

# Sam Bass, Who Came From "Indianny"



END OF THE TRAIL OF SAM BASS



RANGERS ON SCOUT IN BIG BLIND COUNTRY, WEST TEXAS

Sam Bass was born in Indianny. It was his native home. And at the age of seventeen Young Sam 'lowed he would roam. He went far out to Texas, A cowboy fur to Texas, A better-hearted feller I know you'd never see. —Old Cowboy Song.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON  
HAT is one of the many verses of a song that has been sung along the cattle trails or around the camp fire of every round-up camp from the Rio Grande to the Canadian line; to its strains the night herder lulled his restless charges to sleep; and it was a prime favorite of every wandering troubadour whose battered old mandolin or guitar and gift of song assured him of a warm welcome from the lonely inhabitants of some sod shanty on a government claim in the wind-swept West.

The Sam Bass song takes almost equal rank with the one about Jesse James as the most distinctively native American ballad. For what Jesse James was to Missouri, that Sam Bass was to Texas. The other day press dispatches carried the news that the University of Texas was collecting material about her most famous outlaw because without the story of this picturesque figure the history of the Lone Star state would not be complete.

But Texas alone cannot claim him for her own. The states of Indiana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma all had a share in the Odyssey of this Robin Hood hero. In a broader sense he belongs to all America because as a figure in the pageant of the American frontier he symbolizes so well one frontier type—the outlaw, whose brief and stormy career inevitably ended in this paraphrased epitaph: "Sic transit, sic gublihus."

Although Sam Bass has been dead less than fifty years, around his name already has collected a mass of myth and legend until it is difficult to know where fact leaves off and fiction begins. Perhaps the most authoritative account of his life is that contained in a book recently issued by the Yale University press which is doing a notable work in preserving Americana outside of the usual fields of historical research. The book is "Six Years With the Texas Rangers" by James B. Gillett, which, although it does not pretend to be a complete chronicle of the Texas Rangers, gives an interesting cross section of the history of one of the most remarkable bodies of law enforcement officers the world has ever known. In the chapter on "Sam Bass and His Train Robber Gang," Captain Gillett tells of this outlaw hero of song and story as follows:

Sam Bass was born in Indiana, on a farm near Mitchell, Lawrence county, July 21, 1851. He came to Texas while still a boy, and worked for W. P. (Dad) Egan, sheriff of Denton county, until he reached manhood. While still an exemplary and honest young man, Bass came into possession of a race pony, a little sorrel mare. On Saturday evenings, when most of the neighborhood boys met in Denton, Bass raced his pony with much success. Mr. Egan soon noticed that Sam was beginning to neglect his work because of his pony and, knowing only too well what this would lead to, he advised Sam to sell his mare. Bass hesitated, for he loved the animal. Finally matters came to such a point that Mr. Egan told Sam he would have to get rid of the horse or give up his job. Bass left Denton county in the spring of 1877 and traveled to San Antonio. Here many cattlemen were gathered to arrange for the spring cattle drive to the north. Joel Collins, who was planning to drive a herd from Uvalde county to Deadwood, Dakota, hired Bass as a cowboy. After six months on the trail the herd reached Deadwood and was sold and all the cowboys paid off by Mr. Collins.

At that period Deadwood was a great, wide-open mining town. Adventurers, gamblers, miners and cattlemen all mingled together. Though Joel Collins bought his cattle on credit and owed the greater part of the money he received for them to his friends in Texas, he gambled it all away. When he sobered up and realized the money was gone he did not have the moral courage to face his friends and creditors at home. He became desperate, and with a band of his cowboys held up and robbed several stage coaches in the Black Hills. These robberies brought Collins very little booty, but they started Sam Bass on his criminal career.

In the fall of 1877 Collins, accompanied by Bass, Jack Davis, Jim Berry, Bill Hewitt and John Underwood, better known as Old Dad, left Deadwood and drifted down to Ogallala, Neb. Here he conceived, planned and carried into execution one of the boldest train robberies that had ever occurred in the United States. When all was ready these six men, heavily armed and masked, held up the Union Pacific train at Big Springs, a small station, a few miles beyond Ogallala. The bandits entered the express car and ordered the messenger to open the safe. The latter explained that the through safe had a time lock and could only be opened at the end of the route. One of the robbers then began to beat the messenger over the head with a six-shooter, declaring he would kill him if the safe were not opened. Bass, always of a kindly nature, pleaded with the man to desist,



LIEUT. H. C. REYNOLDS

declaring he believed the messenger was telling the truth. Just as the robbers were preparing to leave the car without a cent, one of them noticed three stout little boxes piled near the big safe. The curious bandit seized a coal pick and knocked off the lid of the top box. To his great delight he exposed \$20,000 in shining gold coin. The three boxes each held a similar amount, all in \$20 gold pieces of the mintage of 1877.

