

## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

### Section 27, Pages 781 - 810

This collection reflects E. P. Lamborn's life long interest in crime, criminals and law officers. E. P. Lamborn was an amateur historian and collector of sources on crime and criminals of the Middle West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His interests ranged from bandits, peace officers, famous detectives, and buffalo hunters. The Correspondence and Research section, presented here, contains much information on these topics from friends, relatives, companies, law officers, etc., who had some connection or dealings with these individuals. The arrangement for this section, generally, is alphabetical by last name of the correspondent. A detailed, searchable calendar of correspondents is available by clicking on "Text Version" below or by accessing the full collection finding aid in the link below. A transcription of this correspondence is not yet available. This series comprises boxes 2 and 3 of the E. P. Lamborn collection. You can find individual items in the order they are described in the "calendar of correspondents" by using the page selection feature available when you are looking at a full sized page image.

Creator: Lamborn, E. P. (Edward Parker), 1890-1978

Date: 1915-1965

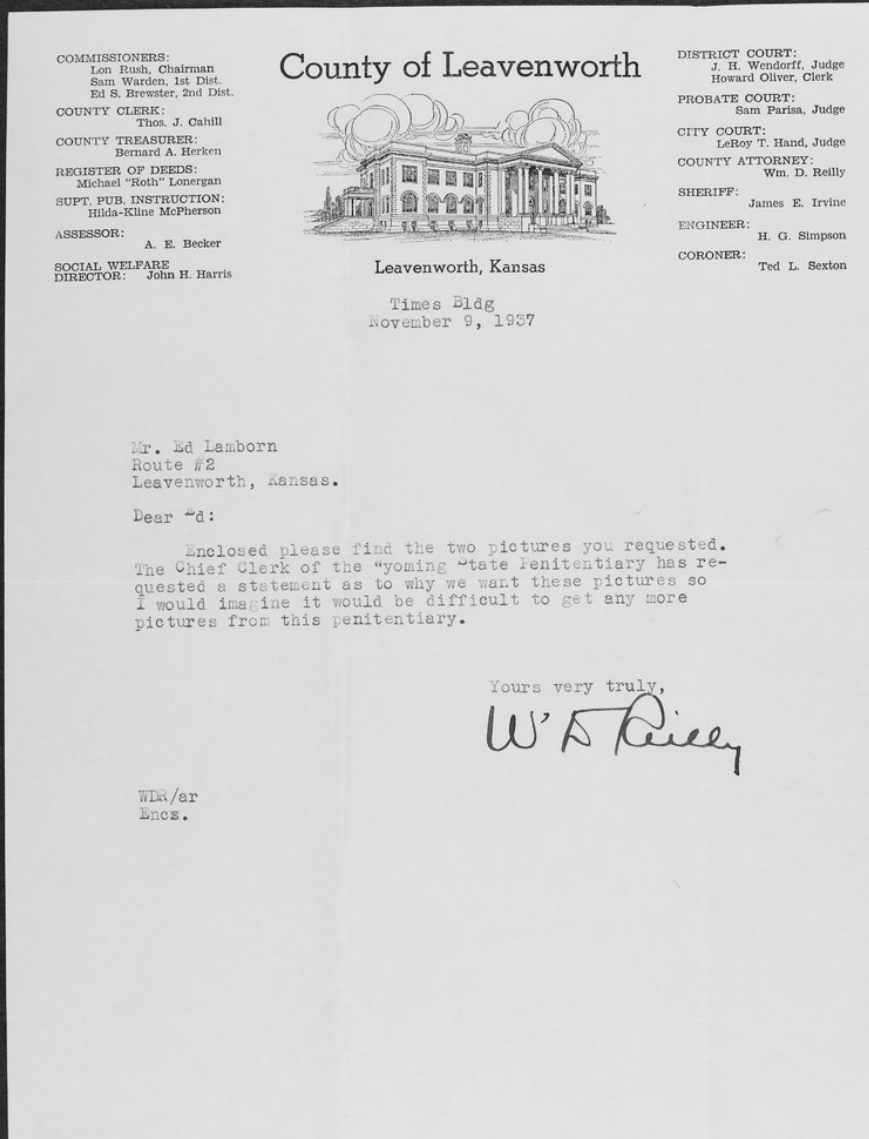
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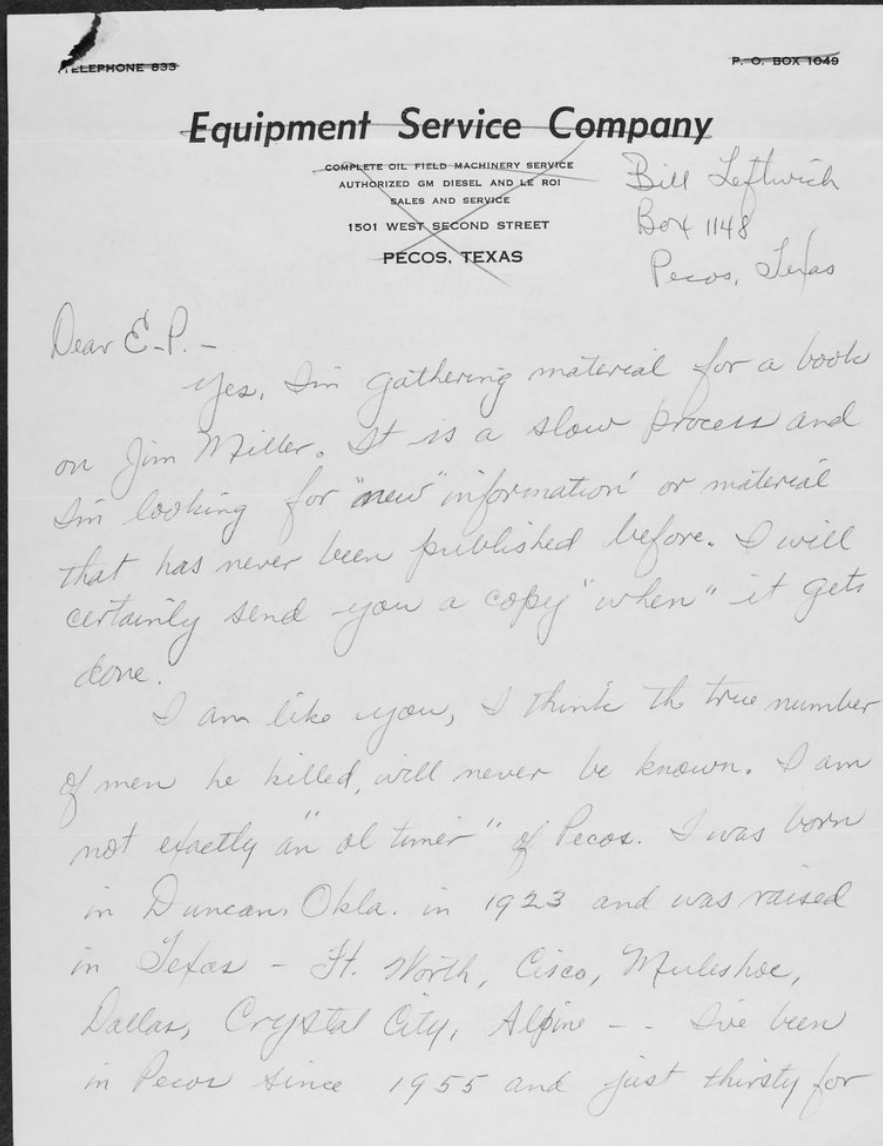
3615 Midvale Ave.  
Palo Alto, Calif.  
Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1928.

