

DELL

AUG.-OCT. *GW*

Still 10¢

NO. 1013

BAT MASTERSON

They called him
a dude . . .
until
he used
his cane
against
the
tough
crew!

GENE BARRY

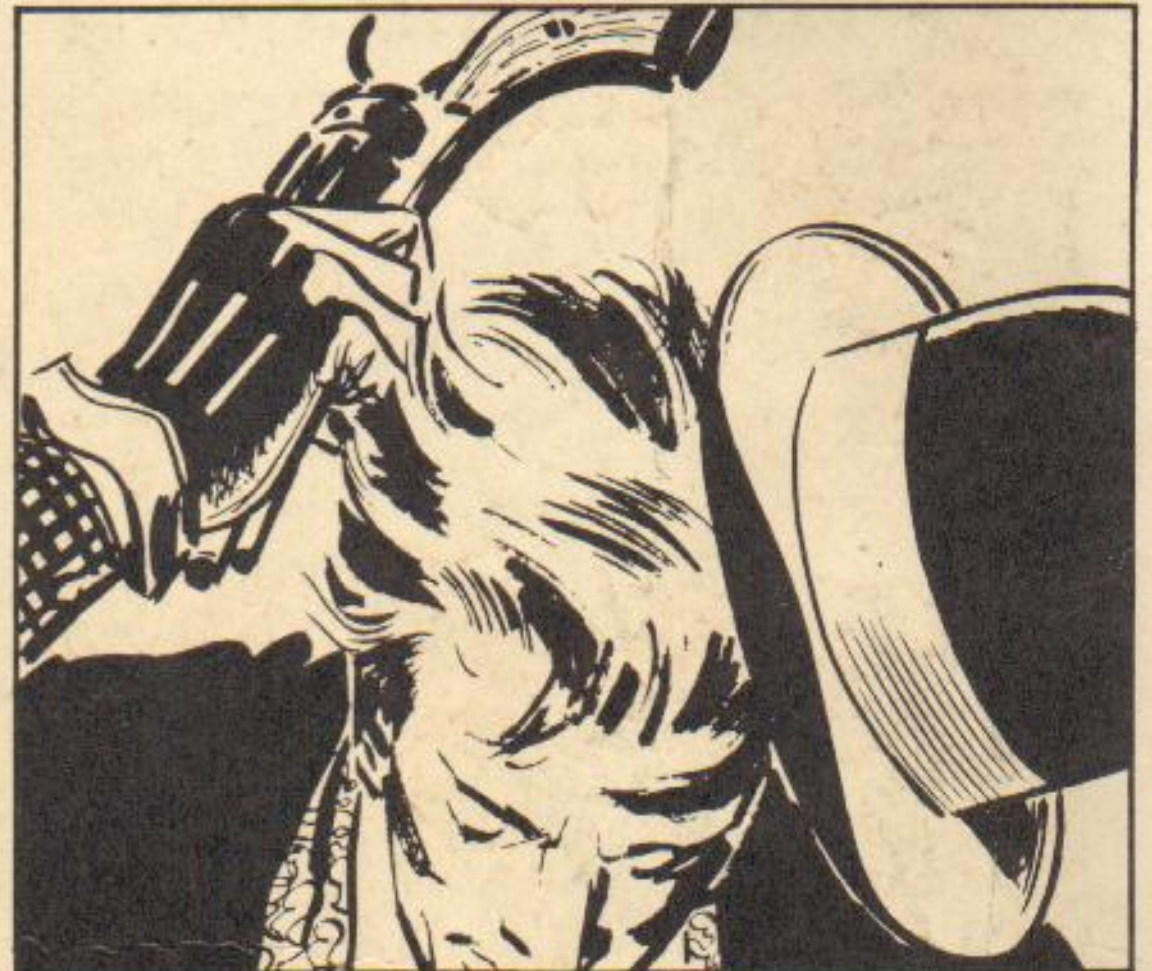




Defending an orphan from a brutal bully . . .



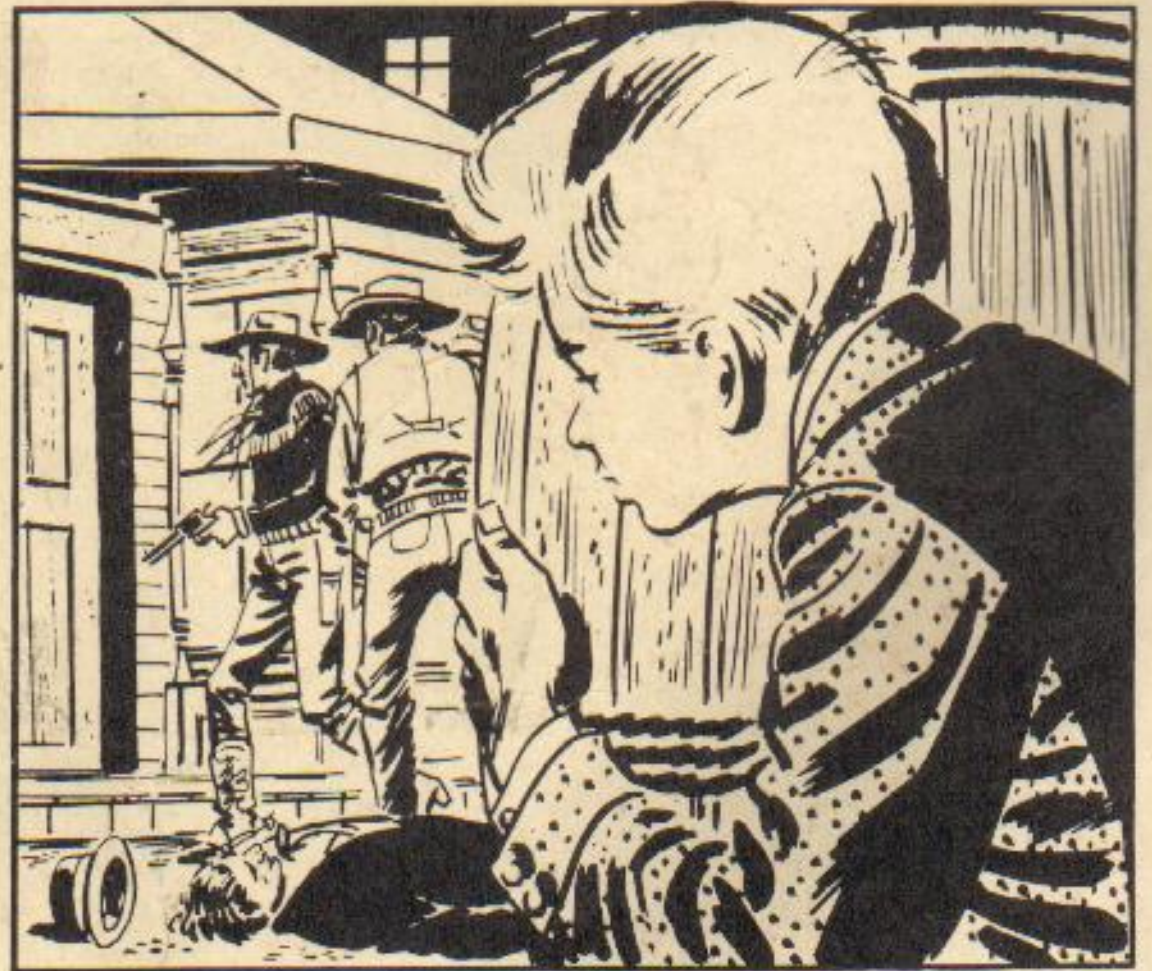
Bat arouses the anger of an outlaw gang.



When he reels under a treacherous blow . . .



No one dares defy the lawless breed . . .



except the grateful, orphan boy.

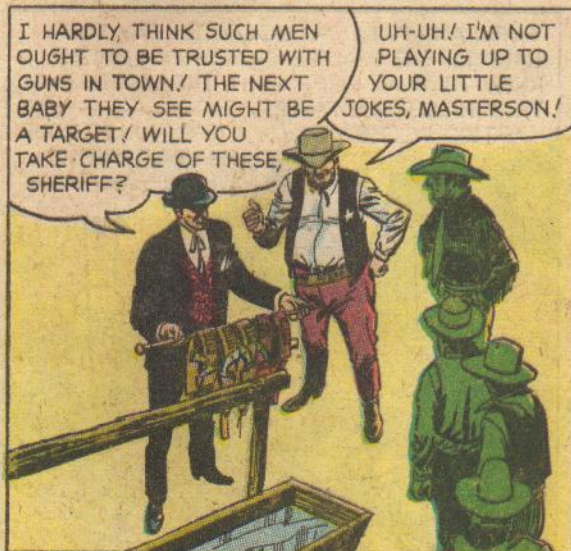
BAT MASTERSON



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MISTER
MASTERSON?

WELL! COME IN, MY FRIEND! I
WONDERED WHAT HAPPENED
TO YOU!



I FOLLOWED THAT CREW
OF GUNSLINGING APES, AND
I HEARD THEM TALKING IN
THE SALOON! THEY ARE
PLANNING TO KILL YOU
WHEN YOU'RE NOT LOOKING!

THANK YOU!
AND NOW, WON'T
YOU JOIN ME AT
SUPPER? AND
TELL ME YOUR
NAME?



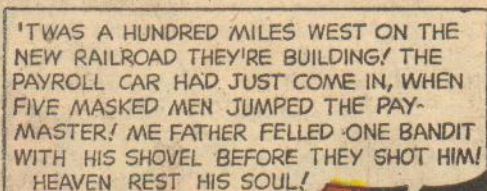
ME NAME IS TERENCE
O'ROURKE, AND I'LL BE
PROUD TO ACCEPT YOUR
INVITATION, MR. MASTERSON!

CALL ME "BAT"!/
AND I'M PROUD
TO KNOW YOU,
TERENCE
O'ROURKE!



SURE, AND IT DID ME GOOD, THE WAY YOU
HANDLED THE SPALPEENS, MR.—ER—BAT! I
KNEW THEM AT FIRST SIGHT, THE SAME GANG
THAT KILLED ME FATHER,
TWO WEEKS AGO!

THEY KILLED YOUR
FATHER, TERRY?
WHERE—AND HOW?

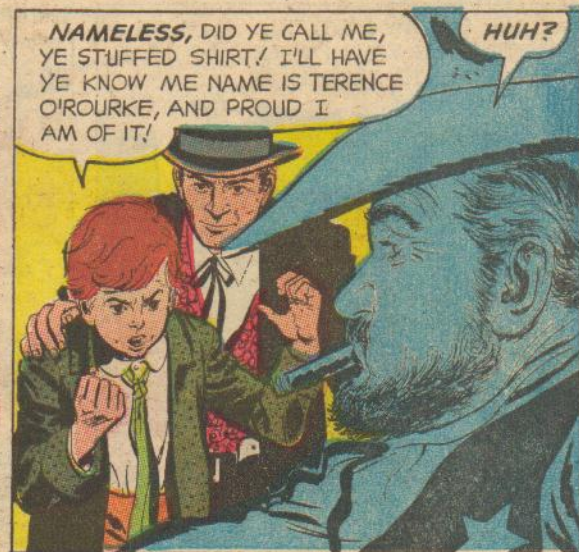


'T WAS A HUNDRED MILES WEST ON THE
NEW RAILROAD THEY'RE BUILDING! THE
PAYROLL CAR HAD JUST COME IN, WHEN
FIVE MASKED MEN JUMPED THE PAY-
MASTER! ME FATHER FELLED ONE BANDIT
WITH HIS SHOVEL BEFORE THEY SHOT HIM!
HEAVEN REST HIS SOUL!



THE LAST THING ME FATHER
SAID WAS: "TERRY, WHEREVER
YE GO, I KNOW YE'LL BE A
CREDIT TO THE NAME
OF O'ROURKE!"

AND YOU WILL BE,
TERRY! I'M SURE
OF IT!





TERRY, MY BOY, I'M WRITING A NOTE TO THE HOTEL KEEPER TO GIVE YOU A ROOM NEXT TO MINE AND THREE MEALS A DAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

FOR WHAT, MR. MASTERSON? AN O'ROURKE CANNOT TAKE CHARITY!



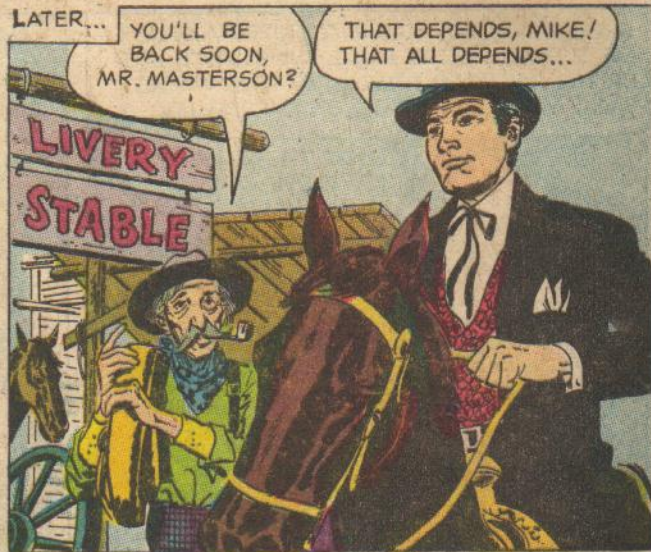
I WOULD NEVER INSULT YOU BY **OFFERING** YOU CHARITY, TERENCE! **THIS** IS THE BEGINNING OF A PARTNERSHIP! YOU'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON THAT GANG FOR ME!

WELL—IF YE PUT IT **THAT** WAY, BAT...



...AND FOR MY PART, I'LL TRY TO BRING YOUR FATHER'S MURDERERS TO JUSTICE! IS IT AGREED?

