



## *Cowboy Skit/Melodrama*

### *Justice Served*

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# *Code of the West: Settin' Things Right*

## *Cowboy Skit/Melodrama*

### *Justice Served*



*Written as a stand-alone Cowboy People Skit in four scenes to coordinate with Code of the West: Settin' Things Right VBS/CAMP 2014. Scenes can be combined or adjusted for fewer presentations.*

**Setup:** Scene One & Scene Three have Two Characters plus Narrator; Scene Two has Three Characters plus Narrator & Scene Four has Four Characters plus Narrator. A home-made Wanted Poster is needed for Scene Two. About 6 empty hand crushed Mountain Dew cans in a saddle bag is needed for props.

<b>Ranch Hand</b>	Dressed as a cowboy. Character is animated personality with high emotional tendencies.
<b>Texas Ranger</b>	Straight forward serious lawman; <i>Just the facts ma'am</i> type of character.
<b>The Accuser</b>	Dressed in dark clothing or a dark drover's coat & cowboy hat. Face is hard to see always half-covered by the hat. Slow of speech, slinks into place & the scenes.
<b>The Advocate</b>	Dressed in white or light colored clothing depicts the intercessory lawyer/spokesman. Clean cut! Sharply dressed in cowboy/western dress white shirt; vest; starched jeans, shined boots; and a white or light colored hat.
<b>Narrator</b>	Never seen; only heard reading his lines.

Appropriate music plays in the background to build up the entrance and assist with exiting.

## SCENE ONE:

MUSIC UP

*[Enter Texas Ranger looking for the RANCH HAND who is hiding behind a bale of hay.]*

*[Texas Ranger sees movement from the hiding spot and drags out the Ranch Hand who is visibly shaken.]*

**Ranch Hand:** Texas Ranger, am I ever glad you are here!

Somebody robbed the Ranch last night!

**Texas Ranger:** What exactly happened here, Ranch Hand?

**Ranch Hand:** While everybody was SLEEPING last night and snoring so loud you could hear them all the way to town, **SOMEBODY** let the horses out. Now there are two prize horses missing from the ranch and **WORSE YET**.....a case of Mountain Dew right there, gone, right out of the cooler.

**Texas Ranger:** Then why are you out here **hiding?**

**Ranch Hand:** **Hiding?** I was looking for the horses.

**Texas Ranger:** Well, they'd be mighty small horses to be hiding behind that hay bale.

**Ranch Hand:** Well, truth is, .....

**Texas Ranger:** Yes, truth is what.....

**Ranch Hand:** They are miniature horses???????

**Texas Ranger:** Did you steal from the Rancher?

**Ranch Hand:** **NO!**.....[pause] I don't even like Mountain Dew!

**Texas Ranger:** *[Express a look of disbelief]* I'll take a full report from you, but I can't guarantee anything.

**Ranch Hand:** REPORT? Look here Ranger, The Rancher has had 13 head of cattle rustled; two good horses, a mule, and **WORSE YET** .....that case of Mountain Dew taken right out of the cooler all in the last two weeks.

**Texas Ranger:** Why don't you just tell the Ranch Owner that you are innocent?

**Ranch Hand:** Yes, but.....you see....ah.....the Ranch Owner.....

**Texas Ranger:** What about the Ranch Owner?

**Ranch Hand:** The Ranch Owner, you see, He's a Hard Man and he is accusing ME of taking the cattle, the two good horses, and WORSE YET....THE MOUNTAIN DEW OUT OF THE COOLER!

**SOMEBODY is gonna have to PAY for this!**

And I have been WRONGLY ACCUSED!