Mr. E. P. Lamborn,  
Rant 2, Leavenworth Prison,  
Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 15<sup>th</sup> rec'd.  
Received. I do not know where  
you have got - photos & c. & p.  
You might try U.S.  
Marshal's Office, Chicago, I hope -  
Respectfully,  
John L. Lohr



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information about the old days. I've been a free lance artist-writer since 1957 and it seems I'm going to succeed in my work. It has been very difficult. I have a wonderful wife and four children 11, 9, 7, 5 years old. I'm a graduate of Texas A. & M. (animal husbandry), vet of WW II (a sgt. in armored cavalry in Europe) cowboyed two years in Michoacan in old Mexico, worked in a smelter in Utah, Ranger at Big Bend Natl. Park, and worked on ranches in Southwest Texas.

We recently formed an historical Society here at Pecos called The Pecos Valley Historical Society. Our first major project is to fix up the old graveyard where Clay is buried along with other great

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TELEPHONE 833

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PECOS, TEXAS

early pioneers of the area. At the present time I'm not sure which grave is his, but we have some people working on finding a plot so we can determine exactly. His two daughters still live in Ft. Worth. I'll send you a photo of the graveyard soon and later on when we know which grave is Clay's, I'll send you a picture of it also.

The killings you listed are familiar to me but I know very little about the Fountain and son incident. Can you tell me who you "think" was responsible and your idea as to what they did with the bodies?

So far none of the old timers I've talked to know anything about George Musgrave.



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4.

You certainly can be of help to me about Jim Miller and I'll write some specific questions about him soon.

I recently obtained some old time barb wire from Bill Washington's drift fence near Mud Creek in Okla.

I don't know the exact date of the second gun fight but I'll find it in the court house records soon. Some of the witnesses are still here. No, off hand I don't have the date when he killed his uncle but I'll also come across that in court records.

Tom Beauchamp was Pecor's first school teacher and later ~~to~~ a fire tank. His ~~children~~ kin are still here and I'll try to root out that picture you mentioned. Write again soon.  
Sincerely - Bill -

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### LEVI STRAUSS AND COMPANY

INCORPORATED

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134 S. LOS ANGELES STREET

S. E. CORNER BATTERY AND PINE STS.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

CABLE ADDRESS  
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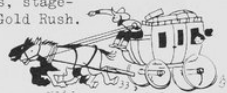
Here you are ...

... here are those Western booklets we promised you - as a little "thank you" for sending us the name of your dealer. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as you'll enjoy wearing a pair of Levi's ... the famous Western Waist Overalls that are easy to wear ... and hard to wear out.



Levi's do wear longer. They fit better. And, they've proved it. Over 49 million pairs have been tested on the toughest jobs in the West ... since we first started making Levi's in 1850 for miners, stage-coach drivers and other folks in the California Gold Rush.

Like to know the story of how Levi's became the first Overalls to have copper rivets?



IT HAPPENED IN THE '60s ... in the bonanza days of the great Comstock Lode. A prospector by the name of "Alkali Ike" used to roam the Nevada Hills. Ike always stuffed things in his pockets. Heavy things, like ore specimens and tools. But they tore his pockets, ripped the stitches. Ike swore. And finally took his trouble to a tailor friend in Virginia City.

THIS TAILOR thought the whole thing over. Suddenly he had an idea. He shouted, "I have it! Come on!" He took Ike's overalls to a blacksmith ... and had rivets put at every point of strain. "There! That'll hold 'em," he said. And it did. That day Levi's became the first overalls to have copper rivets ... a new way of adding strength and wear. So effective that the U. S. Patent Office granted Levi's a patent on copper riveted clothing way back in 1873.



YES, LEVI'S HAVE RIVETS protecting all points of strain. Rivets put on right - in the right places. Remember, Levi's originated riveted overalls. And more than that, only these famous waist overalls now have a new patented feature ... concealed rivets on the back pockets. You can't see 'em. But they're there ... under cover where they can't scratch saddles, furniture, auto seats, etc.

BUT ..... that's only the beginning of the story about ...

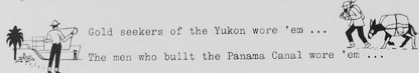




## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers

how tough and strong Levi's are! They're made of the world's  
hardest loomed white-back denim. With tough double stitching.  
So strong that Levi's can say, "A new pair free if they rip!"

Again and again, these comfortable, hard wearing overalls have  
proved they could take the roughest, toughest kind of wear ...



Gold seekers of the Yukon wore 'em ...

The men who built the Panama Canal wore 'em ...

So did the men who

built Boulder Dam ...



And the San Francisco Bay

and Golden Gate bridges ...



Levi's have a tailored fit that suits men of action to a T.  
Totally unlike ordinary overalls. They're not "like a  
circus tent". Not big and loose and baggy. Levi's are  
made trim ... tailor made for action. Once a man wears  
Levi's long enough to get the feel of that comfortable new  
kind of fit ... he wouldn't trade 'em for a million!

Among many features, Levi's have a special yoke-back for extra  
comfort. And, a low-cut waist band. Rests down on the hips.  
Eliminates bunching and binding when a man bends.

And ... is this comfort popular  
with men of action? Read this ...



TODAY ... EVERY DAY ... a million pairs of Levi's are at work ...

... with cowboys

... rodeo champs ...

... farmers ...



... lumbermen ... miners ...



A million pairs in use right now. They must be good!

WE KNOW YOU'LL LIKE LEVI'S TOO! Ask your home-town merchant for 'em ... by  
name. Be sure they're Levi's. There are other overalls that try to fool  
folks by imitating Levi's. Remember ... you can tell genuine Levi's by these  
things: The red tab on the back pocket seam. The Two Horse brand leather  
label. And, the oil cloth ticket. Look for all three before you buy.

If your home-town merchant can't supply you with Levi's ... here's what  
we'll do. We want you to get a pair of these comfortable, long-lasting  
Waist Overalls without delay. So, send us the regular retail price of  
\$2.25 - by money order. We'll send you a pair of Levi's, post-paid ...  
promptly. And we'll turn over the purchase money to the nearest Levi's  
dealer in your locality.

Send us your measurements with your money order ...  
because Levi's are tailored for action-fit.

Just do this ...

1. Measure your waist not too tight!  
Just snug enough.
2. Measure for length from your crotch to ankle.
3. If you want to wear your Levi's Western  
style with the white back turnup at the  
bottom, add 3 or 4 inches to the length.
4. If you intend to wash your Levi's frequently, add  
1 inch at the waist, 2 inches to the length.

