

CHANGE  
2/12/68

"THE WILD BUNCH"

Written by  
Walon Green.  
and  
Sam Peckinpah

Story by  
Roy Sickner

2/7/68

FADE IN:

OUTSKIRTS OF A SOUTH TEXAS RAILROAD YARD (SAN RAFAEL)

1 A TRAIN ROARS PAST REVEALING IN THE DISTANCE FIVE MEN RIDING TOWARD CAMERA along the tracks. In CLOSE F.G. is the back part of a sign.

NARRATOR

To most of America in 1913, the Age of Innocence had arrived and the stories of the Indian Wars and the Gold Rush and the Great Gunfighters had become either barroom ballyhoo or front-porch reminiscences...But on both sides of the Rio Grande men still lived as they had in the '70's and '80's -- unchanged men in a changing land.

2 THEY WEAR THE KHAKI UNIFORMS OF THE UNITED STATES CAVALRY. The horses bear the government brand and the saddles are regulation.

PIKE BISHOP, wearing lieutenant's bars, rides slightly ahead of the others. He rides stiffly, always slightly in pain. Pike is a not unhandsome, leather-faced man in his early forties. A thoughtful, self-educated top gun with a penchant for violence who is afraid of nothing -- except the changes in himself and those around him.

Make no mistake, Pike Bishop is not a hero -- his values are not ours -- he is a gunfighter, a criminal, a bank robber, a killer of men. His sympathies are not for fences, for trolleys and telegraphs or better schools. He lives outside and against society because he believes in that way of life and if he has moments of sympathy for others, moments of regret, they are short lived. He is not a 'good man' according to the righteous... To them he is totally bad, and he wouldn't have it any other way.

Next to him DUTCH ENGSTROM wears the uniform of a sergeant. Dutch is big, good-natured with a fast gun hand, strong loyalty and, like Pike, a bone deep distaste for rules and regulations. He can sing, has more than his share of charm, but believes in nothing except two men, and Pike is one.

Behind them ride two brothers, LYLE and TECTOR GORCH, dressed as corporals. Lyle and Tector are big, tough, hot tempered and sudden. They work together, eat together and

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sometimes sleep together with the same whore. Brutal, vicious in a fight, illiterate, they are always pressing for an advantage and once they get it -- they never let go. They are without loyalty or honor, to anyone except each other and that is limited.

A fifth man wears the single stripe of a PFC. This is ANGEL. Angel is a good-looking, bilingual Mexican boy in his middle 20's who has seen so much blood and violence and cruelty under Diaz that he rebelled -- but his rebellion was not with Villa or Obregon, his was a one-man revolution against them all. He believes in his family, his village and the inherent dignity of man (some men at least). He is faster than his companions with a gun -- and a better shot -- but he can't laugh at the loss of love or suffer the loss of pride -- Mexican pride -- a pride that can kill him, but if it does, he will have no regrets.

3

REACHING THE SIGN THE MEN STOP. Without speaking they begin to brush off their clothing and get their uniforms in order.

4

THE SIGN READS IN RAILROAD LETTERS: SAN RAFAEL, TEXAS

And underneath, someone has printed:

WELCOME TO SAN RAFAEL --  
 THE SEVENTH OLDEST TOWN IN SOUTH TEXAS  
 FOUNDED 1703, POPULATION 5  
 1914, POPULATION 2682  
 STAY ON AND GROW WITH OUR COMMUNITY

5

PIKE AND DUTCH STARE FOR A MOMENT AT THE SIGN, slightly bemused.

DUTCH

Make you feel welcome?

PIKE

(dryly)

It helps.

TECTOR

What's it say?

ANGEL

(baiting him)

It invites us to stay with the community and grow. It is here, perhaps with time and small miracle -- that you could be taught to read.

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Tector looks at Angel for a long moment, then turns to Pike.

TECTOR

I never enlisted to serve with no smart-mouthed kid.

ANGEL

Nor I with dogs.

DUTCH

(grinning at Pike)

I'd like to transfer to another unit -- there seems to be dissension in the ranks.

PIKE

(to Tector and Angel)

I'll transfer both of you -- just one more word.

They look at him silently. He means it. Finally Pike spurs his horse and the group starts for town, CAMERA PANNING THEM PAST THE STATION AND BOXCARS into a side street.

EXT. MAIN SQUARE OF SAN RAFAEL - DAY

6 THE SQUARE SHOWS THE MEXICAN/SPANISH INFLUENCE AND IS CROWDED with weekend visitors. Men, women and children are milling about, shopping and idly trading gossip. The town has the look of turn of the century Americana along with its Spanish heritage. The group of soldiers enter almost unnoticed. Riding down the street they pass:

7 A LARGE TENT IN FRONT OF WHICH IS A BANNER ANNOUNCING a W.C.T.U. meeting, which, according to the SOUNDS of the bass drum and a sermon denouncing rum, is presently going on inside.

SPEAKER (OS)

Leviticus 10.9. Do not drink wine or strong drink thou nor thy sons with thee least ye die. It shall be a statute forever. Look not though upon the wine when it is red when it giveth his color in the cup when it moveth itself aright at the last it biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.

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SPEAKER (OS) (CONT'D)

(then)

That is in the good book...but here in this town, it is five cents a glass. Five cents a glass, does anyone think that that is really the price of a drink? The price of a drink let him decide who has lost his courage and his pride and who lies a grovelling heap of clay not far removed from a beast today..

CONGREGATION (OS)

I hereby solemnly promise, God helping me, to abstain from all distilled, fermented and malt liquors, including wine, beer and cider, and to employ all proper means to discourage the use of and traffic in the same.

8

AS THE GROUP RIDES AROUND THE SQUARE, THREE SOLDIERS, ABE, PHIL AND BURT, at the hitching rail on one side of the street, turn and keep pace with the group on horseback.

9

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SQUARE THREE OTHER SOLDIERS, BUCK, FRANK AND CRAZY LEE, DO THE SAME.

10

PIKE AND HIS GROUP RIDE PAST THE GENERAL STORE AND THE SALOON. AT THE END OF THE STREET, THEY DISMOUNT ACROSS FROM THE YELLOW AND BROWN RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING. As they swing out of the saddle the other 'soldiers' join them.

11.

PIKE AND HIS COMPANIONS REMOVE EMPTY SADDLE BAGS FROM their horses and step onto the boardwalk or sidewalk that surrounds the square. Some passersby look curiously.

PIKE

(after a moment, a little awkwardly)

Fall in -- and follow me.

The men, with the exception of Tector, Phil and Abe, shuffle into a ragged column of twos.

12. PIKE MOVES DOWN THE FILE, looks around.

BUCK

Real quiet, 'sir.'

Pike looks at the horses, then at:

13. THE SIGN OVER THE ENTRANCE OF A BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET.  
It reads: PECOS AND SOUTH TEXAS R.R.

14. PIKE PAUSES FOR A MINUTE and behind him the men surreptitiously touch their holstered forty-five automatics. Pike leaves the boardwalk, crossing toward the railroad office. Tector and Phil stay with the horses.

15. PIKE AND DUTCH, LOOKING AROUND AS THEY LEAVE THE BOARDWALK, ACCIDENTALLY BUMP INTO A LADY SHOPPER, WHO DROPS HER PACKAGE.

PIKE

(removing his hat)

Beg pardon, Ma'am.

DUTCH

(as she stops)

Let me, Ma'am.

Dutch picks up the package, Pike offers the lady his arm. She hesitates, accepts. Pike and Dutch, followed by the others, lead her across the street.

16. ON THE ROOF OF THE BUILDING OPPOSITE THE RAILROAD OFFICE ARE TEN MEN STRETCHED OUT BEHIND THE FALSE FRONT IDLY WATCHING THE CROWD BELOW, THEIR RIFLES AT THEIR SIDES. Behind them on the flat of the roof are open bedrolls, and the remains of at least three meals. It is hot, they have been there a long time, and they are tired.

17. PAT HARRIGAN, A DAPPER, SELF-IMPORTANT, BACK-SHOOTING RAILROAD EXECUTIVE SITTING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MEN -- ALL RAGGED HARCASSES -- frowns a little as he watches the soldiers in the street below. It is hotter than hell on the tin roof and he is sweating heavily. He turns, edges forward, then nudges:

18. DEKE THORNTON SITTING NEXT TO HIM, his back against the wall. Thornton is a hard-bodied, quiet-spoken man, with a lined face and the embittered manner of someone who has changed sides to stay alive and while part of his life has gone out of him with the change, the personal integrity by which he has lived is still intact.

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HARRIGAN

(harshly)

The soldiers -- sit up -- take a look!

Thornton straightens, turns slowly, looks -- stiffens a little.

HARRIGAN

Pike?

THORNTON

(after a long moment)

He's there.

The bounty hunters react and prepare to fire. Over this shot is the sound of Pike calling to Thornton -- from the past.

19 PIKE REACHES THE DOOR AND WITHOUT PAUSING, murmurs 'goodbye' to the lady and enters, followed by the others.

20 ON THE ROOF, HARRIGAN WHIRLS ON HIS MEN as they begin aiming, ready to fire.

HARRIGAN

(hissing)

Hold your fire! -- We wait till they come out -- catch them in the act.

(to Thornton)

Then you kill him or go back to Yuma!

Thornton turns toward him, his face white, remembering:

INT. PRISON CELL - DAY AND NIGHT - (MONTAGE EFFECT)  
JAIL DOORS CLANGING SHUT

20A THORNTON, WRISTS LASHED TO THE BARS OF THE CELL'S window, is being whipped by a guard.

20B THORNTON on the rock pile is making little ones of big ones.

EXT. SAN RAFAEL - ROOF TOP - DAY

21 T.C. & COFFER, TWO OF THE MEN, POINT TOWARD TECTOR AND PHIL standing by the horses.

COFFER & T.C.

(simultaneously)

I can nail him!

THORNTON

(savagely)

He said wait!

T.C.

(whining)

What if they go out back?

COFFER

(disgustedly)

It's covered, you two-bit rednecked peckerwood.

The men settle slightly. Thornton remains tense -- then turns as:

22 THE W.C.T.U. BAND AND PARADE START UP AT THE END OF THE STREET ACROSS THE SQUARE.

HARRIGAN

That's all we needed!

INT. PAY OFFICE - DAY

23 THE PAYMASTER IS REPRIMANDING A CLERK.

PAYMASTER

What you meant to do does not interest me! What you did --

Then, seeing:

24 PIKE AND THE OTHERS waiting, he steps to the pay window, smiling with the thought that their visit means military business for the railroad. His mood changes as the men draw their guns and Pike steps towards him.

PAYMASTER

(reaching for air)

What is it?...What do you want?

25 DUTCH, LYLE AND THE OTHER MEN SWIFTLY MOVE behind the counter. Pike ignores the paymaster and turns to:

26 CRAZY LEE STRINGFELLOW, a young, compulsive killer with just enough sense to pour piss out of a boot (if the instructions were printed on the heel:(the instructions are -- to pour, tip!)).

PIKE

If they move, kill them.

C.L. grins happily and squats on the floor, his 12 gauge pump shotgun angled up at:

27 THE TERRIFIED PAYMASTER, HIS TWO ASSISTANTS AND MARGARET, A HATCHET-FACED HARRIDAN IN HER FIFTIES who enters the office carrying a wrapped package and is instantly shoved into a corner with the other prisoners.

28 ON THE STREET -- THE W.C.T.U. BASS DRUM BOOMS CLOSER as the parade picks up kids and other scoffing supporters as it moves around the square. People and their children are crowding through the trees to the boardwalk to watch the band and group of believers following them in a formation that is almost as rigid as their song and their faces.



29 ON THE ROOF TOP -- HARRIGAN AND THORNTON NERVOUSLY WATCH THE BAND. THE OTHER MEN EQUALLY TENSE KEEP THEIR RIFLES TRAINED ON THE DOOR.

HARRIGAN

Damn them!

The parade moves toward the saloon.

THORNTON

They should have been told!

HARRIGAN

Told what!? Just how long do you think anyone in this manure pile can keep his mouth shut?

Before Thornton can answer:

30 T.C. SHIFTS TO CHANGE POSITION and his hand touches the tin roof, causing him to yelp with pain. The others snap a look in his direction, then freeze as:

31 TECTOR ON THE BOARDWALK LOOKS UP, SEES NOTHING, leans back against a rail watching the horses and the hymn singers.

After a moment, he smiles a little, beating time, as he remembers some forgotten march he watched from his daddy's shoulders.

32 IN THE PAY OFFICE -- ANGEL CROSSES TO THE WINDOW AS THE NOISE FROM THE PARADE GROWS LOUDER. He looks out. Behind him:

33 PIKE AND THE OTHERS ARE LOADING SACKS OF SILVER into their saddle bags. They are almost ready to leave.

The paymaster, his assistants and the customer, their hands still up, watch C.L.

MARGARET

Trash -- Filthy trash!

C.L.

(gently)

You just hush now --

ANGEL

People marching and singing coming down the street -- going to pass near the horses.

33 CONTINUED

PIKE

(grinning)

Well, we'll just join in.

Angel, turning away, hesitates, looking up through the window at:

34 SUNLIGHT GLEAMING OFF THE BARREL OF A GUN ON THE ROOF ACROSS THE STREET

ANGEL

Rifles -- one -- no three, maybe more, on the roof.

35 PIKE QUICKLY CROSSES TO THE WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT.

PIKE

Waiting for us --

(softly)

Son of a bitch --

He turns and crosses quickly to the back door. Dutch follows. Pike opens it a little, looks out at:

EXT. REAR OF OFFICE - DAY

36 FRAME BUILDINGS AND BARE ADOBE HUTS SURROUNDED BY TRASH AND TIN CANS AND AMONG THEM THE INDISTINCT FIGURES OF RIFLES AND HATS -- they are surrounded.

37 IN THE OFFICE -- DUTCH JOINS PIKE AT THE DOOR and looks out, then curses softly.

DUTCH

How in hell could they have known we were coming?

PIKE

How in hell do I know?

DUTCH

Where do we go?

PIKE

Out front -- that's where the horses are.

He shuts the door, crosses toward the paymaster.

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37 CONTINUED

C.L.

We going out back, Mr. Bishop?

PIKE

No, son -- we got company there too --  
(as the boy looks at him)

Besides, when I travel, I like my feet  
to dangle.

C.L.

(indicating the prisoners)

I kill 'em now?

PIKE

(after a moment)

No. You just hold them here and wait --  
as long as you can -- after the shooting  
starts.

C.L.

I'll hold 'em till hell freezes over  
or you say different!

Pike, pushing the frightened paymaster in front of him,  
hesitates, looks at C.L., then continues to the door, grabs  
the handle, looks back again.

38 C.L. IS CROUCHED IN FRONT OF THE TWO ASSISTANTS AND MARGARET,  
singing to himself, happy as a clam.

39 DUTCH, ANGEL AND THE OTHERS look at Pike. They are ready.

40 PIKE JERKS OPEN THE DOOR, KICKS THE terrified paymaster out  
into the street.

41 ON THE ROOF -- THE BOUNTY HUNTERS OPEN FIRE AS THE DOOR FLIES  
OPEN AND THE PAYMASTER STUMBLES OUT INTO THE STREET INTO THE  
MIDST OF THE BAND, screaming as the gunfire cuts him down.  
The marchers are frozen for a brief instant, then scatter in  
terror as:

42 PIKE AND THE OTHERS BURST OUT THE DOOR, FIRING AT THE MEN ON  
THE ROOF -- RUNNING TO THEIR HORSES through the screaming,  
terrified marchers.

43 IN THE OFFICE -- C.L. WATCHES THE ASSISTANTS AND MARGARET, IGNORING THE RIFLE SLUGS THAT SMASH THROUGH THE BUILDING AND INTO THE OFFICE. The sound of the band is drowned out by gunfire and screams. C.L. frowns a little.

C.L.

They was playing "Gather at the River." You know that one?!  
(as they quickly nod assent)  
Then sing it!

44 AND THEY DO, ALL OF THEM, THEIR VOICES RISING WITH FERVOR and C.L. joins them, marching up and down, waving the shotgun in time to the music.

A SERIES OF ANGLES

45- THE STREET IS A CONFUSED MELEE AS THE BANDITS RUN FOR THEIR  
53 HORSES, TRADING FIRE WITH THE BOUNTY HUNTERS.

MEN AND WOMEN, MARCHERS, BANDSMEN AND SPECTATORS RUN FOR COVER, some collide with the bandits, some hit by the cross-fire fall wounded in the dusty road.

PIKE AND MEN FIRING BACK, REACH THEIR HORSES.

PHIL IS SHOT, GOES DOWN FIRING -- IS HIT AGAIN AND AGAIN AND DIES.

TECTOR GORCH IS WOUNDED HIGH ON THE SHOULDER AND IGNORES IT, STANDING CALMLY, FIRING UP AT THE AMBUSHERS WITH HIS 30.06.

A MAN IS HIT ON THE ROOF AND SCREAMS AND PITCHES FORWARD, falling to the street below as:

ANGEL AND LYLE BOTH FIRING rapidly, almost simultaneously kill one man and then another. Two others are wounded by the bandits' fire.

THE NIGHTMARE OF A PARADE CONTINUES TO MILL AS THE FLEEING BANDITS MOUNT their plunging horses.

HARRIGAN AND THE BOUNTY HUNTERS CONTINUE A BARRAGE OF FIRE then:

THORNTON TENSES, RECOGNIZING PIKE. He hesitates, then lifts his gun to fire.

PIKE, HAVING DIFFICULTY MOUNTING HIS HORSE, LOOKS UP, HESITATES, recognizes Deke, then snaps off a shot which misses Thornton and kills SHEP, a bounty hunter firing beside him. Thornton fires and:

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45-  
53

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THE TUBA PLAYER, RUNNING WITH HIS INSTRUMENT IN FRONT OF PIKE is hit and falls into the street.

THE WILD BUNCH SWING ONTO THEIR HORSES AND WHEEL them around, but two are hit, Burt is barely able to control his horse, the other, Abe, dies with his animal.

PIKE MOUNTS AND GALLOPS HEADLONG INTO THE FRANTIC CROWD, some of his men following, others splitting off in different directions. Behind them, two lie dead in the street.

- 54 IN THE OFFICE -- C.L., SINGING, MARCHING WITH THE ASSISTANTS, stops, looks out the window, laughs with delight at the excitement, turns:
- 55 THE TWO ASSISTANTS AND MARGARET ARE RUNNING FOR THE BACK DOOR. He lifts his shotgun, yells for them to halt.
- 56 IN THE STREET -- FRANK, WOUNDED EARLIER, FALLS FROM HIS HORSE, dumping his laden saddle bags. His foot hangs in the stirrup and his horse drags him after the others. The horse is shot and goes down -- Frank struggles to his feet, is cut down as:
- 57 DUTCH, FOLLOWING BEHIND, SWINGS DOWN AND PICKS UP THE BAG, then spurs through the crowd, past Frank and into the tent. Horse, man and tent go down in a cloud of dust and canvas. Then, the horse, Dutch still in the saddle, rises, breaks clear and races away.
- 58 A WOMAN, BLIND WITH TERROR, SPINS TO THE GROUND as she runs into Pike's horse as it slides to a halt as Pike turns to help Dutch.
- 59 A TERRIFIED CHILD STANDS and holds its ears, screaming as the horses thunder past.
- 60 ON THE ROOF -- THE BOUNTY HUNTERS CONTINUE FIRING, IGNORING:
- 61 HARRIGAN AND THORNTON AS THEY TRY TO STOP THEM, KICKING THEIR RIFLES ASIDE, dragging them away from the wall -- but the men fight them off and keep firing.

- 62 AT THE FAR END OF THE STREET -- PIKE AND HIS MEN EMERGE FROM THE CLOUD OF DUST THAT covers the shambles of the ambush, and ride for the edge of town.
- 63 ON ANOTHER STREET A CITIZEN AIMS A PISTOL AND FIRES. The shot hits:
- 64 BURT'S HORSE, CAUSING THE ANIMAL TO CAREEN WILDLY. It crashes through the railing and falls, throwing Burt through the glass window of a store.
- 65 IN THE OFFICE -- C.L. QUIETLY RELOADS HIS GUN.
- 66 AS THE BUNCH NEAR THE EDGE OF TOWN -- A FARMBOY STANDS UP IN A BUCKBOARD AND FIRES A SHOTGUN INTO THE FACE OF BUCK.
- 67 THE BIRDSHOT CATCHES BUCK IN THE FACE, BLINDING HIM. He screams and reels in the saddle.
- 68 LYLE GORCH KILLS THE BOY WITH ONE SHOT and rides on.
- 69 BUCK HANGS DESPERATELY ONTO THE HORN as his horse follows the others.
- 70 ON THE ROOF -- THORNTON AND HARRIGAN FINALLY FORCE the bounty hunters to cease firing after the wild bunch.
- 71 PASSING THE RAILROAD STATION ON THE FAR SIDE OF TOWN -- PIKE PULLS UP HIS HORSE AND WHEELS around to see if they are being followed, kicking loose a lady's shawl tangled in his stirrup.
- 72 NOBODY IS FOLLOWING - NOT YET. Pike spurs his horse and rides away, the others following.
- (The six bandits remaining are Pike, Dutch, the Gorch brothers, Angel and Buck, now blinded.)
- A SERIES OF ANGLES OF
- 73- THE CARNAGE LEFT BY THE GUNFIGHT  
75
- WOMEN AND CHILDREN are sobbing hysterically while townspeople move among the dead and dying, ineptly trying to help.

