

NOV-DEC.

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**THE**

# CISCO KID



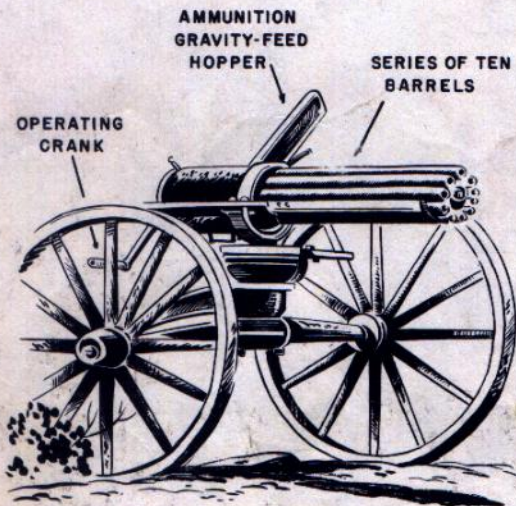


# THE GATLING GUN

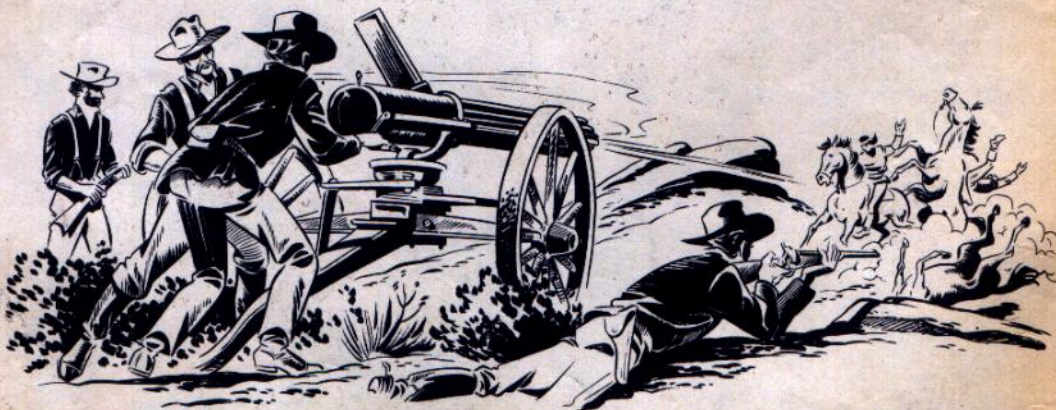
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FOR MANY YEARS, GUN DESIGNERS OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES ATTEMPTED TO DESIGN A RAPID FIRING WEAPON... BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL 1862, THAT DOCTOR RICHARD GATLING OF CHICAGO, INVENTED AND PERFECTED THE FIRST BATTERY OR MACHINE GUN. TO PROVE THE WEAPON'S CAPABILITIES TO U.S. GOVERNMENT MILITARY AUTHORITIES, DR. GATLING HIRED OPERATORS TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GUN DURING AN ACTUAL CIVIL WAR BATTLE.

THE MECHANISM OF THE GATLING GUN CONSISTED OF A GROUP OF BARRELS MOUNTED IN A CIRCLE. THE BARRELS WERE REVOLVED BY TURNING A CRANK ON THE SIDE OF THE BREECH HOUSING. THE RATE OF FIRE DEPENDED ON HOW FAST THE CRANK WAS TURNED --- USUALLY AROUND 800 SHOTS PER MINUTE.



THE GUN DIDN'T SEE TOO MUCH ACTION DURING THE CIVIL WAR, BUT WAS USED TO GOOD EFFECT BY SOME ARMY UNITS DURING THE BITTER INDIAN WARS. WITH THESE DEADLY WEAPONS, THE FEARED INDIAN CHARGE WAS A THING OF THE PAST. IN TIME, IT WAS USED, NOT ONLY BY THIS COUNTRY, BUT BY MANY OTHER GOVERNMENTS ALL OVER THE WORLD. THE GATLING GUN SERVED ITS PURPOSE WELL UNTIL ABOUT 1908, WHEN THE MACHINE GUN, AS WE KNOW IT NOW, CAME INTO BEING AND USE.



THE CISCO KID, No. 12, Nov.-Dec., 1952. Published bi-monthly by Dell Publishing Company, Inc., 261 Fifth Ave., New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Subscriptions in U.S.A., 60 cents per year; single copies, 10 cents; foreign subscriptions \$1.00 per year; Canadian subscriptions 60 cents per year. **Dell Subscription Service:** 10 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y. Copyright, 1952, by The Cisco Kid Products, Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co.



# THE CISCO KID

IN  
ALIAS EX-JAILBIRD

SUNDOWN FINDS THE CISCO KID  
AND PANCHO WEARY FROM A  
HARD DAY'S RIDE...

CISCO! PANCHO THINKS THE  
BORDER IS PRETTY NEARLY  
CLOSE BY! AND HE IS  
STARVED HUNGRY FOR HIS  
MAMA'S ENCHILADAS!

YOU WILL HAVE TO BE  
CONTENT WITH BEANS  
TONIGHT, PANCHO! WE  
MUST REST!



I WILL SEE TO THE  
HORSES WHILE YOU  
BUILD A FIRE!

BUENO!

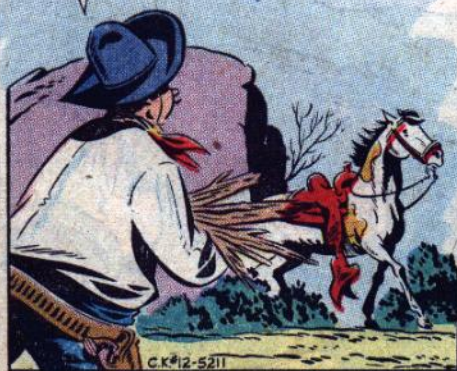


WHUH-HUH-  
HUH!

LOCO! HE FOLLOWS  
PANCHO! AH-HA! I  
WILL MAKE HIM  
CARRY BACK THE  
WOOD STICKS!



SANTO! IT IS *NOT* LOCO!  
IT IS ANOTHER BODY'S  
HORSE! ALL BY  
HIMSELF!



UNHH-  
OOOH!

SANTA MARIA! AND  
HERE IS THE BODY!







CI-SS-SG000!

OH-OH! PANTO IS  
IN TROUBLE AGAIN!  
IT NEVER FAILS! WE  
FIND EVERYTHING  
BUT REST!



PANTO! WHO IS  
THAT HOMBRE?

WHO KNOWS? HIS  
HORSE FINDS  
PANTO! PANTO  
FINDS HIM!



HE IS HURT  
BAD IN THE  
HEAD BUT---

WAIT! HE IS  
TRYING TO SPEAK!



BLACK MIKE?... (GASP?)  
FRANKIE SAID --- SEE BLACK  
MIKE IN BOOTSTRAP! MAKE---  
LOTS--- OF--- CASH ---



CISCO! THE SEÑOR IS  
DEAD! BUT HOW?

OFFHAND, I WOULD  
SAY HE EITHER FELL  
FROM, OR WAS THROWN  
BY HIS HORSE AND  
SUFFERED A  
FRACTURED SKULL!



HE IS BERT DOWNEY!  
HERE IS HIS PRISON  
DISCHARGE! DATED  
TWO DAYS AGO!

SANTO! AN  
EX-PRISON-  
JAILBIRD!



AND HERE IS A LETTER...  
WRITTEN BY A MAN NAMED  
FRANKIE GALE?...WHY, IT IS  
A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION  
TO BLACK MIKE GROGAN!



MADRE MIA! EVEN  
PANCHO HEARS OF  
THAT BAD ONE!

I HAVE HEARD OF HIM,  
TOO! BUT I HAVE NEVER  
MET HIM! HOWEVER...



MADRE MIA! SINCE  
WHEN DOES THE CISCO  
KID TAKE THE CLOTHES  
FROM A DEAD HOMBRE?  
OR EVEN A LIVE ONE?

SINCE  
NOW!



HE IS ABOUT MY  
BUILD! I SHOULD  
BE ABLE TO WEAR  
HIS CLOTHES!

