

DELL
COMICS

NO. 244

10¢

Johnny Mack Brown



RETRIBUTION FOR HORSE THIEVES



During the early 1870's a determined movement to halt horse stealing swept across the West from Montana to Texas and from Nebraska to California. Members of this campaign consisted of small unrelated groups of gun cowmen, cowboys, hired gunmen, and others who were identified as committees of vigilance, or plain vigilantes.

These stern night riders of justice made their own laws for horse stealing, and the sentences they imposed were enforced by the guns in their holsters or the ropes on their saddle pommels.

Formal law enforcement either did not exist or was ineffective in much of the West in those times, and prior to the vigilantes, little had been done to curb horse thieves. In Texas alone the year 1878 saw 730 horse thieves under indictment . . . but less than 75 were convicted. During the three years prior to 1878 over 100,000 horses had been stolen in the state.

It was records such as these that spurred the Texas Vigilantes to their saddles, and from 1878 to 1879, the vigilantes' strict "noose justice" made Texas a pretty unhealthy place for horse thieves.

Out on the great plains of Kansas and

Nebraska, vigilantes were riding hard on the trails of horse thieves who had come up on the heels of the longhorn drives. On February 2, 1884, the infamous Kid Wade, leader of an outlaw band, was hung by vigilantes' rope, and the self-appointed lawmen soon rounded up a score of less notorious, but equally guilty horse thieves.

With these rough riding men on their trail, it became increasingly difficult for the horse thieves to practice their "profession." Though many questioned their methods, the vigilantes have gone down in history as pioneers for law and order.



JOHNNY MACK BROWN

MILLER'S TRAIL



SOMEONE SURE IS WORKING LATE AT THE THEATRE! THINK I'LL HAVE A LOOK!

IT IS LATE AT NIGHT WHEN JOHNNY MACK BROWN RIDES INTO GRAND OPENING...



MAYBE MY OLD FRIEND JIM HURDOCK IS PUTTING IN SOME OVERTIME! I'LL JUST KNOCK AND SAY HOWDY!



IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, JOHNNY!

YOU'RE WORKING NIFTY LATE. JIM! I GUESS MANAGING A THEATRE ISN'T ALL PLAY, IS IT?



I'M GETTING THINGS READY FOR OUR NEXT SHOW, "THE GREAT BANK ROBBERY" WHICH OPENS TOMORROW!

AND FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, COUNTING BOX OFFICE RECEIPTS!



HEY DOPER... THERE'S A LIGHT IN TH' THEATRE! SOMEONE MUST BE IN THERE!

THAT WON'T CHANGE OUR PLANS ANY! NOTHING'S GONNA STOP US FROM HOLDING UP THIS JOINT!







SEVERAL HOURS LATER,
IN THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

HOW IS JOHNNY,
DOCTOR?

HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, TOM!
AS A MATTER OF FACT,
HE SHOULD BE COMING TO
SOON NOW!



OWWWW!
MY HEAD!

YOU SURE GOT YOUR
SKULL CRACKED, JOHNNY,
BUT YOU'LL BE OKAY!



JOHNNY'D LIKE YOU
TO MEET SHERRIF TOM
MURDOCK! TOM IS
JIM'S SON!

HOW'S YOUR
DAD, TOM? IS HE HURT
BAD?



DAD IS
DEAD!

I'M SORRY, TOM!
JIM WAS ONE OF
MY BEST FRIENDS!



WE DIDN'T EVEN
CATCH THE MEN
WHO KILLED HIM,
JOHNNY!... LET
ME TELL YOU
WHAT HAPPENED!



AFTER WE GOT WORD OF THE MURDER,
MY DEPUTIES AND I TOOK OFF AFTER
THE KILLERS AND CHASED THEM FOR
ABOUT FIVE MILES!



... THEN WE LOST THEM IN THE
BACKWoods! THERE WAS NOTHING WE
COULD DO BUT TURN BACK...



AS SOON AS WE
GOT BACK, I SENT
OUT A GENERAL
ALERT! BUT THEY
MADE A CLEAN
GETAWAY!

WELL, I'M GOING TO
PICK UP WHERE
YOU LEFT OFF, JOH!
WE'LL GET THOSE
MURDERERS!



