

DELL
COMIC

NO. 575

10c

Annie Oakley

and Tagg





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Annie Oakley



in frame for
a Tenderfoot

ANNIE! WE'D
BETTER HEAD FOR HOME!
IT SOUNDS LIKE RAIN!

RUMBLE!

THAT'S NOT THUNDER, TAGG!
IT'S CATTLE!

ARE YOU
SURE?

COME ON! I'LL PROVE
I'M RIGHT!

YOU USUALLY
ARE! BUT IT
SURE SOUNDS
LIKE THUNDER!

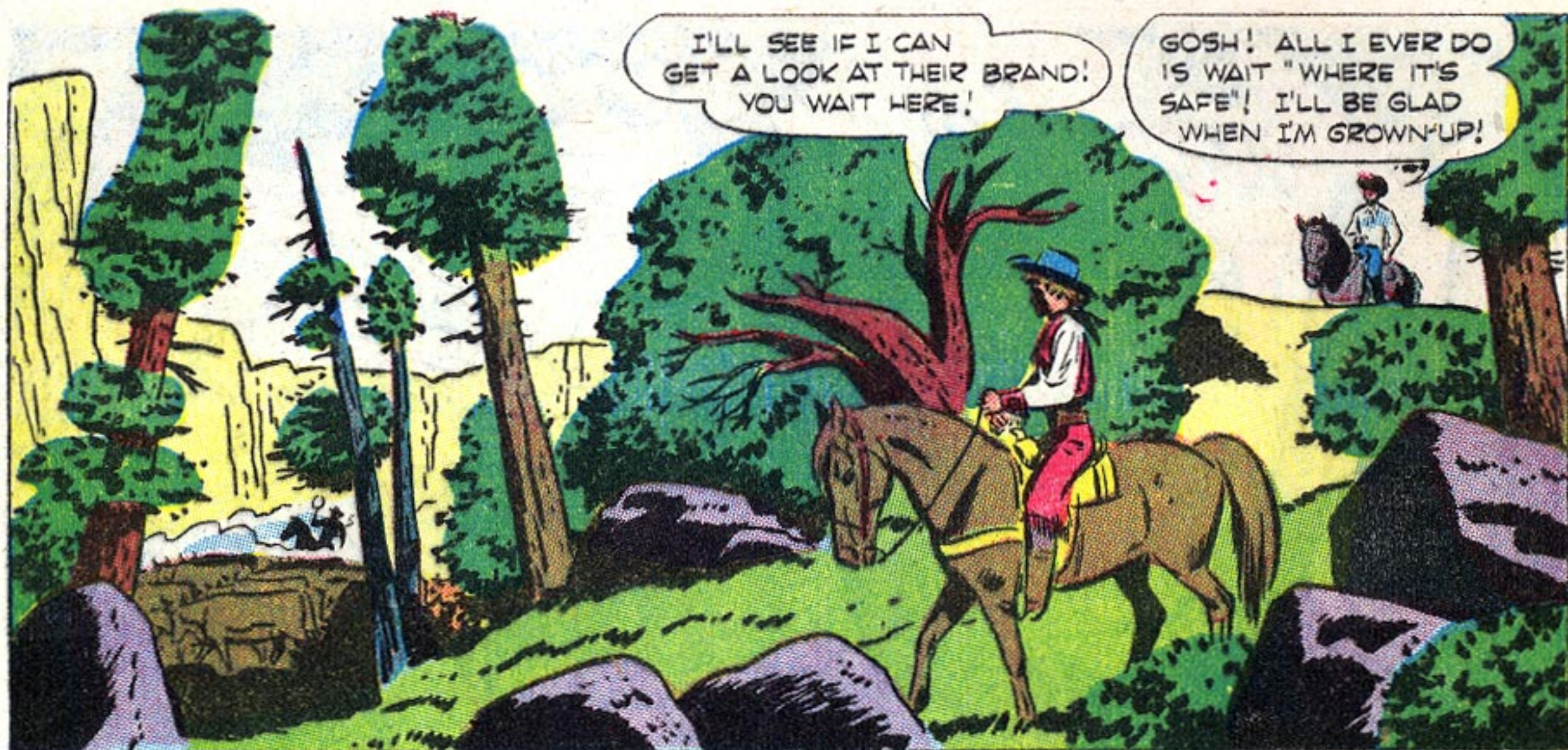
RUMBLE!

GOSH! THAT'S
A PLENTY
BIG HERD!

AND THAT'S
A PLENTY STRANGE
PLACE TO BE
DRIVING THEM!

IT'S OPEN RANGE, ANNIE! ANYBODY'S
GOT A RIGHT TO USE IT!

GRANTED! BUT THAT'S
A BOX CANYON! ...
TAGG, THOSE COULD
BE RUSTLED STEERS!



I'LL SEE IF I CAN
GET A LOOK AT THEIR BRAND!
YOU WAIT HERE!

GOSH! ALL I EVER DO
IS WAIT "WHERE IT'S
SAFE"! I'LL BE GLAD
WHEN I'M GROWN-UP!

ANNIE GETS FAIRLY CLOSE WITHOUT BEING SEEN...



A MEXICAN
BRAND!



I'LL BET ANYTHING THAT HERD
ISN'T THIS FAR FROM
HOME RANGE... **LEGALLY!**

A MOMENT OR SO LATER...

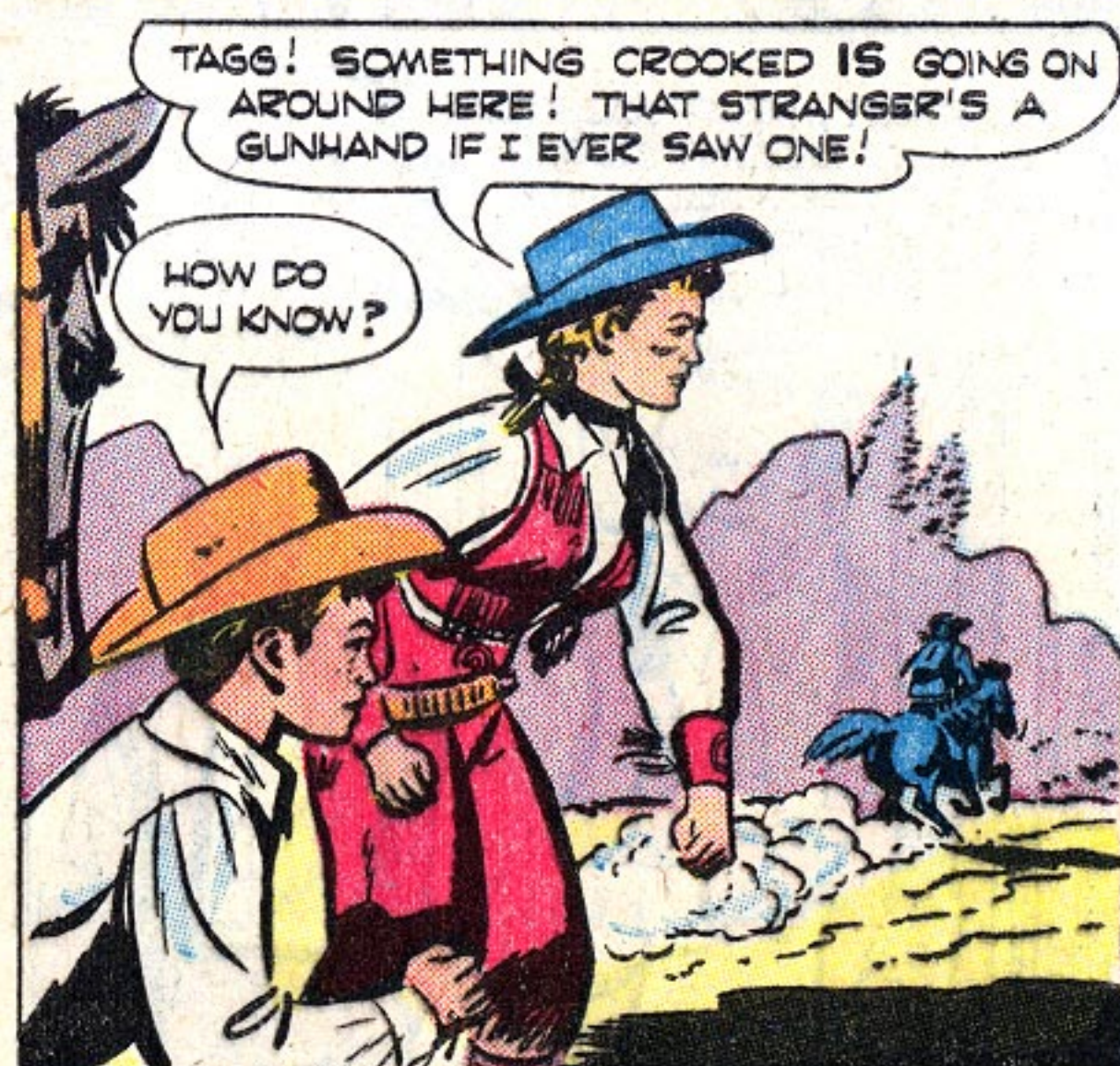
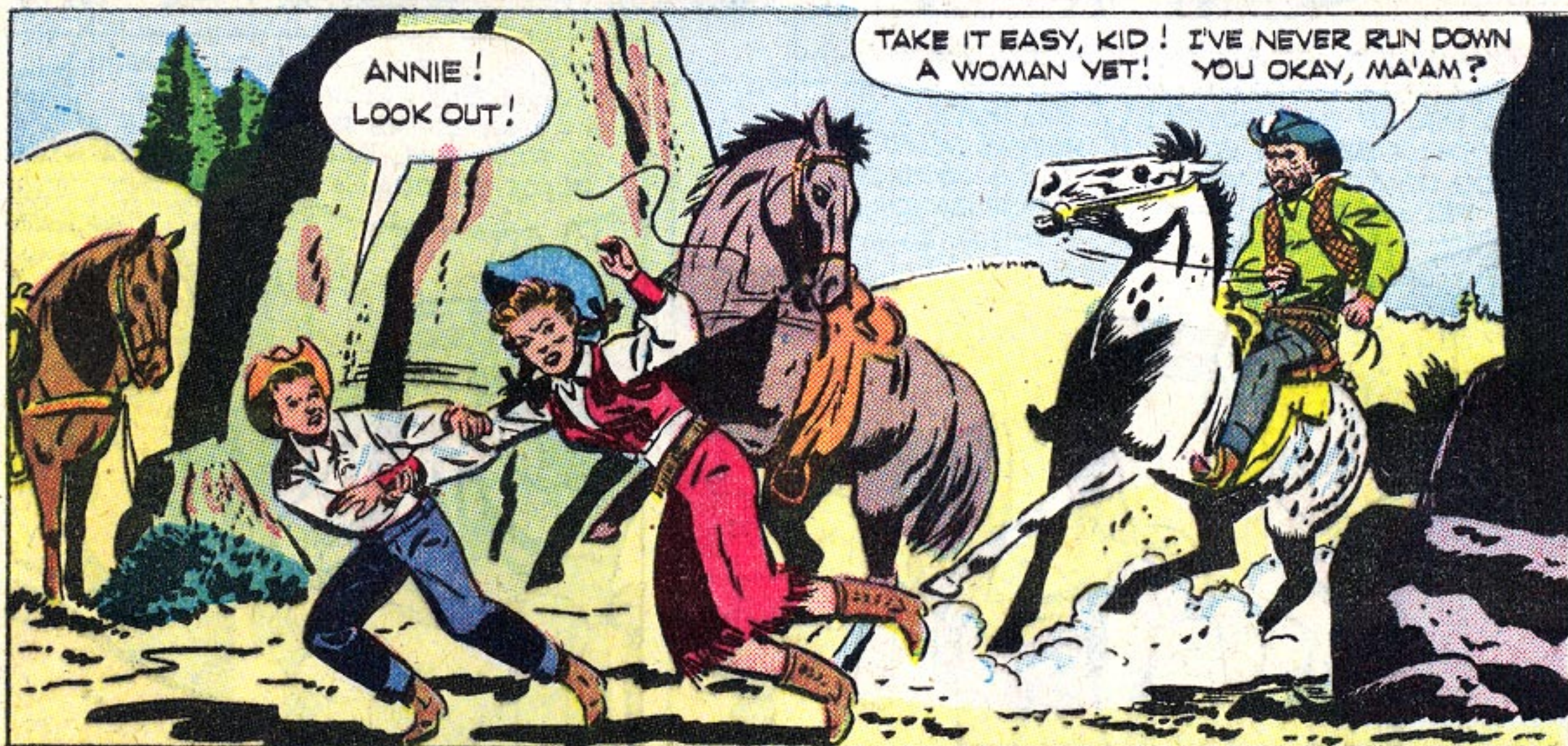
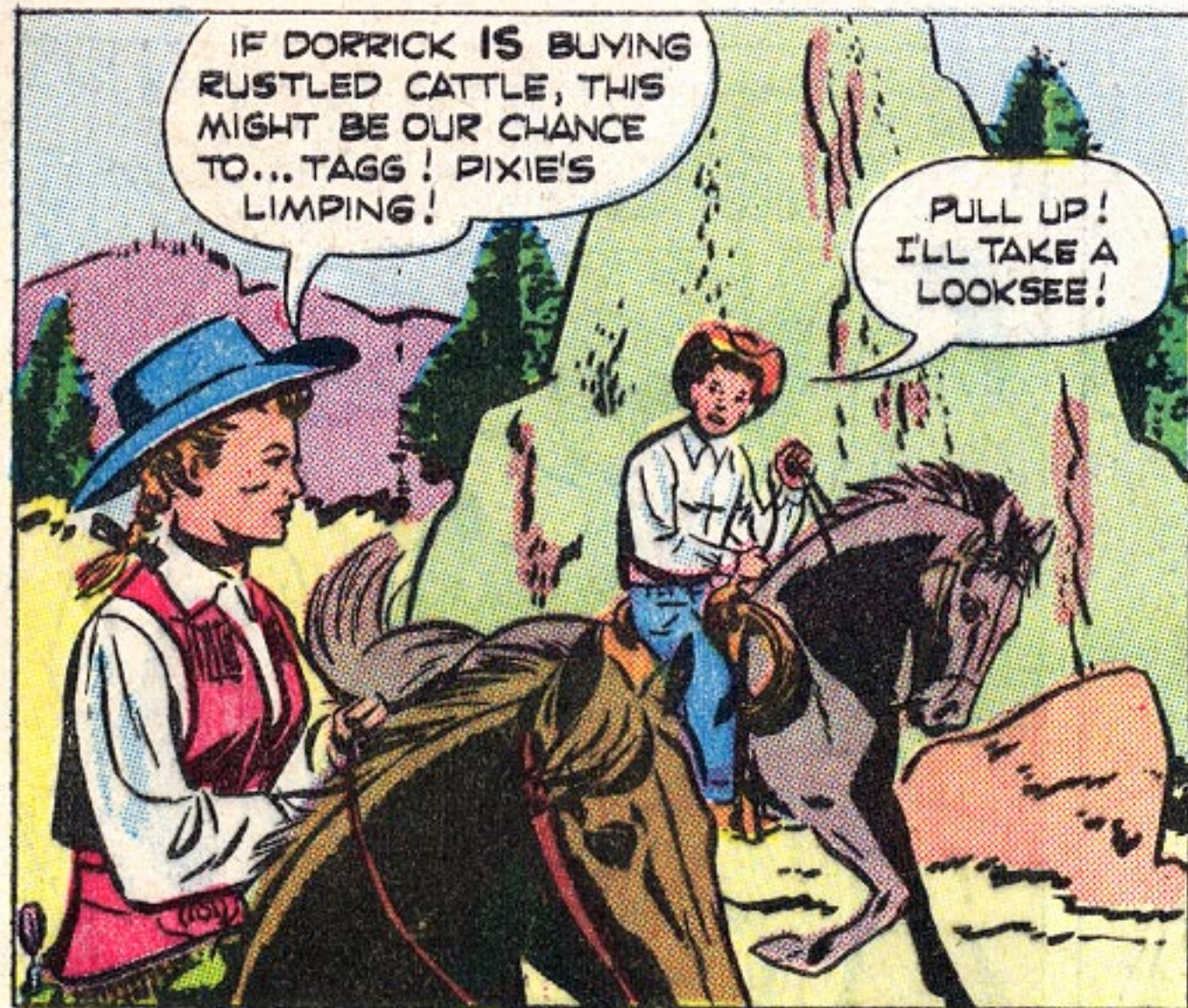


AW, SIS! DON'T BE
SO SUSPICIOUS!
SOMEBODY MIGHT
HAVE **BOUGHT 'EM!**

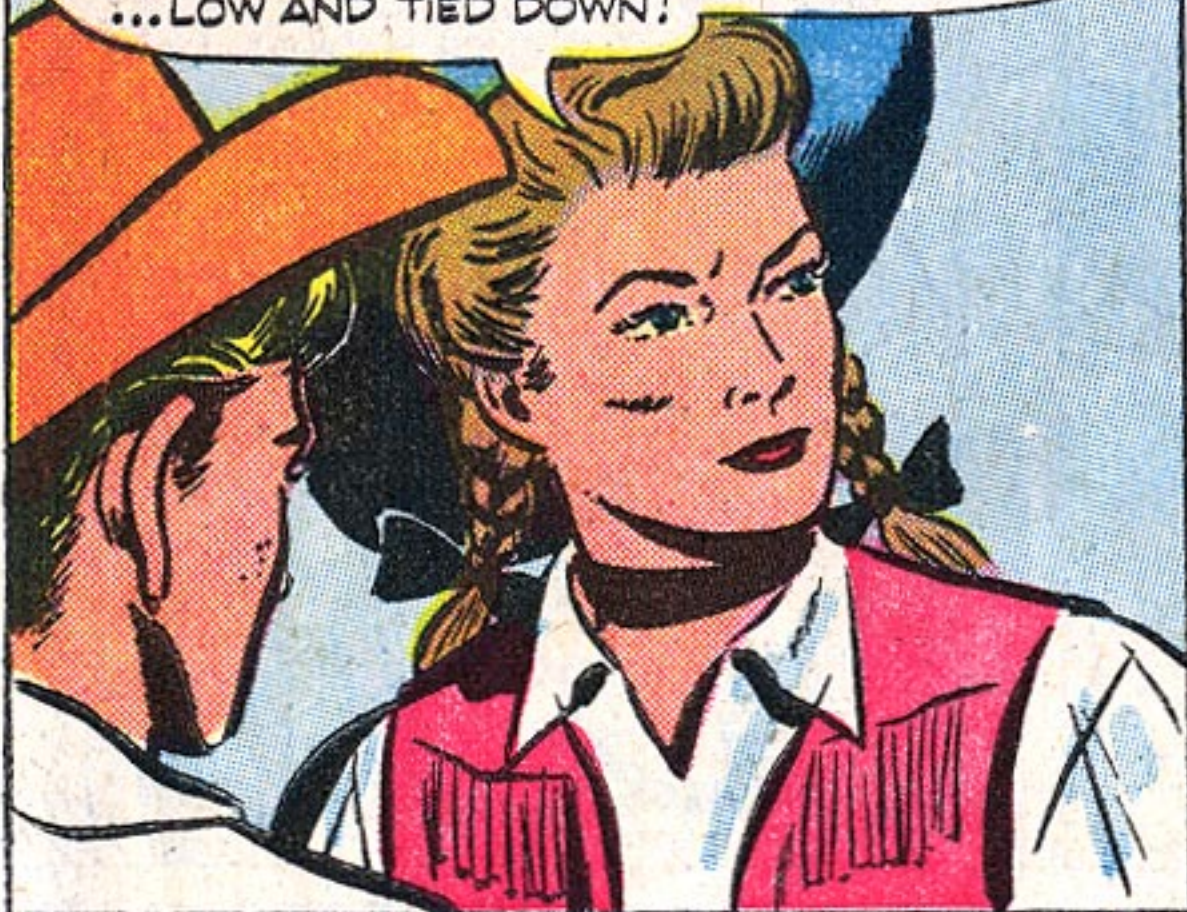
NOBODY AROUND HERE
HAS THAT KIND OF MONEY
...EXCEPT **BRAD DORRICK!**



AND I HAVE A HUNCH HE WOULDN'T **BUY**
A HERD THAT SIZE! FOLKS SUSPECT
HIM OF BEING A LONG ROPER! BUT
NOBODY'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO GET
PROOF!

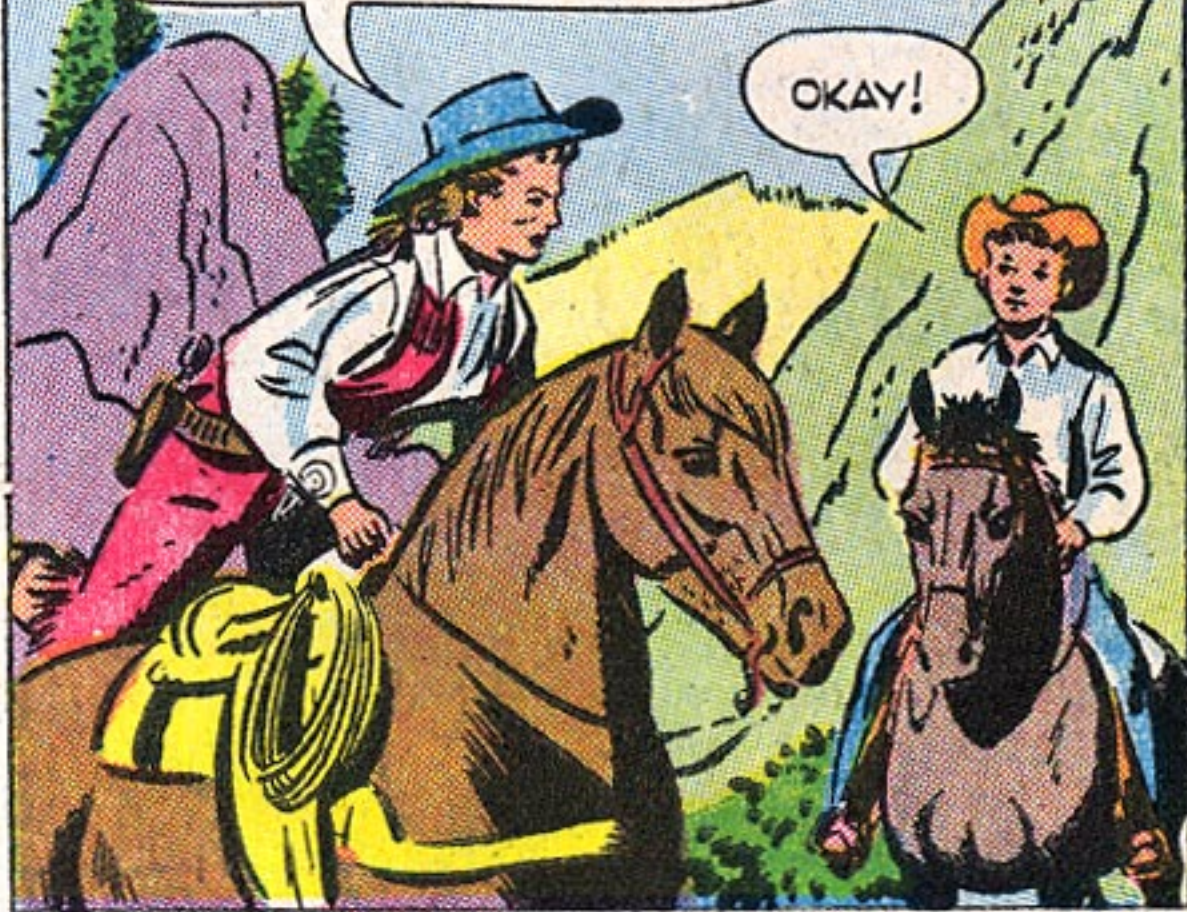


AN ON-THE-LEVEL COW-POKE WOULD HAVE **ONE SIX-SHOOTER**, PLUS A WINCHESTER IN HIS SADDLE-BOOT! THAT HOMBRE HAS NO RIFLE! AND HE'S WEARING **TWO GUNS** ...LOW AND TIED DOWN!



I'LL GO BACK AND KEEP AN EYE ON THOSE CATTLE IN CASE THEY'RE MOVED! YOU RIDE TO TOWN AND TELL LOFTY TO COME OUT HERE PRONTO!

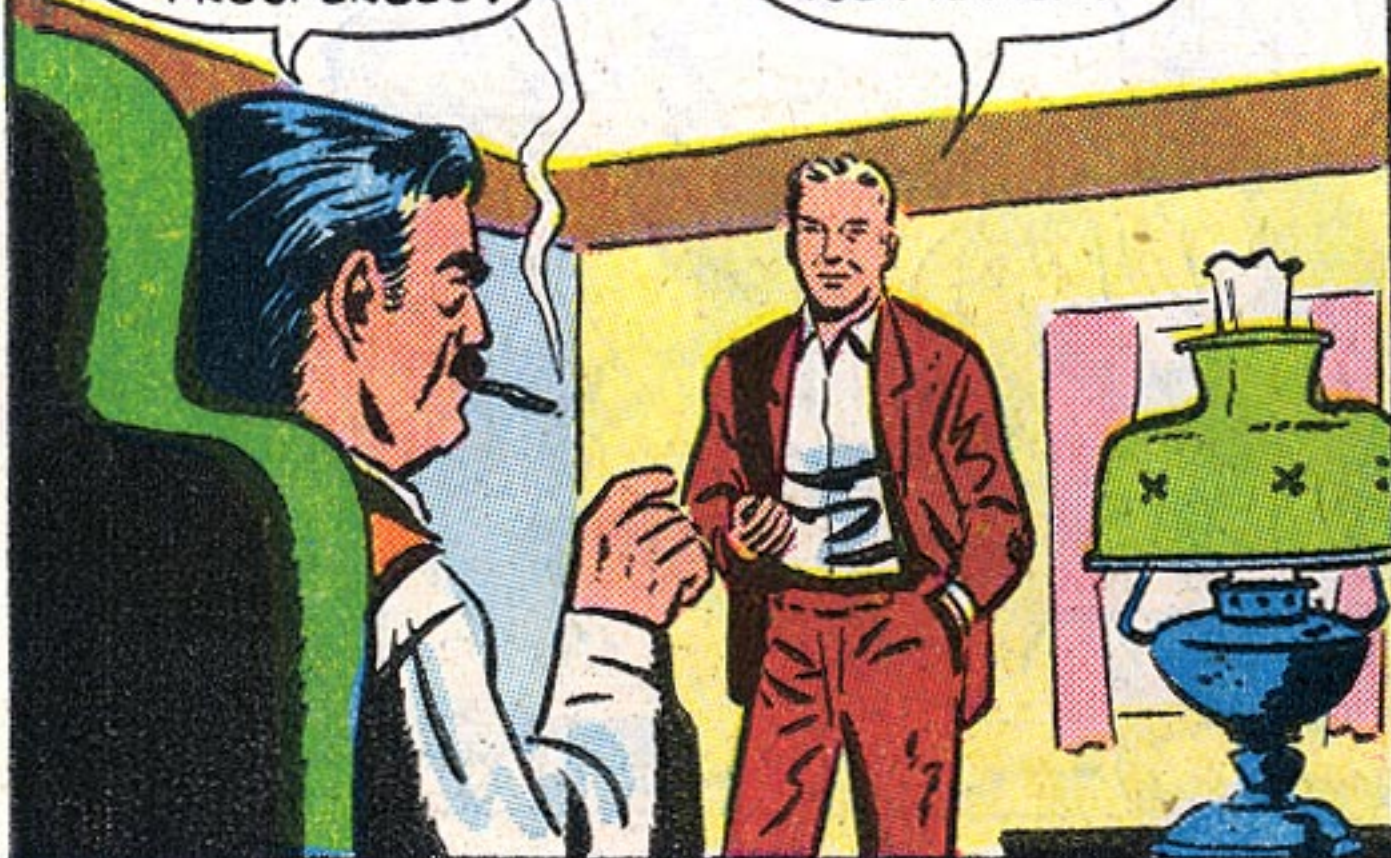
OKAY!



MEANWHILE, AT BRAD DORRICK'S RANCH...

SO YOU'RE SAM BOYER! MY DEAD SISTER'S SON! YOU DON'T LOOK VERY PROSPEROUS!

I'M NOT! I WAS HOPING YOU'D GIVE ME A JOB HERE ON YOUR RANCH!

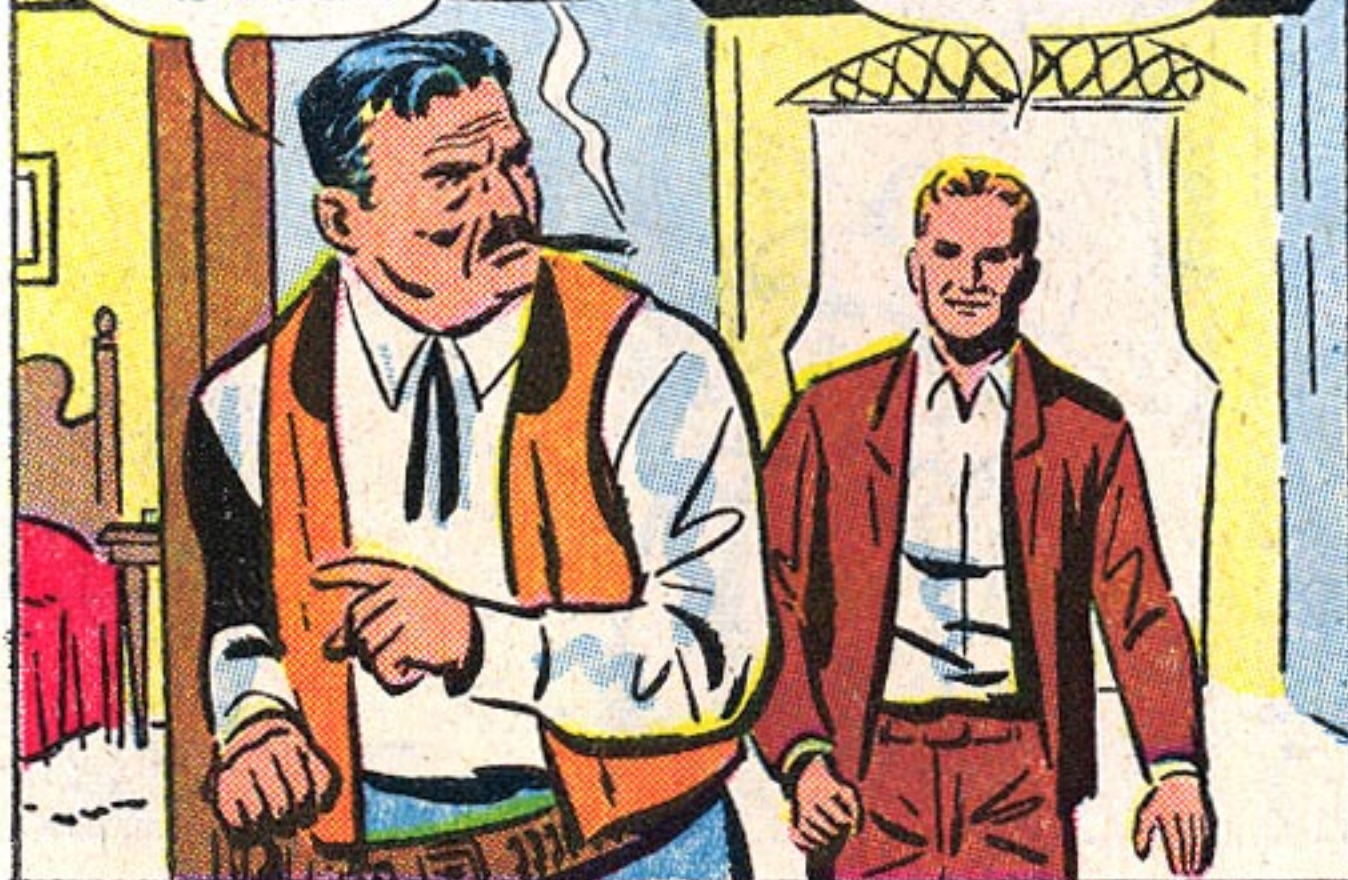


WHMM... RECKON I SHOULD KEEP YOU AROUND, SEEING AS YOU'RE MY ONLY LIVING RELATIVE! AND, AS SUCH, WILL INHERIT THE PLACE SOMEDAY!



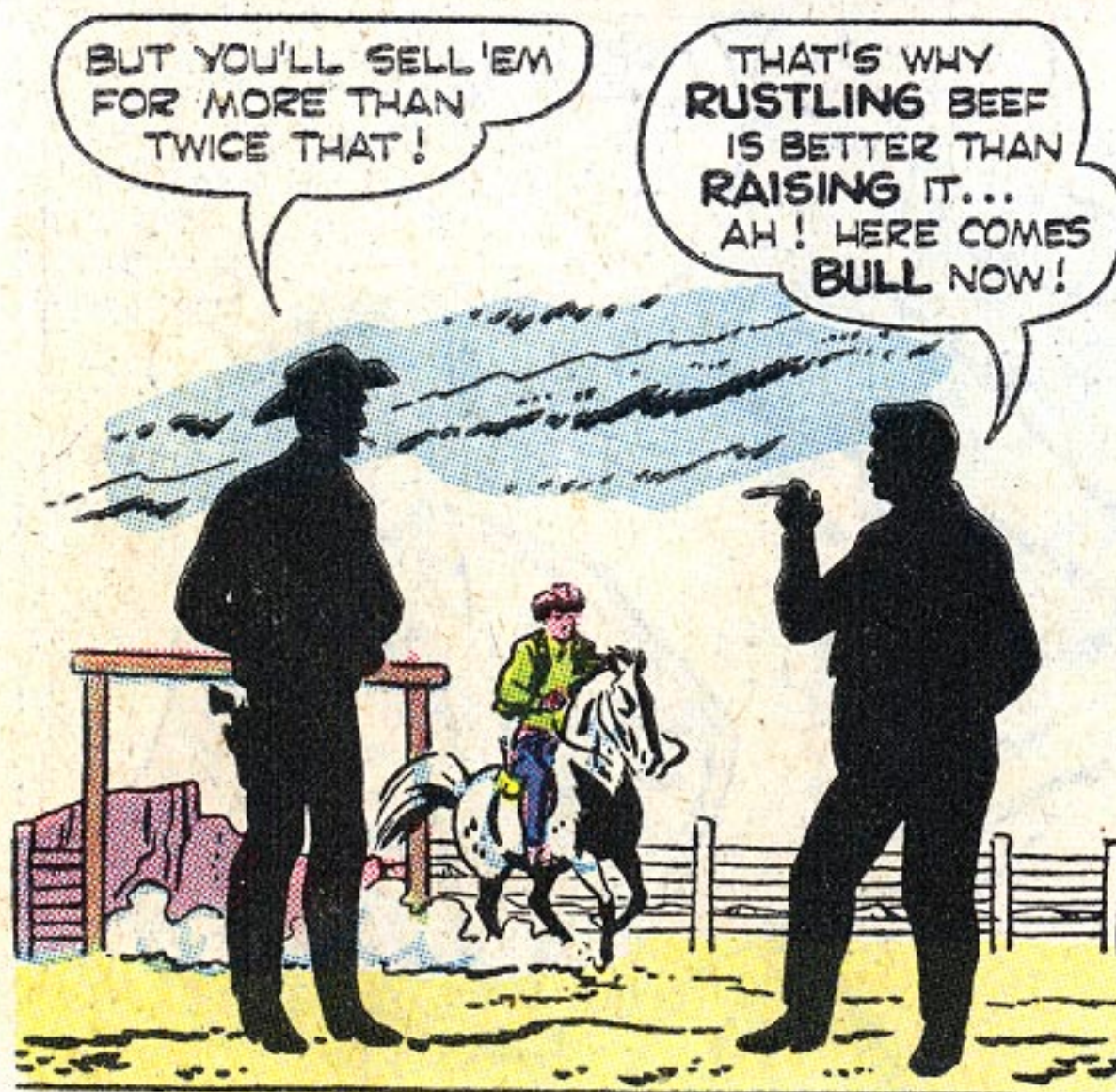
BUT FIRST, HELP YOURSELF TO SOME DECENT DUDS! I DON'T WANT FOLKS TO SEE MY NEPHEW LOOKING LIKE A BUM!

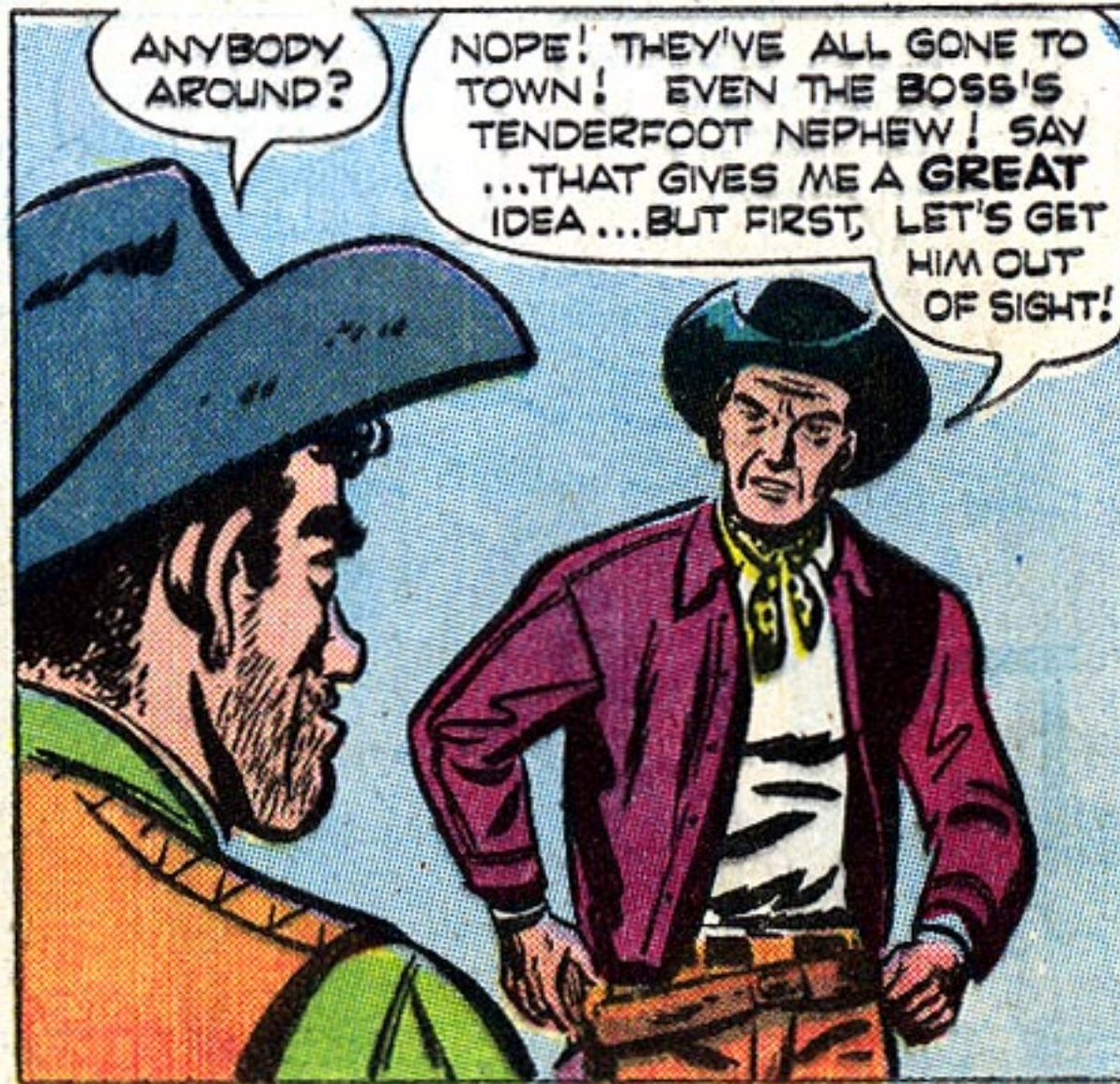
THANKS, UNCLE BRAD! I'LL PAY YOU FOR THEM OUT OF MY FIRST CHECK!



SO THE BOY'S HONEST! RECKON I'D BETTER GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY TILL BULL DELIVERS THOSE MEXICAN STEERS!



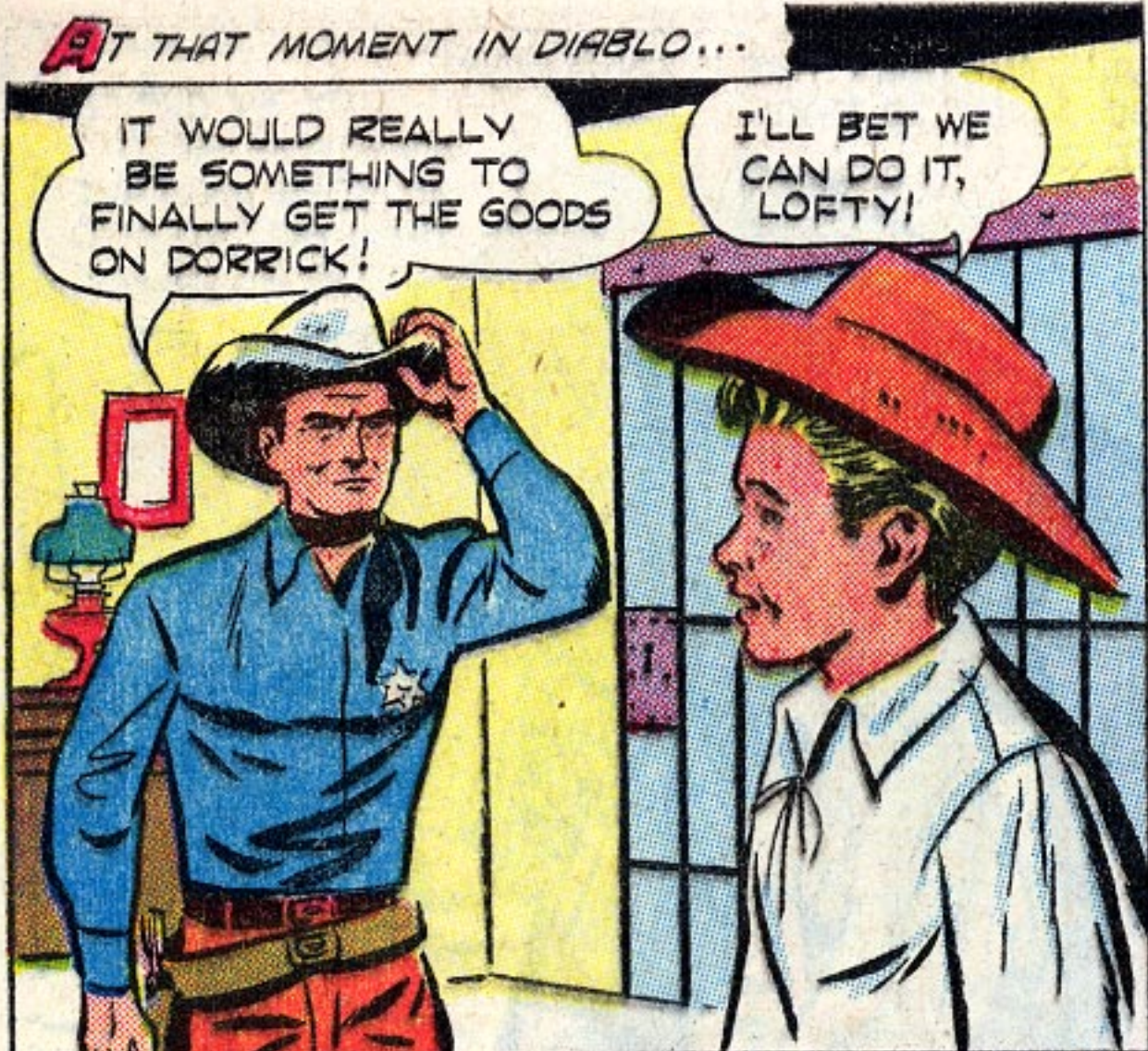




AT THAT MOMENT IN DIABLO...

