid is among them. I know he is dead and as far as I know I am the only one yet living who saw him in life and death."

*(Editor's note: Jack Hull was born in 1888 and was no spring chicken. He was also the editor of the Clovis paper.)*

George Coe, another friend of Billy's, also stated that he believed Billy was killed. He even at one time wanted to have Billy's remains removed and re-buried on his place. Now that you have looked at and read some of the evidence that proves he was killed, let's look at the evidence that proves Brushy wasn't Billy. This evidence appears in this article just as it was told by Brushy to his attorney, William Morrison.

**Brushy:** "We tried to get Tunstall to ride for it when we saw how big the posse was. They had us outnumbered but John wouldn't ride away from it. He said they wouldn't do anything to him but I knew better. Me and Brewer and Widenman and Middleton rode off a safe distance to watch leaving Tunstall with the horses. I could tell by the way that posse came gal-

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*loping up on us that there was gonna be trouble. We sat our horses off in some brush watching when Dolan and his boys rode up on Tunstall. They formed a circle around him and then they shot Tunstall in cold blood.*

**Fact:** Jimmy Dolan was not with the posse when they killed Tunstall.

**Brushy:** *None of the Murphy boys were present at the funeral of John Tunstall when we buried him behind his store. It was a good thing for them that they stayed away. Tunstall was a good man. He was good to me and he treated me like a gentleman. I lost the best friend I ever had the day they killed him. I swore that day at the funeral that I would make them pay for their dirty deed.*

**Fact:** Billy the Kid did not attend Tunstall's funeral because he and Fred Waite were still in jail after they were arrested by Sheriff Brady while accompanying Constable Antonacio Martinez to Dolan's store to serve warrants for the arrest of Tunstall's killers.

**Brushy:** *Fred and I jumped over the wall and ran into the street where Brady was lying. I took my pearl-handled .44 off his body, the one he's taken from me when he arrested me on cattle rustling warrants. I'd paid twenty-five dollars for that pearl-handled Colt down in San Anatonone and I thought a lot of that gun.*

*Matthews fired a rifle from behind the wall where he was hiding. The bullet caught me high on my hip tearing the flesh when it went through me then it clipped Waite though the leg. We got back over the wall, then we found our horses and rode hard away from Lincoln. I wasn't hurt much but Waite was laid up for a few days. Brady and his men were armed with rifles and six-shooters. They would have killed us if they had gotten the chance.*

**Fact:** It was Jim French who jumped over the wall with Billy and not Fred Waite. It should also be mentioned that Billy was retrieving his rifle that Tunstall had given him from Brady as well as any arrest warrants he might have been carrying for members of the Regulators and not a pearl-handled .44 like Brushy said.

**Brushy:** *Just down the street I saw Mrs. McSween and her lawyer Chapman walk up to Evans and Dolan and Campbell. Words were said and then Dolan and Campbell pulled their six-shooters. They shot lawyer Chapman in cold blood. Me and Tom were standing right there and we saw the whole thing.*

**Fact:** Susan McSween was not present when Huston Chapman was killed. If Brushy were really present and had seen the whole thing, he definitely should have known this.



**Brushy:** *Early the next morning, Charlie bowdre went out to feed the horses. When he stepped through the opening where the front door had been, Garrett and his posse fired from ambush without any warning. Charlie wore a big hat like mine. I figure they thought Charlie was me since it was early and the light was bad. Bowdre took a bullet and called out to us. He ran back through the opening and fell dead right there at my feet with bullets flying all around him that were meant for me.*

**Fact:** Charlie Bowdre fell dead in the snow outside of the cabin and not inside it at Billy's feet as Brushy claimed.

**Brushy:** *When we filed out the door (at Stinking Springs) I saw Tip McKinney, Tom's cousin, and I asked him how it went for Tom. He told me Tom was dead and he sounded like he was proud of it.*

**Fact:** Kip McKinney's name was Kip, not Tip as Brushy said. It is documented that Kip McKinney wasn't a posse member and that he wasn't present when Billy was captured at Stinking Springs, so how could Brushy have seen him and talked to him?

**Brushy:** *Mrs. Maxwell asked them to unchain me and Rudabaugh so I could go in the other room to be with the Indian girl. They refused to do it. They suspected it was only a trick to let me escape and they knew about the trick I could pull with handcuffs.*

**Fact:** Mrs. Maxwell asked them to turn Billy loose so that he and Paulita could say goodbye. According to author and researcher Frederick Nolan, Paulita Maxwell was half French and one-quarter Irish on her Father's side and one-quarter Hispanic on her Mother's. She was definitely not an Indian girl as Brushy described.

**Brushy:** *I hobbled through the door and around the corner to where Frank Lobato was waiting with two horses. He helped me in the saddle and we rode quietly away from the adobe keeping the house between us and Maxwell's.*

**Fact:** Frank Lobato definitely did not bring Billy the Kid two horses to escape from Fort Sumner on the night of July 14, 1881 because he was not in Fort Sumner when Billy was killed. This information comes from Frank Lobato himself as given in an interview to Jack Hull in 1937 for the article titled *Only One Man Living Who Saw Billy the Kid in Both Life and Death*. He was working on what later became the Pig Pen Ranch southwest of present Melrose at the time of Billy's death, but his mother, Marie Lobato, was present and saw the body of Billy the Kid the morning he was laid to rest in the little cemetery down the valley.

When Billy the Kid made his famous escape from the Lincoln County court-

house on April 28, 1881, he killed both Deputy J. W. Bell and Deputy Robert Olinger. This is well documented. During Brushy's meeting with New Mexico Governor Thomas Mabry he was asked if he killed Bell and Olinger. Brushy replied, *I didn't do any shooting that day, I just got on my horse and rode off!*

There is a lot of evidence besides Brushy's numerous historical errors that proves he was not Billy the Kid. Brushy's connection to J. Frank Dalton is another weak link in his claim. J. Frank Dalton of Granbury, Texas, claimed that he was the real Jesse James and that Bob Ford had actually killed a man by the name of Charlie Bigelow. Does this sound familiar? Brushy Bill Roberts claimed that Pat Garrett had actually killed a man by the name of Billy Barlow by mistake.

J. Frank Dalton was proven to be a fraud in 1995 when the real Jesse James was exhumed from his grave in Kearney, Missouri. When the DNA test results came in they announced that within a reasonable degree of scientific certainty that Jesse James was buried in Kearney, Missouri.

Brushy and Dalton were well acquainted with each other since they appeared in numerous photos together. They also attended a press conference in New York promoting Dalton's claim. Brushy even at one time claimed to be a member of the James gang. Since Dalton has been proven to be a fraud, we can easily sum up Brushy's connection to him with one saying: "Birds of a feather flock together."

Brushy Bill Roberts was basically illiterate according to authors W. C. Jameson and Frederick Bean. Evidence suggests Roberts possessed only rudimentary reading and writing skills. His wife, Melinda, wrote letters for him. Examples of his penmanship in possession of the authors show a scrawl not unlike that made by a four year old child. Billy the Kid had an excellent handwriting and was very literate. His numerous letters to Governor Lew Wallace are proof of this.

Brushy Bill's niece, Mrs. Geneva Pittmon, said Brushy Bill Roberts was born on August 26, 1879. If she is correct, this would prove that Brushy Bill Roberts was not Billy the Kid because he would have only been two years old in 1881 when Billy the Kid was killed.

Was Brushy Bill Roberts really Billy the Kid? The FACTS say NO!

*(Editor's Note: Read the full article of Only One Man Living Who Saw Billy the Kid in Both Life and Death elsewhere in this Outlaw Gazette.)*

On the orig. Brushy tombstone, Hamilton, TX:  
**OLLIE L. ROBERTS**  
*Brushy Bill*  
 12-31-1868-12-27-1950



**Lucas Speer**  
**the Singing Billy the Kid**  
**researcher that wrote**  
**Brushy Bill and The Truth**

*I was born in Clifton, TX on March 24, 1980 and I currently reside in Walnut Springs TX, which is 19 miles from Hico. I play guitar and I am pursuing a career as a country music recording artist. I wrote this article to protect the real history of Billy the Kid, from the many myths and ridiculous claims like the one made by Brushy Bill. I have been researching Billy and the Lincoln County War since I was 14. I am a member of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang and have been a board member of this great organization since 1998.*

**Note cards from**  
**BILLY THE KID!**



**Each KID KARD contains info about the Kid's legend in addition to a greeting for birthday, get well, etc. If you are a Billy fan, you'll love 'em!**

**You receive eight different designs with envelopes for only \$10 plus \$2 for shipping.**

**Send your name & address with check to:**

**THE HIGH ROAD**  
**PO Box 3067**  
**Bella Vista, AR 72715**

*(Editor's Note: The above announcement was sent to us by Jerry Mattox, former director of the Billy the Kid National Scenic Byway in Ruidoso, NM. Jerry bought many of our Gazettes for his customers, is a BTKOG member, now semi-retired and living in Arkansas. Jerry is also developing a Billy the Kid board game. For more information contact him at above address.*

# The Legend

By Tara L. Pipes

In the first Bonney saga, the truth it is said  
Is the boy bandit king shot twenty-one dead.  
One man for each year of his short violent life.  
A life, I submit, filled with sadness and strife.  
Now Billy's real story is the quest of us all.  
So I'll give it a try without making tales tall.

Catherine McCarty was the name of the Kid's real mother  
And Joseph was the name of his older brother.  
No matter, brother lit out, and mother was dead,  
You can imagine what that must have done to Kid's head.  
With no supervision he ran wild and free  
And was jailed for stealing clothes from a Chinese laundry.

So at the tender age of fourteen he set out on his own  
And for the remainder of his life he restlessly roamed.  
To Lincoln via Arizona young Bill made his way.  
Between the two he killed only one the experts now say.  
He laid down a bully in front of a crowd.  
Can we honestly blame him? For crying out loud.

In Lincoln, John Tunstall took Bill into his home.  
And for a short while he had no need to roam.  
For here was the father the Kid never had.  
Tunstall gave him pride and respect; new things for the lad.  
So what would you do if your Dad was shot down?  
Daresay, you would cry and you'd shout and you'd frown.

But the gun was the law back in Bonney's heyday.  
So Tunstall's boys found the killers and blew them away.  
Filled with anger and pain, the Kid went astray.  
As many boys do when they're thrown away  
By adults who hunger for fortune and fame.  
It's easy to scapegoat a boy who's not tame.

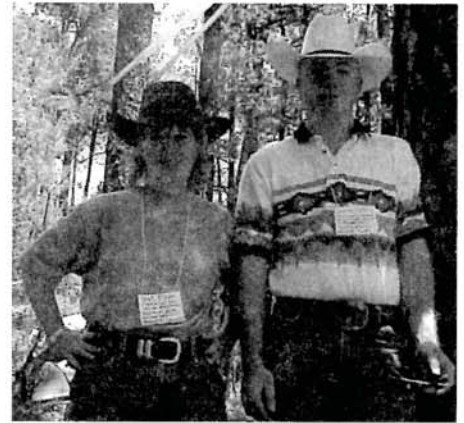
The Kid found himself in the midst of a fight  
That ended by fire one hot summer night.  
The gun blasts could be heard for miles around  
As they fought for the right to own Lincoln town.  
But the fight ended as suddenly as it began  
With the death of McSween, an unarmed man.

So Billy decided he would play it straight  
And bargained with the governor to seal his fate.  
For his word against the others jailed in town  
The governor promised Billy he wouldn't go down.  
But things went bad and the others got away  
So Billy got out of town and went further astray.

Stealing cattle and hearts seemed to be his big game.  
And his legend grew big; everyone knew Billy's name.  
Then a second man fell in front of Kid's lone gun.  
Big, dumb Joe Grant the bounty hunting Texan.  
Bragging and swaggering and threatening Billy,  
Tricked with his own gun, he must have felt silly.

Then Garrett turned coat; to enemy from friend,  
And worked for the Chisums to bring Bill to an end.  
In one fateful week the Kid lost everything.  
Tom killed one cold night, Charlie dead at the Springs.  
Exhausted and hungry, trapped in Stinking Springs cabin,  
The Kid saw no easy way out, so he simply gave in.

*Continued on Page 9*



Tara L. Pipes, writer and poetess and Lucas Speer, BTK researcher, has own BTK website, and is also a singer. Photo taken at the 2000 Year BTK Campout near Ruidoso, NM.

## Andrea Pugsley Creates a Lincoln County War Website

*Andrea Pugsley is currently a doctoral student at Arizona State University and BTKOG was first to publish one of her articles, in 1999.*

She reports: "Since 1989 I have avidly researched Billy the Kid and the Lincoln County War. But with all of the good literature currently available, I currently find it unnecessary to write yet another history book. Hence, I've put my research into another form of publication—a website.

This website is meant to serve as a resource for anyone interested in the history of the Lincoln County War in New Mexico Territory in the 1870-1880s. I hope that the site can provide not only the casual visitor with some basic information on the events and characters pertinent to the Lincoln County War, but also valuable direction for researchers and enthusiasts to pursue their own particular interests in both printed materials and on the web. For those interested in the basic history of the Lincoln County War the site contains a basic chronology and a list of the war's characters. For the researcher I have provided a series of bibliographies and other resources, including selected websites, useful in pursuing topics relevant to the war.

*Selected websites Andrea lists for research:*

### Archives and Libraries

American Memory  
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/>

Haley History Center, Midland, Texas  
<http://www.haleylibrary.com/>

Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis  
<http://www.indianahistory.org/lib.htm>

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)  
<http://www.nara.gov/> (continued next page)

Now I think that kid Billy grew up that bad day.  
No illusions remained as they led him away.  
For three long hard months, he sat in a jail.  
After which the judge ruled they would send him to hell.  
He would hang by his neck for the death of a man,  
Who died for his own sins by many a hand.

But the kid escaped hanging and just rode away.  
Why he didn't head to Mexico, no one can say.  
Could be he was stubborn, or just a plain fool.  
But wait! No! the fact is young Kid was a stool.  
Pigeon, that is, for the Chisums and Garrett.  
A youth who was set up, used and abused.

So he shot that jerk Ollinger and begrudgingly Bell.  
To save his own life, he blew them to hell.  
For that I don't blame him, it was a life or death thing.  
Then he left Lincoln town and hid out until spring.  
In May he rode back into Fort Sumner town.  
With Pat on his tail, still sworn to hunt the kid down.

For the love of Paulita, some say Kid lost his head.  
And Garrett's lucky shot found him from beside Maxwell's bed.  
Shot down like a dog, instead of a man  
With a knife, not a gun, held in his right hand.  
Next day, Deluvina and the rest of his gals  
Laid him to rest for eternity between his two "Pals".

Now here's where the story becomes fuzzy and grey.  
Some say Billy didn't die on that July 14<sup>th</sup> day.  
He fled Sumner town riding over the hills.  
Laid low for a while and came back as Brushy Bill.  
The debate rages on over Brushy Bill Roberts.  
Both sides of the fight claiming they are the experts.

Armed with handwriting and ear tests and other such ammo,  
Without the right bodies that's as far as they'll go.  
So let's dig up old bodies in New Mexico.  
And do DNA testing so we will all know.  
Then some will laugh righteously and some will feel silly.  
But once and for all, we'll know if Brushy was Billy.

The end of the story has come as they say.  
And the truth of it all is as clear as the day.  
Whether McCarty or Bonney or Robert's his name.  
No one disputes that the Kid is deserving of fame.  
The books are all written and now we all can agree.  
Where Billy's concerned there were no killing sprees.

A few stolen cattle, a few broken hearts,  
In all of the killings, we now know his part.  
So let's raise up a toast to the Boy Bandit King!  
All this bickering, to him, doesn't mean a darn thing.  
For the one true fact that's clear in my head.  
Though his Legend lives on, the Kid is dead.

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#### Note from Tara L. Pipes, Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang member

*I was inspired to write **The Legend** poem while researching Billy the Kid for a science fiction novel that takes its main character through a wormhole back to New Mexico in the summer of 1880. Disguised as a young man, the book's heroine finds herself aligned with the infamous gang of Rustlers, led by Billy the Kid. Aware of "the Kid's" reputation, she finds that things aren't always what they seem, and history is not always correct. Was Billy the Kid a cold, ruthless, murdering rustler, or a young man swept up in one of the last big battles of the Old West? Who was Billy Barlow? Was Brushy Bill Roberts really Billy the Kid? What happened the night of July 14, 1881? And, will Billy the Kid attend the 2010 Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang Campout? Stay tuned!! P.S. I myself do NOT believe that Brushy was BTK, however, for the purpose of my book, I will use his story. I'm sure there will be a lengthy author's note at the end to set people straight about my beliefs!!!*

*(continued from preceding page)*

New Mexico Records Center and Archives,  
Santa Fe  
<http://www.state.nm.us/cpr/>

New Mexico State University Lincoln County  
History Bibliographies  
<http://alamo.nmsu.edu/~library/lincolncounty.html>

University of Arizona Special Collections  
Library, Tucson  
<http://dizzy.library.arizona.edu/branches/spc/homepage/index.html>

University of New Mexico Library, Albuquerque  
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/>

Online Archive of New Mexico  
<http://elibrary.unm.edu/oanm/>

#### Museums and Historic Sites

Museum of New Mexico History, Santa Fe  
<http://museumofnewmexico.org/>

New Mexico's Cultural Treasures, Southeastern  
New Mexico Museums, Parks and Monuments  
<http://www.nmculture.org/HTML/direct.htm>

New Mexico Department of Tourism  
<http://www.newmexico.org/>

#### Web Sites

Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang  
<http://www.nmia.com/~btkog/>

Billy the Kid Scenic Byway  
<http://www.zianet.com/snm/askus14.htm>  
<http://www.zianet.com/billythekid/bywyinfo.htm>

Lincoln County, New Mexico Ghost Towns  
<http://www.ghosttowns.com/states/nm/nmlincoln.html>

Red Rock Elementary School New Mexico  
History Links  
<http://www.zianet.com/billythekid/bywyinfo.htm>

Andrea Pugsley's website includes Billy MOVIES since 1930, and her comment on the Young Guns films. (One comment on Young Guns II: "Why does Hollywood insist on making Tunstall an old man? And why Brushy Bill? I don't think I'll ever quite forgive them for the ending.")

On this site are also documents, and photographs. This Editor checked these pages out and couldn't access her Chronology and the Photograph pages. She emailed that because of her busy college schedule she has yet to get these two pages finished and online. "I hope to get the pictures up soon." No matter, be patient and Andrea will get these pages up and running.

To access her website go to:  
[http://public.asu.edu/~apugsley/lcw\\_index.html](http://public.asu.edu/~apugsley/lcw_index.html)

# Only One Man Living Who Saw Billy the Kid in Both Life and Death

*Editor's note: In the late 1930s Jack Hull wrote several articles about Billy the Kid. He talked to many old-timers and took photos. Many of Hull's photos exist but only a few have been found of the ones taken at Ft. Sumner. This is his story published in the Clovis Evening News-Journal in 1937, in its entirety. It is here published for the first time since 1937, in this Vol. XIII, Outlaw Gazette, Nov. 2000.*

by Jack Hull  
Editor of the Clovis News-Journal,  
1929-1946

If I had any doubt in my mind as to whether Billy the Kid, famous gunslinger, is dead, according to the best authorities, or yet living in a remote mountain region in Old Mexico, according to reports which persist now and then, that doubt was dispelled last Saturday when I talked to the only living man who knew Billy the Kid personally, who saw him in death.

The occasion for seeking out this man was the recent trip to New Mexico of Major Gordon Lillie (Pawnee Bill) and a party of historians who came to the Sunshine state to ascertain if The Kid was really killed that fateful in 1881 when he was unexpectedly the victim of a bullet from the .44 Winchester of Pat Garrett, sheriff of Lincoln County, or whether there is ground to believe rumors that The Kid is yet alive. I thought perhaps there might be some grounds for these rumors because they persisted. So I went to the only region where I knew I might obtain the truth . . . the region of Ft. Sumner where there lived at that time three persons at least who knew the facts. One of these persons was Deluvina Maxwell, Navajo Indian slave woman, who was a household servant in the home of Don Pedro Maxwell the night The Kid was killed. Deluvina told me she saw Billy the Kid a few moments after Garrett fired at him in the darkness of Pete Maxwell's room, where the Don of the Pecos lay ill on his bed. Deluvina also told me she dressed The Kid for burial. I believe her story.

