



A Pledge to Parents

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome juvenile entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.

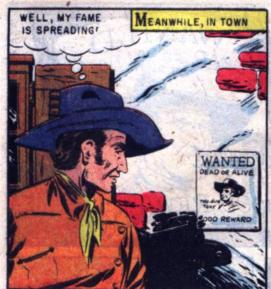


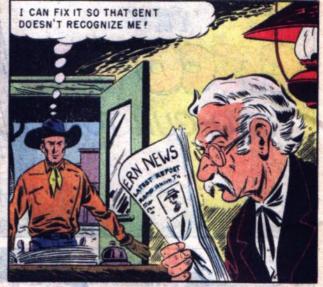












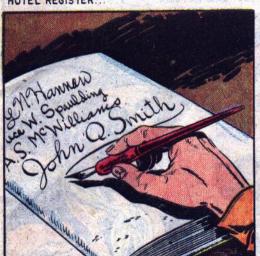








WITH A FLOURISH, TWO GUN TONY SIGNS THE HOTEL REGISTER...



... AND A MOMENT LATER HE LOLLS IN HIS ROOM.



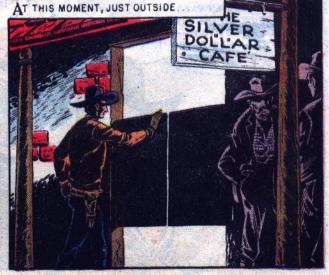
MEANWHILE, A POSSE SEARCHES THE HILLS FOR TWO-GUN TONY...



SATURDAY EVENING ARRIVES, CISCO AND PANCHO ARE HAVING SUPPER IN A CORNER OF THE SILVER DOLLAR CAFE'.



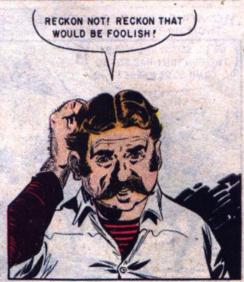
YOU MUST BELIEVE ME, AMIGO!
I HAVE GOOD REASON TO STAY
FAR AWAY FROM SEÑOR
TWO-GUN TONY!













UNAWARE OF THE BYPLAY AT THE BAR, CISCO AND PANCHO CONCENTRATE ON EATING.





































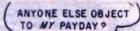
NOW, GENTS, AS YOU KNOW, THIS IS PAYDAY ...
AND I MEAN PAYDAY FOR ME. LINE UP AND COME
FORWARD PUT YOUR WAMPUM HERE ON THE
STAGE AND DON'T TRY ANY FUNNY BUSINESS,





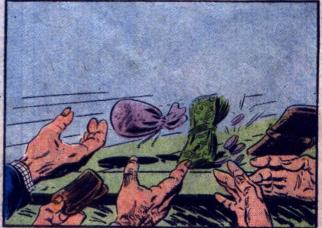








WITH THIS DEMONSTRATION OF MARKSMANSHIP, TWO-GUN TONY IS IN COMMAND. THE CAFE'S CUSTOMERS DECIDE THEY'D RATHER GIVE UP THEIR MONEY THAN BE SHOT





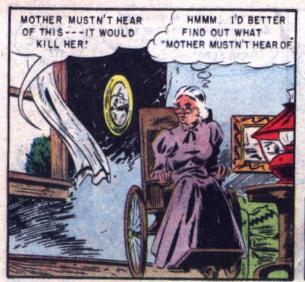
























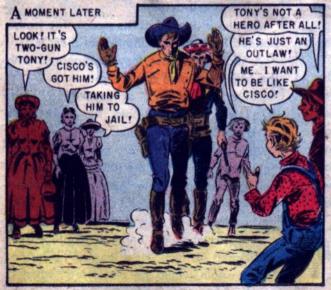


A SHORT TIME

TONY ARRIVES

STORE JUST AS









The heat, in Toluca, Mexico, in July, has to be felt to be believed. The wells dry up, the adobe huts crack and turn mahogany brown, the armadillos bury themselves in the dry river beds, and the grass turns a withered yellow.

