

# **RED FOX/SECOND HANGIN'**

**Written by  
Don Baker and Dudley Cocke**

**Directed by  
Don Baker and Dudley Cocke**

**Original Cast  
Don Baker, Gary Slemph, Frankie Taylor**

## **Production History**

**Red Fox/Second Hangin'** premiered in Whitesburg, Kentucky in 1976, toured throughout the Appalachian Mountains where it was often performed in community centers, churches, and in a portable tent, was performed off-Broadway in New York City at Theatre for the New City in 1977 and the Manhattan Theatre Club in 1978, and toured regionally and nationally until 1988.

**Red Fox/Second Hangin'** was published in an anthology, *Alternate ROOTS Plays from the Southern Theater*, Heinemann, 1994.

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Stage: Upstage a 9' x 12' screen for projected images. A straight-back chair, wooden stool, small table or box for water pitcher and three glasses.

Cast: 3 Storytellers. Each is physically and temperamentally different. All three are natives of the Cumberland Plateau and fluent in the local dialect.

Place and Time: Here and now.

A SERIES OF 24 INTRODUCTORY SLIDES. THEY ARE COPIES OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND LETCHER COUNTY, KENTUCKY, 1885-1895. THE PHOTOGRAPHS WERE RESEARCHED AND COLLECTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL MUSEUM, BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA; THE ALICE LLOYD COLLEGE PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES, PIPPA PASSES, KENTUCKY; AND THE FAMILY COLLECTIONS OF MANY INDIVIDUALS IN WISE AND LETCHER COUNTIES.

**D. H.** (ALONE ON STAGE, COMMENTS ON SEVERAL OF THE INTRODUCTORY SLIDES IN PASSING, PERHAPS ASKS THAT ONE OR TWO BE BACKED UP FOR A CLOSER LOOK.)

## PROLOGUE

**D. H.** Hello. For those of you who haven't read your programs, we come from the coalfields of Appalachia, the Cumberland Mountains where Virginia backs up on Kentucky. And we've come here to tell you folks a tale. It's a true story about a man who lived down home back in the 1890's, time of the first big coal boom. Kind of a wild, raw story told from court records and 100 years worth of memory. Now that ain't my memory. But in a way it is. And for the three of us, it sort of helps to explain that place where we grew up, live, and work.

You know old pictures like these are always kind of brown and faded. And sometimes it seems like them old people theirselves must have walked around in a brown, faded world, don't it? But when you listen to them talk about the way things used to be, sit back, hear them spin them old yarns, slowly wind them threads out, they'll weave a story for you about a time full of color.

Of all the old people down around home that love telling bits and pieces of this story, I reckon I'd rather listen to an old man from up on Kingdom Come Creek over in Kentucky. [ENTER GARY DALE] Everybody up Kingdom Come Creek called him Pap, and to tell you our story, we've got to tell you a little bit about Pap and his time . . .

## ACT I

SLIDE: FAMILY ON PORCH OF LOG CABIN

**Gary Dale** Pap, we'd go to his house and he'd sit by the fire and tell us things.

**D. H.** He'd tell us how in his family they was eight of them.

**Gary Dale** Then he'd stop, study a minute, mumble,

**D. H. (AS PAP)** "No, there was two boys and, le's see, seven girls, I believe."

**Gary Dale** And then he'd count them off on his fingers.

**D. H.** And he'd tell how his granddaddy had twelve and raised them til they's all growed.

**Gary Dale** And ol' Gid Ison, they was fourteen in their family,

**D. H.** and twelve in ol' Doc Cornett's family.

**Gary Dale** Bad Henry Adams, why he had 23 younguns.

**D. H.** And folks plumb give up trying to count how many Devil John Wright had.

**Gary Dale** People used to raise big families back then, and, when they'd go to the field to go a-workin',

**TOGETHER** they could flat do some work.

**Gary Dale** Said people was friendly back then, and everybody seemed like they enjoyed theirselves more than what they do today.

**D. H.** That's 'cause they had time to stop with one another.

**Gary Dale** Didn't have to punch no time clock, nor have no hired work.

**D. H.** They'd just make their crop, you know. They'd go visit one another on weekends, stay a night or two. Back then people had plenty of beds. Maybe just one or two big rooms. But they'd be 4 or 5 beds in every room. Cook, eat, sleep all in one room. Back then, they'd have 'em big get-togethers

**Gary Dale** and they'd have more fun a-workin'.

**D. H.** They'd hunt for them ole stewballs at corn shuckin's and at them log rollin's the corn whiskey

**Gary Dale** and apple brandy

**D. H.** made the work go

**TOGETHER** awful good.

**D. H.** And them big stout men would get to trying to out do one another,

**Gary Dale** to see who could carry the heaviest load,

**D. H.** til pretty soon

**TOGETHER** all the work was done.

**D. H.** Yessir, now at a-workin' everybody would gather in;

**Gary Dale** the women folk would work about twice as hard as the men, gather in a bunch of 'em  
and cook a big dinner,

**D. H.** and everybody'd eat

**Gary Dale** and then they'd start a-passin' that jug of  
stimulants around again.

**D. H.** Then like as not they'd have 'em a wrasslin' match,

**Gary Dale** and somebody would git a little tipsy and  
drag an ole banjer out of the corner and start a-pickin' on it

**D. H.** and then they would light the pine  
knots what they used for lamps,

**Gary Dale** and they'd be dancin',

**D. H.** and singin'

**TOGETHER** and carryin' on

**D. H.** 'til finally they'd get tired

**Gary Dale** and go on home to maybe do the  
same thing the next day at somebody else's little ole log house.

**D. H.** All you'd see nearly, was log houses.

**Gary Dale** Ever' now and then you'd see one of them houses with plank boards on the side of it, but they just wadn't many saw mills back then.

**D. H.** They just flat laid the logs on you know.

**Gary Dale** Couldn't hardly buy no nails.

**D. H.** What nails they was, was cut nails, they called 'em.

**Gary Dale** Now cut nails, you hit one of them little boogers, and it would just go a-zingin' through the air

**TOGETHER** like a bat-outa-hell

**Gary Dale** and you had to be awful careful of them cut nails, or they'd flail off in your eyeball.

**D. H.** My daddy, why he wouldn't hammer a cut nail so long as he lived, said,

**Gary Dale (AS DADDY)** "The woods is full of them one-eyed fellers, and I ain't got no intention to jine 'em."

**D. H.** Hit was a sight how many they was with only one eye.

**Gary Dale** Sight, wadn't it.

**D.H.** And, you know, ever' one I'd see when I's little, well, I got to a-sayin', "Cut eye one nail, ole cut nail one eye," and one time they's this one-eyed man come up to the house to see Daddy bout somethin or nother.

**Gary Dale** One-eyed Doc Mullins, was his name.

**D. H.** Yeh, and I's inside, and I got to singin' that over and over to myself, you know, the way a child will.

**Gary Dale (SINGS AS CHILD)** "Cut eye one nail, cut nail one eye."

**D. H. (REFERRING TO GARY DALE)** Sorta like that.

Pretty soon I musta got to a-singin' it out loud without realizin' it. 'Cause one-eyed Doc left, and after a bit Daddy he come in off the porch with a big stick in his hand (**AS CHILD**) yanked me up and looked me right square in the eye, says,

**Gary Dale (AS DADDY)** "Don't you never . . . what time you live and breath, don't you never ever let me hear you make fun of nobody like that again."

**D. H.** And then he lit into me, and with me a'hollerin' (**AS CHILD**) "I never meant to, Daddy!" ever breath, he flailed the living daylights out of me. Law, I thought I's awful ill-treated to a-got that whuppin' and I pouted for a solid week.

**Gary Dale** Bet you never did much talk to yourself after that, did you?

**D. H. (DERISIVELY TO GARY DALE)** No, nor never made fun of nobody less fortunate than me neither.

SLIDE: 40 CHILDREN IN FRONT OF A LOG SCHOOL HOUSE

**Gary Dale** Pap taught school nine year.

**D. H.** Taught for \$26 a month;

**Gary Dale** had to furnish his own bucket,

**D. H.** his own dipper,

**Gary Dale** broom,

**D. H.** coal,

**Gary Dale** all that on \$26 a month.

**D. H. (AS PAP)** "Yeh, I worked hard,"

**Gary Dale** Pap'd say,

**D. H.** "and hit weren't a case of work or starve. Honey, hit was work and starve."

**Gary Dale** Pap got tired of teaching school, decided to go get him a honest job. So he went to work in one of them stave mills where they made wood barrels that they put whiskey in. Pap was a timber cutter.

**D. H.** Used to be all sorts of timber back down home like what they ain't now.

**Gary Dale** Virgin timber.

**D. H.** Why, in them days hit weren't nothing to see a poplar tree six ner eight foot through and straight as a arrow

**TOGETHER** for 200 foot or more.

**D. H.** They had to use sometimes six, eight, maybe even ten yoke of oxen to snake them logs out of there.

**Gary Dale** Hit was a sight to see twelve, sixteen or twenty of them big ole oxen hitched to a log that big around

**D. H.** with a man a-crackin' one of them big ole long ox whips over their heads.

**Gary Dale (AS DRIVER)** When that whip would come down, you could see the fur fly!

**D. H. (AS DRIVER)** Just as soon as that driver man started to whirling that whip

**Gary Dale** them oxen

**D. H.** would start to shake their heads,

**Gary Dale (AS OX)** bow over,

**TOGETHER (AS OXEN)** twist and squirm,

**Gary Dale** and them yokes would start to creak . . .

HOYT "MOOS" FROM OFF STAGE (MAYBE SITTING AMONG THE AUDIENCE)

**D.H. to Hoyt** Thank you, Hoyt.

. . . and them logs would start to move.

