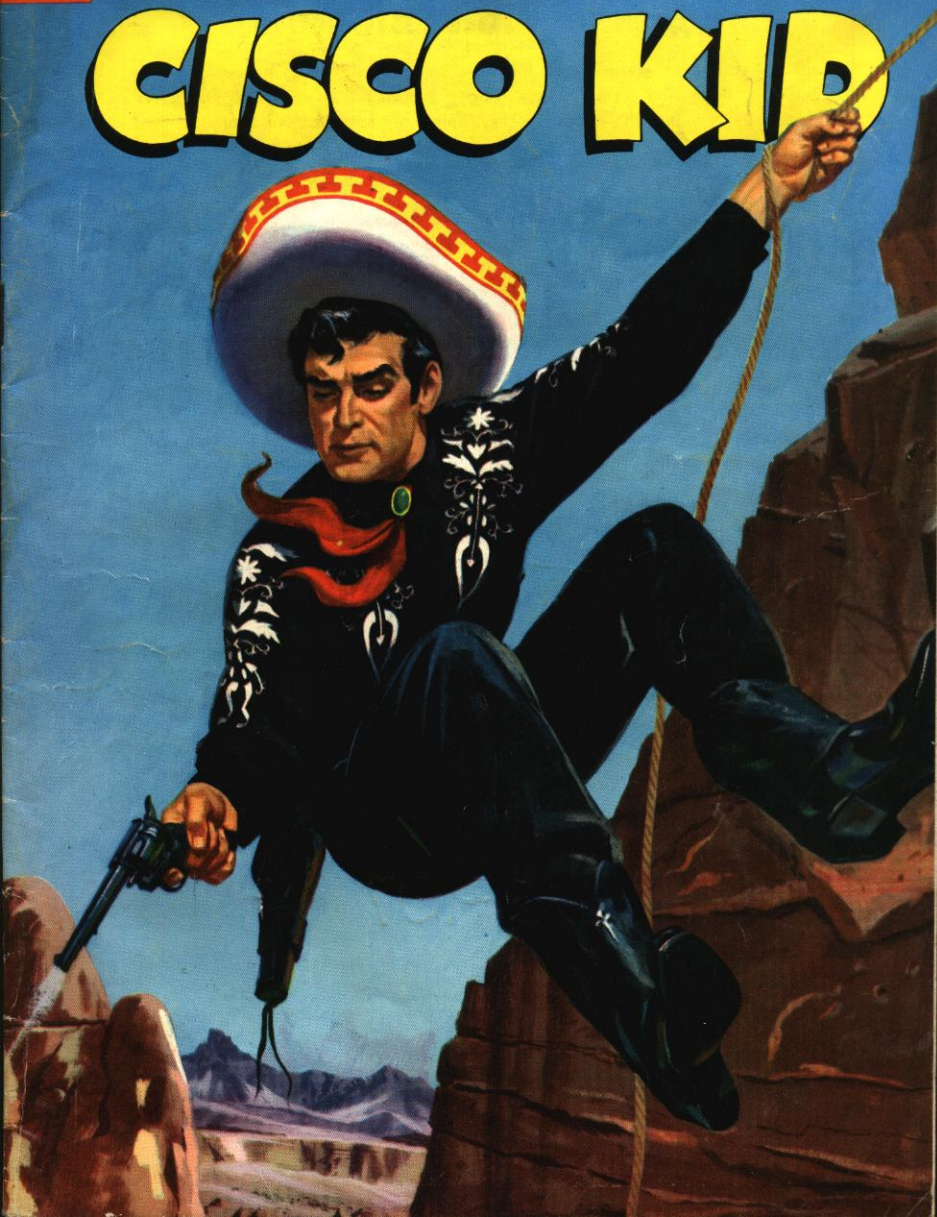


DELL
COMIC

MARCH-APRIL

10¢

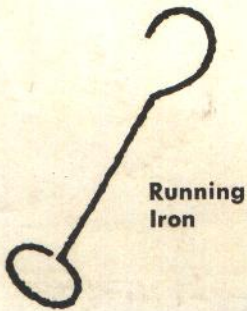
THE CISCO KID



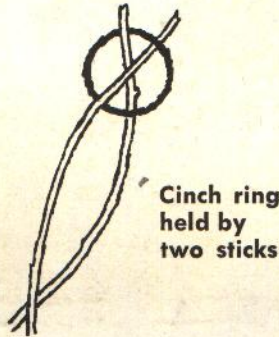
BRANDS AND BRANDING

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Cattle are usually branded when they are one-year-old calves at the Spring roundup. Branding is done with a red-hot iron shaped in the form of a symbol that is registered in the rancher's name with a state agency. Below are some famous brands.



Running
Iron



Cinch ring
held by
two sticks



Double U



Double Diamond



Double O



Eyeglasses

Rustlers use a running iron with a simple curved end. The curve of the bent iron can be manipulated to alter almost any brand, whether formed of straight or curved lines. Cattle thieves are so afraid of being caught with a running iron that they often use a hot cinch ring held with two sticks to alter brands. Because of the rustler's skill in altering brands, most ranchers avoid simple symbols. Initials are among the easiest to change. It's very simple to change a W into a double diamond or double O into eyeglasses.

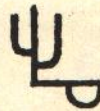
Some famous brands and how to read them:



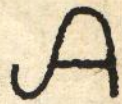
Circle G



Diamond F



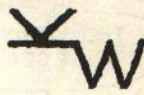
Cactus
Lazy P



The J A brand of the
famous Adair ranch.



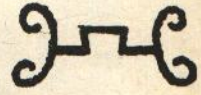
Lazy S
Double D



Lazy K W



Cap R



Spanish Bit



The running W brand of the largest ranch in the world—the King ranch in Texas.



Too Hot — was this a warning to rustlers?



Richard H. Chisholm's brand. The oldest American brand in Texas. Registered before the battle of the Alamo in 1836.

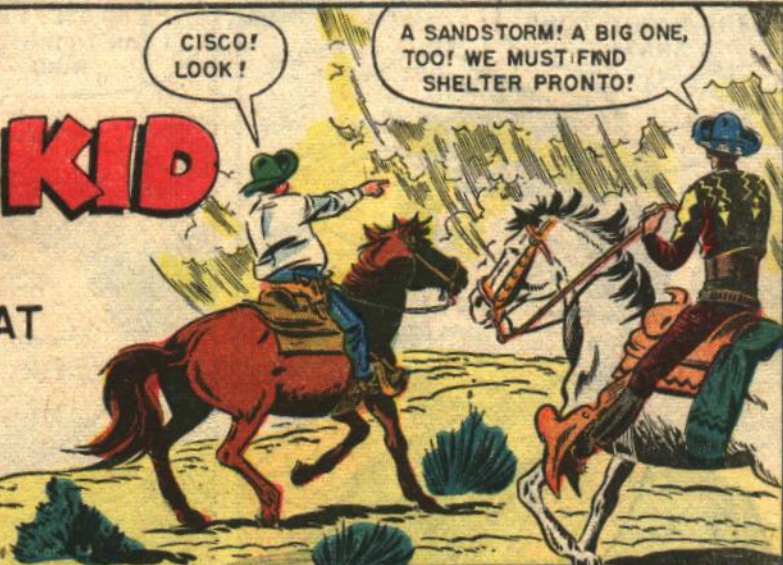
THE CISCO KID

AND THE PETTICOAT MARKER

ONE AFTERNOON NEAR THE
DESERT'S EDGE...

CISCO!
LOOK!

A SANDSTORM! A BIG ONE,
TOO! WE MUST FIND
SHELTER PRONTO!



QUICK, PANCHO!
TAKE LOCO AND
GET DOWN IN
THERE!

SANTO! FOR ONCE
PANCHO IS GLAD
FOR A HOLE IN
THE GROUND!



DOWN,
LOCO!

WE WILL COVER US ALL WITH
THE SADDLE BLANKETS AND
STAY HERE UNTIL THE STORM
IS OVER!