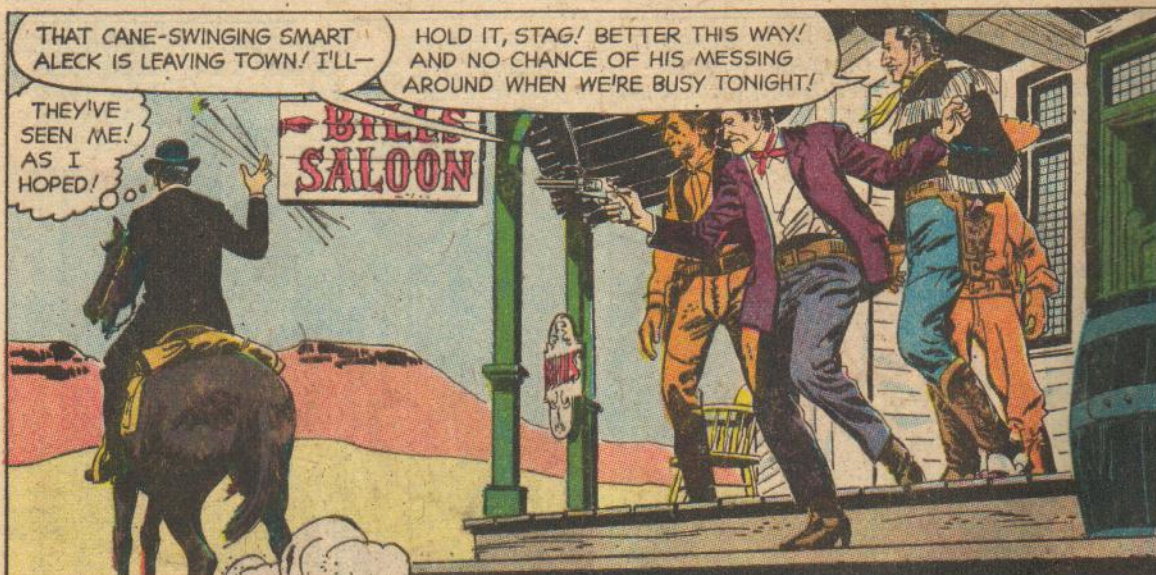
SURE, AND IT IS—**PARDNER!**



LATER...

YOU'LL BE BACK SOON, MR. MASTERSON?

THAT DEPENDS, MIKE! THAT ALL DEPENDS...



THAT CANE-SWINGING SMART ALECK IS LEAVING TOWN! I'LL—

HOLD IT, STAG! BETTER THIS WAY! AND NO CHANCE OF HIS MESSING AROUND WHEN WE'RE BUSY TONIGHT!

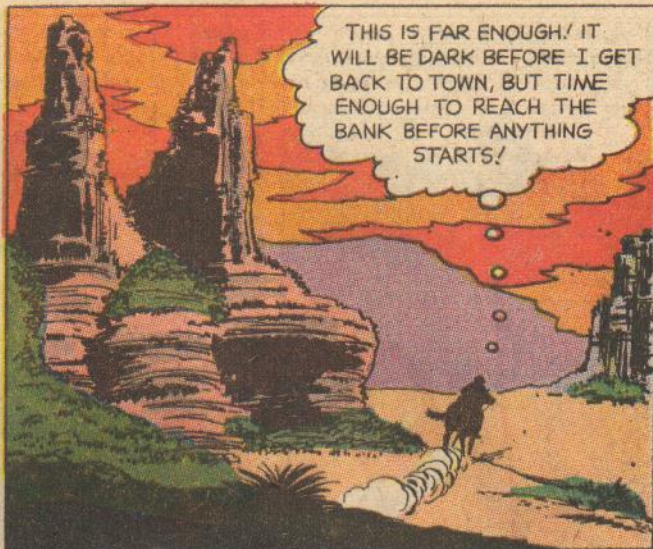
THEY'VE SEEN ME! AS I HOPED!

BILLS SALOON

I'M BETTING THAT GANG IS IN TOWN TO CRACK THE BANK! AND SINCE THE SHERIFF WON'T LISTEN TO ME, I'LL HAVE TO PLAY A LONE HAND AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE!



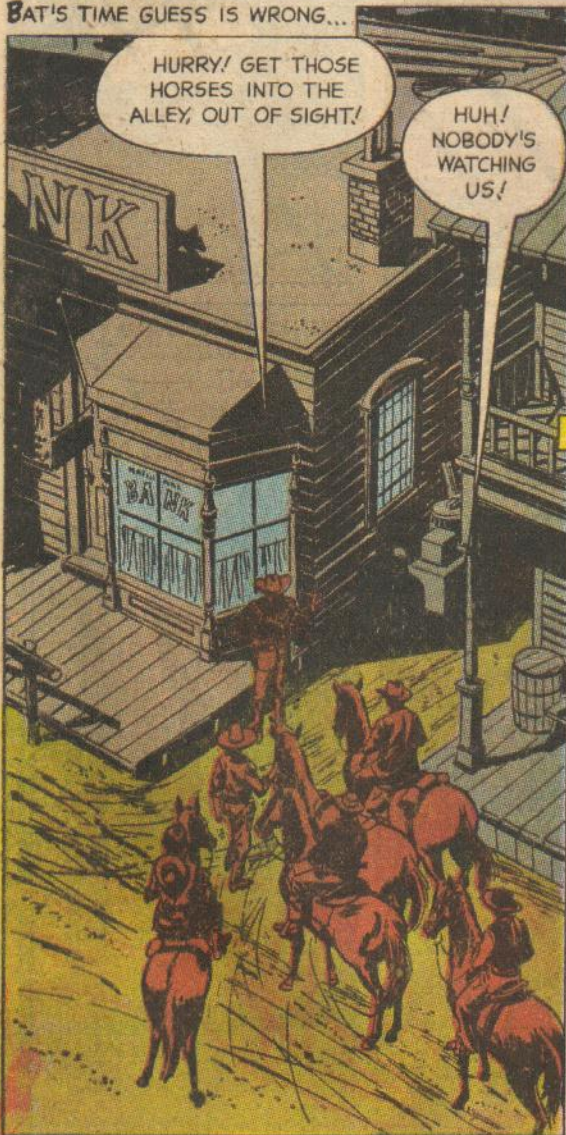
THIS IS FAR ENOUGH! IT WILL BE DARK BEFORE I GET BACK TO TOWN, BUT TIME ENOUGH TO REACH THE BANK BEFORE ANYTHING STARTS!



BAT'S TIME GUESS IS WRONG...

HURRY! GET THOSE HORSES INTO THE ALLEY, OUT OF SIGHT!

HUH! NOBODY'S WATCHING US!



...BUT SOMEBODY *IS* WATCHING THE TOUGH CREW'S MOVEMENTS!

THERE THEY GO BEHIND THE BANK, THE SPALPEENS! AND BAT'S NOT AROUND!



WATCH THE HORSES, BADGER! THE REST OF YOU CLIMB THIS ROPE!





YOU KNOW
WHERE TO
OPEN UP
THE ROOF,

MOST ANY-
WHERE WILL DO!
IT'S THE SAFE
WE'RE AFTER!



WHAT CAN I DO? THE SHERIFF
WILL LAUGH AT ME IF I TELL
HIM THE BANK IS BEING
ROBBED!



I'LL FIND SOMEBODY
WHO WILL LISTEN
TO ME!



PRAISES BE!
IT'S **HIMSELF!**

TERRY!
WHAT'S UP?



THE ROBBERS ARE BREAKING
INTO THE BANK THIS MINUTE,
BAT! ONE OF THE SPALPEENS
IS HOLDING
THEIR HORSES
IN THE BACK
ALLEY!

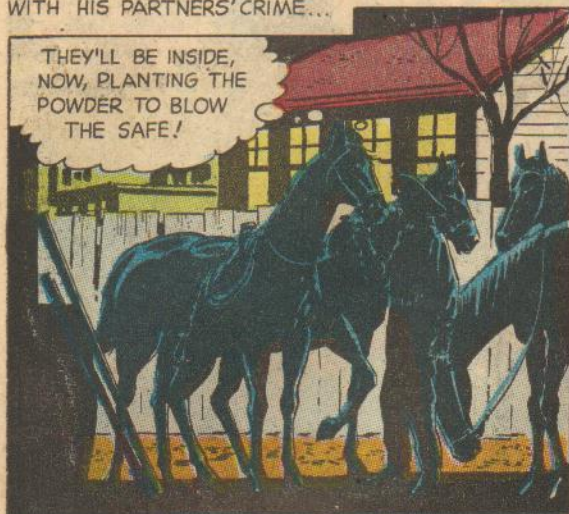
SHOW ME, TERRY
--- AND THEN
ROUSE THE TOWN!



THE HORSES ARE IN
THE BACK ALLEY, JUST
AHEAD, BAT!

GOOD! NOW
FIND JUDGE
AMES AND TELL
HIM!

IN THE BACK ALLEY BADGER'S THOUGHTS ARE ALL ...UNTIL AN ARM OF STEEL SHUTS OFF HIS WIND!
WITH HIS PARTNERS' CRIME...





STILL NO SIGN OF OUR FELLOW-TOWNSMEN! TERRY MUST HAVE RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES... BUT THE ROBBERS HAVEN'T LEFT!



HA! THERE GOES THE SAFE!

BOOM!



THEY WILL PROBABLY COME OUT THAT BACK DOOR! I HOPE I'M RIGHT!



JUDGE AMES AND A CROWD FROM THE LONGHORN ARE COMING, BAT!

GOOD BOY, TERRY! NOW DUCK-OUT OF SIGHT, I DON'T WANT YOU STOPPING A STRAY BULLET!



THE DOOR, BAT! IT'S OPENING!

I SEE IT! NOW CLEAR OUT!



OKAY! COME ON!







I WAS JUST—UMM!—
WONDERING THE SAME
THING, JUDGE! BUT I
GUESS I'M STILL—
OUCH! MY HEAD!

SURE, YE SHOULD
KNOW BETTER
THAN TO STOP
BULLETS WITH
IT, PARDNER!



YOU DOWNED ALL
FOUR OF THOSE BAD-
MEN, MASTERSON?

ONLY THREE BEFORE
MY LIGHT WENT OUT!
I WONDER—!



YOUR GUN, BAT!
IT'S EMPTY!

EMPTY! THEN YOU'RE
THE ONE WHO EMPTIED
IT, TERRY— AT THE
FOURTH ROBBER! I
HAD ONE
SHOT LEFT!



SO, YOU CAUGHT HIM
RED-HANDED, JUDGE!
**BAT MASTERSON,
BANK ROBBER!**
I KNEW THIS AFTER-
NOON HE WAS UP
TO SOMETHING!

SHERIFF WATERS,
YOU'RE A FOOL!

AN' A
STUFFED
SHIRT!



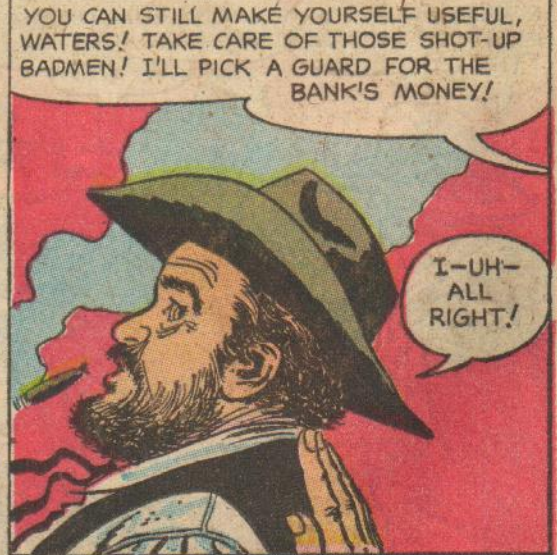
WHA-WHAT NAME
ARE YOU CALLING
ME, JUDGE?

I SAID YOU'RE A FOOL,
WATERS! A STEM-WINDING,
NICKEL-PLATED FOOL! BAT
MASTERSON **STOPPED** THE
ROBBERY!



YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL,
WATERS! TAKE CARE OF THOSE SHOT-UP
BADMEN! I'LL PICK A GUARD FOR THE
BANK'S MONEY!

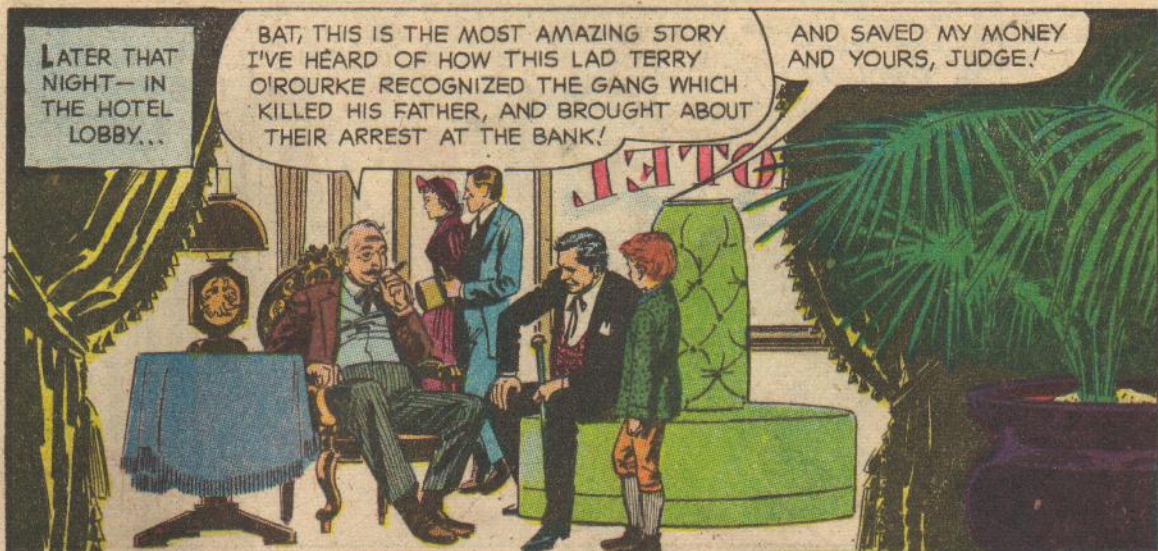
I—UH—
ALL
RIGHT!



