

DELL

Exciting
Adventure

DEC. - FEB. Still 10¢

WALT
DISNEY'S

ZORRO

Don
Diego uses
his
Zorro
disguise
to rescue a
runaway
witness
from
assassins!



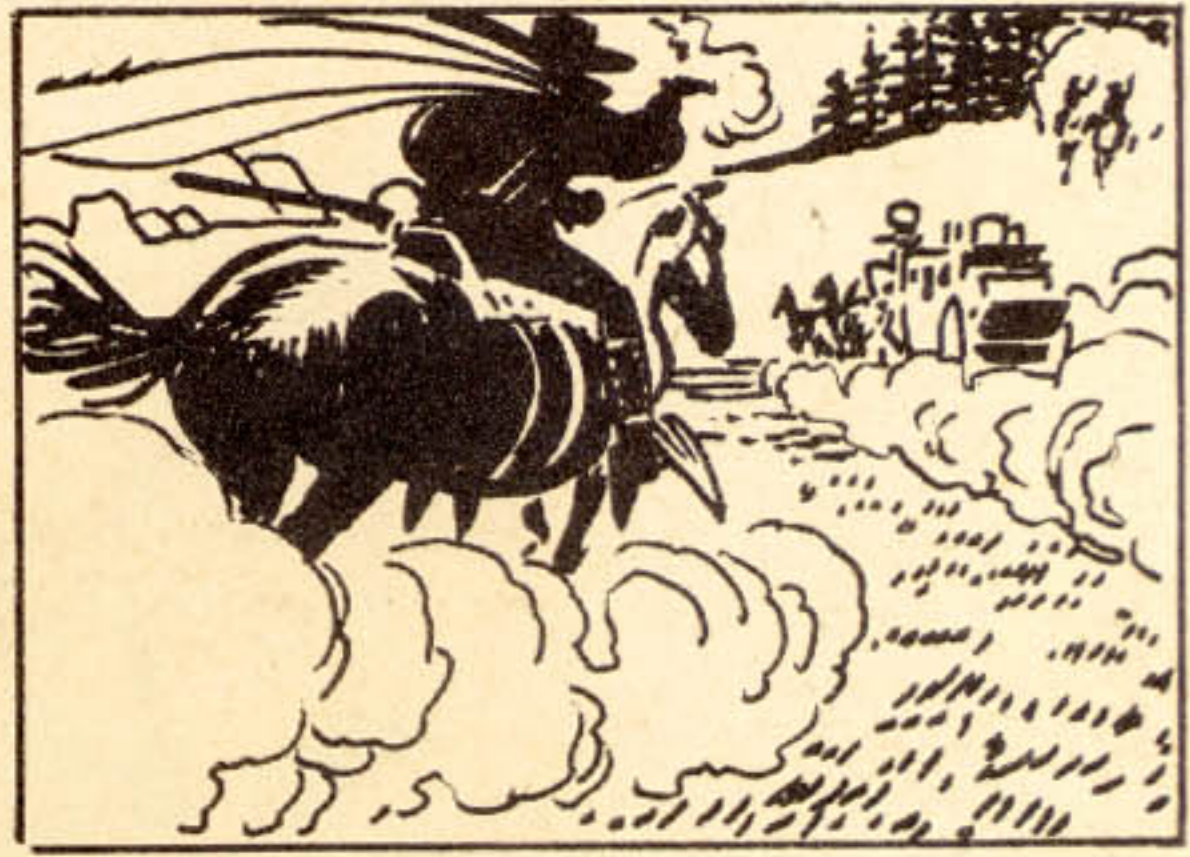
WALT DISNEY'S *ZORRO*



RUNAWAY WITNESS



While lancers search the pueblo for a man believed to be a killer, Don Diego wonders about a mysterious passenger he has seen leaving Los Angeles on the southbound stage.

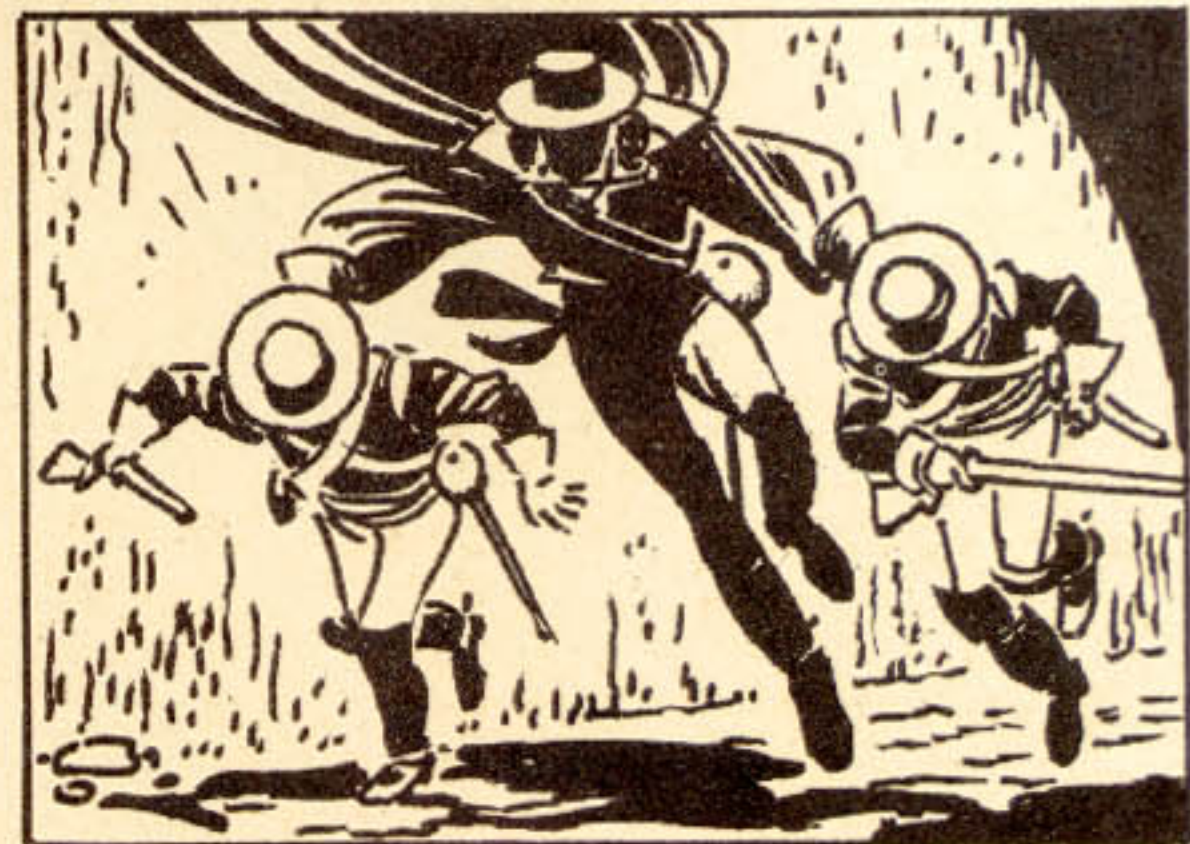


And as Zorro, he follows the stage, fighting off hired gunmen whose job it is to see that the passenger is silenced so no finger of guilt can be pointed at the guilty one.

A FRIEND INDEED



Sergeant Garcia receives an anonymous message from someone who is willing to betray Zorro and set him up for capture.



But as the portly sergeant waits to take Zorro captive, Zorro is busy at the cuartel completing a few plans of his own.

WALT DISNEY'S
ZORRO
The **RUNAWAY
WITNESS**

NIGHT... IN THE PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES...
LITA RIALGO CLOSES HER FLOWER STALL,
WHEN SUDDENLY, SHE HEARS LOUD VOICES
IN AN ADJACENT BUILDING...

SWINDLER! CHEAT!
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS
AS PARTNERS, YOU'D DO
THIS TO ME — STEAL!!!

I COULDN'T
HELP IT... I
NEEDED MORE
MONEY... FOR
GAMBLING...
THERE WAS NO
OTHER WAY!!

IT IS SEÑOR TOMASO
AND SEÑOR ZULOAGA...
THEY ARE FIGHTING!!

I AM FORCED
TO REPORT THIS TO
THE AUTHORITIES!
I MUST —!

YOU WILL
REPORT
NOTHING!

BLAM!

EEEEEE!!!

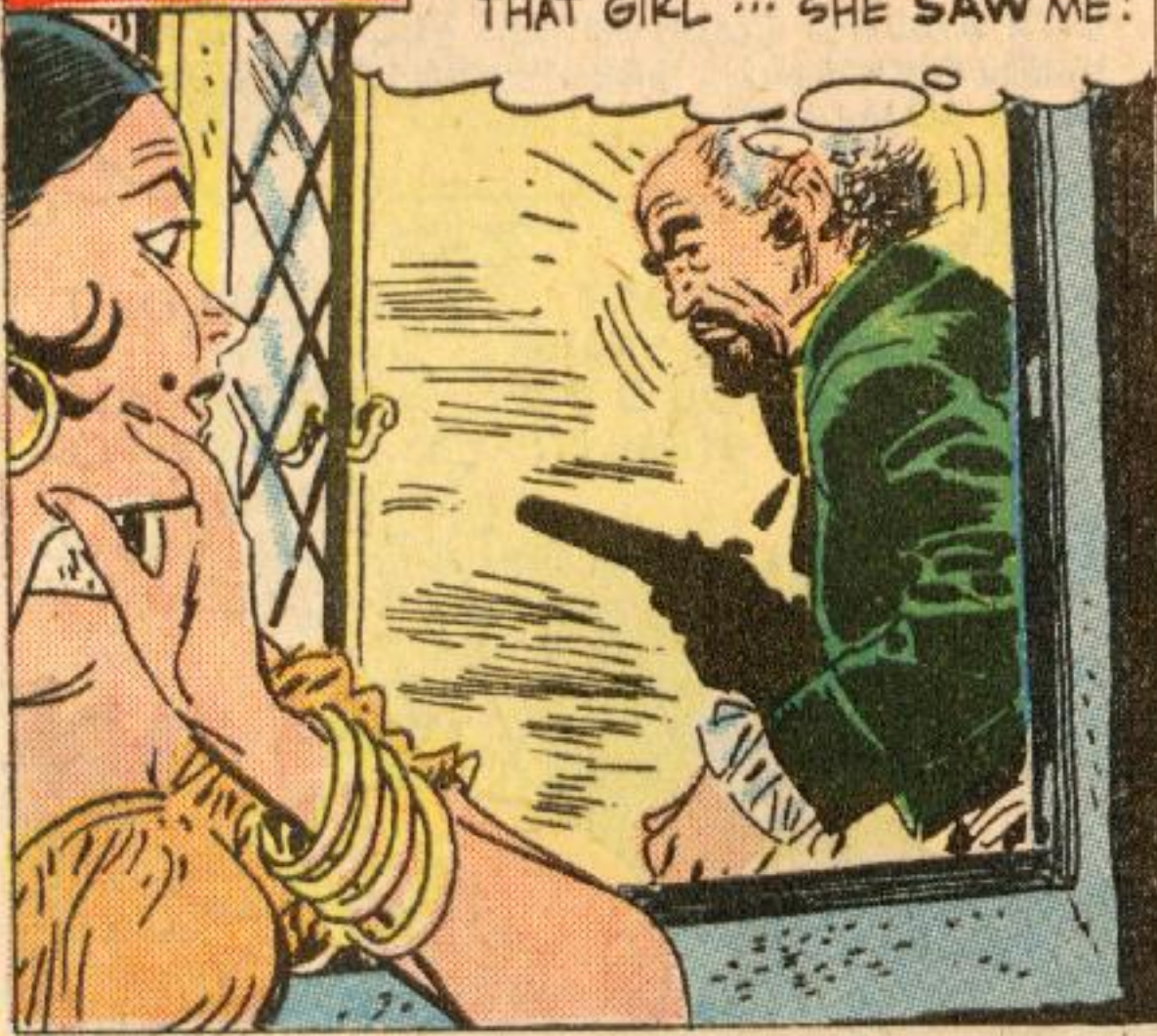
ZORRO #12-6012

Walt Disney's ZORRO, No. 12, Dec.-Feb., 1961. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 750 Third Ave., New York 17, N. Y. George T. Delacorte, Jr., Publisher; Helen Meyer, President; Executive Vice-Presidents, William F. Callahan, Jr., Paul R. Lilly; Harold Clark, Vice-President-Advertising Director; Bryce L. Holland, Vice-President; Albert P. Delacorte, Treasurer. All rights reserved throughout the world. Adapted from the Walt Disney television series "Zorro," based on the novels by Johnston McCulley. Nothing herein contained to be reproduced without the permission of Walt Disney Productions. Authorized edition. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co. Copyright © 1960, by Walt Disney Productions.

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ZULOGA WHIRLS AT THE SOUND OF THE GIRL'S SCREAM...

THAT GIRL ... SHE SAW ME!



TERRIFIED, LITA RIALGO, WITNESS TO THE MURDER, FLEES INTO THE DARKNESS...

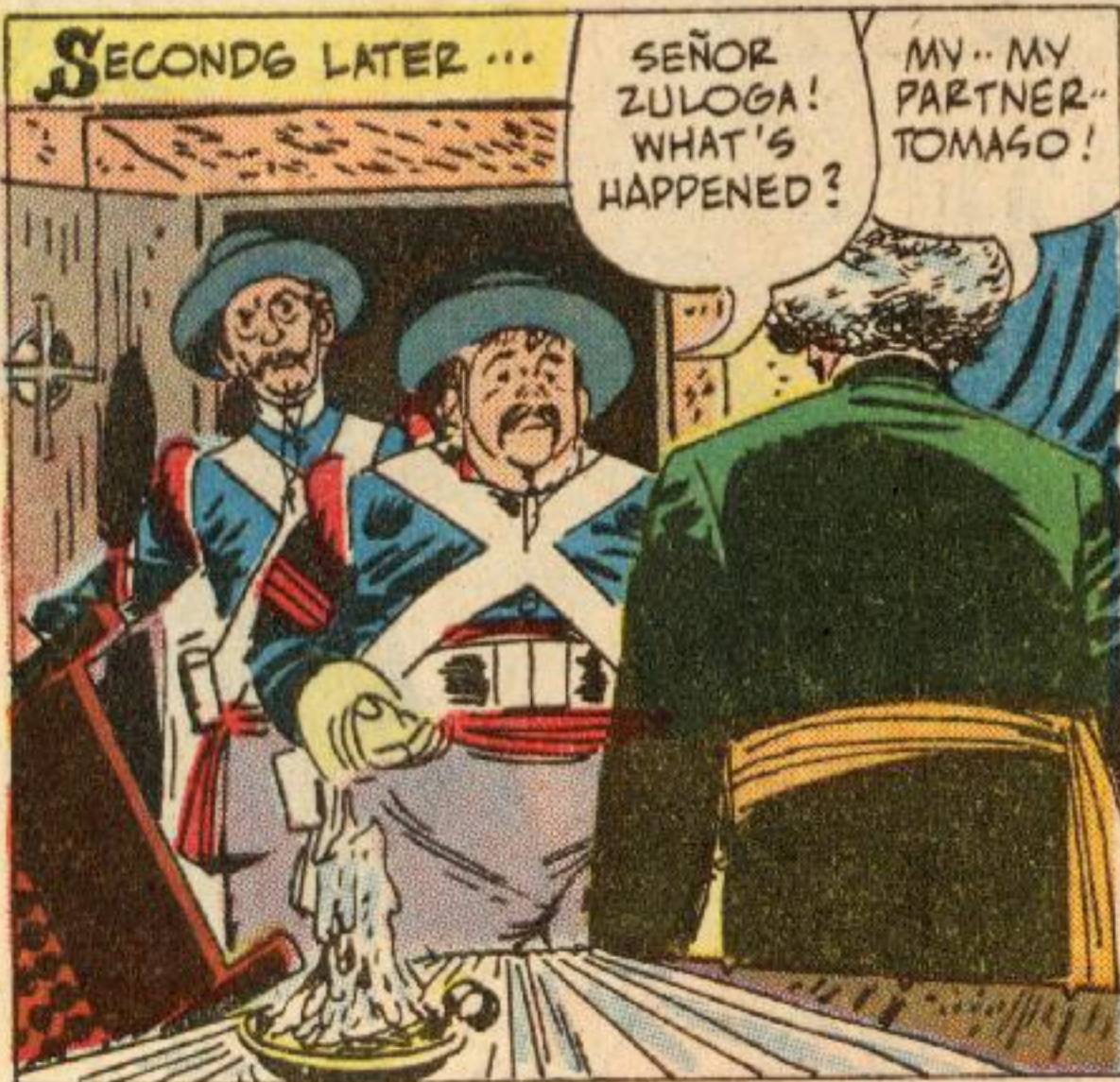
I MUST RUN ... HE WILL KILL ME!!



SECONDS LATER ...

SEÑOR ZULOGA!
WHAT'S HAPPENED?

MY... MY
PARTNER...
TOMASO!



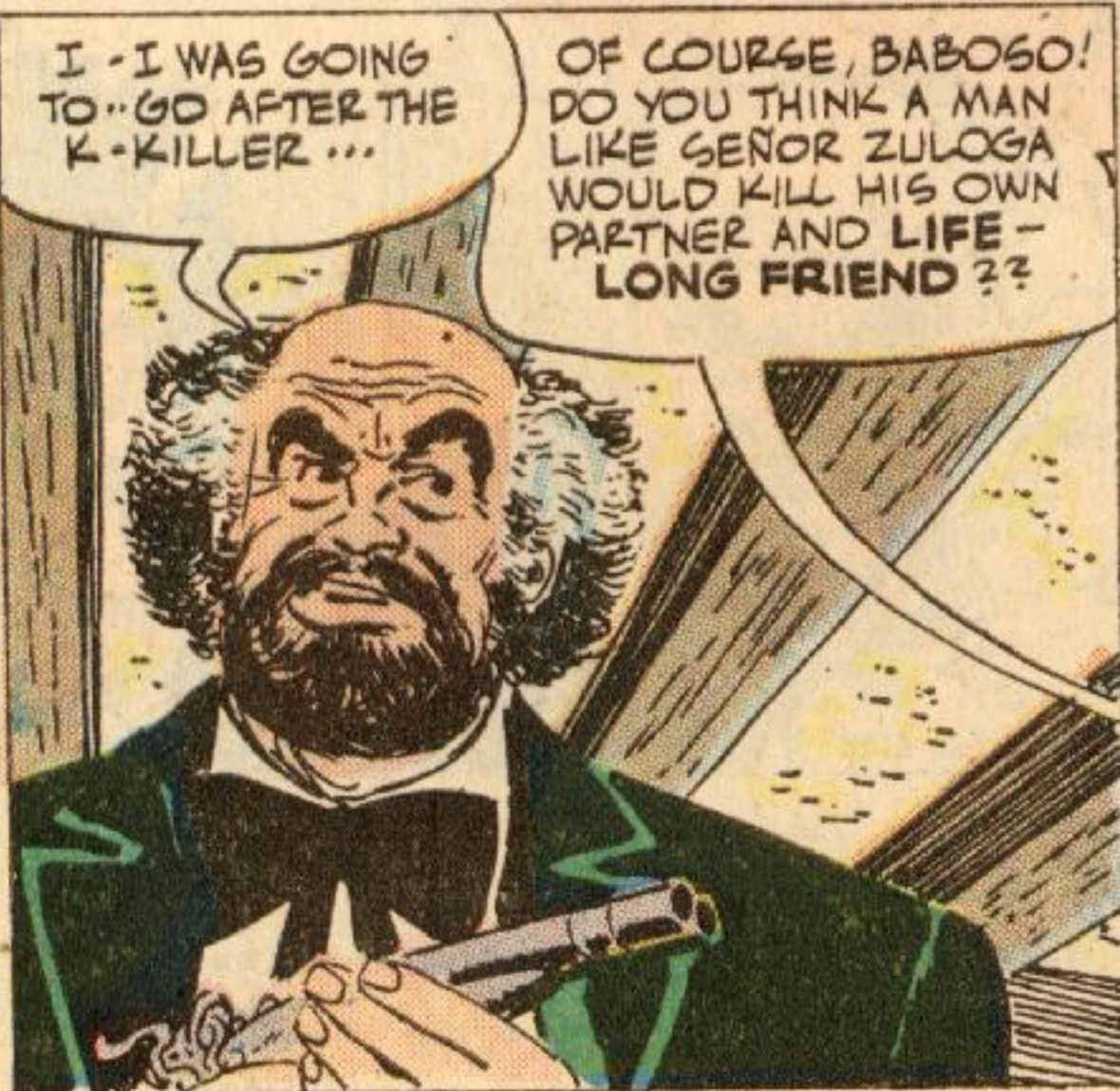
A MAN CAME IN THIS VERY
MOMENT AND KILLED HIM...
SHOT HIM BEFORE MY VERY
EYES! ... HORRIBLE ...

WHY ARE YOU
HOLDING THE
GUN, SEÑOR?



I - I WAS GOING
TO GO AFTER THE
K-KILLER ...

OF COURSE, BABOSO!
DO YOU THINK A MAN
LIKE SEÑOR ZULOGA
WOULD KILL HIS OWN
PARTNER AND LIFE-
LONG FRIEND??



WHAT DID
THIS MAN
LOOK LIKE,
SEÑOR?

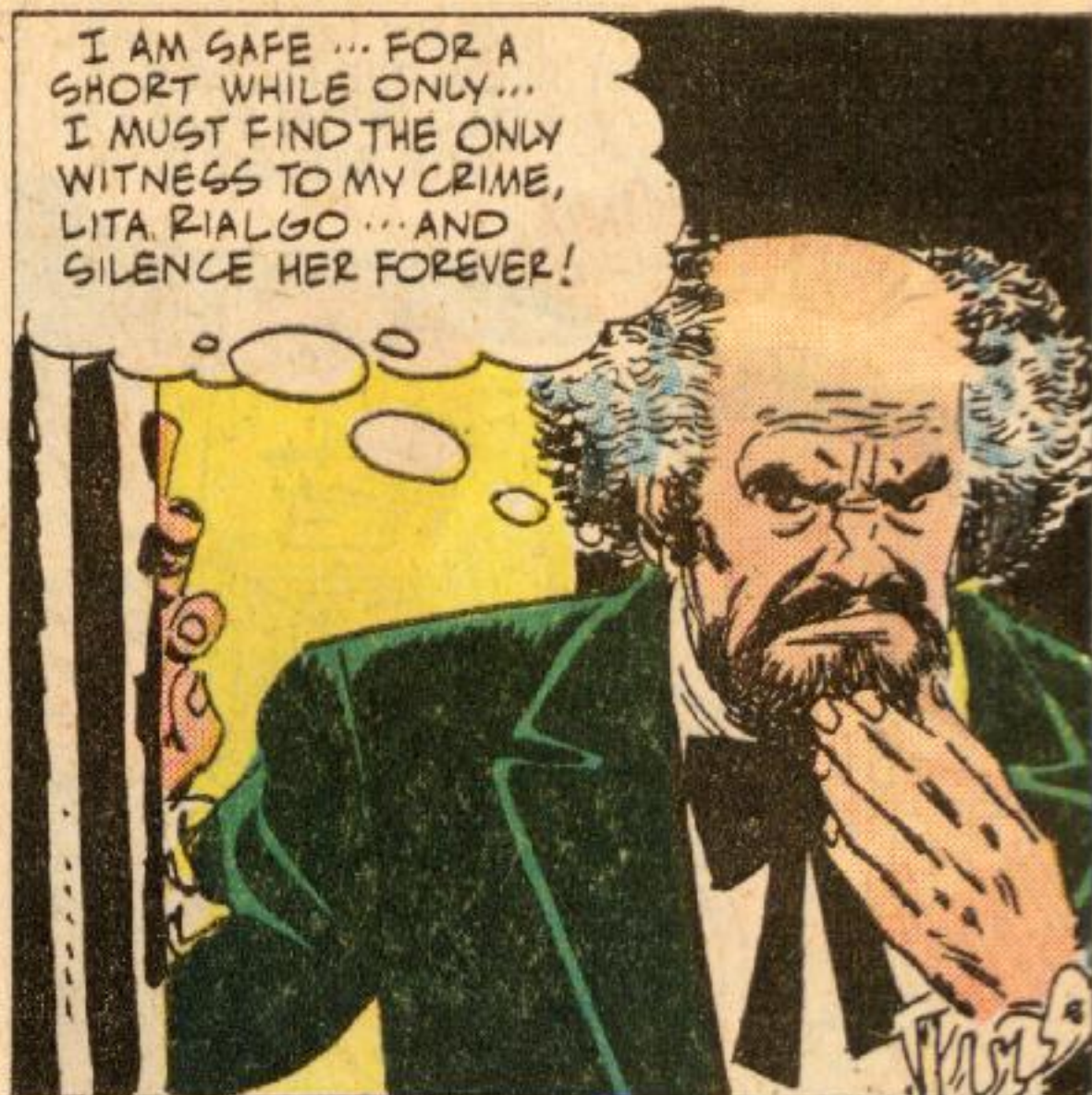
TALL... DARK... HE WORE
A BLACK SUIT... AND HE
HAD A SCAR ON HIS...
CHEEK... YES...





WE WILL FIND HIM! COME, CORPORAL REYES... CALL OUT MORE LANCERS FOR A SEARCH OF THE PUEBLO!

SI, SERGEANT GARCIA!



