



NOV.-JAN.

10¢

# Gene Autry's **Champion**

• A DELL COMIC •  
**DELL**  
• A DELL COMIC •



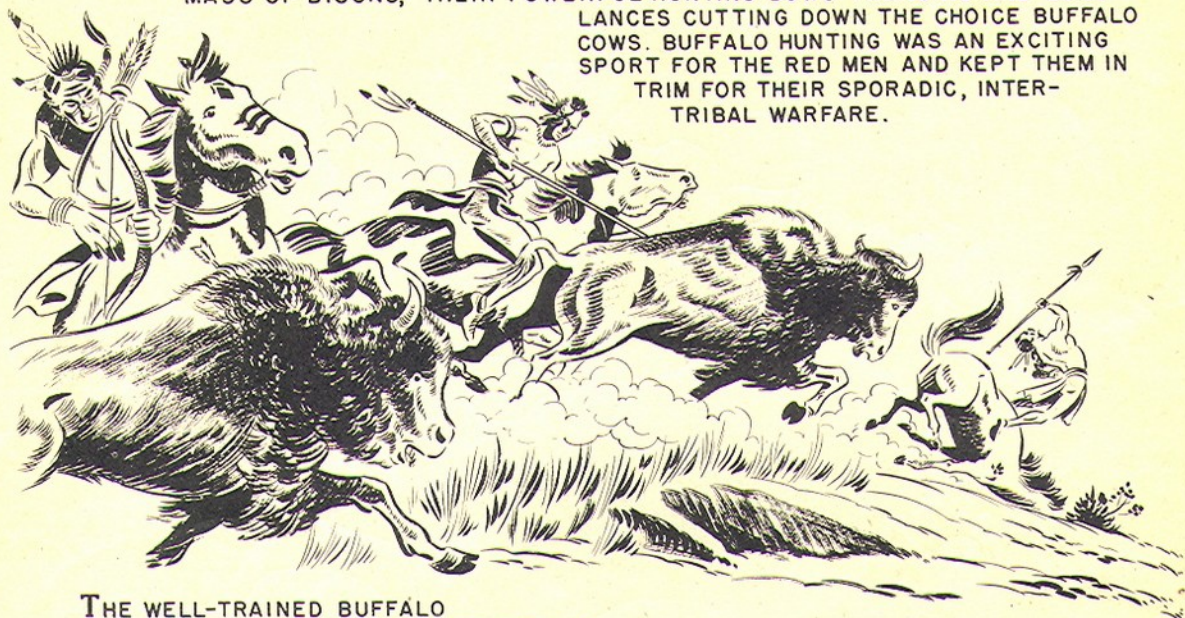


# BUFFALO and WAR PONIES

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## BUFFALO PONIES

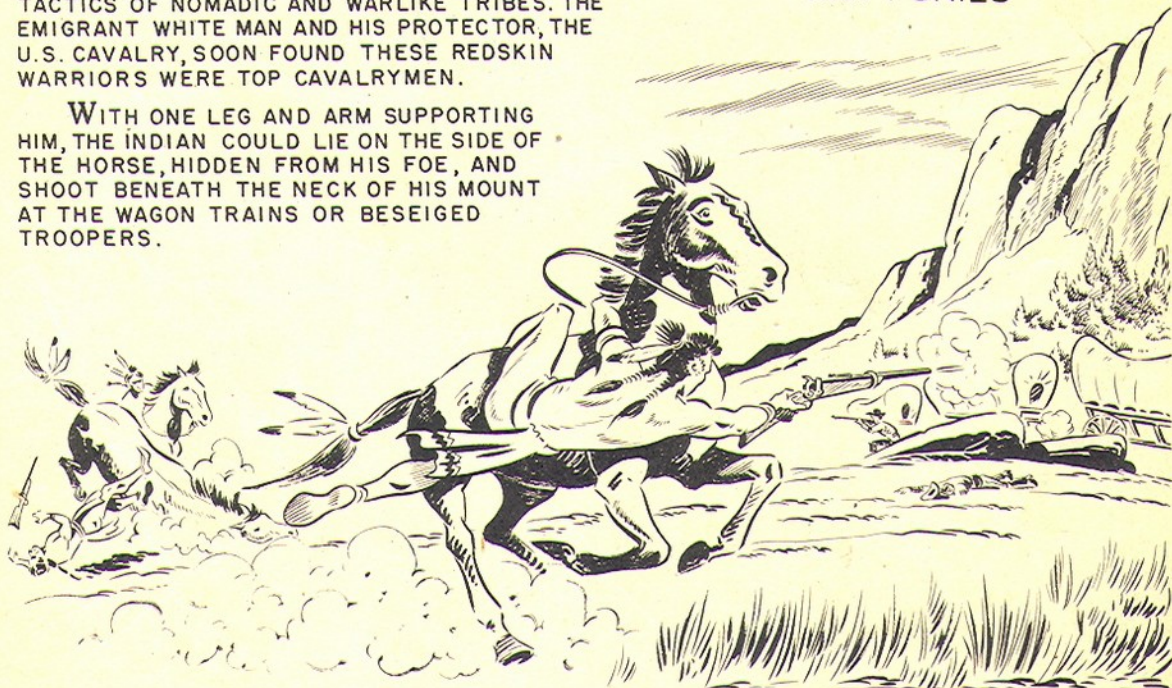
ONCE THE EARLY AMERICAN INDIAN LEARNED TO USE THE SPANISH IMPORTED HORSE, IT TRANSFORMED HIS WHOLE WAY OF LIFE. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE THE REDSKINS WERE USING WELL-TRAINED HORSES FOR BUFFALO HUNTING. ON SIGHTING A BUFFALO HERD, THE INDIANS WOULD GALLOP INTO THE MILLING MASS OF BISONS, THEIR POWERFUL HUNTING BOWS TWANGING AND LONG LANCES CUTTING DOWN THE CHOICE BUFFALO COWS. BUFFALO HUNTING WAS AN EXCITING SPORT FOR THE RED MEN AND KEPT THEM IN TRIM FOR THEIR SPORADIC, INTER-TRIBAL WARFARE.



THE WELL-TRAINED BUFFALO PONY AND HIS RIDER ALSO AFFECTED THE WAR TACTICS OF NOMADIC AND WARLIKE TRIBES. THE EMIGRANT WHITE MAN AND HIS PROTECTOR, THE U.S. CAVALRY, SOON FOUND THESE REDSKIN WARRIORS WERE TOP CAVALRYMEN.

## WAR PONIES

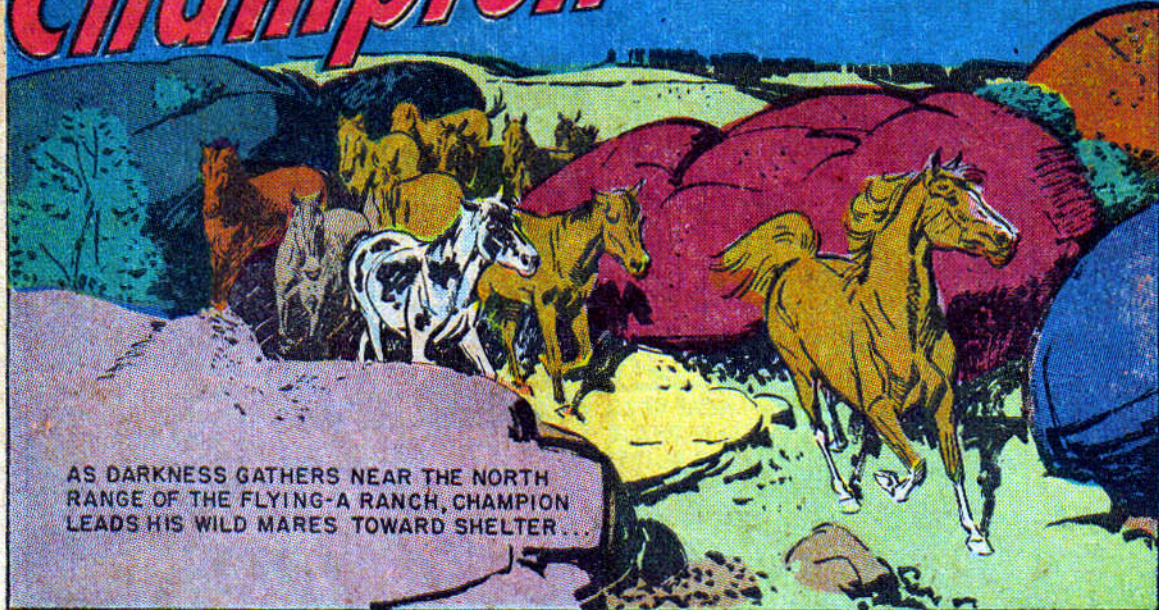
WITH ONE LEG AND ARM SUPPORTING HIM, THE INDIAN COULD LIE ON THE SIDE OF THE HORSE, HIDDEN FROM HIS FOE, AND SHOOT BENEATH THE NECK OF HIS MOUNT AT THE WAGON TRAINS OR BESEIGED TROOPERS.





# Champion

IN  
FIGHT IN THE NIGHT



AS DARKNESS GATHERS NEAR THE NORTH  
RANGE OF THE FLYING-A RANCH, CHAMPION  
LEADS HIS WILD MARES TOWARD SHELTER...

SUDDENLY, A SHARP ODOR REACHES  
HIS NOSTRILS...



WHUMP!



INSTANTLY, CHAMP  
TURNS HIS HERD...

... AND TAKES THEM AWAY FROM A  
MORTAL ENEMY---THE TIMBER  
WOLF...





BUT THE WOLVES HAVE SMELLED  
WARM FLESH...



MEANWHILE, CLOSE BY...



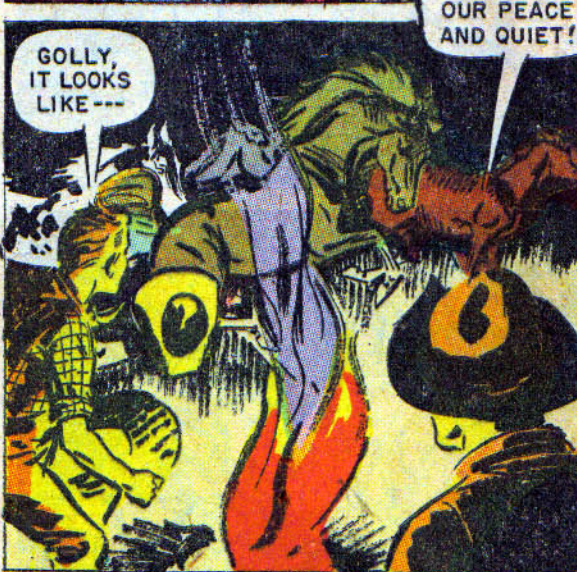
SURE IS PEACEFUL TO-  
NIGHT, UNCLE SMOKY!

GLAD IT IS, RICKY!  
WE WANT TO GET THIS  
PRIZE HERD DOWN TO  
THE RANCH TOMORROW!

HERE GOES  
OUR PEACE  
AND QUIET!

SOMETHING MUST  
BE AFTER HIS HERD!  
HE SURE BROUGHT  
THEM IN HARD!

GOLLY,  
IT LOOKS  
LIKE---



--- IT IS!  
IT'S  
CHAMP!



CHAMP!  
C'MERE!  
WHAT'S  
WRONG?

YIP!

WHEE-EE  
WHUMP!



WOLVES!

I'LL GET A  
COUPLE OF THEM---

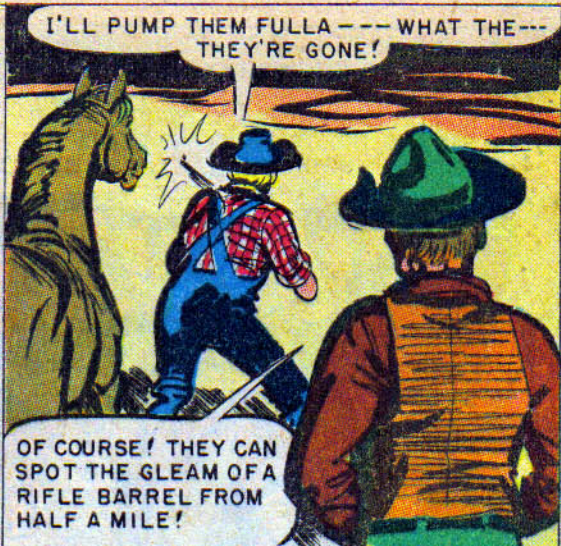






CHAMP'S HELPED US  
PLENTY! NOW IT'S  
OUR TURN TO HELP  
HIM!

SIMMER DOWN,  
RICKY! YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO MAKE ANY  
KILLINGS LIKE THAT--



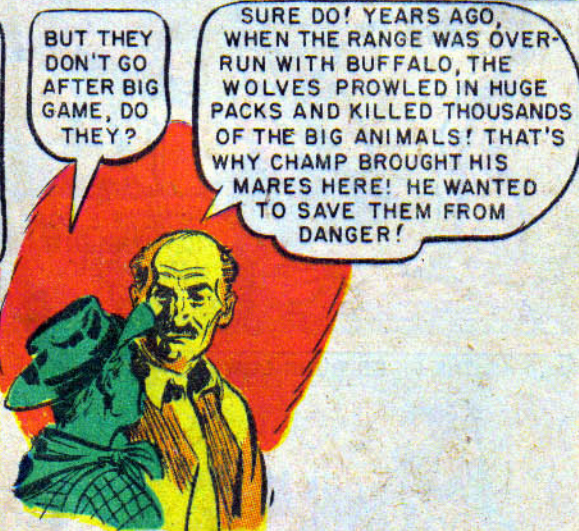
I'LL PUMP THEM FULLA --- WHAT THE---  
THEY'RE GONE!

OF COURSE! THEY CAN  
SPOT THE GLEAM OF A  
RIFLE BARREL FROM  
HALF A MILE!



AW! YOU'RE  
KIDDING ME!

NO, I'M NOT, RICKY! A  
TIMBER WOLF IS A  
CUNNING ANIMAL!  
I'VE TRIED TO  
CORRAL THEM  
WITH TRAPS,  
POISONED MEAT  
AND A LOT OF  
OTHER WAYS  
WITHOUT MUCH  
LUCK!



BUT THEY  
DON'T GO  
AFTER BIG  
GAME, DO  
THEY?

SURE DO! YEARS AGO,  
WHEN THE RANGE WAS OVER-  
RUN WITH BUFFALO, THE  
WOLVES PROWLED IN HUGE  
PACKS AND KILLED THOUSANDS  
OF THE BIG ANIMALS! THAT'S  
WHY CHAMP BROUGHT HIS  
MARES HERE! HE WANTED  
TO SAVE THEM FROM  
DANGER!



LET'S LIGHT SOME FIRES AROUND THE HERD,  
RICKY! THAT WILL KEEP THE VARMINTS  
AT A DISTANCE!

OKAY! GOLLY, I DIDN'T KNOW A WOLF  
WAS SO DANGEROUS!



A PACK OF TIMBER WOLVES HAS RUINED MORE THAN ONE CATTLEMAN, RICKY! WHEN THE FOOD IS PLENTIFUL, WOLVES WILL MAKE A FRESH KILLING FOR EACH MEAL! THEY JUST TEAR OFF A PART OF THE CARCASS AND LEAVE THE REST TO ROT. THEY CAN KILL A LOT OF CATTLE IN A WEEK!



WHEW! I HOPE THERE AREN'T MANY AROUND HERE!

NOW YOU GET SOME SLEEP, RICKY! I'LL STAY UP AND BUILD UP THE FIRES WHEN THEY GET LOW!

OKAY, UNCLE SMOKY!



A LITTLE LATER...

I'M MORE TIRED THAN I THOUGHT--- I HOPE I CAN--- STAY--- AWAKE--- ZZZZZZ!



AND AS THE FIRES BURN LOW...

SNORT



WHAT THE---? THE WOLVES!

DOWN, REBEL! CHAMP'LL GET THEM!







TAKE THAT,  
YOU VARMINT!

GOOD SHOOTING,  
UNCLE SMOKY!



TAKE CARE OF  
HIM, CHAMP!



THAT'S TWO OF THEM,  
RICKY! THEY SURE  
MUST HAVE BEEN  
HUNGRY!

WE SAW FOUR,  
THOUGH! THERE  
ARE AT LEAST TWO  
MORE!



CHAMP'S GOING AFTER  
THEM! GUESS HE DON'T  
TRUST ME STAYING AWAKE!

NO, REBEL!  
YOU CAN'T GO!

WH-I-I-NE!

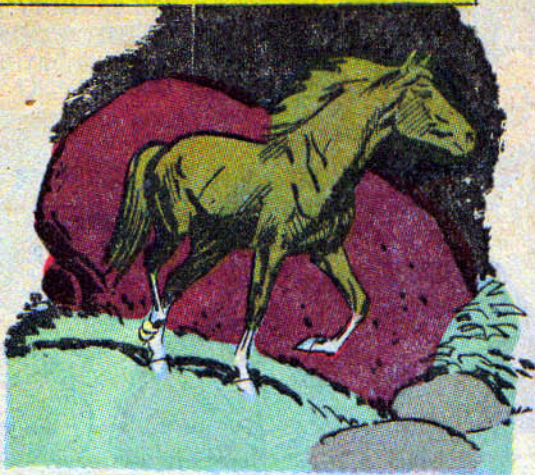


ANYTHING WE  
CAN DO, UNCLE  
SMOKY?

