

The Tule Bottom Business

THE SUSPECTS



Sister Hannah Flake
LEFT-HANDED

Midwife to the settlement, and the first one called when it goes wrong.



Dolores Arvizu
RIGHT-HANDED

Farms the oldest parcel on the ditch and has the paper to prove it.



Manuel Enos
LEFT-HANDED

Owens the only wagon that takes the Gap loaded, and prices it accordingly.



Cleto Barraza
LEFT-HANDED

Twenty and quick, and says out loud what the rest of the valley thinks.

WHY ANYONE BOTHERED



Two-Family Grudge
PRIDE

Started two generations back and has been kept up carefully since.



Pulpit Accusation
PRIDE

Said from the pulpit, by name, and the congregation all heard it.



Upstream Diversion
LAND

Somebody above the village takes first and leaves what is left.



Old Ground
LAND

Irrigated for centuries before the survey, and the survey did not ask.

WHERE IT HAPPENED



Cañada Honda **NARROW**

Steep on both sides and a little deeper every spring. One way through.



Tule Bottom **LOW GROUND**

Reeds over a man's head, and ground under them that never firms up.



Camino Real **OPEN COUNTRY**

The old road north, older than the county and straighter than any of it.



Mesquite Rise **HIGH GROUND**

The one ground the water never reaches, so the graves are all up there.

WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND



Horsehair Snare **ROPE AND GUT**

Sized for game far larger than anything that runs in this valley.



Muddy Flour Sacking **PAPER AND CLOTH**

Wrapped around something and then unwrapped. The shape is still in it.



Knotted Well Line **ROPE AND GUT**

Tied off short, so the bucket went down and never reached water.



Fine Kiln Ash **WAX AND ASH**

Grey and very fine, and a long way from any kiln in this valley.

THE REPORT

The trouble at Tule Bottom reached the territorial paper before it reached the sheriff, which tells you something. Work it through, and mind the ledger.

CLUES & EVIDENCE

- The knotted well line never turned up at Mesquite Rise.
- Every rider who was right-handed was out in open country.
- Nobody who was out in open country was settling the two-family grudge.
- Everyone who was carrying paper or cloth was left-handed.
- Not one rider who was up on high ground was in it over land.
- Whatever drove Sister Hannah Flake, it wasn't the upstream diversion.
- Without exception, a rider who was in narrow country was carrying wax or ash.
- Manuel Enos had nothing to do with the muddy flour sacking.
- Whatever else is true, Sister Hannah Flake wasn't at Cañada Honda.
- Any rider who was carrying rope or gut was in it out of pride.
- The old ground and Tule Bottom were never connected.

THE GRID

		LOCATIONS				EVIDENCE				MOTIVES			
		HONDA	TULE	CAMINO	RISE	SNARE	SACKING	WELLLINE	KILNASH	GRUDGE	PULPIT	UPSTREAM	OLDGROUND
SUSPECTS	FLAKE												
	ARVIZU												
	ENOS												
	BARRAZA												
MOTIVES	GRUDGE												
	PULPIT												
	UPSTREAM												
	OLDGROUND												
EVIDENCE	SNARE												
	SACKING												
	WELLLINE												
	KILNASH												

CASE 061 · THE TULE BOTTOM BUSINESS

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Sister Hannah Flake	Mesquite Rise	Horsehair Snare	Two-Family Grudge
Dolores Arvizu	Camino Real	Knotted Well Line	Pulpit Accusation
Manuel Enos	Cañada Honda	Fine Kiln Ash	Old Ground
Cleto Barraza	Tule Bottom	Muddy Flour Sacking	Upstream Diversion

CASE 062 · THE SUNK FIELD INCIDENT

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Cleto Barraza	Sunk Field	Soaked Land Patent	Pulpit Accusation
Garrett Pyle	Alameda Bottoms	Crushed Honeycomb	Broken Betrothal
Widow Ynez Trujillo	Cottonwood Ford	Cut Well Bucket	Mortgaged Crop
Emmett Voss	Thirsty Flat	Cracked Plow Point	Old Ground

CASE 063 · THE PIEDRA GAP AFFAIR

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Perla Bustos	Bosque Grande	Cracked Plow Point	Moved Bank
Faustino Ibarra	Sunk Field	Broken Ox Shoe	Upstream Diversion
Bishop Alma Tenney	Piedra Gap	Bent Sickle	Dowry Never Paid
Cleto Barraza	Cottonwood Ford	Torn Ditch Ledger	Cattle in the Wheat

CASE 064 · THE BOSQUE GRANDE RECKONING

SUSPECT	LOCATION	EVIDENCE	MOTIVE
Mayordomo Eliseo Sosa	Old Compuerta	Knotted Well Line	Moved Bank
Ross Whelan	Bosque Grande	Torn Ditch Ledger	Mortgaged Crop
Sallie Doerr	Cañada Honda	Soaked Land Patent	Lost Vote
Perla Bustos	Mesquite Rise	Bent Sickle	Bought Silence