

Bethinking of

Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin County Historian

HARRINGTON HOUSE.

R. N. JOHNSON,

Proprietor.

Money, Jewelry, and other Valuable Packages must be placed in the Safe in the Office, otherwise the Proprietor of the House will not be responsible for any loss.

Arrival	Room	NAME.	RESIDENCE.
		BUFFALO BILL	
10		W. F. Cody "Buffalo Bill"	
10		Mrs. W. F. Cody	
15		Kit Carson	St. Louis
15		Sam. D. ...	St. Louis
15		...	St. Louis
2		...	St. Louis
2		...	St. Louis
5		...	St. Louis
5		...	St. Louis

Buffalo Bill Comes To Town

VIII

11-24-86

No. 47

The illustration shown here this week is taken from a page in the guest register of the Harrington House dated February 16, 1875. The Harrington House located in Albion was a leading hotel at the time. Later it became known as the Orleans and is now Henri's Inn.

This particular page of the register, somewhat embellished, carries the signature of W.F. Cody "Buffalo Bill", Mrs. W.F. Cody and Kit Carson along with other members of Buffalo Bill's traveling show.

The following day an Albion newspaper carried an account of the past evening's entertainment under the heading "Scouts of the Plain". An excerpt follows: "The largest audience, with but one exception, that ever assembled in Bordwell's Hall was present last evening to witness the representation of "Scouts of the Plain" by the heroes themselves, Buffalo Bill and Kit Carson. The drama is full of brimstone and powder, hair-breadth escapes, murder, etc., and at the rate the scouts killed Indians last night they would depopulate a whole camp on short order. Of the acting of Buffalo Bill and Kit Carson very little needed to be said. There is nothing stagey about them, but, on the contrary, all is natural to the last degree. It was no doubt this that attracted the audience to them, for the people desired to see the scouts as they actually were—not as they might become under an actor's training.....The stage settings were very appropriate, especially one cabin and cavern scene, and added much to the interest in the drama."

Before the Pratt Opera House (theater) was completed in 1882, Bordwell Hall and the Village Hall served as places where traveling shows appeared. Bordwell's Hall is now the Masonic Temple building which also houses Newberry's in downtown Albion. It was the third floor of the block which had a large auditorium where many notables of the day appeared.

William F. Cody (1846-1917) was born in Scott County, Iowa and grew up in Kansas where his family moved in 1854. His first employment was riding for the Pony Express. Following his service in the Civil War he hunted buffalo to feed workers building the Kansas Pacific Railroad from 1867-1868. It was after this that he became known as "Buffalo Bill". He became chief of scouts for the 5th U.S. Cavalry under Gen. Philip H. Sheridan for four years. During this time he took part in sixteen Indian fights including the defeat of the Cheyenne at Summit Springs, Colorado in 1869.

It was Ned Buntline (E.Z.C. Judson) who made Buffalo Bill a hero through a dime novel that was later dramatized. In 1872 he persuaded Cody to appear on stage which he did for the next eleven seasons.

In 1883 Cody organized "Buffalo Bill's Wild West", an outdoor exhibition that dramatized the contemporary western scene. It remained on the road as an attraction for thirty years.

Legend has it that when he was in Albion back in 1875, someone threw an oyster can up in the air in front of the Harrington House for Buffalo Bill to shoot at. When the can finally landed it had six holes in it.

Kit Carson dropped a bit of philosophy when interviewed by an Albion reporter in 1875 which is as follows: "Don't lie, steal, drink, smoke nor chew tobacco. Love God and man and never deceive a woman."