

Last Chance Saloon Still Scene Of Western Gunmen As They 'Shoot It Out'

OKLAHOMA CITY (UPI)—Gun-slingers and lawmen still wear their Colt .44's in strapped-to-the-hip holsters in Frontier City, the last outpost of the Old West in Oklahoma.

They use those shootin' irons, too. Wyatt Earp and Johnny Ringo fight continual battles with such outlaw gangs as the Daltons, the Youngers and the Doolins to keep Frontier City a major tourist attraction in the state once known as Indian Territory.

It's all in fun, of course, and the .44's are loaded with blanks. But it blends a flavor of frontier lawlessness into a city that is an authentic reproduction of a frontier town, even to the dress of its residents and shop proprietors.

It's all there—just as you see it on television and movie screens—

in the 16-block town six miles northeast of Oklahoma City on the heavily-traveled U.S. 66-77 Turner Turnpike.

There's the Last Chance Saloon, where leggy barmaids wearing opera hose and ostrich plumes serve sarsaparilla and beer. The Frontier City Bank and the "Ole No. 9" log-burning train, which carries visitors around the city, are daily robbery targets for the Daltons.

Earp and Ringo always show up in time to meet the outlaws, however, and sometimes face them in the streets for gun duels. The town's undertaker, "Digger," usually follows close behind the lawmen to cart away the bodies in his funeral coach.

For the more peaceful settlers, there are more than 50 other attractions in the city, including a general store specializing in everything from spinning wheels to candle dippers.

There are several eating houses,

a post office, barber shop, hardware store, blacksmith shop—anything, and probably more, that usually made up the business district of a frontier town.

This three-million dollar layout, as extravagant as any set on a Western movie lot, is the development of a corporation managed by Jimmy Burge, a former circus and movie promoter.

More than one million persons visited Frontier City, during its first season last year. More than two million are expected to walk its dusty streets and boardwalks this year.

Visitors pay no admission fee and can see the entire town without spending a cent. The only price tags are on items that can be bought there.

In addition to the free admission, Frontier City's location is one of the more important factors in its popularity. The town has a half-mile frontage on the right hand side of the highway for west-bound traffic.

"Families on the way to California will stop for every snake pit and rock pile along the way," Burge explained. "We wanted to make sure people could see at a glance that this is not just another snake pit but an authentic duplication of an early day Western town."

"Going out they've got money and time. Coming back they haven't got either, one—and they wouldn't stop for the Last Supper with the original cast."

Frontier City is an independent community. The town has its own mayor and council, which makes recommendations to the corporation's board of directors, and the shops and stores are leased by individuals. It has a church, too, with regular services.

The town law enforcement officers and its outlaws are not the real thing, of course. The corporation has hired men to play the roles.

"We have a cordial life here—just like the people in the Old West used to have," Burge said. "It's a community project with the purpose of entertaining and showing tourists some of the flavor of the Old West."

"When they come here, they step back into life as it was then. They become a part of the Old West—the past most of them had seen previously only in movies and on television. This is as close to the real thing as they'll ever find."

Her Hand On His Wrist All That Is Necessary For A Nicobar Wedding

NEW DELHI (UPI)—If you want to get away from it all—away from the cares and troubles of present-day civilization—the Nicobar Islands await you.

Here no one owns property, nor does he need any. The law is broken so rarely the islands' policemen become scholars and teachers.

There are no rich or poor, no struggle for existence. All live on equal terms. People obey community opinion. The chief of each village wields great influence but has no power and can command no obedience. His only weapon is persuasion.

This land—a string of 19 islands strewn in the Bay of Bengal—used to be known as The Abode of the Naked. But nowadays the islanders wear clothes and hardly anyone in the population of 12,000 even goes barefoot.

Women take after the Burmese in their dress—a sarong and blouse. Men sport a vest and trousers.

But the Nicobar wardrobe lacks color. So does the weather. The air is languid. Even the sea pounds softly on the coral shores. The people talk lazily and low, although this may be because there never are any arguments.

Coconut is the staple food. Plantations are tended individually but they belong to the village. People carry their own produce to the cooperative—one for every village—to exchange for clothes. They live in huts built on stilts, seven to eight feet tall.

Their marriage ceremony is as simple as everything else in their way of life. When a man desires to marry a girl, he makes friends with her family, assists them in their work and woos the girl. If

she is won over, the rest is simple. The marriage rite consists of placing the girl's hand on the man's wrist.

Divorce is equally simple. There are no public proceedings. The couple simply part. If there are any children, the rule is that they go "where they do not cry."

Women hold equal status with men in this quiet little paradise. They share formation of village public opinion and have as much voice in the decisions as the men do. The women do a fair share of the work, too—plowing, planting, rearing pigs, paddling canoes and cooking.

There are 600 Christians on the main island, Car Nicobar, but the religion of the rest of the inhabitants is based on the belief that all objects possess a natural life endowed with souls. This leads to various superstitions. Dead bodies are exposed to the sea winds for three or four days before burial. The purpose is to scare away devils.

Even today, the Nicobar Islanders prefer to rely on themselves. They build roads, organize cooperatives and meet their own requirements without government help. They are self-reliant and have full faith in themselves.

They do not want the modern world. They like things the way they are.

New Cancer Dope Tried

DENVER (UPI)—Several hospitals across the country are testing a new medical technique for killing isolated cancers with poison.

The technique was described by Dr. J. J. Griffiths, Miami blood specialist, during a recent post-graduate course at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Griffiths described the method this way: If a cancer or tumor is located in a patient's arm or leg or an organ, and hasn't spread into the system, his blood can be routed around the cancer, which is then treated with a profusion of poisons which may kill the growth.

Griffiths said the potential of the cancer treatment technique is "great," on the basis of initial tests.



MR. ANONYMOUS—Colorfully costumed native of Northern Nigeria goes all out for anonymity. Face-saving gentleman was taking part in celebration marking country's elevation to self-governing status.

Soldiers Home Kept Safe

WASHINGTON (UPI)—A safety program initiated in 1952 by the United States Soldiers Home has greatly reduced the number of accidents there and now its "Old Soldiers" may live longer and more safely.

The home, an institution for retired enlisted Army personnel, has a staff of 1,200 and some 2,000 residents.

Recently it received its third award in less than a year in recognition of a relentless campaign to eliminate all physical hazards that might cause accidents.

Aside from the Army's "Award of Merit," the home received the National Safety Council Award of Merit for the year 1958 and the magazine, "National Safety News," bestowed the same honor last summer.

The safety program was started by the Army's Corps of Engineers and was followed up by the home's own medical staff. Ramps replaced stairs wherever possible and where steps could not be eliminated, handrails were installed.

Non-tippable fixtures have been placed on furniture and sharp corners are being removed from objects that might cause injury.

Outdoors, visiting motorists are made aware of the safety program through strictly enforced traffic rules on the 300-acre site.

An Army spokesman said recently: "There is no way to point out the true results of the years of planning and work there, except to point out that there are now men enjoying the benefits of retirement in the home who would be dead or hospitalized without such a program."



OL' WEBFOOT—Robert F. McCrystal looks like a candidate for a net in Providence, R.I. He decided to dramatize heat spell by strolling around with rolled pants and flippers.

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