1931

A Study of Cowboy Diction with a Glossary of Terms

Thelma Adams Jenkins

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by

Thelma Adams-Jenkins

A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of Master of Arts
in English

1931

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To Dr. T. M. Pearce who has given me much help and advice I here acknowledge my gratitude and dedicate to him this work for any future use he may make of it.

Dr. Marion Dargon has given me of his time and suggestions, and for these I wish to thank him.

I am grateful also to Miss Wilma Loy Shelton for her cooperation and help.

INTRODUCTION

The cowboy is usually thought of only as a romantic figure. His part in the colonization of the West is ignored, in spite of the fact that he was a real colonizer even though he was restless and nomadic.

If the cowboy is not credited with having added to the history and colonization of a new country, it is certain that he has been given even less credit for his contributions to English speech, although we find it, too, not only romantic and colorful, but full of stable elements as well.

Most of the cowboy's time was spent in the saddle with his cattle and horses or on the trail. Because his habits were so very different from those of the Easterner, he was obliged to create a vocabulary that suited his purposes and saved his time. He did manufacture a vocabulary that was distinctly his own, and what is more, he has left many colorful, virile, and picturesque words.

This thesis is a study of cowboy speech in its origin and process of formation with a glossary of terms. I do not attempt to present an exhaustive

study. The words that I have gathered are representative. For the most part, they are taken from books that have been written by men who spent the early part of their lives in the saddle, and thus have been in a position to use and know the speech of the vaquero. No doubt there are many words and many phrases which I have not found. I present only that group which has been available through a careful examination of those books included in my bibliography.

A GLANCE AT THE COWBOY

The American cowboy came into existence as a result of a demand by the ranchmen of the North and West for hands who understood how to handle cattle and horses. By 1860 the northern ranchman had pushed his way into Texas over the Overland Trail, and by 1867 with the coming of the railroad into Kansas, he was ready to begin disposing of his cattle. This railroad minimized danger from the Indians, and placed the rancher in contact with a consuming market. It opened up the plains so that great numbers of man and animals could pour in from Kansas and Nebraska, and on its completion the ranchmen chose its temporary terminal point, Abeline, Kansas as the shipping point to which they would drive their herds from Texas. These drives resulted in the creation of the Texas Trail which soon became "the course of the empire". Over this huge beaten path went thousands of cattle, and into this trail converged smaller trails that led from almost every ranch in Texas. This huge zone was first known as the Chisholm Trail, so called after John Chisholm, a Cherokee cattle trader, who supplied the government frontier posts with their cattle

supply in the early part of the occupation of frontier posts and during the Civil War".[1] This trail, celebrated in song and romance, passed through the western part of Texas into Kansas, where it lead to Dodge City, "the cowboy capital" and continued northward to Ogallala, Nebraska.

Up this trail went the Texas stockman to mingle with the northern ranchmen, who had gathered from all parts of the earth, and out of this free and generous mingling grew a new brotherhood which radiated the spirit of the West and created two important historical characters, the Western ranchman and the American cowboy.

This cowboy was known as a "cowboy", "cowpuncher", "puncher", "buckaroo", "vaquero", or "rider" according to the locality in which he worked. He was a man of courage and iron nerve. He needed his courage to break his broncos, to herd his cattle, to face the severe storms of the north or the intense heat of the southern desert land, to fight Indians, and to follow the trailing herd that had to be quieted from stampedes, herded across boggy rivers, and persuaded to continue up the trail in spite of thirst.

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[1] J. M. Hunter, ed., Trail drivers of Texas. Nashville, Tenn., Cokesbury press, 1925. p.13.

supply in the early part of the occupation of frontier posts and during the Civil War.[1] This trail, established in most had courage, James, Chenoy, the western part of Texas into Kansas, where it lead to Dodge City, "the Queen cowtown" and connected northward to Ogallala, Nebraska.

On this trail went the Texas cowboys to ship with the northern ranchmen, who had arrived from all parts of the world, and out of this trail and cattle shipping, rose a new horseman which matched the world of the West and created the distinct American character, the Western cowboy and his American company.

This cowboy was known as a "cowboy", "cattleman", "puncher", "Mexicano", "vaquero", or "rider" according to the locality in which he worked. He was a man of courage and iron nerve. He needed his courage to break his broncos, to herd his cattle, to face the severe storms of the north or the intense heat of the southern desert land, to fight Indians, and to follow the trailing herd that had to be quieted from stampedes, herded across heavy rivers, and persuaded to continue on the trail in spite of fatigue.

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1. M. Hunter, ed., Trail Drivers of Texas Nashville, Tenn.: Cullom & Ghertner, 1925, p.42.

The vaquero was first of all a person who lived with and thus very close to nature. Nature was a real and vital thing with which he cast his lot, and with which he had to bargain. He spent long days and nights alone with her and his horse, and to each he poured out his inner-most thoughts when he felt that he must talk to someone. These Western lands over which he rode were stern, austere, and majestic. There was little in nature that was gentle and kind. The cowboy knew the mountains and the desert; he watched for and experienced the fury of blizzards, sandstorms, and desert heat. He grew to regard nature with respect and admiration. He studied the stars, for it was by them that he told time on his long night herds; to the stars also he poured out his heart, for he needs must permeate a cheerfulness to his comrades, to swallow his personal longings and past experiences, and keep his troubles for nature or his horse.

This rider was reserved toward strangers, although one had far to go to find a more hospitable person when he knew a stranger's mission. His reserve was maintained because he had the horse thief, and the settler to deal with, and because no cowboy thought curiosity good form.

As related in romance and fiction, this man of the

open idealized woman and gave to her the highest place of honor. If a woman wished to pass through the cow country, she had only to make known her wishes and she would be well attended by voluntary guides. If the wife of a rancher became ill, the news spread rapidly, and cowboys appeared from all directions to bring remedies which they had tried for some ailment and found to be of help to them. The punishment for a violator of womankind was the dread "staking out" wherein "the cubprit, minus eyelids, face to the sun, was laid upon an ant-hill of giant size, wrists and ankles tied to pegs in the ground, to lose in a few minutes his mind, and in a few hours the final vestige of his flesh".[2]

The cowboy performed a variety of duties as a ranch hand. He usually began his day at "sun up". His first job was to saddle his horse, which, at times and with stubborn mounts, proved to be a job requiring much patience. Following this diverting bit of work might come an inspection trip around the Range, an "outriding" as it was termed; it may be time for the spring or fall round-up, and if this happened to be the occasion, the cowboy was kept busy from sun up till sun down roping mavericks and dragging them to

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[2] P. A. Rollins, The cowboy. New York, Scribner, 1922. p.72

the branding iron; there may be broncos to "gentle", or calves to "blab", or there may be a group of mustangs to "walk down". All these and numerous other duties kept the cowboy in the saddle till night fall when he returned to his camp or ranch to sing a few songs, or tell a few tales, and then retire to his bed to rest for the work of another day.

If the next day called for a start up the trail, the cowboy might experience adventures similar to those related by one cowboy who knew the trail from experience.[3] The territory to be covered on this trip extended from Paso Grande on the Gulf coast to the Blackfoot Agency in Montana. The herd consisted of three thousand cattle; the trip was begun on April 1, and the place for delivery was reached on September 8, so that over five months were spent on the road alone. During the trip there were stampedes that kept the cowboy in his saddle for long stretches without food or sleep and endangered his life every minute he spent chasing the maddened herd. There were rivers to cross--treacherous rivers with bottoms of quicksand that bogged down hundreds of cattle each of which had to be dug out by the wiry and untiring cowboy;

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[3]Andy Adams, The log of a cowboy. Boston, Houghton c1903. p.1-387.

rivers that claimed victims freely from the cowboy band--on this particular trip the foreman of a following herd lost his life in a swollen stream. There was the dry drive which lasted three days during which time the herd had no water and on the third day, as the cattle began to go blind from thirst, they turned back on the trail in spite of the efforts of the cowboys and traveled day and night until they reached the water holes they had left three days previous. There were Indians to reckon with, for they were constantly begging for beef, and were always menacing because one never knew when he would run into a band on the warpath. There were days of intense heat, and before the journey was ended, days of intense cold; there were storms, flooded rivers, and drouth. This entire trip would afford no end of suffering for the tenderfoot; yet the cowboys enjoyed it, and found it a source of intense delight and never-ending excitement, and at its termination were sad and especially "felt keenly the parting between man and mount".

When the drive was over, or perhaps on the way, when a town was reached, the cowboy was allowed to visit the town and indulge in the luxury of a dity's diversions. He "whooped her up Liza-Jane" for a day or two until he was broke, and then he returned to the herd to continue

his trip or to take a new job. On these "jamborees" the cowboy was not a "bad man" who shot up the town and every one who came in his sight. He fought if he were insulted, or to help out a "sidey", but his purpose was not to kill for gain or on sight as was the practice of many of the "bad men" of his day.

One of the requirements for a real vaquero was that one must know his horses. These "chunks" of dynamite and endurance, he must train to be loyal and faithful in their duty. Suffice to say that the cowboy did not fail in his purpose. The horse learned to "cut the herd", to night herd, and know just when to return to the "chuck wagon" at the end of his stretch of night duty; he sensed danger, and with his ears up he would warn his rider that strangers were lurking near; he carried his rider until he had successfully completed his duty or fell dead in the attempt; perhaps he sensed his importance, for without his horse, certainly the cowboy would have been unable to do his work.

Just as the cowboy understood his horse, so he understood the cattle that he dealt with constantly. When he trailed them he knew that they must not be hurried; he knew how much distance that he could expect from them in a day; he knew how often they had to have water; he knew how to persuade them across a swollen, boggy river;

he knew he must be constantly on the guard against stampedes, for he knew that the herd might begin a wild run at the unexpected crack of a whip, the sight of an approaching rider, or the sound of thunder; he knew how to mill the herd on stampedes so that the wild, seething mass might stop its headlong run; he knew that his singing on night herding would quiet the herd and cease their restlessness if there were no other disturbing forces; he knew that the charge of the bull was not dangerous if one had time to step out of the way; he knew that the charge of the longhorn cow was exceedingly dangerous unless some cowboy was near at hand to lasso her; he knew that he must keep away from the herd unless he was on horseback or suffer being crushed to death beneath the feet of a herd bent upon killing an unmounted buckaroo; he knew how to "tail" a cow or steer; he knew how to rope cattle to brand them; he knew how to bed them at night; he knew how to #cut" and "trim" a herd, and he knew how to estimate the size of a herd from year to year without rounding them up for a count. All these things and more, he knew about the longhorn which he found on the plains of Texas.

This is the cowboy who helped to make the West. He was a real pioneer. It was he and his boss, the ranchman, who dared the dangers of drouth, desert, cold winters, Indians, bad men, and privations to settle the West and

North. He brought in cattle, and herded them over the vast plains till the "fool hoe man" became encouraged and decided that the Range was an ideal place for agriculture. He helped to free the country of bad men, and he made friends with the Indians thus paving the way for the farmer who followed in his tracks. His life was unique, different, and real, and certainly he made history that should be lauded and honored.

POETIC IMAGERY AND WORD FORMATION

The cowboy, mingling as he did with the Mexican, Indian and the occasional Englishman or Frenchman, who had come to the Range to make a fortune, was bound to adopt for his own use words that were familiar to the language of the original user. He also was an original type of person and proceeded to manufacture terms of his own that would save his time and require less effort to say, so that he would have more time for thought. This sententiousness, coming quite probably from the lonely life the cowboy led, finally became a convention, and cowboys were therefore obliged to speak in terse terms, and in the formation of their sentences to "bobtail her and fill her with meat."[1] So adverse was the man of the Cattle Country to unnecessary words that he often advised a discursive conversationalist to "save part of your breath for breathing." One puncher, when asked for his opinion about his employer, replied: "Can't put it in words. Give me an emetic!"

The cowboy, no doubt, enjoyed talking, but he had grown accustomed, because of his peculiar type of living, to using epigrams, and he was also able to make word-

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1. P. A. Rollins, The cowboy. New York, Scribner, 1922. p.74

pictures. Some of his words can be understood only from their context. Some may have arbitrary meanings. He permeated his speech with slang; he added picturescue perversions of technical terms of his own work; he threw in gambler's expressions; Spanish words, and in the north, especially, he adopted Indian words.

The vaquero used much profanity, but profanity in his mouth could be slang. "Damn" could be an innocent adjective; it might mean "very" or "exactly". "Thus 'promptly at one o'clock' and 'immediately' might severally come from a puncher's lips as 'at damned one' and 'damned now'".[2] The cowboys were probably the only group of people ever to ride for miles to hold "cussing matches", at which time a saddle was likely to be the prize for the winner.

If the cowboy was ruthless in his use of grammar, it perhaps was because of his lack of education, or because he felt dissatisfied with the damage done to conventional English by slang alone, and we can not overlook the fact that much of the cowboy's language is a genuine contribution to the new vocabulary of American-English speech. Because he drew from the Spanish language and Indian lore fornames of plants and animals which were peculiar to the Cattle Country, his

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[2] P. A. Rollins, The cowboy. New York, Scribner's 1922. p.81

home, I have included in my glossary words like "kinnikinic," or "killikinic", the Northern Indian term for a smoking mixture of willow bark, and which was used by the cowboy to designate "tobacco". Other Indian words include, from the Chinook, "skookum" for great; "siwash" for Indian or second-rate; "muckamuck" for food or to eat or to drink; "hiyu muckamuck" for plenty to eat; "muckamuck chuck" for the act of drinking water; "kaupee" for coffee; "cuitan" for horse; and "heehee" for fun or a joke. There were also the common words from the Northern Indian dialect "tepee" for tent; and "cayuse" for horse. Words like "hombre" for man; "sombrero" for hat; "mañana" for tomorrow; "pronto" for soon; "quién sabé" for who knows; "adios" for good-by; "arroyo" for dry gulch down which waterpours during rains; "mesa" for tableland or plain; "cañon" for the depression between mountain walls; "remuda" for the extra horses that were brought along on the trail for the cowboys; "vaquero" for cowboy, and many other words direct from the Spanish became as useful to the cowboys as any good English word.

All cowboy imagery is virile and alive. The words are picturing and each borders on the language of metaphor. Words always have a "punch"; the life of the cowboy was keen in its experiences, and the vocabulary needed to be concrete and close to its subject matter.

The cowboy, no doubt, had long thoughts that were uninterrupted on his lonely night watches and daily rides, but the language of philosophy and of the schools was far away. His philosophy was a homely and sensible one which he arrived at by the inductive method from daily evidence. We find in his language many simple comparisons or similes such as comparing a bullet to a plum (i. e. a lead plum because of resemblance in shape or color); the comparison of a three sided canyon to a box thus arriving at "box canyon"; the lasso was called "clothes line" because, no doubt of its appearance; the boss was "cock-a-doodle-do" a comparison with the boss of the chicken yard; there was the "flea-bit" mule or horse which had spots that no doubt the cowboy meant to compare with the bite of the flea; there were "broomies" or "broomtails", the name applied to Range mares whose tails were bushy like brooms from burrs and weeds that had clung to the hair; there was the "tenderfoot", the inexperienced person who might be as one tender in worldly knowledge. Thus we find comparisons and similes that definitely belong to the class of images. We also find metaphors amongst cowboy expressions. Some of these metaphors are poetical, while some are far from poetry in sound and connotation. "Blue whistler" used either to signify the wind, or a bullet might well be inserted into the language of poetry;

the same may be said of "blue lightning" (a gun) or "flame thrower" (a gun), but "kidney pad" (saddle), "cactus boomers" (wild brush cattle), "hoe men" (farmers), "iron candy" (bridle bit),"lead pusher" (gun), and "postage stamp" (saddle) were definitely not poetical, but found their beauty in their concreteness and ability to conjure up pictures.

Next we find a transfer of imagery which borders on metaphor and depends for its effect upon a certain amount of exaggeration. Of this type we find such expressions as "heehee house" for a place of amusement; "chassed into" or"waltzed into" for happened upon; "feel one's oats" for searching for experience; "anteed up his last bean" for put up his last cent; "to beefsteak a horse" for rubbing a saddle sore; "to bite the dust" for die; "to be on the prod" for to be fighting mad; "to bust wide open" for to throw; and "hen-fruit stir" for pancake. This type of exaggeration is very commonly used and is decidedly effective and concrete.

We find an expression of irony in "bar-room gladiators" a term applied by old-timers to the two gunman; "hoe men" to designate the farmer, and "boomer" which was applied to the homesteader.

Language in a pioneer life keeps hard and concrete

in form. A man in an argument with another did not "withdraw" or "condede the point", but he "pulled out" or "backed down"; he did not frighten or bluff; he "buffaloed"; he did not throw rocks, he "chunked" them; he did not adopt the habits of the Rio Grande people, he "chucked the Rio"; matters did not reach a climax, they "came to a head"; a cowboy did not begin to have a good time, he "cut loose" and had a little fun; he did not fire his gun, but he "cut loose his dog"; he did not mete out justice, but he "gave him his medicine"; he did not fall into bankruptcy, he "went bust"; one did not die, but one might "pass out"; one did not begin to help another, but he "pitched in" and helped; and a man might "put windows in another man's skull" rather than to shoot him in the head.

Dialectical forms of conventional English are to be found in use by the cowboy. Barbed wire was known as "bob-wire"; cartridge was sometimes called "catridge"; a long talk was a "confab"; tarpaulin was more often "tarp", an pardner was "pard".

The study of the cowboy's vocabulary is pleasant, among many other reasons, because in addition to the key it gives to the cowboy's mind and unique life, the appearance of a word like "cottonade" recalls the fact

that he was after all a citizen of the United States in a distant period of American society establishing his contacts with the rest of the country by buying its manufactured clothes and boots and saddles.

Echo words such as "chink" for money; "to chunk" for throw; "to shuck one's weapons" to take off or discard; and to "bash" for a blow add onomatopoetic sounds to the language of the cowboy.

Such examples as I have given make the study of poetic imagery and word formation in connection with cowboy diction exceedingly interesting.

PREFACE TO THE GLOSSARY

Some of the words which appear in the following glossary may be words of broader service than the range or prairie. No doubt the ancestry of many could be traced to seventeenth century England, carried from the more conservative portions of the language in America, the Ozarks,or the mountains of Kentucky.

I have not made exhaustive research of etymologies to determine whether or not every word may be classified as an entirely new form or usage. It is sufficient for this study that the forms are characteristic of cowboy speech.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

c. dialect	(Words or terms which constituted the cowboy's everyday speech whether pertaining purely to terms describing his equipment or terms made up from accepted English usages)
c. slang	(Usually a perversion or corruption of cowboy dialect)
Eng.	(English derivation or accepted form and used by the cowboy)
Indian	(Mostly Chinook)
Span.	(Spanish derivation; no attempt is made here to distinguish between pure Castilian and Mexican dialect)

GLOSSARY

adios, n. (Span.) good-by.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xix 248.
"October 24, 1878, he was preparing to start on his long ride from Howard & McMaster's store in Tascosa, where he had been making his headquarters for some time, when Billy the Kid rode up from his camp to bid him adios."

agitate the catgut, v. (c. slang) to play the fiddle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero of the brush country. viii 95.
"Or maybe some lad would take the fiddle out ot the herd with him and "agitate the catgut" to the tune of "Billy the Low Ground"...

alforjas, n. (Span.(leather or canvas saddle bags.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. viii 155
"In which latter event, all or a part of the parcels might have been stuffed into "alforjas," which were wide, leathern or canvas bags, one on either side of the animal and hanging from the crosses on the saddle's top."

alkali, v. to suffer the effects of alkali to the stomach.
1922. Rollins The cowboy vi 129
"In the latter case (when the only water at hand was alkaline) although the horses were left grimacingly to gulp the biting fluid and run the risk of being "alkalied," the men might have recourse to canned tomatoes."

anteed, v. to put up one's last cent
1903, Adams. Log of a cowboy. xi 185.
"And did the man lose his horses entirely?' asked Flood, who had anteed up his last bean and joined us."

aroya, n. (Span.) a deep gully or ditch formed by erosion and containing water only after rains or floods.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections of a Western Ranchman.
"He was sure that he had been killed, for they saw him roll into the aroya."

arroya, n (Span.) (See aroya)
French. Recollections... viii 101
"There was nothing whatever in sight, but there was a shallow arroya some eighty or ninety yards from the road which might possibly conceal a hidden foe."

arroyo, n (Span.) (See aroya)
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iv 48
"Continuing the journey up the arroyo afoot, I came to the extreme head of it, a steep embankment."

a-shooting, v (c. slang) shooting.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy vii 96
"Suppose when you and your outfit come back, you come a-shooting, so we'll know who you are..."

bad men, n. men who put no value on human life and who would kill at the slightest provocation.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 52
"These preannounced attempts on human life were far less bloody than were the onslaughts by the real "killers," the actual "bad men." "

to back down, v. (c. dialect) to withdraw or concede.
1922 Rollin The cowboy iii 54
"This Jim---, this Bill---, and the other men of their type had no wish to "try it out" with any "real Westerner" for it was a foregone conclusion as to which side in such a contest would "weaken," "back down," and "pull out".

baile, n. (Span.) dance.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... viii 125
"That night he corralled his herd at the Petronilla and went to a Mexican baile."

bandana, n. (Eng.) large handkerchief usually of colored calico or silk.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 283
"Modern cowboys seem to be giving up the bandana handkerchief."

baquero, n. (Span.) (See buckaroo)

barbecue, n. a gathering at which beef was prepared over an open fire and served.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxii 358
"Of course this had to be done away from home; but that was easy, for these older brothers thought nothing of riding twenty miles to a tournament, barbecue, or round-up, and when away from home they always tried their horses with the best in the country."

barboquejo, n. (Span.) chin strap.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xv 204
"The hat frequently had a barboquejo (chin strap)..."

bar brand, n. (c. dialect) a brand which consisted of a mark representing a bar.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 223
"I wrote to the secretary of the Sanitary Board and asked if it was permissible to record the W N bar brand on the left side... "

barranca, n. (Span.) gully; arroyo.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail...82
"Why, she'll take a deep barranca
Six-foot wide and never peep;
That 'ere cayuse she's a-forkin'
Sure's somethin' on the leap."

bar-room gladiators, n. (c. slang) two-gunmen.
c1924 Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 118
"Then came the two-gunmen."
"Bar-room gladiators the old-timers called them in derision."

bash, v. to strike or hit.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 182
"Now, Mike was an inoffensive creature who never carried a gun and, unlike most of the patrons of the place, was too good-natured to take offence easily, so as the night progressed and he became too drunk to be any longer a source of profit, the enterprising proprietors bashed him over the head with a bottle and threw him out in the street."

basto, n. (Span.) a saddle skirt.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 122
"Synonyms for skirt (saddle) and skirts were respectively "basto" and "bastos" (from Spanish "basto" a pad or a pack-saddle), though some men restricted these latter terms to the leathern lining of the skirt, a lining known also as the "sudadero".

batch, n. an unmarried man.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 134
"When an unmarried man, a "batch" or "bach," planted a few irregular rows of onions, it plainly evidenced that Cupid had been in action."

batches, n. (Eng.) groups.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... iii 29
"The battle were to be brought into the large compartment in batches of from a hundred to a hundred and fifty

by the representatives of Garcia and Gallegos."

bawling him out, v. (c. dialect) to scold or reprimand.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 287
"This word "bawl," because the technical term for the bronco's yelps of deviltry, popularized throughout the West the slang phrase "bawling him out," which meant one man's vociferously scolding another."

bawls, n. sounds of rage emitted by a bucking bronco.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 287
"Motion was accompanied by music, for the average pitching bronco emitted grunts and snorts, and usually loud "bawls" of rage, while a bucking mule rarely forgot to bray."

bear dog, n. a dog trained to bark at a bear's heels.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. iii 42
"All this would mean that the little brute was a "bear-dog", a cur trained to hold the grizzly bear by staying without the danger zone, yapping at Bruin's heels, and driving him to such irritation that, instead of fleeing, he lost his judgment, backed up against a tree and made a target for the rifle."

bear-sign, n. doughnuts.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xviii 280
"She asked me to make the bear-sign--doughnuts, she called them--and I did, though she had to show me how some little."

beef, n. (See yearling bull)

to beef, v. (c. dialect) to kill for food.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... viii 113
"Some of them thought nothing of "beefing" a heifer every evening, roasting a great "batt" of it over the coals for supper..."

beef books, n. (c. dialect) tally books which were used to keep account of the number of cattle to be shipped or disposed of.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... viii 112
"In addition to having their sales recorded in the county stock books, most cowmen kept accounts of their own and were ready to exchange tally books (called also "beef books") with other cowmen and to settle at any time."

beef cut, n. (c. dialect) cattle cut out and rounded up to be shipped to market.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 246
"If cattle were to be shipped to market, such as were cut out for the purpose and thus formed the so-called "beef cut" were herded into isolated groups, there being one such group for each interested ranch, and each such group being termed a "cut," unless some Texan happened by and chanced to call it a "day herd"."

beef pasture, n. (c. dialect) a meadowed or fertile spot where cattle that were being prepared for the meat market were kept.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxiii 373
"Flood informed us that a beef pasture had been built that summer for the steers, while the cows would be held under herd by the military, pending their distribution."

beef round-up, n. (c. dialect) autumn round-up at which grown cattle were brought in to be sent to market.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xi 217
"This latter round-up gave forth kine fat for the abattoir, sleek cows, and heavy steers. It frequently was termed on a cattle range the "beef round-up,"..."

to beefsteak, v. (c. dialect) to wear away a horse's hide by the rubbing of the saddle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 125
(See to gimlet Rollins)

big gray, n. (See lobo)

to bite the dust, v. (c. dialect) to die.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xi 132
"Still, many of them bit the dust and died with their boots on, to be buried in unhonored graves far from loved ones in Texas."

to blab, v. (c. dialect) to prepare a calf so that he is unable to suck.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 193
"Here and there about the Range would appear a lusty calf with an emaciated mother. If the calf were old enough (he was blabbed, i. e.) a thin board, six inches by eight in size, was, at the centre of one its longer edges, clipped onto the infant's nose. Thereafter he could perfectly well graze, but he assuredly was weaned."

"black book", n. Bible.
1903 Adams. Log of acowboy. vii 100.
"Hames got out a "black book", and after looking the crowd over concluded to hold the entire covey, as the descriptions of the "wanted" seemed to include most of them."

black-jack, n. A scrubby oak timber.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xv 192
"Here he became known as the champion cutter of black-jack timber--a scrubby oak used in building corrals."

blinkers, n. Eyes.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle country. 110.
"She peered up in my blinkers with a soul-dissolving glance
Quite conducive to the pleasures of a high-toned dance."

Blocker loop, n. (c. dialect) A big loop.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 263.
No doubt many people who speak of the "Blocker loop" nowadays never heard of John Blocker, although all the real cattle people in Texas know who John Blocker was.

blow, v. To spend.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xviii 279.
"The boys had blowed in their summer's wages and were feeling glum all over."

blue lightning, n. (c. dialect) Gun. (See dig for)

blue whistler, n. A strong wind.
1921. Dobie. A vaquero... xx 278.
"Then about twelve o'clock one night a "blue Whistler" snorted down upon us."

bob-wire, n. Barbed wire; a wire having sharp barbs.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 116
"Chaos demanded order, and the means of order here was to be barbed wire--"bob-wire", most people used to call it."

to bog down, v. To mire.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 209
"I have bogged my wagons down
And dug them out again;"

bolted, v. To swallow whole.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 203-04
"Being both tired and hungry I quickly forgot all about them, and as soon as I had bolted my food returned to the office and sat down to enjoy a smoke and do some necessary writing."

bonnet strings, n. (c. dialect) Hat strings.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. v 104.
"From either side of the brim at its inner edge, depended abuckskin thong; these two thongs, sometimes known as "bonnet strings," being tied together and forming a guard, which, during rapid riding or in windy weather, was pushed under the base of the skull, but which at other times was thrust inside the hat."

boomers, n. Land-stakers; homesteaders.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. ix 116
"About this time there was great excitement over the opening of Oklahoma to settlement. Soldiers were kept on the border of the Indian Territory to keep the "Oklahoma boomers" out of the 'promised land'. Still the boomers would slip by the soldiers in the night."

boozy, a. Drunk; intoxicated.
1929. Dobie . A vaquero... xi 157.
"The Mexican now returned, boozy but not too boozy to talk."

borderer, n. (c. dialect) One living on or near the border between Mexico and the United States.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 63.
"August Santleben, border and outstanding freighter between San Antonio and various cities of Mexico, has in his book A Texas Pioneer, offered concrete evidence of the kindly feeling existing between many Mexicans and Americans."

bosal, n. (Span.) A "halter".
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vii 151.
"More commonly it was a bridle which had, in lieu of a bit, a so-called "bosal," a leathern, rawhide, or metal ring around the horse's head immediately above the mouth. The reins were attached to the bosal, and their pulling operated to shut off the horse's wind."

bowled, v. To kill or shoot down.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 264.
"There must have been a number of others in hiding, however, for they had hardly bowled over McGinnis when they were met by a regular fusilade."

box canyons, n. Gorges with one open end.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 209.
"In snowy weather the punchers had also to keep the stupid cattle from self-immurement in "box canyons," which were gorges with but a single open end, the inner terminal being against a wall of rock within the mountain's mass."

boxed brand, n. (c. dialect) A brand enclosed by lines.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 236.
"When the brand's design bore framing lines, it was said to be "boxed.""

branch water, n. Water from small creeks.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xiii 200.
"...I had scarcely drunk anything in three months but brandh water."

brand artists, n. (c. dialect) A person skilled in blotting out a brand carried by an animal, and substituting his own mark of ownership.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 243
"The honesty of the West was not so complete as to exclude the existence of so-called "brand artists," "brand blotters," or "brand blotchers," these being gentlemen who, with ingenuity and a piece of hot metal, added marks to those already on abeast and made the final result identical with the "artist's" registered brand."

brand blotchers, n. (c. dialect) (See brand artists)

brand blotters, n. (c. dialect) (See brand artists)

brand book, n. (c. dialect) A book in which were recorded the brands used by cowmen.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 234.
"If nobody had made prior claim for the use of the design, the latter was formally allowed, was entered in the official "brand book," and became in effect the trade-mark of the person who registered it."

brand burners, n. (c. dialect) Men skilled in burning out another brand to substitute their own.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 121.
"However, many brand burners used a good deal of ingenuity in making up brands that would envelop certain brands they had elected to tamper with."

Brasada, n. (Span.) The brush country on the border ofMexico and the United States.
Dobie. 1929. A vaquero... xvii 222.
"As has been made clear, the Brasada--the brush country--marked the meeting of the East and West."

brasaderes, n. (Span.) Brush riders.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xvii 235.
"It is something to have ridden together; it is something to have been one of six brasaderes in the great Brasada."

brass-band stealing, vb.n. (c. dialect) Overt stock raiding.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xv 309.
"As already stated, overt stock-raiding, so-called "brass-band stealing", had ceased by the commencement of the eighties."

bread pones, n. A kind of bread.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xviii 250.
"After I had drunk about a half gallon of black coffee and consumed bread pones and fried "sow belly" in proportion, I felt really generous."

to break, v. (c. dialect) To make gentle; to tame for riding.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 56
"There were several hundred mares on the ranch, none of which had ever been handled or interfered with, other than to be driven into a corral for the purpose of having their colts branded or the necessary separation of those intended to be broken for use."

Break-up, n. (c. dialect) A period in which stockmen lost a great many cattle from rustling and drouth.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 218.
"This extraordinary depletion, which was temporary, of the range cattle of Southwest Texas, resulting as it did in the financial ruin of many stockmen, was locally the "Break-up".

brogan, n. Stiff unfinished leather shoes.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 167
"With his brogan shoes and overalls, a tougher kid
You never in your life before had saw."

bronc, n. (c. slang) (See bronco)

bronco, n. (Span.) An "unbroken" or wild horse.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ii 28
"This was "bronco" (from Spanish "broncho", meaning rough, rude), though it often was contracted into "bronc" or "bronk", and also was interchangeable, particularly in the Southwest, with "mustang", and especially in Oregon with "cayuse" or, as sometimes spelled "kiuse"."

bronco-buster, n. (c. dialect) A rider of untamed or wild horses.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xi 152
"After talking the matter over with Ed we both decided that the best man for our purpose was a man named Golden, who had come to us a few months previously as a bronco-buster."

bronco-peeler, n. (c. dialect) A rider of untamed or wild horses.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 39.
"To these various legitimate titles, conscious slang added "bronco peeler", "bronco twister," and "bronco buster".

bronco twister, n. (c. slang) (See bronco peeler)

bronk, n. (c. slang) (See bronco)

broomies, n. (c. slang) (See fuzzies)

broom tails, n. (c. slang) See fuzzies)

brush hand, n. (c. dialect) A cowboy whose daily routine found him fighting thick, heavy brush.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 205.
"Unseen and unapplauded, the brush hand almost daily exerts as much skill and grit as any rodeo star ever displayed in conquering the most savage outlaw horse."

brush-popper, n. (c. slang) A cowboy who was skilled in cowboy tactics in spite of the brush which covered the territory in which he worked.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 86.
"Walton knew that Iwas a brush popper and that I hankered for ranger service; so he gave me the chance."

brush roper, n. (c.slang) A cowboy who knew the brush and knew how to rope animals in spite of the Brasada.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 211.
"He used to say that it took just two things to make a good brush roper, especially at night-"a damned fool and arace horse".

to buck, v. (c. dialect) To jump around in various motions in an attempt to throw a rider.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 284.
"Between "bucking" and "pitching," there was no difference except that of geography. The Northwesterner called the horrid motion "bucking" or "buck jumping," the Texan termed it "pitching".

buckaroo, n. (perverted Span.) A cowboy.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 39.
"In Oregon he (cowboy) frequently was called "baquero", "buckaroo," "buckhara," or"buckayro", each a perversion of either the Spanish "vaquero", or the Spanish "boyéro", and each subject to be contracted into "bucker."

buckayro, n. (See buckaroo)

bucked, v. Sustained; held up.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvii 280.
"He merely threatened to pick up a rock and take his gun away from him, but that was enough for Saunders to make himself scarce when he wasn't bucked up with a drink."

bucker, n. (See buckaroo)

buckhara, n. (See buckaroo)

buck jumping, vb.n (See to buck)

to buck out, v. (See to snuff out)

buck strap, n. (c. dialect) A saddle strap used for a hand hold during pitching.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 132.
"There might be at the base of the saddle's horn a "buck strap," which was a loop that offered a convenient hand hold during pitching."

bueno, a. (Span.) Good
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vii 94.
"He was carrying on a lively conversation, to which I was endeavoring to listen, but I had hardly got into the saddle when I was prodded in the leg on each side by somebody's forefinger, and damned if there weren't Jim and Bow-legs each grunting, 'Bueno! ' Bueno! '."

buffaloed, vb.n. Bluffed; deceived.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iii 87
"On my inquiry whether there was no objection on the part ofhis fellow-citizens, my informant told me that he had them all 'buffaloed'."

bull-dogging, v. (c. dialect) To fall from a horse onto a bull's horns and neck; grab the animal by the loose skin on its neck or the base of its right horn, or the nose with the right hand; seize the tip of the left horn with the left hand; twist the neck of the bull and throw it. This act may also be accomplished from the ground as well as on horseback.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... ii 19.
"It may be considered a precursor of bull-dogging."

bull nurses, n (c. slang) Men who were sent in the cars with a shipment of cattle to tend the stock en route.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiii 288.
"As our men's cattle were so numerous as to fill many railway-cars, the owners of the beasts would send, as caretakers or as not uncommonly called "horse pushers" or "bull nurses," two or three cowboys with the shipment to its ultimate destination."

bull-tailing, v (c. dialect) To grab a bull by the tail, and by a grip and twist throw it.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... ii 19.
"Bull-tailing, it may be said in concluding this chapter, was practiced by the first Mexican vaqueros of Texas, and long after the Civil War it was a popular sport among the Mexicans of Southwest Texas."

bull-whacker, n. (c. slang) An oxen driver.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ix 129.
"When I was boss bull-whacker," he began, "for a big army sutler at Fort Concho, I used to make two round trips a month with my train."

to bunk, v. To sleep.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ii 24.
"As the men usually bunked in pairs, the foreman chose them as they slept..."

bunk-house, n. The house in which the cowboys or work hands slept.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 203.
"I watched them ride up to the bunk-house, and as they seemed uncertain as to whom they wished to address I left them to the tender mercies of Fred and went to the house..."

bunkie, n. Bedfellow.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iv 54.
"When we came up with the cattle, my bunkie and Blades looked wistfully at our saddles, and anticipating their want I untied my slicker..."

burg, n. A town or village.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xvii 264.
"We were less than five miles from the burg, and struck a free gait in riding in, where we found several hundred of our craft holding high jinks."

to burn out, v. (c. dialect) To erase brands by burning.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xxi 294.
"When mavericks become scarce the gang started to burning out brands."

burro, n. A donkey or ass.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vi 89.
"They came snooping along in their little old wagon, drawn by a remnant of a horse and a mangy-looking burro, with a long pole sticking out behind on which was a blue flag."

busted, v. (c. slang) Thrown
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 213.
"The proud Bullet was forefooted, and busted so hard that it broke his front teeth."

caballada, n. (Span.) A herd of extra ponies used during a round-up.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 219.
"The extra ponies driven to the round-up corrals formed an aggregation which the Northwest knew as the "saddle band," but which in the Southwest was called by this name, by that of "remuda", or "remontha" (this latter a corruption of Spanish "remonta") and also by that of "cavvieyah," "cavoy," "cavvoy", "cavy," "cavvy," or, if the dictionary were more closely followed, "caballada", "cavallard," "cavayard", or "caviarde."

caballero, n. (Span.) Gentleman
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 65.
"The caballero had no "pass" and could not satisfactorily establish his identity."

caballo, n. (Span.) Horse.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 212.
"He was told that he was a pretty bad caballo and they thought of tying a saddle on him andleaving him saddled up for a day before attempting to ride him."

cactus boomers, n. (c. slang) Wild brush cattle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 210.
"A popular nickname for the wild brush cattle was "cactus boomers."

calaboose, n. Jail.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. iv 46.
"I received $2.50 from the town for every arrest that I made, and $1 a day was allowed me for every prisoner in the "calaboose", as the jail was called".

calf, n The young of the cow.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 217.
"An animal of the cattle family, whatever its sex, was born a "calf"."

calf round-up, n. (c. dialect) Spring round-up.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 217.
"The "spring round-up," which was primarily for the purpose of branding and thus among cattle raisers was called the "calf round-up," occurred after the vernal grass had come, and took place in March throughout the South and on correspondingly later dates in the more northern latitudes."

California rig, a. (c. dialect) (See single-rigged)

calve, v. To give birth to a calf.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxiii 378.
"'Well, you see,' replied The Rebel, 'Quirk's was a steer herd, while ours had over a thousand cows in it, and you must make allowance for some to calve on the way."

cantineses, n. Saddle pockets.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 132.
"Not infrequently a pair of leathern pockets bestrode the saddle, sometimes behind the cantle, more rarely at the horn. These receptacles were called either "cantineses" or saddle pockets."

canyon, n. (Span.) A valley with high, steep sides.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 59.
"The party left early on the morning of the 15th ofMay, following the usual route up the Pueblo to the mouth of Bear Creek, which was a main canyon coming in from the west with little permanent water beyond a few seep springs."

capitán,n. (Span.) Chief; main authority.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 62.
"The chief, or capitán, asked him to join the band, but he refused."

caporal, n. (Span.) Straw boss. (See señorita).

carcase, n. Carcass; a dead body.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 200.
"The carcase weighed considerably over a thousand pounds."

carne fresco, n. (Span.) Fresh meat.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xx 311.
"McCann, I'll take my carne fresco a trifle rare tonight, garnished with a sprig of parsley and a wee bit of lemon."

to cash in, v. (See to snuff out)

to catch them up, v. To overtake.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iv 43.
"I told the rest of our party that I would catch them up."

catridge, n. Cartridge.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 225.
"Then seeing that I really meant it he quickly disabused me of the notion by declaring:'Why, hell! I didn't have no catridge'."

Cattle Barons, n. (c. dialect) Men rich in cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 177.
"It seemed that Dick had been picked up by Mr. Walker in Chicago and taken along to ferret out the wickedness of the Cattle Barons, and owing to some indiscreet talk of Captain'M's, who was boastful in his cups, he had fastenednon to him as likely to be of assistance in proving their theories."

cattle-chips, n. (c. dialect) Dried cow manure.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xiv 210.
"We had begun to feel the scarcity of wood for cooking purposes some time past, and while crossing the plains of Western Kansas, we were freqeuntly forced to resort to the old bed grounds of a year or two previous for cattle chips."

