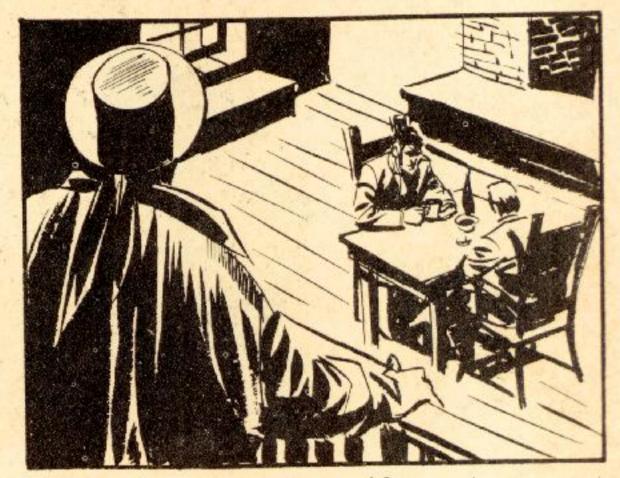


A STROKE OF LUCK



The King's gold is stolen, and Don Diego is challenged to a duel when he throws suspicion on one of his wealthy neighbors.

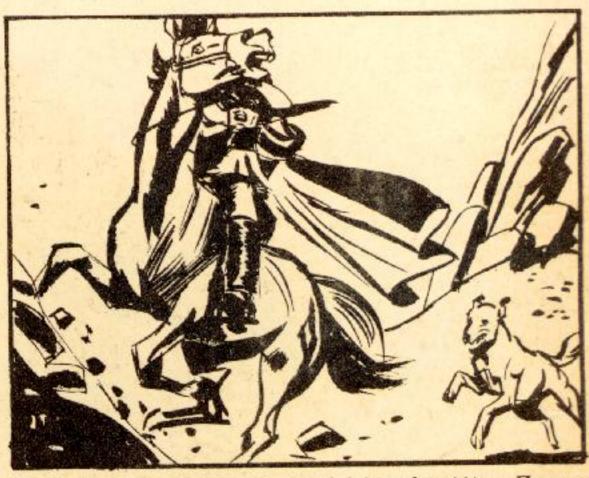


Zorro tries to uncover evidence to prevent the duel, but what he finds makes him decide that Diego should fight this battle.

THE HUNTED



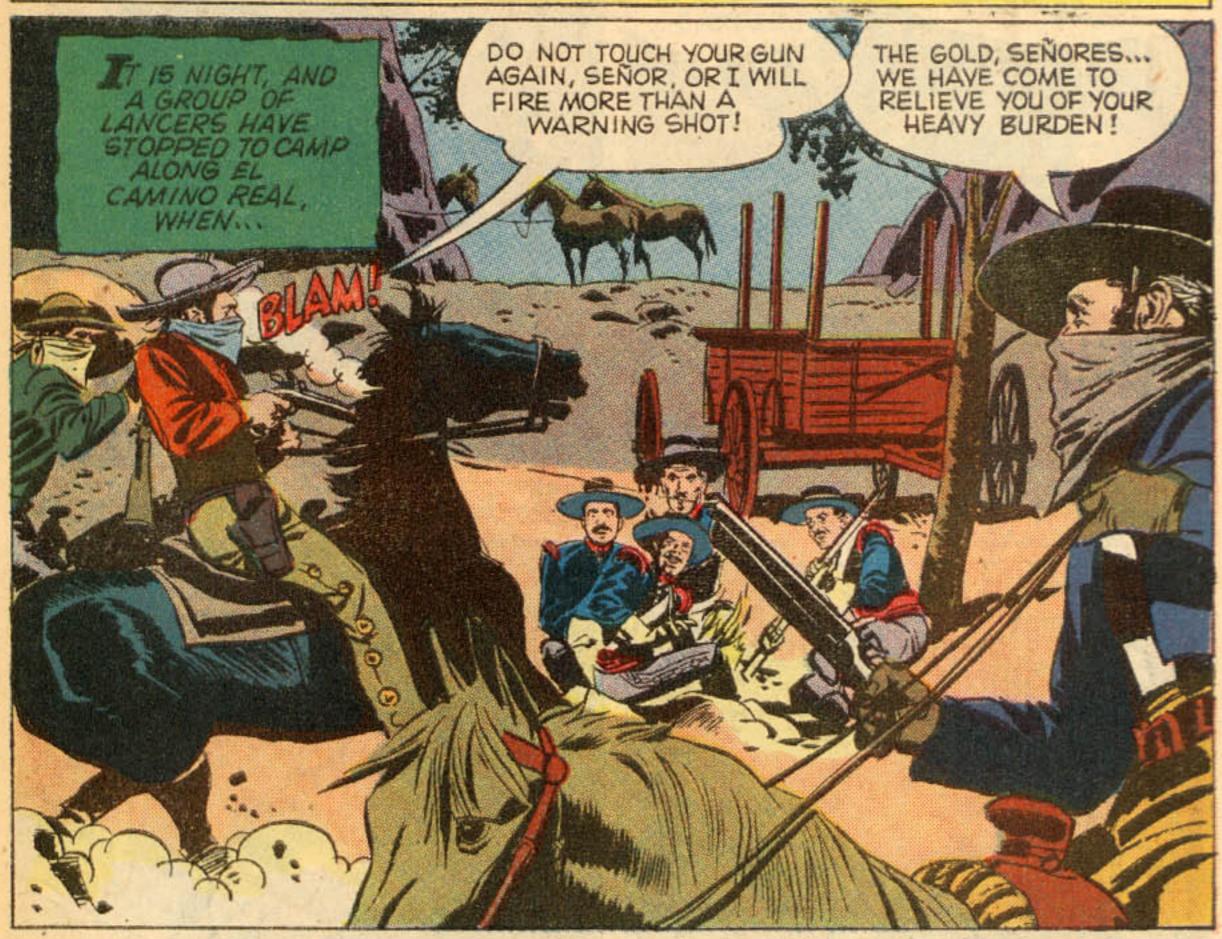
Bernardo alerts Don Diego that killer dogs have been turned loose on Zorro's trail...a trail leading to the De la Vega hacienda.



Fearing the exposure of his identity, Zorro leads the pack on a wild chase and almost loses his life trying to escape capture.



A STROKE OF LUCK







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ONE LANCER, HOWEVER, TAKES A
DESPERATE CHANCE ...

NO! YOU WILL NOT TAKE
THE GOLD!







A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE INJURED LANCER IS ABLE TO RIDE ...





















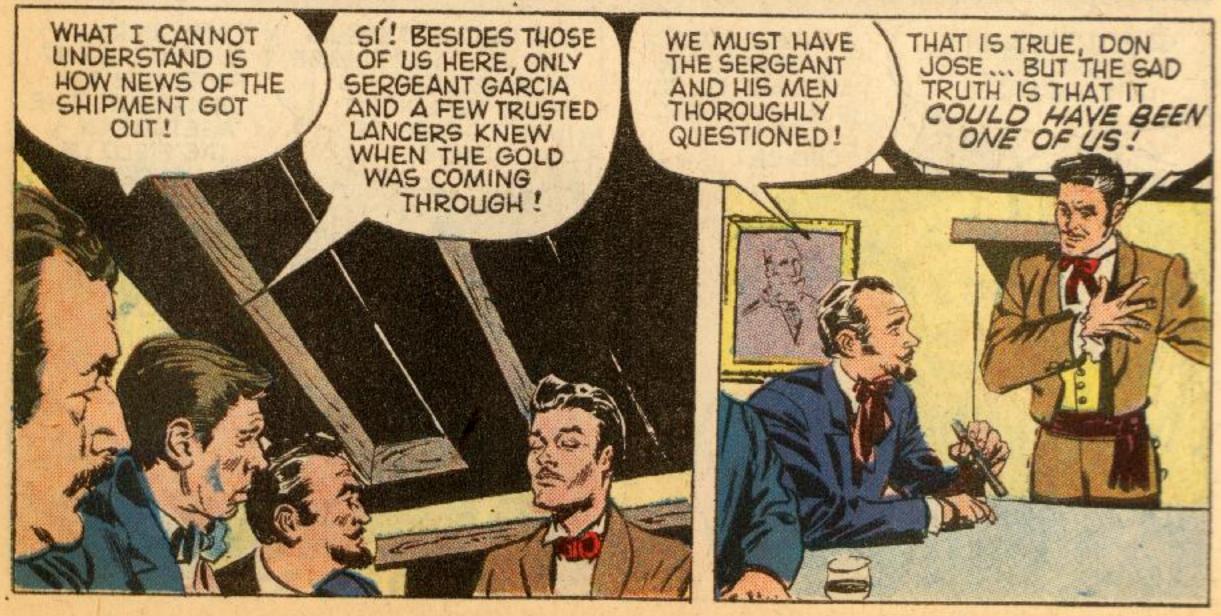






THAT AFTERNOON, IN DON'DIEGO'S STUDY, A GROUP OF PROMINENT LANDOWNERS HEARS THE NEWS OF THE STOLEN GOLD. ALL OF THEM SEEM HONESTLY ASTONISHED AND CRESTFALLEN.









