

27. ANOTHER ANGLE

27.

NEWLY ENTERS. He wears a badge. Louie is in the doorway, waiting. Burke and Roy are with him. At the moment, Mannon has a foot in the tub, "stirring."

MANNON

...well...?

NEWLY

You the man...rode into town
on a bay mule?

MANNON

(continuing with
the soap)

....ole John Wesley? Yup...

NEWLY

Mind telling us how you happened
on...."ole John Wesley?"

MANNON

(looks up, frowns)

Reason I should....?

NEWLY

One reason's this badge....for
another, that mule and the rigging
on it belongs to a friend of
ours.....

MANNON

That a fact....?

NEWLY

That's a fact.

MANNON

And you want to know what
became a your friend.....

NEWLY

I do.

MANNON

....Well, all I can tell you in
the Good Lord's presence, is
that I had me a horse got snake-bit
'n unfit for travel....I quit him
'n took to walkin' 'n come across
'ole John Wesley, I called
him.

CONTINUED

27. CONTINUED

27.

NEWLY

Don't you think that's a little odd finding a saddledmule out...? I mean wouldn't you wonder where the owner was; that there was some trouble of some kind...

MANNON

(pouring the buckets in)

...well, it's 'cordin' to the way you're lookin'. I asked myself a question once... 'n got the wrong answer... So... I never asked myself another. Take things by the time 'n hour... only way of life... (starts to undress) Now... if you don't mind... I aim to find out who I am...

All EXIT, uncertainly, as Mannon, thoroughly unmindful, is down to his pants (hat still on) same old song -

MANNON (CONT'D)

"John Wesley had a string of girls, from here to Abilene. They just waited on his call, to gladly be his queen..."

28. INT. HALLWAY (DODGE HOUSE) - DAY

28.

as Newly EXITS the room, Louie gawks.

MANNON'S VOICE

"...singin' of John Wesley Hardin, a gunman he became. Oh, yes, John Wesley Hardin lived with all that glory and fame..."

THIS OVER:

LOUIE

Somethin's awful wrong...

NEWLY

He's lying! He's got to be lying! And I'm going to prove it.

CONTINUED

28. CONTINUED

28.

BURKE

How...?

NEWLY

First thing, I'm going to backtrack on Ruth.

BURKE

I'll go with you.

They move OFF, and we:

DISSOLVE TO:

29. EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - LONG SHOT - NEWLY AND BURKE - DAY

29.

Riding along.

30. SHOT OF NEWLY AND BURKE

30.

as they work along, trying to piece out the backtrack.

NEWLY

Lost it. Tracks come down that hill steady for a time, then then...nothing.

BURKE

Well, what direction would be most likely...?

NEWLY

I'd say...

(points)

...that way. Let's circle wide, work in that direction.

BURKE

Let's go.

31. SHOTS OF NEWLY AND BURKE

31.
THRU
34.

THRU
34.

as they, separately, search grass and gully, without result. Twice Newly nears Festus' position, veers off. Finally finds Mannon's cast-off rigging.

NEWLY

(hailing)

Over here!

35. CLOSER SHOT - NEWLY AND BURKE

35.

as Burke comes hustling up. Newly is kneeling, inspecting the rigging.

NEWLY
Somebody's saddle and bridle...

BURKE
(nods)
'n sure been worked hard, the both of 'em...'n looky there! That's Festus' sackin'....!

NEWLY
And here's blood...! Now...if he was shot and started crawling...

BURKE
...he'd pull himself downhill...

NEWLY
To shade...that oak, maybe.

Both react to the possibility and hurry down toward the oak.

36. REVERSE SHOT FROM FESTUS

36.

as they arrive. Burke spots Festus first.

BURKE
There he is!

Newly crosses instantly, kneels, inspects.

BURKE (CONT'D)
Is he alive, Newly?

Newly examines Festus.

BURKE (CONT'D)
Newly...?

NEWLY
I don't know...

And we:

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

37. INT. DOC'S OFFICE - FESTUS AND DOC - NIGHT 37.X

The room is gloomy with the lamps killed, but we can make out Doc sitting in a chair and Festus stretched out on the examining table, blanket-covered. HOLD a BEAT to establish. Then: KNOCK at the door. Doc rallies, goes to the door.

38. ANOTHER ANGLE 38.

as Doc opens the door. It's Kitty with a tray of food.

DOC
What you got there? X

KITTY
Thought you'd want something
to eat. X

DOC
Thanks. X

Kitty places tray, looks at Festus.

KITTY
He come around yet? X

DOC
He was mumbling in his sleep a
few minutes ago. X

KITTY
How is he?

DOC
Weak...awful weak. X

Just then Festus starts to MUMBLE and they cross to him. His eyes open and he stares up at them. He is clearly in a very weakened condition.

DOC (CONT'D)
Festus...?

FESTUS
Oh, my... It hurts...

DOC
(nods, taking
his pulse)
And it's gonna hurt for some
time to come. X

FESTUS
Miss Kitty... How'd I git here?
Last I remember, I was a 'crawlin'
down. X

CONTINUED

38. CONTINUED

38.

