

# The Sundance



# Times

"Where the Kid got his name"

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## A journey across America

At the young age of 64 years, Robert Burnett has no desire to set at home in semi-retirement and watch the days go by. Working for the last twenty years in a produce packing plant in Talent, Ore., Burnett has taken his off season time to travel by bicycle from Oregon to Connecticut.

Leaving Talent, Ore., on March 15, he has maintained a daily journal of his days on the road with the intent to write a book on the experiences he has had and will find as the journey continues. Leaving behind his mother, three sisters and one brother, Burnett, a 30 year member of the International Lions Club, plans on attending the International Lions Club Convention in Detroit, MI this summer.

Weaving across the nation with a pre-planned route in mind, and the self-agreement to divert from the plan at any time to see all he could, Burnett wanted to spend a day in the Sundance area. He was told about Devils Tower when he was crossing Montana and adjusted his travel plans to see the monument. He stated, "Devils Tower is fabulous. God made it, but the Devil is gettin' the credit."

Road construction, snowy weather, high winds and getting somewhat lost at times has made the first leg of the journey worthy of a novel. Burnett found himself going out of his way to see a sight, ending up on a primitive road of dirt and rocks for 65 miles. He was pleased to have a local passer by come to his aide. Crossing Montana he came upon an eight mile stretch of road construction which had the driving lane choked down to the minimum. He was handling it fine when he heard the air horn and turned to see a big yellow Kenworth fixin' to say hello. "God's kindness stopped the wreck," he noted.

Camping in fairgrounds, KOAs and quite often amongst the sagebrush, he is always looking for a good safe place to spend the evening.

After leaving Sundance, his journey will lead him to the Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument, then south to the stateline of Nebraska and on east to Iowa. His ultimate ending to the trip is to touch the waters of the Atlantic ocean sometime in August. He plans to retire his ride in Hartford, Conn., after seeing the home of Samuel Clements. He will return to Oregon via bus transportation to get back to work for another season.

When asked if he had a good appetite after a day of traveling he stated, "When I started this trip, my doc told me I needed to be at about 190 lbs. for my health. I weighed in at 220 lbs. when I left and at Arco, Idaho I tipped the scale at 180. I am not much for eating breakfast and carry trail mix and whole grain to get through most of the day. Don't get me wrong, I'm not a health nut - just a nut."

A man of means to make this journey, he stays in touch with a cell phone and uses ATMs when the need arises to replenish his cash flow. He has found generosity of the American people along the way. More times than not, he is offered money and food when stopped for the evening. He recounts a couple of occasions when he has woken up to start his day and found money under a rock beside him and one time he had some money taped to his bike handle. On two different occasions he was forced to receive twenty dollars from folks that would not take no for an answer. He said to not accept the money would have hurt their feelings so he has saved all the money



Robert Burnett, Talent, Ore., is shown preparing for his departure from Sundance for Hartford, Conn., recently.

he has received and is sending it to the National Diabetes Foundation fund.

When asked how long he has been riding bikes for his travel, he said about 35 years. It seems that Burnett liked to drink a little after work and he stated, "After never having a driver's license, driving while drinking, no insurance and a visit with the judge, I gave my Buick to my mother. The judge was kind back then, he gave me a \$305 fine, made me go to classes to stop driving while drinking and told me I had to get a driver's license." He paused for a sip of coffee and continued, "Well, I only sent the judge \$15 of that fine, never got a driver's license, but I did go to the classes. When I had to return to

visit with the judge, he asked me why I did not pay the fine, and I told him I used my money elsewhere. He asked if I had gotten my driver's license and I was not going to lie and said no. He then asked if I had attended the classes and if I had the records of attendance. You know the judge was kind. He let me sit it out for \$20 a day to square things up." He went on, "After that I quit drinkin', smokin' and driving, now over the years, I have had no car payments, no insurance payments, don't care about the price of gas and have not had to visit with the judge!"

Robert Burnett may be a little nuts by some standards of the way Americans choose to live their lives, but by the standards that he has set for himself, he is a wise man.

