

The Lone Ranger - created by Geo. W. Trendle

"The Hero Worshipper"

by Ralph Goll

Number: 2510-1735

Date: FEB 18.

Ranger, Tonto, Dan

Billy Brown	boy Dan's age (hero worshipper)
Dirk	Ruthless killer
Lige	surly, mean, big.
Lash Thomas	One of Dirk's gang
Mike	One of Dirk's gang
Andy Briggs	Turncoat lawman
Sheriff	Lawman
Voice	Bit
Voice 1	Bit
Voice 2	Bit

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(USUAL OPENING)

(TRAIN NOISES)

Annrcr; The night train out of Kingsburg was headed up a long, steep grade that led into the mountains from Grass Valley.

(FADE NOISES TO INTERIOR)

As it lost speed, a man in leg irons and handcuffs peered from a window in the crowded rear coach. He was Jack Dirk, an outlaw whose train robberies, gunbattles and escapes had made him an almost legendary figure in the brief space of two years. Beside him sat Sheriff Ben Shaw of Kingsburg. Watching his prisoner, the veteran lawman smiled grimly--

Sheriff; What are you looking for, Jack?

Dirk; You'd never guess, Sheriff.

Sheriff; If you're expecting your gang to hold up the train and take you off, you might as well forget it.

Dirk; Is that so?

Sheriff; Your partners don't know you're here. I let everybody think I wasn't taking you to the pen until next week.

Dirk; (SARCASTIC) You're slick, Sheriff.

Sheriff; Us old lawmen know a trick or two.

(CHAINS RATTLE)

Sheriff; Say, what are you doing?

Dirk; Rolling a cigarette. These cuffs kind of cramp my style.

Sheriff; Well you'll be wearing them 'til the Warden takes them off.

Dirk; The warden?

Sheriff; (CHUCKLES) I mailed him the keys before we started out. So it won't do you no good to jump me even if you get a chance.

Dirk; Are you that scared of me?

Sheriff; I'm just bein' careful.

Dirk; Watch out, Sheriff.

Sheriff; Here, you! Sit down.

Dirk; I dropped my cigarette. It's burning the seat.

Sheriff; I don't see it.

Dirk; Look under your coat tail.

Sheriff; Yep, there it is.

Dirk; And here's something else!

(BLOW) (BODY FALL AS:)

Sheriff; (GROANS)

Voice; (BACK) He hit the Sheriff with his handcuffs!

Ad lib; (STIR)

Dirk; (TO HIMSELF) Now for his gun! I've got it!

Voice 1; (BACK) Grab him!

Dirk; Stand back. Clear that aisle!

(SHOTS)

Voice 2; (BACK) I'm shot.

(SHOW STEPS; CHAINS RATTLE)

Dirk; Here's where I get off!

(DOOR OPENS)

(TRAIN NOISES UP)

(STEPS STOP)

(HEAVY BREATH) Here goes!

Voice; (BACK) He jumped!

(FADE TRAIN INTO:)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annct; The next morning Dan Reid, the young nephew of the Lone Ranger trotted his horse from the masked man's camp in the foothills down into Grass Valley.

(HOOFS)

Annex; Ahead of him stood a dilapidated blacksmith shop. Dan knew from previous visits that it was owned by a surly giant named Lige Parker, but frequently had no other keeper than a boy apprentice. At the open door he pulled rein.

Dan; Whoa, Victor. Whoa. Hello there, Billy!

(HOOF SHALT)

(STEPS COMING UP)

Billy; (COMING IN) Howdy, Dan. Why don't you light?

(STEPS HALT)

Dan; I'm going to. (DISMOUNTING EFFORT) Here's a sack of food for you.

Billy; Gee, Dan, that's good of you. Old Lige didn't leave me much to eat when he went down to Kingsburg for a year.

Dan; Is he still gone?

Billy; Yeah, and I hope he stays. He's always broke and mean when he comes back. That's when he lays a tug strap on me.

Dan; How did it happen that you were apprenticed to Parker?