I AM SAFE... FOR A SHORT WHILE ONLY... I MUST FIND THE ONLY WITNESS TO MY CRIME, LITA RIALGO... AND SILENCE HER FOREVER!

MEANWHILE... IN ANOTHER PART OF THE PUEBLO, DON DIEGO DE LA VEGA AND HIS MUTE SERVANT BERNARDO, ARE JUST LEAVING THE INN...



COME, BERNARDO... IT IS LATE, AND WE MUST GET BACK TO THE HACIENDA!



FATHER IS PROBABLY WONDERING WHAT—

THUD



PLEASE - I'M ALL RIGHT... LET ME GO...!!

YOU ARE TREMBLING, SEÑORITA... WHAT IS WRONG?



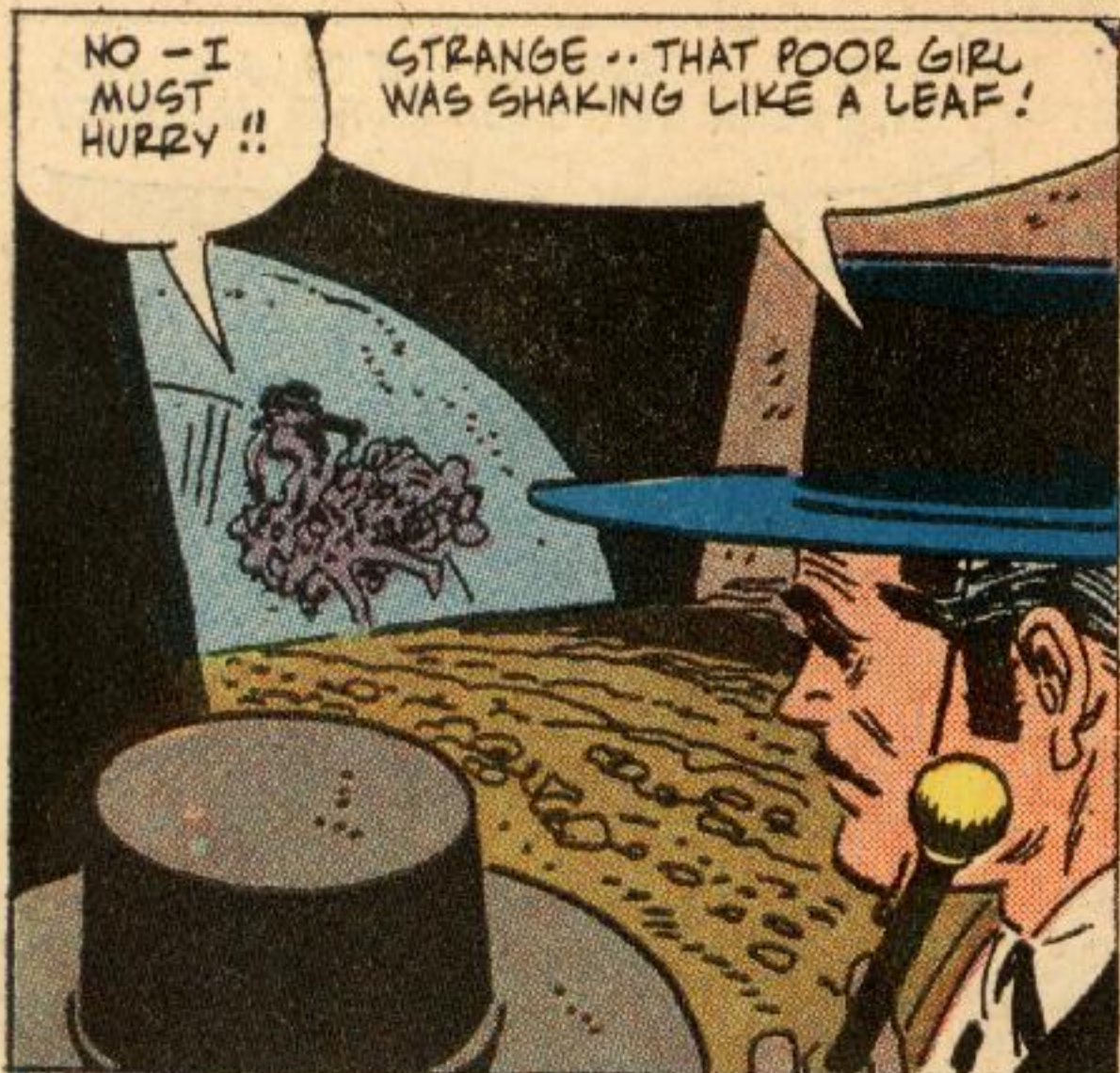
NOTHING...I..I
AM ONLY ANXIOUS
TO..GO HOME!

AREN'T YOU THE GIRL
FROM THE FLOWER
STALL IN THE PLAZA?
LITA RIALGO?



Y-YES..BUT
PLEASE, SEÑOR..
I..I MUST GO!!

PERMIT ME TO
ESCORT YOU HOME,
SEÑORITA? IT'S LATE
AND I —



NO - I
MUST
HURRY !!

STRANGE..THAT POOR GIRL
WAS SHAKING LIKE A LEAF!



AS DIEGO AND BERNARDO START GETTING
INTO THEIR CARRIAGE...

HALT! DO
NOT MOVE,
SEÑORES!!



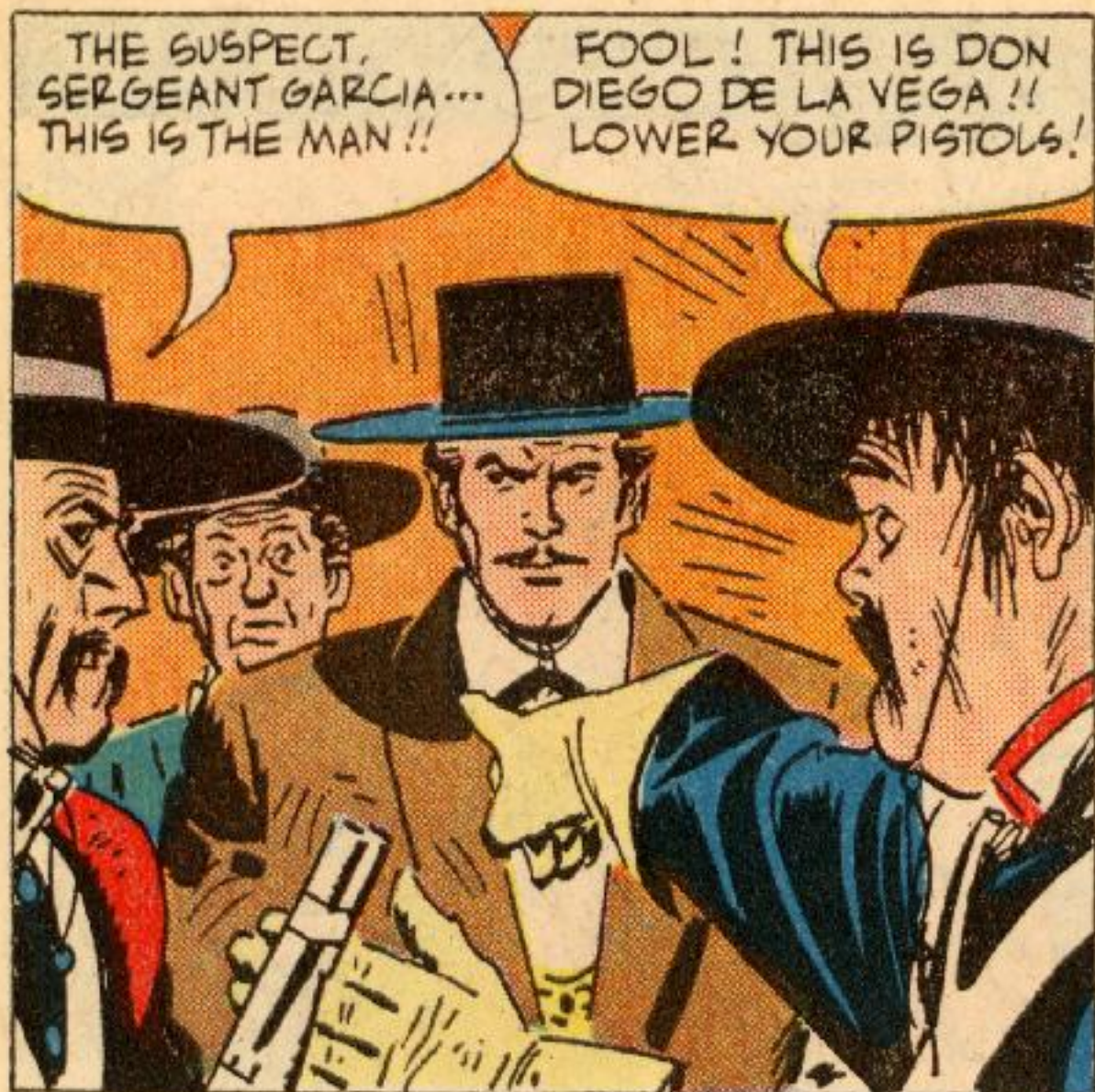
WHAT IS ALL
THIS ABOUT -?
I AM —

SILENCE!! KEEP BOTH
YOUR HANDS IN THE
AIR, SEÑOR!!



BABOSO!!
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING?

HE IS "TALL" AND DARK..



THE SUSPECT,
SERGEANT GARCIA...
THIS IS THE MAN!!

FOOL! THIS IS DON
DIEGO DE LA VEGA!!
LOWER YOUR PISTOLS!



WE DID NOT
KNOW...IT WAS
DARK, AND WE--

A THOUSAND APOLOGIES,
DON DIEGO...SOMETIMES
I WONDER THAT ANYTHING
GOES RIGHT WITH THESE
BABOSOS UNDER MY
COMMAND--!!



WHAT'S
GOING ON,
SERGEANT
GARCIA?

SEÑOR TOMASO WAS JUST
SHOT AND KILLED! WE ARE
SEEKING THE MAN WHO
DID THIS FOUL DEED!



TOMASO? YOU
MEAN SEÑOR
ZULOGA'S FRIEND
AND PARTNER?

SI! IT HAPPENED
JUST A FEW MINUTES
AGO! THE MURDERER
ESCAPED IN THE
DARKNESS!!



DIEGO REMEMBERS THE FRIGHTENED GIRL...

ARE YOU..
CERTAIN IT
WAS A MAN?

POSITIVE! SEÑOR
ZULOGA HIMSELF SAW
THE WHOLE THING...HE
GAVE ME A DESCRIPTION
OF THE KILLER!!



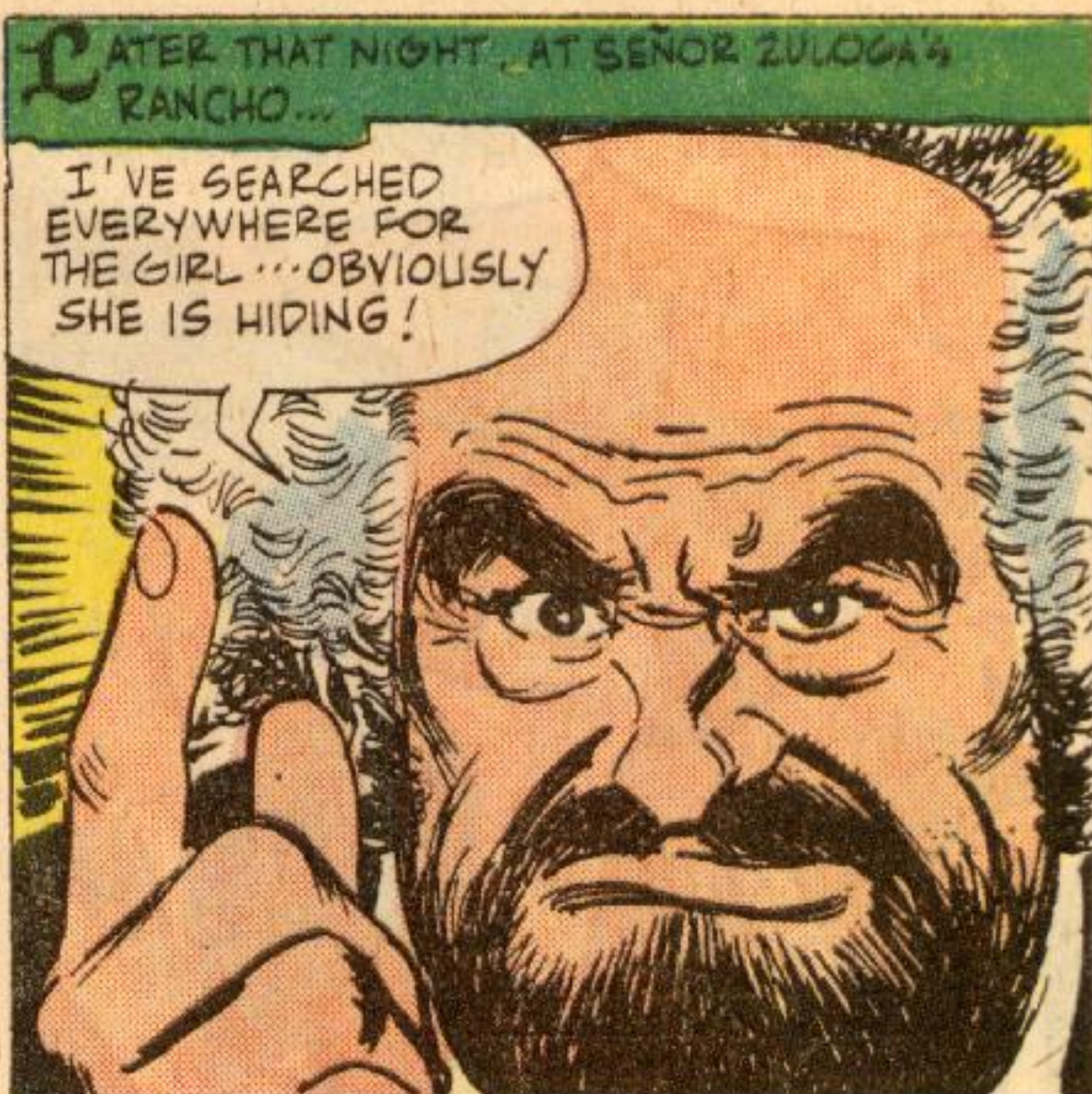
DO NOT WORRY,
DON DIEGO -- THE
CRIMINAL WILL NOT
ESCAPE THE CLEVER
SERGEANT GARCIA!

STRANGE... THAT
FRIGHTENED GIRL —
RUNNING... JUST A FEW
MOMENTS AFTER THE
SHOOTING! I WONDER
IF THERE IS SOME
CONNECTION...



LATER THAT NIGHT, AT SENOR ZULOAGA'S
RANCHO...

I'VE SEARCHED
EVERYWHERE FOR
THE GIRL... OBVIOUSLY
SHE IS HIDING!



YOU MUST
FIND HER BEFORE
SHE TALKS TO
ANYONE...

AND IF WE FIND HER...



I'M PAYING YOU WELL FOR
THIS JOB... I DON'T NEED TO
TELL YOU WHAT YOU MUST DO
TO EARN YOUR PAY! THE GIRL,
OF COURSE, MUST BE SILENCED.
... PERMANENTLY!!



THE NEXT
DAY, AT
THE PUEBLO

... AND WE SEARCHED ALL NIGHT,
DON DIEGO! IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT THE KILLER ESCAPED SOMEHOW!

I'M SORRY TO HEAR SUCH NEWS...

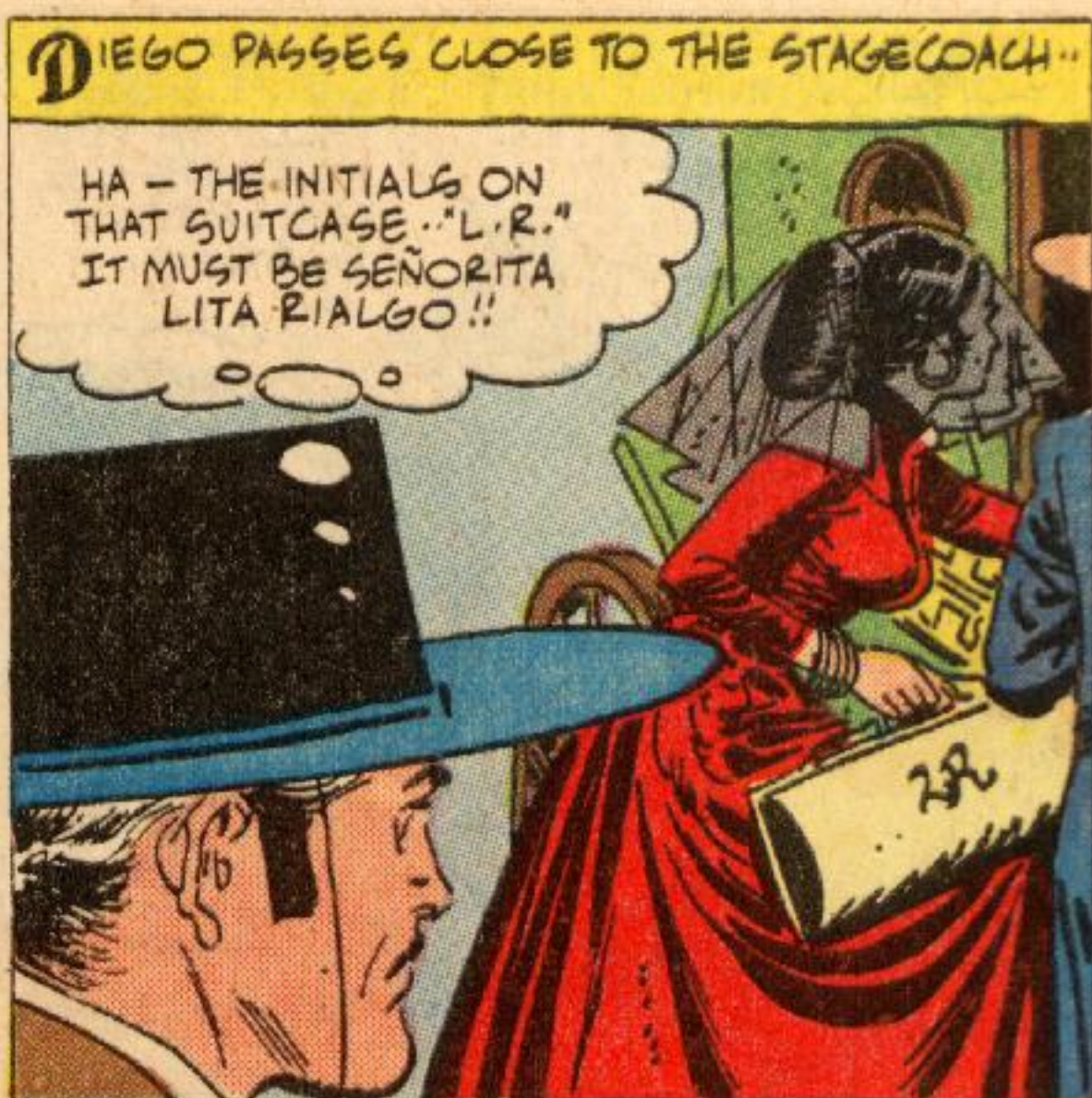
... HMMM... THAT GIRL
WEARING THE VEIL...
SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR...





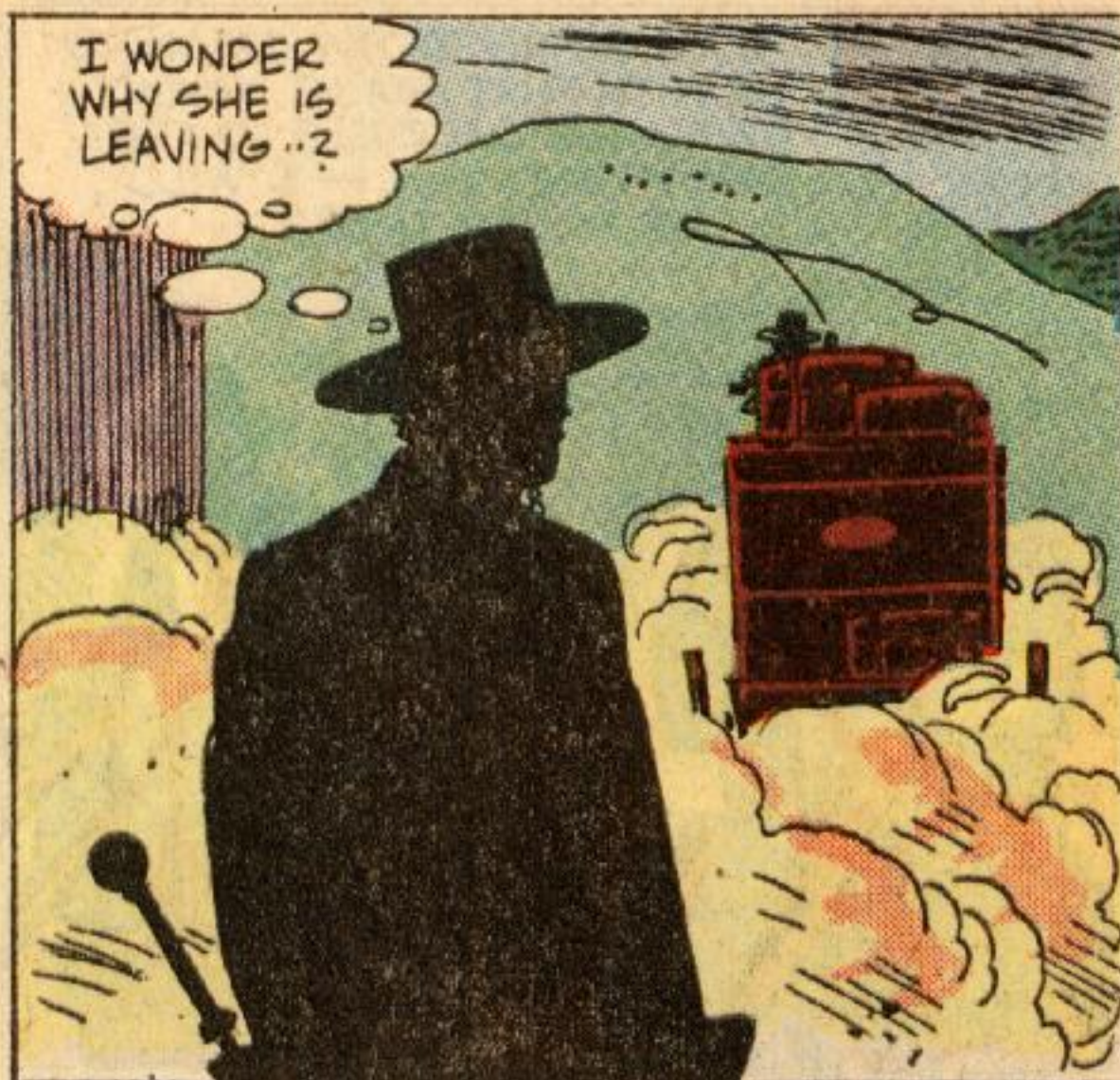
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, DIEGO? I HAVE MORE TO TELL YOU ABOUT—

ANOTHER TIME, SERGEANT! I HAVE AN URGENT MATTER TO ATTEND TO "ADIOS!"



DIEGO PASSES CLOSE TO THE STAGECOACH—

HA—THE INITIALS ON THAT SUITCASE—"L.R." IT MUST BE SEÑORITA LITA RIALGO!!



I WONDER WHY SHE IS LEAVING...?



THEN DON DIEGO BEGINS HIS OWN PRIVATE INVESTIGATION...

SI, SEÑOR DE LA VEGA, SHE HAS GONE! DO NOT ASK ME WHY... IT SEEMS THERE IS MUCH INTEREST IN LITA TODAY!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



TWO MEN—JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO THEY ASKED ABOUT HER...THEY SEEMED QUITE ANXIOUS TO FIND HER!



AND THEY DID NOT LOOK FRIENDLY...I THINK LITA IS IN DANGER! SHE WAS VERY UPSET "AND FRIGHTENED!"

DID YOU TELL THE TWO MEN WHERE LITA WENT?



HOW COULD I ? I DO NOT KNOW MYSELF WHAT HAPPENED ... ONLY THAT SHE IS GONE !!

HMMM ... SHE DIDN'T EVEN TELL HER FEW FRIENDS SHE WAS LEAVING BY STAGE ... !!



DIEGO HURRIES TO HIS HACIENDA ...

I HAVE A STRONG FEELING THAT LITA RIALGO IS TIED UP WITH THE MURDER OF SEÑOR TOMASO. BERNARDO ...

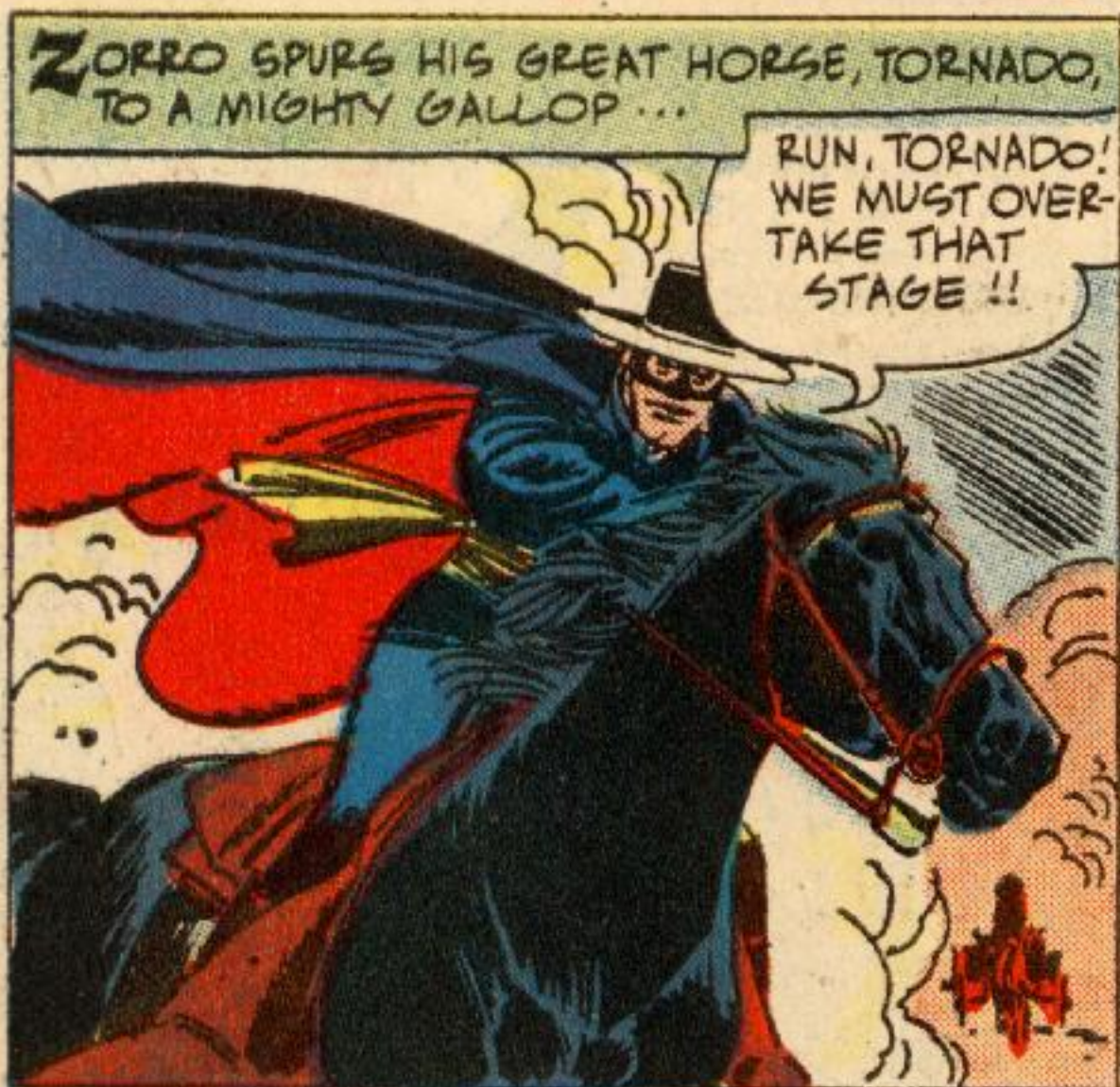


AS ZORRO, PERHAPS I CAN FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT !



SOON ...

I AM GOING TO TRY CATCHING UP WITH THAT STAGE, AMIGO ... BRING THE CARRIAGE TO THE CAPISTRANO INN — I WILL MEET YOU THERE ...



ZORRO SPURS HIS GREAT HORSE, TORNADO, TO A MIGHTY GALLOP ...

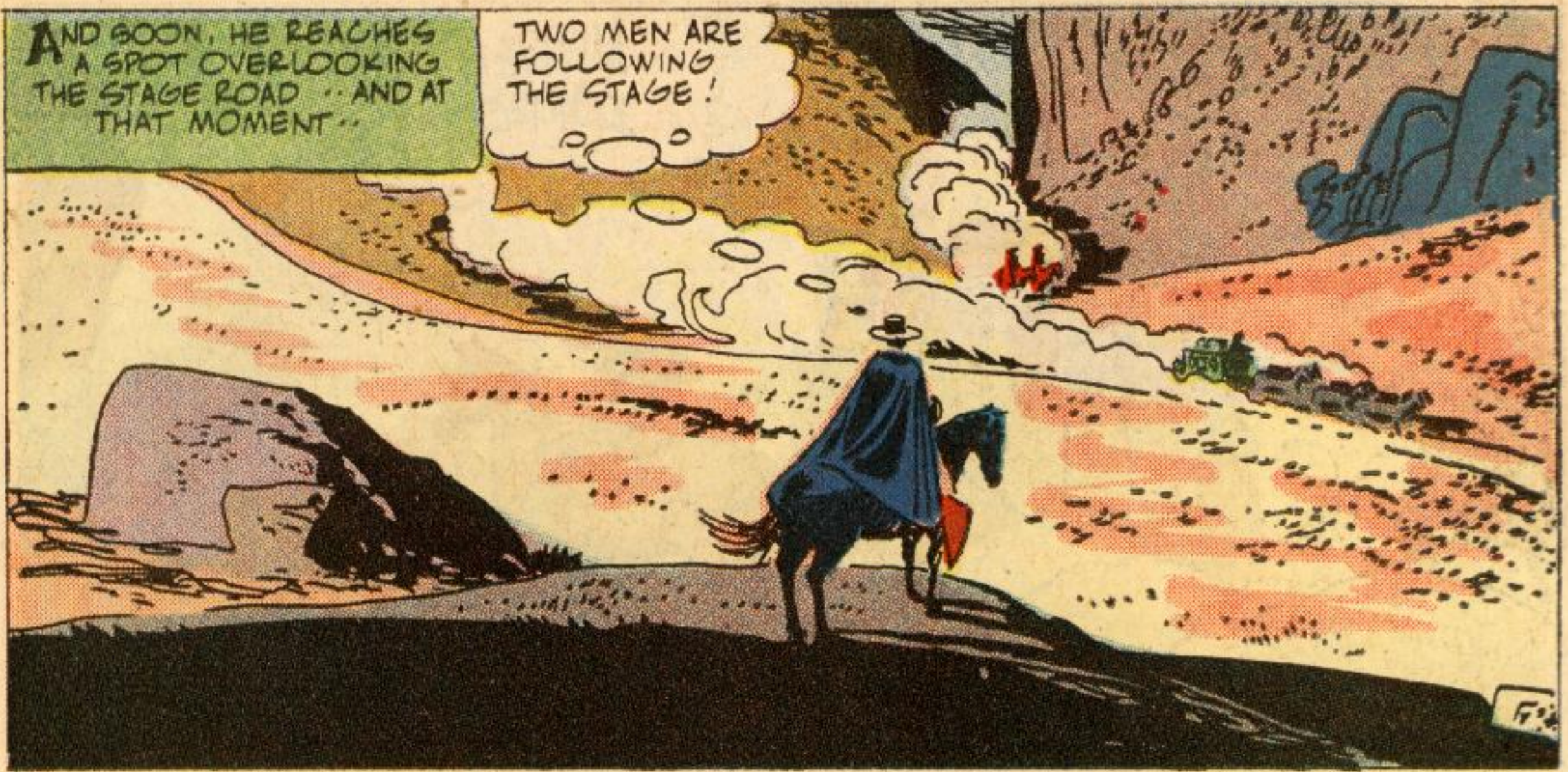
RUN, TORNADO! WE MUST OVERTAKE THAT STAGE !!



TAKING BACK TRAILS, ZORRO RACES ON ...

AND SOON, HE REACHES
A SPOT OVERLOOKING
THE STAGE ROAD... AND AT
THAT MOMENT...

TWO MEN ARE
FOLLOWING
THE STAGE!

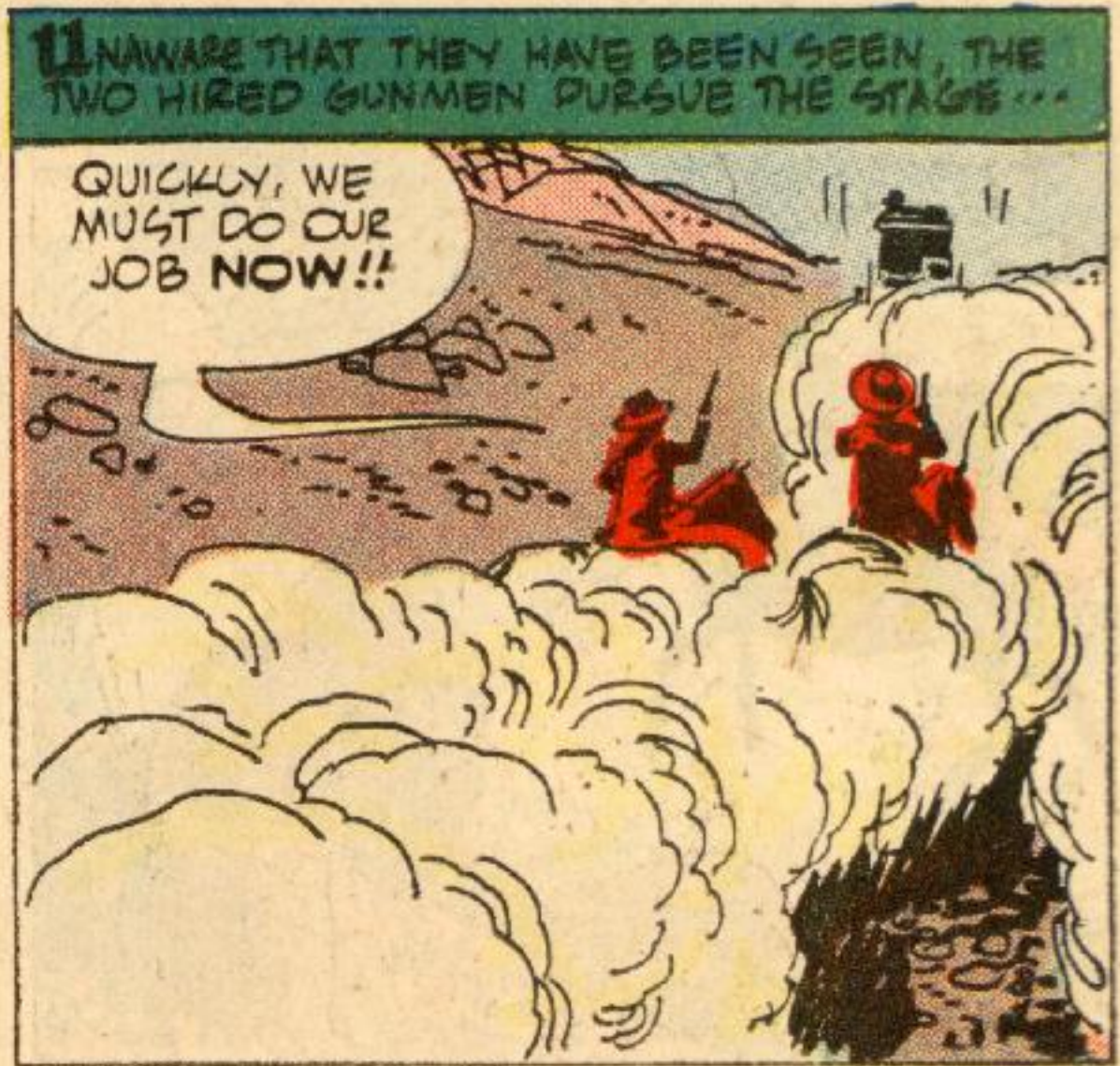


ON, TORNADO!
WE HAVE TO STOP
THEM AT ONCE!!



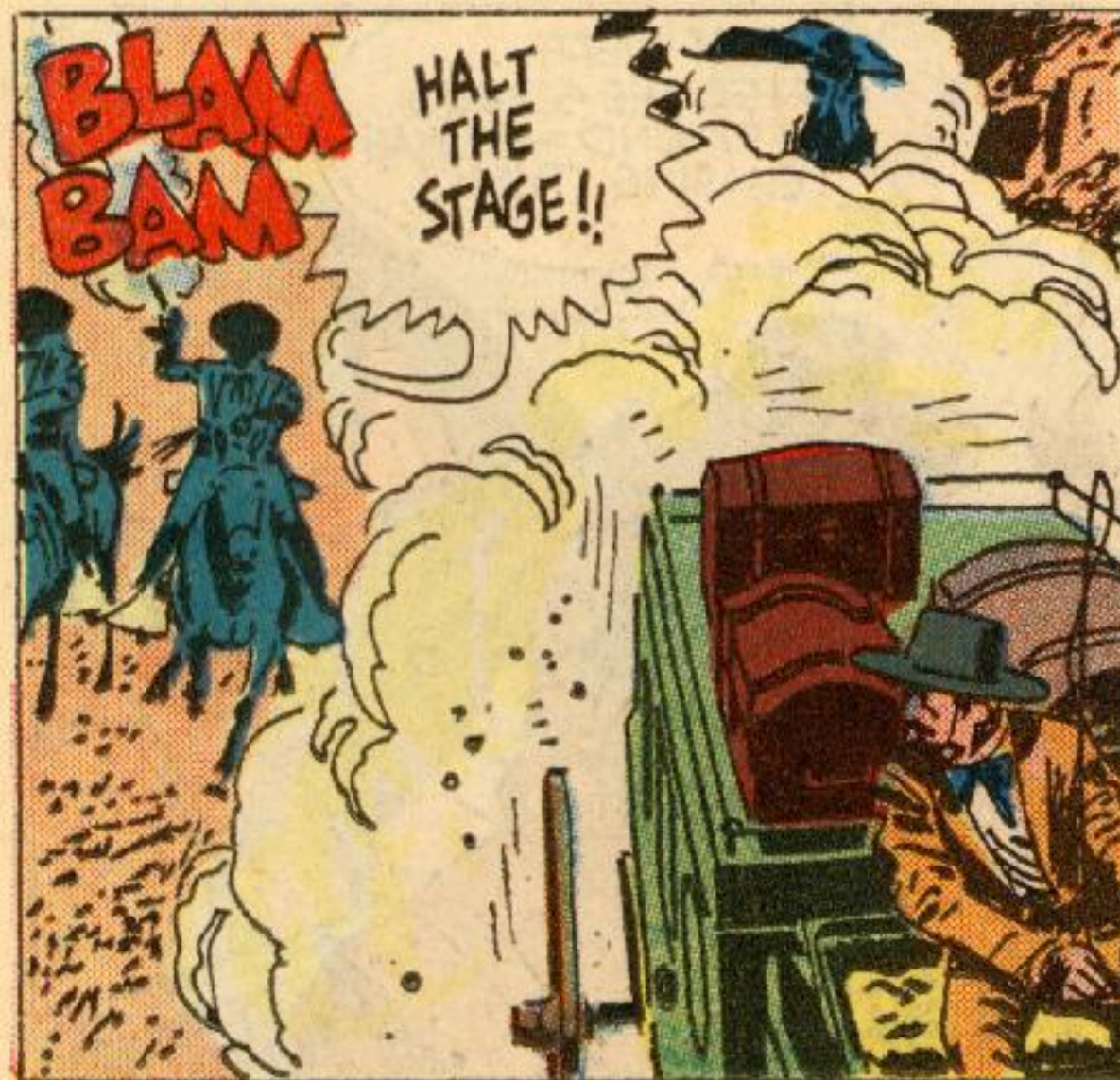
UNAWARE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN SEEN, THE
TWO HIRED GUNMEN PURSUE THE STAGE...

QUICKLY, WE
MUST DO OUR
JOB NOW!!



**BLAM
BAM**

HALT
THE
STAGE!!



IT LOOKS AS
IF I ARRIVED
JUST IN TIME!!

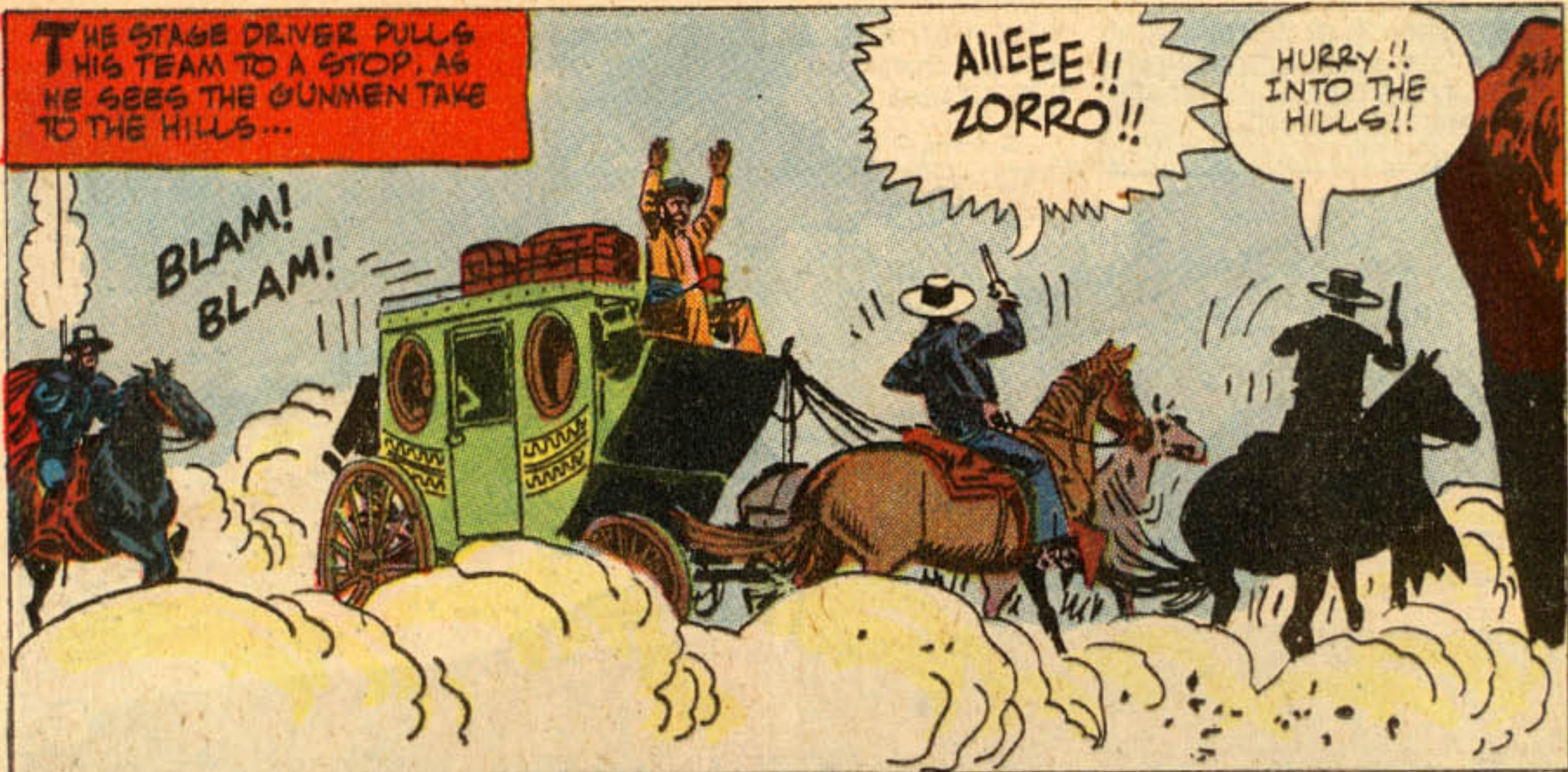


THE STAGE DRIVER PULLS HIS TEAM TO A STOP, AS HE SEES THE GUNMEN TAKE TO THE HILLS...

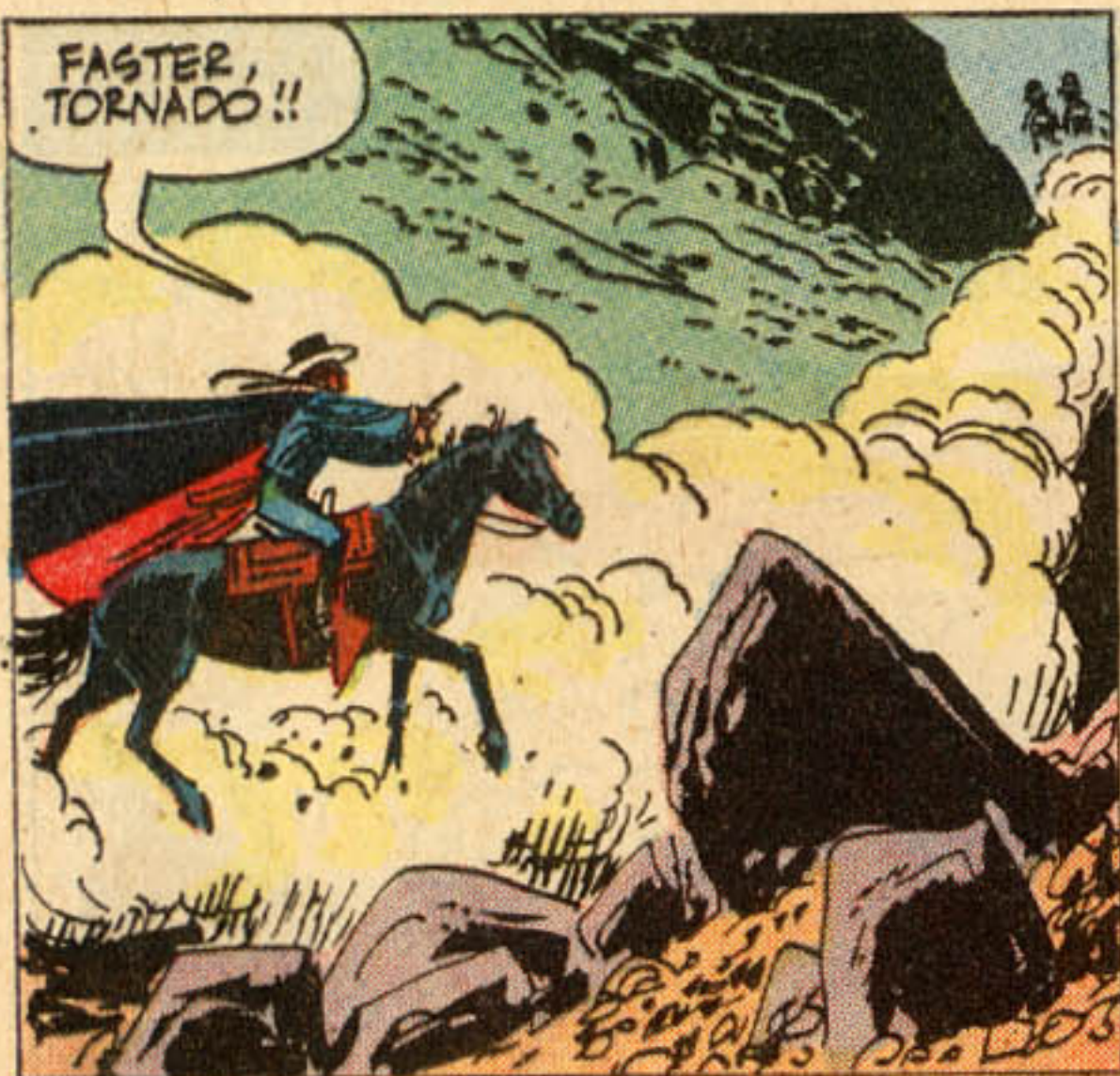
BLAM!
BLAM!

AIIEE!!
ZORRO!!

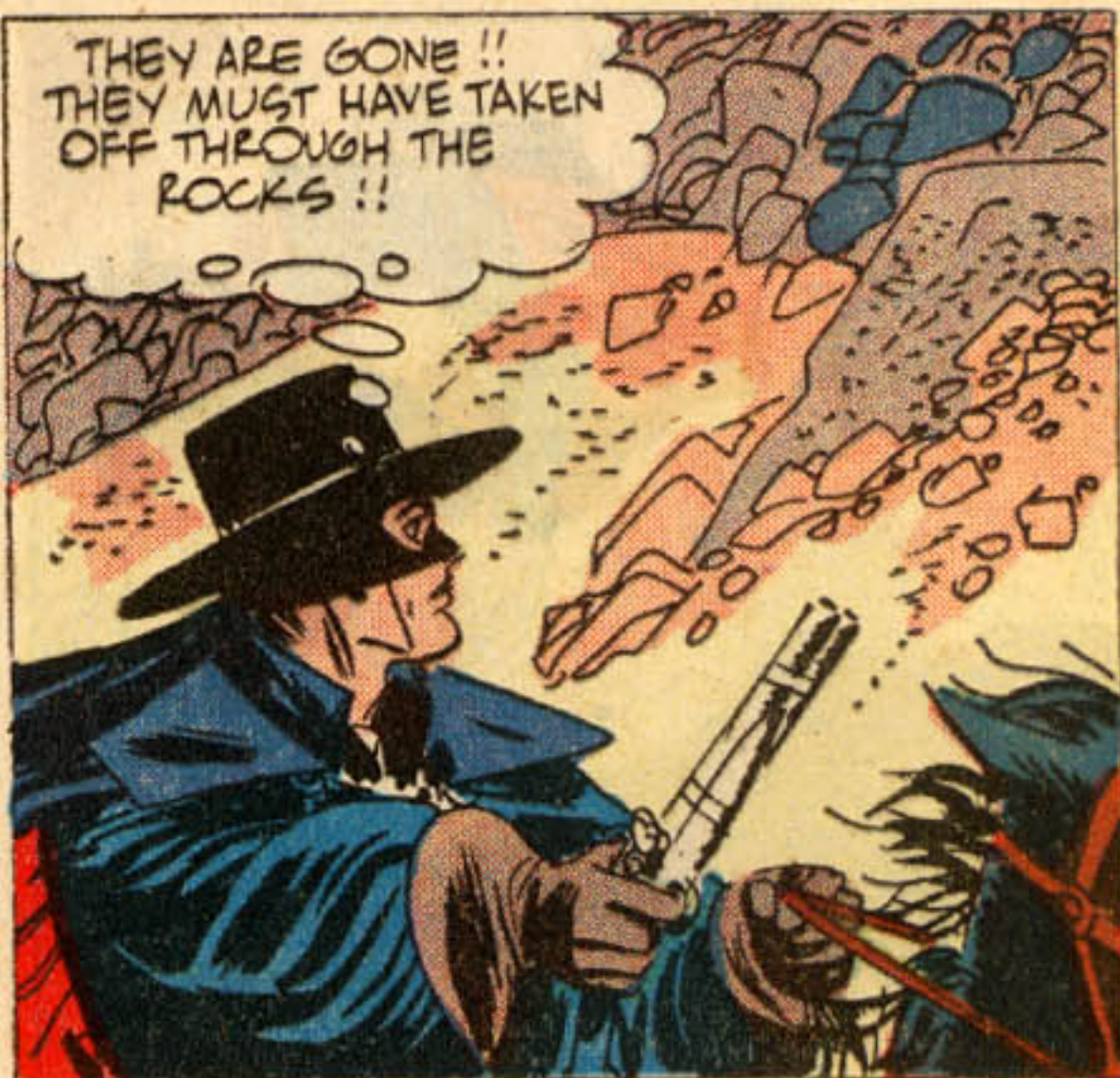
HURRY!!
INTO THE
HILLS!!