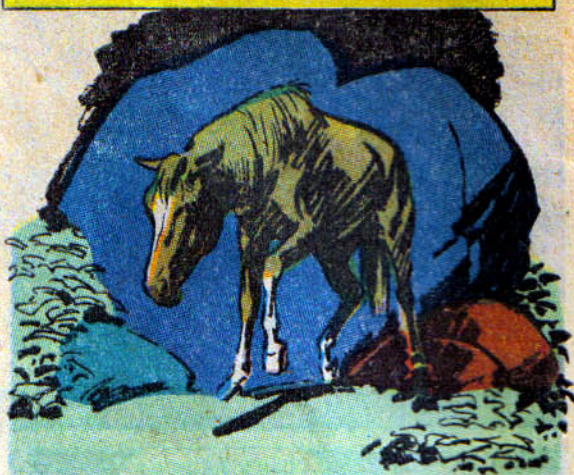
JUST BUILD UP THE FIRES,  
RICKY! LOOKS LIKE CHAMP'S  
GOING TO DO THE REST!  
WONDER WHAT TRICK HE'LL  
USE THIS TIME?



CHAMP KNOWS THAT THE PERIL TO HIS  
HERD MUST BE ELIMINATED...



FEIGNING INJURY, CHAMP HOBBLING TO GET  
THE ATTENTION OF THE TIMBER WOLVES...



... AND HE DOESN'T HAVE  
TO WAIT LONG...

CHAMP'S KEEN SENSE OF SMELL TELLS  
HIM HIS ENEMIES ARE CLOSE BY...



THE POWERFUL, HUNGRY ANIMALS SLOWLY  
STALK CHAMPION...





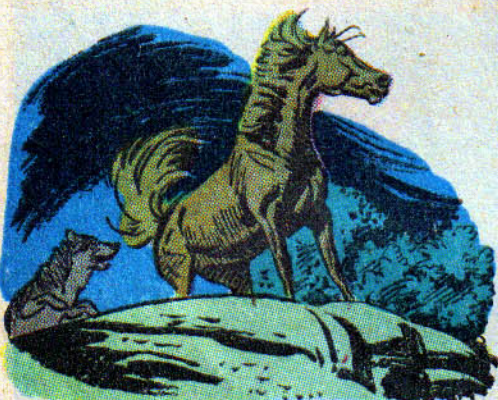
SLOWLY, CHAMP BEGINS TO MOVE FASTER...



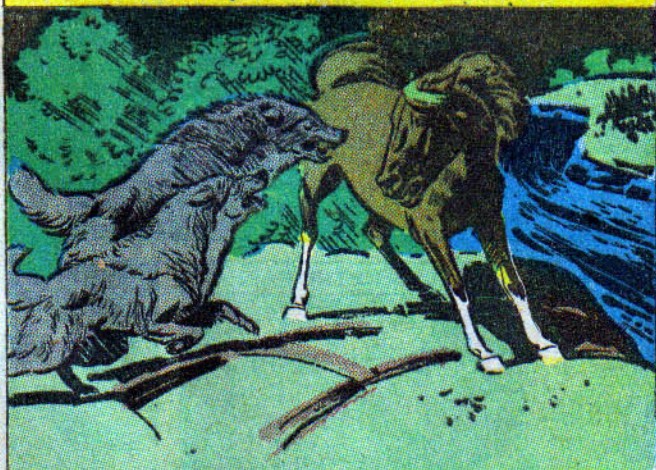
... AND FASTER...



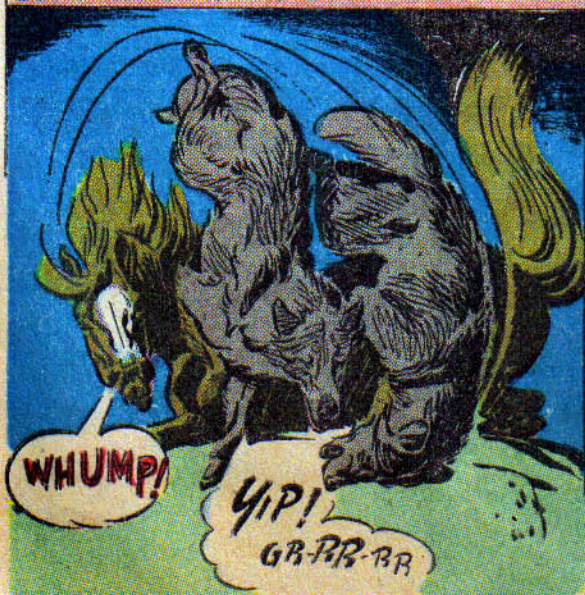
AS HE NEARS THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF, CHAMP SUDDENLY STOPS...



SENSING A KILL, THE WOLVES LEAP...



BUT CHAMPION IS MASTER OF THE SITUATION...

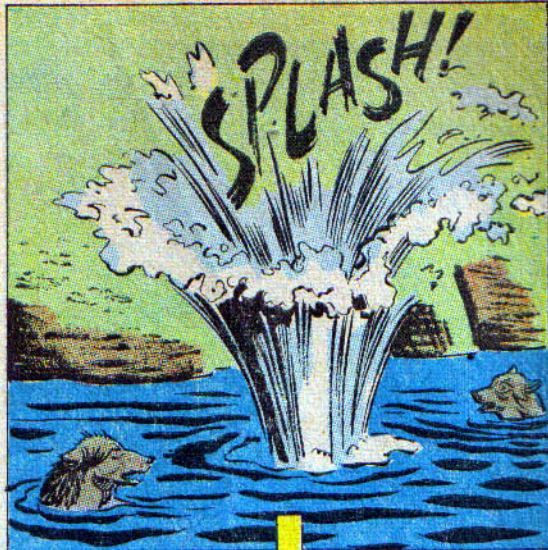
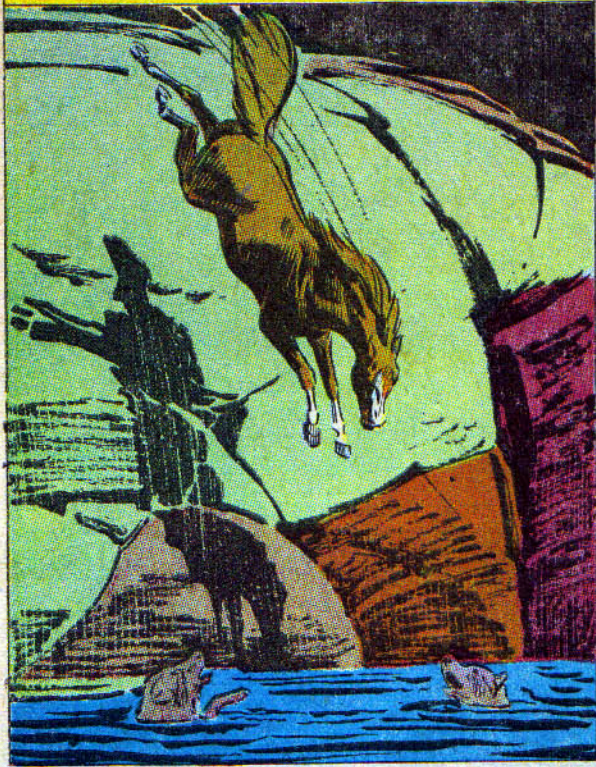


CHAMP  
HESITATES  
ONLY A  
MOMENT,  
THEN...





HE LEAPS AFTER THE HUNGRY KILLERS...



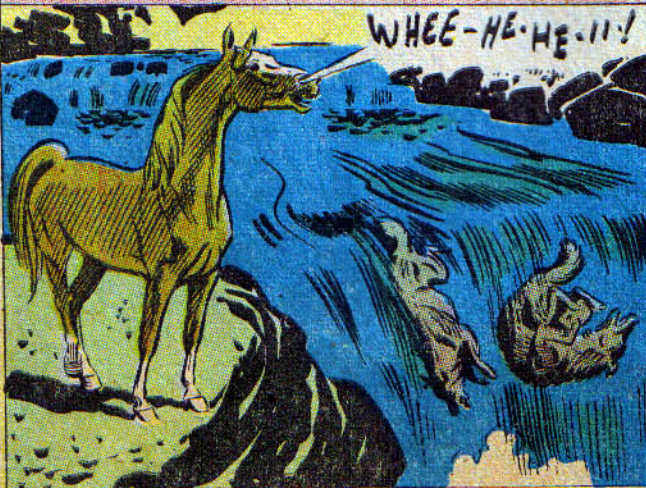
CHAMP EASILY KEEPS THE DAZED ANIMALS  
IN THE CENTER OF THE CURRENT,  
AND SOON...



...THEY ARE SUCKED INTO THE RAPIDS...



AND AS THEY GO OVER THE FALLS, CHAMPION'S HEAD  
IS HIGH AS HE BLASTS FORTH HIS CRY OF VICTORY...

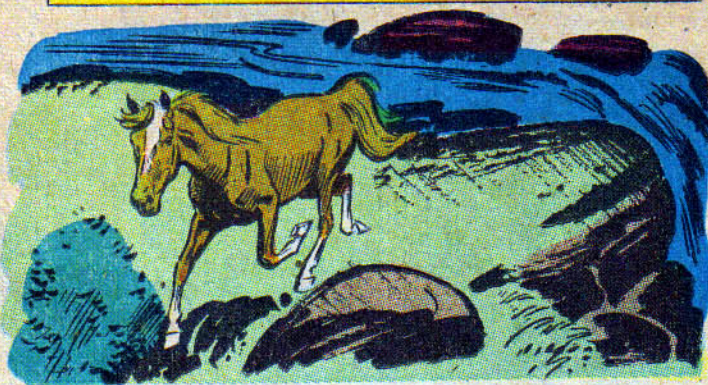




CHAMP WATCHES FOR A MOMENT...



...THEN HE HEADS FOR THE BOTTOM OF THE FALLS...



MEANWHILE, ONE OF THE WOLVES HAS SURVIVED...



SUDDENLY, THE CRAZED WOLF LEAPS...





... AND ATTEMPTS TO SINK HIS  
RAZOR-SHARP TEETH INTO  
CHAMP'S NECK...

... BUT CHAMP'S HEAVY MANE  
SAVES HIM FROM  
INJURY...

VIP!

SNORT-  
WHUMP!

WHEEAW!

CRACK!

CHAMP DISPOSES OF THE LAST OF HIS  
DEFEATED ENEMIES...

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

UNCLE SMOKY,  
HERE COMES CHAMP!  
I WONDER WHAT  
HAPPENED?

WE'LL KNOW IN A  
FEW MINUTES, RICKY!  
JUST KEEP YOUR EYE  
ON HIM---

---SEE, RICKY! HE'S TAKING HIS HERD OUT OF  
HERE! THAT MEANS IT'S SAFE FOR US, TOO!  
HE FINISHED OFF  
THE WOLVES!

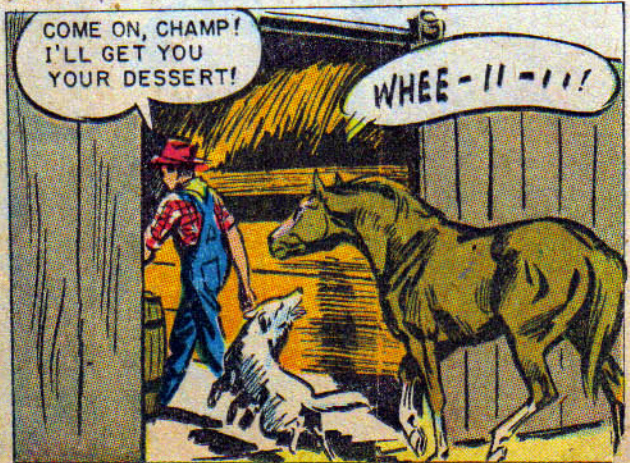
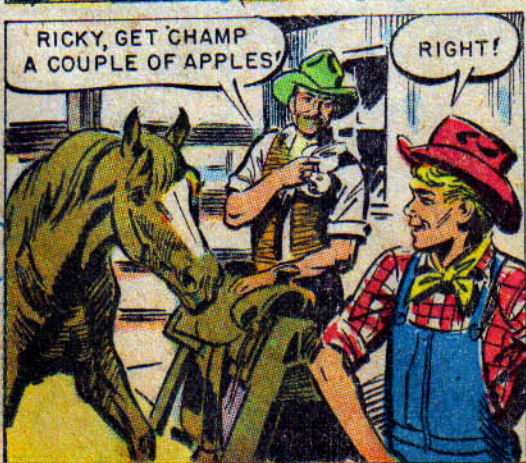
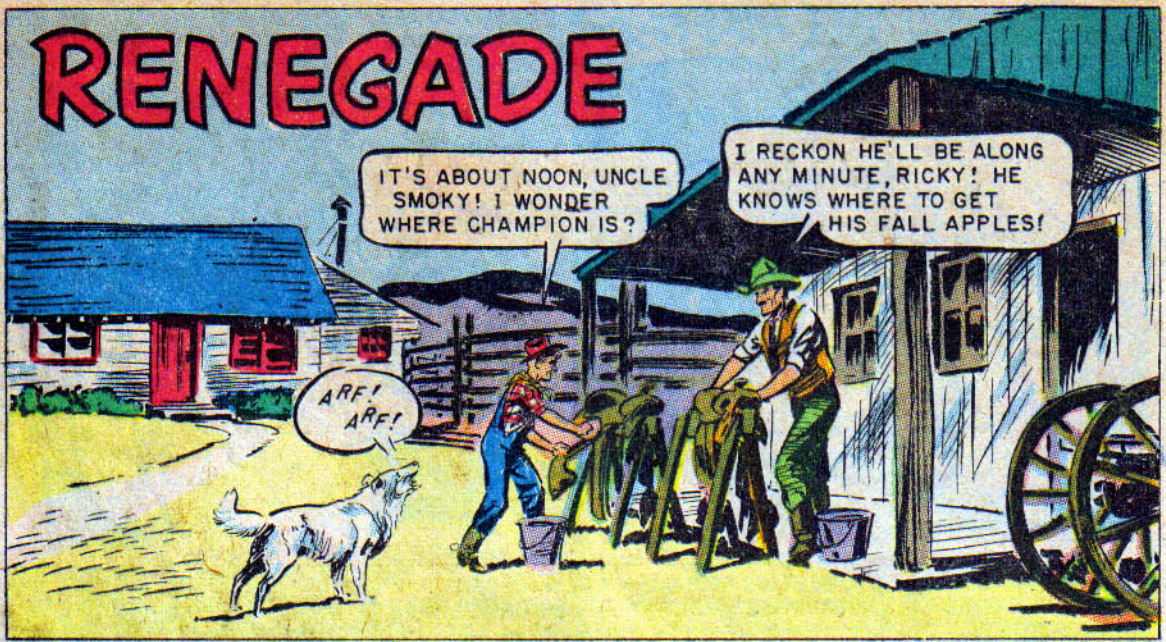
WHAT A HORSE! SO  
LONG, CHAMPION!

ARF! ARF!

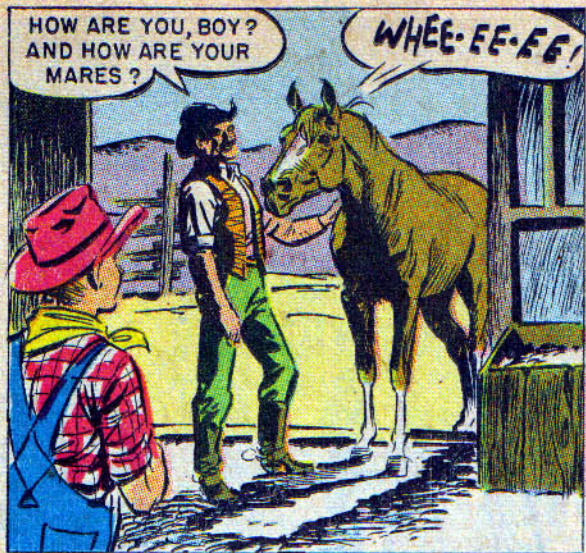
WHEE-  
HO-HO!



