

THE LONE RANGER
Created by George W. Trendle

The Adventure of
"THE RIVER WOLVES"
Ralph Goll

2694-1919

4/24/50

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Striker
CAST

Ranger

Tonto

Jeff Gilmore.....young, intelligent fur buyer condemned to hang for business partner's crime

U. S. Marshal..... young, friend of Jeff who has him in custody on steamboat Arrow

Captain Carroll.....middle-aged master of the Arrow.

Sue..... young, daughter of captain.

Simon Dumont alias Loup....middle-aged ex-partner of Jeff who has turned to river piracy.

Leggins.....half-breed henchman of Loup.

Zack Miller.....middle-aged trader in league with pirates

Wheelsman.....BIT

Voices

.....middle-aged master of the Arrow.

.....daughter of captain.

.....middle-aged ex-partner of Jeff who has turned to river piracy.

.....half-breed henchman of Loup.

.....middle-aged trader in league with pirates

.....BIT

.....middle-aged master of the Arrow.

.....daughter of captain.

.....middle-aged ex-partner of Jeff who has turned to river piracy.

(HOOFS IN AND STOP AS:)

Ranger; Tonto, the Clam Point lightkeeper has been murdered and his beacon lantern stolen!

Tonto; What you make of that?

Ranger; It's the work of pirates who have been terrorizing this section of the country. They've made the whole river unsafe and now they plan to decoy the steamboat Arrow onto a sandbar so they can carry off the cargo.

Tonto; What we do?

Ranger; We'll use a canoe and try to warn the Captain. Then we must try to capture the pirates and make this part of the country safe for trade and commerce. Everyone aboard that boat is in danger. Come on, Silver!

Tonto; Gittum up, Scout!

(HOOFS STARTING)

Annor; Great as was the peril which threatened the steamer, even greater dangers beset the Lone Ranger as he took to the water to battle the river wolves and rescue a captured girl!

Be sure to listen --(ET C.)

BILLBOARD FOR "THE RIVER WOLVES"

HOOFS HALTING AS

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Tonto: What you make of that?

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(USUAL OPENING)

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Annex:

The Missouri River steamboat, Arrow, was bound for St. Louis with a rich cargo of furs and gold from the Northwest.

(STEAMBOAT NOISES)

As she threaded her way through the treacherous channels in Dakota Territory, churning the muddy water with her side wheels and erupting vast clouds of smoke from her twin funnels, two men leaned against the railing on the passenger deck. Both were in their middle twenties, well dressed and apparently friendly though one was a United States Marshal, the other a prisoner. The Marshal was saying--

Marshal: Jeff, you ought to stay away from the captain's daughter.

Jeff: Why should I, Marshal?

Marshal: I--well, you--(HESITATES)

Jeff: Oh, say it! I'm Jeff Gilmore who broke out of the death row in the St. Louis jail and was captured in Fort Benton. And you're taking me back to hang.

Marshal: Do you think it's right for a fellow in your spots to associate with a nice girl like Sue Carroll?

Jeff: Sue and I simply walk and talk together. She's lonesome and seems to enjoy my company.

Marshal: She's taking a shine to you.

Jeff: I don't want her to do that. I'll tell her who I am.

Marshal: Don't! If it ever got out that I didn't put you in irons, I'd lose my job.

Marshal: Do you think it's right for a fellow in your spots to associate with a nice girl like Sue Carroll?

Jeff: I don't want to get you into trouble.

Marshal: I know you don't. We 've ben friends since we were kids.

Jeff: Yes, but you don't know about my case. You were away when I was tried.

Marshal: I didn't want to ask you about it, but now that the subject has come up, tell me about it.

Jeff: You know that Simon Dumont and I were partners in a St. Louis fur house.

Marshal: Yes.

Jeff: Well, Dumont was a crook. He got to buying stolen furs without my knowledge.

Marshal: I see.

Jeff: One day a St. Louis detective came to the office to check up on Dumont's activities. He stabbed the man with my pelting knife and then fled, leaving me to take the blame.

