

DELL

NO. 679  
10¢

# GUNSMOKE

HIS BADGE MADE HIM MARSHAL... BUT HIS GUN MADE HIM THE LAW!







Dodge City, a young Western town, suffering the pains of growth! Outlaws, wild cowhands, fortune seekers, all creating trouble! And, in the middle, Marshal Matt Dillon, a man great in courage. Though he champions law and order, and lives for justice, yet he often shows reluctance to draw because he is also great in heart. But, when necessary, he does not hesitate. Then it is, that the air becomes blue with

## GUNSMOKE!





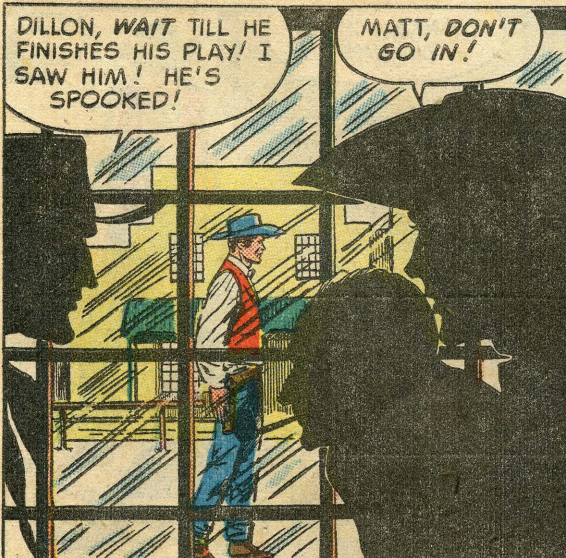
# GUNSMOKE

## THE DECOY

BLAM! BANG!

MARSHAL! MARSHAL  
DILLON!

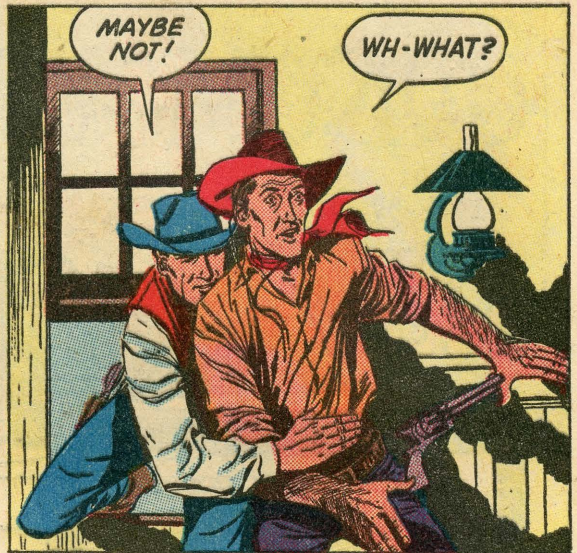
ON FRONT STREET, DODGE CITY, IN THE 1870'S, GUN-FIRE EXPLODES...







COME THROUGH THOSE DOORS AND THEY'LL CARRY YOU OFF ON ONE OF 'EM!



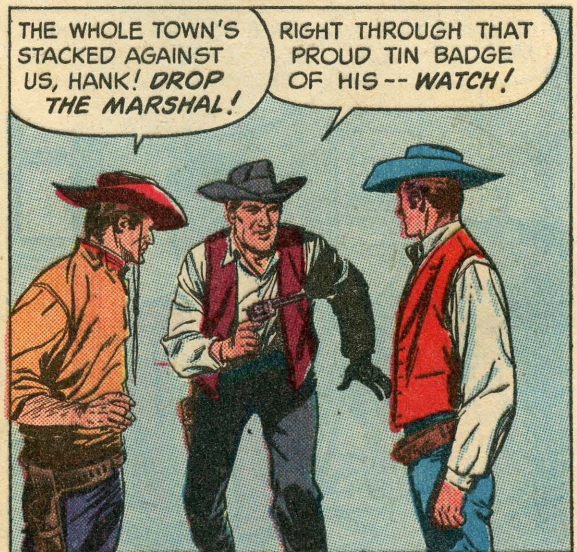
MAYBE NOT!

WH-WHAT?



YOU WON'T NEED YOUR GUNBELT WHERE YOU'RE GOING --

--MY PAL'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE!



THE WHOLE TOWN'S STACKED AGAINST US, HANK! DROP THE MARSHAL!

RIGHT THROUGH THAT PROUD TIN BADGE OF HIS -- WATCH!



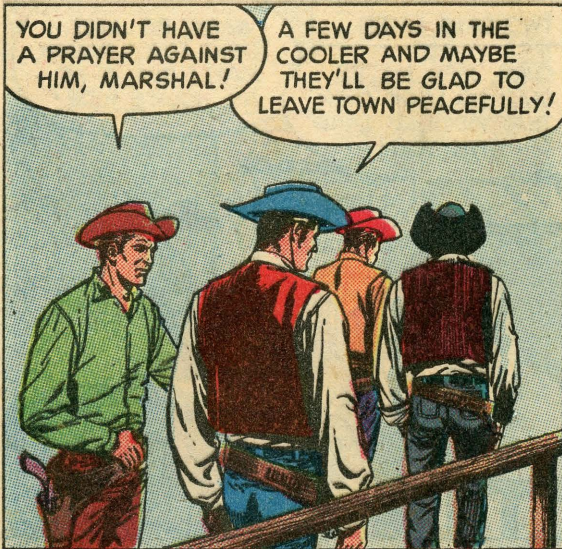
NOT SO FAST!

OOF!



THANKS, MISTER! -- THANKS!





YOU DIDN'T HAVE A PRAYER AGAINST HIM, MARSHAL!

A FEW DAYS IN THE COOLER AND MAYBE THEY'LL BE GLAD TO LEAVE TOWN PEACEFULLY!



MINUTES LATER...

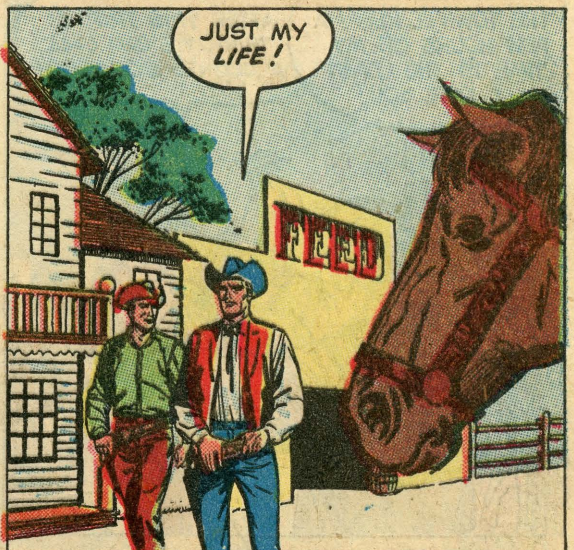
MISTER, YOU SAVED MATT DILLON'S LIFE AND THAT MAKES US PALS FOR ETERNITY!

ONLY DID WHAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD HAVE DONE! IT WASN'T A FAIR FIGHT!



COME ALONG! I'M STANDING YOU TO DINNER! WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

JEFF--JEFF CANAAN! BUT YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING!

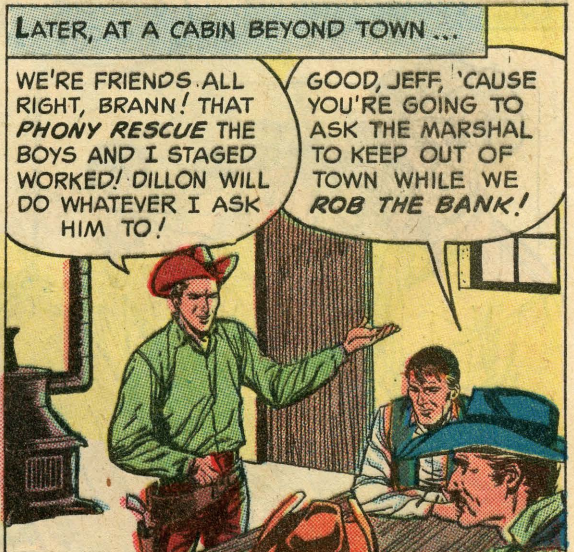


JUST MY LIFE!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING IN DODGE CITY, JEFF, BUT IF I CAN EVER HELP YOU, JUST CALL ON ME! A MARSHAL DOESN'T MAKE MANY FRIENDS!

THANKS, MATT! I JUST PULLED INTO TOWN! NEVER KNOW WHEN I MIGHT JUST TAKE YOU UP ON THAT OFFER!

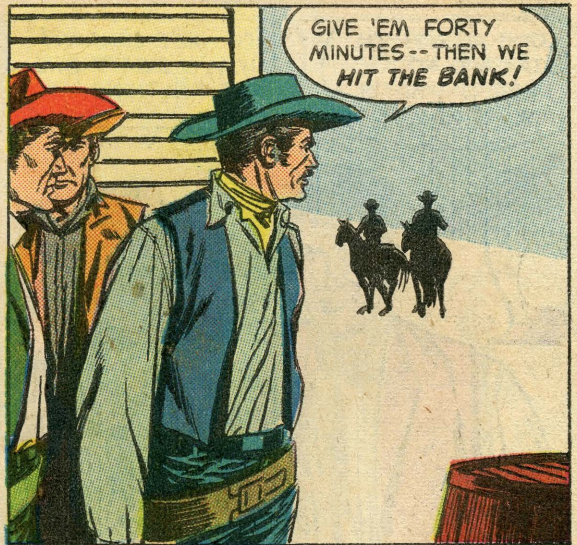
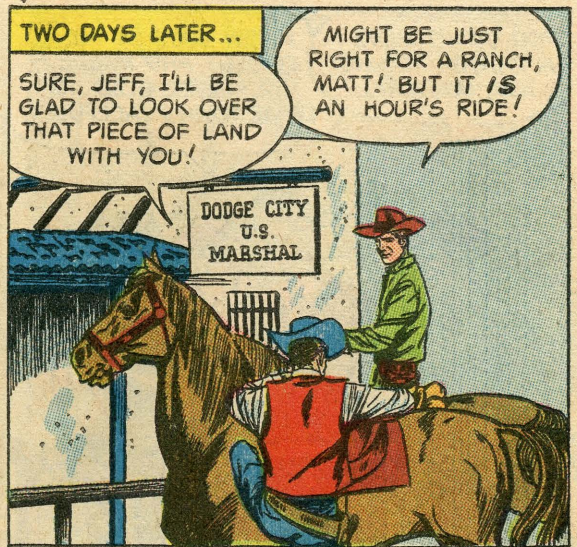


LATER, AT A CABIN BEYOND TOWN ...

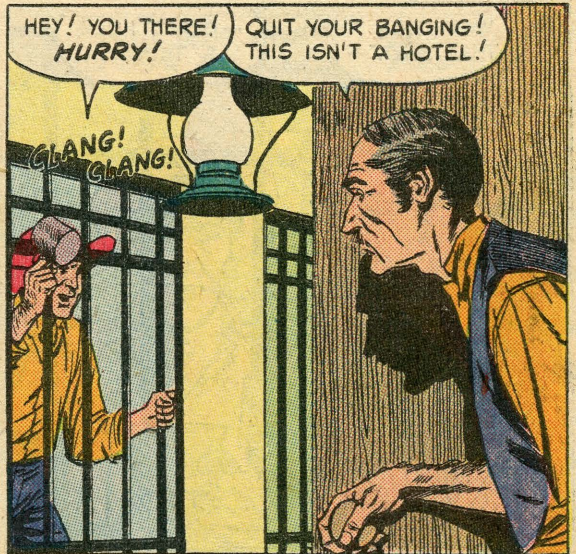
WE'RE FRIENDS. ALL RIGHT, BRANN! THAT PHONY RESCUE THE BOYS AND I STAGED WORKED! DILLON WILL DO WHATEVER I ASK HIM TO!

GOOD, JEFF, 'CAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO ASK THE MARSHAL TO KEEP OUT OF TOWN WHILE WE ROB THE BANK!

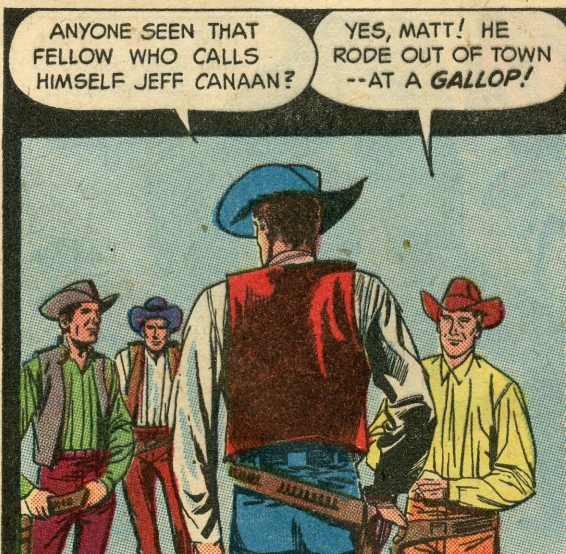
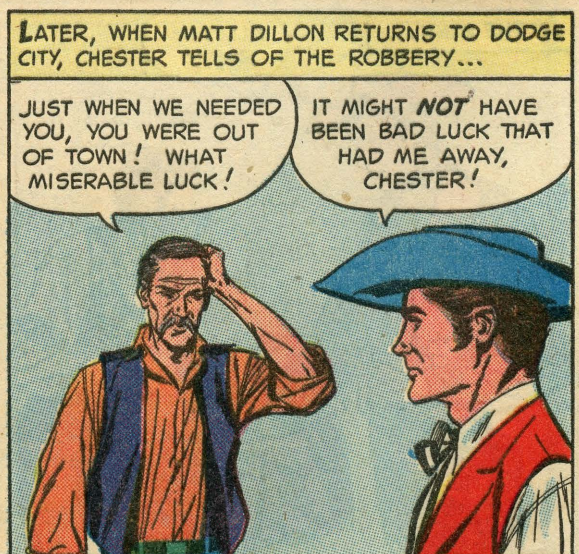




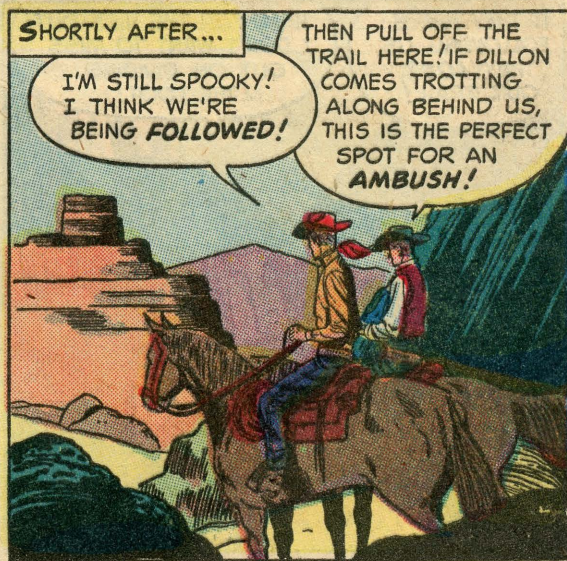
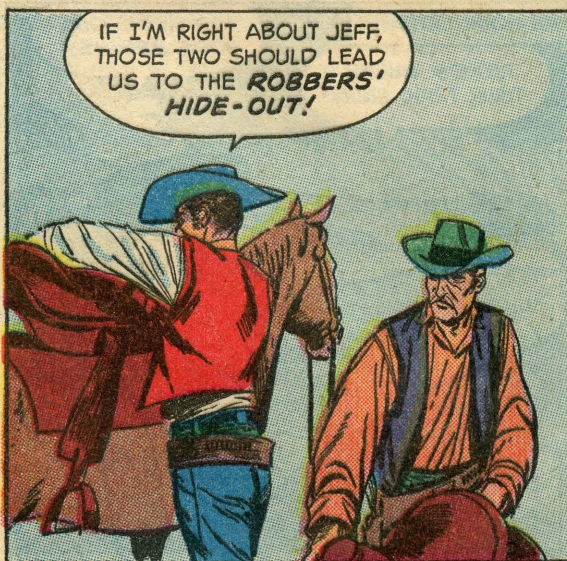
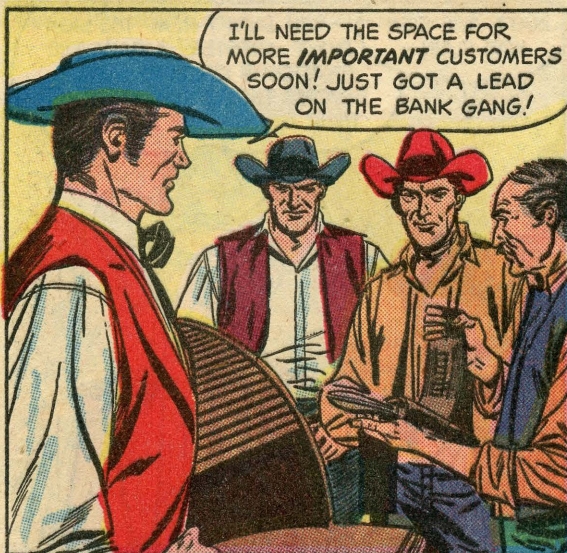




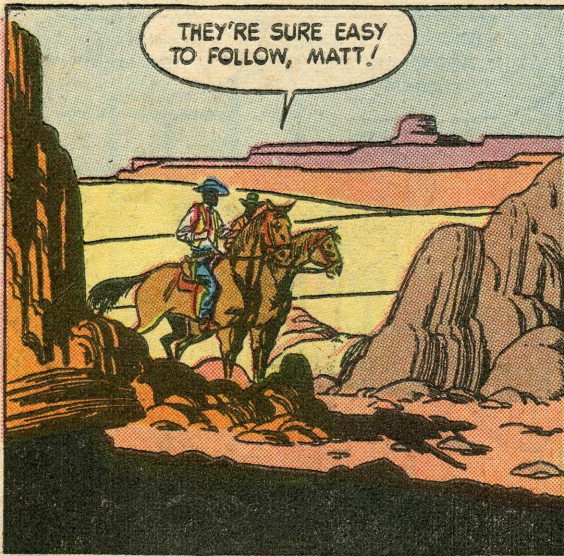




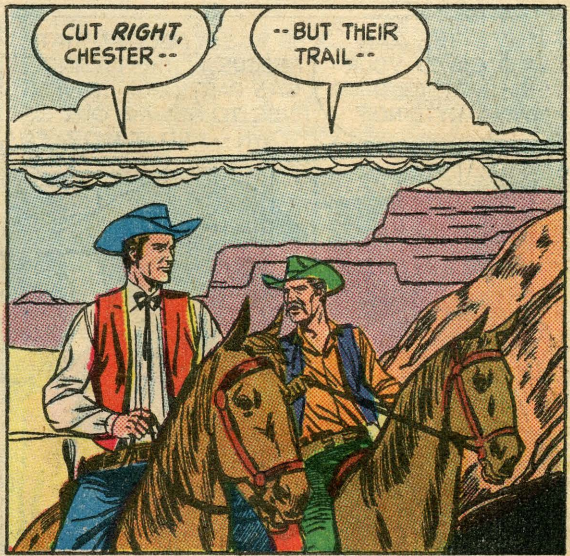






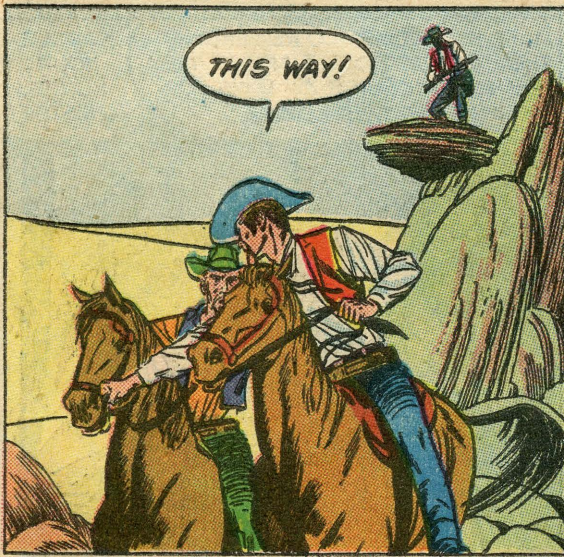


THEY'RE SURE EASY TO FOLLOW, MATT!



CUT RIGHT, CHESTER --

-- BUT THEIR TRAIL --



THIS WAY!



MATT, THE SIGN WAS PLAIN --

-- YOU DIDN'T READ THE SIGN RIGHT, CHESTER! I SAW THE SHADOWS OF TWO MEN BEYOND THOSE ROCKS AND THEIR GUNS WERE DRAWN!



IT THEY WERE FOLLOWING US, THEY LOST OUR TRAIL!

HEAD FOR THE HIDE-OUT! I DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON DIVIDING THE LOOT!

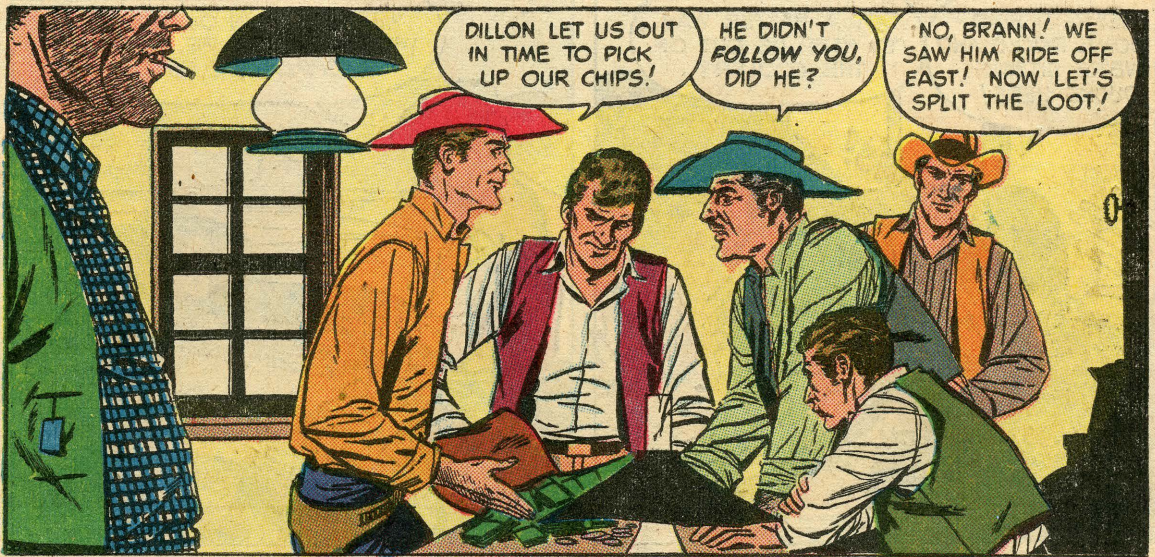


AN HOUR LATER ...

THERE'S WHERE THEIR TRAIL ENDS!

AND WHERE OUR WORK BEGINS!

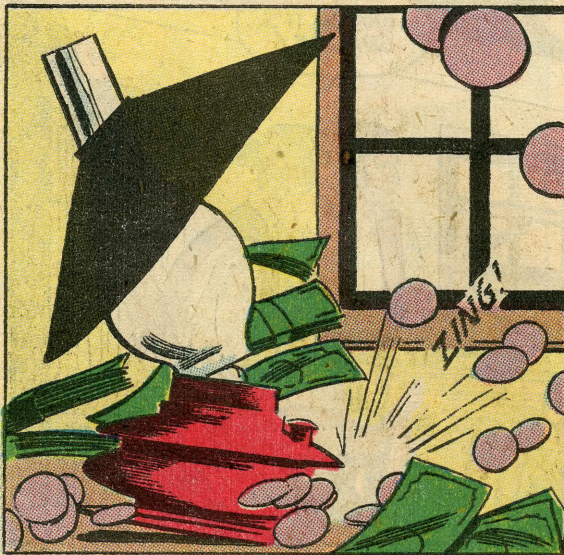




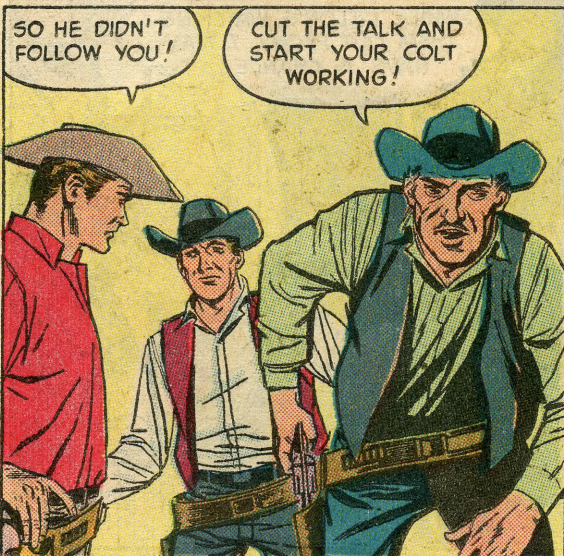
DILLON LET US OUT IN TIME TO PICK UP OUR CHIPS!

HE DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU, DID HE?

NO, BRANN! WE SAW HIM RIDE OFF EAST! NOW LET'S SPLIT THE LOOT!



COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS HIGH!



SO HE DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU!

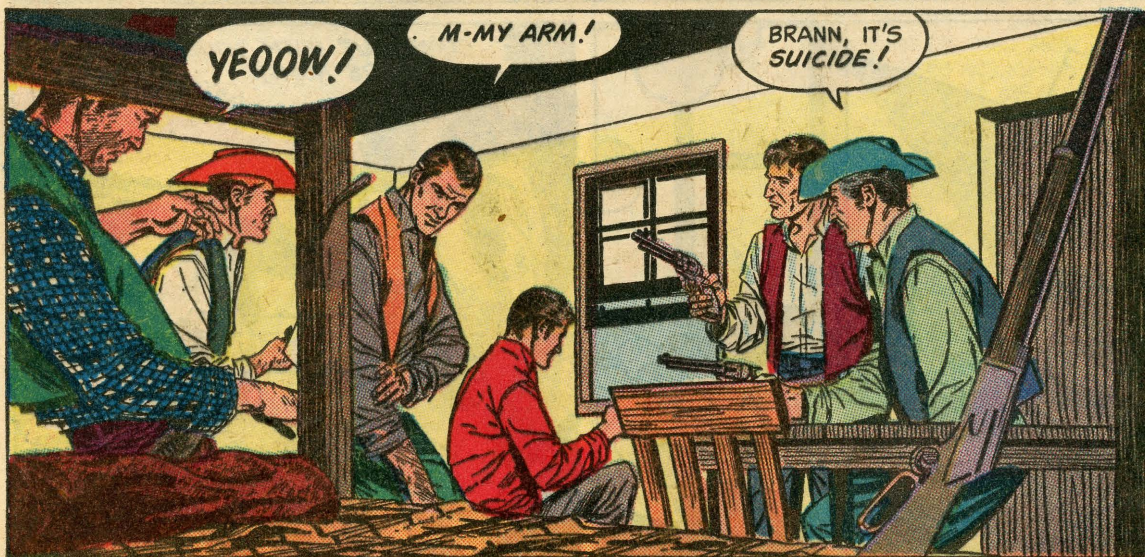
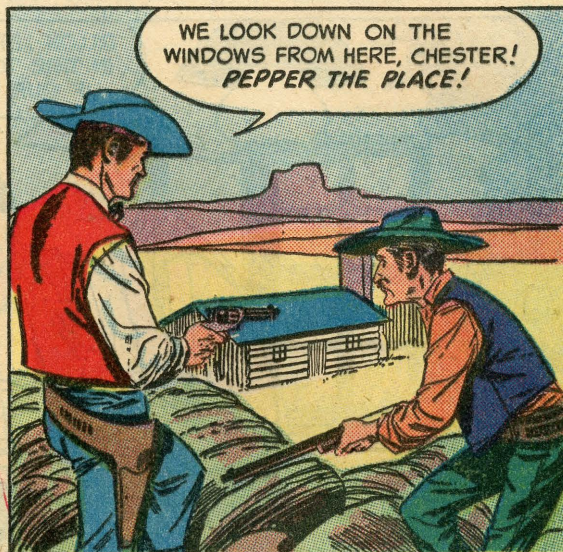
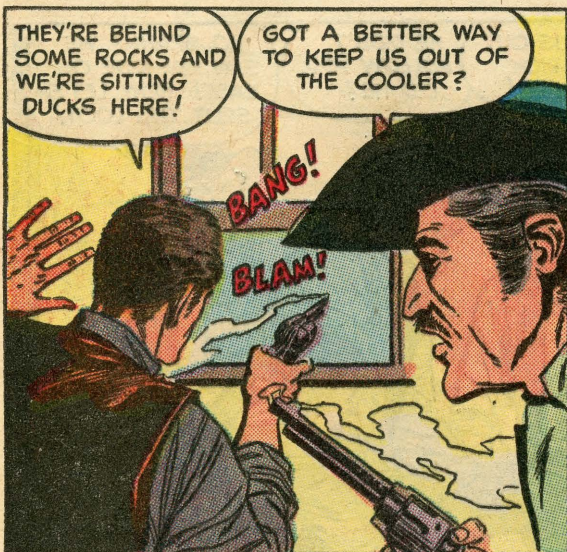
CUT THE TALK AND START YOUR COLT WORKING!



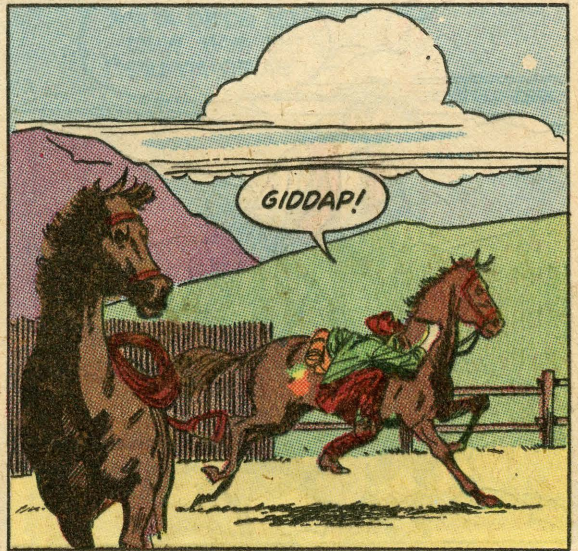
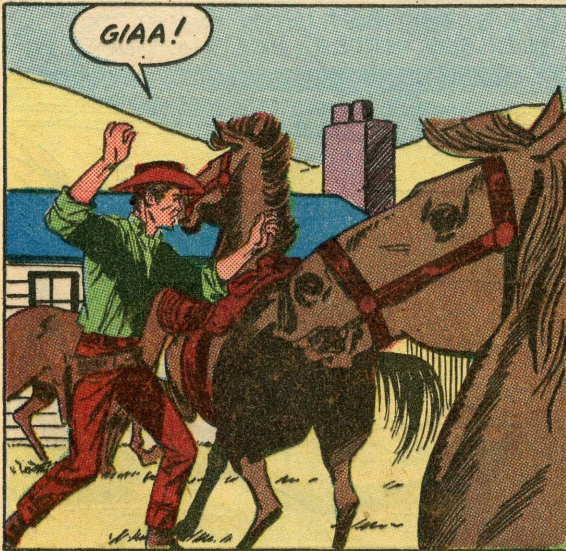
APPEARS THEY WANT TO FIGHT IT OUT, MATT!

THEY'RE IN THAT MATCHBOX, NOT US!



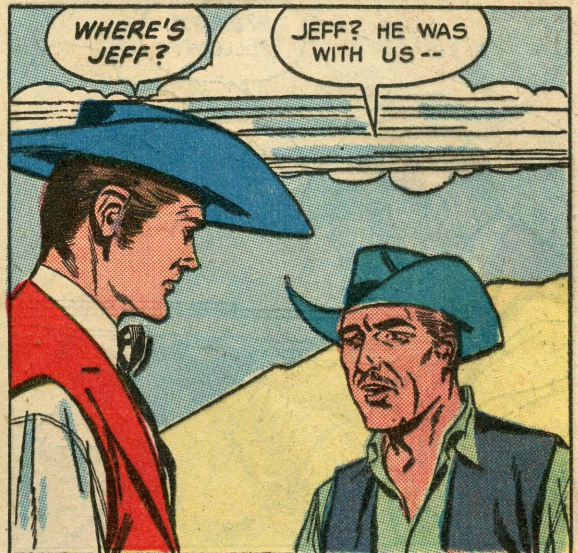






MATT, THE HORSES--

--TOO BAD FOR THESE GENTS! IT'S A LONG WALK TO THE COOLER!

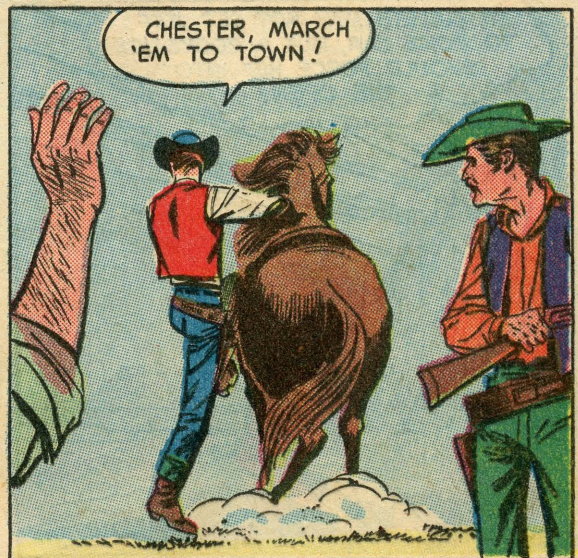


WHERE'S JEFF?

JEFF? HE WAS WITH US --

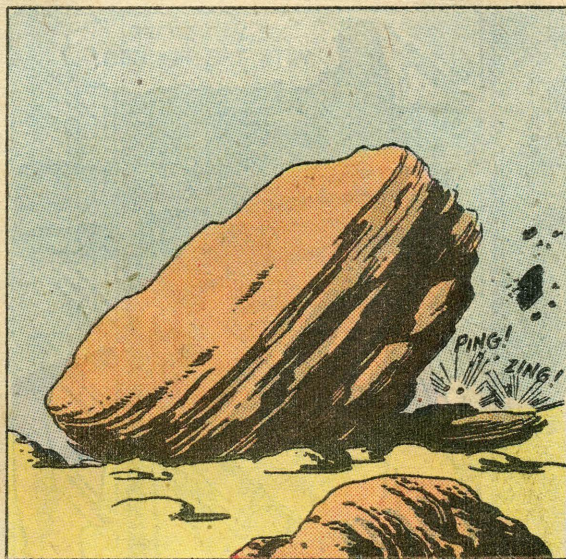
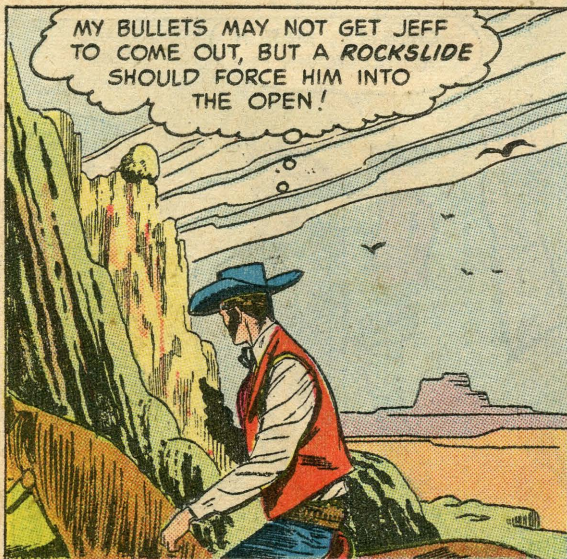
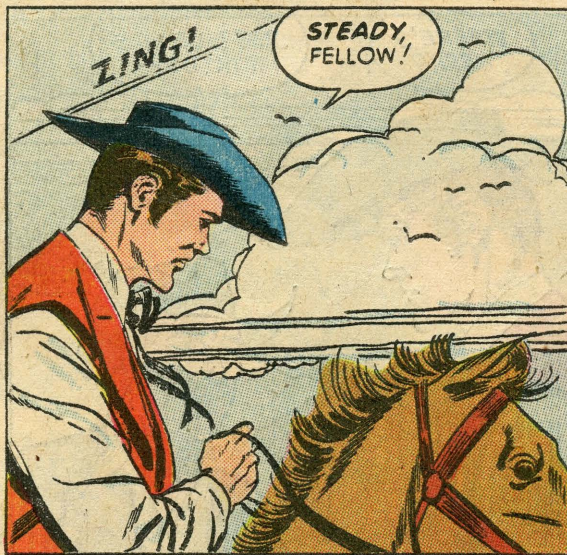
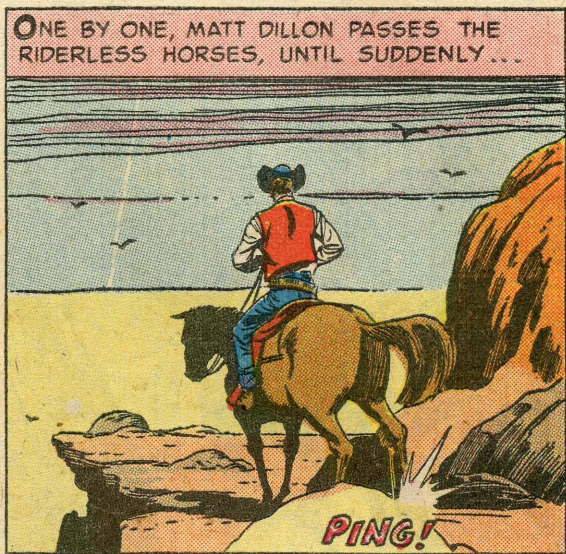
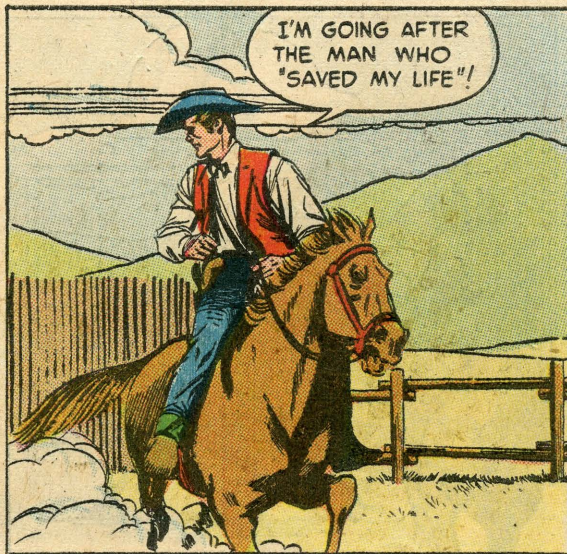


HE WENT OFF WITH THE HORSES!