**Gary Dale** Yessir, now they had to work hard a-cuttin' that timber and training them actors to imitate them oxen,

**D. H.** and they still didn't have much money.

**Gary Dale** Why, in them days if a man made \$1,000 he's a wheel-hoss,

**D. H.** cause it was so hard to get, ya know,

**Gary Dale** and if you's to see a feller go by in a buggy (**BOTH D. H. AND GARY DALE SEE MAN IN BUGGY**) you'd say, "Well, looky yonder, there goes a rich man."

**D. H.** Yeh, but now I'll just tell you,

**Gary Dale** for all that,

**D. H.** I'd ruther be back there.

**Gary Dale** I reckon I heard Pap say it at least a thousand times,

**D. H. (AS PAP)** "Can't be modren, hit costes too much."

SLIDE: CUMBERLAND MOUNTAIN

**Hoyt** Yeah, Pap, bless his heart, he could tell all kinds of tales like that, 'bout old times and the way people used to do, if you could ever get him started. If you could get him started, he almost always winded up talkin' 'bout a feller by the name of Doc Taylor.

**D. H.** The Red Fox.

**Hoyt** Now, if you know much about a red fox, you know he's a slippery feller. Past master at throwing off the trackers. Why, he'll double back, sidetrack, run along fence tops, through creeks, skim over thin ice. You know those ole snake-rail fences like they used to have, an ole red fox will just walk along the top of 'em.

One time when Pap was a boy, the foxes around home got to stealing chickens so bad that they got up a big posse of over a hundred men to set out a-scourin' the hills, huntin' fer them ole red-coated chicken thieves. Well sir, accordin' to Pap, two men got shot up real bad in that hunt

**D. H.** twelve hounds kilt dead as a door nail.

**Hoyt** There wadn't nary a fox caught. But now, they said that some of them men had tracked this big ol' daddy fox right up to this here woman's house. Lost track and had finally give up and gone on. Directly, that woman went to do her bakin'. When she opened the oven door (GARY DALE SCREAMS) . . . that fox jumped outta there, scared her so bad, she had to put off her bakin' 'til the next day.

**D. H.** On top of that, her bread fell.

**Gary Dale** Pap remembers the first time he ever seed Doc Taylor, the Red Fox. He was just a boy an' one mornin' his mommy and his sister was down at the creek a-battlin' their clothes.

**D. H.** Used to, you had to battle your clothes, they'd get so smelly and rank, nearly knock you down.

**Gary Dale** Anyway, Pap's mommy, she went on back to the house to fix the noon meal

**Hoyt** and left his little sister at the creek

**Gary Dale & Hoyt** to finish up the wash.

**D. H.** His sister, (AS GIRL BATTING CLOTHES) she washed along for a while and directly she happened to look up (STARTLED) . . . and seen a man a standin' by the thicket across the creek

**Gary Dale** a-watchin her.

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** He had long red hair

**Gary Dale** and a big red beard

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** and a great big mole on his cheek

**Gary Dale** and in his hand was the  
biggest rifle she'd ever seed

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** and going this-a-way acrossst his chest was two big belts of  
bullets, just a-gleamin' in the sun.

**Gary Dale** Her mouth dropped open

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** her eyes popped out

**Hoyt** and she took off a-runnin' to the house just  
as fast as she could go. Ran in the house, slammed the door, and hollered

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** "Mommy! Mommy! There's a man  
snuck up down at the creek, Mommy, had long red hair, a big red beard, Mommy, he had a big  
gun, it looked like a cannon, Mommy, oh Mommy, he's goin' to kill us!"

**Gary Dale (AS MAMA)** "Daughter, if you don't stop shakin' like that you're gonna pee in your pants!  
That's just Old Doc Taylor, honey. He'll be on up to the house d'rectly, to get him sumptin to  
eat. I hope."

**D. H.** Sure enough, hit was old Doc.

**Gary Dale** And, sure enough, he come up to the house for sumptin to eat.

**D. H.** And, sure enough,

**Gary Dale** he got it.

**Hoyt** And her Ma seemed right glad to see him.

**Gary Dale** Her and Doc set and talked a long spell about

**D. H. & Gary Dale** this, that, and the other

**Hoyt** and Pap's little sister, she  
got plumb struck on Ole Doc long afore he left.

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** Oh, she thought he had the gentlest voice she'd ever heard and the most fascinatin'  
way of talkin'

**Hoyt** and after he left that day, she started in a-wishin'

**D. H. (AS GIRL)** "Hope he comes back tomorry."

**Gary Dale (AS YOUNG PAP)** "Nah,nah,nah,nah, nah,nah, Sissie's got a sweetheart."

**D. H. (AS GIRL WITH FIST)** "You shut up!"  
Now, that's the way hit was with ole Doc Taylor.

**Gary Dale** The women folk would rather listen to Doc Taylor talk about the spirits as eat gingerbread  
come election time.

**Hoyt (CHARMING WOMAN IN AUDIENCE)** Seems like he could just cast a spell over 'em -- or  
somethin' like that, anyways.

**Gary Dale (JOINING HOYT)** He was a woman's man, now!

**D. H. & Hoyt** Lord, was he ever.

**Gary Dale** An' he done some spell casting all right.

**D. H.** He's the very one all the women all called on when it came to birthin' babies.

**Hoyt** Just couldn't be beat at birthin' babies and a-curin' the flux.

**D. H. (HOLDING HIS BEHIND)** Oh God, the flux.

**Gary Dale** Hit's a deadly disease of the bowels;

**D. H.** starvation dysentery's what it was. Killed people  
by the dozens back here in these mountains when it was so bad.

**Gary Dale** Pap used to say the flux reached into the best and finest houses around there. And once you got the flux, you better learn to live with the flux 'cause weren't nothin' you could do about the flux.

**D. H.** Pap also said Doc Taylor could do something about the flux.

**Gary Dale** Doc was a natural at curin' folks,

**D. H.** always had been.

**Gary Dale** One time, when Doc was a boy, 17 or 18 years old, before he ever got any formal doctorin' training . . .

**D. H.** Now he did get some formal doctorin' trainin' later on, up there at Louisville Medical College.

**Gary Dale** . . . he walked out in his backyard there and saw one of his little brothers a-running along with his nose cut just about clean off with the sharp edge of a double edged axe.

**D.H.** He took one look at that boy

**Gary Dale** and another look at that nose

**D.H.** went back in the house there,  
got one of his mama's silk handkerchiefs, unraveled that handkerchief, made him a thread,

**Gary Dale** got him a needle, went back out there, and held that little boy down and sewed that nose back on so good

**D. H.** after it healed, they said you had to look twice to see airy a sign of a scar.

**Gary Dale** Doc Taylor, he couldn't be beat sewin' noses and birthin' babies.

**D. H.** An he hardly ever charged fer none of his curin' neither.

**Gary Dale** Just had a special way about him. Like that story Pap would tell about an ole pack peddlar selling pots and pans from back of his wagon, got waylaid

**D. H.** back in 1890.

**Hoyt (AS PACK PEDDLAR)** "I uz coming across the Pine Mountain and over there at that spring at Scuttle Hole Gap there's a bunch of rogues ambushed me, shot me up with pistols, cut me up with knives, and throwed me over in an ole laurel thicket and left me there for dead. When I come-to, I thought I shore enough was dead and had gone to heaven--'cause I wadn't in

that laurel thicket no more. An' I could hear somebody a singin' that sweet old hymn, 'How Firm the Foundation Ye Saints of the Lord'. . . Well, I just laid there a listenin', and a feelin' right proud of myself for havin' made it up to heaven; and I could hear what sounded like a rockin' chair a creakin'. I got to lookin' around to see what heaven looked like (it was a little bit darker up there than what I had figgered it to be). D'rectly that singin' stopped. The creakin' stopped. A door opened. Somebody come in. Lit a lamp. And a man come, stood over me, put his hand on my forehead, and stood there lookin' up, straight up for, oh, the longest time. And I breathed good.

Well, now the next thing I remember, it was daylight and I could see I uz in a bed, in a cabin, and a hangin from the rafters over me was all sort a dried plants, herbs and stuff. An I had about figgered out I hadn't died, much less gone to heaven, when this feller I had seen standin' over me come an asked me how I was. Told me as how he'd found me there in that laurel thicket and brought me back to that place. Told me as how I uz going to be all right. That the Lord had told him so. Now that feller fed me, doctored me, and uz right good to me. It uz old Doc Taylor, you know. When I got my strength back, I joined him out on the porch of a evenin'. He'd sing to me and talk to me. I asked him what he'd used to cure me. An he told me he used the spirits. Said he give me a little rattle snake meat and some jillica to he'p them spirits along a bit, but how hit was the Holy Spirits what he used to do the curin'. He'd read to me from out of the Bible and this big book on religion by a feller named Swedenburg. Most of the words now uz too big for me to understand, but ole Doc could whittle em down. He told how the Lord's holy angels could appear to me, talk to me, and he'p me, if I'd let em. An' you know, before I'd left that cabin, I had seed the Lord's angels. You fellers may think I'm crazy, but them old spirits have appeared to me time and time again. An I've allus thanked that Red Fox, old Doc Taylor, for a brangin' em to me."

**D. H.** Doc sure did have a way preachin' about the spirits all right.' He ought to of had a way, cause he was a preacher. Been a preacher ever since the Civil War. Like everybody else, Doc, he j'ined up. But it weren't long before he seed what was going on and quit, and set into preachin' that this war was too ungodly a business for a man to be a-takin' a part in.

