

Territorial News

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Vol. 33, No. 9

Your Connection to the Old West

November 27, 2019

Next Issue
Wednesday
December 11

Play
Arizona Trivia
See Page 2 for Details

This Week's Question:

Looming over the East Valley, Four Peaks is a part of what mountain range?
(8 Letters)

Index

Arizona Kid.....	16
Arizona Trivia.....	2
Business Directory.....	18
Classifieds.....	18
Jim Harvey.....	2

The Baxter's Curve Train Robbery

Express Agent Foils the Tall Texan's Plan

By Michael Murphy

It's been said that Ben Kilpatrick, AKA "The Tall Texan," was pretty incompetent when it came to robbing trains. As a member of both the Ketchum Gang and the Wild Bunch, Kilpatrick had plenty of success, but without the likes of Butch Cassidy or Black Jack Ketchum along for the ride, well, not so much.

The thing is, it wasn't that he couldn't rob a train—in fact he had a remarkable string of successes in a short period of time—it's just that he could never quite secure enough funds from these robberies to make ends meet, which meant he had to keep robbing. Sooner or later his luck would run out.

Kilpatrick was born in Texas in 1874. As he grew up, he worked as a cowboy and eventually met up with



Ben Kilpatrick AKA "The Tall Texan"

outlaws Sam Ketchum, his brother Thomas "Black Jack" Ketchum, and William Carver. He was about six feet, two inches tall,

which led to the nickname "The Tall Texan."

Later, he rode for a time with Butch Cassidy's Wild Bunch gang. The law caught up with him in November 1901 and he was

convicted and sentenced to fifteen years in prison. After serving ten years at the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, Kilpatrick was released in June 1911.

He immediately returned to a life of crime and pulled off a series of mildly successful robberies in West Texas. On March 12, 1912, The Tall Texan's luck would run out again.

Baxter's Curve is located almost midway between Sanderson and Dryden, just east of Sanderson Canyon in West Texas. It was a sharp bend in the railway's rail bed named for an engineer who died there when his train derailed.

Kilpatrick and another outlaw, Ole Hobek, who Kilpatrick met in prison, boarded the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway train after it had stopped in Dryden for water. As the train

(See Kilpatrick on Page 4)

Buffalo Bill Gets His First Scalp

Buffalo Bill Cody was already a national folk hero when he called back into service as an army scout after Custer's defeat at the Little Big Horn. Cody added a new chapter to his legend by fighting a "duel" with the Cheyenne chief Yellow Hair, whom he supposedly first shot with a rifle, then stabbed in the heart and finally scalped "in about five seconds,"

according to his own account. Others described the encounter as hand-to-hand combat, and misreported the chief's name as Yellow Hand. Still others said that Cody merely lifted the chief's scalp after he had died in battle. Whatever actually occurred, Cody characteristically had the event embroidered into a melodrama--*Buffalo Bill's First*

(See Cody on Page 6)



Buffalo Bill Cody

The Rough Riders

Upon the outbreak of the war with Spain in April 1898, Miguel A. Otero, Governor of the Territory of New Mexico, offered his services to the War Department as a volunteer officer and wired Washington on April 26: "Can raise a battalion of mounted riflemen in about a week."

Then the Secretary of War offered a military command to Theodore Roosevelt, who was serv-

ing as under-secretary in the Department of the Navy. Realizing that he was young and lacking in training, Roosevelt recommended, instead, that if Dr. Leonard Wood would serve as colonel of a regiment to be raised in the Southwest, he would accept appointment as the lieutenant colonel.

As soon as recruiting was authorized, cowboys, miners, freighters, and

(See Cavalry on Page 11)

Guide Me Lord

Guide me lord,
you are my heart you are my strength,
you are my hope.
Teach me Lord, and guide my way
I love you more each passing day.

Captain's Bar Presents

ARIZONA TRIVIA

This Week's Question: Looming over the East Valley, Four Peaks is a part of what mountain range? (8 Letters)

Last Issue's Question: On September 4, 1886, Apache leader Geronimo surrendered to U.S. government troops in Arizona. Where did it take place?
Answer: Skeleton Canyon

Congratulations! You got the right answer!

