



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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New Bernians, in this modern age of miracles, can get saddle sores right in their own living room from a wide choice of television westerns.

That's nothing to crow about. Sixty years ago the natives in our town of towns were privileged to see in the flesh the first of all westerns, and its famed originator Buffalo Bill.

William Frederick Cody was his real name, but long before he dreamed of visiting New Bern with a tent show that not only included hundreds of cowboys, scouts and Indians but the incomparable Annie Oakley, he had been dubbed Buffalo Bill for keeps.

For 20 years before his death in 1917, he toured America and Europe, reaping a fortune. Like that more recent showman, Michael Todd, whose much talked of movie—"Around The World in 80 Days" opens at the Kehoe today, Cody spent his money as fast as he made it, or faster.

Fortunately for him, he did buy considerable acreage in Wyoming and Nebraska, and founded the town of Cody at the eastern entrance of Yellowstone Park. His tomb is a vault that was dynamited out of solid rock on the top of Lookout Mountain, near Denver.

Some of the western stars on television today probably wouldn't know a steer if they met him face to face, but the performers brought to New Bern by Buffalo Bill were part and parcel of a great American era.

Cody was the last in line of noted scouts that included Daniel Boone, Davey Crockett and a venturesome gent known only as "Wild Bill." Born in Iowa, Buffalo Bill had done an awful lot of living before he finally arrived at the junction of the Neuse and Trent as a crafty, middle-aged entertainer.

Newspapers were few and far between, but New Bernians were already well informed of his glamorous career. What they didn't know Cody's press agent filled in with hectic advance ballyhoo that had the village in a tizzy weeks before the big performance.

Unlike most cases of exploitation, Buffalo Bill was just as amazing as the billboards proclaimed him to be. Amazing not only for his feats of the past, but as the star of his own show.

Orphaned at the age of 11 when his father was stabbed to death, he became the original hot-rod teenager as a rider for the Pony Express. No one along the 1,950 miles from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif., was as daring in his horsemanship.

Before long the plain and Indian habits were an open book to him. He scouted for the Yankees in the War Between The States, fought later against the Sioux and Cheyennes, and killed Chief Yellow Hand of the Cheyennes in man to man combat.

How did he get the name of Buffalo Bill? That was strictly business. He signed a contract to furnish fresh buffalo meat for laborers who were putting down the track of the Kansas - Pacific railroad. His claim that he killed 4,800 buffaloes in a single year, and 69 in a single day, was never denied.

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**YOU SAID IT**—Marie Gerlack, wearing her Miss New Bern crown for the sake of the camera, gets an affirmative answer from the stuffed lion she is cuddling, when she asks if he is enjoying the golden October weather. Marie struck up an acquaintance with the quite harmless animals while attending the annual Jaycee Fair here this week. Members of the Junior Chamber haven't always been blessed with sunny

skies and balmy temperatures for their fall presentation, and the gate suffered accordingly. This year the fair got off to a flying start, and a new record for attendance could be set. Miss New Bern didn't have to force a smile for this pose. You'll see her smiling, naturally, everywhere she goes.—Photo by Billy Ben-ners.