SLIDE: TWO MEN, POSSIBLY AN UNCLE AND NEPHEW, SIDE BY SIDE WITH FIREARMS

**Gary Dale** They's alot of folks around home what didn't think that war's too ungodly a business.

**Hoyt** Now back during the Civil War around home folks didn't go off so much and jine up with the big armies.

**Gary Dale** Most of the fightin here was little gangs of men from up one holler, or down one creek

**Hoyt** fightin another little gang of men from up another holler or down another creek.

**Gary Dale** They wadn't fightin some enemy soldier so much as they was a-fightin' and killin'

**Gary Dale & Hoyt**

their neighbors.

**Gary Dale** There's an awful lot of hate built up with that war. An' after the war, people around home just had to settle down with that hate and not do nothin' about it and look a man you hated right square in the face every day or so.

**Hoyt** A man you knowed had kilt your daddy

**Gary Dale** or your brother

**Hoyt** or your son.

**D. H.** All them ole feuds you heard about, the Hatfields and McCoys, Frenches and Eversoles, old Clabe Jones War, and the like, they all come about on account of these here old Civil War grudges.

**Gary Dale** Now, durin' the war the bloodiest and

**D. H. & Gary Dale** NASTIEST

**Gary Dale** of the fightin' around home all  
happened right there below Pound Gap,

**Hoyt** South of the Cumberland Mountain

**Gary Dale** and right there was bottled  
up some of the worst

**D. H. & Gary Dale** HATE

**Gary Dale** ya could ever hope to see.

**D. H.** Now right there at the foot of the mountain

**Hoyt** on the Virginia side,

**D. H.** there's a little stretch of road

**Gary Dale** called the Mud Hole

**D. H.** where the road used to go right smack dab through a long swampy place there

**Hoyt** fer about half a mile.

**D. H.** After the war, when the pack peddlars would come through there with their goods all loaded down on wagons,

**Hoyt** and they'd knowed they be going through the Mud Hole,

**D. H.** what they do was get  
together over there aroun' the Wise Court House

**Gary Dale** ya know, get six or eight wagons together  
in order to go through there.

**D. H.** Well, when they would get to the Mud Hole,

**Hoyt** they'd take all the teams loose,

**D. H.** hitch 'em all  
together,

**TOGETHER(PULLING THE WAGON)** and then pull one wagon through.

**Gary Dale** Then they'd go back,

**D. H.** hitch up to the next 'un,

**TOGETHER (PULLING THE WAGON)** and pull hit through;

**D. H.** keep on like that  
until the very last one was through,

**Gary Dale** and then they'd go on across the mountain . . .

**D. H.** "See ya Gustav!" . . . and go their own way.

**Hoyt** You can sure see that the Mud Hole was a natural stoppin' place.

**Gary Dale** If any of you good folks ever been mired to your hind-end in mud, you know what we're talkin about.

**D. H.** So right there, there got to be a bunch -- now, I ain't talkin' about four, five, six, or seven

**Gary Dale** (he's talkin about a bunch)

**D. H.** of what they called public houses.

**Hoyt (AS OLD TIME PREACHER)** "What's the world coming to today. It has got so a man can't go through the Mud Hole without getting his head cut off or his wagon robbed. Lord . . . they gamble, sell whiskey, keep loose women, God Almighty!"

**D. H., Gary Dale & Hoyt (SINGING)**

"Don't raise them nicotined stained hands  
To the Lord in prayer  
Don't try to hide in the closet  
'Cause He will find you there  
Whiskey, beer, wine, and gin  
It's the devil's recipe for sin  
Come on down  
Come on down  
Come on in"

**Hoyt (AS OLD TIME PREACHER)** "There must be 10, 15, 20 . . . too many of them public houses"

**D. H. & Gary Dale** right there on that half-a-mile stretch.

**D. H.** Now, like I said, right in there was a whole hellava-lota hate built up. And so with all that drinkin'

**Gary Dale** an' gamblin'

**Hoyt** an' carryin' on

**D. H. & Gary Dale** an' all that hatin'

**D. H.** they was bound to  
be trouble.

**Gary Dale** It got so there's a shoot-out a day in the Mud Hole.

**D. H.** Nervous fellers stayed outa' there.

**Hoyt** The Mud Hole come to be a rough neighborhood,

**D. H.** and it took a lota liquor

**Gary Dale** an' a lota apple brandy

**TOGETHER** an' a lota moonshine to satisfy it.

**D. H.** I guess there ain't no need in tellin' you folks,

**Gary Dale** (Go ahead and tell 'em anyway.)

**D. H.** They's a lotta satisfaction

**Gary Dale** (Ya know, money, cash, jingle in your pocket)

**D. H.** to be made from shinin' the Mud Hole

**Hoyt** and there's a lot of men would kill to get that satisfaction

**D. H.** and did.

**Gary Dale** In 1888, Doc Taylor had took the job as U.S. marshall to try to stop some of that killing, clean up some of that mess.

**Hoyt** And right from the first of his marshallin', he started crossin' some of the baddest of that bad Mud Hole lot.

**D. H.** The baddest bad man of the mountains was a feller by the name of

**ALL TOGETHER** Bad Talt Hall.

**D. H.** Now, everybody all around home had heared about bad Talton Hall. And they's stories as how he'd kilt 99 men during his career.

**Gary Dale** Talt, ya see, got started killin' young. When the Civil War got started, Talt, he's just a boy 'bout 13 or 14 years old. The war had been goin' on awful hot for a while, and Talt's daddy had got him the name of

**D. H. & Gary Dale** "Bad" Dave Hall.

**Gary Dale** Well now, Talt, he wanted to be like his daddy . . .

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "More 'n anything in the world, I wanna be like my Daddy!"

**Gary Dale** . . . an' he was jest a itchin' to get him a bad name

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "Jest like my Daddy."

**D. H.** Talt had fell in with a gang of full growed men that was fightin' on the Confederate side . . .

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "kinda runnin' and hidin' and ambushin' in the mountains."

**D. H.** Well, this gang come across one of Talt's uncles

**D. H. & Gary Dale (AS CONFEDERATE GANG)** who's a-sidin' with the Yankees.

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "That's Mama's brother, Henry Maggard. You a Yankee, Uncle Henry?"

**Gary Dale** So they decided they's goin' to

**D. H. & Gary Dale (AS GANG)** kill Henry Maggard.

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "Oh, let me do it. Let me shoot my uncle."

**Gary Dale** Well, knowin' as how Talt had been a-hankerin' to get him a bad name, they talked it over and decided

**D. H. (AS GANG MEMBER)** "Shore, why not!"

**D. H. & Gary Dale (AS GANG)** "Let the boy do the killing!"

**D. H. (HOLDING Gary Dale)** So they held Uncle Henry,

**Hoyt (AS TALT GETTING READY TO SHOOT)** and Talt, he up with his hog rifle . . .

**D. H.** "Hurry up, boy! We ain't got all day!"

**Hoyt** . . . and blowed his head off!

**D. H.** He'd been jest a-itchin' to kill him a man

**Gary Dale** and after that he jumped up on a ole log a-layin' there (HOYT STANDS ON STOOL)

**D. H.** and flapped his arms

**D. H. & Gary Dale** and crowed like a banty rooster.

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "From now on they'll call me Bad Talt Hall! Ain't nobody goin to call me boy agin."

**Gary Dale** After that's when Talt fell in with what was to become his lifelong buddy

**D. H. & Gary Dale** Devil John.

**D. H. (POSTURING AS DEVIL JOHN)** Now, Devil John, he was 19 and something of a soldier

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS BAD TALT & DEVIL JOHN)** and they got along good.

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** D'rectly him and Talt was being hunted by a bunch of Yankees.

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "Must be a hundred and fifty of 'em, John! And no tellin' how many blood hounds!"

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** Now they knowed it wouldn't be long 'til they'd catch up with 'em (WHILE THEY TALK) . . . so they talked things over and decided

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** to put up a fight

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** and not to be nobody's  
prisoner

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** and sell their life for as much as they could get out of  
them.

**Gary Dale (STANDING ON CHAIR MAKING THUNDER STORM)** Hit had come a hard rain  
the night before

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** and when the fight got started

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** why, their durn ole guns had gotten soakin'  
wet and wouldn't shoot . . . "Ain't worth the tits on a boar hog, John!"

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** So there wadn't nothin' left for them to do

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** but run (THEY RUN)

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** They hit the brush; John, he  
got away

**Hoyt (AS GARY DALE CAPTURES HIM)** but Talt, he got hung up in the brush and got  
captured.

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** When John seen they had Talt he come in the next mornin' and give himself up  
(D. H. GIVES HIMSELF UP)

**Hoyt** "Ho, John."

**D. H.** "Hello, Talt."

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN TO D. H.)** "Come over here, stupid."

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** "Who me?"

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "Yeh, you!"

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** As luck would have it, the captain of that posse

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** what took 'em . . .

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** (That's me.)

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** . . . turned out to be another of Talt's uncles

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "on dad-burn Daddy's side."

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** He wanted to kill Wright.

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "I want to kill you."

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** "I know."

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "If you kill my buddy, you've got to kill me, too."

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** "Yeah!"

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "Shut up, John."

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "Now you little boys is Rebel soldiers ain't ya?"

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** "Yes sir."

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "Me, I'm an officer in the Union Army. See them stripes on my shoulder?"

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** "Yes sir!"

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "I know you boys like to chase them little ole girls up there in them woods and shoot off them little ole guns, don't ya?"

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** "Yes sir."

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "And you want to keep on doin' that too, just as long as you can, don't ya?"

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT)** "Yes sir!"

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** "Well, I'll tell you what, if you fellers don't jine up with me in my army, I'll send both of you up to Confederate heaven! Don't make a damn bit o' difference to me."

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** So there wasn't nothin' else left for 'em to do but

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT, LOCK ARMS WITH CAPTAIN)** to switch sides and jine up with the Yankees.

