

DELL

NO. 583 10¢

Johnny Mack Brown



The Rodeo Clown

In all the hullabaloo and color of the rodeo — the whinnying and bellowing of animals, the music of the band, the shouting and applause at the cowboys' skill and daring — the bravery of one person is often overlooked. In a very special way, the real hero of the rodeo is the rodeo clown.

Looking for all the world as though he is having the party of his life, the clown actually has a very important and dangerous job to do. For when the Brahma bull riding contest is on, it is the clown's responsibility to lure the angry bull away from a fallen rider.

The clown has almost no protection. He wears patched and baggy overalls, though they are never so baggy that they might trip him in front of a charging Brahma. On his feet are not fancy cowboy boots, but gym sneakers, for the sake of speed and sure-footedness. His only shield against a raging bull is a barrel, around which are three rubber tires. Wagging his fingers and shouting, the clown teases the bull, daring him to charge. The enraged animal races toward the taunting creature but suddenly skids to a stop. There is nothing in sight but a barrel, for the clown had popped lickety-split inside the barrel the minute the bull began to charge.

The clown is no vaudeville comic. Sometimes a former rodeo champ, sometimes a practicing rodeo contestant, a man who is a rodeo clown is as brave as he was when riding a Brahma or busting a bronc.



Johnny mack Brown

The Ridin' Fool

WE'LL STOP OFF AT THE RODEO, REBEL!
I WANT TO WATCH THAT BROAD BUSTER
THEY CALL THE RIDIN' FOOL!

PALACE

CLEAR WELLS
RODEO

THE TOWN'S BURE DELETED!
EVERYBODY MUST BE AT
THE RODEO!

A BLAST OF GUNFIRE
SHATTERS THE QUIET
OF THE EMPTY STREETS...

A HOLDUP!
GET MOVING, REBEL!

THEY'RE HEADING FOR COVER
IN THE HILLS, REBEL!

SHAM!
SHAM!



A SHORT TIME LATER... JOHNNY FOUND THAT HIS OLD FRIEND, BILL BOY, IS THE SHERIFF OF CLEAR WELLS COUNTY...

JOHNNY! WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT THIS MORNIN' THE RODEO AND THE WILDIN' FOOL?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE TOP LAWYAN HERE, BILL! IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!





THERE'S THE HOTIN' POOL, NOW, JOHNNY! NOBODY ELSE CAN STICK ON BLACK TOREADO!

I'VE GOT BAD NEWS, BILL! I CAME TO TAKE YOU AND DOC BACK TO TOWN!

JOHNNY TELLS THE SHERIFF ABOUT THE BANK HOLDUP...



I'LL GET DOC FRONTO!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

SAME THING HAPPENED AT BOULDER CITY AND MOOSE RUN! THREE MEN FORCED THE BANK AND GOT AWAY WHILE EVERYBODY WAS AT THE HORROR!

WHILE EVERYBODY WAS AT THE HORROR!



I LEFT THE TWO DEPUTIES TO GUARD THE BANK... IN CASE THEY TRIED IT HERE!

THE FORBES EVIDENTLY ARE FOLLOWING THE HORRORS! IT'S AN OLD GAME... BUT IT STILL WORKS!



THEY HEADED INTO THE HILLS SOUTH OF TOWN! WE CAN PICK UP THEIR TRAIL EARLY IF WE START NOW!

I'LL LOOK AT TIP! THEN WE'LL RIDE!



A SHORT TIME LATER...

DO YOU THINK WE OUGHT TO WAIT TILL I CAN ORGANIZE A FORCE?

IT'LL TAKE TOO LONG! WE CAN TRAIL 'EM BETTER ALONE... AND GET A FORCE LATER IF WE NEED IT!

THE COMPANY AND THE SHERIFF
PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE
THREE BANDITS AND FOLLOW
IT INTO COYOTE CANYON...