73-  
75

CONTINUED

THORNTON LOOKS AT THE SHAMBLES, then turns away sickened and slowly follows as the:

BOUNTY HUNTERS SCRAMBLE down from the roof.

76

IN THE PAYMASTER'S OFFICE -- C.L., HIS GUN RELOADED, LOOKS AROUND THE OFFICE, humming softly.

77

REACHING THE STREET -- THE BOUNTY HUNTERS RUN TOWARDS THE DEAD BANDITS followed by Harrigan.

78

THORNTON MOVES SLOWLY BEHIND THEM, cursing softly as he watches the men rush to bodies like a pack of wild dogs in a gut wagon -- they smell blood and have forgotten the leash.

79

COFFER AND THE SOUTHERNER, T.C. NASH, are stripping the pockets of one body while arguing over whose shot killed the man. Harrigan runs toward them.

COFFER

Well, just dig it out and see if it ain't my .06!

HARRIGAN

(pointing to the paymaster)  
You stupid damn fools!...How could you shoot this employee and let the others get away?

T.C.

(quickly)  
I didn't shoot that old boy...My first shot killed this man right here.

COFFER

(overlapping, crossing to another body)  
He's lying! Him and them others was shootin' that old 'employee' full of holes while I was droppin' this bandit -- and them others too -- I must've killed all three of 'em, sir, while --

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79 CONTINUED

THORNTON

(interrupting him as T.C.  
and the others protest)

Harrigan!...He shot the old man -  
(wearily)

Maybe we all did.

(crossing to him)

But by God the next time you plan  
your massacre a little more carefully  
...or I'll begin it with you!

HARRIGAN

(furious)

You'll begin a trip back to Yuma Prison  
if you don't learn to keep your mouth  
shut! Why in hell didn't you kill Pike  
when you had the chance?

But Thornton doesn't answer -- he turns, listening to:

C.L. (OS)

(singing)

"Shall we gather at the river  
Where bright angels rise and fall  
Shall we gather at the river  
When the work's all done next fall?"

80 THORNTON AND HARRIGAN WHIRL AND RUN FOR THE OFFICE FOLLOWED  
BY SIMPKINS (the town marshal and trombonist in the W.C.T.U.  
band), FRAY, his deputy, and the bounty hunters.

81 IN THE PAYMASTER'S OFFICE -- C.L. IS MARCHING AROUND SINGING,  
THE SPRAWLED BODIES OF THE ASSISTANTS AND MARGARET are near  
the back door. C.L. turns as the men burst in:

C.L.

Sing! "Shall we gather at the river --"

82 THORNTON FIRES AND C.L. STAGGERS, falls to one knee, the  
shotgun dragging on the floor, his face mirroring shock and  
surprise.

C.L.

Well, how'd you like to kiss my sister's  
black cat's ass.

Harrigan fires. C.L. slumps, goes down on the other knee.  
More bounty hunters burst into the room.



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- 83 C.L. LAUGHS, FALLS FLAT, ROLLS AND BEGINS TO PUMP THE SHOTGUN and everybody dives for cover and opens fire, riddling him with bullets.
- 84 BUT HE TAKES THE MARSHAL, the deputy and one bounty hunter with him before he is cut to pieces.
- 85 HARRIGAN AND THORNTON LOOKING DOWN at the shambles in the room, turn as:
- 86 WAINSCOAT, THE MAYOR, ENTER, FOLLOWED BY A GROUP OF SHOCKED AND IRATE TOWNSPEOPLE. BENSON, a beefy redneck rancher, curses bitterly as he crosses to Harrigan.

BENSON

We're holding you -- your whole damned railroad responsible for this carnage --

HARRIGAN

Mr. Benson...!

WAINSCOAT

(almost screaming)

Innocent people are dead...women mangled -- dying -- because you used our town as a battlefield! You're going to pay, sir -- your railroad is going to pay for our blood!

HARRIGAN

(blowing up)

Without the railroad this place would still be a lousy little pueblo, so don't make any threats to me!

BENSON

(topping him)

You can't ambush innocent people on our street!

HARRIGAN

(yelling)

We were preventing a robbery and attempting to capture a band of outlaws...!

WAINSCOAT

(louder)

You lured that gang in here... the railroad's been blabbing about a big silver payload for weeks!

HARRIGAN

We represent the law!

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- 87 MORE IRATE CITIZENS BURST INTO THE OFFICE. Thornton moves through them out the door.
- 88 IN THE STREET -- HE STOPS, looking at the dead and dying, listening:

BENSON (OS)

If it takes vigilantes -- if it takes federal troops -- I'll stop you and your hired killers.

HARRIGAN (OS)

I can assure you that there won't be any more trouble.... My men will follow --

BENSON (OS)

(cutting him off)

Your men enter this town again and they will be shot on sight!

Thornton ignores them, slowly rolling a cigarette, looking after Pike.

Harrigan exits, crosses to Thornton.

HARRIGAN

I pulled you out of jail to get that bunch -- and you failed -- !

THORNTON

(interrupting)

You gave the orders! If you want the job done right -- you keep the hell out of it next time -- ! You and the rest of your railroad trash! I'll do it -- but my way.

HARRIGAN

What makes you think there'll be a next time for you? What makes you think you're not going back behind bars for twenty more years?

Thornton's face twists as he hears again the clanging of cell doors and the whimpering of prisoners.

THORNTON

Because I'm all you've got --

(then, softly)

Because I know him.

(turning away bitterly)

Because you know I'll get him -- I'll kill him rather than go back.

CONTINUED

88 CONTINUED

HARRIGAN

Twice he's made a fool of me -- He never will again.

(then, turning to Thornton)

You know why you're here --

(before Thornton can answer)

Not because you're good -- because I want him dead -- at your hands -- the hands of his old friend, his partner --

THORNTON

(after a moment)

I'll get him -- you have my word.

EXT. DRY ARROYO - DAY (LATE AFTERNOON EFFECT)

- 89 THE WILD BUNCH RIDES DOWN A STEEP TRAIL INTO A DRY ARROYO. They are weary, but determined. Buck, last in line, covered with blood, is swaying in the saddle. Although severely wounded, he still clutches the bags of silver.
- 90 REACHING THE BOTTOM OF THE ARROYO THE MEN SPUR their horses across the dry stream bed and up the steep bank on the other side.
- 91 DUTCH AND PIKE ARE IN THE LEAD. BEHIND THEM THE OTHERS LUNGE UP IN SINGLE FILE. Angel, second to last, reaches the top, turns as:
- 92 BUCK, NOW COMPLETELY BLIND, FALLS BACKWARD OVER THE REAR OF HIS HORSE, HITS THE GROUND AND SOMERSAULTS BACKWARDS TO THE BOTTOM, still clutching the saddle bags.
- 93 ANGEL PULLS UP and calls to Pike.
- ANGEL
- Fijate.
- 94 BUCK, ON HIS HANDS AND KNEES, MOANS WITH PAIN as he attempts to crawl up the slope.
- 95 PIKE RIDES DOWN TO HIM, SWINGS OFF HIS HORSE and stands looking down.

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
19.

96 THE BLIND MAN, HEARING HIM, gropes in his direction.

97 PIKE GENTLY TAKES THE BAGS OF SILVER OUT OF BUCK'S HAND.  
Buck lurches forward, grabbing at Pike who steps back. Pike  
crosses to his horse, and painfully climbs into the saddle.

BUCK

(dying, almost incoherent  
with pain)

I kin still ride...I can't see, but I  
kin ride...

-- (then)

No, I can't --

(then, yelling)

Finish it, Mr. Bishop!

98 PIKE DRAWS HIS GUN AND FIRES.

99 BUCK, ON HIS KNEES, IS CAUGHT SQUARE BY THE SHOT AND HURLED  
OVER BACKWARDS. He slides several feet over the smooth,  
round pebbles of the wash, then is still.

Pike turns his horse and spurs it up the slope.

100 THE MEN WATCH SILENTLY AS PIKE RIDES UP and halts. They  
don't move, all looking down at Buck.

PIKE

(after a long moment,  
trying to cover the loss)

You boys want to move on -- or stay here  
and give him a 'decent burial'!?

TECTOR

(the sentimentalist)

Well, he was a good man --

PIKE

(bitterly)

He's dead!

(then)

And he's got a lot of 'good men' back  
there to keep him company.

LYLE

Too damn many.

DUTCH

(softly)

I'd like to say a few kind words for  
all the departed -- then perhaps a hymn  
or two would be in order -- followed by  
a church supper with a choir.

CONTINUED

100 CONTINUED

LYLE

(riding away)

Crazy bastards -- both of you!

Tector follows his brother, cursing.

101 PIKE AND DUTCH LOOK AT EACH OTHER silently -- try to grin -- finally make it -- then follow. The bunch is attentive, but now certain that they are not being closely followed, they can relax a little.

Pike and Dutch are side by side.

PIKE

(wearily)

Ten years ago it was some shaky drunk with a tin badge that hid in the gin mill till you cleared town with your grab...Now, they're waitin' for you --

DUTCH

With old friends.

LYLE

(pulling back to join them)

Old friends?

DUTCH

Deke Thornton.

LYLE

I thought he was your partner?

PIKE

(shortly)

He was -- but he got old and tired and when that happens, things change.

DUTCH

He changed -- you didn't!

101-A INT. DENVER HOTEL SUITE - NIGHT.

The following scenes will be superimposed over 101 and 102.

The suite consists of three adjoining rooms and is very plush indeed.

TWO VERY BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMEN in revealing night dress are hindering more than helping, a somewhat loaded Pike Bishop as he attempts to get into his clothes. The ladies are giggling and there is a great deal of grab-ass between the three.

101-B THORNTON, fully dressed and looking very sharp in his big city clothes, enters from one of the adjoining rooms. ELIZABETH, a tall, lovely near-naked, dark-haired girl, follows him and takes his arm possessively. For a moment both watch:

101-C PIKE'S girls effectively stop his half-hearted attempts and begin disrobing him.

THORNTON

(Sharply)

Come on pardner, let's get out of here.

PIKE

(Grinning at him)

You sound like you're all caught up.

THORNTON

Caught up enough to know we've overstayed our welcome!

PIKE

(Suddenly angry)

What in hell is the matter with you?

ELIZABETH

Stay -- please.

PIKE

(Continues)

We've got money to spend and not a worry in the world.

(then)

They're not going to look for us in their own backyard.

(CONTINUED)

101-C (CONTINUED):

THORNTON

How can you be so damned sure?

He shakes off the girl, crosses to a sideboard, pours a drink.

PIKE

(Flatly)

That's my business -- being sure.

There is a knock at the door and Thornton whirls. Elizabeth throws the bolt.

THORNTON

(Savagely)

Hold it!

PIKE

(Grinning)

Relax -- just a little champagne  
I ordered.

101-D ELIZABETH STICKS OUT HER TONGUE AT THORNTON AND OPENS THE DOOR and gunfire fills the room as:

101-E A DEPUTY SHERIFF STEPS INTO THE DOORWAY AND SHOOTS THORNTON high on the shoulder. Thornton is knocked sprawling. The Deputy moves into the room (followed by three other men) and fires at Pike but misses, as

101-F PIKE SLIPS PAST the screaming women into an adjoining room. The other men pursue Pike as the Deputy bends down and snaps Thornton's wrists together with handcuffs. The sound of gunfire is heard from the street outside, then two of the men re-enter the room. The Deputy looks up.

DEPUTY

Get him?

The man shakes his head.

101-G THORNTON, HIS FACE TWISTED WITH PAIN AND BITTERNESS, makes no attempt to struggle as he is pulled to his feet and moved out the door.

102. THEY ARE SILENT, RIDING, EVEN LYLE is embarrassed by this betrayal.

PIKE

He's had five years on the rock pile,  
Dutch -- and twenty more to go --  
that can hurt a man.

LYLE

(after a moment)

Say -- I've heard it's like the old  
times in Argentina...Butch Cassidy  
down there making a killing...

PIKE

Bolivia...but it'll be over there  
too, pretty soon. Those mining  
companies will bring down a bunch  
of hardcases and Butch'll get his.

(then)

Every one of us is worth a year of  
drinking and whoring to any fool that  
can read a wanted poster and carry a  
gun.

DUTCH

(softly)

Deke Thornton isn't just any fool that  
can carry a gun and read a wanted  
poster.

PIKE

No -- but he takes a dim view of 20  
more years in the Carcel --

(then)

We can hope he ain't on our tail -- but  
don't bet on it.

LYLE

(happily)

Tector and I have been stealing since  
the big depression and we ain't never  
been caught. This Thornton don't bother  
us none.

PIKE

(weary)

I don't really give a damn about Deke  
Thornton...I just know that I'd surely  
like to get the hell off this horse.

CUT TO:



CHANGE  
2/12/68  
24

107

THORNTON LOOKS AT HIM WHITE WITH ANGER, then controls it - he is trapped. Finally, he nods and moves away, then stops and turns back, his anger almost beyond any control.

THORNTON

Tell me, Mr. Harrigan -- how does it feel?

(as Harrigan looks at him)

Getting paid for it?

(stepping closer)

Getting paid to sit back and hire your killings with the law's arms around you? How does it feel to be so damned right!?

HARRIGAN

(after a moment, coldly)

Good, Mr. Thornton...it feels good.

THORNTON

(softly)

You dirty son of a bitch.

HARRIGAN

(grinning at him)

You have 30 days to get him -- or 30 days to Yuma. You're my Judas Goat, Mr. Thornton.

(motioning to the bunkhouse)

Use them -- lead them -- get Pike -- then kill them off. When you come back, I want all of them head down over a saddle.

(pointing to the bunkhouse again)

All of them -- head down over a saddle.

(as Thornton starts to speak)

30 days.

He turns and walks away whistling.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BORDER RAILROAD CULVERT AREA (AFTERNOON EFFECT)

108

THE WILD BUNCH PULLS UP at the railroad which marks the border and look out into Mexico.

ANGEL

(softly)

Mexico lindo.

LYLE

What's so 'lindo' about it.

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
22.

INT. RAILROAD BUNKHOUSE - DAY

103

DEKE THORNTON STANDS A LITTLE BEHIND HARRIGAN WHO IS SEATED AT A SMALL DESK IN FRONT OF THE OTHER BOUNTY HUNTERS.

The interior of the room is tawdry, disorderly and smells bad. The bare walls are decorated with pin-ups from the Police Gazette.

The men sit attentively on the bunks and foot lockers. Harrigan is marking beside their names in a large ledger book. After making a notation, he looks up.

HARRIGAN

The hard money value of the men killed less my commission amounts to one hundred and fifty dollars.

104

THE MEN MUMBLE AND SHIFT. Harrigan holds up four wanted posters. The bounty hunters move closer for a better look.

HARRIGAN

Bishop...Engstrom...Lyle and Tector Gorch...are worth a total of four thousand five hundred dollars -- and you let them all ride out!

(after a moment)

Any one of these pelts would not only clear you with the company, but would mean a bundle of cash to raise hell with.

Harrigan stands, crosses to the door.

T.C.

How 'bout a little liquor money for tonight, Mr. Harrigan?

HARRIGAN

There won't be any tonight -- you move after them in ten minutes --

(turning back)

Get them -- get Pike and you're rich.

(then)

But if one of you quits on me I'll pay a thousand dollar bonus to the man who kills him.

105

THE MEN SILENTLY BEGIN TO PACK THEIR BELONGINGS. Harrigan motions to Thornton, then exits.

EXT. RAILROAD YARD - DAY

106

HARRIGAN AND THORNTON WALK AWAY FROM the bunkhouse into the deserted railroad yard.

HARRIGAN

Why should I let you go with them?

THORNTON

(wearily)

We've been over that before, Mr. Harrigan.

HARRIGAN

You could just ride off -- even join him again -- you'd like that, wouldn't you?

THORNTON

What I like and what I need are two different things.

(then)

Listen -- I don't want to go back to prison, Mr. Harrigan...not ever -- but it has to be my way...

HARRIGAN

All right.

THORNTON

I need good men! You saw what happened today.

HARRIGAN

(flatly)

You'll use what you have.

(then)

And you'll see it doesn't happen again -- or I'll see you dead or rotting for the rest of your life behind bars -- you try to run -- I'll be after you and so will they.

THORNTON

(angry)

I gave you my word.

HARRIGAN

We'll see what it's worth -- five minutes.

108

CONTINUED

TECTOR

Just more of Texas as far as I'm concerned.

ANGEL

You have no eyes.

And he rises ahead with Pike and Dutch across the tracks into Mexico.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARROYO SECO - BUCK'S FACE - DAY (LATE AFTERNOON)

109

IT IS A MASS OF DRIED BLOOD WHICH THORNTON WIPES AWAY WITH HIS GLOVED HAND, then looks up at the eight bounty hunters who are sitting on their horses watching him.

THORNTON

(wearily)

All right!....How many of you killed this one?

110

COFFER SWINGS OFF HIS HORSE FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL OTHERS.

COFFER

I knowed I wounded three -- but I wasn't sure about --

THORNTON

(as the others yell in protest)

Jabali!...

111

JABALI, AN AGING NAVAHO INDIAN trots up to him.

THORNTON

This pelt should clear you up -- take him back to town...and tell Harrigan to get me a list of every Army garrison and payroll schedule on the border.

(to the others, crossing to his horse)

We got another half hour of light and they might be just up ahead counting their money.

EXT. BANDIT CAMP - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

112 PIKE AND HIS MEN RIDE INTO THE RUINS OF A SMALL RANCHERO. A young boy takes their horses while an old man and his wounded son (the father of the boy) watch. Behind them, an ancient woman pays no attention as she slaps tortillas into shape. Two small children watch, big-eyed.

113 THE MEN ARE QUIET WITH FATIGUE AS THEY DISMOUNT AND TIE THEIR HORSES. FREDDY SYKES, a skinny old man in tattered range clothes, crosses to Pike as he unloads his saddle bags.

SYKES

Them others ain't comin'?

PIKE

No.

SYKES

(after a moment)

None of 'em?

114 PIKE TAKES THE BAGS OUT OF THE CORRAL TO THE FIRE that burns near an adobe wall and drops them on a poncho, watches as the others do the same.

SYKES

(joining him again; worried)

But I got horses and gear for all them fellers like you said --

PIKE

They won't need them -- we will.

Sykes thinks this over, finally nods a little and turns away.

115 LYLE AND HIS BROTHER AND DUTCH STAND in a half circle around the poncho waiting. Angel, the last, drops his saddle bag, then crosses to the wall and drops down to rest. For a long moment the men look down at the pile of saddle bags.

LYLE

About the sharing up...

PIKE

(wearily)

The sharing up's going to be the same as always.

CONTINUED

115 CONTINUED

LYLE

(whining; pointing to  
Angel)

Tector and I don't like the idea of him  
getting the same as us...He's just  
starting out and this is our stake for  
a new territory.

Pike looks at him silently. He has heard this kind of  
argument many times in the past and it is obvious he is sick  
to death of it. Lyle finally looks away at his brother.

TECTOR

And I figure a share to that old  
man for watching the horses is a  
share too much.

116 PIKE TAKES A KNIFE OUT OF HIS BELT, opens a saddle bag,  
takes out a sack of silver, kneels to slit the bag open.

LYLE

You hear me, Pike? -- I said it  
ain't fair...

Pike stands, flips the knife into the ground, faces the  
brothers.

PIKE

(softly)

If you two boys don't like equal  
shares why in hell don't you just  
take it all?

They look at him silently.

117 DUTCH DRIFTS AWAY A LITTLE TO THE SIDE OF PIKE. SYKES  
MOVES OUT OF THE BACKGROUND, a buffalo gun now dangling  
from one arm. The brothers tense. Angel laughs softly.

PIKE

(almost a whisper)

Well, why don't you answer me, you  
damned yellow-livered trash?

The brothers fidget, look at each other.

LYLE

Ah -- Pike, you know...

CONTINUED

117 CONTINUED

PIKE

(his voice a whip)

I don't know a damned thing except  
I either lead this bunch or I end  
it -- right now!

LYLE

No, sir -- we divide just as you  
say.

Pike looks at them a moment, then picks up his knife and  
slices open a bag and turns it upside down and dumps the  
contents onto the spread-out poncho watching as:

118 STEEL WASHERS POUR ONTO THE PONCHO

119 THE GROUP IS SILENT IN DISBELIEF staring at the pile of  
worthless steel. Sykes eases up, takes a cautious look.

TECTOR

Rings! Steel rings!

DUTCH

(quietly)

Washers!

120 PIKE TURNS AWAY. LYLE TAKES ANOTHER BAG AND CUTS INTO IT.  
More washers pour out.

PIKE

(under his breath)

Son of a bitch!

121 LYLE'S BOOT FLASHES INTO THE PILE. The washers fly in all  
directions. Lyle whirls on Pike.

LYLE

Washers...we shot our way out of  
that town for a dollar's worth of  
steel holes.

