

DELL
PUBLICATIONS

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Gene Autry's

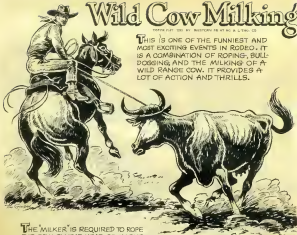
Champion



Wild Cow Milking

TRADE PLOT 123 BY WESTERN BUREAU OF LITHO. CO.

THIS IS ONE OF THE FUNNIEST AND MOST EXCITING EVENTS IN RODEO. IT IS A COMBINATION OF ROPING, BULL-DOSSING AND THE MILKING OF A WILD RANGE COW. IT PROVIDES A LOT OF ACTION AND THRILLS.



THE "MILKER" IS REQUIRED TO ROPE THE COW BY THE HEAD OR HORNS, AFTER SHE CROSSES THE DEADLINE. EACH MILKER IS ALLOWED ONE HELPER, KNOWN AS A "MUGGER." AFTER THE MILKER HAS ROPED THE COW AND STOPPED HER, THE

MUGGER GRABS HER BY THE HORNS AND ATTEMPTS TO HOLD HER, WHILE THE MILKER SQUEEZES OUT SOME MILK. JUST TO MAKE IT HARDER, IT IS REQUIRED THAT THE COW BE MILKED INTO A "COKE" OR SODA POP BOTTLE. THEN THE MILKER MUST RUN TO THE JUDGES' AND DELIVER THE MILK. NO MILK, NO PRIZE MONEY. MANY TIMES THESE WILD COWS GO ON THE PROUD AND CHASE MILKER, MUGGER, JUDGES, AND EVERYBODY OUT OF THE ARENA. IT IS A WILD AND WOOLY EVENT.



The RUSTLER STALLION

THREE DAYS OF HEAVY RAIN HAVE KEPT RICKY AND UNCLE SMOKY PRACTICALLY HOUSEBOUND.

HA-HA! I BEAT YOU AGAIN, UNCLE SMOKY!

SO YOU DO, RICKY? DON'T KNOW F I'M LOSIN' MY TOUCH—OR YOU'RE SETTIN' TOO GOOD!



BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, REBEL!

MIGHTY BAD WEATHER TO BE OUT! BUT I RECKON DOGS DON'T MIND IT ANY MORE THAN HORSES DO!

I HOPE CHAMP AND THE BROONIES ARE OKAY!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! IF MEN TOOK AS GOOD CARE OF EACH OTHER AS CHAMP DOES THOSE MARES, THIS WORLD WOULD BE A FINER PLACE!



THE MENTION OF CHAMP HAS GIVEN REBEL AN IDEA...



MEANWHILE, IN A HIDDEN CANYON





JAKE!
WHAT'S
UP?

PLENTY! ASHTON'S RANGE MARES
ARE UP ON THE MESA WITH HOBBY
GUARDIN' 'EM BUT THAT CHESTNUT
STALLION!



THAT'S CHAMPION,
THE WORLD'S
WONDER
HORSE! HE'S...

NEVER MIND HIM, SPUR,
LET'S GO AFTER THOSE
MARES! WE'LL NEVER
HAVE A BETTER
CHANCE!



RIGHT! THE
RAIN'LL
COVER OUR
TRACKS
AN'...

AN' LUCIFER DON'T MIND
THE WEATHER! I'LL
GET HIM OUT WHILE
YOU BOYS THROW ON
YOUR PONCHOS!



QUIET LUCIFER! CHAMP'LL
HEAR YOU!

'SUPPOSIN' HE DOES? LUCIFER
CAN TAKE HIS MEASURE! AN', JUST
IN CASE HE CAN'T, I GOT A SLUG
IN MY SUN WITH CHAMP'S
NAME ON IT!



THERE THEY ARE!
LUCKILY, THE WIND'S
BLOWIN' THIS WAY!
CHAMP HASN'T
SPOTTED US OR
CAUGHT OUR
SCENT YET!