Cattle Country, n. (c. dialect) The grazing area of the West.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy i 15.
"So predominant were the cattle that the entire grazing area of the West customarily was called the Cattle Range or Cattle Country."

cattle kings, n. (c. dialect) Men rich in cattle.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xv 313
"The relative numbers of the people aligning with the several factions showed conclusively that the old order had ended, that the Range had ceased to be a political entity and had been apportioned among the States, that the cattle kings had forever ceased to rule..."

cattlemen, n. (c. dialect) Cattle owners.
(1883-1899) French. R collections... xv 245.
"There were originally three brothers, but the youngest had been shot when inadvertently trespassing on some cattlemen before they moved on to the Frisco..."

cattle-owners, n. (c. dialect) Men who possessed cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 227.
"I attended a meeting in Silver City, held by the cattle-owners of Grant and Sierra Counties at the Timmer House Hotel..."

cattle-ranching, vb.n. (c. dialect) Raising of cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollection... v 56.
"This work with the horses was always very attractive to me, and was certainly the most interesting work in connexion with cattle-ranching."

cattle wars, n. (c. dialect) War over disputes arising about the ownership and stealing of cattle.
1922. Bechdolt. When the West was young. 133.
"He had fought in one of those numerous cattle wars which raged throughout western Texas during the seventies."

caverango, n. (Span.) A hostler.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 218-19.
"To the round-up corrals, strings of extra saddle ponies were driven by hostlers whom the Northwest called "horse wranglers," this term being possibly a corruption of the Mexican's "caverango," a hostler."

cavoy, n. (See caballada)

cavvoy, n. (See caballada)

cavvy, n. (See caballada)

cavvieyah, n. (See caballada)

cavy, n. (See caballada)

cayuse, n. (Indian) (See bronco)

center-fire high horn saddles, adj. (c. dialect) A saddle having one cinch usually located about the center of the saddle.
1912. Siringo. Riata and Spurs. vi 67.
"Moore had got his cowboy training in California, where they use 'centerfire' high horn saddles, and riatas (ropes) which they wrap around the saddle-horn when roping on horseback.

center fire, adj. (see single-rigged).

chaparejos, n. (Span.) Chaps; leathern trousers.
1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 163.
"He still wore his chaparejos and spurs and had his cartridge bent around him, but Uncle Billy said he had taken the gun out of the scabbard as it got in the way when they laid him out."

chaps, n. (c. slang) Leathern trousers.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 23.
"The yelling and beating of quirts against leather 'chaps' could be heard miles away."

chassed into, v. (Fr.) Happened upon.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 78.
"Chassed into" and "waltzed into" might be equivalent to the phrase "happened upon"...

chawed, v. Scarred; hurt.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 207.
"There was no time for investigation, however, for the cattle had to be attended to, and the boys rode off, still under the impression that though I had come out alive I was pretty badly chawed up."

chili con carne, n. (Span.) Meat with red pepper.
c1930 Jennings A Texas ranger. ii23.
"We arrived in town about seven o'clock in the evening and, after a supper of chili concarne and tamales, we crossed the Rio Grande to see what we could of the fiesta.

chink, n. Money.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 191.
"Such a slam against my talent made me hotter than a mink,
And I swore that I would ride him for amusement or for chink."

to choke the biscuit, v. (See to hunt leather)

to choke the horn, v. (See to hunt leather)

choused, v. Chased; driven.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 87.
"About the first duty assigned to me as guide was the picking of a route through some thickets in San Patricio County-thickets that I had "choused" many a maverick through."

a Christmas tree, n. An entertainment held at Christmas time ; a Christmas tree is a necessary part of the decoration.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xi 162.
"On Christmas Eve a group of us young people drove down in buggies to attend a Christmas tree on the Picketwire."

to chuck, v. (See to hit the ground)

Chuck-liners, n. (c. dialect) A tolerated imposter and tramp who received his food by following chuck wagons.
(1883-1893) French. Recollections... xi 152-53.
"Everything was shipshape, and we were about ready to move into camp, when a day or so before starting, we received a visit from one of those gentlemen known throughout the West as 'Chuck-liners'. I believe they call them Sundowners in Australia, but the name known to us was evidently derived from their custom of trading on the hospitality of the different ranches for food and fodder."

to chuck the Rio, v. To affect the manners of the people who lived near the Rio Grande.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. v 104.
"A denizen of the Northwest appearing in a high-crowned hat was supposed to be putting on airs, and was subject openly to be accused of "chucking the Rio", vernacular for affecting the manners of the Southwesterners, whose dominant river was the Rio Grande."

chuck-wagon, n. (c. dialect) Food wagon.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. i 9.
"They had four mules to the chuck wagon..."

to chunk, v. To throw.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vii 94.
"When there were rocks within reach, we chunked at them."

cigarito, n. (Span.) Cigarette.
c1930 Jennings A Texas ranger ii 24.
"Every man in the room was smoking a cornhusk cigarito."

cincha, n. (See cinch.)

cinch, n. A band encircling the horse's stomach to hold the saddle on.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 126.
"The "cincha" or as usually termed, the cinch was a broad, short band made of coarsely woven horse-hair or sometimes of canvas or cordage, and terminating at either end in a metal ring.

circle riders, n. (c. dialect) Men on horseback who rode in a circular formation to round up cattle for branding.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xi 220.
"Horsemen, widely separated in skirmish line, started miles from a designated corral, and, as "circle riders," converging on it, drove slowly before themselves everything that moved on legs."

to clap, v. (c. slang) To place.
c1924 Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 117
"In the old days cow-thieves had been for the most part of two varieties: arrogant owners who had clapped their irons on every animal that came their way, and those bold marauders who drove off whole bunches at a sitime."

clean straw, n. (c. slang) Straw free from dirt; fresh bed-sheets.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 77.
"Clean straw" either denoted exactly what it said, or else it signified fresh bed-sheets."

clothes-line, n. (c. slang) Lasso; riata; rope.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vii 138.
"Clothes-line", "lass rope", and "string" were occasional alternates. (for lasso or riata)"

coasters, n. (c. dialect) Longhorned cattle of the Texas coast country.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 20.
"The "coasters," or "sea lions," as people sometimes called the longhorned cattle of the coast country, could swim like ducks and were as wild."

cocinero, n. (Span.) Cook.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 168.
"To follow the chuck-wagon and always hitch the team,
And to help the cocinero rustle wood."

cock-a-coodle-do, n. (c. slang) Boss; foreman.
(See cookie)

cod, v. To joke; to banter.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xvi 245.
"They had codded one another until Joe had shown some spirit, when the old man suggested they play a little game of cards for fun..."

cold-jawed, n. (c. dialect) Hard mouthed.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 206.
"In the heat of the chase they are apt to become "cold-jawed" (hard mouthed) and uncontrollable.

to come to a head, v. To reach a climax.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 53.
"But matters eventually came to a head."

compadre, n. (Span.) Friend.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 172.
"My compadre, the medico, had borrowed the largest forty-five and the most conspicuous belt of cartridges that he could find, while I had only a little thirty-two that I carried in my pocket."

concha, n. (Span.) Flat metal plates used for ornamentation.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. v 104.
"The belt, if of leather, commonly was studded with ornamental nails, or,did the owner's purse permit, with "conchas" which were flat metal plates, usually circular, generally of silver, in rare instances of gold, in much rarer instances set with jewels."

confab, n. (c. slang) Familiar talk; confabulation.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 260.
"... I frequently saw them together in the dusk of the evening sitting under a fence in close confab like long-lost brothers."

conk cover, n. (See lid Rollins)

contract busters, n. (c. slang) A rider contracted to break horses.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy. xiv. 278.
"These rough riders usually were either owners of small ranches, or else were men who, as itinerant "contract busters," wandered about the Range and temporarily leased their services to such establishments as could not afford to maintain a first-class rider of their own."

cookie, n. (c. slang) Cook.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 165.
"There was the foreman, who sometimes was referred to as the "cock-a-doodle-do", the cook who, if, as commonly, white, was to his face called "cookie" and behind his back was spoken of as the "old woman" or "old lady"."

corona, n. (Span.) A pad to place under the saddle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 125.
"If so, there was put between it and the horse's back some form of padding, either a shaped pad called "corona" or else, more commonly, a folded blanket..."

corazon, n. (Span.) Heart (sweetheart).
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail...
"I don't look much like a lover,
Yet I say her love-words over
Often, when I'm all alone-
"Mi amor, mi corazon"."

corral, n. (Span.) A circular pen built of stout, horizontal wooden rails which were supported by posts set firmly in the ground.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections.... xiv 210.
"The walls of the corral were fully eight feet high, but I could see the form of the rider, and occasionally the back of the horse, appear and disappear at frequent intervals over it."

coral, v. (Span.) To pen.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 23.
"At first, while the herd was small, we would corral at night in one of the many public corrals, scattered over this coast country. When the herd became too large, we had to night herd, each cowboy being up singing to the steers half the night. In corralling these steers for the night, we had great sport."

corrida, n. (Span.) Band; outfit.
1929 Dobie. A vaquero of the brush country. i 1.
"Thus in one corrida, or outfit, may be found "Mexican vaqueros", "white vaqueros", and "nigger vaqueros". "

cottonade, n. A cotton cloth.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxiv 379-80
"I'll commence on my little pattering feet, which will require fifteen-dollar moccasins, and then about a six-dollar checked cottonade suit, and top off with a seven-dollar brown Stetson."

counter brand, n. (See vent brand Rollins)

county-brand, n. (c. dialect) A designated brand to be used by cowmen living in a certain county.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xii. 237.
"Lastly, there was in Texas for the benefit of its ranchmen a statutory series of so-called "county brands", a separate, prescribed letter or group of letters for each Texan county."

cow, n. (c. slang) Group.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xvii 260.
"When we were in Dodge, my bunkie had shown no inclination to gamble, but now he was the first one to suggest that we make up a "cow", and let him try his luck at monte."

cowboy, n. (c. dialect) A man who worked with cattle and horses.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 66
"Some wise old Westerner defined a cowboy as "a man with guts and a horse".

cow brute, n. (c. dialect) Cow.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xi 159
"But any cow brute that halted in fording the Canadian that day was doomed to sink into quicksands from which escape was doubtful."

cow-crowd, n. (c. dialect) A herd of cattle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vii 104.
"Wherever he rode, alone or in a cow crowd, death was reaching for his bridle reins."

cowboy detective, n. A detective whose occupation at one time was that of acowboy.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xiii 167.
"But to get back to the business of the "cowboy detective"-and I was a year ahead of Charlie Siringo in playing detective on Billy the Kid."

cow drive, n. (See cow hunt)

cow hand, n. (c. dialect) A man hired to work with cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 258.
"He seemed quite a cut above the ordinary cow hand and undoubtedly had more education."

cow herd, n. (c. dialect) A herd of cattle.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ii 13.
"He was well calculated to manage the cattle business, but was irritable and inclined to borrow trouble, therefore unqualified personally to oversee the actual management of a cow herd."

cow hunt, n. (c. dialect) A rounding up of cattle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... ii 13.
"When we gathered cattle, we said that we were on a "cowhunt", a "cow-work", a "work", or a "cow drive", or maybe we said we were out "running cattle".

cowless, a. (cowboy dialect) Without cows.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xvi 220.
"... James Lowe, along with plenty of other honest cowmen of Southwest Texas, was left cowless."

cow outfits, n (c. dialect) A group of cowboys hired to take care of cattle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... i 10-11.
"By the time I was twelve I was working with regular cow outfits..."

cowman, n. (c. dialect) An owner of cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 143.
"The convention was presided over by Colonel Dick Head, known throughout the range as Dick Head and at that time looked upon as the beau-ideal cowman."

cow-path, n. (c. dialect) A narrow path used by cattle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy i 13.
"The Texas Trail was no mere cow-path. It was the course of empire."

cow-puncher, n. (c. slang) (Orig. Signif. -A man hired to punch up cows when they wanted to go slowly or lie down with a prod-pole) Came to be used synonomously with cowboy.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. V 61-62.
"Now for the first time in my life I became a cow-puncher, carrying a lantern and a long pole with a spike in the end, to keep the steers punched up, when they got down in the crowded cars. In a few years the name cow-puncher became attached to all cowboys."

cow-punching, v. (c. slang) (Orig. Signif.) To prod cows to keep them standing.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. vi 68.
"There the fat steers were put aboard two trains, and I took charge of one train, thus taking my second lesson in cow-punching with a spiked pole and lantern."

cow-thieves, n. (c. dialect) Men who stole cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 260.
"They were evidently doing their duty loyally to the outfit, and expressed the greatest contempt for the common cow-thieves, whom they always alluded to as the 'Petty Larceny' crowd.".

cow-town, n. (c. dialect) A town which usually sprang up quickly to accommodate the cowmen who were shipping cattle to the market.
1912 Siringo Riata and spurs. xiv 186.
"A week's hard riding south brought them to the cow-town of Ogallala, Nebraska."

cow-waddies, n. (c. slang) Cowboys.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 243.
He said: 'Hell, fellows, we common cow-waddies ain't got but one vote nohow! And, hell, we don't need to cast it. Let us go, fellows, I'm getting hungry,' and he larruped his pony under the flank with his quirt and we all broke into a canter."

cow work, n. (See cow hunt).

to crease, v. (c. dialect) To shoot through the neck of a horse in such a way as to touch but not injure the cartilage above the bones.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 57-58.
"The rifle, rarely the pistol, was at times discharged at wild horses, at unbroken members of the ranch herd, or at erring, already-gentled steeds, in any case for the purpose of "creasing" them.

to croak, v. (See to snuff out)

crony, v. To "pal" around; to be friendly with one another.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xiii 290.
"Down at another gambling house, The Rebel met Ben Thompson, a faro dealer not on duty and an old cavalry comrade, and the two cronied around for over an hour like long lost brothers, pledging anew their friendship over several social glasses in which I was always included."

to cross, v. To take over.
1903. Adams. Log of acowboy. ii 12.
"They were coming up from ranches in the interior and we expected to cross them the first favorable day after their arrival."

to cross a rifle, v. To fire alternately from the right and left shoulder.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 53.
"At each shot he "crossed" his rifle, that is he fired alternately from his right and left shoulder, thus increasing the width of his zone of fire without making him rotate his body, and thereby unduly affect his running."

to cross-hobble, v. (See to side-line)

to crowhop, v. (c. dialect) To jump about with arched back and stiffened knees.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 281.
"A few of these pious eighty might for a while "crowhop" i.e., jump about with arched back and stiffened knees, but this was bucking seen through the large end of an opera-glass."

cuarta, n. (See quirt)

cuerda, n. (See quirt)

cuff, v. (Eng.) To groom.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy iii 36.
The next morning I was given my breakfast; my horse, well cuffed and saddled, was brought to the door, and with this parting advice I was given permission to go..."

cuitan, n. (See skookum).

culled, adj. (c. slang) Picked over; sorted out.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 255.
"We had a good many cattle in Colfax County at the time, principally culled cows and calves and I was anxious to get rid of them."

cultus, adj. (See skookum).

curry, V. (Eng.) To comb with a curry or horse comb.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 44.
"I'm wild and woolly and full of fleas,
I'm hard to curry below the knees."

cusi, n. (shortened cuisine) Cook.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy x 157
"How soon will supper be ready, cusi? Get something extra, for you've got company."

cusi segundo, n. Second cook: cook of lower rank.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxi 333.
"Honeyman, if you was cusi segundo under me, and built up such a big fire for the chef, there would be trouble in camp.

cut, v. (c. dialect) To sort out; take out.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy viii 80
Well men", said he, "if you have no authority to cut this trail, then you don't cut this herd... I'll certainly let no other man, local or duly appointed, cut an animal out of this herd without written and certified authority."

cut, n. (See beef cut)

to cut loose, v. (c. slang) To fee oneself from conventions.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 105
"If when he got to town, after long months out in the brush, on the lone prairie, or on the long, long trail, the cowboy "cut loose" and had "a little fun" he can hardly be blamed."

cut loose your dog, v. (c. slang) To shoot one's gun.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. vi 81.
"But this much I can assure you; any time that you have the leisure and want t shoot me, just cut loose your dog."

to cut out, v. (c. dialect) To separate an animal from the herd.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 225.
"This process involved "cutting out," which means that the rider, sighting an animal to be segregated, rode between it and the body of the herd."

dab, n. (c. slang) Meals.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. vii 94.
"Oh, I forgot; of course you couldn't be expected to know. We call the messes 'dabs', in this outfit."

to dance lady-fashion, v. (See to be heifer-branded)

dead-fall, n. Swindler; crook.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xvi. 251.
"There's a deadfall down here on the river", said he, "that robs a man going and coming. They've got booze to sell you that would make a pet rabbit fight a wolf."

deep, adv. (c. dialect) Close; tightly.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xviii 286.
"All the fine sentiment and melancholy of the hour previous vanished in a moment, as the men threw themselves into their saddles, riding deep, for it was uncertain footing to horses."

desperadoes, n. Bad men.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 204.
"He was commonly supposed to be a half-breed Indian and was the leader of a gang of desperadoes who plied their trade through the southern counties of New Mexico..."

devil, v. To aggravate.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 226.
"As he explained it, he said that as soon as I had told how he had come to change his brand the boys would never let up on him but would devil him out of the country."

to die in their boots, v. (c. dialect) To meet death wearing one's boots.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... ii 23-24.
"They were certainly a tough crowd, and I think that every one of those who were there at the time, afterwards died in their boots."

die-up, n. (c. dialect) A year in which many cattle died.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 24.
"In the disastrous "die up" of 1872--1873, for instance Jim Miller's outfit on the Nueces skinned 4000 dead cattle."

to dig for, v. (c. slang) To grab for.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vii 148.
"The affronted citizen would be justified, if he "dug for" his own "blue lightning", "talking iron", "lead-pusher," or "flame-thrower," and "unravelled some cartridges"."

dinero, n. (Span.) Money.
c1923 James. Cowboys north and south. i 4.
"... I wishes the rest of the boys good luck and hits out on my own hook, looking for some way of earning enough dinero to take me to that promised land, the border country."

disremember, v. To forget.
1903. Adams Log of a cowboy xv 238.
"One year maybe it's a little white dog with red eyes, and the very next it's a long bench-legged, black dog with a Dutch name that right now I disremember.

to 'dobe wall, v. (c. slang) To stand one against an adobe wall and shoot him.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 70.
"His idea of inspiring respect for law was to "'dobe wall" the lawless--stand them up against an adobe wall and shoot them."

dobe, n. (Span.) Dried mud bricks.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 106.
"Shinin' dobe fire-place, shadows on the wall (See old Shorty's friv'lous toes a-twitchin' at the call:)".

dobes, n. (c. slang) Scrubby calves.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xi 217.
"This spring herding provoked much discussion of stock that "had not wintered well", and of "dogies", or "dobes", these least being calves or yearling cattle that were still scrubby and anaemic from the scant food of the cold months.

do-ce-doed, v. Danced to the call of the "caller".
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 110.
"I could feel my neck a-burning from her nose's
breathing heat,
And she do-ce-doed around me, half the time upon
my feet;".

dofunny, n. (c. slang) A luxury or possession which is not absolutely necessary to one's personal belongings.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 153.
"Each of such useless objects and of such luxuries particularly if it were small in size or novel in construction, was apt to be called a "dofunny". This word in its plural form of "dofunnies" might be given a wider significance, and denote also the entire personal belongings regardless of their character."

dogger, n. (c. slang) A man who threw animals by bull-dogging.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 233.
"The "dogger" then rose clear of the ground; and, by lunging his body downward against his own left elbow, so twisted the neck of the brute that the latter lost its balance and fell".

dogging, v. (See spilling).

dogies, n. (c. dialect) Calves.
1903 Adams Loge of a cowboy vi 86.
"Just about midnight a bunch of range cattle ran into us, and before you could say Jack Robinson, our dogies had vamoosed the ranch and were running in half a dozen different directions.

dons, n.(Span.) Mexican cattlemen.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy. ii 21.
"Just a mere difference in nationality," Lovell had me interpret to the selling dons.

double-barrelled, adj. (See double-rigged).

double fire, adj. (See double-rigged).

double rig., adj. (See double-rigged).

double-rigged, a. (c. dialect) two-cinched; a saddle with two cinches.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 123.
"The saddle of two cinches was designated technically as "double-rigged" or "double-rig" ; popularly and in pistol-maker's ph rases as "double fire", "rim-fire", or "double-barrelled"...

drags, n. (c. dialect) Stock that brought up the rear.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. viii 195.
"The drags went past and I got on my horse, falling in behind."

on the draw, n. In pulling out one's gun.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 55.
"Their ages ran from about nineteen to fifteen years, and they spent most of their time tearing around on horseback with a couple of six-shooters, practising to be quick on the draw."

drift, n. (c. dialect) The marching of livestock in wholesale numbers away from a particular locality either to avoid the local conditions or to seek better conditions elsewhere.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 207.
"The drift was often tragic for both the animals and the owners. It might send to death practically all the cattle of the range."

drives, n. (c. dialect) The driving of cattle from the range to the shipping point.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 192.
"The resultant "drives" to the "shipping point" at the railroad were made in autumn."

the drop, n. (c. dialect) Being prepared to shoot before the other man is ready.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. xvi 225.
"I thought I should know him, with his disfigured face, a good deal quicker than he would know me, and I relied on the virtue of the "drop", the Texas way of expressing the advantage of being prepared to shoot before the other man is ready."

drying rag, n. (c. slang) A cup or dish towel.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 264.
"...sometimes he used it (bandana) as a cup towel, which he called a "drying rag"."

to dry up, v. To cease giving milk.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 4.
"During the hard winter our gentle milk cows all "dried up" or died, for we had no feed for them."

to dump, v. (c. slang) To throw.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 232.
"Horses were given more considerate treatment, in that some care was exercised that they be not "dumped" so far from the flames as to require this skinabrading haulage."

to dump, v. (See to hit the ground.)

