

Inside front cover: TRAIL OF ROBIN HOOD (1950) with Roy, Penny Edwards & Clifton Young. Inside back cover: The King & his Queen photo courtesy of Christine Churms.



ROY ROGERS WESTERN No. 3-\$4.95. Published by AC Comics/ Paragon Publications, Box 521216, Longwood, FL 32752-1216. Bill Black, editor & publisher. Authorized edition. Entire contents © Roy Rogers/Paragon Publications 1999. World rights reserved. Back issues available at \$4.95 plus \$1.50 P&H. Write to be included on our Western mailing list. Visit our web site for more Western comics & Roy Rogers product, accomics com

Howdy, Pards! Say, have you moseyed down the cyber space trail yet? No? Well, it looks like traveling on the Internet is now the way to do things.

You know, Roy Rogers was the first movie cowboy to establish a web site proving that even though he was a good old boy, he was savy enough to get set up for the future. You can visit Roy's site at www.royrogers.com

Once there you can see many features concerning the King of the Cowboys and his Queen, Dale Evans. You can learn of the progress of ROGERSDALE and buy many Roy Rogers products instantly!

AC Comics has a web site, too, (www.accomics.com) and there you'll find a Roy Rogers page and listings of many other Western comics. If you don't now have a computer, we hear that in the near future, Internet service will be included as part of basic cable TV. You won't need a computer as you'll then be able to visit us via Web TV! It's easy. Pretty soon Web TV will be built into VCR's!

Already Western fans are buying and selling movie posters, photos and all kinds of memorabilia on the Internet. Just check out eBay auctions where you can find some real bargains!

Yes, the future is here... and it will be a big boon to those of us who love the past! Never before has it been so easy and so economical to find B Western treasures. Check it out!

Wild Bill

Meet Roy Rogers artist ALEX TOTH

In this issue of ROY ROGERS WESTERN we start off with "Masquerade," a story illustrated by Alexander Toth. Alex is one of the true giants of the comic book illustration field. His work is not only loved by comics fans but is highly respected among his fellow artists as well.

Toth's work certainly stands apart from any other illustrator. His panel compositions are unique... in most cases, they are nothing short of
brilliant. When reading "Masquerade," notice how this story
differs from the others in this
book. Toth's "camera angles"
are exceptional. Rather than
repetitious straight on shots,
Alex extends the readers view
to above, below and all around
his subject matter.

Note, too, his strong use of solid black masses to intensify impact. His designs draw the eye to the essential action that the reader must see to carry the story forward. Each drawing, though simple in execution, is the result of considerable

thought and planning.

Alexander Toth, in his youth, began drawing the adventures of GREEN LANTERN for DC Comics just after WWII. He also drew THE JUSTICE PHANTOM SOCIETY. STRANGER, REX THE WON-DER DOG and many other features for DC including the Western features SIERRA SMITH, ROVING RANGER, JIMMY WAKELY and the company's most successful cowboy hero, JOHNNY THUN-DER.

In the mid-1950's Alex left DC to work for Dell. Why? Maybe because at Dell he was permitted to pencil, ink and letter his stories thus allowing more freedom?

At Dell he worked on movie adaptation comics (THE LAND UNKNOWN with Jock Mahoney, GUN GLORY with Stewart Granger and Disney's DARBY O'GILL AND THE LITTLE PEOPLE to name a few) and television program adaptations where he continued on with Westerns.

His most notable success at Dell was the Disney's ZORRO series where he did splendid interpretations of Zorro (Guy Williams) and Sgt. Garcia (Henry Calvin.)

I asked Alex to comment on his Roy Rogers work:

"As for my short stint on Dell's ROY ROGERS books (and a ghost stint on the newspaper strip while regular artist Mike Arens was ill - 1960- 61) all I can confess to is my total ineptness in finding a way to draw Roy's squinty-eyed face. Sorry... too true! Dunno if I'd do better now!

"He, and Rex Allen, had those odd eyes, a cinch to appreciate emoting on film but, to my limited savy, then, my line art renditions were awful! I DID try - hard but Roy/Rex/ Jimmy Wakely, too, were not my best showings."