Leo Achin, Keith Adams, Charles Bean, James Case, Sid Clarke, Larry Damer, Serena Desylva, Doyle Ekey, Jeanne Finch, Kevin Gartley, Roger Kvammie, Robert Lidgett, Gerald Nelson, Bill Riordan, William Smith, Gary Swanson, Richard Valley.

How to Play

Letters are hidden in the advertisements. Find the letters to spell the answer. Submit your answer with your name, address & phone number on a postcard for the current issue's question to Territorial Publishing, P.O. Box 1690, Apache Junction, AZ 85217. Look for the answer in the next issue. To have your name listed in the next issue, cards must be received no later than 10 days past the current issue of the Territorial News. For example: submitted answers to the 11/27/19 question, deadline is 12/7/19. Limit one postcard per household per issue. Must be at least 18 years old. Remember to put your name on your entry!

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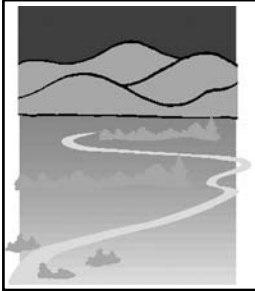
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Arizona - Web of Time

Jim Harvey

The Arizona Trail

Members of an 1885 U.S. Army detachment scouting east from Arizona's Fort Apache into New Mexico saw what they said was a black kangaroo. Lt. Charles Gatewood later wrote that the creature was moving in "calm, unhurried leaps across the valley floor" ahead of the detachment. It finally disappeared into a canyon. Gatewood added "There was no

mistake. The long, powerful hind legs and massive hips, the short forelegs held with the paws curving downward, the tapering forequarters and neck, the erect head and up-standing ears, in every respect a kangaroo."

American Indian farmers living northeast of present-day Flagstaff 900 years ago raised corn, pumpkins,

and beans. They used yuca and bear grass leaves to make sandals, baskets and sleeping mats. And they wore hair decorations, nose and lip plugs, necklaces and rings made of wood, bone and stone.

A Chinese man named Bill Yee who wore his long hair in a queue down his back owned 1898 Kingman's most popular restaurant where he served a lunch of meat, vegetables and desert for 25 cents.

1905 was the year the first motorcycle reached the Grand Canyon. It was ridden by Dr. P.A. Melick of Williams on a 60-mile unpaved road so rough he said he nearly perished from exhaustion.

The roads of northern Arizona still were so rough in the summer of 1911 people traveling by horse-drawn wagon north of Flagstaff on the other side of the Little Colorado River said it felt like the fillings were being jolted out of their teeth. Canned food they carried looked like beaten eggs because of the bouncing. Crackers were broken into pieces small enough to roll oysters in. As the road descended to lower elevations, the weather got warmer and bacon melted and ran out of the wagon box.

Eighty-four elk from Montana were delivered to Winslow by railroad and turned loose south of town in 1913. They were brought to Arizona because hunters had exterminated the native elk.

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Arizona's Meteor Crater

Easily the best preserved meteorite impact crater in the world is Arizona's Meteor Crater, located approximately 43 miles east of Flagstaff, near Winslow. Created some 50,000 years ago by an object about 50 yards wide, the crater is about 4,000 feet in diameter, some 570 feet deep, and is surrounded by a rim that rises 150 ft above the surrounding plains.

The crater was created during the Pleistocene epoch when the local climate on the Colorado Plateau was much cooler and damper. At the time, the area was an open grassland dotted with woodlands inhabited by woolly mammoths, giant ground sloths, and camels. It was probably not inhabited by humans; the earliest confirmed record of human habitation in the Americas

dates from long after this impact.

The object that excavated the crater was a nickel-iron meteorite, which



impacted the plain at a speed of several kilometers per second. The speed of the impact has been a subject of some debate. Modeling initially suggested

that the meteorite struck at a speed of up to 45,000 mph, but more recent research suggests the impact was substantially slower, at 28,600 mph. It is believed that about half of the meteorite's bulk was vaporized during its descent, before it hit the ground. The meteorite itself was mostly vaporized; very little of the meteorite remained within the pit.