to dust, v. (cowboy dialect) To throw dirt in an animal's eyes.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 249.
"The cowboy feared the Range cow more than he did any bull of steer. Except when "dusted" she kept her eyes open, her mind on her job."

eared, v. (c. dialect) To hold by the ears.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xviii 249.
"After I got the mule well eared it was comparatively easy work the bandana over his head..."

fair grounding, v. (c. dialect). Roping and tying.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xxi 289.
"All the boys in the country were practicing at "fair grounding" (Roping and tying) steers."

fallen hide, n. (c. dialect). A hide from a dead cow.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... ii 23.
In the first place, the custom of the country was that any man could take a "fallen hide" (a hide off a dead cow) when he found it, no matter what brand the animal bore."

family round-up, n. (c. dialect) Gathering of the family.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxii 360.
"When my father returned home that night, there was a family round-up, for he was smoking under the collar."

to fan, v. To knock back and release the hammer of a gun with the right hand while gripping it with the left.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 268.
"To fan a gun the person gripped it in his left hand and with rapid passes of his right hand knocked back and released the hammer. The gun used in "fanning" had, of course, no trigger.

fandango, n. (Span.) Mexican dance.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. x 129.
If we could find a fandango, or Mexican dance, going on, we would enter the dancing-hall and break up the festivities by shooting out the lights.

faze, v. To influence; to have effect upon.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. iii 64.
"The fact that the irrigation system would make his land worth ten times more didn't faze him none".

feaze, v. To influence; to have effect upon.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 71.
"I'm hard to feaze, I'm free to yip
My reason nearly lost its grip.

to feel one's oats, v. To enjoy one's youth.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 269.
"I was feeling my oats anyhow, and the sight of all that gold and silver made me feel like bucking the moon."

festa, n. A Mexican celebration. (See fiesta)

to fetch up, v. To arrive at.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 196.
"He fetched up at the main store of the place with a yell that made the old mesquite tree outside shake its leaves, dragged his spurs inside, took three swigs of undiluted "white mule", and then announced that he was going to wake up everybody and every dog in town."

fiddle, n. Violin.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 7
"Don't you hear the fiddle shrieking?
Don't you hear the banjo speaking?"

fiddle-headed, adj. Queer acting.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... iii 38.
"There was an old fiddle-headed black and white cow in the lead, and as she blundered right on to us the look of surprise and dismay on her ugly face was ludicrous."

fiesta, n. (Span.) A mexican celebration or fair.
c1930 Jennings A Texas ranger. ii 22.
"The annual fiesta, or fair, was in progress in Nueva Laredo, just across the Rio Grande, in Mexico".

the Fighting Parson, n. Jack Potter, a frontier minister.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 67.
"That night he was buried out in the brush, on the Texas, side, by Jack Potter, "the Fighting Parson", one of the characters of the frontier."

to file notches, v. (c. dialect) To cut small slits (usually in the butt of the revolver)
c1924 Bechdolt Tales of the old-timers. 13.
"Save for the Silver City killing he had no record as a warrior or as a bad man, for Mexicans and Apaches didn't count when it came to filing notches in a revolver-butt."

flame-thrower, n. (See to dig for)

flank cinch, n. (c. dialect) The leather saddle strap which encircled the horse between the ribs and hips.
1912 Siringo Riata and spurs vi 68
"The steer had jerked his mount over backward, and one of his spurs caught in the flank cinch, preventing him from freeing himself until too late to save his life."

flea-bit, adj. (c. dialect) Having specks which indicate the presence of fleas or give the appearance of having been bitten by fleas.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 37.
"Her only two companions was those two flea-bit mules
And these she but regarded as animated tools."

fly-by-night, adj. "Crooked"; defrauding
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xiv 187.
"Among the peddlers were many fly-by-night horse traders. An individual of this class generally had a wagon and camp outfit. Also he generally had a horse or two to match in scrub races."

to fog, v. To fire on; to raise dust by firing.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iv 48.
"Then Old Carlie and I made up our minds that it was up to us to fog him up a little and not to let Mr. Baca think he was the only man in the plaza who possessed ammunition."

fool quail, n. A kind of quail or bird said to disappear mysteriously when sighted and to thus fool the hunter.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vi 71.
"Of these, the little fellow with the black topknot was by far the most numerous, but on the higher mesas and close to the mountains you were almost sure to find a flock or two of the mysterious type we called the "fool quail". He was by far the most delicate for the table, but once you took your eye off him he vanished into thin air and was no more to be found no matter how close you hunted for him. He had no fear of death, either from a gun or stick, but he objected to being sighted."

foot-loose, adj. (c. dialect) Unmarried.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 221.
"Bob was a genial soul, in the language of the country 'foot-loose', meaning that he was unmarried and had no encumbrances to hamper his profession."

forefoot, v. (c. dialect) To rope the front legs of an animal and throw him.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 53.
"Also, they were always within range of the lasso from the centre, and the faster they ran the easier it was to forefoot them and throw them. In this forefooting of an animal it was always necessary to get both forefeet in the noose, otherwise you were liable to break the animal's leg."

to fork, v. (c. slang) To ride astride.
1922. Rollins. Theccowboy. iv 35.
"Once dropped from the centaurs, whether through injury or, much rarer, loss of riding nerve, he still lived on horseback, but regretfully, humiliatingly refrained from "hair-pinning" or "forking" at sight "anything on four hoofs," and restricted himself to such animals as supposedly were not vicious."

free grass, n. (c. dialect) Grass that could be used by any cowman for grazing purposes.
1922 Rollins The cowboy i 17.
"Until each particular tract thus passed into private ownership, it remained a part of the so-called "vacant" public lands, and was open, as was every other tract of such vacant public lands, to use by whoever cared to enjoy it. Thus all its grass and water were free to every comer. Such were the so-called "free grass" and "free water"of Western history, a grass and water that in combination were flippantly termed "free air".

freeze-out, n. A type of poker; card game.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xvi 244.
"On arriving at camp we found Stallings and Honeyman entertaining our visitor in a little game of freeze-out for a dollar a corner..."

frijole diet, n. (Span.) A diet of Mexican beans.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 262.
"Many a cowboy tired of a frijole diet and hungry for fresh beef has roped a fat yearling in this way and charged the result to "an accident".

función, n. (Span.) A mexican celebration; dance or entertainment.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xi 160.
"... Everybody in the settlement was going up the valley that night to a función."

fuzzies, n. (c. slang) Untamed horses of the range.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ii 28.
"However much the South might speak of "cow-horses", however much the North might mention "ponies", however frequently both South and North might betake themselves to slang and talk of "fuzzies" (Range horses) and "broomies" or "broom tails"(Range mares) there continuously cropped out, in either section, the original appellation.

fuzztails, n. (c. slang) Wild horses.
c1923 James. Cowboys, north and south. viii 189.
These valleys used to be dotted with bunches of fuzz-tails, or wild horses."

to gentle, v. (c. dialect) To make gentle; to tame.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 192.
"There was the "gentling" of these horses."

to get, v. To kill or murder.
c1924. Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 9
"That outfit's not going to bother with serving any papers if they can catch us in the open. They're coming to get us; understand?"

to get a new wrinkle on my horn, v. (c. slang) To get a new idea.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 178.
"Before very long I was destined to get what the cowboys called 'a new wrinkle on my horn' in the most direct method of changing linen."

to get the drop on, v. (c. dialect) To be first in covering one's adversary with a gun.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 48.
"Incidentally, no old-timer, having "gotten the drop" on a man and wishing to disarm him, would for an instant have thought of asking the prisoner to do what some modern tale-writers have required of him, to "Hand over your gun, and do it butt toward me."

to gimlet, v. (c. slang) To cause saddle sores to appear on one's horse by heavy riding.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 125.
"These men (heavy riders) could cling to the bucker and throw the rope as successfully as could their "lighter riding" brothers, but they "gimletted" or "beefstaked" far more horses backs and tired farmmore ponies."

to give one his medicine, v. To mete out to some person or thing what he deserves.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ix 183.
"With these same dogs, sometimes the great, gray timber-wolf was followed to the rock or clump of brush against which he, snarling, was "stood up" and "given his medicine" of lead."

to gin about, v. To drive about haphazardly.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xvi 225.
"Now, ten men are a small crew to handle a herd of 4500 cattle, especially when the cattle are hungry, thirsty, and feverish from having been ginned about..."

girth, n. (c. dialect) Cinch.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 123.
"Some Texans called the cinches "girths," and the rearward of them the "flank girth"."

to git, v. (c. dialect) A Western command given to an undesirable person to begin immediate retreat.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. i 19.

'giving him a game' vb.n. Trying to deceive.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 225.
"He had eyes like a ferret and he looked at me piercingly, under the impression, as he expressed it, that I was 'giving him a game'."

to go bust, v. To loose one's money.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 87.
"Thus the West, from personal experience, believed that "going-bust" or "being busted" was not a serious state and was terminable at any time by the insolvent's initiative."

go-easters, n. (c. slang) Traveling bags used by the cow boys when they went East.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xiii 264.
"Punchers, when bound for the Eastern abattoirs, scorned to pack their spare belongings into gunny "war sacks", and provided themselves at the "general store" with " "boughten" bags of carpet or of imitation leather, bags such as urban folk then employed. These new receptables the punchers often termed "go-easters"."

God's country, n. (c. dialect) The western part of the United States.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 89.
"The single beauty field of which he knew was natural scenery, and he sincerely believed that, in this, nature had given her best to America's West, to "God's Country", as all its dwellers termed it.

to go grass hunting, v. (c. slang) To fall to the ground.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vii 151.
"Often has a friendly wave by the empty hand of an equestrain novice sent him "grass-hunting" through the sudden jump, or equally sudden stop, which was ordered but not expected."

go heeled, v. (c. slang) Armed; carry weapons.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 41.
"... the average puncher was unwilling to encumber himself with more than one gun, and often even failed to "go heeled" (armed) to the extent of "packing" (carrying) that unless conditions insistently demanded."

to go on the prod, v. (c. dialect) To become fighting mad.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xi 166.
"We had several exciting incidents during the operation, for several steers showed fight, and when released went on the prod for the first thing in sight."

go to leather, v. (See to hunt leather)

to grade up, v. (c. dialect) To improve stock by breeding.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ii 29.
"...their blooded animals interbred with the commoner beasts of the Range, and so tended to "grade up" the commercial beef herd."

granger, n. (c. slang) Farmer.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iv 40.
"We harvested our first potatoes, and Wilson and I were proud of them; but the cowboys looked askance and pronounced them only fit food for a "granger". "

grapevine telegraph, n Verbal communication.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 73.
"Despite the lack of telephones and telegraph, important news spread nearly as rapicly--by the "grapevine telegraph" --in those days as it does now; within thirty-six hours riders from seventy-five miles away had come to join the posses."

gray-backs, n. (c. slang) Body lice.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 180.
"The fleas and gray-backs worked on us, O boys, it was not slow,
I'll tell you there's no worse hell on earth than the range of the buffalo."

Greasers, n. (c. slang) Mexicans.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iv 43.
"To them all Mexicans were 'Greasers' and unfit associates for the white man."

gringo, adj. American.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ii 18.
"I at once proclaimed Fox Quarternight, whose years and experience outranked mine, the gringo corporal for the day..."

gringo, n. American.
c1930 Jennings A texas ranger. iv 46-47.
"The Mexicans on the border called all Americans "Gringos".--- There is a legend that, in the early days of the Mexican border, a Scotchman made himself unpopular there by over reaching the natives, and it is said that this man was in the constant habit of singing "Green grow the rushes, o."
The Mexicans couldn't call him "Green grow," but they came as near to it as their tongues could twist the words and called him "Gringo". From that time the nickname gradually became a generic term in speaking of all Americans. "

groundhog case, n. Case in which witnesses must be present.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 178.
"It was what the boys called a 'groundhog' case--either show up with your witnesses or lose the land."

grub-stake, n. Property received from a person to whom holder must give agreed share or profits; 2. one's entire assets; 3. one's food supply.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ii 34.
"A stake such as is mentioned above was an unqualified gift, while a "grub-stake" according to the usual significance of the term, required its recipient to pay to its donor an agreed share of whatever profit might accrue from the enterprise on which the recipient was about to embark, and for the furtherance of which the grub-stake was given.
However, each of these words might, on occasion, be used in a different sense, "stake" to denote either one's entire assets, or else the entire amount hazarded in any venture; "grub-stake" to denote one's food-supply, regardless of how obtained."

grub-staked, v. Supplied with necessary equipment for a share of profits received from property.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 161.
"When the first strike had been made in Mogollon he had grub-staked his friend Mike Tracey, and between them they had several claims in that camp...".

grulla, adj. (Span.) Mouse colored.
1920 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country. i 4.
"The horse Father gave me was a grulla (mouse colored) dun paint."

guerilla, n. Bandit.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vi 79.
"They were expected to guard a scattered population over hundreds of square miles of territory and hunt down a band of Indians who could give points to the finest body of guerilla troops that were ever raised."

gun-fighters, n. Men who fought with guns.
c1924 Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 8.
There were a few young gun-fighters who did not care what the issue was so long as there was a prospect of burning powder with the county to pay the bill."

gunpacking, n. (c. dialect) The act of carrying a gun.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 265.
"A man who carried a gun merely for show or because gunpacking was customary, yet who could not use it, was absurdly foolish;..."

gunshy, adj. (c. dialect) Afraid of a gun.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xvii 233.
"The fourth man's horse was either gunshy or he had been hit by one of our bullets."

gun-toting, adj. (c. dialect) Gun carrying.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 105.
"He was anything but a gun-toting, swaggering murderer ready to shoot the daylights out of the first man he met."

hacienda, n. (Span.) Ranch.
(1883- 1899) French Recollections... xv 252.
"It was at least two days' travel to the nearest hacienda and they hadn't a thing to eat."

hackamore, n. (Span.) A rope halter.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... xiv 213.
A hackamore and blind was placed on his head and a saddle securely fixed before he was allowed on to his feet.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vii 151.
The antithesis of the severe bit was the "hackamore" (from Spanish "jáquima," a halter).

hair case, n. (See aid)

to hair-pin, v. (See to fork)

hairwash spell, n. Drunken spree.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 55.
"As for George, he and I were good friends after his recovery and he stayed on for a year or more, but his weakness for alcohol became so persistent that we were compelled to get rid of him. When he took to what we called a hairwash spell he was entirely useless for several days.

hang, n. Balance.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 49.
"It was by the faultless "hang" or balance of the latter (Colt) weapon that the puncher's shooting reputation was made."

happy hunting ground, n. Heaven.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. vi 72.
"A stampede would, no doubt, have sent us to the happy hunting ground."

to head for, v. To start for.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 32.
"I started for Kiowa, Kansas, next morning, and about three o'clock in the evening the raging blizzard became so cold I concluded to head for a warmer climate."

he country in pants, n. (c. slang) The Range Country.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ii 35.
"The Range described itself as a "he country in pants".

heehee, n. (See skookum)

heehee house, n. (c.slang) Any place of amusement.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv. 79.
"A heehee house was any place of amusement."

to heel, v. (c. dialect) To rope by the hind legs.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. vii 94.
"...I rode to his assistance, my rope in hand, and as the cow turned ends, I heeled her."

to be heifer-branded, v. (c. slang) To tie a handkerchief on the arm of a man at a dance so that he might take a woman's place.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ix 189.
"The dearth of femininity was partly made good by such men as, unselfishly volunteering to "dance lady fashion" were "heifer-branded" by a handkerchief on the arm..."

hell for leather, adv. (c. slang) Rapidly.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 214.
"He was joined on the outside by all the boys who were mounted, and they went off 'hell for leather', as if the devil was behind them."

hen-fruit stir, n. (c. slang) Pancake.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 413.
"But give us, Lord divine,
One "hen-fruit stir"."

herd, adj. (c. dialect) Cattle (Cowboys who tended the herd of cattle).
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy ii 25.
"A half hour before dark, Flood and all the herd men turned out to bed down the cattle for the first night."

to herd, v. (See to punch)

herd-broke. v. (c. dialect) --Tamed to know the herd; trained to handle cattle.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xviii 241.
"When a sufficient number of horses had been caught and "herd-broke", Ike drove the bunch to San Antonio..."

herds, n. (c. dialect)--Large groups or bands of cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 144.
"A visit from Montague Stephens of the S U Ranch, who had returned with me from Denver, led to an arrangement to throw our forces together and ship a mixed train-load from both herds to Kansas City."

hide crop, n. (c. dialect) Hides obtained from cattle that had died or had been killed.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 24.
"A settler short on a corn crop could count on a "Hide crop"."

hide-peelers, n. (c. slang) Men who took the hide from dead cattle.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 60.
"From their camp out in the chaparral they sent word to the citizens of the little town of San Diego to bring either enough money to buy the hides they had collected or else enough men to skin the hide-peelers."

high horse, n. (c. slang) To become angry.
c1923 James. Cowboys, north and south. iii 64.
Jim got on his "high horse" right away and was fighting mad."

to hit the ground, v. (c. slang) To be thrown from a horse.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 125.
"Many a tenderfoot, unmindful of this order of procedure, has "hit the ground", "sunned his moccasins" or "landed", which is to say, in ot her forms of Range English, has been "spilled", "chucked", or "dumped", in any case to hear that conventional, derisive call: "Hi there! You've dropped something"."

hitch, n. Mistake.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iii 33.
"The rest of the proceedings went without a hitch."

hitch, v. (c. slang) Tie up by matrimony.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs... 15.
"She says to me, 'Joe Bowers,
Before you hitch for life,
You ought to have a little home
To keep your little wife!"

hitch-rack, n. (c. dialect) A railing to which one might tie his horse.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxi 385.
"Tying our horses in a group to a hitch-rack in the rear of a saloon called The Buffalo Bull, we entered by a rear door..."

hiyu muckamuck, n. (See skookum)

hog-legs, n. (c. slang) Guns.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 128.
"Joe plunged in, spurs, leggins, 'hog-legs' and all."

hoe-men, n. (c. slang) Farmers.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. vi 72.
"During that spring of 1880 the Chisholm Trail was impassable for large herds, as 'fool hoe-men' had squatted all over it, and were turning its hard packed surface into ribbons with ploughs."

holding spot, n. (c. dialect) A designated place used in the open round-up.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 247.
"For the open round-up there was agreed upon in advance a "holding spot" at which the cattle herd should be stopped and worked."

hold, v. (c. slang) To eat plentifully.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xviii 285.
"Dunlap always holed up like a bear in the winter, and several of the boys spilled their coffee at sight of him."

holt, v. (c. dialect) To grasp.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 60.
"I jumped into the saddle and grabbed holt the horn,
Best blamed cow-puncher ever was born."

hombre, n. (Span.) Man.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 181
"A few words from Numa Raymond to the hombre in charge sufficed to set M. free, and he gladly accompanied us back to the hotel."

hondo, n. (Span.) A knotted or spliced eyelet in the lariat through which the rope was passed to form a loop.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xi 228.
"The puncher's right hand, gripping the "hondo", paid out through it, by a series of short jerks of the wrist, rope sufficient for the noose."

honk, n. (c. slang) Advice; talk.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy vi 81.
"Well, if I was, I hung up my gentle honk before his eyes and ears and gave him free license to call it."

horning in, v. (C. slang) Taking an interest in other people's affairs.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xv 304.
"They merely had a dread of "horning-in"... This close-mouthedness, this non-interest in other people's doings was the principal factor in opening the Range to the rustler's trade."

horseback opinion, n. (c. slang) Gossip; rumor.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. vi 72.
"My sister gives it as a horseback opinion that she's been engaged to this fellow for nearly eight months; girls, you know, sabe each other that way."

horseback work, n. (c. dialect) Work done on a horse.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... 11
" I had no trouble getting all the horseback work I wanted".

horse-breaking, v. (c. dialect) To gentle or tame horses.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 203.
"Returning from our last delivery we intended to devote ourselves to horse-breaking."

horse-camp, n. (c. dialect) Place where horses are located.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 275.
"Tom did stay on for a considerable time afterwards, principally out at the horse-camp, only paying occasional visits to the ranch or Alma."

horse heaven, n. (c. slang) That place where a horse is supposed to receive his reward for a life of service.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xx 258.
"As he was eighteen years, I decided that he would be better off in horse heaven with his daddy, Rowdy."

horse herd, n. (c. dialect) A band of horses.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xiv 188.
"But let us get on the trail with the horse herd."

horse man, n. (c. dialect) A mounted person or one versed in horsemanship.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 39.
"While a cattle man and a cattleman were identical, a horse man and a horseman were not. Of the latter the first raised horses, the second was either a mounted person or one versed in horsemanship."

horseman, n. (c. dialect) A person who raised horses.
(See horse man)

horse-raising, n. (c. dialect) The breeding of horses.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xiv 186.
"The horses (mustangs) were here when the First Anglo-American settlers came, and it was not until well along towards the opening of the twentieth century that horse-raising became an occupation of the past."

horse traders, n. (c. dialect) Men who exhhanged horses.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xiv 187
"Numerous buyers, many of them comparatively small operators, bought horses to drive through the country, peddling as they went. This class of horse traders existed until the era of the automobile."

horse-wrangler, n. (c. dialect) A hostler who kept the string of extra saddle-ponies that accompanied every drive up the trail or were used during round-up from straying and have them ready when they were needed.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy viii 115.
"Flood complimented our cook and horse wrangler on their foresight, for the wagon was our base of sustenance; and there was little loss of time before Barney McCann was calling us to a hastily prepared breakfast."

hoss, n. (c. dialect) Horse.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 8.
"At a round-up on the Gila
One sweet morning long ago,
Ten of us was throwed quite freely
By a hoss from Idaho."

