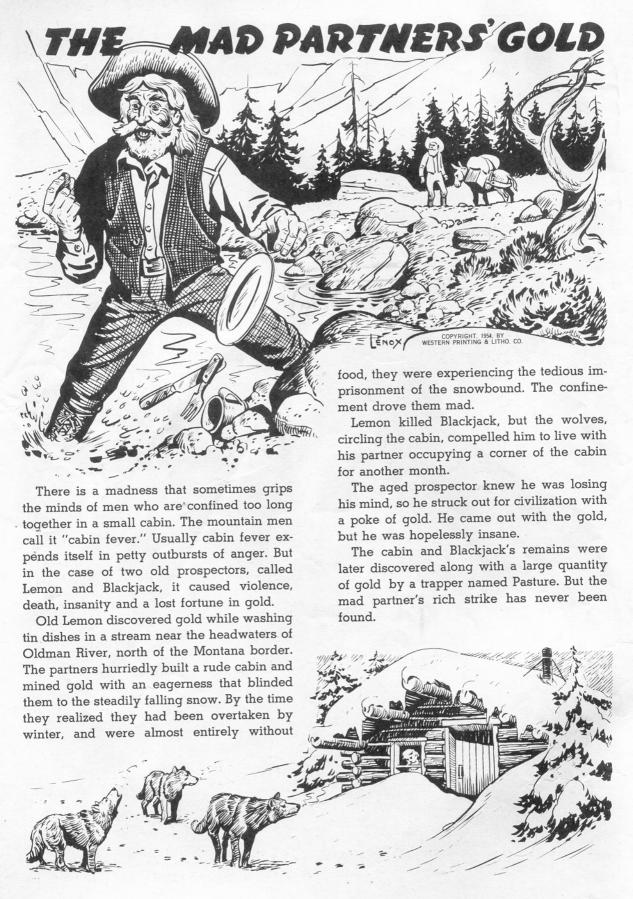
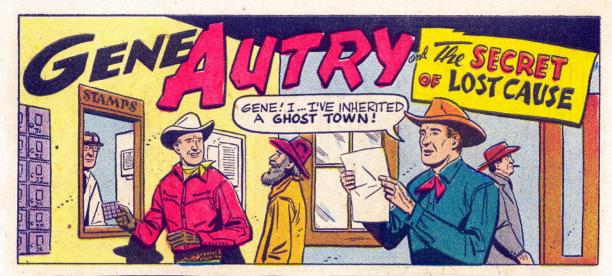


OCTOBER 10¢

## Gene Autry







DON'T TELL ME LEE ALLISON, THE GREAT WRITER OF HARDLY! THIS LETTER'S FROM WESTERN STORIES, IS STARTING TO BELIEVE MY LATE UNCLE'S HIS OWN PLOTS!

HE SAYS UNCLE BEN DISINHERITED HIS OTHER NEPHEW AND LEFT ME ALL HIS WORLDLY GOODS, CONSISTING OF ONE GHOST TOWN... NAMED "LOST CAUSE"!



I KNOW THE PLACE! IT'S IN THE DESERT WEST OF SPUR BEND! SPRANG UP YEARS AGO WHEN GOLD WAS DISCOVERED IN THE HILLS NEARBY! THAT'S RIGHT!

UNCLE BEN BOUGHT UP THE PROPERTY WHEN THE FIRST STRIKE WAS MADE! FIGURED HE'D MAKE A FORTUNE! BUT WHEN THE GOLD PETERED OUT, THE TOWN DIED OVERNIGHT!



POSTMASTER: Please send notice on Form 3578 and copies returned under Label Form 3579
to 263 Ninth Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

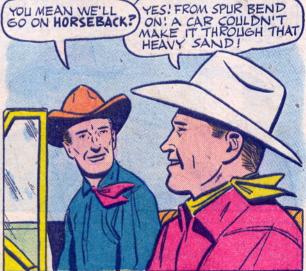
GENE AUTRY COMICS, Vol. 1, No. 92, October, 1954. Published monthly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 261 Fifth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.; George T. Delacorte, Jr., President; Helen Meyer, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Vice-President. Re-entered as second-class matter December 23, 1947 at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions in U. S. A., \$1.00 per year; single copies, 10 cents; foreign subscriptions, \$2.00 per year: Canadian subscriptions \$1.20 per year. Dell Subscription Service: 10 West 33rd Street, New York 1, N. Y. Copyright, 1954, by Gene Autry. All rights reserved. Printed in U. S. A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Except those who have authorized the use of their names herein, the stories, names, characters, incidents, and institutions mentioned or portrayed in this periodical are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS should reach us five weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS



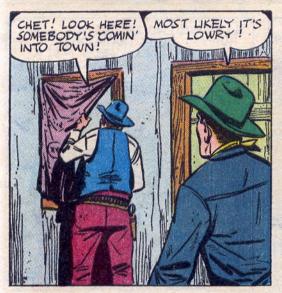










































LOWRY! YOU GO BACK TO SPUR BEND!













WE'LL MAKE IT SO UNCOMFORTABLE FOR HIM, HE'LL NOT ONLY BE GLAD TO CLEAR OUT BUT TO SELL THE WORKS DIRTCHEAR AS WELL!

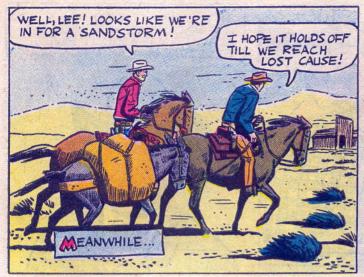










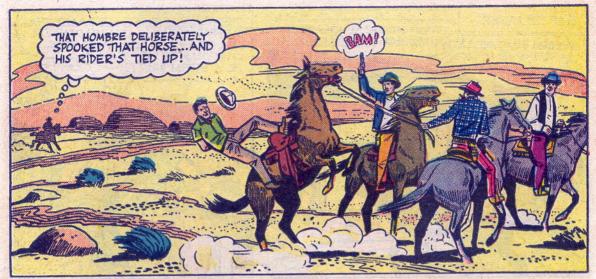








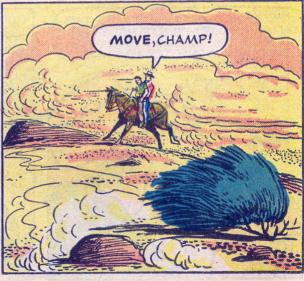






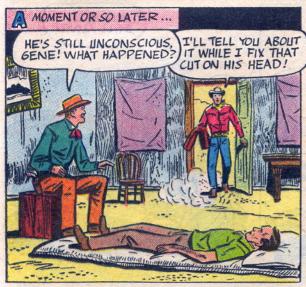


























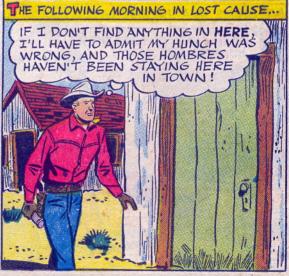






















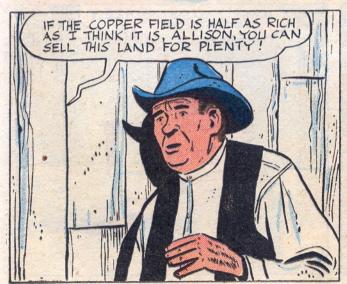










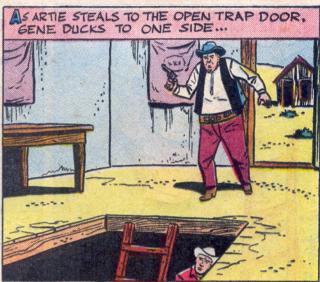










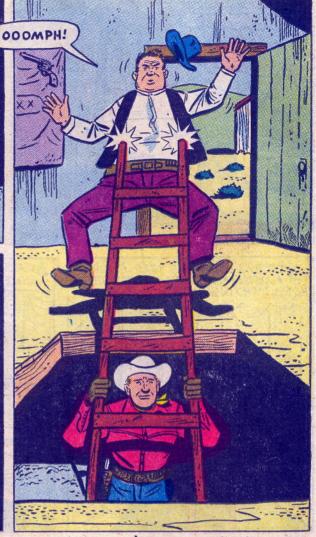












GENE GIVES IT A MIGHTY SHOVE UPWARDS ...