### LEVI'S 100% GUARANTEE:

Levi's will wear longer ... you'll like their action-fit  
better ... than any other overall made! If you're not  
satisfied, send your Levi's back to us and we'll refund  
your money promptly, without quibbling. We've been  
making Levi's for 32 years, and we stake our whole  
reputation on them! If your home-town merchant carries  
Levi's, he'll give you the same guarantee!

We're winding up this letter with an easy-to-fill-out  
order blank. If your dealer doesn't have Levi's for  
you, just fill it in and send it to us! We'll mail  
you your Levi's pronto!

Cut out this coupon  
and use it  
as your order ...



Levi Strauss & Co.  
98 Battery St.  
San Francisco, Calif.

I enclose a money order for \$2.25 for one pair of  
Levi's Waist Overalls. My waist is \_\_\_\_\_ inches.  
Length \_\_\_\_\_ inches (inside seam).  
Please send immediately, post-paid.

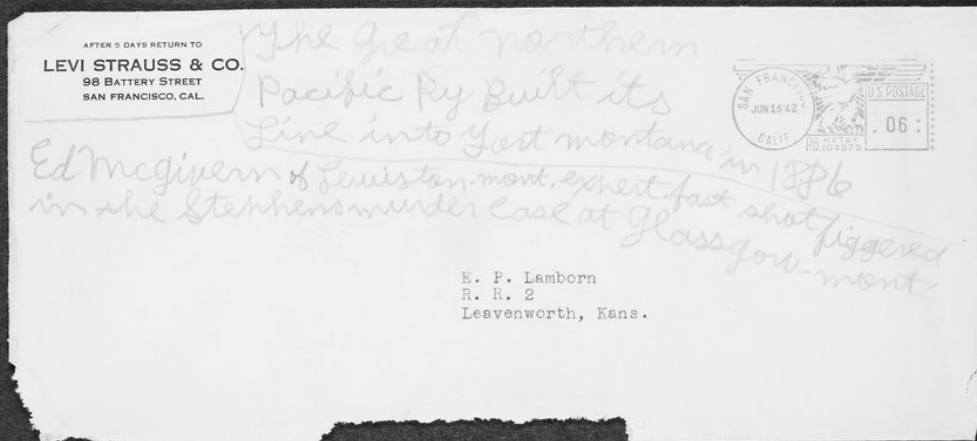
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

The merchant I buy  
my clothes from is \_\_\_\_\_

**LEVI'S**

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### BUFFALO BILL He WAS the West



William F. Cody's crowded life spanned the winning of the West. Born in Iowa, in 1876, he crossed the Missouri River with his parents when it was the last frontier of civilization. At ten, he worked as a cattle herder. At eleven, he became a mounted messenger. That same year, according to legend, he shot one of a band of Indian raiders, thereby earning the title of "The youngest Indian slayer on the plains."

In 1890, 14-year-old Cody joined the Pony Express and was assigned as "sny" route—45 miles—to cover in 3 hours, with three changes of mounts. Later, he was given a 76-mile route through rugged country that fairly crawled with hostile Indians and road agents. On one occasion, when he found no relief to take his place, he rode more than 320 miles, maintaining an average speed of 15 miles per hour, and tying out 29 horses. Even conservative historians describe this as "probably the longest continuous performance without a formal rest period in the history of any courier service."

It is not true that Cody was a scout and spy during the Civil War. But it is true that he enlisted in the Seventh Cavalry at the age of 18, and participated in eight regimental engagements. After the War, he worked as a hotelkeeper, freighter, builder, road grader and buffalo hunter for the Kansas Pacific Railway. His record of killing 4280 buffalo within 17 months earned him the title of "Buffalo Bill."

The buffalo hunting job ended. Cody became a government guide and dispatch rider. He once covered 350 miles in less than 60 hours, including 25 miles on foot. This earned him an appointment as chief of scouts with General Sheridan's Fifth Cavalry. The job lasted three years, and in-



cluded the guiding of General Carr's troops through a blizzard to the rescue of 300 isolated and starving soldiers.

By 1872, at the age of 36, Cody thought his career as plainsman was finished. And in that year he got his first taste of show business as an actor in a play called "Scouts of the Prairie" which toured the East.

But the West still had work for Cody to do. In 1876 he was called back for service as a scout in the Sioux War. When a young chief, Yellow Hand, rode out between the lines and challenged him to a duel, Cody accepted. In a hand-to-hand contest, fought with knives, Cody won and then neatly scalped his opponent.

More adventures followed—too many for this short chronicle to describe. But at last came the day when Buffalo Bill could organize the great show that was to make the old West vividly alive to two generations of youngsters.

Those of us who knew Cody like to remember him as the happy and successful star of his "Wild West Show", thrilling his audiences with his magnificent riding... dazzling them with his unerring marksmanship as his rifle shattered glass balls tossed high in the air.

The band in the big tent stops, there is a second of hushed expectancy, and then a gallant figure on a snow-white horse gallops into the ring. Off comes the big sombrero, and then the hard riding, straight-shooting old gentleman with the long flowing hair, mustaches and gentle shouts. "Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to introduce to you a Congress of Rough Riders of the World!"

Some people say that Buffalo Bill died in 1917. I don't believe it! Old horsemen never die—they only ride away.



### JOAQUIN MURRIETA Had Injustice Craved Him?

Joaquin Murrieta accompanied his brother to Sacramento in an effort to establish title to a mine. But before he had time to shake the trail dust from his conchos, the brother and another Mexican were lynched on a charge of horse-stealing.



Murrieta returned to San Francisco for his wife and took her with him to a claim on the Stanislaus River. Ordered to move on, Murrieta refused. He was knocked unconscious and his wife was slain.

Then, in the Spring of 1850, while working in Calaveras County, he was accused of stealing a horse which he had actually borrowed. When he insisted that the horse belonged to his friend, Valenzuela, the latter was hanged and Murrieta was tied to a tree and lashed almost to death.

Murrieta vowed vengeance. And soon all California was living in terror of Joaquin and his illusive, hard-riding, sharp-shooting band. Ranch houses and miners' cabins went up in flames, lighting with lurid blaze the bodies of their murdered owners. Every trail and road could tell its gruesome tale of robbery and sudden death.

Millions in gold poured into Murrieta's treasury. People lost count of his wholesale killings. But there is no dispute about the fact that Murrieta did not confine his lethal attentions to Americans. On the contrary, he murdered several of his own countrymen, and permitted his lieutenant, Three-Finger Jack, to amuse himself by slitting the throats of helpless Chinese.

Neither greed nor vengeance sufficiently explain Murrieta's motives for murder. Today, he might be pronounced insane and confined in an asylum. But in 1853 there was no time for such niceties. Finally Joaquin was run to earth and killed by Captain Harry Lane. His head was chopped off, preserved in alcohol, and exhibited at Natchez's Arms Store and Pistol Gallery, on Clay Street, opposite the Old Plaza, in San Francisco, along with Three-Finger Jack's hand.

