

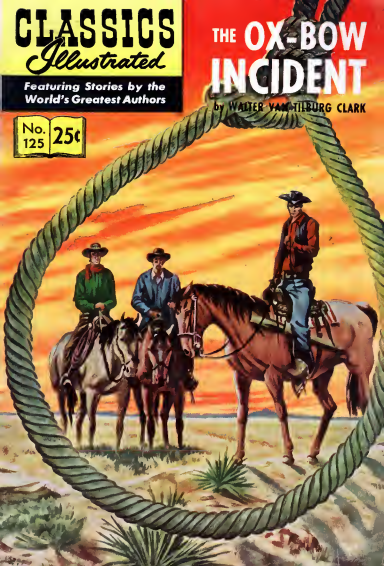
# CLASSICS *Illustrated*

Featuring Stories by the  
World's Greatest Authors

# THE OX-BOW INCIDENT

by WALTER VAN TILBURG CLARK

No. 125 25¢



# Build your own library!



Only  
**\$1.50**  
each

COLLECT  
AND PRESERVE  
YOUR COPIES OF  
**CLASSICS**  
*Illustrated*  
IN AN ATTRACTIVE  
PERMANENT BINDER

Get yours NOW, \$1.50 each postpaid (\$2 in Canada). Fill out the coupon below or a facsimile and mail NOW! TODAY!

Covered in beautiful brown simulated leather and richly embossed in gold, each binder holds 12 books securely. Simple instructions make binding possible in a matter of minutes.

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED  
Dept. S, 101 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003

Herewith is \$\_\_\_\_\_ Please send \_\_\_\_\_ binders, postpaid.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED . . . Number 125, ©Gilberton Company, Inc. 1955. Winter 1969 issue. Issued quarterly by Classics Illustrated, 101 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003. Reproduction of any material in any manner whatsoever is prohibited. Printed in U.S.A.

# THE OX-BOW INCIDENT

by WALTER VAN TILBURG CLARK



**M**Y NAME IS ART CROFT GIL CARTER AND I WERE COWBOYS WHO WORKED CATTLE OVER THE RANGES OF NEVADA.

IT WAS THREE BY THE SUN WHEN WE RODE BACK INTO THE TOWN OF BRIDGER'S WELLS AFTER WINTER RANGE.

THIS WAS THE SPRING OF 1885, THE YEAR OF THE OX-BOW INCIDENT.



WHAT ARE THEY DOING TO PROTECT THE CATTLE?

WELL, SHERIFF RISLEY'S DOWN FROM RENO, AND, OF COURSE, EXTRA RIDERS ARE OUT.



**S**UDDENLY.

HEY, MOORE! THEY GOT KINKAID!



LARRY KINKAID WAS ONE OF DREW'S RIDERS. HE WAS FARNLEY'S BEST FRIEND.

SOMEBODY'S BEEN DOWN ON DREW'S RANGE AND KILLED KINKAID. THEY THINK THERE'S CATTLE GONE, TOO!

I'M GOING AFTER THEM!



**T**HE CROWD STARTED MOVING TOWARD THE DOOR I WENT OUT WITH THEM GIL FOLLOWED RIGHT BEHIND ME

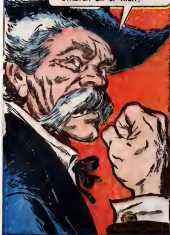


**T**HEN ARTHUR DAVIES, THE OWNER OF THE TOWN'S GENERAL STORE, CAME RUNNING OUT



**T**HEN ONE OF THE MEN, BARTLETT, BEGAN MAKING A REAL SPEECH.

IF WE WAIT FOR JUDGE TYLER AND HIS SO-CALLED JUSTICE, THERE WON'T BE A HEAD OF CATTLE LEFT. THEY DON'T WAIT FOR THAT KIND OF JUSTICE IN TEXAS. THEY KNOW THERE HOW TO PICK OUT A RUSTLER AS QUICK AS ANY POT-BELLIED LAWYER. THEY GO AND GET THEIR MAN, AND THEY STRING HIM UP PRONTO. I SAY FIND THE MURDERING RUSTLERS AND STRETCH 'EM. STRETCH 'EM UP HIGH!



**T**HE SPEECH WENT ON ABOUT OUR HOMES, OUR LAND, AND EVEN ABOUT OUR WOMEN. WHEN BARTLETT WOUND UP, EVERY MAN THERE FELT THE EXCITEMENT.

I'M FOR YOU, FARMLEY! I'M GOING TO GET A GUN AND A ROPE AND I'LL BE BACK.



**M**OST OF THE MEN HAD TO GO FOR GUNS. SOME OF US WENT BACK INTO CANYON'S.

I TELL YOU, BOYS, WE SHOULD WAIT FOR THE JUDGE AND THE SHERIFF.



**T**HEN

HERE COMES WINDER.

THE NEWS GETS AROUND, DON'T IT?



**B**ILL WINDER RAN THE STAGE COACH BETWEEN RENO AND BRIDGER'S WELLS

WE KNOW THEY KILLED KINKAID, AND THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY FOR THEM TO RIDE. THAT'S OUT, SOUTH DRAW

THEY'RE SURE TAKING THEIR TIME GETTING TOGETHER

WELL, THEY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT WHO DID IT.



YOU'RE RIGHT, WINDER, AND IF THEY'VE GOT THE CATTLE WITH THEM, THEY CAN'T TRAVEL FAST. WHY NOT GO IT RIGHT? GET THE SHERIFF

WHY THE SHERIFF?

HE'S STOPPING WITH JUDGE TYLER. IF WE GO, WE MUST GO AS A POSSE, NOT AS A MOB.