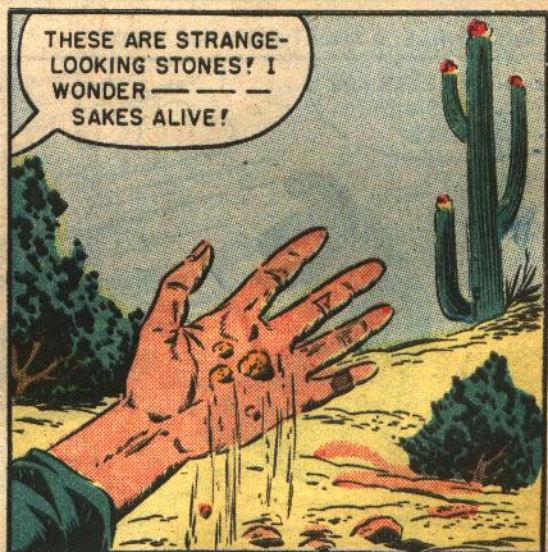
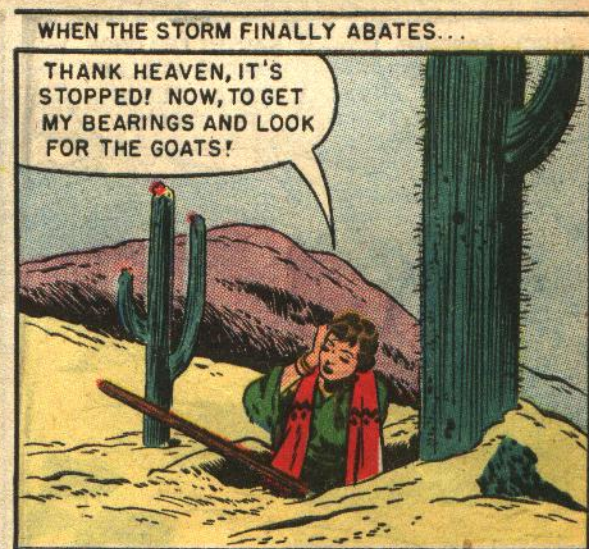
MEANWHILE, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY...

OOH! MY EYES ARE
FULL OF SAND!
I CAN'T SEE!



THE STRAYS!
I MUST GET THEM!





THEY'RE GOLD
NUGGETS!



DAD AND I WILL BE RICH!
WE CAN LIVE LIKE OTHER
FOLKS! OH, BLESS YOU,
SANDSTORM!



THIS PETTICOAT TIED TO
THE STICK WILL MAKE
A MARKER DAD CAN
FIND EASILY!



I'LL USE MY SHOE
WITH THE HOLE IN IT
FOR A BRACE!...



...THEN FILL THE
SHOE WITH SAND!



DAD WILL KNOW HOW TO
STAKE OUT THE CLAIM! I
CAN'T WAIT TO TELL HIM!
AND SHOW HIM THESE
NUGGETS!



IN THE MEANTIME ...

CISCO! SOMETHING IS
EATING PANCHO'S HAND!

AND FINDING IT A POOR
SUBSTITUTE FOR A
NANNY GOAT!



MADRE MIA! SO
MANY GOATS!
WHERE DO THEY
ALL COME FROM?

WHO KNOWS? THEY
MUST HAVE GOTTEN
LOST DURING
THE STORM!



WE WILL TAKE THEM
TO RIO VERDE WITH US!
THEIR OWNER PROBABLY
LIVES THERE!

SANDSTORMS!
GOATS! WHAT
NEXT?



THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION,
AMIGO! NOW, HURRY! OR
WE WILL NOT REACH RIO
VERDE BEFORE DARK!

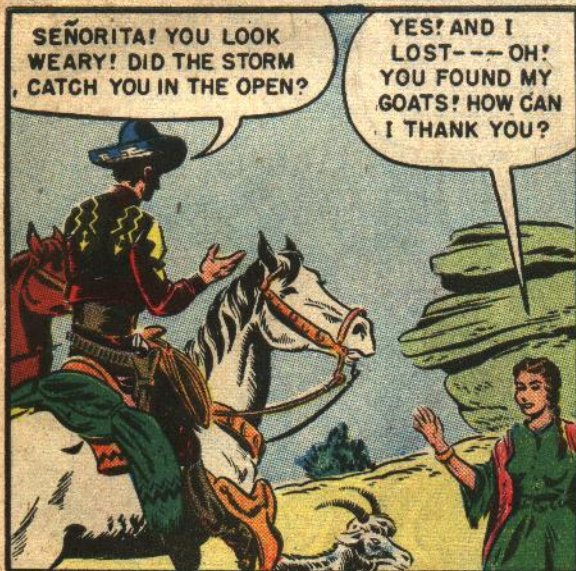


A LITTLE LATER...

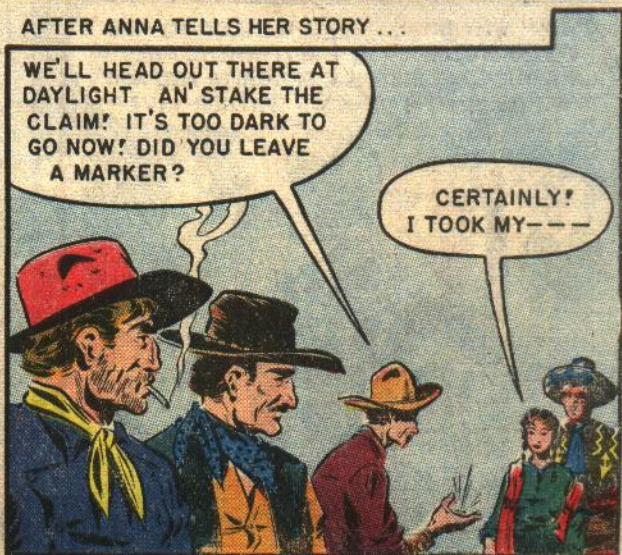
AI-EEE! PANCHO
KNOWS WHAT IS
NEXT, CISCO!
L-LOOK! A G-GHOST!

NONSENSE! THAT IS
A GIRL! AND SHE
IS VERY MUCH
ALIVE!





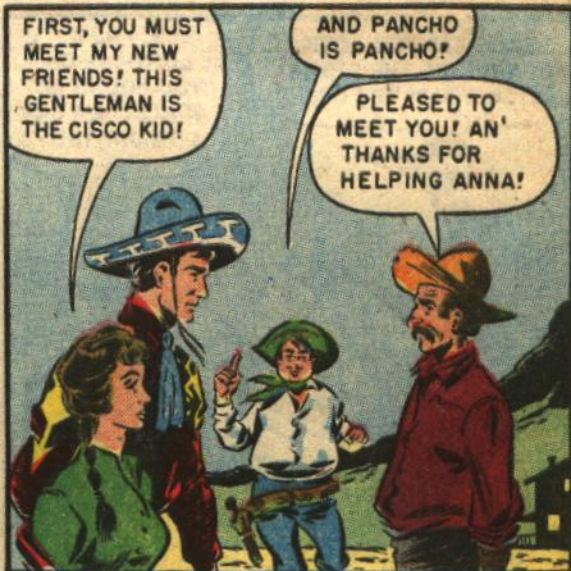
AS THE SUN SINKS BEHIND THE HILLS...





BUT THE SEÑORITA IS WEARY! THE REST OF THE STORY WILL KEEP!

OF COURSE! I'M SORRY, ANNA! COME ON! LET'S GO HOME AND---



FIRST, YOU MUST MEET MY NEW FRIENDS! THIS GENTLEMAN IS THE CISCO KID!

AND PANCHO IS PANCHO!

PLEASED TO MEET YOU! AN' THANKS FOR HELPING ANNA!

