

In the early days of the Southwest, razorback hogs ran wild like the longhorns and the broncos. These wild pigs were not the native javelina, but descendants of breeds brought in by the earliest Spanish and French explorers. They were a tough and prolific breed. They could thrive in the woods, in swamps, and even in the dry brush country — often many miles from water. When other food failed, they could live well on a diet of prickly pear and rattlesnakes.

A man had a claim to the hogs that ranged on his land — but this claim wasn't easy to enforce. Ranchers generally paid little attention to razorbacks, except in the winter, when they were fat on acorns. Then, with dogs and guns, the settlers would head into the brush for the year's supply of lard and bacon.

Hunting the wild pigs was a risky amusement. Many old boars were extremely savage and their tusks grew to enormous length. A cornered razorback was the most savage animal of the open range. He would charge a horse and rider without hesitation. An exciting sport was to hunt razorbacks without dogs, roping them before they could take cover, but a man had to be sure to stay in the saddle, for the razorback was dangerous game indeed.

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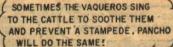
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DISTANT THUNDER, LIKE FARAWAY DRUMS, MAKES THE CATTLE RESTLESS AND SPOOKY.

OH, OH! THESE POOR LONGHORNS ARE SCARED OF THE STORM!





OH, SOLO ME----OH!
I'M A LONE COW-HOW HAMAND
TA-RAH-RAH----BOOM-DE-AY!















QUICK! WE'VE GOT TO HEAD





































THE DRY GRASS BURNS LIKE TINDER .



LEADERS OF THE STAMPEDE REAR AND TURN, AFRAID OF THE LEAPING FLAMES!



THE FRENZIED CATTLE START MILLING IN A CIRCLE, AWAY FROM THE FIRE.



THE STORM BLOWS AWAY. AND THE LONGHORNS GRAZE PEACEFULLY AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED.











WHEN PANCHO SINGS TO CATTLES,





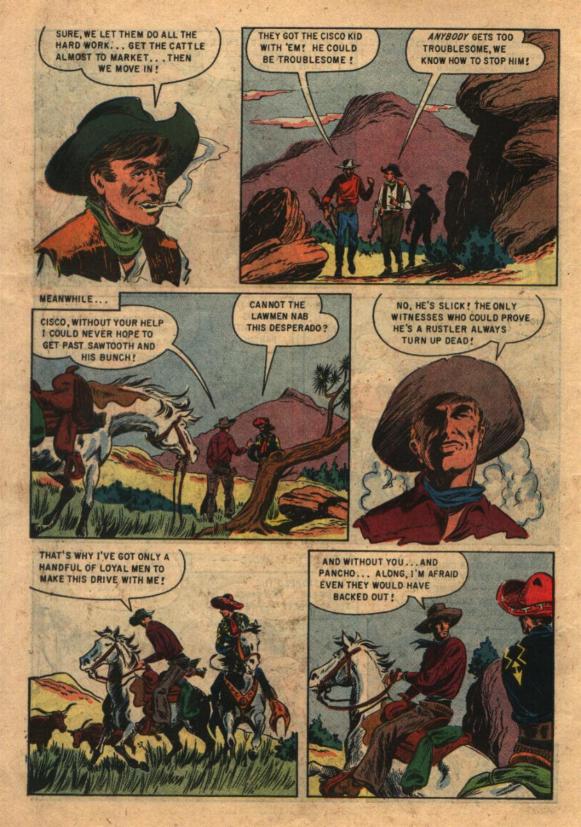






MEANWHILE, SEÑOR CHICK, WE











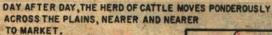








BECAUSE HIS MAMA GOT KILLED IN THE STAMPEDE. POOR YOGI IS AN ORPHAN!







CISCO,ONLY ONE MORE RIVER TO CROSS!

GOOD THING! YOUR MEN ARE DOG-TIRED. WON'T BE ABLE TO STAND MUCH MORE!









WORKING FURIOUSLY, THE MEN KEEP THE CATTLE IN LINE AS THEY SWIM THE PERILOUSLY SWOLLEN STREAM!



--- AND FINALLY EVEN THE SMALLEST CALF
IS SAFELY ACROSS.



NIGHTFALL ... THE MEN ARE SO EXHAUSTED THEY FALL INTO DEEP SLEEP...



