

The Lone Ranger
(CREATED BY GEORGE W. TRENDLE)

"THIRTEEN STEPS TO FREEDOM"
Ralph Goll

2662-1887

FEB. 8, 1950

This file is part of the
Joe Hehn Memorial Collection
hosted at the Internet Archive
<https://archive.org/details/joe-hehn>

C-A-S-T

Ranger

Tonto

Jeff Austin.....Western, about 25
Jim.....Western, Jeff's brother, about 20
Amy Benton.....Eastern, Jeff's fiancée, about 20
Top..... Western, outlaw leader. 30-40
Sheriff..... Western, elderly
Judge..... Bit
Monte Baldwin..... Jeff's lawyer, bit.

Voices

BILLBOARD FOR "THIRTEEN STEPS TO FREEDOM"

HOOFS COMING TO HALT AS

Ranger: Tonto, an innocent man named Jeff Austin is going to be hanged at high noon tomorrow because he refused to save himself.

Tonto: How that happen?

Ranger: Jeff is protecting his younger brother, Jim, who belongs to a holdup gang.

Tonto: What we do?

Ranger: Jeff's sweetheart has frightened Jim into making a mysterious trip. You guard her. I'll follow him.

Tonto: Getum up, Scout!

Ranger: Come ong Silver!

HOOFS STARTING AS

Annrc: Deadly was the danger which awaited the Lone Ranger. The collapse of a dugout roof dropped him into the midst of a gang of killers. There was a night-long seige, A dead man in a mask played a part in the battle. Then came a wild ride, with Silver racing the sun and a man's life at stake. Be sure...etc.

2662-1887

1

FEB. 8, 1950

(USUAL OPENING)

Annecr: Young Jeff Austin stood at the door of his cell in the Fortune County Jail. So hard was his grip on the bars that his fingers had turned white. His teeth were set and sweat streaked his forehead. He was listening.

(POUNING IN B. G.)

Out there in the courtyard they were spiking bright new planks and beams together, erecting a platform and building a stairs. There would be thirteen steps on the stairs--thirteen steps that he would have to climb at noon tomorrow. What time was it now? The barred pattern of sunlight which fell on the cell floor had moved its center. His last twenty-four hours had started. He was living his last afternoon.

(FADE POUNDING:STEPS ON STONE APPROACHING)

Sheriff: (COMING UP) How's it going, Jeff?

Jeff: Howdy, sheriff. That pounding--(BREAKS)

Sheriff: I savvy, boy. Wish you didn't have to hear it.

Jeff: Have you heard anything?

Sheriff: Just got a telegram from the Governor himself. He'll give you a stay of execution if you'll talk.

Jeff: (BITTERLY) If I talk!

Sheriff: Between you and me, he'll do more than that for you, though he can't come right out and say it. You can save your neck--maybe even go scott free.

Jeff: I've got nothing to say except what I've said a hundred times already. I'm innocent.

are and how much you weigh.

Sheriff: Innocent or guilty, you're protecting somebody.

Who is it?

Jeff: I've said my say.

Sheriff: I kind of hoped you'd begin to weaken, seeing as how I always liked you.

Jeff: What's my lawyer doing?

Sheriff: What can anybody do for a feller who won't help himself?

Jeff: Nothing, I guess...Well, I can take it.

Sheriff: Jeff, I hate to tell you this, but you're going to have a visitor right shortly.

Jeff: Not Amy Benton! I told you I didn't want to see her again!

Sheriff: I know! You love that gal and you're scared she'll break you down and make you talk. Well, I haven't seen her today.

Jeff: Then who's coming?

Sheriff: The feller they call Mr. Smith. The one who always carries a black gripsack and wears a posey on his coat.

Jeff: You mean the--(HESITATES)

Sheriff: You guessed it, Jeff. He wants to see how tall you are and how much you weigh.

Jeff: What good'll that do?

Sheriff: He's a particular sort of critter. Does his work quick and neat. I hired him out of consideration for you.

Jeff: (LAUGHS WILDLY) Sheriff, you sure like to do me favors!

Sheriff: Well, I got to go back to the office, but if you change your mind, sing out. The Governor's secretary will be standing by for word from me till the last minute.