# RENEGADE

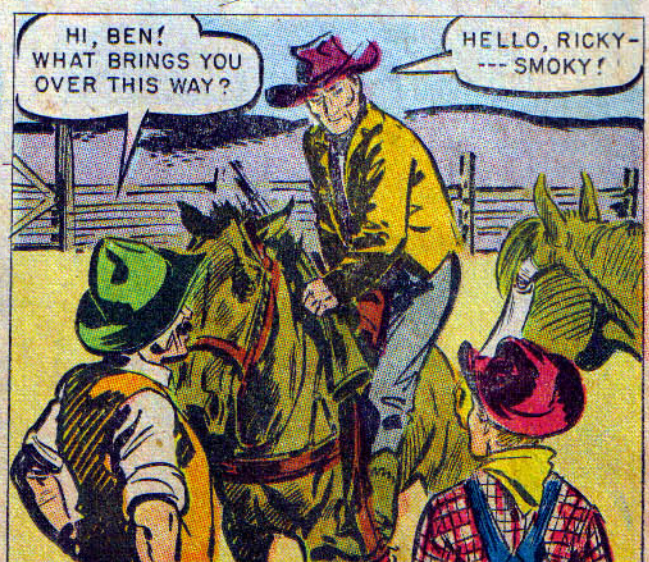
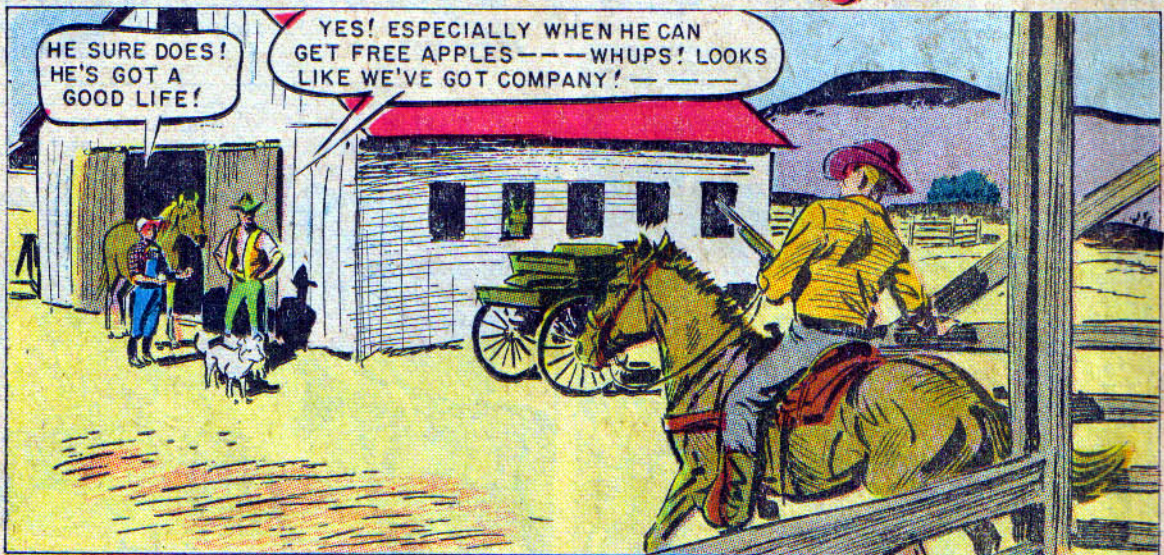






HERE YOU ARE, CHAMP! DON'T CHOKE ON THE SEEDS!

CHAMP LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY ENJOYING LIFE, RICKY!

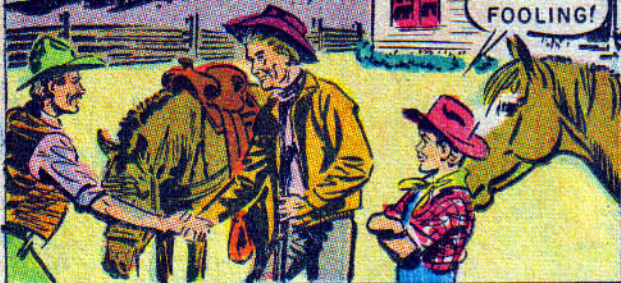




GOOD TO SEE YOU, BEN, BUT WHY ALL THE HARDWARE?

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, THEN YOU CAN'T HAVE BEEN TROUBLED! THERE'S A BLAMED RENEGADE STALLION ROAMING AROUND THESE PARTS!

NO FOOLING!



THAT'S RIGHT, RICKY! HE'S BEEN KICKING UP AN AWFUL MESS 'ROUND HERE! HE RUN OFF THREE OF MY MARES, KICKED DOWN MY FENCES AND CHEWED UP MY WIFE MARTHA'S VEGETABLE GARDEN!

IF I KNOW MARTHA, SHE'S MOST UPSET ABOUT HER VEGETABLE PATCH!

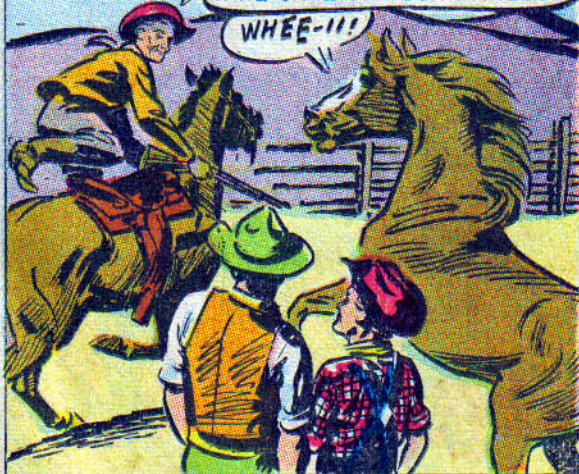


I'LL SAY SO! SO I'M ON THE PROWL FOR THIS VARMINT! MARTHA SAW HIM AND HE'S COAL-BLACK! CAN'T HARDLY SEE HIM AT NIGHT!

AFRAID WE CAN'T HELP YOU, BEN! WE AIN'T SEEN HIDE NOR HAIR OF THE CRITTER! BUT WE'LL KEEP A SHARP EYE FOR HIM!

THAT'S A GOOD IDEA, BECAUSE HE'S DONE ABOUT A THOUSAND DOLLARS' WORTH OF DAMAGE TO THE RANCHES IN THE VICINITY ALREADY! YOU'VE BEEN LUCKY! AND, CHAMP, TAKE CARE OF YOUR MARES!

WHEE-III!



IF YOU SEE HIM, SHOOT FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS AFTER! HE'S A DANGEROUS CRITTER!

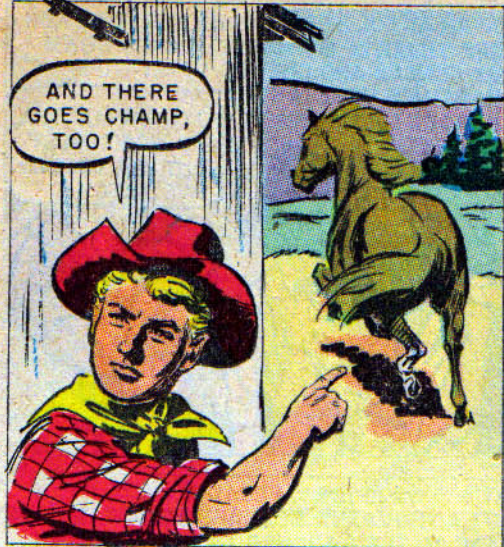
OKAY, BEN, WE'LL DO THAT! SO LONG!

GOOD-BYE, BEN!

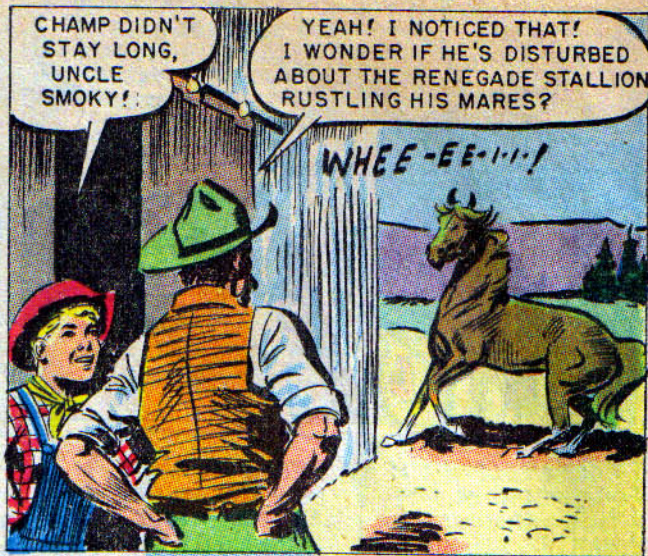
ARF!







AND THERE GOES CHAMP, TOO!



CHAMP DIDN'T STAY LONG, UNCLE SMOKY!

YEAH! I NOTICED THAT! I WONDER IF HE'S DISTURBED ABOUT THE RENEGADE STALLION RUSTLING HIS MARES?

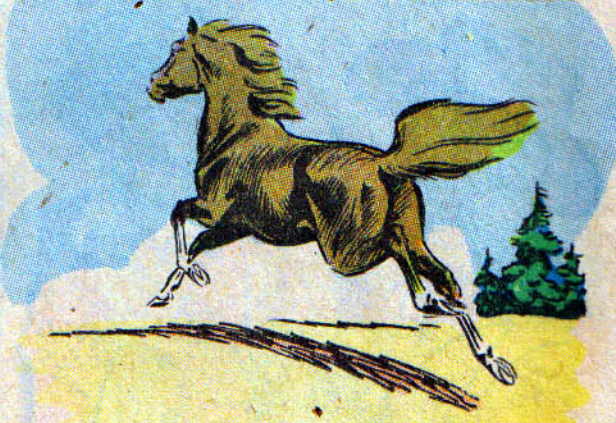
WHEE-EE-EE-EE!



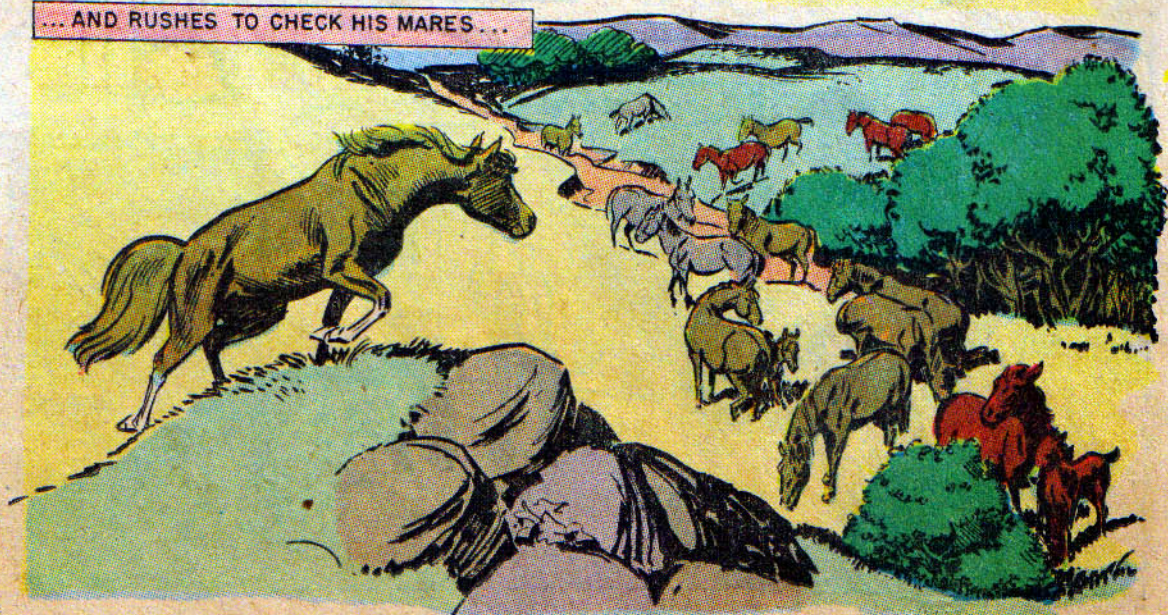
GOLLY, DO YOU THINK CHAMP UNDERSTOOD WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT?

I DON'T KNOW! HE'S PRETTY SMART!

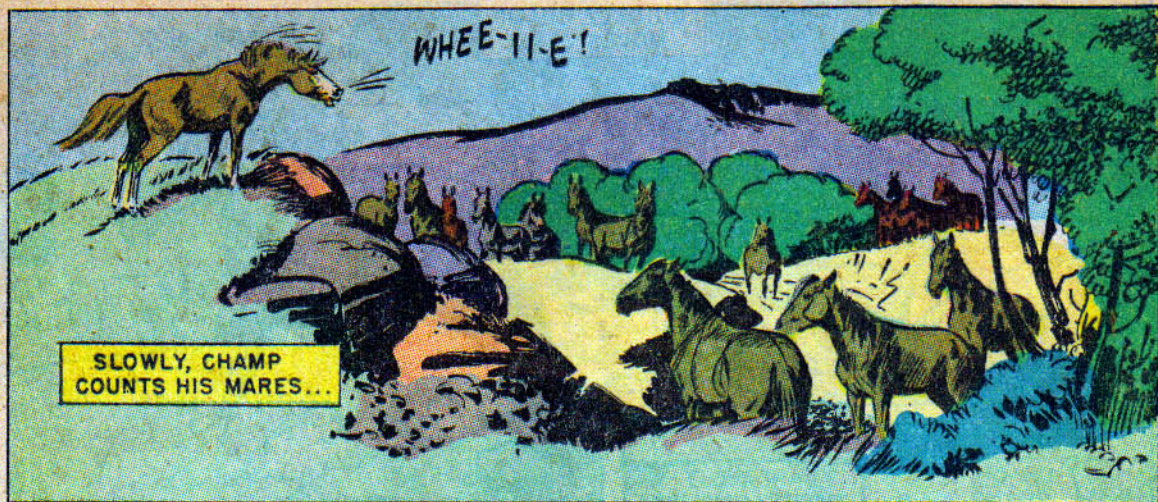
SMOKY IS RIGHT, FOR CHAMPION TAKES OFF WITH A BURST OF SPEED...



... AND RUSHES TO CHECK HIS MARES ...







SLOWLY, CHAMP  
COUNTS HIS MARES...

WHEE-EE!



SUDDENLY...

WHEEAW!  
SNORT!



WHEE-EE-EE!

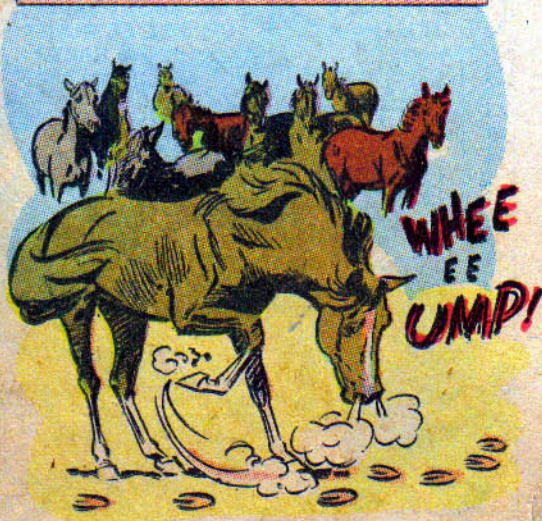
SOMETHING IS WRONG, CHAMP DISCOVERS THAT  
TWO ARE MISSING...



WHEE-UMP!

WHEE-EE-EE!

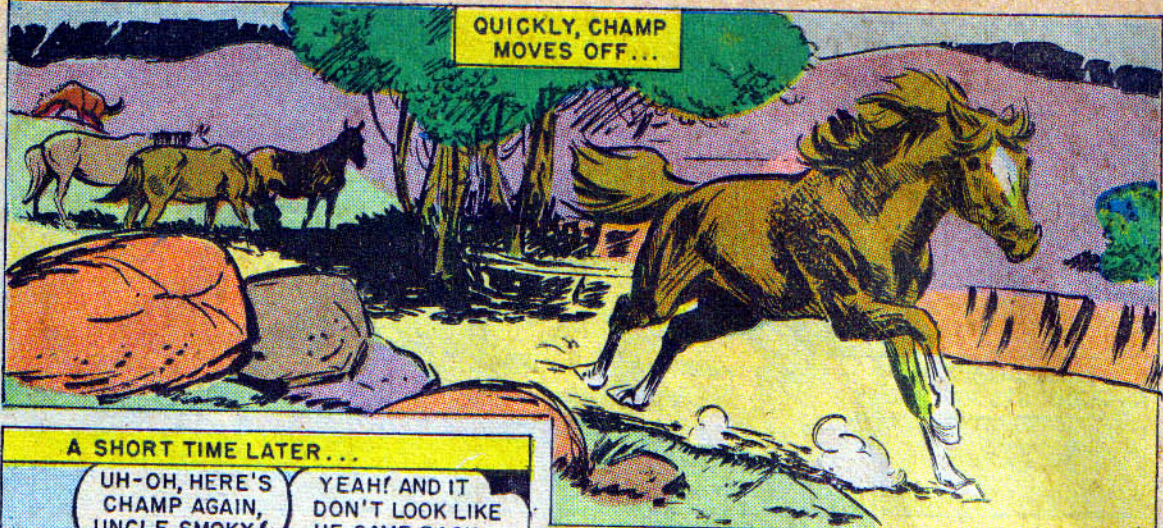
STRANGE TRACKS TELL CHAMPION  
WHAT HAS HAPPENED...



WHEE  
EE  
UMP!



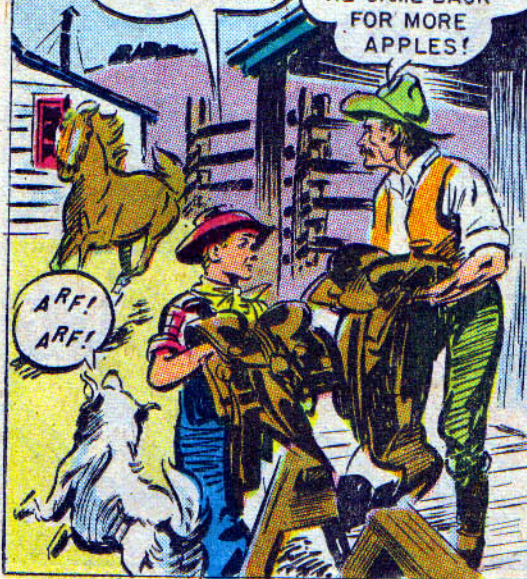
QUICKLY, CHAMP  
MOVES OFF...



A SHORT TIME LATER...

UH-OH, HERE'S  
CHAMP AGAIN,  
UNCLE SMOKY!

