

Billy the Kid (GURPS 3rd edition, 311.5 pts.)

5'8" tall with blue eyes, blond hair or dirty blond hair, smooth complexion.

by J. Scott Pittman

Attributes [120]

Strength 10 [0]; **Dexterity** 16 [80]; **Health** 12 [20], **Intelligence** 12 [20]

Advantages [129]

Alertness +3 [15], **Ally** (Sherriff John Copeland) [2 points; helpful but rarely appears], **Ally** (Tom O'Folliard) [5], **Ally Group** (The Regulators) [30 points; small group that appears almost all of the time], **Charisma** +2 [10], **Combat Reflexes** [15], **Cool** [1], **Fearlessness** +2 [4], **Good Reputation** (+3) with the Hispanic Community (as a defender of the people) [7 points; large class of people, recognized practically all the time], **Intuition** [15], **Luck** [15], **Unusual Background**: Natural (Billy the Kid can spend any amount of character points on gun-related skills) [10]

Disadvantages [-25]

Sense of Duty (to friends) [-5], **Code of Honor** (Keep your Word, Never Shoot a Man in the Back) [-5], **Social Stigma**: Wanted Outlaw [-15]

Quirks [-4]

Friendly and personable at times [-1], Neat dresser, favoring an unadorned Mexican sombrero [-1], Doesn't care for money [-1], Constantly practices shooting anything he sees, at any angle, on or off his horse [-1]

Skills [91.5]

Animal Handling: Cattle Rustling 12 [4], **Area Knowledge (Silver City and Lincoln County)** 11[1], **Brawling** 16[1], **Cooking** Cheese Making (specialization) 16 [1/2], **Equestrian Acrobatics** 14 [1], **Escape** 16 [4], **Fanning** 19 [8], **Fast-Draw** 23*[2], **Fast-Talk** 12 [2], **First Aid** 11[1], **Gambling** 12 [2], **Guns: Black Powder Weapons** (Colt Thunderer, Colt Single Action Army Revolver) 22* [17], **Guns: Black Powder Weapons** (Winchester Rifle) 22* [16], **Horse Riding** 15 [1], **Intimidation** 11[2], **Knife** 16 [1], **Language: Spanish** 12 [2], **Riding** 15[1], **Slipping the Hammer** 19 [8], **Speed-Load (pistol)** 19 [8], **Stealth** 15 [1], **Streetwise** 12 [2]
Off-Hand Weapon Training: Billy does not receive any of the -4 penalty normally associated with off-hand use when using a pistol [6 points]

Equipment

Colt Single Action Army revolver and a Winchester rifle, 1873 model. It's said his favorite handgun was a Colt Thunderer (41 Long Colt double action), and he's known to have had a Smith & Wesson Model 3 (Schofield). He may have used a British Bulldog as a backup, as well.

Combat Scores

- **Perception**: 13 (with Alertness)
- **Fright**: 15
- **Initiative**: 8 (+1 to Billy's side, +2 if he is the leader)
- **Basic Damage**: Thrust 1d-2, Swing 1d
- **Attack (Brawling) Skill** 16, **Damage** 1d-3*
- **Attack**: Colt Single Action Army revolver **Skill** 22, **Damage** 2d+ (ss 12, acc 1, rof 1, ammo 6, recoil -2)
- **Attack**: Colt Thunderer (41 Long Colt double action): **Skill** 22, **Damage** 1d+1+ (ss11, Acc1, ROF 3*, ammo 6, recoil -1)
- **Attack**: Winchester rifle, 1873 model: **Skill** 22, **Damage** 3d+ (ss13, acc 7, AWt 2, ROF .5., Recoil -2, ammo 17+1)
- **Speed/Move**: **Speed**: 7; **Move**: 7
- **Defenses**: **Dodge**: 8
- **Hit Points**: 10
- **Damage Resistance**: None

Resources

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_the_Kid

Most of the background here is taken directly and simplified from the source above.



