

The Lone Ranger - created by Geo. W. Trendle

Stuber

"Mule Train of Death"

by Ralph Goll.

Number: 3940-2164

Date: 11/19/51

Ranger and Tonto

Les Harcourt young contractor

Sim Sherwood middle-aged bootlegger of
nitro

Clint Graham middle-aged murderer

Whip Thomas middle-aged murderer

Tim Tooney elderly foreman - Irish

Mollie His daughter

Joe Mitchell powder monkey - bit (DOUBLE)

Pete Bit (DOUBLE)

Sheriff straight

PROMO (R)

"Mule Train of Death"

Annrcr;

The Lone Ranger had caught a killer on the edge of a bluff above Broken Wheel Pass. The man had been about to shoot down into a mule train laden with nitroglycerin. As the masked man disarmed him, the murderer jerked backward, losing his balance.

Whip;

I'm going to fall! Help me! Help!

Ranger;

My hand! Grab my hand!

(ROCK SLIDE START)

Whip;

The rimrock's breaking loose!

Ranger;

Hold on!

(ROCK SLIDE EFFECT)

Annrcr;

As rocks showered down on the nitro train, the Lone Ranger felt the eroded stone give way beneath his own feet. Desperately he struggled to save his prisoner and himself. Then -

Whip;

(SCREAMS, FADING FAST)

Annrcr;

Never has the Lone Ranger been in greater danger. He may escape a fall from the precipice, but guns and high explosives can be equally fatal. Ride with the masked man as he takes the trail of the mule train of Death.

Be sure to listen - (ETC.)

The Lone Ranger

"Mule Train of Death"

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr; During the early 1870's terror gripped the West. The most daring men feared to travel on public conveyances. Every piece of freight and express was an object of suspicion.

Voice; Maybe there's nitroglycerin in that thing!

Voice 2; Let's get out of here!

(RUNNING STEPS FADING BACK)

Annrcr; Nitroglycerin was then a recent invention, but it was in great demand for use in mining and railroad construction. It had been found a hundred times more effective than powder in blasting hard rock. However, it was extremely dangerous to transport it. One small shipment had blown up in the San Francisco office of Wells-Fargo, killing or wounding more than a hundred persons.

Voice; Somebody ought to plug that feller Nobel who makes the stuff!

Voice 2; Those scientists'll monkey around 'til they blow up all creation!

Ann-cr; Express and transportation companies had banned further shipments of nitroglycerin. But a bootleg traffic in the liquid death continued. One of the principle nitro-runners was Sim Sherwood. The shack where he lived in Colesport, faced the river that flowed into the Gulf. He pretended to be a commercial fisherman. Sherwood's eyes were wary as he studied a tall young man who had called on him.

Sim; Did you say your name is Les Harcourt?

Les; Yes, Mr. Sherwood. I have a tunnelling outfit.

Sim; So you want some nitro?

Les; I'd like to try it out. It could solve a big problem for me.

Sim; How's that, Les?

Les; My company has a contract to open a tunnel thru Mount Mason for the S and M railroad.

Sim; Oh yes. The railroad wants to extend its line to Colesport.

Les; It'll be a great thing for this town.

Sim; No doubt. But it'll put the Star Stage and Freight Company out of business.

Les; That can't be helped, Mr. Sherwood.

Sim; How are you coming with the tunnel?

Les; We're stalled. Halfway thru we ran into solid granite.

Sim; I see.

Les; Blasting powder hardly touches the rock.

Sim; Nitro will do the work.

Les; I hope so. Unless the tunnel's finished by the first of the year, I'll lose the contract.

Sim; Nitro is mighty expensive stuff.

Les; I know it's hard to get, but - -

Sim; (CUT IN) I have it sneaked in from Sweden on tramp steamers.

Les; I heard from a hardrock miner that you have a big supply.

Sim; I have a hundred gallons buried on the beach. The Skipper who unloaded it charged me a hundred times more than ordinary cargo rates.

Les; Well, what's your price on it?

