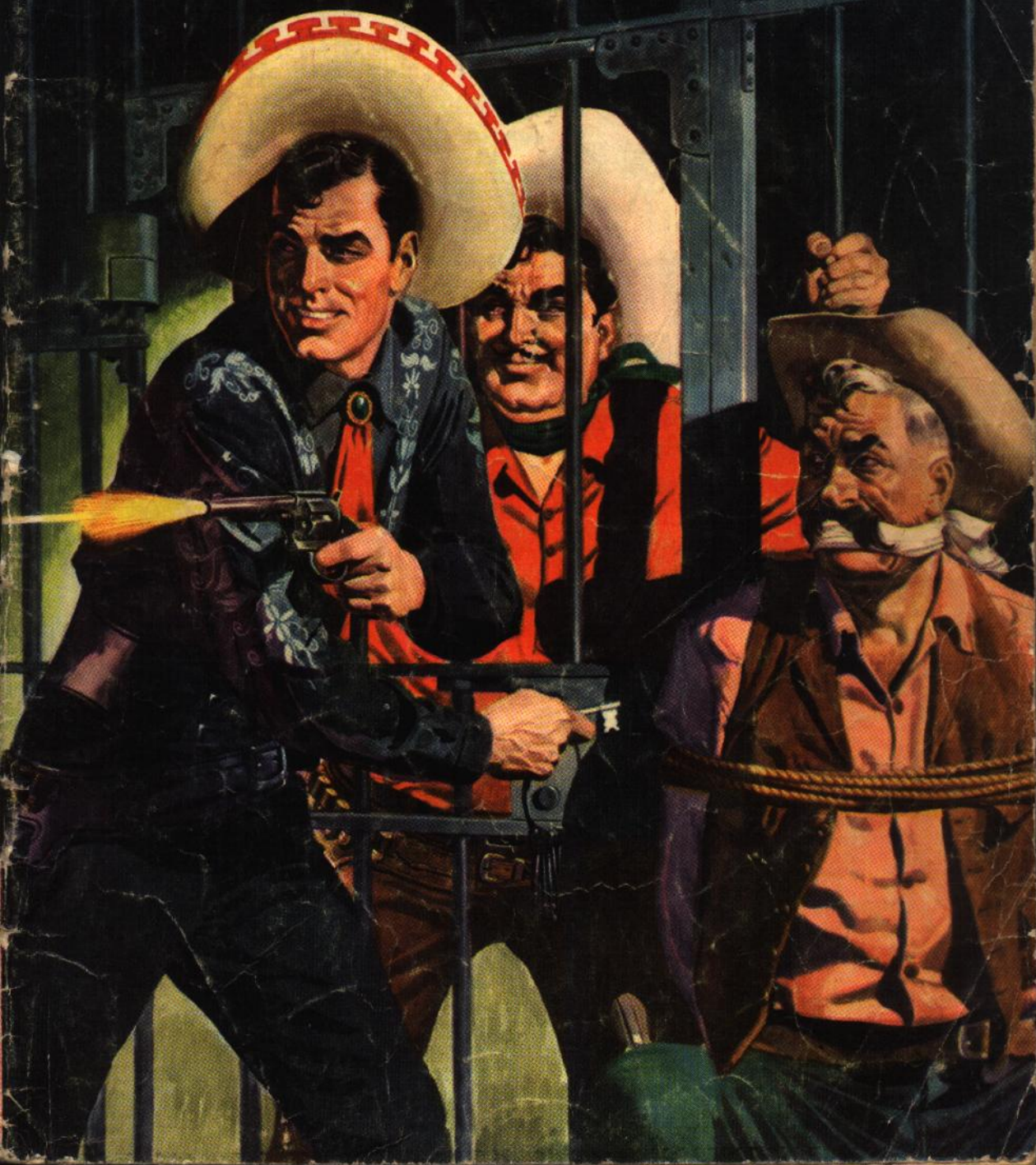


DELL  
A DELL COMIC  
A DELL COMIC

JULY - AUGUST

10¢

# THE CISCO KID





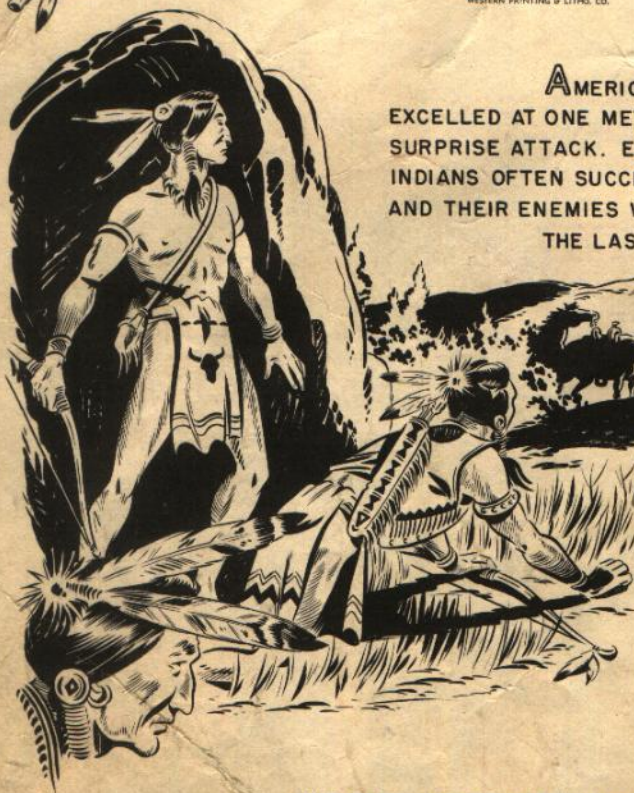


# SURPRISE ATTACK



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AMERICAN INDIANS ALWAYS  
EXCELLED AT ONE METHOD OF WARFARE — — — THE  
SURPRISE ATTACK. EVEN IN OPEN COUNTRY, PLAINS  
INDIANS OFTEN SUCCEEDED IN APPROACHING GAME  
AND THEIR ENEMIES WITHOUT BEING SEEN UP UNTIL  
THE LAST MOMENT.



THE REASON FOR THIS IS EASILY  
UNDERSTOOD. THE INDIANS WERE  
ALWAYS DEPENDENT ON WILD  
ANIMALS FOR MUCH OF THEIR FOOD  
SUPPLY AND SO, GOT NATURAL  
TRAINING IN STALKING AS THEY  
HUNTED. SOME PLAINS INDIANS,  
HOWEVER, CARRIED THIS SO FAR  
THAT THEY ACTUALLY SET UP  
LITTLE SITUATIONS TO TEST A  
YOUNG MAN'S STALKING ABILITY.

ONE TEST WAS TO CATCH A PRAIRIE DOG, USING NO WEAPON OR  
TRAP, BUT MERELY ONE'S HANDS. THESE LITTLE ANIMALS HAVE NO METHOD OF DEFENSE  
OTHER THAN DIVING INTO THEIR HOLES TO AVOID THEIR NATURAL ENEMIES. THEY ARE  
VERY KEEN OF SIGHT AND VERY CAUTIOUS. IT IS NO WONDER THAT WARRIORS, TRAINED  
BY THIS METHOD, COULD STEAL WITHIN BOW RANGE OF A WAGON TRAIN OR A PARTY OF  
SOLDIERS WITHOUT BEING SEEN.





# THE CISCO KID

## AND THE RIDDLE OF THE RUNNING-L

AS THE CISCO KID AND PANTHO TOP A LOW  
RIDGE BORDERING A FERTILE VALLEY.

CISCO! LOOK!  
THE GRASS IS  
ON FIRE!

THAT'S A FINE  
ALFALFA CROP, PANTHO!  
THERE IS LITTLE  
CHANCE OF SAVING IT  
BUT THAT RANCHO ---  
JINGLE YOUR SPURS!



HOLY HAT! I KNOW THOSE  
TWO! IT'S THE CISCO KID AN'  
PANTHO! ROLL YOUR GUNS!



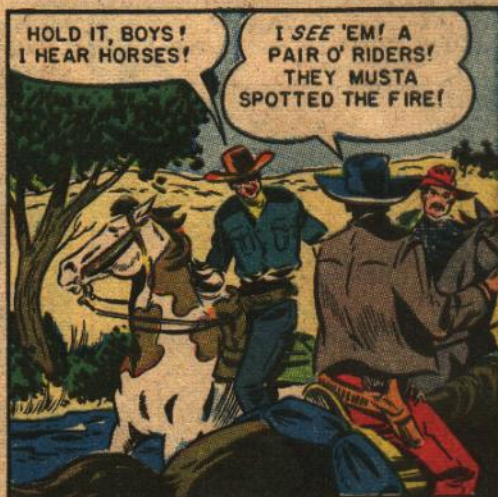
SANTO! IT IS NOT  
ONLY ONE FIRE! BUT  
MANY! LIKE POLKA  
DOTTINGS!

WHICH MEANS  
IT WAS DELIBER-  
ATELY SET!  
HURRY!



HOLD IT, BOYS!  
I HEAR HORSES!

I SEE 'EM! A  
PAIR O' RIDERS!  
THEY MUSTA  
SPOTTED THE FIRE!



CISCO! WE ARE  
GETTING BUSH-  
GULCHED! PANTHO---

DO NOT  
TALK! SHOOT!







BUT AS PANCHE SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER, LOCO STUMBLES...



BUT THE BULLET IS NOT WASTED...



THOSE BIRDS'RE DYNAMITE! I'M CLEARIN' OUT!

ME TOO!







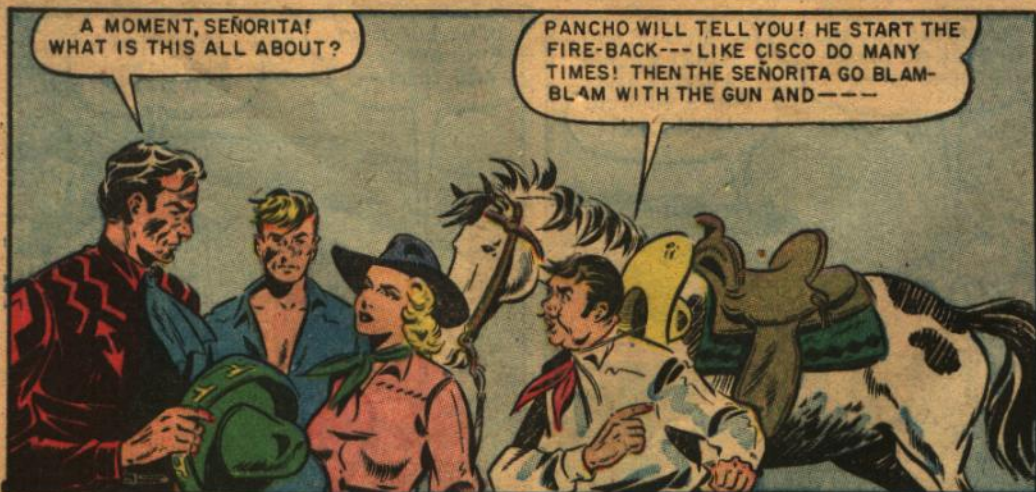
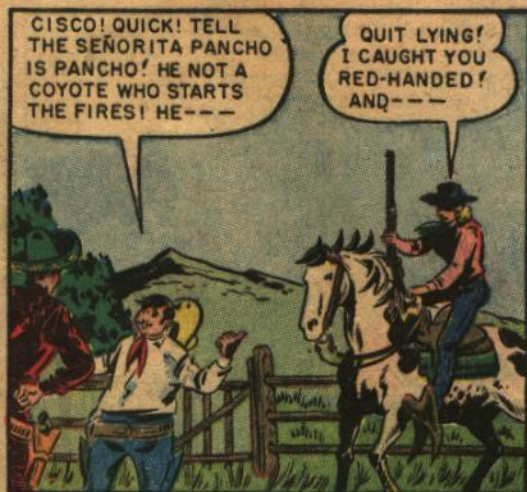
















CISCO? Y-YOU'RE THE CISCO KID?

SI! AND THIS HOMBRE IS MY FRIEND, PANCHO!

AND IF CISCO HADN'T GIVEN ME AN' THE BOYS A HAND, THE RUNNIN'-L WOULD BE NOTHIN' BUT A HEAP O' ASHES NOW!



CISCO, THIS IS MY SISTER, BESS! A GOOD KID EVEN IF SHE IS IMPULSIVE!

I AM GLAD TO KNOW YOU, SEÑORITA! AND GLAD, TOO, THAT YOU DID NOT HURT PANCHO!



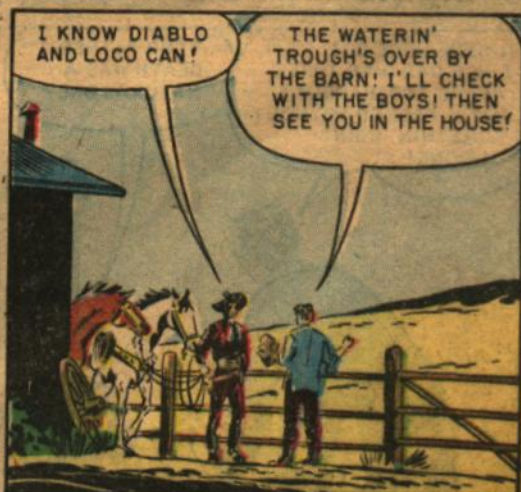
SO AM I! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME, PANCHO?

SI! (PUFF!) AS SOON AS PANCHO FINDS HIS BREATHING AGAIN! (PUFF!) AND HIS HEART STOPS BUMP-BUMPING!



POOR PANCHO! COME WITH ME! I'LL FIX YOU SOME COLD LEMONADE!

FIX A PITCHERFUL, SIS! I RECKON WE CAN ALL USE A COLD DRINK!



I KNOW DIABLO AND LOCO CAN!

THE WATERIN' TROUGH'S OVER BY THE BARN! I'LL CHECK WITH THE BOYS! THEN SEE YOU IN THE HOUSE!



A LITTLE LATER...

--- AND THAT IS *OUR* STORY! THE HOMBRES WHO TRIED TO DRY-GULCH US MUST HAVE BEEN THE ONES WHO SET THE FIRE!

PROBABLY ON ORDERS FROM LAWYER SIMON GIBBONS! I'M DEAD SURE HE'S TO BLAME FOR ALL OUR TROUBLES!

WHAT ABOUT TOD CHESTER? MAYBE THE REASON HE WON'T LOAN US ANY MONEY IS BECAUSE *HE* WANTS THE RUNNING-L, TOO!

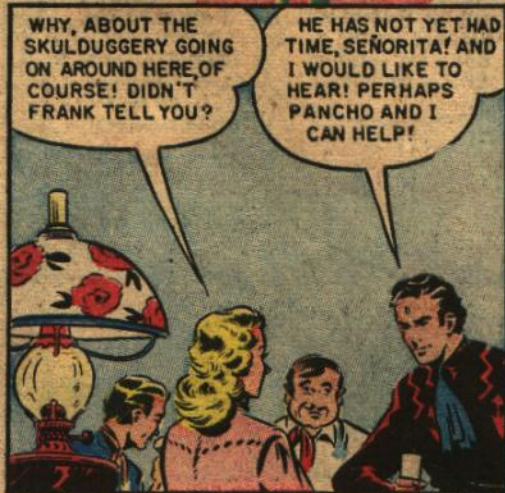


COULD BE! BUT--- WHAT'RE YOU FROWNIN' ABOUT, CISCO?

NOTHING BUT THE EFFORT OF TRYING TO GUESS WHAT YOU TWO ARE TALKING ABOUT!

WHY, ABOUT THE SKULDUGGERY GOING ON AROUND HERE, OF COURSE! DIDN'T FRANK TELL YOU?

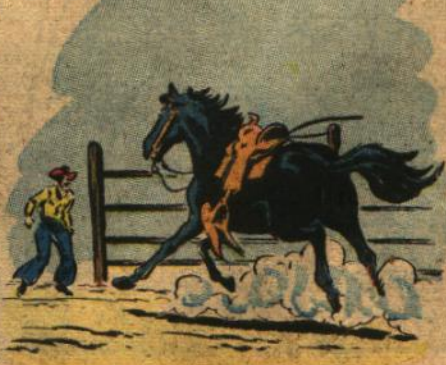
HE HAS NOT YET HAD TIME, SEÑORITA! AND I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR! PERHAPS PANCHO AND I CAN HELP!



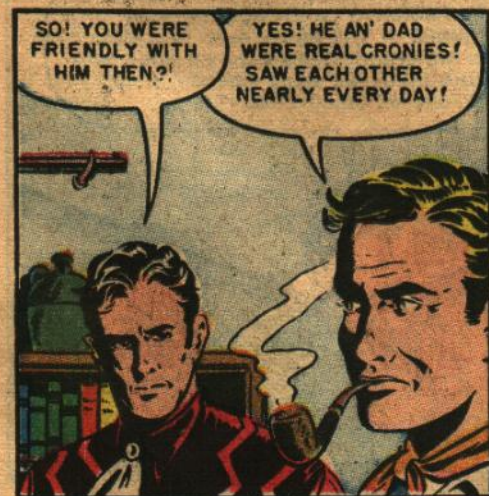
I SURE HOPE SO! SINCE DAD DIED THREE WEEKS AGO, HARDLY A DAY'S PASSED WITHOUT SOMETHIN' GOIN' WRONG!

YOUR FATHER'S DEATH WAS A NATURAL ONE?

"NO! HE WAS BUSHWHACKED! FIRST WE KNEW OF IT WAS WHEN HIS HORSE CAME HOME --- WEARIN' AN EMPTY SADDLE! DAD WAS GONE, WHEN WE FINALLY FOUND HIM!"







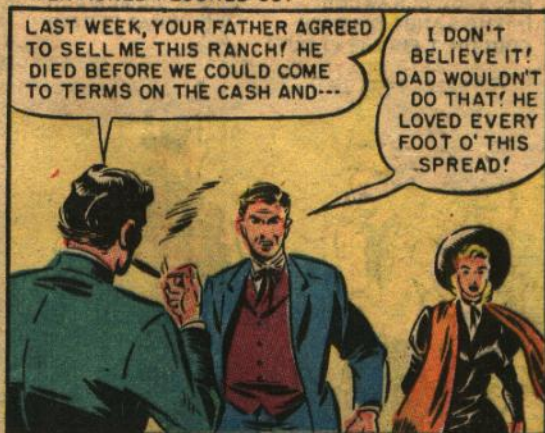


"BUT THE SECOND ONE WASN'T ONLY SURPRISIN', IT WAS PUZZLIN', TOO."



BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I'D RATHER NOT ACT IN THAT CAPACITY! I SHALL ASK THE COURT TO APPOINT SOMEONE ELSE!

"HIS EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES HE'D MENTIONED FLOORED US."



LAST WEEK, YOUR FATHER AGREED TO SELL ME THIS RANCH! HE DIED BEFORE WE COULD COME TO TERMS ON THE CASH AND---

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! DAD WOULDN'T DO THAT! HE LOVED EVERY FOOT O' THIS SPREAD!

"GIBBONS SWORE IT WAS TRUE! HE EVEN SHOWED ME A PAPER HE SAID DAD HAD SIGNED."



BUT THIS IS ONLY AN AGREEMENT TO SELL AT SOME FUTURE DATE / IF TERMS CAN BE ARRANGED! IT WOULDN'T HOLD UP IN ANY COURT!

"HE HAD A GLIB ANSWER FOR THAT!"



I REALIZE THAT! HOWEVER, YOU AND BESS HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO CARRY OUT!

IT'S NO USE, GIBBONS! WE'RE NOT SELLIN'----- TO YOU OR TO ANYBODY ELSE!

"HE WAS PLENTY RILED. BUT WE STOOD PAT! AND FINALLY HE STORMED OUT!"



YOU HAVEN'T HEARD THE LAST OF THIS! I WANT THIS RANCH AND I'LL GET IT--- ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!

TWO DAYS LATER, OUR FOREMAN LANDED IN THE HOSPITAL WITH A BULLET IN HIS CHEST! THEN A WATER HOLE WAS POISONED! WE LOST TWENTY HEAD BEFORE WE DISCOVERED IT!





AND WE LOST THREE OF OUR BEST HANDS WHEN THEY GOT ANONYMOUS NOTES THREATENING THEM WITH DEATH IF THEY KEPT ON WORKING HERE!

WHAT ABOUT THE SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE?

TOD CHESTER, PRESIDENT O' THE BANK, WAS NAMED ADMINISTRATOR! BUT HE HASN'T EVER BEEN OUT HERE TO TAKE AN INVENTORY! DAD DID NOT LEAVE MUCH CASH!

AND CHESTER WON'T LEND US ANY! HE TOLD ME THIS MORNING WE WERE FOOLS NOT TO TAKE GIBBONS' OFFER! I'VE GOT AN IDEA THEY'RE IN CAHOOTS!



PERHAPS I CAN FIND OUT FOR CERTAIN! COME, FRANK! YOU AND I WILL RIDE TO TOWN! ON THE WAY, I WILL WORK OUT A PLAN!

AND WHAT IS PANGHO TO DO?

STAND GUARD! HELP WITH THE CHORES! LOOK FOR CLUES! ANYTHING---EXCEPT GET INTO MISCHIEF!

BUT, AMIGO, GETTING INTO MISCHIEF IS WHAT PANGHO DO BEST!

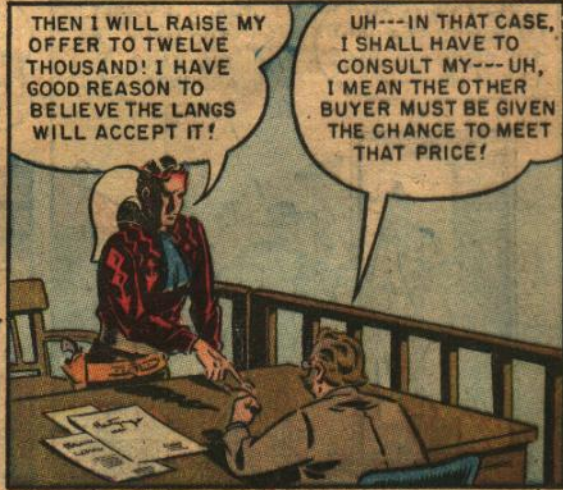
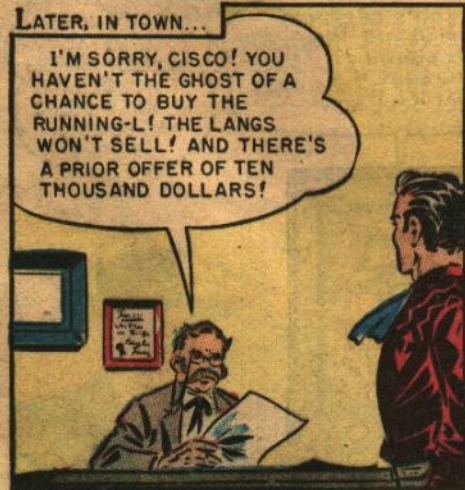


LATER, IN TOWN...

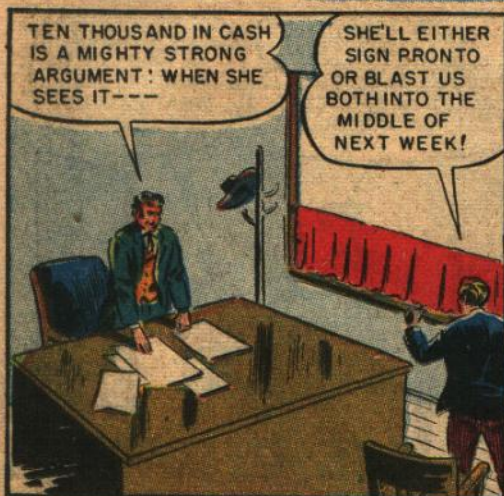
I'M SORRY, CISCO! YOU HAVEN'T THE GHOST OF A CHANCE TO BUY THE RUNNING-L! THE LANGS WON'T SELL! AND THERE'S A PRIOR OFFER OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS!

THEN I WILL RAISE MY OFFER TO TWELVE THOUSAND! I HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THE LANGS WILL ACCEPT IT!

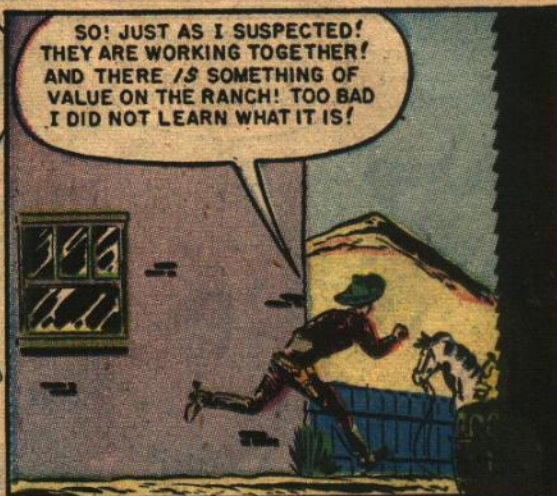
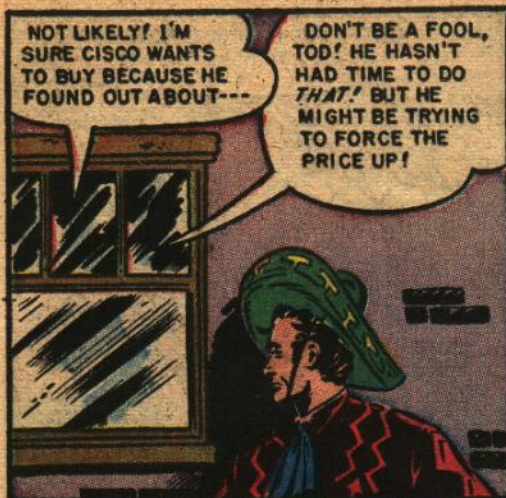
UH---IN THAT CASE, I SHALL HAVE TO CONSULT MY---UH, I MEAN THE OTHER BUYER MUST BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO MEET THAT PRICE!