Marshal: Didn't the St. Louis officers look for him?

Jeff: No.

Marshal: Jeff, when we get back to St. Louis I'll try to get a stay of execution for you and an assignment to Dakota territory for myself. Maybe I can find Dumont.

Jeff: The odds are all against you. You've never seen Dumont, so you wouldn't know him. From what I've heard, he has grown a beard and keeps changing his name.

Marshal: All lawmen would cooperate with me in hunting him.

Jeff: Even so, you'd never get a delay in the hanging of a jailbreaker like me. Public sentiment is all against me.

(STEPS APPROACHING)

Marshal: Here comes Miss Carroll!

Sue: (COMING UP) My, but you gentlemen look serious!

Jeff: Sue, the marshal and I have been talking about my future!

Sue: (LAUGHS) I hope it's not that dark!...Still, you've never told me what you've been doing or plan to do.

Jeff: The marshal has a place for me.

Sue: Is it connected with the law?

Jeff: Why, yes, you could say that.

Sue: Then you'll be staying in St. Louis! We'll meet again.../ often!

Jeff: No, Sue, I'm afraid you'll never see me after I leave the Arrow. It has been arranged for me to go on a long trip.

Sue: Jeff, I don't know what to say, but...well, I'll always remember you and I do hope you'll like your position.

Marshal: Er...Miss Carroll, isn't that Rockport just ahead.

(BOAT WHISTLE)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; As the steamboat whistled for the next landing, the Lone Ranger and Tonto, who had been riding along the north bank of the river, pulled up.

(HOOFS TO HALT)

Ranger; Tonto, there's the Arrow. She'll refuel in Rockport.

Tonto; Look at bales of fur her carry!

Ranger; The river pirates we've been looking for have made it unsafe to ship furs by smaller craft. They've become a menace to shipping from one end of this river to the other.

Tonto; How many flatboats been attacked long here?

Ranger; Three. Yet all we've learned is that the fur thieves call themselves River Wolves and refer to their leader as "Loup" which is French for "Wolf."

Tonto; How it happen gang never leave trail?

Ranger; There's only one answer. It uses only boats and hides close to the river.

Tonto; Maybe we better use boat.

Ranger; We shall from now on. We must try to clean up that gang and make the river safe for shipping before all trade comes to an end. Go to town, buy a canoe and paddle downstream. I'll take Scout and meet you opposite the Clam Point Light. We'll camp there tonight.

Tonto; Me savvy. (DISMOUNT) Clam Point is where we see old feller hang big lantern on pole to guide steamboats.

Ranger; Right! Come on, Scout! Come on, Silver!

(HOOFS START)

MUSIC: Interlude.

WHEN

Annex: It was several hours later ^{WHEN} Tonto, successful in his quest for a canoe, landed downriver and rejoined the Lone Ranger. As they discussed their next move, another canoe was beached on an island several miles below them. Its occupant, a half breed, jumped out and ran toward a nearby trading post operated by Zack Miller. To all appearances, the post, which consisted of a store, warehouse and bunkhouse, was engaged in lawful business, but it actually served as a den for the river wolves and a depot for their loot. Reaching the bunkhouse, the breed threw open the door.

(DOOR OPENS)

LOUNGING

Two heavily bearded men who had been ~~lounging~~ inside leaped to their feet with drawn guns. One was Zack Miller, the other the pirate chief known as Loup. Zack was first to speak--

Zack: Well, Leggins, what is it?

Leggins: The Arrow is in Rockport loaded with furs, all good ones-- mink, ~~marten~~ ^{MARTEN} and beaver. I heard she's carrying a lot of gold, too.

Loup: Gold, eh? That's interesting.

Leggins: Loup, can't we board her? She's taking on fire wood and won't pass here until sometime tonight.

Zack: Nobody can board a steamboat that's running full speed with the current.

Loup: We don't have to tackle her while she's running, Zack. We can ground her.

Zack: How?

