

**GOLD**



1955-56  
1957-58

**THE RIFLEMAN**

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# THE RIFLEMAN

Lucas McCain  
fights an  
angry mob to  
protect an  
outlaw's right  
to a fair trial!

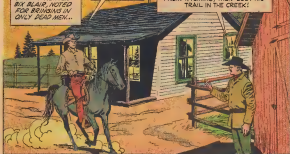


*"The Rifleman"*  
**THE MANHUNTERS**

**LUCAS MCCAIN**  
 RETURNS TO HIS  
 RANCH FROM TOWN,  
 AND FINDS AN  
 UNWELCOME VISITOR,  
 BOUNTY HUNTER  
 BOB BLAIR, NOTED  
 FOR BRINGING IN  
 ONLY DEAD MEN...

BLAIR! WHAT  
 ARE YOU  
 DOING HERE?

EASY, MCCAIN! I'M LOOKIN' FOR  
 GRIF HERON! THERE'S A BIG PRICE  
 ON HIS HEAD! I'VE TRACKED HIM  
 FROM WYOMING, THEN LOST HIS  
 TRAIL IN THE CREEK!



I FIGURED HERON  
 WOULD HEAD FOR  
 YOUR PLACE ...  
 SINCE YOU USED TO  
 BE GOOD FRIENDS!

THAT WAS A LONG TIME  
 AGO! I HAVEN'T SEEN  
 HIM FOR TEN YEARS!



YOUR EX-PAL JUST ADDED  
 MURDER TO HIS LIST OF CRIMES,  
 MCCAIN! HE KILLED A HORNSTEADER,  
 JONAS NELSON, AND STOLE A HORSE!  
 I SAW HIM WITH ARMY, AND I FOUND  
 NELSON'S BODY!



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JONAS NELSON WANTS  
A FRIEND OF MINE, TOO!  
IF HERON SHOWS UP,  
I'LL BRING HIM IN...  
*ALIVE!* NOW, GET OUT!

I MEAN TO  
TAKE HIM, MCCAIN!  
AND I'M SEARCHING  
YOUR PLACE!



BLAIR DRAWS HIS GUN WITH LIGHTNING  
SPEED, BUT LUCAS FIRES A SPLIT SECOND  
EARLIER...

I SAY YOU'RE NOT!  
GET ON YOUR HORSE  
AND RIDE!



THAT AFTERNOON, SEVERAL ARMED HORSMEN RIDE INTO THE RANCH YARD,  
LED BY BILLY BLAIR AND JIM NELSON, JONAS NELSON'S BROTHER...

WE'VE COME AFTER GRIF  
HERON, LUCAS! BLAIR  
SAYS HE TRAILED GRIF  
HERE, AFTER HE KILLED  
MY BROTHER! BLAIR  
CLAIMS YOU'RE HIDING  
HERON!

THAT'S RIGHT!  
MCCAIN DROVE ME  
OUT WHEN I TRIED  
TO LOOK FOR THE  
KILLER!

I GIVE YOU MY WORD GRIF  
HERON IS NOT HERE, NELSON! AFTER BLAIR  
LEFT, I SEARCHED THE PLACE!  
THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM ANYWHERE!



MCCAIN'S LYING, BOYS!  
HE'S HIDING JONAS  
NELSON'S KILLER...  
BECAUSE HE AND HERON  
ARE OLD PALS!

ARE YOU MEN  
GOING TO TAKE  
THIS SOUNTY  
HUNTER'S WORD  
AGAINST MINE?



WE DON'T WANT  
TROUBLE WITH  
HOW, LUCAS, BUT  
WE DO WANT  
HERON!

WE'RE FRIENDS  
AND NEIGHBORS,  
BUT I'LL SHOOT  
THE FIRST MAN  
WHO GETS OFF  
HIS HORSE!

WE'RE COMING  
IN TO LOOK  
FOR HIM!



*THEN MARK MCCAIN AND MARSHAL MCCAN  
TORRANCE GALLOP INTO THE RANCH YARD...*

WHAT'S GOING ON? I HEARD  
A BUNCH OF MEN HAD RIDDEN  
THIS WAY! HAVE YOU ALL  
GONE LOOZ?

YEA! ARE  
YOU ALL  
RIGHT?

I'M FINE, SON! THESE  
MEN THINK I'M HIDING  
GRIF HERON!



BLAIR FOUND JONAS, AFTER HERON  
KILLED HIM! HE TRAILED THE VARMINT  
HERE! YOU WERE  
OUT OF TOWN,  
MARSHAL, SO...

YOU'RE TAKING  
THE LAW IN YOUR  
OWN HANDS!



KEEP OUT OF  
THIS, MCCAII!

WE DON'T WANT TO  
HURT HOW...OR LUCAS!



LUCAS'S RIFLE BLAZES, AND THE GUN FLIES FROM JIM NELSON'S HAND.



IF ANYONE TOUCHES MICAH ... HE'LL ANSWER TO ME!

THE MEN ARE SILENT AS MARK AND MICAH JOIN LUCAS ON THE PORCH...



LUCAS SAYS HERON IS NOT HERE; HIS WORD IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME!

IT'S NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME! I KNOW MICAH'S LYING!