Jeff: There won't be any word.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annecr: As Jeff and the sheriff finished their conversation, the Lone Ranger and Tonto turned their horses off the trail to Fortune City and headed north along the steep banks of the Tomahawk River.

(HOOFS)

They were in search of a camping place. Suddenly Tonto pointed--

Tonto: Look, Kemo Sabay! Horse up ahead!

Ranger: There's a side-saddle on it.

Tonto: Must be woman round here.

AD LIB: WHOAS

(HOOFS HALT)

Ranger: Grab that horse's reins, Tonto! There's a piece of paper fastened to the saddle!

Tonto: Me gotum! Ho, there! Ho!

Ranger: Steady, Silver! There, I've got the paper!

Tonto: What on it?

Ranger: It's addressed to the sheriff at Fortune City and says,
(READS) You will find my body in the Tomahawk River.
Don't tell Jeff. Amy Benton...It's a suicide note!

Tonto: Horse not stand here long.

Ranger: We may still have time to save her. Come on, Silver!

Tonto: Getum up, Scout!

HOOFS

Ranger: There she is!

Tonto: Her stand on high bank!

Ranger: (CALLS) Stop, Amy Benton! Stop!

Tonto: Her jump!

Ranger: Take my hat and gunbelt!

AD LIB: WHOAS

Annrc: As the horses braced their legs and skidded to
a stop, the Lone Ranger dropped from his saddle to
the edge of the bank and dove, arching his back
in order to surface quickly.

(SPLASH IN B. G.)

As he rose, Tonto shouted--

Tonto: Her come up downstream!

(SUSTAINED SPLASHING IN B.G.)

Ranger: (BACK) I see her!

(CALLS) Stop, Amy Benton! Stop!
As he rose, Tonto shouted--

Annecr: The masked man cut through the water with powerful strokes. A few yards beyond him the girl's head was visable, her long hair parted by the current.

Tonto: (CALLS) Quick, Kemo Sabay! Her sink again!

Annecr: Just as her head went under, the masked man reached her, turned her on her back and began to fight his way toward shore with a one-armed side stroke. The pull of the current was strong and there were moments when he was barely able to hold his own. Then he felt solid ground beneath his feet. Tonto was crouched on the bank above, a lariat in his hand.

Tonto: Me throw rope!

Annecr: A few moments later the girl had been hoisted to the top of the bank. Scrambling up after her, the Lone Ranger found that Tonto was giving her artificial res piration. Presently she was gasping and coughing. Her eyes opened but she said nothing. Neither did the masked man speak to her until she had been placed in a blanket beside a fire and Tonto had prepared coffee. As she drank, he said—

Ranger: Miss Benton, you don't seem concerned over my mask.

Amy: I'm not. I don't care who or what you are. Why did you save me?

Ranger: I always save a life if I can.

Amy: (BITTERLY) There's one you can't save!

Ranger: Suppose you tell us your troubles. You'll feel better if you get them off your mind.

Amy: Maybe I would.

Ranger: It's possible that my friend and I can help you.

Amy: If you only could! But it's too late! Tomorrow they're going to...to hang Jeff. (SOBS)

Ranger: What did Jeff do?

Amy: Nothing! Nothing at all! He's innocent! And I put him where he is!

Ranger: How did that happen?

Amy: You see Jeff and I were engaged to be married. I was working in the Wells Fargo Bank in Fortune City. Then---(HESITATES)

Ranger: Yes, miss.

Amy: The bank got a lot of gold ready to ship out. Usually the shipments were made by stage, but because there had been a lot of robberies Mr. Quincy, the Wells Fargo agent, decided to send an empty box on the stage and ship out the gold in a freight wagon.

Ranger: I see.

Amy: Mr. Quincy and I were the only ones who knew about the arrangement until I told Jeff. I never kept anything from him.

