



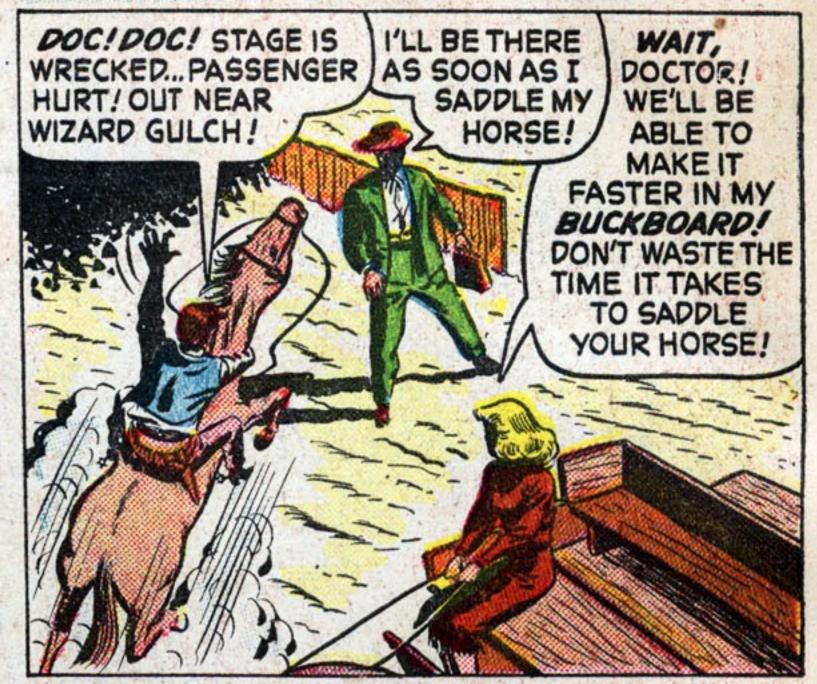
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THERE IS A RENDING CRASH OF SPLINTERING WOOD...
THEN SILENCE, AS THE DRIVER OF THE COACH PULLS
HIMSELF GROGGILY TO HIS FEET, AND SURVEYS THE
WRECKAGE...



AND PRECIOUS MINUTES LATER, THE DRIVER POUNDS INTO TOWN, RIDING ONE OF THE STAGE HORSES BAREBACK! MARIE LATHROP IS AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR...



OF YOURS CAN HARDLY WALK, LET ALONE RUN!



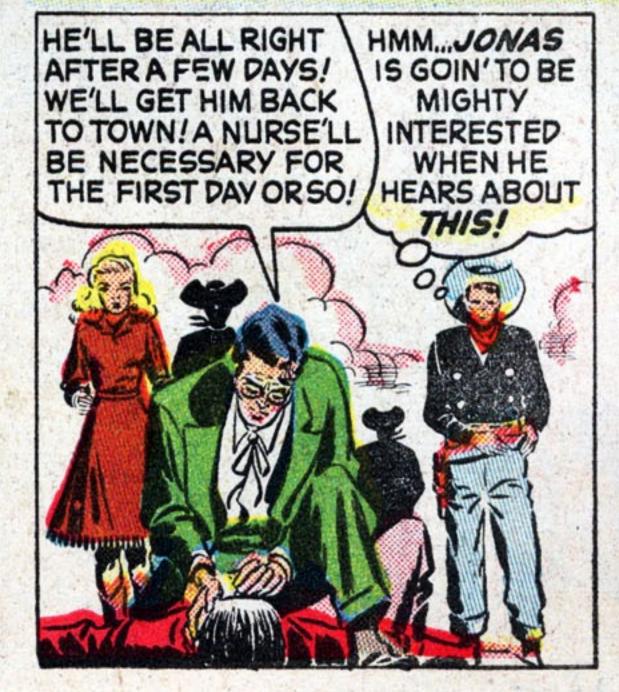
GIVING THE HORSES THE REIN, MARIE DRIVES THEM AT FULL SPEED!AS THEY'RE FOLLOWED BY A CROWD FROM TOWN! THE FLIMSY BUCKBOARD SWAYS WILDLY FROM SIDE TO SIDE OVER THE ROCKY ROADS...



I ASSURE YOU, VERY GALLANT MISS MARIE, I WASN'T I'M SURE, CONCERNED DOCTOR, ABOUT MY BUT YOU'D OWN WELL-BETTER GET BEING ... BUT READY! ABOUT WE'RE NEAR YOURS! WIZARD GULCH!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS DR. MASTERS
REACHES HIS PATIENT AND SKILLFULLY GETS
TO WORK ON THE INJURED MAN! A BLACKSHIRTED MAN FROM TOWN WATCHES
INTENTLY!



A LITTLE LATER, THE BLACK-SHIRTED MAN IS IN THE CART-WHEEL SALOON, TALKING TO BEN JONAS..

THE GOVERNMENT UH-HUH! MAN'S HERE, BEN ... GOOD HE WAS HURT IN THE WORK, HOLLY! STAGE WRECK! THEY'RE TAKIN'HIM TO THE WON'T EAGLE HOTEL! DOC MASTERS SAYS HE'LL FORGET BE LAID UP FOR A YA ... COUPLE OF DAYS! WHEN HE HAS THE BIDS THE PAY-OFF COMES! WITH HIM!







YOU BET I AM, HOLLY! WE'LL

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN THE ROOM OF PETER HENDERSON, THE INJURED MAN, AS THE ADROIT AND SKILLFUL DOCTOR MASTERS FINISHES HIS EXAMINATION...

MR. HENDERSON, I'M AFRAID YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TRAVEL FOR AT LEAST A WEEK! MISS LATHROP, HERE, HAS VOLUNTEERED TO ACT

A WEEK! BUT I'M **DUE IN WASHINGTON** IN FIVE DAYS! I CAN'T BE LAID UP



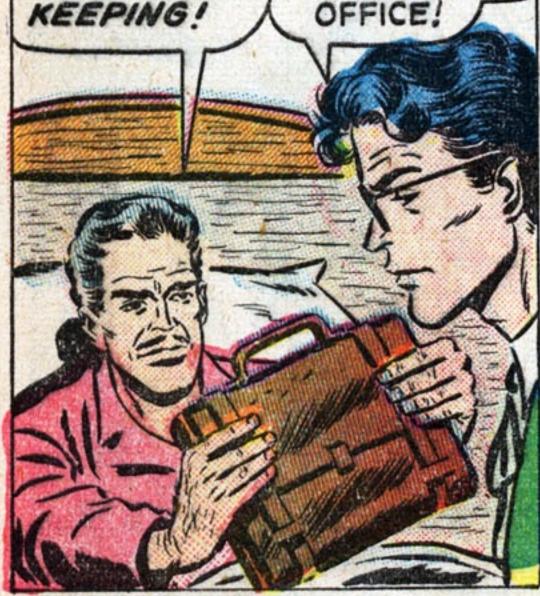
NOW, MR. HENDERSON, YOU BE A GOOD BOY, AND DO WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERS! WE'LL SEND A WIRE TO YOUR WASHINGTON OFFICE! YOUR MAIN JOB IS TO REST



WELL, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO AS YOU SAY! NOW, THIS BRIEFCASE CONTAINS SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS... SEALED BIDS FOR

THE IRRIGATION PROJECT! I'D LIKE TO PUT THEM IN SAFE-

OF COURSE! I'LL LOCK THEM IN MY OFFICE!



UH...MARIE ... THAT IS ... UH, MISS LATHROP... THERE'S A TRAVELING SHOW IN TOWN NEXT WEEK, AND I... UH...

YOU'D

BETTER

GO!

I THINK AT THAT MOMENT, THE POOR SWINGS OPEN, AND ... NOT, DR. MASTERS! PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER AND NOW NOT, DOC! PERHAPS YOU'D PERHAPS





50 LONG, DOC! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS ANY BRAINS! NO PERCENTAGE IN RISKIN'YOUR NECK, IS THERE? WE'LL KEEP THE GAL AS A HOSTAGE! JUST IN CASE YOU GET IDEAS!S'LONG, AMIGO!



THE BANDITS MOUNT AND STREAK OUT OF TOWN ON THE OLD GLORY MINE TRAIL!

ALONG WITH US, JUST WHY...UH.. WITHOUT A FIGHT...LET ME ... IN CASE SOMEBODY GETS HERE IT UGH! THE IDEA TO THROW IS...I...UH... LEAD! MEANWHILE ..

DOCTOR MASTERS, YOU'RE

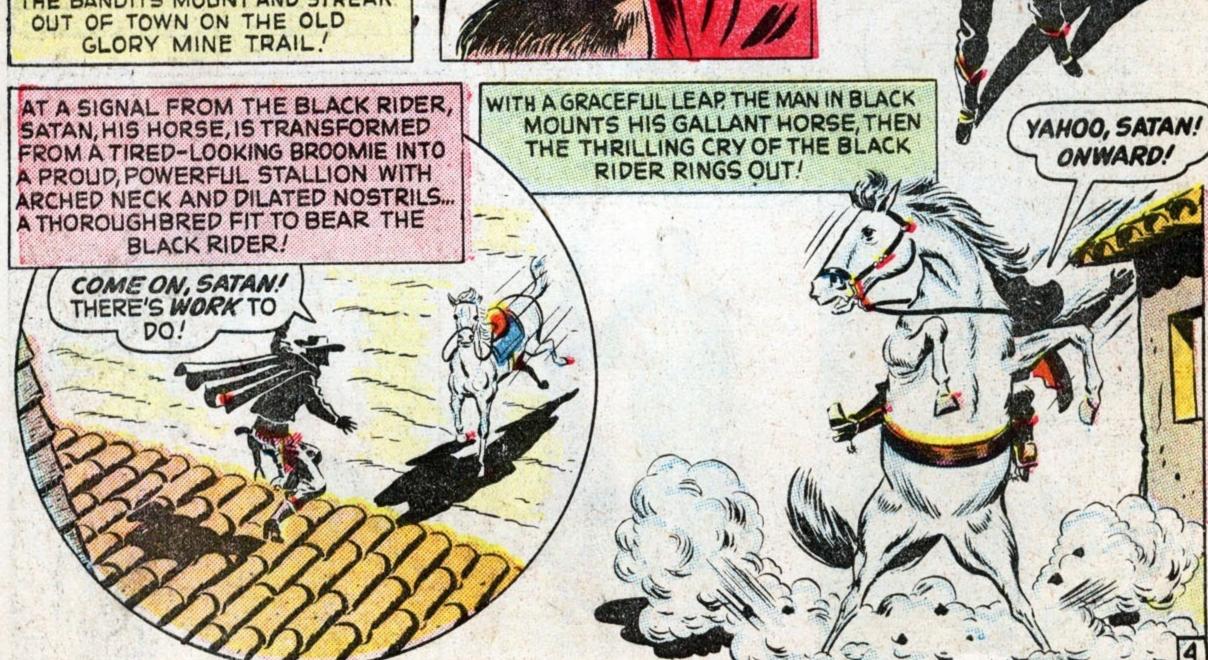
A COWARD! DON'T GIVE UP

HE'S DEAD, POOR FELLOW! IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GET INTO ACTION! I MUST SAVE MARIE AND GET THE IRRIGATION

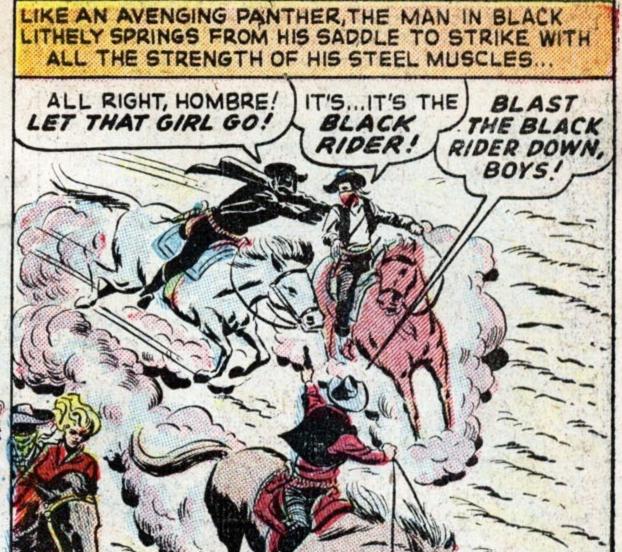


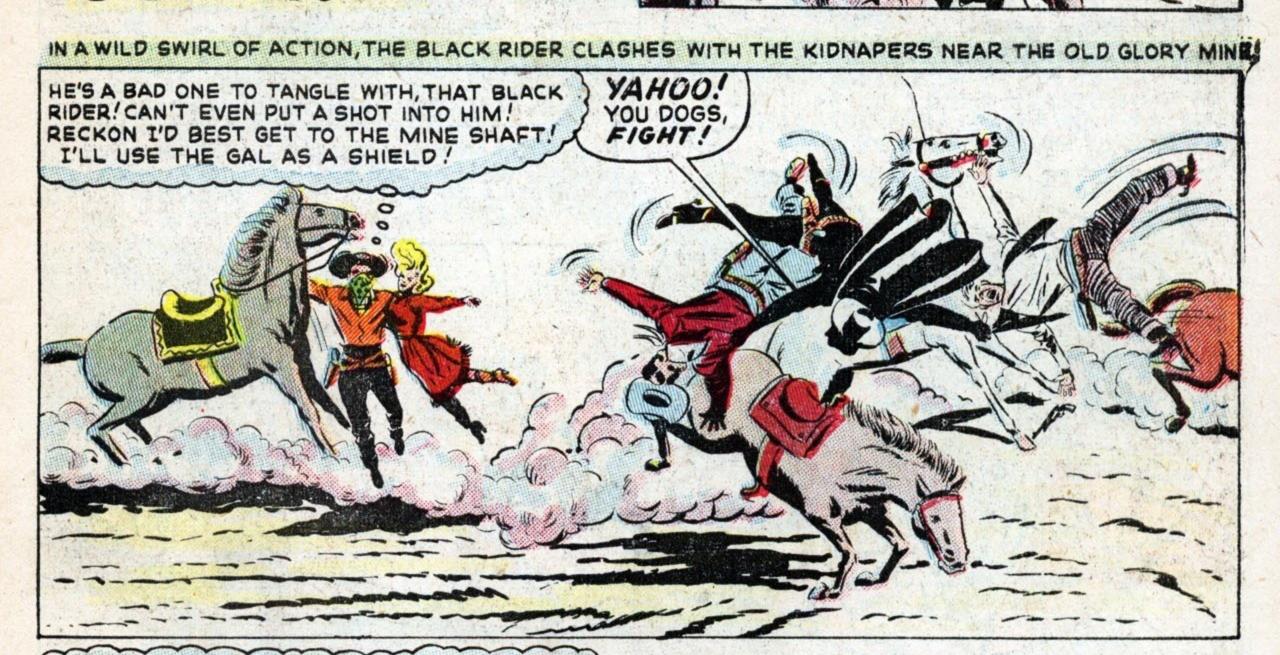
A FEW DEFT, DECISIVE MOMENTS, A RAPID CHANGE OF COSTUME, AND IN PLACE OF THE MEEK, MILD-MANNERED DOCTOR MATHEW MASTERS STANDS THE FIERY, STEEL-MUSCLED, TWO-FISTED NEMESIS OF THE RANGE-LAND ... THE BLACK RIDER!

