

Junior ROPER

A kid's guide to
Will Rogers



Oklahoma
Historical
Society

Will Rogers
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Junior ROPER program

With this book in your hands you are ready to become a Will Rogers Junior Roper. Complete the activities in this book you can call yourself a ropin' fool! Answers can be found in this booklet, in the museum or on our website, willrogers.com. Have fun!

Once you earn your Junior Roper badge you can work with other Will Rogers Ropers and docents at the museum! You can show off your roping skills and represent the museum at the Will Rogers Days Parade and other events.

Words and things to know

Actor - A person whose profession is acting on the stage and in movies.

Gacho - A cowboy in South America.

Lasso - A rope with a loop on the end used for catching cattle.

Madison Square Garden - A large arena in New York City.

Publish - To print and send out to the public.

Stock Market - A place where pieces of companies are bought and sold.

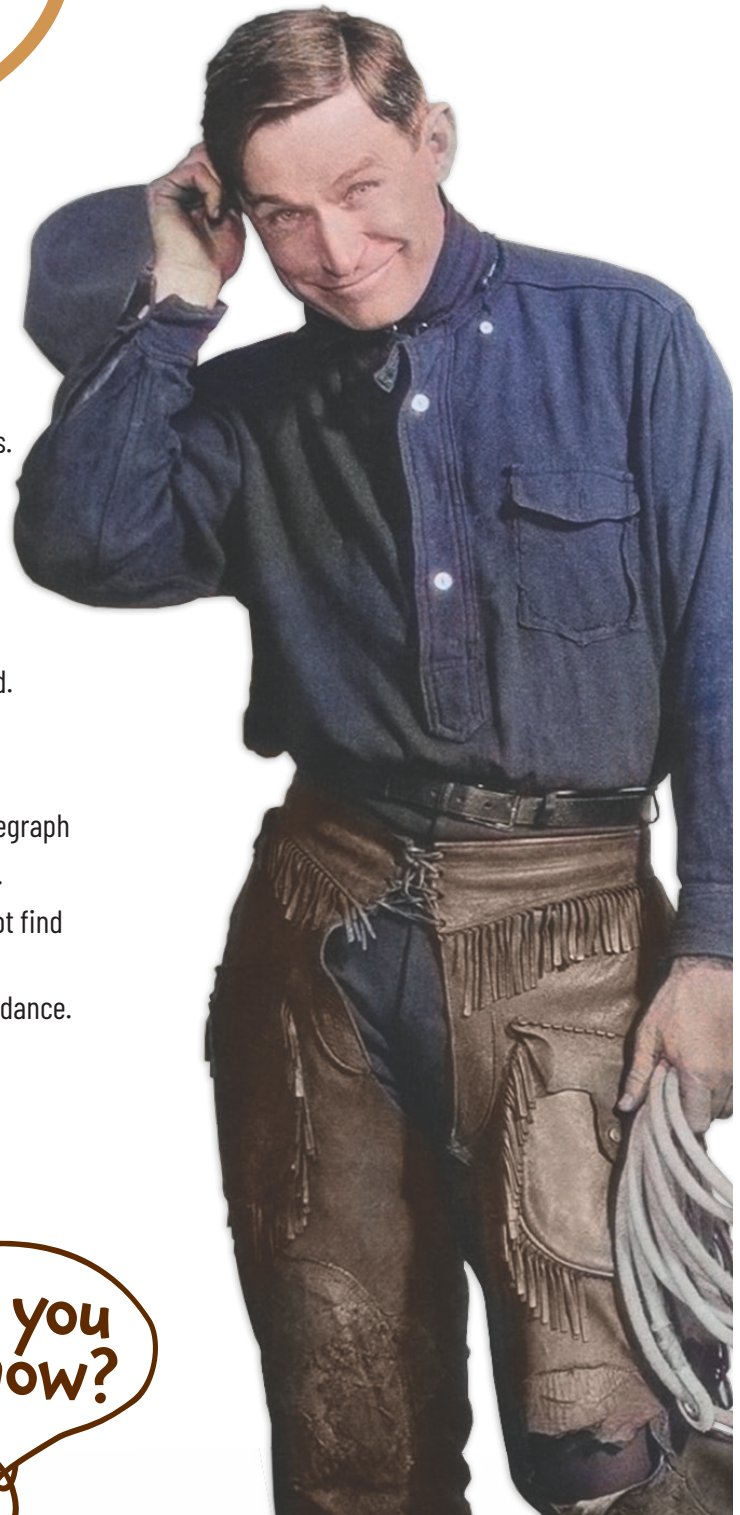
Syndicate - To sell an article to print in many newspapers at once.