He kicks into the pile and scatters washers across the  
clearing.

PIKE

They set it up!

CONTINUED

121 CONTINUED

LYLE

(yelling)

Who the hell is 'they!!?

SYKES

(laughing; cackling)

'They?' Why 'they' are just plain  
and fancy 'they.' 'They.'(dancing around them his  
high laughter splitting  
the night)Caught you, didn't they? Tied a tin  
can to your tail -- didn't they?  
Lead you in and waltzed you out -- Oh  
my what a bunch -- big tough ones --  
standing around with a handful of  
holes -- a thumb up your ass and a  
big grin to pass the time of day with.122 TECTOR SWINGS AT HIM, BUT THE OLD MAN DUCKS, then falls and  
rolls away, still laughing. Tector starts to follow, Pike  
steps between them.

PIKE

Railroad men -- Pinkertons -- bounty  
hunters...

(then)

Deke Thornton.

SYKES

(in disbelief)

Deke Thornton? -- He was with them?

LYLE

(as Pike doesn't answer;  
quietly)

How come you didn't know?

123 PIKE TURNS AWAY. DUTCH LOOKS AT PIKE QUESTIONINGLY, THEN  
ALL TURN as the SOUND of laughter comes from behind.

124 ANGEL IS SITTING AGAINST THE WALL LAUGHING.

ANGEL

(to Tector)

Hey, gringo! You take my share.

125 TECTOR WHIRLS, HIS HAND FLASHING FOR HIS GUN.



126 BEFORE HE CAN DRAW ANGEL'S EXPRESSION TURNS serious and a gun is suddenly in his hand covering the big outlaw. Angel smiles again...then pleads mockingly.

ANGEL

Don't kill me, gringo...por favor...  
Take my share of the 'silver' -- but  
— don't kill me, please.

Tector tenses, almost snarling with rage.

PIKE

Go for it!

Tector, looking at Angel's gun, half turns to Pike.

PIKE:

(continuing; softly)  
Go on, fall apart!

Lyle and Tector hesitate, their hands on their guns -- Dutch moves back into the shadows of the firelight, his rifle drifting across Tector.

127 ANGEL SMILES AND SLOWLY replaces his gun.

DUTCH

Let's walk soft, boys...

128 LYLE, STILL MORE THAN HALF READY TO GO FOR HIS GUN, hesitates.

129 TECTOR LOOKS AT PIKE, DUTCH, ANGEL, THEN slaps his gun into his holster -- and moves away, but his hand is never far from the weapon.

130 THE GROUP STANDS MOTIONLESS FOR A MOMENT, THEN SYKES REACHES INTO HIS COAT, LIFTS OUT A BOTTLE, SITS BY THE FIRE and hands it to Dutch.

Dutch sits by Sykes, takes a drink, offers the bottle to Tector, Tector hesitates, then hunkers down and drinks. Slowly the others follow suit.

DUTCH

(as the bottle moves around)  
What's our next move?

CONTINUED

PIKE

Agua Verde is the closest -- three days maybe -- then we sell the extra stock -- get some grub and the news and drift back to the border -- maybe a payroll -- maybe a bank --

LYLE

(gently)

Maybe that damned railroad!

TECTOR

That railroad sure as hell ain't getting any easier.

SYKES

(quietly)

And we ain't getting any younger.

For a moment, it looks like he'll get a smart answer in return, then:

Lyle drinks and lifts the bottle to Angel who crosses to the fire, drinks and passes it to Sykes.

PIKE

(finally)

We got to start thinking beyond our guns -- them days are closin' fast.

LYLE

(without malice)

All your fancy planning and talk damn near got us shot to pieces for some lousy bags of washers... Now this was goin' to be our last job before we head south... We spent all our time and money getting ready for this.

PIKE

(dryly)

You spent your time and money running whores in Hondo while I spent my stake setting it up.

LYLE CALMLY PICKS UP A WASHER, flips it to (or at) Pike who catches it, looks at it, through it, drinks, tosses it back on the pile.

131 CONTINUED

PIKE

(truthfully)

Looks like I'd have been better  
off running whores than making plans,  
stealing horses and buying uniforms.

132 THE MEN ARE SILENT FOR A LONG MOMENT. Then they break into  
soft laughter which builds slowly.

LYLE

(after a moment)

He -- he was making plans while me  
and Tector was --

He breaks up and can't continue.

DUTCH

(his laughter growing)

While you was getting your bell  
rope pulled by --

(standing; almost choking)

By two -- mind you, two -- Hondo  
whores -- while Pike's dreaming of  
washers -- you're matching two of  
them -- in tandem --

And the wild bunch falls apart in laughter -- even Pike is  
caught, but as he laughs, he knows that they are together  
again.

EXT. DESERT - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

133 DEKE THORNTON AND THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE GROUPED AROUND A  
FIRE EATING.

T.C.

How close you figure we are?

THORNTON

Not close enough... They're across the  
border by now.

COFFER

Deke -- you rode with Pike -- what  
kind of a man are we up against?

THORNTON

(after a long moment; softly)

The best --

(then)

CONTINUED

133 CONTINUED

THORNTON (CONT'D)

He's never got caught.

(after a moment)

And he won't be if you boys don't  
learn your trade.

FESS

How was it -- then --

(as Thornton looks at him)

You know -- in the old days? I only  
come out here last spring.

THORNTON

(after a long moment)

You can saddle up or shut up -- take  
your choice --

COFFER

(after a long moment)

What will he do?

THORNTON

That's what I have to figure.

COFFER

Maybe they'll split up.

THORNTON

No -- not that bunch. They'll try  
again.

T.C.

How do you know?

But Thornton doesn't answer.

EXT. PIKE'S CAMP - NIGHT

134 PIKE AND DUTCH ARE SIDE BY SIDE IN THEIR blankets listening  
to Angel play the guitar. For several moments they are  
silent, then:

PIKE

Didn't you run some kind of mine --  
in Sonora?

DUTCH

Yeah, I helped run a little copper --  
nothing for us there except day wages,  
if it was running now -- which it ain't.

135

PIKE FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO get comfortable. Groaning and wincing with pain he shifts on the bedroll.

PIKE

Why in the hell did you ever quit it?

DUTCH

Why in hell are you still goin'?

PIKE

I don't know any better -- maybe don't want any better.

(then, after a moment)

Hell, I wouldn't know what to do with 'better' if it poked me in the eye with a sharp stick.

DUTCH

(laughing softly)

You never gave it a chance, Pike.

PIKE

(angry)

I threw away more chances in one year that you will see in your whole life -- but that don't mean you have to be a damn fool like me.

Dutch sits up, rolls and lights a cigarette.

DUTCH

You got a halfway hard mouth, partner.

PIKE

What in hell do you want me to say --?

DUTCH

Just don't give me no lectures.

They are silent -- finally:

PIKE:

This was going to be my last, too... I'm not getting around any better -- like the red-haired lady said to the white-haired judge -- 'I only got so many miles left in my backside, Your Honor, and I aim to keep it moving while I'm still young enough to feel what it's there for.'

(as Dutch laughs softly)

I'd like to make a good score - then back off.

CONTINUED

DUTCH

Back off to what?

(as Pike doesn't answer)

Any real ideas for a next one?

Pike closes his eyes and leans back.

PIKE

Pershing has got men spread over the whole border. Everyone of those garrisons is going to be getting payroll.

DUTCH

That kind of information is kind of rough to come by.

PIKE

(sitting up)

Well -- I don't figure it's going to be easy, but it can be done.

DUTCH

They'll be waiting for us.

PIKE

I wouldn't have it any other way.

CUT TO:

EXT. THORNTON'S CAMP - NIGHT

136 MOST OF THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE ASLEEP, only Thornton and Coffey are awake. Thornton sits up, begins to roll a cigarette.

COFFER:

If he's in old Mex -- do we follow him?

THORNTON

No.

COFFER

Why not?

THORNTON

He'll be back.

COFFER

Harrigan said something about thirty days --

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
36.

136 CONTINUED

THORNTON  
(after a moment)  
That's what he said.

CUT TO:

137 EXT. PIKE'S CAMP - NIGHT

DUTCH  
You must have hurt that railroad  
pretty bad -- they spent a lot of  
time and money getting that ambush set  
up for us.

PIKE  
(smiling at the memory)  
Well, I caught up to them -- two or  
three times -- There was a man named  
Harrigan -- He had a certain way of  
doing things -- So I made him change  
his ways -- when you do that to a  
narrow man -- he can't live with it --  
from then on he's got to change you --  
break you -- just to prove he's right --  
there's a hell of a lot of people, Dutch --  
that just can't stand to be wrong.

DUTCH  
Pride, I guess --

PIKE  
I guess -- but they can't ever forget  
it -- that pride -- that being wrong --  
or learn by it.

DUTCH  
(after a long moment)  
And you -- and me -- did we learn --  
being wrong today?

PIKE  
(softly)  
Well, I surely hope to God we did.

138 SYKES CROSSES TO PIKE, GIVES HIM a cup of coffee, moves  
away.

DUTCH  
Where'd you find him?

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
37.

138 (Cont.)

PIKE

(softly)

That toothless old wreck was a real gun about twenty years back -- used to run with Thornton and me -- killed his share and more -- around Langery -- Ambushed stages all along that old board highway...He had those Swede immigrants so scared they'd starve rather than go to town and buy beans for their kids, and there wasn't a sheriff in the territory to take issue --

He laughs, drinks the coffee and gags.

PIKE

(continuing)

And he ain't changed -- only now he does his killing with a coffee cup.

Dutch laughs and then both lean back listening as:

139 ANGEL, WRAPPED IN HIS SERAPE LEANING AGAINST THE WALL, plays the great rancho songs of old Mexico.

140 LYLE AND TECTOR ARE ALSO AWAKE and listening.

DUTCH

(softly)

Pike, I wouldn't have it no other way either.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESERT SAND DUNE AREA - DAY

141 PIKE AND THE OTHERS (NOW DRESSED FOR THE TRAIL) RIDE ALONG THE TOP OF A HIGH DUNE. They are tired and dirty.

Near the edge they dismount to lead their horses to the bottom.

142 THE SAND IS LOOSE AND THE FOOTING EXTREMELY DIFFICULT as they start down in single file. Sykes is last, he leads his own horse, a pack animal, and three of the empties.



- 143 SUDDENLY SYKES SLIPS AND LOSES HIS FOOTING. He falls forward:
- 144 PULLING THE FIVE HORSES DOWN WITH HIM. Unable to control his slide he collides with Tector who is next in line. Tector's fall starts a chain reaction in which all the men slide to the bottom of the hill.
- 145 PICKING UP SPEED THEY TUMBLE TO THE BOTTOM and land in a giant cloud of dust. There is a profusion of coughing and swearing as the men and animals struggle to their feet.
- 146 TECTOR STANDS, CURSES AT SYKES, then picks up a stone and throws it at the old man who is hit and falls backward.
- 147 PIKE GRABS TECTOR AND SWINGS HIM AROUND.

PIKE

Leave him alone!

TECTOR

(raving)

He's goin' to get us killed -- get rid of him!

PIKE

(his anger growing)

We don't get rid of nobody -- we stick together -- just like it used to be -- when you side a man you stay with him -- !

(shaking him)

If you can't do that you're worse than some animal -- you're finished -- we're finished -- all of us!

Tector looks at him silently.

- 148 PIKE TURNS TO MOUNT THE HORSE. Placing his foot in the stirrup he stiffly starts to swing on. The leather breaks and he falls under the animal. Landing on his back, he lets out a loud shriek.

149 THE OTHER MEN LOOK DOWN AT HIM AS THEY MOUNT. Dutch, ready to mount his horse hesitates, but doesn't move to help.

150 PIKE STRUGGLES TO HIS FEET. None of them move forward to help him and he doesn't expect them to. He is visibly miserable as he recovers the reins of his animal and tears off the broken leather.

151 LYLE AND TECTOR GRIN A LITTLE. Sykes turns away.

TECTOR

(piously)

'Pears 'Brother Pike' needs help,  
Brother Lyle.

LYLE

Riding with 'Brother Pike' and old man Sykes makes a man wonder if it ain't time to pick up his chips and find another game.

TECTOR

(suddenly yelling  
at Pike)

How in hell are you going to side anybody if you can't get on a horse.

152 PIKE LOOKS AT THEM, THEN STEPS onto the makeshift stirrup and mounts, concealing his pain, taking a few seconds to gather up the reins and position himself. In the b.g., Dutch swings onto his horse.

PIKE

• We're about two hours from the Santa Caterinas.

He turns and rides toward the mountains, the men following.

153 SYKES RIDES UP BESIDE PIKE

SYKES

That was a mighty fine talk you gave the boys 'bout stickin' together.

(as Pike doesn't  
answer)

CONTINUED

SYKES (CONT'D)

That Gorch was near killin' me --  
or me him --

(then)

Damned old fool like me's not worth  
takin' along.

PIKE

We started together -- we'll end it  
together.

SYKES

By God, that's the way I see it --  
that's the way it's always been with  
me...Sorry 'bout Deke -- never  
figured him that way.

(then, as Pike  
doesn't answer)

Back in San Rafael -- my boy -- how'd  
he do?

They ride for a while in silence as Pike thinks this over,  
finally:

PIKE

Your boy?

SYKES

C.L. -- Clarence Lee -- my daughter's  
boy -- not too bright, but a good boy --  
He handle hisself all right? -- I told  
him -- you do -- just what Mister Bishop  
says -- Did he conduct hisself well?

PIKE

(after a long moment)

He did fine --

(then)

Why didn't you tell me he was your  
grandson?

SYKES

Well, you had enough on your mind --  
He had to pull his weight just like  
the rest of us -- just wanted to know  
he didn't let you down -- run when  
things got hot --

PIKE

(after a moment)

No -- he did fine...just fine.

CHANGE  
2/14/68  
41.

EXT. BORDER (RAILROAD CULVERT AREA) - DAY

154 THORNTON AND THE BOUNTY HUNTERS follow the wild bunch's trail. They are hot and tired and with the exception of Thornton, are apprehensive.

Coffer pulls up, calls to Thornton:

COFFER

That culvert -- good place for them  
-- to make an ambush.

THORNTON

Go on - ride up and find out!

Coffer hesitates, his eyes wide with fear. Thornton draws his gun, pulls back the hammer.

THORNTON

(savagely)

Go on!

Coffer rides forward.

THORNTON

(to the others)

Next time I want advice from any of you  
scum I'll ask for it -- until then, keep  
your mouths shut and do what you're told!

COFFER

(turning back, calling)

All clear --

155 THORNTON RIDES UP TO THE CULVERT, HALTS, DISMOUNTS, STEPS INTO the shade, the others follow suit.

COFFER

From here on, it's Mexico, Mr. Thornton.

T.C.

Do we follow?

THORNTON

What's the closest town of any size?

COFFER

(pointing)

Agua Verde -- maybe two or three days.

(then, pointing in the  
opposite direction)

Juarez -- five -- six days hard riding.

THORNTON

What's in Agua Verde?

CONTINUED

155 CONTINUED

COFFER

Mexicans -- what else.

(then quickly, as Thornton  
turns on him)

Headquarters for Huerta regulars  
fighting Obregon, led by an old time  
bandit named Mapache.

Thornton thinks about this, then mounts and rides back in  
the direction they have come from.

COFFER

Don't we follow?

THORNTON

No -- we wait.

T.C.

(mounting)

How long -- Mr. Thornton.

THORNTON

Twenty-eight days.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DESTROYED HACIENDA (SAN CARLOS)-- DAY

156

THE BANDITS ARE RIDING under a broad sky across through a  
destroyed pueblo filled with silent ghostlike people, four  
or five crying children, vultures and four men hanging  
from a tree. In the distance is a high range of mountains.

Angel spurs his horse and rides up beside Pike.

DUTCH

(to Pike)

We're not going to find much down here.  
That damned Huerta's scraped it clean.

ANGEL

(in Spanish)

May he die the death of a thousand  
traitors.

(then)

My village is up there...in those  
mountains.

PIKE

So --?

CONTINUED

156 CONTINUED

ANGEL

I wish to visit my family...I can do it and meet you in Agua Verde a day after you get there.

PIKE

How?

ANGEL

Going this way, you will have to turn east when you get south of the range... I know the way to cross the mountains.

DUTCH

If you know a shorter way...show us.

Angel looks away and is silent for several seconds.

PIKE

Ashamed of having us meet your people?

ANGEL

(sincerely)

Yes...They don't know about my life when I am out of the village.

Pike and Dutch both laugh softly, then Pike pulls up at a watering trough and dismounts as his horse begins to drink.

PIKE

Far as I'm concerned, you can go.

LYLE

(dismounting, joining them)

Far as I'm concerned -- he goes he don't come back.

DUTCH

That sounds right to me.

PIKE

Looks like I'm outvoted.

157 TECTOR JOINS THEM

TECTOR

(dismounting)

What's the problem?

PIKE

Wants to visit his folks alone -- thinks we're a little rank for his people.

CONTINUED

157 CONTINUED

LYLE

(as Tector drinks beside his horse)

I think he can go straight to hell.

TECTOR

Probably wants to get a bunch of his people and waylay us!

DUTCH

And take what?

Tector thinks this over, doesn't answer.

PIKE

(to Angel)

How do you want it?

ANGEL

(after a long moment)

I invite you to my village -- my home.

(then, looking at Tector and Lyle)

Any violence -- any disrespect -- and I will kill you.

Tector and Lyle look at him without expression for a moment, then:

LYLE

You got a sister?

ANGEL

...Yes.

LYLE

I would be proud to make her acquaintance -- and that of your Mama, too.

TECTOR

(trying not to laugh)

And your Grandmaw too, sonny...

Angel looks at them, then mounts, rides toward the mountains as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DRY ARROYO - DAY

158

THORNTON AND HIS BOUNTY HUNTERS are riding back past the place where Buck died. The men are sullen, some almost openly defiant.

(CONTINUED)

158 CONTINUED

T.C.

We go back with our tail between our legs Harrigan will have our hides.

THORNTON

(patiently)

They'll be coming back -- and we'll be waiting for them.

COFFER

(whining)

We was supposed to go after them --

Thornton reins up, looks at Coffe, who looks quickly away.

THORNTON

You have something to say?

Coffe instantly lifts his hands in submission and shakes his head. Then, after a moment:

COFFER

They say Freddy Sykes is with them -- you rode with the old man, didn't you, Mr. Thornton -- you and Pike and the old man?

But Thornton rides on and doesn't answer.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANGEL'S VILLAGE - DAY

159 TECTOR AND LYLE ARE SEATED ON THE GROUND trying to duplicate the intricacies of a very complicated cat's cradle demonstrated to them by ROCIO, the lovely bright-eyed 13 year old sister of Angel. Both men are drinking tequilla, but both are sober, entranced and completely dominated by the girl. All three straighten as:

160 CARMEN, ANGEL'S MOTHER, CALLS from a nearby fire where she is preparing food with her mother.

CARMEN

Miha -- trigame aupa por los frijoles!

The girl jumps to her feet, hands both men a bucket (or olla) and leads them down the bank to the river. (The natural beauty of this location should contrast with other landscapes in the picture. This village and its inhabitants represent a complete and green contrast to the arid world of the wild bunch).



161 ANGEL AND PIKE SEATED IN THE THATCHED SHADE OF A RAMADA WITH DON JOSE, ANGEL'S GRANDFATHER, WATCH SILENTLY. SYKES IS A FEW FEET AWAY. Angel watches dully, his eyes mirroring his agony. Pike laughs softly, watching.

PIKE

Hard to believe.

DON JOSE

Not so hard -- we all dream of being a child again -- even the worst of us -- perhaps the worst most of all.

PIKE

(looking at him)

You know us, then --

DON JOSE

I know myself only -- where I have been, what I have done.

PIKE

Like to ride with us, old man?

And for a moment, the old man's eyes flash as he watches:

162- DUTCH AND THREE VILLAGERS SHOEING a very small, very mean  
164 mule. All four have been drinking a little and are thoroughly enjoying themselves as is the mule as he pitches and knocks them all sprawling.

DON JOSE

No -- I am too old.

(almost cursing, indicating Sykes)

Too old even to ride beside this ancient gringo.

165 SYKES LAUGHS AND DRINKS

SYKES

Hell, you ain't so old, partner.

166 ANGEL STANDS, TURNS TO THEM

ANGEL

(bitterly)

And the soldier who shot my father -- what was his name?

CONTINUED

166 CONTINUED

DON JOSE

They were many -- who shot -- your father  
resisted like a man and died like a man --  
names in this matter have no importance.

(to Pike proudly)

I killed one!

(as Pike looks at him)

I lie -- I ran --

SYKES

Joe -- by God I like you. I like a  
man who tells the truth.

ANGEL

(impatiently)

And the leader -- how was he called?

DON JOSE

(after a moment)

Mapache.

ANGEL

That is name enough.

PIKE

The Federal troops -- they don't  
protect you --

DON JOSE

They were Federal troops! -- commissioned  
by the traitor Huerta -- seven of the  
village were killed -- our horses and  
cattle and corn stolen -- all in the name  
of Huerta, the killer of our President  
Francisco I. Madero -- In Mexico, Senor --  
these are the years of sadness.