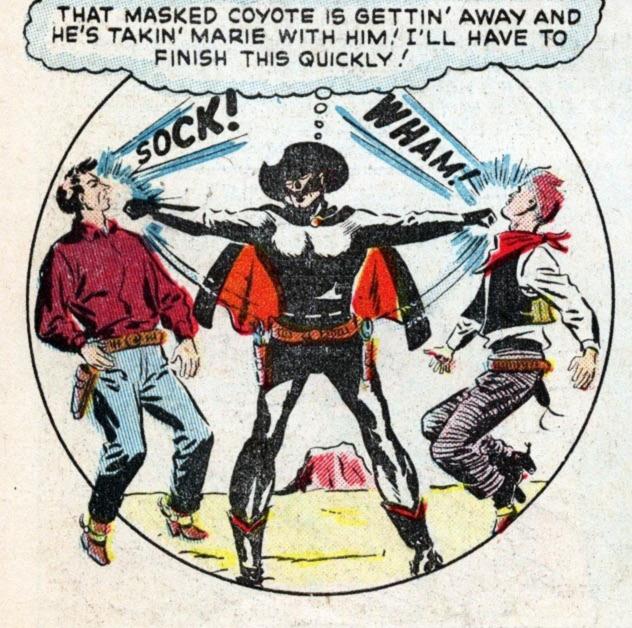
NOSEY DAME, ISN'T SHE WE'D BETTER LUG HER

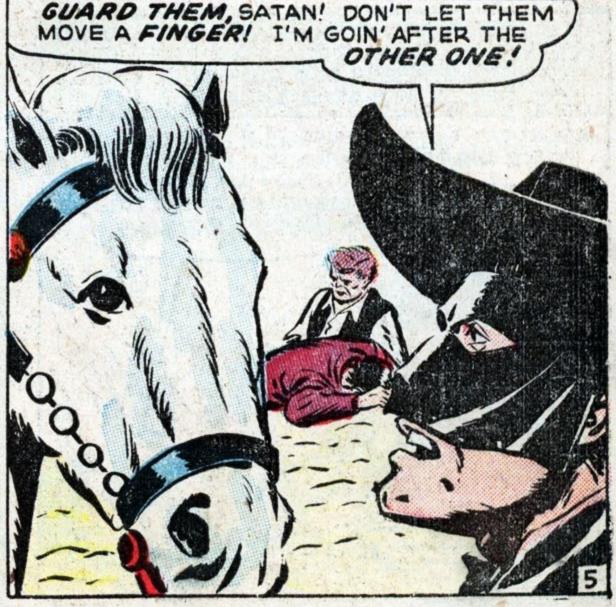












GRIMLY, THE BLACK RIDER PURSUES HIS QUARRY, AND BRAVES A HAIL OF LEAD FROM THE FLEEING MAN ...



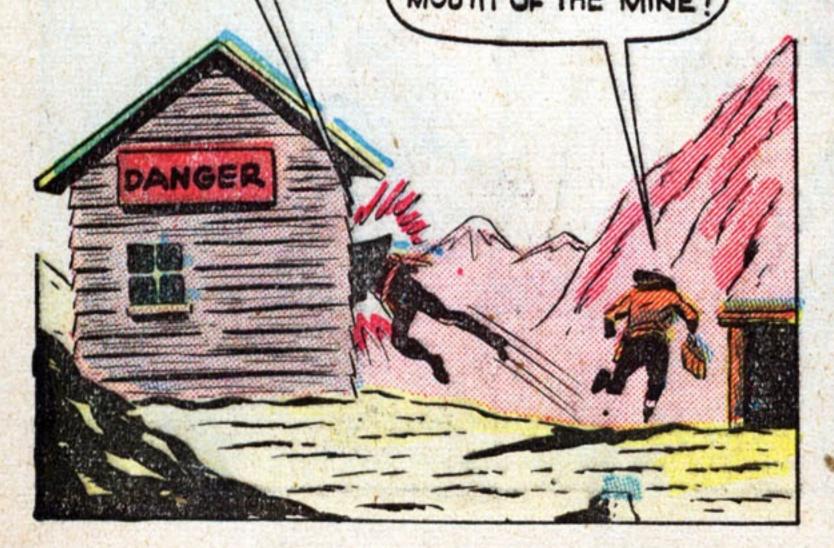
HAW! HAW! SO YOU'RE WEAK LIKE THE REST OF 'EM, EH, BLACK RIDER ? YOU FALL FOR A PRETTY FACE AN' A FLASHIN' SMILE! WELL, IT DOESN'T MEANA THING TO ME!



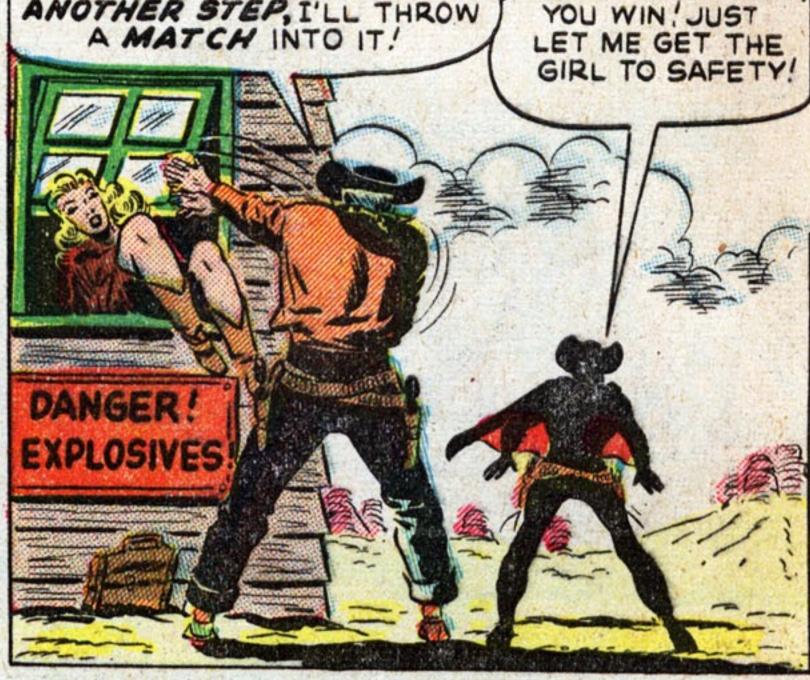
IN A SUPREME EFFORT, THE BLACK RIDER MAKES A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE GIRL, AS THE FUGITIVE TURNS AND RUNS FOR THE SHELTER OF THE MINE ENTRANCE ...

MARIE! I MUST SAVE MARIE!

AN' WHILE HE'S PLAYIN' HERO, I'LL MAKE MY GETAWAY AN' WATCH THE FIREWORKS FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MINE!



STAND WHERE YOU ARE, BLACK RIDER, OR I'LL BLAST THE GAL INTO A MILLION PIECES! THIS MINE SHACK IS LOADED WITH ALL KINDS OF EXPLOSIVES ... AND IF YOU TAKE ALL RIGHT, MISTER, ANOTHER STEP, I'LL THROW A MATCH INTO IT!



CASUALLY, THE MAN LIGHTS THE MATCHES AND FLIPS THE BLAZING BOX THROUGH THE WINDOW!

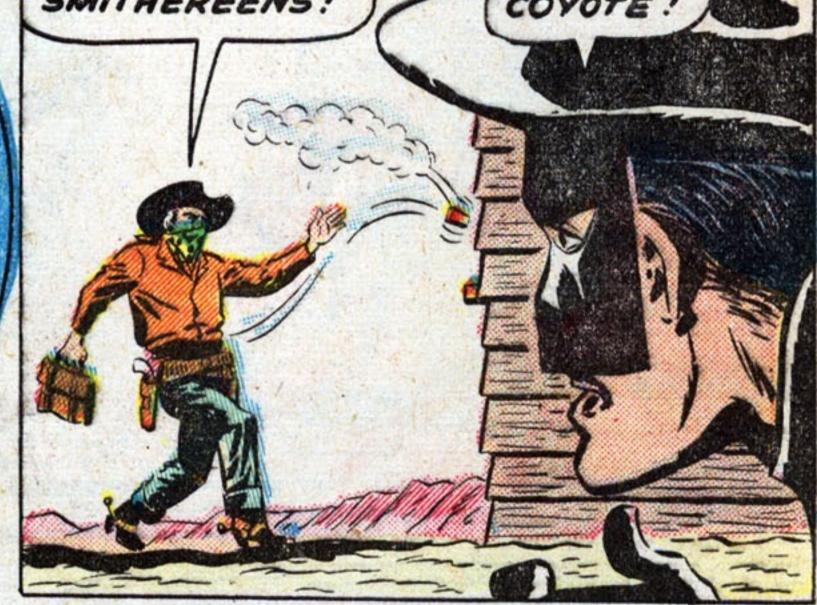
THERE! IN ANOTHER COUPLE OF SECONDS, THE WHOLE PLACE WILL GO UP IN SMITHEREENS!

STOP! YOU LOW-DOWN. MANGY COYOTE!

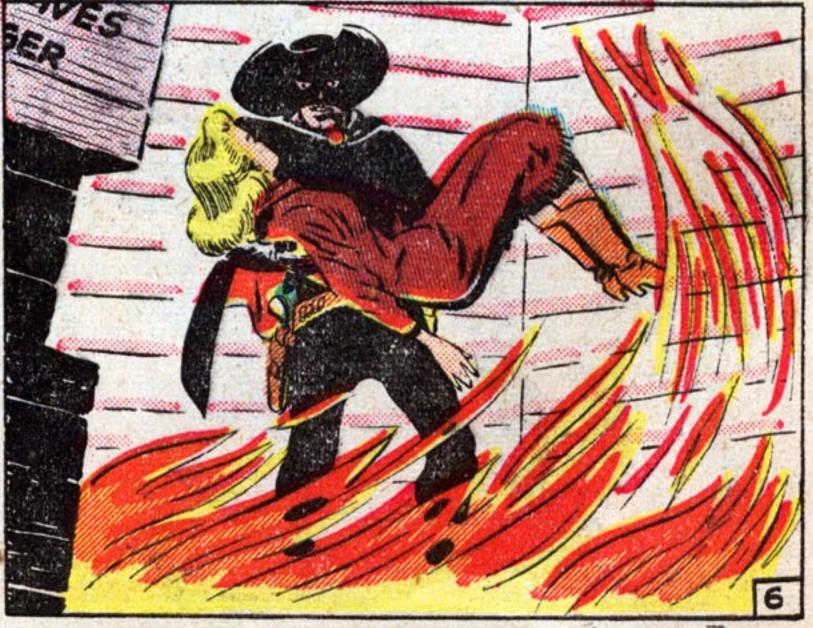
CAN'T LET THAT

MARIE ...

