

ACTORS' SCRIPT

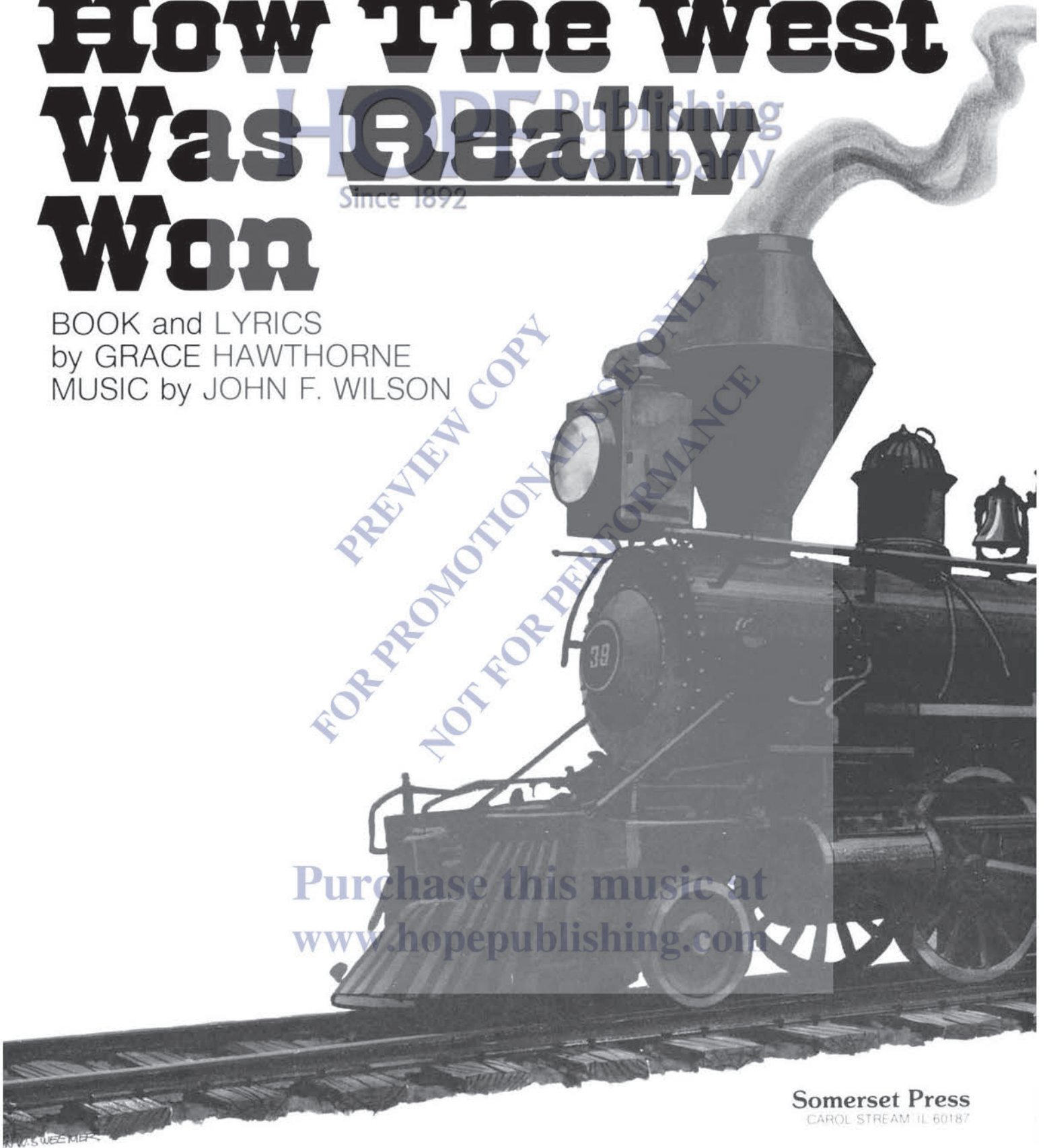
# How The West Was Really Won

HOPE Publishing  
Company  
Since 1892

BOOK and LYRICS  
by GRACE HAWTHORNE  
MUSIC by JOHN F. WILSON

PREVIEW COPY  
FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

Purchase this music at  
[www.hopepublishing.com](http://www.hopepublishing.com)