ANGEL

(after a long moment,  
standing)

And Teresa?

DON JOSE

Gone.

ANGEL

(whirling)

They took her?

CONTINUED

166 CONTINUED

DON JOSE

No -- she went with them because she wished to. She became the woman of Mapache -- and others -- she went with them laughing -- Drunk with wine and love.

Angel, knowing it's true, turns and moves away. Pike looks after him.

167 DON JOSE HANDS SYKES THE BOTTLE, SYKES DRINKS, HANDS IT TO PIKE who drinks.

DON JOSE

To him she was a goddess. To be worshipped from afar -- with music and flowers -- a deity to be followed and adored at a distance -- but Mapache knew she was a mango -- ripe and waiting...

PIKE

So Angel lives with a dream -- while Mapache eats the mango --

DON JOSE

Just so --

(then)

You have been there -- with the dream?

PIKE

Many times -- and with the mango too.

SYKES

(cackling)

You just bet he has, Joe.

PIKE

I never could carry a candle to you, old timer.

DON JOSE

(to Pike)

And which do you prefer, the dream or the taste?

PIKE

I dream when I sleep -- and eat when I'm hungry.

DON JOSE

(laughing with Sykes)

Just so -- the both of you and Mapache -- and I --

- 168 ANGEL, SOME DISTANCE AWAY, watches evening come upon the quiet village and watches:
- 169 TECTOR AND LYLE moving from the pond carrying water, now surrounded by a dozen laughing children.
- 170 DUTCH AND THE THREE OLD MEN trying to pound a horseshoe on the mule.
- 171 HIS MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER AND other village women now basting a kid cooking over the coals and:
- 172 PIKE, SYKES AND HIS GRANDFATHER laughing in the ramada.
- 173 ANGEL TURNS AWAY, his eyes suddenly blind with tears. Then, turns and crosses to his Grandfather.

ANGEL

Where is Mapache?!

CUT TO:

EXT. RAILROAD YARDS - SAN RAFAEL - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

- 174 THORNTON LEADS THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ALONG THE RAILS toward the bunkhouse. They have been riding a long time. The men are tired and bitter. Suddenly Coffey draws his gun and points it at Thornton's back. For a moment it looks as if he will shoot, then Thornton pulls up sharply, and kicks his horse to one side as:
- 175 HARRIGAN STEPS OUT OF THE BOXCAR (OR STATION OFFICE) stands waiting. Coffey's gun has disappeared.

THORNTON

Ride ahead, all of you.

And they do, riding toward Harrigan as we:

CUT TO:

EXT. ANGEL'S VILLAGE - NIGHT

- 176 MOST OF THE VILLAGE IS gathered around three or four fires eating the young goat meat...drinking tequilla and mescal, watching:

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50.

- 177 TECTOR AND LYLE dance a Mexican Virginia reel as:
- 178 SYKES BLOWS ACCOMPANIMENT with harmonica along with two of the local guitar players.
- 179 THE VILLAGERS CHEER THEM ON, THEN TWO PRETTY GIRLS (ANNA AND LINDA) JUMP UP and dance with the Gorch brothers, learning the steps from the willing, if surprisingly bashful, teachers.
- 180 PIKE, A PIECE OF GOAT MEAT IN HIS HAND LISTENS TO THE MURMURING OF CARMALITA, A RATHER PLUMP AND QUITE PRETTY YOUNG GIRL, seated between him and Dutch. Angel, across the fire, raises his voice and repeats the question:

ANGEL

You must tell me -- where is Mapache?

- 181 HIS GRANDFATHER, WATCHING PIKE AND DUTCH AND CARMALITA, laughing softly to himself, finally turns, his smile fading.

DON JOSE

Why do you wish to know -- for your father -- or the whore?

Pike looks up as Angel fights within himself to find an answer.

PIKE

(finally)

It doesn't make any difference, kid -- our business is in Agua Verde --

For a moment Angel looks like he will explode, then he lifts a bottle of tequilla in salute to Pike.

ANGEL

As you say, Jefe - to Agua Verde and 'our business.'

CUT TO:

EXT. AGUA VERDE PLAZA - DAY

- 182 PIKE AND THE OTHER MEN ARE WATERING THEIR HORSES under the shade of several large trees in the main plaza of Agua Verde. The town itself is dull and sun colored like the surrounding country. Its most remarkable features are a great deal of soldiers exiting and entering a cantina-like building and a small, aging, ornate, church.

- 183 SYKES PURCHASES A TACO FROM A SMALL BOY and gums at it while the contents run into his beard.
- 184 PIKE LIFTS A STIRRUP FROM HIS SADDLE on the hitching rail and examines the repair, then puts it on his horse. Tector and Lyle squat in the shade working at making a cat's cradle. Angel is talking quietly to three Mexican peons some distance away.
- 185 DUTCH LEAVES THE BUILDING and joins Pike.

DUTCH

All soldiers -- not a bounty hunter in sight.

PIKE

We'll go have a drink, then try and sell the horses.

SYKES

Who's going to buy -- looks to me like this place has been picked clean.

ANGEL

(joining Pike)

He's been here!

- 186 THE HORSES PUT THEIR EARS BACK and whinny nervously as an incredible noise is heard off scene. The men snap their heads around and look at:
- 187 A HUGE CLOUD OF DUST FROM THE EDGE OF TOWN MOVING DOWN THE STREET towards the plaza. Inside is the almost ghostlike appearance of a 1912 or 1913 touring car. Four mounted men are riding on each side and a host of small children are running, screaming, behind it.
- 188 THE CAR PULLS UP IN FRONT OF THE CANTINA-LIKE BUILDING. SIX MEN GET OUT AND TWO OF THEM INSTANTLY BEGIN DUSTING AND POLISHING. The mounted guards take up positions around the vehicle. The group shows deference to a large man wearing general's braid. EL MAPACHE. Next to him is his second in command, ZAMORRA. The third man dressed in white linen is MOHR, a German military advisor. With him is ERNST, his aide.
- 189 PIKE AND THE OTHERS WATCH with interest as the men enter a cantina-like building. Then without a word they cross the

CONTINUED

189 CONTINUED

street, drawn to the vehicle. Angel is tense, knowing that his man has arrived.

PIKE

I seen one just like this in Waco...

LYLE

Run on steam?

PIKE

No...alcohol...or gasoline.

190 FREDDY SYKES EDGES UP CLOSE TO PIKE. He is anxious to make a statement and he speaks to him as he walks around the car.

SYKES

Pike...I heard about one they got up north that kin fly!

Pike nods sagely. Tector Gorch on the other side of the car hears the remark.

TECTOR

(scornfully)

That was a balloon, you damned old fool.

PIKE

No, the old man's right. They got 'em now with motors and wings -- cover 60 miles in less than an hour...goin' to use them in the war, they say.

(as Tector looks at him astonished)

This could cover 30 miles in an hour -- 'cording to the road, of course.

DUTCH

That could run a horse right into the ground.

PIKE

Not that easy -- these automobiles can't stand any rough ground -- or hot sun like a horse -- they're for show mostly.

191 TECTOR TOUCHES A FENDER AND ONE of the guards spurs toward him, cursing in Spanish. Tector backs off, hands in the air.

TECTOR

I was just going to touch the damn thing, not marry it.

CONTINUED

191 CONTINUED

ANGEL

Un gigante de máquina -- Ha de tener  
una fuerza tremenda.  
(A giant of a machine -- What force it  
must have)

GUARD

—La fuerza de 1,000 caballos.  
(The force of 1,000 horses.)

ANGEL

Y el dueño -- un general por lo menos.  
(And the owner -- a general at least.)

GUARD

Mapache? Más que un general -- un hombre  
hecho para reinar todo México, si Dios quiere.  
(Mapache? More than a general -- a man  
to rule all of Mexico if God wills.)

192 ANGEL SMILES AT THE MAN, TURNS AND CROSSES TOWARD THE  
CANTINA. PIKE STOPS HIM.

PIKE

You're here with us, pardner -- any  
business you got with the general comes  
after we finish ours -- and that is  
selling horses.

ANGEL

(after a moment, shrugging)  
As you wish.

He turns away, Pike grabs him, jerks him back.

PIKE

(gently)  
You make one move to trouble and I'll  
kill you -- understand -- we stick  
together.

DUTCH

(before Angel can answer)  
Angel -- who does this thing belong to?

ANGEL

(with due respect)  
Es el carrazo oficial de su excelencia  
el Generalísimo Mapache.

Dutch turns smiling and tells the others.

DUTCH

The official carrazo of the Pache  
Generalísimo.

CONTINUED



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192 CONTINUED

PIKE

Let's get some beer and talk to the general about his automobile and our extra horses...nice and easy.

The men turn and follow him into the cantina.

INT. CANTINA - DAY

193 THE CANTINA IS A LARGE MANY LEVELED ROOM IN A HALF DESTROYED HACIENDA FILLED WITH MEXICANS wearing the uniforms of Huerta's counter-revolutionary army and their ladies.

A small mariachi band wanders among the tables playing folk songs of the era. In certain areas horses are stabled -- a blacksmith shop is working, guns are being repaired, knives and bayonets sharpened...and food is being cooked for the troops by their women. Kids, as always, are very evident.

194 MAPACHE AND HIS GROUP ARE SEATED AT A TABLE which is in a covered area raised above the others. It is obvious from his position and respect accorded him that he is the local boss of the area. The German officer, Mohr, and Ernst, are sitting on one side of him. Lieutenant Zamorra is seated on the other side. Herrera is close by.

195 PIKE AND THE OTHERS MOVE TOWARDS A CORNER of the cantina eyeing the Mexicans with the kind of caution that men who are vastly outnumbered generally show. They sit quietly at a table, ignoring the suspicious looks of the soldiers.

196 AT MAPACHE'S LONG TABLE, the General and the Germans watch them with pointed interest. Mohr nudges Mapache and asks who they are. Mapache shrugs -- he doesn't know.

197 EMMA, A PRETTY WAITRESS, CROSSES TO PIKE'S table to take their order.

EMMA

Diga?

PIKE

Beers...six cervezas.

EMMA

Como?

Angel remains silent, looking at the General.

CONTINUED

197 CONTINUED

DUTCH

Seis cervezas.

The girl leaves to get the order. The men at the table look around the cantina. At a nearby table a group of men are throwing dice and laughing loudly. The mariachis are gathering around Mapache. Lyle shifts in his chair to look at them.

198 MAPACHE IS LAUGHING AND DRINKING. The German leans close to Zamorra and speaks in Spanish.

MOHR

Do you know these Americans?

ZAMORRA

No.

The German settles back in his chair and begins placing a cigarette in a holder.

199 TECTOR AND LYLE LOOK SUSPICIOUSLY AROUND AT THE MEXICANS in the cantina. The other men tired from the trail only half listen to them as the girl serves beer.

TECTOR

Probably talking about us behind our backs.

200 DUTCH TURNS TO PIKE WHO IS QUAFFING a large beer.

DUTCH

I'm down to about twenty in silver...

PIKE

The Generalissimo has cleaned this part of the country...He ought to have it to spare.

DUTCH

Generalissimo hell -- he's just a damn bandit grabbing all he can for himself.

PIKE

(grinning)

Like some others I could mention?

DUTCH

No sir -- we don't hang nobody or torture them -- I hope the people here kick him and the rest of the scum like him right into their graves.

201 ANGEL SITTING QUIETLY WITH HIS GLASS OF BEER WATCHES MAPACHE, his eyes burning with hatred.

ANGEL

We will if it takes a thousand years!

Then suddenly, he reacts to the sound of a girl's voice off scene.

TERESA

Vamos!...te va gustar el Aleman!

Angel spins around in his chair watching as:

202 TWO PRETTY MEXICAN GIRLS, TERESA AND ROSA, laughing and giggling, pass the table.

ANGEL

Teresa!

He reaches out and grabs the better looking of the two by the arm.

LYLE (OS)

Hey, boy...you know them cuties?

Teresa recognizes him, then pulls away.

TERESA

Dejame!

ROSA

Llamo los otros!

TERESA

No, Vete, ahorita vengo!

Pike and Dutch tense as Angel stands and jerks her toward him.

PIKE

Let her go!

203 ANGEL LOOKS AT THE GIRL, furious and hurt.

ANGEL

Djaste el pueblo!

TERESA

Si deje el pinche pueblo. Y ahora vivo con el generalisimo!

She jerks away from Angel and starts toward the other table.

CONTINUED

203 CONTINUED

Angel watches her go. In the b.g., the group of Mariachis playing loudly have moved around Mapache's table. No one there seems to have seen the action.

PIKE

Take it easy!

He places a hand on Angel's shoulder.

DUTCH

(to Angel)

Que pasa!!

PIKE

His sweetheart --

ANGEL

(still watching Teresa)

She was my woman and she left the village.

204 TERESA SPLITS THE MARIACHIS AND STEPS UP BESIDE EL MAPACHE and begins kissing his ear.

TECTOR

(laughing)

Sure ain't your woman no more!

LYLE

Just look at her licking that big devil's ear.

Angel watches, his rage growing, then stands -- Pike goes for him, but too late.

ANGEL

(hisses)

Putta!

In a split second he draws and fires.

205 TERESA HAS JUST STARTED TO SIT ON THE BIG MAN'S LAP WHEN THE BULLET FROM THE FORTY-FIVE CATCHES HER IN THE STOMACH and hurls her to the floor. The others at the table duck for cover, their guns coming out.

206 ANGEL IS STARING AT THE GIRL AS PIKE THROWS A PUNCH DIRECTLY into the side of his head dropping him onto the floor, knocking him out. The others stand, hands on their guns.

- 207 THE ENTIRE AREA IS COMPLETELY SILENT. SEVERAL SOLDIERS ARE STANDING WITH THEIR GUNS COVERING PIKE AND THE OTHERS. Mapache and the others slowly rise, look at Angel, now realizing who shot the girl.
- 208 MAPACHE STARTS TOWARDS THEM. He pushes over chairs and shoves people aside as he approaches the group. Zamorra, the Germans and other members of his retinue are close on his heels.
- 209 PIKE AND THE OTHERS ARE SILENT AND UNMOVING AS MAPACHE STEPS up to the table and quickly scans the group. Angel gets to his knees, Mapache kicks him in the head and when Angel falls back, stamps him several times with his boot, steps away. One of Mapache's men starts to bash Angel's head with a rifle butt, Mapache stops the man with a gesture, then turns to the others.

MAPACHE

Que basura es este?

Mapache again kicks Angel.

ZAMORRA

Why did he try to kill His Excellency...?

PIKE

He didn't, he was after the girl...

Mapache is having difficulty understanding. He looks at Zamorra with a puzzled expression.

ZAMORRA

La muchacha...

DUTCH

Era su novia!

The Mexicans immediately respond to Dutch's explanation. Both Zamorra and Mapache smile.

MAPACHE

(pleased)

His fiancée??...

PIKE

He went a little crazy when he saw her with you.

Mapache laughs. His ego is pleased with the idea that he had taken someone's woman. He turns and explains grandly in Spanish to the rest of the cantina.

MAPACHE

Mato su vieja porque salio con El Mapache!

The soldiers in the cantina laugh and ad lib their response.

210 PIKE AND DUTCH TRY TO SMILE as do the Gorch brothers and Sykes.

211 MOHR IGNORES them, looking with interest at the U.S. Army  
.45 pistols that the men are wearing.

MOHR

(to Pike)

Are you men in Agua Verde for business?

PIKE

Thought we might sell a few horses.

MOHR

You must have been associated with  
the American Army, is that not so?

Tector and Lyle snicker slightly at the remark. Mapache and Zamorra turn, listening carefully to the conversation. The cantina is silent.

DUTCH

No -- we're not associated with anyone...

MOHR

I see...I was curious because of the  
equipment which you are carrying.

(as they look at him)

That pistol is restricted for use by  
army personnel. It can't be purchased  
or even owned...legally.

PIKE

(guardedly)

Is that so? -

MOHR

You're surprised at my interest?

(then as Pike doesn't answer)

Weapons are a specialty of mine.

Mohr bows his head slightly and clicks his heels barely audibly.

MOHR

I am Commander Frederick Mohr of the  
Imperial German Army. For the last six  
months I have been in Mexico helping  
fight against the revolutionaries.

212 ANGEL ON THE FLOOR IS CONSCIOUS, but unmoving, listening to  
what is being said. Several of Mapache's men stand around him.

MOHR

Unfortunately your government has chosen  
to aid the rabble in their so-called  
struggle for liberty...

PIKE

I never heard of any American troops  
fighting down here...

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
60.

212 CONTINUED

MOHR

They are aiding in diplomatic channels...  
It would be very useful to us if we knew  
of Americans who did not share their  
government's naive sentiments.

PIKE

We have very few sentiments in common  
with our government.

MAPACHE

Que diga?

MOHR

(in Spanish)

Generalísimo, I think we should ask  
these gentlemen to have a drink with us.

And Pike, understanding that much Spanish, smiles as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT

213 A MARIACHI IS BLOWING HARD AND SAD INTO A TINY BRASS  
TRUMPET AS he looks at the body of Teresa being dragged  
out. Emma and Rosa are still very much in evidence.

214 AT MAPACHE'S TABLE, PIKE, DUTCH, LYLE, TECTOR AND SYKES are  
all seated at the raised table on the dais. Mapache seated  
at one end is tired and looks half asleep.

In the b.g. Angel can be seen still on the floor. A couple  
of guards are sitting near him.

215 SEVERAL MAPS ARE SPREAD OUT on the table.

Emma and Rosa crying softly, watch as the dead body of the  
girl is dragged through a door at one end of the room.

Zamorra is seated next to the German listening intently.

PIKE

Of all those garrison rail spurs that  
one is the easiest to hit -- But I've  
got to figure where we can get out with  
the wagon.

216

HE POINTS TO A PLACE ON THE MAP, looks at Dutch who shrugs doubtfully.

DUTCH

(to Zamorra)

Why do you want us to hit a train that's so close to the border...The General could take an army up there and get it.

MOHR

President Huerta is anxious to better relations with the U.S. -- not destroy them.

PIKE

Arms shipments are generally kept secret ...how did you find out about this one?

ERNST

Mapache has a superb intelligence force.  
(indicating Mohr)  
Organized under the supervision of my superior officer.

ZAMORRA

(drinking, laughing)

Gentlemen, we are quite well organized and well able to pay \$10,000 in gold.  
(as they react)

If you are not able to do the work we will find someone else.

PIKE

(as the others react)

I -- we can do it...

(then)

But we're going to need special equipment.

ZAMORRA

Our accountant will arrange everything.

MOHR

(smiling at Mapache)

Soon you will be the best armed general in Mexico.

Mapache raises his glass in a toast.

MAPACHE

A la conquista!...

Pike nudges Lyle who raises his glass; the other men follow suit. Mohr smiles and elegantly raises a drink.

CONTINUED



216 CONTINUED

MOHR

Prosit!

ERNST

Prosit!!!

217 PIKE AND DUTCH DRINK, put down their glasses.

PIKE

With your permission...I need a bath.

ERNST

(grinning)

With my permission -- You all need a bath.

LYLE

Well, I don't need no bath...Tector and me need some of them senoritas.

(to Zamorra)

How 'bout that boy, can you fix us up?

ZAMORRA

Porque no?

Zamorra yells to JUAN JOSE, an aide, standing nearby.

ZAMORRA

Oye!...Traeles unas viejas! Andale!

MOHR

(standing)

Gentlemen, you will excuse me, I'm sure.

218 PIKE AND DUTCH LOOK AT HIM, THEN STAND.

DUTCH

I'm sure.

219 DUTCH FOLLOWS PIKE TO ANGEL where they lift him off the floor.

PIKE

We better get him cleaned up...

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
63.

220 MAPACHE CROSSES QUICKLY TO THEM, drawing his gun.

PIKE

Por favor, General -- but I need him.

MAPACHE

I give you someone much better.

PIKE

(flatly)

I choose my own... with your permission.

Zamorra joins Mapache, looks at Pike whose hand is close to his gun, turns to the General.

ZAMORRA

Mi jefe, deje que se lo lleven.

Mapache replaces his gun.

MAPACHE

Take him. It is not important to me -- take him!

Then he looks away as:

221 JUAN JOSE APPROACHES THE TABLE WITH TWO BEAUTIES, ANNA and LUCHA. Lyle and Tector turn and react with delight.

TECTOR

Hey!...Here come our sweeties!

LYLE

(laughing softly)

More than enough to go around...

(as one girl sits

on his lap)

And then some!

He turns and beckons to Pike and Dutch who, with Sykes, are carrying Angel out of the saloon, but they ignore him.

CUT TO:

INT. BOX CAR - DAY

222 HARRIGAN AND THORNTON ARE SEATED AT A TABLE STUDYING PAYROLL SCHEDULES. MUNITION SCHEDULES AND MAPS. The other bounty hunters are scattered around the car grumbling about the inaction.

CONTINUED

HARRIGAN

And you want to gamble everything this one shipment will be attacked?!

THORNTON

If they're in Agua Verde that's what they'll go for.

HARRIGAN

If?! Why not Juarez?