HAPPEN TO



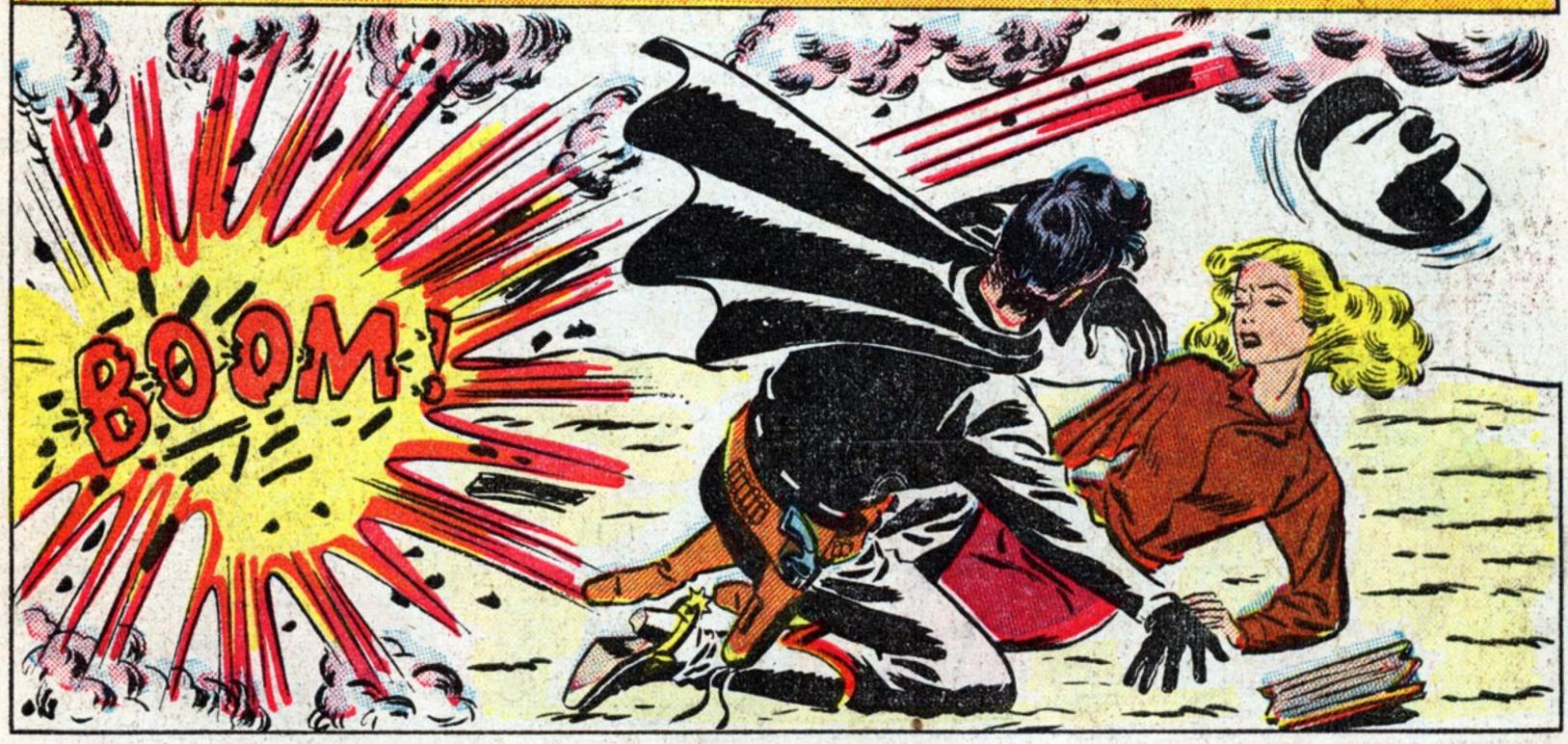
INSIDE THE SHACK, THE INTREPID BLACK RIDER FINDS THE GIRL... AND WITH ONLY SECONDS LEFT, BEFORE THE HUNGRY FLAMES TOUCH THE EXPLOSIVES WITH THEIR FIERY TONGUES, HE TAKES HER UP IN HIS ARMS AND PREPARES TO DASH FOR SAFETY ...







SHIELDING MARIE'S BODY WITH HIS OWN, THE BLACK RIDER WATCHES THE SHACK EXPLODE WITH A TREMENDOUS ROAR, SENDING FLAME AND SMOKE SKY-ROCKETING UPWARD... WHILE THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE IS ROCKED WITH THE FORCE OF THE BLAST!



THE MASKED MAN REMOVES HIS MASK AND REVEALS HIMSELF AS BEN JONAS...

HA-HA! WELL, I GUESS THAT RIDS US OF THE BLACK RIDER!

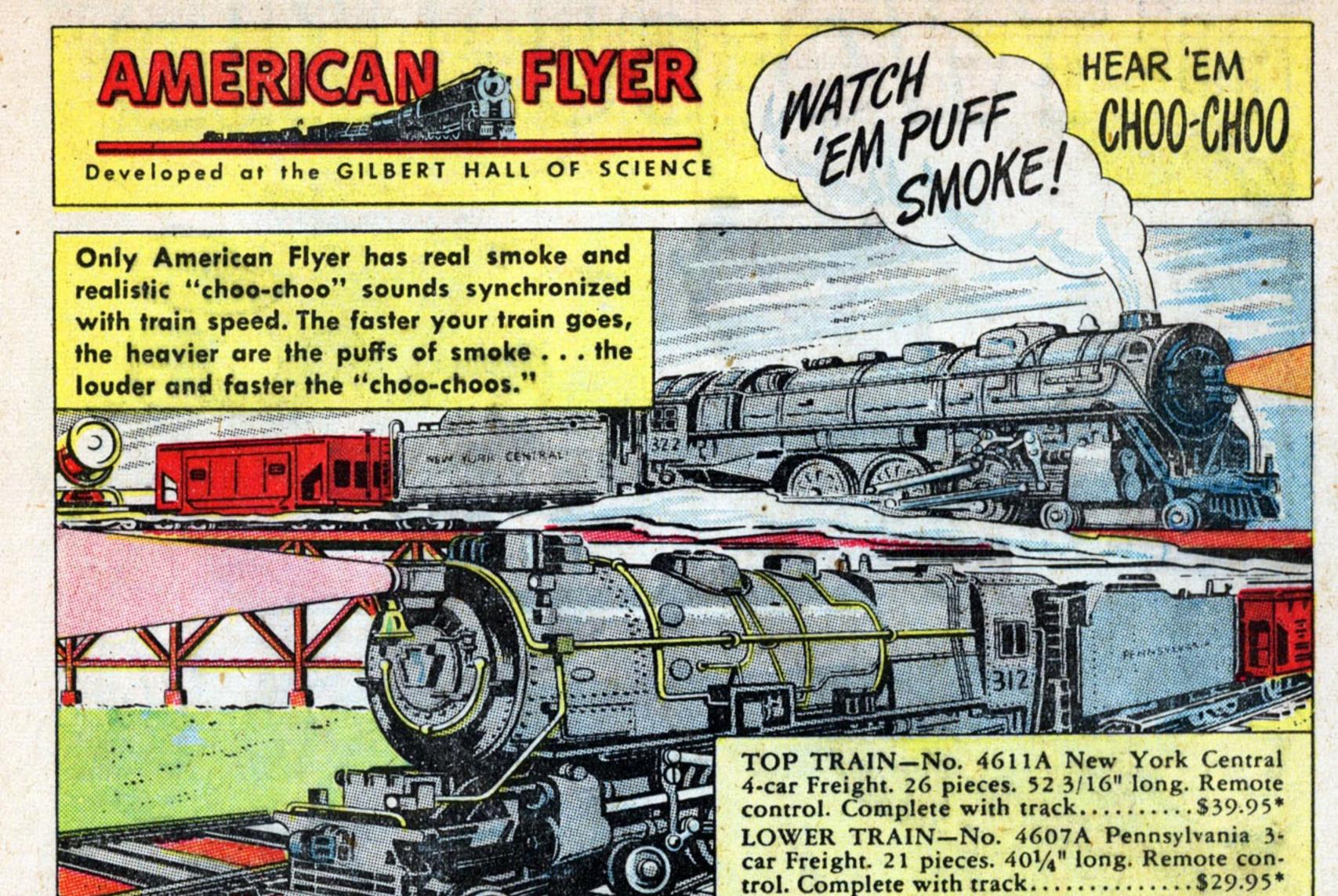


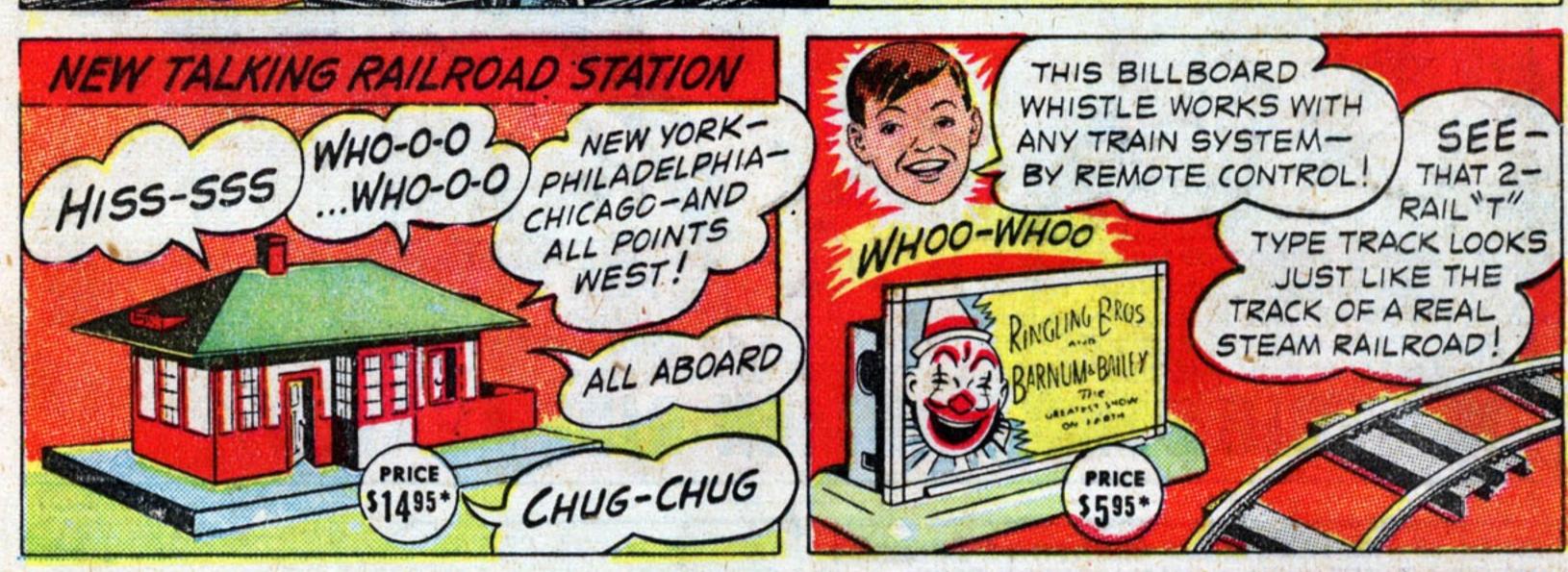
BUT THE BLACK RIDER AND











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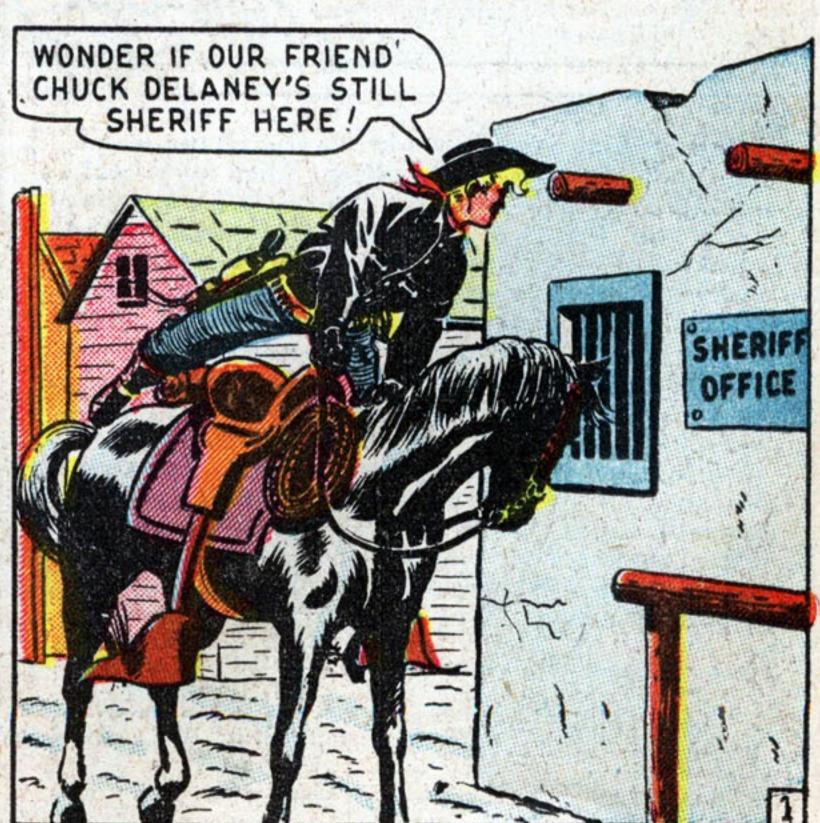




WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOUR FRIEND, AN HONEST LAWMAN, WAS ACCUSED OF BEING IN CAHOOTS WITH WA KILLER HARDCASE? EVERY BIT OF EVIDENCE SEEMS TO PROVE THAT SHERIFF DELANEY HAS FREED A BADMAN SO HE CAN KILL AND KILL AGAIN! THIS IS THE SITUATION THAT FACES THE TWO-GUN KID WHEN HE RIDES IN TO SEE HIS OLD PARD, THE STAR-TOTER OF BIG BEND, AND FINDS HE MUST PROVE THE LAWMAN'S INNOCENCE IN THE OLD WESTERN WAY... BEHIND SMOKING GUNS, IN...

BIG BEND BADMEN RIDE AGAIN!"