But the reports and stories of his escape into Mexico persisted, and only last week a woman in Silver City, New Mexico, told of talking to an old prospector from Mexico who told her he knew Billy the Kid personally, and that he had met The Kid, now an old man, in a small mountain town in Mexico in 1914. He and The Kid, he said, talked over old times as they drank "a friendly bottle." This old prospector, she said, was Manuel Taylor, known throughout that region as a reliable source of early-day information.

Then came Pawnee Bill, with his party, to get at the "bottom of the matter." What Pawnee Bill ascertained and what he will report is



Photos made by Jack Hull in 1937: At left, Jesus Silva, age 86; middle, Frank Labato, 76, and right, Anastacio Trujillo, holding the .44 rifle Billy the Kid gave to his father Saledon Trujillo in 1880. There are 22 marks on the barrel.

unknown to me, but I do know to my own satisfaction that all rumors notwithstanding, Billy the Kid was killed that sultry night of July 14, 1881 when Pat Garrett fired on him in the bedroom of Pete Maxwell's home at Old Fort Sumner, and that he was buried and yet lies in the old cemetery some five miles down the beautiful Pecos valley from the present-day Ft. Sumner.

**The only living man who knew Billy the Kid personally, and who saw him in death, regardless of all the claims of others, is Jesus Silva, 86-year-old Spanish-American who yet lives near the historic spot where The Kid was killed.**

When I approached this aged, blind old man Saturday and told him of the persistent rumors that The Kid is yet living, Silva smiled and blinked his sightless eyes.

**"That may be the rumor, my boy," he said, "but if there are dead men in this world, then Billy the Kid is among them. I know he is dead and as far as I know I am the only one yet living who saw him in death."**

I believe that statement implicitly for I have found corroboration in the story of another man who is yet living, whose mother, now dead, had told him that Silva knew more than any man alive of the facts, the real facts, in connection with Billy the Kid's last day on earth, and his violent death that July night in 1881.

After Jesus Silva told me he KNEW The Kid was killed that night, I asked him point blank

HOW he knew, and this is the story he told me.

"It was the night of July 14, 1881. It had been a hot day throughout the valley and Mesa Redondo country. I had strolled over to a neighbor's house and on my return had stopped under a big Cottonwood tree for a moment, when The Kid, whom I had known for some time, strolled up. He had just ridden into town. He was hot and tired and we there drank beer together. He told me he was hungry and that he was going to the home of Don Pedro Maxwell for a cut of fresh beef for his supper, which was being prepared at a nearby house.

"We parted there, and in a few minutes there were shots. The news soon spread that Garrett had shot The Kid at Maxwell's home. I ran over there and Garrett, who had run out of the house, told me to go in and see if The Kid was dead. He stated he had shot Billy in Maxwell's room.

"I walked into the unlighted room, stepped around a body lying on the floor, and then lighted a coal oil lamp sitting on a mantel. I turned around and walked over to the body of Billy. It was lying face downward on the floor, a large knife in one hand, and a pistol in the other. I felt of him and he was dead. I then stepped outside the house and told Garrett that Billy was dead. A few moments later I returned to the room, picked up the lifeless body of Billy and walking into a large hallway in the Maxwell home, laid his body on a long table. I there examined him again and ascertained without a doubt he was dead.

"The body was removed to an old carpenter shop nearby where Billy was laid out.

"Of course, an inquest had to be held. There was no justice of the peace at the old Fort so we dispatched a messenger for Alejandro Seguro, justice of the peace at a little town 10 miles up the river. Seguro came and the inquest was held.

"The next morning at 10 o'clock we buried Billy the Kid in the little cemetery near the old Fort, beside the bodies of Billy's former pals, Charlie Bowdre and Tom O'Folliard, who were killed by officers earlier.

"I was chief pallbearer at Billy's funeral that morning. With me were Antonio Saavedra, Saval Gutierrez, Vicente Otero and a few others. We buried The Kid in a grave which had been dug by Vicente Otero. The later died in Ft. Sumner in February, 1935, at the age of 96.

"The bullet from Garrett's .44 Winchester, which he fired almost from a hip position and at short range, struck Billy in the right side of his chest. Strange as it may seem, that wound did not bleed for two hours after he was shot. There was just a little red spot on his light-colored shirt where the bullet hit him. Billy was shot at about 9:30 o'clock on the night of July 14."

That was Jesus Silva's story of the incidents of the night The Kid was killed, and that story was corroborated by Frank Lobato, 76, who Saturday told me that Silva's story of the death of The Kid and the incidents of that night and the following day, were just as his mother, Marie Lobato, had recounted them to him when he returned to Ft. Sumner a short time after Billy was killed. Labato said he was working on the (what was later the Old Peg Pen ranch southwest of Melrose) at the time Billy was killed. Lobato also knew The Kid personally. He said Billy only a short time before his death, had spent a month hiding out at what is now the Pig Pen Ranch headquarters, which were then the property of Don Pedro Maxwell. Lobato told me his mother saw the body of Billy the Kid the morning it was laid to rest in the little cemetery down the valley.

To me Silva's story of the death of The Kid

is the true story in this mooted case. As far as I can ascertain, and I believe I have found the only real source of authentic information, the story that the man killed by Garrett was a young cattle inspector who made himself objectionable in the region, is false. Silva says there is not a whit of truth to that yarn.

"Garrett came to Fort Sumner to get Billy, and he got him" Silva declared with a finality that dismissed all reports to the contrary.

Whatever we may now think of Billy the Kid, his reputation as a killer and a bad man, and what some cattlemen and peace officers of that day thought of him and his alleged slaying of a man for each year of his life, the natives of that day found in him a real patriot and a true friend.

When I spoke of him to Silva and Frank Lobato, they responded with an enthusiasm which told of their deep regard for the quick-triggered youth who earned the doubtful reputation of being the best and most deadly shot in all the early-day southwest.

"Billy was a real friend of the Spanish people and of all those who were oppressed," Silva told me. And I believe he was looked upon in that light by the bulk of them.

On my visit to Fort Sumner Saturday I found an interesting relic directly connected with those colorful days . . . a .44 calibre Winchester which Billy the Kid gave to Saledon Trujillo, an old time friend. The rifle is now the possession of Anastacio Trujillo, a son of Saledon. The ancient weapon has 22 marks upon its barrel. The meaning of those marks is unknown but I have my suspicion of what they represent.

The only disappointment I found on my trip to that interesting region Saturday was to find someone has placed a five-wire fence across the region of the old cemetery where The Kid was buried, barring tourists, among whom there is keen interest in the spot, from ever getting close to the place they have perhaps travelled hundreds of miles to see.

Ft. Sumner is asleep to the interest in Billy the Kid story, and the relics on exhibition . . . relics that were taken from the old Pete Maxwell home. These relics include the old bed on which Pete Maxwell lay the night Billy the Kid

was killed in his room; the old carpenter's bench on which The Kid's body was prepared for burial, and a dozen other interesting articles.

All of these, and the grave, should be made easily accessible to the hundreds who go there each year to thrill in the region where The Kid roamed, loved, danced, killed, and was killed.

You have perhaps pictured The Kid as a big, burly man of the bully type who would stomp into a saloon and, with six-shooters in readiness, order drinks on the house, and walk out without paying for them.

He was everything except that type. Silva told me he was a small youth, slender in build, with blond hair and what was known as buck or prominent teeth. He was extremely quiet, talking but little and very retiring in the manner. Although inconspicuous, those near him seemed to sense the deadliness of his anger and his purpose. None was as quick on the draw as this slender youth, nor could anyone cope with him in his accuracy with his guns. When he went into action, he was fearless and relentless.

When he killed, Silva declared, there was a reason. And that reason the aged native said, could be traced to some injustice to a friend or oppression of a lowly person who was unable to care for himself.

But, back to these rumors that The Kid is yet alive.

It there is one bit of tangible testimony or evidence that The Kid was not killed by Pat Garrett at Fort Sumner that night and that he escaped into Mexico, I'd like to see it brought forth. I want those who contend he is alive to pin their statements definitely to something that can be traced out.

Until then may The Kid's bones rest in peace in the little cemetery at Old Fort Sumner.



**Frank  
Labato**

**Anastacio  
Trujillo**



These two photos are Hull's originals of Frank Labato and Anastacio Trujillo. The original 1937 Jesus Silva photo exists but as of press time it could not be located.



**Jack Hull  
Editor  
Clovis  
News-Journal  
1929-1946**

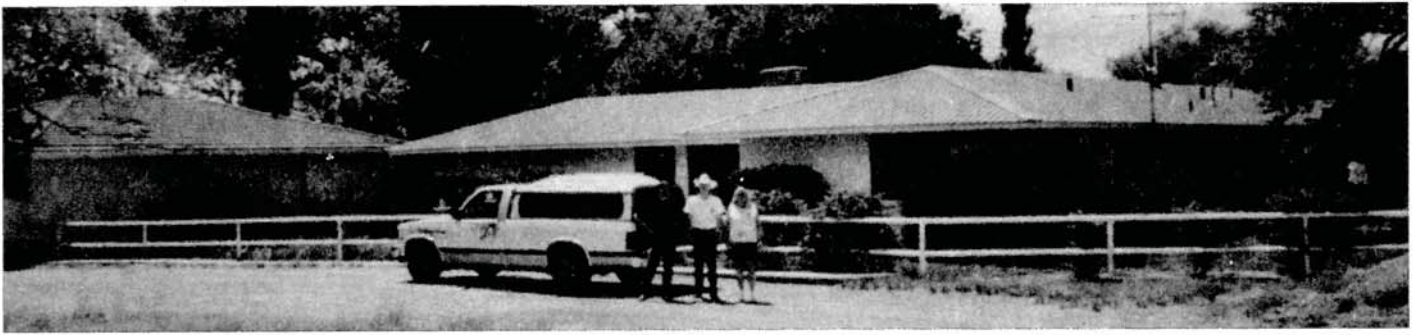
*Jack Rigger Hull was born in 1888 in Ft. Worth Texas. He came with his parents to Clovis, NM, in 1907. His father bought one of the weekly newspapers in 1916 and there Jack found his true love, newspaper work. This paper, the Clovis Journal was founded by Thomas J. Mabry in 1909, the same man who as Governor of New Mexico in 1950 denied Brushy Bill Roberts a pardon because he didn't believe his story that he was Billy the Kid.*

*Jack was editor of the Clovis News-Journal from 1929, when the two weeklies merged, until 1946. He founded the Curry County Mounted Patrol in 1941, and his efforts created the annual Pioneer Days in 1935 in Clovis. Jack served as Curry County Clerk, Curry County's State Representative and later its Senator. Jack died at age 74 in 1962.*

# TIMELINE - BILLY THE KID

*(Henry McCarty, Henry Antrim, Kid Antrim, Billy Bonney, Billy the Kid  
By Bob "Doc" Sproull, BTKOG Board Member - El Paso, TX - July 2000*

- 1859 Dec. - Catherine McCarty gives birth to a boy. Christened Henry. The actual year, place, and father not documented.
- 1866 - McCarty family: Catherine, Henry and brother Joseph - living in Marion County, Indiana.
- 1869 - McCarty's and William Antrim arrive in Wichita, Kansas.
- 1870 - Catherine buys town lot in Wichita. Operates a laundry. Later moves out of town next to Antrim.
- 1871 - Catherine sells Wichita holdings.
- 1873 Mar. 1 - Catherine and William Antrim are married in Santa Fe. Henry & Joe are witnesses. Henry becomes Henry Antrim.  
Summer - Antrims arrive in Silver City. Catherine takes in wash & boarders. Henry runs with the street Arabs. Attends school.
- 1874 Sept. 16 - Catherine dies of TB. Antrim places Henry & Joseph with the Hudsons. Henry works at livery & feed stable.  
Winter - Antrim places Henry with the Truedales (Exchange Hotel). Waits on tables; Joe to the Orlean's Club. Antrim leaves.  
Henry close to teacher, Mary Richards. Henry in minstrel shows.
- 1875 Summer - Truedales split. Henry moves to Mrs. Brown's. Works at a butcher shop & smithy. Learns gambling at the Orlean's Club.  
Sept. 4 - Receives stolen goods from robbery of Charlie Sun's home. George Schafer said to be the thief.  
Sept. 23 - Sheriff Whitehill arrests Henry and jails him. Court will not open until December.  
Sept. 25 - Billy escapes jail and gets on the stage to Arizona on the 26th. Becomes Kid Antrim in Arizona.
- 1876 Mar. 19 - Henry steals a horse from Pvt. Charles Smith near San Carlos Reservation. Goes to Ft. Grant & soldier's fun town Bonita and McDowell's store. Works for a short time at Hooker's Ranch and as a cook at the Hotel de Luna.  
November - Steals a horse from Sgt. Hartman at a hog ranch. Hartman pursues Henry (Kid Antrim) and takes horse back.
- 1877 Aug. 17 - Gets in fight with Frank P. Cahill and kills him. Arrested, he escapes from jail. Flees to Knight Ranch 40 miles south of Silver City.  
Fall - Now known as Billy Bonney. His itinerary is hazy - mixed reports. A Silver city resident reports he saw Billy with Jesse Evan's gang known as "The Boys". Starts to the Pecos Valley with a companion. Waylaid by Apaches in shortcut through the Guadalupe Mtns. Escapes but loses horse and companion. Walks to Ma'am Jones. Recuperates there. Goes to Seven Rivers and is arrested. Spends time with Frank Coe after getting out of jail.
- 1878 Jan. - John Henry Tunstall hires Billy. Alexander McSween has hearing in Mesilla concerning the Fritz insurance money. McSween has to post bond.  
Feb. 11 - Sheriff Brady attaches Tunstall's store and cattle for bond.  
Feb. 18 - Brady posse kills Tunstall. Billy and Waite arrested trying to serve a warrant for the Tunstall murder (Feb. 20)  
March 1 - Dick Brewer forms the Regulators. Justice of the Peace J. Wilson appoints Brewer deputy constable.  
March 9 - Brewer's Regulators Posse shoots Frank Baker, William "Buck" Morton and William McCloskey.  
April 1 - Sheriff Brady and Deputy George Hindman killed in Lincoln ambush by Billy and others.  
April 4 - Buckshot Roberts killed by the Regulators at Blazier's Mill. Brewer killed, Coe and Billy wounded.  
April 18-22 - Grand Jury exonerates Jimmy Dolan, Evans, "Billy" Mathews and others indicted for Tunstall's murder; Charlie Bowdre indicted for Buckshot Robert's murder. John Copeland is appointed sheriff to serve Brady warrants. Dolan goes to Gov. Sam Axtell to reverse appointment. (April 27)  
April 28-29 - Seven Rivers Gang rides to Lincoln to help Dolan in fighting Chisum. Kill Frank McNab, wound "Ab" Saunders, imprison Frank Coe.  
May 24 - Frank Warner Angel arrives in Lincoln as President Rutherford B. Hayes representative.  
May 28-30 - Gov. Axtell removes Copeland as sheriff. Appoints "Dad" Peppin, a Dolan employee. John Kinney and gang, Peppin's special deputies, to get Regulators.  
June 18 - Congress passes Posse Comitatus Act (forbids military intervention in civil disturbances.)  
July - McSween a fugitive. Seven Rivers Gang lays siege at Chisum Ranch. Siege fails. (July 4)  
July 11 - Posse under Peppin and Dolan terrorizes San Patricio.  
July 14 - McSween and Regulators return to Lincoln. Beginning of 5-Day Battle.  
July 19 - McSween and others killed leaving burning home. Higinio Salazar wounded, plays dead, escapes. Billy, Tom O'Folliard and Jim French escape.  
July 20 - Peppin's coroner's jury: "McSween and others killed resisting arrest."  
Aug. 5 - Morris J. Bernstein, Clerk at Mescalero Indian Agency, killed. Billy blamed.  
Aug. 14 - Billy and Regulators appear at Paco Anaya's sheep camp; fed & supplied. Frank Warner Angel leaves Lincoln for New York.  
Late Summer - Kinney and Dona Ana Gang terrorize area. Raiding and raping. Shooting children.  
Sept. 4 - President Hayes replaces Governor Axtell with Governor Lew Wallace.  
Sept. through Oct. - Billy and others raid Dolan Ranch, take 15 horses and 150 cattle to Tascosa, Texas.  
Nov. 13 - Wallace issues his Amnesty Proclamation.  
Dec. 22 - Sheriff George Kimbrell replaces Peppin. Kimbrell arrests Billy. Billy escapes jail.  
Dec. 28 - Billy meets Jesse James in Las Vegas, NM.
- 1879 Feb. 18 - Peace Parley in Lincoln between Billy & Jesse Evans Gang, much drinking. Dolan and Evans murder Houston Chapman (Susan McSween's one-arm lawyer).  
Mar. 5 - Gov. Wallace goes to Lincoln. Evans, Billy Mathews, Wm. Campbell free at Murphy Ranch. No effort at arresting them. Hopes to capture Billy as a witness.  
Mar. 12 - Billy writes to Gov. Wallace.  
Mar 15 - Gov. Wallace writes to Billy and suggests meeting.



Site of old Lawrence Murphy's "Fairview" Ranch, Lincoln County, visited on July 14, 2000 by Elizabeth Fackler, Mike Sinkovitz, Lucas Speer, and your Editor, during the last BTK campout, and was the 119th Anniv. of BTK's death. Present home owned by the Spencers.

- Mar. 12 - Billy writes to Gov. Wallace.
- Mar. 15 - Gov. Wallace writes Billy and suggests meeting.
- Mar. 18 - Evans and Campbell escape confinement at Ft. Stanton.
- Mar. 21 - Billy and O'Folliard arrested by Kimbrell as agreed to in Billy's meeting with Wallace.
- April 14 - Wallace in Lincoln for a month. Grand Jury convened at his insistence. Prosecutor Wm. Rynerson won't let Billy testify; change of venue to Mesilla.
- May 25 - Grand Jury exonerates Col. Nathan Dudley. "Mockery of Justice."
- June 2 (also reported on July 3, 1880) - Jesse Evans arrested and charged with murder of Texas Ranger at Alamito Creek, TX.
- August - Judge Warren Bristol dismisses all charges against J. J. Dolan.
- October - Bonney, Doc Scurlock, O'Folliard, Bowdre, and 2 Mexican-Americans go into Texas Panhandle and rustle 100 Chisum cattle. Scurlock leaves gang.
- Dec. 6 - Bristol dismisses all civil charges brought by Mrs. McSween against Dudley.
- 1880** Jan. 10 - Billy kills Joe Grant at Old Fort Sumner.
- Jan. 14 - Pat Garrett marries Apolonaria Gutierrez at Old Fort Sumner.
- March - Bob Olinger kills Frank Hill.
- April 6 - Hembrillo Canyon battle, Apaches and Col. Edward Hatch's troops.
- April 30 - Grand Jury indicts John Jones and Marion Turner for murder of Alexander McSween. Dave Rudabaugh kills Las Vegas jailer in unsuccessful rescue attempt for J. J. Webb.
- June 20 - Susan McSween marries George B. Barber
- Oct. 14 - Mexican troops under General Terrazas kill Victorio and many Apaches at Tres Castillos.
- Oct. - Chisum, Capt. Joseph Lea and J. J. Dolan nominate Garrett for Lincoln County Sheriff.
- Nov. 2 - Pat Garrett elected Sheriff. Acts as Deputy to Kimbrell until Kimbrell's term expires. Begins pursuit of Billy.
- Nov 12 - Gov. Lew Wallace's novel *Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ* is published in New York.
- Nov. 27 - James Carlyle killed at Jim Greathouse and Kuch Ranch where posse has laid siege to capture Billy, Rudabaugh, and Billy Wilson. Probably killed by own men. Billy blamed.
- Dec. 12 - Billy writes Gov. Wallace protesting his innocence.
- Dec. 15 - Wallace offers \$500 reward for capture of Billy the Kid. Tom Catron sells Murphy store in Lincoln to County Commissioners for use as a jail.
- Dec. 19 - Garrett posse kills Tom O'Folliard at Old Fort Sumner.
- Dec. 23 - Stinking Springs: Charlie Bowdre killed. Billy, Rudabaugh, Wilson and Tom Pickett surrender to Garrett posse.
- Dec. 24 - Billy and companions put in irons at Old Fort Sumner. Garrett refuses Luz Maxwell's request to removed the irons so he can say goodbye to Paulita in a closed room. (One report is that Abrana & Billy's son were the ones in the next room.)
- Dec. 25 - Garrett, Billy, Rudabaugh, Wilson, Pickett & posse eat Christmas dinner at Grzelachowski's place in Puerto de Luna.
- Dec. 26 - Prisoners delivered to Las Vegas jail. Wallace leaves Santa Fe for trip to the East.
- Dec. 27 - Billy & gang transferred to Santa Fe jail by train. Placed in cell with man accused of murder.
- 1881** Jan. 1 - Billy writes letter to Gov. Wallace. Wallace back East.
- Jan. 3 - Rudabaugh tried and sentenced to life in prison for robbery. Sentence stayed pending trial for murder.
- Feb. 28 - Attempt to dig out of jail by Billy, Rudabaugh, Wilson, Pickett, & Kelly (accused murderer) discovered & stopped.
- Mar. 2 - Billy writes second letter to Gov. Wallace.
- Mar. 4 - Billy writes third letter from jail to Gov. Wallace.
- Mar. 9 - Wallace offers resignation to President James Garfield.
- Mar. 15 - San Miguel County indicts Billy for cattle theft.
- Mar. 17 - President Garfield accepts Wallace's resignation. Appoints Lionel A. Sheldon of Ohio governor of New Mexico.
- Mar. 27 - Last letter to Wallace written by Billy the Kid, "for the last time I ask" etc.
- April 6 - Ira E. Leonard has Kid's indictment for murder of "Buckshot" Roberts quashed in court at Mesilla.
- April 9 - Billy found guilty of murder of Brady.
- April 13 - Billy sentenced to be hanged at Lincoln on May 13.
- April 21 - Lincoln courthouse, former Dolan store, is Billy's jail pending hanging. James Bell and Olinger assigned as guards.
- April 28 - Billy escapes jail, kills Bell & Olinger. Flees to Las Tablas & Higinio Salazar's home. Rides Block Ranch horse to go to Old Fort Sumner to see his main love, Celsa. (Some historians believe Paulita Maxwell was Billy's main love.)
- April 30 - Wallace posts another \$500 reward for Billy. Earlier in day he had signed Billy's death warrant.
- May, June, July - Spends time going from sheep camp to sheep camp near Old Fort Sumner. Attends dances.
- May 30 - Lew Wallace appointed minister to Turkey and leaves New Mexico.
- July 14 - Garrett kills Billy at Old Fort Sumner in Pete Maxwell's darkened bedroom.