The heat reaches its zenith at midday when all living creatures are forced to suspend their daily activities and seek the shade. Listlessly, they take their afternoon naps, or siestas.

But Sombrero Juan was not thinking about the heat as he paced beside his hard pallet one sizzling morning. He had a cool, steel cell to protect him from the heat. Instead, his mind was on the hammering he could hear from the courtyard, where a gallows was being built to hang him on when the sun rose. Even as he tried to plan an escape, he knew he was trapped.

Juan picked at some loose mortar on the wall. There was no chance of escape. It was an almost impregnable jail, built by Spanish Conquistadors in the 16th Century. Juan tipped back his ever-present sombrero, and stared at the small patch of sky framed by his barred window. The whole incident that had placed him in his present situation seemed like a nightmare. He went over and over it in his mind until he thought he would go mad.

It had all started so peacefully. A friendly game of cards . . . a bottle of tequila . . . a cactus leaf fan lazily waving overhead . . .

and Pedro's young son sleeping in the corner. Then the stranger, in the black waistcoat, had accused him of cheating. Juan had laughed it off, but the stranger drew a derringer.

"Señor, I am not armed," protested Juan.
"You should'a thought o' that, when you were cheating!" snarled the stranger.

"But, amigo, I was not cheating," avowed Juan.

"Then give me back my money."

"Of course." Juan slid the stranger's gold dust across the table.

"And yours, too," hissed the stranger.

Juan obeyed, but, at the same time, tipped the table against the stranger's gun hand. A struggle followed—the gun was fired once—and the stranger lay very still on the floor.

Now the sky was getting light outside. Soon he'd hear the sheriff's footsteps scraping on the rough cobblestones. If only they would give him a new trial! Somebody might be found who had seen the shooting. But everybody had been taking siesta. Even Pedro's little son. Pedro's son! Of course. The struggle must have awakened him!

At the first flush of dawn, the sheriff, and a padré, appeared outside Juan's cell.

"Let's go," said the law officer.

"Wait!" said Juan. "You must question Pedro's son. He was in the café. He will tell you it was self-defense."

The sheriff looked at the padré. The padré nodded his head and the two of them left.

A short time later they reappeared with the frightened café owner's son.

"Si, eet is as he says," acknowledged Pedro, Jr. "I was afraid if I told, the black one's ghost would return to haunt me."

Juan pulled his sombrero over one eye and happily strode out of the jail compound. The sun was climbing high in the sky, and in every doorway a peon was slouched for his daily siesta. How good it was to be free again!

Juan stretched out under a plantain tree, and closed his eyes. He'd learned his lesson. Never again would he play cards when it was time for siesta.

