

OLD WEST DETAILS

PEOPLE TERMS-Men

barber's cat: half-starved, sickly-looking person
barber's clerk: conceited, over-dressed fellow who tries to act like a "gentleman"
barrel boarder: bum
between hay and grass: neither man nor boy, half-grown
b'hoys: noisy young men of the lower ranks of society
big guns: men of importance, great people
black-leg: a gambler
blatherskite: blustering, noisy, talkative fellow
blue belly: a Yankee
box herder: person in charge of the "girls" at a brothel or saloon
bub: brother
buffalo soliders: black soldiers of US army who fought Indians in frontier years following Civil War
bull: officer of the law
bulldozer: big person
button: young boy
chap: a boy, lad, fellow
converter: preacher
cottonwood blossom: man lynched from limb of a tree
curly wolf: real tough guy, dangerous man
curmudgeon: churlish fellow, a miser
flannel mouth: overly smooth or fancy talker, especially politicians or salesmen
gone coon: a goner, past recover, a lost man
goney: a stupid fellow
high binder: dangerous and vicious man or horse
high-grader: in mining camps, a man who stole any big nuggets which he saw in the sluice boxes
leather-necks: soldiers
like a thoroughbred: like a gentleman
lily liver: a coward
longrider: an outlaw, someone who usually had to stay in the saddle for an extended period of time while on the run from a crime

lubber: sturdy man, idle, fat, bulky fellow
Mary: an effeminate homosexual
Miss Nancy: an effeminate man
Molly: effeminate young man
mop: habitual drunk
moss-backs: old fogies, men behind the times, slow to learn
mouldy grubs: traveling showmen
mouth-bet: gambling man who only gives verbal promises to pay
mouthpiece: lawyer
mugwump: Indian word meaning captain, leader or notable person
muleskinner: person who drives and usually rides in a wagon pulled by mules
mush-head: stupid, witness fellow
Nancy: effeminate man
of the first water: first class gentleman
old pod: old man
Old Scratch: the devil
owl hoot: an outlaw
pennyweighter: in mining camps, a person who stole very small quantities of gold from mining operation for whom he worked
petticoat pensioner: man who lives on prostitute's earnings (a Sunday-man)
pie eater: country boy, a rustic
porch percher: town loafer
rip: reprobate
road agent: a robber, bandit, desperado
russer/rusher: dashing, sensation-causing man
saphead: blockhead, a stupid fellow
scamp: worthless fellow
scape-grace: graceless fellow
shack: vagabond, low fellow
shote: idle, worthless man
sin-buster: preacher
skeezick: mean contemptible fellow
slink: a sneaking fellow
snapperhead: impertinent fellow
snipper-snapper: effeminate young man
sole-slogger: shoe-maker
sonk: a stupid fellow
speeler: a gambler
spooney: stupid or silly fellow, also a disgusting drunk

spoops: soft-brained fellow, one whose manners are objectionable
sportsman: a gambler
squatter: one who settles on land without legal title
squirtish: dandified
stevedore: man employed in loading unloading vessels
sticker: butcher or slaughterer
tee-totaller: a thorough temperance man, who avoids every kind of ardent spirits, wine and beer
ten-cent man: a small, narrow-minded, trifling man
tin-horn Lot: term used to express contempt towards a small-minded or mean fellow
too big for his breeches: said of a man who is above his business, arrogant, haughty
whaler: a big, strapping fellow
wheel-horse: an intimate friend, one's right hand man
whoremonger: a man who frequents prostitutes
wolfer: a man with a large appetite or a hard drinker
Yegg (or John Yegg): bandit chief
yellow belly: coward

PEOPLE TERMS-Women

Angelicas: young unmarried women
biddy: hen, nagging or complaining woman
blue stocking: epithet applied to literary ladies
California widow: woman separated from her husband, but not divorced (from when pioneer men went West, leaving their wives to follow later)
catalogue woman: mail order bride
cattle Kate: female cattle rustler
girls of the line: prostitutes
grass widow: a divorcee
left-handed wife: mistress
loller: sportive damsel
mab: a harlot
man-trap: a widow
Nanny: prostitute
nymphs du prairie: prostitutes
painted cat: prostitute
painted lady: prostitute

piece of calico: a girl or a woman
plain-headed: a lady that is not good looking
rib: wife
sage hen: a woman
school ma'am or marm: school-mistress, teacher
shake: prostitute
shakester: a female
slommack: prostitute, floozie, slut
slummy: servant girl
soiled dove: prostitute
strumpet: prostitute
tottie: a fast girl
trat: a pretty girl
truk/trug: a prostitute of the lowest class, usually dirty, slatternly
twofer: a loose woman
wag-tail: prostitute

PEOPLE TERMS-Other

barrow-tram: rawboned, awkward looking person
biggest toad in the puddle: most important person in a group
chickabiddy: endearment for children
coffee boiler: shirker, lazy person
coot: an idiot, simpleton, a ninny
copperhead: Northern person with Southern, anti-Union sympathies
cross-patch: ill-tempered person
four-flusher: a cheat, swindler, liar
gay cat: one who cases banks and towns for future jobs
gringo: Anglos
gull: a cheat, fraud or trick
gump: foolish person, a dolt
guttersnipe: homeless child who roamed and slept in the streets
high-falutin: highbrow, fancy, self-important, pompous
mudsill: uneducated, working class, low-life, disreputable person
mumper: beggar
nibbler: petty thief
nipper: baby or small child
no account: of no account, worthless
nosey Parker: someone who is nosey
odd fish/odd stick: person who is eccentric or odd in his manners
poppet: endearment term
queer fish: odd or eccentric person

scalawag: mean, rotten or worthless person
screamer: extraordinary person
scrouger: a bouncing fellow or girl
schruncher: one who eats greedily
Shaney/Shanny: a fool
shaver: child or young person of either sex
shave tail: green, inexperienced person
skin-flint: tight or close-fisted person with their money
slang-whanger: a writer or noisy talker
small fry: young children
softy: silly person, half-witted
stick: an inefficient person
strapper: a woman of bulky form; a large, tall person
strapping: huge, lusty, bouncing person
suck egg: silly person
too much mustard: a braggart
tote: a hard drinker
unsalted: fresh, green, young, inexperienced
yack: a stupid person