The crater came to the attention of scientists

(See Impact on Page 10)



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Baxter’s Curve Robbery

Kilpatrick

(From Page 1)

approached the iron bridge just east of Baxter’s Curve, the outlaws ordered the engineer to stop the train and uncouple the passenger cars and the caboose. Then, while holding the Wells, Fargo express agent, David Trousdale, at gunpoint, they then ordered the train to proceed farther down the track where the robbers had stashed their horses.

As Trousdale later reported: “The first I knew of being held up was when the train came to a stop at Baxter’s Curve. I did not go to the door, and did not know there was any trouble until the train porter called me and asked me to come to the door. I opened the door, and when I looked out, there was a man with a mask on, standing there pointing a rifle at me. The porter told me that I was wanted out there; that there were robbers and I had bet-

ter come out. I stood there for a few seconds and the robber told me to ‘fall out’ with my hands up. When I got out of the car, he walked up to me and searched me for arms; and then made me stand back with the train crew. He made the conductor and the train porter uncouple the baggage cars from the coaches and move away about ten to twelve feet. He searched the helper, and gave the conductor and porter instructions to go back and stay with the coaches; the mail clerk, the helper, and I to go on the engine. One of the robbers rode on one side of the engine in the gang way and one on the other side. They carried us something like a mile from the place they held us up.

“The robber going by the name of ‘Partner’ (Hobek) stayed with the engineer and fireman; and the other one going by the name of ‘Frank’ (Kilpatrick) had the mail clerk, the helper, and myself line up by the side of the engine tank and marched us back to the baggage car and made us get up into the car, holding our hands up. He then carried us over to the safe and had me open it. I only had seven money waybills in the safe, and out of the seven, I told him that there were only two of any value to him. I got him to take two packages, one valued at \$2.00 and the other \$37.00. After he had looked over the car, he said he would go through and see what Uncle Sam had and he carried the three of us back to the mail car.

(See Kilpatrick on Page 12)

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Tuesday, December 10th 7:00pm

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Tuesday, January 7th 7:00pm

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Buffalo Bill's First Scalp

Cody

(From Page 1)

Scalp for Custer--for the fall theater season.

Cody was riding with the 5th Cavalry under Brevet Major General Wesley Merritt on their way to join General George Crook when they ran into a small group of Cheyenne warriors near Warbonnet Creek in western Nebraska. Cody and seven or eight other soldiers charged after the Indians. While Cody's companions scattered the other Cheyenne,

he reportedly ran forward with a bowie knife and dis-

patched one warrior, strip-

ping the scalp of his dead foe. He later recalled that, swinging the grisly trophy above his head, he cried out

on the field that day ever recalled his dramatic oratory afterward.

Shortly thereafter, the 5th headed north to reinforce Crook, but not before Merritt had submitted a lengthy report of his campaign to Washington. Of the actual fighting, Merritt said only "...a party of seven Indians were discovered near the command, moving with the intention of cutting off two couriers who were approaching from Sage Creek. A party was sent out to cut these off, killing one of them...."

Back East, people saw things much differently. The triumph at Warbonnet Creek was glorious, a just revenge on treacherous savages. Newspapers played up Cody's accomplishment; the *New York Herald*, for instance, filled nearly a column with news of the faraway event. And for Easterners eager to learn more of the thrilling combat, Little Bat Garnier was able to add a few choice details: The dead Indian was Yellow Hand, an important chief of the Cheyenne; his death at the hands of Cody was enough to make all the other hostiles turn tail and run. Alas for history, Garnier was not one to let the truth stand in the way of a good yarn. Cody's victim was in truth *Hay-o-wei*, a name which translates as Yellow Hair, so called for



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(See Cody on Page 19)

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Canadian Fur Trade

The fur trade in Canada had its roots in the 16th century, when French fishermen sailed to the Grand Banks, landing on Newfoundland and Cape Breton Island. The furs they brought back from trading with the local natives

aroused interest in France, and King Henry IV granted charters to fur-trading companies with the double aim of competing with English colonial ambitions and providing a profitable industry for France.