I'LL GO WITH YOU, JOHNNY!
THIS IS MORE MY FIGHT
THAN YOURS!



IT DAWNED NEXT MORNING...

THIS IS WHERE WE
LOST THOSE HORSES
LAST NIGHT!

THEN THIS IS
WHERE WE START
PICKING UP THEIR
TRAIL... RIGHT
NOW!





HOORRENTS, TON! TROUBLE
IS, WE DON'T KNOW WHO
THEY BELONG TO!

THEY'RE THE ONLY CLUES
WE HAVE, SO WE'D BETTER
FOLLOW THEM!

A LITTLE FURTHER ON ...



HEY ... WAIT! I THINK
I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!



IT'S ONLY AN
OLD CIGAR BUT,
JOHNNY!

SURE ... BUT ONE OF
THOSE GUYS WAS
SMOKING A CIGAR!



THEN I GUESS WE
COULD BE ON THE
RIGHT TRAIL!

LET'S BEGIN MAKING
TIME! THOSE BUZZARDS
HAVE A GOOD HEAD
START ON US!























Johnny Mack Brown

The Avenging Avalanche

SOME WONDERFUL
DAY TO BE ALIVE!
EH, REBEL?



REBELS
STAY BEHIND,
JOHNNY MACK BROWN
WENT OUT THERE TO
DEFENDING HIMSELF!

WHEE-EE-EE!

AT THAT MOMENT...

PULL UP!
OR YOU'RE A
DEAD MAN!



KEEP GOING, SPIKE!
IF WE STOP
HERE SOMEBODY!



AND MEANWHILE...

GUNSHOTS!
BEYOND THAT BUTTE!
MOVE, REBEL!



A STAGE HOLDUP!
FASTER, REBEL!











The ceremony is strange and beautiful...



At the ritual continues...



Silently, Tso-Sin goes to investigate...



Following the alarm, he senses the intruder...



Come! That yell isn't part of the ceremony! Come on!













WAIT HERE, REBEL!
I'LL SCOUT AHEAD
ON FOOT!



TWO INDIANS AND A
WHITE MAN! HOLED UP
IN A BOX CANYON! IT'S
THE OUTLAW'S
ALL RIGHT!

EXCEPT FOR ONE
BROT THOSE CANYON
WALLS ARE UNSCALABLE!
...WELL... THEY GIVE
ME AN IDEA!



WITH YOUR HELP, REBEL,
I THINK WE CAN WALL
THOSE CONYOTES IN!

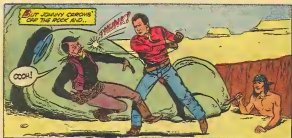


I'LL TIE THE ROPE TO
YOUR SADDLE...



IT'S JOHNNY'S TURN TO THE CANYON RIM...







THE SECOND BRUCE'S STRONG LESS TIGHTEN AROUND JOHNNY...



COVERING THE REVERENDS, JOHNNY WHITTLES FOR BRUCE...



SET UP! ... I'M GOING TO TIE YOU AND YOUR PAWS TOGETHER!



A LITTLE LATER... SHERIFF! LOOK!

HERE COMES JOHNNY! AN UNLESS MY EYES'RE GOIN' BACK ON ME, HE'S CORRALED THOSE BANDITS!



NICE WORK, JOHNNY!
I... HEY! THAT WHITE HORSEY! HE'S LES TALL-MAN!

YOU KNOW HWY?



NOT PERSONALLY! BUT I GOT A HANDBILL ON HIM YESTERDAY! HE'S WANTED FOR EVERY CRIME IN THE CALENDAR! ...INCLUDING MURDER!



MARSHAL! NAWAJOB VERY GREATFUL YOU CATCH KILLER OF TROUSH!
YOU STAY! WE HAVE FEAST FOR YOU!

THANKS, CHIEF, BUT WE'VE GOT TO BE MOVING THAT GOLD'S OVERLE AT WAGSTAFF!



WE CARE FOR WIFEY UNTIL HE'S WELL! YOU STOP ON HAY BACK!

SPIKE WILL, CHIEF! I'VE GOT BUSINESS IN MARYTAL!

AND WITH JOHNNY WICK BROWN BUSINESS IS BUSINESS!