Sim; Ten thousand dollars for enough to finish your job.

Les; That's highway robbery!

Sim; Take it or leave it! I can sell it to miners for that price.

Les; I'll have to take it.

Sim; The nitro containers are in boxes packed with sawdust. I'll label the boxes dried fish and ship them to Mount Mason over the Star Stage and Freight line.

Les; The Star people won't freight anything to me. They don't want the tunnel finished. My foreman and another man are in town with a mule train. I'll have them move the nitro. When can we load it?

Sim; Tonight. But be fixed to pay before you start putting it onto your mules!

MUSIC: Interlude

Anncr; As the young contractor closed his deal with the smuggler, the Lone Ranger and Tonto rode thru the Desolation Mountain.

(HOOF'S AT WALK)

They were headed for a trail that led down from Mount Mason to the coast. The masked man was saying -

Ranger; We'll reach the trail tomorrow, Tonto.

Tonto; Where we go from there?

Ranger; To Colesport. It's rumored in the mining camps that nitroglycerin is being shipped from that town as harmless merchandise.

Tonto; It kill plenty people.

Ranger; That's because it's being smuggled. Only recently a packet boat bound up-river from Colesport was blown up when a deckhand dropped a box of mis-labeled nitro.

Tonto; (GRUNTS)

Ranger; Nitroglycerin is so new that no law regulating its shipment has been enacted. But we must try to stop the under-cover methods now being used to move it.

Tonto; How we do that?

Ranger; We only need to expose the source of supply. The public will do the rest.

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; The next day Les Harcourt and his companions were on the trail to the tunnel project with the mule train loaded with nitroglycerin.

(HOOFS)

During a brief halt they had painted the packing cases, making known the dangerous contents. Joe Mitchell, who had worked as a powder monkey before ordinary blasting methods failed, rode behind the pack mules. He was yelling.

Joe; (BACK)
 / Git up, you critters!

Annrcr; Les and his foreman, Tim Tooney, looked back from the head of the string. The youthful contractor called -

Les; (CALLS) Don't use a whip, Joe. Let the mules pick their footing!

Joe; (BACK) Right!

Tim; Sure an' we'll be playing harps if one of them beasts falls down!

Les; I bought the nitro on your advice, Tim.

Tim; And good advice it was, Les, me lad.

Les; Then you think it'll do the work?

Tim; Faith, from now on, we'll open two hundred feet of tunnel a day.

Les; If we don't, I'll lose my shirt.

Tim; Is it that bad?

Les; It took all my reserve cash to buy this nitro. I have just enough money left to meet the payroll for six weeks.

Tim; 'Tis a shame you bid so low for the contract. Nobody else wanted it.

Les; I had no idea I'd be the only bidder, Tim.

Tim; Every other contractor thought the mountain couldn't be tunneled.

Les; Even the railroad officials were doubtful. They still are!

Tim; Don't be getting discouraged. The Tooneys are behind you!

Les; Tim, you and Molly have been wonderful!

Tim; Sure and that Molly of mine is a fine girl!

Les; Tim, I - I - (HESITATES)

Tim; Speak up, Les.

Les; I want to marry Molly!

Tim; 'Tis time you're asking for the colleen's hand. She's in love with you.

Les; Are you sure?

Tim; Molly keeps no secrets from her old father.

Les; Now no mountain can stand against me!

Tim; (CHUCKLES) Well do I know how you feel, me boy. But 'tis back to earth you must come. Up yonder is Broken Wheel Pass.

Les; That's a dangerous place!

Tim; Saints preserve us if a stone falls down and hits
a box!

Les; The trail is too narrow for anyone to go around us
safely.

Tim; 'Twould be a good thing if you went ahead and stopped
all travel at the other end of the pass.

Les; I'll do that! Watch out for falling stones!

Ad lib; (GIDDAP'S)

Les; (FADING BACK) See you later, Tim.

MUSIC: Up and under:

Annrc; A few minutes later Les drew rein at the far mouth
of the Pass.

