

Timeline

Chapter One: 1883 to 1912



1883 Johnny Baker, age 14 left home to join Cody's Wild West. Billed as the Cowboy Kid, Johnny became a sharp shooter, holding shooting matches with Annie Oakley. Cody, whose own son died at age 5, comes to regard Baker as his adopted son.

Baker became Cody's right hand man and ring master, loading and unloading the travelling show and setting up camp.



1898 Claude, then 21, served as a captain in the Spanish American war.

He was a volunteer musician in the Alpena 33rd Michigan Volunteers Company B.



1899 Marie Burgess, side saddle rider and champion jumper from Holyoke Mass, joined the Wild West

Marie held a side-saddle jumping record, clearing the bar at 5 ft 3"

1900 Marie's sister Olive Burgess married Johnny Baker. Baker, then thirty-one, was a divorcee with two daughters, twins Della and Gladys. Olive welcomed the two girls as her own.



1902 Cody invested in the Campo Bonito mines near Oracle Arizona acting on the advise of his old friend Dyer. They formed the Cody-Dyer Minaning and Milling company

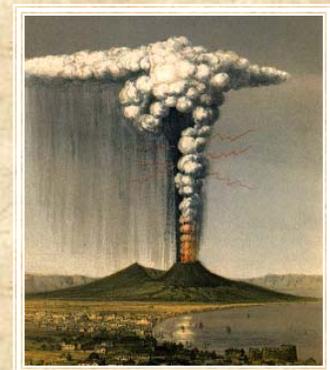


Marie, Olive ,Johnny, the twins and friend Iron Tail on tour in Italy



1904 to 1906 Marie, Olive and Johnny tour Europe as part of Cody's Wild West. The show plays in Britain, France, and Italy.

1906 April 7 Mount Vesuvius erupts killing more than 100 people and leaving many homeless. Cody and his troop on tour in Italy donate \$1000 to the relief.



1908 Johnny Baker visited the Campo Bonito mines to check up on Dyer's efforts and his call for more working capital. While there, Baker took note of the hill on the north side of the mining camp for a possible gold prospect and retreat. Whether he or Cody first called the site "High Jinks" is unknown.

1909 Cody himself first arrived in the Oracle-Campo Bonito area on January 15 to stay at Mountain View Inn owned by Curly Neal an old friend and Indian scout from the days of the Indian wars. He stayed on to "winter" with a few of his Wild West troopers and to check on his mining investment.

1912 April 14 the claim for the High Jinks Gold Mine was signed by the office of President Woodrow Wilson. Also called the Cody Tunnel, the works consisted of two vertical shafts 65 and 85 feet deep connected by a horizontal tunnel.



Cody at the High Jinks Gold Mine and Cody Tunnel (1912)

The Wild West did poorly that season. After the tour, Cody and a number of his friends winter in Oracle checking on the mine works. Cody had hopes of hitting silver, or tungsten, or anything that would pay off.

Cody spent the winter of 1912 in Oracle. He and his entourage returned to the Mountain View Hotel.

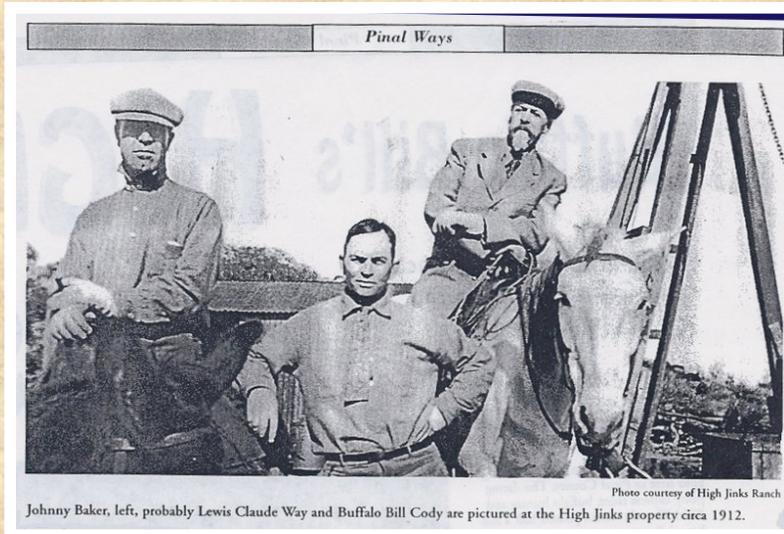


1912 continued... a lot happened that year!



Always generous, he played Santa Claus for the local children his pocket loaded with silver dollars to give away.

Cody's car made it's last trip to the High Jinks mine. There it broke down – and the remnants are still parked in the front yard.



That fall Claude Way worked the High Jinks goldmine with a crew of local miners. Cody and Johnny Baker rode up from Oracle to keep tabs on the operation.

Photo courtesy of High Jinks Ranch
Johnny Baker, left, probably Lewis Claude Way and Buffalo Bill Cody are pictured at the High Jinks property circa 1912.



Captain Claude Way married Marie Burgess.

The wedding took place at Campo Bonito. Cody gave the bride away.

By the end of 1912 Cody's investments had so drained his million-dollar fortune that he had to float a loan to take the Wild West on Tour for the 1913 season.