FASTER,
TORNADO!!



THEY ARE GONE!!
THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN
OFF THROUGH THE
ROCKS!!



MINUTES LATER, ZORRO RETURNS TO THE HALTED STAGECOACH AND LITA RIALGO!

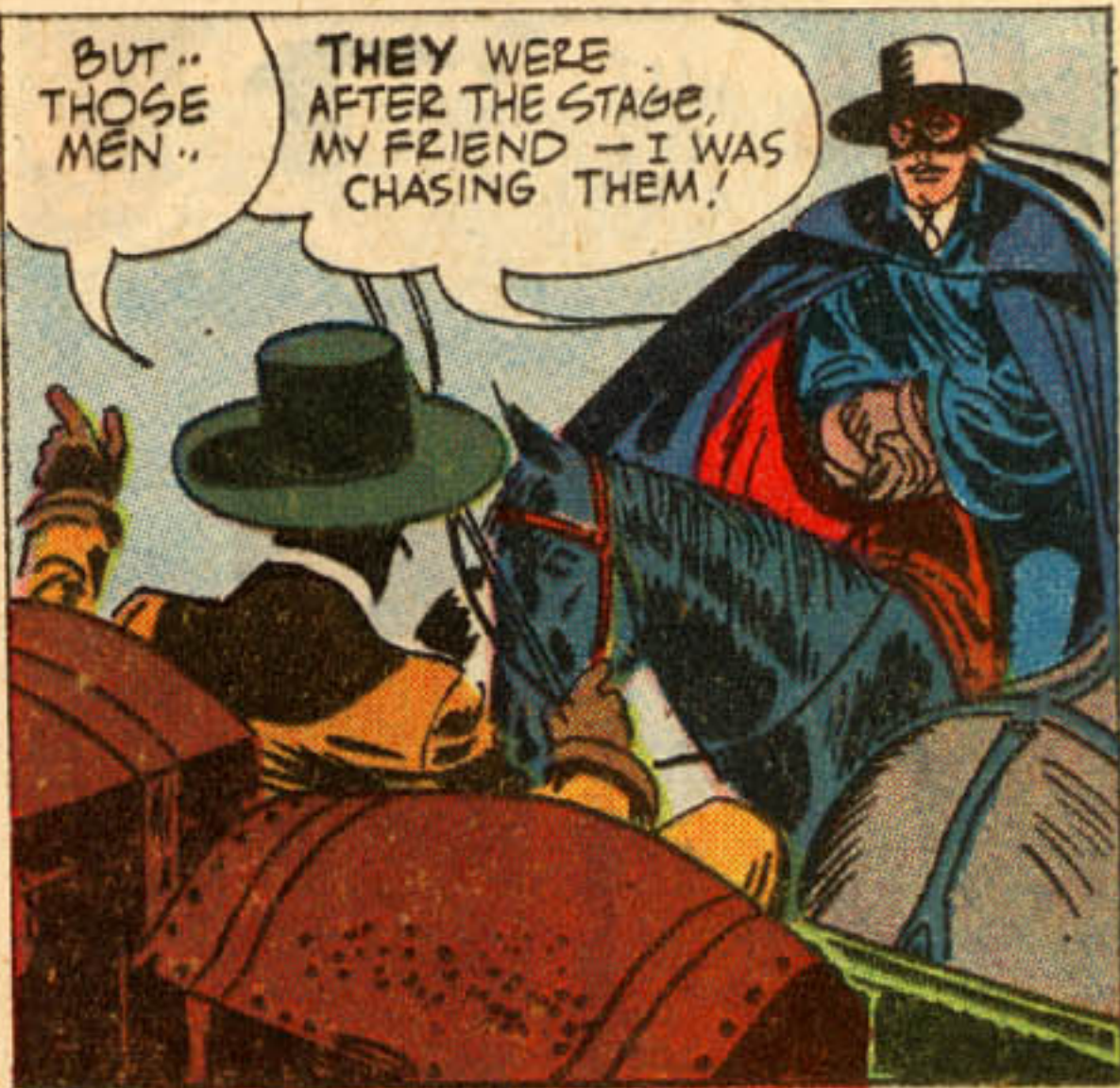
DO NOT SHOOT ME, SEÑOR ZORRO — I HAVE NO MONEY!!

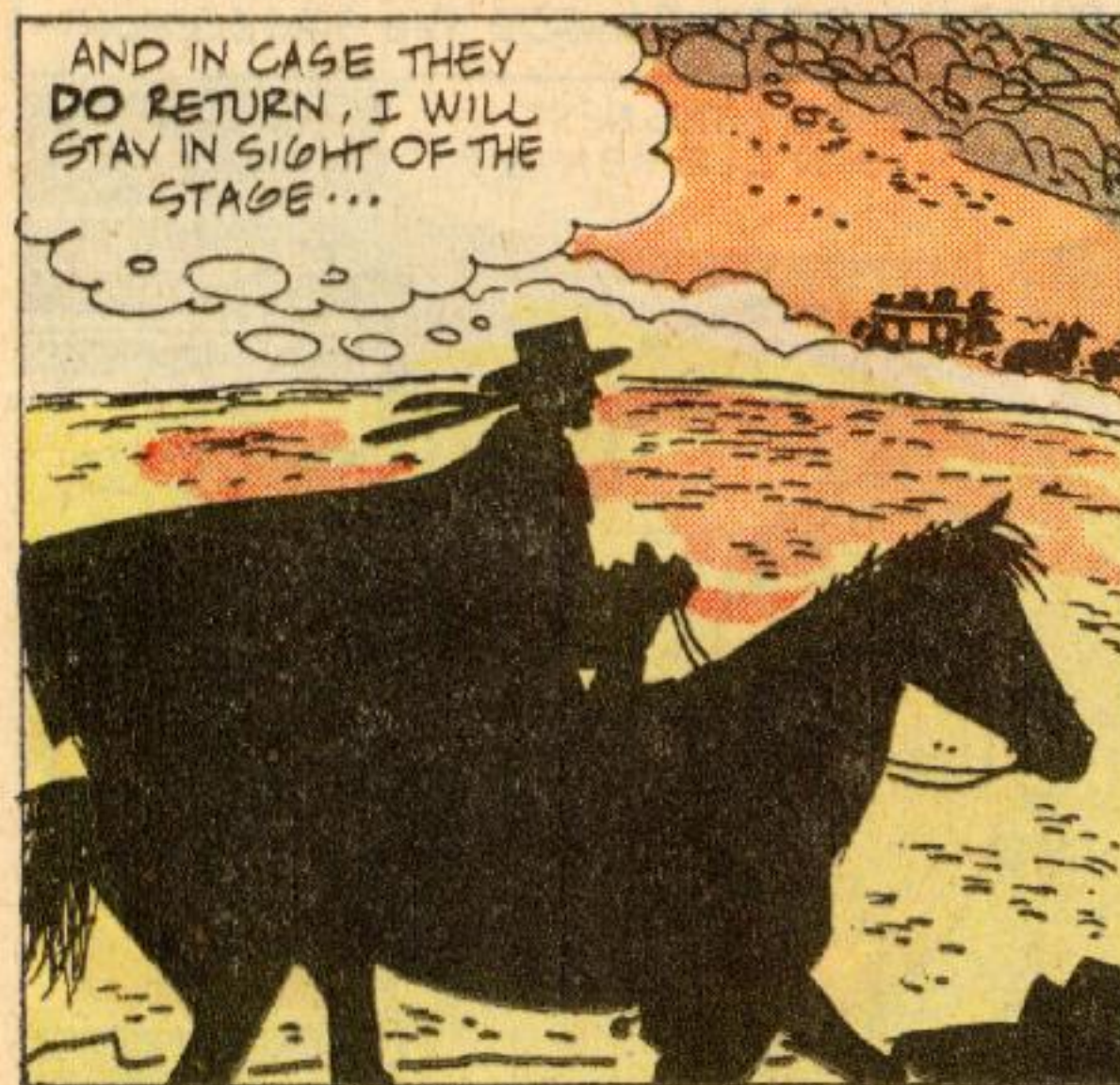
I'VE NOT
COME TO
HARM YOU,
AMIGO!



BUT..
THOSE
MEN..

THEY WERE
AFTER THE STAGE,
MY FRIEND — I WAS
CHASING THEM!





SOMETIME LATER, IN THE INN AT CAPISTRANO.

FORTUNATELY, THE STAGE HAS COME THIS FAR WITHOUT FURTHER TROUBLE ... BUT IT IS STILL A LONG TRIP TO SAN DIEGO ...



THE GIRL WILL BE TRAVELING ALONE FROM HERE ... AS THE OTHER PASSENGERS CAME ONLY THIS FAR! IT IS MY CHANCE TO TALK TO HER ...



YOU WILL FOLLOW US WITH THE CARRIAGE AND TORNADO ... BUT, NOT TOO CLOSELY, BERNARDO — JUST CLOSE ENOUGH SO THAT, IF NECESSARY, **ZORRO** CAN MAKE ANOTHER APPEARANCE!



BERNARDO GESTURES TO DON DIEGO ...

YOU WISH TO KNOW WHAT I PLAN TO DO? IT IS SIMPLE, AMIGO ... I'M GOING TO BOARD THAT STAGE!



I DO NOT YET KNOW IF LITA RIALGO IS FLEEING FROM SOMETHING SHE DID, OR SOMETHING SHE **KNOWS** ... I HOPE, THAT AS A FELLOW PASSENGER, I CAN LEARN THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION!

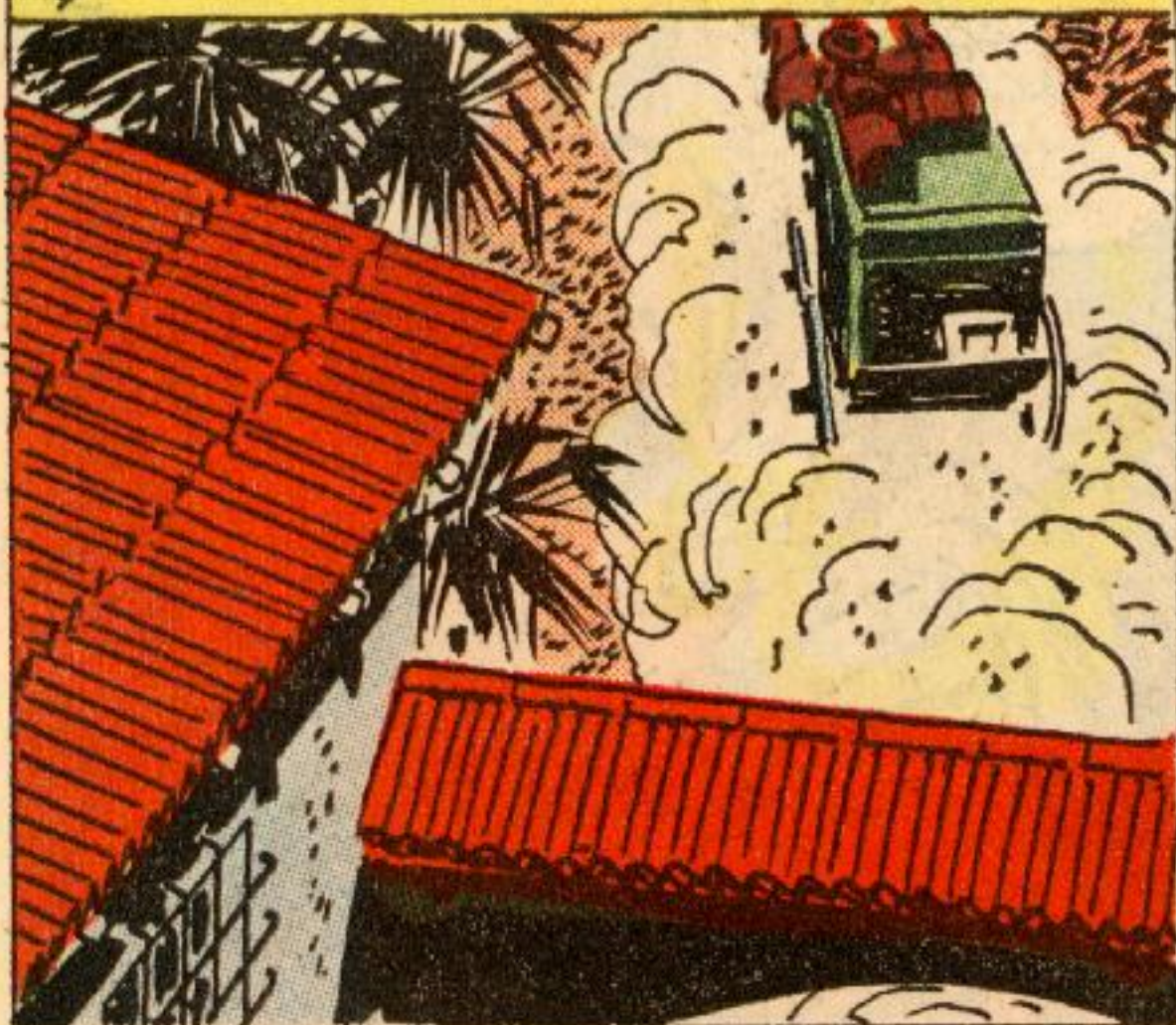


SHORTLY, DIEGO BOARDS THE STAGECOACH ...

ALL ABOARD! THE NEXT STOP ... SAN CLEMENTE!



THE STAGE CONTINUES ITS JOURNEY...



BUT, MORE IMPORTANT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON THIS STAGE? EACH TIME WE MEET YOU SEEM TO BE IN A HURRY — LAST NIGHT IN THE PUEBLO, YOU — !

PLEASE, I AM SO TIRED.. I-I DO NOT WANT TO TALK !



MURDER IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS, SEÑORITA ...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! .. WHOSE MURDER ?



INSIDE ...

DON DIEGO DE LA VEGA !! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ?

I HAVE BUSINESS IN SAN DIEGO, SEÑORITA RIALGO !



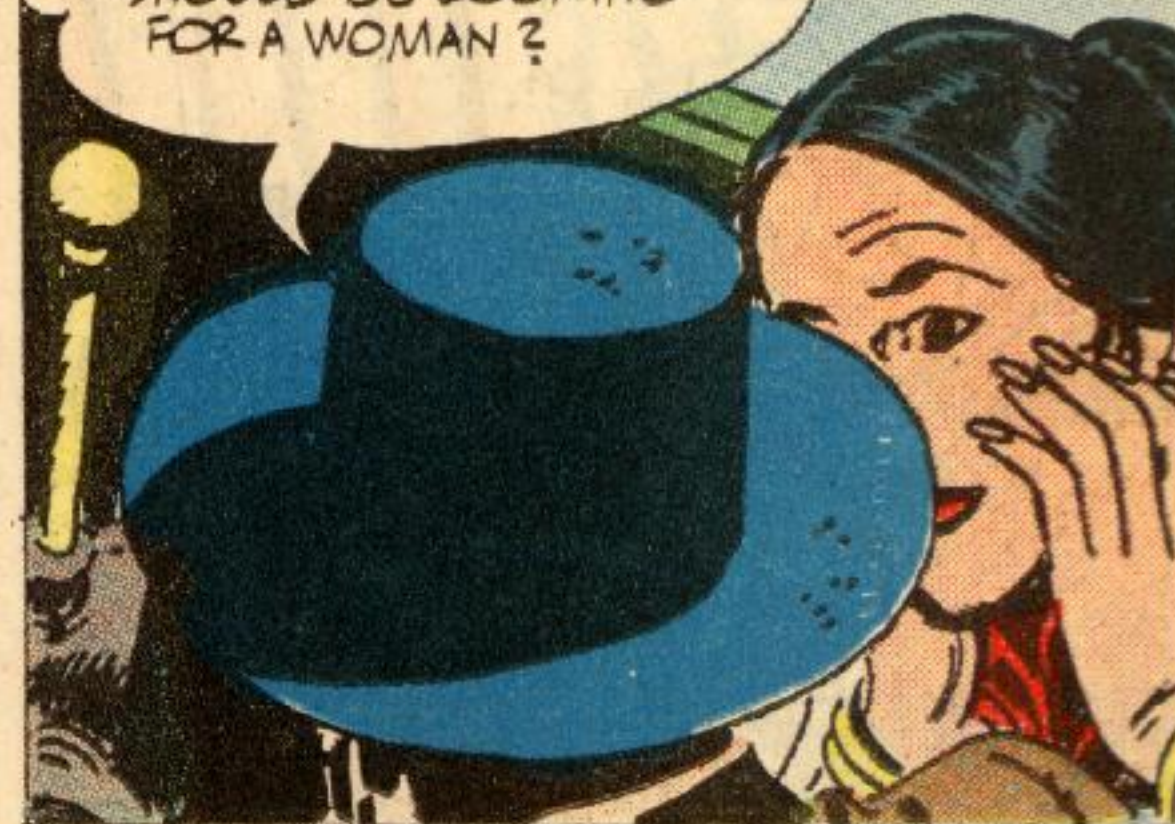
TIRED ? FRIGHTENED TOO, PERHAPS ? IT IS OBVIOUS, SEÑORITA RIALGO, THAT YOU ARE .. RUNNING !!

THAT, DON DIEGO, IS MY BUSINESS !!



SEÑOR TOMASO !... PERHAPS YOU ARE RUNNING BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED ? SERGEANT GARCIA'S LANCERS ARE SEARCHING FOR A MAN.. IS IT POSSIBLE THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR A WOMAN ?

NO! I-I ONLY SAW...





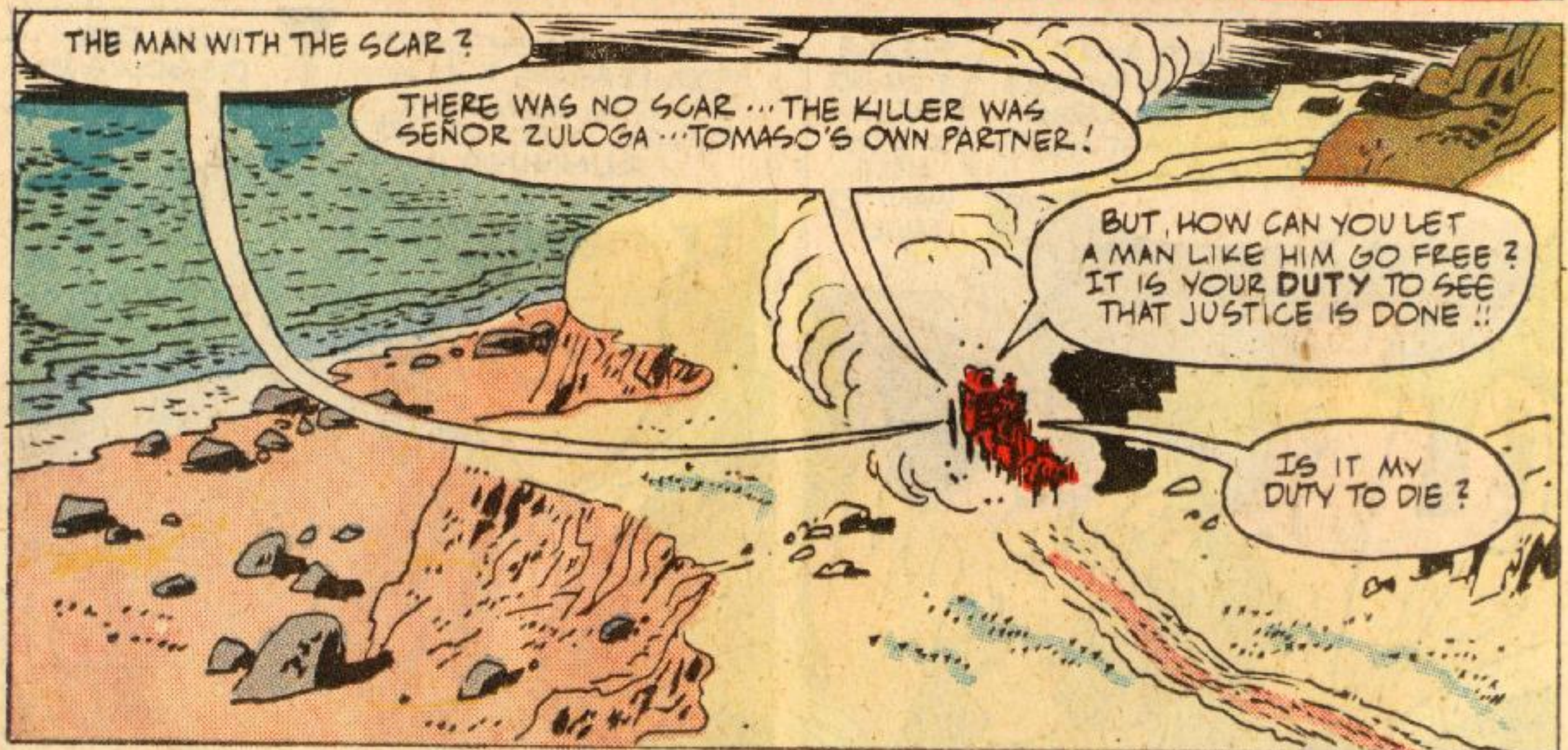
SAW WHAT?
SO YOU DID SEE
THE MURDER !!

YES! YES!! BUT...I...I
CANNOT TELL YOU...HE
WILL...K-KILL ME!!



THEN WHY
DID YOU NOT
TELL SERGEANT
GARCIA ABOUT
ALL THIS?

I...I... WAS AFRAID...



THE MAN WITH THE SCAR?

THERE WAS NO SCAR...THE KILLER WAS
SEÑOR ZULOGA...TOMASO'S OWN PARTNER!

BUT, HOW CAN YOU LET
A MAN LIKE HIM GO FREE?
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SEE
THAT JUSTICE IS DONE!!

IS IT MY
DUTY TO DIE?



THE DRIVER TOLD ME WHAT
HAPPENED ON THE ROAD TODAY!
DO YOU THINK THAT WAS AN
ACCIDENT? THOSE MEN
MUST HAVE BEEN AFTER YOU!!

I...I
CAN'T
GO
BACK!!