Talkies - When movies first had sound, they were called "Talkies"

Telegram - A message sent through wires using coded signals on a telegraph machine. Before the internet and telephones, people sent telegrams.

The Great Depression - A time in the world when many people could not find jobs or feed their families.

Vaudeville - A live talent show on a stage featuring comedy, song, and dance.



Did you
know?

Will had a pet calf. Her name was Sarah. Her photo is in the Heritage Gallery, go check it out!



Will Rogers

TIMELINE



Will Rogers lived from 1879-1935. Below is a time line of Will's life and important events that happened in the world. Read through this timeline and use the information to answer the questions.

November, 1879

William Penn Adair (Will) Rogers was born on the family ranch near Oologah, Indian Territory, present-day Oklahoma. He was the eighth child of Clem and Mary Rogers.

1885

Will learns to rope at age seven from Cherokee Freedman Dan Walker, on his beloved horse Comanche.



Vicente Oropeza

1893

Young Will Rogers, age 13, sees Vicente Oropeza performing rope tricks at the World's Fair in Chicago.

1901

Will runs the Dog Iron ranch where he had a herd of Texas Longhorn cattle.

March, 1902

Will Rogers travels to Argentina to work as a gaucho.

December 29, 1902

Will starts a job with Texas Jack's Wild West Show and takes the stage name "The Cherokee Kid." He earned the job by performing the Big Crinoline rope trick and the Texas Skip.



April 11, 1904

Will returns home to Oologah, Indian Territory and takes a job with Muhall's Wild West Show.

April 28, 1905

Will Rogers makes headlines in New York City newspapers by roping and capturing a steer that bolted into the stands during a Wild West Show at Madison Square Garden. This started his Vaudeville career.

Did you know?

Will named his show horse after his favorite president Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy had to wear special shoes on stage. You can find them in the Robin' Fool Gallery.



November 25, 1908

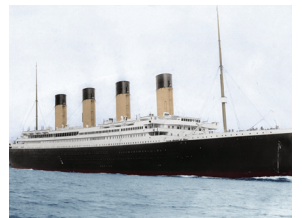
Will and Betty marry at her mother's home in Rogers, Arkansas.

August 1911

Will calls Claremore, Oklahoma, his hometown. He and Betty purchased 20 acres of land there, which will become the site of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum.

April 15, 1913

S.S. Titanic hits iceberg in North Atlantic and sinks.



Titanic

August 1914

World War I begins in Europe.

Summer 1916

Will starts performing in the Midnight Frolic and Ziegfeld Follies, which are live shows in New York City.

August 1916

Will publishes his first newspaper article. Eventually, he becomes famous for sharing his wit and wisdom, becoming known as the Cowboy Philosopher.

September 22, 1918

The silent movie "Laughing Bill Hyde" opens in New York City.

1922

Will's first speech on the radio station KDKA in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

December 31, 1922

His first article is syndicated to other newspapers. He continued writing these articles until his death.

Will Rogers

TIME

Continued

July 20, 1926

Will became a writer for the magazine The Saturday Evening Post, and the New York Times newspaper published the first of what became Will's "Daily Telegram." This was a daily thought that Will sent to the newspaper, which printed it, as did many newspapers around the country. Every day, people would wake up and wonder what Will had to say in the newspaper.

September 30, 1926

Will Rogers is invited to spend the night in the White House by President Calvin Coolidge.

August 1929

Will's first "talkie" movie was produced, called "They Had to See Paris."



October 1929

The United States stock market crashed, causing many people to lose a lot of money and starting what is known as the Great Depression. During this time, many people could not find jobs and it was hard to feed their families.

October 18, 1931

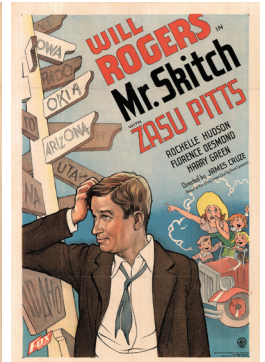
Will Rogers gave a famous radio speech titled "Bacon, Beans, and Limosines," in which he discussed the many unemployed people in America and the need for people to help one another.

September 24, 1932

Will speaks at a presidential campaign rally for Franklin D. Roosevelt in Los Angeles.

1933

Three movies starring Will Rogers premiered: "State Fair," "Dr. Bull," and "Mr. Skitch." This makes Will one of the highest-paid actors in Hollywood. He made 71 movies in his career.



August 15, 1935

Will Rogers and Wiley Post die in airplane crash at Point Barrow, Alaska. Will was 55 years old.

