

Session/Game: Hacksaw, Savage Worlds 4

Date: September 8, 2024

Episode 4: Gunfight at the St. James Hotel

Campaign Date: November 2-4

Characters:

Sheriff J.J. Sherman (Craig)

Doctor Samuel Elder (Travis)

Jasper Cole, Newspaperman (Andrew)

Boy, the Mysterious Stranger (Bob)

“Honest” Harvey Boone, Attorney at Law (Pete)

Diego Redwood, Bounty Hunter (Quinton) and his trusty wolf Taco

Judge: Dave N.

LOG:

Scene 1: Some Folk are Happy, Some Ain't (Hacksaw Crossing, November 2, 1876)

Coming out of the cigar store, Boy spots Ryan Gosling walking down the street, whistling the happiest tune one could ever hear. He waves at Boy and gives him a big grin a bigger “Howdy”. When Boy asked him “why so happy?” Gosling said that he was wired a “passel of money” from some “Uncle Leroy” that he didn't know. He's used it to pay off the various debts on farm equipment, tools, and such that were threatening to drive his homestead under. He doesn't stay long, but is certainly in a good mood.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Jim, Dr. Elder and Japsper get invitations in the mail to meet George Costanza and his family for dinner, their treat, at the Rio Madre Cafe that evening, thanking them for their wonderful work during the wolf crisis. At dinner they found out the Costanzas also got an unexpected amount of money that came at just the right time to keep them from loosing their farms. They are also surprised that Old Pedro and Stewpot Willie, the long-time staff of the Rio Madre were not there, replaced by 2 30-year old dames named Wilma Deering and Margot Lane, who are a lot easier on the eyes. The ladies explain that Pedro and Willie decided to quit and go into business for themselves up in Rancho Matamoros and that the two ladies quit their jobs at the Sunrise Theater up in Phoenix and came to town a week or two ago and took up jobs here.

Meanwhile, Harvey Boone was breaking the bad news to Diego that his trial for murder is happening in three days and things look pretty grim. The populace is pretty riled up about Herbert Viola being gunned down in the street and the law is pretty stacked against him. The fact that he has a wolf and Wolfman Joe was also caught with wolves raiding homesteads isn't helping. After leaving the jail, Boone is confronted by a furious Richard Evans, who is outraged that the Costanzas and Goslings have paid off their debts. Evans is sure that there's some sort of illegal nonsense behind it and demands that Boone do something.

Scene 2: Jail Break and Bank Robbery! (Hacksaw Crossing, November 3, 1876)

Around 6:15 AM, the door of the marshal's office is cracked open by a huge hombre with a massive sledge hammer. A second fellow enters and fires a shotgun into the guard, George Feeney, killing him instantly. The two masked hombres grabbed the keys from the wall and open up the jail cells, telling Diego, Wolfman and Sidewinder that it's time to vamoose. There are witnesses such as Steve Buscemi and Big Timmy the Blacksmith, but in the darkness they can only point the finger at Boy, who is of a similar huge size as the big masked hombre. They

insisted that Diego come with them when Diego initially refused. They all rode toward the stage road, heading north. They did not give Diego a gun, but did have a busted-down horse for him to ride. Several miles north of town the whole crew split up, each going in a different direction. With Wolfman Joe riding full speed toward Rancho Mataomoros, Randy Savage (the big fella with the hammer) crossing the river toward the Double W ranch, Sidewinder riding hard to the east toward Diggsburg, and Medium Timmy (the one who killed George Feeney) swapping the shotgun for a rifle with Savage turning around and riding back toward Hacksaw Crossing. Diego attempts to follow Medium Timmy, but Timmy spots him and shoots a few times to drive him off.

However, at 6:45 am, just as the sun is rising, Little Timmy comes to find the sheriff and tell him that Condrón's Bank has just been robbed. Sheriff Jim sends his deputy Curly to gather the usual posse together and heads down toward Condrón's bank. The sheriff heard a couple of distant pistol shots, probably from the river-crossing.

The sheriff finds the bank manager, Percy Condrón tied up and locked in the coat closet. Condrón says that the robbers were two really, really old cowboys who had flashed a wad of cash and were talking about opening up an account the day before. He had made an appointment with the pair to come to the bank at 6:30, since they were leaving on the morning stage out of town at 7. They locked Percy in a closet and stole several thousand dollars and several ledger books documenting outstanding loans.

