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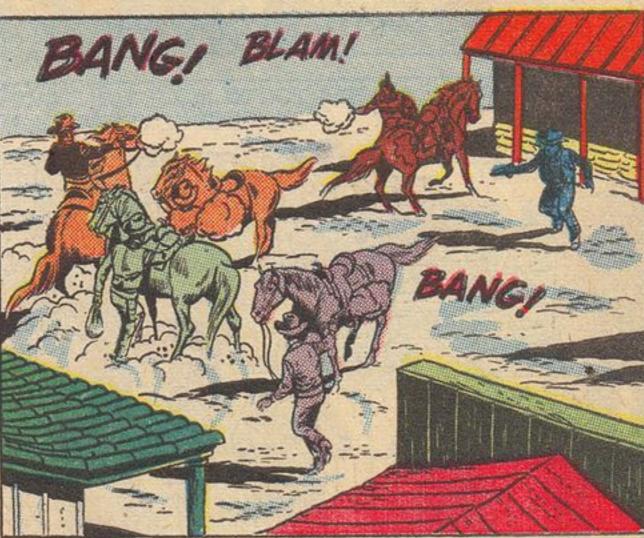
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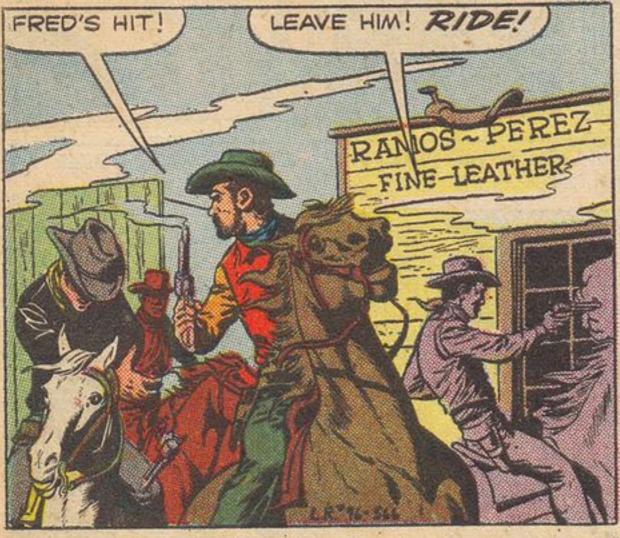
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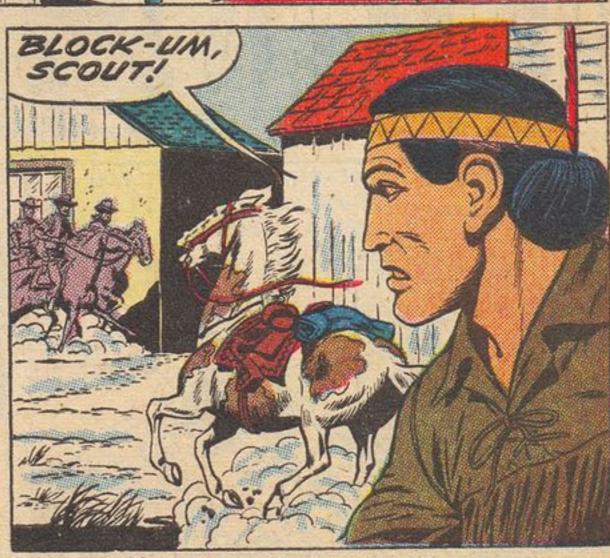
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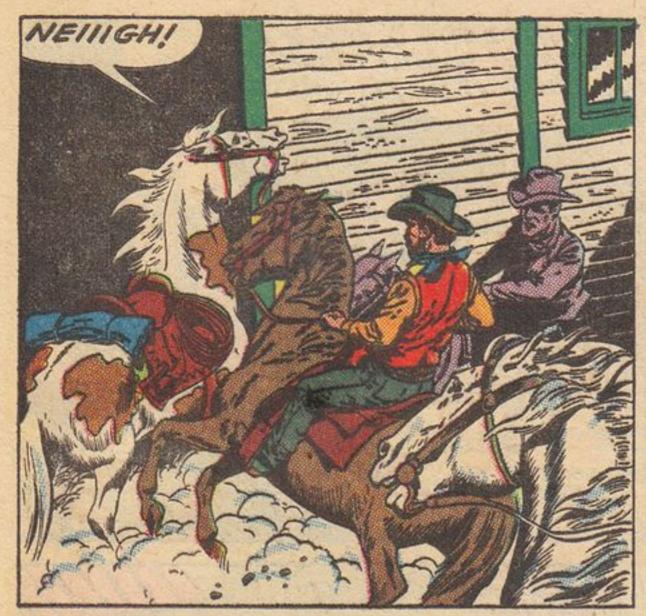




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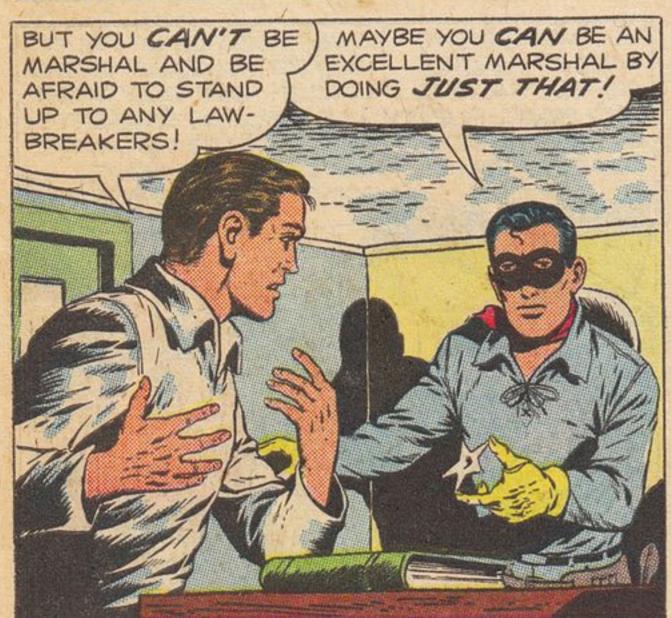