I SAY WE GOT TO DO IT OURSELVES. A GOOD FAST JOB WITH NO PAPERS, AND THEY GET WHAT'S COMING TO THEM

WINDER, IF WE GO OUT AND HANG MEN WITHOUT GIVING THEM A FAIR TRIAL, AND THAT INCLUDES GIVING THEM ALL THE TIME THEY NEED AND A CHANCE TO GET THEIR WITNESSES TOGETHER, THEN WE'RE NOT OFFICERS OF JUSTICE, BUT MURDERERS, WHO DESERVE TO BE HANGED OURSELVES





**S**OME OF THE OTHERS  
CAME IN FROM OUTSIDE.  
THEY WERE INTERESTED,  
AND WHAT DAVIES SAID  
MADE SENSE. HE WASN'T  
TRYING TO STOP US  
FROM GOING OUT, BUT  
HE WANTED US TO  
GO AS A POSSE,  
TO CAPTURE AND  
BRING THE RUSTLERS  
IN FOR TRIAL.



SUPPOSE WE GO BRING THEM  
IN AND THEN THE LAW LETS  
THEM GO FREE?

AT LEAST THE COURTS HAVE A  
BETTER CHANCE TO DECIDE THEIR  
GUILT OR INNOCENCE THAN A MOB  
THAT SETS OUT TO KILL.



WE KNOW THE  
LAW AND WE  
KNOW IT'S TOO  
SLOW FOR US  
NOW. WE WANT  
ACTION!

IF YOU KNEW THE LAW, YOU  
WOULD NOT WANT TO SET IT  
ASIDE. LAW IS MORE THAN  
THE WORDS THAT PUT IT ON  
THE BOOKS; LAW IS MORE  
THAN ANY DECISIONS THAT  
MAY BE MADE FROM IT;  
LAW IS MORE THAN ANY MAN,  
LAWYER OR JUDGE, SHERIFF OR  
JAILER, WHO MAY REPRESENT IT.

TRUE LAW, OUR KNOWING THE DIFFERENCE  
BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG, IS THE CON-  
SCIENCE OF SOCIETY. NONE OF MAN'S  
TEMPLES, NONE OF HIS RELIGIONS, NONE OF  
HIS WEAPONS, HIS TOOLS, HIS ARTS, HIS  
SCIENCES, IS SO GREAT A THING AS HIS  
SENSE OF JUSTICE. THE TRUE LAW IS AS  
WORTHY OF WORSHIP AS GOD, FOR IF WE  
CAN TOUCH GOD AT ALL, WHERE DO WE  
TOUCH HIM SAVE IN THE CONSCIENCE?



AFTER THE SPEECH, I NOTICED DAVIES WAS WATCHING ME.

I WANT YOU TO STEP DOWN TO JUDGE TYLER'S HOUSE AND TELL SHERIFF RISLEY I SAID WE NEED HIM HERE.



WHY ME?

BECAUSE YOU CAN EXPLAIN IT, WE WANT RISLEY, YOU UNDERSTAND, NOT HIS DEPUTY, BUTCH MAPES.



AT TYLER'S HOUSE, I FOUND BUTCH MAPES SITTING WITH THE JUDGE.

MISTER DAVIES SENT ME. HE SAYS IT'S FOR THE JUDGE AND SHERIFF RISLEY, ONLY.

RISLEY AIN'T HERE. I'M ACTING SHERIFF.



SURE, MAPES, BUT MISTER DAVIES GAVE ME ORDERS.

WELL, IF IT'S SHERIFF BUSINESS, I'M SHERIFF, SEE?



WHERE IS THE SHERIFF, JUDGE?

WHY, HE RODE DOWN TO DREW'S PLACE. LEFT EARLY THIS MORNING.



**I** FELT BETTER KNOWING THE SHERIFF WAS ALREADY AT DREW'S. I TOLD WHAT WE HAD HEARD AND EXPLAINED THAT DAVIS'S WANTED SOMEBODY TO TALK TO THE BOYS.

MISTER DAVIS DOESN'T WANT A LYNCHING.

I SEE, I SEE, BUT IT ISN'T FOR EITHER A JUDGE OR A LAWYER.

IT'S SHERIFF BUSINESS, JUDGE. I GOT TO LEAD THE POSSE.



THAT'S NO POSSE. IT'S A MOB!

IT'LL BE A POSSE WHEN I GET THERE AND SWEAR THEM IN.

YOU HAVE NO AUTHORITY-- NO DEPUTY CAN DEPUTIZE OTHERS. I'LL NOT STAND BY AND SEE THE LAW FLOUTED!



JUDGE, I'LL TELL MISTER DAVIS YOU'RE COMING.

YES, AND TELL THE BOYS I'M COMING, TOO.





**W**HEN I GOT BACK, THE CROWD WAS GROWING. YOU WONDERED WHERE SO MANY PEOPLE CAME FROM THERE WAS A LOT OF NOISE EVERYBODY WAS TALKING LOUD.

THEY SAY THREE OF DREW'S MEN WERE WOUNDED IN THE FIGHT

I HEAR THE RUSTLERS GOT ANOTHER HUNDRED HEAD OF CATTLE.

COMING ALONG, SPARKS?

NO, SIR I RECKON NOT

**S**PARKS WAS AN EX-SLAVE--THE ONLY NEGRO IN THE VALLEY HE DID ODD JOBS AND MADE HIS HOME WHEREVER HE WAS ALLOWED TO STAY.

YOU AIN'T AFRAID, IS YOU, SPARKS? I HEAR TELL YOU IS A PREACHER, WE'LL SURE ENOUGH NEED A PREACHER.