KITTY
Newly and Burke found you. X

FESTUS
Ruth! X

DOC
She's all right. X

FESTUS
Gotta go look fer Ruth an'
that....

DOC
You've gotta do nothing but lie
there. X

FESTUS
That fish-eyed yahoo stole Ruth,
Doc!

KITTY
You saw who shot you? X

FESTUS
We was no more'n nose t'nose..... X

DOC
(nods)
Figured as much from the looks of
the bullet hole. X

FESTUS
Somebody's gotta git after him....
git Ruth back. X

KITTY
Will Mannon rode into town on
your mule about five hours ago. X

FESTUS
(touch of awe)
...Will Mannon.....? X

KITTY
(rueful)
He's down at the Longbranch
bold as bullets, but when you
identify him..... X

A KNOCK at the door interrupts.

DOC
Come in.

39. ANGLE TO INCLUDE BURKE

39.

as he ENTERS.

BURKE
(cordially)
Miss Kitty....

KITTY
(in kind)
Nathan....

Burke comes forward, intent with Festus. This, as:

BURKE X
Come to see how Festus is, Doc.
Everybody's...

DOC X
He's going to need a lot of rest.

BURKE
(coming up)
Howdy, Festus.

FESTUS X
Burke.

BURKE
Y'spose you're up to identifying
who shot you?

FESTUS X
Don't reckon I could.

Doc and Kitty look at each other; astonishment.

BURKE X
Why not?

FESTUS X
Whoever it was to the back a
me...couldn't rightly say...

BURKE
(to Doc)
You said he was shot in the front.
In the chest.

Doc realizes Festus is covering for something. This as:

CONTINUED

39. CONTINUED

39.

DOC

Well...it did look like that --
but there have been cases where
bullets expanded oddly in
passage, and...

X

FESTUS

I figure it was somebody deer
huntin' down-valley. Probably
didn't even know I was around.

X

BURKE

With you shooting sage hens?!

FESTUS

Noise muffles up in those
draws somethin' tight...

BURKE

(a pronouncement)

Festus. It was Will Mannon who
shot you.

X

FESTUS

No! -- Will Mannon? I heard he
was up in the Dakotas.

X

BURKE

Well, he's here in Dodge now...
and with the Marshal gone, we're
in for trouble. You just mark
my words.

X

DOC

We'll do that, Burke. Now
you get on out of here. Festus
needs all the rest he can get.

X

BURKE

Somethin' awful's in the
wind, I know it. I just know
it.

X

DOC

Good night, Burke.

X

Doc and Kitty hold their looks on Festus -- then:

X

DOC (CONT'D)

You were shot from the front, and
close enough to read birthmarks
on the one who did it.

X

CONTINUED

39. CONTINUED

39.

FESTUS

Will Mannon. The one who done the burnin' an' killin'...and the thinkin' for Quantrill...Doc... Miss Kitty, he's got a gun hand... if you greased a snake's tongue 'n...tied it to lightnin', you wouldn't get nothin' quicker.

X

KITTY

Why don't you want to identify him?! Matt'll be back in a day or two and --

X

FESTUS

Yeah ---

X

Doc and Kitty wait.

X

FESTUS (CONT'D)

Doc...Miss Kitty, Will Mannon's twice the gun-hand Matthew is.

X

KITTY

What?

FESTUS

I'm tellin' you...I've seen 'em both...an' I'm tellin' you Mannon's faster...On'iest thing we can do is keep them two apart...if we jist hold easy...likely be Mannon'll move on.....

DOC

You mean do nothing, but hope he'll go away?!

FESTUS

That's right. Doc...and hope hard...elsewise it's Matthew dead in that street out there.

Kitty and Doc exchange looks, then:

CUT TO:

40. INT. LONGBRANCH - CLOSE SHOT - MANNON - NIGHT

40.

He stands easily, arms folded across his chest, sober. As he speaks, ANGLE WIDENS to INCLUDE Howie and some of the customers, Burke and Newly among them. Newly is a touch disdainful and angered by:

X

CONTINUED

40. CONTINUED

40.

MANNON

I've always been of the mind that it's best for a man to flat-out say who and what he is. Makes for understandin'. In case there is a man or two here who ain't heard....

And in an instant he whirls, draws and gets off THREE SUCCESSIVE SHOTS.

41. SHOT OF BOTTLES ON THE BAR 41.X

Three bottles from the top row have the necks shot off, so nearly simultaneously as to seem correspondent.

42. ANGLE TO INCLUDE ROOM 42.

Newly is pressing forward. X

MANNON

My name is Will Mannon.

NEWLY

Mister, until Festus identifies you, I can't do anything...but I sure can do something about that.

MANNON

Well, now...
(to the others,
of Newly)
'Pears there's one right there....

(then, to
Newly)

It'll be a fine way to get the world to any other....

Sam levels his shot gun.

SAM

Just stand easy. X

MANNON

You got something to say, barkeep? X

SAM

That whiskey's two dollars a bottle.