But Western handis, like Western peace officers, were hard to kill. For years longer, each particularly atrocious murder brought rumors that Joaquin still lived. And as recently as 1919, an old man in Chile claimed to be the self-same Joaquin Murrieta whose name once struck terror from end to end of California's Mother Lode.

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### JOHN X. BEIDLER *He Hung the Sheriff*



In January, 1864, twenty-one men were hanged in Montana. Present at most of these final events was a man in a slouch hat, armed with a brace of pistols, a bowie knife, and a rifle noted for the deadliness of its aim. He was John X. Beidler, deputy U. S. marshal. And back of him was one of the most effective vigilance committees of the old West.

At that time, Henry Plummer was sheriff in Bannack City. (Now Idaho City.) But secretly he headed a band of 85 robbers. Even his deputies were members. To make it easy to identify one another, Plummer's men wore only mustache and chin whiskers, unusual in that era of full beards. They also used special hand clasps, and a password—"Innocent."

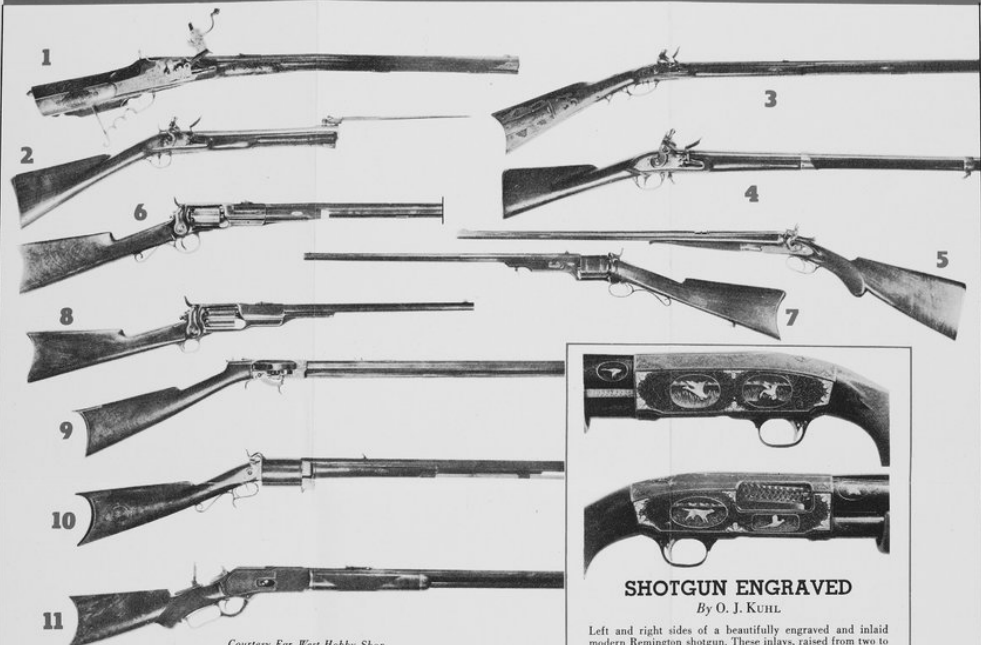
Riding swift horses stolen from the stage lines, these marauders ambushed prospectors, miners, and other likely-looking travelers. Many a victim on a lonely trail or road found himself suddenly facing a shotgun muzzle, while behind it gleamed wicked eyes over a mask. Then failure to surrender his possessions meant death.

At first, Beidler, like most of the citizens, did not suspect Sheriff Plummer. But several of his plans miscarried, after being explained to Plummer in confidence. From then on he told Plummer nothing about the thousand Vigilantes he had organized throughout Montana. Working quietly, these men checked the movements of everyone, and soon noted that several men with the same style beards disappeared before each robbery, and reappeared afterward.

Singly, and in small groups, these members of the Plummer gang were tracked down, seized, and hanged. Finally, Red Yager, one of the band, confessed that Plummer was the chief. The false sheriff was promptly hanged. On his person was found a roster of his organization. With this to guide them, the Vigilantes made short work of the final cleanup. The remaining robbers retired promptly, either from or into the soil of Montana. And John X. Beidler became recognized as one of the West's great peace officers.



## THE EVOLUTION OF THE LONG GUN



**SHOTGUN ENGRAVED**  
By O. J. KUHL

Left and right sides of a beautifully engraved and inlaid modern Remington shotgun. These inlays, raised from two to twenty thousandths of an inch, are worked in four colors of gold, giving an extraordinary beauty to this valuable gun.

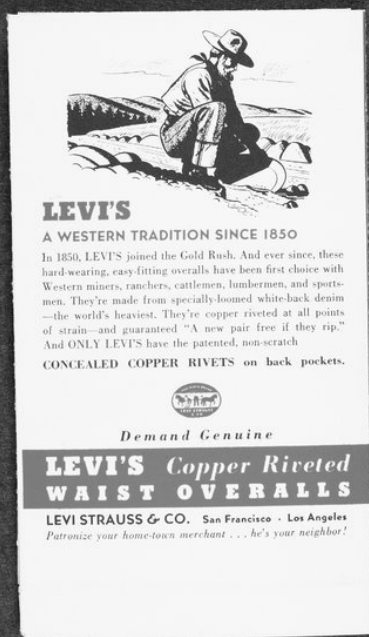
*Courtesy Far West Hobby Shop*

- 1. WHEEL LOCK.** This cumbersome and complicated gun represents the third stage in gun locks. The earliest pieces were fired like primitive cannons, a lighted match being held in the hand and applied to the firing hole. Later, the "match" was operated mechanically. Then came this wheel lock. A pull on the trigger releases a clockwork mechanism, spinning a tiny steel wheel against which rubs a bit of flint. The result is a shower of sparks such as you get by sharpening a steel tool on an emery wheel. And it is these sparks that fire the gun. Some wheel locks came West with the early Spanish explorers.
- 2. BLUNDERBUS.** Such weapons as this reached the Pacific Coast aboard early trading vessels. Unlike the usual idea of a blunderbus, this weapon is only slightly bell-mouthed. Built for close-fighting—such as driving off a boarding party of pirates—the blunderbus sprayed its charge over a wide area. With no time to reload, the spring bayonet often came in handy for the fellows you missed—or those die-hards who could take a few mouthfuls of lead and still swing a wicked cutlass.
- 3. KENTUCKY RIFLE.** Famous even today for their accuracy are the long, handmade rifles of Kentucky. Guns of this type helped win the West, when the frontier had scarcely crossed the Alleghenies. These famous rifles armed General Jackson's victorious men at New Orleans in 1815. And for a whole generation, a modification of the Kentucky rifle, known as the "Plains Rifle," was the favored weapon of trappers and scouts.
- 4. U. S. MUSKET OF 1808.** An early and deadly product of the Springfield arsenal, this flintlock musket fired a .69 caliber bullet.
- 5. PERCUSSION RIFLE.** The next step ahead from the flintlock was the invention of the percussion cap for firing the charge in a rifle. Here is a fine example of such a gun—a double barrel .45 caliber rifle made by Colt.
- 6. 7. 8. COLT REVOLVING RIFLES.** The time required to reload a percussion gun and adjust the little copper caps made a repeater especially desirable. An early answer to this need was the Colt Revolving Cylinder Gun. Here are three fine examples. Thousands of these cylinder guns saw service in the West.
- 9. TURRET RIFLE.** Another early idea in a repeating rifle is this rare Allen & Cochrane seven-shot, .44 caliber piece. It uses a flat turret, turning about a vertical axis.
- 10. CALIFORNIA MADE.** Similar to the Colt Revolving Cylinder Rifles is this very rare Western-made piece. It is a seven-shot, .44 caliber, and is marked "B. Bigelow, Marysville, Cal."
- 11. WINCHESTER REPEATER.** From 1876 on, this famous .45 repeating rifle took part in nearly every Western battle between outlaws and sheriffs' possses, frontiersmen and Indians. It represents a great forward step in gun design—the use of metal cartridges, carried in a full-length tubular magazine.

