

1

00:00:01,238 --> 00:00:11,244

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:11,244 --> 00:00:21,249

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

3

00:00:22,250 --> 00:00:32,255

South America, 1909. According to this famous film, a gun battle claims the life of Butch Cassidy.

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00:00:32,255 --> 00:00:42,261

If the film version is right, who was the mysterious stranger who appeared on a Wyoming road 15 years later?

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00:00:42,261 --> 00:00:48,264

A mysterious stranger who bore a strong resemblance to Butch Cassidy.

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00:00:52,266 --> 00:01:02,272

The vast panorama of the American West has always bred large legends.

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00:01:02,272 --> 00:01:08,275

Tall tales abound of outlaws and lawmen who rode into history across the open landscape.

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00:01:08,275 --> 00:01:18,281

Among them, Billy the Kid, Pat Garrett, Cherokee Bill, John Wesley Hardin, Wyatt Earp, and Blackjack Ketchum.

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00:01:18,281 --> 00:01:23,283

Time and distance have clouded the truth, but one thing is certain.

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00:01:23,283 --> 00:01:30,287

Few on either side of the law would venture here unless they knew the country well or had good reason to hide.

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00:01:30,287 --> 00:01:37,291

It is August 13th, 1897. Bank robbery is not an unusual occurrence here.

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00:01:37,291 --> 00:01:44,295

But these are no ordinary bank robbers. Known for their speed and daring, they're called the Wild Bunch.

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00:01:48,297 --> 00:01:54,301

Butch Cassidy, the Bunch.

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00:01:57,302 --> 00:02:03,306

Leading them is Butch Cassidy. He has herded cattle here and knows every canyon in Mesa.

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00:02:03,306 --> 00:02:09,309

For Butch, it was a short step from rounding up strays to rustling, and then to robbing.

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00:02:09,309 --> 00:02:14,312

A stretch in jail for a minor offense has settled the direction his life will take.

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00:02:14,312 --> 00:02:19,314

A life he will one day admit was wasted and hurtful to those he loved the most.

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00:02:23,317 --> 00:02:29,320

Butch becomes master of the fast getaway. Relays of horses have been staked out before the job.

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00:02:29,320 --> 00:02:33,322

On fresh mounts, the Wild Bunch can out-distance any posse.

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00:02:33,322 --> 00:02:38,325

In this way, they have robbed bank after bank over a wide area of the West.

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00:02:39,326 --> 00:02:45,329

Montpelier, Idaho. Winamaka, Nevada. Telleride in Denver, Colorado.

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00:02:48,330 --> 00:02:54,334

16,000. 17,000. 21,000. 30,000 dollars.

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00:02:54,334 --> 00:02:59,337

The separate hauls added up to more than 200,000 dollars.

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00:03:02,338 --> 00:03:06,340

By morning, the outlaws have left their pursuers miles behind.

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00:03:09,342 --> 00:03:13,344

The Wild Bunch is a small town in the West.

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00:03:18,347 --> 00:03:22,349

Expert horsemen, they climb the ridges into one of their several hideouts.

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00:03:22,349 --> 00:03:27,352

The notorious hole in the wall, or the rugged area known as Robbers Roost.

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00:03:29,353 --> 00:03:33,355

Here, safe from pursuit, a few men could hold off an army.

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00:03:33,355 --> 00:03:38,358

They will rest up for the next job, confident that no law man will follow them here.

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00:03:42,360 --> 00:03:46,363

These rugged areas of Wyoming and Utah became fortress sanctuaries.

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00:03:46,363 --> 00:03:51,365

Not only did bandits join Cassidy's gang, they were men who turned to rustling

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00:03:51,365 --> 00:03:55,368

because they felt their independence was threatened by big cattle outfits

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00:03:55,368 --> 00:03:57,369

crowding them off the public range.

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00:03:57,369 --> 00:04:03,372

Into hidden canyons went stolen cattle, security against the excesses of the big ranchers.