COWBOY TERMS-for People

big bug: important person, official, boss
brand artist: rustler who alters brands with a branding iron
brushwhacker: raw countryman, green-horn; also applies to ambushers
bullwhacker: person who drives a team of oxen, usually walking beside them
charro: gentleman rider of Mexico; often exhibit a very flashy style of riding and use ornate dress and gear
dude: Easterner or anyone in up-scale town clothes; wanna-be wranglers
greenhorn: an Easterner; aka greeners, green peas and tenderfoots
grub line rider: cowboy pan handler who hangs around a cow camp for free food until he is kicked out then proceeds to find another camp and starts over

gunsel: a person with limited knowledge of livestock and cowboy ways, a derogatory term
mutton-puncher: shepherd, cowboys term for
plow chaser: farmer
ride for the brand: to be loyal to the ranch and rancher that pays a cowboy
rustler: someone who steals cattle
saddle bum: drifter
shaded-up: can be applied to cowboys, cattle or horses—pulled into a shady spot to rest
shadow riding: a cowboy that rides along, admiring his own gear and his own shadow
sodbuster: farmer
soft-horn: tenderfoot
tenderfoot: a person new to the job, or a young person
twister: horse breaker
vaquero: Spanish term for a man who takes care of cattle, Mexican cowboy
waddy: temporary worker hired as extra help, drifted from ranch to ranch

COWBOY-Types & Terms

auger: big boss
big sugar: ranch owner
bobtail guard: first cowboy guarding the cattle at night
bronc buster: cowboy with a special skill in taming (breaking) wild horses to be ridden
buckaroo: cowboy usually from the desert country of Oregon, Nevada, California or Idaho; often wear flat hats, chinks, and ride A-fork saddles with post horns and bucking rolls
caporal: ranch foreman or roundup boss
cattle baron: cattle owner with numerous herds of stock, wielding power and influence in an area
cattleman: person who tends or breeds cattle; rancher who raises cattle on a large scale; owner of a cattle ranch
chopper: cowboy who cuts out the cattle during a roundup

chuck-line rider: unemployed cowboy who rode from ranch to ranch, exchanging news and gossip for a meal (grub-line rider)

CHUCK WAGON COOK: ranch cook who typically drove the chuck wagon and prepared food; aka bean master, biscuit roller, biscuit shooter, cookie, coosie, grease belly,

COWBOY: man who herds and tends cattle on a ranch, who traditionally goes about most of his work on horseback; aka buckaroo, bull nurse, cowhand, cowpoke, cowprod, cowpuncher, jackeroo, monkey ward cowboy, saddle stiff, saddle warmer,

cow boss: in charge of the cattle operation on a ranch, answer to the general manager

cowgirl: female cowboy

cowman: ranch owner that makes a living raising cattle

cut his suspenders: a departed cowboy

drag rider: cowboy following the herd pushing the stragglers

drover: person who drives cattle or sheep to market; dealer in cattle

flank rider: cowboy riding along the sides of the herd keeping it bunched

forked: a cowboy that can really ride a bronc well

hand: person employed in manual labor or for general duties

jigger or jigger boss: second in command to the buckaroo boss

lead riders: two cowboys that ride on each side of the 'lead steers' in a trail herd, push the cattle in the direction they want the herd to move

line rider: cowboys that guarded the ranch boundaries (outriders)

lone star: an independent cowboy

mail-order cowboy: tenderfoot, urban cowboys who arrived from the East all decked out in fancy but hardly practical Western garb

night hawk: cowboy on a cattle drive who drew the short straw and had to stay up all night standing guard

night wrangler: cowboy that herds and cares for the saddle horses during the night

peeler: a horse breaker

point rider: cowboy who rides in front of a herd and provides something for the animals to follow

RANCHER: person who owns or works on a ranch business

ranahan: top cowhand (ranny)

range boss: manager of a cow outfit out on the range

saddle tramp: cowboy who spends most of his time in the chuck line

sagebrush men: cowboy who worked in the arid portions of Montana, Colorado and Wyoming

suitcase rancher: absentee rancher

swing riders: cowboys that keep the main body of the trail herd together and keep them moving

tally-man: cowboy that stands beside the branding-fire at a roundup and makes a tally mark for each animal branded, ear-marked, and vaccinated, showing to whom it belongs

tie-man: cowboy roper that ties the end of his rope to his saddle horn while roping horses or cattle

wrangler: person on a ranch or cattle drive who takes care of the horses

RANCH-Building & Parts of

line camp: crude shacks or camps on outermost boundaries of a ranch

candy wagon: a vehicle that hauls the grub and supplies to line camps

open range: extensive area of open land for cattle to graze on

ACTION-Related to Ranching

branding: marking cattle or horses with a hot iron imprinting the owner's symbol

bronc busting/breaking: training an animal to accept being ridden

build a loop: shaking out a coil of rope in preparation for roping

cattle drive: movement of a herd of cattle from ranches and grazing

lands to railroad lines for shipment to meat-packing plants farther east
cowpunching: driving the cattle to market

cutting out: separating young calves out to be branded

dally: wrap taken around the saddle horn with the tail end of a lariat rope

drive: moving a herd of cattle by surrounding them with cowboys and guiding the cattle in the right direction

hazin: to move cattle or horses slowly along in the direction you want them to go