**O**LD SPARKS HAD GIVEN A KIND OF BODY TO AN IDEAL. IT WASN'T A JOKE ANY MORE.



MA GRIER KEPT A BOARDING HOUSE FOR MEN. SHE WAS MIDDLE-AGED AND MASSIVE, AND STRONG AS A WRESTLER.

I GUESS WE CAN GO AS SOON AS BARTLETT GETS HERE.

HE'S COMING NOW.



IT'S ABOUT TIME!

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR TETLEY. I SENT FOR HIM.

WHAT DO WE NEED WITH TETLEY?



**T**ETLEY WAS AN EX-CONFEDERATE OFFICER AND, NEXT TO DREW, THE BIGGEST MAN IN THE VALLEY. WAITING FOR HIM WOULD TAKE MORE TIME. SOME OF THE MEN STARTED TO GRUMBLE. THEN JUDGE TYLER AND MAPES RODE UP.

MEN, WOULD WE ACT IN THE VERY SPIRIT WHICH BEGOT THE DEED WE SEEK TO PUNISH?

CUT THE PREACHING, JUDGE. ALL WE WANT IS YOUR BLESSING.



MADAM, I'LL NOT STAND BY AND SEE MY FELLOW CITIZENS STAMPEDED INTO THOUGHTLESS ACTION. DOUBTLESS YOU DO NOT KNOW THAT SHERIFF RISLEY IS ALREADY AT DREW'S PLACE. HE HAS BEEN THERE ALL DAY.

WELL, I'M GOING, ANYWAY.

WE REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT. YOUNG GREENE, WHO BROUGHT THE WORD, DOESN'T KNOW IF IT WAS A BAND OF RUSTLERS, OR HOW KINKAID GOT SHOT. GREENE DIDN'T EVEN SEE THE BODY. HE JUST HEARD.



IT'S MY ADVICE, MEN, THAT YOU ALL COME IN AND HAVE A DRINK ON ME.

DAVIES IS PAYING FOR A ROUND, AND THERE'LL BE ONE ROUND ON THE HOUSE.

IT LOOKED LIKE THEY HAD PULLED IT. NOBODY WANTED TO BE THE FIRST TO FALL OUT, BUT SMITH STARTED IN FOR THE FREE DRINKS. SOME OF US WERE DISMOUNTING, WHEN WINDER CALLED OUT AND POINTED UP THE STREET.

IT'S TETLEY AND HIS SON.







**T**HERE WAS NO THOUGHT OF STOPPING NOW THE SHERIFF WOULD BE FAR OFF TRACK WE KNEW WE COULD OVERTAKE THE RUSTLERS BEFORE DAYLIGHT, FOR THEY COULD NOT MOVE CATTLE THROUGH BRIDGER'S PASS AT NIGHT. TETLEY HAD NOT GIVEN AN ORDER, BUT THE MEN WERE READY TO FOLLOW HIM





**W**E STOPPED WHEN WE HAD CROSSED THE VALLEY TO THE PLACE WHERE THE ROAD BENT RIGHT TO GO INTO BRIDGER'S PASS. THE TRACKS WERE CLEAR.



**I**T WAS STIFF GOING. IT WAS COLD AND DARKNESS CLOSED IN FAST. SMITH KEPT TRYING TO BE FUNNY, BUT NO ONE LAUGHED AT HIS JOKES. GIL WAS FEELING MEAN. IT WAS LIKE HE AND I WERE SUCKED IN WHERE WE DIDN'T BELONG. GERALD TETLEY, THE MAJOR'S SON, HADN'T SAID A WORD. DAVIES WAS WORRIED. OLD SPARKS BROUGHT UP THE REAR. HE WAS SINGING A MOURNFUL TUNE.

YOU LOOK COLD, GERALD.

IT'S MORE THAN THE COLD WIND.

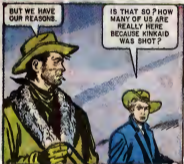


YOU CAN'T GO HUNTING MEN, LIKE COYOTES AFTER RABBITS, WITHOUT FEELING SOMETHING.



BUT WE HAVE OUR REASONS.

IS THAT SO? HOW MANY OF US ARE REALLY HERE BECAUSE KINKAID WAS SHOT?



I'M HERE BECAUSE I'M WEAK AND MY FATHER'S STRONG.



LATER, I RODE WITH GIL.  
IT WAS SO DARK THE  
HORSES WERE REALLY  
FEELING THEIR WAY.

I DON'T  
LIKE THE  
SMELL OF  
IT.

YOUNG TETLEY  
SAYS WE'RE  
JUST A PACK  
OF SCARED  
ANIMALS. MAY-  
BE YOU WANT  
TO PULL OUT  
OF THE PACK?



I'M NOT SCARED, BUT THIS  
MAKES ME REMEMBER SOME-  
THING. IT WAS UP IN MONTANA.  
I SAW THREE MEN STRUNG  
UP ON ONE LIMB. IT WASN'T  
SUPPOSED TO BE SO BAD  
BECAUSE IT WAS OFFICIAL,  
SHERIFF AND  
ALL.

I NEVER  
HEARD YOU  
MENTION  
IT BEFORE.



YOU DON'T LIKE TO TALK  
ABOUT THOSE THINGS. YOU  
TRY TO FORGET. SOMETHING  
LIKE THIS MAKES YOU SEE  
IT ALL OVER AGAIN.



ONE OF THEM WAS A YOUNG BOY. HE WAS CRYING AND  
SAYING HE HADN'T DONE IT. THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE HIM  
STAND ON A BARREL, AND HE KEPT FALLING AND BEGGING FOR  
HIS LIFE.



