

SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED ARTICLE ON BUFFALO BILL

(W. F. CODY, 1846-1917)

Man and boy, William F. Cody lived almost the whole span of winning the West. When as a boy he crossed the Missouri, it was the jumping-off place for civilization. When he died, the West had been conquered and settled and studded with dude ranches.

Cody's great skill was as a handler of horses. He was one of the greatest horsemen who ever lived in the States, and all his achievements grow from this fact. He was for a time a mounted errand boy, and afterwards a Pony Express rider. He took part in the border warfare along the Missouri, and after the Civil War broke out he volunteered. After the war, while the railroads were pushing westward across the plains, Cody contracted to kill enough bison to feed the construction camps, and his success in shooting buffalo won him the name Buffalo Bill.

When work on the railroad stopped, Cody moved to Fort Larned to work for Uncle Sam and soon was employed as a scout by the Army. During his service he made many remarkable rides and had hair-breadth escapes, earning the rank of Chief of Scouts for the Fifth Cavalry and the friendship of the Army officers. He was a great hunter, trapper, horseman and scout, and also one of the best guides on the plains.

Ned Buntline wrote up his exploits in a series of novels and so made Cody famous all over the country.

When he was not acting as scout for the Army, Cody guided parties of wealthy Easterners who wished to hunt big game and was selected, along with Wild Bill Hickock, to act as guide when General Sheridan entertained Grand Duke Alexis of Russia with a big buffalo hunt.

Buntline persuaded Buffalo Bill to act in one of his shows in New York, and Cody made a great hit as an actor. But when Indian war broke out again and he was summoned by General Sheridan to act as scout again, he left the theater in the middle