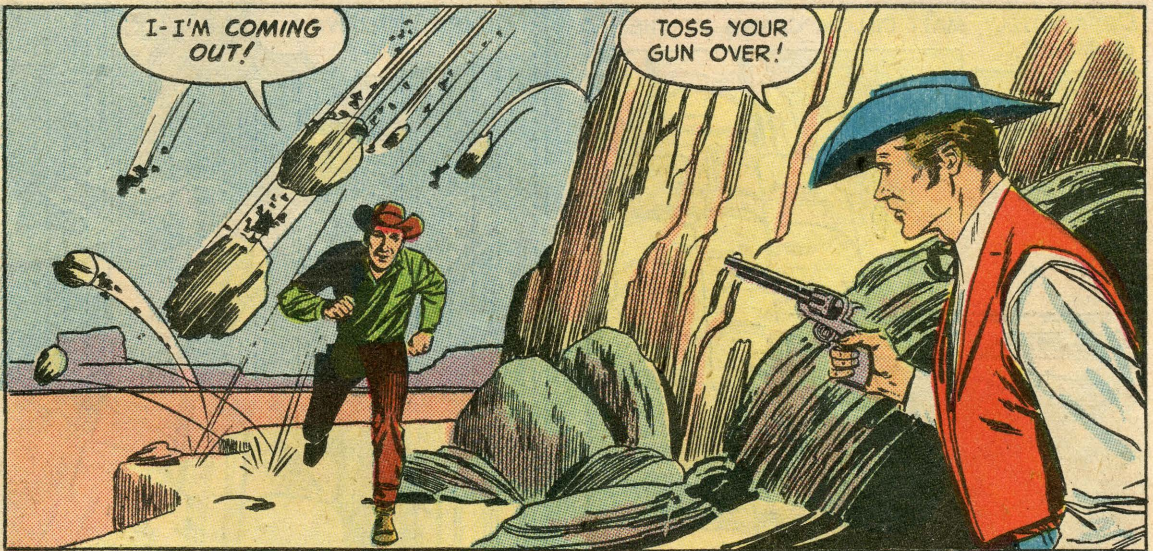
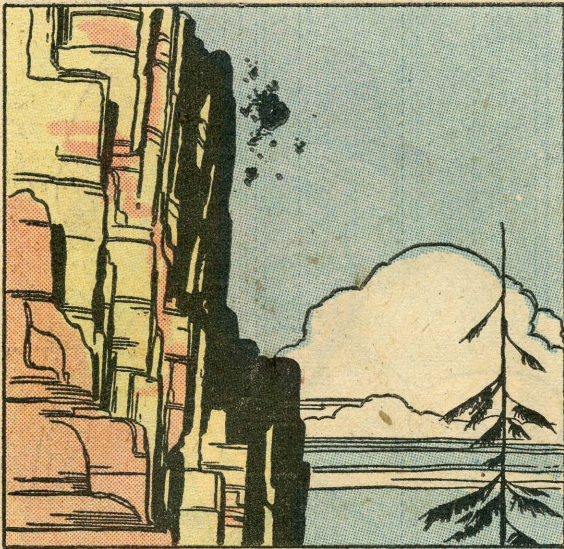


CHESTER, MARCH 'EM TO TOWN!

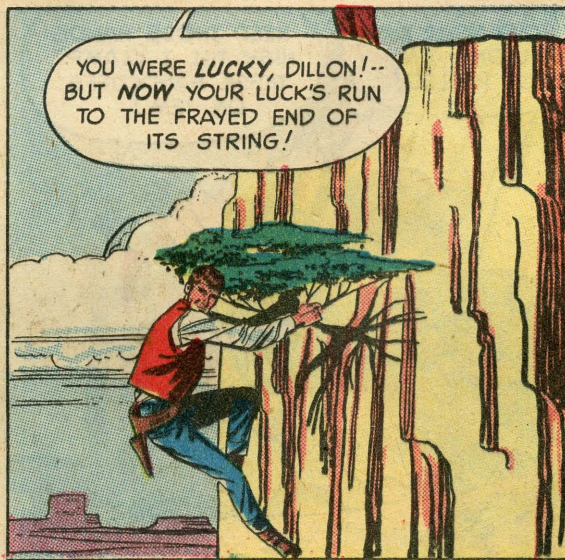
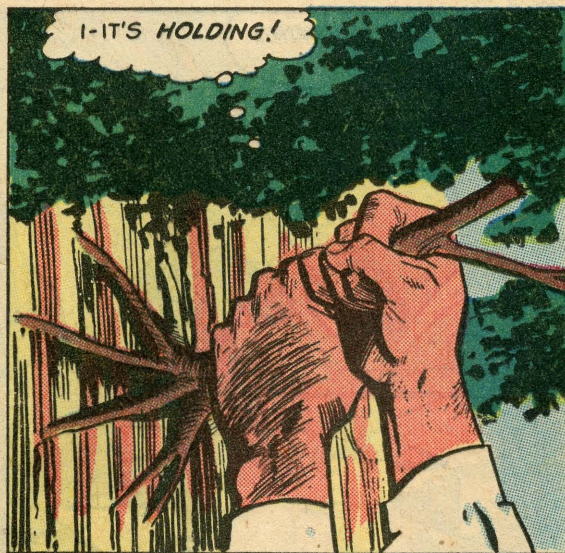






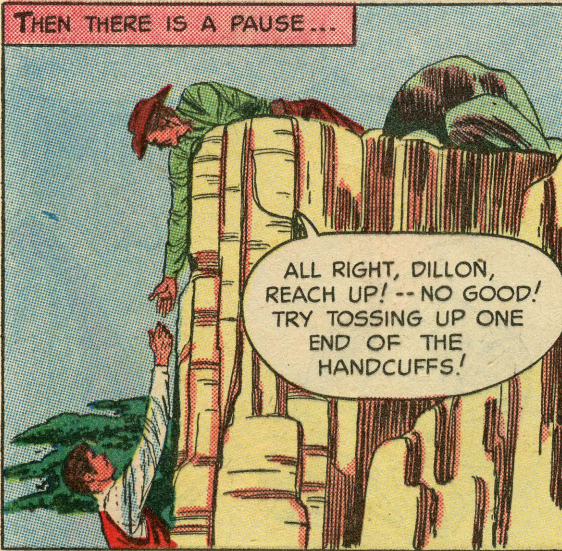








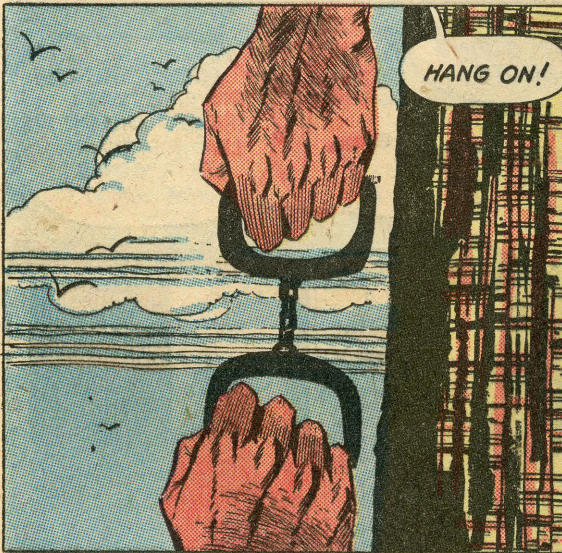
THEN THERE IS A PAUSE...



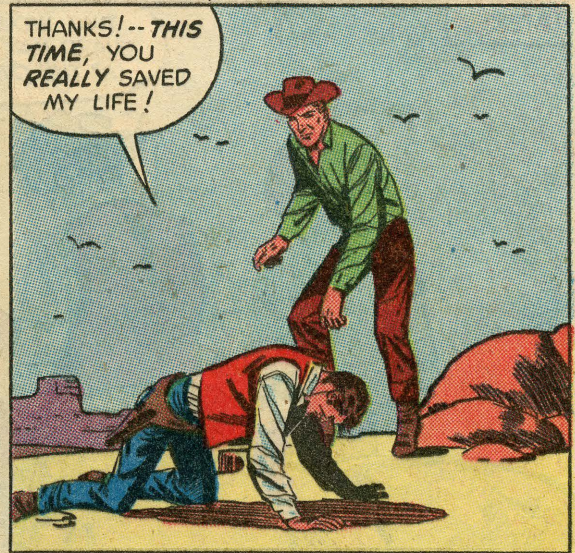
ALL RIGHT, DILLON,  
REACH UP! -- NO GOOD!  
TRY TOSSING UP ONE  
END OF THE  
HANDCUFFS!



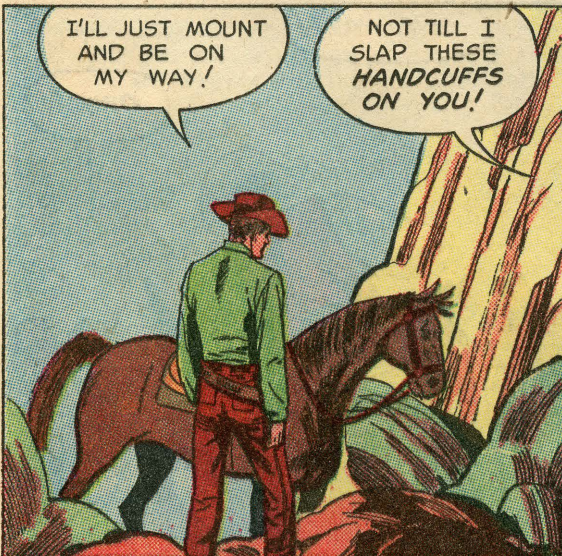
GOT IT!



HANG ON!

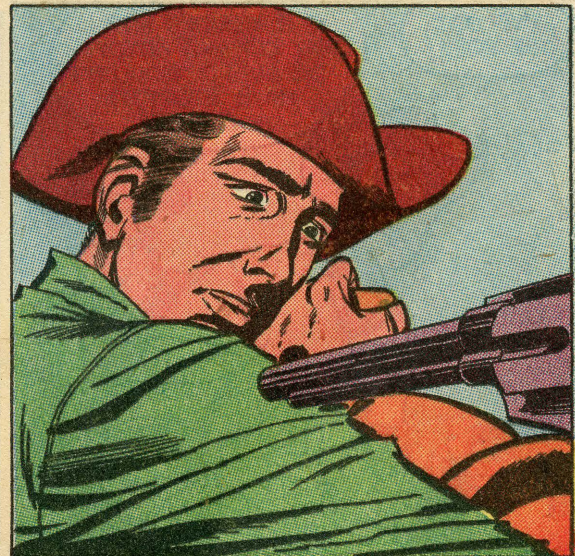


THANKS!-- THIS  
TIME, YOU  
REALLY SAVED  
MY LIFE!



I'LL JUST MOUNT  
AND BE ON  
MY WAY!

NOT TILL I  
SLAP THESE  
HANDCUFFS  
ON YOU!





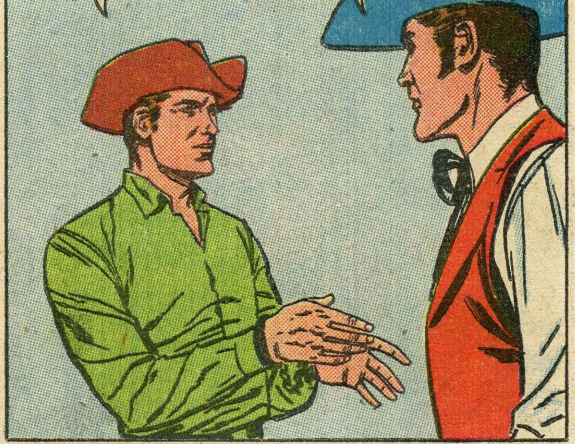
WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU, DILLON? I JUST SAVED YOUR WORTHLESS HIDE--

--I'M A MARSHAL! YOU KNEW THAT WHEN YOU SAVED ME!



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AWAY FOR A MINUTE--

--WHILE I'M WEARING THE STAR, EVEN IF I WANT TO, I CAN'T LOOK AWAY!

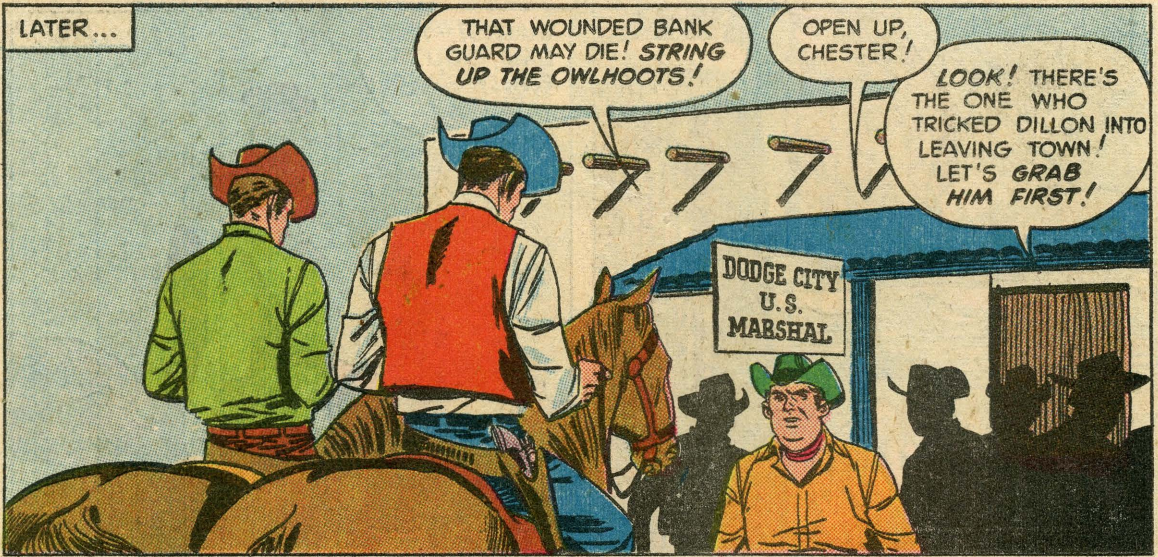


LATER...

