

Songs the Cowboy Boys Sang



"On the Western Trail"—A cowboy group, the work of the famous woman sculptor, Sally James Farnham, recently exhibited in New York.

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

ONE of the current Broadway stage successes is a play which bears the title of "Green Grow the Lilacs," and sophisticated Gotham, which doesn't usually think a song is worth singing unless it came out of Tin Pan Alley, is delighted with the songs in that play. And the majority of them had their origin, not in New York, but in the Southwest—they are songs which the cowboys used to sing!

This incident is another example of the increasing interest of Americans in the folklore of their country. That interest has manifested itself in various forms—in the popularity of the negro spirituals of the South, in the revival of singing of ballads of past generations (ballads which prove conclusively that, although many of them trace back directly to the old English ballads, America had a native balladry) and in the wider dissemination of the legends of Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill and John Henry, myth heroes created in the fertile imaginations of the lumberjacks, the cowboys and the negro railroad workers, respectively.

The play referred to above takes its name from a song, "Green Grow the Lilacs," which has been sung in the Southwest for generations. Its origin is veiled in obscurity. One critic has ventured the opinion that it traces its ancestry back to Robert Burns' poem, "Green Grow the Rashens." If so, perhaps somewhere in the line of descent may be found a song popular with the American soldiers during the Mexican war, "Green Grow the Rushes, O!" and there is a legend that the Mexican name for Americans, "gringos," is a corruption of the words "green grows."

Another of the songs of this play which is said to have been an old favorite in the Southwest, hence was well known in Oklahoma, the native state of Lynn Riggs, author of the play, is "My Name is Sam Hall." There is no doubt about the origin of this song for it comes from London where it was a cellar ditty. In 1848 W. G. Ross, a Scotch low comedian, was singing in Cider Cellars in Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, (the original, incidentally, of Back Kitchen in "Pennydents") and "My name is Sam Hall," was one of his "hits."

How did this song find its way to the old Indian territory? Did some adventurous Cockney carry it there or did some disgraced "younger son," who could not live in England and who had fled to the American frontier where no questions were asked about a man's past, first sing it along the banks of the Canadian or the Cimarron? No one knows! But the cowboys once sang it on the Oklahoma range and it is their version, slightly changed from the original English version, which is being sung on Broadway today.

More than that, investigators of this type of folk song have revealed the fact that many of the best known

cowboy songs are nothing more than adaptations of sentimental ballads of an earlier day. This is true of one of the most famous of them all—a song variously known as "The Dying Cowboy," "The Cowboy's Lament" and "The Lone Prairie," a song of innumerable verses and of many variations both as to the wording of the different stanzas and the chorus which follows each stanza. In practically all versions the first stanza is the same:

"Oh, bury me not on the lone prairie. These words came low and mournfully from the pallid lips of a youth who lay on his dying bed at the close of day.

By making allowance for much "local color" it is easy to see how "The Lone Prairie" song was adapted from the song, "The Ocean Burial," words by W. H. Saunders, music by G. N. Allen, which appears in "The Nightingale," a book of songs for "Juvenile Classes, Public Schools and Seminaries," compiled by W. O. and H. S. Perkins and published by Ditson in 1890. The first verse of "The Ocean Burial" tells how:

"O, bury me not in the deep, deep sea. The words came low and mournfully from the pallid lips of a youth who lay on his cabin couch at close of day, and its other numerous verses describe the deathbed scene minutely and with a wealth of detail, only, of course, the scenes are laid on the "deep, deep sea" instead of the "lone prairie-e-e."

Nearly as famous a cowboy song as "The Lone Prairie" is another also variously called "The Cowboy's Lament" and "The Dying Cowboy," which has this chorus:

"Oh, beat the drum slowly and play the life lowly. Play the Dead March as you carry me along; Take me to the churchyard and lay the sod o'er me. For I'm a young cowboy, I know I've done wrong."

Different authorities on cowboy songs and other native American ballads credit the authorship of this song to various persons and the usual statement is that "it appeared on the ranges in the early eighties." Although it is difficult to determine the authorship of a ballad, since such a song usually represents the contribution of a succession of amateur bards rather than the work of a single poet, it is my belief that, as nearly as the authorship of "The Cowboy's Lament" can be determined, credit for it belongs to the late F. H. Maynard of Colorado Springs, Colo., an old-time cowboy. Here is his story as he told it to me several years ago:

"During the winter of 1876 I was working for a Grimes outfit which had started north with a trail herd from Matagorda Bay, Texas. We were wintering the herd on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas river on the border of Kansas and Indian territory, waiting for the spring market to open at Wichita.