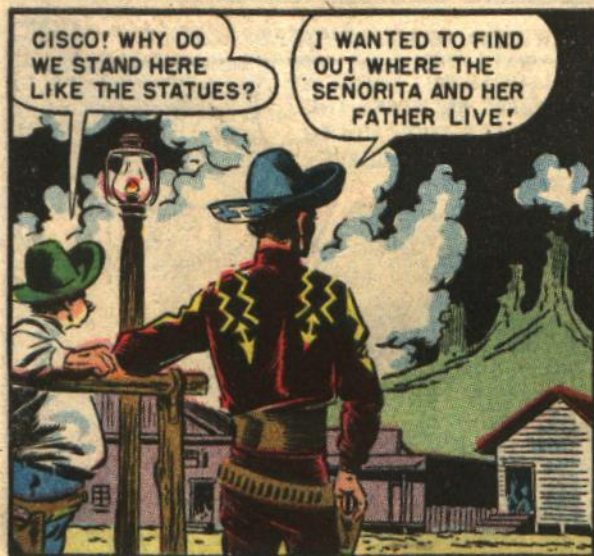


I ADVISE YOU BOTH TO BE ON THE ALERT! SOMEONE MAY FOLLOW YOU IN THE MORNING AND TRY TO JUMP YOUR CLAIM!



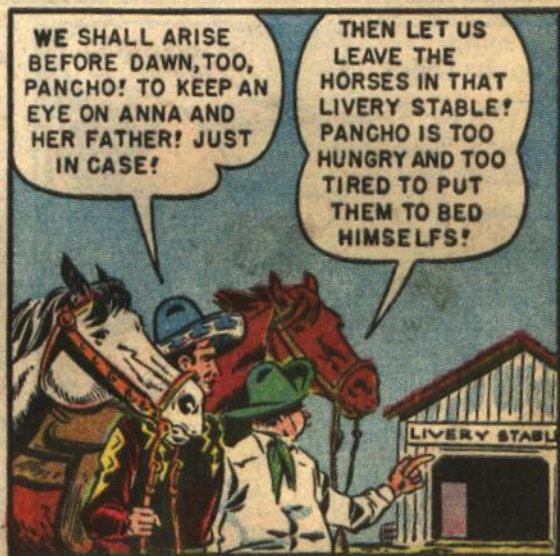
OH! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! I SHOULDN'T HAVE TALKED SO LOUDLY!

IT'S TOO LATE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT! WE'LL JUST MAKE SURE WE GET AWAY IN THE MORNING WITHOUT BEING TRAILED!



CISCO! WHY DO WE STAND HERE LIKE THE STATUES?

I WANTED TO FIND OUT WHERE THE SEÑORITA AND HER FATHER LIVE!



WE SHALL ARISE BEFORE DAWN, TOO, PANCHO! TO KEEP AN EYE ON ANNA AND HER FATHER! JUST IN CASE!

THEN LET US LEAVE THE HORSES IN THAT LIVERY STABLE! PANCHO IS TOO HUNGRY AND TOO TIRED TO PUT THEM TO BED HIMSELFS!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MAYBE SOME BAD
HOMBRE WOULD TRY
TO JUMP THE CLAIM
AT NIGHT ---
NO?

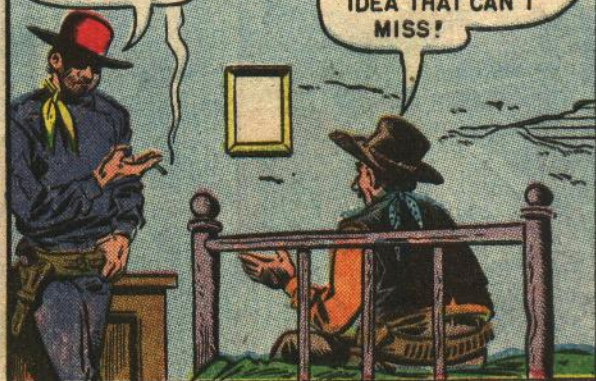
I DOUBT IT!
BESIDES, I
PREVENTED THE
SEÑORITA FROM
REVEALING HOW
SHE MARKED
IT!



AT THAT MOMENT...

SO LITTLE ANNA
DOWNS FOUND GOLD,
ROBY! WHAT'RE WE
GOIN' TO DO
ABOUT IT?

PLENTY! WE'LL GET
TO DOWN'S PLACE
BEFORE SUNUP AND
"PERSUADE" ANNA
TO SHOW US WHERE
IT IS! I'VE GOT AN
IDEA THAT CAN'T
MISS!



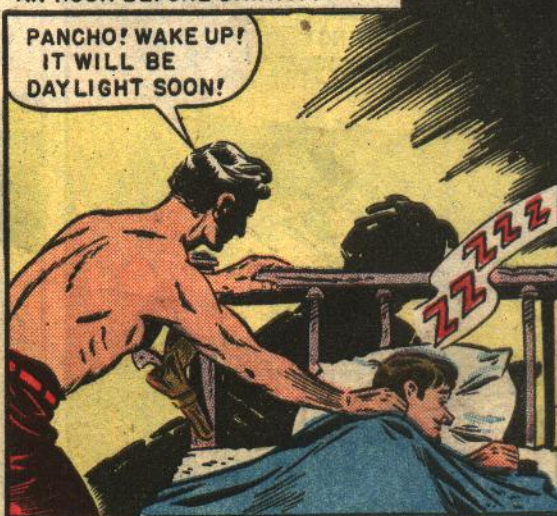
WHO'S THAT HOMBRE SHE
CALLED THE CISCO KID?
HE SURE GAVE US THE
ONCE-OVER!

DON'T WORRY
ABOUT HIM,
WES! --- NOW,
LISTEN CLOSE...



AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN...

PANCHO! WAKE UP!
IT WILL BE
DAYLIGHT SOON!



VERY WELL! I
WILL GO ALONE!



WHAT--- CISCO!
WAIT FOR
PANCHO!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

MADRE MIA! CISCO HAS
ALREADY WENT! PANTO
MUST SADDLE LOCO
PRONTO AND---



FUNNY THERE ISN'T A
STABLEMAN AROUND,
ROBY!

BLACK DOESN'T
KEEP ONE! I
CHECKED! HITCH
UP THE WAGON!...
QUICK! AND BE REAL
QUIET ABOUT IT!



SUCH ACTIONS CAN HAVE
ONLY ONE MEANING!
THERE IS DULLSKUGGERY
AFOOTS!



PANTO WILL GO WITH THE
WAGON AND BE ON HAND
IF TROUBLE HAPPENS!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

I'LL WALK AROUND THE BACK
WAY AND MEET YOU AT
DOWNS' PLACE! THEN NOBODY
WILL GET SUSPICIOUS!

OKAY!

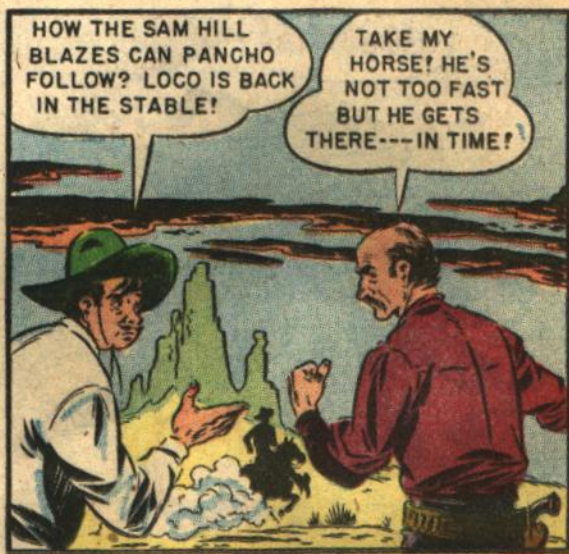
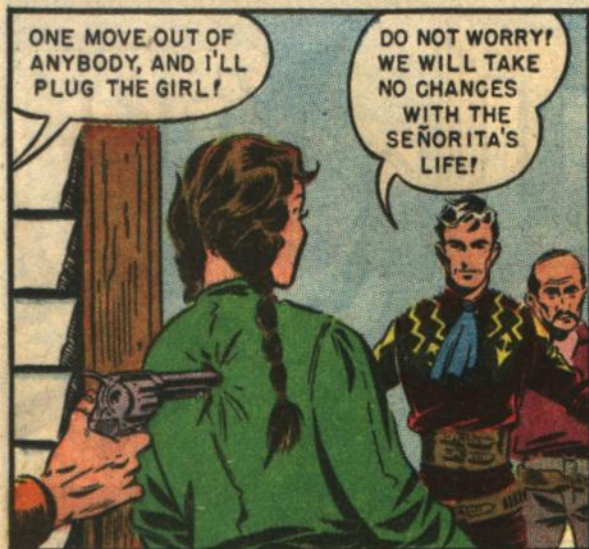


MEANWHILE AT THE DOWNS' HOME...

IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!
NO MORE TRYING TO LIVE
OFF THE SALE OF GOATS'
MILK AND EGGS!







LATER...

REMEMBER, ANNA!
MY GUN ISN'T FUSSY! IT
WILL SHOOT A WOMAN!

YOU CLAIM- JUMPING
COYOTE! YOU WON'T GET
AWAY WITH THIS!

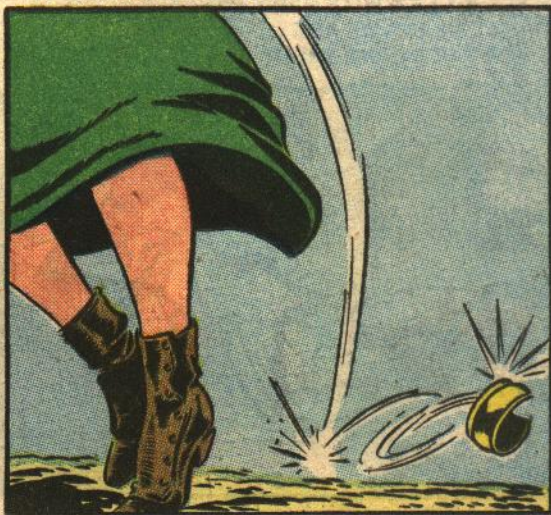


FASTER, GIRL! IF
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE STALLING---

I--- I'M NOT!
HONESTLY!



AS ANNA JUMPS TO THE GROUND.



YOU FIRST, ANNA! BY
THE WAY, WHAT DID
YOU LEAVE FOR
A MARKER?

A --- A RED
PETTICOAT!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THAT LOOKS LIKE
THE CROOKS' WAGON!



IT IS! THERE IS THE
SEÑORITA'S BRACELET!



MOVE, DIABLO!
WE MUST FIND
THEM, PRONTO.



THEIR TRACKS! NOT
YET FILLED WITH SAND
THAT MEANS WE ARE
NOT FAR BEHIND THEM!



BUT WE MUST MOVE
CAUTIOUSLY! AND DO
NOTHING TO ENDANGER
ANNA!



AS CISCO DISAPPEARS AROUND A DUNE...

A WAGON! BUT IF IT IS
THE RIGHT ONE, WHERE
DID EVERYBODY
VAMOOSE TO?



SANTO! PANTO SEES
THE SHINE OF METAL!
MAYBE HE STRIKES
THE PAYING DIRT,
TOO!



BUT NO! IT IS ONLY THE
SEÑORITA'S BRACELET!---
ONLY??? IT IS MUCH! CISCO
WOULD HAVE PICKED IT UP
HAD HE COME THIS WAY!



HURRY, BOLO! WE MUST
SAVE CISCO! AND THE
SEÑORITA! AND THE GOLD!
---SANTO! BUT WE WILL
BE BUSY!



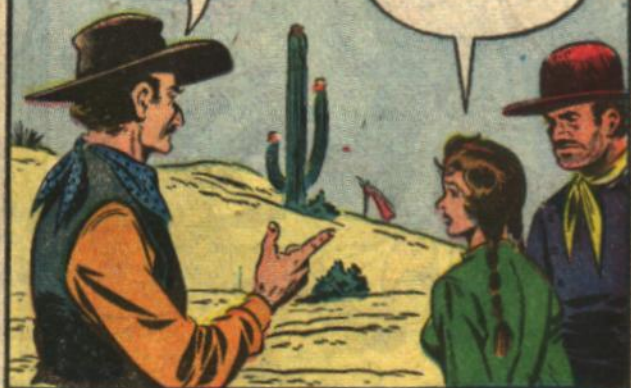
MAYBE THE BAD HOMBRES
GRABBED HIM IN SURPRISE
AND TOOK HIM AWAY!



MEANWHILE...

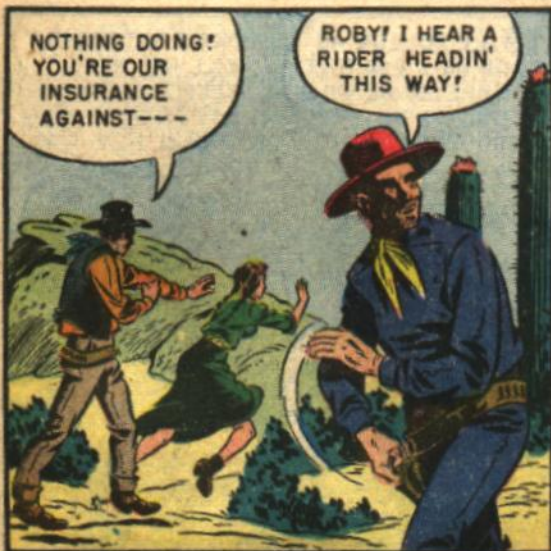
THAT SCRAP OF RED,
IT'S THE MARKER!
RIGHT, ANNA?

YES! NOW, LET
ME GO BACK!
PLEASE! YOU
CAN TAKE THE
GOLD AND---



NOTHING DOING!
YOU'RE OUR
INSURANCE
AGAINST---

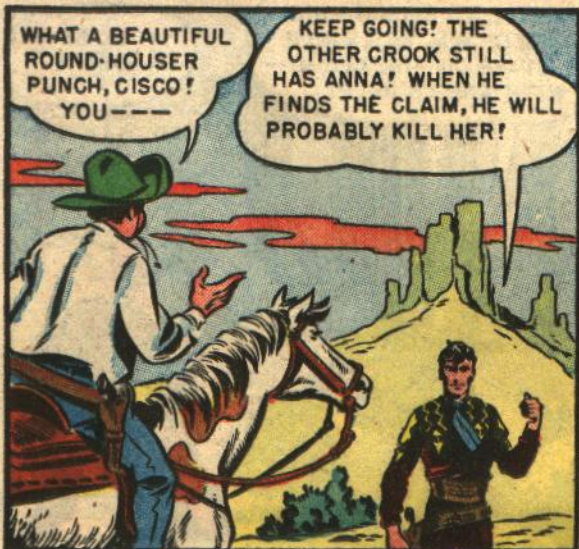
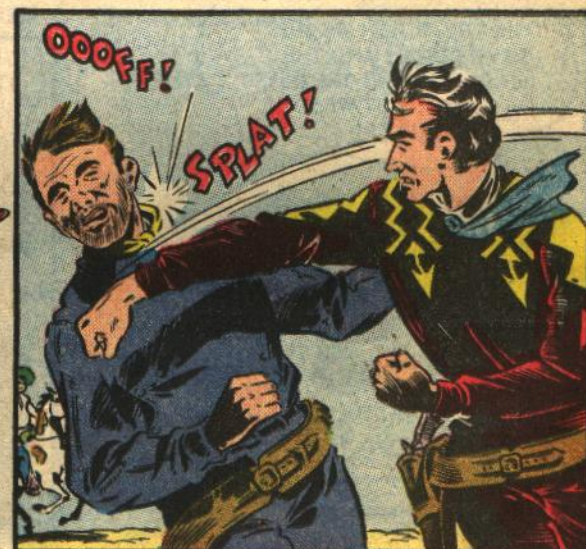
ROBY! I HEAR A
RIDER HEADIN'
THIS WAY!



IT'S CISCO! ALONE! TAKE
CARE OF HIM, WES, WHILE
I STAKE OUT THE CLAIM---
WITH ANNA'S HELP!

IT'LL BE A
PLEASURE!







