

# THREE DESPERADOES HOLD UP THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

## TRAGIC AND ROMANTIC EXPLOITS OF A GANG OF WESTERN TRAIN ROBBERS IN SOUTH AMERICA

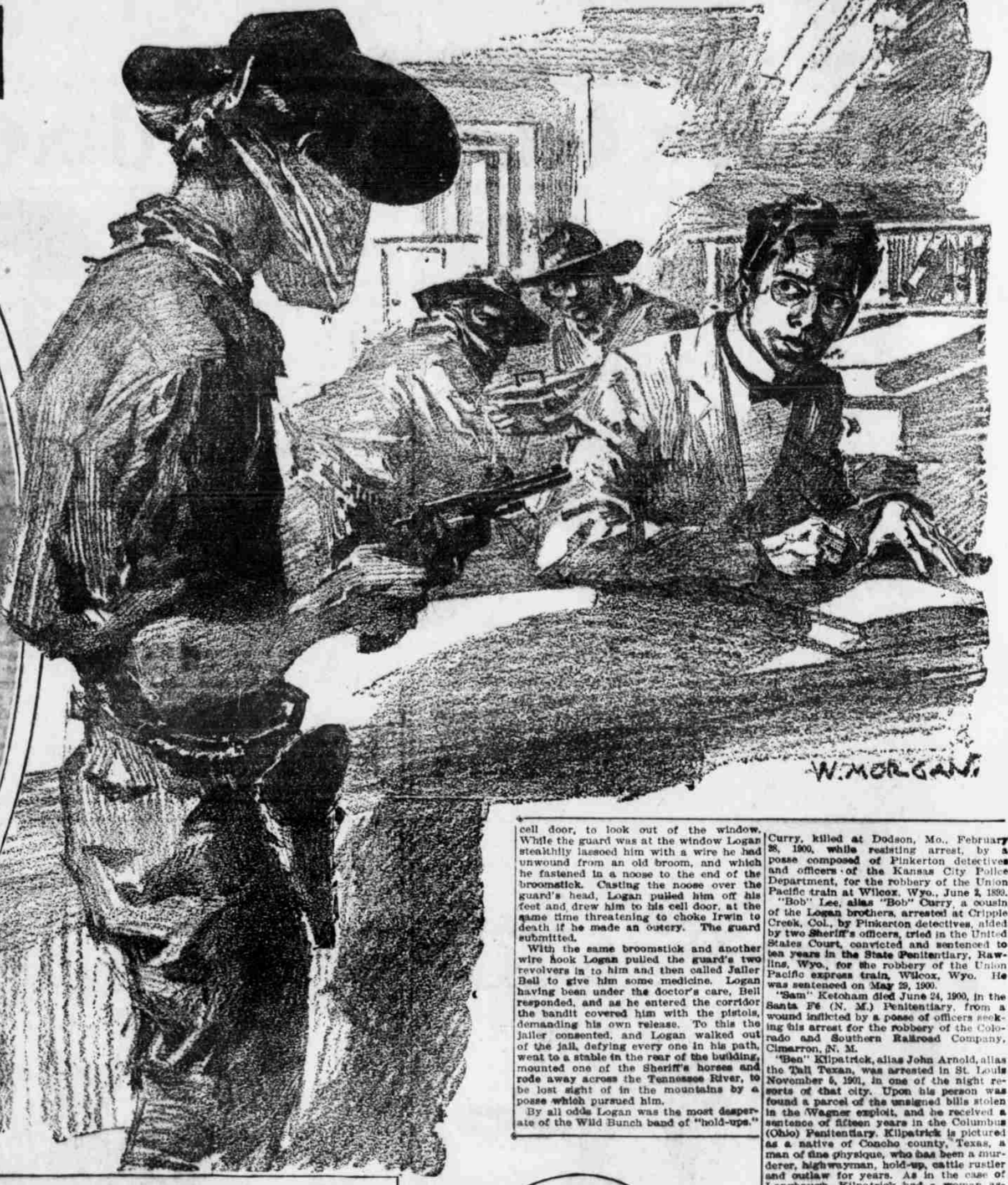
HARRY LONGBOUGH



ETTA PLACE LONGBOUGH



HARRY LOGAN IN HIS WORKING CLOTHES



W. MORGAN

OUR leisurely horsemen just after ten o'clock one morning early in last March appeared in the public square of Villa Mercedes, in the province of San Luis, which occupies a central position in the Argentine Republic.