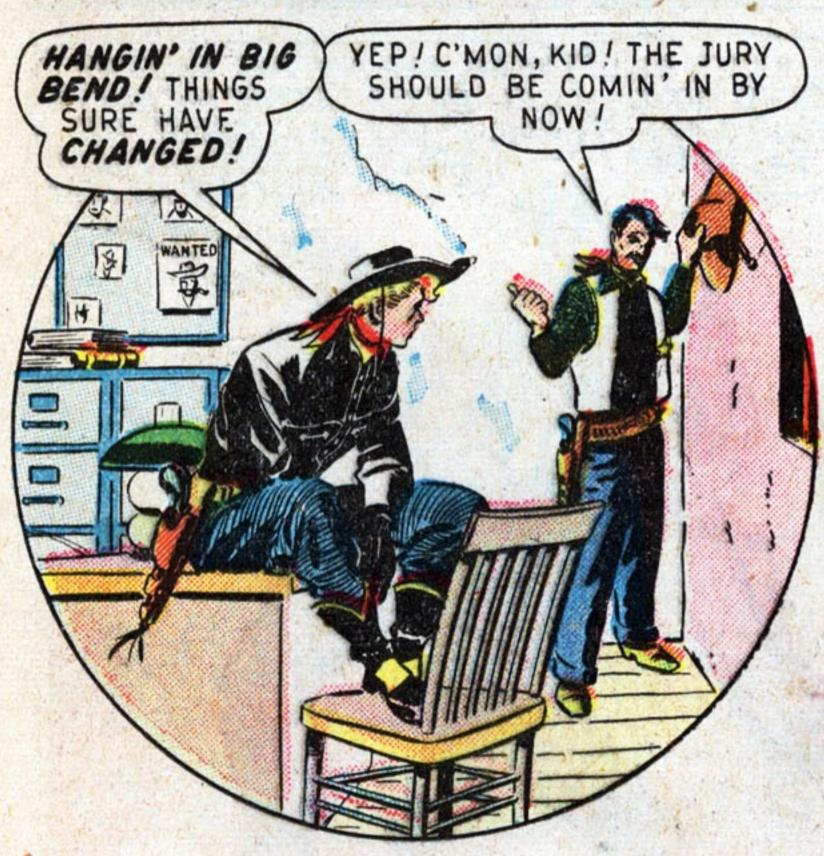
HAVEN'T SEEN

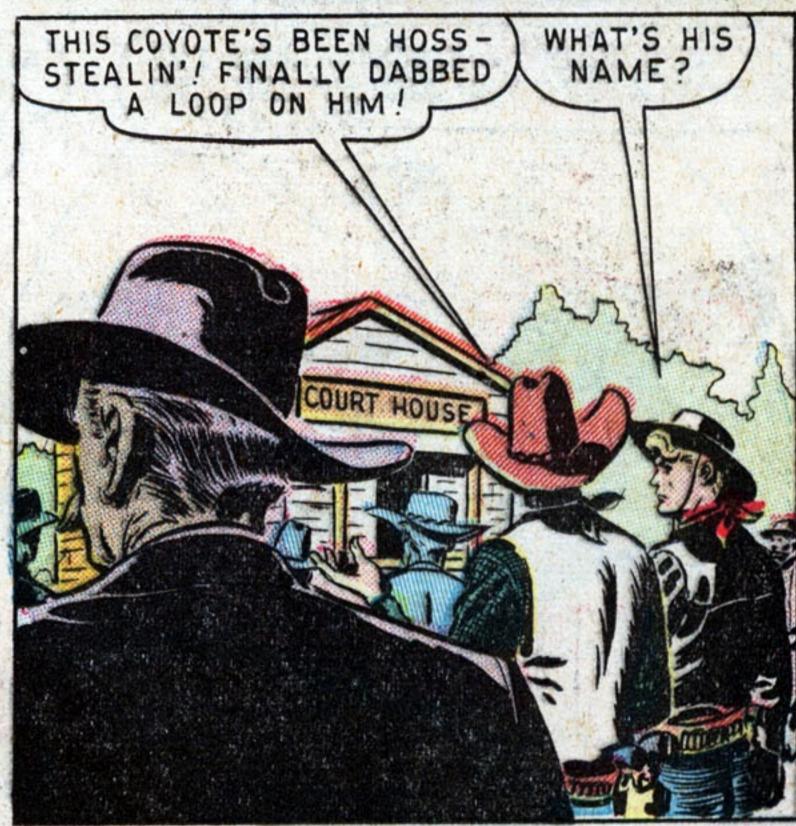
YOU IN A DOG'S

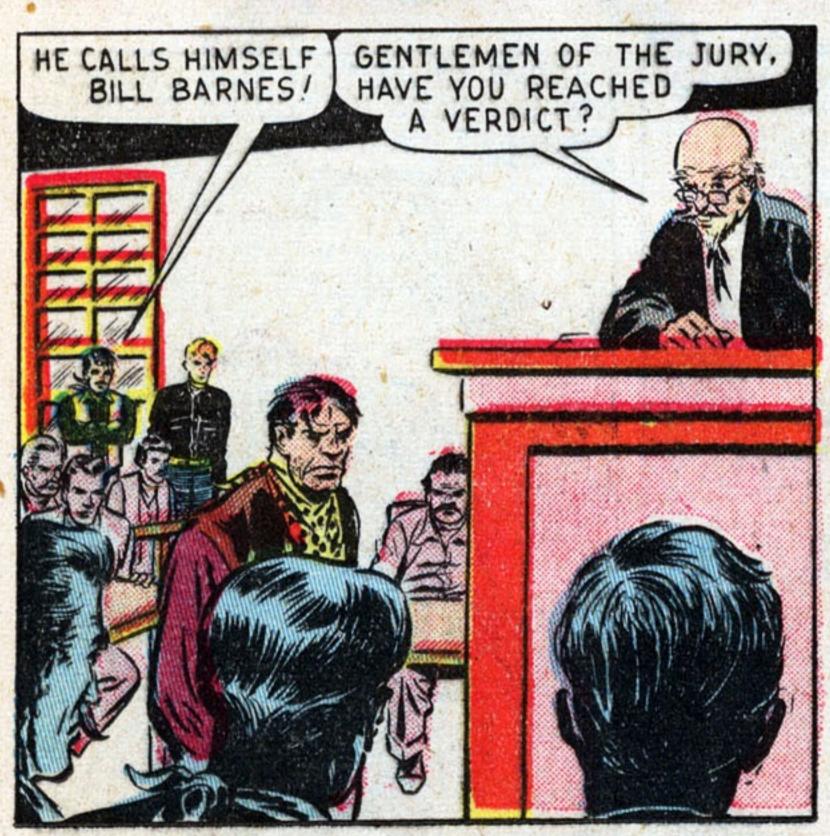
RECKON

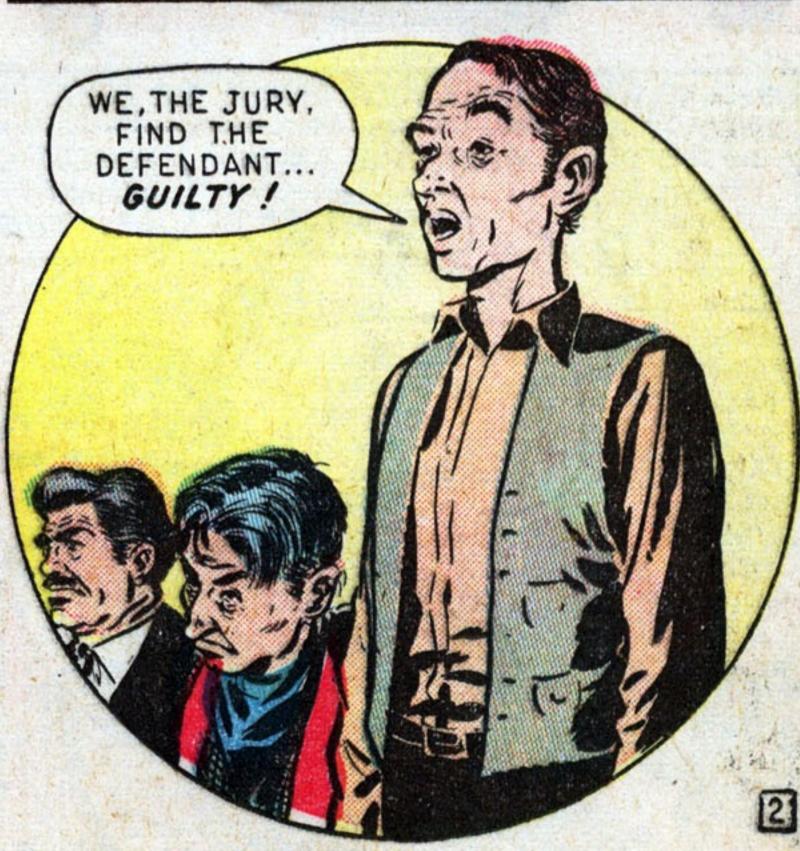
MY HOSS

















NO! BUT HIS

GANG MAY

SPRING HIM!