AHA! NOW PANTO  
SABE! YOU WILL  
PLAY AT BEING  
THE DEAD HOMBRE  
AND GO TO FIND---



NO, CISCO! YOU CANNOT  
DO THAT! IF BLACK MIKE  
FIND OUT YOU ARE YOU  
AND NOT THE DEAD  
HOMBRE---

ONLY ONE OF  
US WILL  
COME THROUGH  
ALIVE!



BUT IT IS A RISK I MUST TAKE, PANTO!  
THE LAW HAS WANTED BLACK MIKE  
FOR A LONG TIME! THIS LOOKS  
LIKE THE CHANCE TO NAB HIM!





WHAT ABOUT PANCHO?  
THERE'S NOBODY'S  
CLOTHES FOR HIM  
TO WEAR--- ONLY  
HIS OWN!

BY MORNING, I  
WILL HAVE A  
PLAN FOR YOU!  
NOW LET US BURY  
THIS POOR CHAP!  
THEN GET SOME  
FOOD AND REST!



THE NEXT MORNING

REMEMBER! WE ARE  
STRANGERS! AND IF  
ANYONE RECOGNIZES  
YOU AND ASKS FOR ME,  
TELL THEM I AM IN  
MEXICO ON BUSINESS!

SI!



LATER...

I WILL CUT CROSS-COUNTRY,  
PANCHO! YOU STICK TO THE MAIN  
ROAD! WHEN YOU REACH TOWN, HANG  
AROUND THE LIVERY STABLE! I WILL  
GET WORD TO YOU WHEN AND WHERE  
TO MEET ME!

OKAY! BUT PANCHO WILL  
NOT HANG AROUND THE  
STABLE! HE WILL BE  
OUTSIDE OF IT!



STILL LATER, IN BOOTSTRAP

GOOD MORNING, HOMBRES!  
I'M LOOKING FOR A MAN  
NAMED BLACK MIKE  
GROGAN!

SO ARE A  
LOT OF  
FOLKS!  
WHAT DO YOU  
WANT WITH  
HIM?

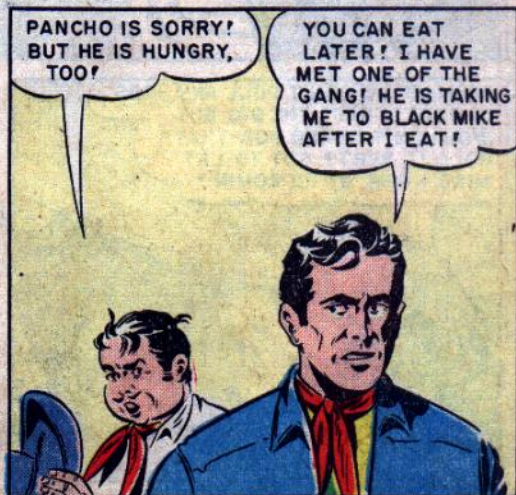
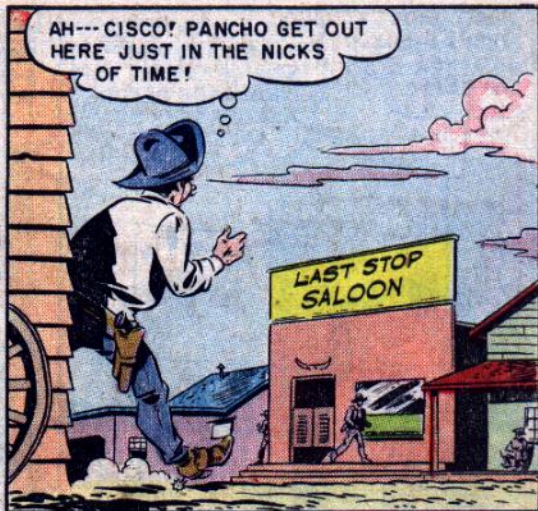


I HAVE A LETTER  
FOR HIM FROM  
FRANKIE GALE!  
MY NAME IS---

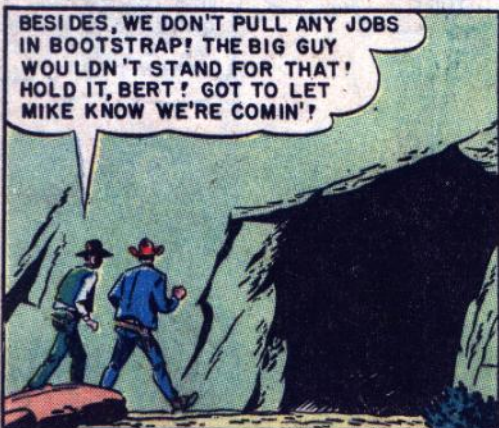
BERT DOWNEY! I'M  
SLIM OWNES, ONE  
OF MIKE'S BOYS!  
THE BOSS GOT WORD  
YOU WERE ON THE WAY!  
HE'S REAL ANXIOUS TO  
MEET YOU!













**A FEW MINUTES LATER...**

OKAY, DOWNEY! YOU'RE IN!  
BUT GET THIS STRAIGHT!  
I RUN THIS OUTFIT! SAVVY?

SURE! ALL I  
AM INTERESTED  
IN IS GETTING  
PAID! I'M  
FLAT BROKE!



YOU WON'T BE --- AFTER TOMORROW!  
WE'RE CLEANIN' OUT THE EDGERTON  
BANK AROUND NOON! IT'S BULGIN'  
WITH GOLD ACCORDIN' TO THE  
BIG GUY! AN' DON'T ASK ME  
WHO HE IS 'CAUSE THAT'S  
NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

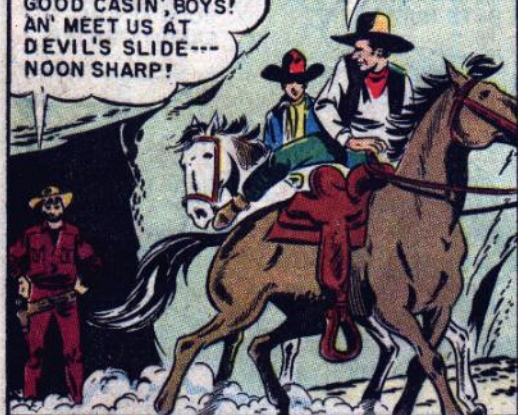
YOU  
WOULD BE  
SURPRISED,  
HOMBRE!



**THE NEXT MORNING...**

GIVE THAT BANK A  
GOOD CASIN', BOYS!  
AN' MEET US AT  
DEVIL'S SLIDE ---  
NOON SHARP!

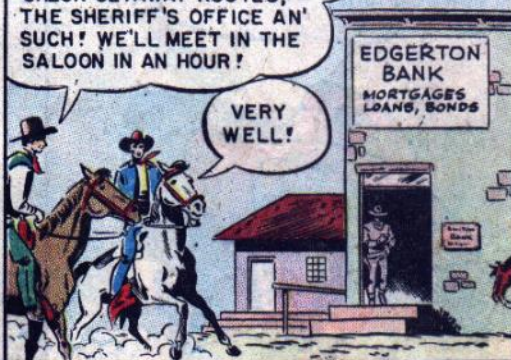
OKAY! LET'S  
GO, DOWNEY!



**TEN MILES LATER...**

I'LL NOSE AROUND INSIDE  
THE BANK, DOWNEY! YOU TAKE  
A LOOKSEE AROUND TOWN!  
CHECK GETAWAY ROUTES,  
THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE AN'  
SUCH! WE'LL MEET IN THE  
SALOON IN AN HOUR!

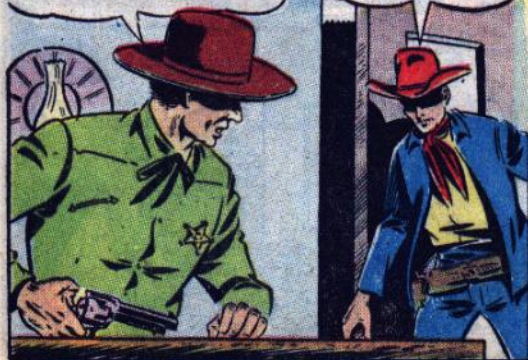
VERY  
WELL!



**A FEW MINUTES LATER...**

WHAT THE ---! WHO ARE  
YOU? AN' WHAT'S THE  
IDEA OF SNEAKIN' IN  
THE BACK WAY? I ---

I DID NOT WISH  
TO BE SEEN,  
SHERIFF! I AM  
THE CISCO KID!