Loup: We'll knife the lightkeeper on Clam Point, then take his beacon lantern and hang it in a tree by the big sand bar.

Zack: I savvy! The Arrow will take her bearings from it and get stuck!

Loup: She draws about five feet of water, so we'll have to use canoes and flatboats to get onto her. We'll put out from shore the minute she grounds.

Zack: There are fifteen of us, so the rest should be easy. But we haven't got much time.

Loup: Leggins, round up the gang!

MUSIC: Interlude

Anncr: Twilight had deepened into a starless night when the Lone Ranger and Tonto concluded a hasty meal and trampled out their fire.

(TRAMPLING SOUNDS)

As the last spark died, Tonto looked out across the river and stiffened--

Tonto: Kemo Sabay, me not see Clam Shell Light.

Ranger: It should be showing now.

Tonto: Maybe Arrow come long any minute.now.

Ranger: Without a beacon to guide her, she may be grounded or wrecked.

Tonto: That so.

Ranger: Into the canoe! We'll see what has happened!

MUSIC: Interlude

Anncr: A few minutes later the Lone Ranger and Tonto found the old lightkeeper lying at the foot of the beacon pole. As the masked man knelt beside him, Tonto struck a match.

(MATCH STRIKES)

Tonto: What ail him?

Ranger: He's dead— stabbed! Where's the big lantern?

Tonto: It not on pole. ^{ROPE} ~~halyard~~ that hoist it is gone.

Ranger: A halyard has to be cut to be removed. That means the beacon was stolen.

Tonto: Me not savvy that.

Ranger: ^{IT MUST BE} ~~He~~ the work of the river pirates ^{WHO} ~~they~~ intend to lure the Arrow out of the channel! Come on!

(SEVERAL RUNNING STEPS TO HALT)

Ranger: Jump into the canoe! I'll push off. (EFFORT) There!

(PADDLES SPLASHING)

Tonto: Which way we go?

Ranger: Upstream! (EFFORT) ^{WE MUST} ~~We must~~ stop the Arrow! (EFFORT)
The lives of all on board are at stake!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr: As the masked man and Indian drove their canoe upstream, paddling furiously against the strong current, the Arrow put the lights of Rockport behind her after a long ^{DELAY} in loading fuel. Jeff, Sue and the Marshal were in the pilot house watching Captain Carroll and the wheelsman work the clumsy side-wheeler through the sand bars, snags and rocks which were a constant menace to navigation.

(STEAMBOAT NOISES)

The captain had hold of one of several signal cords connected with the engine room. He was saying—

Captain: I'm ringing for full speed now. We'll soon pick up the Clam Pint Light.

Wheelsman: I see it now, sir.

Captain: So soon?... Hard a-port, wheelsman!

Wheelsman: Aye, sir!

Sue: Dad, does the channel change here?

Captain: Yes, Sue. It cuts south toward the bank. That's why there's a light on Clam Point. Now I'll pull the whistle rope and let the lightkeeper know that all's well.

(WHISTLES)

Jeff: Hear that echo!

Captain: It doesn't sound right to me! Seems like it bounced back too fast.

Wheelsman: Captain, the ship doesn't feel right either! The current pull shouldn't be so weak.

Captain: Maybe we're out of the channel! (CALLS) Leadsman, take a sounding!

Voice: 1 (BACK) I just sounded, sir!

Captain: (CALLS) What's the depth?

Voice: 1 (BACK) By the mark, ten!

Captain: There should be fifteen feet of water off the Point. (CALLS) Sound again!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annecr: As the Arrow ploughed on through the night-shrouded waters, the Lone Ranger and Tonto drove their canoe around a bend a short distance downriver.

(PADDLE SPLASHES)

Annex: The Indian, who had been watching the south bank, exclaimed---

Tontp: Look, Kemo Sabay! There is beacon light!

Ranger: And there's the Arrow! She's running toward it!

(STEAMBOAT NOISES FADING IN)

Tonto: That light got her fooled! Her out of channel!

