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YOU! AND BACK AWAY FROM THAT WHEEL!

WHAT'S THIS --- A JOKE? OR PIRACY ?

FORBIDDEN TRAILS

ONE SUMMER AFTERNOON, THE PILOT HOUSE OF A YUKON RIVER STEAMER IS SUDDENLY INVADED.





MOMENTS LATER, THE VESSEL SWINGS SHARPLY OFF COURSE, HEADED FOR A SANDBAR . . .

## -- WHERE SHE GOES HARD AGROUND!





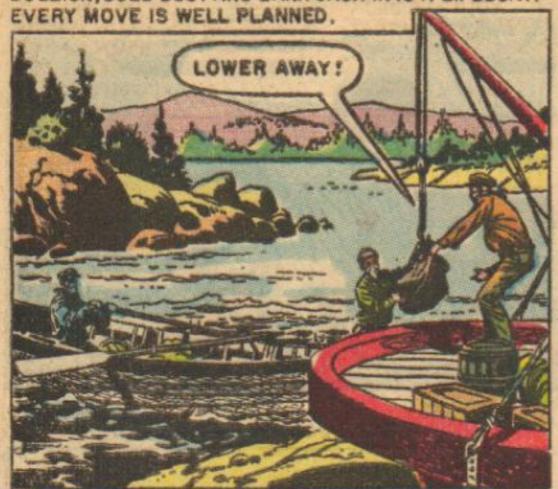
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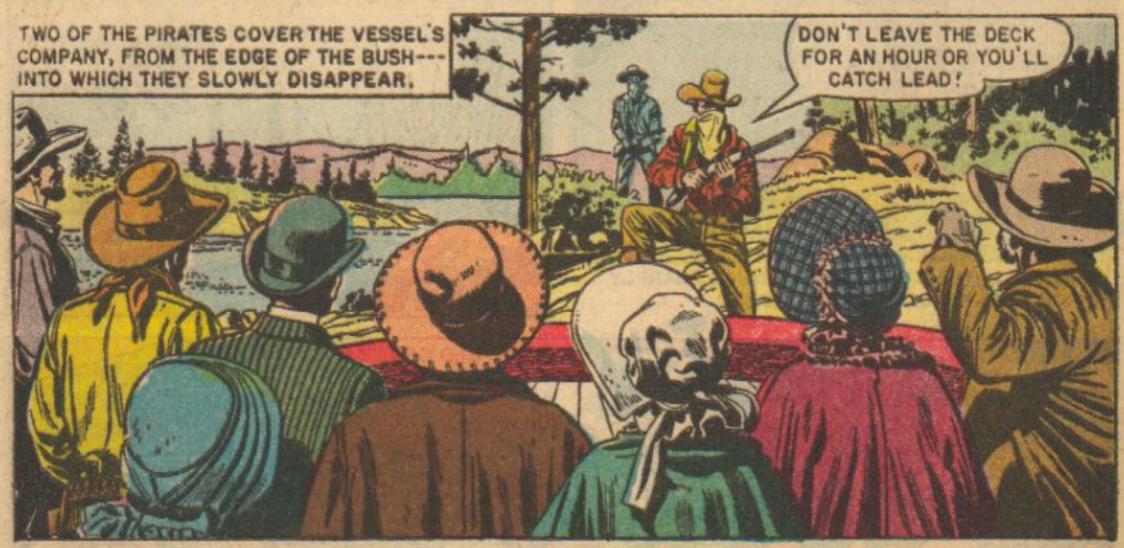
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... THREE OTHERS LOWER THE SHIPMENTS OF BULLION, GOLD DUST AND BANK CASH INTO A LIFEBOAT.









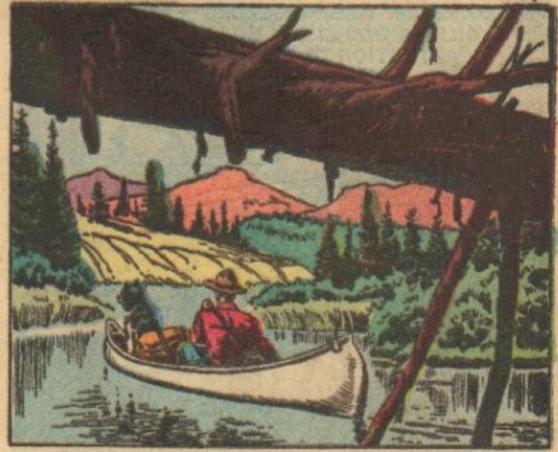








THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON FINDS SERGEANT PRES-TON AND YUKON KING PADDLING UPSTREAM ALONG THE CURVING BRANCH OF THE LOST WOMAN RIVER...