SHUT UP, BLAIR! THE MARSHAL'S RIGHT; LUCAS HAS ALWAYS BEEN HONEST WITH ME! I'LL TAKE HIS WORD!



CATCHING HERON IS A JOB FOR THE LAW... NOT FOR A MESSY LEP BY A MONEY-CRAZY BOUNTY HUNTER!

I'LL HELP MICAH TRACK GRIFF HERON DOWN... WE'LL FIND HIM... IF HE'S IN THE TERRITORY!



SORRY, LUCAS! GUESS WE SORT OF LOST OUR HEADS! LET'S GO, BOYS! COME ON, BLAIR!

NO HARD FEELINGS, MICAH...?

NO HARD FEELINGS! NEXT TIME, DON'T LET A BOUNTY-GRABBING MANHUNTER, LIKE BLAIR, TALK YOU INTO DOING SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET!



**AS THE MEN RIDE AWAY...**

HOW DID YOU TWO KNOW ABOUT THIS?

JOE NELSON SAID HIS PA WAS RIDING OUT HERE WITH A BUNCH OF MEN, SO I TOLD WICAH!



I'LL GO BACK TO TOWN AND DEPUTIZE A POSSE! WE'LL START OUT AT SUNUP TOMORROW!

I'LL RIDE WITH YOU, WICAH!



**A LITTLE LATER, LUCAS AND MARK WALK INTO THE BARN TO DO THEIR EVENING CHORES, AND...**

HELLO, LUCAS! SURPRISED TO SEE ME AFTER ALL THESE YEARS?

GRIFF MERRON! SO BIG BLAIR WAS RIGHT! YOU WERE HIDING HERE!



I WAS OUTSIDE WHEN YOU SEARCHED THE BARN! THEN I SLIPPED INSIDE! I LEFT MY HORSE IN THE BRUSH NEAR THE CREEK!

HAND OVER YOUR GUN, GRIFF! I'M TAKING YOU TO TOWN!



THAT'S NO WAY TO GREET AN OLD FRIEND, LUCAS! DON'T TELL ME THIS BIG BOY IS LITTLE MARK!

HE'S MARK! I'M AGING YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SON, GRIFF!





WHEN HERON DROPS HIS GUN, MARK HURRIES INTO THE BARN AND GIVES THE AMBLE TO LUCAS...

DID I DO RIGHT, PA?

YOU SURE DID, SON! START WALKING, GRIP... TOWARD THE HOUSE!

SURE, LUCAS! YOU'RE THE BOSS! YOU'RE A SMART KID, MARK! YOUR PA OUGHTA BE MIGHTY PROUD OF YOU!

So

I GUESS I'M LUCKY YOU CAUGHT ME, LUCAS... INSTEAD OF THAT BOUNTY HUNTER, BLAIR! HE WOULD'VE SHOT ME ON SIGHT!

PROBABLY! THE BOUNTY'S PAID WHETHER YOU'RE DEAD OR ALIVE!

DID YOU KILL A HOWESTEADER THIS MORNING AND STEAL A HORSE?

I STOLE A HORSE, BUT I DIDN'T KILL THE MAN! HE WAS GUNNED DOWN WHEN BLAIR WAS SHOOTING AT ME!



MY HORSE GAVE OUT! I A'ND TO GET A FRESH ONE! BLAIR WAS CLOSE BEHIND ME! THE FATHER HEARD ME IN HIS CORRAL AND CAME RUNNING OUT!

I WAS GETTING AWAY, WHEN BLAIR RODE UP AND STARTED SHOOTING! I HEADED THIS WAY! I COVERED MY TRACKS IN A CREEK AND HID OUT!

DID YOU KNOW I LIVED HERE?





NO! I WAS THUNDERSTRUCK  
WHEN I SAW YOU! FOR OLD  
TIME'S SAKE, LET ME RIDE  
OUT OF HERE TONIGHT, LUCAS!

YOU KNOW I  
CAN'T TURN  
A WANTED  
MAN LOOSE!



WELL, AT LEAST, YOU CAN  
PUT DOWN YOUR RIFLE AND  
FEED ME BEFORE YOU TAKE  
ME IN! I WON'T TRY TO  
GET AWAY!

ALL RIGHT,  
GRIF! I'M  
TAKING  
YOUR  
WORD!



*LUCAS AND MARK WORK TOGETHER,  
FIXING A HEARTY SUPPER...*

EVERYBODY IN TOWN  
BELIEVES MR. HERON  
KILLED JONAS NELSON!  
THERE'S LIKELY TO BE  
TROUBLE, PA!

I'M AFRAID YOU'RE  
RIGHT, SON!



IF YOU  
BELIEVE  
HE DIDN'T  
KILL  
JONAS,  
MAYBE YOU  
SHOULD  
TURN HIM  
LOOSE,  
PA!

I CAN'T, MARK! HE'S  
WANTED BY THE LAW  
FOR OTHER CRIMES.  
TOO! BUT I CAN  
MAKE SURE HE GETS  
TO JAIL ALIVE!



**A  
LITTLE  
LATER...**

**HOLD IT, ALL OF YOU!**  
YOU MAKE A MIGHTY COZY  
PICTURE! SO THE HONEST  
CITIZEN, LUCAS MCCAIN,  
LIED TO HIS FRIENDS,  
INCLUDING HIS  
MARSHAL PA!