WHEN THEY KICKED THE  
BARRELS OUT, THE PDDR  
DEVILS KEPT TRYING TO  
REACH THEM WITH THEIR  
TOES. THEY DIDN'T TIE  
THEIR FEET.



WE RODE ON FOR A WHILE WITH GIL NOT SAYING ANYTHING I KNEW HE WAS THINKING I SHOULD HAVE LET HIM ALONE, BUT I DIDN'T.

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED EXCITEMENT

IT AINT THAT I DONT BELIEVE IN GETTING A KILLER, BUT I DONT LIKE DOING IT IN THE DARK, AND IN SUCH A CRDWD.. AND WHOSE CRDWD IS IT?



IS IT THAT KID GREENE'S, WITH A WILD-EYED STORY HE COULDN'T GET STRAIGHT?

OR IS SMITH, THE TOWN DRUNK, OUR ORGANIZER?

IT WASN'T MOORE. A MAN COULD FOLLOW MOORE, BUT MOORE WOULDN'T LEAD A THING LIKE THIS

MAYBE IT WAS BELLOWING BARTLETT WITH HIS DRUM THUMPING CALL TO ARMS.



JEFF FAINLEY WAS GOING, BUT HE WAS WILLING TO GO IT ALONE HE'S GOT GUTS, BUT WHEN HE'S MAD, HE CAN'T THINK

WOULD ANYBODY FOLLDW WINDER?

MA GRIER JUST CAME ALONG FOR THE RIDE

THERE'S BUTCH MAPES, WHO, BY RIGHTS, OUGHT TO BE UPHOLDING THE LAW HE SHOULD BE HELPING DAVIES CHECK THE CRDWD STILL, HE'S NO LEADER AND NOBODY'S FOLLOWING HIM.

AND THERE'S TETLEY, NOW HE'S OUR COMMANDER. THAT REBEL DUDE, WHO PICKED HIM TO LEAD?

WE CAN QUIT. THERE'S NO LAW THAT MAKES US PART OF THIS POSSE.

NO, SIR. I'LL SEE THIS THING AS FAR AS ANY MAN.



THEN, LIKE EVERY OTHER MAN, YOU HAVE YOUR SHARE OF WHATEVER IS DONE. AND SO HAVE I.



AT THE TOP OF BRIDGER'S PASS, 8000 FEET UP, THEY STOPPED US TO BREATHE THE HORSES. WE PULLED OFF THE TRAIL INTO THE MOUTH OF A CANYON TO TAKE SHELTER FROM THE WIND. SNOW HAD BEGUN TO FALL.

WE SHOULD HAVE STARTED EARLIER.

OR WAITED UNTIL MORNING.

MAYBE WE PASSED THEM BY, ALREADY.



SPARKS WAS STANDING NEAR ME, SHIVERING.

HERE, SPARKS, YOU'D BETTER HAVE A DRINK. IT'LL HELP YOU FORGET ABOUT THIS BUSINESS.

NO, THANKS, SIR. IT WOULDN'T HELP. THERE'S SOME THINGS A MAN CAN'T FORGET.

MY OWN BROTHER WAS LYNCHED.

HAD HE DONE WHAT THEY HUNG HIM FOR?

I DON'T KNOW. WE DIDN'T ANY OF US EVER KNOW FOR SURE.





BRING THE LANTERN!  
CROFT'S BEEN SHOT!



THE BALL CAME CLEAN  
THROUGH NOT TOO BAG.



DAVIES WAS CAREFUL, BUT TOO SLOW. AFTER HE PICKED THE THREADS OF SHIRT OUT OF THE HOLE, HE WASHED BOTH WOUNDS WITH WHISKEY WHILE GIL AND MOORE HELD ME DOWN. HE BURNED THE WOUNDS WITH A PISTOL BARREL HEATED IN THE FLAMES OF THE LANTERN.



I GOT THROUGH THE FRONT SIDE, HOLDING MY BREATH AND SWEATING. BUT ON THE BACK, I PASSED OUT



AFTER I CAME TO...

YOU SHOULD HAVE GONE IN THE STAGE COACH

NO, I WANT TO SEE THIS THING THROUGH

WE SHOULD ALL GO BACK

READY?





**W**E RODE SOME DISTANCE AND THOUGH MY SHOULDER HURT, I WAS HALF ASLEEP MOST OF THE TIME. EVERYTHING WAS UNREAL. I FELT LONESOME AND SCARED. I WAS DREAMING I WAS CAUGHT IN A SLIDE; I WAS PINNED DOWN AND ALL THE OTHERS HAD RIDDEN AWAY. THE LINE STOPPED AND I WOKE UP. I HEARD A STEER BELLOWING AND I KNEW OUR BUSINESS WAS REAL.



**T**ETLEY HAD PLANNED IT WELL  
WE MOVED IN FROM THREE SIDES







MISTER MARTIN, WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S ALL RIGHT. THERE'S SOME MISTAKE.

WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR, TETLEY?



WE'VE GOT TO MAKE THIS ORDERLY, FOR THE JUDGE AND MISTER DAVIES I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS.

**T**ETLEY FIRED QUESTIONS. THE BOY ANSWERED QUICK ENOUGH. HE SAID HIS NAME WAS DONALD MARTIN. HE CLAIMED HE REACHED THE TERRITORY JUST THREE DAYS AGO WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO KIDS.



HAVE YOU ANY CATTLE WITH YOU?

YES, FIFTY HEAD. I BOUGHT THEM FROM HARLEY DREW.