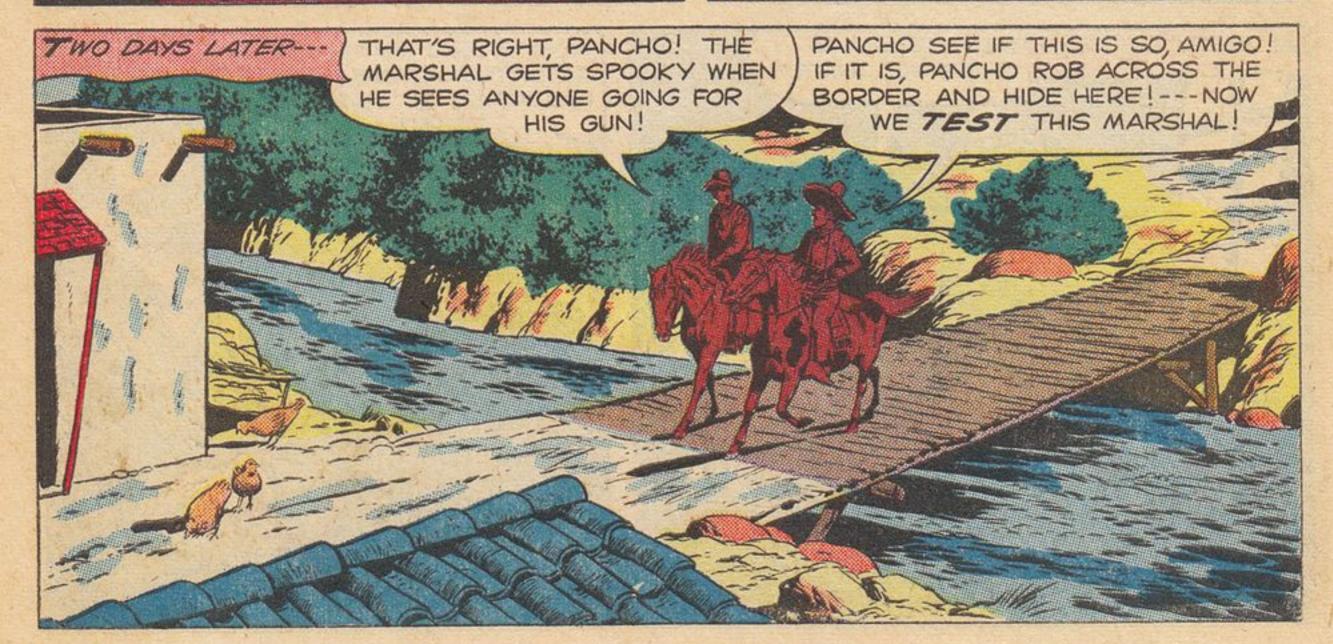


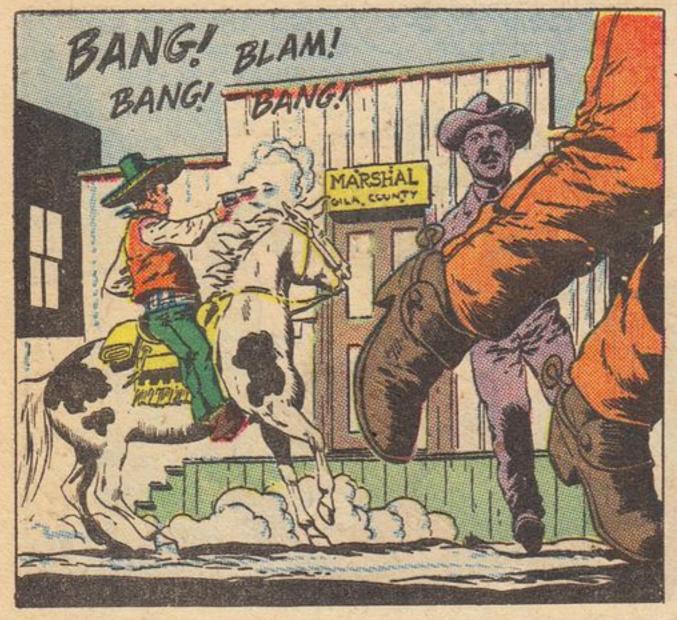






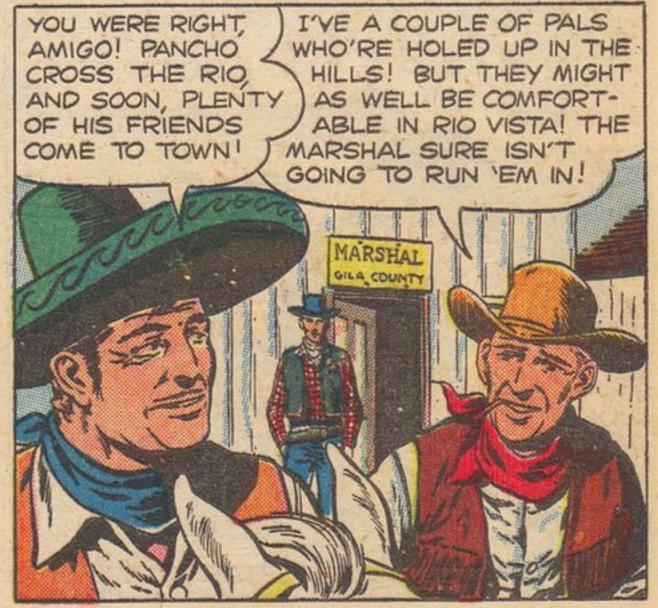
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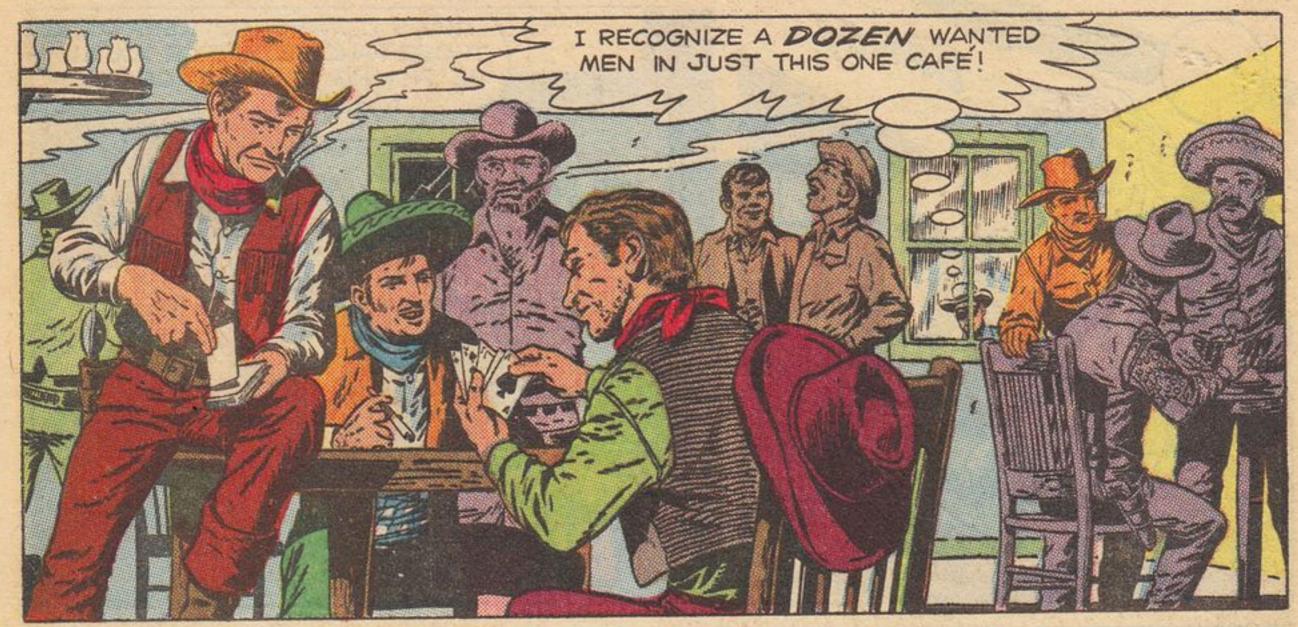