Billy; He's the only one who wanted me after the plague hit the valley and all my folks died. So the law gave me to him like I was a stray dog.

Dan; At least you're learning a trade.

Billy; Who wants to be a blacksmith all their lives? Not me!

Dan; What are you aiming to do, Billy?

- Billy; I'm going to ride with Jack Dirk some day. Wait and see if I don't.
- Dan; That outlaw's riding days are over. He's going to prison for life.
- Billy; He'll get away! The lawdogs can't hold him.
- Dan; You're always talking about Dirk.
- Billy; Everybody talks about him, but I know him. I've even shod his horse.
- Dan; When was that?
- Billy; It was just before he turned owlhoot. He was riding for the Bar Seven ranch down the valley. Why many a time he's stood right where we're standing. And he called me "Pardner."
- Dan; You worship the ground he walked on, don't you?
- Billy; (DEFIANTLY) Suppose I do?
B
- Dan; Billy, no criminal deserves that kind of faith. People tell stories that make Dirk seem like another Robin Hood, but they're not true. He'd kill his best friend if he stood to gain by it.
- Billy; I don't believe it!
- Dan; Let's not quarrel. I only want to keep you out of trouble.
- Billy; I want to do the same for you, Dan. You better take this chuck back.
- Dan; What for?

Billy; That feller you're camping with will raise Ned when he misses this stuff. He'll pound you plenty I'll bet.

Dan; (LAUGHS) No he won't, Billy. You don't know him any better than you do Jack Dirk. But I hope you will.

Billy; You leaving?

Dan; Yes, I'm going back, but I'll see you again. So long.

Billy; So long.

Ad lib; (GET AWAY)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrc; On his return to camp, Dan told the Lone Ranger of Billy's hard life and unwholesome interest in Jack Dirk. The masked man listened silently until he concluded, then said--

Ranger; You're right, Dan. That boy's misguided hero worship may lead him into crime.

Dan; I believe he'd forget Dirk if we could get him away from that shop.

Ranger; I'll write to some of my friends who are in a position to give him a home and education.

Dan; Golly that's great! But I thought you planned to break camp tomorrow.

Ranger; Those were my intentions until Tonto learned thru an Indian shepherd that there are some strange riders in the hills.

Dan; Do you think they're Dirk's men?

Ranger; It's possible. Dirk may have been on his way to meet them when he was arrested.

Dan; Where is Tonto?

Ranger; I sent him to Kingsburg to warn the Sheriff.

(HOOF'S FADING IN)

Dan; He's coming back now.

Tonto; Whoa, Scout! Whoa!

(HOOF'S HALT)

Ranger; You've been riding hard, Tonto. What happened?

Tonto; Jack Dirk -- him loose again!

Ranger; Did his gang free him?

Tonto; No, Sheriff sneak him on train last night. Him knock out Sheriff, shoot passenger, then jump off.

Ranger; What's being done to recapture him?

Tonto; Railroad people plenty mad. Them offer big reward for Dirk and fellers in his gang.

Ranger; The valley must be alive with possemen.

Tonto; Everybody look along railroad tracks.

Ranger; (CALLS) Here, Silver.

(HORSE NICKERS, HOOF'S IN TO HALT)

Ranger; Steady, big fellow. (MOUNTS) Stay close to camp, Dan.

Dan; Yes sir.

Tonto; Where we go?

Ranger; We'll try to keep Dirk from reaching the hills.
Come on, Silver!

Tonto; Gittum up, Scout!

(HOOFS INTO MUSIC:

MUSIC: INTERLUDE)

Annrc; In the meantime, Billy had turned back into the blacksmith shop with Dan's gift. As he hungrily opened the sack, he heard the rusty hinges on the back door creak.

(DOOR CREAKS OPEN)

Billy; Who's there?

(CHAINS RATTLE, CRAWLING NOISES COMING UP)

Say something!

Dirk; (COMING IN, BREATHING HEAVILY) Help me, Billy!

(NOISES HALT)

Billy; You're Jack Dirk!