**E**VERYTHING WAS QUIET.

I FELT SORRY FOR HIM, THOUGH I COULDN'T BELIEVE HIM. IT SEEMED LIKE WE WERE GOING TO HAVE TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. HE LOOKED AROUND AND NONE OF US COULD MEET HIS EYES. THEN HE STARTED SHOUTING.

I'M NO RUSTLER! I CAN PROVE IT! WAIT TILL YOU SEE DREW! TAKE ME TO HIM! YOU CAN'T HANG A MAN WITHOUT A TRIAL!



SON, YOU'RE GETTING YOUR TRIAL RIGHT NOW.



IT WAS DREW SENT US UP HERE.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. NOBODY SENT US.



BOY, I BELIEVE YOU. WHERE'S YOUR BILL OF SALE FROM HARLEY DREW?



I LOCATED DREW OUT ON THE RANGE AT FIRST. HE WOULDN'T DO BUSINESS, BUT I PERSUADED HIM TO SELL. HE HAD NO PAPER WITH HIM AND I DIDN'T THINK A RECEIPT WAS NECESSARY.







I'LL MAKE A DEAL. TELL US WHICH OF YOU KILLED KINKAID AND THE OTHER TWO CAN WAIT.

THAT'S FAIR ENOUGH.



NONE OF US KILLED ANYBODY. WE WERE ALL THREE TOGETHER. WE DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT A MURDER!



THAT'S ALL!

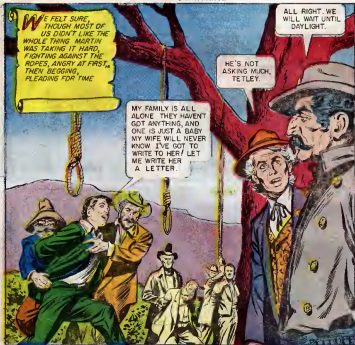
TIE THEM UP!

THE MEX IS MINE.



YOU'VE GOT THE CATTLE. YOU HAVEN'T LOST ANYTHING. YOU COULD WAIT TILL YOU TALK TO DREW. DO YOU HAVE TO MURDER US?

WE OUGHT TO BE SURE.







THE FIRE WAS FED AGAIN, AND THE THREE MEN PUT AROUND IT.

HE SAY HE HUNGRY.

THERE'S PLENTY OF GRUB HERE.

YOU COOK IT, MA. WE'LL SURE EAT IT.



MARTIN DIDN'T SEEM ABLE TO GET STARTED ON HIS LETTER



MAKE THE COFFEE STRONG, SPARKS.



GIL TRIED TO GET ME TO EAT.

I CAN'T EAT THEIR FOOD.

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE SOMETHING.

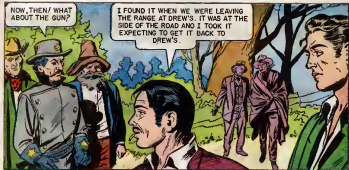












NOW, THEN/ WHAT ABOUT THE GUN?

I FOUND IT WHEN WE WERE LEAVING THE RANGE AT DREW'S. IT WAS AT THE SIDE OF THE ROAD AND I TOOK IT EXPECTING TO GET IT BACK TO DREW'S.



DON'T LIE TO ME, MAN!

IT'S THE TRUTH. IT WAS ON THE WEST LANE. I SAID WE SHOULD LEAVE IT, BUT JUAN FIGURED WE MIGHT MEET SOMEONE GOING TOWARD DREW'S

SHUT UP, YOU/ YOU THINK YOU'RE GETTING OFF!

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT FOOLS. ALL OF YOU, CRAZY TO KILL!

**T**HE GUN WAS THE CLINCHER. NOBODY COULD BELIEVE ANY OF THE STORY NOW -- NOBODY BUT DAVIES.

I TELL YOU, IF YOU READ THIS LETTER YOU'LL KNOW HE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.

IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS. THE KID SAID SO HIMSELF

GROFT, YOU CAN'T TELL ME YOU'D JUST LIKE TO SEE THAT BOY HANGED, NONE OF THEM FOR THAT MATTER. AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT TURNING THEM LOOSE. IT'S ONLY TO WAIT AND EXAMINE THE EVIDENCE. WHAT REASON CAN YOU GIVE FOR KILLING THEM NOW?





**D**AVIES WALKED OUT THERE AND STOOD NOBODY ELSE CAME FOR A MOMENT.





THEN SPARKS WALKED OUT, TOO.



GERALD TETLEY JOINED THEM. HIS FATHER STARED HARD AT HIM.



EVERYTHING WAS QUIET. THEN CARL BARTLETT, OLD MAN BARTLETT'S SON, STOOD WITH THEM.



MOORE WAS THE LAST TO WALK OVER. NO MORE CAME. I WONDERED WHY I HADN'T GONE WITH THEM.



FIVE! NOT A MAJORITY, I BELIEVE, MISTER DAVIES







**M**APE'S GRABBED MARTIN AND SLAPPED HIM HARD, FOUR TIMES, SO YOU COULD HEAR IT LIKE THE CRACK OF A LASH.



YOU DON'T CARE FOR JUSTICE! YOU DON'T EVEN CARE WHETHER YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT MEN OR NOT. YOU WANT YOUR WAY, THAT'S ALL!



I PROMISE I'LL SEE THAT YOUR FAMILY WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF, SON.



THANKS. BETTER NOT GIVE MY WIFE MY THINGS. JUST MY RING. JUST GIVE HER THAT AND MY LETTER.



I'LL GIVE YOU TWO MINUTES TO PRAY.