I think Alex is too hard on himself. As an artist myself, I understand how difficult it is to get a good likeness of a real person then repeat it dozens and dozens of times throughout a comic story! But even if Alex was not happy with the likenesses, his dramatic story telling is rock solid.

Alex continued saying that Lloyd Bridges (SEA HUNT), Clint Walker (CHEYENNE), Will Hutchins (SUGAR-FOOT), Jim Garner (MAVERICK), Zazu Pitts, Gale Storm (OH, SUZANNA!) and countless other movie/TV stars he had to create likenesses for proved not to be a satisfying experience.

"I just didn't know enough about faces... how to find the doodle for each of the above, animate them through all emotions, dialogue, etc. But ol' Roy was top of the heap of my problem faces, damn it! He deserved better, too! They all did. It was fun work despite this!"

If any of you have read Alex's adaptations, you know he did a great job on Lloyd Bridges and the others. He also did a couple really terrific RANGE RIDER stories that we hope to print in a future AC book. Certainly Alex ranks as one of the best, if not the best, of the artists on the Roy Rogers series. "Masquerade" appeared in the Dell series ROY ROGERS AND TRIGGER No. 120, December, 1957. I'm very happy to present an Alex Toth story this issue.

Readers may also like to know that Alex is a Western comics and movie fan. He particularly likes Tim Holt and we have a running correspondence currently on-going discussing Tim's pre-war films and the art styles of Tim's comic book illustrator, Frank Bolle.

After comics, Alex Toth had a successful career in animation designing such adventure shows as SUPER-FRIENDS. He also created SCOOBY DOO and SPACE GHOST. Quite a guy!

Bill Black



ROY ROGERS and BULLET

SHERIFF, LOOK! ROGERS GOT BILLY DRAKE! THANKS, ROY! EVERY LAWMAN IN THE STATE'S BEEN AFTER THIS HOMBRE!

in MASQUERADE

FOLLOWING WEEKS OF RELENTLESS PURSUIT, ROY ROGERS RETURNS TO SILVER CREEK WITH THE NOTORIOUS OUTLAW AND "MAN OF MANY FACES," BILLY DRAKE...



ROGERS JUST GOT LUCKY, SHERIFF! PON'T COUNT ON MY BEIN' HERE LONG! THAT'S PRETTY BIG TALK FOR A MAN WHO'S GOING TO SPEND THE NEXT THIRTY YEARS IN JAIL!



YOU'LL HAVE TO WATCH HIM CLOSELY, SHERIFF! THIS ARMY UNIFORM IS ONLY ONE OF HIS



T'VE BEEN STUDYIN' THESE PICTURES OF HIM, ROY! HE WON'T FOOL ME WITH HIS TRICKS!



THE FEDERAL MARSHAL WILL PICK HIM UP IN TWO DAYS!

HE BETTER HURRY, CAUSE THERE'S NOT A SMALL-TOWN JAIL IN THE COUNTRY THAT CAN HOLD ME!



Art by ALEX TOTH



































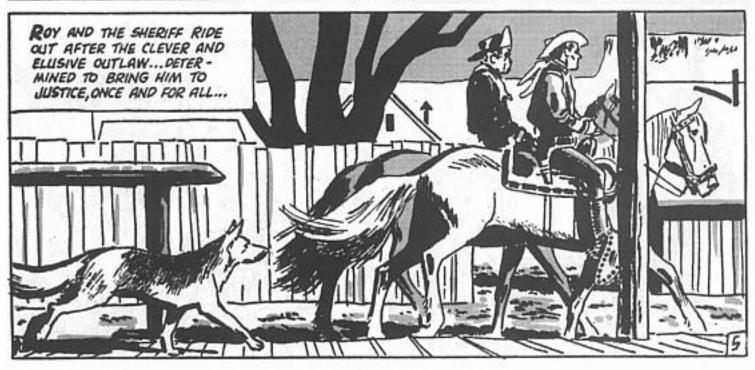








































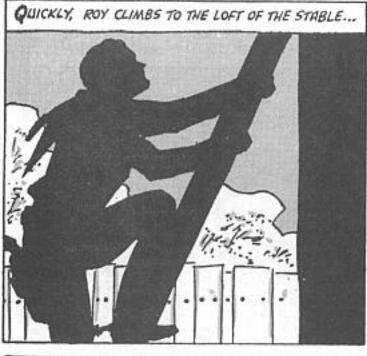






























KING & QUEEN westerns!