NEWLY

Sam, I'll handle this....

MANNON

(gun lowered
to Newly)

Friend, I'm going to kill that barkeep before he pulls the trigger, and him with his finger on it...Then I'm going to kill you. X

SAM

You'll pay up, first.

CONTINUED

42. CONTINUED

42.

NEWLY
Hold on, both of you!

Mannon just laughs, then:

43. ANGLE TO INCLUDE KITTY

43.

as she ENTERS, sizes up the showdown; moves forward, and:

MANNON
You figure you come to set,
barkeep?

KITTY
Sam! Put up the gun!

MANNON
Ma'am I was figuring to use
these here pilgrims as an
example.

KITTY
(now between
Mannon and
Newly)
Newly! Sam...!

NEWLY
Miss Kitty...

KITTY
Newly, please...

Her look is enough. He eases off. Sam lowers the gun and Mannon shrugs; takes one of the bottles (the necks are off, but nothing spilled) and starts back to a table of girls.

SAM
That'll be six dollars...

Mannon stops and looks at Sam, then laughs and:

KITTY
It's all right, Sam.

MANNON
(still looking
at Sam, nods)
...it's all right, Sam...

He turns, and heads for a table of girls. Pours.

44. CLOSER - KITTY, SAM, NEWLY

44.

NEWLY
You were taking an awful chance,
Miss Kitty. X

KITTY
So were you and Sam. X

SAM
(indicating Mannon) X
We're all for the "taking" as far
as he's concerned. Dodge House for
lodging; Delmonico's for food.

NEWLY
But nobody will make a formal
complaint. Well, I don't need
one to make an arrest now. X

KITTY
Leave him alone. X

NEWLY
What?! X

KITTY
Don't make any trouble. X

NEWLY
Miss Kitty! The Marshal gave
me this badge and the responsibility
that goes with it. I... X

KITTY
(overlaps)
Newly, listen to me... X

NEWLY
No, Ma'm... X

KITTY
Did you ever see Matt shoot
faster than what he can? X

SAM
(beat; at Newly's
pause; chagrin)
I sure haven't.

NEWLY
That doesn't make any difference. X
I've got to arrest him, or try.

CONTINUED

44. CONTINUED

44.

KITTY

I'm not going to see you killed...
not over three bottles of cheap
whiskey. Now, Newly, please...

X

A moment. Newly eases off. Then Kitty disengages
herself and moves toward Mannon's table, as Burke
moves up to Newly.

X

45. OMITTED

45.

46. MANNON, GIRLS, KITTY

46.

as Kitty approaches.

KITTY

(quietly)

...other customers, girls...

The girls move OFF obediently. Mannon and Kitty are
left together. He sizes her -- indicates a chair.

MANNON

(seemingly sincere)

Didn't know they allowed
ladies in a saloon, ma'am.

KITTY

I own the Longbranch.

MANNON

(nods)

Figured. But the thought
still stands.

KITTY

What thought, Mr. Mannon?

MANNON

I been down in the Nations
hide-huntin' two years now,
but I was raised respectful
'n I know a lady, ma'am.

KITTY

And what brings you out of
the Nations, Mr. Mannon?
Your transactions up to date
seem to be on credit.

CONTINUED

46. CONTINUED

46.

MANNON

Oh, ma'am, I pay -- come the
time for it.

KITTY

You ever pay for what happened
in Lawrence?

The looks acknowledge: no nonsense. Mannon is just
as cool as she is; he drinks deeply, then:

MANNON

Well now...that was a war.

KITTY

War...

MANNON

Ma'am...You got to get attention
to your direction...And if you
ain't got direction...you just
got...

(simply)

...stampede...now any animal
can do that...what happened in
Lawrence -- well that gave
Quantrill; the rest of us...
direction.

They consider each other a beat.

KITTY

What do you want here, Mr.
Mannon?

Mannon drinks from the bottle again; a deep, draining
drink - eyes objectively, absolutely unemotionally
beyond Kitty. Then, back to her: shrugs.

MANNON

Nothin' much.

CONTINUED

KITTY

Then move on.

MANNON

I figure Matt Dillon is
"nothin' much"...ma'am.

(we see her
reaction,
and the
effort to
conceal it)

I'm gonna walk across Matt
Dillon like you walk across
short grass...

KITTY

Why?

MANNON

(beat, then shakes
his head)

Well, ma'am...if it wasn't for
us ole boys out there doin' the
doin' in that ole war, why you
wouldn't have no town at all
here...

KITTY

The war was over ten years ago... X

MANNON

Been a time... X

(and)

Y'know, I ain't suggestin' nobody
should take to bowin' an' step
off my shadow but...well, a
little feelin' o' respect sets
a nice tone...

KITTY

Respect... X

MANNON

Yes, Ma'am...an' respect's what
I'll have once I've got Marshal
Dillon's toes pointin' to the
clouds.

(toasts with the
bottle)

...to respect. X

He drinks. On Kitty's look, we:

DISSOLVE TO: