

Cossacks, Indians and Buffalo Bill

Chapter Five

1914 Kit Carson's Wild West – a shot rang out

“Mrs. Alien Kirk, sister of attorney W. T. Cain, had a reserved seat. On the opposite side of the tent there was another section of reserved seats. A steady rain was falling, and the tent was leaking, causing many people to raise umbrellas. Mrs. Kirk said she would go across to the other seats where her brother was and get an umbrella. She proceeded to do so but failed to ask the woman at the reserved seat entrance for a return check or ticket. When she attempted to enter the reserved seat section on the opposite side the two men on duty there demanded a ticket or a quarter. One was an American and the other was the Cossack. Mrs. Kirk stated that she had a seat on the other side and only wanted to get an umbrella from her brother. The Cossack could speak no English except perhaps a few words, “ticket” “quarter” etc. Mrs. Cain saw that Mrs. Kirk was trying to get in and went to her, leading her into the seats. A controversy resulted and Cain struck an American showman. The Cossack had followed several steps when Cain turned and struck him with an umbrella. He drew a small whip from his belt...and struck Mr. Cain. There was much confusion and people stood up on the seats.”

“...after the trouble between Mr. Cain and the showman subsided, the Cossack made his way back to the reserved seat entrance and then turned toward the side wall of the tent near the end of the reserved seat section and was within about two feet of the tent when the shot struck him.

Closing Act

William F. Cody once said: “Out West, you know, we don't die. We just dry up and blow away,” and that is what happened on January 10, 1917, at five minutes past twelve.