hog tie: to tie both back legs and one front leg of an animal together securely so they can't get up

punching doggies: cowpunching, driving cattle to market

riding fence: checking to see if the ranch's fences needed repair

roundup: gathering all the cattle on the ranch to get a head count, or sheep or pigs

trailing: moving cattle from one location to another

uncorkin' a bronc: breaking a horse

ACTION-Related to Other

boil over: horse that starts bucking
curry the kinks out: to break a horse

draw: drawing your gun "border style" by pulling your pistol, worn backward in the holster, by putting your arm across the front of your body; popular around Mexican border

dry gulch: to ambush someone, especially when the ambusher hides in a gully or gulch near a road and jumps the passersby

dusted: thrown from a horse

folded up: horse bucking

fork a hoss: to ride a horse

gaff: to spur a horse

gig: spur a horse

grassed: to be thrown from a horse

hopped for mama: a horse bucking

kettled: a horse bucking

lasso: to rope

pulling leather: holding onto the saddle horn to keep from getting thrown when a horse is bucking (grabbing the apple)

rim-fire: when a cowboy gets his rope caught under his horse's tail, usually while roping cattle

sidelining: using a set of hobbles between the front and back leg on the same side, this prevents the horse from loping away as is possible with normal hobbles

slatted its sails: a horse bucking
stampede: when a herd of cattle gets spooked or scared and gallop away in a wild panic

sunfishing: a bucking horse twists his body in the shape of a crescent

squeeze the biscuit: grabbing the saddle horn (not something a cowboy wants to get caught doing)

string: line of horses

wrinkled his spine: a horse bucking

ANIMALS-Cattle Related Terms

acorn calf: weak or runty calf

bed ground: where cattle are held at night

beeves: cattle

bossy: calf

bovine: an ox, cow, or buffalo

bull: male bovine used to father cattle in a herd of cows

calf: young animal from domestic cattle, baby cow

cattle: any domesticated animal of the genus *Bos*, including cows, steers, and bulls

cow: female bovine

dairy cow: cow kept for the milk it gives; aka milking cow

dogie: a calf without a mother

dry cow: cow not giving milk between births

earmark: distinctive cut in a cow's ear to show ownership

fresh cow: cow that has born a calf and is now giving milk

heifer: young cow that has not yet had a calf

maverick: a cow whose owner was unknown, usually unbranded

moss head: very old steer

muley: a cow without horns, or one-horned cow

ANIMALS-Horse Related Terms

at the ropes: horses gathered at a ranch into a rope corral, trained to stand with their heads facing the rope

bake: to overheat a horse by riding too fast, long or hard

bangtail: wild horse, mustang

barefoot: unshod horse

bay: horse of light-red color

bell mare: generally older mares wearing a bell, used as leaders in pack trains or put in a remuda to locate where horses are grazing at night

broke horse: horse that has been given some education; ***green-broke horse*** is partially trained; ***well-broke horse*** is well-trained

bronco: wild horse never been broken to saddle or harness use; aka bronc

broom-tail: class or range horses that are considered not worth much

buckskin: tan or yellow colored horse with blank mane and tail

buzzard bait: worn out horse

caiyuse: cowboy's steed, a range-bred horse

cold-backed: a horse that has a tendency to buck when initially mounted in the morning

colt: uncastrated male horse up to and including the age of three years

cow horse: horse with the ability to anticipate the behavior of cattle, trained to roping, cutting, working out a cow-herd

cow sense: what a horse has when it has a natural ability to use for roping, cutting, and general cow work

critter: what a cowboy often calls cows or horses

crowbait: poor-quality horse

crow hop: stiff legged jumps by a horse; can also happen when a horse is trying to stop forward motion and the rider is handling the reins incorrectly (Frog walking)

cutting horse: horse specially trained to single out (cut) a steer from a herd

draft horse: large, strong work horse that pull heavy loads

dun: a type of gene inheritance, dun factor acts on the base coat color and usually lightens it a shade or two

filly: young female horse or mare up to and including the age of three years

flaxey: blonde colored or flaxen mane or tail on a horse

foal: young horse under one-year old

gelding: castrated male horse; a range custom to let a male colt run on the range until he becomes a 2-year-old before castration

glass-eyed: blue or white eyed horse

gouch eared: having ragged or cropped ears

grulla: mouse colored horse, a mousy-dun

Indian broke: horse trained to be mounted from the right side (cowboys mount from the left side)

Indian side: right side of a horse

lunkhead: horse of inferior breed or appearance

mare: female horse four years of age or over

mustang: wild horse, or a specific breed of horse

outlaw: an extremely wild animal that cannot be broke or ridden

owl-headed horse: a horse that looks around a lot

Paint: horse covered in irregular patches of white; aka calico, piebald, pied, pinto, spotted

Palomino: golden colored horse with a light or white colored mane and tail

Percheron: breed of heavy draft horse known for its steady temperament, intelligence and willingness to work

puddin' foot: an awkward horse
rafter-hipped: horses with a low tail set

remuda: ranch's collection of saddle horses; aka cavy

rollers: snorting, rattling sound made by a horse when he is spooked
rough string: saddle horses that buck every time they are saddled
scrub: horse of little value
shot its back: horse bucking
snuffy: wild or spirited horse
soft horse: horse with little stamina
stallion: an uncastrated male horse four years old and over
string: group of several horses designated for used by a cowboy; each horse has a different athletic ability and disposition
two-rein horse: a step in the horse's training progression, the horse goes from snaffle bit to hackamore to two-rein to bridle
war knot: tail knot used to keep the horse's tail out of the way while working; used by buckaroos and vaqueros
weedy: horses and cows eat too much black sage or other plant instead of normal diet and causing malnutrition, often effecting an animal's thinking
widow maker: a very bad or "outlaw" horse
yearling: one-year old horse