*Ask Your Levi's Dealer for Short Arms Booklet, "Levi's Gallery of Western Guns and Gunfighters"*

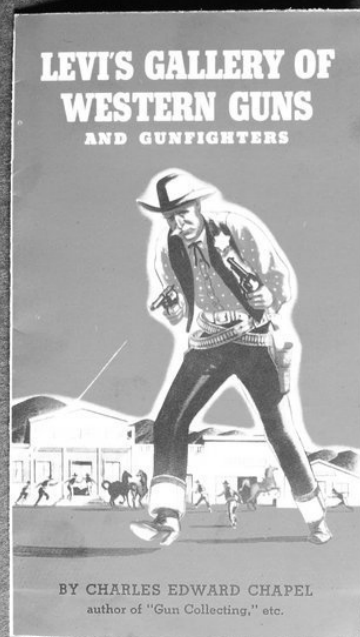
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### BILLY THE KID

*The East Side Boy Who Went Bad Out West*



William H. Bonner, alias "Billy the Kid," was born in the slums of New York City, followed his evil star of destiny to the West, and launched his career of crime at twelve by stabbing to death a blacksmith in Silver City, New Mexico. Billy did not count that slaying on his muster roll of death, if we can believe the ballad that credits him with boasting—

*"There are twenty-nine men I have put bullets through,  
And Sheriff Pat Garrett shall make twenty-one."*

Sheriff Pat Garrett was a slow-spoken, long-legged ex-buffalo hunter who had no intention of being represented by another notch on the grip of Billy's six-shooter. Garrett knew that the Kid would shoot on sight; and he knew, too, that Billy had a host of friends (especially lady friends) who would warn him of the Sheriff's approach, and then hide him if he shot his way through a posse as he had often done before. The Kid's popularity was explainable. Lean, hard and cat-like in his movements, he could strike fear into the minds of men

*Billy's Gun*—The .44 single-action Colt he used in a battle at Arroyo Tivan (Stinking Springs) in 1880.




with his blazing Colts, or soften the hearts of women with his hazel eyes twinkling under a thatch of light brown hair. Protruding front teeth gave the Kid's face an expression of careless gaiety, a grin that would not come off . . . not even when Sheriff Pat shot him from out of the midnight darkness of July 13, 1881.

That shot killed the Kid. But his notoriety lives on. And down in Lincoln County, New Mexico, where Billy fought in the Murphy-McSweeney cattle war, people who wear Stetsons, Levi's and Colts still argue as to whether the Kid's favorite weapon was the single-action, Frontier Model Colt that he carried so long, or the double-action model Colt that was in his hand when he died.

### BUTCH CASSIDY

*He Kept His Word to the Governor*



*Butch Cassidy (George Leroy Parker) at right, and his "Wild Bunch" at the time when success as bank robbers had gone to their heads in the shape of stylish derby hats.*

George Leroy Parker was a happy-go-lucky cowboy in Utah until settlers fenced and ditched the open range in the 90's. Cow-punching and horse-wrangling were all he knew. When these failed, Parker crossed into Wyoming and turned rustler. Using the name "Butch Cassidy" to avoid disgracing his family, he did a thriving business in horse-stealing, until the Stockgrowers' Association sent him to the penitentiary. There he became a model prisoner; and by promising the Governor he would quit horse thievery in Wyoming, he obtained a pardon.

"Butch Cassidy," as he was now known, kept his promise. He not only left Wyoming; he even quit stealing horses—and started robbing banks. From Canada to Mexico, safes were blown, express cars rifled, and banks held up. Whole battalions of Pinkerton detectives, postal inspectors, sheriffs, policemen and Texas Rangers went on the cold trails of Cassidy's gang, known as "The Wild Bunch." But always Cassidy sent assistants for any "jobs" in Wyoming.

Butch was in funds now. He decided his "Wild Bunch" should reflect their prosperity by imitating the costumes of the bankers they robbed. Their plaid shirts and Levi's were replaced by natty business suits; their high-heeled boots by polished oxfords; and their Stetsons by derbies. To celebrate the occasion, they had their photographs taken, with coats open to display fancy vests and heavy gold watch chains.

This photograph was their undoing. A detective saw it, and recognized one of Cassidy's lieutenants. From then on, one after another, the gang was killed. Cassidy and a man named Longabough escaped to Chile, and there were shot by soldiers while resisting arrest. Cassidy died with a Colt revolver in his hand. But the remarkable thing is that during his ten years of crime, Butch never killed or even wounded a single person.

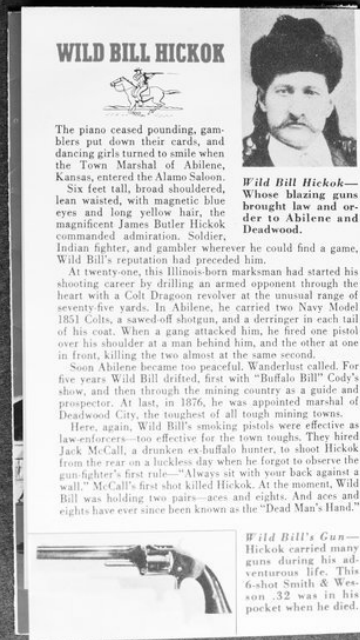
*Butch Cassidy's Gun*—Was typically the Colt .44 single-action Frontier Model.



