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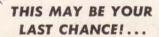
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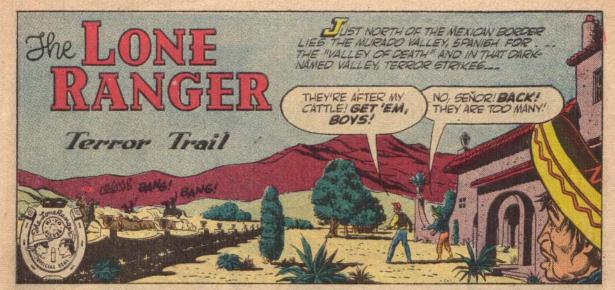
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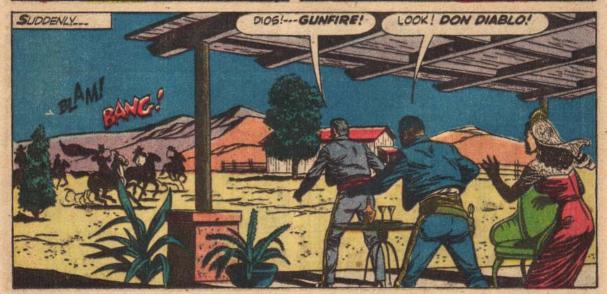








SOON AFTER, AT THE HERMANDSO RANCH.

















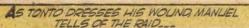












YESTERDAY MORNING, A DEPUTY SHERIFF VIGIT MY
RANCH AND SAY HE TRY TO FIND DON DIABLO! HE
AGK IF I KNOW ANYONE WHO WEAR CHIHUAHUA SPUR! I
SAY I NEVER SEE ANYONE WEAR THESE, BUT SOME OF THE
HORGES OF SENOR SHELLSY ARE SCARRED AND MAYBE
CHIHUAHUA SPUR PO IT! DEPUTY HE GO TO INVESTIGATE
--- HE SOUND SUCH A SPUR AFTER DON DIABLO

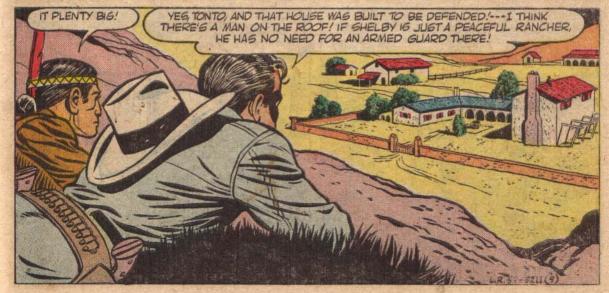


MANUEL, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN SI, SI! IT RIDE TO ROSARIO? I'D LIKE YOU IS A FOUR-TO TELL THE SHERIFF THERE HOUR RIDE, WHAT YOU KNOW AND GIVE HIM HELP BRING LET HIM MEET ME WITH A POSSE BY THE SHELBY TO ME--- 1 GO!































