

The Old Colts



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Authorg Note
>I met Walter Winchell one fine afternoon in October of 1970. I was introduced to him by a barber while having my hair styled at the O.K. Tonsorial Corral in Scottsdale Arizona. We chatted. That I was a novelist interested him in general that my subjects had sometimes been shoot-em-up in particular. His shave and manicure completed WincheU donned a snap-brim hat of black straw waited and when my barber concluded his ministrations invited me to his home for a drink--a chance at which I jumped. (I had lived in Scottsdale eleven years. The ex-big-name-columnist-broadcaster had long maintained a residence in "The West s Most Western Town" for his wife whose respiratory problems were alleviated by the arid climate and he lived alone there now in retirement.) I

followed him in my car to his home. We had a drink.
(He wore a shroud-colored cashmere jacket with black
pocket squarei¼Œ white shirti¼Œ black four-in-handi¼Œ black
shantung slacksi¼Œ slip-on shoes of black alligatori¼Œ and did
not remove his black hat--the rig was as funereal as the
atmosphere of the house.) At seventy-twoi¼Œ Winchell was
but the casing of the bullet he once had been. His wife
had passed away the preceding year. His son had sui-
cided the Christmas before that. His relationship with
his daughter was cat-and-dog~ Canceri¼Œ and a broken hearti¼Œ

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