**OPEN HERE FOR COLLECTION OF RARE HAND-GUNS**



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### THE "FAMILY TREE" OF WESTERN GUNS



**KEY  
TO THE  
"FAMILY  
TREE"**

1. Spanish Horseman's pistol, double barreled, with Miguelet lock. Made before 1800, this was a typical weapon of the early Spanish explorers of California, and remained in use among the Dons well into the last century.
2. American Springfield single-shot, flintlock pistol of about 1815. Such pistols were carried by both American scouts and soldiers in the Far West during pre-Gold-Rush days.
3. Remington single-shot percussion pistol, used in the U. S. Navy until after the Civil War.
4. Allen & Thurber "pepper pot"—an early example of the revolver idea. It used cap-and-ball; and each of the full length barrels in the heavy cylinder was turned to the top for firing.
5. The first successful, practical revolver—Colt's "Texas" model, calibre .35, of 1836. It used cap-and-ball, fired five shots, and had a folding trigger. Today it's a prized piece among gun collectors.
6. Colt's "Walker" model, calibre .44, appeared in 1847, and was the favorite weapon of the Texas Rangers. Unlike the first Colt, it had a trigger guard.
7. Colt's "Dragoon" model of 1848, a .44 calibre cap-and-ball weapon. Thousands of these came West during the Gold Rush. They were carried for years by soldiers, cowboys, rangers, and Indian fighters.
8. Thuer's alteration of the standard Colt revolver appeared in 1860. Note at the rear of the cylinder how the weapon has been changed from cap-and-ball percussion, and adapted for use of the new center-fire metal cartridges.
9. Smith & Wesson six-shot revolver, Model No. 2, first issue. This popular Western gun of the 1880's used .32 calibre, rim-fire metal cartridges. Such a gun was found on "Wild Bill" Hickok at the time of his death.
10. The famous Colt single action Frontier Model, calibre .44—to-day, as for many years, a favorite Western weapon. The grips are ivory, and the barrel measures 5½ inches on this piece.
11. A modern Smith & Wesson double-action .38 . . . richly engraved by R. J. Kornblath.
12. Colt .45 Automatic, engraved by R. J. Kornblath, with Western subjects in platinum and gold inlay. Steer head, carved on ivory grips, has diamond eyes.

### A SIDESHOW OF FREAK FIREARMS



**KEY TO "FREAK SHOW"**

- A. Curious double-barrel percussion pistol with concealed dagger attached to grip. Carried by an early Western gambler.
- B. French "Harmonica Pistol." Another experiment in a multiple-shot hand gun. The harmonica piece contained the chambers, and was moved across as each charge was fired (like the long cartridge clip in a modern French machine gun).
- C. Allen & Cochran "Monitor" or "Turret" revolver. The cylinder turns around a vertical center, instead of the usual horizontal center. A few of these came West in the late 1830's.
- D. Flint-lock, "duck-foot" pistol. All four barrels fired at one time—theoretically mowing down your opponents, but more probably breaking your own wrist with the recoil. A British invention, about 1790.
- E. "Knuckle Duster," about 1865. A handy gadget in a bar-room brawl. Fired seven rounds of .22 ammunition—then became a murderous "brass knuckle." Named by its maker "MY FRIEND"—not because it guarded his life, but because its popularity fattened his bankroll.
- F. "Chicago Protector" palm pistol. This little giant could fire seven .32 calibre rounds. It was concealed in the palm, with the short barrel barely sticking out between the fingers. A squeeze of the hand worked the trigger. Surprise! Surprise!
- G. "Chicago Protector" palm pistol. This little giant could fire seven .32 calibre rounds. It was concealed in the palm, with the short barrel barely sticking out between the fingers. A squeeze of the hand worked the trigger. Surprise! Surprise!
- H. This German Practice Pistol might well have been Scotch. It thriftilly fired BB shot.
- I. 48-shot Multi-Cylinder Revolver. A very rare ancestor of today's sub-machine gun.

Ask Your Levi's Dealer for Booklet No. 2, "Levi's Gallery of Long Guns and Western Riflemen"

**OPEN HERE FOR COLLECTION OF RARE HAND-GUNS**

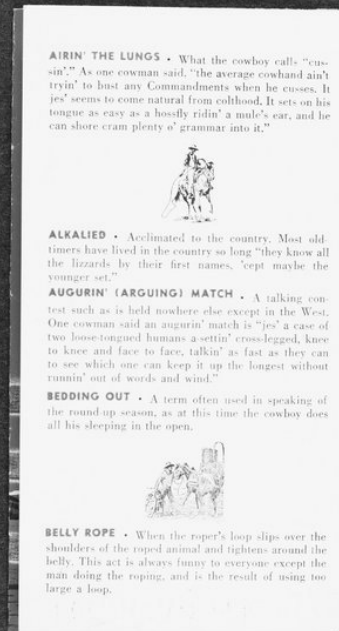


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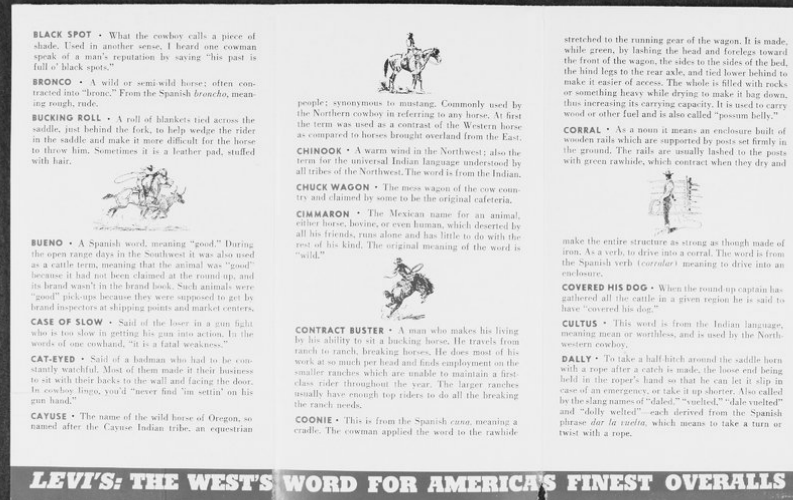




## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



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LEVI'S: THE WEST'S WORD FOR AMERICA'S FINEST OVERALLS



## E. P. Lamborn correspondence and research papers



**DIE-UP** • The wholesale death of cattle during blizzards and droughts over a wide range of territory. These die-ups are dreaded by all cattlemen, but welcomed by skimmers who own no cattle. Ambitious skimmers, not satisfied with the natural death of cattle, began killing them for their hides during the now famous "die-up" of Texas. This led to "skinning wars."

**DOOGIE** • A scrubby orphan calf; also called "doggy" or "dobie." It is, in cowboy lingo, "a calf that has lost its mammy and whose daddy has run off with another cow." One version is that the term originated in the '80's after a severe winter had killed off a great many mother cows and left a number of orphan calves. In the absence of their mother's milk, grass and water were too heavy a ration for these little orphans, and their bellies very much resembled a batch of sourdough carried in a sack. Having no mother whose brand would establish ownership, and carrying no brand themselves, these orphans were put in the maverick class. The first to claim them was recognized as the owner. One day on round-up a cowboy who was trying to build up a herd, drove a bunch in from along the river. "Boys, there's five of them doogies in that drive and I claim 'em!" one of 'em," he yelled excitedly. During that round-up all orphans became known as doogies, and later the term was shortened to "dogie." Don't pronounce it "doggy".

**EAR DOWN** • The act of distracting a horse's attention by holding his head down by the ears while the rider mounts. Sometimes the man doing the earing will catch the tip of the ear that is above his hand with his teeth. This will cause the horse to stand very still to avoid the pain.