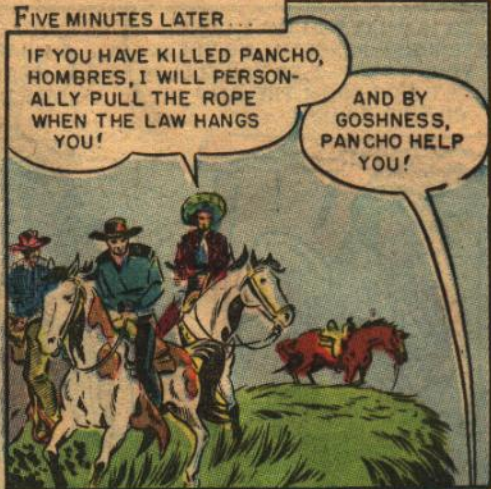




NOT SO FAST, SEÑORS!  
I HAVE MANY QUESTIONS  
FOR YOU TO ANSWER!

CISCO!

OOOF!



FIVE MINUTES LATER...

IF YOU HAVE KILLED PANCHO,  
HOMBRES, I WILL PERSON-  
ALLY PULL THE ROPE  
WHEN THE LAW HANGS  
YOU!

AND BY  
GOSHNESS,  
PANCHO HELP  
YOU!



AMIGO! YOU  
ARE ALL  
RIGHT?

SI! EXCEPT  
FOR SPLOSHING  
INTO THE MUD  
PUDDLE! HIS  
CLOTHES---



MADRE MIA!  
PANCHO! YOU  
HAVE FOUND IT!

HUH?  
WHAT...?  
WHERE---



I WILL EXPLAIN LATER!  
BRING THOSE COYOTES TO  
THE RANCH! LOCK THEM  
UP AND HIDE THEIR  
HORSES! I WILL SEE  
YOU THERE!

SI!

FOUR-THIRTY THAT AFTERNOON...



COME IN, GIBBONS!  
I--- MSTER CHESTER!  
I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU!

UH--- SIMON WAS  
AFRAID TO BRING  
THE CASH OUT  
ALONE! WORRIED  
OVER OUTLAWS,  
YOU KNOW!

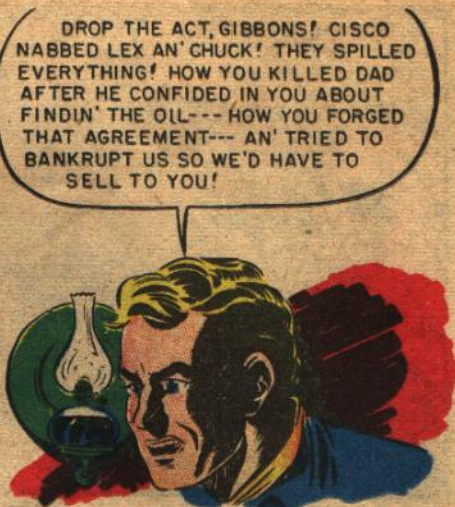


I'M AFRAID YOU'VE HAD  
YOUR WORRY AN' TRIP FOR  
NOTHIN'! UNLESS, O'  
COURSE, YOU'RE WILLIN'  
TO PAY A HUNDRED  
THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR  
THIS SPREAD!

WHAT?

THAT'S  
OUTRAGEOUS!





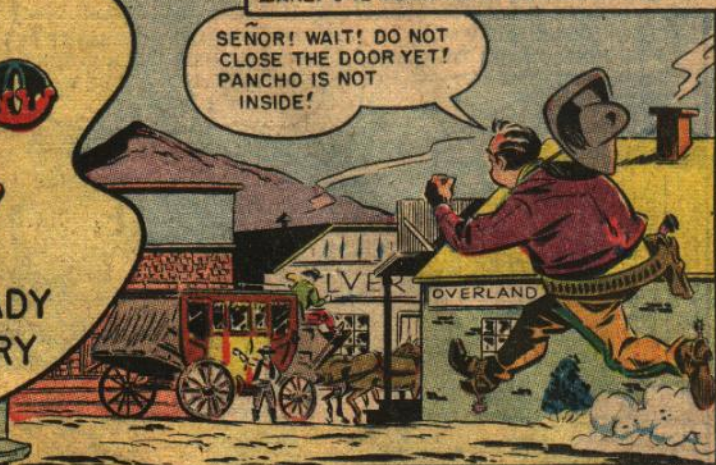


# THE CISCO KID

## AND THE BLUE LADY MINE MYSTERY

EARLY ONE MORNING IN LA MESA...

SEÑOR! WAIT! DO NOT  
CLOSE THE DOOR YET!  
PANCHO IS NOT  
INSIDE!



YOU'D NEVER  
GET IN EITHER IF  
I WAS CARRYIN'  
MORE'N TWO  
PASSENGERS!

HUMPH! PANCHO  
IS NOT FAT! HE IS  
ONLY A LITTLE  
BIT PLUMP!



AS THE STAGE PULLS OUT...

BUENAS DIAS,  
AMIGOS! I AM  
PANCHO!

GLAD TO KNOW  
YOU! MY NAME'S  
JEREMIAH BUNKER!  
AN' THIS IS MISSUS  
MILLIE JOHNSON!



I'M SO HAPPY TO  
KNOW YOU, MISTER  
PANCHO! ARE YOU  
GOING TO SHOO-  
FLY, TOO?

SI, SEÑORA! TO  
MEET MY  
COMPAÑERO!

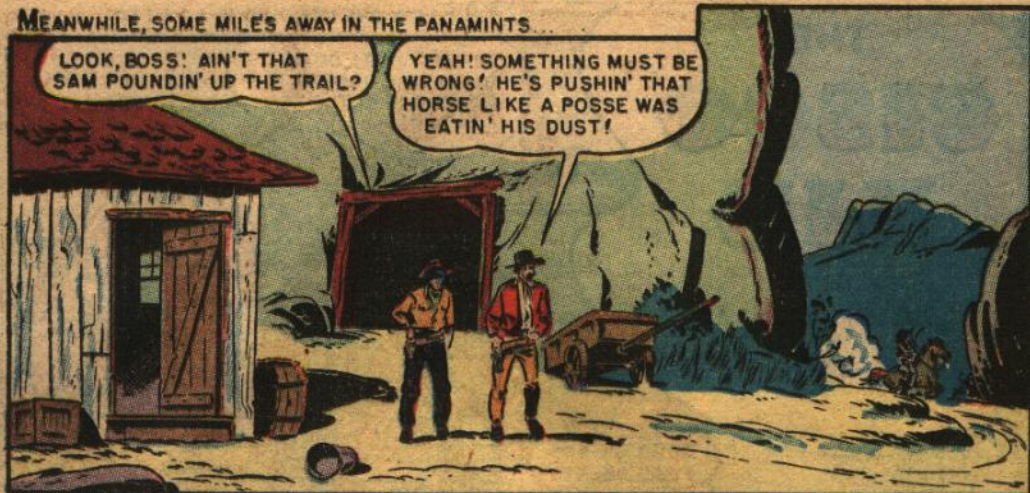
I DO HOPE WE REACH  
THEE SAFELY! I'VE  
HEARD SO MANY  
TERRIBLE STORIES  
ABOUT OUTLAWS---

SEÑORA! WITH  
PANCHO ON  
BOARD, THERE IS  
POSOLUTELY NO  
DANGER--- I  
THINK!