## The Associated Press Review

### Garrett's 1882 book re-issued, annotated by Frederick Nolan

By Richard Benke, Aug. 13, 2000  
in Clovis News-Journal, Clovis, NM

Much of what people hear about Billy the Kid is wrong. And, says British writer Frederick Nolan, much of that bad information can be traced back to one source - a book published the year after Billy was killed. It was partially authored by the man who shot him, Sheriff Pat Garrett.

Pat F. Garrett's *The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid* has been re-issued in an annotated format by the University of Oklahoma Press.

It's now two books in one - schismatic, self-lacerating, funny, thanks to Nolan, who has been tracking Billy the Kid, or BTK, almost for 50 years.

One side of the page is the original rambling, flowery yarn mostly ghost-written for Garrett in 1882 by former Roswell postmaster Marshall Ashmun "Ash" Upson. Reminiscent of a W. C. Fields narrative style, it intersperses ill-fitting quotes from Tennyson, Shakespeare and Sir Walter Scott in a Wild West literary butchery worthy of the war.

Right beside it on the other half of the page are the austere, biting corrections of the exasperated Nolan. "Frankly, I don't think Garrett's book is a worthwhile document at all," Nolan said by phone from his home in Chalfont St. Giles, between London and Oxford. Garrett's version of Billy's death "may have been the biggest lie of all," he says.

But you can't just read Nolan's half of the book; both halves are needed to make sense of nonsense. It's a fine kettle of pickles he's gotten himself in.

Nolan's BTK journey began in 1950s scouring the London phone book for people named Tunstall, who might be related to the young Englishman whose murder started it all. Since then, Nolan has written several books about the conflict.

John Henry Tunstall, who had overseen his father's business in British Columbia, headed south seeking new opportunities around 1870. In Lincoln County, which then nearly filled the southeastern quadrant of New Mexico Territory, Tunstall found a vulnerable monopoly supplying beef to the Mescalero Apaches and offered what he thought would be healthy competition. It turned out unhealthy.

Tunstall, with BTK among his employees, was up against the Santa Fe Ring, which ran the territorial government. The ring was headed by U.S. Attorney Thomas B. Catron, an investor in the monopoly. After it became clear that legal machinations wouldn't shut him down, Tunstall was shot in 1878.

Among Tunstalls Nolan found listed in London in 1955 was Tunstall's sister, Mabel, then in her mid-80's, who had her brother's documents, diaries and voluminous correspondence. Tunstall had sent home dozens of pages every week.

In all that, Nolan says, "not one mention of our Bill; no, not one."

The scraggly lad - born Henry McCarty, later called Henry Antrim, then Billy Bonney - had been romanticized beyond all recognition. Garrett shooting him certainly did not hurt BTK's image, either.

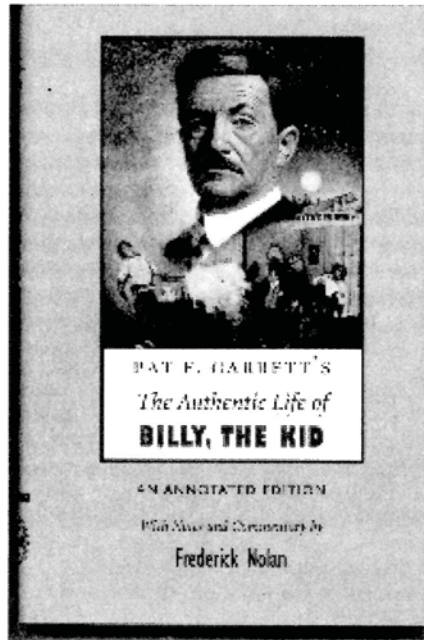
Nolan has a theory about how Garrett knew where to find and kill BTK on July 14, 1881, in Fort Sumner.

Pete Maxwell, scion of the vast Maxwell Land Grant dynasty and brother-protector of Paulita Maxwell, did not want his 17-year-old sister eloping to Mexico with Billy, Nolan suggests.

"The whole relationship was utterly unacceptable, and Maxwell determined a way to ensure that it did not continue. He sent a messenger to Garrett telling him where the Kid was," Nolan says in his introduction.

The fugitive BTK had killed two Garrett deputies three months earlier escaping from the Lincoln lockup.

Nolan identifies myths traceable to or perpetuated by the Upson-Garrett collaboration, including:



●The name Billy the Kid. "Billy" was an alias, and BTK objected to being called "the Kid," as though he were the only one.

●Early killings. Nolan suggests several killings reported by Upson are fiction, filling the blank spots in BTK's life.

●Mentor loyalty. Tunstall was 24 when he died, not the graying father figure often portrayed. A likelier motive for BTK's violence was the loss of income Tunstall's death would mean for him.

●BTK's supposed leadership of the gunslinging "Regulators."

●Birth. Billy was given Upson's own birthday, Nov. 23, and an arbitrary birthplace, New York, for which there was no documentation.

"Little could he (Upson) have realized how firmly these myths would fix themselves in the public consciousness," Nolan writes.

All those books and movies ... all those actors who played Billy ... Johnny Mack Brown, Paul Newman, Kris Kristofferson, Peter Dinklage, Emilio Estevez, Val Kilmer, et al.

While Upson wrote most of the book, Garrett dictated the calmer final chapters and commented on criticism against him for shooting Billy in Maxwell's darkened bedroom.

"It is said that Garrett did not give the Kid a fair show," Garrett wrote.

The book, he hoped, would improve his image and yield some of the bounty that other writers enjoyed from BTK dime novels. But the abuse only intensified, Nolan says.

Loren D. Estleman, whose novel "Journey of the Dead" deals with the post-BTK haunting of Pat Garrett, says there was a real effort to elevate Billy to mythological status.

"There's everything to be celebrated about an attempt to set the record straight," Estleman said of Nolan's effort.

The Lincoln County War was a small-time business dispute that got out of hand because of ethno-political bigotry, still-smoldering Civil War hatred, macho vanity, greed and liquor.

"The Lincoln County War proved nothing and established nothing," Nolan says. "Practically everyone who shouldered arms ended up either dead or dead broke."

But it did light a path toward better law enforcement.

When the war started in 1878, Nolan said, "Lincoln County was as big as Ireland, and it had one sheriff (William Brady), and he was a drunk."

Once they cut Lincoln County into several smaller counties, it began "to make social sense and become civilized," he said.

### Editor's Note:

Your Editor wrote Associated Press couple years ago about the error in their daily history column in the newspapers. "Why," I asked, does AP continue to say, year after year, on July 14th:

**"In 1881, outlaw William H. Bonney Jr., alias 'Billy the Kid' was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, NM."**

(*"Where did they get William H. Bonney JR.???", I asked.*)

Your Editor learned that Associate Press Dick Benke, of Albuquerque was doing a review of the Frederick Nolan's annotated 1882 Garrett book so I emailed Dick the same email I mailed AP's main office in New York: "Why are you guys calling the Kid: William H. Bonney Jr.? What's with this Junior stuff? His real name is Henry McCarty."

Dick Benke emailed Frederick Nolan: "I got an e-mail from the Outlaw Gang begging AP to stop referring to BTK as William H. Bonney JR in its annual Today in History fixture on Bastille Day. I passed the note along to our newsfeature dept. which got a small thrill out of having any sort of bursh with the aforementioned tar. - Deck Benke"

Your Editor will wait until next July 14th and see if they have discovered the error of their ways and made necessary correction. Do you think them New York news feature people would ever admit to making an error?





Nicholas Mahan, 5, "Ride 'em Cowboy"

## Billy the Kid Past or Present

By Donna Mahan  
Outlaw Gang Member from NC

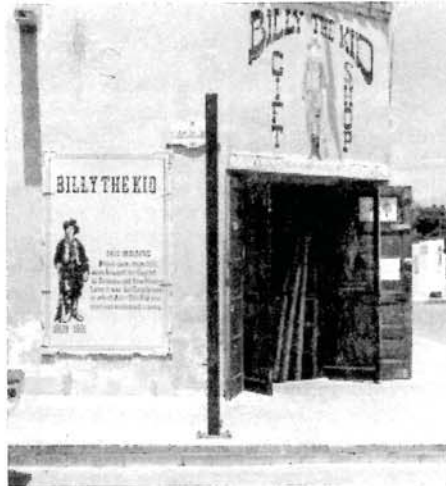
To me Billy is a legend. Some people have told me Billy was a fairy tale. I say no. He as a living, breathing person.

You may think I'm crazy but I believe in reincarnation and I've been told since I was nine years old that I was Billy reincarnated and when we went to New Mexico in 1997 I could feel something inside of me that I had been there before as we walked through Lincoln and Old Fort Sumner. I could feel a presence. I could actually see Maxwell's house and the room where Billy was killed. As I put the rose on Billy's grave and told him I loved and missed him, I reached through the fence and I could feel something cold go all through me. I think Billy was young, good-looking and misunderstood. He lost his mother very young. then he lost his friends one by one and he was the only that that got blamed for Sheriff Brady's death and he never told on his friends and some were still around. As long as there are people who believe in Billy and his friends they live on in our hearts and lives.

Photos made by Donna Mahan



In Memory of  
Mrs. Katherine Antrim  
1829 - 1874  
Mother of Billy the Kid  
(In the Silver City, NM Cemetery -  
The "K" in Katherine should  
have been a "C")



The sign reads:  
**THIS BUILDING**  
Which dates from 1850,  
once housed the Capitol  
of Arizona and New Mexico.  
Later it was the Courthouse  
in which Billy the Kid was  
tried and sentence to hang.  
(Building number is 238 on the plaza in  
Mesilla, NM. Today it is the Billy the Kid Gift  
Shop)

(Ed's note: Donna of North Carolina hopes to  
be back for our 2001 campout!)

*Rest in Peace*

## Duane G. Rosenberger

Dec. 17, 1925 - Oct. 9, 2000

Our sympathies go out to his wife Betty Rosenberger, one of our original Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang members of Ft. Sumner.

Duane served in WWII as a member of a B-17 air crew. Later he traveled the rodeo circuit and was a team roper and bulldogger. He owned and raced thoroughbred horses, and was a horse trainer for many years at Santa Fe Downs and the Downs at Albuquerque.

Duane was survived by wife Betty, two sons, John Duane and Joseph Lee, a sister and a brother and four grandchildren.

Some of his pallbearers will be members of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang. Burial will be in Fort Sumner.

*Rest in Peace*

## Richard Farnsworth

Sept. 1, 1920 - Oct. 9, 2000

Noted western stunt man and film actor Richard Farnsworth died by his own hand at his ranch home near Lincoln, NM. He had terminal cancer. Just this year he was nominated for an Academy Award for best actor, for his leading role in *The Straight Story*, but the powers-that-be passed up this shy cowboy who had no public relations firm behind him, for a young whipper-snapper (can't even remember his name).

Farnsworth had 31 movies under his belt and fifteen television films to boot. Three of his movies stand out in this editor's mind: *Rooster Cogburn* (1975), *Comes a Horseman* (1978) in which he got nominated for Best Supporting Actor, and *The Grey Fox* (1982). *The Straight Story* (1999 and his last movie) I have yet to see. May he ride forever in green pastures.

*Rest in Peace*

## Art Blazer

May 31, 1922 - Aug. 16, 2000

The great-grandson of Joseph Hoy Blazer of Blazer's Mill fame where Buckshot Roberts was killed, died at Capitan, NM. He had just published his grandfather's biographical recollections of his great-grandfather's relationship with the Mescalero chief Santana, entitled *Santana: War Chief of the Mescaleros* (for the book: you can email his widow Jo Blazer at jblazer@netscape.net).

Art Blazer had been a soldier and a cowboy. He served the Mescalero Apache Tribe for many years in many jobs, living in the Mescalero and Capitan area all his life. He is also survived by sons: Arthur "Butch" Blazer and Kenneth R. Blazer, and daughter Beverly LaPaz, and 8 grandchildren.

**Welcome NEW Members**  
and a reminder to other members.  
Those that didn't pay their dues at the  
2000 Campout need to pay before  
February 1, to have membership valid  
for the year 2001

\$15 for USA single  
\$25 for USA couple or family  
\$20 for non-USA single  
\$35 for non-USA couple or family

Mail to:  
BTKOG, P.O. Box 1881  
Capitan, New Mexico 88316

*The 2001 Campout*  
*Thursday-Sunday*  
*July 19 through 22*  
>>>>><<<<<

*Watch for our 2001 May*  
*Newsletter for details!*

# The Great New Mexico Cover-Up

## Frank Warner Angel's Reports

By Norman Cleaveland with editing and comments made by Don McAlavy

*Excerpts from the Rio Grande History publication of the Rio Grande Historical Collections, Summer 1975, No. 5. Norman Cleaveland was the grandson of William Raymond Morley, a railroad construction engineer on the first railroad to enter New Mexico, the AT&SF, and was caught up in the Santa Fe Ring's mis-handling of the murder of Reverend F. J. Tolby in Colfax County in 1875. This was Frank Warner Angel's first task as a federal investigator, but our interest at this moment is his report of happenings in Lincoln County.*

Reports made in 1878 by Frank Warner Angel, which are available today throw much light on a major cover-up which developed in the Territory of New Mexico and was to last for some eighty years.

In February 1878, the Lincoln County War developed after the murder, by duly constituted authorities, of John Henry Tunstall, an Englishman, who was in opposition to the political and economic interest of the Santa Fe Ring in that county. The British embassy now joined the mounting outcry about violence in New Mexico and finally the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes was forced to investigate. Angel, a special agent, was sent to New Mexico where he conducted an exhaustive investigation and submitted reports, mostly in the form of affidavits from the principals involved, to the Department of the Interior and the Department of Justice.

Angel's reports were devastating. Governor Samuel Axtell, and several other top officials in New Mexico, including Thomas Benton Catron and William Breeden (both having served as U. S. Attorney Generals) were replaced, thus ending the dominance of the original Santa Fe Ring. However, so potent were the Ring's supporters in Washington that within four years Axtell was back in New Mexico as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Santa Fe Ring was enjoying a new lease on life.

Stephen B. Elkins, generally considered to be the top leader of the Santa Fe Ring, was also in Washington as New Mexico's representative in Congress.

Of course Axtell's appointment as Chief Justice of New Mexico's Supreme Court was sufficient vindication to raise grave doubts as to whether his firing as governor had been justified. This was a major triumph for the cover-up which had been augmented by other events including the burying of Angel's reports deeply in Washington files, so deeply that their contents did not come to light for eighty years.

It is not surprising, then, that some present day historians are confused when writers of previous generations were left completely in the dark about the contents of Angel's reports. Such knowledgeable individuals, and close contemporaries of the cover-up, as former governors George Curry and Miguel Otero, made no



Frank Warner Angel  
Unsung Hero - Died 1906

mention of Angel or his reports in their extensive accounts of violence in Colfax and Lincoln Counties. Also silent was Ralph Emerson Twitchell in his exhaustive five-volume work *The Leading Facts of New Mexico History* published in 1911. Frank D. Reeves in his three-volume *History of New Mexico*, published in 1961, made no mention of Angel.

Thus a good question is: how did such an effective cover-up get uncovered? As far as I can tell at the moment much credit belongs to an English writer, Frederick W. Nolan, who in the early 1950s discovered a portion of one of the Angel reports in the archives of the British Foreign Office. As I recall Nolan's verbal explanation, this is how it happened. On a visit to Chicago after WWII he became a western history buff and learned that the murder of Tunstall, an Englishman, started Billy the Kid on his road to world-wide notoriety. Upon returning to England Nolan looked up Tunstall's birth certificate and from the data thereon was able to locate a younger sister. She in turn provided access to the Tunstall family records where he found mention of an Angel report and quoted excerpts. So off to the Public Records Office goes Nolan and, *viola!*, that portion of Angel's report dealing with Tunstall's murder. In due course Nolan dispatched a paper entitled "A Sidelight on the Tunstall Murder" to the *New Mexico Historical Review* where it appeared in July 1956.

Following Nolan's and Rasch's archival rummaging (Philip J. Rasch in July 1957 sent a paper "Exit Axtell: Enter Wallace" to *NMHR*) there appears to have been an acceleration in the volume of published history in the area covered by the Angel reports. But, with a few notable exceptions, the Angel reports continued to be overlooked. The exceptions apparently started with William A. Keleher whose *Violence in Lincoln County* was also published in 1957. He included substantial quotations from

the Angel reports. Nolan's book, *The Life and Death of John Henry Tunstall*, published in 1965, of course contains much about the Angel reports. Nolan suggested that some of Angel's papers may have been lost since they were shuffled about in Washington between 1878 and 1885. He also noted some remarks attributed to Secretary of Interior Carl Schurz to the effect that Stephen B. Elkins, as Secretary of War, had destroyed some of Angel's reports.

Another early worker with the Angel reports was Calvin Horn who frequently cites them in his *New Mexico's Troubled Years*, published in 1963. A biography, *Thomas Benton Catron*, by Victor Westphall, published in 1973, contains a chapter entitled "The Angel Report" in which Catron received sympathetic treatment in regard to Angel's investigation and Catron's subsequent resignation. Although Westphall adds to the number of Angel's reports uncovered, particularly in Department of Justice records, there seems to be the void suggested by Rasch in regard to Angel's comments about Catron.

At present time (1975) the question remains - how did Angel's reports remain hidden and escape the attention of historians for some eight decades? During the period immediately following Angel's investigation, New Mexico's complainants may have been satisfied with Angel's dismissal, Catron's resignation, and the collapse of the original Santa Fe Ring generally. After the revival of the Ring four years later only the unwary would have been willing to meddle with such records.

In September 1892, an apprehensive Catron wrote a letter to Elkins, then Secretary of War. (In essence Catron says his opponents want the "Angell (sic) report against me and make use of it in this election campaign. In ending, Catron states "I do not desire any judgement upon Mr. Angell (sic) report. Kindly see to this immediately. Elkin replies ". . . I think you need have no further worry about it.")

