

Cowboy Poetry

Target Practice

by Stan Tixier

A rancher heard some shootin and he didnt know the reason,
Twas 2 full weeks and 3 more days before the huntin season,
He reined his horse 'round toward the noise and in a little while
He came to his new windmill tower, built in the old-time style.



There leanin' on the corral
fence, a guy in orange clothes
Was sightin' in his rifle, so the
rancher would suppose,
And parked nearby, a pickup
truck, so bright and shiny new
Was obviously the orange
guy's, and it was pretty too.

The guy was shootin' at the
blades of that big windmill fan,
And bullet holes were in each
one as slowly 'round it ran,

The rancher stepped down off his horse to start a conversation,
He said, "By doggies mister, that's some kind of recreation!

"Oh yes," the shooter-man replied, "I'm checking out my gun,
And shooting moving targets is most helpful and it's fun,
The rifle's an ought-six," he said, "the scope's a seven-power,
I've shot a box of bullets at that stupid windmill

"Mind if I have a look at it?" the rancher asked the guy,
"Oh sure, the fellow answered, "and you might give it a try,"
And so, he peered into the scope and started sightin' 'round,
While steppin' on spent cartridges a-coverin' the ground.

And then he aimed the other way, toward the pickup truck,
And started plinkin' headlights, also fenders, and as luck
Would have it he hit everyone that came within his view,
At last the gun was empty and the truck, no longer new.

The rifle-owner, stunned and shocked, began to rant and rave,
He shouted at the rancher, "Hey, that's no way to behave!
The truck is mine and it's brand new and it's not paid for yet!
His face was flushed, his body shook and he began to sweat!

The rancher listened calmly then gave back the empty gun,
And said, "I'd like to stay awhile, but now I've gotta' run,
"And I should complement ya', bud, your rifle shoots just fine,
I figured that the truck was yours, but that-there windmill's
mine!"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Frasier:

Vegetation in arid and semi-arid areas around the world is typically blue or gray in color, such as sagebrush in North America. I am interested in determining the chemical nature of the bluish pigments, and the physiological roles of this coloration. I have asked numerous range scientists, botanists and plant physiologists, without obtaining an answer. I have consulted numerous texts and reference books in areas of botany and plant biochemistry, with no success. Because many range scientists deal with such vegetation as sagebrush, I am hoping that someone out there knows the answers, and will reply to the *Journal* with a Letter to the Editor.

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