Ranger: Bear to the right! (EFFORT) Faster!

Tonto: It no use! (EFFORT) Her soon pass us!

Ranger: I'll hail her! (CALLS) Arrow, ahoy!

MUSIC: Interlude

(STEAMBOAT NOISES)

Sue: Dad, somebody's calling from the river! Listen!

Ranger: (BACK) Arrow, ahoy!

Sue: Did you hear that?

Captain: Don't bother me, Sue! (CALLS) Leadsman, what does your line say now?

Voice: 1 (BACK) By the mark, seven!

Captain: The Arrow draws five feet! Wheelsman, hard a-port!

Wheelsman: She's not swinging very fast!

Captain: I'll have the port wheel reversed!

(BELL RINGS)

Voice: 1 (BACK) By the mark, six!

Captain: Hold onto me, Sue!

Sue: What's the matter, Dad?

Captain: We're going to ground!

(JARRING THUMP: STEAMBOAT NOISES STOP)

Voice: 2 (COMING UP) We've struck!

Captain: Oh, it's you, mate!

Voice: 2 (UP) What happened, sir?

Captain: I can't figure it out. There hasn't been any flood that would have built up a sandbar off Clam Point.

Voice: 2 The river hasn't fallen either.

Captain: Well, get back below. Look for damage and start shifting the cargo aft.

Voice; 2 Aye, sir!

Sue: Is there any danger?

Captain: (LAUGHS) None at all. I've run aground a hundred times on the Missouri. All we need to do is lighten the bow and reverse the paddles to get off, but it means an hour's delay.

Voice: 2 (A LITTLE BACK) Look, captain! There in the companionway!

Captain: A masked man!

Sue: And an Indian!

Cpatain: Back, Sue! Back so I can shoot!

(STEPS APPROACHING)

Ranger: (COMING UP) Steady there! We're friends!

(STEPS STOP)

Captain: It don't look friendly to board a ship wearing a mask. If I didn't know those river wolves were too cowardly to attack anything except flatboats, I'd take you for one of them. How did you get here?

Ranger: My friend and I came aboard from a canoe after trying to hail you. We were afraid you'd ground.

Captain: How so?

Ranger: We had found Camp Point Lightkeeper murdered and the beacon gone. That's it out there, but you're on a bar a mile above the point.

Captain: So the light was moved! Who'd do such a thing?

Ranger: Who but the river wolves? Big as the Arrow is, they mean to attack her.

Captain: Great Scott! You must be right!...Mate, forget about the cargo. Break out the guns and arm all hands on the lower deck! Then stand by to repel boarders!

Ranger: Do it quietly, mate. Maybe we can surprise the pirates as much as they planned to surprise you.

VOICE 2
~~Man:~~

(FADING BACK) Aye, sir.

Marshal: Masked man, I'm a federal marshal, but I'm willing to listen to you. How many men are in the gang.

Ranger: It's rumored that there are fifteen or twenty.

Marshal: Then we're outnumbered. I'll help the men below.

Tonto: Maybe me better join them.

Ranger: Go ahead, Tonto. How many men does that leave up here, captain?

Captain: Four. The wheelsman. And Young Jeff here. And you and me. Can we hold this deck and protect my daughter?

Sue: Don't worry about me, Dad. Fight your ship just like you did your gunboat back in sixty-three.

Captain: Good girl, Sue! There's a gun in the pilot house.
Stay in there and keep it handy.

Sue: All right.

Jeff: Nobody'll get to you if I can help it, Sue.

Ranger: Captain, what about the brass cannon that's mounted
int front of the pilot house? Can it be used?

Captain: No, consarn it! There's a box of five-pound round
shot there beside it, but I let the boys shoot up
all the powder on the Fourth of July.

Ranger: Let's slide the box over to the rail.

Captain: Right. (EFFORT)

(SEVERALSTEPS:SLIDING NOISE)

Ranger: There, that's far enough!

Captain: How do you aim to use these cannon balls?