(HOOFS HALTING AS:)

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

Annrc; As he waited, prepared to halt and warn anyone who
approached, two riders swung around a turn in the
trail ahead of him.

(HOOFS FADING IN)

The contractor saw that one wore a mask. He reached
for a gun, but before he could draw, the masked man
called out -

Ranger; (FADING IN) Hold it, Mister!

Les; Who are you?

Ranger; We're friends.

Adlib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOF'S HALT)

Les; Friends show their faces. What are you up to?

Ranger; My mission is to serve justice. My mask helps me.

Les; You don't talk like any crook I ever met. But whether or not you're a road agent, I must warn you not to enter the pass now. It's dangerous.

Ranger; Why?

Les; A pack train is coming thru loaded with nitroglycerin.

MUSIC: Up and under:

Annrc; As the contractor told the Lone Ranger and Tonto about the high explosive and the purpose for which it was to be used, two other riders walked their horses along a bluff overlooking the pass.

(HOOF'S AT WALK)

They were Whip Thomas and Clint Graham, co-owners of the Star Stage and Freight line. The pair had been spying on the tunnel project. Whip was saying -

Whip; Well, Clint, we don't have to worry any more about losing our business to the railroad.

Clint; It looks that way, Whip.

Whip; The tunnel's gone as far as it'll ever go.

Clint; It has if Les Harcourt is almost broke.

Whip; His men say he is, and they should know.

Clint; What'll happen after he loses his contract?

Whip; The railroad company'll give up the idea of pushing a line thru to Colesport. I got that straight from their office.

Clint; Whip! Look! Coming down the pass!

Whip; A mule train bound for Mount Mason!

Ad lib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Clint; They're packing a lot of red boxes.

Whip; I see some white letters on the boxes. What do they spell?

Clint; (SPELLS) N - I - T - R - O. Nitro!

Whip; That's the new blasting stuff!

Clint; They say it'll blow up solid granite like it was sand!

Whip; I savvy, Clint!

Clint; Savvy what?

Whip; Les Harcourt is going to use it in the tunnel!

Clint; Then he'll win out yet!

Whip; And we'll lose the best paying stage and freight line in the West!

Clint; Who's that heading the string of mules?

Whip; I can't see his face, but it must be Harcourt. He wasn't around the tunnel when we were there.

Clint; I'm going to plug him!

Whip; Hold it! I have a better idea, Clint!

Clint; Spill it!

Whip; Shoot into one of those boxes!

Clint; By thunder! That'll get rid of Harcourt and the nitro!

Whip; Nobody'll ever know what happened!

Clint; Let's dismount. (DISMOUNTING EFFORTS) I don't want to miss!

Whip; It's a long shot, Clint. Here - take my Sharps buffalo rifle.

Clint; Right. I'll lie down to shoot!

Whip; Allow a little for a south wind in the pass!

Clint; Here goes!

(SHOT)

Annecr; An instant later there was a blinding flash in the pass. Hard upon it came a breath-taking rush of air and the jarring thunder of a terrific explosion.

(EXPLOSION)

MUSIC: Burst

Annecr; At the mouth of the pass the Lone Ranger, Tonto and Les Harcourt were almost knocked from their saddles by the force of the blast. A fierce gust of wind roared around them. In the middle of the pass rocks of all sizes filled the air, some shooting skyward; others falling from the cliffs. A vast cloud of yellowish smoke obscured the trail where the mule train had been. The youthful contractor groaned - -

Les; (GROAN) It was the hitro!

Ranger; Let's see.

Adlib; (RIDEAWAY)

(HOOFS)

Annecr; Soon the three men reached the scene of the explosion and drew rein.

(HOOFS HALTING AS:)

Annecr; The smoke cloud had lifted, but the pungent odor of nitro hung in the air. Only dislodged boulders were visible on the trail. Les broke the unnatural silence with a cry -

Les; Tim! Joe!

Ranger; It's useless to call for them, Mr. Harcourt. I'm sorry.

Tonto; Men - mules - - all gone.