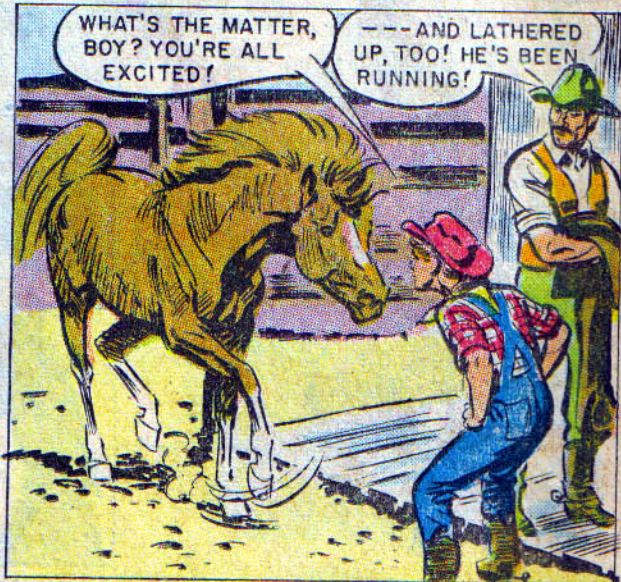
YEAH! AND IT  
DON'T LOOK LIKE  
HE CAME BACK  
FOR MORE  
APPLES!



ARF!  
ARF!

WHAT'S THE MATTER,  
BOY? YOU'RE ALL  
EXCITED!

--- AND LATHERED  
UP, TOO! HE'S BEEN  
RUNNING!



HE WANTS US  
TO FOLLOW  
HIM!

I'LL BET IT'S THAT  
RENEGADE! SADDLE  
UP, I'LL BE RIGHT  
BACK!

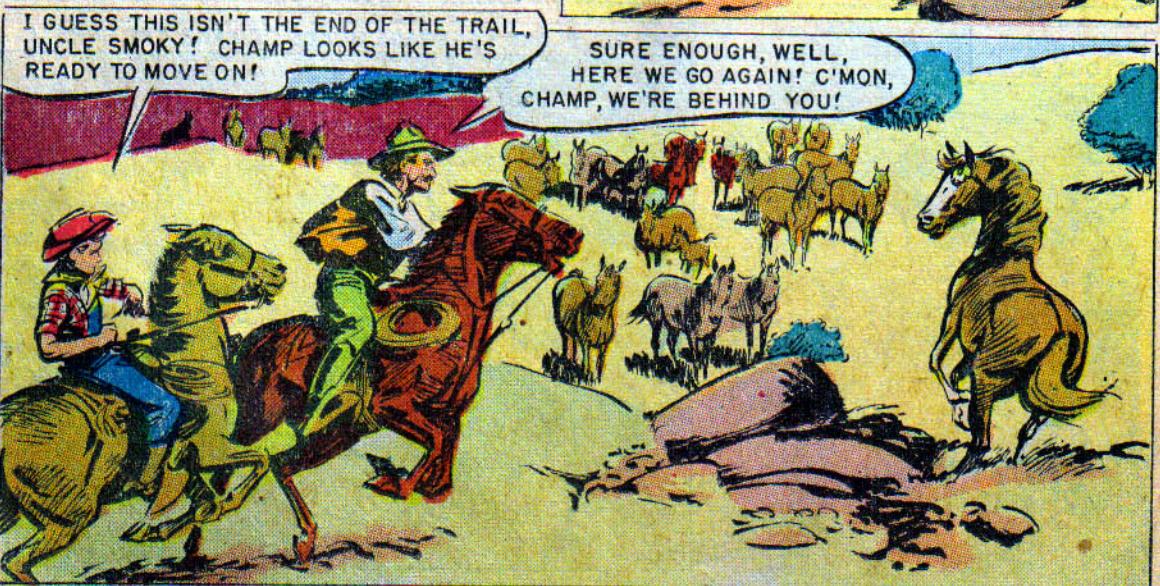
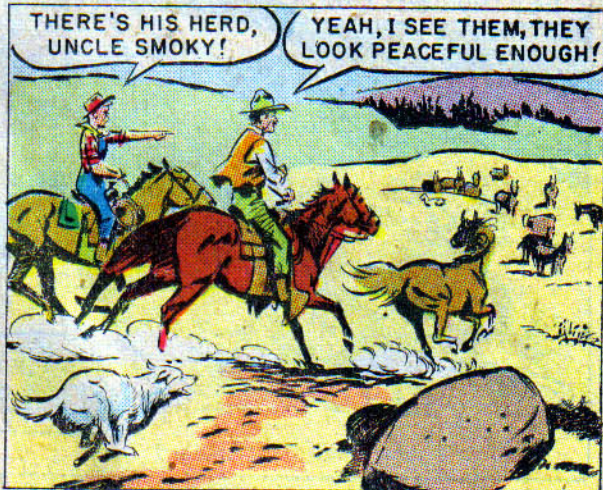
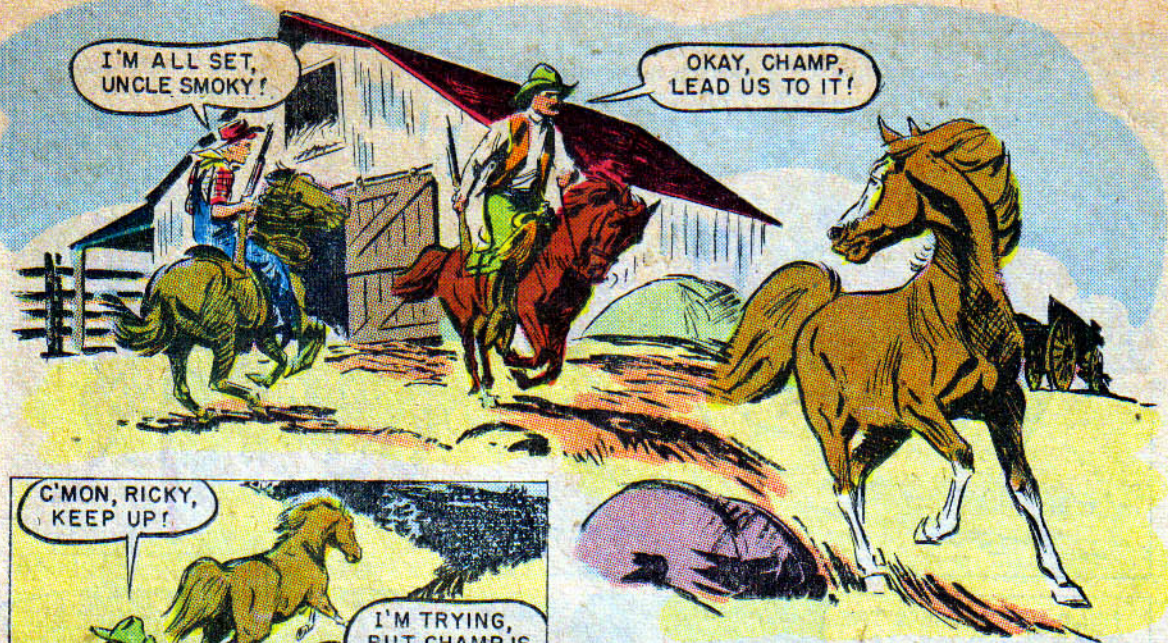


ALMOST READY!

GOOD! WE'LL TAKE  
THESE RIFLES ALONG  
JUST IN CASE!







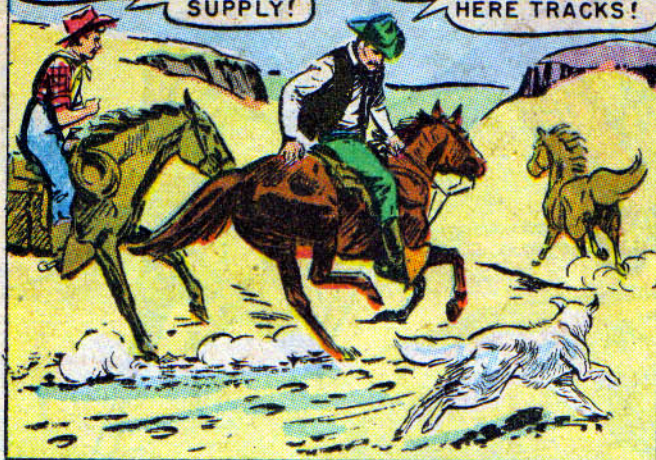


HE'S HEADING FOR OUR  
NORTH RANGE, UNCLE SMOKY,  
UP NEAR OUR WATER  
SUPPLY!

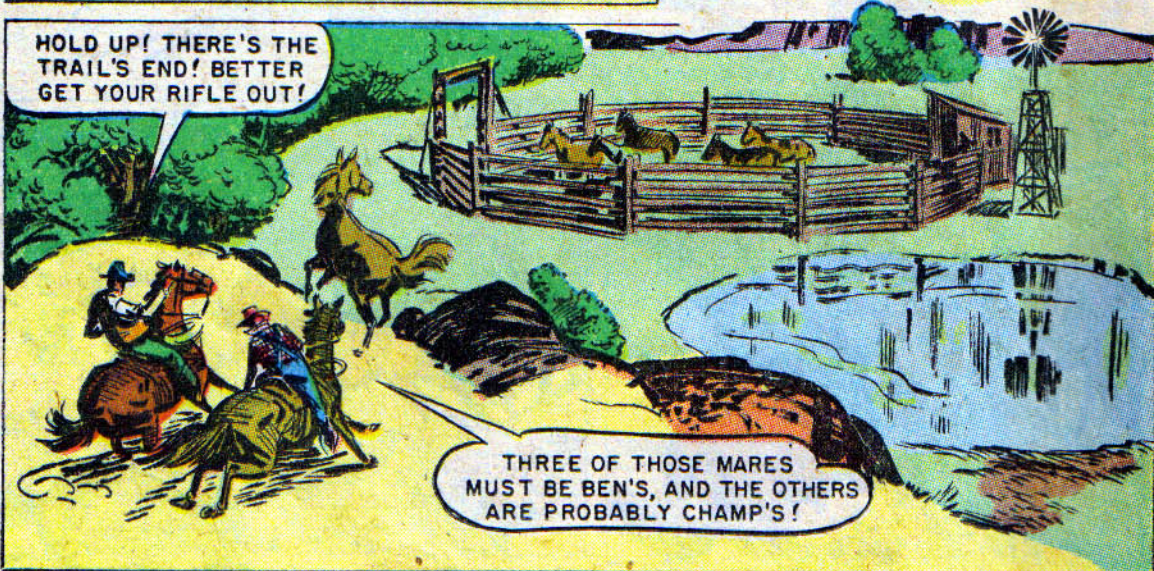
SEEMS AS THOUGH  
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S  
FOLLOWING THESE  
HERE TRACKS!

GEE, THAT  
STALLION MUST  
BE SOME HORSE!

I RECKON HE IS! I  
HOPE HE HASN'T  
MESSED UP OUR  
WINDMILL  
AND PAINT  
SHED!

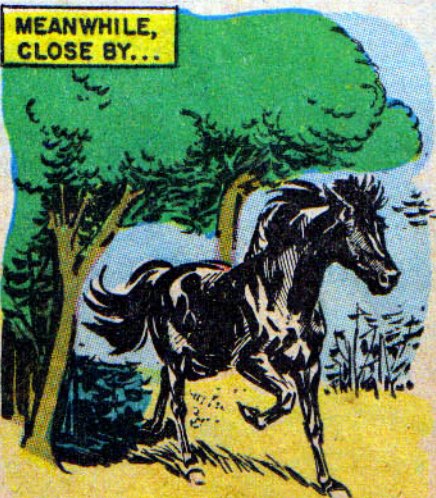


HOLD UP! THERE'S THE  
TRAIL'S END! BETTER  
GET YOUR RIFLE OUT!

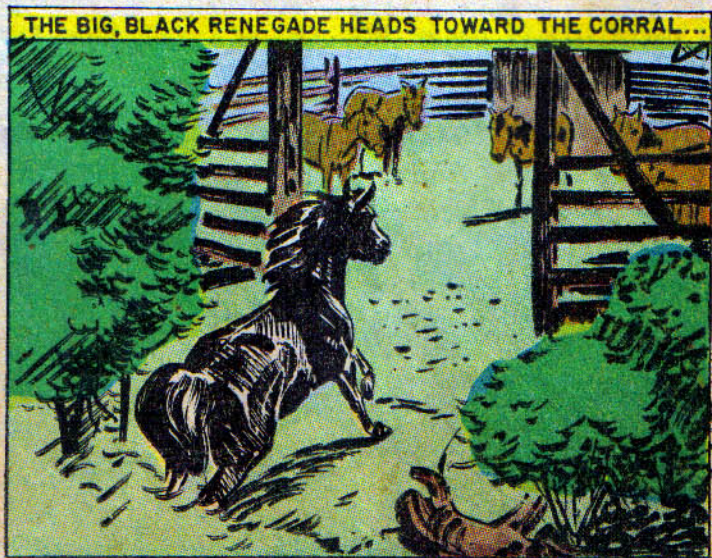


THREE OF THOSE MARES  
MUST BE BEN'S, AND THE OTHERS  
ARE PROBABLY CHAMP'S!

MEANWHILE,  
CLOSE BY...



THE BIG, BLACK RENEGADE HEADS TOWARD THE CORRAL...

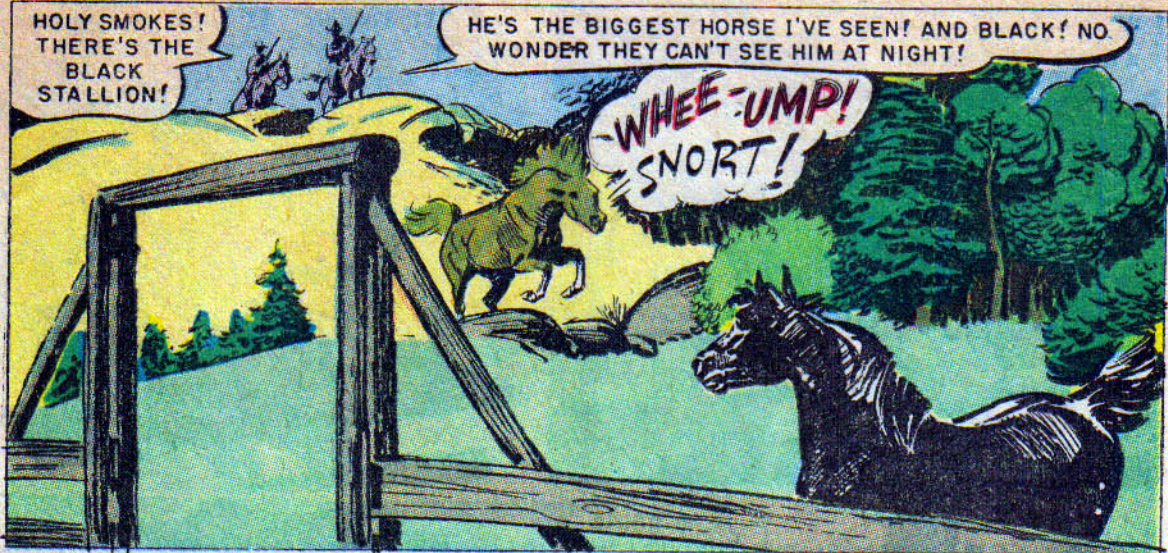




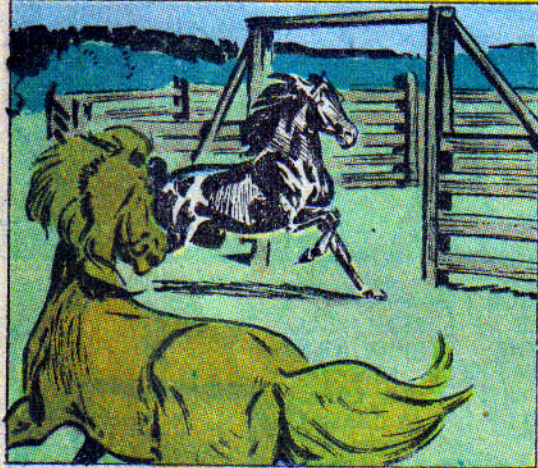
HOLY SMOKES!  
THERE'S THE  
BLACK  
STALLION!

HE'S THE BIGGEST HORSE I'VE SEEN! AND BLACK! NO  
WONDER THEY CAN'T SEE HIM AT NIGHT!

WHEE-UMP!  
SNORT!

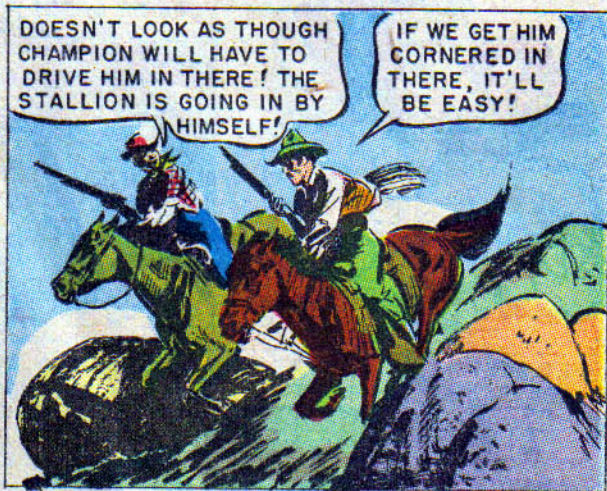


CHAMP CIRCLES AS THOUGH TO DRIVE THE  
BLACK STALLION INTO THE CORRAL ...