Ranger: We'll drop them into the pirates' canoes when they
come alongside. Five-pound shot will go straight
through the bottoms.

Captain: (SOTTO) Listen!

Ranger: (SOTTO)They're coming!

Captain: (SOTTO) I hear oarlocks!

Ranger: (SOTTO)That means they're bringing up a flatboat to
carry off their plunder!

Captain: (SOTTO) I can see them now!

Ranger: (SOTTO) Get ready to fire!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

(OAR LOCKS CREAKING)

Amner: Besides the flatboat which had been heard, there were a half dozen canoes in the pirate flotilla. The men at the oars and paddles wore the buckskins and mocassins commonly associated with the fur trade, but they had blackened their faces with charcoal both to disguise their features and make their skin less visable in the darkness. All were armed with tomahawks and knives as well as guns. Loup, who was on the flatboat, leaned over and spoke to Zack Miller in a nearby canoe--

Loup: (SOTTO) Zack, you know that you and the men you've picked to help you are to take the top deck.

Zack: (SOTTO) I savvy that.

Loup: (SOTTO) I'll overrun the cargo deck with my bunch. It ought to be easy.

Zack: (SOTTO) It don't look like anybody on the Arrow is suspicious.

Loup: (SOTTO) The lights from the steamer are reaching us now. It's time to close in fast!

Zack: (CALLS) Let's go, fellers!

Loup: (CALLS) Come on, wolves!

(YELLS: SHOTS: PADDLE SPLASHES)

MUSIC: Interlude

Amner: As the river wolves came into plain sight, the Lone Ranger signalled Captain Carrol. Cupping his hands around his mouth, the skipper bellowed--

Captain: Fire, men! Fire!

(VOLLEY OF SHOTS)

Ranger: We didn't stop them!

Captain: (CALLS) Keep firing!
(SHOTS)

Ranger: Their canoes are alongside now! Wheelsman, start dropping those cannonballs!!

Wheelsman: Right!(EFFORT) Here goes one!

Captain: That did for one canoe, but the blackguards jumped on board!

(SHOTS)

Jeff: (BACK) Here, masked man! They're climbing the foreward stanchions!

Ranger: Coming, Jeff!!

(RUNNING STEPS)

Captain: (CALLS) To the fore deck!

(SHOTS)

MUSIC: Interlude

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

COMMERCIAL

Annecr: The steamboat Arrow had been boarded by river pirates. As some of them leaped onto the cargo deck, others swarmed up the stanchions, trying to reach the top deck. They were met by the Lone Ranger, Captain Carroll and Jeff Gilmore, who knocked several into the river. One got a hand on top of the deck railing and thrust at Jeff with a knife. Dodging, young Gilmore brought a gun barrel down on his hand--

Jeff: Take that!

(BLOW:YELL FADING BACK: SPLASH IN BACK)

Captain: The rest are sliding back down!

Jeff: They won't try that again!

(SHOTS:YELLS IN BACK)

Captain: They're having a hard fight below!

Ranger: We'll have to watch the stairs leading up here!

Anncr: Even as the masked man spoke, Zack Miller and a half dozen river wolves under his command forced a passage to the foot of the companionway. Bounding up the steps, they erupted on the top deck. The Lone Ranger fired one shot.

(SHOT)

One of the pirates reeled back, clapping a hand to his shoulder.

Voice: 3 OW...I'm hit!...Get that masked feller!

Zack: I'll fix him!

Anncr: With barrels almost touching, the Lone Ranger and the pirate leader triggered their guns at each other. The hammers fell on empty cartridges.

(GUN CLICKS)

Dropping his useless revolver, Miller jerked a tomahawk from his belt and sprang forward.

Zack: Now I've got you!

Anncr: The hatched flashed downward, but the masked man caught the handle and warded it off. Then they were locked in grappling holds which neither could break at the moment. The other pirates surged forward.

