A DELL COMIC
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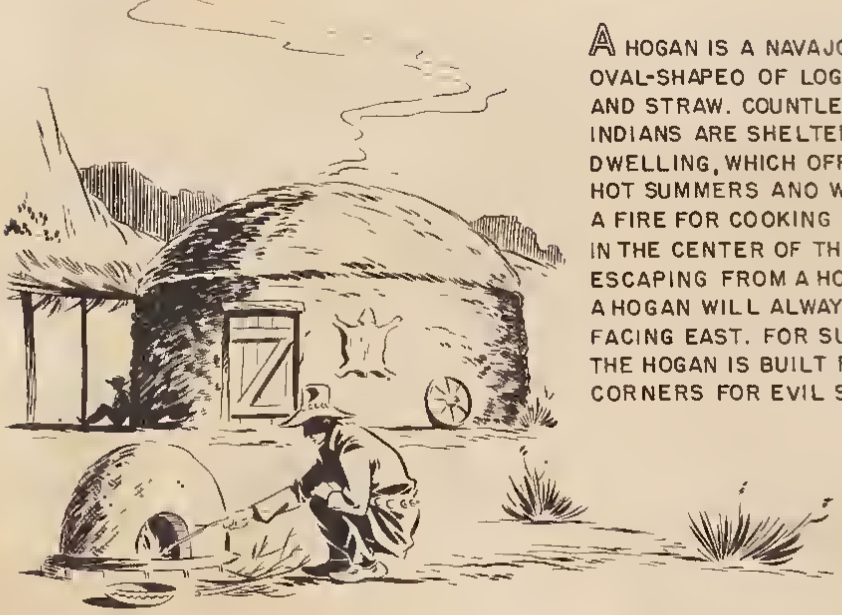
NO. 9 10¢
Wild Bill Elliott
comics

INDIAN and MEXICAN HOMES

THE HOGAN



A HOGAN IS A NAVAJO INDIAN HOME IT IS OVAL-SHAPED OF LOGS COVERED WITH MUD AND STRAW. COUNTLESS PRESENT DAY INDIANS ARE SHELTERED IN THIS TYPE OF DWELLING, WHICH OFFERS COOLNESS IN HOT SUMMERS AND WARMTH IN THE WINTER. A FIRE FOR COOKING AND HEATING IS MADE IN THE CENTER OF THE FLOOR, THE SMOKE ESCAPING FROM A HOLE IN THE ROOF. A HOGAN WILL ALWAYS HAVE ITS ONE DOOR FACING EAST. FOR SUPERSTITIOUS REASONS, THE HOGAN IS BUILT ROUND, ALLOWING NO CORNERS FOR EVIL SPIRITS TO DWELL IN.

AN ADOBE HOUSE

ADOBE HOUSES ARE MADE OF SUN-DRIED BRICKS AND ARE USUALLY FOUND IN THE VAST ARID PARTS OF THE SOUTH-WESTERN STATES, WHERE TIMBER IS SCARCE. THIS TYPE OF HOME GIVES COMFORT TO THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES, PARTICULARY THE MEXICANS OF THE UNITED STATES. THE COOL, EARTHEN WALLS OFFER PROTECTION FROM SEARING SUMMER SUN AND WINTER STORMS.

MEXICANS AND SOME TRIBES OF INDIANS ARE EXPERTS IN MAKING ADOBE BRICKS FROM SOIL FOUND ONLY IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

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Wild Bill Elliott

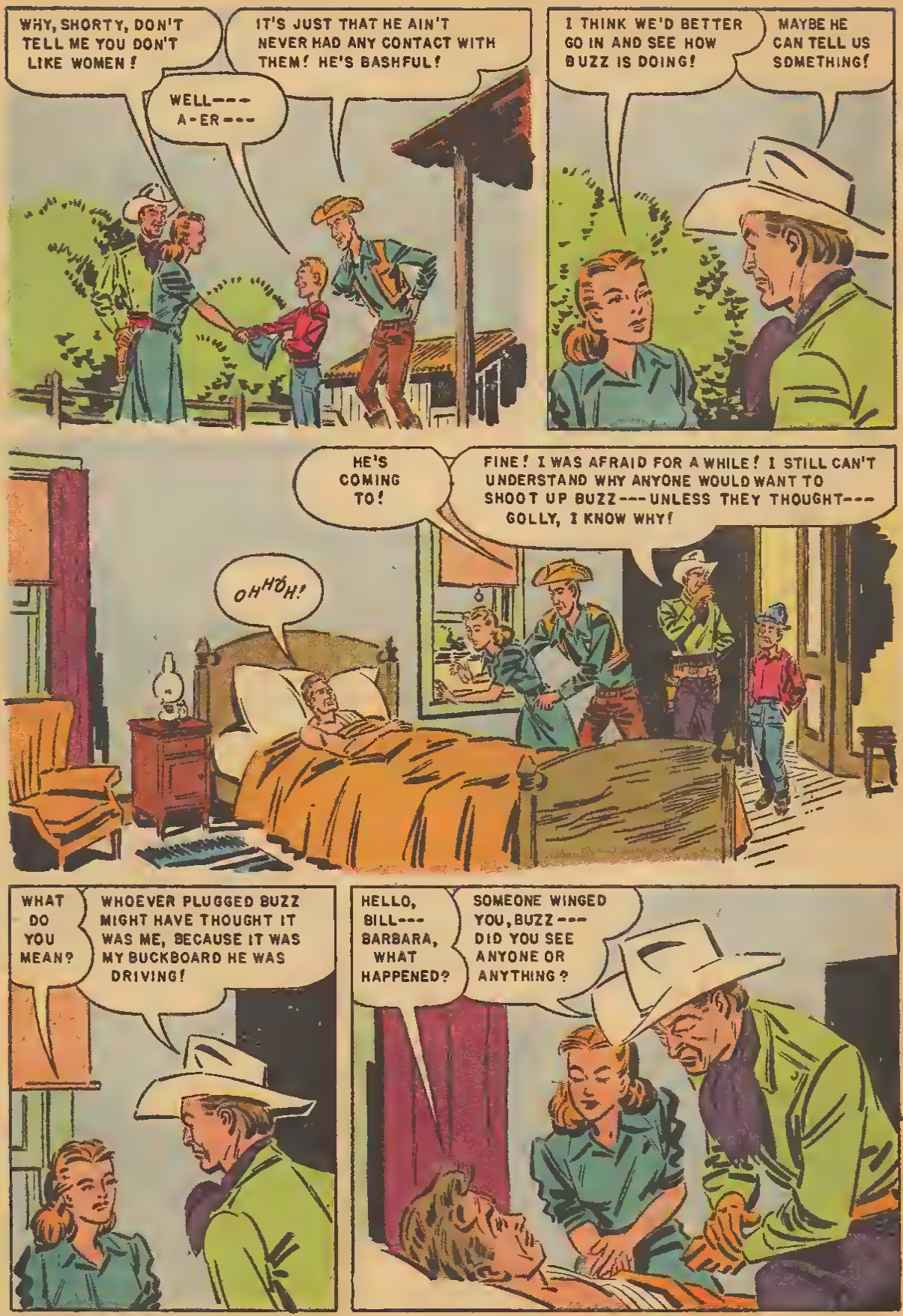
IN MISTAKEN IDENTITY

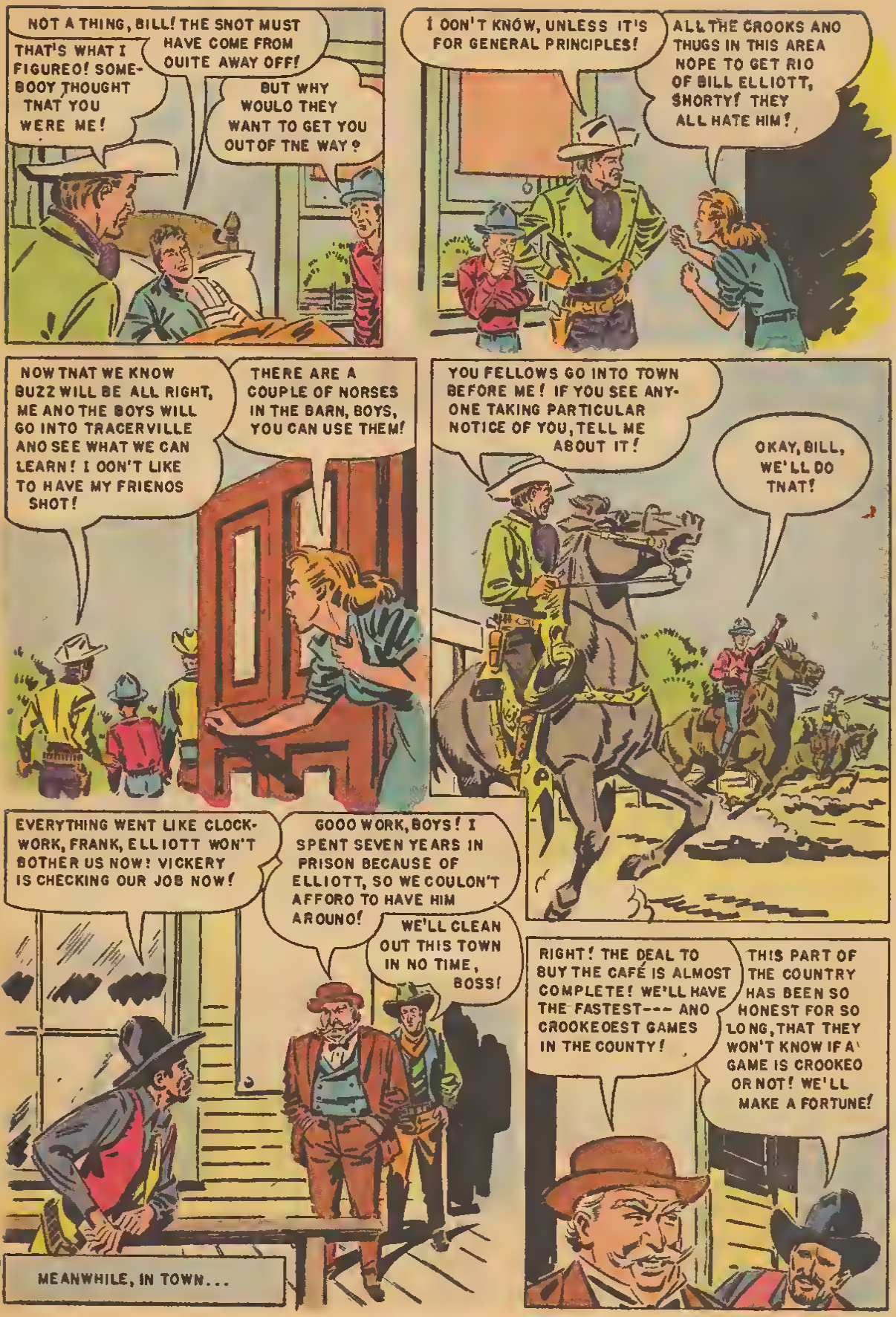
HOLO IT, FELLOW, THAT'S ENOUGH GUNPLAY!
WHAT THE--?
I SAIO HOLO IT, MISTER!
HOT ME, COWBOY--- YEEOW!
I'O BETTER SEE IF THOSE TWO ARE HURT!
WILO BILL ELLIOTT-- HARRY ANO WILLIE SURE MAOE A MISTAKE!
GO, (PUFF!) AHEAO! SHOOT! I'M TOO TIREO TO CARE!
HA-HA! I'M NOT GOING TO GUN YOU TWO FELLOWS! I JUST WANT TO KHOW WHAT'S GOIHG OH!
ME, (PUFF!) TOO!
IT ALL STARTEO WHEN WE OIDN'T MIHO OUR OWH BUSINESS--- SAY, AREN'T YOU BILL ELLIOTT?
YES, I'M ELLIOTT!
MY NAME'S SHORTY WATSON AHO THAT CRITTER IS STRETCH HEHDERSOH!
PAROON ME FOR NOT RISING, BILL, (PUFF!) BUT I'M TOO (PUFF!) BLAMEO TIREO!
THAT'S ALL RIGHT, STRETCH, I'M GLAO TO MEET YOU! NOW--- WHAT HAPPENEO?

STRETCH AND ME WAS WALKING DOWN THE ROAD OVER YONDER WHEN WE SAW A WRECKED BUCKBOARD OFF THE ROAD. WE STARTED TO INVESTIGATE AND THAT VARMINT WHO CHASED US CAME ROARING DOWN OUT OF THE ROCKS, FIRING LIKE WE WERE MURDERERS!
SO WE STARTED RUNNING!
I SAW THAT!
COME WITH US, BILL, AND WE'LL SHOW YOU WHERE IT HAPPENED!
LEAD ON, FELLOWS!
I NEVER WAS SO SCARED IN MY LIFE! BILL! WE AIN'T USED TO BEING SHOT AT!
NO ONE GETS USED TO THAT, SHORTY! BY THE WAY, HOW COME YOU TWO ARE PASSING THROUGH HERE?
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO EL PASO TO JOIN A RODEO! STRETCH AND I DO A COMEDY ACT ON THE HIGH WIRE!
WELL, I'LL BE DARNED!
THE SPOT'S JUST AHEAD, BILL!
HOLY SMOKES, THAT'S MY BUCKBOARD! I LOANED IT TO BUZZ BROWN THIS MORNING! THIS LOOKS BAD!
I DON'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF LIFE!

LOOK, THERE'S SOMEBOOY LYING THERE!
IT'S BUZZ!
IS HE OEAO?
NO, BUT HE'S WELL SHOT UP!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO OO?
RUSH HIM OVER TO HIS FARM! HIS SISTER, BARBARA, IS A NURSE! SHE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
HOW ABOUT US, BILL? OO YOU NEEO OUR HELP?
YEP! YOU TWO ROUNO UP BUZZ'S HORSE ANO FOLLOW THIS ROAO ABOUT A MILE AND YOU'LL COME TO THEIR FARMHOUSE!
RIGHT! WE'LL SEE YOU LATER!
ANO AT THE BROWN'S FARMHOUSE...
BILL! WHAT HAPPENEO TO BUZZ? IS HE---
HE'S ALIVE, BARBARA! BUT WE'O BETTER HURRY! HE'S LOST A LOT OF BLOOD!

ON, BILL, WHO DID THIS?
I ONLY SAW ONE CRITTER NEAR THE SCENE, BARBARA, AND I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE HIM!
THE BULLET STRUCK HIM IN THE SHOULDER, BILL, AND WENT OUT THE OTHER SIDE!
THANK GOODNESS FOR THAT! AH, HERE COME SNORTY AND STRETCH! WHEN YOU'RE THROUGH BANDAGING BUZZ, COME AND MEET THEM!
WELL, IF YOU TWO DON'T LOOK FUNNY!
I CAN'T SEE A THING WITH THIS GALOOT IN FRONT OF ME!
NEVER FEAR, LITTLE BUDDY! STRETCH WILL PROTECT YOU!
LISTEN, YOU BIG GORILLA, IF IT WASN'T FOR ME, YOU'D NEVER BE FAMOUS!
FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS WE AIN'T NEVER GOING TO BE FAMOUS ANYNOW!
HA-HA, I GUESS HE TOLD YOU, SNORTY!
DON'T MIND US, BILL! IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE TO KEEP THIS BIG OX OUT OF TROUBLE ALL THE TIME!
YOU AIN'T DOING SUCH A GOOD JOB OF IT--- WELL, HERE COMES A PRETTY GIRL!
BARBARA, I WANT YOU TO MEET SNORTY AND STRETCH, A COUPLE OF WANDERING CIRCUS MEN!
I'M RIGHT PROUD TO MEET YOU, MA'AM!
SEE, HERE COMES MORE TROUBLE--- WOMEN!