Background

William H. Bonney (William Henry McCarty, Jr., November 23, 1859), better known as **Billy the Kid** and also known as **William Antrim** (or Bonney, the name he used), was a gunman who became a frontier outlaw in the American Old West. According to legend, he killed 21 men, his first at the age of 18. He had a cunning skill with firearms.

Billy was catapulted into legend in 1881 when New Mexico's governor, Lew Wallace, placed a price on his head. In addition, newspapers carried stories about his exploits.

Billy the Kid was born two years before the Civil War in an Irish neighborhood in New York City (at 70 Allen Street). His mother's name was Catherine, who emigrated during the Great Famine and moved her two sons, William and Joseph, to Indianapolis, Indiana. There she met William Antrim. In 1873 the two were married in New Mexico, and settled in Silver City, but Catherine soon died from tuberculosis. Antrim became involved in prospecting and gambling, and during that period spent very little time at home with his wife and stepsons. At the age of 14, Billy worked at a hotel and was thought to be a fine boy, but he often read the novels that romanticized crime. He often had to fight larger boys due to his small frame.

He was forced to seek new lodgings when his foster family began to experience domestic problems. McCarty moved into a boarding house and pursued odd jobs, but in April 1875, McCarty was arrested for stealing cheese, and again on September 24, 1875 when he had clothing and firearms that had been stolen from a Chinese laundry owner. Two days after he was placed in jail, the teenager escaped up the chimney.

According to some accounts, McCarty eventually found work as an itinerant ranch hand and shepherd in southeastern Arizona. In 1876 McCarty settled in the vicinity of the Fort Grant Army Post in Arizona where he worked on ranches and tested his skills at local gaming houses.

During this time, McCarty became acquainted with John R. Mackie, a Scottish-born ex-cavalry private with a criminal bent. The two men supposedly became involved in the risky, but profitable, enterprise of horse thievery. McCarty, who stole from local soldiers, became known by the name of "Kid Antrim" due to his slight build. In 1877 The Kid was involved in a conflict with a blacksmith at Fort Grant, Frank P. "Windy" Cahill, who took pleasure in bullying the young The Kid. On August 17, Cahill attacked The Kid. Reliable accounts say that The Kid retaliated by shooting Cahill, who died. The coroner's inquest concluded that The Kid's shooting of Cahill was criminal and unjustifiable, although some witnesses disagreed.

The Kid fled the Arizona Territory and entered into New Mexico, and arrived at the former army post of Apache Tejo, where he joined a band of cattle rustlers who raided the herds of cattle magnate John Chisum. During this period The Kid was spotted by a resident of Silver City, and the teenager's involvement with the notorious gang was mentioned in a local newspaper. The Kid rode for a time with the gang of rustlers known as the Jesse Evans Gang, but then turned up in Pecos Valley, New Mexico. Apaches stole The Kid's horse, forcing him to walk many miles to the nearest settlement. At some point in 1877, The Kid began to refer to himself as "William H. Bonney". He worked in a cheese factory and as a cattle guard.

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A conflict known today as the Lincoln County War erupted between Irish businessmen Lawrence Murphy/James Dolan ("The House"), and new competing English businessmen Tunstall/McSween. On February 18, 1878, Tunstall was murdered by William Morton, Jesse Evans, Tom Hill, Frank Baker and Sheriff William J. Brady of Lincoln County – all members of a posse serving the House. This enraged The Kid and other ranch hands.

Tunstall's men formed their own group called the Regulators. The wanted men, Bill Morton and Frank Baker, attempted to flee, but upon returning, the Regulators reported that Morton and Baker had been shot on during an escape attempt. During their journey to Lincoln, the Regulators killed one of their own, McCloskey, whom they suspected of being a traitor.

Governor Samuel Beach Axtell proved hostile to the faction now headed by McSween. The Regulators became outlaws. The Governor refused to acknowledge the so-called "Santa Fe Ring", a group of corrupt politicians and business leaders led by U.S. Attorney Thomas Benton Catron. Catron cooperated closely with the House.

