

Return to Silverado

-by Bill Watkins

Tagline:

They promised they'd be back...

Logline:

Emmett Jr rides with Pancho Villa's Northern Army. After distinguishing himself in Mexico, he returns to Silverado—only to realize a government agent needs him to go back... and kill Villa.

Synopsis:

EMMETT JR. (30s) commands a machine gun unit for PANCHO VILLA (30s), leads a charge to win a big battle at San Andres, Mexico to open; gets awarded a medal in the hospital by Villa himself after sustaining a gunshot wound to his side.

Villa blesses Emmett's return home to Silverado, New Mexico, and Emmett—after a short stay at the hospital, does just that, a glorious journey to glorious music, not unlike his dad's trip to open *Silverado* part one.

He returns home to his UNCLE JAKE's (60s) first, then makes his way to see his dad, EMMETT SR. (70s). After their reunion, Jr. sneaks out into the night when he learns a government agent wants him to head back to Mexico and *kill Villa*.

The sneaking around only delays the inevitable: a confrontation with ROBERT T. FOGERTY (50s), the government agent—scarred, ugly and mean.

Emmett Jr. two-steps around his engagement with Fogerty, finds time for a Bar-b-Que at Uncle Jake's where we meet Jake's daughters, wife, and an intriguing teacher named ELOISE (40s).

AUGIE (40s) from part one returns in this story as a middle-aged lawyer/former gunslinger. Emmett Jr., Augie, MAL JR. (30s, son of Mal from *Silverado* part one), and PHILLIP (20s, Jake's prodigal, flamboyant son) form the core four friends, all reunited in Turley on Emmett's way home from Mexico.

Augie meets Eloise at Jake's party, and sparks fly. Mal Jr. is like his dad, but he drinks too much—a problem begun when his daddy died, and he lost the family farm. Phillip's womanizing and other habits get him into trouble, but Augie's arguing keeps him from getting strung up by some locals in Turley...

Turley is no match for the Silverado gang, who escape trouble there to enjoy Jake's Bar-b-Que until Fogerty comes to jaw at Emmett Jr., and everyone knows their reunion will not last long.

Mal is caught drinking at the Midnight Star in Silverado by Fogerty, is asked to help "bring in" Emmett... Emmett Jr. concedes and agrees to Fogerty's plan, knowing that to fight Fogerty could mean treason, fighting one's own country.

Augie smells something wrong about Fogerty, steals off during the Bar-b-Que on horseback to catch an East-bound train for Washington DC and President Wilson. Nobody misses him too much at the party except for Eloise.

As Augie makes his way East, the action unfolds for Emmett to the south. The morning after the party, Emmett sets off with Fogerty, his two goons, and Mal who had been promised his old farm back if he helped the government with the "Villa problem." Later, cousin Phillip joins the team... They camp and travel, camp and travel—make their way to El Paso, then Juarez, Mexico.

Augie, meanwhile, meets an interesting British reporter covering the 1913 U.S. Open of golf to be played at Brookline, Massachusetts in a few days.

While stopping in Chicago, not only does Augie take in the river, the buildings, the sights—but the New York Giant baseball team, lounging about waiting for a train. He meets John McGraw the coach, notices pitcher Christy Mathewson, all-time great athlete, Jim Thorpe. Gets an autographed ball to take back to his cousins...

Emmett, Phillip, Mal, the two goons and Fogerty penetrate Mexico, getting by Federal guard posts and questions with Fogerty's smooth-talking and fancy badge. Mal apologizes to Emmett for helping Fogerty with this Villa plan, but Emmett forgives, knowing his friend Mal needed that farm to be happy.

On they go, Augie to Washington D.C., the other gang to find and "neutralize" Villa. Augie finds out how to visit the White House, meets with the President's Secretary, JOE TUMULTY (30s), and explains the problem of Fogerty, Villa and his cousins' forced involvement.

The PRESIDENT (50s) himself shows up to overhear the issue, realizes that Fogerty is falsifying himself, using the President's name to achieve personal gains, in this case trying to end Villa's threat to GENERAL HUERTA (60s).

It becomes clear that Fogerty works for Huerta, not President Wilson.