THAT WOUNDED BANK GUARD MAY DIE! STRING UP THE OWLHOOTS!

OPEN UP, CHESTER!

LOOK! THERE'S THE ONE WHO TRICKED DILLON INTO LEAVING TOWN! LET'S GRAB HIM FIRST!



I'VE GOT THE ROPE!

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT CUNNING COYOTE, THE GUARD WOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED A BULLET!



GIVE WAY!

OWW!

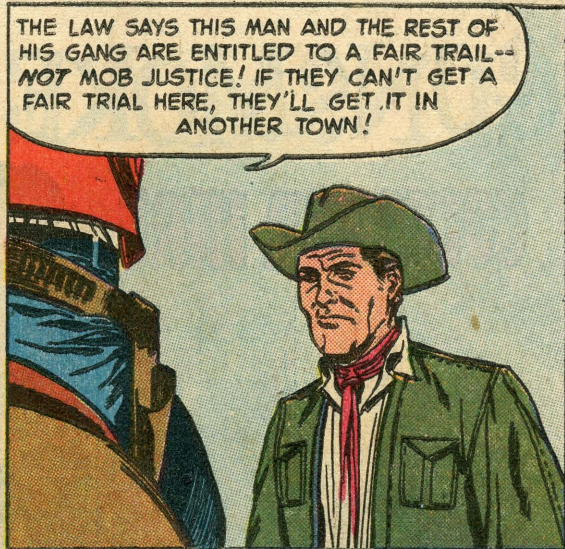




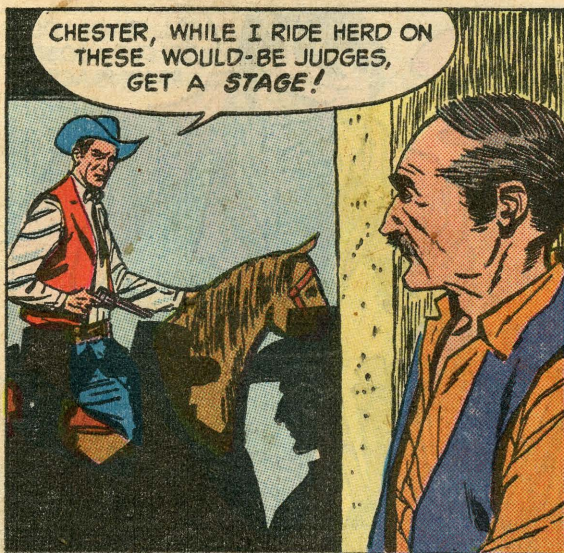


WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, MARSHAL?

BACK OFF!



THE LAW SAYS THIS MAN AND THE REST OF HIS GANG ARE ENTITLED TO A FAIR TRIAL-- NOT MOB JUSTICE! IF THEY CAN'T GET A FAIR TRIAL HERE, THEY'LL GET IT IN ANOTHER TOWN!



CHESTER, WHILE I RIDE HERD ON THESE WOULD-BE JUDGES, GET A STAGE!

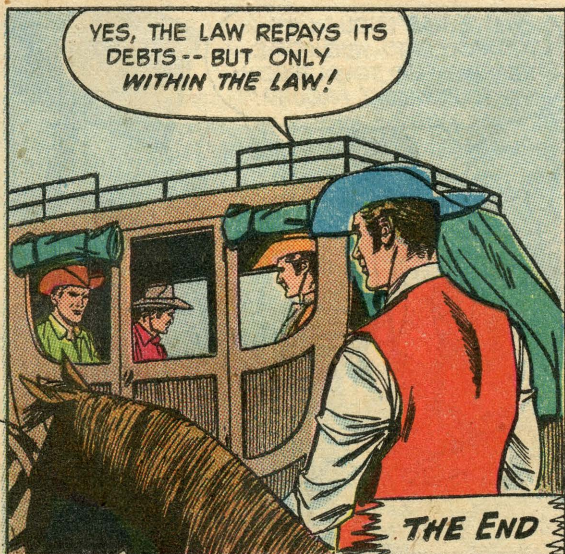


MINUTES LATER...

NO ONE'S LEAVING DODGE CITY TILL THE STAGE IS WELL ON ITS WAY!



THANKS, DILLON! YOU KEPT MY NECK OUT OF A NOOSE! WE'RE EVEN!



YES, THE LAW REPAYS ITS DEBTS-- BUT ONLY WITHIN THE LAW!

THE END

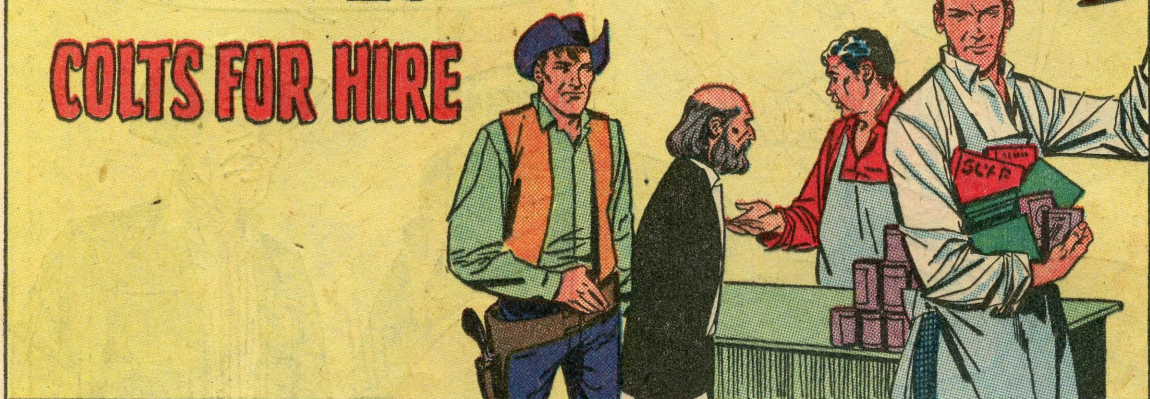


# GUNSMOKE

## COLTS FOR HIRE

GIVE ME CHEWING TOBACCO AND PRONTO!

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT YOUR TURN, MISTER!



WAIT FOR THIS SCARECROW?

GET YOUR HANDS OFF HIM!



I'LL TEACH YOU TO CUT LOOSE IN MY PLACE!



WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU POLECATS WHO COME ROARING INTO TOWN THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND!



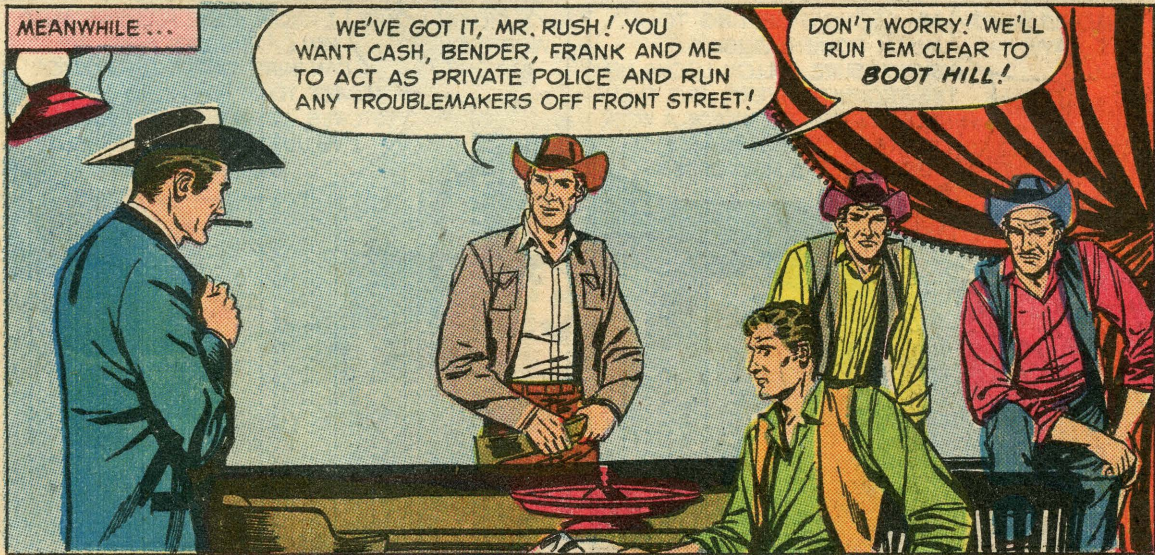
LET'S TEACH THIS CRITTER MANNERS!

BACK OFF!

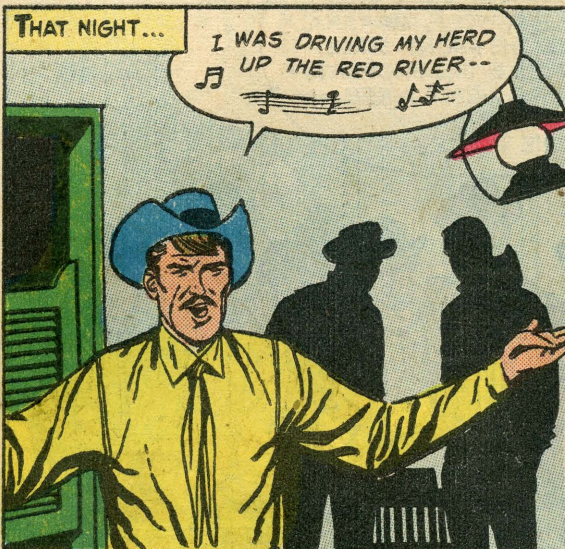












THAT NIGHT...

I WAS DRIVING MY HERD UP THE RED RIVER--

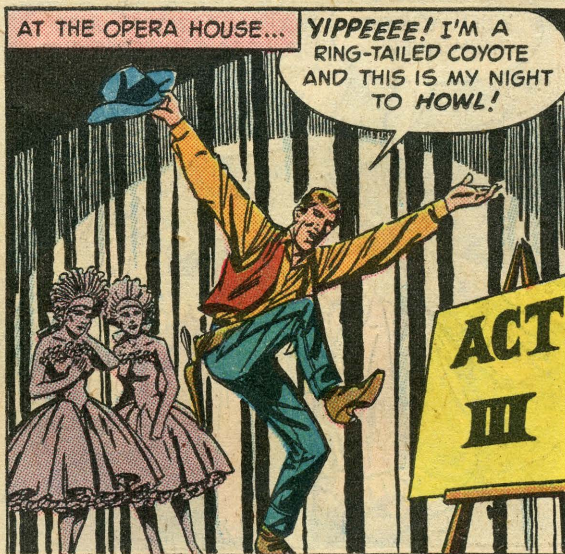


DRINK UP OR SHUT UP, COW-POKE!

SINCE WHEN CAN'T A FELLOW SING?



SINCE IT'S BAD FOR BUSINESS!

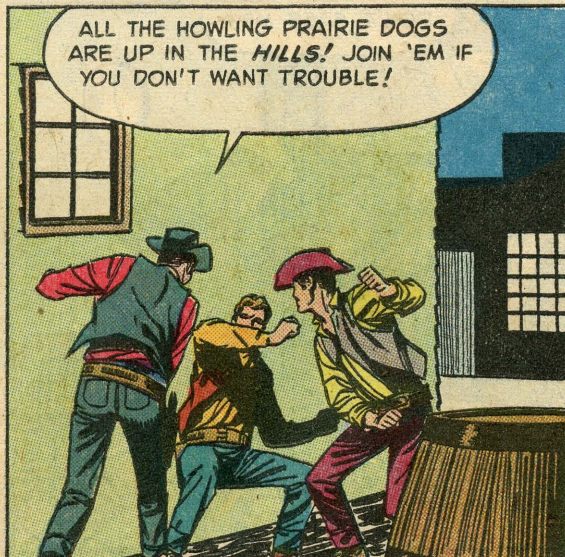


AT THE OPERA HOUSE...

YIPPEEE! I'M A RING-TAILED COYOTE AND THIS IS MY NIGHT TO HOWL!

