

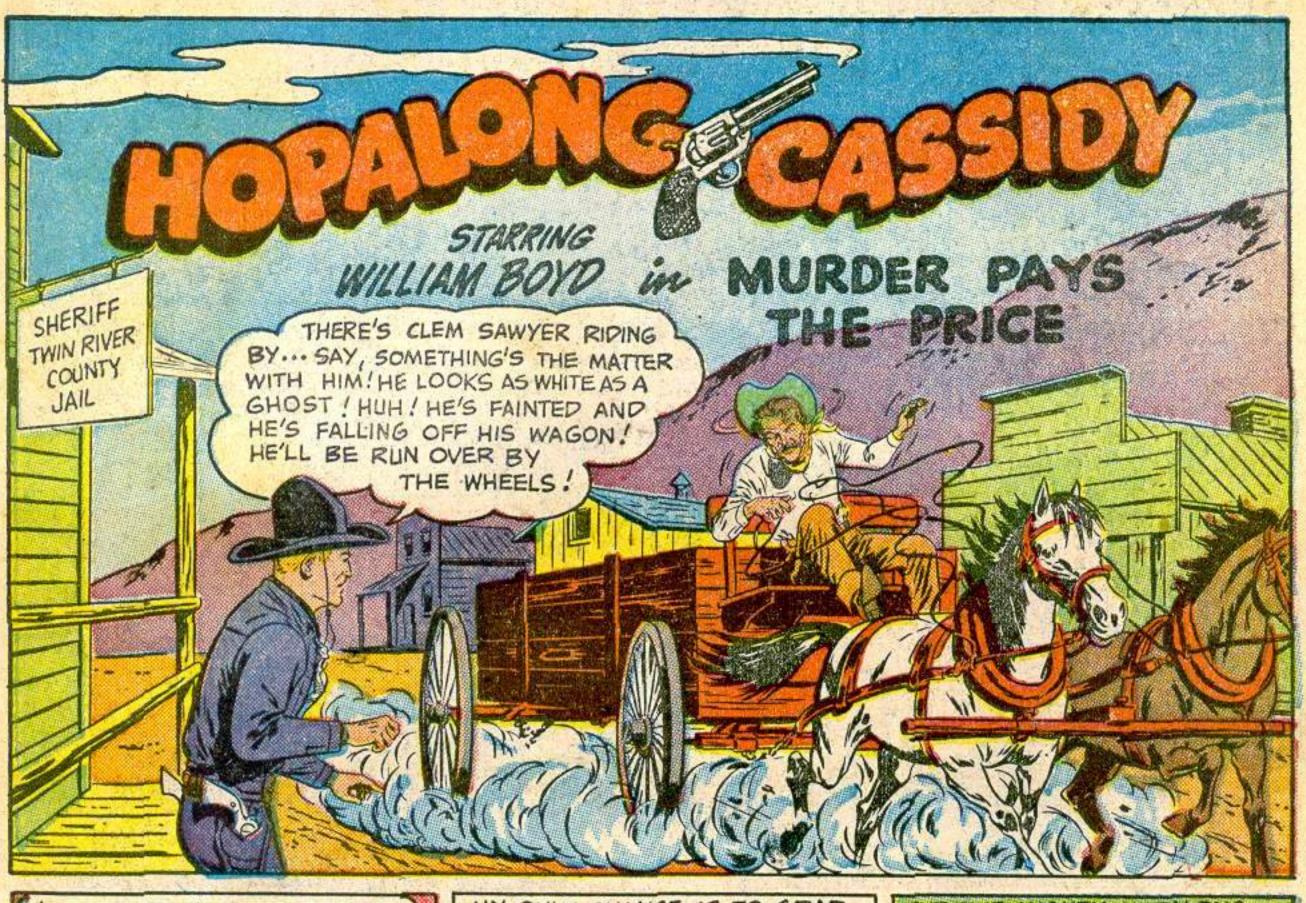


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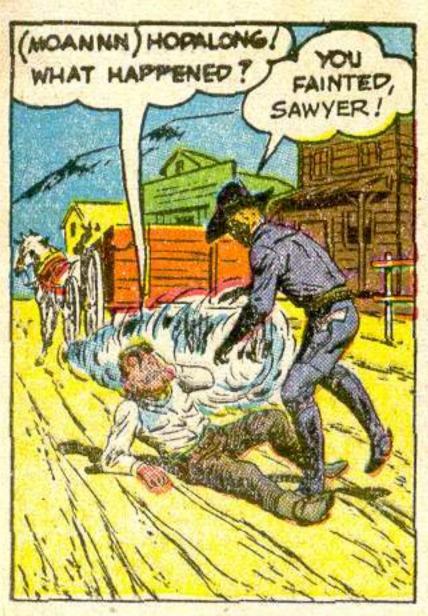




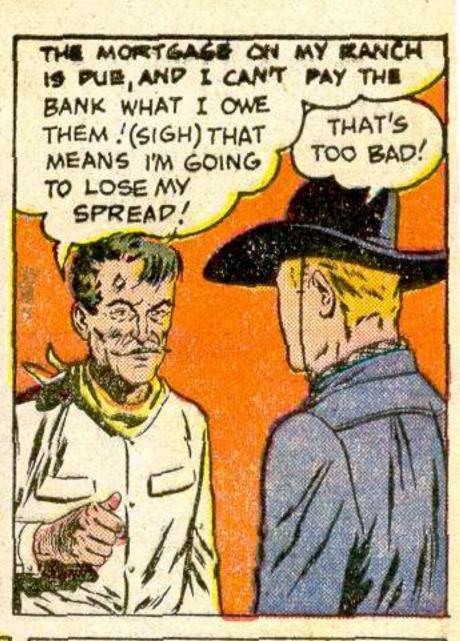


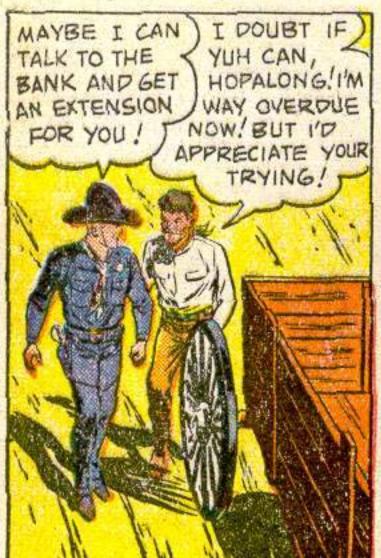
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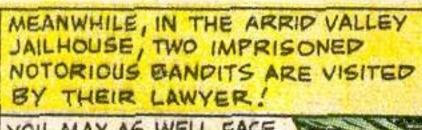
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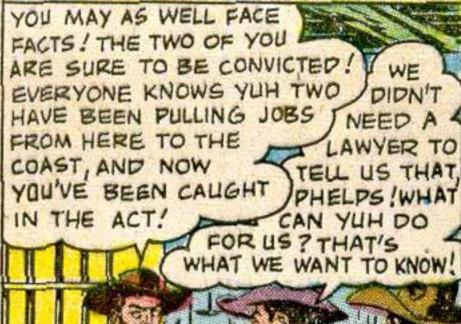






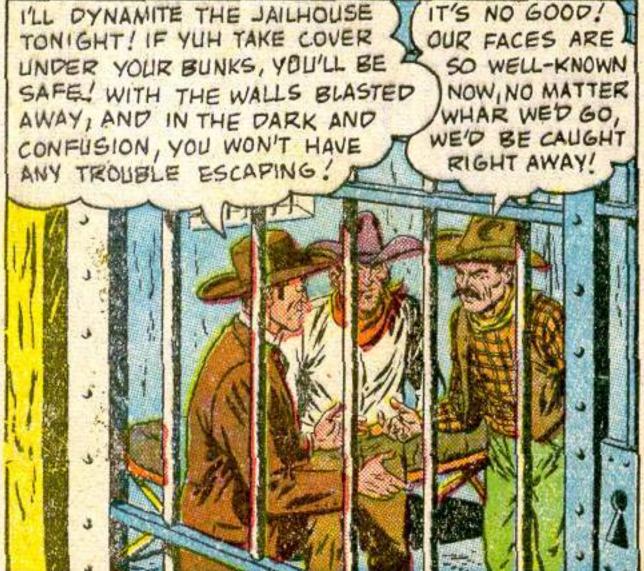




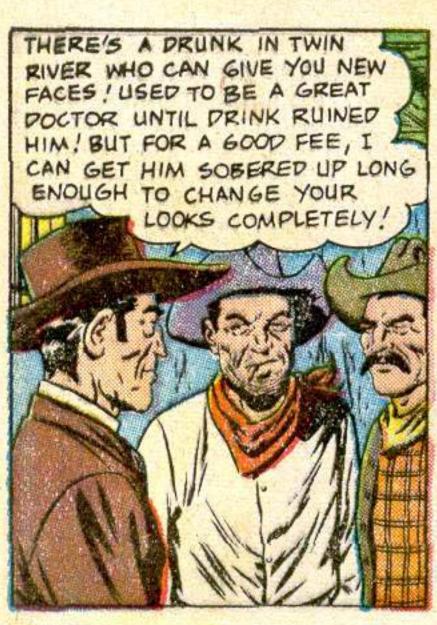


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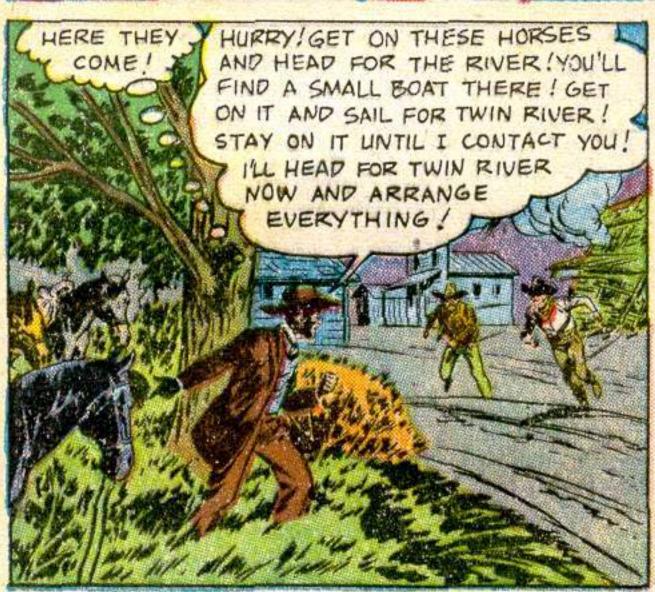