But Catron continued to worry. In February 1893 he wrote Elkins again: "First: get Attorney General Miller to take out of the files in his office and deliver up to you that report made by Angell (sic) against me. That is a thing which they will want to use against me hereafter, simply as a piece of mudslinging . . . you get that report and destroy it."

In March, Elkins reply was: "I have had diligent search made for Angel's report in the Attorney General's Department, but it cannot be found."

Just how "diligent" and loyal this search was could be questioned . . .

The Santa Fe Ring still controlled most of the New Mexico press. Disclosure of any significant errors in Angel's reports would have been easy. But apparently both he (Catron) and Elkins preferred to continue the cover-up.

Thankfully, enough of Angel's reports remain to greatly clarify one of the most colorful and confused eras of New Mexico's territorial history. (*Ed. note: Perhaps the public will someday blame the real villains in this affair.*)

# Michael McCarty Could He Have Been . . . ?

(Editor's Note: Scott Smith, Ranger in charge of the Ft. Sumner State Monument, sent this editor some military records he found in researching one Michael McCarty, a person some historians have said might have been Henry McCarty's father. Other historians have found these records too, but this editor had never seen them. This then is a capsule of what was said about Private Michael McCarty.)

I certify, on honor, that Michael McCarty a Private of Captain Simonson's 5th Battery of Artillery Volunteers, of the State of Indiana, born in Cork County of Ireland, aged 27 years; 5 feet 6 inches high; fair complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and by occupation a laborer, having joined the company on its original organization at Indianapolis, Indiana on the 22nd day of September, 1861, to serve in the Regiment for the term of three (3) years and having served honestly and faithfully with the 5th Ind. Battery to Nov. 30, 1863, is now entitled to a discharge by reason of death in General Field Hospital at Chickamauga Nov. 30th, 1863 of gun shot wound received at Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia.

The said Private Michael McCarty was last paid by Paymaster Fullerton to include the 30th day of June, 1863, and has pay due him from that time to the 30th day of Nov. 1863; he is entitled to pay and subsistence for traveling to place of enrollment and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer soldiers, or militia, so discharged. He has received Twenty (\$20.94) dollars, advanced by the United States on account of clothing.

Signed: A. Morrison  
Captain, Commanding Company  
Chattanooga, Tenn.  
September 28, 1864

(Ed. note: Who received the \$20.94?)

## CASUALTY SHEET:

Nature of casualty: wounded  
Date of casualty, Sept. 19th or 20th, 1863  
Source of this information: 20th Corps, Book 9-C, Dept. of Cumberland, page 107.

Second Casualty sheet noted under nature of wound: Wounded "In the Leg." A third casualty sheet added that he was "Wounded, right knee, shell."

In the 5th Battery Muster-in Roll it was noted under remarks: Mustered Sept. 22, 1861 by Lt. Col. Thomas J. Wood. \$2 per month 1st enlistment. \$2 per month for artillery muster.

Letter from the Surgeon in charge to the Senior Artillery Officer, 5th Battery:  
General Field Hospital  
Chattanooga, Tenn, December 1st, 1863  
Sir.

It becomes my duty to inform you that Michael McCarty, of the 5th Ind. Battery, died in this hospital Nov. 30th, 1863, from a gun shot wound of the knee joint. His effects are one pocket wallet containing fifty cents in money and one three-cent postage stamp. One hat, one blouse, one pair pants, and one pipe.

(Did Michael save that 3 cent stamp to mail a letter home, maybe to his wife, Catherine???)



Jessie Evans                      Brushy Bill

# Jessie Evans Could He Have Been . . . ?

In recent years, several men have claimed to be famous outlaws. One of these was J. Frank Dalton who professed to be Jesse James. Another man assumed the role of Billy the Kid. His name was Brushy Bill Roberts. Several who knew Billy the Kid during the 1870s and early 1880s testified that Roberts was Billy the Kid; others who knew Billy the Kid said Roberts was not. "If Brushy Bill wasn't Billy the Kid, whos was he?"

He could have been Jessie Evans. The likeness between Jessie and Brushy is more pronounced than between Billy the Kid and Brushy.

Note, Brushy never degraded Evans in any way. He did not say Jessie shot Tunstall (as many do) and strangely he did not even name Jessie as a posse member. It is intriguing that Brushy always spoke so kindly of a one-time enemy. (Read *Jessie Evans: Lincoln County Badman*, by Grady E. McCright and James H. Powell, 1983)

## Update on Jessie Evans

"Thought you might be interested in some statistics that turned up at the Texas State Archives in RG 021. Records of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Convict Record Ledger 1998/-38-151. #9078. Jesse Evans. Age 27. Height 5-5. Weight 150. Complexion fair. Eyes gray. Hair light. Marks on person: two large scars on left thigh, one bullet scar above and one below left elbow. Marital relations none. Does not use tobacco. Limited education. Occupation laborer. Nativity Missouri. Convicted October 16, 1880. Offenses murder and robbery. Term of imprisonment 10 years. County Presidio. Residence Fort Davis. No money. Received at penitentiary December 1, 1880. Expiration of sentence October 16, 1900. Escaped May 23, 1882.

I also have pretty thorough documentation on the apprehension and trial of Evans at Fort Davis in 1880. He was traveling with his buddy from New Mexico Gunter, whose real name was Graham. Coincidentally Graham was the son of a prominent and respected attorney here in Georgetown."

This bit of information came from Robert Uteley who wrote *Billy the Kid - A Short and Violent Life*, 1989, but now in Georgetown, Texas doing a book on the Texas Rangers. It was sent to Frederick Nolan who in turn sent it to the *BTKOG Outlaw Gazette*.

# Manuel Moraga's story about BTK and the Circus.

Manuel Moraga owned a traveling circus which played the Pecos river towns for many years and was well acquainted with Bonney. On one occasion, Bonney wanted to see the circus at Anton Chico, but had no money for a ticket. Moraga admitted him free. Later the same day, because Bonney was poorly dressed, and the weather was cold, Moraga gave him a red flannel shirt and an overcoat. Next year when the circus again played in Anton Chico, Bonney showed up, bought a ticket, and handed Moraga seventy-five dollars in payment for the clothing he had given him the year before.

(As reported by W. A. Keleher in his 1957 book: *Violence in Lincoln County - 1869-1881. Keleher knew Manuel Moraga's son, A. S. Moraga, 75 years old, of 312 Mountain Road East, Albuquerque and learned of this story.*)

## 18 Year-old Needing Advice

Dear Respected Elders, Good day to you.

My name is Adam Johnson. I am an 18 year-old-kid who has tried to fight for a pardon for one William H. Bonney AKA Billy the Kid.

I have been studying this for the past year and I tried to complet it by the time I graduated but as we all can tell it has yet to work. I have talked to several people in your state up to and including Jole Jacobsen (*Ed's note: Joel Jacobsen wrote "Such Men as Billy the Kid" in 1994.*) to see if we could retry the case but we can't, but I was wondering if you all would be able to help me with this problem. I don't want fame I don't want plublisity or anything else I just want to shut the kids in my town up and prove this project is worth something.

With Mr. Jacobsen's help I found out that Billy IS WAS and always will be innoent of all his crimes. Let me explane this. Murder 1 in the state of New Mexico is punshable by hanging and since no one in the state of New Mexico with a batch would do anything The kid and the Regulators were preforming the law. 2 murders before the war (Cahill & Grant) were both self defence cases. (Bell & Ollinger) were an act of war. the state with NO just cause tried only the kid. They singled him out only him for a crime.

If this is not enuff lets talk about his death. Mr. Patrick F. Garrett was hired to murder Billy. This can be proven by the TAIL (I use this word strongly) of July 14, 1881. Billy unarmed except for a knife steps in to a dark room and asks who is there. Then Garrett blows his head off. There are enuff holes in this story to make it a picz of swiss chise. (Sorry about the spelling.)

Let me get to my point. It's sympole I am looking to put together a patition to get the pardon. This is verry important to me, I can't exactly explaine it but there is something, well it feels like something pushing me to pull this off with all the help I can get. If anyone is interested please write back to me at:

Adam Johnson  
8014 Olson Memorial Hwy # 189  
Golden Valley, MN 5527



# Garrett's Forgotten Badge

By Raymond W. Walker

Lawman Pat Garrett's life has long since passed; yet his legendary life, history and legacy live on. For those of us who seek thrill, adventure and a sense of what it must have been like to have walked with the Lawman here's one more story to tell around the campfire.

Back in early spring 1999, Raymond W. Walker and his wife Frances were at an auction in Shawnee. (Little River Auctioneers out of Amarillo, Texas.) Raymond collected novelty badges and saw several locked glass cases on display. The one that caught his eye was a Lincoln County Sheriff badge. It looked worn, unpolished and old. There is a Lincoln County, Oklahoma, and he thought it might be from this county. Others were interested in this badge until a bystander pointed out the fact that there are numerous Lincoln Counties in the U.S., and this badge wouldn't bring any money. Raymond won the bid of \$40.00.

Four Months later a friend was viewing the badges in his small collection, and with a magnifying glass found on the reverse side an inscription 'FOR PAT GARRET, WITH BEST REGARDS OF A.J. FOUNTAIN 1881'. He couldn't believe his eyes, "What a find". The badge sparked a curiosity...was it authentic, what path had it taken to Oklahoma?

Spring 2000 Raymond and his wife Frances took off to New Mexico to research the authenticity of the Garrett badge. Their first stop was at the Hubbard Museum of the West. After studying the badge their Historian, Drew Gomber, later said it "could very possibly be an original badge".

They then traveled to La Mesilla, and met with Mary Alexander, the Great-Great-Granddaughter of A. J. Fountain. They compared the

*The back side of Garrett's 1881 badge: Above the reversed "Lincoln" can be seen engraved "For Pat Garret" and below "Lincoln" engraved "With the Best Regards of" and above the reversed "County" is engraved: "A. J. Fountain 1881."*

signatures of A. J. Fountain from his Masonic Card, and the signature was identical. Ms Alexander said that she too believed the badge to be authentic as the Colonel (A.J. Fountain) and Pat Garrett were the best of friends.

Their travels then took them to Las Cruces to meet with Karl and Toni Lumbach. Karl is a Historian and Archeologist, and Toni is a Western Museum Curator. Both studied the badge and confirmed it was made by a jeweler, most likely at La Mesilla or Las Cruces, and was a badge of that period in history. It is their belief it was made by the "Lost Wax Method". The badge was cast, the balls were next added, then it was plated by sterling silver.

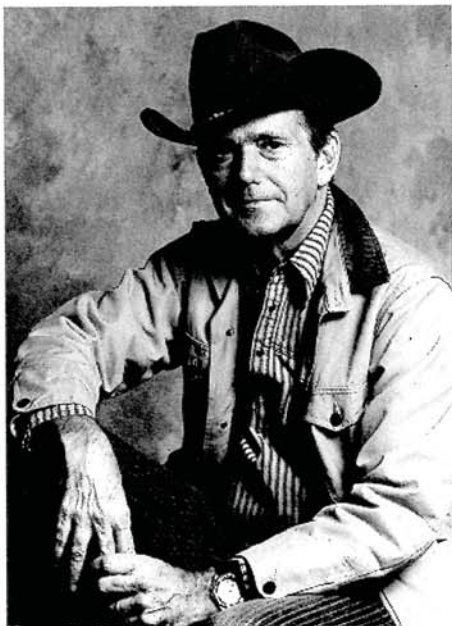
Leon Metz related a story of Jarvis Garrett (the youngest son of Pat Garrett) to the Walker's. He said that Jarvis died 6 or 7 years ago of advanced Alzheimer's disease. His wife

too suffered from Alzheimer's disease. One day Jarvis came home and his wife was selling items of Pat's outside on the front porch, like a yard sale. It was not known what or what quantity of items were sold, or for what price. Leon said that he believed the badge was sold out of the Garrett home at this time.

This is just one more story to add to the mystery and intrigue surrounding one of the world's most famous lawmen of the old west days.

*(Editor's note: BTKOG cannot verify the badge. Fred Nolan said "Fountain might well have given Garrett a silver badge.")*

Raymond W. Walker, 172 Eckel Road,  
Shawnee, OK 74801  
Leslie Landwert, daughter, at  
leslandwert@yahoo.com  
Leslie's home number 1-405-878-9799



*The How and Why of:*  
**FRED R. EGLOFF**

As a member of numerous organizations including NOLA, WOLA, WHA, WI, AND WWA, many individuals seeking information on the Old West frequently contact me. No matter what their primary question the one they most often ask is, "How did you ever get so involved in the history of the American West and why?"

Here is how a lifelong native of the Chicago area started on that dusty trail. Like so many others my earliest interest in the West resulted from the movies and radio. Tom Mix and his "Ralston Straight Shooters" constitute some of my earliest recollections on the subject. though the code of the West that was presented by these sources may not have been historically accurate, they were a set of values that our country would certainly benefit from today. I began to read western fiction but by the time I had entered high school I tired of reading about people who never existed doing things that never happened. My interest began to wane however it was to some extent sustained by family trips throughout the West.

Later on while still in high school I fortuitously picked up a Pocket Book entitled *They Died With Their Boots On* by Thomas Ripley. Several lines in his introduction to these "true tales of gun-slinging desperados" reignited my interest. He wrote:

"All of the characters you find in these pages died with their boots on. Dead with their deeds, their bold, swashbuckling deeds, these many years their bones lie deeply under the dust of forgotten mesas. Tomorrow's tramp of many feet will bury them deeper."

"And if anyone doubts that there once lived the tough, wild, and desperate West our fiction writers sometimes tell us about, he should follow me into these musty old records."

Soon I was reading every non-fiction western book I could find. Magazines such as *Frontier Times* and *True West* were enthusiastically devoured. Later on serving as an army officer at Fort Bliss, Texas provided me an opportunity to visit the spot where West Hardin was shot by John Selman and where the four men in five seconds shootout erupted in El Paso. It was only a short trip via sports car to Mesilla where Billy the Kid's trial took place, or down the valley to San Elizario the scene of the Salt War. A far too authentic Old West experience happened when I was held up at gunpoint on the old Butterfield Stage Route near Hueco Tanks.

My collection of books expanded as I sought out the very best especially those of my favorite "grass roots" historian C. L. Sonnichsen. We would eventually become good friends. While skiing in Colorado legendary rare book dealer Fred Rosenstock encouraged me to join the Westerners however it was Don Russell who eventually got me to sign on with the Chicago Corral. This resulted in my getting to know Billy the Kid authority Bob Mullin an alumni of the corral. While serving as sheriff I became good friends with Dick Marohn who was just beginning to collect artifacts and research both Hardin and the Kid.

My biggest surprise came in my own hometown of Wilmette where I uncovered a treasure trove of new information that lead to my book *El Paso Lawman, G. W. Campbell*. Leon Metz, Bob McNellis and many others provided a great deal of encouragement. More recently while helping Ted Yeatman with his Jesse James research I discovered documents at the National Archives in Chicago proving that the bomb used at the James farm came from Rock Island Arsenal with the approval of General Phil Sheridan and the U. S. government. I edited the *Brand Book* for ten years.

As these examples indicate lawmen and outlaws constitute a major part of my research even though I enjoy all aspects of the Old West. In 1997 I succeeded Joe Rosa ("Wild Bill" authority) as president of Westerners International and served for three years. In 1998 I received the Don Russell memorial award from the Westerners and in 1999 WOLA honored me with their annual award for outstanding contributions to outlaw-lawman history.

Anyone seeking to learn the basics of law and order, gun control, or how to handle gang problems will find plenty of food for thought in the real events relating to lawmen, gunfighters, and outlaw gangs.

Learning from the past we should repeat the successes while avoiding the pitfalls. As historians our duty is to grasp reality, not invent it, and we do this by applying reason to the evidence provided by both our research and experience. Old West history has been a most rewarding trail for me to follow especially considering the many valued friends and acquaintances it has provided and continues to provide.



**A Letter from  
Leon Metz  
El Paso, Texas**

Sept. 27, 2000

Dear Don:

Am I still a member of the Billy the Kid Gang? I thought I was but it occurs to me that I haven't received anything in a long time.

I probably did not pay my dues the last time I was billed, which would have been an oversight. My mail seems to come in by the basket load, and some things I guess just get lost in the shuffle.

Anyway, if it is the dues thing, would you tell me how much it will cost to catch up? I'll send you a check. I'd rather make it up than start over, and I would appreciate it if you would send me whatever items I've missed.

On related matters I've been gathering material for a revised edition of the Pat Garrett biography. I doubt that many of my opinions on important matters will change, but there is a lot of new, additional information.

The Garrett project has been on a back burner, however. I started a book on the Mexican Revolution (an absolutely fascinating history), and was about a hundred manuscript pages into it when I again got sidetracked into an Encyclopedia of Western Gunfighters, Outlaws, Lawmen, Scallywags, etc. It's funny how money refocuses one's priorities.

I wish you well, my friend.  
Sincerely,  
Leon

**Our Billy the Kid Website  
wins a, well, a recognition of  
sorts:**

The website titled Billy the Kid Page at <http://www.nmia.com/~btkog/> was selected as a Links2Go "Key Resource" in the West topic. Out of 50 pages selected as Key Resources for the West topic, this Billy page ranked 50th.

# In "Re" Billy the Kid

William A. Keleher

From the 1949-50 *New Mexico Folklore Record*, Vol. IV

William A. Keleher wrote *The Fabulous Frontier*, 1945; *Turmoil in New Mexico 1846-1868*, in 1952, and *Violence In Lincoln County 1869-1881*, in 1957

William H. Bonney, twenty-one years old, was shot and killed by Sheriff Pat Garrett, of Lincoln County, at Fort Sumner, New Mexico, on July 14, 1881. From the moment of the shooting until this very day, a period of almost seventy years, the story of the shooting of "Billy the Kid," has provided a background for controversy and dispute without parallel in the history of the Southwest. No western state has at its disposal the story of the career of an outlaw which can be compared to that of "Billy the Kid." Small wonder that attendants at the State Museum in Santa Fe are weary and discouraged explaining to tourists that they have no "Billy the Kid" exhibit, that they know very little about him. The actual count shows that nine out of ten tourists in Santa Fe ask for "Billy the Kid" picture postcards to send back home as proof that they have been in the cowboy country of the west.

What explanation can be offered for the continued, intense, ever increasing interest in the life and career of William H. Bonney? The answer is that the story of Bonney's life and death holds everything that a dramatist requires to catch and hold what is known as "audience attention." There is the element of mystery. What about the Kid's birth? Was he really born in New York City, on November 23, 1859, as the birth records assert, or was it some other person bearing the same name? Is there any foundation for the belief that the Kid was really a Texan? If it is true that he was born in New York City, and moved west with his mother, first to Coffeyville, Kansas, and then to Santa Fe, and later to Silver City, how, where and when did he learn to ride and shoot? Is there any evidence at all tending to prove that the Kid killed twenty-one people, "not including Indians," before he reached his twenty-first birthday? Or would it be a more accurate statement to say that he killed seven men, and that he killed all of them under circumstances that might be justified under the code of the killer of his day? Was Pat Garrett justified in killing the Kid in the parlor of Peter Maxwell's residence at Fort Sumner that summer night in July, so long ago, without having given him even the slightest chance to know that his life was in jeopardy? Did the Kid, at the time he was killed, have a butcher knife in his hand, and was he on his way to the kitchen to slice off a chunk of meat from the hind quarter of a beef, because he was hungry, or did he have a .41 double action Colt's revolver in a holster under his arm, prepared to shoot Pat Garrett or any other officer at an instant's warning? These, and many other questions like them, will be debated from now on out. No doubt but that William H. Bonney has been in his grave at Fort Sumner almost seventy years, although there is always some old timer willing to rise up and volunteer the information, generally on the anniversary of the Kid's death, that he is either the Kid, or that he had seen him a few years ago in New Mexico, Arizona, Texas, or Mexico.