The Regulators wanted revenge on Sheriff William J. Brady, who had arrested The Kid and Deputy Fred Waite after Tunstall's murder. April 1, the Regulators ambushed Sheriff Brady and his deputy, killing them both in Lincoln's main street. Even though The Kid was shot in the thigh, the death was afterward seen as bloodthirsty and many that supported them stopped.

On April 4, in what became known as the Gunfight of Blazer's Mills, the Regulators sought the arrest of Buckshot Roberts, a former buffalo hunter whom they suspected of involvement in the Tunstall murder. Roberts refused to be taken alive, and he shot and killed the Regulators' leader, Dick Brewer. The public "admired the way Roberts put up a gutsy fight".

After Brewer's death, the Regulators elected Frank McNab as captain. For a short period, the Regulators benefited from the appointment of Sheriff John Copeland, who proved sympathetic to their cause. Copeland's authority was undermined by the House, which recruited members from among Brady's former deputies. On April 29, 1878, a posse including the Jesse Evans Gang and the Seven Rivers Warriors, under the direction of former Brady deputy George W. Peppin, engaged the new Regulator leader McNab, Ab Saunders and Frank Coe in a shootout at the Fritz Ranch. They killed McNab, severely wounded Saunders and captured Coe. Coe escaped custody a short time later. The next day the Regulators "iron clad" took up defensive positions in the town of Lincoln, where they traded shots with Dolan's men as well as U.S. cavalrymen. The only casualty was Dutch Charley Kruling, a House gunman wounded by a rifle slug fired by George Coe. By shooting at US government troops, the Regulators gained a new set of enemies.

On May 15, the Regulators tracked down Seven Rivers Warriors gang member Manuel Segovia, the suspected murderer of Frank McNab, and killed him. Around the time of Segovia's death, the Regulator "iron clad" gained a new member, a young Texas "cowpoke" named **Tom O'Folliard**, who became The Kid's close friend and constant companion.

The Regulators' position worsened when the governor removed Copeland and appointed House ally George Peppin as sheriff. The Kid and the other Regulators spent the next several months in hiding (for the Brady killing) and were trapped in McSween's home by members of the House and some of Brady's men. On July 19, a column of U.S. cavalry soldiers entered the fray. Although the soldiers were neutral, their actions favored the Dolan faction. After a five-day siege, the posse set McSween's house on fire. The Kid and the other Regulators fled. The posse shot McSween when he escaped the fire, essentially marking the end of the Lincoln County War.

Lew Wallace and amnesty

In the Autumn of 1878, the president appointed Lew Wallace, a former Union Army general, as Governor of the New Mexico Territory. In an effort to restore peace to Lincoln County, Wallace proclaimed an amnesty for any man involved in the Lincoln County War who was not already under indictment. The Kid, who had fled to Texas, was under indictment, but sent Wallace a letter requesting immunity in return for testifying in front of the Grand Jury. In March 1879, Wallace and The Kid met in Lincoln County. The Kid greeted the governor with a revolver in one hand and a Winchester rifle in the other. After days of considering Wallace's offer, The Kid agreed to testify.

The arrangement called for The Kid to submit to a token arrest and a short stay in jail until the conclusion of his courtroom testimony. Although The Kid's testimony helped to indict John Dolan, the district attorney—one of the powerful "House" faction leaders—disregarded Wallace's order to set The Kid free after his testimony. The Kid and O'Folliard escaped on horses.

The Kid survived by rustling, gambling, and taking defensive action. In January 1880, he reportedly killed a man named Joe Grant in a Fort Sumner saloon. Grant, who did not realize who his opponent was, boasted that he would kill "Billy the Kid" if he ever encountered him. In those days people loaded their revolvers with only five rounds, with the hammer down on an empty chamber. This was done to prevent an accidental discharge should the hammer be struck. The Kid asked Grant if he could see his ivory-handled revolver and, while looking at the weapon, rotated the cylinder so the hammer would fall on the empty chamber when the trigger was pulled. As [The Kid] was leaving the saloon, his back turned to Grant, he heard a distinct click. He spun around before Grant could reach a loaded chamber. Always a good marksman, he shot Grant in the chin.