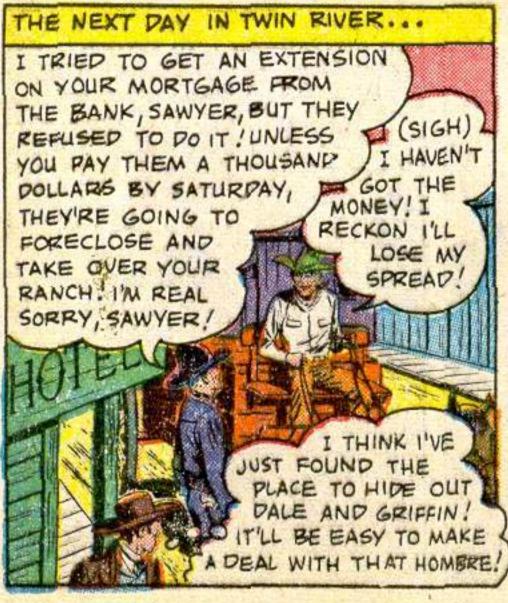




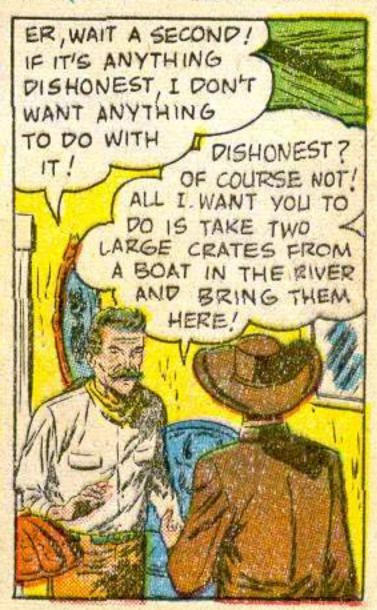


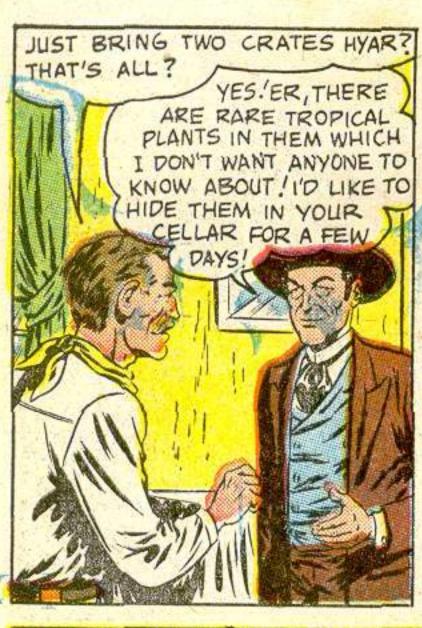






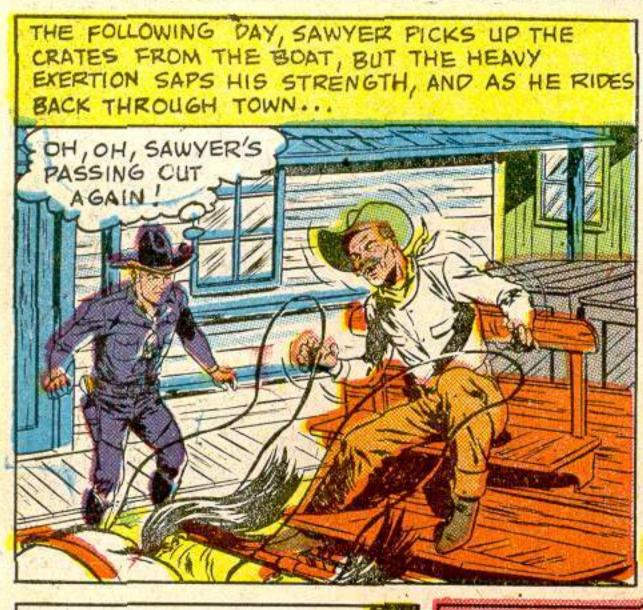


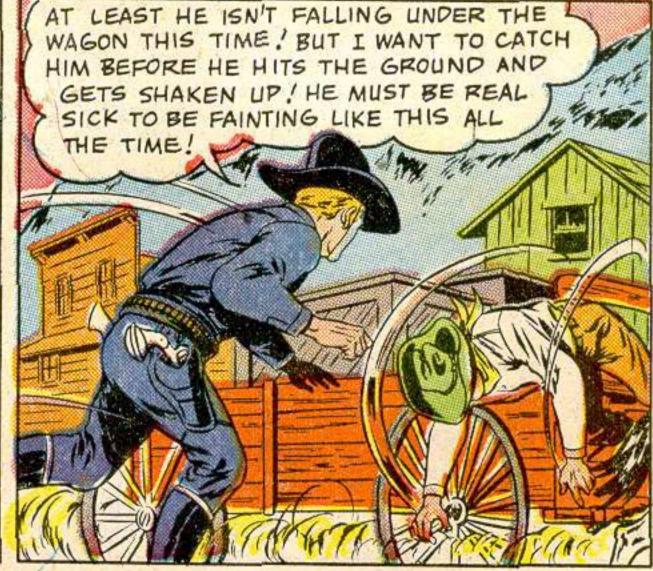
















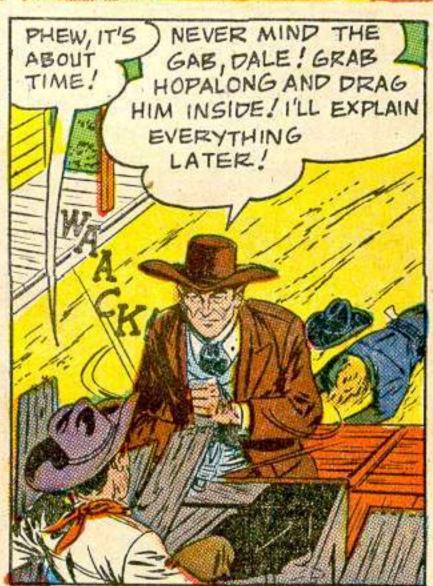




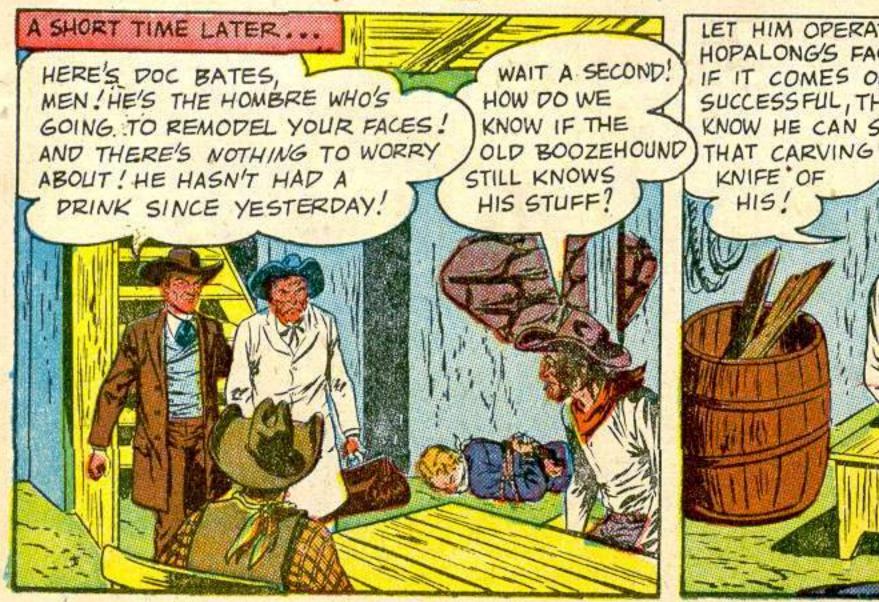


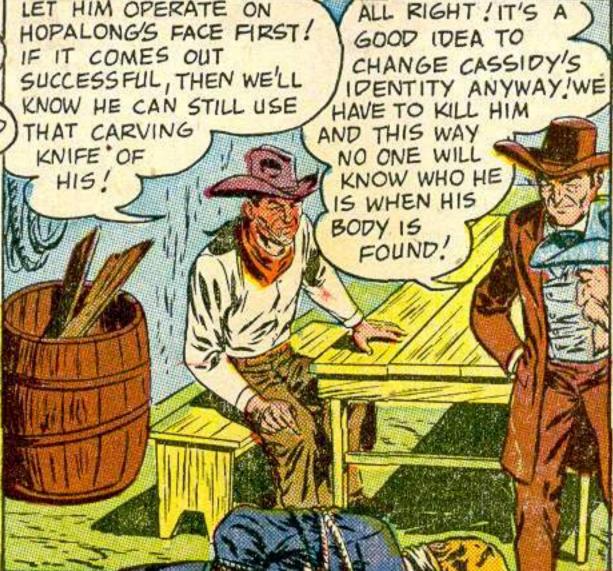
























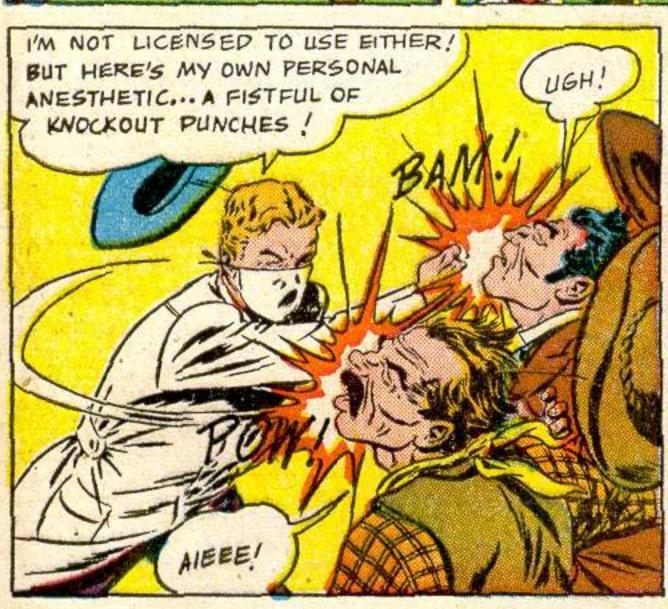