Housegau, n. A jail; a place of forced confinement.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 180.
"He came down with us to the Housegau, and adobe building with a very high wall enclosing a sort of corral at the back. Raymond said that it came in handy for holding the alien voters who came over from Old Mexico at election time."

howdedo, n. (c. slang) Commotion; exchange of pleasantries.
c1923 James Cowboys, north and south. v 112.
"Ponies are caught, harnessed or saddled, and with a lot of howdedo the crowd is leaving for their home grounds."

huero, n. (Span.) Red complexioned man.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 50.
"In person he was a huero, or red complexioned man, blocky in build, powerful of muscle, a wonderful horseman, so ignorant that he could hardly sign his name..."

to hum and haw, v. (c. dialect) To talk a great deal unnecessarily.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... xvii 282-83.
"He hummed and hawed and tried to kid me that I myself was responsible on account of the good character I had given him."

human saddle, n. (c. slang) A flat English saddle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 120.
"The flat English saddle the cowboy termed a "human saddle", "kidney pad", or "postage stamp"."

hung, v. (c. dialect) To remain with.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 103.
"He hung with the cattle, waiting for daylight to come or until he broke his own neck or perhaps only a horse's leg."

to hunt leather, v. (c. slang) To take a hand hold upon some part of the saddle.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 280.
"Less accomplished men in large numbers might be willing to "hunt leather", "take leather", "touch leather", "pull leather", or "go to leather" as a hand hold upon a part of the saddle, it accoutrements, or the horse was interchangeabley known, might be willing to "choke the horn," or "choke", or "squeeze", "the biscuit," as a hand hold upon the saddle horn was more specifically designated..."

hymns, n. (c. dialect) Songs or chants used by the night herder to keep his cattle quiet.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xiii 254.
"All through the darkness men of the "night herd", working in shifts of from two to four hours, rode about the animals; and as the men rode they constantly serenaded the beasts by crooning to them songs or chants, which when so used, were entitled "hymns"."

insides, n. (c. dialect) Persons who rode on the inside of the stagecoach.
1922 Rollins The cowboy i 8.
"The stages, "Concord coaches," carrying...and as passengers nine "insides" and six "on tops"or "outsiders,"....."

iron candy, n. (c. slang) A bit.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 191.
"'Good morning, Pete. Hope you're well. Got a little piece of iron candy for you..'".

jacal, n. (Span.) A Mexican hut.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. xvii 230.
"They go to a little jacal every night and play cards."

jacketing, n. Reprimand; Lecture of advice.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xvi 253.
"On the way over I worked Bull Durham out to one side and after explaining the jacketing I had got from Priest and the partial promises I had made..."

jags, n. Sprees.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 53.
"I am an old cow-puncher and here I'm dressed in rags,
And I used to be a tough one and take on great big jags."

jamboree, n. An innocent dancing party; a drunken debauch, an active event as a stampede or pistol fight.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 77.
"For instance "jamboree" might indicate, among other things, an innocent dancing party, a drunken debauch oror an active event, whether the last were a pistol fight or a stampede of aimals."

to jar loose, v. To turn loose.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xvi 243.
"Nor did he jar loose until we reached water..."

javelina, n. Collared peccary.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... iv 34.
"Contrary to a rather popular opinion, the hog is not native to America, though the javelina is.

to jerk, v. (c. dialect) To dry.
1929. Dobie A vaquero... iii 28.
"The Texas colonists, like the Comanches and the Mexicans, knew how to jerk, or dry beef."

jerked buffalo, n. (c. dialect) Dried buffalo.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxi 338.
"On sighting us, he gave the children the remainder of the jerked buffalo, and at once placed himself at our disposal as guide to Frenchman's Ford."

jerky, n. (c. slang) Dried meat.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 28.
"A staple article of diet with many of them was carne asada, or tasajo --"jerky" (from the Spanish word charquii), which is still prepared and used on many Texas ranches and which is yet an important article of commerce in Mexico."

jimcracks, n. (c. slang) Playthings; luxuries.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xiii 198.
"You other kids had better let the games alone and save your money to buy red silk handkerchiefs and soda water and such harmless jimcracks."

jolly, v. (c. dialect) To travel leisurely.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xiv 230.
"It was dark before we set out to overtake the herd, but the trail was plain, and letting our horses take their own time, we jollied along until after midnight."

jonny-cake, n. (c. dialect) Corn bread.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs 108.
"If you happen to go West, don't you marry those Texan boys;
For if you do, your fortune will be
Cold jonny-cake and beefsteak, that's all that you will see,-"

jughead, n. (c. slang). An unbroken horse that is hard to persuade to do anything.
c1923 James Cowboys, north and south. ii 43.
"Then ther's what we call the "jud-head"; he's got to be pulled around a heap, and it takes a lot of elbow grease to get him lined out for anything..."

june, v. To coax; to drive.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xiv 228.
"To june a herd of cattle across in the manner would have been shameful, and the foreman of the herd knew it as well as any one present..."

kak, n. A kind of saddle.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 167.
"His saddle was a Texas "kak", built many years ago,
With an O,K. spur on one foot lightly swung; "

kaupee, n. (See skookum)

to keep batch, v. To keep house; to cook.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xviii 251
"The spring following my round with the mustangs Amos Miles and I were ranching and keeping batch at the S E Ranch..."

to kettle, v. (c. slang) To buck.
c1923 James. Cowboys, north and south. vi 142
" 'Never kettled (bucked) once,' he says..."

kidney, n. Characteristics; caliber.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 212
"There were three or four others of the same kidney, but none of them so notorious as Bullet."

kidney pad, n. (See human saddle)

killikinic, n. (Indian) A smoking mixture of willow bark.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 79
"Tobacco often was termed "killikinic" or "kinnikinic" names given by the Indians to their smoking mixture of willow bark, whether without or with an admixture of tobacco."

killings, n. Murkers.
c1920 Jennings A Texas ranger ii 13
"Very often there were fights about the cattle and, as every man carried a six-shooter in that country, "killings" were of somewhat frequent occurrence."

kinnikinic, n. (See killikinic)

kiote, n. (Span) A small wolf.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. x 213
"The wolves fell into two classes, one, a small animal the coyote or cayote, popularly known as the "kiote"..."

kiuse, n. (See bronco)

kyacks, n. Saddle bags.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections.. xvi 275
"The only thing he asked me for on receipt of his wages was to let him have an old pair of raw hide kyacks that were lying around the stable."

lasso, n. (Span.) Rope which was used by the cowboy to catch animals.
(1883-1899) French Recollections of a western ranchman ii 18.
"In addition, he initiated me into the mysteries of the lasso and the branding of horses and cattle."

lass rope, n. (See clothes-line)

latigo, (See rigging ring)

lawed, v. Arrested.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy vi 81.
"They'd have lawed me if I had, but I ought to have shot him and checked the breed".

lay ups, n. Compulsory stop-overs.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 197-98.
"Such compulsory stoppings were termed "lay ups," while voluntary delays, particularly in towns or at ranches, were called "lay overs." "

lead cattle, n. Cattle at head of herd.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xx 211.
"We'll throw the herd on the trail; and between the lead and rear light, you swing men want to ride well outside, and you point men want to hold the lead cattle so the rear will never be more than a half a mile behind."

lead plum, n. Bullet.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 77.
"A "lead plum" was a bullet, while a "sea plum" was an oyster."

lead-pusher, n. (See to dig for)

lean-to, n. A room or rooms built onto a house and giving the appearance of having been leaned against the original building.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... ii 25.
"The store occupied the front room, the kitchen and dining room combined occupied a lean-to at the back, and to the side, attached to the main adobe building, were two rooms built of undressed lumber."

leppies, n. (c. slang) Orphan calves.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. v 107.
"The dry stock was in good condition, outside the few old stuff and cows with calves and "leppies" (orphant calves) what are to be brought in and fed.

lid, n. (c. slang) Hat
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. v 105.
"These other names (for hat) included "lid," "war bonnet", "conk cover," "hair case", and a host of like inventions.

light riders, n. (c. dialect) Men who rode their mount in such a way as not to tire it or cause saddle sores to appear on its back.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 124.
"Some riders of however much or little poundage ever kept themselves not only in balance upon the horse, but also in balance with it. Horsemen of this type could go for miles without retightening cinches, rarely galled their horse's backs, always could ride their steeds long distances without an undue tiring of the brutes... Such men were called "light riders".

line riders, n. (c. dialect) Men who rode the outskirts of acowman's range to see that all went well.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... x 149.
The business of line riders was to patrol the ranch boundaries... "

listen, n. (c. slang) Inspection trip.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xv 238.
"I must take a listen to my men on herd. It always frets me for fear my men will ride too near the cattle."

lit a shuck, v. (c. slang) To start out.
1910. Lomax. Cowboy songs. 167.
"So he saddled up old Chaw one night and lit a shuck this way,
And he's now trying to paddle his own canoe."

lit up, a. (c. slang) Drunk.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xi 162.
"I need not add that he was pretty well "lit up."

loafer, n. (See lobo)

lobo, n. (Span.) Wolf.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 213.
"...the other type (of wolf) was a large beast which, without regard to possible scientific subdivision, interchangeably was called "timber-wolf", "gray wolf", "big gray", "buffalo wolf," "traveller", "loper", "loafer","lofer", "lobo", or else "wolf", with any one of the last mentioned five words as a prefix, as, for instance, "lobo wolf". "

loco, v. (Span.) Crazy; mad.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xv 235.
"...They all seemed to be rapidly getting locoed."

a load of hay on his skull, n. (c. slang). Long hair.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. viii 157.
"A man with a "load of hay on his skull" might be an actual "bad man", but usually he was diagnosed as being either weak-minded or a mere "bluffer".

loco weed, n. A toxic plant which is said to have made stock that ate it insane.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 42-43.
"Part of these "locoed" brutes were victims of feeding upon toxic plants, the so-called "loco weeds" (From Spanish "loco" meaning mad), but others of the beasts had no so clear excuse for their insanity."

long horse, n. (c. slang) A horse that could travel far and fast.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 275.
"A horse that could travel notably far, particularly when at high speed, was termed a "long horse". "

to look up a limb, v. To change his mind; come to a decision.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 80.
"He deserved to be found, however, for while he had done a good deed in making old man French "look up a limb", he was as"mean as gar soup thickened with tadpoles...".

loose-herded, (c. dialect) To look at from time to time; to guard, but not carefully or steadily.
19291 Dobie. A vaquero... xvii 244.
"The horses could be hobbled; or if one of us was around camp and not too sleepy, they might be loose-herded."

to loose off, v. (c. slang) To fire.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvii 279.
"It seemed that some new-comers who had recently got hold of the Last Chance Mine had been shocked at the Western habit of going about armed and the reckless manner in which they loosed off their guns on slight provocation."

loper, n. (See lobo)

lousy, adj. Abounding in.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xii 164.
"The average old time range man would not have known a "folk-tale" by name, from Adam's off ox; just the same the open range was "lousy" with folk-tales..."

lynching bee, n. A hanging.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 187.
"In the grey light of morning, with their unshaven faces and loaded down with guns and ammunition, they looked quite capable of carrying out a lynching bee."

machete, n. (Span.) A heavy knife.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 267.
"One of the Mexicans, who understood English, rushed at the captain with a machete (a heavy knife), saying "Damn you, I got you now!" "

to make medicine, (c. slang) To talk.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xv 237.
"And there they will sit and powwow and make medicine for an hour or two."

to make sign, (c. slang) To appear; "to make tracks".
1939. Dobie. A vaquero... xii 163.
"After not very much talk they passed resolutions to the effect that every cowman represented would if necessary take his entire outfit and do his best to hang any cow thief who made sign north of the Canadian."

to make tracks, (c. slang) To be on one's way.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vii 91.
"They said they had a long way to go and would have to be making tracks as soon as they had a bite to eat."

makings, n. The articles necessary to make a cigarette.
1928. Rollins. The cowboy. v 109.
"It was worn, not as a piece of clothing, but solely

maleta, n. (Span.) Bag; container.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 79.
"Towards the close of the Civil War a cowman by the name of French whoranched on the Leona River, a tributary of the Nueces, killed in a most base and cowardly manner two Mexican cattle buyers who had trusted him so far as to leave a maleta ofsilver dollars in his ranch house while cattle they had contracted for were being gathered."

manada, n. (Span) Band; herd.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... i 8.
"Literally "like a streak of greased lightning" she broke into the manada of mares and colts, and right there we had the wildest run inside a pen that I have ever seen."

mañana, n. (Span.) Tomorrow.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. x 138.
"Flood had had years of experience in deling with Mexicans in the land of manana, where all maxims regarding the value of time are religiously discarded."

mangana, n. (Span.) A fancy throw of the lasso made from the thrower's foot.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero...i 8
"Quicker than I can tell it, I picked up my rope, ran out into the middle of the pen, and, as she came down the side fence, threw a mangana on her fore-feet..."

man-killer, n. (c. dialetc) A horse that would kill its rider at the first opportunity.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiv. 281.
"One horse in, it was supposed, approximately each ten thousand was sufficiently like a "man-killer" as deliberately to jump on his thrown rider's prostrate body."

match, n. (c. dialect) A contest in which the participants tried to out-swear each other.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 83.
"Where in the wide world, other than in the West, would grown men have ridden miles to engage in a competitive "cussing match,"..."

maverick, v. (c. slang) T o steal or put his brand on unbranded calves.

1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 54.
"When the world was all bright and the girls were all pretty,
And a feller could "mav'rick" and stay out of jail."

maverickers, n, (c. dialect) Men who stole or put their brand on unbranded cattle.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xxi 293.
"The story of the cow thieves was the old story of young men beginning their career as maverickers and ending as outright takers of other people's property."

maverick, n. (c. dialect) Unbranded cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 133.
"They drank hurriedly, suspiciously, like wild animals and disappeared as soon as they were full, but by watching for them we succeeded in putting the W S brand on many a maverick..."

meat biscuit, n. (c. dialect) A form of canned beef.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... iii 28.
"In 1851 or 1852 Gail Borden, who published the earliest permanent Texas newspaper, and whose name on cans of condensed milk--the process of which he patented--has become familiar to millions, had an establishment at Galveston for putting up "meat biscuit", a form of canned beef."

medico, n. (Span.) Doctor.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 170.
"She selected the medico with the shaky reputation, and so we had him sworn in and properly deputized."

mesa, n. (Span.) Tableland, plain.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 59.
"He could disappear from sight on alevel mesa or table-land where there was apparently no cover or other object to condeal him from view."

mescal, n. (Span.) A Mexican liquor.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. iv 45.
"As there are about five fighting drunks in a quart bottle of mescal ans subsequently five splitting headaches, my capture was of direct benefit to humanity."

mess beef, n. Pickled beef.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... iii 28.
"The pickled beef was sometimes called "mess beef"."

milling, v. (c. Dialect) Going in a circle.
(1883-1888) French. Recollections... xiii 202.
"When the boys all got together they succeeded in getting them to milling..."

monte, n. (Span) A Mexican gambling game.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. vii 76.
"I found Las Vegas to be a swift dance-hall town, and the first night of my arrival I went broke playing monte-a Mexican game."

a Montgomery Ward woman sent West on approval, n. (c. slang) A homely woman.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. viii 170.
"With no intended reflection upon the great commercial house which, by the manner of its sales and the excellence of its wares, did much to made the West a habitable place, the entire Range dubbed a homely female a "Montgomery Ward woman sent West on approval".

morral, n. (Span.) A nose bag; a bag hung on the mouths of mules and horses out of which they eat when traveling.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 120.
"He used to ride with a morral of gold tied to the horn ofhis saddle..."

mosey, v. To idle; to go slowly.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ix 124.
"'You fellows just mosey along on the trail. I'll not be gone long...'".

mossy horn steers, n. (c. dialect) A Texas steer whose horns had become wrinkled and scaly from age.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. i 9.
"In gatheringthis herd of old 'mossy horn' steers from four to twenty years old, I had a new experience. They were mostly wild timber cattle, which only graze out in the edges of the prairies at night, going back to the timber after daylight. ... It is hard to believe, but nevertheless, true, that some of these old steers had a fine coating of moss on their long horns."

mount, n. A group of saddle horses used by one cowboy for round-ups or trail work.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xi 153.
"I had in my mount a horse named Gray Dragon."

muckamuck, n. (Indian-Chinook) (See skookum)

muckamuck chuek, v. (Indian-Chinook) (See skookum)

mule skinner, n. (c. slang) A mule-team driver.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 199.
"While still called a freighter, he might coincidentally be termed also either a "skinner" or "mule skinner" or else a "bull whacker", according as his tractive animals were mules or, as far more often in the earlier years than in the later, yokes of oxen..."

muley, n. A cow without horns.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ii 25.
"I remember there were a number of muleys among the cattle, and these would not venture into the compact herd until the others had lain down."

to mustang, v. (c. dialect) To hunt wild horses.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xvii 230.
"We mustanged together, cow-hunted together..."

mustangers, n. (c. dialect) Men who caught wild horses.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 58.
"They eluded even the "mustangers" as the men were called who devoted themselves to the trade of raiding the "wild" bands and selling their captures to the ranchers."

mustang grapes, n. A kind of wild grape.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. i 6.
"...we had milk andhoney, and though the fig trees were absent, along the river grew endless quantities of mustang grapes."

to naturalize, v. (c. slang) To kill.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 70.
"The rangers at once "naturalized" thirteen of them, took the bodies to Brownsville, and laid them out on the plaza."

neck-tie parties, n. (c. slang) "Hangings".
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. iv 84.
"(It's most impossible to convict any one of cattle rustling, and that's why "neck-tie-parties" were so popular.)"

to neck to, v. To tie to.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 212.
"When an outlaw animal was roped out in the brush it was tied to a tree and then later necked to a lead ox and thus brought in."

nesters,n. Farmers.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xv 301.
"Thus arose the bloody, Texas struggle between the local ranchmen and the "nesters", sometimes called "nestlers"."

nestlers, n. (See nesters)

nighthawk, n. (c. slang) Night wrangler or herder for the saddle horses.
c1923. James. Cowboys north and south. i 21.
"The cause of the difference in them two ways of handling saddle stock is that in one territory a "nighthawk" (night wrangler) is with them herds all night..."

night-herding, v. (c. dialect) Guarding at night.
1903. Adams.. Log of a cowboy. ii 11.
"Rather than hobble, Forrest night-herded them, using five guards, two men to the watch of two hours each."

night horse, n. (c. dialect) A horse that was ridden on night guard.
(1883-01899) French. Recollections... xv 239.
"They told me that he had got his thumb almost torn off, it being caught in the kink of his rope as he was catching his night horse."

noise tool, n. (c. slang) Gun.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 49.
"... he had better use for his money than the purchase of ammunition to be fired through a "noise tool" at a tree or can."

norther, n. (c. dialect) A cold wind from the north; said by Jennings to blow from that direction for 24 hours, then turn to the south and blow for a like duration from that direction.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. ii 17.
"'Hello! a norther's coming,' said Will Ross."

to notch, v. To slit; to mark with a knife or sharp instrument.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 48.
"Nor did the puncher "notch" his pistol's butt."

old lady, n. (See cookie.)

old woman, n. (See cookie)

one or two saddles, (c. slang) Once or twice with the saddle on.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xviii 247.
"'There's a mule staked down there in the valley", he said, 'that's been rode one or two saddles'..."

open brand, n. (c. dialect) A brand which had no surrounding or enclosing lines.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 236.
"In the absence of such enclosure, it was called an "open brand.""

open Range, n. (c. dialect) Grazing lands that were open to anyone.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. i 17.
"The vacant, grazing-lands, because open to everybody, were dubbed the "open Range". "

open round-up, n. (c. dialect) A round-up in which corrals or fences were not used.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 246.
"Though the round-up described in the foregoing pages made use of corrals, and this was the prevalent method, the final handling o f cattle in some localities during the later years of the ranching industry was done, not within fences, but in an "open" round-up."

opera house, n. (c. slang) The top rail of the corral.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. viii 167.
"That top rail was the point from which gratuitous and unwelcome advice was hurled at round-up time to the cowboys toiling and sweating amid the milling animals within the corral. In some localities it bore the mane of "opera house"."

orejanas, n. Unbranded cattle.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. vii 169.
"We form a circle around the "orejanas" (unbranded cattle) before they know what's what and we've got 'em jammed in a small opening..."