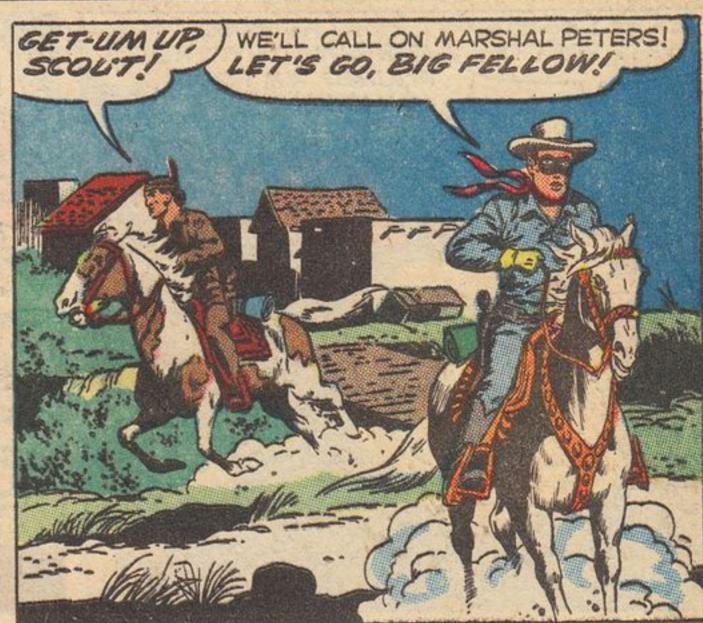




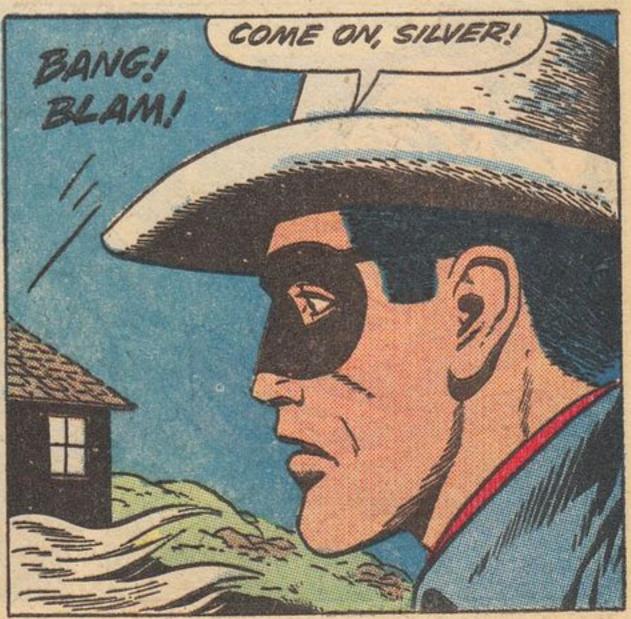








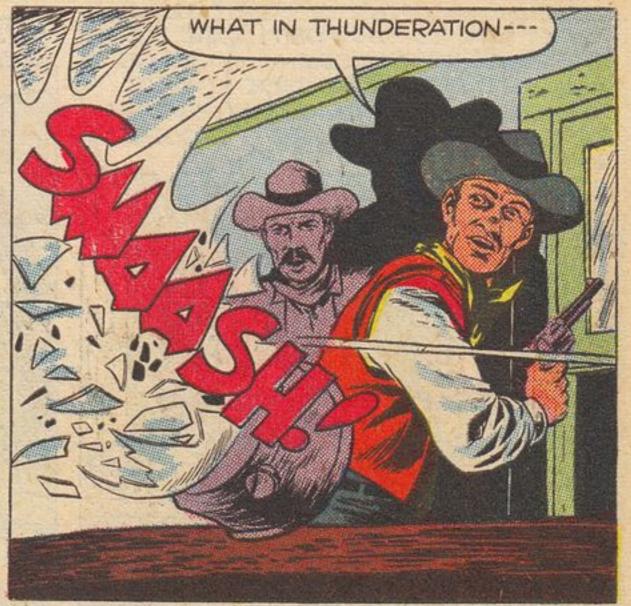










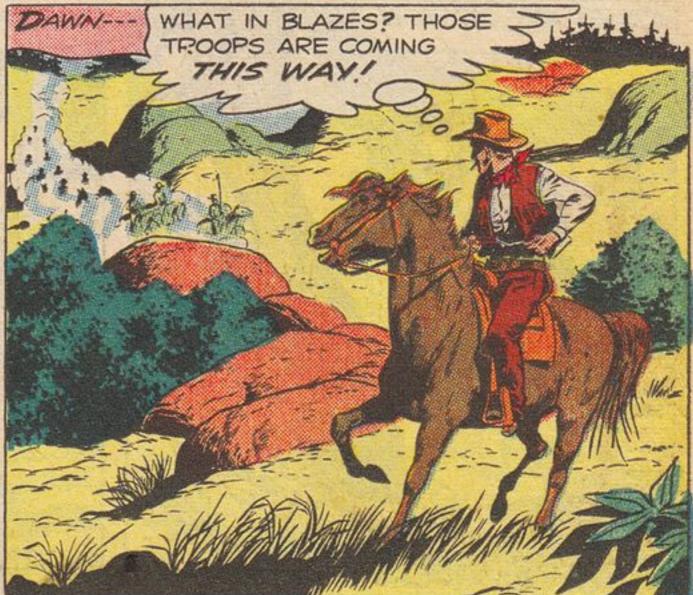


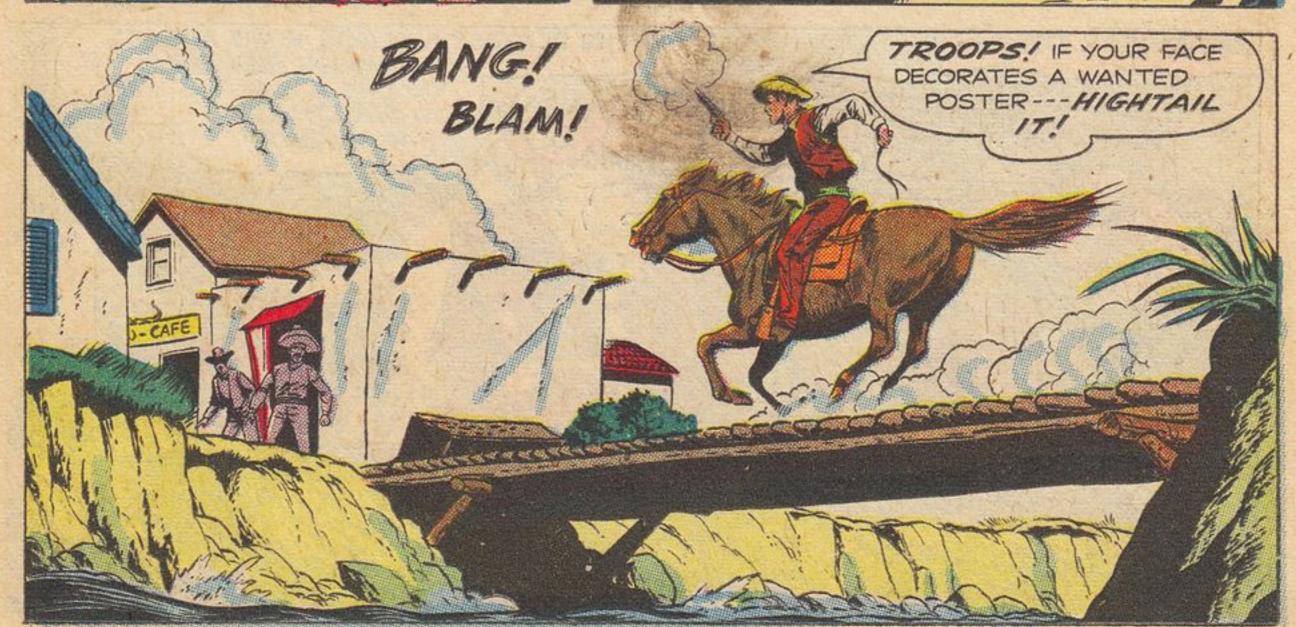








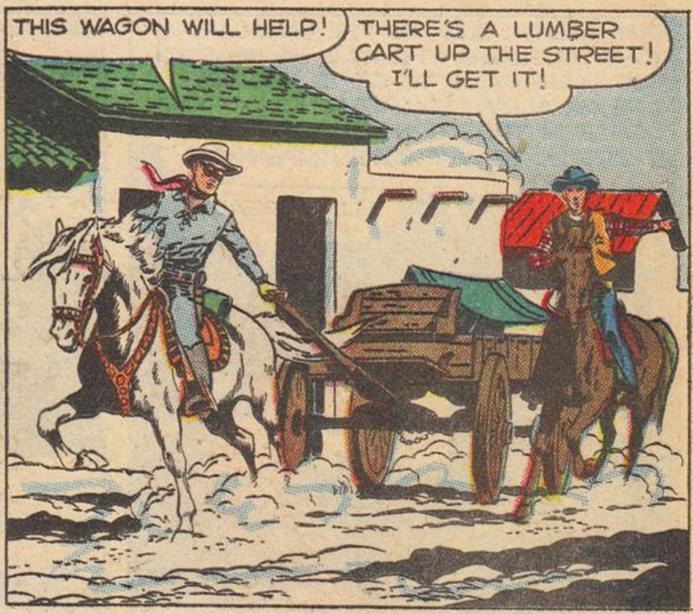


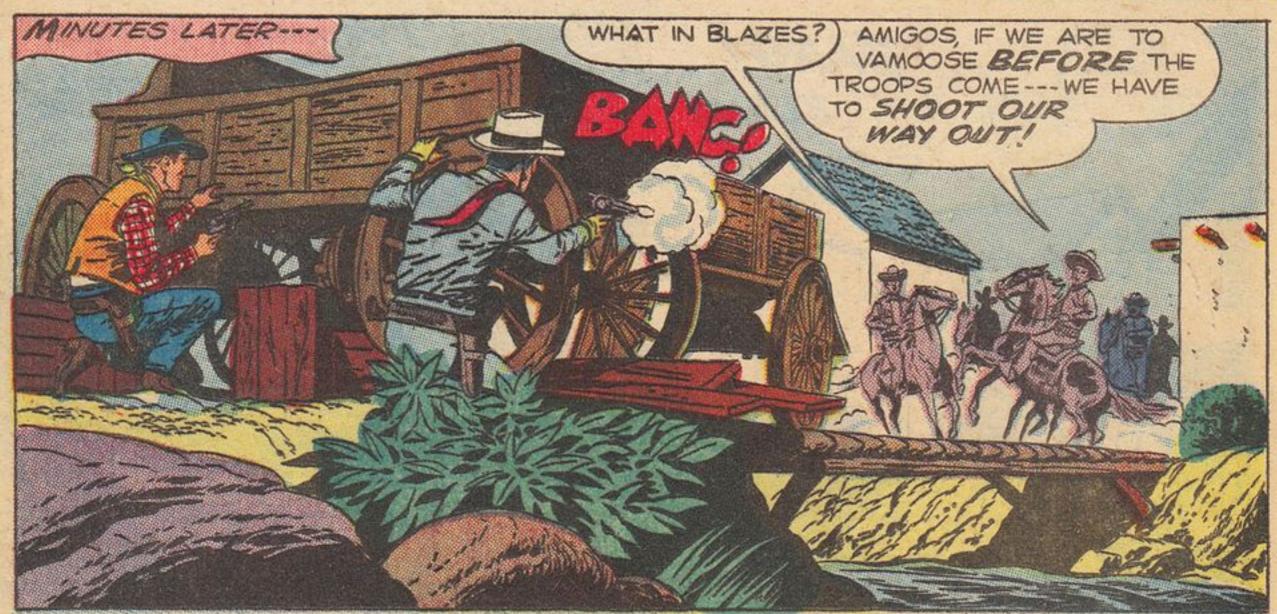








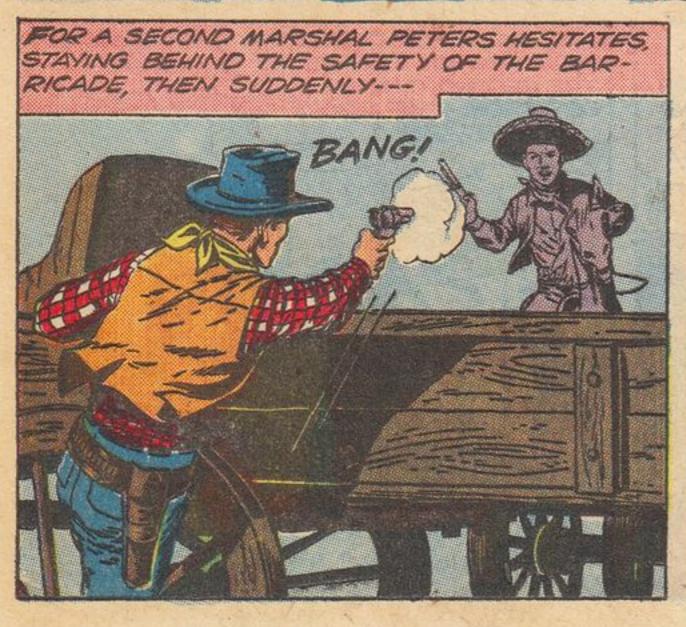














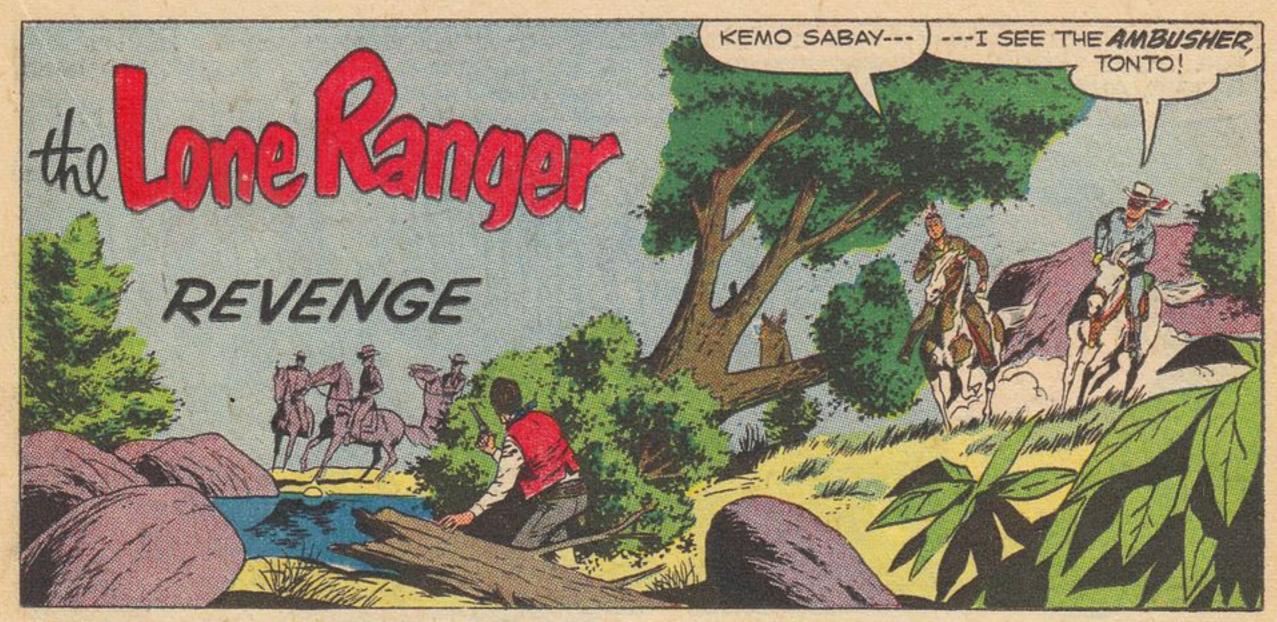




















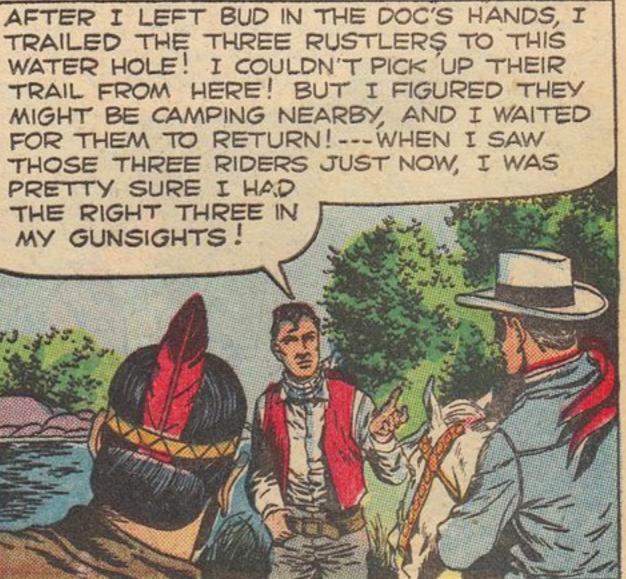


















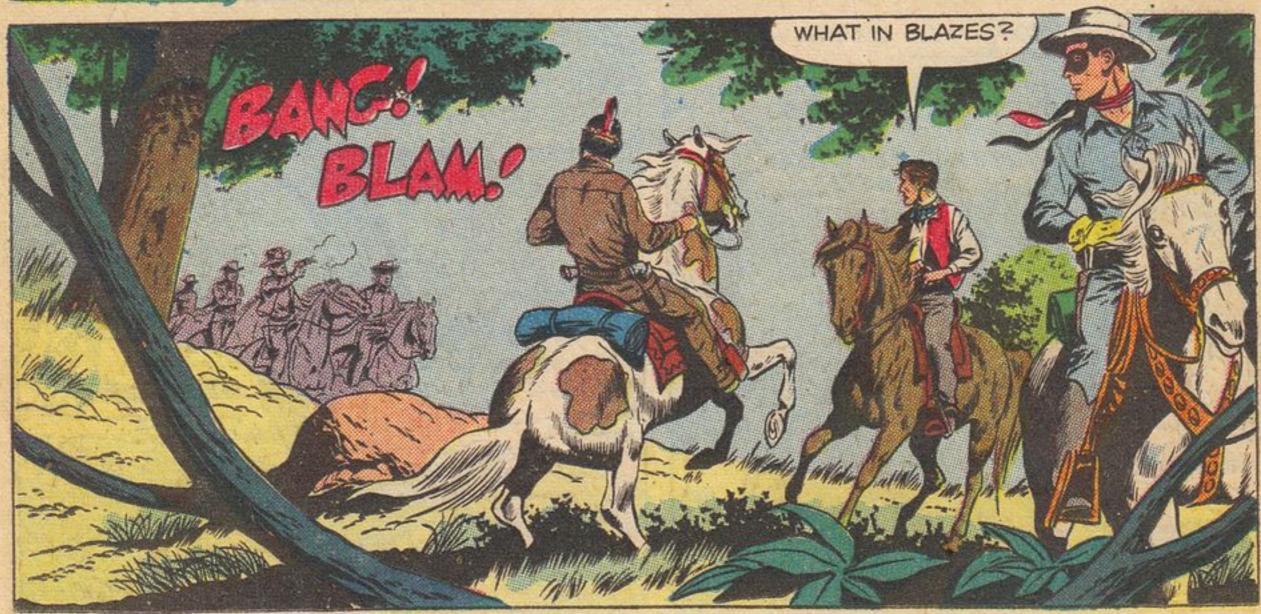




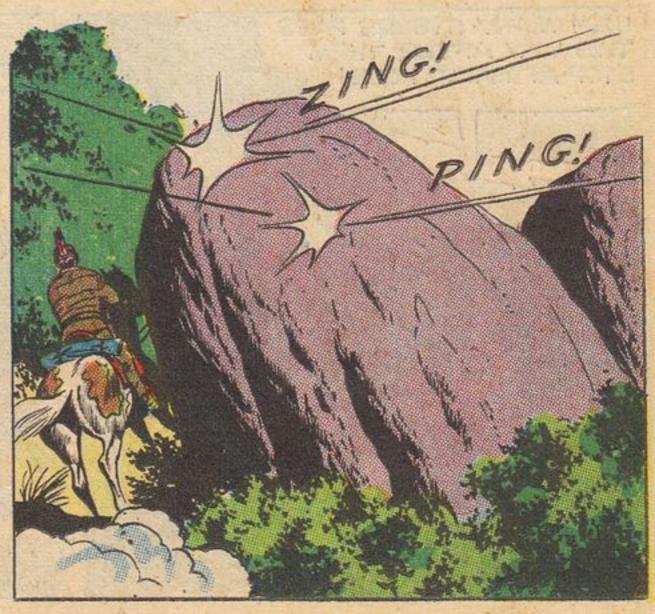


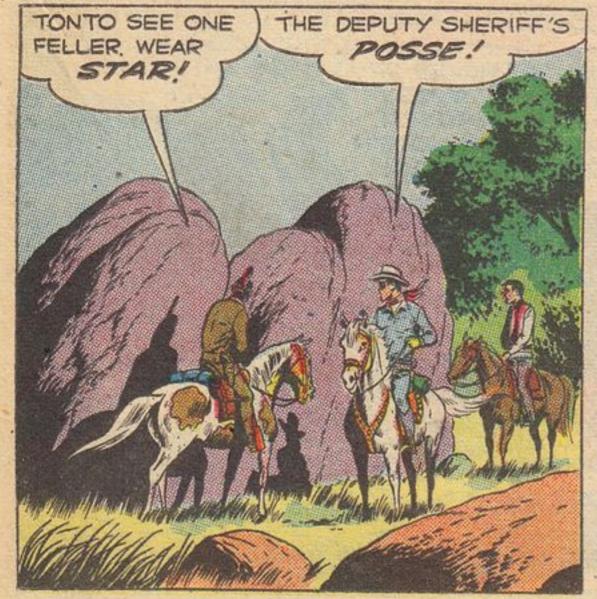




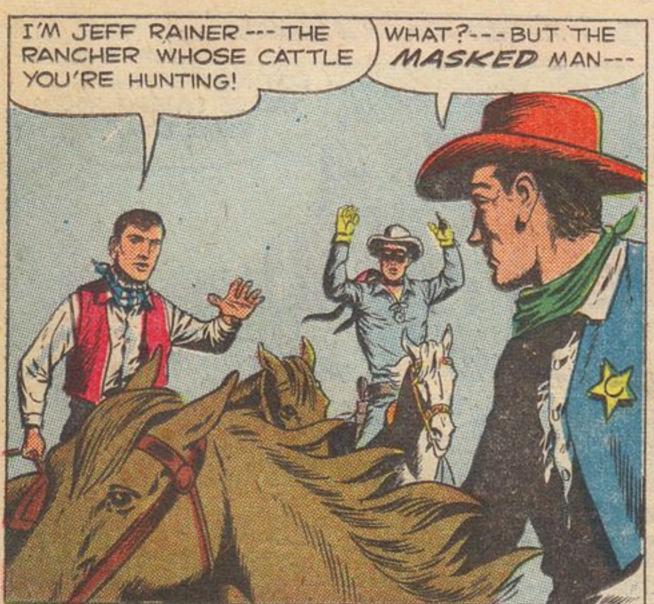




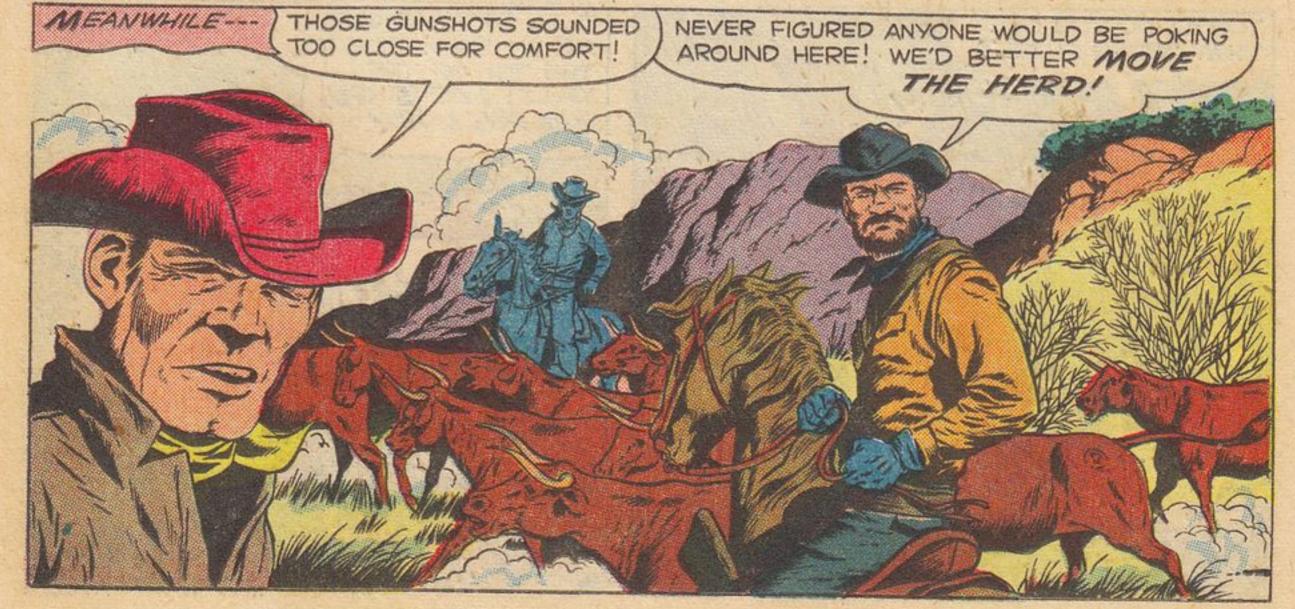
























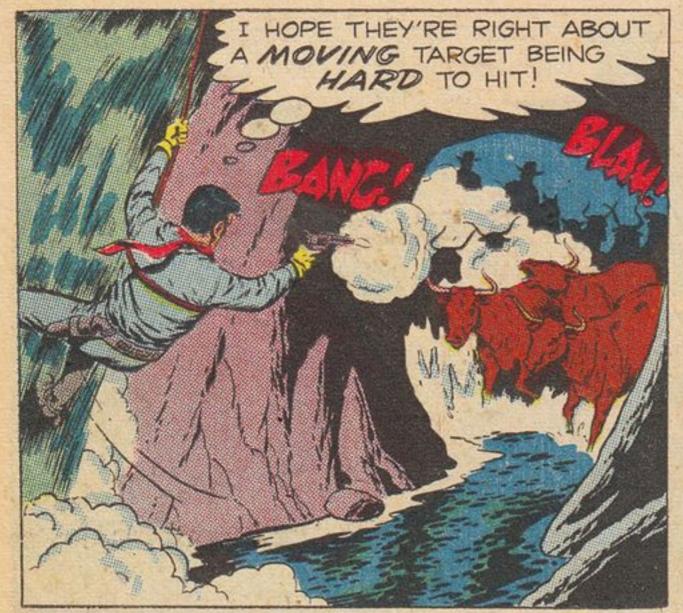




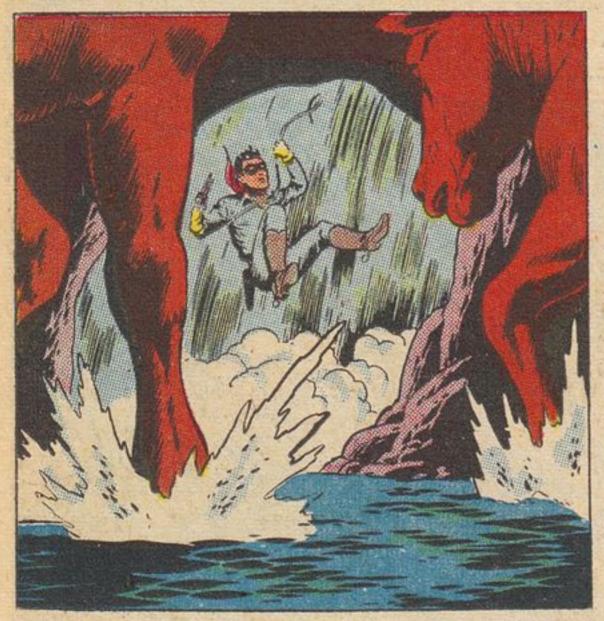




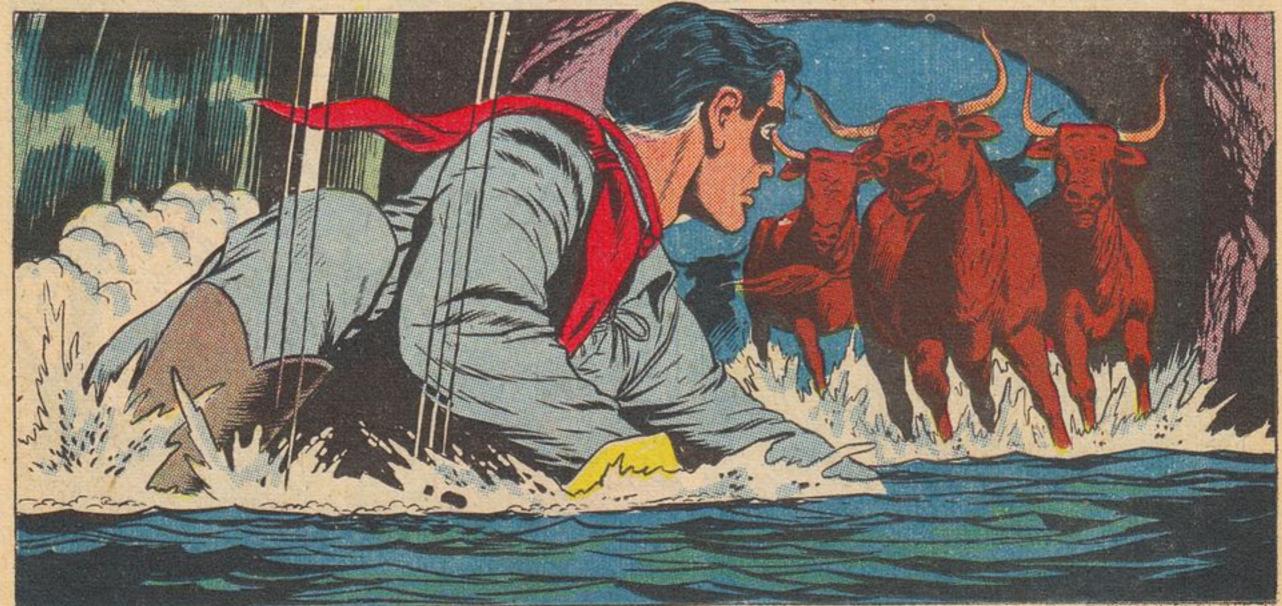








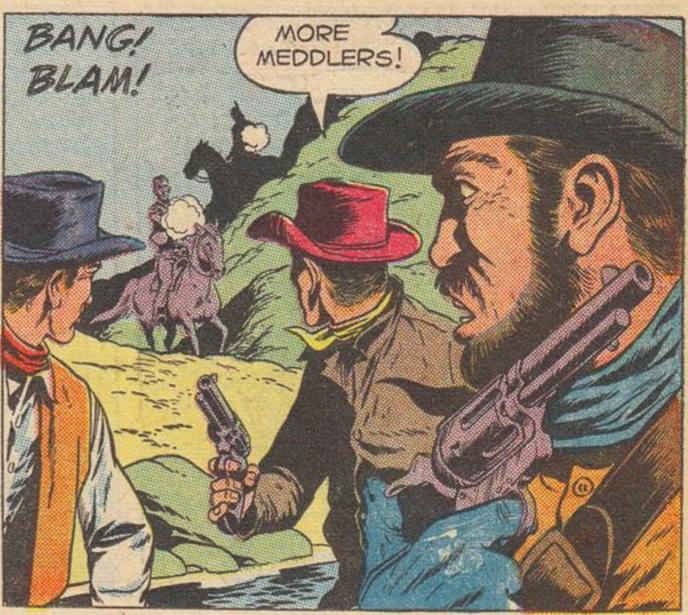