Les; Tim and Joe were my best friends! It's my fault they're dead.

Ranger; Don't blame yourself!

Les; I bought the cursed stuff!

Ranger; You did it in a good cause. The railroad needs that tunnel. The West needs the railroad.

Les; Now I'll never be able to finish the job.

Ranger; Why not?

Annor; The distraught contractor quickly explained his financial and engineering problems. He went on -

Les; - - - now I haven't the money to buy more nitro and keep the workers paid.

Ranger; Who sold you the explosive?

Les; Sim Sherwood of Colesport. He wanted to freight it to me under a false label.

Ranger; I see. () Now tell me - do you have any enemies?

Les; I don't know.

Ranger; Would anyone want to prevent the completion of the tunnel?

Les; My misfortune might please the owners of the Star Stage and Freight line. But what are you driving at?

Ranger; I heard a rifle shot an instant before the explosion.

Tonto; Me hear it, too.

Les; It couldn't have had any connection with this awful accident.

Ranger; Les, a rifleman looking down from the bluff on the other side of the pass would have had a clear view of the mule train.

Les; That's true, but - -

Ranger; (CUT IN) He could have safely fired a bullet into one of the packing cases.

Les; Maybe that's the answer! The impact of a bullet would have set off the nitro!

Ranger; You were fortunate not to be with the train. Your own death may have been planned.

Les; What'll I do?

Ranger; Do you think now that my friend and I can be trusted?

Les; I'll take a chance on you. I need help - - anyone's help!

Ranger; I suggest you report the explosion at your camp and then take word to the Sheriff at Colesport. Safeguard yourself - but don't mention us or the gun shot.

Les; That's understood. I hope we meet again.

Ranger; We'll see you if it's possible. Let's ride, Tonto.

Tonto; Where we go?

Ranger; To the top of the bluff! We may find evidence there - - evidence of cold blooded murder.

Adlib; (RIDEAWAY)

(HOOF'S)

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; 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)

Annrcr; Hoping to prevent the completion of a railroad tunnel, Clint Graham and Whip Tomas had fired into a mule train laden with nitroglycerin. Two men had been killed by the explosion which Les Harcourt, a tunnel contractor, believed accidental. The Lone Ranger suspected foul play. Later he and Tonto rode to the top of a bluff overlooking the scene of death and destruction. There they drew rein.

(HOOFS HALT AS:)

Adlib; (WHOA'S) (DISMOUNTS)

Annrcr; After a careful examination of the rimrock, Tonto pointed out the marks of hoofs.

Tonto; Two horses stop here, kemo sabay. Riders jump down.

Ranger; One lay prone in the bushes!

Tonto; That right! Bushes still bent down!

Ranger; How long ago do you think they were here?

Tonto; Sign show them here at time of explosion.

Ranger; Look at this, Tonto!

Tonto; What you find?

Ranger; An empty forty-five ninety cartridge! It still smells of burnt powder!

Tonto; Them fellers set off explosion with bullet!

Ranger; Which way did they go?

Tonto; Them head toward Colesport!

Ranger; We'll take their trail.

Ad lib; (MOUNTING) (RIDEAWAY)

(HOOFS)

MUSIC:

Anncr; Meanwhile, Les Harcourt had reached the construction camp near the uncompleted tunnel. Finding Molly in her father's cabin, he broke the news of the disaster as gently as possible. As the girl gave way to a wild ~~outburst~~ outburst of grief, he tried to solace her, but she shrank from his hands --

Molly; (SOBS) With father gone, everything's gone!

Les; Molly, you still have me.

Molly; You, Les -- you!

Les; I'll take care of you, darling. I love you.

Molly; You love yourself.

Les; Don't say that!

Molly; All you think of is that tunnel! All you want to do is make money and build up a reputation!

Les; Molly, your father told me only today that - that -

Molly; You took him with you because you were afraid to move that terrible explosive yourself!

Les; Tim and Joe knew nitro. They wanted to go along.

Molly; Why weren't you with them when it blew up?

