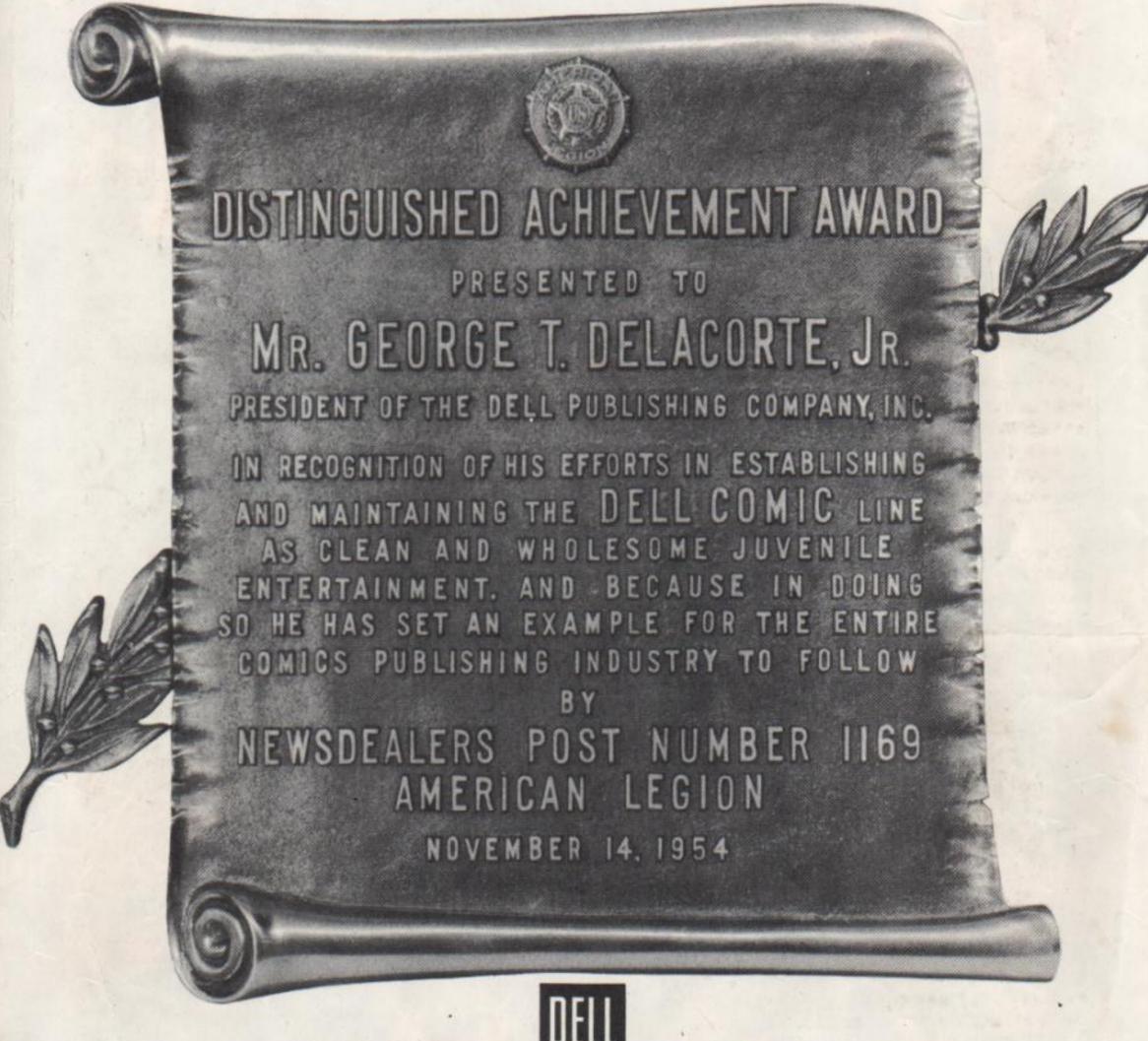


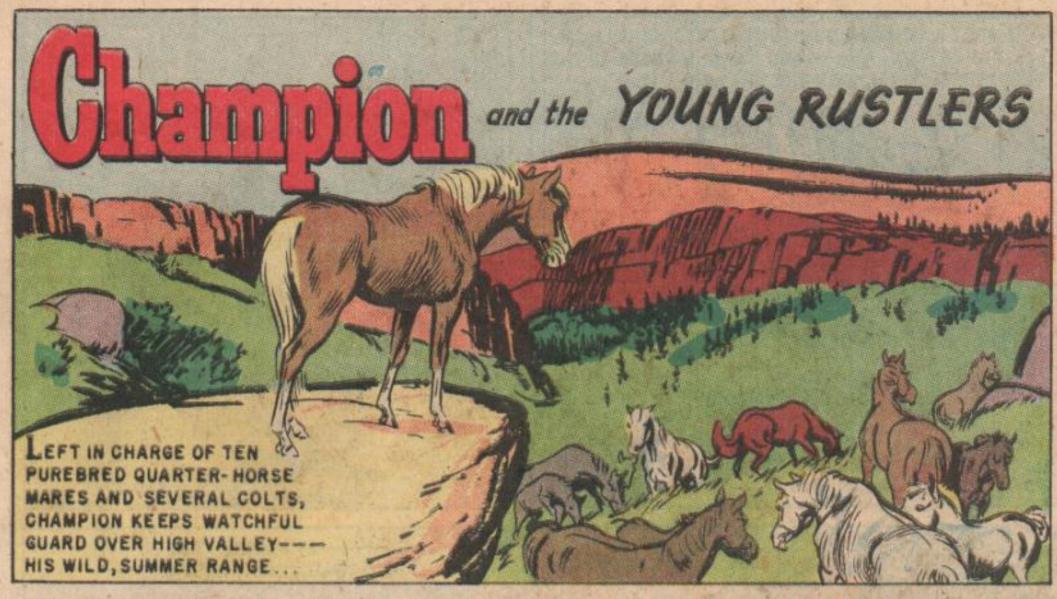
Dell is proud to present one of its many awards . . .

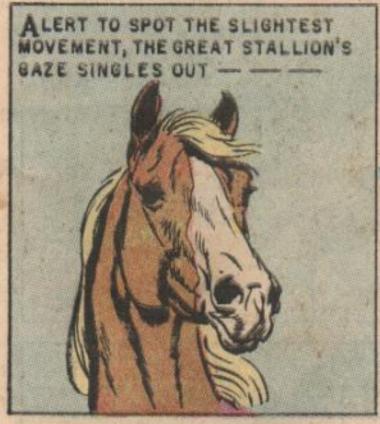




The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome juvenile entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure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

GENE AUTRY'S CHAMPION, No.18, May-July, 1955. Published quarterly 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. Single copies 10 cents. Copyright, 1955, by Gene Autry. All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Except for the authorized use of certain characters and names herein, the characters and events portrayed in this publication are entirely imaginary and fictitious, and no identification with actual persons or parties, living or dead, is intended.







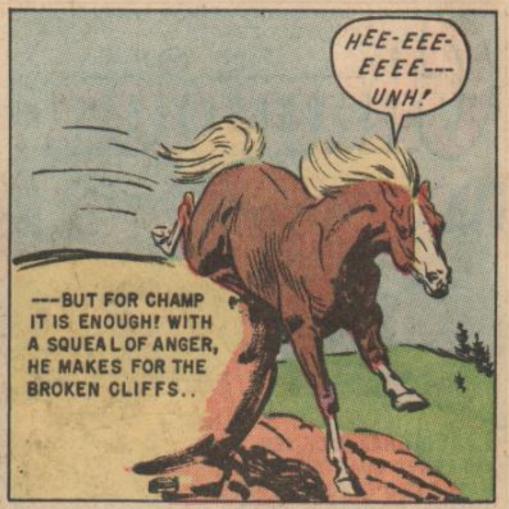




DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS

FOR JUST A MOMENT, SUNLIGHT GLINTS WARMLY ON THE BIG CAT'S COAT --- SO NEAR IN COLOR TO THE REDDISH ROCKS ACROSS THE VALLEY.



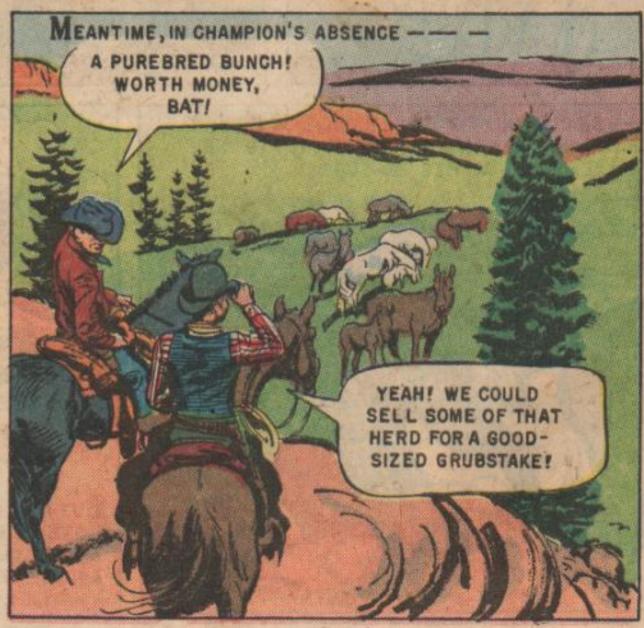






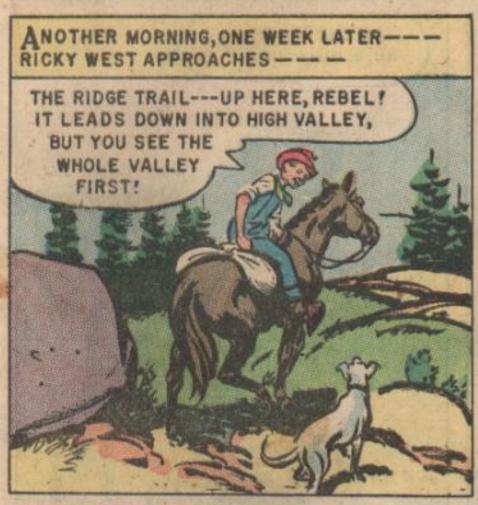
MEMORY --- OF A DEAD COLT AND A SNARLING KILLER! THAT COUGAR

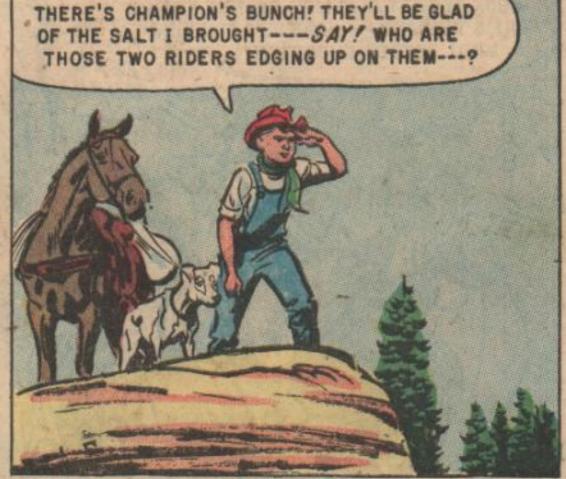
PAID WITH HIS LIFE ...







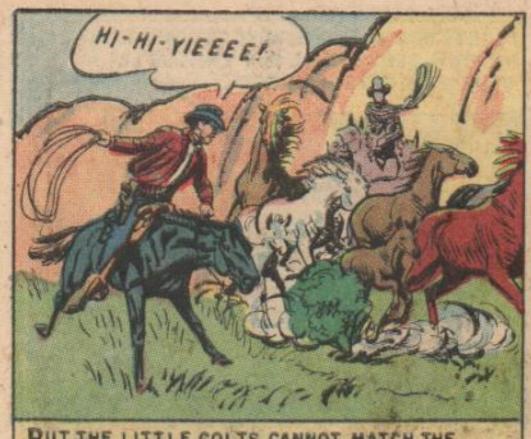












BUT THE LITTLE COLTS CANNOT MATCH THE SPEED OF GROWN HORSES! CHAMPION'S LITTLE BUNCH IS OUTFLANKED - --



WALLED, BLIND CANYON ...





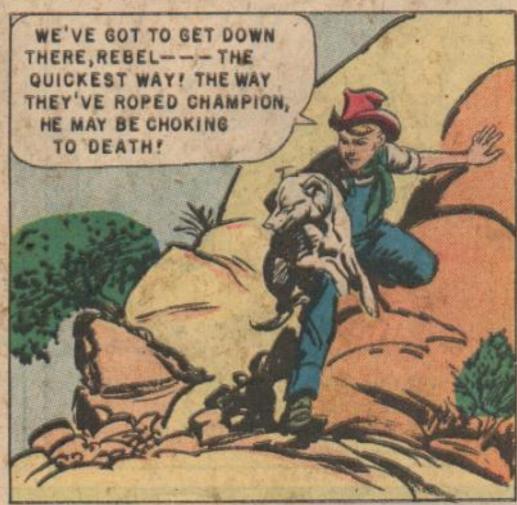














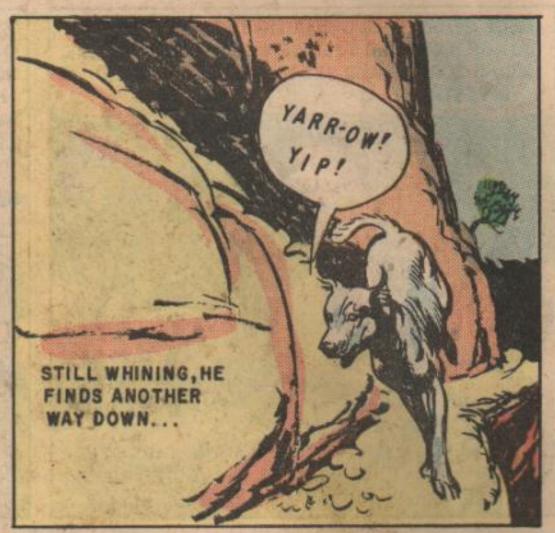






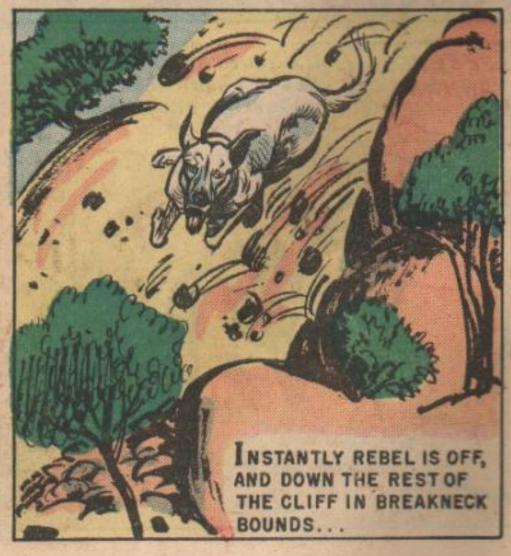
AND SCRATCHED. REBEL'S ANXIOUS WHINING

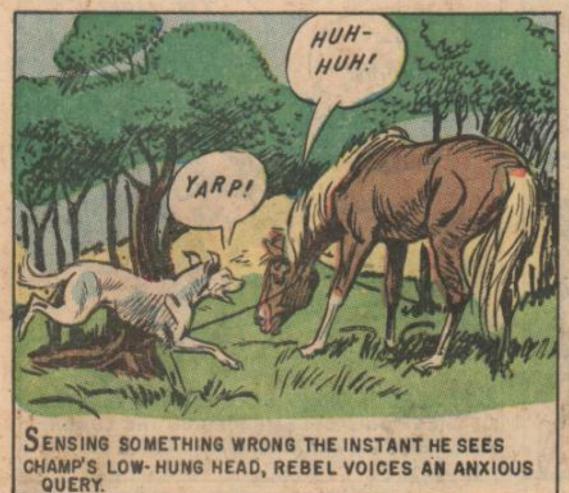
BECOMES ---





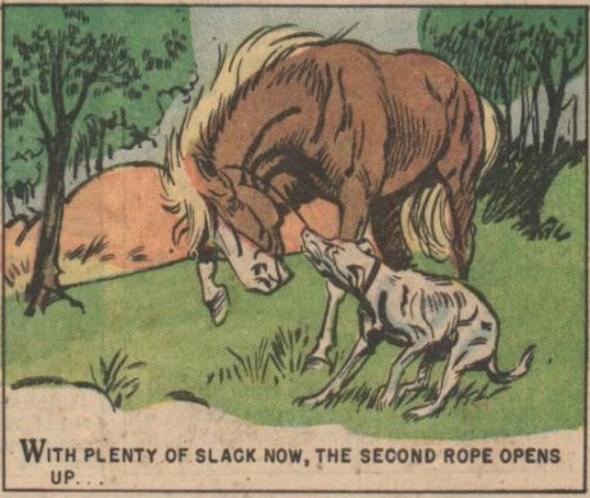


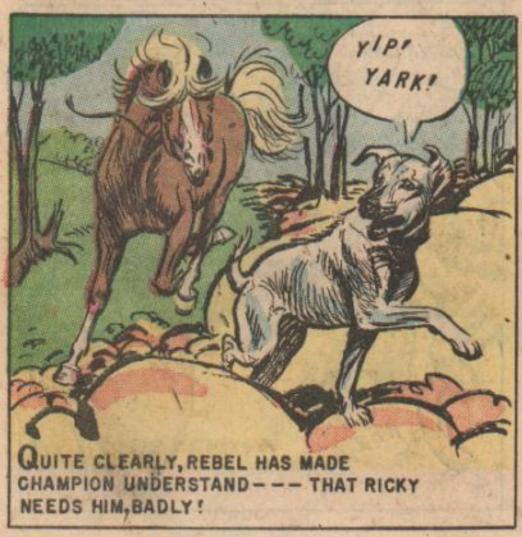














BUT HOW BADLY, EVEN REBEL HAS NO IDEA ———
AS YET! FOR THE SCENT OF BLOOD FROM RICKY'S
SCRATCHES HAS REACHED THE TAWNY HUNTER
OF THE CLIFFS!







ONLY A CAT OR A GOAT COULD TURN ON THAT NARROW SHELF---BUT THE OLD LION HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING TRAPPED WITH NO PLACE TO GO!

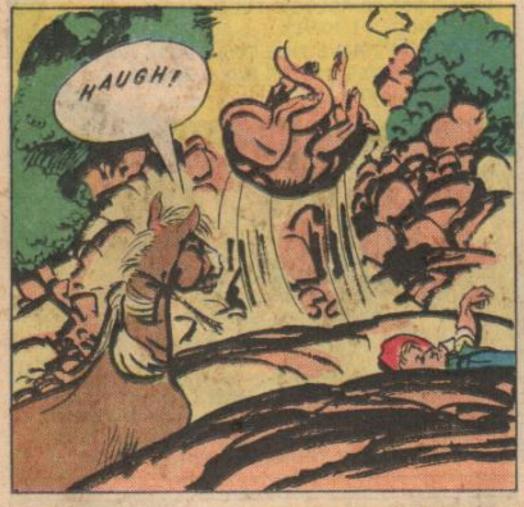


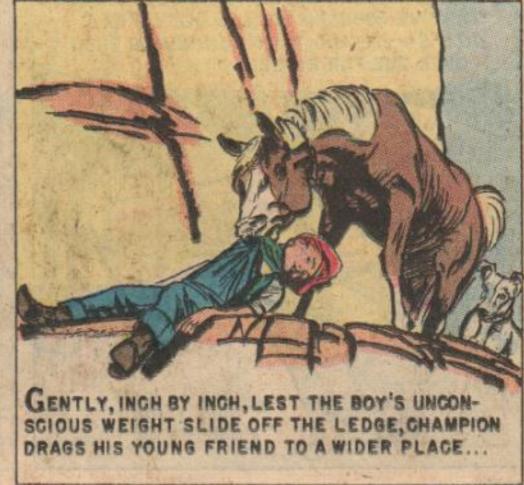
TO THE COUGAR'S SURPRISE, HIS ONLY WAY OFF THE SHELF IS SUDDENLY BLOCKED - AND BY TWO CREATURES WHO OUGHT TO BE FLEEING, INSTEAD OF DEFYING HIM!



