

Butch & Sundance

LEGENDARY OUTLAWS OF THE AMERICAS.

We entered the world of outlaw history through the back door, the far Southern door. On a vacation in Argentine Patagonia in 1985, we came upon a ranch, or what was left of it, in Cholila, that had once belonged to Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid (a.k.a. Robert LeRoy Parker and Harry Longabaugh). Like most people, our knowledge of the outlaws had been pretty much limited to what we had remembered from the 1969 movie, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*. That is, Paul Newman was Butch, Robert Redford was Sundance, and they had gone to Bolivia with Sundance's companion, Katherine Ross—playing Etta Place or whatever her name was—and got themselves shot by a couple of hundred Bolivian soldiers.

Later, we read up on Butch and Sundance, and found that they had ranched in Argentina for several years, trying to go straight, and hadn't died only in Bolivia. They had died everywhere else, too—the George-Washington-slept-here phenomenon. The outlaws had been laid to rest all over South America, all over the American West and once in Paris, France—an unsolved mystery if there ever was one. Thus began almost two decades of prowling archives and pestering outlaw researchers.

During this period, there was a resurgence of interest in the Wild Bunch—Butch and Sundance's gang—not only by writers in the U.S., but also in South America, notably in Argentina, where outlaw history conferences are devoted to the comings and goings of Butch and Sundance. Argentine expert Marcelo Gavirati contributed *Back at the Ranch* to this issue.

We would also like to thank Jeff Burton, Dan Davidson, Donna & Paul Ernst, Wayne Kindred, Richard Patterson, Jon & Donna Skovlin and Art Soule, whose work we consulted. The errors, of course, are entirely ours. And a tip of the hat to Bob Boze Bell for allowing us, in the tradition of Tom Sawyer, to paint his fence.

— DANIEL BUCK & ANNE MEADOWS

The Last Supper of Outlaw Photos. The "Fort Worth Five" is how this iconic 1900 photograph of a quintet of Wild Bunch members (left to right, Sundance Kid, Will Carver, Ben Kilpatrick, Harvey Logan and Butch Cassidy) is known today. "The Curse of the Fort Worth Five" would be a more accurate title. All five men died violent deaths. Will Carver was shot to death by Texas police in 1901. A wounded, cornered Harvey Logan committed suicide in a Colorado field in 1904. High in the Andes, a wounded, cornered Butch Cassidy shot a wounded, cornered Sundance, then shot himself. Ben Kilpatrick survived the longest, only because he spent ten years in prison, out of harm's way. He died at the hands of an ice-mallet wielding express messenger during a botched Texas train robbery in 1912.

— PHOTO FROM THE PINKERTON DETECTIVE AGENCY, TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



BUTCH CASSIDY AND THE SUNDANCE KID TIME LINE

April 13, 1866

Robert LeRoy Parker, later famous as Butch Cassidy, is born in Beaver, Utah.

Spring 1867

Harry Longabaugh, later famous as the Sundance Kid, is born in Mont Clare, Pennsylvania.

1882

A 15-year-old Sundance goes west with a cousin's family, eventually settling on a ranch near Cortez, Colorado.

Early 1880s

Butch becomes friends with Mike Cassidy, an older cowboy and small-time rustler, whose name he later borrows as his alias.

June 9, 1887

Sundance, arrested for horse theft, writes a letter to a local newspaper, admitting he had "done wrong" but objecting to a "sensational and partly untrue article" comparing him to Jesse James.

August 5, 1887

Sundance pleads guilty to horse theft in Sundance, Wyoming, and is sentenced to 18 months in prison. In February 1889, he's pardoned and released.

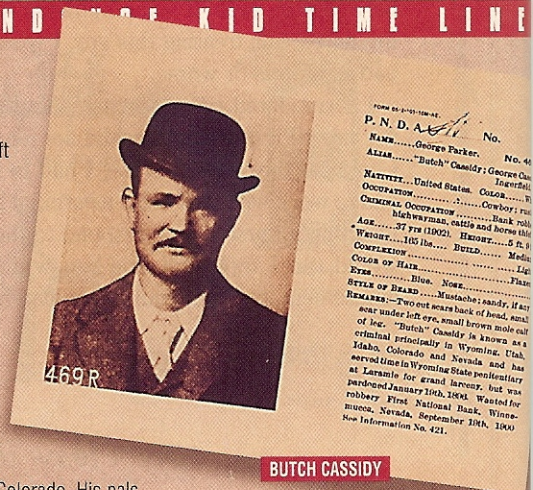
June 24, 1889

Butch commits his first major crime, holding up the San Miguel Valley Bank in Telluride, Colorado. His pals,



Four-year-old Sundance and his father.