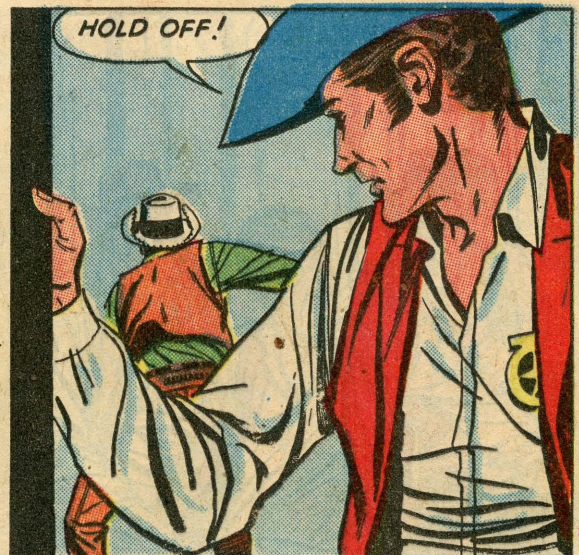
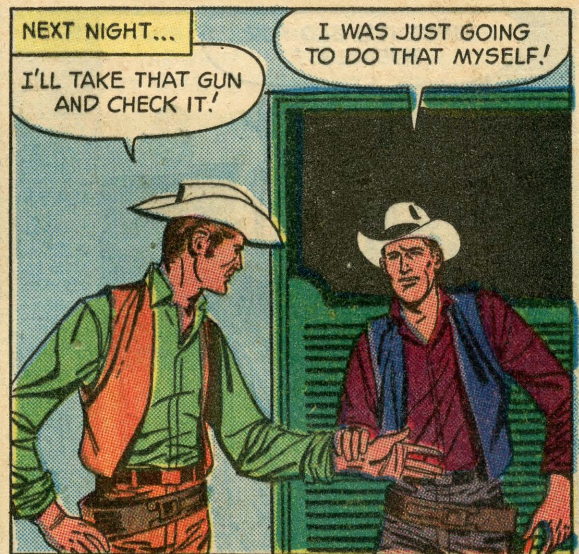
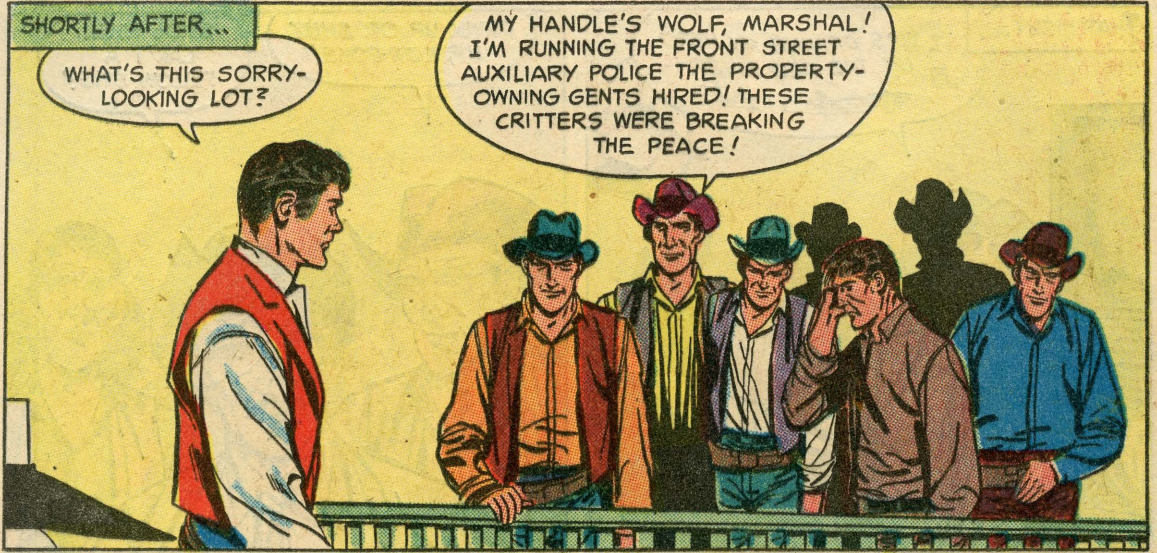


WH-WHAT IN BLAZES--



ALL THE HOWLING PRAIRIE DOGS ARE UP IN THE HILLS! JOIN 'EM IF YOU DON'T WANT TROUBLE!









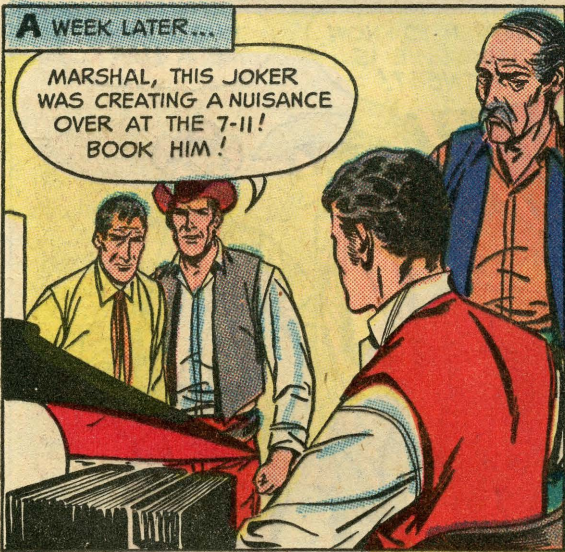
HE WAS TOTING A GUN SOUTH OF THE DEADLINE--

IT'S AGAINST THE LAW, BUT NEXT TIME CALL *ME!*



RUSH, THE LAW SAYS YOU CAN HIRE AUXILIARY POLICE, BUT I DON'T FANCY THE *TYPE* OF GENTS YOU IMPORTED!

WE LIKE 'EM FINE, DILLON! THEY'LL QUIET FRONT STREET DOWN THE *RIGHT* WAY!



**A WEEK LATER...**

MARSHAL, THIS JOKER WAS CREATING A NUISANCE OVER AT THE 7-11! BOOK HIM!

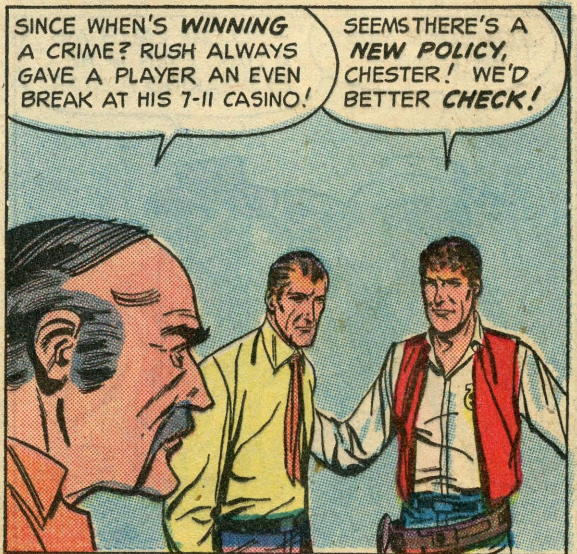


WHY, THAT LYING SIDEWINDER--

--LYING?



HE TOSSED ME OUT 'CAUSE I HAD A LUCKY STREAK AT THE 7-11! I WAS *WINNING* TOO MUCH!



SINCE WHEN'S *WINNING* A CRIME? RUSH ALWAYS GAVE A PLAYER AN EVEN BREAK AT HIS 7-11 CASINO!

SEEMS THERE'S A *NEW* POLICY, CHESTER! WE'D BETTER *CHECK!*





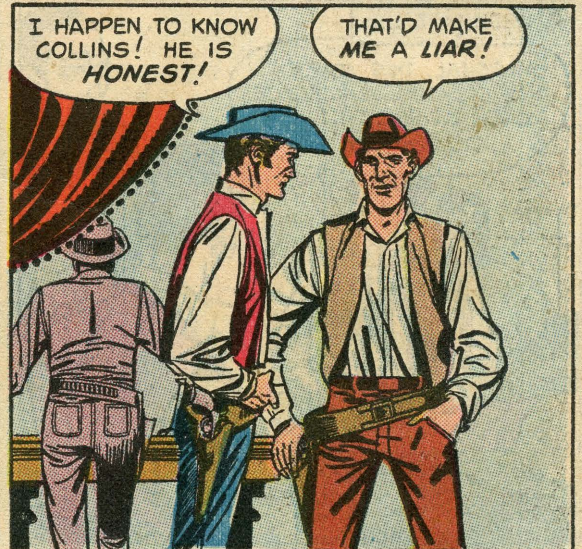
BUSINESS IS BOOMING!  
WHERE'S RUSH?

WOULDN'T KNOW!  
HE DIDN'T SHOW  
TONIGHT!



THE MAN YOU TURNED  
IN, WOLF, CLAIMS  
*WINNING TOO MUCH*  
WAS WHAT MADE HIM  
A "NUISANCE"!

EVER HEAR A  
JAILBIRD WHO  
DIDN'T SING A  
SWEET SONG  
ABOUT HIMSELF?



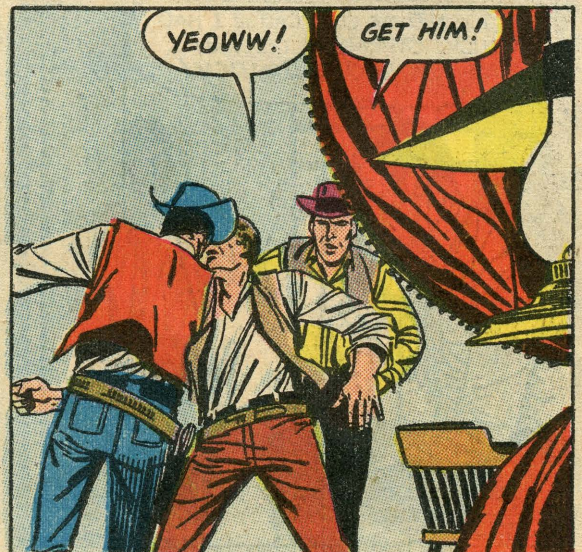
I HAPPEN TO KNOW  
COLLINS! HE IS  
*HONEST!*

THAT'D MAKE  
ME A LIAR!



SOMEONE MUST  
BE LYING --

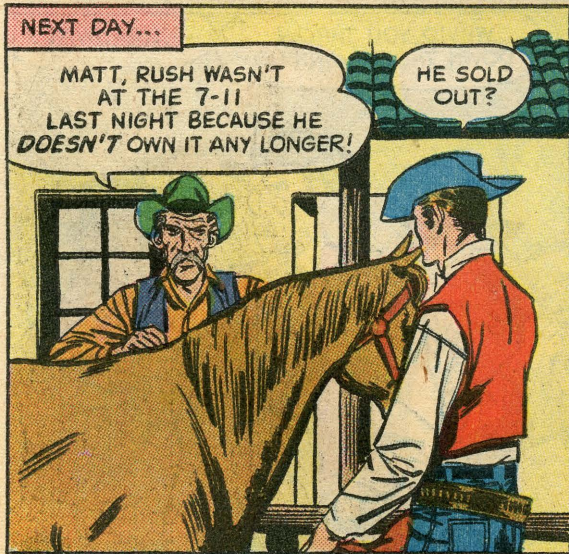
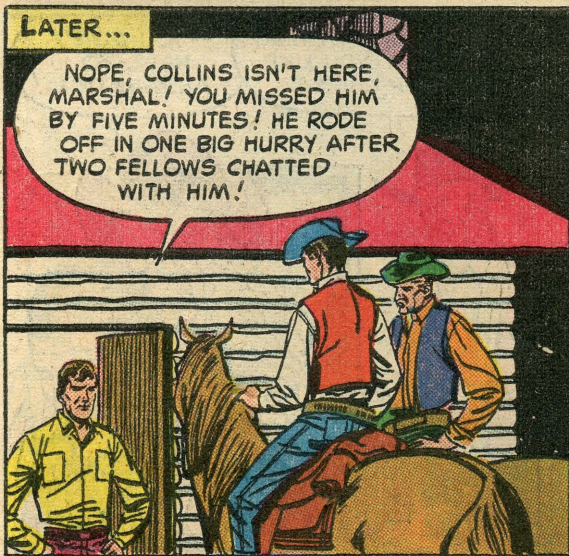
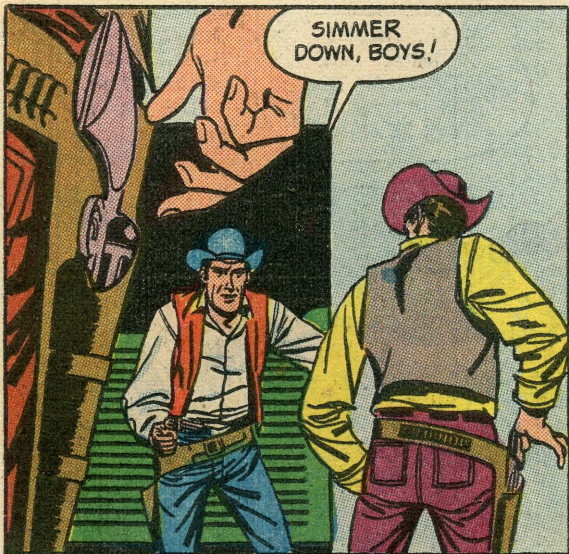
-- NO ONE CALLS ME  
A LIAR, EVEN IF HE  
IS WEARING A STAR!



YEOWW!

GET HIM!







THAT NIGHT, AT THE "TOUGH LUCK"...



WELL, THINGS ARE CERTAINLY ARE QUIET SINCE YOU HIRED THOSE FOUR TEXANS!

TOO QUIET! THE 7-11 IS GETTING ALMOST ALL THE PLAY!

THINK YOUR FOUR PACIFIERS ARE CORRALING YOUR CUSTOMERS FOR THE 7-11?

WOULDN'T KNOW!



YOU DROPPED A WINNING HAND! DON'T YOU LIKE PICKING UP CHIPS?

-- YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER HIM!