OldWaynes #441











































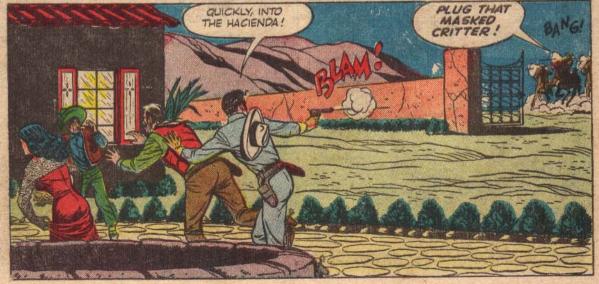
















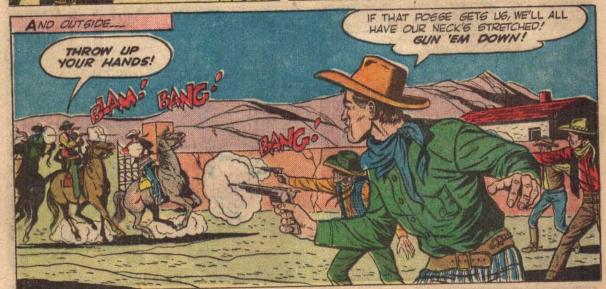






































The LONE RANGER

The Wagon Train

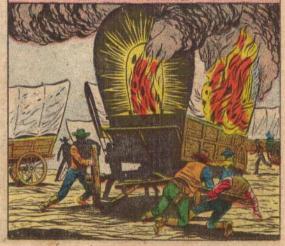
FROM KANGAS CITY, A WAGON TRAIN STRIKES WEST ACROSS THE PLAINS! FIVE SOLDIERS RIDE ESCORT ON THREE WAGONS OF RIFLES DESTINED FOR THEIR FORT! AT THE JOURNEY'S START, ALL SEEMS QUIET---OMINOUSLY PEACEFUL!



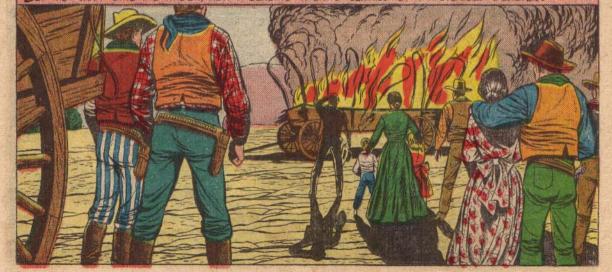
AS THEY CAMP A DAY AWAY FROM THE ARKANSAS RIVER, SUDDENLY ONE OF THE WAGONG BURSTS



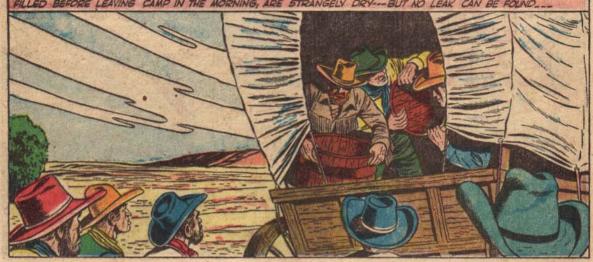
DESPERATELY, THE MEN TRY TO PUSH THE BURNING NAGON AWAY BEFORE ITS FLAMES SPREADS TO THE OTHERS...



BUT THEY CAN'T BAYE THE WAGON, NOW A BLAZING INFERNO CLAIMED BY A MYSTERIOLE DISASTER!



THE NEXT DAY, AS THEY PUSH ACROSS THE DRY, HOT PRAIRIE, TROUBLE STRIKES AGAIN! THE WATER BARRELS, FILLED BEFORE LEAVING CAMP IN THE MORNING, ARE STRANGELY DRY---BUT NO LEAK CAN BE FOUND.__



FRIGHTENED MEN AND HOMEN MURMER ABOUT TURNING BACK, BUT THE WAGON MASTER SELBY SPEAKS TO THEM



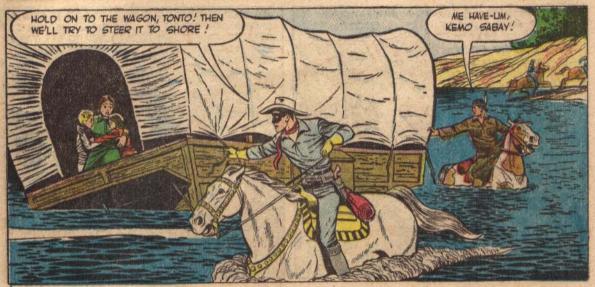
AS THEY FORD THE ARKANSAS, A WAGON'S TONGUE SUDDENLY AND WITHOUT EXPLANATION COMES LOOSE...



























