

The Lone Ranger -created by Geo. W. Trendle

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Stripes

THE UNLUCKY HORSESHOE

by Ralph Goll

Number: 2611 - 1836

Date: October 12, 1949

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Ranger, Tonto, Dan Reid
Jack Harney 14, boy clerk in Luke's store.
Western friend of Dan. (p. 1455
Winston Dictionary Gazetteer.)
Luke Fox 50, lazy dishonest storekeeper.
(p. 1450 - same book.)
Fancy Bill Hall... 30-40, ex-ppize fighter, outlaw
leader, Western (p. 1456 -same.)
Bow 30, Lieutenant of Fancy Bill
Jim 25, deputy - bit
Sheriff 50 - 60. Straight.
Voice

UNLUCKY HORSESHOE...BILLBOARD

Ranger Tonto, I'm expecting another hold up on the Blue
River Stage Line.

Tonto: What we do?

Ranger; We'll follow the stage coach all the way thru on
its run.

HOOFS CLATTER

Steady there, Silver.

Tonto We go now?

Ranger; Right away. Come along. (MOUNTING) Come on, Silver.

HOOFS START AND FADE AS

Annrcr; Yes - the Lone Ranger goes after a gang of outlaws
led by Bill Hall, a champion prizefighter of giant
size. And when he reaches the end of a dangerous
outlaw trail, he finds himself with bare fists,
facing a powerful slugger who has never been
conquered. Be sure to listen to this next thrill-
packed adventure.

Number:

Date: Oct. 12, 1949

(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr; Thirty Mile was a stage stop on the Blue River route. One ramshackle building stood there, serving not only as a station, but a mail and express drop and general store. It was on a summer morning when Dan Reid, the fourteen year old nephew of the Lone Ranger, called at Thirty Mile to buy a few supplies for the camp which the masked man and Tonto had established. Dan found no one in the store except a boy of his own age who was behind the counter. The young clerk, hungry for companionship, introduced himself as Jack Harney and the two quickly became acquainted. As he finished with the order, Jack was saying - e

Jack; I work for Luke Fox. Clerk and cook, both.

Dan; Do you live here?

Jack; Upstairs. Luke claims to be poorly, but between us, and the gatepost, he's just lazy. He won't be down 'til dinner time.

Dan; Where is your real home?

Jack; Well, my folks moved away from here to homestead down by Fort Wade. They were to send for me after they got located.

Dan; I see.

Jack; But I haven't heard from them in three months. I ---

Dan; What, Jack?

Jack; I think Luke grabs onto their letters. He's so scared I'll leave that he holds my pay back.

Dan; Maybe my friend can do something for you. Now I'll take those things.

Jack; You're not going already, are you? (APPEALING) I hardly ever get to see another kid. We could pitch a couple of games of horseshoes.

Dan; (LAUGHS) All right. I was told to take my time.

Jack; I'll get some shoes out of this keg.

(IRONS RATTLE)

Dan; They're brand new.

Jack; A few games won't hurt them.

MUSIC: Up and down

(IRON CLANGS)

Dan; You made a leaner, Jack!

Jack; You got to have a ringer to win! Your pitch!

Dan; Watch this! (EFFORT) There it goes.

(THUD)

Jack; And it went way beyond the peg!

Dan; This is my last chance to beat you! (EFFORT) There!

(IRON CLANGS)

Jack; You knocked my leaner away! You made a ringer!

Dan; Let's take a look.

(STEPS ON GRAVEL)

Jack; See!

Dan; Now we're tied for games.

(STEPS STOP)

Jack; If my leaner had stayed there---

Dan; You were unlucky with that shoe all the way.

Jack; How can you tell it from the others? It looks the same to me.

Dan; There's a tiny flaw in the front calk. See here.

Jack; Doggoned if there isn't. Looks like a letter 'v'.

Dan; It left the same little 'v' in the ground when it hit calks down.

Jack; Yes, but you got to look mighty close to see it.

Dan; Well, Jack, I'll have to go.

Jack; Then I'll put the shoes back in the store.

(IRONS RATTLING, STEPS)

Dan; I'll try to see you again.

Jack; I sure hope you can. ~~This~~ This is the only fun I've had since I don't know when.

(STEPS STOP - HORSE NICKERS)

Dan; I'll try to come back. (MOUNTING EFFORTS)

Ad lib; (ADIOS') (GETAWAY)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrc; On his return to camp Dan told the Lone Ranger about Jack's plight. The masked man put aside a rifle he had been cleaning.

Ranger; I'll have a talk with the storekeeper before we leave.

Dan; Will we be leaving soon?

Ranger; That depends on the seasonal cattle drive.

Dan; Cattle drive?

Ranger; During the last one a gang of bandits held up the Blue River stage and let the herds cover their tracks.

Dan; Then you look for another hold up!

Ranger; Outlaws who hit on a trick that lets them get away with a crime usually try it again. Tonto is watching for the river drive now.

Dan; I hear hoofs now!

(HOOFS FADING IN)

Ranger; It's Tonto!

Tonto; (COMING IN) (AD LIB WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Tonto; Cattle coming, kemo sabay!

Ranger; Where is the drive now?

Tonto; Me meet fellers who come ahead. Them say it couple days south.

Ranger; Then we'll ride at once!

Tonto; Where we go?

Ranger; We'll follow the stagecoach all the way thru on its run.

Dan; What about me?

Ranger; Look after the camp and keep your friend company.
(MOUNTING)

Ad lib; (GET AWAY)

(HOOFS)

MUSIC: Interlude

Anncr; As the Lone Ranger and Tonto set out, Fancy Bill Hall, owner of the Arrowhead spread in an adjacent valley, heard a report on the progress of the big drive. Fancy Bill was widely known, having been a prize fighter in those days of bare knuckle contests. Admired by some neighbors for his physical strength and feared by others, he had been able to carry off a pretension to honest ranching while using his place as a headquarters for a gang of desperadoes. One of them, a bow-legged man known as Bow, had brought news of the approaching herds. He was saying --

Bow; Fancy, our boys are all set for the job. Every gun and horse is ready, but you better reshoe your Moran mare if you aim to ride her.

Fancy; I'll get a new set of shoes at Thirty Mile today. Anything else, Bow?

Bow; Well, it don't look to me like there'll be much in this holdup for anybody.

Fancy; Why not?

Bow; Our outfit's twice as big as it was. The stage
don't carry enough money to make a good split.

Fancy; Who said anything about the stage?

Bow; I thought --

Fancy; (CUTS IN) I'll do the thinking! This time we hold
up a train!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annecr; During the next two days Dan and Jack exchanged visits,
the young clerk using the storekeeper's old horse when
he rode to the camp. There Dan demonstrated the
woodcraft he had learned from Tonto and the two
became so interested in it that they gave no further
thought to horseshoe pitching. It was on the third
morning after the departure of the masked man and
Indian that Dan awakened to hear his friend calling.

Jack; (CALLS) Dan! Dan! Wake up!

Dan; Yes, Jack! What's the matter?

Jack; There's been a train hold up!

Dan; Gosh! Tell me about it while I dress.

Jack; It happened last night. The gang stopped the L. and
R. express close to where the cattle drive crossed
the tracks.

Dan; That's between here and the store!

Jack; The Sheriff and his deputies came to the store about daylight and for once Luke had to get up. They wanted to know if we'd heard or seen anything. 'Course we hadn't.

Dan; Did they find the outlaws' trail?

Jack; They hardly more than picked it up before they lost it in the cattle tracks, same as happened in a stage robbery a while back.

Dan; I see.

Jack; Let's take a look at the place where the holdup came off.

Dan; I'm ready. Steady, Victor. (MOUNTS) Lead the way.

Ad lib; (GET AWAY)

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOF'S)

Jack; This must be the place. Stop here, Dan.

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOF'S STOP)

Dan; Let's get down and look around.

Jack; Sure. (DISMOUNTS) There'll be a big reward for those fellers.

(STEPS)

Dan; The lawman have been all around here.

Jack; I reckon so.

Dan; Say! Here's a place where horses stood quite a while.