LATER THAT NIGHT—
IN THE HOTEL
LOBBY...

BAT, THIS IS THE MOST AMAZING STORY
I'VE HEARD OF HOW THIS LAD TERRY
O'ROURKE RECOGNIZED THE GANG WHICH
KILLED HIS FATHER, AND BROUGHT ABOUT
THEIR ARREST AT THE BANK!

AND SAVED MY MONEY
AND YOURS, JUDGE!



THEY'LL COME TO TRIAL
FOR MURDER! BUT TO
MAKE SURE THE BOY'S
WORD IS NOT DOUBTED
BY THE JURY, WE'LL
HOPE TO GET A
CONFESSION!

LEAVE
THAT
TO ME,
JUDGE! I KNOW
THE WEAKNESS
OF THE
CRIMINAL
MIND!



AND I HAVE SOMETHING ELSE
TO DISCUSS WITH YOU, JUDGE!
BUT FIRST—



PARDNER, YOU'VE HAD A HARD
DAY, AND YOU AND I HAVE A
LOT TO DO TOMORROW! HOW
ABOUT TURNING IN FOR
THE NIGHT?

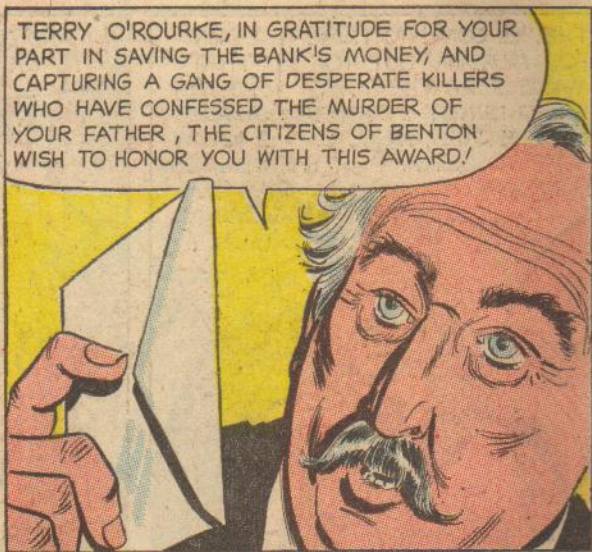
SURE,
IF THERE'S
NOTHING YE
NEED ME
FOR RIGHT
NOW, BAT—
(YAWN)!



...I'LL JUST PUT OFF
CLEANING YOUR GUN
FOR YE UNTIL THE MORN-
ING! GOOD NIGHT!



NEXT DAY—
OUTSIDE THE
HOTEL...



BAT MASTERSON

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT GOLD NUGGET, LITTLE MAN?

I-I'M PAYING THE BARTENDER WITH IT! I'M OUT OF CASH!

THE TREASURE HOLE

I ASKED YOU A QUESTION! *WHERE DID YOU GET IT?*

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! LET GO!

DON'T YOU DARE HOLD OUT ON ME! I WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT GOLD! *QUICK!* BEFORE I—

PUT THAT GUN AWAY! *PUT IT AWAY!*

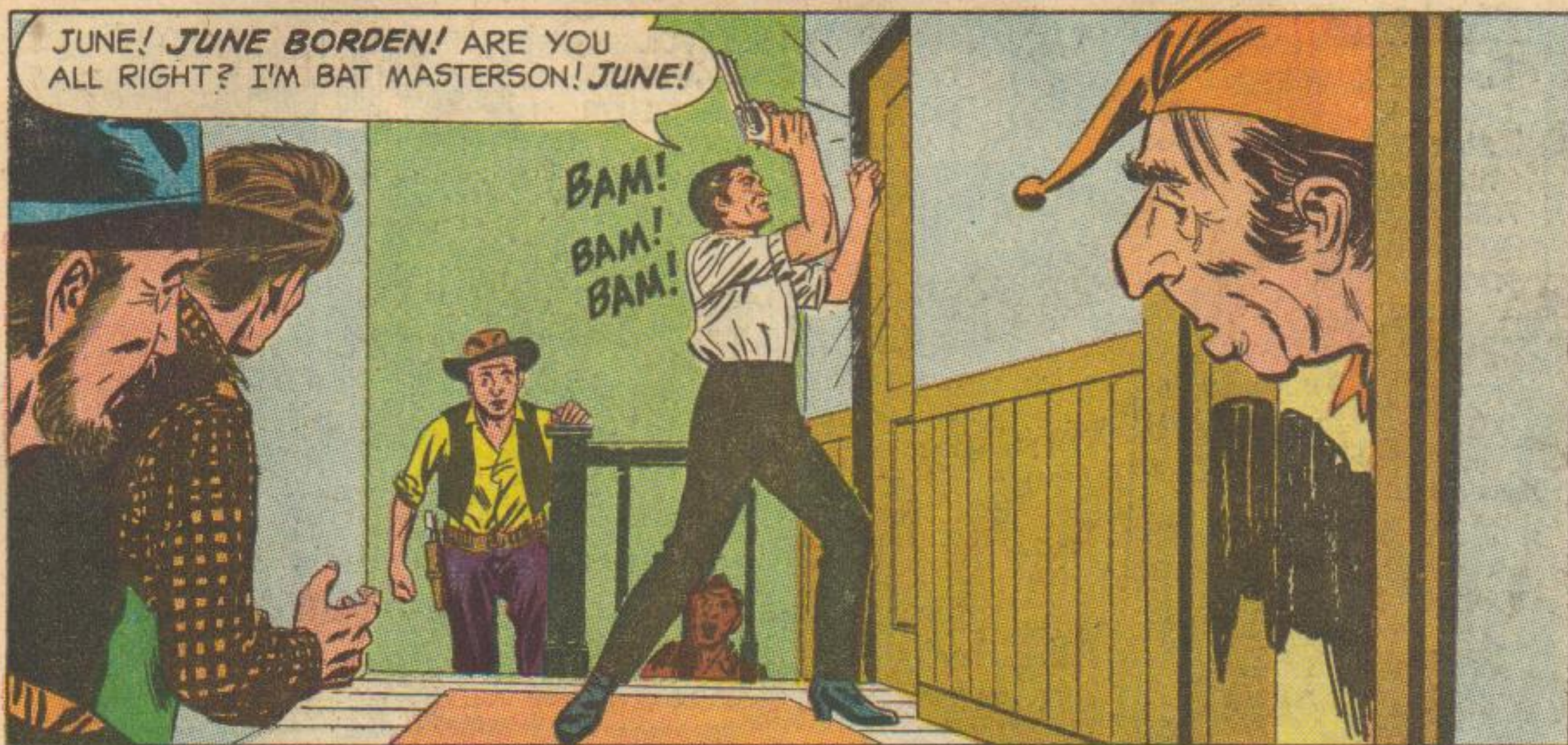
BLAM!

AIEEE!

MURDERER!









YOU CERTAINLY DID WARN ALL WOULD-BE THIEVES, THOUGH! I DON'T THINK YOU'LL BE BOTHERED AGAIN TONIGHT! ANYHOW, I'LL REMOVE THAT LADDER!

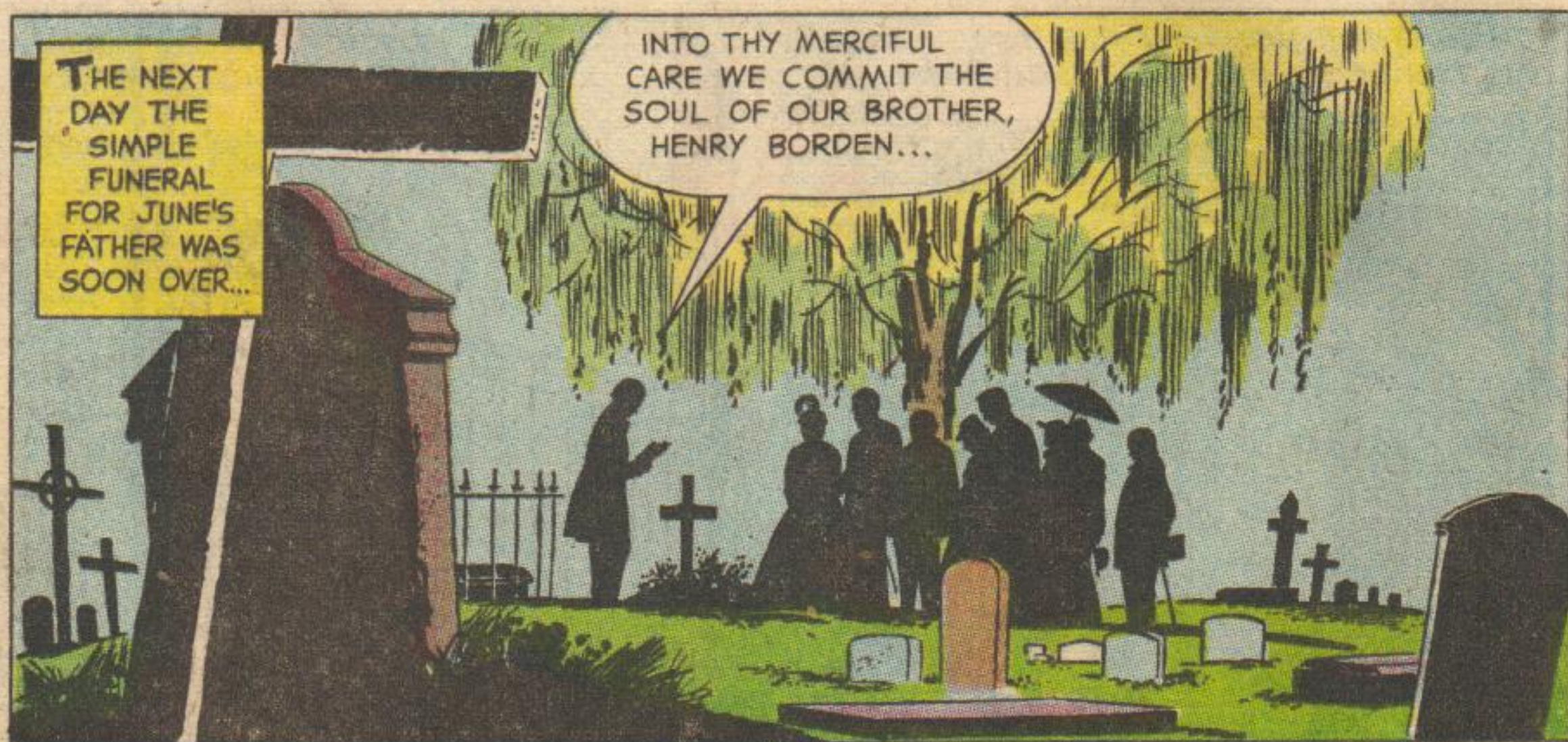
I-I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU, BAT! I WAS **SCARED!** BUT I'M NOT ANY MORE!



THAT'S ALL, NEIGHBORS! EXCITEMENT IS OVER FOR TONIGHT! LET THE LADY GO BACK TO SLEEP!

OKAY, OKAY! WE JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON!

NOTE



THE NEXT DAY THE SIMPLE FUNERAL FOR JUNE'S FATHER WAS SOON OVER...

INTO THY MERCIFUL CARE WE COMMIT THE SOUL OF OUR BROTHER, HENRY BORDEN...



JUNE, HAVE YOU ANY PLANS? THE EAST-BOUND STAGE LEAVES —

I'M NOT TAKING IT, BAT! I'M STAYING HERE, TO WORK MY FATHER'S CLAIM!



LOWER YOUR VOICE STILL MORE, JUNE! THERE'S A GREEDY CHARACTER FOLLOWING US — WHO **SAW** YOUR FATHER DRAW THAT MAP!

OH! YOU SEEM TO SEE EVERYTHING, BAT MASTERSON!



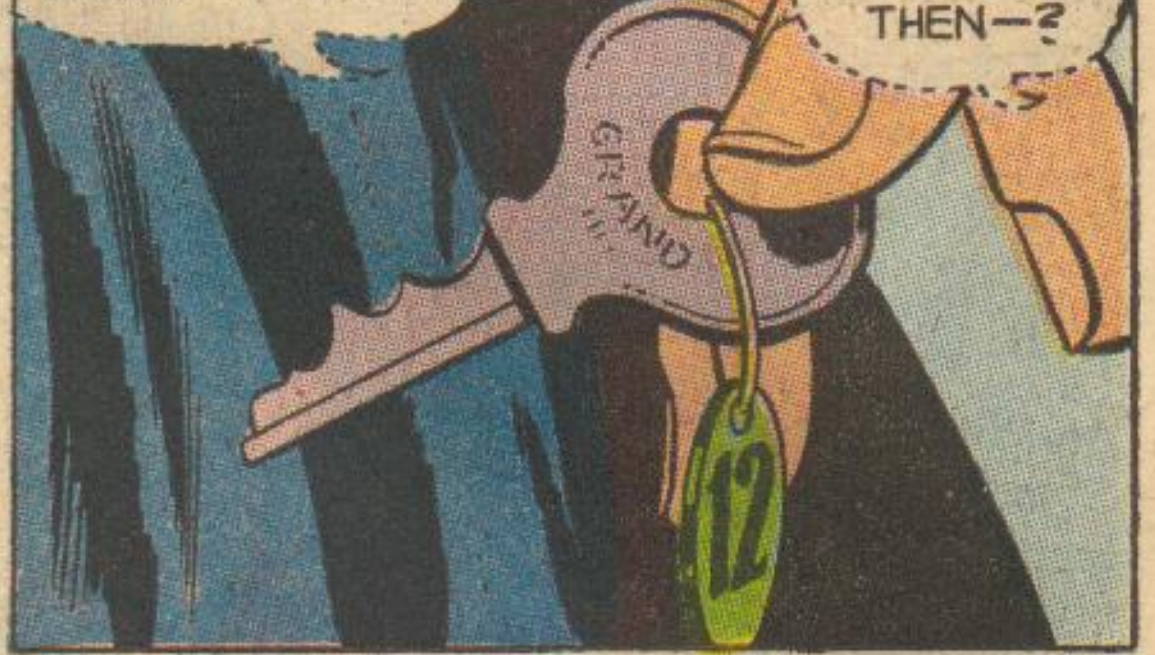
YOU'LL BE SAFER—NOW THAT SHIFTY AND EVERYBODY ELSE THINK YOU'VE SOLD YOUR FATHER'S MAP AND GOLD STRIKE TO ME!