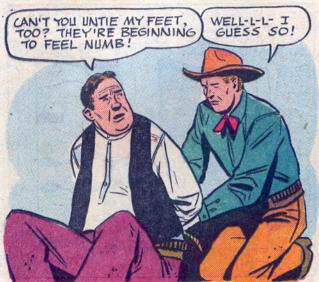
















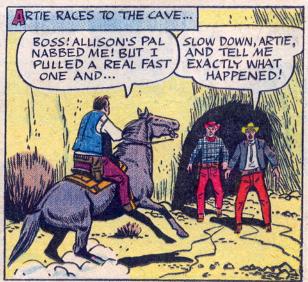










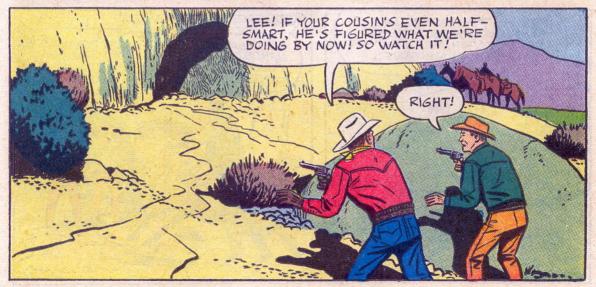






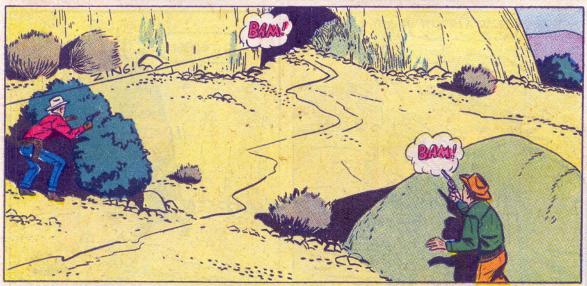


















CAUTIOUSLY, GENE PUSHES A GIANT TUMBLEWEED TOWARD THE SIDE OF THE CAVE MOUTH ...















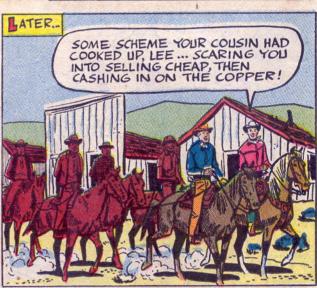














I'M SURE THERE'S A LOT OF





Crack!

The gunshot jerked Reverend Amos Beedle back to reality—and the disturbing fact that two masked men were spurring out of the trees onto the rutted road.

Except for their hats, the two men looked as though they had been cut from the same pattern. Each straddled a bay horse. Each wore a black shirt, black pants, silverstudded gun belt, and a black neckerchief mask. However, one's hat was a dirty tan color with a sagging brim, while the other wore a stiff-brimmed black hat.

"Rein up!" barked Tan Hat, flourishing his six-gun.

The command was unnecessary. Amos had already pulled the old gray horse to a stop.

Tan Hat barked again. "And reach for the sky!"

"Why should I?" asked Amos in a mild, unfrightened tone.

Above the mask, Tan Hat's eyes were bewildered. "Hanged if I know!" he admitted.

Amos shifted his glance to Black Hat. "Do you?"

"Sure!" Amusement laced the bandit's voice. "If your hands are in the air, you can't pull a surprise gun."

"I can't anyway," said Amos. "I'm not armed." He indicated a small object on the seat beside him, adding, "Except for the Good Book, of course."

"The what?" rasped Tan Hat.

"You ignorant galoot," chuckled Black Hat.
"He means the Bible." He eased his horse closer to the buckboard and studied Amos with curious eyes. "So you're a parson."

Amos smiled. "Reverend Amos Beedle, of

Twin Trees. Who are you?"

Tan Hat gasped. West of the Pecos, asking personal questions was taboo. He tensed, sure that an explosion of gun or words would follow. But, to his amazement, it was laughter that exploded. He stared at his masked companion, and his amazement mounted as the other checked his merriment to say,

"My name is Simon Matthew Flagg, but around here folks call me 'Dandy' Flagg. Ever heard of me?"