THE TRACKS END
HERE ON THESE ROCKS!
BUT WE KNOW THEY
WENT INTO THE
CANYON!

KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY,
JOHNNY! THERE'S PLENTY
O' GOOD SPOTS FOR
BURNHACKERS
IN HERE!



DOES ANYONE LIVE IN
THAT OLD SHACK, BILL?

YES! BUCKSHOT BEN, AN OLD
BOULDERDOG... HE'S A LITTLE
LODD! THINKS THE CANYON
BELONGS TO HIM!



OLD BEN DOES ODD JOBS AND A
LITTLE TEAPPING! HAVE TO
WATCH HIM! HE'S TERRIBLE-
HAPPY WITH HIS SHOTGUN!



WONDER WHERE BEN IS IF HE USUALLY
STOPS EVERYBODY'SON! THROUGH
THE CANYON!

THE
DOOR'S
OPEN!



LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE!
MAYBE THE OLD FELLA'S SICK!





JUST KEEP ON RIPPIN' TO THE END O' THE CANYON! THEN HEAD DUE WEST! NOW GIT GOIN'!



THE THREE O' 'EM HAD A COMPAR... COULDN'T HEAR WHAT THEY SAID...

THE OLD MAN'S SEEN OUR FACES! HE HESIT TALK, SHAD!

DON'T WORRY, BUM! HE WON'T TALK! COME ON!



DON'T LIKE STRANGERS ON MY LAND! SO GET MOVIN' FAST!

WE'RE GOIN', POP! STRANGERS WON'T BE BOTHERIN' YOU ANY MORE!



THE KINGLEADER FIRED A SHOT AT ME... AN' THEY GALLOPED AWAY! GUESS THEY FIGURED THEY'D RUSHED ME OFF!



I'M TOUGHER'N THEY THOUGHT... CRUMBLIN' IN HEART... COULDN'T MAKE THE BUNK!

WE'LL FIX YOU BEST WE CAN BEN! THEN I'LL SEND DOC TO BRING YOU INTO TOWN!



AFTER JOHNNY AND THE SHERIFF HAD MADE OLD BEN COMFORTABLE...

FORGOT TO TELL YOU... THE KINGLEADER HAD A CROOKED BEAK RIPPIN' CLEAN ACROSS THE BACK O' HIS LEFT HAND!

THAT'S A BIG HELP, BEN! YOU LIE QUIET! TELL DOC OBYS HERE!

NO USE TALKIN' 'EM NOW!
THEY'RE GOT TOO LONG A
START AND IT'LL SOON
BE DARK!

WE KNOW THE MAN,
WE'RE HUNTING FOR
NOW... AN ROBBER
WITH A SCAR ON
HIS LEFT HAND!



IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE THE
SAME GOKKS THAT HIT THE
OTHER TOWNS AND GOT
LOST IN THE CROWDS AT
THE ROODES!

SURE POSS! YOU
SURPRISED 'EM AND
CHASSED 'EM INTO THE
HILLS! SO THEY HAD TO
TAKE THE LONG WAY
'ROUND TO THE ROODES
GROUNDS!



A SHORT TIME LATER...

I SURE WISH YOU'D STAY
IN CLEAR WELLS ARRHS,
JOHNNY! I NEED YOUR
HELP TO CATCH THESE
THEIRN' KILLERS!

I'LL BE GLAD TO
STAY, BILL! IT'LL BE
LIKE THE OLD DAYS
WHEN WE STAY
TOGETHER!



HOW ABOUT LETTING THE
ROBBERS THINK THEY FINISHED
OLP MEN ? THEY'LL FEEL
SAFE...BE OFF GUARD?

GOOD IDEA! I'LL
TELL DOC TO
BRING HIM TO MY
HOUSE TONIGHT!



**THAT NIGHT... IN THE
FLORADO HOTEL...**

HERE COMES THE
RIPIN' DOC, JOHNNY!
HE NOW ALL THE BIG
PRIZE MONEY
AGIN' TODAY!