WHY, SHORTY, DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T LIKE WOMEN!
IT'S JUST THAT HE AIN'T NEVER HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THEM! HE'S BASHFUL!
WELL--- A-ER---
I THINK WE'D BETTER GO IN AND SEE HOW BUZZ IS DOING!
MAYBE HE CAN TELL US SOMETHING!
HE'S COMING TO!
FINE! I WAS AFRAID FOR A WHILE! I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO SHOOT UP BUZZ--- UNLESS THEY THOUGHT--- GOLLY, I KNOW WHY!
OHHÖH!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WHOEVER PLUGGED BUZZ MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS ME, BECAUSE IT WAS MY BUCKBOARD HE WAS DRIVING!
HELLO, BILL--- BARBARA, WHAT HAPPENED?
SOMEONE WINGED YOU, BUZZ--- DID YOU SEE ANYONE OR ANYTHING?

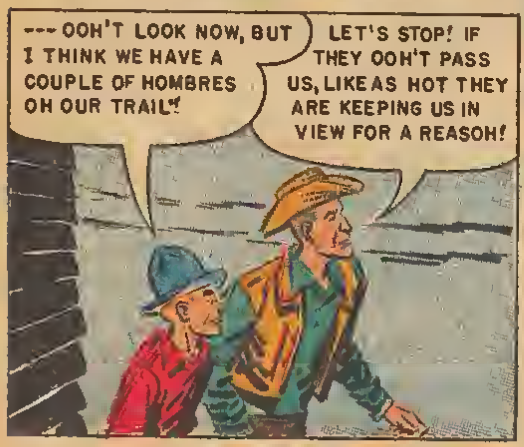

NOT A THING, BILL! THE SHOT MUST HAVE COME FROM QUITE AWAY OFF!
THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED! SOMEBODY THOUGHT THAT YOU WERE ME!
BUT WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY?
I DON'T KNOW, UNLESS IT'S FOR GENERAL PRINCIPLES!
ALL THE CROOKS AND THUGS IN THIS AREA HOPE TO GET RID OF BILL ELLIOTT, SHORTY! THEY ALL HATE HIM!
NOW THAT WE KNOW BUZZ WILL BE ALL RIGHT, ME AND THE BOYS WILL GO INTO TRACERVILLE AND SEE WHAT WE CAN LEARN! I DON'T LIKE TO HAVE MY FRIENDS SHOT!
THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HORSES IN THE BARN, BOYS, YOU CAN USE THEM!
YOU FELLOWS GO INTO TOWN BEFORE ME! IF YOU SEE ANYONE TAKING PARTICULAR NOTICE OF YOU, TELL ME ABOUT IT!
OKAY, BILL, WE'LL DO THAT!
EVERYTHING WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK, FRANK, ELLIOTT WON'T BOTHER US NOW! VICKERY IS CHECKING OUR JOB NOW!
GOOD WORK, BOYS! I SPENT SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON BECAUSE OF ELLIOTT, SO WE COULDN'T AFFORD TO HAVE HIM AROUND!
WE'LL CLEAN OUT THIS TOWN IN NO TIME, BOSS!
MEANWHILE, IN TOWN...
RIGHT! THE DEAL TO BUY THE CAFÉ IS ALMOST COMPLETE! WE'LL HAVE THE FASTEST--- AND CROOKEDEST GAMES IN THE COUNTY!
THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY HAS BEEN SO HONEST FOR SO LONG, THAT THEY WON'T KNOW IF A GAME IS CROOKED OR NOT! WE'LL MAKE A FORTUNE!

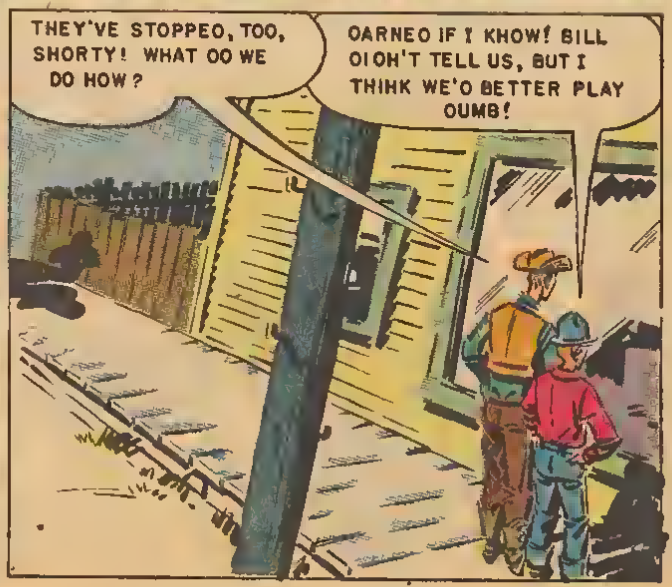
OH-OH! I HOPE NOTHING IS WRONG!
HERE'S VICKERY NOW! HE LOOKS EXCITED!
EVERYTHING WENT WRONG, FRANK! THESE TWO LAME-BRAINS SHOT THE WRONG MAN!
WHAT--- ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE I'M SURE! WHEN I WENT TO CHECK THE JOB, ELLIOTT RODE UP AND TOOK A SHOT AT ME!
YOU FOOLS! THIS MAY RUIN THE WHOLE DEAL! NOW HE'LL KNOW SOMETHING IS UP!
HOW WAS WE TO KNOW IT WASN'T ELLIOTT? IT WAS HIS BUCKBOARD! IF YOU THOUGHT WE WAS GOING TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHOOT HIM BETWEEN THE EYES, YOU'RE PLUMB CRAZY!
WHAT KIND OF MEN ARE YOU? WE'VE GOT TO FINISH ELLIOTT OR WE'RE ALL THROUGH! I'M BUYING THE CAFÉ TODAY! AND IF ELLIOTT FINDS OUT, WE'LL BE OUT OF LUCK!
I WANT HIM OUT OF THE WAY--- QUICK! IF I KNOW HIM, HE'LL BE IN TOWN CHECKING UP! VICKERY, YOU HELP THE BOYS DO THE JOB!
RIGHT! I'D LIKE A CRACK AT ELLIOTT! AND BOYS, THERE ARE TWO OTHER CRITTERS IN THIS! ONE'S A LITTLE RUNT AND THE OTHER'S A TALL GUY! THEY WERE SNOOPING AROUND JUST BEFORE ELLIOTT RODE DOWN ON ME!
THEY KNOW TOO MUCH! GET THEM, TOO, AND MAKE SURE OF THE JOB THIS TIME! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!
WE'LL GET THEM! C'MON, BOYS, LET'S GO!