outlaw cattle, n. (c. dialect) Wild cattle.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 132-33.
"Just prior to the rains some of the outlaw cattle from the hills had been coming to the river for water."

outlaw horse, n. (c. dialect) A horse that could not be broken.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 281
"One horse in approximately each five hundred was an "outlaw", a brute that never could be broken and that would buck almost in its sleep."

outlaws, n. Bad men; men "wanted by the law".
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 70.
"To make border troubles worse, outlaws from other states and better controlled parts of Texas sought refuge along the Rio Grande."

outridings, n. (c. dialect) Inspection trips over the range.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. x 192.
"There were inspections trips about the Range, so-called "outridings", to discover the location and physical state of the scattered groups of stock..."

outside branding, n. (c. slang) Branding away from the home range.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 109.
"The cowmen developed a custom of paying four bits apiece for all calves branded away from the home range. Some men made a living by this "outside" branding."

outside man, n. (c. slang) A man who attends round-ups on ranges away from those of the home ranch.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xxi 293.
"He had for several years been "outside man"- a man who attends roundups on ranges away from those of the home rancher..."

to pack a gun, v. (c. dialect) See go heeled)

padre, n. (Span.) Priest; father.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxiii 372.
"He was a rosy-cheeked, well-fed old padre, who informed me that he had been stationed among the Blackfeet for over twenty years..."

paint horse, n. (c. dialect) (See pinto)

parada, n. (Span.) A main herd of about one hundred "broke" horses.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and sough. i 25.
"A "main herd" in Montana, Wyoming, Arizona, and Texas, goes under the name of "parada" in California, Oregon, and Nevada."

pards, n. Pardners.
1919, Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 32.
"O stranger, tell my pards below
I took a rampin' dream in tow,
And if I never lay him low,
I'll never turn him loose!".

pasear, n. (Span.) Journey
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... ix 129.
"Now, immediately after coming into possession of Payaso I made, for private reasons, a considerable pasear into the Devil's River country to the south and west."

to pass in his checks, v. (See to snuff out.)

to pass out, v. To die.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 55.
"If he "passed out", it would be either on the end of a rope or before a bullet."

to pass the time of day, v. To exchange greetings.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vi 80.
"They got down, passed the time of day, watered their horses, ate dinner, and then, while everybody was saddling up, acted."

patio, n. (Span.) A small space of ground surrounded by buildings; a courtyard.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 67.
Moonlight in the patio,
Old Señora noddin' near,
Me and Juana talkin' low
So the "madre" couldn't hear..."

to peal, v. (c. slang) To catch an animal by the hind foot.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 263.
"To peal an animal is to catch it by the hind feet. This throw is commonly used for "stretching out" a "cow critter"--never a horse--that has been roped around the head or neck."

to pecos, v. (c. slang) To shoot a man and roll his body into the Pecos River.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xxi 293.
"To "pecos" a man one shot him and rolled his body into the river--the one river that drained an empire."

peeler, n. (c. slang) Cowboy.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xviii 275.
"The horse of some peeler, working with one of Shanghai Pierce's herds, acted up one morning and fell backward with him so that his gun was accidentally discharged."

pegger, n. (See peg pony)

peg horse, n. (See peg pony)

to peg out, v. To lay out and secure by pegs.
c1924. Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 147.
"The day before, he had driven back from Adobe Walls with fresh supplies, to find the camp looted and the bodies of his companions pegged out--as the skinners peg out the green hides. A stake was driven through the breast of one of them."

peg pony, n. (c. dialect) A saddle horse trained to change his direction rapidly.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xi 225-26.
"A saddle-horse which when galloping could stop short in his tracks, change his direction like a weather-vane, and instantly bound off on a new course was called a "peg pony," "peg horse", or "pegger."

pelados, n. (Span.) A nickname; to be a nobody.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 44.
"Once, for instance, he killed three pelados(a contemptuous name used by many border gringos and resented by all Mexicans) on the north side of the Nueces."

pelon, n. (Span.) Poor, indigent man.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ix 125.
"McCann had talked the storekeeper at Doan's where we got our last supplies, out of some extras as a pelon."

peon, n. (Span.) A Mexican laborer.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... v 62.
"Then the hanging proceeded, and in a few minutes the old peon who had dared to be loyal to his gringo employer was dead."

to peter out, v. To fade; disappear; die.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iv 49.
" I was unable to visit him again until nearly daylight, when I found that he had petered out."

to pick some blossoms, v. (c. slang) To put one's brand on some one else's stock; to steal.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xv 309.
"There was a generally popular C, sho jauntily sallied forth on his own account and "picked some blossoms."

to pick up manna, v. (c. slang) To steal.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 243.
"He had always to be prepared to "pick up manna", that is to say, to steal, even though he might thus describe his loot as a gift from heaven."

piggin string, n. (c. dialect) A short rope used for tying down animals.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xix 264.
"He roped a calf; then if he did not have a "piggin string"--a short rope used for tying down animals--he tied the calf's legs together with the bandana."

pilgrim, n. (c. slang) A person inexperienced in the ways of the West, or a cow that had traveled a long, long way.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. ii 29.
"It is said that upon the Range the interchangeable terms, "tenderfoots" and "pilgrims", were applied first to these imported cattle, and not until later were attached to human newcomers."

pilgrim's room, n. (c. slang) A shelter room available to all passers-by.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. i 8.
"...and at any time from either the station's employees or the voyagers in the "pilgrim's room, a shelter-room available to all passers-by on condition that they sweep it out after using it."

pilot, n. A rider whose duty was to pilot the wagon through roadless plains and breaks.
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. vi 145.
" "The pilot" (rider piloting the wagon through the roadless plains and breaks) started, the cook straightened out his team and followed with the chuck wagon..."

piñon, n. (Span.) A specie of the pine tree.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 199.
"The park into which it opened was thickly timbered with pines and piñon and cedar scattered in between".

pinto, n. (c. dialect) A piebald or mottled horse.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 62.
"The piebald was the same in coloration as is the "calico horse" of the East, and, deriving his name from a Spanish word meaning paint, was termed generally a "pinto", but in parts of Texas was called in good plain English a "paint horse".

pitching, v. (See to buck)

to pitch in, v. To begin to
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. vii 94.
"When I returned, I pitched in and helped to prepare breakfast."

plaza, n. (Span.) A public square.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... viii 103-04.
"I had not seen nor heard much of him since our little escapade at the Plaza, and was much surprised when Fountain asked me if I knew him."

point men, n. (c. dialect) Cowboys who rode toward the head of the herd to keep it going in the desired direction.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. v 59.
"Several times for an hour or more, the herd was allowed to lie down and rest; but by the middle of the afternoon thirst made them impatient and restless, and the point men were compelled to ride steadily in the lead in order to hold the cattle to a walk."

on the point, n. In the position at the lead where the cattle might be directed as desired.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xviii 292.
"I had one of the best swimming horses in our outfit, and Flood put me in the lead on the point."

pokes, n. (See Rollins)

pole-axed, adj. Literally; struck with a chopping ax--fig.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 53.
"It was shod with iron and took him fairly on the bald spot, and he went down like a pole-axed ox."

to postage-stamp, v.(c. slang) To ride close; no bouncing.
1924 Rollins The cowboy vi 135.
"Nor could a rider, when in this saddle, rise to the trot. But the cowboy did not wish to rise; in his own language, he "postage-stamped" the horse."

postage stamp, n. (See human saddle)

pot, v. To shoot.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xi 150.
"Jap and his friends declared that Potter had come after him with a gun and that he had killed him in self defence, while the other side as vehemently declared that Jap had hidden behind a log and potted Mr. Potter as he came along."

pot shooting, n. Shooting within easy range.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxi 346.
" 'If that horse thief had not relied on pot shooting and had been modest and only used one gun, he might have some of you fellows'."

potros, n. (Span.) Young horses.
1934 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 8.
"When I returned home, Billie Colville, a rancher, told me that if I would break seven wild potros (young horses) he had, he would let me have my pick of the seven."

powwow, n. Indian Consultation.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... ii 19.
"That evening we held a powwow over the matter."

prairie dog, n. A burrowing rodent that made its home on the prairies.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 112
"Where the Norther "comes a-whistlin'" from beyond the Neutral strip
And the prairie dogs are sneezin', as if they had "the Grip";"

prairie chickens, n. An edible grouse that made its home on the prairies.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xiii 182.
"... but deer and antelopes, prairie dogs, prairie chickens, coyotes, and wild turkeys were visible by the thousands with now and then a lonesome buffalo."

primed, v. Drunk.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 182
"Dick hurried off at once, but M., who was pretty well primed, was inclined to take it easy till a couple of bailiffs seized hold of him and, thrusting him into his clothes, dragged him off... "

to prod, v. (c. dialect) To goad.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ... iii 42.
"These warring cattle attacked another animal or a mounted man by "prodding" with their sharp horns, and assailed a pedestrain in either this same way or by trampling on him."

prodpole, n. (c. dialect) Punch--pole.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 2.
"When I handed the passes over I gave one of the boys a prodpole with instructions to help our regular man punch up the cattle if they got down in the cars."

to pull down, v. To level one's gun at.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 49.
"However prosaic it may seem, one half of the West did not spend its time in either "getting the drop" or "pulling down" on the other half, or even in "looking for somebody"."

to pull leather, v. (See to hunt leather.)

to pull out, v. (See to back down).

to punch, v. (c. dialect) 1. To prod. 2. To herd.
1922 Rollins A cowboy iii 40.
"While punching was thus the accepted term for the herding of live stock, it ordinarily was restricted to cattle, the term "herding" being used in connection with horses. A cowpuncher might "punch" or "herd" cattle....."

puncher, n. (c. dialect) (Orig. signif) One who prodded cattle. (Came to by synonymous with cowboy.)
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 39.
"The cowboy was not always called "cowboy". He everywhere was equally well known as "cowpuncher" or "puncher", "punching" being the accepted term for the herding of livestock.

punching, v. (See puncher)

to put up a job, v. To frame; to scheme against.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xviii 242.
"In December, Le Fors 'put up a job' on Horn, by getting letters from Montana wanting to hire Horn to come to that State and kill a few bad cattle rustlers at a fancy price."

to put up, v. To bed; to corral.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. i 8.
"By the time we got this herd 'put up', and turned over to Mr. Black andhis crew, we were a worn out bunch of cowboys."

to put windows in one's skull, v. (See to roll his gun)

putto, n. (Fr.) Post used for picketing horses.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vii 140.
"The wooden stake, which was driven into the ground and to which one end of the picket-rope was attached, was called by many Texans a "putto", a word derived from the French "poteau", meaning post."

quirt, n. A flexible, woven leather whip.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vii 137.
"From the saddle's horn usually hung the so-called "quirt" from Mexican "cuarta", a whip; and this, in turn, from Spanish "cuerda", cord, a flexible woven leather whip..."

ramadero, n. (Span.) Grove
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xv 206.
Down in ramadero of spined bushes and trees that seem to cover all space except that occupied by prickly pear, a man with scratched face, frazzled ducking jacket, and snagged leggins is sitting on a horse, one leg thrown over the horn of his saddle."

ranch, n. (c. dialect) 1. The entire ranching establishment; 2. The principal building. 3. Ranch and buildings combined.
1922 Rollins The cowboy i 15..
"The word "ranch" itself had several and quite diverse mea nings. Whether it appeared as "ranch" or in its earlier American form of "ranche", or in its Mexican border guise of "rancho", it denoted interchangeably e either an entire ranching establishment inclusive of its buildings, lands and live stock, or else the principal building, which usually was the owner's dwelling-house, or else that building together with the other structures and adjacent to it, or else the collective persons who operated the establishment."

ranche, n. (See ranch).

rancheros, n. (Span.) The Mexican border's synonym for ranchmen.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy ii 12.
"A number of different rancheros had turned in cattle in making up the herd, and Flood reported them in good, strong condition."

ranch house, n. (c. dialect) The principal building on the ranch.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. i 15.
"The principal building, however, was more commonly specifically designated as the "ranch house", or, on the Mexican border, as the "rancheria"."

ranchitas, n. (Span.) Small ranches.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xv 198.
"From the big bend of the Nueces River in McMullen County to the thin line of Mexican ranchitas on the Rio Grande sixty or seventy-five miles southward, the country fifty years ago was practically uninhabited."

ranch-jumping, v. (c. slang) To file claim on a piece of unoccupied land, get control of the water, and then offer the property for sale at an enormous price.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 175.
"The favourite occupation at the time for the man who proposed to get something for nothing was ranch-jumping, which meant filing a claim to any piece of unoccupied land that controlled water and then offering the neighbouring cattleman a quit-claim deed to same for a fabulous price."

ranchmen, n. (c. dialect) 1. The ranch owner 2.. The boss of the cowboy.
1922 Rollins The cowboy i 14.
"Although the term "ranchmen" thus included both employee and employer, it usually was differentiated to the extent that, while all men engaged in ranching were, as compared with the men of any other vocation, called "ranchmen," the latter as among themselves often limited the term to the class of ranch owners designating the employees, according to their special functions, as cowboys, wranglers, etc."

rancho, n. (See ranch)

range, n. (c. dialect) The free, open country of the West.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 10.
"The range was my real school."

range country, n. (c. dialect) The West where the cattle industry was paramount.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 142.
"The interest of the delegates seemed largely concentrated in a rumour that Congress was about to pass an Act appropriating the sum of three million dollars for the suppression of foot-and-mouth disease, an epidemic of which had broken out somewhere in the East and threatned to spread to the range country."

range delivery, n. (c. dialect) A "sight unseen" delivery.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 222.
"They had but few left at the time of the arrival of the Holomans, probably not over twenty or thirty head and these they got rid of to Tok Holoman, selling them at range delivery for a nominal sum."

range-raised, adj. (c. dialect) Horses bred and raised on the range.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xvi 242.
"He gave him a critical examination, and confessed he would never have picked him for a horse possessing speed, though he admitted that he was unfamiliar with range-raised horses, this being his first visit in the West."

range skinning, n. (c. dialect) Removal of the skins from cattle killed on the range.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 24.
"Range skinning cannot be considered as a legitimate phase of the coastal marketing of cattle.

rattled, adj. 1. Crazy 2. Excitedly confused.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 44.
"These death-dealing plants injected two words into the dictionary, the words "locoed" and "rattled", the first a synonym for crazy, the second as a synonym for crazy or excitedly confused".

rattleweed, n. A weed of the so called "loco weed" family which has seed-pods that, when dried, rattle on being moved.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 43.
"The other two species each had seed-pods that, when dried, rattled on being moved, and so gave to each of these species the colloquial and undistinctive title of "rattleweed"."

raw-hiders, n. (c. slang) Cowboys--men who used raw hides.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 10.
"I was first, as old raw-hiders all confest,
I'm the last of all rough riders, and the best."

razorbacks, n. A kind of hog having a very sharp back.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iv 30.
"Most of the Texas hogs at that time were razorbacks."

rebosa, n. (Span.) Scarf.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 24.
"But she sobbed, and sobbing, so quickly bound
Her torn rebosa about the wound."

red, n. Cent.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 16.
"When I got to this here country
I hadn't nary a red,
I had such wolfish feelings
I wished myself most dead."

red-eye, n. (c. slang) A kind of intoxicating liquor.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iv 37.
"After we got them sold, Wash Little, who was with me began to tank up on red-eye and to brag on Texas hogs."

red-handed, adj. (c. slang) In the act of stealing.
1929 Dobie A vaquero...
"If a horse thief was caught red-handed by the owner of the stolen horses, he was likely to be hanged on the spot."

regular, n. (c. dialect) One well suited to the West and its ways.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 83.
""Regular" the antonym of "tenderfoot", began early in the decade of the seventies to be wholly supplanted by the terms "Westerner" and "real Westerner". "

regulators, n. Men working in the cuase of order and h harmony.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. iv 119.
"We went into camp and McNelly sent scouting parties out in every direction to disband the various vigilance committees and "regulators" which were roaming through the country."

remontha, n. (See caballada)

remouda, n. A saddle band made up of the extra ponies driven to the round-up corrals or with the trail herd.
(1883-1899) French. Recollection... xi 152.
"The outfit was well mounted, as he had been breaking horses for several months, and we had added quite a number to the remouda."

remoutha, n. (See remouda)
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iii 28.
"My horses were thrown into the remoutha or herd which was being taken out to graze..."

remuda, n. (See remouda)
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iv 53.
"Once the remuda was corralled, under the rush of a tireless foreman, dinner was quickly over, and the fresh horses became the order of the moment."

remuda de caballos, n. (Span.) Band of horses.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xix 248.
"He was leading a beautiful chestnut sorrel, a race-horse and the star of his remuda de caballos that he had brought as a farewell present..."

remudera, n. (Span.) The bell mare of a remuda.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... xviii 251.
"Our method was to pen them at night... and then during the day while not riding them to herd them with the bell mare--the remudera, as the Mexicans called her."

remudero, n. (span.) A horse wrangler; night herder of horses.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 91.
"With some outfits a remudero, or wrangler--"night hawk", he was often called--herded the horses; other outfits had no night-herder for the horses but simply hobbled them."

renegades, n. (Span.) Bad men; usually thieves in the cow country.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vi 78.
"On listening intently to them for some time we came to the conclusion that it must be the horses belonging to the renegades who were moving uneasily at the end of the tether ropes."

retrim, v. (c. dialect) Re-assorted.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxiii 374.
"After we had retrimmed the cut, the beeves were started for their pasture, and nothing now remained but the counting to complete the receiving."

to ride heavy, v. (c. dialect) To ride in such a way as to tire one's mount and cause saddle sores on ponies backs.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 124.
"(Some cowboys) would on occasion get out of balance, and would rectify themselves by impulsive twists and yanks. This would tend to divert the saddle from its normal position. Such riders "rode heavy", had frequent cause to taughten latigos, and caused many saddle sore upon their ponies backs."

to ride light, v. (See light riders.)

to ride the chuckline, n. (c. dialect) To follow from one chuch wagon to another.
1903 Adams. Log of a cowboy xviii 280.
"He was riding the chuck-line all right, but Miller gave him a welcome, as he was the real thing."

to ride sign, v. (c. dialect) To follow the track of a man or animal.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy xvi 316.
"Riding sing" was one of the duties of the cowboy. This act of following the track which had been made by an earlier traveller, whether man or four-footed animal, was guided by the same principles as those that had been adopted by the scouts against Indians."

to ride slick, v. (c. dialect) To ride without securing a hand hold of any kind on any part of the saddle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xiv 291.
"He (the top rider) scorned such aid, and also locked spurs, tied stirrups, and other mechanical assistance; and thereby he "rode slick"."

to ride tail, v. (See tail riders)

rider, n. (c. dialect) Cowboy.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 39.
"In Wyoming he(cowboy) preferred to be styled a "rider"."

rietas, n. (Sp. n.) Ropes which cowboy used to catch stock.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... iv 39.
"We sallied out fully equipped, like knights of old, only instead of lances and maces we carried running irons and rietas."

rietta, n. (Same as rieta)

rigging ring, n.(c. dialect) Ring attached to the saddle tree for the cinch.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 126.
"On each side of the saddle-tree was attached, for each cinch, a second metal ring called the "rigging ring", a "tree ring,", or "saddle-ring," and from which hung a long leathern strap called a "latigo.""

right bower, n. Best friend; pardner.
Dobie (1929) A vaquero... xiii 173.
"When his "right bower", Charlie Bowdre, dying from a bullet wound, staggered into the hut where Billy the Kid and his crew were besieged, the Kid shoved him out again with these words; "They've got you Charlie"..."

rim fire, adj. (See double-rigged)

rim-fire cigar, n.
1903 Adams. Log of a cowboy xxiv 380.
"Then with a few drinks under my belt and a rim-fire cigar in my mouth, I'd admire to meet the governor of Montana if convenient."

road agent, n. Stage robbers.
1928 Breakenridge Helldorado 55.
"We were shown the worked-out placer claims, and the historic hangman's tree on which a large number of the stage robbers, or, as they were called at that time, 'road agents', were hanged by the Vigilance Committee."

road brand, n. (c. dialect) A brand put on an animal that was about to be started on a long drive.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii4 237.
"Upon a cattle drive in which variously branded animals were to participate, and which was to extend beyond the limits of a single county, a special brand, known as a "road brand", was applied for the purposes of the trip."

road-branding, v. (c. dialect) Branding temporarily for a drive up the trail.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 24-25.
"After gathering the herd of twenty-five hundred steers the job of road-branding began. Small bunches were cut off from the main herd and put in a corral. Then each animal had to be roped and thrown by cowboys afoot, who worked in pairs. Now the road brand 'G', was burnt into the hair sufficiently deep to last 'up the trail'."

roan, n. A bay or chestnut horse.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... xiii 34.
"I was somewhat delayed, because I had to give special attention to the roan, to protect him from the other two horses, who had been jealous of him all the way."

rodeo, n. (Span.) Round-up.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xi 215.
"Regularly in the spring and again in either the late summer or early fall, as also at any other time that special cause required, there was held a so-called "round-up" or, as it was termed on the Mexican border, a "rodeo"."