Pat Garrett, the law officer who killed the

Kid, has been dead these many years, but he left behind him his side of the story of the shooting, in a now very scarce, and very high priced, item of New Mexicana, bearing the high sounding title, "The Authentic Life of Billy, the Kid, the Noted Desperado of the Southwest, Whose Deeds of Daring and Blood Made His Name a Terror in New Mexico, Arizona and Northern Mexico." Published in Santa Fe in 1882, Garrett's book is now a collector's item. It sold in Santa Fe after publication first for \$1.00, then for 75c, and finally, the New Mexican job printing office, which printed it, sold the remnant of several dozen volumes to an early day Billy the Kid enthusiast in Santa Fe for 25c the copy. The purchaser trundled the books away in a wheelbarrow, and they are lost to posterity, probably gathering dust in some hidden away place in Santa Fe. If located, they could be sold for \$250.00 a copy, that being the last reported sale price. Fortunately, in 1927, Maurice Garland Fulton rescued the Pat Garrett book from oblivion by editing and republishing it, and this book in turn is now a bit hard to find in the book stores. There is little question but that Marshall Ashmun Upson Wrote the book for Pat Garrett. Upson's handiwork has caused endless difficulty for those who followed in his footsteps in attempting to unravel the story of Billy the Kid. Upson was fond of telling tall tales. He wrote with "tongue in cheek" in relating many of the incidents of the Kid's childhood and boyhood years, leaving it to his successors to say when and where he had departed from the facts.

Texas born Charles Siringo, author of a famed book, "The Cowboy Detective," in 1912, most of which was written at his ranch at Agua Fria, near Santa Fe, was in the thick of things up and down the Pecos river in the "Billy the Kid" days in Lincoln County. Siringo's father was Italian. His mother was Irish. This blending of races gave him aptitudes and characteristics that would have enabled him to tell much about the early days of the Kid, if he had written in the 80's. However, Siringo deferred writing about the events of '81 until 1920. In that year he wrote a book, "History of Billy the Kid," published as a paper back, which contained much first hand, eye witness, information about the Lincoln County War and the Kid's activities.

John W. Poe, a deputy sheriff, who was with Pat Garrett's posse at the time the Kid was killed, although not an eye witness to the killing, has left his version of it in "The Death of Billy the Kid," published in 1933, with a scholarly foreword by Maurice Garland Fulton.

It was left to Walter Noble Burns, a former newspaper man, turned writer, to achieve the desired goal of all writers. He wrote "The Saga of Billy the Kid," the first edition of which was published in 1926. Since then "The Saga" has gone into many editions, and is still a steady seller, particularly in the larger cities. Burns did not live long to enjoy the fame and fortune that came to him as the result of the publica-

tion of the book. He died in 1932. When Siringo read the Burns book his Italian and Irish ancestry furnished him with the ammunition for explosive talk. He claimed that Burns had simply read the Siringo book, had taken a ride over the "Billy the Kid" country, and had written the "saga." Eventually Siringo cooled off when A. B. Renahan, his Santa Fe attorney, pointed out to him that Burns had not written anything that could not have been procured in many places without looking at the Siringo book. Walter Noble Burns was smart enough to identify his book as a "saga," and nothing more. He did not contend that it contained the gospel truth. In 1936, ten years after Walter Noble Burns had published "The Saga," former Governor Manuel Antonio Otero published "The Real Billy the Kid With New Light on the Lincoln County War." The Governor's book was a painstaking effort and contained much interesting information. It is to be regretted, however, that he did not undertake to write the book while he was yet Governor of the Territory, when he could have interviewed many people living at the time, with the prestige of his office at his command, which could have made available to him many facts subsequently lost with passage of time, and incident intervening deaths.

The latest, and most significant "Billy the Kid" item is J. W. Hendron's "The Story of Billy the Kid, New Mexico's Number One Desperado," published in 1948.

Motion picture Hollywood has turned to the "Billy the Kid" theme from time to time, and has dramatized his life, greatly exaggerated it, with reckless disregard of the truth.

The "Billy the Kid" story today is part fact, part legend, part myth. The word "saga," chosen by Burns as the title for his book, perhaps best expresses the mystery, the allure, the suspense, the ever present and recurring interest in a young man who made his home for some years in New Mexico. There are two schools of thought concerning him: One school holds that he was a courageous, dashing, hero-like youngster, victimized and murdered in cold blood, the other school argues that he was a thief, a cattle rustler, a coward, an assassin, a cold-blooded murderer. How to decide? Read about "Billy the Kid," now and then, and form your own conclusion.



William A. Keleher  
Premier New Mexico historian of his time.

# French BTK Gang Members Join up with the Zouaves

*One Zouave was Lew Wallace!*

*This story presented by Christine Roussel, who has been to New Mexico twice and may come back in 2001 with Jean-Jacque and their two little Outlaws, all from France.*

Preceding the glorious era of Billy the Kid is a period of history that has been of much interest to me: The American Civil War. As it is a period of history not well known in France, my husband and I decided to learn more about it.

We arrived in Washington, DC in late June (2000) and began our journey in time, back to the Civil War. It took us to the battlefield of Antietam. There, on Sept. 17, 1862, was fought the bloodiest one-day battle of the entire Civil War. When the fighting ended that day neither side could claim victory. The losses included 12,410 Union, and 10,700 Confederate casualties.

We marched on to Gettysburg. In that little town in Pennsylvania, during the first three days of July 1863, the greatest battle of the Civil War was fought over an area of 25 square miles surrounding the town.

After just a few hours around the battlefield and the explanations of helpful guides, the first impression (of many motels, fast food places and shops and tourists) is forgotten. You find yourself transported to 1863, and you can safely stay there until you leave town.

(I will get to the Zouaves, Wallace and Billy the Kid soon.)

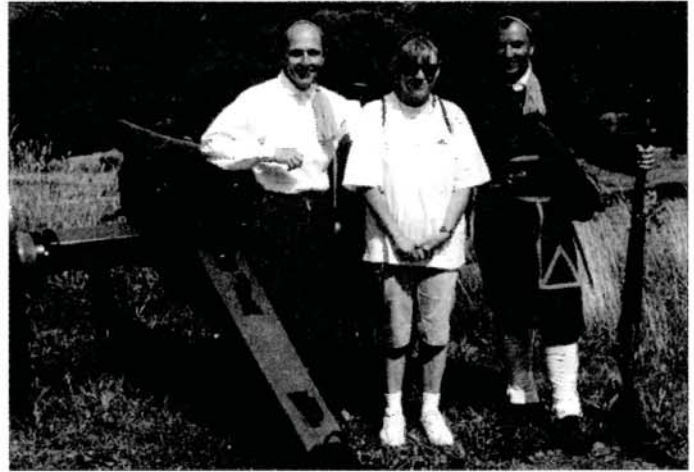
It is difficult to grasp the fact that out of the 160,000 soldiers who converged on Gettysburg, some 51,000 would be numbered among the killed, wounded, captured or missing. It is so sad.

Every year now, during the first week of July, a three-day, large scale, reenactment, portraying various portions of the battle, is held on private land nearby, but not on the actual battlefield. This reenactment is just one event in a week-long series of Civil War related events referred to as the Gettysburg Civil War Heritage Days. There is magic in the atmosphere of Gettysburg and its battlefield. It is not unusual to feel strange and powerful emotions there. Was that a long-gone soldier walking there, in the mist, among those woods? Was that the distant rumbling of cannon, over there, beyond that ridge? These, and many other such things, are often told of by the visitor to this very special and sacred place.

We were very well welcomed and our re-enactor friends we made, did their best to show us the most beautiful places they could. We met 2 Zouaves in Washington. In Baltimore we met Jerry, he is a re-enactor in the 1st Marine Cavalry. In Gettysburg we spent 4 days.

We were not able to purchase a uniform because of the high prices but we've bought a Confederate cap, a bayonet, a cartridge box, a caps box, a belt, t-shirts, mugs, posters, paintings, books and so on . . . and a beautiful plate that I hung at the garage door. On it is written:

Left to right:  
Steven Brizek, one of  
the Duryee's  
Zouaves,  
Christine and Jean-  
Jacques Roussel (the  
latter two from  
France and members  
of the BTKOG.  
At the Gettysburg  
Battlefield,  
in Pennsylvania  
July 2000.



"Parking for Confederates only, all others go back north . . ."

There were 3,000 re-enactors this year (very big campout, almost as big as the Billy the Kid Campout, I was told, in New Mexico this year. Is this the truth?), not counting the families and spectators. What a shamble! It took a long time to find again the car. All the cannons and the muskets firing. It was an incredible spectacle for us poor French.

You know, Jean-Jacques is now proud to say he is an official member of the 5th New York Zouaves (Duryee's Zouaves), the only French man of the unit. Unfortunately he is a little bit too far (away in France) to take part in the reenactments. We are planning, if the banker agrees with us, to go back to Gettysburg in November - on Remembrance Day - to march with his new companions in his Zouave uniform from Gettysburg to Little Round top, the famous hill on the battlefield where Colonel Chamberlain made his historic charge.

We could not have enjoyed this trip without the precious help and welcome of Steven and Ida Brizek, Brain Pohanka and Steve Thompson of the 5th New York Volunteer Zouaves, and Steven Russell Black of the Company G, 20th Maine Infantry Regiment. I bought 2 Billy the Kid books for Steven Brizek. I want him to know who Billy was. We talk about the Kid in our emails.

## Now about Lew Wallace and reason for the Zouave uniforms in the Civil War:

The 11th Indiana Infantry Regiment was organized at Indianapolis on April 25, 1861, for a three month term of service, then reorganized and mustered-in for the three years' service on August 31, 1861, with Col. Lew Wallace as its commander.

In the early days of the war regiments assumed identities to distinguish them from others being organized. The 11th was recognized as a Zouave regiment similar to famous regiments of the same name that fought in the French armies. Zouaves wore distinctly colorful uniforms that clearly set them apart from their counterparts.

At the war's start, Lew Wallace, was appointed as the Adjutant General of Indiana. All of this before he would be known as the author of *Ben Hur* and being governor of the Territory of New Mexico where he met Billy the Kid and wrote most of *Ben Hur*.

The origins of the Zouaves can be traced to the Zouaoua, Berber tribesmen inhabiting the rocky foothills of Algeria, who tendered their services to the French colonial forces in 1830. Although the Zouave units were increasingly comprised of Frenchmen, and by the 1850s entirely so, their distinctive attire remained a derivation of traditional North African dress: a short, dark blue collarless jacket with red trim; sleeveless vest; baggy red trousers and long woolen sash; white canvas leggings; a tasseled red fez and turban.

The Crimean War (1854-55) and the Franco-Austrian War of 1859 confirmed the fighting reputation of the Zouaves, whose exploits were widely publicized in European and North American journals. U.S. Captain George B. McClellan characterized the Zouaves as "the most reckless, self-reliant, and complete infantry that Europe can produce . . . the beau-ideal of a soldier."

Inspired by the fighting prowess and exotic uniforms of the French Zouaves, in 1859 a charismatic 22 year old Illinois militiaman named Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth organized The United States Zouave Cadets of Chicago. Clad in a Zouave style of Ellsworth's design, and brought to a state of clockwork-like perfection in drill, in the summer of 1860 the Zouave Cadets displayed their prowess to admiring audiences in twenty cities across the midwest and northeast. The resulting "Zouave Craze" encouraged numerous militia units to adopt varying styles of Zouave attire virtually on the eve of the Civil War.

Compared with their Northern opponents, only a relative handful of Confederate units adopted the Zouave uniform. This was due in large part to the difficulty of re-supply. The notable exception was Louisiana, which furnished the Confederacy two of its most colorful and free-spirited units.

Maybe Billy the Kid would not think it cool to wear the Zouave uniform.

We set out from France in search of a deeper understanding of America's experience in the Civil War. We have returned home deeply moved by what we witnessed during our visit, and have resolved to return, again and again, to share more fully in the history and heritage of that experience, and yes, we'll be back to Billy the Kid's state of New Mexico. Our sincere love to all the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang members.  
- Signed: Christine Roussel, 2000.

# Introduction By Frederick Nolan to Charlie Siringo's 1920 History of Billy the Kid

Printed here courtesy of the  
University of New Mexico Press

Even though it was reprinted in facsimile some thirty years ago, Charles Siringo's little "history" of Billy the Kid, published privately in Santa Fe in 1920, remains one of the hardest to find of all the books about that legendary outlaw. In many ways a clone of Pat Garrett's *The Authentic Life of Billy the Kid* — repeating many of the misspelled names and other errors perpetrated by Garrett's ghost writer Marshall A. "Ash" Upson — it is valuable not only for its contribution to the legend, but also for the insights it provides into the character of the author.

Charles Angelo Siringo — his father was Italian — was born in Matagorda County, Texas, on February 7, 1855. He claimed to have become a cowboy at age 11, which may have been an exaggeration, but not much of one. He lived life on what he called "the hurricane deck" of a cowpony until he was about 26 — not long after the pursuit of Billy the Kid outlined in this book — when he became a detective for the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, working for them until after the turn of the century. The first authentic cowboy to publish an autobiography (*A Texas Cowboy*, 1885) he spent the rest of his life in New Mexico and California as a writer and later as a minor celebrity and adviser on early westerns in Hollywood, where he died October 19, 1928.

Siringo claims in his Introduction that he got the "facts" for this book not only from the Kid himself but also "from such men as Pat Garrett, John W. Poe, Kip McKinnie (sic), Charlie Wall, the Coe brothers [sic], Tom O'Phalliard (sic), Henry Brown, John Middleton, Martin Chavez, and Ash Upson." If, as can be seen, Siringo had trouble remembering the correct spellings for the names or kinships of his informants and other participants in the story for instance he makes Pat Garrett's and Barney Mason's wives sisters), it is hardly surprising that the book is replete with errors of a more substantive nature. While little benefit would be gained from an itemized listing, clearly we must look askance at Siringo's assertions that the Kid's father was William H. Bonney and his mother's name was Kathleen, that the birth took place in New York, and was followed by the birth of "another baby boy" whom Siringo does not name. Equally dubious are the legends of the family's residence in "Coffeerville, Kansas" where Bonney, Sr. dies, and the move to Colorado, where Kathleen Bonney marries "a Mr. Antrim" and they open a restaurant in Santa Fe. Siringo's claim that the Kid told him personally in 1878 that when he was twelve he had killed a "black nigger" who cheated him in a card game at Fort Union is as spurious as the Ash Upson-inspired tale of Billy's stabbing a blacksmith to death in Silver City to protect Ed Moulton. In point of fact when this story

first appeared in 1881 in Garrett's *Authentic Life* Moulton himself dismissed the story as a fabrication and denied even knowing Billy. Siringo's account of the Kid's part in the Lincoln County troubles largely follows Upson's, with some embellishments of its own, such as the statement that "a few killings took place on the Pecos river during the fall (of 1877) but 'Billy the Kid' was not in these fights" or the assertion that Billy had a ringside seat during what became known as the "El Paso Salt War," in which his pal Segura was a fighting participant. "Some say," Siringo says when discussing the assassination, that "he [the Kid] fired a parting shot into Sheriff Brady's head" when he ran out into the street after the ambush. "Others dispute it." You can see where they would. Other inventions of Siringo's include the story of the Kid singing and "pawing the ivory" while moving Susan McSween's piano from room to room during the final July 1878 conflagration; the statement that Billy "laughed off" Governor Wallace's proclamation of amnesty; the columny that he killed Morris Bernstein because he "didn't like a Jew nohow," a phrase which suggests it might be Siringo's anti-Semitism we are encountering rather than Billy the Kid's.



Only known depiction of Charlie Siringo that the Editor has. From his 1885 book *A Texas Cowboy on Fifteen Years on the Hurricane Deck of a Spanish Pony*

Siringo's proposition that he was the Kid's "intimate acquaintance" and that his books were written from the viewpoint of "one who knew him well" stretches the truth to breaking point. It is highly unlikely he met him more than once or twice, and then no more than casually — perhaps during the period when Billy and his gang were selling stolen horses at Tascosa in the Texas Panhandle during the late fall and winter of 1878-79. It was not until he served as one of the "Panhandle posse" — a ragtag collection of cowboys sent to New Mexico by the cattle ranchers of the Panhandle region in the winter of the following year — that Siringo first came significantly into contact with the Kid.

They came, he says, "to help run down the 'Kid' and put a stop to the stealing of Panhandle, Texas, cattle." In fact, as confirmed in later years by Jim East, their assignment was solely to retrieve missing stock — the ranchers already had a "detective" named Frank Stewart tracking the rustlers and their fences. They were a wayward bunch of men, equally as ready to raise hell as pursue stolen cattle. Some indications of the reckless, improvident nature of the expedition may be found in Siringo's earlier book *A Texas Cowboy*; there is no trace of them here, no mention of how he gambled away the outfit's money in Las Vegas, nor how Patrick Coghlan, brazenly fencing stolen cattle, conned him into taking no action until the following year. Neither does he relate how, while he was gambling away their supplies, the hard drinking Texans "treed" the town of Anton Chico, or refer to the fact that when requested to serve on "Frank Stewart's posse" to help Pat Garrett hunt down Billy the Kid, he and half the outfit opted instead for the comfort of the White Oaks saloons. It must have been a matter of lifelong regret to him that he missed out on being on the spot when the Kid was captured and could never therefore write the definitive "eyewitness" account.

Nevertheless, the book contains some valuable first-hand material, not least the long and detailed narrative of the pursuit and capture of the Kid written for Siringo by Jim East, who was actually there. It is one of the most reliable and valuable documentary accounts we have, as later is the more playful story of the meeting between the Kid and his sweetheart, here given the name "Dulcinea del Toboso" and the anti-heroine of Don Quixote, but to any student of the subject quite clearly Pablita Maxwell.

If we are to believe East — and there is absolutely no reason not to — this little parable tells us a very great deal about Billy the Kid that has not found its way into any biography of him. The Maxwell family owned Fort Sumner lock, stock, and barrel; no one who lived or did business there did so without their approval — in fact, they had thrown Garrett out a year or so earlier for selling stolen goods. If, then, Dona Luz Maxwell permitted her daughter to be alone with Billy for that "soul kiss," it would seem safe to assume that at this time he — and the romance — were acceptable to the family. So it was only later, when it was discovered Pablita was pregnant, that the Kid became non persona grata and Peter Maxwell colluded with Pat Garrett in his killing.

Another illuminating little aside is Siringo's coy account of his dalliance with Manuela Bowdre (who must have been an attractive young woman, since she married a further two times) told a friend her husband found out about her affair with Siringo and was prevented from ambushing him only by the forceful intervention of Billy the Kid.

Siringo's account of the Kid's escape from jail in Lincoln adheres in main to the Garrett-Upson version, although the details of the so-called "Tularosa Ditch War" which had resulted in Charlie Wall's imprisonment at the same time as the Kid's had never appeared in any earlier book. Another novel twist is



the idea of the Kid telling Manuela Bowdre that while he was a prisoner he had been "starving himself so that he could slip his left hand out of the steel cuff" in order to hit Bell over the head with it and then grab his gun.

The statement that the Kid hung around Fort Sumner instead of seeking safety across the border in Old Mexico because "Sweet Little Dulce refused to leave her mamma" may well have been true. However, we may take leave to differ with Siringo's claim that Garrett's second shot in the dark that final July night was "accidental" and cast an equally cold eye on the story that when the newspapers claimed someone had the Kid's trigger finger on display, Garrett disinterred the body to prove it was untrue.

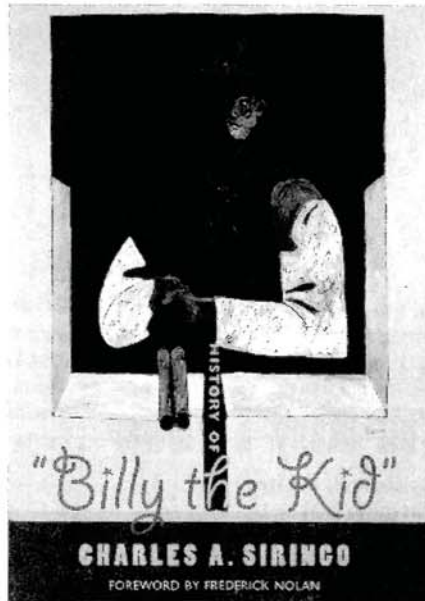
One ghost Siringo helps lay partially to rest is the vexed question of whether the Kid was armed when he was killed. Siringo says, without undue emphasis, that the following spring Garrett auctioned off Billy's saddle and the "blue-barrel, rubber-handled, double action Colt's 41 calibre pistol which the 'Kid' held in his hand when killed." That it went for the undramatic sum of \$13.50 (Siringo thought it only worth about \$12) adds further verisimilitude to the story.