Les; I'd gone ahead to stop traffic. There were loose rocks on the sides of the pass. I -

Molly; (CUT IN) You knew the danger, so you deserted them!

Les; Darling, please be fair!

Molly; Go and finish your tunnel, you coward!

Les; I can't finish it now! The nitro's gone! I'm almost broke!

Molly; You deserve to be!

Les; Perhaps, but the West doesn't deserve to lose the rail line. I wanted the tunnel to open up new country.

Molly; You may have this awful country! Now go away!

Les; I'm going, Molly.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSSES)

MUSIC: Interlude.

Annrc; It was near nightfall when Les left the Tooney cabin, a beaten, broken man. Hopelessly, he heaved himself into the saddle and headed for the Sheriff's office in Colesport. At the same time the Lone Ranger and Tonto reached the outskirts of the coast town and halted their horses.

(HOOF'S HALT AS:)

Ad 1b; (WHOA'S)

Anncr; The gathering darkness and a multitude of new hoof prints had blotted out their quarry's trail. Tonto was saying.

Tonto; We not find-um fellers now!

Ranger; Tomorrow's another day.

Tonto; What we do tonight?

Ranger; We know where to get Sim Sherwood, so we'll go after him.

MUSIC: Up and under:

Anncr; Later that night the Lone Ranger and Tonto crept up to the door of Sim Sherwood's shanty.

(OCEAN SOUNDS)

On the nearby beach the swells of an approaching storm were breaking. The masked man knocked.

(KNOCK ON DOOR)

Sim; (INSIDE) I'm coming!

(DOOR OPENS)

Ranger; Reach, Sherwood!

Sim; A masked man - and an Injun!

Tonto; Him not got gun, kemo sabay.

Sim; Take my money, but don't shoot me!

Ranger; This isn't a hold-up.

Sim; Then what do you want?

Ranger; Sherwood, we know you're a nitro smuggler. We know where your stuff is hidden.

Sim; Suppose you do. It's legal to deal in it.

Ranger; Tell that to the Sheriff! Bring him along, Tonto.

Anncr; As Tonto reached for him, Sherwood fell to the floor with a groan -

(BODY FALL)

Sim; (GROANING) My - my heart! I've breathed too much nitro - -

Tonto; It look like him have attack!

Ranger; Nitro fumes could have brought it on. Examine him.

Anncr; Holstering his gun, Tonto knelt beside the fallen man who seemed to be suffering the agonies of death. As he opened Sherwood's shirt, the smuggler suddenly jerked himself to a sitting position. At the same time he snatched the Indian's gun from its scabbard and knocked him off balance. Tonto tried to right himself.

Tonto; Watch out, Kemo Sabay!

Anncr; The gun roared!

(SHOT)

Sherwood's aim had been hasty. But the bullet ripped thru a fold in the Lone Ranger's shirt. Unable to use his own guns without endangering Tonto, the masked man leaped at Sherwood, knocking him back to the floor.

(STRUGGLE)

Ranger; Let go of that gun! (EFFORT)

Sim; (EFFORT) Never!

Anncr; The two men rolled and thrashed on the floor. The Lone Ranger had pinned down the nitro dealer's gun hand. But Sherwood was using his free hand to gouge at the masked man's eyes. Tonto regained his feet.

Tonto; Me help you, kemo sabay!

Ranger; I'll handle him!

Anncr; Jerking his head away from Sherwood's clawing fingers, the Lone Ranger crashed a fist against his jaw.

(BLOW)

Ranger; That did it!

Anncr; Sherwood quivered and relaxed. He was senseless. Scooping up the gun, the Lone Ranger stood up.

Tonto; You sure him not play possum again?

Ranger; He's really out this time. But he may come to at any moment, so don't take chances.

Tonto; Me fool to let him get gun. What we do with him?

Ranger; Grab his other arm! We'll lead him onto my horse!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annex; In the meantime Les had reached the office of Sheriff Rick Howard. He reported the explosion and deaths of his friends, but said nothing about the masked man and Indian or the shot that had preceded the blast. Sheriff Howard scratched his grizzled head - -

Sheriff; Likely a falling stone set off the consarned stuff. Where'd you get it?

