

(excerpt from) WOLF TREE

a teleplay by

Chad Callaghan

HARD IN:

EXT. RURAL UTAH (1952) - NIGHT - ANGLE - WOLF TREE

TITLE CARD APPEARS:

"WOLF TREE"

We PAN OVER to INCLUDE the *mid-twentieth-century'est* of campsites.

A fire dances to, adds to, the atmospheric air.

Several CHILDREN gather around ABBY, a grandmotherly figure through and through.

TITLE CARD APPEARS:

"1952"

Abby spins a doozy...

ABBY

A hundred years might seem a long
chalk in
(points to each, in turn)
your wide eyes, but you have to -
at least for the 'preciaton of this
story - view time as the winding
river does... or as measured by the
canyon... or from the vantage of
the towering...

GEORGE HALLY (eleven, pudgy) interrupts her.

GEORGE

...Wolf Tree??

ABBY

Ah. Yes. Certainly from its
(glances O.S.)
vantage, Young Professor George
Hally.

The kids SNICKER.

ABBY (CONT'D)

Why, my own mother was your very
age a hundred short years ago. She
played her part in the great
opening-up of the West... well,
"played" really ain't the right
word. She "busted" her... part.

More SNICKERS.

ABBY (CONT'D)

You see, pioneering is hard. Hard on backs, hard on wills, hard on souls. And sometimes, as it was with our storied Wolf Tree, decisions had to be made. Decisions that plow right over mere "hard"...

ANIMATED SEQUENCE (1852)

Highly stylized. Somewhat choppy.

Wagon trains a rollin', cold winds a blowin'.

ABBY (V.O.)

Our Ute and Navajo friends were, at that spot along our shared path, in full blown there-goes-the-neighborhood mindset... But then, their tribal war parties t'were only one piece of our trouble pie. There were impending elements brought on by unforeseen delays. There were lags in supplies... And there were other *hostiles* to contend with...

DISSOLVE TO:

The lead wagon "WHOA"s to a HALT. A lone PIONEER WOMAN disembarks, walks toward the Wolf Tree carrying what can only be a BUNDLED BABY.

The Woman whispers something through tears into the bundle...