EVEN THE LONE NIGHT RIDER DOZES IN HIS SADDLE.

































































DAYS LATER ... THE HERD HAS BEEN MARKETED, THE RUSTLERS JAILED ... AND ONCE AGAIN THE TWO PARDS HIT THE TRAIL ...







"No more credit, Tim Kelly," roared Andy Johnson, proprietor of the General Store in Gila Gulch. "I won't listen to any more of your worthless promises. You'll never find a bonanza. No more grubstakes for you..."

"But I'm going to pay you off this time for sure," spoke up the leather-skinned desert rat in his squeaky voice. "I struck it rich at last. The Lost Sonora Silver Mine... I found it! I need a partner to help me."

"You're faking," snorted Johnson suspiciously. "It's just a trick to get me to load

up your saddlebags again."

"But look, I made a map," protested the little prospector, handing a scrap of paper to the big storekeeper. Johnson got excited. "Hmm ... just about the place it should be, according to the stories. Well, I reckon it's worth taking a chance you're not loco. I'll hire somebody to run the store while I'm gone."

"We'll split fifty-fifty," promised Tim.

"But in case you lead me on a wild goose chase, sign this!" Johnson wrote: "If we don't find the Lost Sonora, I, Tim Kelly, promise to work five years for Andy Johnson to pay my debts."

"A hard bargain," muttered Tim but he

signed.

They started the next morning, leading a pack-horse, riding south for a week. The longest stretch lay across the border among twisting canyons. Several times Tim puzzled over his crude map. Finally he seemed stumped. "Gosh, forgot to mark those forked canyons and I can't remember which one now!"

"I knew it," groaned Johnson. "Twice before you came to town, yelling about a bonanza. Once it was fool's gold. The other time a mirage." He wiped his face, scorched from the broiling sun. "This time you went loco from the heat, that's all."

"No, you'll see," said Tim. "Now I remember it was the redstone canyon. It isn't far now."

Before sundown, Tim pointed to a cliff near the river. "Over there. The Lost Sonora Mine...loaded with silver. You'll see where the shaft collapsed long ago, and the broken timbers..."

Tim choked and stopped, looking around bewildered, near a pile of stone at the base of the cliff.

"What timber?" demanded Johnson.
"That's just loose stone from a landslide.
Not a stick of wood around. You had sunstroke!"

Tim winced at the withering scorn in the big man's harsh voice. Was it true? Had the long years of searching for a find without luck finally cracked him? Had he only imagined those timbers before?

"Well, back we go," grated Johnson ominously, "and you're going to work when we get back. Harder than those

beavers down by the river."

"That's it!" screeched Tim, dashing for the river on foot, waving his arms wildly like a madman.

Johnson blanched, chasing him. "Went plumb loco," he thought. "Got to save him from jumping in the river."

But Tim was only standing on the bank, pointing at the huge beaver dam that stretched across the narrowest point.

"Look, Andy! The beavers used them since I was last here. Those gnawed beams and broken sticks among the twigs . . . see?"

"Axe hewn beams," gasped Johnson,

peering. "The missing timbers!"

Panting, they both ran back and began dragging rocks from the pile at the cliff's base, where a shaft might have been cut into the side, now obscured.

Johnson uncovered a rusty pick, then a battered bucket in which lay shiny chunks of white metal.

"Nuggets!" breathed Johnson. "The Lost Sonora. You were right ... partner!"

Tim glowed happily. "I'll be working like a beaver all right . . . and so will you, partner . . . digging silver."

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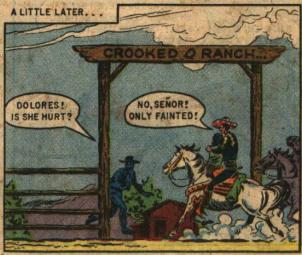








SENOR, YOU ARE NOT HURT, BUT YOU ARE











WHY WAS DOLORES RUNNING AWAY?

WHAT IS WRONG AT THIS RICH RANCHO?



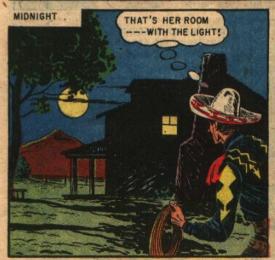


















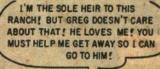


































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