Les; From Sim Sherwood.

Sheriff; So he's the buzzard who peddles it! I've been trying to stop nitro-running. So has Pete, my deputy.

Pete; We can't do much when there's nothing in the law books against it.

(DOOR OPENS, CLOSES, STEPS COMING
IN AS:)

Sheriff; Well, strike me dead! Look there.

Pete; A masked man and an Injun!

Ranger; (FADING IN) Steady men! Move on, Sherwood.

Les; They have Sim Sherwood!

(STEPS HALT)

Sheriff; What the blue blazes does this mean?

Ranger; Sheriff, here is the nitro dealer whose mislabeled shipments have caused so many deaths!

Sheriff; I know. But who are you?

Les; He's a friend of mine. I'll vouch for him!

Sheriff; What's the idea of the mask?

Ranger; It often helps me in hunting down men like Sherwood.

Sim; Sheriff, make them release me! My nitro/^{trade}is legal!

Sheriff; It's not legal when you mislabel the stuff! It's wilful misrepresentation the way you ship that nitro - and for that I'm puttin' you in jail!

Sim; Jail!

Sheriff; That's right! And I'm confiscating ~~in~~ all the nitro!

Sim; You can't do that! I'll sue you!

Sheriff; Go ahead and sue!

Ranger; That will mean publicity in the newspaper. People in this town who had friends or relatives on board that river boat when the sheak shipment of nitro blew up, will be glad to know who is to blame.

Sim; (GASPS) They - they'd mob me!

Sheriff; That's right!

Sim; Sheriff, you'd have to protect me!

Sheriff; Well, I could try. But having only one deputy, it isn't likely I could save your neck. You'd bejter not make too much noise, Sherwood. I'll help you keep your arrest quiet. We'll do our best to hold your trial and get you to the Territorial prison without a lynching.

MUSIC: Interlyde.

Annrcr; A short while later the Lone Ranger, Tonto and Les Harcourt left the Sheriff's office together.

(STEPS)

The masked man led the way to an isolated spot, then halted his friends.

(STEPS STOP, NIGHT NOISES, B.G.)

Ranger; Les, are you willing to risk your life in order to catch the men who caused the mule train explosion?

Les; Of course. But are you sure it was murder?

Ranger; Yes, the shot was aimed and fired deliberately.

Les; By whom?

Ranger; I can only guess, but I have a plan that may make it possible to trap and identify them.

Les; Then let me hear it!

Ranger; This is what we'll do!

MUSIC: Interlude

Annrcr; Later that night Whip Thomas burst into the office of the freight and stage company.

(DOOR ~~XXXXX~~ OPENS, SLAMS SHUT)

As his partner looked up from a desk, he exclaimed--

Whip; Clint, we didn't kill young Harcourt!

Clint; The heck we didn't!

Whip; I just saw him in town! He's been buying packing cases and red paint!

Clint; That means he has more nitro!

Whip; Where'd he get the money! We figured he was almost broke!

Clint; Someone must have backed him.

Whip; A feller who digs tunnels and packs nitro is a mighty poor risk.

Clint; What'll we do?

Whip; He dropped word that he'd take the stuff through the mountains tomorrow. We'll lay for him and shoot into one of the boxes from the bluff just as we did before.

Clint; This time we'll make sure we get him!

MUSIC: Interlude.

Anncr; Early the next afternoon, Les Hardourt rode into the mouth of Broken Wheel Pass driving a string of a dozen hired mules.

(HOOFS)

Les; Git up there!

Anncr; Each animal carried two red boxes that were marked "Nitro." Earlier, the Lone Ranger had left the trail to scout the high ground along the Pass. As the contractor's mules plodded on, the scene of the fatal blast became visible ahead. His breath came faster.

Les; Git up - git along there.

