

Bonanza Episode Guide

Bonanza First Season: Volume 1 DISC 1

A Rose for Lotta (Pilot) (9/12/1959)

Powerful silver barons scheme with famous entertainer Lotta Crabtree (Yvonne De Carlo) to hold Little Joe Cartwright (Michael Landon) hostage in return for Ponderosa timber, vital to mining operations. Directed by Edward Ludwig. Written by David Dortort.

Special Features: Original NBC Network Peacock logo, bumpers, Lorne Greene RCA promo, and RCA spots, Photo Gallery.

Death on Sun Mountain (9/19/1959)

A greedy opportunist (Barry Sullivan) and his murderous partner (Leo Gordon) slaughter the Paiute nation's wild antelope herds and sell the meat to hungry silver miners at grossly inflated prices. Directed by Paul Landres. Written by Gene L. Coon and David Dortort.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

The Newcomers (9/26/1959)

Hoss (Dan Blocker) falls for fragile Emily Pennington (Inger Stevens), who is accompanying her fiancé (John Larch) west, unaware that he intends to introduce hydraulic mining to the Sierras, which will devastate the local environment, including the Ponderosa. Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

The Paiute War (10/3/1959)

Unscrupulous trader Mike Wilson (Jack Warden) assaults two Bannock women, then shifts the blame to Adam (Pernell Roberts) and an innocent Indian tribe, sparking a needless battle between the Paiutes and the California militia at Pyramid Lake.

Directed by Paul Landres. Written by Gene L. Coon.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

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Enter Mark Twain (10/10/1959)

The legendary storyteller (Howard Duff) spins a tall tale that delights readers of the Territorial Enterprise but infuriates the Cartwrights. Ultimately he helps expose a crooked judge (John Litel) and a land grab scheme to takeover the Ponderosa.

Directed by Paul Landres. Written by Harold Shumate.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

The Julia Bulette Story (10/17/1959)

The owner of "Julia's Palace" (Jane Greer) offers to help fight a fever epidemic despite objections from Virginia City's leading citizens, while Ben (Lorne Greene) objects to Little Joe's infatuation with Julia. Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Al C. Ward.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

The Saga of Annie O'Toole (10/24/1959)

When an Irish lass (Ida Lupino) grubstakes her fiancé (Alan Hale, Jr.) to two claims, trouble brews when the miner cannot tell which one he kept and which one he sold to Annie's nemesis, "Trap Door" Gregory Spain (Henry Lascoe).

Directed by Joseph Kane. Written by Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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The Philip Deidesheimer Story (10/31/1959)

Adam helps an engineer (John Beal) who designs a square set system of timbering for the skeptical owner of the Ophir Mine (R.G. Armstrong) and his daughter (Mala Powers); a daring gamble proves the real worth of the costly system.

Directed by Joseph Kane. Written by Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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Mr. Henry Comstock 11/7/1959)

The Cartwrights recall the founding of Virginia City, Little Joe's escapades with Paiute Princess Saratuchee (Joanna Sages), and colorful claim-jumper Henry T. P. Comstock (Jack Carson).

Directed by John Brahm. Written by David Dortort.

Special Features: Photo Gallery - including lost sequences.

The Magnificent Adah (11/14/1959)

Adam and his brothers object to their father's romance with Adah Isaacs Menken (Ruth Roman), a daring and flamboyant actress of the Old West ("Mazeppa"); so does her ex-suitor, a ruthless professional boxer (Don McGowan).

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Donald S. Sanford.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

The Truckee Strip (11/21/1959)

A schemer (S. John Launer) uses a crooked ranch foreman (James Coburn) to pit Ben Cartwright against his neighbor Luthor Bishop (Carl Benton Reid) over disputed land, but Luthor's daughter Amy (Adrienne Hayes) falls in love with Joe, who points a gun at Ben in a tense moment.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Herman Groves.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

The Hanging Posse (11/28/1959)

A grieving husband (Onslow Stevens) forms a posse to track his wife's murderers. Adam and Joe ride along to make sure an instigator (Arthur Hunnicutt) does not turn the posse into a lynch mob.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Carey Wilber.

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Vendetta (12/5/1959)

Shot during a bank holdup, Ben mortally wounds a robber. Bedridden, Ben counts on boastful townspeople for protection, but when the vengeful outlaw (Mort Mills) and his gang head towards Virginia City, only Hoss and a former prosecutor, now a town drunk (Simon Scott) stand ready to help.

Directed by Joseph Kane. Written by Robert E. Thompson.