**T**HERE WAS NO TALKING AS EVERYTHING GOT SET. THEN MAPES FIRED THE SHOT, AND WE HEARD IT ECHO IN THE MOUNTAIN.

I WAS WASHED OUT,  
RAIN ALL OVER ME,  
NOBODY TALKED MUCH.  
THEY JUST GOT TO THEIR  
HORSES AND MOUNTED.  
TETLEY DIDN'T GIVE  
ANY ORDERS. EVERY-  
BODY SHIED CLEAR OF  
HIM. MOORE ASKED A  
COUPLE OF THE BOYS  
TO HELP HIM DRIVE  
THE CATTLE BACK TO  
DREW'S. SPARKS SAID  
HE'D STAY AND HELP  
WITH THE BURYING.  
I WAS GLAD WHEN  
THE LAST REAL FALL  
OF SNOW STARTED,  
SOFT AND STRAIGHT  
AND THICK. IT LASTED  
ONLY A FEW MINUTES,  
BUT IT SHUT  
THINGS OUT.



GIL AND I  
RODE SLOW  
BECAUSE OF MY  
SHOULDER THE  
OTHERS MOVED ON  
UP THE TRAIL AS  
WE HEARD THE  
CLEARING AT THE  
TOP OF THE PASS,  
WE HEARD EXCITED  
VOICES AND  
RUSHED FORWARD.



THERE WAS SHERIFF RISLEY

IT'S MURDER, MURDER  
AND NOTHING LESS!



AND DREW

OF COURSE YOUNG MARTIN  
PAID ME FOR THE CATTLE.



AND LARRY KINKAID!

YOU GOT THE STORY WRONG, BOYS.  
I WAS ONLY WOUNDED, AND THOSE  
THREE GUYS DIDN'T DO IT. YOU'VE  
JUST LYNCHED THREE INNOCENT MEN



THE END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS *Illustrated* EDITION, DON'T  
MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE  
AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

## WALTER VAN TILBURG CLARK

Walter Van Tilburg Clark is often thought of as having been born in Nevada, for he writes about the hills and salt sinks and the cattle men and their scattered settlements as though he had lived in the plateau country all of his life.

Clark was actually born in New England at East Orland, Maine, in 1909. But his family moved to Nevada when he was eight years old. The country must have fascinated him, for he started writing about it at an early age.

As a boy and young man, he found many unusual things to write about. Nevada was really the land of wide open spaces, with less than one hundred thousand people in the whole state, with no large cities and with a most unusual geography.

Most of the state is part of the so-called great basin, a plateau area lying between the principal ranges of the Rocky Mountains on the east and the Sierra Nevada Mountains on the west. Within the great basin, a series of smaller ranges run north and south, dividing the basin into scores of long, narrow valleys.

The crests of the mountains are rough and jagged. Snow covers their tops most of the year. Gorges form sharp breaks in the ranges and at these breaks are the passes through which men and animals move from valley to valley.

It was ideal country for Walter Clark, the youth, to explore. He found mountain streams rushing down the rocky passes. Following



their course, he saw how they lost speed as they reached the valley and then, after a few more miles, their waters ceased to move at all. Some streams spread out and dry up on the flat land, leaving white alkali deposits in the low places that are called salt sinks. Other streams pour into one of the many Nevada lakes, inland seas whose waters are always salty. None of the streams of the great basin have outlets to the sea.

After graduating from high school, Clark went on to study for a Bachelor's degree and a Master of Arts degree at the University of Nevada. English was his major, and basketball was his sport. After graduation, he taught high school English and coached basketball.

His first teaching job was in Cazenovia, New York, and it was in this upstate New York town that he wrote *The Ox-Bow Incident*.

Clark now lives with his family on a ranch in Nevada, about seven miles from Carson City. He still writes about the people and the scenes of the hills and valleys around him. He does not teach now, but he is often called upon to lecture on literature and on the early history of his adopted state.

Of his published novels, *The Ox-Bow Incident* is considered the finest. Although it was published in 1940, it is already recognized in American literature as meeting the severe but hard-to-define requirements of a true classic.





## The Colorado Gold Rush

### "PIKE'S PEAK OR BUST!"

**P**IKE'S PEAK in Colorado is one of America's most famous landmarks. It is not the highest mountain in America, but it is probably the best known.

In 1806, Zebulon M. Pike, for whom it is named, saw it and called it the Blue Mountain. But Pike did not reach its peak. He and his party were equipped for exploration rather than for mountain climbing, and were unable to reach the top of the mountain, which is 14,110 feet high.

In time, Pike's Peak became a guidepost and a point of destination for Spanish and French traders. When the California gold rush began in 1849, Pike's Peak served as a gatepost to the entrance of the Rocky Mountains. And then, rumors of gold in the Pike's Peak area began to be heard from the Indians.

Greene Russell, a successful California miner, followed up the rumors and organized a company of more than one hundred hardy prospectors. They found nothing of value, but the rumors of "gold in those hills" persisted.

Because of these rumors, people from all over the West headed for Pike's Peak. A settlement was established along the banks of Cherry Creek, where Denver is today. In this settlement were farmers who had deserted their farms, tradesmen who had left their jobs and merchants who had sold out their wares to answer the call of "Pike's Peak or Bust!"

In 1858, the settlement consisted of approximately 200 log houses with flat roofs of crossed poles, a matting of grass and a foot or so of soil. It was said that it rained indoors for three days after it stopped raining out of doors.



In 1859, the Colorado gold rush really began, although no gold deposits had been found. Across the plains came thousands of gold seekers, by wagon and on horseback.

Most of them had no resources and no knowledge of mining or prospecting. Some, with no other means of transportation, pulled carts or pushed wheel barrows containing their few belongings.