**Gary Dale (AS CAPTAIN)** I reckon they didn't much know ner care who ner what they's a-fightin' by this time.

**D. H. (AS JOHN)** They's just

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JOHN & TALT, JAM ELBOWS INTO CAPTAIN'S RIBS)** into that fightin'!

**Gary Dale** So Devil John and Talt made em some real good enemies on both sides of that there war

**D. H. & Hoyt** don't ya see.

SLIDE: DEVIL JOHN WRIGHT MOUNTED ON HORSEBACK

**Gary Dale** That's a picture of the growed up Devil John Wright.

**D. H.** The growed up Devil John Wright got to be a rich man in all that feudin', fightin' and commotion after the war. He got to be a land buyer for some of them coal and timber companies over in Big Stone Gap. Pretty persuasive feller, if you know what I mean. And Talt, he'd always do John's dirty work. But then John'd always watch out for Talt. Whenever Talt'd get into something too hot, John'd just buy him a train ticket, send him out west somewheres 'til things kinda cooled off.

**Gary Dale** One time Talt, he done somethin' or 'nother, and John sent him packin' out west, and he stayed out there for about a year. But he kindly got homesick. Started missing the mountains. Reminded him of his mommy. When he got back, he headed right straight over to Nan Justice's saloon in Norton,

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** ordered him up a big drink of moonshine.

**Gary Dale** Nan, she sidled over

**D. H. (AS NAN)** "Long time, no see, Big Boy. How things been?"

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** "Pretty tough, Nan. Pretty tough. I seen lots of botherment since I left here."

**D. H. (AS NAN)** "Reckon ya might stay awhile this time?"

**Hoyt (AS TALT, EYEING NAN)** "No, I'm headed for Kentucky . . . but maybe I can stop . . . an' see a coupl-a my old friends."

**D. H. (AS NAN)** Uh huh!

**Gary Dale** Well, they got acquainted with one another all over again.

**D. H.** D'rectly one of Talt's ole drinkin' buddies

**Gary Dale (AS DRINKIN' BUDDY)** heard he's in town and come a-lookin' for him.

**Gary Dale & Hoyt (AS CHARACTERS)** They tied on a biggun.

**D. H.** Directly, the sheriff of Norton come in and said he was goin' (AS SHERIFF) "to arrest Talt's drinkin' buddy for stealin' a watch."

**Gary Dale (AS BUDDY)** "Who, me?"

**D. H. (AS SHERIFF)** "Yeah, you!"

**Gary Dale (AS BUDDY)** "I can't even tell time. What the hell good would a watch do me?"

**D. H. (AS SHERIFF)** "Beats me, buddy, but you're under arrest."

**Hoyt** Talt Hall shot him. (HE DOES.)

**Gary Dale (AS BUDDY)** "Shoot, Talt, you shot the sheriff!"

(SHERIFF DIES ELABORATELY)

**Hoyt** Now, that grossly over acted killin' right there was Talt's mistake.

**Gary Dale** Hit was the last one he did, and hit done him in.

**Hoyt** And Pap, he always said that the reason it done him in

**D. H. (AS PAP)** "was that it put him right square on the wrong side of ole Doc Taylor."

SLIDE: HATTIE SALYERS AS A YOUNG WOMAN

**Gary Dale** Now Doc, he had him four children by his legal wife,

**Hoyt** three girls and then a boy,

**Gary Dale** Sylvan,

**Hoyt** the youngest.

**D. H.** Doc, he always was partial to Sylvan,

**Gary Dale** would give him just about anything he wanted.

**D. H.** Well, when Sylvan up and married a young girl from up at Wise Courthouse named Hattie Salyers

**Hoyt** Doc just about busted with pride,

**Gary Dale** 'cause, ya see, Hattie was just about the prettiest and cleverest girl that they ever was around home.

**D. H.** Doc, he'd go up there and visit with 'em, set and talk fer hours

**Hoyt** with Hattie.

**Gary Dale** He thought the world of her.

**D. H.** Now, what Hattie would talk about,

**Hoyt** like as not

**D. H.** was none other than

**TOGETHER** Bad Talt Hall.

**D. H.** 'Cause Hattie knowed that Bad Talt had shot and kilt her uncle in Floyd County, Kentucky in 1885,

**Gary Dale** took his wife, stole his horse and run off with 'em both.

**D. H.** Well, when ole Bad Talt up and kilt Hattie's brother-in-law, who's that poor sheriff ya just seed die right before your very eyes, Hattie set in to a-beggin'

**D. H. & Hoyt (ON EITHER SIDE, ALTERNATING AS HATTIE)** "Doc, don't let him get away with killin' another one of my family. He's kilt my uncle, shot my brother, and he ain't goin' to be satisfied 'til he's kilt ever last one of us."

**Gary Dale** So Doc, he (layed hands on Hattie and cured her schizophrenia) took up Talt's trail and tracked him clean out to Memphis, Tennessee.

**Gary Dale & Hoyt** Doc hadn't been in Memphis long 'fore he had him caught.

SLIDE: TRAIN TRACKS IN THE WINTER

**D. H.** They brought Talt back on the train Christmas Eve, 1891. Folks was out singin' Christmas carols.

**Gary Dale & Hoyt (AS CAROLERS SING)** "O Come All Ye Faithful"

**D. H.** When they heared the train pull up, they changed their tune and went to the depot in mobs

**Hoyt (AS MOB)** trying to get at Talt to lynch him.

**Gary Dale (AS MOB)** "String him up!"

**D. H.** Huh uh! Doc, he'd just stand there right in front of Talt, that big ole Winchester of his 'un

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "jest a darin' any man to take another step."

**D. H.** They got Talt locked up, locked up in the jail at the Wise Courthouse, and the rumors started a-flyin' around that old Devil John

**Hoyt** and his gang

**D. H.** was goin' to come an' bust Talt out that jail

**Hoyt** but Doc,

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** he was determined that Talt was goin' to stand his trial

**D. H. & Hoyt** and he weren't the only one neither.

SLIDE: BIG STONE GAP SLICKERS DRESSED IN REGALIA

**Gary Dale** You see now about that time, there's an awful lot of rich city folks figured that there was alot of money to be made in these mountains,

**Hoyt** and they just figured

**D. H. & Gary Dale (AS RICH CITY FOLKS)** they'd be the very ones to make it.

**Gary Dale** They knowed for a long time that there was ore and timber and coal back in here, but they hadn't been able to figure out how to get it out.

**Hoyt** By 1885, they'd about got all the bugs worked outa that little problem

**D. H. & Gary Dale (AS RICH CITY FOLKS)** and was ready to start  
a-makin' their money.

**Hoyt** Everybody was expectin' to make them a king's ransom. Hit was just like the California gold rush.

**D. H.** Now, they's a little town 20 miles from the Mud Hole called Big Stone Gap

**Hoyt** and they's people pourin'  
into little bitty Big Stone Gap

**D. H. & Hoyt** from all over this world.

**D. H. (AS A DUKE)** There's even a duke

**Gary Dale (AS A DUCHESS)** and duchess

**D. H. & Gary Dale** from London, England.

**Hoyt** Them fellers set about to make little bitty Big Stone Gap

**TOGETHER** into the Pittsburgh of the South!

**D. H.** They's runnin' full page advertisements in the *New York Times*

**Gary Dale (READING FROM PAPER)** proclaiming as how, "This country has everything to offer to make you a fortune. They have timber, coal, and iron ore, all in one spot. The natives have no idea of the money they're sittin' on, and there are men who know how to talk to these natives"

**D. H. & Hoyt** like Devil John Wright

**Gary Dale** "and not pay anything for it, either."

**D. H.** Well, I'll be!

**Gary Dale** Upon my honor!

**D. H.** Well now, them companies set in to build big factories to work in

**Hoyt** and the owners big palaces to live in

**TOGETHER** right there in little bitty Big Stone Gap.

**Hoyt** Oh! They did some fancy livin'

**D. H.** had more money than they know'd what to do with.

**Gary Dale** They'd have these little pink tea parties

**D. H.** and send engraved invitations around on little  
silver trays,

**Hoyt** carried from palace to palace . . .  
(AS HE PORTRAYS BOY CARRYING TRAY) by some little Negro boy that they'd dress up like  
some Arab shiek

**D. H. & Gary Dale** with a turban on his head.

**Gary Dale** Now the only problem was, these fellers was scared to death to set foot out of Big Stone  
Gap.

**Hoyt** Half the time they didn't feel safe outside their own front doors.

**Gary Dale** Seems like the natives,

**D. H.** as they called 'em,

**Gary Dale** thought hit was a bushel of fun to come  
ridin' into town (HOYT PORTRAYS NATIVE, D. H. PORTRAYS RICH CITY FOLK)  
down them wood plank sidewalks, reins in their teeth, shootin' their pistols off in the air an' a  
hollerin' and a-carryin' on!

SLIDE: TWO MUD HOLE OUTLAWS SHOOTING, BRANDISHING PISTOLS IN THE AIR.  
HOUND WITH HEAD THROWN BACK, HOWLING

**D. H. (AS RICH CITY FOLK)** This uncivilized behavior didn't set too well with polite society.

**Gary Dale** That polite society figured that "the natives" needed to have the fear of God,

**D. H.** or rather the fear of law and order,

**Gary Dale** struck in to 'em, or their businesses at the Gap would never amount to a hill of beans.

**Hoyt (WITH GARY DALE AS GUARD, MARCHING)** So they got em up a little army to protect theirselves, and they called it the Home Guard.

**Gary Dale** Hut, two, three, four.

SLIDE: THE HOME GUARD AT ATTENTION

**D. H.** There had never been a hangin' in Wise County. never! But this here Home Guard decided that now, by George, was as good a time as any to have one.