# HOPE Publishing Company

Since 1892

PREVIEW COPY  
NOT FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

*Also available:*

Code Number	
1005	SINGERS EDITION
1006	FULL SCORE
1008	<b>VOCAL CD</b>
1010	<b>INSTRUMENTAL CD</b>
1012	ACTORS' SCRIPT

Purchase this music at  
[www.hopecublishing.com](http://www.hopecublishing.com)

# How the West was Really Won

Book and Lyrics by GRACE HAWTHORNE

Music by JOHN F. WILSON

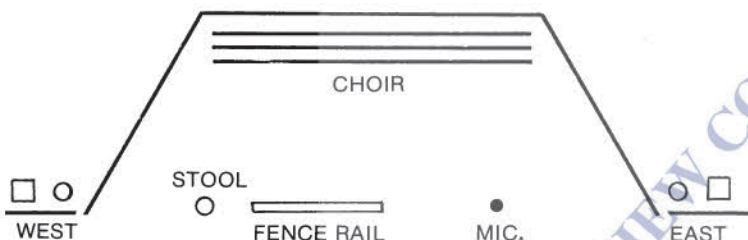
**SET:** A saw horse representing a fence railing, down stage right (The Story Teller)

A high stool, stage right of the fence railing (The Prompter)

A microphone stand parallel down stage left (All Other Characters)

A crude chair and a table, far right. (Eliza, The West)

An ornate chair, fancy table with a scarf, a silver bud vase and an oil lamp, far left. (Martha, The East)



**PROPS:** Four letters, a telegram, a light bulb, a package containing a book and a letter, a piece of barbed wire, four thin paperback books, prompter's book.

**SOUND EFFECT:** A telegraph key

**CHARACTERS:** The Storyteller is a crusty old codger who looks like he helped win the west—and probably in the clothes he is presently wearing.

The Prompter is younger than the Storyteller and is more his friend than a theatrical prompter.

Eliza is one of the original pioneers. She wears a plain calico dress and a sun bonnet. She ages 50 years during the play.

Martha is Eliza's friend back in the States (New York). She wears the latest creations, a silk dress with a hoop skirt and a fashionable bonnet. She also ages 50 years during the play.

All Other Characters are dressed according to their time and occupations.

## #1. GO WEST, YOUNG MAN

(THOMAS, a young boy, enters stage right. He carries a letter which is absorbing his entire at-

tention. He crosses to MARTHA, reluctantly hands her the letter and waits.)

**THOMAS:** (Begins as music fades) Here's a letter for you, Miss Martha. My Uncle Ned brought it with him from (with special emphasis) *Out West!* (He waits)

**MARTHA:** Thank you, Thomas. (Pause) Is there something else?

**THOMAS:** No Ma'am. (He waits) Yes Ma'am. Miss Martha, can I stay and hear your letter? I never saw a letter from *Out West* before.

**MARTHA:** Oh for goodness sake. Yes. This is from my friend Eliza Spalding. Sit down, and we'll see what she has to say. (Opens letter and begins to read)

"May 10, 1836." (Looks up) May?!?!? (Counts on her fingers) June, July, August, September, October, November . . . it's taken six months for this to get here.

"We are somewhere along the Oregon trail. I'm not sure where. We met another couple, Mr. and Mrs. Whitman in Independence, Missouri. We bought supplies there from a Mr. Hiram Young. Mr. Young is a black man who owns one of the biggest wagon facilities in this part of the country. He told us what we would need. We bought a wagon, 25 horses and mules . . ."

(Looks up) Horses and mules??? Oh my!!

" . . . nine yearling heifers, four milk cows, 160 pounds of flour, 57 pounds of rice, 25 pounds of sugar and a little salt and pepper. We will eat mostly buffalo meat we kill along the way."

(Looks up) Buffalo meat????!!! (Grimaces) Poor Eliza!!!

"Although it's May, it's still cold at this altitude. Water freezes in the buckets. We break camp at 6:00 and we cover about 25 miles a day. It rains a lot and everything in our tent is wet. There isn't much fuel so we burn prairie coal."

