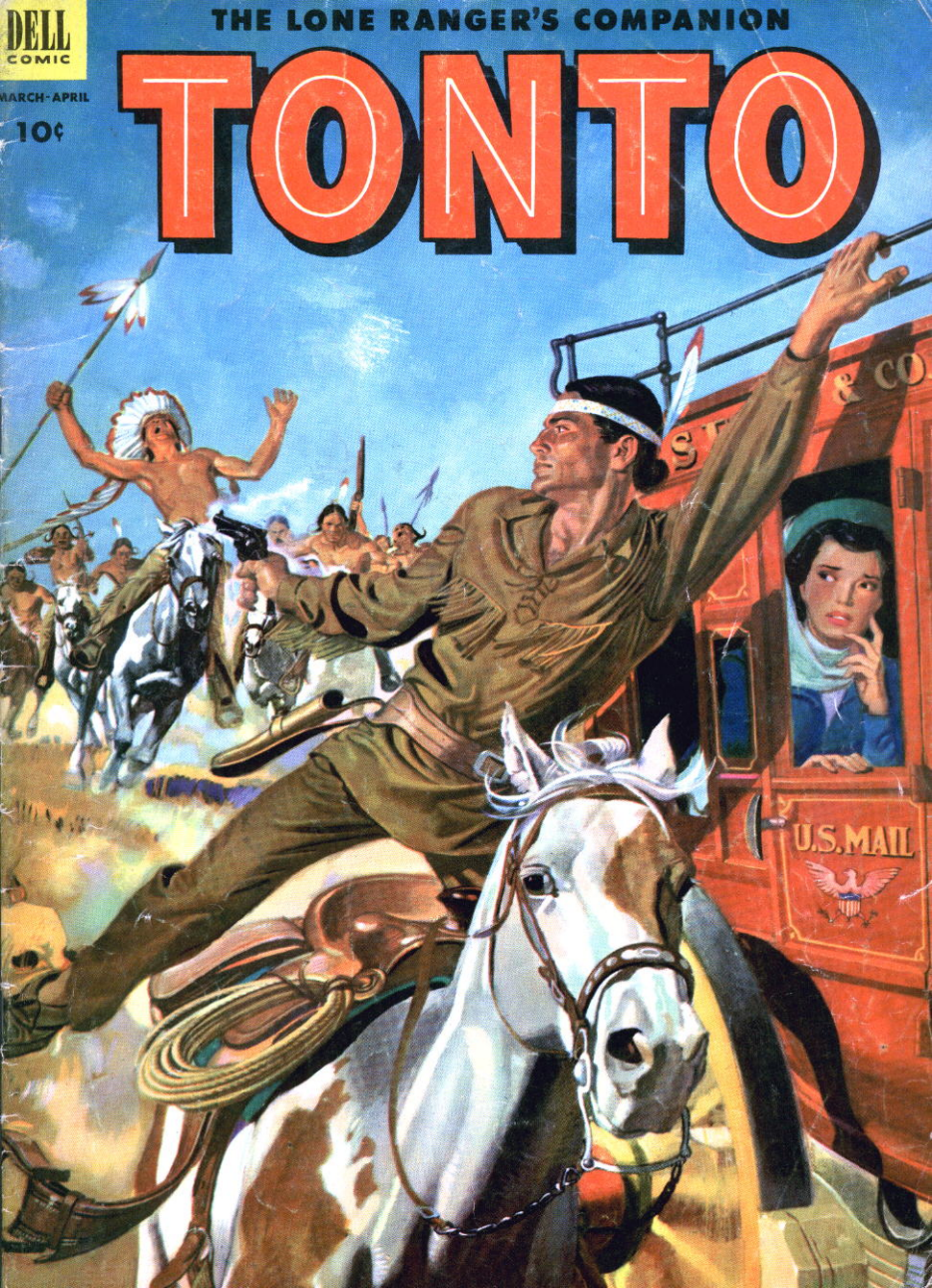
DELL
COMIC
MARCH-APRIL
10¢
THE LONE RANGER'S COMPANION
TONTO
U.S. MAIL

CHIEF RED CLOUD

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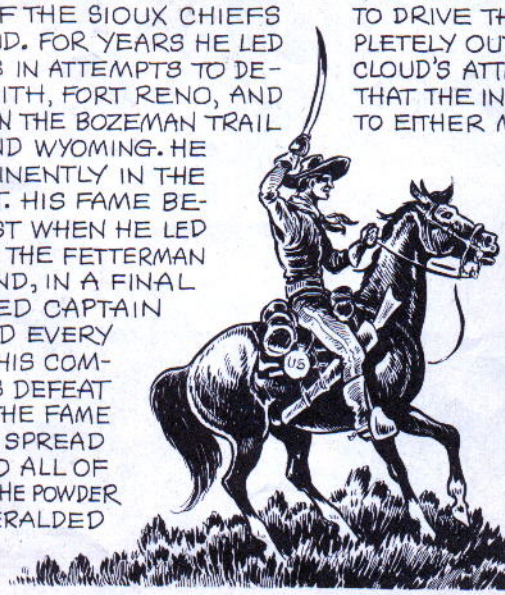
ONE OF THE YOUNGEST AND MOST AGRESSIVE OF THE SIOUX CHIEFS WAS RED CLOUD. FOR YEARS HE LED HIS WARRIORS IN ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY FORT SMITH, FORT RENO, AND FORT KEARNY ON THE BOZEMAN TRAIL IN MONTANA AND WYOMING. HE FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE CUSTER FIGHT. HIS FAME BECAME GREATEST WHEN HE LED THE INDIANS AT THE FETTERMAN MASSACRE AND, IN A FINAL CHARGE, KILLED CAPTAIN FETTERMAN AND EVERY LAST MAN OF HIS COMPANY. AFTER HIS DEFEAT OF FETTERMAN, THE FAME OF RED CLOUD SPREAD LIKE MAGIC AND ALL OF THE INDIANS OF THE POWDER RIVER AREA HERALDED HIM AS A LEADER. HE DETERMINED TO DRIVE THE WHITE INVADERS COMPLETELY OUT OF HIS COUNTRY. RED CLOUD'S ATTACKS WERE SO VICIOUS THAT THE INDIAN OFFICE WAS FORCED TO EITHER MAKE PEACE OR FIGHT A LONG AND COSTLY WAR. IN APRIL, 1868, A PEACE WAS DECLARED AND ALL SOLDIERS WERE REMOVED FROM FORTS SMITH, RENO, AND KEARNY. RED CLOUD NOW BELIEVED THAT HE HAD WON BACK THE HUNTING GROUNDS FOR HIS PEOPLE, BUT THE FOLLOWING TEN YEARS PROVED THAT HE WAS WRONG. HE DIED IN 1909. IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS ALMOST NINETY-YEARS-OLD.