DENTIST



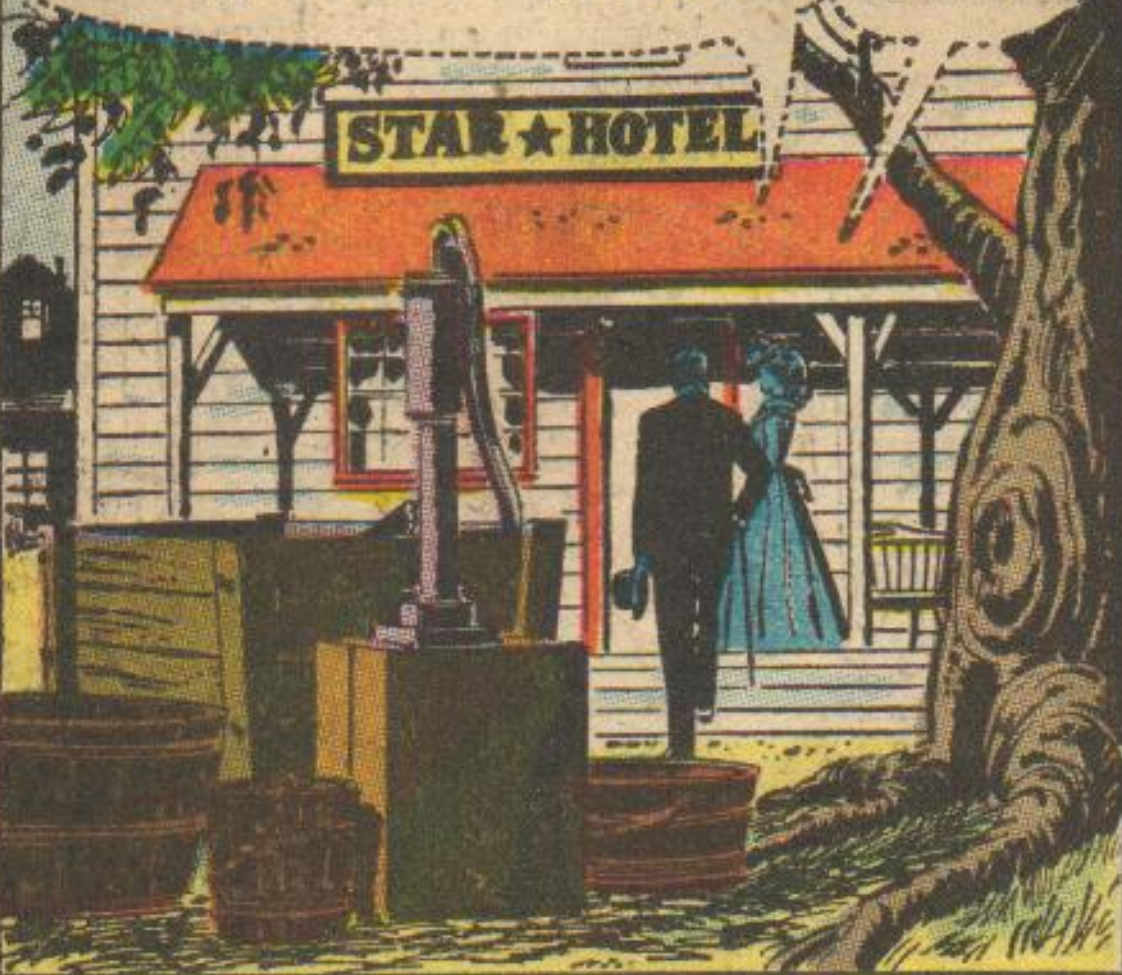
HERE'S THE KEY TO MY ROOM! YOU'LL FIND MY RANGE CLOTHES AND EXTRA BOOTS A BIT TOO LARGE FOR YOU, BUT THAT CAN'T BE HELPED! HIDE YOUR HAIR UNDER A HAT!

AND THEN—?



I'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY MINUTES! BE WATCHING OUT OF MY WINDOW, AND THE MOMENT I RIDE UP, YOU COME DOWN! NO DELAY!

NO DELAY!



SHIFTY IS STILL TAGGING ME—FIGURING THAT I'VE GOT THE MAP, NOW!



TELL ME, BEN—WHERE CAN I BUY A COUPLE OF GOOD PACK-BURROS? I'LL BE NEEDING THEM RIGHT AWAY!

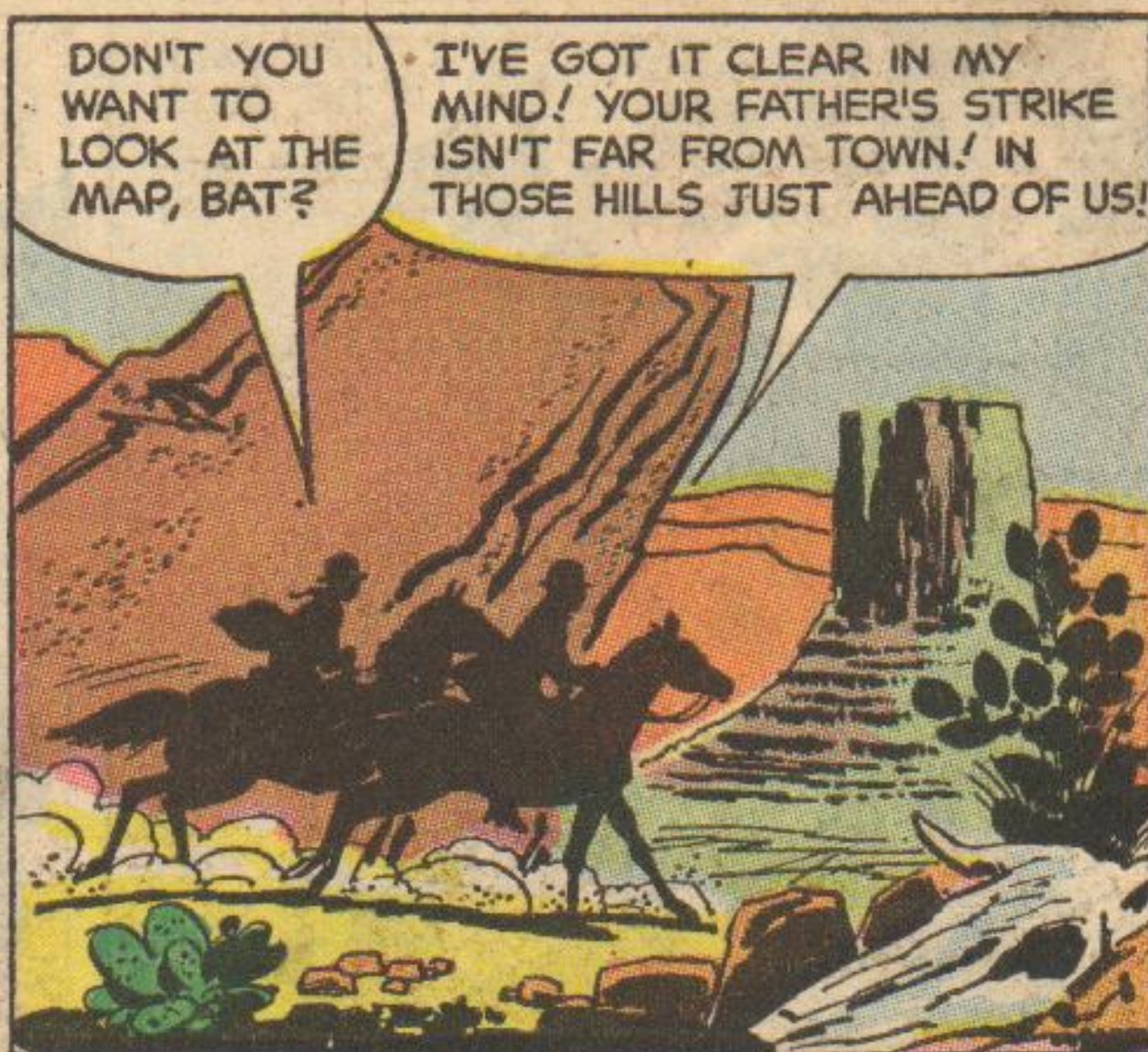
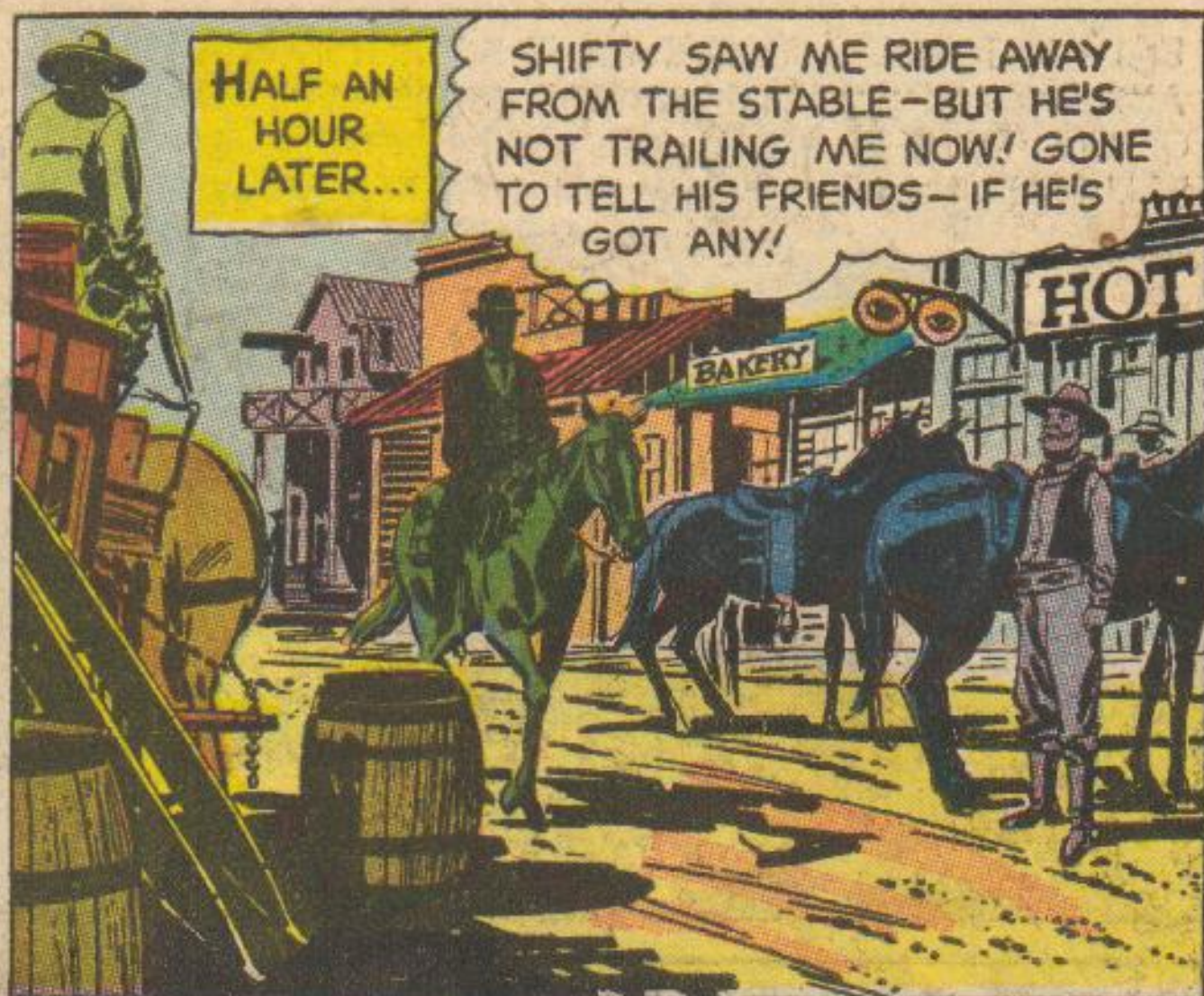
I THINK CACTUS JIM HAS A PAIR YOU COULD BUY, MR. MASTERSON!



THE BURRO BUSINESS IS FOR EAVESDROPPERS! SADDLE A GENTLE HORSE, AND TIE IT TO THE HOTEL HITCH RAIL IN TEN MINUTES, BEN! MAKE SOME EXCUSE—ALoud!

UH...I'LL SEE IF I CAN'T FIND JIM FOR YOU! GOT A SORREL MARE TO DELIVER DOWNTOWN!





BAT—IS THERE ANY CHANCE OF OUR BEING FOLLOWED NOW?

