

RED MOUNTAIN



RENEGADES

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WELCOME TO
THE RMR
WILD WEST
COWBOY SHOW
MAY 19-21,
2023

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SHOOT OUT AT THE RIDGE
2023



HISTORICAL SCENES

Attack on the Burning Cabin

Billed as “A Living Picture of Life on the Frontier” , Wild West shows were outdoor spectacles of western pageantry that came out of the Great Plains on the cusp of the century. These shows blended myth and reality in a simplified and patriotic fashion that reinforced popular notions about the “winning of the West.”



One of the show’s most popular acts was “The Attack On the Burning Cabin”. Referred to for a long time as the Grand Finale. A fairly small, square replica of a cabin was set up forlornly in the middle of the arena. Performers portraying a pioneer family would defend this from an attack by mounted Indians until Buffalo Bill and his trusty cowboy compadres and Mexicans rode in to rescue them.

This classic storyline of defending the homestead can be seen repeated in many western movies and plays to the present day.

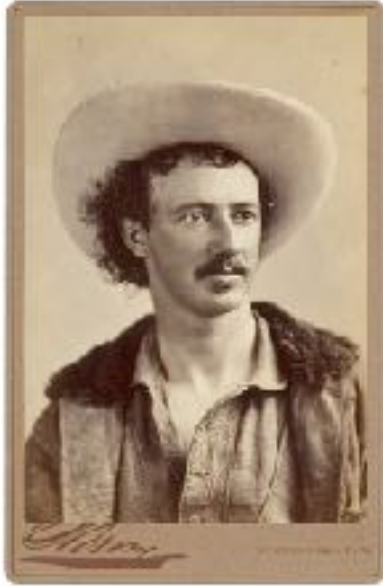
In fact it is a scene that was also featured in Disneyland’s Rivers of America exhibit. Located at the north end of Tom Sawyer Island in 1956, it burned in Indian Territory for more that four decades. The story changed over the years as to why the cabin was ablaze; unfriendly Indians, river pirates, or a clumsy moonshiner blowing up his still and endangering the eagle’s nest nearby.

Our story for the RMR Wild West Show is that someone has set the cabin on fire and we are fighting the blaze together.



Texas Jack

White Chief - Whirling Rope



John Baker Omohundro, born July 27, 1846 in rural Virginia, was a natural born fisherman, huntsman, horseman and crack shot who loved adventure, danger and the great outdoors.

Twice refused at 14 years old to join the army with his older brother, he was later allowed to serve as a courier at 16. After the Civil War, he was a drover (cattle driver) and acquired the name Texas Jack. In 1869, he met and befriended Buffalo Bill Cody and Jack was hired as a scout and trail guide.

Jack had ridden the mountain plains and prairies, slept in his saddle, associated with the Indians and learned their language and signs. He earned their trust and was called their "White Chief" and also "Whirling Rope" due to his amazing dexterity with a lasso.

In 1872, Buffalo Bill and Texas Jack decided to bring the Eastern stage a taste of their adventures as scouts and cowboys, starting with Scouts of the Prairies. After a successful debut and much thanks to Texas Jack's steadying influence during their first season, they went on to tour the Wild West Show for years. Jack enjoyed his acting career and was the first to do a lasso act on the stage.

He died June 28, 1880, from a cold turned pneumonia turned quick consumption at the young age of 33 years old. Buffalo Bill Cody later said "Jack was an old friend of mine and a good one. He was a whole-souled, brave, generous, good-hearted man. I learned to know him and respect his bravery and ability."

Calamity Jane

Women played several roles in Buffalo Bill's Wild West and although there were fewer places for women in the shows, surviving records indicate that



Buffalo Bill, at least, paid women equally with the men.

Calamity Jane was born May 1, 1852 as Martha Jane Canary in Princeton, Missouri. She was an American frontierswoman, sharpshooter and storyteller.