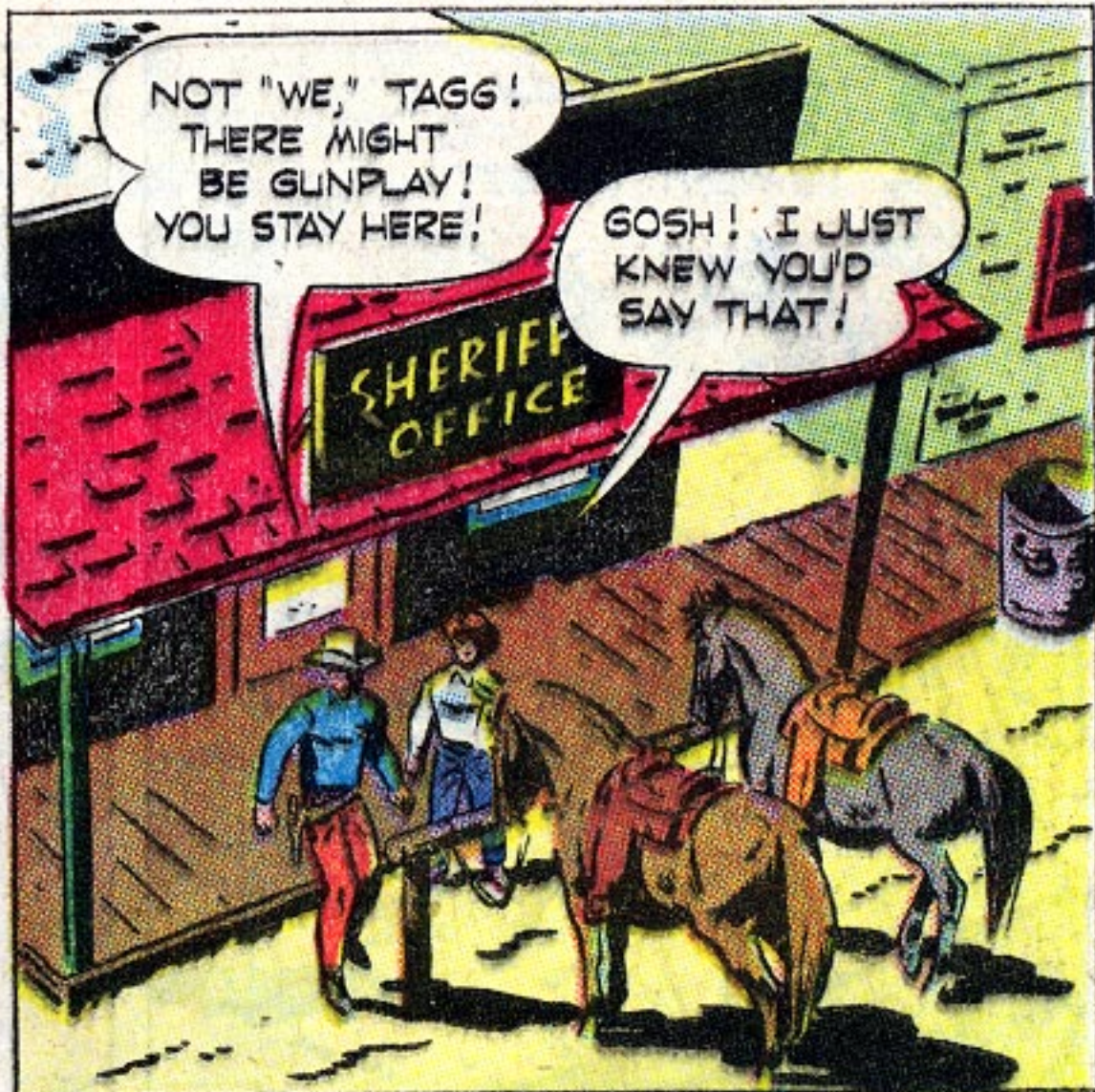
IT WOULD REALLY BE SOMETHING TO FINALLY GET THE GOODS ON DORRICK!

I'LL BET WE CAN DO IT, LOFTY!

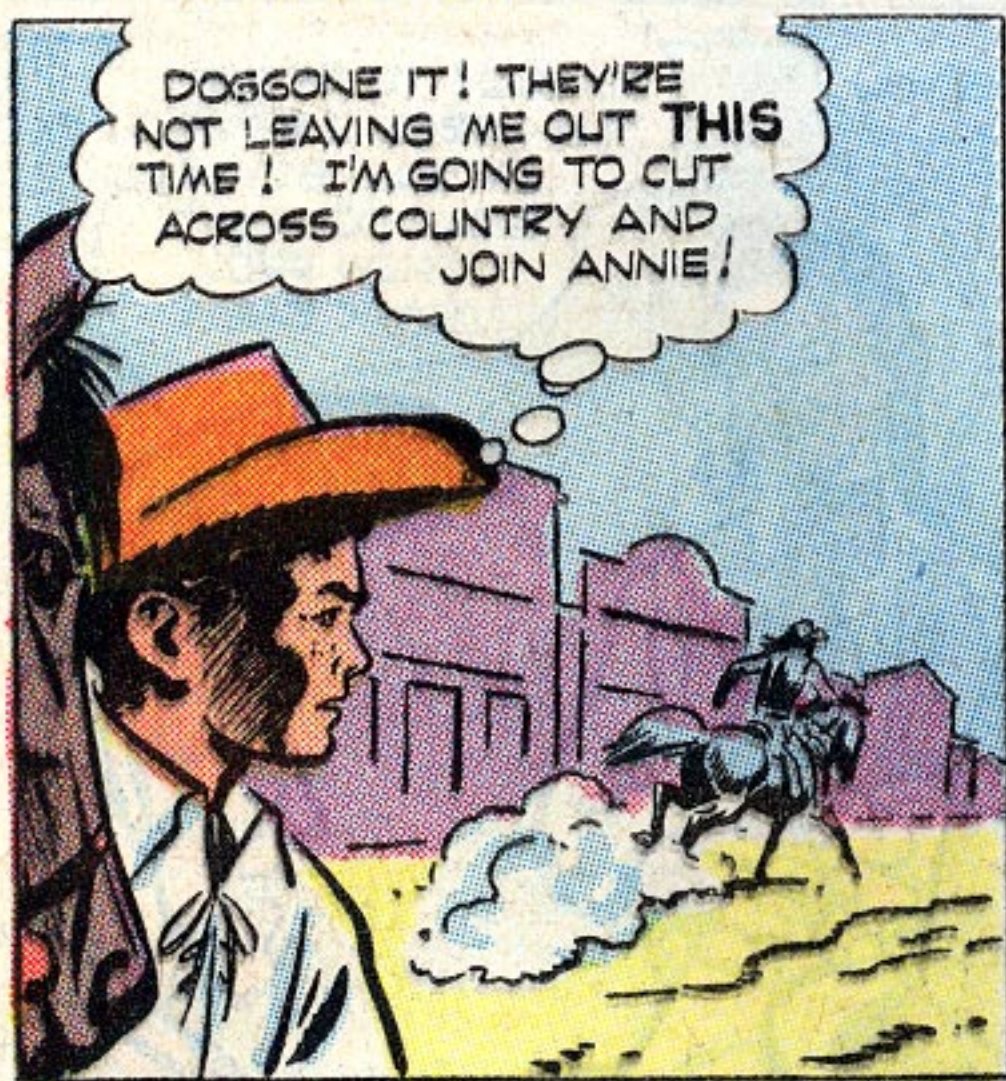


NOT "WE," TAGG! THERE MIGHT BE GUNPLAY! YOU STAY HERE!

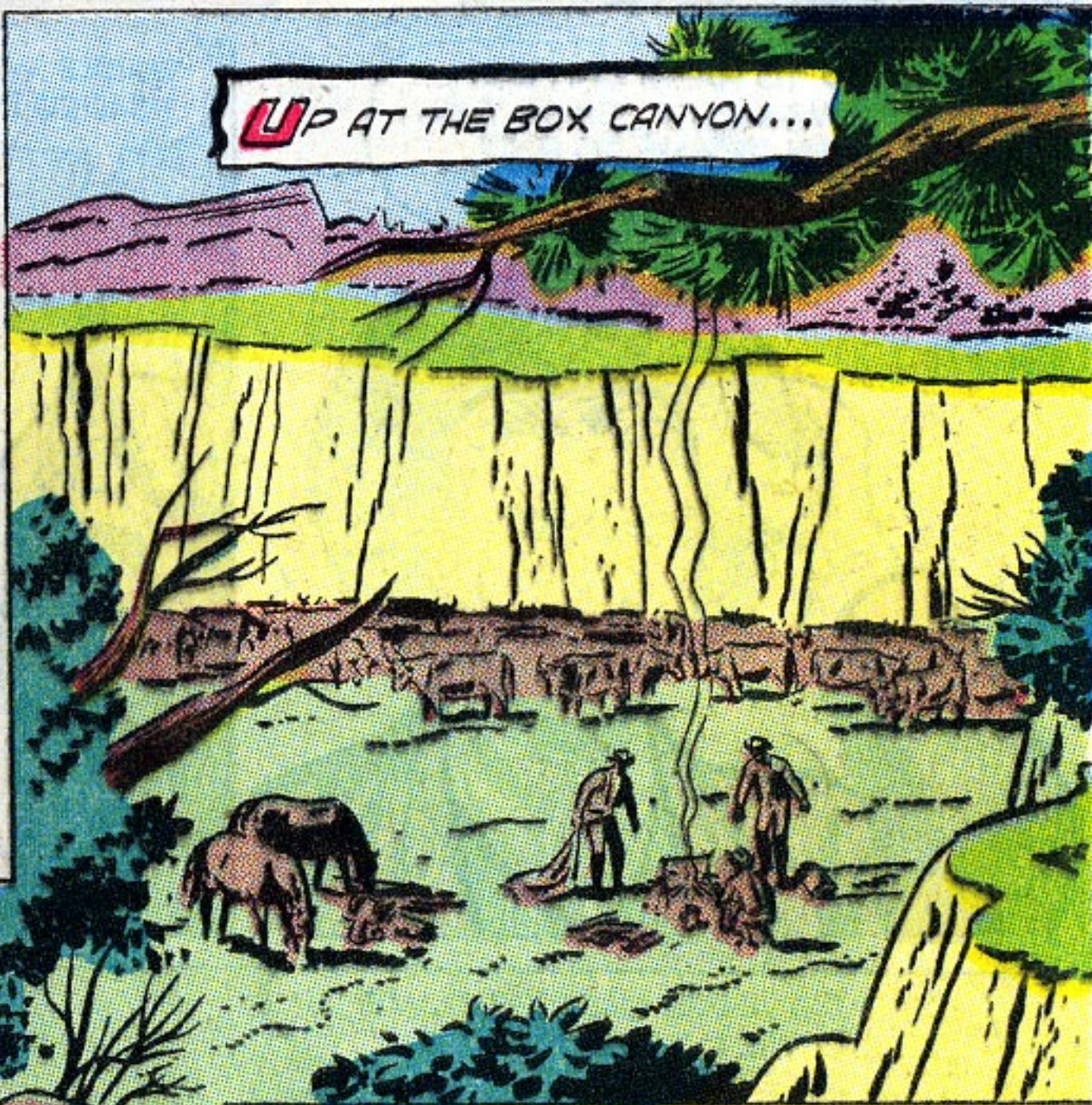
GOSH! I JUST KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT!



DOGGONE IT! THEY'RE NOT LEAVING ME OUT THIS TIME! I'M GOING TO CUT ACROSS COUNTRY AND JOIN ANNIE!



UP AT THE BOX CANYON...

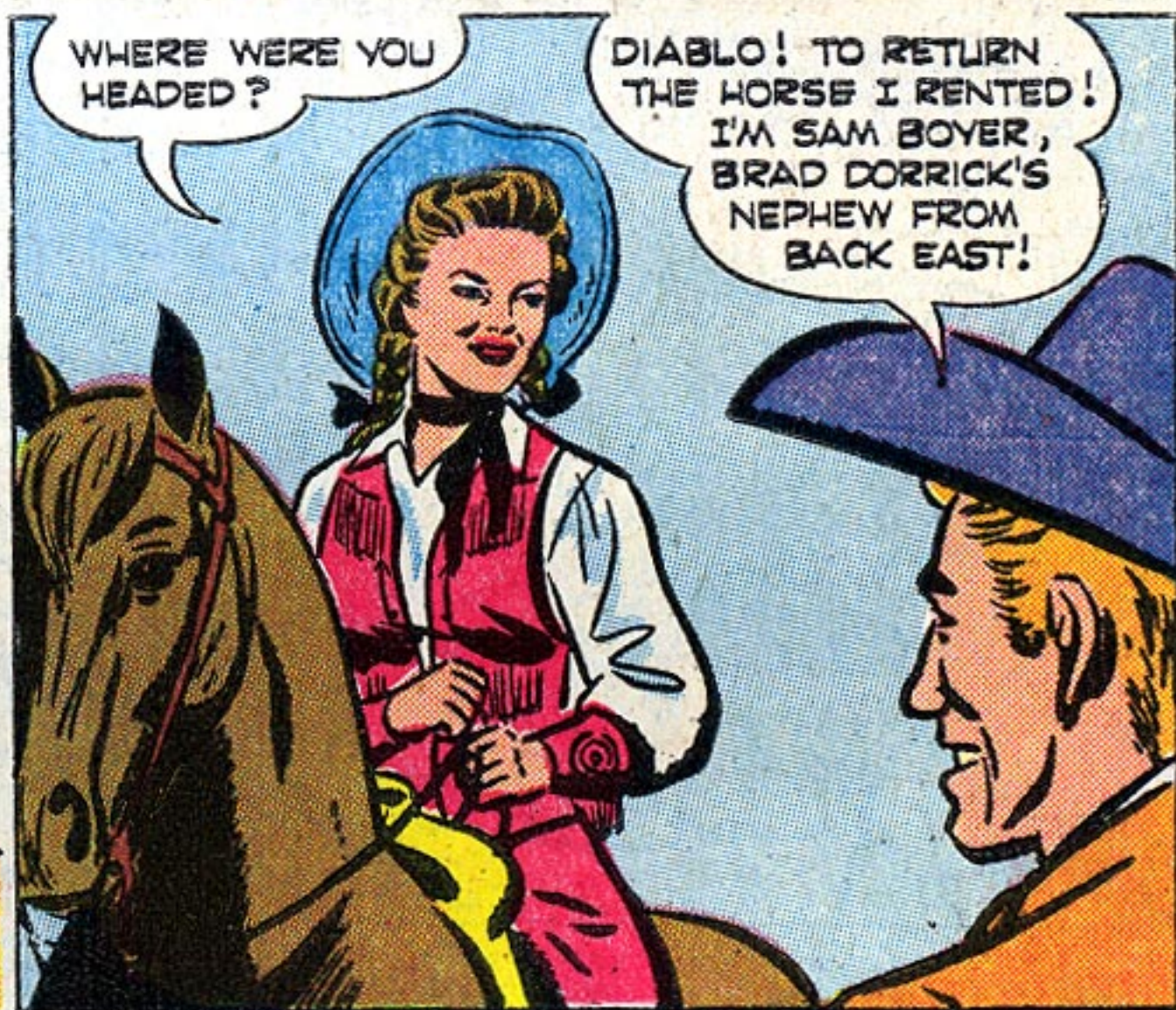


HMMM... LOOKS LIKE THEY WON'T BE MOVING OUT FOR A WHILE!



SO WHAT'S THE SENSE OF MY STICKING AROUND? I THINK I'LL TRY TO PICK UP THAT GUNMAN'S TRAIL!

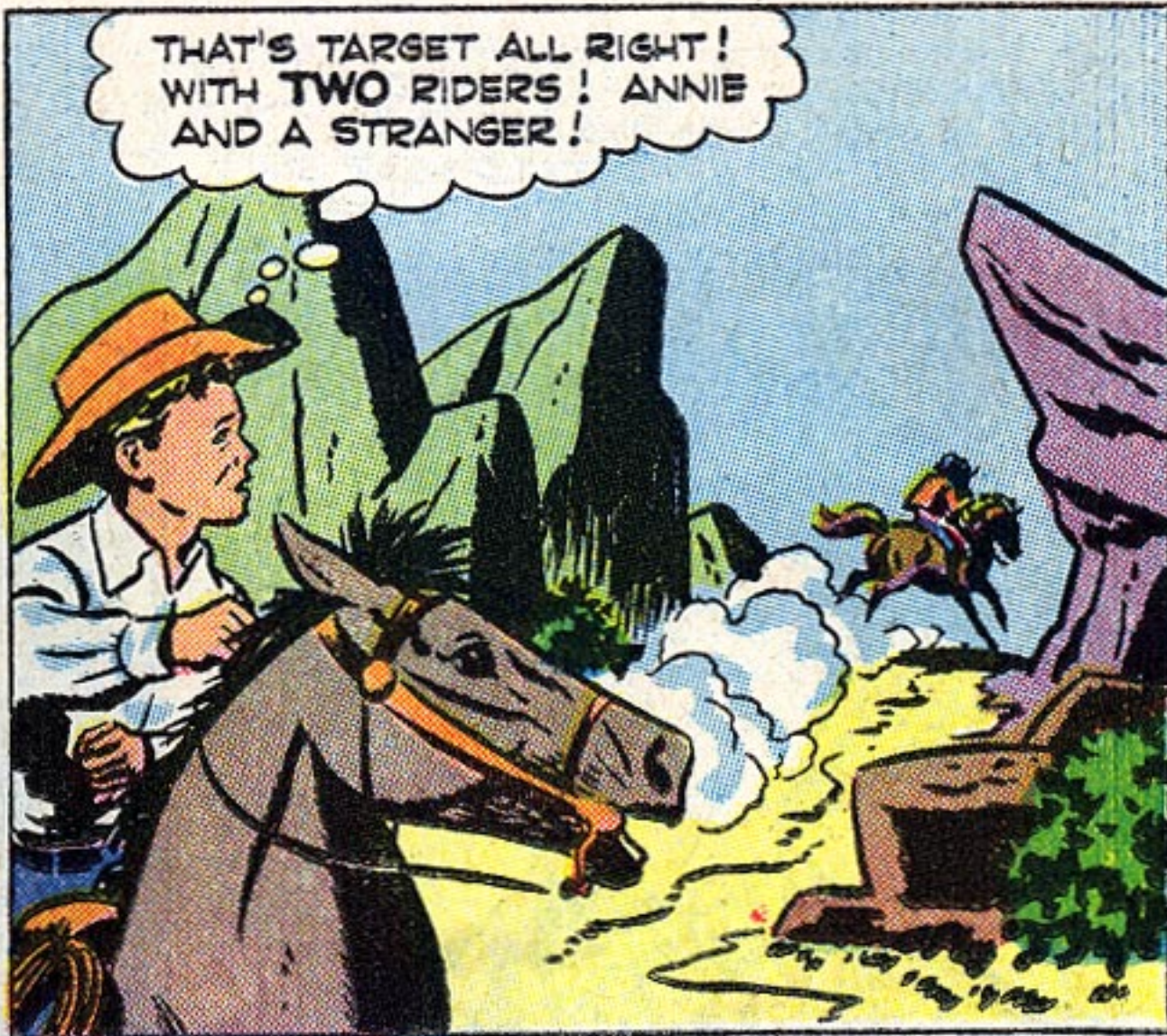




DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM!
HE'LL FIND HIS WAY BACK
TO THE LIVERY STABLE!



THAT'S TARGET ALL RIGHT!
WITH **TWO** RIDERS! ANNIE
AND A STRANGER!



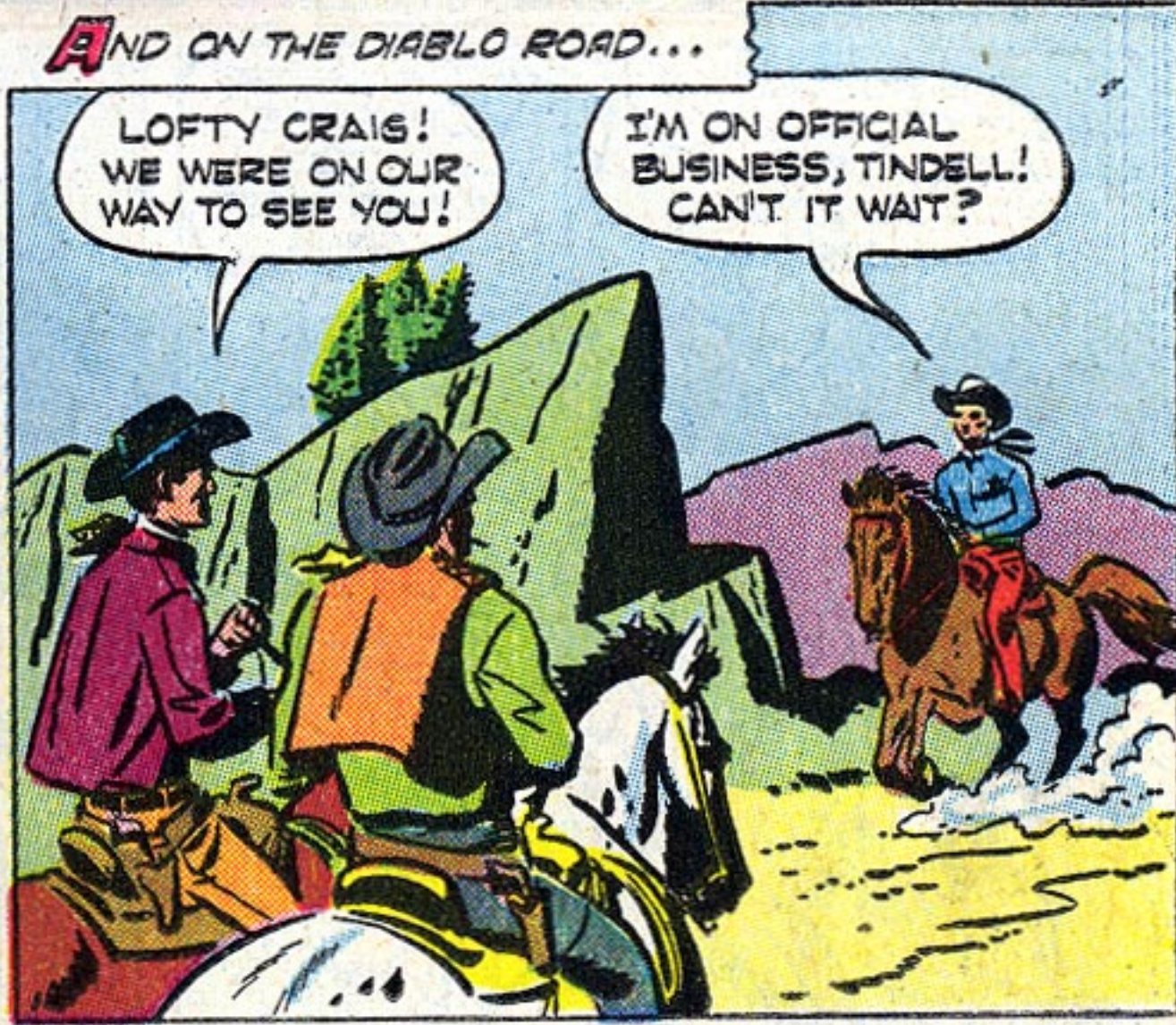
GOSH! MAYBE ONE OF THE RUSTLERS
HAS TAKEN ANNIE PRISONER!
MOVE, PIXIE!



AND ON THE DIABLO ROAD...

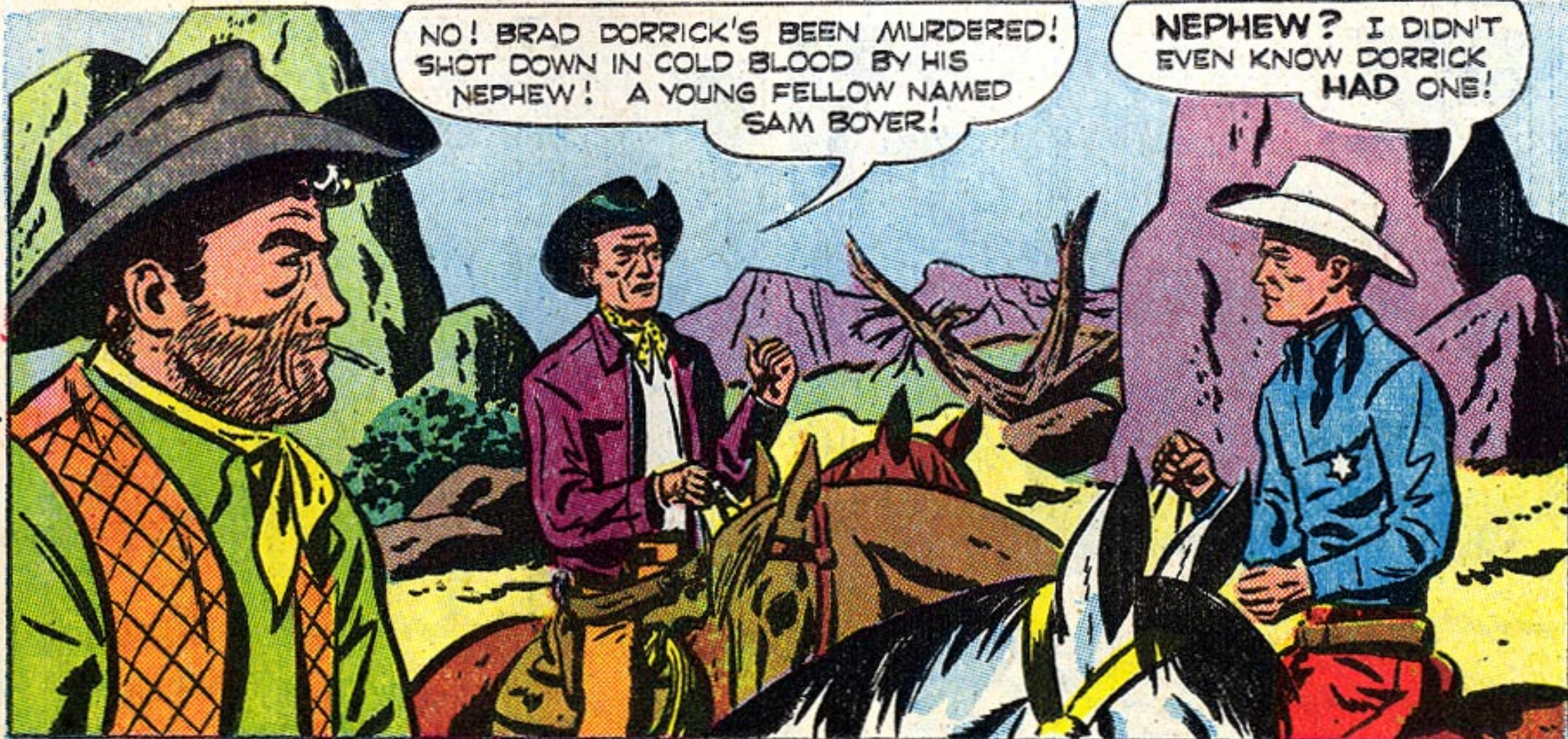
LOFTY CRAIS!
WE WERE ON OUR
WAY TO SEE YOU!

I'M ON OFFICIAL
BUSINESS, TINDELL!
CAN'T IT WAIT?



NO! BRAD DORRICK'S BEEN MURDERED!
SHOT DOWN IN COLD BLOOD BY HIS
NEPHEW! A YOUNG FELLOW NAMED
SAM BOYER!

NEPHEW? I DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW DORRICK
HAD ONE!

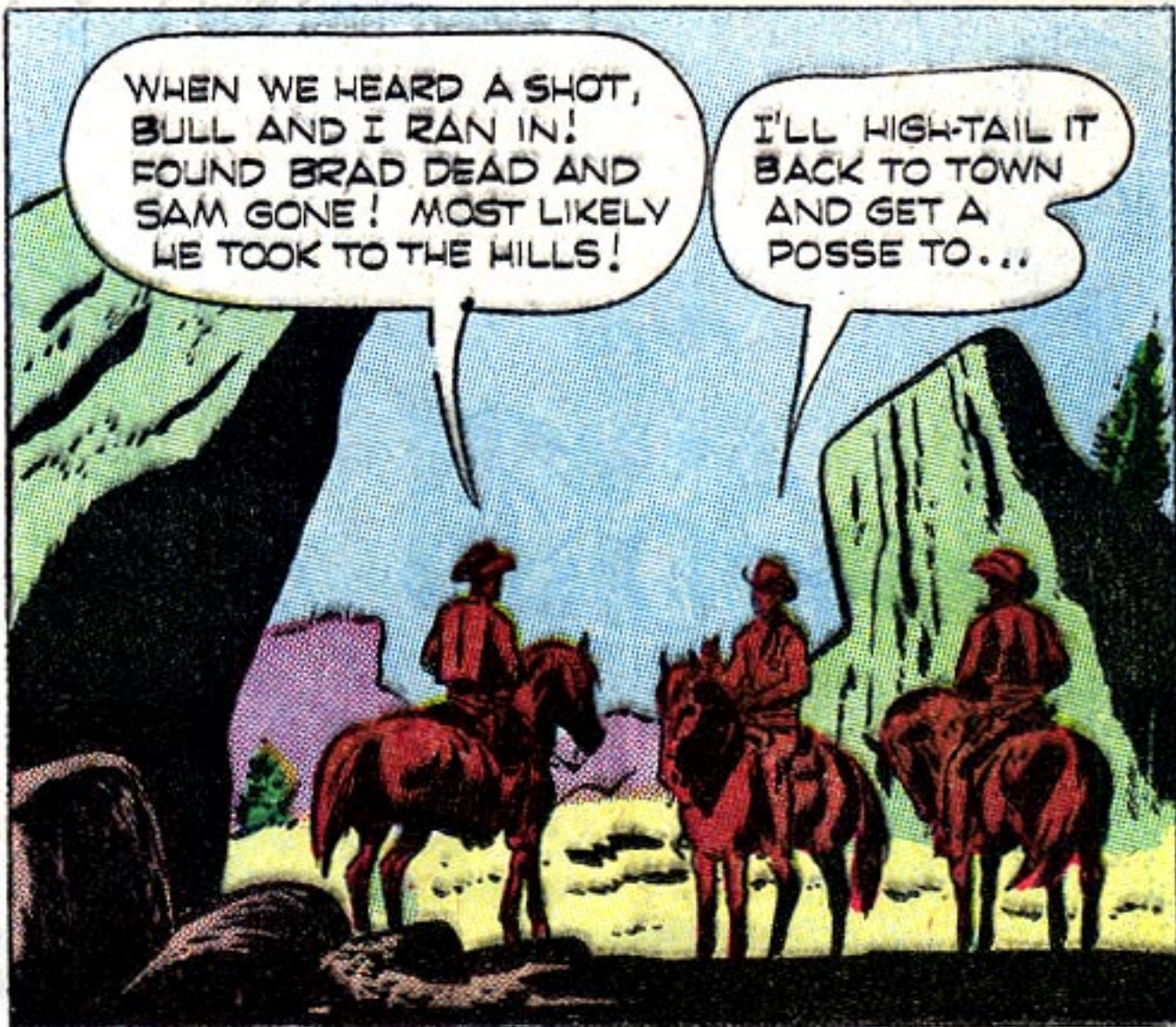


NEITHER DID I TILL HE SHOWED UP
THIS MORNING, WANTING MONEY!
BRAD GOT MAD! WE COULD HEAR 'EM
ARGUING CLEAR OUT AT THE CORRAL!



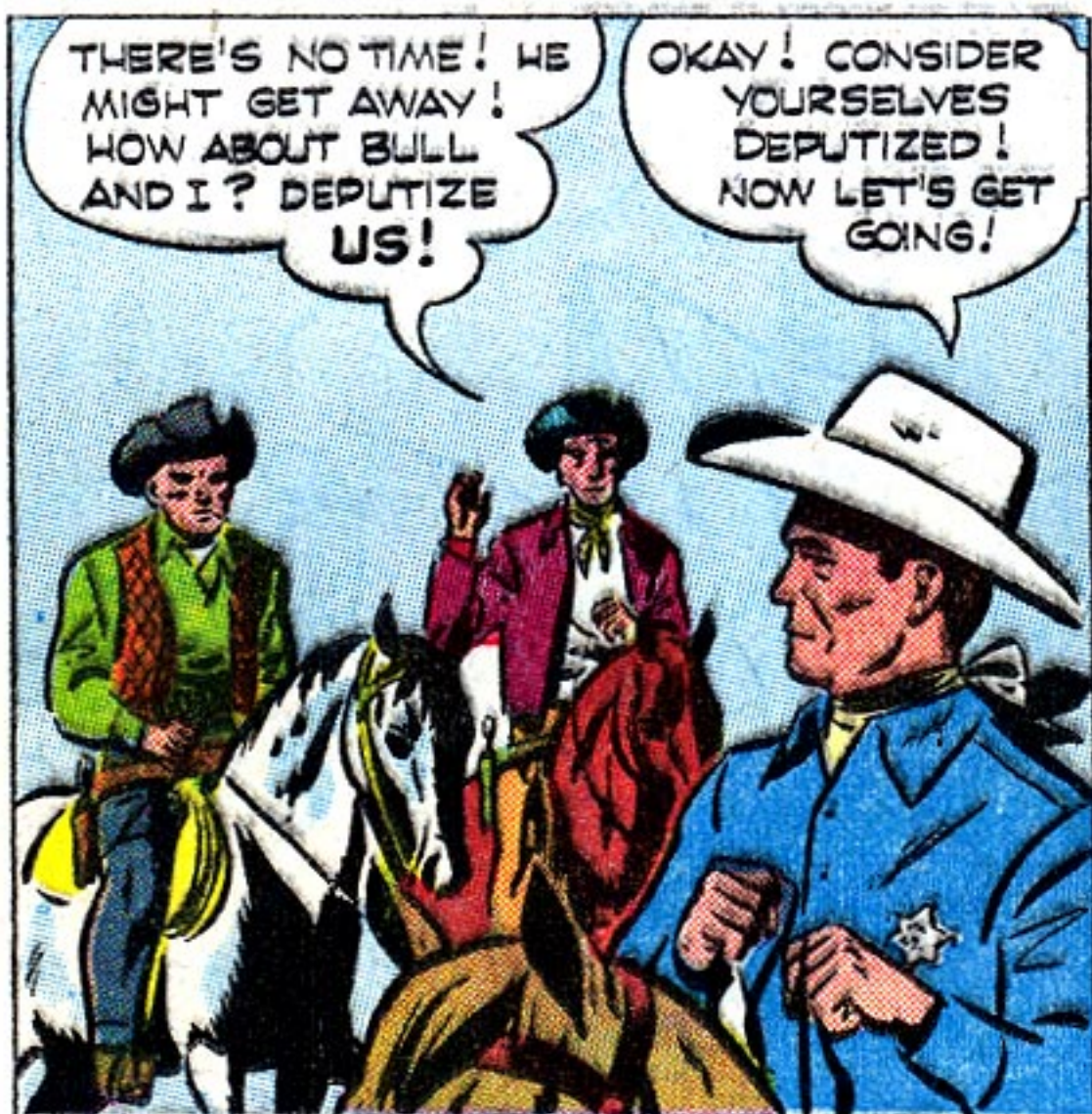
WHEN WE HEARD A SHOT,
BULL AND I RAN IN!
FOUND BRAD DEAD AND
SAM GONE! MOST LIKELY
HE TOOK TO THE HILLS!

I'LL HIGH-TAIL IT
BACK TO TOWN
AND GET A
POSSE TO...



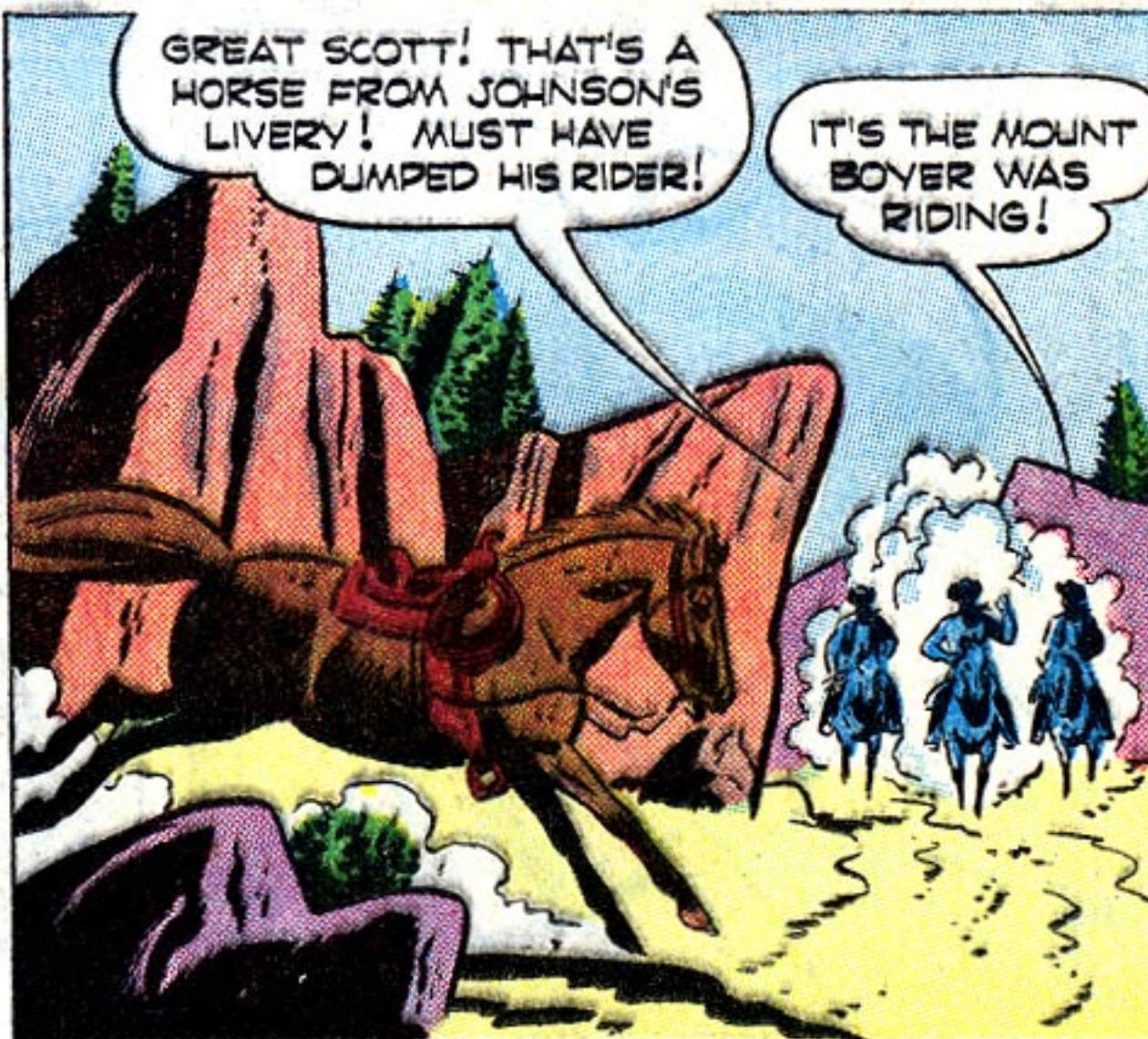
THERE'S NO TIME! HE
MIGHT GET AWAY!
HOW ABOUT BULL
AND I? DEPUTIZE
US!

OKAY! CONSIDER
YOURSELVES
DEPUTIZED!
NOW LET'S GET
GOING!

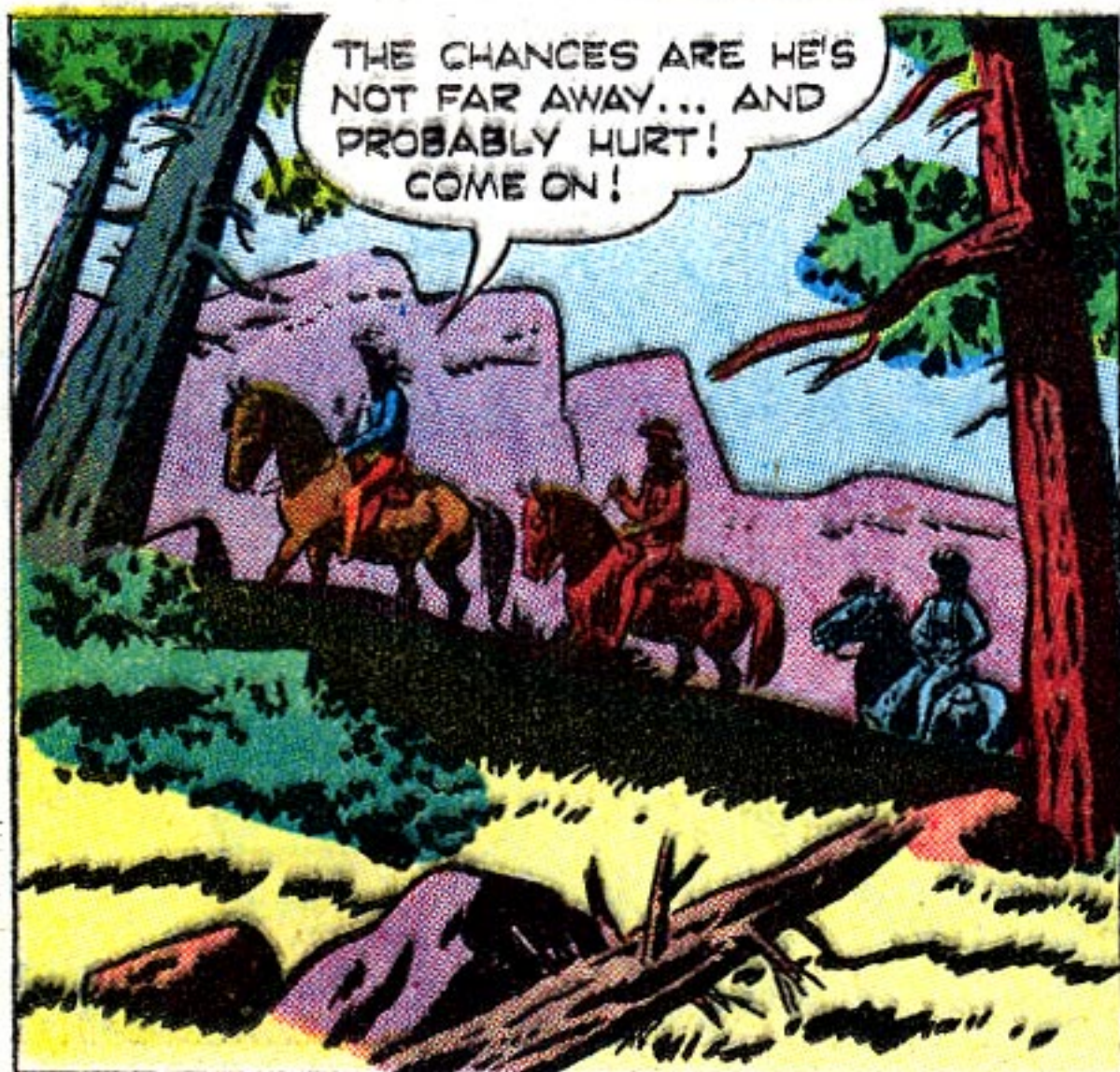


GREAT SCOTT! THAT'S A
HORSE FROM JOHNSON'S
LIVERY! MUST HAVE
DUMPED HIS RIDER!