(HOOFS)

MUSIC: Up & under:

Annecr; At that moment, Whip Thomas and Clint Graham lay on top of the bluff from which they had fired on the nitro train the previous day. Whip was saying --

Whip; Here he comes, Clint.

Clint; It's high time. We've been waiting here since sun-up.

Whip; That's Harcourt! Get ready to shoot!

Clint; I'm ready!

Whip; Now!

Ranger; (BACK A LITTLE) Drop that rifle!

Whip; Look back of us!

Clint; A masked man! He has us covered!

Ranger; Drop that rifle over the edge.

Clint; There it goes! Don't shoot!

Ranger; Now get up! Keep your hands high!

Whip; What do you want of us?

Ranger; Right now I want your revolvers. (EFFORT) There goes one.

Annecr; Tossing Whip's six shooter over the precipice, the Lone Ranger moved to disarm Clint who carried a Colt in an old military holster with a buttoned flap. As the masked man undid the flap and grasped the gun butt, Clint jerked away.

Ranger; Stand still!

Annrcr; The gun came out in the Lone Ranger's hand. But its sudden release from the holster caused Clint to stagger backward. Then he was tottering on the edge of the bluff.

Clint; I'm going to fall! Help! Help!

Ranger; Your hand! Give me your hand!

Annrcr; The Lone Ranger clutched at one of Clint's wildly waving arms and missed. Then the eroded rimrock on the brink gave way.

(ROCK SLIDE EFFECT)

For a moment it seemed that both the masked man and the killer were doomed. The Lone Ranger went to his knees and grabbed bushes.

Ranger; Catch hold of my leg!

Clint; I can't reach it!

Annrcr; More of the rimrock fell as the masked man wormed his way to safety. With it went the screaming killer.

Clint; (YELL, FADING OUT)

Annrcr; Meanwhile, Whip had seized the opportunity to escape. Leaping into a nearby thicket where he and Clint had hidden their horses, he mounted and headed toward the tunnel.

Whip; (GIDDAP'S, BACK)

(HOOF'S BACK, START & FADE)

Annrcr; On his feet again, the Lone Ranger found that Silver, sensing his peril, had galloped up.

(NICKERS)

Annrc; The Lone Ranger swung to the saddle.

Ranger; (MOUNTS)

(HOOF'S STARTING AS:)

Ranger; Come on, Silver! After him, big fellow! Faster!

(HOOF'S FASTER)

MUSIC: Interlude.

(HOOF'S)

Annrc; Soon the fleeing killer realized that he was being chased and would soon be overtaken. He spurred his horse.

Whip; (AD LIB GIDDAP'S)

Annrc; Still the mighty stallion that bore the masked man kept gaining. As he reached the far end of the pass, Whip cut down from the high ground and headed directly for the construction camp, hoping to rearm himself. Bullets whined over his head as the Lone Ranger fired warning shots.

(SHOTS IN B.G.)

As Whip thundered into the camp, Molly Tooney heard the hoofs and gunfire. She ran out of her cabin with a revolver. The killer brought his horse to a skidding stop beside her.

Whip; (AD LIB WHOA'S)

(HOOF'S HALT)

Whip; Quick, girl! Give me that gun! (DISMOUNTS)

Molly; What's going on?

Whip; I'm being chased by an outlaw! There he comes!
See his mask!

(HOOFS FADING IN)

Molly; I see it! Take the gun!

Ranger; (BACK) Run, Miss! He's a killer!

Whip; Stand still, girl! I'm using you for a shield!

Molly; (SCREAMS) Let go of me!

Whip; Ouch! You bit me, you vixen!

Annser; As Whip relaxed his hold, Molly jerked free. The
masked man fired.

(SHOT)

Whip; (CRY OUT) My arm! He broke my arm!

Ranger; (FADING IN) Grab that gun, Miss! (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Ranger; Did you get it? (DISMOUNTS)

Molly; Yes, and it's pointing at you!

Ranger; Steady - I'm not an outlaw!

Molly; You're wearing a mask!

Ranger; Les Harcourt can explain it. We're friends.
He'll soon be here.