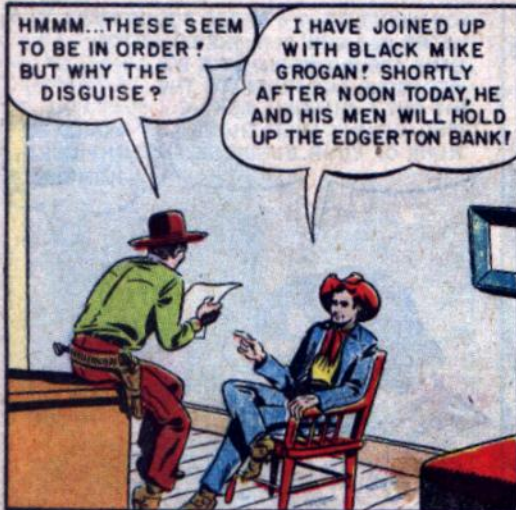


A LIKELY STORY!  
I NEVER MET CISCO  
BUT I KNOW HE  
DOESN'T DRESS  
LIKE THAT! HE ---

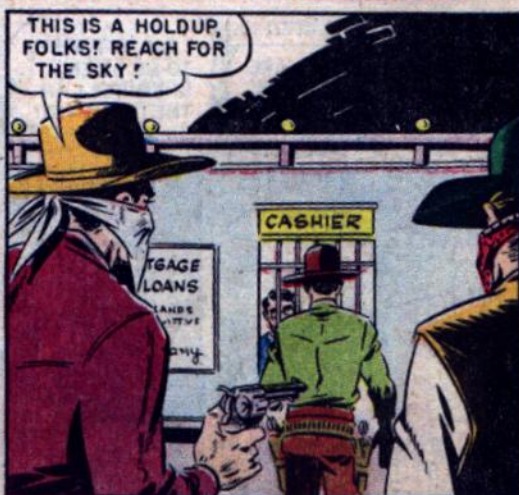
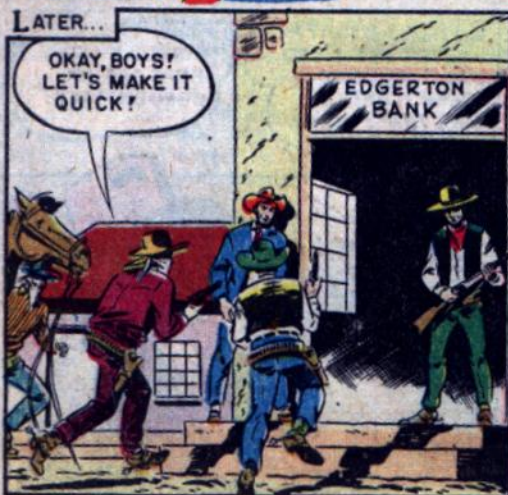
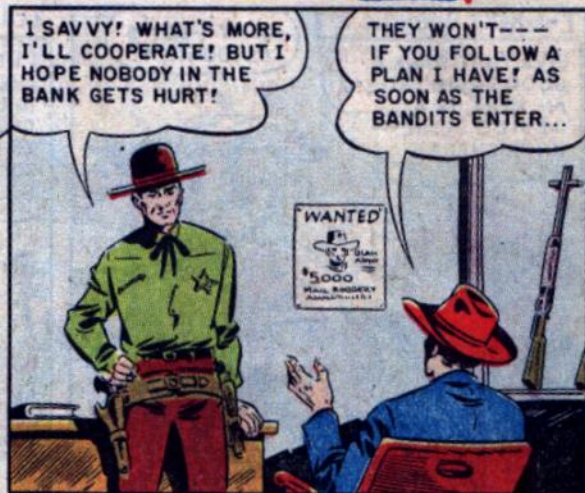
THIS IS A  
DISGUISE! AND  
HERE ARE MY  
CREDENTIALS!







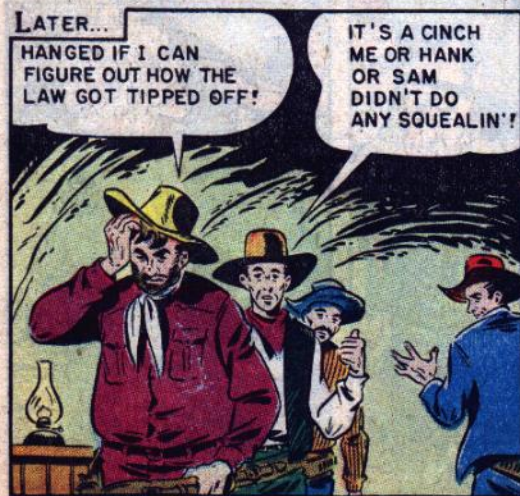
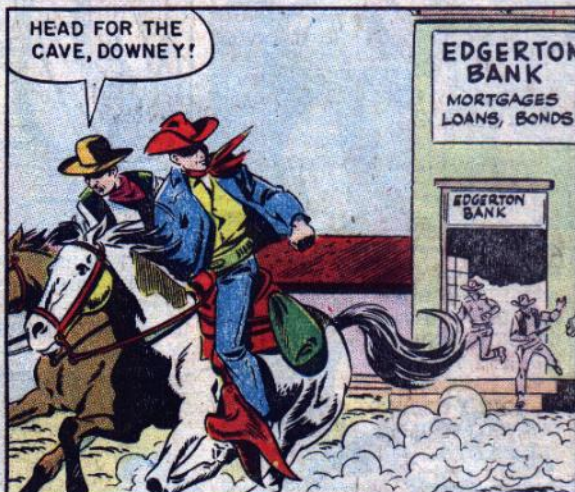
BECAUSE BLACK MIKE HAS A BOSS! SOMEONE CALLED THE BIG GUY! IF THE GANG IS WIPED OUT, OR ROUNDED UP, HE WILL NOT BE CAUGHT! AND UNLESS HE IS, HE WILL HIRE OTHER GUNMEN AND---







AT THE SAME MOMENT...





NOBODY CAN CALL ME A'SQUEALER' AND GO ON LIVING! BESIDES, YOU SAID I WOULD NOT BE BROKE AFTER THE BANK JOB AND---

TAKE IT EASY, DOWNEY. I'M MEETIN' THE BIG GUY LATER! I'LL GET A FEW BUCKS FROM HIM FOR YOU!

SUNDOWN...

LIKE I FIGURED, THE BIG GUY IS PLENTY SORE 'CAUSE THE BANK JOB WENT HAYWIRE! BUT HE'S GOT ANOTHER--- EVEN BETTER--- IDEA!

TOMORROW, THE TWO-THIRTY TRAIN FROM BOOTSTRAP TO EDGERTON WILL BE CARRYIN' A BIG GOLD SHIPMENT!

THE BIG GUY DON'T WANT THAT GOLD TO GET BEYOND THE CREST OF WOLF RIDGE! I TOLD HIM WE'D MAKE SURE IT DIDN'T! SOUND OKAY TO YOU, DOWNEY?

YES! BUT A TRAIN HOLDUP TAKES CAREFUL PLANNING!

DON'T WORRY! THE BIG GUY'LL WORK OUT A SURE-FIRE PLAN! HE'S RIDIN' UP HERE TOMORROW MORNIN' TO---

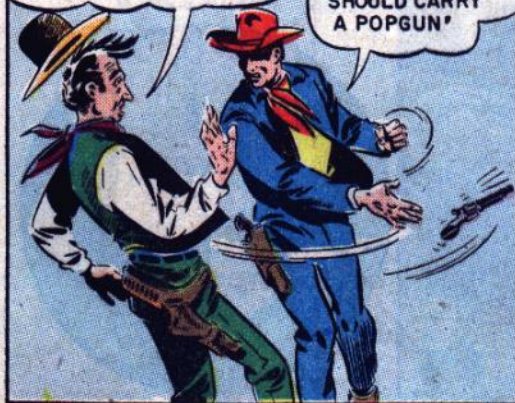
SANTO!

BLAM!

