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Review of Pahaska Tepee: Buffalo Bill's old hunting lodge and hotel, a history, 1901-1947

Joni Gilkerson

Nebraska State Historical Society

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Pahaska Tepee: Buffalo Bill's old hunting lodge and hotel, a history, 1901-1947. By W. Hudson Kensel. Cody, Wyoming: Buffalo Bill's Historical Center, 1987. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. viii+105 pp. \$6.95.

Colonel William "Buffalo Bill" Cody's business ventures other than his Wild West Show have received little attention from scholars. This book provides a history of one of Buffalo Bill's commercial establishments—Pahaska Tepee, a hunting lodge and hotel located near the eastern boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Appropriately, the Sioux name means "Long Hair's Lodge."

W. H. Kensel, professor of history at California State University, traces his interest in and familiarity with Pahaska Tepee from childhood experiences there. He begins his account in 1901, when Cody selected the site for Pahaska, then traces its evolution as a mountain resort through the next forty-five years. Designed by Abraham Archibald Anderson, the lodge was officially opened in 1904 but was not actually opened to tourists until its completion in 1905. The two-story building of lodgepole pine logs featured a rustic interior with a great livingroom and stone fireplace. Later buildings on the property included log cabins, a dancing pavilion, a club house, a bath house, a barn, and stables.

Because Buffalo Bill's visits to Pahaska were infrequent, Kensel focuses on the hunting lodge as a business operation. After Cody's death in 1917, Pahaska experienced several brief ownerships until 1926, when it passed into the hands of Alberta T. Wilkinson. Kensel's history ends in 1946, when the Wilkinsons sold the property to Henry H. R. Coe, who relocated or demolished many of Pahaska's old buildings. The book also concentrates on the building of the Cody Road from Cody, Wyoming, to Yellowstone National Park and on the transportation network that was developed to bring tourists to the area. The excellent photographs and advertisements reproduced in the book add visual appeal to

this well-written volume. Although the abundant data Kensel has presented concerning dates, people, and occurrences may render the book more popular among scholars and students than general readers looking for light reading, *Pahaska Tepee* is enjoyable.

Kensel's portrait of Pahaska evokes romanticism and gives one a feeling of what it was like to be a visitor in Cody country in years gone by. It will surely inspire curiosity in its readers and may even suggest a new spot for a summer vacation. I was glad that the old lodge, although no longer the centerpiece of Pahaska, had been listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. Perhaps those owners still to come will also appreciate the value of the old log structure and continue to preserve this artifact that holds so much history.

JONI GILKERSON

Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office
Nebraska State Historical Society