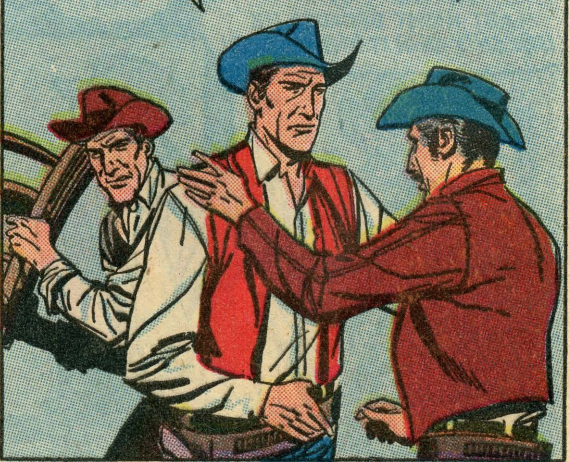


AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER FOR HIM!

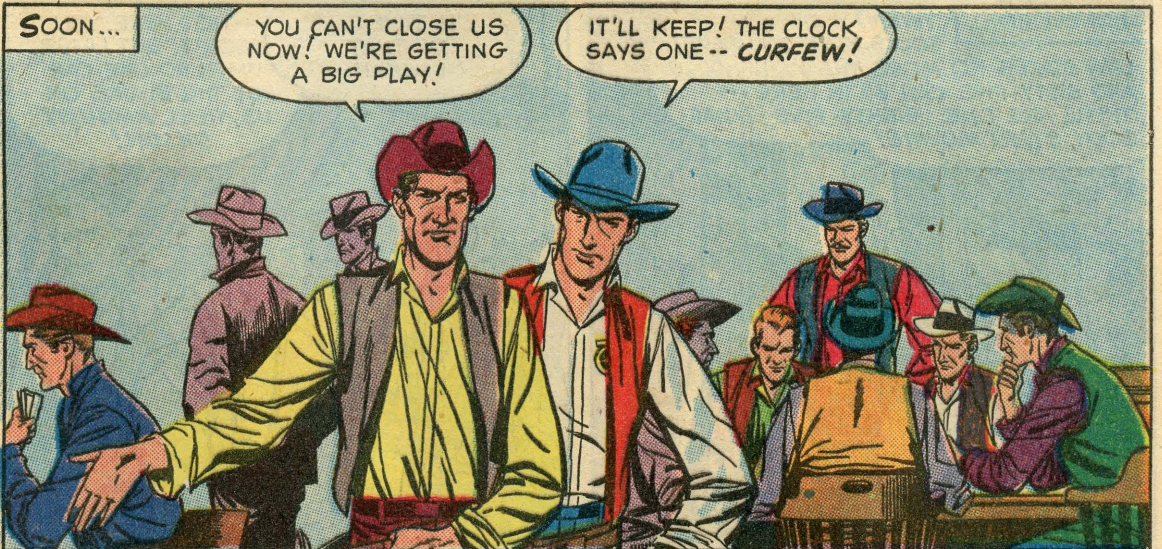
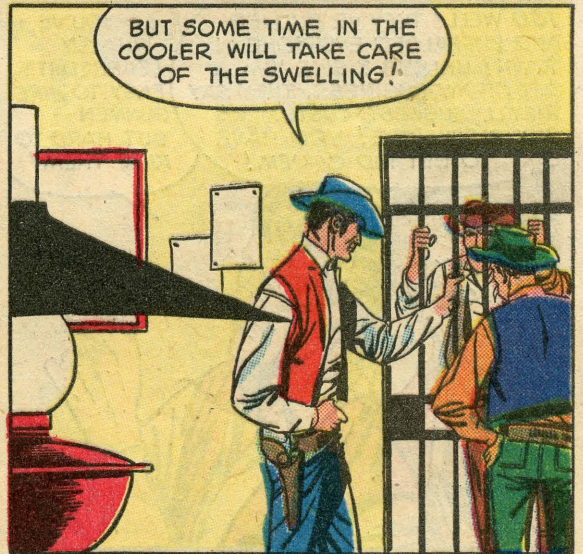
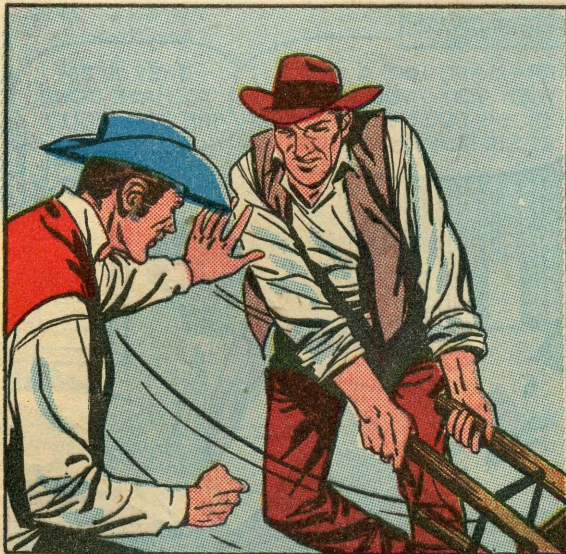


WHY'D YOU THROW DOWN THOSE WINNING--

-- MARSHAL!











LISTEN, DILLON--

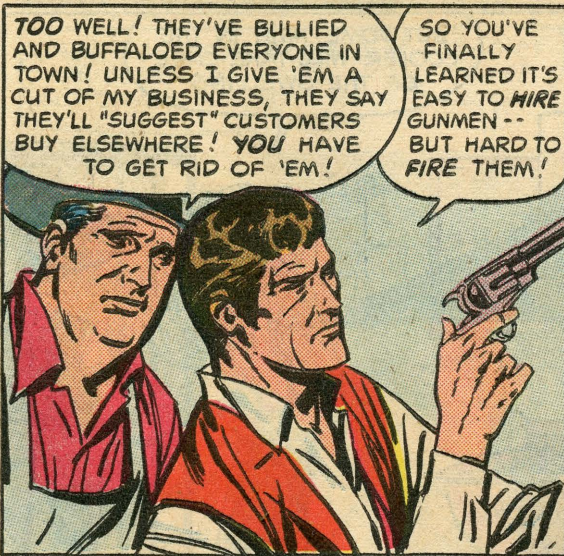
-- YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN FOR THE NIGHT, FOLKS! PULL OUT!



NEXT DAY...

ER - MATT, 'LIKE A WORD WITH YOU-- YOU KNOW THOSE FOUR TEXANS WE HIRED TO TAME FRONT STREET--

-- THEY SEEM TO HAVE DONE THE JOB WELL!



TOO WELL! THEY'VE BULLIED AND BUFFALOED EVERYONE IN TOWN! UNLESS I GIVE 'EM A CUT OF MY BUSINESS, THEY SAY THEY'LL "SUGGEST" CUSTOMERS BUY ELSEWHERE! YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF 'EM!

SO YOU'VE FINALLY LEARNED IT'S EASY TO HIRE GUNMEN -- BUT HARD TO FIRE THEM!



YOU CAN CHASE 'EM OUT OF TOWN, CAN'T YOU?

NOT TILL THEY BREAK THE LAW! THEY HAVEN'T SO FAR! BUT MAYBE I CAN MAKE 'TOEING THE LINE A BIT UNPLEASANT!



THAT EVENING...

**TWENTY OF YOU FOLKS HAVE TO LEAVE!**

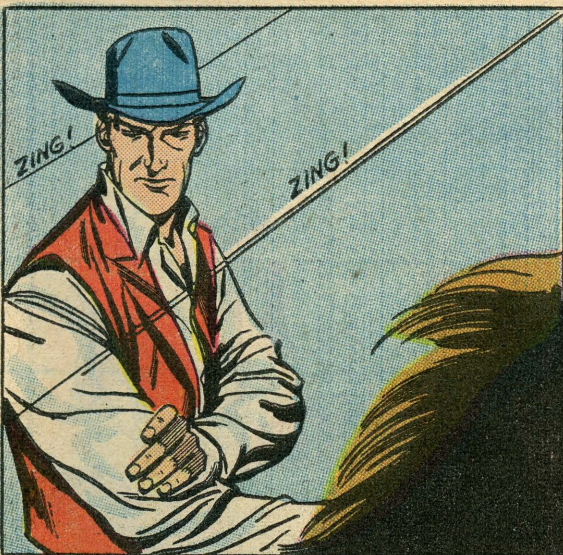
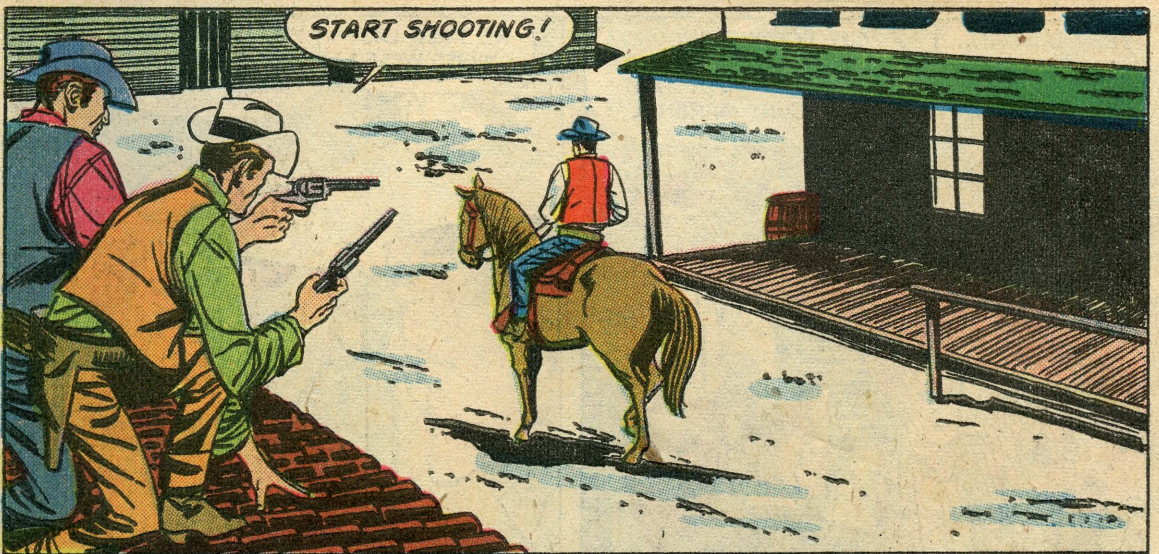
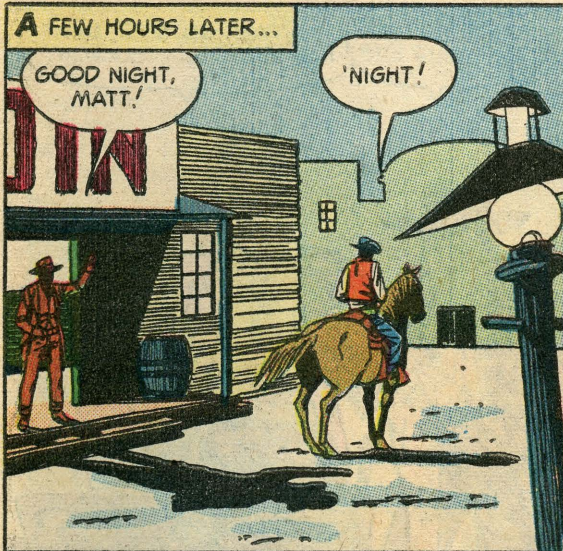
LAW STATES NO MORE THAN A HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE CAN BE IN HERE --- THERE ARE ONE EIGHTY-FIVE! SOMEBODY, START MOVING!



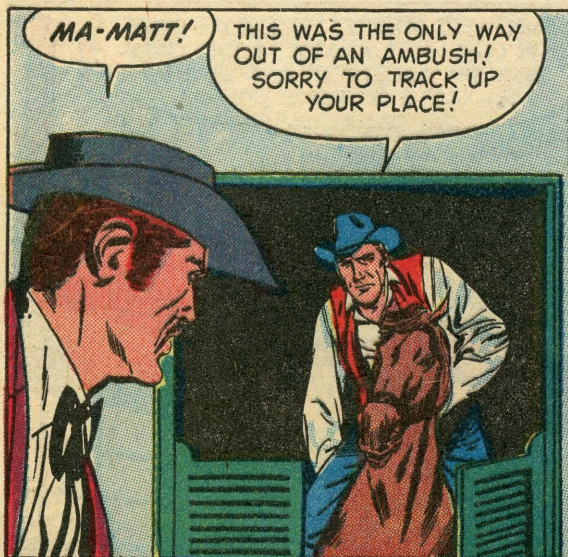
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT LAWMAN---

-- NOT HERE YOU WON'T! BUT LATER, WHEN NO ONE CAN PUT THE BLAME ON US, WE'LL AMBUSH DILLON!









MA-MATT!

THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY OUT OF AN AMBUSH! SORRY TO TRACK UP YOUR PLACE!



WHO GUNNED YOU?

IT'S DARK OUTSIDE, I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW!



THE NEXT DAY...