Joe Tumulty gives Augie instructions and two of his plain-clothes guards, wishes him well, and off Augie goes on another train... this one from Washington D.C. to El Paso, Texas. From there he and the two guards named Robertson and Hayes, hurriedly make for Villa's camp in Mexico to warn Emmett and the others about Fogerty.

Augie had telegraphed a note to family in Silverado, so they knew he was on a mission to help his cousins. Eloise inquires about Augie, leading to a discussion with Jake and Emmett Sr. about her moving out to her own place. And about teaching, the 1913 standards read by Jake aloud and ridiculed.

Eloise does move, to her own place in Silverado—despite playful protests by Jake, who has fatherly affection for her.

Finally the Silverado boys get down to San Andres, Chihuahua, and seek Villa. Fogerty orders one of his goons in with Emmett and friends while he stays back in hiding to oversee the assassination attempt. Before seeing Villa, they run into his tough henchman, RODOLFO FIERRO (30s). The first meeting goes well for everyone except one of Fogerty's goons, named Johnson.

Johnson twitches, panics, draws a gun to kill Villa and is gunned down by Fierro.

Now Villa trusts everyone since Johnson is gone (who Villa knew was U.S. military), and they all get about planning an attack and capture of Torreon.

As Augie hustles via train toward Mexico, he learns that American 20-year old Francis Ouimet beat the favored British golfers to win the 18th U.S. Open of golf. Good news, and more satisfying because the British reporter he had met on the West-bound train had given the Americans no chance over his countrymen, Vardon and Ray.

The St. Louis Browns baseball team parades through Augie's journey as well, but this time he's too busy to chat with them.

When Augie arrives in El Paso, he and the two guards ride quickly south through Juarez down to San Andres—hoping to catch Villa in Torreon.

In Torreon, Villa wins a swift 3-day victory with his 8000 versus 3000 Federal troops. After the battle, Fogerty's patience is at an end. He had been hiding out and spying, counting on Emmett to do the dirty work of hitting Villa with "friendly fire" during battle. Emmett had failed in this, so Fogerty takes it upon himself. Strapped to Emmett's horse and made to look like a prisoner, Fogerty gets close to Villa... Draws his weapon yelling out curses against Villa, only to get smoked by first Emmett, then of course Rodolfo Fierro. As the dead body is taken away, Mal realizes his farm dreams are over, but he's okay with Silverado as a home.

And the last of Fogerty's goons, named Pee-Wee, runs away...

Villa and army (including our heroes plus EMIL LEWIS HOLMDAHL, 30, an American machine-gunner from Iowa) head north to Chihuahua to fight an old Villa nemesis named PASCUAL

OROZCO (30s), soon after their victory at Torreon and Fogerty's death. They use the trains Villa won in battle at San Andres, including a hospital car.

As the army rushes by, Augie and the two presidential guards are heading the opposite way, called at by Phillip. Augie rides to the moving train, hears from Phillip that they are heading to Chihuahua City, and abruptly turns his party around to meet there.

The cousins reunite at the hospital car outside Chihuahua, where Phillip is being treated for a leg wound. The battles are tough there, and Villa is unsuccessful in fighting Orozco. So he devises a plan pretending to be *Federales*, heads up to Juarez with half his army and takes it.

All the while leaving a skeleton force at Chihuahua City led by his right hand, Rodolfo Fierro.

The gambit works, read about in a New Mexico newspaper by Jake. Jake and Emmett Sr. had put on their gear, revved up their aging engines to join the fight and protect their boys—but their wives put an end to the madness by dousing them with buckets of water, ordering them back inside the house to help with supper.

Home sweet home, the fighting men head back to Silverado having *helped* Villa instead of killing him. They are tired and asleep, the autographed ball rolling around for a conductor to replace in Augie's bag for safekeeping.

A big party is ordered up again at Jake's house, the boys put on their charm, Phillip limping around in crutches after all the ladies, an ongoing joke about a girl named Charlotte who he calls Nancy brimming.

Augie does not find Eloise, she a thought warming him across a cold train ride East... until Jake and his wife, Bev, give him a nudge... *and* the new address of the schoolteacher.

For that address he rides, parks, combs and recombs his hair. Eloise. Safety. Love... under a Silverado sunset.

Statement/Moral:

Friendship and loyalty trump almost everything... but love.

—Bill Watkins, Writer
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