



SILVER SCREEN BUCKAROOS OF COLORADO

Buckaroos' News

Highlands Ranch, Colorado

Summer, 1997

In 1866, Robert Leroy Parker was born to the wife of a Mormon bishop, Max Parker, in Beaver, Utah. Robert grew up on a ranch in Circle Valley, Utah. Mike Cassidy, one of the elder Parker's cowboys, made young Robert his protégé when he rustled cattle and horses. Robert would help him drive rustled steers to Robber's Roost on an arid plateau in southeastern Utah near Hanksville. When the Mike left for Mexico to avoid arrest, Robert took the name George Cassidy as a token of admiration for his old rustler friend and traveled to the mining town of Telluride, Colorado, to drive ore-carrying mules.

Leaving the mining business, young gang. They attempted to hold up the miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado, car messenger refused to open his safe, off, not even robbing the passengers. In getaway man outside who aided Tom the First National Bank of Denver.

In June, 1889, Cassidy, Tom McCarty, Valley Bank in Telluride of \$10,500. motionless horses and galloped away, a smilingly watched the young Cassidy holdup.

The robbers broke up and in 1892 work as a butcher in Rock Springs, his nickname "Butch." After being money in his pockets, Butch went into began herding cattle and stealing horses. Utah, captured the pair and took them into Butch was sent to the penitentiary at Convict No. 187 for stealing 30 horses. Richards pardoned him and he was sentence was to be completed at the age

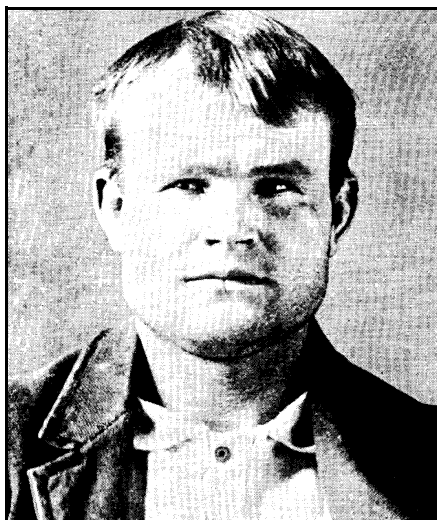
Immediately Butch formed his own in the Uinta Mountains near the Utah, and a couple of others built a cabin high Springs, Wyoming, and Vernal, Utah. The the gang rode into one town or another on saloons and shooting up the town, the calling the gang the "Wild Bunch." You

robbery money to significantly beef up the local economy and even wanted posters described Butch as "cheery and affable."

In 1897, Cassidy robbed the mining camp at Castle Gate, Utah, of its \$8,000 payroll. Shortly afterward, the rough gang from Hole in the Wall, a hideout about five miles southeast of Barnum, between Casper and Buffalo, Wyoming, joined Cassidy at Brown's Hole. Among their members was one Harry "Sundance Kid" Longbaugh of Sundance, Wyoming. Cassidy renamed the huge group of desperadoes "The Train Robbers Syndicate."

In early 1901, Butch, his trusted partner Sundance, and four others of his gang posed for a photographic portrait in Fort Worth, Texas, then sent a copy with a thank-you note "as a good joke" to the First National Bank they'd robbed of \$32,640 in Winnemucca, New Mexico, the previous September. In late 1901, Butch, the Sundance Kid, and the Kid's lovely consort, Etta Pace, traveled to New York City to take in the sights. The Kid and Etta then left for the greener pastures of Buenos Aires, Argentina, aboard the S. S. Soldier Prince. After one more train robbery on July 3, 1901, in Malta, Montana, Butch headed

Colorado's Famous Faces: Butch Cassidy



BUTCH CASSIDY

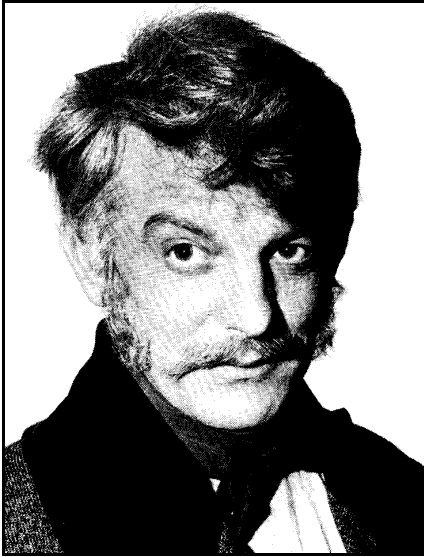
Cassidy hooked up with the McCarty Denver & Rio Grande train about five in November, 1887. When the express-the gang took a vote and decided to ride March, 1889, Cassidy was probably the McCarty in the robbery of \$21,000 from

and Matt Warner robbed the San Miguel They vaulted into the saddles of their maneuver the townspeople had practicing for several days before the