Jack; Gee whiz! I'll bet that's where the owlhoots waited.

(STEPS HALT)

Dan; The ground's damp. The prints are clear.

Jack; Yep, but they don't lead anywhere.

Dan; Look at this one, Jack! See how the front calk marked the ground!

Jack; Gosh all Friday! That looks like it was made by the unlucky horseshoe I pitched with.

Dan; Did you sell that shoe?

Jack; I haven't sold any since we played, but maybe Luke --
() Say, I wonder!

Dan; Wonder what, Jack?

Jack; The other day while I was filling the horse tank at store, Luke got up enough ambition to tend trade. I saw a feller come out and heard him rattling irons.

Dan; Didn't you see what he had?

Jack; Didn't pay any attention. The store carries a lot of hardware.

Dan; Who was the man?

Jack; I don't like to say 'til I'm sure that unlucky shoe is gone and he bought it.

Dan; You can easily find out.

Jack; Sure. Let's go on to the store right away.

Dan; You don't need me. I'll cover these hoof prints with boards from that old track workers' shanty over there, then wait for you in camp.

Jack; Right. See you later.

MUSIC: Interlude

(IRONS RATTLING)

Jack; (LOW) By gosh, that shoo's not in the keg!

Luke; (BACK) Who's makin' that consarned racket?

(STEPS TO HALT)

Jack; Me, Luke. You been sleeping on the counter?

Luke; (YAWNS) It's too hard to sleep on. If you're going to stay --

Jack; (CUTS IN) Did you sell any horseshoes to Fancy Bill this week?

Luke; Fancy Bill? (YAWNS) Le'me see..

Jack; Well, did you?

Luke; Why are you so all-fired anxious to know.

Jack; I just wondered.

Luke; Then keep on wondering. I'm going upstairs to bed.

Jack; Wait, Luke! One of those train robbers bought a shoe here within the last few days. And you sold it.

Luke; Great guns! What makes you say that?

- Jack; A flaw in the shoe shows in a print where the owlhoots were.
- Luke; (LOW) That means Fancy Bill!
- Jack; What's that? Did Fancy Bill buy it?
- Luke; Blazes no! It was one of them Texas riders with the cattle drive.
- Jack; You better tell the Sheriff.
- Luke; Right. Now here's a surprise for you! A letter from your folks.
- Jack; Give it here quick!
- Luke; Take it!
- Jack; It's opened and all dirty like you been carrying it around!
- Luke; Just found it this morning behind the mail sorting table. Couldn't read the name on it so I —
- Jack; (CUTS IN) They're located at Fort Wade! They want me to come!
- Luke; And I'm letting you go right away. Here's all the pay you got coming.
- Jack; Say, what's come over you?
- Luke; I just appreciate a good boy, Jack. I'm even giving you my old horse to ride away on.
- Jack; And I'll be riding soon as I get my gear!

MUSIC: Interlude

- Anncr; A few hours later, the bandit called Bow, who had been sent out to watch the Sheriff's activities while Fancy Bill and the others celebrated the success of the train holdup, returned to the Arrowhead ranch house. He brought a letter for the gang leader which he had picked up in Thirty Mile. Fancy Bill read it, then crumpled the paper in a hairy fist as he exclaimed---
- Fancy; Fellers, someone is onto me!
- Ad lib; (STIR)
- Fancy; Whoever wrote that letter says he'll turn me in for the holdup if I don't put five thousand dollars in a box and express it from Thirty Mile to somebody named Joe Smith in Mountain City.
- Bow; Joe Smith - that's a fake name! I don't think the letter even came from Mountain City.
- Fancy; How's that, Bow?
- Bow; It got to Thirty Mile too soon.
- Fancy; I noticed that the doodad they use to cancel stamps missed printin' the name of the place where it was mailed.
- Bow; Then it could have been mailed right in Thirty Mile.
- Fancy; I'm thinkin' it was, and by Luke himself.
- Bow; By thunder you've hit it, Fancy! Luke figured that you'd turn the box over to him to ship out and then he'd nail onto it without running any risk.
- Voice; What do you suppose made him suspicious?