It also appears it is to Siringo we owe the fact that a marker was placed on the Kid's grave. Apparently, the idea came originally from Gertrude Lea Dills, a niece of Joseph C. Lea and the wife of Lucius Dills, then Surveyor-General of New Mexico. Siringo misremembers that one Will E. Griffin "moved all the bodies of the soldiers buried in the old military cemetery to Santa Fe (in fact the 1912 contractor's name was C. W. Dudrow), following which "the only graves left in the graveyard were those of 'Billy the Kid' and his chum Tom O'Phalliard."

At the time he was writing, Siringo says, the cemetery had been turned into an alfalfa field. He discussed the matter with John P. Meadows, a friend of the Kid's who "thought it would be no trouble to raise the desired amount in Tularosa," but the idea met spirited opposition and came to nothing. However, the seed was sown, and when Walter Noble Burns' *Saga of Billy the Kid* (whose indebtedness to Siringo shines from every page) brought Billy back to vibrant life in 1926, Charlie Foor and some others in Fort Sumner realized there was money to be made from visitors to the gravesite, and the present monument was raised. How accurately it is sited, or indeed, whether the Kid's bones rest beneath it or Santa Fe, is anybody's guess.

Siringo again reworked these stories, adding a flourish here, changing a detail there, in another autobiographical work called *Riata and Spurs* in 1927. Far more than Garrett's *Authentic Life*, it was his books, selling in hundreds of thousands, which effected the acceptance by the widest possible audience of the "legend" of Billy the Kid as first invented by Ash Upson. The major difference between the two is that Siringo seems to have had a genuine sympathy for the Kid. Perhaps with good reason - after all, if it hadn't been for Billy, Siringo might well have been cut down from ambush by a jealous Charlie Bowdre, and never gone on to the fame and fortune he enjoyed in later life. Eighty years ago, when his little book was first written Billy the Kid was remembered only

because of Siringo. Now, the situation has become completely reversed: were it not for Billy the Kid, Charles Siringo would be completely forgotten. Both of them would probably have enjoyed the irony.



To order Siringo's *History of Billy the Kid*:  
University of New Mexico Press  
3721 Spirit Dr., S.E.  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
(142 pp, \$12.50 + tax, postage, for paperback)

## Maxwell Relatives Prepare Fight to Save Ft. Sumner Cemetery

Aug. 25, 1938  
*Clovis News Journal*, Clovis, NM

Preparations to file suit to determine title and boundaries of the old Fort Sumner graveyard - in which is buried the Southwest's No. 1 Badman, "Billy the Kid" - were being made here today by Otto Smith, attorney (from Clovis).

The attorney said his action followed a request from a committee of nine Fort Sumner residents, most of whom are relatives of the late Don Pedro Maxwell who also lies buried in the cemetery, made yesterday.

The committee announced that it was "ready to fight to prevent desecration of the sacred ground" in which lie the bodies of many of the Maxwell family, their servants and other relatives.

Mrs. Adelina Welborn, spokesman for the group and granddaughter of "Pete" Maxwell who befriended "Billy the Kid," announced that "We are not interested in Billy the Kid, but we are interested in the cemetery because our parents, grandparents and many of our kinfolks are buried there." (Ed.'s note: Adelina grandfather was Lucien Maxwell, not "Pete".)

Mrs. Welborn, who has been a leader in the fight to preserve the cemetery, discounted "rumors" that the burial ground had been abandoned. She said relatives of the family had been buried there "five days ago," and that her

mother was laid to rest in the cemetery a year ago. The committee's trip to Clovis followed a protest meeting held at Fort Sumner Tuesday night during which the nine were named to carry on the fight for preservation of the old burying ground.

Besides Mrs. Welborn, other members of the committee, all of whom appeared before the attorney, were Alice Williams, Soledad Nalda, Emelia Finley, Cesaria Childres, Celestina Sandoval, Florenero Spitz, Albert Foor, Manuel Obrea (*Abreu*) and Michael Nalda.

**An earlier article was found in the Clovis paper, dated July 24, 1938, that brought up the origins of this heated controversy.**

The little 165 x 125 foot plot bobbed into the limelight a few days ago when through the sale of a tax title the old burial ground was more or less swallowed up in the transaction.

Mrs. A. J. Welborn contends the little burial ground, dedicated to its restful purpose more than a half century ago, is not subject to taxation any more than any other cemetery and could not be sold for delinquent taxes.

At the same time land surrounding the cemetery was sold by the irrigation commission and the little cemetery apparently is not set apart as distinctive from that tract of land.

Meanwhile, present owners (*John W. Allen was one of them*) of the land placed a six wire fence about their recently acquired property and within this enclosure lies the cemetery. By way of a concession to the belligerent descendants of those buried there the present owners erected a big gate thereby furnishing access to the burial ground, but that has not allayed all opposition to developments from the sale of the land.

Through the little cemetery the nose of a plow, has chiselled an ugly ditch across the sacred plot. The reason for the ditch is not known, but some think it was the first plan to put the plot into cultivation. This ugly furrow traverses dangerously close to the grave occupied by Don Peter Maxwell.

**Janean Grissom, an original member of BTKOG, and long time Court Clerk at Ft. Sumner summed up this controversy in an article in the Clovis paper of 6-25-1989:**

"DeBaca County District Court records show that in 1939 a group of plaintiffs who had friends and relatives in the same cemetery as Bonney filed a suit against John Allen, who owned land around the cemetery.

The suit claimed that Allen was plowing on the cemetery grounds and disturbing the remains buried there. Additionally, the plaintiffs claimed that Allen was planning to level graves surrounding Bonney's and establish a museum in order to charge the public to view the grave. According to the documents, the court ordered Allen to cease from any defacing of the old Fort Sumner Cemetery.

(Editor's note: On 2-17-1938, the records show the Ft. Sumner Irrigation District sold the land in question to John H. Allen. On 5-17-1948 Helene H. Allen deeded the cemetery to the Ft. Sumner Valley Literary Assn. and on 3-31-1967 she deeded it to the Village of Ft. Sumner and they in turn deeded it on 1-6-1988 to DeBaca County.)



## BILLY THE KID

In Real Life: William "Billy" Cox

Billy Cox is a certified member of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang and was back with us at the 2000 BTK campout, along with some of his gang members from Florida.

A bit of history on one William H. Cox, alias Billy the Kid: He often portrayed the Kid in reenactments in New Mexico, from Puerto de Luna to Old Fort Sumner to Lincoln and beyond. He was a stand-in for many of Bob Boze Bell's scenes featured in his two volumes of *THE ILLUSTRATED LIFE AND TIMES OF BILLY THE KID*. And, did I say he was from Florida?

Back in the late 1980s and early 1990s Billy Cox the Kid wandered around New Mexico retracing the Kid's steps, working on ranches and camping out where the Kid possibly stayed over 120 years ago. He called the experience his "adventure" and got caught up in the mystique of Billy's life. And he lived that life for a while. Lot of people still believe he is really Billy the Kid!

Even his "Gang" in Florida believes. Won't tell you where they are hid out for that would be giving away classified secrets. This Editor is taking a big chance that some one will recognize their locale in Florida from the photo present here, and if so, they will have to pack up and leave for a better climate, like Old Mexico!

The names of the members of his gang in the photos are aliases, to protect the guilty.

Billy the Kid, second from left. Others Scott, Mike, Jose, Matt, George G., and William.

I swear that one on the right is Jose Chaves y Chaves and isn't that Dave Rudabaugh there in the back?

Other Gang members, not pictured, are George And., Bubba, Steve, and Marshall.



### A story of Deluvina

## Full Many a Flower . . .

By Rose P. White (1949)  
Portales, NM

*(Rose White was the first historian to live in the Portales, NM area. She was born at Las Vegas, NM in 1894. Her daughter, Ruth Burns, is a Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang member, living in Clovis, NM. This is an excerpt of Mrs. White's story in the 1949-50 New Mexico Folklore Record. She died in 1969.)*

"What do you think of Billy the Kid?" (Ask any old cowboy who lived in Eastern New Mexico in the days prior to 1900.)

The answer is always the same: "He was nothing but a cattle thief and murderer. He wasn't a hero - not in the days when he was living", and not in the twenty years just after he was killed."

Billy's elevation to the role of martyr is of fairly recent date: the years have softened the meanness and the cruelty in his character until he begins to loom up as a modern "Robin Hood" - a good man who has been forced by adverse circumstances to murder and steal in order to exist. To me, it seems very foolish to close our minds to the facts of the story. If we want a heroic example, there were plenty of good, honest, charitable men and women who were much more worthy of our attention than was Billy the Kid. One who deserves further description was a friend of Billy's. Although she was an Indian slave, and poor and ignorant; although she was ugly and fat, and her broad, dark face had no trace of beauty; yet her many years of service to sick and injured people make her a story that should never be forgotten.

Her name was Deluvina.

Colonel Jack Potter, who lived in Fort Sumner from 1885-1890, had often mentioned the name of this Indian woman in his reminiscences and I had asked him to tell me all he knew about her. Finally in 1949 I received a letter from him.

"So here goes for the story of Deluvina, the most colorful figure of the old West," said Jack Potter. "Deluvina was an Indian girl adopted by Lucien Maxwell in the late 1840's. I figure she was about the same age as Pete Maxwell (born in 1848). Deluvina grew up as a slave or peon in the Maxwell family at Rayado and Fort

Sumner. When the four big cattle companies bought Fort Sumner from the widow after Maxwell's death in 1875, Dona Luz Maxwell moved a mile and a quarter to a place just off the Fort Sumner Navajo Indian Reservation, and established a new home, which is still standing today. (Ed's note: And still standing here in 2000.)

At this time Deluvina did not move with the Maxwells, but remained at the Fort and lived by herself. She was a natural-born nurse. She helped with the sick, and did washing and ironing for the men. And at times, when transient cattle herds were moving north, if one of the men took the fever or had an accident, they never did stop the herd - just brought him over to one of the old barracks buildings, unloaded him and his bed, and sent for Deluvina to take care of him. I saw this happen when a boy that got his leg broken. She took charge, swept and cleaned the room, cooked the meals, and took care of the boy until his leg healed. She had the Indian custom of gathering herbs for her "remedios." I have often seen her walking across the prairie far from the settlement, stooping every little while to gather some little weed or wild flower to use in her homemade medicines.

Deluvina was short and very stout and not at all attractive. She would get drunk sometimes, but was very temperate on tobacco. She worked for me once when my wife needed help. She would prepare a meal and, while we were eating, she would sit and roll a small cigarette and smoke it. She would smoke only three a day.

I believe she was a Navajo or Ute. I know that she had a terrible hatred for the Comanche Indians. When the younger cowboys wanted to tease her, they would yell, "Heap Comanche!" When she heard this, she would run into the house, get her big butcher knife, and try to catch the boys and cut them up. She never could catch them; she was too short and stout to run very fast; but we all used to enjoy seeing her run after the fleeing boys, waving the big knife and shouting curses.

Deluvina first became acquainted with Billy the Kid when he and his outlaw friends were arrested and brought to Fort Sumner in 1880. Billy and his four companions were handcuffed and placed on the bare floor of a little adobe hut in the town. It was a bitter cold day, and Billy had no coat. Chilled from twenty-four

hours of exposure, he sat, pale and shaking and looking very young and pitiful. The kind-hearted Indian woman pushed her way through the crowd of curious spectators around the door, pulled off her black shawl, and wrapped it around Billy's thin shoulders. After that, she and Billy became good friends. Some people have tried to say that she was Billy's sweetheart, but she was always more like a mother to him. It was to her that he gave the tinktype picture of himself, said to be the only authentic likeness of the famous outlaw.

For many years after Billy was shot by Sheriff Pat Garrett in Pete Maxwell's darkened bedroom, Deluvina would visit his grave regularly. She very probably was the one who put the first marker: a cross made of two pickets from the parade ground fence on which were written Billy's name and the date, with the added sentiment "Duerme bien, Querido." (Sleep Well, Beloved.) Once I saw her leaving the graveyard in a big sandstorm. I shall never forget her face all covered with dust in which were little tracks where the tears had run down.

I remember one time when there was a report around the Fort that the grave-digger being in a hurry, he had not taken time to dig a new grave for a dead man, but had buried the body in Billy's grave. When Deluvina heard the rumor, she went to her room and got her big knife. She marched straight to the grave-digger's house, called him out, and began to shout curses at him. She soon had him scared 'most to death, trying to explain that it wasn't Billy's but another grave that had been opened. She had to go to the graveyard and see for herself before she would believe him.

In her later years, Deluvina went back to live with the Maxwells. I have heard that she ended her days in a home for the aged in Albuquerque.

- Sincerely, Colonel Jack Potter

*(Editor's note: Potter is right. She did die in Albuquerque. She died November 27, 1927. A descendant of Lucien Maxwell, in 1999, showed this editor where she was buried, near the little Catholic church near Walter St. and Kinley Dr. northeast of downtown Albuquerque. Unfortunately the little cemetery does not exist any more. It might have been up the hill on land where the Albuquerque High School was built in recent years. Quien Sabe?)*



Deluvina Maxwell, with what are believed to be some of Lucien Maxwell's granddaughters. Location believed to be Old Fort Sumner. Origin of photo: Charles Kelly, his whereabouts unknown.



Photo taken May 13, 2000 of St. Ignacio Church on Walter St. overlooking downtown Albuquerque to the southwest. Joe Pino, born in 1927, the year Deluvina died, says she was buried in a cemetery east of this church on land now occupied by Albuquerque High School. The above church was built, Mr. Pino said, after 1927. Mr. Pino lives near this church today. (The chain link fence in lower left corner encloses this part of the high school property. Found nobody who knows what happened to the little cemetery.)

## I Saw Billy's Coffin Coming

By Loretta Portillo, member of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang

*I saw Billy's coffin coming,  
He looked so majestic, almost saintly,  
We'll never know what he went through,  
His anger showed so intensely.  
To some he was a hero, a sort of robin hood,  
To others he was mischievous,  
In this world, he was just misunderstood.  
Things he did and didn't do made him a legend,  
A mortal man made immortal,  
Just like one's soul lives forever,  
We made Billy indomitable.  
I saw your coffin coming Billy,  
You will always have our resound,  
Your body now may be obsolete,  
But your legend is above that cold cold ground.*

Old photo from Col. Maurice G. Fulton's collection of Billy's gravesite with Charlie Foor, man primarily responsible for Billy's "Pals" tombstone.



# Just About Everybody Had An Alias

*(Why Should You Be  
Different?)*

By Don McAlavy



## Billy the Kid

*was an alias. Many in the West took on an alias. Some were hung with them. When the aliases are better known than the real names, print the aliases!*

*There was Antelope Jack and Camp-Kettle Lillie  
Albuquerque Stan and Hog-Eyed Nellie  
Arizona Kim and Long-Legged Kirk  
Billy the Kid Martin and Mal Hombre Bert  
Video Joe M'Lizzi and Cacklin' Hank  
Cross-Eyed Bob and Cock-Eyed Frank  
Saddle-Up Joe Hesselung and Capitan Carol  
Shutter-Up Mike and Hollerin' Brother Harold  
Sweet-Talkin' Sharon and Bad Pinto Bean  
Butter-Up Eva and that Mean Kid Dene  
Smokin' Gal Verna Allen and Big Skillet Bill  
Pretty Paulita and Bonney-couldn't-be-still  
Liverpool Fred and Veggie-Toed Heidi  
Mighty Man Marcus and Bob-God-Almighty  
Searchin' Ed Taylor and Collectin' Jim Earle  
Historian Gomber and his gals Jenny, Pat and Pearl  
Three Mule Pete and Mountain Man Phil  
Wish-a-wish Charley and Shoot-em-up Bill  
Rattle Tooth Spoull and Sweet-Lips Peggy  
Curlin' Iron Donna and Hot-Water Hadley  
Go-Cart Johnny and Lion Chief Aileen  
Kid's Friend Waite and Locked-Jaw Gene  
Bad Lookin' Logue and Kitty-Cat Catty  
Blue-Eyed Loretta and Muscle Man Manny  
Yankee Jean-Jacque and Frenchy-Babe Christine  
Paul of Mesilla and fire-headed daughter Irene  
Quiet One Dwight and Upham's Dorothy Darlin'  
Pie-Biter Thurman and Sure Good Gal Carlyn  
Old Hoss Larry B. and Treat-Me-Right Marilyn  
Midland Pete Hogue and Danny Vest the Gentleman  
Lincoln County Mogul and Thirsty Lil' Peon  
Bite-the-Bullet Bell and On-the-Border Leon  
Old Bold Outlaw Don and Hi-Steppin' K-Lou  
Mountain Park Doc and Millie-Slew-Foot Sue  
Roamin' Jack Curry and Ride-Along Maureen  
Singin' Kid Lucas and his Nashville Dream  
Crooked-Eye Murphy and Bottoms-up Jimmy  
Bar-room Mike and Sexy-it-is-Lizzie  
Whistle-Lips Carolyn and Pecos Maryln the Queen  
Terrible Texan Terry and Miss John Deere Green  
Brushy Bill Hefner-Valdez and Cemetery Sam  
Frog-Mouth Annie and Molly B'Damn!*



*This oil painting is by Ian Formston, of Dunedin, New Zealand. Billy in this painting measures 5' 3" tall. "I am 33 years old and work for a signwriting company. I was always vaguely interested in western things until I met a buddy that was really interested. I like most aspects of western history but Billy is my favourite. My friend calls me "The Kid" and we watched most Billy the Kid movies. There are a reasonable amount of good books here, but things are a little bit harder to get here in N.Z. The painting took roughly 18 months - 2 years off and on. To the best of my ability I have tried to make as authentic as possible."*

*Ian's email at work is bachop@earthlight.co.nz*

# Billy the Kid, Lew Wallace, and New Mexico Statehood

My Don McAlavy (Written in January of 1987, some 9 months before Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang was founded.)

(1987: Don McAlavy, a native of Clovis, New Mexico, is an historian-writer specializing in the open range history of eastern New Mexico. His historical column "Echoes From the Back Trail" appears weekly in the *Clovis News-Journal*. As founder of the High Plains Historical Fd., Inc., of Eastern New Mexico, Don has edited two massive volumes of county and regional history and has published several booklets on Clovis. For the past eight years he has been involved in the establishment of the Caprock Amphitheatre near San Jon, N.M. This summer will see the production of his *Billy the Kid* historical-musical drama produced by the New Mexico Outdoor Drama Association. Don is past president of this non-profit group which operates this state-built amphitheatre in eastern New Mexico, south of San Jon.) {Editor's note: this show had a run of 10 years, 1987-1996.}

Many people, including most historians, have overlooked the role Billy the Kid and Governor Lew Wallace, of *Ben Hur* fame, played in New Mexico's struggle for statehood. Not that Billy the Kid cared one hoot about statehood - he probably never gave it a thought, but he nevertheless was the most noted member of the lawless element floating around the territory in the late 1870s and early 1880s. It was this lawless element that finally got the attention of people back east, notably the President of the United States himself.

Michael Henry McCarty, alias William H. Bonney, alias the Kid, gained his notoriety during the so-called Lincoln County War in which he played a minor role, yet of all the participants in that controversial power struggle Billy the Kid is the one people remember, the young outlaw that grew into a legend. Donald Cline, in his recent book *Alias Billy the Kid - The Man Behind the Legend*, tried to strip Billy of the legend, but it's too late. Billy the Kid, in whatever disguise - a common thief and killer or as a romantic avenger of justice, "will live forever in the world's imagination," as one historian, Robert M. Utley, put it.

Looking back at that period we can see that Billy the Kid was just the tip of the iceberg. The lawless element included the occasional cowboy who threw a long rope, but more evil than that were the white-collar lawlessness of some of the elected, appointed, and military men in power in New Mexico at the time. These were the men that were duty bound to uphold the law and provide protection to the residents of New Mexico. Greed for power, money, and land led many politically motivated men to take advantage of their control of the law by using their influence and money to corrupt the government of New Mexico. These powermongers were known as the Santa Fe Ring - on the surface all respectable businessmen or government officials - from Governor Samuel E. Axtell down to the justices of the peace.

Into this corrupt mess came a federal investigator, Frank Warner Angel, sent by President Rutherford B. Hayes, to find out what was going on, especially in Lincoln County. Before he was through his footprints were all over Lincoln County, Colfax County, and even in the state capitol at Santa Fe.