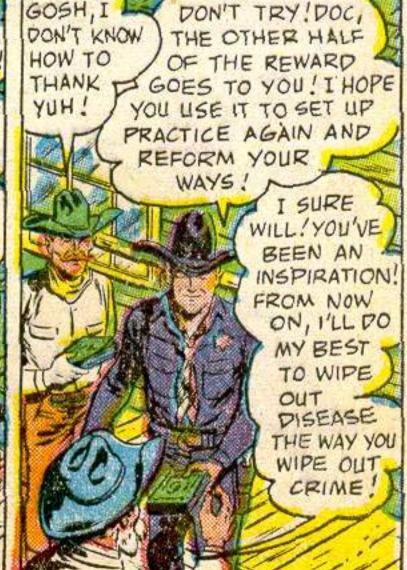


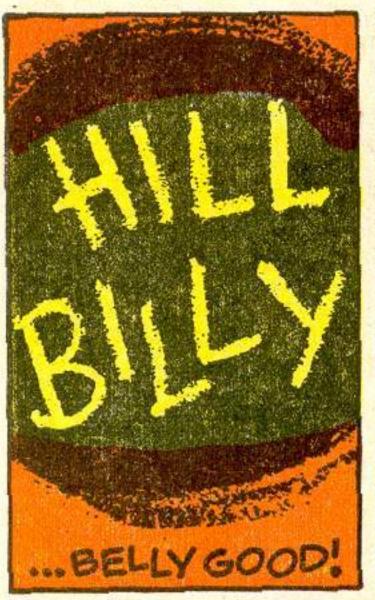








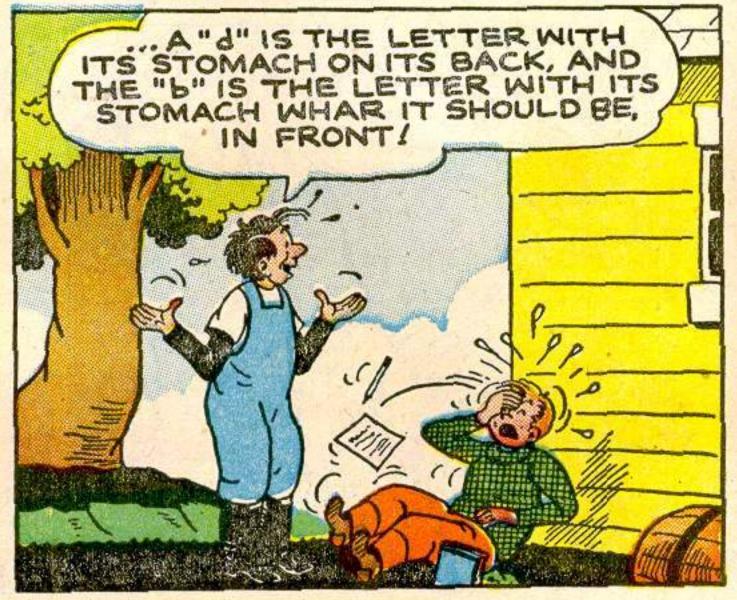


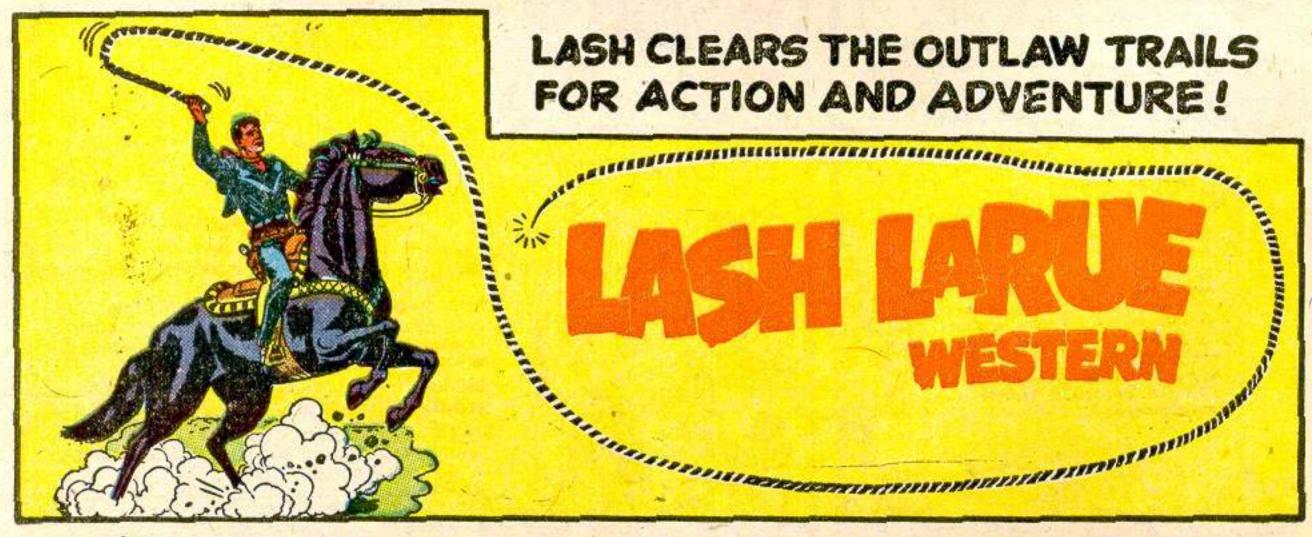








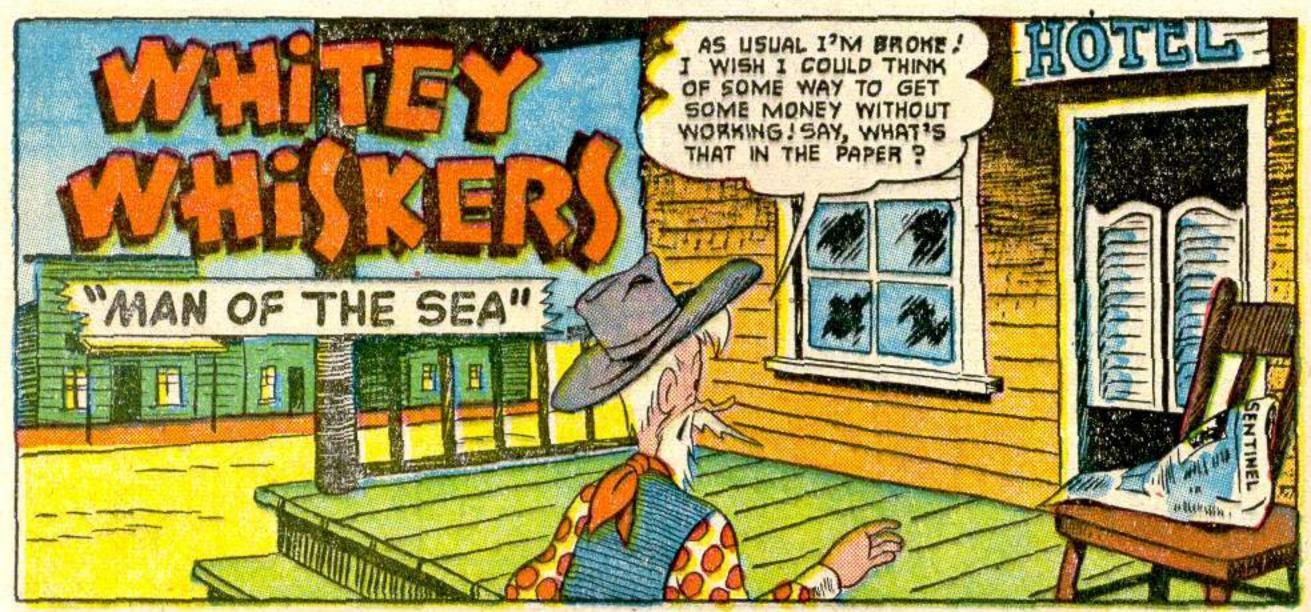


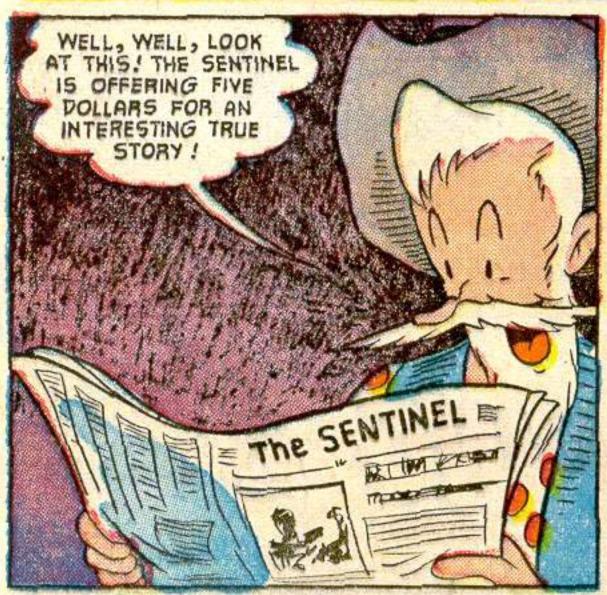


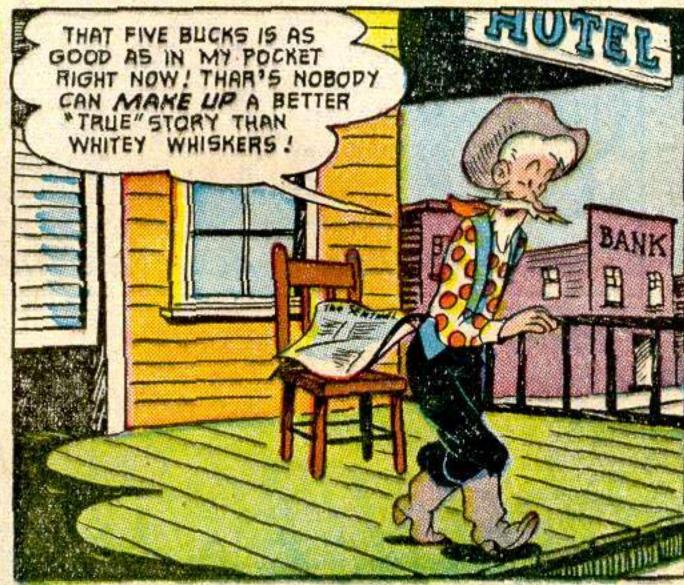
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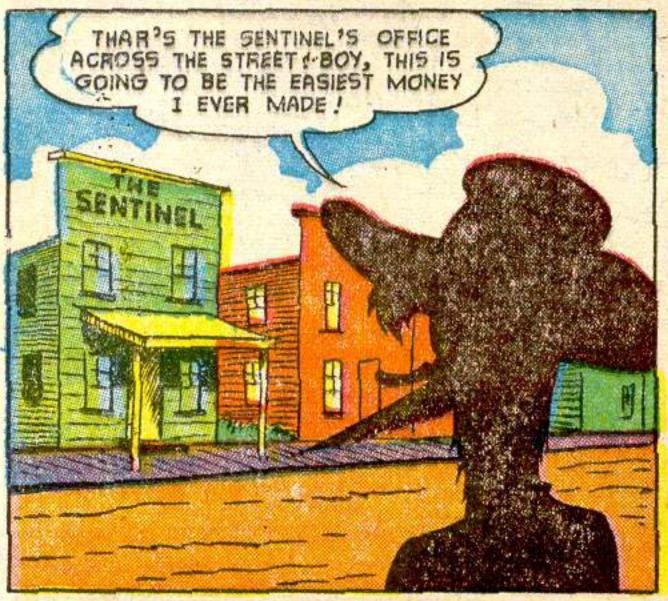