TRY TO

YOU DON'T

BELIEVE I'M

IN CAHOOTS

WITH THAT

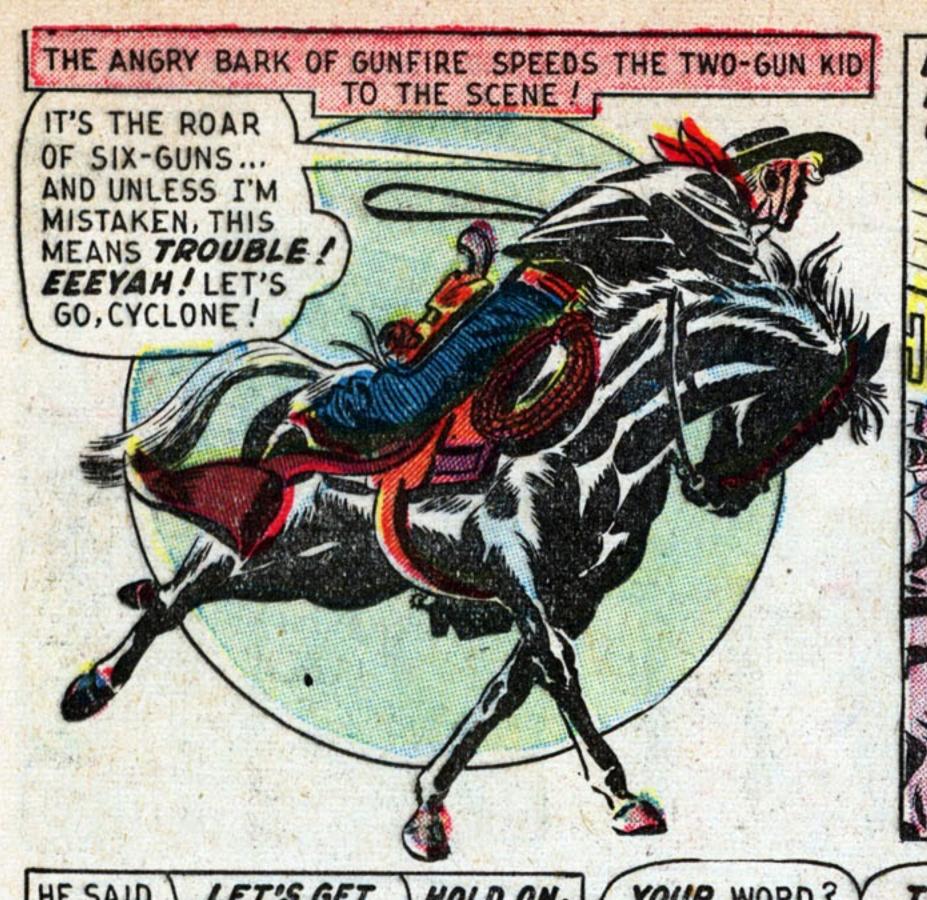


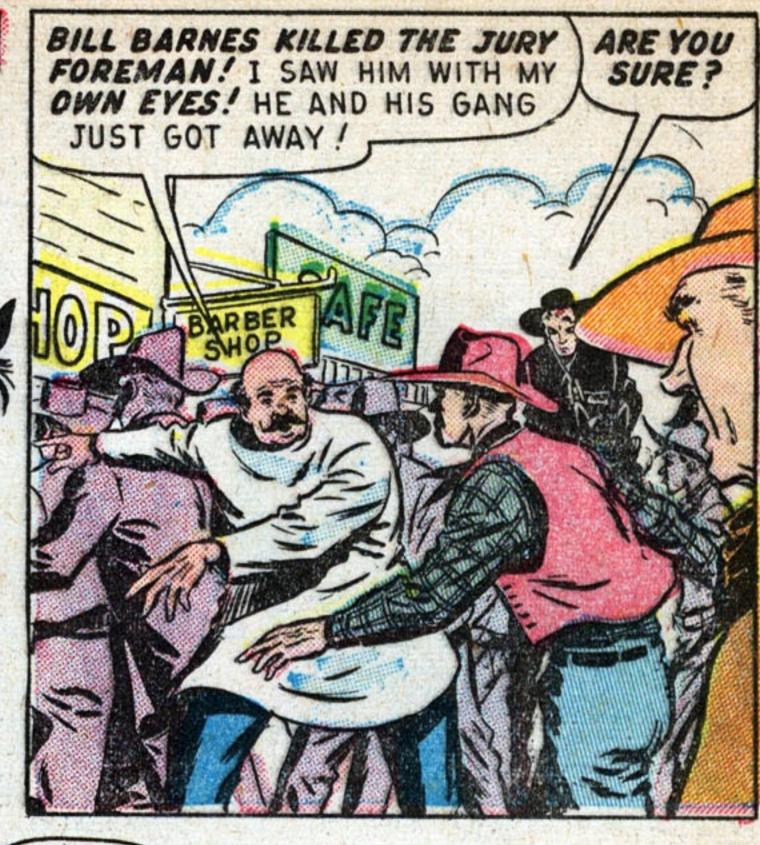






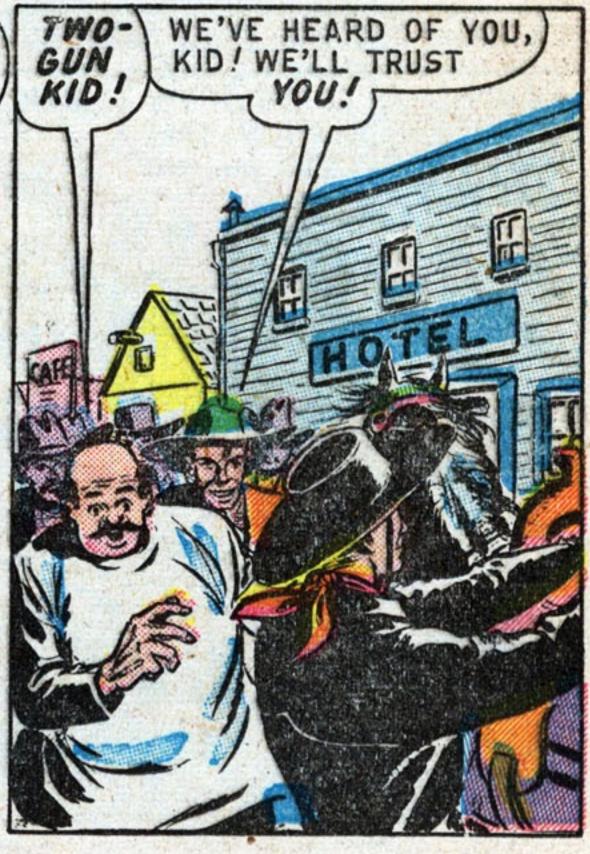




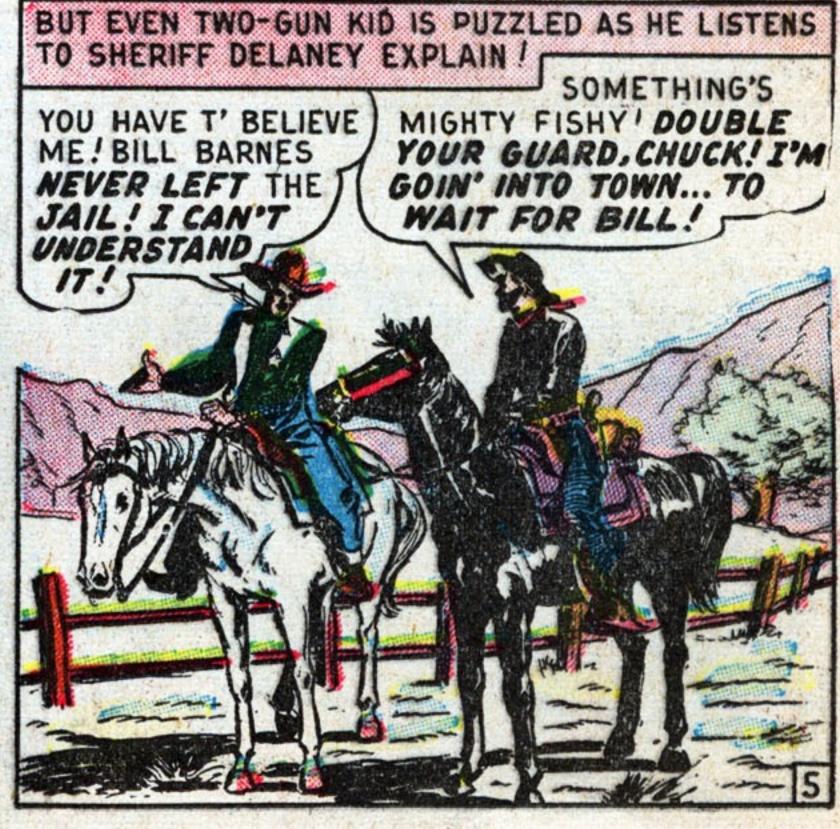






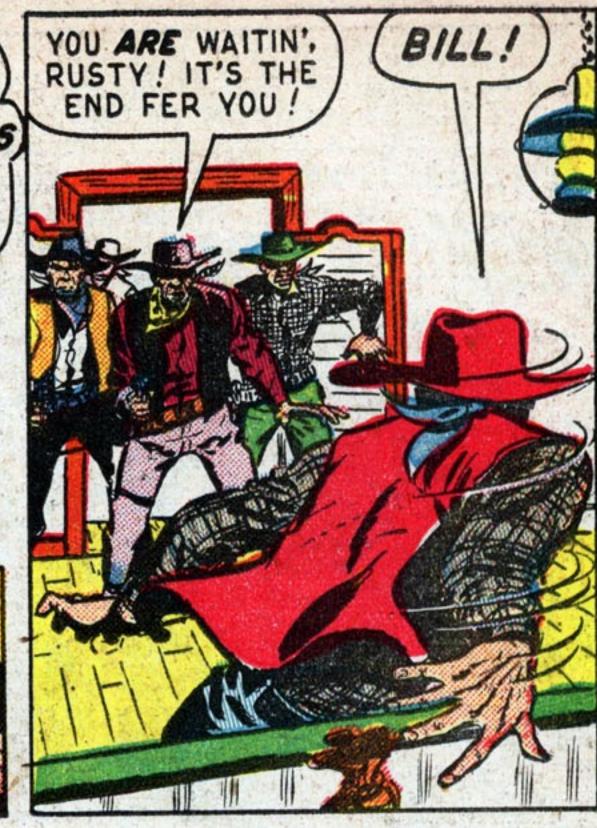




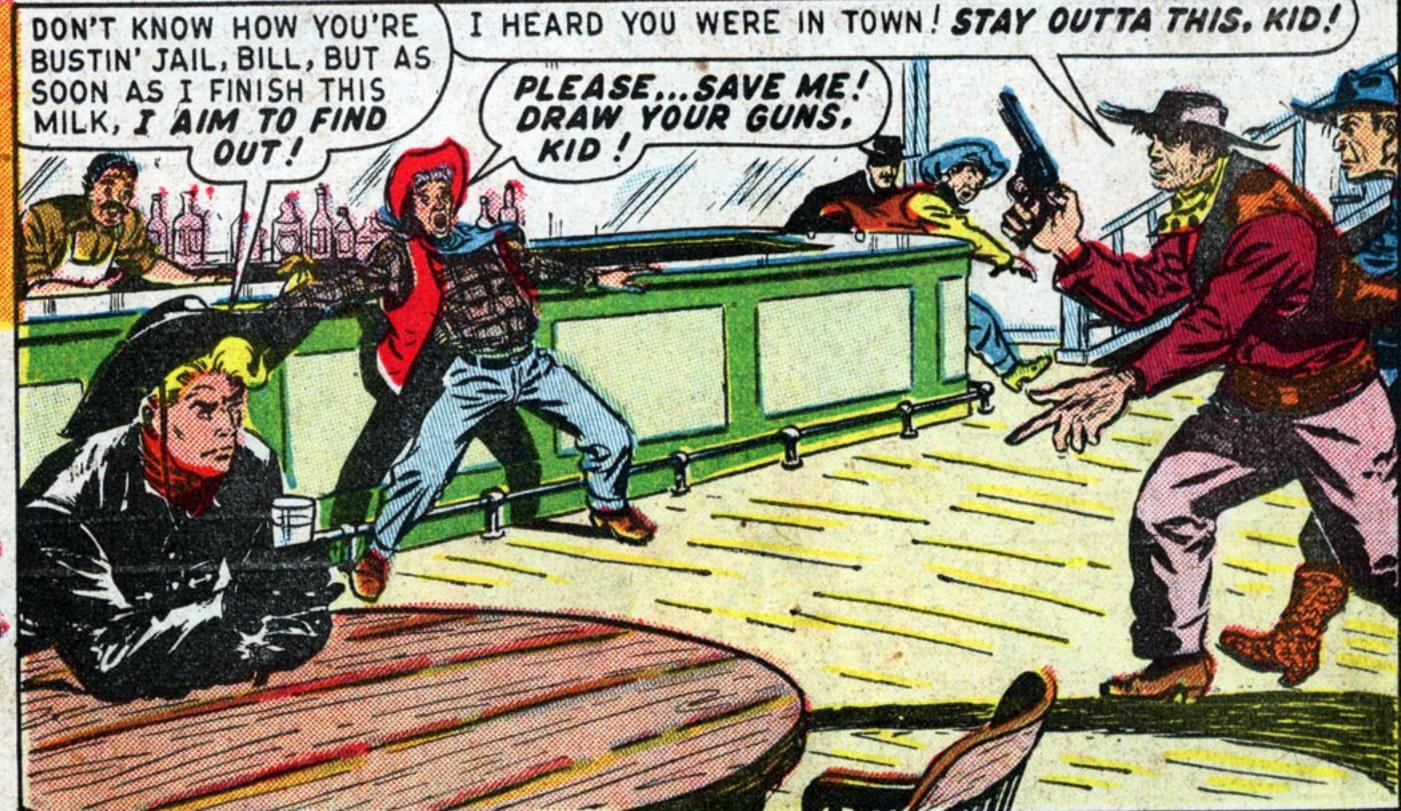






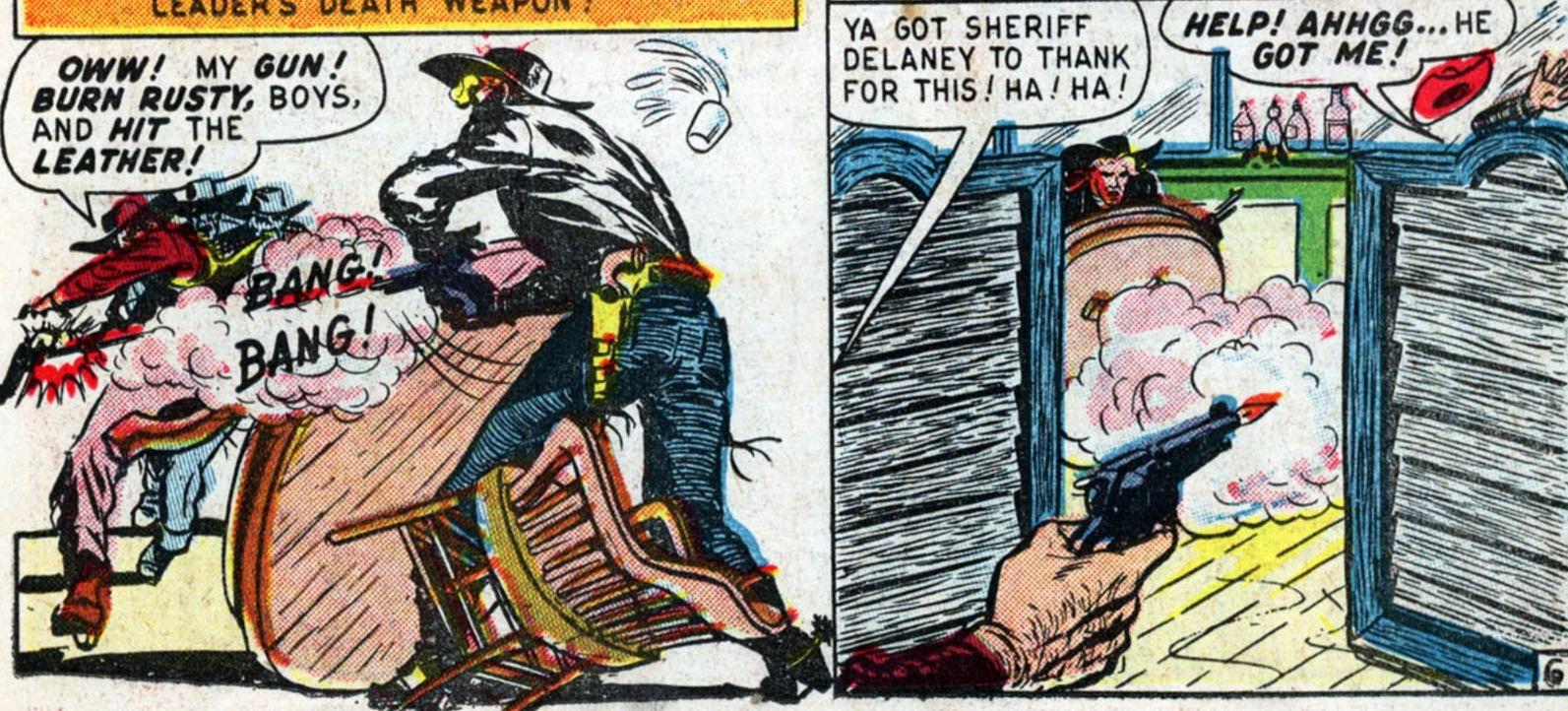


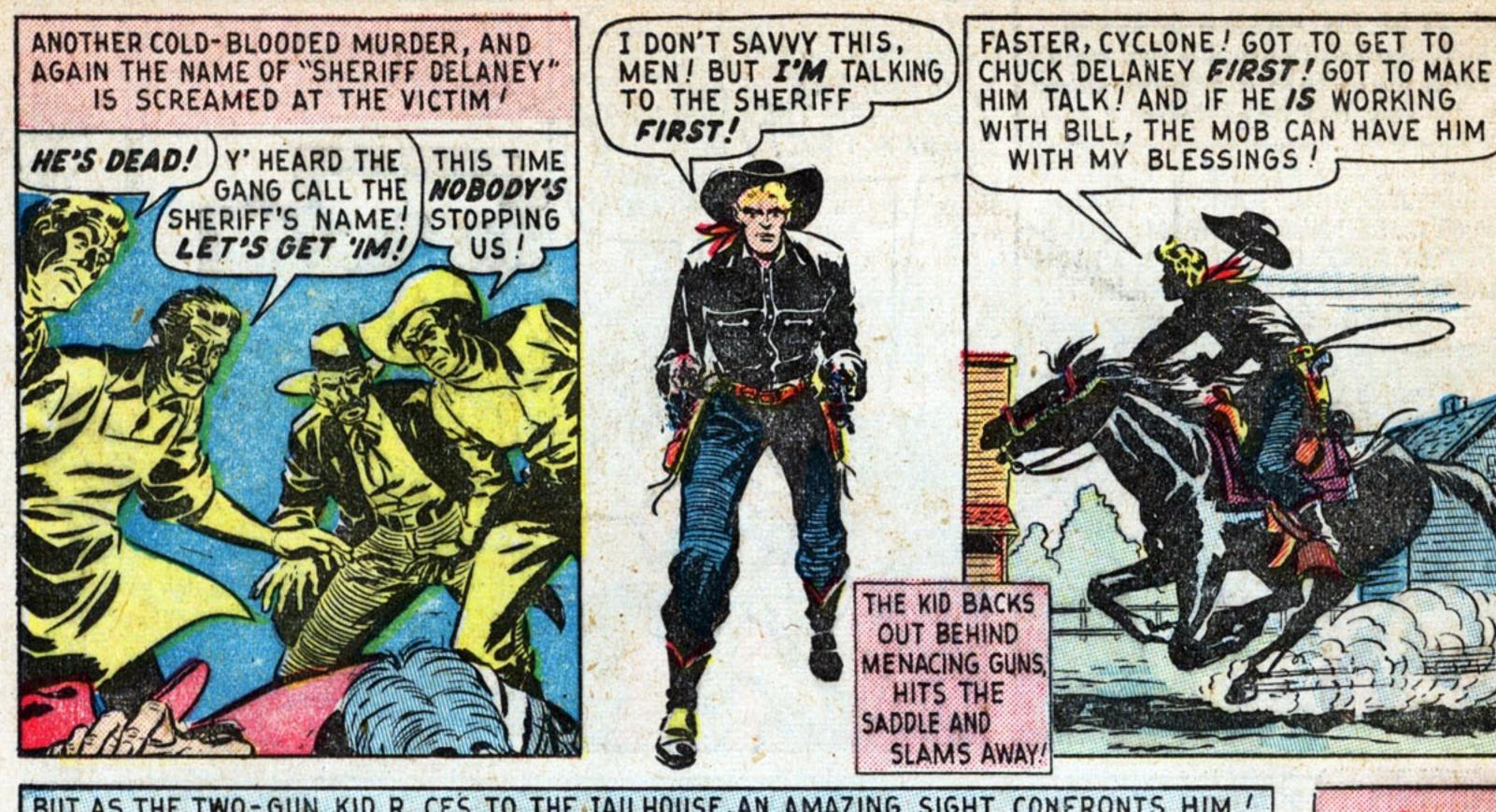