DOESN'T LOOK AS THOUGH  
CHAMPION WILL HAVE TO  
DRIVE HIM IN THERE! THE  
STALLION IS GOING IN BY  
HIMSELF!

IF WE GET HIM  
CORNERED IN  
THERE, IT'LL  
BE EASY!



SUDDENLY, THE STALLION SEES RICKY AND  
SMOKY ...

HE SEES US!



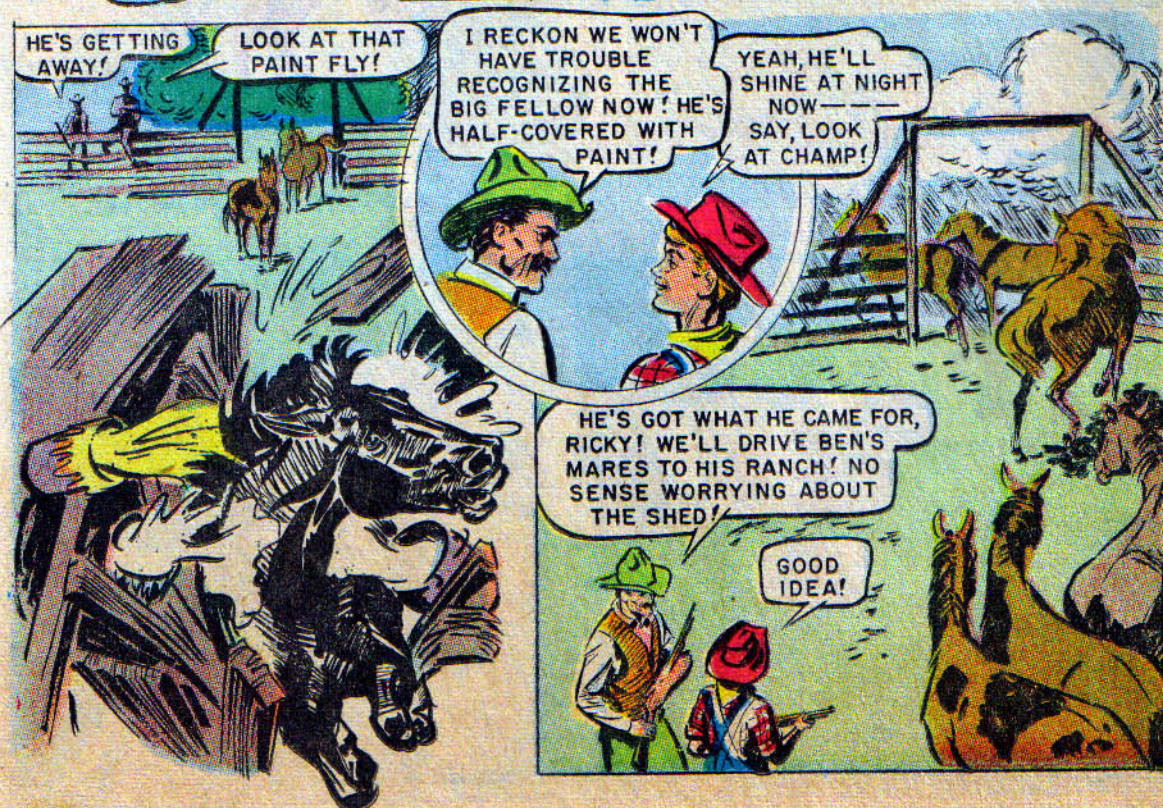
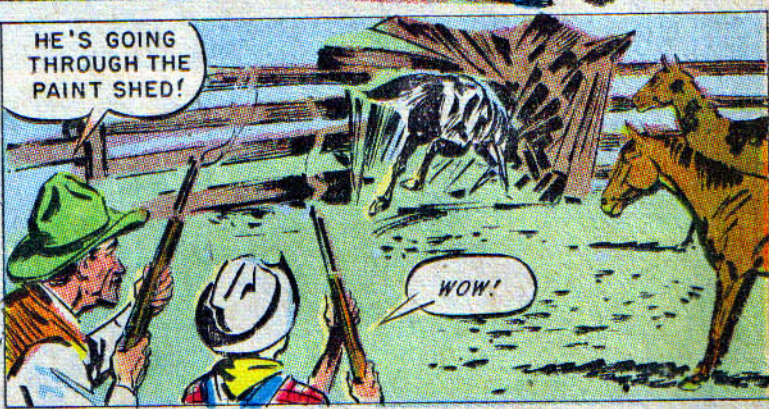
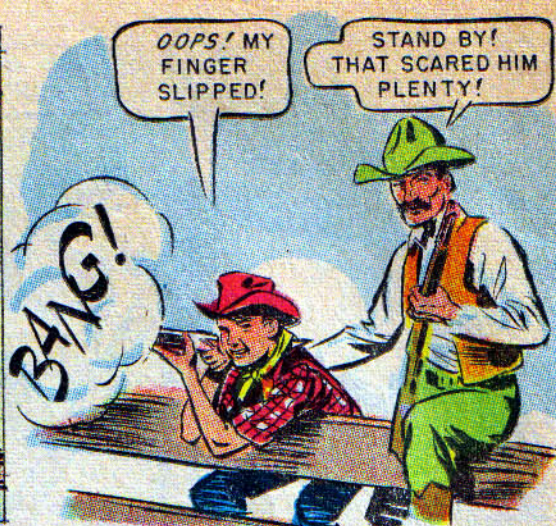
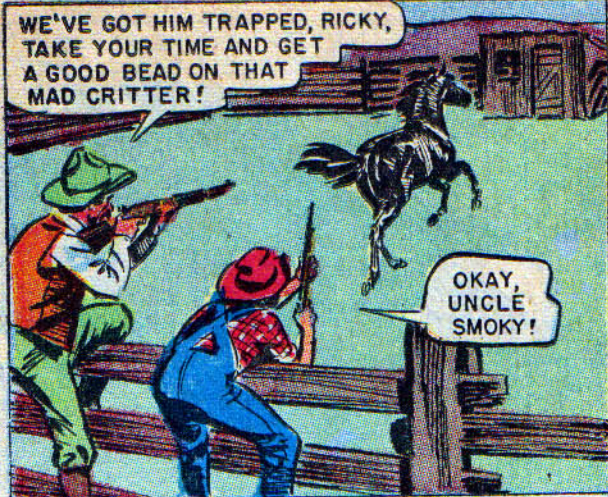
... AND TURNS TO RACE FROM THE  
CORRAL, BUT ...

WHEE-  
-AII-

CHAMP'S  
GOT HIM  
BLOCKED!



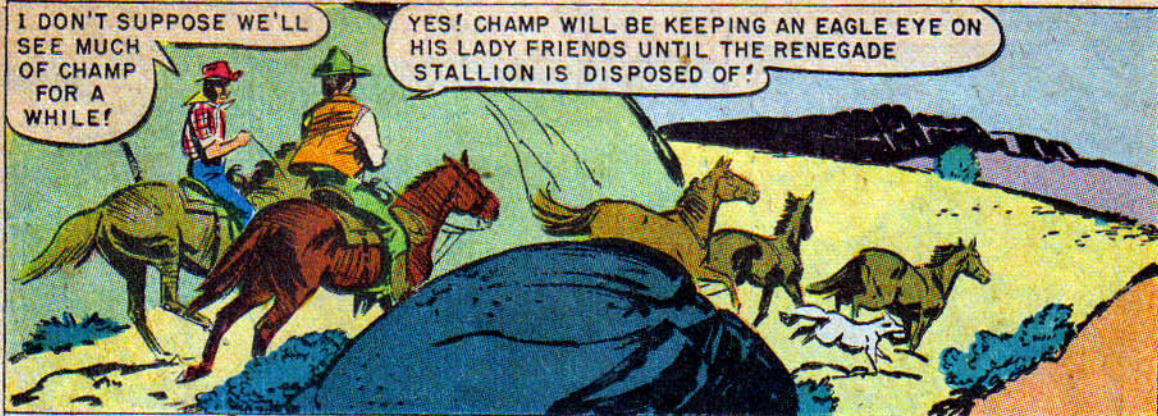






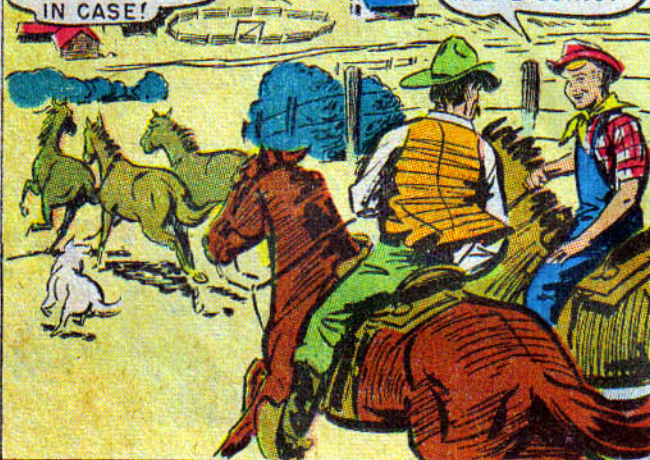
I DON'T SUPPOSE WE'LL SEE MUCH OF CHAMP FOR A WHILE!

YES! CHAMP WILL BE KEEPING AN EAGLE EYE ON HIS LADY FRIENDS UNTIL THE RENEGADE STALLION IS DISPOSED OF!

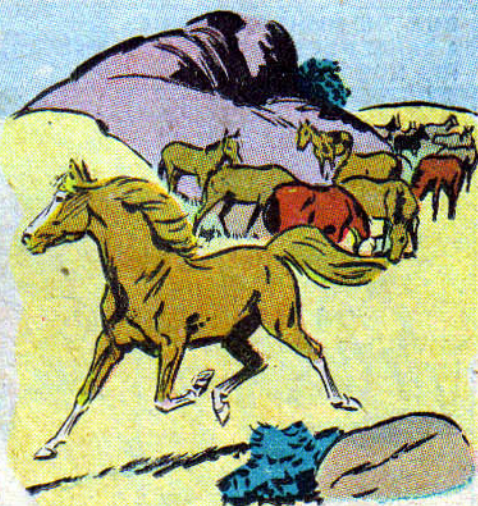


I'VE BEEN THINKING, RICKY! THAT BLACK STALLION AIN'T GOING TO GIVE UP ON CHAMP'S MARES EASY! MAYBE WE'D BETTER TAKE A RIDE UP THERE TOMORROW MORNING JUST IN CASE!

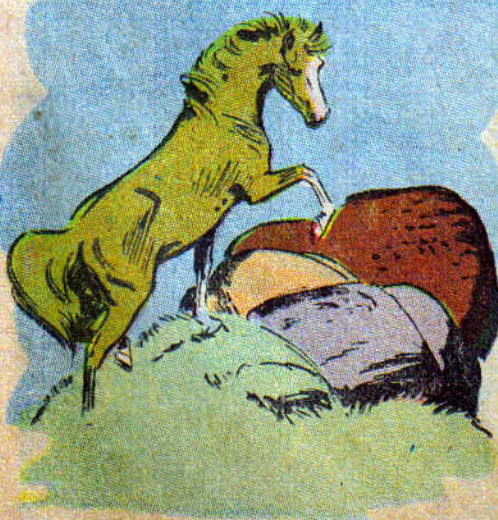
GEE, UNCLE SMOKY, THAT WOULD BE SWELL! I'LL TAKE BEN'S MARES OVER TO HIS RANCH NOW, AND TELL HIM WE'RE GOING!



MEANWHILE, AFTER CHAMP MAKES A FINAL CHECK...



... HE CLIMBS TO STAND NIGHT WATCH OVER HIS HERD...

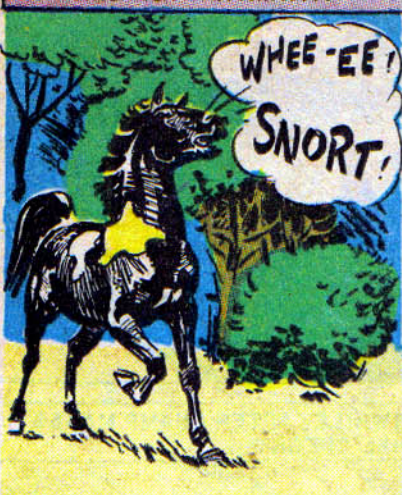


... AND WITH A DEFIANT CRY, CHALLENGES THE WILD STALLION TO MAKE A PLAY...

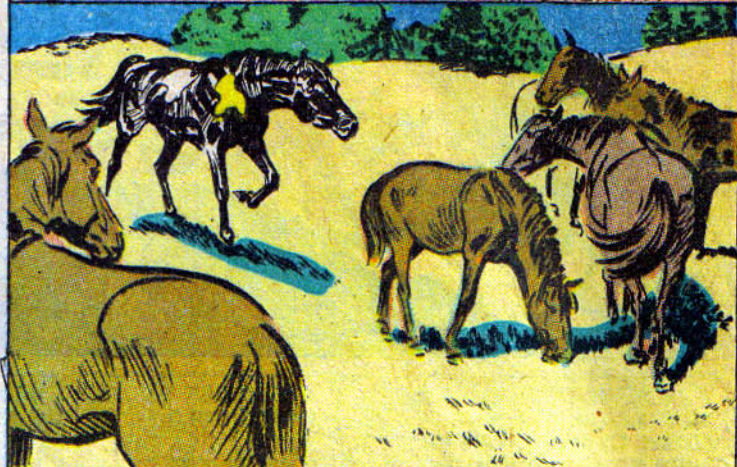




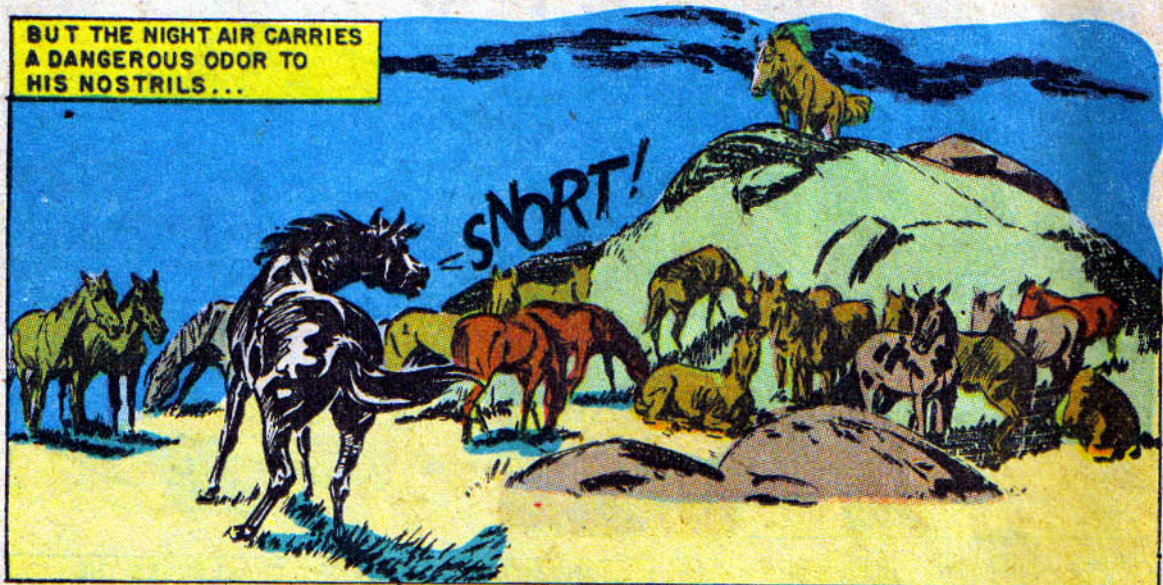
AND NOT FAR AWAY...



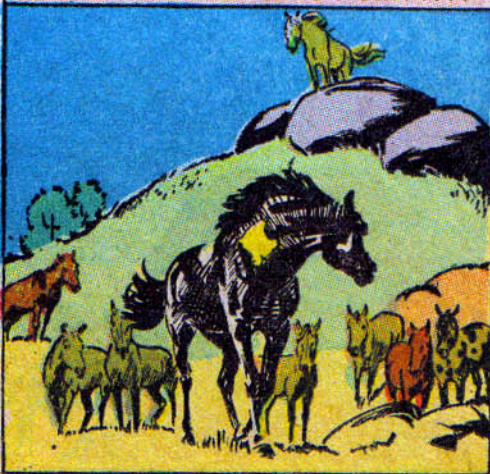
...THE BLACK RENEGADE CAUTIOUSLY MOVES TOWARD  
CHAMP'S HERD...



BUT THE NIGHT AIR CARRIES  
A DANGEROUS ODOR TO  
HIS NOSTRILS...



... AND THE STALLION, STILL CONFUSED  
BY THE AFTERNOON'S ACTION, DECIDES  
TO AWAIT AN OTHER OPPORTUNITY...