I AM SURE I DO NOT

KNOW WHY ... BUT THE

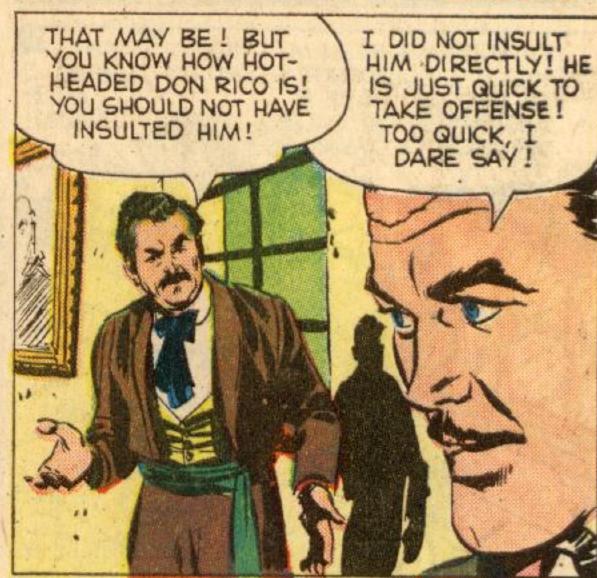




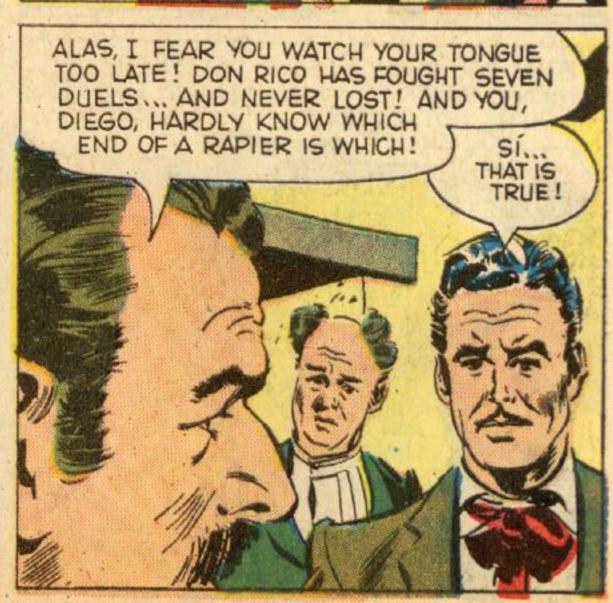


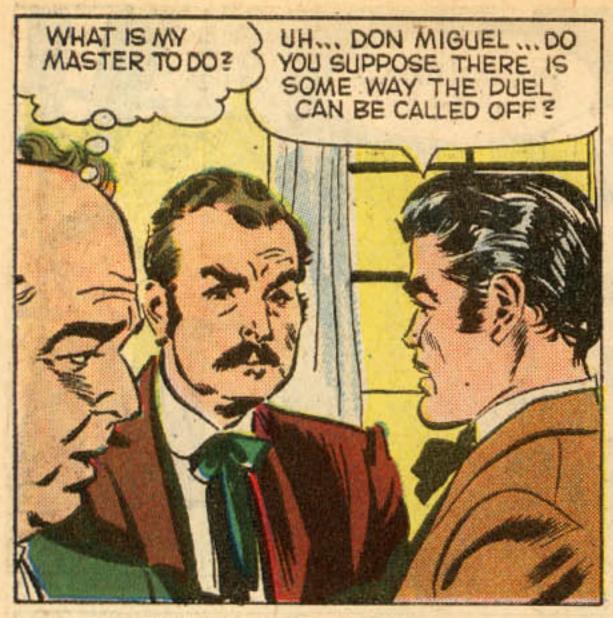






















WELL, BERNARDO, WE CERTAINLY SAW

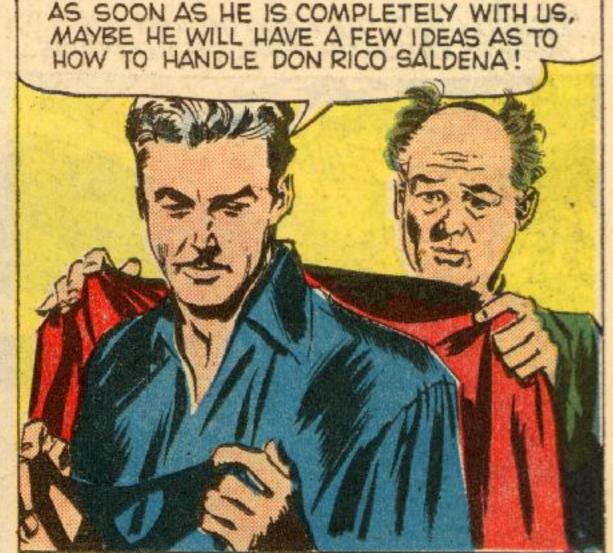
BERNARDO IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IMPENDING DUEL AND SAYS SO IN SIGN



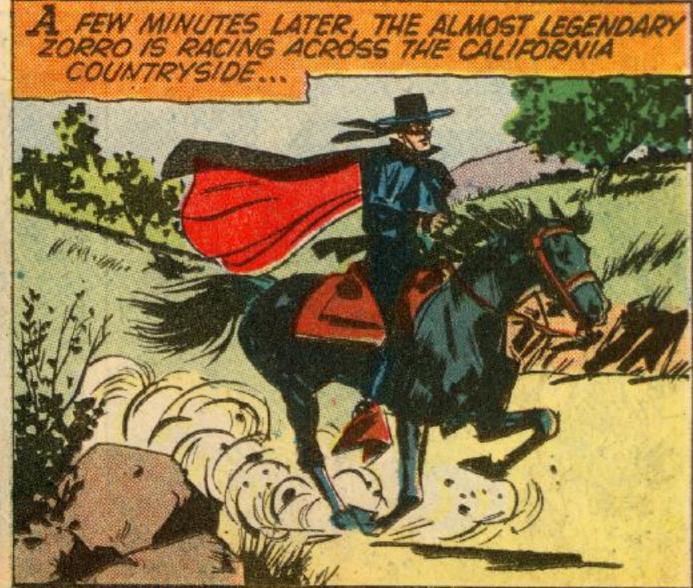
BUT I THINK MAYBE OUR FRIEND, SEÑOR
ZORRO, WILL THINK OF GOMETHING TO HELP!
I CERTAINLY HOPE SO, OR HEAVEN HELP
DON DIEGO!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE SECRET ROOM ...









BUT, AS THE FATES WOULD HAVE IT, HE IS SPOTTED BY GARCIA AND THE LANCERS WHO ARE OUT SEARCHING FOR THE BAND OF OUTLAWS WHO STOLE THE GOLD...





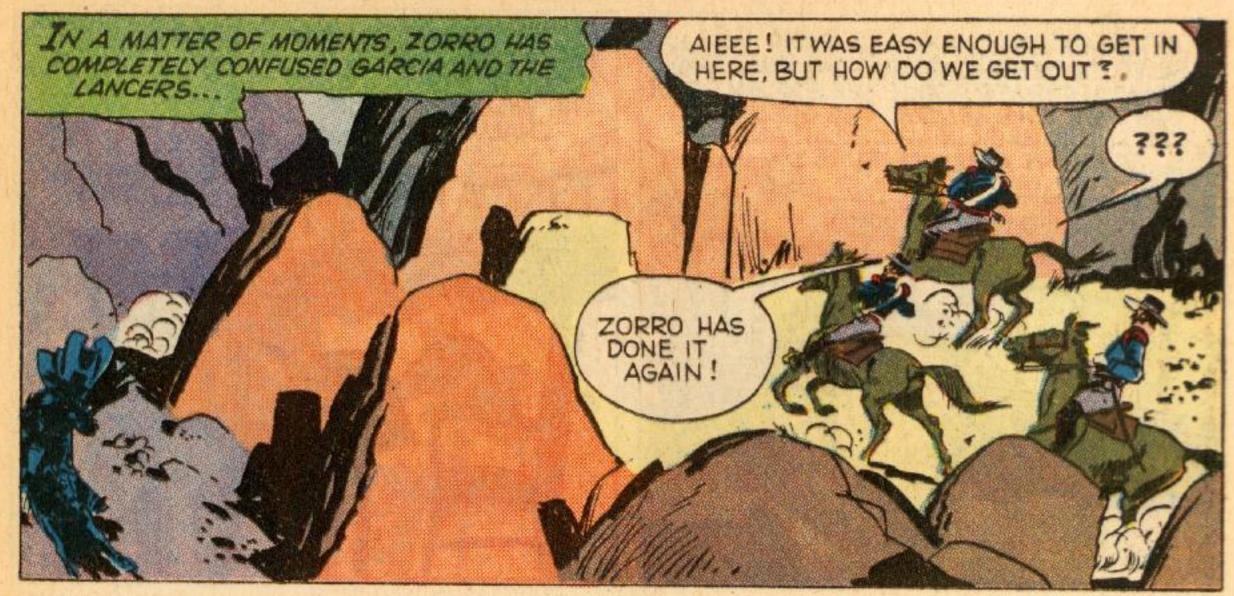
FASTER, TORNADO! IT SEEMS SERGEANT

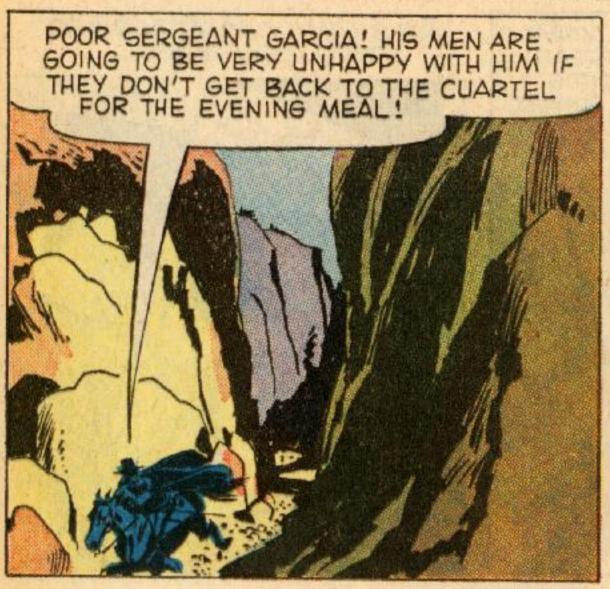
ZORRO URGES TORNADO ON AND THE MAGNIFICENT BLACK STALLION RESPONDS ...