She allegedly moved westward on a wagon train when still quite young—her mother dying en route and her father dying in Salt Lake City, Utah, leaving her on her own at an early age. During the following several years she wandered about the West, working as cook, dance-hall girl, camp follower, and bawd and doing whatever necessary to earn a living. In the spring of 1876 she ended up in Deadwood, SD, site of new gold strikes, and became a bullwhacker, hauling goods and machinery to the outlying camps. It was probably there that she first met Hickok and knew him only briefly. Disputed stories even vouch a marriage (Sept 1, 1870) and a child (Jean Hickok McCormick, born Sept 25, 1873).

Beginning in 1895 she toured with Wild West Shows throughout the Midwest, but was fired for her erratic behaviour and alcoholism in 1901.



She returned to Deadwood and poverty. She was buried there beside Hickok.

Annie Oakley Little Sure Shot

Little Annie - real name Phoebe Anne Moses - had begun demonstrating her genius with firearms as a child of nine by shooting the heads off running squirrels to help feed her impoverished Quaker family in Darke County, Ohio. She had beaten professional marksmen during her early teens (one of them, Frank Butler, later became her husband and manager).



She was 25 when she joined Cody's Wild West Show in early 1885 as "Little Sure Shot, a Wonder of the Age" and she could do things with guns that defied understanding. She reduced spectators to awe by shooting at a moving target while sighting into a mirror and shooting backward over her shoulder.



Annie was a tiny thing - just five feet tall - and she looked even smaller in the cowboy hat, medal-bedecked blouse and short, pleated skirt that she wore in the arena. She responded to applause with a warm and eager smile and performed her noisy miracles with an ease and innocence that delighted her audiences.

No one was more captivated by her than Sitting Bull. He was so impressed by her skills with guns that he adopted her as his daughter and watched her every performance with unflagging admiration and astonishment. Some stories even report that it was Sitting Bull that named her Little Sure Shot.



Wild Bill Hickok

Born in 1837, James Butler Hickok, aka Wild Bill Hickok had a varied career, that mostly included gunslinging and gambling, which got him into trouble more times than can be counted. Wild Bill worked for many major old west enterprises including as a teamster on the Santa Fe trail, the Pony Express (where he shot and killed 3 men over a woman), and an army scout for General George Armstrong Custer (where he bragged to the newspaper that he had killed over 100 men).

He then turned his hand to law enforcement. In 1869, he was elected sheriff of Hays City, Kansas. There he killed 2 more men. Then after shooting an army private to death, he quickly resigned, skipped out of town, and next emerged as the sheriff of Abilene, Kansas. In a jealous rage he killed the owner of a saloon named Phil Coe and accidentally killed one of his own deputies. Subsequently, Abilene asked him to resign.

At this time wild west shows were becoming increasingly popular. Following a lucky streak with cards, Wild Bill decided to produce and direct his own wild west show entitled "The Daring Buffalo Chase of the Plains." His show featured 6 buffalo, a bear, a monkey, 4 Comanches, and 3 Cowboys. The first show was held in Niagara Falls and everything went as planned until a group of stray dogs began chasing the buffalo. The dogs were then chased by drunken adults and children. At the same time someone turned the monkey and the bear loose. The bear did not attack the patrons, but instead ate all of the food that was being sold in the stands. It would take several hours before order was restored. As a result, Wild Bill lost \$900 and was forced to sell the buffalo to a butcher shop so that he could pay all of his bills.

Next, Wild Bill took part in a play produced by Buffalo Bill Cody called "Scouts of the Prairies." This play was successful, everyone made money. Wild Bill often forgot his lines and was frequently so inebriated that he made a fool out of himself.

On August 2, 1876, Wild Bill settled down for a card game in the Number Ten Saloon in Deadwood, South Dakota. A short time later a 25-year-old named Jake McCall emerged; looking to make a name for himself. He walked up to Wild Bill and shot him in the back of the head. He was holding the famous hand of Aces and Eights; (a pair of black aces and a pair of black eights, the fifth card is unknown).

The Pony Express

The Pony Express was re-enacted in many wild west shows, even some famous personalities from the shows worked for the Pony Express including Buffalo Bill Cody and Wild Bill Hickok.



The Pony Express was a mail delivery system that used continuous horse-and-rider relays between St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California. The 1,800-mi (2,900-km) route included 157 stations. Riders changed horses every 10 to 15 miles, and it took about 10 days to complete the route.

