



BONNIE AND CLYDE

RETURN TO 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 8. This year, the festival will have extended hours, with activities for families, vendor booths, live music and the famed reenactments going all day from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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.



2022 FESTIVAL

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

Festival attendees can expect the reenactment of the bank robbery scene (this year being organized by the Garage Door Theater), red dirt country music, a free kids’ zone, classic car show, including a stellar fleet of Model As, the Pie-Eating Contest sponsored by Moms on Main and antique tractors.

Headlining the slate of music for this year’s festival will be Dalton Domino. 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.

Check back to the next edition of the 380 Guide for the full schedule of events, or log on to visitspilotpoint.org for the latest details!

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