- Ranger: Was the gold stolen?
- Amy: Yes, a gang of outlaws let the stage go by and held up the freighter. The driver was killed.
- Ranger: That makes it certain that they had inside information.
- Amy: When the sheriff questioned me I had to admit that I had told Jeff the secret. He was arrested. He'd been riding fence alone at the time of the robbery and couldn't clear himself.
- Ranger: Do you think he gave the information to someone else?
- Amy: He denied it at the trial. I had to testify against him and he was convicted.
- Ranger: What makes you so sure Jeff is innocent?
- Amy: What makes me trust a masked man? Call it a woman's intuition, but I know. I know!
- Ranger: I'd like to know more about Jeff.
- Amy: He's big-hearted and gentle. He and a younger brother, Jim, were orphaned years ago. But he was father and mother both to Jim. There's nothing he wouldn't do for the kid brother, as he calls him.
- Ranger: Where did Jeff work?
- Amy: He was top hand at the X-7 Ranch. Jim works on the Consolidated Cattle Company spread.
- Ranger: Who was Jeff's lawyer?
- Amy: Monte Baldwin. He fought hard to save Jeff.

- Ranger: I've heard of Baldwin, He's a good criminal lawyer, but his fees are very high.
- Amy: I gave him what money I had--two hundred dollars.
- Ranger: H-m-m. That was hardly enough for a retaining fee. Did Jeff have any money?
- Amy: He kept himself broke by making loans to Jim, That's why we couldn't get married.
- Ranger: Miss Benton, we've made a start, though I don't know where it will lead.
- Amy: Even a start is encouraging. Thank Heaven you saved me!
- Ranger: Where do you live?
- Amy: I've been rooming at the Empire Hotel. My home is in the East.
- Ranger: We'll see you to the edge of town. Then I want you to go to the hotel and wait. We may need your help, in which case my friend will call for you.
- Amy: I understand. What are you going to do?
- Ranger: While Tonto gathers information around town, I'll slip into Lawyer Baldwin's office for a talk.
- MUSIC:INTERLUDE
- Anner: Monte Baldwin was alone in his law office. He sat in an easy chair with his eyes closed, feeling sorry for himself. For the first time in his career he had lost a murder case. He sighed gustily, opened his eyes, then sat bolt upright as the back door opened silently and the Lone Ranger stepped into the room.

Baldwin: A masked man!

(SEVERAL STEPS UP)

Ranger: (COMING UP) Steady, Mr. Baldwin. (UP) Just keep your hand away from that derringer in your vest pocket.

Baldwin: Don't shoot me! I did the best I could for Jeff!

Ranger: I'm not interested in what you did. I want to know who paid you and how much you received for defending him.

Baldwin: You ought to know. Don't you belong to the gang Jeff was in?

Ranger: I'm not an outlaw. It's my purpose to see that justice is done.

Baldwin: It was done in his case. He was guilty and deserved the death sentence. Of course, it puts a blot on my record, but--

Ranger: (INTERRUPTS) You haven't answered my questions.

Baldwin: I don't intend to. Now you--

Ranger: Drop that derringer!

(HARD SLAP)

Baldwin: Don't hit me again! I dropped it!

Ranger: And I'm kicking it into a corner. (EFFORT) There!

(GUN SLIDES ACROSS FLOOR)

Baldwin: You'll pay for this!

Ranger: Are you going to tell me what I want to know?

Baldwin: Yes! Yes! I'll tell. I received a small retainer from Miss Benton. The rest--(HESITATES)

Ranger: Go on.

Baldwin: The rest was paid by Jeff's brother, Jim. It was a matter of three thousand dollars.

Ranger: Didn't it strike you as strange that a ranch hand could raise that much money?

Baldwin: I thought Jeff had told him where to dig it up.

Ranger: In other words, you thought it was part of the loot of the Wells Fargo box.

Baldwin: I don't question the source of my clients' money. They're all criminals and--

Ranger: Never mind that. Where is Jim Austin now?

Baldwin: He was still with the Consolidate Cattle people a few days ago.

Ranger: That's all I wanted to know.

MUSIC:INTERLUDE

Annrcr: That evening Amy Benton, fully recovered from her attempt to drown herself and determined to fight to the end for Jeff's life, rode out of Fortune City under Tonto's guidance.

(HOOFS)

The Indian had been in touch with the Lone Ranger and led the way to a rendezvous ~~XXXX~~ on the trail between the town and the vast spread owned by the Consolidated Cattle company. They found the masked man in the saddle and pulled up.