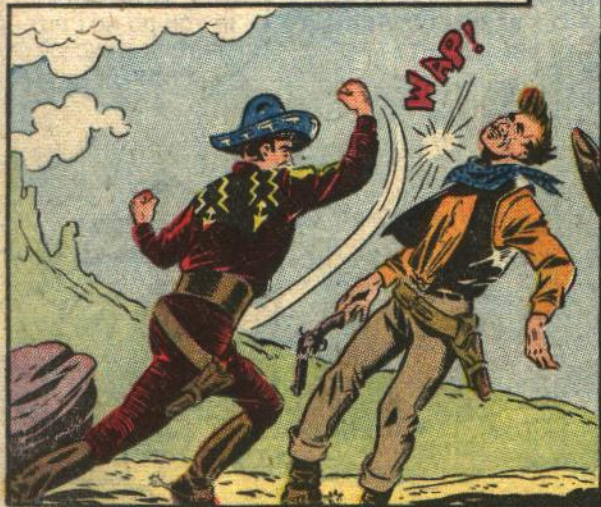
AT A SUDDEN RUSTLING IN
THE BRUSH...



ROBY WHIRLS AND FIRES...

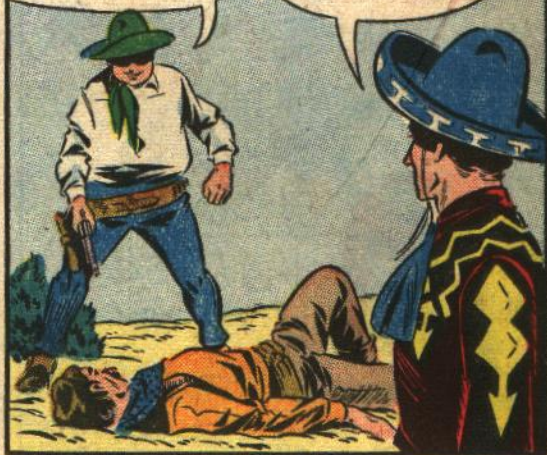


THE NEXT SHOT MISFIRES --- AND CISCO LUNGES FORWARD...



DO NOT MOVE, SEÑOR! OR PANCHO WILL---

STOP ACTING, PANCHO! HE WILL NOT MOVE FOR A LONG TIME!



ANNA! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? WE FOUND THE OTHER ONE TIED UP! THE SHERIFF STAYED WITH HIM AND---GOSH! WAS I WORRIED!

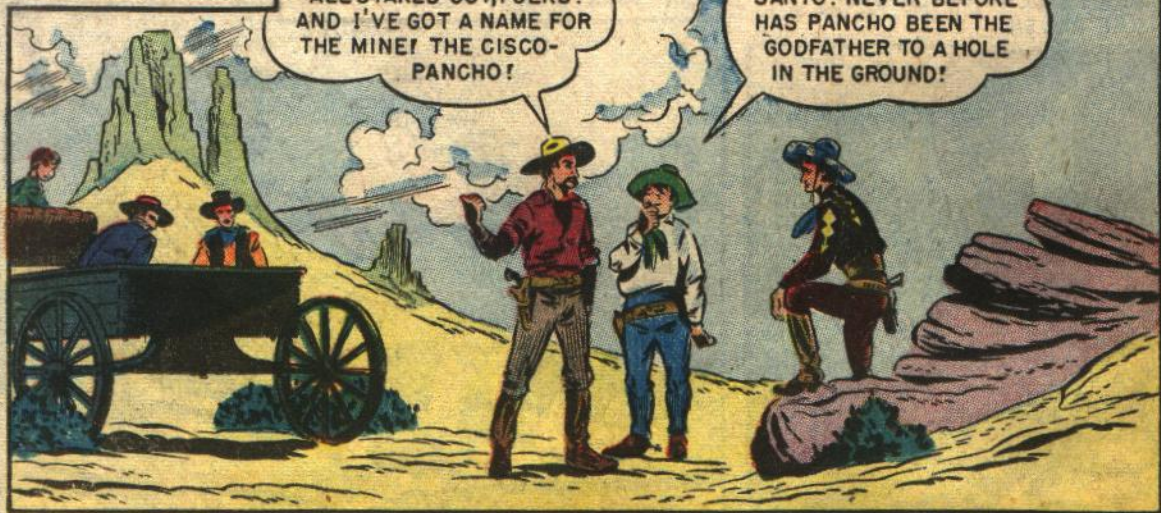
AND NOW YOU ARE BREATHLESS! TAKE IT EASY, DAD! EVERYTHING IS FINE---THANKS TO CISCO AND PANCHO!



A LITTLE LATER...

ALL STAKED OUT, FOLKS! AND I'VE GOT A NAME FOR THE MINE! THE CISCO-PANCHO!

SANTO! NEVER BEFORE HAS PANCHO BEEN THE GODFATHER TO A HOLE IN THE GROUND!



THE CISCO KID

AND

THE FIESTA COVER-UP

ONE AFTERNOON, A DOZEN MILES SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE...

CISCO! THAT HOMBRE DOES NOT GO WHERE HE IS LOOKING! HE WILL CROWD US OFF THE TRAIL!

NOT IF I ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION IN TIME!



BUEÑO! IT WORKED!

LUCKY FOR PANCHO! HE WAS ALREADY HEARING THE ANGEL VOICES!



HE DID NOT EVEN SAY, "YOUR PARDON, SEÑOR!"

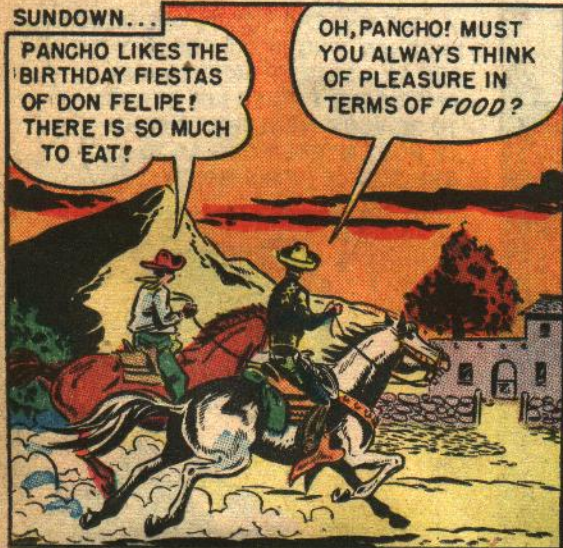
FINE CLOTHES DO NOT ALWAYS MAKE FOR FINE MANNERS, PANCHO! LET US HURRY ON OR WE WILL NOT REACH DON FELIPE'S RANCHO BEFORE DARK!



SUNDOWN...

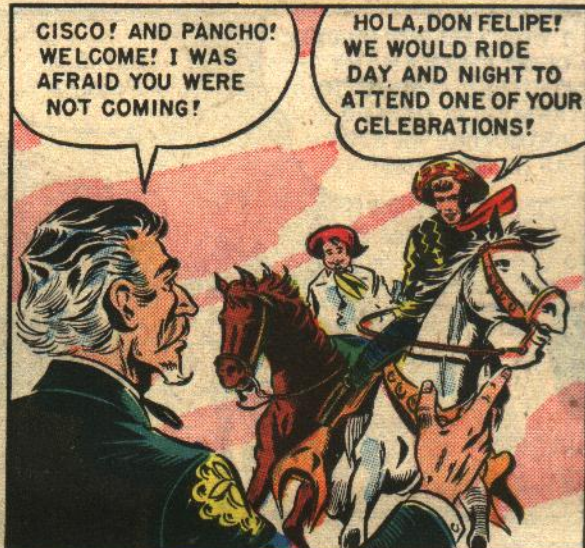
PANCHO LIKES THE BIRTHDAY FIESTAS OF DON FELIPE! THERE IS SO MUCH TO EAT!

OH, PANCHO! MUST YOU ALWAYS THINK OF PLEASURE IN TERMS OF FOOD?



CISCO! AND PANCHO! WELCOME! I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE NOT COMING!

HOLA, DON FELIPE! WE WOULD RIDE DAY AND NIGHT TO ATTEND ONE OF YOUR CELEBRATIONS!