IT'S THE MOUNT
BOYER WAS
RIDING!

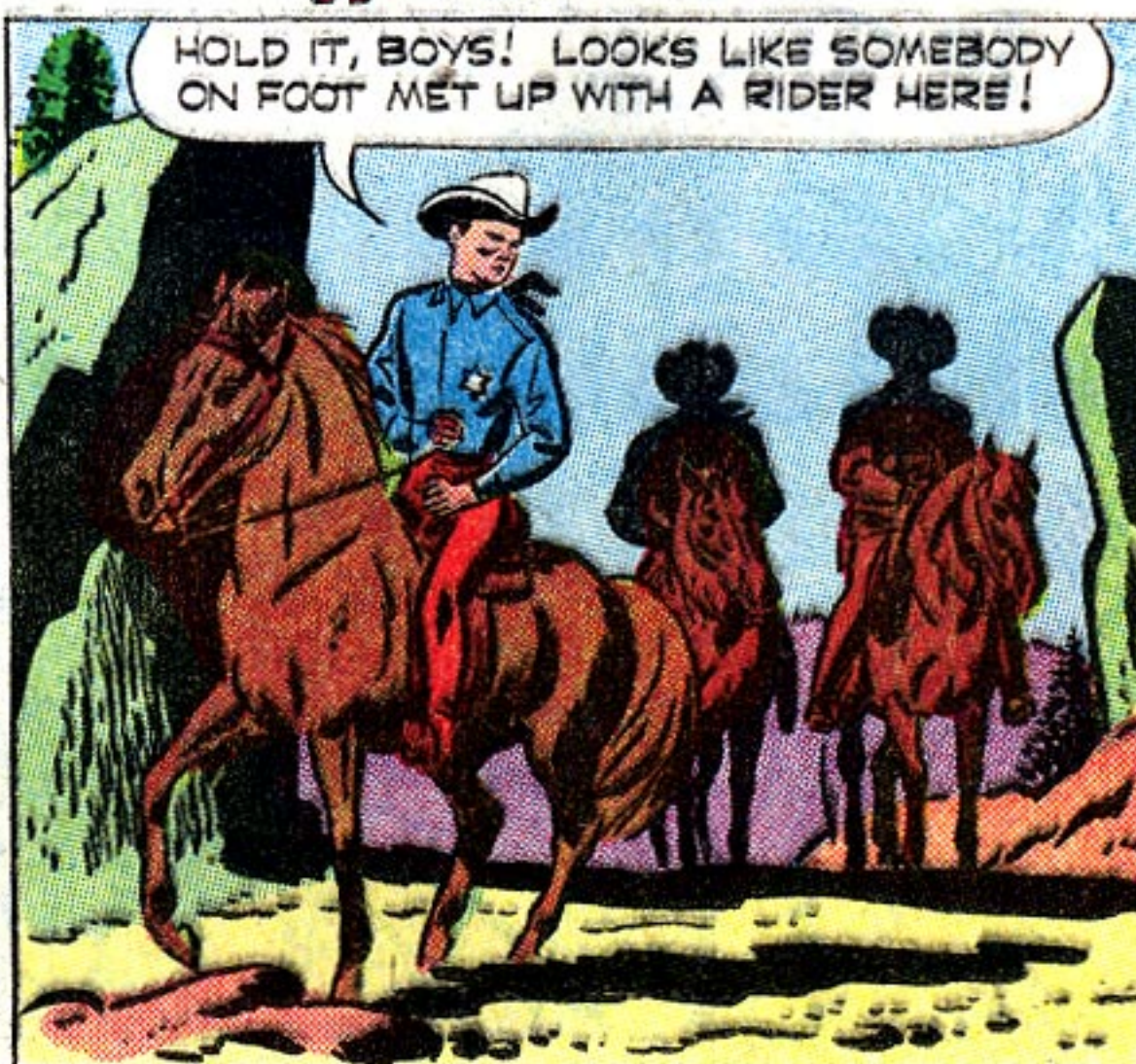


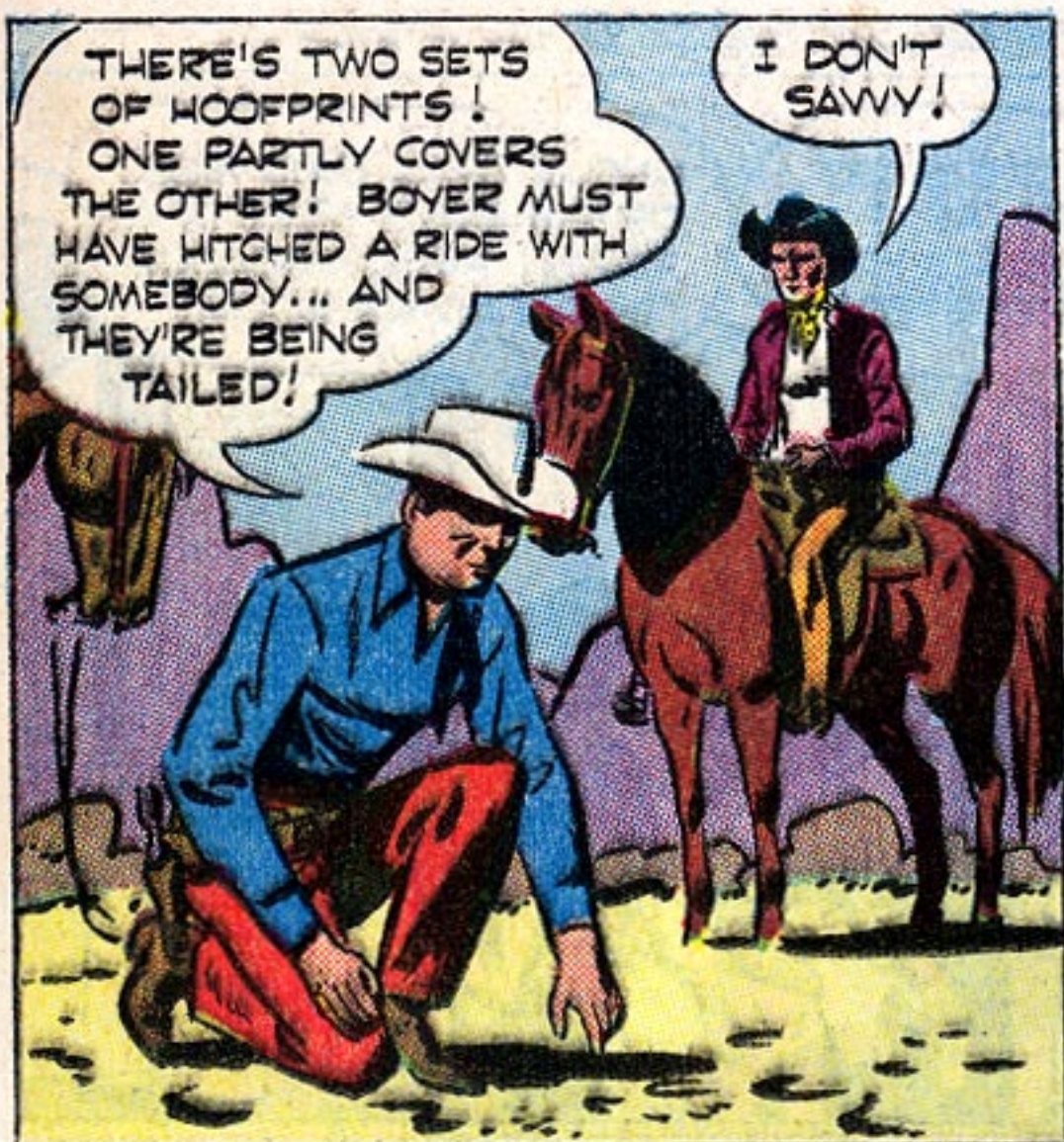
THE CHANCES ARE HE'S
NOT FAR AWAY... AND
PROBABLY HURT!
COME ON!



A LITTLE LATER...

HOLD IT, BOYS! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY
ON FOOT MET UP WITH A RIDER HERE!





THERE'S TWO SETS OF HOOFPRIENTS! ONE PARTLY COVERS THE OTHER! BOYER MUST HAVE HITCHED A RIDE WITH SOMEBODY... AND THEY'RE BEING TAILED!

I DON'T SAWVY!



NEITHER DO I...YET! BUT I AIM TO LEARN THE ANSWER!

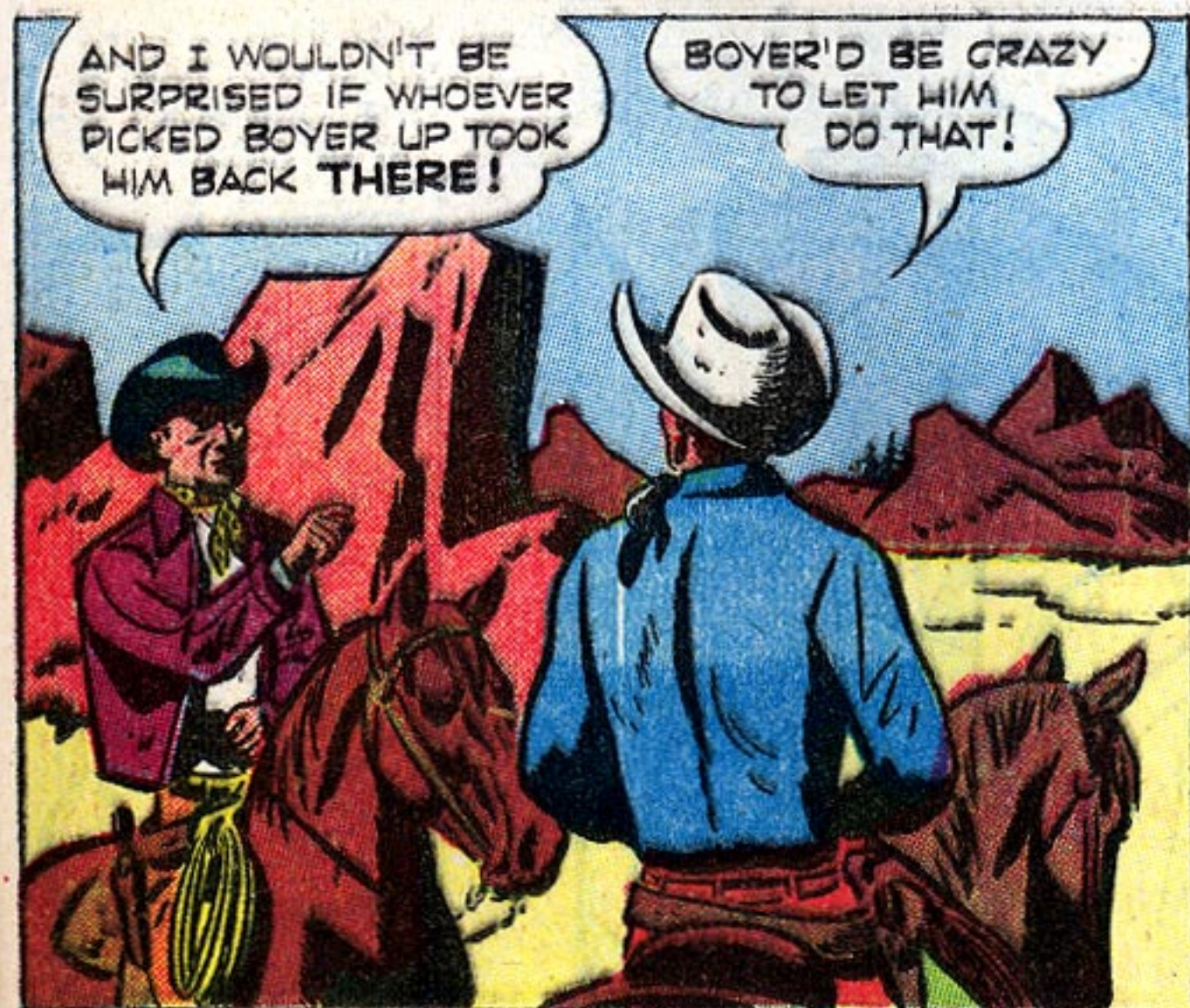
Y'KNOW, I'M KINDA ANXIOUS TO DO THAT, TOO!

HALF A MILE FARTHER ON...



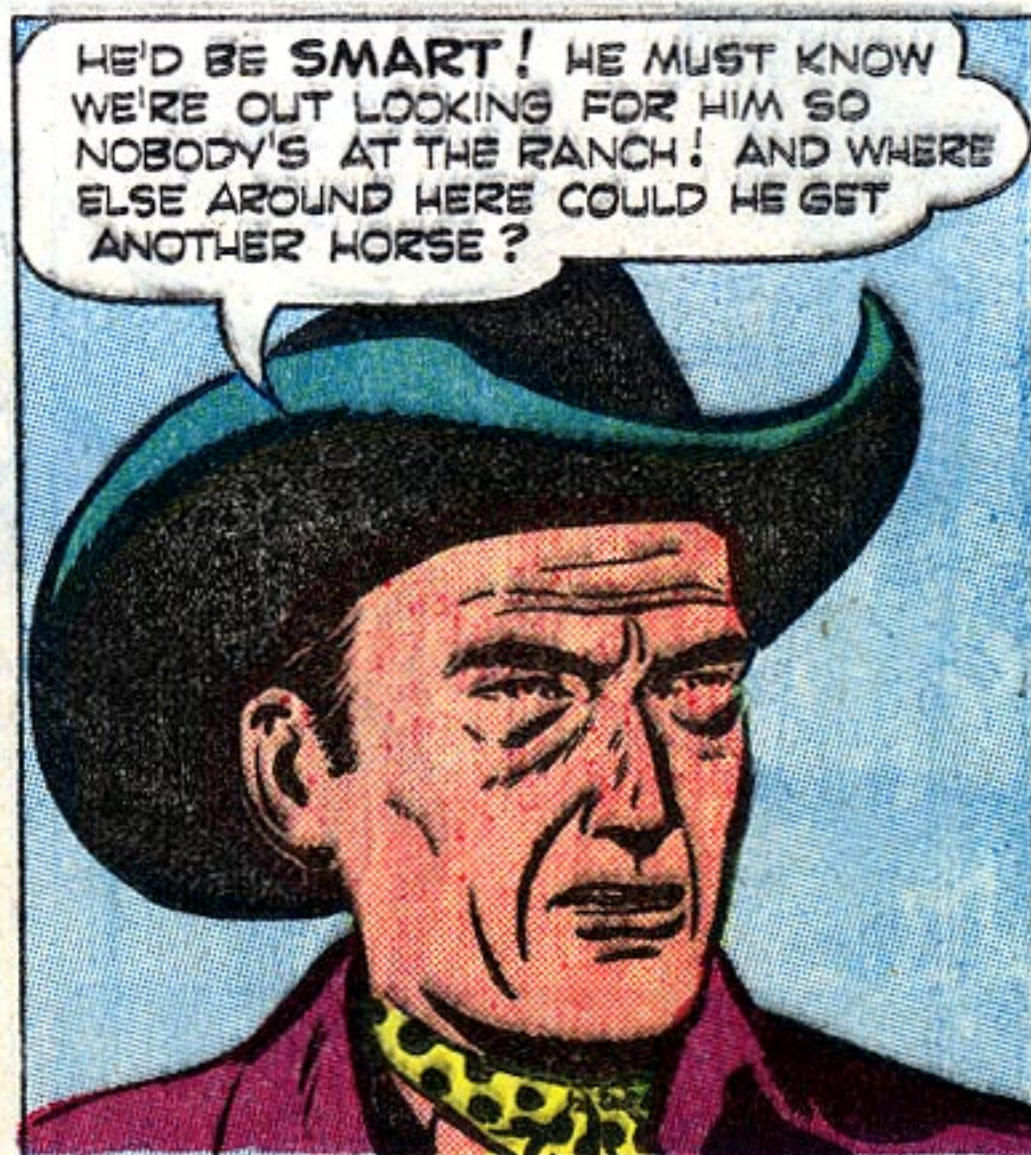
WELL, BOTH SETS OF PRINTS END HERE! RECKON WE'VE LOST...

HOLD IT, CRAIG! BEYOND THIS ROCKY STRETCH IS THE GATE TO THE DORRICK RANCH!



AND I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF WHOEVER PICKED BOYER UP TOOK HIM BACK THERE!

BOYER'D BE CRAZY TO LET HIM DO THAT!



HE'D BE SMART! HE MUST KNOW WE'RE OUT LOOKING FOR HIM SO NOBODY'S AT THE RANCH! AND WHERE ELSE AROUND HERE COULD HE GET ANOTHER HORSE?

MEANTIME, AT THE DORRICK RANCH...

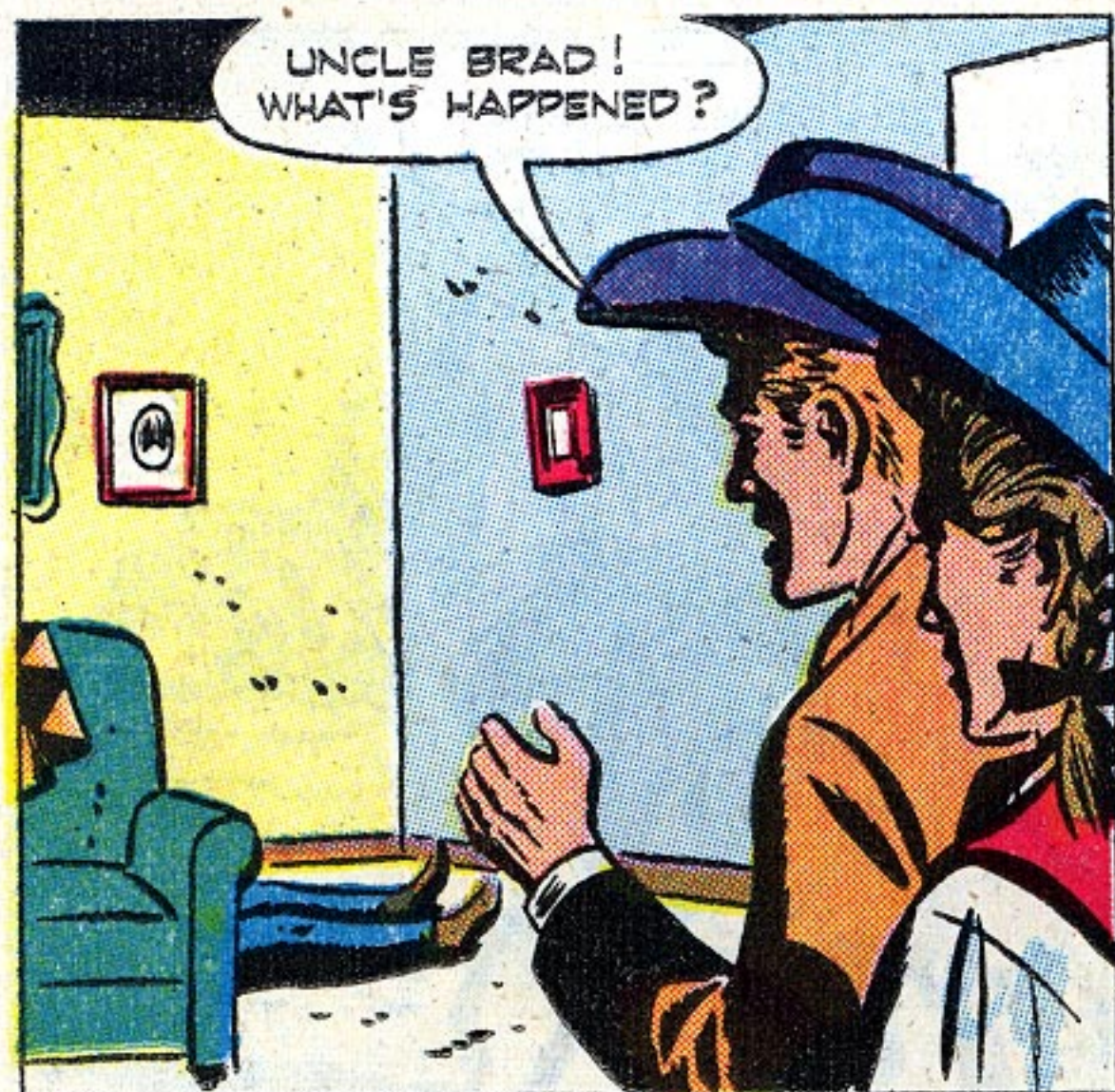


MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, TINDELL! WE'LL CHECK! ANYWAY, I OUGHT TO LOOK OVER THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!

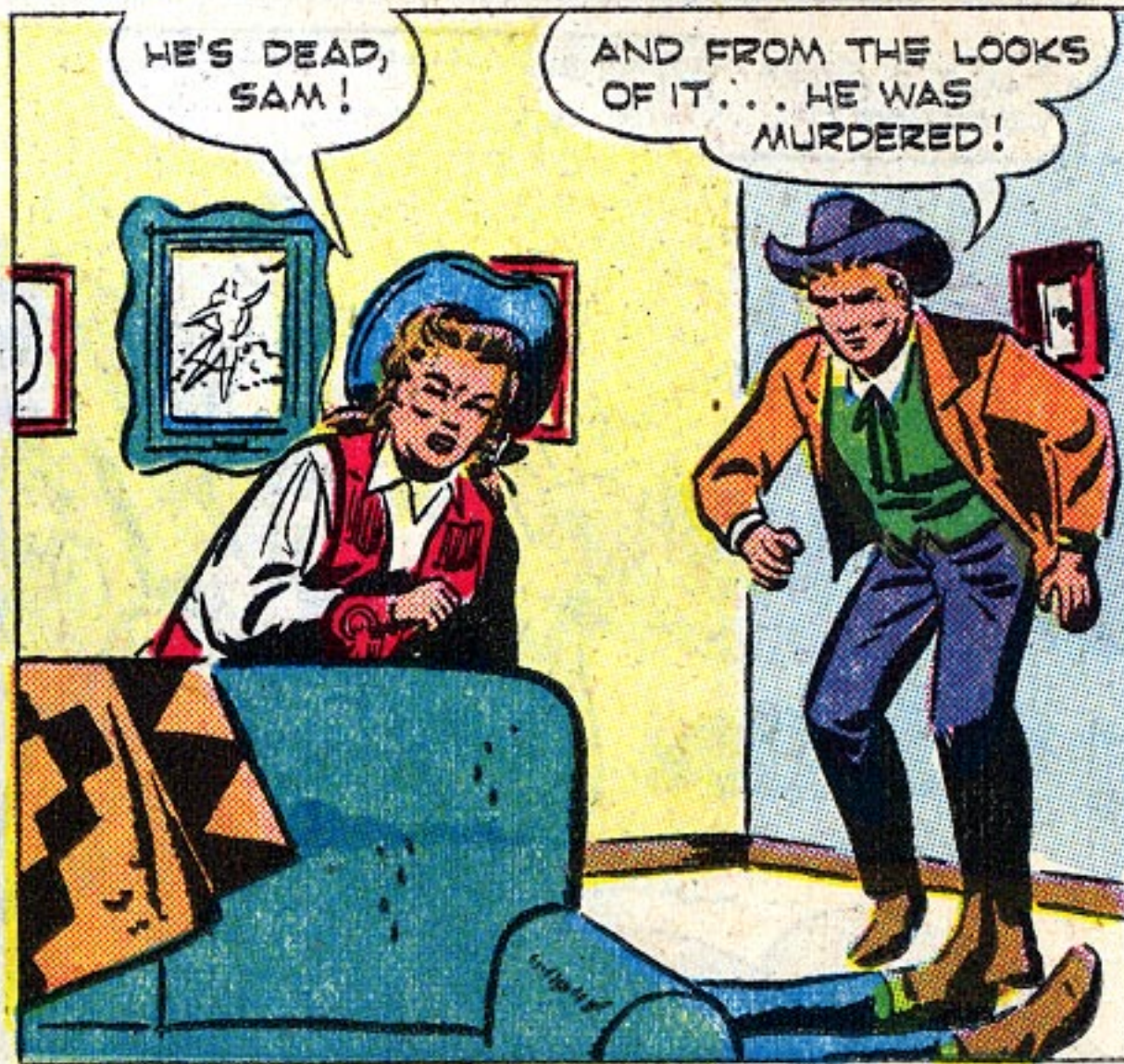


MY, IT'S QUIET HERE! AS IF THE PLACE WERE DESERTED!

UNCLE BRAD SAID MOST OF THE BOYS WERE IN TOWN! HE'S PROBABLY IN THE LIVING ROOM!



UNCLE BRAD! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

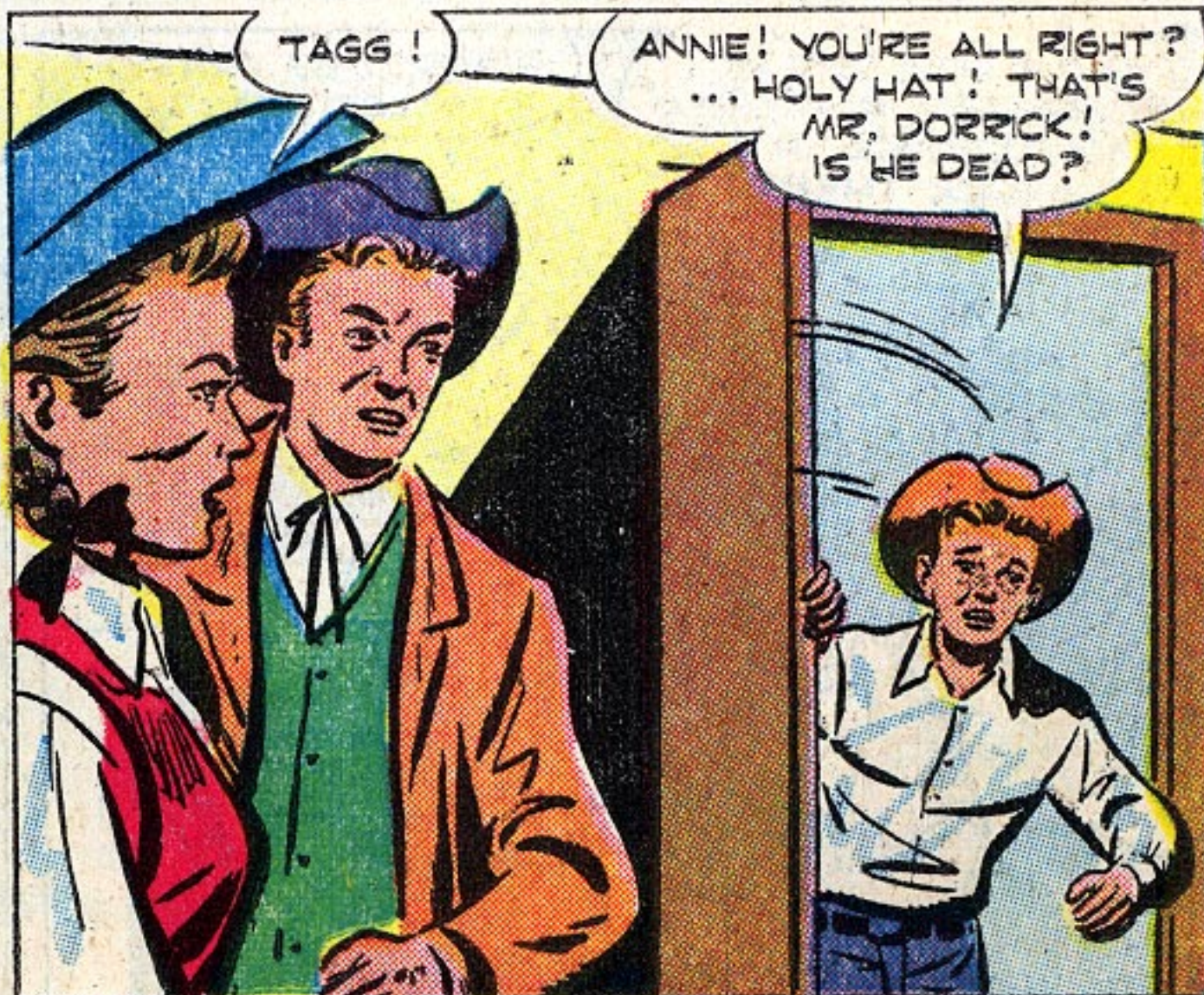


HE'S DEAD, SAM!

AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT... HE WAS MURDERED!

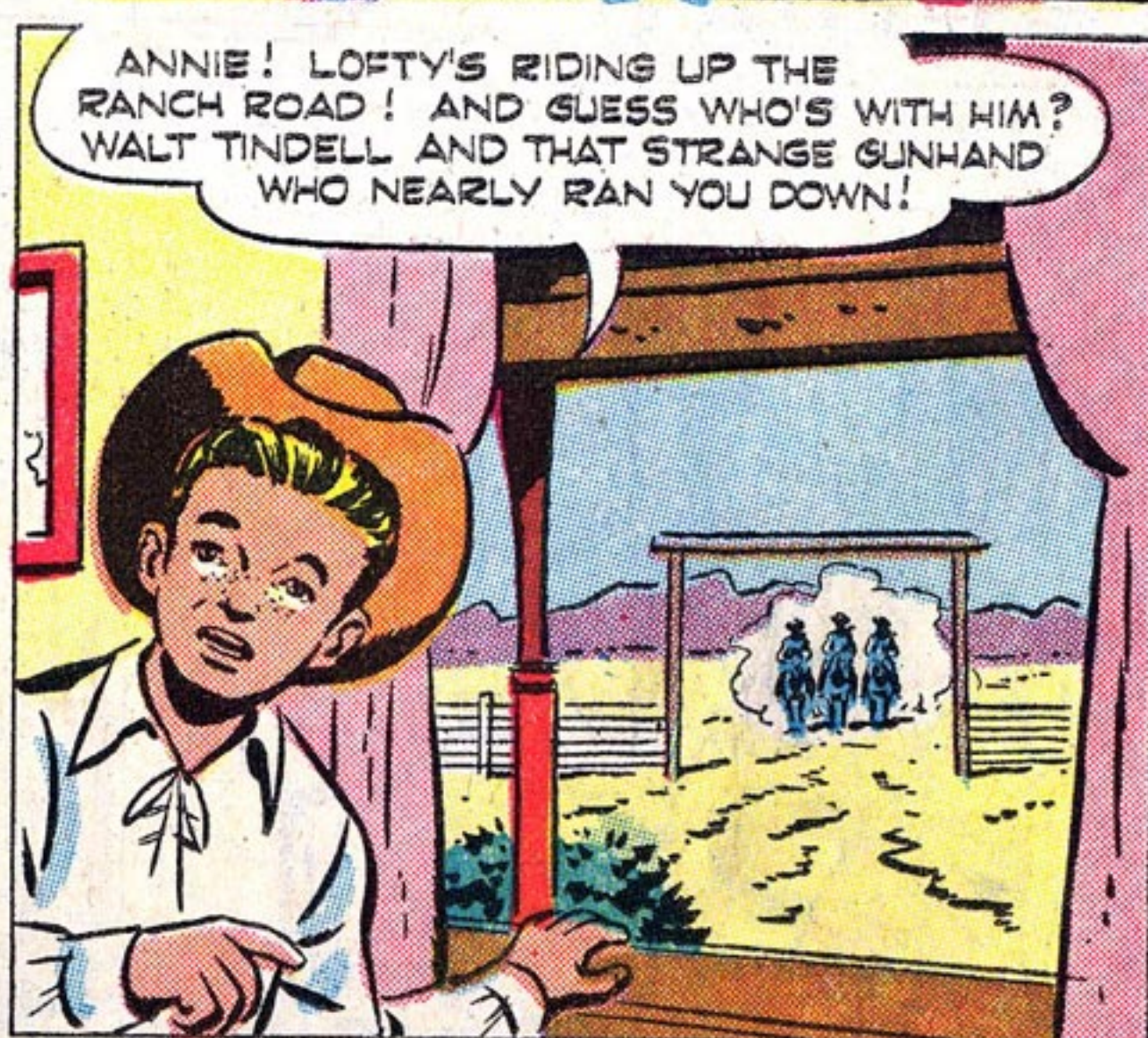


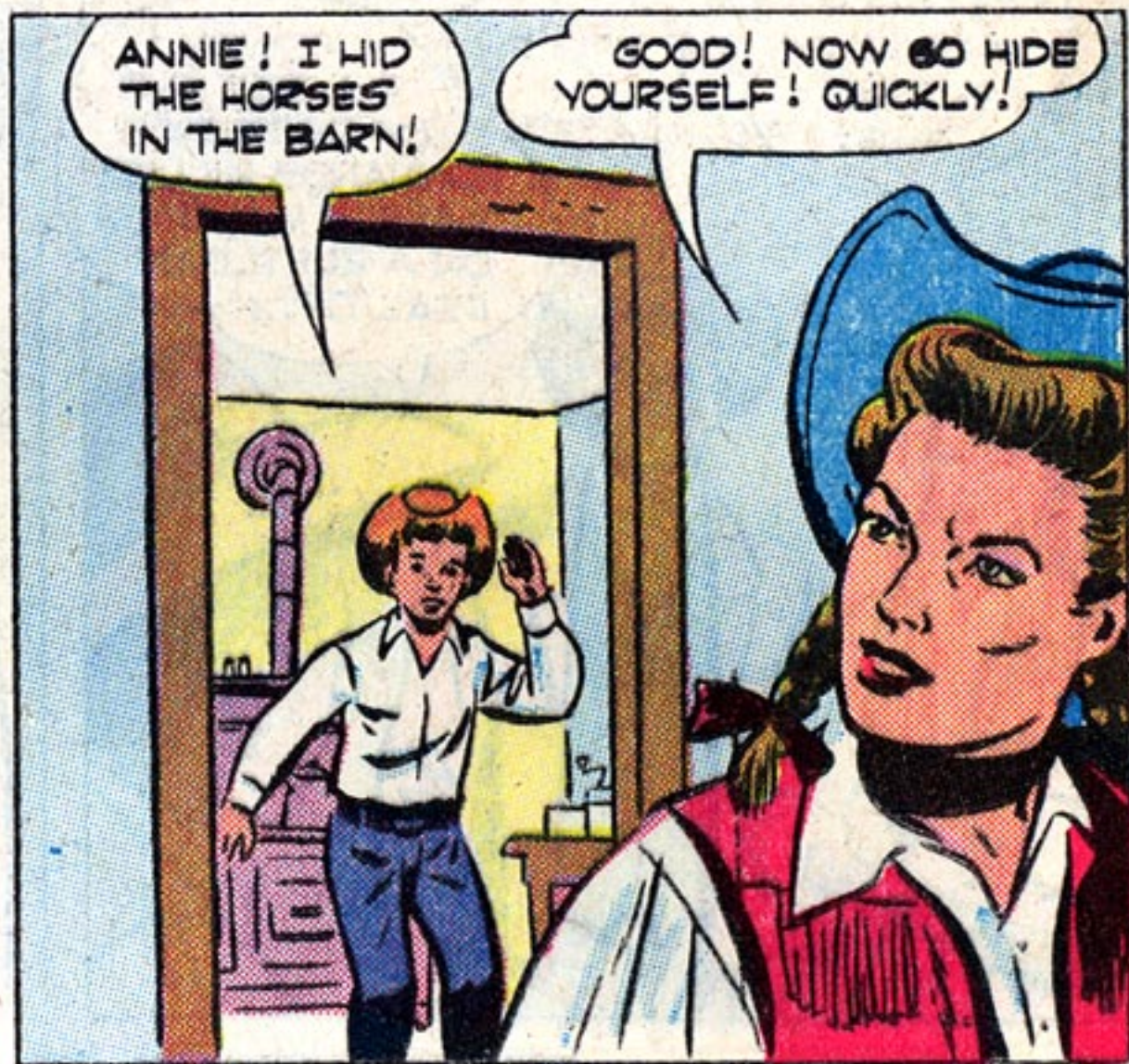
BUT WHO... WHO WOULD DO A THING LIKE THAT?

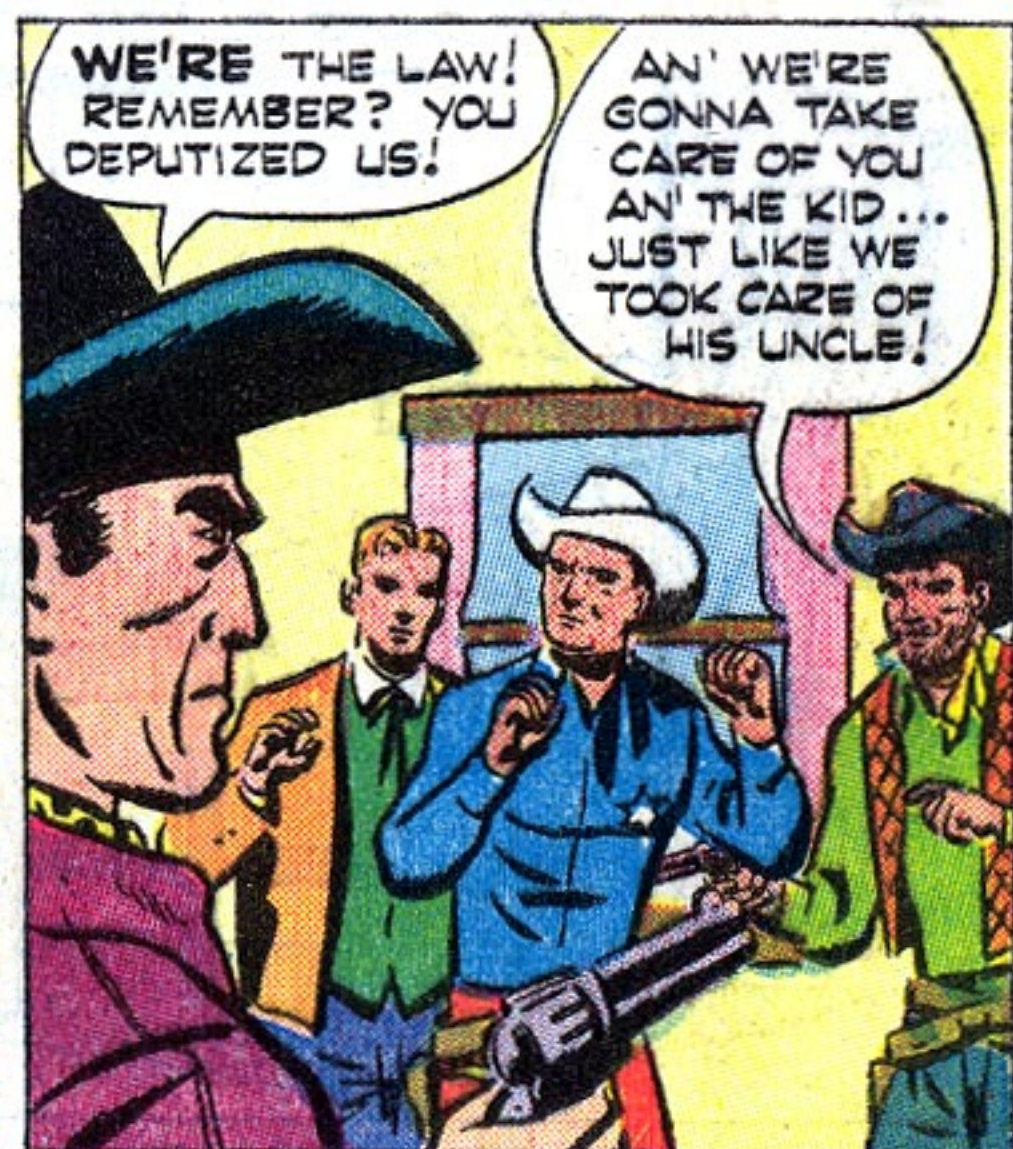
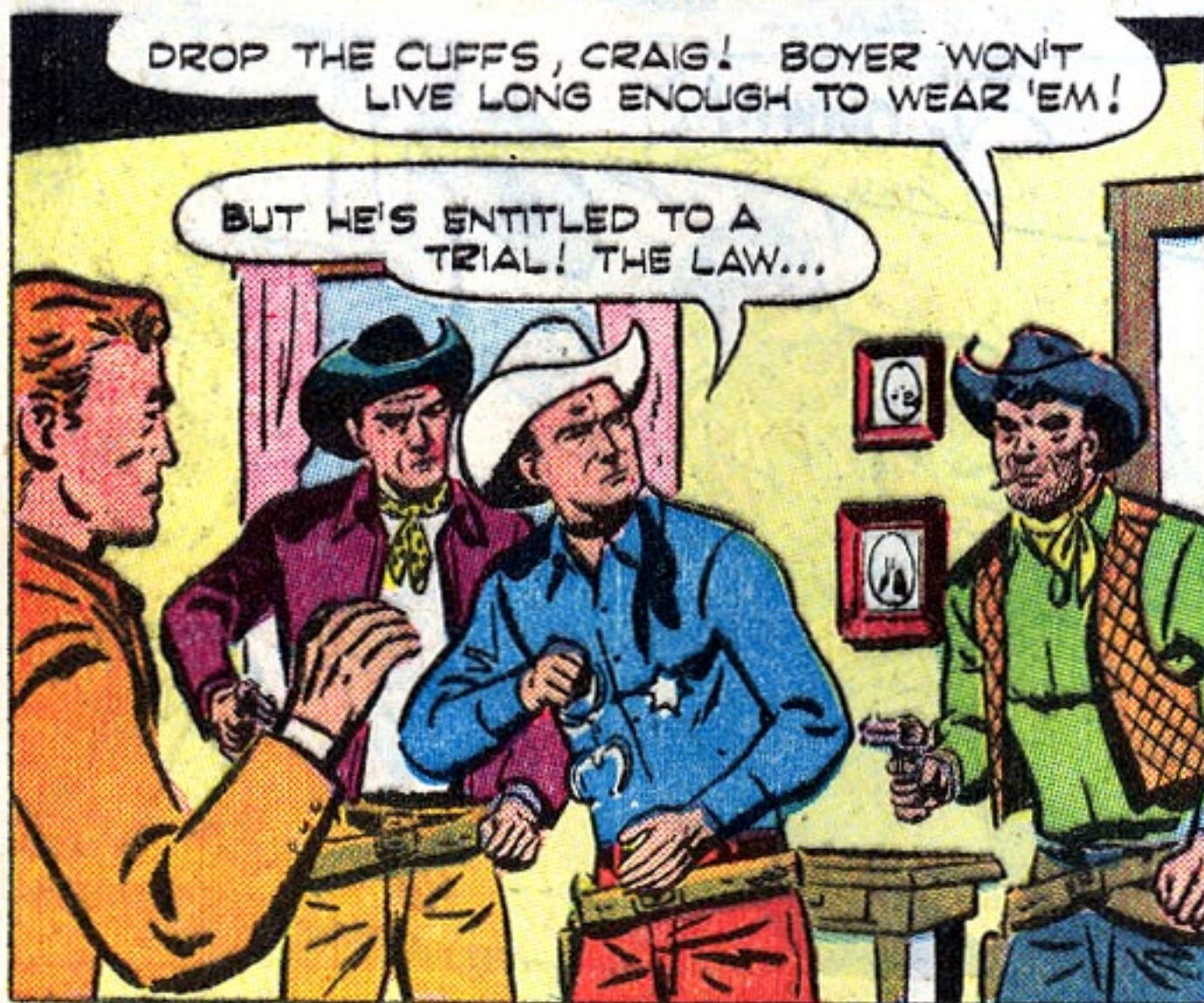
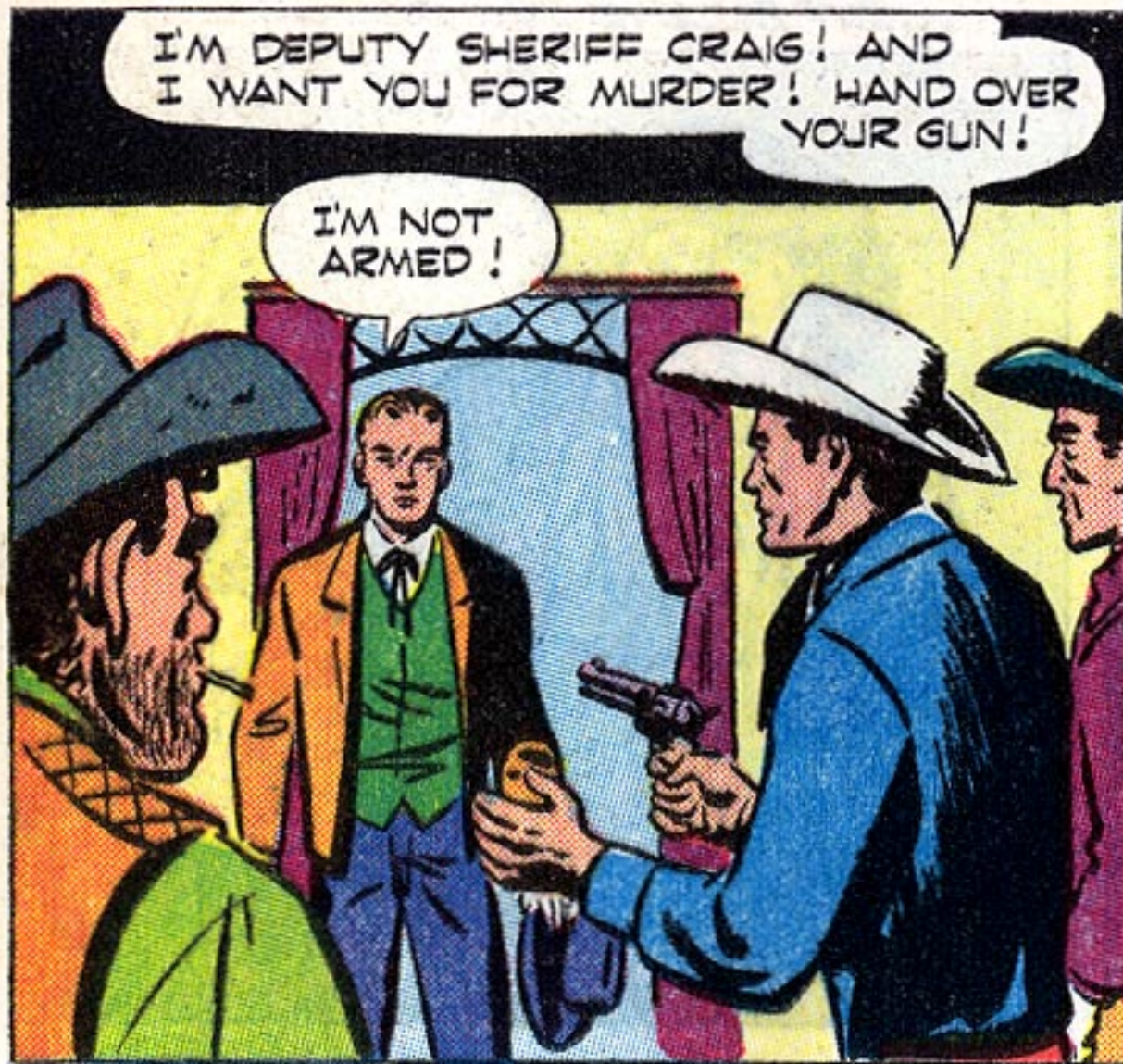


TAGG!