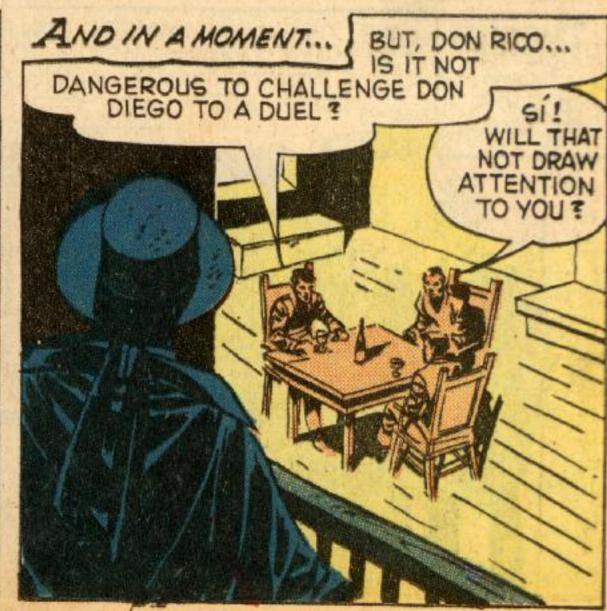














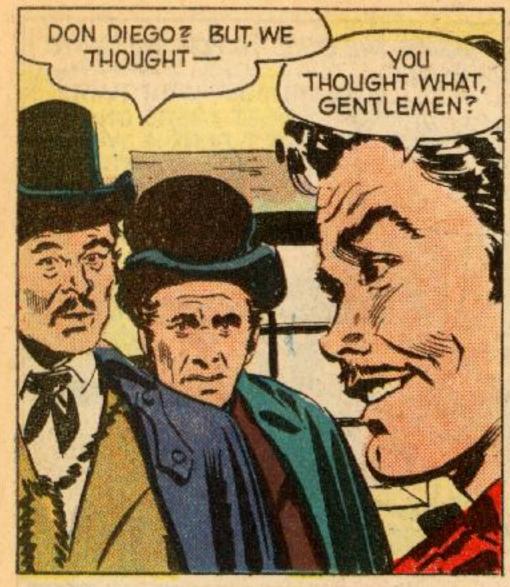




ZORRO DISAPPEARS...