Cassidy tried his hand at some honest Wyoming. It was there that he acquired acquitted of rolling a drunk for the business with Al Rainer, and the two Sheriff John Ward of Uintah County, custody. And so it was that in 1894, Laramie, Wyoming, for two years as However, Governor William A. released several months before his of 30.

gang and headquartered at Brown's Hole Wyoming, Colorado border. Cassidy on Diamond Mountain between Rock place is still known as Cassidy Point. As Saturday nights, carousing in the locals began almost affectionately see, the gang left enough rustling and

Coloradans In the Movies: Denver Pyle



Denver Pyle was born on a farm near Bethune, Colorado, on 11 May, 1920. Denver grew up with his older siblings, brother Willie and sister Skippy, in a sod house on the family's homestead. When it came time for the children to attend school, the family moved into Bethune. Denver attended classes in Bethune through the eighth grade.

Skippy moved to Boulder, Colorado, taking Willie and Denver along with her. The three looked for jobs and rented a room in which they could cook. Skippy started classes at the University of Colorado (CU), younger brother, Willie, started high school, and youngest brother, Denver, began ninth grade classes. One and a half years later found the kids not making it too well, until their mother moved to Boulder and opened a small student boarding house. The boarding house helped them survive, if not prosper.

Skippy graduated from CU and went to work for an advertising agency in California. Willie graduated high school, and after working a short time at J.C. Penney in Boulder, went

to work for Walt Disney, also in California. Denver, on graduating high school, took in a couple of years at CU, while drumming in dance bands part time where he was making what he felt was a pretty good living.

Denver, deciding that he didn't know what he wanted to do, but knowing that he didn't want to be a musician, left CU and began bumming around. He drifted south to work the oil fields and refineries of Galveston, Texas, and Tulsa, Oklahoma, and then headed west to see Skippy and Willie in Hollywood, California. After returning for another year of college at CU, Denver headed back to California, where he got a day job as an NBC page through the efforts of his sister, Skippy. Eventually, he became a tour guide at NBC.

Although Denver volunteered for the war effort, he received a 4F rating in the regular services, so he went to work on the graveyard shift at Lockheed for a year and a half. He then passed the physical for the Merchant Marines, was appointed a Cadet Midshipman, and got into the regular Navy through the "back door." When the war was over, Denver married and went to work in the defense system in California.

Denver tried out and was selected for a part in the play, "Out of the Frying Pan," and began honing his acting skills. While doing those jobs that actors do to sustain themselves and appearing in local stage productions, he became a student of Josephine Dillon, Clark Gable's instructor, got a job building stage sets for the American Repertory Theatre where he studied under Madame Ouspenskaya, joined a group that Michael Chekhov was teaching, and got into Charles Laughton's Shakespearean Company. Henry Levin, a Columbia

See Denver Pyle, Page 4



The Old Buckaroo

Have really been having a good time reading *The Old Cowboy Picture Show News* put out by the Hub Twin Theatre in Gaffney, South Carolina. George Coan is the editor and runs the show (so to speak) at the theatres.

Admission is free (although donations are gratefully accepted) to harken back to the good ol' Saturday matinee days and the heyday of the Front Row Kids. For example, on Saturday, May 10, 1997, the morning lineup had *Adventures of Red Ryder* (1940), *Marshal of Mesa City* (1939), an *Amos and Andy* TV episode, and Dennis Myers' whip act. After a lunch break, folks were back for an *Annie Oakley* TV episode and *West of the Alamo* (1946).

For information on the OCPS, write to saddle pal George Coan, OCPS, P.O. Box 66, Camden, SC 29020. You may also call (864) 489-1994 or (803) 432-9643. Until next time, Happy Trails, Buckaroos!

Colorado



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Butch Cassidy

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for New York and took a steamer to join Sundance in Buenos Aires.

In 1902, Pinkerton's National Detective Agency printed pictures from the Fort Worth photograph of Butch and Sundance and distributed them along with lengthy descriptions. They listed Butch's occupation as Cowboy and rustler, but listed his criminal occupation as bank robber. They showed that Butch was 37 years old, 5 ft. 9 in. in height, had flaxen hair, weighed 165 lbs., and was of medium build. They also remarked that Butch had "two cut scars back of head, small scar under left eye, small brown mole calf of leg." Pinkerton's further described Butch as being "known as a criminal principally in Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Colorado and Nevada and has served time in Wyoming State penitentiary at Laramie for grand larceny, but was pardoned January 19th, 1806."

As Mr. James Lowe, and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Place, the three amigos received an Argentinean homesteading grant that consisted of four leagues of land in Chubut Province. By the spring of 1903 they had bought

herds of cattle, horses, and sheep, but a Pinkerton operative named Frank Dimao arrived in Buenos Aires, and the trio could no longer live as peaceful ranchers. After sending Etta back to the states because of her health, Butch and Sundance held up trains and robbed banks in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru for several years. In the states the pair was immortalized in an early movie titled *The Wild Bunch*.