THORNTON

Because we would have heard!!  
(then, patiently)

If they are in Agua Verde they will have seen Mapache.

HARRIGAN

(disgusted)

And who in the hell is Mapache?

THORNTON

A killer for Huerta who calls himself a general -- with enough guns he can become a power in northern Mexico - my guess is Pike will try and get them for him.

HARRIGAN

The train will be guarded by regular troops!!

THORNTON

Not regulars -- green recruits and not worth a damn! I'll need twenty trained men -- not recruits or this gutter trash you've given me.

HARRIGAN

You'll get the job done with what you have -- that's our bargain.

(then looking at the calendar)

Twenty-four days.

CUT TO:

INT. STEAM HUT - DAY

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
65.

223 CONTINUED

CENTER OF AN ADOBE STEAM HUT. The structure is about twenty-five feet in diameter with a small open oven in the center surrounded by a great deal of rocks. Light comes in through a tiny hole in the center of the ceiling which also allows smoke to escape.

PIKE, ANGEL AND DUTCH are sitting on a bench against one wall. Angel has been cleaned up, but looks beaten.

225 SYKES IS IN ONE CORNER, thoroughly enjoying himself.

The men are all nude and stark white against the mud color of the walls. As the woman exits, Dutch stands and empties a bucket of water over himself and the others. They all gasp with relief. All have towels around their waists and none are completely sober. Pike's leg is heavily scarred and he is in pain. He stands and drinks, gets closer to the fire, massaging his leg.

DUTCH

I don't see how you stand it!

PIKE

Some day I'm going to build me one of these and live in it.

(then to Angel)

I don't know why I didn't just let him kill you.

ANGEL

(irate)

I'm not going to steal guns for that devil to rob and kill my people again.

DUTCH

Very noble.

SYKES

I didn't see no tears runnin' down your face when you rode in from San Rafael.

ANGEL

(angry)

They were not my people -- nor yours -- I care about my people, my village, Mexico.

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
65A.

226

ANGEL GETS UP OFF THE BENCH and dumps a bucket of water on his head. Pike looks at Dutch. Both drink from a bottle.

SYKES

Listen, boy, you ride the trail with us your village don't count -- if it does -- you jest don't go along.

ANGEL

Then I don't go along!

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
66.

227

PIKE AND DUTCH LOOK AT ANGEL through the steam.

DUTCH

One load of guns isn't going to stop him from raiding villages. You ought to be thinking about all that money you'll have.

PIKE

(expansively)

Take them a large bag of gold when it's over.

DUTCH

A small bag.

PIKE

Move them a thousand miles away and buy them a ranch -- two -- three, ranches.

DUTCH

One -- a very small ranch.

ANGEL

They'll never leave...You see, it's their land -- and no one will ever drive them away.

SYKES

(solemnly)

I'll drink to that sentiment -- and to love --

(singing softly)

But when all is said and done --  
I'll drink to -- gold.

DUTCH

Salud!

CUT TO:

INT. BODEGO - NIGHT

228

IT IS LONG AND NARROW AND SHADOWY and Lyle, Tector and their two ladies are exploring it very carefully and with great dignity -- candles in hand.

LYLE

The dons of Spain built this some three hundred years ago --

He belches, then looks about in awe at the huge casks.

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
67.

228 CONTINUED

TECTOR

I'm all for them dons'.

229 TECTOR SUDDENLY SWINGS A MATTOX ON TO a six foot cask which rests on top of two others of equal height, it bounces out of his hand. He draws his gun and fires as does Lyle. Liquid gushes down.

229A LYLE STEPS UNDER IT, lifts his face, drinks, then drags his lady beside him.

LYLE

(as the torrent pours  
over them removing his  
hat)

Have a dollop, honey -- there's enough  
here for both of us.

And she does, tasting the good wine; laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. STEAM HUT - NIGHT

230 PIKE AND DUTCH EXCHANGE LOOKS AND HAVE ANOTHER DRINK. AS ANGEL PALES. Both are ready to write Angel off and forget about the problem.

ANGEL

Would you give someone a gun to  
kill your mother, or your father,  
or your brother?

231 DUTCH LOOKS AT PIKE. Pike thinks it over. Both have another pull on the bottle.

PIKE

Son -- twenty thousand cuts a lot  
of family ties.

ANGEL

No -- you gringos are no different.  
I have seen how Lyle takes care of  
his brother.

He takes the bottle, drinks, then throws it on the rocks.

CONTINUED

231

CONTINUED

ANGEL (CONT'D)

My people don't have guns so Mapache takes the food out of their mouths and clothes off their backs. With guns my village could fight. If I could take guns to my people I would go with you -- but not just for gold.

232

THE MEN ARE MOMENTARILY SILENT. Angel lifts a bucket of water, spills part of it on his head, passes it to Sykes who drinks a little of the water, spits it out, puts the bucket down, pours two bottles of tequilla into it, drinks again -- smiles, passes it to Angel, who drinks and passes it on.

DUTCH

(drinking)

All we'd need is for El Mapache to find out we armed some village...

SYKES

Let him find out. Mr. Bishop --  
(as Pike looks  
at him)

You know as well as I there ain't no way of collecting from Mapache 'cept off a lot of dead bodies -- mostly ours, the way he thinks.

Pike considers this -- looks at the old man, finally nods.

ANGEL

I would take guns...if Mapache found out, you would say I stole them.

DUTCH

How many cases of rifles did Zamorra say were in that shipment?

PIKE

Twenty.

DUTCH

Give him one.

CONTINUED



232 CONTINUED

PIKE

(after a long moment)

You can have one case and one case of  
ammo. You'll give up your share of the  
gold.

DUTCH

—He'll have to show up with us when we  
deliver...

ANGEL

I will!

PIKE

(softly)

I know you will...

Then they all turn as:

233 TECTOR AND LYLE AND THEIR LADIES enter, somewhat wet and stained with wine.

LYLE

(awkwardly)

I'd like you to meet my fiancée.

TECTOR

(tears in his eyes)

They just got engaged.

234 FOR A MOMENT THE GROUP is frozen, looking at the bride to be, her bridesmaid and the best man and groom, then all stand together and bow.

PIKE

Pleasure, Ma'am.

ANGEL

Tanto gusto, senorita.

DUTCH

Mucho gusto, senorita.

SYKES

(softly to himself)

Son of a bitch.

(then)

Trot them on in, boys -- I'm hell on  
packin' mules, but I'm a delight with  
a pretty girl.

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
70.

234 CONTINUED

Tector and Lyle and their girls look at him as both Pike and Dutch nearly fall off the bench, laughing too hard to drink their health as we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BROKEN DESERT AREA (DEEP ARROYO) - DAY

235 PIKE AND DUTCH ARE RIDING AHEAD OF A LARGE WAGON (LOADED WITH BARRELS) DRIVEN BY SYKES. The others are riding behind. The walls of the arroyo tower above the men. Pike is tense in the saddle as the pain in his leg becomes almost unbearable.

DUTCH

You never told me how you got all  
tore up like that...

236 PIKE REFLECTS FOR A MOMENT. His face is almost white. Then he reaches in his saddle bag and pulls out a bottle. He drinks, passes the bottle to Dutch.

PIKE

I met a woman I wanted to marry...

Pike grins a little at what now seems an absurd thought.

236A SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE SCENE IS PIKE IN JUAREZ:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

236B PIKE COMES IN THROUGH THE KITCHEN DOOR WITH AN ARM LOAD of groceries and too much to drink.

236C AURORA STANDS WAITING FOR HIM. She is very beautiful and very angry.

PIKE

Buenas noches mi amor.

Aurora swings and catches him full handed across the face, the groceries scatter on the floor -- Pike bounces off the wall, looks at her, tries to grin.

PIKE

Your husband due back?

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
71.

236C CONTINUED

AURORA

No, never -- you are late -- two days late.

Pike is startled by this, starts to protest, realizes it is true, tries to make apologies. Aurora turns and stalks off.

LAP DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN - NIGHT

236D PIKE IS SHOVING POTS AND PANS AROUND, attempting to cook dinner, while Aurora sits watching stony faced until he turns away, then she can hardly keep from giggling.

AURORA

(finally)

You need help?

PIKE

No!!

He picks up a pan with a hot handle, drops it, spilling hot stew or soup on his foot, hops around cursing looking at the shambles on the stove and on the floor.

236DD AURORA STANDS LOOKING AT HIM WITH LOVE, then smiling softly crosses to the side-board and pours him a drink. He takes it, suddenly both are laughing.

CUT TO:

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

236E PIKE AND AURORA STAND IN THE SEMIDARKNESS SLOWLY DISROBING. Suddenly Pike embraces her and pulls her to the bed. They begin to make love, then:

236F THE DOOR SMASHES OPEN AND LUKE, a skinny bad mouthed Texan steps into the room, a double barreled shot gun in his hands ready to fire.

236G AURORA SCREAMS and throws herself in front of Pike. Luke fires, the charge killing her as Pike dives out of bed -- jumping for his gun on a nearby table.

236H LUKE FIRES AGAIN, the blast catching Pike across the thigh and knee. Pike goes down. Luke crosses to the bed and sits watching him writhing almost bleeding to death on the floor.

CHANGE  
4/23/68  
71A.

236I OVER THE ABOVE IS THE FOLLOWING DIALOGUE:

PIKE

She had a husband and I should have had enough sense to kill him. He wasn't around and I got careless. One night he walked in on us - - got her with the first shot. He caught me here with the second then the damned coward turned and ran.

236J EXT. DESERT AREA - DAY

DUTCH

You didn't catch up with him?

PIKE

Not yet but there hasn't been a day or an hour that I haven't thought about getting him - - he didn't want that woman he just wanted to kill somebody - - well, he killed her - - not me - - and I'll see him dead for it.

(Then yelling back)

Move along, Freddy - - we've got a long way to go!

He turns back to Dutch, takes the bottle, drinks deeply and puts it away.

PIKE

This is the last go round - - this time we do it right.

CUT TO:

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
71B.

EXT. DESERT - DAY (DAWN EFFECT)

237 A TRAIN CHUGS ACROSS THE FLAT STRETCH of desert. The small steam locomotive pushes a flatbed and pulls a succession of three cars.

Another flat, a passenger and a cattle. The train moves toward the only object in sight:

238 A RICKETY TRACKSIDE WATER TOWER AND MAINTENANCE SHOP

239 IN FRONT OF THE ENGINE TWO ARMY ORDINANCE GUARDS RIDE ON THE FLAT car, wearily checking the track for obstructions.

240 ON THE SECOND FLAT CAR TWO MORE ARMED GUARDS sit on crates of weapons and ammunition, gazing at the passing scenery.

INT. PASSENGER CAR - DAY

241 THORNTON AND NINE OTHER BOUNTY HUNTERS SLOUCHED ON THE WOODEN BENCHES WIDE AWAKE.

242 AT THE REAR OF THE CAR, A DOZEN VERY YOUNG ARMY RECRUITS are sprawled across the seats near their beefy first sergeant, FRANK MC HALE who is snoring loudly.

INT. CATTLE CAR - DAY

243. THE CATTLE CAR IS LOADED WITH THE HORSES OF THE SOLDIERS AND THE BOUNTY HUNTERS.

The soldiers' horses are roach-maned and unsaddled.

At one end of the car, the railroad livestock man is asleep on a pile of straw, an empty jug at his side. The animals of the bounty hunters are standing saddled, with the cinches loosened.

INT. PASSENGER CAR - DAY

244 THE TRAIN SLOWS AND A FEW OF THE SOLDIERS lift their heads and look out the windows.

Seeing nothing but the vast empty plain, they quickly resume their slumber.

245. THE BOUNTY HUNTERS TENSE. THORNTON STANDS, looks out... nothing, but:

246. A RICKETY WATER TOWER AND TINY maintenance shack -- no horses, wagons, nothing.

INT. PASSENGER CAR

247 THORNTON TURNS back to his seat.

EXT. TRAIN - DAY

248 THE ENGINE PULLS TO A STOP UNDER THE RICKETY TOWER. THE FIREMAN CLIMBS OUT OF THE CAB AND ONTO THE TENDER. He reaches up and grabs the lanyard and lowers the spout.

249 THE FIREMAN FINDS HIMSELF GAZING DIRECTLY INTO THE BARREL OF A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN: HELD BY ANGEL. The fireman gasps and takes a step back.

250 ANGEL SLIDES OFF THE SPOUT AND ONTO the tender. He covers the fireman and the two man crew. The crew turns and Angel smiles and puts his finger to his lips, then gestures. The fireman and the crew begin to take on water.

- 251 PIKE, DUTCH AND LYLE step out from behind the maintenance shack and climb swiftly onto the tender. Pike slips toward the engine compartment.
- 252 DUTCH TURNS TOWARDS THE GUARDS ON THE flat car behind the engine.
- 253 LYLE SCRAMBLES AROUND THE ENGINE TO HANDLE the two men on the flat car in front.
- 254 DUTCH LOOKS DOWN AT THE GUARDS ON THE SECOND FLAT CAR. THEY ARE LOUNGING WITH THE GUNS SEVERAL FEET AWAY.  
He whistles and they look up. While he covers them:
- 255 ANGEL CLIMBS DOWN from the tender onto the flat car over the crates toward the coupling joining the flat to the passenger car.
- 256 ON THE FRONT FLAT CAR the two guards turn, freeze as Lyle moves around the front of the engine and whistles, his shotgun covering them.
- 257 IN THE CAB, PIKE IS STANDING WITH his hand on the throttle looking up at Dutch.
- 258 AT THE COUPLING ANGEL GRABS THE PIN and starts to pull on it.
- 259 IN THE CAB PIKE WATCHES DUTCH, WHO WAVES HIS HAND, motioning Pike to ease the train back. Pike's hand moves on the throttle.
- 260 THE COUPLING MOVES SLIGHTLY AND ANGEL LIFTS THE PIN.  
  
INT. PASSENGER CAR - DAY
- 261 THORNTON FROWNS AS THE CAR moves slightly. He stands, and walks toward the front of the car. Through the window on the door, he sees:
- 262 ANGEL SCRAMBLING OVER THE CRATES TOWARDS THE TENDER.

263 THORNTON DUCKS BACK AND STARTS TO DRAW HIS gun, pauses and turns back into the car. Silently he gestures to the bounty hunters.

The soldiers in the back of the car continue to sleep as Thornton and his men move past them toward the horse car.

264 REACHING THE SERGEANT, still snoring loudly, Thornton hesitates, then decides against it and enters the horse car.

265 IN THE CAB, PIKE EASES THE THROTTLE FORWARD.

266 THE ENGINE AND TENDER AND FLAT CAR PULL\* SLOWLY away from the passenger and cattle car.

267 THE GAP IS BECOMING LARGER BETWEEN THE PASSENGER CAR AND THE FLAT CAR WHEN DUTCH SEES:

268 A MAN JUMPING A HORSE OUT OF THE CATTLE CAR. It is one of the bounty hunters. Another horse quickly follows. Dutch turns and yells.

DUTCH

They're coming!

269 GORCH ON FRONT OF THE LOCOMOTIVE WHIRLS AROUND and looks back for an instant as Dutch yells. The two guards jump for their weapons. Lyle turns back, watches them, then kills both as they pick up their rifles.

270 IN THE CAB, PIKE POURS ON THE COAL.

271 STEAM POURS OUT OF THE CYLINDERS AND THE WHEELS SPIN ON THE RAILS.

272 AS THE WHEELS GAIN TRACTION AND THE TRAIN LURCHES FORWARD, DUTCH PITCHES FORWARD, FALLING OVER THE EDGE BETWEEN THE TENDER AND THE FLAT CAR, turning in the air, catching the tender with his hands and his feet precariously balanced on the coupling.

273 OVER THE RAILS, DUTCH HANGS ONTO THE IRON HAND GRIP ON THE BACK OF THE TENDER. His feet are bracing him on the bouncing coupling. He is inches above the rail.



- 274 ON THE FLAT CAR THE TWO GUARDS SCRAMBLE OVER THE CASES AND GRAB THEIR GUNS. They start forward.
- 275 DUTCH LETS GO and, hanging on with one hand, manages to get his gun out of the holster. He fires blindly over the edge.
- IN THE CAB, PIKE AND ANGEL WHIRL at the sound of the shot. Pike instantly kicks the engineer and fireman out of the cab, then turns to climb onto the tender.
- ANGEL  
(ahead of him)  
Yo voy!
- Pike hesitates, then turns back to the throttle.
- 276 DUTCH DUCKS AS SHOTS FROM THE GUARD splinter wood near his face. He is barely able to hang on and is slipping down closer to the rails.
- EXT. PASSENGER CAR - DAY
- 277 SOLDIERS ARE POURING OUT OF THE PASSENGER CAR WATCHING:
- 278 IN THE DISTANCE THE TRAIN AND THE PURSUING BOUNTY HUNTERS. Hurriedly, they enter the cattle car.
- INT. CATTLE CAR - DAY
- 279 AS THEY REMOVE THEIR HORSES, SOME TRYING to resaddle in the car.
- EXT. TRAIN COUPLING
- 280 DUTCH PULLS THE TRIGGER AND HIS .45 clicks empty.
- 281 THE GUARDS EDGE FORWARD TO FINISH HIM.
- 282 ANGEL FIRES AND ONE GUARD DROPS SCREAMING OFF THE FLAT CAR. The other guard panics and scrambles back over the crates. A second shot catches him in the small of the back, hurling him over the edge of the car.
- 283 ANGEL RUSHES FORWARD, and bracing himself on a stanchion, grabs Dutch by the jacket and pulls him aboard.

EXT. LIVESTOCK CAR - DAY

284 THE RECRUITS ARE SCRAMBLING around outside the car. Some are climbing in through the open door. Inside the horses can be heard kicking and neighing.

SGT. MC HALE

(screaming)

Order! Dammit!...Corporal, get those men out of that car...get the animals out!

(then, looking off)

Corporal -- ride back to the telegraph at Todos Malos and tell 'em that Pinkerton gang has robbed the train and we are in pursuit!

As the corporal mounts and rides off, the sergeant continues to watch:

285 THE TRAIN ROLLS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE FOLLOWED BY THE BOUNTY HUNTERS.

286 THORNTON LEADING HIS MEN IS ABOUT a mile and a half behind the train.

287 THE TRAIN NEARS A WAGON ROAD WITH A NARROW BRIDGE THAT CROSSES IT AND SUDDENLY the wheels lock. With a shower of sparks it slides to a stop beside:

288 A LARGE WAGON ON THE RIVER SIDE OF THE CROSSING. The bandits scramble off the train and begin loading cases of guns onto the waiting wagon. Sykes and Tector Gorch assist them. The wagon is directly beside the car and the unloading is very rapid.

289 PIKE CLIMBS TO THE TOP OF THE CAB WATCHING:

290 THE CLOUD OF DUST OF THE APPROACHING BOUNTY HUNTERS. He yells down to the men:

PIKE

Get the guns off and get on out of here!

He turns and scrambles down inside the cab.

Outside the men quickly finish loading and the wagon pulls up alongside the cab.

CONTINUED

290 CONTINUED

DUTCH

We're ready!

PIKE

Not yet - I want to return a favor.

He yanks the throttle into reverse and jumps off the locomotive onto the wagon.

291 THE HEAVILY LOADED WAGON WINDS DOWN A STEEL TRAIL INTO THE CANYON BESIDE THE SMALL RICKETY BRIDGE.

In the b.g., the train picks up speed heading back towards the scene of the robbery.

292 THE BANDITS PULL THE WAGON UP BESIDE THE RIVER BANK WHERE THEY HAVE PRE-RIGGED A CABLE CROSSING.

In perfect order Dutch and Angel begin attaching the ropes to the tongue of the wagon as Sykes unhitches.

293 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS RIDE THEIR HORSES DOWN A STEEP SLOPE AS THE TRAIN RUSHES PAST.

294 WITH ANGEL LEADING, THE HORSES ARE PULLED into the river. Large barrels on the side of the wagon serve as floatation gear. The current catches it and begins to swing it on the rope downstream and across the river.

295 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE RAPIDLY CLOSING THE GAP. In the distance they can see the bandits, now in mid-stream.

296 OUTSIDE THE CATTLE CAR, RECRUITS ARE LINED UP saddling their horses.

297 INSIDE, THREE OF THEM ARE STILL CHASING THEIR PANICKY HORSES AROUND.

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
78.

298 OUTSIDE, A SOLDIER YELLS:

SOLDIER

Sergeant! They're coming back...  
Look!

299 THE ENGINE IS ROARING TOWARD THEM FROM THE DISTANCE.

MC HALE

(realizing what is  
happening)

Get those horses away from the car!  
(running to the car)  
Get them out of there!

300 INSIDE THE CAR, THE MEN HAVE CAUGHT AND SADDLED ONE HORSE.  
Which is now bucking, the saddle hanging under its belly.  
The other rears as the Sergeant yells again.

MC HALE

Get out! ...The engine's coming!

And it is at about forty miles an hour. The Sergeant turns  
and runs.

301 INSIDE THE MEN RUSH FOR THE DOOR

302 ON THE TRACK THE ENGINE SLAMS INTO THE CARS.

303 IN THE CATTLE CAR, HORSES AND MEN ARE HURLED AROUND IN  
THE CAR by the impact.

304 THE HORSES REHITCHED, PIKE AND THE OTHERS WORK TO FREE THE  
WAGON BOGGED IN THE MUD ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER.

