

## THE CLICHE COWBOY

I began my existence on the King Ranch. Between brandin cattle and breakin her latest stallion, Bolt O' Lightnin, my mama bore me on top of a cactus plant, tumbleweeds blowin through her hair. They called me Sixto. By the time I could walk, I could rope a wild bull and brand him with my mark, the "upside down 6 over triple 0"  $\overline{9}$ <sub>000</sub>. By my seventh birthday, I was chewin' the nuts off cattle while my daddy held'em. On my 15th birthday, my pa sent me off on the rodeo circuit. I made a name for myself as the biggest, baddest motherfucker of a bull rider there ever was. At 21, I was horned by the nastiest bull this side of the Colorado--Jethro. He was big. He was black. His horns were 10-feet long. I ain't lyin. It was a hot, muggy night at the Granger Fair Rodeo. The families had come from towns around to watch me ride. I put on my boots, the "upside down six over triple 0" neatly enlaid into the sides of them, just like my father and his father before had always worn. I placed my hat down firmly on my head. It held the lucky pin from my gal back home, Bethany, and the feather from the wild turkey my grandmother let rome in her backyard. They held Jethro as I climbed upon him, preparin' for what I did not know would be the last ride this young cowboy might ever take. He could hardly hold still and as we broke out of the gate he went rippin to the right, to the left, left again, flingin' his 10" horns closer and closer. With a wild throw from his back, I went flyin overhead landin' right on one of his 10-foot horns. Little did I know I had been thrown that high. But unconcious, I was unaware of my impendin' death. From the bleachers came the sound of a shot. A dear beloved friend from a past I no not shot Jethro down. No one knew who he truly was, but as they slowly lifted my tattered, ripped, battered and torn body from Jethro's mighty horns, I swore on my great Aunt Missoura's grave ( a fine, upstanding woman she was) that I would find this man, rumored to be a great gunslinger from the past, his name well known amongst famous outlaws and gunslingers. Upon his finding, I plan to honor him with the great horned appendages of Jethro's skull attached to a spankin' new candy apple red cadillac. I ask you now dear friends to assist me on this search.

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000 **1. To Treaty Oak (Team Copy)**

Looking east for a direction  
my lasso swung with recollection  
It landed right along the tracks  
and so that way I followed it back.  
My trustee mare carried me over  
a main pathway of metal movers.  
Ahead of me a house of repute and good will  
but along the tracks I follow it steel.  
To my right creators enhance our sight  
but I am drawn to the changing light.  
And past it I rest beneath a magestic tree  
and think of my new destiny.  
I knew my friend had passed through here  
his footprints circling the tree were near.  
The cement barrel marked the spot  
three posts to the right their hooves did trot.

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000 **2. To the Capitol (team copy)**

I seek again the changing lantern  
Looking east my heart did yearn.  
To the left and right was metallic poop  
but I kept going past our Lady Guadalupe.  
I sought the way of the Governor's trail  
and north I rode to learn the tale.  
My path was crossed five times by wagons  
and at the sixth my brim was saggin'.  
I tied my horse at the central walk  
to seek a hero that might talk.  
I knew this hero would be no fool  
for he was in a place where Texans rule.

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000 **2a. About Capital (at Treaty Oak)**

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000 You're probably wonderin' what our next move will be  
9  
000 well I've been told of men who know and see  
9  
000 daily visitors left and right  
9  
000 and who'll gladly help us with our plight.

9  
000 Our friend was a fighter of no fear  
9  
000 in a battle well-known to have taken place quite near  
9  
000 In San Antonio, you know the place.

9  
000 But no one there ever saw his face.

9  
000 The well-known men are here to speak,  
9  
000 there names are engraved and those you should seek.

9  
000 Bowie, Bonham, Travis and Crockett

9  
000 A tribute to them, but not quite on it.

9  
000 So what of this man we are searching for  
9  
000 we know he fought in that old war.

9  
000 He was a lover of guns, any shape and size  
9  
000 and in this battle he did find a prize.

9  
000 The biggest and baddest of its day  
9  
000 he stood guard on his, well it was damn play.

9  
000 What was it's year, 1863

9  
000 and it's special name, 363.

9  
000 Here's one more for you, a quote I won't repeat

9  
000 "I shall never surrender or retreat".

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000 **3. To the Waterloo Brewing Company (team copy)**

9  
000 If your are where you should be, then surely you will see  
9  
000 that a curve around to exit South there should be.

9  
000 That Governors trail was good to us all  
9  
000 but too much of a good thing only leads to a fall.

9  
000 So, head west my friend, we're on the way  
9  
000 let's wet our wistle now, it's the best some say.

