

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH

By Trinka Hakes Noble

Parts(15): Narrator 1      Narrator 2      Narrator 3      Narrator 4      Rancher Hicks  
                  Sheriff                 Kurt                 Mayor Folks      Phone Caller      President Producer  
                  Bernie                 Bob                 Millie              Newspaper Editor     Elna



Narrator 1: MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE RANCH By Trinka Hakes Noble

Narrator 2: Rancher Hicks lived out west. As far as the eye could see there was nothing... not even a roaming buffalo. So nothing much ever happened.

Rancher Hicks: "I think I'll drive into town and see what's happening. Want to ride along, Elna?"

Narrator 3: said Rancher Hicks.

Elna: "No. I've got to dig potatoes,"

Narrator 3: said Elna. So Rancher Hicks climbed into his truck and drove eighty-four miles to the town of Sleepy Gulch.

Narrator 4: He stopped at the post office to look at the new wanted posters, but they were the same ones that were there twelve years ago.

Narrator 1: Meanwhile...back at the ranch...The cat had just had kittens in Elna's sewing basket when the phone rang.

Elna: "Hello?"

Phone Caller: "Mrs. Elna Hicks?"

Elna: "Yes."

Phone Caller: "Mrs. Hicks, you have just won a brand-new wall-to-wall frost-free super-cool refrigerator with a built-in automatic food maker!"

Elna: "Why I never!"

Narrator 2: exclaimed Elna.

Phone Caller: "The delivery men are on their way."

Narrator 2: Meanwhile...yawn...back in Sleepy Gulch...Rancher Hicks strolled on over to the barber shop for a whisker trim and to hear the latest gossip.

Rancher Hicks: "So what's new, Bob?"

Narrator 3: asked Rancher Hicks

Bob: "Well...back in the spring of '49 we had a rainstorm you wouldn't believe. Why, it rained for pretty near a whole five minutes. Folks thought it'd never stop. Nothin' much been happening since."

Narrator 3: Meanwhile...back at the ranch...The dog had just had puppies when the postman came up the drive with a special delivery. Elna opened it.

Narrator 4: It was her Great Aunt Edith's will. It said:  
My dear Elna,  
I am leaving you my entire estate which is worth a bundle.  
Your loving Great Aunt Edith  
P.S. Enclosed is a winning lottery ticket. I didn't have time to cash it in.

Narrator 1: So Elna cashed in the lottery ticket and put new siding on the house. Then she added a new wing for the wall-to-wall refrigerator and a new den for all the puppies and kittens.

Narrator 2: Meanwhile...snore...back in Sleepy Gulch...Rancher Hicks mosied on over to Millie's Mildew Luncheonette.

Rancher Hicks: "What's on the menu for today, Millie?"

Millie: "Well, we got potatoes mashed and potatoes fried, potatoes boiled and potatoes baked, potatoes roasted and potatoes stewed, potatoes scalloped and potatoes steamed, and one egg."

Rancher Hicks: "Sounds great, I'll have one of each and a side order of fries,"

Narrator 3: said Rancher Hicks. Meanwhile...back at the ranch...After all the pigs had had piglets, Elna finally started to dig potatoes. She struck oil!

Narrator 4: The oilmen came and gave her lots of money. They started eight new oil wells and an oil refinery that day! Elna took the money and had a very stylish sty built for all the pigs and piglets.

Narrator 1: Meanwhile...sigh...back in Sleepy Gulch...Rancher Hicks headed on over to the general store to check out the checker game.

Rancher Hicks: "Howdy, boys. What's new?"

Kurt: "Well, Bernie here just got a king and it only took him two weeks!"

Narrator 2: said Kurt.

Bernie: "And I just jumped two of Kurt's men in a little over two hours!"

Narrator 2: said Bernie.

Rancher Hicks: "Wow. What a game! I can't wait to tell Elna,"

Narrator 2: said Rancher Hicks.

Narrator 3: Meanwhile...back at the ranch...All the cows had calves when a silver limo swung into the driveway. Out jumped a Hollywood movie producer and his hairdresser.

Producer: "Elna Hicks, I'm going to make you a movie star!"

Narrator 4: So Elna went on a diet and lost twenty pounds. The hairdresser dyed her hair blond and painted her lips red.

Narrator 1: The movie producer gave her a script, a bikini, and a large stack of dollar bills! So Elna had a glamorous cow palace built for all the cows and calves, and she studied her script.

Narrator 2: Meanwhile...ho hum...back in Sleepy Gulch...Rancher Hicks started to cross Main Street when he saw it!

Rancher Hicks: "Amazing,"

Narrator 3: he gasped. Folks ran to see it.

Folks: "Incredible,"

Narrator 3: they said. A crowd gathered.

Newspaper Editor: "This is big news, really big,"

Narrator 4: said the newspaper editor.

Sheriff: "We'd better wake up the mayor,"

Narrator 4: said the sheriff. The mayor came.

Mayor: "Why I've never seen anything like it!"

Narrator 1: said the mayor. So he declared it a town holiday. The whole town watched it for hours and hours until finally...a turtle crossed Main Street!!

Narrator 2: Meanwhile...back at the ranch...All the horses had colts when the President's helicopter landed in Elna's yard.

President: "Elna Hicks, you've got the finest horses west of Washington. I'm making you a diplomat. Please deliver two of your finest horses to the Queen of England!"

Narrator 3: he said. The President paid Elna for the horses and gave her a diplomat's diploma and an autographed picture of himself.

President: "Don't forget to vote for me!"

Narrator 4: Elna took the money and had a very stately stable built for all the horses and colts.

Narrator 1: Meanwhile...zzzzzz...back in Sleepy Gulch...The sun began to sink slowly in the west. Rancher Hicks felt bad that Elna had missed all the excitement so he stopped and bought her a box of Cracker Jacks.

Rancher Hicks: "This will make her day,"

Narrator 2: he said. Then he climbed into his truck and drove eighty-four miles back to the ranch.

Narrator 3: Elna met Rancher Hicks down by the mailbox. He gave her the box of Cracker Jacks and told her about all the excitement.

Elna: "Shoot! I miss everything,"

Narrator 4: said Elna. Then Rancher Hicks turned around.

Rancher Hicks: "What the hay...?!?!?!?"

Narrator 4: Meanwhile Elna opened her box of Cracker Jacks and inside she found...a real diamond ring!!!!!!

Scripted by Jill Jauquet