ANNIE! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? ... HOLY HAT! THAT'S MR. DORRICK! IS HE DEAD?







SILENTLY ANNIE STEPS FROM HIDING...

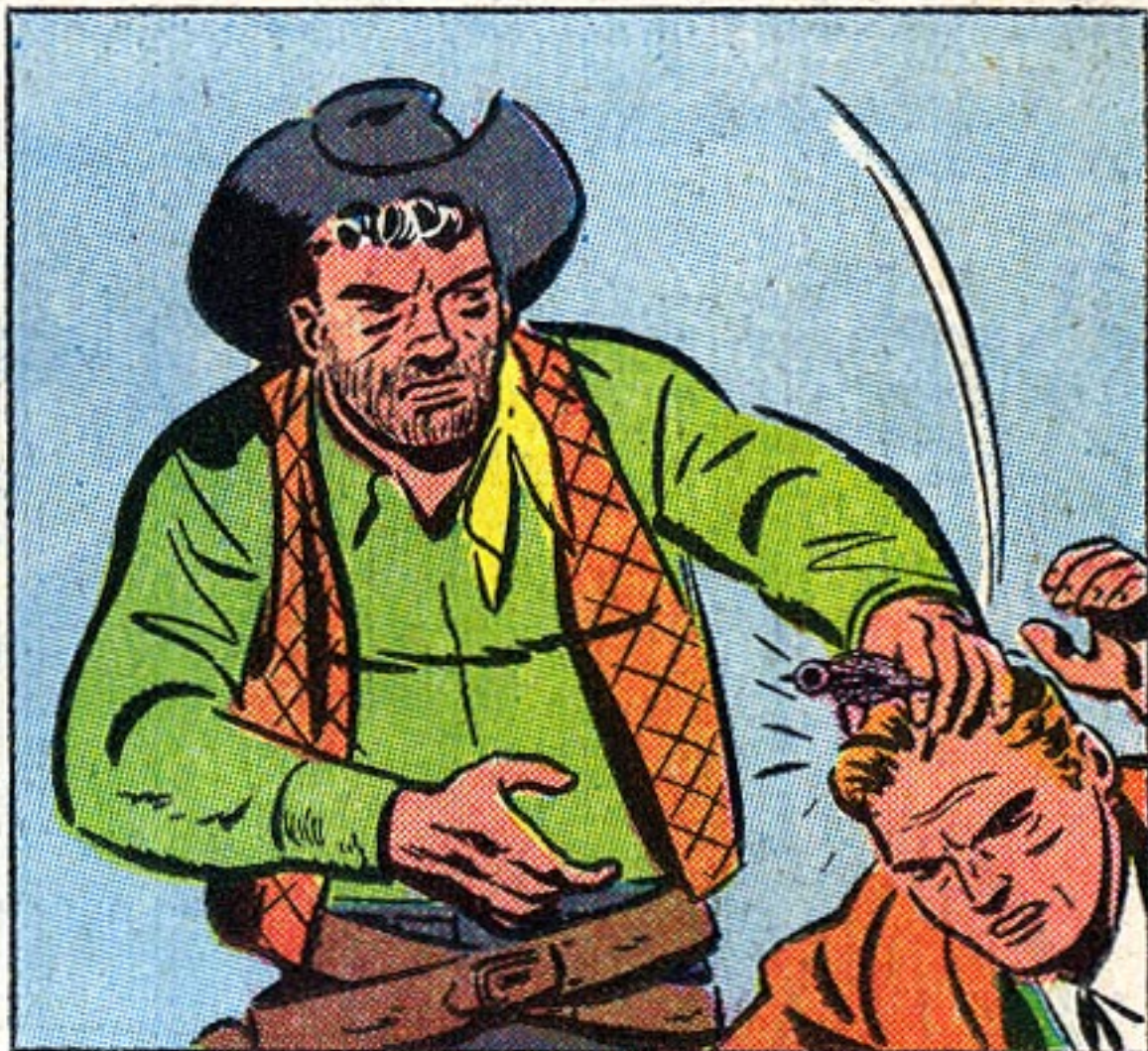
...AND FIRES TWO FAST SHOTS...



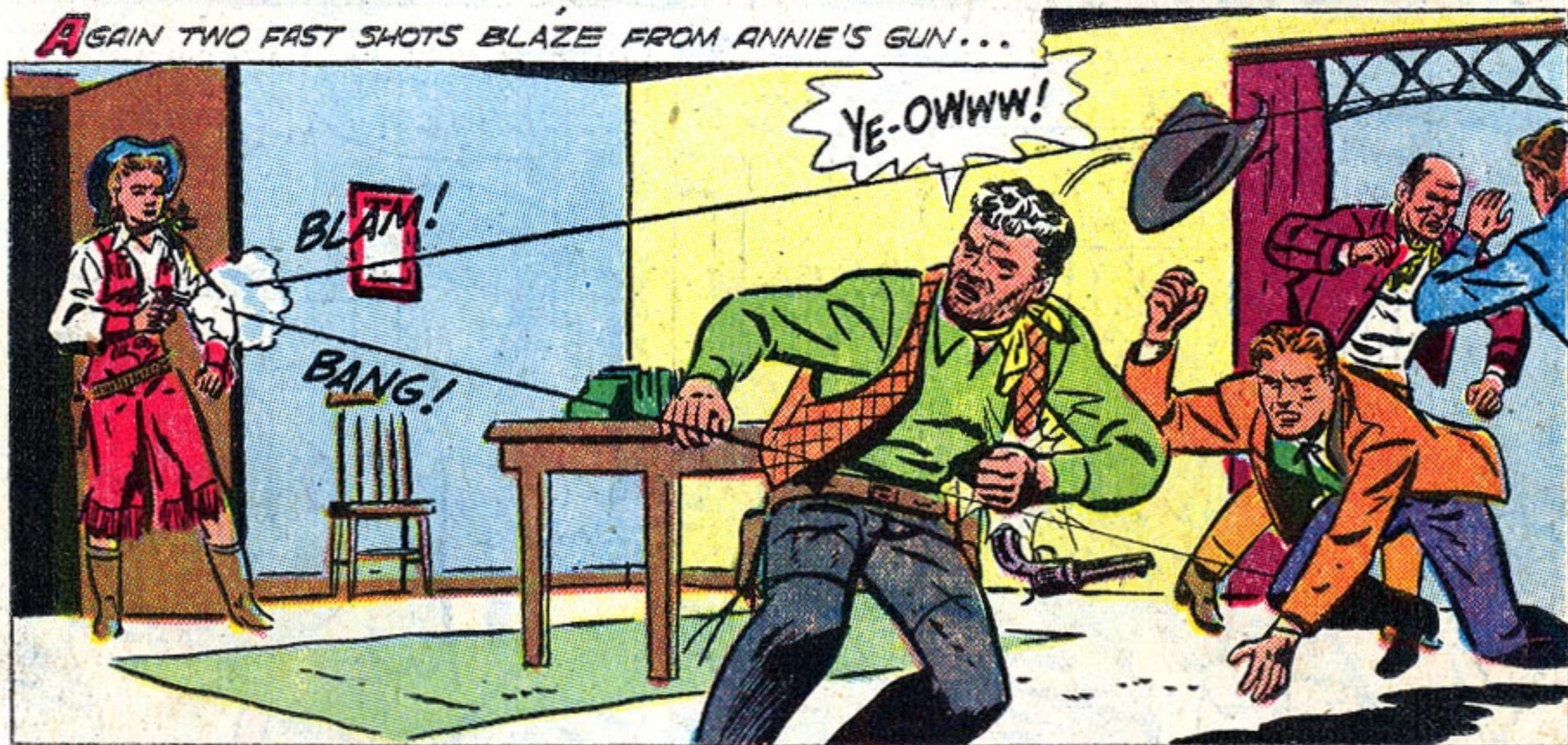
SAM LUNGES FOR BULL...



...BUT BULL IS TOO QUICK...



AGAIN TWO FAST SHOTS BLAZE FROM ANNIE'S GUN...



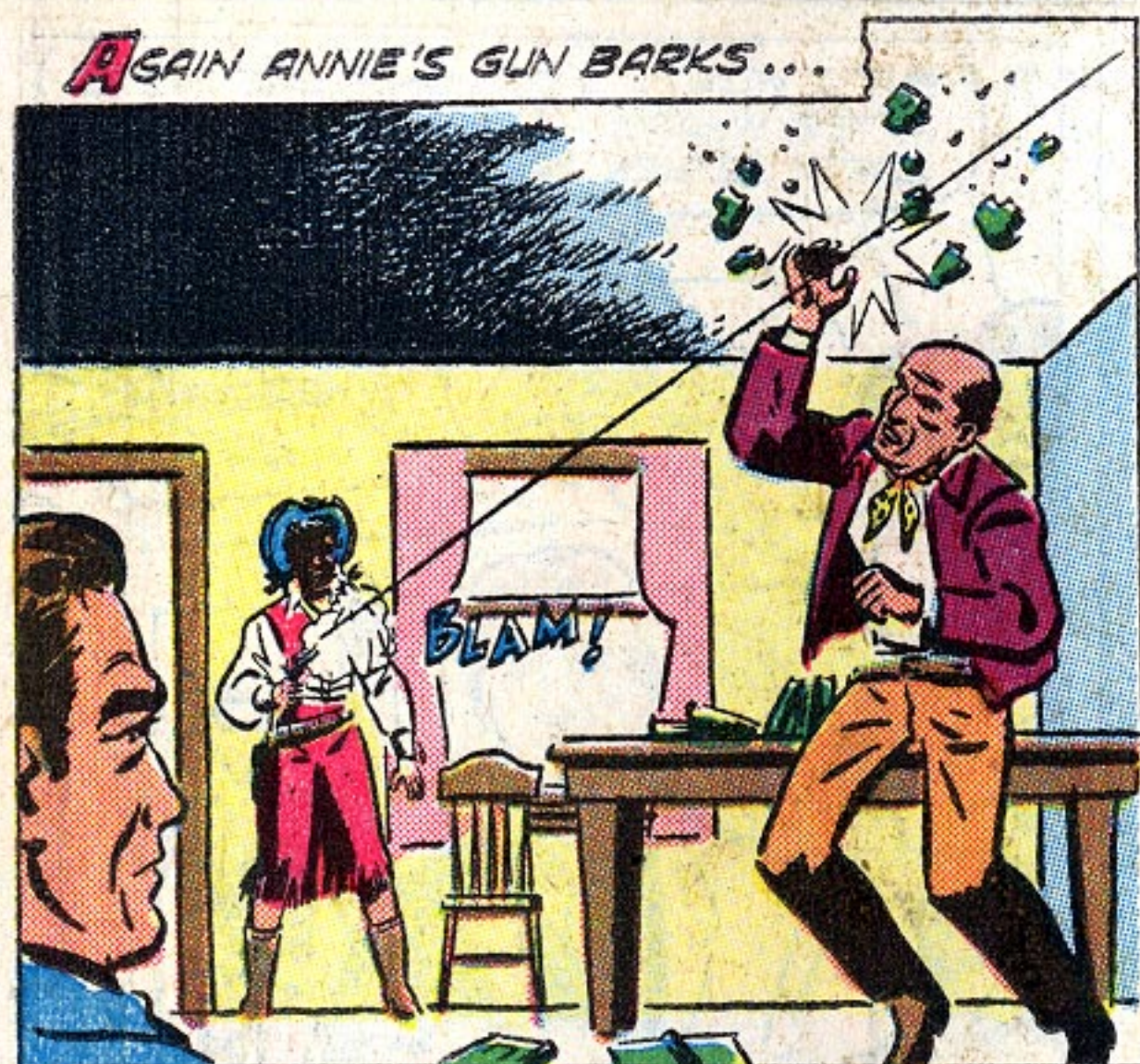
BULL DIVES FOR ONE OF THE FALLEN GUNS BUT...



MEANTIME...



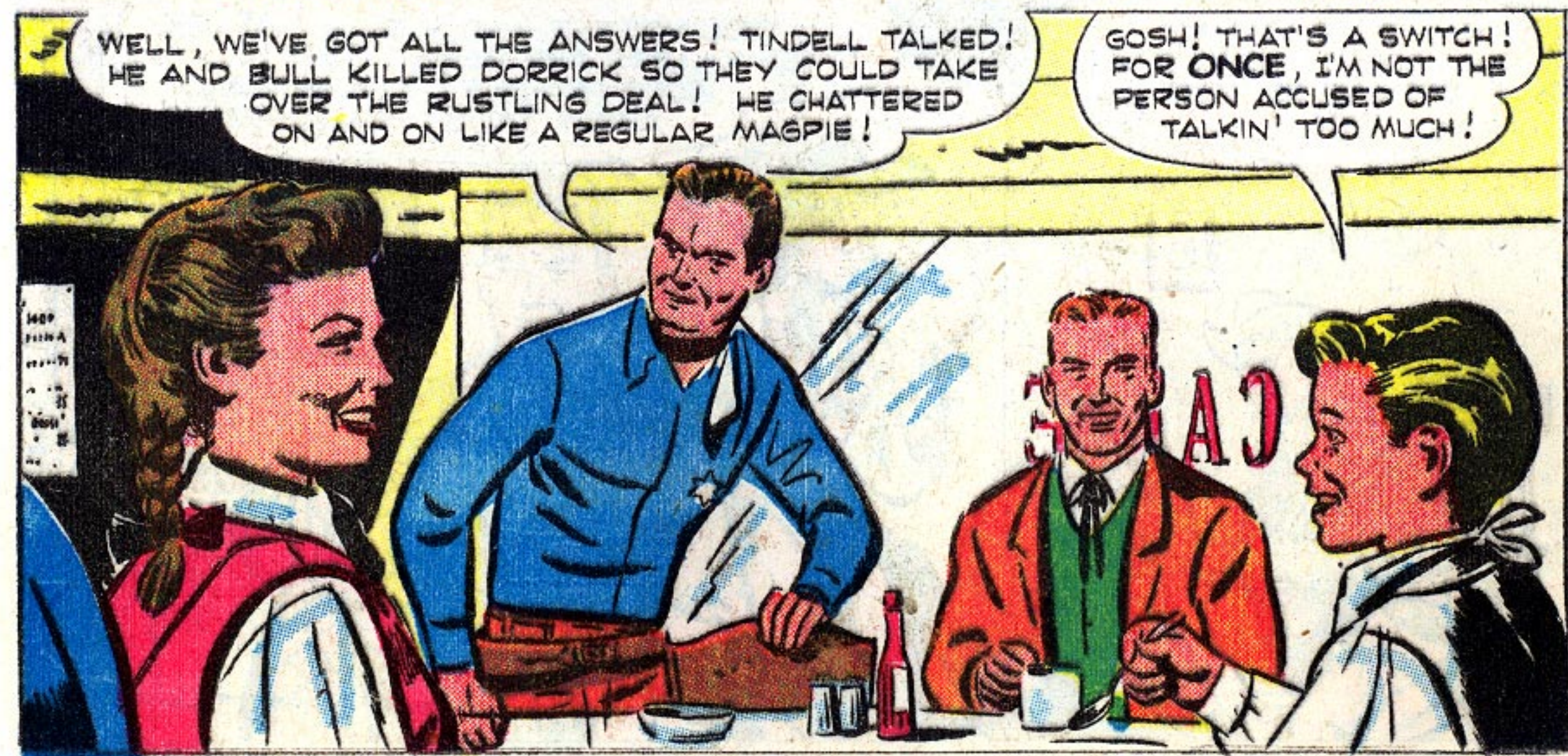
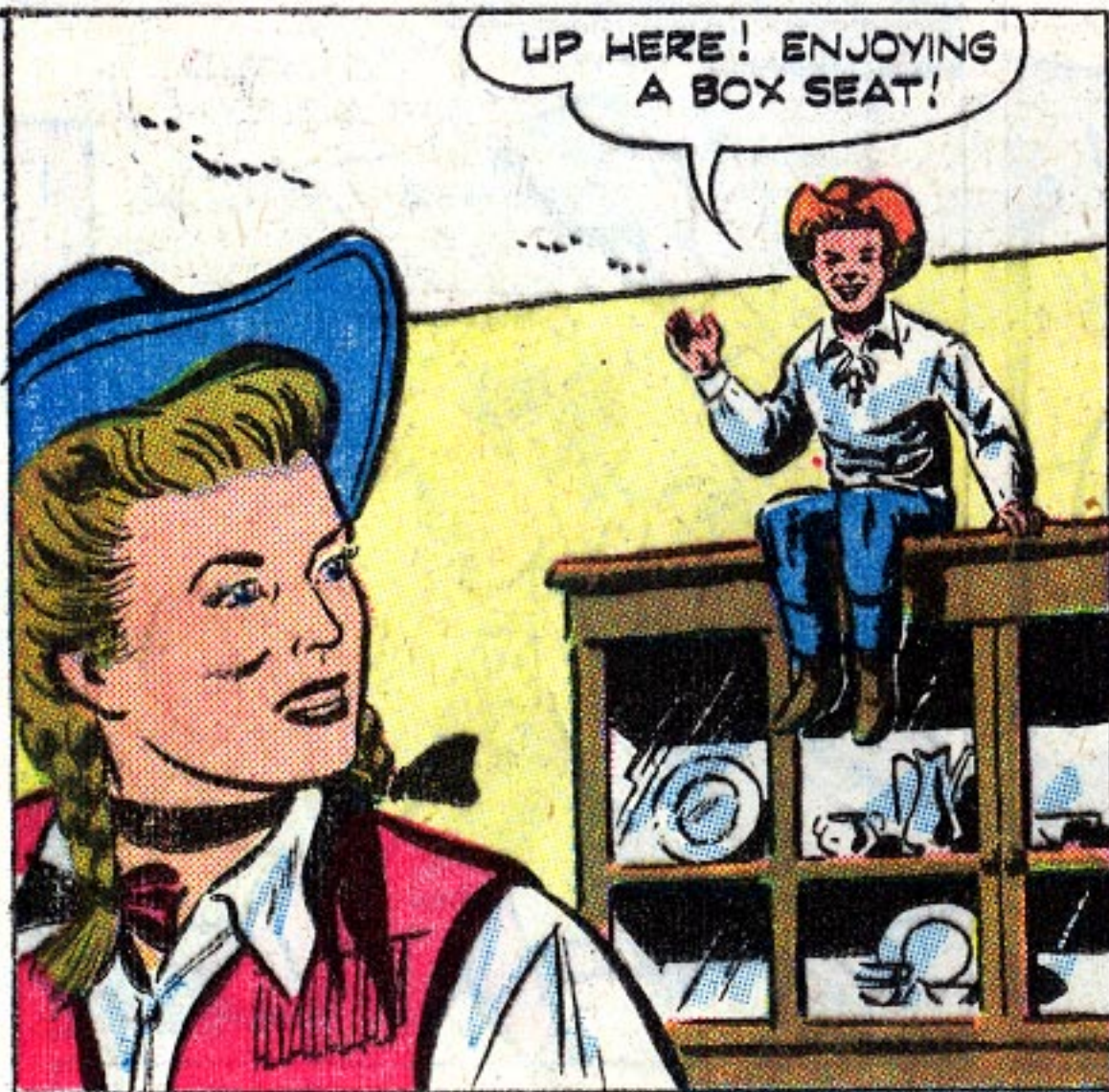
AGAIN ANNIE'S GUN BARKS...



ANNIE! I'M PLUMB BEFUDDLED! HOW DID YOU HAPPEN TO BE HERE WITH...

I'LL TELL YOU THE WHOLE STORY AFTER THESE KILLERS ARE BEHIND BARS!... GOOD HEAVENS! I FORGOT ALL ABOUT TAGG! WHERE ARE YOU?

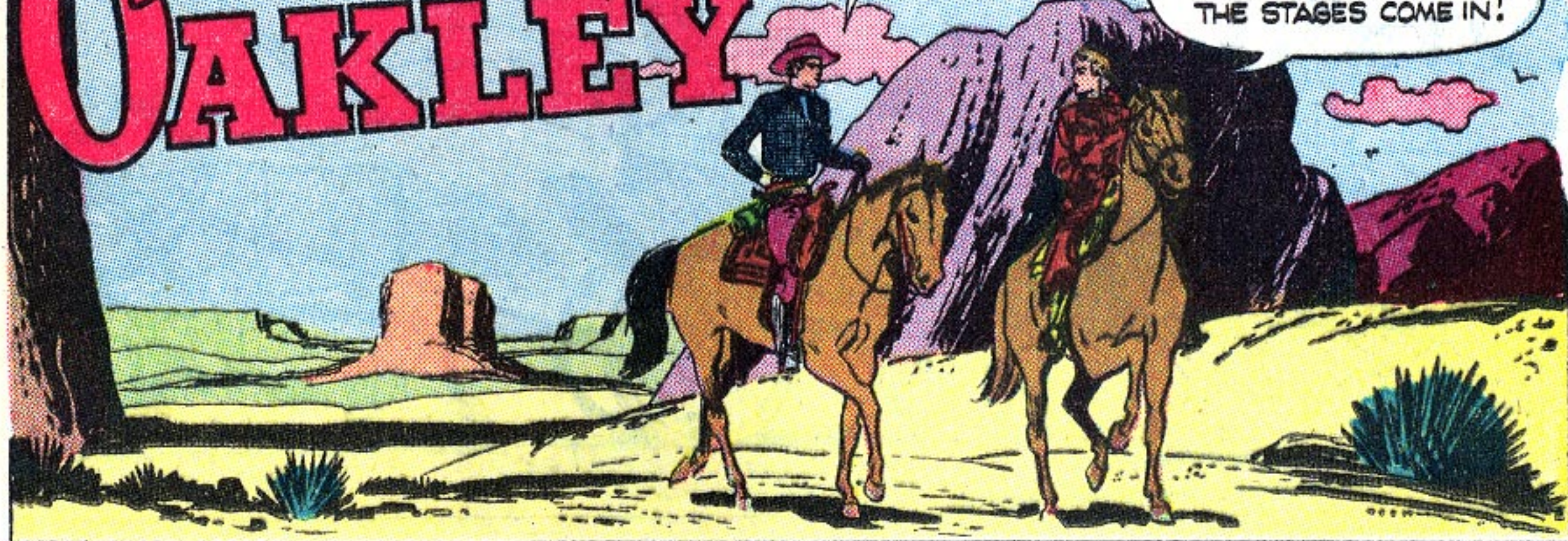




Annie Oakley

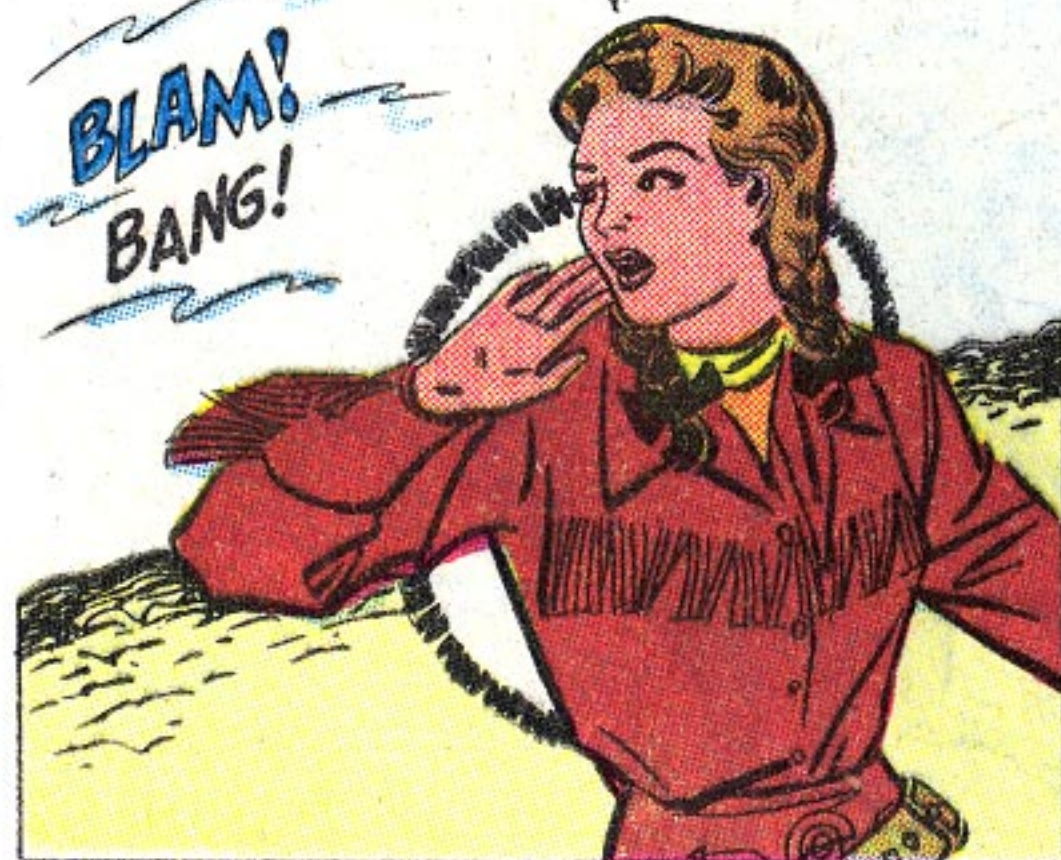
SEEMS STRANGE RIDING
WITHOUT TAGG, ANNIE!
DOES HE STILL LIKE HIS
JOB AT BLAKE'S HOTEL?

OH, YES! YOU KNOW,
LOFTY, I'M MIGHTY PROUD
OF MY BROTHER! IT'S NO
CINCH BEING GENERAL
HOTEL FLUNKY!
ESPECIALLY WHEN
THE STAGES COME IN!

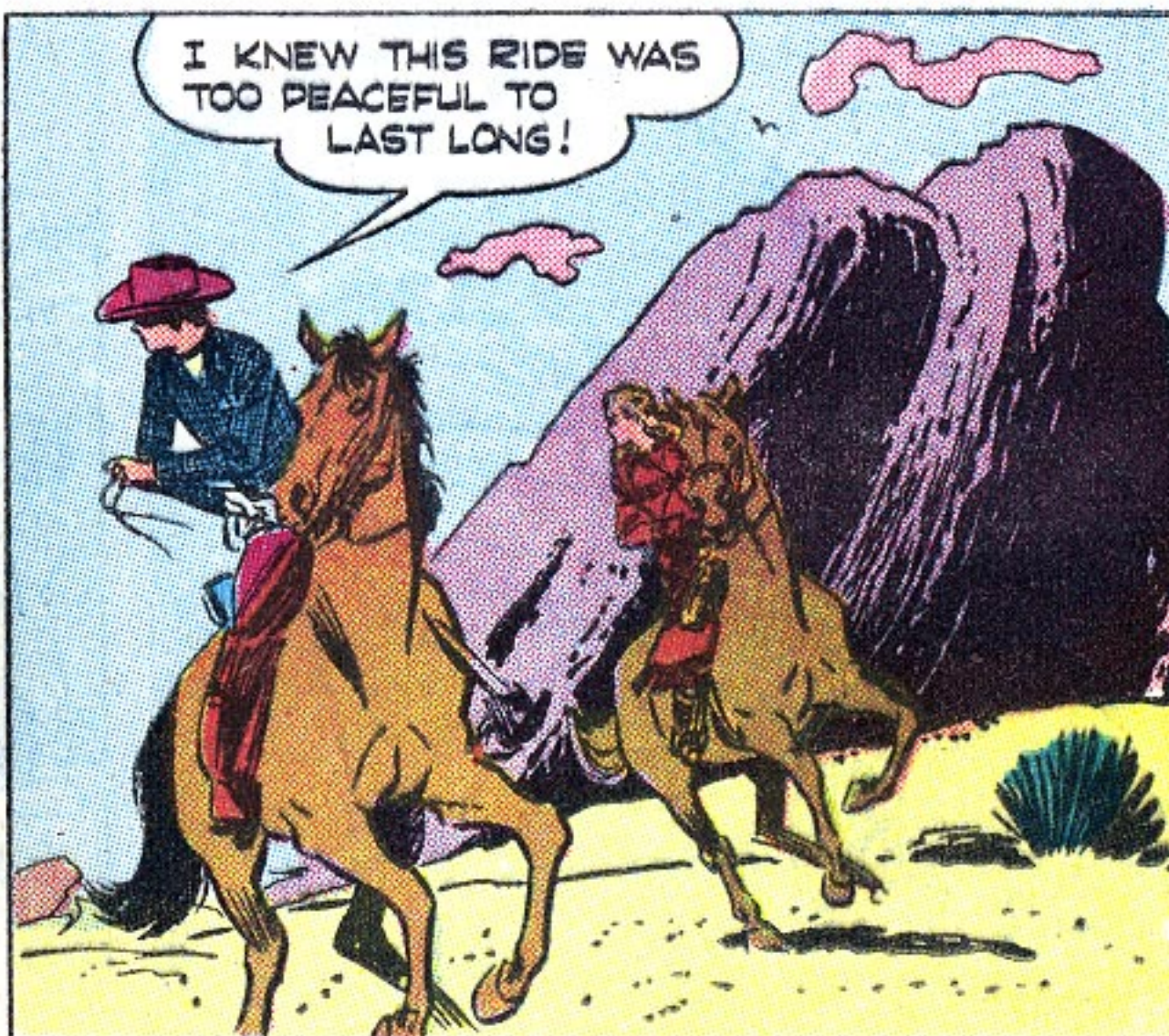


LOFTY! THOSE ARE
GUNSHOTS!

BLAM!
BANG!

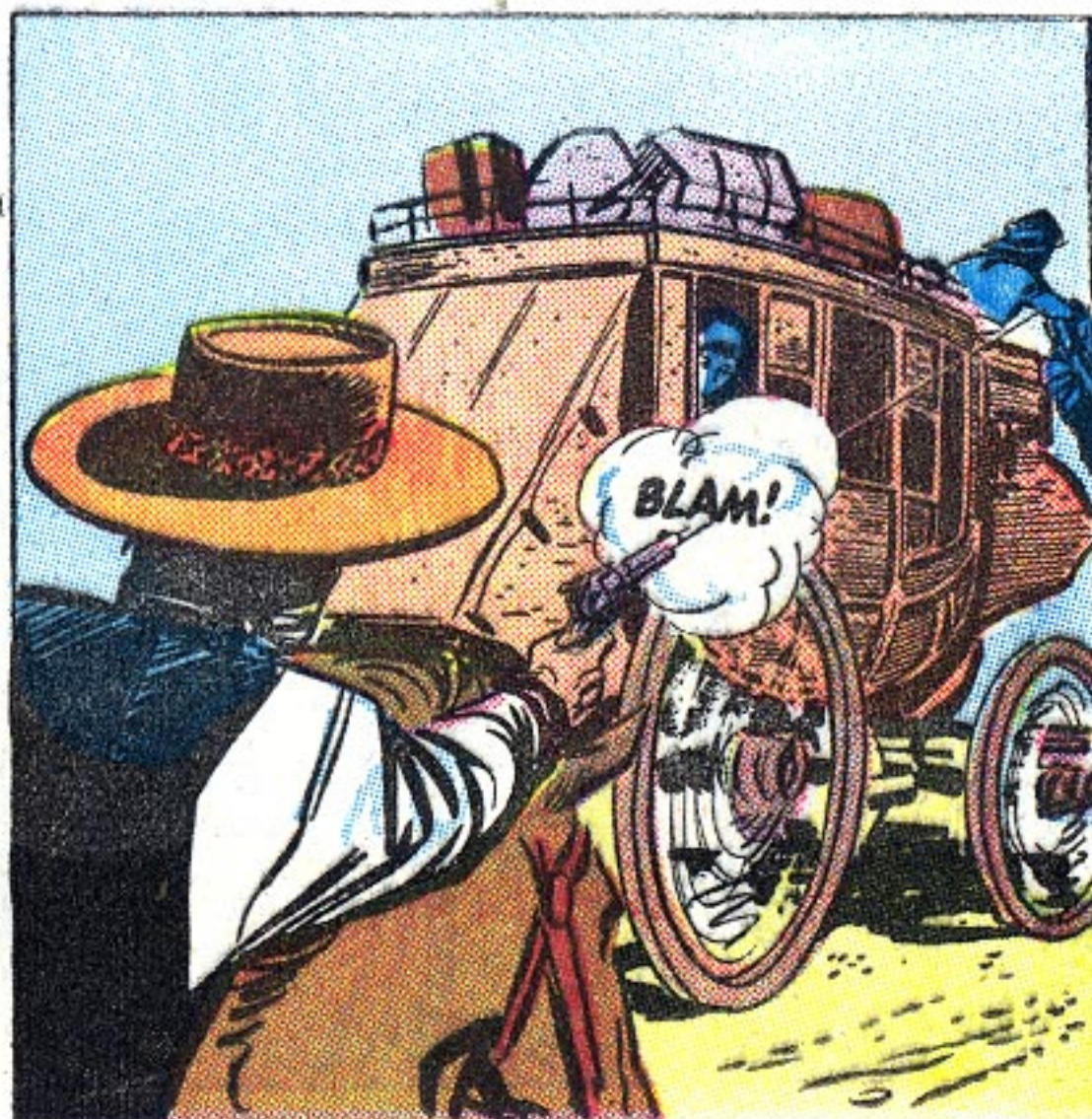
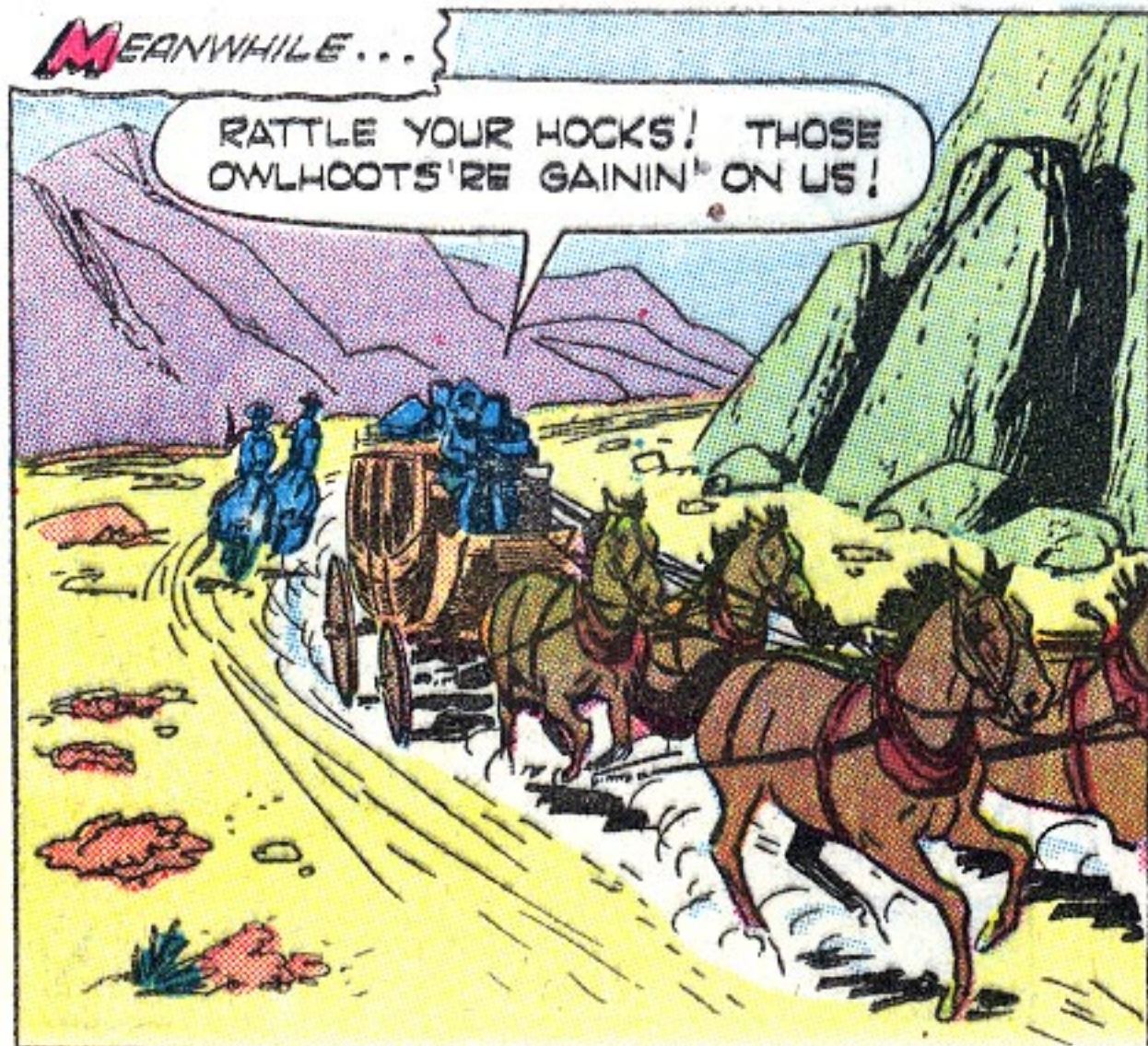


