

Ranger's Command

Woody Guthrie



1. Come all of you cowboys all over this land,
I'll sing you the law of the Ranger's command.
2. To hold a six-shooter and never to run,
As long as there's bullets in both of your guns.
3. I met a fair maiden whose name I don't know,
I asked her to the round-up with me would she go.
4. She said she'd go with me to the cold round-up,
And drink that hard liquor from a cold bitter cup.
5. We started for the round-up in the fall of the year,
Expecting to get there with a herd of fat steer.
6. When the rustlers broke on us in the dead hour of night,
She rose from her warm bed a battle to fight.
7. She rose from her warm bed with a gun in each hand,
Saying, "Come all you cowboys and fight for your land".
8. Come all of you cowboys, and don't ever run,
As long as there's bullets in both of your guns.

"Ranger's Command" is a cowboy ballad known from the singing of Woody Guthrie. It is similar to but not the same as several songs collected by Vance Randolph in **Folk Songs of the Ozarks** where it is called "The Fair Lady of the Plains". It was recorded by Woody Guthrie, Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Jim Kweskin and Joan Baez. It was printed in **The Joan Baez Songbook** (1964).