ANIMALS-Other Terms

bell: to trim an animal's tail into a distinctive bell shaped pattern, often used on mules for identification to show where a horse or mule should be in a pack string
breachy: unruly oxen
desert canary: a burro
donkey: member of the ass family; male donkey is a *jack*; female donkey is a *jennet* or *jenny*
ewe: mature, female sheep
flock: group of sheep kept together
grunter: a hog
herd: a number of animals of one kind kept together
hinny: male horse crossed with a female donkey
lamb: male or female sheep less than one-year old

livestock: domestic animals, such as cattle or horses, which are raised on a farm
locoed: horses and cattle become addicted to eating Loco weed, become thin, injury to eyesight, muscular control and brain
mule: male donkey crossed with a female horse
Old Dan: trustworthy mule
prairie tenor: coyote
ram: mature male sheep
Rocky Mountain Canary: a burro
stock: all animals kept or raised on a farm
stray: an animal found strayed away from its owner or from the range where it belongs

SADDLES & EQUIPMENT

bedroll: bed made up of blankets and quilts wrapped up in a tarp, fastens or snaps on the sides; a cowboy's suitcase; aka sugans, soogans, hot rolls, flea trap, dream sacks, shake down
bit: metal mouthpiece on a bridle that is connected to the reins, together used to steer the horse
blind: leather blindfold used when saddling an unruly horse
catgut: rawhide rope
caveson: muzzle for a horse
cinch: strap which goes around the horses belly to hold the saddle on
clove hitch: knot used to tie a rope or lariat to a post
coil: rope
English saddle: aka kidney pad, pancake
full-rigged: saddle that is completely leather-covered
gut line: rawhide rope
hackamore: bitless bridle
half-hitch: knot used by cowboys to tie a lariat to saddle horn
hen skin bedding: cover stuffed with feathers; aka hen skins
hobbles: restraints that fasten around a horses's front legs below the ankle, to keep him from running off while the cowboys is out of the saddle; commonly used during the night when the cowboy was on open range

honda: a metal, rope, or rawhide ring, through which a rope slides to make a loop; aka hondo
Hoolihan: a style of loop used when throwing a rope: a loop thrown over the head with the wrist turned backwards often used for roping horses
lariat: a long braided rope of rawhide, hemp, polyester or nylon
lasso: lariat tied with a special knot so that the lariat could be tightened when thrown over the head of a steer or horse
mochilla: rectangular leather saddlebag, popularized by the Pony Express
piggins string: short piece of rope carried on saddle or chaps
poke: pouch or bag used to carry small personal items
popper: leather pieces attached to the end of reins, romal, or quirt that make a popping noise when slapped on the chaps
quirt: weighted, short-handled whip made of braided rawhide or leather
reata: (riata) braided or twisted rawhide rope
reins: strap that runs from the bridle bit around the horse's neck that is held and manipulated by the cowboy, apply pressure on a horse's mouth and neck in order to steer the animal
reloading outfit: eating utensils, cups and a plate for cowboys
rope strap: a strap, usually of leather and fitted with a buckle, attached to the pommel of a saddle used for attaching a catch rope
SADDLE: aka hull, hurricane deck, rig, wood
saddle horn: aka apple, biscuit, lizzy, nubin
stirrup: an apparatus hung from both sides of a saddle where the cowboy puts his feet as he rides his horse
tapaderas: leather coverings over the stirrup; called "taps"
teepee: small canvas tent used by cowboys when camping out on the range

war bag: what cowboys carried their meager worldly possessions in, an extra set of clothes, extra ammunition, spare parts for equipment, playing cards, bill of sale for his horse, harmonica, few precious letters (war sack)

WEAPONS

Arkansas toothpick: long, sharp knife

big fifty: .50 caliber Sharps rifle used by professions for buffalo hunting

black snake: long whip

Bowie-knife: knife from 10-15 inches long and 2 inches broad

dirk: dagger

go heeled: to carry a six-shooter; aka packing iron

gun: aka Old Betsy, Old Blue, Old Rackatee, persuader, canister

Navy model: Colt firearms; aka peacemaker

pack iron: to carry a revolver

pig sticker: knife or bayonet

pistol: aka barking iron, equalizer, plow handle, thumbbuster, cutter, smoke poles, hawg leg

revolver: rod, cannon

six-gun: black-eyed Susan, blue lightning

CLOTHING-Cowboys

Angora chaps: covered with long Angora goat hair, used in Wyoming and Montana and open prairie country as a protection from the cold; aka woolies

bandana: cloth made of silk or cotton worn around the neck to protect against winds, rain and sunburn

batwings: long chaps with big flaps of leather, usually fasten with rings and snaps

chaparreros: leather leggings with wide flaps worn over pants for protection against cactus and range plants (later called *chaps*)

chap guard: small upswept metal projection on top of spur shank to help keep a cowboy's chaps from

fouling in the rowel; not on all spurs

chinks: short chaps or riding apron, usually with fringe, they come just below the knee

choke strap: necktie

concha: silver or metal ornament found on tack, sometimes used to hold parts together like a nut and bolt

cowboy boots: high topped boots made with high heels to keep them from slipping through saddle stirrups and as a brace in roping, soles are usually slick leather to keep them from catching when dismounting; aka mudpipes, mule-ears, shop-mades

cowboy hat: usually with a 4 to 6-inch brim; hats and shapes are very regional

cuffs: leather wrist cuffs used for protection against brush, to protect shirt sleeves from wear, and to keep a rope from fouling in shirt sleeves

fish: rain slicker, from a rain gear manufacturer whose trademark was a fish logo

four-horse roll: old-style way of turning up the cuffs on Levis about 4 inches; sometimes used for depositing cigarette ashes if you were in a house

gallowses: suspenders, braces

hair case: hat

hair pants: chaps made from a hair-covered hide

jingle bobs: metal pieces dangling from the rowel that make a bell-like ringing when the spurs move