After looting these boxes the robbers went through the train, and in a systematic manner robbed the passengers of about \$5,000. Before day-light the bandits had hidden their booty and returned to Ogallala. They hung around town several days while railroad officials, United States marshals and sheriff's parties were scouring the country for the train robbers.

While in Ogallala before and after the robbery, Collins and his men frequented a large general merchandise store. In this store was a clerk by the name of Leech who had once been an express messenger on the Union Pacific and who was well acquainted with the officers of the company. Of course the great train robbery was the talk of the town. Leech conversed with Collins and his gang about the holdup, and the bandits declared they would help hunt the robbers if there was enough money in it. The suspicions of Leech were aroused and he became convinced that Collins and his band were the real holdup men. However, he said nothing to anyone about this belief, but carefully watched them. Finally, Collins came to the store and, after buying clothing and provisions, told Leech that he and his companion were going back to Texas and would be up the trail the following spring with another herd of cattle. When Collins had been gone a day's travel, Leech hired a horse and followed him. . . . He watched the gang make their camp one night and crept up to within a few yards of them.

The bandits had built a big fire and were laughing and talking. Soon they spread out a blanket, and to the onlooker's great astonishment brought out some money bags and emptied upon the blanket some \$50,000 in gold. . . . The coin was stacked in six piles and each man received \$10,000 in \$20 gold pieces. It was decided that Collins and Bill Hewitt would travel back to San Antonio together; Sam Bass and Jack Davis were to go to Denton county, while Jim Berry and Old Dad were to return to the Berry home in Mexico, Mo.

As soon as Leech had seen the money and heard the robbers' plans, he slipped back to his horse, mounted, and rode day and night to reach Ogallala. He notified the railroad officials of what he had seen and gave the names and descriptions of the bandits and their destinations. This information was sent broadcast over southern Nebraska, Kansas, Indian Territory and Texas. In the fugitive list sent to each company of rangers Sam Bass was thus described: Twenty-five to twenty-six years old, 5 feet 7 inches high, black hair, dark brown eyes, brown mustache, large white teeth, shows them when talking; has very little to say. . . . Bass had left Denton county early in the spring an honest, sincere and clean young man. By falling in with evil associates he had become within a few months one of the most daring outlaws and train robbers of his time. Before he had committed any crime in the state the officers of northern Texas made repeated efforts to capture him for the big reward offered by the Union Pacific and the express company; but owing to the nature of the country around Denton and the friends Bass had as long as his gold lasted, they met with no success. . . . Bass' money soon attracted several desperate and daring men to him. Henry Underwood, a younger brother of Old Dad, Arkansas Johnson, Jim Murphy, Frank Jackson, Pipes, Herndon, Bill Collins, the last named a cousin of Joel Collins, and two or three others joined him in the slim bottomed. Naturally Bass was selected as leader of the gang. It was not long before the outlaw chief planned and executed his first train robbery in Texas, at Eagle Ford, a small station on the Texas Pacific railroad, a few miles out of Dallas. In quick succession the bandits held up two or three other trains, the last being at Mesquite Station, ten or twelve miles east of Dallas. From this robbery they secured about \$3,000.



J.B. GILLETT, TEXAS RANGER. Pictures, Courtesy Yale University Press.

Bass' most trusted lieutenant. About the same time as this, the rangers captured Pipes, Herndon and Jim Murphy and drove Bass and his two remaining companions out of northern Texas.

By mid-summer of 1878 the climax of Bass' career was approaching rapidly. Jim Murphy was persuaded by the rangers to turn traitor and to return to the bandit leader for the express purpose of betraying him. Eventually Murphy sent word to General Jones, commander of the Texas Rangers, that Bass and his comrades were planning to rob the bank in Round Rock, a little town less than twenty miles from Austin, the state capital, where Jones had his headquarters and where at the time he had with him four rangers — Corporal Vernon Wilson and Privates Dick Ware, Chris Connor and George Harold. Jones immediately went to Round Rock with Ware, Connor and Harold and upon his arrival notified Deputy Sheriff Grimes that the Bass gang was coming to rob the bank but that he (Grimes) should make no attempt to arrest any strangers who came into town until Lieutenant Reynolds and his men of Company E (among them Corporal James B. Gillett) had arrived from San Saba where Corporal Wilson had been sent to order them to Round Rock.