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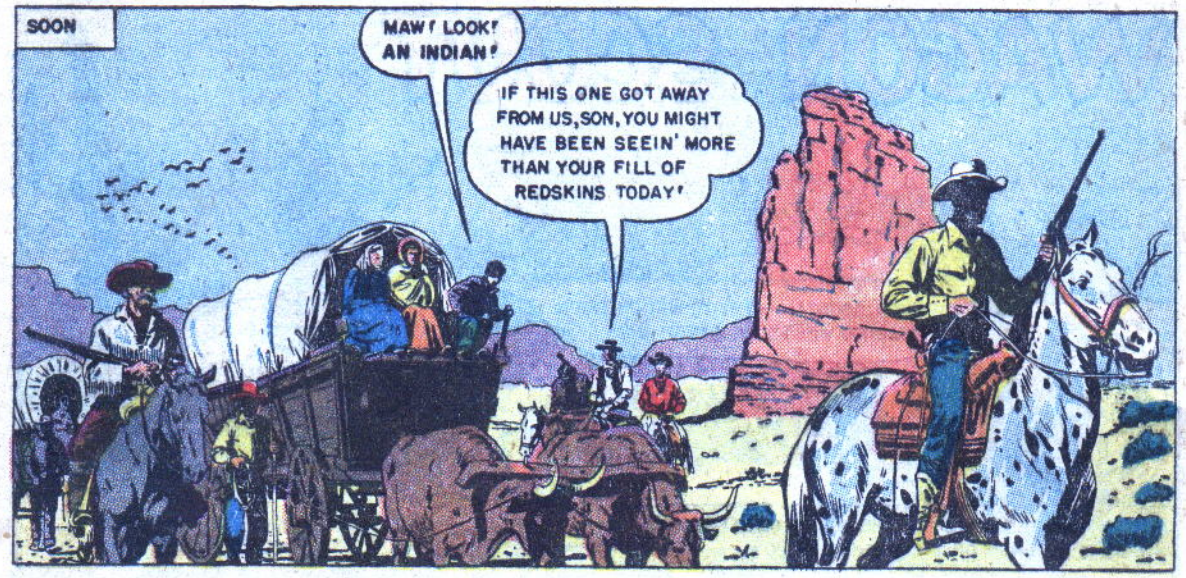
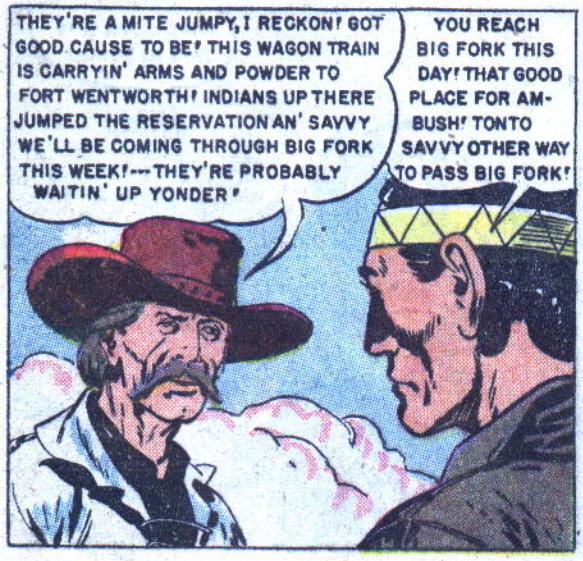
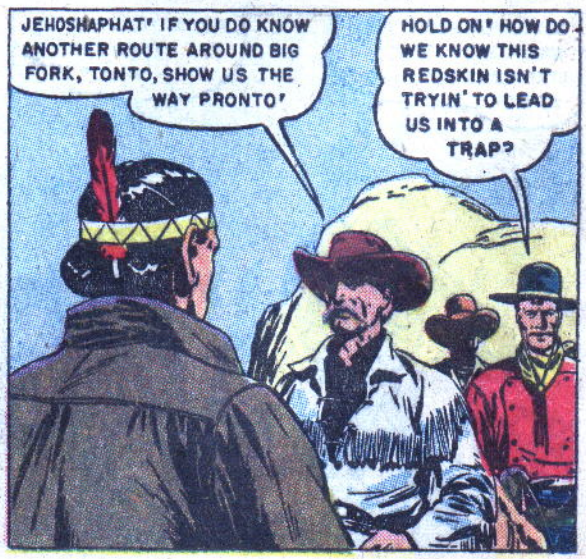
WAGON SCOUT
WHOA, SCOUT!---THERE WAGON TRAIN HEADING WEST! WE WATCH-UM!
AS TONTO RIDES THROUGH THE SOUTHWESTERN FOOTHILLS, SUDDENLY ON THE PRAIRIE BELOW..
YOU CAN STOP ADMIRIN' THE VIEW, INDIAN, AND START LOOKIN' DOWN THE BARREL OF THIS GUN!---REACH!
WHY YOU POINT GUN AT TONTO? ME FRIEND OF WHITE MAN!
THAT'S A LAUGH! WE SAVVY THE REDSKINS IN THIS AREA BROKE FROM THE RESERVATION AND ARE OUT RAISIN' HAIR! BUT YOU AREN'T GOIN' TO RIDE OFF AN' WARN YOUR PALS WE'RE PASSIN' THROUGH!
TONTO NOT SCOUT FOR WAR PARTY! ME NOT LIKE GUNS POINTING AT ME!
MAYBE YOU'D PREFER THE OTHER END OF THIS RIFLE?
THAT'LL PACIFY THIS REDSKIN!
TONTO #10-535


SOON
MAW! LOOK! AN INDIAN!
IF THIS ONE GOT AWAY FROM US, SON, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN SEEIN' MORE THAN YOUR FILL OF REDSKINS TODAY!

LEM, WE PICKED UP THIS HERE CRITTER SPYIN' ON US FROM THE HILLS! LUCKY YOU SENT US OUT THAT WAY!
I'LL SAY IT'S LUCKY! YOU COULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT US A BETTER FRIEND! ---TONTO, I HOPE THESE OVER-EAGER HOMBRES DIDN'T HURT YOU!

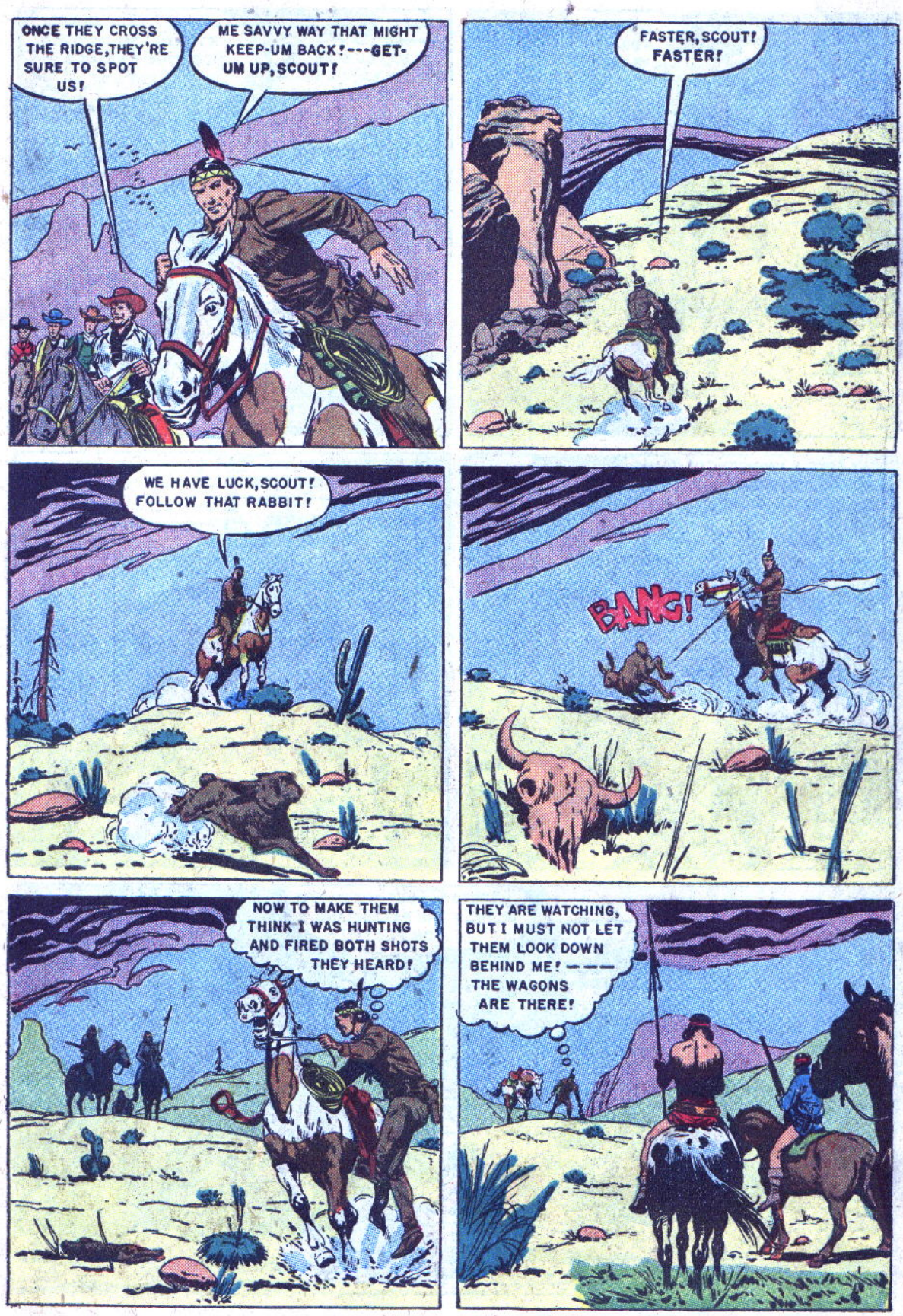
YOU KNOW THIS INDIAN?
SURE! HE SAVED MY LIFE ONCE---HIM AND A WHITE FRIEND OF HIS, WHO WEARS A MASK!
TONTO PLENTY GLAD TO SEE OLD FRIEND! THESE FELLERS NOT BELIEVE TONTO!