AT DUSK, PRESTON LANDS--- WHERE A GAME TRAIL DESCENDS TO THE WATER.







AS THE EVENING BREEZE MOVES THE DISTANT TREE-TOPS, THE WEIRD SOUNDS RISE LOUDER!



WHATEVER IS DE FONT THE DANGEROUS --- OF WITHOUT WARNING, PRESTON IS JERKED INTO THE AIR BY A STEEL-WIRE NOOSE!

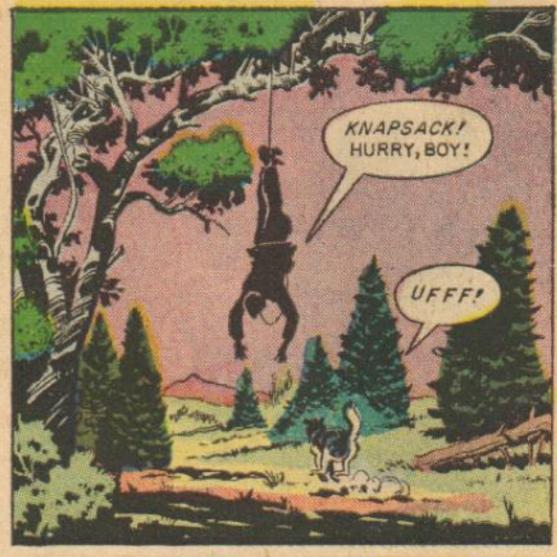
























A HALF HOUR LATER ...





THE FRICTION OF DEAD WOOD LYING HEAVILY IN A LIVE TREE'S CROTCH PRODUCES A GRATING MOAN, AS THE WIND SWAYS IT!











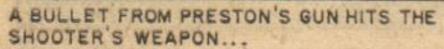
















THE FIRST MAN OUT GIVES A SHOUT AS PRESTON SPINS HIM ASIDE.



AND INSIDE, A BLANKET SUDDENLY SNUFFS OUT THE

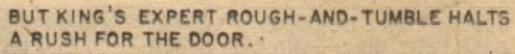


IN THE DARKNESS OF THE CABIN, KING'S GROWLING, HURTLING SHAPE CAUSES INSTANT CONFUSION! HE HAS BEEN WELL TRAINED FOR JUST SUCH MIX-UPS.











ONE AT A TIME, PRESTON --- WAITING OUTSIDE ---









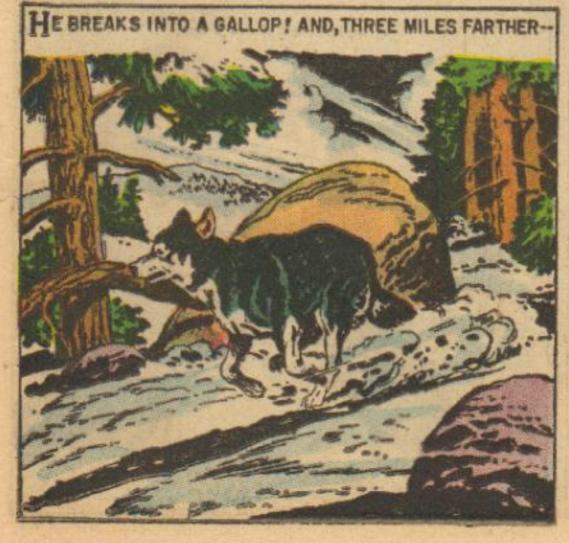




ALTHOUGH HIS HEARING IS MORE THAN EIGHT TIMES AS KEEN AS A MAN'S, KING LOPES FOR A MILE, FOLLOWING THE SOUND'S DIRECTION, UNTIL ---











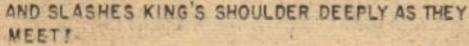
IT IS THE TRAIL, NOT OF A PACK, BUT OF ONE HUGE WOLF, WHICH HE FOLLOWS --- AND IT LEADS STRAIGHT TOWARDS THAT DESPERATE HUMAN CRY!