Young Frenchmen who wanted excitement or challenge took to trading goods with Native Americans for the furs France wanted. Meanwhile, although the French claimed Canada, the British had given a charter to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670, and it soon controlled the fur trade in northern areas. When Canada became a British possession in 1763, the Hudson's Bay Company became the dominant fur-trading organization, though many French trappers continued on an individual basis. They were joined by Scotsmen, who brought in new ideas of trading. While the Hud-

son's Bay Company had established posts to which Native Americans brought furs, the Scots and French went out and transacted business directly with the Indians. This resulted in their expanding the trade westward and south, into the Louisiana Territory. In fact, French traders had reached the Dakotas by 1738, before English settlers to the south had reached the Alleghenies. Competition among the French and Scots traders was fierce, but in 1779 they agreed to consolidate their interests. This was formalized in the winter of 1783-84, and the North West Company was born. For nearly four decades, North West and Hudson's Bay fought for control of the fur trade. The Nor'Westers created an efficient system of transporting furs whereby trappers and traders from the West met supply canoes from Montreal at Fort William, on the western edge of Lake Superior, and exchanged furs for trade goods and supplies. (The later mountain men used the same system with their annual rendezvous.)

The bitter rivalry between Hudson's Bay and North West led to violent clashes, and in 1821 the British government forced the two companies to join together. In any event, the fur trade was in serious decline by this time due to over-trapping and the clearing of land for farming. By the 1870s, it had all but ended.



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The Marias Massacre

Blackfeet

(From Page 7)

Baker discovered an Indian village along the Marias River, and, postponing his attack until the following morning, spent the evening drinking heavily.

At daybreak on the morning of January 23, 1870, Baker ordered his men to surround the camp in preparation for attack. As the darkness faded, Baker's scout, Joe Kipp, recognized that the painted designs on the buffalo-skin lodges were those of a peaceful band of Blackfeet led by Heavy Runner. Mountain Chief and Owl Child, Kipp quickly realized, must have gotten wind of the approaching soldiers and moved their winter camp elsewhere. Kipp rushed to tell Baker that they had the wrong Indians, but Baker reportedly replied, "That makes no difference, one band or another of them; they are all Piegans and we will attack them." Baker then ordered a sergeant to shoot

Kipp if he tried to warn the sleeping camp of Blackfeet and gave the command to attack.

Baker's soldiers began blindly firing into the village, catching the peaceful Indians utterly unaware and defenseless. Heavy Runner himself was killed as he left his lodge with his gift of an American flag given to him as a promise for his camp's safety. Knocking down lodges with frightened survivors inside, the soldiers set them on fire, burnt some of the Blackfeet alive, and then burned the band's meager supplies of food for the winter. By the time the brutal attack was over, Baker and his men had, by the best estimate, murdered 37 men, 90 women, and 50 children. The troops initially captured about 140 women and children as prisoners to take back to Fort Ellis, but when Baker discovered many were ill with smallpox, he abandoned them to face the deadly winter without food or shelter.

When word of the massacre reached the East,

many Americans were outraged. One angry congressman denounced Baker, saying "civilization shudders at horrors like this." Baker's superiors, however, supported his actions, as did the people of Montana, with one journalist calling Baker's critics "namby-pamby, sniffing old maid sentimentalists."

General Sheridan expressed his confidence in Baker's leadership, and managed to prevent an official investigation into the incident. Conflict between the settlers and the Blackfeet declined after this incident. The Blackfoot Nation, already badly weakened by smallpox, did not have the numbers or support this late in the Indian Wars to respond.

The public outrage over the massacre did derail the growing movement to transfer control of Indian affairs from the Department of Interior to the War Department--President Ulysses S. Grant decreed that henceforth all Indian agents would be civilians rather than soldiers.