— TRUE WEST ARCHIVES —



BUTCH CASSIDY



...OS RETRATOS, SEÑAS PERSONALES Y LA HISTORIA CRIMINAL DE CADA UNO DE LOS INDIVIDUOS SOSPECHOSOS, SE DAN Á CONTINUACIÓN.



HARRY LONGBOUGH.
Bustro en su juventud en la fotografía de 1892.

NOMBRE: Harry Longbaugh, (a) "Kid" Longbaugh, (b) Harry Abner, (c) Frank Jones, (d) Frank Boley, (e) el "Sundance Kid."
NACIONALIDAD: norteamericana. **PROFESIÓN:** Vaquero, tratante
OCCUPACION CRIMINAL: Sultador de casinos, ladrón de bancos, de ganado y de caballos.
EDAD: 35 años. **ESTATURA:** 5 pies 10 pulgadas
PESO: De 164 á 175 libras. **CONSTITUCIÓN:** Buena
COLORES: Ojos azules y verdes. **COMAR:** Tringido claro
RIGOTE O BARRA: [La línea] rastado natural con punta roja.
RAZONES: Tipo grego. **ANOTIZ:** Más bien larga
COLOR DEL PIEL: castaño, puede haberlo tenido, se peca por palomero.
ES ESTRAVAGO Y TIENE LOS PIES MUY SEPARADOS.
OBSERVACIONES: Harry Longbaugh estuvo 18 meses cumpliendo sentencia en la cárcel de Sandances, Condado de Coch, Wyoming, cuando era muchacho, por robo de caballos. En diciembre de 1892, Harry Longbaugh, Bill Madison y Henry Bass asaltaron un tren del Ferrisburgh "Great Northern" en Malta, Montana. Bass y Madison fueron juzgados por este crimen y sentenciados á 10 y 24 años de prisión, respectivamente. Longbaugh se escapó y desde entonces es un prófugo. En 25 de junio de 1897 y bajo el nombre de Frank Jones, Longbaugh se asoció á Harry Logan (a) Curry, Tom Day y Walter Taylor, tomó parte con el hecho de un banco en Belle Fourche, cond. Dakota. Todos escaparon en manos de la policía, pero Longbaugh y Harry Logan lograron escapar de la cárcel de Fourche, en 31 de Octubre del mismo año. Desde entonces Longbaugh no ha vuelto á estar preso.

SUNDANCE KID

Matt Warner and Tom McCarty, and perhaps a couple of other young cowboys, are also involved.

1896, he's pardoned and released.

1890-92
Sundance is in Canada, where he cowboys on ranches in Alberta and runs a saloon in Calgary. The 1891 Canadian census lists him as a horse breaker.

November 29, 1892
Sundance commits his first major crime, robbing the Great Northern No. 32 near Malta, Montana. He and two others get away with less than \$100.

July 4, 1894
Butch is sentenced to two years in prison for the theft of a \$5 horse. In January

August 13, 1896
Butch, Elzy Lay and Bub Meeks rob the Bank of Montpelier in Montpelier, Idaho, in order to raise money to defend Matt Warner, who is about to go on trial for murder.

1897-1900
Various members of what is commonly referred to today as the Wild Bunch commit robberies in Belle Fourche, South

Dakota; Castle Gate, Utah; Wilcox, Wyoming; Tipton, Wyoming; and Winnemucca, Nevada. Butch and Sundance may have been in as few as two robberies together. Where and when the famous duo first met is a mystery.

December 1900
Butch, Sundance and three bandit colleagues, Will Carver, Ben Kilpatrick and

Harvey Logan, all dressed as prosperous businessmen, have their portrait taken in Fort Worth, Texas.