AD LIB: WHOAS

(HOOFS HALT)

- Ranger: Hello, Miss Benton. I sent for you both because you need to keep your your mind occupied and we need your help.
- Amy: I'll do anything! ANYTHING!
- Ranger: We'll get to that in a moment. Tonto, did you find out anything more in town?
- Tonto: Me hear Governor make it easy for Jeff if him talk. Him not talk. People all say him protect somebody.
- Ranger: That somebody is his brother, Jim.
- Amy: Do you mean that Jim was in the holdup?
- Ranger: It adds up to that. Jeff wouldn't go to the gallows for any other man. What's more, Jim put up three thousand dollars for his defense.
- Amy: I didn't know that. I'm sure Jeff didn't either.
- Ranger: Of course that doesn't clear Jeff. Both he and his younger brother could have been mixed up in the crime.
- Amy: Then we aren't getting anywhere!
- Ranger: Perhaps not. But there's a chance that we can bring the outlaws, whoever they are, into the open. I have a plan....

MUSIC: INTERLUDE.

- Annor: Jim Austin was sprawled on a bunk in the sleeping quarters of the cattle company's riders. His weakly handsome, almost effeminate face was haggard. His long-lashed eyes were blood-shot from lack of sleep. As he stared at a battered clock on the wall, the door opened.

(DOOR OPENS)

JUDGE: The foreman's voice boomed through the bunkhouse.

Voice: 1 (BACK A LITTLE) Jim! There's a young lady here to see you!

Jim: All right! (EFFORT) I'M coming.

(STEPS ON BOARDS)

Voice: 1 (BACK A LITTLE) He'll be right out, miss. Goodnight.

(DOOR CLASSES:STEPS STOP)

Amy: Jim!

Jim: Oh, it's you, Amy! (FORCED LAUGH) I thought some sanorita was calling on me.

Amy: I want to talk to you where we won't be heard.

Jim: About Jeff?

Amy: Yes.

Jim: Then come on. We'll take a pasear down toward the water tank.

(STEPS ON GRAVEL)

Amy: Jim, you were in that Wells Fargo holdup. You're letting Jeff hang for something you did.

Jim: Amy, you're loco!

Amy: Jeff passed you the information about the gold shipment just like I passed it to him. He trusted you and you betrayed him.

Jim: Did Jeff tell you that?

Amy: I'm not saying who told me. But I'll tell you this. You've got to keep Jeff from hanging.

Jim: Amy, you're loco!

Jim: What can I do?

Amy: Get your gang together and work out something.

Jim: I haven't got any gang!

Amy: Do you know that Jeff can save himself by talking?

Jim: He wouldn't---(BREAKS)

Amy: Wouldn't tell on you? Is that what you intended to say?
(STEPS STOP)

Jim: I'm not saying anything more.

Amy: Well, I am, but it's my last word. The sheriff will know about you in the morning if you don't do something.

(STEPS FADING OUT)

Jim: Wait, Amy!

AMY: (FADING BACK) I'll wait in town.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annrcr: Crossing a wide yard between the ranch buildings, Amy joined the Lone Ranger in the shadows of a shed. She reported--

(SOTTO)
Amy: I did just what you told me to do.

Ranger: (SOTTO) How did he act?

Amy: (SOTTO) He's not only guilty, he's conscience-stricken and scared.

Tonto: (FADING IN) Me watch that feller go in corral. Him get ready to ride.

Ranger: (SOTTO) You take Miss Benton back to town. I'll follow him.

Tonto: Maybe you need me.

Ranger: Miss Benton needs you more. Her life is in danger!

MUSIC:INTERLUDE

Annecr: Unaware that the Lone Ranger was on his trail, Jim Austin rode directly to one of the most remote line camps on the vast spread. The camp was actually a pole shack which had been built into a hillside and banked with earth so that it resembled a dugout more than a cabin. It had a sod roof and a cobblestone chimney. Used only in winter by Consolidated riders, the dugout had been taken over by four men who had been fired by the cattle company on suspicion of rustling. Their leader was an ex-foreman known as Top. The quartet was playing cards on a candle-lit table when Jim burst through the door.

(DOOR:OPENS,CLOSES)

Top: What the blazes, Jim!

Jim: Top, we're in for it!

Top: What do you mean?