ALL THIS STUFF ABOUT WHM
A WONDER HORSE CHAMP IS
DOESN'T IMPRESS ME? HE'S
ONLY A HORSE, AFTER ALL!



OO SET 'EM, BOY! BRING
'EM HOME!

WAGG
EE-EEET

THE BLACK STALLION'S WHICKERING REACHES CHAMP'S HEEN EARS...



AND HE RACES TO MEET THE INTERLOPER.



JAKE! LUCIFER'S GETTIN' THE WORST OF IT!

NOT FOR LONG, OUCH! I JUST WAIT TILL THE NEXT FLASH OF LIGHTNING...



YOU GOT HIM?



HE'S LYIN' AWFUL STILL, JAKE! RECKON YOU KILLED HIM?

WHO CARES? LET'S GIVE LUCIFER A HAND AN' CLEAR OUT O' HERE!



LATER...

THESE BROOMIES'LL BRING
A MIGHTY GOOD PRICE---IF
WE CAN GET 'EM AWAY
SAFELY!

WE'LL DO THAT ALL RIGHT! SOON
AS THE STORM'S OVER!



AT THAT MOMENT...

WOOF!
WOOF!



FAILING TO ROUSE HIS FRIEND...

WOOF!
WOOF!



REBEL RACES BACK TOWARD
THE FLYING-A...



AND A LITTLE LATER...

WOOF!
WOOF!



GOOH, UNCLE SMOKY! REBEL'S
ALL EXCITED! ACTS LIKE HE
WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM!

WHAT'RE WE
WAITIN' FOR?

WOOF!
WOOF!



BACK TO THE MESA RACES REBEL WITH SMOKY AND RICKY ON HIS HEELS



CHAMP'S BEEN HURT! HIS HEAD'S BLEEDING!

AN' THE MARES ARE GONE!



HE'LL BE OKAY! IT'S JUST A SCRATCH! I'LL FIX IT UP PRONTO! YOU SO PHONE FOR THE SHERIFF!



AS SMOKY FINISHES HIS FIRST-AID TREATMENT.....



OKAY, CHAMP! GO TO IT! FIND YOUR MARES--- AN' THE POLCATS WHO SWIPED 'EM!

AFTER TELEPHONING THE SHERIFF.....

UNCLE SMOKY DIDN'T SAY TO STAY HOME, REBEL! LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND THOSE THIEVING COYOTES!



IT'S A CINCIN THEY COULDN'T GET FAR IN THIS STORM! PROBABLY HOLED UP IN A NEARBY CANYON!



TWENTY MINUTES LATER

CHIMNEY SMOKE! AND NOBODY'S LIVED IN THAT SHACK FOR ASSES! I'LL BET WE HAVE FOUND THEM, REBEL!



LOOKS LIKE I'M DUE FOR A SOAKING! BUT I CAN'T CRAWL THROUGH THOSE BUSHES WITH FIAS ON!



NEIGH WHICKEREE!

HORSES! REBEL, THOSE ARE OUR MARES! FETCH UNCLE SMOKY! QUICK!



KERCHOO!

WHAT THE --- WHO'S THERE?



IT'D BE A LOT SMARTER TO BUMP HIM OFF---

NOTHIN' DOIN', DUTCH! I NEVER SHOT A KID! I'M NEVER GOIN' TO!

A MOMENT LATER

THIS KID WAS SNOOPIN' AROUND OUTSIDE!

ASHTON'S NEPHEW! TIE HIM UP!



JUST THEN.



THOSE MARES'RE SURE
RESTLESS! MAYBE I'D
BETTER TAKE A LOOKSEE---

RELAX, SPUR! THEY'LL
SETTLE DOWN! IT'S JUST
THE EXCITEMENT'S GOT 'EM!



OUTRICKY RECOGNIZES
CHAMP'S SNORTED
CHALLENGE

THAT'S CHAMP! I JAZZ
WE'D FIND THEM!