AS SILENTLY AS HE ARRIVED,



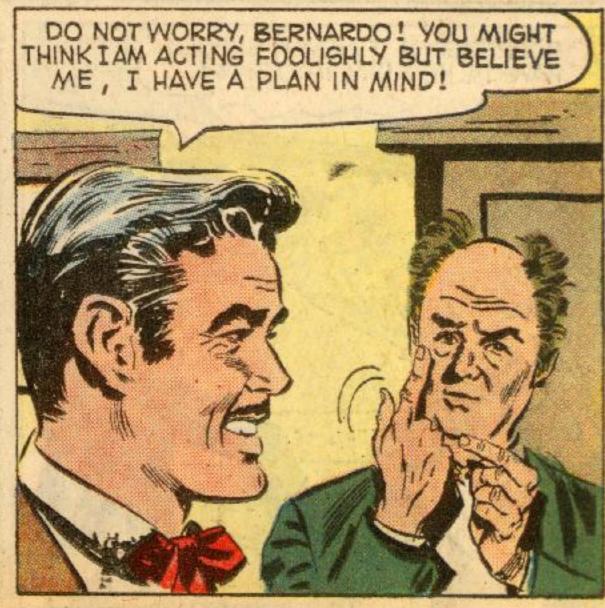


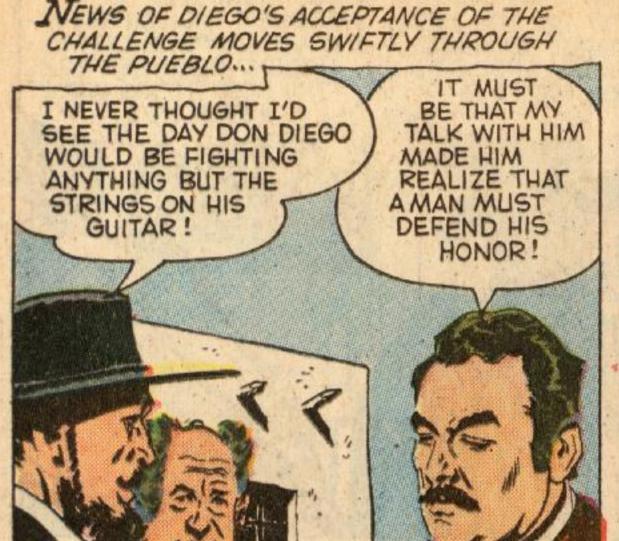


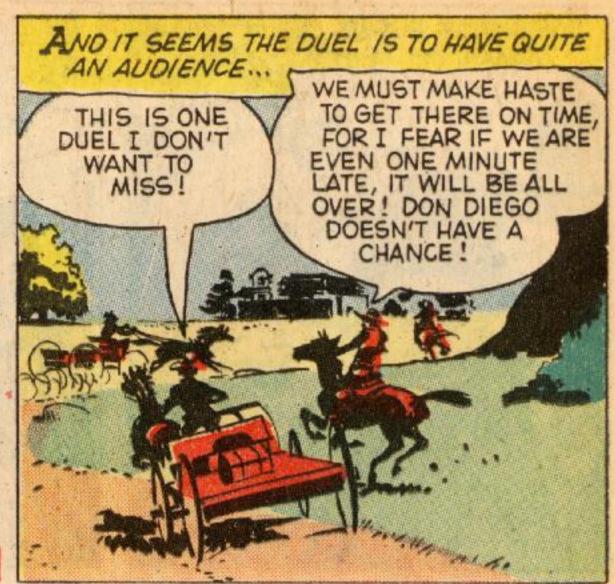


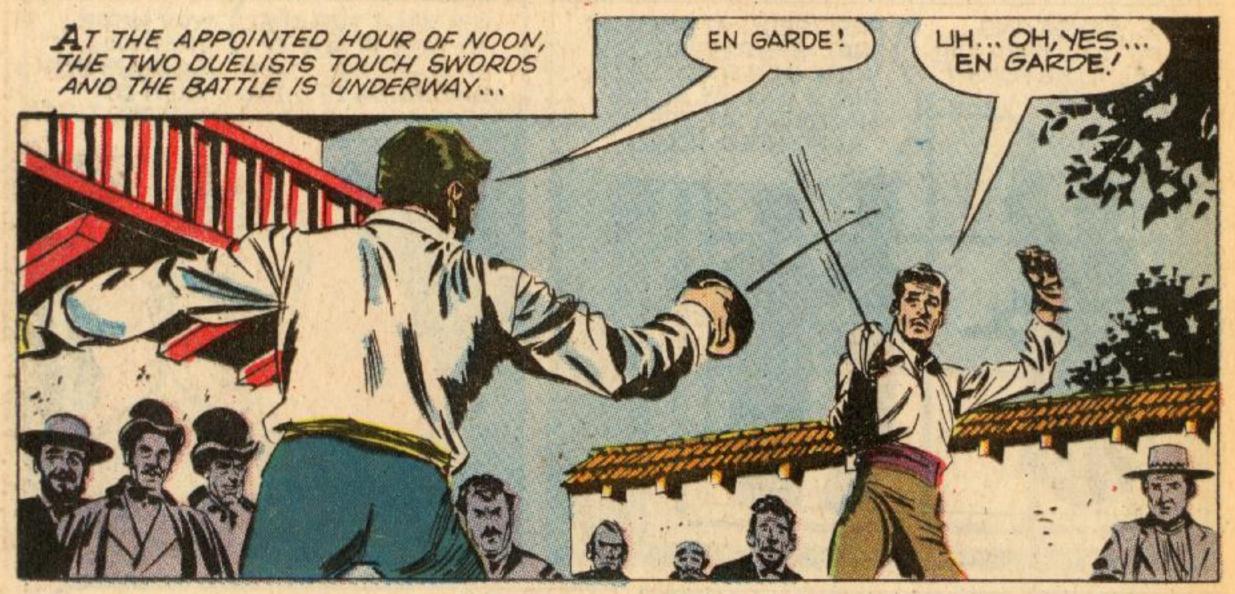




















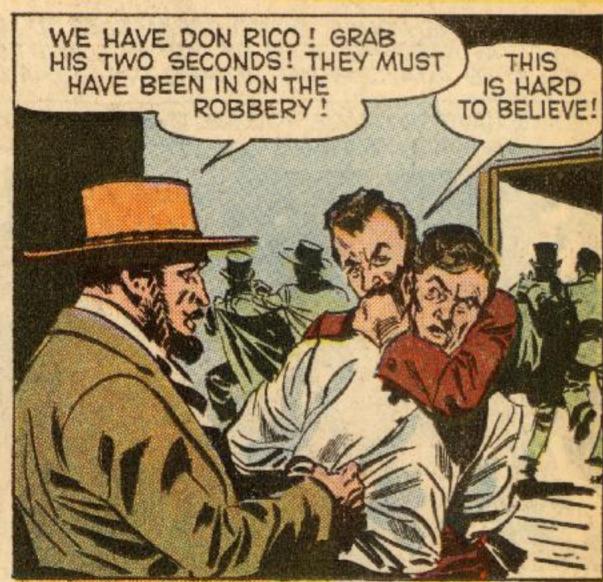


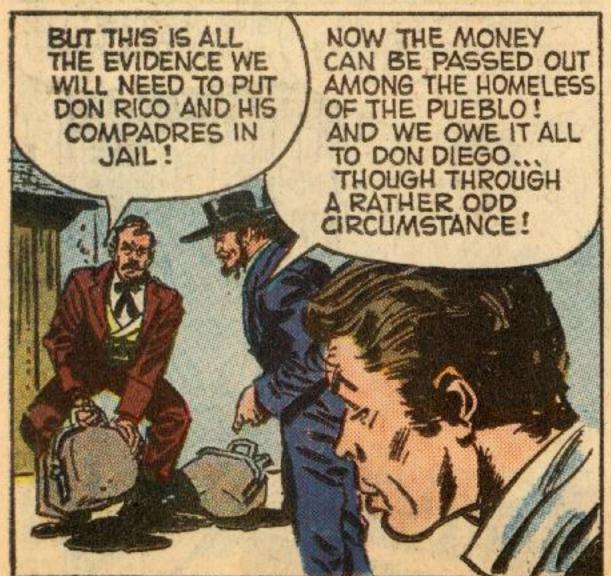




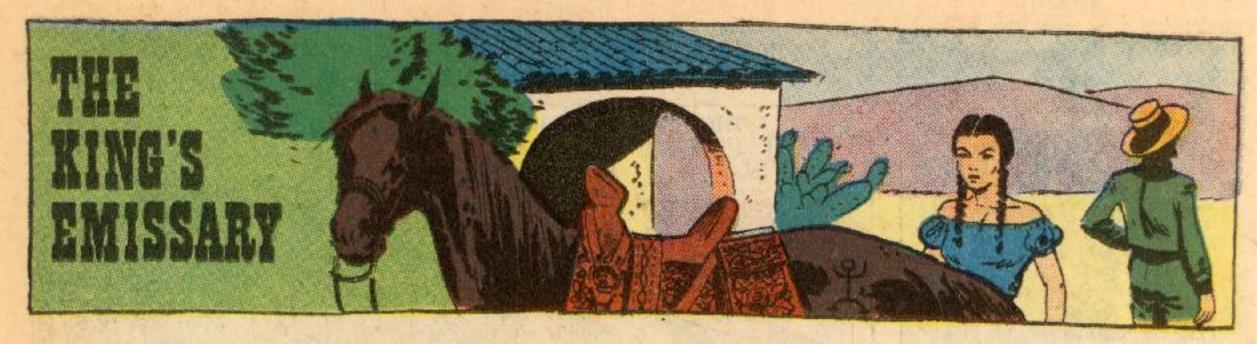












The man had come riding to the rancho in the afternoon. He had introduced himself as Señor Manuel Escobar, emissary of the king, and had said he was riding to Monterey with important papers for the governor. With traditional hospitality, Señora Vasquez had asked him to rest at the rancho overnight. Grandfather, now too feeble to wander far from the oak chair in the parlor, had made him welcome.

But Maria Vasquez did not like the man. Why did his eyes wander so searchingly about the room? Why did his gaze rest so eagerly on the silver candlesticks that had been a part of her mother's dowry? And why was Señor Escobar so pleased when he learned that Maria's father was away from home?

After dinner, Maria slipped from the house and went to the corral where the visitor's horse was penned. In a few minutes her mother followed her, carrying a lantern.

"Maria!" Señora Vasquez was stern. "Why are you out here in the dark?"

The girl hesitated a moment, then said, "If Señor Escobar is the king's emissary, why is he not traveling in a great coach with an escort?" She took the lantern from her mother and held it high. "See the brand on his horse—it is not the mark of a horse from the royal stables. It would not surprise me if this man were an impostor."

"Who could he be? And what does he want of us?" Maria's mother asked.

"Perhaps he is a thief," Maria answered.

Señora Vasquez clasped her hands in panic. "With your father away, what can we do? We cannot turn this man away."

"No," Maria agreed. "If he decided he would not go, we could not make him. I think he wants your silver candlesticks, Mama, but perhaps we can prevent him from taking them. Listen..."

Maria quickly outlined a plan. Her mother

nodded eagerly.

"You go back to the house," the girl finished. "I will take care of everything."

It was very late when Maria entered the house. She pulled off heavy gloves and went to her mother's room. "Now we will wait," she said to Señora Vasquez.

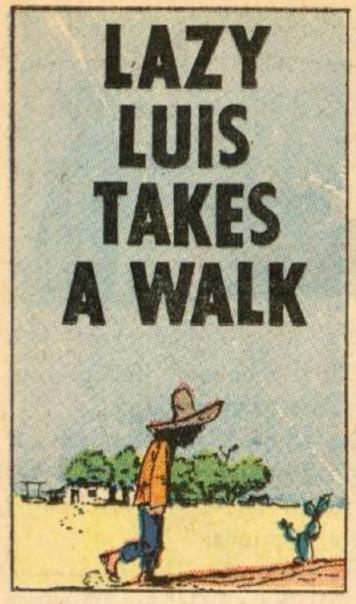
Hours passed in darkness. The night was well along when Maria and Señora Vasquez heard Señor Escobar open his door. Soft footsteps came down the hall and passed into the living room. There was a clink of metal upon metal. Escobar was taking the candlesticks. Footsteps crossed to the door. The latch was lifted and the door creaked open.

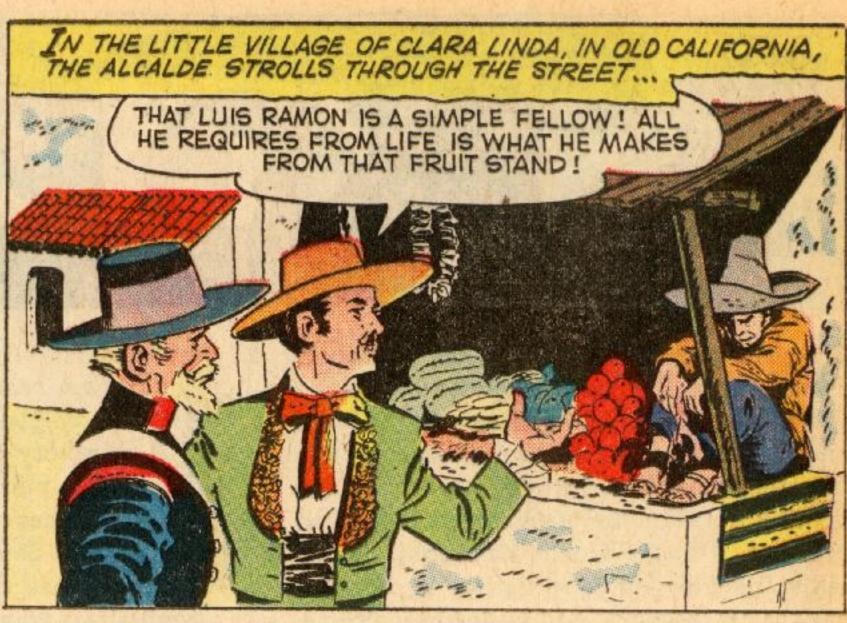
Moments later, a yell went up from the yard. Maria and her mother rushed to the living room. Through the open door they could hear Senor Escobar thrashing around outside, screaming, "Help! I am murdered!"

There were several loud thuds, which might have been either the candlesticks or Señor Escobar falling, and there was a continuous rustling and snapping. This was followed by the sound of feet pounding away past the corral, toward the Monterey road.