Molly; Why were you chasing this man?

Ranger; First may I ask who he is.

Molly; He's Whip Thomas, one of the two owners of the stage line.

Ranger; I think he and his partner shot into the nitro train yesterday, causing the explosion that killed Mitchell and Tooney.

Molly; Mike Tooney was my father! I'm Molly!

Ranger; I've heard Les speak of you.

Molly; That coward!

Ranger; Miss Molly, Les is one of the bravest and best men in the West. My Indian friend and I owe him our lives. He stopped us yesterday before we could enter the pass.

Molly; Then he did go ahead to stop travelers!

Ranger; Today he and my friend Tonto exposed themselves to the guns of the murderers by bringing another mule train thru the pass.

Molly; Here he comes now! Your Indian friend and the Sheriff are with him!

Whip; They're galloping the mules! They'll blow us all to Kingdom Come!

(HOOFS FADING IN AS:)

Ranger; Thomas, those boxes are harmless.

Whip; Harmless?

Ranger; That mule train served as a decoy. We thought you might try again to prevent the completion of the tunnel by ambushing it.

Adlib; (WHOA'S)

(HOOFS HALT)

Sheriff; Well, Mister, I see you have the other varmint!

Ranger; Yes, Sheriff. Do you know the story?

Sheriff; Les told me everything after I overtook him on the trail. What happened here?

Ranger; I had to wing Thomas. He tried to use Miss Molly as a shield.

Les; Molly, darling, did he hurt you?

Molly; No, Les. But it hurts me to know how I misjudged you. The masked man has told me what you did. Please forgive me.

Les; Forgive you! Aw-w Molly - -

Sheriff; I reckon I'd best be taking this killer to Colesport.

Whip; You can't prove I ever killed anybody!

Sheriff; We have Clint Graham, your partner. My deputy is taking him to town.

Whip; I thought he fell off the bluff! I heard him yell!

Sheriff; I saw what happened from a distance. The masked man didn't fall, did he?

Whip; No, but -

Sheriff; (CUT IN) If you're smart, you'll talk. Clint has fixed it so he'll escape being hanged.

Whip; So he's blabbed! He's going to turn State's Evidence!

Sheriff; What do you think?

Whip; The polecat's going to swing with me! He got me to shoot into that nitro yesterday! He's as guilty as I am!

Sheriff; You heard his confession, folks. Remember it.

Whip; Just lock me in the same cell with Clint.

Sheriff; Whip, I didn't say we'd taken your partner prisoner. He's as dead as a five hundred foot fall could make him.

Whip; You tricked me!

Ranger; Good work, Sheriff.

Sheriff; You didn't leave me much to do, Mister.

Ranger; What about Sim Sherwood's nitro?

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Sheriff;

Sherwood turned it over to me. He relinquished all claim to it in the hope of reducing his sentence. Now folks are saying I have to get rid of it.

Les;

How, Sheriff?

Sheriff;

Well, it's too dangerous to move or to store - and I can't find anyone who'll pay real money for it, so I reckon I'd be within my authority to sell it to the first one who makes a reasonable offer.

Les; (BITTERLY) I'm just about broke except for the cash I'll need to meet my payroll.

Sheriff; Make an offer.

Les; Sheriff, by cutting corners, I might raise a hundred dollars - - -

Sheriff; Sold!

Les; You mean that.

Sheriff; A hundred dollars cash'll do more good in Colesport than a lot of nitroglycerin. You've bought the nitro.

Les; Then my tunnel will go thru.

Ranger; All is as it should be! Tonto, it's time for us to go.

Les; Mister, I wish I could reward you for what you've done. If there is anything you want -

Ranger; (CUT IN) Tonto and I only want to be of service. Adios, all.

Adlib; (ADIOS)

Molly;

Les, that masked man certainly set a lot
of things right.

Les;

It isn't the first time he's done that. I
learned from the Indian that he's the Lone
Ranger.

Ranger;

(BACK) Hiyo Silver, away!

theme.