DALE EVANS and ROY ROGERS check out a new (1951) book on Western movies.











Art by RUSS MANNING

























AS
THE
TRAIN
ROBBERS
APPROACH
THE BARN,
DALE
FRIGHTENS
THE
HORSES
INTO A
STAMPEDE
ACROSS
THE
YARD...

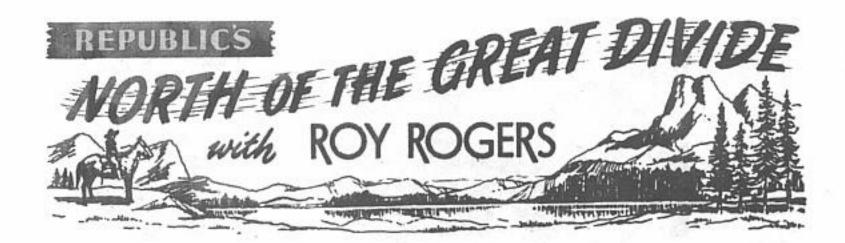












Roy Rogers comes to town on his famous horse, Trigger, his fams expect thrills, music, comedy and romance.

North of the Great Divide, Republic's Trucolor Rogers starrer, has all these, and an appeal to the heart as well. The film also boasts some colourful Indian rites and several highly interesting salmon fishing sequences.

The story opens when a ruthless crook named Banning erects a salmon cannery on the U.S. side of a river that forms part of the Canadian border. By devious means, Banning manages to block off the salmon run upstream, thereby starving out a tribe of Oseka Indians who depend upon the fish for their livelihood.

Ann Keith, pretty field nurse in the U.S. Indian Service, asks for immediate assistance. Roy Rogers, as an old friend of the tribe and blood brother to the chief's son, is sent to solve the problem. Roy drives a herd of cattle in to the Indians to alleviate their hunger, then goes about uncovering the Banning plot. In so doing, he stumbles upon a murder which Banning has instigated, but

Indian agent Roy Rogers throws hot lead to drive off an attack upon Dacona (Kieth Richards), son of chief Nogura, in Republic Pictures' Western thriller, NORTH OF THE GREAT DIVIDE.





for which he has framed the chief of the Indian tribe.

Finally, the Indians, beset with troubles, threaten to go on the warpath, but Roy dissuades them and with their help brings the wrong-doer to justice.