(CLATTERING STEPS)

Ad lib; (CONFUSION)

Anncr; The fighting was at close quarters hand-to-hand. The guns were empty, and there was no time to reload. Jeff and the Captain were forced to give ground. Soon they were fighting with their backs against the pilothouse. Seeing their danger, Sue rushed out carrying a gun.

Sue; Get back, you beasts! Back or I'll shoot!

Leggins; No you won't! (EFFORT) I'll take that gun!

Sue; (SCREAMS) Let go of me!

Capt; They've got Sue! I can't get to her!

Jeff; Neither can I!

Loup; (BACK) Zack! Bring your men below!

Voice 3; Loup's yelling for us!

Loup; (BACK) We're pulling out!

Voice 3; Leggins, drop that girl and come on before we get left!

Leggins; I'm taking her along!

Sue; Dad, help! He's carrying me away!

Captain; Come on, Jeff! They're taking her below!

Leggins; (FADING BACK) You fellers stand still or I'll shoot her!

Sue; (FADING BACK FARTHER) Help!

Anncr; At that moment the pirate trader, made doubly desperate by the retreat of his companions in crime, broke away from the Lone Ranger, leaving the hatchet in his grasp.

Zack: Wait, fellers.' I'm coming!

Ranger: No, you're not!

Zack: That tomahawk won't stop me!

Ranger: Then maybe my fist will!

(BLOW)

Zack: GRUNTS

Jeff: Right on the jaw! Give him another,

(BLOW)

Jeff: He's folding up!

(BODY FALL.)

Ranger: That'll hold him for a while!

Captain: Mister, my daughter--- (BREAKS)

Ranger: I know. Get that pirate's buckskin jacket and cap for me while I reload my guns. Hurry!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annrc: Meanwhile, Leggins had reached the lower deck with his companions and the struggling girl. Tonto, who had directed the defense there from behind a barricade of baled furs, saw Sue and shouted to the deck hands---

Tonto: Breed got captain's girl! Don't shoot!

Loup: (BACK A LITTLE) Keep her where s'she'll be in the line of fire if they change their minds.

Leggins: (BACK A LITTLE) I savvy. What happened down here?

Loup: (BACK A LITTLE) They're too much for us! They were warned and ready!

- Voice 4; (BACK) Our canoes have all been holed!
- Loup; (BACK) The flatboat's all right! Pile into it!
- Anncr; As the River Wolves, battered and beaten, prepared to put off in the unwieldy craft, the Lone Ranger holstered his reloaded guns and put on Zack Miller's cap and jacket. Then he hurried to one of the coal oil running lights. He took soot that had collected above the burner and blackened the lower part of his face while Captain Carroll watched curiously.
- Capt; What do you figure on doing?
- Ranger; I hope to mix with the pirates until I can rescue your daughter without endangering her life.
- Jeff; Look over the side!
- Sue; (BACK) Help!
- Capt; There's Sue! They're putting her on their flatboat.
- Jeff; They're all getting on!
- Ranger; Then I'll go over the side!
- Capt; God be with you, mister!
- Anncr; Swinging himself over the railing, the Lone Ranger slid down a stanchion. He reached the lower deck just in time to join the last pirates as they piled into the flatboat. In the dim light and confusion his mask had escaped detection. Crouching low on the bottom, he kept his head down while Loup cut the flatboat loose from the steamer.
- Loup; We're clear of her now! You fellows on the oars - get busy! I'll tend the tiller!

(OARLOCKS CREAKING:OARS SPLASHING)

Sue: You're safe or soon will be. Let me swim back.

Leggins: I guess not!

Loup: Leggins, where is Zack? I just missed him.

Leggins: Last I saw of him he was fighting a masked man on the top deck.

Loup: A masked man! He couldn't have been one of the crew or passengers.

Leggins: Maybe he tipped them off about us.

Loup: That's what I'm thinking.

Leggins: If Zack got killed or captured, it'll be bad for us. All the boatmen on the river know him and his island.

Loup: You're right. The island won't be safe for us after the Arrow gets off the bar.