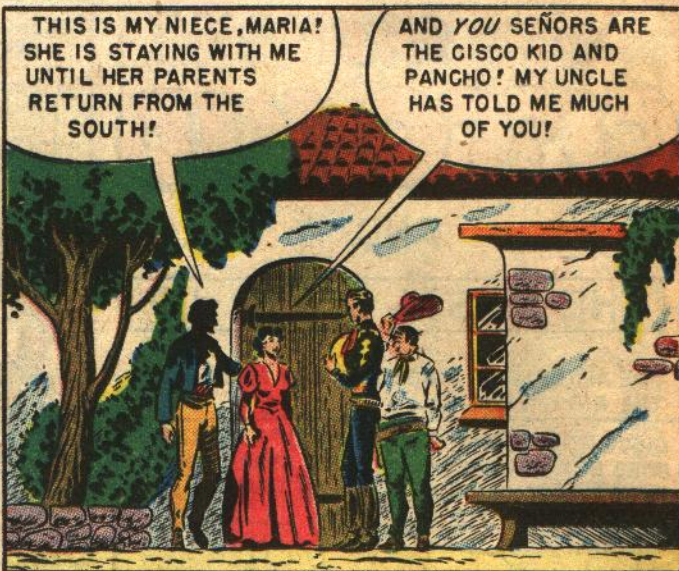


GRACIAS! WITHOUT YOU TWO OLD FRIENDS, THE FIESTA WOULD BE TINGED WITH SADNESS!



THIS IS MY NIECE, MARIA! SHE IS STAYING WITH ME UNTIL HER PARENTS RETURN FROM THE SOUTH!

AND YOU SEÑORS ARE THE CISCO KID AND PANCHO! MY UNCLE HAS TOLD ME MUCH OF YOU!



HO! HO! THERE IS MUCH OF PANCHO ALL RIGHT!

WE DID NOT ANTICIPATE MEETING SO BEAUTIFUL A SEÑORITA! WE ARE HONORED!



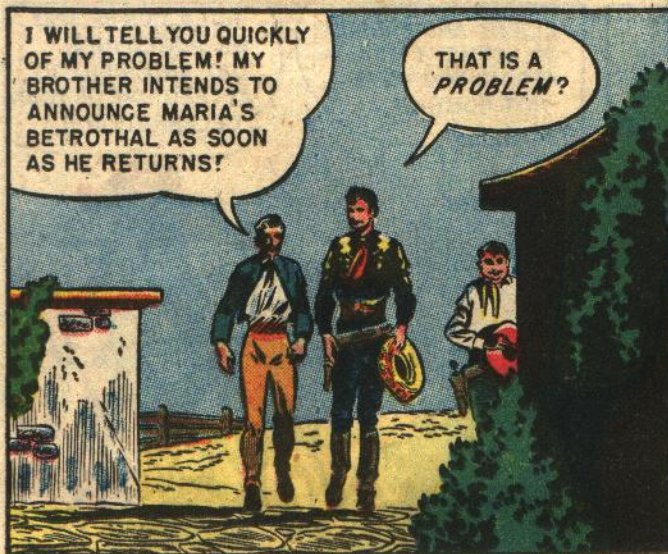
GRACIAS! NOW, IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME, I MUST SEE TO THE DINNER PREPARATIONS!

BUEÑO! FOR I HAVE A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO DISCUSS WITH MY FRIENDS!



I WILL TELL YOU QUICKLY OF MY PROBLEM! MY BROTHER INTENDS TO ANNOUNCE MARIA'S BETROTHAL AS SOON AS HE RETURNS!

THAT IS A PROBLEM?



SI! SHE IS BETROTHED TO ONE DIEGO BRENNAN WHO IS SUPPOSEDLY THE SON OF A SPANISH MOTHER AND AMERICANO FATHER! HE SEEMS TO BE VERY WEALTHY! BUT HE IS MOST MYSTERIOUS AS TO THE SOURCE OF HIS MONEY...







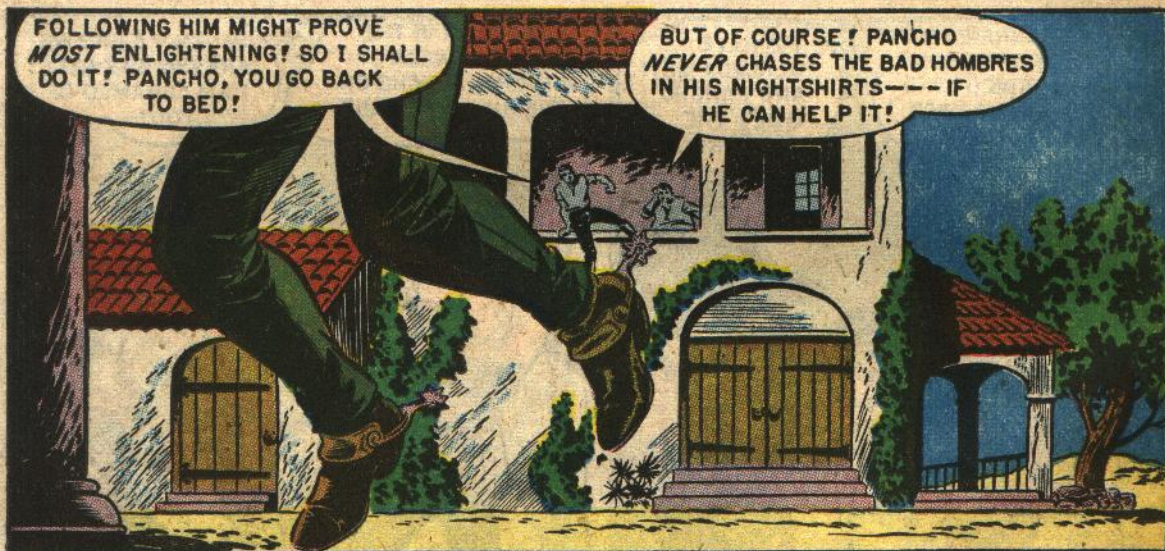
GISCO! WHY DO YOU NOT GO TO BED?

I AM NOT SLEEPY! I --- SANTO! THERE IS AN HOMBRE ON THE BALCONY OPPOSITE!



IT IS THAT DIEGO! STEALING AWAY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

S! APPARENTLY DON FELIPE'S MISTRUST IS MORE THAN A MERE HUNCH!



FOLLOWING HIM MIGHT PROVE MOST ENLIGHTENING! SO I SHALL DO IT! PANCHO, YOU GO BACK TO BED!

BUT OF COURSE! PANCHO NEVER CHASES THE BAD HOMBRES IN HIS NIGHTSHIRTS--- IF HE CAN HELP IT!



IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP!

COULDN'T HELP IT, SPIKE! I HAD TO WAIT TILL I WAS SURE THE CISCO KID WAS ASLEEP!



THE CISCO KID? HE'S HERE?

HE AND HIS PAL PANCHO CAME FOR THE FIESTA! BUT IT WON'T COMPLICATE THINGS...



I'M SURE NO ONE SUSPECTS ME! AND OUR PLANS ARE FOOLPROOF!

YOU'D BETTER BE RIGHT! MONTY'S DELIVERIN' THE GOODS TO ME TOMORROW!

GOOD! BRING IT HERE! IN THE FIESTA CROWD, NOBODY WILL REALIZE YOU ARE AN UNINVITED GUEST! I'LL HIDE IT IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL I SEE A CHANCE TO GET IT ACROSS THE BORDER!



OKAY! BUT KEEP YOUR EYES ON CISCO! HE'S PLENTY SMART!

DON'T WORRY! EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT THE WAY WE'VE FIGURED IT!

A SHORT TIME LATER...

SO YOU THINK THEY ARE SMUGGLING, CISCO! BUT WHAT?

I DO NOT KNOW! BUT I MOST CERTAINLY WILL FIND OUT, AND SOON!



EARLY NEXT MORNING.

PANCHO! DON FELIPE WANTS TO SHOW ME HIS CATTLE! IF BRENNAN APPEARS BEFORE I RETURN, TRAIL HIM! BUT DO NOT LET HIM GET WISE!

PANCHO WILL BE AS SILENT AS THE SNEAK---UH---SNAKE!



