WAGON WHEELS WEST
Or
How The West Was Fun

Book By TIM KELLY
Music & Lyrics By BILL FRANCOEUR

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PIONEER DRAMA SERVICE, INC.
Denver, Colorado
WAGON WHEELS WEST
Or
How The West Was Fun
A Rootin' Tootin' Musical Comedy In Two Acts
Book By TIM KELLY
Music & Lyrics By BILL FRANCOEUR

The authors wish to thank the CRACKER BARREL PLAYERS of North Hollywood, California, for their help in developing this parody of the Old West.

SYNOPSIS
The action takes place in the town of Vinegar Bottle, along the Santa Fe Trail.

TIME
When the buffalo were roaming and the wagon wheels were groaning.

ABOUT THE SETTING
The simple basic setting is Main Street with a few building facades. The "Sarsaparilly Saloon" is STAGE RIGHT. For an entrance, the saloon has "swinging doors." Across the street, STAGE LEFT, is the "Vinegar Bottle Hotel," with a small table and a couple of chairs in front. UPSTAGE there's a painted drop or some scenery flats showing a vista of the "Old West" -- mountains, sky, cacti -- maybe a wagon or two off in the distance.

The FORESTAGE represents an all-purpose area. Below the curtain line, EXTREME DOWN RIGHT on the FORESTAGE, is the cabin belonging to the outlaw gang, suggested by a table with three chairs or stools. EXTREME DOWN LEFT on the FORESTAGE is a cutout rock that is somewhat skull-shaped ("Whistling Skull Rock."). For staging tips, CONSULT PRODUCTION NOTES at rear of playbook.
CAST OF CHARACTERS
(In Order of Speaking.)

CHUCK WAGON leads the wagon train. Young, handsome, honest. Our hero
WILD BILL HICCUP assists Chuck, hiccups a lot
CANDY KANE lovely girl, sweet but strong. Admires Chuck. Our heroine
DULCY Candy’s cousin. Same age
JOSIAH AIMLESS farmer from New England
MATILDA his wife
LULLABY his daughter, about 12
MOTHER ROGERS newspaper publisher/editor
CACTUS KATE runs the local hotel
EVENING STAR Indian girl, about 14. Works for Mother Rogers
CLEMENTINE SPLINTERS fiery fighter for law and order
DUSTY Clementine’s baby brother. A grizzled desert rat
LETTY stranded in town
VIRGINIA HAMM deals cards at Sarsaparilly Saloon
GLAZED HAMM her sister. Another card dealer
SMILING SLADE CLAGGETT smiles a lot -- but so does a crocodile. Our villain
SUE FLAY villain’s partner. Gorgeous. Rotten apple for a heart
MINERVA SPRINGWELL schoolmarm
JUDY pupil
SALLY another
COOKIE Juanita’s maid
ALIBI CRABTREE jack-of-all-trades
JUANITA FANDANGO famous stage personality
LIEUTENANT AMPLE PORRIDGE U.S. Army man
STRAIGHT-SHOOTING SAM outlaw, dumb
THE ARIZONA KID another outlaw, dumber
DALLAS female bandit
JUDGE PETTIGREW rides a short circuit
PETUNIA his wife
CITIZENS, EXTRAS as/if desired.

SEE PRODUCTION NOTES
MUSICAL NUMBERS

OVERTURE

ACT ONE

WAGON WHEELS WEST
SMILING SLADE
ANYONE I KNOW
TRUE BLUE
LONELY COYOTES
THE FANDANGO
WAGON WHEELS WEST [Reprise]

Chuck, Wagon Train Passengers
Smiling Slade, Sue Flay, Virginia, Glazed
Chuck, Candy
Lieutenant Porridge, Citizens
Sam, Dallas, Arizona Kid
Juanita
Company

ACT TWO

ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
BALLAD OF THE HANGING TREE
A NEW BROOM SWEEPS CLEAN
LOW NOON SHOOTOUT
WAGON WHEELS WEST [Reprise]

Sue Flay, Glazed, Virginia
Chuck, Wild Bill, Ghostriders
Dusty, Clementine, Citizens
Company
Company

For preview only
WAGON WHEELS WEST
Or
How The West Was Fun

ACT ONE
Scene One

SETTING: Atop a small hill [FORESTAGE].

AT RISE: Several WAGON TRAIN CHARACTERS are lined up across the FORESTAGE. They shade their eyes with their hands and stare out over the heads of the audience.

The WAGON TRAIN CHARACTERS are, from RIGHT to LEFT: CHUCK WAGON, WILD BILL HICCUP [cradles rifle in his arm], CANDY, DULCY, JOSIAH, MATILDA, LULLABY [OPTIONAL EXTRAS].