305 ON THE OPPOSITE BANK, THE BOUNTY HUNTERS PULL UP AND BEGIN  
FIRING.

306 ANGEL, LIGHTING A BIG CIGAR MOVES AWAY FROM PIKE AND THE  
OTHERS.

307 PIKE ROPES ONTO THE WAGON FROM the front and pulls with  
his horse.

308 SYKES IS IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT AND DUTCH is next to him, lying  
prone on the wagon returning the fire of the bounty hunters.

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
79.

309 LYLE AND TECTOR ON HORSEBACK SPUR up to the wagon.

PIKE

Get on those rear wheels! ...

The Gorch brothers scramble down into knee-deep water and begin to push.

310 DUTCH AIMS AND FIRES.

311 A MAN STAGGERS OUT from half cover and drops to his knees.

312 DUTCH FIRES AGAIN and another man drops. The bounty hunters back up and hunt better cover.

313 THORNTON SPURS FOR THE SHAKY BRIDGE.

313A ANGEL, HIDDEN IN THE BRUSH AT THE FAR END OF THE BRIDGE... puffs on the cigar watching Thornton.

313B THREE FUSES ARE IN HIS HAND. HE LIGHTS ONE WITH HIS CIGAR.

314 IN THE RIVER BELOW THE BRIDGE, PIKE AND HIS MEN PUSH AND heave against the wagon slowly moving it up onto the bank. Then:

314A SEEING THORNTON STARTING ACROSS THE BRIDGE, PIKE raises his rifle but the range is far and the wagon has begun to move.

315 THORNTON FORCES his terrified animal across the tottering structure, then whirls as a bullet whines past his head. The shot has come from behind. Above and through the trees he can see:

316 THE CAVALRY DISMOUNTING AND CONTINUING to fire.

317 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS WHIRL around and return the fire.

THORNTON

(yelling)

Don't shoot! ...It's the army, you idiots!

But his words are drowned out in a volley of firing. Some of the soldiers start for the bridge. Three or four of the bounty hunters quickly mount and spur on to the bridge after Thornton.

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
80.

- 318 THORNTON FORCES HIS animal forward, stops, recognizing:
- 319 PIKE AT THE WAGON. PIKE looks at him a moment, then yells at his men and pulls the wagon up out of the mud and labors up the slope.
- 320 ANGEL WATCHES THE FUSE BURNING under the bridge toward the far banks where the bounty hunters are beginning to fall back to the water:
- 321 THORNTON FOLLOWED BY THREE OTHER BOUNTY HUNTERS rides forward. Angel lights the remaining two fuses, mounts and spurs after Pike and the wagon.
- 322 SOME OF THE BOUNTY HUNTERS PUSH THEIR HORSES DOWN THE SLOPE TOWARD THE WATER AWAY FROM THE SOLDIERS, who led by McHale, are closely flanking them. The firing is general now.
- 323 THE WAGON GOES UP THE RIM OF A GULLY, then down the other side and out of sight.
- 324 IN THE COVER OF THE GULLY, DUTCH AND THE GORCH BROTHERS mount up and follow Sykes up the gully.
- 324A PIKE TURNS HIS HORSE, SPURS BACK THE WAY HE CAME. At the top pulls up as Angel joins him. Both turn, watch as:
- 325 FIVE STICKS OF DYNAMITE GO OFF in the shallow water on the far side of the river among the bounty hunters.
- Horses go down, men are thrown into the river. It is a shambles. A few bounty hunters struggle downstream.
- 326 THORNTON, TWO THIRDS ACROSS THE BRIDGE pulls up, looks back as do the three bounty hunters behind him, then at:
- 327 THE DISTANT FIGURES OF PIKE AND ANGEL. Pike lifts his hat in a mocking salute.
- 328 BENEATH THE BRIDGE, THE TWO FUSES REACH THE DYNAMITE AND THE BRIDGE EXPLODES, blowing Thornton and the three bounty hunters into the river.
- 329 PIKE WATCHES WITHOUT EXPRESSION. ANGEL GRINS WITH SATISFACTION. Finally both turn and ride after the wagon followed by scattered ineffective shots of the soldiers.
- 330 ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE RIVER, MC HALE STOPS A GROUP OF SOLDIERS from following on horseback.

MC HALE

Halt...! Halt dammit!  
That is Mexico -- and we can't  
go there -- not yet.

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
81.

EXT. BOUNTY HUNTERS' CAMP (RIVER AREA) - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

331

THE BOUNTY HUNTERS WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THORNTON HAVE RE-GROUPED ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE RIVER, still wet and dazed from the river. A huge mesquite wood fire is burning in the centre of camp and several men have placed boots and articles of clothing around it. Three horses, unsaddled, are tied to a picket line in the b.g.

T.C.

Sure would like to get ahold of my fool horse.

COFFER

Some Mex kid's probably ridin' him home right now.

JESS

I don't see how I could'a lost both my boots! ...They always was hard as hell to get on but that little ole river just sucked 'em right off!

T.C.

That little ole dynamite helped some.

ROSS

They was waiting for us.

COFFER

Dollars to doughnuts that same kid that's ridin' T.C.'s horse is wearing your-boots right now.

332

JESS THINKS THIS OVER, THEN REACHES QUICKLY FOR HIS SHIRT EXTENDED ON A POLE TOWARDS THE FIRE, WHICH HAS BEGUN TO BURN. He drops it onto the sand and stamps on it. The men watch, silent, but slightly amused.

T.C.

What do you reckon we ought'a do now?  
...Go back?...Them soldiers was shooting at us.

JESS

You see Thornton!... I never did see him come up!

T.C.

See him!... I was with him! But I never seen him come up either.

COFFER

If you're asking me, I think we ought'a go after them bandits and make that swim worth something.

CONTINUED

332 CONTINUED

ROSS  
(the fourth  
bounty hunter)

I'd like to take some good pelts  
back.. or at least maybe steal  
something down here.

T.C.

Why go back at all -- just rob  
every Mex we see.

COFFER

You don't know this country -- step  
out of line and every Mex you see will  
be shooting your ass full of holes.

T.C.

Well, I'm sure as hell going to steal  
me a horse!

333 THORNTON IS STANDING ON THE EDGE OF THE CLEARING looking at  
the men around the fire. He is tired and has obviously ridden  
a long way and shows the effects of the explosion: ripped  
clothes, a bloody gash on his face -- a twisted knee that is  
bad enough to make him limp through the remainder of the film.

THORNTON

Steal us some grub -- I got the  
horses.

334 THE MEN WHIRL AROUND AT THE sound of Thornton's voice.

T.C.

Hey... you find my horse!

ROSS

We thought the dynamite must've got  
you or them soldiers.

JESS

Or that damned river.

THORNTON

"Them soldiers" are going to get us all  
if they ever get the chance...Who  
started firing at them?

The men look at one another momentarily.

CONTINUED



CHANGE  
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83.

334 CONTINUED

COFFER

(lying)

Well, Old Huey started firing up at 'em. I even tried to stop him... Then one of them bandits nailed him from across the river.

ROSS

Them soldiers started shooting first!

Thornton, without answering, steps to the fire.

THORNTON

How many rifles? And how much ammunition?

AD LIB

(as they look)

Got mine...damn little...twelve rounds...I'm clean...44's but no 30' 30's... - 40 round - lost mine.

THORNTON

We'll use what we got.

COFFER

Are we going after them?

THORNTON

We are! -- unless you'd like to go back and face a firing squad.

JESS

(whinnying)

How, in hell am I goin' to fight without boots?

THORNTON

Your problem.

(then)

Saddle up -- we're riding out.

In the b.g., a horse whinnies as the men look at him dumb-founded.

JESS

Now...?

THORNTON

Now!!

And they jump as we:

CUT TO:

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
84.

EXT. ROUGH COUNTRY NEAR (THE RIVER) - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

335 DUTCH IS EXAMINING THE HOOF OF ONE OF THE WAGON HORSES. PIKE is beside him. Sykes is still on the reins, Angel is sitting on the cases of guns. The Gorch brothers are both riding horses on either side. Dutch looks up, shakes his head.

PIKE:

Lyle! ...Put your horse in the traces!

336 LYLE HANDS A BOTTLE OF WHISKEY TO TECTOR and nudges his horse forward. As he swings off, it is obvious that he is a little drunk.

PIKE:

And you better dry out -- we got no cause to celebrate.

TECTOR

Well, we got all them guns, Pike.

PIKE

And we got a hell of a long way to go with a considerable number of people just waiting to take 'em away.

337 LYLE AND DUTCH BEGIN PUTTING LYLE'S HORSE INTO THE TRACES.

SYKES

Where's the General supposed to meet us?

PIKE

Agua Verde -- or before -- and when he does, don't look for no open arms.

DUTCH

What about Thornton and them others?

PIKE

Last I saw he was ridin' four sticks of dynamite into the river.

SYKES

Don't count on him stayin' there.

(as Pike looks at him)

You know him -- I know him -- he'll be along.

PIKE

(after a long moment)

Yeah -- he'll be along.

338 HE CROSSES SLOWLY TO HIS HORSE, his weariness showing, puts his foot in the stirrup, hesitates.

339 THE GROUP WATCHES SILENTLY.

340 PIKE STEPS UP INTO THE SADDLE, the pain twisting his face. For a long moment no one moves, then:

341 LYLE PULLS A BOTTLE out of his jumper, hands it to Pike. Pike drinks, hands it to Sykes who drinks, hands it to Angel who drinks, hands it with a touch of a smile to Tector who hesitates, then half grins himself; drinks and hands it to Lyle. Lyle looks at the bottle, upends it over his mouth, a few drops spill out into his mouth, looks at the bottle in disbelief, tosses it gently aside.

LYLE

(to Pike, simply)

It'll be a cold day in hell 'fore I do that again.

And suddenly they are all laughing.

PIKE

Let's move.

And they do, still chuckling as we:

CUT TO:

INT. MEXICAN RAILROAD STATION - DAY (SUNSET EFFECT)

342 A TELEGRAPH OPERATOR SNAPS AWAKE as a message comes over the wire. As the machine clicks, he diligently writes the message. When he is finished he hands it to JUAN, a small boy who is dressed in a poorly fitting uniform.

OPERATOR

Por el generalisimo! Andale!

The boy runs out of the building and into the street.

EXT. MEXICAN RAILROAD STATION - DAY

343 MANY UNIFORMED SOLDIERS ARE DEPLOYED AROUND THE TRAIN while they load horses into old boxcars -- also loading are:

CHANGE  
2/27/68  
86.

344 WOUNDED SOLDIERS, MAPACHE'S CAR AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN AND OTHER CIVILIANS who are part of Mapache's encampment. Most climb on top of the box cars where they set up housekeeping... building fires, cooking food -- ignoring the sporadic rifle fire that is beginning to grow in volume as:

345 THIRTY OR FORTY BIG HATTED REVOLUTIONARIES probe for the weakness of Mapache's position at the railroad station.

Note: Mapache's soldiers show signs of having recently suffered a beating and it is obvious that they are retreating.

346 JUAN RACES FROM THE OFFICE THROUGH THE SOLDIERS TOWARD THE END OF THE TRAIN where:

347 MAPACHE STANDS LOOKING OVER THE NEARBY HILLS with field glasses. Beside him are his lieutenants, one MAYOR (PEREZ), the two Germans and ten or twelve soldiers. One soldier is hit and falls dying.

PEREZ

Mi general -- tenemos que irnos!

ZAMORRA

Por favor.

Mapache ignores them.

Juan, rushing toward Mapache, almost falls as Herrera jerks him to a halt.

JUAN

(officially)

Telegrama de San Antonio para su excelencia, el general. (A telegram from San Antonio for his excellency, the General.)

HERRERA

(reaching for the message)

Yo lo llevo!

347A JUAN PULLS IT AWAY. HERRERA GRINS, and understanding his wish to deliver it personally, steps aside. Juan runs to Mapache, skids to a halt and salutes.

JUAN

Mi General... telegrama de San Antonio.

The general returns the salute solemnly and opens the paper, reads it.

MAPACHE

Los gringos se robaron el tren!

CONTINUED

347 CONTINUED

ERNST

(to his companion,  
Mohr)

Was sagt er?

Mohr smiles. Mapache is obviously pleased. He looks up at the Germans.

MAPACHE

The gringos take the guns...

MOHR

Sie haben die Geware gestolen!

ERNST

Ach so!...Gut --!

(patting Mapache  
on the shoulder)

Sehr gut.mein General!

MOHR

(indicating the  
approaching Villistas)

It is important this news be kept from Villa until the guns are in our hands.

ZAMORRA

(beginning to panic  
as the firing grows  
heavier)

We must go!

MAPACHE

(shouting towards  
the mountain in  
Spanish)

The next time I will destroy you --

(turning to Herrera;  
in Spanish)

Send men immediately to meet the guns on the road to Agua Verde -- take possession and return here.

HERRERA

And if the gringos object --?

MAPACHE

(simply)

Kill them.

CONTINUED

347 CONTINUED

MOHR

(in English)

My General -- if they are successful in this venture possibly they can be useful in others.

Mapache thinks this over, turns to Herrera. Nearby another man is hit and falls.

MAPACHE

(in Spanish)

Bring them back with you -- overcome their objections -- reason with them -- convince them of our good intentions.

HERRERA (in Spanish)

And if they still object?

MAPACHE (in Spanish)

Kill them!

348

HERRERA SALUTES AND LEAVES. Mapache gestures and the others quickly jump aboard the train. Mapache is the last, looking back at the hills with hatred as the Villistas charge and we:

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. ROCKY HILL NEAR BROKEN ARROYO COUNTRY - DAY

349

DUTCH IS LYING PRONE BEHIND SOME ROCKS trying a paper cone over the front of a pair of U.S. Army binoculars. Pike stands beside him. With the cone adjusted he rolls over and looks out across the valley plain broken with arroyos.

DUTCH

Still heading east.

PIKE

Are they bluffing or did they really miss it?

DUTCH

I'd say they missed it.

350

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ARE WINDING ACROSS THE ARROYOS

351 DUTCH AND PIKE SNAKE BACK FROM THE LIP OF THE ROCKY hill that dominates the area.

352 THE WAGON IS BELOW THEM hidden in a gully. The other men are lounging underneath it. Pieces of brush are tied behind the rear wheels of the wagon to brush away the trail. Pike and Dutch stand and move back toward the wagon.

DUTCH

Only five left -- didn't figure them to come down after us. How much can we be worth?

PIKE

A lot depends on how hungry they are...

(then)

You stay up there and look for big hats...I'm going to start rigging the fireworks.

Dutch turns, crawls back and lifts the glasses. Pike walks down near the wagon and prods Angel, who is sleeping, with his boot.

PIKE

I need some help.

353 ANGEL QUICKLY GETS TO HIS FEET and follows Pike to the wagon. Pike reaches into a box near the seat and removes a piece of fuse.

PIKE

Get that case of explosives near the back.

Angel climbs on the wagon. Lyle, hearing him, crawls out from underneath. His brother also awakens and starts moving around. Sykes, hat over his eyes, looks up but doesn't move.

LYLE

Whatta you want with the dynamite?

PIKE

Protection.

(as they look at him)

I figure the General will plan to collect without payment, then kill us if we have any objections. The only reason he might change his mind is if something could happen to these guns.

CONTINUED

353 CONTINUED

Angel hands Pike a case of explosives.

PIKE

Now I'm goin' to make it real  
easy for something to happen.

354 PIKE SETS THE BOX ON THE GROUND and pries open the lid. He begins setting the sticks on the ground next to the box. Angel gets down and Pike hands him a coil of baling wire.

PIKE

Wrap these in pairs and put a  
fuse cap between them.

Angel takes the first two and starts to work on them.

355 LYLE WATCHES FOR A MOMENT THEN NUDGES HIS BROTHER and climbs on the wagon and begins looking over the boxes. One is much bigger than the others and of a different shape.

356 ANGEL AND PIKE ARM THE DYNAMITE STICKS in the shade of the wagon.

ANGEL

Men from my village will meet  
us tomorrow.

Pike looks up, angered.

PIKE

You told them about our trail?

ANGEL

I don't need to tell them...They  
know where we are.

PIKE

How?

Angel puts the charge down and looks off at the horizon.

ANGEL

This country has many people, but  
they have learned to live without  
being seen.

(after a moment)

Anyplace where a farmer has a field  
...or a man has sheep in the moun-  
tains..or a boy watches a herd of  
goats.

CONTINUED



356 CONTINUED

There is a noise off screen and they both look up.

357 TECTOR AND LYLE, using the heavy-bladed Bowie knives, have pried open the strange shaped box. Lyle, his eyes bright, reaches in.

TECTOR

Pike -- take a look --

358 LYLE STRUGGLES, LIFTS UP A MACHINE GUN OF THE PERIOD.

LYLE

You know how to work one of these things?

Pike stands, then grins a little and crosses to the wagon.

PIKE

Whatever I don't know, I'm going to learn.

CUT TO:

EXT. VALLEY - DAY

359 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS NOW IN AN AREA OF BADLANDS have stopped on a small rise and are looking out over miles of the same type of country.

JESS

I don't know how we lost 'em except maybe in that big valley where the ground was so hard.

COFFER

There wasn't but one way they could have taken a wagon out of there, this here is it.

THORNTON

They didn't take it out...

T.C.

We ain't gonna make it too much further without something to eat.

CONTINUED

359 CONTINUED

THORNTON

(quietly)

We didn't lose them -- I could  
point to them now.

(as they whirl,  
looking around)

Sit still, dammit!

(as they quiet)

You think Pike and old Sykes haven't  
been watching us -- you think if we  
hadn't turned off they wouldn't just  
have sat back and let us walk into  
it -- six of them hid and all the  
guns and ammunition they need -- you  
think I wasn't sweating blood they  
wouldn't try and hide their trail!

They look at him silently, almost frightened by his vehemence.

THORNTON

They know what this is all about --  
and what do I have -- nothin' but  
you damned egg sucking chicken  
stealing gutter rats -- with less  
than 60 rounds of ammunition be-  
tween you.

T.C.

Listen, Mr. Thornton -- I don't  
have to take any talk like that.

JESS

I don't neither!

THORNTON

You'll take it! You don't even  
have enough sense to keep your  
damned boots on.

(then, quietly)

We're after men -- and I wish to  
God I was with them.

(after a moment)

You make any more mistakes and  
I'm going to ride off and let  
you die.

They are silent looking at the ground -- after a moment,  
Thornton turns his horse and rides off slowly. They follow.

## 360 A SERIES OF ANGLES

Showing the wagon moving into a deep arroyo. Pike is now driving.

EXT. BOTTOM OF DEEP ARROYO

361 SYKES IS AT THE REINS OF THE WAGON, PIKE BESIDE HIM. The horses are at a walk. Angel, Dutch are mounted, the Gorch brothers are lying on top of the wagon, one on each side of a bulky tarp-covered object.

PIKE

(looking off)

Hold up!

362 TWENTY MEXICAN SOLDIERS RIDING OUT FROM A BEND IN THE ARROYO SOME DISTANCE AWAY. Seeing the wagon, they pull up.

363 PIKE SLIDES INTO THE FRONT SEAT NEXT TO SYKES. Without a word, Sykes lights his cheroot and Pike reaches behind him and takes the end of a fuse.

Angel and Dutch let their rifles drift over.

DUTCH

Mapache's?

PIKE

Just hope they don't belong to Villa.

364 HERRERA, THE LEADER OF THE MEXICANS, WALKS HIS HORSE A FEW steps forward and waves his hand.

(Note: He speaks English, but badly, very badly)

HERRERA

Hola!...We are friends...We are from el generalisimo Mapache!

PIKE

Tell that one in front to come over here...Alone!

DUTCH

Oye! Jefe, ven tu solito!

CONTINUED

364 CONTINUED

The Mexican turns to his companions for a short discourse. Then he turns and rides toward the men on the wagon.

HERRERA

I coming...We are friends...  
all of us...I bring love and  
affection from el general --  
We are comrades -- you and he  
-- all of us.

365 PIKE, DUTCH AND THE OTHERS watch silently as he rides up to the wagon.

366 HERRERA STOPS AND REMOVES HIS HAT, smiles, looks at the heavily loaded wagon.

HERRERA

Que bueno -- What bravery you  
have to have done this magnifi-  
cent act for the liberty of  
Mexico.

Angel laughs, spits, Herrera looks at him for a moment, smiles, shrugs, turns to Pike.

HERRERA

I am to escort you to the general.

367 NOBODY ANSWERS AND NONE OF THE GUNS pointed at him are lowered, he seems undisturbed.

HERRERA

Tell me what is you wish?

368 PIKE LIFTS THE END OF THE FUSE

PIKE

(to Dutch)

Tell him to come closer!

HERRERA

I hear -- I am coming, my friend.

369 HERRERA STILL GRINNING BROADLY edges his horse closer to the wagon. Pike holds the burning end of the cheroot about an inch from the fuse.