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Meteor Crater


Impact

(From Page 3)

following its discovery by European settlers in the 19th century. It was dubbed the Canyon Diablo crater, after Canyon Diablo, Arizona, the closest community to the crater in the late 1800s, about 12 miles northwest of the crater. It was originally thought that the crater was caused by volcanic forces. This was not an unreasonable assumption, as the San Francisco volcanic field lies only about 40 miles to the west.

In 1891 Grove Karl Gilbert, chief geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, investigated the crater and concluded that it was the result of a volcanic steam explosion. Gilbert had assumed that if it were an impact crater then the volume of the crater, as well as meteoritic material, should be present on the rim. Gilbert also assumed a large portion of the meteoritic meteorite was missing. Further there were no magnetic anomalies. Gilbert argued that the meteorite fragments found on the rim were coincidental.

In 1903, mining engineer and businessman Daniel M. Barringer suggested that the crater had been produced by the impact of a large iron-metallic meteorite. Barringer's company, the Standard Iron Company, received a patent signed by Theodore Roosevelt for 640 acres around the center of the crater in 1903. In 1906 Roosevelt authorized the establishment of a newly named Meteor, Arizona, post office (the closest post office before was 30 miles away in Winslow).



(See Impact on Page 13)

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Kilpatrick

(From Page 4)

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“I thought if there was any chance for me to get the advantage on him, it would be by taking him back through my car where I could find some means of turning the table on him. I told him that I was not getting fighting wages and did not care how much he took

out. In this way I gained his confidence and he quit treating me as roughly as he had been. Before this, he would jab me with his rifle and command me around in a boisterous manner. When we passed by a stack of oysters, I had an empty packer standing in about the center of the car, and the robber and I had to pass between the oysters and the packer, and this crowded me close to the oysters; and as we passed, I picked up the ice-maul which was lying on them. I placed it behind my overcoat so that he could not see it and got him away from the door and showed him a package which was going to Sanderson, and told him that the package was worth more than all he had gotten, I thought. He rested his rifle against his leg and started to pick up the package in his right hand. While he was in this position, I saw my chance, and so the first blow I struck him was at the base of the skull, adjoining his head from his neck. Then I struck him two more blows in the top of the head after

(See Kilpatrick on Page 15)

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Meteor Crater

Impact
(From Page 10)

Standard Iron Company conducted research on the crater's origins between 1903 and 1905. It concluded that the crater had indeed been caused by an impact. Barringer's arguments were met with skepticism, as there was a reluctance at the time to consider the role of meteorites in terrestrial geology. He persisted and sought to bolster his theory by locating the remains of the meteorite. Barringer, who in 1894 was one of the investors who made \$15 million in the Commonwealth silver mine at Pearce, in Cochise County, Arizona, had ambitious plans for the iron ore. He estimated from the size of the crater that the meteorite had a mass of 100 million tons—the current estimate is about 300,000 tons. Iron ore of the type found at the crater was valued at the time at \$125/ton so Barringer believed he was searching for lode worth more

than a billion 1903 dollars. Impact physics was poorly understood at the time and Barringer was unaware that most of the meteorite vaporized on impact. He spent 27 years trying to locate the meteoric iron, and drilled to a depth of 1,376 feet, but no significant deposit was ever found. Although many geologists remained skeptical of the crater's meteoritic origins as recently as the 1950s, the concept became more acceptable as planetary science gained in maturity. Professor Herman Leroy Fairchild, an early

promoter of impact cratering, argued Barringer's case in an article in Science in 1930. It was not until 1960 that later research by Eugene Shoemaker would confirm Barringer's hypothesis. The key discovery was the presence in the crater of the mineral stishovite, a rare form of silica found only where quartz-bearing rocks have been severely shocked by an instantaneous overpressure. It cannot be created by volcanic action; the only known

(See Impact on Page 17)

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Short-Courtright Duel

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uke Short was a gun-fighter, gambler and bar owner who had drifted down to Fort Worth, Texas, from Dodge City, Kansas. While in Dodge City, Short had dabbled in gambling, and became friends with several other noted Old West figures such as Bat Masterson, Jim Masterson and Wyatt Earp, who had also become friends with Jim Courtright.

