

They say Cisco's a bad hombre ...

until Pancho discovers that it's...



a case of
"DOUBLE TROUBLE"

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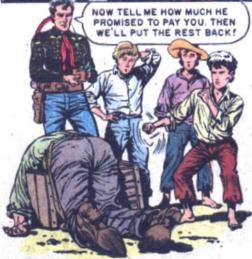
















THE BOYS ARE DELIGHTED WITH EVERYTHING ABOUT THE CARNIVAL!

BUT ELSEWHERE, BIG BEN THE BLACKSMITH IS FAR FROM HAPPY. . .

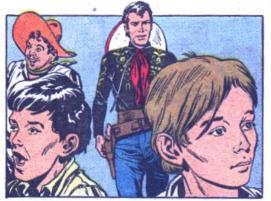








NEITHER KNOWING --- NOR CARING --- THAT BIG BEN IS PLOTTING AGAINST HIM, CISCO CONTINUES TO ESCORT THE HAPPY YOUNG-STERS THROUGH THE SHOW. . .













PANIC SPREADS OVER THE CARNIVAL LOT. .



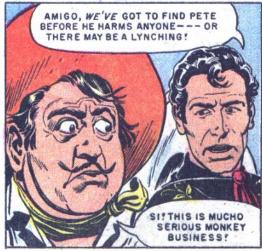


HERE, CISCO. I'LL BRING HER AROUND, YOU ORGANIZE THE MEN! SI, GRACIAS!









THE MEN FAN OUT, SEARCHING THE FLAT LAND AND THE HILLS, BUT THEY WON'T FIND THE GORILLA, BECAUSE...





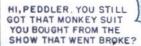












SURE! IT'S IN THE WAGON SOMEWHERE. YOU WANT IT?



















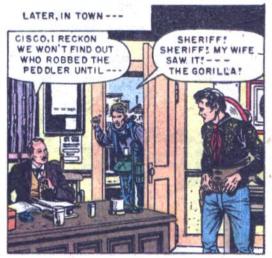




















NOW HERE'S THE DEAL. ME AND THE BOYS WILL



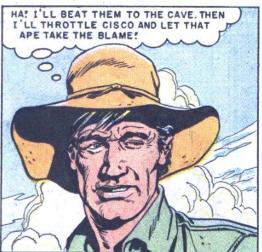


































NEARBY, A PEACEFUL BERRY-PICKER . . .

















AFTERWARD, BEHIND THE BLACKSMITH SHOP. . .

























BEFORE LEAVING TOWN, CISCO PAYS A CALL ...



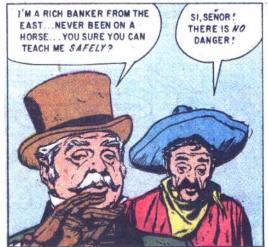
AND THE PARDS SAY FAREWELL TO THEIR YOUNG FRIENDS BEFORE SETTING OUT ON A NEW ADVENTURE...

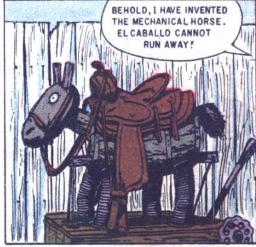








































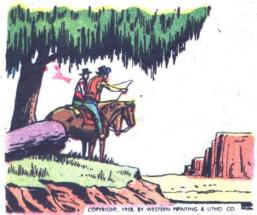








TREASURE TRAIL



"Now no lectures, Jed," sneered Tim Cooke as he sat down to eat with his older brother and his wife Molly. "I won't settle down to a job like you. A ticket agent for the railroad. Pahl I'm after bigger stakes."

Bigger stakes such as robbing a bank, thought Jed grimly. He was worried about his younger brother's future aims. From ceaseless riding, Tim knew the territory like a book. Jed knew that Tim would do anything to escape taking a humdrum job. Sooner or later, Tim would fall into bad company and go for big stakes . . . outside the law.

"If you're not interested in a job," spoke up Jed, "how about treasure?"