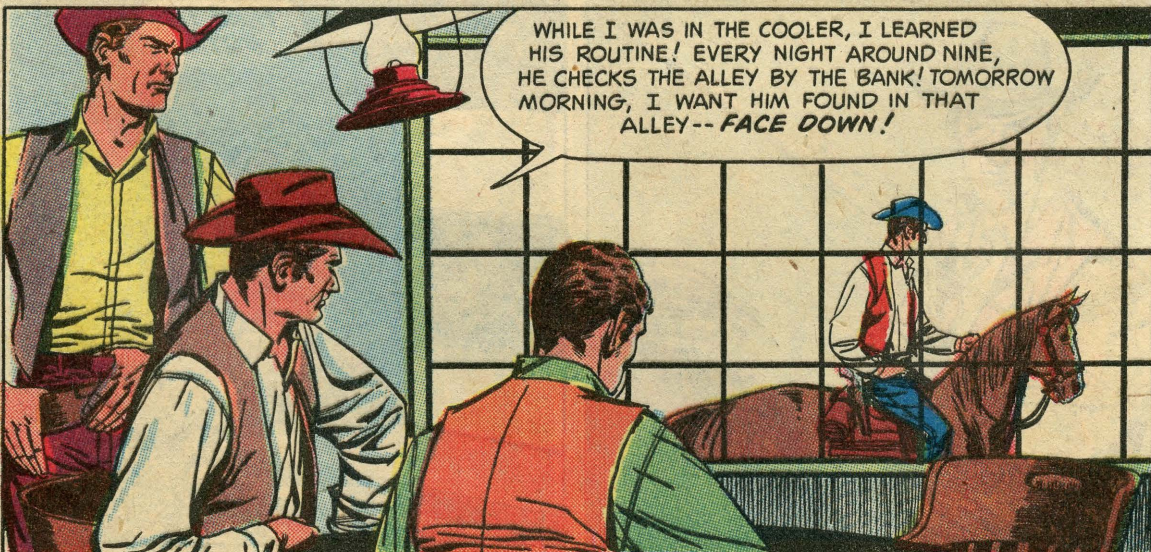
WELL, LOOK WHO DILLON LET OUT!

CUT HORSING AROUND! I'M GOING TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THAT NO-ACCOUNT MARSHAL!



WE TRIED LAST NIGHT, WOLF!

YOU WINGED HIM! BUT I WANT TO DROP HIM!



WHILE I WAS IN THE COOLER, I LEARNED HIS ROUTINE! EVERY NIGHT AROUND NINE, HE CHECKS THE ALLEY BY THE BANK! TOMORROW MORNING, I WANT HIM FOUND IN THAT ALLEY-- FACE DOWN!



AT FIVE TO NINE ...

WELL, RUSH, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN KEEPING YOURSELF? HEAR YOU **RETIRED** FROM THE CASINO BUSINESS!

LET'S SAY FOUR TEXANS "RETIRED" ME! I WANT MY PLACE BACK!

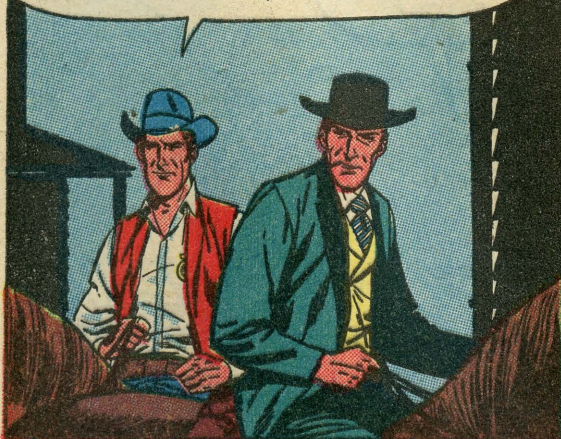


YOU ALSO WANTED **TOUGH** LAW ON FRONT STREET! YOU GOT IT, RUSH, OR IS IT **TOUGH** ON **YOU**, TOO?

YOU WIN, DILLON! I SHOULD HAVE GONE ALONG WITH YOUR BRAND OF LAW -- IT WAS FAIR AND JUST!



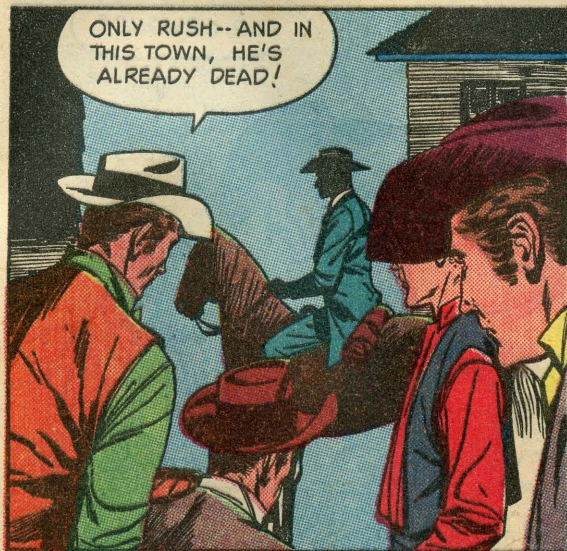
WHEN YOU'RE MARSHAL LONG ENOUGH, YOU GET HUNCHES AND YOU RELY ON THEM! RUSH, RIDE DOWN THE BANK ALLEY-- IF ANYTHING LOOKS **SUSPICIOUS**, LIGHT UP A CIGAR!



RIDER'S COMING!



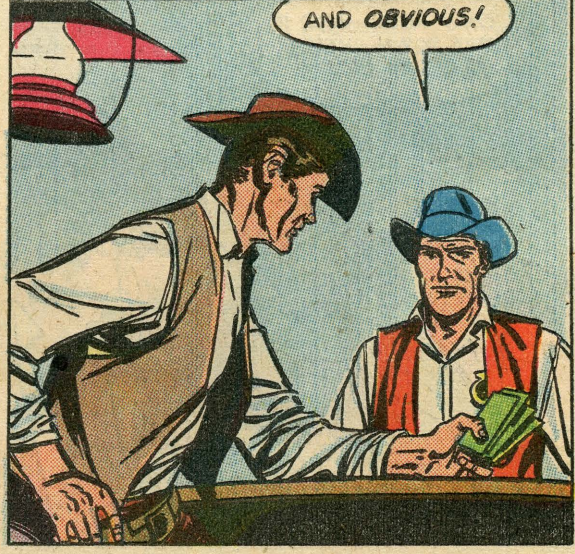
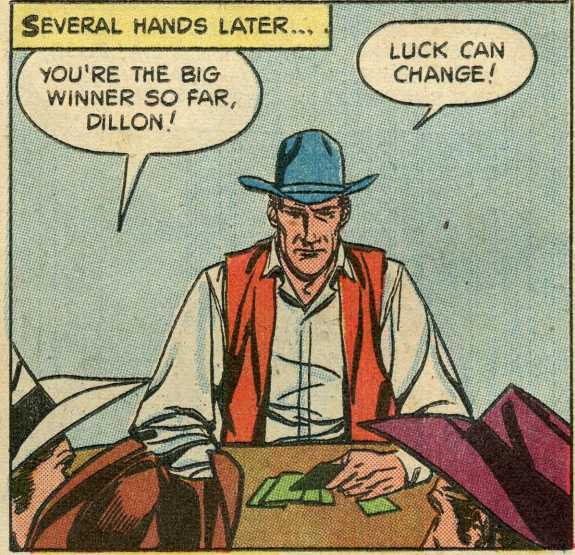
ONLY RUSH-- AND IN THIS TOWN, HE'S ALREADY DEAD!



NO-- I WASN'T GETTING JUMPY OVER NOTHING!









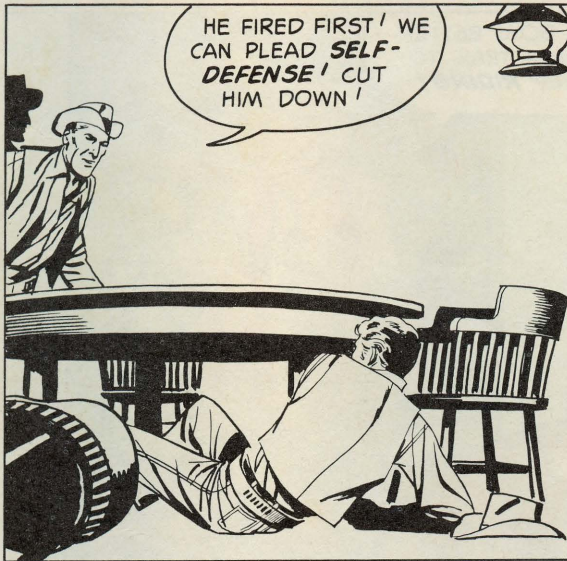
AS WOLF THROWS UP HIS COLT, MATT DILLON REACHES FOR HIS GUN AND DELIBERATELY TIPS BACK HIS CHAIR



YE000W!

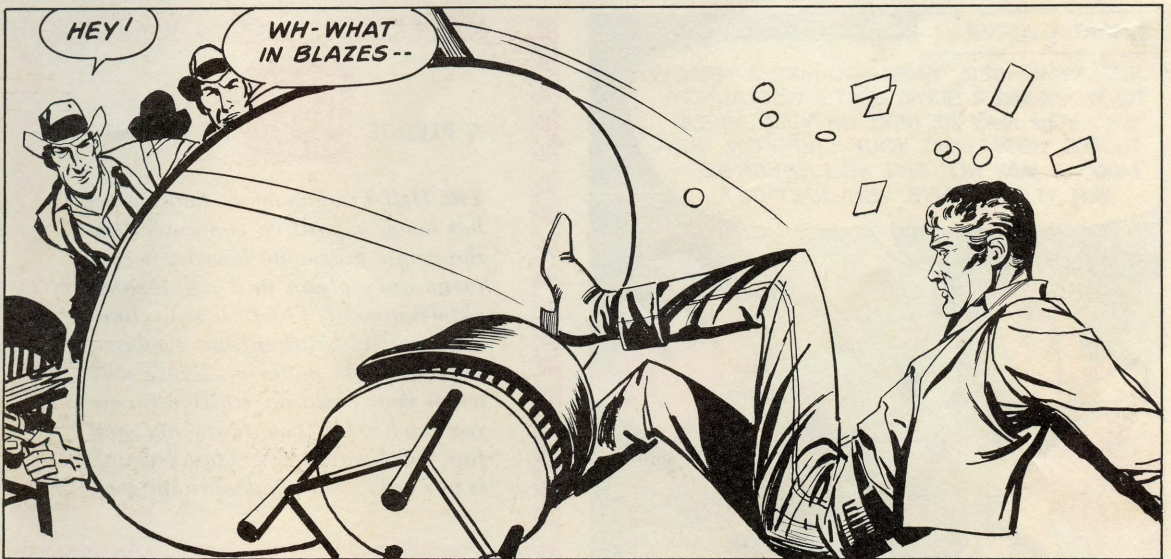


HE FIRED FIRST! WE CAN PLEAD **SELF-DEFENSE!** CUT HIM DOWN!

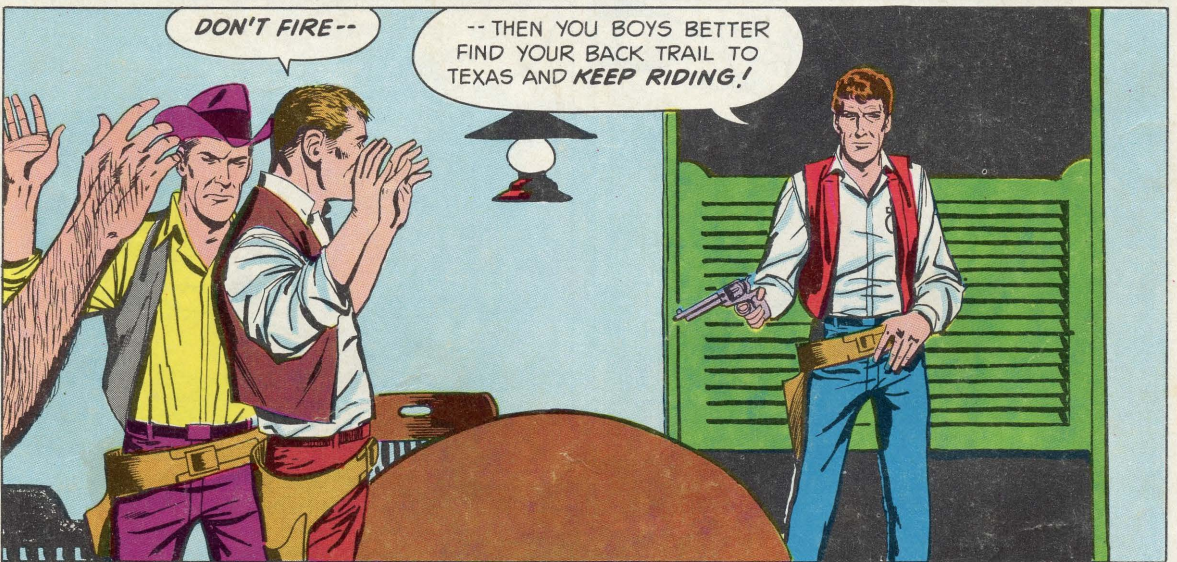


HEY!

WH-WHAT IN BLAZES--







SHORTLY AFTER...



JUST REMEMBER, WHEN YOU HIRE A FELLOW TO WORK OVER SOME GENTS WHO ANNOY YOU, **YOU** MAY BE NEXT ON YOUR HIRED THUG'S LIST! -- PUT YOUR CHIPS ON THE **LAW**, IT MAY NOT GIVE YOU **REVENGE**, BUT IT WILL GIVE YOU **JUSTICE!**

A PLEDGE **DELL** TO PARENTS  
COMIC

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