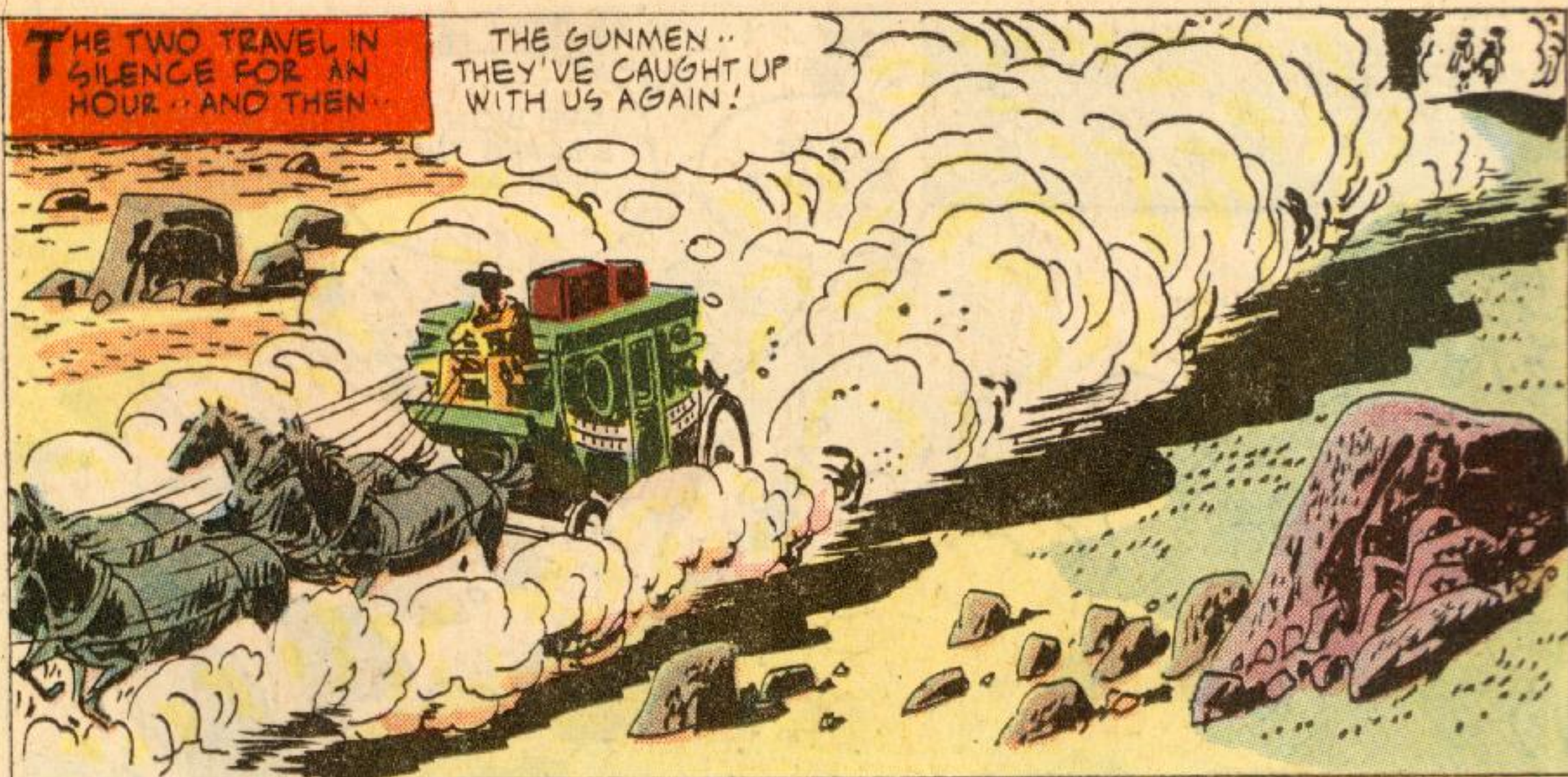


THEY WILL NOT STOP
AT JUST ONE TRY, SEÑORITA!
YOU CANNOT RUN FOREVER!

PLEASE,
JUST...JUST
LET...ME...
ALONE!!

THE TWO TRAVEL IN
SILENCE FOR AN
HOUR... AND THEN...

THE GUNMEN...
THEY'VE CAUGHT UP
WITH US AGAIN!



DIEGO SHOUTS A WARNING TO THE DRIVER...

FASTER! YOU ARE BEING FOLLOWED!



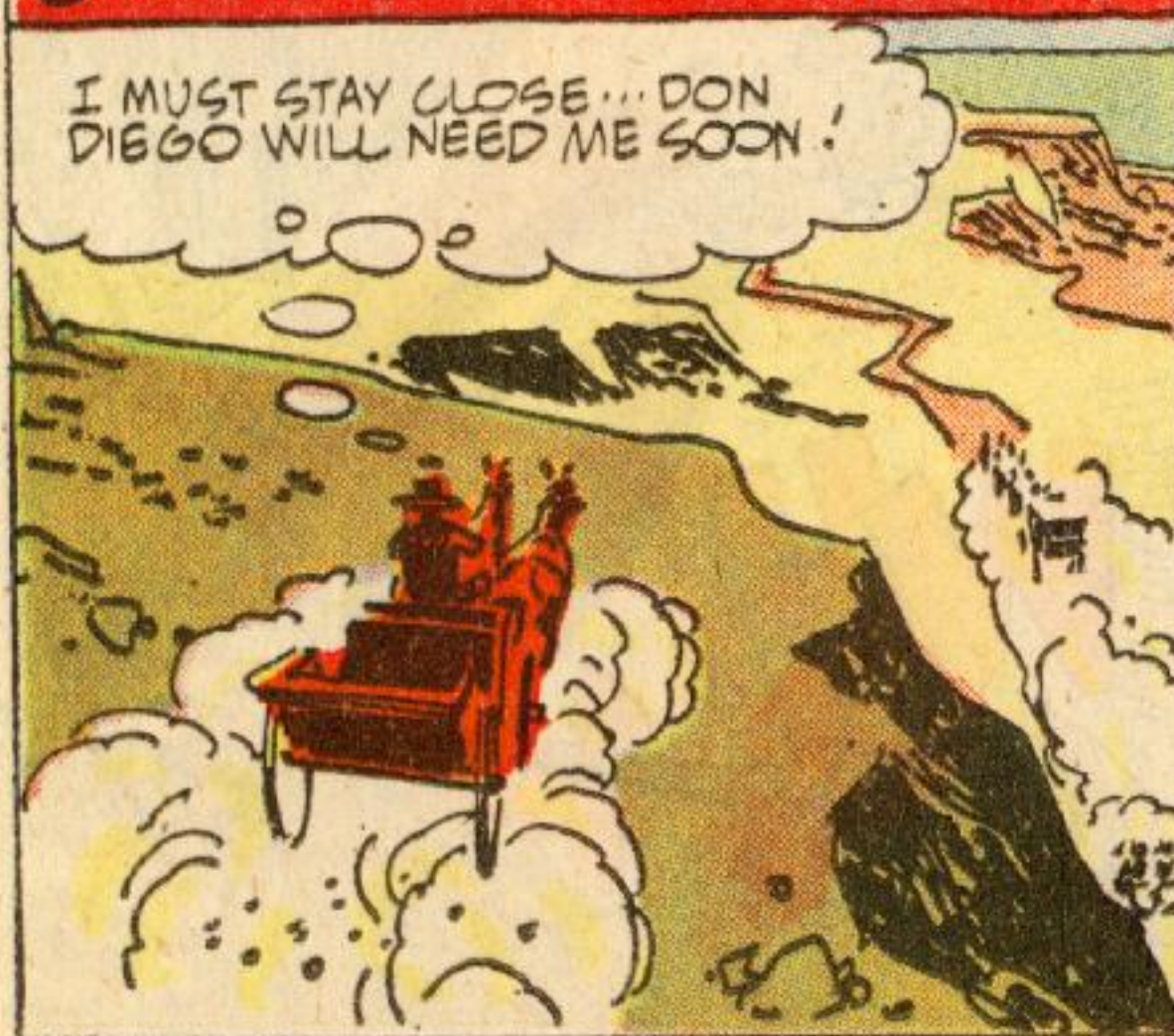
THE DRIVER WHIPS THE TEAM HARD...

HIYAAA!!



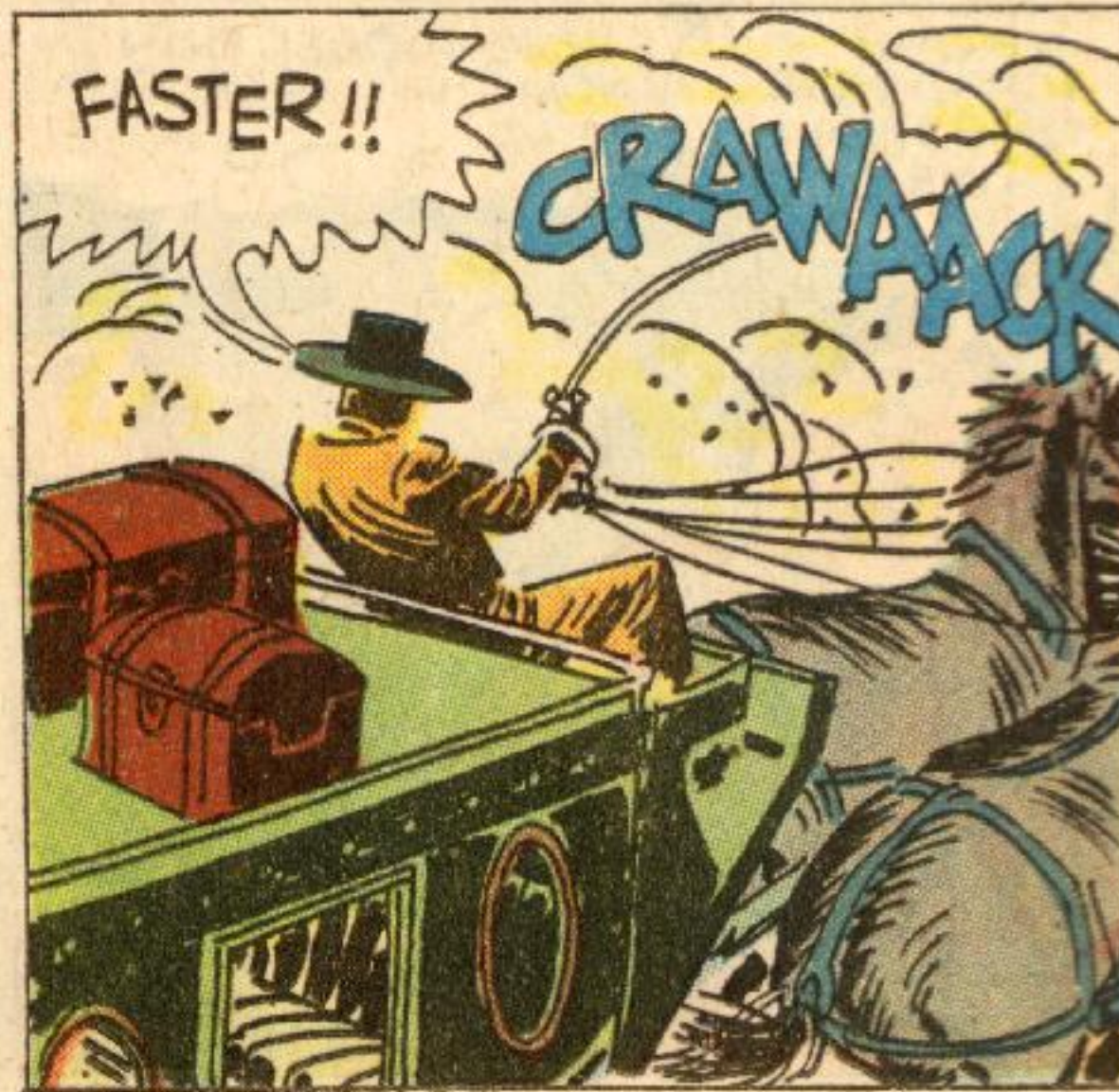
ON A NEARBY HILL, BERNARDO WATCHES...

I MUST STAY CLOSE... DON
DIEGO WILL NEED ME SOON!



FASTER!!

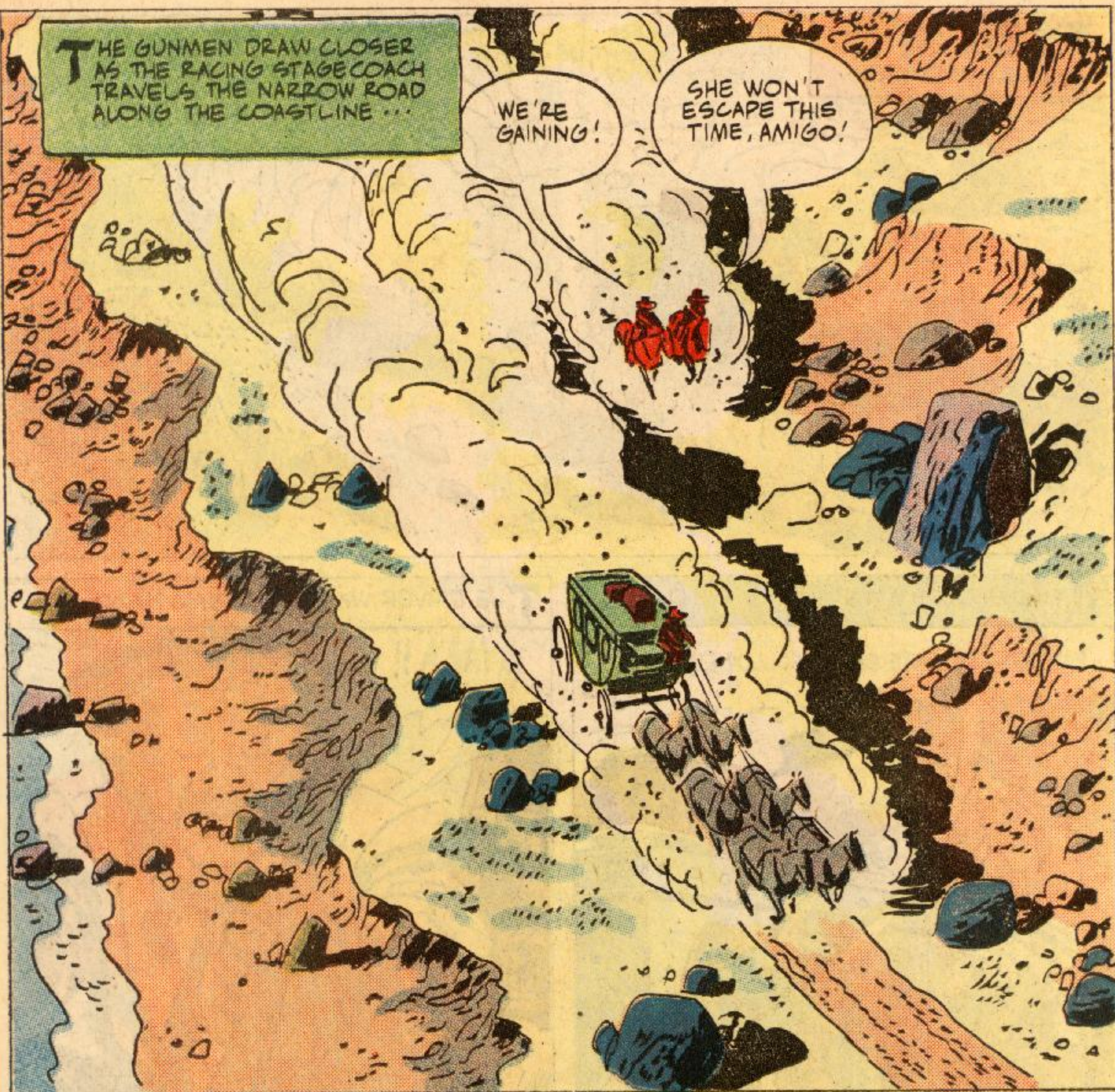
CRAWAACK



THE GUNMEN DRAW CLOSER
AS THE RACING STAGE COACH
TRAVELS THE NARROW ROAD
ALONG THE COASTLINE...

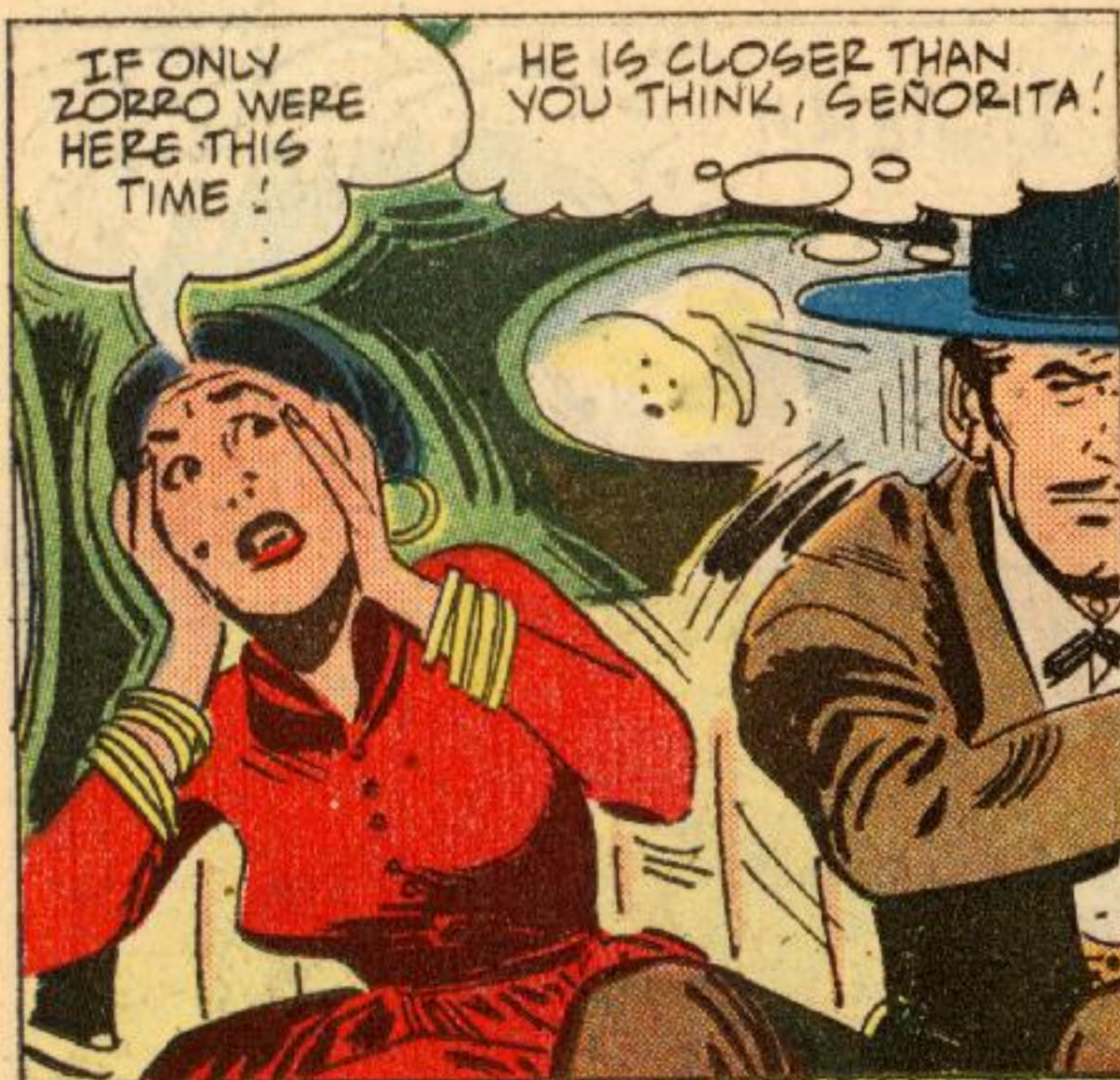
WE'RE
GAINING!

SHE WON'T
ESCAPE THIS
TIME, AMIGO!



IF ONLY
ZORRO WERE
HERE THIS
TIME!

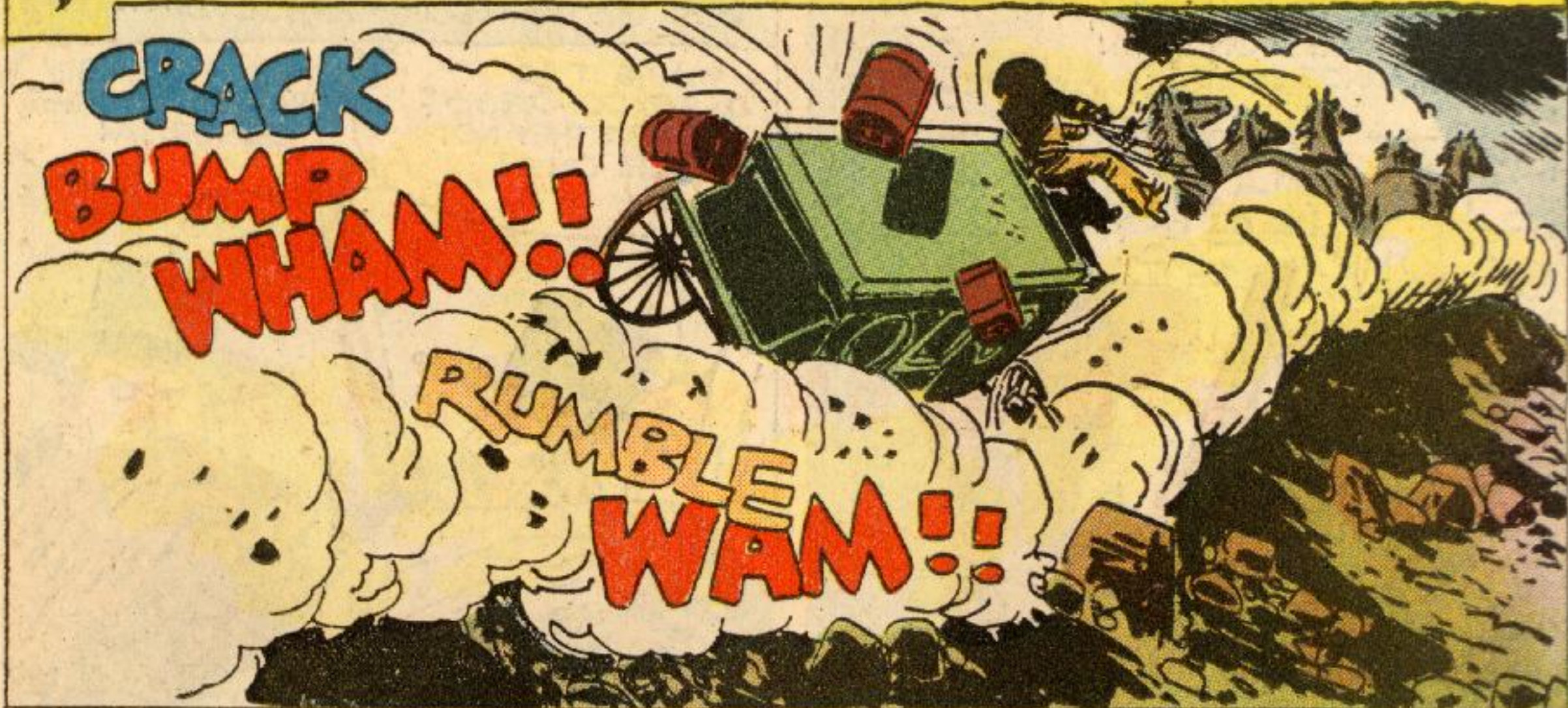
HE IS CLOSER THAN
YOU THINK, SEÑORITA!



THE RACING STAGECOACH HITS A ROCK...



THE DRIVER IS UNABLE TO HOLD THE CAREENING STAGE ON THE ROAD ...



WE'LL HAVE
TO FIGHT THEM
OFF FROM HERE!!



UNDER THE SEAT,
SEÑOR! ... ANOTHER
GUN! HELP ME!



THE PURSUING GUNMEN TAKE COVER AS
THE DRIVER'S SHOTS SPLIT THE AIR ...

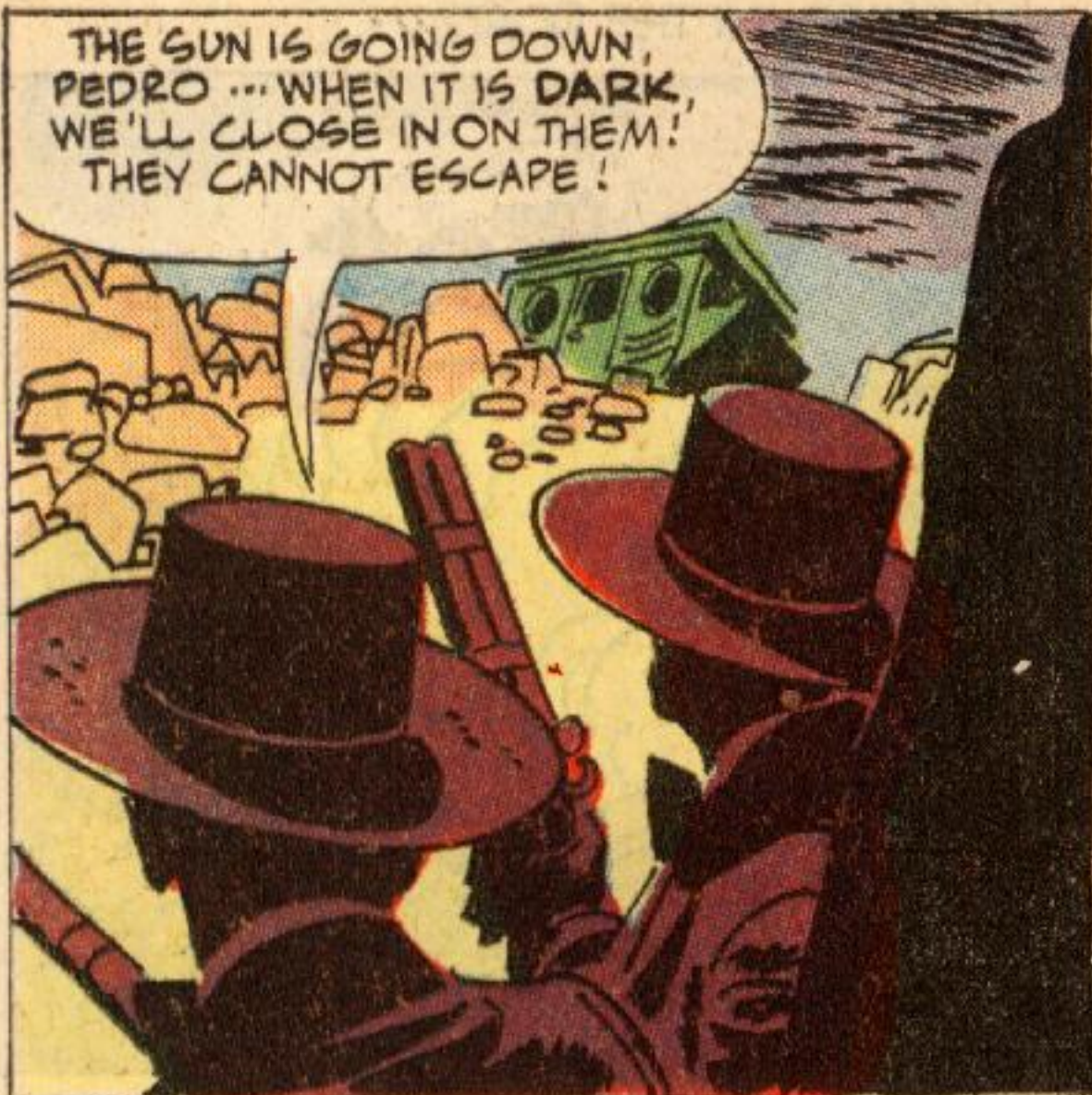


WE CAN'T
GET CLOSE
TO THEM!