PA DID NOT  
LIE! HE DIDN'T  
KNOW MR.HERON  
WAS HERE!

THAT'S RIGHT, BLAIR!  
I'M TAKING HIM TO TOWN  
AS SOON AS WE FINISH  
SUPPER!



I KNOW YOUR SCHEME, MCCAIN!  
YOU'RE AFTER THAT FIVE-  
THOUSAND-DOLLAR BOUNTY! BUT  
YOU WON'T GET IT! THE MONEY  
BELONGS TO ME! I'VE  
EARNED IT!

ON YOUR FEET, ALL OF YOU!  
DON'T TRY ANYTHINGS, MCCAIN!  
YOU'RE ONLY A DUMB GOO-  
BUSTER WITHOUT THIS RIFLE!

DON'T YOU CALL  
PA A DUMB GOO-  
BUSTER, YOU...  
**MURDERING  
BOUNTY  
HUNTER!!**



SHUT UP, KID!  
SPEAK WHEN  
YOU'RE SPOKEN  
TO!

**GRIFF PULLS A HIDDEN GUN OUT OF  
HIS COAT AND FIRES AT BLAIR...**



HIT  
SOMEBODY  
YOUR OWN  
SIZE,  
BLAIR!

**HOLD IT, ALL OF YOU!**  
NEXT TIME, I'LL SHOOT TO  
KILL! NOBODY'S GOING TO  
HAND ME OVER TO THE  
LAW!



DON'T BE A FOOL, GRIFF! I BELIEVE  
YOUR STORY THAT YOU DIDN'T KILL  
JONAS NELSON! I PROMISE YOU'LL  
GET A FAIR TRIAL! ... DON'T ADD A  
**REAL MURDER CHARGE TO  
THE OTHERS!**

NOTHING CAN SAVE ME FROM PRISON! I LET BLAIR LIVE, SO HE CAN HANG FOR MURDER! HIS TRACKS'LL PROVE HE'S GUILTY!

THEY'RE PROBABLY TRAMPLED OUT BY NOW!



KICK THE GUNS OVER THIS MAN, LUCAS! DON'T TRY TO STOP ME!

YOU'LL BE RUNNING ALL YOUR LIFE, GRIF!



*SUDDENLY, MARK HURLES THE COFFEE POT AT HERON...*



I LOOK OUT, PA!

THANKS, MARK! NOW I'M BOSS HERE, GRIF!

SORRY I HAD TO DO IT, MR. HERON ... AFTER YOU SIDED WITH ME AGAINST BLAIR!

IT'S OKAY, MARK! YOU DID RIGHT FOR YOUR PA!



GET THE WAGON, MARK! WE'RE GOING TO TURN BOTH OF THESE MEN OVER TO THE MARSHAL!

I'LL HITCH UP, WHILE YOU WATCH 'EM, PA!



80...

I'M ASKIN' YOU ONCE MORE  
TO TURN ME LOOSE, LUCAS!  
I WON'T HAVE A CHANCE  
IN TOWN!

A PASSING COWBOY RIDES BESIDE  
THE WAGON, THEN BALLEPS ON  
TOWARD NORTH FORK...

THAT FELLOW'LL SPREAD THE  
WORD WE'RE COMIN'. WE'RE  
IN FOR TROUBLE FOR SURE!

MARK AND I  
CAN HANDLE IT!

A BUSH CROWD IS  
WAITING, WHEN  
THEY DRIVE INTO  
NORTH FORK...

MCCAIN'S  
GOT JONAS'  
NELSON'S  
KILLER!!

WE'LL TAKE  
CARE OF THE  
DIRTY SWINE!

HAND HERON  
OVER TO US,  
LUCAS!

STAND BACK,  
ALL OF YOU!!  
I'M TAKING  
GRIF HERON  
TO THE  
MARSHAL!

MOVE BACK,  
EVERYBODY!!  
LET THEM  
THROUGH!!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE  
BIX BLAIR TO DOC'S!  
HE'S BEEN SHOT IN  
THE SHOULDER!

AFTER HERON IS LOCKED IN JAIL, LUCAS  
REPORTS THE EVENING'S HAPPENINGS  
TO MCGAR...

I BELIEVE HERON'S  
STORY THAT BLAIR  
KILLED JONAS!

NOBODY ELSE  
WILL BELIEVE  
IT...UNLESS WE  
CAN PROVE IT!

*TAKEN FOR BLAIR*  
THE CLERK AT NORTH  
FORK'S HOTEL  
ARRIVES IN AN  
EXCITED RUSH...

LUCAS! MARSHAL! AM I GLAD I FOUND  
YOU! BAD TROUBLE'S BREWING! I HEARD  
TALK ABOUT HANGING GRIFF HERON TONIGHT!  
JIM NELSON'S STIRRING UP THE MOB!

WE'VE GOT TO  
CALM THEM DOWN  
AND STOP THEM,  
MCCAIN!



I DON'T THINK ANY-  
ONE CAN CALM THE  
MEN NOW! THEY ALL  
LIKED JONAS NELSON!  
THEY WANT HIS  
MURDERER!

BUT I DON'T  
BELIEVE HERON AS  
THE MURDERER!  
I'M SURE BIX  
BLAIR IS!