HARRY--- WILLIE! HERE COME THE TWO GUYS I WAS TALKING ABOUT. YOU KEEP AN EYE ON THEM! IF ELLIOTT COMES INTO TOWN, I'LL BLAST HIM FROM THIS ALLEY!
OKAY, WE'LL KEEP THOSE TWO OUT OF THE WAY!
AND AS SHORTY AND STRETCH RIDE INTO TRACERVILLE...

KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED, STRETCH!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! I WANT MY SKIN IN ONE PIECE!
CO. INC.

GIVE THEM TIME! WE'VE ONLY BEEN HERE ABOUT A MINUTE---HOLD IT---
DON'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE INTERESTED IN US, SHORTY!

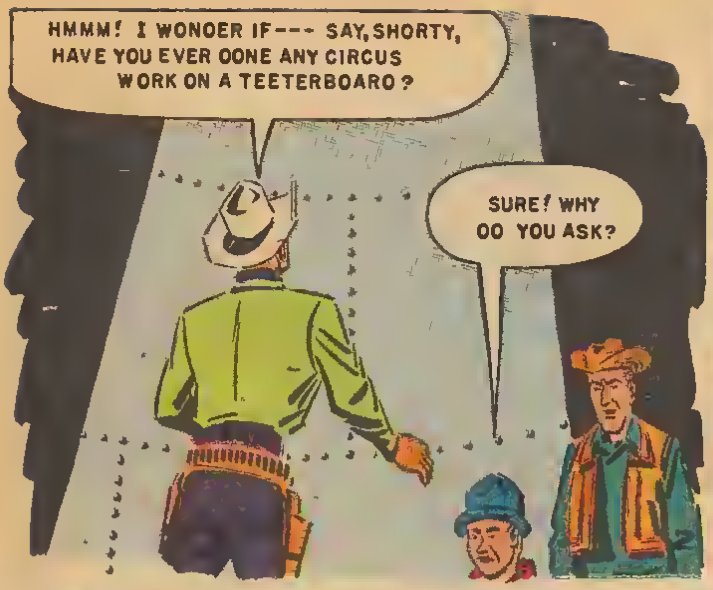

---DON'T LOOK NOW, BUT I THINK WE HAVE A COUPLE OF HOMBRES ON OUR TRAIL!
LET'S STOP! IF THEY DON'T PASS US, LIKE AS NOT THEY ARE KEEPING US IN VIEW FOR A REASON!


THEY'VE STOPPED, TOO, SHORTY! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
DARNED IF I KNOW! BILL DIDN'T TELL US, BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER PLAY DUMB!

WE'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL, STORMY, THERE MAY BE PLENTY OF TROUBLE AHEAD!
WHEE-EE-UH!
MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF TOWN...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, BOY, DO YOU--- WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
WHUUMP!
BANG!
MOVE, STORMY! FIND COVER!
BANG!
WHEE-EEAW!
VICKERY MISSED HIM, GO FOR YOUR GUNS!
RIGHT!
GUESS WE'D BETTER! LET'S JUMP THESE TWO COYOTES THAT ARE GUNNING HIM! ---
IT'S BILL! LET'S HELP HIM!
BA-NG!
BLAM

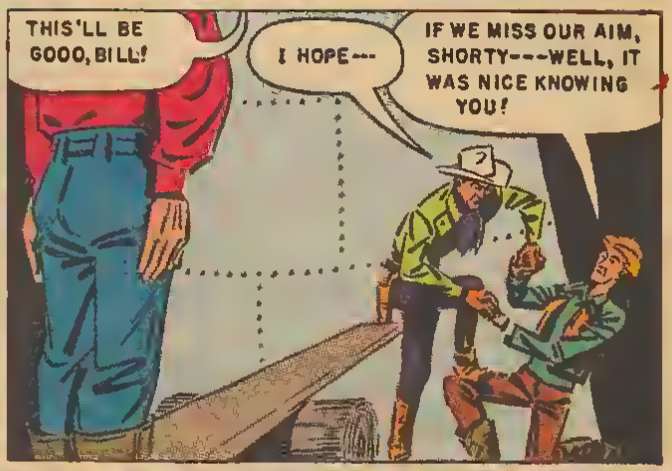
NICE GOING, BOYS! I'LL GET THE OTHER BIRD!
OOF!
STOP! I--- I QUIT!
I'M COMING AFTER YOU, MAVERICK!
GONE! I WONDER WHERE---
HOLD IT, COWBOY! HOIST 'EM! AND DROP THAT GUN!
TRICKED!
WE'VE GOT THEM BILL!
IT WAS A CINCH! WE JUST TOOK AWAY THEIR GUNS AND---UH-HO!