MEANWHILE, SOME MILES AWAY IN THE PANAMINTS...



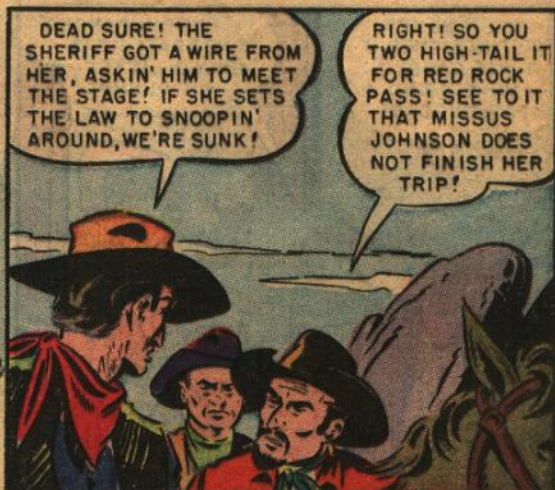
LOOK, BOSS! AIN'T THAT SAM POUNDIN' UP THE TRAIL?

YEAH! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! HE'S PUSHIN' THAT HORSE LIKE A POSSE WAS EATIN' HIS DUST!



BOSS! JOHNSON'S WIDDER'S ON HER WAY TO SHOO-FLY!

WHAT! ARE YOU SURE?



DEAD SURE! THE SHERIFF GOT A WIRE FROM HER, ASKIN' HIM TO MEET THE STAGE! IF SHE SETS THE LAW TO SNOOPIN' AROUND, WE'RE SUNK!

RIGHT! SO YOU TWO HIGH-TAIL IT FOR RED ROCK PASS! SEE TO IT THAT MISSUS JOHNSON DOES NOT FINISH HER TRIP!

A LITTLE LATER...



JUDGIN' FROM THAT DUST CLOUD YONDER, WE AIN'T HERE A MINUTE TOO SOON!

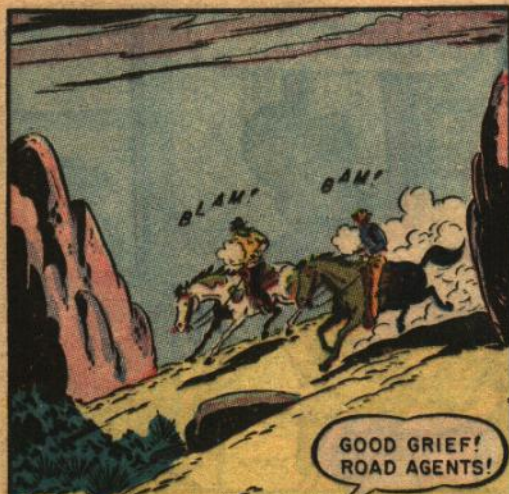
CUT THE TALK, FRANK! PULL UP YOUR WIPE! AN' LET'S EASE DOWN THROUGH THE ROCKS.



MERCY! THIS IS CERTAINLY WILD COUNTRY! IT SCARES ME A LITTLE!

SEÑORA! PANTO TOLD YOU THERE IS NO DANGER! THE STAGE CARRIES NO GOLD AND---





GOOD GRIEF!  
ROAD AGENTS!

0000H!  
WHAT'S THAT?

GUNSHOTS!  
QUICKLY! LIE ON THE  
FLOOR! PANCHO WILL  
HANDLE THOSE  
BANDITS!



BUT NOT ALONE! I AIN'T  
ROLLED THIS SHOOTIN' IRON IN  
TWO YEARS, BUT I AIN'T FORGOT  
HOW TO SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER!



PANCHO WILL GO OUT  
THIS WAY! YOU GO  
THAT WAY, SEÑOR  
BUNKY! THEN WE  
SURROUND THEM, EH?

I S'POSE YOU  
COULD CALL  
IT THAT!



MEANWHILE...

YOU'LL FIND LEAN  
PICKIN'S HERE, GENTS!  
NOT ENOUGH CASH IN  
THE LOT TO...

WE AIN'T  
LOOKIN' FOR  
CASH! FRANK,  
GET THE  
PASSENGERS OUT!





STEP OUT, FOLKS! AN' KEEP YOUR HANDS HIGH!



NOT PANCHO! HE KEEP HIS HANDS *BUSY*---



--- LIKE THIS!

OW! MY HAND!



HERE'S ONE FOR YOU, COYOTE!



AN' YOU TAKE --- FRANK! C'M BACK HERE! THE BOSS---

TO BLAZES WITH HIM! I'M CLEARIN' OUT! THAT FAT BOY SHOT MY GUN OUTA MY HAND!

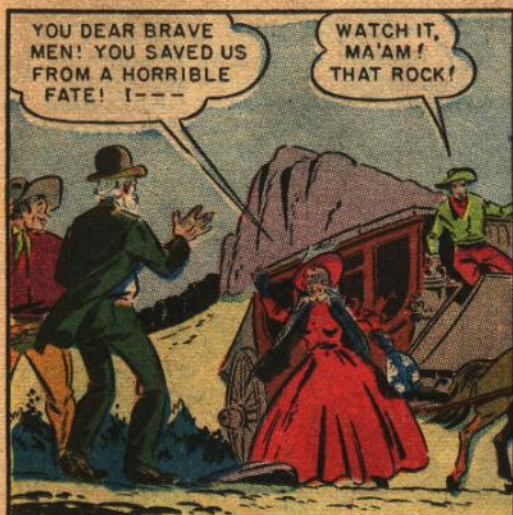


AHA! WE COOK THEIR GEESES ALL RIGHT, EH, SEÑOR BUNKY?

YEP! BUT I DIDN'T MAKE A VERY GOOD SHOWIN'! RECKON I'LL HAFTA DO A HEAP O' PRACTISIN' AFORE I'LL BE ABLE TO HIT ANYTHING SMALLER'N A BARN DOOR AGAIN!









MAYBE I'VE GOT THE ANSWER! MAYBE THEY WERE AFTER ME! OR MY DEED TO THE BLUE LADY MINE!