The trails were lined with the crosses of those who did not reach their destination. Horses and oxen often starved on the scant prairie grass. One writer told of two men who left Kansas for Colorado carrying only twenty pounds of corn and \$1.68 in cash. Both men were over fifty years old.

Along Cherry Creek, thousands milled about rascratching the same empty soil. Crime, violence, hardship and death were merged with begging and desperate attempts to return. Finally, the movement reversed itself and those who had come so eagerly returned to their homes full of bitterness and disappointment.

In the next year, real gold strikes were made. They were higher in the hills. Pockets of rich gold deposits were found in soft quartz and in sandy fillings of what was called "pay dirt." Within the next few years, fortunes were made. Extensive and intensive mining operations were developed, and Colorado was recognized as the successor in gold mining to California.

Pike's Peak is now a famous tourist attraction. Each year, thousands of people reach its top. Some go on foot or ride on burros, but others go up in railroad trains or automobiles. They still say the words, "Pike's Peak or Bust!" but the cry has lost its grim meaning.



## TRIAL BY TERROR

**M**ANY stories have been told about the origin of the term *lynching*. Usually it is said that a man named Lynch led or directed a band of angry citizens in punishing persons accused of wrongdoing. Some of the stories say that the word *lynch* originated with a judge of that name who issued extralegal decisions and punished without recognizing the usual processes of law.

Others tell of a man in Ireland named Lynch, who was murdered by a band of vengeance-seeking neighbors. The stories are almost endless, because a great many people have had the name Lynch and it seems that many of them have been on either the giving or receiving end of a lawless mob.

Possibly the correct source of the term can be traced to a man about whom Edgar Allan Poe once wrote. Poe described a William Lynch of Pennsylvania, Virginia, who, prior to 1776, organized and trained a band of men who engaged in horse stealing, robbery, counterfeiting and other such practices. Poe gave the text of resolutions passed at a citizens' meeting in which the people called upon the authorities to control the bandits.

Several years after Poe's account was published, further information about this William Lynch was found in a diary kept by a man named Andrew Ellicott. Ellicott wrote how, in 1811, he had gained the friendship of William Lynch, who was at that time living in South Carolina.

Ellicott wrote that he found Lynch "possesses a strong but uncultivated mind." He added that Lynch "is hospitable and generous to an extreme."

According to Ellicott, Lynch described to him how he had organized a band of men for

the purpose of punishing evil-doers without the technical processes of court and police action.

Ellicott wrote in detail of the principles and practices of the lynch-men, as they were called. Recruits were sworn to secrecy and loyalty to the band. On receipt of information accusing someone of a crime, the accused was sought out, seized and questioned. If he did not confess immediately, he was whipped until he did. Efforts were made to have him involve others, who were given the same treatment. All sorts of people were punished, without anyone ever bothering to find out by legal means whether they were guilty or not.

Few of the accused people were executed. If a weak person died as a result of a beating, the lynch-men did not blame themselves.

When a decision for punishment by death was reached by the mob, the actual execution was by hanging. A noose was put around the neck of the accused and secured overhead. The condemned man was placed on a horse. The work of the lynch-men was completed when the horse moved away.

There is a considerable difference in the way the actions of the lynch-men were described by Poe and Ellicott.

Poe got his information from the enraged citizens who condemned the lynch-men as outlaws. Ellicott heard their story from their leader and organizer, who probably considered himself a great adventurer and a hero.

When William Lynch died at a ripe old age, he was respectfully buried, and a tombstone was placed at his grave. The inscription on it read, in part:

"He followed virtue as his truest guide ..."



# Classics Illustrated Junior

## BEST LOVED STORIES FROM THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF FAIRY TALES



- 501 SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN DWARFS
- 502 THE UGLY DUCKLING
- 503 CINDERELLA
- 504 THE FIED PIPER
- 505 THE SLEEPING BEAUTY
- 506 THE 3 LITTLE PIGS
- 507 JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
- 508 GOLDILOCKS AND THE 3 BEARS
- 509 BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
- 510 LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD
- 511 PUSS IN BOOTS
- 512 RUMPELTUTSKIN
- 513 PINOCCHIO
- 515 JOHNNY APPLESEED
- 516 ALADDIN AND HIS LAMP
- 517 THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES
- 518 THE GOLDEN GOOSE
- 519 PAUL BUNYAN
- 520 THUMBELINA
- 521 KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER
- 522 THE NIGHTINGALE

- 523 THE GALLANT TAILOR
- 524 THE WILD SWANS
- 525 THE LITTLE MERMAID
- 526 THE FROG PRINCE
- 527 THE GOLDEN-HAIRD GIANT
- 528 THE PENNY PRINCE
- 529 THE MAGIC SERVANTS
- 530 THE GOLDEN BIRD
- 531 RUPUNZEL
- 532 THE DANCING PRINCESSES
- 533 THE MAGIC FOUNTAIN
- 534 THE GOLDEN TOUCH
- 535 THE WIZARD OF OZ
- 536 THE CHIMNEY SWEEP
- 537 THE THREE FAIRIES
- 538 SILLY HANS
- 539 THE ENCHANTED FISH
- 540 THE TINDER-BOX
- 541 SNOW WHITE & ROSE **RED**
- 542 THE DONKEY'S TALE
- 543 THE HOUSE IN THE WOODS
- 544 THE GOLDEN FIBRE
- 545 THE GLASS MOUNTAIN
- 546 THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER
- 547 THE WISHING TABLE
- 548 THE MAGIC FITCHER
- 549 SIMPLE KATE
- 550 THE SINGING DONKEY
- 551 THE QUEEN BEE
- 552 THE 3 LITTLE DWARFS
- 553 KING THRUSHBEARD
- 554 THE ENCHANTED DEER
- 555 THE 3 GOLDEN APPLES
- 556 THE ELF MOUND
- 557 SILLY WILLY
- 558 THE MAGIC DISH
- 559 THE JAPANESE LANTERN
- 560 THE DOLL PRINCESS
- 561 HANS HUMDRUM
- 562 THE ENCHANTED PONY
- 563 THE WISHING WELL
- 564 THE SALT MOUNTAIN
- 565 THE SILLY PRINCESS
- 566 CLUMSY HANS
- 567 THE BEARSKIN SOLDIER
- 568 THE HAPPY HEDGEHOG
- 569 THE THREE GIANTS
- 570 THE PEARL PRINCESS
- 571 HOW FIRE CAME TO THE INDIANS
- 572 THE DRUMMER BOY
- 573 THE CRYSTAL BALL
- 574 BRIGHTBROOTS
- 575 THE FEARLESS PRINCE
- 576 THE PRINCESS WHO SAW EVERYTHING