HE'S SURE GETTING
FAMOUS! PEOPLE ARE
TALKING ABOUT HIM
EVERYWHERE I'VE BEEN!





The Sheriff introduces Johnny to Rod Lusk, the Ryan' Foot, and his Foreman.



LATER THAT NIGHT... IN SHAG'S ROOM IN THE ELDERADO HOTEL....



NOT THESE SHARPS THE NEXT DAY...



WE'RE ALL SET, BOYS!
NOBODY'LL BE IN THE
HOTEL BUT THE
OLD CLERK!

I STILL DON'T
LIKE IT, SHAD!



ARE YOU TWO TURNIN' YELLOW?
WE'VE GOT A POOL-PROOF
RACKET! NOBODY'D SUSPECT
THE FAMOUS 'KIDN' POOL'S
FEDERMAN AND KANCH HANDS!

OKAY, SHAD!
FORGET WHAT
I SAID!



I'LL GO FIRST! YOU TWO
FOLLOW! WE'LL DO THE JOB
AND BE BACK HERE BEFORE
THE MAIN EVENT!

WE'RE WITH
YOU, SHAD!

*SHORT TIME LATER ... IN ANOTHER PART OF
THE HORDED GROUNDS ...*



WE'VE COMBED THE CROWD
... NOT A SIGN OF THE MAN
WITH THE BEAR ON HIS HAND!

PERHAPS HE AND HIS
PALS HAVE VANISHED!



I THINK WE'D BETTER HEAD BACK
TO CLEAR WELLS BEFORE
EVERYONE LEAVES TOWN
TO COME
OUT HERE!

DEER, JOHNNY!
BUT THE WARMINGS
HAVE NEVER STRUCK
THICE IN THE
SAME PLACE!



THEY COULD CHANGE,
BILL! THERE'S A LOT
OF MONEY IN TOWN!

YOU'RE RIGHT! WE'D
BETTER NOT TAKE
ANY CHANCES!



GET A MOVE ON, POP! WE'RE IN A HURRY!

D-DON'T SHOOT, M-BROTHER! I'M TRYIN' T-TO OPEN IT!

WELL...



TIE UP THE OLD MAN WHILE I GET THE DOUGH!



WE DON'T GET HERE ANY TOO SOON, JOHNNY! THE TOWN LOOKS EMPTY ALREADY!



EVERYBODY WENT OUT EARLY TO GET GOOD SEATS! LET'S STOP AT THE HOTEL! MOST OF THE BETTING MONEY'S IN THE SAFE THERE!



THE SHERIFF AND THAT BROWN HORSE ARE HEADIN' THIS WAY! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!



WE'LL CIRCLE ROUND THE TOWN... THEN HEAD FOR THE OLD BARN ON THE REDDY GROUNDS!

HARDWARE
HOTEL
RESTAURANT
ENTRANCE



BUT, WHEN JOHNNY AND THE SHERIFF REACH THE RODEO GROUNDS, THE THREE HORSES AND RIDERS HAVE DISAPPEARED...

WE'VE LOST THEM AGAIN, BELL! THEY'VE GOON UNDER CODE SOMEWHERE IN THE CROWD!

CAN'T FIND ANY HORN-DIDDEN HORSES, EITHER!



AT THAT SAME TIME... IN AN OLD BARN AT THE EDGE OF THE RODEO GROUNDS...

WE MADE IT, BOYS! TAKE CARE OF THE HORSES! I'VE GOT TO SHOW UP WHEN BOB RIDES!



STEADY, BOY! NOBODY'LL LOOK IN THE RIDEY FOOL'S SADDLE BAGS FOR THE SHOWN MONEY!



LATER... AS JOHNNY AND THE SHERIFF CONTINUE THE SEARCH...

NOW, THE MAIN EVENT... THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE RIDEY FOOL AND THE OUTLAW KILLER, BIG RED... THE PRIZE IS BIG RED, HIMSELF!