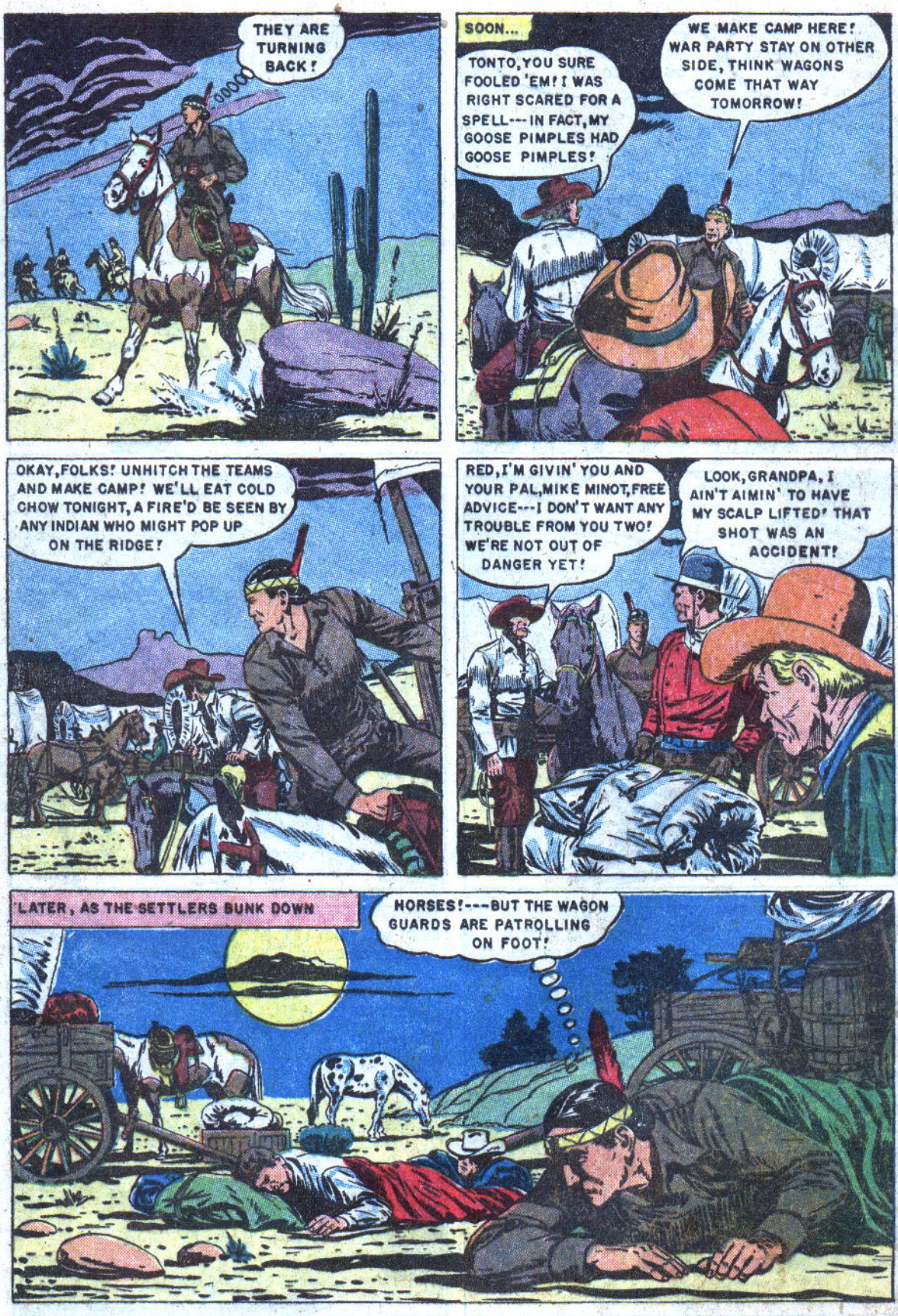

THEY'RE A MITE JUMPY, I RECKON! GOT GOOD CAUSE TO BE! THIS WAGON TRAIN IS CARRYIN' ARMS AND POWDER TO FORT WENTWORTH! INDIANS UP THERE JUMPED THE RESERVATION AN' SAVVY WE'LL BE COMING THROUGH BIG FORK THIS WEEK!---THEY'RE PROBABLY WAITIN' UP YONDER!
YOU REACH BIG FORK THIS DAY! THAT GOOD PLACE FOR AM-BUSH! TONTO SAVVY OTHER WAY TO PASS BIG FORK!


JEHOSHAPHAT! IF YOU DO KNOW ANOTHER ROUTE AROUND BIG FORK, TONTO, SHOW US THE WAY PRONTO!
HOLD ON! HOW DO WE KNOW THIS REDSKIN ISN'T TRYIN' TO LEAD US INTO A TRAP?

I'M LEADIN' THIS TRAIN, RED ELLIS, AND I'LL VOUCH FOR TONTO!
I RECKON RED'S RIGHT! WE KNOW THERE'S A REGULAR ROUTE THROUGH BIG FORK--- LET'S TAKE THAT RATHER THAN FOLLOW SOME INDIAN WE CAN'T TRUST!
FOLKS, I KNOW TONTO'S HONEST AND ISN'T PLANNIN' TO TRICK US! IF THERE'S GOIN' TO BE INDIAN TROUBLE, IT'LL BE ALONG THE ROUTE THROUGH BIG FORK! I'M FOR FOLLOWIN' TONTO, IF HE CAN LEAD US AROUND BIG FORK AND AVOID DANGER--- WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WE'LL ACCEPT YOUR JUDGEMENT, LEM! LET TONTO SHOW US THE WAY!
YES! IT'S BETTER THAN RISKIN' A FIGHT!
YOU'RE A FOOL FOR NOT TAKIN' THE REGULAR WAY, LEM! IF ANYTHIN' HAPPENS, YOU WILL PAY FOR IT!
I AIM TO KEEP MY TOPKNOT! TONTO CAN SHOW US HOW TO KEEP OUT OF TROUBLE! TAKE OVER, TONTO!
MAKING A WIDE CIRCLE, TONTO SWINGS BEHIND THE FOOTHILLS OF BIG FORK AND AT SUNDOWN, THE WAGON TRAIN MAKES ITS DESPERATE RACE INTO THE HILLS..
TONTO! THERE'S A WHOLE WAR PARTY OF PAINTED BRAVES WAITIN' FOR US ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS HILL! BUT THEY'RE FACIN' THE OTHER VALLEY!
ANY NOISE WILL BRING-UM TO THIS SIDE! WE MUST PASS BEHIND-UM PLENTY FAST AND QUIET!

I-I CAN'T KEEP HIM FROM CRYING MUCH LONGER!
HALF MILE MORE, THEN WE BE SAFE!
KEEP ROLLIN'!
SILENTLY, THE WAGON COLUMN SNAKES THROUGH THE SHADOWY HILLS, BUT SUDDENLY...
BANG!
WHY YOU FIRE GUN?
I-IT WAS AN ACCIDENT! THE BUTT STRUCK MY SADDLE!
LET GO OF HIM, INDIAN, OR I'LL FIRE AND IT WON'T BE AN ACCIDENT!
GET YOUR FOOL SIX-GUN DOWN, MISTER!
MEBBE SHOT WAS ACCIDENT, BUT NOW INDIANS SAVVY SOMEONE HERE!
TONTO! THAT BLASTED SHOT ECHOED THROUGH THE WHOLE VALLEY! THE WAR PARTY'S SENDING SOME BRAVES OUT THIS WAY TO INVESTIGATE!

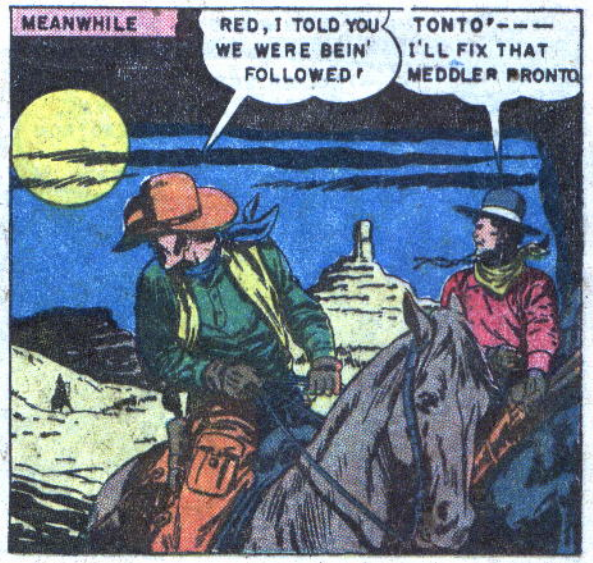

ONCE THEY CROSS THE RIDGE, THEY'RE SURE TO SPOT US!
ME SAVVY WAY THAT MIGHT KEEP-UM BACK!---GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
FASTER, SCOUT! FASTER!
WE HAVE LUCK, SCOUT! FOLLOW THAT RABBIT!
BANG!
NOW TO MAKE THEM THINK I WAS HUNTING AND FIRED BOTH SHOTS THEY HEARD!
THEY ARE WATCHING, BUT I MUST NOT LET THEM LOOK DOWN BEHIND ME! --- THE WAGONS ARE THERE!