February 20, 1901
Butch and Sundance, and Sundance's companion Ethel (a.k.a. Etta) Place, sail for Argentina.

June 1901
Butch, Sundance and Ethel arrive in the Chollila Valley, to homestead a ranch. They buy livestock, record their brands and file petitions for more land.

May 1905
The trio flees to Chile when learning an order has been issued to detain Butch and Sundance on suspicion of complicity in an

Butch & Sundance

"The penalty for losing at their favorite sport was death."

—ANNE MEADOWS

Severely wounded, Harvey Logan (alias Kid Curry) killed himself rather than surrender following a June 1904 train robbery near Parachute, Colorado.

Sundance and Ethel had this photo taken in 1901 at the De Young Studio in New York.

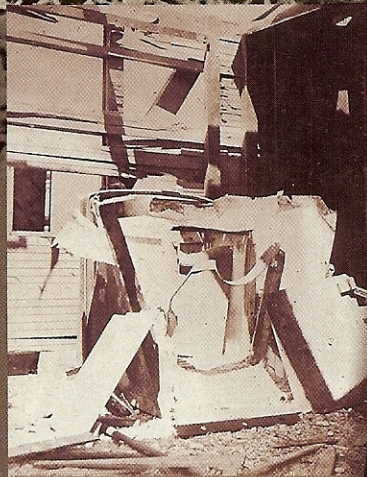
—TRUE WEST ARCHIVES—

Oops! Harvey Logan



Union Pacific railcar (above) and safe (right) after the Wild Bunch dynamited them in a 1900 holdup near Tipton, Wyoming.

—TRUE WEST ARCHIVES—



"After you've started, you have to keep going, that's all. The safest way is to keep moving all the time and spring a holdup in some new place. In that way you keep the other fellows guessing."

—BUTCH CASSIDY



A 1907 five-boliviano note.

—PHOTO BY ANNE MEADOWS—



THE SUNDANCE KID TIME LINE

Argentine bank robbery. They were apparently not involved, but can't risk being arrested because they're still wanted in the U.S.

Late 1905

Sundance, using the alias Frank Boyd, is in Antofagasta, in northern Chile, where Frank Aller, the U.S. vice-consul, bails him out of some difficulty with the Chilean government.

December 19, 1905

Butch, Sundance and two others (perhaps Ethel and Robert Evans, a cowboy from Cholila) hold up a bank in Villa Mercedes, Argentina. They barely escape,

exchanging gunfire with the posses that pursue them toward the Chilean border

April 1906

Ethel sails from Chile to San Francisco, California, and disappears.

1906

Butch and Sundance separately make their way to the Concordia tin mine in Bolivia, where they work for a couple of years. They make friends with assistant manager Percy Seibert, who decades later becomes historian James Horan's chief informant about the fugitives' Bolivian adventures.

November 12, 1907

Butch writes a letter to his friends at Concordia, saying that he (and presumably Sundance) would like to buy a ranch near Santa Cruz, in the eastern lowlands, and settle down.

November 4, 1908

Perhaps to raise money for their ranching plans, Butch and Sundance hold up an Aramayo, Francke & Co. payroll near Tupiza, in southern Bolivia.

November 6, 1908

Butch and Sundance are trapped and wounded by a small military patrol in San Vicente, high in the Andes. Butch shoots Sundance, then takes his own life. The

payroll is recovered among their possessions.

July 31, 1909

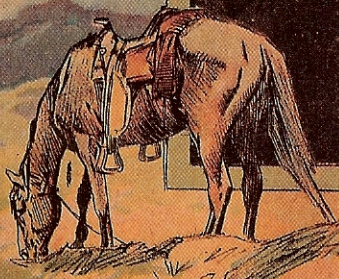
Frank Aller writes the U.S. legation in La Paz, Bolivia, saying he understands that Frank Boyd (Sundance's alias at the time) and his companion, Maxwell (Butch's alias), were killed in San Vicente. He requests an investigation and death certificates.

Early 1911

Aller receives a report and death certificates from the Bolivian government for the two Americans, whose names are unknown.