Amos nodded. "I regret to say none of what I've heard has been complimentary."

"That's not surprising," said Dandy. "I'm not what you'd call popular."

Amos grinned. "That's not surprising, either, considering your — uh — activities." He sobered to turn his eyes on Tan Hat. "I have also heard of you. I believe the name is Fred Maxon."

"That's right," growled Maxon. "An' I'm tired of palaverin', so fork over your cash an'—" Dandy's gloved hand firm across his mouth prevented him from finishing the sentence. He jerked his head aside—freeing his mouth—and glowered at Dandy. "Whatsa big idea?"

Dandy's eyes were dark with fury. But his voice was almost expressionless as he said, "What cash the parson's got, he keeps. Savvy?"

Maxon fingered his mask as if he were pulling at suddenly dry lips under it. "Sure, Dandy — sure."

Dandy pulled his reins taut. "Better get going, Parson, before I change my mind about your bankroll." At the smile creasing Amos' face, he added, "What's so funny?" "The idea of me having any money," replied Amos. "Why, I haven't even got a church. I hold services in my home which is next to the general store. It is small but so is my congregation." He sighed, clucked to the old gray horse and, as the buckboard began to move, tossed an awkward salute Dandy's way. "So long, Mr. Flagg!"

Dandy waved back. There was a strange look on his face — as if he had found something he thought he had lost forever.

The next Sunday morning, Dandy Flagg and Fred Maxon — minus their masks and wearing "store clothes" and light-colored Stetsons — pulled up their bays in a grove behind the general store.

"Of all the loco stunts — us goin' to church," growled Maxon as they dismounted.

Dandy grinned. "It'll make the parson feel good, having two more customers. And nobody'll recognize us without the masks and black duds."

Maxon tied both horses to a tree. "That parson's no fool."

"He wouldn't turn us in if he did recognize us," Dandy confidently declared.

The service was already under way in the little one-room shack when Dandy and Maxon took seats in the third and last row of benches, improvised by placing planks across packing boxes. Reverend Amos Beedle gave no outward sign of recognizing them. However, during the sermon, he did not once consult his notes as he preached on the text: "But the greatest of these is charity."

Apparently Dandy took the text to heart, for when the collection plate was passed, he put a five-dollar gold piece in it before handing it on to Maxon with a significant look. At the look, Maxon hastily exchanged the silver coin he held in readiness for a gold one.

During the final hymn, Dandy nudged his partner. "Let's go," he scowled.

"What's eatin' you?" asked Maxon when they reached the street.

"That collection!" snapped Dandy. "Ten bucks from us and two dollars, six bits from the rest. Not even a parson can live on that."

"Quit worryin'," shrugged Maxon. "You can't do anything about it."

Dandy smiled. "I not only can - I will!"

Between this moment and midnight, two seemingly unrelated events took place. The first was the robbery of the Eldorado Saloon in Reata, twenty miles from Twin Trees, in which the black-masked, black-clad bandits took only paper money.

The second event was the temporary theft of Reverend Beedle's only pair of trousers while that worthy slept. This was easily accomplished, since the trousers lay across a chair back near an open window. But it was not noiselessly done. The belt buckle clinked against the window sill, awakening Amos and bringing him bolt upright in his cot. For a moment, he stared into the darkness. Then a shadow darkened the lighter patch of dark that was the window.

"Who's there?" called Amos, fumbling for the matches and a candle.

The shadow vanished. Leaping from the cot, Amos started for the window but changed his mind and headed for the dresser and the candle. As the taper flickered into light, he gasped. There, on the floor under the window, lay his trousers—and sticking out of one pocket was a fat roll of bills.

At that moment, Dandy Flagg was swinging up into his saddle and Maxon was saying, "I don't savvy. Why didn't you just call the parson out and hand him that cash?"

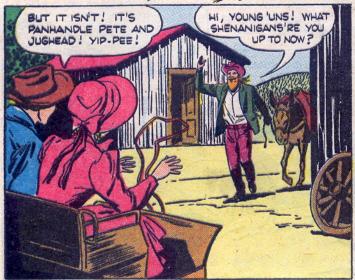
"He'd have figured it was stolen and refused it," replied Dandy. "Let's get moving."