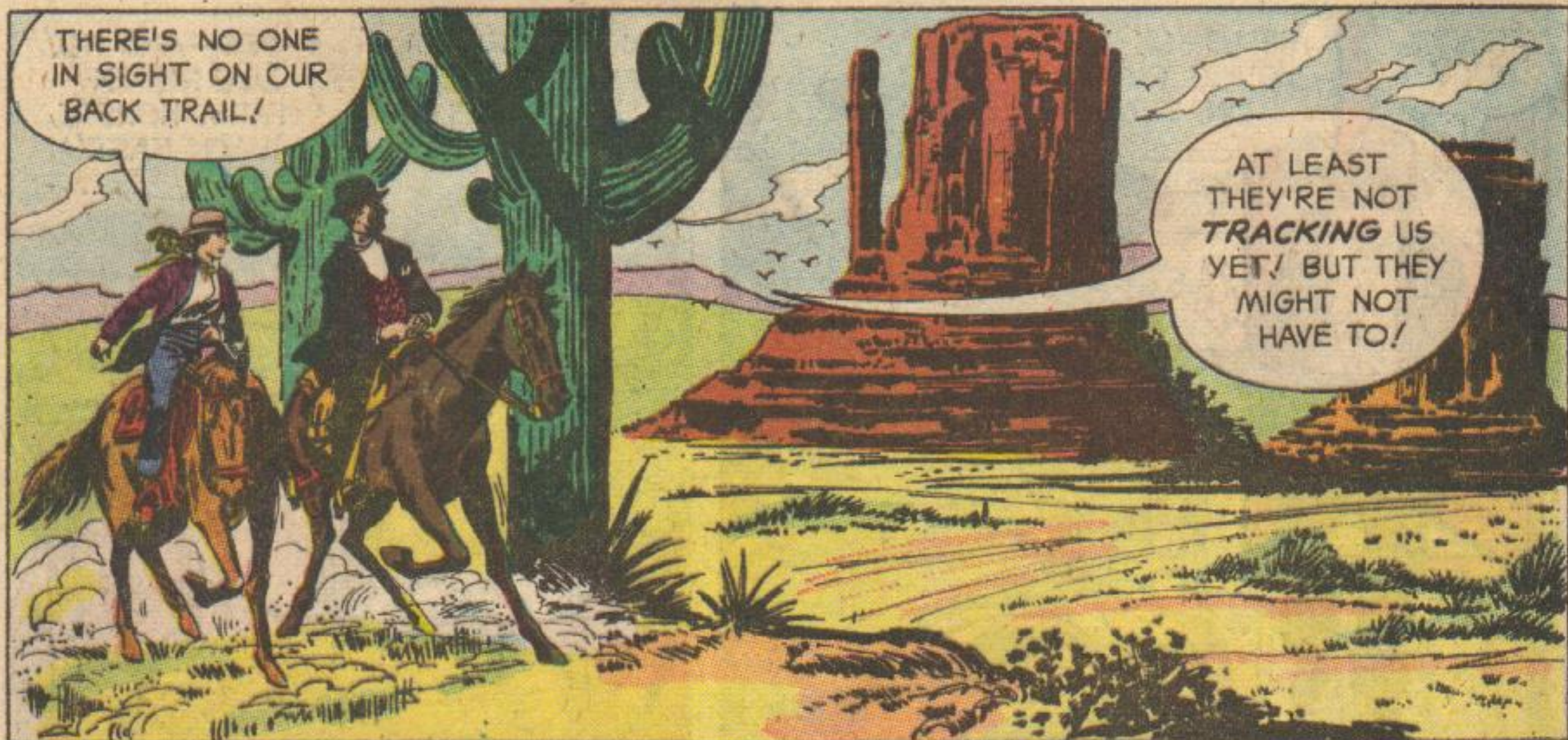
THAT'S WHAT BOTHERS ME A LITTLE! SHIFTY MEANS—THE MAN WHO WAS EAVESDROPPING ON US — SAW YOUR FATHER DRAW THE MAP! HE **MIGHT** HAVE REMEMBERED JUST ENOUGH TO GUESS WHERE WE'VE GONE!



THERE'S A LITTLE MORE THAT YOUR FATHER WHISPERED IN MY EAR! HE SAID THE STRIKE IS IN A DRY WASH WHICH RUNS THROUGH A LITTLE GULCH! HE DUG A SEEP WELL—AND HE LEFT HIS BURROS THERE, WHEN HE WENT TO MEET THE STAGE!



THERE'S NO ONE IN SIGHT ON OUR BACK TRAIL!



AT LEAST THEY'RE NOT **TRACKING** US YET! BUT THEY MIGHT NOT HAVE TO!

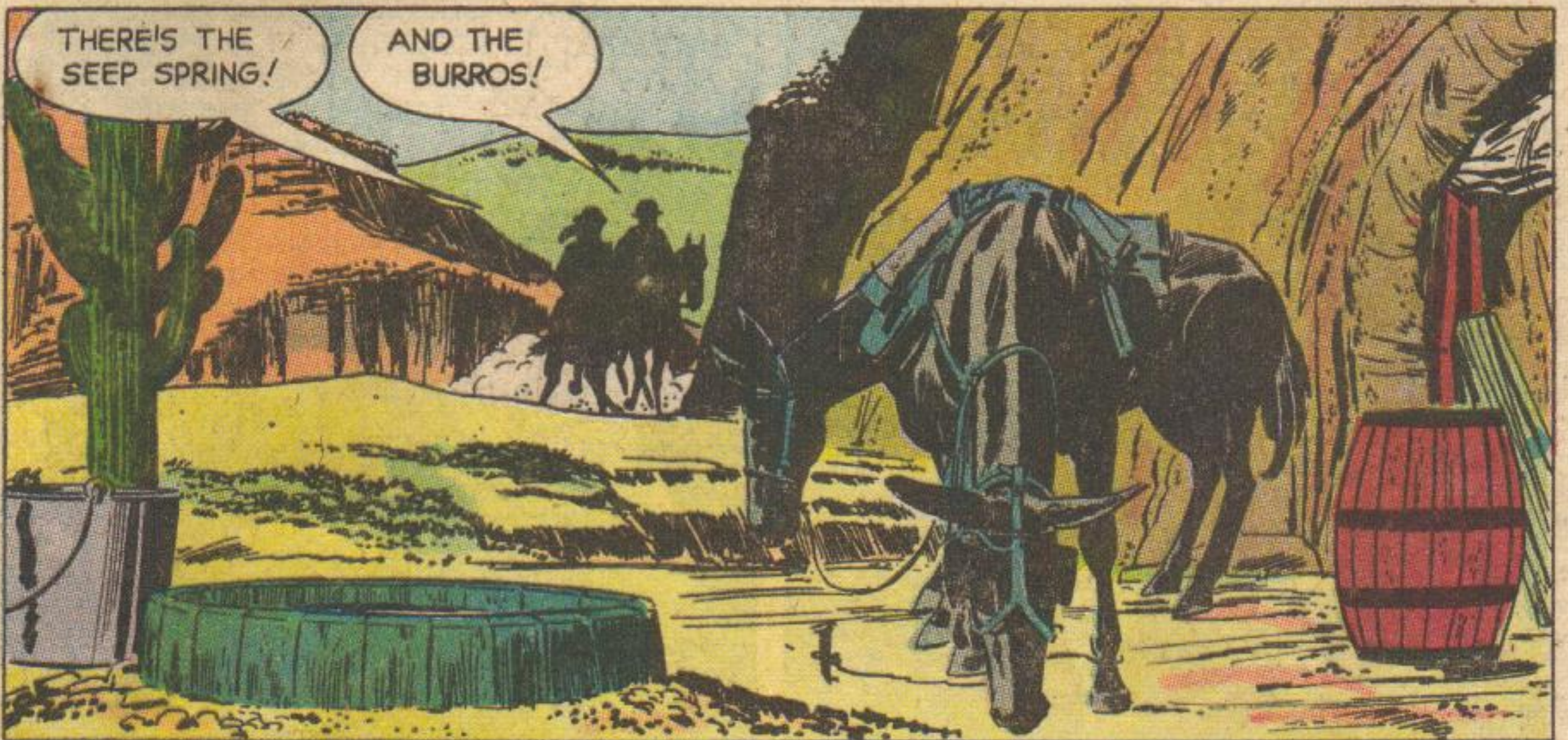
I THINK **THIS** IS THE GULCH!



SOMEBODY HAS BEEN DIGGING HERE—LATELY! IN THIS LITTLE GULLY!

YOU THINK IT WAS MY FATHER?





DAD WROTE ABOUT A "**TREASURE HOLE**," TOO, WHERE HE HAD HIDDEN ALL THE GOLD HE HAD WASHED OUT. BUT HE DIDN'T SAY **WHERE!**

UMMMM! MAYBE WE'LL NEVER FIND IT THEN!



BUT WE'LL SEE WHAT "VALUES" THERE MAY BE IN THIS DIGGING, ANYWAY!

I'M ALL EXCITED! HOW DO YOU "WASH" IT, BAT?



BAT! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK—QUEER!

THERE'S SOMETHING AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS KEG, JUNE—AND I'M STUCK WITH A SUDDEN THOUGHT...



BAT! WHAT IS IT?

SOMETHING IN A SACK! IT'S **VERY** HEAVY!



IS IT—**GOLD?** TELL ME, BAT!

UGHH! IT HAS TO BE GOLD! BUT WE'LL MAKE SURE...