As I walked down by St. James hospital, St. James hospital, so early one day, etc., etc.

"I had often amused myself by trying to write verse and one dull winter day in camp, to while away the time, I began writing a poem which could be sung to the tune of 'The Dying Girl's Lament.' I made it a dying ranger or cowboy instead of a dying girl and had the scene in Tom Sherman's barroom instead of a hospital.

"Tom Sherman was a noted character in the old cattle trail days, a big strapping fellow six feet six or six feet seven tall, who first ran a dance hall and saloon in Great Bend in 1873 and then moved to Dodge City where he ran the same sort of place until some time in the '80s. All of the cowboys who came up from Texas knew Tom Sherman.

"After I had finished the new words I sang it to the boys in our outfit. They liked it and began singing it. It became popular with the boys in other outfits who heard it after we had taken our herd to market in Wichita the next spring and from that time on I heard it sung everywhere on the range and trail."

So "The Cowboy's Lament" is another example of a favorite cowboy song which was an adaptation of an earlier ballad. Mr. Maynard's version, written in 1876 and thus antedating other versions by five and possibly ten years, had for its first verse the following:

As I rode down by Tom Sherman's barroom By Tom Sherman's barroom so early one day, There I espied a handsome young ranger All wrapped in white linen, as cold as the clay.

"I see by your outfit that you're a ranger." The words that he said as I went riding—"Come, sit down beside me, and hear my sad story. I'm shot through the breast and know I must die."

CHORUS: Then muffle the drums and play the dead march as I'm carried along; Take me to the churchyard and lay the sod o'er me. For I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong.

The version of this song, as given in Lomax's collection and as it is often reprinted, starts out:

As I walked out in the streets of Laredo, As I walked out in Laredo one day, I spied a poor cowboy wrapped up in white linen, Wrapped up in white linen as cold as the clay.

"O, beat the drum slowly and play the life lowly. Play the Dead March as you carry me along; Take me to the green valley, there lay the sod o'er me. For I'm a young cowboy and I know I've done wrong."

From which it will be seen that in the years in which the fame of this "poor cowboy who done wrong" has spread the scene of his untimely demise has been changed to Laredo, Texas. But before it is too late, I want to register this footnote to history and say that it took place in Dodge City, Kan. I know, because the man who killed him (in a song) told me so!

(© 1931, Western Newspaper Union.)

Community Building

Right Care of Property Obligation of Owner

A house receiving proper care will last much longer than the one that is neglected, is the trite reminder addressed to home owners by the National Association of Real Estate Boards in one of its series of articles on "Looking Into Real Estate."

"In the year 1297, in the twenty-fourth chapter of the English statutes, of Marlbridge, it was provided that a tenant damaging or wasting his property be fined and deprived of his holdings," the association writes. "All land then was owned under the feudal system and being a life tenant was as near to property ownership as most people could get. But this ancient statute shows that even in those far off times people were conscious of the possibilities of depreciation and did what they could, through such regulation, to conserve real property.

"Care of the home and property means keeping an eye out for many things. It may look like a lot of work but, spread over the year, it really isn't so much. Furthermore, such work is building up an equity, figured from the point of view of the continuing endurance of your domicile, and you are willing to work for equity in other things. If your house lasts longer, you will have your investment longer, and enjoy your home more."

Modernization in Terms of Dollars and Cents

That there is a vast field in modernization for use of building materials and equipment and for employment of construction labor, which has hardly been scratched, is coming to the knowledge of those in the industry in many cities.

Analysis of permits issued in several hundred cities of the United States shows that bringing the home up to date and making the old commercial building and even the factory modern has become quite popular and accounts for a large volume of work.

There is enormous waste each year in the abandonment of the older homes for the newer models and it cannot be said to be in the same class with buying the latest model motor car or radio, since the home, with some care at intervals, never does wear out. In the older districts of this country homes still are being used which were built a century or two ago.

Keeping Step With Progress

Progress changes all. It rebuilt the old automobile advertised as a machine "which takes you there and brings you back" into a thing of beauty which pleases the eye and eases the body while it takes you considerably farther and faster and brings you back even more certainly than its predecessor ever did. Today progress is beginning to change the roads. Bridges, among the first highway links to feel the change, have become structures of real beauty. The new bridges at Harrisburg and Columbia are examples of this development. The elaborate system of viaducts on the express highway system through Elizabeth and Newark, N. J. is another example, and the beautiful bridge at Bethlehem, solving a difficult engineering problem in a definitely artistic way, cannot be overlooked.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Beautifuling Highways

To its world leadership in good roads, the United States is seeking to add supremacy in beautiful roads. Dressing up the highways is seen by Thomas, H. MacDonald, chief of the bureau of public roads, as the next step after establishment of smooth roadbeds and easy grades.