Dirk; Sure, pardner.

Billy; What happened? How'd you get here?

Dirk; Get me some water!

Billy; There's some in this bucket. I'll hold it for you.

Dirk; (GULPS) That's good. I made a break, Billy - hurt my leg -- had a tough time gettin' here with these irons on.

Billy; Gee whiz, Jack, I'm glad you made it.

What happened? How'd you get here?

Dirk; Can you get me out of this hardware?

Billy; Just let me get a cold chisel, punch and hammer and I'll have those things off in no time.

Dirk; Hurry. I was out back listening to what you told that kid. You're all right.

Billy; I'll knock off those leg irons first.

(CHAINS RATTLE, HAMMERING)

Dirk; Easy, Kid. My knee's killing me!

Billy; I'll be careful.

Dirk; Is there a horse around here?

Billy; None within miles that I know about.

(HAMMERING)

Dirk; I wanted to get that Dan's horse, but I haven't got a gun. I lost it when I jumped off the train.

Billy; I told Dan you'd get away.

(HAMMERING)

Dirk; There'll be a posse here any time.

Billy; Then I'd better hide these irons when I get them off.

Dirk; Yeah, and you've got to do something else for me.

Billy; Anything you want, Jack. Anything.

Dirk; My gang's hiding out in a cave in Elbow Canyon, but I can't make it that far with a game leg.

Billy; I reckon you want me to tell your fellers to come after you.

Dirk; That's it. Now listen careful. You go to the turn
in the canyon and --- (FADES INTO:)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; Billy broke the irons and freed the outlaw, then went
for his pals in Elbow Canyon. By mid afternoon,
Dirk had been moved by his gang and Billy was back
in the blacksmith shop. Proud of the part he had
played in the escape of his criminal hero, the boy
stood at the door watching the dust raised by
possemen who rode helter-skelter, covering the
very tracks they wanted to find and sometimes
chasing one another. He grinned to himself as one
party turned toward the shop.

(HOOFS FADE IN)

Then he recognized the leader.

Billy; (TO HIMSELF) It's Lige Parker!

(HOOFS UP TO HALT AS:)

Adlib; (WHOA'S)

Lige; Here, you lazy varmint! Fetch us some water from
the shop.

Billy; Sure, Lige.

(STEPS FADING BACK)

Lige; Let's light and stretch our legs.

Ad lib; (ASSENT) (DISMOUNTING EFFORTS)

Lige; Fellers, I figure Dirk has shucked his irons or we'd
have him now.

Voice 1; It looks that way, Lige. He must have knocked them off with stones.

Lige; You're talking to a blacksmith now! Nobody who's wearing leg irons and handcuffs both could bust loose by using rocks. He'd need good tools and help.

Voice 1; Maybe he used your tools, Lige.

Ad lib; (LAUGHTER)

Lige; Mine! By thunder, you could be right. He knows this place. Come on inside.

(STEPS)

Billy; (BACK A LITTLE) I'm bringing the bucket.

(STEPS HALT)

Lige; Just stay right there and tell me what you been doing since last night.

Billy; What would I be doing in this rat hole?

Lige; Knocking the irons off Jack Dirk - maybe.

Billy; What do you mean?

Lige; Don't play innocent! You're hiding something, I can tell.

Billy; Then take a look.

Lige; That's what I'm doing. How'd you chip the edge of my best cold chisel?

Billy; I didn't know it was chipped.

Lige; You cut something on that piece of iron there on the floor. And there's something else -- a piece of a handcuff link! Grab him!

Billy; No you don't!

(RUNNING STEPS)

Lige; Head him off!

(MORE RUNNING STEPS)

Voice; He's outside now!

Voice 2; I got him!

(STEPS HALT)

Lige; Turn him around so I can use my quirt. Now you ornery maverick, where's Jack Dirk a-holding?

Billy; I'll never tell!

Lige; We'll see!

(HOOF'S FADE IN)

Voice; Who's that coming?

Voice 2; A masked man and an Indian!