THERE HE GOES! RIDE HIM, BOB! LOOK AT THE RIDEY FOOL!!





A FEW
MINUTES
LATER...

SOME BAD BRUISES... AND A BROKEN
LEG! I'LL TAKE HIM TO MY HOUSE
FOR A FEW DAYS!

THANKS, BROWN!
YOU SURE SAVED
MY LIFE!



SUDDENLY, JOHNNY
NOTICES THE SCAR ON
SHAD'S LEFT HAND...



THAT'S A STRANGE-LOOKING
SCAR ON YOUR HAND, SHAD!
HOW'D YOU GET IT?

A BRONC
TOSSED ME INTO
A BARBED-WIRE
FENCE!



JOHNNY AND THE SHERIFF HAD FORMED
DOWN A SHORT TIME LATER...

LOOKS LIKE THE
BIRDY POOL'S OWN
FOOLMAN IS THE
HEAD BANDIT!
IT'S HARD TO
BELIEVE,
ISN'T IT?

SURE IS! BUT WE'VE GOT
TO FIND MORE PROOF THAN
THE SCAR! WE'LL SEARCH
HIS HOTEL ROOM!



SHALL WE
TELL ROD?

NOT TILL WE HAVE
POSITIVE PROOF TO
SHOW HIM!



LOOK OUT,
BILL!

A BUSHWACKER!!

BLAM!





THEY RISE TO THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE AND ARE
GREETED BY HIS WIFE...



DROP THAT GUN, ROD!!



ON YOUR FEET, SHAD! WHO ARE YOUR TWO PARTNERS... AND WHERE IS THE STOLEN MONEY?



ROD GRABS HIS KNIFE AND HURLS IT...

NOT SO FAST, LUCK!



AWNY TALKS, LUCK!

OKAY! I KNOW WHEN I'M BEATEN! BUT IT WAS A GOOD GAME WHILE IT LASTED!



The NEXT DAY...

I'LL BE MOVIN' ON NOW, BILL! THE JOB'S DONE! THE BIRM' POOL AND HIS PAL'S ARE LOCKED UP... AND YOU'VE GOT THE STOLEN MONEY!

THANKS TO YOU, JOHNNY! ...BY THE WAY...WE'RE HWAIN' ANOTHER ROPED IN AUGUST! WHY DON'T YOU STOP THROUGH? YOU DIDN'T GET TO SEE MUCH OF THIS ONE!



Johnny Mack Brown

IN DEVIL'S CANYON DELUGE

STAND UP TO 'EM, MEN! SHOW 'EM THE SALT YOU'RE MADE ON! THEIR THREATS WON'T STOP US FROM GOING UP-RIVER!

TRUBLE IS BIDDING AT THE INLAND TERMINAL OF THE GREAT WEST OVER-STEAMER COMPANY. THIS TOWN IS LITTLE BEND, THE LAST STOP ON THE STEAMER LINE ...

LOOKS LIKE I DON'T GET CAPTAIN FULLER'S MESSAGE ANY TOO SOON!

HO BOYS HAVE GOT THEIR HANDS FULL! MAYBE I CAN EVEN UP THE ODDS A BIT!





HOPE YOU CAN FIND OUT WHO'S BEHIND THIS! THEY'VE HELD ME UP A WEEK, BY SCARING AWAY MY CREW! I'VE GOT TO LEAVE TOMORROW MORNING AT THE LATEST!

I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO! THEY LOOK LIKE TOUGH NUTS TO CRACK!



WE WANT TO QUIT, CAPTAIN! WE CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE!

YOU CAN'T QUIT! I'M EXPECTIN' TWO NEW MEN THIS EVENING! THEN WE'LL HAVE A FULL CREW!



WELL... WE DON'T BARGAIN ON ALL THIS ROUGH STUFF, BUT WE'LL TAKE ANOTHER CHANCE!