Jim: Jeff's girl was to see me. She just as good as said he's going to talk unless we save him.

Top: All he can say is that he told you about the gold.

Jim: That'll be plenty! They'll nab me and go looking for the fellers I run with. That means you boys.

Top: Yeah...yeah, I guess you're right.

Jim: We've got to break Jeff out of jail tonight!

Top: We talked about breaking him out before. It can't be done. Too many deputies. We'd all get killed.

Voice: 1 Jim, I thought you said that noble brother of yours wouldn't ever blab your name.

Jim: He must have weakened. But anyhow, I don't want him to hang. He was mighty good to me and I put him where he is.

Top: You blew your share of the Wells Fargo boodle hiring a lawyer for him.

Jim: Someboduh ought to plug me!

Top: Maybe somebody will if you start slipping.

Jim: What we going to do?

Top: There's just one way to make sure nobody talks. Don't Jeff's girl live in the hotel?

Jim: Yeah, but--

Top: (INTERRUPTS) And the hotel windows look right down into the jail. There's a day and night guard on Jeff, so there'll be enough light in his cell to make him a good target.

Jim: What are you getting at?

Top: Instead of raiding the jail, we'll raid the hotel. We'll shoot the girl in her room and Jeff in his cell!

MUSIC:INTERLUDE

Annrcr: The curtain falls on the first act of our Lone Ranger adventure. Before we continue with the next exciting scenes, please permit us to pause for just a few moments.

COMMERCIAL

Amner: Fearing that Jeff Austin would talk before he went to the gallows, the outlaw gang of which his younger brother, Jim, was a member, planned to shoot him in his cell and murder his sweetheart, Amy Benton. Meanwhile, the Lone Ranger had been standing on the roof of the dugout, his head bent over the chimney. Funneled upward through an empty fireplace, every word spoken by the bandits had reached his ears. As he continued to listen, he heard Jim protest--

Jim: (BACK) Top, you can't do that to them! Jeff is my brother!

Top: (BACK:LAUGHS) It'll be more merciful to plug him than let him hang.

Voice: 1 (BACK) Let's get going!

Amner: At that moment the Lone Ranger shifted his weight. One of his booted feet sank into a break in the sod on the roof poles. As he struggled to pull it out, the other went in to the ankle. The rotted poles cracked.

(WOOD CRACKING)

The sod gave way. Then he was falling...falling straight down into the lair of the murderous gang! He grabbed at the chimney, missed and saw it vanish. Six feet below his feet hit the makeshift table. It collapsed, breaking his fall, but throwing him headlong on the floor.

(WOOD: BREAKING: BODY FALL)

Pieces of sod and broken poles cascaded down upon him while the bandits jumped back with startled cries.

AD LIB: EXCITEMENT

Annex: Top was the first to recover from the surprise.
He jammed a gun against the Lone Ranger's back before
he could free himself from the debris.

Top: Freeze, feller!

Jim: I'm getting his guns!

Top: Mike, look outside! Louey, you and Hank pull this
varmint out and stand him up.

Voice: 1 (DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)
(EFFORT) I got him!...Now stand up, if you can!

Ranger: I can stand!

Top: Look! He's got a mask on!

Voice: 2 What were you doing on the roof, feller?

Ranger: What do you think?

Top: You were spying on us! You're either an owlhoot
who was after our boodle or some kind of Wells Fargo
detective.

Ranger: I'm neither.

Top: Well, whatever you are now, you'll only be one thing
in a minute— meat for the coyotes! Jim, take his
mask off!

Jim: Right!

Ranger: Hold on, Jim Austin!

Jim: You know me!

- Ranger: I know all about you, and so does a friend of mine—
a man you'll never reach with your guns.
- Voice: 2 He's bluffing!
- Ranger: Jim, you won't gain anything by killing me. You
won't gain anything by killing your brother and
and Amy Benton. Sooner or later you'll be hunted
down and shot or hanged.
- Jim: I know it! Jeff always said that owlhoots played a
losing game.
- Ranger: I want to help Jeff. He—
- Top: (INTERRUPTS) Jim, I told you to take off his mask!
- Jim: I...I---(BREAKS)
- (DOOR OPENS, CLOSES)
- Voice: 3 Everything's clear outside, Top.
- Jim: (SOTTO) Quick! Grab back your guns!
- Annecr: As the masked man snatched back the guns which Jim
had thrust under his belt, the young bandit pretended
to struggle with him.
- Jim: Help! He's got his guns again!
- Annecr: The ruse kept Top from firing for a moment, but only
a moment. Then the gang leader's Colt blazed.
- (SHOTS)
- Jim: (GROANS) I'm hit!
- Voice: 2 You shot Jim!
- Ranger: Drop your guns, all of you!