In Lincoln County he found that "the leaders of these (opposing) parties have created a storm that they cannot control, and it has reached such proportions that the whole Territory cannot put it down. Land goes uncultivated, ranches are abandoned, merchants have closed their stores, citizens have left the houses they have occupied for years, business has ceased, and lawlessness and murder are the order of the day." Corrupt and greedy men in power had made of



1991 - Bob Olinger, the bad guy, was played by Don McAlavy, on right, in his *BILLY THE KID* Outdoor Drama, eastern New Mexico.

"law and order" a laughable thing. Settlers were pulling up stakes and leaving the country. Immigration into New Mexico had reached its lowest ebb. It certainly did not improve our chances of ever achieving statehood.

Upon completion of Angel's investigation and the receiving of his report in Washington, two history making events occurred: the removal of Governor Axtell from power and the curtailment (but not the finish) of the Santa Fe Ring. Secondly, the President appointed the former Major General Lew Wallace, of Crawfordville, Indiana, to take over from Axtell . . . and to bring about a return to true law and order and let the Territory of New Mexico get on with the business of proving itself worthy of statehood.

Lew Wallace was fairly well liked and used his personal diplomacy in tackling the task before him. One of the more controversial actions he took was to issue an Amnesty Proclamation providing a general pardon to most of the participants of the Lincoln County War.

Since Billy the Kid was under indictment for his part in the Sheriff Brady killing, he wasn't included in the pardon, but upon the killing of the one-arm lawyer Chapman, who was working for Mrs. Alexander McSween, by Bill Campbell (and some say J. J. Dolan and Jesse Evans), the governor met with Billy the Kid and promised him immunity from the charges against him in exchange for his testimony against Chapman's killers.

Billy accepted the offer and put his life on the line when he did testify. Here again rose the ugly Machiavellian Santa Fe Ring in the form of the prosecuting district attorney who was said to have sided with the Dolan faction that was controlled by the Ring. He thwarted

Governor Wallace's attempt to give Billy the Kid immunity that Billy thought he had earned in keeping his promise to testify. Perhaps the Governor's hands were tied, but for the balance of Billy's short life he repeatedly wrote the governor asking why he didn't keep his end of the bargain. From that time on Billy turned to more or less open outlawry, thumbing his nose at authority and continued his "escapades of adventures" that included many romantic dalliances and brushes with the law and his escapes from the lawmen. Maybe he should rightfully be labeled a "common, petty criminal" as some historians have called him, but history records, and the legend perpetuates, that Billy the Kid was anything but "common" and his place in history is secure in the eyes of the general public, yesterday, today, and even into our tomorrows.

The Billy the Kid - Lew Wallace relationship and statehood is part of the story that unfolds in the new historical drama that I have written, called *Billy the Kid*, that will be produced in the state-built Caprock Amphitheatre in eastern New Mexico, starting on June 18, 1987 and running through Aug. 22, 1987, and running each summer thereafter.

Lew Wallace's nearly three-year effort of trying to bring true law and order to the wild and woolly Territory of New Mexico taxed even his strength and endurance, but he did restore some of the lost respect for the law, he did succeed in driving Colonel Dudley out of Fort Stanton and away from Lincoln County, and ending the sticky situation caused by the military's role in that "War." Wallace, some believe, had even contributed to a much improved image that outsiders had of New Mexico, enabling those that came after him a better chance at obtaining statehood. Before Wallace left the state he saw New Mexico linked to the rest of the nation by the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad. He even finished his manuscript entitled *Ben Hur* while in Santa Fe.

Yes, Lew Wallace, and indirectly, Billy the Kid, had a profound effect on New Mexico and we have to accept the fact that they were major actors in perhaps the most violent and romanticized period of New Mexico history.

The End

*I must admit in retrospect here in 2000 that the Lincoln County War would have been fought and lost by both sides, with or without Billy's help. BUT, the Lincoln County struggle would not have been so publicized if it hadn't of been for Billy the Kid, the one participant, that caused all the others to be so well remembered. We would not have had the history of that era so well documented and read if but for the fact of his having lived.*

Don McAlavy

## Canadian Couple Tour Billy the Kid Country

*Editor's note: Jack and Maureen Curry of Toronto, Canada, came to New Mexico in April, 2000 to find the Billy the Kid sites. This is their story:*

Don, your map of Sinking Springs was perfect. We parked and tromped all over the area for about 2 (t-w-o) hours but, due to my ineptitude only . . . just couldn't find the remaining foundations of the house where Billy the Kid was captured by Garrett et al. We went back to the van for a rest and Lo and Behold a car came down the road which stopped . . . by a fluke (maybe not so fluky as it was her road) it was Janean Grissom, the owner of the property and a Outlaw Gang member. She gave us a 10 figure map reference and a push and off we went again and found it . . . we had stopped about 50 feet short on our previous wanderings, if you can believe it. She was a wonderfully helpful lady and my idea of a real New Mexico "cow-girl" . . . tanned, a bit of a hard but very pretty face and the bluest eyes you can imagine. She explained how to align oneself to face the arroyo and I swear I saw Garrett's hat come over the ridge! Nice lady.



*"Eureka, I found Stinking Springs!"*

While it's just too easy to let your imagination go, it's just about impossible to not cast yourself back 120 years ago when following the trail of BTK. Puerto de Luna was simply haunting . . . the store is a real time capsule and we could see the Kid having Xmas dinner in 1880 as clear as day when we were in that room . . . especially haunting when there are no other tourists around.

Lincoln was just amazing and we spent a day trooping around everywhere we could possibly think of . . . just an incredible place if you are a romantic re BTK.

Blazer's Mill was also fascinating . . . to think that that surviving house is where Buckshot Roberts made his last stand . . . your mind can wander. I spent a half hour tracking around the cemetery up behind the barn looking for the graves of Roberts and Brewer, but no luck . . . then I decided I'd better get the hell out of there before the owner came back and dished out a little New Mexico & Colt justice.

The Kid's grave in Old Fort Sumner has to be in the loneliest cemetery in New Mexico but again "haunting and eerie" are the only two descriptive words I can come up with . . . was also smitten in the New Fort Sumner museum



*Jack & Maureen Curry and your Editor.*

to see Tunstall's writing kit, etc. . . you wonder just how this . . . and his travel kit . . . survived all these years. Was a little suspicious of the BTK Winchester . . . the 21 notches on the barrel seemed too much.

Also did Mesilla and can't have changed much over the last century . . . ditto Las Vegas . . . both wonderful reminders of the Old West. Well, time for Station Jack to sign off the air. It was great meeting you and your lovely wife . . . hope we can manage it again sometime . . . and as you can gather, we really fell in love with New Mexico, especially all the small towns we were in and the back roads we drove, clocking about 6,500 miles on the van. Best of luck.

*Jack and Maureen Curry*

## A Phoenix, AZ, newspaper mentions the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang!

*This item from MaryIn Bowlin our founder*

*"New Mexico rich in history, caves"*

*By Roger Patterson, Assoc. Press*

"Talk about packing diverse destinations into one vacation trip. With just a little driving through the scenic Southwest, you can tour Carlsbad Cavers, check out the UFO Capital of the World, and see where Billy the Kid lived and died.

"They're all found in southeastern New Mexico, an area the Department of Tourism calls one of the most diverse regions in the state."

*Blah, Blah, Blah, about the Caverns and the UFO Capital, let's get to Billy the Kid, says Editor Don McAlavy.*

"What really made this region famous was the saga of Billy the Kid, whose notorious life ended (most believe) at the hand of Sheriff Pat Garrett in Fort Sumner, about 80 miles farther up the road (from Roswell).

Look up the Web site maintained by the non-profit **Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang** - [www.nmia.com/~btkog/index.html](http://www.nmia.com/~btkog/index.html) - for myths, facts, history and links to additional information.

One of those links takes you to the Billy the Kid Scenic Byway - [www.zianet.com/snm/askus14.htm](http://www.zianet.com/snm/askus14.htm) - which will direct you to other spots in the region with ties to Billy.

*"For all his sins, and though we know so little about him, he was a real human being and deserves to have his story told with as much accuracy as any other historical figure."*

*- Frederick Nolan*

## The Future of Fort Stanton Is In a State of Flux

*(Editor's note: Excerpt from a story told by Apache Scout Percy Big Mouth to Eve Ball, and reported in the Spring 1958 Frontier Times.)*

The word is that as of this moment in the year 2000, the State of New Mexico does not know what to do with the old Fort that was so entangled with the Lincoln County War. You hear a lot of ideas and proposals, yet have you ever wondered who really owns Fort Stanton?

The late Eve Ball, Lincoln County historian and a friend of the Mescalero Apaches, once had an interview with Percy Big Mouth (ca 1950s). "I was six or seven years old when my people, the Mescaleros, were forced into captivity at Fort Sumner in 1863."

Then Percy Big Mouth talks about the "reservation" the Federal Government placed them on, that area around what is today Ruidoso, NM.

"This line takes in Fort Stanton," said the Agent (of the Mescaleros). But the cavalry needs some pasture land for the horses and cattle. They want to use about 78,000 acres of your land, but if the Federal Government ever quits using it, it will go back to you, the rightful owners. And this promise will be put into writing and a copy of it given to you. A lawyer will make the writing - Colonel Fountain - and you will have a copy of it. You must keep that copy and not lose it, for as long as you have it nobody can take your land from you."



*Drawing by D. Kusanovich*

*Percy Big Mouth (The Editor's father-in-law Osapana, now age 90, knew Percy Big Mouth in the late 1920s at Camp Wehenepay.)*

The chiefs asked: "Our boundary reaches up to and will enclose the Fort?"

"Yes," replied the agent, "but you are to live over on the Tularosa."

So it was agreed. The Agent's office was moved to Blazer's Mill, where he rented a room until buildings could be put up at Mescalero. That was in 1873. This all white men should know: The Government of the United States did not give any land to the Mescaleros; instead, it took nearly all they possessed. All they had left was a small area that at that time seemed worthless. This was set forth in a paper made by the President himself and signed by him. You have a copy of it and there is a copy of it in Washington."

*(Ed's note: Did the Mescaleros at some point in the past, since the 1950s, give the fort to New Mexico? Quien Sabe?)*

**Note from the 1869  
"Wichita Century - A Pictorial History  
of Wichita Kansas 1870-1970**

By R. M. "Dick" Long

*(This information forwarded to your Editor by Scott Smith, Head Ranger at the Old Fort Sumner Monument.)*

"The one woman to sign the petition that resulted in Wichita, Kansas, being incorporated was Catherine McCarty, generally known as "The Widow McCarty," who owned and operated the City Laundry located on North Main Street. She had two sons, the eldest, Henry, age 11 years. She owned a quarter section of land at Twenty-first and Oliver. She moved to New Mexico in 1871, and there Henry changed his name to Billy Bonney, and died a short time later as gunmen, "Billy the Kid."

Of the 124 petitioners, two familiar names were listed:

**Catherine McCarty  
W. H. Antrim**

This petition was presented to Probate Judge Reuben Riggs on July 21, 1870.



**Marcus J. Huff**

A member of BTKOG in Arizona says that Marcus has quit as editor of *True West Magazine*. We all wish him well where'er he goes.

**Notes on Ft. Stanton Cemetery**

Your editor received this email on May 13, 2000, concerning control of the cemetery. It came from Charles Barnum, Coordinator of the New Mexico Genealogical Website for Lincoln County, but Charles did not discern which of the two cemeteries at Fort Stanton he was referring to. This is what he sent:

"I received an email from the State Director of Veterans Affairs that they are assuming control of Ft. Stanton Cemetery. That is a wonderful development. The Director requested from me all the available history I have on Ft. Stanton of which I referred him to Book #2 published by the Lincoln County Historical Society. I'm sure there is more information out there, especially about the Buffalo Soldiers and Civil War battles which took place near there. He (Mike) put up a web page which has received over 20,000 hits. If anyone has more historical information, please let me know, or I can give you the Director's email address. This means the cemetery will have an organized and funded department to take care of the cemetery since the death of my friend who was the volunteer caretaker - together with the Boy Scouts of America - for many years."

Charles Barnum's email is: ryangb@nvcbell.net

*(Editor's note: The oldest cemetery is the first post cemetery (old military cemetery) to the southwest, and the second post cemetery called the Merchant Marine Cemetery, just south of the fort on the highway going to the Ruidoso Airport. The old military cemetery where Bob Olinger was buried (he qualified for burial there in the federal cemetery because he had been a U. S. Deputy Marshal), has for years been off limits to the public.)*

**Excerpts from:  
Fintan O'Toole's**

**The Many Stories of Billy the Kid  
Was the legendary Western Outlaw  
actually an Irish terrorist?**

Published in the 12-28-98  
*New Yorker Magazine*

I share one thing with Billy the Kid: we are both Irishmen. Before he was the Kid, before

he was William Bonney, even before he was Kid Antrim or Henry Antrim or any of the other names he used, he was Henry McCarty. Pat Garrett got his name wrong. But Garrett got many things wrong. Billy the Kid did not kill a man in Silver City when he was twelve. Garrett's stories of Apaches and Navajos and Mexicans are wildly implausible, and there is no evidence that they are true. And, as it happens, they are not even Garrett's own yarns. Through he put his name to them, they were actually introduced by his ghostwriter, a former newspaperman named Ash Upson.

The person we now call Billy the Kid was born, possibly in County Limerick, but more probably in the Irish slums of New York, the son of Catherine McCarty. Her husband, if she had one, was called either Patrick or Michael. In all likelihood, they were among the million or so Irish Catholics who fled the great Irish famine of the eighteen-forties. The Kid's father seems to have died in New York while the Kid was still very young, Catherine, with Henry and his brother, Joseph, in tow, moved west, to Indiana, then to Kansas, and finally to Silver City, New Mexico.

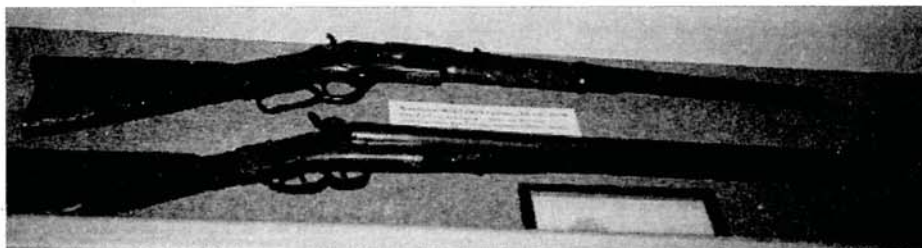
And the story of what happened in Lincoln is Irish, too. The violence that surrounds Billy the Kid is traditionally seen in relation to the place where it occurred - the Wild West. The violence is rarely seen in the context of the society which tolerated it, encouraged it, provoked it. And that society - misshapen, transplanted, full of prejudice and sectarian stupidity - is one I know well. To my eyes, the violence is of the same order of the violence that has ravaged Northern Ireland for the last thirty years - the Troubles that I grew up with. I see the Lincoln of the eighteen-eighties as characterized by a vicious sectarian battle fought between Irish Catholics and British Protestants. What began as a struggle for economic power was exacerbated by national and religious hatred until it became a war of ethnic obliteration. It stopped only when both sides were destroyed.

He (Billy) may have started out as an Irish cowboy, but he became an American cowboy. He discovered that out here (in the West), where no one knows you, you are free to invent a life and call it authentic, to spin a story and find that others will tell it for you, to escape from history and enter the vast playground of myth.

**TWO INTERESTING PHOTOS FROM LUCAS SPEER:**

**PHOTO at bottom:** Bob Olinger's 10 gauge Whitney shotgun, along with a Winchester reportedly belonging to Billy the Kid, and at the time of this photo were being exhibited at the Waco, TX, Texas Rangers Museum, but have by now been returned to their owner.

**PHOTO on right:** Lucas Speer at the Hamilton Cemetery at the grave of Brushy Bill Roberts. This new stone replaced the original. On the new stone: WILLIAM HENRY ROBERTS, A.K.A. BILLY THE KID, Born 31 December 1859, Died 27 December 1950. On the original stone was inscribed OLLIE L. ROBERTS, Brushy Bill, 12-31-1868 - 12-27-1950. (See Lucas's story of Brushy Bill elsewhere in this Outlaw Gazette.)



## Reviews . . .

### Black Saint of the Pecos

Written by Ralph Freese in 1940  
Published by Ralph Baughman, a nephew in  
1999. This book published by the 1stBooks  
Library, online at [www.1stbooks.com](http://www.1stbooks.com)

This is a novel about Billy the Kid, and what he became and why. A lot of intuitive reasoning by the author on the nature of Billy and his dealings with his friends and enemies is witnessed in this book that is hard to put down. The author, born in 1900, spent his adult life in music, singing, directing choirs, and even singing with the Denver Grand Opera, and announcing on the radio. He later became associated with NBC in New York City. In a move in 1937 to Albuquerque he became interested in the Lincoln County War and Billy the Kid. He spent a lot of time in the Lincoln County area, gathering information, talking with people who still lived there who had known the Kid. He wrote this book and never saw it published, dying in 1995.

His nephew said his uncle would not dare publish it because there were so many of the Santa Fe Ring family still alive, and they might take it upon themselves to kill him.

The book takes Billy from Kansas to his escape from the Lincoln County jail. Although fictional, it is probably not far from the actual truth; one man's interpretation of the facts.

### The 1999 Outlaw Gazette

Published by the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang, Inc.

Review by Tom Wanless of The English  
Westerners' Society, England, in their *Tally  
Sheet*, Vol. 4, No 3, Summer 2000

Billy the Kid is a never ending subject of interest to Westerners. Countless books and magazines of varying quality have been written about him and even today almost a hundred and twenty years after his death at the hands of Pat Garrett interest in him shows little sign of waning.

At one would expect the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang focus their attention on the young outlaw and publish an annual magazine edited by Don McAlavy and number among their Advisory Board several distinguished names including our founder and world expert on Billy and the Lincoln County War, Fred Nolan. Other members include Jim Earle, Bob Boze Bell and Leon Metz.

This issue contains a wealth of articles, news, letters and pictures. Among the articles are pieces on Charles Wesley Foor who was responsible for locating the site of Billy's grave after the the wooden marker was either stolen or washed away in a flood; the Pat Garrett collection of memorabilia; the story of the 'Big Tombstone' over the grave of Billy, Charlie Bowdre and Tom O'Folliard; the Dudrow Map of 1906; the death of Pat Garrett and other shorter pieces. All in all fascinating reading if Billy and the Lincoln County War interest you. Membership details of the Gang can be obtained in the Gazette or on the internet at [www.nmia.com/~btkog](http://www.nmia.com/~btkog).

### Billy the Kid's Kid The Hispanic Connection 1875-1964

By Elbert A. Garcia

This book came out this year, 2000, written by the great-grandson of Billy the Kid and Abrana Garcia, aided by his son Martin Garcia and supported by the rest of his *familia*. Bert, as he is known, was born in Santa Rosa, NM, 1939, and became aware at an early age that Billy the Kid was his great-grandfather. He knew that his parents and grandparents had so much to tell him, but didn't or couldn't for one reason or another.

The author is sane, reliable and trustworthy. His background shows he was also very smart. He worked for Rockwell International and Boeing for 25 years. He learned the profession and became a master program scheduler and analyst. He was assigned to several projects, including the XB-70 experimental supersonic bomber, the Minuteman Missile, the C-17, and the Saturn and Apollo programs.

"Without my son Martin, who works at the Presbyterian Hospital in Albuquerque, I could never have done this book!" Bert declares. Both are members of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang and with other family members attend the annual campouts.

"Even these days, when I visit Billy's gravesite I get this very sad and eerie feeling, I really do. I guess I would call it the supernatural or spiritual connection. I feel something very special when I visit my mother, my father, my grandfather and my grandmother at their graves in Santa Rosa. I grew up with so many positive but unanswered references to my family members. It is so disappointing and heartbreaking to know that so much upheaval and so many secrets had to be adhered to in my life.

"While it is a tradition in many Hispanic families to re-tell lively stories handed down by ancestors, the conventional is not always all inclusive.

"It is very satisfying feeling to finally be able to accurately identify Abrana Garcia and Patrick Henry McCarty (Billy the Kid) as the parents of my grandfather, Jose Patrocino Garcia."

Abrana was the daughter of Pecos River Puebloan and New Mexican Hispanic parents. She was born in 1854.

"Abrana," says Bert, "is rarely mentioned in the writings of that era for the significant reason that she loved and respected Billy, had his child, and deemed it necessary to keep that relationship secret.