Three of the men, it was noticed by those members of the population who were not too sleepy to notice anything at all, were of about medium height, well knit, bronzed and athletic. The fourth was shorter and of slender physique, with delicate hands and feet, and with the flush of youth upon cheek and brow.

The horsemen unconsciously pulled up in front of the small hotel that occupies one side of the square and ordered drinks from the waiter, who emerged lazily in answer to their bidding. Having disposed of their refreshment and handed back their empty glasses to the full witted waiter, the strangers deliberately dismounted and led their horses across the square, where they stopped again in front of the bank, which bears the imposing title Bank of the Nation Argentina and is a branch of the Bank of Terrapaco of Rio Gallegos. The three stalwart members of the party tossed their bridles reins to their smaller companion and entered the bank.

At that hour of the day in Villa Mercedes, as in most other inland towns of the Argentine Republic, there is very little doing in the way of business activity, and upon the particular occasion in question a solitary clerk was in charge. This individual, casually glancing up from the ledger spread out before him, was intensely surprised to find himself gazing with rapt concentration into the frowning muzzle of a large revolver pointed directly at him by one of his visitors, who accompanied the operation with a sharp reminder that death would instantly follow any outcry or attempt at resistance. Meanwhile, the two comrades the man behind the gun had vaulted over the counter and were rapidly but systematically gathering up all the cash and securities exposed to their view. They had not completed their task when the manager of the bank, having perceived from the outside an apparent access of business to the institution of which he was the Villa Mercedes head, stepped in to take personal charge of whatever transaction might be in progress.

He was promptly shot in the head by one of the intruders, all three of whom, with drawn weapons, backed out through the open door and sprang upon their horses, the whole quartet galloping off towards the westward, in the direction of town before the residents had fairly awakened from their accustomed state of somnolence. In a few moments the entire township was in a state of confusion, and the marauders had made good their escape and all efforts to overtake them were futile.

**\$20,000 IN ONE HAUL.**

During the few preceding months there had been two or three similar attacks in various sections of the Argentine, and this final assault, obviously manoeuvred by the same hand that had taken part in the previous outrages, served to stir the indignities of the Southern republic. They found among the documents in their possession—and which had been in their possession for a long time back—a notification from the Pinkerton National Detective Agency, through a representative visiting the Argentine, that in the year 1904 a band of North American train and bank robbers had landed in Buenos Ayres and had taken up a permanent residence in the remote interior. This gang consisted of Harry Longbough, alias "the Sundance Kid," Mrs. Harry Longbough and George Parker, alias "Butch" Cassidy, who were subsequently joined by Harvey Logan, alias "Kid" Curry. These were the four persons engaged in the Villa Mercedes affair, which netted them between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

It was Etta Longbough, wife of Harry Longbough, who, dressed in masculine attire, held the horses of herself and her companions in front of the Villa Mercedes branch of the bank of Terrapaco, while it was being robbed by her husband and his mates, just as she had held their horses upon other occasions when similar raids were made in the Argentine.

Mr. and Mrs. Longbough and George Parker sailed from this country directly for Buenos Ayres. After reaching Buenos Ayres they took passage on a coastwise steamer to the port of Bahin Blanca, still further south. From this place they shipped upon a semi-monthly river steamer to an inland point called Rawson, thence striking across country mounted on mules. They had already purchased extensive pasture lands to the southwest some seventy-five miles from the small village of Chubut, where their nearest white neighbors were situated. When they reached their destination the party had travelled for some seventy-four days from New York—thirty-nine days to Buenos Ayres, twenty days more to Rawson and fifteen days from that interior hamlet to their ranch, which is in the province of Chubut, or Chubut, in the Department of the Sixteenth of October.