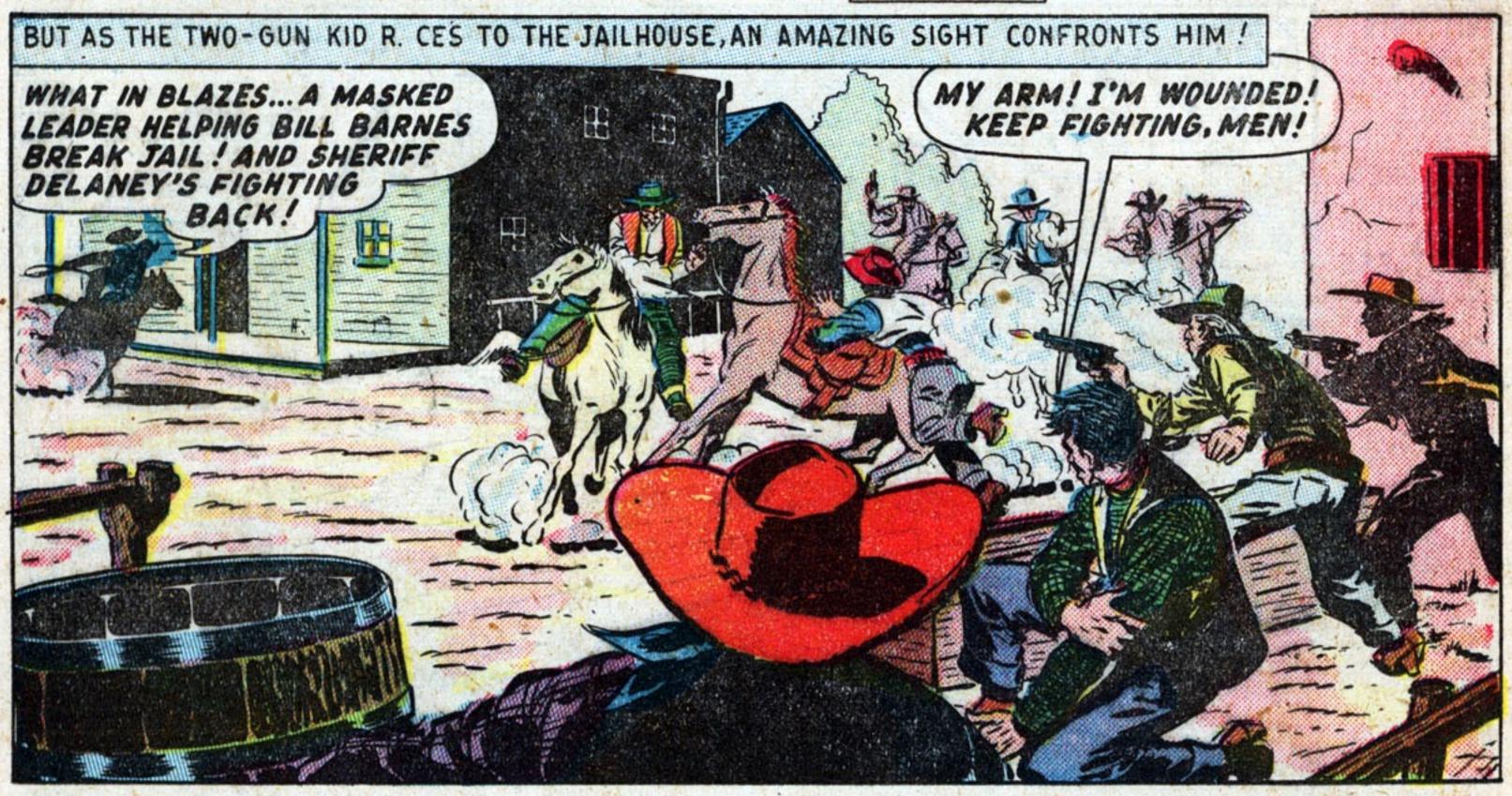




AS THE DESPERATE GANG RUSHES TO ESCAPE, ONE OF THEM TURNS AND SHOOTS!

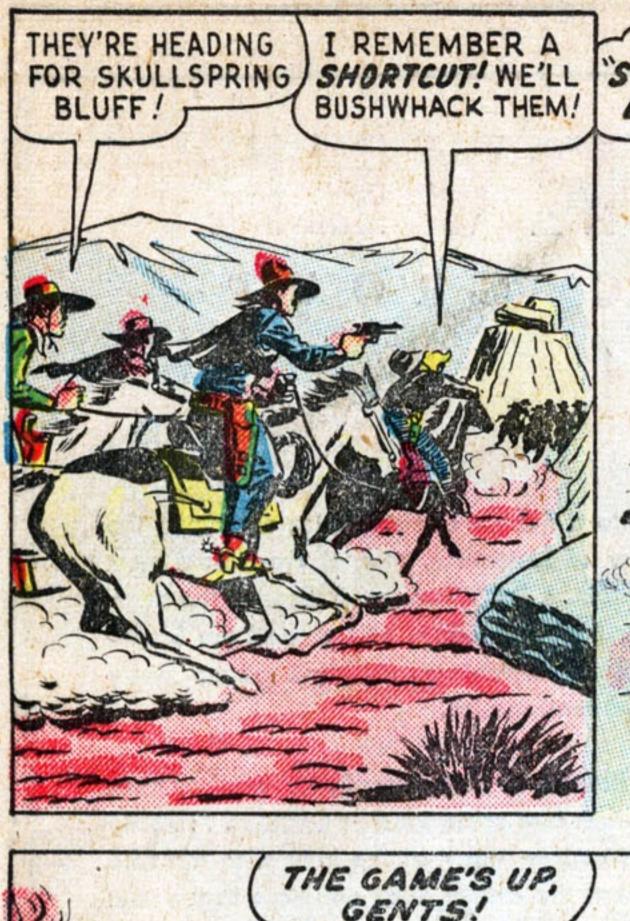


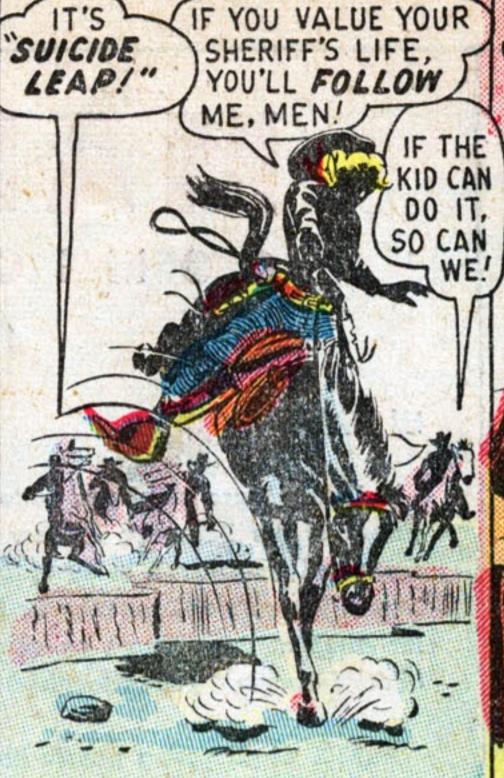






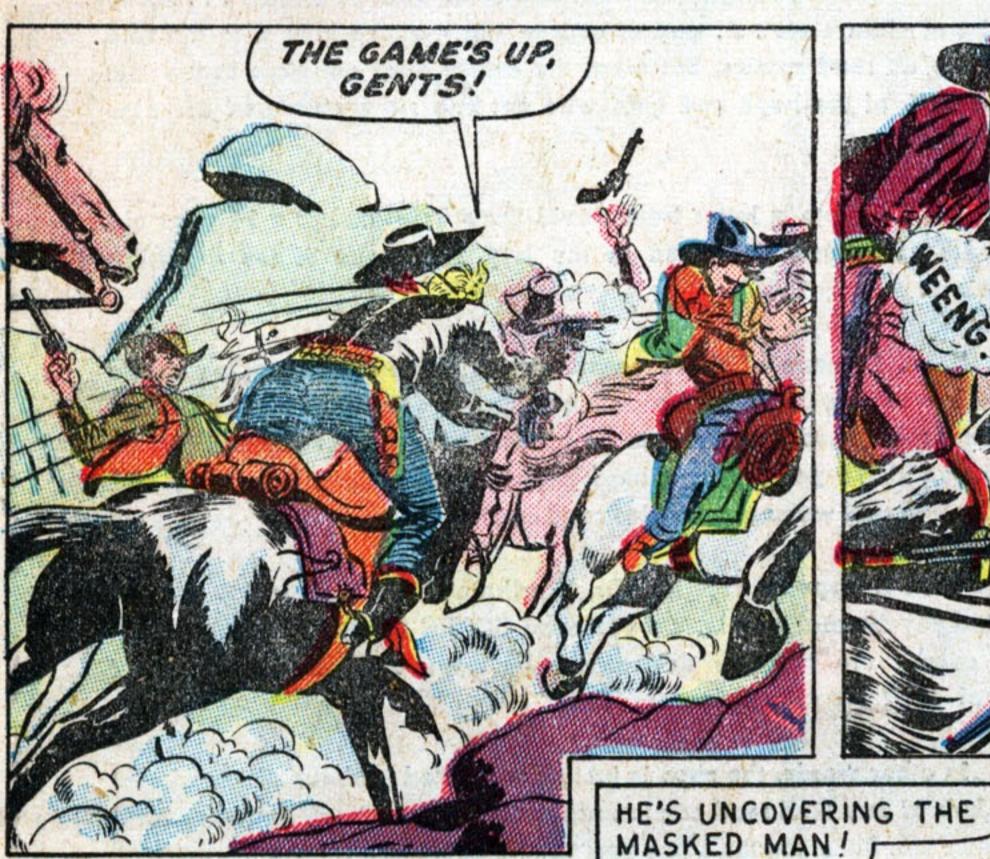




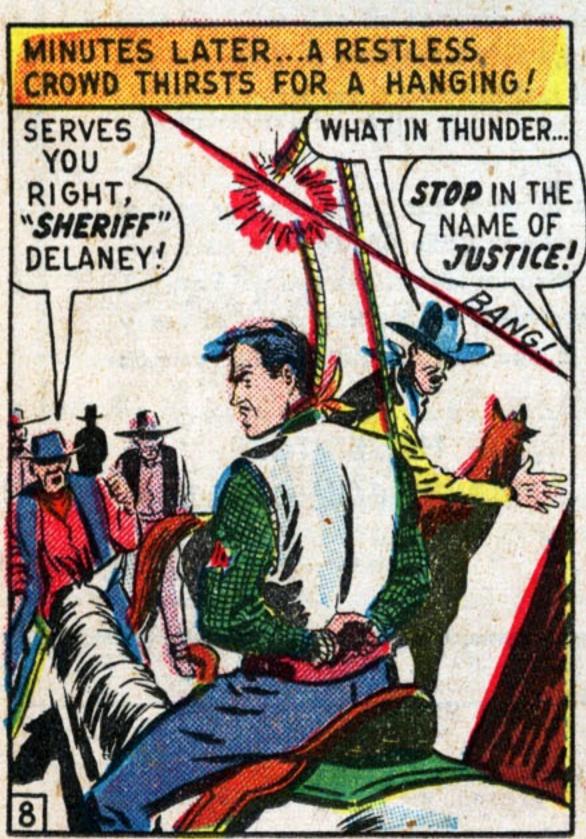


REALIZING THAT A FALSE JUMP MEANS CERTAIN DEATH. THE GALLANT POSSE, INSPIRED BY THE COURAGE OF THE TWO-GUN KID, FOLLOW ON!