THEY ARE TURNING BACK!
SOON...
TONTO, YOU SURE FOOLED 'EM! I WAS RIGHT SCARED FOR A SPELL--- IN FACT, MY GOOSE PIMPLES HAD GOOSE PIMPLES!
WE MAKE CAMP HERE! WAR PARTY STAY ON OTHER SIDE, THINK WAGONS COME THAT WAY TOMORROW!
OKAY, FOLKS! UNHITCH THE TEAMS AND MAKE CAMP! WE'LL EAT COLD CHOW TONIGHT, A FIRE'D BE SEEN BY ANY INDIAN WHO MIGHT POP UP ON THE RIDGE!
RED, I'M GIVIN' YOU AND YOUR PAL, MIKE MINOT, FREE ADVICE---I DON'T WANT ANY TROUBLE FROM YOU TWO! WE'RE NOT OUT OF DANGER YET!
LOOK, GRANDPA, I AIN'T AIMIN' TO HAVE MY SCALP LIFTED! THAT SHOT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
LATER, AS THE SETTLERS BUNK DOWN
HORSES!---BUT THE WAGON GUARDS ARE PATROLLING ON FOOT!

HERE, SCOUT!

UP, SCOUT! RIDERS LEAVE CAMP! WE FIND TRAIL PLENTY FAST AND LEARN WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY GO!

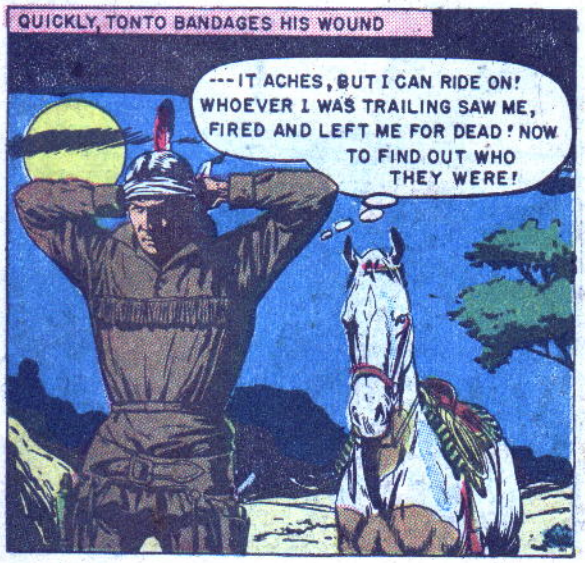
CIRCLING THE CAMP, TONTO FINDS TRACKS
TWO HORSES! THEY HEAD FOR HILLS AND FOR INDIANS!

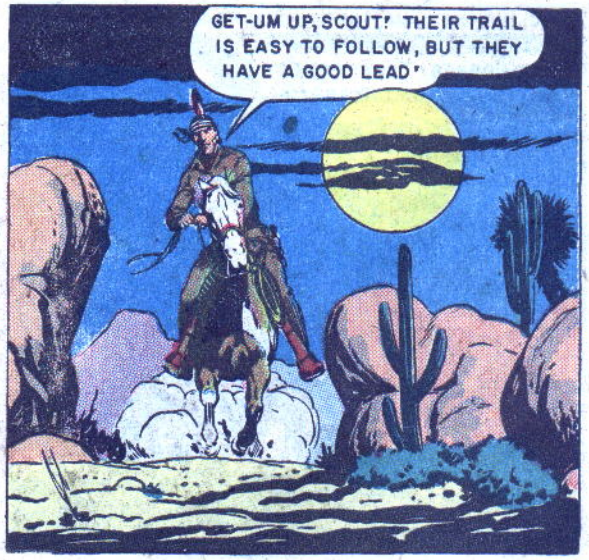

MEANWHILE
RED, I TOLD YOU WE WERE BEIN' FOLLOWED!
TONTO!--- I'LL FIX THAT MEDDLER PRONTO

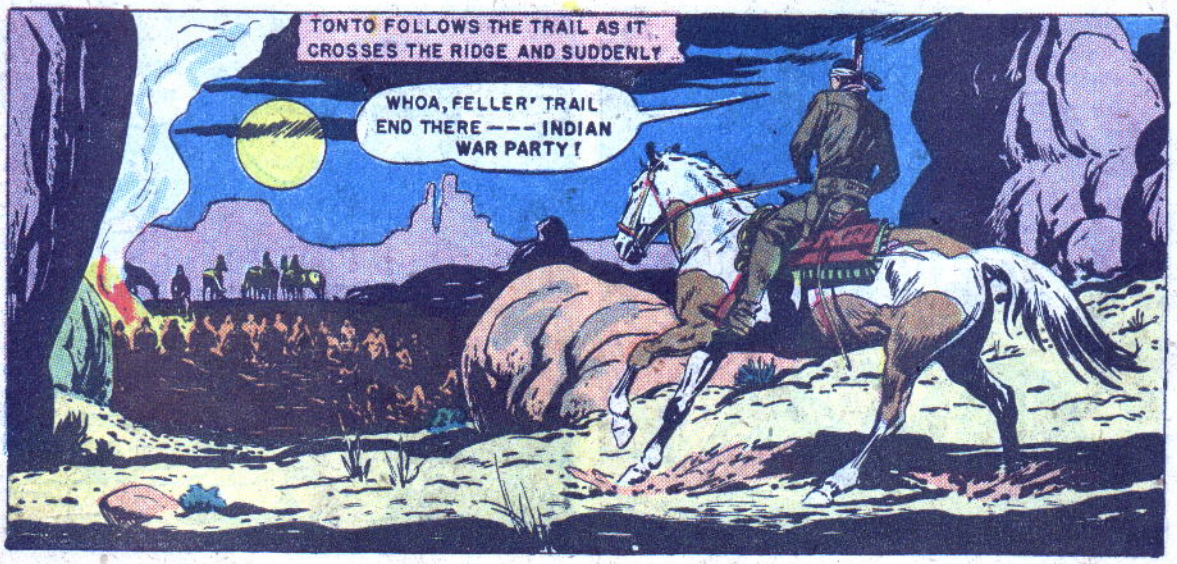
RED, HOLD YOUR FIRE! CAMP'S ONLY A MILE BACK! A GUNSHOT'LL ALERT 'EM!
BY THE TIME THEY FIGURE OUT WHAT HAPPENED, IT'LL BE TOO LATE!

GOT HIM!
BANG!

HALF AN HOUR LATER, STUNNED AND BLEEDING FROM A GRAZING HEAD WOUND, TONTO RISES
M-MY HEAD-


QUICKLY, TONTO BANDAGES HIS WOUND
---IT ACHES, BUT I CAN RIDE ON! WHOEVER I WAS TRAILING SAW ME, FIRED AND LEFT ME FOR DEAD! NOW TO FIND OUT WHO THEY WERE!


GET-UM UP, SCOUT! THEIR TRAIL IS EASY TO FOLLOW, BUT THEY HAVE A GOOD LEAD!

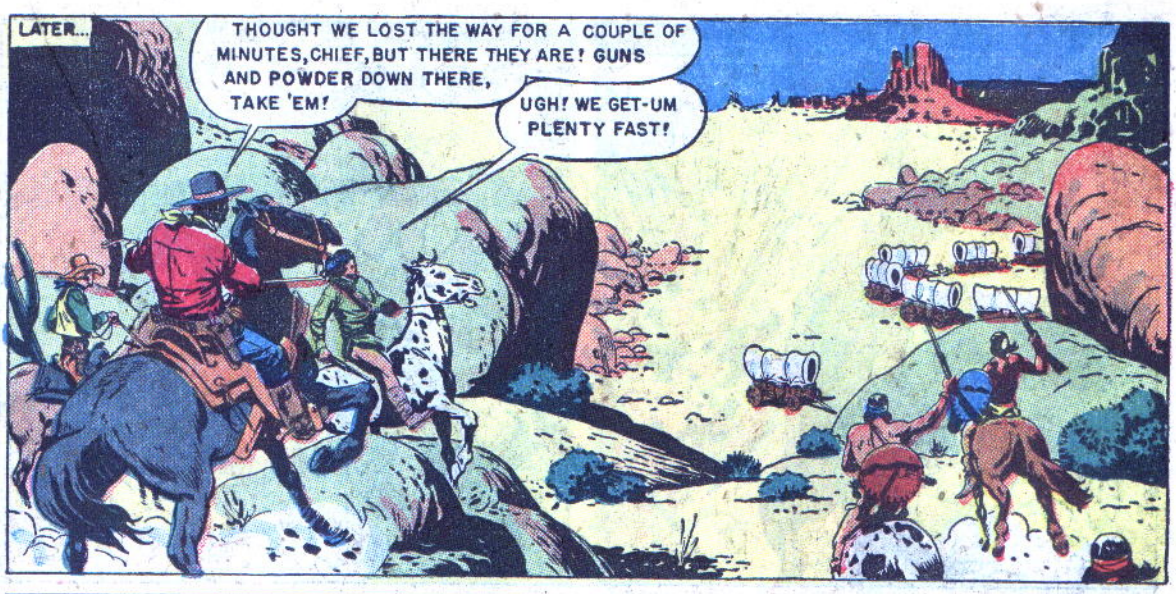

TONTO FOLLOWS THE TRAIL AS IT CROSSES THE RIDGE AND SUDDENLY
WHOA, FELLER! TRAIL END THERE---INDIAN WAR PARTY!