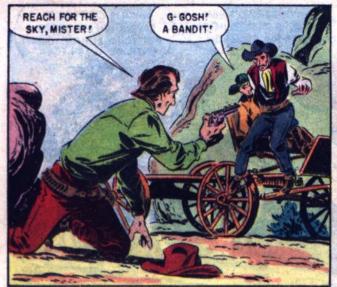








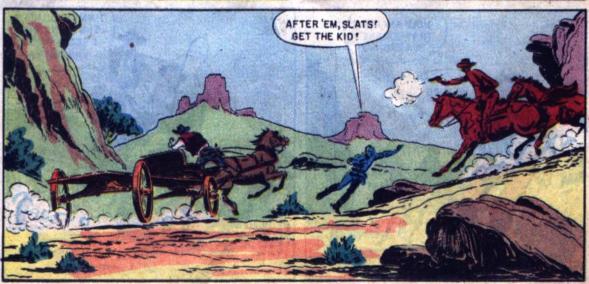
























GRABBING THE FALLEN REINS, TIMMY TRIES TO CONTROL THE PANICKED HORSE



















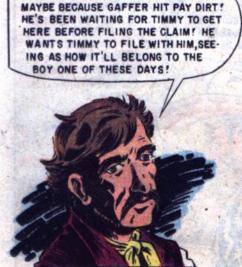
























WILL PROBABLY HEAD OUT TO GAFFER'S























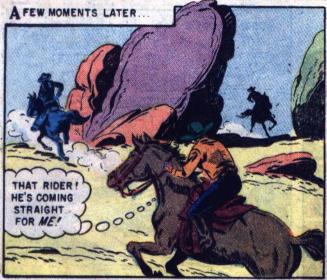














AS TIMMY DIGS IN HIS SPURS AND YELLS AT THE







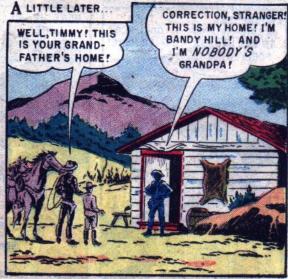
BUT WHEN I HAILED HIM AND HE LIT OUT, I FIGURED HE WAS UP TO SOMETHING! SO I FOLLOWED HIM TO FIND OUT WHAT!

















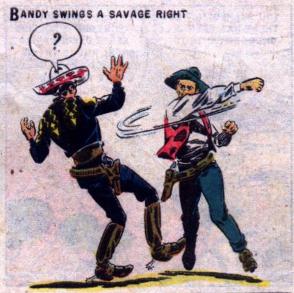
























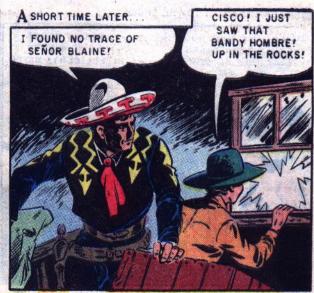












OH-OH! THEN HE HAS PROBABLY COME BACK TO SPY ON US! I THINK I WILL TRY A TRICK! IF IT WORKS, IT MAY FORCE A SHOWDOWN! LISTEN CLOSELY.









BANDY HIGH-TAILS IT TO THE SHACK







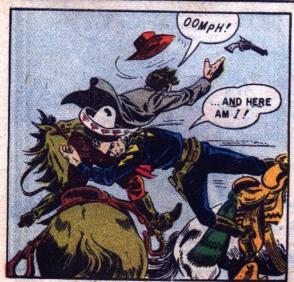






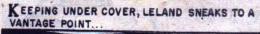
















HEARING THE SHOTS, OKIE COMES TO HELP BUT CISCO



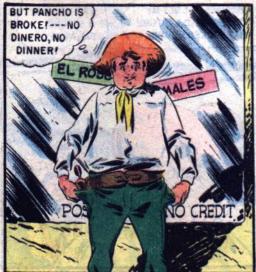


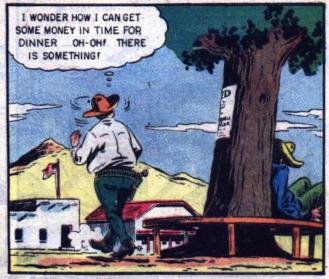


THIS TIME, GAFFER THROWS HIS VOICE ...

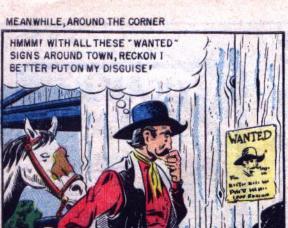












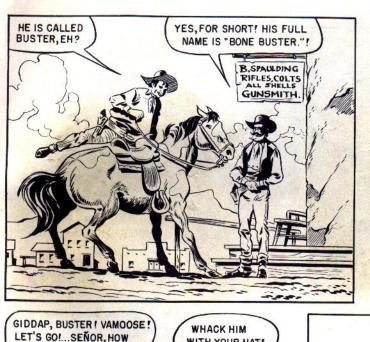












WAIT'LL BUSTER STARTS BUCKING!
---FATSO WON'T BE TRYING TO
COLLECT A REWARD ON ME!...
HE'LL BE IN A HOSPITAL!