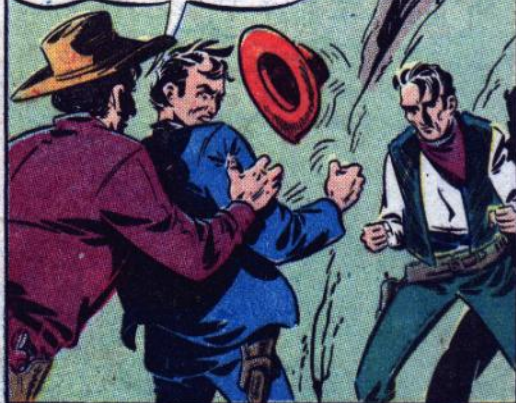


IT WAS AN ACCIDENT,  
DOWNEY! I SWEAR  
IT! I WAS JUST  
CLEANIN' MY GUN AN'---

IT WENT OFF---  
ACCIDENTALLY ON  
PURPOSE, EH?  
MAYBE YOU  
SHOULD CARRY  
A POPGUN'



BLAST IT! IF YOU DON'T  
QUIT ARCHIN' YOUR BACKS,  
I'L L WIPE UP THE GROUND  
WITH BOTH OF YOU!



RECKON WE'VE BEEN COOPED  
UP TOO LONG' C'M ON! WE'LL  
RIDE INTO BOOTSTRAP AN'  
LET OFF A LITTLE STEAM'



IN BOOTSTRAP, CISCO GIVES THE OUTLAWS THE  
SLIP AND

NOW, PANCHO --- IS  
IT ALL CLEAR?



SI! PANCHO TELLS  
THE SHERIFF WHAT IS UP!  
THEN HE GETS DIABLO  
AND LOCO AND HIDES  
THEM ON WOLF RIDGE!  
THEN HE GETS ONTO  
THE TRAIN!



HE GETS INTO THE CABOOSE ---  
AND STAYS THERE! WHEN THE  
TROUBLE STARTS, I DO NOT  
WANT TO BE FORCED TO LOOK  
THROUGH THE WHOLE TRAIN  
FOR YOU!



AND NOW I MUST GET  
BACK TO THE CAFÉ  
BEFORE I AM MISSED!  
SEE YOU TO MORROW!



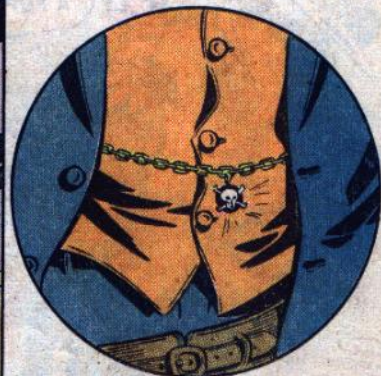
SI! AND WILL  
PANCHO BE  
GLAD! HE IS  
ALL TIRED  
OUT FROM SO  
MUCH WAITING!



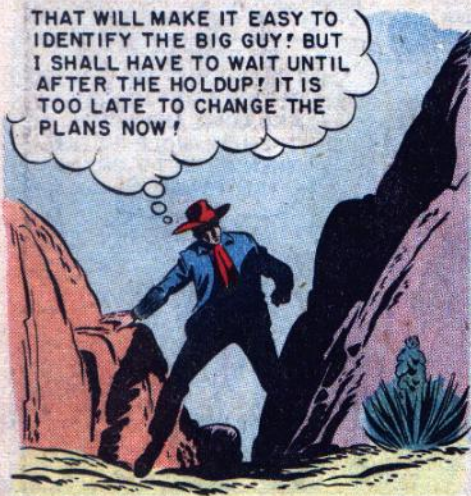
THE NEXT MORNING...



HIS WATCH FOB! THERE CANNOT BE TWO LIKE THAT!

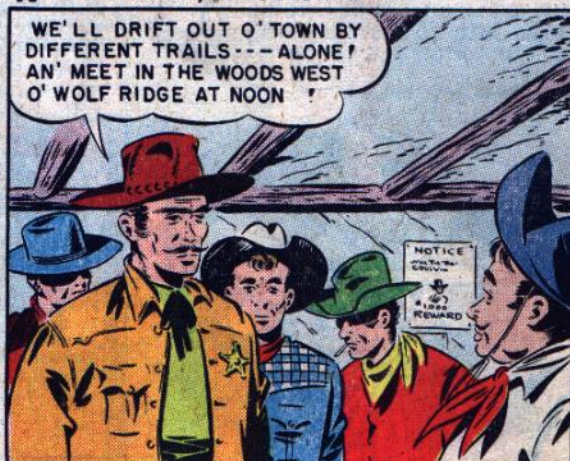


THAT WILL MAKE IT EASY TO IDENTIFY THE BIG GUY! BUT I SHALL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE HOLDUP! IT IS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE PLANS NOW!



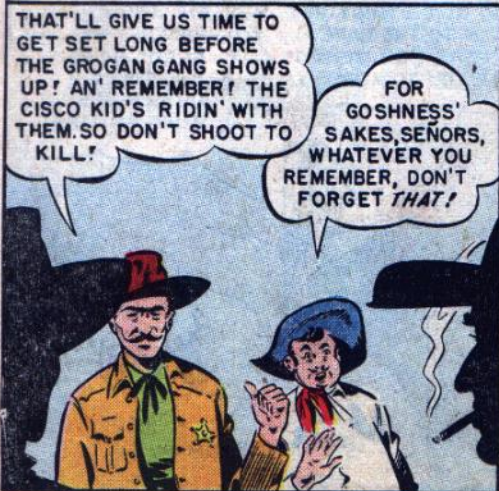
AT THAT MOMENT, IN BOOTSTRAP

WE'LL DRIFT OUT O' TOWN BY DIFFERENT TRAILS---ALONE! AN' MEET IN THE WOODS WEST O' WOLF RIDGE AT NOON!



THAT'LL GIVE US TIME TO GET SET LONG BEFORE THE GROGAN GANG SHOWS UP! AN' REMEMBER! THE CISCO KID'S RIDIN' WITH THEM. SO DON'T SHOOT TO KILL!

FOR GOSHNESS' SAKES, SENORS, WHATEVER YOU REMEMBER, DON'T FORGET THAT!



TWO P.M., NEAR WOLF RIDGE

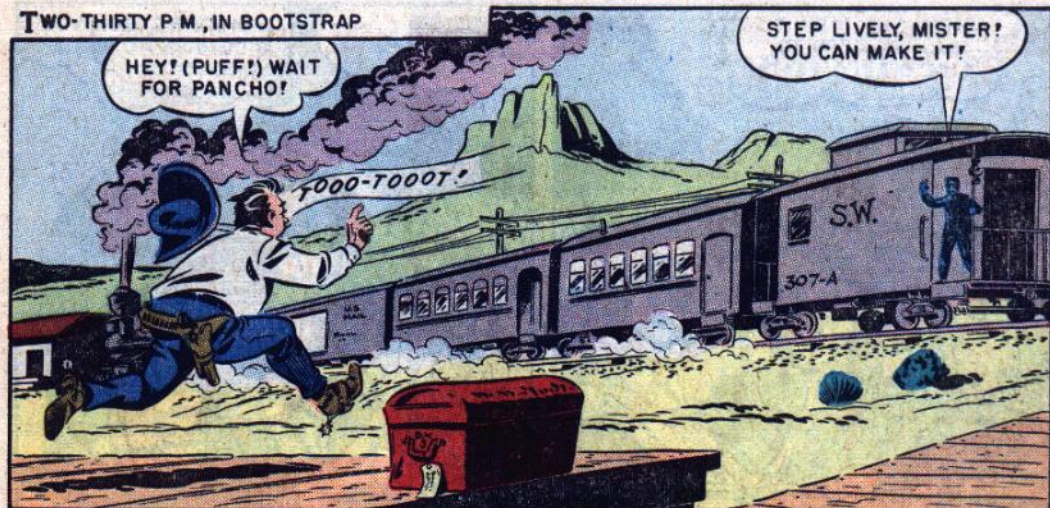
JUST WHERE DO WE STOP THE TRAIN, BOSS?

SMACK ON THE CREST, SLIM! AFTER THE LONG PULL UPGRADE, IT'S NEVER MAKIN' MORE'N A COUPLA MILES AN HOUR WHEN IT HITS THERE!