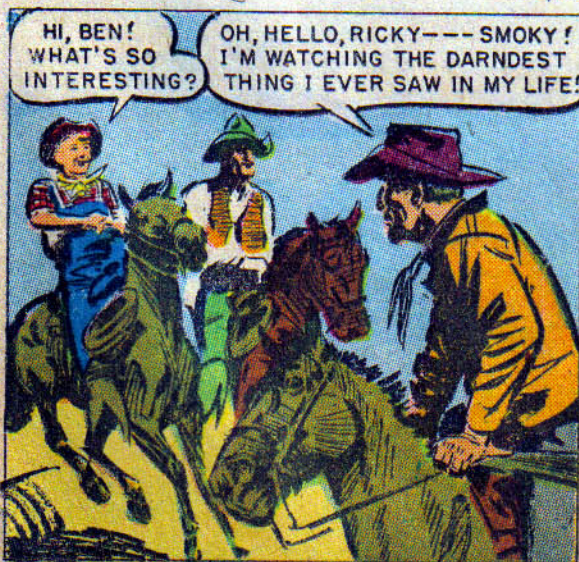
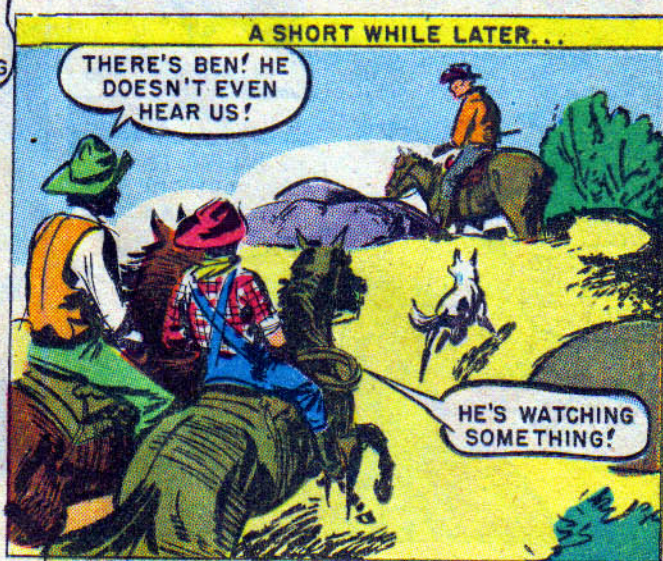
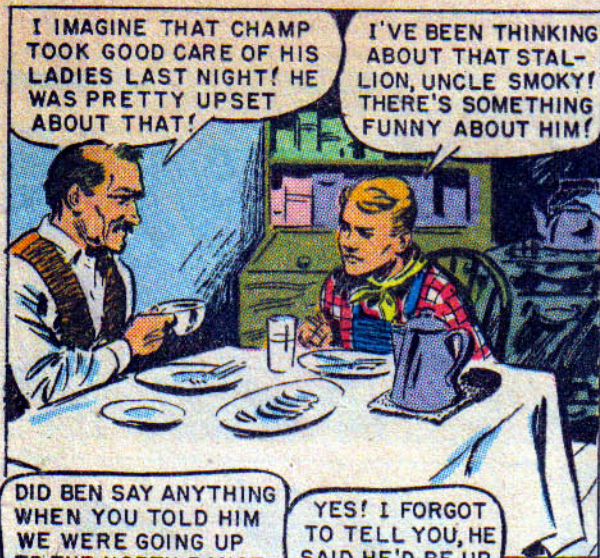


NEXT MORNING, AT THE FLYING-A...

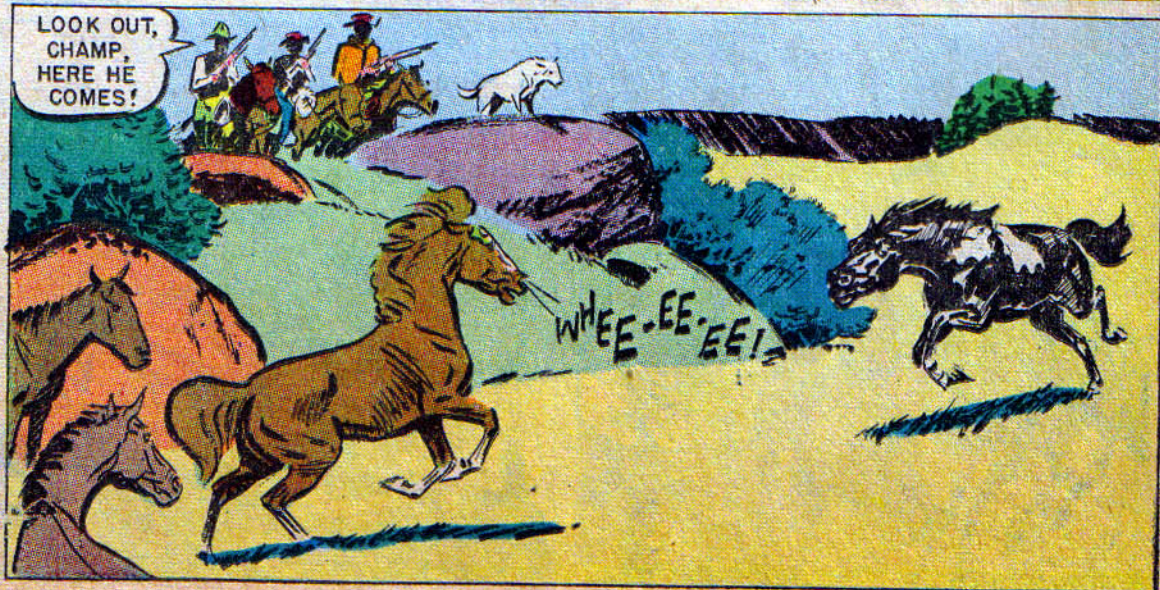
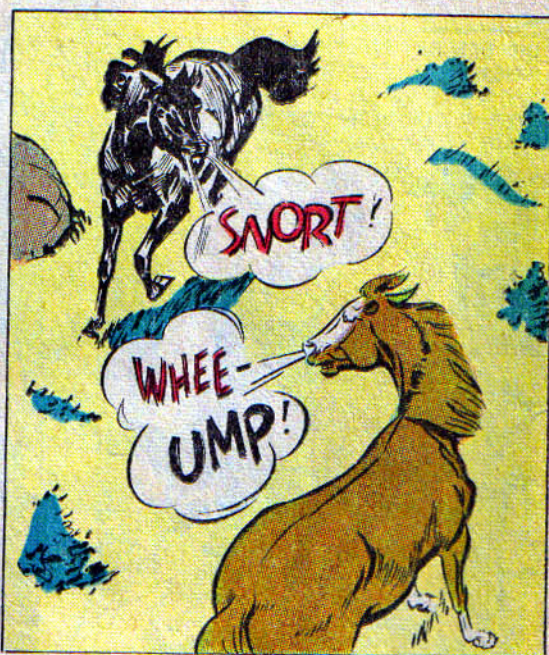
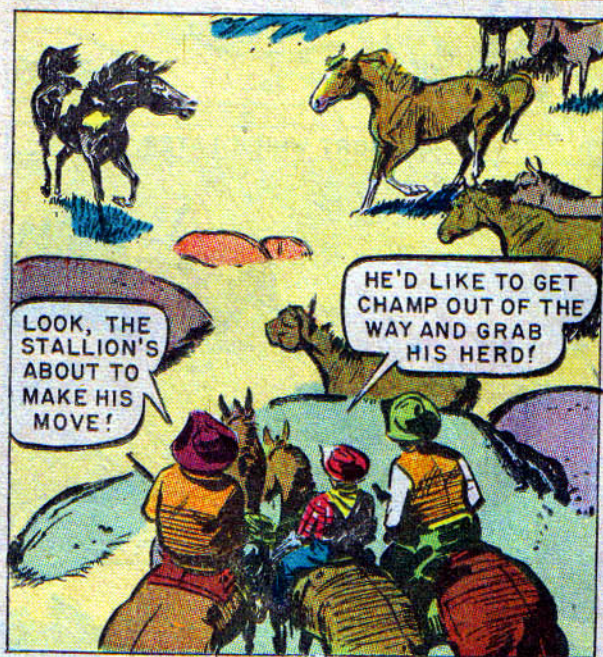
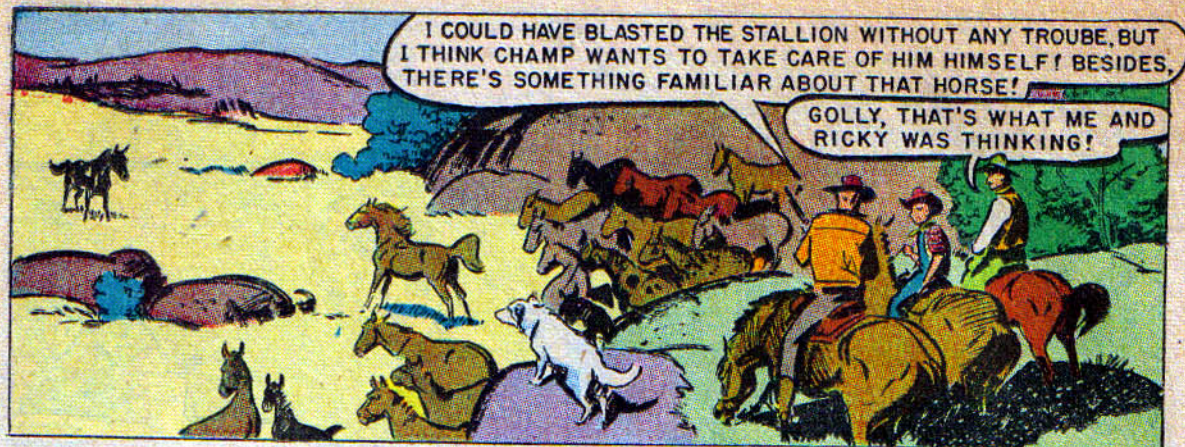
COME ON, SLEEPY HEAD, GET  
UP! I GOT THE BACON  
SIZZLING IN  
THE PAN!





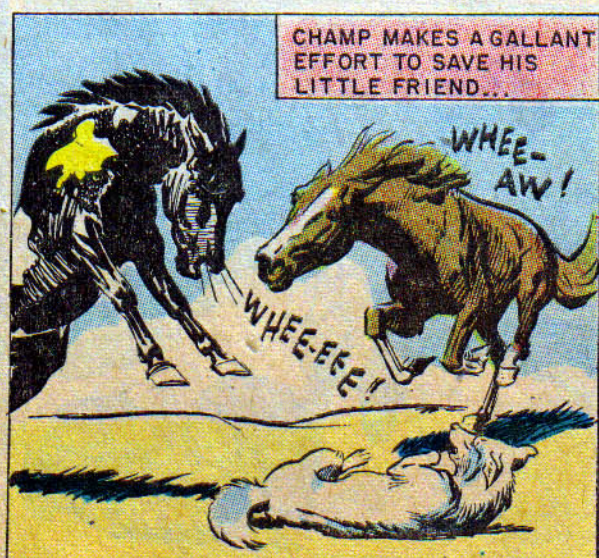
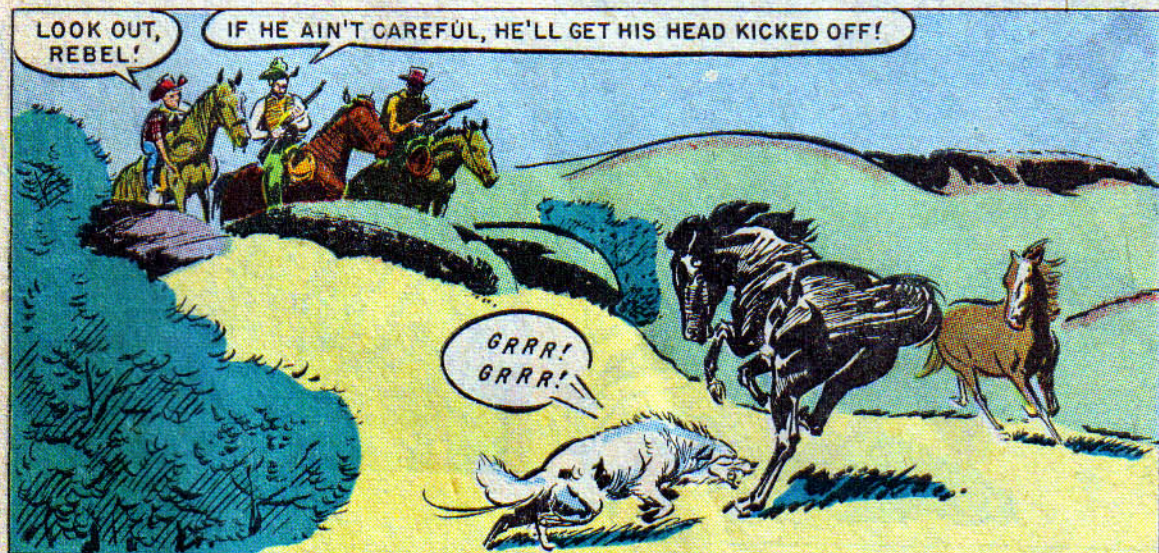
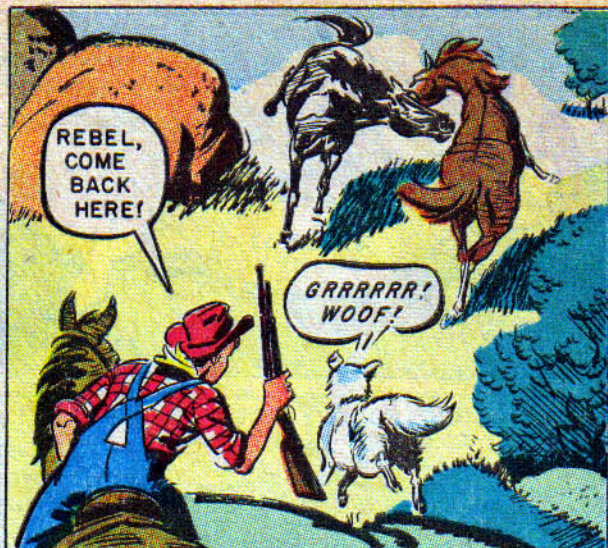
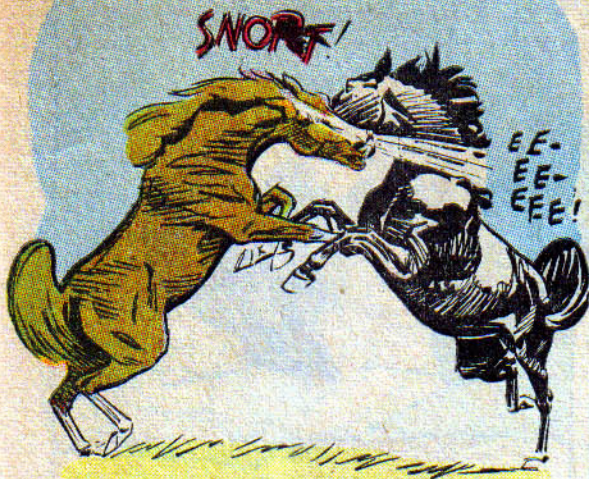






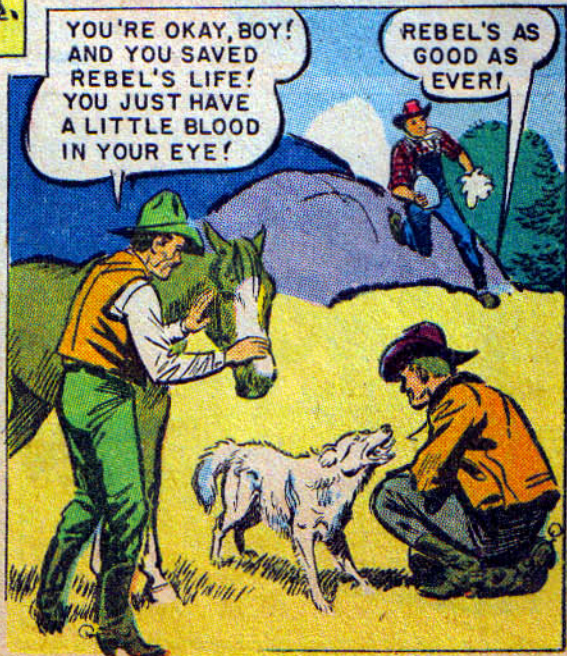
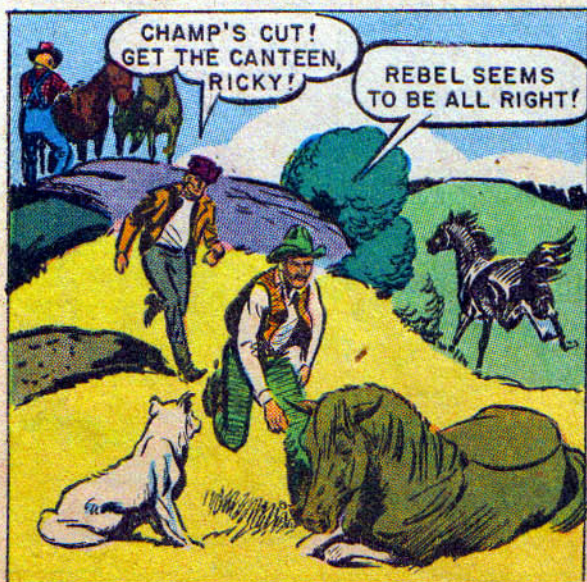
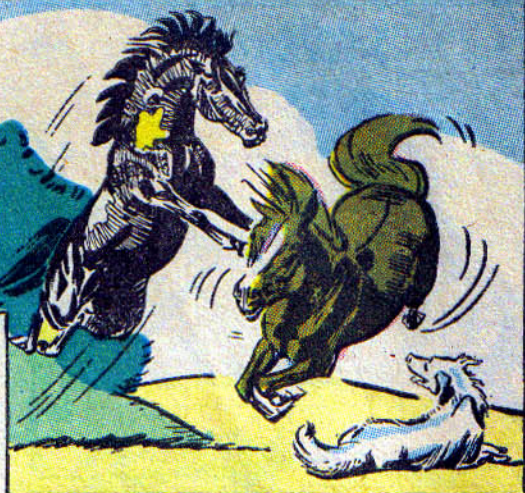
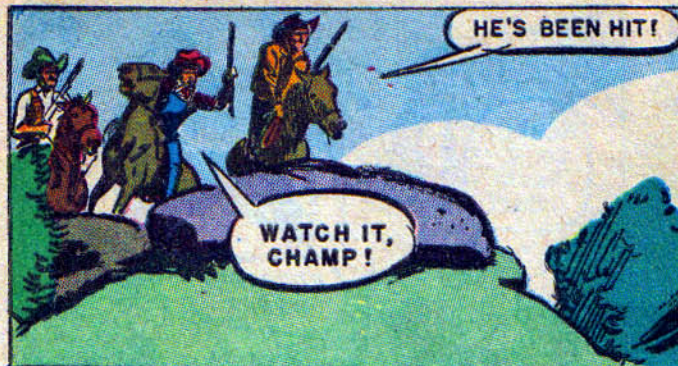


CHAMP MEETS THE STALLION'S RUSH  
HEAD-ON...

