

around his life, with some claiming he was killed by Harry Love while others insist the head belonged to someone else.

Elfego Baca (1865-1945)

Elfego Baca led an adventure-filled life in the Wild West as a gun-fighting ruffian who eventually became one of New Mexico's most fearless lawmen. The most popular story about him took place in 1884. At only nineteen years of age, Elfego learned that several drunken cowboys were terrorizing the local Mexican townspeople of Frisco (now Reserve). He stole some guns, purchased a mail-order sheriff's badge, "persuaded" a justice of the peace to deputize him, and made the 130-mile trek south, determined to bring about justice. After arresting and jailing one of the cowboys, Elfego was confronted by eighty bloodthirsty ranch hands bent on revenge. He survived, possibly having killed four and having wounded six without receiving a scratch. He subsequently became sheriff of Socorro County and held a succession of public offices. His adventures—real and imagined alike—inspired a Disney series called *Elfego Baca* and a 1962 movie, *Elfego Baca: Six Gun Law*, featuring Robert Loggia as Elfego and introducing Annette Funicello.

Juan Cortina (1824-1892)

Juan Nepomuceno Cortina came from a wealthy Mexican cattle-ranching family with extensive land holdings reaching from Camargo, Tamaulipas (Mexico) to Brownsville, Texas. In 1859, after the Mexican-American War ended and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo had been signed, Cortina encountered a city marshal beating a man who had once worked for the Cortina family. Enraged by the marshal's refusal to release his victim, Cortina shot him in the shoulder and fled to Mexico. Later that year, Cortina returned to Brownsville leading armed forces. The militia executed four Anglos and released several imprisoned Mexicans. Cortina justified his actions, insisting he was "mak-

FACING PAGE, UPPER LEFT: *Elfego Baca*, New Mexico's famous gunslinger-turned-lawman, is said to have single-handedly fought off eighty marauding cowboys who were terrorizing local townspeople.

UPPER RIGHT: Tiburcio Vásquez became one of California's most notorious bandits. After killing a man at the age of 14 (the circumstances for which are not entirely clear), he embarked on a career of crime and romance.

LOWER LEFT: Image of *La Valentina*, the actual model for one of the most popular and lasting songs of the Mexican Revolution of 1910, the anonymous "La Valentina."

LOWER RIGHT: Enraged by Anglo mistreatment of Mexican workers, Juan Cortina shot a marshal in Brownsville, Texas, and fled to Mexico. He later returned with a Mexican militia.

ing use of the sacred right of self-preservation" against Anglos who were "despoiling the Mexicans of the lands." The U.S. Army eventually defeated his forces in Rio Grande City on December 27, 1859. Cortina continued his fighting, but alongside Benito Juárez, who was battling the French occupation of Mexico in 1862. After a brief stint in Mexican politics, Cortina was imprisoned by dictator Porfirio Díaz from 1876 to 1890. He died in 1892.

Butch Cassidy (1866-1908) and the Sundance Kid (1870-1908)

Born Robert Leroy Parker in Beaver, Utah, "Butch Cassidy" adopted the name of a local rancher and began a life of crime rustling cattle by 1884. He robbed his first bank in Telluride, Colorado in 1889. Soon after, Cassidy acquired a reputation as a kind of Robin Hood, an outlaw fighting for settlers' rights against the cattle barons of the American West. Cassidy and his gang, known as the "Wild Bunch," robbed trains and banks in Utah, Idaho, South Dakota, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Nevada. By 1902, the gang had disbanded, and Butch Cassidy left the United States for South America. After robbing a Bolivian mining company's payroll, the two known as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were finally cornered in San Vicente in 1908 and killed in a shootout with Bolivian soldiers. However, some surviving family members of Robert Leroy Parker claim to have seen him in later years.

Harry Longbaugh, or "the Sundance Kid," was born in Colorado in 1870. He began rustling cattle during the 1880s and served eighteen months in prison in Sundance, Wyoming. Upon reentering society, Longbaugh began robbing banks, and eventually met Robert Leroy Parker, a.k.a. Butch Cassidy, in 1900. It was said that the "Wild Bunch" got their name from their habit of celebrating after successful robberies, and that its members preferred to shoot horses out from under their pursuers rather than kill the riders.

Gregorio Cortez (1875-1916)

Born near Matamoros, Mexico, on June 22, 1875, Gregorio Cortez moved with his family to Manor, Texas, when he was two years old. His reputation as a bandit began in the summer of 1901 when he killed two sheriffs and eluded the Texas Rangers for almost two weeks. Many Tejanos considered him to be a victim of racism. Gregorio fit the extremely vague description of a wanted horse thief. In the attempt to

ABOVE: A painting of *Murrieta* by Charles Nahl (1859), which has graced numerous accounts of the noble bandit.