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00:04:04,373 --> 00:04:08,375

Which Cassidy became a legend not only because of the mystery surrounding his death,

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00:04:08,375 --> 00:04:13,378

but because his special character inspired a comparison to Robin Hood.

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00:04:13,378 --> 00:04:18,380

During his career as an outlaw, a fortune in gold passed through his hands,

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00:04:18,380 --> 00:04:21,382

but he seldom held onto much of it for very long.

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00:04:21,382 --> 00:04:25,384

He seemed to delight in the chase more than the rewards.

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00:04:25,384 --> 00:04:29,386

He gave money to ranchers and townspeople who were in need,

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00:04:29,386 --> 00:04:33,389

and they in turn helped him with their silence.

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00:04:35,390 --> 00:04:39,392

Today, ranchers in the area feel that Butch was one of them.

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00:04:39,392 --> 00:04:45,395

An expert cowhand between robberies, he was respected for his hard work and skill.

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00:04:46,396 --> 00:04:53,400

They don't condone what Butch did, but with their own independence threatened today

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00:04:53,400 --> 00:04:57,402

by big mining interests, they understand some of the forces that drove him.

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00:04:57,402 --> 00:05:00,404

And I found out later that it was Butch.

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00:05:00,404 --> 00:05:06,407

I worked for his brother right here, his brother Joe, him and I, here it is cattle together.

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00:05:06,407 --> 00:05:10,409

They wasn't killed in South America, I know that.

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00:05:11,410 --> 00:05:17,413

Our search for where and when Butch did die took us to the remote Wyoming town of Bags.

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00:05:19,414 --> 00:05:24,417

Galloping down Main Street, guns blazing, they headed for the Bulldog Saloon

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00:05:24,417 --> 00:05:29,420

where they would cut the road dust out of their dry throats with strong whiskey.

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00:05:30,420 --> 00:05:35,423

Restored, they would roust out Tom Vernon who played fiddle and owned the local hotel.

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00:05:35,423 --> 00:05:40,426

Then, rounding up the available ladies, they would dance all night.

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00:05:40,426 --> 00:05:46,429

Sheriff Ross Moore, today's successor to Frontier Lawman, sums up his town's attitude.

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00:05:46,429 --> 00:05:49,431

People around here thought Old Butch was alright.

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00:05:49,431 --> 00:05:53,433

He was a real nice fella, as far as I was concerned.

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00:05:53,433 --> 00:05:57,435

He never done anything to anybody and he always treated him right and never cheated him.

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00:05:57,435 --> 00:05:59,436

He didn't know there were outlaws.

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00:05:59,436 --> 00:06:02,438

These people were not just the people who were outlawed,

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00:06:02,438 --> 00:06:04,439

he didn't know there were outlaws.

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00:06:04,439 --> 00:06:08,441

These people on the snake river would do about anything for him.

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00:06:08,441 --> 00:06:14,445

They'd stop at your place if you had a saddle horse and their horse was tired.

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00:06:14,445 --> 00:06:19,447

They'd take your horse and leave their tired horse and go on, but they'd always come back.

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00:06:21,448 --> 00:06:27,452

And they never did anything wrong because they knew that if they rode in to this country

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00:06:27,452 --> 00:06:31,454

they could get to places to stay all night or fresh horse.

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00:06:32,455 --> 00:06:36,457

He was a good hearted old fella, he wouldn't kill you, he'd just steal your money.

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00:06:36,457 --> 00:06:41,460

They were good to these people on the snake river, but money in here, you know.

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00:06:41,460 --> 00:06:43,461

Damn it, they were all good guys.

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00:06:45,462 --> 00:06:49,464

For the most part, outlawing was hard and dangerous work.

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00:06:49,464 --> 00:06:53,466

As an outlaw's reputation grew, so did the odds of getting caught.

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00:06:53,466 --> 00:07:00,470

Alan Pinkerton's powerful detective agency assigned famed manhunter Charlie Siringo to take on the

wild bunch.

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00:07:00,470 --> 00:07:05,473

Though only five feet tall, Seringo could rope, tie and ride with the best of them.