The "HOLE-IN-THE-WALL"

*America's Favorite
Desperadoes' Haven
where
President Roosevelt
is Going Hunting*



PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT is going into the "Hole in the Wall," in Wyoming, to kill bears and mountain lions. The Hole in the Wall is the last resort of the rough-riding bandits of the West.

It is thus described by Owen Wister in "The Virginian":

"Somewhere at the eastern base of the Tetons did those horridly desolate mountains rise, a mountain sanctuary where many crooked paths have led. He that took another man's possessions, or he that took another man's life, could always run here if the law or popular justice were too hot on his heels.

"Steep ranges and forests yielded him in from the world on all four sides almost without a break, and every entrance lay through intricate windings. Snake River came into the plain through canyons and mountain passes and meandered to the north and went out at the south between formidable chasms.

"Every tributary to this stream rose among high peaks and ridges and descended into the valley by well-worn, impassible courses. Pacific Creek from Two Ocean Pass, Buffalo Fork from the pass at all, Black Rock from the Two-ocean Pass—all these and many more were the waters of loneliness among whose thousand hiding-places it was easy to be lost.

"Upon the bottom was a spread of level land, broad and beautiful, with the blue and silver waters rising from its chain or lakes to the west and other heights protruding over its other sides.

"And up and down and in and out of this hollow square of mountain, where waters plentifully flowed and natural pasture abounded, there skulked a nomadic and distrustful population. This in due time built cabins, took wives, begot children and came to speak of itself as 'the lowest portion of the Hole in the Wall.'

"It is a commonplace tale, and doubtless today more accurate than it was once. Into this place the desperadoes disappeared. Not many cabins were yet built there, but the unknown rider of the horse knew well that he would find shelter and welcome among the flocks of his sheep.

"Leave and order might guess his name correctly, but there was no next step for lack of evidence."

Roosevelt and Wister Friends and Comrades.

Mr. Owen Wister, the writer of this spirited description of the "Hole in the Wall," is President Roosevelt's personal friend. They have hunted and camped together through the West, and it was probably Mr. Wister's book that gave the President the idea of hunting through the "Hole in the Wall."

From their mountain ericks, thousands of feet above the green seas of pine and cedar, the denizens of the "Hole in the Wall" will see the President enter their domain. They will hear his rifle shots ring through the stillness, and they will see the glimmer of his camp fires in the canyons.

From the time the Oregon trail was blazed across the valleys and over the mountains, the "Hole in the Wall" has been the last resort of the rough-riding desperadoes of the West. It is haunted by man killers and horse thieves.

At the present time its most celebrated inhabitant is "Laughing Dick" Casey, Wyoming's most notorious desperado.

He was a member of the gang of outlaws that a year ago stole three hundred head of horses from the Medicine Butte Stock Company in South Dakota. He was at that time under the leadership of Otto Chenoweth, son of a well-to-do widow of Minneapolis. The South Dakota authorities offered a reward of \$500 each for Chenoweth and "Laughing Dick" and the stock company offered a like sum. Chenoweth was arrested, but "Dick" fled and escaped to Wyoming, and for a time hid in the old robber rendezvous in the Hole-in-the-Wall country. Mrs. Chenoweth, mother of Otto, recently spent several months in Wyoming in an effort to secure a pardon for her son on the promise that she would locate him and take him East with her to live.

At the time when George Cutler, "Butch" Cassidy, "Kid" Longbaugh, the Roberts brothers and other notorious bandits were operating in Central Wyoming "Laughing Dick" was a boy, and acted as messenger and camp servant for the older outlaws.

The Wyoming authorities are making a desperate effort to remove "Laughing Dick" from the hunting country selected by the President and his party, and the general impression is that before the grass grows green on the slopes and the deer and

ask come out of the valleys and start for the hills "Laughing Dick" will be in a hole in the wall from which exit will be impossible by reason of iron bars and determined guards with repeating rifles.

The Wild Bunch's Hole-in-the-Wall hideout in Wyoming was so remote and untamed, it attracted Presidential Sportsman Theodore Roosevelt, as noted by this account in the March 15, 1903, issue of The New York World.

- COURTESY DANIEL BUCK AND ANNE MEADOWS -