John B: cowboy hat (named after hat maker John B Stetson)

leggings: South Texas term for chaps

molocher: cheap hat

Packer boots: laced and generally made of heavier leather for cold weather, hiking and hard riding

round-rimmers: hats with a round rim

rowel: the disk or star set in the end of the spur's shaft or post, turns as the rider's heel touches the horse's sides

shotgun chaps: tight legged chaps, can be pulled on as trousers,

having no snaps and rings

slicker: waterproof long coat to protect the rider and saddle from rain or snow

sombrero: Spanish term for a broad brimmed hat

SPURS: sharp devices worn on cowboys' boots used to kick horses to make them go faster; made of heel band, shank and rowel; aka can openers, diggers, hell rousers, knobs, marions, rib wrenches, steel

spur strap: leather band that hold a spur on the boot

stampede string: long leather string run half way round the crown of a hat then through a hole on each side and ends knotted, placed under chin or around back of head to keep hat in place

stogies: cheap, secondhand boots

trotter boxes/trotter cases: shoes or boots

war bonnet: hat

wild rag: kerchief or scarf worn at the neck, sometimes elaborately knotted

CLOTHING-Other Men

stove-pipe: silk hat

CLOTHING-Women

bandero: widow's weeds

bustle: pad stuffed with cotton or feathers, worn by ladies for double purpose of giving greater prominence to the hips and setting off the smallness of the waist; aka bishop, rat trap

calash: covering for the head, usually worn by ladies to protect their head-dresses when going to evening parties

cardinal: woman's cloak

dowd: a woman's night-cap

poke bonnet: long, straight bonnet, worn by Quakers and Methodists

wrapper: a loose dress or gown

LINGO-Food, Drink, Eating

Adam's ale: water

airtights: canned goods, such as canned beans, milk or fruit

axle grease: butter

bear sign: donuts made while on the range

belly wash: weak coffee

bend an elbow: have a drink

bender: someone on a drinking binge

biscuit: aka doughgoods, sinker

Blackstrap: gin and molasses

black water: weak coffee

blue John: skimmed milk

bogus: liquor made of rum and molasses

brown gargle: coffee

chaw: chew

chitterlings: intestines of a pig prepared as food

chow: food, dinner

chuck: food

chuck wagon chicken: fried bacon

cow grease: butter (cow salve)

cracker: small hard biscuit

DRUNK: aka corned, fuddled, mauled, roistered, snapped, whittled, full as a tick, shot in the neck

flap-jack: fried cake, pancake, fritter

goat meat: venison killed out of season

grab a root: eat a meal, especially a potato

greens: leaves and green vegetables used for food

grub pile: meal or the chuckwagon

horn: glass of liquor, ale or beer

horse thief special: raisin and boiled rice dish

jerked meat: beef and other kinds of fresh meat dried in open air with salt

jerky: strips of dried meat that could be stored for long periods

John Barleycorn: beer

Liquor: aka firewater, strongo, Morman tea, rookus juice, tongue oil, tonsil paint

love apples: canned tomatoes

Mexican strawberries: dried beans

mountain oysters: fried or roasted calves' testicles (prairie oysters)

music root: sweet potato

mysterries: sausages, because many didn't know what they were made of

overland trout: bacon

paintin' his nose: getting drunk

painting one's tonsils: drinking alcohol

peck: eat voraciously

pecker: appetite

peckish: hungry

Pecos strawberries: beans

pemmican: choice parts of meal dried over slow fire and put into

bags made of skin of the slain animal, into which a portion of melted fat is then poured; easily carried food substance on frontier

prairie oysters: fried or roasted calves' testicles (mountain oysters)

prog: food, provisions of any kind

put on the nose bag: to eat

roastineer: corn roasted over an open fire while still in husks

salt-water vegetables: oysters and clams

sharp set: hungry

sipper: gravy

six-shooter coffee: strong coffee

skink: to serve a drink

skunk eggs: onions

slap-jacks: pancakes

slush: grease or fat from salt meat

sonofabitch stew: cowboy concoction containing cow heart, testicles, tongue, liver, marrow gut, served on trail drive

sowbelly: bacon

spider: cast iron frying-pan with three legs

squiffed: slightly intoxicated

Texas butter: gravy made with fload, hot water, and fried steak grease

trimmings: bread and butter and other necessary eatables for the tea-table

wasp nest: light bread

whip-belly: bad beer

whiskey: aka bottled courage, bug juice, bumblebee whiskey, clinch mountain, coffin varnish, corn juice, cowboy cocktail, firewater, gut warmer, joy juice, Kansas sheep dip, neck oil, nose paint, old orchard, Old Tom, Old Towse, pair of overalls (2 drinks of whiskey),

pop skull, Rebel soldier, red eye, scamper juice, sheepherder's delight, tarantula juice, wild mare's milk

who-hit-John: liquor, beer

yam: to eat

LINGO-General

afeared: scared, frightened

all-fired: very, great, immensely

ambush: scales used by grocers, coal-dealers, etc.