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00:07:05,473 --> 00:07:10,476

Having spent a lifetime on the western range, he was well equipped to track his quarry.

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00:07:10,476 --> 00:07:15,478

The wild bunch reacted to this pressure by moving into another lucrative field.

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00:07:15,478 --> 00:07:17,479

Train robbing.

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00:07:17,479 --> 00:07:20,481

With Butch's master minding, they continued to prosper.

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00:07:20,481 --> 00:07:24,483

The Denver and Rio Grande Railway, \$8,000.

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00:07:24,483 --> 00:07:28,486

The Colorado and Southern, \$45,000.

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00:07:28,486 --> 00:07:31,487

The Union Pacific, \$55,000.

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00:07:34,489 --> 00:07:38,491

The Union Pacific responded by forming a special train-born posse,

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00:07:38,491 --> 00:07:41,493

transporting horses in a baggage car.

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00:07:41,493 --> 00:07:48,497

About this time, Butch started working more closely with Harvey Longabao, known as the Sundance Kid.

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00:07:48,497 --> 00:07:51,498

They shared a rye sense of humor.

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00:07:51,498 --> 00:07:58,502

One day after a particularly good haul, Butch and Sundance posed for a family portrait with the rest of the gang.

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00:07:58,502 --> 00:08:02,504

It was a joke that would backfire and force them to flee the country.

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00:08:02,504 --> 00:08:05,506

Sporting store-bought clothes and new dirt,

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00:08:05,506 --> 00:08:07,507

were cool killer Harvey Logan,

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00:08:07,507 --> 00:08:10,509

Polecat Bill Carver,

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00:08:10,509 --> 00:08:13,510

and Butch's pal Sundance.

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00:08:13,510 --> 00:08:18,513

Butch could barely suppress a grin at what he thought was a private joke.

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00:08:18,513 --> 00:08:22,515

However, the proud photographer displayed the picture in his window,

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00:08:22,515 --> 00:08:26,518

where it was spotted the next day by an amazed but delighted Pinkerton detective,

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00:08:26,518 --> 00:08:28,519

who spread the alarm.

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00:08:28,519 --> 00:08:33,522

The police were also looking for the man who was the victim of the police.

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00:08:33,522 --> 00:08:35,523

The alarm.

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00:08:37,524 --> 00:08:40,525

Hearing this and sensing their luck had run out,

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00:08:40,525 --> 00:08:44,528

the bandits bought tickets on the very trains they once robbed.

98

00:08:47,529 --> 00:08:53,533

An elegantly attired trio, Butch, Sundance, and his girls a beautiful, eddor place,

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00:08:53,533 --> 00:08:56,534

headed for South America, by way of New York.

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00:08:57,535 --> 00:09:02,538

The big city in 1902 must have been a dazzling sight to these now rich,

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00:09:02,538 --> 00:09:05,539

but still country-fied westerners.

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00:09:15,545 --> 00:09:17,546

They mingled with the elite on Fifth Avenue,

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00:09:17,546 --> 00:09:21,548

and Sundance and Edda had their portraits taken at a fashionable salon.

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00:09:21,548 --> 00:09:26,551

With Queen Lee Grace, Edda proudly displayed a new and expensive gold watch.

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00:09:29,553 --> 00:09:33,555

A few weeks later, the trio sailed for South America.

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00:09:35,556 --> 00:09:38,558

In Argentina, they worked as cattlemen,

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00:09:38,558 --> 00:09:41,559

until they were tracked down by a Pinkerton detective.

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00:09:41,559 --> 00:09:45,561

Once more on the run, they returned to a life of crime throughout Chile,

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00:09:45,561 --> 00:09:47,563

Bolivia, and Uruguay.

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00:09:48,563 --> 00:09:52,565

In 1909, the story got out that Butch and Sundance were dead,

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00:09:52,565 --> 00:09:55,567

killed in a gunfight in Mercedes Uruguay.

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00:09:56,568 --> 00:10:02,571

The Pinkerton agency eagerly accepted the story and closed the files on an old and frustrating case.