370 HERRERA SEES THE FUSE AND QUICKLY follows it back to the wagon with his eyes.

371 THE WHOLE WAGON IS RIGGED TO BLOW, dynamite and fuse all over it.

372 PIKE LIFTS THE CHEROOT AND THE FUSE

PIKE

You see this?

He tickles the end of the fuse with the dead ash on his cigar.

HERRERA

Quidado!

PIKE

It's a very fast fuse...any trouble and no guns for the general.

Herrera is solemn as he ponders for a moment, then begins to smile.

HERRERA

Hey!...very smart!!! That's very smart for you damn gringos... So nobody can rob the guns!

PIKE

Nobody!..nunca nadie!

DUTCH

(after a moment)

Don't you think you should tell your soldiers?

The Mexican makes a face as if he doesn't understand.

CONTINUED

372 CONTINUED

HERRERA

Why? I am not afraid...they  
are not afraid -- you blow up  
the wagon you die -- or we  
kill you pretty soon -- but  
we are amigos --

PIKE

-- (quietly)

Now.

DUTCH

Show him!

373 TECTOR AND LYLE JERK THE TARP OFF THE MACHINE GUN. Lyle  
arms it.

374 HERRERA LOOKS AT THE GUN and his eyes widen. He turns.

HERRERA

Oyen muchachos!...Tienen la  
caretta como bomba con unfisible!  
...y machina!!

Still smiling he turns back to Pike and Dutch.

HERRERA

El general waits en Agua-Verde...  
to meet with you.

PIKE

Go on back and tell the General  
that one of us will be there  
tomorrow for the trade...any  
trouble -- no guns!

Herrera takes one last look at the guns then he wheels his  
horse and rides off.

375 PIKE TURNS TO THE OTHERS AS THEY begin to relax.

PIKE  
This isn't over yet!

376 HERRERA RIDES HIS HORSE TO THE BEND IN THE RIVER then,  
reaching his men, reins his horse up and turns him around.  
He whistles loudly and calls out:

HERRERA  
Muchachos...

377 FIFTY SOLDIERS FROM HIDDEN POSITIONS ON TOP OF BOTH sides of  
the arroyo ride out and look down.

378 BEHIND THE WAGON 30 MORE APPEAR, STOP.

HERRERA  
(after a moment, laughing)  
Vamos!

All the soldiers whirl and ride away.

379 PIKE AND THE MEN breathe a sigh of relief as the Mexicans  
ride off..

PIKE  
(to Angel and Dutch)  
Ride ahead a hundred yards and check  
the washes...  
(to Tector)  
You and I will cover the flanks --  
(to Lyle)  
Keep on the gun -- watch the rim.

SYKES  
(as Pike steps off the  
wagon)  
Give me that cigar --  
(as Pike does)  
Anything moves, I blow her sky high.

LYLE  
(sitting up)  
Listen, old man --!

PIKE  
(grinning at Sykes)  
I'll tell you when --

CUT TO:

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
98.

380 EXT. BLUFF - DAY

THORNTON, COFFER AND T.C. are down behind some rocks. Thornton is looking DOWN THE ARROYO with binoculars while Coffe covers the glasses with his hat.

THORNTON

Movin' fast -- looks like they bluffed  
off about 50 federales --  
(then sliding back)

Why due east?

(as Coffe shrugs)

Well, let's go find out.

T.C.

(trying to conceal his hate)

Beggin' your pardon, Mr. Thornton --  
but our stock needs water and grain --  
and so do we.

THORNTON

(after a moment)

I don't give a damn about you -- but  
I do about the stock.

He turns and slides down the bluff. Coffe and T.C. look at each other, then follow.

EXT. BANDITS' CAMP - NIGHT

381- ANGEL, CROUCHING NEAR THE WHEEL OF THE WAGON RESPONDS  
382 SUDDENLY TO AN OWL'S CALL. He rises and crosses to Pike,  
who is sitting near a tree with a rifle across his lap.  
There is no fire, but enough moonlight to see.

ANGEL

My people are here for the guns.

Pike looks at him then looks around the camp.

PIKE

Where?

Angel smiles, then turns and calls softly.

ANGEL

Ignacio?...Quien hablas por mi pueblo?

Distinctly Indian voices answer from the surrounding tangled undergrowth.

VOICES

Si Angeleito...Soy Ignacio -- Ya estamos!



383 PIKE AND THE OTHERS MOVE INTO COVER, their guns coming out. Lyle in the wagon traverses the machine gun.

ANGEL  
(to the others)  
They have come for the guns.

DUTCH  
— We haven't heard from Tector.

PIKE  
(from the shadows)  
Call 'em in.

ANGEL  
Vengan, Muchachos!

384 THE MEN LOOK AROUND. IT IS STILL, SILENT, NOTHING MOVES, then suddenly:

385 A PEASANT DRESSED IN WHITE is standing near the thicket. Lyle and Sykes turn.

386 ANOTHER IS STANDING BEHIND THEM. Then:

387 THREE MORE ARE CROSSING TO THE WAGON, TECTOR GAGGED AND BOUND BETWEEN THEM. As they enter the clearing, they politely remove their hats. Soon there are five, two of them are leading a small donkey. Angel crosses to them as they group in the center of the clearing. All carry machetes.

PIKE  
(his gun out, still  
hidden in the shadows)  
Cut him loose!

388 ANGEL SPEAKS, LED BY IGNACIO, THEY QUICKLY FREE TECTOR and hand him his weapons with murmured apologies. Tector looks at them, whistles, softly.

TECTOR  
Never saw anything like it -- never  
heard 'em, never saw 'em.

ANGEL  
(to Pike)  
They apologize and ask you to forgive  
them for their lack of trust but only  
by caution do they remain alive --

CONTINUED

388 CONTINUED

TECTOR

Hell, I forgive them! I just want to  
join 'em!

389 PIKE JOINS DUTCH AND THEY WATCH quietly. They have mis-  
trusted people for so long themselves they can understand  
mistrust in others. Freddy Sykes laughs softly.

390 ANGEL AND THE INDIANS cross to the wagon.

ANGEL

(climbing on the wagon)  
Llevas una caja de rifles.  
(Take a case of rifles.)

PIKE

(crossing to him)  
Don't break that fuse...

Angel lifts a crate.

ANGEL

I won't.

Pike looks at Ignacio waiting to take the crate, the man's  
machete glints in the moonlight.

PIKE

They part of your village?

ANGEL

They are part of the village but not  
from it -- they are puro indio --  
and these mountains belong to them.

PIKE

How long have they been around?

ANGEL

What?

PIKE

How long have they been following us...  
close?

391 ANGEL EASES THE RIFLE CRATE DOWN, TWO PEONS TAKE IT. He  
turns to Ignacio.

ANGEL

Cuanto tiempo nos sigas?

CONTINUED

391 CONTINUED

The Indian begins a big explanation in a dialect only Angel understands.

IGNACIO

Desde ante ayer, cuando salieron de la llanura grande. Hey otros grupo de gringos...ellos se fueron a uno Ranchito.

Pike looks at Angel.

ANGEL

They've been with us since we left the big plain...He says those others went to a little Ranch.

DUTCH

(joining them)

Ever see anyone that could sneak around like these!

Angel uncovers a case of munitions and hands it down.

SYKES

They fought 'paches for a thousand years -- that's a sure way to learn.

PIKE

If they ever get armed and led, this whole country'll go up in smoke.

SYKES

(softly)

That it will, son, that it will.

392 THE INDIANS ROPE THE TWO CASES ON THE BURRO. They work smoothly, each man knowing his job. Angel climbs down off the wagon, murmurs a farewell to Ignacio and the others, and they disappear into the shadows.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SQUARE (AGUA VERDE) - DAY (LATE AFTERNOON EFFECT)

393 THE FUSE BURNS DOWN ON A SKY ROCKET AND THE MISSILE SHOTS INTO THE AIR AND EXPLODES. A burst of laughter follows.

394 MAPACHE AND HIS MEN are playing with fireworks while they wait for the guns.

395 TWO SOLDIERS DRAG FORWARD A PEON (SEEN BEFORE WITH DUTCH IN ANGEL'S VILLAGE). One of them waves aloft a shotgun and tells Mapache that it belonged to the man. Mapache, completely absorbed in lighting a Roman candle, answers without turning.

MAPACHE

Matalo! Pues!...

(Then kill him!)

396 MAPACHE LIGHTS THE FUSE AS THE TWO SOLDIERS THROW THE MAN down on the ground and shoot him.

As he dies, Mapache lights the Roman candle and shoots it into the air, then at the soldiers who run for cover, revealing:

397 PIKE RIDING IN THROUGH THE MAIN GATE.

398 THE GENERAL SEES PIKE AND CROSSES TO HIM IMMEDIATELY, laughing with pleasure. Mohr and the other Germans run to join him as does Zamorra and Herrera.

MAPACHE

Gringo!...You bring the guns!

(shouting to his men)

Ya estan los gringos y las armas!

(The gringos are here with the guns!)

(then noticing the wagon

is nowhere in sight)

(to Zamorra)

Donde estan las armas?

Zamorra looks up at Pike.

ZAMORRA

The guns?

PIKE

Don't worry we got 'em...hidden. As

soon as I get my share of the gold

I'll tell you where four cases are...

\$2500 worth..

(then)

The others are waiting at the wagon and unless I return pretty damn quick they blow it.

Zamorra smiles, admiring Pike's caution.

CONTINUED

398 CONTINUED

MAPACHE

(laughing)

You fix it pretty damn good. You fool me!

ZAMORRA

Our accountant will pay you immediately.

Zamorra turns and yells to Herrera.

ZAMORRA

Trae la caja!  
(Bring the strong box!)

MAPACHE

When you come with all my guns?

PIKE

Quicker I get back, the quicker the next load'll get here.

399

HERRERA BRINGS A SMALL WOODEN STRONG BOX. Kneeling on the ground he opens it and counts out two small bags of gold, and hands them to Zamorra. Zamorra hands them to Pike.

PIKE

About two miles up the arroyo...three cases of rifles, one of ammunition, are in the brush behind it.

ZAMORRA

(to Herrera)

Trae las armas!

Herrera runs for his horse.

MOHR

I understand you have a machine gun --

PIKE

Our contract was 16 cases of rifles and 8 of ammunition -- for \$10,000 -- not a machine gun.

(then, as Mapache frowns)

It is our gift to the General.

CONTINUED

399

CONTINUED

Zamorra translates this for Mapache who beams at Pike with genuine pleasure.

MAPACHE

(meaning it)

You fight con Mapache hay mucho  
dinero -- muchachas bonitas --  
la vida dulce!

ZAMORRA

The General wishes you to join  
him -- and become rich -- he  
respects you.

PIKE

(turning to go)

I'll think it over.

ZAMORRA

Esperate.

(smiling)

Wait, por favor...In case he  
can't find them.

400

PIKE LOOKS AT HIM, LOOKS AT MAPACHE

MAPACHE

(to Pike in  
Spanish)

Go --

(to Zamorra)

I trust him.

Zamorra shrugs, Pike grins then turns and rides out.

EXT. CAMP (NEAR AGUA VERDE) - DAY

401

A BOTTLE SLAMS AGAINST A ROCK AND THE CAMERA WHIP PANS TO  
SHOW Tector Gorch leaning on the wagon grinning.

They are in a small shallow depression  
between two hills. . High enough to provide a vantage  
point of the village and the surrounding area -- hidden  
enough by brush and broken country to provide maximum  
cover.

402 SYKES SEATED NEAR THE ROCK picks glass shards from his clothes, turns to Tector.

SYKES

(after a moment)

Pike must have found you under a rock somewheres.

TECTOR

(grinning)

You going to whip me?

SYKES

Nope -- But you better hope I don't get riled enough to start doggin' you when this is over.

TECTOR

You'll never get a chance to dry gulch me, old man.

SYKES

(grinning at him)

We'll see.

LYLE

(to Tector)

Take the watch --

403 DUTCH, CAREFULLY EXAMINING TWO GRENADES, looks up as Tector Gorch moves up the bank of the wash.

LYLE

(crossing to Dutch)

He's been gone a long time!

(then)

What's that?

DUTCH

Grenade -- you pull this pin then throw it and find a hole. From what I hear it gets the job done.

LYLE

We could have used a few of them in San Rafael.

TECTOR

(calling)

Pike's comin'!

404 DUTCH GETS TO HIS FEET, putting the grenades in his jumper pocket and crosses to meet Pike as he rides in.

DUTCH  
(calling)  
Any trouble?

PIKE  
Just carryin' all this weight.

He holds up two bags of gold.

TECTOR  
He got it!...Look, Lyle, he's carryin' gold! Pike -- I want to go next.

405 PIKE RIDES HIS HORSE INTO THE CAMP AND DISMOUNTS

PIKE  
(to Lyle)  
You and your brother take in the next load and the machine gun -- then Dutch and Angel. Sykes, you follow them and pick up the pack horses...leave the wagon.

DUTCH  
How's the generalisimo?

PIKE  
(dismounting)  
Openin' boxes like he thinks it's Christmas.

EXT. AGUA VERDE - DAY

406 MAPACHE WAITS AS TWO MEN BRING HIM THE MACHINE GUN, the weapon cradled between them. Zamorra awkwardly feeding a belt into the breech, finally gets it ready to fire. The two Germans are watching with amusement and disdain. In the b.g., Lyle and Tector are riding out the gate.

MOHR  
It must be mounted on the tripod...

Mapache ignores them, grabbing the butt of the gun.

MOHR  
Er ist doch verruckt!



- 407 ZAMORRA SHOVS HOME THE BOLT AND MAPACHE PULLS THE TRIGGER. The gun suddenly comes alive and the two men holding it are bounced around the area by the wild recoil.
- 408 THE GUN SWINGS WILDLY, MAPACHE HANGING ON -- his finger locked down on the trigger.
- 409 THE GERMANS AND OTHER BYSTANDERS DIVE FOR COVER as bullets clatter through the area. Finally the two soldiers, unable to support it, let it drop to the ground.
- 410 BUT MAPACHE STILL HANGS ONTO THE TRIGGER AND THE WEAPON continues firing. Now like a rivet gun driving bullets into the earth,

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AGUA VERDE - DAY

- 411 DUTCH AND ANGEL ENTER THE COURTYARD. Mapache, Zamorra and Herrera watching the Germans mount the gun on the tripod, turn; then Herrera crosses to his horse and mounts, waiting.

DUTCH

We brought the last of it.

Mapache gestures. Zamorra hands two bags of coin to Dutch who opens them -- looks -- it's gold.

DUTCH

At the head of the arroyo -- in the wagon.

Zamorra speaks to Herrera, who rides off with ten or twelve soldiers.

DUTCH

(turning to go)

You can keep the wagon -- we'll take the horses.

MAPACHE

Como no...?

- 412 SUDDENLY ANGEL, WATCHING HERRERA RIDE THROUGH THE ARCH, TENSES. A group of soldiers are beginning to slowly close the massive iron gates.

ZAMORRA

How many cases did you take from the train?

CONTINUED

412 CONTINUED

DUTCH

Fourteen. We lost two on the trail.

MAPACHE

(laughing, points at  
Angel; in Spanish)

He stole them...He stole them for his  
people. The mother of his girl told us.  
I lost the girl, so now she gives me an  
Angel.

413 ANGEL WHIRLS HIS HORSE AND SPURS FOR THE GATEWAY, BUT AS HE  
APPROACHES, THE HEAVY WROUGHT IRON DOORS begin to swing shut.

MAPACHE

No lo matez!...Lo quiero vivo!

414 AS ANGEL NEARS THE GATE, A SOLDIER SWINGS A LARIAT AND CATCHES  
THE TWO FRONT FEET OF HIS HORSE.

415 THE HORSE GOES OVER JUST SHORT OF THE ARCH SLAMMING ANGEL  
into the wrought iron gate.

A group of soldiers pick him up and drag him back.

416 DUTCH SITS ON HIS HORSE UNMOVING, apparently unconcerned as  
Angel is brought before Mapache.

MAPACHE

Supieron ellos?

417 ANGEL LOOKS AT DUTCH, THEN SHAKES HIS HEAD.

ANGEL

No!...Yo los robe mientras dormian.

ZAMORRA

(to Dutch)

He took two cases when you were asleep...

418 MAPACHE LAUGHS, highly pleased at the idea of a Mexican  
robbing the Americans.

MAPACHE

(to Angel, in Spanish)

Next time be more careful who you shoot  
-- the mother of your sweetheart became  
angry when you killed her daughter --  
so she betrayed you -- que familia, eh?

CONTINUED

418 CONTINUED

DUTCH  
(interrupting him)  
I'm wasting time here.

MAPACHE  
(turning to him)  
Y Angel?

DUTCH  
He's a thief -- you take care of him.

MAPACHE  
(gesturing at the gold)  
Dame lo.

DUTCH  
(angry)  
What for?! We delivered.

ZAMORRA  
Two cases short -- one bag, por favor.

419 DUTCH THINKS ABOUT THIS VERY BRIEFLY, then tosses him a bag.

MAPACHE  
Un vieje bien..

DUTCH  
Yeah.

He turns and rides off, Angel watching him.

EXT. ARROYO - DAY

420 SYKES IS HELPING HERRERA AND HIS SOLDIERS LOAD THE CASES ONTO  
PACK ANIMALS AS DUTCH RIDES UP.

DUTCH  
(quietly)  
They got Angel...some people would betray  
their mothers for two dollars and one drink.  
(then)  
Unhitch and bring the horses -- leave the wagon.

SYKES  
We got to get him out.

DUTCH  
(angrily)  
How -- ?

But Sykes can't answer and Dutch rides off.

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
110.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

421 THORNTON, BELLIED DOWN ON A RIDGE TOP, WATCHES THROUGH BINOCULARS AS DUTCH, better than a mile away, disappears in the distance.

The others are mounted at the bottom of a small ravine below him.

THORNTON

(turning to them)

Dutch Engstrom...going from the village.

COFFER

\$1000 dead or alive.

T.C.

Bet they sold the guns.

THORNTON

Coming out one at a time.

(then, crossing to his horse)

We'll get down at the bottom of the wash  
and see if we can thin the odds a little.

He mounts and they ride off.

EXT. CAMP - DAY

422 DUTCH HAS DISMOUNTED AND IS TALKING TO PIKE AND THE OTHERS.

On a ridge above camp, using binoculars, they look across the badlands below and at the town far in the distance.

LYLE

Well, he had guts --

PIKE

(softly)

We're just lucky he didn't talk.

DUTCH

Yeah -- he played his string out right  
to the end.

TECTOR

He loved that girl!

LYLE

Her own Mama turning him in -- just like  
Judas --

423 PIKE LOOKS AT HIM A LONG MOMENT, then turns away.

DUTCH

Sykes says we got to go after him.

CONTINUED

423 CONTINUED

LYLE

How in hell can we do that?! They  
got guns and 200 men... Besides,  
chances are he's dead by now.

PIKE

(finally)

No way...no way at all.

LYLE

(pointing)

There's Sykes.

424 PIKE LIFTS THE GLASSES WATCHING:

425 SYKES IN THE FAR DISTANCE RIDE TOWARD THEM.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

426 SYKES, MOUNTED BAREBACK ON A HORSE AND LEADING THE OTHERS,  
trots up the dim trail toward the hideout.

427 THORNTON AND HIS HUNTERS, THREE MOUNTED, WATCH from the  
cover of brush-covered ridge some distance away, then:

428 JESS CHANGING HIS POSITION TO GET A BETTER SHOT, STICKS HIS  
BARE FOOT IN A SMALL CLUMP OF CHOLLA -- He jumps at the fiery  
pain and nearly falls, and for an instant:

429 HIS RIFLE CAN BE SEEN OVER THE TOP OF THE RIDGE.

430 SYKES TENSES FOR A BRIEF INSTANT AS THE SUN HITS THE BARREL  
OF THE RIFLE and he catches the reflection in his eye.

Then he has spurred his horse into the brush at the side of  
the trail.

431 THORNTON CURSES AND RUNS TO HIS HORSE as the bandits open  
fire.

432 PIKE AND THE OTHERS WATCH SYKES SPUR INTO THE BRUSH. TINY  
PINPOINTS OF LIGHT APPEAR IN THE ROCKS ABOVE HIM. After a  
moment the noise of firing reaches them.

Dutch takes the glasses, watching.

433 THORNTON AND THE OTHERS SPUR after Sykes, firing.

434 THEN SYKES IS HIT and falls forward over the horse's withers.

EXT. BADLANDS - MOVING SHOT - DAY

435 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS THUNDER after Sykes.

COFFER

(yelling)

I got him -- I got him.

Thornton is silent, his face bitter.

436 PIKE GRABS THE GLASSES, WATCHES THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ride after Sykes.

LYLE

Mapache?

DUTCH

Thornton -- they got Sykes. He's hit bad.

(then, turning away)

Damn Deke Thornton to hell.

PIKE

(softly)

What would you do in his place. He gave his word.

DUTCH

(turning on him,  
almost yelling)

Gave his word to a railroad.

PIKE

It's his word!

DUTCH

That ain't what counts -- it's who you give it to!!

LYLE

(as Pike doesn't answer)

We kin stay right up here and kick hell out of 'em.

Pike turns and looks over the camp.

PIKE

No water.

