

## LAST OF HOLD-UP MEN.

### *After Work in This Country They Went to South America.*

William A. Pinkerton, the head of the famous detective agency, is perhaps the best authority in the country on train robbers and hold-up men. From the days of the James boys and the Youngers and the Reno gang he has followed the careers of the various bands, and has come to the conclusion that no crime in America is so hazardous as hold-up robbery. He declared recently that over two-thirds of those who have been engaged in it have eventually been killed outright while operating or resisting arrest, have been lynched by posses or have "died with their boots on." Many were wounded and died from the effects of their wounds, while nearly all the rest have been captured and imprisoned or driven into exile.

Mr. Pinkerton tells an interesting story of the operations and eventual fate of the last actual band of railroad and bank hold-up robbers who have operated in the United States:

"The 'Wild Bunch,'" said the detective, "operated from Wyoming to Texas, and made their headquarters in various small Texas cities. After their sensational robberies they hid in the North in the 'hole in the wall' country.

"The original band was led by 'Tom' Ketcham, alias 'Black Jack,' who was hanged at Clayton, N. M., in 1901, for killing a New Mexico sheriff who was attempting his arrest for a train 'hold-up.' Its second leader, 'Bill' Carver, was killed in April, 1901, while resisting arrest in Texas for a murder committed at Senora. George Curry, better known as 'Flat Nose George,' the third leader of the band, was likewise killed while resisting arrest. He fell under the bullets of a sheriff's posse near Thompson, Utah.

"The robbery which broke up the band was the 'hold-up' of a Great Northern express train at Wagner, Mont., from which they stole \$40,500 of unsigned bills of the National Bank of Montana and the American National Bank of Helena. 'Ben' Kilpatrick, alias 'The Tall Texan,' was arrested for this crime in St. Louis, and had a number of the unsigned stolen bills in his possession. He was sentenced to fifteen years in the Columbus (Ohio) penitentiary, and has since been transferred to the United States penitentiary at Atlanta.

"When Kilpatrick was arrested the police found a room key of the Laclede Hotel on him. When they arrived at the hotel they found Laura Bullion going away with a satchel containing a number of unsigned bills. She was arrested as an accomplice and sentenced to two years and six months in the Missouri Penitentiary.

"On December 13, 1901, a stranger got into an altercation with two other men over a pool game at Knoxville, Tenn., resulting in a pistol fight. Two policemen sought to quiet the disturbance. The stranger shot both, 'held up' the occupants of the saloon, backed out of the rear door and jumped thirty feet into a railroad cut, but was eventually traced and arrested in an exhausted condition from cold, exposure and injury from his thirty-foot jump.

"He was subsequently identified as Harvey Curry, alias Logan, was convicted of uttering forged banknotes and sentenced to twenty years in the United States Penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio. While awaiting transfer to that institution he made his escape by holding up the guards in the jail and fleeing to the mountains on horseback. He has not been recaptured.

"'Camila' Hanks, of Texas, another of the band, attempted to pass some of the notes in Nashville, Tenn. Circulars describing these stolen unsigned notes had been sent to every city, town and hamlet in the United States, with the request that the local authorities inform their merchants. When Hanks offered one of the stolen notes the merchant became suspicious and called up the police by telephone. They responded quickly, but Hanks, observing what had occurred, drew a revolver, held up the officer, jumped into an ice wagon and, forcing the driver out, drove rapidly down the street. Intercepting a man in a buggy he abandoned the ice wagon for it and escaped through the marshes to the Cumberland River, where he forced two negroes to row him across. He was shot some months later while resisting arrest in San Antonio, Tex.

"'Butch' Cassidy, Harry Longbaugh and Etta Place, a clever horsewoman and rifle shot, fled to the Argentine Republic, where, it is said, they have been joined by Logan. In the last two years they have committed several hold-up bank robberies in Argentina. We advised the South American authorities of their presence and location. When the band was not committing robberies they were engaged in cattle raising on a ranch they had acquired. Their ranch was on a piece of high table land, from which they commanded a view of twenty-five miles in various directions. Owing to this their capture by the South American authorities was made almost impossible.

"They became suspicious of preparations for their arrest, however, and fled from Argentina. They were last heard from on the southwest coast of Chili, living in the wild open country. It is said that Etta Place, the alleged wife of Harry Longbaugh, operates with them in male attire. Thus you have the passing of the last actual band of train and bank robbers who have operated in the United States."