MATILDA: (Scanning the distance.) I think I see something, wagon master.
CHUCK: Where?
MATILDA: (Points.) Yonder.
CHUCK: That would be the town I told you about.
WILD BILL: Vinegar Bottle. (He hiccups.)
CANDY: Vinegar Bottle. What an unusual name.
LULLABY: What kind of town is it?
CHUCK: Can’t rightly say, Lullaby. I’ve taken wagons past it many times, but I’ve never stopped in.
JOSIAH: You’ll have to stop in now. Our wagon wheels is all busted and broke.
MATILDA: Never did see such a terrible stretch of trail.
DULCY: All those rocks and things in the way.
CANDY: We’ll be able to get the wheels repaired, won’t we?
CHUCK: I don’t see any reason why not, Miss Candy. Once the wheels are attended to, we’ll resume our journey West.
DULCY: It’s all so exciting, Cousin Candy!
CANDY: I know what you mean, Dulcy. Leaving our old home in the East to find a new home in the West.
LULLABY: I wonder if they have schools in California? Schools with slates and chalk?
JOSIAH: I’m done with farming. They say if you wash your face in a California river, you can pan four ounces of gold dust out of
your whiskers. If you stub your toe on a rock in California, don’t cuss it. Cash it! I’m going to make a fortune.

MATILDA: (Eagerly.) Josiah, husband, do you think that will happen?

ULLABY: Wild Bill Hiccup says anything can happen out West.

WILD BILL: (Indicates CHUCK.) I was only repeating what Chuck Wagon always says.

ULLABY: Gosh.

CHUCK: (Chest out.) Chuck Wagon never lies, Lullaby. The future lies that way. (Grandly, he gestures RIGHT. Quickly realizes he’s made a mistake. Points LEFT. OTHERS follow his direction(s) with their eyes. First RIGHT, then LEFT. MUSIC: "Wagon Wheels West.")

ALL: (Sing.) Wagon,
   Wagon wheels a-rollin’.
   Rollin’
   Rollin’ Westward Ho.

   Like thunder and lightnin’,
   Rollin’
   For a thousand miles across the prairie,
   Wagon wheels West, wagon wheels West!

CHUCK: (Sings.) Leadin’ folks to the promised land,
   I take ‘em West.
   When you hear me shout, (spoken.) Wagon’s ho!
   We’re headin’ West.

   Wagon Master that’s my trade,
   I’m ridin’ tall.
   Time to pack ‘n” Go west, young man,”
   Come one, come all, when ya hear the call. .

ALL: (Sing.) Wagon,
   Wagon wheels a-rumblin’.
   Rumblin’,
   Down that rocky trail.

   Like thunder and lightnin’,
   Ramblin’,
   Like a wildfire roarin’ ‘cross the prairie,
   Wagon wheels West, wagon wheels West!

SETTLERS ONE/TWO: (Sing.) Got a dream, gonna make my stand.
   I’m headin’ West!

SETTLERS THREE/FOUR: (Sing.) Got a dream, gonna work the land,
Out in the West!

SETTLERS FIVE/SIX: (Sing.) Packin' up, gonna stake my claim
I'm headin' West!

SETTLERS SEVEN/EIGHT: (Sing.) Packin' up, Gonna make my fame,
Out in the West!

CHUCK: (Sings.) Come one, come all!

ALL: (Sing.) Wagon,
Wagon wheels a-rollin'.
Rollin'
Rollin' Westward Ho.

Like thunder and lightnin',
Rollin'
For a thousand miles across the prairie,
Wagon wheels West, wagon wheels West!

CHORUS ONE: (Sings.)
Wagon,
Wagon wheels a rollin',
Keep those wagons, rollin',
Rollin' Westward Ho!...

CHORUS TWO: (Sings.)
Got a dream,
Gonna make my stand,
I'm headin' West!
Got a dream,
Gonna work the land,
Out in the West!

Packin' up,
Gonna stake my claim,
I'm headin' West!
Packin' up,
Gonna make my fame,
Out in the West!

ALL: (Sing.) Like thunder and lightnin',
Rollin',

CHORUS ONE: (Sings.)
For a thousand miles across the...
For a thousand miles...

CHORUS TWO: (Sings.)
For a thousand miles across the...

ALL: (Sing.) Across the prairie,
Wagon wheels West, wagon wheels West, wagon wheels West!

CHUCK: HA! We'd better get on into town, Wild Bill. See about them wheels.
WILD BILL: Whatever you say, Chuck. You’re the wagon master.
CHUCK: Westward Ho, the wagons! (He points RIGHT, then LEFT, confused.)
OTHERS: Whoa! (WILD BILL hiccups again. LIGHTS FADE ON FORESTAGE as WAGON TRAIN FOLK quickly EXIT.)