November 4, 1938

The Will Rogers Memorial is built and dedicated on the 20 acres of land owned by Will and Betty in Claremore, Oklahoma.

Questions

1. What two men inspired a young Will Rogers? _____
2. What was Will's stage name? _____
3. What year did Will and Betty get married? _____
4. What was one major world event that happened during Will's lifetime? _____
5. Name one newspaper or magazine that Will wrote for: _____
6. How many movies did Will star in? _____
7. How old was Will when he died? _____
8. What year was the Memorial built? _____

Did you know?

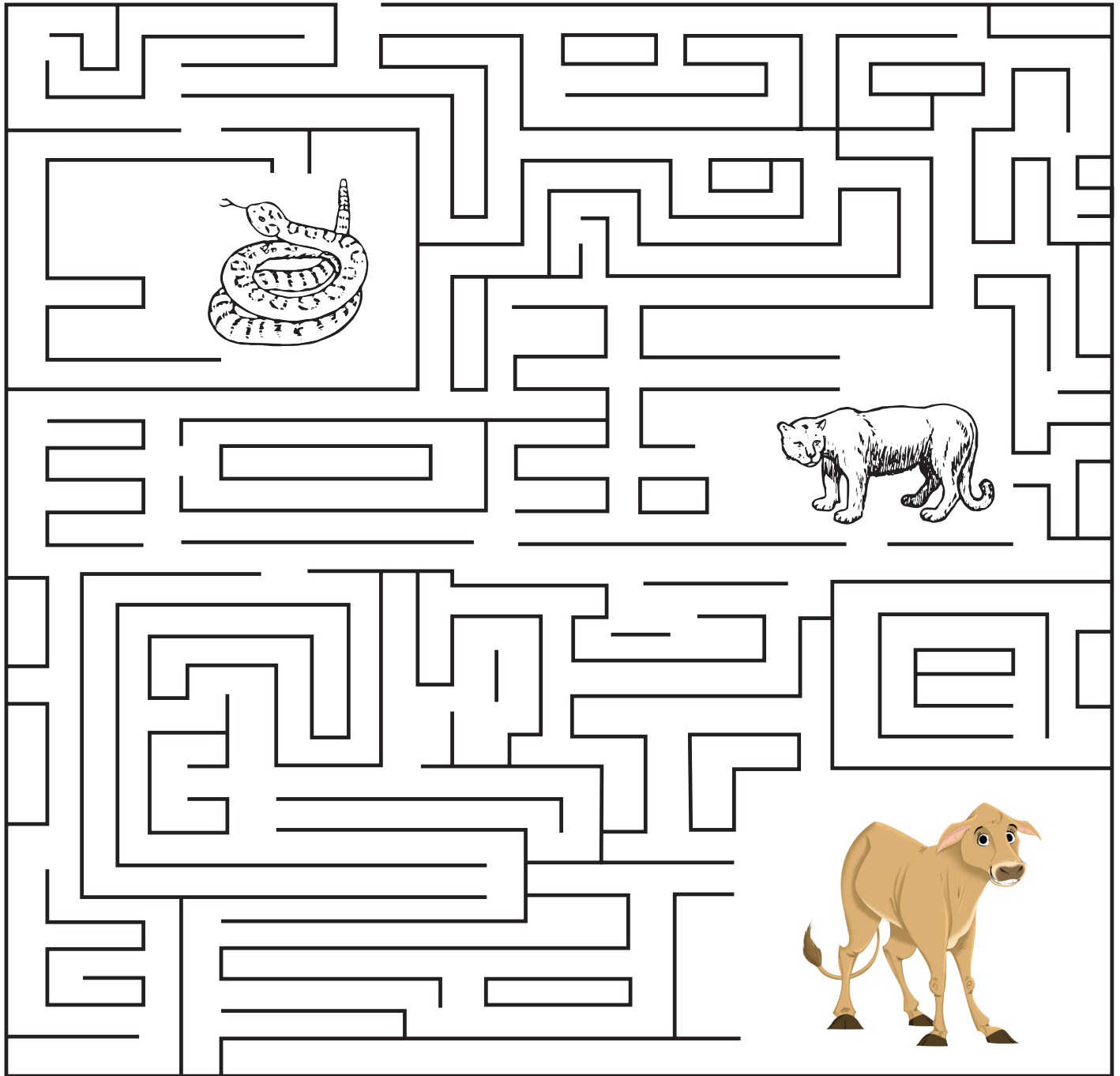
In the Rotunda stands a statue of Will, there is an identical statue in the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C. Be sure to rub Will's shoes for good luck!





Help Will Rogers find Sarah the Cow

Help Will and his horse Soapsuds get through the maze so he can rope the Sarah the cow. Be careful not to go near the rattlesnake or the mountain lion. Start at the opening with the arrow. Good Luck!