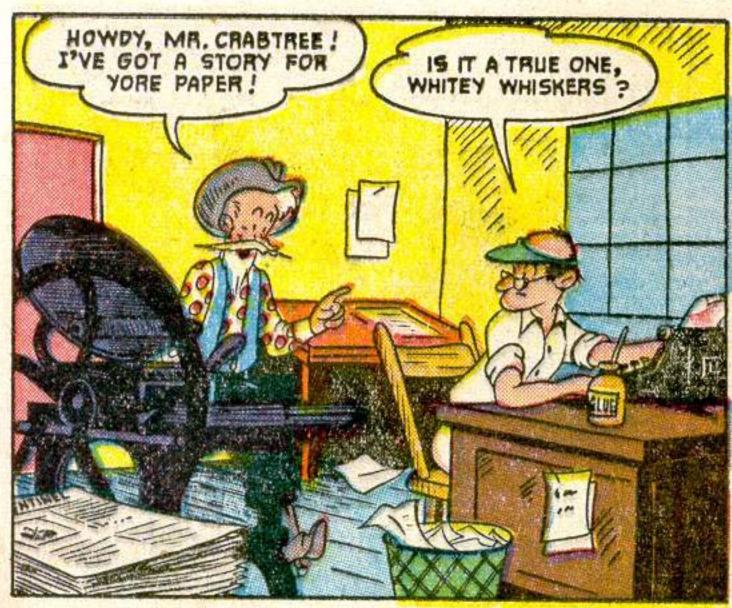


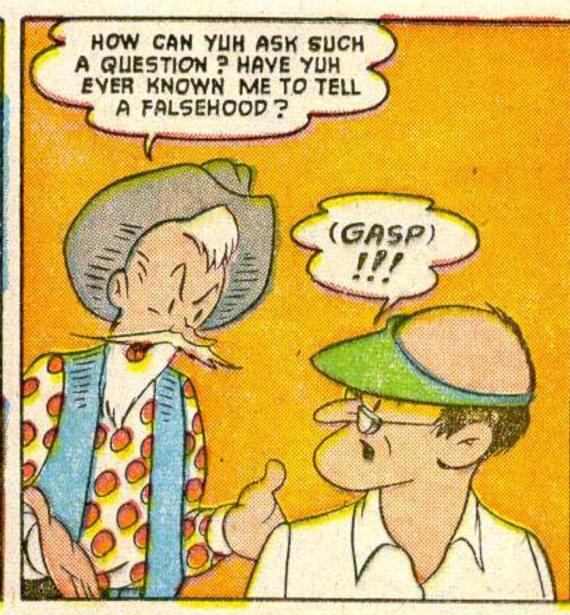


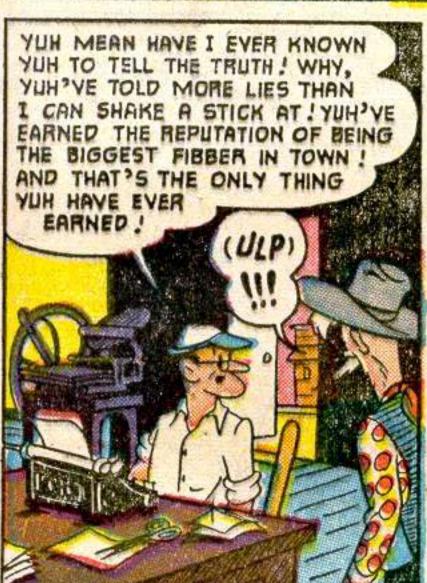


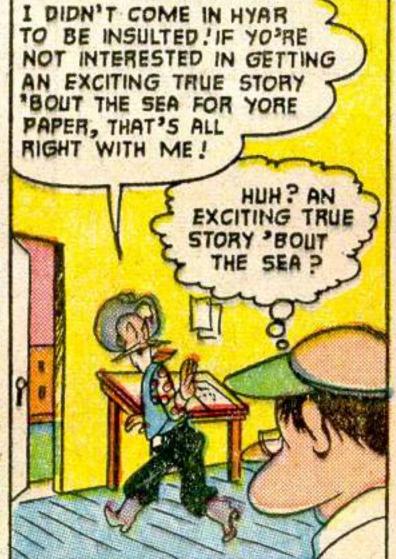




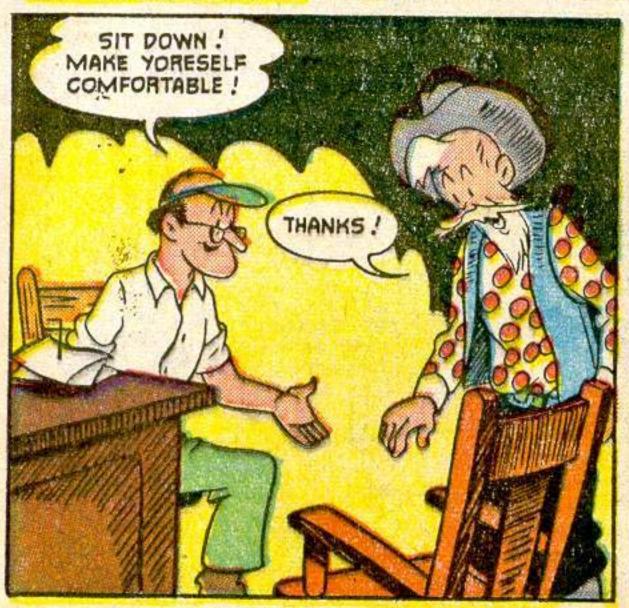


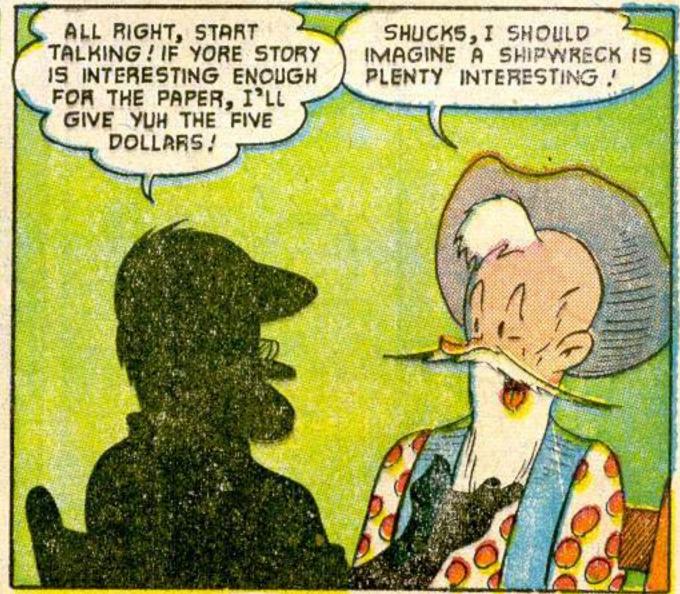




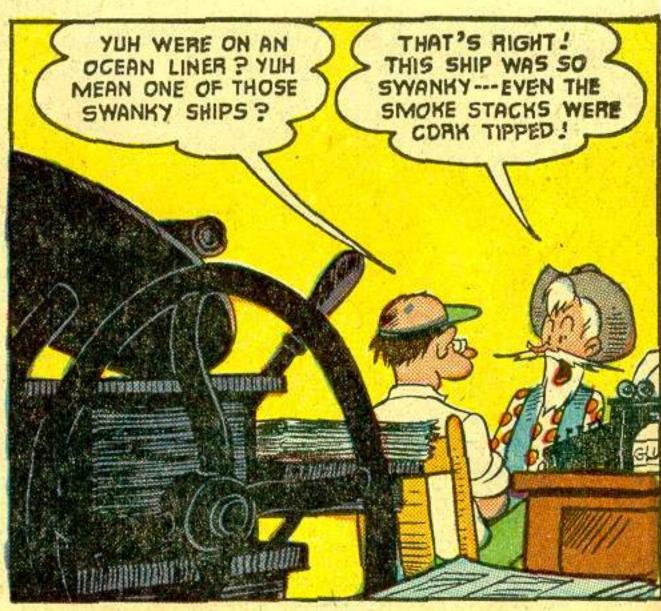






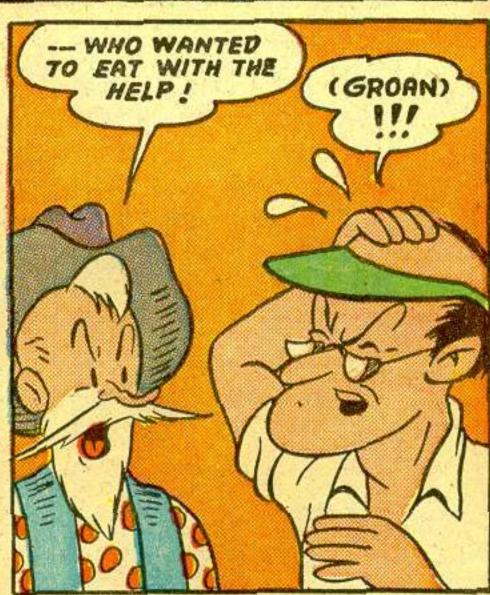




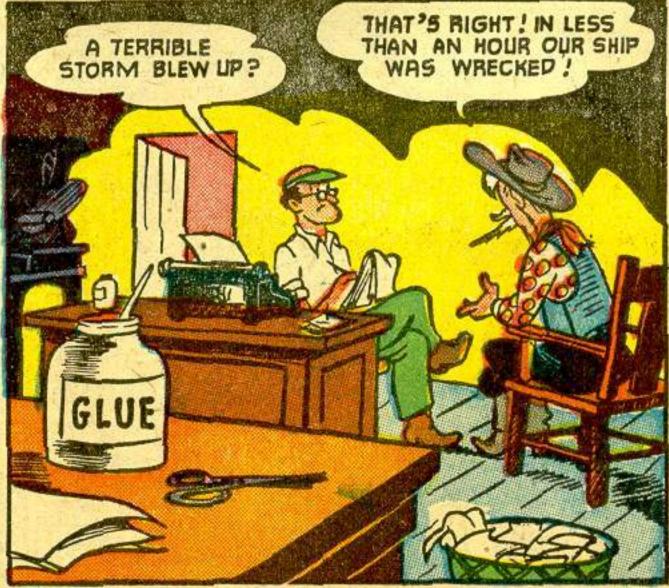








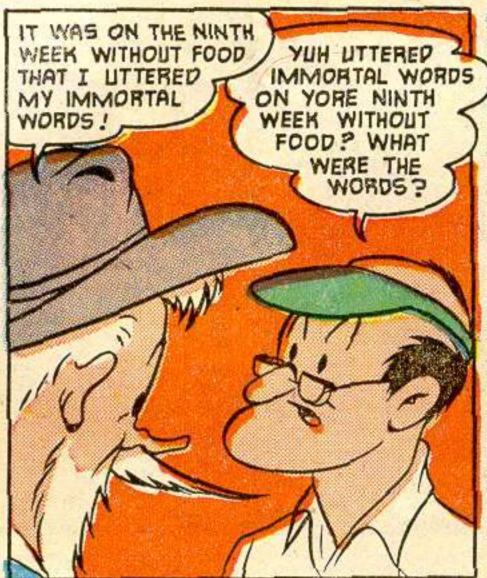


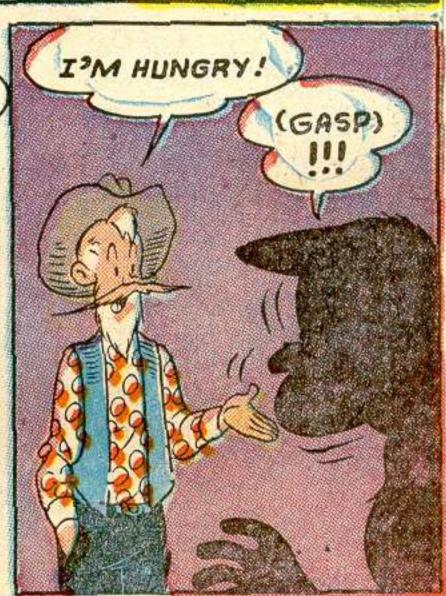




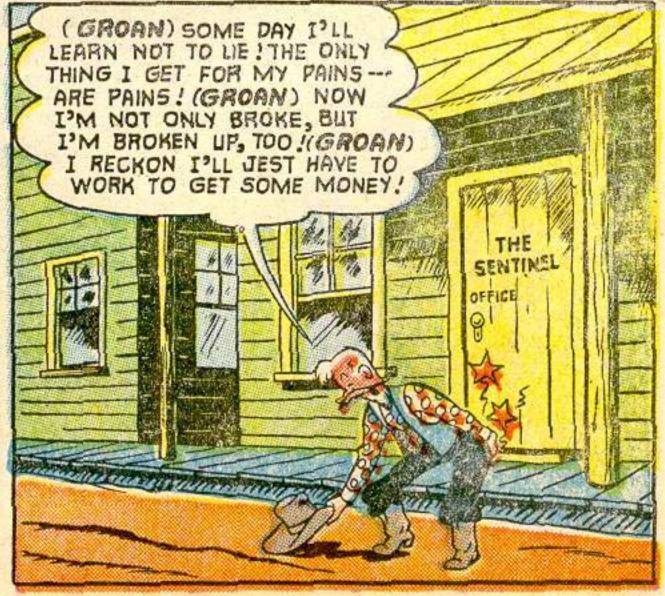