(MARTHA and THOMAS freeze and the action shifts to the STORYTELLER)

**STORYTELLER:** Now, maybe I oughta explain that. We think fuel shortages are new . . . well they

2 aren't. The lack of wood forced the settlers to burn what Eliza politely calls "prairie coal." Actually it was buffalo dung. Now *that's* a fuel shortage.

(SETTLER in a heavy winter coat steps up to the microphone)

SETTLER: It's hard to make people back in the States understand the West. For one thing, it's too big. I mean while Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie are fighting Santa Anna at the Alamo in the *south* West, I'm fighting *snow storms* in the *north* West. (Music In)

## #2. BUT WE LOVE IT

(PIONEER WOMAN joins the SETTLER)

(PIONEER WOMAN: *(Over music)* You've got snow storms, we've got dirt. Living in a sod house, there's dirt everywhere. Dirt's always falling from the ceiling. I have to cook with an umbrella over my pots to keep the dirt out!

(CHOIR SINGS)

(SECOND PIONEER WOMAN joins the group)

(SECOND WOMAN: *(Over music)* You think sod houses are bad, you should try living in a dugout in the side of a hill. We don't just have dirt falling through the ceiling, we have cows and wagons and anything else that happens to wander onto the roof!

(CHOIR SINGS)

(MAN joins the group)

MAN: *(Over music)* Don't forget about the snakes that crawl in through the dirt walls, and the dust storms and prairie fires and the insects and the wind that *never* stops blowing.

(CHOIR SINGS, SEGUE INTO . . .)

ALL: And why do we love it? Because we've also got . . .

VOICE: quilt-sewing (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: crop-picking (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: hay-making (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: hog-killing (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: bean-stringing (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: corn-husking (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: syrup-making (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: woods-clearing (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: house-warming (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: apple-picking (clap, clap, clap)

VOICE: barn-raising (clap, clap, clap)

ALL: and SQUARE DANCING!!! (segue into . . .)

## #3 SQUARE DANCE

CALLER: 1. Bow to your partner . . . bow to your corner . . . All join hands and circle to the left . . . Now circle to the right . . . Square your sets . . . you're lookin' outa sight! (Refrain: sung by choir)

CALLER: 2. Do sa do your corner . . .  
Do sa do your partner . . .  
With heel and toe, sashay one slow . . .  
Balance to your partner, then back . . .  
let's go!  
(Refrain: sung by choir)

CALLER: 3. Elbow swing your corner . . . giving it your all.  
Also swing your own . . . be careful now, don't fall!  
Give a circle left, to right hand star we call.  
(Refrain: sung by choir two times)

CALLER: Bow to your partner, and to your corner, too . . .  
Now to the people, because you all are through!

STORYTELLER: Don't let anybody tell you we didn't have fun! Now, let's see, what was I talking about?

PROMPTER: You're supposed to be telling how the West was *really* won.

STORYTELLER: Oh yes. Well, Eliza and her husband went West in 1836 and, like everyone else, they packed their wagon chuck-full of tools and food—necessary things. (Music in) But no matter how little space was left, every pioneer woman I ever knew could manage to sneak in some little "treasure" from back home.

## #4 TREASURES

STORYTELLER: For about the next 12 years things were kind of predictable. Pioneers came and settled and so forth. Early in '48 somebody . . . can't remember who . . . invented "chewing gum," but that didn't have much effect on the West. But in *December* of '48, James Marshall discovered. . . .

MARSHAL: (Runs across stage) GOLD!!!! GOLD!!!!  
Gold at Sutter's Mill!

STORYTELLER: (Shakes his head in mild disgust) . . . and the West was *never* the same again. Might' near everybody got a severe case of gold fever.

## #5 THE BALLAD OF JOE WATSON

(ARIZONA MARY strides to the microphone)

MARY: Not me! I never got gold fever. Too smart. Name's Arizona Mary and I'm a bullwhacker. Know what that is? I drive 16 oxen hitched to 20 supply wagons. I've carried supplies to just about every two-bit mining camp in California! Why I. . . .

(MARY freezes and the action shifts to the STORYTELLER)

STORYTELLER: True to her profession, Mary had

one of the most colorful vocabularies in the West. Her screaming profanities at those 16 oxen was about as close as that century ever got to an 18-wheeler and a CB radio.

