

CONTINUED:

MONTFORD
If they survived the wolves and
bears.
(he thinks)
There's got to be more.

MARY ELIZABETH
Do you see Joe or Henry, given
their age and health, lightin' up
there after them?

MONTFORD
Hill country's dangerous... lawless
up there. Wild.

MARY ELIZABETH
And full of cattle that have been
breeding for years. Unbranded.

Montford thinks on it, then smiles. Mary Elizabeth is
hatching a plan and he likes where it's going.

MONTFORD
That it is.
(to Jack)
You ready to play cowboy?

JACK
Only thing I know.

START - EXT. FIELD - MORNING

On horseback, Montford and Jack trot next to a cow.

JOE CARLTON (V.O.)
So you want me to agree to let you
buy, at a price we set right now...

EXT. JOE CARLTON'S HOMESTEAD - 1865 - DAY

JOE CARLTON (60's), a weathered old timer works on his wagon
outside his modest cabin. Montford and Jack stand nearby.

JOE
... any of my cattle that you can
round up after runnin' wild for
years? Cattle that I already gave
up as lost?

Joe pulls a wood plank from his wagon and lays it down next
to a few other planks -- he's disassembling it, breaks into a
nasty cough.

MONTFORD
Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

CHICKASAW
OPEN CALL

"JOE"

30.

2/2

CONTINUED:

Cont'd

JOE

And I don't do nothin'. You pay me
my share when you sell 'em to the
next fella?

MONTFORD

That's correct.

Joe looks as though he could cry.

JOE

I gotta tell ya, you all feel like
a Godsend. Not sure how I was
fixing to survive the winter.

His voice gets thick -- Joe offers his hand to Montford and
the two men shake.

JACK

Why you ripping up a good wagon?

Joe frowns, wipes his nose.

JOE

Need the wood... coffin. The
Missus, she deserves a proper
burial. Christian thing to do.

Jack and Montford both remove their hats.

MONTFORD

I'm sorry Joe .

JOE

Thank you Montford, you know the
times are... I really appreciate
your offer.

MONTFORD

Let us help you out.

The two dismount, head to Joe.

JOE

Naw, I gotta do this.

(beat)

You wanna really help? Ya'll go
on, go up there and get the rest of
'em. This task is mine.

Montford and Jack nod -- mission accepted.

END .

(CONTINUED)