YOU'D BETTER BRING BLAIR HERE,  
MCCAIN... SO HE CAN'T GET AWAY!  
I'LL TALK TO JIM NELSON AND THE  
OTHERS! MAYBE I CAN CONVINCE  
THEM THEY'RE PROBABLY AFTER  
THE WRONG MAN!



*LUCAS FINDS  
JIM NELSON  
AND A CROWD  
OF ANGRY  
MEN OUTSIDE  
THE HOTEL...*

QUIET! LISTEN TO ME! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL  
ABOUT JONAS NELSON'S KILLER! BUT BE SURE YOU  
GET THE RIGHT MAN! I THINK BIX BLAIR SHOT  
JONAS!

I DON'T  
BELIEVE YOU,  
MCCAIN!

YOU'RE TRYIN'  
TO SAVE YOUR  
PAL, HERON!



CAN YOU PROVE BLAIR'S GUILTY, LUCAS?

NOT YET! GIVE US TIME TO MAKE SURE WHO REALLY KILLED JONAS! DON'T DO SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET ALL YOUR LIVES!

I DON'T LIKE BOUNTY HUNTERS...BUT THEY KILL CRIMINALS, NOT HONEST FARMERS!

I DON'T BELIEVE BLAIR'S GUILTY.  
LET'S TALK TO BLAIR!

YOU CAN'T! HE'S IN THE MARSHAL'S CUSTODY!

I'M SORRY ABOUT JONAS, JIM! HE WAS MY FRIEND! I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO SEE THAT HIS KILLER PAYS!

I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE YOU, LUCAS! BUT I CAN'T!

GO ON BACK TO YOUR RANCH, MCGAIN! WE'LL TAKE CARE OF JONAS NELSON'S KILLER!

WE KNOW HERON'S THE RIGHT MAN! HE STOLE JONAS'S HORSE... SO HE MUST'VE SHOT HIM!

*LUCAS HURRIES BACK TO MCGAIN'S OFFICE...*

DOC HELPED ME BRING BLAIR HERE. HE'S LOCKED IN A CELL! WHAT LUCK DID YOU HAVE?

NONE! THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN! THEY'RE SURE HERON KILLED JONAS! THEY'RE WORKING UP TO STORMING THE JAIL! WE CAN'T HOLD THEM BACK, IF THEY COME, MCGAIN!





WHERE'D YOU TAKE HERON?

TO THE JAIL AT THE COUNTY SEAT WHERE THE MOB CAN'T GET HIM! LOOKS LIKE A 'WILD-EYED CROWD'S PLANNING TO STORM THIS PLACE!



MICAH WAITS IN HIS OFFICE AND, FINALLY...

HERE THEY COME!

MARSHAL! I HEAR ANGRY PEOPLE! THEY MIGHT TURN ON ME! GET ME OUT OF HERE!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

WE'VE COME TO GET GRIF HERON, MICAH!

DON'T TRY TO BE A HERO, MARSHAL! YOU CAN'T STOP US! BRING HERON OUT HERE!

YOU'RE TOO LATE, BOYS! MICAH AND HERON LEFT FOR THE COUNTY SEAT MORE'N AN HOUR AGO! SO BREAK IT UP AND GO HOME!



AND ON THE ROAD TO THE COUNTY SEAT...

HOW ABOUT STOPPIN' FOR A SPELL, LUCAS? WE'VE PUT A LOT OF FAST MILES BEHIND US!

GOOD IDEA! THE HORSES NEED A REST!



WHY'D YOU TURN OUT-LAW, GRIFF?

TO GET QUICK MONEY! ONCE I STARTED, I COULDN'T STOP! BUT I SWEAR I'VE NEVER KILLED!



**AFTER A SHORT REST, THEY RIDE ON, AND SURENLY...**

**STOP! KEEP YOUR HANDS AWAY FROM YOUR RIFLE, MCCAULEY ... I'M TAKING MY BROTHER'S KILLER BACK TO TOWN!**

**LOOK OUT, LUCAS! HE'S GOT A SHOTGUN!**



**JIM NELSON!! HOW'D YOU GET HERE?**

**MCCAULEY TOLD US 'WHERE YOU'D GONE TO STOP US FROM BREAKIN' INTO THE JAIL! THE OTHERS GOT ... BUT I FOLLOWED YOU!**



**I AIM TO SEE HERON PAY FOR WHAT HE DID! SO TURN AROUND AND RIDE BACK TO NORTH FORK...OR I'LL OPEN UP WITH BOTH BARRELS!**

**TAKE IT EASY, JIM... WE'RE NOT SURE GRIFF...**



**SUDDENLY, GRIFF SWERVES HIS HORSE AGAINST NELSON'S, JOLTING NELSON AS HE FIRES...**

**HE'S ALL YOURS, LUCAS!**



**WHILE LUCAS GRAPPLES WITH NELSON FOR THE SHOTGUN, HERON GALLOPS SWIFTLY AWAY...**

**GIVE ME THAT SHOTGUN... HERON'S GETTING AWAY...**

**THEN I'LL GET YOU... FOR HELPING HIM!**



AS THEY STRUGGLE DESPERATELY FOR THE SHOTGUN, THE SECOND BARREL FIRES...