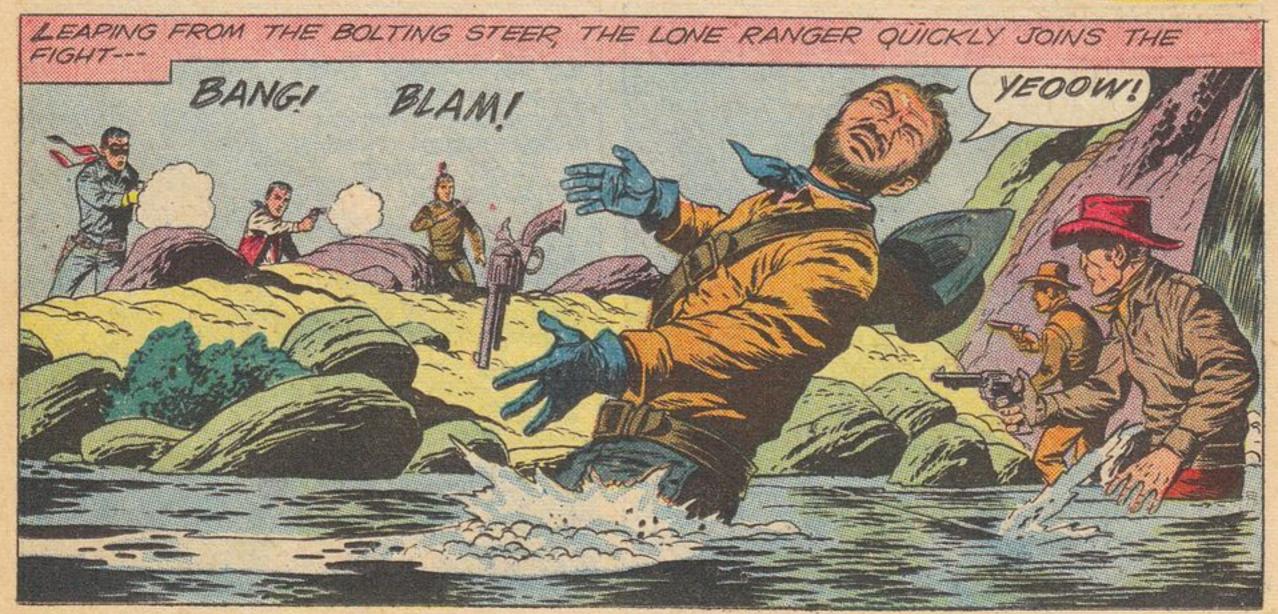








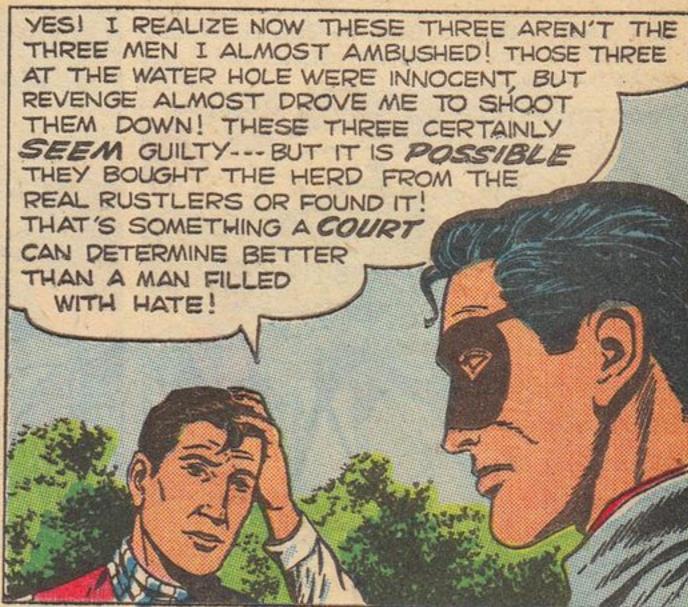




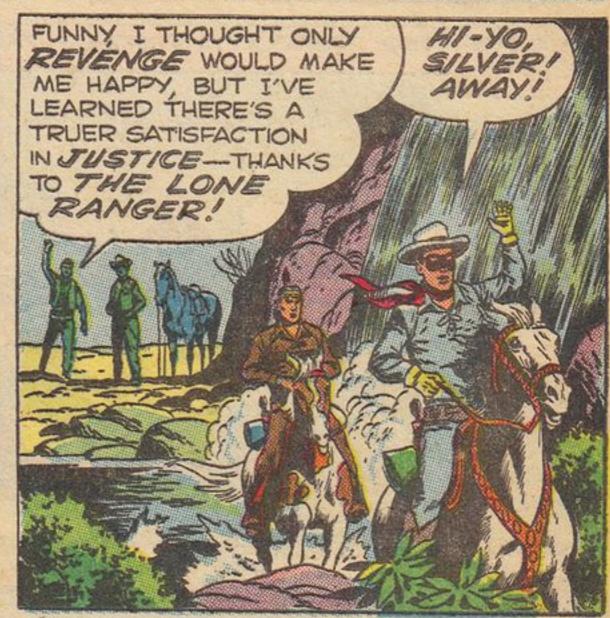












BONANZA



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They called him "Bonanza" Bolton—with a laugh. Nights when the cowboys ate around the campfire, Bolton was always telling how he would strike it rich. Days he rode herd, but any off hours he would spend prospecting for gold. He had had the gold fever since a boy.

"Find any strike today?" Slim asked that night, as he always did, slyly.

As usual, Bo!ton began eagerly spilling words. "Sure thought I had a find at Cripple Creek but . . . well, it was only yellow rock."

"Only gold you'll ever find is in your teeth," laughed Slim. The other cowpokes joined in the guffaws, as Bolton turned angrily away. He'd find his big bonanza some day and give them the horse laugh, wait and see!