The Sisters (12/12/1959)

Over his father's objection, Adam romances a saloon girl (Fay Spain), whose other admirers include a sheriff (Buddy Ebsen), a town drunk (Malcolm Atterbury), and a gambler (John Stephenson) who challenges Adam to a pistol duel.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Carey Wilber.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

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The Last Hunt (12/19/1959)

Hoss and Little Joe help a pregnant Shoshone (Chana Eden) alone in the winter wilderness. They bring her and her newborn to the Ponderosa, and learn the truth about the baby's father (Steve Terell).

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Donald S. Sanford.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

El Toro Grande (1/2/1960)

During a trip to purchase a prized seed bull, Hoss wrestles a bear, Little Joe romances a betrothed señorita (Barbara Luna) and fights a rapier duel with her fiancée (Armand Alzamora).

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by John Tucker Battle.

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The Outcast (1/9/1960)

The Cartwrights befriend Lita (Susan Oliver), whom the townspeople ostracize after she witnesses her father and brother hang for murder. Clay (Jack Lord) offers Lita solace and marriage, but they mask his criminal intentions.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

A House Divided (1/16/1960)

A Confederate sympathizer from Kansas (Cameron Mitchell), who knew Little Joe's (Michael Landon) mother, comes to Virginia City to raise funds for his cause, splitting townspeople and the Cartwright family.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Al C. Ward.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

The Gunmen (1/23/1960)

Dead ringers for the notorious Slade brothers, Hoss (Dan Blocker) and Joe are jailed in Kiowa Flats. The sheriff (Henry Hull) believes them but no one else does and the heads of feuding Hadfield and McFadden families figure the only way to settle their dispute is to hang the Slades!

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Carey Wilber.

The Fear Merchants (1/30/1960)

Thugs working for a mayoral candidate (Gene Evans) beat up Hop Sing (Victor Sen Yung) and harass Chinese residents as part of a "hate outsiders" campaign; Hop Sing's cousin (Guy Lee) is wrongly accused of murder.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Frank Unger and Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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The Spanish Grant (2/6/1960)

A stranger (Sebastian Cabot) insists that his charge (Patricia Medina) is a Spanish noblewoman and heir to a huge land grant, which includes part of the Ponderosa. Adam (Pernell Roberts) and his brothers search for clues to the beautiful and mysterious woman's true identity.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by David Dortort and Leonard Heideman. Story by Morris Lee Green.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

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Blood on the Land (2/13/1960)

Jeb Drummond (Everett Sloan) insists on fattening his sheep on Ponderosa land. Adam protests when his father intends to take matters into his own hands to remove the squatter, but when Drummond and his herdsmen (Ray Daley, Ken Lynch) take Adam hostage, Ben (Lorne Greene) must rethink his strategy. Directed by Felix Feist. Written by Robert E. Thompson.

Special Features: Original NBC Network Peacock logo, bumpers, Lorne Greene RCA promo, and RCA spots, Photo Gallery.

Desert Justice (2/20/1960)

A sadistic marshal (Claude Akins) arrests a trusted Ponderosa hand (Wesley Lau), intending to transport him to Los Angeles by stagecoach for trial. Adam and Hoss go along to make sure the marshal doesn't kill his prisoner, and learn the reason for the lawman's brutality.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Donald S. Sanford.

The Stranger (2/27/1960)

Vengeful police inspector Charles LeDuque (Lloyd Nolan) has a warrant for Ben's arrest; twenty years earlier, Ben killed a man in self-defense. LeDuque promises to drop a trumped up murder charge against Joe if Ben accompanies him back to New Orleans.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by John Tucker Battle.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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Escape to Ponderosa (3/5/1960)

A sadistic Army stockade commander (Chris Alcaide) tracks three escaped prisoners; one (Joe Moross) seeks the home of his girlfriend (Gloria Talbott) but she falls for another (Grant Williams).

Directed by Charles F. Haas. Written by Robert E. Thompson. Story by Bill Barrett and Malcolm-Stuart Boyle.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

The Avenger (3/19/1960)

In this pilot for an unsold series, Ben and Adam await execution for murder; Lassiter (Vic Morrow) roams the west looking for the men who hanged his family, and preventing other wrongful hangings.

Directed by Christian Nyby. Written by Clair Huffaker.

Special Features: Original NBC Network Peacock logo, bumpers, and RCA spots, Photo Gallery.

The Last Trophy (3/26/1960)

Lady Beatrice Dunsford (Hazel Court) and Lord Dunsford (Edward Ashley) visit the Cartwrights; ashamed of her husband, a big game hunter who has lost his nerve, she flirts with other men, including Adam.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Bill S. Ballinger.