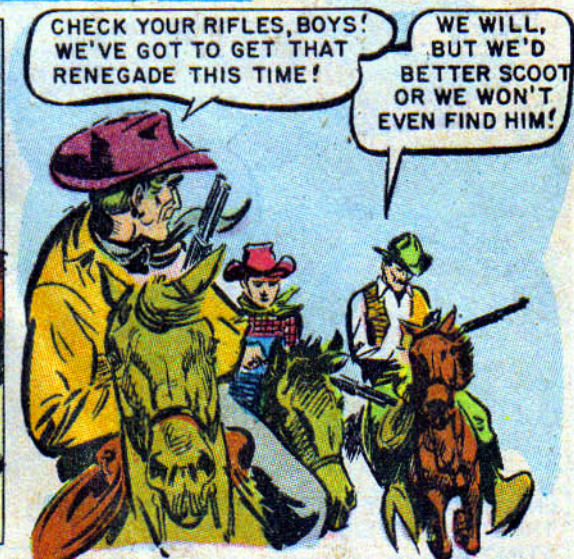
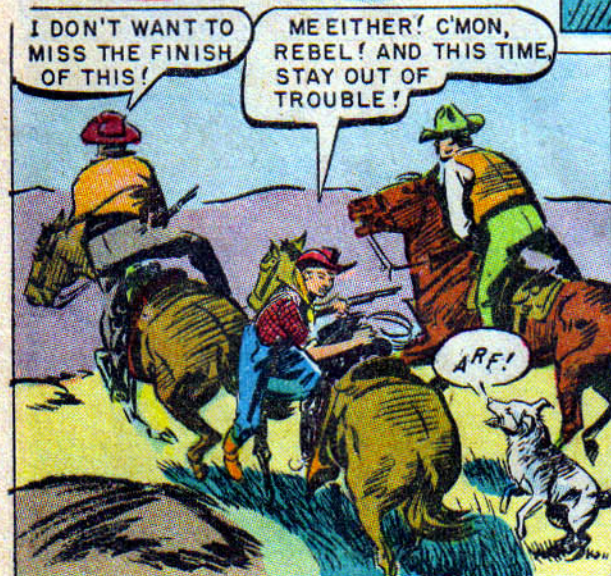
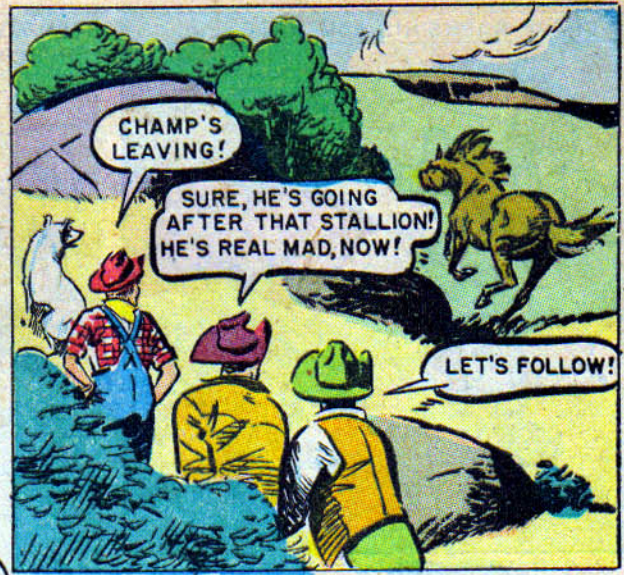
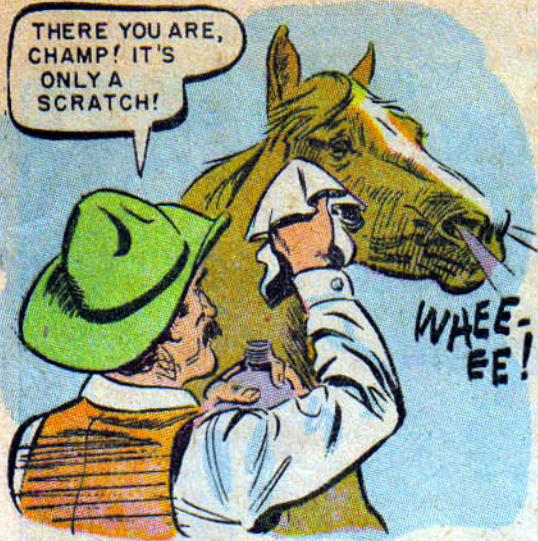


CHAMP MAKES A GALLANT  
EFFORT TO SAVE HIS  
LITTLE FRIEND...

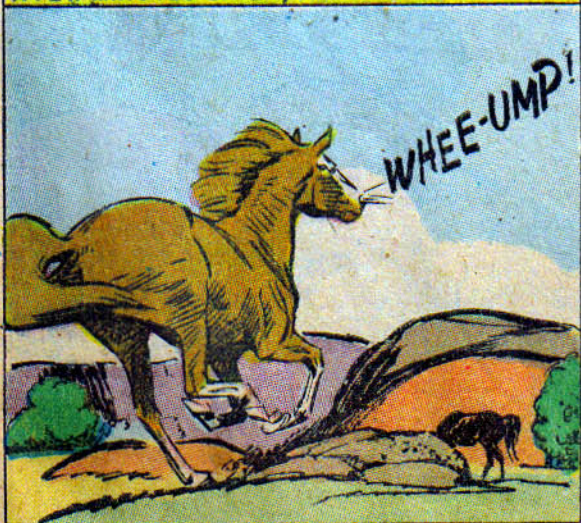




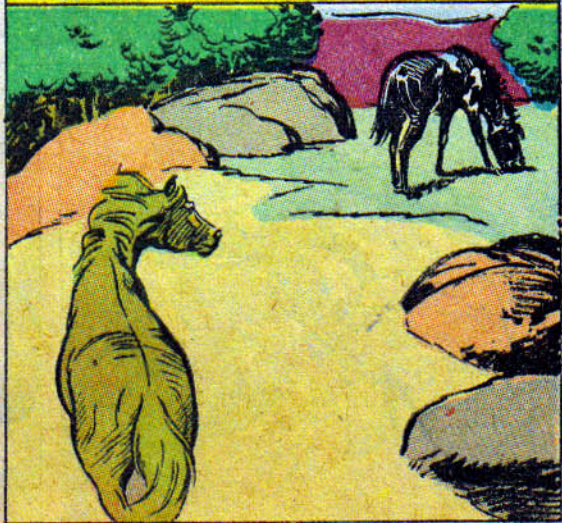




A FEW MINUTES LATER, CHAMP SPOTS HIS FOE...

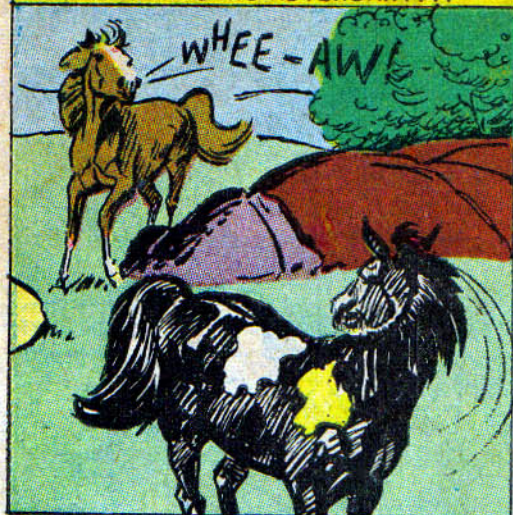


... AND CAUTIOUSLY APPROACHES...



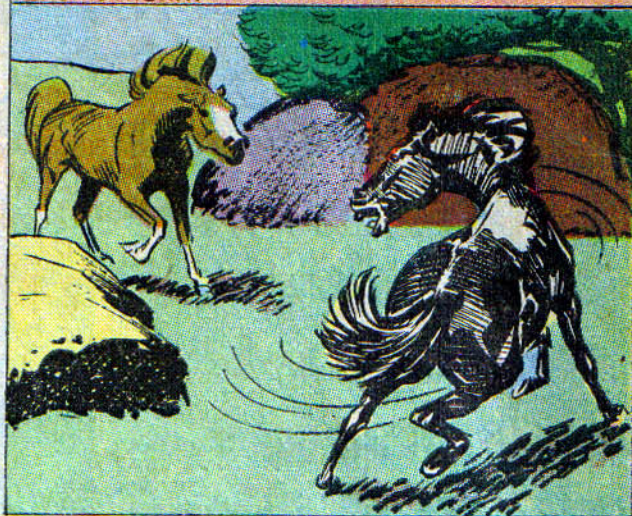


CHAMP WARNS HIS ADVERSARY...

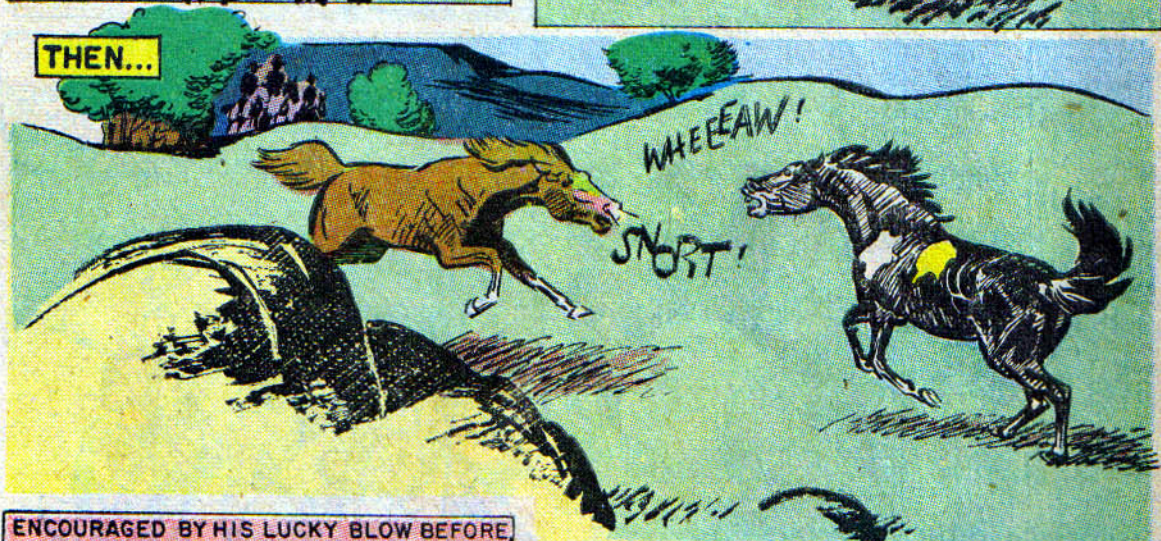


WHEE-AW!

FOR A MOMENT, THE TWO HUGE ANIMALS FACE EACH OTHER...



THEN...



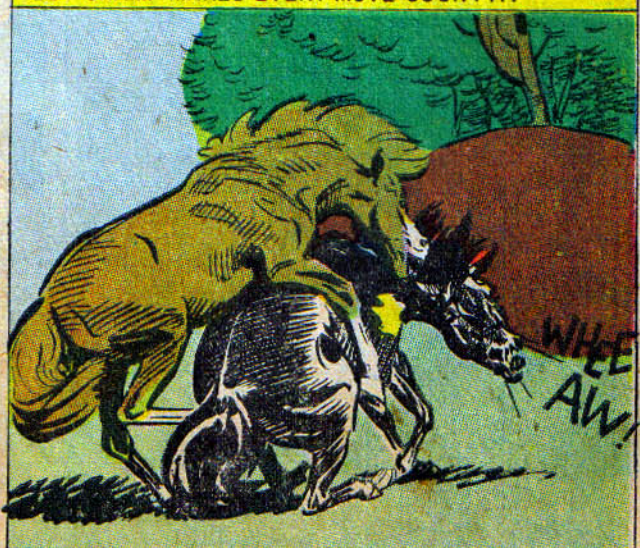
WHEEAW!

SHORT!

ENCOURAGED BY HIS LUCKY BLOW BEFORE, THE STALLION DISREGARDS ALL STRATEGY...



BUT CHAMP MAKES EVERY MOVE COUNT...



WHEE-AW!



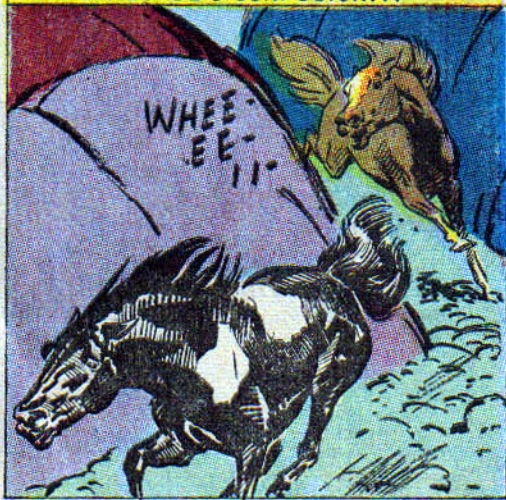
THE STALLION IS CONFUSED BY THE SAVAGE FURY OF CHAMP'S ATTACK...



CHAMP'S GOT HIM ON THE RUN!



CHAMP RACES TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RENEGADE'S CONFUSION...



I HOPE CHAMP DOESN'T LOSE HIM IN THESE HILLS!

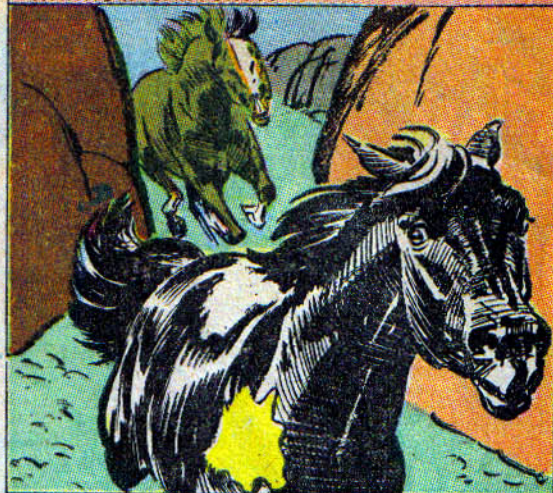
DON'T WORRY! CHAMP CAN FOLLOW A FISH THROUGH A RAPIDS!







CHAMPION RUNS THE PIRATE HORSE INTO A NARROW CANYON...

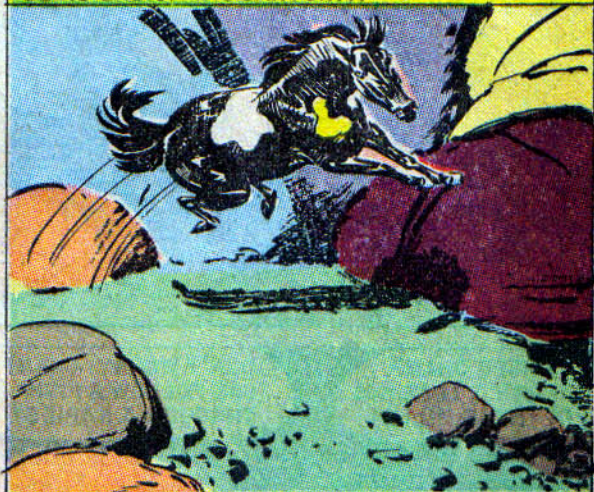


CHAMP HAS HIM CORNERED IN THIS BOX CANYON! NOW HE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!

THE STALLION'S GOING TO BE SURPRISED WHEN HE RUNS INTO A BLANK WALL AT THE END!



BEN IS RIGHT, WHEN THE RENEGADE REACHES THE BLIND END OF THE CANYON...