SANTO! WHAT KIND OF A MINE IS THAT?

A GOLD MINE! AFTER MY HUSBAND ABNER, DIED, I FOUND THE DEED IN HIS PAPERS! AND WITH IT A LOT OF CANCELLED CHECKS MADE OUT TO ONE MIKE CARSON OF SHOO-FLY!



APPARENTLY ABNER HAD BEEN FINANCING CARSON IN THIS MINING VENTURE! BUT THERE WAS NO RECORD OF HIS GETTING ANYTHING BACK ON HIS INVESTMENT---

SO I DECIDED TO COME OUT HERE AND DO A LITTLE CHECKING UP!

'TWO'N'T DO ANY HARM! BUT MAYBE YOUR HUSBAND LIKED THE THRILL O' TAKIN' PART IN A LONG-DISTANCE HUNT FOR GOLD!



PANCHO DO NOT FIND MUCH THRILL HUNTING THE GOLD! ONLY IN FINDING IT--- BUT HE NEVER BE THAT LUCKY YET!

HUMPH! WHAT COULD YOU TWO KNOW ABOUT SUCH THINGS?

PLENTY! I AIN'T A DUDE--- EVEN IF I AM WEARIN' THESE CITY CLOTHES!

I RODE THE RANGE FOR TWENTY YEARS! THEN I HIT PAY DIRT ACCIDENTAL-LIKE! TOOK A COUPLA YEARS OFF TO CELEBRATE! BUT, B'LIEVE ME, I CAN'T WAIT TO FORK A BRONC AGAIN!







AS THE STAGE PULLS INTO SHOO-FLY...





TWENTY MINUTES LATER...



SO, CISCO, PANTHO  
THINK MAYBE YOU  
WILL GIVE THE  
SEÑORA SOME HELP  
IN CHECKING, EH?

I WILL BE  
GLAD TO ---  
IF SHE IS  
WILLING!



LOOK! SHE COMES  
WITH THE SEÑOR BUNKY!  
AND--- AH-EEEE! THE  
SHERIFF! PANTHO IS  
SKEDOODLING PRONTO!

SIT DOWN!  
SHERIFF HALL IS  
MY FRIEND! HE  
WILL NOT HURT  
YOU!

AFTER INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS. ...



OH, MISTER CISCO! I'M SO  
GLAD YOU'LL CHECK UP ON  
CARSON AND THE MINE FOR  
ME! WITH SHERIFF HALL  
INCAPACITATED ---

I'LL BE GLAD  
TO DO WHAT  
I CAN, SEÑORA!



BETTER START WITH JAKE, THE  
BARKEEP AT THE THREE SHEETS!  
IF ANYBODY KNOWS CARSON'S  
WHEREABOUTS, HE DOES!  
CARSON SPENT MOST OF HIS  
TIME AN' MONEY THERE!

THANKS,  
SHERIFF!  
COME,  
PANTHO!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...



SURE, I KNOW CARSON!  
TWO-FISTED DRINKER, AN'  
SKY'S-THE-LIMIT GAMBLER!  
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM FOR A  
COUPLA MONTHS! FIGURE  
MAYBE HE'S DEAD!



DID YOU EVER  
HEAR OF THE BLUE  
LADY MINE?

ON THUNDER  
RIDGE? SURE! MIKE  
DROPPED OUTA SIGHT  
RIGHT AFTER SELLIN'  
IT TO A HOMBRE NAMED  
VINCE GRAY!



GRAY WAS SURE LUCKY!  
HADN'T OWNED IT MORE'N  
A FEW DAYS WHEN HE HIT  
A NEW VEIN! THE MINE'S  
A REGULAR BONANZA NOW!

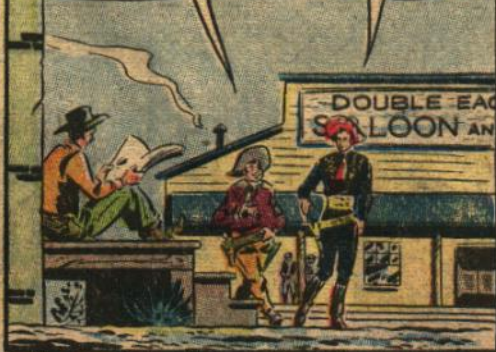


TOO BAD MIKE DIDN'T HOLD  
OUT AWHILE LONGER! RECKON  
THAT EASTERNER WHO WAS  
GRUBSTAKIN' HIM GOT TIRED  
O' DISHIN' OUT THE DINERO!

WRONG,  
SEÑOR! HE  
WAS BUSY  
CASHING IN  
HIS CHIPS!

CISCO! HOW COULD  
SEÑOR CARSON SELL  
THE MINE WHEN IT  
BELONGED TO SEÑOR  
JOHNSON?

THAT IS THE  
FIRST QUESTION  
I SHALL ASK  
CARSON WHEN I  
FIND HIM!



BUT WHERE DO  
WE GO TO LOOK  
FOR HIM?

AT THE MINE!  
BUT I AM GOING  
ALONE! YOU STAY  
HERE AND KEEP AN  
EYE ON SENORA  
JOHNSON!

LATER...

RIDER COMIN'  
UP THE TRAIL,  
VINCE!

OKAY! I'LL SEE  
HIM! YOU TWO STAY  
OUT-O' SIGHT!



HOWDY, STRANGER!  
I'M VINCE GRAY, OWNER  
O' THE BLUE LADY!  
WHAT CAN I DO  
FOR YOU?

TELL ME WHERE  
TO FIND A MAN  
NAMED MIKE  
CARSON!

SEARCH ME! LAST  
TIME I SAW HIM---ABOUT  
TWO MONTHS AGO---HE  
SAID HE WAS THINKIN' O'  
GOIN' TO MEXICO!

IT IS  
STRANGE HE  
DID NOT SAY  
'GOOD-BYE'  
TO HIS  
FRIENDS!







CISCO DUCKS UNDER THE BLOW...



TO SMASH HIS FIST INTO THE OTHER MAN'S SOLAR PLEXUS...



A HARD, JOLTING LEFT FLOORS GRAY...





AN' MAYBE THIS'LL TEACH  
YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN  
BUSINESS

FAST AS GRAY IS ON THE DRAW, CISCO IS  
FASTER.

OWWW!  
MY  
HAND!

BANG

AIN'T MANY HOMBRES  
CAN OUTDRAW ME!  
WHO IN BLAZES  
ARE YOU?

NOT THAT MY  
NAME'S ANY OF  
YOUR BUSINESS, BUT  
PEOPLE CALL ME  
THE CISCO KID!

WHAT IN THUNDER PUT  
HIM ON CARSON'S  
TRAIL?