**Gary Dale** It was a better time than most, seeing as they had the most famous bad man of the mountains layin' in the jail

**D. H. & Gary Dale** Ole Bad Talt Hall!

**D. H.** What with all them rumors about Devil John Wright and his gang a-bustin' Talt out of jail, that Guard picked up, transported theirselves the 12 miles to the Wise Courthouse, rigged 'em up a fort around the courthouse and jail, and took up a 24 hour watch.

**Gary Dale** They kept so many chains on poor ole Talt,

**D. H.** around his feet,

**Hoyt** on his arms an hands,

**Gary Dale** around his neck

**D. H.** said it would have took a mule to have moved him.

**Hoyt (AS TALT)** A big mule at that.

**D. H.** An', of course, they got him tried

**Hoyt** an', of course, they got him convicted

**Gary Dale** and that new judge done something that no local judge had ever done before. He sentenced Talt to hang.

**D. H.** Right after the sentencing, the Guard put Talt on a train an shipped him half way across the state of Virginia to Lynchburg, for safe keeping 'til the day come for him to hang.

**Gary Dale** Doc, he never took too kindly to all them goings on down at Big Stone Gap. Didn't care for the idea of having no Pittsburgh at his back door.

**D. H.** Doc had a lot more sense than them fancy city fellers give him credit for.

**Hoyt** He could see this here boom business wouldn't mean nothin' no more than the end of a natural way of life.

**Gary Dale** Doc give up his marshaling job, 'cause he could see that this here law an' order thing, the way these fellers had it figured, weren't going to do no more than exchange one bunch of rogues for another.

**D. H.** You'd have the Big Stone Gap bunch

**Hoyt** in place of the Mud Hole bunch

**D. H.** and on top of that,  
on top of all that, he thought they's goin' to destroy the mountains.

**Gary Dale** He'd seed it all in visions and

**D. H. & Hoyt** warned agin it.

SLIDES: SERIES OF 4 SLIDES SHOWING THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MOUNTAINS

## INTERMISSION

### ACT II

FILM: SLIDE OF HORSES AND WAGON BEING LED INTO THE BARNYARD BECOMES THE FIRST FRAME OF THE FILM

SCENE OF BARNYARD AND LOADING A MAN INTO A JOLT-WAGON. IT IS PERIOD 1890, RURAL APPALACHIA. FILM IS TONED DEEP BROWN.

**D. H.** Layin' there in the wagon is the likeness of an old moonshiner by the name of Bad Iry Mullins. Mean as a striped rattlesnake--didn't care about nothin' nor nobody. Now, besides makin' moonshine hisself, Bad Iry used to run liquor from down in North Carolina--don't ask me why he run all the way down to North Carolina when there's plenty to be made at home, but anyhow, he did--made a lotta money doing it. One time on a run of liquor down in North Carolina, he got in a fight with the law down there, got shot square through the neck, got paralyzed. Said he couldn't even feed hisself after that, much less walk. But he didn't let that stop him--just took all that money of hissen, hired out his work and his killin' done for him.

FILM: WAGON AND GANG HEAD OUT, CROSS A WIDE CREEK, AND START UP THE MOUNTAIN.

**D. H.** They carried him around in the back of an old jolt-wagon. Even though, like I said, he's paralyzed, folks around home was all scared to death of him. This day right here supposed to be May 14, 1892. Bad Iry and his bunch had gone back over to the old homeplace up on Elkhorn Creek in Kentucky to do some dealings. On Saturday morning long about nine o'clock they left out of there headed back across the mountain to Virginia and the Mud Hole. They's seven of 'em that day. Iry's wife, Lourenzy, riding in the wagon there, was as mean as any man. And it was well knowed that she carried all Iry's money, more than a thousand dollars, hid in a little money purse up and under her top skirt. Lourenzy hated Doc Taylor. You see, one time, afore Doc Taylor give up his marshalin' job, Bad Iry and his bunch was coming back from North Carolina with a load of liquor, and they got in a big gun battle with Doc Taylor and some of his deputies--right there on the main street of Wise Courthouse. Said folks was skeedaddling ever which way to get under cover somehow, and one of Iry's men was kilt, two of 'em was wounded and captured, but ole Iry and the wagon got away. Now after that, wadn't nothing but real bad blood between Iry Mullins and Doc Taylor. Iry commenced offering two, three, four hundred dollar rewards to have Doc Taylor kilt--said Doc Taylor, he was a marked man. Doc, he heared about them rewards, and he let it out to folks if he's ever to get in another row with the wagon, what he'd do was shoot the wagon horses first, then said he'd get what was in the wagon. Everybody all around home had been just waiting to see who would git who first.

This day Iry and his bunch crossed the top of the mountain and got just a quarter of a mile down into Virginia:

FILM: IRY AND HIS GANG ARE AMBUSHED FROM ROCKS ABOVE THE WAGON. THE WAGON HORSES ARE KILLED FIRST. THEN A MAN AND A BOY. TWO RUN AND GET AWAY. LOURENZY AND IRY, BOTH WOUNDED, ARE KILLED LAST AT VERY CLOSE RANGE.

THE LAST FRAME OF IRY LYING DEAD IN THE WAGON IS FROZEN AS A SLIDE

**D. H.** They's five of them kilt that day up there on the mountain, and the \$1000 Iry's wife carried was stole. Iry's boy, John, he got away, said when the shootin' started, he took off a runnin' and never looked back. They shot his gallouses, his suspenders, in two, but he got away--never seed nothin. Iry's sister, Jane, she got away--said they told her to run--and at first she said she didn't have no idea who them men was--that they's way above the road, down in behind some rocks, and had green veils down over their faces.

But now, in a few days, that woman changed her story complete--said she recognized 'em. Said it was ole Doc Taylor and them boys he run with. Now, everbody all round knowed that there weren't nothing but real bad blood between Doc Taylor and Iry Mullins. And when folks went up on the mountain that day to get the bodies, they found dead wagon horses. Everybody remembered what Doc had said 'bout the wagon horses. So a lot of folks started layin' the blame on Doc; they got up big rewards for him, big posses set out after him, and Doc, he set into scoutin'-out.

They's just all kinds of what they call scoutin'-out stories about Doc being able to slip through the wilderness unnatural-like. Somebody would see him at one place this side the mountain, and then . . . before they knowed it he'd be clean across the mountain in another place in no time atall. Just like a fox, he'd slip through here and slip through there, and then directly he'd slip in and light with one of his woman friends, whenever he'd need a little rest.

SLIDE: HOUSE

**D. H. (CONTINUES. GARY DALE ENTERS, SITS.)** Like the time he come up to the Widder Vanover's place, up there on Elkhorn Creek, to rest hisself and a feller by the name of John Venters, who lived about five miles on down the creek, heard Doc was there

**Hoyt (ENTERS)**

**D. H.** and come to get him to see his little girl, says,

**Hoyt (AS VENTERS, TO GARY DALE)** "Doc, my little girl is terrible sick. She's burnin' up with a fever. You come up the house and take a look at her."

**D. H.** Well, Doc, he knowed Venters was a stiller, and that he run with the Mudhole bunch, and Devil John Wright's gang too, and he was suspicious.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "Yeah, I'll go directly, but now you'll have to wait for just a little bit. I got some things to attend to here. Just pull ya up a chair."

**Hoyt (AS VENTERS)** "All right,"

**D. H.** says Venters,

**Hoyt (AS VENTERS)** "No. No, I'll run on ahead cause I'm awful worried about my little girl, and you come on when you're ready."

**D. H.** Then he turned and high-tailed it outa there. Doc, he sat there a-studyin' for awhile.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "Well now, they're up to something--they're up to something."

**Hoyt (AS WIDDER VANOVER)** "Well, how do you figure that?"

**D. H.** the Widder Vanover asked him.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "I could tell he's a lyin' about that child bein' sick by the way he carried on--said he didn't have time to wait. If she really was so sick--why, he wouldn't have left this place without me for fear I'd take too long a-comin' or not come at all. I reckon he's got a gang of men a-waitin' by the road to ambush me . . . and I reckon I best be a-goin'."

**Hoyt (AS THE WIDDER)** "Oh, you'll not go atall,"

**D. H.** said the Widder

**Hoyt (AS THE WIDDER)** "Why, they'll kill you shore, just like they done my poor old husband."

**Gary Dale (AS DOC, PETTING THE WIDDER)** "Don't you worry your purty self none, Widder. It'd be a awful shame for them men to set there all night by the road with nothin' to do. And maybe as how I'm wrong anyways an' his little girl is sick."

**D. H.** So Doc, he got up--went out to the wood shed there, built him a little wheel about the size of a bicycle wheel. Fastened him a light scantlin' pole about ten foot long to the axle. Rigged him up a little frame to hold one of them ole walkin' lanterns, what only shines a light in front of you, you know, so's you can see to walk at night.

Then he waited 'til it got good and dark, afore the moon come up, gathered up some of his doctorin' tools, got his old 45 x 75 Winchester rifle, lit that lantern an hung it on the frame. Then he took holt of the end of the pole, and, a-pushin' that wheel about ten feet in front of him in the road, set out for Venter's house.

Now let me tell you, it looked exactly like a man carryin' that lantern the way Doc had it rigged up there on that frame. And he'd not got but about two mile down the road when he come to a real dark place there in the wilderness, big old beech tree off to one side--laurel thicket all around the base of it. Well sir, when that wheel got smack-dab-even with that beech tree, said they started shootin', and down went the lantern. Four men jumped out from the bushes.

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS GANG JUMPING FROM BUSHES)** "We got you now, you Old Red Fox!"

**D. H.** Doc, he let 'em have it. That big old Winchester of his'n was a-shootin' flames this-a-way and that-a-way, and them men hit the brush.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "I reckon your daughter's over her fever now!"