NOW, YOU'VE REALLY FIXED THINGS, NELSON! OUR HORSES HAVE RUN OFF! WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CATCH GRIF HERON!



EARLY MORNING, THEY RIDE INTO NORTH FORK...

LUCAS / NELSON!  
WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S A LONG STORY! WE LOST OUR HORSES! TOOK US HOURS TO CATCH THEM! SO, HERON GOT AWAY!



WHERE'S BLAIR?

STILL IN JAIL! HE GOT SCARED WHEN HE HEARD THE MOB COMING! SO HE CONFESSED! SAID THE SHOOTING WAS AN ACCIDENT, LIKE HERON POINTED OUT! THEN HE PROMISED ME TO PROTECT HIM!



LATER THAT SAME DAY...

DO YOU THINK THE LAW'LL EVER CATCH MR. HERON, PA?

THE LAW OR A BOUNTY HUNTER'LL GET HIM SOONER OR LATER, MARK! HE'S AN OUTLAW AND DESERVES PUNISHMENT... BUT I'D LIKE TO THINK THE LAW WILL DO THE JOB! BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE A MISERABLE LOT!



THE END

# TRAIL TO ROCKTOWN

**BUSHWACKER'S RIFLE BLASTS  
THE AFTERNOON QUIET ON A BACK  
TRAIL TO ROCKTOWN, AND A YOUNG  
COWBOY TOPPLES FROM HIS SADDLE...**

**THEN RANCHER WILL ARNOLD AND HIS  
FOREMAN, DAN MURRAY, COME OUT OF  
THE UNDERBUSH...**



SEE WHAT'S IN HIS POCKETS,  
DAN! IF HE HAS JIM'S WILL  
WITH HIM, WE'LL DESTROY IT!

HE'S JED  
ALLEN, ALL  
RIGHT!  
LOOKS A  
LOT LIKE  
HIS  
BROTHER  
JIM!

**YOU BUNGLING FOOL! YOU SHOT  
THE WRONG MAN! THIS FELLOW'S  
LUKE TREVIS, A RANCH HAND FROM  
DAKOTA!**



LISTEN! SOME-  
BODY'S RIDIN'  
THIS WAY! GET  
OUT OF SIGHT  
**QUICK!**

THAT  
FELLOW  
MUST  
BE JED  
ALLEN!  
I'LL  
SHOOT...



HOLD IT! NO MORE KILLINGS!  
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA!  
NOBODY AROUND HERE KNOWS  
YOUNG ALLEN... SO IT'LL WORK!

**HOLD IT,  
STRANGER!  
WE SAW YOU  
AMBUSH  
THAT MAN!**



YOU'RE WRONG, MISTER!  
I FOUND HIM HERE ON THE  
TRAIL! I'M HEADED FOR  
ROCKTOWN! AN NAME'S  
JED ALLEN! I HAVE PAPERS!

YOU WERE TAKIN' THAT STUFF OUT OF THE DEAD MAN'S POCKETS, WHEN WE RODE UP!

BESIDES KILLING HIM AND TAKING HIS BELONGINGS, YOU EVEN TRIED TO STEAL HIS NAME...JED ALLEN!



A LITTLE LATER...

BUT I AM JED ALLEN!

TELL IT TO THE SHERIFF! JED WAS THE BROTHER OF MY FRIEND, JIM ALLEN... JIM'S DEAD, BUT I'LL SEE YOU PAY FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE!



THEY RIDE TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN ROCKTOWN, AND WILL ARNOLD TELLS HIS STORY OF THE AMBUSH...

IT'S NOT TRUE, SHERIFF! I DID NOT KILL OR ROB ANYONE... AND I AM JED ALLEN! I INHERITED MY BROTHER JIM'S RANCH: THAT'S WHY I'M HERE!



YOU CAN DO YOUR TALKIN' TO THE CIRCUIT JUDGE TOMORROW! LOCK HIM UP, DEPUTY!

THAT NIGHT...

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE IN A BAD FIX, BOY! I'M HERE FOR DISTURBIN' THE PEACE! I'LL GET OUT TOMORROW! MY NAME'S SAM SAPPO!

NOBODY WILL BELIEVE MY NAME'S JED ALLEN!



I BELIEVE YOU! I WORKED FOR YOUR BROTHER JIM BEFORE HE DIED! HE TOLD ME ABOUT A BORCAT CLAIMIN' YOUR HAND! SAID YOU WERE HIS HEIR!

THAT'S RIGHT! I PLANNED TO SETTLE DOWN ON THE RANCH HE LEFT ME!







## THE COWBOY HAS A WORD FOR IT



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Cowboys have a language all their own, and no other group can boast of a form of speech more colorful. Many of the cowboy's words and expressions came from the Spanish-speaking cowboys who crossed the border from Mexico and settled in this country. But the American cowboy pronounced the foreign words in his own way, and thus a new lingo was born. In fact, one of the cowboy's own nicknames is a Spanish word, *vaquero*, which the American cowboy anglicized into "buckaroo."

There are many others. For instance: "lariat" is the American cowboy's way of pronouncing his Mexican brother's word for rope, *la reata*. And "lasso" was originally *lazar*. "Savvy," which means to understand or to know, has become part of our slang, and we got it from the cowboy's mispronunciation of the Spanish *sabe*.