"Psst! . . . you!" came a whisper from the darkness beyond the fire. A rough-looking saddle tramp melted out of shadow. "Heard you talking about quick riches. There's other ways besides finding gold." A pause—then, "For instance—rustling."

Bolton started. "Not for me—" he began, then paused.

His mind rang with all the mocking laughter of years from the scornful cowhands. A picture sprang in his mind—he was swaggering up to them sporting a ten-gallon hat, shiny boots and maybe silver spurs. How they'd choke on their laughs, then!

"I'm your man," grunted Bolton, suddenly. The two men settled to meet at sundown to-morrow. Alone, Bolton fought down misgivings—he would be an outlaw! He tossed all night.

Next day at the calf roping Bolton had about decided not to meet the rustler. He felt relieved. But before his tired eyes, his rope missed a blurred calf.

"Dreaming about that big bonanza?" chortled Slim, galloping past.

Bolton stiffened like a ramrod. In blind fury he changed his mind. He could take up cattle rustling just long enough to pile up a good grubstake for some real prospecting. Then he'd show Slim and the rest!

At sundown, Bolton rode off grim-lipped to meet the outlaw. Jogging through Mesquite Gulch, his saddle lurched. The pony had picked up a pebble. Muttering, Bolton dismounted and used his knife to dig the stone from the horseshoe.

Before he tossed it away, the last rays of the sun picked up a glimmer. A yellow beam! Bolton squinted closely at the pebble, then scraped off a soft shaving with his knife. He froze in shock.

Gold!

Breaking from his trance, Bolton searched on hands and knees for more. He gathered all the nuggets he could find in the fading light. He tied them in his bandanna and rode like the wind to the assayer's office in town, only to find it closed.

After Bolton nearly banged the door down, Mr. Horton at last came down, peevishly. "Can't it wait till morning?"