Top: I'll drop you!

(SHOTS)

Top: OW! My shoulder!

Voice: 1 Top's hit! Drill him, boys!

Annecr: Dodging behind the broken table and debris from the roof, the Lone Ranger turned his right gun on a candle which had been stuck into a bottle on a shelf.

(SHOTS:GLASS BREAKING)

Voice: 2 He shot out the candle!

Voice: 3 Hold your fire! We'll hit each other!

Voice: 1 Let's get outside!

(DOOR OPENS)

Ranger: Stop where you are!

(SHOTS: RUNNING STEPS FADING BACK)

Annecr: Retreating to a line of rocks a few yards from the dugout door, the bandits laid seige to the place. Their plans for killing Jeff and Amy had gone awry, but but they were determined not to let the masked man escape. Top managed to bandage his wound and stay on his feet. He was shouting--

Top: (BACK) One of you, watch that hole in the roof! The rest keep pumping lead through the doorway!

(SHOTS IN BACK:RICOCHETS)

Jim: They've got us cornered, masked man!

Ranger: There may still be a way out. How badly are you hurt?

Jim: Not bad... not bad at all.

Ranger: You saved my life.

- Jim: I hope you can save Jeff's.
- Ranger: Crawl over here away from the door and I'll strike a match. That wound is worse than you think.
- Jim: Don't risk a light on my account. (COUGHS) Use me for a shield while I can walk. (COUGHS) Get to Fortune City!
- Ranger: No, Jim, I can't walk out behind you.
- Jim: Another bullet or two in my carcass won't hurt. (COUGHS)
- Ranger: We still have until noon. We'll wait.
- MUSIC: INTERLUDE
- Annrc: Throughout the remainder of the night the seige continued with intermittant bursts of gunfire waking echoes in the nearby valley. Then, as a late dawn stretched a grey ribbon above the eastern mountain peaks, Jim broke a long silence.
- Jim: Getting mighty close in here. (COUGHS) Hard to breath. Lungs feel filled up.
- Ranger: Jim, you were shot in the chest. Why didn't you tell me?
- JIM: (LABORED BREATHING) Better this way... I was a fool... Never would listen to Jeff... Always took, never gave... (COUGHS)
- Ranger: Take it easy, boy!
- Jim: No... Got to tell you... Jim best brother in world... I'm worst...
- Ranger: I've found some water. Can you drink?

Jim: No... no/water... Tell Jim... Tell Jim...I...I'm
sorry...(GASPS, DIES)

Ranger: (SOTTO) Dead!

Annrc: For a moment the Lone Ranger knelt beside the
young outlaws body, motionless and silent. Then he
removed his neckerchief and tore a piece from it,
shaping it into a semblance of his own mask.

(CLOTH TEARING)

He blackened the cloth at the sooty fireplace and
gently covered the upper part of a face which seemed
to have grown strangely strong in death. Beside
Jim's head he dropped his own white hat. Then
he flattened himself against the wall close to the
doorway. Long minutes passed, each carrying Jeff
Austin closer to the gallows. The bandits outside
had ceased to fire . They, too, were waiting. The
sun cleared the mountain tops. The light grew strong.
And then--

(FOOTSTEPS FADING IN)

Voice: 1 (COMING UP) I tell you that masked man's dead. Look
how he's sprawled out.

Voice: 2 (BACK A LITTLE)
He might be playing possum.

(STEPS HALT)

Voice: 3 (BACK A LITTLE)
No, look at his shirt. He got one through the lungs.

Top: (BACK A LITTLE)
He's dead all right. Now let's get inside and find
our medical kit. My shoulder's killing me.

(STEPS COMING UP)

Voice: 1 (COMING UP FARTHER) I don't see Jim.