AGAIN THE GREAT STALLIONS BATTLE.



AND AGAIN CHAMP TRIUMPHS



BUT DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE THE DEATH BLOW INSTEAD.



IT'S NOT NATURAL FOR THOSE MARES TO KEEP ACTIN' UP! I'M GONNA SEE---



CHAMP MUST HAVE FOUND 'EM, JAKE! RECKON YOU DON'T FINISH---

CUT THE GAD! AN' LET'S GET MOVIN'! THEY CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR! DRUG LUCIFER IN CASE WE DON'T HEAD BACK THIS WAY!











GREAT SCOTTY! A FLASH FLOOD!
RUN, REBEL!

WHEE
AWAY!



IT'S GOING TO
BE MIGHTY
CLOSE!

SNORT!



WE MADE IT!
JUST IN TIME, TOO!



IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU AND
REBEL, CHAMP, I'D BE UNDER
THAT MUD AND WATER!
YOU'RE WONDERFUL!

HOW TO FIND
UNCLE SMOKY!
AND THE
SHERIFF!





THIS IS A HECK OF A PLACE
TO HIDE, JAKE! LET'S
MAKE A BREAK FOR
THE BORDER AN'---

YOU'RE NOT VERY SMART, SPURF! THEY WON'T THINK OF
LOOKIN' FOR US HERE! WE'LL GET GOIN' WHEN
THE RAIN STOPS!

BACK AT THE
MESA



HOPE LUCIFER ISN'T
HURT TOO BAD!
CHAMP SURE
PUNISHED HIM!

HE'LL BE OKAY!
WHAT BOTHERS ME
IS WHERE CHAMP
GOT TO! HE---



GODDAMN! IF
THAT'S NOT A
POSSE---

IT IS! KEEP DOWN!
MAYBE THEY WON'T SPOT US!



THE RAIN SURE COVERED
THEIR TRACKS, SMOKEY!
NOW IT'S CLEARIN',
MAYBE---

HOLD IT, SHERIFF!
HERE COMES RICKY!
AN' I DON'T NEED
TWO LOOKS TO KNOW
SOMETHING'S UP!



UNCLE SMOKEY! WE
FOUND THEIR HIDE-OUT!
THEY TIED ME UP! AN'
LETT ME IN A MUD
SLIDE!

WHOA THERE!
I CAN'T SAVVY
WHEN YOU TALK
SO FAST! BACK
UP AND START OVER!



AFTER RICKY TELLS HIS STORY

TWO-TO-ONE THEY'VE
HEADED FOR THE
BORDER?

RIGHT! RICKY, YOU GET
ALONG HOME AN' OUT
OF THOSE WET
CLOTHES!

JAKE! THE
KID'S HEADIN'
THIS WAY!

GOOD! GRAB HIM! AN' THE DOG, TOO!
WE'LL USE THEM TO GET OUT OF HERE
THE EASY WAY! THEY WON'T SHOOT
IF THEY'RE SCARED OF HITTIN'
THEM!



WHAT IS IT, REBEL?
FIND SOMETHING?

OWWWW!



A MOMENT LATER

AS-TON! WE GOT YOUR KID! ONE FALSE
MOVE FROM ANY OF YOU, AN' IT'LL BE
CURTAINS FOR HIM!



GREAT SCOTT! THEY'VE GOT RICKY! FOR
HEAVEN'S SAKE, DON'T ANYBODY SQUEEZE
A TRIGGER!

DON'T EVEN
MOVE, MEN!



WHICKER-BEEET!

WHAT IN
BLAZES?

CHAMP RECOGNIZES HIS ENEMY'S CRY AND

WHEEE-
AUGH!

THAT BLACK
STALLION! HE'S
CALLIN' YOUR
NAES!

DON'T WORRY,
SHERIFF CHAMP'LL
TAKE CARE OF HIM!



... THIS TIME CHAMP MAKES SHORT
WORK OF THE BLACK STALLION



RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
CHAMP'S COMIN' FOR US!