**ARIZONA MARY:** (Resumes) I knowed 'em all. Men and women striking it rich one minute and being dead-broke the next. Stick to oxen. That's my advice! (Walks off in a huff)

(**THOMAS** enters reading a letter as he walks over to **MARTHA**. She gives him a surprised look and reaches for the letter.)

**MARTHA:** Thomas! Give me that letter!

**THOMAS:** (Undisturbed) Oh yes, Ma'am. You can start reading right here (indicates the middle of the page). I've already read the rest.

(**MARTHA** shakes her head in exasperation, but starts reading where **THOMAS** indicated.)

**MARTHA:** "Gold has really changed California. We've moved to San Francisco and you should come and visit us. The Butterfield Overland Express has four stage coaches *weekly* between St. Louis and San Francisco. They run day and night and cover 100 miles in 24 hours!

**THOMAS:** Oh boy! When are we going?

**MARTHA:** We aren't. Now listen. (Reading) "Things sure are moving faster than when I came out here 14 years ago. About the stage coaches, you might prefer traveling in winter, because I understand the stages are very dusty in summer. On the other hand, they're very cold in the winter. . . .

**STORYTELLER:** If Martha is smart, she'll wait until the *railroads* get to California.

(The action shifts to **ELIZA** sitting in her room which is now somewhat more comfortable. A **MESSENGER** enters from stage left, and crosses to stage right.)

**MESSENGER:** Package for Mrs. Eliza Spalding. It's from New York! (exits)

**ELIZA:** Must be from Martha. (Opens the package and finds a book and a letter.) Oh! Here's a letter. (Reading) "Dear Eliza. I have decided not to come to California right now. So many things are happening, I don't know where to start. The papers are full of stories of a man called Moses who is leading slaves out of the south to freedom on the Underground Railroad. There's no telling how many slaves he's freed, but there's a \$40,000 reward out for him."

(**ELIZA** freezes and the action shifts to the **STORYTELLER**)

**STORYTELLER:** They never caught Moses . . . probably because they were looking for a man . . . and Moses was a woman . . . Harriet Tubman. She was an

escaped slave herself and she helped free over 800 other slaves. She lived to be 93 and, as far as I know, died quite peacefully.

**ELIZA:** (Reading) "The book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is by Harriet Beecher Stowe." (Picks up the book and leafs through it.) "It's all about slavery and it's causing a lot of uproar. Everyone is taking sides in this slavery thing and the feeling is there may be war."

**STORYTELLER:** The slavery question didn't affect the West much. The wilderness had a way of making everyone equal. So in 1859 it wasn't "war" people in the West were shouting about, it was. . . .

**PROSPECTOR:** (Runs across stage) SILVER!!! SILVER!!! Silver in Nevada!!!

**STORYTELLER:** (Shaking his head) That's right. They were at it again. This time to the Comstock Lode in Nevada.

(**SHOPKEEPER** walks to microphone drying hands on apron)

**SHOPKEEPER:** It was the gol-darndest thing you ever saw. For two or three days the miners didn't even *know* about the silver. They were extracting the gold and throwing the rest away!!! (Music in) Finally somebody took a sample to an assayer and the word was out. There's silver in Washoe county!

## #6 THERE'S SILVER IN WASHOE, HI HO

**STORYTELLER:** Boy could I tell you stories about old Henry T. P. Comstock. Old Pancake, we used to call him. And Virginia City, boy oh boy that was the most famous mining town in the West. I think it's a museum today, but back then. . . .

**PROMPTER:** I hate to interrupt you, but you need to get on with How the West was Really Won. (Checks his book) I think we're about up to 1860. Why don't you tell them about the Pony Express?

(**PONY EXPRESS RIDER** struts to the microphone)

**RIDER:** I'll do it!! Yes sir, I'll tell 'em! Folks, with men like me and relays of horses you can get your mail delivered all the way across the country in 10 days . . . provided you've got the \$5 per half-ounce it takes to send it!

**STORYTELLER:** Well, the rates are better today, but I can't say that the service has improved much. (Pause) The Pony Express didn't last but a couple of years. then it was replaced by the telegraph.