Ranger; (COMING IN) Drop that quirt!

(HOOF'S HALT)

Ad 11b; (WHOA'S)

Lige; Who are you, feller?

Ranger; I'll ask the questions. What have you got against this boy?

Lige; He helped Dirk get away and we're trying to make him talk.

Ranger; What about it, Billy?

Billy; You know my name?

Ranger; I know more than that. Did you help Dirk get away?

Billy; Sure. I even know where he is, but nobody's getting it out of me.

Ranger; Tonto, take him on your horse.

Lige; He's my prisoner! He busted the law!

Ranger; That may be, but we'll deliver him to the Sheriff ourselves.

MUSIC: Interlude

Anncr; That night Jack Dirk and his second in command, Lash Thomas, sat on a pile of blankets in their cavern hideout. Other members of the gang squatted around a lantern playing cards. As the outlaw leader nursed his injured leg, Lash said--

(TUNNEL EFFECT THRU OUT:)

Lash; Jack, you sure owe that Billy boy a lot.

Dirk; I don't owe anybody anything.

Lash; The law'd have you right now if --(BREAKS) Somebody's coming!

(STEPS FADING IN)

Dirk; That's Mike. He's been watching the canyon.

Lash; There's somebody with him. Maybe the kid!

Mike; (BACK, CALLS) It's okay, fellers. I'm bringing Andy Briggs in.

Lash; How'd the law shark find this place?

Dirk; I told him about it during my trial. He was to tip you boys off before they started me for the pen, but the Sheriff was too slick.

Briggs; (COMING IN) Hello, Jack. Hello, boys.

(STEPS STOP)

Dirk; Andy, you fool! Why did you come here now?

Briggs; Don't worry, Jack. I wasn't followed and I didn't leave any tracks.

Dirk; You mean you used the dodge I told you about?

Briggs; Of course. I took the cattle trail to the river, then rode thru the water til I got here.

Dirk; What's been happening?

Briggs; Plenty. They've caught the boy who helped you escape.

Dirk; You sure?

Briggs; I don't know the boy and didn't see him brought in, but as a lawyer, I have sources of information around the jail. As I got it, a masked man showed up with the kid just after dark.

Dirk; A masked man! I can't figure that.

Briggs; He must be a friend of the Sheriff because Shaw fixed up some kind of bond and right away released the kid to him.

Dirk; Where'd the masked hombre take him?

Briggs; To a camp, I suppose.

Dirk; Andy, you've got to find that sprout pronto.

Briggs; Why, Jack?

Dirk; He's apt to tell where we are and me and the boys can't go hunting for him when the whole country is swarming with posses.

Briggs; I'll do what I can, but I expect to be paid for my services.

Dirk; You'll get paid. Now listen, if you can't locate the kid any other way, keep an eye on Parker's blacksmith shop. He might show up there.

Briggs; What'll I do if I find him?

Dirk; Fix him so he'll never talk!

Briggs; No! I couldn't do that! I'm no killer!

Dirk; Then bring him here. I'll do the rest.

MUSIC: Interlude

Annecr; The curtain falls on the first ~~act~~ act of our Lone Ranger story. Before we continue with the next exciting scenes, please permit us to pause for just a moment.

(COMMERCIAL)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annecr; Fearing betrayal by Billy, the blacksmith's apprentice, who had helped him escape to his gang's hideout, Jack Dirk plotted to kill the boy. Meanwhile, the Lone Ranger and Tonto had Billy in charge and were riding back to camp.

(HOOFS)

The boy was asking the masked man---

Billy; Mister, what do you aim to do with me?

Ranger; We only want to help you, Billy.

Billy; You turned me in to the Sheriff, then fixed it so I wouldn't have to stay in jail. That don't make sense to me.

Ranger; You broke the law, Billy, but I don't want it to break you. You're going to have a chance to change your mind about Dirk before you answer in court for helping him.

Billy; If you think you can talk me into squealing on him, you're loco. Your soft soap won't get you any more than Lige Parker's whip.