**FIVE BEANS IN THE WHEEL** • No westerner carries more than five cartridges in the cylinder of his gun. The hammer is always down on an empty chamber. He does this for safety, because of the hair-trigger adjustment. As the cowboy says, "If y'a can't do the job in five shots it's time to git to h—l out o' there and hunt a place to hole up."

**FOUR FLUSHER** • Slang for one who bluffs. It is a poker term, meaning to draw to fill a boltail flush and to bet after failing to fill, hence bluffing; to make a pretense of competency when incompetent.



**HACKAMORE** • A halter; corrupted from the Spanish word *yaguina* (the *J* pronounced like *h*; the *qu* as *k*; and the accent on the first syllable). It is usually an ordinary halter used as a rein instead of a leading rope.

**HEIFER BRANDED** • To tie a handkerchief around a man's arm to designate that he is to play the part of a female at a dance when there are "not 'nough ladies to go 'round." Though quite often he felt "as out o' place as a cow on a front porch," his reward was being allowed to "set with the ladies" between dances. Sometimes a playful puncher ignores the white emblem of womanhood and gets pretty rough, but these self-appointed "females" can take it and pay back with interest.

**HOOSGOW** • The cowboy's name for jail; from the Spanish *jusgado*, meaning "judged" or "passed before a judge."

**LARIAT** • Originally a horse-hair or grass rope used in picketing animals. The term is often used in the Southwest for a cowboy's rope. The name comes from the Spanish *la reata*, the literal meaning of which may be expressed as "the tie back." It is also called a "reata," "riata" or "lass rope."



**LOOKIN' OVER HIS SHOULDER** • Said of one on the dodge. One cowboy expressed it with, "a man that looks over his shoulder at every piece o' straight road ain't leadin' a straight life." Looking over one's shoulder is breaking a strict code of range etiquette. When two riders on the trail meet, speak and pass on, it is a violation of this code for either to look back. Such an act is interpreted as an expression of distrust, as though one feared a shot in the back.

**MECATE** • (Generally pronounced "mecarty"). A hair rope used as saddle reins with a hackamore, or as a tie or lead rope. Because a hair rope for this purpose has long been traditional there is now a tendency to call all hair ropes mecates.

**MUSTANG** • A wild horse, usually one which is not cross-bred. From the Spanish *musteno*, which comes from *mesta*, meaning a group of horse raisers. The suffix *eno* means "belonging to" and so the horses that escaped from the early *mestas* and ran wild were called *mustenos*, or mustangs.

**OPRA HOUSE** • The top rail of the corral fence where one can watch the riding of a bucking horse. It is also a time-honored conference place.

**PIE-BITER** • A horse that secretly forages the camp kitchen.

**PIGGIN'-STRING** • A short rope used in hog-tying. **PINTO** • (From *pinto*, to paint) a piebald or spotted horse. Also called a "paint."

**PISTOL WHIP** • To whip one with the barrel of a gun. Shanks Malloy, speaking of such an incident, said "he let 'im feel his gun where the hair was thinnest and put a knot on his head that'd sweat a rat to run around."

**SADDLE BLANKET GAMBLER** • Said of a cowboy addicted to gambling around the camp fire on a saddle blanket; a small-time gambler. Charlie Russell used to say "You could tell a saddle blanket gambler's luck by the rig he was ridin'."

**SCATTER-GUN** • The cowboy's name for a shot gun. Every Westerner has a deep respect for the scatter-gun, especially if loaded with buckshot. In Western parlance "buckshot means a buryin' ever'time," and they "leave a mean and oozy corpse."

**SET DOWN** • Being fired off a job without having a horse to ride away. In the early days, if a man thus fired had no private horse, this manner of firing often ended in a shooting match. Most ranchers recognized the seriousness of "settin' a man afire" and loaned him a company horse to ride to town.

**SHADOW RIDER** • A cowboy who rides along gazing at his own shadow. Mirrors are sometimes scarce on the range and some fellows must admire themselves even though only by watching their shadow. Cloudy days have no silver linings for them.



**SHEBANG** • Probably from the Irish word "shebeen," meaning small store where liquor is sold. "Shebang" also means a rough dwelling; a shanty. The cowboy uses the word when speaking of a collective whole, as the "whole shebang."

**SHINDIG** • Probably from the old word "shindy," meaning a romp, as "to kick up a shindy." The cowboy uses the word exclusively as a dance term, and the old cowboy dance really was a romping, stomping affair, not, as one stated, "jes' wiggle your rump." A cowboy dance usually lasts all night. When it breaks up at daylight the ladies retire to "freshen up their spit curls and chalk their noses," and "sort the weaners that's beginnin' to stir off the bed-ground," that is, pick up the children parked in one big bed. The old bow-legs on the dance floor pass the last bottle around, saving a big drink for the fiddler to get him to play a final tune. Then they throw a stag dance "that's apt to be kinda rough and end up in a wrastlin' match."

**SHOW-BUCKER** • A horse that bucks hard, straight away, with nose between front legs. Though not difficult to ride, he looks good from the grandstand in rodeos.

**SKOOKUM** • An Indian term, meaning good, great.

**THROW OUT** • To stop a moving herd and move off the trail. The expression is used as "throw out the cattle and build camp." Also, an animal cut from a herd.



**VAQUERO** • The word comes from *vaca* (cow) with the Spanish suffix *ero* and means "one engaged in cows." Used with reference to cowboys in the Southwest, along Mexican border and sections of California.

**WAVE 'ROUND** • To wave a hat or other object in a semi-circle from left to right, which is a sign language of the plains, meaning that you are not wanted and to stay away.

**WORE 'EM LOW** • Meaning that the one spoken of wore his guns low and easily accessible, in a tied-down holster, and that he was willing to stand or fall by his ability to use them. Very often it was used in the sense of meaning that his gun was for hire, and that he was a professional gunman.



**WRANGLER** • A herder of the saddle horses. A corruption of the Mexican's *caverrango*, meaning herder. His job is considered the most menial in cow work and he doesn't stand very high in a cow camp. Yet his job is a training school and many good cowboys have had their start as wranglers. Between his herding tasks he is kept busy dragging wool and hustling water for the cook. He doesn't get much sleep and contends with many hardships, but his love of horses and his ambition to become a cowboy keep him on the job. By studying the characteristics of each horse, he knows which are apt to be bunch quitters, which are fighters and which are afraid of their own shadows. Although it can rarely be said, the greatest praise that can be bestowed upon a wrangler is that "he never lost a horse."

**YAKS** • A nickname given by cowboys to cattle that came from the Yaqui Indian country.

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*Judge Roy Bean holding "Court"*

### THE "INSIDE STORY" OF A BRAND

*that cost a steer its hide and a rustler his neck*

Even though he acted without authority, one of the most famed judges in western history was Roy Bean of Langtry, Texas, self-styled "Law West of the Pecos." "Judge" Bean loved nothing better than to face cattle rustlers brought in to his front porch, "court." One spring somebody had been stealing fat calves and steers from the Bar S herd and the owner complained to Judge Bean. "I'll see what can be did," His Honor said.