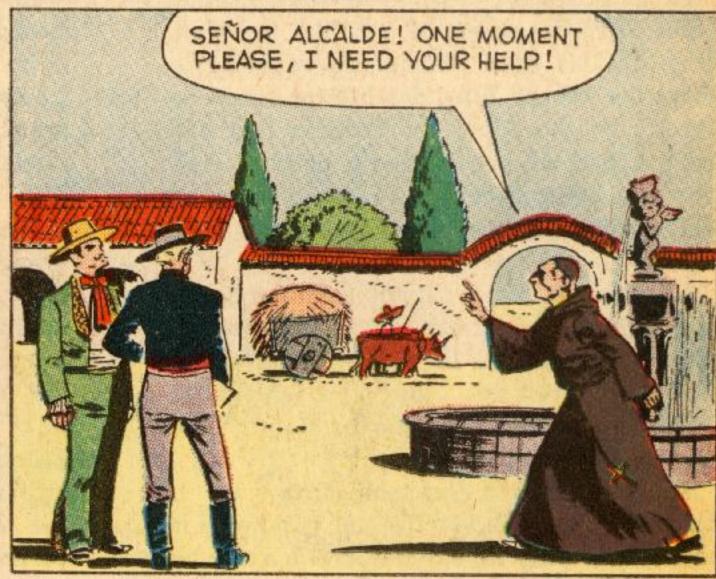
Señora Vasquez turned to Maria and said, "You had better go tell your grandfather what happened. I will get a lantern and look for my candlesticks."

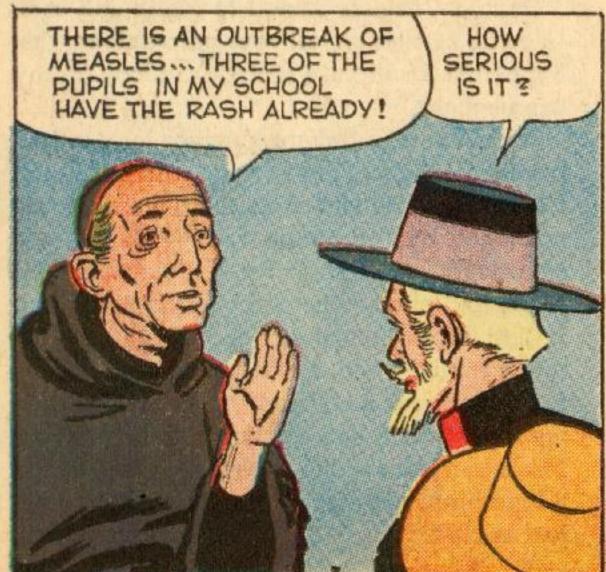
It did not take Señora Vasquez long to find the candlesticks. They lay just where the thief had dropped them. And they were hardly scratched by the tumbleweed—the mounds of prickly, stiff, scratchy tumbleweed that Maria had piled so carefully in the dark yard. It had taken Maria so long to gather that much tumbleweed, but it had been worth it. Señor Escobar had fallen head first into the weed, as Maria had known he must fall, for Maria had left nothing to chance. She had tied a length of rope across the frame of the door, just ankle-high.



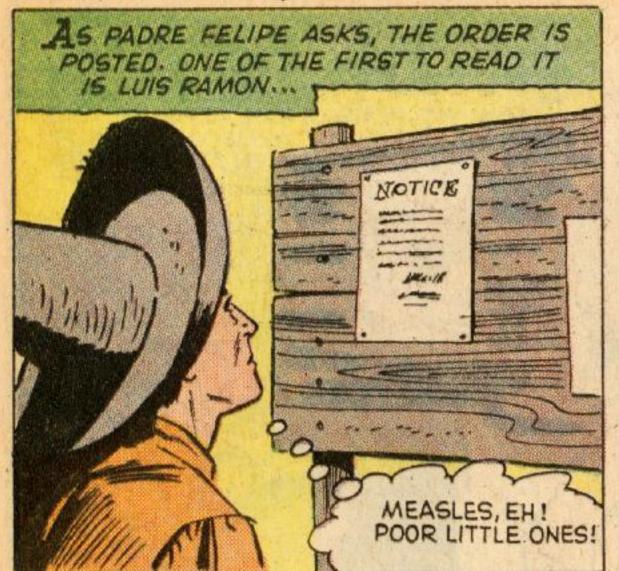












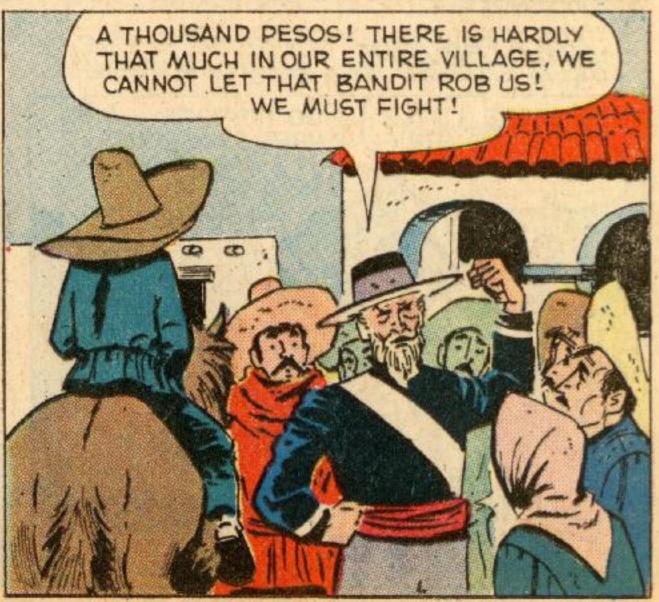
LUIS'S THOUGHTS ARE INTERRUPTED WHEN A RIDER GALLOPS INTO THE SQUARE...







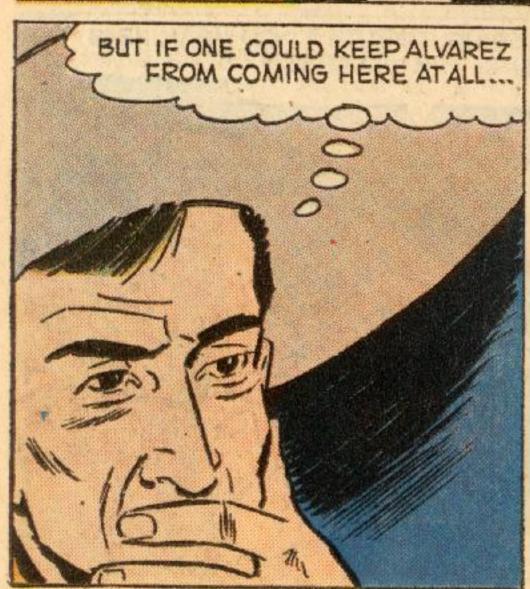






THE VILLAGERS WILL NOT LISTEN TO LUIS ...
THEY PREPARE TO DO BATTLE WITH THE
BANDITS ...

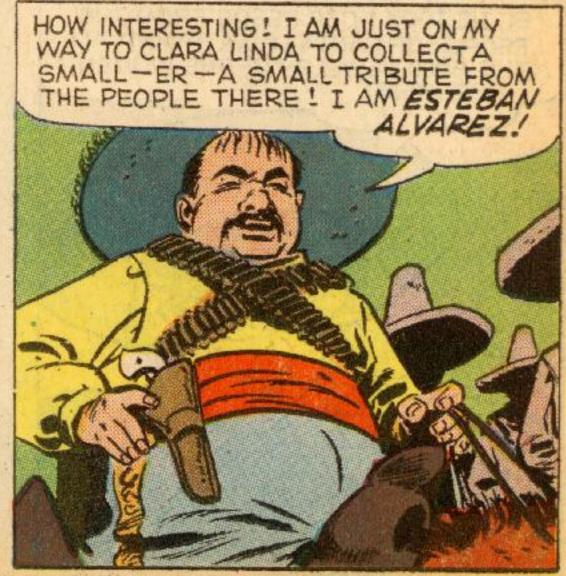






... AND A FEW MILES OUT OF THE VILLAGE, LUIS IS STOPPED BY A BAND OF HORSEMEN ...