(STEPS HALT)

Top: Likely the double-crosser run out with us and sneaked away.

Voice: 2 Top, this isn't the masked man! It's Jim!

Ranger: Get your hands up!

Voice: 3 The masked man's behind us!

(SHOTS)

Ranger: That's only a warning! Up with your hands!

Voice: 1 We're reaching!

Ranger: Now lie down on the floor and keep your arms stretched out in front of you.

Top: I can't! My shoulder---

Ranger: Down, I said!

Top: All right! All right! Don't shoot!

Voice: 3 What you going to do to us?

Ranger: I'm taking your guns first.

Annrcr: Having disarmed the outlaws, the masked man called to Silver.

Ranger: Here, Silver! Here, boy!

Annrcr: The big white horse, who had been left standing some distance from the dugout, trotted up.

HOOFS UP TO HALT: HORSE NICKERS

Annrcr: Cutting pieces from his lariat which hung from the saddle, he bound each of the bandits securely. Then he gathered up the fragments of glass from the candle bottle.

(GLASS TINKLING)

Annor: Making sure there was nothing else in the dugout that the prisoners could use to free themselves, he glanced at his watch. It was eight o'clock.() Only four hours of life remained for Jeff Austin and Fortune City lay far away, so far that even the gallant Silver might fail to carry him through in time. He leaped to the saddle.

AD:LIB: MOUNTING, GETAWAY (HOOFS)

Annor: It was Silver against the sun! A horse against the inflexible laws of nature, a rider against the misguided laws of men! Hoofs drumming hard on the rocky slope, the great white stallion settled into a steady, mile-eating run. The dugout disappeared, the hill itself grew dim. Then the headquarters of the Consolidated Cattle Company loomed up ahead.

(HOOFS HALT)

There the Lone Ranger breathed Silver briefly, waving aside all questions about his mask and asking the company foreman to pick up the prisoners.

Ranger: You may know the man. One is called Top.

Voice: 4 That ornery critter! What'll we do with him and his owlhoots?

Ranger: Bring them to town as fast as you can! Jeff Austin's life depends on it!

Voice: 4 We'll have them there pronto! Fork your horses, boys!

Ranger: Come on, Silver!

(HOOFS)

Amner: Turning off the winding trail from the ranch, the Lone Ranger headed the great-hearted horse across country, daring all dangers, defying all obstacles. His eyes went to the sun, then to his watch. It was ten o'clock. () With half the distance covered and half the time spent, the masked man knew that the finish would be close. He bent low over Silver's ears.

Ranger: It's up to you to save Jeff Austin, Silver! You can do it! Come on, boy!

Amner: Under his master's firm hand, the big stallion leaped barbed wire fences and ditches and splashed through rivers made treacherous by quicksand. He stormed up steep hillsides and slid down banks of loose shale. Prairie chickens and sage hens rose in whirring alarm as he crashed through their cover. Cattle snorted and fled from his course, tails high. From a thousand little hills prairie dogs watched his furious approach and vanished, while jackrabbits darted and dodged as they sought escape from his pounding hoofs. Eleven o'clock!

Ranger: We're on the last stretch now. Faster, big fellow! Faster!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Amner: As the brave horse responded to the masked man's voice, the sheriff approached Jeff's cell.

(STEPS COMING TO HALT)

Sheriff: Jeff, your girl is out in the office.

Jeff: Don't torture me! You know I can't face Amy!

- Sheriff: She's got a strange Injun with her and she says you're covering up for your brother.
- Jeff: Leave Jim out of this!
- Sheriff: Was he in that holdup?
- Jeff: Isn't enough that you're going to hang me? Do you have to drag that poor kid into it?
- Sheriff: Your time's running out fast, but they're still holding a wire open to the Governor. If you want to talk--
- Jeff: (INTERRUPTS) Sure I'll talk! I planned the holdup! I led the gang! Tell the Governor that!
- Sheriff: Who helped you?
- Jeff: Some fellers from the border. They're in Mexico by this time. Now go way and leave me alone.
- Sheriff: (FADING BACK) All right, Jeff.
(STEPS FADING OUT)
MUSIC: INTERLUDE
(STEPS FADING IN)
- Tonto: Here come sheriff back.
- Amy: What did he say, sheriff?
(STEPS STOP)
- Sheriff: He still won't see you and--(HESITATES) I hate to say this, but he confessed.
- Amy: Confessed! He's still protecting Jim! How can he be so-- so-- I don't know what! (SOBS)
- Tonto: It not good for you to stay here, miss. You come with me. We watch trail for my friend.