"Now," begged Bolton. "Please!"

Horton grumbled, but went to work. Bolton fidgeted at the tests, waiting for the verdict.

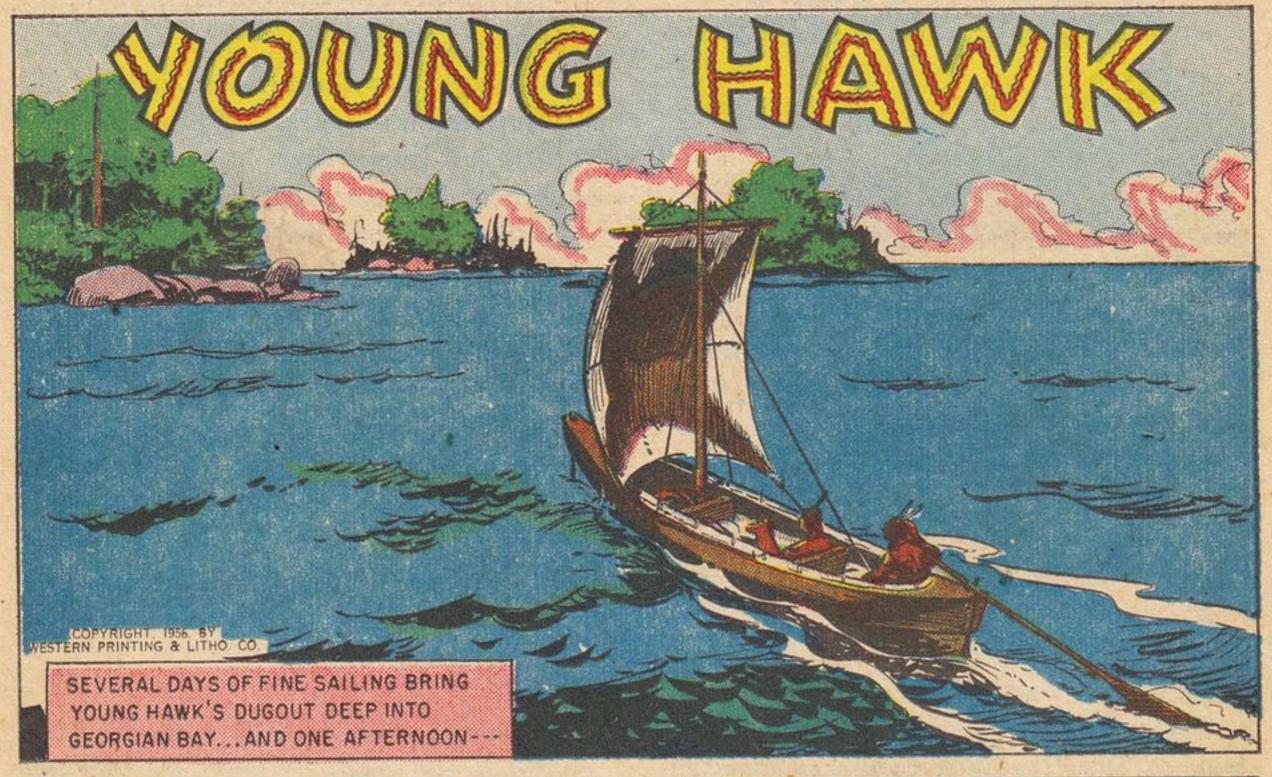
Horton finally turned, pityingly. "Sorry—only Fool's Gold."

Bolton stood frozen. His eyes were on the clock. Suddenly he let out a war whoop of joy that made Horton jump. Bolton ran out, still whooping.

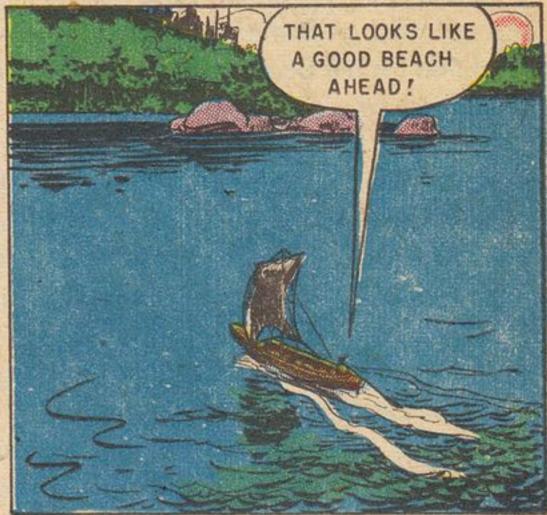
"First time a man went wild over Fool's Gold," thought the assayer, shaking his head.
"Went plumb loco, I guess, at the bad news."

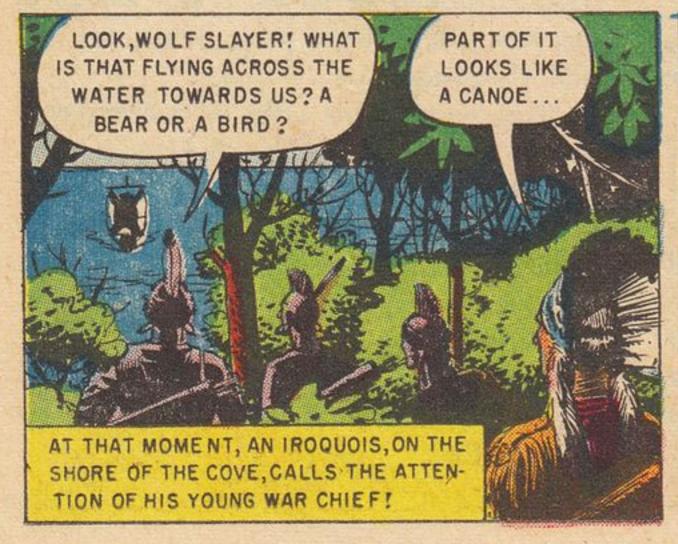
Bolton wasn't loco. He had missed his appointment with crime. He could still prospect and hope for his strike—the right way, without regrets.

"That Fool's Gold," he grinned to himself on the way back to the ranch, "kept me from being a fool."