**ONLY 25c EACH** ENDORSED BY EDUCATORS. ON SALE AT NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE, OR USE THIS COUPON TO ORDER BY MAIL. MAIL COUPON BELOW OR A FACSIMILE.

Classics Illustrated, Dept. 5  
101 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10003

Enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the issues circled below.

501	509	518	526	534	542	550	558	566	574
502	510	519	527	535	543	551	559	567	575
503	511	520	528	536	544	552	560	568	576
504	512	521	529	537	545	553	561	569	
505	513	522	530	538	546	554	562	570	
506	515	523	531	539	547	555	563	571	
507	516	524	532	540	548	556	564	572	
508	517	525	533	541	549	557	565	573	

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Read the Greatest Stories Ever Told by the World's Great Authors!



Only 25c EACH

Endorsed by Educators.  
On Sale At Newsstands Every-  
where, or use Coupon Below  
to Order By Mail.  
Mail Coupon Below or a Fac-  
simile.



1. The Three Musketeers
2. Ivanhoe
3. The Count of Monte Cristo
4. The Last of the Mohicans
5. Moby Dick
6. A Tale of Two Cities
7. Robbe Hood
8. Les Miserables
10. Robinson Crusoe
11. Don Quixote
12. Rip Van Winkle
13. Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde
15. Uncle Tom's Cabin
16. Goldilocks' Travels
17. The Scoundrel
18. Handbook of Hells Gams
19. Huckleberry Finn
22. The Puffblower
23. Oliver Twist
24. A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
25. Ten Years Before the Mast
26. Frankenstein
28. The Prince and the Peasor
30. The Moonstone
31. The Black Arrow

32. Lorna Doone
34. Mystery Island
36. Typer
37. The Pioneers
38. Adventures of Colibud
39. Jane Eyre
41. Twenty Years After
42. Tom Brown's School Days
46. Robinson
47. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
48. David Copperfield
49. Alice in Wonderland
50. Adventures of Tom Sawyer
51. The Spy
52. Hezard of Seven Gables
54. Man in the Iron Mask
55. Silver Master
56. Tellers of the Sea
57. The Song of Rowland
58. The Pirates
60. Black Beauty
61. Women in White
62. Western Stories
63. Men Without a Country
64. Treasure Island

65. Benjamin Franklin
67. The Scottish Chiefs
68. Julius Caesar
69. Around the World in 80 Days
70. The Pilot
72. The Oregon Trail
73. The Prisoner of Zenda
77. The Ibad
78. Joan of Arc
80. White Fang
83. The Jungle Book
87. A Midsummer Night's Dream
88. Man of Iron
89. Crime and Punishment
91. The Call of the Wild
93. Redhead Wilson
94. Great Baller
98. Daniel Boone
99. The Red Badge of George
100. Mystery on the Twenty
103. From the Earth to the Moon
106. Buffalo Bill
111. The Tallman
113. Adventures of Kit Carson
114. Red Rover
119. How I Found Livingstone

116. The Battle of Lep
117. Captain's Conquest
118. Dick Day
119. Soldiers of Fortune
120. The Snow Incident
121. The Downfall
127. King of the Mountains
128. Macbeth
129. Caesar's Conquests
133. The Time Machine
134. Romeo and Juliet
136. Waterloo
138. Lord Jim
137. The Little Savage
138. A Journey to the Center of the Earth
139. In the Salts of Ferrer
141. Castle Gargano
142. Abraham Lincoln
143. Jim
144. The First Man in the West
145. The Crisis
146. With Fire and Sword
147. Ben Hur
148. The Hussar
149. 3H On A Comet
150. The Virginian
151. Won By the Sword
152. With Animals I Have Fought
153. The Invisible Man
154. Conquering of Ponties
155. Life of the North
156. The Conquest of Mexico
157. The Lives of the Honored
158. The Conspirator
159. The Outlaw
160. Field of the Gods
161. Cleopatra
162. Robert the Conqueror
163. Master of the World
164. The Green Chief
165. The Queen's Necklace
166. Tigers and Trailers
168. Negro Americans — The Early Years

CLASSICS ILLUSTRATED, DEPT. S.  
301 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the issues circled below.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	28	29	30	31	32	34	36
37	38	39	41	42	43	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	54	
55	56	57	58	60	61	62	63	64	65	67	69	69	70	
72	76	77	79	80	83	87	88	88	91	93	94	98	98	
100	105	108	111	112	114	115	116	117	118	119	122	124	125	
128	127	128	130	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	141	142	143	
144	145	148	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	
158	158	180	181	182	183	184	185	188	188					

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (Please Print)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Use this Handy  
Mail Order Coupon