End of Scene One

ACT ONE
Scene Two

SETTING: Main street of Vinegar Bottle

AT RISE: CACTUS KATE, owner of the hotel, steps onto the street, LEFT, with a tablecloth in her hand. She gives it a good shaking. From UP RIGHT, ENTER MOTHER ROGERS, the newspaper editor, and her employee, EVENING STAR, a pretty Indian girl of about 14. She holds several handbills and a toy horn. MOTHER ROGERS has some newspapers.

MOTHER ROGERS: (Holding one newspaper high.) Read all about it in the Vinegar Bottle Bugle! (EVENING STAR gives a blast on the horn.) Famous entertainer robbed by the notorious bandit known as “The Snake.” Read all about it in the Vinegar Bottle Bugle! (EVENING STAR gives another blast on the horn.)

CACTUS KATE: ‘Mornin’, Mother Rogers.
MOTHER ROGERS: ‘Mornin’, Cactus Kate.
EVENING STAR: ‘Mornin’.

CACTUS KATE: ‘Mornin’, Evening Star. (MOTHER ROGERS and EVENING STAR step to CACTUS KATE.)

MOTHER ROGERS: I’ve come to interview Señorita Juanita Fandango. I figure it will interest my readers. It’s not often we have a famous entertainer like the señorita visiting in Vinegar Bottle.

CACTUS KATE: Señorita Juanita Fandango ain’t visiting. She can’t get out of town. No money. You forgetting she was robbed?

EVENING STAR: Anyone who comes near Vinegar Bottle gets robbed.

CACTUS KATE: Ain’t it the truth.
MOTHER ROGERS: Next issue of the Vinegar Bottle Bugle is carrying an editorial on law and order.

CACTUS KATE: This town needs all it can get. (From OFFSTAGE, UP RIGHT, comes the SOUND OF A BASS DRUM: BOOM/BOOM/BOOM. ALL look UP RIGHT as CLEMENTINE SPLINTERS, a fiery civic leader, ENTERS banging the drum. Or,
if you wish to dispense with the drum, she can carry a placard which reads: "DUSTY FOR MAYOR."

CLEMENTINE: Vote for Dusty Splinters! Vote for Dusty Splinters! Vote for Dusty Splinters!

CACTUS KATE: It's Clementine.

ALL: Howdy, Clementine.

CLEMENTINE: Howdy, ladies. (She steps to them.)

CACTUS KATE: Campaigning kind of early, ain't you?

CLEMENTINE: It's better to be too early than too late.

EVENING STAR: Here's the handbills you ordered.

CLEMENTINE: Let me look at one. (EVENING STAR hands a handbill to CLEMENTINE. She reads.) "Dusty Splinters for Mayor. A New Broom Sweeps Clean." That about says it all.

CACTUS KATE: Isn't your brother afraid to run against Smiling Slade Claggett?

CLEMENTINE: Dusty does what I tell him. If I was a male creature, I'd run for mayor of this town myself.

MOTHER ROGERS: (To audience.) One of these days women are going to get the vote. And when we get the vote, woe to the likes of Smiling Slade Claggett. (She points an accusing finger at the "Sarsaparilly Saloon." OTHERS applaud.)

CACTUS KATE: I admire the way you got a social conscience, Clementine. It's inspiring.

CLEMENTINE: I'm a doer, not a dreamer. I wrote the government about the lawlessness here. I'm hoping they'll send help.

MOTHER ROGERS: I wouldn't be too hopeful. Vinegar Bottle is only a speck on the desert horizon.

CACTUS KATE: The mighty oak started out a lowly acorn.

CLEMENTINE: Speaking of corns, these shoes I'm wearing are killing me. (Calls UP RIGHT.) Dusty! Get over here and get these handbills!

DUSTY'S VOICE: (OFFSTAGE.) I'm a-comin'.

CLEMENTINE: Try to get here before Christmas. (DUSTY ENTERS, a grizzled old desert rat. Bowlegged, battered hat. He's afraid of CLEMENTINE.)

DUSTY: I don't think this is a good idea. Me running against Smiling Slade Claggett.

MOTHER ROGERS: Someone's got to run against him.

DUSTY: Why does it have to be me? I don't know how to be mayor.

CLEMENTINE: Stop worrying. You won't have to do anything. I'll be the power behind the mayor's chair.

DUSTY: How come we need a mayor? We never had a mayor before. 'Sides, what this town needs is a sheriff.
CLEMENTINE: When you're elected mayor, you can appoint me sheriff. The women of Vinegar Bottle will know how to make this town safe for decent folk. (OTHERS applaud.)