13 Steps

26

1/20

Amy: Yes...yes, let's go.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

(HOOFS)

Annecr: It was five minutes to twelve when the Lone Ranger urged Silver to a hilltop from which the town could be seen. As though angered by their challenge, the sun beat down on them mercilessly. ~~SIXTY~~ Silver's carefully groomed coat had become a muddy yellow from lather and dust.

Ranger: Faster, big boy! Faster!

Annecr: Knowing that every ounce of extra weight had become a handicap, the masked man cut loose his bed roll, canteen, saddle bags and scabbarded Winchester.

Ranger: Come on, Silver! We're on the last mile!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annecr: Jeff Austin, too, was on his last mile, which included the sheriff, a parson, the sentencing judge and the elegant Mr. Smith, had escorted him from his cell to the jailyard.

(MARCHING STEPS)

As the crowd in the yard made a path to the gallows, the preacher intoned--

Voice: 5 I am the resurrection and the life...

Annecr: The group reached the scaffold and began to climb the thirteen fateful steps.

(STEP ASCENDING STAIRS)

The sheriff put a hand on Jeff's arm.

Sheriff: Careful, son! Don't fall!

VOICE: 5 Whosoever believeth in me.... shall never die....

voice: 5

I am the resurrection and the life...

Justin Steps 27 1/20

(STEPS HALT)

Sheriff: Well, here we are, Jeff. Got anything to say?

Jeff: Nothing that anybody's understand. Hurry and get it over.

Annecr: The sheriff and judge compared the time of the watches while Mr. Smith strapped Jeff's ankles, hips and arms, dropped a black hood over his head and adjusted the noose .

Sheriff: It's now noon! Are you ready, Mr. Smith?

(HOOFS FADING IN:HUBUB IN B. G.)

Ranger: (BACK) Clear the way! Let me through!

Sheriff: What's going on out there?

Judge: Somebody's riding into the yard!

Sheriff: It's a masked man!

AD LIB: WHOAS, A LITTLE BACK

(HOOFS HALT A LITTLE BACK)

Ranger: ~~(COMING UP)~~ Stay the execution, sheriff!

(STEPS ASCENDING STAIRS FAST TO HALT)

Judge: What's the meaning of this interruption?

Sheriff: Who are you anyhow? What does that mask mean?

Ranger: (UP) I haven't time for explanations now. Release Jeff Austin. He's innocent.

Sheriff: He just confessed!

Ranger: He tried to sacrifice himself for his brother, Jim. But Jim is dead.

13 Steps

28

1/20

Jeff: (MUFFLED) Dead!

Ranger: The rest of the Wells Fargo killers have been captured. Consolidated riders are bringing them in.

Judge: That may be true, but this execution can't be stopped legally without an order from the Governor. Proceed, sheriff!

Sheriff: I'm proceeding to break the law. Mr. Smith, take the rope off that man! There isn't going to be any hanging!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Amner: A few hours later Jeff stood in the jail office with an arm around Amy's shoulders. He was a free man. The Consolidated riders had delivered the captured outlaws to the sheriff and full confessions were on record. The sheriff was saying--

Sheriff: Jeff, you must have thought a powerful lot of that no-good brother of yours.

Jeff: Jim always came first with me. And he wasn't bad-- not all bad, anyhow.

Ranger: He died better than he lived, Jeff. He was a man at the end.

Sheriff: Masked man, you've got a right smart reward coming from the Wells Fargo company.

Ranger: (FADING BACK) Give it to Jeff and Miss Benton for a wedding present.

(DOOR OPENS, CLASHES)

Amy: He's gone! And we didn't get a chance to thank him for all he did!

Sheriff: He sure did plenty. Who do you reckon he is?

Amy: The Indian told me! He's the Lone Ranger!

Ranger: (BACK) HI-YO-SILVER-AWAY!