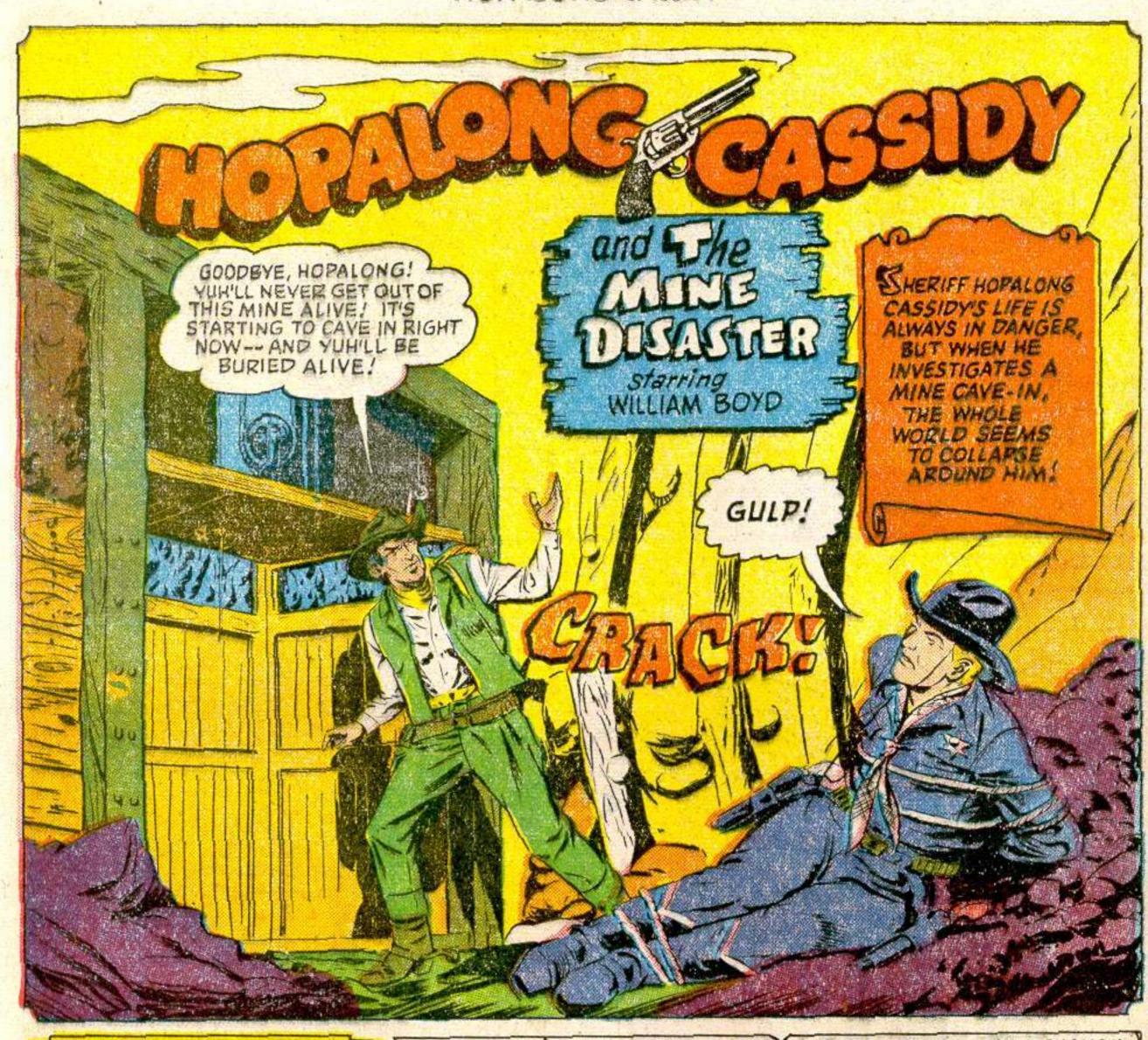




























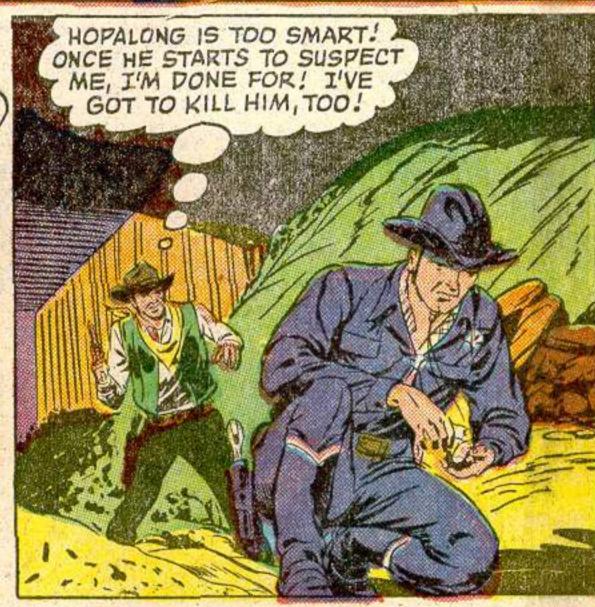
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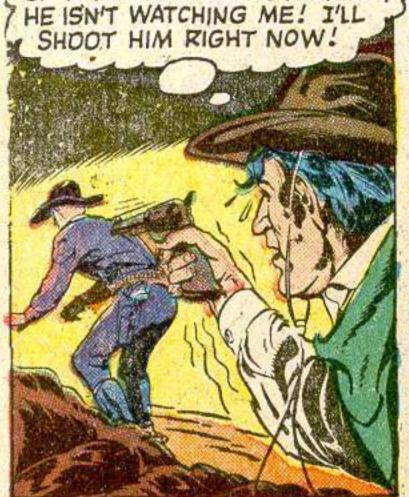












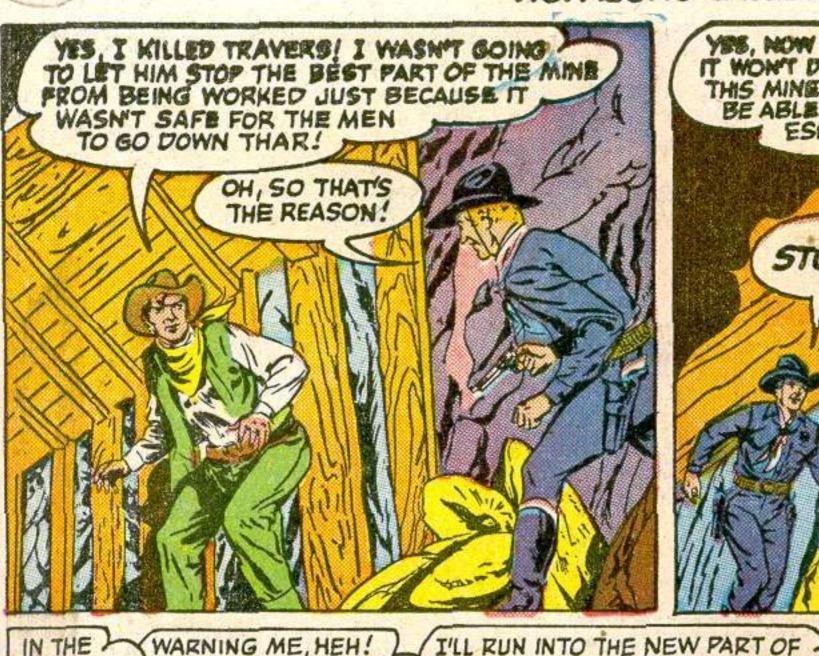
THIS IS MY BIG CHANCE!

HOPALONG IS SO BUSY PICKING

UP THOSE PIECES OF DYNAMITE,













JONES RACES INTO THE NEWLY THE MINE AND GET OUT THROUGH OPENED SECTION OF THE MINE-THE SECRET OPENING AT THE THAT MUST BE THE NEW SECTION OF THE MINE! NO WONDER TRAVERS