The story was told of the cattleman who rode to town when the Depression was getting underway and learned that cattle prices had sunk to $3 a hundredweight. The next day he came in again to check, and the price was down to $2.50. The third day he rode in again to inquire, and the price had plunged another fifty cents. Well, one thing about it, he said, this can only go on for another four days.

There was little to joke about in the human cost of that collapse of cattle ranching.
From Ann Ragen Snider:

—Another caffeine buyer who sometimes called on her father was a stutterer. She said it was agonizing to hear him ask, I-i-i-sss B-b-b-bill here?, only to have to answer No, but it seemed impolite to butt in. She said the story is told that this buyer once began an offer of I-I-I'll g-g-give y-y-you f-f-fifteen...and the seller declared, Sold.

—She said her father was famously silent, at least within the family. The Ragens are related to Doggetts and Bob Lyng, so once when her father was going out there, he surprised her mother by inviting her along "for the company." Ann says her mother deliberately kept still to see what would happen, and all the 44 miles Townsend-WSS and the 20+ to Ft. Logan beyond, Bill Ragen said not a word until arrival, when he announced, Well, here we are.
o'heard at 3 Crabs, Aug. '81: guy comes into Butte bar, bets bartender he can identify any drink served him. Bartender tries him: he identifies 4 Roses, so on thru a boggling variety of booze. Bartender then offers double or nothing bet, says he's got something in back room, goes back, pisses in a glass. The guy tastes, splutters, "You SOB, that's piss!" The bartender: "Yeah, but whose?"
Glen Smith

reel 2, p. 10—complained to barber, (during dust storm), "My God, what a country."

Barber: "What's the matter with it? It's the easiest country in the world to get acquainted with. It goes through town one day and comes back the next."
Glen Smith

reel 1, p. 28--tells of old woman saying, "The boys are so good to me, especially Johnny (50 some yrs old). He brings the cow right up here by the door so I can milk."
a Hazel Bonnet story, told by Wayne and Genise during our May '80 visit: Hazel had a sister, evidently not so smart as herself and with whom she warred much. Once in a dispute over a swing, Hazel stepped back, spit on herself—down her front, I suppose—and went wailing to the house about her sister having done it, bringing down parental wrath on the sister.
Legman - The Horn Book

p. 411 - "I've seen it, I've seen it,
I've been in between it..."

p. 345 - "Our bread was tough as any came,
of our meat was as salt as Lot's wife's ass..."

Graceland

Rational 1 Dirty Jake
My brother is Sancho.
He try with a banjo
To coax Lucy to woo.
But she tell him, no luck,
The price is another buck,
A banjo can't turn a screw.
My foreman's a (cabaya)  
He's all playa

Her sister instead

My mother is Sancho  
By chance

He plays banjo  
To coax Lucy to woo

Lucy say, No sir (sorry)

I won't do

Until you do

Costs a dollar to screw

But Lucy say no luck
She takes his buck

day
A Scotchman and a Chinaman were in a rowboat in the Sea of Galilee.
The Chinaman says, "Is it true what they say about Occidental women?"
The Scotchman says, "Occidental, hell, I'm sure they behave that way on purpose."
Lit Digest, Jan. 4, 1919-- Hugh Hughes, yew-hewer, joke.
Last House

--incident of nosy onlooker picking up hot horseshoe (or other piece of metal), dropping it: blacksmith (or whoever) says, "I'll say one thing for you, O0, it don't take you long to look at a horseshoe."
adapt Alan Comp's story of auctioneer: when his helper plugged in an appliance to demonstrate it and was at once frazzled with electrical shock, the auc'r never missed a beat; "carries current, yessir, carries current!" (Make it auc'r praising an unbroken horse for "spirit"?)

-- Joe Leahy's auc'r story: whether it was a bar of soap or whatever, the auc'r would praise it with: "works all the way!"
Holgeren
59- farmer let friend stash 6 cases of whiskey at his place, prid. lids & took bottle from each, so friend won't find any case lighter than others.
shorter version: REGRET TO SAY SALE OF YOUR LAMBS YESTERDAY ENOUGH
ONLY
ENOUGH TO PAY HALF YOUR SHIPPING COSTS, and telegraphed back DO NOT
WORRY, AM SENDING TWICE AS MANY LAMBS TODAY.
5 hoastings

- joke: polar bear comes to take a pea, is stuck in ice hole...
From Pat Ragen:

--Sometime in the Dep'n, cattle prices had sunk to $3 a hundredweight. Then came a day they lost 50¢ more, to $2.50. Next day, another 50¢. Someone said: "Well, one thing, this can only go on for another four days."

--Pat recently went on a 10-day pack trip thru Absarokas; one of the others was a gabby ex-Navy man. To try shut him up, Pat told story of doctor's—rather, undertaker's dilemma of how to bury colossally fat former Navy guy. Called an older undertaker in the next town, was advised: give him an enema and bury him in a matchbox.

--Pat worked near Miles City as a kid, and once when driving thru with his family decided to show the kids some art he remembered in a bar. He walked in, forgetting he was in yellow shorts and sunglasses. Bartender wolf-whistled, called to the barflies: will you look at the knees on this one?

--Told of the time he flew over the Townsend valley in a 747, pilot said that Canyon Ferry Lake was visible on one side, Pat went to the other to look down on Townsend, found he could only see Toston or some such instead; so his def'n of a small town is that it's less than width of 747 floor.