

The Broken Wheel Trail Case

THE SUSPECTS



Tin-Star Tucker
RIGHT-HANDED

Wears the badge his brother died in, and takes the job seriously.



Bandit Lou
RIGHT-HANDED

The name was a joke. It stopped being one two robberies ago.



Preacher Dawes
LEFT-HANDED

Preaches Sunday, plays cards Monday, knows your business by Tuesday.



Two-Bit Charlie
RIGHT-HANDED

Will hold your horse for a nickel and your secret for a dollar.

WHY ANYONE BOTHERED



Old Betrayal
PRIDE

Nine years old and still fresh. Everyone remembers it differently.



Withheld Pay
MONEY

Four months owed to eleven men, and the ledger says otherwise.



Water Rights Feud
LAND

Two families, one creek, and a survey nobody upstream agrees with.



Broken Marriage Promise
PRIDE

A ring returned by post, and a brother who took it very badly.

WHERE IT HAPPENED



Whiskey Bend **WATER**

Named for a wagon that tipped in 1878. The cargo was never recovered.



Coyote Bend **WATER**

The water turns slow here, and so does everyone who stops at it.



Silver Hollow **LOW GROUND**

Low enough that sound carries in and nothing carries back out.



Broken Wheel Trail **OPEN COUNTRY**

The freight road, rutted past repair, and nobody's fixing it.

WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND



Half-Melted Candle **WAX AND ASH**

Burned to the stub. Somebody sat with it a long while before moving.



Pair of Muddy Boots **LEATHER**

Creek mud, still damp, on a day it hadn't rained anywhere near town.



Frayed Rope **ROPE AND GUT**

Worn through in the middle rather than at either end. Odd, that.



Folded Wanted Poster **PAPER AND CLOTH**

Folded small enough to hide in a boot. The face has been torn off.

THE REPORT

They're still arguing about what happened near Broken Wheel Trail. The facts, such as they are, are written here. The ledger will hold up if you will.

CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The folded wanted poster had no bearing on the broken marriage promise.
- Any rider who was carrying something leather was in it for money.
- Without exception, a rider who was in low country was carrying wax or ash.
- You can rule out the folded wanted poster for Tin-Star Tucker.
- Whoever was left-handed, they weren't at Broken Wheel Trail.
- It wasn't Two-Bit Charlie who was carrying wax or ash.
- Nobody who was in it for money was out in open country.
- You can rule out Silver Hollow for Tin-Star Tucker.
- Not one rider who was carrying rope or gut was in it out of pride.
- Every rider who was left-handed was in it over land.
- Whoever rode on the water rights feud steered clear of Whiskey Bend.

THE GRID

		LOCATIONS				EVIDENCE				MOTIVES			
		WHISKEY	COYOTE	HOLLOW	TRAIL	CANDLE	BOOTS	ROPE	POSTER	REVENGE	PAY	WATER	PROMISE
SUSPECTS	TUCKER												
	LOU												
	DAWES												
	CHARLIE												
MOTIVES	REVENGE												
	PAY												
	WATER												
	PROMISE												
EVIDENCE	CANDLE												
	BOOTS												
	ROPE												
	POSTER												

CASE 061 · THE BROKEN WHEEL TRAIL CASE

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Tin-Star Tucker	Whiskey Bend	Pair of Muddy Boots	Withheld Pay
Bandit Lou	Silver Hollow	Half-Melted Candle	Broken Marriage Promise
Preacher Dawes	Coyote Bend	Frayed Rope	Water Rights Feud
Two-Bit Charlie	Broken Wheel Trail	Folded Wanted Poster	Old Betrayal

CASE 062 · THE SALT FLAT CROSSING JOB

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Sundance Marlow	Copper Basin	Broken Spur	Falsified Deed
Slim Pete Rourke	Salt Flat Crossing	Powder-Burned Glove	Old Betrayal
Two-Bit Charlie	Cactus Flat	Frayed Rope	Jealous Rivalry
Ironjaw Hobbs	Silver Hollow	Cracked Canteen	Disputed Mining Claim

CASE 063 · THE CACTUS FLAT INCIDENT

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Nell Garrity	Thistle Canyon	Dented Tin Star	Old Betrayal
Big Jim Cassidy	Miller's Creek	Pair of Muddy Boots	Disputed Mining Claim
Tin-Star Tucker	Copper Basin	Busted Pocket Watch	Grudge Over Cards
One-Eyed Sal	Cactus Flat	Powder-Burned Glove	Buried Crime

CASE 064 · THE COPPER BASIN TROUBLE

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Nell Garrity	Copper Basin	Missing Lasso	Wounded Honor
Two-Bit Charlie	Coyote Bend	Torn Saddle	Water Rights Feud
Bandit Lou	Cactus Flat	Snapped Bowstring	Family Secret
Boone Talbot	Whiskey Bend	Dented Tin Star	Withheld Pay