to roll his gun, v. (c. slang) To start shooting.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vii 147-48.
It suggested that the rider intended to employ the body of his horse as a protective breastwork, to "roll his gun".. "put windows in his skull"."

to roll his tail, v. (c. dialect) To gallop with his tail humped up.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xiii 255.
"...but man and horse were ready to wake like a shot and to act the instant that a steer started to "roll his tail", or, in less technical English, to gallop with his tail humped up at its shore end, and infallible sign of confident expectation to disregard both distance and time."

to rope a heifer for life, v. (c. slang) To marry.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. viii 170.
"Say boys, Bill Smith that used to be down at the Two Star Ranch has roped a heifer for life. He corralled her back East in Omaha."

roper, n. (c. dialect) A cowboy skilled with the lasso.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xiv. 230.
"As the roper came through the herd leading the calf, the frantic mother followed, with a train of excited steers at her heels."

rosadero, n. (Span.) A leather shield put on the stirrup to protect the rider's feet.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vi 128.
"Sewn to the back of each stirrup-leather was a vertical, wide leathern shield, the "rosadero"; sometimes, though incorrectly, called the "sudadero." nozadero.

rough-rider, n. (c. dialect) A cowboy who could ride all types of horses.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 280.
"He claimed to be a rough -rider and a tamer of spoiled horses, but he was a bit of a bluffer."

rough string, n. (c. dialect) A band of horses consisting of those that need to be rough handled because they refuse to be anything but fighters."
c1923. James. Cowboys, north and south. vi 134.
"Them's the kind of horses what makes up a "rough string"; every cow outfit has'em."

round in, v. (c. dialect) To drive into a compact band
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxiii 374.
"The herd had been grazed to contentment, and were accordingly rounded in, and the task begun at once."

to rust the boilers, v. (c. slang) To harm the stomach.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 129.
"Occasionally, in the desert, water was either non-existent or else so alkalinely saturated as hopelessly to"rust the boilers" of whoever drank it. "

rurales, n. (Span.) People from the country.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 70.
"their best refuge from the rurales behind them seemed to be the left bank of the Rio Bravo."

running iron, n. (c. dialect) A straight poker used like a pencil and producing a running brand
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 227.
"But not all knights of the running-iron were easily disposed of."

running brand, n. a brand made by a running iron (See running iron)
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 225.
"The branding-iron was in the form of a straight poker called a "running iron," used like a pencil, and producing a "running brand"; or else it was in the form of a solid block of type recording at one touch the whole design and thus creating a "set brand". "

rukus, n. Noise; movement.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 55.
"You'll hear a rukus among the stones that'll lift your hair with fright;"

round-up, n. (c. dialect) A gathering together of range stock for branding or ear-marking.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 221.
"Then even in a round-up, which usually contained several thousand cattle, where it was the custom to start by cutting out the cows and calves that needed to be branded, in the dust and confusion a calf that was ear-marked, though unbranded, could easily be overlooked."

rusties, n. (c. slang) Culls.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 19.
"And I'm scared that I'll be a stray yearling,-
A maverick, unbranded on high,-
And get out in the bunch with the "rusties"
When the Boss of the Riders goes by."

rustle, v. (c. dialect). 1. To ste al when applied to live stock; 2. To hunt for or get when otherwise applied.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 200.
"The term "rustle" employed above had curious and inconsistent usage in that, when applied to live stock, it almost always implied stealing; but when related to anything other than live stock it with almost equal regularity, denoted a legitimate getting."

rustler, n. (c. dialect). Cow thief.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 221.
"This he openly stated to be that of a rustler or cow thief, and he didn't give a cuss who knew it."

rustler, n. (c. dialect) Searcher for food.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country. i 4.
"The cows that were the best rustlers were often the wildest."

saddle, n. A seat for a rider of horses.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 120.
"The riding saddle universally used upon the Range was of the type which, throughout the West, was known as "cow saddle", "range saddle," or, more commonly as "stock saddle", and in the East was called, "Mexican saddle", "Western saddle", or "cowboy saddle". "

saddle-ring (See rigging ring)

saddle stock, n. (C. dialect) Horses used for carrying a rider.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy ii 17.
"Then the entire saddle stock was driven in, so as to be at hand in case a hasty change of mounts was required."

sage-brush, n. A strongly scented shrub characteristic of the West.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 90.
"Out there in the sage-brush
A-harkin' to the "Coo-coo"
Of the wild dove in his matin'
I can think alone of you."

sagehen, n. (c. slang) young woman; girl.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cow trail... 60.
"Just hain't no energy left no mo', go 'round like a orphant calf
A-thinkin' about that sagehen's eyes that give me the Cupid gaff."

salado, n. (Span.) Wind broken.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xv 207.
"In winter time, too, a horse can run farther and work harder without becoming solado, or "solyowed"(solaoed) as the border people have anglicized the Spanish word meaning "wind-broken"."

salt-junk, n. (c. slang) Salt meat.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 25.
"Any man with a herd of cattle that he could not dispose of otherwise might set up a packery in which to take off their hides and made "salt junk" of their meat."

sanchos, n. (span.) Dogies.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xv 212.
"In that event the calves might be released to their mothers, or they might be suckled to other cows and thus raised as sanchos(dogies)."

sand, n. Nerve.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 270.
"He claimed that he lacked the necessary courage or sand when it came to a show down."

sashay, v. (c. dialect) Dance.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 118.
"Swingyer girls an' run away!
Right an' left an' gents sashay!"

savvy, v. (Span.) Understand, know(from Span. saber--to know ; to understand.)
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 78.
"Yo savvy who I'm runnin' so,
Yo' savvy who I be;"

scatter-gun, n. Shotguns.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 57.
""Scatter-guns," otherwise shotguns, were occasionally produced by tenderfoots; but they, unless with "sawed-off" barrels, loaded with nails or buckshot, and in the hands of express messengers, served for the Westerner only as objects of derision."

sea-lions, n. (?See coasters.)

sea-plum, n. (c. slang) Oyster.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 77.
"A "lead plum" was a bullet, while a"sea plum" was an oyster.

seegar, n. Cigar.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 138.
"I went into the grog-shop, Tom and stood beside the bar,
And drank a glass of lemonade and smoked a bad seegar."

segundo, n. (Span.) Temporary boss; under foreman.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xiii 187.
"So after the first night's camp above the Cimarron, Flood caught up afavorite horse, informed the outfit that he was going to quit us a few days, and designated Quince Forrest as the segundo during his absence."

señorita, n. (Span) Young lady.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 125.
"He was sitting inside the Mexican house drinking coffee with a señorita and talking to her when his caporal (straw boss) jealous and drunk, pointed a gun through the window at Lee's back and shot him dead."

serape, n. (Span.) Scarf; covering.
1919. Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 23.
"With blue serape and bright-belled spur;
I laughed with joy as I looked at her."

set brand, n. (See running brand)

to set his gun agoing, v. (See to roll his gun)

set up, v. (c. slang) To treat with a drink.
1912 Siringo. Raita and spurs. xiii 175.
"The opportunity came when Allison 'set 'em up" to every one in the saloon.

settled, v. (c. slang) Killed.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 60.
"Not a great while afterwards Caballo Blanco and some of his skinners were "settled"."

seven-up, n. A card game.
(1888-1899) French. Recollections... xii 171.
"The only three-handed game I knew was 'seven-up', and we spent the rest of the night at that intellectual pastime."

shakedown, n. Floor pallet.
(1888-1899) French. Recollections... iv 49.
"He expressed surprise when I told him I had been up all night, and advised me to find a shakedown."

shank, n. Early part.
1908 Adams Log of a cowboy xviii 282.
"Miller made him knock off along in the shank of the evening, as he had done enough for any one day."

shanty, n. Hut.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 187.
"And the mice play shyly round me as I nestle down to rest
In my little old shed shanty on my claim."

shanty boy, n. A young river man; job is to steer logs down the river.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 174.
"Come all you brave young shanty boys, and list while I relate,"

shebang, n. Outfit; Entertainment.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 252.
"Silver Jack bossed the shebang,
And Big Dan played the fiddle."

shed, n. Rid of their winter hair.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ii 16.
"The cattle were well shed and in good flesh for such an early season of the year..."

shepherd, v. Guide.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xi 148.
"The boys had intended to form an escort and shepherd us in for the last mile or two, but we made such good time that we actually arrived an hour before they expected us."

shinnery, n. Scrub oak.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 280.
"Early one morning when he was leading the drive we jumped a big boar panther out in the shinnery and the whole outfit, eighteen or twenty of us, spurred in after it."

shoot, n. (c. dialect) A narrow fenced lane connecting two pens or corrals and used in the branding of mature cattle.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 162.
"The West ran true to form when it changed "chute" to "shoot" for previously its Riviere Purgatoire had been mispronounced into Picketwire River."

on the shoot, v. (c. slang) Hunting for something to shoot.
c1930 Jennings A Texas ranger xv 209.
"The country was "on the shoot," to use a colloquial bit of slang, and the six-shooter was the supreme arbiter of most disputes."

shooting-iron, n. (see six-gun)

shooting scrape, n. (c. slang)
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxi 336.
"He had been all over the town that morning; he knew the name of every saloon and those of several bar keepers as well; pointed out the bullet holes in a log building where the last shooting scrape occured, and otherwise showed us the sights of the village which we might have overlooked."

to shoot up, v. (c. dialect) To use guns freely.
1922. Bechdolt. When the West was young. 134.
"The Earps virtually ran the town government; they enforced the local laws against shooting up the place and so forth very much after the manner of Dodge City; and they were strong, resolute men."

short, n. (c. slang) Not exactly wanted.
1922. Bechdolt. When the West was young. 135.
"To use the expression of the times, he was "short" in the mining town, which means that when he came there, he had to be ready at all times to defend his life and liberty."

short-horn, n. (c. slang) Tenderfoot.
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. i 10.
"Reynolds probably came to the conclusion that I was too much of a "tenderfoot" or "short-horn" for his use, for he deserted me in Pleasanton, and left me there to shift for myself."

shot-gun, n. A gun used for firing shot at close range.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 58.
"The door was opened about three or four inches and a double barrelled shot-gun thrust in my face."

show down, n. (c. dialect) Final decisions.
1922. Bechdolt. When the West was young. 139.
"It was a show-down--shoot or ride away."

to show the white feather, v. To become frightened and turn traitor to.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xiv 187.
"He showed the white feather and squealed on the gang."

to shuck off, v. (c. dialect) To remove; to take off.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... vii 93.
"The boys shucked off everything but their hats, undershirts, and drawers."

to side-line, v. (c. dialect) To hobble a horse by attaching a rope to the right front and right hind leg or vice versa.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. vii. 141.
"This fore-and-aft hobbling was designated as "side-lining", unless the legs involved were on the opposite sides f the horse, in which case some men called it "cross-hobbling"."

siene, n. A kind of weed known as rattle pod.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 9.
"To make sure that the firecrackers exploded in a strategic spot we cut siene (rattle pod) switches, split the ends, and inserted the firecrackers in the split."

siesta, n. (Span.) Nap; a short sleep.
1903 Adams Log of the cowboy xvii 293.
"... they lay down for their noonday siesta, which relieved us of all work but keeping watch over them."

sidey, n. (c. slang) Pardner.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy ix 133.
"Did you ever notice, old sidey, how hard this ground is?"

to sift in, v. (c. dialect) To wander aimlessly.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 75.
"One nor work, much eat just sifted in." Can there be found a better word than "sift" for the typical aimless, shifty movement of the tramp,"

silk sash, n. A wide piece of silk used to wrap about the waist to substitute for suspenders.
1912 Siringo. Raita and spurs. iii 24
"One dark night I ran out of rope hobbles--having previously tied down three steers--and had to tie a mad brute down with my silk sash--used wrapped around my waist to keep up my pants, in place of suspenders."

single-barrelled, adj. (See single-rigged)

single fire, adj. (See single-rigged)

single rig, adj. (See single-rigged)

single-rigged, adj. (c. dialect) Having one cinch.
1922 Rollins The cowboy vi 123.
"...the saddle of one cinch had, as its corresponding terms, "single-rigged", "single rig," "singlefire" "center fire," and "single-barralled," and often was also called "California rig," this last because Californians commonly used but one cinch.

sings, n. Gatherings of people during which songs were sung.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 172.
"Musical gatherings, so-called "sings," were very popular."

siwash, n. (See skookum)

six-gun, n. (c. dialect) Pistol.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 41.
"The writer of tales has made the "guns", "six-gun" "six-shooter," or "shooting-iron," as the West variously termed the pistol, more ubiquitous even than long hair...."

six-shooter, n. (c. dialect) A pistol which held six shells, and hence could be fired six times before reloading.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. vii 93.
"I'll throw her for you," cooly replied Fox, "and bet you my saddle and six-shooter on the side that it isn't an 'O'" ..."

to skin, v. (c. dialect) To drive.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 197.
"In Range English, one did not "drive" a jerk-line string, but instead "skinned" it."

skinners, n. (c. dialect) Men who made a living by removing the skins from cattle and selling them.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 24.
"Of course, "die-ups" were dreaded by all cattlemen, but they were welcomed by skinners who had no cattle."

skinning season, n. (c. dialect) A time of the year in which many hides were removed from cattle that had decreased so in value that the hide was worth more than the meat.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... iii 24.
"The cow people of the lower country came to speak of the "skinning season" as naturally as they spoke of the "branding season".

Skinning War, n. (c. dialect) Strife between rustlers and cowmen at which time rustlers killed any cattle they found on the range for their hides.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... iii 23.
"With cattle at such a low price that they sold for the value of their hides and tallow alone, what was locally called the "Skinning War" came to be fought."

to skin one's self, v. (c. slang) To remove one's weapon.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 71.
"'Sorry, but no guns allowed in town. Get 'em when you leave. So skin yourselves, skin yourselves! ' And thereupon the visitors resignedly would "shuck" their weapons."

skookum, a. (Indian, Chinook) Great.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 78.
"In the extreme Northwest a few words were borrowed from the Chinook jargon of the coastal trappers and traders. The words most commonly taken from this last mentioned source were "skookum" (great), "siwash" (an Indian; hence, in secondary sense, not up to white man's standard, second-rate), "muckamuck" (food, or to eat or to drink), "hiyu muckamuck" (plenty to eat), "muckamuck chuck" (to drink water), "kaupee" (coffee) "cultus" (despicable, worthless) "cuitan" (a horse), and "heehee" (fun or joke)."

slam up fine layout, a. Excellent; good.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. ix 129.
"'You hear me, it was aslam up fine layout..."

sleepering, v. (c. dialect) To catch a calf before it left its mother and place a mark of ownership on it.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 220.
"The favourite method of those gentlemen ofacquiring a herd withouththe preliminary expense of paying for them was what was known on the range as 'sleepering the calves'. Sleepering was simplicity itself and merely consisted of catching the animal before it left its mother and marking it with the legitimate ear-mark of its owner while neglecting to go through the formality of branding it."

sleepers, n. (c. dialect) Unbranded calves; mavericks.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xv 200.
"The strike was for higher wages, and to allow cowboys to brand 'sleepers'--unbranded yearlings--on the cattle ranges of the Texas Panhandle."

slick ears, n. (c. slang) Unbranded colts or animals which bore no slit in the ears as an ownership mark.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xii 242.
"Maverick, speaking from the dictionary, applied to both horses and cattle; but upon the Range, the term was restricted to members of the cattle family, and b brandless colts were termed either "slick ears" or else, more commonly and in plain English "unbranded colts,"...".

slicks, n. (c. slang) Unmarked stock.
c1923 James. Cowboys, north and south. iii 52.
"He'd traded his wages for cattle, and every fall when the last of the beef was shipped you could see Jim driving his summer's wages home, all good young she-stock he'd brought here and there, along with a few "slicks" he thought might be his."

slings, n. (c. slang) Drinks.
1903 Adams A log of a cowboy ix 133.
"Brother, dear, just think of those long slings with red cherries floating around in them that we'll be drinking, and picture us smoking cigars in a blaze."

slow brand, n. (c. dialect) A brand which has been put on over another and thus unrecorded for fear of detection by the real owner.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... viii 131.
"Such an unrecorded brand was called a "slow brand".

to smell powder, v. (c. slang) To experience strife between enemies; to become acquainted with shooting.
c1924 Bechdolt Tales of the old-timers. 93.
"He had smelled powder, so they say, in Lampasaas County when the Higgins and the Herald factions were at war."

to smoke under the collar, v. (C. slang) (See family round-up).

snack, n. Slight and hasty repast.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xvii 268.
"It's nothing' said he; "just a couple of punchers who had been drinking a little, were eating a snack,..."

to snake, v. (c. dialect) To drag by a rope from the horn of a saddle.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 261.
"The rope was used to pull poor cows out of the bog and to "snake" wood up for the cook."

snubbing, n. (c. dialect) A vertical, round timber some five feet high, firmly set in the earth at the center of the corral, and stout enough to stand the strains to which it was subjected.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy vi 73.
"To be sure, if she took a smile to this stranger, no other fellow could check her with a three-quarter rope and a snubbing post."

to snuff out, v. (c. slang) To die.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iii 55.
"His demise was sometimes referred to as his "snuffing out", "bucking out," "croaking," "cashing in", or "passing in his checks."

soap-weeds, n. A low plant having long, thin, and pointed leaves on a wooden stem.(This stem has been known to be used for soap).
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... vi 79.
"...But on closer inspection those objects invariably turned out to be rocks, or soap-weeds or some other inanimate object."

So long, n. (c. dialect) Goodby; a farewell salute.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 71.
"Except for an occasional "Adios," the universal parting salutation was "So long"."

sombrero, n. (Span.) Hat.
1912 Siringo Riata and spurs. i 1.
"When the cruel war was over, and I was twelve years of age, in the spring of 1867, I became a full-fledged cowboy, wearing broad sombrero, high heeled boots..."

son,n. (c. slang) Bad man especially with a gun.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 44.
"I never killed for profit or fun,
But riled, I'm a regular son of a gun
And it's my night to hollow--Whoo-pee!"

sorrel, n. A horse of yellowish or reddish brown color.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... ii 19.
"For apack horse I bought an angular-looking sorrel from one of the boys."

sow-belly, n. (c. dialect) Bacon.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... x 134.
"This particular piece of sacking had been taken off a side of bacon (known as sow-belly) and being thoroughly impregnated with salt had attracted the attention of the deer."

Spanish supper, n. (c. slang) The act of tightening one's belt up a notch because of the lack of food.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... 158 xi
"At the Corrumpa, which I reached late in the evening, there were plenty of Indian signs. The water was good and I took a "Spanish supper"--tightened my belt up a notch."

spark, v. (c. slang) To court.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy vi 72.
"It seemed that a number of the boys had sparked the bride in times past, and now that she was married, their minds naturally became reminiscent over old sweethearts."

to spill, v. (See to hit the ground)

spilling, v. (c. slang) Throwing.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xii 245.
"So expert were the punchers that often has a single, unassisted man accomplished, in terms of seconds, not of minutes, the entire task of first "spilling" a fully grown steer by roping or "dogging", and of forthwith hog-tying it."

spit-or drown, adj. A kind of chewing tobacco that contained much juice.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xii 181.
"The post office, however, was established by some man-his name has escaped my memory- who drove into the "colony" with a wagon loaded principally with bandanas, a case of sardines, a box of soda crackers, and a caddy of "spit-or drown" tobacco."

spree, n. Drinking party.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 5.
"Ready for a fight or spree; ready for a race;
Going blind with bridle loose every inch of space."

squaw hitch, n. (c. dialect) A rope-weaving for attaching a pack.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iii 32.
"I had helped him at this work, double-haded, but now that I was to try it alone, he showed me what he called a squaw hitch, with which you can lash a pack single-handed."

squaw winter, n. (c. dialect) A short season in the early autumn when there is snow andcold weather.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxiii 361.
"The two placermen paid little heed to the raw morning and our pilot assured us that this was but the squaw winter which always precedes Indian summer."

squatter type, n. Homesteader type.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxi 331.
"The next day Flood rode on ahead on Frenchman's Ford, and late in the day returned with the information that the Ford was quite a pretentious frontier village of the squatter type."

to squeeze the biscuit, v. (See to hunt leather)

to stake out, v. To "pet out" on an ant hill to torture as a form ofpunishment for a crime against womankind.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iv 72.
"Any violation of this code meant the hang-not of the vigilance committee, or on occasions the latter's more terrible "staking out", wherein the culprit, minus eyelids, face to the sun, was laid upon an ant-hill of giant size, wrists and ankles tied to pegs in the ground, to lose in a few minutes his mind, and in a few hours the final vestige of his flesh."

stampede, n. (c. dialect) A wild rush of cattle or horses because of fright.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 281.
"The term "stampede" too was picture-making, coming as it did from the Spanish word "estampida," meaning a crash or loud noise."

stampede, v. (c. dialect) To run headlong from fright.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iv 54.
"With nothing missing, Flood took the loose horses and two of the boys with him and returned to the herd, leaving three of us behind to bring in this last contingent of our stampeded cattle."

stamp iron, n. (c. dialect) A solid block of type recording a brand at one touch.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... viii 121.
"A stamp iron makes a neat, sharp outline that is difficult to burn into something else; but a great many calves were branded on the range with running irons, and the devices made with running irons were often crude and irregular, just as hand-printed letters are more crude and irregular than those printed in type."

to steady down, v. "To become settled"; to lose one's desire for all types of adventure.
c1934. Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 105.
"And since his return to Tascosa on that June day when young Fred Leigh died with his boots on, he had steadied down, as the old saying has it."

steer, n. (See yearling bull)

steers, n. (c. dialect) Bulls; male cattle.
(1883-1899) French. R collections... x 144.
"We all worked like blacks and were quite exhilarated and full of admiration for those big four-and five-year-old steers with their sleek coats and long, keen horns."