SEARCH ME,  
BOSS! BUT I'LL  
GET HIM OFF IT---  
IF YOU SAY THE  
WORD!

THAT WOULD *REALLY* STIR UP  
A HORNET'S NEST! WE'LL SIT  
TIGHT! AFTER ALL, I'M  
HOLDIN' ALL THE ACES  
IN THIS GAME!

LATER, IN SHOO-FLY...

SEÑORA, MAY I KEEP  
THIS MINE DEED AND  
THESE CANCELLED  
CHECKS A WHILE?

OF COURSE! THE  
VERY IDEA! THAT  
CROOK CARSON  
DARING TO SELL  
MY MINE!





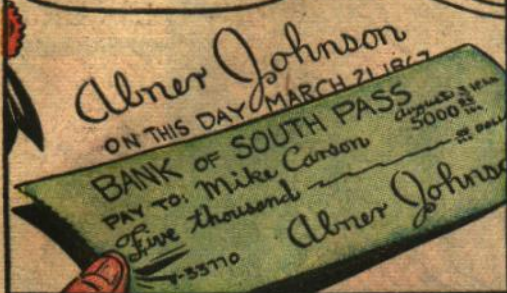
CISCO AND PANTO HURRY TO THE COURTHOUSE...





WHEN CISCO REACHES THE LAST, MOST RECENTLY DATED CHECK...

HA! THIS PROVES A SWINDLE! THE SIGNATURE ON THIS CHECK AND THE ONE ON THE RECORDED DEED ARE IDENTICAL--- EVEN TO THE CURLICUES ON THE "J"!



SI! CIS---WAIT! WHAT THE SAM HILL BLAZES ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I WILL EXPLAIN TO YOU AND SEÑORA JOHNSON AT THE SAME TIME! COME!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YOU'RE RIGHT, CISCO! I HAVE BEEN SWINDLED! WHAT SHALL I DO NOW?

RIDE OUT TO THE MINE AND CLAIM OWNERSHIP! I WISH TO FORCE THIS WHOLE DEAL OUT INTO THE OPEN! I BELIEVE THAT WILL DO IT!



BUT I CAN'T GO OUT THERE ALONE! I---

WHEREVER YOU'RE GOIN', MA'AM, I'LL BE GLAD TO GO ALONG!



CISCO WILL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT WHILE I CHANGE MY CLOTHES!

I'LL BE WAITIN' IN FRONT O' THE HOTEL WITH A BUCKBOARD WHEN YOU'RE READY!



AFTER CISCO EXPLAINS...

--- AND BE SURE TO KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY, SEÑOR! THIS GRAY IS A VERY TOUGH HOMBRE!

DON'T WORRY! I WON'T LET HIM HARM A HAIR O' MILLIE'S---ER--- MRS. JOHNSON'S HEAD!







PANCHO AND I WILL BE NEAR BY IN CASE YOU NEED HELP! I AM CURIOUS AS TO HOW GRAY WILL TAKE THIS!

PANCHO IS CURIOUS HOW HE TAKES THE MINE IN THE FIRST PLACE!



I WILL GO OVER IT AGAIN LATER! RIGHT NOW, WE MUST GET TO THE MINE BEFORE THE SEÑORA DOES! HER LIFE IS STILL IN DANGER!



AN HOUR LATER...

BUENO! WE ARE JUST IN TIME, PANCHO! THERE IS THE BUCKBOARD AND AND---

MADRE MIA! LOOK AT THE SEÑORA! SHE HAS TURNED INTO A COWBOY LADY!



INDEED SHE HAS, PANCHO! BUT I AM NOT SURPRISED! SHE IS A MOST UNUSUAL SEÑORA!

HO-HO! YOU HIT THE HEAD ON THE NAIL THAT TIME, CISCO!



GOOD AFTERNOON, FOLKS! I'M VINCE GRAY, OWNER O' THE BLUE LADY!

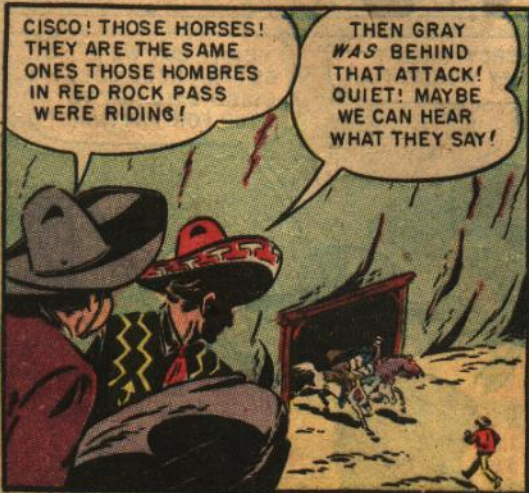
YOU ARE NOT! AND I ORDER YOU TO VACATE THESE PREMISES AT ONCE!



WHAT IN BLAZES'RE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?

ABOUT THIS MINE! IT BELONGED TO MY LATE HUSBAND! AND HERE'S THE DEED TO PROVE IT!















ON THE ECHOES OF THE SHOT, CISCO MOVES LIKE LIGHTNING.



THAT AFTERNOON...

OH, MISTER CISCO! I'M SO GRATEFUL! DID YOU FIND HOW GRAY GOT HOLD OF MY MINE?

SI! HE RAN INTO CARSON WHEN POOR MIKE WAS ON THE WAY TO WIRE YOUR HUSBAND HE HAD STRUCK IT RICH...



GRAY PERSUADED HIM TO HAVE A DRINK TO CELEBRATE! HE DOPED THE DRINK, STOLE THE LAST CHECK ABNER HAD SENT HIM AND USED ITS SIGNATURE TO FORGE THE QUIT CLAIM DEED! THEN HE LURED MIKE INTO THE HILLS AND KILLED HIM!

HANGED IF I SAVVY HOW YOU KNEW THE SIGNATURE ON THE RECORDED DEED WAS A FORGERY!

BECAUSE IT WAS IDENTICAL WITH THE ONE ON THE LAST CHECK ABNER SENT CARSON!

NOBODY EVER SIGNS HIS NAME *EXACTLY* THE SAME WAY TWICE! THAT MEANT THE SIGNATURE ON THE RECORDED DEED WAS *TRACED* OVER THE ONE ON THE CHECK!



COME, PANCHO! IT IS TIME WE WERE RIDING!

WAIT! YOUR JOB ISN'T FINISHED...



YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE *BEST* MEN AT BUNKY'S AND MY WEDDING! THAT IS, IF YOU DON'T OBJECT!

SEÑORA, PANCHO AND CISCO NEVER OBJECT TO WEDDINGS--- SO LONG AS *THEY* ARE NOT THE HOMBRES WHO ARE GETTING MARRIED!