DIDN'T WANT TO LET THE MEN WORK DOWN HERE! IT LOOKS AS IF THE WHOLE THING MAY COLLAPSE ANY SECOND!

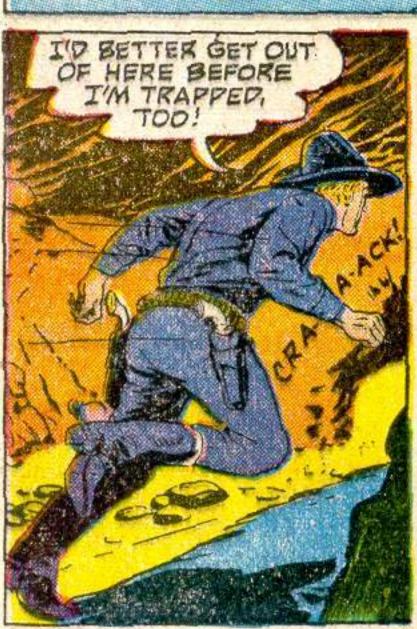


















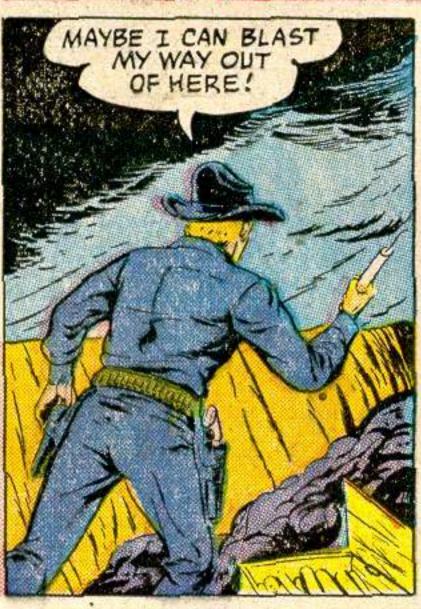






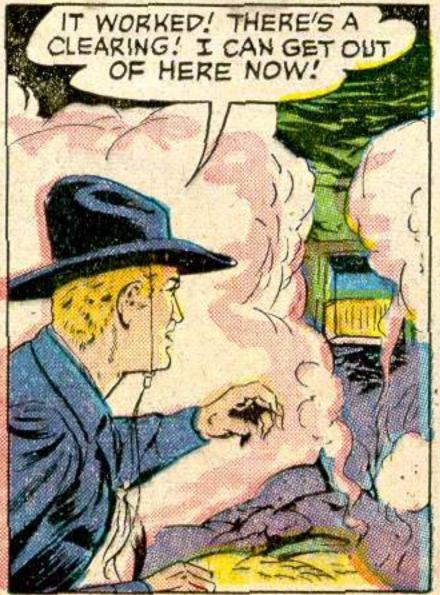




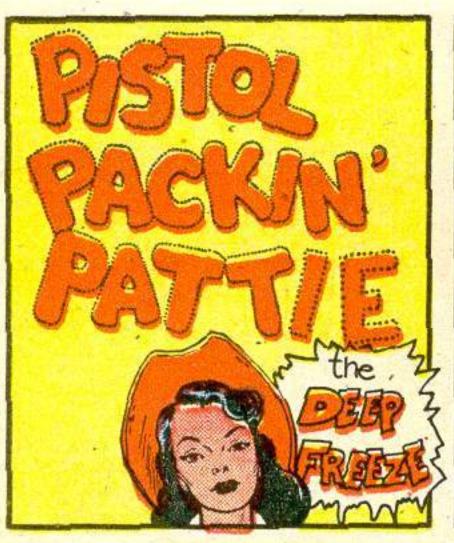
























SIX-GUN SILENCE

By John Martin

Peaks branch of the Ironton Bank, looked across the desk in his office at Rick Hardy. Hardy was the president of the Ironton bank itself, at its main branch. Gateson was troubled.