113

00:10:03,571 --> 00:10:09,575

But our research in Mercedes revealed no evidence that such a gunfight ever took place.

114

00:10:10,575 --> 00:10:16,579

Butch and Sundance's death, a hoax, perhaps steal another way to outdistance the city.

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00:10:18,580 --> 00:10:23,582

One day in 1924, 15 years after the alleged gunfight,

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00:10:23,582 --> 00:10:27,585

a lone figure was seen driving up a Wyoming road.

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00:10:27,585 --> 00:10:30,586

As he came closer, he seemed somehow familiar,

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00:10:30,586 --> 00:10:36,590

could it have been Butch Cassidy returning home after all those years?

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00:10:38,591 --> 00:10:45,595

Many believed Butch Cassidy returned long after he was supposed to have died in a South American gunfight.

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00:10:45,595 --> 00:10:49,597

Butch wasn't killed in South America. He came back here in 24,

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00:10:49,597 --> 00:10:52,599

and my grandmother seen him and talked to him.

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00:10:52,599 --> 00:10:54,600

So I know he was here.

123

00:10:54,600 --> 00:10:58,602

He stayed a day and a half and then left, but he was here and talked to everybody.

124

00:10:58,602 --> 00:11:03,605

He came back from there and went down in the Utah. He stopped the bags one night.

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00:11:03,605 --> 00:11:07,607

He went up to some of these old places and visited before he left.

126

00:11:07,607 --> 00:11:10,609

So I know he's here 24.

127

00:11:15,611 --> 00:11:21,615

One can only imagine what might have gone through his mind if he had revisited the places of his raucous youth.

128

00:11:34,622 --> 00:11:36,623

Most of his companions were gone.

129

00:11:36,623 --> 00:11:40,625

Harvey Logan, dead in a gunfight with a posse.

130

00:11:40,625 --> 00:11:44,627

Ben Kilpatrick, killed attempting to rob a train.

131

00:11:44,627 --> 00:11:48,630

Bill Carver, outdrawn by a sheriff in Texas.

132

00:11:48,630 --> 00:11:52,632

And the ladies who danced had vanished or settled down.

133

00:11:52,632 --> 00:11:54,633

Only memories remained.

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00:12:00,636 --> 00:12:02,637

The memories live on in bags,

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00:12:02,637 --> 00:12:07,640

recollections of those still alive who remember Butch's nostalgic homecoming.

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00:12:07,640 --> 00:12:12,643

In an old house on the outskirts of town lives a man who was a contemporary of Butch Cassidy's.

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00:12:12,643 --> 00:12:17,646

Now, Alfred Brazel is surrounded by his animals and his memories.

138

00:12:21,648 --> 00:12:24,650

The dates he gives might be questioned,

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00:12:24,650 --> 00:12:27,651

but he is positive about the past.

140

00:12:27,651 --> 00:12:30,653

He's been a good friend of his.

141

00:12:30,653 --> 00:12:32,654

He's been a good friend of his.

142

00:12:33,654 --> 00:12:35,656

The dates he gives might be questioned,

143

00:12:35,656 --> 00:12:38,657

but he is positive about what he saw.

144

00:12:38,657 --> 00:12:43,660

He was not killed because in 1916,

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00:12:43,660 --> 00:12:46,662

as sure as I ever stand right here,

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00:12:46,662 --> 00:12:50,664

that I seen him right here in this store.

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00:12:50,664 --> 00:12:53,666

I seen him with my own eyes,

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00:12:53,666 --> 00:12:58,668

and Butch had three pack horses and one saddle horse.

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00:12:58,668 --> 00:13:02,671

They were tied right out to the side of the store.

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00:13:02,671 --> 00:13:06,673

And he said, Ed,

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00:13:06,673 --> 00:13:12,676

I want you to go and get me four quarts of whiskey.

152

00:13:12,676 --> 00:13:15,678

He says, why don't you do it?

153

00:13:15,678 --> 00:13:17,679

No, he said, I want you to go get it.