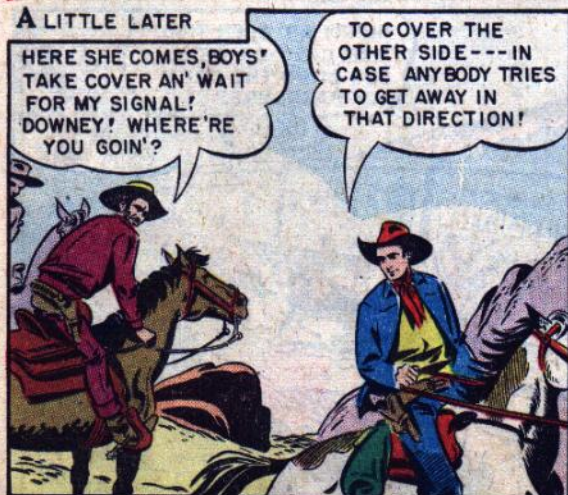




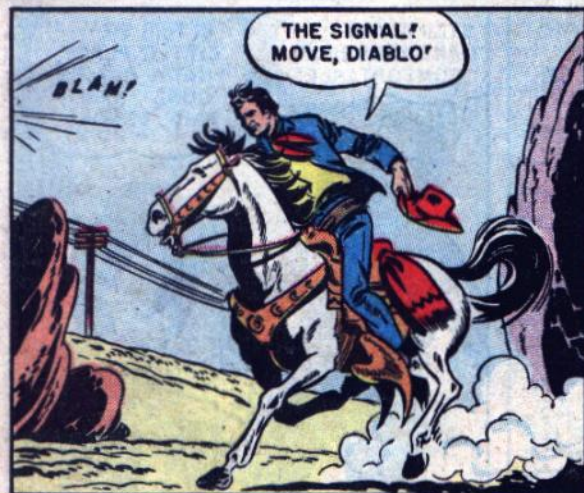
TWO-THIRTY P.M., IN BOOTSTRAP



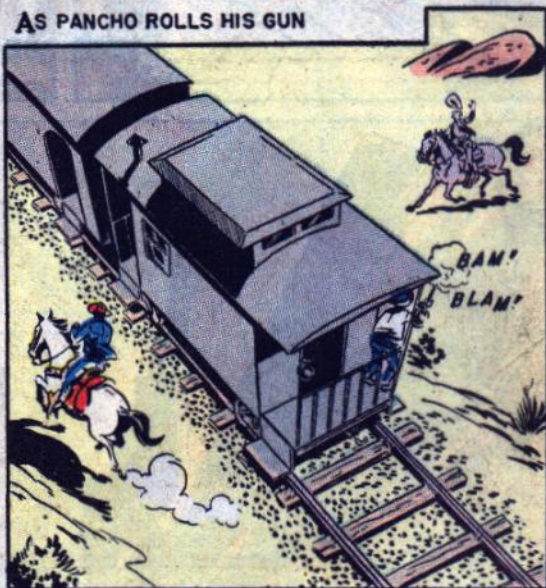
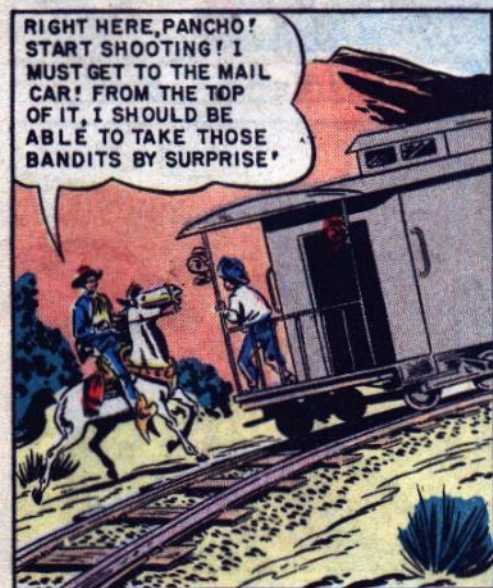
A LITTLE LATER



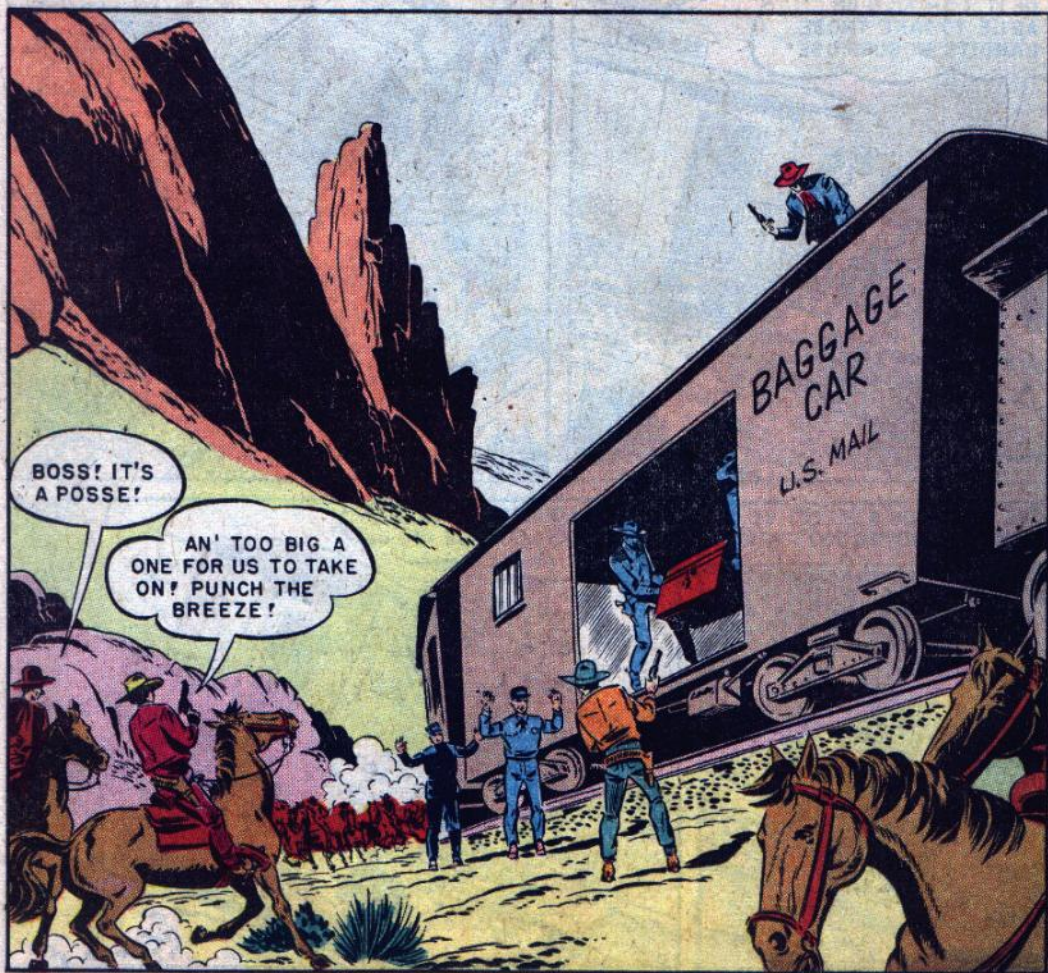
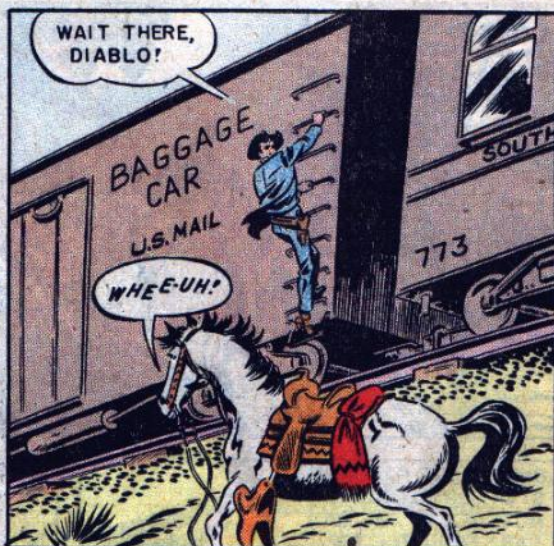
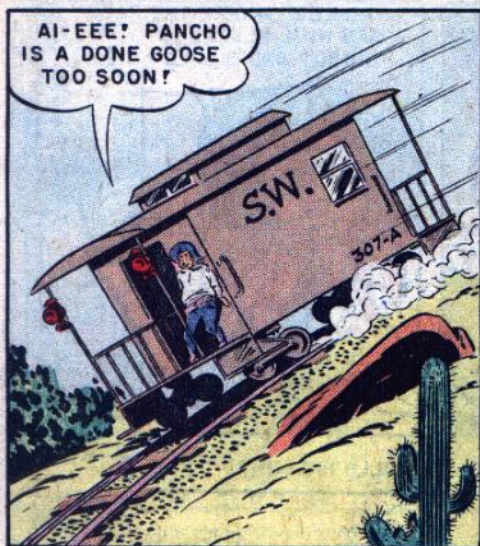