WHOEVER THE RIDERS WERE, THEY ARE DOWN THERE WITH THE WARRIORS! I WILL JOIN THE BRAVES AND SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN!
CAUTIOUSLY, TONTO INCHES TO THE CIRCLE OF BRAVES BY THE FIRE, MINGLING AMONG THE REAR RANK
LISTEN, MY BRAVES! OUR WHITE BROTHERS SPEAK!
WHEN YOU JUMPED THE RESERVATION AND YOUR LEADER MET WITH US, WE PROMISED HIM RIFLES AN' POWDER IN EXCHANGE FOR GOLD! THE RIFLES AN' POWDER ARE ON THE WAGON TRAIN YOU PLANNED TO AMBUSH AT BIG FORK! THEY SNEAKED BY YOU TODAY! WE TRIED TO SIGNAL YOU, BUT FAILED!
BUT YOU CAN STILL ATTACK THE TRAIN!
ME AN' MIKE WILL LEAD YOU THERE TONIGHT! WITHOUT A WARNIN' THEY HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HE DOES NOT WEAR WAR PAINT!---HE IS NOT ONE OF US! SEIZE HIM!

HOLD HIM--- OWW!
WHAT IN BLAZES ' TONTO! - - - THAT'S THE MEDDLIN' POLECAT WHO STEERED 'EM OUT OF THE AMBUSH TODAY ' DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE '
BACK!
HERE, SCOUT!
WE HAVE HIM!

NEIIIGH!
AIEEE!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
NOW, SCOUT' GET-UM UP!
I'LL BLAST THAT POLE-CAT OUT OF HIS SADDLE!
RED, HE'S DRAWIN'!
I'LL PLUG HIM BEFORE HE CAN PULL THAT TRIGGER!
BUT AS THE RENEGADE VAINLY TRIES TO GET A BEAD ON TONTO...
YEOOW---MY GUN!
BANG!

BRAVE ESCAPE! NOW WHAT WE DO?
JUST WHAT WE PLANNED--- ATTACK THE WAGON TRAIN!
BUT HE WARN-UM!
THAT WON'T DO 'EM MUCH GOOD! YOU OUTNUMBER 'EM - TWO TO ONE! ARE YOU AND YOUR BRAVES SCARED?
WE SHOW YOU PLENTY QUICK! --- MOUNT!
RED, THEY'LL BE RIDIN' INTO A HAIL OF LEAD!
I'M NOT WORRYIN' ABOUT A FEW RED-SKINS GOIN' TO THE HAPPY HUNTIN' GROUNDS! ALL I SAVVY IS THAT SOONER OR LATER, BY SHEER NUMBERS, THEY'LL WIN! ONCE THEY GET THE POWDER AND GUNS, WE GET PAID OFF IN GOLD!
BRAVES FOLLOW! THEY ATTACK WAGONS SOON! WE MUST WARN-UM! JUMP, SCOUT! JUMP!


LATER...
THOUGHT WE LOST THE WAY FOR A COUPLE OF MINUTES, CHIEF, BUT THERE THEY ARE! GUNS AND POWDER DOWN THERE, TAKE 'EM!
UGH! WE GET-UM PLENTY FAST!

WHY ARE YOU HOLDIN' MY REINS?
TO KEEP YOU FROM RISKIN' YOUR FOOL NECK BELOW! STAY UP HERE AND LET THE REDSKINS GET SHOT UP!
WHOOP!
WHOOP!

R-RED SOMETHIN'S WRONG---NOT A SHOT'S BEEN FIRED!
THEY'RE HOLDIN' THEIR FIRE UNTIL THE REDSKINS GET NEARER--- THAT'S ALL!

BUT IN THE HILL TO THE RIGHT...
TONTO, THE WAR PARTY'S ALMOST REACHED THE POWDER WAGON! LIGHT THAT FUSE TRAIN PRONTO!
ME LIGHT-UM NOW!

THAT WAS A MIGHTY GOOD IDEA, TONTO! WHEN THAT WAGON LOAD OF POWDER BLOWS UP, THOSE BRAVES WILL GO SKY-HIGH!
BUT TRICK NOT BE GOOD UNLESS WE RUSH-UM PLENTY FAST AND COVER-UM!
ZZZZZ!

AS THE WHOOPING BRAVES RACE TOWARD THE LONE LEAD WAGON, SUDDENLY.
BOOOOM!
AIEEEEEE!
NOW WE SURROUND-UM!
HIT LEATHER, MEN! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS GETTIN' DOWN THERE WHILE THEY ARE STILL STUNNED!
DROP YOUR GUNS!
TONTO, THOSE THREE BUCKS AREN'T QUITTIN'!
AIEEEE!
TONTO, LOOK OUT FOR THAT OTHER BRAVE!
BANG!
BANG!

THIS FIX-UM'
BANG!
GET YOUR PAWS UP FAST, INDIAN'
COVER-UM! ME GET GUNS!
QUICKLY, THE SETTLERS DISARM THE FALLEN AND STUNNED BRAVES
RECKON THAT ENDS OUR INDIAN TROUBLE, TONTO'
WE CAPTURE ALL THE BRAVES, BUT ME NOT SEE THE TWO WHITE MEN WHO HELP-UM'
BY JIMINY, YOU'RE RIGHT' THOSE RENEGADES, ELLIS AND MINOT ARE MISSIN'
MEBBE THEY IN HILLS! ME FIND-UM'--- GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
AND IN THE HILLS
QUIT FOOLIN, RED' HERE HE COMES!
START RIDIN' WHEN THAT REDSKIN TRIPS THIS STRING, HE'LL GET A BULLET CLEAN THROUGH HIS MEDDLIN' HEAD'

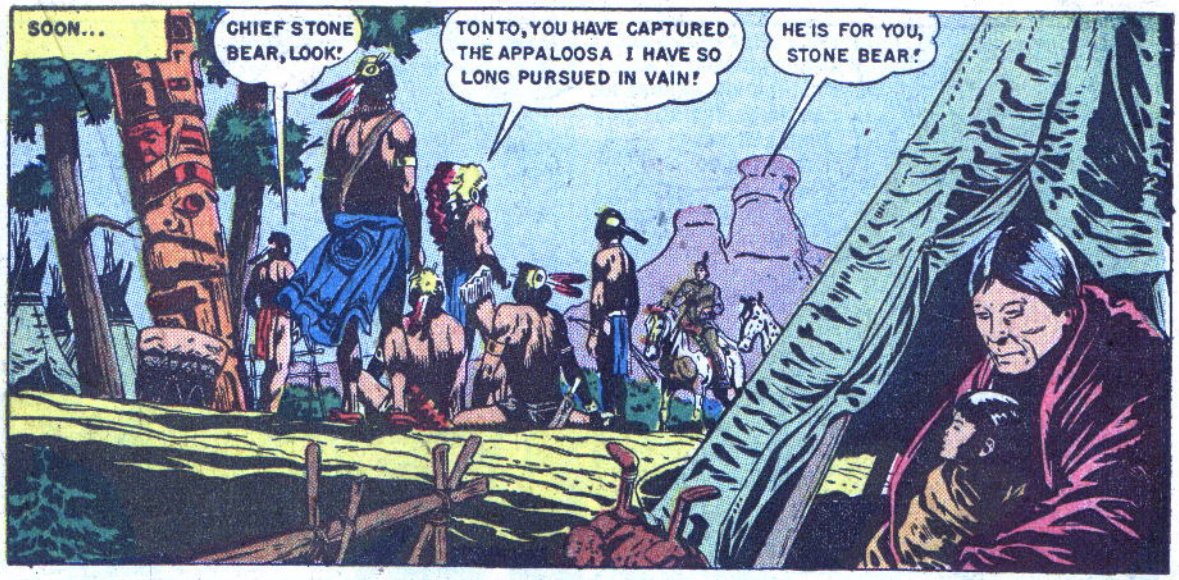
THERE THEY ARE, SCOUT! FASTER!
NEIGH!
DOWN, FELLER! EASY, SCOUT!
WHAT'S WRONG, SCOUT?---A STRING! UP, SCOUT! UP!
AS THE PAINT LEAPS UP, SUDDENLY
BANG!
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
HE'S DONE FOR! HERE COMES HIS HORSE--- EMPTY!