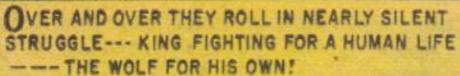
































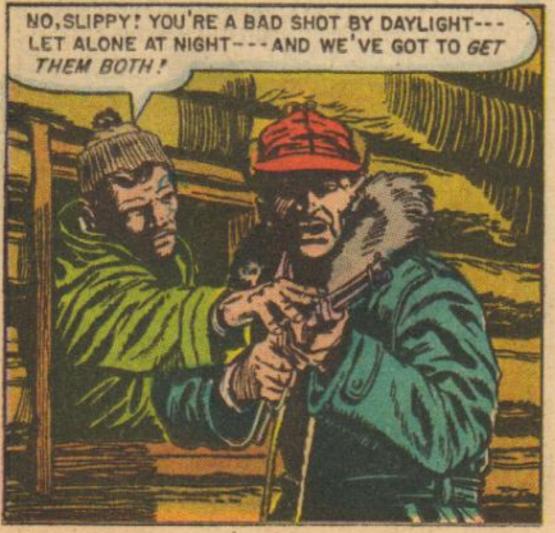
















ROBBERS SLIP OUT OF THE DOOR INTO THE WOODS.













TO LEAVE HIS HANDS FREE FOR SEARCHING, PRESTON TUCKS THE AXE HEAD UNDER HIS BELT.



































## The Tenderfoot



The storm had come up suddenly, and worse yet it was almost dusk. Small particles of ice mixed with the swirling snow-flakes, and the howling wind roared and whined like a wounded beast. Here was challenge enough for an old-timer, but what chance did a tenderfoot have—alone, unskilled, trapped as he was in the

very center of a Yukon blizzard?

Morgan, as he forced himself onward. The wind tore at his parka, and the hail stung his face repeatedly. Every so often he was forced to a halt, as though mighty hands had laid hold of him, eager to drag him down into the soft, glistening drifts. It took every effort, every ounce of will power to fight off the feeling. Movement was his only chance. To stop now was to stop for all time. Sluggishly he wiped the snow from his lids. Painfully he pushed one foot forward, then the other. His thoughts reeled. The morning seemed so long ago—almost an eternity.

"You be careful," said gray-haired Russ Taylor, as Jeff prepared to leave. Russ was the mine company's foreman, and his feelings toward Jeff were like a

father toward a son.

"I'll be all right," Jeff replied. "I can make the trading post by noon and be back before dusk. Getting out on my own might do me some good," he added with a smile.

"Two months in the Yukon hardly makes you a veteran," Russ said with concern. "You be careful, boy," he repeated.

Russ' concern seemed exaggerated to Jeff. He had made the post by noon, loaded the sled with supplies and was back on the trail a little past two. He grinned inwardly at how he would kid Russ when he got back to camp. Shortly afterwards it happened. The storm swooped down out of the mountains and suddenly his rosy world became bleak and dismal.

Within a half hour he had lost the sled and the team. They simply tore loose and ran off. Within another twenty minutes he was hopelessly lost. Wearily he came to a halt to wipe away the snow, and then he heard a new sound—a howling note that rose above the wind.

Wolves! In a moment his mouth went dry and his heart fluttered with sickening beats. He peered about him but the dancing, swirling flakes now fell all the faster. A shadow seemed to move across his field of vision, then disappeared. Did he imagine it? Doubt vanished as the piercing cry came from behind. He whirled. Bright spots of light glistened, then vanished. Swift shadows moved with blurring motion. The lights reappeared, and their numbers had increased. They circled, drew closer. The shadows began to take shape.