Fancy; I'll find out what it was --- before I plug him!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrc; Meanwhile, Jack had started for the Lone Ranger's camp, intending to tell Dan the news, bid him goodbye and then ride on toward Fort Wade.

(HOOFS)

In his eagerness, he found the gait of the old horse far too slow.

Jack; Gidap you crowbait! Gidap! Gidap!

Annrc; Clumsy as well as slow, the aged animal stumbled several times. Believing that he could make better time by avoiding the obstacles on the direct route, Jack turned into a draw.

Jack; Gidap there. Pick up your hoofs.

Annrc; The way became even more difficult. Too late Jack realized his mistake. Just as he was about to turn back, the horse tripped and went to its knees.

(HOOFS STUMBLE, HALT)

Jack; (YELLS) Whoa-a-a-a-!

Annrc; Hurlled headlong from his saddle, the boy fell among the rocks.

(BODY FALL)

Jack; (GROANS)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annex; Leaving his gang to guard the trail, Fancy Bill entered Luke's store.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSES, STEPS)

Luke; (BACK) Howdy, Fancy.

Fancy; How come you're tending the store yourself, Luke?

Luke; The kid sashayed off for Fort Wade today. See you got a box to send out.

Fancy; Here, take it.

Luke; Seems kind of light.

Fancy; Now while your hands are full I'll take your gun!

Luke; What did you do that for?

Fancy; You tried to blackmail me, you ornery varmint!

Luke; No, Fancy! No!

Fancy; Tell me what made you think I was in the hold up!

(SCUFFLE)

Tell me -(EFFORT) tell me or I'll choke the life out of you!

Luke; (CHOKING) Don't - don't -- I'll tell - let loose!

Fancy; Spill it!

Luke; It was Jack! He told me! He found out!

Fancy; Found out what?

Luke; I don't know! Catch him and make him talk!

Fancy; Maybe he did tell you, but that won't save your hide!

(DOOR OPENS)

Bow; (BACK) Hurry up, Fancy! There's dust down the trail!

Luke; Let me go! I'm not dangerous -- I can't send you up!

Fancy; You wanted a box, feller, so I'll fix you up for one
-- a roughbox!

(SHOTS)

Luke; (GROANS)

(BODY FALLS)

MUSIC: Interlude

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

(COMMERCIAL)

Now to continue our story. At the scene of a train hold up, Dan Reid and his friend, Jack, had found the print of a horseshoe sold by Luke, a storekeeper. Learning of their discovery and attempting to use it to blackmail Fancy Bill, the storekeeper was killed by the outlaw leader. In the meantime, the Lone Ranger and Tonto had returned to camp after seeing a stagecoach safely thru to its destination. Dan told them what he knew, adding --

Dan; I'm worried about Jack. He should have been here long ago.

Ranger; We'll go to the store, Dan. Tonto, get your box of stains.

Tonto; Me get-um.

Ranger; I don't want to lose time by being questioned about my mask. I'll leave it off and wear a disguise.

Tonto; Me help fix disguise.

Ranger; While you're doing that, I want Dan to clear up some points about that horseshoe.

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOF'S)

Anncr; Galloping away from Thirty Mile with his gang, Fancy Bill told Bow --

Fancy; I'm not loose from the deadwood yet.

Bow; How's that, Fancy?

Fancy; I think young Jack knows something and he's headed for Fort Wade.

Bow; Maybe some of us should take after him.

Fancy; Look! There's a horse ahead.

Bow; It's a ringer for Luke's old cayuse.

Fancy; Stop here, boys!

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOF'S STOP)

Fancy; It is the old crowbait. It's headed home.

Bow; It's got that Jack's gear on it. He was riding it.

Fancy; Yes, but where's he at?

How; The nag's forelegs are all skinned up.

Fancy; Then it threw him.

Bow; What'll we do?

Fancy; Lead the critter and we'll backtrack it. Come on.

Adlib; (GIDAP'S)

(HOOFS)

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOFS)

Anncr; The Lone Ranger was wearing a disguise instead of his mask when he rode into town with Dan and Tonto.