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

San Francisco (4/2/1960)

After a cattle drive, the Cartwrights plan a big city vacation and Hop Sing (Victor Sen Yung) a family reunion. Hoss boxes Busthead Brannigan (Tor Johnson) and becomes Barbary Coast champion, and a deceptive damsel (Kathleen Crowley) gets Ben "shanghaied" on a ship set to sail for Hong Kong.

Directed by Arthur Lubin. Written by Thomas Thompson.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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Bitter Water (4/9/1960)

A ruthless miner (Robert F. Simon) urges Todd McCaren (Don Dubbins) to break a water-rights agreement made years earlier by his father (Rhys Williams) and Ben, then plants tick-infested cattle in a Ponderosa herd.

Directed by George Blair. Written by Harold Jack Bloom.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

Feet of Clay (4/16/1960)

After his mother's death, young Billy (David Ladd) stays at the Ponderosa and comes to idolize Hoss. His father (Logan Field) escapes from prison to find Billy; when he goes for his gun, Hoss kills him in self-defense.

Directed by Arthur Lubin. Written by John Furia, Jr..

Special Features: Episodic Promo, Photo Gallery.

Dark Star (4/23/1960)

A band of gypsies traverse the Ponderosa, and Joe falls for Tirza (Susan Harrison), a strange, beautiful girl banished by her people because they think she is a witch.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Anthony Lawrence.

Special Features: Original NBC Network Peacock logo, bumpers, Lorne Greene RCA promo, and RCA spots, Photo Gallery.

Death at Dawn (1/2/1960)

Organized crime boss Sam Bryant (Robert Middleton) orders Farmer Perkins (Gregory Walcott) to commit murder. Eyewitness Beth Cameron (Nancy Deale) testifies and Perkins is sentenced to hang. Bryant kidnaps Ben, announcing he will hang him unless the sheriff (Morgan Woodward) releases Perkins.

Directed by Charles F. Haas. Written by Laurence E. Mascott.

Special Features: Photo Gallery.

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Showdown (September 10, 1960)

Bank robber Pardo (Jack Lambert) sends Sam Kirby (Ben Cooper) to the Ponderosa, who convinces Adam (Pernell Roberts) to hire him as a bronc buster. Little Joe is suspicious and resents Sam's interest in Ellie (Jody Warner), the banker's daughter.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Dean Riesner.

The Mission (September 17, 1960)

After Captain Pender (John Dehner) fires his scout Cutter (Peter Whitney), Hoss convinces him to hire drunkard Charlie Trent (Henry Hull) to lead a small Army platoon and a wagonload of gold across the Great Salt Flats; Cutter wants revenge and the gold.

Directed by James Neilson. Written by Robert E. Thompson.

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Badge Without Honor (September 24, 1960)

Erudite and debonair Deputy U.S. Marshal Gerald Eskith (Dan Duryea) revels in the Cartwrights' hospitality and announces he'll take assayer Jason Blaine (Fred Beir) to San Francisco to testify against an outlaw gang, but the narcissistic lawman has more sinister intentions.

Directed by Arthur Lubin. Written by John Twist.

The Mill (October 1, 1960)

Embittered paraplegic Tom Edwards (Harry Townes) torments his wife Joyce (Dianne Foster), aided and abetted by his demented hired hand Ezekiel (Claude Akins). When Joyce complains to Ben, Adam suggests building a gristmill to lift Tom's spirits.

Directed by John Rich. Written by Halsted Welles.

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The Hopefuls (October 8, 1960)

Adam and new friend Sam Bord (Dennis Patrick) accompany a wagon train of pacifist settlers led by Jacob (Larry Gates) and his daughter Regina (Patricia Donahue), while Sam's old friend Shen (Charles Maxwell) plots to steal the settlers' life savings.

Directed by James Neilson. Written by E. Jack Neuman.

Denver McKee (October 15, 1960)

A retired sheriff and scout (Franchot Tone) awaits the return of his daughter Connie (Natalie Trundy) from boarding school, as does Little Joe. The Cartwrights throw a party to celebrate Connie's return, and ask her father to help track a gang of robbers and killers. Directed by Jacques Tourneur. Written by Fred Freiberger and Steve McNeil.

Day of Reckoning (October 22, 1960)

Lagos (Anthony Caruso), a white-hating Bannock Indian, tries to kill Ben, but his brother Matsou (Ricardo Montalban) intervenes. Grateful, Ben gives him and his wife (Madlyn Rhue), a Shoshone who embraces Bible tenets, a parcel of farmland over the vociferous objections of a bigoted neighbor (Karl Swenson).