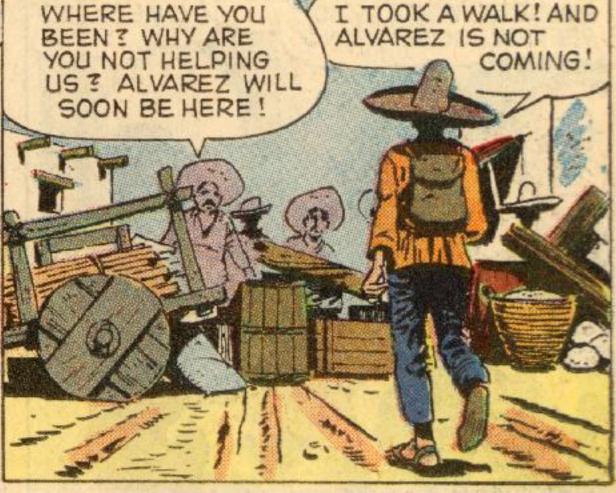






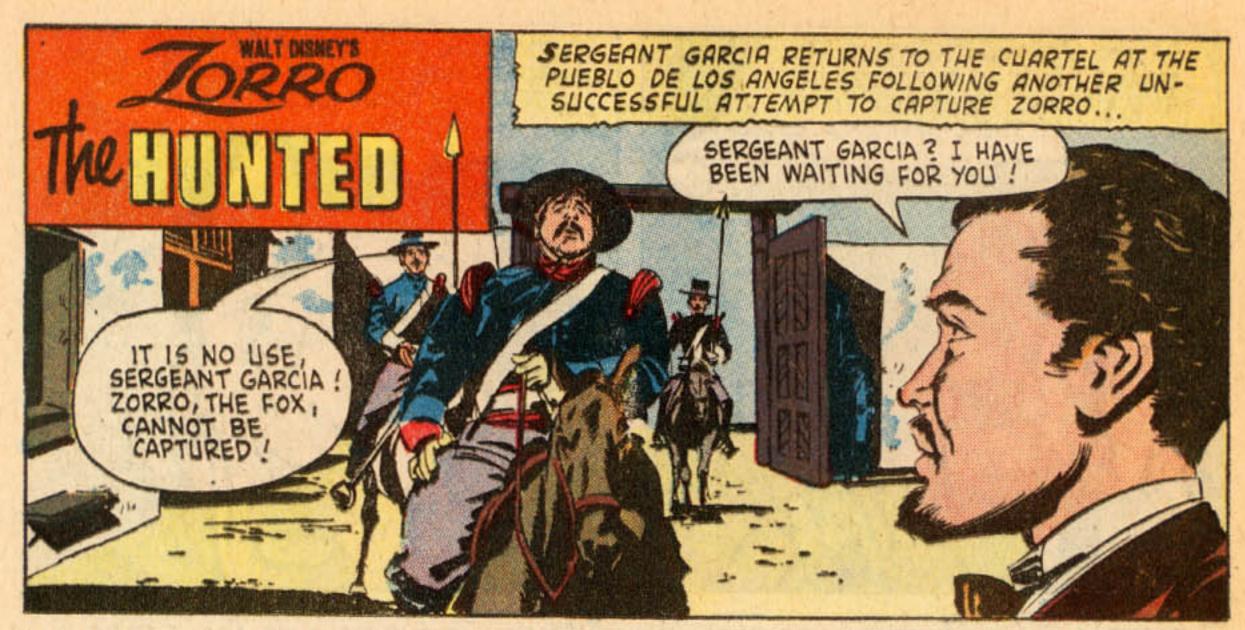
TURN BACK! YOU HEARD HIM!
THERE IS A SICKNESS
IN CLARA LINDA...
SOME TERRIBLE
PLAGUE!

AS SOON AS THE BANDITS ARE OUT OF SIGHT, LUIS RETURNS TO THE VILLAGE...





















