

The Tenderfoot

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cows— was done; So when the round - up had be - gun I

tack - led the cat - tle king. — He said, "My fore - man's gone to town, He's

in a sa - loon, his name is Brown You just go see him, he'll

take you down." Says I, "That's just the thing." —

1. I thought, one morning just for fun,
I'd see how ropin' cows was done;
So when the roundup had begun
I tackled the cattle king.
He said, "My foreman's gone to town,
He's in a saloon, his name is Brown
You just go see him, he'll take you down."
Says I, "That's just the thing."
2. We went to the ranch the very next day,
Brown talked to me 'most all the way.
He said "Punchin' cows is nothin' but
play.
T'aint hardly no work at all."
He said, "There's nothing to do but ride
It's just like drifting with the tide."
That son of a bitch! Oh how he lied!
He had one hell of a gall.
3. Sometimes those cattle would make a break
And across the prairie they would take,
Just like they was running for a stake.
To them it was nothing but play.
Sometimes they would stumble and fall
Sometimes you couldn't head them at all
And we'd shoot on like a cannonball
Till the ground came in our way.
4. They saddled me up on an old gray hack
With a great big seat stuck on his back;
They padded him down with a gunny sack
And with my bedroll, too.
hen I got on him, he left the ground
Jumped up in the air, and circled around.
When I come down, I busted the ground,
I had a Hell of a fall!

5. They picked me up and carried me in,
And rubbed me down with a picket pin.
They says, "That's the way they all begin,"
"You're doin' fine", says Brown.
Tomorrow morning, if you don't die
We'll give you another horse to try."
"Say, mister, can't I walk?", says I
Says Brown, "Yep, back to town."
6. I've traveled up, I've traveled down,
I've traveled this wide world all around.
I've lived in city; I've lived in town;
And here's what I've got to say:
Before you try cowpunching, kiss your wife
Take a lot of insurance on your life
And cut your throat with a butcher knife.
It's easier that way.

"The Tenderfoot" is a cowboy song with words credited to D. J. O'Malley.

D. J. O'Malley was the last survivor of the more than 400 cowboys who attended the first-ever roundup at Miles City, in 1881. In the early 1880s, O'Malley, a boy of 14, had already become "a full-fledged cowboy" as he described himself.

O'Malley also wrote the lyrics to "When the Work's All Done This Fall".

It was recorded by Jim Kweskin on **Unjugged** (2018), Oscar Brand on **Pie in the Sky** and **Other Folk Song Satires** (1967) and

The Best of Oscar Brand (1975).