

**THE BOY RANCHERS ON
THE TRAIL: OR,
THE DIAMOND X
AFTER CATTLE RUSTLERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649085712

The Boy Ranchers on the Trail: Or, the Diamond X After Cattle Rustlers by Willard F. Baker

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

WILLARD F. BAKER

**THE BOY RANCHERS ON
THE TRAIL: OR,
THE DIAMOND X
AFTER CATTLE RUSTLERS**



THERE WAS A SHARP CRACK AND THE HAT OF YELLIN' KID
SAILED OFF HIS HEAD.
"The Boy Ranchers on the Trail"

**THE
BOY RANCHERS
ON THE TRAIL**

OR

The Diamond X After Cattle Rustlers

By

WILLARD F. BAKER

Author of "The Boy Ranchers," "The
Boy Ranchers in Camp," etc.

ILLUSTRATED

NEW YORK
CUPPLES & LEON COMPANY

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
144968B

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

1941

THE BOY RANCHERS SERIES

By WILLARD F. BAKER

12mo. Cloth. Frontispiece

THE BOY RANCHERS
or Solving the Mystery at Diamond X

THE BOY RANCHERS IN CAMP
or The Water Fight at Diamond X

THE BOY RANCHERS ON THE TRAIL
or The Diamond X After Cattle Rustlers

Other Volumes in Preparation

CUPPLES & LEON COMPANY, New York

**COPYRIGHT, 1921, BY
CUPPLES & LEON COMPANY**

THE BOY RANCHERS ON THE TRAIL

Printed in U. S. A.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I THE ROUND-UP	1
II A CURIOUS INSTRUMENT	12
III STARTLING NEWS	19
IV THE SCRATCHED SAFE	26
V THE BROKEN BOTTLE	36
VI MISSING STEERS	42
VII FOUR EYES	48
VIII THROWING THE ROPE	54
IX THE FIRE	61
X SERIOUS QUESTIONS	68
XI THE WATCH TOWER	78
XII IN SPITE OF ALL	85
XIII THE SIGNAL	90
XIV FOUR EYES—NO EYES	98
XV A BIG RAID	104
XVI ON THE TRAIL	111
XVII WILD COUNTRY	117
XVIII THE BOILING SPRING	127

CLARENCE AUG 7 - 1941

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
XIX IN A MAZE	133
XX A SURPRISE	139
XXI IN PURSUIT	147
XXII BUD'S DISCOVERY	160
XXIII THE FIGHT	177
XXIV A DESPERATE CHANCE	185
XXV LIEUTENANT WAYNE	193

THE BOY RANCHERS ON THE TRAIL

CHAPTER I

THE ROUND-UP

COME on, Nort! It's your turn to out out the next one!"

"S'pose I make a mux of it, Bud?"

"Shucks! You won't do that! You've roped a calf before!"

"Yes, but not at a big round-up like this. If I make a fizzle the fellows will give me the laugh!"

"What if they do! Everybody knows you haven't been at it long, and you've got to make a start. Besides, anybody's likely to make a mistake. That's why they put rubbers on the ends of pencils. Ride in now and snake out the next one, Nort!"

"All right, Bud! Here goes!"

Blaze, the pony Nort Shannon was riding toward the bunch of cattle gathered at Diamond X ranch for the big, spring round-up, leaped

2 THE BOY RANCHERS ON THE TRAIL

forward at the sound of his master's voice, and in response to the little jerk of the reins and the clap of heels against his sides. Into the herd of milling, turning and twisting cattle the intelligent animal made his way, needing hardly any guidance from Nort. The lad, by a mere touch, corrected the course of Blaze slightly, and in a moment he was heading for a calf which bawled loudly.

"Get him, Nort!" cried a voice from among the cowboys looking on.

"Don't get me fussed, Dick!" Nort shouted back to his brother, who sat astride his pony near Bud Merkle. "It'll be your turn next!"

Into the herd he wormed his way on Blaze, dodging here and there, but with his eyes ever on the calf he hoped to cut out so it could be branded. Nort leaned forward in his saddle, and then his cousin and brother, eagerly watching from outside the herd, saw the boy rancher's hand shoot up.

Through the air the rope went, turning, twisting, writhing and uncoiling like a snake. In an instant it had flipped around the hind legs of a calf.

"Good!" yelled Dick.

"Even Babe couldn't 'a' done better!" complimented Bud, enthusiastically.

"'Tisn't over yet!" gasped Nort, for he had hard work ahead of him, and the dust raised by

J 7 V N