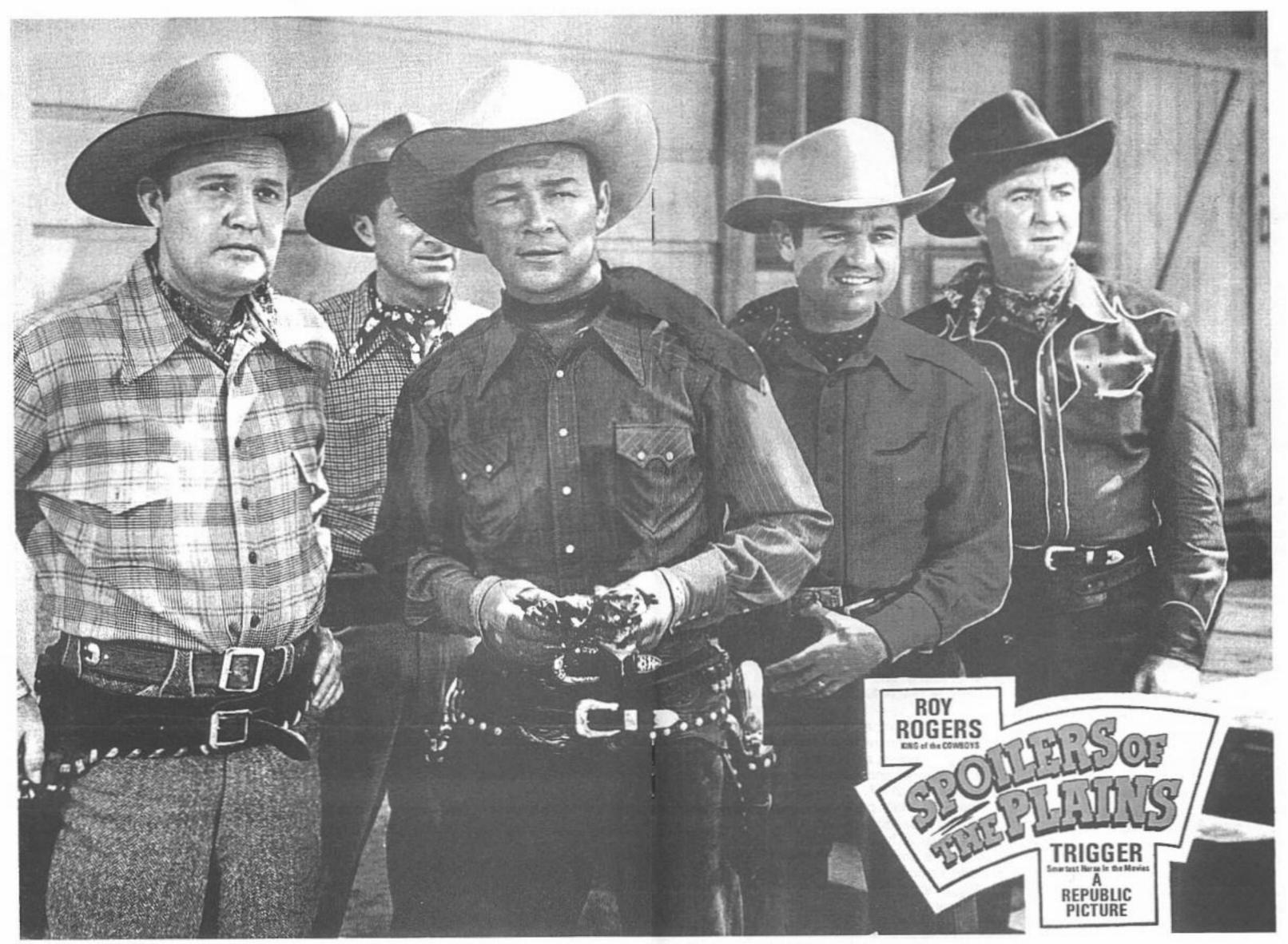
CAST

Roy Rogers—Roy Rogers; Ann Keith— Penny Edwards; Splinters—Gordon Jones; Banning—Roy Barcroft; Stagg—Jack Lambert; Sergeant Douglas—Douglas Evans; Dacona—Keith Richards; Nogura—Noble Johnson; Themselves—Foy Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage and Trigger. Dir.: William Witney with Edward J. White.

(Left to right) Splinters (Gordon Jones), Roy Rogers, Dacona (Keith Richards) and Nogura (Noble Johnson).

BACKGROUND TO THE FILM

Roy Rogers plays himself on the screen. In his North of the Great Divide, he is a hard-hitting, hard-riding Indian agent who takes up the fight for the Indians on the Canadian border when they are threatened by starvation through the exploitation of ruthless, greedy canners. However, in the past, he has played other characters on the screen—some of the West's most famous names, including young Buffalo Bill, young Bill Hickok, Billy the Kid, Jesse James and even Robin Hood in Robin Hood of the Pecos.



ROY ROGERS with FOY WILLING and the RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

TRIGGER! "Smartest Horse in the Movies!"



Republic Pictures will tell you—and there is no reason at all to doubt their veracity—that Roy Rogers has established an all-time record for the number of fans any one movie star has had. In a normal three-month period more than 250,000 letters arrive at the studio addressed to the star, with only about one in a thousand containing any hint of adverse criticism.

And, by the way, this figure doesn't include the fifty letters which Trigger, the world-famous Rogers horse, gets on his own account every week of his life. For the record, previous holder of the title was it was star Clara Bow, whose mail averaged 35,000 letters a week at the peak of her popularity!

Trigger, of course, is quite a horse! He really deserves a feature all to himself. He is said to be able to walk 150 feet on his hind legs, sit on a chair, untie ropes and knock on doors. He can also fire a gun, count up to ten, box, and tuck his master in bed for the night. He has been taught to pretend to be wounded, to sham a broken leg or even to "die" altogether!