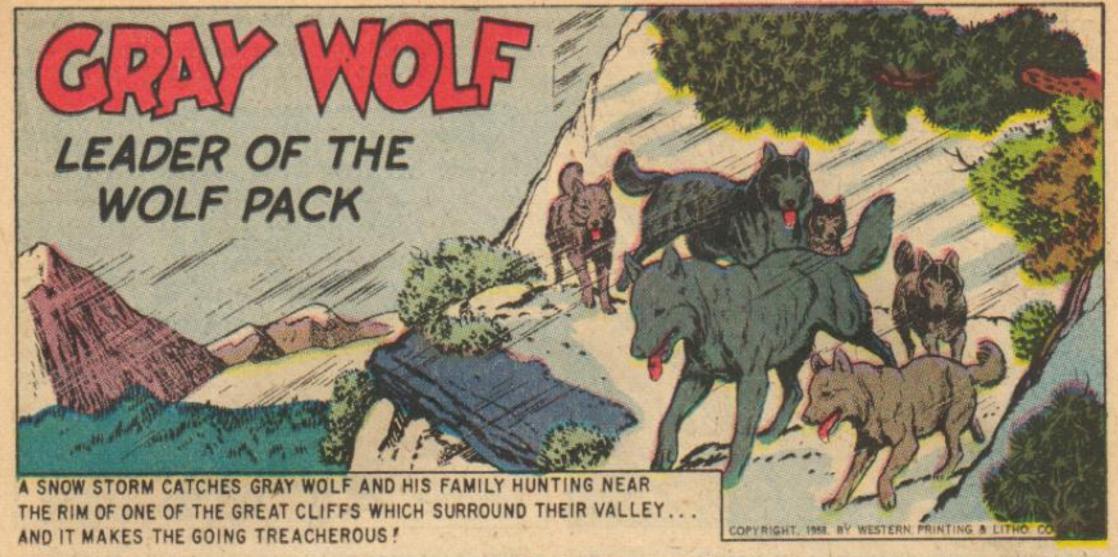
He could see them now, their lips drawn back, the fangs bared. He cringed within himself, held his breath and then orange flame leaped out of the darkness. Again and again the shots rang out. Yelps filled the air—trailed off in the distance.

Moments later old Russ and some of the boys were at Jeff's side. "Another second would have been too late," gasped Jeff. "The storm was bad enough, but those wolves meant the end."

"Don't be too hard on them wolves, boy," grunted Russ. "We heard their howls and it led us to you. In a way they did you a service."

Jeff shook his head wearily. The wolves had done him a service! It proved but one thing. There was a lot to learn about this country—a lot more than he had thought.

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WITH A SUDDEN SPURT OF SPEED, BROWNIE, THE BIG-GEST PUP, CROWDS PAST HIS MOTHER, KUNEE ---SHOVING HER ACCIDENTALLY!



HER SNOW-FILLED PADS SLIP ON THE GLAZED ROCK, AND SHE SLIPS OVER THE EDGE --- INTO SPACE!



ELECTRIFIED BY HER HOWL OF FEAR, GRAY WOLF SPINS ABOUT IN MID-STRIDE -- TOO LATE TO HELP?

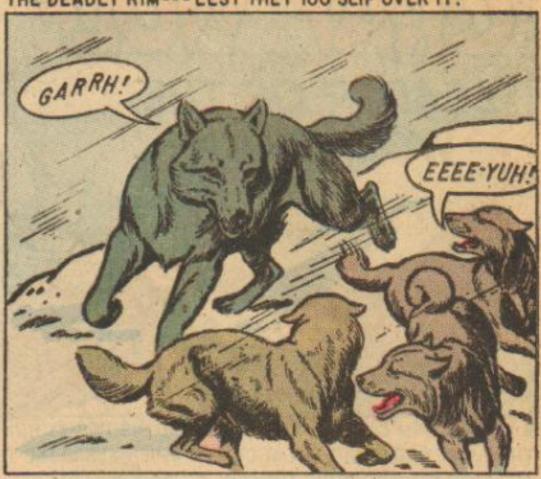


TWENTY FEET BELOW THE RIM, A NARROW LEDGE HAS BROKEN KUNEE'S FALL! SHE APPEARS UNHURT, BUT TRAPPED THERE!

PANICKED, KUNEE CLAWS AT THE SMOOTH ROCK WALL ---KNOWING IN HER HEART THAT IT IS USELESS! DEATH LURKS BELOW! AND THAT HERE SHE MIGHT AS WELL BE DEAD ...