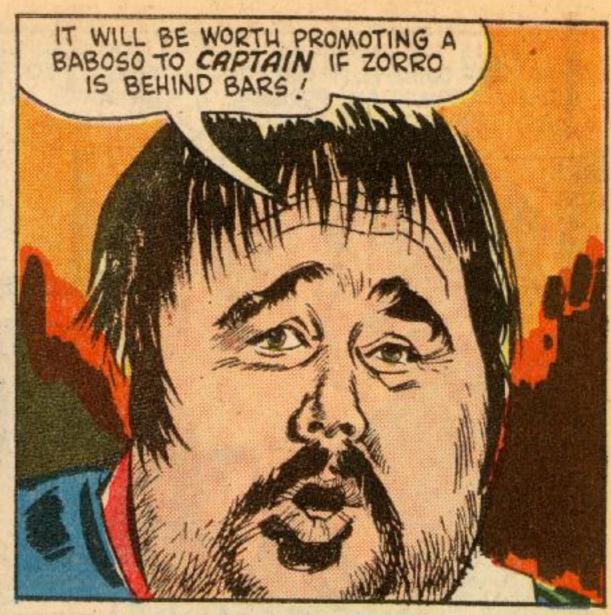


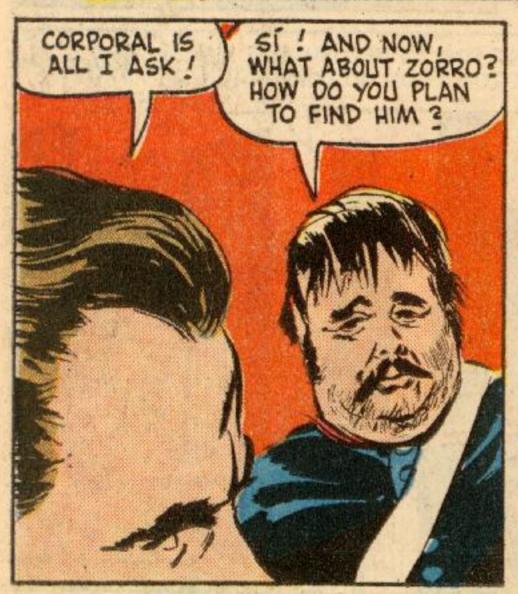








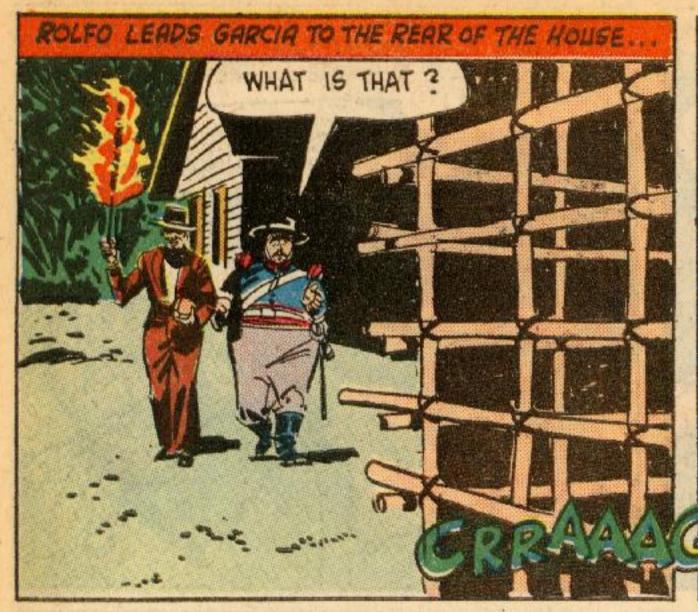










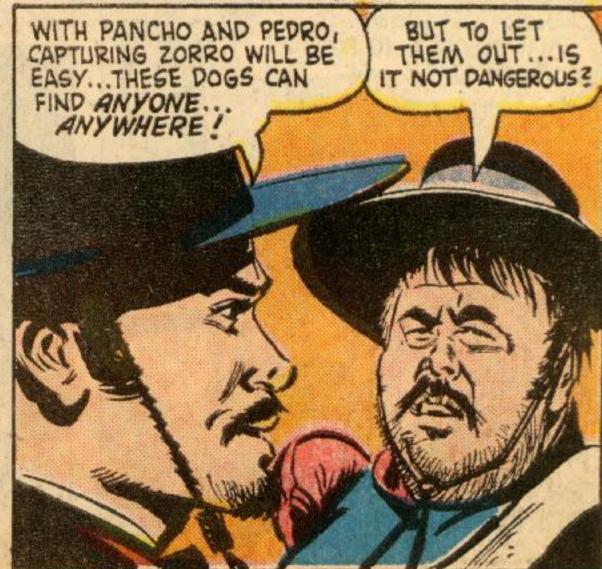














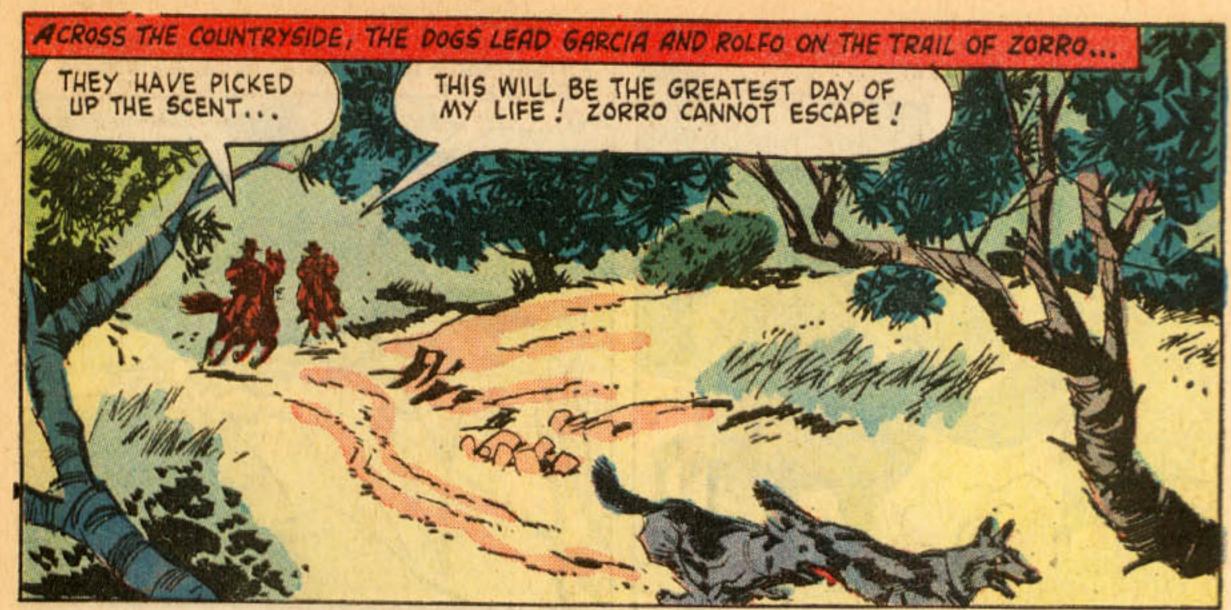






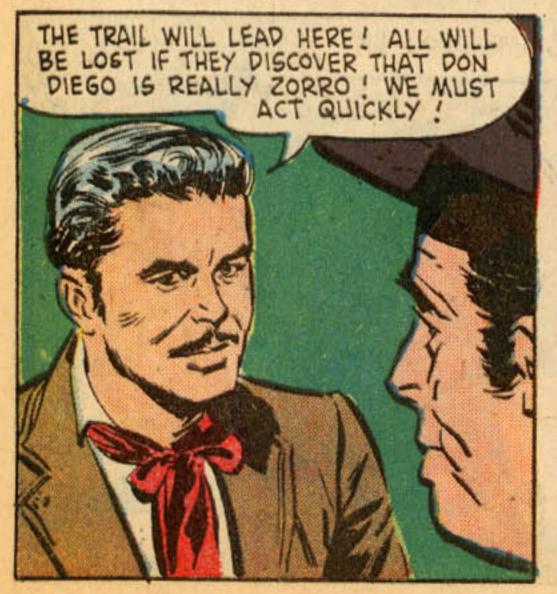




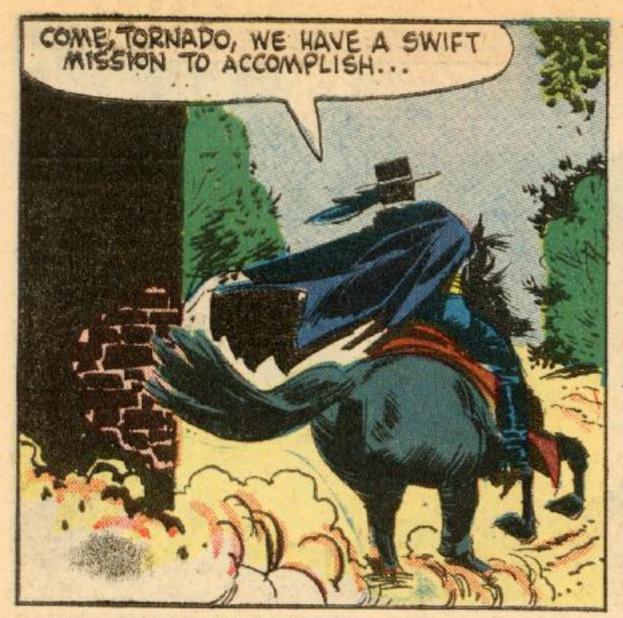






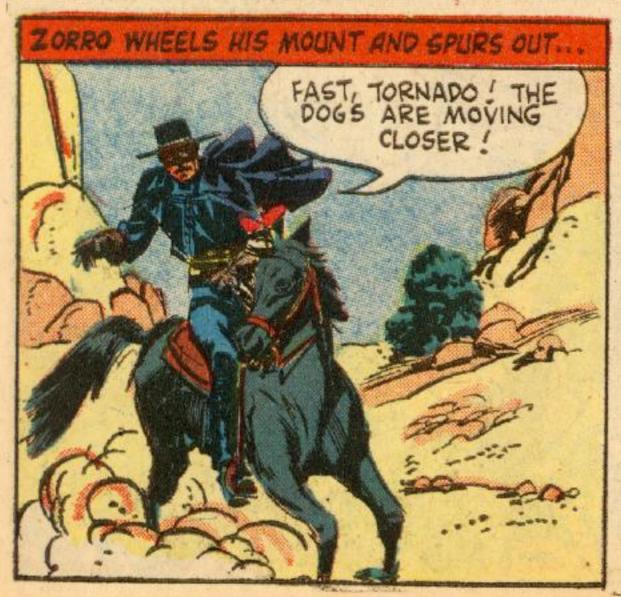












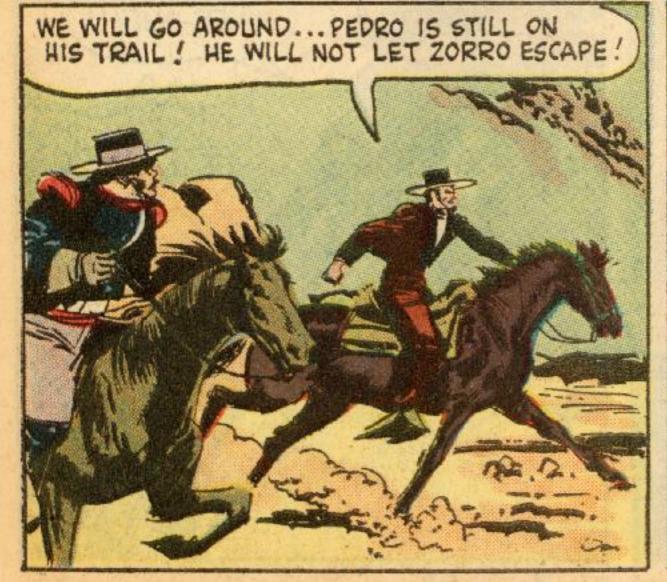
















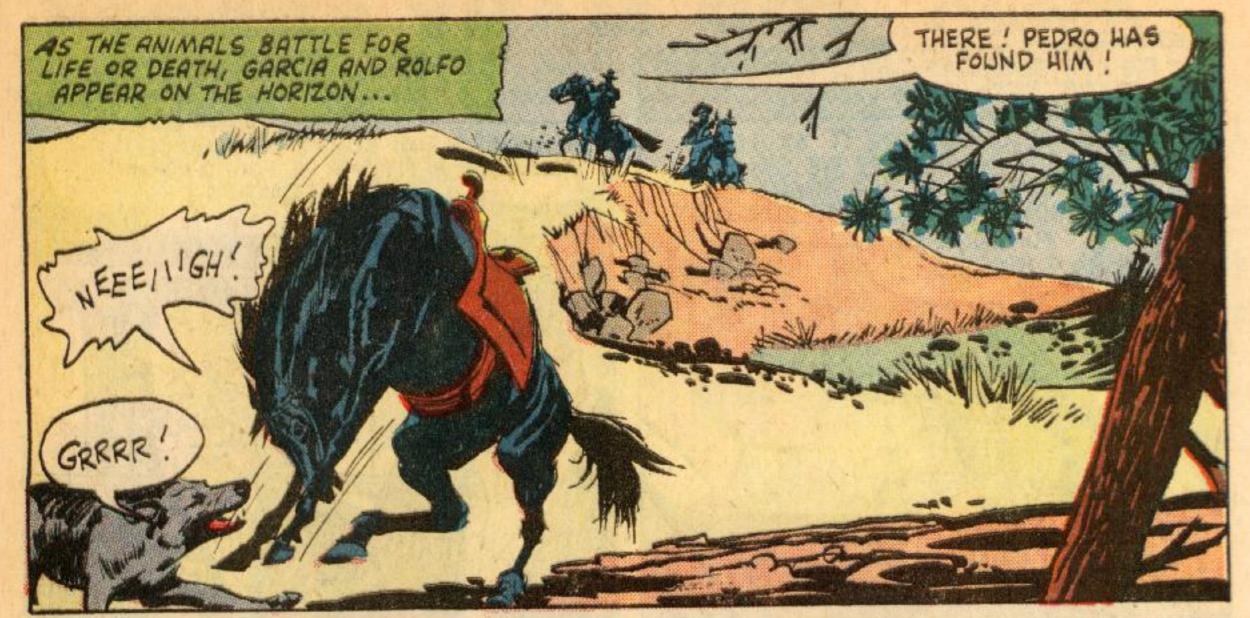


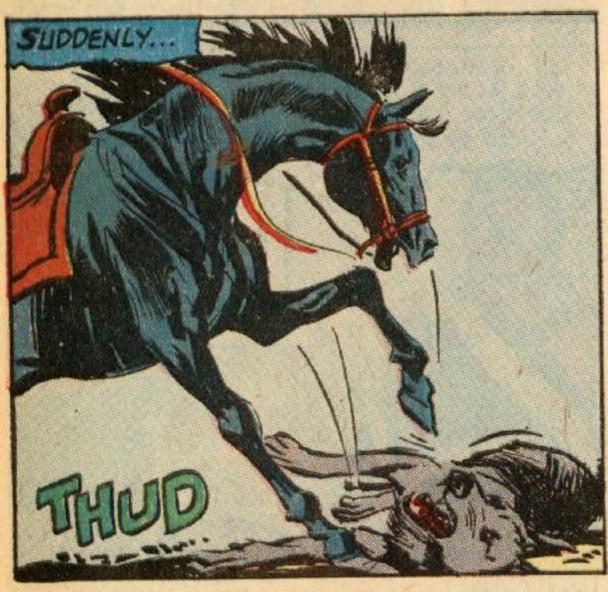


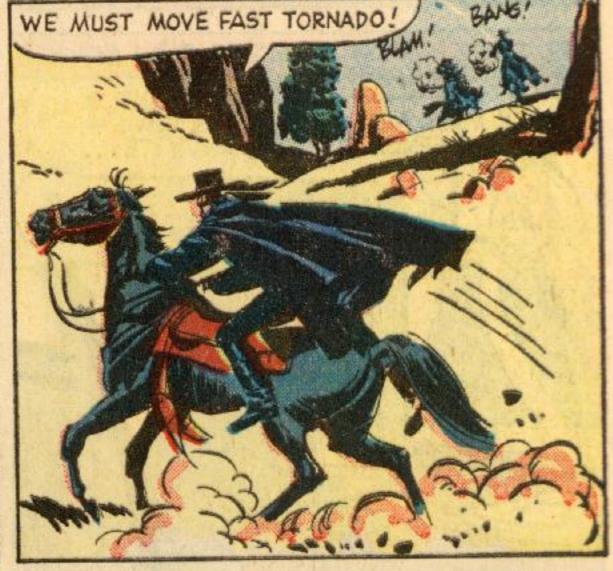
















WALT DISNEY'S DRRO

TOO MANY ZORROS

AT THE INN, SERGEANT GARCIA CONFIDES IN HIS FRIEND, DIEGO DE LA VEGA ...

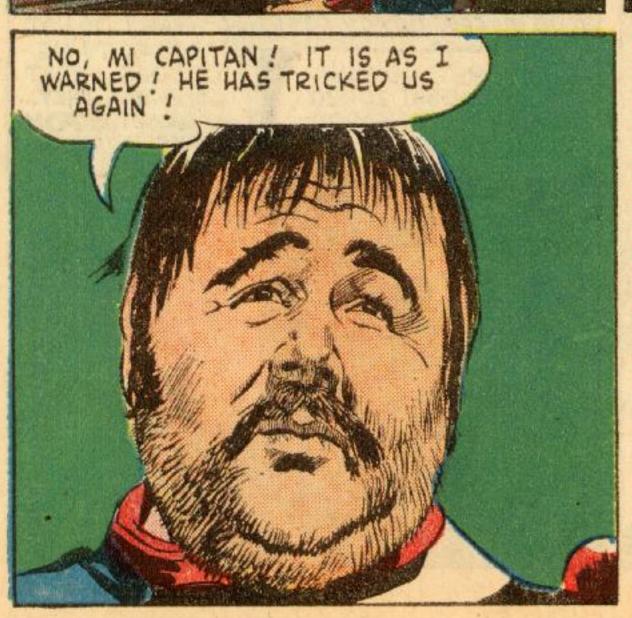
I WARNED THE COMANDANTE IT WOULD BE USELESS, BUT HE INSISTS WE SEARCH EVERYWHERE IN THIS AREA! HE FINDING HIS











A PLEDGE



TO PARENTS

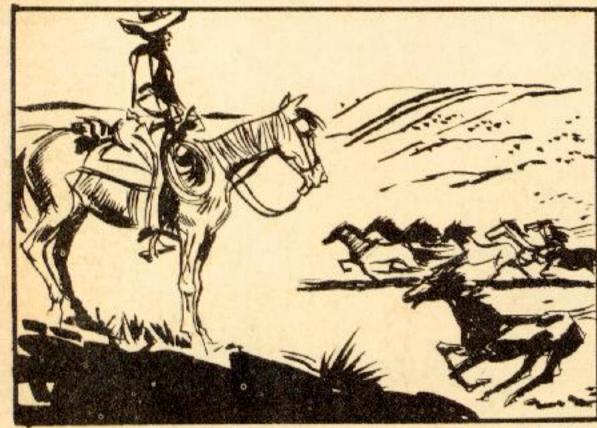
The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.



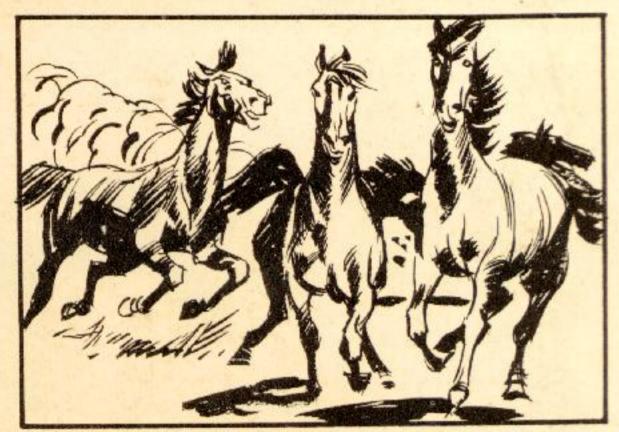
In old California, horsemanship was very important. When a Californian was only four or five, he was hoisted onto a horse and his education began. By the time he was six he rode as easily as he walked.



