

AND IF I CATCH YOU HOLDING UP ANY TRAINS YOU'LL GET NO MORE ICE CREAM CONES



THE NEBBS

By Sol Hess

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Taming the Wildcat

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DADDY, YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WAS SHERIFF YOU SAID YOU HAD A TERRIBLE DANGEROUS TIME WITH WILD CAT SMITH - WHAT DID HE DO?

OH YES, WELL, THE WAY I HANDLED PIZEN PETE MADE THE NATIVES BEGIN TO SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR ME



AND ONE DAY I WAS JUST FINISHING WASHING THE DINNER DISHES WHEN OLD JOHN RONJOKE THE BANKER CAME RUNNING OVER AND TOLD ME THAT WILD CAT SMITH HAD JUST HELD UP HIS BANK AND TAKEN ALL THE MONEY.



I JUMPED ON MY HORSE AND STARTED IN PURSUIT. MANY A SHERIFF AND CONSTABLE HAD GONE AFTER WILD CAT SMITH BUT NONE HAD EVER SUCCEEDED IN CAPTURING HIM. IN FACT SOME OF THEM NEVER RETURNED. I KNEW THE CANYON IN WHICH HE HID SO I RODE STRAIGHT FOR IT.



I HAD SCARCELY DISMOUNTED AT THE MOUTH OF THE PASS LEADING UP TO WILD CAT SMITH'S LAIR WHEN I HEARD A RIFLE CRACK AND A BIG BOULDER DROPPED, COMING WITHIN AN INCH OF CRUSHING ME TO DEATH. FROM HIS SHACK HE HAD A CLEAR VIEW OF THE NARROW CANYON AND SHOT A PROP OUT FROM UNDER THE BOULDER JUST WHEN I WAS UNDERNEATH IT.



THIS WAS JUST ONE OF THE NOVEL WAYS HE HAD OF DOING AWAY WITH HIS VICTIMS. FROM THEN ON I PROCEEDED MORE CAUTIOUSLY, HUGGING THE WALL OF THE CANYON WHERE I COULD BE OUT OF HIS LINE OF VISION AND AS I CRAWLED I SAW HIS FIERCE WOLF HOUND, WHO GUARDED THE CANYON, APPROACHING.



HE SPRANG AT ME. I GRASPED HIM AROUND THE NECK AND WITH MY SUPER-NATURAL STRENGTH SLOWLY STRANGLING HIM. I DID THIS SO HE COULDN'T WARN WILD CAT SMITH THAT I WAS APPROACHING.



THEN AS I WALKED ALONG I SUDDENLY CAME UPON A GIANT TRAP THAT HE SET TO CATCH ANYONE WHO ENTERED AT NIGHT AND THEN A BRIGHT THOUGHT STRUCK ME.



BY CLOSE STUDY OF ANIMALS I COULD IMITATE THEM, SO TO MAKE WILD CAT SMITH THINK THAT HIS DOG HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN THE TRAP I CLIMBED A TREE AND I UTTERED LOUD HOWLS AS IF THE DOG WAS IN GREAT PAIN.



SOON I SAW WILD CAT COMING AND AS HE PASSED UNDER THE TREE IN WHICH I WAS SEATED I THREW MY LASSO OVER HIM AND JUMPED DOWN.



MY WEIGHT AND STRENGTH DREW HIM OFF HIS FEET. I THEN TOOK HIS REVOLVER AWAY FROM HIM AND HAD HIM HELPLESS. I TOOK HIM TO HIS CABIN AND MADE HIM GET THE MONEY THAT HE HAD STOLEN.



THEN I MADE HIM CARRY THE MONEY AND WALK BEHIND THE HORSE ALL THE WAY BACK TO THE TOWN AND AS I CAME IN YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN THE PEOPLE LOOK IN AMAZEMENT. THE BANKER OFFERED ME \$1000 REWARD BUT I WOULDN'T ACCEPT IT SAYING I JUST DID MY DUTY.



THEY WERE BEGINNING TO RESPECT MY WORD AS LAW BUT THERE WAS STILL A NUMBER OF OUTLAWS THAT WERE DETERMINED TO GET ME. I THINK MY WORST EXPERIENCE AND NARROWEST ESCAPE WAS WHEN I WENT OUT TO GET BAD EYE BODIE.