## The Sundance Kid... little did he know

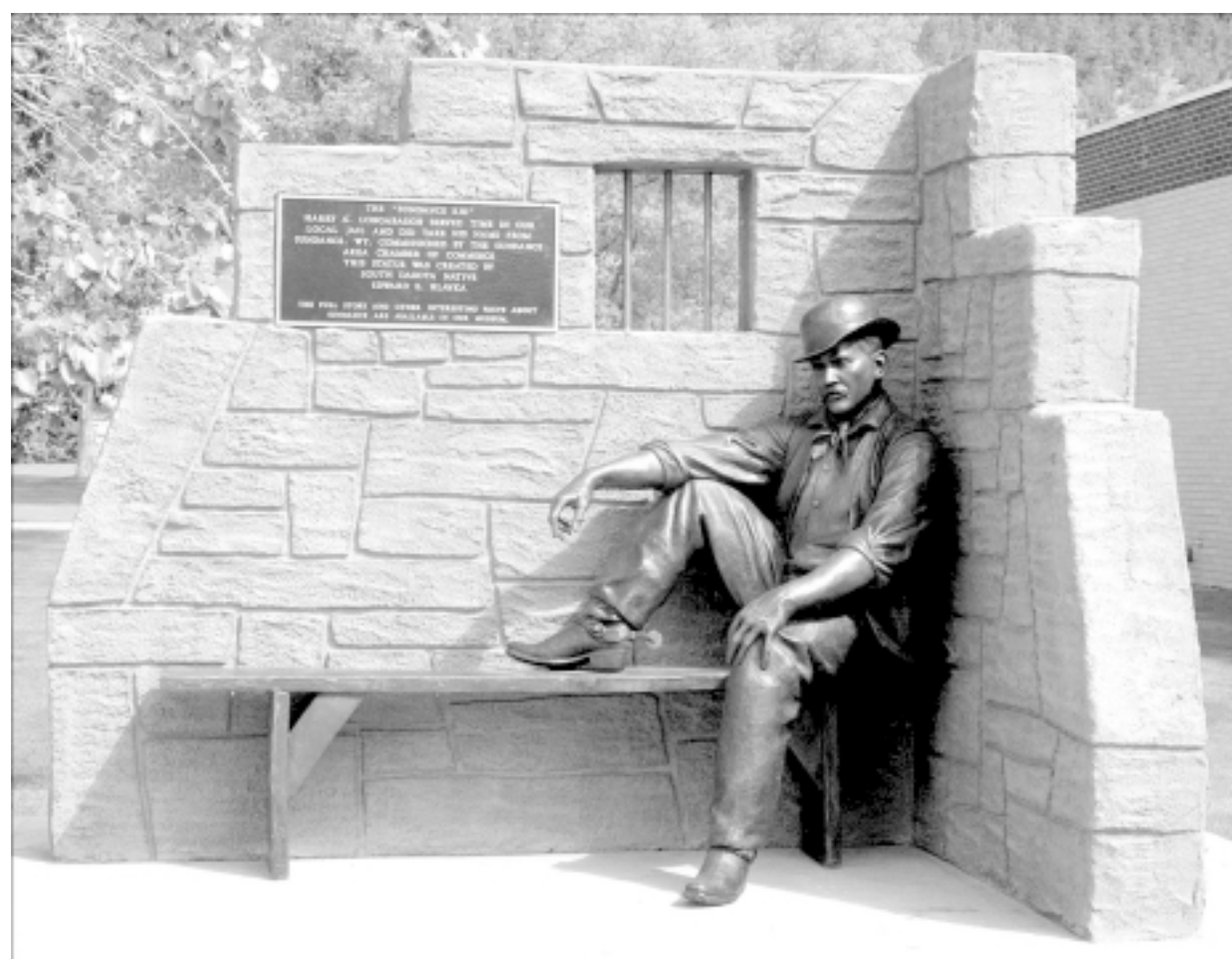
by Linda Moberg

"I had mixed emotions at first but now I'm prouder everyday that my great-uncle was the Sundance Kid," said William David Longabough of Jenkintown, Pa., in an article published by Bernice Fried Brodsky, 'In Search of the Sundance Kid'. "He was a part of history. The rest of my family are 'turned-off' and would like to forget the whole thing, except for my wife, my daughter Karin and my niece and nephew. But I see the Sundance Kid as just an adventurous young boy who went West and entered the way of life as it was then, when rustling wasn't even considered a crime at first. His education was above average. He was an avid reader and intelligent. He took up the cause, which was survival. If I thought he had killed anyone, perhaps I might feel differently." (note: William D. Longabough passed away in December 1998. He was the last person to carry the "Longabough/Longabough family name lineage. There still remain a number of living descendants. None of them carry the family name.)

According to research by descendants of "The Kid", Harry A. Longabough was the last child of five born to Josiah and Annie Longabough in the spring of 1867. At the time of his birth, Pennsylvania did not require birth records, so the exact date and place are unknown. The family has relied on census records as well as family records and memories for verification.

As a youngster, it is believed Harry loved to read. He had his own library card, issued January 31, 1882, for one dollar by the Young Men's Literary Union in Phoenixville. It appears that in later years Harry even learned to enjoy opera and the arts.

