

Buffalo Bill and his Wild West show rolled into town in 1908

GRAND JUNCTION Monday Forenoon SEPT. 7
Only One Performance ∴ 11 a. m. Sharp
AN ARENA OF HISTORIC AND THRILLING EVENTS
 Illuminated by the Light of More than a Quarter Century, and Reflecting the Final Vistas of a Fast Fading Era

BUFFALO BILL'S WILD WEST
AND CONGRESS OF ROUGH RIDERS OF THE WORLD
STANDS ALONE, MONARCH OF ITS SPHERE
 Bearing the Original Characteristics of that which it Represents, and Pictorially Perpetuating for Posterity
 Primeval Pictures of the Plains, Combining Under the Banner of Rational Entertainment
Historic Scenes and Incidents | Reckless Horsemanship and Equine Intelligence
Aboriginal Types and Customs | Military Drills and Martial Pageants
Feats of Skill, Nerve and Manly Daring | Realistic Charges and Thrilling Battles
A Great Drama of Civilization with a Typical Cast
 Epoch making Scenes Revived in Animated Living Pictures.







THE GREAT Train Hold-Up
 AND **BANDIT HUNTERS**
 of the Union Pacific. Showing a Scene Typical of the Dangers attendant upon early Railroading in the Far West, wherein Lawlessness is Punished by the Trained Representatives of Law and Order.

THE BATTLE OF SUMMIT SPRINGS
 The final Chapter in Martial Conquest of Half a Continent, depicting with historic exactness the Heroic Methods of Savage Warfare, contrasting the cunning of the Indian Warriors with the Valorous Deeds of the American Soldiers, more in every detail and **REALISTIC BEYOND DESCRIPTION**

A Holiday at "T-E" Ranch
 Wherein the Pleasures and Pastimes of the Plainsmen are set forth in Attractive Display, and the Dangers of Early Pioneering are shown in an Attack by Indians and their Repulse and Defeat. A special feature being

FOOTBALL ON HORSEBACK
 An exhibition entirely new to America, wherein Western Bronchos and Hags, Horses participate in the greatest of all athletic sports, drilled to perfection, and expert as human players.

THE EXHIBITION INTRODUCES THESE
Rare, Skillful and Natural Actors :
 AMERICAN INDIANS, U. S. ARTILLERY
 AMERICAN COWBOYS, AND CAVALRY,
 ROYAL IRISH DRAGOONS, WILD WEST GIRLS,
 DEVLIN'S ZOUAVES, ROYAL ENGLISH LANCERS,
 MEXICAN RURALIES, JAPANESE SOLDIERY,
 SOUTH AMERICAN GAUCHOS, BEDOUIN ARABS,
 RUSSIAN COSSACKS, SCOUTS AND GUIDES.

Ray Thompson's High School Horses
 A troupe of highly educated Western Range Horses will be introduced in displays of surpassing equine intelligence, performing with Grace and Ease Under Saddle, the Most Difficult Feats accomplished by the thoroughbreds of the Circus Ring.

PRESENTING IN FAITHFUL REPRESENTATION TYPICAL SCENES AND INCIDENTS
 Feats of Horsemanship, Skillful Sharpshooting, Military Manoeuvres, Equestrian Sports, Drills, Reviews and Pageants, Cavalry Charges, Indian War Dances, Cossack Charges, Fun and Frolic by Cowboys and Wild West Girls, the Entire Entertainment

COMPLETE, UNCHALLENGED AND UNEQUALLED IN ITS CLASS
COL. WM. F. CODY (BUFFALO BILL)
 Directed, Investigated, Conceived, Originated and Perpetrated by the One and Only
 Ex-Chief of Scouts, U. S. A., Pioneer, Patriot, Pathfinder and Plainsman, who Positively Appears at Every Performance, no matter what the Weather.

DOORS OPEN AT 10:00 A. M.—PERFORMANCE BEGINS AT 11:00 A. M.
 Admission (including Seats) 50 cts.—Grand Stand Chairs (including admission) \$1.00 on sale day of exhibition at KRAFT & EMERSON'S DRUG STORE. Children under 10 years half price. All seats protected from sun and rain by Immense Canvas Canopy.