ALL RIGHT, BOYS, THE PARTY'S OVER! DROP 'EM!
I'LL PLAY ALONG! I DON'T WANT SHORTY OR STRETCH HURT!
NOW THAT WE GOT THEM ALIVE, MAYBE PLOWMAN WOULD LIKE TO TALK WITH THEM FIRST! HARRY, YOU TELL FRANK, WILLIE AND I WILL TAKE THEM TO THE OLD GRAIN SILO!
RIGHT! I'LL HAVE HIM UP THERE SOON AS IT'S DARK!
LET'S GET GOING BEFORE SOMEONE INVESTIGATES ALL THE GUN-FIRE!
PLOWMAN! SO THAT'S WHO'S IN BACK OF ALL THIS?
YOU WON'T NEED YOUR HORSES, HOMBRES, IT AIN'T FAR! AND BESIDES, YOU WON'T BE COMING BACK!
OKAY, VARMINTS--- INSIDE! THE BOSS WILL BE ALONG IN A FEW MINUTES! HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU, ELLIOTT! AND I'LL BE RIGHT HERE, SO DON'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY!
A FEW MINUTES LATER....
WE'RE SURE IN A PICKLE NOW, BILL! WHAT CAN WE DO?
SIT DOWN, BOYS, WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING TILL IT GETS DARKER! THEY'D MOW US DOWN!


HMMM! I WONOER IF--- SAY, SHORTY, HAVE YOU EVER OONE ANY CIRCUS WORK ON A TEETERBOARO?
SURE! WHY OO YOU ASK?

BECAUSE THAT'S HOW YOU'RE GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE! SEE THAT PARTIALLY OPENEO TRAPOOOR?
GOLLY, BILL, I GET YOU! IT'LL WORK, TOO!

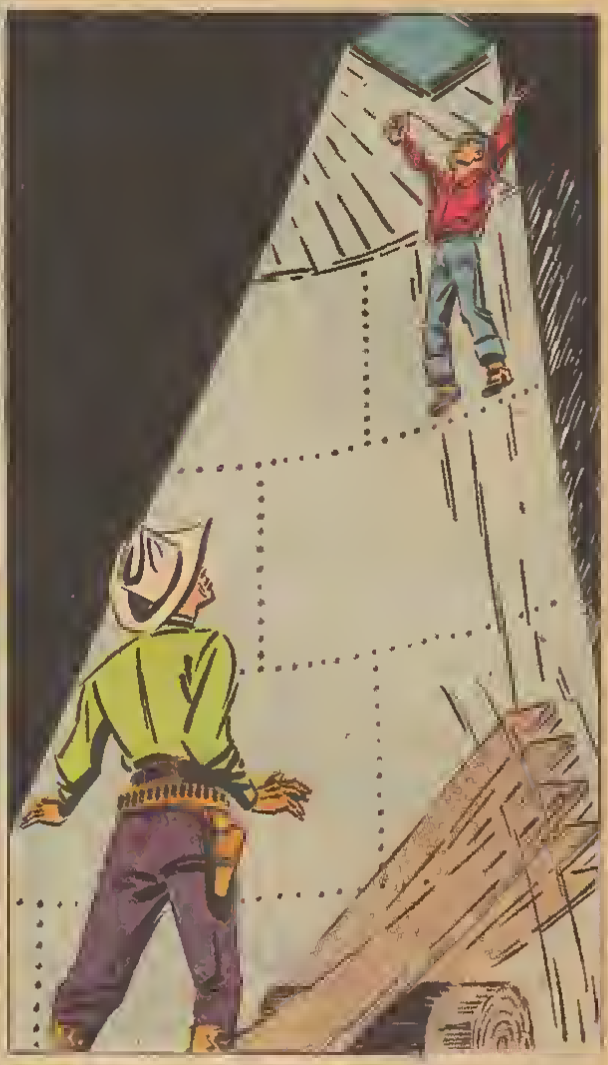
THIS SHOULO BE ABOUT RIGHT! OKAY, STRETCH, HANO ME THAT PLANK!
RIGHT!


THIS'LL BE GOOO, BILL!
I HOPE---
IF WE MISS OUR AIM, SHORTY---WELL, IT WAS NICE KNOWING YOU!

NO, CRAWL OUT, SLIOE OFF THE BACK ANO SCOOT FOR SHERIFF JACKSON! HE'LL COME RUNNING!
WHAT AM I TO DO IF I DO MANAGE TO GRAB ON UP THERE--- JUST HANG?

OON'T MISS, SHORTY, OR WE'LL BE FULL OF HOLES IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES!
I WON'T! OKAY, BILL, I'M READY!

BILL HITS THE PLANK SQUARELY, AND SNORTY IS CATAPULTED TOWARD THE OPEN TRAPDOOR...



