

Document A

MODERN DAY COWBOY?

Over the years I have often heard reference made to the fact that a trucker is the modern day counterpart to the old range drovers. These were the guys who traversed this country on horseback, chasing cows, fighting natives and outlaws and as my friend, (I wish) Garth Brooks would say, listening to old Camp Cookie sing.

5 They scoured the Western States following exotic highways like the Chisolm trail. They carried six guns and stopped at every saloon for a shot of whiskey, (It was to clear the dust out of their throats. Any fool knows that only whiskey will work for this..) Their favorite passtime besides chasing rustlers, was shooting at the stars to celebrate winning a saloon brawl against those dirt clawing nesters, or the local ranch hands.

10 Man those guys had it easy.. Well except for the horse thing.. They only had 10 or 15 horses to move a couple hundred cows. We use 350 to 450 horses to move 20 or 30 cows.. As far as the rest of it, well I got news for ya pardner! They may have had to fight a few natives and outlaws but those boys wouldn't have a clue as to how to take care of a disgruntled dock worker. Let alone a dispatcher gone awry. And Camp Cookie? Heck he don't even ride with ya anymore. You got to go to him, and then he won't sing fer ya. He just slaps them beans on the plate and not so much as a how dya do..

15 The Chisolm trail would be gravy. You wanna see what work is really like? Well you just try to get a 53 foot load down I-15 through Salt Lake City at 6:00 in the evening. You'll be beggin for the CHISOLM TRAIL... They might have gotten hauled away for not carrying a six gun.. We get hauled away if we do and the Law checks us. Of course there are a lot of places where we'd be fools not to but a jail cell is better than a casket any ole day.

20 You wanna talk about dusty throats? If a truck driver gets caught within an arms reach of a shot of whiskey, he ain't allowed to play no more. We just drive along and have dusty throats all the time.. Those boys back then would get a month or so to make a drive from Salt Lake to Denver. We get 25 10 hours and better not be late...

Rustlers? Pushaw I say. I bet it was real tough following a herd of cattle across a muddy field. The rustlers today will hot wire your truck, pull out from under your trailer, hook up a different trailer that looks just like yours, right down to the numbers, then park it where you left it so you won't notice anything is different. By the time you find out, your freight is being sold at a swap meet in 30 Tihajuana. Try tracking that down...

So friend if you wanna get all googly eyed about the romantic lifestyle us truckers live, well you better just take all those cool things mister L'Amour taught ya and throw em out the window.. You climb in a big rig and you have just entered the "REAL LIFE ZONE"!!!!..

35 Okay, Okay, It's that sarcasm flaw in my personality showing up again. I just couldn't resist. Truth be known, I too picture us as a bunch of range rovers just like the ole boys I been talkin' bout.. I started getting E-mail from another driver the other day and we have been discussing the similarities between our lives and those of the old Cowboys. There are a lot of them if you think about it.. I don't know how "romantic" that is but I guess it is the thing that draws so many of us into this life style. We complain a lot but even the guys who complain the worst and find other jobs usually end up back in a truck eventually. Many of us still dream of one day riding for our own brand. (me NOT included) We even call our truck a horse and in case you are wondering, Yes I wear a cowboy hat and pointed boots.

40 Sorry I was late this time, I'll try to never let it happen again! Yeaah RRRright... OOps, I'm over my quota again, See Ya next time and until then be safe, keep yer boots in the stirrups and 45 REMEMBER....

IF YOU'VE GOT IT
A TRUCK BROUGHT IT....

Keith A. Hamblin, "Modern Day Cowboy?" (January 22, 1995), *Trucking Essays The Trucker's Page* (<http://www.qcontinuum.com/~keard/cowboy.html>)
Note: The author is a trucker and the site's webmaster.

Document B

* The CB radio craze in America, which followed the oil crisis, was an important factor in increasing the public's awareness of the trucker's culture. For so long the job had been a lonely one, with only the coffee stops for conversation and the flashing of lights for company. The radio shows aimed to keep the truckers awake with songs, messages, road

5 reports and truck commercials, but the men at the wheel had no way of talking back.

CB had been of limited use by drivers before the mid-1970s when America's speed limit was set at a national 55 mph. The initial need to avoid speed traps brought truckers into contact and they began to use the radio as their own medium. Travelling in convoys truckers provided a challenge to authority by breaking the speed laws, and organized

10 blockades and demonstrations. The radios have been put to other uses too, and in the US at least, CB radio's social applications were appreciated. With the tremendous increase in usage, however, there has been a recent influx of maniacs and deviants using the airwaves, which sometimes threatens the practical advantages of CB.

Before the open access channels were so frequently abused, truckers had established a

15 new and vivid language, which incorporated radio codes and new metaphorical slang words into their old vocabulary. Spoken in a style known as modulating, this CB jargon did more than anything to attract the attention of various media, and quickly elevated the trucker to a place in the gallery of American heroes. Television soap operas began to feature trucks and truckers, and European documentary crews travelled the American

20 highways recording material, as did photographers and journalists from a wide variety of magazines.

At the time — the mid 1970s — America was short of heroes. The Hollywood western was in decline, the war in Vietnam was over and politicians and cops had often shown themselves to be corrupt. The time was right for working-class heroes, and the trucker was

25 one ready made with a solid background and comprehensive mythology. Hollywood movie-makers picked him up for more of these qualities than for the visual effects of his vehicles, although they were obviously important. From *White Line Fever* to *Convoy*, the trucker has been boosted as an independent free spirit, even though he may be rarely shown to give a damn for anybody's problems but his own.

* The generally projected media image of the trucker defines him as a single-minded individual with the solitary purpose of delivering the goods. Thanks to CB, other citizens know he has a sense of humour and, judging by the comments from 4-wheel CB users, his profession is respected.

The range of trucking imagery and media support is vast, and places the anonymous

35 trucker in a position which is unique. The trucking culture embraces a fascination for vehicle and power, where the biggest and brightest is the best, while supporting the pioneering independence of a person who goes his own way and is part voyager to exotic lands and part business hustler. While he struggles on, and in most countries truckers will deny they make easy money, he finds himself envied and idolized by children and youths

40 as if he were an old-time buccaneer.

In his modest way the trucker may have been regarding himself in this light for some time. A card written by Dan Valentine which used to be on sale in truck stops in the early 1960s extolled the virtues of this character who if born in the past would have been a 'buccaneer, privateer, a freebootin' soldier of fortune... a frontier scout, a stagecoach driver', but who,

45 as a truck driver, is 'the happiest and most useful man in America'.

Elliott Bradley, "Trucking Folklore", *Trucks and Trucking*,
London: Treasure Press, 1979

Document C

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CAPES EXTERNE D'ANGLAIS

CAFEP EXTERNE D'ANGLAIS



Probably the best beer in the world.

Advertisement for Carlsberg beer, Saatchi & Saatchi agency, 1990s
(http://www.51wall.com/adver/carlsberg/pic/carlsberg_13.jpg)