SAVAGELY, GRAY WOLF FORCES HIS OFFSPRING BACK FROM THE DEADLY RIM --- LEST THEY TOO SLIP OVER IT!



FOR LONG MINUTES HE STUDIES HIS MATE'S POSITION --- IN GROWING DESPAIR !



THEN HE LEADS HIS PACK DOWN BY A BREAK IN THE CLIFF WALLS.



DOWN BELOW, ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE BLIZZARD, HE HEARS HIS MATE'S MOURNFUL HOWL. ..



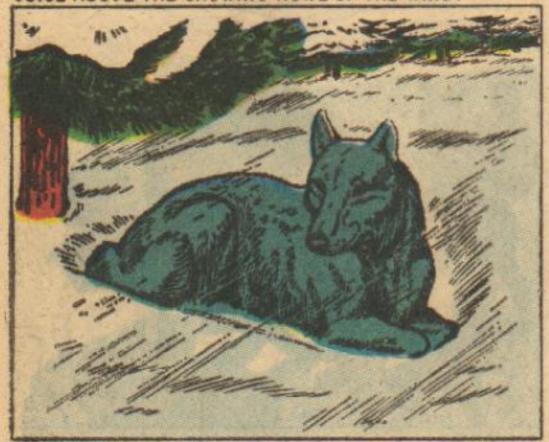
---- AND HOWLS IN HEARTBROKEN REPLY!



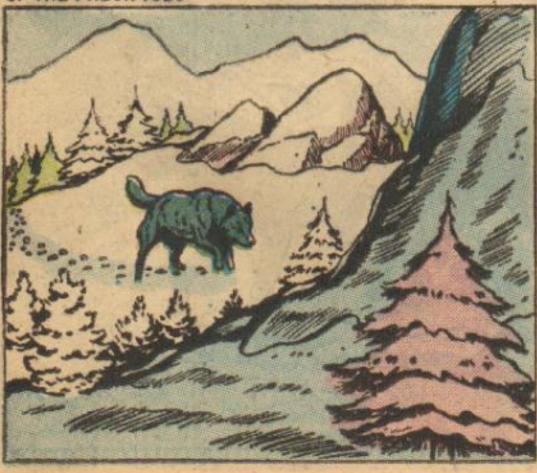
ONE BY ONE, THE CUBS MAKE THEIR LITTLE NESTS IN THE DRIFTING SNOW, AND LET NATURE'S WHITE BLANKET COVER THEM. THUS THEY WILL SLEEP OUT THE STORM IN COMFORT!



... UNTIL AT LAST WEARINESS FORCES HIM TO BED DOWN!
EVEN THEN HE LISTENS --- TRYING TO MAKE OUT KUNEE'S
VOICE ABOVE THE GROWING HOWL OF THE WIND.



SADLY, GRAY WOLF MOVES OVER THE WIND-PACKED SURFACE OF THE GREAT DRIFT WHICH BANKS THE FOOT OF THE PRECIPICE.



LONG AFTER HIS PUPS HAVE BEEN COVERED, GRAY WOLF KEEPS LONELY VIGIL...



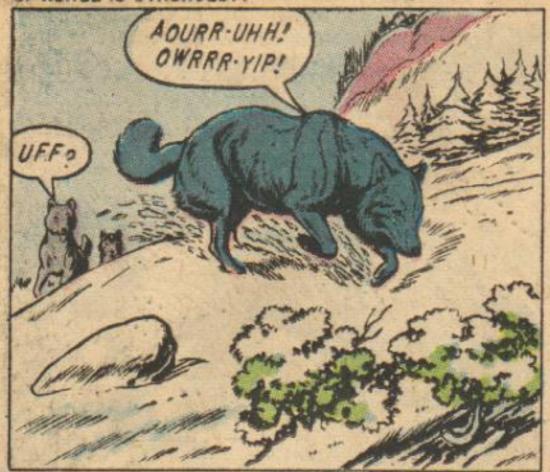
TWO DAYS LATER --- A PALE NORTHERN SUN SHINES ON A STILL AND WINDLESS WORLD --- WRAPPED IN WHITE! GRAY WOLF AND HIS OFFSPRING DIG OUT --- TO FACE THE EMPTY CLIFF!..