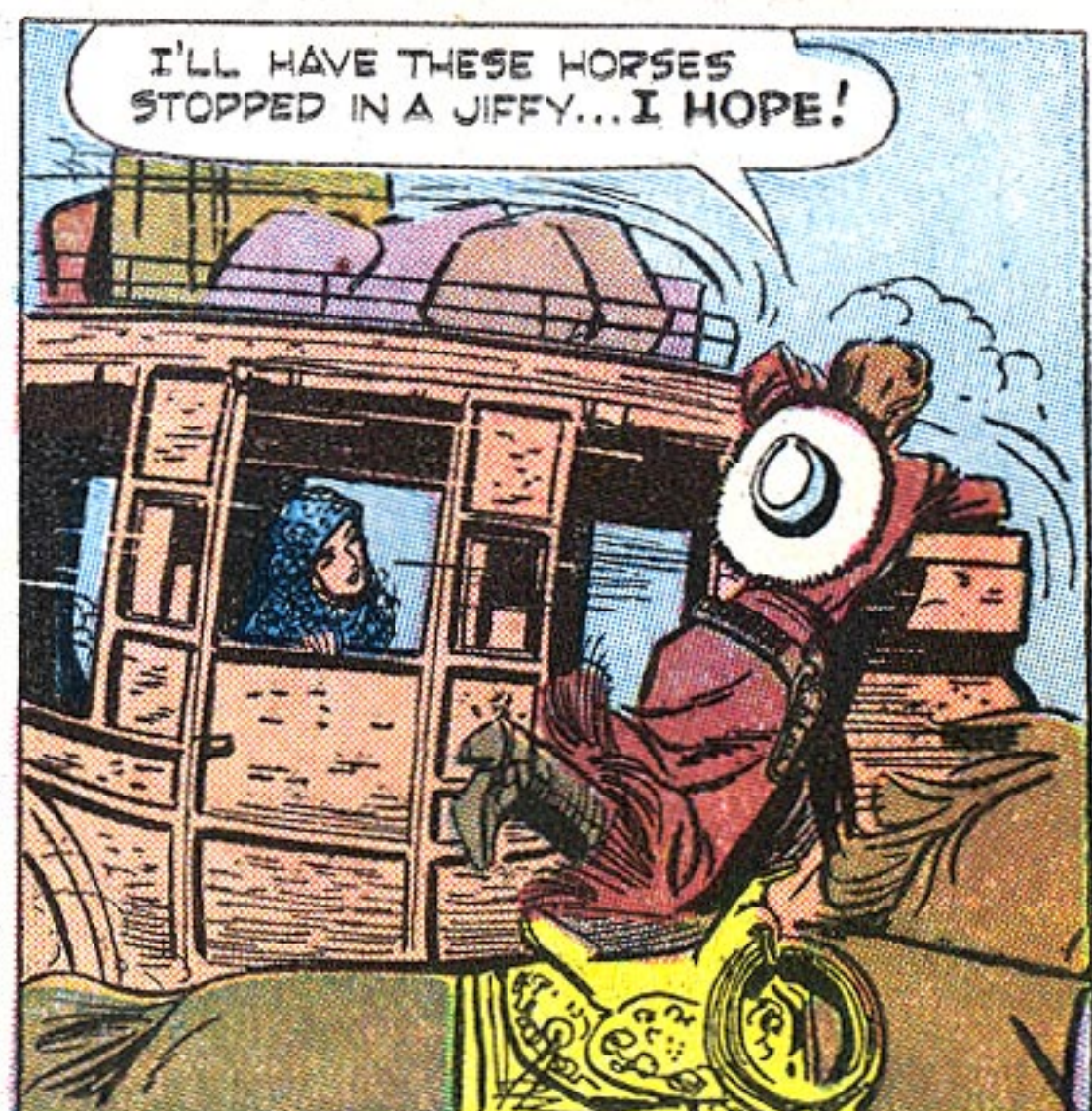
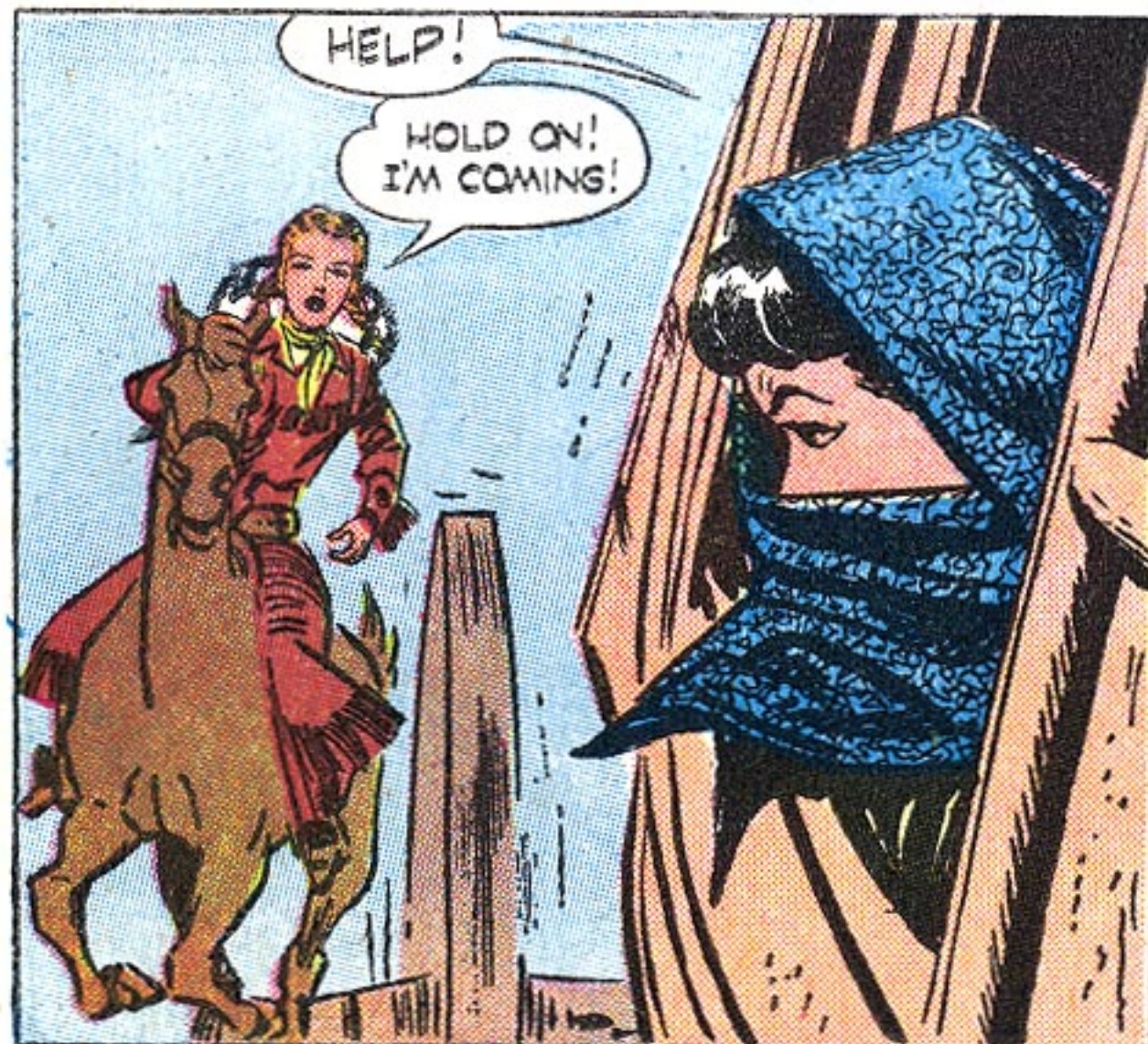
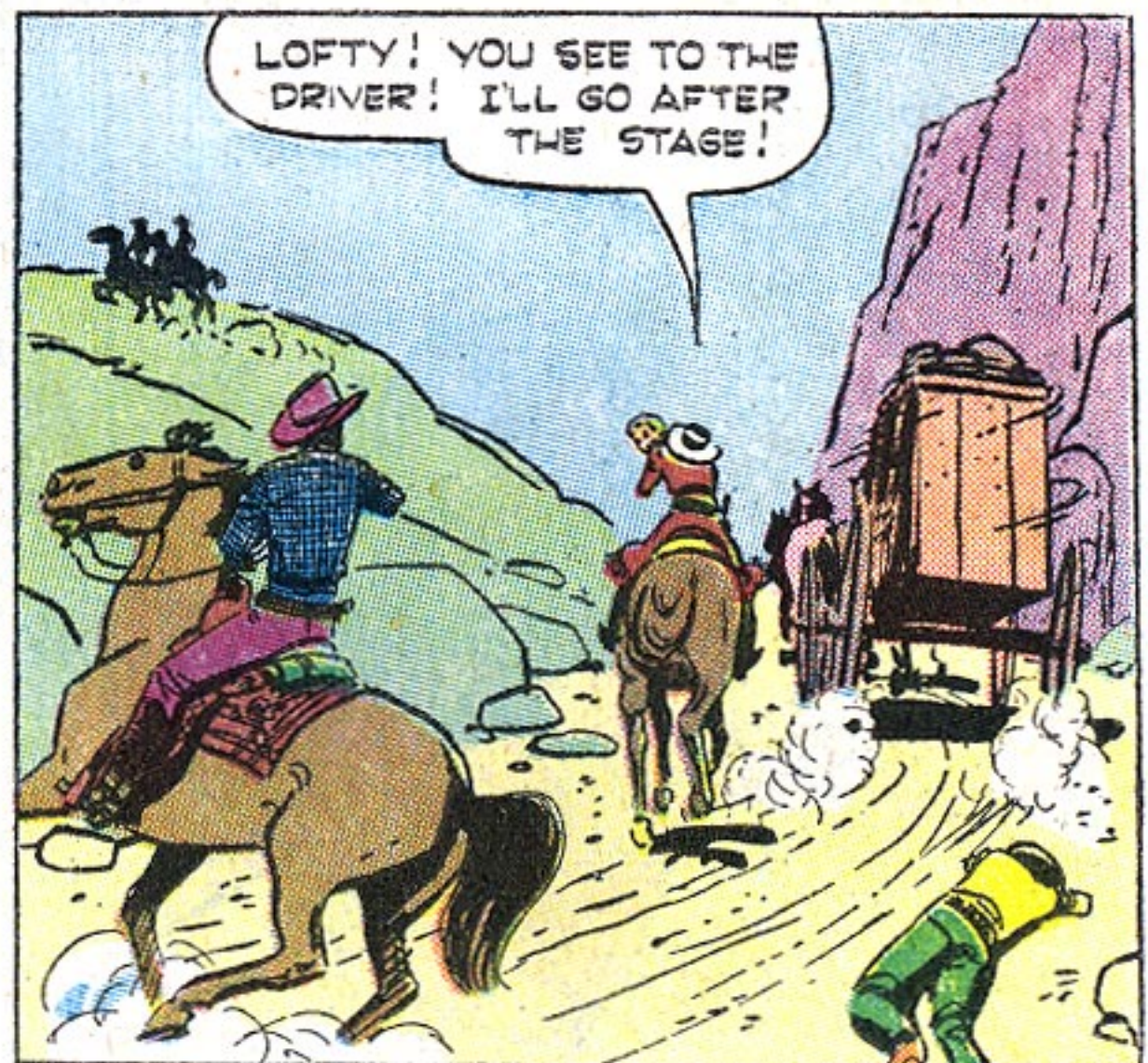
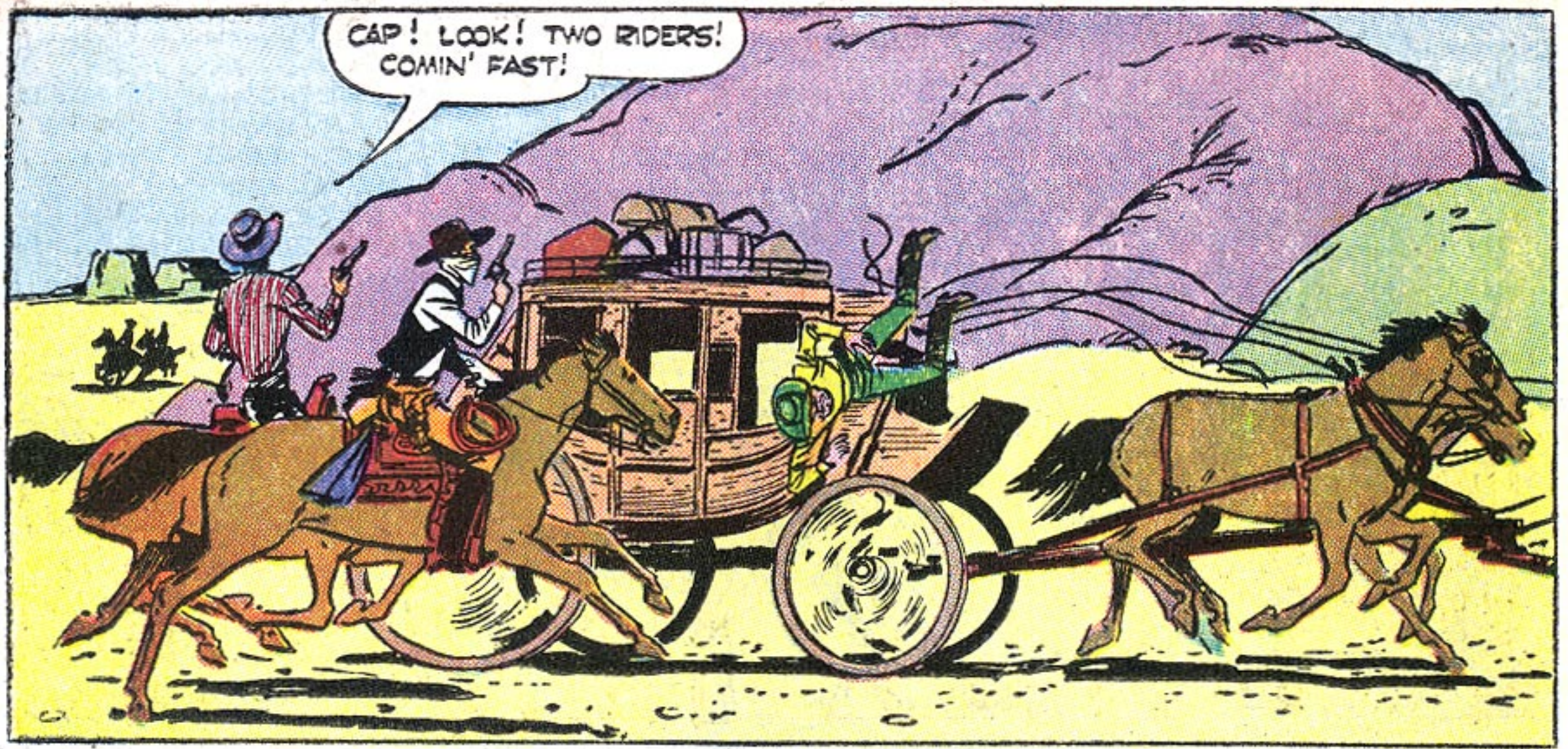
I KNEW THIS RIDE WAS
TOO PEACEFUL TO
LAST LONG!

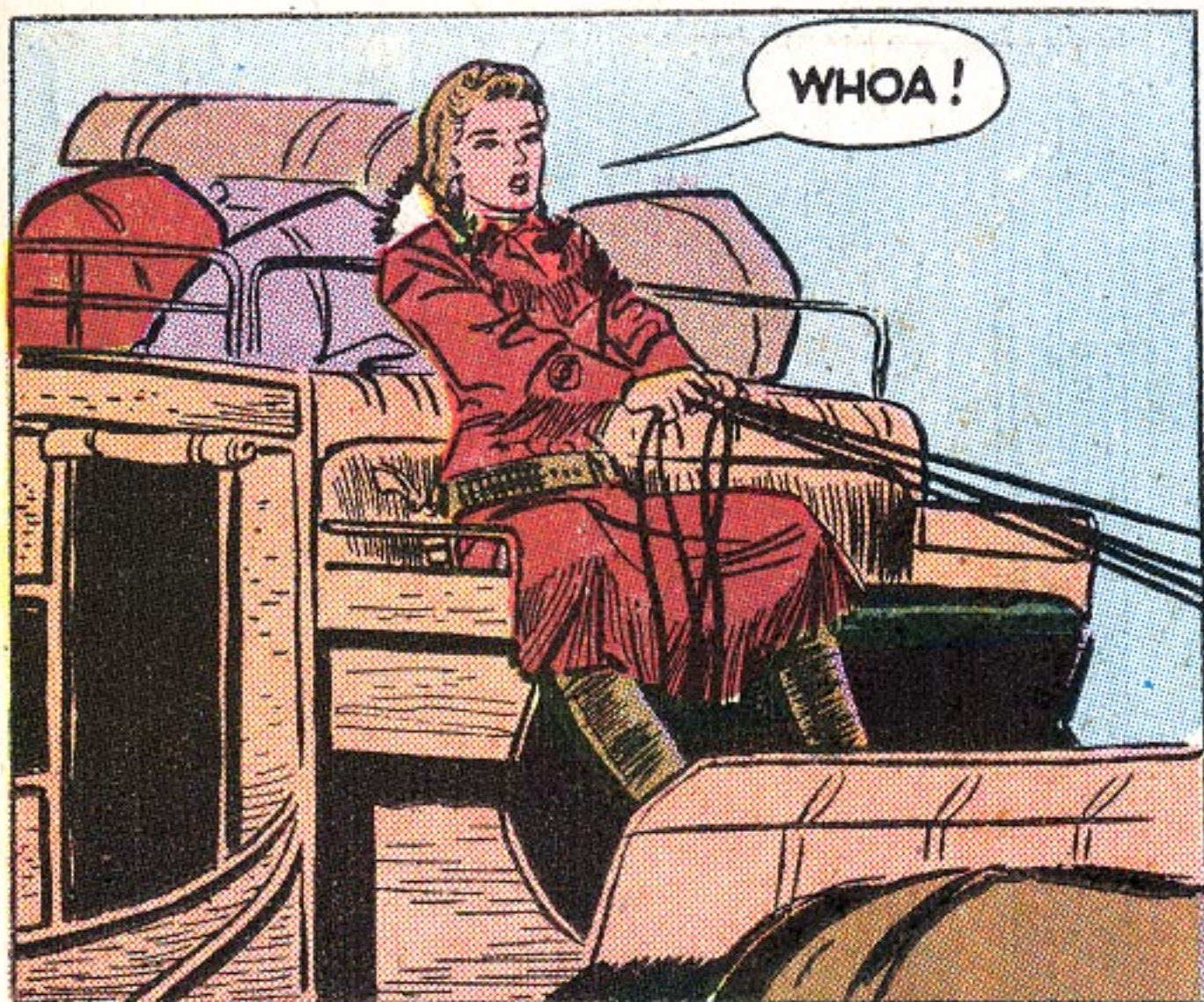


MEANWHILE...

RATTLE YOUR HOCKS! THOSE
OWLHOOTS'RE GAININ' ON US!







WHOA!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

Y-YES! AT LEAST I'M STILL ALL IN ONE PIECE!



THEN WE'LL GO BACK AND SEE HOW THE DRIVER'S DOING!



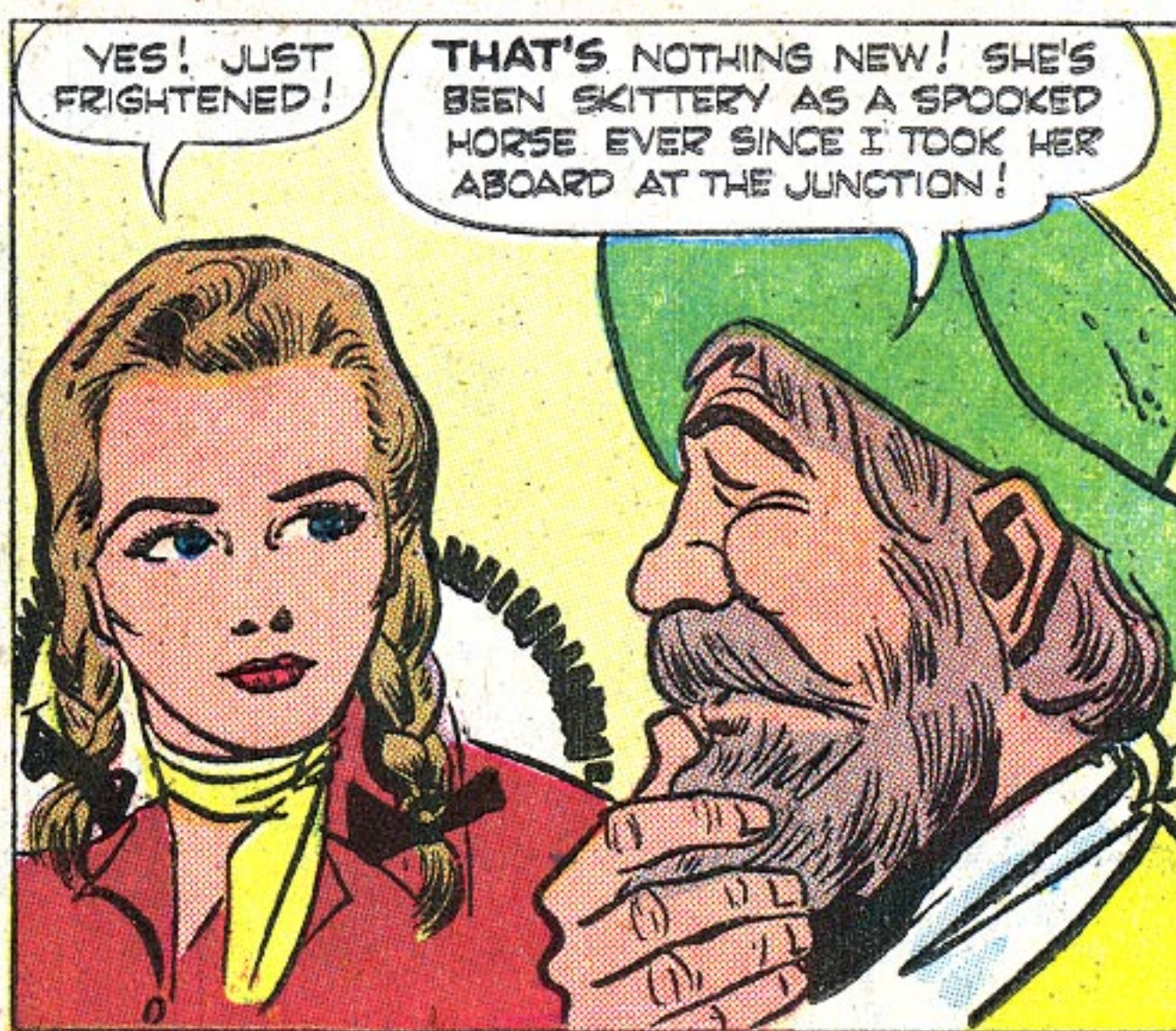
WHY, IT'S JIM WOOD! ARE YOU BADLY HURT?

NO, ANNIE! THE BULLET JUST NICKED ME!



YOU MUST BE CARRYING A VALUABLE CARGO FOR THOSE BANDITS TO JUMP YOU!

BUT I'M NOT! THE STAGE IS EMPTY EXCEPT FOR ONE PASSENGER... HOLY HAT! IS SHE OKAY?



YES! JUST FRIGHTENED!

THAT'S NOTHING NEW! SHE'S BEEN SKITTERY AS A SPOOKED HORSE EVER SINCE I TOOK HER ABOARD AT THE JUNCTION!



MY NAME'S ANNIE OAKLEY!
I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT
WHY THOSE MEN ATTACKED
THE STAGE! WOULD YOU
HAVE ANY IDEAS ABOUT IT?

M-ME?
OF COURSE NOT!



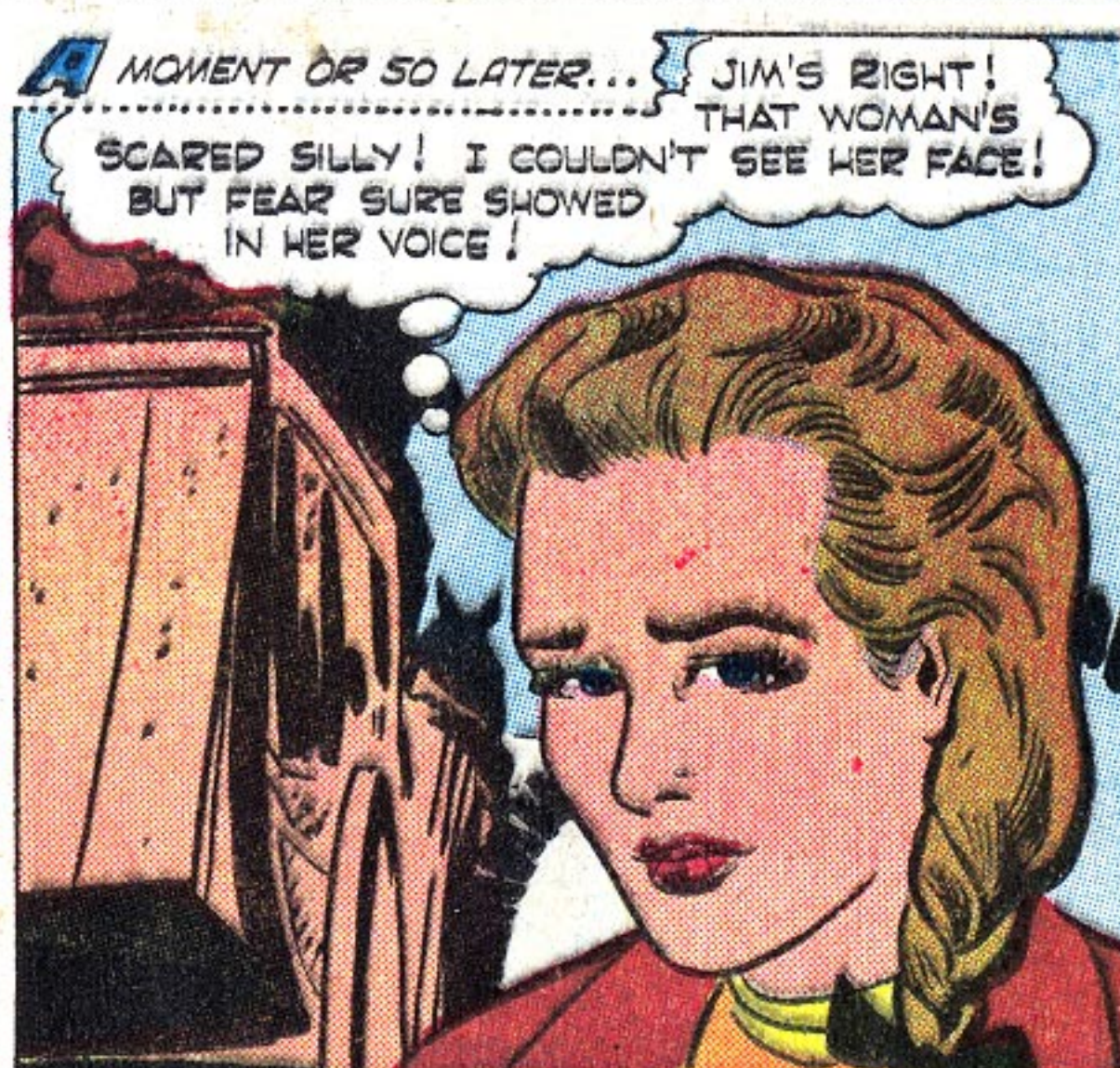
MAYBE YOU'RE
CARRYING A LOT
OF CASH...
OR JEWELS...

I'M NOT! PLEASE!
I'M IN A HURRY TO
GET TO DIABLO!
CAN'T WE GO ON NOW?



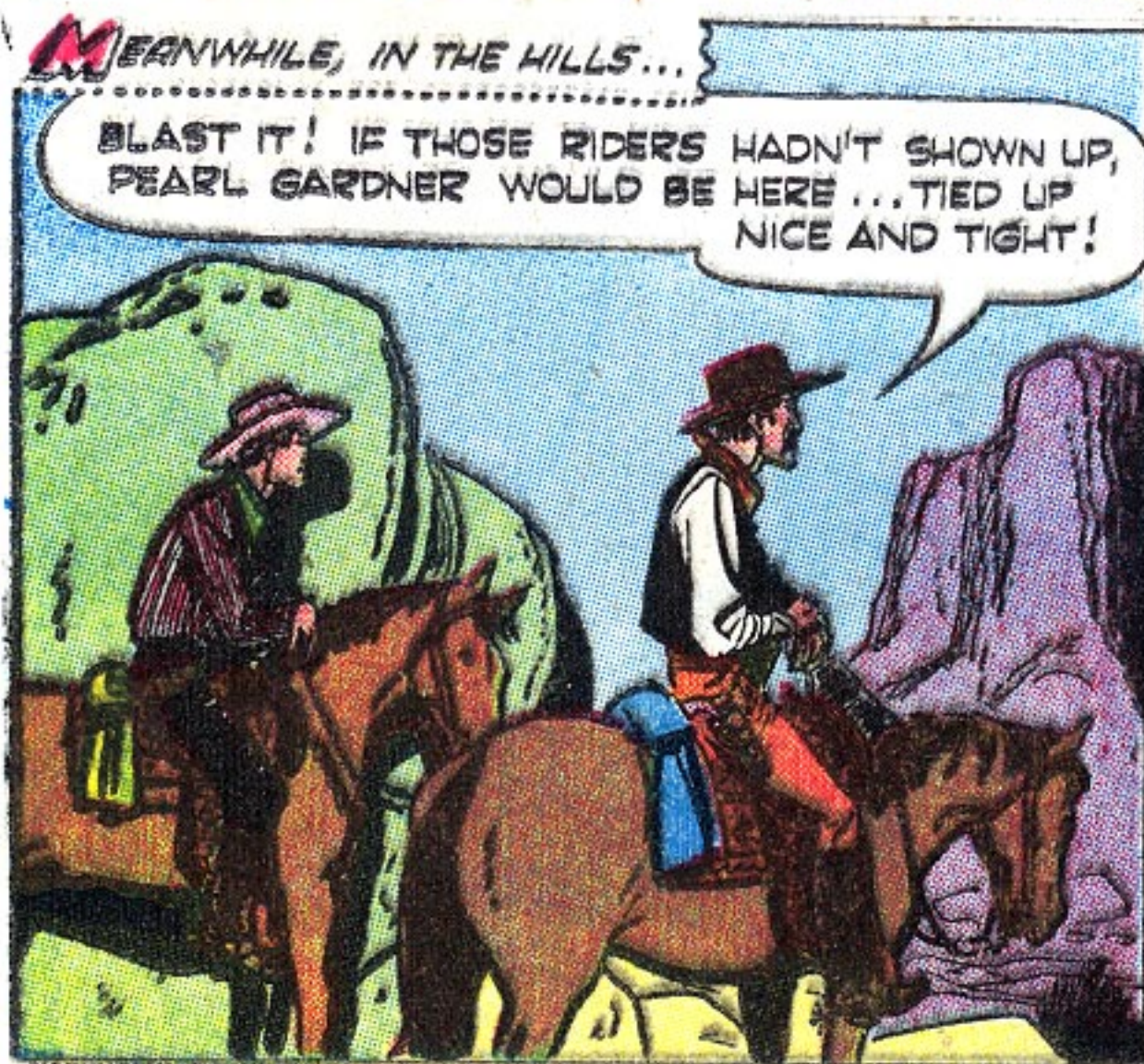
SURE! LOFTY AND I WILL
DRIVE THE STAGE IN! JIM
WILL BE MORE COMFORTABLE
INSIDE! I'LL TIE TARGET ON
BEHIND!

OKAY!



MOMENT OR SO LATER...

JIM'S RIGHT!
THAT WOMAN'S
SCARED SILLY! I COULDN'T SEE HER FACE!
BUT FEAR SURE SHOWED
IN HER VOICE!



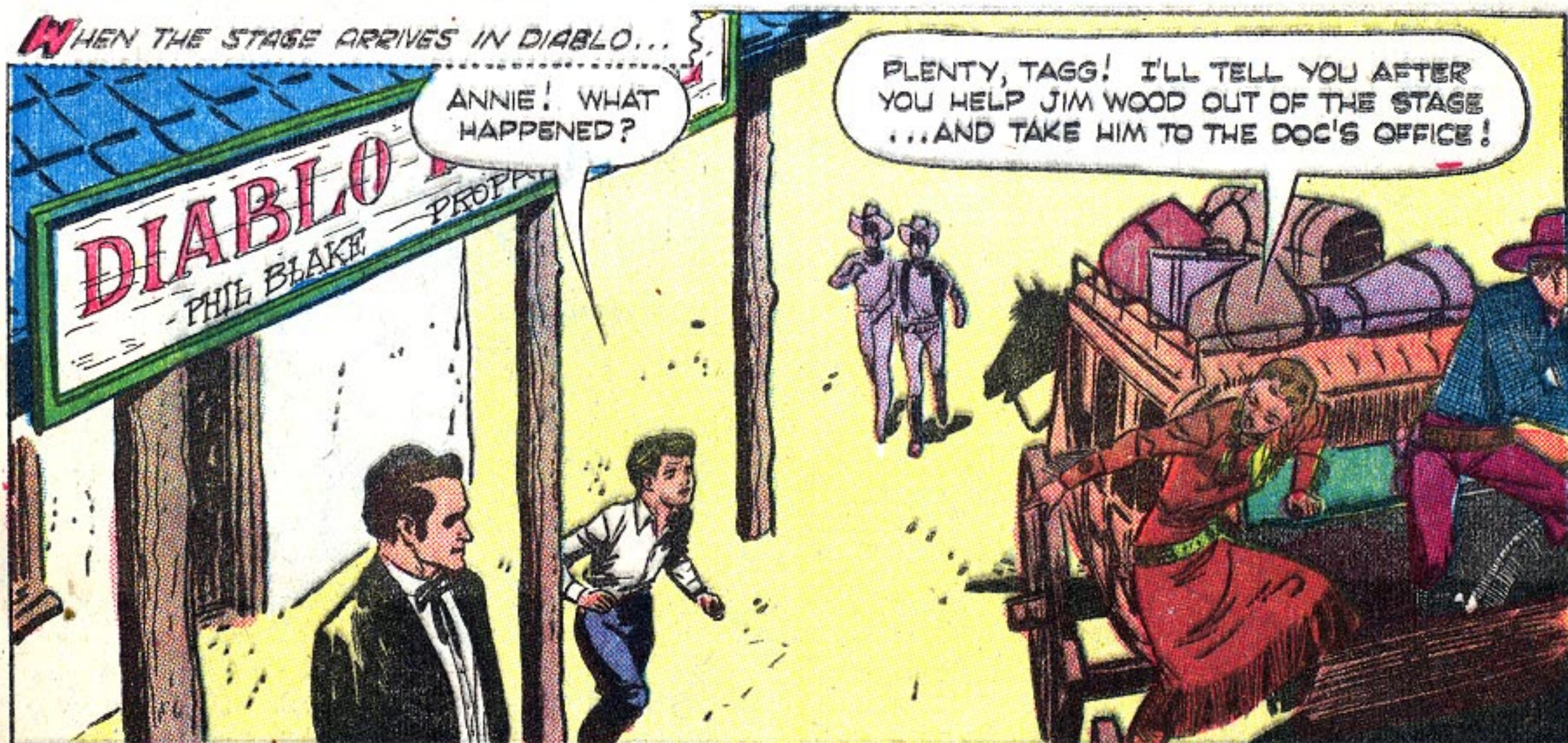
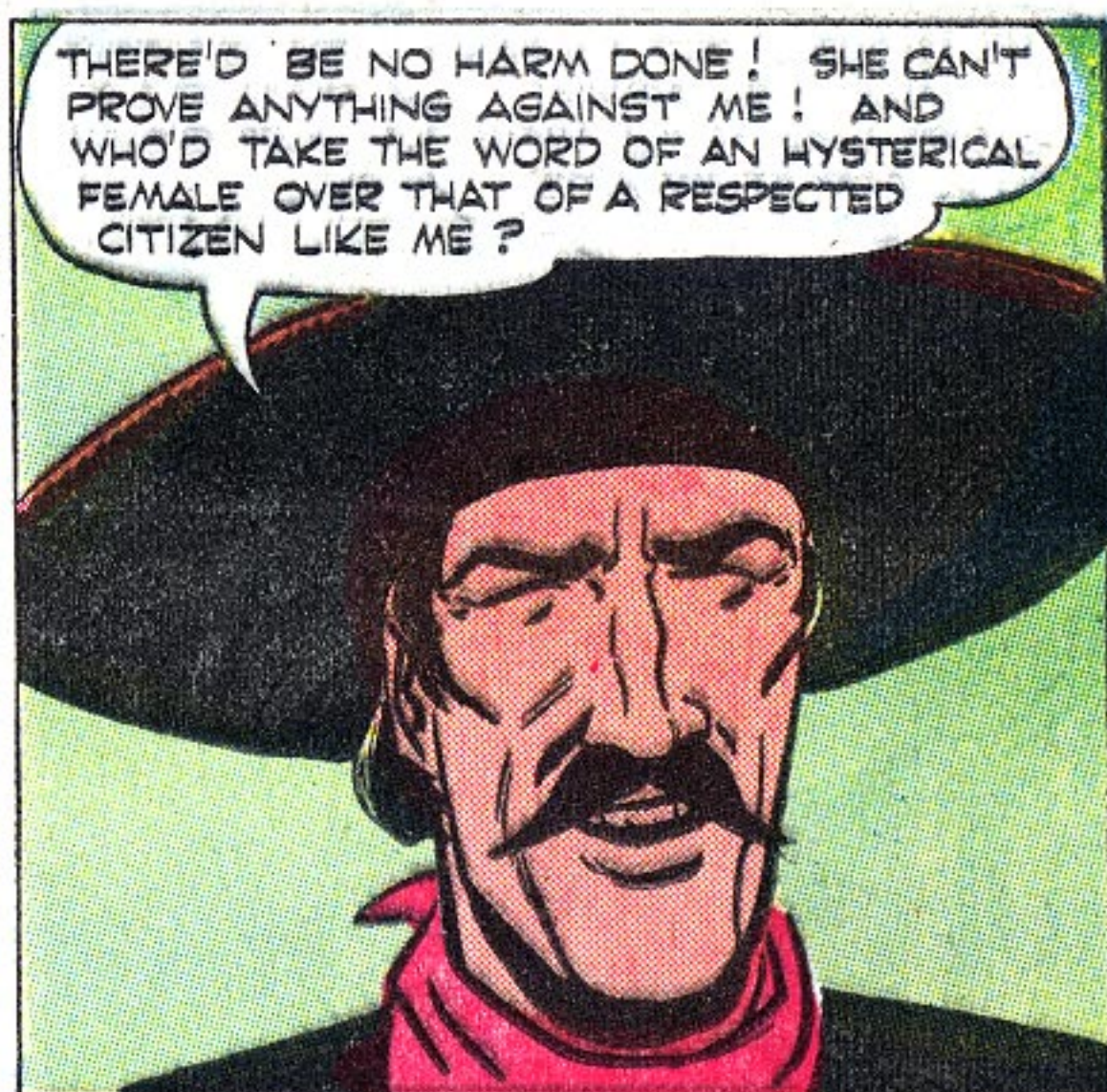
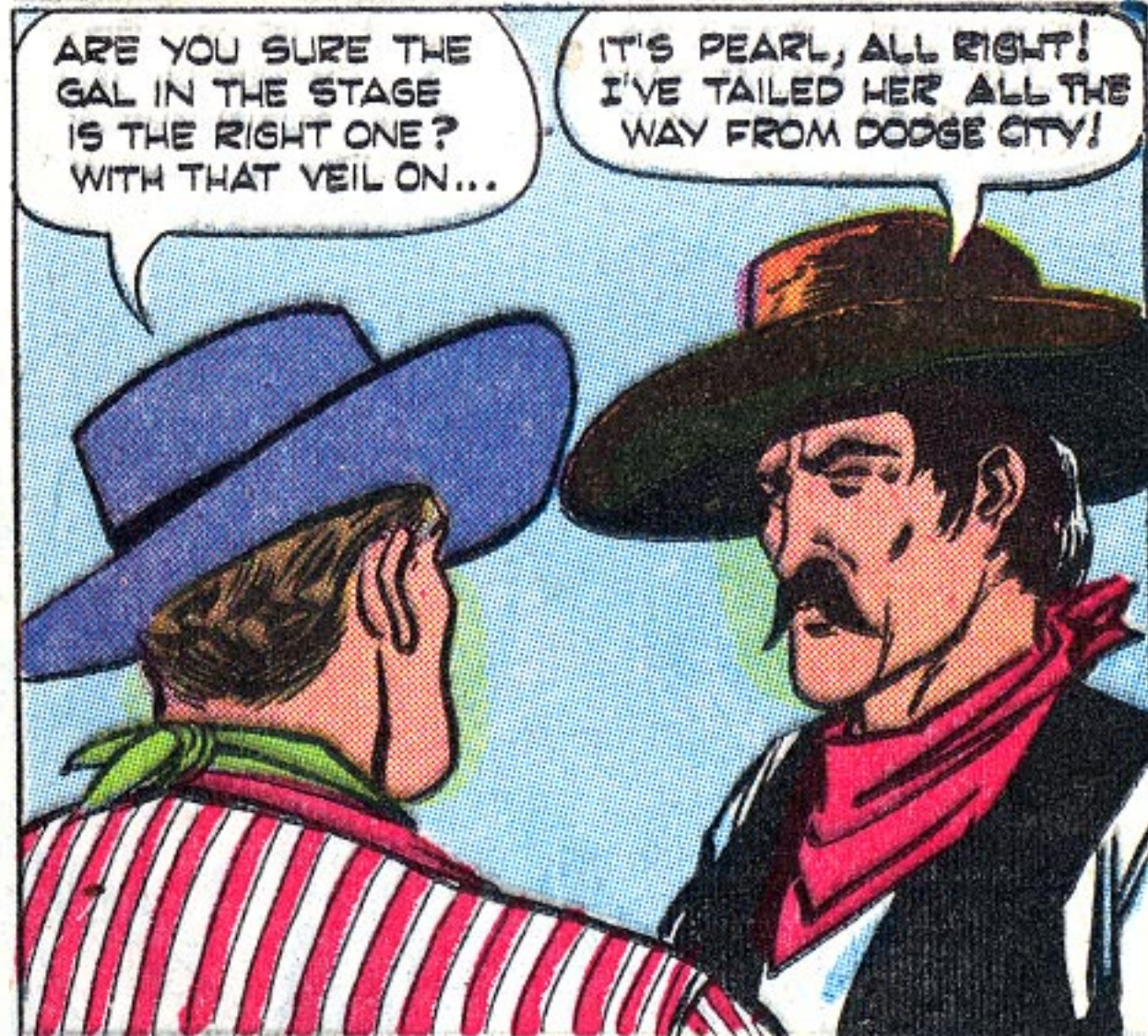
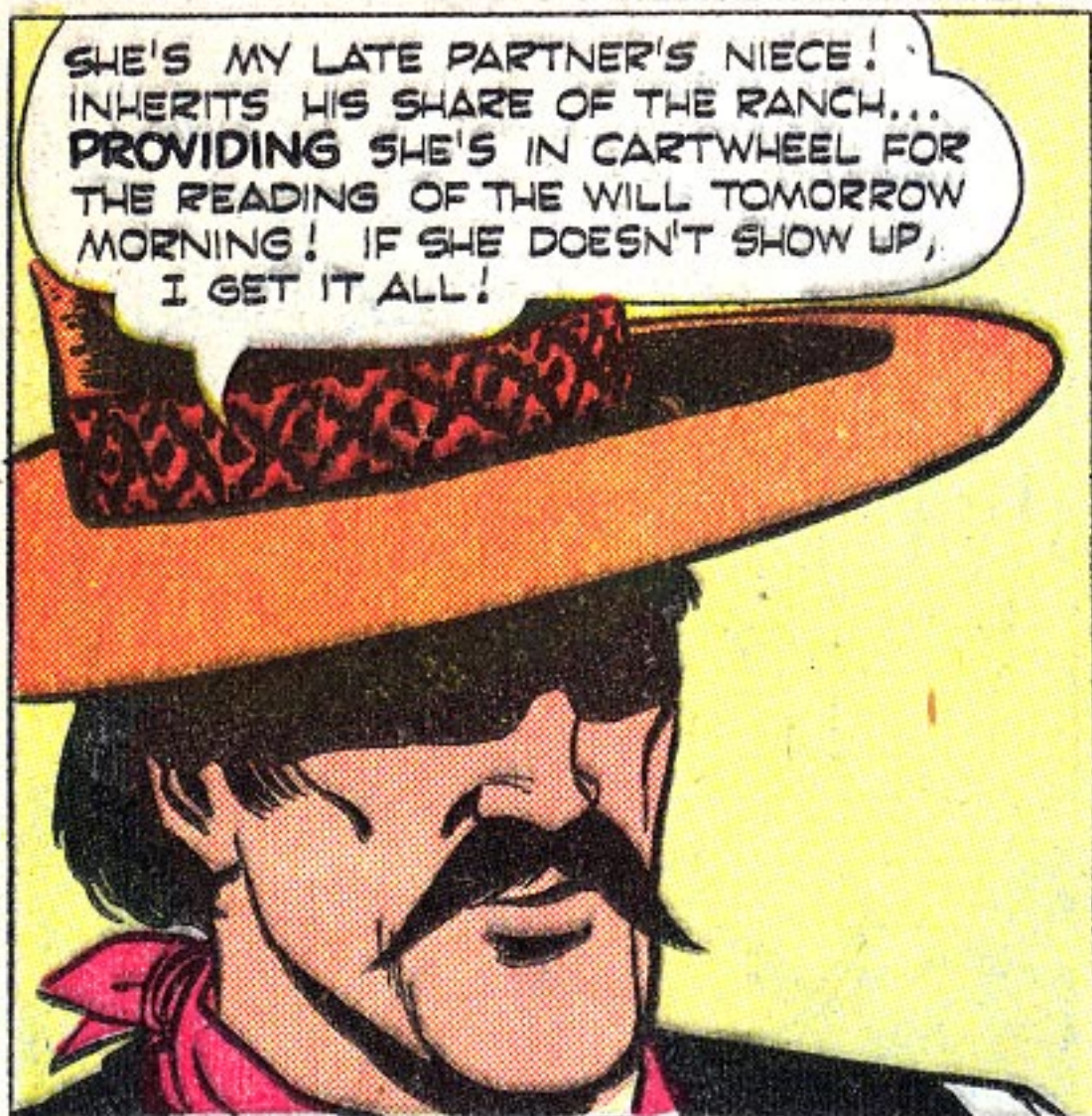
MEANWHILE, IN THE HILLS...