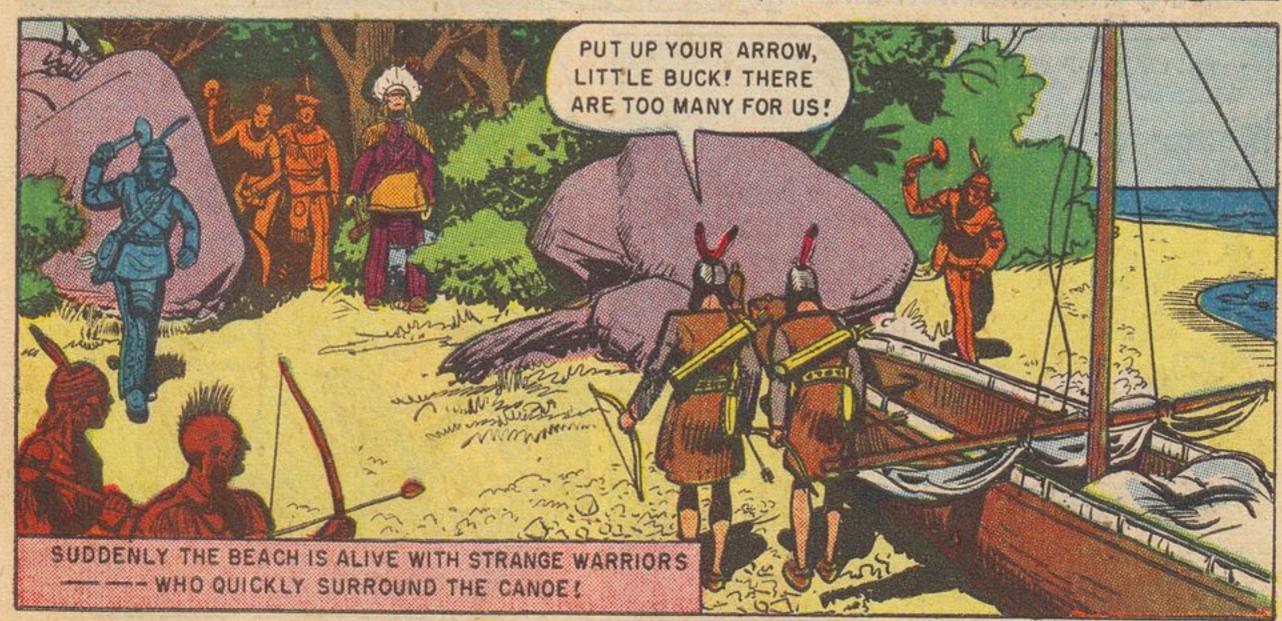






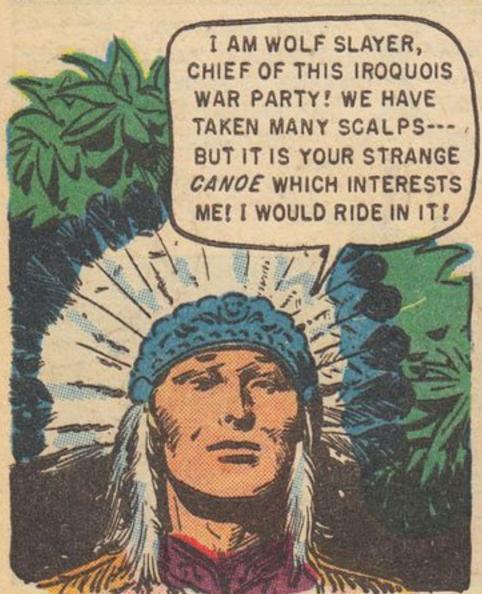










































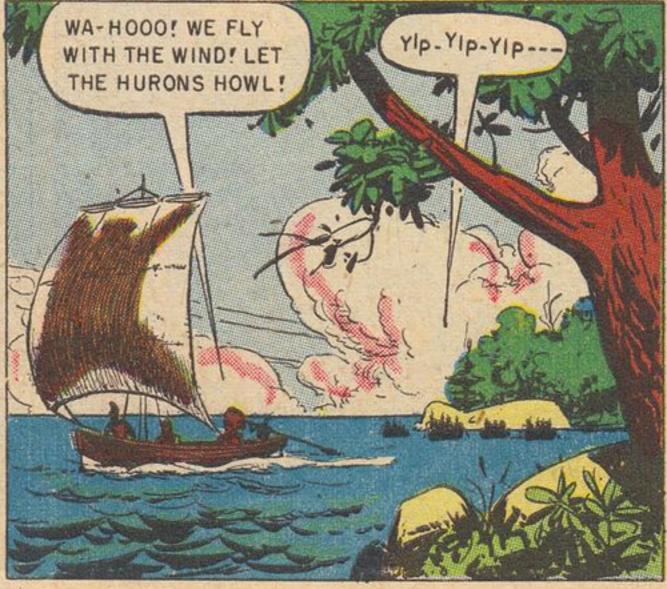














AND, SEE! THE HURON ARROW
DID NOT PIERCE THE WOOD --- AS
IT WOULD HAVE PIERCED BIRCH BARK!
THIS IS A STRONG CANOE!













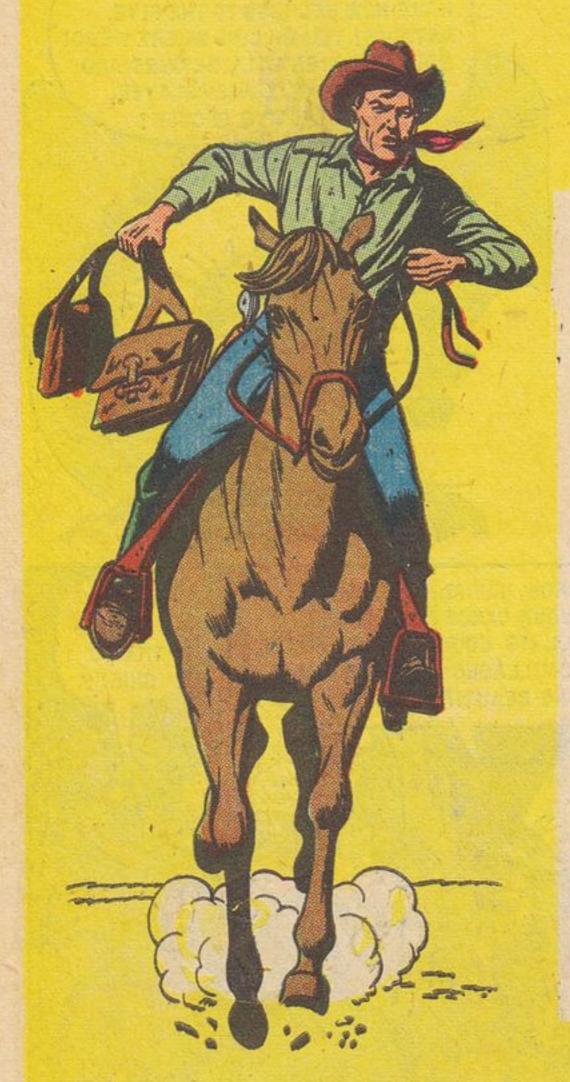










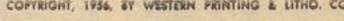


THE PONY EXPRESS RIDER

On April 3, 1860, at 5 P.M., a courier mounted a fast, spirited steed in St. Joseph, Missouri, and headed westward at breakneck speed. At about the same time, in San Francisco, another rider began a dash toward the East. These were the first Pony Express riders.

During the eighteen months of the Pony Express's short history, many miracles of endurance and bravery were performed, before the famous relay system was replaced by the telegraph line. Racing from station to station, the average courier carried his precious cargo between 40 and 125 miles at a clip. Whether he rode over mountains or plains, or through dangerous Indian territories; whether his ride was at night or during the day, in stifling heat or cruel blizzards, the courageous riders of the Pony Express almost never failed to bring the mails to its destination. It is said that only one mail was lost in a total of 650,000 miles in the saddle.

Many of the express riders were products of the frontier, selected for their light weight and cool-headedness in times of danger. All were able to ride and shoot with amazing skill. Buffalo Bill Cody was, early in his career, a Pony Express rider.



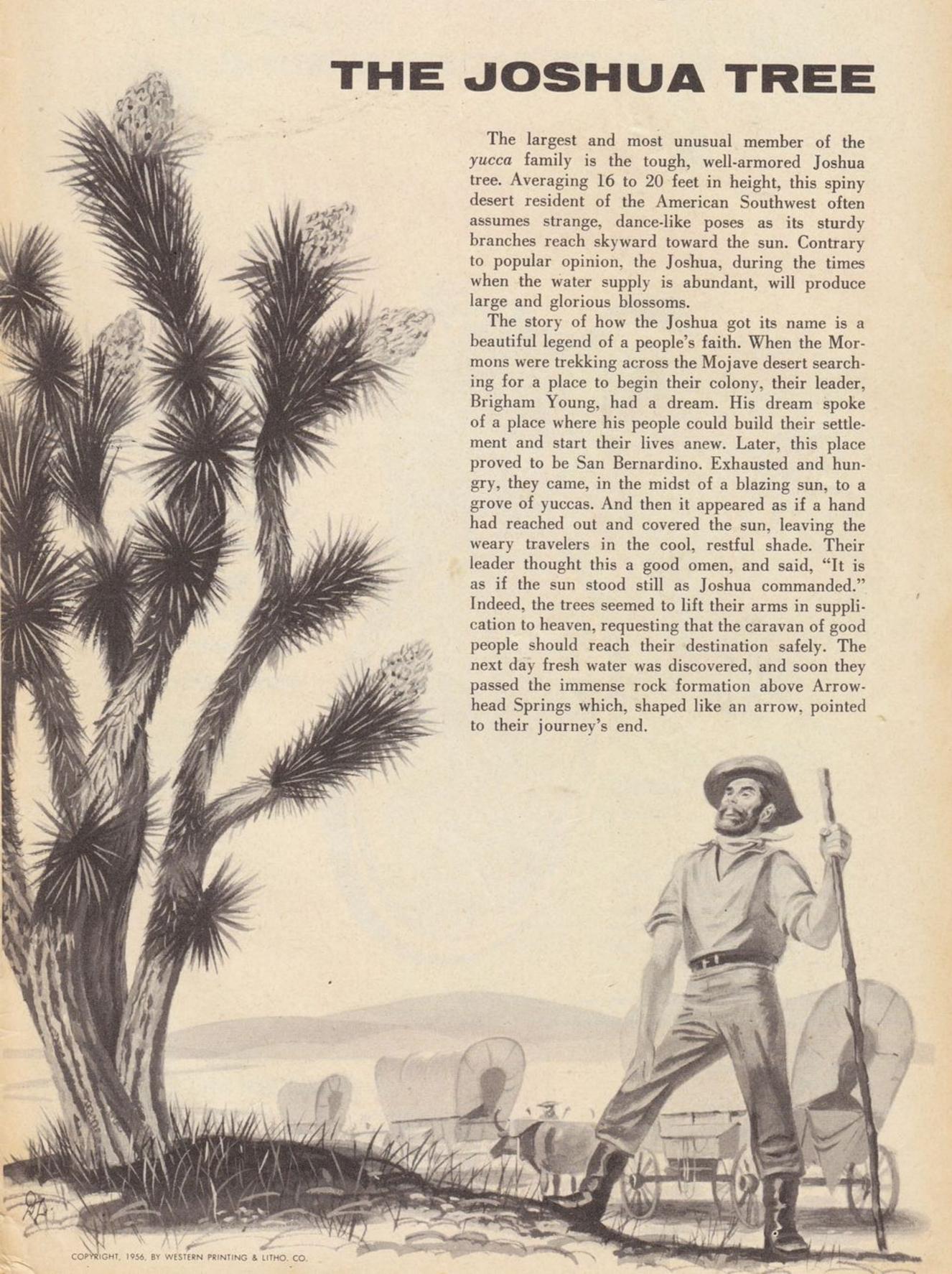


It took more than Tonto's skill and bravery to meet the challenge of "The Contest!"

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