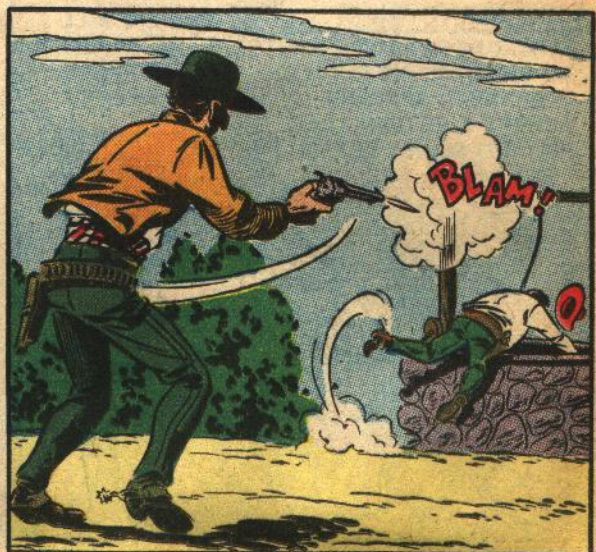
A LITTLE LATER...

SO! THE FAT ONE SLEEPS AND CISCO RODE OUT WITH DON FELIPE! THAT LEAVES THE COAST CLEAR FOR ME!





A FEW MINUTES LATER...





A LITTLE LATER...

SANTO! IT IS AS I
THOUGHT! DIEGO
BRENNAN *IS* A CROOK!

BUT WE MUST PROVE
IT, DON FELIPE! FOR
NOW, PANCHO IS GOING
TO STAY "DEAD"! THEN
HE CAN WORK UNDER-
COVER IF NECESSARY!

A GOOD IDEA! BUT WILL
NOT DIEGO THINK IT ODD
IF YOU DO NOT EVEN
PRETEND TO LOOK
FOR HIM?

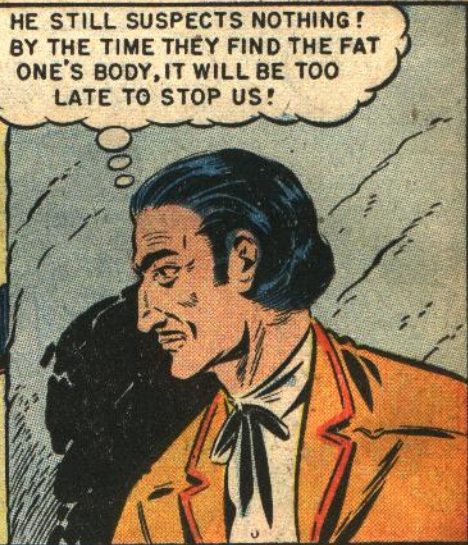
I WILL TAKE
CARE OF THAT!
COME! LET US
GO DOWN-
STAIRS!



NO, DON FELIPE! I AM NOT
WORRIED OVER PANCHO'S
ABSENCE! HE SPOKE OF A
VISIT TO HIS MAMACITA!
SHE LIVES NOT TOO FAR
FROM HERE!

I HOPE HE
RETURNS IN
TIME FOR THE
FIESTA!

HE STILL SUSPECTS NOTHING!
BY THE TIME THEY FIND THE FAT
ONE'S BODY, IT WILL BE TOO
LATE TO STOP US!



THAT AFTERNOON...

THE ARBOR IS PREPARED
FOR THE FANDANGO---ON
THE EAST SIDE OF THE
HACIENDA!

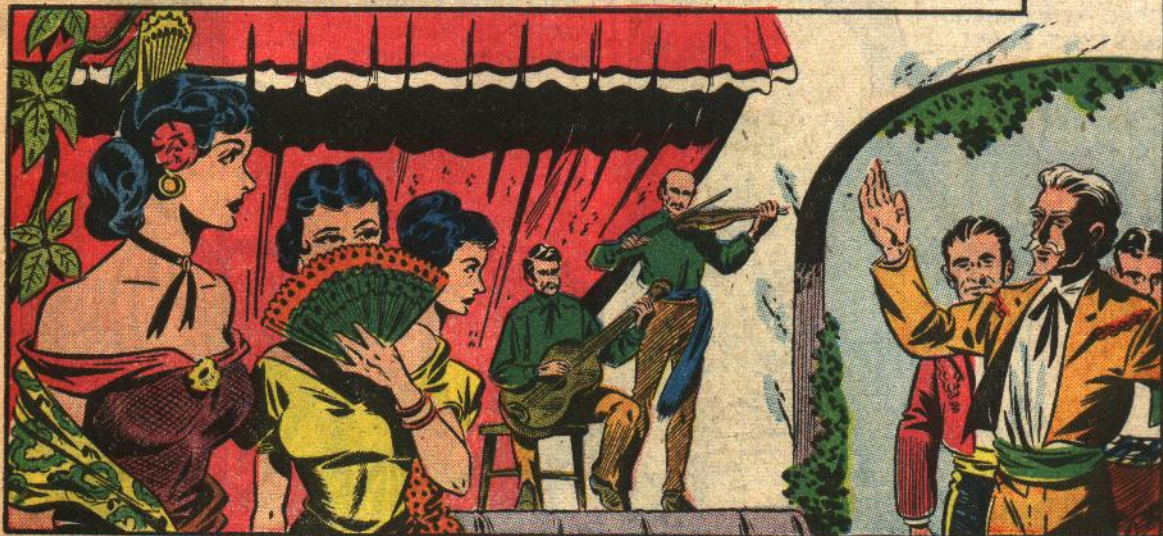
GRACIAS,
SEÑOR!

CISCO! YOU WILL
JOIN IN THE
FANDANGO?

NO! I SHALL
MINGLE WITH THE
ONLOOKERS---AND
KEEP WATCH
FOR SPIKE!



THE MUSIC BEGINS AND, WITH DON FELIPE AS THE LEADER OF THE BALL...



THE FANDANGO IS GAY...



OH-OH! THERE IS SPIKE!
AND WITH A PACKAGE IF
MY EYES DO NOT
DECEIVE ME!



SPIKE! I MUST GET TO
HIM AS SOON AS THE
DANCE IS OVER!



HA! BRENNAN MAKES HIS
EXCUSES! THINGS WILL
SHORTLY COME TO
A HEAD!