9  
000 There's a trail or two we pass but you should know  
9  
000 it's the cow of a minority, just let that one go.

9  
000 You'll know the one we want, you'll recognize it when  
9  
000 well, it's our Lady of the Lake, she's at it again.

9  
000 South is the way to head, we're in the fray,  
9  
000 we're lookin for a building with services we can't pay.

9  
000 But right next door I'm told we'll find  
9  
000 the best homemade of it's kind.

9  
000 There's many places who boast of this, but it takes a fine art

9  
000 The recipe's been passed down from a history involving Bonapart.

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000 **3a. About Waterloo (at Capitol)**

At this place I'm at a loss, my heroes here were stone  
So onward I seek solace, in my future I will roam.

9  
000 This place is very interesting, I think you will see.

For what is the past to you, is the future for me.

9  
000 If you've found the destination you will find it quite odd  
that everything that's here to see is obviously a facade.

9  
000 You could have your auto repaired and Humble they are,  
but look around the corner there, and you will find a bar.

O.K. well at first you see the General Store for the Capitol

9  
000 but right next door is what you want, The Forrester Saloon & Hotel.

9  
000 He's known to be in a league with many famous gunfighters,  
who ran with the James Gang, and a couples of his brothers.

9  
000 Look in, you'll see him drinking a whisky,  
and contemplating what his next move should be.

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000 **4. To the Broken Spoke (team copy)**

9  
000 From where you are, you should know  
there is only one way that we can go.

9  
000 Head'em on down, the thought'll make you shiver

In my day, on horse, you'd have to swim that river.

9  
000 On the other Side of the River pass on by,

9  
000 A source of cool water, a trail by its namesake try.  
West is the way to go,

for a couple of lights or so

9  
000 Up ahead you'll see his enemy,

Sheriff Lamar would like to catch him and throw away the key.

9  
000 When you see him you should know,

Head South, for a couple of miles or so.

9  
000 The Horse Shoe Lounge could wet your wistle,

but don't stop there or your pace will fizzle.

9  
000 Off to yer left you'll see Matt's Ranch,

but stopping there will only make you blanch.

9  
000 The ranch we're lookin for can compare to none,

it has a cattle herd of three thousand two hundred and one.

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000 **4a. About Broken Spoke (At Waterloo)**

My friend here he had many stories to tell,  
with plenty of songs, he could sing them well.

9  
000 He hooked up with the Texas Playboys,  
and in this place there are plenty of toys.

9  
000 It's music they loved, and here they found,  
plenty could be played here, just look around.

9  
000 You can play it yourself, or make a choice,  
or maybe just turn it on and listen to a voice.

9  
000 This friend of mine, he's quite the chameleon,  
but it seems he must be, he's always on the run.

9  
000 So check it out, try to glimpse his face,  
for on the next clue, it will be quite a change of pace.

9  
000 **5. To Book People (team copy)**

9  
000 Head'em on out of this here corral,  
to Indian country we head, lookin' for my pal.

9  
000 We'll go the way of the Confederacy,  
lookin' for something old, but contemporary.

9  
000 It's not so far, but what you'll see  
is a corral of yellow and an injured pea.

9  
000 You're lookin' for a second light  
and there you'll go right.

9  
000 You'll want to take it at a strip of oaks,  
and look for a place that would NEVER sell smokes.

9  
000 But don't assume, it's not that easy,  
your lookin' for mammals made from a tree.

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000 **5a. About Book People (At Broken Spoke)**

This chameleon, now he's made quite a change,  
he gone to the spiritual and left the range.

9  
000 He's befriended a gunslinger and old enemy,  
Sam Starr is his name, a famous Cherokee.

9  
000 He's entering a world of intellectuality,  
so open you're mind and let it roam free.

9  
000 Look for him in ancient and lost civilizations,  
Channeling is good, it gives positive vibrations.

9  
000 He's trained himself as a native healing man,  
to get in touch with him, psychic development is the plan.

9  
000 Look around here and you will see,  
there are plenty of games to play with and they're all for free.

9  
000 So go ahead, play a card or two,  
you might find something there for you.

