

TOMBSTONE PERSONALITIES

CURLY BILL BROCIUS

Curly Bill Brocius was one of the most famous and charismatic members of the Arizona's famed criminal gang, the Cowboys. Although capable of heinous acts, Curly Bill was a generous and good-natured ally to his friends and many contemporaries speak of him with affection and respect. In spite of this, he rose to prominence as the leader of Arizona's infamous criminal gang, the Cowboys.

Curly Bill's early life is a complete blank. His birthplace, parents, possible Civil War service and perhaps even his real name are a mystery. It is known that he came to Arizona from Texas in 1878 with a cattle drive and decided to stay. During a conversation with Wyatt Earp (Earp was transporting Brocius to Tucson to stand trial for the accidental killing of Tombstone town Marshal, Fred White) Curly Bill admitted that he was a fugitive from El Paso who had killed a man during a bank holdup and escaped from jail before his execution date. Brocius may also have been involved in The Lincoln County War, fighting on the side of the Murphy-Dolan ring. However, both stories are unsubstantiated.

Curly Bill was infamous for his off beat sense of humor. During a dance in a border town dancehall, Brocius and his compatriots forced the mostly Mexican clientele to strip to their underwear and dance while shooting at the dancers' feet. Another prank occurred when Brocius and Ike Clanton entered a church during Sunday services, held the congregation at gunpoint and forced the preacher to deliver, in Brocius' words, "a first class sermon". Only after the terrified preacher spoke for an hour and led the congregation in several hymns did the two outlaws relent. However, Brocius and Ike Clanton allegedly complimented their hostages on their fine performance and placed a large contribution in the poor box. Both events are alluded to in period newspapers from the area.

Brocius' path crossed the Earps when he accidentally shot and killed Tombstone town Marshal Fred White. After being "buffaloed" (hit in the head and knocked unconscious by Wyatt's pistol), he was taken into custody by Virgil Earp. Although acquitted of the killing after the judge ruled it an accidental death, Brocius nursed a grudge against Wyatt and his brothers that added more fuel to the simmering feud between them and the Cowboys.

Curly Bill was present at the Skeleton Canyon Massacre and survived the Guadalupe Canyon Massacre that claimed the life of Newman "Old Man" Clanton, leader of the Cowboy gang. After the death of Clanton, Curly Bill became the leader of the Cowboys and it was under his leadership that the war between the Cowboys and the Earps came to its final bloody end.

After the Gunfight at the OK corral, Curly Bill may have been present at the attacks against Virgil and Morgan Earp. He was deputized and made a member of the posse formed by sheriff John Behan to apprehend the Earps and their allies during the Earp Vendetta ride. The final chapter of Brocius' life was about to play out and would be as shrouded in mystery as his past.

Acting on information that Earp and his allies were in the Whetstone Mountains, Brocius and several other cowboys scouted the area. On March 24th, 1882, the cowboys gained the advantage of the Earp party and ambushed them, although they soon lost the initiative. While under heavy fire, Wyatt allegedly shot Curly Bill and killed him with two full buckshot loads to the chest. Several other cowboys were wounded or killed and the ambush ended in a victory for Earp and his allies. Unfortunately, the only evidence we have that this event occurred is Wyatt Earp's account of the attack.

What is certain is that Curly Bill was never seen again after March and if he was killed, the body was never recovered, although several Cowboys claimed to have buried him somewhere on the McLaurry ranch. There were rumors that Brocius fled to Mexico and lived there for years afterward but he was never heard of or seen again. His passing remains as much a mystery as his birth.

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| STR: 4 | AGL: 3 | MND: 4 | RES: 3 |
| Move: 5" | DR: 5 | Fate: 3 | Vitality: 3 |
| Traits: | Combat Attack 1 | | |
| | Combat Evade 1 | | |
| | Crack Shot 2 | | |
| | Gambler | | |
| | Greased Lightning 1 | | |
| | Inspiration | | |
| | Leader 3 | | |
| Equipment: | Single Action Heavy Pistol (DN 5, ER 10", Fan) | | |
| | Knife (DN5) | | |

SPECIAL RULES

CHARISMA- If the leader of a warband that has Curly Bill as a member is lost, for example, is KOed, Curly Bill will take over and adds the level in his Leader trait to the warband's initiative rolls.