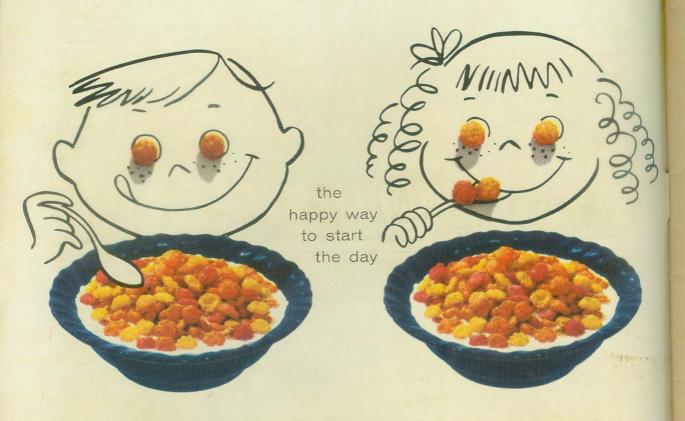


THE HAPPY CEREAL!



THE HAPPY SNACK!













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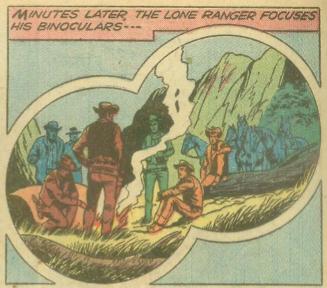








































BUT ONLY SILVER HAS BEEN BEYOND THE PASS AND TO THE REST OF THE WILD MUSTANGS, UNKNOWN DANGERS LIE THERE! FEAR CON-QUERS---THE MUSTANGS REFUSE TO LEAVE THE ACCUSTOMED SAFETY OF THE VALLEY, THE BLACK LEADER CHALLENGES SILVER---



























Dismounting at the General Store, Dodge Mason glanced at the horses tied to the hitching post. His face fell as he saw the fancy rig that belonged to Dude Henshaw. Mason hesitated. He would have waited another week before picking up supplies if he had known the Dude was in town.

Standing undecided, Mason's thoughts flew back bitterly. It was the Dude who had given Mason the hated nickname of "Dodge." Equipped by nature with 220 pounds of solid bone and muscle on a sixfoot-four frame, nobody reckoned Jim Mason would sidestep a challenge. But Dude Henshaw had been daring and curious enough to find out.

One day, the Dude had waited for him. Deliberately tripping Mason, he had sent the big man sprawling in the dust. Mason had risen slowly, dusted himself off, and quietly said, "Reckon I should

have dodged."

"You did dodge . . . a fight!" sneered the Dude. "From now on that's what I'll call you . . . Dodge Mason, see?"

The despicable nickname had clung.

Mason shrugged off these thoughts now, and strode in the store. He knew what to expect. Dude Henshaw's sarcastic voice greeted him. "Well, if it isn't Dodge Mason, who never misses a fight. Never misses dodging it, that is!"

Scornful laughter from others in the store filled Mason with bitter shame. Yet, he silently turned away and quietly ordered his supplies, trying to ignore the

snickers behind his back.

When Mason packed his horse outside, the Dude was waiting in his saddle with one more cutting remark. "Don't tangle with any tough rabbits, Dodge!"

Listening people roared. Mason hung his head. He wished he could explain, but

knew he could not.

Galloping off, the Dude turned, to grin back maliciously. The grin was his undoing. He didn't see the wagon coming down the street. The driver yelled, but too late. Both horses reared and swerved to avoid collision.

The Dude was flung out of his saddle. The wagon upended on two wheels and teetered. It would obviously turn turtle in a moment and crash to the ground near the stunned form of Dude Henshaw.

It was only then that the frightened driver yelled. . . . "My wagon . . . it's

loaded with . . . dynamite!'

If the crazily spinning wagon turned over, the jolting crash might well set the explosives off . . . near the dazed form of Dude Henshaw, unable to gain his feet.

Mason had started running at the first sign of trouble. He was close to the wagon before it tilted completely over.

"Stop," screeched the horrified driver as he ran away, "you'll only get blown

up too!"

Mason didn't stop. With a last leap he was in position to catch the edge of the overturning wagon. Exerting tremendous force, he heaved the wagon back on its wheels. It bounced a bit, but there was no deafening blast.

Mason stood panting, soaked with sweat. The Dude got to his feet, shaky and pale. People gathered around, silent at what had nearly been a ghastly trag-

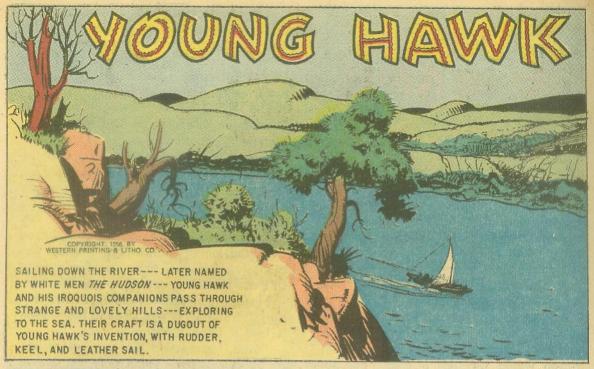
edy.

"You . . ." The Dude choked and began again. "You could have been killed. No . . . no coward would have done what you did. But gosh sakes, man . . . how come you never fight? It just doesn't make sense!"

"Don't you know?" spoke up the wagon driver. "Up north, where I used to live, Jim Mason had a fight with a horse thief... and nearly killed him accidentally. Didn't know his own strength. After that he swore he'd never fight again. Did you folks think he was a coward?"

Dude Henshaw winced. Then he stuck out his hand. "Shake, Mason. . . . JIM Mason. Anybody forgets to call you that from now on, they'll have to dodge me."

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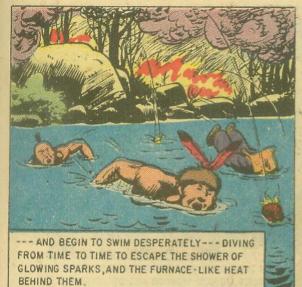






























FACES MIRROR WONDER AND DELIGHT.

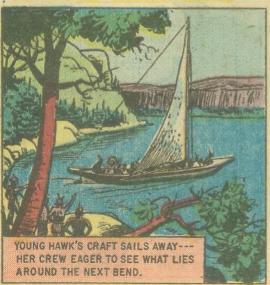






















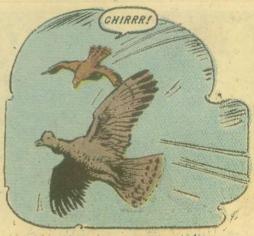










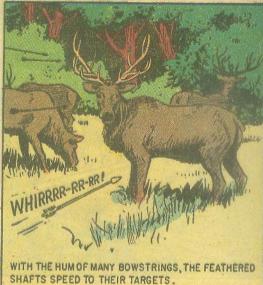


WOLF SLAYER'S WARNING IS LOST ON LITTLE BROTHER, THE TINY HAWK --- WHOSE HUNTING INSTINCTS LET NO GAME ESCAPE.













BUT THE WOUNDED BULL IS A FIGHTER --- AND QUICKER ON HIS FEET THAN WOLF SLAYER, WHO RUSHED IN TOO FAST!















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