DUSTY: I dunno, Clementine. The whole thing don't feel right. I'm no politician.

CLEMENTINE: (Angrily.) You're a politician if I say you're a politician! (DUSTY cringes.) Stop whining. Take these handbills and distribute them all over Vinegar Bottle. Start there. (Indicates saloon.)

DUSTY: The "Sarsaparilly Saloon!" Smiling Slade Claggett's place? I'd be walking into the lion's den.

CLEMENTINE: Little brother, you heard what I said! Get on over to the "Sarsaparilly!"

MOTHER ROGERS: Give him the handbills, Evening Star.

EVENING STAR: Here you are, Dusty. (Unhappy, DUSTY takes the handbills, moves RIGHT, grumbling.)

DUSTY: I don't know why I can't be left alone -- do my prospecting with my mule -- why's a boy need a big sister, anyhow? (He stops before the swinging doors, his courage fading fast.)

CLEMENTINE: What are you waiting for?

DUSTY: (Stalling.) I think I'm gonna sneeze.

CLEMENTINE: Get in there! (Terrified, DUSTY rushes into the saloon.)

MOTHER ROGERS: My, my, Clementine, you do have your baby brother well-trained. When you bark, he jumps.

CLEMENTINE: I've been big sister and mother to that galoot. If it weren't for me, he'd fade away.

CACTUS KATE: You sure Dusty is the best man we can find to run against Smiling Slade Claggett?

CLEMENTINE: He ain't the best man -- he's the only man. None of the others have any gumption. (CHUCK ENTERS street from UP LEFT. With him are WILD BILL and CANDY. They move CENTER.)

CHUCK: Look at the place, Wild Bill, Candy. It's a real city. (WOMEN exchange a curious look. Is this stranger serious? Vinegar Bottle a real city?)

CACTUS KATE: You looking for someone, stranger?

CHUCK: How do, ma'am.

WILD BILL: Howdy.

CANDY: Hello.

MOTHER ROGERS: We don't see many strangers in Vinegar Bottle.

CHUCK: Reckon I ought to introduce myself. My name is Chuck Wagon. I'm guiding a wagon train from Fort Dodge along the Santa Fe Trail to Los Angeles. I've ridden by this town many
times without stopping in. This here is my sidekick, Wild Bill Hiccup.

WILD BILL: Howdy, again. *(He hiccups.)*

CANDY: *(Curtsies.)* My name is Candy Kane. My Cousin Dulcy and I are seeking a bright new future in the West. *(LETTY, a nervous and excitable type, rushes in from DOWN LEFT.)*

LETTY: There’s a wagon train out by Whistling Skull Rock!

EVENING STAR: *(Points to CHUCK.)* He’s the wagon master. *(LETTY steps to CHUCK.)*

LETTY: Take my advice and get your wagons rolling. This is dangerous country. I came with a wagon train, but it was attacked and everyone was robbed! Them bandits took everything.

CACTUS KATE: I reckon half the folks in this town are here because they got stranded.

CANDY: You mean there are outlaws in these parts?

MOTHER ROGERS: You can read all about it in my paper, the *Vinegar Bottle Bugle*. Hardly an issue goes by without mention of "The Snake."

CHUCK/WILD BILL/CANDY: "The Snake?"

LETTY: He’s the bandit leader. No one’s ever seen him because he always wears a mask.

CANDY: Why is he called "The Snake?"

MOTHER ROGERS: Folks call him "The Snake" because when he gets excited, he hisses.

EVENING STAR: Like a diamondback rattler. *(TOWNSFOLK "hiss."

Startled, CHUCK, WILD BILL and CANDY jump back.)*

CHUCK: This here "Snake" hombre better stay clear of my wagons. Otherwise, he’ll bite off more than he can chew.

CLEMENTINE: Snakes don’t chew, they swallow.

CHUCK: My wagons hit a rough stretch of trail.

WILD BILL: We need to get repairs. *(CHUCK takes a step toward audience and asks, in forthright fashion.)*

CHUCK: Is there a wheelwright in the house?

OTHERS: *(Not understanding.)* Wheelwright?


CACTUS KATE: Talk plain, stranger. If you’re looking for someone to repair your wagon wheels, why don’t you say so?

CHUCK: *(To audience.)* Anyone out there know how to repair wagon wheels?

CACTUS KATE: Evening Star, go fetch Alibi Crabtree.

EVENING STAR: Yes, ma’am. *(EVENING STAR EXITS UP RIGHT.)*
CHUCK: Wild Bill, you better get back to camp. I don't want them wagons left unprotected.

WILD BILL: Good thinking, Chuck. (He hiccups, EXITS UP LEFT.)