The capital required for this investment, together with the no inconsiderable amount demanded for travelling expenses on the journey of twelve thousand miles, had been derived from sundry train and bank robberies in the Western part of the United States, the bold and daring character of which will be described later.

It is apparent that Longbough, the leader of what is left of one of the most noted bands of robbers in this country, intended, when framing up the trip to South America, to abandon the life of outlawry

and become a legitimate rancher, together with the man and woman who accompanied him. The ranch upon which the little party settled occupies a high tableland in the Indian country, the south, and from its surface there is a perfect view of the country for twenty miles or more in every direction. The spot is inaccessible in the extreme, and any attempt were made to dislodge or capture the "Americans" it might require the services of a full regiment of soldiers and undoubtedly in much loss of life, owing to the naturally defensive quality of the position.

Even then it is extremely doubtful if their capture might be effected, for there is reason to believe that the northern bands have acquired a very thorough knowledge of the country they have chosen to honor with their presence. They began operations upon their elevated tableland by erecting living quarters, and proceeded in due course to stock the ranch with sheep, horses and cattle. According to such information as may be gleaned from the Indians (for white men have not considered it a profitable proposition to invade the Longbough-Parker territory), there are between five hundred and one thousand head of domestic animals now upon the ranch.

It is supposed that Longbough and his friends subsisted in the matter of their far their funds would be and found they could not swing the ranching proposition upon their original capital. In this emergency they went back to their principal and took up the series of exploits the most recent of which to be recorded took place in Villa Mercedes.

The stuff of which the three men and their woman consort is made may be gathered from the fact that as the crew of the Villa Mercedes is approximately four hundred miles from the ranch which they make their home. The actual journey must have been fully half again as long, owing to the rough and circuitous route necessarily followed, both going and coming. But the members of the band had been accustomed to much sterner tests of hardihood and endurance in North America, and they quite probably looked upon the Villa Mercedes undertaking as a mere incident of ordinary life.

Once before two of the men, in playful mood, presumably Logan and Parker, were travelling in the mountains in a stage coach, the only other occupants of which were the driver and one passenger,

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LEFT TO RIGHT HARRY LONGBOUGH, SUNDANCE KID, BILL CARVER (DEAD) BEN KILPATRICK (DING 45 YEARS) HARVEY LOGAN, ALIAS KID CURRY, GEORGE PARKER, ALIAS BUTCH CASSIDY. PHOTO BY SWARTZ

In the course of conversation they learned that their fellow voyager had with him a trunk containing a large sum of money in gold. At a convenient place where the coach was traversing the side of a deep ravine the two Americans pitched the driver and passenger headlong into the abyss below, rifled the trunk of its golden contents and rode off upon the backs of the coach horses, escaping unobserved to their distant plateau. Although the Pinkertons, together with the regular police, sheriff and United States marshals of the various classes of criminals whose aim it is in one way or another to rob express cars and banks. The most dangerous, as well as the most difficult, to capture of all grades and conditions of looters are the "stick-up" gangs, composed of men fearless to the point of desperation, to whom bloodshed is a matter of not the slightest consequence, while they value their own lives as nothing at all.

For a number of years the section of Wyoming known as the "Hot in the Wall" was infested with men of this description. From some thieving, cattle rustling and

cell door, to look out of the window. While the guard was at the window Logan stealthily inhaled him with a wire he had unwound from an old broom, and which he fastened in a noose to the end of the broomstick. Casting the noose over the guard's head, Logan pulled him off his feet and drew him to his cell door, at the same time threatening to choke Irwin to death if he made an outcry. The guard submitted.

With the same broomstick and another wire Logan pulled the guard's two revolvers in to him and then called Jailer Bell to give him some medicine. Logan having been under the doctor's care, Bell responded, and as he entered the corridor the handkerchief covered him with the pistol, demanding his own release. To this the jailer consented, and Logan walked out of the jail, defying every one in his path, went to a stable in the rear of the building, mounted one of the Sheriff's horses and rode away across the Tennessee river, to his last sight of the mountains by a posse which pursued him.