Dan; There's Luke's store.

Ranger; There are four horses at the water tank.

Tonto; Look like somebody ride them plenty hard.

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Ranger; We'd better water our horses, too (DISMOUNTS)

(DOOR OPENS, STEPS COMING IN)

Sheriff; (COMING IN) What are you fellers doing here? ()
Oh, I see.

Dan; (LOW) He's wearing a badge.

(STEPS HALT)

Ranger; Are you the Sheriff?

- Sheriff; Yeah, and a mighty busy one. First, a big gang robs a train. Then I cut the trail of a masked man who's been trying to rob the stage. And then —
- Ranger; (CUTS IN) What about that masked man?
- Sheriff; Some shepherders saw him following the stagecoach. So figure it out for yourself.
- Ranger; I see. What's your other trouble?
- Sheriff; Luke, the feller who kept this place, has been murdered.
- Dan; What about Jack? Is he all right?
- Sheriff; (DRY) I reckon he can get around. Leastways, he's gone with his gear and Luke's old horse.
- Dan; I can't understand that.
- Sheriff; Well, I can. Luke worked him mighty hard and wouldn't pay him.
- Dan; Sheriff, I didn't meet Jack until this week, but I know he wouldn't have harmed anyone.
- Sheriff; Son, you can't tell a killer by his age or looks.
- Ranger; Who found Luke's body?
- Sheriff; Me and those deputies who are over there reading trail sign. We'd talked to Luke and Jack early, and when we came back this way we stopped to get some vittles. Well, there he was inside, dead as a stuffed owl.
- Ranger; Was he robbed.
- Sheriff; Can't say, but he sure got plugged by someone he knew.
- Ranger; What makes you think so?

Sheriff; He was shot with his own gun while holding a box.

Ranger; You've built a strong case against the boy.

Sheriff; I don't take no pride in it, mister. I don't like running down akid when all them owlhoots are getting away. But murder comes first.

(STEPS FADING IN)

Jim; (COMING IN) Sheriff, that button headed east.

(STEPS HALT)

Sheriff; All right, Jim. Whitey, you stand guard in the store. The rest of you, fork your horses. (MOUNTS)

Jim; All set.

Sheriff; Let's go and get him.

Ad lib; (GIDAPS)

(HOOFS START, FADE)

Ranger; We'll see if there are any other tracks around here.

(STEPS)

Dan; If Jack rode east, he must have headed for our camp.

Ranger; Then he turned off, otherwise we'd have seen him.

Tonto; Here hoof prints.

(STEPS HALT)

Ranger; They lead west.

Tonto; Big feller ride horse. Horse got new shoes.

Dan; Let me see! (PAUSE) There it is again!

Ranger; What, Dan?

Dan; The print of the unlucky shoe!

Ranger; We'll follow those tracks.

MUSIC: Interlude

(HOOFS)

Tonto; Plenty tracks along here.

Ranger; The man we're after joined a gang on the trail.

Dan; They must be the train robbers.

Ranger; Dan, be prepared to take cover if we run into danger.

Dan; I'm ready.

Ranger; The gang turned south here through low ground.

Tonto; This valley wind back east.

Ranger; The upper end is near our camp.

Tonto; What them fellers up to?

Ranger; We'll see know.

Ad lib; (ENCOURAGEMENT TO HORSES)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; As the three cornered race continued, young Jack, who had recovered from his stunning fall only to become lost, hobbled deeper into broken, unsettled country.

(DRAGGING STEPS)

He was painfully bruised and when he finally reached the edge of a small stream, he sat down to drink and rest.

(STEPS HALT)

Annrc; Later he was roused by the sound of approaching hoofs.

(HOOFS FADING IN)

Lifting his head he saw Fancy Bill and his gang riding down the draw. The boy had taken Luke's word that the ex-rpize fighter was not implicated in the train robbery. He showed himself and called-

Jack; Help! Help!

Bow; (COMING IN) Here he is, Fancy!

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Fancy; We found your horse, button.

Jack; I'm sure glad you did! I don't know where I'm at.

Fancy; Well, there's something you do know, and I want to know how you found out about it.