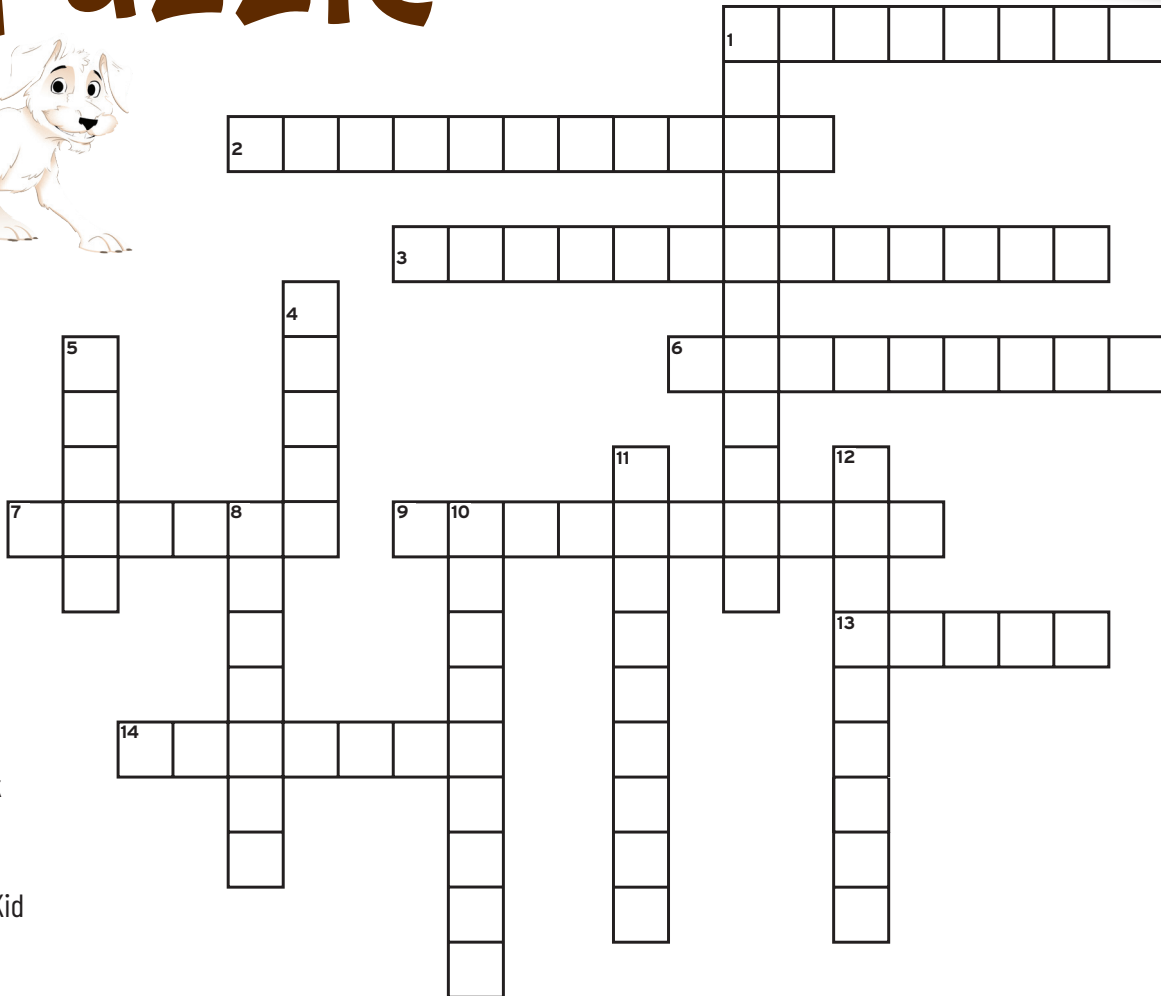


Did you know?

Will loved to travel and had friends all over the world. He was called Oklahoma's Favorite Son and World Citizen. You can find this on the plaque just outside the Rotunda!

Jock's Puzzle

The Rogers family had many animals.
Jock was the Will's favorite dog.



Word Bank

Actor
Argentina
Cherokee Kid
Claremore
Comanche
Cowboy
Dog Iron
Newspaper
Oologah
Philosopher
Radio
Teddy
Texas Longhorn
Texas Skip
Vaudeville

Across:

1. The name of Will's first beloved horse, he had as a boy.
2. After Will became well-known for wit and wisdom, he became known as the Cowboy-what?
3. What kind of cattle did Will have on his ranch?
6. One of Will's iconic rope tricks
7. Before he became a famous celebrity, he had a humble beginning as a what?
9. After performing in Wild West shows, Will moved on to perform where?
13. People all over the country were able to hear Will's political commentary through what device?
14. The name of Will's ranch in Oklahoma.