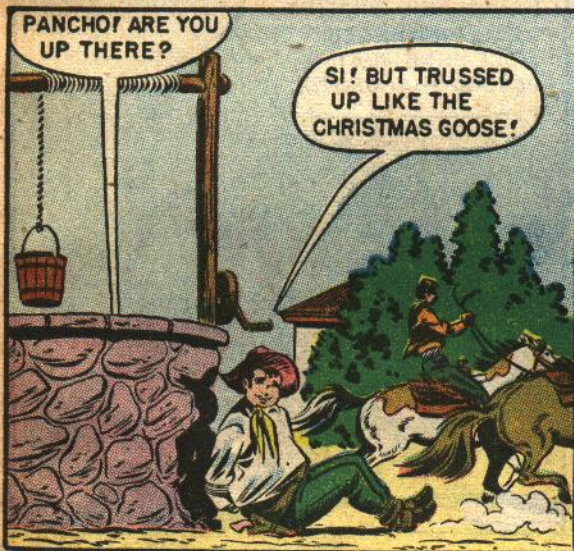


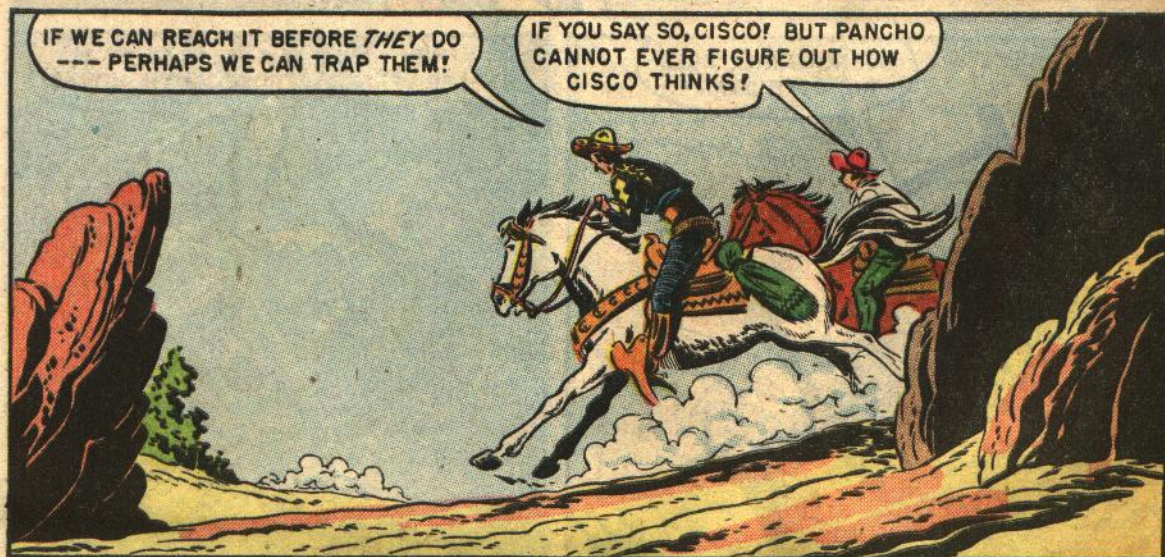
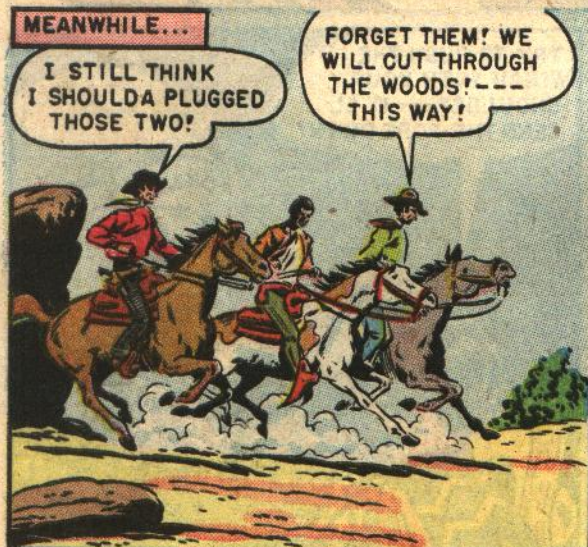


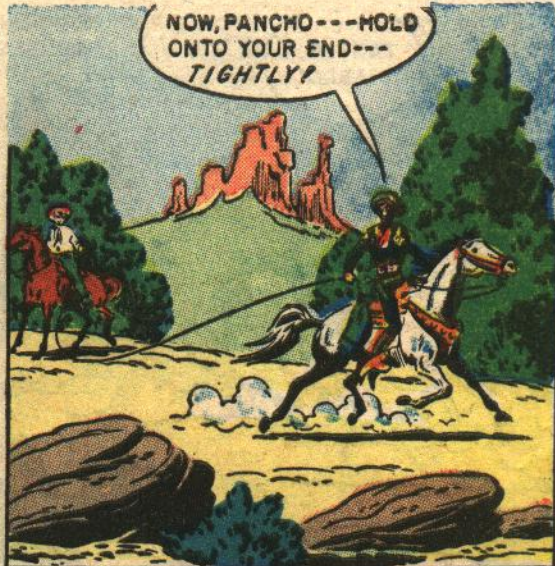




CISCO CAN'T GET OUT! NOR PANCHO GET LOOSE! ANY CALLS FOR HELP WON'T BE HEARD IN THE FIESTA NOISE. BEFORE THEY'RE FOUND, WE'LL BE ACROSS THE BORDER!

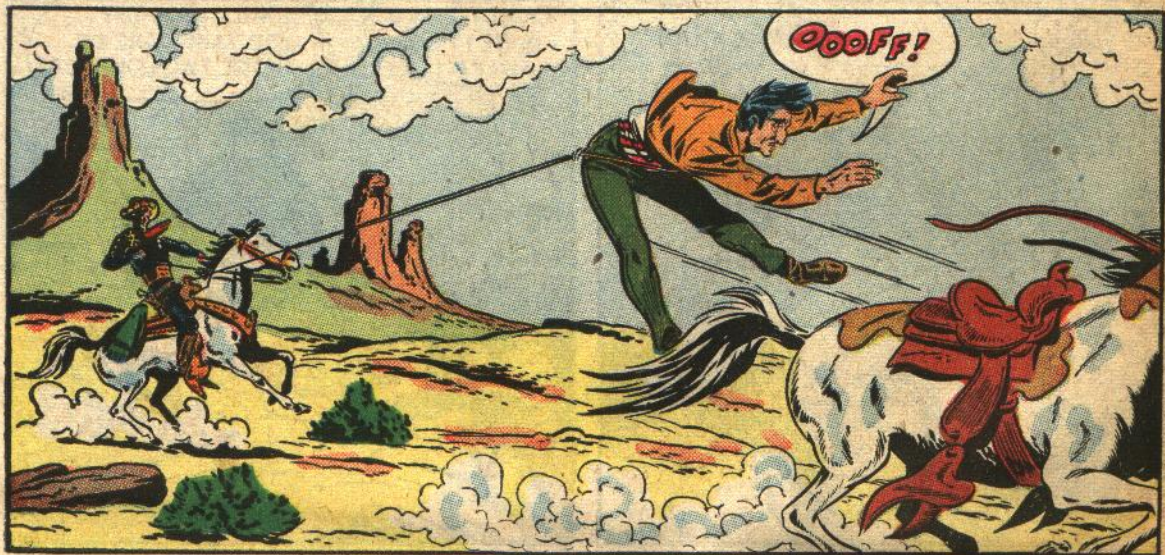






AS THE SMUGGLERS RACE TOWARD THE CLEARING...





MEANWHILE...

THESE ARE TWO OF THE SMUGGLERS,
DON FELIPE! CISCO HAS GONE AFTER
THE HOMBRE BRENNAN! AND HE TOOK
PANCHO'S REATA SO---

KEEP RIDING, MEN! I WILL HELP
PANCHO TIE UP THIS PAIR!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

NOW WE BIND SEÑOR
SPIKE'S WINGS, NO?



NO! I'M NOT GOIN' TO
JAIL FOR SMUGGLIN'!

COOMPH!



IT SEEMS HIS WINGS
NEEDED *CLIPPING*
MORE THAN BINDING!

OOW!



WHY DO WE NOT
WAIT FOR CISCO
AND THE OTHERS?

CISCO WILL FIND HIS
WAY TO THE GALABOOSE
LIKE A HOMELY PIGEON!
AND *WITH* SEÑOR
BRENNAN --- OR PANCHO
IS MISSING IN HIS
GUESSES!



SOMEWHAT LATER...



HERE IS THE RINGLEADER
OF THE SMUGGLING RING!
AND THE PACKAGE OF---

DIAMONDS!

BUT, PANCHO---HOW
DID YOU KNOW
WHAT IT WAS?

RELAX, AMIGO!
PANCHO HAS NOT
THE SECOND
SIGHT! SPIKE
LET THE CAT
IN THE BAG!



LATER...



UNCLE FELIPE!
I HAVE BEEN
SO WORRIED!

THERE IS NOTHING MORE TO WORRY
ABOUT, CHIQUITA! TELL HER, CISCO!

AFTER CISCO TELLS THE STORY...



SO THE TROUBLE IS ALL
OVER, SEÑORITA! AND
WE WILL NOW JOIN
THE DANCE---AS
SOON AS I REMOVE
MY SPURS!

I WILL NEVER
BE ABLE TO
THANK YOU AND
PANCHO ENOUGH!

IN A FEW MINUTES...



AH, PANCHO! CISCO
AND MARIA MAKE A
HANDSOME COUPLE!

SI! BUT DO NOT
GET THE IDEAS,
DON FELIPE!
CISCO IS *ONE*
HOMBRE WHOSE
WINGS CAN NOT
BE CLIPPED!