

you do when living out here all alone. It bothered the old cowboy so....no...he's better off....don't need another mouth to feed.... Just another mixed breed mutt of a dog; who even knows if he can be saved. Each time as the old cowboy would wait till he put his head down and take aim, the pup would look back, right in his eyes...over and over till.....

But the "look", as time would show, came from not just any ole dog. So this night of all nights, the pup overpowered the old cowboy's grizzled heart and so started a bond and something the old cowboy needed... a friend. As time went on, it would be hard pressed to say who saved who that night.

The old cowboy picks the pup up carefully and wraps him in a blanket and places him on the passenger seat. Making his way up the winding road to the rickety old ranch house and places him by the old wood burning stove. He builds a fire and makes a pot of coffee and places it on top the stove and reaches down to pet the pup....The pup closes one eye and draws up for what he thinks is another dose of what he's been getting. The old cowboys deep southern drawl telling him it was ok as he stroked his ears. Something the pup had never had; quite the opposite. The old cowboy continued till

the wide eyes closed and the same tone that could almost slow break a horse alone puts him to sleep. And for the first time in his short life the pup didn't feel like this breath to be his last.

Well by now you already know he makes it I mean he's in the back of the truck. What you don't is that this was only one of many times the old cowboy would nurse the dog to health. The old dog had the nine lives of a cat for he had lived thru snake bites, numerous coyote attacks, barb wire battles, kicked how many times by horses, that long scar on his side from the hook of a bull and last but not least a gunshot wound from a passing truck on the road for no reason....The old cowboy considered himself quite the vet but he wasn't, but don't tell Dog.

So here sits the old cowboy at the light staring across at what he considered the epitome of a lost future when they roll the window down and ask...."What you lookin at old man?" ...The ole cowboy never changes expression....takes his finger and slides the old hat back and sends a projectile, big as a baseball, of chewing tobacco, sliding across the windshield out onto the hood. The two sat there eyes as wide as their mouths and makes what turns out to be the only smart decision that day. Not to mess with this



The crowd gathers at the Friday night portion of Robert Lee's Small Town Christmas.

one. As the light turns green the old cowboy expressionless, stares at the two like now what? The two mouth and swear and make gestures as the ole cowboy just smiles and Dog shows his teeth. Well, what's left of em, but they got the idea. Tires smoking, squealing as the Mustang speeds away. Not impressed, Old Cowboys scar list as long as Dogs. He'd been shot, stabbed, burned, drug, bucked off and gored and enough shrapnel left in him to build a small car. The two punk kids throwing words and gestures seemed pretty weak. Maybe tigers do have the right idea he mumbled as he puts the old truck in gear and let's go the clutch. A stop by the feed store; couple hay bales, oats

and some sweet feed for Horse? ... Horse was the old cowboy's tried and true workhorse. He was all that was left now out of all that roamed this small Texas ranch. Old like everything else here not to mention just another that got a second

chance. He was abused and neglected so badly when brought to the old cowboy by the county. As they unloaded him that day the old cowboy watched as he could barely get out of the trailer. He thought why me? as he glared at the officers. Weeks turned into

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Joy to the World
the Lord is Come

Merry Christmas
from
Bryan, Teresa &
Kaitlyn Swecker

JOY TO ALL

Jolly greetings to all our good patrons. May all your holidays be filled with love and joy.



COKE-STERLING FARM BUREAU

Russell Davis & Kizzie Waggoner

**Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!**

*Gene Montgomery
Commissioner, Precinct #1*

*I wish you
and your families a
Very Merry
Christmas
and a Healthy,
Happy & Joyful
New Year!*

**Cindy's
BBQ & Grocery**

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