Stetson, n. (c. dialect) A type of wide-brimmed hat.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. v 105.
"A Philadelphian manufacturer virtually monopolized the making of at least the better grades, and from his name, every broad-brimmed head covering was apt everywhere slangily to be designated as a "Stetson" instead of by either one of its two legitimate and interchangeable titles of "hat" and "sombrero"."

stock, n. (c. dialect) Animals; cattle and horses.
(1883-1899) French. R collections... xiii 205.
"He advised that we go up the Blue and we might possibly get some tidings of them at the McKeen Ranch near where the main trail crossed, and if we would leave one man with him to identify the stock and swear out the necessary information he would undertake to see the Black Jack did not get away should he in the meantime show up at Clifton."

stock,country, n. (c. dialect) The range for cattle and horses.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xxi 327.
"Once or twice we encountered range riders, and learned that the Crazy Woman was a stock country, a number of beef ranches being located on it, stocked with Texas cattle."

stock-rustlers, n. (c. dialect) Cattle and horse thieves
c1924 Bechdolt Tales of the old-timers. 8.
"Some of them were ranchers who honestly believed the expedition was being organized against stock-rustlers, sent into the hills by John Chisum to harass his enemies."

storm cellars, n. An underground cellar made to protect one from cyclones and bad storms.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... x 151.
"Storm cellars in north Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas still preserve its architecture."

stove up, adj. Badly used.
c1923 James. Cowboys, north and south. viii 196.
"It looks like easy money, but a lot of mustang-runners got disappointed in it and left the country with nothing but a few stove-up saddle horses."

strangulation jig, n. (c. slang) Lynching by placing a rope around the neck of the victim who was placed on horseback; the rope was thrown over a limb and the horse was led from under the doomed man.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 159.
"But the "strangulation jig" is not a pleasant subject."

strays, n. (c. dialect) Stock that had wandered away from the herd to which it belonged; vagrant stock.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiv 221.
"The oldest brother was Bob, who had in his possession a few head of cattle, some eight or ten, probably strays, as they were profusely ornamented with brands."

to strike town, v. (c. slang) To reach a town.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ix 187.
"The punchers assuredly were apt to drink to excess when they first "struck town" after six months of enforced and continuous abstention from liquids except water, tea, and coffee..."

stuck, v. To stay by; remain with.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 61.
"He stuck to his guns, however, and as they climbed the hill asserted that the cattle would never scare at a bunch of loose horses or the aroma left in their wake."

sudadero, n. (See basto)

sulled, v. (c. slang) To sulk.
1922 Rollins. The cowboy. xiv 288.
"If an average time be demanded, there is hesitatingly put forth three minutes, this covering groups of jumps, each group consuming some ten seconds, and there being, between each two groups a slight pause, during which the horse sulked or, as the West said, "sulled"."

to sun one's moccasins, v. (See to hit the ground.)

swag, n. Booty; plunder.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 271.
"A great quantity of swag had been secured by the robbers."

swap, v. Exchange stories or tales.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 57.
"While waiting I met Pa on a similar errand, and we sat on the ground outside the post office and swapped lies."

swing cattle, n. (c. dialect) Cattle that traveled toward the rear of the herd.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... viii 126.
"Directly they were in swimming water with the swing and drag cattle pushing them on from the rear."

swing men, n. (c. dialect) Outriders.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy iii 28.
"The main body of the herd trailed along behind the leaders like an army in loose marching order, guarded by outriders, known as swing men, who rode well out from the advancing column, warding off range cattle and seeing that none of the herd wandered away or dropped out. "

tail-enders, n. (c. slang) Rear cattle.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xviii 297.
"The two outfits were working promiscuously together and I never knew who was the directing spirit in the work; but when the last wo or three hundred of the tail-enders were leaving the first island for the second, and the men working in the rear started to swim the channel, amid the general hilarity I recognized a shout that was born of fear and terror."

to tail down, v. To seize an animal by its tail, give the tail a pull to one side, and thus throw the animal.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xxi 288.
"...And Claude expected me to "tail him down" while he mounted his horse."

tail riders, n. (c. dialect) Men on horseback who stayed behind the herd and regulated its speed.
1922 Rollins The cowboy. xi 220-21.
"Quietly there ranged along either side of the herd and from among the circle riders a line of flankers, riders less strategic than the general in front of than the lieutenant-generals who "rode tail," and thus as "tail riders" stayed behind the herd and kept it to the pace the general from time to time might order."

to take leather, v. (See to hunt leather)

to take the long trail to Kingdom Come, v. To die.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 201-02.
"It was mount and reach the shelter given by a projecting hill, by the bottom of a coulee, by a grassless, "buffalo wallow," or, in the language of the craft, it would be "fried gent," "no breakfast forever", and the "long trail to Kingdom Come"."

big talk, n. (c. slang) Long speech.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xviii 236.
"General Crook made a 'big talk' which lasted from early morning until noon."

talking iron, n. (See to dig for)

tamales, n. (Span.) A Mexican dish made of cornmeal and crushed meat and seasoned with red pepper.
c1930 Jennings A Texas ranger ii 23.
"We arrived in town about seven o'clock in the evening and, after a supper of chili con carne and tamales we crossed the Rio Grande to see what we could of the fiesta."

tapaderos, n. Toe fenders; leather stirrup shields.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xv 204.
"To work effectively in this brush a vaquero had to have tapaderos (toe-fenders) on his stirrups..."

tarp, n. (c. slang) Tarpaulin; a water-proof canvas.
1922 Rollins The cowboy x 197.
"Throughout the Range, any custodian of a "tarpoleon" or "tarp," as the West termed all canvases not specifically entitled as either "pack covers" or "wagon sheets", was very popular after nightfall."

tarpaulins, n. A water-proof canvas or "wagon sheet".
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. v 51.
"After retiring under our tarpaulins, spread over the beds on the ground, a severe snowstorm sprang up."

tear, n. Spree.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvii 278.
"There was not much danger for him as long as he was sober, for he was fearless and generally well armed, but he occasionally went on a 'tear', and at those times I was always a bit nervous."

Tejanos, n. (c. slang) Texanized Mexicans.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero. v 83.
"Again, in an unpublished autobiography, Jesse Sumpter, pioneer citizen of Eagle Pass, testified to the concord existing between good Mexicans and good Americans along the border not only against bad Mexicans but against bad Americans, many of whom were overbearing and cruelly unjust to the Tejanos."

to tend bar, v. To serve saloon customers.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. iii 51.
"... Charley Scott, one of the finest men who ever "tended bar" in all the West, lost athoroughly worthless customer and a perfectly good window-sash".

tenderfoot, n. (c. slang) One inexperienced in the ways of the West.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... ii 23.
"He came towards the fire and watched me for some time in silence. I kept a wary eye on him and wondered what would be the next move. After a time he spoke. "You're a tenderfoot,ain't you?" I pleaded guilty and offered him a cup of coffee."

threes-and-fours, n. (c. slang) Cattle that were three or four years old.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 144.
"They were a good-looking lot of cattle, however, not quite so heavy as the first shipment, but mainly three-and-fours with a few long twos to fill in".

three sheets in the wind, a. In a drunken state.
1928. Dobie. A vaquero... xvii 230.
"When he got about three sheets in the wind, the Colonel would babble vaguely of moonshine and a fight with revenue officers back in Kentucky."

throw, n. (c. dialect) The act of wielding the lasso to catch an animal.
1922 Rollins The cowboy xi 226.
"By the time that it had made its fourth revolution, it was in the shape of an oval, was in horizontal position over the wielder's head, and was sufficiently open for the "throw"."

to throw in with, v. To cooperate.
1924 Bechdolt. Tales of the old timers. 6.
"They told their story, and the Texans readily agreed to "throw in with them," as the old saying is."

tie, v. To rope.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy x 147.
"After the chase had continued over amile, the staying qualities of my horse began to shine, but while I was nearing the lead, The Rebel tied to the largest calf in the bunch."

to tie down by the tail, v. To secure an animal by its tail.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 24.
"I could have tied him (steer) down with his own tail, but that way of tying an animal generally lames one leg for a few days. In tying a cow-brute down with its own tail, the hair on the end of the tail is divided into equal parts, then knotted together at the ends, forming a loop."

tis-win, n. A strong liquor made by the Indians.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xviii 221.
"The object of this trip was to catch Indians making tis-win, a strong liquor."

top, n. (c. slang) First class horse.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ii 30.
"Everywhere upon the Range the price of an unbroken "top" or first-class horse sagged from twenty-five dollars to fifteen dollars per head...."

top-off, v. (c. slang) To ride for the first time.
1929. Dobie A vaquero... x 137.
"As he had been raised on a ranch, he was a good rider, and frequently one of the boys would get him to "top off" (ride first) a bad horse."

tortias, n. (Span.) A Mexican pancake of water and flour.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 253.
"This with a piece of the rind off the bacon, constituted their stock of provisions, which they proceeded to convert into tortias or flapjacks...".

tortillas, n. (Span.) (See tortias)
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. xi 158.
"A woman was standing in the doorway patting a tortilla, or Mexican pancake, in her hand."

to tote a gun, v. (c. dialect) To carry
c1930. Jennings. A Texas ranger. xv 209.
"I wish to emphasize the fact here that, with the passing of the desperado from Texas, the necessity for going armed disappeared, and at this time no man, except he be an officer of the law, or a wild and quarrel-seeking cowboy, thinks it requisite to "tote a gun."

to touch leather, v. (See to hunt leather)

trail, v. To track; to keep on the tracks of an animal
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... ii 17.
"An equal test, perhaps, lies in his ability to trail cattle in such a way that they will even on the trail put on flesh rather than lose it."

trail boss, n. (c. dialect) A foreman in charge of a herd that is being taken up the trail either to graze or to market.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 273.
"I told him that all I knew about him was that he was the best trail boss I had ever seen and one of the best men that the W S had in their employ since I had known them."

trail-broken, a. (c. dialect) Accustomed to the trail.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iv 401
"Our herd was becoming well trail-broken..."

trail cutters, n. (c. dialect) Men who inspected a trail herd and cut out any stock which did not belong to the herd.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. vi 88.
"...strange men rode up from the westward, and representing themselves as trail cutters, asked for our foreman."

trail driving, n. (c. dialect) Traveling on a certain route or trail.
1929. Dobie. A vaquero... iv 42.

trail herd, n. (c.dialect) A herd of cattle that is to be taken by trail to market or to a distant range.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... i 11.
"My first big experience was helping to put up a trail herd of mossy horns."

trail jackals, n. (c. slang) Men who by dishonest means lived off the trail herds.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 92.
"One of the tricks of these trail jackals was to hide horses in the brush at night and then for a neat price offer next morning to find them."

trail steer, n. (c. dialect) A bull that was being trail driven.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 24.
"It was against the rules to hog-tie a trail steer, as it caused stiffness in the legs."

traveller, n. (c. dialect)(See lobo)

tree ring, n. (See rigging ring)

trigger finger, n. (c. slang) Usually the forefinger of the right hand; the finger used to release the trigger of a gun.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... ix 131.
"I did not know how many other Indians might be around me, and though my trigger finger itched, I considered it best not to shoot."

trigger squeeze, n. (c. slang) A strong hold on the trigger of a gun.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 266.
"The danger of the double-action gun lies in the "trigger squeeze". More than one man fighting for his life with a double-action revolver has pulled the trigger once and then kept on pulling it, not allowing it to spring forward to catch before pulling it again."

trim, v. Look well; to appear well dressed.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xvi 256.
"I had worn one so long I didn't trim well without it, but toppled foreward and couldn't maintain my balance."

trim, v. (c. slang) To cut upon the drive.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. xviii 275.
"At Horse Creek, the last stream of water before entering Wyoming, a lad who cut the trail at that point for some cattle companies, after trimming us up, rode along for half a day through their range, and told us of an accident which happened about a week before."

trotters, n. (c. slang) Feet.
1919 Lomax Songs of the cattle trail... 111
"I fetched a cowboy shoop and started in to rag
And cut her with my trotters till the floor began to sag."

trumped-up, adj. (c. dialect) Made up; false.
(1883-1899) French Recollections... iii 26.
"He explained that Mr. Fowler was a deputy sheriff; that the murders were committed after the victims had been arrested and disarmed, generally on trumped-up accusations..."

turkey buzzard, n. Turkeys that had heads like buzzards.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... v 62.
"Here Ed, who was in front, probably some eighty to a hundred yards, pulled up opposite some cedars, on which several turkey buzzards were perched."

turnip, n. (c. slang) Watch.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xv 234.
"My turnip says it's eight o'clock now."

two gun man, n. (c. dialect) A man who carried two guns and could use them both when circumstances demanded it.
1928 Rollins The cowboy iii 53.
"This marks him as being what is called a "two-gun man", and a person who ' totes his weapens low!"

two year -old bull, n. (See Yearling bull)

Uncle Sam's children, n. (c. slang) Indians.
1929 Dobie A vaquero.. vii 83-84.
"jackman handed the letter back to the Indian, rode into the herd, cut out Ike Pryor's fine beef, and told Uncle Sam's children to take it."

to unravel some cartridges, v. (See to dig for)

vamoosed, v. (Span.) To go; to leave.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. i 4.
"After the crick in my back and the lump on my head had 'vamoosed," and the rare beefsteaks had painted my cheeks with a rosy tint, I was sent to Fisk's Public School to start my education."

vaqueros, n. (Span.) Cowboys.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... iii 30.
"In this way I did not have much time for observation, but I listened curiously to the cries of the Mexican vaqueros who were constantly shouting "autro la haut", which I gathered meant to turn the animal over on the side".

vamose muy pronto, v. (Span.) To leave quickly; to hurry.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. xii 169.
"He cussed them for muddying his water and told them to 'vamose muy pronto' which meant to leave in a hurry."

vent brand, n. (c. slang) A seller's brand.
1922. Rollins. The cowboy. xii 236.
"Thus, the brute might be given one which was known interchangeably as the "vent brand" (from Spanish "venta", meaning a sale) or "counter brand," and which was the seller's admission of the fact of sale."

vigilance committee, n. A group banded together to maintain order and peace.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xi 151.
"Anyway, the death penalty was not popular at the time, except at the hands of a vigilance committee."

vigilantes, n. (Span.) Members of a vigilance committee.
1903. Adams. Log of a cowboy. iii 32.
"Have I ever told this outfit my experience with the vigilantes when I was a kid?".

vuelta, n. (Span.) A turn.
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 5.
"After a while I'd give the rope a vuelta (a turn) around a post, and by taking up the slack when the cow ran would finally get her tied up short.

wagon sheets, n. (See tarp)

to waltz into, v. (c. slang) To happen upon.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 78.
""Chased into" and "waltzed into" might be equivalent to the phrase "happened upon,"..."

war-bonnet, n. (See lid)

war-paint, n. (c. slang) Full cowboy dress.
1922 Rollins The cowboy v 117.
"Chaps and his fancy vest, if he had the latter, were in combination with his gun and spurs, his "best Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes," or what he called his "full war-paint,"

war sacks, n. (c. slang) A gunny-sack that served as the cowboy's traveling bag.
1922 Rollins The cowboy viii 155.
"The arriving cowboy's parcels with their"plunder" contents doubtless consisted of commercial gunny-sacks which had been promoted from their orginal function of holding grain to that of serving as traveling-bags; and which, when in the latter role, commonly were termed "war sacks," though they sometimes in the Northwest, were called "pokes," or else "porfleshes", or "parfleshes," this last term, whichever way spelled being a corruption of the dictionary's word, "parfleche.""

weasel skin, n. (c. slang) Pocket-book.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy xxii 356.
"'When the final vote was called for, we knew it was the home stretch, and every rascal of us got his weasel skin out and sweetened the voting on Miss Pricilla June Jones'."

Westerner, n. (c. dialect) A man well experienced in the ways of the West;
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 83.
"As between these latter terms, a "real Westerner" was merely a "Westerner" who had unusual force of character, and thus, in another phrasing by the Range, was a "he man"."

wet (stock) adj. (c. slang) Stock stolen in Mexico and smuggled across the Rio Grande or vice versa.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... v 81.
"The code of these ranchers-however some of them may have failed to live up to it-forbade stealing from a neighbor, but it generally permitted trading in "wet" (stock)..."

whistler, n. (c. slang) Bullet.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 77.
"Thus a "blue whistler" because of the pistol's blued frame, denoted a bullet, while a "can't whistle" for obvious reasons, signified a hare-lipped person."

whole, adj. (slang) Real; "he-man".
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xiii 193.
"Grostette was a whole man, however, and every one was sorry he had gone under."

whoop, n. (c. dialect) The characteristic yell of the cowboy.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xv 243.
"They rallied round me as a single unit, gave a whoop--cowboys never cheer--which could be heard over all the racket, and offered to stand by me if I wished to continue."

to whoop, v. (c. dialect) To keep the cattle moving to avoid stampedes.
1910 Lomax Cowboy songs. 22.
"Where you whoop up the cattle from morning till night
All out in the midnight rain."

whooped her up Liza -Jane,v. (c. slang) Had a good time.
1912. Siringo. Riata and spurs. iii 31.
"In Wichita we 'whooped her up Liza-Jane' for a couple of days and nights and found ourselves broke."

wickyup, n. A crude tent or tepee used for steam bathing in Indian fashion.
1922 Rollins The cowboy iv 74.
"For this purpose there was erected a "wickyup," a low dome-shaped framework of sticks covered with hides...."

wide loop, n. (c. slang)Promiscuous collection of cattle without regards to ownership.
c 1924 Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 4.
"It was, you will remember, the era of a "wide loop" and a Winchester, when you raided your neighbor's herd without bothering to alter brands..."

wild and wooly, adj. (c. slang) A typical bad man.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xvi 277.
"He was anxious to be wild and wooly and considered in the confidence of the 'Wild Bunch', but he was really only used as a messenger...."

to wild up, v. (c. slang) To indulge in fictitious story telling or bragging.
1922 Rollins The Cowboy iii 53.
"These men would "wild up" whenever they obtained an impressionable audience, and their braggadocio often was picturesque, even though made up at least in part from strings of stereotyped Western anecdotes."

to winter, v. (c. dialect) To keep through the winter months.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... x 145.
"When the summer was over an arrangement was made through the commission firm to winter them, with the understanding that they were to come on the market the first thing the following spring."

wohaw, n. Indian name for beef.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... vii 93.
"The Indians in the territory were, when not positively dangerous, a great nuisance on account of their demands for beef, which they called "wohaw"."

woman-herder, n. (c. slang) Manager of a dance hall.
1903 Adams Log of a cowboy. xiii 205.
"I'm going back to that dance hall, " said Forrest, "And have one round at least with that woman-herder"."

won, v. To obtain by fighting in which user of saddle was killed.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... 64 v.
"In the expressive phrase of the Texian rangers, a good many saddles were "won"."

woozy, adj. (c. slang) Drunk.
1919 Lomax. Songs of the cattle trail... 65.
"Biscuit-shootin' Susie,-
She's got us roped and tied;
Sober men or woozy
Look on her with pride."

wouser, n. (c. slang) A mythical animal used by the cowboy to scare the tenderfeet.
1922 Rollins The cowboy ix 184.
"A mythical animal known to cowboy raconteurs as the "wouser" sometimes was descanted upon."

to wring, v. To twist their tails.
1929 Dobie A vaquero... xix 270.
"In many pictures the horses of these play cowboys can be seen "wringing" or writhing, their tails..."

yarn, v. To tell stories.
(1883-1899) French. Recollections... xii 181.
"We sat around and smoked and yarned, and had almost decided that the best way of passing the time was to go to bed and try to sleep..."

yahoo, n. "greenhorn"
1929 Dobie A vaquero of the brush country i 6.
"As one story went, the table of a settler was set for a wedding dinner and the guests were being awaited when a "yahoo from up the creek" stopped by on his way home from the mill to deliver some freshly ground meal."

yearling, n. (See yearling bull)

young stuff, n. (c. slang) Young stock.
c1924. Bechdolt. Tales of the old-timers. 7.
"So Tunstall established himself over the Rio Feliz with four hundred head of young stuff, and his partner "hung out his shingle", as the old saying has it, in Lincoln."

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