LETTY: (To CHUCK.) Oh, sir. Do you think I could join your wagon train?

CHUCK: That's up to the others, ma'am. A wagon train is a partnership.

MOTHER ROGERS: Mighty funny the way so many wagon trains break down at Whistling Skull Rock.

CACTUS KATE: Sure is. (Suddenly, from inside the "Sarsaparilly Saloon," the SOUND of a GREAT COMMOTION, FEMALE LAUGHTER.)

DUSTY'S VOICE: (From saloon.) Let go of me, you varmint! Take your hands off me! Help! Help! (Interspersed with DUSTY'S protestations, we hear the FEMALE VOICES chanting.)

FEMALE VOICES: One for the money! Two for the show! Three to get ready! And four to go! Wheeeeeee! (With that, DUSTY comes flying out through the swinging doors and goes sprawling in the dust.)

DUSTY: Ooooooooh.

CLEMENTINE: Dusty! Stop playing around.

DUSTY: Who's playing?

CHUCK: Here, mister, let me help you.

CANDY: I'll assist. (As CHUCK and CANDY help DUSTY to his feet, two saloon girls, VIRGINIA and GLAZED, ENTER from saloon. Laughing.)

VIRGINIA: You're an old fool, Dusty Splinters. Imagine messing with Smiling Slade Claggett.

GLAZED: No more sense than a flea.

CLEMENTINE: Don't speak that way about my baby brother.

GLAZED: Aw, go try an egg.

CLEMENTINE: Don't talk to me like that! Hussy! (CLEMENTINE puts down drum [or placard]. Starts to roll up her sleeves as she advances on GLAZED.) I'll teach you a lesson in good manners.

GLAZED: (Fists up, ready to fight.) Come on, you old hen!

CLEMENTINE: Hen?! I'll show you who's chicken!

VIRGINIA: Go get her, Glazed. (They circle one another as SMILING SLADE CLAGGETT saunters out through the swinging doors. Talk about a cool [if slimy] gent! He's handsome in a sinister sort of way. Lean and mean. Frock coat, villain's moustache. Pocket watch on a chain. A gun belt with pistol(s) slung on the hip. Maybe spurs. He smiles a lot — but so does a crocodile.)
SMILING SLADE: Ladies, ladies. Such a lovely day. Let’s not quarrel.
CACTUS KATE: What happened, Dusty?
DUSTY: (Slapping dust from his pants.) I was giving out them
handbills like Clementine said I should, and Smiling Slade took
them away and booted me out.
VIRGINIA: What did you expect? Smiling Slade is running for
mayor, ain’t he?
GLAZED: Who wants competition?
SMILING SLADE: It was all a misunderstanding. (SMILING SLADE
notices CHUCK and CANDY.) Howdy, strangers.
CHUCK: Howdy.
CANDY: Hello.
SMILING SLADE: (Twists his moustache. To audience.) Pretty thing,
isn’t she? I never could resist a pretty thing that said hello. (He
chuckles in a rather wicked fashion.)
CHUCK: I suppose you’re wondering who I am.
SMILING SLADE: Not really.
CHUCK: In that case, I’ll introduce myself.
SMILING SLADE: It’s a free country.
CACTUS KATE: His name is Chuck Wagon.
MOTHER ROGERS: He’s a wagon master.
SMILING SLADE: What’s your name, pretty lady?
CANDY: My name is Candy Kane.
SMILING SLADE: How sweet.
CHUCK: I’m having trouble with my wheels. I’m camped up by
Whistling Skull Rock.
LETTY: We told him all about "The Snake."
SMILING SLADE: When I’m mayor, I intend to hunt down "The
Snake" and see that he’s severely punished for his evil-doing.
CITIZENS: (Don’t believe this.) Humph.
SMILING SLADE: As you can see, wagon master, the ladies of
Vinegar Bottle don’t have a very good opinion of me. I’m
afraid it’s because of my establishment. (Indicates.) The
Sarsaparilly Saloon. Whatever they may think of me, I’m an
honest businessman.
CITIZENS: Humph.
SMILING SLADE: I don’t serve rotgut. I serve sarsaparilla. The
gambling is little more than innocent fun. I don’t allow poker,
dice or wheel-of-fortune.
CHUCK: Sounds kind of dull, don’t it?
SMILING SLADE: Permit me to introduce the Hamm Sisters.
(Gestures to saloon girls.) Virginia and Glazed. (To VIRGINIA.)
She deals Fish. (To GLAZED.) She deals Old Maid.
CHUCK: A pleasure to make your acquaintance, ladies.
VIRGINIA/GLAZED: Hi, handsome.
CANDY: (Steps close to CHUCK.) Careful, Chuck. They're flirting.
CITIZENS: Humph. (SUE FLAY steps from the interior of the saloon.
A gorgeous creature -- but rotten at the core.)
SUE FLAY: Not having any trouble, are we, Smiling Slade?
SMILING SLADE: Nothing I can't handle. (CHUCK is struck dumb
by the physical beauty of SUE FLAY. He stares, bug-eyed.
SMILING SLADE notices.) My business associate and social
secretary, Miss Sue Flay.
CITIZENS: Humph.
SMILING SLADE: Sue Flay, meet Chuck Wagon. (With meaning.)
He's camped up by Whistling Skull Rock.
CANDY: With a wagon train.
CHUCK: I'm having wheel trouble.
SUE FLAY: Real trouble?
CHUCK: No, wheel trouble.
SUE FLAY: That's what I said. Real trouble.
SMILING SLADE: I'm delighted for you, Chuck Wagon. (To CANDY.)
And for you, Miss Candy Kane.
CANDY: Why are you delighted for us, sir?
SMILING SLADE: Because you've met me.
CITIZENS: Humph. (MUSIC: "Smiling Slade.")
SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) I'm Smiling Slade, the ace o' spade,
A highfalutin' son-of-a-gun,
A honky-tonky gamblin' man,
Bad-guy number one.