apple peeler: pocket knife

atween: between

atwixt: between

balderdash: nonsense

bamboozle: to deceive, impose upon, confound

banjo: miner's term for a short-handled shovel

bared: shaved

beating: aka lacing, lambasting, licking, spanking, thrashing, toweling, whipping, whupping, trouncing, whaling

bee: gathering of friends, family and neighbors to get a specific job done, usually women's quilting get togethers

beliked: liked, beloved

bellyache: complain

Bible: small packet of papers used to roll cigarettes (prayer book)

biddable: docile, obedient

bilk: cheat

blather: impudence

blazes: euphemism for hell or the devil

buffaloed: confused

bullboat: craft with a willow frame covered by buffalo hide

bulldoze: bully, threaten, coerce

bushwhack: cowardly attack or ambush

buss: kiss

cahoots: partnership

calaboose: jail

callin': courting

catawampous: fiercely, eagerly, awry, cockeyed, crooked, skewed

cavallard: caravans crossing the prairies

cavort: to frolic or prance about

charivari: custom of serenading the newly married with noise,

including horns, bells, pans, kettles; pronounced “shevaree”
chock: to put a wedge under a thing to prevent its moving
chuffy: blunt, surly, clownish
churched: expelled from church
clap/clap down: to set down
clip: a blow or a stroke with the hand
clodhopper: a rustic, a clown
colors: particles of gold gleaming in a prospector’s gold pan
consumption: tuberculosis
cowchips: compressed hay, cow wood, prairie coal, round browns, surface coal
cracked: crazy
crimany: exclamation of surprise
critter: creature, varmint
croaker: pessimist, doomsayer
crummy: caboose of railroad train
dander: passion, emotion, anger
devilish: atrocious, enormous, excessively
dicker: barter, trade
diggings: one’s home, lodgings, or community
disremember: choose to forget
dive: bunkhouse
dunderhead: blockhead, dolt
express: the mails or mail stage
fetch: bring, give
fixin’: intending
frolic: a celebration, party or a wild time
frump: to mock, to insult
fuss: disturbance
gammon: humbug, deceit, lies
gitty-up: go, move
gritty: courageous, spirited
growlers: buckets, cans, or pitchers carried by apprentices or children to the saloon to be filled with beer and returned to the workplace during the day
grum: surly, gloomy, glum
happifying: making happy
hardfisted: covetous, close-handed, miserly
hash: to settle one’s business
heap: a lot, many
hellabaloo: riotous, noise, confusion
hell-fired: very, great, immensely
helter-skelter: in a hurry, without order, tumultuously

higgledy-piggledy: in confusion
hitch: a difficulty, an impediment
hitched: got married
hoity-toity: exclamation denoting surprise, with some degree of contempt
honey-fuggled: to cheat, to pull the wool over one’s eyes
hoosegow: jail, courthouse
hooter: a bit or a tiny amount
hornswoggle: to cheat or trick
jawing: talking
keeping-room: common sitting-room or parlor
lammy: a blanket
lickfinger: to kiss ass
logy: slow-moving, dull, awkward
look-see: to investigate
lunk-headed: idiotic, senseless
mashed: in love
mosey: saunter or shuffle along, sneak away
nary-one: neither
necessary: outhouse, water closet, bathroom
nibble: to take or steal
offish: distant, reserved, aloof
oil: nitroglycerine, often used to open bank vault
oldermost: oldest
one-horse: small, limited, inferior (often a small town)
over-careful: very careful
peaked: thin or sickly in appearance
persnickety: peculiar, picky
peskily: very, extremely, confoundly
picayune: signify something small or frivolous
piddle: waste time
pill: a doctor
pimping: little, petty
pirooting: having sexual intercourse
plummy: satisfactory or profitable
plunder: personal belongings or baggage
poker: frightful object, especially in the dark
pokey: jail
poppy-cock: bosh, nonsense, idle talk
portmanteau: valise
prat: buttock, behind

pschalp’shaw: exclamation for nonsense
pucker: in a state of irritation or anger
quincy: indoor toilet
raft: large quantity
railhead: town with facilities for loading cattle onto trains
randy: wanton or lecherous
rattled: to become nervous, worried, uneasy
rattler: freight train
rattling: jolly, excellent, smart
rawhide: untanned cattle skin not processed to make leather
reckon: to guess or think
rodeo: celebration at the end of a successful cattle drive
rook: to cheat, to dupe
row: a fight
salt-lick: saline spring where animals resort for drink
SALOON: aka grocery, groggery,
sand: guts, courage, toughness
sappy: young, not firm, weak
sawbones: surgeon
sawdust: counterfeit gold-dust or money
scaly: mean, stingy
scoot: move fast, run
scrap: to fight or box
scrape: a shave
scraper: razor
set-to: argument, debate
settled: sentenced to prison
shakes: the fever and ague
shanty: hut or mean dwelling
shave: narrow escape, false alarm, hoax
shebang: shanty or small house of boards
shin: borrow money
shindig: a dance, party, celebration
shirk: to procure by mean tricks, to steal
shoal: to lounge about lazily
sidle: move unobtrusively or sideways
skedaddle: scurry away, run like hell
skeersome: frightful
skittles: nonsense
skullduggery: rascality, treachery
slap: paint, rouge, cosmetics
slicking: whipping with hickory switches

slimsey: flimsy, frail
slinky: think, lank
slog: a blow, a fight with the fists
slug: an ingot of gold or silver, a twenty-dollar piece
slumguzzling: deceiving
snapper: impudent tattler
snipsnap: tart dialogue
snotted: being reprimanded
spark: a lover, a beau
sparking: courting
spell: time, for a while
splashing: talking without making sense or talking too much
spoon: to court, make love, woo
squabash: to kill
squat: crouch on your heels
squibob: term applied in contempt or indifference
steamer: tobacco pipe
stew: to be in a heat, a confusion of mind
stomp: dance
stuff: weak, worthless person, one without energy
stumper: a puzzler
sugar: kiss
swaller: swallow
swan: ready to faint or pass out
tallow: fat, whether on humans or animals
tarnation: mild oath or explanation
teapot: a depot or railroad station
tombstones: large teeth
top-sawyer: denoting excellence, superiority
tottle: to walk unsteadily
trace: a trail or path
traps: goods, household stuff, baggage
tricks: ones personal belongings
tub-thumping: street preaching
vamoose: to disappear or leave quickly
wabble: make free use of one's tongue, to be a ready speaker
wamble-cropped: sick at the stomach, wretched, humiliated
whang: sinews of the buffalo or other animal, or small strips of thin deer-skin, used by the dwellers and hunters of the prairie for sewing
whim-wham: a toy, a freak, a strange fancy
white-eyed: exhausted