"I wouldn't do it," he said, troubled. "You wouldn't catch me transferring all that gold to the main branch at Ironton just because a few banks in the next county got busted into!"

"You wouldn't, eh?" Hardy barked sarcastically. "Who's responsible for the money in these banks? I am. If your branch gets busted into, and all your bullion stolen, I'll be held responsible by the stockholders. We're in a shaky enough position now." He threw a suspicious glance at Gateson. "I can't figure why you're trying to keep me from doing the sensible thing!"

Gateson looked at him uneasily. "Next thing, you'll be thinkin' I'm behind the robberies, Hardy!" he said.

"So far as I know, you might, you old galoot," Hardy said, smiling for the first time. "But I guess you aren't. You'd just be doin' yourself out of a good job. Well, what about it? After all, it's only for safety's sake!"

Gateson smiled back, after a moment's further thought. "Okay," he said. "We'll do it. Maybe you're right. Give me two hours to load the stuff and we'll ride back to Ironton with the gold convoy together. I'm not lettin' it out of my sight!"

Hardy nodded vigorously. "We'll need you, Ben," he said, "until this gang is caught."

Two hours later, Gateson and Hardy got under way for Ironton, at the head of the gold convoy. Three of Gateson's employees rode horses before and after the mule packs holding the gold. The two bankers kept their hands on their hoglegs, ready for any trouble. It was near three o'clock in the afternoon when Ironton showed its false fronts up over the brush and sage.

A shot rang out as they rode near the town.
"Thunderation!" Hardy cried. He called back
instructions to the three guards to take the
gold hurriedly to the main branch. Then, he

and Gateson spurred forward.

"What's that?" Gateson asked in amazement as they neared the outskirts of the town. He pointed to a big space beyond the last houses where a large tent had been set up. Puffs of smoke came from before the tent, where several men were engaged in a gun battle.

"It's the Sheriff!" Hardy cried. "He's in a fight with those galoots around the tent. Let's go!"

The sign on top of the tent showed clearly as they rode up. It read: THE GREATELMO'S SIDESHOW. BIGGEST SHOW IN ARIZONA.

"Wasn't there when I left for Two Peaks last night!" Hardy grunted, dismounting. He drew both guns and ran up to the scene of trouble, followed by Gateson.

"What's wrong, Sheriff?" he asked. The firing had died down.

Sheriff Wrangley slapped his hoglegs into their holsters. "Mite of trouble," he said. "This bunch of rock toads moved in without gettin' a permit. I told 'em the Town Board wasn't meetin', 'specially with you out of town—and they'd have to wait until you got back! But they wouldn't. Insisted on opening tomorrow. When I rode out here to stop 'em, they opened up on me."

Hardy looked keenly toward the small tent from which the guns had barked. "I don't trust any strangers," he said. "Not with all that gold in town." His eyes took on a suspicious look. "I wonder—could they have got wind of the gold transfer?"

"Dunno," the Sheriff said. "I'm for goin' in and lockin' 'em up right now, though."

"They may be harmless," Gateson said.

The tent flap suddenly opened. An elderly man came out. He had on a Prince Albert coat, knee breeches, high boots and a top hat. His big walrus moustache quiveres.

"Afternoon, gents," he said, bowing and com-

ing closer. "I'm the Great Elmo."

"Well, you'd better get that sideshow of yours skedaddling out of town," Hardy said.

"Well, now," Elmo said. "You wouldn't want

to deprive the ranchers around here of some genuine entertainment, would you?" He snorted. "We've been doin' right well, up around Kinkaid County, and . . ."

"That's where the bank robberies took place!"

Hardy said, excitedly.

"Don't know anything about bank robberies, mister," Elmo said. "You a banker?"

Hardy nodded.

"Then you'll have a business interest in keepin' our show in town," Elmo said. He took a big wallet out of his pocket and thrust it in Hardy's face. "First off, we'd like to deposit this in the bank."

Gateson's eyes gleamed.

"I don't know . . ." Hardy began, but changed his mind. "All right," he said. "And I'll get the Town Board to give you a permit. I reckon even if you folks wanted to try anything, you wouldn't dare with a bunch of ranchers in town."

Elmo smiled faintly, bowing. "Obliged. sir." he said. He inclined his head toward the tent. "Supper's about ready. I eat alone, so if you'd honor me with your presence, we can seal the bargain."

"Don't mind if we do," Hardy said hungrily.
"It'd be hours before we could get a bite in Ironton."

"I've eaten," the Sheriff said.

"Okay, you can see that the gold we brought in from Twin Peaks gets safely to the bank," Gateson said. "And deposit Elmo's dough!"

The Sheriff nodded, got on his cayuse and rode off.

"This way, gents," Elmo said, leading the way into his private tent. "Buffalo steak tonight."

The meal, served by one of Elmo's roustabouts, was a good one, but Gateson and Hardy didn't wait long after supper and coffee. Elmo saw them off to town with a few polite words and further thanks to Hardy on his promise to get him a permit to operate his sideshow in Ironton.

Elmo watched them gallop off. He retired to his tent, got a cigar and sat quietly, thinking, for a few hours.

At midnight, he silently slipped out of his tent. Around him the rest of the sideshow lay sleeping. Two roustabouts came after him. In town Elmo dispatched one of them elsewhere. With the other he circled quietly round the back of the bank, down an alley. Around them the town slept in silence.

"You breakin' in now, boss?" the roustabout

asked.

For an answer Elmo threw his weight against the back door of the bank. It gave. Fingers to

lip for silence, Elmo moved through a corridor into the main room of the bank. A figure stood before the safe, menacing, bending over it. The roustabout crept round a teller's cage at a signal, rose swiftly.

"No, you don't!" the figure cried. A hand with a gun in it appeared. There was a ghostly chuckle. "Now, we'll just have a look at you boys, and . . ."

There was a sudden sound of running from outside.

The glass door of the bank shook. The figure shrank back. Then the door burst in, with the Sheriff in the lead of a couple of hastily dressed deputies.

He looked at Elmo, drew his hogleg. Before

him the figure moved frantically.

The Sheriff's gun barked. There was a crack of lead on steel. The other's gun flew back against the wall. One of the deputies brought up a lantern. The light fell on the figure's face.

"Hardy!" the Sheriff cried.

"I caught Elmo in here, trying to bust the safe!" Hardy said.

"If that's so, then why did Elmo send one of his roustabouts to warn me the bank was being robbed?" the Sheriff demanded sarcastically. "So this is why you transferred gold from Twin Peaks!"

Elmo stirred a collection of burglar tools on the floor with his boot. "That ought to convict him if nothing else does," he said.

SUPPER I noticed Hardy slip something into Gateson's coffee. I figured it had something to do with the bank, and since my money was there, I decided to protect it. Hardy probably used these burglar tools as a blind. If he just opened the safe, Gateson would know it was him, because only Hardy knew the combination. He's probably got the dough he cracked from the other banks at his house."

"You'll have to prove Gateson was drugged!"

Hardy said hotly.

"We did, just before we came," the Sheriff said. "He's snoring. We couldn't wake him up. But Elmo said we'd better try, so we did."

Outside, Elmo tipped his hat to Hardy who was marching ahead of the Sheriff's gun. Elmo handed the Sheriff some tickets.

"Free for the show, Sheriff," he said, chuckling. "Too bad Mr. Hardy can't attend. But Mr. Gateson may enjoy it. He's going to need a little diversion tomorrow to get over his surprise when he wakes up!"

THE END



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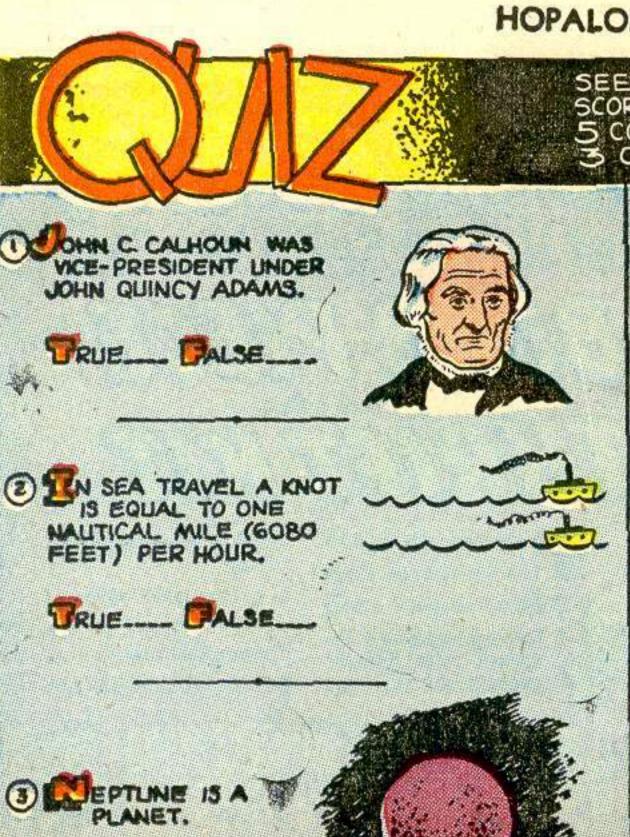
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TRUE___ PALSE___



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YEARS AGO FOR AN IMPORTANT
REASON. CAN YOU WAME IT?