Roy Rogers always scrupulously shares his success as King of the Cowboys with his co-star in every picture he makes— Trigger, "The Smartest Horse in Movies." Roy thinks so much of his equine pal that he recently presented him with a S20,000 trailer in which to travel when they make personal appearance tours.

Foaled in San Diego, California, out of a quarter-horse mare by a thoroughbred stud, Trigger was bought by Roy in 1938, when the horse was five years old, for \$2,500. He has worked in every picture Roy has made, and now has his own contract with Republic Studios which calls for co-star billing and at least three close-ups in each new film! He has flown in a plane and travelled by ship, and at one time was given a birthday party at one of New York's most exclusive hotels —a party attended by various other film horses and at which raw carrots were the treat of the evening.

Trigger, a palomino stallion, weighs 1,100 pounds and stands 15 hands. His birthday is March 17. He has sired numerous colts, but one in particular, Trigger Junior, is almost a perfect likeness of his famous father. He is being groomed to step into Trigger's golden horseshoes whenever his "pop" decides to retire. He has appeared with Trigger in two films, The Golden Stallion and Trigger Jr.

(1951)



How's this for an unusual photo— Roy Rogers on a motorcycle! On the TNN "Celebrities Offstage" special, Roy rode this modern day "Trigger" and took Lorianne Crook for a spin in Victorville, Ca. Dale Evans, Dwight Yoakam and Garth Brooks were also featured on the program.

New ROY ROGERS Product!
Roy guest stars in the 4th
issue of AC'S BEST OF THE
WEST, He's on the cover in
full color along with The
Durango Kid and has a full
page photo portrait and 10
page story inside. The book
also features Durango, Tim
Holt as Redmask and Rocky
Lane. It is \$5.95 (plus \$1.50
P&H) from AC Comics, Box
521216, Longwood, FL 32752



Art by JOHN BUSCEMA







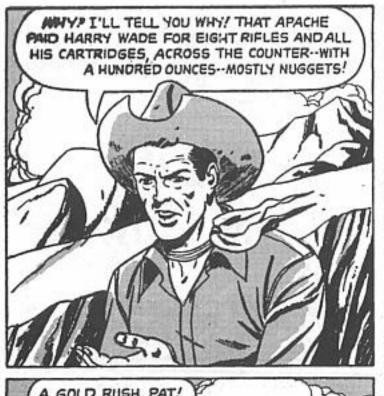


















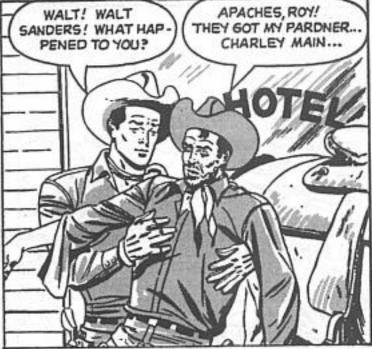




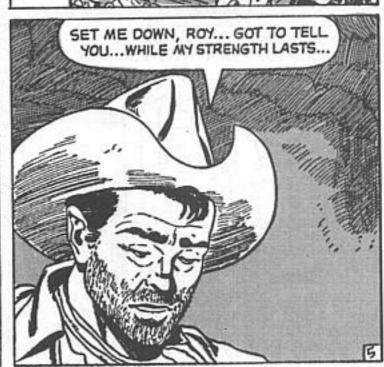
















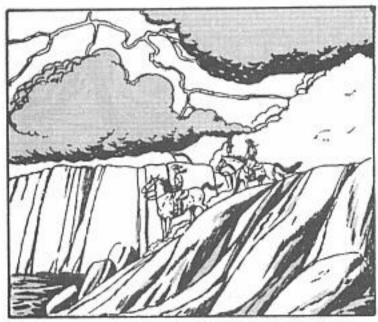
"THE NEXT DAY, OUR WATER WAS GONE! WE DECIDED TO GIVE THE HORSES THEIR OWN WAY, HOP-ING THAT INSTINCT WOULD LEAD THEM TO WATER.



"MY PACK HORSE TOOK THE LEAD-HEADING FOR A SUBARLOAF PEAK... EAST OF THE SNOW MOUNTAINS.