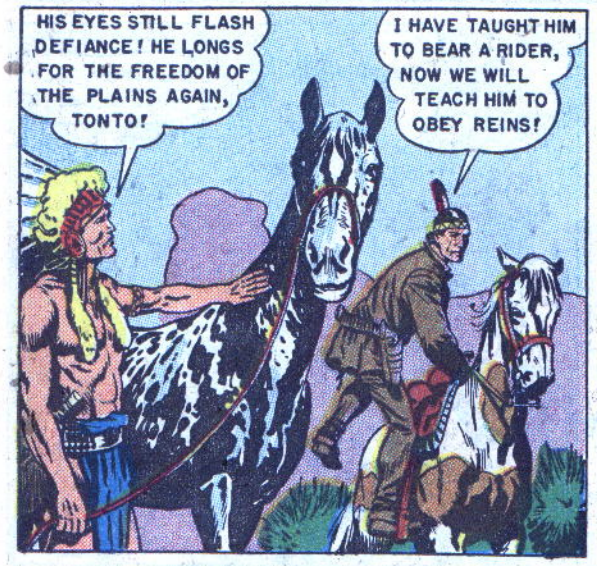
LET'S GO DOWN AND MAKE SURE THAT INDIAN RIDER'S DEAD THIS TIME!
FIRST, GRAB HIS HORSE!
RAISE YOUR HANDS PLENTY FAST!
WHAT IN THUNDER-ATION---?
HUH?
NOW YOU RIDE DOWN AND JOIN WAGON TRAIN YOU BETRAY!
SOON...
WE'VE GOT ALL THE BRAVES CORRALED! WE'LL TURN 'EM OVER TO THE MILITARY WHEN WE REACH THE FORT IN THE MORNIN'! I'LL LET THE MARSHAL HANDLE THE TWO TRAITORS!
YOU NOT NEED INDIAN SCOUT NOW. YOU REACH FORT SAFELY!
GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
UP YOU GO, SON! BETTER GET SOME SHUT-EYE! WON'T BE ANY MORE INDIAN RAIDS NOW--- THANKS TO A DARN BRAVE RED-SKIN NAMED TONTO!

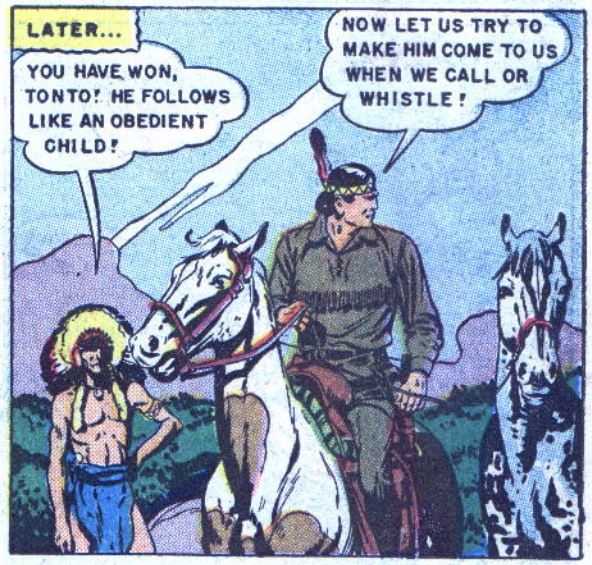
PRIZE OF THE CHIEF
THERE SPOTTED HORSE STONE BEAR TALK OF MANY TIMES, SCOUT! HIM WANT UM! GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
A LEOPARD-SPOTTED APPALOOSA STALLION STREAKS ACROSS THE PLAINS, AS TONTO RACES IN PURSUIT
NOW WE ROPE UM, SCOUT!
NEIIIGH!
HIM NOT LIKE ROPE! STEADY, SCOUT! STEADY!
HIM FIGHT PLENTY HARD, SCOUT! HOLD-UM!
NEIIGH!
AS TONTO'S LARIAT SLIPS FROM ITS POMMEL ANCHOR, THE WILD HORSE SUDDENLY JERKS FORWARD

WHOA, FELLER! WHOA!
MY WRIST IS CAUGHT IN THE LARIAT--- I CAN'T LET GO!
AS TONTO STRUGGLES TO FREE HIS WRIST, THE LASSOED PRIZE DRAGS HIM ACROSS THE PLAINS..
HERE, SCOUT! GRAB ROPE!
THAT GOOD, FELLER!
NOW WE HOLD-UM!
HIM CHARGE US, SCOUT! BACK!

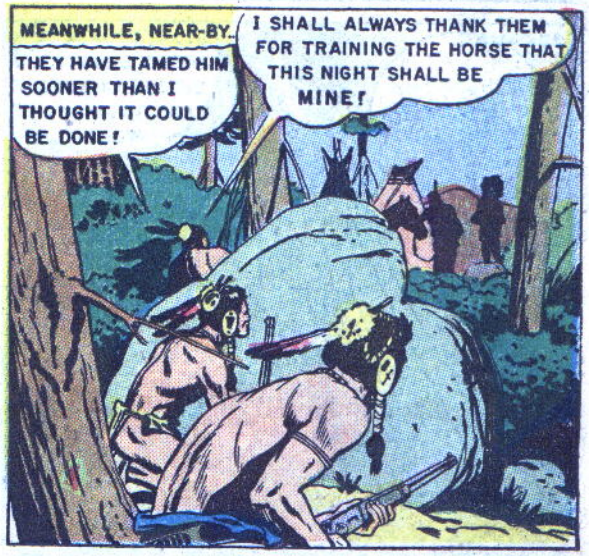
AS SCOUT BACKS AWAY, TONTO LEAPS ON THE LASSO...
THIS SHOULD TURN HIS HEAD AND STOP HIM!
STEADY, BOY! EASY! TONTO WILL NOT HURT YOU! EASY, BOY!
ON THE CLIFF ABOVE...
BLACK SNAKE, LOOK! THE APPALOOSA STALLION YOU HAVE SOUGHT SO LONG IS CAPTURED BY ANOTHER!
HE WILL BE MINE! HE IS FIT ONLY FOR A CHIEFTAIN!
IT WILL TAKE US TIME TO REACH THE PLAINS BELOW, BUT WE ARE SIX TO ONE--- WE CANNOT LOSE!
IF HE SEES US START DOWN, HE WOULD HAVE TIME TO ESCAPE! WE WILL NOT GIVE OURSELVES AWAY! STAY HERE!
BUT HE HAS MOUNTED THE HORSE! YOU WILL NOT CLAIM IT UNLESS WE STRIKE NOW, BLACK SNAKE!
WE WILL FOLLOW HIM UNSEEN! LET HIM TAME AND SADDLE THE HORSE! WE WILL WATCH AND WAIT. BUT TONIGHT, WHEN THE HORSE IS PICKETED WITH THE OTHER PONIES---WE SHALL TAKE IT!


SOON...
CHIEF STONE BEAR, LOOK!
TONTO, YOU HAVE CAPTURED THE APPALOOSA I HAVE SO LONG PURSUED IN VAIN!
HE IS FOR YOU, STONE BEAR!


HIS EYES STILL FLASH DEFIANCE! HE LONGS FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE PLAINS AGAIN, TONTO!
I HAVE TAUGHT HIM TO BEAR A RIDER, NOW WE WILL TEACH HIM TO OBEY REINS!


LATER...
YOU HAVE WON, TONTO! HE FOLLOWS LIKE AN OBEDIENT CHILD!
NOW LET US TRY TO MAKE HIM COME TO US WHEN WE CALL OR WHISTLE!

PATIENTLY, TONTO AND STONE BEAR TAME THE WILD PRIZE...
HE IS COMING!--- TONTO! NOTHING SHALL EVER PART ME FROM THIS SPOTTED STALLION! SUCH A MARKED HORSE IS GOOD "MEDICINE". HE WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME!
TWEEET!

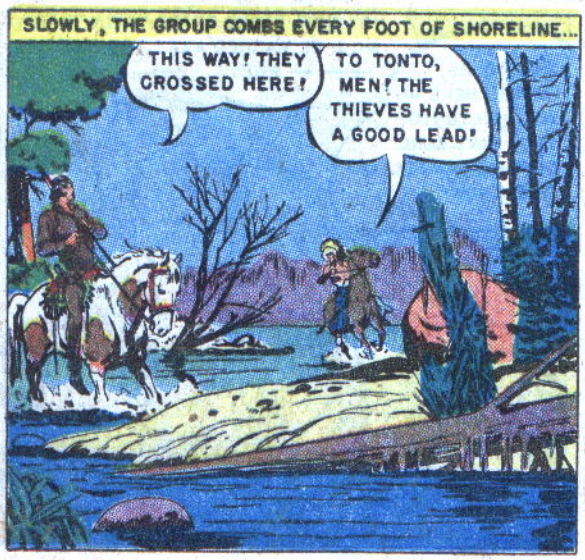

MEANWHILE, NEAR-BY...
THEY HAVE TAMED HIM SOONER THAN I THOUGHT IT COULD BE DONE!
I SHALL ALWAYS THANK THEM FOR TRAINING THE HORSE THAT THIS NIGHT SHALL BE MINE!