By all odds Logan was the most desperate of the Wild Bunch band of "hold-ups."

his long journey to the Argentine. There is a belief that Etta in her youth was a Western cowgirl known as Etta Place, and that Longbough met her and induced her to run away with him during one of his hold-up raids in this country, some years ago.

It is altogether probable that Longbough and the rapidly diminishing remnant of his outlaw gang in America were induced to emigrate to southern climes by the uncomfortable pressure of the net that the Pinkertons, together with the regular police, sheriff and United States marshals of the Western States, had been drawing about their quarry, slowly but surely, for eight or ten years.

It is one of the special provinces of the Pinkerton agency to safeguard the interests of express and railway companies and of banking institutions that are members of the American Bankers' Association. In this capacity they are constantly in pursuit of the various classes of criminals whose aim it is in one way or another to rob express cars and banks. The most dangerous, as well as the most difficult, to capture of all grades and conditions of looters are the "stick-up" gangs, composed of men fearless to the point of desperation, to whom bloodshed is a matter of not the slightest consequence, while they value their own lives as nothing at all.

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similar pursuits they turned their attention to holding up railway trains and banking houses in small towns scattered all over the West, and they gradually formed themselves into various bands of men.

Knowing Logan's desperate character, the Pinkertons recommended to the Great Northern Express Company that a night and day watch be placed over the prisoners in the Knox county jail to prevent his escape until he was delivered to the Columbus (Ohio) State Prison, to which institution he had been sentenced.

On Saturday, June 27, 1900, Logan made a daring flight through the crowd carelessly of the jailer and special guards. He had been confined in a separate corridor under these guards. One of their number, Irwin, left his revolver in a basket at one end of the corridor and went to the other end, directly in front of Logan's

curry, killed at Dodson, Mo., February 28, 1900, while resisting arrest, by a posse composed of Pinkerton detectives and officers of the Kansas City Police Department, for the robbery of the Union Pacific train at Wilcox, Wyo., June 2, 1899. "Bob" Lee, alias "Bob" Curry, a cousin of the Logan brothers, arrested at Cripple Creek, Col., by Pinkerton detectives, aided by two Sheriff's officers, tried in the United States Court, convicted and sentenced to ten years in the State Penitentiary, Rawlins, Wyo., for the robbery of the Union Pacific express train, Wilcox, Wyo. He was sentenced on May 25, 1900.

"Sam" Ketchum died June 24, 1900, in the Santa Fe (N. M.) Penitentiary, from a wound inflicted by a posse of men seeking his arrest for the robbery of the Colorado and Southern Railroad Company, Cimarron, N. M.

"Ben" Kilpatrick, alias John Arnold, alias the Tall Texan, was arrested in St. Louis November 6, 1901, in one of the night raids of that city. Upon his person was found a parcel of the unsunged bills stolen in the Wagner exploit, and he received a sentence of fifteen years in the Columbus (Ohio) Penitentiary. Kilpatrick is pictured as a native of Coahuila county, Texas, a man of fine physique, who has been a murderer, highwayman, hold-up, cattle rustler and outlaw for years. As in the case of Longbough, Kilpatrick had a woman associate who has never faltered in her loyalty to him.

**WOMAN LOYAL TO HIM.**

When he was taken into custody the key to a room in the Laclede Hotel was found in his pocket, and inside this room the St. Louis police discovered a young woman, who was carrying in her satchel a bundle of the express robbery notes of this woman was Laura Bullion, alias Della Rose, alias Laura Carey, alias Clara Hayes, born in Knickerbocker, Texas, and who was sentenced to term in the Jefferson City (Mo.) Penitentiary upon a charge of having stolen property in her possession. After she had served her allotted time in prison Laura Bullion went to Atlanta, Ga., in order that she might be near her lover, who had, while she was in Jefferson City prison, been transferred to the Atlanta Penitentiary. She is a typical Wild Western criminal, and when her face, as shown in the police photograph, denote courage, determination and extreme fixity of purpose.