**You gotta help me!**

**Texas Ranger:** So that's why the Ranch Owner is getting up a vigilante gang?

**Ranch Hand:** Vigilantes? I'm DOOMED!

**Texas Ranger:** I'd better take you into protective custody.

**Narrator:** Tune in tomorrow when we hear Texas Ranger say:

**Texas Ranger:** **Yep, mighty suspicious. EVERYBODY likes Mountain Dew.**

*MUSIC UP*

## SCENE TWO:

MUSIC UP

*[Ranch Hand is in protective custody; sitting in a chair at the Sheriff's office. Texas Ranger is present reading a Wanted Poster that we are not privy to see the face on the poster yet.][In walks The Accuser.]*

**Texas Ranger:** Good afternoon, what can I do for you?

**The Accuser:** *[Simply points arm straight out with finger directly at Ranch Hand; says nothing.]*

*[Ranch Hand looks startled and afraid.]*

**Texas Ranger:** Are you here to see Ranch Hand?

**The Accuser:** No, I came to blame him/her. Somebody has to **PAY!**

**Texas Ranger:** *[Directs comment towards Ranch Hand.]* Do you know this guy?

**Ranch Hand:** NO! I never saw him before in my life!

**Texas Ranger:** *[Directs comment towards The Accuser.]*

Before you go just "blaming" a guy, maybe you ought to tell me what it is you think he/she did?

**The Accuser:** He's a horse rustler; steals Mountain Dew; is a low-life scum; & not worthy to live on the Big Ranch.

**Texas Ranger:** Do you have some proof of these accusations?

**The Accuser:** *[Throws an unlatched/open saddle bag on the floor & out rolls about 6 empty squished Mountain Dew cans onto the floor.]*

*[Looks of astonishment on Ranch Hand & Texas Ranger's face.]*

**The Accuser:** What more proof do you need?

*[Texas Ranger walks over and picks up the saddle bags.]*

**Texas Ranger:** Ranch Hand still deserves a fair trial.

**The Accuser:** It's too late for that! The Vigilantes are on their way over here and they've got a ROPE!

*[The Accuser stomps out of the picture in devilish character.]*

**Ranch Hand:** I didn't do it! Really I didn't! Who was that guy?

**Texas Ranger:** *[Turns the wanted poster around so everyone can see.]*

**That Dark Fiend, Ranch Hand, was THE ACCUSER!**

In fact, the Bible, God's Word, says that we all have an accuser.

***Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.***

**Narrator:** Stay tuned when next time we hear Ranch Hand say:

**Ranch Hand:** What's a vigilante and why are they bringing a rope?

*MUSIC UP*

## SCENE THREE:

MUSIC UP

*[Ranch Hand is behind bars ....Depiction is as simple as having him sit in a chair with a table in front of him. On the table in front of him is a make-shift window frame or foam poster board cut out with a square hole for him to stick his head slightly through like he is in a jail cell. Texas Ranger is sitting on the edge of the table polishing his guns.]*

**Texas Ranger:** Ranch Hand, I think it's about time you thought about getting you an advocate.

**Ranch Hand:** An advocate?!

**Texas Ranger:** Yes. You're gonna' need one for the upcoming trial.

**Ranch Hand:** What's an "advocate"?

**Texas Ranger:** An Intercessor; someone that stands in front of the judge & jury to plead your case.

**Ranch Hand:** A lawyer?!

**Texas Ranger:** Better than a lawyer, really.

**Ranch Hand:** I don't know ANYBODY like that.

**Texas Ranger:** Oh but you can, that is, IF you are a born-again Christian.

**1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

**Ranch Hand:** Maybe so, but I have a problem, right THERE! That just doesn't apply to me.

**Texas Ranger:** Really, what's your problem? I mean other than you are in a real pickle, that is, with the evidence *[picks up the Mountain Dew can filled saddle bag]* and all.

**Ranch Hand:** Like I was sayin' .....I don't know ANYBODY that would stand in the gap for me.

**Texas Ranger:** Then it's about time you put your affairs in order, Ranch Hand, because you are going before the Judge one way or another. There's no escaping your appointment in the Courtroom.

**Narrator:** Tune in next time when we hear Ranch Hand say:.....

**Ranch Hand:** How do I saddle up with this Advocate Fellow, anyway?

MUSIC UP

## SCENE FOUR:

MUSIC UP

*[Ranch Hand and Texas Ranger walk into an imaginary courtroom setting. Ranch Hand's hands are loosely tied or in handcuffs.]*

**Texas Ranger:** Ranch Hand, Here we are! The Courtroom of Tombstone County. World Famous Courtroom of the HANGING JUDGE.