HERE ARE THE SIMPLE RULES:

- 1. The contest closes Jan. 15, 1952. No entry will be honored if post-marked later than this date.
- Each entry must be accompanied by the coupon at the bottom of this page, Fill in the answers on the coupon along with your name and address and make sure you mail it to the proper address listed below.
- 3. Neatness will not be a consideration in judging the contest but entries must be legible to be considered. Skill in answering the questions and in stating why Hopalong Cassidy is your favorite cowboy will be most important factors in awarding the prizes.
 - Anyone in the United States or its possessions may enter the contest except employees of Fawcett Publications or members of their families.
 - All entries become the property of Fawcett Publications.
 - 6. In case of a tie duplicate prizes will be awarded the winners.
 - 7. The editors of this magazine will be the sole judges of this contest and their decisions will be final.

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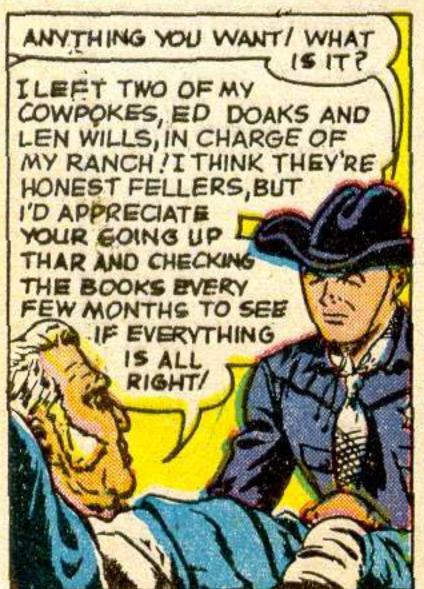
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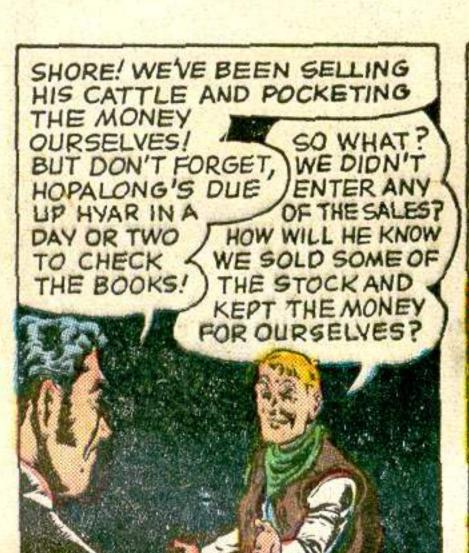
GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE TO LASSO A VALUABLE PRIZE. WINNERS OF THIS MONTH'S CONTEST WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE AUG. 1952 ISSUE OF HOPALONG CASSIDY.











BECAUSE HE KNEW HOW MANY CATTLE WERE HYAR WHEN SEWELL LEFT! AS SOON ASHE SEES HOW FEW ARE LEFT AND FINDS OUT THE BOOKS DON'T ACCOUNT FER THE SALES, HE'LL REALIZE WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING! I TELL YUH, THE ONLY SAFE THING TO DO IS BEAT IT!



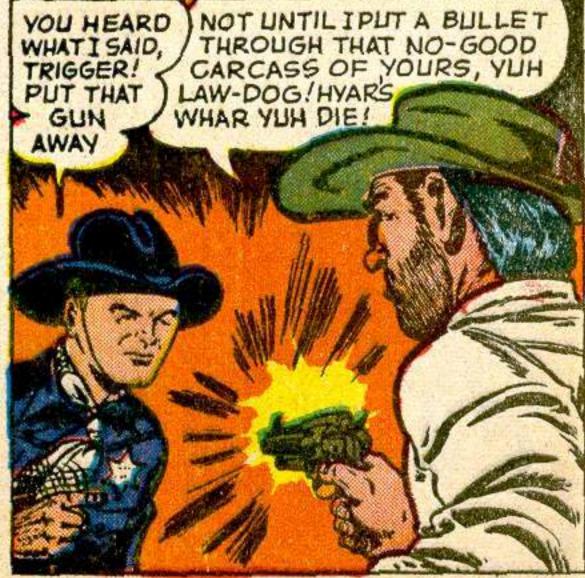


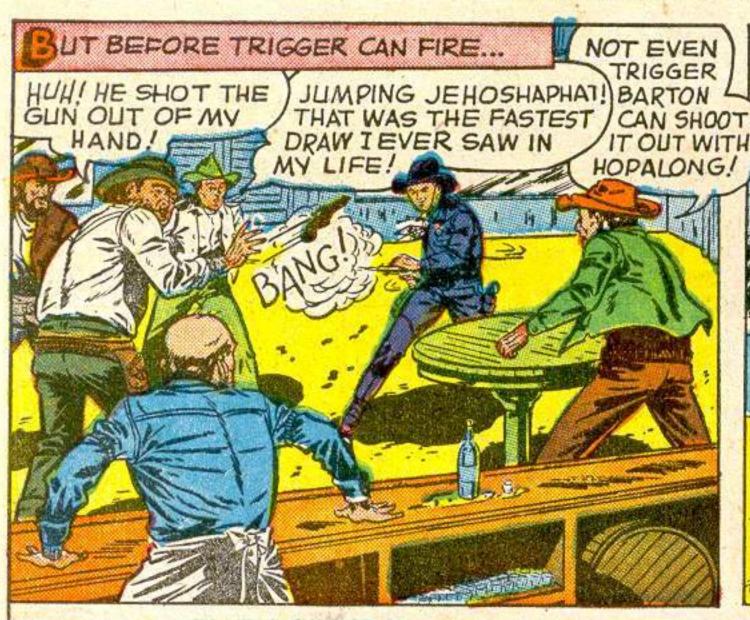














I'LL GIVE YOU TWELVE HOURS TO GET





















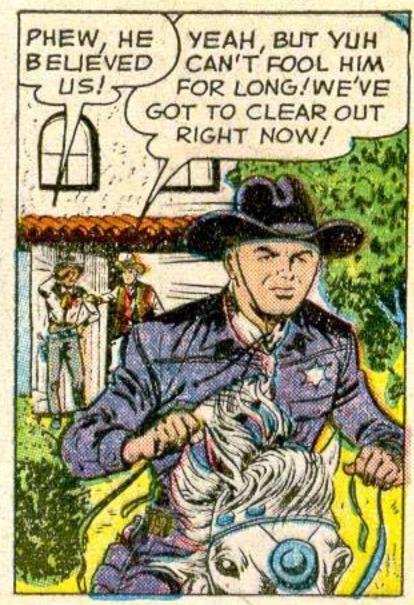








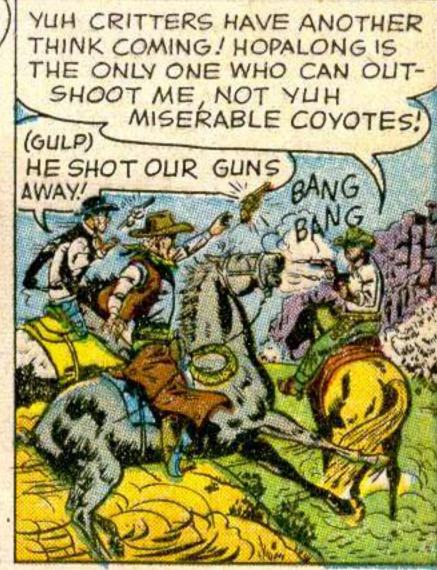




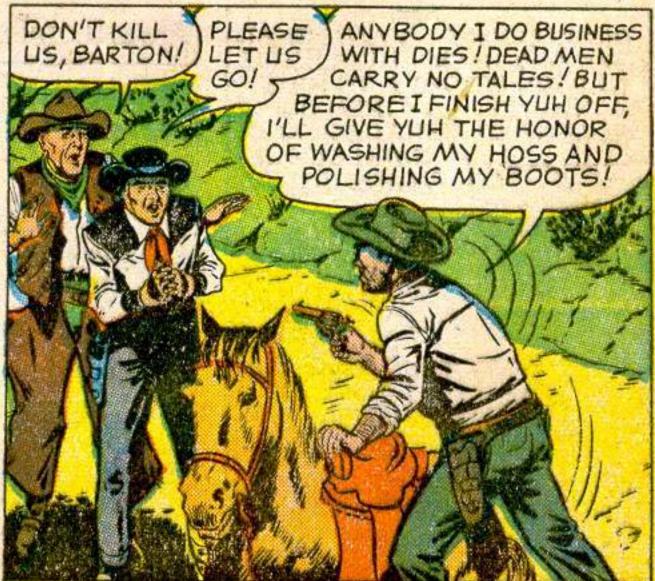






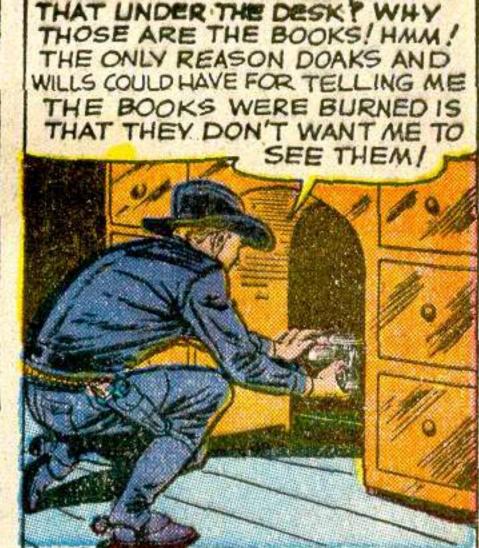












I'LL CLEAN IT UP ... SAY, WHAT'S