Directed by Richard Bartlett. Written by Leonard Heideman and R. Hamer Norris.

The Abduction (October 29, 1960)

Gunar the knife thrower (Jerry Oldo) convinces carnival owner Reed (Gerald Mohr) to hold a mine owner's daughter (Jackie Russell) for ransom. Hoss and Little Joe try to find her but the tight-knit carnies won't talk.

Directed by Charles F. Haas. Written by Herman Groves.

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Breed of Violence (November 5, 1960)

A strict sheriff (Val Avery) alienates his daughter (Myrna Fahey), who runs off with bank robber Vince Dagen (John Ericson) and his gang. Hoss and Little Joe ride unwittingly into the gang's hideout.

Directed by Johnny Florea. Written by David Lang.

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The Last Viking (November 12, 1960)

Gunnar Borgstrom (Neville Brand) visits the Ponderosa to see his nephew, Hoss. Searching the world for "glory and gold," Gunnar is the leader of a band of commancheros anxious to pillage and plunder; they set their sights on a neighboring ranch, where Little Joe is visiting.

Directed by Johnny Florea. Written by Anthony Lawrence.

The Trail Gang (November 26, 1960)

While herding cattle from Texas, Ben and Hoss hire a young hand (Dick Davalos), who's anxious to ride into town with Segundo Brazos (Robert J. Wilke) to confront his father, Sheriff Logan (James Westerfield), and kill him.

Directed by John Rich. Written by Carey Wilber.

The Savage (December 3, 1960)

A mysterious woman (Anna-Lisa) tends to a wounded Adam in her remote mountain camp. She is Ruth Halverson but the Shosones believe she is White Buffalo Woman, a goddess with supernatural powers. Adam wants Ruth to leave with him, but the chief (Hal Jon Norman) has other plans.

Directed by James Neilson. Written by Joe Stone and Paul King.

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Silent Thunder (December 10, 1960)

Annie (Stella Stevens) lives simply with her father (Kenneth MacKenna) in a shack in the mountains. Little Joe tries to teach her sign language, angering a lecherous trapper (Albert Salmi), who is also interested in Annie--but in a very different way.

Directed by Robert Altman. Written by John Furia, Jr..

The Ape (December 17, 1960)

Hoss befriends Arnie (Cal Boulder), a simple-minded giant with immense strength and an uncontrollable temper. Arnie soon falls for saloon girl Sharrie (Karen Sharpe). Hustler Freddie (Leonard Nimoy) sees an easy mark but underestimates the danger when Arnie's angered.

Directed by James P. Yarbrough. Written by Gene L. Coon.

The Blood Line (December 31, 1960)

After killing Luke Grayson (Allan "Rocky" Lane) in self-defense, Ben tries to make amends to Todd (David Macklin), Grayson's young son. Encouraged by Luke's girl (Jan Shepard) and a gunman (Lee Van Cleef), Todd stalks Ben, intending to kill him.

Directed by Lewis Allen. Written by Willima Raynor and Myles Wilder.

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The Courtship (January 7, 1961)

Hoss falls for a beautiful widow (Julie Adams), and announces they will marry. Adam knows her compulsive gambling will ruin any marriage and makes plans to show Hoss the truth.

Directed by James P. Yarbrough. Written by Richard N. Morgan.

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The Spitfire (January 14, 1961)

Little Joe prevents a mountain man from starting a brush fire, killing him in self-defense. The Cartwrights shelter the man's unruly daughter (Anita Sands), but her family's matriarch (Katherine Warren) leads her kin to the Ponderosa, bent on vengeance.

Directed by William Dario Faralla. Written by Ward Hawkins.

The Bride (January 21, 1961)

A woman (Suzanne Lloyd) announces to the stunned Cartwright brothers that she is their father's new bride. Investigating, the Cartwrights find the woman's boyfriend (Adam West) and turn to a local sheriff (John McIntire) for help.

Directed by Alvin Ganzer. Written by Richard Newman.

Here are the 16 episodes on the 4-disc set, **Bonanza: The Official Second Season, Volume 2**, as described on the inside DVD cover:

Bonanza Second Season: Volume 2 DISC 1

Bank Run

Little Joe discovers that a scheming, greedy millionaire (Ian Wolfe) intends to close his bank to force miner Tim O'Brien (Walter Burke) to relinquish his valuable claim. Joe enlists Hoss to help him save Tim's assets (and every other depositors') by robbing the bank!