STOP HIM RIGHT! WE WANT
THESE BIRDS ALIVE!





ROAD to REVENGE



CAFE
Serving
Coffee
Cakes

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE
GOT TIME FOR A SNACK
BEFORE THE BUS COMES!
WHAT DO YOU SAY?

OHAY BY
ME, PERRY!

ME,
TOO!

BUS
DEPOT



GOSH, RUTH, THESE
BAGS ARE LIGHT!
ARE YOU CARRYING
EMPTY ONES?

PRACTICALLY! BUT THEY'LL
BE CRAMPED FULL WHEN I
COME BACK! THIS IS MY ONCE-
A-YEAR SHOPPING SPREE,
YOU KNOW!

US
NY
A store of
Goods
at
Lowest
Prices
Available
MINIMAL



I'LL SURE
MISS YOU,
MONEY!

BUT, PERRY! SHE'S
ONLY GOING TO BE
GONE FOR THREE
DAYS!



HOWDY, FOLKS!
WHAT'LL IT BE?

A HAMBURGER AND A
GLASS OF MILK A PIECE,
AGAM? WE'RE IN KIND OF
A HURRY! RUTH'S CATCHING
THE NEXT BUS TO THE
CITY!



WELL, ADVISE ME A
PACK OF CIGARETTES,
PLEASE! THE USUAL
BRAND?

RIGHT HERE! SAY!
YOU HAVEN'T MET
RUTH AND PERRY
BLOCK!—AN' RICKY
WEST! FOLKS, THIS
IS CHUCK PHILLIPS!

CHUCK OPERATES A CROP
DUSTIN' OUTFIT OUT WEST
O' TOMES' JUST STARTED
UP AN' OON' PREGGY
GOOD-EN, CHUCK?

SO-SO? GLAD TO
HAVE MET YOU,
POLSKI! SEE
YOU AGAIN!



HE ALWAYS TALKS
REAL WHISPERY LIKE
THAT? RECKON HE'S
GOT SOME KIND OF
THROAT TROUBLE!

I WAS WONDERING!...
OH-OH, RUTH!
THERE'S
YOUR
BUS!



LATER, AT THE FLYING-A

SORRY YOU
WON'T COME IN
FOR A WHILE!

SOME OTHER TIME, RICKY!
I WANT TO GO ON OUT TO
PHILLIPS' PLACE! MAYBE
HE CAN DUST MY CROPS
WHILE RUTH'S AWAY!



AS PERRY HEARS THE PHILLIPS' PLACE

AND NEITHER RUTH NOR
PERRY RECOGNIZED MR.
HIGHPOCKETS'. I PASSED
THE TEST OKEY!

DON'T GET TOO
COFFEY, CARL!
BUT-POSE YOU
FORGET TO
WHISPER SOME-
TIME? YOU'LL...



DON'T CALL ME CARL!...
SIT HERE COMES
PERRY! WORDER WHAT
HE WANTS?

SEEMIN' HEF SAID
IT SHOULD BE
REAL INTERESTIN'!



A LITTLE LATER

THEN IT'S ALL SET, PHILLIPS!
YOU'LL DUST MY CROPS
DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

RIGHT!



WELL, HISHPOCKETS! THE PAYOFF'S FINALLY HERE! THAT GUY'S GOING TO PAY FOR SENDING ME TO JAIL.



AFTER THE PAYROLL ROBBERY BACK EAST...



GREAT SCOTT! THAT BASTARD'S CARL PROCTOR--THE AIRPLANE PILOT!

"HIS TESTIMONY DOOKED MY GOOSE! AN' RUTH THREW ME OVER!"

I'M REALLY SORRY, CARL. PERRY AND I COULDN'T HELP FALLING IN LOVE!

A DOUBLE CROSS ALL THE WAY AROUND! WELL, YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT! I'LL MAKE SURE OF THAT!



"LUCKY FOR ME THE COPS NEVER FOUND THE PAYROLL DOUGH!"