That Abrana and Billy named their only son "Jose Patrocino Garcia" (born in 1875 at Arenoso, a small settlement a three miles up the Pecos River from Old Fort Sumner) practically reveals that The Kid's real name was Patrick. It was customary for Hispanics to name their children Jose, in honor of Saint Joseph.

Patrocino Garcia enjoyed as normal of an upbringing as could be planned and hoped for, as did his own son, Martin. The chain of custody of Billy's keepsakes began sometime between 1875 and 1881, and several key photographs reveal in whose possession they were at various points in time since. Martin Garcia, the author's father, also bequeathed a collec-

tion of historical items, including the original (edited and marked up) manuscript for what became *I Buried Billy* by Paco Anaya.

Bert Garcia feels that everyone did their best to cover up the birth of Billy's and Abrana's baby, for safety reasons, as Billy had many enemies who would have killed the baby boy. So the secret was kept from nearly everybody, except the close family which included Higinio Salazar whose daughter, Beatrice, married Jose Patrocino Garcia. It was kept from the children who grew up in the shadow of this cover-up.

Bert says his version of Billy's whereabouts after he escaped from Silver City differs from the traditional version in most Billy books (some of which still has holes in it).

"Henry McCarty cannot be found after he left Silver City at the approximate age of 12. According to my information, Billy ran from Silver City up to the Capitan Mountain and met Higinio Salazar and at that point became his friend. Billy spent two years with Higinio on the Salazar Ranch where he learned to speak Spanish and learned the customs of the Hispanic people. For several years during this time Billy and Higinio spent much of their time as cowboys moving cattle and living in and around the Fort Sumner area where "la mujer serena" (Abrana) made her home."

*(Editor's note: It is true that Abrana Garcia gave birth to a boy in 1875 at Arenoso, as enumerated in the 1880 Federal Census of Cabra, Arenoso, & Fort Sumner. That home was only two dwellings away from Celsa and Sabal Gutierrez and their daughter Mauricia, age 3. Perhaps it was part of the cover-up, as the father's name was listed as Martin Garcia, 33, and Abrana, age 22, a son Antonio age 7, Ricardo, age 5, and Nabora age 5 months, born in January, 1880. Ricardo would have been the age of Jose Patoncino Garcia.)*



Abrana  
Garcia  
ca 1876-78  
from Elbert A.  
Garcia  
Collection



Billy the Kid's  
son  
Jose Patrocino  
Garcia  
Age 29  
from Elbert A.  
Garcia  
Collection

This book can be purchased from:  
Los Products Press  
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Santa Rosa, NM 88435  
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[losproducts@plateautel.net](mailto:losproducts@plateautel.net)



## *The 2000 Year Campout in cool mountains near Ruidoso July 13, 14, 15, 16*

The annual campout is for members and their guests on the 3rd weekend of July and now includes Thursday too.

Last count of attendance at this 2000 campout was 115, members came from the shores of Florida to the shores of California; the biggest gathering to date. A new ruling by the board of directors, Oct. 14, 2000 establishes a camping fee of \$5 per person, beginning at the 2001 campout: July 19, 20, 21, 22. This will keep us from going in debt and having to end these campouts.

### **Stinking Spring Stew Contest:**

Six "teams" competed for the coveted trophy. Winners were **Terry Story** and **Carol Hesseling**. The other five were in this order: # 2 **Danny Vinning**, # 3 **Loretta & Manny Portillo**, # 4 **Paul Blevins**, # 5 **Bob and Lisa Stinson**, and booby prize was awarded to our cookie: **Bill Allen**. Bill has never won this contest and he is an expert chef and all around cook. He will get serious about it next year! The stews made up our meal at Saturday noon.

**Men's Cowchip Toss:** Winner was **Dene Hagen** whose toss was so long that it almost hit a man coming out of the outhouse in the next campsite! WOW!

**Women's Cowchip Toss:** Won by **Lynne Valdez**, daughter-in-law of Jannay and Lisa Valdez.

**Junior Cowchip Toss:** Older kids 1st place **Bert Hagen**, 2nd place **Blake McAlavy**, 3rd place **Lenny Graham**. Youngest kids winners was **Dallas**, 2nd **Casey**, 3rd **Austin Valdez**.

**Men's Calf Roping:** **Bob Stinson** won with 9 tosses, not missing a single one. **Kirk King** won 2nd, and **Jay Valdez** 3rd.

**Junior Calf Roping:** Older kids: 1st **Blake McAlavy**, 2nd **Brittany McAlavy**, 3rd **Eric Hagen**. Younger kids: 1st **Dallas**, 2nd **Faithy Portillo**, 3rd **B. J. Vinning** (3 years old)

**Junior Bean Bag Toss:** Older kids: 1st **Gisha Portillo**, 2nd **Eric Hagen**, 3rd **Blake McAlavy**. Younger kids: 1st **Dallas**, 2nd **Austin Valdez**, 3rd **Faithy Portillo**

**Sack Race:** Older kids: **Eric, Blake, and Brittany** in that order. Younger kids: **Austin, Faithy and Dallas** in that order. The record only listed the top three in the Sack Race.

**Egg Race:** 13 kids were in this race. Mothers were involved and it was impossible to tell who won. **Patrick Blevins, B. J. Vinning, Irene Blevins, Faithy Portillo, Casey and Dallas, Alexis McAlavy, Austin Valdez, Eric Hagen, Lenny Graham, Blake and Brittany McAlavy, and Geisha Portillo** all won ribbons. Eggs were crashing, kids crying, and mothers wailing. The judges were lucky to get names avoiding stepping on broken eggs.

**Women of the West:** Best original costumed frontier woman, without gun, won by **Kathy McAlavy**. Best floozie with or without gun, won by **Arizona Kim King**.

**Little Women of the West** was won by **Sarah Stewart**.

**Gentleman Outlaw** was won by **Kirk King**.

**Billy the Kid Look-Alike** (male adults). You know every one of them look exactly like Billy. If the women judges can be found we could learn who they picked! Was it Joe? Manny? Ron? Stan, or Doc? or that guy on the left?

**Billy the Kid Look-Alike** (male kids): Winner was **B. J. Vinning**, other contestants winning 2nd and 3rd were **Cory Stewart** and **Austin Valdez**.

**Ugliest Outlaw** won by **Bob Logue**. This is the third time he's won this contest. We have retired him so others will have a chance.

**Family of the Southwest:** won by the **Jannay and Lisa Valdez** family.

**Liar's Contest:** Won by **Crystal Vinning** and **Mike Campbell** in a tie?

**The 3rd Annual Bob Barron Debate** was hosted in a professional manner by **Ron Hadley** of El Paso. Highlight of this debate was the **Bert Garcia** story of him being the great-grandson of Billy the Kid. **Doc Sproull**, one of the most astute members around, displayed on two huge panels, his listing of the genealogy lines of Bert's family and other related families of Abrana Garcia. As usual the debate got into Brushy Bill story out of Texas, as versus the standard, documented story of Billy the Kid of New Mexico. Who won???

# SPECIAL!

## 10-24-00 Board Action

The Board voted to access a \$5 vehicle fee ("registration fee") to help pay for the food we purchase each year for the annual campout, hoping we can break even on the campout and not have to dip into our treasury. We will also have a "silent auction" where members can bring items (like the 2 x 2 1/2 foot framed copy of the authentic photo of Billy with Kid, a rare item from the old Lincoln Trust Museum, donated by Gene Leitka, a board member) with proceeds going to help defray expenses. The camping fee we are charged is paid out of our treasury. Campsite # 3 has been \$180 for the 4 days we are there. We are hoping to be able to get Campsite #2 for the next campout as it is bigger, but will cost \$240. We had 115 members and guests at our last campout, more than maximum for that size campsite.

**Peggy Sproull** volunteered to register all the members and guests who come to the campouts, mainly to know how many to fix breakfast for, and to get the kids last name so we can accurately report who won what in their contests, and to identify the many photos shot. Having people register will also help **Doc Sproull** and **Ron Hadley** make name tags quicker.) Remember, members and guests get a free breakfast Saturdays (and coffee and rolls Sundays), most will get a free lunch Saturday noon from the Stinking Springs stews, and a potluck supper Saturday night with members providing a food item. (We have nearly always had to go buy more food.)

We plan to find a motel that members may want to use and get a guaranteed price earlier in the season and not have to pay the high prices some of you paid last summer.



Egg Race contestants with eggs ready in spoons! Counseling provided by **Kathy McAlavy**. Egger on left is **B. J. Vinning**, Egger on right is **Patrick Blevins**. Don't run! Walk! Walk!

# LETTERS and EMAILS TO THE EDITOR

**10-7-00:** Hello, I stumbled on your Billy the Kid website, and I must say you are disgusting. You are glorifying and romanticizing an outlaw that killed. The Kid was no different than some street hood from the inner city with a gun today. No different. Yet you and your friends feel the need to romanticize these "gunslingers", exactly how are they different from some inner city punk who will claim to be "defending" himself with a gun? That's what I thought. If you are a true Christian, you should tear down your sicko site. **John Mathews**

**10-9-00:** Dear friend, I am sitting here in Tokyo reading about BILLY and I can't help feeling you folks are not fair. He was popular here because of the movie, Young Guns. Why don't you help perpetuate the good side of this young rebel? **Mark Lavelle** lavelle@gol.com

**6-14-00:** I was in a store recently and saw a magazine with some offspring of Billy, but like everything else, nothing can be proved except by DNA. Well, they did it with Jesse James! **Cher Classick**

**2-26-00:** Is there any way possible to determine if anyone was faster than Billy the Kid, such as Wyatt, or Doc Holiday, thanks, **Neal**

**6-23-00:** I just returned from New Mexico. My sister and I were able to find the Tunstall murder site. The directions were great, we never would have found it without them. Thanks for your help. **Angie Mayfield**, BTK Outlaw Gang member (Ed. note: *Angie, thank Lucas Speer. His directions: "Turn left after Tunstall historical marker on Hwy. 70 east of Ruidoso, NM. Then go approximately 1 mile and turn right. Turn right at the Y (approx. 3 1/2 to 4 miles) total 5 1/2 miles. Stop at marker 9019D. Walk down the hill approx. 450 steps, turn left right before the road does, then go approx. 90 more steps to the Tunstall murder site marker. (Be sure and go in a big truck or jeep as the mountains are rough and steep.)"*)

**6-20-00:** ALL OF THE PEOPLE IS BILLY THE KID. - **Donna Bruce**

**8-29-00:** Don and Gang. Glad to see the Wild West is being properly preserved. Amazing how after all these years, BTK can still draw as fast as he can. Flying along through the arroyos, over the mountain peaks, and into the canyons of the New Mexico territory, it's easy to imagine the lifestyle these legends of the West lived. It's an Americana that has us all yearning for simpler days, when campfires and candles sufficed for the techno-gadgetry we find ourselves surrounded by today. Though without the gadgetry I guess I wouldn't have been able to access this site. Keep Billy alive in the hearts and minds of all. His place in history is etched out of the foundation that undergirds our whole way of life. For good or bad, all of our forefathers made a contribution to make this country of ours the greatest land on earth. Thanks for helping us remember and learn more about our roots and the foundations of our nation. **Dan Drejza** (Ed. note: *Dan is a Colonel in the U.S. Air Force and flew an F-111 fighter-bomber for many years. Was stationed at Cannon AFB, NM. This year, after a long waiting period, Dan & Barbara went to Russia and adopted a very young Russian boy.*)

**6-15-00:** Don. Thank you very much for your reply. Anyway, it is hard to tell (about the Dave Rudabaugh(?) photo). The pic I have is a tintype of him(?) in his early days. I have had two different people tell me that it was him. Anyway, here is the close up. **John**



*Tintype of young Dirty Dave Rudabaugh???*

**5-17-00:** What about Bell Star. I hear from the old people that Bell Star was one of Billy's girl friends and they had a child. **Kirk Hall**

**4-22-00:** Hi Gang. I'm in New Mexico and your website got selected by some college as web site of the mailing and I'm going to send it out to about 1,500 others... hope it helps with the hits. **Otis**

**7-28-00:** Hello, I am from Georgia and my name is Joseph Hood. I read many many books on Billy, and I do believe he is from New York. I have seen a lot of pictures and he just has that New York look. Everyone from the East has this certain appeal, and he had this appeal. I believe the reason he could not get along well in New Mexico is because he was a "city-fied outlaw." Thanx **Joseph**

**12-28-99:** Dear Don and Co. It seems lately (or since your going online) that BTKOG, Inc. has had an influx of researchers and Billy Buffs participating (on his trail). Has it always been like this, but not as obvious since high tech? **Tom R. Dickerson**, Outlaw Gang member

**2-21-00:** Hi im Josh i reside here in Capitan New Mexico i would like to be a member of the Billy the Kid Outlaw Gang iv done extensive reserch on the Kid if you could e-mail me back with the info im a looking for id be very thankfull. yours **Josh**

**2-16-00:** did he have a cabin or house he lived in? **Denise Welch**

**4-20-00:** I like your website and I would like some more real pictures of Billy the Kid. **Alfredo Martinez**

**3-9-00:** Sirs. Could you tell me what make and model revolver Billy used? I have found a hoster-worn Colt revolver that a dealer says is the style Billy favored. **Jack Bierman**

**8-3-00:** I am writing to ask where the closest Air force base in New Mexico to where your campout is. I am only 19 and just graduated from high school and joined the Air Force. I want to get stationed in NM so I can see all the places that the events took place because I am obsessed about it all. I don't know where I can

find any books on the True story about Billy the Kid. **Dominic Catanzarito** (Ed. note: *Told him Holloman AFB near Alamogordo.*)

**9-3-00:** 21 female from florida i have a dying love for billy the kid am glade there are web sights of him so people know the amazing loveable side of him that history has robbed him... He is my hero and has been since i was 4 years old :)... god bless and thank you i am sure he thanks you too. he must be something special to last so long. **Tiffany Floreno**

**2-26-00:** Hi, my name is Edgar Matamoros, I'm from Mexico City and I want to know how did Jose Chaves y Chaves call his friends: Amigo? Pal? Dude? Chivato: Nothing particular? Thank you for your time and your attention. **Edgar**

**6-1-00:** On the enemies section of this page (BTKOG website) you list John Kinney as an enemie. He is my great-great-grandfather and I am trying to find some information about him. Would you please tell me where you found information on him and where I can? Please email me back it is urgent! **C. Kinney**

**6-3-00:** Would you be able to send me an email address of a relative of Billy the Kid? Thank you, **Allison Goodwin**. (Ed. note: *gave her Bert Garcia's address in Santa Rosa, NM.*)

**4-11-00:** Hello I'm a student at west valley high school and I just wanted to say thank you very much for all this great information, it helped me lots for a report I had to do. Thank you it is much appreciated! **Cindy McDonald**

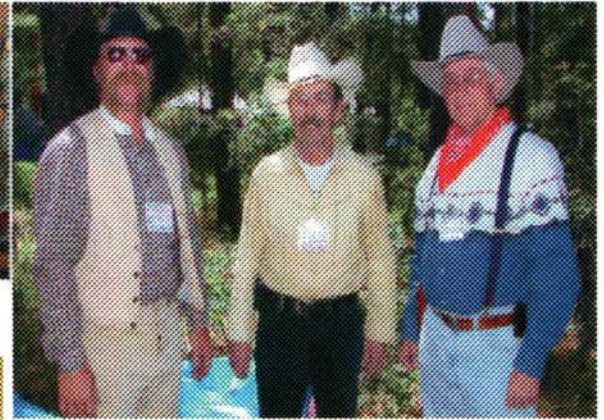
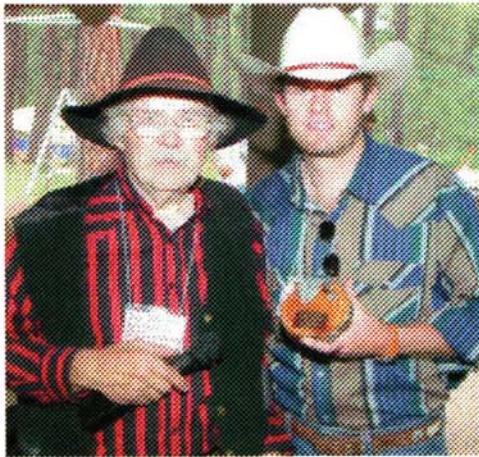
**6-11-00:** You might be interested to know that it is believed by many that Jose Chaves y Chaves is believed to have been the one buried in Billy's grave, once I recall which historical book I saw this artical in I will be happy to send it to you along with a picture you seem to be missing from your collection, it is a picture of the Tunstall boy's all lined up, this picture includes Billy, Chaves, and quite a few others you may or may not recognize. **KillerPooch@aol.com**

**8-3-00:** I am a teacher at Hillcrest Professional Development School and would like to request more information to use in studies with my students, grades 4-5. **Michelle**

**2-11-00:** I to AM a historian I think Billy the kid is a good person to study I studied about him for about 7 years and I'm still finding stuff out about him. Thank u because I am starting to write a book about him called "The Kid"

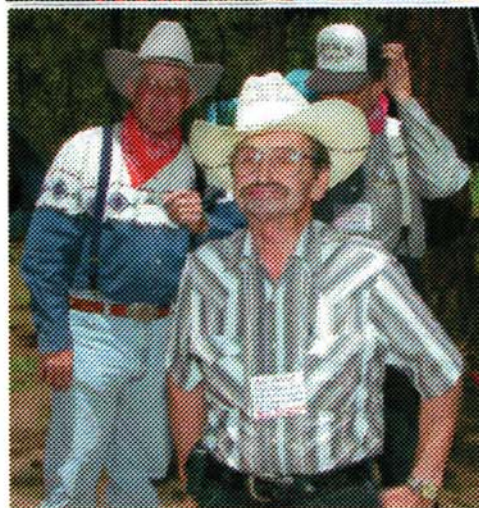
**3-30-00:** Would like information about your area. Am visiting New Mexico in May and like to see the Billy the Kid sites. **Lee Zollars**

(Editor's note: *I answered all these queries. These are but a few. We got over 300 so far this year. Lucas Speer, a member of the board, answers most of the queries about Brushy Bill Roberts as he's also a Texan. Brushy was a Texan.*)



Above: Trophies by Doc Sproull.  
Left: Don awarding Bob Stinson for winning roping contest.

Stalwarts: Joe Hesseling, Bob Logue, & Ron Hadley



Bob Logue winning the Ugliest Outlaw contest, with other contestants too squeamish to look.

Standing: Stan Wright, Kim King, Johnny Eastwood.  
Sitting: Bob Logue & Bill Allen (Cookie) watching the many

The Billy the Kid oil painting at right, by Ian Formston of New Zealand is described on page 7. He would sell it .



We thank everybody who helped us at the annual 2000 Year Campout. All these colored photos (except for the Billy painting) donated by Joe Micalizzi. Please read the SPECIAL on page 31 for new campout rules. **2001 Campout July 13 thru 22**

At right: Doc Sproull interviewing Cajun Danny Vinning after ugliest outlaw contest. We were too squeamish to show his stomach!



Left: Martin Chaves in debate.  
Above: Lori Goodloe & Jannay Valdez.  
Right: Gabby Valdez at right with kids at Joe Micalizzi's laptop, looking at these colored photos, under a shelter.



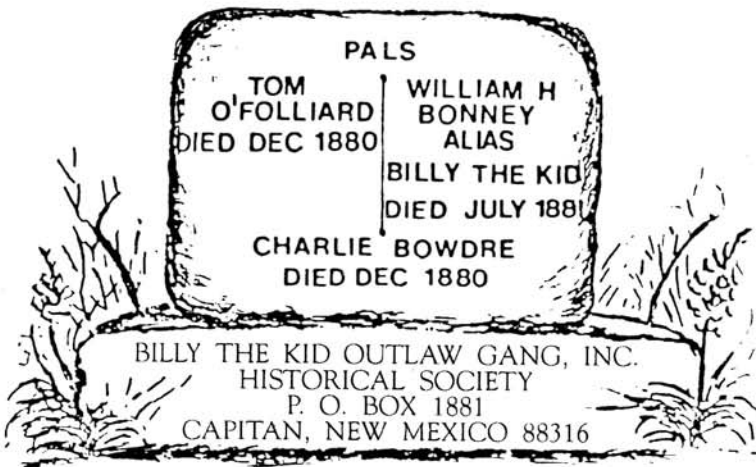
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