

Reining in the Herd

You and your band have played old-time music for the past 30 years. but the touring has started to wear on you, and you've decided that the upcoming concert will be your last. How can you make this sendoff special for yourselves and your audience? You have an idea. All of your concerts close with a rendition of Home on the Range... what if for this last concert you brought on stage an actual herd of buffalo? You act quickly on your idea, renting ten buffalo from a local farm, but you see a problem. You're going to be on stage throughout the concert, leaving no one to mind the buffalo. They might wander off, or worse. The farmer told you that the way to handle this is to ply the buffalo with an ample amount of the local brew. That will keep them docile throughout the concert. It's now a half hour before you go on stage. You have the buffalo backstage, along with many bottles of beer. Then disaster! You pour beer into dishes, but the buffalo aren't interested. You try emptying a bottle into a buffalo's mouth, but it isn't having any. In desperation, you shake a bottle of beer and insert it's fizzy end up the butt of one of the buffalos. This comes at a significant cost -- as much liquid ends up on you as inside the buffalo, but it seems to work. You quickly repeat the process on the rest, just in time to join your band, wet and smelly. Two hours later, with the concert about to end, you step forward and speak to your audience, "Before our *last* last song, I have a little surprise..." You lead in the buffalo, and the crowd goes wild! Success! You paid for it dearly, but in the end, a herd in the band is worth brew in the tush.

