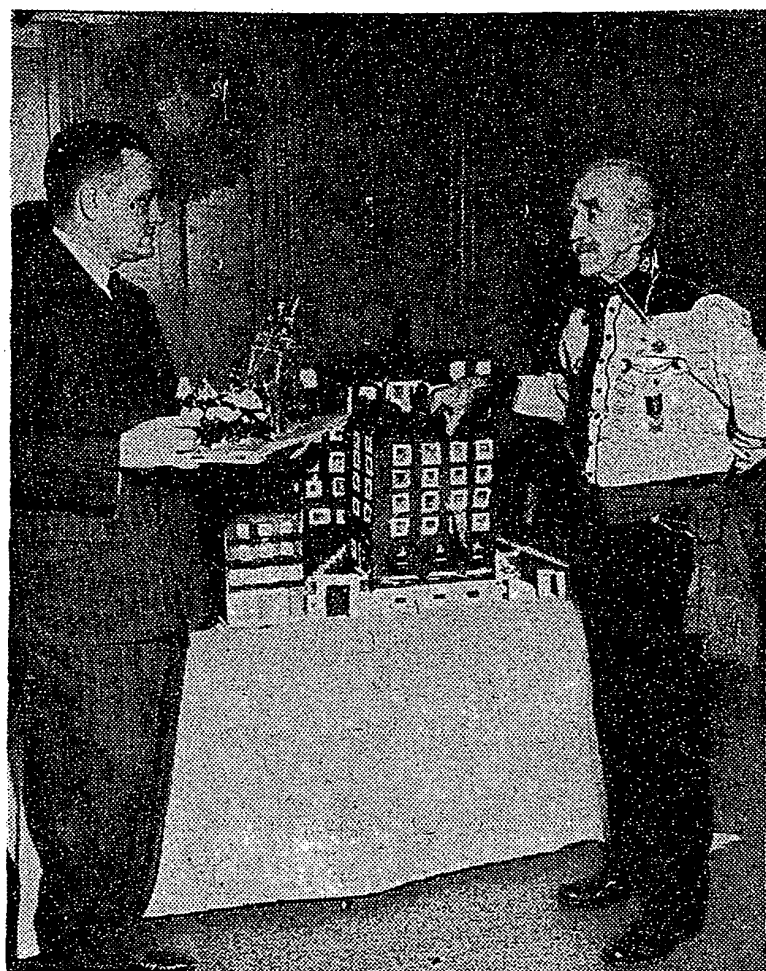


'Broncho' Charlie A-Rarin' at 100; He'll Ride Herd Now on Fund Drive



The former plainsman, who will be 100 years old on Jan. 1, at the party tendered for him at the Community Service Center. He presented a wood carving he made with a jack-knife to William T. Kirk, Special Services Director of the Society. The New York Times

"Broncho Charlie" Miller, a legendary figure in his own time, will complete next Sunday the first hundred years of an action-packed existence that has left him with deep Indian arrow scars, a flowing white mane reaching to his shoulders and a strong distaste for "drugstore cowboys."

Recalling his years as Indian fighter, Texas Ranger, ranch hand and Canadian cavalryman in World War I, the only living pony express dispatch rider concluded yesterday that his first century was probably the hardest. The wiry looking Westerner opined cheerily that "any day now some fool notion may take me and off I'll be."

But Broncho's appointment yesterday by the Community Service Society as chairman of its children's fund drive appeared to be inducement enough for him to remain at Tompkins Square House, 131 Avenue B, instead of bolting the narrow confines of Manhattan for another look at the wide open spaces of the Far West.

Clad in a native "Wild West" riding outfit, this is the story the talkative, alert Broncho told visitors. His last brush with the Indians came in 1861 when, at the age of 11, he was running the mail for the pony express along the 174-mile route between Carson City, Nev., and Sacramento, Calif. During that encounter, he was severely wounded by Indian arrows above his right eye and in the wrist, but managed to escape after the Indians had killed his two companions.

Practically from the day of his

birth, Jan. 1, 1850, "Broncho" was known far and wide for his ability to ride wild horses. Later he toured this country and Europe for ten years with Buffalo Bill Cody's show.

Born in a covered wagon on the Sierra Nevadas, where he was delivered by an Indian squaw, "Broncho" attended school for three weeks when he was 14, quitting to work in a San Francisco sugar refinery. A year earlier, he had met Abraham Lincoln at the St. Joseph (Mo.) railway station. "Broncho" considers the Civil War President the greatest man he ever knew.

As a Texas Ranger, he knew George Armstrong Custer, Annie Oakley, Will Rogers, the James brothers, with whom he once fought.

In 1912 "Broncho" led a parade through Albany campaigning for his old friend Theodore Roosevelt, Bull Moose candidate for President. When he was almost 70 years old he enlisted in the Eighteenth Hussars of the Canadian cavalry and was gassed and twice wounded fighting the Germans during the first World War.

After the war "Broncho" kept right on doing fancy riding in Madison Square Garden and other arenas.

Rejected by the draft board when he tried to enlist at the age of 90 in the American forces, "Broncho" sold war bonds during the last war.

"Broncho" believes that people are getting more selfish nowadays. He abstains strictly from liquor, he said, but still likes to "set up close" to girls in New York night-clubs.