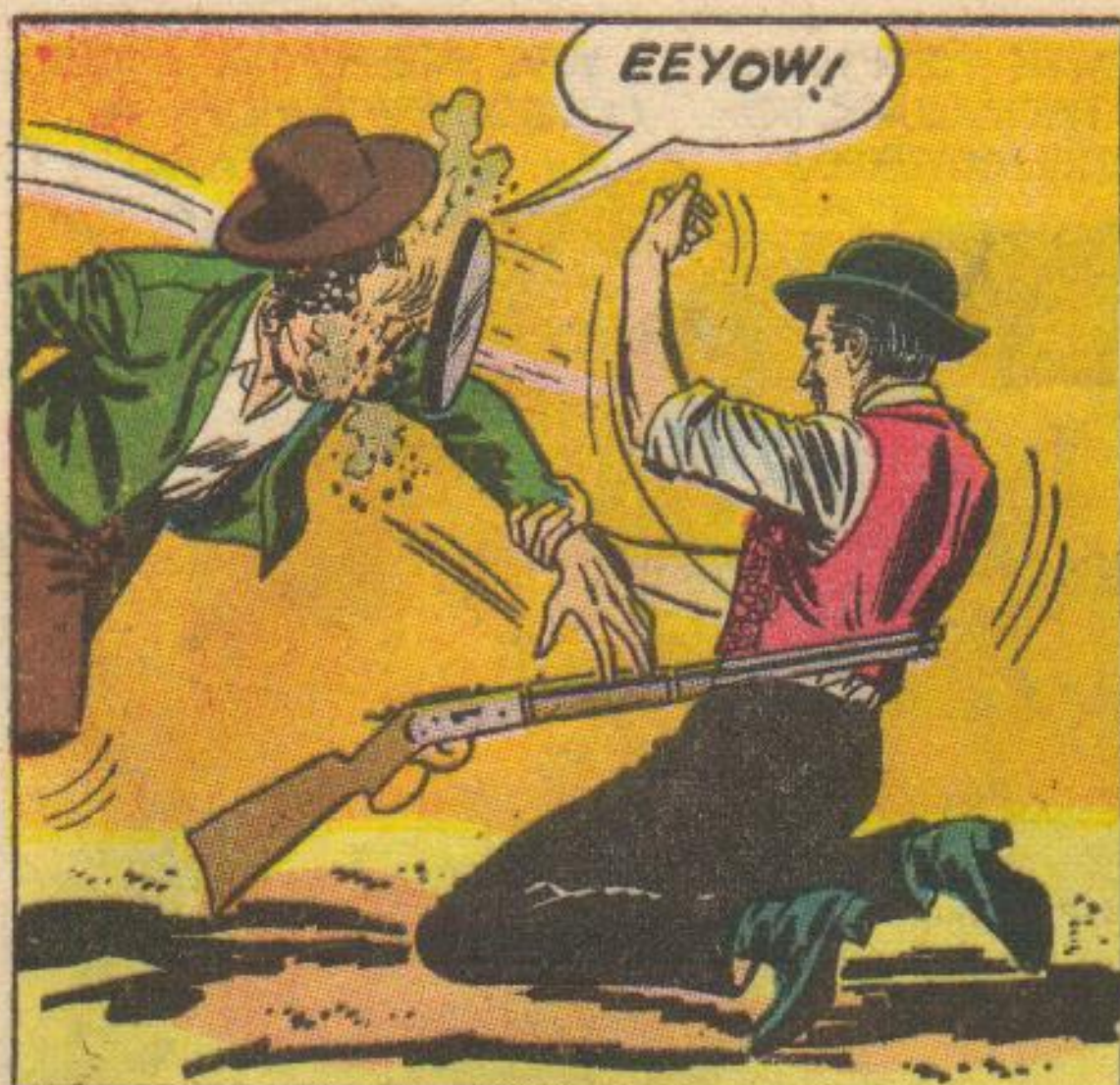


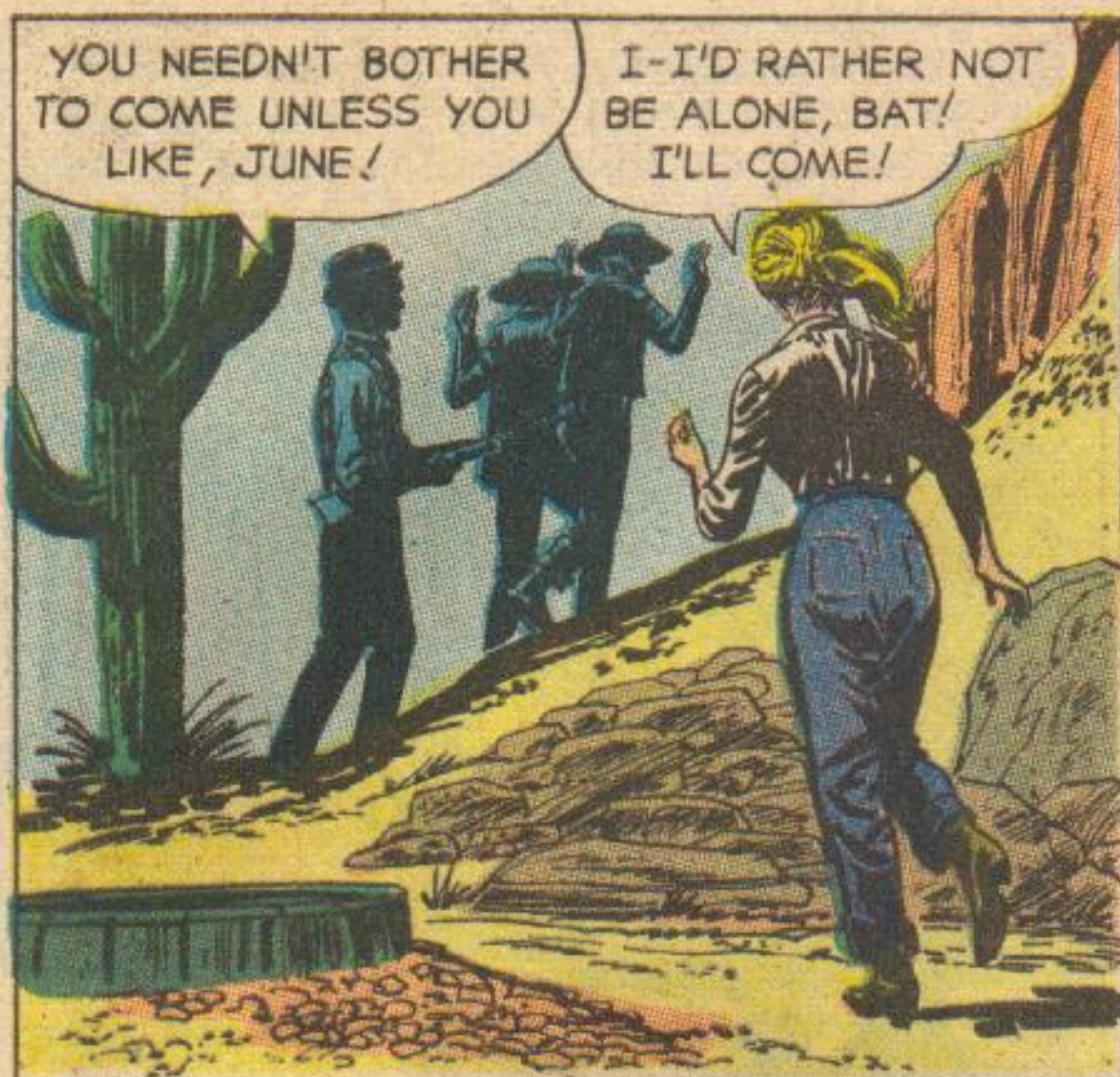
BAT! WHAT'S WRONG, NOW?

SHHH! HAND ME MY GOLD PAN, QUICKLY!



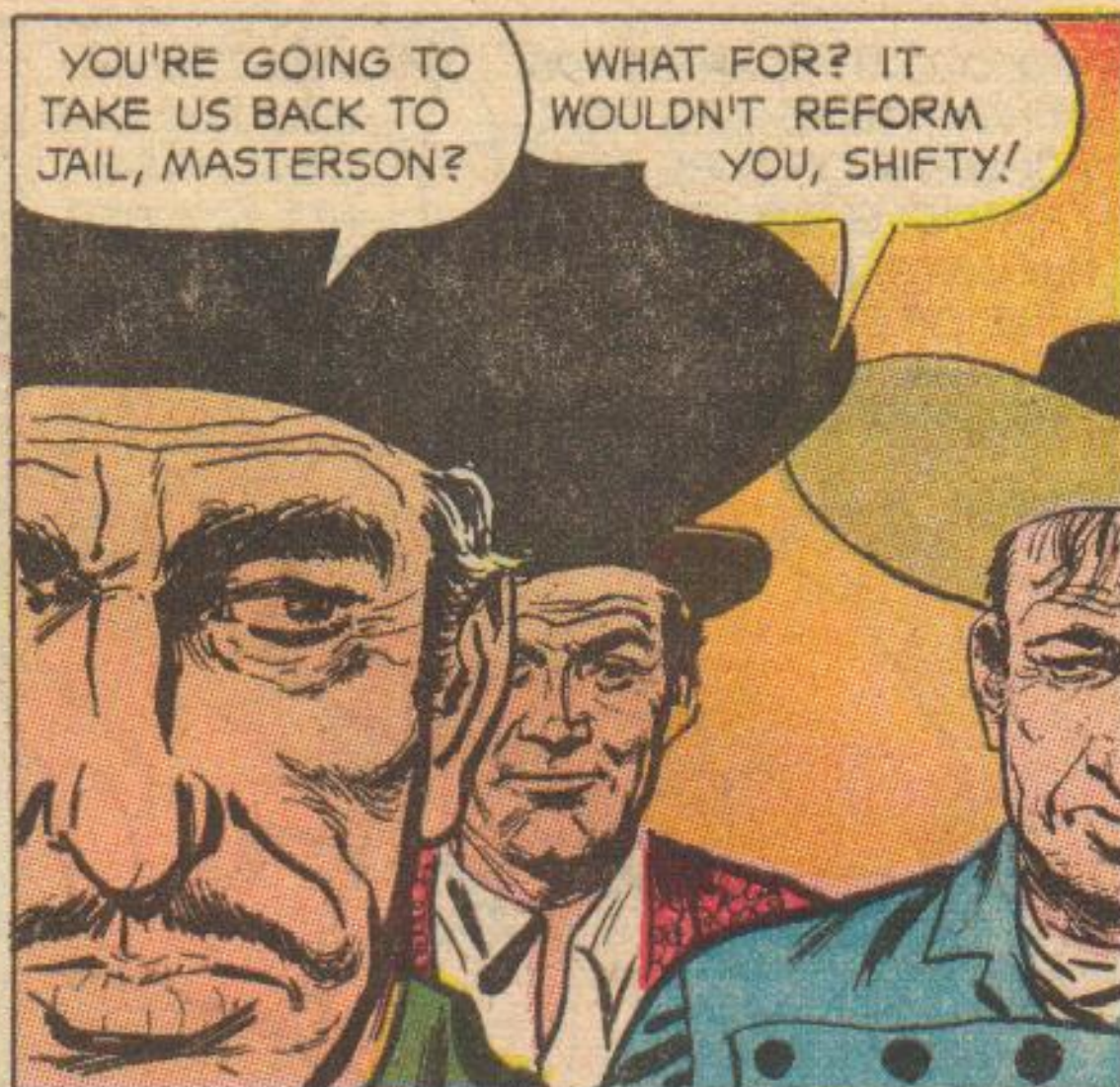






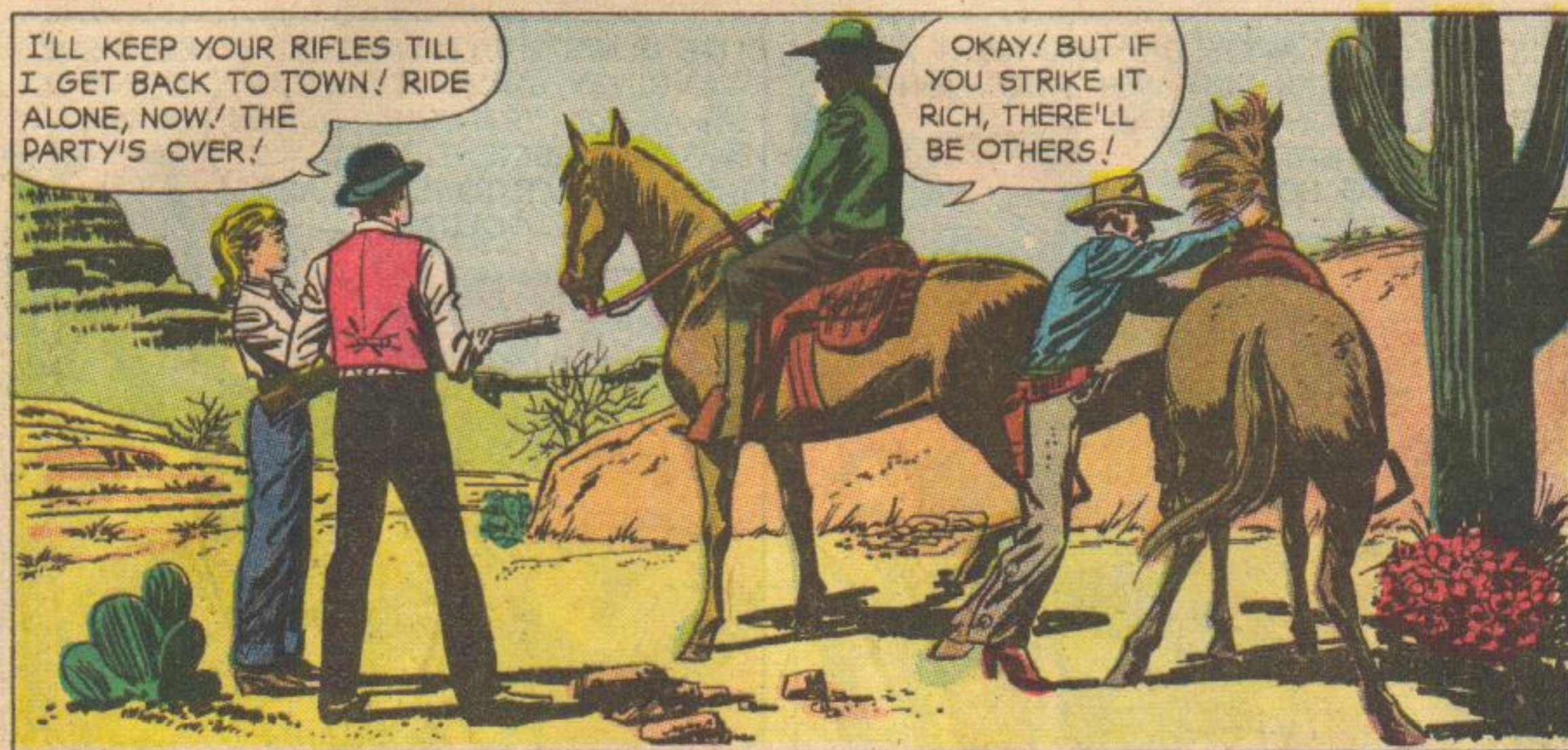
YOU NEEDN'T BOTHER TO COME UNLESS YOU LIKE, JUNE!

I-I'D RATHER NOT BE ALONE, BAT! I'LL COME!



YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US BACK TO JAIL, MASTERSON?

WHAT FOR? IT WOULDN'T REFORM YOU, SHIFTY!



I'LL KEEP YOUR RIFLES TILL I GET BACK TO TOWN! RIDE ALONE, NOW! THE PARTY'S OVER!

OKAY! BUT IF YOU STRIKE IT RICH, THERE'LL BE OTHERS!



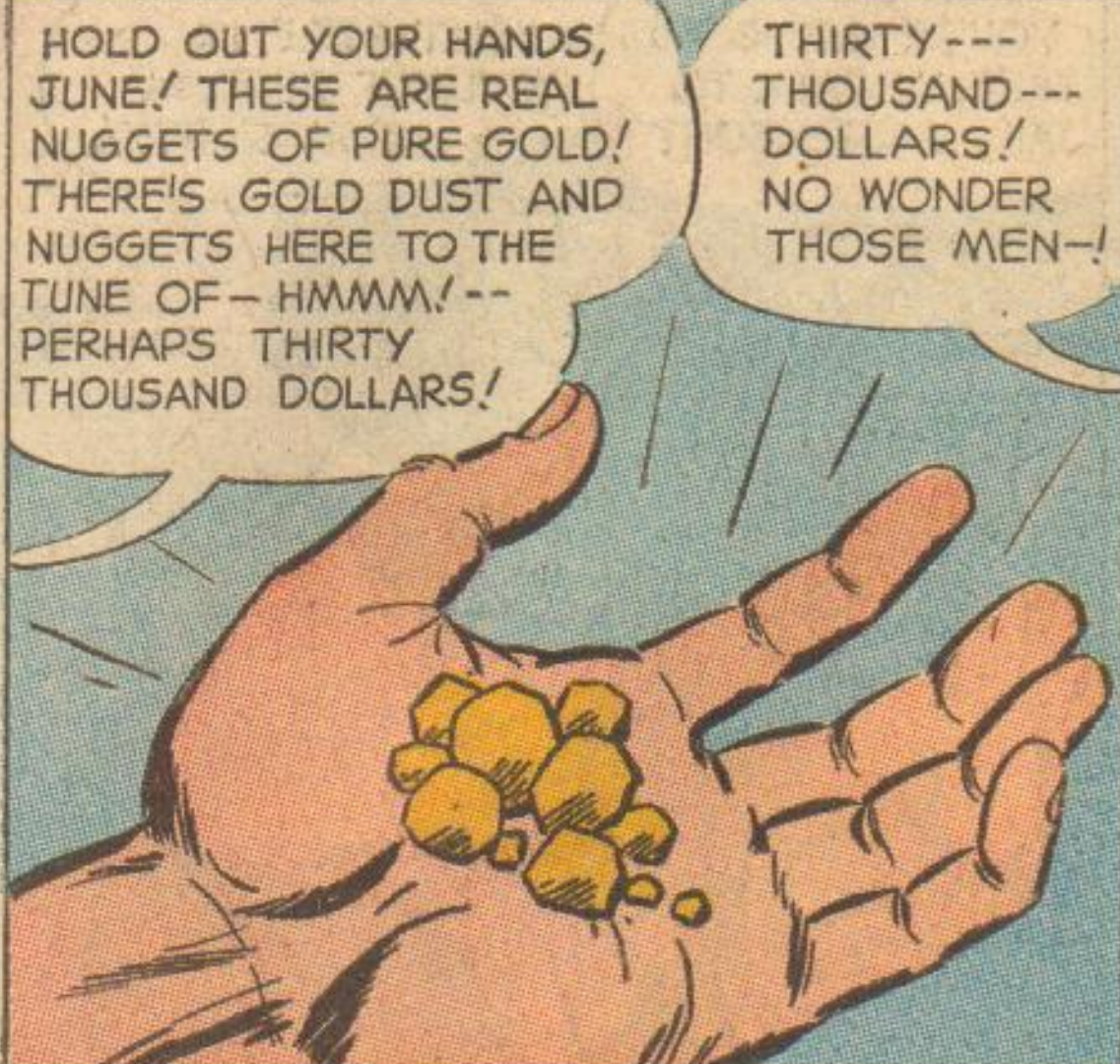
BAT, WHAT DID HE MEAN—"THERE'LL BE OTHERS"?