THE HORSE'S NEXT MOVE STARTLES THE COUGAR STILL MORE! CROWDING PAST REBEL, CHAMPION MOVES TO ATTACK!



















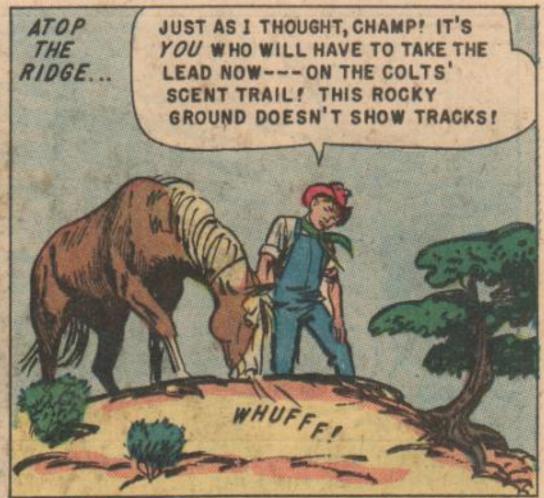


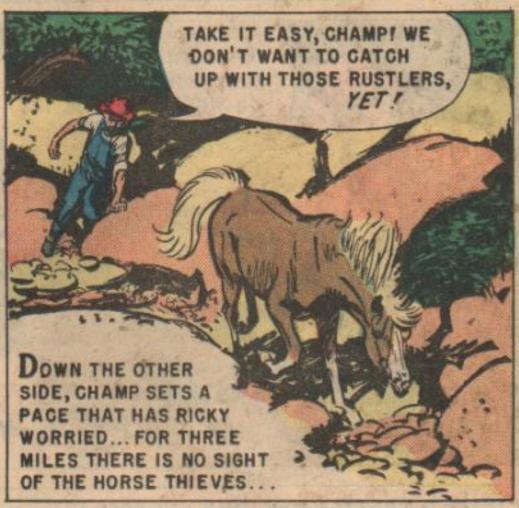




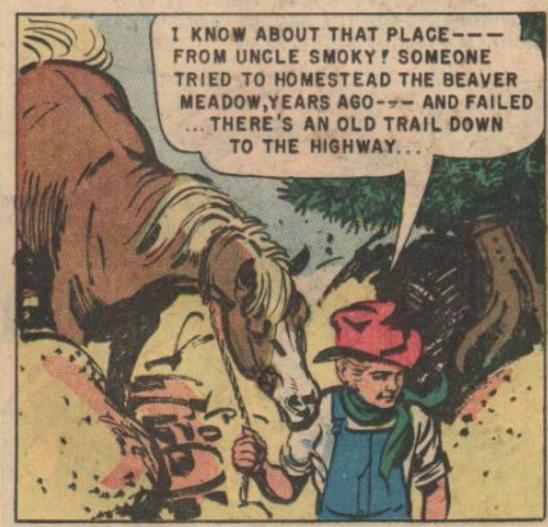


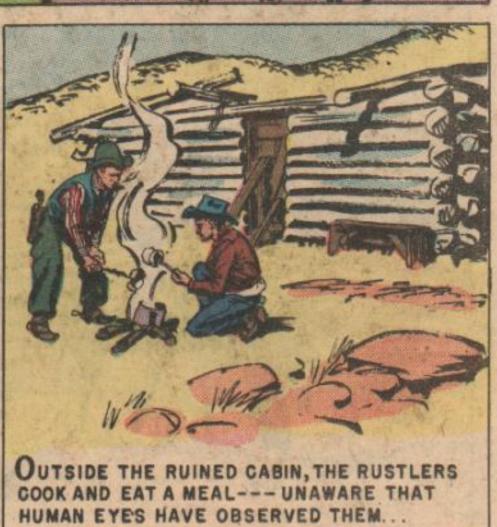


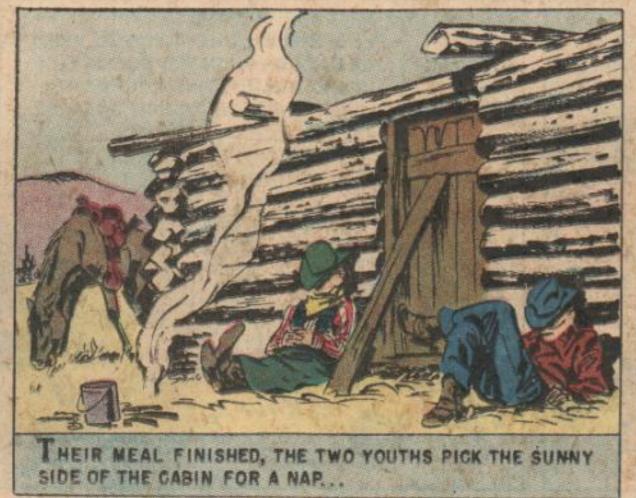










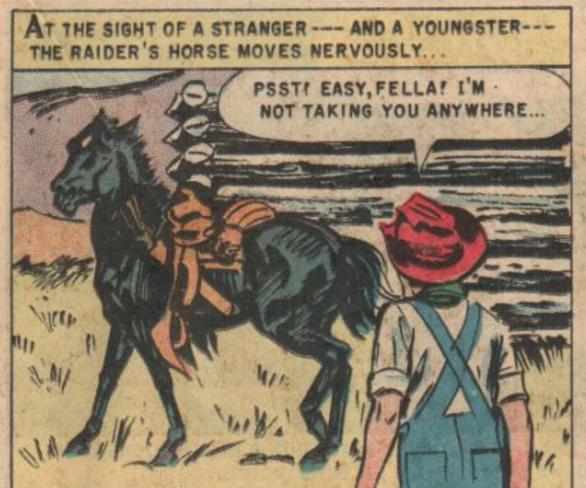










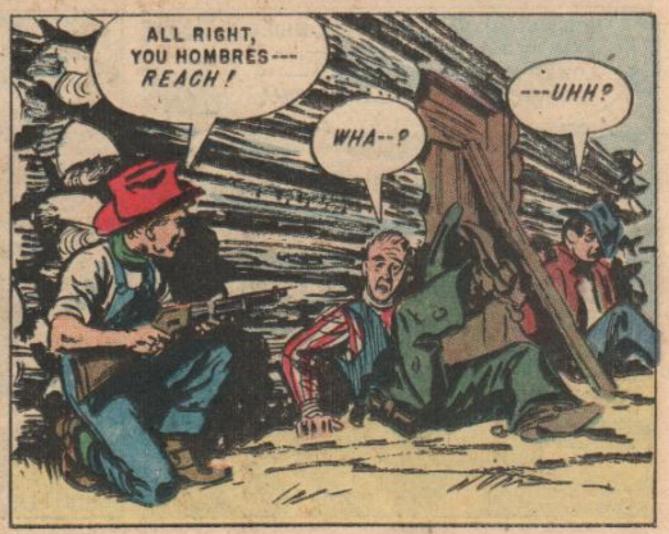








































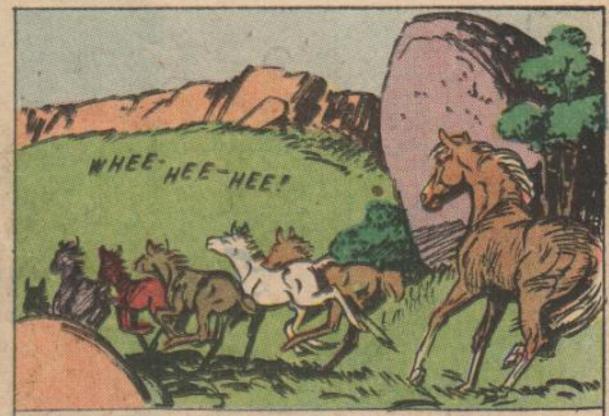








I URNING TO HIS INFANT CHARGES, CHAMP HEADS THEM ONCE MORE FOR HOME... ENOUGH FOR HIM TO KNOW THAT UNCLE SMOKY IS ON THE JOB DOWN BELOW!



JUST AT SUNDOWN THEY REACH THE DEEP GREEN GRASS OF HIGH VALLEY --- THE HUNGRY COLTS WHISTLING FOR THEIR MOTHERS ...





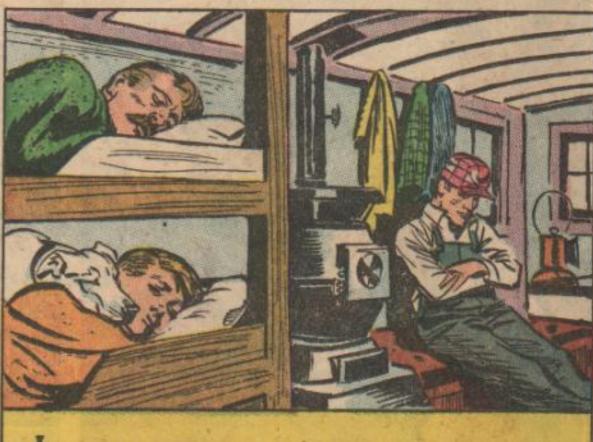
AND THEN, SUDDENLY, CHAMPION IS THERE, HIS MIGHTY KICKS OPEN A PASSAGE FOR THE MARES.











IN THE CABOOSE, CHAMPION'S GLOSE FRIENDS SLEEP THROUGH THE SWAYING, CLACKING, ROARING HOURS, UNTIL...







THE HEADLIGHT OF THE FREIGHT PICKS OUT THE FIRST OF THE BOUNDING ROCKS...



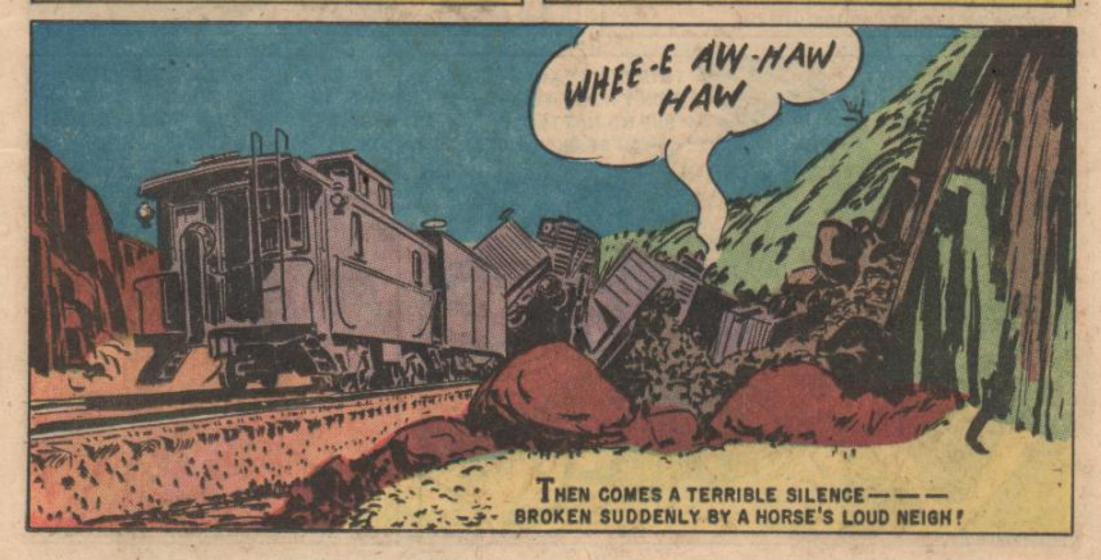
APPLIES HIS AIR BRAKES---



--- BUT MOMENTUM CARRIES THE LEADING CARS ON INTO THE PATH OF THE SLIDE ...



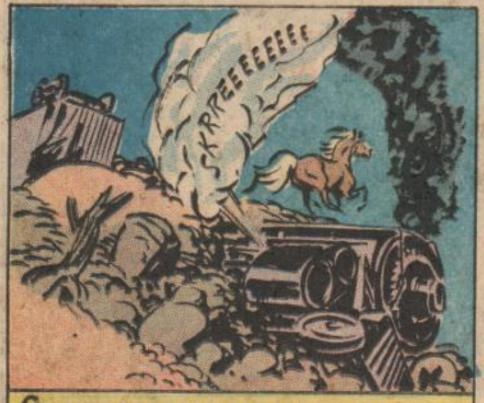
A WRENCHING SHOCK HURLS THE OCCUPANTS OF THE CABOOSE TO THE FLOOR . . .