154

00:13:17,679 --> 00:13:21,681

And Ed only had to just step out of the door

155

00:13:21,681 --> 00:13:26,684

and go about 50 feet to the saloon.

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00:13:26,684 --> 00:13:28,685

I'd seen him before.

157

00:13:28,685 --> 00:13:31,687

It wasn't the first time I'd seen Butch.

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00:13:31,687 --> 00:13:35,689

Author, historian John Rolf Burroughs

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00:13:35,689 --> 00:13:38,690

has interviewed others who were even closer to Butch.

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00:13:38,690 --> 00:13:41,692

I came through here in 1959

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00:13:41,692 --> 00:13:43,693

researching a story on the wild bunch.

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00:13:43,693 --> 00:13:46,695

Among other people I talked to was Tom Vernon.

163

00:13:46,695 --> 00:13:48,696

Tom at that time was 80 years of age,

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00:13:48,696 --> 00:13:50,697

but his mind was just as clear as a bell.

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00:13:50,697 --> 00:13:52,698

And among other comments,

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00:13:52,698 --> 00:13:55,700

I happen to make at that time was that I had read an article

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00:13:55,700 --> 00:13:57,701

by Arthur Chapman to the effect

168

00:13:57,701 --> 00:14:02,704

that Butch Cassidy had been killed in Bolivia in South America.

169

00:14:02,704 --> 00:14:05,705

Tom looked me in the eye and he said, killed in Bolivia?

170

00:14:05,705 --> 00:14:09,708

He said, Butch came through here in the early 20s

171

00:14:09,708 --> 00:14:12,709

and stayed with me two days and talked over in old times,

172

00:14:12,709 --> 00:14:16,712

said there's no mistake, I knew every one of the wild bunch well.

173

00:14:16,712 --> 00:14:20,714

Now an expert historian has found evidence placing Butch Cassidy

174

00:14:20,714 --> 00:14:23,715

in this building in the early 1920s.

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00:14:25,717 --> 00:14:29,719

John Burroughs has still more support for his conclusion.

176

00:14:29,719 --> 00:14:32,720

I met a man in Rock Springs with the name of John Taylor

177

00:14:32,720 --> 00:14:35,722

who had known Butch Cassidy when Butch Cassidy

178

00:14:35,722 --> 00:14:37,723

worked in the butcher shop in Rock Springs

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00:14:37,723 --> 00:14:40,725

and that's where Butch incidentally got his nickname.

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00:14:40,725 --> 00:14:44,727

Mr. Taylor owned the Ford agency in Rock Springs

181

00:14:44,727 --> 00:14:46,728

and he said one day he was out in the shop

182

00:14:46,728 --> 00:14:50,730

and here came a model T and it was Butch Cassidy.

183

00:14:50,730 --> 00:14:52,731

This was in the early 1920s.

184

00:14:55,733 --> 00:14:58,735

Butch Cassidy was a very good man.

185

00:14:58,735 --> 00:15:03,738

He said Butch didn't recognize him and didn't say anything

186

00:15:03,738 --> 00:15:08,740

but he said there was no mistake that he knew him well.

187

00:15:08,740 --> 00:15:13,743

Another person who saw Butch after he turned from Bolivia

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00:15:13,743 --> 00:15:17,745

who knew him very well was Josephine Bassett Morris.

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00:15:17,745 --> 00:15:19,746

She was his girlfriend.

190

00:15:19,746 --> 00:15:21,748

In an old man's house,

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00:15:21,748 --> 00:15:25,750

Josephine Bassett talked with Burroughs in 1965.

192

00:15:25,750 --> 00:15:29,752

Still showing signs of the beautiful girl she had been,

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00:15:29,752 --> 00:15:32,754

Josephine told him that one night in the early 1920s

194

00:15:32,754 --> 00:15:34,755

in Rock Springs, Wyoming,

195

00:15:34,755 --> 00:15:38,757

Butch and his old friend, Elsa Lay, knocked on her door.