"Okay — after you tell me what made you want to give it to him in the first place," said Maxon.

"That same reason I went to his church today." There was an oddly wistful note in Dandy's voice. "He's the first hombre I've met in years who isn't afraid of me, and the only one to call me Mister Flagq!"











WAL, NOT EXACTLY! NOBODY EVER MINED THIS GOLD! BUT I'M GETTIN' AHEAD O'MY STORY WHICH HAD ITS BEGINNIN' BACK IN 1845 ---

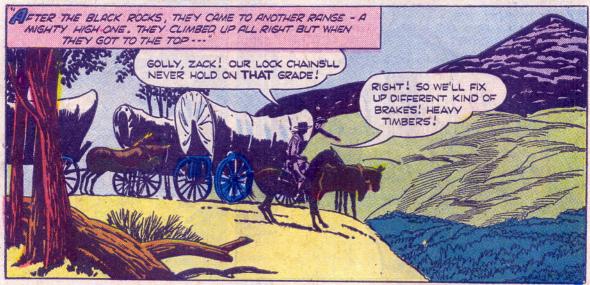


WHEN A PARTY O' PIONEERS HEADED FOR OREGON.
AS 'TWAS FOUR YEARS BEFORE THE CALIFORNY
GOLD RUSH , HOMESTEADIN' WAS ALL THEY HAD
ON THEIR MINDS.



"WHEN THE TRAIN REACHED THE HUMBOLDT RIVER IT SPLIT UP. SOME WAGONS FOLLOWED THE RIVER. THE REST HEADED NORTH - OVER THE BLACK ROCK MOUNTAINS.