Courtright was at various times was a jailer, deputy sheriff, deputy U.S. Marshal, hired killer, private detective and racketeer. In February 1887, he was the marshal of Fort Worth with a reputation as being fast with a gun.

Some claim that Marshal Courtright was running a protection racket at the time, and needed to make

an example of Short, who owned a saloon called the White Elephant, and who also had a sizable reputation as a gunfighter mostly due to an 1881 gunfight with a gunslinger named Charlie Storms, at the Oriental Saloon in Tombstone, Arizona. Most historians tend to support the claims that Courtright had previously offered his "protection" to the White Elephant, and that Short informed him that he didn't need his protection. Whatever the case, the two men did not get along.

On February 8, 1887, at about 8:00 p.m., Courtright called Luke Short out of the White Elephant. Courtright reportedly had been drinking. Some words were passed and the two men walked down the street about one

block until they were in front of bar and brothel owner Ella Blackwell's Shooting Gallery Saloon. There, facing one another, Courtright said something in reference to Short's gun, apparently to give the impression that the inevitable gunfight was in self-defense. Short stated he was not armed, although he was. Short then indicated that Courtright could check for himself, and walking toward Courtright, he opened his vest. When he did so, Courtright said loudly, "Don't you pull a gun on me!" and quickly drew his pistol.

However, Courtright's pistol hung on his watch-chain for a brief second, at which time Short pulled his pistol and fired one shot. The bullet tore off Courtright's right thumb, rendering him incapable of firing his single-action revolver. As he tried to switch the pistol to his left hand, Short fired at least four more times, killing him.

Short was placed on trial for the shooting, but it was ruled justified self defense, and that was the end of it. The gunfight would become famous, due to the notoriety of both men as gunmen, and is what both men would become best known for. Unfortunately for Courtright, that fame was posthumous

Short continued his life as a gambler, investing in other saloon interests, and traveling to several other cattle towns over the next five years. He died peacefully in bed in Geuda Springs, Kansas, on September 8, 1893. The cause of his death was listed as dropsy, the 19th century term for congestive heart failure.

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Baxter's Curve Robbery

Kilpatrick

(From Page 12)

he had fallen, and knocked his brains out the third blow.

"I took two .45 caliber Colt revolvers and a 401 Model Winchester off this man. I gave the mail clerk and the helper each a revolver and I kept the rifle. I sent the mail clerk and helper to the rear end of the car. I turned the lights out and then joined them. I waited something like two hours for the second man to come back. He did not show up for sometime, and I fired a shot through the top of the car, and in a few minutes, he came to the door and called the name 'Frank' three times; and waited about five minutes, then I saw his head sticking out from behind a trunk forty feet from me. I fired one shot – the bullet striking him about an inch and a half above the left eye, passing through his head and started go-

ing through the end of the car. After waiting about an hour, we pulled the air and the engineer backed the engine and baggage cars back to the coaches. The fireman came back to the coaches and called me. I told him to get the conductor and some of the passengers before I could open the car, that I had killed two men. In a few minutes he came back with the conductor, porter, and fifteen or twenty passengers. When I found that there was no one out there to harm me, I opened the door and admitted the train crew.

"After getting the train coupled up, we moved up to where the US mail had been unloaded and found everything there as it had been unloaded, and I got the two sealed packages that had been taken out of

(See Kilpatrick on Page 18)