Leggins: No, but we've got to go back ~~XXXX~~ long enough to pick up the furs and money we've got cached there.

Loup: That boodle's worth the chance. If worst comes to worst and we get surrounded, we'll use the girl to bargain for a way out. Bend those oars, boys!

MUSIC:Interlude

Annecr: Meanwhile, Tonto and the marshal had returned to the top deck of the Arrow. Captain Carroll told them what had happened and pointed to the pirate who still lay senseless on the deck--

Captain: That's Zack Miller who runs a trading post on the little island downriver.

Tonto: Maybe pirates been hiding there. Maybe them go there now.

Captain: That's how it looks.

Tonto: You got any small boat on Arrow?

Captain: No river steamer carries life boats. It could get to shore before one could be launched.

Marshal: What are you figuring on, Tonto?

Tonto: Our canoe got smashed like others. Me want to go to island. Maybe my friend need help.

Captain: I can get the Arrow off the barvand take you there within an hour.

Tonto: That too long. Me go to shore now.

Jeff: Let's go along, marshal!

Marshal: How about it, Tonto?

Tonto: You follow me.

MUSIC:INTERLUDE

Annecr: Wading, swimming and running in turn, Tonto led the two whitemen to shore and along the bank to the camp where he and the Lone Ranger had left their horses. There he placed Scout at the disposal of the marshal and saddled Silver. He was saying---

Tonto: Jeff, you ride behind me. (MOUNTS) Me help you up.

Jeff: I'm making it! (MOUNTS) There!

Tonto: You ready, marshal?

Marshal: Yes, Tonto. Where is the island?

Tonto: Only mile or so. When we get that far we let horses swim from bank. Island close to shore.

Marshal: I see.

Tonto: Now we ride fast! Get-um up, Scout! Come on, Silver!

(HOOFS FADING OUT)

MUSIC: Interlude

Amncr: As the great white stallion and paint pony raced along the bank, the flatboat neared the island landing.

(OARLOCKS CREAKING: OARS SPLASHING)

Loup swung the tiller bar--

Loup: Back water with your oars! We're almost there!

(OARLOCKS, OARS STOP)

Amncr: A moment later the bottom of the clumsy craft grated on gravel.

(GRATING NOISE)

Loup jumped out--

Loup: Come on, all of you! We've got a lot of lugging to do!

Voice: 3 I can't help! My arm's busted!

Loup: Think of your neck, you scum! Get up to the fur house!

Leggins: You, too, gal! You go where we go!

(STEPS ON GRAVEL)

Loup: This is all the fault of that masked man! I had it planned for us to control the Missouri River. We'd have had a stranglehold on the whole Northwest. Now look what's happened!

Leggins: Just let me get hold of him sometime!

Amncr: Grimly watchful, the masked man strode along at their heels, following them to a low stone building behind the trading post.

Loup; You spy! I'll - - -

Ranger; You'll come outside with me. The rest of you stay frozen!

Annrc; The Lone Ranger intended to get Loup outside, take his key and lock the door on the other pirates. Taking a cautious backward step, he holstered his left hand gun, and felt behind him for the door latch. Then one of the men throw caution to the winds and went for his gun. The Lone Ranger saw the move and fired.

(SHOT)

Voice 3; (CRY OUT)

(SCUFFLING STEPS)

AD LIB: (CONFUSION)

Annrc; In that instant, while the Lone Ranger was forced to turn his gun, Loup rushed - -

(THUD)

Loup; (WILD YELL) I'll get you!

Voice 3; He smashed my arm! Get him! Get him!

Voice 4; We'll help you, Loup!

Annrc; Loup gripped the masked man's gun in one strong fist, his other arm was thrown about the neck. He was hugging the Lone Ranger close, trying to disarm him while the others brought their six-guns into play. The Lone Ranger saw one gun come up. He swung Loup quickly to serve as a shield--

(SHOT)

Loup; (CRY OUT)

Voice 4; You hit Loup!