The posse did a little canvassing, but the only person who saw anything was Milton the Clean-up man from the Indian Head Saloon next door, who was getting the place ready for the day. Jasper questioned him and he says that he saw the old codgers leave the bank and jump onto a couple of mules heading south and then looping west toward the river crossing.

Scene 3: Track them Outlaws (Hacksaw County, November 3, after sunup)

Sheriff Sherman and the posse followed the bank robbers to the river crossing. They found that the mule-riders had split up across the river, one south, one north. They follow the north bound tracks and find a mule by itself about an hour later. They discover that the mule belonged to the livery stable in town. They decide to go back to town, and then head up the stage road on the trail of the jailbreakers.

Heading north, run into Medium Timmy, but let him pass. They meet Diego and get his information about the outlaws and decided to follow Randy across the river. They go to the Double W Ranch and chewed the fat with Colonel "Hoss-Whip" Robards. Eventually, they realized maybe Randy wasn't there. After some discussion they decide to ride to Rancho Matamoros.

They ride into Rancho Matamoros near sunset and go to the marshal's office (Biff Diaz). They find out that there Old Pedro and Stewpot Willie have set up a small bar/gambling house and that a large bunch of cattle detectives have swarmed over the St. James Hotel. They question Old Pedro and find that Stewpot is out of town delivering corn liquor to Diggsburg. They decide that Pedro and Willie are legit, but begin to be highly suspicious about the gang of "cattle detectives" at the St. James.

Scene 4: Gunfight at the St. James Hotel (Rancho Matamoros, November 3, after sundown)

The posse approached the Hotel but are stopped at the door by the notorious knife-man Montana Jeff and his pal Stanko. The "detectives" say that the hotel is closed, rented out for a private party and that the posse should get lost. The Sheriff pushes past and opens the door, only to discover about a dozen heavily armed men inside, including Randy Savage the Jail-

Breaker, Wolfman Joe the fugitive, and the famous gunslinger Slap Maxwell, and a bunch of henchboys.

Boy and Montana Jeff exchange punches and knife-blows, with both being severely wounded. The Sheriff is wounded by Slap Maxwell too. However, as the gang arranges themselves in cover and setting themselves up for shots, one of Maxwell's pistols jams and then Jasper leaps through a window and begins a very, very long hand-to-hand fight with Maxwell, where they struggle over the good gun as Maxwell tried to pistol-whip Jasper with the jammed one.

In the course of the battle, the sheriff manages to kill Randy Savage, Texas Marlon, and Butch Patrick. Dr. Elder kills Texas Pete, Texas Lewinski (who, however, killed Diego's wolf Taco) and Stanko. Harvey Boone kills Buster Poindexter and Texas Dave. The badly wounded Boy did end up killing Montana Jeff. Seeing things going badly, Wolfman Joe, Red Foxx, Texas Willie and Texas Quinton all fled the scene and escaped. And after the relentless grappling, Slap Maxwell finally surrendered to Jasper, seeing all his men dead or fled.

The sheriff, Harvey and Jasper question Slap Maxwell, finding out that rancher Richard Evans was behind hiring this gang "for a big job, soon" and for arranging the jail-break. He doesn't know anything about the bank robbery or any details. He is arrested for harboring dangerous fugitives (Wolfman and Randy) and conspiracy.

Dr. Elder and Diego try to patch up Jim and Boy. Harvey suggests that Diego make a run for it, but he insists on being taken back to jail for his trial and probable hanging. The posse spends the night at the St. James Hotel.

Scene 5: Home Again (November 4, 1876, Rancho Matamoros, Hacksaw Crossing)

In the morning, the posse rides back to Hacksaw Crossing. Diego is locked back up, along side Slap Maxwell. The sheriff sends off some telegrams, looking into where the money came from for the Goslings (Law Office of Metzger-Wickersham in Phoenix) and the Costanzas (First National Bank of Tuscon). He also gets a warrant from Judge Drysdale to search the Triple Z ranch and arrest Richard Evans. Boy brings in the corpse of Randy Savage and is thus cleared of any suspicion of being one of the jail-breakers. Medium Timmy is nowhere to be found in town.