ABRUPTLY HE STIFFENS, CATCHING THE WARM, LIVE SCENT OF HIS MATE!



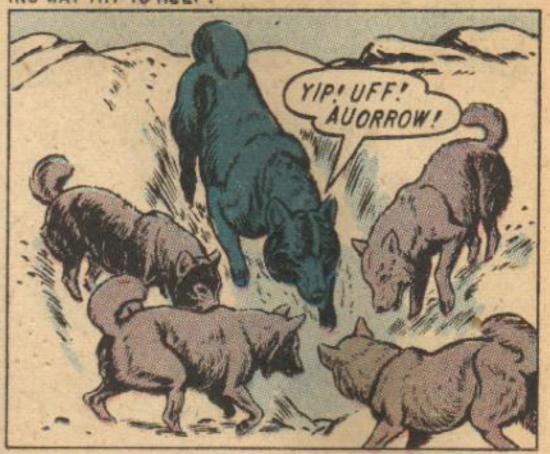
THEN, FURIOUSLY, HE BEGINS DIGGING WHERE THE SCENT



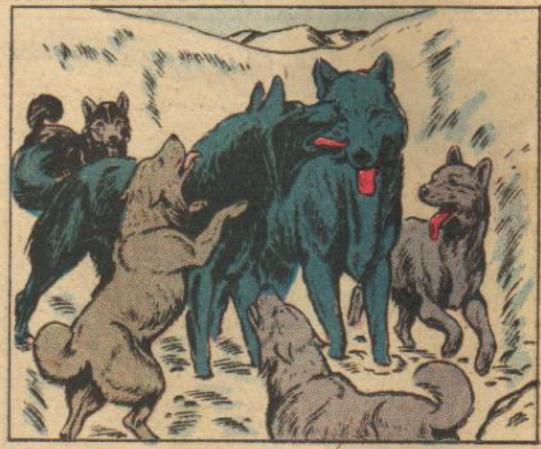
MALF CONSCIOUS AFTER HOURS WITH TOO LITTLE OXYGEN AND TOO MUCH WEIGHT OF SNOW ON TOP OF HER, KUNEE FEELS THE WARM TOUCH OF GRAY WOLF'S TONGUE.



WITH GLAD LITTLE CRIES AND YELPS, HE WORKS IN A CLOUD OF TORN-UP SNOW --- AND THE PUPS IN THEIR BLUNDER-ING WAY TRY TO HELP!



SHE IS UNHURT, HOWEVER--- THE DEEPLY-DRIFTED SNOW HAVING ENTIRELY CUSHIONED HER SIXTY-FOOT FALL! SOON SHE GAINS HER FEET. . .



SUPPORTING HER ON EITHER SIDE!











AS IF SENSING THAT HE IS BEING TALKED ABOUT, THE SAD-FACED CREE TURNS TO GLANCE AT THE TRADING POST.



HE MEANS TO STAY --- THAT'S WHAT IS WRONG!