whitewash: to gloss over or hide one's faults or shortcomings
whomper-jawed: uneven
wicket: a place of shelter, or camp made of the boughs of trees
widow: the gallows
wigging: rebuke
windies: tall tales
winsome: lively, cheerful, gay
wolfish: savage, savagely hungry
yammerin': talking
yarn: a story

above snakes: above ground, meaning still alive
ace in the hole: hideout or a hidden gun
a hog-killin' time: a real good time
airin' the lungs: cussing
airin' the paunch: vomit, throw-up
a lick and a promise: to do a haphazard job
among the willows: dodging the law
backdoor trots: diarrhea
bad egg: bad person
bad medicine: bad news
balled up: confused
balls: to make a mistake, to get in trouble
band wagon: peddler's wagon
bar dog: bartender
barkin' at a knot: doing something useless, wasting your time
battlin' stick: stick to stir clothes in the wash pot
bed him down: to kill a man
bed house: brothel
bee in your bonnet: an idea
beef-headed: stupid, dull as an ox
beef tea: shallow water where cows have stood
been through the mill: been through a lot, seen it all
beetle-crushers: feet
belly through the brush: dodge the law
best bib and tucker: wearing your best clothes
big jump: death
big pasture: penitentiary
Bill Show: wild west show
bite the ground: to be killed
bit house: cheap saloon
blue devils: dispirited

bone orchard: cemetery
boogered up: crippled or badly injured
boot-licker: ass-kisser
born days: all one's lifetime, since one was born
broken wind: lung infection in horses
brown study: deep thought
bucket of blood: frontier saloon
bucket shop: gin mill or distillery
buck up: cheer up; chin up
bully for you: well done, good job, good for you
to bundle: man and woman lying on same bed with their clothes on, usually separated by a "bundling board"
burn the breeze: ride at full speed
buzzard food: dead
by hook or crook: to do any way possible
by the bye: by the way, in passing
by gum!: inoffensive oath
California collar: hangman's noose
California prayer book: gambling term for a deck of cards
came apart: horse bucking
cash in: to die
catty-cornered: diagonally across
cat wagon: wagon that carried prostitutes along cattle trails
clean his/your plow: to get or give a thorough whippin'
cocked hat: to knock someone senseless or to shock him completely
cold meat wagon: a hearse
cooling yer heels: staying for a while
conniption fit: fit of hysteria
coon's age: a long time
corral dust: lies and tall tales
cotton to: take a liking to
cowboy up: tuff-up, get back on yer horse, don't back down, don't give up
cow sense: intelligence
crooked as a Virginia fence: anything very crooked
cross-grained: perverse, troublesome
crotchety: whimsical, fanciful
crowbar hotel: jail
crumb incubator: cowboy's bed

cut and run: to be off, to be gone
cut dirt: to run, to go fast
cut a Rusty: to go courtin'
dead as a door nail: utterly, completely dead
dead man's hand: poker hand consisting of a pair of aces and a pair of eights (Wild Bill Hancock)
dead meat: corpse
Devil's Addition: red light district
dice house: bunkhouse
die-up: deaths of several cattle from exposure, disease, starvation
dilly-dally: to delay
douse-the-lights: lights out, time to hit the hay
down in the mouth: dispirited, dejected, disheartened
doxology works: a church
dragged out: fatigued, exhausted, worn out
eat crow: publicly admit an embarrassing mistake
eatin irons: silverware
fagged out: fatigued, worn out
fair to middlin': feeling pretty good
fetch up: stop suddenly
fill a blanket: roll a cigarette
five beans in the wheel: five cartridges in the six chambers of a revolver (Westerners often left the chamber under the hammer empty for safety reasons)
fix one's flint: to settle a matter
French Pox: syphilis
full drive: at full speed
get a wiggle on: hurry
get it in the neck: get cheated, misled, bamboozled
get the mitten: to be rejected by a lover
give him Jessy: to give a flogging
go it strong: to perform an act with vigor or without scruple
go boil your shirt: take a hike, get lost, bug off
Gospel Mill: a church
Gospel Sharp: a preacher
gully washer: hard rain
hair in the butter: delicate situation
hand and glove: intimate, familiar
hand runnin': consecutively
hang fire: delay
hang up one's fiddle: to give up

hard case: worthless, bad, unpleasant
have a mind to: to have a notion, to be willing
hear tell: to hear a report of, to hear of
hearty as a buck: very well, healthy, hearty
hemp committee: group of vigilantes or a lynch mob
hemp fever: morbidly jocular term for a hanging
hemp necktie: rope for hanging
hemp party: hanging
hitch in the giddy-up: not feeling well
hither and yon: here and there
hits the flat: go out on the prairie
hobble your lip: shut up
ho down: party or celebration
hog ranch: brothel and saloon often located near a military fort
hold a candle to: measure up, compare to
hold your horses: stay calm
horse feathers: ridiculous
husking bee: social event in which the community came together to husk corn and to drink
Indian giver: expecting to be given an equivalent in return or what gave given back to you
iron horse: railroad train
jig is up: scheme/games is over, exposed
jimmying a bull: shooting a law officer
jump the broom: get married
keep company: to court
keep that dry: keep it secret
keep the pot a boiling: keep it going
kick up a row: create a disturbance
land-loper/land-lubber: a vagrant, one who strolls about the country
lead plumb: a bullet
lead poisoning: shot
leafless tree: gallows
leap the book: an illegal or false marriage
let her rip: let it go
let on: to mention, disclose
lickety split: headlong, at full speed
lock, stock and barrel: the whole thing