FOR A LONG MOMENT HE PAUSES IN THE DARKNESS, LISTENING FOR AN ANSWER TO HIS GALL--- AN ANSWER THAT DOES NOT COME!

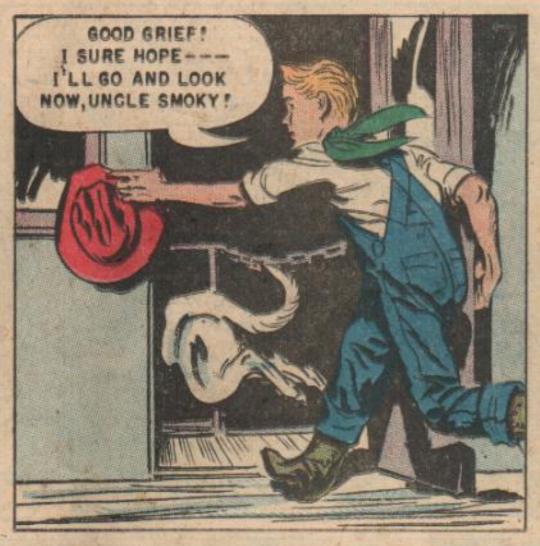


GRIPPED BY A NAMELESS HORROR, HE PLUNGES AWAY DOWN THE SLOPE — — A SHRIEK OF STEAM ESCAPING FROM THE WRECKED ENGINE SPURS HIM ON ...























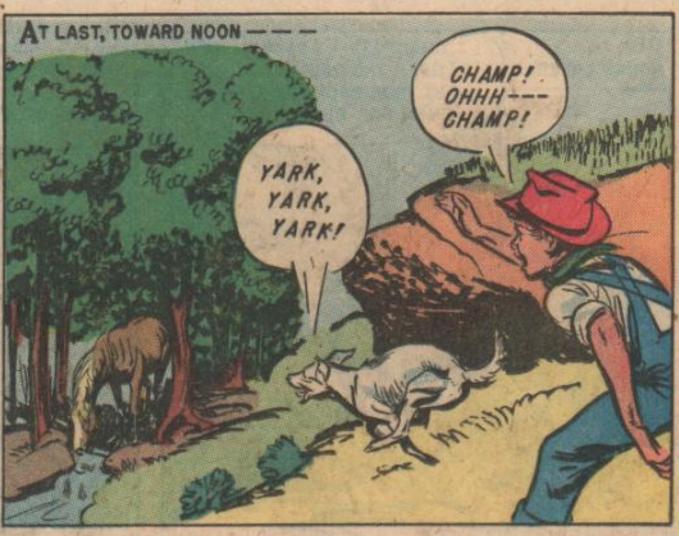










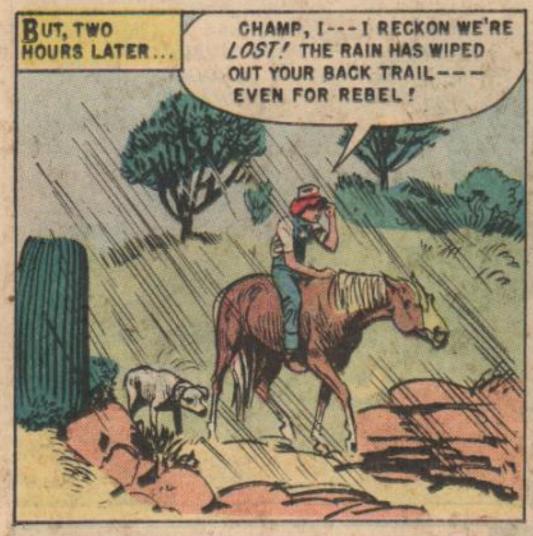




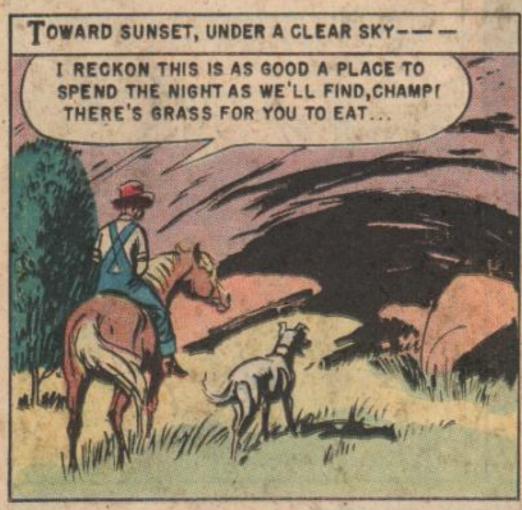
















QUICKLY FOR THE BOY AND DOG . . . AND WITH

CHAMPION ON GUARD ----

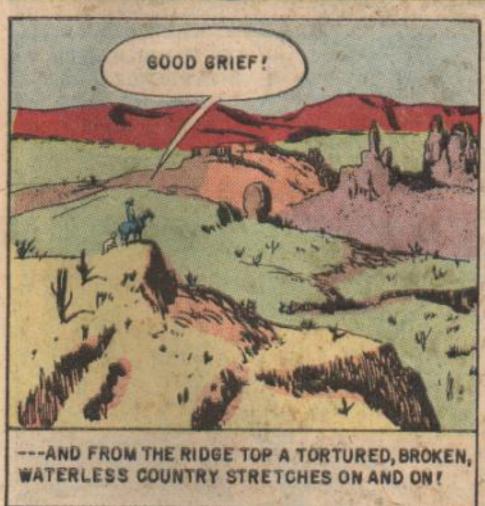


DISTURB THEIR REST ...