MR. SELBY, FROM HERE TO RED

ALL RIGHT! EVERY-















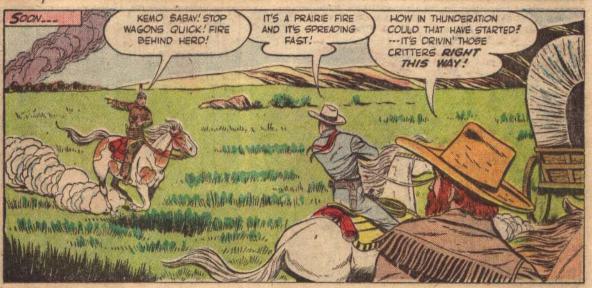


















































































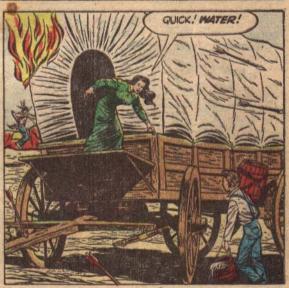




YOU WERE PLOTTING WITH THOSE INDIANS AGAINST

























The dust of the Great Hunt still tainted the prairie air, as Little Lance and his cousin, Badger Foot, skirted the edge of the slaughtering ground. They were only two of the half hundred Sioux youths assigned to the job of locating wounded or dead buffalo that the squaws had missed. Like all the others, they talked and dreamed of the day when they would join the grown men—when they would ride among the plunging bulls and cows, risking death from curved, sharp horns, driving in the arrows at close range!

But, first, they must prove their hunting skill as boys.

The hunt was over, for the day. The warriors—except two who had died under the thundering hoofs of the herd—were resting in their lodges. The squaws had finished skinning and cutting up and dragging away all the meat that they had found.

But they always missed some—a wounded cow that had stumbled into a brush-choked gully and died there—or a young bull, crippled but far from dead, and hiding in a motte of thick willows.

These strays must be found by the boys of the tribe—before the lean, gray buffalo wolves should find them and spoil the meat. And whoever found a carcass must stand guard beside it all night—against all comers! Sometimes a fierce grizzly bear was the finder, and then the boy guardian of the

meat was lucky if he escaped!

The red rays of sunset flooded the grassy plain, as Little Lance and Badger Foot neared the end of the "beat" assigned to them. It glinted on the water of the Great River, half a mile away.

"See!" exclaimed Badger Foot, the younger of the two. "The water is red like blood! That is a bad sign!"

"Bad only for the buffalo!" Little Lance laughed. "The river is much higher than it has been for years. That is how our hunters trapped the herd so easily on a neck of land! Come! We shall have time to look through that motte of willows before we turn back!"

With their bows strung and their nerves as taut as their bowstrings, the two boys pushed into the willow tangle. It was dangerous work—for a wounded buffalo can hide like a wolf—and charge from nowhere, like a thunderbolt.

Badger Foot had only the slightest warning—the snapping of one willow stem against another. He turned—in time to jump aside from the shaggy bulk that lunged at him, bellowing. It was a close shave! As the bull's flank brushed past him, Badger Foot whipped an arrow to his string and let fly.

The bull bellowed again—and whirled. Then another bowstring twanged—the bow of Little Lance—and the buffalo grunted. But he did not pause. He smashed straight to-

wards Badger Foot—as if the willows were straw! The boy could almost feel those wicked horns ripping him—those knife-sharp hoofs slashing—

And then, before he knew it, the danger was past!

Old wounds and new had ended the bull's fierce charge—and his life with it! Little Lance leaped upon the great carcass, to drive his knife deep.

It was long after dark and both boys were bone-weary, when the last of the big hide came free.

Heedless of marauding wolves or other enemies, the boys fell asleep. They heard nothing of the sounds of lapping, swirling water, as the river's rise flooded the flat prairie land about them. Not until the cool wetness of it touched their skins did they wake up.

And then it was dawn! Around them stretched an endless, boundless lake, with distant trees standing out of it. The land was gone!

Mud clutched their ankles when they tried to wade. The water lapped higher, and higher.

"We cannot swim across that great water," Little Lance stated, gritting his teeth to keep back his tears. "We shall die here, and when the water goes away the coyotes will—"





"Wah!" exclaimed Badger Foot fiercely.
"No coyote shall eat ME! We can make a big basket of the bull's hide. And keep dry in it! I once saw my mother's basket float away on the river. . . . Come! Get to work! We haven't much time!"

