

(Lights up, GOLDSBY.)

GOLDSBY

(Reading handbill.)

Fort Concho, Texas, February 3, 1881. We, the soldiers of the U.S. Army do hereby warn the first and last time all citizens and cowboys, etc., of San Angelo and vicinity to recognize our right of way as just and peaceable men. If we do not receive justice and fair play, which we must have, someone will suffer--if not the guilty, the innocent. It has gone too far, justice or death. Signed U.S. Soldiers.

(Lights down, GOLDSBY, lights up, WARD.)

WARD

The warning was issued by white and colored troopers. White troopers had been attacked in town too. But not like the Buffalo soldiers. The towns hated them. Snipers would shoot at them when they rode through town. So when some Texas Rangers pistol whipped some soldiers. Then cut the chevrons off the sleeves of a Negro Sergeant. Goldsby took charge.

(Lights up, GOLDSBY and his men.)

GOLDSBY

Grierson asked for an apology but them Rangers wouldn't do it. In fact, they bragged on how they would come to the fort and whip the entire garrison.

MACE

Well, we warned them.

BROWN

We sure did.

GOLDSBY

If ya don't back up ya word, ya word don't mean squat.

BROWN

Sho' you right.