louse cage: bunkhouse
love lick: rough caress
mad as a hornet: very mad
madder than an old wet hen: very angry
make tracks: to leave, to walk away
marble orchard: graveyard
necktie social: act of hanging someone
nigh unto: nearly, almost
no odds: no difference, no consequence, no matter
not by a jugful: no consideration, not at all
nothing to nobody: nobody's business
off his nut/off his rocker: weak in the head, crazy, illogical, behaves strangely
Old Epharim: term mountain men used to call both male or female grizzly bears
old states: back East
on the dodge: hiding out from the law
on the fence: neutral or undecided
on the half-shell: anything prepared and ready for use
on the prod: full of piss and vinegar, looking for trouble, spoiling for a fight
on the shoot: looking for trouble
on the win: winning or making money
out and out: wholly, completely
out of fix/out of sorts: disarranged, in a state of disorder
over head and ears: completely overwhelmed
owl hoot trail: outlaw way of life
painting the town red: going out on the town for fun
pair of stairs: flight of stairs
pal on: to associate
pan out: to pay well, prove profitable
pass in one's chips: to die
peck of trouble: great trouble
penny dreadful: cheap, lurid fictional magazines with literature as in the dime novels
pinning away for: longing for
pitch a fit: throw a temper tantrum, get upset

play a lone hand: to do something alone
play second fiddle: take an inferior part in any project or undertaking
play to the gallery: to show off
played out: exhausted
pony up: pay over money
post the pony: pay up
pot shot: an easy shot
pray tell: tell me
pull in your horns: back off, quit looking for trouble
pull foot: leave in a hurry, walk fast, run
pull the leg: to impose upon
pull the long bow: to tell falsehoods, lie
pulling a kite: making a face
pulling in the pieces: to make money
put a spoke in the wheel: to foul up or sabotage something
put the licks in: run very fast
rag proper: dress well
rail it: to travel by railroad
railroad bible: deck of cards
raise one's bristles: to excite one's anger
raise sand: start trouble
raisin' Cain: loud, noisy boisterous
rake and scrape: to collect
rattle your hocks: hurry up, get a move on
ride a shank's mare: to walk or be set afoot
right as rain: fine
right smart: many, much, good
road ranch: supply center or store, often located on the major trails headed westward, supplied wagon trains with provisions
rode hard and put up wet: ugly, rough or hard looking
roping in: cheating
rowdy-dow: low, vulgar
rum-hole/rum-mill: small drinking establishment, saloon
run against a pill: to be shot, to take a bullet
sakes alive: "good heavens"
savage as a meat axe: extremely savage
scratching rake: comb
sell your saddle: to be humiliated

set her cap for him: direct her attentions to him to win his affections
set store by: to set value upon, to appreciate
settle one's hash: to properly punish one
seven by nine: something or someone of inferior or common quality
sewn up: exhausted, finished, done
shank of the evening: latter part of the afternoon
shank's mare: on foot
shin out: run away
shoot, Luke: do it or quit talking about it
shoot the cat: vomit
shove the queer: pass counterfeit money
shuck off: take clothes off
shut pan: shut up
sick as a horse: exceedingly sick
sittin' her: courting a girl
sixes and sevens: to be in a state of disorder and confusion
skip a cog: to make a mistake or error
skunk cabbage: strong-scented repulsive plant
slick as a whistle: to do something very smoothly
slick up: to dress up
slower than molasses in January: really slow
small potatoes: mean, contemptible, worthless
sold his saddle: disgraced
sold up: poor or distressed
someone to ride the river with: a person to be counted on
stoved up: crippled, badly injured, or too old
Sunday-face: behind, buttocks
sure as a gun: absolutely certain
sweet on: in love with
table muscle: pot belly
talk a donkey's hind leg off: to talk with no purpose
tan your hide: spanking
tear squeezer: a sad story
tenderloin: red-light commercial district of a town, featuring brothels
Texas cakewalk: a hanging
three-legged mare: gallows

Tiger Town: refers to an alley, street or district that had many gambling halls where faro was played
that dog won't hunt: that idea or argument isn't going to work
three ways from Sunday: moving quickly; high-tailing it out of there
throw off on: make fun of
throw up the sponge: quit, give up, surrender
tie to: rely on
tit for tat: I shall treat you as you treat me
toad strangler: heavy rain
tuckered out: tired out, fatigued
two whoops and a holler: not far away
up a tree: in difficulty, cornered, unable to do anything
upper story: the brain, the head
up stakes: to depart in a hurry
up the spout: imprisoned
vaulting house: brothel
wait on: to court
wake snakes: to raise a ruckus
walk the chalk: walk straight
way-bill: list of the passengers in a stagecoach, railroad car, steamboat, or other public conveyance
wearing the bustle wrong: referring to a pregnant woman
whale away: to preach, talk or lecture continuously
what in thearnation? what the hell?
whole kit and caboodle: the entire thing
wild west weekly: pulp or "dime" novels
wipe your chin: be quiet
worse than a cat in a roomful of rockers: someone who is really nervous
yellow hammer: gold coin

GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS

arroyo: brook, small stream or its dry bed
Badlands: barren areas of South Dakota, as well as other inhospitable western locations
barrens: elevated lands, or plains upon which grow small trees

boom town: town that grew up rapidly, usually a mining town or a town where a cattle trail met a railroad line

bottom: low land with rich soil

chaparral: dense thicket of shrubs and small trees

Chinook: warm, dry wind that originates on the leeward slopes of mountains, usually in early spring

flats: low lands, valley

range: open area of grassland where cattle and horses graze

savanna: open plain, meadow without wood