IT'S A LOT OF DOUGH, BOGE! BUT WORTH EVERY PENNY! YOU DID A SWELL JOB!

NOT BAD, IF I DO SAY SO, MYSELF!



YEAH, I KNOW ALL THAT! YOU CHANGED YOUR NAME TO CHUCK PHILLIPS, YOUR VOICE TO A WHISPER, BOUGHT THIS PLANE--AN' HERE WE ARE-- CRAP DUSTIN' PHOOIE!

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW BEFORE WE'LL BE HEADING BACK EAST!



TWO DAYS LATER...

NO SIGNS OF LIFE AROUND HERE! PERRY MUST BE IN THE FIELDS! LET'S FIND HIM, BOYS!



WHED-
UH!

WHED-
UH!



PER-RY!... THAT'S FUNNY! WONDER WHERE HE IS?

WUFF!



CHAMP! REBEL! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHUH-HUH-HUH?

RRUFF!



IT'S PERRY! HURT!



GOLLY! HE'S BEEN SHOT! I DON'T DARE MOVE HIM!



KEEP AN EYE ON HIM, REBEL! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

WUFF!



RICKY RACES TO THE HOUSE...

PERRY BLOK'S BEEN SHOT, SHERIFF! COME ON THE DOUBLE! AN' BRING DOCTOR MASON! WE'LL BE IN THE NORTH FIELD!



AND A SHORT TIME LATER...

NO SIGN OF A GUN--OR A SHELL! I CAN'T FIGURE WHERE THE SHOT CAME FROM! HOW'S PERRY DOIN', DOC?

STILL UNCONSCIOUS! HE MAY BE IN A COMA FOR SOME TIME!



WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE? WHERE'S PERRY? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

EASY, RUTH! EVERYTHING'S GOIN' TO BE ALL RIGHT! SIT DOWN. AN' I'LL TELL YOU.



LATER...
GLAD YOU CAME BACK A DAY EARLY, RUTH! PERRY'S SURE TO GET WELL WITH YOU TO NURSE HIM!

I HOPE SO, DOCTOR! I'LL CALL YOU THE MINUTE THERE'S ANY CHANCE!



RUTH! REBEL'S FOUND A BANDAID! IS THIS PERRY'S?

NO! I NEVER SAW IT BEFORE!



MAYBE THE DRYGULCHER LOST IT? BETTER TURN IT OVER TO THE SHERIFF!

I WILL! AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, RICKY! PERRY MIGHT HAVE DIED IF YOU HADN'T FOUND HIM!



MIDAFTERNOON AT THE FLYING-A...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, RICKY! PERRY'S WELL-LIKED AROUND HERE! NO ENEMIES THAT I EVER KNEW OF-- OH-OH, I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING!



WHEN PERRY AND RUTH FIRST LANDED HERE, THEY TOLD ME SOME HONNOR BACK EAST HAD THREATENED TO KILL 'EM! I WONDER--



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

YES, RUTH! I'VE GOT IT! CARL PROCTOR'S STILL IN PRISON LAST YOU HEARD! I'LL HAVE SHERIFF M'ELISH CHECK ON HIM FRONT!

AND STILL LATER...

GAH, SMOKEY! IF YOU INSIST, I'LL SEND A WIRE ABOUT PROCTOR!

I DO INSIST! WHAT'S MORE, I'LL PAY FOR THE WIRE! DON'T YOU KNOW WHEN I'VE HAD A STRONGER MUNCH ABOUT ANYTHING?



YOU KNOW, UNCLE SMOKEY? I THINK YOU'RE GETTING WAY OUT ON A LIMB!

MAYBE SO! AND MAYBE I'M CLIMBING THE RIGHT TREE AFTER A WRONG GUY!



LATE THAT NIGHT

YOU'VE GOT TO GET MY BLASTED HANKERCHIEF BACK BEFORE SOMEBODY FINDS IT!

OKAY! I'LL PARK HERE AN' OUT ACROSS ASHTON'S RANGE SO NOBODY'LL FIND ME!