Ranger; Perhaps not, but all your misguided courage, loyalty and idealism will gain you even less. Dirk doesn't know you won't talk. He'll kill you if he gets a chance.

Billy; Not after what I done for him.

Ranger; A real criminal thinks only of his own safety. The outlaw hero you worship is only a dream.

(HORSE NICKERS)

Tonto; Here our camp. Now you get-um big surprise.

(HOOFS STOP AS:)

Ad lib; (WHOA'S) (DISMOUNTING)

Tonto; Look here, Dah.

Dan; (COMING IN) Well if it isn't Billy!

Billy; Gee gosh, Dan! What they got you here for?

Ranger; Dan is my nephew, Billy. He and you are going to have a lot of fun together.

Billy; Well I'll be jiggered!

Ranger; I'm putting you on your word of honor that you won't try to run away.

Billy; Okay, mister. It's a promise. I'll stick with Dan.

MUSIC : Interlude

Annrc; For several weeks the Lone Ranger, Tonto and Dan worked carefully to free Billy from his illusions of criminal glory. Wholesome food, kind treatment, and new interests softened the defenses he had built against the wretchedness of his former life. The masked man became his new hero and he no longer talked of Dirk, though he still stubbornly kept the secret of the outlaw's hiding place. Then the Lone Ranger noticed that the boy was limping and questioned him.

Ranger; Billy, what's the matter with your foot?

Billy; It's nothing, mister.

Dan; His boots wore out and I gave him my extra pair,
but they don't fit.

Ranger; You should have told me before. Tonto's in town
now. He could have bought a pair.

Billy; You've done enough for me. I've got some good
boots at the blacksmith shop. If you'd let me
go after them -- (HESITATES)

Ranger; No Billy, you need constant protection and it
wouldn't be side for me to take you there.

Billy; I reckon Lige Parker would get mighty ornery if
he saw us again.

Ranger; We don't want to antagonize him any further. He'll
be a witness against you at your hearing.

Dan; Let me go. Parker hasn't anything against me.

Ranger; All right, Dan. Be careful.

Dan; I will. (CALLS) Here, Victor!

(HORSE NICKERS) (HOOFS IN)

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOFS)

Dan; Here's the blacksmith shop, Victor. ()

~~Ad/116/~~ (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

(DISMOUNT) The door's open, but it doesn't look
like anyone's around. (CALLS) Mr. Parker! ()
He must be away.

(STEPS)

Dan; I guess it'll be all right to pick up Billy's boots anyhow. (PAUSE) Here they are just inside the shop.

(STEPS HALT) (HOOFS FADE IN)

Somebody's coming! But it isn't Parker. I wonder --

Briggs; (AD LIBS WHOA'S) (BACK)

(HOOFS HALT)

Come out of that shop, Kid. You're covered.

Dan; I'm not stealing anything. These boots belong to a friend!

Briggs; (BACK) Never mind the boots. Come here.

(STEPS TO HALT)

Dan; Let me explain.

Briggs; Shut up and get on your horse. We're going to see Jack Dirk.

Dan; Dirk!

Briggs; Sure. He wants to pay you back for helping him.

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOFS IN WATER)

Briggs; Here's where we leave the river, kid. Up the bank.

Dan; Steady, Victor.

(HOOFS ON GRAVEL)

Briggs; (CALLS) Hey, Mike.

Mike; (BACK) Okay, Andy. Ride right into the cave.

(TUNNEL EFFECT:)

Briggs; Well here we are kid. Pull up and light.

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

Mike; (COMING IN) I'll take care of the horses. Say, who's this sprout?

Briggs; I thought you knew him.

Mike; (CALLS) Jack! Lash! Everybody! Come here!

(STEPS FADE IN)

Briggs; What's the matter?

Jack; (COMING IN) Matter, you fool! You've got the wrong kid.

Briggs; Look, Jack, I found him at the shop!

Jack; What of it? I saw him there the day I got young Billy Brown to cut off those irons. The two are chums.