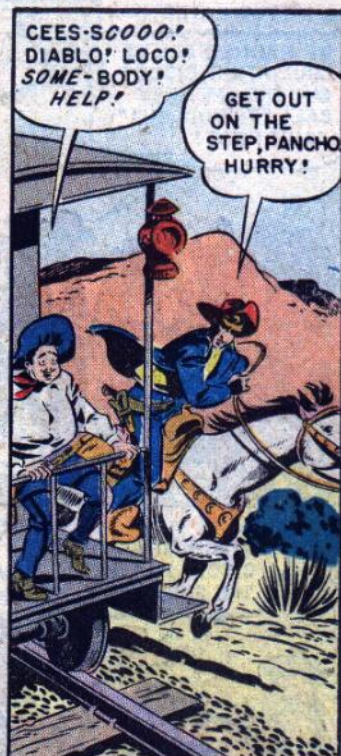














A LITTLE LATER...

WE NABBED ALL WE COULD FIND, CISCO! BUT THE ONE THEY CALL "THE BIG GUY" ISN'T HERE!

I WILL FIND HIM! LINE UP THE PASSENGERS!



BUT AS HE SWINGS TO THE GROUND, CISCO SPOTS HIS MAN.

THIS ONE IS "THE BIG GUY"! I RECOGNIZE THE WATCH FOB! DO YOU RECOGNIZE HIM?

YEAH! HE'S ED RAND, THE EXPRESS AGENT IN BOOTSTRAP!



GO AHEAD AN' SHOOT, CISCO! I'LL GET THE SHERIFF!



YOU TALK TOO SOON, SEÑOR!



SUNDOWN.

WELL, THAT'S THE END OF THE GROGAN GANG! YOU'LL GET A GOOD REWARD FOR THIS DAY'S WORK, CISCO!

I DO NOT ACCEPT REWARDS! BUT PANCHO COULD USE SOME OF IT FOR RAILROAD FARE TO CHIHUAHUA!



NOT ON YOUR LIVES! PANCHO WILL GO BY HORSEBACKS! THE NEXT TIME HE GETS ON A TRAIN, HE DON'T!





# THE GISCO KID

## AND THE BLACK GHOSTS OF EL REFUGIO

LATE ONE AFTERNOON.

PANCHO IS *SO* TIRED AND *SO* HUNGRY! WHEN DO WE MAKE THE CAMP FOR THE NIGHT?

WE DON'T! TONIGHT WE SLEEP IN BEDS IN BLACK BLUFF! WE SHOULD REACH THERE SHORTLY BEFORE DARK!



WHY SUCH A MUCH HURRY? SENOR HAWKINS' TROUBLE WILL WAIT!

SHAME ON YOU, PANCHO! JOHN IS OUR FRIEND! HE WIRED US FOR HELP! HE---



HE IS A *SHERIFF*! AND--- SANTO! WHAT IS HAPPENING TO LOCO?

HE LIMS! PROBABLY PICKED UP A STONE!



SI! AND IT HAS BRUISED HIS FEET! POOR LOCO! HE CANNOT HURRY NOW!

LET ME SEE THE STONE!



YOU ARE RIGHT, PANCHO! I THOUGHT YOU WERE FIBBING BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO REST!

HUMPH! PANCHO NEVER FIBS! HE ONLY STRETCHES THE TRUTH A LITTLE SOMETIMES!





BUT NOT *THIS* TIME!  
HE--- CISCO! YOU ARE  
LEAVING PANTO  
DRY AND HIGH?

OF COURSE NOT!  
BUT IT IS TOO  
WINDY TO CAMP  
HERE!

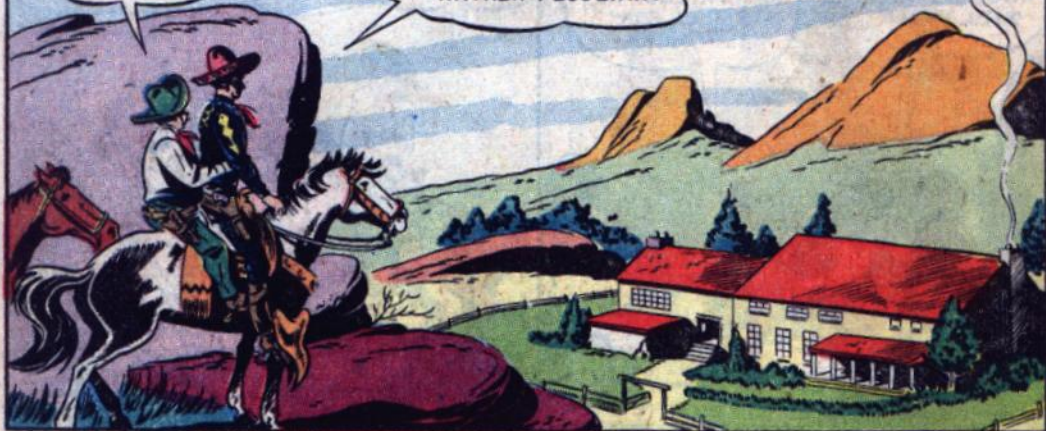


WE WILL HEAD FOR THE  
TREES ON THAT RIDGE  
YONDER! LOCO  
WILL FOLLOW!



AI-EEE! PANTO IS SO  
TIRED, HE THINKS HE IS  
SEEING A BEAUTIFUL  
RANCH!

YOU *DO* SEE IT! AND WE  
SHALL SPEND THE NIGHT THERE IF  
THE OWNER IS WILLING! HE IS A  
VERY RICH MAN! AND ALSO  
RATHER PECULIAR!



YOU KNOW  
HIM?

NO! BUT ONLY A  
RICH MAN COULD  
AFFORD SUCH A PLACE!  
AND ONLY A PECULIAR  
MAN WOULD BUILD IT  
OUT HERE IN THE  
WILDS!

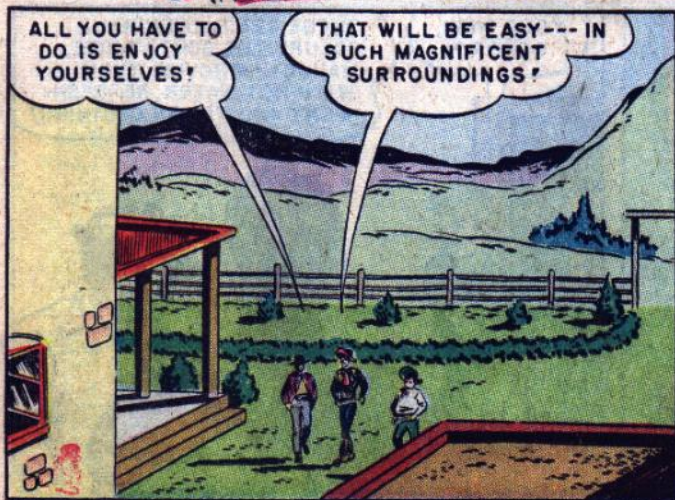
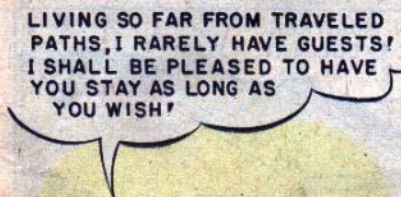
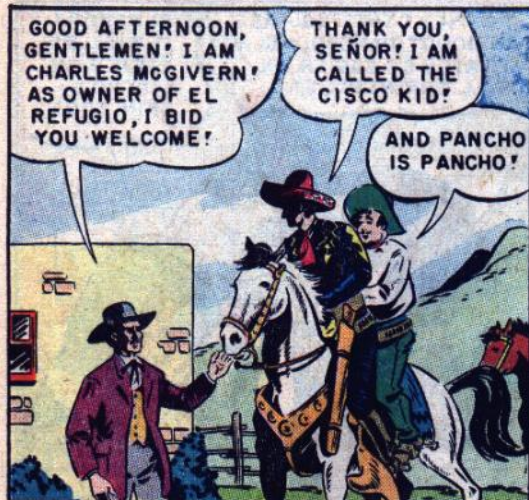


AND NAME IT THE  
REFUGE! I WONDER  
FROM WHAT OR WHOM  
HE SEEKS SHELTER?

