

THAT NO QUIT ATTITUDE - Waddie Mitchell



While gathering cattle near the ruins of a long abandoned homestead in the shadows of the mountains, questions swarmed around my mind of the people who had claimed there, most forgotten now, and long dead still.

I wonder what had prompted them to leave their worlds behind searching for a life uncertain, in a vast and rugged region up and leave their home and kin for opportunity to find.

Taking little more to start with than an idea, and a reason and a dream of their succeeding in a future yet defined.

Soon these queries led to more like ...

Why it is that some folks always need to push their borders out beyond the furthest milestone on a never-ending quest to find new ways and trails to blaze and in the process stretch that realm of what is built and done and known?

From the little draw above me and my pard's ride with his fine'ns, throwing his bunch with mine now shaded up and settled down.

I could see that he had gone through battle for his pony sporting lather but his smile claimed that he had made it in with everything he'd found.

The sweat and dust and brush streaks on that pair done heaps of speaking as
he pulled up near, dismounted and loosen latigo a bit.

He said, "We jumped them in the rough, and would have lost them had we
weakened but I swear, this here caballo ain't got one half ounce of quit.

And that no quit phrase speaks volumes on one's character and makin's to a
cowboy drawing wages riding ranges of the West.

Them who have it you'll find usually conquer most their undertakings for the
best in them is drawn out when their spirits put to test.

Then I spot my cow dogs bushed up stayin' well hid from the cattle knowin'
with a cue they'd give all to do anything need done.

I thought then how the most of us will opt to shun that battle never knowin'
fully what we could accomplish or become.

Still, I believe like dogs and horses we're all born with resolution.
Like muscles and good habits it needs use and exercise, if left dormant, its in
jeopardy of lost evolution for eventually it shrivels ups and atrophy and dies.

But when flexed, it blossoms heroes in a source of inspiration for we all
recognize that virtue and a no quit attitude.

And it proves its attributes in competition and vocation that evokes
appreciation and a show of gratitude.

And since mankind started walking, it has been swifter, higher, stronger, as if
pushed by some deep need to keep their limits unconfined,

Almost thriving, always striving for things bigger, better, longer in an
unrelenting pursuit of perfection, redefined.

And in this world that is soft complacence there are still a few among the
masses who will readily give all to see a job or dream fulfilled.

It's a trait that's void of prejudice toward races, sex or classes just demanding
its possessor be of valor and strong will.

Then as we start our cattle homeward lettin' the dogs bring up the rear, and
we leave what's left of once somebody's hopes and dreams behind.

I'm convinced that no quit attitude will always persevere. Now its the essence
and the promise and the crown of human kind.