When it comes to villains, (Spoken.) watch out!,
(Sings.) I'm the undisputed best.
I'm slick, I'm quick, a maverick,
The outlaw king o' the West.

Jesse James done made his name
On a stealin' escapade.
But, Jesse James don't have the brains of
Good ol' Smiling Slade.

When Billy The Kid rode into town,
The people were afraid.
But, Billy The Kid can't crack a lid,
To good ol' Smilin' Slade.

SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) He's Smiling Slade,
The ace o' spade,

SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) A highfalutin' son-of-a-gun,
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) A honky-tonky gamblin' man,
SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) Bad-guy number one.
SLADE/SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) When it comes to villains
(Spoken.) . . . watch out!
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) He's the undisputed best.
He's slick, he's quick, a maverick,
SLADE/SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) The outlaw king o' the West.

SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) Ol' Sam Bass, mean 'n' crass,
A bandit ready-made.
But then alas, ol' Sam Bass
Ain't mean as Smilin' Slade.

It ain't fiction, it ain't show,
It ain't no charade
I'm the bestest man I know
I'm good ol' Smilin' Slade.

SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) He's Smiling Slade,
SMILING SLADE: (Spoken.) A renegade!
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) A highfalutin' son-of-a-gun,
A honky-tonky gamblin' man,
SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) Bad-guy number one.
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) When it comes to villains,
(Spoken.) watch out!
SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) I'm the undisputed best.
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) He's slick, he's quick, a maverick,
SLADE/SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) The outlaw king o' the West!

SMILING SLADE: (Sings.) I'm slick, I'm quick,
SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) a maverick,
SLADE/SUE FLAY/GLAZED/VIRGINIA: (Sing.) The outlaw king o' the West!
SMILING SLADE: (Spoken.) Yea. (To VIRGINIA and GLAZED.) There's work to be done, ladies. Get in there and mark those cards.

VIRGINIA: (To CHUCK.) See you, handsome.

GLAZED: (To CHUCK.) 'Bye now, wagon master. (They ENTER the saloon. CHUCK continues to be fascinated by SUE FLAY.)