Early in 1909, Butch and Sundance robbed the Aploca Mine in Bolivia of its payroll. The money was strapped to a big, silver-gray mule which was recognized by an innkeeper in the village of San Vicente, fifteen miles from the holdup. He sent for the nearby detachment of Bolivian cavalry who shot it out with Butch and Sundance well into the night. Then there was silence. At first morning light, the soldiers found the two desperadoes both dead. With the demise of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, the days of the last, the largest, the most colorful, and the longest-lived of the western outlaw gangs had come to an end.



Yesteryear

William Bonney was born in New York on November 23, 1859. He left school for a career of drifting, gambling, and loitering. In 1876, Billy and some friends robbed and murdered three Indians in Arizona, and from there set off in search of excitement, money, and notches on their guns. Billy soon became known as Billy the Kid, or simply "the Kid."

On March 4, 1878, an English rancher, John Tunstall, was shot and killed in New Mexico Territory, igniting what would become known as the "Lincoln County War." Tunstall's friends, including, William Bonney, vowed to avenge his death. The subsequent fighting included pitched battles fought in the town of Lincoln itself, leaving many dead. Billy, rejecting amnesty, went on a rampage of cattle rustling and murder. His one-time friend, Sheriff Pat Garrett ran Billy to ground in 1880 and after a trial, Billy was sentenced to hang. The Kid escaped in April, 1881, by killing both of his guards. On July 15th, Garrett found Billy again, and this time shot him dead. The Kid with the handsome smile and youthful bravado had killed a man for every year he had lived.



Corriganville

Bill Ehrheart sent a big Hellooooo. He says, "The Ventura County [California] Historical Society *Quarterly* has decided to devote a double issue to the 60th anniversary of the Ray Corrigan/ Corriganville Movie Ranch (Sept. '37, founding). Also, there will be an extensive Ray Corrigan filmography, a project I have had on a back burner for some time now." Bill is asking for Ray "Crash" (Benard) Corrigan filmography information on his gorilla movies (1934-1954) as well as his pre- and post-fame days. Contact Bill Ehrheart, Corriganville Historian, 126 S. Delay Ave., Covina, CA 91723. Phone (818) 332-1993.



Bits 'n' Pieces

In Denver's Civic Center Park there is a statue called "Bronco Buster" by Alexander Proctor that was dedicated in 1920.

"Slim," the model for the cowboy who sits astride the bucking bronco, was wanted by the authorities. However, they let sculptor Proctor finish with "Slim" before they put him in the hoosegow!



The Code of the West



"No one can avoid trouble by running away from it. It always catches up with you. And if it does, it's worse than if you'd faced it in the first place."

Roy Rogers in *The Roy Rogers Show*, "Deadlock at Dark Canyon" (1957)



Denver Pyle

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Pictures director, saw Denver's acting in Laughton's production of "Ring Around Elizabeth" and called Denver the next day for a small part in "The Guilt of Janet Ames," a 1947 film with Rosalind Russell and Melvyn Douglas. A few months later, Levin cast Denver in a William Holden and Glenn Ford western called "The Man from Colorado," which was released in 1948. From there Denver went on to appear in many fine roles in movies and television.



Denver Pyle Filmography

A partial list of Denver Pyle films includes: *The Alamo* (1960), *Bonny and Clyde* (1967), *Cahill, U.S. Marshal* (1975), *Canyon Ambush* (1952), *Federal Agent at Large* (1950), *Five Card Stud* (1968), *Flame of Youth* (1949), *The Guilt of Janet Ames* (1947), *Hellfire* (1949), *Geronimo* (1962), *Goldtown Ghost Riders* (1953), *Gunpoint* (1966), *The Hydrogen Hurricane* (1953), *Incident at Phantom Hill* (1966), *Johnny Guitar* (1954), *Man from Colorado* (1948), *Marshal of Amarillo* (1948), *Million Dollar Pursuit* (1951), *Mountain Man* (1977), *Oklahoma Annie* (1952), *The Old Frontier* (1950), *A Perilous*

Journey (1953), *Ride Clear of Diablo* (1954), *Rough Riders of Durango* (1951), *Rim of the Canyon* (1951), *The Rounders* (1965), *Seventh Cavalry* (1956), *Shenandoah* (1965), *Singing Guns* (1950), *Streets of San Francisco* (1949), *Top Gun* (1955), *Train to Alcatraz* (1948), *Welcome to Hard Times* (1967), and *Where the North Begins* (1947).

Denver Pyle has also been seen in many TV series including: *The Adventures of Jim Bowie*, *The Andy Griffith Show*, *Dukes of Hazzard*, *Gunsmoke*, *Hopalong Cassidy*, *Life and Times of Grizzly Adams*, *The Lone Ranger*, *Perry Mason*, *Range Rider*, *The Rifleman*, *The Roy Rogers Show*, and *Wyatt Earp*.



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