As a matter of fact, many of the words and phrases that we "dudes" or "greenhorns" use as part of our everyday speech are borrowed directly from the cowhand, whether we know it or not.

"Greenhorn" is one of them. We use the word to designate a person who is new to a situation, or inexperienced. A greenhorn, to the cowboy, is a new calf...one whose horns are just beginning to sprout.

Another of our slang words designating a newcomer to a group is "shovel-tail." Every

new recruit into the army has heard himself called that more than once. It comes from the military practice of close-cropping the new soldier's hair, and it derives from a similar custom among cowhands. So that he can quickly determine, in a corral full of horses, which have been broken and which have not, the cowboy removes some hair from the tails of the newly-broken horses. In other words, the broken broncs have had their tails "shaved."

Certainly, no one can say that on some occasion he has not been "bawled out"! Or that he has not "bawled out" someone else, when they did something he did not like. But, when we say it...or do it...do we realize that we are using a cowboy term? Because "bawl" is the cowboy's word for the noise made by a bucking bronc, which definitely is something displeasing to a cowhand.

If you have ever reached "the end of your rope" or come to "the bitter end," you know that it is a most uncomfortable and undesirable place to be. To the cowboy, it spells danger, for the "bitter end" is that part of the rope opposite the loop end, and when it is not tied to the horn of his saddle, he is in real trouble.

How often have you heard someone say that a certain article is "earmarked" for some special use or occasion? Corporation executives, for instance, speak of particular sums of money as being "earmarked" for a certain purpose. This is truly a cowboy term, derived directly from the cowboy practice of clipping out a portion of a cow's ear so that the animal can be readily and easily identified. A brand often became obscured when the critter's hair grew long, but an earmark could always be seen.

Now, it is time to "put on the feed bag." We do say it, when we sit down to the table to eat, though it is not very polite. But it is not bad manners at all when a cowboy uses the term in referring to feeding his horse. For, literally, he hangs a bag of feed over the animal's head, and the horse buries his nose in it to get at the grain.

It is no wonder that the American language is considered so expressive and colorful when we remember how much of it comes from that most colorful character, the cowboy.

# "The Rifleman." DOUBLE-CROSSERS

*MARK MCCAIN IS LOOKING FOR STRAY CATTLE ONE DAY. WHEN HE SEES AN AMBUSH ATTACK ON A LONE BUDDY...*

JEEPERS! THAT FELLOW'S REALLY SHOOTING AT THOSE PEOPLE!

*THE SUMAN SUDDENLY TURNS, RIDES INTO THE BUSH AND DISAPPEARS...*

LET'S GO, BLUE BOY! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE RUNAWAY BEFORE HE TIPS OVER THE BUDDY!

FASTER, BOY! FASTER!

*A FEW MINUTES LATER...*

STEADY! SLOW DOWN!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MA'AM?

I-I GUESS SO! BUT MY UNCLE IS HURT...!



THERE'S A GOOD DOCTOR IN NORTH FORK! IT'S NOT FAR! I CAN DRIVE, WHILE YOU LOOK AFTER YOUR UNCLE!

THANK YOU! I'LL BE VERY GRATEFUL!



I'M MARK McCAIN! MY PA AND I HAVE A RANCH NEAR HERE!

MY NAME'S LACEY KENT! THIS IS MY UNCLE, DANIEL KENT! I'M AFRAID HE'S HURT REAL BAD, MARK!



*LUCAS MCGAIN AND MARGARET MCGAIN TORRANCE SEE MARK'S ARRIVAL IN NORTH FORK AND HURRY TO MEET HIM...*

MARK! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TOWN? I THOUGHT YOU WERE CHASING STRAYS!

I WAS, PA! BUT AN AMBUSER FIRED AT THIS BUGGY AND THE HORSE RAN AWAY! I FINALLY MANAGED TO STOP HIM!

MY UNCLE WAS SHOT! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS! WILL SOMEONE PLEASE HELP ME TAKE HIM TO THE DOCTOR?



*AFTER DANIEL KENT IS CARRIED INTO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE, MARK TELLS LUCAS AND MARGARET WHAT HAPPENED...*

I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE THE GUNMAN, AND MISS LACEY SAYS SHE DIDN'T SEE HIM AT ALL!



YOU TAKE THE RID TO THE LIVERY STABLE, MARK! MCGAIN AND I'LL WAIT HERE, WHILE DOC EXAMINES MR...



KENT:  
DANIEL  
KENT!

*MARK DENIES THE BUSBY ARMY AND...*

SEN'T'S DEAD! NOTHING I  
COULD DO FOR HIM! HIS  
NIECE IS HOLDING UP FINE!  
SHE WANTS TO TALK TO  
THE MARSHAL!



YOU **WILL** FIND  
THE MAN WHO  
KILLED MY  
UNCLE, WON'T YOU,  
MARSHAL?

WE'LL DO OUR BEST!  
DO YOU FEEL LIKE  
ANSWERING A FEW  
QUESTIONS?



*LACEY TEARFULLY EXPLAINS HOW HER  
UNCLE TOOK CARE OF HER SINCE  
CHILDHOOD*

WHEN UNCLE  
DANIEL GOT  
SICK WE SOLD  
OUR HOME IN  
THE EAST AND  
CAME WEST!  
WE WERE  
DRIVING  
AROUND  
LOOKING  
FOR A  
PLACE TO  
SETTLE!