Down:

1. What was Will Rogers' nickname in his Wild West Show days?
4. Name of Will's show horse.
5. Will starred in 71 movies, making him a very successful what?
8. What town is Will's birthplace located in?
10. What foreign country did Will travel to find work as a gaucho?
11. Will wrote many articles sharing his wit and wisdom. What were these articles published in?
12. Will called this his hometown.

Did you know?

Will loved animals. Can you find Will's famous quote about dogs in the gift shop?
You can find it on a mug and a shirt!



Will's Character

Will started his career as a trick-roper. People loved to see his rope tricks, but Will had another

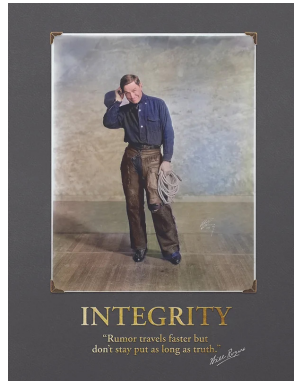
special talent—he could say things that made people laugh.

How did Will cause people to laugh? He talked about their lives—the good things they did and the silly things they did. He had presidents, politicians, rich people, poor people—everyone—laughing and shaking their heads saying: “He’s right, you know, what I did (or, what they did) was pretty funny!”

People wanted to hear and read more of Will’s jokes. They read what he wrote in the newspapers. They went to see his shows and movies. They listened when he spoke on the radio. Will Rogers became a very famous man. People around the world read his newspaper articles. But he was never too busy or too “big” to stop and help those in need. He also helped victims of floods, earthquakes, fires, and hurricanes. He traveled all over the world

helping people. With his special gift of humor, he raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to help others.

Will said, “I never met a man I didn’t like.” He meant that there is good in everyone, even when some of that good has turned bad or become foolish, and Will Rogers used his gift of humor to point people back to the good.



Some of Will Rogers’ character traits include humility, integrity, empathy, enthusiasm, laughter, service, learning, and exploration.

What other good characteristics of Will Rogers that you have recognized or admired?

Will Rogers, World Citizen



I	A	F	R	I	C	A	X	S	V	I	T	O	C	U	B	A	I	R
D	T	F	R	Z	O	N	N	K	P	N	A	F	P	C	V	H	H	F
F	C	O	R	I	O	C	E	W	R	A	T	D	O	Q	R	S	I	U
P	F	W	A	R	P	V	T	W	H	Q	I	U	G	D	K	S	J	V
V	R	I	N	E	N	J	I	A	Z	X	W	N	N	C	A	R	V	V
F	A	F	W	L	O	X	F	R	A	E	N	E	R	L	B	F	E	E
V	N	X	K	A	V	N	U	G	F	U	A	U	Y	U	Y	T	G	S
M	C	Z	J	N	X	O	M	E	E	N	S	L	J	V	S	G	O	O
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T	E	X	T	W	L	D	S	A	R	R	T	I	S	N	U	I	W	C
F	P	J	W	G	Y	X	H	K	S	M	C	Q	L	G	D	O	A	C
X	M	S	S	J	U	B	H	N	M	E	X	I	C	O	K	X	Q	B

Will Rogers loved to travel. Throughout his life he traveled all over the world. Can you find some of the countries he traveled to in this puzzle?

England
Argentina
Africa
New Zealand
Australia
Cuba
Mexico
Italy
Spain
Russia
France
Ireland

Will Rogers' ROPE TRICKS

Will Rogers could perform many different rope tricks and each trick has a name. Use the pictures below to identify some of his more commonly known tricks. If you keep working, you can learn to do these tricks for yourself!

Wedding Ring

The Wedding Ring rope trick has the roper spinning a loop around his or her body.

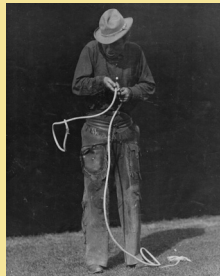


Texas Skip

When performing the Texas Skip, the roper spins a vertical loop and jumps through it. Will Rogers would perform this trick 100 times a day for exercise.

Butterfly

The Butterfly rope trick moves a vertical loop from left to right in front of the roper. It appears to flutter like a butterfly.



Big Crinoline

The Big Crinoline is a large version of the Wedding Ring that uses a 40 foot rope. This trick earned him a spot in Texas Jack's Wild West Circus when he was a teenager.

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