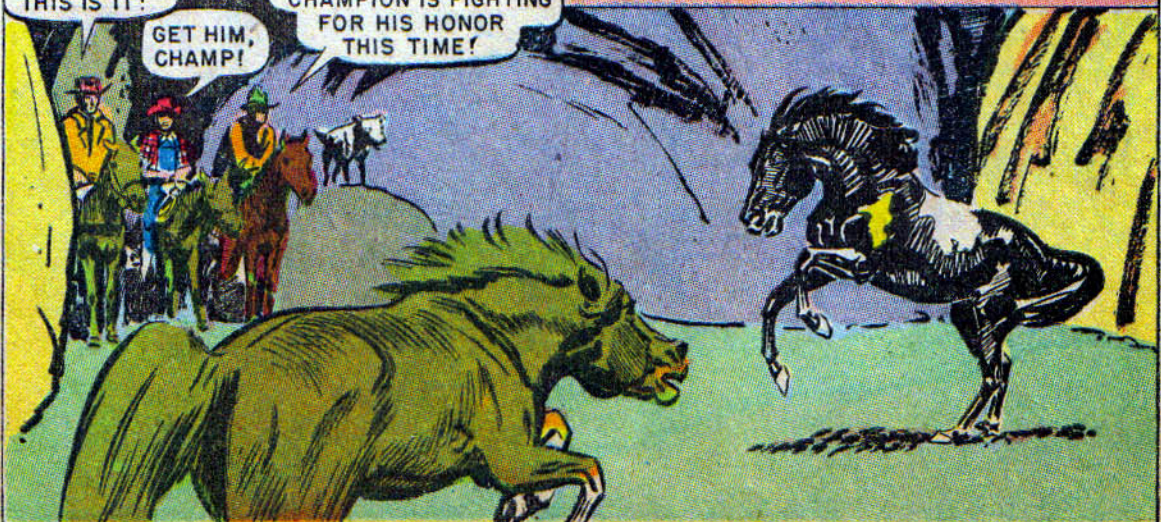


THIS IS IT!

GET HIM, CHAMP!

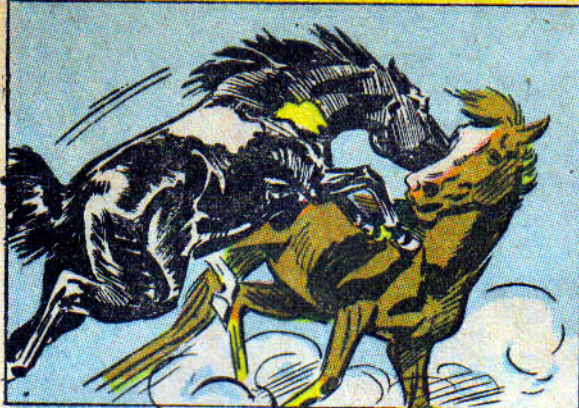
CHAMPION IS FIGHTING FOR HIS HONOR THIS TIME!

... HE IS FORCED TO TURN TO BATTLE...

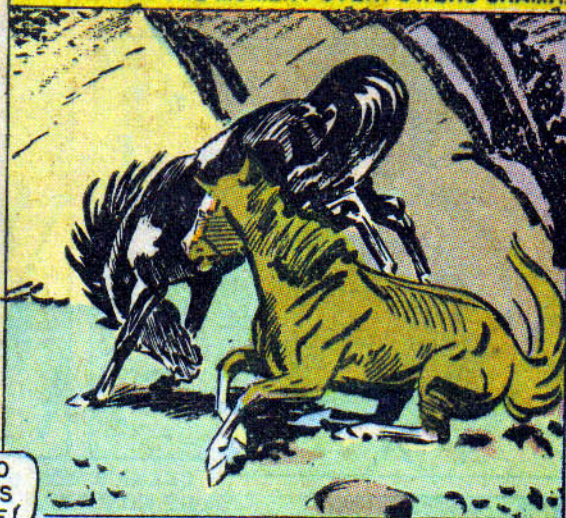




DESPERATION GIVES THE STALLION A SUDDEN SURGE OF POWER...



WHICH FOR THE MOMENT OVERPOWERS CHAMP.



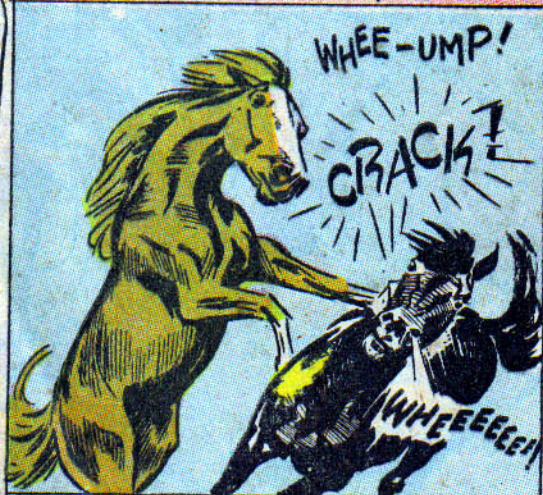
I'LL GET THAT---

DON'T SHOOT, BEN! IT JUST CAME TO ME! THAT AIN'T A WILD HORSE, THAT'S BLACK THUNDER, THE RODEO SAVAGE! HE GOT LOOSE TWO MONTHS AGO! I READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPER!

YOU'RE RIGHT, UNCLE SMOKY... I REMEMBER LOOKING AT HIS HOOFPRIINTS--- HE'S SHOD!

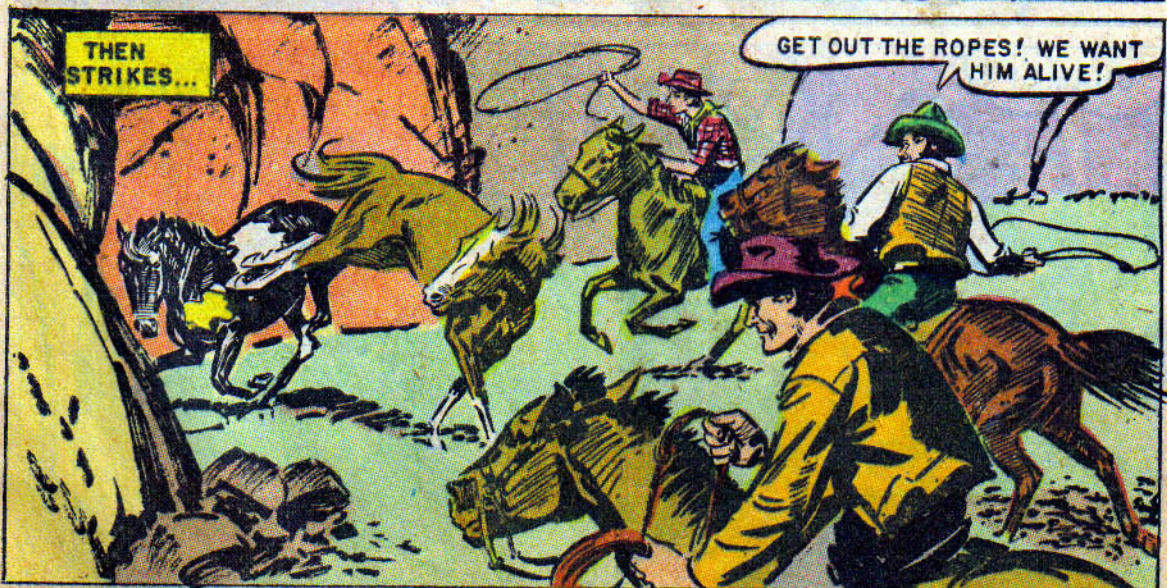


CHAMPION SPOTS AN OPENING, AND ...



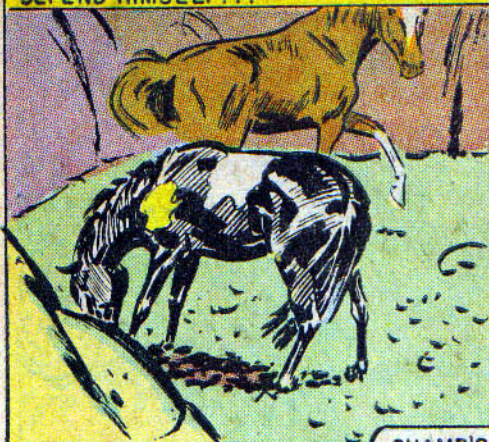
THEN STRIKES...

GET OUT THE ROPES! WE WANT HIM ALIVE!

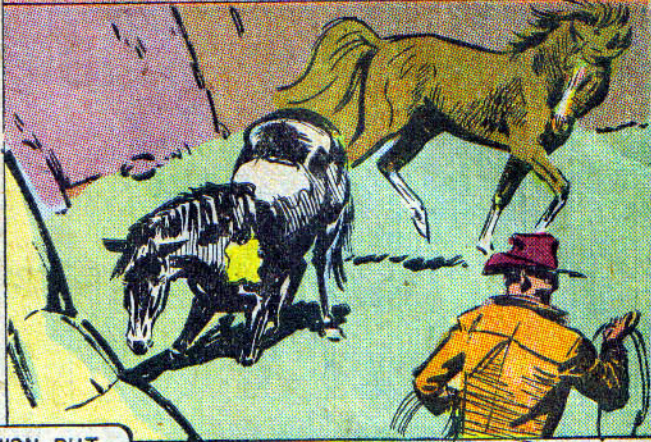




DAZED, BLACK THUNDER DOES NOT  
DEFEND HIMSELF...



... AND NOT BEING A KILLER, CHAMPION DOES NOT  
CONTINUE HIS ATTACK...



CHAMP'S WON, BUT  
HE WON'T KILL HIM!

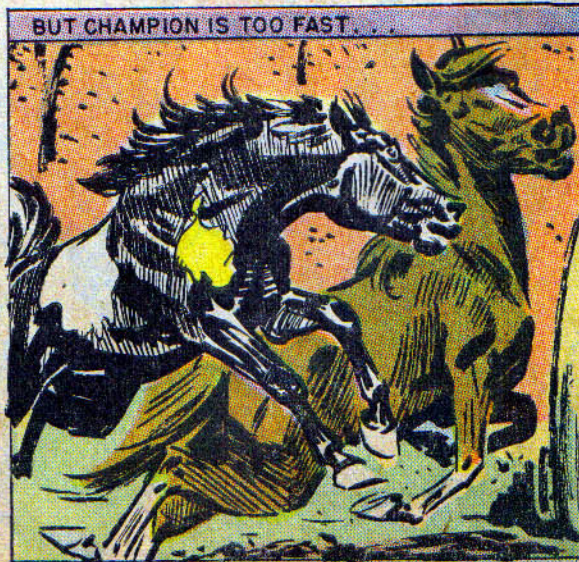
I DON'T KNOW, THIS MAY NOT BE  
OVER YET---SEE, THE RENEGADE'S  
GETTING UP!



CHAMP!



BUT CHAMPION IS TOO FAST...





AND AS THE STALLION RUSHES BY...



CHAMP LETS FLY WITH HIS REAR HOOF S...



NOW LET'S GET  
THESE ROPES BUSY!



RIGHT!

ARF!

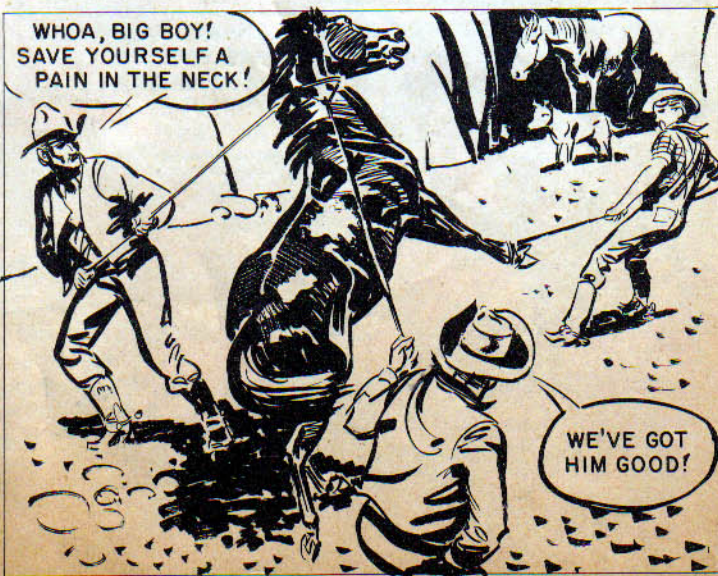
MINE'S  
ON!

AND THERE  
GOES MINE!



WHOA, BIG BOY!  
SAVE YOURSELF A  
PAIN IN THE NECK!

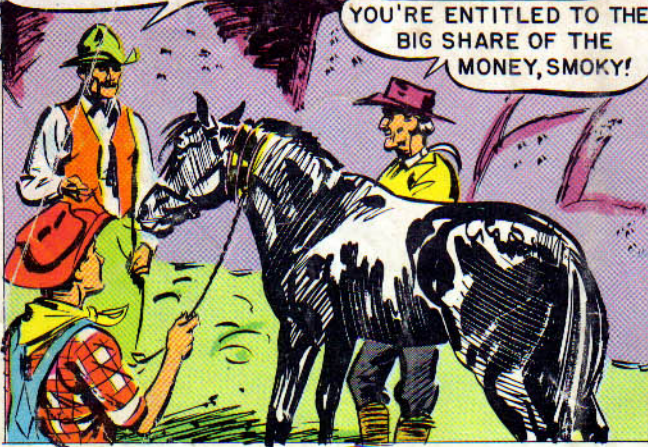
WE'VE GOT  
HIM GOOD!





WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO THE FLYING-A, AND I'LL GET IN TOUCH WITH THE RODEO IN SAN ANTONIO! THE PRICE WE GET SHOULD REPAY THE RANCHERS AND FARMERS FOR ALL THE DAMAGE HE'S DONE!

YOU'RE ENTITLED TO THE BIG SHARE OF THE MONEY, SMOKY!



YOU MEAN CHAMP IS! HE'S THE ONE WHO CORNERED HIM FOR US, BUT MONEY IS NO GOOD TO HIM!

ALL HE WANTS IS PEACE AND QUIET--- AND HIS MARES!

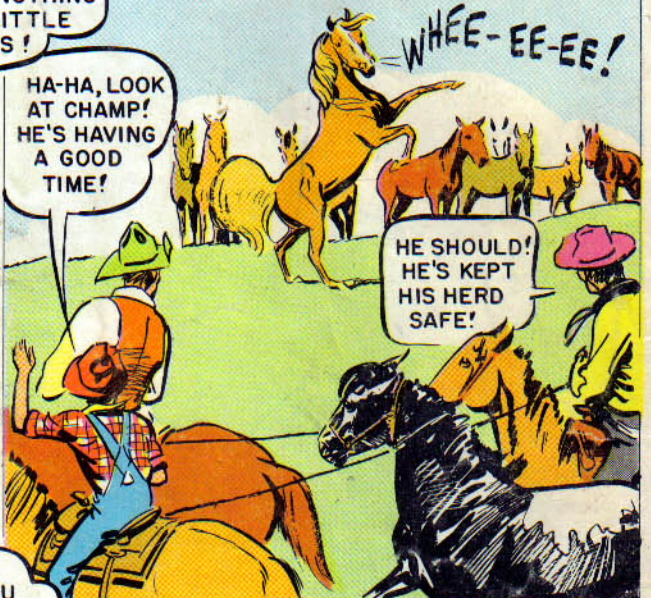


I THINK CHAMP WOULD LIKE IT IF WE PARADED BLACK THUNDER PAST HIS MARES!

SURE THING! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE SHOWING OFF A LITTLE FOR THE LADIES!



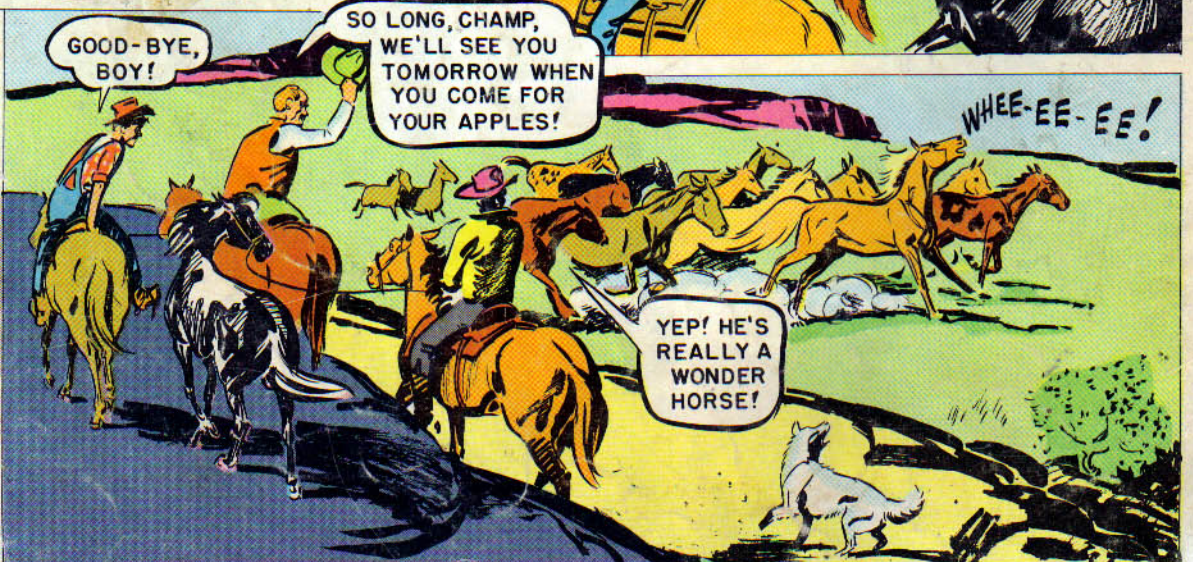
HA-HA, LOOK AT CHAMP! HE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME!



HE SHOULD! HE'S KEPT HIS HERD SAFE!

GOOD-BYE, BOY!

SO LONG, CHAMP, WE'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW WHEN YOU COME FOR YOUR APPLES!



YEP! HE'S REALLY A WONDER HORSE!