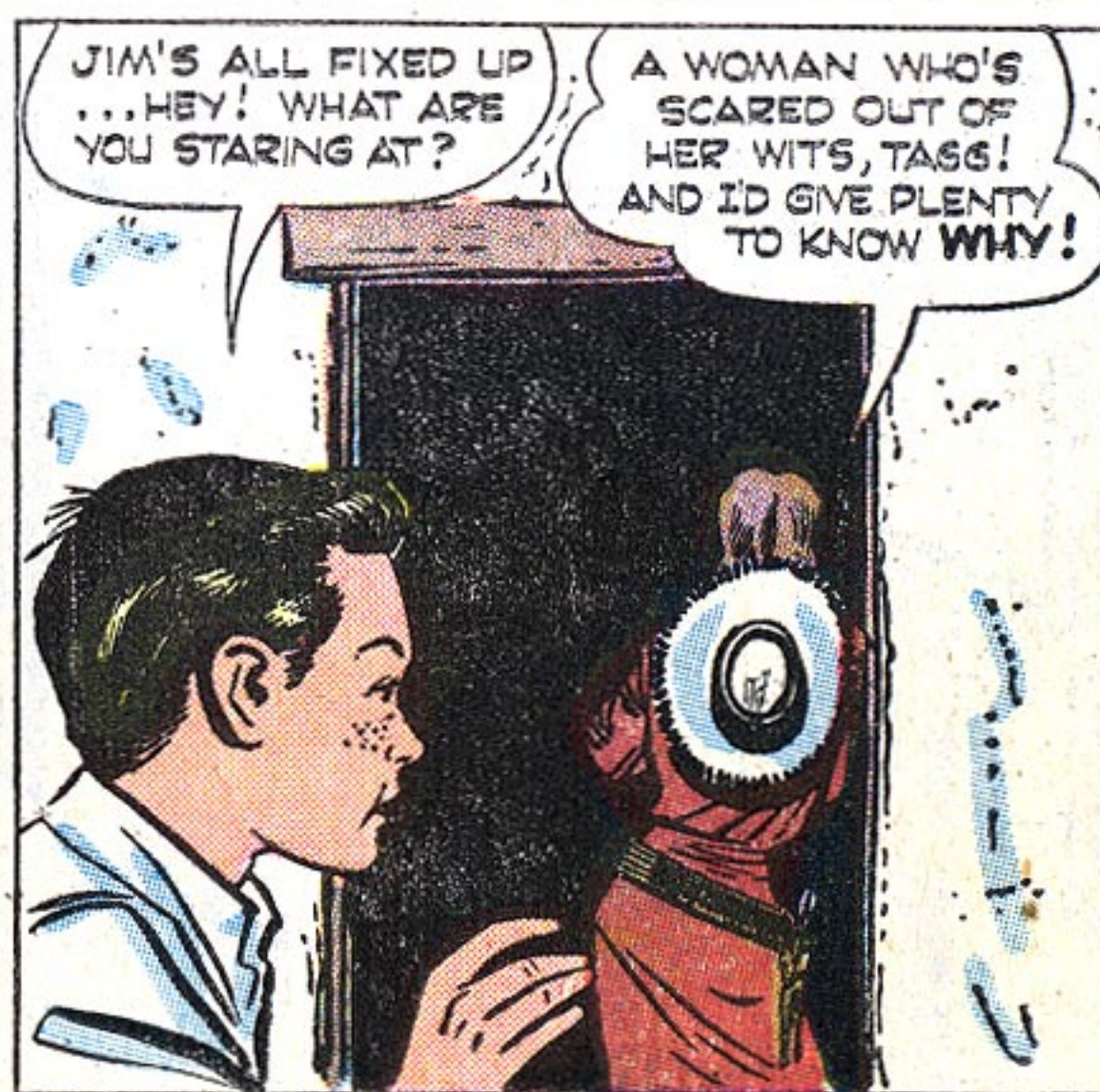
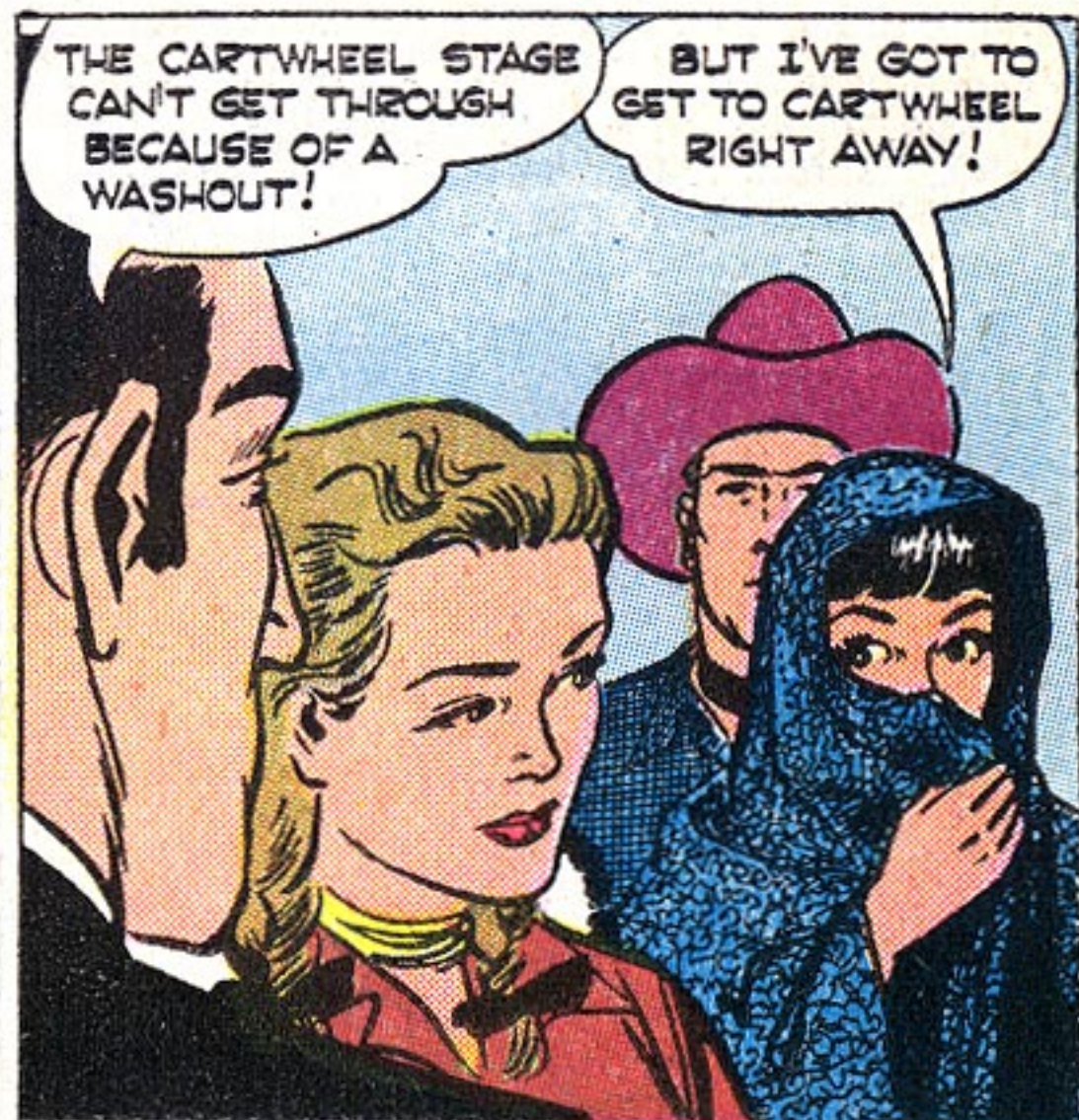
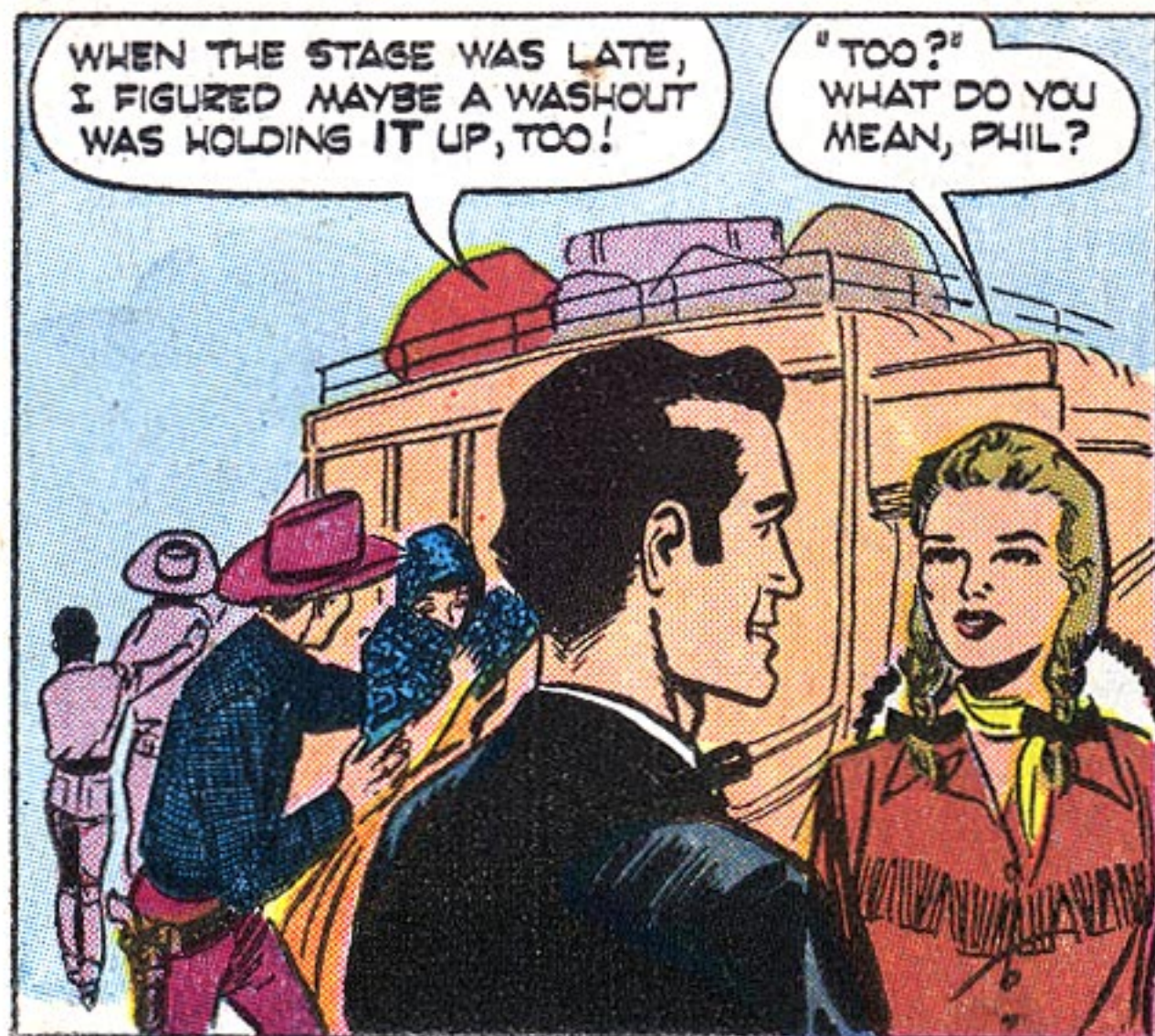
BLAST IT! IF THOSE RIDERS HADN'T SHOWN UP,
PEARL GARDNER WOULD BE HERE... TIED UP
NICE AND TIGHT!

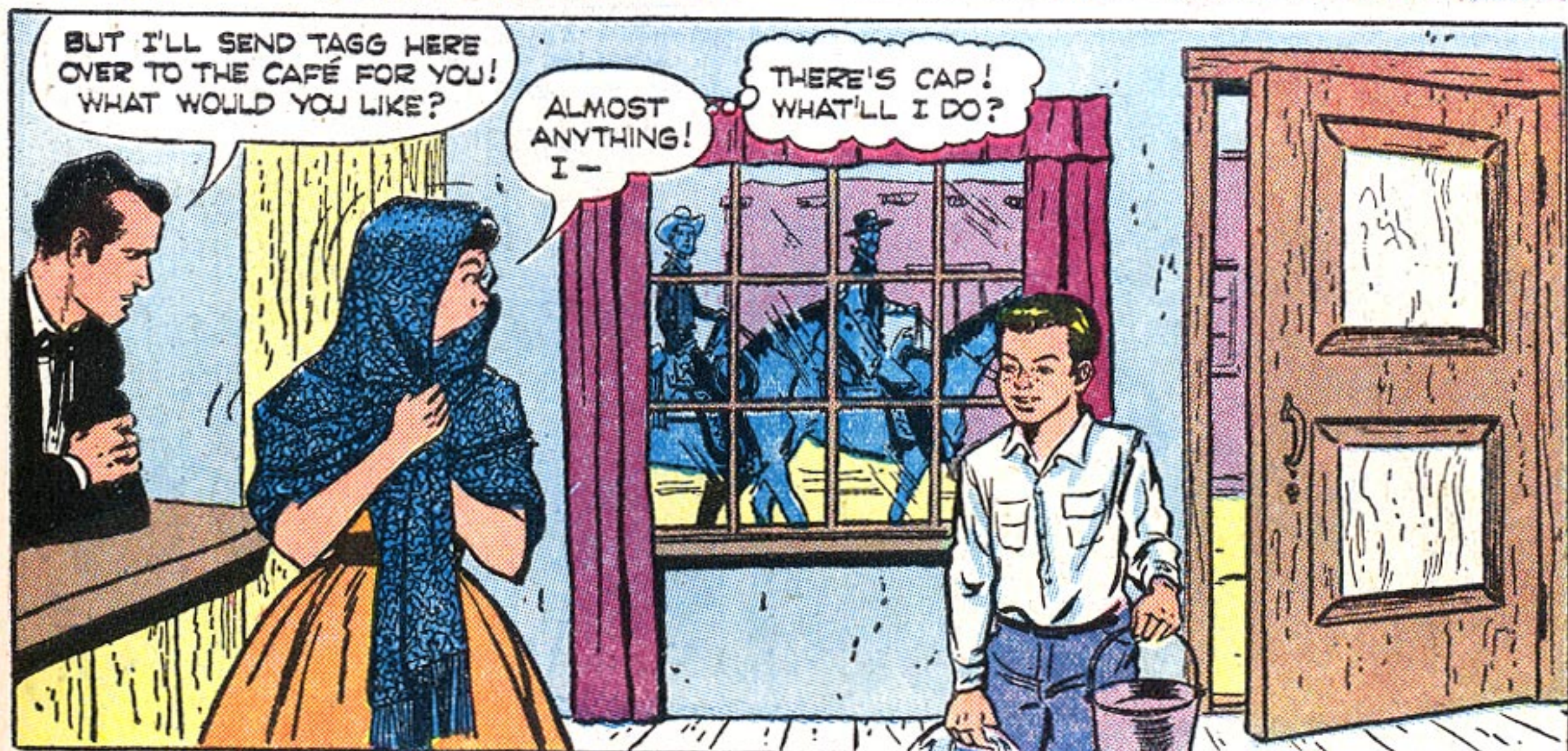
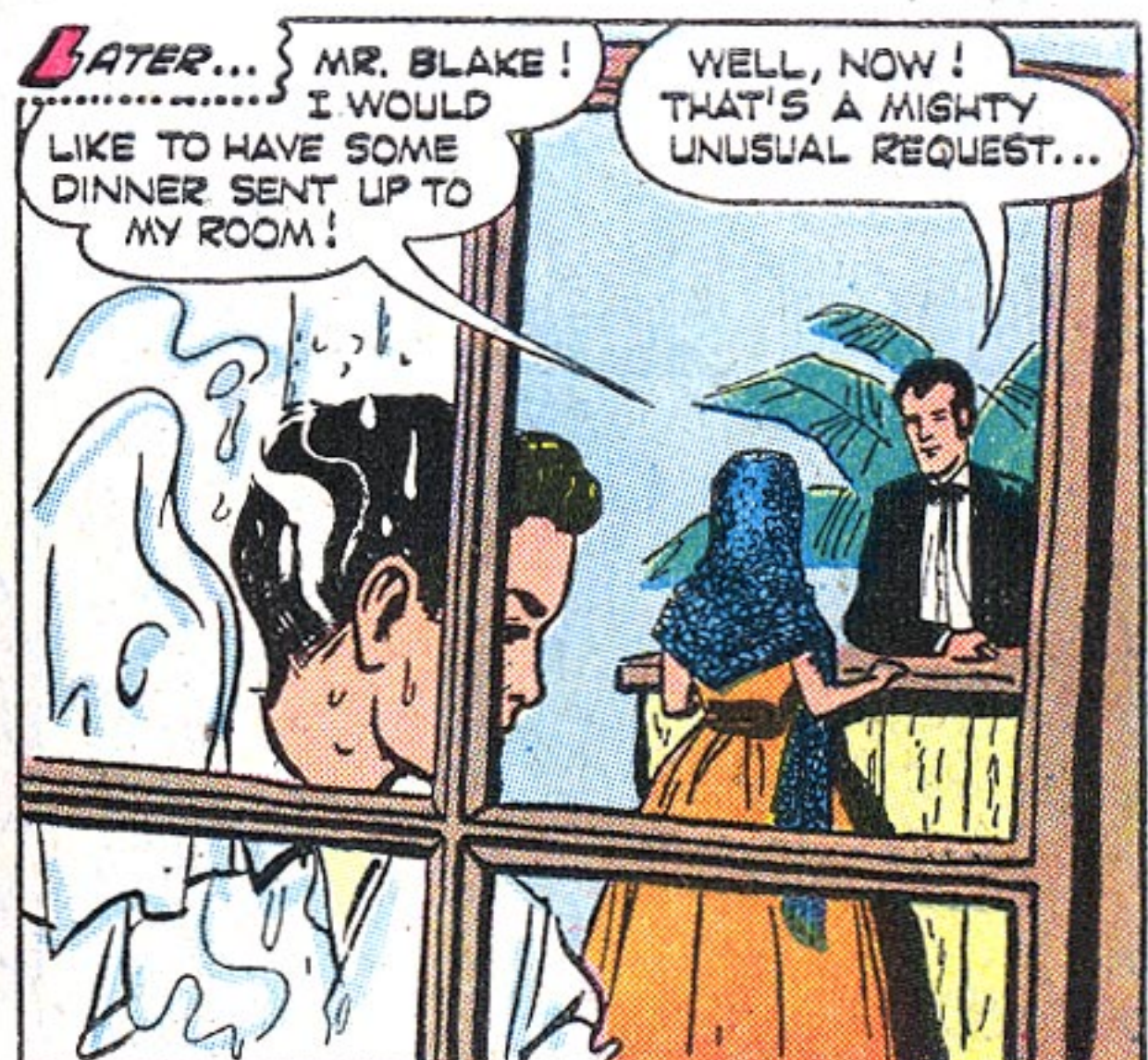
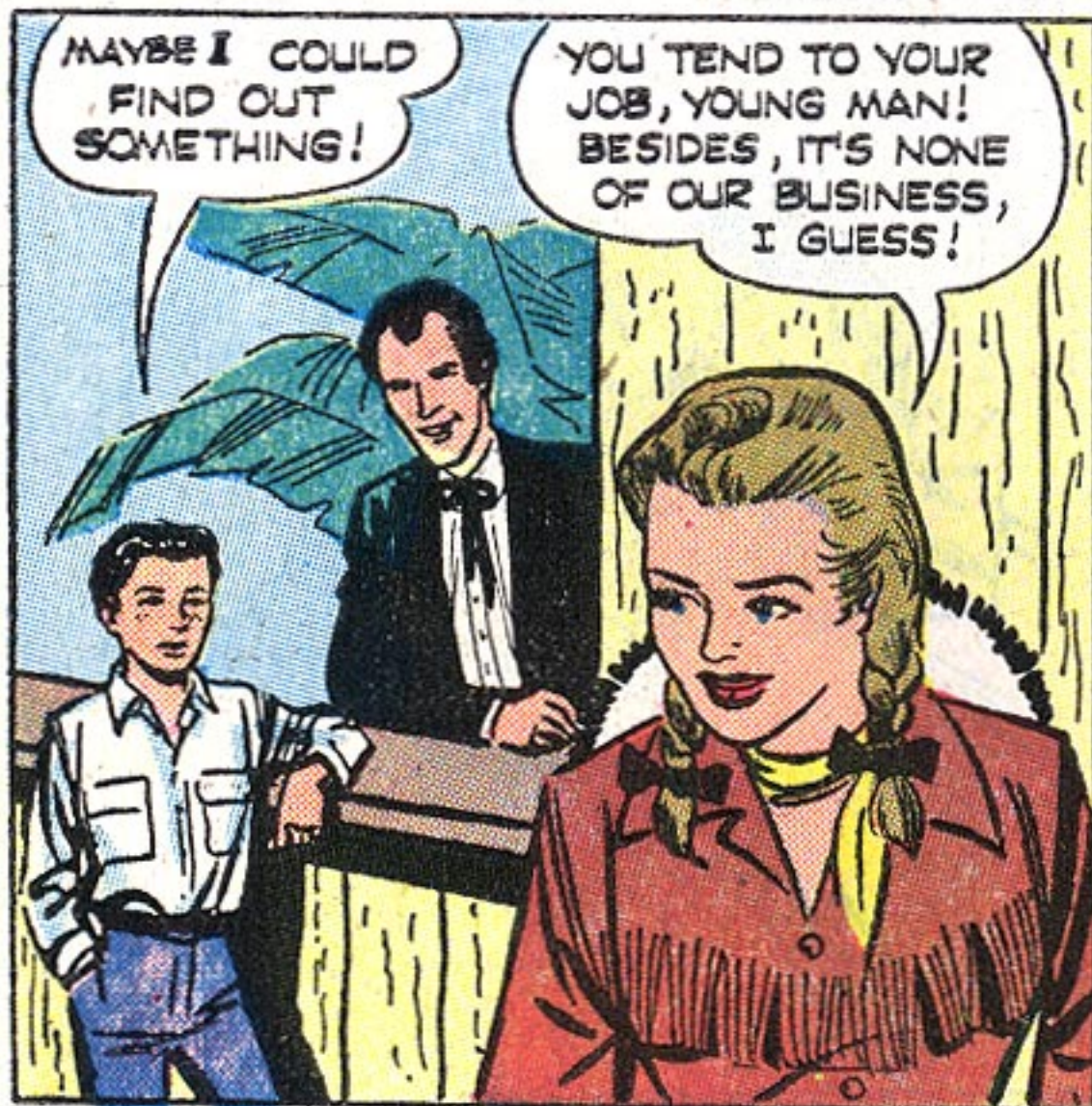
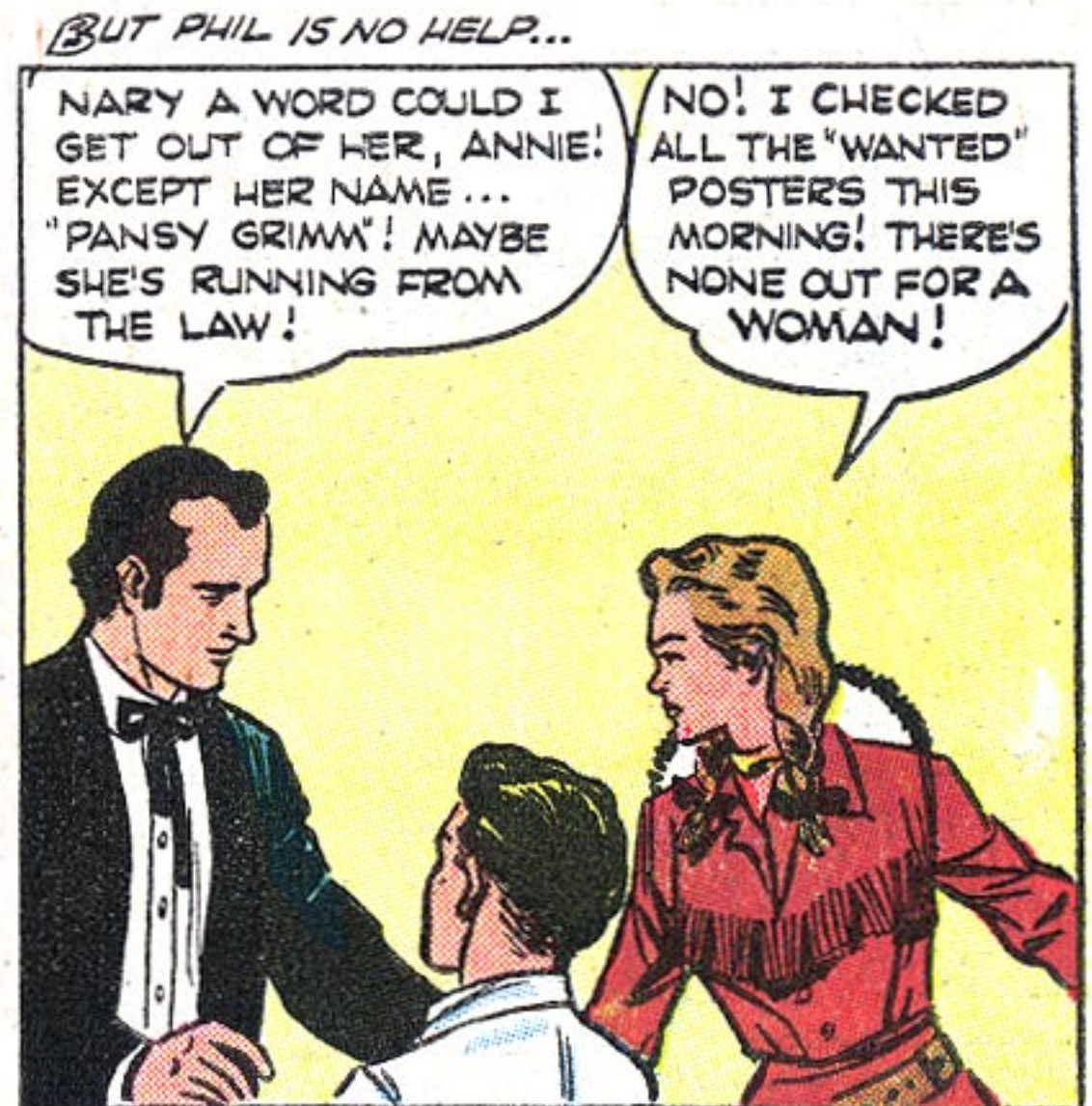
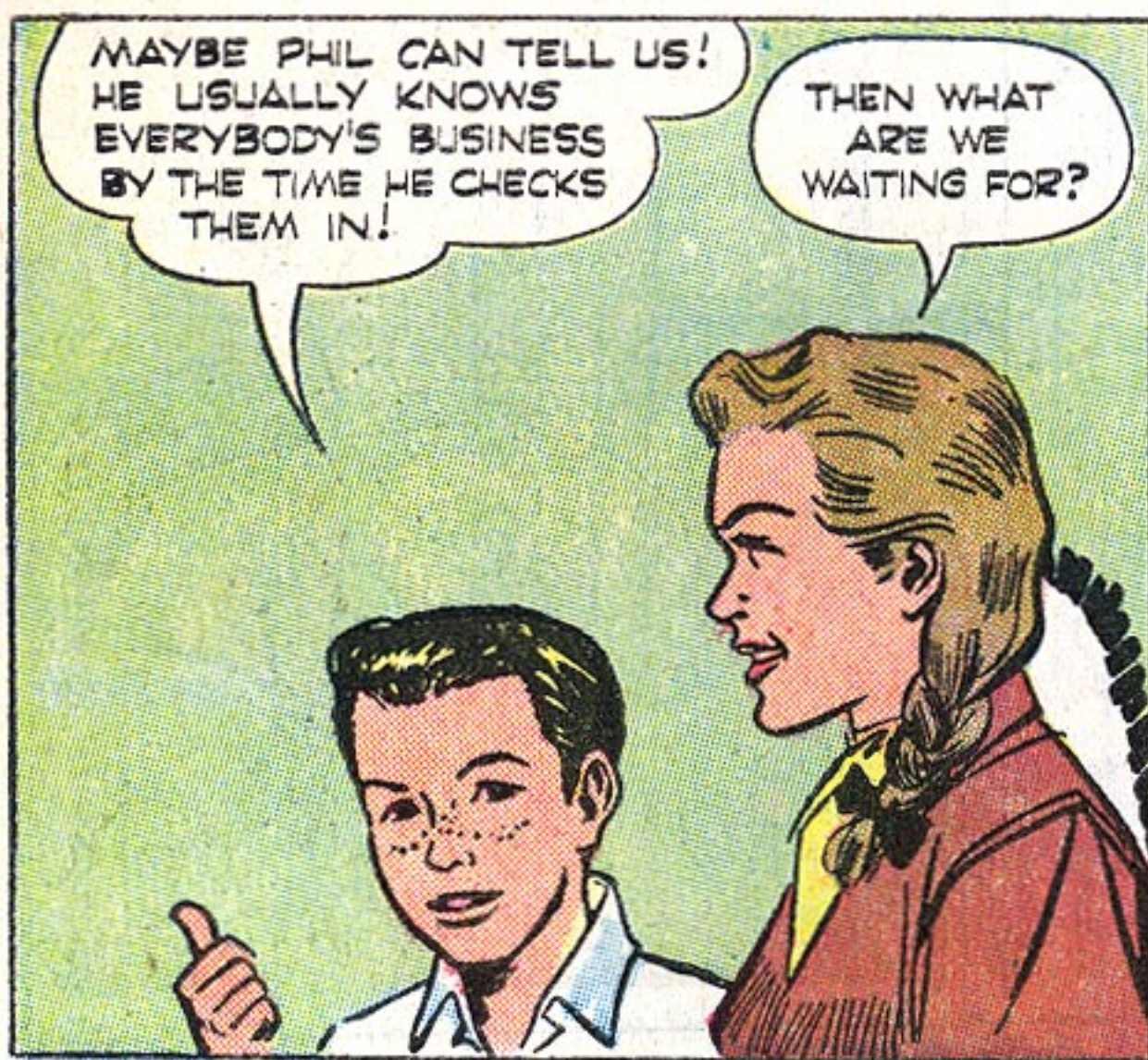


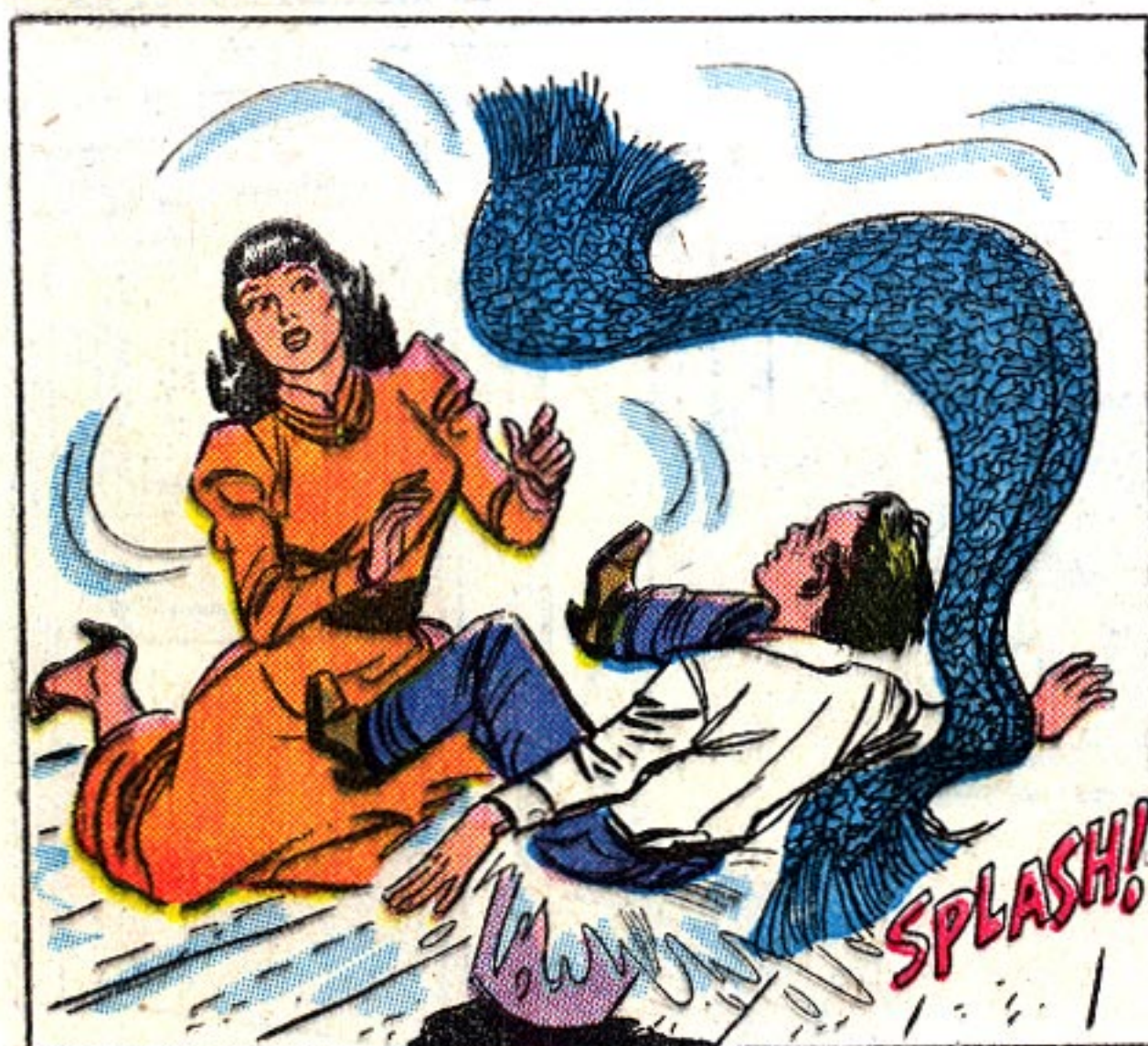
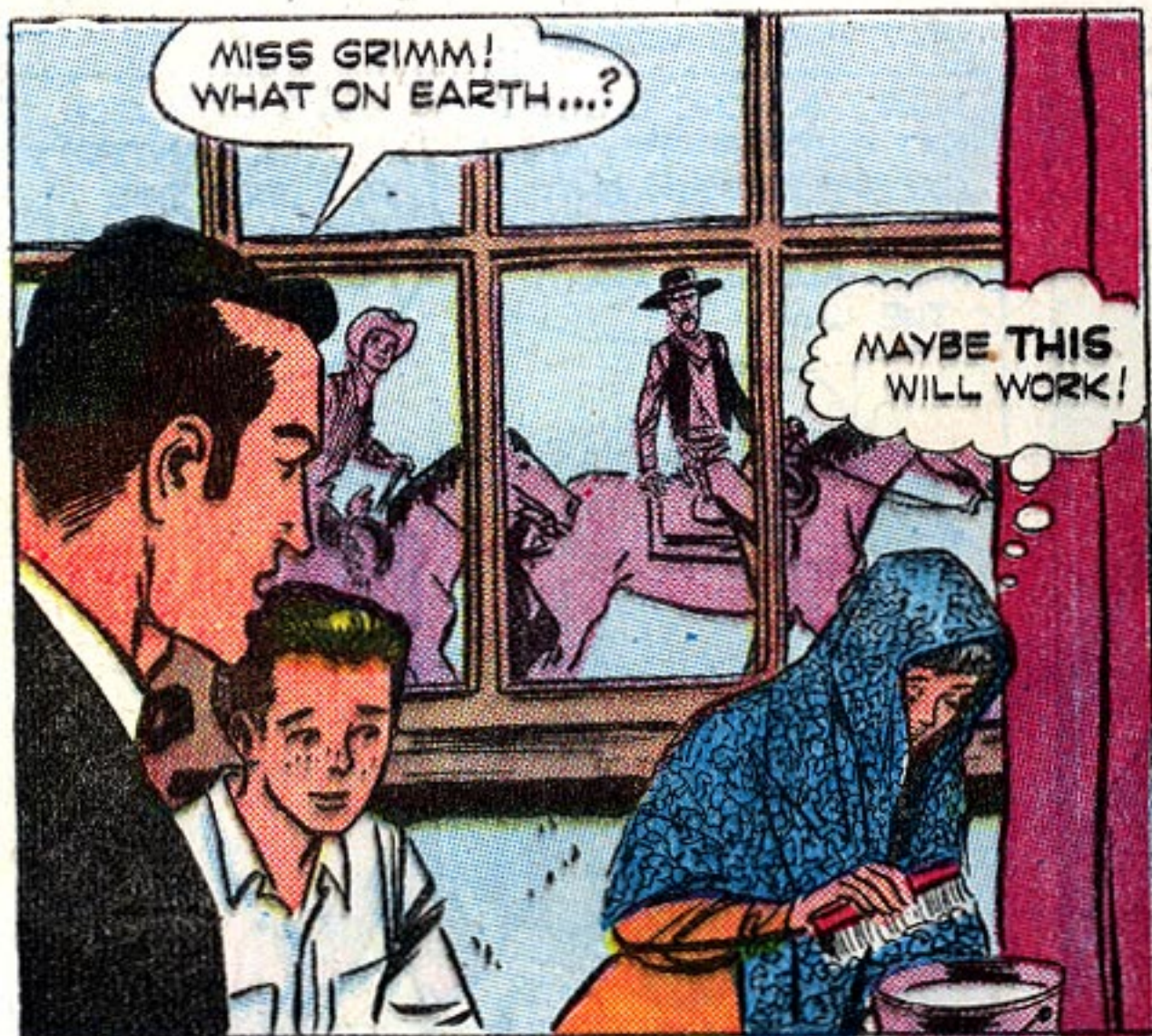
WE'VE GOT TO
DELAY HER TILL
AFTER NOON
TOMORROW!

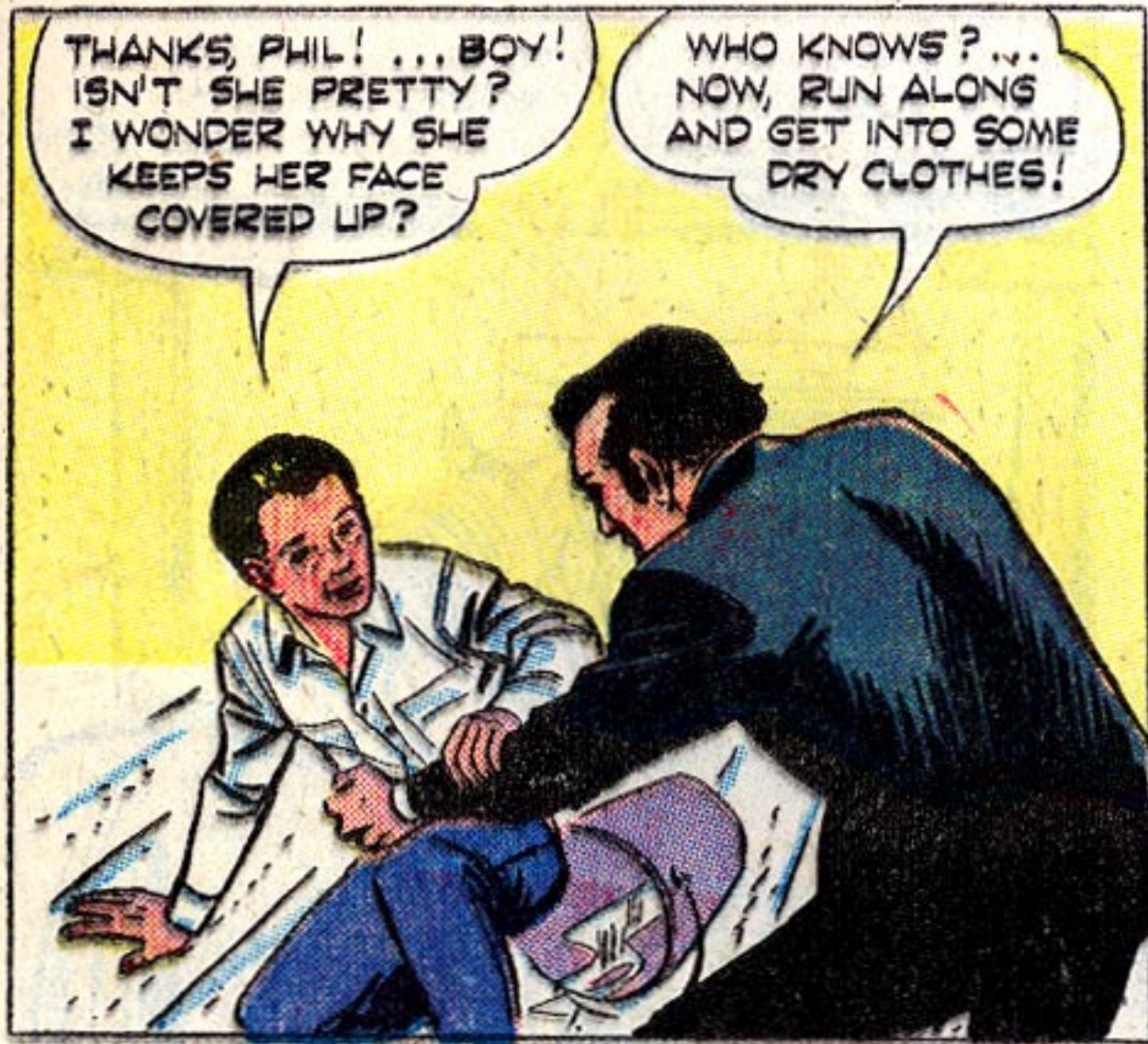
YOU'VE SAID THAT
A DOZEN TIMES
SINCE I MET YOU
AT SUNUP! IT'S
TIME YOU TOLD
ME WHY!











THANKS, PHIL! ... BOY!
ISN'T SHE PRETTY?
I WONDER WHY SHE
KEEPS HER FACE
COVERED UP?