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000 **6. To Gonzales (team copy)**

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000 Head on out of this oakie place,  
Sheriff Lamar's track please retrace.  
9  
000 You'll go all the way, and a little bit more,  
The east side of the river, now let it roar.  
9  
000 When you think you can't ride another mile,  
just keep on going, it's gonna be a while.  
9  
000 A pleasant drop is what you're shooting for,  
Now keep on going just a little bit more.  
9  
000 Now when you see the albino Ben's end,  
take a left, then veer right with the wind.  
9  
000 You know what to do now, it's South 183,  
Unlock my hart, you've got the key.  
9  
000 What's next, you ask, well, I'll tell,  
The next little town is known for it's smell.  
9  
000 When you get there, don't think to park it,  
but take a left after the Farmer's Market.  
9  
000 If you we're dealing zero at 71 and 183,  
The place you want will be about forty-three.  
9  
000 If you are wondering if you're at the right place,  
as you hit town, slow your pace.  
9  
000 Look immediately for a water tower,  
"Come and Take It" was their show of power.

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000 **6a. About Gonzales (At Book People)**

9  
000 As you arrive in this locality,  
a trip to his past there will be.  
9  
000 If you need some direction to find him here,  
stop when you see the courthouse near.  
9  
000 My friend had stopped here to clean his name,  
but the law caught up with him just the same.  
9  
000 You'll find in the bag a snapshot for you,  
Look around to see if you can find this view.  
9  
000 This next path is tough, I hope you can cope,  
I've given you something in an envelope.  
9  
000 Now figure it out, during the next two,  
You won't expect it to mean much to you.  
9  
000 But before you leave here, you'd better open it,  
and a victim must be recruited, to witness and sign it.

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**7. To Goliad (team copy)**

Now heading on our happy way,  
18 + 3 is where you stay.

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Sheriff Hochheim stands at attention,  
pointing on at an indian enemy with contention.

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Keep it up, your path is laid,  
Your heading for the final raid.

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When you hit town you'll see a light,  
The Inn of Goliad, take a right.

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This time we've found the oyster shell,  
But a meeting near Market Place is sure to tell.

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**7a. About Goliad (Clue at Gonzales)**

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A message has gotten to him and soon you'll see,  
at this place I'm hoping my friend will meet me.

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Headed to the court house, but just a little before,  
You'll see a park dedicated to those who served in war.  
Sergeant Franklin stands guard by these grounds,

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as it holds one of the oldest memorials around.

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Our man fought here to defend our state,  
J.W. Fannin and his men could hardly rate.

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As I look around I see a messenger,  
Belle Starr is her name, it's his famous lover.

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She said she'd stay here, but incase she's not,  
look for a message before it's shot.

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**8. To Aransas Pass (Team Copy)**

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To 183 you'll want to go,  
I'll feed this one to you nice & slow.

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We must unsolve this mystery,  
The edge of the earth my friend did flee.

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He taken quite a precarious trail,  
so follow it or you'll surely fail.

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Straight ahead to Refugio,  
Junction 774, odometer to zero.

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You'll find it at the edge of town,  
a left you'll take, you've got it down.

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1.5 miles, there's a sea of light,  
two thousand six hundred and seventy-eight . . . Right.

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Figure this one out, just for kicks  
Somewhere around eleven,  $2678 - 2542 = 136$ .

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Steam right on through Bayside,  
now you're getting closer to the tide.

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At 21 you'll hit Junction 188,  
a port of stones you'll appreciate.

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28.5 do not decline,  
to take a right on 1069.

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Under a highway, then to thirty-five,  
Take a left for a dive.

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From this point we've done our best,  
the message from Goliad will instruct you on your quest.

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**8a. About Port Aransas (clue at Goliad)**

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This here's Belle, I'm leavin' a message from my lover.

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He's wants to meet ya, but ya ought to know he wadn't doin no heroic action on that day he shot that bull. He just had a moment of inspiration. And in all the excitement of the moment, he stood up and blew that ole rascal away. But, if you wanna talk to him and give'em that fancy ole cadillac I'll tell ya where he is and put a stop to all this silliness.

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There's a trail called 35, take it left.

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That mechanical pony o' yers ain't gonna float on water so you'll be lookin for a ferry, an I don't mean one a those fruity thangs you got in yer day & age. We don't put up with that shit, we just shoot'em. When ya get off on the other side, look for a place that Kook by the name of Mel Tillis used ta sing about. You know, after Hank, there's never been a true singer of good country songs. Head on up to meet my darlin daughter Alister, that me an my lover had a passionate night of love and conceived together. She will lead you right along the way and will proceed ta tell ya what she knows of the alphabet. This consists of the first seven letters. At that point you'll take a left and meet up with the tide. From here on you must find yer own way as I have promised my dear lover, Cole I will not hold yer hand all the way. So, you'd best figure out that there puzzle if you want ta find him and if yer real curious about who he is, why don't ya do a little readin in that there book of yers. I've had many lovers, but his was the first and the truest. I guess that's all, Belle.

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ANAGRAM

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QEB                    ----

YBXZE                    -----

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