Working feverishly, the boys cut long, tough willow stems. They spliced and bent these into a big circle, using strips of rawhide. Then they bound the edges of the bull's hide to the willow-rim, standing waist-deep in water to do it.

When they had finished, Badger Foot climbed onto his cousin's shoulders, and jumped into the bull-hide boat. It held him! It still floated high! Badger Foot helped Little Lance over the rim. They were safe! Gradually the rising flood lifted them free of the willows, and they drifted on the shoreless, muddy sea.

On the second day, hungry, but proudly happy, they touched dry land. They had already been sighted, by relatives and friends who had given them up for lost. Wonderingly the crowd handled and studied the strange "basket" in which two lives had been preserved upon the flood. Now the Sioux had been shown—by two half-grown boys—how to cross rivers dry-shod.

IN THE HIDE OF THE BULL!



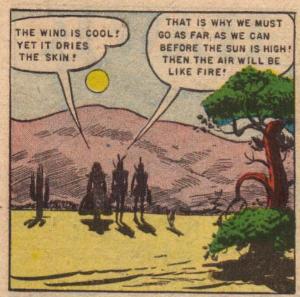
FIND THEMSELVES IN THE PARCHED WASTE OF A DEEP, NARROW VALLEY.

























BY MIDAFTERNOON THE SUN'S HEAT TURNS THE VALLEY INTO AN OVEN.





THAT EVENING THEY REACH A SHADOWED DRAW, AT THE FOOT OF THE ROCKY PANAMINTS.













FOR THE BUCK!













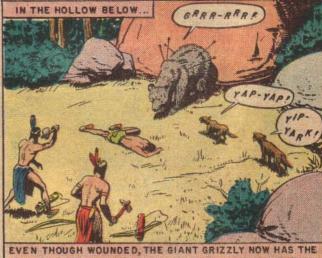
DESERT LARK IS BRAVE AND GOOD ---











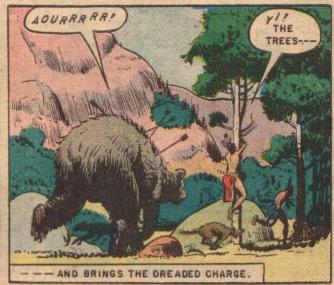






THINKING HE SEES AN OPENING, ONE YOUNG MAN HURLS HIS STONE AXE.











ABOVE THE BEAR'S REACH, THE INDIAN YOUTHS APPEAR SAFE FOR THE MOMENT.





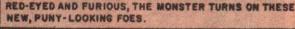


FOR LONG! THE YOUNG INDIAN SEEMS DOOMED ...











FROM HIS THROAT ... WALKING ON HIS HAUNCHES MOVES TOWARD YOUNG HAWK



FULL DRAWN, AND LOOSED THE BOWSTRING TWANGS ITS BRIEF SONG OF POWER.



LIKE A FELLED TREE, THE HUGE BULK OF THE BEAR TOPPLES TO THE EARTH--- SPINAL CORD SEVERED BY YOUNG HAWK'S ARROWHEAD.



BUT THE YOUTHS IN THE TREES STILL STARE, UNABLE TO BELIEVE THEIR EYES.



IN SIGN TALK THE STRANGERS ASK: "DID YOU SHOOT A MAGIC ARROW?" AND YOUNG HAWK REPLIES: "NO---ONLY A LUCKY ONE!"





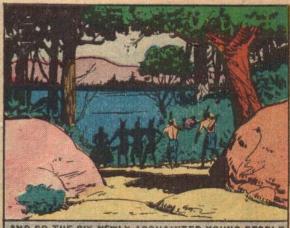












AND SO THE SIX NEWLY ACQUAINTED YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE THE TRAIL TO THE SHOSHONE CAMP BY THE BLUE LAKE WATER—— WITH THE GRIM TROPHY OF THEIR HUNT CARRIED ON A POLE.

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WE'RE AFTER BURIED TREASURE, DOC!

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