Leggins; You fools! Watch your gunplay! Hold your fire! Close in on that masked man! Club him to the ground!

(SCUFFLING STEPS)

Anncr; Loup's body was limp in the masked man's arms, but it still served as a shield. Then the Lone Ranger was surrounded; hands were clawing at him from all sides. Leggins brought his gun barrel down as a club. It landed with stunning force on the shoulder.

~~CRASH~~ (GLASS BREAKS) (TWO SHOTS BACK)

Tonto; (BACK) Drop-um guns!

Leggins; The back window!

Ad lib; (CONFUSION AS:)

Anncr; Two warning shots streaked thru the small back window to disconcert the pirates. Then the door flew open.

(STEPS COMING IN)

Jeff; (COMING IN) Drop the guns!

Marshal; (COMING IN) Get your hands up or we'll blast you down!

Ad lib; (CONFUSION)

(GUNS FALLING, ETC.)

Anncr; It was Jeff and the Marshal who burst thru the door while Tonto watched from the window at the other side of the room. The Lone Ranger broke free and quickly stepped to one side with both guns ready for action.

Ranger; Drop the guns! I'm backing the Marshal's play!

Leggins; Hold your fire! My hands are up!

Ad lib; Me, too!
Don't shoot!
(ETC.)

Ranger; (CALLS) You can't get thru that window, Tonto.
It's too small. Come around to the door.

Tonto; (BACK) Me come.

Jeff; Keep 'em covered. I'll collect the guns.

Ranger; You men got here just in time.

Jeff; Tonto brought the Marshal and me.

Tonto; (COMING IN) We find-um girl.

Ranger; Miss Carroll?

Tonto; Ugh. Her at landing - waiting for Arrow.

Jeff; The Arrow's here now. I see the Captain coming
with his men.

Marshal; Good. We can load the prisoners at once. () Who's
that on the floor?

Ranger: A pirate leader. His men shot him by mistake.

(STEPS FADING IN)

Captain: (COMING UP) Marshal, is there anything left for us to do?

(STEPS STOP)

Marshal: Just watch those prisoners, captain. We have a wounded man on our hands.

Sue: Dad, he's the one they called Loup.

Ranger: Jeff, hand me your canteen.

Jeff: Sure, mister. It's one I brought from your camp.

Ranger: Now lift up his head and I'll try to give him some water.

Sue: I'll hold that candle where you can see better.

(WATER GURGLES)

Loup: GASPS

Jeff: That man! He...he's Simon Dumont!

Sue: Do you know him, Jeff?

Jeff: Know him! I've been sentenced to hang for a murder he committed. I'm in the custody of the marshal right now.

Sue: Oh, Jeff!

Jeff: My only chance to clear myself lay in finding him and getting a confession. I've found him dying!

Sue: That's terrible!

Ranger: He isn't dead yet. He seems to be trying to talk. Speak to him Jeff.

- Jeff: Dumont...Simon Dumant...do you know me?
- Loup: You're...you're Jeff Gilmore...
- Jeff: Tell these people that you killed that officer in St. Louis! Tell them I'm innocent!
- Sue: He's sneering at you!
- Loup: Sure...I killed him...but that won't help you. You can't take me back to testify for you... wouldn't do it if you could... like to see you hang...like to see that masked man hang....
- Marshal: Dumont, do you realize that you're dying?
- Loup: Sure...
- Marshal: And you admit the murder?
- Loup: Sure...good joke on Jeff...(TRIES TO CHUCKLE, GASPS, DIES)
- Ranger: He's dead!
- Jeff: And my last hope went with him!
- Ranger: No, Jeff, he cleared you even though he didn't know it.
- Jeff: What good is his word that he committed the murder?
- Ranger: Under the circumstances it's even better than an admission of guilt made on the witness stand. A dying statement is accepted as truth in all courts. It's taken for granted that dying men don't lie.
- Marshal: The masked man is right, Jeff. You'll get a new trial and an acquittal.
- Ranger: Come on, Tonto.