**D. H.** Doc hollered at 'em. But now, just to make sure,

**Hoyt** or at least to get a good laugh,

**D. H.** said he went on up there anyways. And, sure enough, that child had broke her fever. Said it was a holy miracle.

SLIDE: POSSE WITH FIREARMS AT TRAIN STATION

**Hoyt** Doc got tired dodgin', scoutin'-out, he'd 'bout determined that all he wanted to do was to just come in and stand his trial. But his son, Sylvan, said,

**Gary Dale (AS SYLVAN)** "Pa, ya ain't got a snowball's chance in hell at gettin' tried fair. Lawin' costs a lotta money since the Big Stone Gap bunch took over running things, an' we ain't rich folks, Pa."

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "Well, what do you expect me to do?"

**D. H. (AS SYLVAN)** "I've been workin' me up a little plan here. What we'll do is we'll get us a big dry goods box and put you in it. Now don't laugh 'til you heared me out. We'll fix it up with rations an' all, fix it so you can get out when ya want, then we'll take it down and put it on a train like it was going to some of Hattie's people up in Cincinnati. When that train gets to Bluefield, West Virginia, git outa that box an' git you on a train headed for Florida. You'll like it down there, Pa, hit's warm, green all year around."

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "I reckon I might. I've heard a fella can just walk around an pick them sweet things off'en the trees all year round down there. Why hit might be the very thing for this here diabetes condition of mine. Let's give it a try."

**Hoyt** So Sylvan he went out an bought Doc a full new suit of clothes

**D. H.** got a big ole box

**Hoyt** an' put Doc in it

**D. H.** an' wrote

**D. H. & Hoyt** "TO CINCINNATI"

**D. H.** on the top, took it down an put hit on a train

**Hoyt** an Doc, he's outa there.

**D. H.** But now, as luck would have it,

**Hoyt** someone had told the authorities what was afoot.

**D. H.** And when Doc climbed outa that box in Bluefield

**D. H. & Hoyt** there's two detectives

**D. H.** standin' there waitin'  
to grab him.

**Hoyt (CAPTURING GARY DALE)** "Kindly tight quarters there Doctor Taylor."

**D. H. (AS DETECTIVE)** "Was ya headed somewhere?"

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "Well, I was thinkin' about goin' to Florida, but I reckon we'll be headed back to the Wise Courthouse, huh boys?"

**D. H. & Hoyt** "Yep."

SLIDE: FRONT PAGE OF POLICE GAZETTE WITH DRAWING OF DOC IN JAIL AS TALT IS LED IN A PRISONER.

**D. H.** That's *The National Police Gazette*, New York City edition; date on it is August 20, 1892. (QUOTING) "Two of the most notorious outlaws and murderers in southwest Virginia and east Kentucky are Talton Hall and "Doc" Taylor, the former soon to pay the penalty of his crimes with his life on the gallows; the other certain to follow him after the legal formality of a trial."

**Hoyt** Doc, he'd been there in jail two weeks when they brung Talt Hall back from Lynchburg, fixin' to hang him.

**D. H.** Said when Doc heard 'em bring in Talt he got up and walked over to the door of his cell.

**Hoyt** Said the very minute Talt laid eyes on Doc, he tried to break loose from the guards and git at him, reach right through the bars and grab him,

**D. H.** but he had them chains on his hands--remember them chains--all he could do was set there hollerin' and a-cussin'

**Hoyt (AS TALT, D. H. RESTRAINING HIM)** "You no count ole varmit, they're goin' to hang you, too. You'll rot in hell, you ole bastard for puttin' me here. I never kilt no women and children! They tell me you did."

**D. H.** All Doc said was just plain and simple.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "Take him away boys."

SLIDE: STONE JAIL AND GUARDS

**D. H.** Them two stayed there in that jail, right across from one another, for nigh onto a month. The Guard, they took up their watch again, and a lull set in like just 'fore a storm.

Rumors was goin' around that Devil John Wright had patched up his differences with Ole Clabe Jones. The reason Devil John would go so far as to patch-up his differences with a man he'd been fightin' for thirty years was Clabe, they said, had a gattlin gun, an' Clabe, they said, had a cannon and Clabe, they knew, had a whole desperate gang of men of his own. And talk was going around that them two was goin' to pool their resources, dynamite the town of Wise, an' batter that jail down to powder, that Devil John Wright (**AS DEVIL JOHN**) meant to have Talt Hall!

**Hoyt** Well now, you can just imagine what the condition of them guards nerves was.

**Gary Dale** Why, some of 'em guards was accusin' cows of being spys.

**D. H.** While all this was going on, Talt's day to hang come closer and closer. He wouldn't eat nothin' at all hardly, they just kept feedin' him more and more whiskey.

IN THE FOLLOWING SPEECH HOYT FLUCTUATES FROM NARRATOR TO TALT, FROM PAST TO PRESENT.

**Hoyt** Talt, see, he kept having these hallucinations about yaller birds a-tearin' at him. 'Cause ya see, right after he'd kilt Hattie's brother-in-law, the sheriff of Norton, and high tailed it into the woods to get away, he had come to a spring there in the wilderness. He got him a drink and laid down to think what he was goin' to do.

All at once the bresh all around him come alive with little bitty yaller birds, hundreds and hundreds of 'em a-flutterin' all around his head, just a-chatterin' and a-scoldin' him. He'd try to fight 'em off, but they wouldn't leave. He'd shake the bush they's on, but as soon as he'd let go a that bush, they'd be right back again. (TALT CROWS AT THE BIRDS)

**D. H.** He finally did manage to get away from them birds,

**Gary Dale** but he never did manage to shake  
the sound of them birds out of his ears,

HOYT IS HUNKERING, CAUGHT IN HIS HALLUCINATIONS AND HOLDING HIS EARS.

**D. H. (CLOSING IN)** and as his day to hang come closer

**Gary Dale (CLOSING IN)** and closer,

**D. H.** them sounds

**D. H. & Gary Dale** got louder . . . and louder

**D. H.** and Talt, he was like a mad man  
caged up there in that jail. Said if the guard wouldn't give him whiskey, he'd set into . . .  
(SCREAMING AT HOYT) screamin' an' a-hollerin', makin' such a racket

**Gary Dale** 'til finally one of the  
guards would take pity on him and get him a bottle.

**D. H.** Doc, he'd just sit there in his cell

**Gary Dale** right across the hall

**D. H.**

on a hammock

**Gary Dale**

calm as could

be, reading from his old Bible, an' tryin' to sort things out fer hisself.

SLIDE: TALT HALL, HAGGARD, DESPONDENT

**Hoyt** That's a picture of Bad Talt Hall two days afore they hung him.

**D. H.** They hung him on September 2, 1892. Said you never seed such a crowd a people in all your life. They's on top of the houses and the ridge poles was saggin' from the weight. They's in all the trees. The womenfolk had come all decked out in gay ribbons. They'd come from all the counties around Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee. Hell, Talt Hall was the Jesse James of his day, and Pap said they come from nigh onto all over the world to see this here first hangin' in Wise County, Virginia--to see if ole Devil John Wright, Talt's ole buddy, was really gonna let him hang. Everybody kept wonderin' that day, "Where is ole Devil John?" I'll tell you where he was -- he's between a rock and a hard place, that's where he was. On the one hand, he'd do just about anything to help his ole buddy; but on the other hand, remember now, he'd been gettin' rich buying land for the Big Stone Gap bunch. And what do you do when you're between that kinda rock and hard place? Ya don't do nothin'. That's what you do. Talt Hall dropped through that trap door, his neck snapped, and he hung there like a sack of corn. They said Doc Taylor stood at the window of his cell, his Bible in one hand and his watch in the other, and he clocked, an' he watched the Big Stone Gap bunch pull this hangin' off. Watched this new law start takin' its course.

SLIDE #1: FOUR MEN CARRYING A ROUGH CUT COFFIN WITH TWO LENGTHS OF SPLIT RAIL FENCE ALONG A DUSTY ROAD BY A FIELD

SLIDE #2: COURTHOUSE

**Hoyt** Doc's trial got started on Monday, right after they hung Bad Talt Hall on Friday. Excitement was over now, and folks up at the Courthouse had to get back to business and give them fleas in that ole hemp rug in the courtroom something to chaw on.

**Gary Dale** Now, there weren't no place to sit down in there, you know, unless you was the judge or the jury or some of them fancy lawyers.

**Hoyt** They had little ole wood benches to sit on.

**Gary Dale** There's a four foot high picket fence that run crosswise in the middle of that courtroom

**Hoyt** an everybody else had to  
stand all bunched together in back of it.

**Gary Dale** Early that mornin' folks started gatherin' in there.

**Hoyt** Said there'd been more 'cept Devil John had pickets stationed up there at Pound Gap to make sure nobody come from Kentucky

**D. H. (AS DEVIL JOHN)** unlessen he wanted 'em to. **(AS HIMSELF)** See Talt Hall at the time of his trial had accused Doc of driving off some of his witnesses at gunpoint. And talk was going around in Kentucky that ole Devil John was gonna give Doc

**D.H. & Hoyt** the very same dose.

**Gary Dale** Directly the law brung in Doc, and the judge said,

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Let's git this here thing started."

**Gary Dale** Then over a hundred witnesses started comin' up,

**D. H. & Gary Dale** one . . . by one.

**D. H. (AS CLERK)** Iry's sister, Jane

**Hoyt (AS SISTER JANE ON STAND)** "They had green veils down over their faces and they's down in behind the rocks, but I could see 'em from the waist up to where them veils come right at their mouth --it looked like hit might have been Doc Taylor."

**D. H. (AS SARA ON STAND)** "Me and Jane uz good friends. The next mornin' after the killin' I went around to where they had all the dead laid out. Jane, she said she didn't have no idea who it was done that killin'. I said, 'Jane honey, don't you have no idea atall?'