RED UNIT

ANNIE OAKLEY BLACKSTONE THE MAGICIAN **BLONDE PHANTOM** COMPLETE MYSTERY STORIES CRIMEFIGHTERS ALWAYS WIN GEORGIE IDEAL COMICS JOKER COMICS JUSTICE LAWBREAKERS ALWAYS LOSE MARGIE MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS MILLIE THE MODEL NAMORA NELLIE THE NURSE PATSY WALKER SUB-MARINER SUN GIRL TEEN COMICS TESSIE THE TYPIST TEX MORGAN TWO-GUN KID WILD WESTERN WILLIE

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MARVEL COMICGROUP

HI FRIENDS:

Lately there has been quite a debate about comics raging in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, one of America's most respected magazines. In an article, a Dr. Wertham discussed the problem of juvenile delinquency in America today, and pinned the blame for some of these cases on comic magazines, simply because many of the delinquent youngsters had read comics.

93% of all young people (from 8 to 16 years of age) read comics. Naturally a few young people get into some kind of trouble . . . so do a lot of older ones . . . and of course many of the kids who get into trouble do read comics. But what the article does not state is the fact that 93% of the boys and girls who get into no trouble at all also read comics.

Let us quote a letter from David Pace Wigransky, a 14 year old .
reader of comics, published in the July 24th issue of the Saturday
Review:

- books was the cause of the delinquency. A good many of the delinquents mentioned happened to be readers of comic magazines, just as are 69,999,975 perfectly healthy, happy, normal American boys and girls, men and women, who also read comics.
- "... It appears that his [Dr. Wertham's] \$64 question to a child being psychoanalyzed is, 'Do you read COMIC BOOKS, my little man?' Of course the juvenile delinquent, being a normal child in at least that way, will answer 'Yes'."

In other words, the case is just as we stated it above. Since almost all kids of any kind read comics, naturally some of the delinquents read comics too. But since the same percentage holds true among the millions of youngsters who have committed no offense at all, why not give the comics credit for the good influence they have been on these millions of healthy, normal kids, instead of just blaming them for our handful of delinquents?

Once again let us remind you to show our magazines, or any of the other good comics, to people who criticize this form of entertainment. Show those people that your favorite magazines are not harmful. Let them see Dr. Thompson's endorsement on the first page of every one of our magazines, and prove to one and all that the comics you buy and read are good for you.

THE EDITORS
MARVEL COMIC GROUP



delivered in about 3 weeks. COPYRIGHT 1948, BY ROHR COMPANY LISTEN TO THE ROY ROGERS RADIO SHOW SPONSORED BY QUAKER DATS EVERY SUNDAY

HURRY-MAIL THE COUPON TODAY



THE SHERIFF was strapping on his six guns when the deputy came in. He said, "The prisoners are ready, sheriff!"

Bill Hooker nodded. "Fine, Red, bring them around the front." His tone was calm, though inside him he felt the nervous excitement that always preceded trouble. Outside the combination office and jail a curious crowd had collected, waiting for the prisoners to appear. More than one face wore a harried expression. Sheriff Hooker saw his deputy leading the manacled prisoners to the waiting stagecoach and locked up his office. Outside, the four unshaven, mean-looking prisoners who had so recently robbed a series of banks, killing countless unarmed people, waited, seemingly unworried. On their faces were expressions of extreme contempt for the sheriff and his aides who had tracked them down a week ago and were bringing them to trial at the county seat.

They were part of the notorious Collins gang, a money mad group of outlaws that would fight and kill for anything valuable . . . and who had managed to elude capture until these four men were run to earth, the rest having escaped.

Andy Barlow picked his way through the crowd and came over to the sheriff. "Look, Bill," he told his friend, "we've been talking it over. Maybe you better take some of the boys along in case there's trouble."

The sheriff smiled grimly. "No, Andy, this is my job. I don't want to take any chances on anyone else getting hurt."

But Bill, you know the Collins gang isn't going to let you get through with these guys. It's two hundred miles from here to Bruxton City with a thousand places in between that are perfect spots for an ambush."

"I know."

"Then let us ride along as escort. You're going to need some extra gun hands when the Collins Gang attacks, and you can bet your boots they will!"

A small group had gathered around Andy and the sheriff, and behind them the four outlaws were taking everything in, smiling at what they knew would happen. For them it was a pleasant thought, for they knew that if they ever did go to trial, they were sure to be convicted.

The driver of the stage came out of the express office carrying a shotgun. He nodded to the sheriff and climbed aboard the stage. He called out to the clerk inside and two men dragged out the boxes that were labled BRUXTON CITY. The outlaws looked at each other and shrugged. As far as anyone could see, this was just a bit of optimism on the part of the sheriff, expecting baggage to get through too. When the baggage was loaded Red handed the sheriff four rifles and a box of ammunition. Once again people looked at each other. Andy said, "You going to handle all those guns at once, Bill?"

This time the sheriff smiled a little differently. "I won't have to, Andy." He let it go there. The prisoners were loaded into the stage and hand-cuffed to hooks in the side of the seats. Unexpectedly, the sheriff climbed in with them instead of riding beside the driver, gave the signal and the stage went off in a cloud of dust kicked up by the team. Back in front of the office the people shook their heads sadly. Bill Hooker had been a good sheriff, honest and fearless, but now he had stuck his neck out too far. Someone remarked, "Might as well hold an election now, I guess. We'll never see old Bill again."

Andy shook his head. "I don't know about that. I've known Bill a long time, and if I can read

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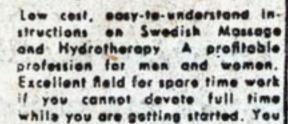
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signs, he's got something up his sleeve!"

In the stagecoach outside of town, the four outlaws were beginning to think the same thing too. Their faces were scowling, and they looked at each other, knowing that every move the stage made would be watched, and before long the expected rescue would come. The sheriff was sitting back calmly, fondling the rifles, loading shells into the chambers.

Then he spoke. "It'll come soon, don't you think?"

One of the outlaws bared his teeth in a grimace. "You're not kidding. And when it does don't
expect to walk away from here. This is your last
ride!"

"Maybe not," the sheriff told him. "Did you see those boxes we loaded on?" There was a sudden silence. The sheriff went on, "Those boxes are carrying gold. Fifty thousand dollars worth. You know what that means?"

The men leaned forward tensely, half knowing what the answer would be. "What?" The question was sharp, worried.

"I let the word leak out that we were carrying a pay load, mister. You think your friends will be after that gold . . . or you?"

"They'll get us out of this. They won't let you get through with that dough!" The outlaw's voice was shrill. "You just made it all the more important for them to come after us!"

"That so?" The sheriff gave them a long stare.

"They won't be wanting to split with you guys on a deal like that. The more of you out of the way, the more they get. So when they come after us, they'll be shooting at you as well as me. See what I mean?"

They saw all right. It was written plainly on their faces. "What ... what are you going to do ... you have to protect us! We'll be shot down in cold blood!"

For an answer, the sheriff handed out the rifles with one hand, while he cradled his six shooter in the other. "Take one," he said, "It's your party from now on. The way those handcuffs are made, you have enough play in them to shoot out the windows, but not swing around toward me. Just remember, I have a gun here too! If you want to stand trial, then pick your targets carefully." He nodded toward a hillside. "And do it now, be-

cause here they come."

There was a sudden grab for the guns as the horde of bandits came streaking down the hill toward the coach. The driver yelled to the horses and urged them to greater speed. It was evident that a rescue wasn't what the outlaws were after, for they opened fire on the stage at once. Rifles and six guns spat leaden death as the horses moved closer to the coach.

Only when the bandits were well within range was there an answering burst of fire from the stage. A hail of slugs knocked men from their horses as the prisoners in the stage fought for their life. They levered shells into the rifles as the sheriff handed them ammunition, screaming with fury as their erstwhile companions tried to pick them off.

The sheriff did nothing but watch, keeping an eye on his prisoners and one on the outlaws behind them. A withering stream of fire poured from the stage time after time with unerring accuracy, until the ranks of the mounted outlaws had thinned considerably. They couldn't understand it, for never before had a stage been armed with so many sharpshooters.

Buster Collins himself was in the lead, with his kill-crazy brother riding directly behind him. They fanned out and tried to encircle the coach, but the rifle fire picked them off. Buster spurred his horse and crept up on the stage, then a bullet caught him squarely in the chest and he went down screaming. His brother took over, drawing the men in around him, pumping shot after shot at the coach. But their aim wasn't nearly as good as the return fire.

There was but a handful of them left when they decided to call it quits and take to the hills. Inside the stage the sheriff collected the guns and stacked them in a corner. His prisoners were shaken and disgusted at the whole thing, but Bill Hooker was in fine spirits. When he got back home he'd round up a posse and collect the rest of the outlaws . . . and this time there wouldn't be any attempted rescue. He grinned at his sweating cargo. "You guys make fine deputies," he said.

They gave him a sorry look. "Aw, shut up," one said.

THE END



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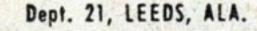
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STAMP NEWS

By KENT B. STILES

At this writing Uncle Sam's stamp-issuing program for 1948 called for a total of thirty postal items, all but one of which have been mentioned in these columns. There were published reports that the Post Office Department was considering adding two - one honoring the late General Pershing, the other in memory of the late baseball hero "Babe" Ruth, but no official word that such stamps would appear had come from Washington as these lines were being prepared.

A surprise stamp, its printing directed by President Truman, is a 3c purple honoring Harlan Fiske Stone (1872-1946), who was Chief Justice of the United States at the time of his death. This memorial bearing his portrait, received first-day sale on Aug. 25 at his birthplace, Chesterfield, N. H.

A likeness of Clara Barton (1830-1912), first president of the American Red Cross, and a crimson cross form the design of a 3c red released on Sept. 7 at Oxford, Mass., her birthplace. A male Light Brahma fowl and an egg are pictured on a 3c which received first-day sale at New Haven, Conn., on Sept. 9, to mark the centennial of the American poultry industry. The promised Gold Star Mothers memorial item, a 3c yellow-gold, went on sale at Washington on Sept. 21, the design being a star superimposed on a palm branch. And the 3c marking the centennial of the establishing of Fort Kearny was issued on Sept. 22 at Minden, Neb., the design being a sculptured group of pioneers on the Nebraska State Capitol, with a partial view of Fort Kearny below.

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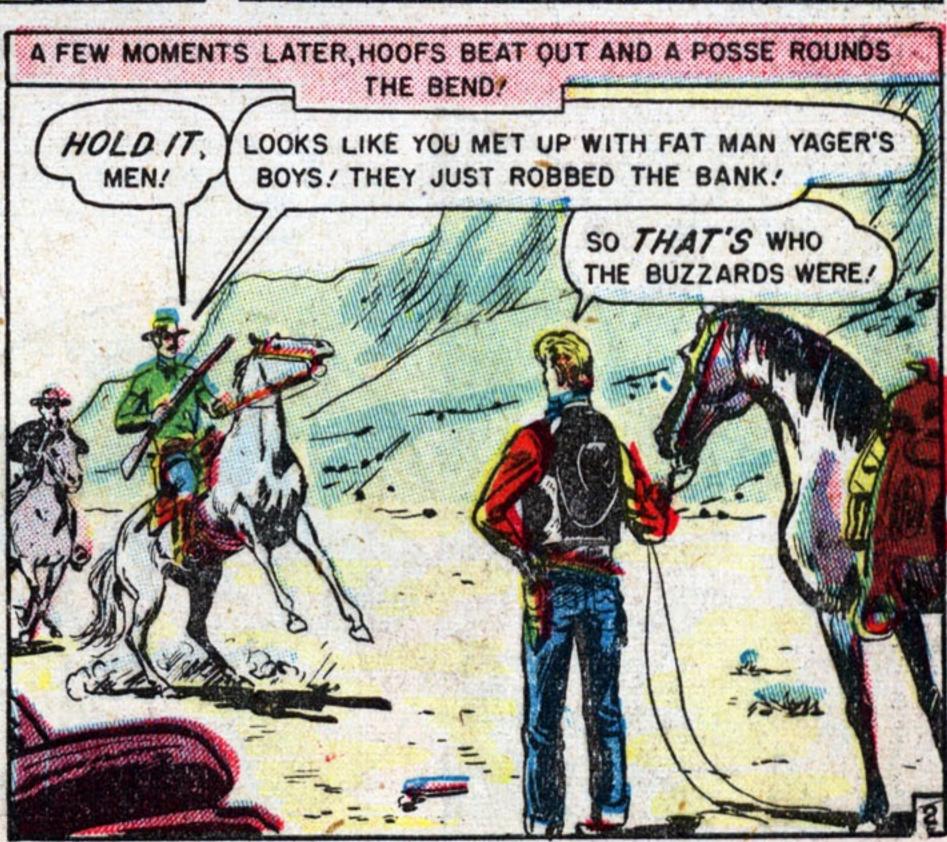