(A **TELEGRAPH KEY** is heard offstage. An **OPERATOR** runs in with a message)

**OPERATOR:** WAR!!! They've fired on Ft. Sumter. It's war! War between the States. (Runs off stage left)

**STORYTELLER:** That was April 12, 1861. Four years later the telegraph carried the news that the

4 war was over. And five days after that, that President Lincoln had been shot. In the four years the Civil War lasted, we killed more Americans than our enemies would kill in World War II. (Pause) Sad. Sad. (Music in) But you know, it's kinda interesting that out of that war we got a song that's lasted all these years. It was sung by both sides and, ironically, it was written by both North and South. Julia Howe from Boston wrote the words and William Steffe from South Carolina wrote the music. I bet you can sing it right along with us.

### #7 BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC

**STORYTELLER:** (Brightening) Not much music of the West was written down. It was mostly sing-along and pass-along. Cattle drives created a strange phenomenon . . . men singing to *cows!!!* (Urges AUDIENCE to sing along.)

### #8 OLD CHISHOLM TRAIL

**PROMPTER:** Tell them about Jesse Chisholm.

**STORYTELLER:** I'm tired of talking. You tell 'em.

**PROMPTER:** (Stands up and really gets involved) The Chisholm Trail was blazed by a Cherokee Indian named Jesse Chisholm. It was used to drive cattle north from Texas to Abilene, Kansas. Cattle drives gave us another phenomenon—cattle rustling. And that introduced us to the Bandit Queen of the Southwest, Myra Belle Shirley, better known as Belle Starr. Until she was finally shot in the back, she was a double-crossing, horse-thief of a woman. She was even reported to be the brains of the Jesse James gang. She was also . . . . .

**STORYTELLER:** Hold it. You've told them enough. Sit down, I'll take it from here.

(BLACK COWBOY sidles up to the microphone. He is obviously saddle sore)

**BLACK COWBOY:** After the Civil War lots of former slaves came west and signed on as cowboys on cattle drives. We drove cattle across 1200 miles of dry country through Indian territory and farm land. And it was a tossup who was the most hostile to us cattlemen, the Indians or the farmers!!

**STORYTELLER:** The Indians had a right to be angry. The white man had brought nothing but trouble. Cattle drives were bad enough, but the building of the railroad was the final blow.

The history of those years comes to us just like it did with the early settlers, through the women. The frontier women kept diaries and (Music in) the Indian women wove the history of their tribes into their blankets because they didn't have any written language.

### #9 THE IRON HORSE

**PROMPTER:** It's strange how one event can be seen so differently.

**STORYTELLER:** Yep. To the Indians the railroads were the end of a way of life. To the men who built them, they were a great adventure.

**PROMPTER:** Don't forget about the race.

**STORYTELLER:** The race??? Oh yeah. The railroad was built by two companies, the Union Pacific laying track *west* from Nebraska and the Central Pacific laying track *east* from California. Now as if fighting snow and Indians and solid rock weren't enough, the two construction superintendents got to challenging each other to see which crew could lay the most track in one day. (Music in) (To Prompter) You remember those fellows' names?

**PROMPTER:** Sure. Jack Caseman headed the Union Pacific crew and he bet Charlie Crocker \$10,000 that his Central Pacific crew of Chinese and Irish workmen couldn't lay 10 miles of track in a day. So Charlie just took that bet!

### #10 TEN MILES BEFORE QUITTING TIME

**PROMPTER:** (Spoken over music) And they drove the golden spike in 1869, and the country had its first transcontinental railroad line.

**STORYTELLER:** Lot's of things made their appearance for the first time in the 1860's. Like nickels (takes a couple out of his pocket) for instance. Two nickels were good for a hair cut . . . or for buying a . . . (Ominously) . . . dime novel!!

(FOUR BOYS in knickers sneak to the microphone clutching thin paperback books)

**BOY:** You better be careful. If your Ma catches you reading that, you'll be in *trouble!*

**BOY:** I know. She's always trying to get me to read Mark Twain or Horatio Alger or something.

**BOY:** Look at this one!!! (Holds up book) *Hurricane Nell, the Queen of the Saddle and Lasso.*

**BOY:** I'll bet that's not as good as *Mountain Kate*. She fights a grizzly bear in that one!

**STORYTELLER:** Those dime novels were about five percent truth and 95 percent exaggeration. But grownups were getting an equally exaggerated view of the West from the Wild West Shows that were touring the East. The most famous one was . . . .