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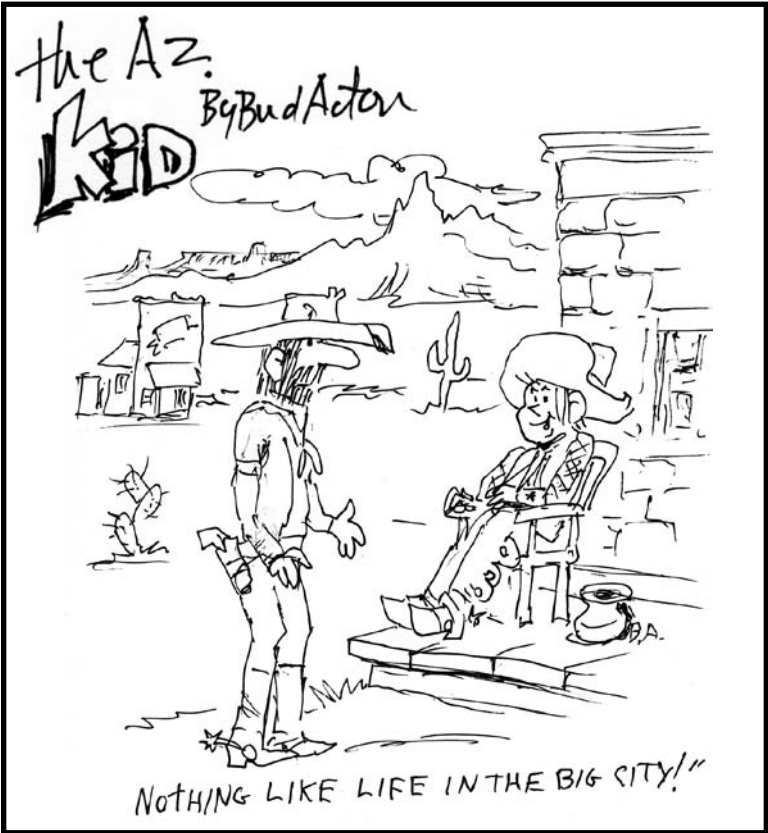
The Beaver

You can make the case that it was the beaver that started the great migration of settlers to the West. The treasure that lured eastern adventurers northwest in the early 1800s was a thickset, placid, industrious rodent, *Castor canadensis*, whose glossy tan-to-dark-brown underfur has a natural tendency to mat, or “felt.” This oily coat is waterproof, for the beaver lives along streams and lakes, eating water plants and willows, aspen and alders. With over-size lungs and fleshy valves that keep water out of its ears and nostrils, it can swim underwater for ten minutes. Its tail acts as a rudder, and its webbed hind feet propel it at two miles per hour. A sociable, mostly monogamous mammal, it constructs a dome-shaped, mud-covered aquatic lodge of interlaced branches that provides a nest for its family. This unique home has two or three underwater exits. They open below the ice in winter, the beaver’s breeding season, allowing the animals to gnaw on a food supply of timber stored outside its door.

To maintain an even water level for the lodge, the rodent dams its lake with stones, mud, and trees that it fells and then tows along canals it has dug from the pond to outlying groves. Its long incisors can topple a five-inch-thick tree in three minutes.

Easterners craved the stylish hats made from beaver pelts to such an extent that hat makers bought over 10,000 pelts each year. Discarding the long, coarse guard hairs, the hatter shaved the soft underfur from the skin, then twanged the string of a huge bow through it. The vibration of the string made the hairs hook together. The matted pile was flattened, covered with wet linen, and kneaded into a conical hood that was shrunk and thickened by being boiled, treated with acid, and beaten. While hot, the felt was molded into the desired shape over a wooden block, then dried and ironed; its nap was raised with a wire paddle.

Overtrapping and reduced demand for pelts marked the end of beaver trapping in the West by the 1840s. By then, however, the mountain men and fur trappers had ranged throughout the West and were the first of the easterners who would soon travel in droves to the wide open western territories.



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Do nerves really get “pinched”? Actual pinching is quite rare. Even though there may be no real pinching, people like the word because it's so descriptive. It can really feel like something is being

pinched in there.

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Meteor Crater

Impact

(From Page 13)

mechanism of creating it is through an impact event (or artificially through a nuclear explosion).

Shoemaker’s discovery is considered the first definitive proof of an extraterrestrial impact on the Earth’s surface. Since then, numerous impact craters have been identified around the world, though Meteor Crater remains one of the most visually impressive due to its size, young age and lack of vegetation cover. One of the interesting features of the crater is its squared-off outline, believed to be caused by pre-existing cracks in the ground at the impact site.

Meteor Crater is today a popular tourist attraction privately owned by the Barringer family. Despite its importance as a geological site, the crater is not protected as a national monument, a status that would require federal ownership. It was designated a National Natural Landmark in November 1967.

