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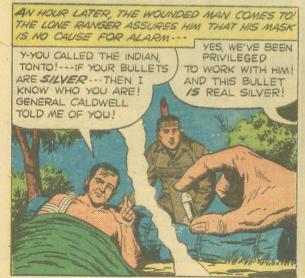






AS THE LOWE RANGER AND TONTO FINISH
TREATING THE MAN, THEY CHECK HIS POCKETS
FOR IDENTIFICATION, AND HIDDEN IN THE LINING
OF HIS JACKET, A CARD IS FOUND...

"MAJOR CLAY BURTON, UNITED
STATES ARMY! PRESENT
MILITARY POST...WASHINGTON,
D.C."!---BUT WHAT IS HE
DOING OUT HERE AND IN
CIVILIAN CLOTHES?

















































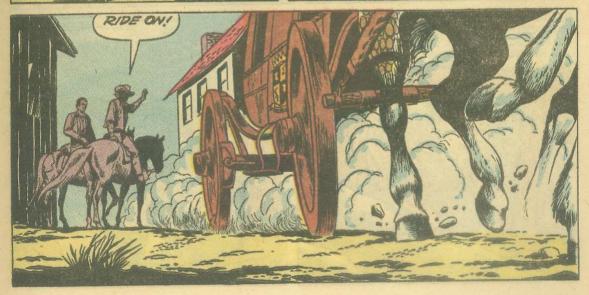




























































THE PACKET IS SAFE, THANKS TO YOU! NOW, NO POSSIBLY HOSTILE FOREIGN POWER WILL LEARN THE STRENGTH OF OUR WESTERN DEFENSES! ST

MAJOR, IN ORDER TO AVOID AN INCIDENT, PERHAPS YOU SHOULD RETURN THE HORSES TO THE AMBASSADOR'S STRANDED COACH!





FOR DIPLOMATIC REASONS, I WILL DENY EVEN I'M SURE YOU'RE RIGHT KNOWING HIM! ---TO DENY THINGS! YOU'LL BUT YOU WERE SAVE YOUR COUNTRY'S LUCKY WE WERE SOILED HONOR AND LET HELD UP BY A MAN YOUR AGENT SALINE I CANNOT HOLD YOUR GO TO JAIL! GOVERNMENT RESPON -SIBLE FOR--- A MOST UNUSUAL BANDIT A
PATRIOTIC OUTLAW!

























































































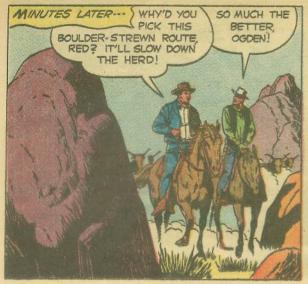
























The buckboard jarred Billy Butler at every rut in the road. It wasn't easy for a thirteen-year-old to hold onto the rough, rawhide reins, but a lot depended on this trip. Dad Butler was in bed, with fever, and needed medicine as well as foodstuffs. Farming land in the Bugle Basin was fertile but it was thirty miles from the nearest town. It was courage like the Butlers' that was pushing the Western borders towards the Pacific Ocean.

Billy wiped the perspiration out of his eyes, and patted the five dollars sewn to his pocket. Let's see, he was supposed to get flour . . . salt pork . . . barley . . . paregoric . . . and . . . and . . . oh, yes, deposit a dollar in the bank. Billy was very grateful when he saw the two-story frame houses of the town.

He hitched the two geldings in front of Barney's Drygoods, and hurried inside. Billy did not like to buy groceries from Barney because he always smelled of whiskey and he mistreated his hired boy, Jed. Billy was loading the flour when a familiar voice said, "Hi!" Billy turned and faced young Jed.

"Hi, Jed!" grinned Billy. Because neighbors were not plentiful in the West, Jed was Billy's best (as well as only) friend.

"Did you get your new Winchester?" asked Jed, eagerly.