The remainder of the band, under the leadership of Harvey Logan, are Harry Longbough, alias Sun Dance Kid; George Cassidy, alias Ryan, and Etta Place.

This association of criminals acquired the title of the Wild Bunch, by reason of the utter recklessness of its members, individually and collectively, and the startling audacity with which its deeds of pillage and violence were accomplished.

The disbandment and extermination of this extraordinary clan of desperadoes has been due to the long, unrelenting and extremely costly pursuit by the Union Pacific Railroad and the Pacific Express companies, the Great Northern Railroad and Express Company, the American Bankers' Association, the Pinkertons, the local police forces, sheriffs, United States marshals and railroad and special policemen operating in the entire West and Southwest.

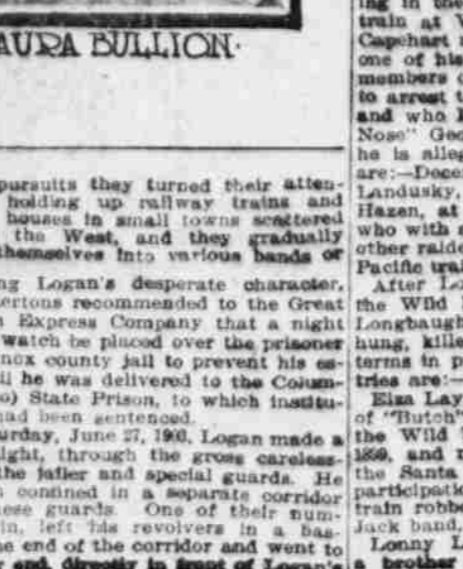
But the end is not yet. The Pinkertons, representing the railroad, express companies and the banks robbed by the expelled members of the Wild Bunch, are patiently awaiting their return to the United States, when they will eventually be brought to justice.

For a long time similarity in handwriting was about the only clue that could be followed. The outrages perpetrated by the Wild Bunch occurred at points so widely separated that but for the same names which characterized all their doings it would have been considered exceedingly improbable that the crimes were executed by a single gang. The men, too, were accustomed to conceal their identities while at work by tying round bandana handkerchiefs across their faces directly underneath their eyes, so that it was utterly impossible to give an intelligent description of their likenesses.

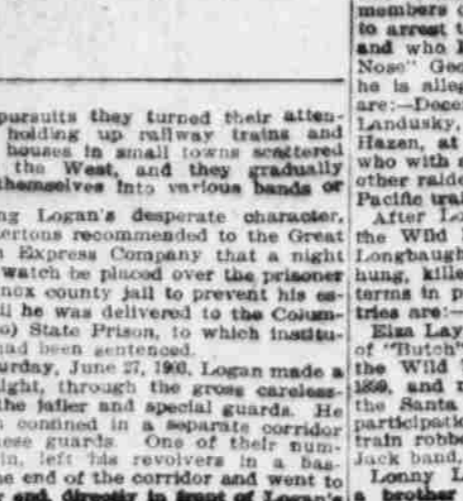
An odd fact noted by the detectives who have been working for a decade upon this line of investigation and extermination is that by far the greater number of "stick-up" robbers and murderers come from Missouri and Texas. The cause of this situation is unknown, unless, indeed, it is to be found in the example years ago set before the rising generation by the James and the Younger brothers, of Missouri, by all odds the most distinguished criminals of their time, although certainly by no means more crafty, desperate and indefatigable than the Wild Bunch.

Elia Lay, alias W. H. McGinnis, partner of "Butch" Cassidy and other members of the Wild Bunch, arrested September 16, 1899, and now serving a life sentence in the Santa Fe (N. M.) Penitentiary, for participation in the Cimarron (N. M.) train robbery in July, 1899, by the Black Jack band, of which he was a member.

Lonny Logan, alias Curry, alias Lee, a brother of Harvey Logan, alias Kid



LAURA BULLION



HARVEY LOGAN