"Treasure?" echoed Tim, sitting up.

Jed pulled a creased old parchment from his pocket. "Found this old map in a storage room at the railroad station, forgotten for years. Leads to some bonanza. Take a look."

It was a map showing a twisted route through the nearby Pecos Mountains, but the directions puzzled Tim. "It's in Spanish. How come?"

"Spanish explorers," informed Jed, "first settled this Southwest Territory centuries ago. Reckon I know enough of the lingo to follow the directions. I took a leave from my job. Want to go treasure hunting?"

"Do 1?" cried Tim eagerly. "Maybe we'll find a lost gold strike or a silver mine. If it's a big bonanza, I'll never have to take a job. We'll start tomorrow."

Early morning found the two brothers jogging away from town to the Pecos Mountains.

"First: landmark is Smoky Peak," said Jed, studying the map. "From there we go due north a day's ride. Trouble is, Devil's Canyon lies that way."

"Wait . . . " Tim was shading his eyes, studying the layout of the hills. "My guess is the canyon narrows to the east. Follow me."

Not an hour's ride east, the canyon narrowed. Further on the gap was almost closed. "Only five feet," grinned Tim. "We can jump our horses across."

Eager to reach the unknown bonanza, Tim used his canny hill sense to find more shortcuts, as they followed the old map. He discovered a safe pathway through boggy swamps... a shallow crossing for a wide boiling river... an easy pass between towering peaks.

A week later, Jed read the last instruction—"Turn due south across the foothills and past the salt flats."

Tim gasped. "Why, that's right back to town! There's no hidden bonanza there. This is just a wild-goose chase!"

"Maybe not," said Jed softly. At town, he dismounted at the railroad station where he worked. Cyrus Calhoun, owner of the Southwest Railroad, came running out, surprised. "You're back already? But I was sure it would take a month."

"I told you my brother Tim could cut it down to a week," said Jed, "with his eagle eye for a way through. He laid out the route for your new spur through the mountains."

Jed turned to his baffled brother. "I made this fake map myself," he confessed. "I tricked you into following a route the railroad surveyors had abandoned as hopeless."

"But you proved it could be done, young man," said Calhoun. "Take a job with me as scout surveyor. You'll get a \$5000 bonus for each new route you work out . . . including this first one."

As Calhoun opened a wallet and counted out the money, Tim grinned at Jed. "Who said your map was a fake? I did hit treasure."







AND WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE TONIGHT,
OLD PAL. THAT NEW SUBSTITUTE GUARD IS
PRETTY DUMB, SO WE CAN WORK ON HIM. LAY
DOWN THERE AND START TO MOAN - - - LEAVE
THE REST TO ME:





THE GREENHORN GUARD UNLOCKS AND ENTERS THE CELL. . .





GEE! YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO HIT HIM
SO HARD. YOU
MIGHT'VE KILLED
HIM!

YEH? WELL, I DON'T
WANT HIM TO WAKE UP
AND START HOLLERING
BEFORE I'M LONG
GONE!





NEXT DAY ON THE VALLEY ROAD, A FEW MILES FROM TOWN...





BRADY, WHO HAS SHED HIS PRISON GARB AND STOLEN A RIFLE, LOOKS ON FROM A HILLTOP,...































IT IS NO BOTHER TO HELP A LITTLE GIRL





























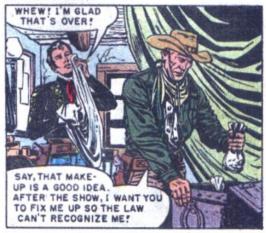








AFTER THE HOLDUP, THE PAIR RETURNS TO THE OPERA HOUSE...



THAT NIGHT, THE REAL CISCO COMES TO TOWN ...



A MOMENT AFTER PANCHO HAS ENTERED THE OPERA HOUSE...



UNAWARE OF HIS FRIEND'S PLIGHT, PANCHO IS ENGROSSED BY THE PLAY. . .





















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