"Naw. Not yet. Paw's been sick. I gotta hurry back with his medicine." "There's gonna be a horse race tanight!"
exclaimed Jed. "Could you stay an' see it?"
Billy shook his head. "Can't. Paw's sick.
I'm going over to the bank now."

"Gosh, Billy, I'm sure sorry about your father." There was genuine concern in the boy's face as he spoke. He remembered, with pleasure, the infrequent trips to Billy's home. The tall, raw-boned man who was never too tired to listen and answer a boy's eager question filled him with admiration. He was a mine of information about birds and wild animals and his stories of wild life and their ways kept the boys entranced.

Jed was fond of him all right. Perhaps it was because Jed, an orphan, longed for affection and he received little of it from his boss, Barney.

Now Jed said a reluctant goodbye to Billy who hurried over to the bank.

"What did you do, young fella? Strike a bonanza?" chuckled the teller.

"Put it in my father's account," said Billy, soberly.

At the precise moment the clerk reached for the dollar, the front door whirled open and three masked men, holding guns, rushed in.

"We don't want any killing," growled one of the men. "So don't anybody move."

The three desperadoes scooped up the money and ran for the door. But, in their haste, one accidentally knocked the mask off the leader. He pulled it back in place before anyone—except Billy—saw his face. Almost as quickly as they had come, they were gone.

Billy slipped away before the sheriff came, and started the buckboard towards the farm. He wasn't a law officer. It wasn't his job to catch crooks. That's what the sheriff was for. Besides, Jed was his friend and why should he make more trouble for him?

Billy got as far as Willow Creek before he knew he had to turn back. The man whose mask had slipped was—Barney—Jed's boss.

THE END

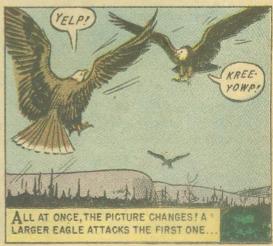




LIKE A FEATHERED ARROW, THE OSPREY, OR FISH HAWK, STRIKES HIS PREY---AND GRIPS IT!



























TO A SMALL BRANCH STREAM ...



WITH AN ARROW READY, IN CASE OF NEED, YOUNG HAWK RUNS UP, WHOOPING...THE COUGAR SNARLS, TORN BETWEEN FRIGHT AND ANGER...











FOR MINUTE AFTER MINUTE THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

--- NEITHER OF THE FIGHTERS ABLE TO BRING A
WEAPON TO BEAR! BUT YOUNG HAWK'S STRENGTH
IS LESS THAN HIS HEAVY ATTACKER'S.





































AFTER WETTING HIS BODY IN THE RIVER, YOUNG HAWK RACES AFTER HIS FRIENDS...















#### ANIMALS



The great elk, or wapiti, a name given it by the Shawnee Indians, is a forest dweller, though in summer he moves upward in the Rocky Mountains to the high meadows.

A fully grown male elk sometimes weighs as much as 1,000 pounds, and is ten feet in length. The great antlers of the adult bull elk, which may have as much as a 5-foot spread, easily distinguish him from the deer, which has smaller, more slender antlers, and the moose, which has great, dish-shaped palms in the center of his antlers. In the spring, the male elk uses his horns to fight fierce battles with other male elk for

leadership of large bands.

The body color of the wapiti is light grayishbrown but his head and neck are very dark brown. This coloring makes it easier for the elk to conceal himself in the forested country in which he lives. Coloration also helps the elk to conceal his young ones from danger. When the young are born, in the late spring, they are covered with white spots which whike blotches of sunlight filtering through the leaves. When the young elk lies down on brown pine needles, or any other dark forest floor, he blends so perfeetly with the background, that often he cannot be seen even from very close range.

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FORD THUNDERBIRD

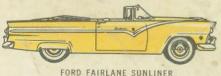
to get you to try the new. crispier, sweeter Grape-Nuts Flakes



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