CLAIM JUMPERS, MY DEAR! MEN WHO WILL TRY TO TAKE OVER OUR GOLD—IF THERE IS ANY—AT GUN POINT!



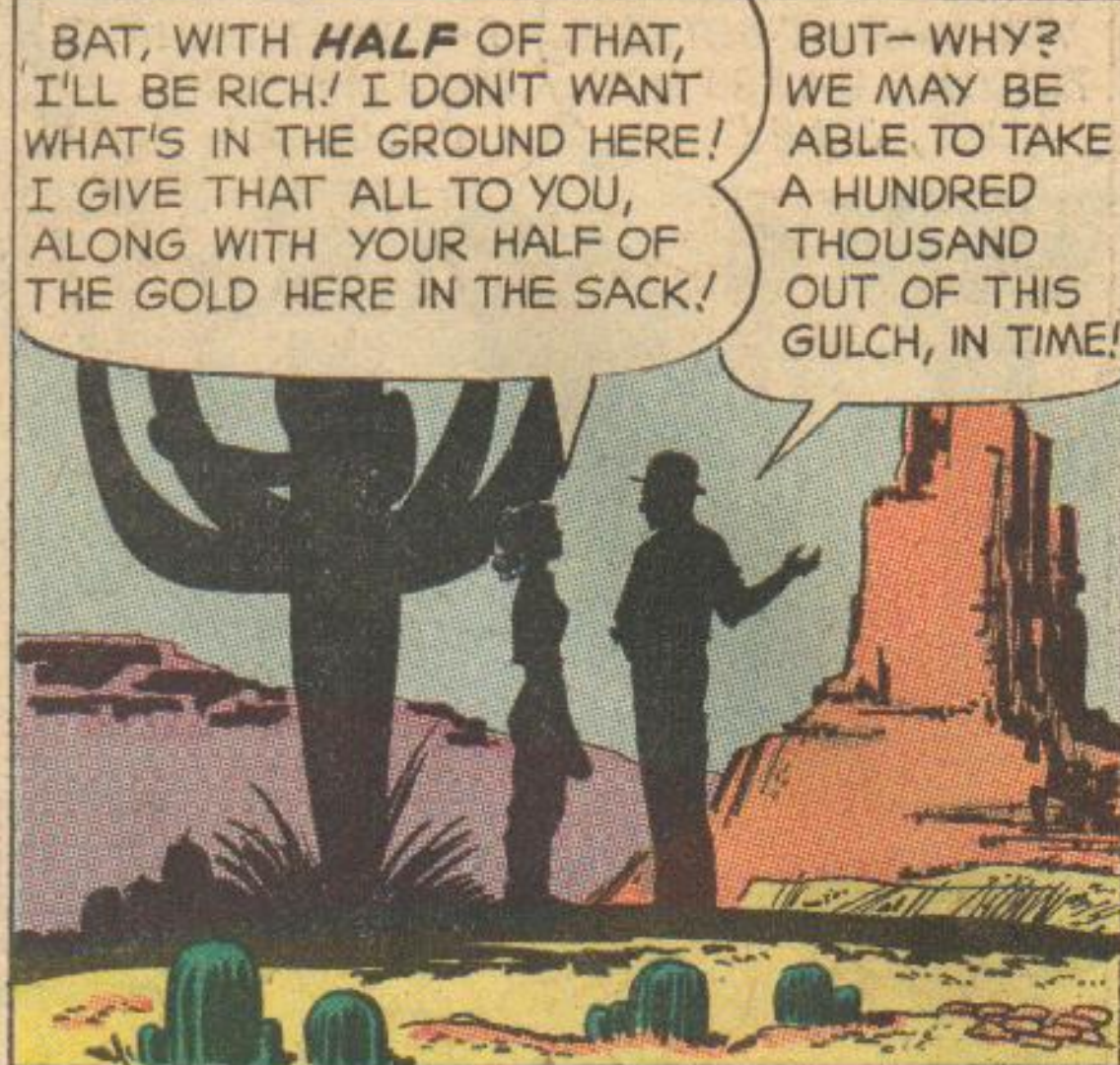
...BACK AT THE SEEP-SPRING...

NOW WE'LL HAVE A LOOK AT WHAT YOUR FATHER LEFT IN THIS TREASURE HOLE!



HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS, JUNE! THESE ARE REAL NUGGETS OF PURE GOLD! THERE'S GOLD DUST AND NUGGETS HERE TO THE TUNE OF—HMMM!-- PERHAPS THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!

THIRTY--- THOUSAND--- DOLLARS! NO WONDER THOSE MEN--!

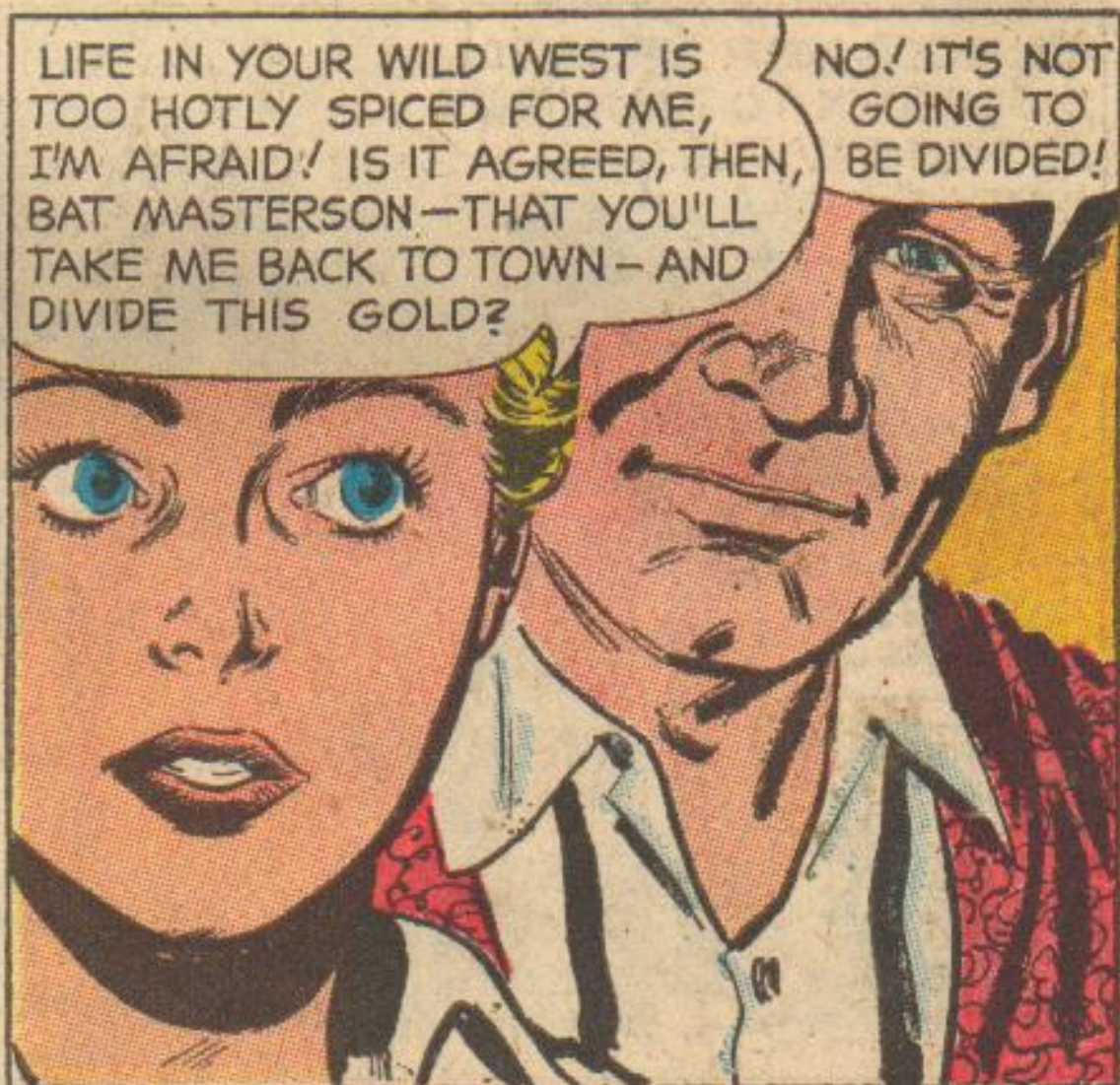


BAT, WITH **HALF** OF THAT, I'LL BE RICH! I DON'T WANT WHAT'S IN THE GROUND HERE! I GIVE THAT ALL TO YOU, ALONG WITH YOUR HALF OF THE GOLD HERE IN THE SACK!

BUT-- WHY? WE MAY BE ABLE TO TAKE A HUNDRED THOUSAND OUT OF THIS GULCH, IN TIME!

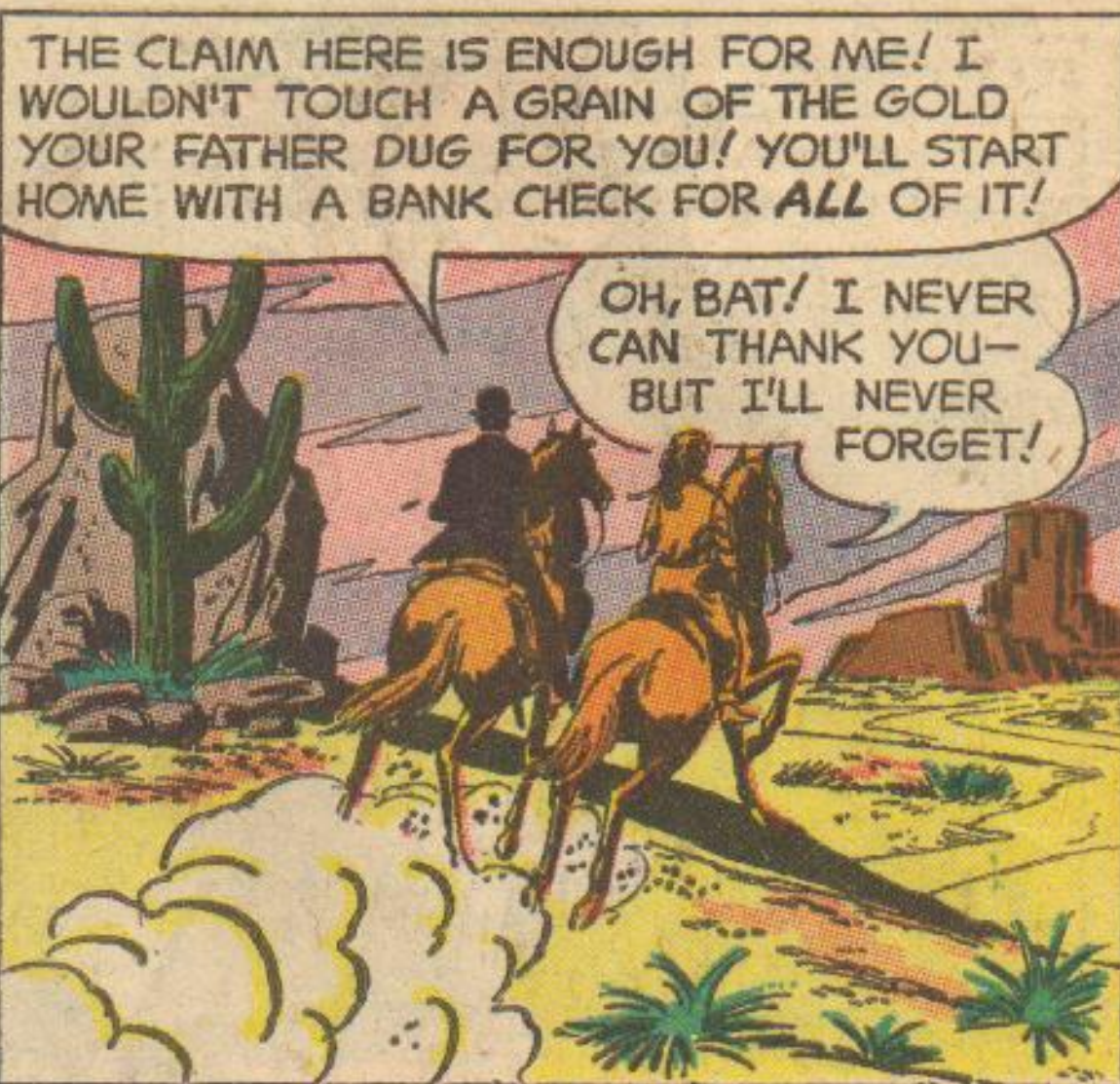


IN TIME... DAY AFTER DAY AND NIGHT AFTER NIGHT WATCHING FOR MEN WHO MIGHT MURDER US, OR BE KILLED **BY US?** NO, BAT! **NO!** I'M GOING HOME!