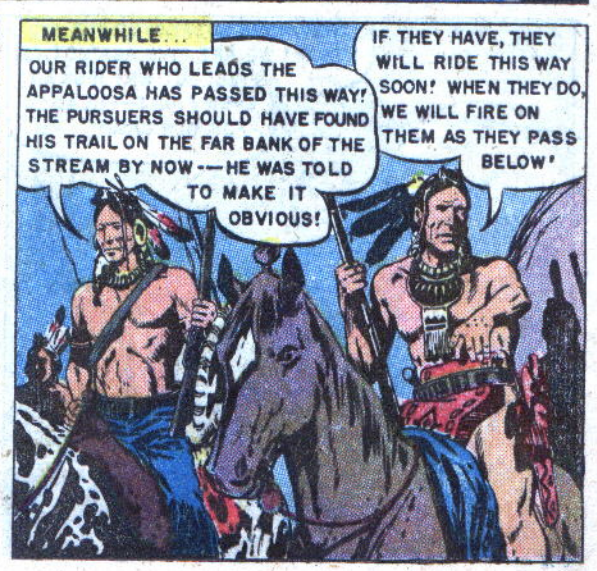
THAT NIGHT...
THE HORSE GUARD FACES AWAY FROM US! I WILL SILENCE HIM BEFORE HE CAN RAISE THE ALARM--- THEN CUT FREE THE APPALOOSA!
OWWW!
BLACK SNAKE--- HE IS OURS!
AT CAMP...
STONE BEAR, A HORSE IS RACING OFF! LET US SEE IF ANYTHING IS WRONG!
THE HORSE GUARD IS BADLY WOUNDED!
STONE BEAR, THE APPALOOSA IS GONE!

I WILL TAKE THIS BRAVE TO THE MEDICINE TENT! THEN WE WILL FOLLOW THE HORSE THIEVES!
BRING THREE MEN, STONE BEAR! MEANWHILE I WILL SEARCH FOR THEIR TRAIL!

SOON
THERE ARE SIX MEN WITH THE APPALOOSA PONY, STONE BEAR! THEY ARE HEADING FOR THE STREAM!
THEY HAVE PROBABLY TRIED TO COVER THEIR TRACKS BY GOING IN THE WATER!

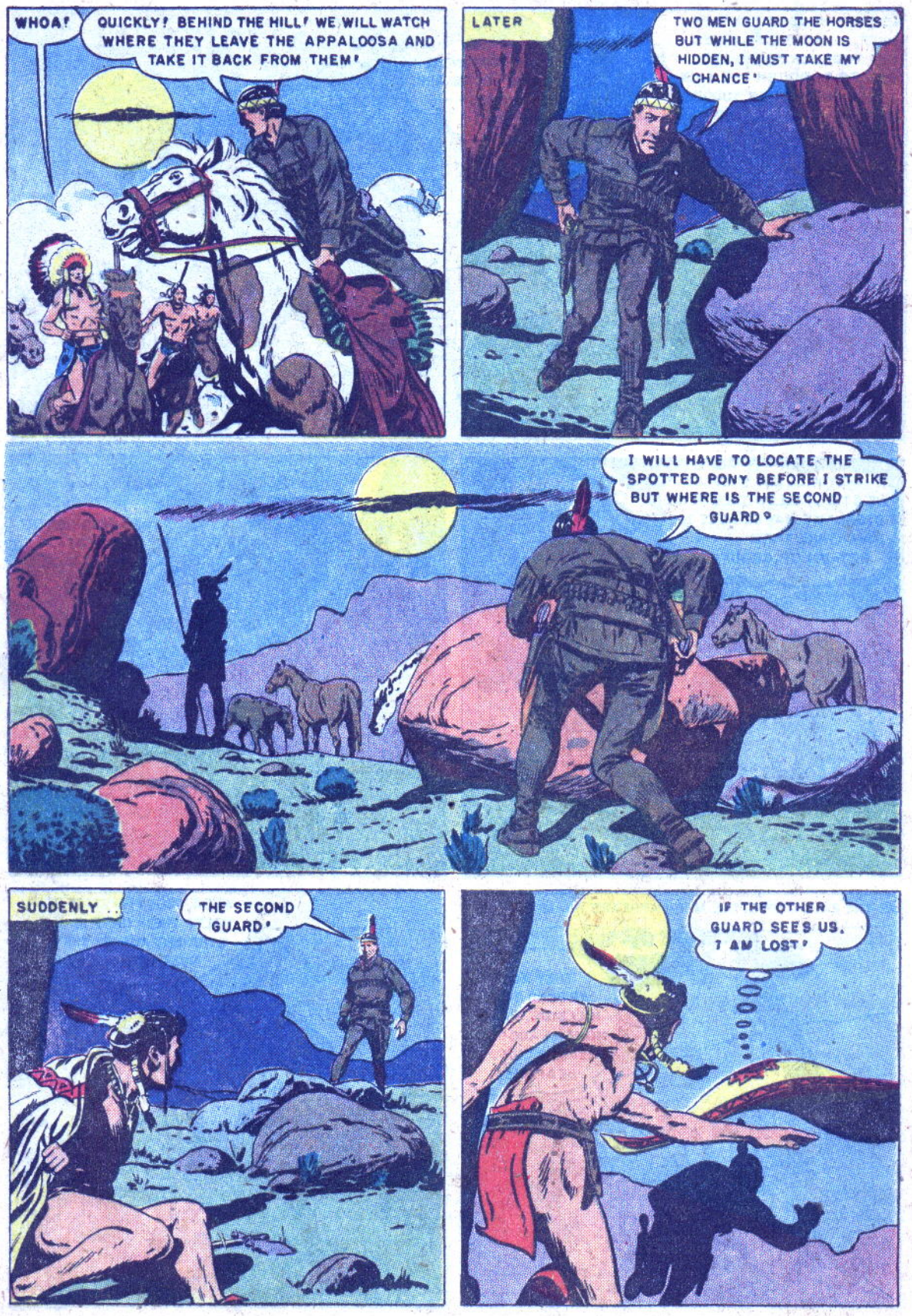
SPREAD OUT! WE WILL SEARCH THE FAR BANK UNTIL WE FIND WHERE THEY CROSSED!


SLOWLY, THE GROUP COMBS EVERY FOOT OF SHORELINE...
THIS WAY! THEY CROSSED HERE!
TO TONTO, MEN! THE THIEVES HAVE A GOOD LEAD!


MEANWHILE...
OUR RIDER WHO LEADS THE APPALOOSA HAS PASSED THIS WAY! THE PURSUERS SHOULD HAVE FOUND HIS TRAIL ON THE FAR BANK OF THE STREAM BY NOW---HE WAS TOLD TO MAKE IT OBVIOUS!
IF THEY HAVE, THEY WILL RIDE THIS WAY SOON! WHEN THEY DO, WE WILL FIRE ON THEM AS THEY PASS BELOW!

SOON.
THE TRAIL IS EASY TO FOLLOW! THEY HEAD FOR THE PASS!
NEIIGH!
EASY, FELLER! DOWN, SCOUT! DOWN!
HE IS TURNING AROUND, TONTO! HE DOES NOT WANT TO GO ON!
HE IS TRYING TO WARN US OF DANGER, STONE BEAR! PERHAPS WE RIDE TOWARDS A TRAP!
LET US RIDE ON. WE WILL FIND OUT SOON---
---WAIT! THE TRACKS HERE ARE MADE BY ONLY TWO HORSES! FIVE OTHER RIDERS WAIT FOR US SOMEWHERE ELSE! LET US RIDE INTO THE HILLS AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND THEM!
THEY HAVE SUSPECTED OUR TRAP! WE ARE FIVE AGAINST FIVE, BUT WHY RISK AN EVEN FIGHT---HEAD FOR OUR CAMP!
FIVE RIDERS WAITED HERE IN AMBUSH, TONTO! THEY HAVE GONE OFF! WE CAN FOLLOW THEM NOW!
NOT NOW, STONE BEAR! THEIR TRAIL WILL BE WASHED AWAY TOO QUICKLY ——— RAIN!

AS THEY HUDDLE BENEATH A CLIFF, LIGHTNING FLASHES AND THUNDER ROARS AND ECHOES THROUGH THE RAIN-SWEPT HILLS. THEN, SUDDENLY
LOOK! RIDERS!
GOOD FORTUNE IS WITH US! THERE ARE THE THIEVES--- AFTER THEM!
THEY WILL NOT SUSPECT WE STILL FOLLOW THEM IN THE STORM! WE MAY BE ABLE TO OVERTAKE THEM--- GET-UM UP, SCOUT!
GIDDAP!
BUROOOM!
THEY HEAD NORTH! FASTER!
AS THE RAIN STOPS, THE MOON APPEARS AGAIN
THEY RODE AROUND THAT HILLSIDE, BUT A MOMENT AGO! READY YOUR WEAPONS!
WHOA, SCOUT!--- STONE BEAR, HALT! THEIR CAMP IS STRAIGHT AHEAD! THEY MUST NOT SEE US!