THANKS, LADD!



I DIDN'T DREAM THINGS WERE THIS SERIOUS WHEN YOU WROTE ASKING FOR MY HELP, SAM!

IT WASN'T THIS BAD THEN! BUT WHOEVER'S TRYING TO STOP ME IS GETTIN' PLENTY TOUGH NOW!



HAH! I UNDERSTAND STEAMERS HAVE NEVER GONE UPSTREAM BEYOND THIS POINT!

RIGHT, BUT I'VE SUNK EVERYTHING I OWN INTO THIS OLD TUB TO PROVE THAT THE RIVER CAN BE NAVIGATED ANOTHER FIFTY MILES!



THERE'S A RICH GOLD FIELD UP THERE NOW AND THEY NEED SUPPLIES! IF I CAN GET THESE SUPPLIES UP THERE IN TWO DAYS, I'LL PROVE THAT THERE CAN BE REGULAR RUNS UP THE RIVER!



LATER THAT NIGHT, SAM'S TWO NEW CREW MEMBERS APPROACH THE SHARP.

THAT LOOKS LIKE CAPTAIN FULLER'S CUT 'EM UP AHEAD!

SURE WILL BE GLAD TO HIT THAT BUNK!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

NOT A BAD FIT!

HOW TO GET ABOARD THAT BOAT?



LATER, ABOARD CAPTAIN FULLER'S BOAT...

WIGHTY GLAD TO HAVE YOU ABOARD! DO YOU KNOW RIVER SAILIN'?

YEAH! ME AN' BULLY ARE OLD HANDS! WE'LL GET THIS TUB UP THE RIVER FOR YA!



STOW YOUR GEAR IN THE CABIN APT! WE'LL GET UNDER WAY IMMEDIATELY!

THOSE TWO DON'T ADD UP AS SAILORS! THEY'RE WEARING RIDING BOOTS!



FULLER'S BOAT PULLS AWAY FROM THE DOCK, STARTING ON A PIONEER VENTURE UP THE UNCHARTED RIVER...



THE INVENTIVELY BOY PASSES... THEN, LATE THE NEXT EVENING, IN THE CREW'S CABIN...

THE CAPTAIN'S JUST ABOUT FROZEN HIS POINT ABOUT NAVIGATIN' THIS RIVER, BUDDY!

YEAH! HE'S COVERED HALF THE DISTANCE ALREADY! WE'D BETTER GET OUR PLAN INTO OPERATION!



HERE'S THE BOILER ROOM! ALL THAT NOISE'LL KEEP ANYONE FROM HEARING WHAT WE'RE DOING!

RIGHT! WE CAN SLUG THOSE TWO MUGS IN THERE, FOUL UP THE SAFETY VALVE AND GET OUT FAST!



ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO! SET OVER THERE AGAINST THE WALL!

WHAT?



15 MINUTE LATER...

WE GOTTA GET OUTA HERE FAST! WITH THAT WALLS CLOSED, THE OL' TUB'LL BLOW HIGHER THAN A KITE!

GET OUTSIDE AND HAVE THE LIFEBOAT READY TO LAUNCH! COME AND GET ME WHEN IT'S READY! I'LL STAY HERE IN CASE THE CAP'N CALLS!



SECONDS LATER, IN JONAH'S CABIN...

SOUNDS LIKE SOMEBODY'S MOVING SOMETHING ON DECK! STRANGER... AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT!



EVERYTHING'S IN PLACE EXCEPT THIS LIFEBOAT! LOOKS LIKE IT'S READY TO BE LAUNCHED!



MAYBE SAM AND BILLY KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT!



THAT'S STRANGE! THEY'RE NOT HERE! THEY SHOULD BE RESTING FOR THEIR SLEEP!



MAYBE THEY'RE IN THE BOILER ROOM WITH THE OTHER TWO CREW MEMBERS!



WATCH IT! SOMEONE'S COMING THIS WAY!