LIFE IN YOUR WILD WEST IS TOO HOTLY SPICED FOR ME, I'M AFRAID! IS IT AGREED, THEN, BAT MASTERSON-- THAT YOU'LL TAKE ME BACK TO TOWN-- AND DIVIDE THIS GOLD?

NO! IT'S NOT GOING TO BE DIVIDED!



THE CLAIM HERE IS ENOUGH FOR ME! I WOULDN'T TOUCH A GRAIN OF THE GOLD YOUR FATHER DUG FOR YOU! YOU'LL START HOME WITH A BANK CHECK FOR **ALL** OF IT!

OH, BAT! I NEVER CAN THANK YOU-- BUT I'LL NEVER FORGET!

A PLEDGE **DELL** COMIC TO PARENTS

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LANDMARKS OF THE OLD WEST APACHE PASS

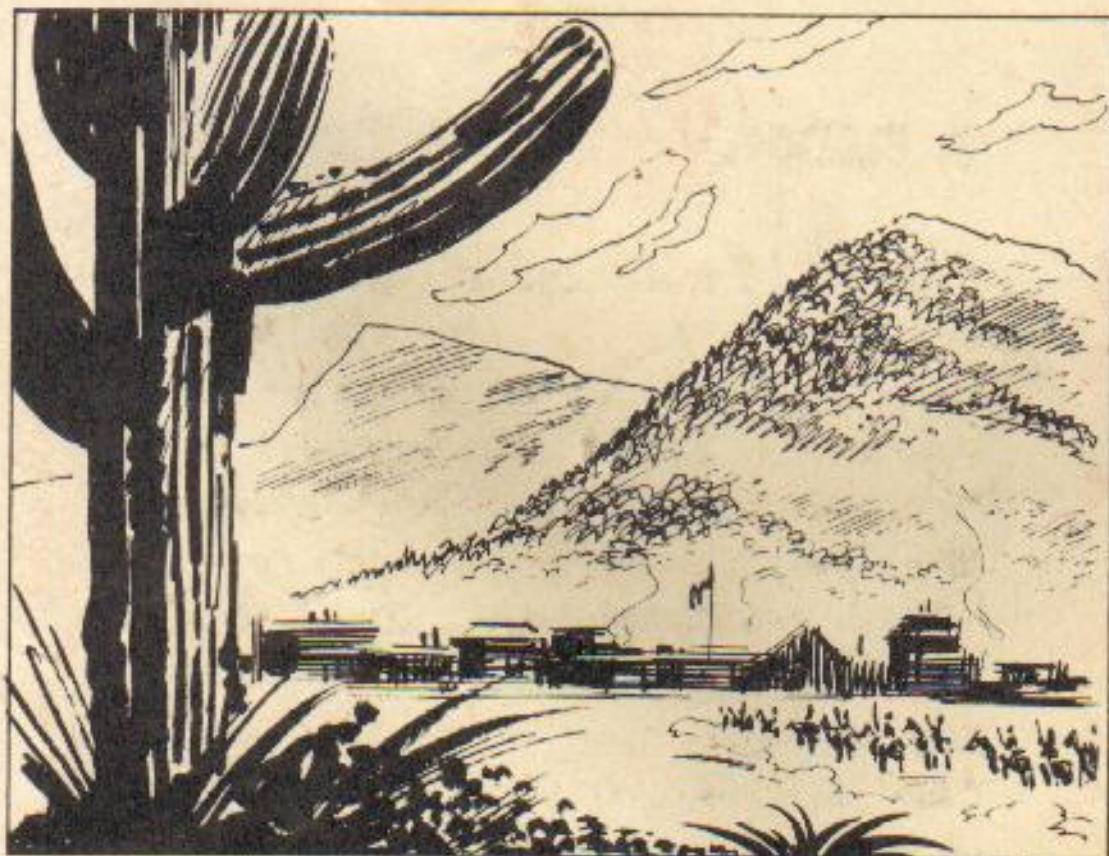
ONE DAY, IN THE EARLY 1850'S, A PIONEER WAGON TRAIN WAS DESTROYED, AFTER A HEROIC DEFENSE, BY SAVAGE APACHES. THE PLACE WAS THE ENTRANCE TO BARREN APACHE PASS.



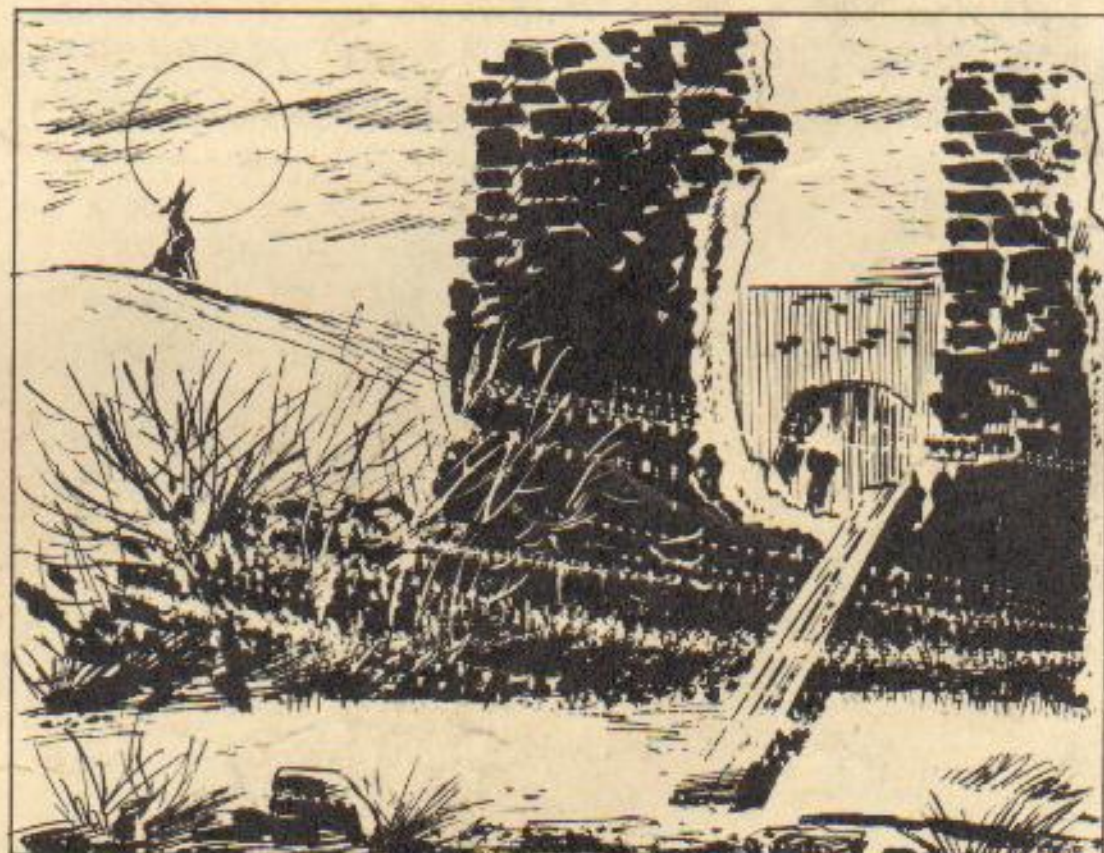
SOMEHOW A GIRL ESCAPED FROM THE RING OF DEATH AND CLIMBED THE GREAT CONE OF ROCK WHICH HAS EVER SINCE BEEN NAMED "HELEN'S DOME" IN HER HONOR. BEHIND HER CLIMBED THE APACHES...



TRAPPED ON THE TOP BY HER ENEMIES, HELEN AVOIDED CAPTURE AT THE COST OF HER LIFE! SHE FELL FIVE HUNDRED FEET TO THE ROCKS WHERE HER PISTOL AND BONES WERE FOUND IN 1904.



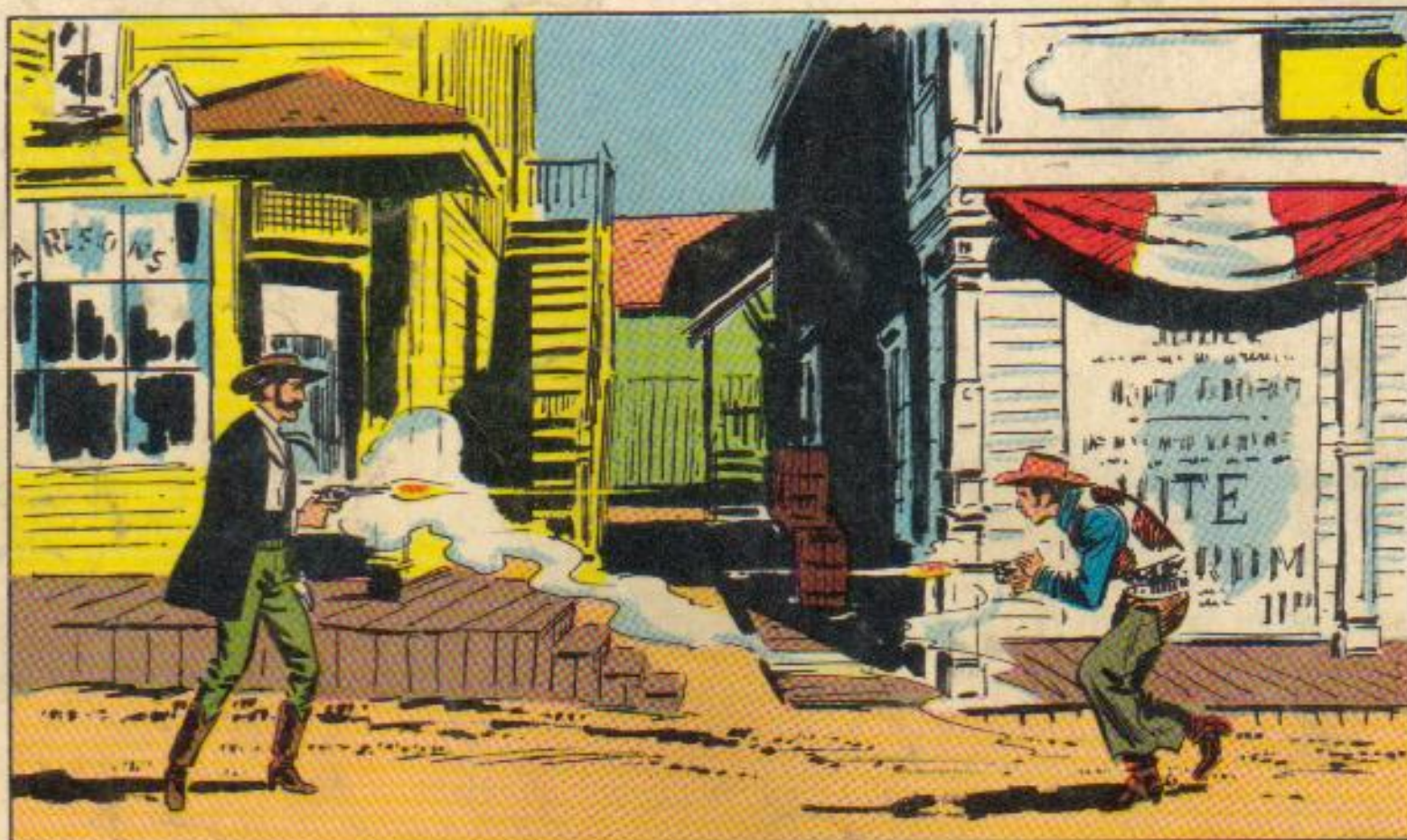
UNDER THE SHADOW OF HELEN'S DOME FORT BOWIE WAS LATER BUILT TO GUARD THE BUTTERFIELD STAGE COACHES. THROUGH IT PASSED COCHISE, TOM JEFFORDS, GERONIMO, THEIR FRIENDS AND FOES.



TODAY THE DESERT WINDS BLOW DUST OVER THE CRUMBLING RUINS OF OLD FORT BOWIE. AND THE COYOTE'S HOWL DRIFTS DOWN FROM APACHE PASS IN PLACE OF APACHE WHOOP AND CAVALRY BUGLE!

ROARING TOWNS OF THE OLD WEST

TOMBSTONE



TOMBSTONE, THE WILD-AND-WOOLLY, RIP-ROARING COUNTY SEAT OF COCHISE COUNTY, WAS CALLED "THE TOWN TOO TOUGH TO DIE!" IT WAS A RICH MINING AND STOCK RAISING CENTER.



...AND TOMBSTONE'S FAME WAS SWELLED BY THAT OF FAMOUS GUN FIGHTERS: WYATT EARP AND HIS BROTHERS ON THE SIDE OF THE LAW; DOC HOLLIDAY, EX-DENTIST AND DEADLY SHOT.



THE POWERFUL, HANDSOME, LAUGHING CURLY BILL BROCIUS HAD MURDERED MANY MEN BEFORE HE SHOT DOWN SHERIFF FRED WHITE. HE WAS "GUN-WHIPPED" AND DRAGGED TO JAIL BY WYATT EARP.



TOMBSTONE'S MOST EFFICIENT SHERIFF WAS JOHN SLAUGHTER. HE WARNED CRIMINALS ONCE TO GET OUT OF TOWN AND KILLED THEM ON SIGHT IF THEY DIDN'T.



ALMOST AS FAMOUS AS TOMBSTONE ITSELF WAS ITS CEMETERY, CALLED "BOOT HILL", BECAUSE MOST OF THOSE BURIED THERE HAD DIED VIOLENTLY, WITH THEIR BOOTS ON.