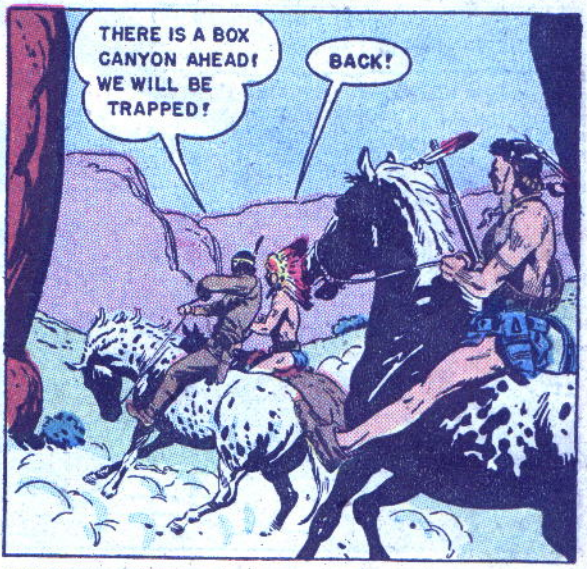

WHOA!
QUICKLY! BEHIND THE HILL! WE WILL WATCH WHERE THEY LEAVE THE APPALOOSA AND TAKE IT BACK FROM THEM!
LATER
TWO MEN GUARD THE HORSES BUT WHILE THE MOON IS HIDDEN, I MUST TAKE MY CHANCE!
I WILL HAVE TO LOCATE THE SPOTTED PONY BEFORE I STRIKE BUT WHERE IS THE SECOND GUARD?
SUDDENLY ..
THE SECOND GUARD!
IF THE OTHER GUARD SEES US, I AM LOST!

SECONDS LATER..
I CANNOT MOVE CLOSER WITHOUT SCARING THE HORSES! IF THEY STIR, THE OTHER GUARD WILL RAISE THE ALARM!
I ONLY HAVE ONE TRY--- I'D BETTER NOT MISS!
SNAP!
TWEET!
HELP!--- THE CHIEF'S HORSE IS ESCAPING!

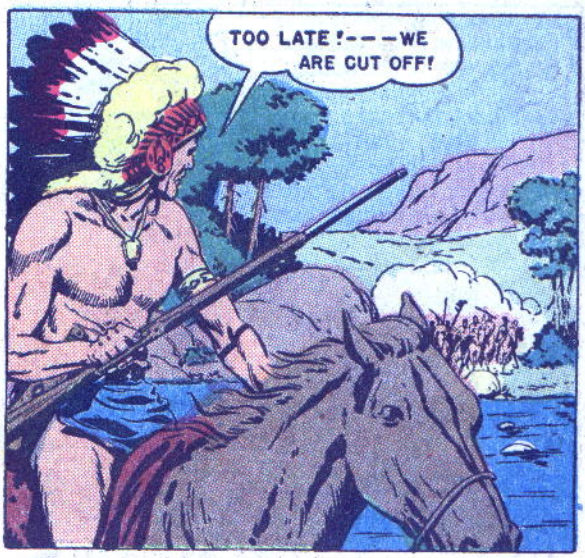
STOP!
GO, BOY! GO!
BLACK SNAKE, YOUR HORSE IS STOLEN!
TAKE YOUR WEAPONS AND FOLLOW ME! THE SPOTTED PONY IS MINE! DEATH TO HIM WHO DARES TAKE IT FROM ME!
WHO WILL COUNT COUP ON THE THIEF?
MY SCALPING KNIFE IS READY! WHERE IS THE FOOLHARDY BRAVE?
TONTO, YOU HAVE THE HORSE!
BUT THE WHOLE TRIBE IS UP IN ARMS AND AFTER IT! INTO THE HILLS!
BLACK SNAKE, WE HAVE NOT GAINED A BOW'S LENGTH ON THEM!
KEEP AFTER THEM! THEY WILL NOT ESCAPE US LONG! THEY HEAD FOR RAPID FALLS! ONCE THEY CROSS IT, THEY WILL ENTER A BOX CANYON AND BE TRAPPED!

KEEP UPRIVER! THERE IS A FALLS BELOW THESE RAPIDS!
I HAVE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE, STONE BEAR! WHICH WAY SHALL WE RIDE?

FORWARD! I DO NOT KNOW THIS PLACE EITHER, BUT WE ARE HEADING TOWARD OUR CAMP THIS WAY!


THERE IS A BOX CANYON AHEAD! WE WILL BE TRAPPED!
BACK!

WE CANNOT GO TO THE LEFT, THE FALLS IS THAT WAY! WHEN WE REACH THE RIVER BANK, TURN RIGHT!


TOO LATE!---WE ARE CUT OFF!

DRIVE BACK THE BRAVES ON OUR RIGHT! THEN WE CAN MAKE A STAND ON THIS SIDE!
IF WE CAN FORCE THEM BACK, WE HAVE A CHANCE! FIRE!
BANG!
BANG!
THEY ARE CROSSING BACK! DISMOUNT! WE WILL FIGHT HERE!
MY ARM!
BANG!
BANG!
DAWN FINDS THE SMALL BAND PINNED BY THE CANYON ENTRANCE...
BANG! BLAM!
THEY WILL NOT BACK OFF FAR ENOUGH TO GIVE US A CHANCE TO MAKE A BREAK! WE CANNOT HOLD THEM OFF MUCH LONGER. OUR AMMUNITION IS ALMOST GONE!
THE APPALOOSA PONY IS OURS! BUT YOU OUTNUMBER AND HAVE US TRAPPED HERE! IF YOU WOULD SETTLE THIS QUICKLY AND WITH THE LEAST BLOODSHED, WHO WILL MEET ME IN SINGLE COMBAT? IF I WIN, WE RIDE OFF WITH THE PONY! IF YOUR BRAVE WINS, WE RIDE OFF AND THE SPOTTED PRIZE IS YOURS!
BLACK SNAKE WILL CLAIM HIS PRIZE! MY BRAVES WILL HOLD THEIR FIRE! YOUR SCALP SHALL DANGLE FROM MY SPOTTED PONY'S SADDLE THIS DAY!

FROM ROCK TO ROCK, THE WARRIORS LEAP ACROSS THE RAPIDS TOWARD EACH OTHER
IN MID-RIVER, THEY MEET!
YOU ARE THE BRAVE WHO CAPTURED THE APPALOOSA! SO MUCH THE BETTER! I LONG HAD EYED HIM AS MINE! PERHAPS YOU CAN TAME HORSES, BUT YOU CANNOT TAME MY KNIFE'S FLINT BLADE!
YOU AND YOUR BRAVES BADLY TOMAHAWKED ONE OF OUR WARRIORS! THIEVES CANNOT CLAIM THE SPOTTED PRIZE!
AS THE TWO MEN STRUGGLE FOR AN OPENING ON THE SLIPPERY ROCK, SUDDENLY, TONTO'S FOOT SLIPS
NOW THE HORSE SHALL BE MINE!
IF THE FALLS DO NOT KILL YOU, THIS KNIFE WILL!

YOU ARE NOT CLIMBING BACK!
OFF!
NOW, DOWN THE FALLS LIKE HELPLESS DRIFTWOOD!
OWW!
AS THE HALF-CONSCIOUS TONTO SPINS FROM ROCK TO ROCK TOWARD THE STEEP FALLS, BLACK SNAKE FOLLOWS WITH DEADLY FASCINATION...
FASTER! FASTER! A FEW MORE FEET AND ALL IS ENDED!

A BRANCH--- MUST MAKE IT NOW OR---
---I HAVE IT!
YOU HAVE CHEATED DEATH TOO LONG! I WILL RID THE RIVER OF YOU NOW!
YOU HAVE COUNTED COUP ON ME IN YOUR IMAGINATION ONCE TOO OFTEN!
W-WHAT?
NOW TO KEEP US BOTH FROM GOING OVER THE FALLS!
OOOO
OOF!

NO!
QUICK! YOUR HAND!
YOU WIN!--- S-SAVE ME!
HOLD ON!--- STONE BEAR! COME QUICKLY!
STONE BEAR--- WE HAVE WON!
TONTO HAS WON THE SINGLE COMBAT---
---I HAVE GIVEN MY WORD! PASS!
STONE BEAR, I SHALL ALWAYS CAST JEALOUS EYES UPON THAT APPALOOSA! BUT YOU HAVE WON IT FAIRLY AND IT IS WORTHY OF BEING A CHIEF'S PRIZE!
HE IS RIGHTFULLY TONTO'S PRIZE!
NO, STONE BEAR! HE IS YOURS! NOW I MUST FIND MY FRIEND, WHO RIDES THE WHITE STALLION! GET-UM UP, SCOUT!