This ad ran in The Daily Sentinel advertising Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. Daily Sentinel ad

By Kathy Jordan

Sept. 7, 1908, was the day Buffalo Bill came to town.

Buffalo Bill was an American soldier and buffalo hunter, but he was best known for his Wild West show that toured in Europe and the United States.

His Grand Junction show had actually started the day before he arrived..

On Sunday afternoon, Sept. 6, three big trains bearing Buffalo Bill's Wild West exhibition pulled into town and were greeted by hundreds of boys of all ages.

The crowd was mesmerized by the big tents, the workers and wonders that Buffalo Bill's Wild West show brought.

It didn't take long before the job of unloading the trains began, followed by transporting the massive numbers of people, livestock and equipment to an area between Ninth and 10th Streets on Pitkin Avenue. A gigantic tent, to be used as a dining hall, was set up on the grounds shortly after the show arrived.

One hundred or more Sioux Indians, including notable chiefs; many cowboys and cowgirls; Cossacks, Japanese, Turks and people of other nationalities stepped off the train. Between 560 and 580 people were in the show.

Hundreds of wagons, massive quantities of canvas to make a coliseum, thousands of seats, and many other things, including an old stagecoach and mail wagons, were unloaded.

Livestock included more than 500 horses, ponies and burros, which were housed in three huge tents on the show grounds. And, of course, there was the big herd of buffalo.

By the end of the day, acres and acres of ground were covered by tents and the immense coliseum, which functioned as the arena and corrals.

The Daily Sentinel reported that several thousand people visited the show grounds, watched the tents go up and gazed in amazement at all the activity taking place until late into the evening.

Buffalo Bill attracted a great deal of attention when he visited the show ground for a short time in the afternoon. But there was no horse for Buffalo that day; he was riding in a car.

All the livestock with the show made for a profitable 24 hours for local feed store owners who were busy delivering hay, straw, grain and other food for the livestock.

The show didn't start until 11 a.m. but people started arriving at the grounds about 9 a.m. As soon as the main entrance opened, people started pouring in.

The Sentinel reported that the weather was perfect that morning, and people were streaming into Grand Junction on every country road. Special and regular trains brought in hundreds and hundreds of visitors from Fruita and Palisade and from Montrose, Ouray and Delta country.

By 11 a.m. there were 10,000 people seated to watch Buffalo Bill's Wild West show, completely filling the seats which the traveling company had brought along.

However by 11:15 a.m. there were considerably more than 10,000 people, and reports were that this was the largest crowd that had ever gathered at one time in one place in Mesa County.

The Sentinel reported: "Col. Cody gave Grand Junction the entire and complete program. There was not a feature cut out. It was all there and during the two hours of the performance. The people certainly got their money's worth. There was something doing all the time and every feature was fine. Many of the splendid features that Buffalo Bill has given for years past were presented and they are so good that the show would not be complete without them and no worthy substitute could be offered."

A list of the events included: The Battle of Summit Springs which took place near Sterling and claimed to be a true reproduction of the Indian battle fought on July 1, 1867; a review of the Rough Riders, first U.S. Volunteer Cavalry; the manner in which hundreds of Indians re-enacted battles; a train holdup; trained horses; the herd of buffalo; the old emigrant train and stage coach; the Pony Express; U.S. artillery men and their drills; Arab and Japanese acrobats; Mexican lasso throwers; Johnny Baker, the celebrated marksman; cowgirl feats (but no mention of Annie Oakley, the one-time shooting star of Cody's show); a Sixth Cavalry drill; a football game on horseback; Colonel Cody and his expert shooting; bronco-busting; and an Indian war dance. Colonel Cody was given a big ovation each time he appeared, according to the newspaper account.

The work of tearing down the tent city which had sprung up in one afternoon and one night was started as soon as the show and concert were over. The big show had ended about 1 p.m. By 4 p.m. nearly everything was loaded on the trains, Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show had told Grand Junction good-bye and the large cast was riding the rails westward to Salt Lake City.