



RIDE AGAIN IN PILOT POINT

By Wendy Haun · Pilot Point Main Street | Photos courtesy of Nite Life Magazine

Every year, infamous outlaws Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow ride again in North Texas.

While the actual Bonnie & Clyde died in a hail of gunfire in rural Louisiana in the 1930s, Pilot Point comes together every year to commemorate the filming of the classic film starring Faye Dunaway and Warren Beatty. “Bonnie & Clyde”, shot in 1966 in various locations around north Texas, filmed its famous bank robbery scene in the Farmers and Merchants Bank on the corner of Washington and Main.

This year’s Bonnie & Clyde Days Festival, which recognizes the Academy Award-winning film shot right in the Historic Pilot Point Square, will be on October 14. From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., this festival boasts activities for families, the Soap Box Challenge, vendor booths, live music and other performances, plus the famed reenactments.

THE FILMING

Dunaway and Beatty were the leads in a star-studded cast that descended upon north Texas in the fall of 1966 for the filming of the movie, which also included appearances by Gene Hackman, Estelle Parsons (who won an Oscar for her portrayal of Blanche Barrow) and Gene Wilder.

Frequently, director Arthur Penn would cast locals to play the extras. That’s how Purple Door Salon owner Bobbie Jezek found herself in the film as one of the children. Other local extras, according to news reports, included relatives of Mayor George Hilz (his 11-year-old daughter Karen Hilz and nephew 14-year-old Michael Hilz), and Mrs. Harold Smith (wife of then Chamber of Commerce President).

“Bonnie & Clyde”, while receiving mixed reviews, was one of the top 5 grossing films of 1967, earning \$70 million worldwide at the box office.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

An oft-repeated legend is that Bonnie & Clyde were frequently spotted in the Pilot Point area, but not to rob any banks. Clyde Barrow had relatives in the area, who would offer safe haven to the Barrow Gang between their robberies.

Newspaper reports show that Clyde Barrow was briefly incarcerated in the Denton jail in 1930 in connection with the burglary of the Motor Mark Garage.

2023 FESTIVAL

This year’s Bonnie & Clyde Days will bring back the festival everyone knows and loves, while also taking it



to the next level.

Headlining the slate of music for this year's festival will be The Damn Quails. The headlining set will begin at 6:30 pm on the main stage. They will cap off a day filled with live entertainment, everything from dance troupes to other live music groups, including Hayden Baker, Hannah Hokit and Deanie Deal & Dave Hollowell.

We're very excited that the Ford Masonic Lodge has taken over the much-beloved Soap Box Challenge. Come up Washington Street towards the Library and check out the racers as they go for glory!

Festival attendees can expect the reenactment of the bank robbery scene (organized by the Garage Door Theater), a free kids' zone, classic car show, including a stellar fleet of Model As, the Pie-Eating Contest and antique tractors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION


 bonnieandclydedays.org

 visitpilotpoint.org

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