MARK! I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE!  
PLEASE TAKE THIS WATCH AS  
A TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE! IT  
WAS MY UNCLE'S!

TH-THANK  
YOU,  
MISS  
LACEY!



N-NOW THAT I'M ALL  
A-ALONE, I DON'T KNOW  
WH-WHERE TO G-GO! I  
H-HAVE NO HOME...

YOU NEED REST, MISS  
LACEY! YOU'LL FEEL  
BETTER TOMORROW!

I'LL WALK YOU  
TO THE HOTEL  
AND HELP YOU  
GET SETTLED!



LON BALLARD, THE CLERK AT THE HOTEL, SHOWS LACEY TO HER ROOM. THEY RETURN TO THE WAITING LUGGERS...

DID YOU NOTICE SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT THAT GIRL, LUCAS?

NO! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I THINK SHE'S ONLY PRETENDING TO GRIEVE FOR HER UNCLE! SHE CRIES WHEN SOMEONE'S WATCHING, BUT THERE'S NOT A TEAR IN HER EYES!

MAYBE YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS, LON!

MAYBE SO! BUT MARK MY WORDS, LUCAS! THAT ONE WILL BEAR WATCHING!

THANKS FOR THE WARNING! SEE YOU TOMORROW, LON! I WANT TO GET HOME BEFORE DARK!

MARK HAS DISCOVERED SOMETHING STRANGE, TOO...

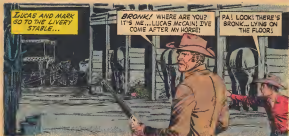
LOOK, PA! THIS WATCH MUST HAVE BELONGED TO SOMEBODY ELSE BEFORE DANIEL KENT OWNED IT! SEE THE INITIALS ARE "R.G." NOT "D.K."!

SO THEY ARE, MARK!

MISS LACEY CAN PROBABLY EXPLAIN! IT'S TOO LATE TO TRACK THE AMBUSHER TONIGHT, SO WE'D BETTER GO HOME, MARK!

I FIGURE TO STAR\* OUT AT SUNUP TOMORROW!





**LUCAS AND MARK GO TO THE LIVERY STABLE...**

**BRONK! WHERE ARE YOU? IT'S ME... LUCAS MCCAIN! I'VE COME AFTER MY HORSE!**

**PA! LOOK! THERE'S BRONK... LYING ON THE FLOOR!**



**IS HE DEAD, PA?**

**NO! HE'S UNCONSCIOUS, BUT HE'S ALIVE! RUN FOR GOD, MARK! I'LL STAY HERE WITH BRONK!**



**AS MARK HURRIES AWAY, LUCAS HEARS A MUFFLED SOUND AND SEES A SHADDOY FIGURE IN LACEY KENT'S BUGGY...**

**WHO'S THERE? ANSWER, OR I'LL SHOOT!**

**THE ANSWER IS A BLAST FROM A SIX-GUN, AS THE FIGURE DARTS TOWARD THE STABLE'S REAR DOOR! LUCAS DUCKS AND FIRES, TOO...**



**STOP!!**



**LUCAS RACES AFTER THE FLEESING MAN...**

**HE'S GETTING AWAY! BUT I CAN'T LEAVE BRONK ALONE NOW!**



*MARK RETURNS WITH THE DOCTOR AND BRONK...*

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, LUCAS?

THAT TRIGGER-HAPPY STRANGER WAS IN LACEY KENT'S BUGGY, WHEN I FIRST SAW HIM! I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS DOING TO IT!

*THEY CAREFULLY EXAMINE THE RIG, INSIDE AND OUT...*

NOTHING'S BEEN DISTURBED! BUT HE KNOCKED BRONK OUT, SO HE MUST'VE BEEN AFTER SOMETHING!



I'LL SADDLE MY HORSE AND GO AFTER HIM!

YOU CAN'T TRAIL HIM IN THE DARK, LUCAS! WHEN BRONK COMES TO MAYBE HE CAN TELL US WHO HIT HIM!



*A LITTLE LATER...*

BRONK HAD A HARD BLOW ON HIS HEAD, BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW WHO SLUGGED ME! I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE!



*LUCAS DECIDES TO STAY LONGER IN TOWN...*

I THINK THE SUNGLINGER IN THE STABLE AND THE AMBUSER ARE THE SAME MAN! HE WAS AFTER SOMETHING IN LACEY'S BUGGY BOTH TIMES!



HE COULDN'T GET IT ON THE ROAD, BECAUSE THE HORSE BOLTED AND MARK SHOWED UP! SO HE TRIED AGAIN! I WONDER IF KILLING ONLY KENT WAS DELIBERATE OR ACCIDENTAL!



WE'D BETTER TALK TO MISS LACEY AGAIN RIGHT NOW!

RIGHT! BUT, FIRST, LET'S LOOK THROUGH YOUR WANTED CIRCULARS! IT'S A LONG CHANCE, BUT WE *MIGHT* FIND SOMETHING!



THEY GO THROUGH THE WANTEDS

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR!

