

**...Bat's Adventures**

*(Continued from previous page)*

His was a life that inspired not only those dime novels but also serious biographies and historical accounts, a movie, a TV series, and a classic Broadway musical that features a thinly veiled Bat Masterson.

Several of Masterson's more memorable adventures took place in Texas. On a June morning in 1874, the 20-year-old Canadian-born Kansas farm boy was holed up with a party of buffalo hunters, 28 men and one woman, inside the ruins of an old trading post near the Canadian River and present-day Stinnett. An estimated 700 warriors led by Comanche chief Quanah Parker had the hunters under siege. At times they "descended on us like a storm," buffalo hunter Billy Dixon recalled years later, "taunting us in every imaginable way."

In the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, as it would come to be called, Masterson was the youngest of the hunters. He "was a chunk of steel," Dixon recalled, "and anything that struck him in those days always drew fire."

Masterson "should be remembered for the valor that marked his conduct," Dixon said. A year later, he was living in Mobeetie, a scruffy and lawless Panhandle settlement favored by buffalo hunters and soldiers from nearby Fort Elliott. Temple Lee Houston, a Panhandle attorney and Sam Houston's youngest son, described Mobeetie as "a baldheaded whiskey town." Rancher Charles Goodnight once said that Mobeetie may have been "the hardest place I ever saw on the frontier except Cheyenne, Wyoming."

Masterson was working as a faro dealer in a saloon called the Lady Gay. He hadn't been there long when he and a tough ex-cavalry sergeant named Melvin King got crossways over

the affections of a dance-hall beauty named Mollie Brennan.

Near midnight on January 25, 1876, Brennan and Masterson were sitting at a table inside the dance hall where she worked. King burst in with a drawn revolver. His first shot hit Masterson, shattering his hip; the second tore through Brennan, killing her instantly. Masterson managed to rise off the floor and fire a shot, mortally wounding King.

Masterson left town. The young woman is buried in Old Mobeetie Cemetery.

The 21-year-old Masterson wandered into the Black Hills of South Dakota and then to Cheyenne before settling in Dodge City, Kansas. In that notorious cattle town, he made his living as a gambler and a county sheriff, working alongside Earp and his brothers.

Legend has it that Masterson killed 28 men during his years in the West, although three is more likely, including the man who shot and killed his brother, Ed Masterson, on a Dodge City street. Three is the number he claimed in court during a libel suit he filed against a New York newspaper.

Masterson left Dodge City in the early 1880s and spent most of the next 20 years in Denver, where he gambled, dealt faro and promoted prize fights. He also wrote for a Denver paper. In 1893 he married Emma Moulton, a young woman who ran races for money against her first husband, a world-class sprinter named Ed "the Gopher Boy" Moulton. She also was a juggler of bowling pins.

Masterson returned to Texas in 1896 for a heavyweight championship bout arranged by Judge Roy Bean, the self-proclaimed "Law West of the Pecos." Prize fighting had been outlawed in the U.S., so the fight



**Cheer Camp!** *The Bronte Longhorn Cheerleaders recently attended UCA Cheer Camp. The girls received a third place trophy in the small varsity division, a superior trophy for receiving all blue ribbons during evaluations, and the spirit stick. Makayla Lee and Leroy the Longhorn (Nikkole Harendt) were awarded All American honors. Kim Rosales-Herring was awarded the Pin It Forward award from a UCA Cheerleader and Jessica Carlile received also received the Pin It Forward award from a Sudan Cheerleader. This award is for being respectful, having positive attitude, but also for having fun.*

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