She said, 'No. They had black somethin' or other over their faces and a green strip across their foreheads.'"

**Hoyt (AS JANE)** "Sara Blevins, I never told you that, neither. And I swear I never told the Grand Jury that they had veils all over their faces. I said, part of their faces."

**D. H. (AS SARA)** "Jane said she uz so scared when the shootin' started she wouldn't have even a knowed my husband Matt if he'd been there . . . and they's real good friends, too."

**Hoyt (AS JANE)** "I told what suited me when hit suited me. Why, I'd recognize Doc on a dark night --with his back to me--if his head was cut off. He's bowlegged and has a peculiar walk that no other man could acquire."

**D. H. (AS SARA)** "Last winter me and Jane was a-sewin' an all at once Jane looked up and says, 'There goes that old devil!'

I says, 'Who?' She says, 'Doc Taylor. I've hated that ole . . . bastard ever since he caught my brother, Henderson. I wish he uz in the middle of a kettle of torment.'"

**Hoyt (AS JANE)** "Hit's a lie!"

**D. H. (AS SARA)** "Is not!"

**Hoyt (AS JANE)** "Hit's a lie. I never told Sara Blevins that I wished Doc Taylor was in the middle of a kettle of torment--(TO SARA) I wish you was in the middle of a kettle of torment! And if hit was I told Sara Blevins I didn't know who hit was, I uz just a-talkin' anyway, wadn't swearin'. Well, I told a lot of 'em I didn't know who hit was. Told 'em what I wanted to tell 'em. I uz afraid to tell who hit was, I uz afeared that they'd kill me."

**Gary Dale** Now there's a lotta folks wondering how come them fellers to let Jane go

**D. H.** lot of 'em thought it was mighty suspicious and they's a

**Hoyt** an' thought maybe Jane, she was in on that  
meaness, too.

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Proceed!"

**Gary Dale (AS ANOTHER WITNESS)** "They come up there to get me the day them people got shot up on the mountain. So I went on up there with 'em, and I got to lookin' around up there an' I saw a little pile of leaves, and when I looked up in under, there's six big ole empty cartridge shells, they's 45 x 75 caliber, looked like they'd been put there a pint blank purpose. Yeh, Henry Adams has got a gun that size. He let me shoot it one time and it like to knocked my shoulder out of wack . . . No sir, don't know where Henry's at now. They tell me he's a-dodgin' the law."

**D. H.** Now, you remember that Doc's gun was a 45 x 75 caliber Winchester, don't you? Well everbody around home back then did. That's a big gun and they wadn't too many around like it. But now there's just a little bit more to it than the fact that ole Henry Adams had a gun the size as Doc's.

**Hoyt** Ya see, ole Henry Adams had a beard like Doc's.

**Gary Dale** An' ole Henry, he was kindly stocky like Doc.

**D. H.** An' ole Henry, he was known as

**TOGETHER**

**BAD HENRY ADAMS**

**D. H.** and there was bad blood between  
him an' Iry Mullins.

**Hoyt** Ya see, he'd shot and killed Iry's brother Henderson just about a year before.

**D. H.** Henderson, see, he had a bitin' dog

**Hoyt** an' it had bit several people

**D. H.** and Bad Henry had told him,

**Gary Dale (AS BAD HENRY)** "If that goddamn dog bites me, Henderson, I'm gonna kill it."

**Hoyt** Well, it wadn't long after that, that man Henderson found his dog shot.

**Gary Dale (MAKES YELPING SOUND OF SHOT DOG--GARY DALE SPITS ON DEAD DOG)**

**D. H.** Course, he figured that hit was Bad Henry what had done it. Said he run in on Bad Henry and drewed his guns. (ACCOSTS SOMEONE IN AUDIENCE - D. H. BEING HENDERSON)  
Bad Henry, now he was settin' there at the supper table eating. (TO AUDIENCE MEMBER,  
"WOULD YOU PRETEND LIKE YOU'RE EATING? GOOD. KEEP ON.")

Now Bad Henry, he never once layed his guns aside, while he ate, while he slept, and he shot that man, Henderson, without even takin' that gun outa his pocket. Shot him plumb straight up through the table and all. And that man, Henderson, he fell over right there in the supper table gravy, dead.

**Gary Dale & Hoyt** SHOT OVER A DOG!

**D. H.** Well, after that Bad Iry set out rewards for Bad Henry,

**Hoyt** and Bad Henry, he let it be knowed,

**Gary Dale (AS BAD HENRY)** "Rewards, hell. He can stick them rewards where the sun don't never shine. I'll kill Iry Mullins and any of his Mudhole drunks the first damn chance I get."

**D. H. (AFTER BEAT)** Doc, he tried to tell 'em that there in the courtroom,

**Gary Dale** but that judge wouldn't listen.

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Proceed,"

**Gary Dale** said the Judge.

**Hoyt (AS GOOSENECK JOHN--SINISTER & PECULIAR)** "Saw Doc a week after the killin' in the road on the south side of the mountain, an' he asked if there's any news. I told him, 'No, nothin' 'cept that murder.' He asked me who they was accusin' on this side of the mountain, and I said, 'Why, Doc, you.' Doc, he didn't act exactly natural, seemed to talk kinda whispered like."

**D. H.** That is ole Gooseneck John Branham. Let me tell you a little bit about (MOCKING HIM WITH HIS GOOSE-LIKE NECK) ole Gooseneck John Branham: Ya see, him and Bad Henry Adams, they's thick.

**Hoyt** Thick as fiddlers in Hell.

**D. H.** They run together with John Venters.

**Gary Dale (QUICKLY MOVING ACROSS STAGE)** You remember Venters, he's the one come an' got Doc let on like his little girl's sick--the time that Doc outfoxed them fellers with that lantern rigged up on that wheel.

**Hoyt (AS VENTERS STUTTERING)** "I seen Doc sometimes after the killing, seen him up on the Widder Vanover's land."

**D. H. (STUTTERING)** The Widder Vanover

**Gary Dale** how come her to be (STUTTERING) a widder

**D. H.** was that Bad Iry Mullins,

**Gary Dale & Hoyt** dead Bad Iry Mullins,

**D. H.** hired two of

**Gary Dale & Hoyt (IMITATING GOOSENECK)** Gooseneck John Branham's

**D. H.** brother-in-laws to kill her husband. They issued subpoenas for her to appear in this here court trial

**Hoyt** but she never showed.

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Proceed."

**Gary Dale (AS W. M. ON STAND)** "There's a bunch of us settin' on the porch at Flanary's Store a few days afore the killin'. Doc, he said while he uz over in Kentucky somebody had shot into Iry's bed over here in Virginia. I asked him, 'Well, how do you know that?'

Doc said, 'Spirits told me.'

And I says, 'Well, how come I can't talk to them spirits that a way?'

Doc, he grinned real sly like, says, 'Cause you don't, W.M.' Well that made me mad fer Doc to make fun of me like that, so I just got up and went on in the store and left him a-settin' there."

**D. H. (AS OLD WOMAN ON STAND)** "Doc appeared natural as always. I told him there's a mob out after him, that I'd heard Gooseneck John Branham say he'd shoot a hole through Doc big enough for a poor ole thing like me to crawl through. Then said he'd set fire to the body and hear the grease boil. There's all that Mud Hole bunch with him when he said that--they's Floyd Branham, Ed Hall, Ed Cox, Rube McFall, Granville Cox, all 'em. They's a rough bunch."

**Hoyt (GARY DALE & HOYT ON STAND AS "ROUGH BUNCH.")** "We ain't no rough bunch, neither. Why, we used to work for Doc in the Infernal Revenue business."

**Gary Dale** "He didn't pay us no good so we quit him and cussed him."

**Hoyt** "That uz four years ago back in the fall of '89."

**Gary Dale** "We ain't never gone along with him since."

**Hoyt** "Fore we quit him, Doc, he used to try to get us to go with him and try to kill Henderson"

**Gary Dale & Hoyt** "but we wouldn't do it."

**Hoyt** "Well," Doc said, "Bedads, he'd just go himself then"

**Gary Dale** "said he'd already put a man out of the way once't, and damned if he wouldn't do it again."

**Hoyt** "Said damned, your honor. We thought it was all talk"

**Gary Dale** "we never had no idea that Doc meant to do what he said."

**Hoyt** "But I told Iry about hit just in case."

**Gary Dale** "No sir, we don't care for Doc atall."

**D. H. (AS SYLVAN ON STAND)** "Pa wanted to come in and stand his trial, but me and Hattie talked him out of it, on account we thought he wouldn't git no fair trial . . . I don't know nothing about no money Iry's wife carried. Pa never had no money on him atall when he come in from scoutin'-out."

**Gary Dale** Well then, Doc's lawyer brought Doc's ole gun up there

**Hoyt** that big ole 45 x 75

**Gary Dale** and showed  
it around. An' showed how Doc's gun, when the firin' pin hit the bullet

**Hoyt** it hit it right smack  
dab in the middle

**Gary Dale** and them bullets they found up there at the killin' had been hit on the  
edge.

**Hoyt** They's from a rimfire gun,

**Gary Dale** and Doc's gun, hit was a center fire.

**D. H.** Then the judge he asked Doc if he had anything more to offer.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "No, I reckon not. They's some others from over in Kentucky that wanted to  
come an tell what they knowed, but I see they ain't here."

**D. H.** The judge sent the jury on up to their little deciding room.

**Hoyt** Directly one of them jury men appeared up at the top of them stairs, hollered down an says,

**D. H. (AS JURY MAN)** "We want to see Doc's ole gun up here."

**Hoyt** Well, they sent hit up,

**D. H.** an' them jury men got to a-takin' it apart, examining it an' all

**D. H. & Hoyt (AS JURY MEN)** an found thar's some  
file dust in there.

**D. H.** An so they determined that Doc's gun had been tampered with.

**Hoyt** Before that, them jury men had just about determined to set Doc free,

**D. H.** but this here gun thing  
re-determined them,

**Hoyt** an' they just come on back down an' says,

**D. H. (AS FOREMAN OF JURY)**

"He's guilty."