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The Fugitive

Retired Ponderosa foreman Will Reagan (Will Wright) learns that his son Carl (James Best) has died in Mexico, and asks Carl's childhood friend, Adam, to retrieve the body. Adam discovers Carl's wife (Ziva Rodann) and a mystery: his friend is despised, and not dead.

Vengeance

Hoss kills drunken Willie Twilight (Keith Richards) accidentally while trying to disarm hi, and is overwhelmed by guilt. Willie's brother Red (Adam Williams) stalks and shoots Hoss in the back, and although the wound should not be fatal, Hoss seems to have lost the will to live.

The Tax Collector

Helpful Hoss gets n'er-do-well Jock Henry (Eddie Firestone) a job as a tax assessor; both Jock's wife (Kathie Browne) and his mare are expecting. After zealous Jock doubles the local ranchers' worth (and tax bills) with dubious assessments, Ben hatches a scheme to out-connive Jock.

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The Rescue

Josh Tatum (Leif Erickson) resents Ben and his wealth; after Ben loses a fistfight (in part because Josh cheats), the Cartwright brothers tell their father to stay home while they go search for rustlers. The rustlers trap the brothers and Ben attempts a rescue.

The Dark Gate

Adam consults Doc Martin (Roy Engel) when his friend Ross Marquette (James Coburn) exhibits strange behavior—falling in with cattle rustlers (Ned Florey, Harry Dean Stanton), beating his wife Delphine (Ce Ce Whitney)—but the doctor has a grim prognosis: mental illness, for which there is no cure in the 1860s.

The Duke

A British boxing manager (J. Pat O'Malley) and his egotistical charge (Maxwell Reed) challenge all comers. "The Duke" fancies Marge (Randy Stuart) but she loves shy J.D. (Jason Evers). Hoss decides to fight the boxing blowhard after the Duke assaults Marge and nearly kills J.D..

Cutthroat Junction

The Cartwrights accompany Sierra freight company troubleshooter Jed Trask (Robert Lansing) and his sharpshooter wife Belle (Shirley Ballard) to a wild town where outlaws plunder and burn supply wagons. The company fires Trask after he is wounded; Trask then makes plans to destroy the Sierra.

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The Gift

Joe sneaks off to Yuma with a vaquero named Emiliano (Martin Landau) to buy Ben a surprise birthday gift—a beautiful white stallion. The leader of a band of comancheros (Jim Davis) wants the horse and Joe after the horse tramples the leader's brother (Jack Hogan).

The Rival

Pretty Cameo (Peggy Ann Garner) has two suitors: charming Jim Applegate (Charles Aidman) and Hoss Cartwright. Jim flees after becoming a suspect in a lynching, but a mob recaptures Jim and prepares to lynch him. Cameo begs Hoss to save his rival.

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The Infernal Machine

Hoss helps meek inventor Daniel Pettibone (Eddie Ryder) attract investors for his horseless carriage. Smooth-talking Cyrus Throckmorton (Willard Waterman) and his assistant Pete (George Kennedy) convince others, including saloon girl Big Red (Naura Hayden), to invest funds, which Throckmorton promptly steals.

The Thunderhead Swindle

Mines all over the Comstock are drying out and Virginia City is in a depression. Ben becomes suspicious when Furnas (Walter Coy) and Cunningham (Parley Baer) proclaim that their new purchase, the Thunderhead Mine, long thought dry, has yielded a bonanza. But just where exactly is the new strike?

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The Secret

After a neighbor (Russell Collins) says he saw Joe and a girl taking a buggy ride, the girl turns up dead. Deputy Sheriff Connelly (Morgan Woodward) arrests Joe for murder. Lawyer Jerome Bell (Stephen Joyce, engaged to Ben's lawyer's daughter (Pat Michon) assists with Joe's defense.

The Dream Riders

Major John Cayley (Sidney Blackmer) tells his old friend Ben that he's come to the Ponderosa with his daughter (Diana Millay) to conduct hot air balloon experiments for the Army. Adam discovers the truth: Cayley's men plan to rob the Virginia City bank and escape in the airship.

Elizabeth, My Love

Keeping vigil at his eldest son's sickbed, Ben recalls the end of his sailing days in New England, serving under Captain Stoddard (Thorin Thatcher), as well as his romance and marriage to the captain's daughter Elizabeth (Geraldine Brooks), and the birth of their child, Adam.

Sam Hill

In this pilot for an unsold series, legendary itinerant blacksmith Sam Hill (Claude Akins) returns home to discover his father (Edgar Buchanan) is not dead and in fact has sold their land, where Sam's mother is buried, to a deranged former soldier (Ford Rainey).