OKAY, BOYS, GO IN AND GET THEM!
IF YOU THINK I'M GOING IN THERE, YOU'RE LOCO! NOT FOR ME!
ME NEITHER!
YOU YELLOW-LIVERED--- GET ASIDE, I'LL BRING THEM OUT!
GO AHEAD! IT'S YOUR NECK!
QUICK, STRETCH, SLAM THE DOOR AND PROP SOMETHING AGAINST IT!
WHAT THE---?
RIGHT!
THIS IS FOR BUSHWACKING, MISTER!
OOOOFF!
NICE GOING, BILL!
NOW THAT EVENS THINGS--- AND WE HAVE A GUN, TOO!
WHAM!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE, PLOWMAN! C'MON, NARRY!
DON'T MOVE, YOU NO-GOOD VARMINTS!

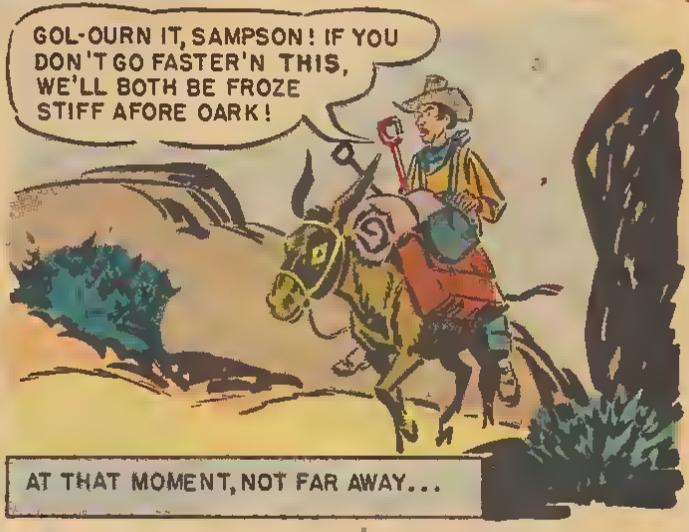
YOU CHEAP GUNSLINGERS ARE ALL ALIKE---ROTTEN!
NOW IT'S MY TURN, PLOWMAN!
WHAT THE---?
YOU'RE ALL THROUGH, PLOWMAN!
LET'S BLOW!
GOOD WORK, SHORTY! THAT FINISHES THIS GAME! PLOWMAN CAN PLAY CARDS AGAIN---IN JAIL!
THESE CRITTERS WERE GOING TO CLEAN OUT THIS TOWN WITH CROOKED CARDS, SHERIFF! BUT THEY'LL GO TO JAIL ON A CHARGE OF ATTEMPTED MURDER!
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THEM, BILL! THANKS TO YOU AND THE BOYS!
HOLY SMOKES, STRETCH, WE'RE HEROES!
I WANT TO THANK YOU ALL FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE! FIRST, SAVING BUZZ AND THEN CATCHING THOSE WHO SHOT HIM! AND ESPECIALLY, YOU, SHORTY!
WOW!
I DON'T GUESS SHORTY HATES WOMEN AFTER ALL!
HA, HA! I RECKON YOU'RE RIGHT, STRETCH!

Wild Bill Elliott

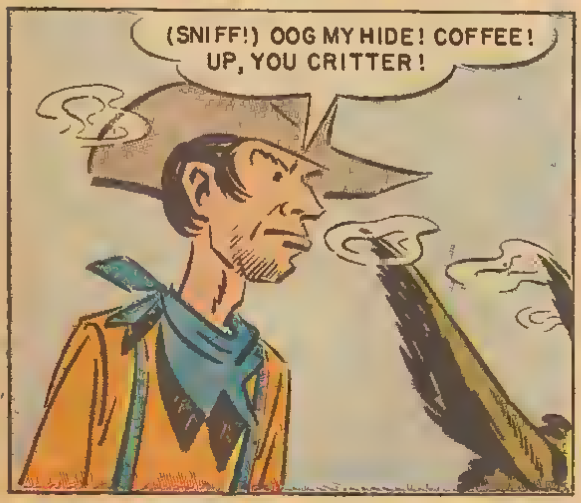
IN

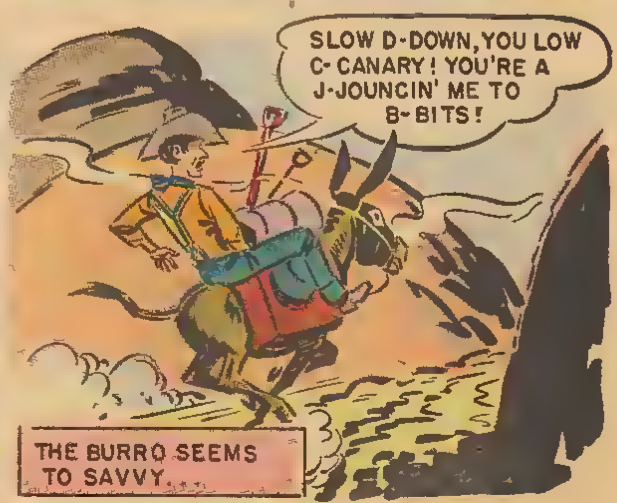
THE BIG TREE MYSTERY

ONE WINTRY DAY FINDS WILO BILL ELLIOTT ON THE TRAIL FROM MARKLEEVILLE TO ANGELS' CAMP.



AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY...