196

00:15:39,758 --> 00:15:43,760

And Josephine told me that they were both a little out of condition

197

00:15:43,760 --> 00:15:45,761

but we sat around and had a few drinks

198

00:15:45,761 --> 00:15:48,762

and reminisced about the old time.

199

00:15:48,762 --> 00:15:51,764

We had a little chat about the old time,

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00:15:51,764 --> 00:15:53,765

and we knew each other.

201

00:15:53,765 --> 00:15:55,766

And then we had a few drinks

202

00:15:55,766 --> 00:15:56,767

and we said,

203

00:15:56,767 --> 00:15:58,768

do you want a cup of beer?

204

00:15:58,768 --> 00:15:59,769

No.

205

00:15:59,769 --> 00:16:01,770

We had a cup of beer and a cup of coffee.

206

00:16:01,770 --> 00:16:03,771

And we ended up having a little chat

207

00:16:03,771 --> 00:16:05,772

and we decided we'd have a little chat

208

00:16:05,772 --> 00:16:09,854

a few drinks and reminisced about the old times.

209

00:16:09,854 --> 00:16:13,296

Josephine said that was the last time she saw Butch alive.

210

00:16:18,299 --> 00:16:22,861

We had one more important stop to make, 300 miles away.

211

00:16:22,861 --> 00:16:25,983

In southwest Utah is the wild and beautiful country

212

00:16:25,983 --> 00:16:29,545

where Butch spent his childhood, where he learned to ride,

213

00:16:29,545 --> 00:16:31,146

where he roamed free.

214

00:16:31,146 --> 00:16:34,108

When his name was still Robert Leroy Parker,

215

00:16:34,108 --> 00:16:37,590

and he lived on the ranch his father homesteaded near Circleville.

216

00:16:41,592 --> 00:16:47,515

Lula Parker Bettenson, which his 93-year-old sister remembers.

217

00:16:47,515 --> 00:16:51,597

When Butch came home, he went straight to the ranch

218

00:16:51,597 --> 00:16:54,719

out of the Parker ranch because he thought we lived there.

219

00:17:00,122 --> 00:17:02,603

And how he wandered around, he loved the place.

220

00:17:02,603 --> 00:17:06,846

He had grown up there, and he was half there.

221

00:17:22,214 --> 00:17:25,376

Disappointed to find no one there.

222

00:17:25,376 --> 00:17:26,377

He came to town.

223

00:17:33,220 --> 00:17:37,263

Hoping to see his aging father once more,

224

00:17:37,263 --> 00:17:42,065

Butch picked up his brother Mark and drove to the Parker house in town.

225

00:17:42,065 --> 00:17:45,387

His father and Lula came to the door.

226

00:17:47,388 --> 00:17:52,831

When Butch drove into the yard, he and Mark got out of the car

227

00:17:52,831 --> 00:17:55,633

and walked over to the house.

228

00:17:55,633 --> 00:17:58,915

First, of course, it was a stranger.

229

00:17:58,915 --> 00:18:01,916

He just thought somebody come home with the boys.

230

00:18:01,916 --> 00:18:06,919

But as they looked at each other and got closer, they knew each other.

231

00:18:06,919 --> 00:18:10,921

And for the greeting it was to have him home again.

232

00:18:14,923 --> 00:18:18,926

When I first saw Butch, I looked at him and I thought,

233

00:18:18,926 --> 00:18:20,927

oh, he belongs here.

234

00:18:20,927 --> 00:18:23,928

He's ours, he must be, you know.

235

00:18:23,928 --> 00:18:25,929

And yet I didn't know.

236

00:18:25,929 --> 00:18:29,932

And my father said to me, he said,

237

00:18:29,932 --> 00:18:32,933

I'll bet you don't know who this is.

238

00:18:32,933 --> 00:18:35,935

He said, this is your brother Robert Leroy.

239

00:18:35,935 --> 00:18:38,937

And of course, then it was just really,

240

00:18:38,937 --> 00:18:42,939

but I felt like my feet, I couldn't stand.

241

00:18:42,939 --> 00:18:45,941

I was shocked, you know, in a way.