In November 1880, a posse pursued and trapped The Kid's gang inside a ranch house owned by his friend James Greathouse at Anton Chico in the White Oaks area. James Carlyle of the posse entered the house under a white flag, in an effort to negotiate the group's surrender. Greathouse was sent out to act as a hostage for the posse. At some point in the evening, Carlyle evidently decided the outlaws were stalling. According to one version, Carlyle heard a shot that had been fired accidentally outside. Concluding that the posse had shot down Greathouse, he chose escape, crashed through a window and was fired upon and killed. Recognizing their mistake, the posse became demoralized and scattered, enabling The Kid and his gang to slip away.

Running on a pledge to rid the area of rustlers, Pat Garrett was elected as sheriff of Lincoln County in November 1880; in early December, he assembled a posse to arrest The Kid, at that time known exclusively as "Billy the Kid." The Kid carried a \$500 bounty on his head that had been authorized by governor Lew Wallace. The posse fared well, and his men closed in quickly. On December 19 The Kid barely escaped a midnight ambush in Fort Sumner, which left one member of the gang, Tom O'Folliard, dead.

On December 23 the Kid was tracked to an abandoned stone building known as "Stinking Springs". While The Kid and his gang were asleep, Garrett's posse surrounded the building and waited. The next morning a cattle rustler named Charlie Bowdre stepped outside to feed his horse. Mistaken for The Kid, he was shot down. Soon afterwards, somebody reached for the horse's rope, but Garrett shot and killed the horse, whose body blocked the building's only exit. As the lawmen began to cook breakfast, Garrett and The Kid engaged in a friendly exchange, with Garrett inviting The Kid outside to eat, and The Kid inviting Garrett to "go to hell." Realizing that they had no hope of escape, the besieged and hungry outlaws finally surrendered and were allowed to join in the meal.

The Kid was transported from Fort Sumner to Las Vegas. On April 9, after two days of testimony, The Kid was found guilty of the murder of Sheriff Brady, the only conviction ever secured against any of the combatants in the Lincoln County War. He was sentenced by Judge Warren Bristol to hang.

With his execution scheduled, The Kid was removed to Lincoln, where he was held under guard by two of Garrett's deputies, James Bell and Robert Ollinger, on the top floor of the town courthouse. While Garrett was out of town, The Kid stunned the territory by killing both of his guards and escaping. The Kid slipped off his manacles at the top of the stairs, struck Bell over the head with them, grabbed Bell's own gun, and shot him with it. The Kid scooped up Ollinger's 10-gauge double-barrel shotgun. As Ollinger came running into view, The Kid leveled the shotgun at him, called out "Hello Bob!" and killed him. Then the young outlaw mounted a horse and rode out of town, reportedly singing.

Death

Sheriff Pat Garrett responded to rumors that The Kid was lurking in the vicinity of Fort Sumner. Garrett and two deputies set out on July 14, 1881, to question one of the town's residents, a friend of The Kid's named Pete Maxwell. Close to midnight, as Garrett and Maxwell sat talking in a darkened bedroom, The Kid unexpectedly entered, and failed to recognize Garrett in the poor light. The Kid drew his revolver and backed away, asking "*¿Quién es? ¿Quién es?*" (Spanish for "Who is it? Who is it?"). Recognizing The Kid's voice, Garrett drew his revolver and fired twice, the first bullet striking The Kid in the chest just above his heart; The Kid fell to the floor, gasped for a minute and died. The next morning, the Justice of the Peace made out the death certificate but Garrett rejected the first one and demanded another one be written more in his favor. The Kid's body was then prepared for burial, and at noon was buried at the Fort Sumner cemetery between his two friends, Tom O'Folliard and Charlie Bowdre.