CONTINUED

436 CONTINUED

DUTCH

Make a run for the border?

PIKE

They'd be after us every step of the way -- I know Thornton. No, I'm tired of being hunted -- we go back to Agua Verde and let the General take care of those boys.

LYLE

You're crazy!...He'd just as soon kill us as break wind.

PIKE

He's so tickled with the guns he'll be celebrating for a week and happy to do us a favor. Thornton ain't going after us in there. While they're busy picking over Freddy, we'll take the back trail off this mountain and head for town.

The others look at him silently. Finally:

DUTCH

We take our gold?

PIKE

We take one sack to pay our way. Bury the rest -- together.

They think this over, then nod.

EXT. BADLANDS - DAY

437

THE BOUNTY HUNTERS CRASH through the brush into a small clearing, then split up, looking for tracks. The country around them is a maze of rocks and thick mesquite and chaparral. Sykes' horse, blood running down its flanks, is standing in the clearing, grazing.

T.C.

He can't be far.

COFFER

Lots of blood over here -- then it stops and no tracks.

CONTINUED

437

CONTINUED

T.C.

We'll find him. Ten dollars says  
he's dead by now.

THORNTON

It'll take us a day to find him if  
he is -- if he isn't, he's holding  
a gun on us right now.

438

THE MEN TENSE, THEIR WEAPONS coming up.

THORNTON

We'll go after the others.

JESS

Just leaving him here? He's worth  
money.

THORNTON

(softly, bitterly)

Jess, you come back tomorrow and  
watch the buzzards. They'll show  
you where he is -- you might even  
get a pair of boots.

Jess thinks this over and grins, then the smile fades.

JESS

But what if he ain't dead?

THORNTON

Your problem.

He turns his horse and rides away, the others following.

439

SYKES, HIDDEN IN THE ROCKS and brush above them, slowly  
lowers his rifle and sags back. His leg is dark with dried  
blood and he's weak. Around the wound is a crude bandage  
made from his shirt -- with a tourniquet twisted tightly  
above it. After a moment, there is a noise and he looks  
away at:

440

THE FIGURE OF A MEXICAN PEON -- BLURRED AND INDISTINCT  
AGAINST THE RAYS of the late afternoon sun, a machete  
dangling from his hand.

EXT. CAMP AREA - DAY

441

PIKE AND THE OTHERS NOW MOUNTED, look over the camp.



442 IT APPEARS UNTOUCHED

TECTOR

If I didn't bury it, I wouldn't know  
where to look.

PIKE

Come on.

They ride off. For a long moment the clearing is quiet, then:

443 ENERO, A YOUNG MEXICAN BOY steps out of the brush.

EXT. HACIENDA COURTYARD AGUA VERDE - DAY

444 MAPACHE'S SOLDIERS ARE HAVING A VICTORY CELEBRATION in the  
courtyard of the hacienda. A fire is burning and pigs and  
goats are being barbecued.

445 MAPACHE, ZAMORRA AND THE GERMANS are sitting at the table.

446 TWO SOLDIERS LEAD ANGEL (who has been badly beaten) down into  
the courtyard. His hands are tied and he is stumbling with  
fatigue. They tie a long rope from his neck to the pack  
saddle of a donkey. One of the soldiers calls to Mapache.

1ST SOLDIER

Ya listo, mi General!

447 MAPACHE GETS UP FROM THE TABLE and crosses to the area where  
he can view the whole courtyard. Zamorra and the Germans  
join him.

448 THE SECOND SOLDIER steps to the animal and leads it at a run  
around the courtyard, Angel dragging behind it. Mapache and  
the others watch without expression.

EXT. PLAZA GATE - DAY

448A PIKE AND DUTCH AND THE GORCH BROTHERS dismount and enter.

EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

449 THEY MOVE INTO THE COURTYARD AND STOP, watching the animal  
dragging Angel around. Finally the soldiers and animal stop,  
exhausted, in a

CONTINUED

449

CONTINUED

corner of the yard and the soldiers return to their party atmosphere. Angel lies unmoving.

PIKE

I hate to see an animal treated like that.

DUTCH

(savagely)

No more than I do!

PIKE

Maybe we could buy him.

They are silent for a long moment. Finally:

LYLE

Just thinking about him is asking for trouble.

PIKE

We could use another gun.

450

MAPACHE, ZAMORRA AND THE GERMAN ADVISORS NOW GROUPED around the fire see the men.

MAPACHE

Los Bandidos Gringos...Come here, amigos!

451

PIKE AND THE OTHERS PUSH THROUGH the large group of festive Mexicans towards the table. As they walk toward Mapache:

452

ANGEL IS DRAGGED PAST THEM by two soldiers and dropped in front of the general.

MAPACHE

(laughing)

You come for your friend?

Pike and the others stop a few feet away.

PIKE

I want to buy him back...

Dutch and the others look at him surprised,

PIKE

(continuing)

I'll pay you his share of the gold.

CONTINUED

452

CONTINUED

ZAMORRA

We kept his share of the gold.

MAPACHE

Oyen muchachos!...Quiere comprar  
el traidor este!

(Listen boys...He wants to buy  
this traitor)

The soldiers respond with laughter.

MAPACHE

How much?...He don't look worth too  
much...Levantase!

Two men jerk Angel to his feet. He is groggy and unre-  
sponsive.

MAPACHE

Maybe he won't live too long!

PIKE

I'll give half my share to get him  
back.

MAPACHE

(laughs)

No, I don't need gold...I don't sell  
that one.

453

MAPACHE TURNS AWAY and mumbles something to Zamorra.

PIKE

You've had your fun with him...

ZAMORRA

(cutting him off)

El generalisimo is happy with victory!...

Zamorra grabs a bottle of tequilla off the table and tosses  
it to Pike.

ZAMORRA

Go and drink...there are women in  
the village...But don't be foolish  
and change his mood.

454

PIKE HOLDS THE BOTTLE and looks at the table, seething with  
anger. Then, suddenly he calms.

CONTINUED

454

CONTINUED

PIKE

Want to go hunting, General?

Mapache looks at him confused.

PIKE

(pointing)

Five government men out there -  
Policio - they want the guns back.

Mapache turns to Zamorra who translates.

MAPACHE

(to Herrera happily,  
in Spanish)

Five gringos want to take our guns --  
Maten los.

HERRERA

Si, mi General!

He turns, barks orders to his men, then mounts and rides out,  
followed by twenty soldiers.

DUTCH

Goodbye, Thornton.

455

ZAMORRA GESTURES AND JUAN JOSE crosses to them.

3RD SOLDIER

Quieren muchachas?

Pike looks at Angel for a moment, then turns away..

PIKE

Why not?

The group moves through the celebration out the main gate  
and into the village beyond.

EXT. CAMP GROUND - DAY

456

THORNTON IS ON THE RIDGE TOP SEARCHING THE BADLANDS WITH  
HIS GLASSES as his men search the area behind and below him.

COFFER

Don't look like nobody was ever here,

T.C.

(pointing at horse tracks)

Well, they was.

Then they look up as:

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
119.

457 THORNTON RUNS DOWN THE SLOPE TOWARD THEM

THORNTON

Army patrol -- coming this way.

Instantly the men mount and ride out.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. NATIVE HUT - DAY

458 PIKE IS SPRAWLED OVER A NATIVE HAMMOCK, drunk. He lifts a bottle of mescale and takes a drink.

459 ON THE FLOOR OF THE HUT A SAD BUT NOT UNATTRACTIVE WOMAN is sitting looking at a handful of silver in her hand. In one corner a baby whines as the flies bother it.

Through an open door leading to another room, the drunken voices of the Gorch brothers can be heard as they bargain with DELORES, a very reluctant prostitute.

LYLE (OS)

You said dos for two!

TECTOR (OS)

And here's your dos and one to grow on 'cause you did real well, honey.

DELORES (OS)

Doce -- es mas que dos doce para cada uno.

460 PIKE WATCHES THE WOMAN AND THE BABY FOR A MOMENT LONGER THEN SUDDENLY SWINGS OUT OF THE HAMMOCK and steps into the adjoining room.

461 LYLE GORCH LOOKS UP AT HIM BLEARILY FROM A HAMMOCK. Tector is on the floor embracing the disheveled woman.

Pike watches them, weaving a little:

PIKE

(finally)

Let's get Angel...

462 TECTOR IMMEDIATELY REACHES FOR HIS GUN and stands as if he has just been given an important order by a commanding officer. Lyle rises more slowly, begins to check the loads in his pistols.

CONTINUED

CHANGE  
2/12/68  
120.

462 CONTINUED

LYLE

Why not?

Pike turns and moves through his room. Tector and Lyle follow. Behind them the woman begins her complaints again.

EXT. NATIVE HUT - NIGHT

463 PIKE AND THE GORCH BROTHERS COME THROUGH THE DOOR. DUTCH IS SITTING WITH A BOTTLE BACK AGAINST THE WALL listening to the plaintive sound of a distant guitar. He looks up as they come out.

DUTCH

(rising)

Angel?...

PIKE

Yeah.

464 THEY CROSS TO THEIR HORSES, THEIR DRUNKENNESS LESSENING with every step.

Pike and Dutch pull rifles or shotguns from their saddle scabbards as do Lyle and Tector, then they move up the village street.

465 FOUR MEN IN LINE AND THE AIR OF IMPENDING VIOLENCE IS SO STRONG around them that as they pass through the celebrating soldiers, the song and the laughter begin to die.

INT. RUINED HACIENDA - NIGHT

466 MAPACHE, THE GERMANS, ZAMORRA, HERRERA AND SIX OR SEVEN of their officers and a handful of women are seated at a long center table. Food and liquor bottles are spilled everywhere, the mariachi band plays for:

466A CHITA, A SCARED, NOT UNATTRACTIVE GIRL who is trying to please the general by dancing on the table.

At other tables are more officers and perhaps thirty or so enlisted men. The machine gun mounted on its tripod is in a far corner.

467 ANGEL LIES ON THE FLOOR, nearly unconscious, almost unrecognizable from the beating he has taken.

CONTINUED

467 CONTINUED

Mapache watches the dancer, then angrily kicks her off the table. She falls heavily to the floor, then Mapache seeing

468 PIKE AND THE OTHERS ENTER THROUGH THE LARGE ARCHES and stand watching.

MAPACHE

(half angry)

Hey, bandidos? What you want?

ZAMORRA

(quickly)

Hey, this --

(pointing to Herrera)

Dog lost those gringos you wanted --  
but we kill 'em tomorrow -- now you  
go on and get out of here!

PIKE

We want Angel!

Mapache stares at them without answering.

ZAMORRA

You are very stupid...very stupid!

469 SUDDENLY MAPACHE LURCHES UP FROM THE TABLE, CROSSES TO ANGEL AND LIFTS HIM TO HIS FEET. Half dragging him, he steps in front of the Americans. Around him many of the soldiers are rising.

470 PIKE WATCHES UNMOVING AS MAPACHE PROPS up Angel from behind, grins at them.

MAPACHE

You want him...?

He takes a knife and cuts the rope binding Angel's hands.

471 ANGEL BARELY ABLE TO STAND, REACTS with disbelief.

472 PIKE AND DJTCH WATCH without a movement, without a sound.

MAPACHE

(softly)

Take him...

473 TECTOR AND LYLE IGNORE MAPACHE, THEIR eyes drifting over the Mexicans who are slowly edging forward, some beginning to grin.

474 ZAMORRA, STILL SEATED at the table pours himself a drink, the clink of the glass against the bottle loud in the silence. Beside him the Germans rise slowly.

Mapache, still holding Angel from behind, leans over his shoulder and whispers in his ear:

MAPACHE

(gently)

Vete, Angelito...te esperan los gringitos...

475 ANGEL STANDS FAST, then curiously he takes a step forward.

476 PIKE AND THE OTHERS REMAIN MOTIONLESS

477 ANGEL'S FACE BEGINS to brighten with hope and he takes another step, then:

478 MAPACHE GRABS HIM BY THE HAIR and his other hand flashes across the boy's throat as he shoves Angel into the Americans, the blood splattering them from his severed throat.

479 AS PIKE STEPS BACK TO AVOID Angel's falling body, he draws his forty-five automatic and fires twice into Mapache.

480 THE BULLETS DOUBLE HIM AND HURL HIM INTO HIS MEN. As he crumples:

481 DUTCH FIRES INTO THE TOP OF HIS HEAD, then the room explodes with gunfire.

482 ZAMORRA AND TWO OF THE OTHERS scramble for cover while drawing.

Mohr runs for the machine gun. Rifle fire erupts from the courtyard as the soldiers rush forward and die as:

483 ONE OF DUTCH'S GRENADES explodes amongst them.

484 PIKE, FIRING WITH AMAZING rapidity empties his .45, shoves it in his belt, cocks the lever on the rifle, moving slowly but steadily into the shadowed corners of the room -- killing men, firing, being shot at and hit in return.



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- 485 DUTCH EMPTYING his .44, throwing another grenade, is hit, draws his .45, continues firing, moving with Pike, covering his back.
- 486 THE SOLDIERS HUNT COVER and die -- more pour in from the courtyard and die caught in the cross fire.
- 487 TECTOR AND LYLE YELLING with the lust of battle charge toward the table, emptying their guns.
- 488 MOHR REACHES THE MACHINE GUN, begins firing. Kills a number of soldiers as it gets away from him.
- 489 PIKE KILLS HIM with his last two rifle shots and the German dies with his finger locked on the trigger.
- 490 THE GUN SWINGS, cutting a swath of death across the room, killing six soldiers, wounding Dutch.
- 491 PIKE THROWS THE RIFLE as he slips a new clip in the .45, whirls as:
- 492 ZAMORRA PUTS three rounds into Dutch.
- 493 PIKE KILLS ZAMORRA AND HERRERA, then a soldier has driven a bayonet through his gut and into the wall.
- 494 DUTCH, ON THE FLOOR, KILLS THE SOLDIER
- 495 MEXICANS CONTINUE FIRING AT THE AMERICANS from all sides and the Gorch brothers, badly wounded, but still on their feet still are blasting away at them from the middle of the room, then Tector, laughing, picks up the screaming, terrified Chita and rushes the crowd, using the woman for a shield. She tosses her head and dies as bullets slam into her soft body, then he is hit again and goes down on one knee.
- 496 A SOLDIER, UNSEEN BY TECTOR, steps into a doorway. He aims at Tector with a revolver and fires into him from several feet away. The bullets tear into Tector and he drops the woman and dances out into the room. As he is hit from all sides, he whirls around, seeing:

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- 497 THE MAN IN THE DOORWAY, he fires his last shot into the man's body. The man plunges forward screaming. Tector stands up straight as bullets pour into him. Finally, he crumples fast and falls.
- 498 LYLE, HIT SEVERAL TIMES, SCREAMING WITH RAGE, standing over Tector is wild-eyed, firing madly into the crowd. A bullet splashes into his cheek and he runs at the nearest of his attackers, firing, scattering them, killing most.
- 499 TECTOR RISES, CLICKS HIS EMPTY pistol at the mob. A soldier rushes him from behind with a machete and the cross fire of his own men kills him as he swings the weapon into Tector's back. Tector falls to the floor, writhing in pain, cursing, pulling down a soldier, strangling him as he dies.
- 500 LYLE STAGGERS, BULLETS PUMPING into him, then falls - dead before he hits the ground. The soldiers continue to fire into his body.
- 501 DUTCH LIFTS A SOLDIER AND TOSSES him against the wall, then falls as bullets cut into him. He rolls, then crawls under the tables dragging the useless lower half of his body. Although in pain, he is grinning strangely. He removes a carbine from a dead soldier and props himself on a bench. Taking careful aim, he fires and a soldier drops screaming and kicking. Methodically he aims and fires again, and again and again, a man dying each time he pulls the trigger.
- 502 PIKE WATCHES AS HE TENSES, FINALLY JERKS THE BAYONET out of his body, runs firing at five of the soldiers who are rushing the room -- kills two, reaches the machine gun, pulls Mohr away from the gun, jerks back the bolt and staggers as a soldier empties his pistol into him from behind. Pike himself turns and dies.
- 503 DUTCH SWINGS THE RIFLE, firing, crippling the soldier, then:
- 504 ANOTHER SOLDIER, HIS UNIFORM STAINED WITH BLOOD, draws his knife and hardly able to move, falls on Dutch -- the weight of the fall burying the weapon deep into Dutch's back. Crumpled together, both men die.
- EXT. COURTYARD - NIGHT
- 505 FOR A FEW SECONDS THERE IS STILL sporadic gunfire as the remaining soldiers fire into the bodies of the wild bunch..

CONTINUED

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505 CONTINUED

Then it stops. A mortally wounded man suddenly screams in agony and writhes on the floor and dies. Another, pistol in hand, rises, staggers to the gateway, teeters for a moment, then falls, firing blindly into the dust. Somewhere outside the wall, a cur yelps and runs away into the night.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AGUA VERDE - GATE - DAY

505A THE BOUNTY HUNTERS led by Thornton, ride through. It appears deserted.

EXT. HACIENDA COURTYARD - DAY

506 IN THE COURTYARD A SMALL GROUP OF WOMEN wrapped in black robes are burning candles and moving among the dead bodies that spill out of the large room of the hacienda and into the yard. It is a scene of carnage, blood now black in the sun, a million flies and the walls lined with waiting vultures. There is no sign of soldiers anywhere. A few of the bodies have been dragged into the courtyard. Most, including Pike, Dutch and the others, including Mapache, lie where they fell.

507 THE BOUNTY HUNTERS, LED BY THORNTON, RIDE UP TO THE ARCHES AND DISMOUNT, their horses snorting nervously at the smell of blood and the stench of death. At the end of the courtyard where five corpses are heaped in a small pile, a lone vulture stands patiently near them.

As the bounty hunters approach and the bird labors reluctantly into flight, the men dismount.

Thornton, looking in through the broken wall, turns away. Coffey and T.C. enter, whistle softly.

COFFEY

It's them.

THORNTON

You'd have one hell of a time proving that a week from now, in Texas.

COFFEY

We could try...Hell, a pelt's a pelt, it don't matter what condition it's in.

T.C.

Picked clean -- not a gun on 'em...

Thornton walks slowly among the bodies.

CONTINUED

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CONTINUED

T.C. (OS)

This boy here's got some gold in his  
teeth...Let me see your knife, Coffe.

COFFER

(crossing to Thornton)

Hey, Thornton, should we load up?

THORNTON

(walking away)

Suit yourself.

T.C.

We going to wait here for Jess or  
meet him on the way?

But Thornton doesn't answer; reaching his horse, he mounts  
and rides away.

Coffer and T.C. and Ross look after him.

ROSS

(pointing to the bird  
on the walk)

If Jess is counting on buzzards to  
lead him to old Sykes, he's got a  
long wait -- we got 'em all.

They laugh and go to work.

EXT. GATE - AGUA VERDE - DAY

508

THORNTON COMES THROUGH THE GATE, ties his horse, sits down,  
his back against the wall. Except for a dog and two silent  
women, the village appears deserted.

Thornton rolls a cigarette, begins to smoke it, waiting.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATE AGUA VERDE - AFTERNOON

509

COFFER, ROSS AND T.C. ride out leading four pack animals, each  
carrying a body.

Thornton looks up, he doesn't move.

COFFER

You ain't comin'?

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Thornton shakes his head.

T.C.

(nervous)

Maybe we better wait here for Jess.

COFFER

No -- we'll pick him up on the way --  
I want to get out of this goddamned  
place -- anyways these boys will start  
going ripe on us by tomorrow -- we got  
to move --

(then; to Thornton)

You sure you ain't coming?

Coffer shrugs and drinking out of a half full tequilla bottle,  
rides off, followed by the others who ignore Thornton as  
completely as he does them.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATE - AGUA VERDE - LATE AFTERNOON

510

THORNTON HASN'T MOVED. Then from the distance come three  
slow-paced rifle shots -- Thornton sits up -- waits, then  
there is a fourth -- Thornton settles back.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATE - AGUA VERDE - EARLY EVENING

511

THE SUN HAS PASSED THE MOUNTAINS AND AS the light goes  
a cold wind kicks dust across the empty street of the  
village. Thornton stands, looking off at:

512

FREDDY SYKES, DON JOSE, ENERO, THE YOUNG GOAT HERDER,  
IGNACIO, and a handful of Angel's compadres sit watching  
him. They are leading the bounty hunters' horses, the  
sacks of gold are tied to Sykes' saddle.

SYKES

Didn't expect to find you here,  
Deke.

THORNTON

Why not -- I sent 'em back -- that's  
all I said I'd do.

CONTINUED

512 CONTINUED

SYKES

They didn't get far --  
(then)

You the one that shot me?

THORNTON

Don't know -- does it make any  
difference?

SYKES

-- (after a moment)  
I reckon not.

(then)

What are your plans?

THORNTON

Drift around down here -- try and  
stay out of jail --

SYKES

Well, come along -- we got some work  
to do --

(riding away)

It ain't like it used to be, but it's  
better than nothin'.

513 THORNTON TAKES A DEEP BREATH, THEN HALF GRINS, UNTIES HIS  
HORSE, THEN MOUNTS AND FOLLOWS.

FADE OUT.

THE END