THE ROPE IS JERKED LOOSE AND THE TWO







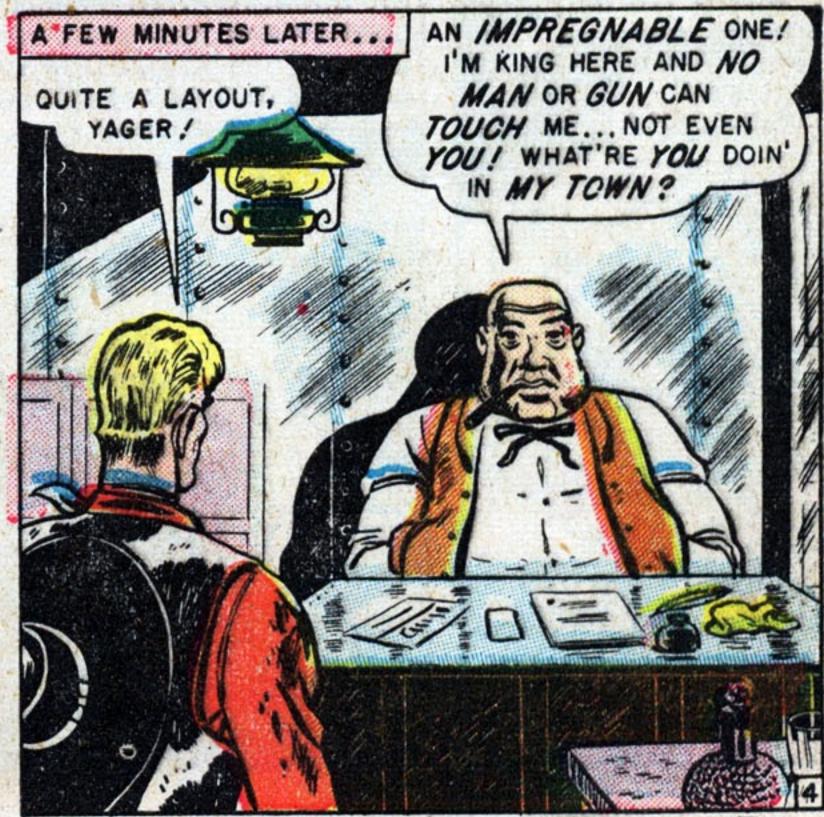












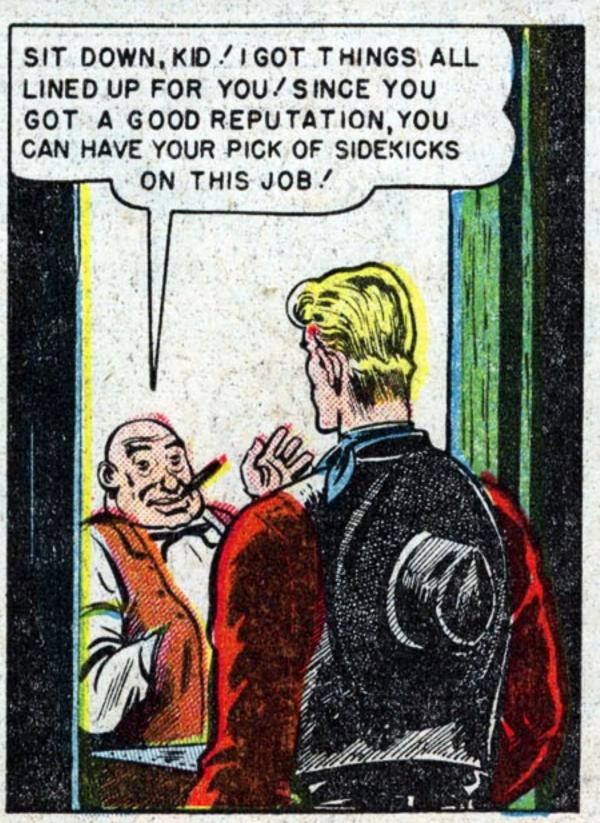










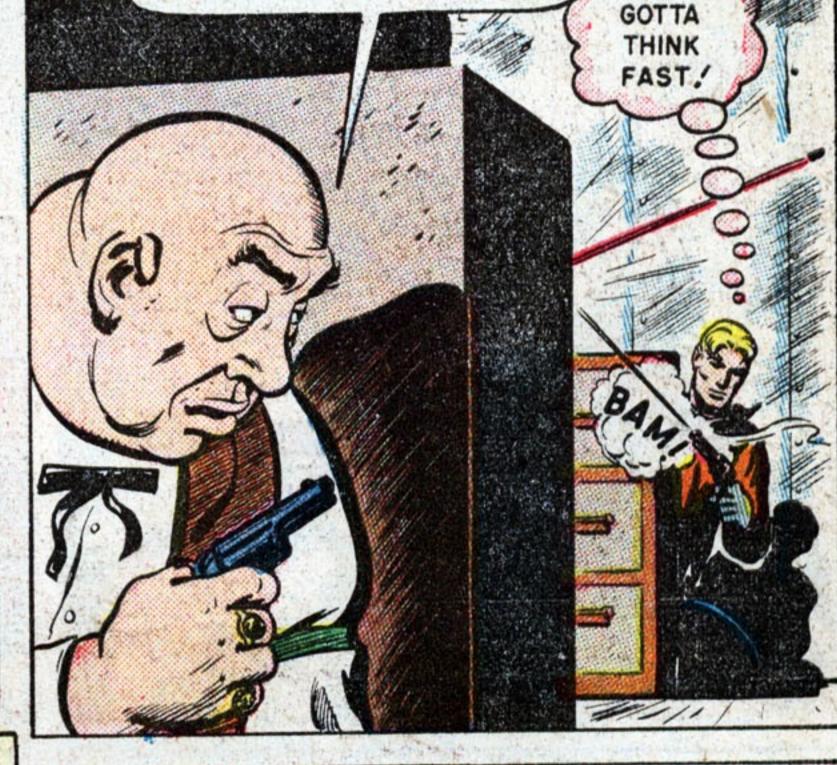






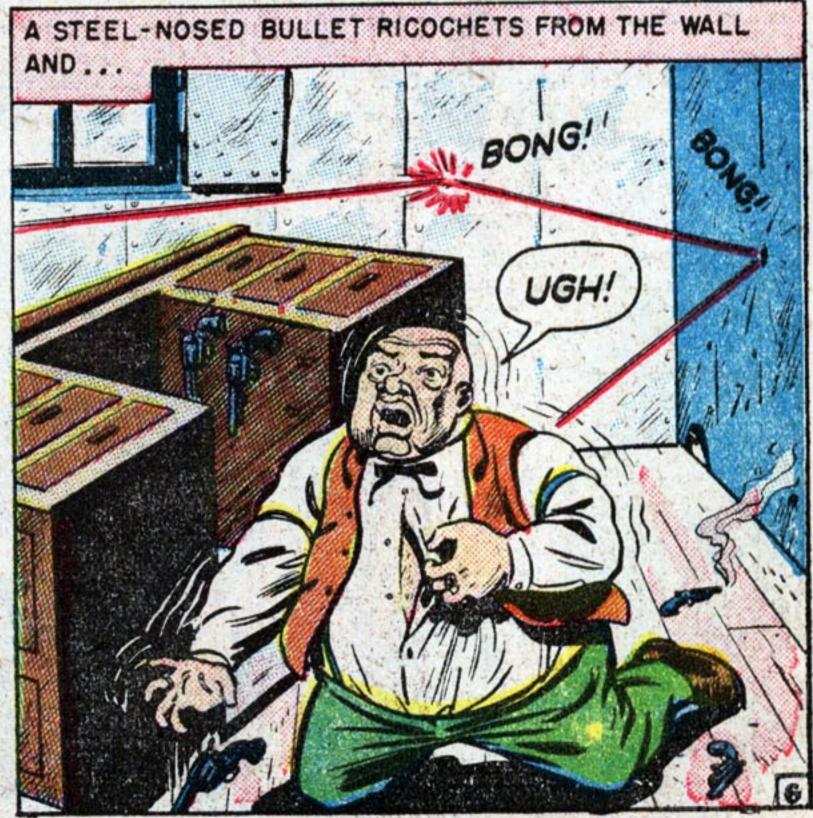
THEN, AS KID COLT SPINS ON THE FAT MAN ...



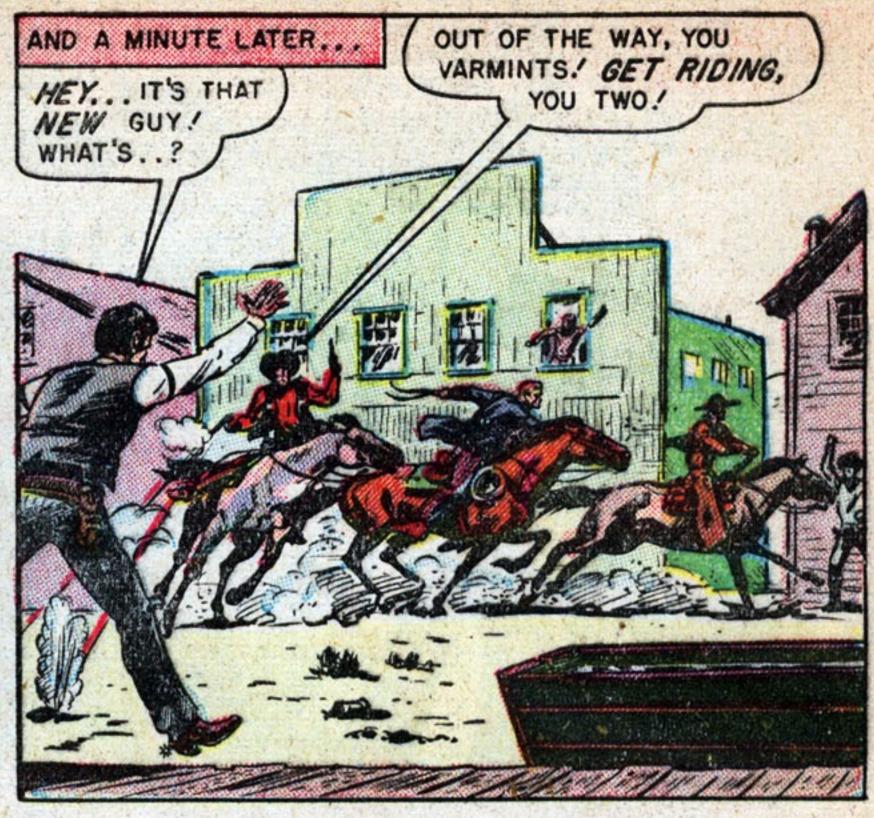


DESK TOP'S STEEL PLATED!

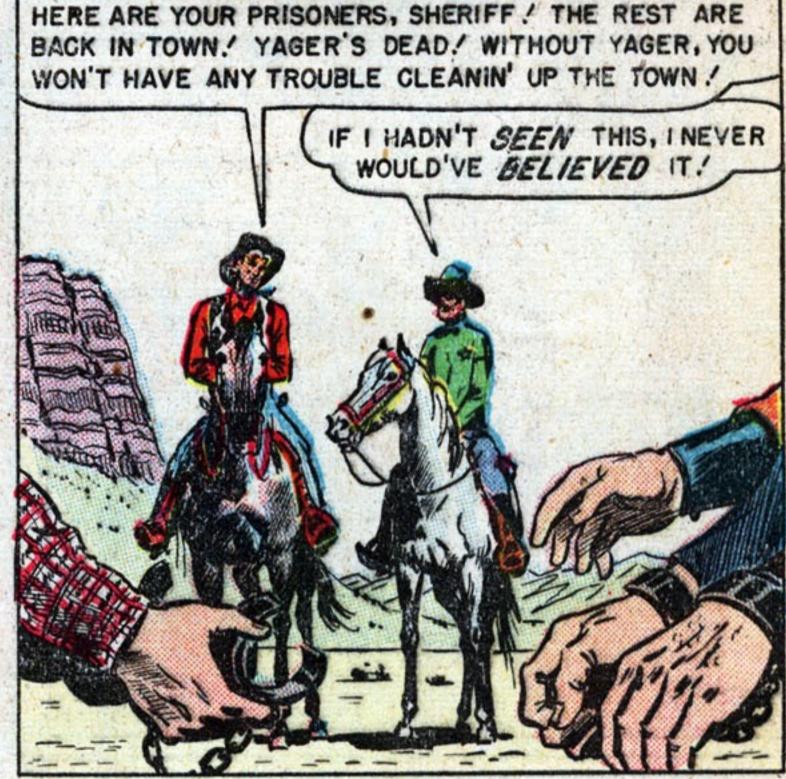














THERE GOES THE TOUGHEST



LET'S NOT! I DON'T WANT TO TANGLE WITH ANYBODY AS TOUGH AS KID COLT ... OUTLAW OR NOT! RECKON YOU HAVE SOMETHIN' THERE, SHERIFF! BESIDES ... WELL, I CAN'T HELP THINKIN' A WADDY LIKE HIM IS MORE GOOD THAN BAD!





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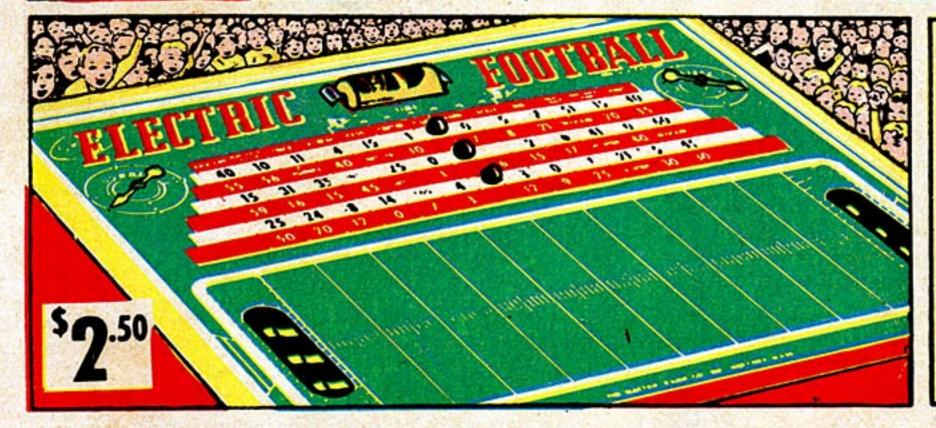
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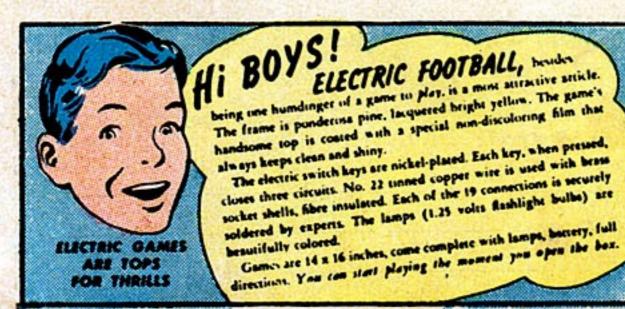




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