242

00:18:45,941 --> 00:18:51,944

So I didn't have it very long because he's so warm and so wonderful.

243

00:18:51,944 --> 00:18:55,946

And it was so tickled to see me that all turned out just right.

244

00:18:55,946 --> 00:18:59,948

When he came home, he could talk with nothing but mother.

245

00:18:59,948 --> 00:19:04,951

No matter what we would be talking about, he would go back to her.

246

00:19:04,951 --> 00:19:08,953

He felt so terrible because he felt that he'd hurt her so badly.

247

00:19:08,953 --> 00:19:10,954

And he really did.

248

00:19:10,954 --> 00:19:12,956

And he felt it.

249

00:19:12,956 --> 00:19:14,957

He couldn't live it down.

250

00:19:14,957 --> 00:19:16,958

He said it was his heartache.

251

00:19:16,958 --> 00:19:18,959

And my father said to him, he said,

252

00:19:18,959 --> 00:19:22,961

you know, my boy, he said, you could have been most anything.

253

00:19:22,961 --> 00:19:24,962

He said, I know.

254

00:19:24,962 --> 00:19:26,963

And all I'd done is make a break in my life.

255

00:19:26,963 --> 00:19:28,964

He wasn't a bit happy.

256

00:19:28,964 --> 00:19:33,967

I think he paid the debt over and over for what he'd done.

257

00:19:33,967 --> 00:19:38,970

Butch died in 1937 in the Northwest.

258

00:19:38,970 --> 00:19:41,972

And where he is buried, that is our secret.

259

00:19:41,972 --> 00:19:43,973

We do not tell it.

260

00:19:43,973 --> 00:19:47,975

My father gave us to understand when he was alive.

261

00:19:47,975 --> 00:19:54,979

We understand when the word came of his death that there would be never be told.

262

00:19:54,979 --> 00:19:56,980

Because they had chased him.

263

00:19:56,980 --> 00:19:59,982

He said they had chased him all his life.

264

00:19:59,982 --> 00:20:02,983

And now he's going to rest in peace.

265

00:20:02,983 --> 00:20:06,985

No matter what, I would never tell it.

266

00:20:11,988 --> 00:20:14,990

There are many theories about Butch's later years.

267

00:20:14,990 --> 00:20:18,992

In Billings, Montana, author Larry Pointer, after years of study,

268

00:20:18,992 --> 00:20:20,993

believes that this man, William T. Phillips,

269

00:20:20,993 --> 00:20:25,996

who moved to Spokane, Washington a year after Butch's supposed death,

270

00:20:25,996 --> 00:20:27,997

is Butch Cassidy.

271

00:20:27,997 --> 00:20:29,998

And the resemblance is remarkable.

272

00:20:29,998 --> 00:20:33,000

Phillips died in the Northwest in 1937,

273

00:20:33,000 --> 00:20:36,001

and his ashes were scattered over the Spokane River.

274

00:20:36,001 --> 00:20:38,003

An added irony is that for years,

275

00:20:38,003 --> 00:20:42,005

Phillips tried to sell the Butch Cassidy story to Hollywood.

276

00:20:42,005 --> 00:20:44,006

There were no takers.

277

00:20:44,006 --> 00:20:47,008

And what of Sundance and Edda?

278

00:20:47,008 --> 00:20:50,009

They seemed to have disappeared completely from history.

279

00:20:50,009 --> 00:20:52,010

Only the legend remains.

280

00:20:52,010 --> 00:20:54,011

But legends die hard.

281

00:20:54,011 --> 00:20:57,013

We usually believe what we want to believe.

282

00:20:57,013 --> 00:21:00,015

Somehow we prefer to see Butch young and vigorous,

283

00:21:00,015 --> 00:21:03,016

falling in South America with guns blazing,

284

00:21:03,016 --> 00:21:06,018

rather than living out a mundane life.

285

00:21:06,018 --> 00:21:10,020

But wherever or whenever Robert Leroy Parker died,

286

00:21:10,020 --> 00:21:15,023

in our minds, he lives on as Butch Cassidy.