Appointing himself range detective, Judge Bean took his guns and rode out alone. Six days later he came back driving 20-sold head of steers, all branded 48, and leading a second horse on which was tied a rancher named Pete Trask. Tied to Trask's saddle was the 48 stamp iron.

A crowd collected at the shack which was Bean's store, home, saloon, and courthouse. He covered court at once, accused Trask of thievery. "That's my own brand!"

Trask declared, "It's registered, I burned on the 48 brand myself. Them's my own cows!"

"You burned it, all right," His Honor admitted. "But wait." Roy Bean stepped down, then shot one steer bearing a fresh brand horn. In a minute he had skinned back part of the hide. People crowded close, then all of them nodded. "You'll hang by the neck, and by gosh that's my rule!" Judge Bean snapped. Trask was dead within half an hour.

The under side of that steer's skin showed a blackish Bar S brand, quite plain. But around and over it, fresh reddish raw horns made the Bar S into a 48, thus:


-S 48 48

Burnt-over brands, hard to detect outside, will nearly always show if the animal is skinned. Many a rustler has met his doom through that conclusive evidence.

### HOW DON JAMES AND HIS BRAND

*both "went behind the bars"*

Jim Reavis was driving a streetcar mile in St. Joseph, Missouri, in the 1870's, but he dreamed of being a wealthy Spanish *ranchero* down in the southwest. One day he showed up there, said his name was Don James Addison de Peralta Reavis, and that by virtue of an old, almost forgotten Spanish land grant he was now owner of the "Peralta Barony." Moreover, he had records to prove it. The United States government recognized his claim, and he had his cowboys start immediately burning cattle with his graceful "Baron's Brand" (PR Connected), while he collected money tribute from settlers who lived on his land.



*Don James de Peralta-Reavis alias Plain Jim Reavis*

That baronial ranch was 225 miles long by 75 miles wide—12,000,000 acres! Don James, wearing purple velvet with golden braid, came often to watch his cowboys brand steers. The herd grew to nearly 5,000 head. Then one day a humble printer detected a slip-up in the don's legal documents, which were on file in the federal land office. They had been forged!

Thus the greatest land swindle in history was exposed, and the vast ranches disintegrated. Don James—no, plain Jim Reavis again—went to prison in New Mexico, served a short sentence and disappeared. Nobody knows for sure what became of him. His stock was acquired by honest men, who promptly rebranded by burning a straight line through the pretty PR monogram:

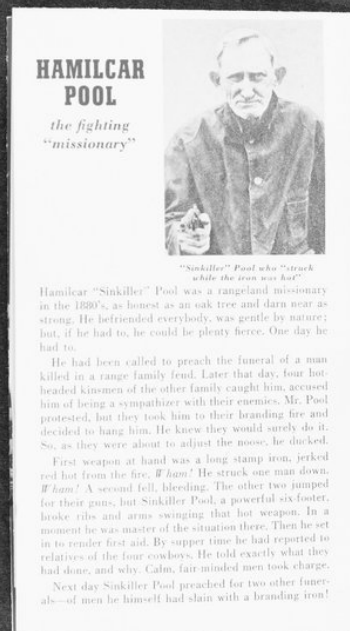
R R

This new design became known as the *Swindler's Bar* brand. People said it meant that jail bars covered the swindler.

**OPEN HERE FOR GUIDE TO READING WESTERN BRANDS**



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### HOW TO READ COMMON BRAND SIGNS

<p>— Bar, a short, horizontal line.</p> <p>— Rail, a longer horizontal line.</p> <p>≡ Two rails.</p> <p>≡≡ But when you get three or more, they're stripes.</p> <p>↘ Slash, a line slanting right, or left.</p> <p>□ Box.</p> <p>□ □ These all read "half box."</p> <p>└┐ But this may be read "hench."</p> <p>○ Circle, usually larger and rounder than either a letter O, or a zero.</p> <p>⤿ Half circle, may open either up or down.</p> <p>⤿ Quarter circle, may be in any position.</p> <p>⦶ Mashed oh, or goose egg.</p> <p>✕ Cross, not plus.</p> <p>✕ Maybe X, or Roman 10 (X) as in XII, "Ten In Texas."</p> <p>◇ Diamond.</p> <p>◇ Half diamond.</p> <p>⤴ But placed above a letter or number, it's a "rafter."</p>	<p>┐ Reads plain T; so do other letters and numbers.</p> <p>┐ But tipped, it becomes a "toppling T" or "tumbling T" or a "tilting T."</p> <p>┐ Add legs, and it becomes a "walking T."</p> <p>┐ Add wings and it's a "flying T."</p> <p>┐ Or if tip drags, it's "drag T."</p> <p>┐ Lying down, it's a "lazy T."</p> <p>Ⓜ Again, any letter hanging by its top "swings." This is a "Swinging M."</p> <p>Ⓜ Placed on part of a circle, it "rocks." This is "Rocking M."</p> <p>Ⓜ Or if the letter is extended, and leaning as if in a hurry, and is handled in curves, it "runs." This is a "running M."</p> <p>JD Often letters, or letters and numbers are joined. They are then called "connected"—like this "J H D Connected" brand, and the "Y 4 Connected."</p>
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### SEE HOW MANY OF THESE BRANDS YOU CAN READ

1. "Box R." 2. "Toppling E." 3. "Bar Oh Bar." 4. Also "Bar Oh Bar." 5. Window Brand. 6. Keyhole Brand. 7. "Drag 9." 8. "Rafter A." 9. "J A Connected." 10. "Diamond E." 11. "Christmas." 12. "Swinging N." 13. "Quarter Circle N." 14. "Masonic Brand." 15. The "Kay-Tee-Bar," brand of Mrs. Katie Barr. 16. "I-Bar-Oh" (I borrow), the chosen brand of a man who started his ranch on borrowed money. 17. "Forty-five," the brand of a man who came West with nothing but two .45 caliber pistols, which he sold for enough to start ranching. 18. "P Coffin," the brand of a cowman named Pete Coffin. Perhaps the brand suggested consequences; at any rate, no one ever mistook ownership of Pete's cattle. 19. "Seven Up." 20. "Key No." Both named for the traditional card games of the West.

Besides the letters and symbols above, there are also the "picture" brands:

kettle: broken arrow: tree: house: hat: broken heart:

stirrup: dollbaby: and many others.

### SOME UNUSUAL BRANDING IRONS FROM THE JOHN P. HALE COLLECTION

Fire branding originated some 4,000 years ago. But never before has it attained such variety and such picturesqueness as in our own West.

The history of the West has been written in brands—from the  of Cortez the Conqueror to the  of the vast "ranch that once embraced ten Texas Counties."

A cattleman's brand is even more intimately part of him than his name. Often it is not only burned into the hides of his steers, but engraved on his table silver, inlaid in his guns, grown in flowers in the garden of his home, even forked into the pies served at his table. If he rises high, his brand will go with him; if he is disgraced, his brand sinks with him to the depths.

In the state and county register books of the West are recorded hundreds of thousands of brands. And to know them all—with their stories of daring adventure, love, hate, friendship, ambition, sacrifice, and tragedy—would indeed be to know the story of an Empire.

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