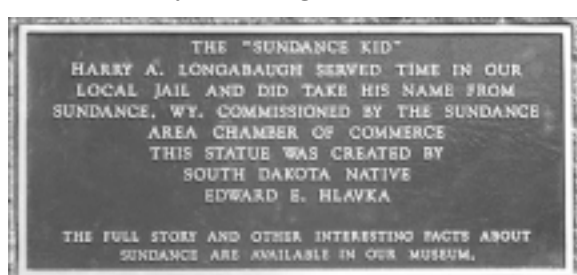
By the 1880 census, when Harry was listed as 13 years old, it appears that he had already left home. He was boarding and working at the Wilmer Ralston Farm in West Vincent Township in Pennsylva-



The dedication and unveiling of the Sundance Kid will be Friday, June 11 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. The annual community garage sale will also be taking place on the Courthouse lawn that day.

nia. It is thought that this was where he first developed his love for working with horses.

On August 30, 1882, at the age of fourteen he left his family in Pennsylvania to go West in a cov-



ered wagon with a cousin's family from Illinois. They eventually homesteaded in Cortez, Colo., and he stayed with them for almost

four years.

In the spring of 1886 he headed north to Montana with a cattle drive, according to Donna Ernst who is married to a great-great nephew of The Sundance Kid.

When winter came he was laid off and moved to the Black Hills area near the Montana-Wyoming-South Dakota border looking for work. After about a month, it is believed he began working his way back toward his old employer in Montana. On the return he stopped at the VVV Ranch also called Western Ranches, Ltd. located on the Belle Fourche River in northeastern Crook County, Wyoming, and that is where his

demise began. On February 27, 1887, at the age of 20, Harry stole a light grey horse valued at \$80 and the personal goods and chattels of Alonzo Craven. Crook County Court records show that in August 1887 Longabough was tried for grand larceny and found guilty. He was sentenced the same day to 18 months in the county jail at hard labor.

According to public record, on January 22, 1889, H.A. Alden, the Crook County prosecuting attorney, sent a letter to Colin Hunter, the secretary to the Board of the Prison Commission, in which he wrote, "We have forwarded to the Governor a petition for the pardon of Harry Longabough whose

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## City Council to hold public hearing on capital facilities tax

The Sundance City Council will hold a public hearing at the regular meeting on June 7 at 8:00 p.m. in the City Hall. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the proposed one percent capital facilities tax that will be on the general election ballot on November 2. The Council will receive comments and answer questions regarding the tax.

\$3,750,000 to be divided pro rata among Sundance, Hulett, Moorcroft, Pine Haven and the county.

Sundance will use \$350,000 of the tax money to pay down debt incurred from the water bonds, lines and tank. The remaining \$400,000 will be used to extend sewer and water services to the new additions in the south and southeast part of Sundance.

## Six local positions to be filled on the general election ballot

Up for re-election is one County Commissioner, the State House District One Representative and the State Senate District One Representative, as well as the mayor and two city council positions.

The deadline to turn in applications for these positions was 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2004.

Running for Crook County Commissioner is incumbent Harold J. "Stormy" Burch, Jr. of Hulett. Burch was appointed to the Commission when Mark Semlek resigned to take the State House Representative position. Challenging Burch in the election will be R. Reynard Mills of Sundance. Mills has been a long time member on the Crook County School District No. 1 Board. Also running for County Commissioner is Patricia A. Frolander of Sundance. She and her husband Robert ranch west of Sundance.

In the race for State House District One Representative is incumbent Mark Semlek (R) of Moorcroft. Semlek has served one two-year term. Running against Semlek is Ogden Driskill (R), a long-time rancher from Devils Tower.

State Senate District One incumbent C.L. "Chuck" Townsend is running unopposed. Townsend was appointed to the Senate on December 5, 2003, after Bill L. Barton resigned for health reasons.

The Sundance City Council has two positions opening. Incumbent Paul S. Brooks will be looking to retain his seat on the council. Incumbent Norma Peterson, who was appointed when Steve Lenz resigned to run for County Commissioner, will be running to keep her seat. April D. Gill, Crook County Sheriff's Office secretary, dispatcher and reserve deputy, will also run for city council.

Mayor James A. Miller is running unopposed for his ninth term.

## Hospital receives terrorism grant

The Sundance Hospital received a grant from the state in the amount of \$20,250 to use towards bioterrorism protection. They also received a \$10,000 grant last year for the same purpose.

The \$10,000 grant will be used to purchase a biohazard hood for the hospital.

The new grant will be used to insure the safety of personnel in the lab by conducting staff training. New reference and text books will be purchased for staff.

The money will also be used to purchase a new microscope, centrifuge, incubator for micro-organisms and a computer with high speed Internet to send and receive pictures for communication in case of a bioterrorism attack. The equipment will arrive in three to six months.