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tongue at Marvin. Palance bangs Marvin's back and range dust fills the room.

At the end of the film, Marvin is hunting down his friend Shorty with a gun. They are in a slaughter house, and Marvin cannot see him. Both men's guns are drawn. Instead of moving into the opening in front of him, Marvin slides an oil lamp as distraction on a wire, referring back to the tobacco can and their earlier friendship. Shorty hesitates and

cannot shoot.

It is an incidental moment, but a rich one, visually expressed.

There is an incredible respect for life in the film, and so it is easy to care about these people as the good times don't come.

Marvin is a cowboy when cowboys aren't needed, when the range is being fenced in, receipts are being cashed, his best friend married off and later killed by Shorty the bronco buster they both worked with and liked.

Shorty couldn't tame one grey horse. Marvin joked and said he'd do it himself. Then Shorty is laid off by order of faceless Eastern Consolidated, shoots a deputy marshal by mistake and starts rustling cattle for money to live.

The grey is sold to a wild west show and Shorty is in flight. Marvin mounts the horse. Palance is married and Marvin needs a steady job to marry Jean Moreau, to settle into a different kind of life.

His riding down the grey becomes an act of flexing muscles going dead. It is an exertion-assertion and as the horse bucks and batters Marvin, together they utterly destroy three-quarters of a used up cowboy town.

Marvin breaks the horse, but the act is of interest only to the owner of the wild west show — a rodent nosed little man who offers Marvin a steady job performing if he'll take the name of a silver and fringe

western hero run over by a street car in St. Louis.

But Marvin can't do it. "I ain't spittin' on my whole life."

Monte Walsh's struggle is to find a way to live his changing life true to the mechanism of his body and his mind. He isn't courting abstract notions of honor or pride. He simply is a cowboy.

I like horses, one man says, with steely eyes like fighting Joe's staring off across the range land to the sky.

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