**Ranch Hand:** *[Looks shocked and scared all at the same time.]* The HANGIN JUDGE?????!!

**Texas Ranger:** Yes. Doesn't it just give you goose pimples? WOW, this is quite a famous place. Wonder if I could get his AUTOGRAPH!!

**Ranch Hand:** Autograph?! You want an autograph from THE HANGING JUDGE?!

**Texas Ranger:** It might be worth some money someday.

**Ranch Hand:** I'm an innocent man! Going to the gallows!! And you want an autograph from the HANGING JUDGE!!

**Texas Ranger:** Still maintaining your innocence are you?

**Ranch Hand:** Well, I didn't steal no horses or cattle. Nothing **BIG** like that! I didn't do anything an ordinary cowboy wouldn'ta done under the circumstances. I was THIRSTY.

**Texas Ranger:** What'd you say?

**Ranch Hand:** Nothing at all.....I was just wondering where this **ADVOCATE** feller is that you told me about?

**Texas Ranger:** He'll be here,...if-in you ask him to that is.

*[Door swings open and in walks The Accuser who slinks into the room and sits quietly in a chair with the hat tipped down close over his face.]*

**Ranch Hand:** I don't rightly know how to get a hold of this fellow; but I'd be obliged if you'd give him a call about right now.

**Texas Ranger:** You don't like to wait to the last minute do ya? I made that call a little earlier on your behalf. He was just waiting to see if you'd be willing to call on him.

*[Texas Ranger leaves the courtroom and returns promptly with The Advocate].*

**Ranch Hand:** I am sure glad to see you Advocate! So what's our strategy? I gotta' get off the hook here; I'm an innocent man.

**Advocate:** Really?

**Ranch Hand:** Well, I didn't do nothing BIG you know, like steal them horses or cows. I just did a little itsy bitsy thing or two wrong.

*[In walks the Judge....he can be imaginary if need be if played right.]*

**Advocate:** Here comes the Judge.

**Narrator:** ALL RISE; the Honorable Judge of Tombstone County & the Court is in Session.

**Advocate:** *[Can speak as though he is in a two sided conversation with the Judge if so desired or you might like to add a Judge and add his lines in as you see fit.]*

Your Honor, We are here today to plead the case of my client, RANCH HAND. He is charged with stealing 2 horses, cattle, & a CASE of MOUNTAIN DEW from his employer at the Big Ranch.

*[Waits as though the Judge is asking: How do you plead?]*

**Ranch Hand:** It's all gonna be OK now, right, Advocate? I mean I didn't do nothing **big**.

*[Ranch Hand is looking confident as he thinks his advocate will take care of everything.]*

**Advocate:** Yes, your Honor. My client pleads **GUILTY AS CHARGED!**

**Ranch Hand:** WHAT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Advocate:** Yes, that's right. Guilty as Charged. **I site from the Book of the Law:**

**James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**

**Ranch Hand:** I'm gonna' HANG!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! *[Puts his head in his hands.]*

**Advocate:** Yes, your Honor. *[Turns to Ranch Hand.]*

The Judge wants to know if you are willing to make restitution.

**Ranch Hand:** Restitution? I drank the whole case of Mountain Dew I stole. I can't make restitution. And I SURE can't remember EVERYTHING I've done wrong.

**Advocate:** So you are willing to confess?

**Ranch Hand:** Yes. I am guilty!

**Advocate:** Your Honor, I believe we may have a solution to the problem in the making; May we approach the bench please?

*[Silently both Ranch Hand & Advocate approach the imaginary Judge's Bench.  
Nothing is audible to the audience.]*

*[Silence for a full 20 seconds.]*

**Narrator:** Just like Ranch Hand, we are all like the wicked King Belshazzar spoken of in

**Daniel 5:27 Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting.**

**James 2:10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.**

**But good news: We have an Advocate that is waiting to be asked to intercede.**

**Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them**

MUSIC UP

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