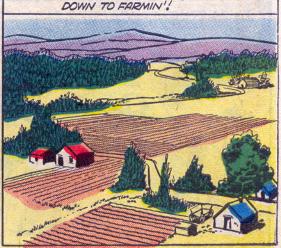












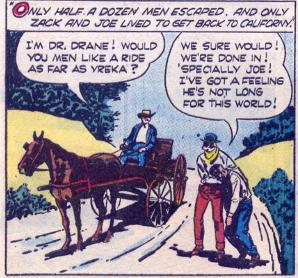
THE PIONEERS REACHED NORTHWEST OREGON

WITHOUT ANY MORE TROUBLE, AND SETTLED

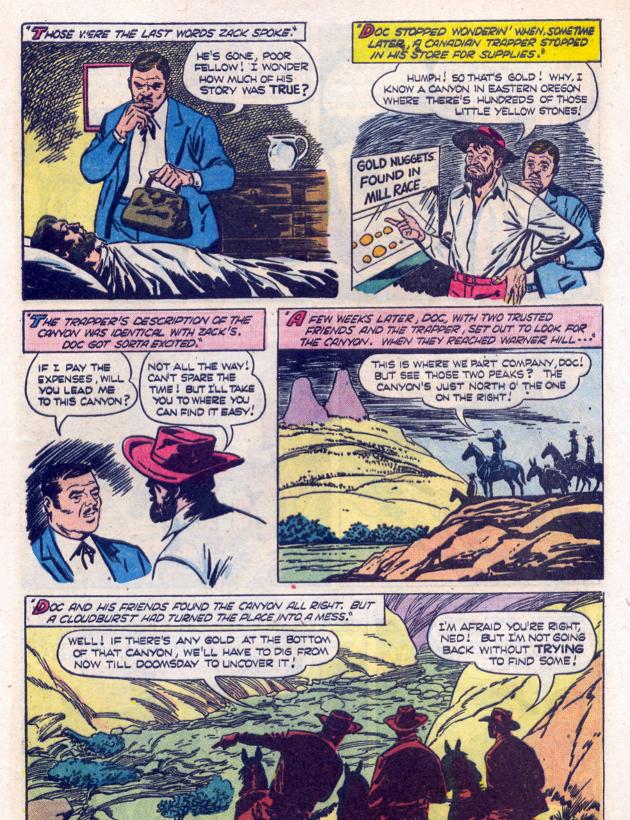








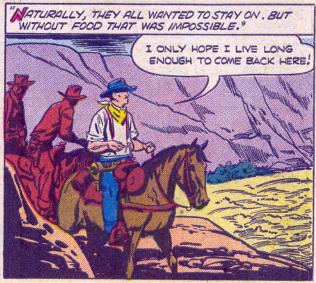
















DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS

HERE'S A PEN ANY COWHAND WOULD BE GLAD TO OWN ... THE OFFICIAL DELL COMICS CLUB BALL POINT PEN! YOU GET IT FREE WHEN YOU SUBSCRIBE TO GENE AUTRY COMICS!



A really good looking pen with its pocketclip bearing the Dell seal and the handsome gold lettering "Official Dell Comics Club Member" on a dark green background.

Best of all-it's so easy for you to own one! Just clip the coupon below and have Mom or Dad send in for your full year's subscription to Gene Autry Comics-12 big issues for only \$1.00. With your subscription you'll get free, the Official Dell Comics Club Pen and your Dell Comics Club Membership Certificate.

SEND IN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!

CUT ALONG DOTTED LI

## DELL PUBLISHING CO., Inc. • Dept. 10 GA 10 W. 33rd St., New York 1, N. Y.

(Please use this side for YOUR OWN SUBSCRIPTION) Please enter Subscription to GENE AUTRY Comics. Include FREE Dell Comics CLUB PEN and Membership Certificate to the Dell Comics Club.

SUBSCRIPTION	RATES: 1	year—12 issues \$1.00
7 2 vears_24	iccupe \$1 85	□ 3 voess 26 issues

I am enclosing remittance for \$.....in full payment

Name ..... Age ..... 

...... Zone .... State ......

CANADA: 

1 yr. \$1.20; 

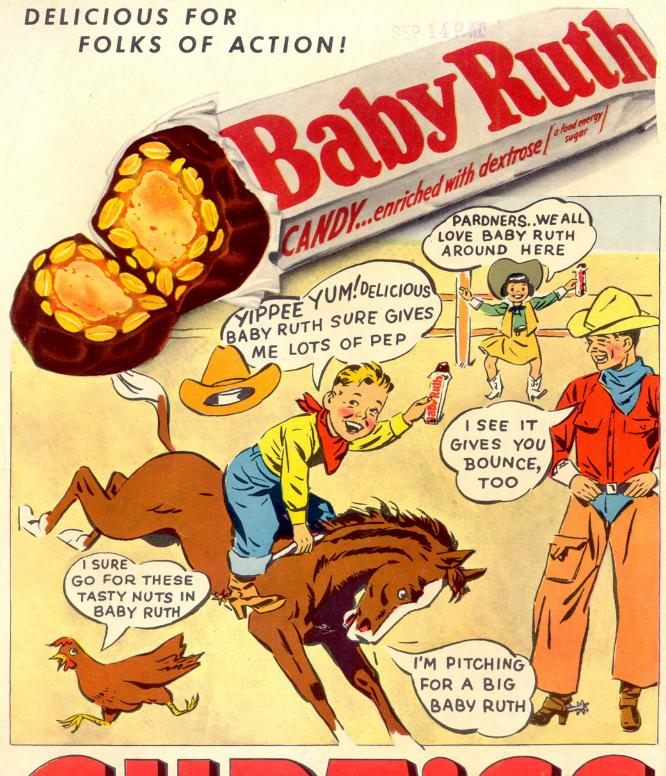
2 yrs. \$2.00; 

3 yrs. \$3.00

## DELL PUBLISHING CO., Inc. • Dept. 10 GA

10 W. 33rd St., New York 1, N. Y.

	(Please use this side for GIFT SUBSCRIPTION)
PLEA	Please enter Subscription to GENE AUTRY Comics. Includ FREE Dell Comics CLUB PEN and Membership Certificate to the Dell Comics Club.
SE P	Name Age St. and No.
PRINT	City
PLA	I am enclosing remittance for \$ in full payment ENCLOSE GIFT CARD TO READ FROM:
ZZ	Donor's Name



## GURTISS

CURTISS CANDY COMPANY

Otto Schnering, Founder