**Gary Dale** Doc, he never got to explain to that jury that he hadn't even seen that gun since the day they arrested him, and all kinds a fellers had had their paws on it.

**D. H.** You know, theysaid it was a real sloppy job a tampering with that gun,

**Hoyt** an' everybody knew  
how clever Doc Taylor was with his hands.

**D. H.** Just a lot of it never made no sense.

When the judge pronounced the final sentence on Doc and asked (AS JUDGE) Doc if there was anything more he wanted to say,

**Hoyt** Doc said,

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "No, I don't. But a friend, a witness, will speak for me."

**D. H.** The judge asked him (AS JUDGE) who it was.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "The Lord, Jesus Christ."

**Hoyt** Now that judge was kinda hard of hearin', deaf you know, and he turned around to the clerk in the courtroom and, just as straight and sober as a judge is supposed to be, said,

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Well, bring him around, Charley, and have him sworn in."

**Hoyt** Doc never flinched an eye at that, just picked up the Holy Bible and started readin' from Psalms,

**Gary Dale** "Consider (AS DOC, READING) mine enemies for they are many, and they hate me with a cruel hatred. They laid at my charge things that I knew not. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies for false witnesses are risen up against me . . . I had fainted unless I believed to see the goodness of the Lord in this land of the living."

**D. H. (AS JUDGE)** "Readin' from the Holy Bible in my court ain't goin' to help your case none. You are a condemned man, condemned to hang by the neck until dead."

A SUCCESSION OF SLIDES IS SHOWN AS D. H. IDENTIFIES THEM:

SLIDE - That's the Judge.

SLIDE - That's the prosecutor and his wife on their wedding trip.

SLIDE - That's Doc's lawyer.

SLIDE - That's the sheriff and his wife; it's not their wedding trip.

SLIDE - That's the hangman.

SLIDE - That's the Wise County gallows.

They had Doc's hangin on Friday, October 27, 1893.

**Hoyt** They let Doc hold a religious service there on the porch of the old jail.

**D. H.** It drizzled rain off and on that day, but a pretty big crowd of people came anyhow.

**Hoyt** Pap's whole family went; and when they finally brought Doc out, Pap expected to see that long red hair and that long red beard,

**D. H.** but they's both cut real short that day.

**D. H. & Hoyt** Doc had on a snow white suit.

**D. H.** Pap's Ma told him how Doc's shy wife, Nancy, had made that suit for him out of an old white linen table cloth

**Hoyt** and how it was an "emblem" of Doc's innocence.

**D. H.** Pap said he's sure that's the first time he ever heard that word, "emblem",

**Hoyt** 'cause he remembered his Ma explaining it to him.

**D. H.** Explaining as how the Book of Revelations talks about heavenly armies upon white horses, clothed in fine linen,

**D. H. & Hoyt** clean and white.

**Hoyt** Doc preached for a long spell that day, talkin about how his diabetes condition had him run down.

**Gary Dale (AS DOC)** "But my spirits is good. (PREACHING) God's angels has been with me there in that jail . . . bein' in jail's been the happiest times of my life."

**D. H.** Pretty strange thing to hear a fella say, ain't it? Being in jail's the happiest time of his life. But Pap said, "If ya knowed the man, what he had to say that day made sense."

**Gary Dale (AS DOC, READING FROM THE BIBLE)** "The devil shall cast some of ye into prison that ye may be tried. But be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him and sup with him and he with me."

**D. H.** They had a little table set up there

**Hoyt** and bread and wine on it,

**D. H.** and Doc, he took the Holy Sacrament,

**Hoyt** him and his wife,

**D. H.** and then turned and offered it to all them people standin' there,

**Hoyt** asked them if they would take the Sacrament with them.

**D. H.** No one did.

**Hoyt** They just stood there.

**Gary Dale** Right after that service, Pap run and got up in that old chestnut tree down by the stables, got out on the same limb he'd been on at Talt Hall's hangin'.

**D. H. (AS PAP)** Yeah, said he could remember all the gay ribbons at Talt's hangin'

**Hoyt** but said he didn't see none of them ribbons now.

**Gary Dale** He could hear people down under the tree talkin' about Doc's religion, an' how Doc believed there'd be a new time on earth.

**Hoyt** About how they couldn't believe he was guilty.

**D. H.** About all the talk goin' around that Doc said he was going to rise again in three days.

**Gary Dale** About his believing he was Jesus Christ.

**Hoyt** Pap's Ma said something or another about everybody being Jesus Christ.

**D. H.** Pap said in later years he mulled that thought over, about everybody being Jesus. Said it made a lot of sense when you thought about it. But that day, said he couldn't think of nothing but that suit of snow white.

**Gary Dale** At two o'clock they brought Doc out to the gallows.

**Hoyt** The gallows was completely enclosed.

**Gary Dale** A box 16 foot high,

**Hoyt** 16 foot square.

**D. H.** Doc stopped and looked up at that box,

**(GARY DALE SORTA SURVEYIN' IT)**

**D. H.** seemed like maybe he was tryin' to decide whether  
it was going to do the job or not.

**Hoyt** Then he stepped up on the steps to the gallows and knelt and prayed an' read from the Bible real quiet-like.

**D. H.** They had put newspapers on the gallows steps,

**Gary Dale** all them fellers guardin' him pulled their  
handkerchiefs out of their pockets and started wipin' the mud off Doc's red patent leather shoes.

**D. H.** D'rectly they stopped him prayin',

**Gary Dale** got him up

**Hoyt** and tied his hands with a white cloth.

**D. H.** Led him on up the steps to his eternity.

**Hoyt** At the trap door, they put the noose around his neck

**Gary Dale** and a white hood over his head.

**Hoyt** His wife made that fer him too.

**Gary Dale** Doc never flinched.

**D. H.** But then, while they was loosenin' the props, they jostled the trap door, and Doc must a thought he was hung, 'cause he just fell in a heap right there on the gallows floor.

**Gary Dale** And they had to help him back up to hang him.

**Hoyt** Everything got deathly quiet.

**Gary Dale** Then come two licks with the back of the hatchet. (HITS FLOOR WITH BOOT HEEL)

**Hoyt** They hit two licks with the back of the hatchet before they cut the rope.

**Gary Dale** Doc stood stiff as a board.

**D. H.** And on that third lick, it was just like an apparition. That white suit shot down through that hole . . . (THE ACTORS' HANDS ARE CHOREOGRAPHED TO THE ACTION)

**Gary Dale** bounced,

**Hoyt** and started spinnin'

**D. H. & Hoyt** round and round.

**D. H.** Spun one way til the rope got tight.

**D. H. & Gary Dale** Stopped.

**Gary Dale** Started spinnin' the other way.

**D. H.** Kept on like that 'til all the

**ALL TOGETHER** twist

**Hoyt** come out of that rope,

**D. H.** and Doc

**Gary Dale** he just hung there.

**D. H.** Hung there they said for nineteen minutes.

**Gary Dale** A couple of doctors come and pronounced him dead by strangulation.

**Hoyt** Then they cut him down

**D. H.** and laid him in a coffin

**Gary Dale** and closed the lid. Pap waited around three days to see if Doc was gonna rise again. When he never, Pap was kinda disappointed.

SLIDE: DOC TAYLOR

**Hoyt** That's a picture of Doc three days before the hanging.

**D. H.** Pap said he never heard nothin' no different about the hangin for ten years, 'cept he did hear folks say that Doc's body never got cold. But in 10 years Pap was married, and his wife was having their first baby. When the doctor got there for the confinement, and was waiting around to birth the baby, well, he got to talking to 'em about things and found out that Pap's wife was Doc Taylor's niece.

And then that Doctor told them a story that sorta changed things around a bit. Told as how he was one of them two doctors that pronounced Doc dead by strangulation--not no broken neck, mind you. Said he was one of Doc's Mason brothers; and how nigh onto ever'body inside that enclosed gallows was a Mason. He said Doc Taylor did not die there in them gallows atall. Said they had rigged up a little spring-like harness under his armpits, and when Doc fell on that trap door like that, that was when they hitched it up. Said they buried a railroad tie up there in that unmarked grave in the cemetery, and that Doc, he wanted to appear again in three days, but that his family talked him out of it and wisked him out of there, way out to Saline County, Missouri.

**Gary Dale** You know, Pap, he was gettin' nigh on towards a hundred, and like a lotta old people, he liked to sit almost right up in the fire, bakin' his bones he called it. He'd sit, a-starin' into that fire--directly he'd let loose a big wad of ambeer, damned near put the fire out, look over at one of us younguns, shake his ole head, grin and say

**D. H. (AS PAP)** "Ya reckon that's true?"

SLIDE: DOC TAYLOR AS A YOUNG MAN

SLIDE: THREE MEN (KIN) SEATED SIDE BY SIDE, ARMS CROSSED, LOOKING AT THE CAMERA

**Hoyt (AS ENCORE)** One more thing I'd like to tell you before we go. The next spring after they'd hung Doc, the corn was already way up, and on May 19, 1894, she come a ten inch snow fall in Wise County; said the Good Lord dressed that whole county in a suit of snow white. Some folks said it was a judgement on people for hanging a man like Doc. I don't know about that, but I do know one thing--the corn crop weren't fit for nothin' that year, and the moonshinin' business come to a grinding halt.

SLIDE: TWILIGHT--CANOE AND LOGS ON THE RIVER

(END)