STILL LATER

OUT O' MY WAY, NAG!



I SAID--- MOVE!

WHICKER-EEEE!

WHEE-AWAY!



WHEE-EE-AWAY!

I'M SCRAMMIN'! CHUCK CAN GET HIS OWN HANKERCHIEF!





NEXT MORNING
PHILLIPS' PLACE? LET'S AMBLE
DOWN* MAYBE HE'LL LET US LOOK
OVER THE PLANE!

THERE'S CHUCK
WOOD* HE'S THE
OWNER OF THE
PLANE!



I NEVER SAW A CROP
DUSTING PLANE, MISTER
PHILLIPS? MIND IF I
TAKE A LOOK AT YOURS?

NOT AT ALL! I'LL EXPLAIN
THE WAY IT WORKS---OH---OH!
OH! THE PHONE! BE WITH
YOU IN A MINUTE!

R-R-RING!



OHAY, MR. WOOD* WE'LL
BE THERE! GOOD-BYE!



C'MON, MIST* I'LL SHOW YOU
THE PLANE, NOW!

THAT
CIGARETTE
CASE?



WHAT'RE YOU DOIN', MIST*
DAYDREAMIN'?

HUH?---OH---NO* JUST
REMEMBERIN'---
SOMETHIN'!

I PROMISED UNCLE SMOKY I'D MEND THE FENCE TODAY! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN-CHECK ON INSPECTING THE PLANE!

COME BACK ANY TIME!

WHEE-AW!

THAT'S CHAMP! COME ON!

HELP! THIS BLASTED HORSE IS TRYIN' TO KILL ME!

CHAMP! QUIT IT! WHAT'S AILING YOU?

I'M SORRY CHAMP SCARED YOU! I DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO HIM!

WELL, I'M STAYIN' UP HERE TILL YOU'RE GONE!

RICKY NIGHTAILS IT TO TOWN AND

YOUR THEORY'S ALL WRONG, RICKY! I KNOW CARL PROCTOR! CHUCK PHILLIPS DOESN'T EVEN RESEMBLE HIM!

MAYBE SO! BUT IT SEEMS PECULIAR TO ME! THEY'VE BOTH GOT THE SAME INITIALS AND PROCTOR'S BEEN OUT OF PRISON FOR SIX MONTHS! LONG ENOUGH TO TRACK YOU AND PERRY DOWN!

“HMMM! YOU MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING AT THAT, RICKY! PROCTOR SHOOK OFF AN INSURANCE DETECTIVE TRAILING HIM TO RECOVER THE STOLEN MONEY! THEN HE PLUMB DISAPPEARED!”



“HERE COMES MISTER PHILLIPS NOW!”

“THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! HERE, REBEL!”



“ARF!”

“TAKE A GOOD SNIFF, BOY! THEN GET OUTSIDE AND FIND THE OWNER!”

“RR-RUFF!”



ALMOST IMMEDIATELY REBEL PICKS UP THE SCENT...

“GO AWAY!”

“RUFF!”



“REBEL! DOWN! SORRY, MR. PHILLIPS!”

“PHEW! SOME BATTING PAIR OF ANIMALS YOU’VE GOT, RICK! BETTER TIE THEM UP BEFORE SOMEBODY PLUGS THEM!”

“THERE! THAT PROVES THE HANDKERCHIEF BELONGS TO PHILLIPS!”

“MAYBE SO! BUT IT DOESN’T PROVE HE SHOT PERRY!”





NOT FAR AS I KNOW, CHAMP NEVER SAW HIGH-POCKETS BEFORE! BUT HE MUST'VE HAD A GOOD REASON!

WONDER IF IT HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE GROP DUSTING PLANE! IT FLIES KINDA LOW AND-----

OF COURSE! THAT'S IT! EITHER PHILLIPS OR HIGHPOCKETS SHOT PERRY FROM THE PLANE--WITH A RIFLE! SHERIFF MELLISH COULDN'T FIND THE EJECTED SHELL BECAUSE IT FELL INSIDE THE PLANE!