QUICK! BEHIND THESE BOXES!



SOON AS HE GETS INTO THE BOILER ROOM, WE'LL MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!



I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG! BOTH THOSE BOYS ARE OUT COLD! I WONDER...



WHEW! JEROSHAPAT! LOOK AT THAT GAUGE!
THE SAFETY VALVE'S BEEN SHUT OFF!
THAT BOILER'S GOING TO
BLOW ANY SECOND!



IF THIS VALVE DOESN'T
OPEN, WE'LL BE BLOWN
SKY HIGH!



FOR A CANWHILE...

HURRY UP, YOU FOOL!
WE'VE GOT TO GET
THAT BOAT IN
THE WATER!



THAT DID IT!
NOW I THINK
I KNOW THE
REASON FOR
THE LOOSE
BOAT ON DECK!

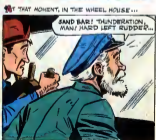
UNLESS I'M WRONG, I'LL FIND
PAK AND BULLY AT THE BOAT!

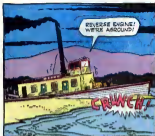


I WASN'T WRONG!

IT'S BROWN!









A FEW HOURS LATER...

THAT'S ABOUT ALL OF IT, SAM!
BUT SHE'S STILL STUCK FAST! I'M LUCKY, JOHNNY! I'LL NEVER MAKE IT UPRIVER NOW!



DON'T GIVE UP YET, CAPT! I HAVE AN IDEA HOW WE MIGHT FLOAT HER AGAIN!
WHAT IS IT, SON? SPEAK UP!

I KNOW THIS COUNTRY WELL! THERE'S A SMALL LAKE AND DAM UP IN THAT CANYON YONDER!



IF SOME OF THE WATER WERE RELEASED, THE SWELL MIGHT FREE THE BOAT!
IT'S OUR ONLY HOPE! GIVE IT A TRY, JOHNNY!



HEAR THAT? WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM!



SEE IF YOU CAN GET YOUR STEAM UP, SAM! YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN THE WATER COMES!

WE'LL BE READY! GOOD LUCK, LAD!



HOW ARE WE GONNA GET HIM?

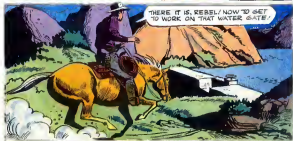
THE DAM ISN'T FAR! WE'LL FOLLOW ON FOOT AND STOP HIM BEFORE HE CAN LET MUCH WATER OUT!



IT SHOULDN'T BE FAR FROM HERE, REBEL!

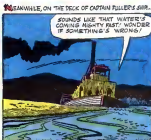


WE'LL SAVE TIME BY TAKING A SHORT CUT UP THROUGH THESE ROCKS! THEN WE TAKE OVER!



THERE IT IS, REBEL! NOW TO GET TO WORK ON THAT WATER GATE!





LOOK! THERE GOES THE SHIP NOW! THAT'LL BE THE LAST OF CAP FULLER!

NO ONE COULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THAT! LET'S GET TO TOWN!

CRUNCH!

RRROOOAAAARRR!

THE DAM BREAKS...

I'M FINISHED, BOYS! JUST WHAT COULD HAVE GONE WRONG—AND WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHNNY?

JOHNNY? WHAT HAPPENED!

FIX AND BILLY! THEY KNOCKED ME INTO THE RIVER AND OPENED THE WATER GATES WIDE!

I JUST BARELY MADE IT TO A CRVICE WHERE I CLIMBED OUT!

THEY PROBABLY THINK WE'RE ALL DEAD NOW!

I BET THEY'RE HEADIN' FOR THE GOLD CAMP TOWN! COME ON, LADS, LET'S GO GET 'EM!

LATER THAT DAY, IN A NEW MINING TOWN UPTOWN.





A PLEDGE **DELL** TO PARENTS
COMIC

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