Bass had decided to rob the bank on Saturday, July 20, and on Friday morning he rode into town with his two companions, Jackson and Barnes, to take a look at the bank and to plan the route of their escape on the morrow.

They went up the main street of the town and entered Copple's store to buy some tobacco. As the three bandits passed into the store, Deputy Sheriff Moore, who was standing on the sidewalk and Deputy Sheriff Grimes, said he thought one of the newcomers had a pistol.

"I will go in and see," replied Grimes. "I believe you have a pistol," remarked Grimes, approaching Bass and trying to search him. "Yes, of course, I have a pistol," said Bass. At the words the robbers pulled their guns and killed Grimes as he backed away to the door. He fell dead on the sidewalk. They then turned on Moore and shot him through the lungs as he attempted to draw his weapon.

## SPRING COATS OF DISTINCTION; NOW COMES THE EASTER BONNET

SIMPLICITY is the basis of distinction for the better spring wrap. It is, however, a simplicity arrived at through exceedingly complex seamings, tuckings and other deft and subtle fabric manipulation, which do not destroy the straightline silhouette. Not only do the more exclusive coat modes accent refinement of style treatment, but the materials themselves are exquisitely choice, such as cash-



Trimmed With Ombre Fur.

mere, repps, wool crepes, kasha cloth and quality-king twills. Subtle coloring is a third element which enters into the creation of the pattern coat for spring. Blaque, light tones of beige, fawn shades and some soft lovely grays, also some few pastel tones express the trend. Crowning glory of all is the supple-as-fabric fur which collars the coats — the kind that caresses the throat and protects, yet is never cumbersome. These furs so harmonize with the tone of the fabrics they trim each coat and solves itself into an entrancing color symphony, which is pleasing, indeed. Ombre fur is the supreme choice of the moment. There is much enthusiasm for twin beaver just now. This fur is as flexible as cloth and it blends in with the fabric of the coat either to stripes of white, alternating with stripes of white. Note the shawl-collar on the coat in the picture, which idea is handsomely demonstrated in the first hat which shows wide satin scroll-like motifs on a cunning black felt shape. Black velvet, in graceful leaves and figures, is applied all over a white background for the next hat which bears the message of wider brims. It is said that black on white will be featured throughout millinery for summer. One charming effect promised is this black lace stretched over a foundation of white straw. Paris sends over many hats with "a touch" of black velvet. Note the charming model at the top to the right in the picture, for the crown of which velvet is the chosen medium. Black embroidery on white crepe for the wide headbands plays a decorative part in keeping with the black-and-white vogue. Superbly tailored is the model in the lower left corner. This creation



Group of Easter Hats.

made of the new and attractive twin weaver. A shawl-collar as a spring item is an innovation made possible and feasible by the infinitely light weight of the new furs. In some instances the new zephyr-weight furs bind the coat edges all round to about two inches depth. Prevailing "spring furs" include haved lamb, ombre lapin, squirrel, win beaver, ponyskin and calfskin. These are ingeniously worked into the very making of the coat in the way of insets, and for collars, including shawl, military and also long tuxedo evers, also for pockets. That the Easter bonnet will be largely a matter of black-and-white,

Plaits Stitched in Squares. French beige canton crepe is chosen for a frock with box plaits stitched in squares. This stitching gives a very decorative effect. Color contrast is provided in collar, cuffs and belt of gold kid and red ribbon. High Collars in Favor. A very high-collared sleeveless jumper is being featured among the English winter styles. It is of black velvet richly adorned with hand-painted roses and a high collar buttoned at the ears and worn over a flimsy skirt of finely plaited, black chiffon. Brightly colored buttons, brooches, or arrows are used as fasteners. The Shoe Trend. The trend toward the matching of the evening frocks with evening shoes is becoming more fixed and consequently satin as a foot covering material is in the ascendant.

## The Kitchen Cabinet

How practical is the plan from which it emanates of nothing, and yet attaching itself to the hands of a friend, follows him in his travels to charm his heart and recall to his memory the beauty of the flower he loved — George Sand.

### SOMETHING TO EAT

When you are tired of the ordinary ways of serving chicken prepare it as follows:

Chicken's Warmers. — Take a nice fat fowl and clean well, then put to cook in plenty of water, for the broth is important. When well cooked, remove the fowl and take the meat from the bones; they may then be returned to the broth and simmered longer; strain and cook two bunches of celery, cut into small pieces until it is tender, then remove the celery and cook noodles in the broth. Serve the minced seasoned chicken in a nest of noodles and celery.