The crater continues to be a focus for scientific research. During the 1960s, NASA astronauts trained in the crater to prepare for the Apollo missions to the Moon. On August 8, 1964, a pair of commercial pilots in a Cessna 150 flew into the crater for a closer look, but were unable to climb out due to downdrafts. They ended up circling the interior until their fuel was exhausted and crash-landed. They survived their ordeal and a small portion of the wreckage not removed

from the crash site remains visible to this day. The crater was also used as a location for the 1984 film Starman.

The Meteor Crater Visitor Center on the north rim features interactive exhibits and displays about meteorites and asteroids, space, the solar system and comets, and includes a movie theater, a gift shop,

and observation areas with views inside the rim of the crater. It also features the American Astronaut Wall of Fame, and such artifacts on display as an Apollo program test space capsule, a 1,406 pound meteorite found in the area, and meteorite specimens from Meteor Crater that can be touched. Guided tours of the rim are offered daily.

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Baxter's Curve


Kilpatrick

(From Page 15)

my safe. I transferred all of my money run to Helper Reagan and went as far as Sanderson and unloaded the dead bodies with the six guns taken from them."

Stopping at the Sanderson Train Depot, the robbers were posed for a photograph and thrown together into a grave in the local cemetery. The local sheriff, David L. Anderson, notable for having been a member of Billy the Kid's gang, later captured a third accomplice in the robbery attempt—a young boy who had been recruited to hold the horses at Baxter's Curve. It's interesting to note that the bandits' horses were found to have been shod backwards, presumably so that when they made their escape their tracks would appear to be going the opposite way.

As for Trousdale, the passengers passed the hat at the scene and gave him \$51 for his bravery. They also later presented him with an engraved gold watch fob inlaid with a diamond inside the star of Texas. He also received a \$1,000 reward



Townpeople pose with dead outlaws Kilpatrick and Hobek after the robbery

and a gold watch from Wells, Fargo, another \$1,000 from the federal government, and another \$500 from the railroad.

The Terrell County Historical Commission erected a marker on the outlaws' grave at the Cedar Grove Cemetery in Sanderson, which has become something of a tourist attraction.

An Old West Epitaph

Remember friends as you pass by
As you are now so once was I
As I am now so you must be
Prepare for death, and follow me.

--A verse found in many cemeteries in the Old West. However, on a tombstone in the Pioneer Cemetery near Colorado Springs, Colorado, someone scribbled a bit of graffiti below the inscription:

To follow you I'll not consent.
Until I know which way you went.

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Buffalo Bill’s First Scalp

Cody

(From Page 6)

a blond scalp he had once taken. Yellow Hair was the son of a chief named Cut Nose, but was himself of no particular importance--that is, not until he had the questionable luck to be killed by Buffalo Bill Cody, thereby instantly becoming a legend.

As for Cody, he started the ball rolling the very next day following the incident. He wrote his wife Louisa: “We have had a fight. I killed Yellow Hand, a Cheyenne chief, in a single-handed fight. [I am going to] send the war bonnet, shield, bride [bridle], whip, arms and his scalp....I have only one scalp I can call my own: that fellow I fought single-handed in sight of our command, and the cheers that went up when he fell was deafening.”

Unfortunately, Cody’s parcel reached his wife before his letter. Thinking her husband had sent some fine

new gift she eagerly reached inside. Upon pulling out the rancid scalp, poor Louisa fainted dead away. She later made Cody promise he would never again scalp another Indian. Yellow Hair’s accoutrements, including his missing topknot, can still be seen today in the Buffalo Bill Museum at Cody, Wyoming.

Cody’s famous fight was, of course, single-handed only in a loose sense; he did have some small help from

the 5th Cavalry. Still, a man can be forgiven for bragging to his own wife. However, since everything he did or said was grist for the popular press, the legend overtook the truth in short order. Within a few months, Cody was treading the boards once more in a stage production titled *The Red Right Hand; or Buffalo Bill’s First Scalp for Custer*. The show was a success almost everywhere Cody took it.

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