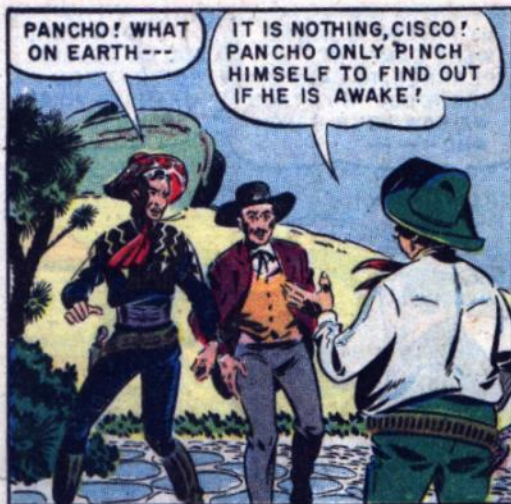
OH, CISCO! DO NOT  
ALWAYS TRY TO  
MAKE THE MYSTERIES  
UP!







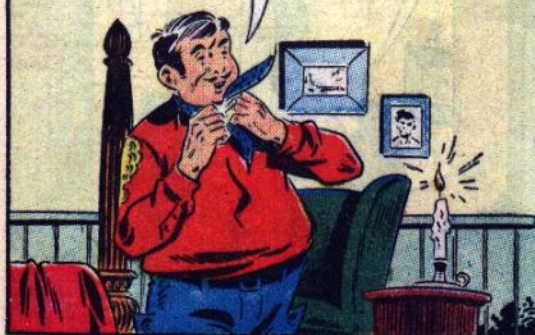






A LITTLE LATER...

CISCO! THESE CLOTHES! THEY FIT PANCHO TO THE T! ---AHA! YOU, TOO, ARE THE GRAND CABALLERO, EH?

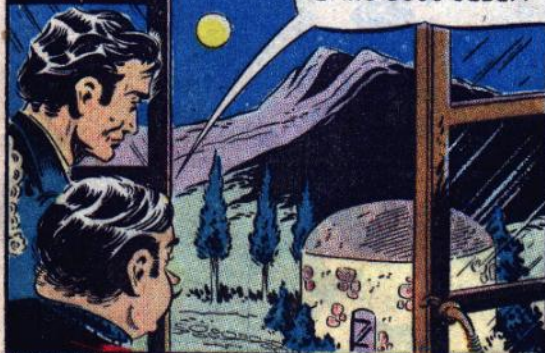


SI! AND A PUZZLED ONE! COME HERE!



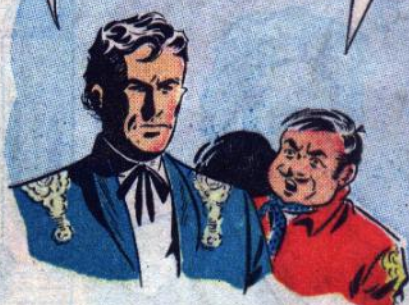
I CANNOT FIGURE OUT WHAT THAT BUILDING WITH THE ROUNDED ROOF IS!

THERE YOU GO! MAKING UP MORE MYSTERIES! WHY DON'T YOU BE LIKE PANCHO? LET LYING DOGS SLEEP!



BECAUSE I HAVE A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE--- AND ITS OWNER! AS IF NEITHER WERE WHAT THEY SEEM!

HUMPH! YOU FIND SOMETHING WRONG, PANCHO WILL EAT HIS SOMBRERO!



AFTER DINNER...

I HAD HOPED TO SPEND THE EVENING WITH YOU GENTLEMEN! BUT A MATTER OF BUSINESS HAS COME UP! YOU WILL EXCUSE ME?

OF COURSE, SEÑOR...



TO TELL THE TRUTH, WE HAVE RIDDEN FAR TODAY! IT WILL BE GOOD TO TURN IN EARLY, EH, PANCHO?









MIDNIGHT...

IT BEGINS TO LOOK AS IF PANTO WERE RIGHT! BUT MY HUNCH WAS SO STRONG, I---WHAT IS THAT?



IT SOUNDS LIKE RIDERS COMING OVER THE RISE BEYOND THE CORRAL!



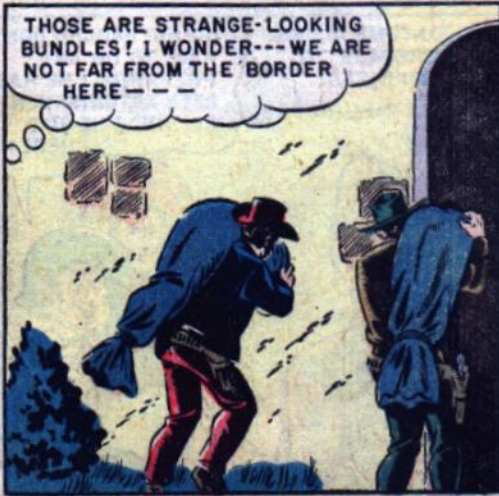
FOUR HORSEMEN! BUT HOW NOISELESSLY THEY RIDE! LIKE BLACK GHOSTS!



AND NO WONDER! THEIR HORSES' HOOFES ARE PADDED! AND THEY WEAR NO SPURS!



THOSE ARE STRANGE-LOOKING BUNDLES! I WONDER---WE ARE NOT FAR FROM THE BORDER HERE---





OF COURSE! SEÑOR MCGIVERN IS A SMUGGLER! HIS ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE THE REASON SHERIFF HAWKINS SENT FOR US!



ON THE OTHER HAND, HE MAY KNOW NOTHING OF THIS STRANGE BUSINESS! SO I SHALL IGNORE IT UNTIL I HAVE TALKED WITH HIM!



THE NEXT MORNING...

LOOK, CISCO! LOCO IS OKAY! FITS AS THE FIDDLER!

SI! BUT AT THE MOMENT, I AM MORE INTERESTED IN SEÑOR MCGIVERN'S WHEREABOUTS! WE SHOULD THANK HIM FOR — —



CISCO! SURELY YOU'RE NOT LEAVING SO SOON? I WANTED TO SHOW YOU MY HOBBY! IT IS WELL WORTH SEEING!

WE HAVE AN IMPORTANT APPOINTMENT IN BLACK BLUFF! BUT IF WE ARE A FEW MINUTES LATE, IT WILL NOT MATTER!



GOOD! COME ALONG! AND PREPARE TO BE SURPRISED!

HO-HO! PANCHO DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY PREPARING! HE HAS BEEN ASTONISHMENT-ED SINCE HE GOT HERE!



KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY, PANCHO! THIS MAY BE A TRICK!

NOSENSES! THE ONLY TRICKS HERE ARE THE ONES CISCO'S IMAGINATION IS PLAYING!





MADRE MIA!  
WHAT IT IS?

AN  
AQUARIUM!

CONTAINING DEEP SEA  
DENIZENS FROM THE  
SEVEN SEAS!



THIS STING RAY WAS  
NETTED IN THE  
CARIBBEAN! THOSE  
BARRACUDAS OFF  
OF BERMUDA.



AI-EEE! GIANT  
SNAKES!



NO, PANCHO! MORAY  
EELS! FIERCE IN THEIR  
NATIVE HABITAT! BUT  
HARMLESS BEHIND  
STRONG GLASS!





YOUR PARDON, SEÑOR! PANCHE GETS OUT OF HERE PRONTO! *COOKED* FISHES HE DON'T MIND! BUT THESE ONES GIVE HIM GEESE-PIMPLES TWO FEET HIGH!



TEN MINUTES LATER

A MOST EXCITING SIGHT, SEÑOR! I REGRET I COULD NOT TAKE TIME TO *STUDY* YOUR EXHIBITS!