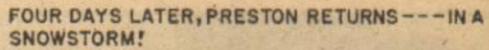




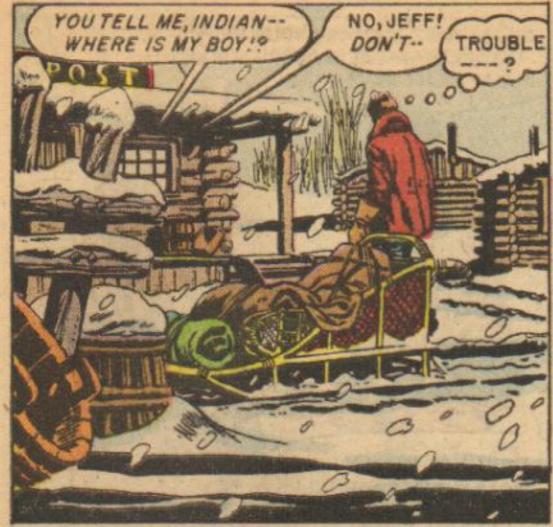




FRANKLY, I THINK YOU WOULD HAVE NO GOOD REASON TO WORRY ABOUT BOBBIE, IN ANY CASE,





































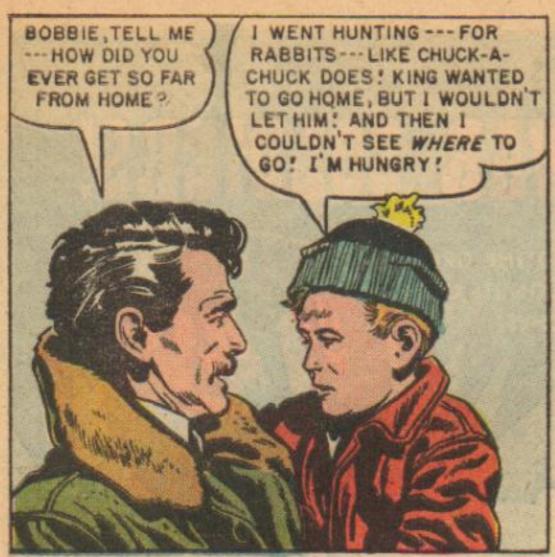






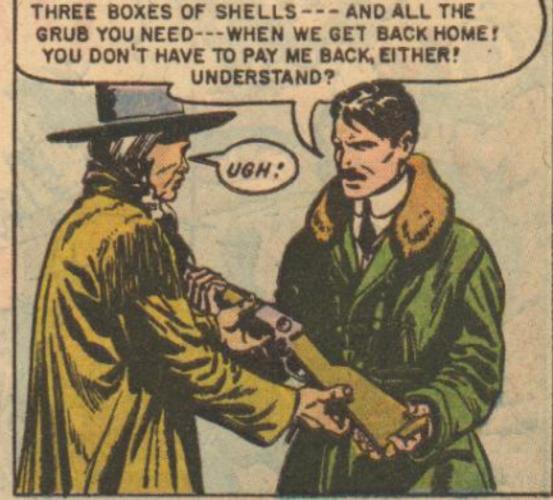




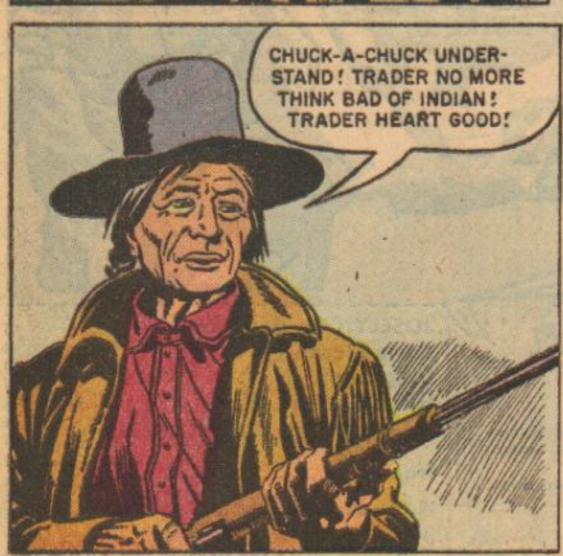








CHUCK-A-CHUCK, THIS RIFLE IS YOURS! WITH





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Harandard Carrara Carr

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LIKE MOST CATS, THE LYNX HAS WONDERFUL EYESIGHT, AND IS LIGHTNING-QUICK IN ITS POUNCE UPON GAME. IT FEEDS MOSTLY ON RABBITS AND MICE, WITH AN OCCASIONAL GROUSE.



A BIG LYNX IS ABLE TO TAKE MUCH LARGER PREY--EVEN A FULL GROWN DEER---BUT HE PREFERS A FAWN,
WHICH CANNOT PUT UP ANY FIGHT! A LYNX HUNTS FOR
FOOD, NOT FOR FUN!



WHEREVER LYNX ARE PLENTIFUL THEIR BLOOD-CURDLING YOWLS AND SQUALLINGS ECHO THROUGH THE BUSH, GENERALLY AT NIGHT! LYNX FIGHTS ARE JUST CAT FIGHTS---BUT LOUDER!



THE LYNX'S BROAD, FURRY FEET ACT LIKE SNOWSHOES ON SOFT SNOW OR THIN CRUST WHERE A DEER FLOUNDERS DEEP. A WEARY, SNOWBOUND DEER IS EASY PREY FOR THIS GRAY KILLER.



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