State highway departments have chosen to organize their own programs of applying "make-up to nature," but federal assistance is available for planting shade trees along routes of the federal-aid system. Massachusetts, rounding out the tenth year in its beautification work, is acknowledged as the pace setter. Native trees, shrubs, and flowers are preserved for raw shoulders and scarred landscapes.

For Architectural Progress

Developing its plans for a more beautiful America, the architectural profession, through the American Institute of Architects, will attack ugliness in blueprints rather than in finished structures. With the National Capital as a model, the institute will urge the formation throughout the country of architects' advisory councils before construction begins. Homes, offices, shops and institutions will take on new dignity, well-ordered neighborhoods will no longer be threatened by single eyesores, and endless rows of mediocrity will cease to disfigure entire sections, once a nationwide vigil exists, it is declared in a statement issued by the institute from its national headquarters.

Distinctive Ornamentation

An interesting chimney will often give distinction to an otherwise hopeless design. Ornamental balconies, railings, shutters, awnings and flower boxes are used to similar purpose.

Bankers' Responsibilities

The bank that doesn't help its town in bad times doesn't deserve to share in its good times.—American Magazine

SWEETEN ACID STOMACH THIS PLEASANT WAY

When there's distress two hours after eating—heartburn, indigestion, gas—suspect excess acid.

The best way to correct this is with an alkali. Physicians prescribe Phillips' Milk of Magnesia.

A spoonful of Phillips' Milk of Magnesia in a glass of water neutralizes many times its volume in excess acid; and does it at once. To try it is to be through with crude methods forever.

Be sure to get genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia. All drugstores have the generous 25c and 50c bottles. Full directions in package.

Two Freakish Forms of South Atlantic Birds

Penguins are strange birds. They use their wings for swimming instead of for flying. They are found in the seas of the southern hemisphere, and range in size from the emperor penguin, who stands four feet high, to little fellows hardly larger than an ordinary duck. The legs of the penguin are set very far back, and on land they waddle and shuffle about in the most mirth-provoking manner, holding their bodies upright. The king penguin, which comes from the South Atlantic islands, stands over two feet in height, and has a long bill and a bright orange chest. Another strange bird similar in many ways to the penguin is the steamer duck. He gets his funny name from his rapid and splashy way of swimming, just like an old-fashioned paddle steamer.

REGULAR PAINS

The modern Miss needs no "time out" for the time of month.

If you've ever taken Bayer Aspirin for a headache, you know how soon the pain subsides. It is just as effective in the relief of those pains peculiar to women!

Don't dedicate certain days of every month to suffering. It's old-fashioned. It's unnecessary. Aspirin will always enable you to carry on in comfort. Take enough to assure you complete comfort. If it is genuine aspirin it cannot possibly hurt you. Bayer Aspirin does not depress the heart. It does nothing but stop the pain, so use it freely.

Headaches come at inconvenient times. So do colds. But a little Bayer Aspirin will always save the day. Neuralgia. Neuritis. Rheumatism. Pains that once kept people home are forgotten half an hour after taking a few of these remarkable tablets. So are the little nagging aches that bring fatigue and "nerves" by day or a sleepless night.

Genuine Bayer Aspirin tablets cost so very little after all, that it doesn't pay to experiment with imitations!



These Changing Times "Times certainly change." "Whatever driving at now?"

"I was just thinking that the status of great men in the future may show them speaking into a microphone instead of astride a horse with a sword dangling."—Florida Times-Union.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription makes weak women strong. No alcohol. Sold by druggists in tablets or liquid.—Adv.

Mental stains cannot be removed by time, nor washed away by any waters.—Cicero.

Castoria... for CHILDREN'S ailments

ARE you prepared to render first aid and quick comfort the moment your youngster has an upset of any sort? Could you do the right thing—immediately—though the emergency came without warning—perhaps tonight? Castoria is a mother's standby at such times. There is nothing like it in emergencies, and nothing better for everyday use. For a sudden attack of colic, or for the gentle relief of constipation; to allay a feverish spell, or to soothe a fretful baby who can't sleep. This pure vegetable preparation is always ready to ease an ailing youngster. It is just as harmless as the recipe on the wrapper reads. If you see Chas. H. Fletcher's signature, it is genuine

WORMS RUIN A CHILD'S HEALTH

Drive every worm out of your child's system without a moment's delay. Use the safe, vegetable worm medicine that has been so successful for 75 years—Frey's Vermifuge.