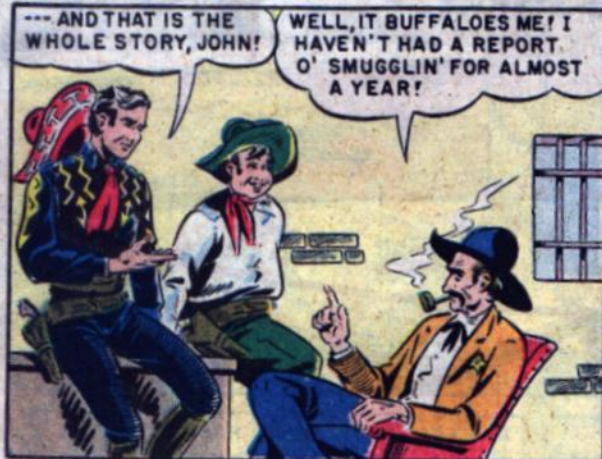
STOP IN ON YOUR WAY BACK FROM BLACK BLUFF! THEY--- AND I--- WILL STILL BE HERE!



NOON, IN THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IN BLACK BLUFF.

--- AND THAT IS THE WHOLE STORY, JOHN!

WELL, IT BUFFALOES ME! I HAVEN'T HAD A REPORT O' SMUGGLIN' FOR ALMOST A YEAR!



...BUT EVERY COÛPLA DAYS, A MISSIN' PERSONS REPORT COMES ALONG! SEEMS THE MEN O' THIS TERRITORY'RE DISAPPEARIN' AT A MIGHTY ALARMIN' RATE!



COUNTIN' THE TWO WHO VANISHED YESTERDAY, CLOSE ON TO THIRTY HAVE DROPPED OUT O' SIGHT IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS! AN' WE HAVEN'T TURNED UP A SINGLE, SOLITARY CLUE TO WHY THEY DID--- OR WHERE!

THAT *IS* STRANGE! I WONDER--- WHEN DID YOU SAY MCGIVERN CAME HERE?





LAST YEAR! BUT WHY ON EARTH WOULD HE KIDNAP A BUNCH O' MEN?

I DO NOT KNOW ' BUT SOMETHING EVIL IS GOING ON OUT AT EL REFUGIO ' AND I INTEND TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!



I'LL ROUND UP A POSSE AN' SHAKE THE PLACE DOWN FROM ONE END TO THE OTHER!

AND FIND NOTHING! MCGIVERN IS CLEVER--- EVEN BRILLIANT! IT WILL TAKE TIME AND PATIENCE, I AM AFRAID, TO UNCOVER HIS MYSTERIOUS ACTIVITIES!



PANCHO AND I HAVE BOTH! YOU ARE A BUSY MAN! SO WHY NOT LET US HANDLE IT?

OKAY! BUT I'LL LINE UP THE BOYS, AN' BE READY TO RIDE AT A MINUTE'S NOTICE!



COME, PANCHO! THE SOONER WE RETURN TO EL REFUGIO, THE SOONER WE SOLVE ITS PUZZLE! AND, PERHAPS, THAT OF THE VANISHED HOMBRES, TOO!

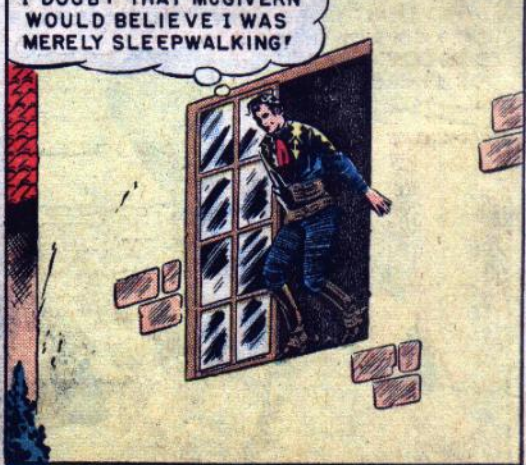


THAT NIGHT

DROPPING FROM HERE IS RISKY! BUT TO GO THROUGH THE HOUSE WOULD BE MORE SO!



I DOUBT THAT MCGIVERN WOULD BELIEVE I WAS MERELY SLEEPWALKING!





WITH CATLIKE AGILITY, CISCO  
LANDS ON HIS FEET...



AND SLIPS SILENTLY AND RAPIDLY  
THROUGH THE SHADOWS  
TO THE AQUARIUM...



LOCKED! NOTHING TO DO  
BUT WAIT AND HOPE THE  
BLACK GHOSTS---



AT THAT MOMENT, HIS KEEN EARS  
CATCH THE SOFT THUD-THUD OF  
HOOFS...



HE GAINS COVER JUST IN TIME...



HMMM--- ONLY THREE  
RIDERS AND *ONE*  
BUNDLE TONIGHT!

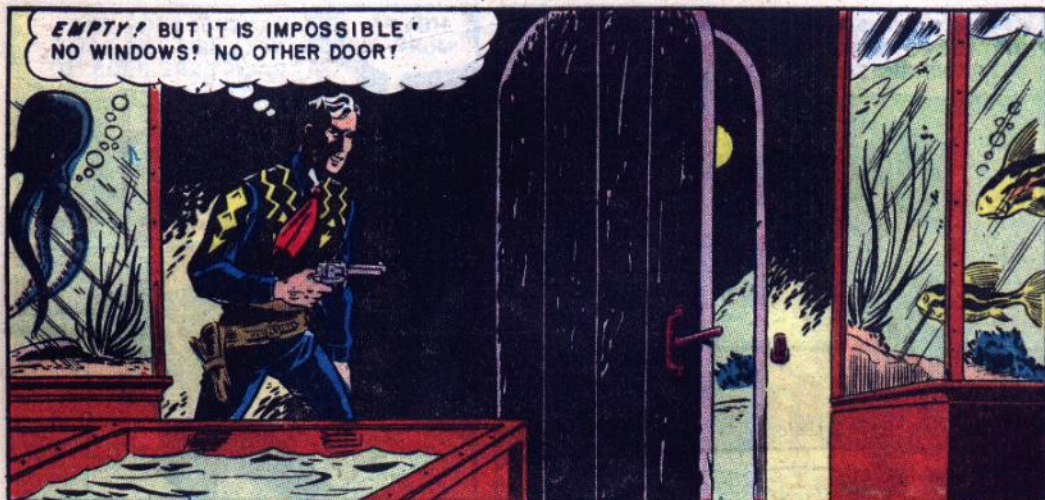
NOW IF THEY WILL ONLY  
LEAVE THAT DOOR AJAR



BUENO! MY LUCK  
STILL HOLDS!







MEANWHILE, PANCHO AWAKENS.



A FEW MINUTES LATER



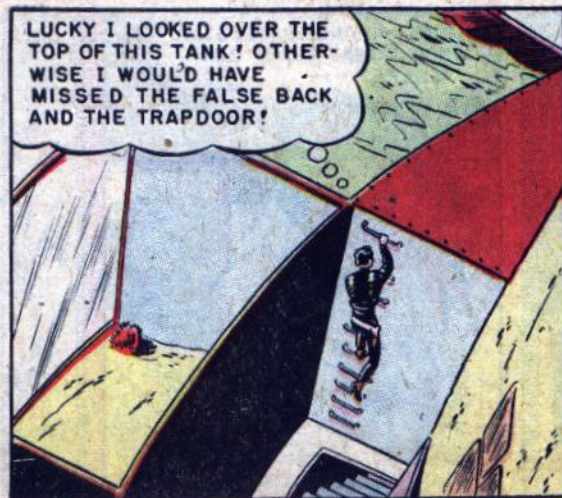




B-BUT, CISCO, YOU--- YOU  
---MADRE MIA! YOU  
ARE NOT WET! WHAT  
THE SAM HILL  
BLAZES---?

THERE IS NO  
TIME TO EXPLAIN!  
YOU MUST  
RIDE FOR  
THE SHERIFF!

AFTER PANCHO IS SAFELY AWAY...











THE WIFE OF ONE KIDNAPED HOMBRE SAW THE KIDNAPERS--- AND TOLD THE SHERIFF THEY WORE BLACK CLOTHES AND RODE HORSES WITH PADS ON THE FOOTS--- SO HE COMES WITH THE POSSE!



EATING THE SOMBRERO! DID NOT PANTHO SAY HE WOULD IF SOMETHING WAS WRONG AT EL REFUGIO? WELL, PANTHO ALWAYS KEEP HIS WORD!