IT DOES NOT
MATTER ... THEY
CANNOT MOVE
FROM THAT SPOT!



THE SUN IS GOING DOWN,
PEDRO ... WHEN IT IS DARK,
WE'LL CLOSE IN ON THEM!
THEY CANNOT ESCAPE!



THE SILENCE PUZZLES THE HUDDLED TRIO
AT THE DISABLED STAGECOACH ...

WHY IS IT SO
QUIET, DON DIEGO?
WHY DO THEY NOT
COME OUT?

THEY PROBABLY
AWAIT DARKNESS,
SEÑORITA!



WE'RE PINNED
DOWN HERE, SEÑOR!
IF WE TRY TO ESCAPE
ON FOOT THEY WILL
CAPTURE US...

SI!



PERHAPS IF I TRY IT ALONE...
I CAN GO DOWN ALONG THE
BEACH AND BACK UP TO THE
ROAD... I MAY BE ABLE TO
GET HELP!



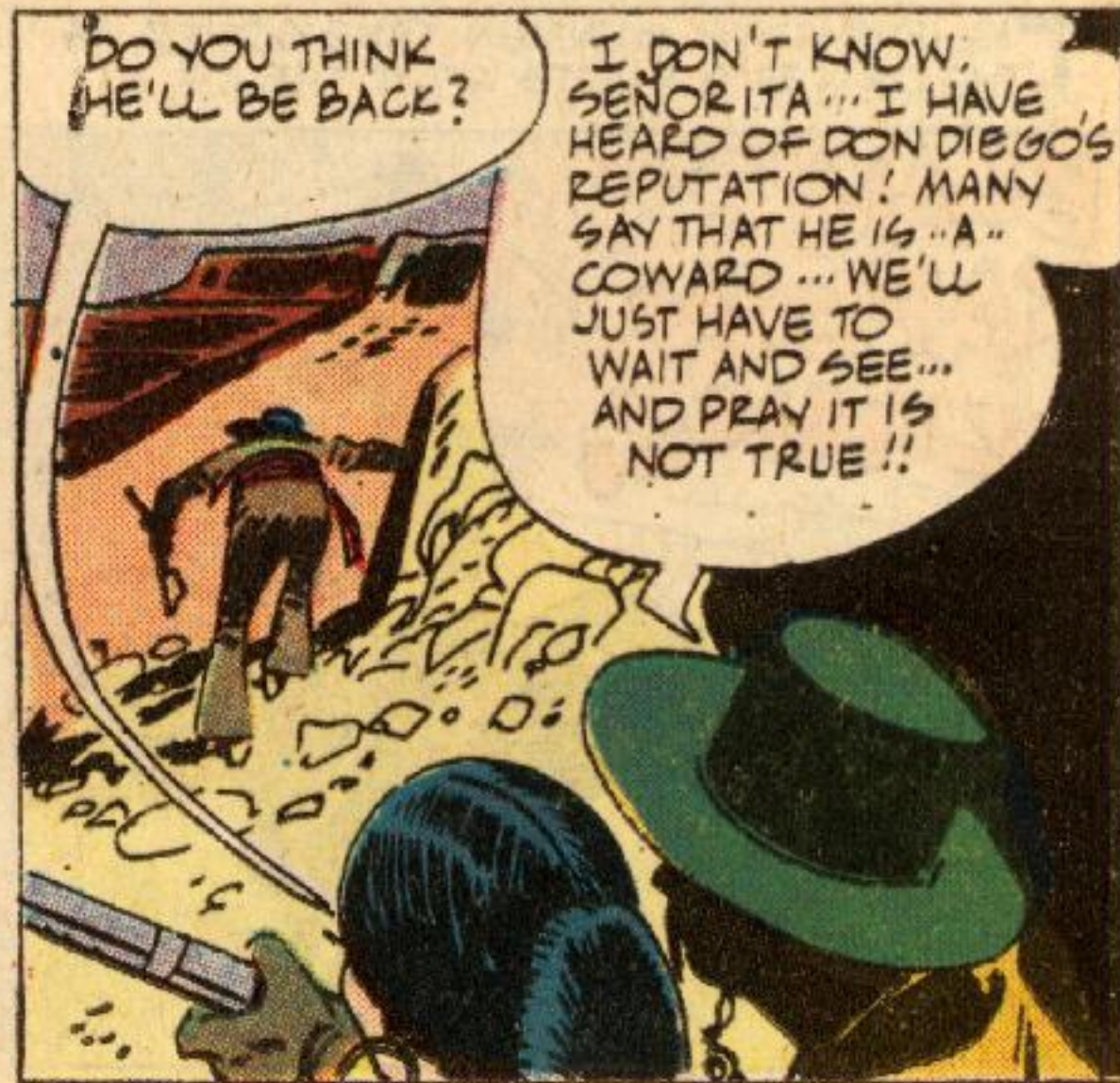
WHERE CAN YOU
GET HELP? IT'LL
BE BETTER IF YOU
STAY HERE... AND HELP
US FIGHT THEM!

NO - I MUST TRY
IT MY WAY... IT IS
OUR ONLY WAY...



DO YOU THINK
HE'LL BE BACK?

I DON'T KNOW,
SEÑORITA... I HAVE
HEARD OF DON DIEGO'S
REPUTATION! MANY
SAY THAT HE IS... A...
COWARD... WE'LL
JUST HAVE TO
WAIT AND SEE...
AND PRAY IT IS
NOT TRUE!!



AS DIEGO HAD HOPED, BERNARDO IS NEAR...

IT IS GOOD THAT NO ONE SAW YOU, BERNARDO... WE MUST WORK SWIFTLY... IT WILL BE DARK VERY SOON !!



QUICKLY, DIEGO SLIPS INTO THE BLACK COSTUME OF THE CRUSADER, ZORRO...

STAY HERE, BERNARDO... WHEN I SIGNAL WITH A SHOT, YOU START FIRING YOUR PISTOL AS FAST AS YOU CAN LOAD IT!



AS DARKNESS APPROACHES...

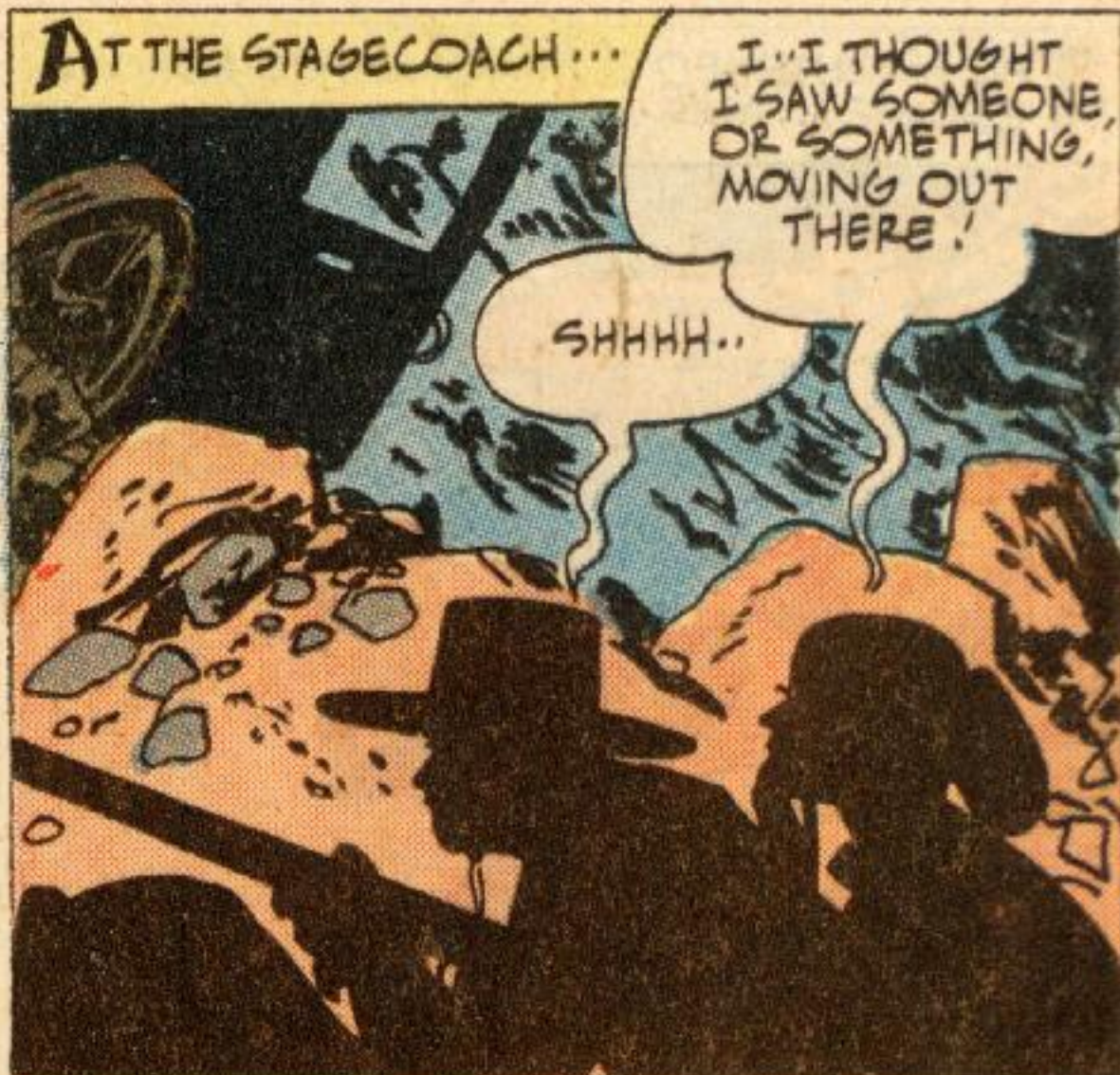
I HOPE I AM NOT TOO LATE !!



AT THE STAGECOACH...

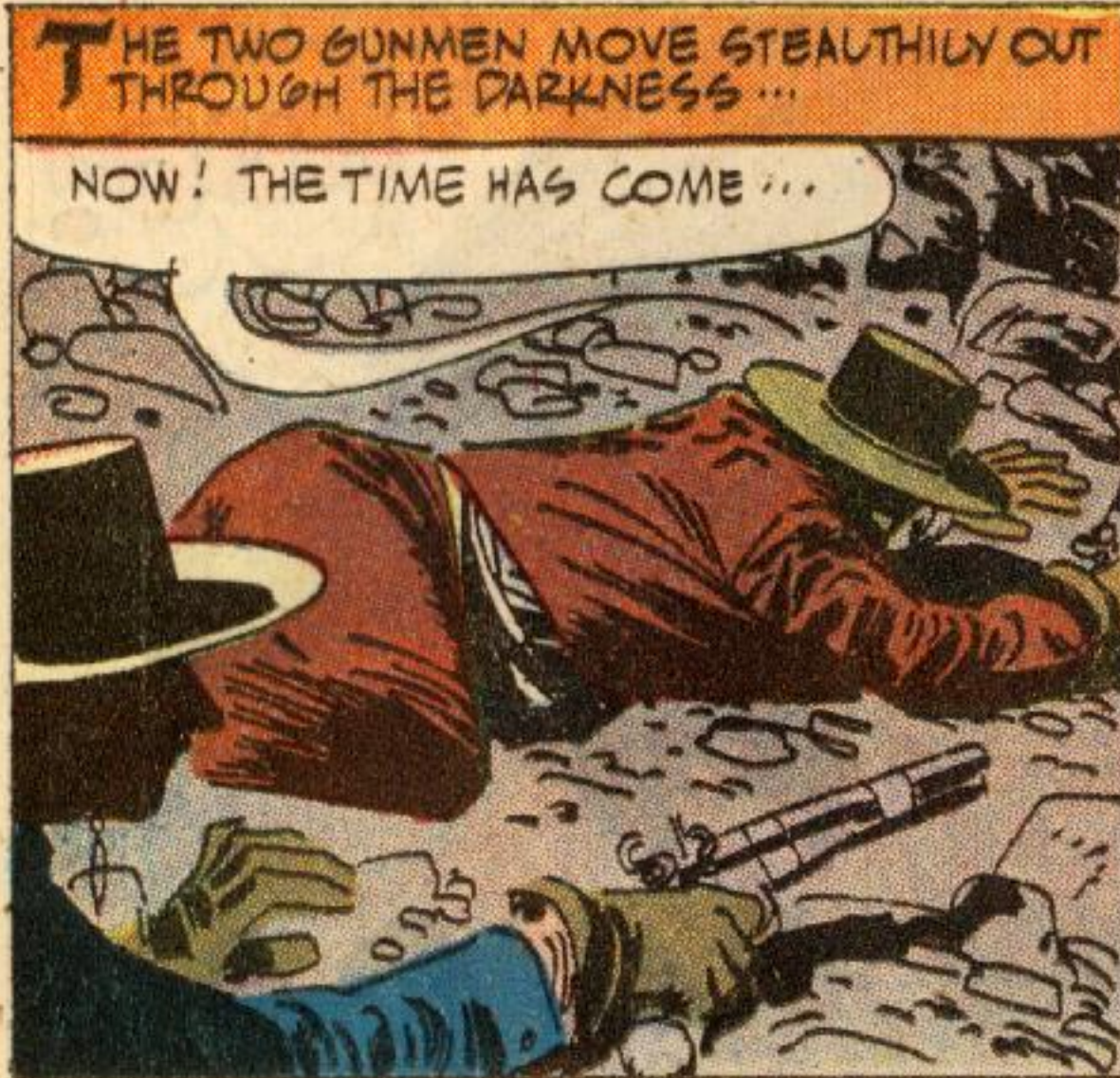
I... I THOUGHT I SAW SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING, MOVING OUT THERE!

SHHHH..



THE TWO GUNMEN MOVE STEALTHILY OUT THROUGH THE DARKNESS...

NOW! THE TIME HAS COME...



BUT AS PEDRO LIFTS HIS GUN...

CRACK

POWW!!



SANCHEZ DIVES FOR COVER ...

BLAM

HERE IS YOUR
SIGNAL, BERNARDO!



SOME DISTANCE AWAY, BERNARDO ACTS AT
ONCE AND FIRES A VOLLEY OF SHOTS ...

???

YOU CANNOT ESCAPE, SEÑOR!
THE HILLS ARE FULL OF LANCERS!

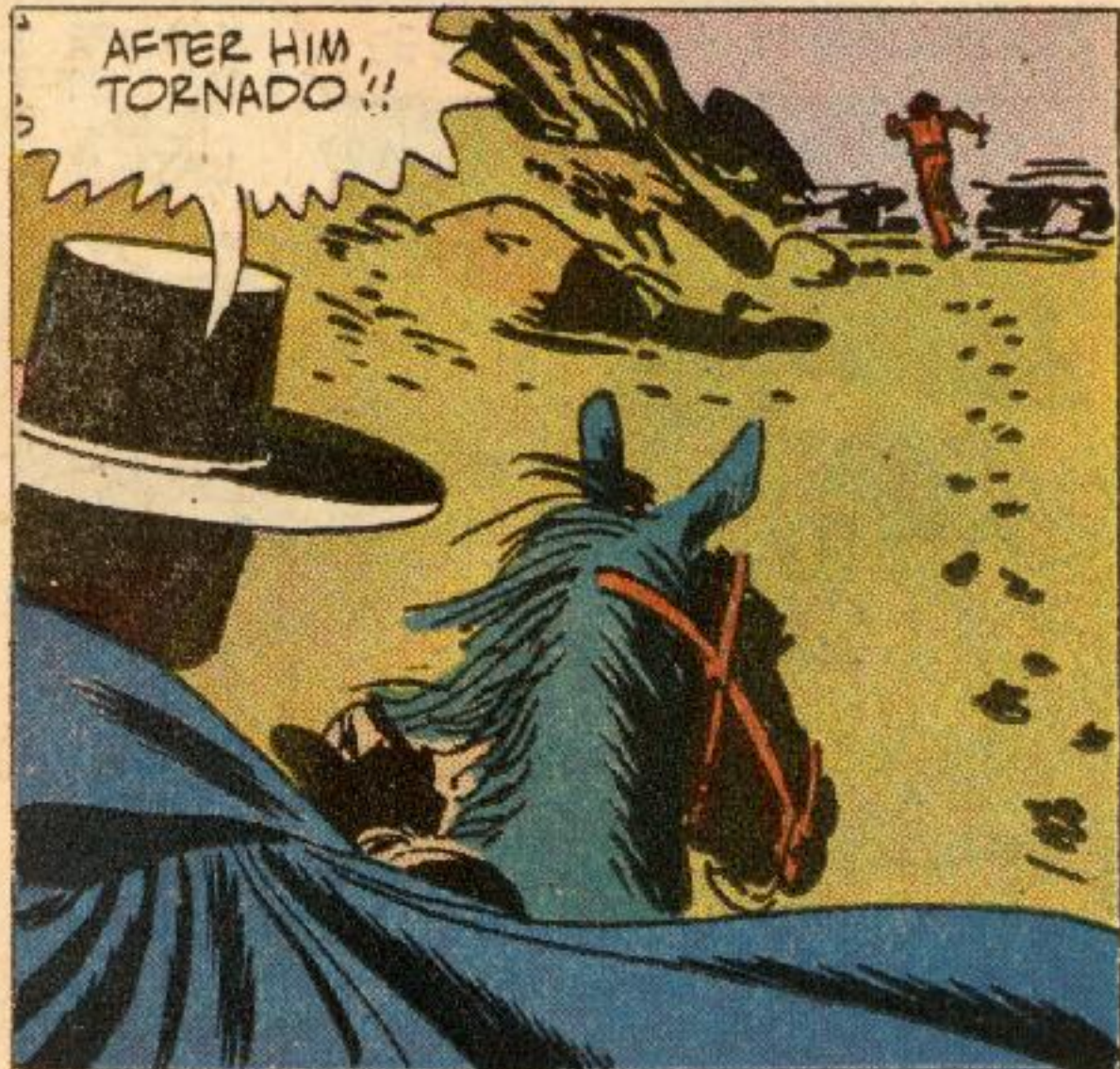


THE FRIGHTENED GUNMAN MAKES A CHOICE
TO ESCAPE ... AND ...

I MUST
GET AWAY!!

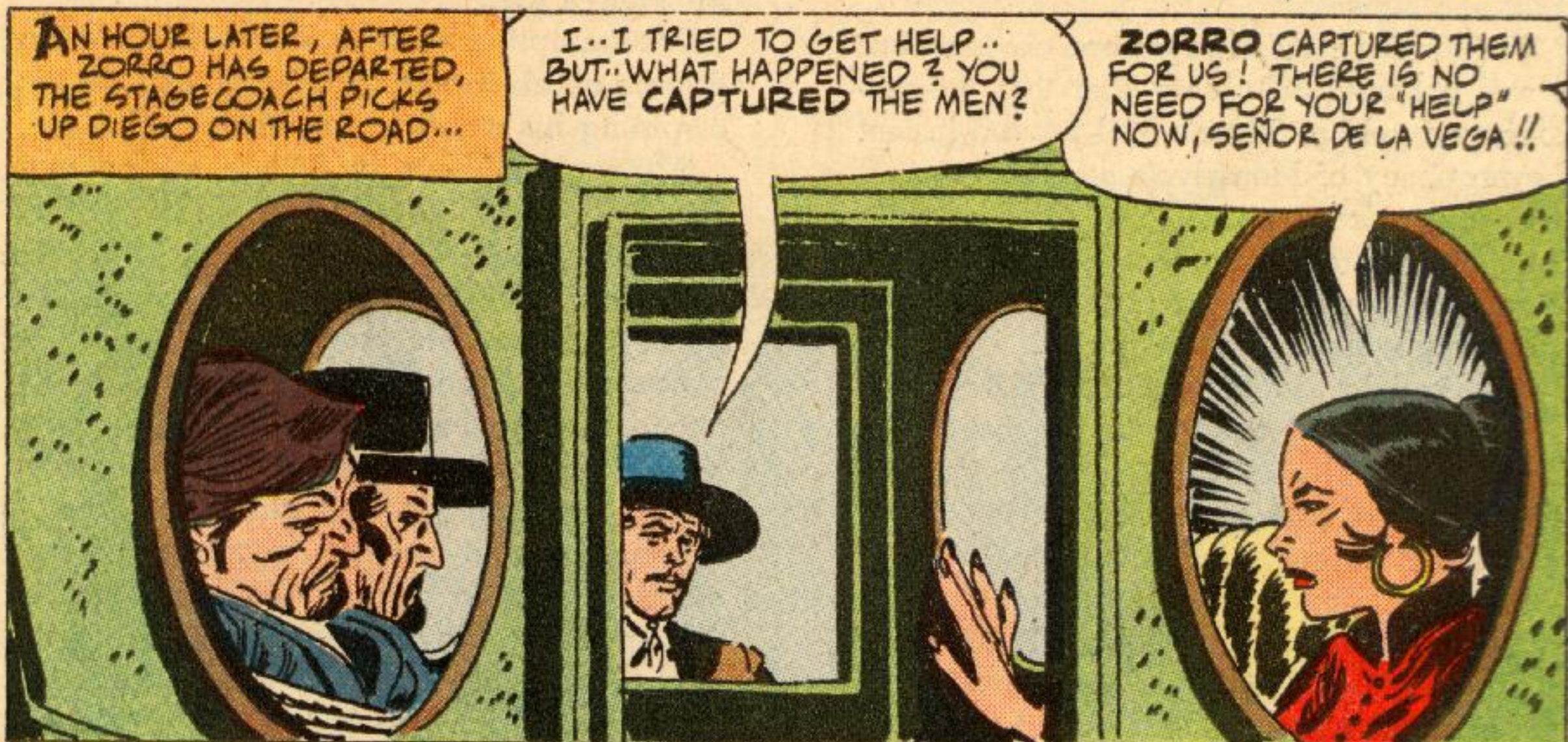


AFTER HIM,
TORNADO!!



THUD!







In the year 1510, a Spanish writer, Garcia Ordonez de Montalvo, wrote a fiction story concerning the newly-discovered region in the New World known as California. He envisioned it as a terrestrial paradise, a land of gold and sunshine.

The sunshine had always been obvious, but it was not until 339 years later that the discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill proved in fact the prophecy of Montalvo's story.

By an ironic twist of fate, the two men who should have profited the most by this history-altering discovery ended their days in comparative poverty.

Captain John Augustus Sutter, a Swiss ex-army officer and pioneer settler in California, secured a 50,000 acre grant from the Mexican government in 1839. He founded a principality and named it New Helvetia in memory of his old country. Here he lived in baronial splendor, with Indians as his subjects. With native adobe brick and timber, he erected a fort as his castle, mounting 12 guns on the ramparts.

Sutter trapped for furs, grazed herds on his lands, and carried on a lively trade, extending his famed hospitality to the tide of immigrants coming overland in the 1840's.

In 1848, the town of Sacramento was laid out on Sutter's farm, and the following year an event occurred which created one of the greatest mass movements of people history had ever witnessed to that time.

While building a sawmill, Sutter's carpenter, James W. Marshall, discovered gold near Coloma on the South Fork of the American River. Within six months, men from every town and rancho in California had swarmed in, staking claims on the very ground which Sutter and Marshall had claimed. Within two years, over 100,000 people from all over the world had answered the call of gold.

Fifty dollars to a hundred dollars was an average day's work pay for many. A few found as much as \$1,000 a day in dust and nuggets. Business boomed everywhere. Rooms rented for \$300 a month. Bread sold for \$1.00 a loaf.

The trampling hordes overran Sutter's fort, driving off his Indians, stealing his cattle, and disputing his rights to the land.

Although millions of dollars passed over Sutter's landing, he saw little of it. He died in Washington, D. C., thirty years later, after spending years striving in vain to get Congress to restore his property.

And what of the man who had actually discovered the gold of Montalvo's dream? While James Marshall was still in the process of getting his samples tested, others had already swarmed in and usurped his claims. Armed guards kept him off his own property. The thousands of fortune-seekers invading the land merely laughed at his plight. Friends of the trespassers sat as judge and jury when he appealed to the courts.

On the lecture platform as well as in the courts, Marshall spent the remainder of his life fighting for his rights.

In spite of the fact that they realized little aside from notoriety for their part in the feverish activities, perhaps Sutter and Marshall took some scant pleasure from the effect the discovery of gold had on the rest of the world. Business all over the globe was stimulated by the great flood of gold from the Sierra. The expansion and settlement of the Western frontiers was hastened countless years because of the influx of people streaming in from all across the land.

California had become, in fact, true to Montalvo's vision—the land of gold and sunshine.