Briggs; He was picking up a pair of kid's boots when I got him. He claimed to be taking them away for a friend.

Jack; He did, eh? Then he knows where Billy is.

Briggs; What about it, Button?

Dan; I'm not saying anything.

Jack; Oh you aren't? Well we'll see about that!

MUSIC: Interlude

- Annor; Several hours later Tonto returned from town to find the Lone Ranger mounted and ready to ride. As Billy stood by with hanging head, the masked man greeted the Indian with an anxious question.
- Ranger; Tonto, have you seen Dan?
- Tonto; Me going to ask you same question.
- Ranger; How did you learn he's away?
- Tonto; On way back me pass blacksmith shop. See fresh tracks, Dan's horse make near by.
- Ranger; That's where he planned to go.
- Tonto; Tracks show him come there alone. When him leave somebody ride away with him.
- Ranger; Did you follow their trail?
- Tonto; Hoof prints lead to river little way from shop. Not come out on other side.
- Ranger; You know what that means.
- Tonto; Me think some feller capture Dan, make him ride in river to cover trail.
- Ranger; That's the Elbow River and it runs from the far end of the valley to the mountains. Even if we knew which way they turned it would take days to scout the banks.
- Tonto; Why you think feller take Dan prisoner?
- Ranger; There's only one explanation. Dan was mistaken for Billy. He's in the outlaw's hands.
- Tonto; Jack Dirk gang never let him go alive.

Billy; It's all my fault. I — (CHOKES UP)

Ranger; Yes, Billy?

Billy; (SOBS) I can't let anything happen to Dan. I'll tell on Dirk!

Ranger; Tonto, help him on to your horse. He can tell us as we ride.

Ad lib; (GET AWAY)

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOFS)

Billy; Mister, the cave is just this side of those rapids you see.

Tonto; Look, kemo sabay. Rokks from old landslide.

Ranger; We'll pull up behind them.

Ad lib; (WHOA 'S)

(HOOFS HAIT)

(DISMOUNTING)

Ranger; Billy, howmany men are in the gang?

Billy; At least six. And they've got a lot of stuff stashed away - chuck, water, bullets - everything.

Tonto; It look like them fellers got big advantage. We need plenty help.

Ranger; Manpower alone won't beat them or save Dan. Protected by that cave they can stand off a regiment for days.

Tonto; What you do?

Ranger; Scout around first.

Billy; What do you want me to do, mister?

Ranger; Stay here with the horses. Come on, Tonto.

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrc; As the masked man and Indian worked their way forward thru the scant coverage afforded by a few ~~bushes~~ bushes, Dan stood with his back against the wall of the cave, still being questioned and threatened. Dirk and the crooked lawyer faced him. The gang leader who held a leveled six gun was saying:—

(TUNNEL EFFECT:)

Dirk; Kid we know you're hooked up somehow with that masked man and the brat from the blacksmith shop. I'm giving you just one more chance to tell where they are.

Briggs; Come on, lad, speak up. I don't want to see you hurt.

Dan; I know what will happen to me whether I talk or not.

Dirk; There's a crack in the rocks over your head and every few seconds a drop of water falls out of it. When the next one falls, I'm pulling this trigger.

Briggs; I don't want to see this!

(SHOT)

Did you - did you —(BREAKS)

Dirk; No you fool! That shot was outside! (CALLS)
What's wrong?

Mike; (BACK) It's the masked man. I just saw him in
the canyon!

Dirk; Briggs, you watch this kid. The rest of you come on.

(RUNNING STEPS, SHOTS)

(HORSE NEIGHS)

Dirk; Saddle our horses somebody!

(STEPS HALT)

Mike; Keep down, Jack.

Dirk; Mike, where'd you see that masked man?

Mike; Him and an Indian was down there in the brush.
Now they're shooting from behind that old landslide.

Lash; If there's only two of them maybe we can get out
of here.

(SHOTS)

Mike; Not with them fellers shooting like that. We can
only ride out of this hole one at a time and they'd
pick us all off.