Pony Express riders faced a host of perils. In addition to the discomfort and danger of the rough terrain, harsh weather, insects, scarce water on the trail and hostile Indians threatened riders and station keepers alike.

The system provided an important mail link with the West, but it was a financial failure and became obsolete after 18 months with the completion of the transcontinental telegraph system.

Stagecoach Robbery

Amongst the many stories of western adventure at the Wild West Show was The Capture of the Deadwood Stagecoach.



The stagecoach was built to withstand deep ruts in roads that forded streams, climbed mountains and crossed deserts. Pulled by four or six horses, coaches carried mail, packages, passengers, baggage and a Wells Fargo treasure box. Stagecoaches took their name from their method of travelling in short stages of 10-20 miles (16-32km) between station stops, where spent horses were replaced with fresh horses. Besides being an uncomfortable conveyance for passengers, due to the crowding, other risks included wheels falling off, horses out of control and brakes failing. Regular schedules and established routes made it easier to plan to meet it along the way to rob its' occupants and treasure box. In fact, Wells Fargo stages were robbed nearly 350 times between 1870 and 1884.

These tales demonstrated to the captive audience that the fight for the west was complete, that force had been necessary and that victory was certain.



William Cody - Buffalo Bill

William Cody was born on February 26th, 1846 near Le Claire, Iowa. When his father died in Kansas, Bill found work at the age of 11 as a drover (cattle driver) for westbound trains, became a pony express rider and hunted with James Butler Hickok.

Post civil war, where he signed up while too drunk at 18, and after his marriage and failed boardinghouse venture “The Golden Rule”, Bill Cody fled his wife, got drunk and turned to shooting buffalo for the Kansas Pacific Railroad construction camps. This is where he acquired his nickname Buffalo Bill. In his memoirs, he later wrote “During my engagement with the company, I killed 4,280 buffaloes.”

Buffalo Bill, the character, was first a fiction created to symbolize the “Wild West”. Around 1869, Ned Buntline wrote “Buffalo Bill, the King of the Border Men” and it became the first of more than 550 different dime novels about Buffalo Bill. In 1872, Bill was guide for a buffalo hunting party and provided “Indian” entertainment for Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. The next year, he formed “The Buffalo Bill Combination” and then “The Wild West Show”. In 1887, The Wild West Show played in London, England for Queen Victoria’s Jubilee. He developed the town of Cody, Wyoming around 1895-96, and continued making regular tours of Europe until 1906. The Wild West Show began a series of farewell appearances in 1910, with a final show in 1916. Buffalo Bill died January 10th, 1917 in Denver, Colorado.

All in all, Cody’s life itself seemed to embody the history of the west. He was present for every key moment in westward expansion; the gold rush, the Pony Express, the building of the railroads, buffalo hunting and cattle herding on the Great Plains — and he found himself playing a part in nearly every one of these crucial stages of development.



Sitting Bull - Tatanka Iyotake

Native Americans were the single most important ethnic component in the show. In most of Buffalo Bill's programs, the Indian is identified as "The Former Foe - Present Friend, the American," and Cody went to great lengths to promote the harmony between peoples in his show.



Sitting Bull was born in what is now South Dakota, probably in 1831. He was the political and spiritual leader of the Sioux warriors who destroyed General George Armstrong Custer's force in the famous battle of Little Big Horn (The Battle of the Greasy Grass). Sitting Bull joined the Show in 1885.

The old chief led a curious life with the show, mostly, as a kind of living, breathing waxworks exhibit - a role he accepted to escape the boredom of life on a reservation, and to provide for his family.



He bargained, however, before signing on...He had a weakness for oyster stew and hard candy and talked the show's management into providing him with both, as well as \$50 a week and the sole right to sell photographs of himself. Crowds booed Sitting Bull a good deal when he sat on his horse in the arena. This displeased him, but he did not hold a grudge.

On December 14, 1890, Sitting Bull was shot by a group of Indian police who had been sent to arrest him. In the midst of the gunfire, Sitting Bull's stage horse, a gift from Cody, began performing its old routine, lifting its leg as if to shake hands.