BY GORY, RICKY! MAYBE YOU HAVE HIT ON IT!

THAT'S NOT ALL! I'VE READ ABOUT CROOKS HAVING THEIR FACES CHANGED BY SOME KIND OF-----

PLASTIC SURGERY! JUMPIN' JERODIAPRAT! NOW, I'VE GOT AN IDEA OF MY OWN! I'M PHONING RUTH AND SHERIFF MELLISH PRONTO!



THAT EVENING

IT'S AN INTERESTING THEORY, SMOKY! BUT IT ISN'T PROOF!

I KNOW! SO RICKY AND I HAVE WORKED OUT A PLAN



FIRST, WE SPREAD THE WORD THAT PERRY'S WOUND WAS FATAL! WE'LL HAVE TO KEEP HIM UNDERCOVER TILL AFTER THE INQUEST, SO NOBODY FINDS OUT HE'S REALLY RECOVERING! THEN



LATER..

I'LL ISSUE THE WITNESSES' SUMMONS FIRST THING IN THE MORNING!

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE PHILLIPS AND HIGHPOCKETS!



THE NEXT AFTERNOON...

I TOLD YOU THEY WOULD GET WISE! YOU SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO ME!

DON'T BE STUPID, HIGHPOCKETS! THIS IS JUST ROUTINE! NOTHING TO GET ALARMED ABOUT!



SAYS YOU! WE OUGHT TO CLIMB IN THAT PLANE AN' TAKE OFF!

I WOULDN'T MISS THAT INQUEST FOR ANYTHING! IT SHOULD BE VERY INTERESTING! BESIDES, I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS-- WITH RUTH!



THE DAY OF THE INQUEST

SORRY, FOLKS! THESE PROCEEDINGS ARE CLOSED!

OFFICE OF THE CORONER



GOLLY! ISN'T THIS
EXCITING, RUTH?
I SURE HOPE IT
WORKS!

IF IT DOESN'T, WE'RE
SUNK! PERRY DOESN'T
REMEMBER A SINGLE
THING!



HANDED IF I KNOW WHAT
WE CAN TELL THE GOONER,
SHERIFF!

I RECKON ANSWER-
ING HIS QUESTIONS
WILL BE ENOUGH!



RECKON EVERYONE'S HERE,
DOCTOR MASON?

THEN I WILL CALL THE FIRST
WITNESS! MISTER CHUCK PHILLIPS!



NOW, RUCKY!



OKAY, REBEL! THIS IS IT!





IN HIS EXCITEMENT, CHUCK CROPS HIS DISGUISED VOICE...

HIGHPOCKETS!
YOU FOOL!



HE IS CARL PROCTOR!
I'VE NEVER FORGOT
THAT VOICE!



DON'T ANYBODY MOVE! I'M
LEAVIN' 'EM ALL IN ONE
PIECE, TOO!



SMOKEY! GO AFTER HIM!
ON THE DOUBLE!



THIS BIRD'S
FLYING, TOO!



PUT THAT GUN BACK IN THE HOLSTER, SHERIFF! AND LEAVE IT THERE! OR---



I'LL DRILL A HOLE THROUGH RUTH BEFORE I REACH THE DOOR!



REBEL HAS COME TO.



BIAM!

WHAT THE---



REBEL YOU WERE WONDERFUL!

C'MON PROCTOR! TOO BAD FOR YOU. WHOEVER CHANGED YOUR FACE COULDN'T'VE CHANGED YOUR VOICE, TOO!



IN THE MEANTIME



CHAMP GIVES A MIGHTY TUG



I'LL FILL YOU FULL O' DAYLIGHT, YOU --



CHAMP LUNGES SIDEWISE





NO THANKS TO THEM, I'M NOT ONE!



WHICH IS NO MORE THAN WE SHOULD EXPECT FROM THE FAST RECORDS OF THE WORLD'S WONDER HORSE AND HIS GREAT PAL!