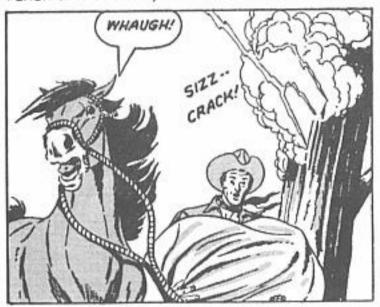




"AS WE STARTED DOWN INTO THE GULCH, A BLACK CLOUD HID THE SUN--AND THEN CAME A BRIGHT FLASH OF LIGHTNING, BUT WE HARDLY NOTICED...



"FIRST OF ALL, WE DRANK ALL WE DARED OF THAT CLEAR, COLD WATER--HORSES AND MEN.



"I'D JUST PULLED THE SADDLE OFF MY PACK HORSE WHEN A LIGHTNING BOLT HIT A DEAD TREE CLOSE BY. IT SPOOKED THE HORSE...

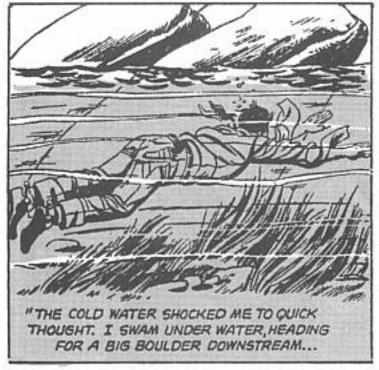




"IT WAS NEAR DARK, BUT CHARLEY AND I COULDN'T WAIT. WE STARTED PANNING THE GRAVEL--AND FOUND NUGGETS THICKER THAN PLUMS IN A PUDDING. WE'D EACH HALF-FILLED A POKE, WHEN..."



"...TWO RIFLES WHAMMED FROM BEHIND US. I GLIMPSED CHARLEY FALLING, HIT IN THE HEAD, AND THEN A BULLET SLAMMED ME INTOTHE WATER



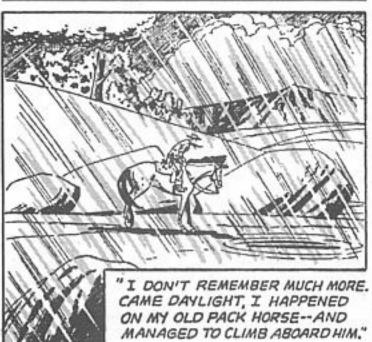


"ON THE FAR SIDE, THE BOULDER HAD A LOW OVER-HANG. I LAY THERE WITH MY NOSE JUST OUT OF THE WATER -- KNOWING IF APACHES HAD SHOT US, THEY'D COME HUNTING MY BODY TO MAKE SURE...





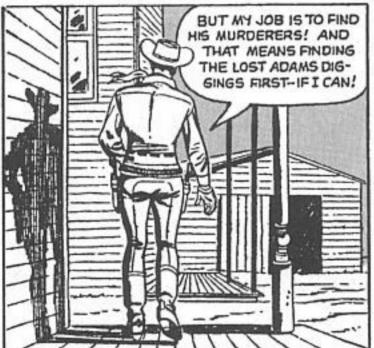
"SOMEHOW I MADE IT UP THE SIDE OF THE GULCH...
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE HORSES--OR WHOEVER
HAD SHOT US--BUT RAIN ENOUGH TO DROWN A MAN!







































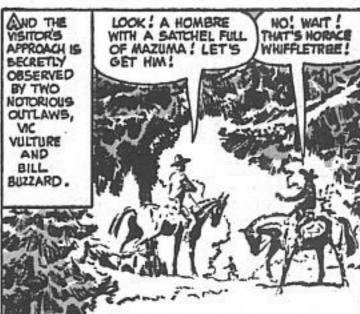




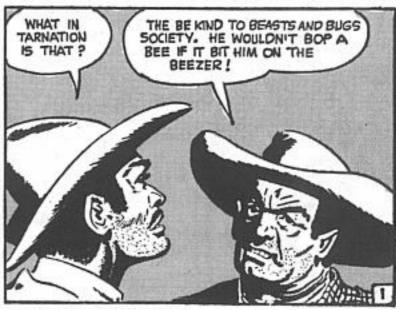












Art by LEONARD FRANK