CHUCK: I suppose you deal cards, too, Miss Sue Flay?
SUE FLAY: No. Chuck-a-luck.
CHUCK: Say, we got something in common.
SUE FLAY: Do we?
CHUCK: Yes, ma'am. You're Chuck-a-luck and I'm Chuck Wagon.
WOMEN: Humph! (Horrified, CANDY steps to audience.)
CANDY: Chuck seems to be interested in that Sue Flay woman. He
never looks at me like that.
SUE FLAY: I'll catch you around sometime. (She sashays into the
saloon.)
SMILING SLADE: Stop in anytime, wagon master. The "Sarsaparilly"
is famous for its Apache cole slaw. Try a plate. As for you,
Dusty, nice to have you in the race for mayor. Who knows you may
win. (Nasty.) Ha. Ha. Ha! (He saunters into the
saloon.)
MOTHER ROGERS: Don't have anything to do with that crowd,
wagon master. They're no good.
LETTY: I wouldn't be surprised to learn that Smiling Slade Claggett
was mixed up with "The Snake."
CHUCK: You ladies is mighty hard on the gentleman. Sounds like
the "Sarsaparilly" ain't such a bad place.
CACTUS KATE: All the games in there are crooked. Just like
Claggett and Sue Flay. I know bad pennies when I see them.
Well, can't stand here gabbing. Got work to do. (She gives the
tablecloth another shake and EXITS LEFT into hotel.)
CLEMENTINE: Looks like I'm going to need some more handbills,
Mother Rogers.
MOTHER ROGERS: Come on over to the Bugle and I'll run some
off.
CLEMENTINE: Let's go, little brother.
DUSTY: I don't want to be mayor. I want to go prospecting with my
mule.
CLEMENTINE: I said -- (Sweeping gesture UP RIGHT.) Let's go! (As
fast as his bowlegs will carry him, he crosses UP RIGHT and
OUT. CLEMENTINE FOLLOWS.)
MOTHER ROGERS: I'd like to do an interview with you, Chuck.
Hear about some of your experiences on the Santa Fe Trail.
CHUCK: Fine by me.
CANDY: (With admiration.) Chuck has all kinds of exciting stories.
CHUCK: Shucks.
CLEMENTINE'S VOICE: (Yelling from OFFSTAGE.) Mother Rogers!
LETTY: Clementine sure is anxious about this election for mayor.
MOTHER ROGERS: Coming! (Moves UP RIGHT, holding high a
newspaper.) Read all about it in the Vinegar Bottle Bugle! (As
MOTHER ROGERS starts to EXIT, the schoolmarm, MINERVA
SPRINGWELL, ENTERS DOWN RIGHT below the "Sarsaparilly." She wears a tiny hat and holds her hands together in prim fashion. Following her are two pupils, each about 13 or 14, JUDY and SALLY [EXTRA PUPILS, if desired]. They are like smaller editions of their teacher. Hands held the same way, hats with trailing ribbons. MINERVA and PUPILS cross in front of CHUCK and CANDY, repeating some lesson.)

MINERVA/PUPILS: "Do good, do good, there's ever a way,
A way where there's ever a will;
Don't wait till to-morrow, but do it to-day,
And to-day, when the morrow comes, still."

LETTY: (To audience.) Whatever that means.

MINERVA: (Indicates chairs in front of hotel.) Over there, pupils.

PUPILS: Yes, Miss Springwell. (They march to the table and sit, quiet and straight.)

MINERVA: You must be the wagon master Evening Star spoke of.

CHUCK: Chuck Wagon.

MINERVA: I'm Minerva Springwell. I'm the schoolmarm.

CANDY: I didn't expect to meet a schoolmarm until I was in California. Wait until I tell my Cousin Dulcy. She's interested in education.

MINERVA: That famous Señorita Juanita Fandango is staying at the hotel. She's promised to speak to my students. Culture is rare in Vinegar Bottle.

CANDY: I've read about the señorita. (Impressed.) She is famous. (COOKIE, JUANITA's maid, ENTERS LEFT from the hotel.

COOKIE: Okay, schoolmarm. Señority Fandango is ready for you. She's waiting in the lobby.

MINERVA: Thrilling. (To PUPILS.) Remember. Best behavior.

PUPILS: Yes, Miss Springwell. Best behavior. (PUPILS march into hotel.)

COOKIE: (To MINERVA.) If they want autographs, they're two bits apiece.

MINERVA: You mean a quarter of a dollar?

COOKIE: That's what I said -- two bits.

LETTY: Seems expensive.

COOKIE: Usually she gives them for nothing, but she's flat broke. She was robbed y'know. Not just her money, but her fabulous diamond necklace.

MINERVA: I know, I know. Terrible. (COOKIE CROSSES LEFT to hotel. To CHUCK and CANDY,) This town will never be civilized until "The Snake" is captured and put into a basket with bars. (From inside the hotel comes a SQUEAL OF DELIGHT from the
PUPILS.) That must be the señorital (Crosses for hotel.) Imagine! A star in Vinegar Bottle! (EXITs to hotel.)

LETTY: How about it, wagon master? Can I join up with you? Ain't safe to cross the desert all alone. If it was, I'd have been out of here long ago.

CHUCK: I can't let you hitch for free. Like I told you -- the wagon train is a partnership. It's like a corporation. (Dejected, LETTY EXITs UP RIGHT.)

LETTY: It's all because of that miserable snake, "The Snake." (She's OUT.)

CANDY: Chuck, can't we help that poor woman?

CHUCK: I sure would like to. But wagon train rules is wagon train rules. I'll speak to the others and see what they say.

CANDY: Good thinking, Chuck. (As CANDY and CHUCK speak, EVENING STAR ENTERS UP RIGHT. With her is ALIBI CRABTREE, a jack-of-all-trades. EVENING STAR points to CHUCK, EXITs. ALIBI crosses down.)

ALIBI: You Chuck Wagon?

CHUCK: Right the first time, mister.