(CODY announces, then strides to the microphone)

**CODY:** Mine!!! The Buffalo Bill Cody Wild West Show. Yes Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen. I, William F. Cody, guarantee that this is the only Wild West show to feature the darling of Ohio, that famous sharpshooter and cow-girl, Miss . . . Annie . . . Oakley!!

**STORYTELLER:** (Slightly annoyed) Bill always sounded like he was announcing something . . . even when he wasn't. By the way, you know how he got his name? (Without pausing for breath) Well, I'll tell you. The Union Pacific hired Cody to supply their crews with buffalo meat and each month he'd present the

railroad with his . . . buffalo bill.

(Loud moans from the **CHOIR**)

**STORYTELLER:** (Seriously) No, no! That’s really the way it happened!

**PROMPTER:** Why don’t you tell them about this? (Hands him a piece of barbed wire)

**STORYTELLER:** (Takes the wire, and turns it over carefully in his hands as he talks) Before the Civil War, four *million* cattle roamed the Texas Territory alone. But in 1874 Joseph Glidden and Isaac Elwood invented this . . . barbed wire. It soon put an end to the wide open spaces of the West. (Musing) But the country was getting close to being 100 years old, so I guess some changes were to be expected. By 1876 there were 38 states.\* (Music in) It was our Centennial and we gave ourselves one heck of a birthday party in Philadelphia!

**#11 THE AMERICAN DREAM**

(**THOMAS EDISON**, in lab coat and holding a light bulb, approaches the microphone)

**EDISON:** It’s a shame they couldn’t have waited a couple of years. If they’d held the Centennial in 1879, they could have lighted the whole thing with my new Edison electric sunshine bulbs! (Music in)

**#12 THINGS CHANGE**

(*Action shifts to* **MARTHA** reading a letter over music)

**MARTHA:** “Things are changing here in the West. I’ve joined the Women’s Temperance Union. I know I’m nearly 70 years old, but I want to keep changing as new ideas come along.” (Choir sings Vs. I)

(*Action shifts to* **ELIZA** reading a letter over music)

**ELIZA:** “Things are changing here in the East, too. I’ve joined the Women’s Suffrage Movement. I can’t believe I’m nearly 70 years old, but thank goodness I can still change with the times.” (Choir sings vs.2 and Refrain)

**STORYTELLER:** Women changed as the country changed. Carry Nation and the Temperance League moved East and brought about Prohibition. And Susan B. Anthony and the Suffrage cause moved West and Wyoming became the first state to give women the right to vote. (Choir sings vs. 3 and Refrain)

Other things changed too. The highest paid American actress, Lotta Crabtree, was from Rabbit Creek, California. People were ordering things out of mail order catalogues and curing illnesses with patent medicines like Lydia E. Pinkham’s. George Washington Carver joined the staff at Tuskegee Institute and started his research on the peanut. And the first school for higher education for women, which was founded by the Cherokee Indians, became Oklahoma Northeastern State College.

**PROMPTER:** But some people held out right to the end. In 1899 Pearl Heart conducted the last stage coach robbery. It netted her \$431 and a five year stretch in Arizona State Prison. And that brings us to 1900.

**STORYTELLER:** (Over music) And more or less, that’s the way the West was really won. But you know, the story doesn’t end there, cause I think there’s always gonna be a little bit of “West” to be won. . . . somewhere!

**#13 A LITTLE BIT OF “WEST”**

end

**\* LIST OF STATES IN 1876**

Alabama	Kansas	Nebraska	South Carolina
Arkansas	Kentucky	Nevada	Tennessee
California	Louisiana	New Hampshire	Texas
Colorado	Maine	New Jersey	Vermont
Connecticut	Maryland	New York	Virginia
Delaware	Massachusetts	North Carolina	West Virginia
Florida	Michigan	Ohio	Wisconsin
Georgia	Minnesota	Oregon	
Illinois	Mississippi	Pennsylvania	
Iowa	Missouri	Rhode Island	

Purchase this music at [www.hopepublishing.com](http://www.hopepublishing.com)

**HOPE** Publishing  
Company  
Since 1892

**PREVIEW COPY  
FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY  
NOT FOR PERFORMANCE**

**Purchase this music at  
[www.hopecublishing.com](http://www.hopecublishing.com)**