THE PADRE'S WELCOME

ONE EVENING, AT THE HOME OF DON RAMON BALSO...

IN OLD CALIFORNIA, HOSPITALITY WAS A RULE. THERE WERE FEW INNS, SO ALL TRAVELERS WERE MADE WELCOME BY THE RANCHEROS...



DON RAMON, THERE IS A PADRE AT THE DOOR! HE SEEKS SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT!

HAVE HIM COME IN! TELL MARIA TO PREPARE A ROOM FOR HIM...



AND, PABLITO, TAKE CHICO OUT OF HERE! HE IS VERY FRIENDLY, BUT OUR GUESTS ARE NOT PLEASED WHEN HE JUMPS ALL OVER THEM!



SÍ, PAPA!

WELCOME TO OUR HOME, PADRE!

THANK YOU, MY SON! THE JOURNEY TO SANTA BARBARA IS LONG, AND NIGHT OVERTOOK ME ON THE ROAD...



THEY SAY THERE ARE BANDITS ON THE HIGHWAY! I AM GLAD I FOUND YOUR HACIENDA!





UNNOTICED, PABLITO LEAVES THE ROOM...



AND HE GOES TO THE STABLE, WHERE HE FINDS HIS DOG, CHICO.



BUT IF HE IS NOT A PRIEST, WHY DID HE
COME TO OUR DOOR IN THE HABIT OF A
FRANCISCAN? COULD HE BE A BANDIT?

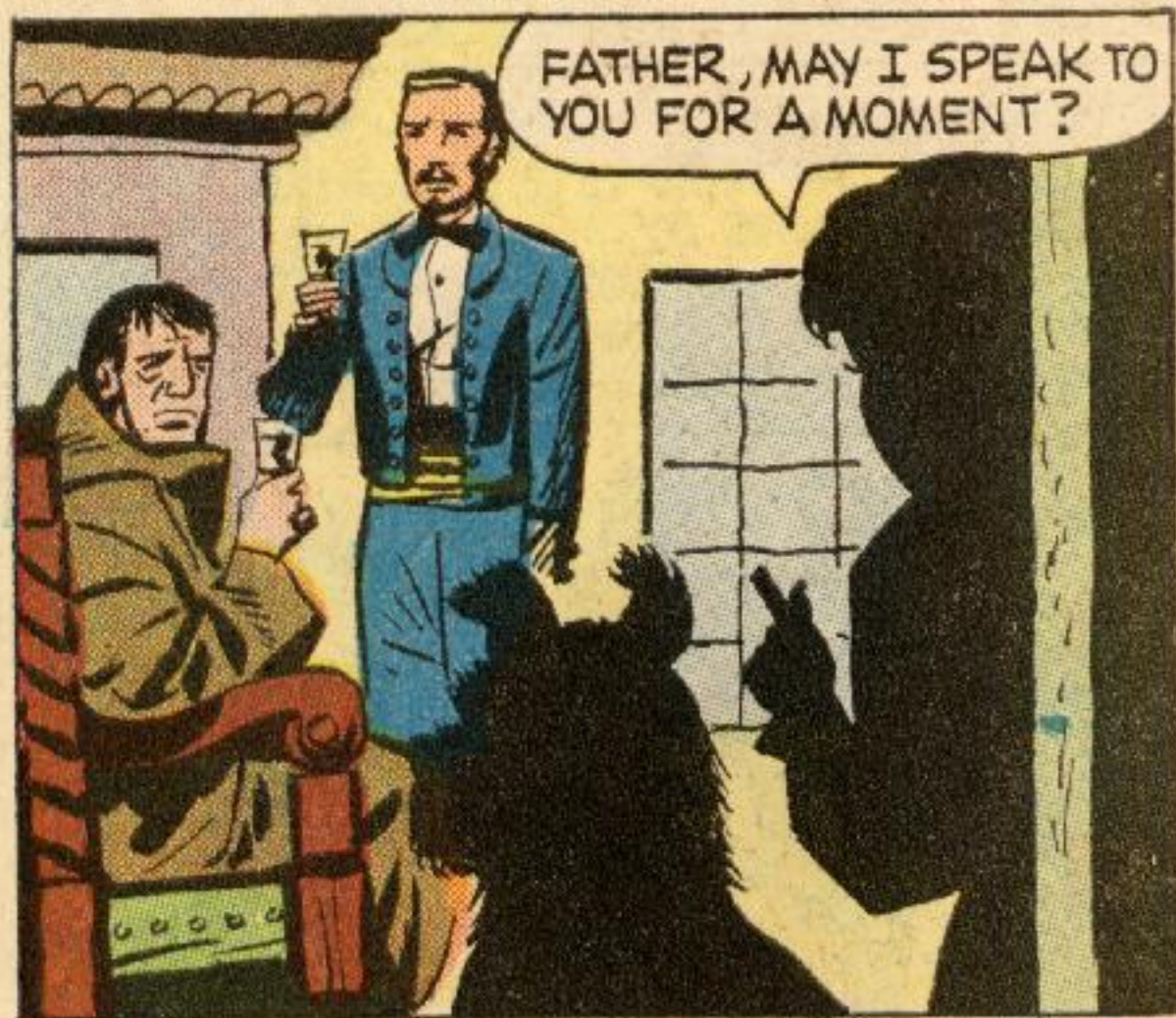


COME, CHICO! WE
MUST WATCH THIS MAN!



PABLITO AND CHICO RUSH TO THE HOUSE...

FATHER, MAY I SPEAK TO
YOU FOR A MOMENT?



AND THE FRIENDLY CHICO EXTENDS A
GREETING PABLITO HAD NOT EXPECTED...

PABLITO! GET THAT
DOG OUT...



IT CAN'T BE!





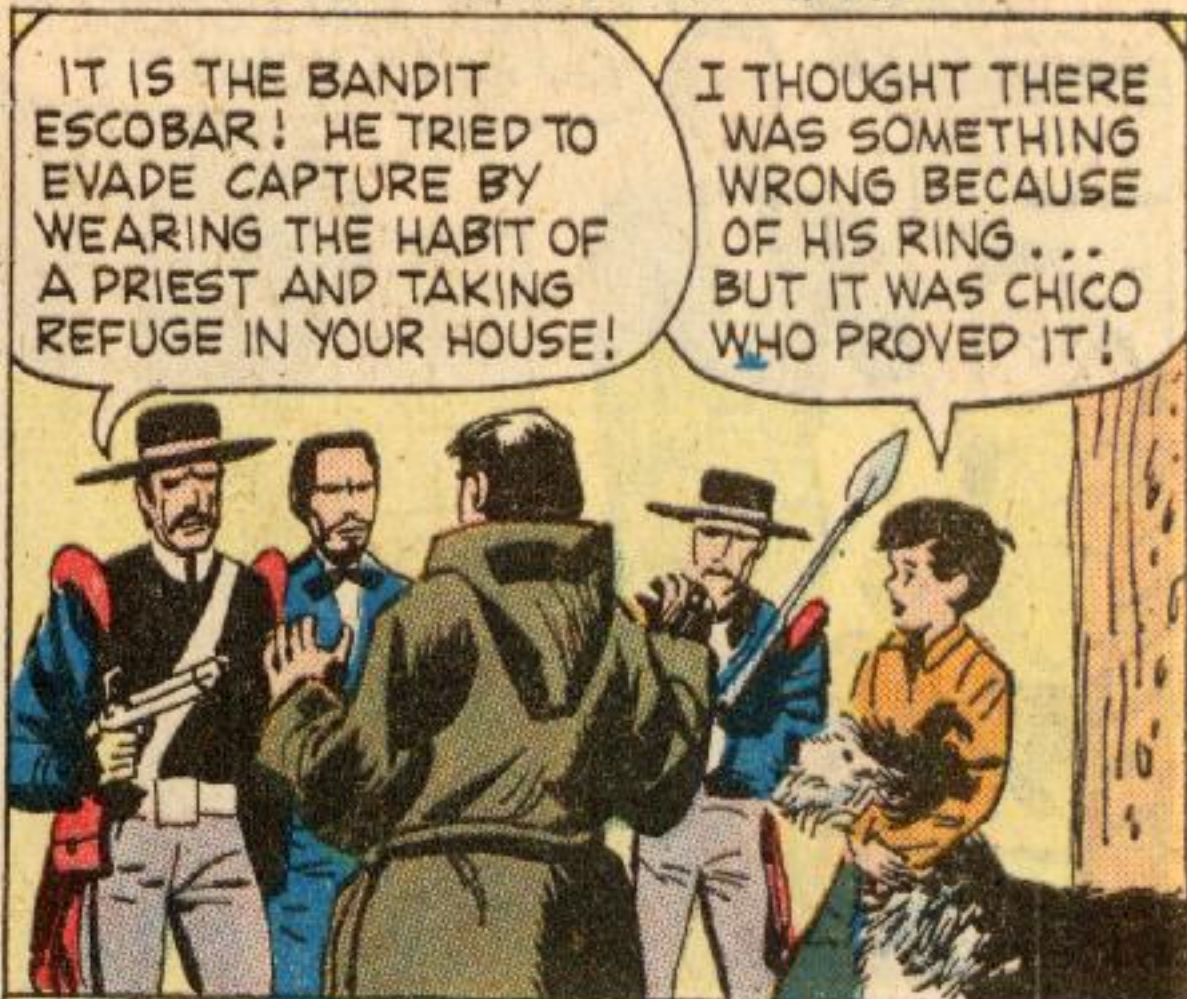
MISERABLE CUR!
I'LL SHOW YOU!!



NO! DON'T!



THE "PADRE" IS SOON SUBDUED, AND
THE LANCERS ARE SUMMONED...



IT IS THE BANDIT
ESCOBAR! HE TRIED TO
EVADE CAPTURE BY
WEARING THE HABIT OF
A PRIEST AND TAKING
REFUGE IN YOUR HOUSE!

I THOUGHT THERE
WAS SOMETHING
WRONG BECAUSE
OF HIS RING...
BUT IT WAS CHICO
WHO PROVED IT!



SÍ, PABLITO! CHICO IS A HERO!... BUT YOU HAD
BETTER TAKE HIM AWAY! I THINK HE IS
MAKING THE LANCER NERVOUS! YOU SEE,
NOT EVERYONE UNDERSTANDS THE FRIENDLY
GESTURES OF YOUR CANINE FRIEND!

FRIEND INDEED

A cartoon illustration of a man in a top hat and blue suit sleeping at a desk. A large 'Z' sound effect is above him. On the desk are a candle, a quill pen, and books. A window in the background shows a dark silhouette of a person.

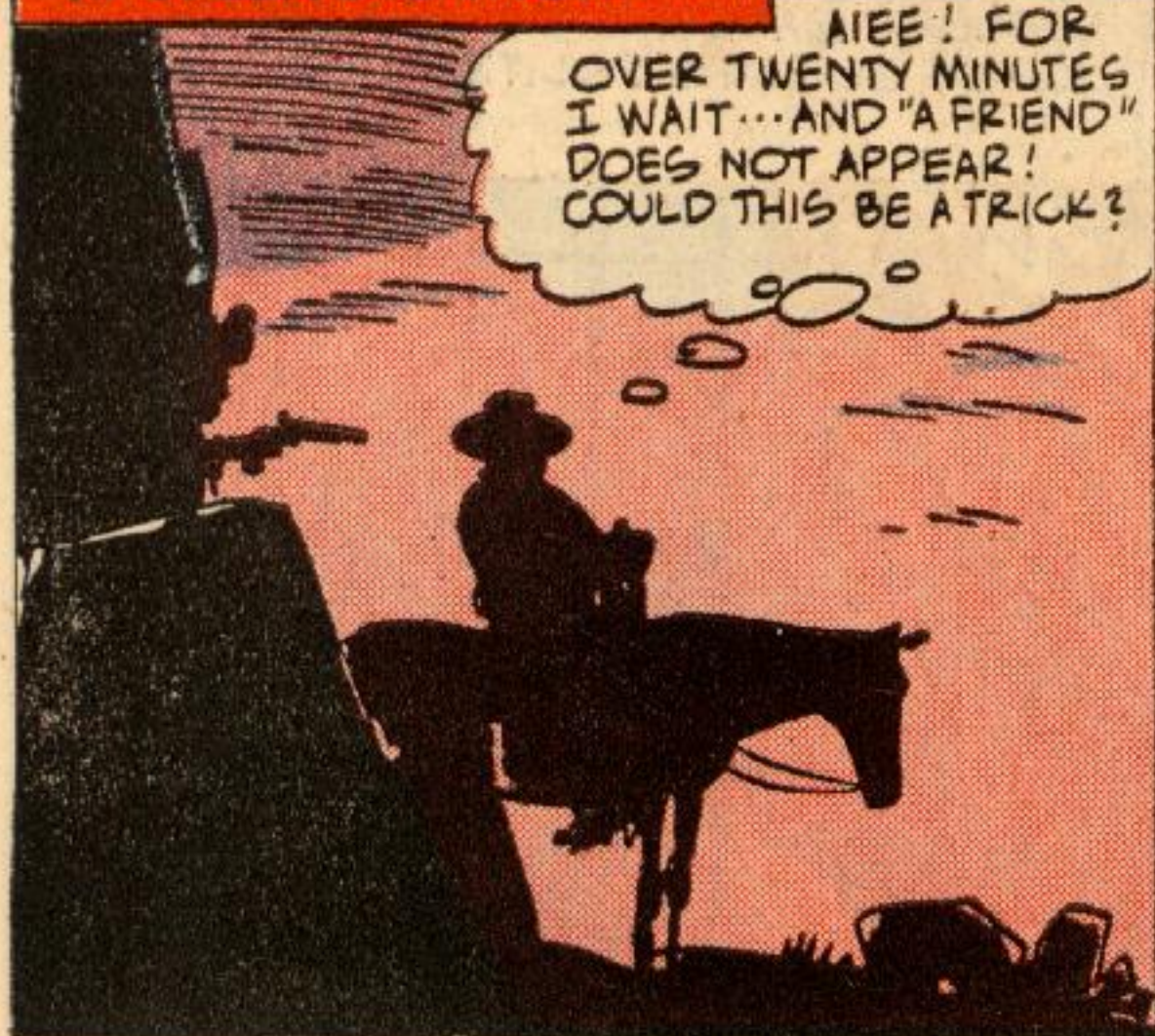
A comic book panel featuring a man with a mustache and a blue hat. He is looking down at a small, dark, tied bag. He has a speech bubble that says "WHAT IS THIS?" and another that says "A NOTE!". The background is orange with radiating lines.

If you want
to capture Zorro
and get the
reward, meet me
at Soledad Pass
at dawn!
a friend

THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! MAYBE I WILL AT LAST BE THROUGH WITH THAT DEVIL **ZORRO**!!

AND SO, DAWN FINDS THE GOOD SERGEANT AT SOLEDAD CANYON ...

AIEE! FOR OVER TWENTY MINUTES I WAIT...AND "A FRIEND" DOES NOT APPEAR! COULD THIS BE A TRICK?



BUT THEN ...

DO NOT MOVE, SERGEANT—!

KEEP YOUR EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD! IF YOU TURN, I WILL NOT GIVE YOU THE INFORMATION I HAVE ABOUT ZORRO!

¡SÍ! WHAT-EVER YOU SAY—! WHAT IS THE NEWS YOU HAVE, MY FRIEND?



ZORRO KNOWS YOU ARE MOVING POLITICAL PRISONERS TO SAN FERNANDO TOMORROW! HE PLANS TO FREE THEM!

BUT...HOW DID HE LEARN OF MY PLANS? AND WHERE DOES HE PLAN TO STRIKE?



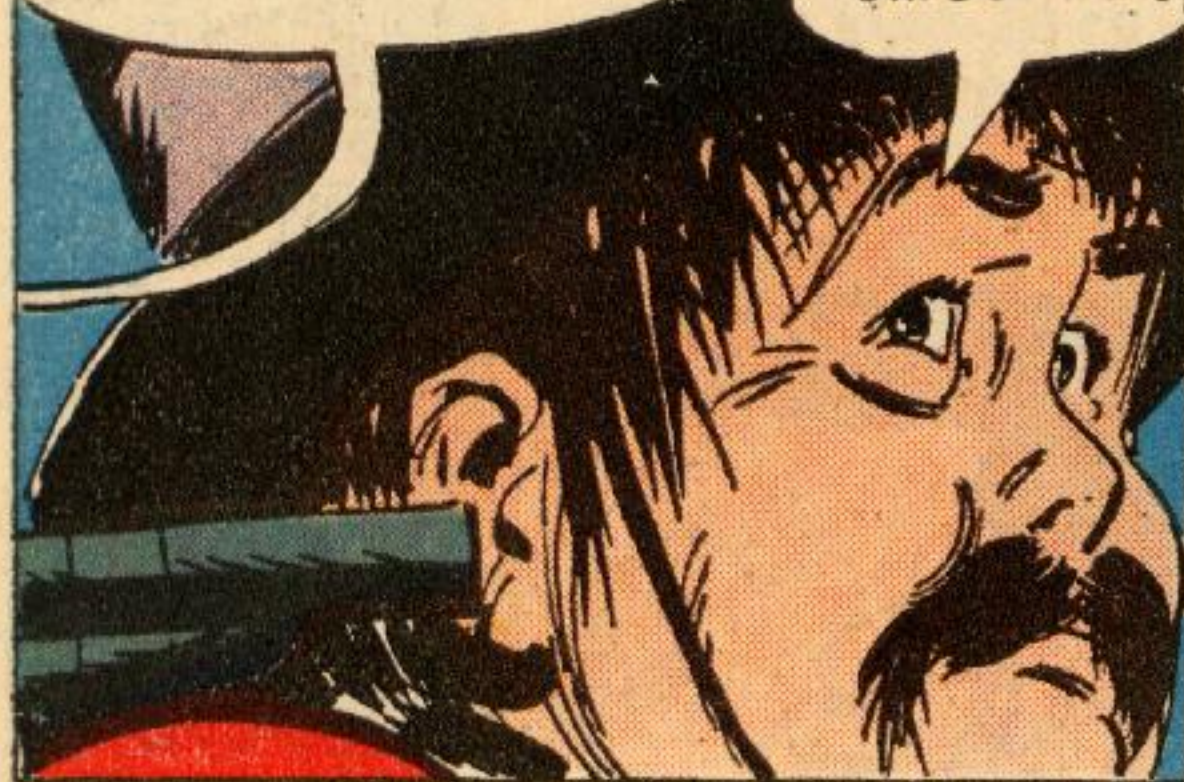
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE LEARNED YOUR PLANS ... BUT I DO KNOW WHERE HE PLANS TO STRIKE!! AND I HAVE A PLAN TO OUTWIT HIM...!!

BUENO! WHAT IS IT?



DRESS YOUR LANCERS AS THE PRISONERS! AND LEAVE THE REAL PRISONERS IN THE CUARTEL! WHEN ZORRO STRIKES, YOU'LL BE READY FOR HIM!

¡SÍ! THAT IS A VERY CLEVER PLAN! NOW TELL ME WHERE TO EXPECT HIM!

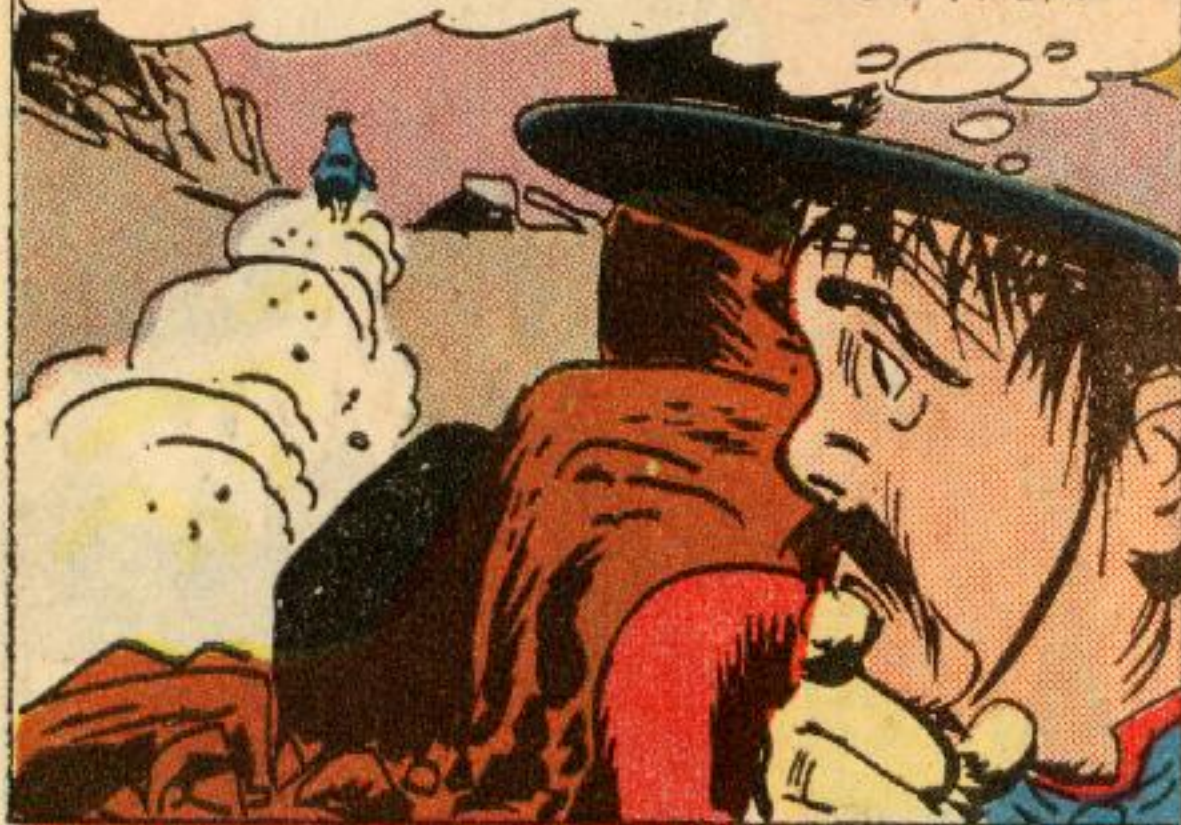


SOMEWHERE BETWEEN LATIGO PASS AND THE CROSSROADS! TAKE MANY LANCERS! BE READY FOR HIM!

¡SÍ! HAVE NO FEAR! THIS TIME I WILL CERTAINLY CAPTURE HIM!



QUE LASTIMA! HE DID NOT EVEN WAIT FOR ME TO THANK HIM! OH, WELL... I CANNOT WORRY ABOUT THAT! I HAVE MUCH TO DO BEFORE TOMORROW! MY MEN MUST BE WELL PREPARED FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD!



EARLY THE NEXT MORNING...

BUT, SERGEANT... IS IT WISE TO LEAVE THE CUARTEL SO LIGHTLY GUARDED?

BABOSO! DO YOU QUESTION MY HIGH AUTHORITY? WHILE THE CAPITAN IS GONE, I AM IN COMMAND! JUST GET INTO THOSE CLOTHES!



SI, MI SERGEANT! WHATEVER YOU SAY!

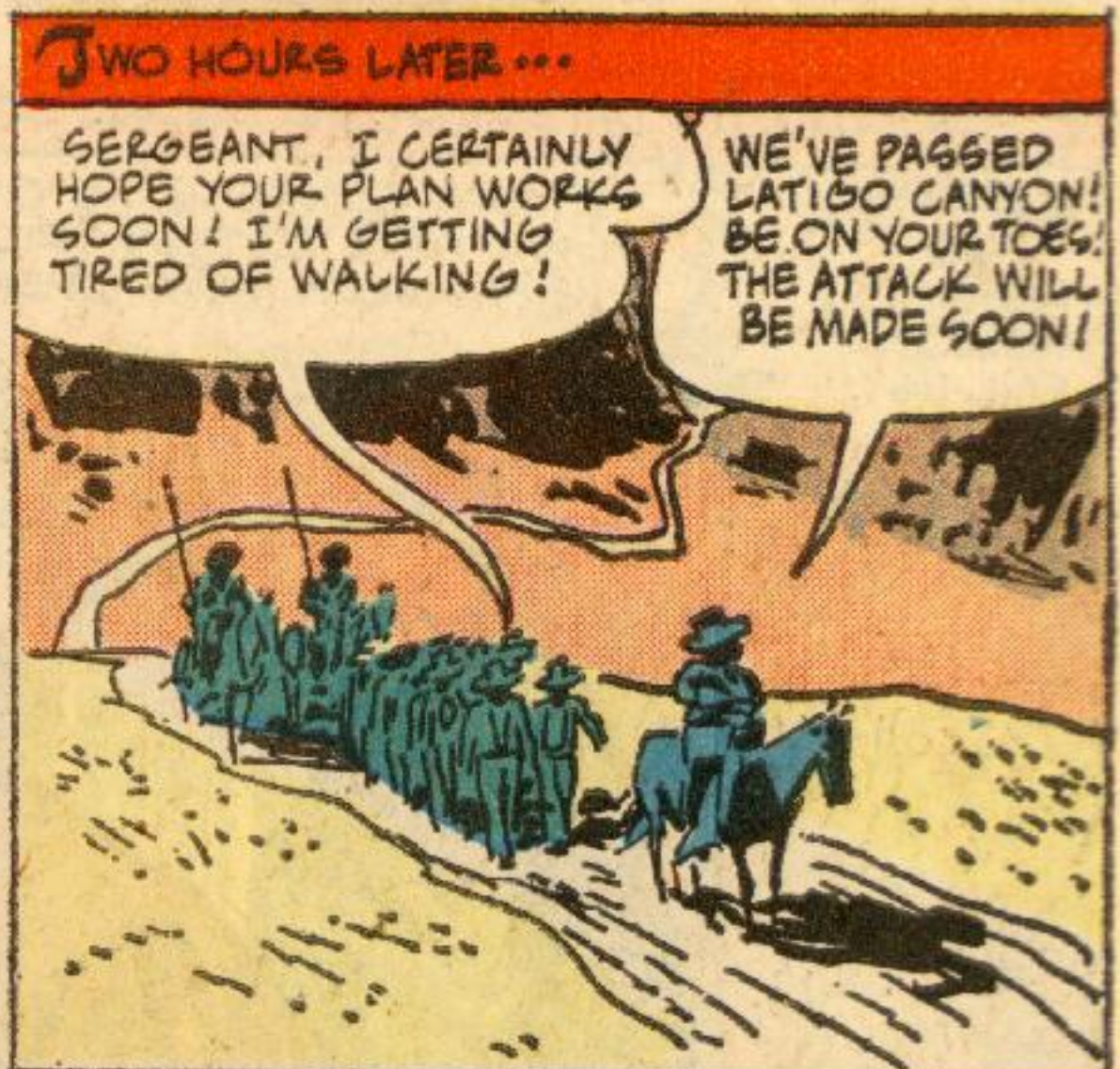
WELL, I DO SAY! THIS TIME WE WILL CATCH ZORRO! YOU WILL SEE!