I THINK I'VE FOUND WHAT WE WANT! LISTEN TO THIS!



"ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO ARREST OF RAFF GARRET, WANTED FOR ROBBERY! ... MIDDLE-AGED, THIN, GRAY HAIR... SOMETIMES TRAVELS WITH PRETTY YOUNG WOMAN..."



THE DESCRIPTION *COULD* FIT DANIEL KENT AND LACEY!

AND IF DANIEL KENT *WAS* RAFF GARRET, THAT EXPLAINS THE INITIALS, "R.G." IN HIS WATCH! LACEY PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW THE INITIALS WERE THERE!



WHAT ABOUT THE AMBUSER?

MY GUESS IS, HE KNEW THEM AND FIGURED THE LOOT FROM THE ROBBERY WAS HIDDEN IN THEIR BUGGY!



IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT, HE'LL PROBABLY TRY AGAIN! THERE'S A CHANCE HE'S IN CAHOOTS WITH LACEY AND MISSED HER DELIBERATELY WHEN HE SHOT!

WE'D BETTER FIND OUT!



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW WE CAN GET THE TRUTH FROM LACEY?

NOT YET! WE'LL FIGURE A WAY WHILE WE EAT SUPPER! LET'S GO TO THE HOTEL!



So...

HAS MISS KENT EATEN ANYTHING TONIGHT, LON?

NO! SHE'S GONE! SHE WENT OUT A LITTLE WHILE AGO! I THINK SHE HEADED TOWARD THE LIVERY STABLE!



LUCAS JUMPS TO HIS FEET...

I'LL GO WITH YOU, LUCAS!

NO! YOU AND MARK STAY HERE, MICK! I DON'T NEED HELP TO STOP HER BEFORE SHE GETS AWAY!



HAS MISS KENT BEEN HERE, BRONK?

SHE SURE HAS... SAID SHE WAS TOO UPSET TO STAY AT THE HOTEL... WANTED TO TAKE A RIDE TO DO SOME THINKING! SHE HEADED WEST!



LUCAS RIDES WEST, TOO, AND FINALLY...

THERE SHE IS! I'LL SLIP UP CLOSER AND FIND OUT WHETHER THAT RIDER MET HER OR STOPPED HER!





YOU WEREN'T SMART TO TRY TO RUN OUT, LACEY!

YOU WEREN'T SMART TO KILL MY UNCLE! I DIDN'T WANT MURDER, KEN LOCKE!



THEN WHY'D YOU SEND ME WORD RAFE WAS SCRAMMING WITH ALL THE LOOT?

I DON'T LIKE DOUBLE-CROSSERS! NOT EVEN WHEN THEY ARE MY KIN. I WANTED YOU TO STOP HIM AND TAKE YOUR HALF!



YOU AND UNCLE RAFE ROBBED THE STAGE TOGETHER! ... YOU TRUSTED HIM TO TAKE THE LOOT, WHEN YOU SEPARATED, HALF WAS RIGHTFULLY YOURS!

THE DOUBLE-CROSSER DESERVED KILLING!



YOU TRIED TO RUN OUT, TOO! IF I HADN'T SEEN YOU LEAVING TOWN, YOU'D BE GONE NOW! WHERE'S THE STUFF HIDDEN?

IN THE BUGGY BEAT! BUT REMEMBER, *YOU* HALF OF IT IS MINE!



HOLD IT, BOTH OF YOU! LIFT YOUR ARMS OVER YOUR HEADS AND TURN AROUND SLOWLY!

LUCAS MCCAIN! THANK GOODNESS, YOU'VE COME! THIS THIEF WAS TRYING TO ROB ME ...!

KEEP QUIET, YOU LITTLE CROOK!



*SURPRISINGLY, LOCKE TURNS AND HURLS HIS KNIFE...*

DON'T TRY ANYTHING ELSE, MISTER! NEXT TIME, I'LL AIR AT YOU!



I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING!

YOU DON'T NEED TO! I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID! UNBUCKLE YOUR GUNBELT AND LET IT FALL, LOCKE!



YOU'RE THE MAN I SAW IN THE LIVERY STABLE THIS EVENING, AREN'T YOU? WERE YOU HUNTING FOR THE LOOT THEN?

I SURE WAS! I FIGURED LACEY'D TRY TO SKIP WITH IT!



*A LITTLE LATER, THEY RIDE TOWARD NORTH FORK...*

UNCLE RAFE MADE ME GO WITH HIM! HE SAID NOBODY'D SUSPECT AN OLD MAN TRAVELING WITH HIS NIECE! I DON'T ROB THE STAGE, LUCAS!

THAT'S RIGHT, MOCAM! BUT SHE WANTED THE LOOT!



*LATER THAT NIGHT, LOCKE, MARK AND NICHOL CARRY THE LOOT FROM THE BUGGY BEAT TO MICHIE'S OFFICE...*

TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN NEW-MINTED GOLD COINS AND A VALUABLE SHIPMENT OF WATCHES AND JEWELS!

ALL THREE CROOKS TRIED TO DOUBLE-CROSS EACH OTHER TO GET IT... AND THEY ALL LOST!

PUT THIS WATCH WITH THE OTHERS, PA! I DON'T THINK MISS LACEY WOULD WANT ME TO HAVE IT AFTER ALL!



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