Lash; Jack, that young Billy must have told on us.

Dirk; Wait 'til I get hold of him.

Lash; We got a kid now. Maybe we could use him for a shield.

Mike; He's only shield one man.

Dirk; I've got a hunch he's plenty close to the masked
hombre. If he is we might make a deal.

Tonto; You take-um things, Billy. Me go now.

Dirk; (BACK, CALLS) Show yourself, masked man!

Ranger; (CALLS) I'm coming out!

(STEPS)

Dirk; (A LITTLE BACK) Watch him, fellers! His pardner's holding a rifle on me.

Ranger; I suppose you're Jack Dirk.

Dirk; (COMING IN) Yeah, that's me and I want to talk about that kid we're holding.

(STEPS HALT)

Ranger; Go on.

Dirk; You'll never see him alive again unless you pull out and let us get away.

Ranger; You can't escape even if we let you leave the cave. Hundreds of possemen are still hunting you.

Dirk; We'll think about the posses. You think about the kid.

Ranger; I have no assurance that he's still alive.

Dirk; We'll show him to you before we ride out. (LAUGHS)
And we'll even leave a lawshark with him for you to capture.

Ranger; What do you mean?

Annrcr; Playing for time, the masked man continued his talk with the boastful train robber until a swift upward glance told him that Tonto had gained a position directly over the mouth of the cave. They he closed the parley.

Ranger; Go back to your gang. You'll know my decision shortly.

(STEPS FADING BACK)

Dirk; (FADING BACK) You better say yes right now.

Annrcr; With a leap, Dirk rejoined the outlaws who crouched behind rocks just outside the cave. At the same instant the Lone Ranger who had stood his ground motioned to Tonto and threw himself into a clump of bushes, his six guns hammering an accompaniment to the fire which the Indian poured down into the outlaw's defenses.

(SHOTS)

Ad lib; (YELLS)

Annrcr; Taken by surprise and cut off from retreat into the cave, the bandits attempted a sortie, only to be driven back as the Lone Ranger closed in.

(SHOTS)

(RUNNING STEPS)

Ranger; Drop your guns!

Tonto; (BACK) Me shoot anyone who moves!

Dirk; You got us! We give up!

Tonto; (BACK) Me jumping down!

(JUMPS)

Ranger; Get their guns, Tonto! (CALLS) Dan, where are you?

(RUNNING STEPS COME IN)

Dan; (COMING IN) Right here. I'm all right.

Briggs; (WHINING) I was protecting the boy, masked man. I'll testify against these crooks.

Ranger; Do your talking in court.

Dirk; You'll never take me to court.

Tonto; Dirk got-um knife!

Dirk; It's going into that masked man's heart!

Ranger; No you don't! (EFFORT)

(BLOW)

(BODY FALLS)

Dirk; Don't hit me again! Don't — Don't.

Billy; I got here just in time! Mister, that was a beauty you handed Dirk. And him with a knife! I'll bet you could lick a hundred polecats like him!

(HOOFS FADING IN)

Tonto; Look, big posse come up river.

(HOOFS STOPPING AS:)

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

Ranger; Hello, Sheriff.

Sheriff; (COMING IN) Masked man, we heard that shooting and -well, I'll be doggoned if you haven't got Dirk and his whole gang!

Ranger; Billy gets credit for the capture. You can drop your charge against him.

Sheriff; I'll be right glad to do it. He'll get a heap of reward money.

Ranger; I leave it to you to see that it's well spent. I want him to have a good home and education.

Sheriff; He'll get it, mister.

Dan; Good for you, Billy. I knew you had the right stuff in you. And now, so long.

Billy; So long, Dan.

(STEPS FADING OUT)

~~Sheriff;~~
Sheriff; (AD LIBS GOOD BYE'S)

Billy; Sheriff, you know that masked man. Who is he?

Sheriff; Son, you've been a pardner of the Lone Ranger.

Billy; (SORTO) A pardner!

Ranger; (BACK) Hiyo Silver, Away!

MUSIC: Theme