TWO HOURS LATER...

SERGEANT, I CERTAINLY HOPE YOUR PLAN WORKS SOON! I'M GETTING TIRED OF WALKING!

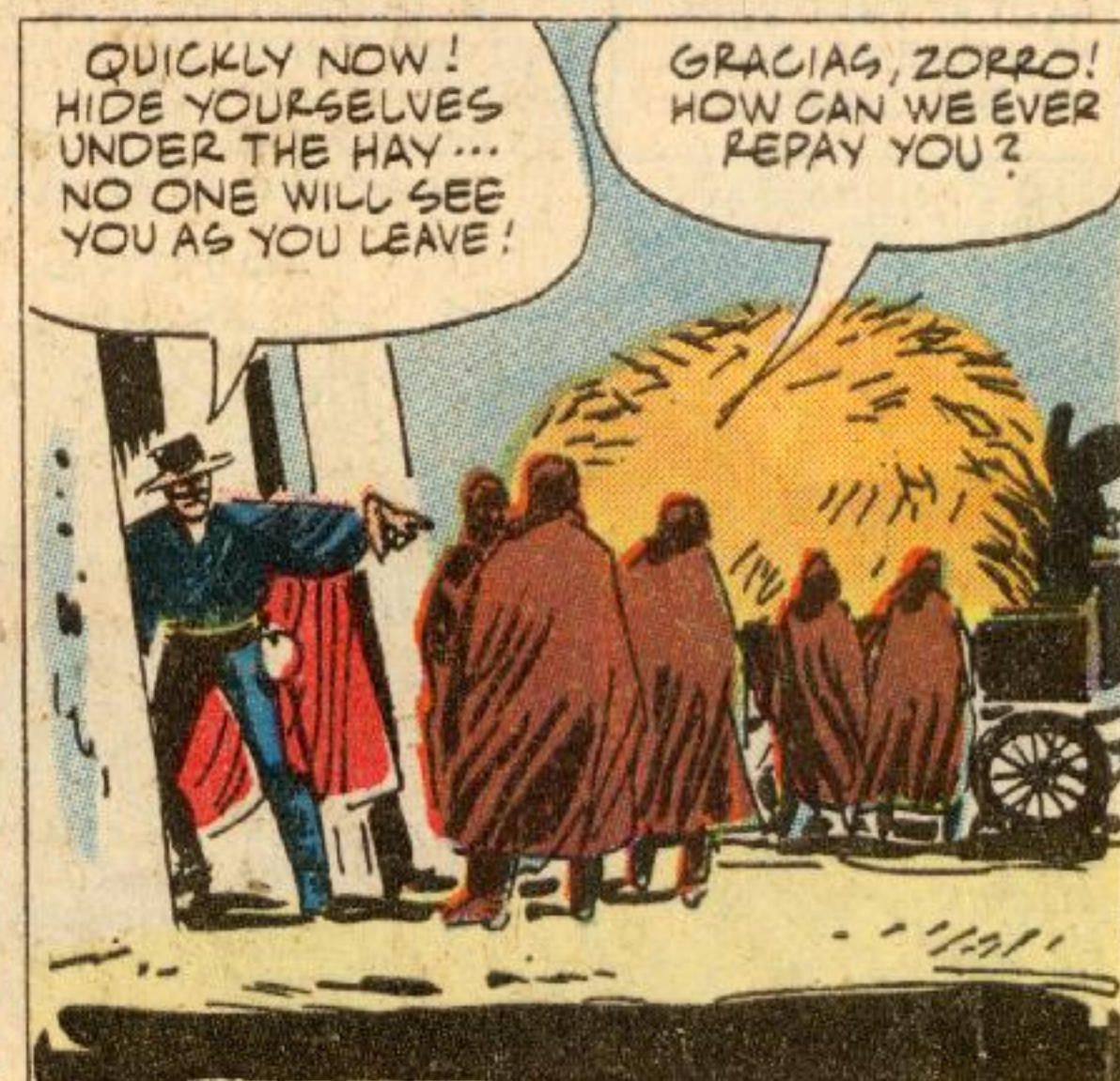
WE'VE PASSED LATIGO CANYON! BE ON YOUR TOES! THE ATTACK WILL BE MADE SOON!



BUT AT THAT VERY MOMENT, BACK AT THE CUARTEL...

AH, EVERYTHING IS WORKING OUT EVEN BETTER THAN I'D IMAGINED! THE POOR SERGEANT LEFT ONLY TWO LANCERS HERE TO GUARD THE CUARTEL PRISONERS! THIS IS GOING TO BE ALMOST TOO EASY!







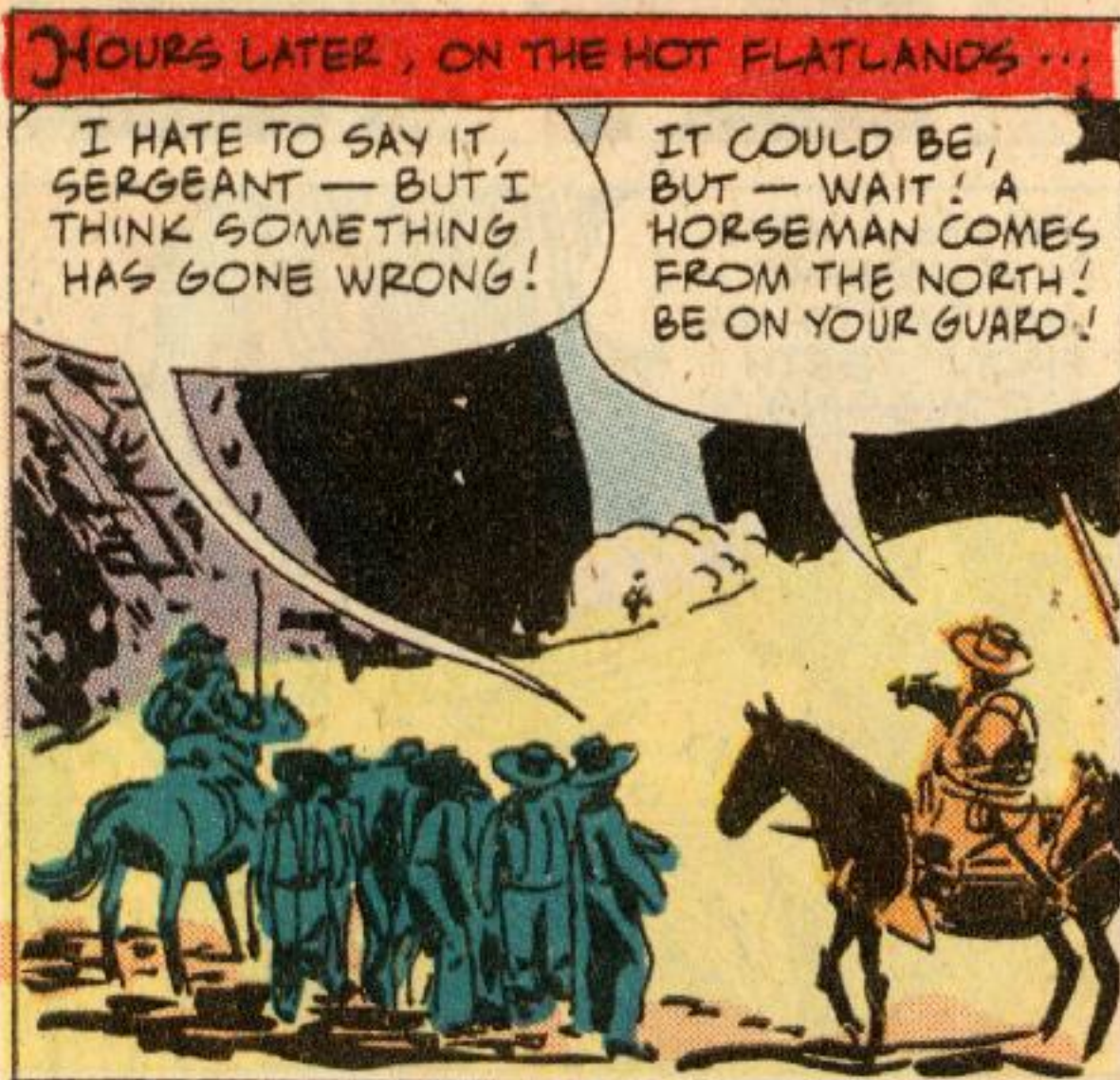
JUST KEEP FIGHTING TYRANNY, MI AMIGOS! SOMEDAY WE WILL ALL BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE!

SI! AND WITH YOU ON OUR SIDE, IT WILL BE SOON!



ADIÓS, AMIGO!!

VAYA CON DIOS!



HOURS LATER, ON THE HOT FLATLANDS...

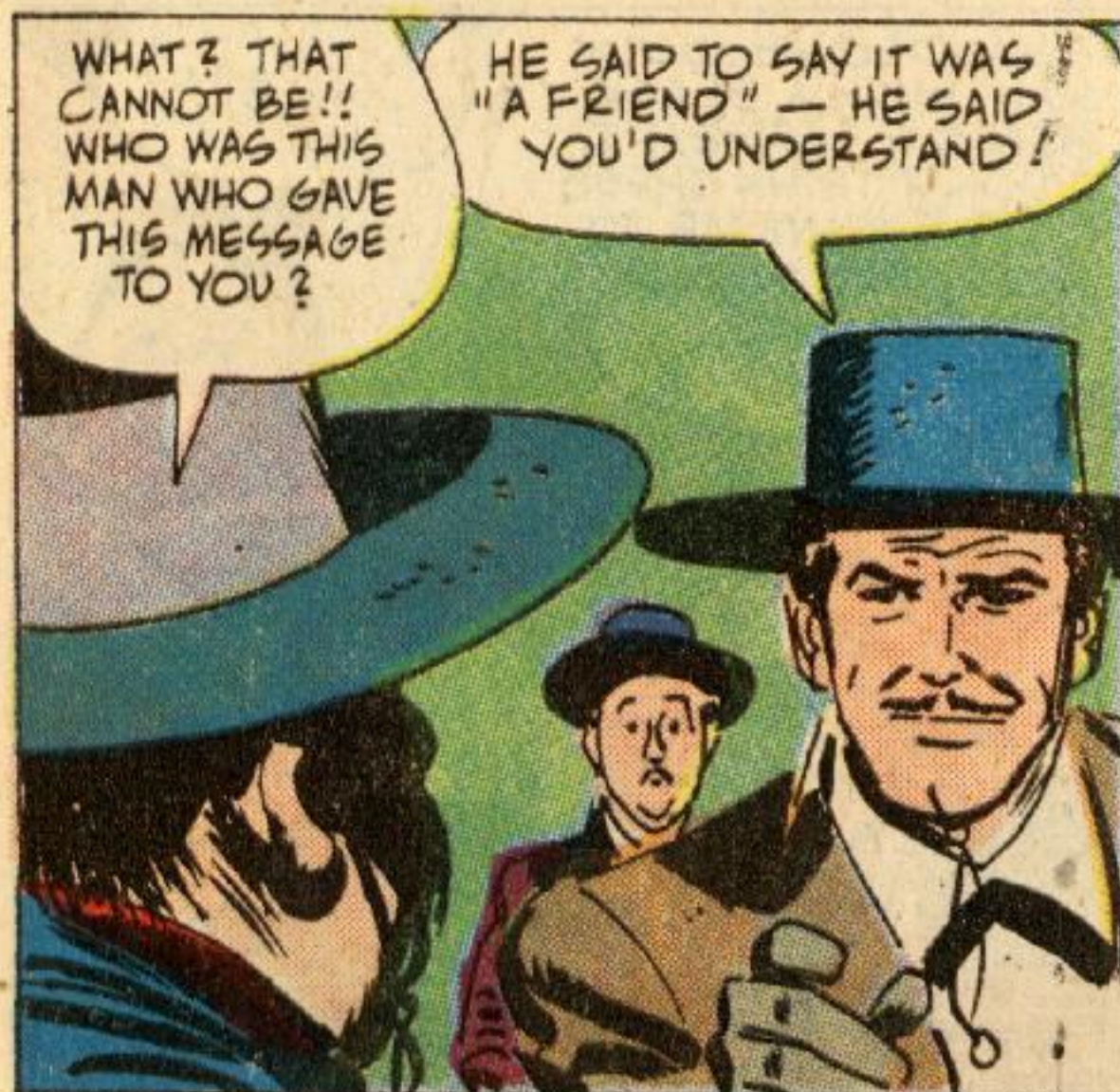
I HATE TO SAY IT, SERGEANT — BUT I THINK SOMETHING HAS GONE WRONG!

IT COULD BE, BUT — WAIT! A HORSEMAN COMES FROM THE NORTH! BE ON YOUR GUARD!



AIEE! IT IS ONLY DON DIEGO DE LA VEGA! ... WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, DON DIEGO?

I WAS OUT RIDING WHEN A MAN STOPPED ME AND ASKED THAT I FIND YOU, AND GIVE YOU A MESSAGE! HE SAID ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE CUARTEL HAVE ESCAPED!!



WHAT? THAT CANNOT BE!! WHO WAS THIS MAN WHO GAVE THIS MESSAGE TO YOU?

HE SAID TO SAY IT WAS "A FRIEND" — HE SAID YOU'D UNDERSTAND!



SPPUTTER PFFFFT!!

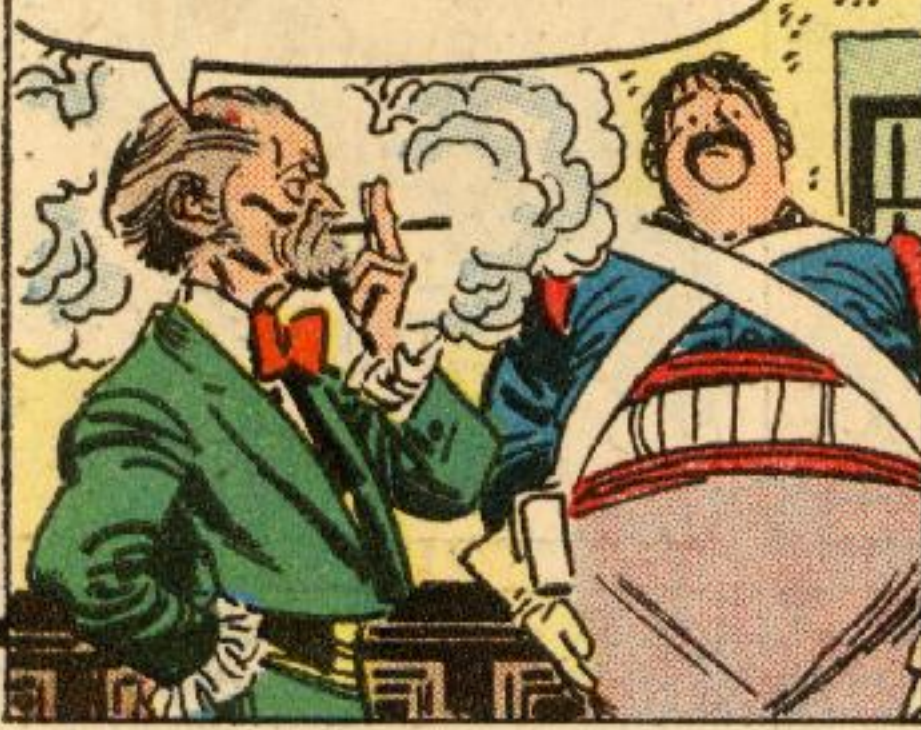
WHAT IS IT, SERGEANT? DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG? YOU SEEM VERY UPSET!

SEÑOR GOMEZ HUNTS A FOX

WHEN SEÑOR ANTONIO GOMEZ, THE GOVERNOR'S EMISSARY, VISITS LOS ANGELES, HE IS FURIOUS TO LEARN THAT THE MASKED OUTLAW, **ZORRO**, IS STILL AT LARGE!



GARCIA, YOU ARE STUPID! IN THIS SMALL PLACE IT SHOULD BE EASY TO FIND ZORRO! I'LL SPEAK TO ALL WHO HAVE SEEN HIM, AND I WILL CATCH THE FOX!!



THE EMISSARY TALKS TO THE MANY PEOPLE WHO HAD SEEN ZORRO..

YOU HAVE SEEN THE BANDIT, ZORRO! WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

OH, SEÑOR.. HE IS VERY TALL, AND VERY FAT...



OF COURSE I HAVE SEEN ZORRO! HE IS VERY SHORT ... BUT HE HAS A BEAUTIFUL SMILE!



HE HAS A LONG, BLACK BEARD -! AND TWO OF HIS FRONT TEETH ARE MISSING!



WELL, SEÑOR GOMEZ .. DO YOU KNOW WHAT ZORRO LOOKS LIKE NOW?

SÍ! HE IS A TALL, SHORT, THIN, FAT, YOUNG, OLD ...



.. HANDSOME, UGLY MAN, WITH A BLACK BEARD! SERGEANT, I DON'T THINK THESE PEOPLE WANT ME TO KNOW WHAT ZORRO LOOKS LIKE!

SÍ... SÍ!





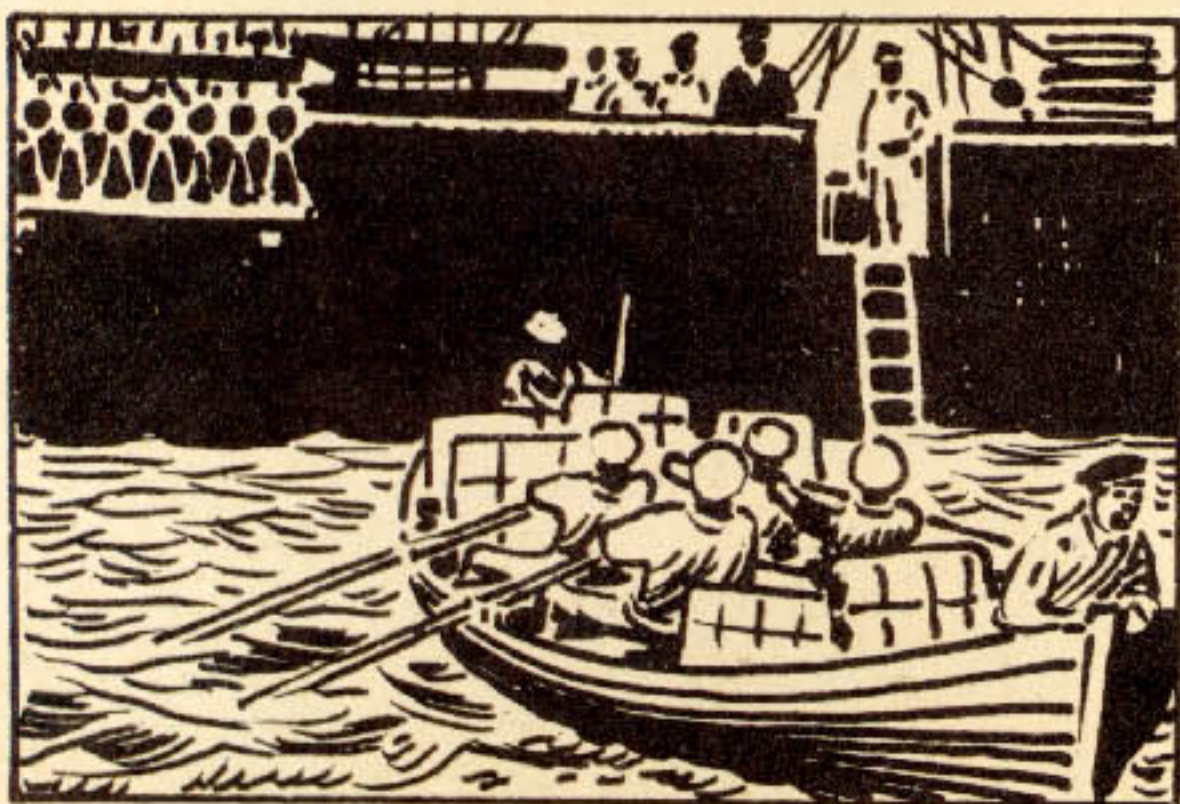
In the early 1800's, shrewd Yankee sea captains could build their fortunes by trading with old California. When a Yankee ship came into port in California, goods-hungry rancheros swarmed aboard to purchase silks, satins and manufactured items. They paid for their purchases with hides, on which the captains made great profits.



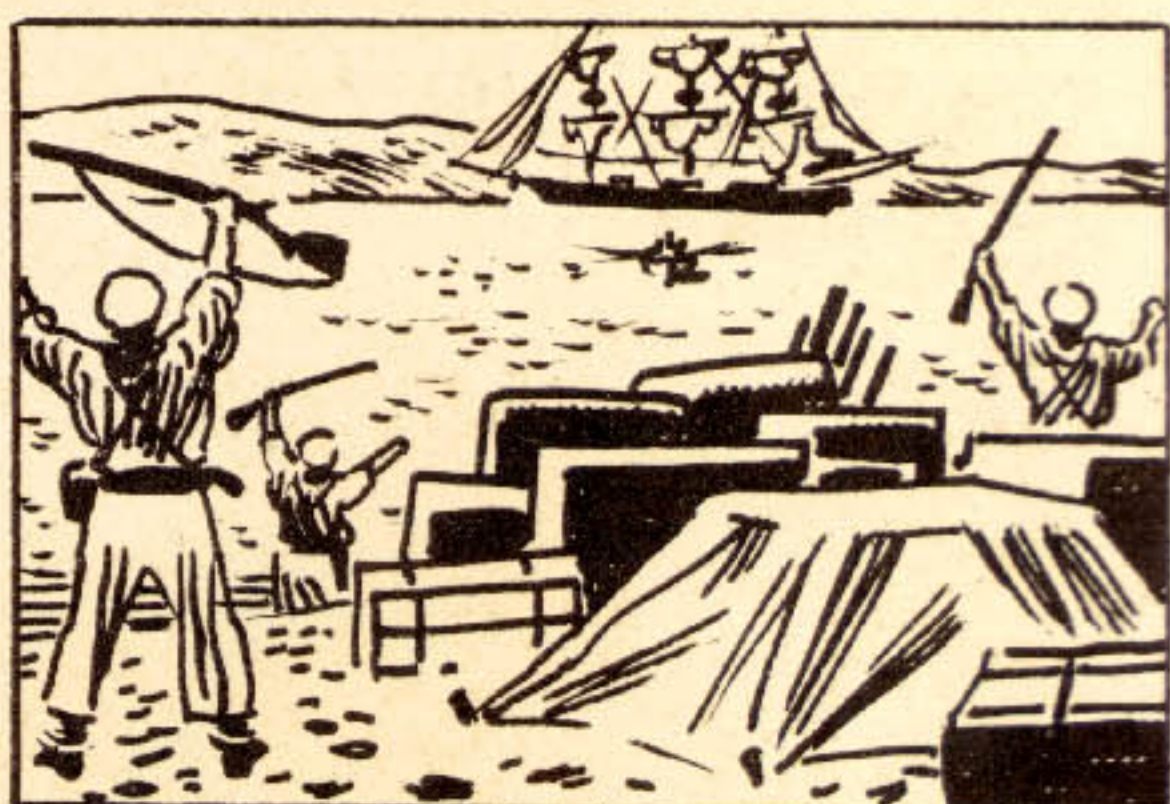
The California authorities were unhappy about this trading. As they saw it, the Yankee seafarers were making all the money while the government got nothing. So they built a fine new customs house at Monterey.



The Yankees were allowed to trade along the coast, after first putting into Monterey and paying duty on their cargoes. Unfortunately, the duty amounted to almost 100% of the value of the entire cargo.



The canny captains soon found a way to evade this ruinous tax. They simply unloaded most of their cargo at Santa Catalina Island, then proceeded to the customs house at Monterey, where they cheerfully paid duty on only a small fraction of their goods.



Once the duty was paid and they were free to trade in California, they sailed back to Catalina and picked up the goods which had been left there under guard. So the island, today a popular summer resort, once served as a haven for Yankee smugglers.