Perhaps you don't know your child has worms. Gritting the teeth, picking the nostrils, disordered stomach are symptoms. Buy Frey's Vermifuge at your druggist's today.

Frey's Vermifuge Expels Worms

When Boils Ache, Use CARBOL Why take a chance with home-made poultices or expensive operations when Carboll quickly stops the pain and heals the boil often overnight. Get Carboll from druggist. Instant relief. Good for stings, small burns, bites, sores, etc. Generous box 50c. Sprinkle-Neal Co., Nashville, Tenn.

USE GLENN'S SULPHUR SOAP

Skin eruptions, excessive perspiration, insect bites relieved at once by this refreshing, beautifying toilet and bath soap. Best for

Soft, Clear Skin

Robland's Symplic Cotton, Inc.

SELL HOSIERY DIRECT TO WEARERS. Quality goods, money back guarantee. Collect part pay with each order. Small sample charge only expense. DOR-DEL HOSIERY CO., 237 Diamond St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FRIENDS WITH FALSE TEETH DON'T BE FOOLED. Your plates cannot be cleaned with common soaps, powders, salt, etc., and they become assuredly health menacing. I have finally perfected a Cleanser and Purifier that is so very cheap in price EVERY plate user in the world can afford it. Only 15c each (20c stamps) for a big 3 mos. supply. Think of it. Something entirely new. Medically recommended. Removes acid deposits, offensive odor, purifies and makes plates fresh like new. (Cut this out and mail today. It appears only once.) Nelson Lab., Dept. B4, Pasadena, Calif.

Every Farmer Should Have This Little device for tying shocks and sheaves. Saves time and facilitates in tying. Agents, Post-paid 75c. Elmer Gummo, Monument, Pa.

Agents. Fastest selling household necessity ever introduced! Complete sample offered free postpaid! L. Hinkle Co., Penn. Laird, Va.

SALESMEN, Eventually Salesmanagers for article required by law. \$20 investment brings 100% profit. After trout, exclusive territory will be allotted. Write at once. 713 Denckla Bldg., Philadelphia.

HILL SIDE CHICKS

WILL SHIP C. O. D. S. C. W. Leghorns, Tanagers \$18 per 100 Parks Strait Bar-Rocks (Per 34D31) \$10 100 S. C. Reds \$10 per 100 Heavy Mixed \$7 per 100 Light Mixed \$7 per 100 Special prices on large orders. Less than 100, add one cent per chick. 10% live delivery. P. P. Paid. All free range stock. Write for free literature.

T. J. EHRENZELLER, Prop., United Phone, Box E, McAllisterville, Pa.

WELCOME to NEW YORK and The HOTEL GOVERNOR CLINTON

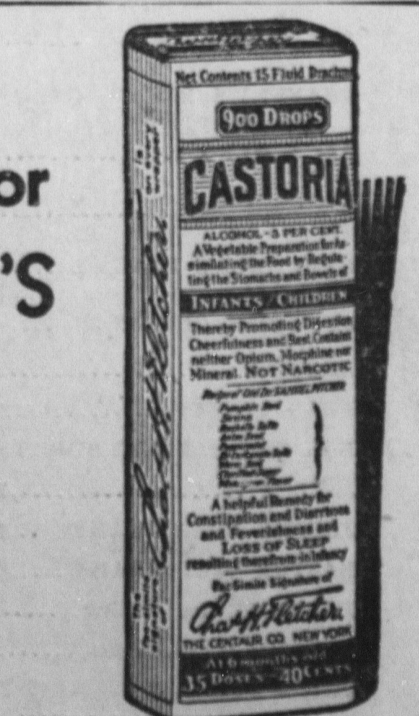
317 ST. and 7th AVE. opposite PENNA. R.R. STATION

1200 Rooms each with Bath, Servidor and Circulating Ice Water ROOM AND BATH 3⁰⁰ UP

W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 15-1031.

Agreeable

Stern Parent—Willie, I'd like to go through one whole day without once scolding you. Willie—Well, mother, you have my consent.—Boston Transcript.



Castoria. It is harmless to the smallest infant; doctors will tell you so.

You can tell from the formula on the wrapper how mild it is, and how good for little systems. But continue with Castoria until a child is grown.