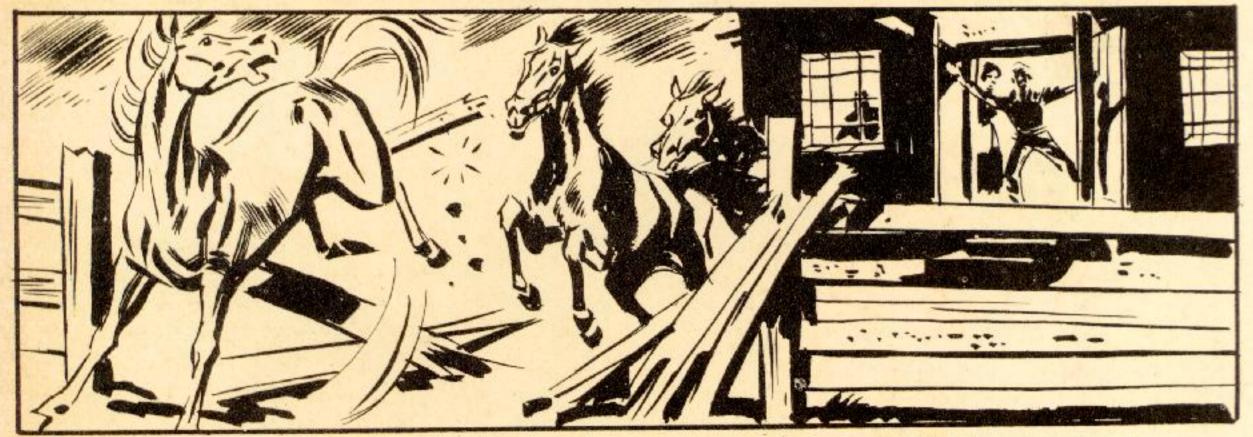
The rancheros prized their horses — Arab steeds brought in from Spain. These were never stabled. Instead, they were branded and turned out to pasture to graze for themselves until a fresh mount was needed.



There had not been a single horse in California before the arrival of the Spanish missionaries, but within a few years, the herds had grown to alarming sizes. One herd alone might number up to 100,000.



Naturally enough, some of these horses, running free in the pastures, turned wild. They lured still others away from the herds. Members of these outlaw bands were called mesteños. Today we call them mustangs.



At one time, when the West was still very big and very empty, thousands of wild horses, descended from the Spanish mesteños, roamed the remote valleys. Gradually, as the land was settled, the outlaw bands dwindled. But in some back-country areas, ranchers still encounter crafty, elusive mustangs which steal down from the hills to raid corrals and coax away the mares.

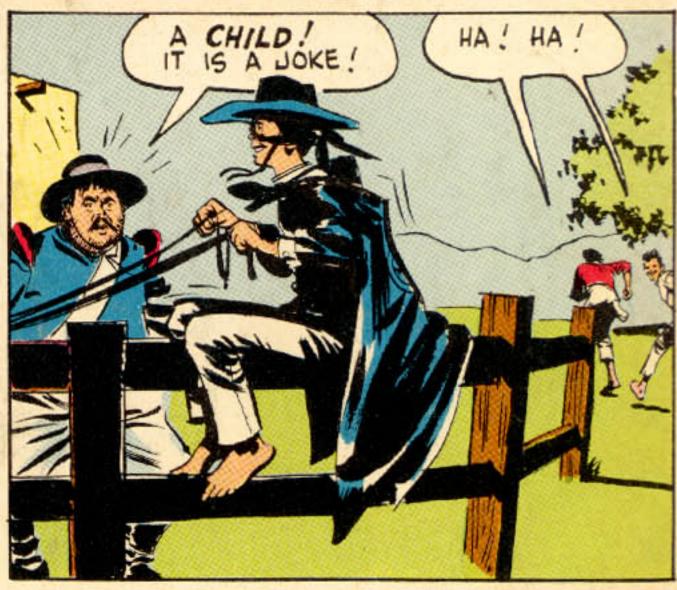


THE JEST









BECAUSE OF THAT DEMON, ZORRO, THE WHOLE WORLD LAUGHS AT ME ! IF I COULD BUT PUT MY HANDS ON HIM ____