ALIBI: Name's Crabtree. Alibi Crabtree.

CHUCK: You're the wheelwright.

ALIBI: Huh?

CANDY: You're the man who fixes wagon wheels.

ALIBI: I fix just about anything that needs fixing. I'm the handyman in Vinegar Bottle. My shop's down the road a piece. Next to the "I'm O.K. You're O.K. Corral." I fix wheels, I officiate at hangings and I pull teeth.

CHUCK: I got a loose tooth you might look at. We had a bad stretch of trail--

ALIBI: (Interrupting.) No need to tell me. Up around Whistling Skull Rock. That stretch of trail is plain murder on wagon wheels.

CHUCK: How long do you think it will take?

ALIBI: I'll have to see the damage first. If it's not too bad, I'll have you out of here in a day or so.

CHUCK: That's good to hear. (ALIBI EXITs UP RIGHT as SUE FLAY sashays from the "Sarsaparilly." She has a parasol, opens it. Strikes a pose. CHUCK notices. CANDY notices CHUCK noticing.)

CANDY: (To audience.) He's doing it again. He's looking at Miss Sue Flay with the eyes of a beagle puppy.

CHUCK: Howdy, Miss Sue Flay.

SUE FLAY: Howdy yourself, Chuckie. (Almost struck dumb, CHUCK turns to CANDY with an idiotic grin on his face.)

End of script preview.
PRODUCTION NOTES

STAGE PROPERTIES:

MAIN STREET:
Front of the "Sarsaparilly Saloon" [swinging doors], front of hotel, small table with 2 chairs, scenic drop or scenery flats with Western "vista" painted on.

CABIN:
Table with 3 chairs or stools, coffee cups and pot, poker chips, cards, large tin can and 3 pillowcase masks (under table).

WHISTLING SKULL ROCK:
Large "cutout" rock or boulder that somewhat resembles a skull.

ACT ONE

Scene One: Rifle (WILD BILL), holster and gun(s) (CHUCK).
Scene Two: Tablecloth (CACTUS KATE), newspapers (MOTHER ROGERS), horn, handbills (EVENING STAR), drum or placard sign reading: "Dusty for Mayor" (CLEMENTINE), coins, slips of paper (PUPILS), pencil (JUANITA), parasol (SUE FLAY), coin (CHUCK), parchment paper (COOKIE), large diamond necklace (SMILING SLADE), small American flags (PUPILS).
Scene Three: Guns with holsters (OUTLAWS).
Scene Five: Cash box, roll of tickets (COOKIE), money (CITIZENS), 2 silver dollars [or bills] (CHUCK), castanets (JUANITA), the large diamond necklace (SUE FLAY).

ACT TWO

Scene One: Newspapers, toy horn (EVENING STAR), rifle (ALIBI), necklace (LT. PORRIDGE).
Scene Three: Jail bars and stool [set prior to scene opening], plate and napkin (CACTUS KATE, EVENING STAR), hangman's noose [dropped from overhead or held on a pole by SMILING SLADE].
Scene Four: Coffee pot (DALLAS).
Scene Five: Election signs (CITIZENS).

SOUND:
Gunfire -- plenty of it and LOUD. Optional sound of jingling spurs.

COSTUMES:
The usual "Old West" old-time melodrama assortment. Long dresses, Levi's, cowboy hats, boots, bonnets. SUE FLAY'S saloon gown should
be a knockout. VIRGINIA and GLAZED might wear can-can outfits. JUANITA in fancy Spanish dress.

THE SET:
Simplicity itself. If you can’t manage realistic building facades for the saloon and the hotel, consider this: use swinging doors only for the "Sarsaparilly." Or make both the saloon and hotel look like cartoon cutouts. Instead of entering and exiting, characters can appear from around the sides of the scenery flats. This also quickly establishes the "lampoon/spoof" quality of the show.

EXTRAS:
If you want a larger cast, add more citizens, pupils, can-can girls, an extra outlaw or two, soldiers. Don’t be afraid to divide or reassign dialogue lines. If you want a smaller cast, combine SALLY and JUDY, STRAIGHT-SHOOTING SAM and THE ARIZONA KID, etc. Adapt to your individual needs.

IMPORTANT:
KEEP IT MOVING. NO DEAD SPOTS. Remember -- silly can be funny, too. The biggest laugh will come from the GUNFIRE sequences. The sound effect MUST BE LOUD AND BANG/BANG/BANG. The fact that it is so absurd is what makes it funny. Don’t end these sequences too soon or you’ll kill a BIG laugh. To give added impact to the gunfire, you might discharge some blanks from OFFSTAGE (assign a gunmaster to fire the blanks).
We hope you’ve enjoyed this script sample.

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