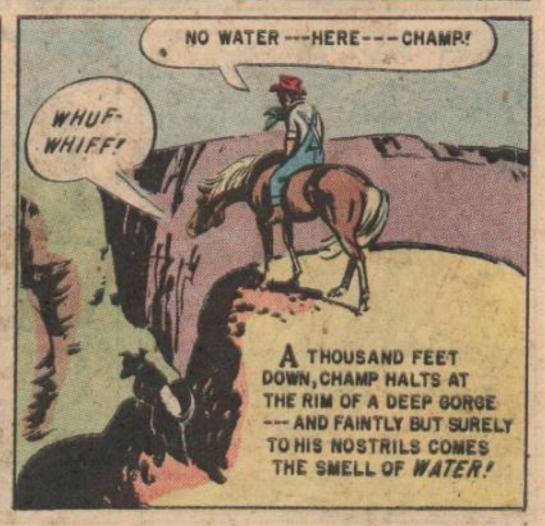


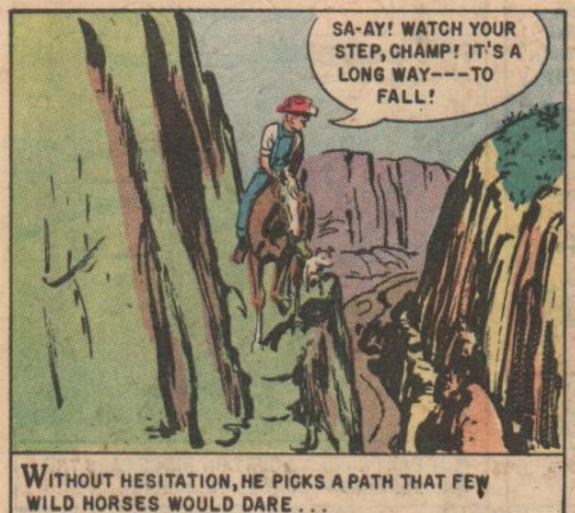
BUT EASTWARD A MOUNTAIN RIDGE BARS THE WAY, SLOWING PROGRESS TO A CRAWL...