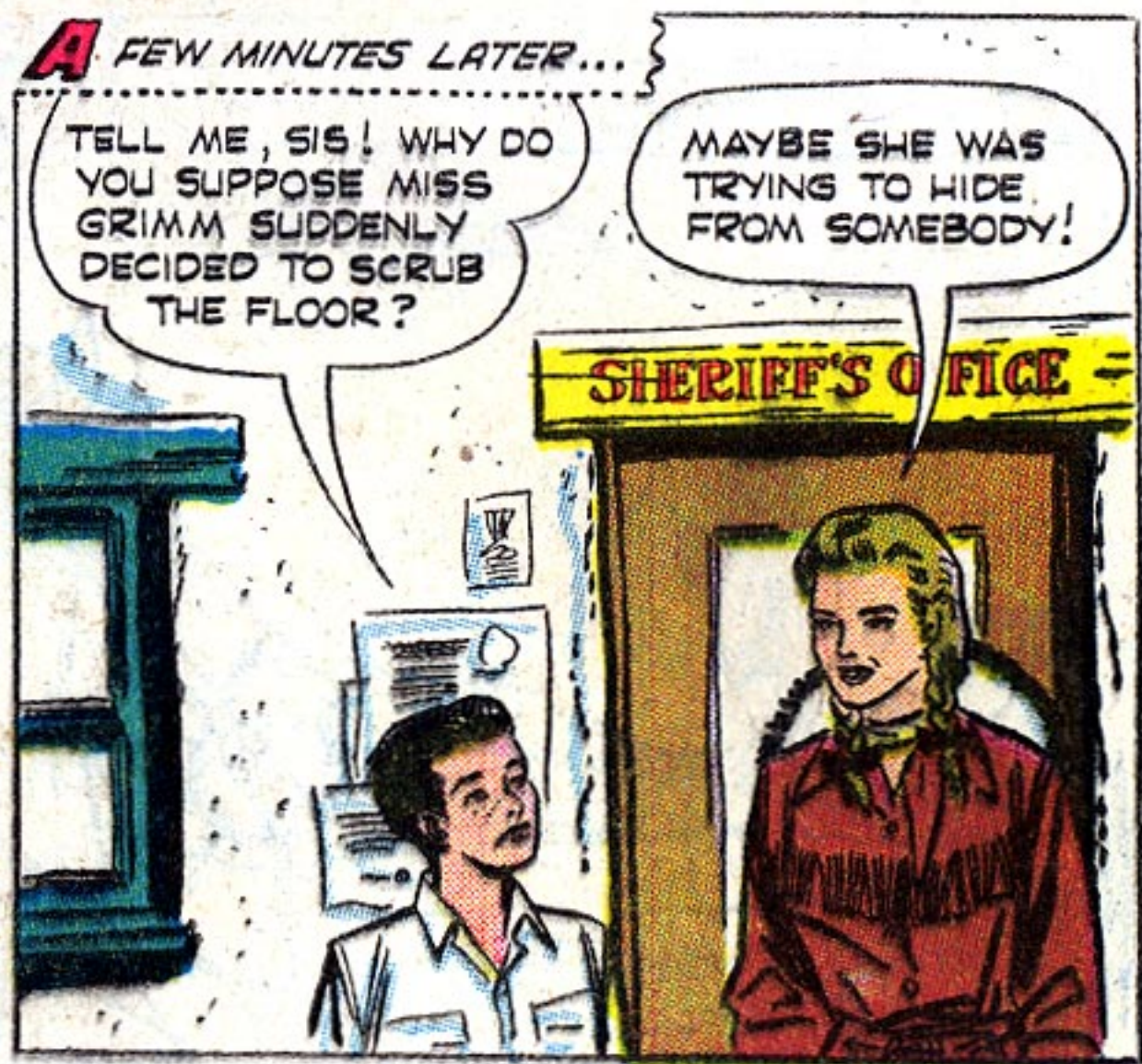
WHO KNOWS? ...
NOW, RUN ALONG
AND GET INTO SOME
DRY CLOTHES!



PEARL HURRIES TO HER ROOM AND...
IF I HIRE A HORSE AT THE LIVERY STABLE
... AND CAN MANAGE TO STAY ON IT...
MAYBE I CAN STILL REACH CARTWHEEL
IN TIME!



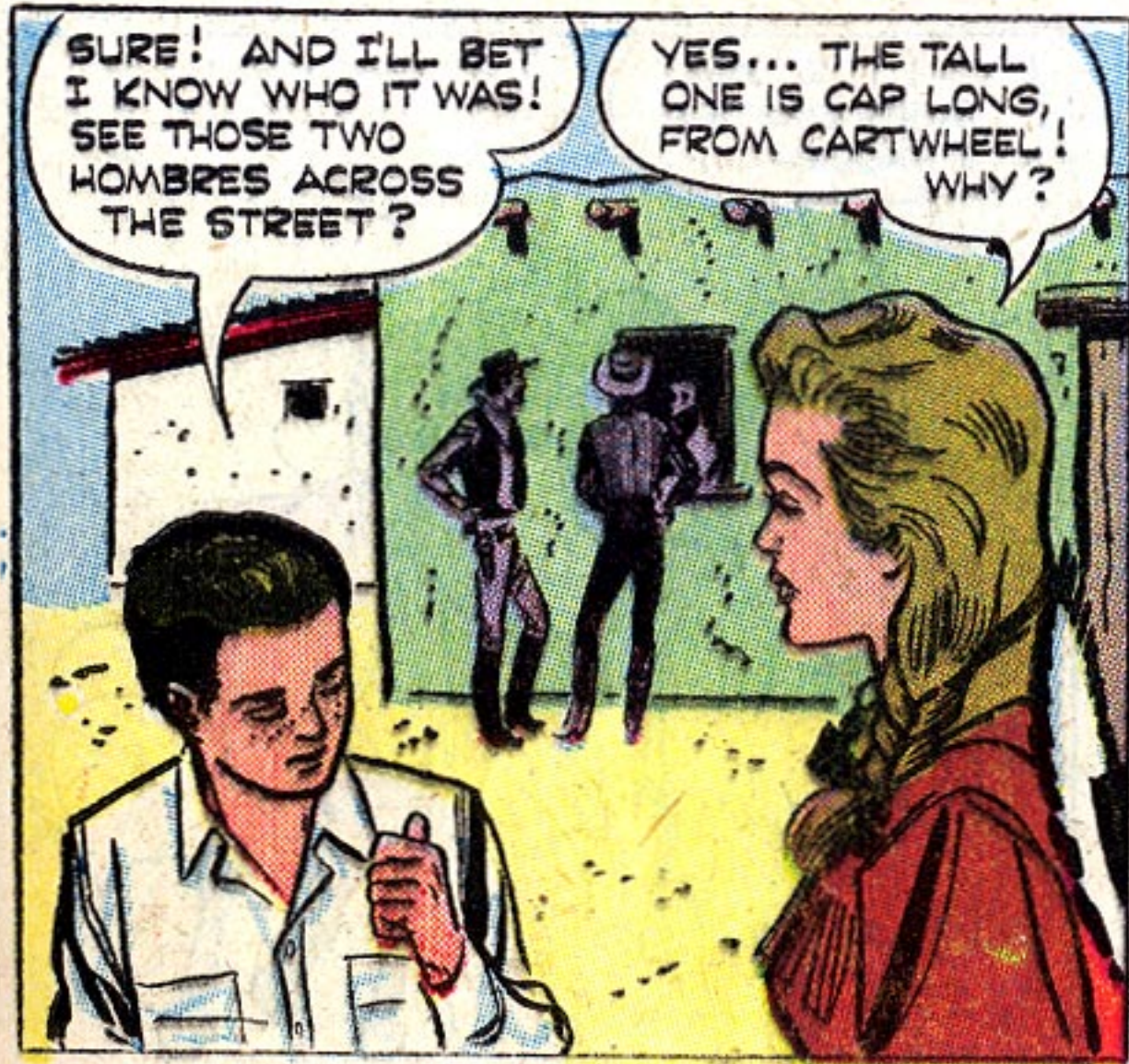
I SUPPOSE THIS VEIL IS SILLY! BUT
MAYBE CAP DIDN'T ACTUALLY **KNOW**
I WAS ON THAT STAGE! STILL I CAN'T
RISK HIM SEEING MY FACE!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

TELL ME, SIS! WHY DO
YOU SUPPOSE MISS
GRIMM SUDDENLY
DECIDED TO SCRUB
THE FLOOR?

MAYBE SHE WAS
TRYING TO HIDE
FROM SOMEBODY!



SURE! AND I'LL BET
I KNOW WHO IT WAS!
SEE THOSE TWO
HOMBRES ACROSS
THE STREET?

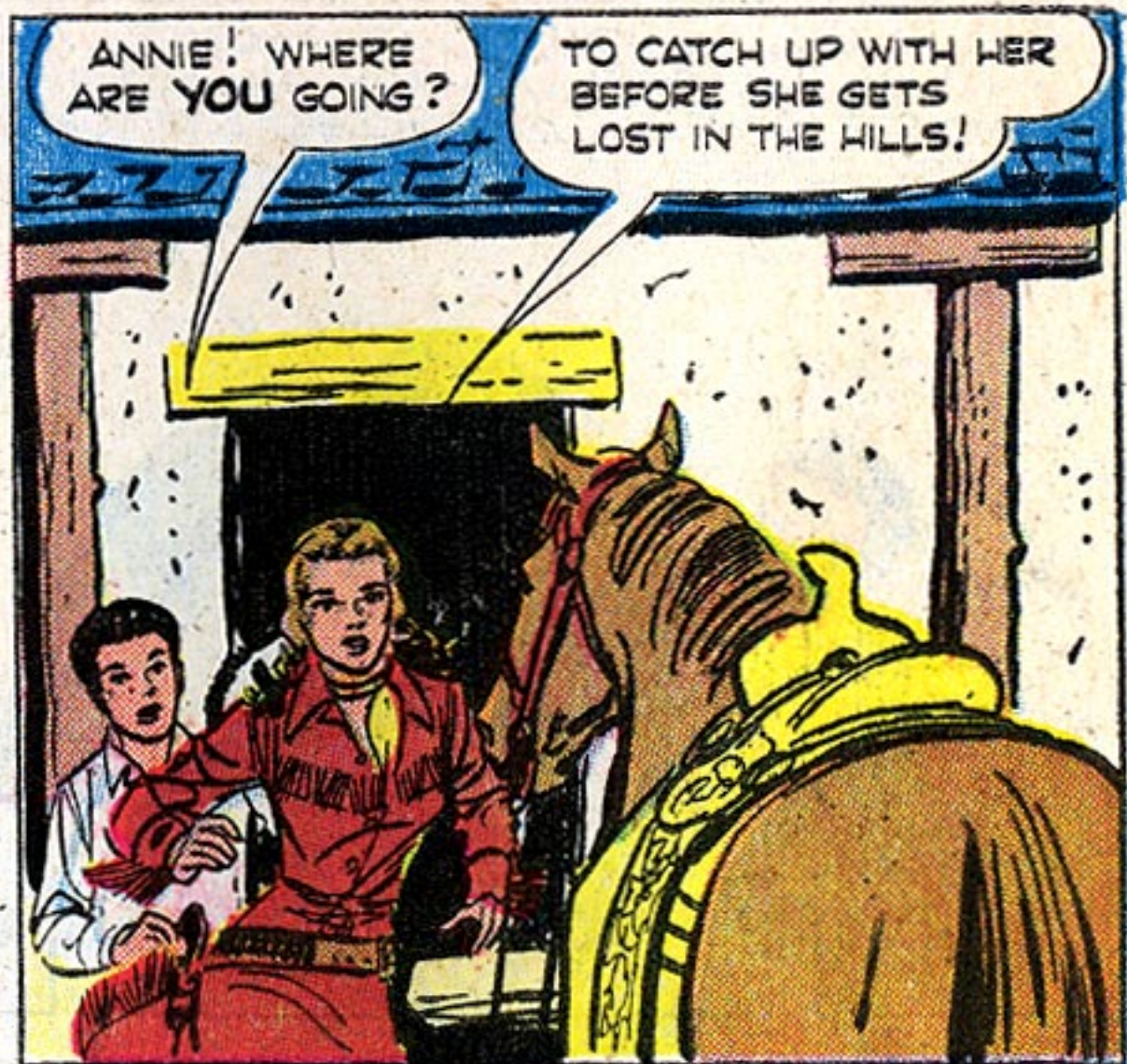
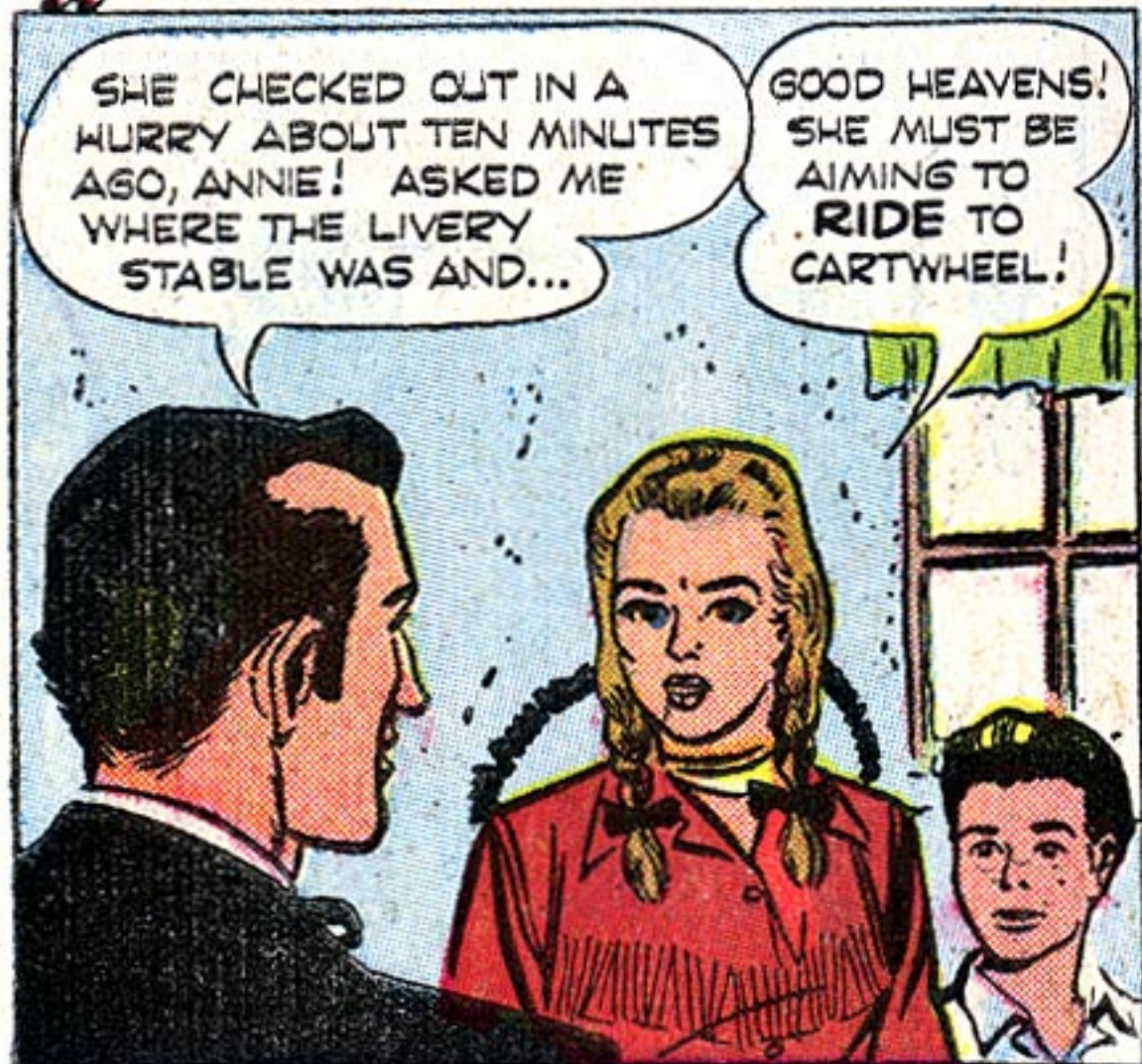
YES... THE TALL
ONE IS CAP LONG,
FROM CARTWHEEL!
WHY?



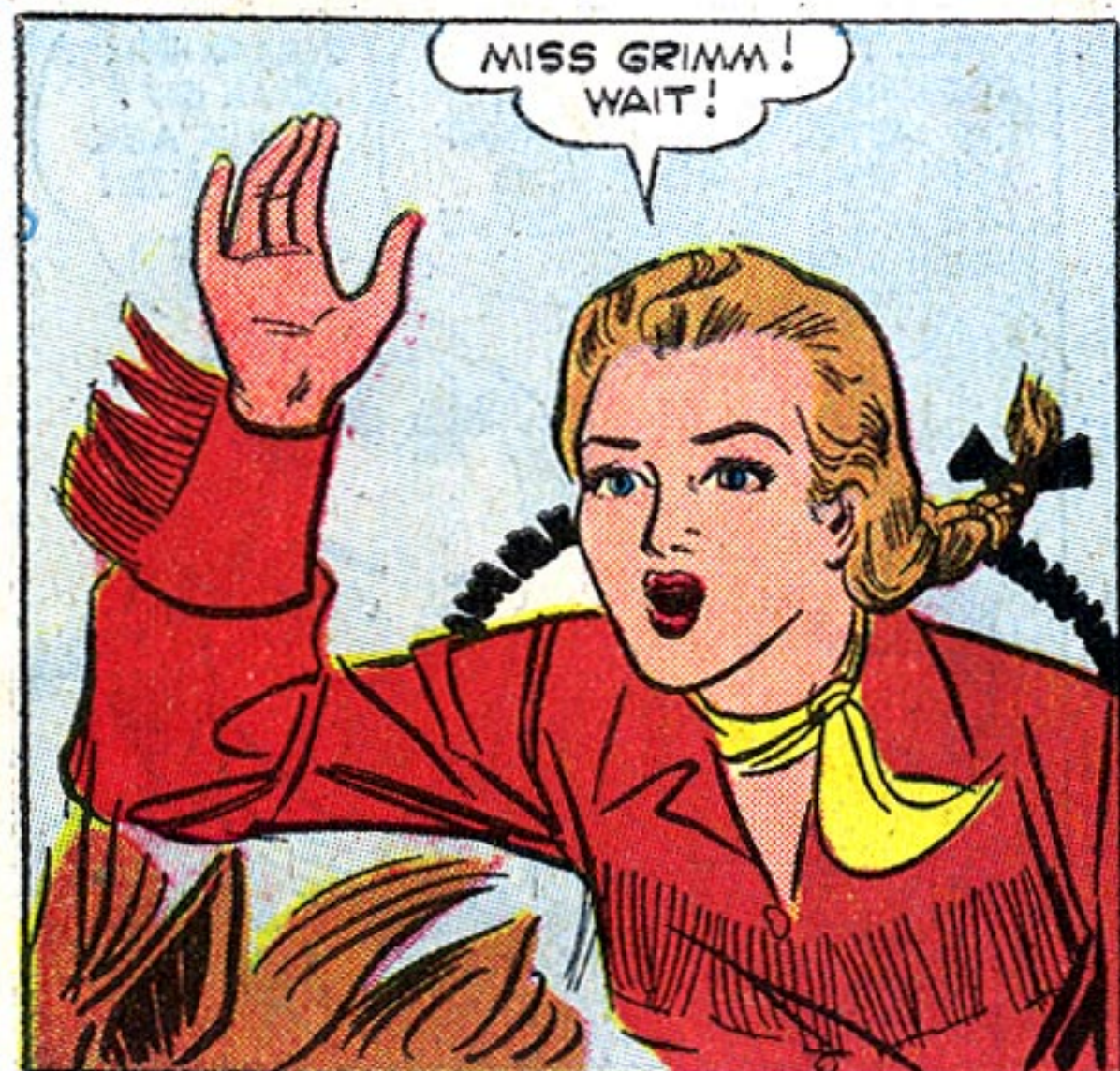
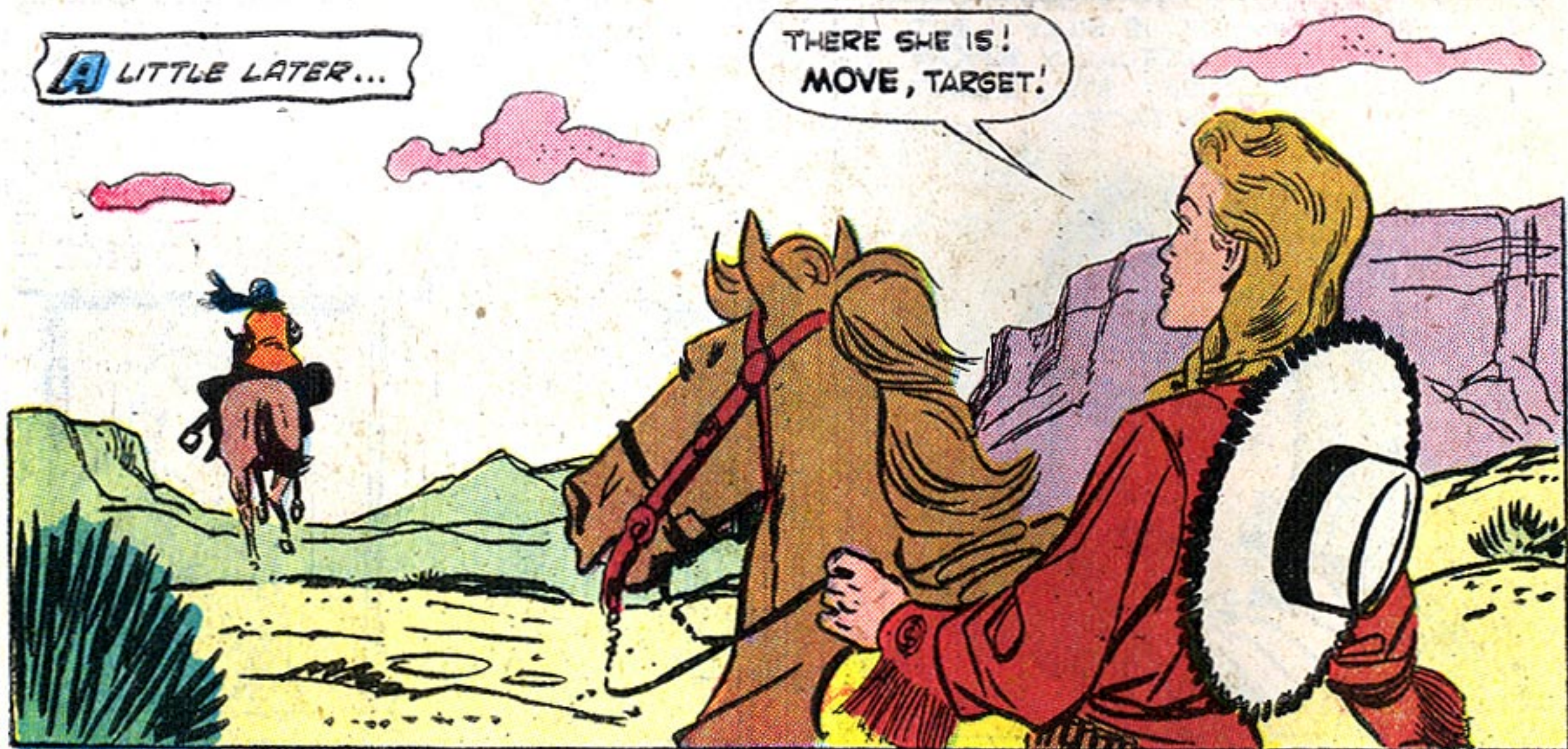
WELL, IT WAS WHEN **THEY**
RODE INTO TOWN... PAST
THE HOTEL WINDOW... THAT
MISS GRIMM WENT INTO
HER ACT! SO SHE MUST'VE
BEEN HIDING FROM
THEM!

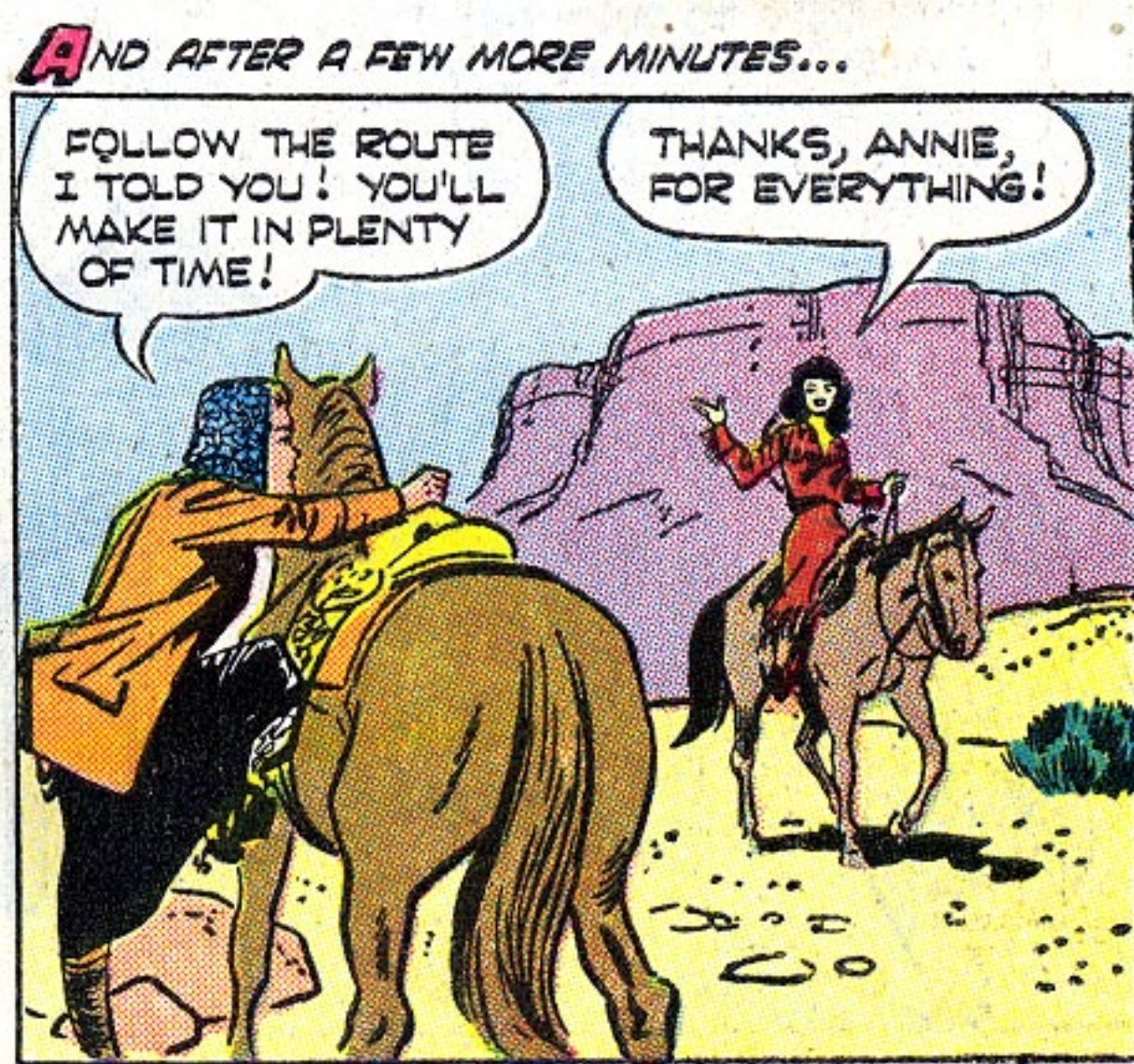
COULD BE!
COME ON!
LET'S ASK
HER!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

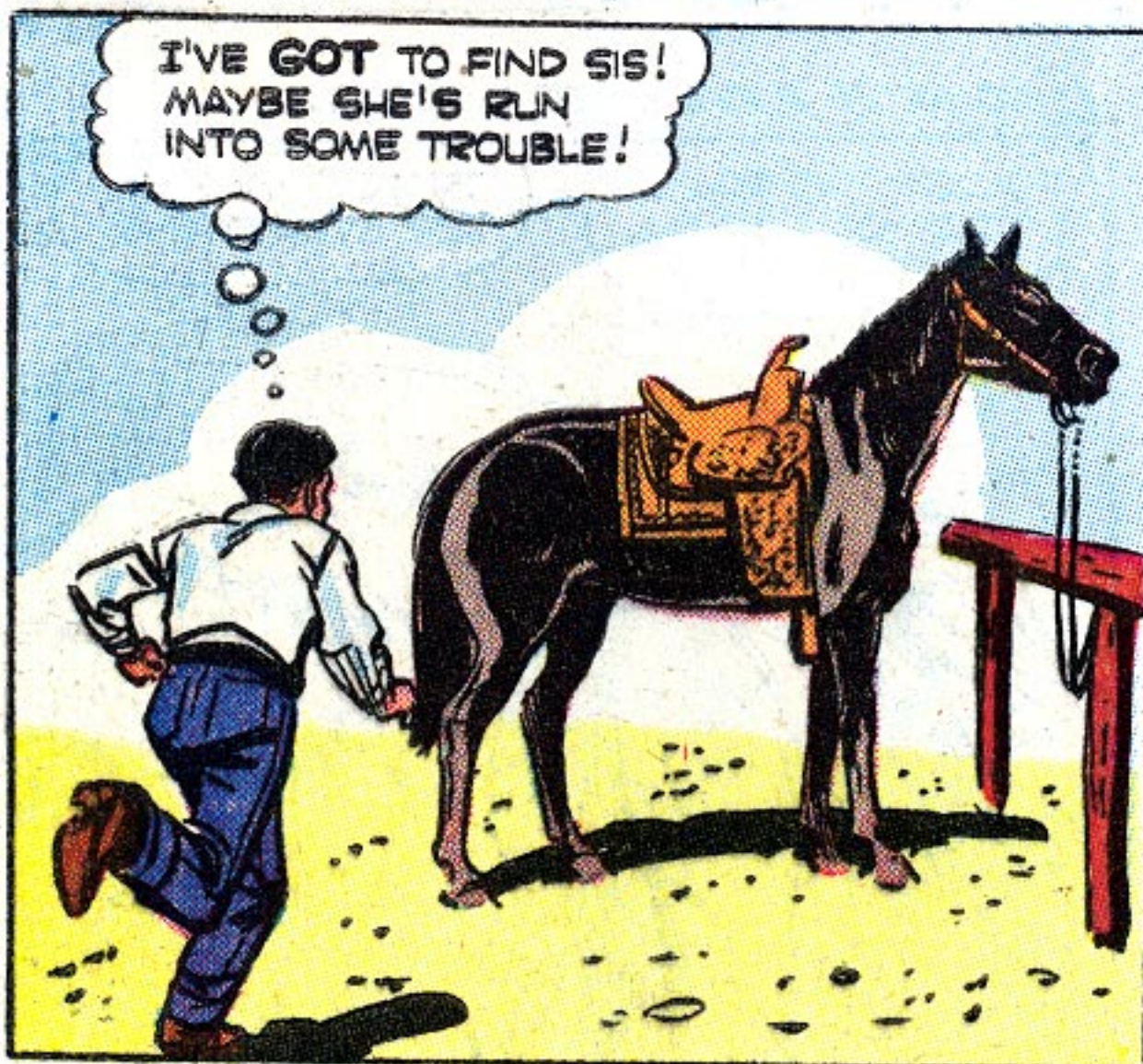
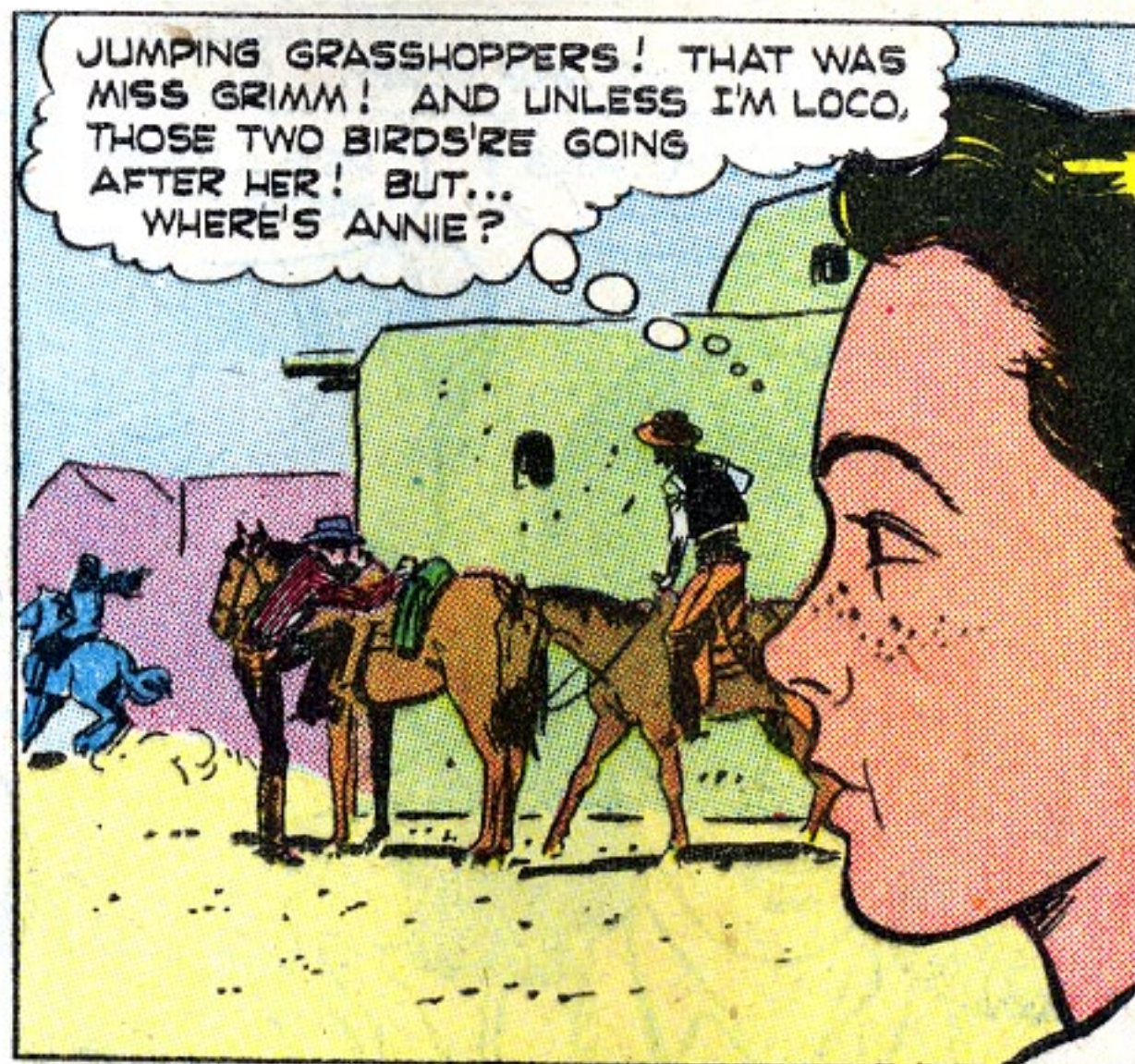
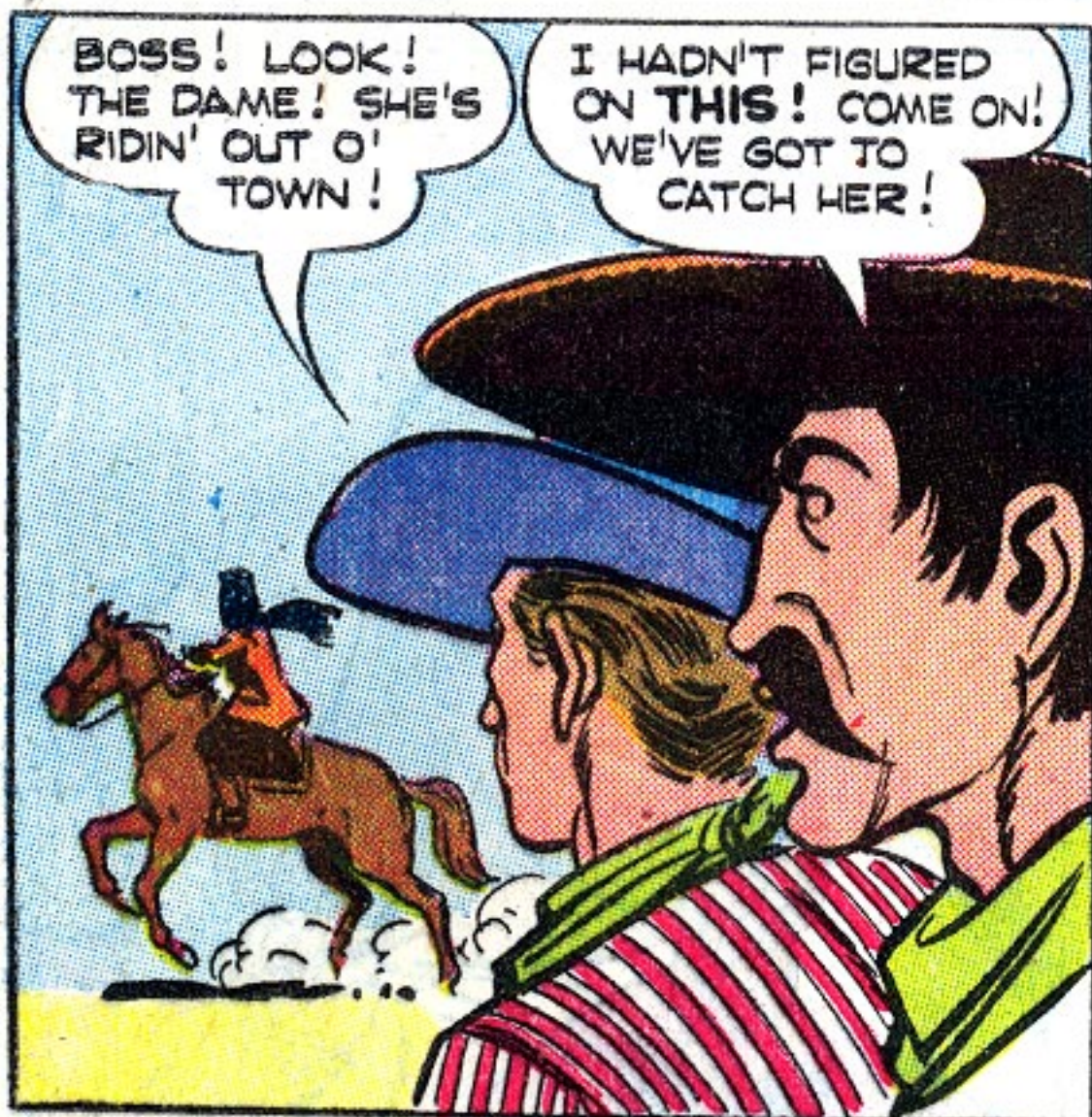


A LITTLE LATER...



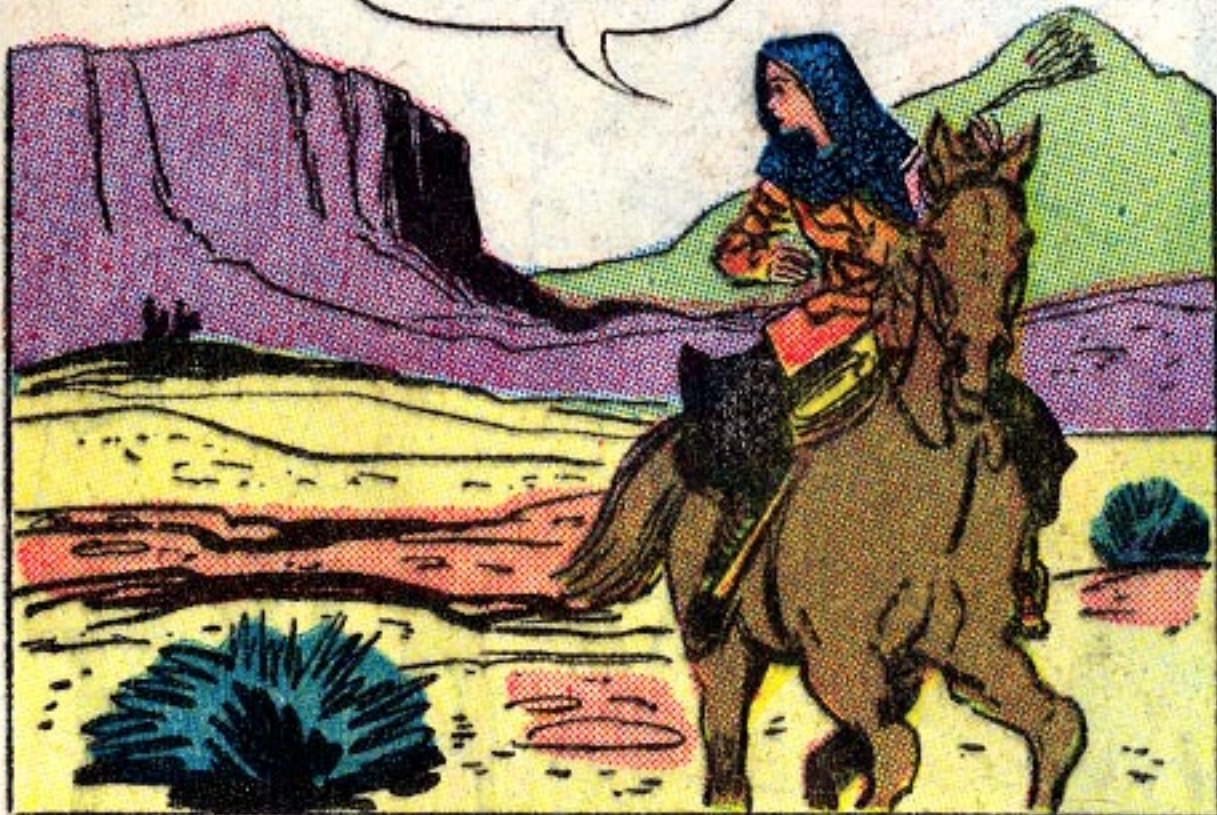


ANNIE RETURNS TO DIABLO, AND...

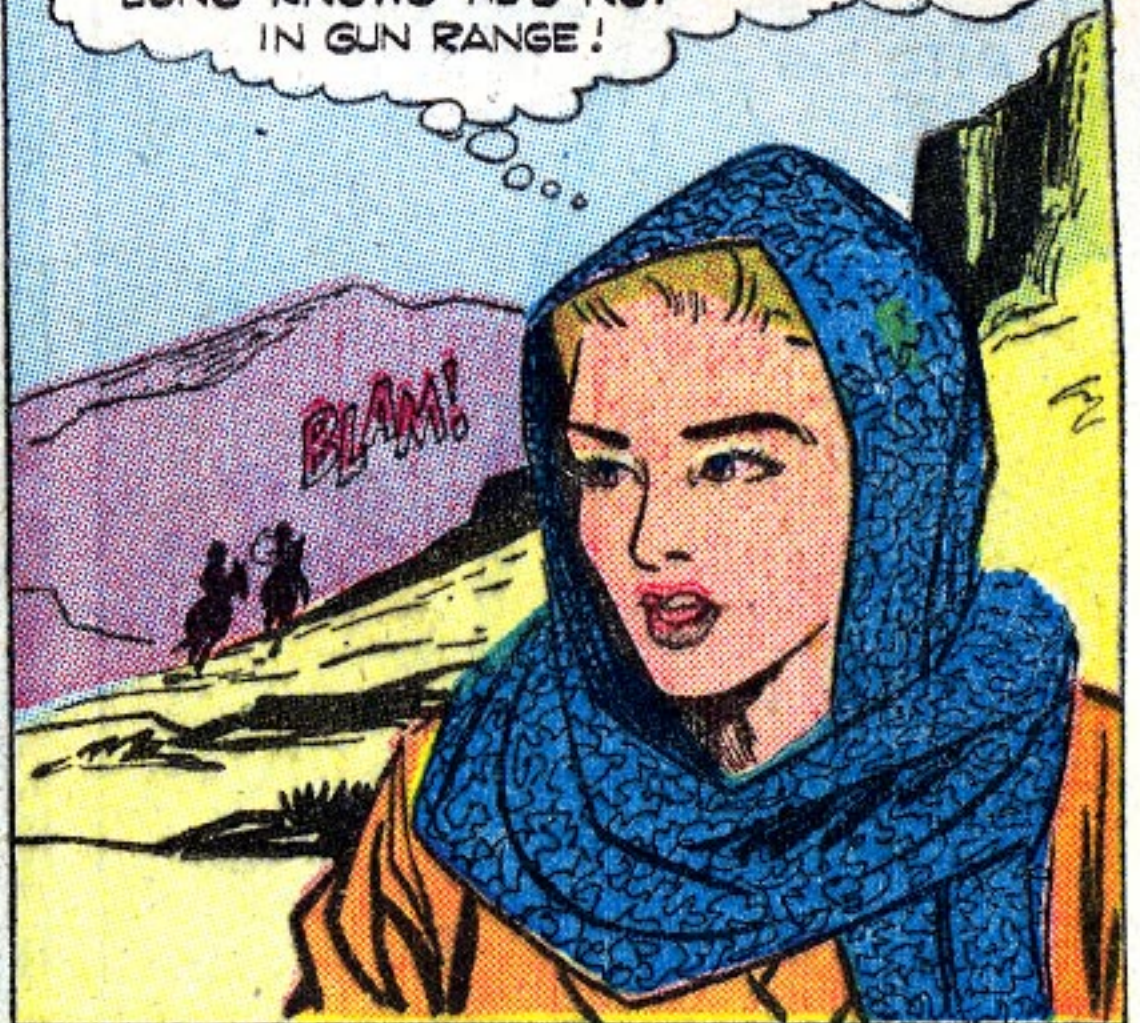


ANNIE IS CAREFUL NOT TO OUTFRAN
HER PURSUERS ...