Jack; What's that?

Fancy; You told Luke I was in the train hold up.

Jack; I -- I --(BREAKS)

Fancy; Don't deny it! Luke was too lazy to get the idea himself. He packed you off so's he could blackmail me.

Jack; Listen, Fancy Bill. Luke said--

Fancy; (CUTS IN) Luke is dead with a bullet 'twixt the eyes. You better tell me where I slipped up.

Bow; Hold it, Fancy. I see some riders coming.

Voice; One horse looks like the Sheriff's.

Fancy; We got nothing to fear from the law if this sprout keeps still.

Bow; What'll we do.

Fancy; Off your horses, everybody. (DISMOUNTS) We'll pretend to be helping this kid.

Bow; I'll keep a hold on him. () Not a word out of you kid. Not a move!

Jack; I'll be still.

(HOOFS FADE IN)

Voice; That's the Sheriff all right. His deputies, too.

Bow; A couple more riders are following them.

Sheriff; (FADE IN) Howdy, Fancy Bill. Howdy boys.

Adlib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT, OTHER HOOFS COMING IN)

Fancy; Howdy, Sheriff. Who's coming behind you?

Sheriff; Some fellers I met in Thirty Mile. 'Pears they joined in the hunt.

Ranger; (COMING IN) (AD LIB WHOA'S)

AD LIB; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Sheriff; Fancy, you got young Jack right here. Didn't see him in the bunch at first.

Fancy; Just found him. He got thrown by his nag.

Sheriff; Good work, fellers. I sure want that kid.

Fancy; What for?

Sheriff; Killing Luke.

Fancy; Well spike my guns! If that isn't something! (LAUGHS)

Sheriff; Murder isn't funny. I'm taking him to jail.

Fancy; (LOW) Then the kid will talk for sure. (LOUD)
Wait, Sheriff, when did Luke get killed?

Sheriff; We found him right after he was plugged and that was about an hour ago.

Fancy; Then Jack didn't do it. We found his cayuse better'n' than three hours ago and started looking for him.

Sheriff; How about it, Jack? How come you cleared out with your gear?

Fancy; He's still dazed like from his tumble. Can't talk. I've seen fighters that way.

Sheriff; I'm not doubting your alibi for him, but maybe he knows who did shoot Luke. I'll have him doctored up and question him later.

Fancy; No sense in that. I know more about bruises and knockouts than any sawbones. I'll fix him up at my place.

MUSIC: Interlude

Annccr; As the Sheriff and Fancy Bill argued over the custody of the boy, the Lone Ranger and Tonto withdrew a short distance and conferred.

Tonto; Fancy Bill's horse got new shoes. It make print we see.

Ranger; Then Bill and his gang robbed the train.

Tonto; Them fellers too many for us.

Ranger; I'll try to get them to take off their guns. Here's what we'll do.

MUSIC: Interlude

Fancy; Sheriff, I know a case just like the kid's. When I licked Dublin Bully Boy in London, I --

Ranger; (FADE IN, INTERRUPTS) I doubt that, Fancy Bill.

Fancy; Don't call me a liar, you -

Sheriff; Hold it! No gunplay goes here!

Fancy; Then I'll take him on barehanded. Make a ring, boys.

Ranger; That suits me.

Sheriff; It's got to be a fair fight. I'll referee it.

Ranger; Sheriff, this fellow has a lot of friends here and they're all armed. They might shoot me for beating him.

Sheriff; I don't want anyone to get plugged.

Ranger; Then you and your deputies should put all guns out of reach except your own.

Sheriff; That's so. Get their guns, Jim.

Adlib; (GRUMBLING)

Fancy; Go on, boys. Shed your hardware. I'll flatten this hombre in no time.

Bow; All right, Fancy. (LOW) I'm keeping a knife, kid, so don't try anything.

MUSIC: Interlude

(CROWD NOISES)

Annrc; Ringed by excited desperadoes, the Lone Ranger and Fancy Bill faced each other. They had kicked off their boots, and stripped to their waists. Glowering, the former prize fighter flexed his muscles. The Sheriff stepped aside and motioned --

Sheriff; Go to it, fellers.