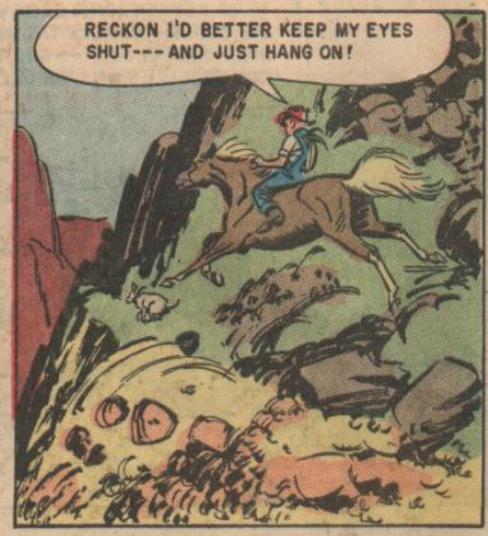






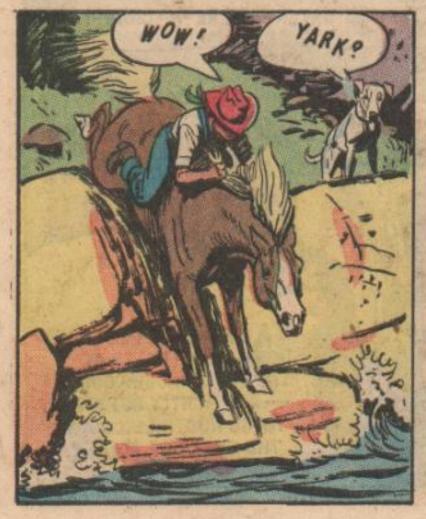
















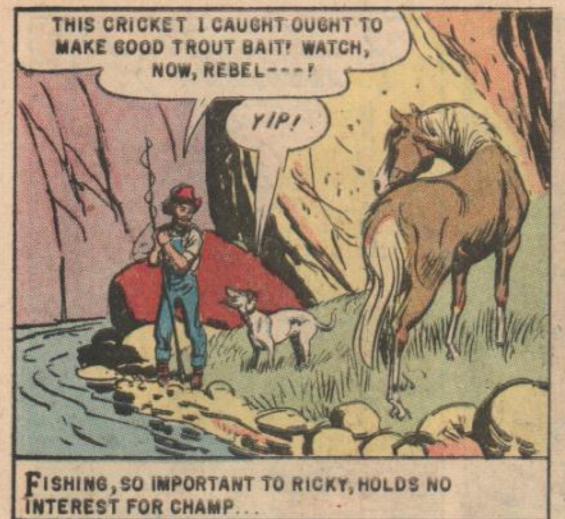


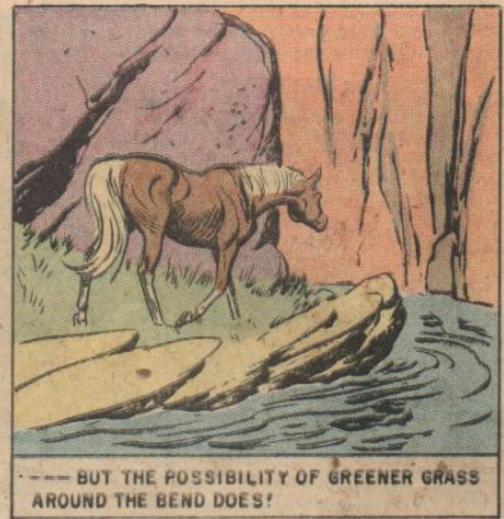




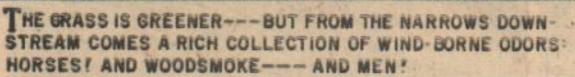




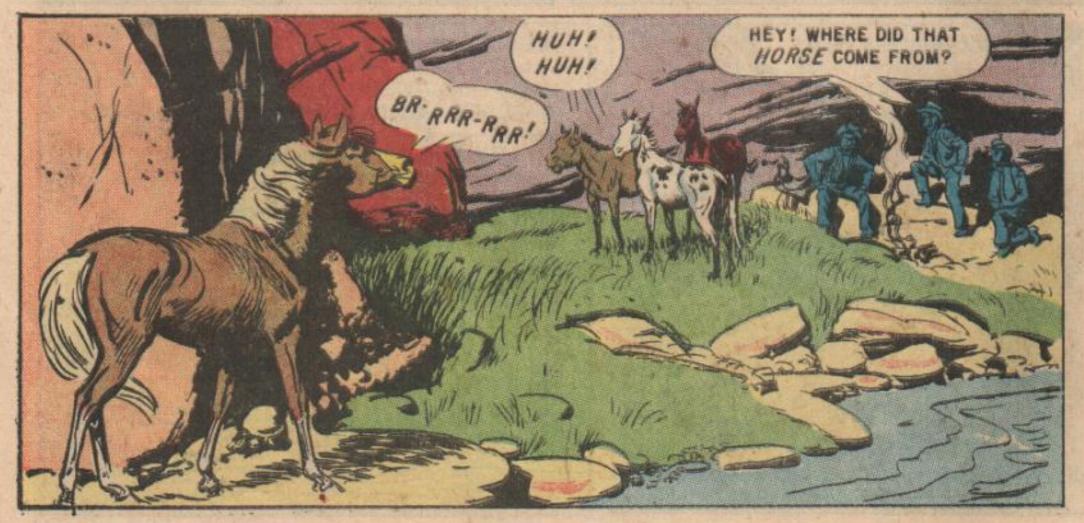






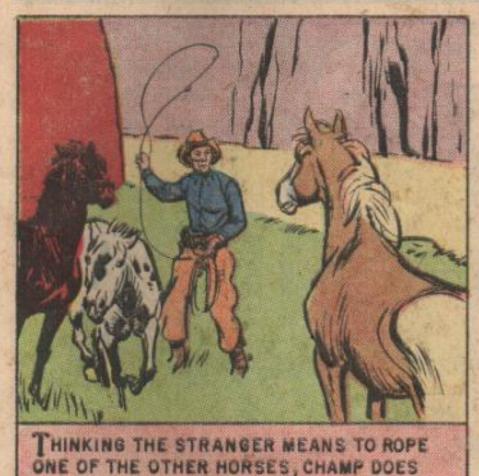






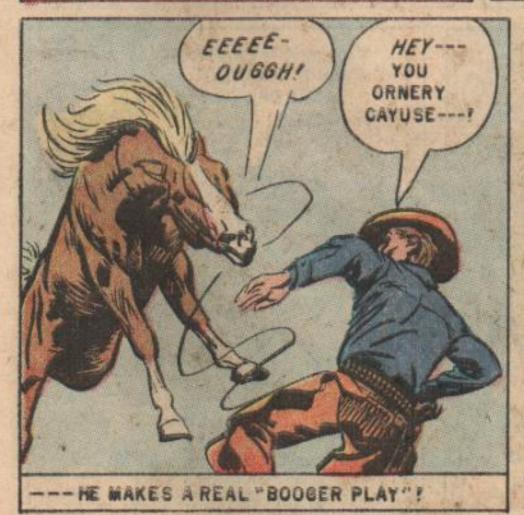






NOT MOVE ---

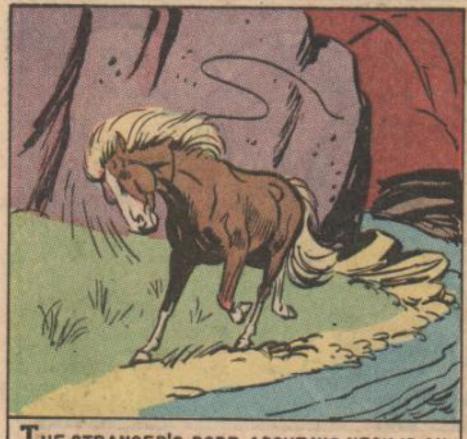


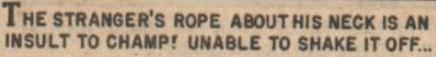






















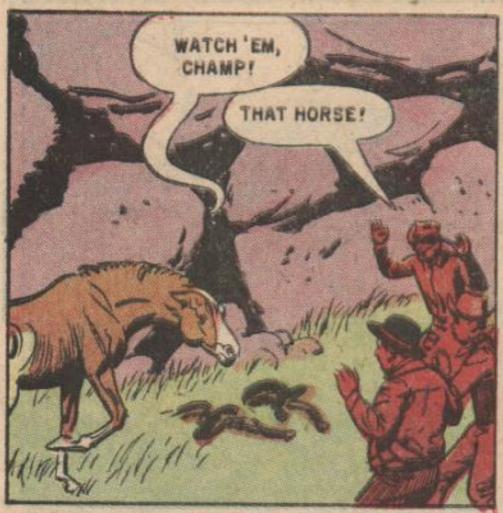


















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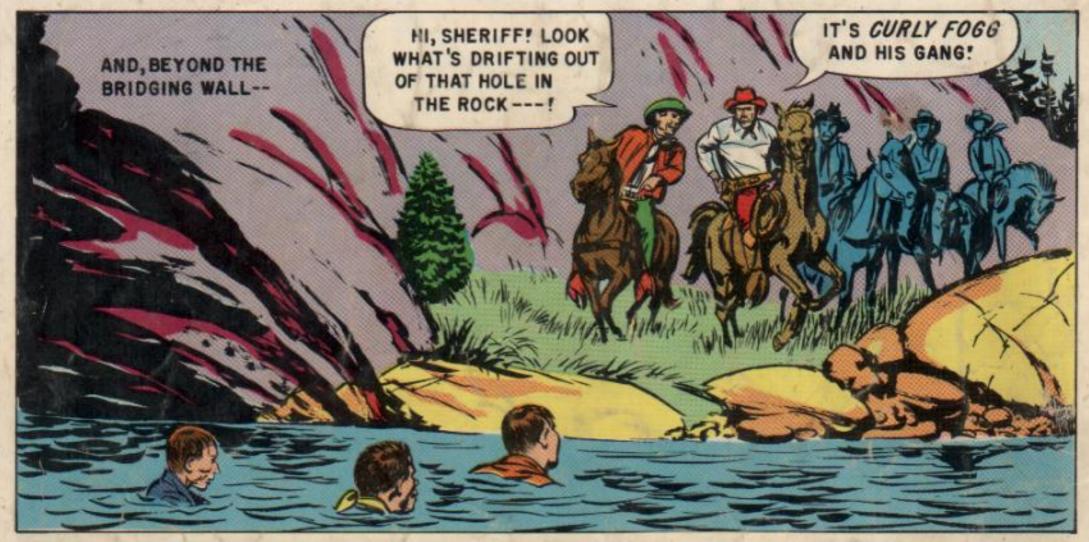






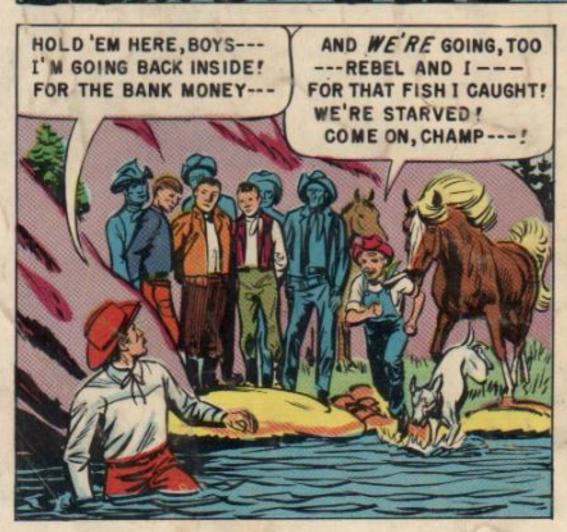














TO PARENTS

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