Chicken With Macaroni. — Take cooked leftover chicken and mix with an equal amount of cooked macaroni, add white sauce and put in layers in a greased baking pan. Cover with buttered crumbs and bake until thoroughly hot. Serve from the dish.

Cinnamon Cream Tart. — These are nice to serve with afternoon tea. Beat a teaspoonful of butter with one-half cupful of powdered sugar and rice and nutmeg and a little flour as possible to mix well. Set out to chill until very cold, then roll out a small portion at a time, adding a little flour as possible to handle. When cold shake in a paper bag with a tablespoonful of powdered sugar, a cake at a time.

Salmon With Riced Potato. — Heat heated salmon from the can, after removing skin and bones. In the center of a hot platter, place in the oven in a dripping pan of water and rice and some potatoes. Heat the riced potatoes around the fish and around the potato pour a rich white sauce. Serve very hot.

Buttermilk Biscuits. — Sift together a quart of flour and a teaspoonful of soda, add two tablespoonfuls of salt, rub into the flour two tablespoonfuls of shortening and moisten with buttermilk. Mix and roll out an inch thick and cut into cakes with a large sized cutter. When ready to bake, prick with a fork and bake in a hot oven.

Seasonable Fopds. Orange Juice is a mild tonic; if plenty of juice is taken it will prove most stimulating. Half of an orange or grapefruit eaten with a spoon is valuable as a daily diet. Eating it pulp and all, it is mixed with the saliva and better able to be digested than a hurried drink of juice. When giving it (the juice) to young babies it should be strained. Strained cooked tomato juice is also rich in vitamins and growth-producing substances.

Vanillas. — Prepare a noodle mixture, using one egg and one-half teaspoonful of salt, add flour to make a stiff dough to roll out. Tear off small irregular pieces or cut into strips like crullers; now fry in deep fat before the mixture gets dry. Dust with powdered sugar and serve.

Mock Crab Sandwiches. — Cream two tablespoonfuls of butter, add one-fourth cupful of grated American cheese, add one teaspoonful of made mustard, the same of farragon vinegar and anchovy paste, and one tablespoonful of finely chopped stuffed olives. Season with salt and pepper. Spread on white or rye bread and cut into small sandwiches the size of a silver dollar. Serve with an oyster cocktail.

Peanut Cookies. — Cream two tablespoonfuls of butter, add one-fourth of a cupful of sugar and one egg well beaten. Mix with one teaspoonful of baking powder with one-half cupful of flour, one-fourth teaspoonful of salt, add to the first mixture; then add two tablespoonfuls of milk, one-half cupful of chopped peanuts, and one-half teaspoonful of lemon juice. Drop from a teaspoon on a buttered baking sheet one inch apart, and place one-half of a peanut on each. Bake twelve to fifteen minutes in a hot oven. This recipe makes two dozen cookies. One pint of peanuts when shelled will yield one-half cupful when chopped.

Fried Egg and Onion Sandwiches. — Cut into thin slices one small onion, slice it into butter in a hot frying pan and cook until lightly brown. Remove to the side of the pan and drop in two or three eggs; fry until cooked to taste, season with salt and pepper and serve with the onion on buttered slices of bread.

Odd Use for Birds' Wings. An Australian paper asserts that some enterprising London firm is regularly importing abstract wing bones for the frigate birds. The wing bones of the frigate birds are also used for the same purpose or for cigarette holders.

Club Takes Pepsy's Home. Samuel Pepsy's home in Brampton, Huntingdonshire, has been taken over by the Samuel Pepsy club and saved from ruin, says the Dearborn Independent.

## Open-Air Chorals Olympic of Song

In August I was in Wales, to see for the first time the Royal Welsh Eisteddfod, a gathering of Welsh culture that goes back to the Twelfth century for its birthday, or even earlier. I should think that ten or even twenty thousand were here for the ancient Druid festival, to listen to the poems and songs that Old-World harpists set waving on the air. The chief choral prize, as heretofore, is

Celtic symbols, with its hands touching the ancient sword of peace or blowing Hria's horn, is the festival for any summer visitor to old Wales. — From "My European Excursions," by Robert Petre.

Life's Aim. The architect's plan precedes the builder's toil. Before the artist touches the canvas or the sculptor the block of marble, a vivid idea of the picture to be painted and the angel to be released must be reflected on the

mind's mirror. People fall because they have no uplifting ideal. They never climb because they have no hill-top in view.

First Wrong Step. The moment you abate anything from the full rights of men each to govern himself, and suffer any artificial positive limitation upon these rights, from that moment the whole organization of government becomes a consideration of convenience. — Burke.

mind's mirror. People fall because they have no uplifting ideal. They never climb because they have no hill-top in view.