Ad lib; (EXCITEMENT)

Annrc; Fancy Bill rushed in, his right fist drawn back to end the fight with a single blow. Ashe lashed out, the Lone Ranger side-stepped. Fancy Bill's knuckles fanned his face. Surprised the gang leader turned. Again he rushed. Again the Lone Ranger dodged. And this time he countered with a resounding punch.

(BLOW)

Fancy; (GRUNTS) You'll pay for that.

Ranger; Then I'll pay for another!

(BLOW)

Annrcr; Fancy Bill was hurt. Snarling, he dropped into a crouch. One of his ape-like arms almost touched the ground. The Lone Ranger feinted with his left - trying to get him to straighten himself.

Ranger; Stand up and take it.

Fancy; You take this!

Annrcr; Fancy Bill lunged like a ram. He butted the Lone Ranger backward, taking a hard right to the head as he did so. But his own right was coming up with savage force. It sank into the Lone Ranger's body below the belt.

(BLOW)

Sheriff; Foul! Foul!

Bow; No rules go here.

Voice; You got him, Fancy!

Bow; Nail him!

Voice; One more'll do it.

Annrcr; The Lone Ranger staggered back. The sweat of agony stood on his face. Fancy Bill stalked him. He was taking his time, measuring his victim like an executioner. The Sheriff was shouting --

Sheriff; Stop it! That feller's helpless!

Bow; Keep out of it, lawman!

Annex; Taking cruel delight in his advantage, Fancy Bill continued to show off before his followers. Seconds passed, each precious to the Lone Ranger. The paralyzing shock of the foul blow passed. He was ready when the outlaw swung with all his brute strength. The mighty blow slid over his shoulder, leaving Fancy Bill's chin open to a counter blow. The Lone Ranger's left shot up -

(BLOWS)

Then his right. The ex-prize fighter lurched backward. One - two - three more short hooks and uppercuts rocked his head. His eyes glazed. His knees gave way. He was down.

(BODY FALL)

At the same instant, Tonto turned on Bow and jerked the boy from his grasp.

Tonto; Me take him!

Sheriff; What's going on there?

Jack; Sheriff, it was Fancy Bill who killed Luke. He aimed to kill me. He was in the holdup.

Ranger; And so were his men.

Bow; They're crazy, Sheriff. We want our guns.

Sheriff; Get back. Cover them, deputies!

Jim; Freeze, you fellers.

Sheriff; Now what's this all about, Mister?

Ranger; Jack can tell you while I get back into my shirt and boots

Annex; The Lone Ranger stepped away from the others to put on his clothing. Then he drew out his mask and put it in place over his eyes and nose. Meanwhile, Jack told his story to the Sheriff.

Jack; Luke sold Fancy Bill ~~some~~ a horseshoe that me and my friend, Dan knew from a funny mark on it. We saw the print of that shoe where the owlhoots horses stood. I told Luke and he tried to get money out of Fancy Bill!

Sheriff; Now I savvy. That sure was an unlucky shoe for them varmints.

(HOOF'S FADE IN)

Jack; Here comes Dan now.

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOF'S HALT)

Dan; Jack, are you all right?

Jack; Sure am, Dan. And I'll soon be beaded for my folks' newplace.

Sheriff; There'll be a big bounty paid for them critters.

Ranger; (COMING IN) Sheriff, let Jack have the ~~reward~~ reward.

Sheriff; Huh? Say! You've put on more than your shirt! What's that mask mean?

Ranger; You said a masked man followed the stage.

Sheriff; Yes but — Great Scott! Are you the one?

Ranger; Yes, Sheriff, I'm the man you wanted. My Indian friend and I were protecting the stagecoach.

Sheriff; Well brand me for a calf!

Jack; Dan, we still got a tie to play off. You come and see me sometime.

Dan; I'll try. So long.

Sheriff; Say, Jack, you know something about that outfit. Who's the masked man?

Jack; Dan told me he's the Lone Ranger!

Ranger; (BACK) Hiyo Silver, Away!

MUSIC: Theme.