NOT TOO FAST, TARGET!
WE DON'T WANT TO
LOSE THEM!



THAT SHOT WAS MEANT TO **SCARE** ME!
LONG KNOWS HE'S NOT
IN GUN RANGE!

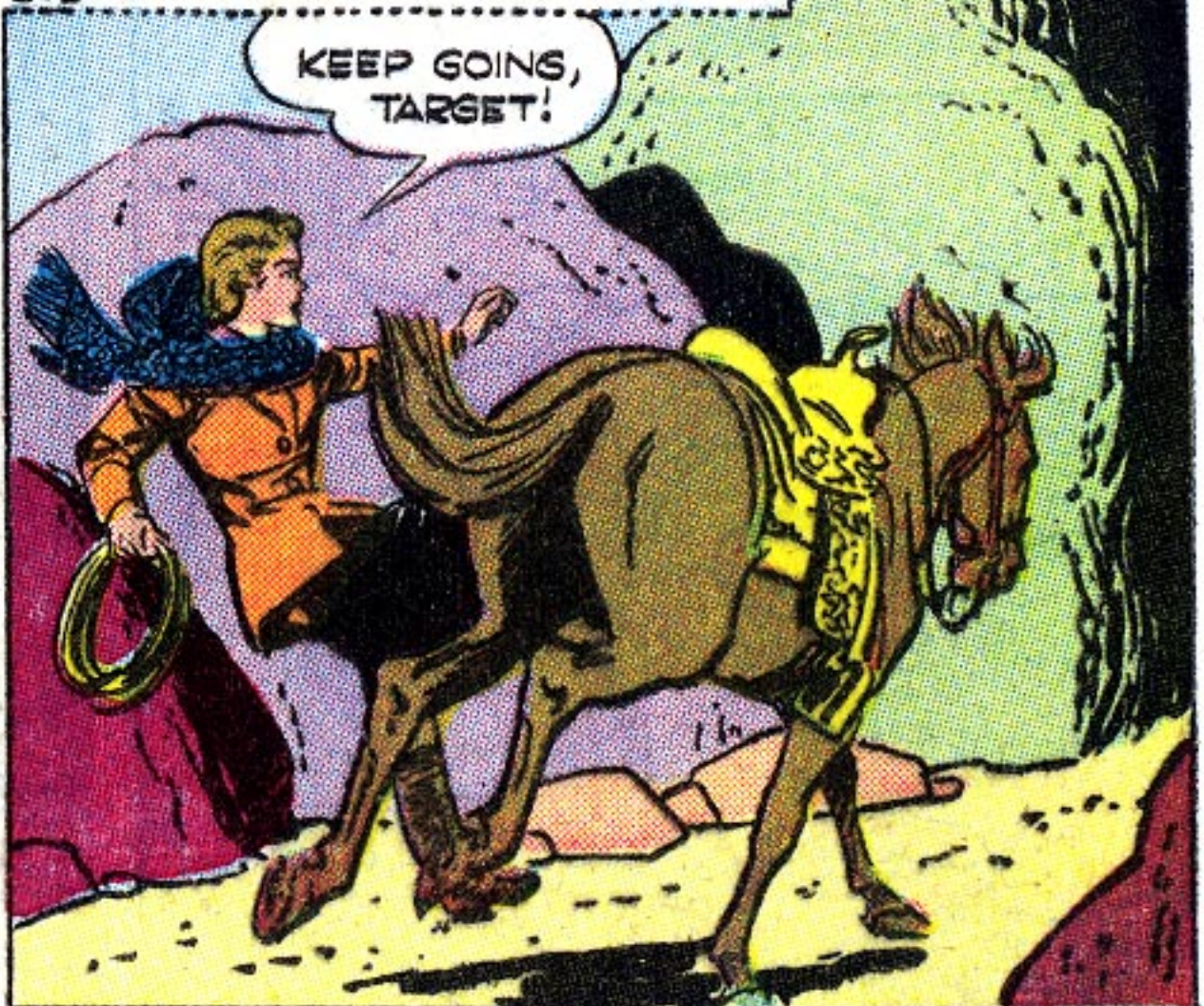


SO FAR ...
SO GOOD!



MAKING A FLYING DISMOUNT...

KEEP GOING,
TARGET!

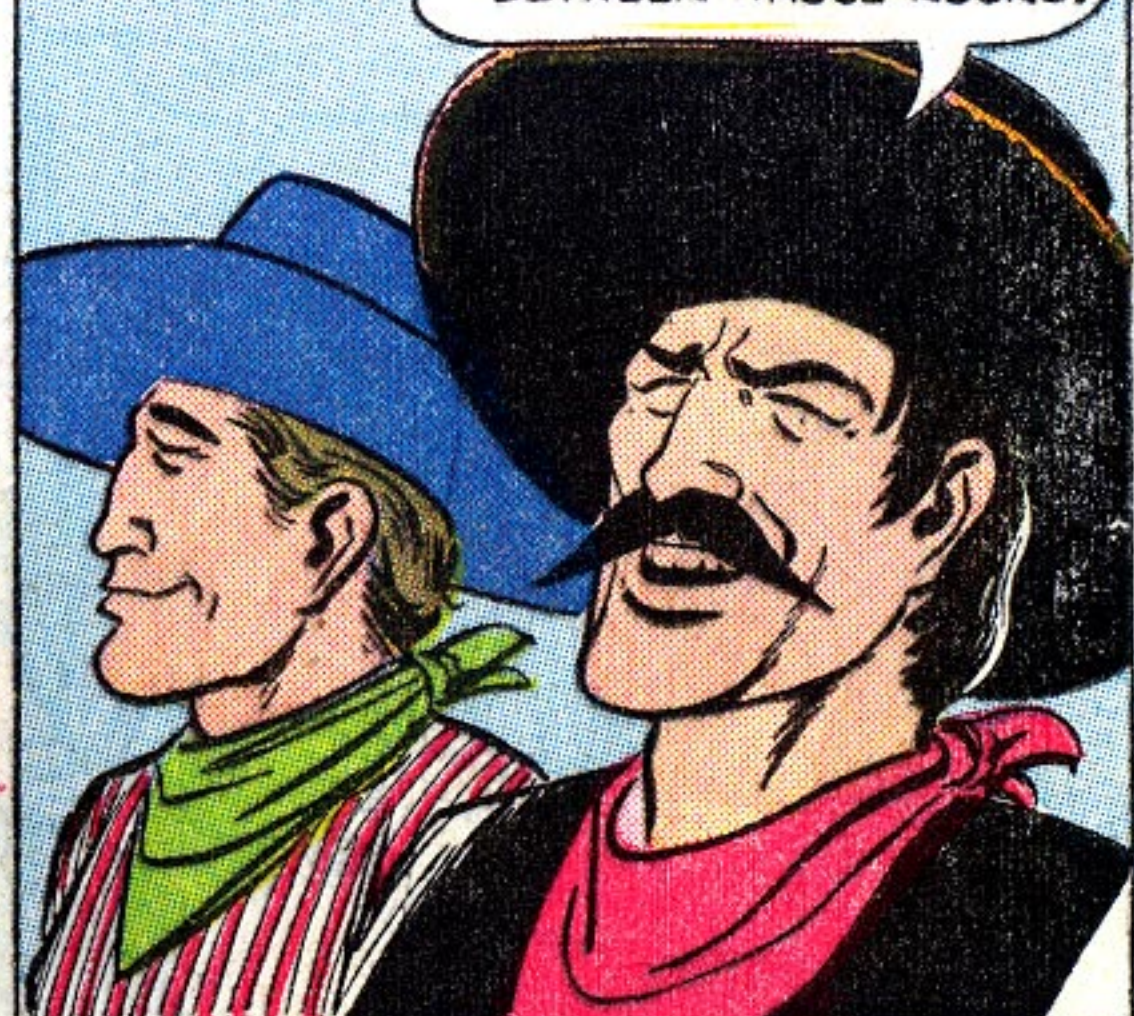


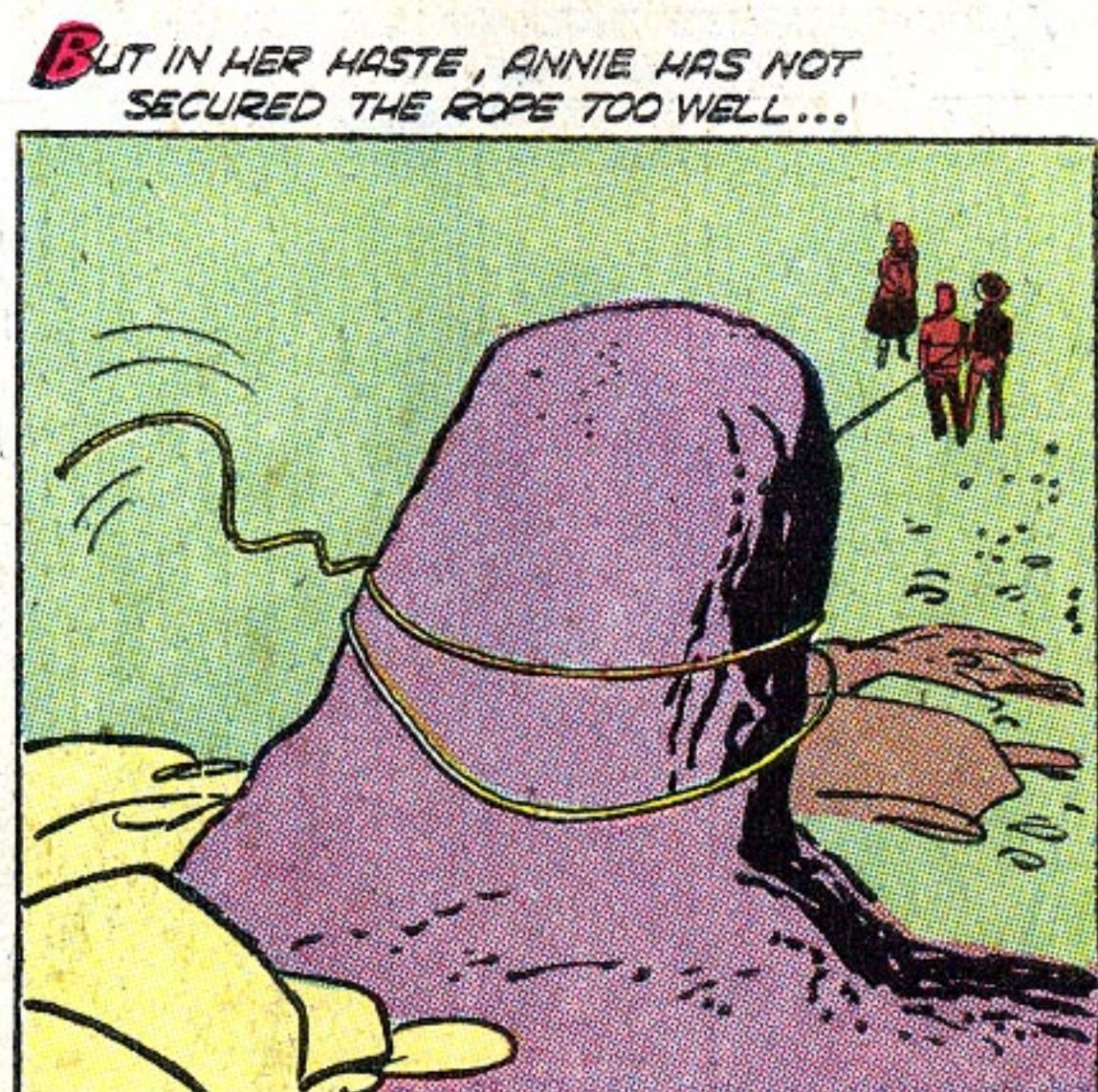
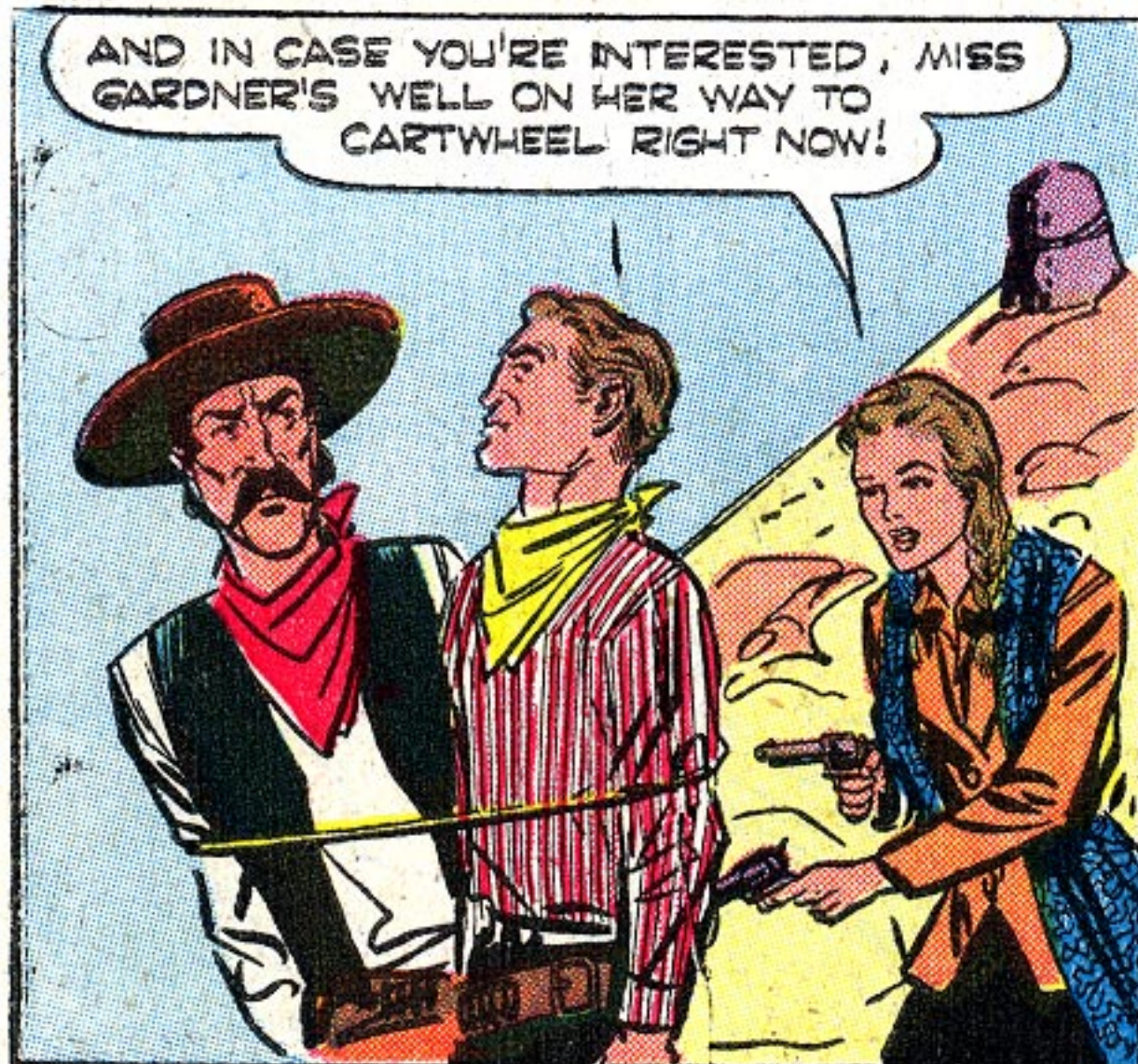
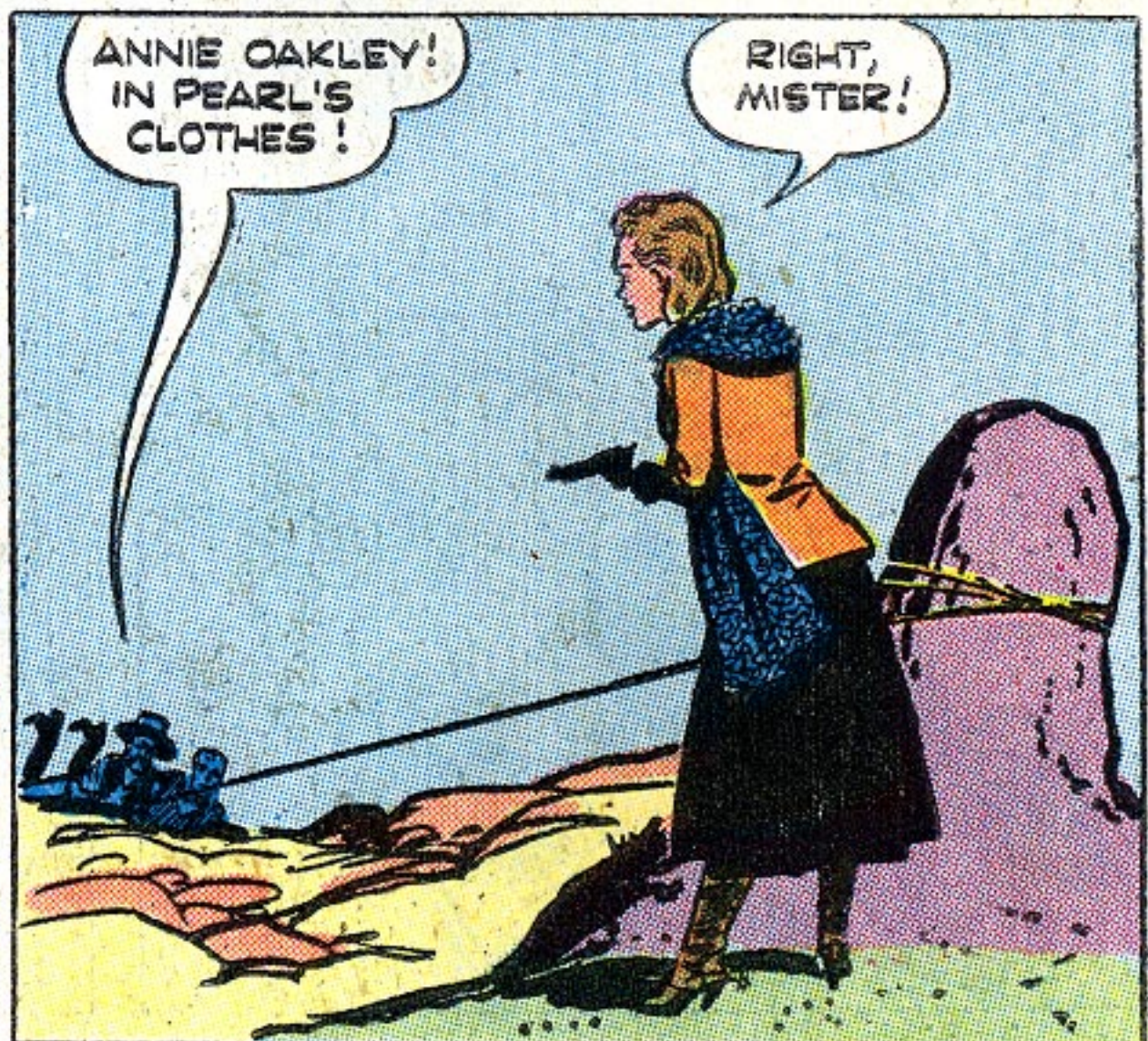
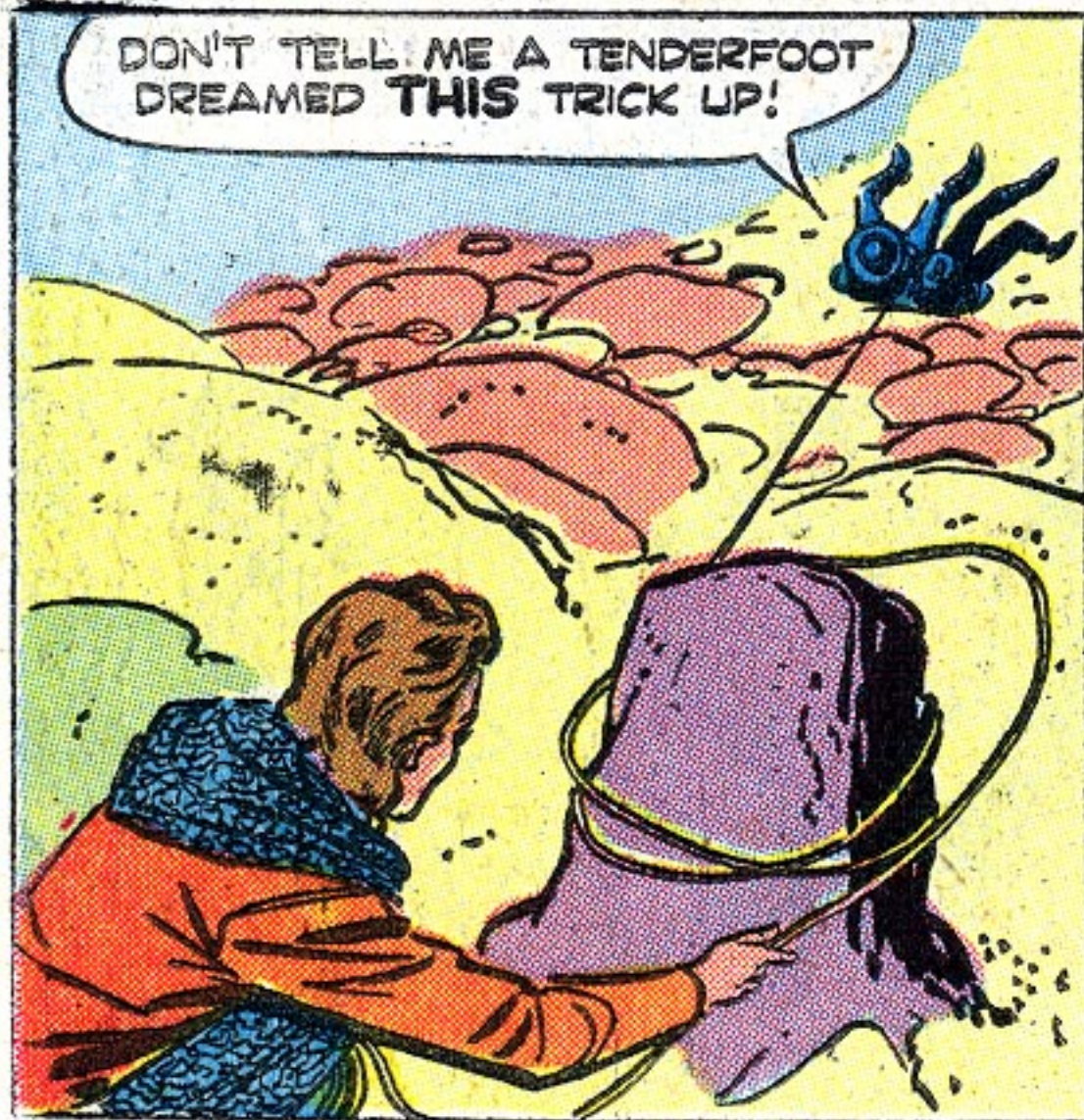
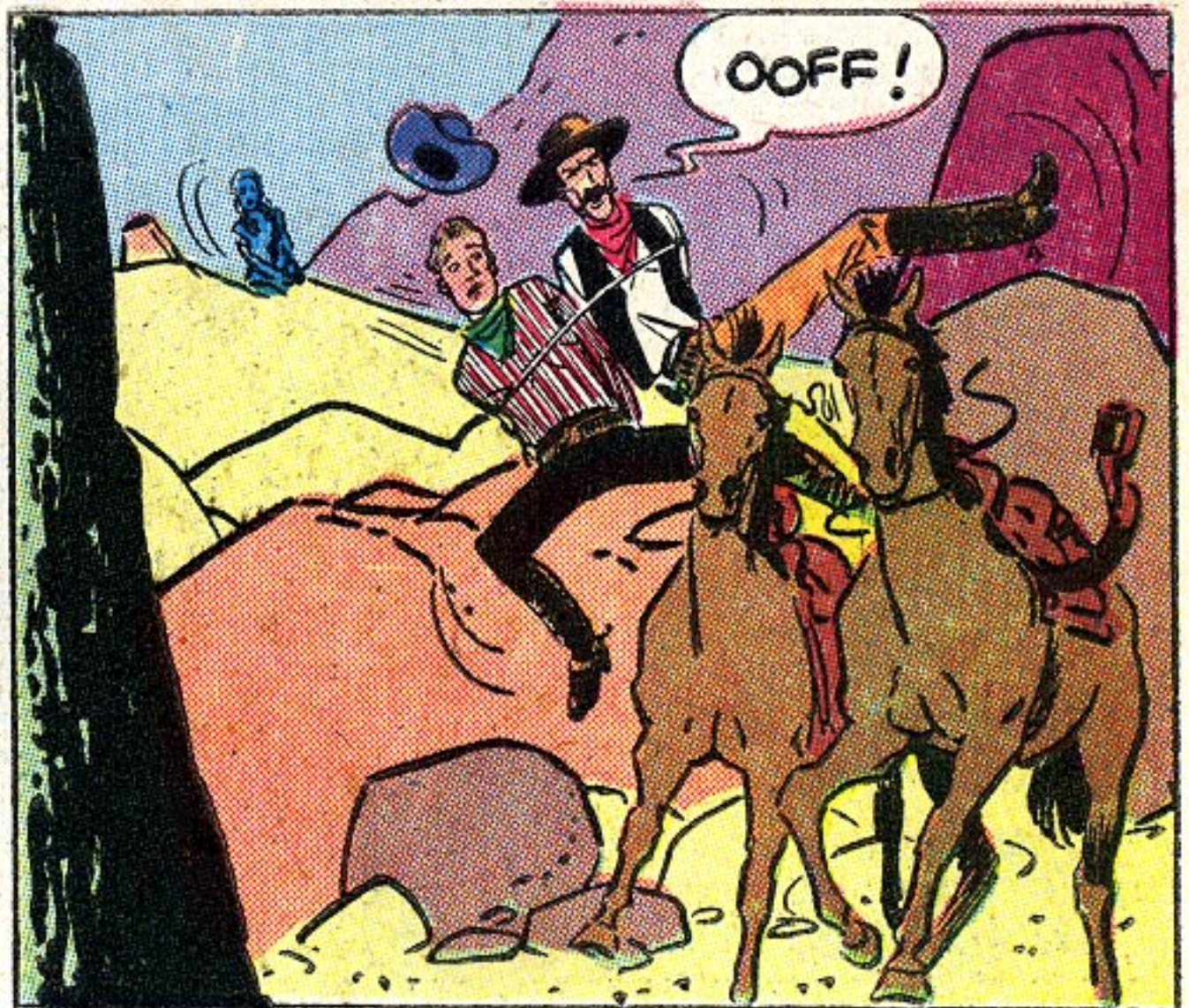
ANNIE HURRIES THROUGH THE BOULDERS
TO A VANTAGE POINT...

JUST IN
TIME!

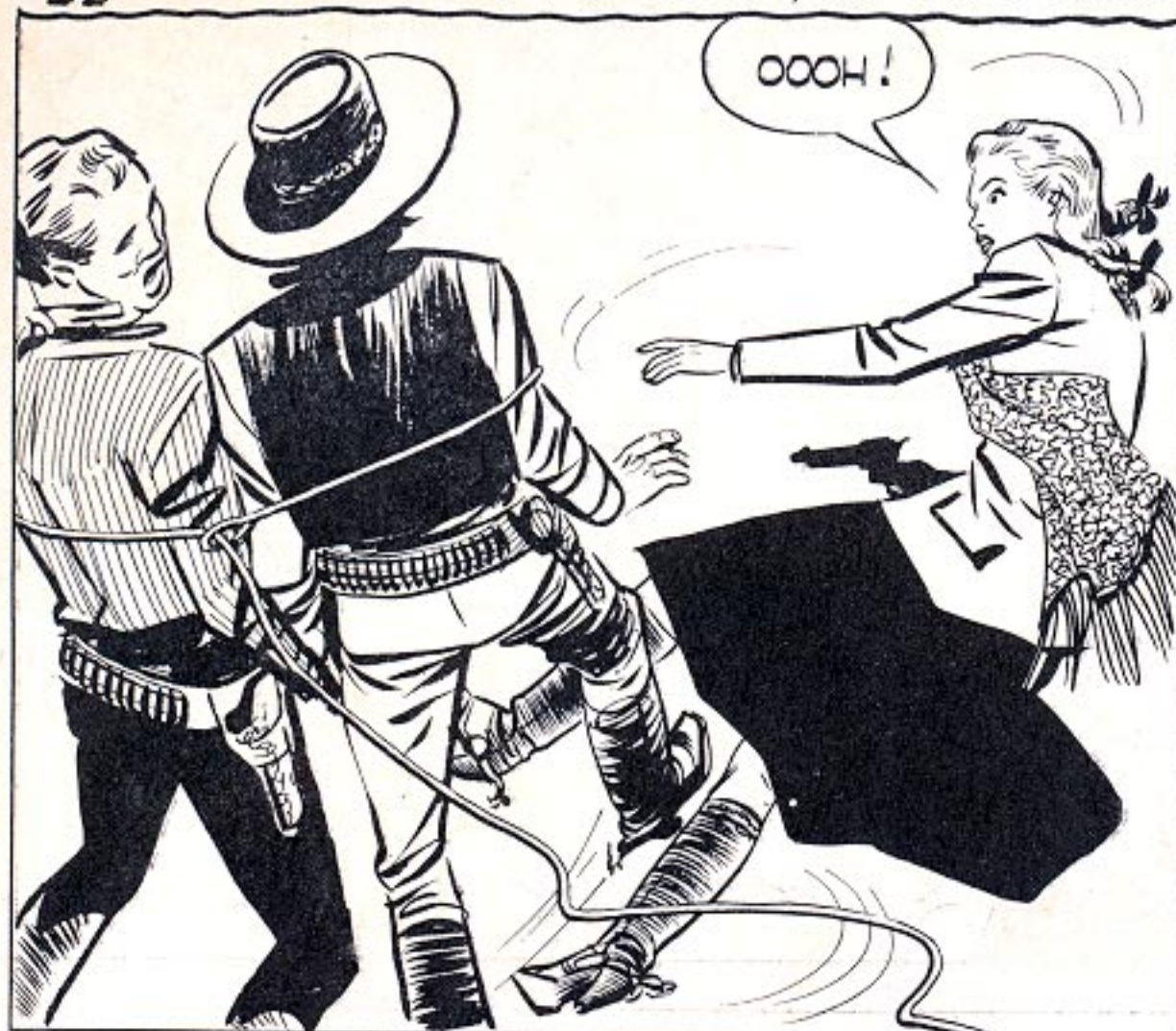


WE'VE GOT HER NOW, EDDIE! / SHE'S
BETWEEN THOSE ROCKS!



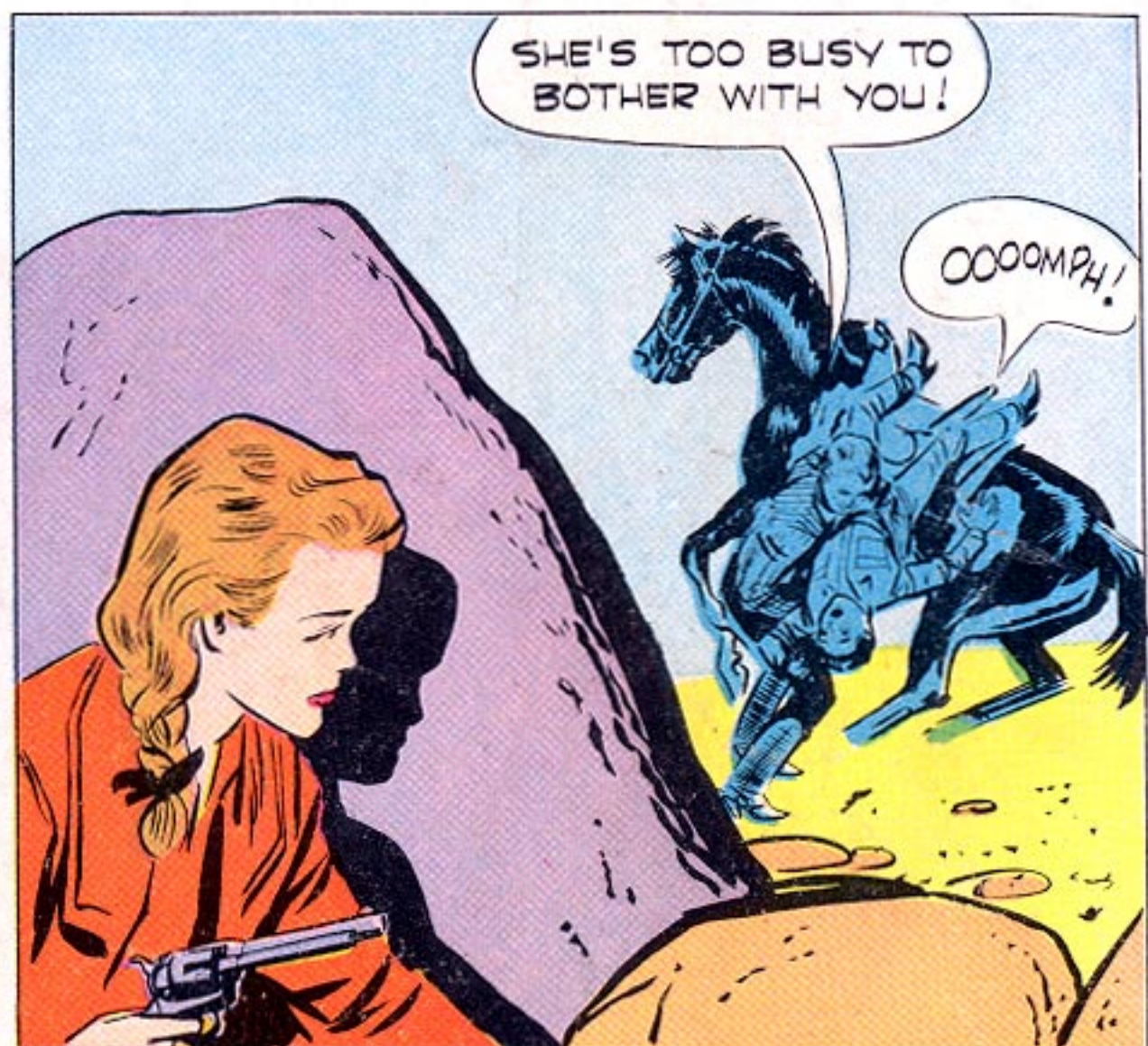


AND AS CAP FEELS THE SLACK, HE TRIPS ANNIE...





I WON'T! LET GO OF ME!
ANNIE! HELP!



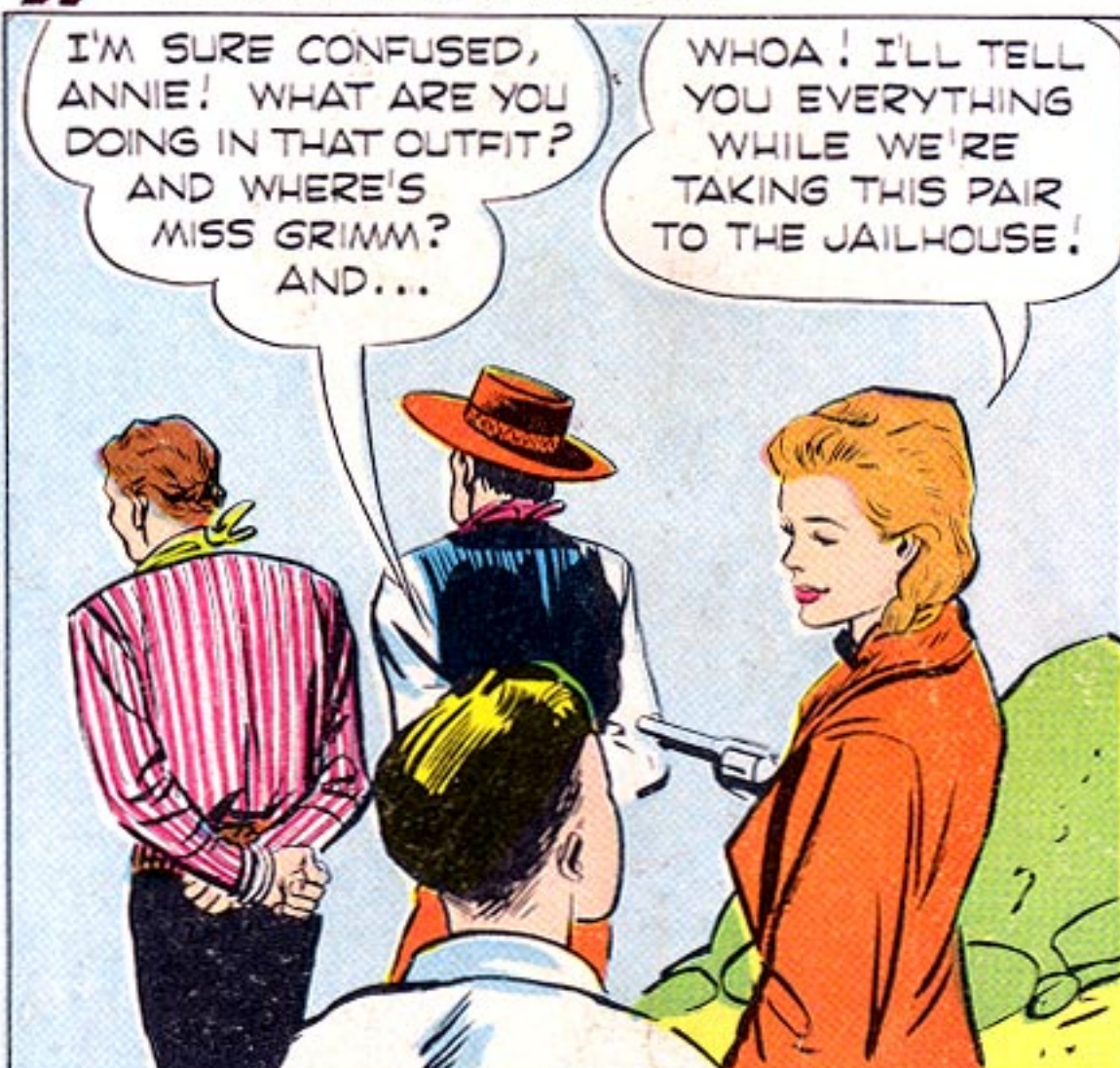
SHE'S TOO BUSY TO
BOTHER WITH YOU!

OOOOOMPH!



I'M NEVER TOO BUSY FOR THAT!
GET HIS GUN, TAGG!

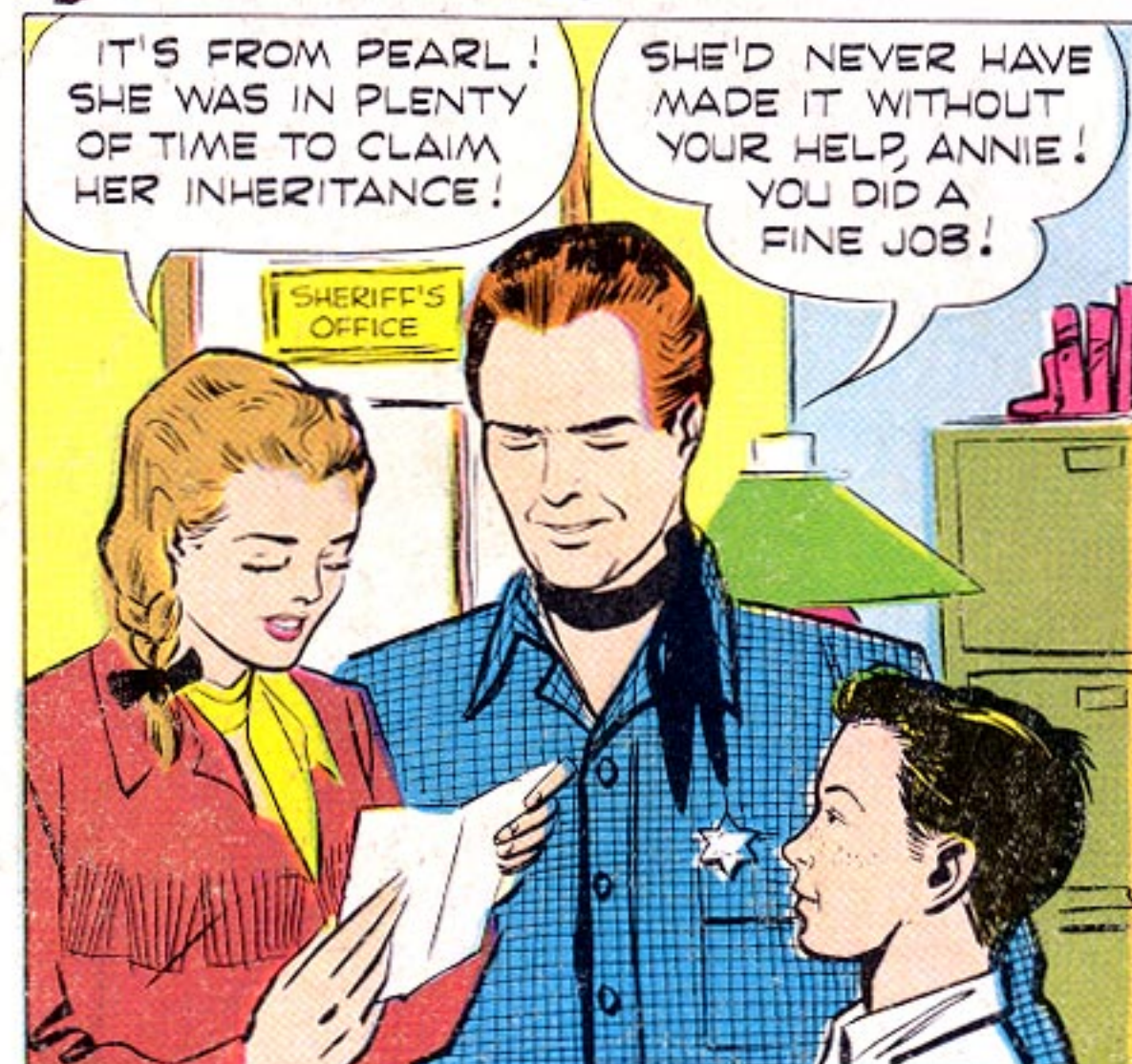
A FEW MINUTES LATER...



I'M SURE CONFUSED,
ANNIE! WHAT ARE YOU
DOING IN THAT OUTFIT?
AND WHERE'S
MISS GRIMM?
AND...

WHOA! I'LL TELL
YOU EVERYTHING
WHILE WE'RE
TAKING THIS PAIR
TO THE JAILHOUSE!

THE NEXT AFTERNOON...



IT'S FROM PEARL!
SHE WAS IN PLENTY
OF TIME TO CLAIM
HER INHERITANCE!

SHE'D NEVER HAVE
MADE IT WITHOUT
YOUR HELP, ANNIE!
YOU DID A
FINE JOB!



JOB! YIKES! IN ALL THE EXCITEMENT,
I NEVER DID FINISH WASHING THOSE
WINDOWS! SEE
YOU LATER!