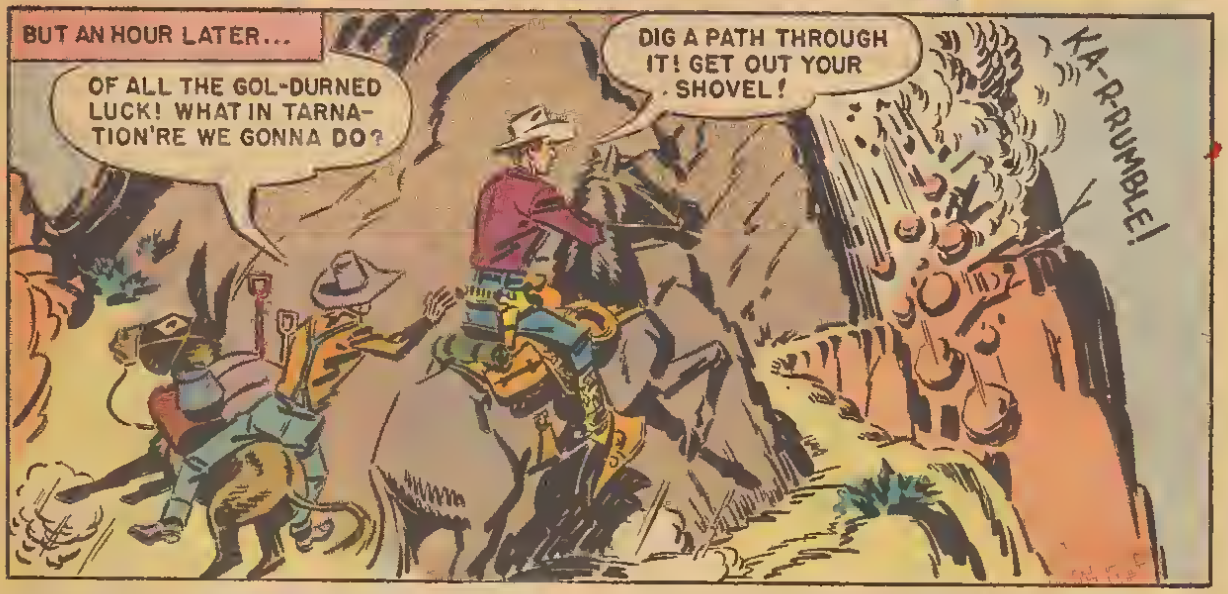


THE BURRO SEEMS TO SAVVY...

H-HELP! S-STOP HIM!
WHAT IN THUNDER!
HEE-HAW-AW-AW!
OOOOH!
ARE YOU HURT, MISTER?
NOT SO BAD A CUP O' COFFEE WON'T CURE ME!
THANKS, PARDNER! I'M ALFIE BLODGETT! I'M HEADIN' FOR ANGELS' CAMP AN' A JOB---I HOPE!
THAT'S WHERE I'M BOUND! MY NAME'S BILL ELLIOTT!
GLAD TO KNOW YOU! I'VE BEEN HANKERIN' FOR COMP'NY! S'POSIN WE TEAM UP!
SUITS ME! BUT WE'LL HAVE TO STEP LIVELY! SURE AS SHOOTING, A NORTHER'S HEADED THIS WAY!

SURE IS! BUT GOLLY! SAMPSON'S SO GOL-OURNED SLOW. MEBBE YOU BETTER FORGET ABOUT US AN'---
NONSENSE! HE OOESN'T LIKE THIS COLO ANY MORE THAN WE OO! BUT HE'S PACKING TOO BIG A LOAO TO MAKE ANY TIME!

HE'S TIREO,TOO! SAME AS ME! WE'VE BEEN ON THE GO SINCE OAYBREAK! RECKON WE CAN REACH ANGELS' CAMP AFORE OARK?
WE CAN TRY!


BUT AN HOUR LATER...
OF ALL THE GOL-DURNED LUCK! WHAT IN TARNA-TION'RE WE GONNA DO?
DIG A PATH THROUGH IT! GET OUT YOUR SHOVEL!
KA-R-RUMBLE!

OOH! MY ACHIN' BACK! MY ACHIN' ARMS!
CHEER UP, ALFIE! ONLY A COUPLE MORE SHOVELS FULL!

BRR! THIS WINO'S BLOWIN' SMACK OFF THE NORTH POLE!
ANO BRINGING EARLY OARKNESS! WHEN WE COME TO A LIKELY SPOT, WE'LL MAKE CAMP! MAY-BE,BY MORNING, IT'LL HAVE BLOWN ITSELF OUT!

LATER...
CRYIN' CATFISH! LOOKIT THEM TREES! IF'N I WAS TO TELL THE FOLKS BACK IN OKLAHOMA ABOUT 'EM, THEY'D CALL ME A GOL-DURNED LIAR! WHAT ARE THEY, BILL!
GIANT SEQUOIAS! CALIFORNIA'S THE ONLY PLACE IN THE WORLD WHERE THEY GROW!
GOLLY! MUSTA TAKEN 'EM A MIGHTY LONG TIME TO GROW THIS BIG!
IT DID! SOME OF THEM ARE OVER FOUR THOUSAND YEARS OLD!
WHAT ARE WE STOPPIN' FOR?
WE'RE BEDDING DOWN HERE TONIGHT! IN THAT TREE!

GOLLY, BILL! I'M SO (YAWN) OOG-TIRED, I AIN'T GOT ENOUGH GUMPTION TO WINK!
THEN TURN IN! SOON AS I BACKWALL THE FIRE, I'LL JOIN YOU!
AFTER SUPPER...
WHEN I GET OUTA THESE MOUNTAINS, I'M NEVER GONNA CLIMB NOTHIN' HIGHER'N A FLIGHT O' STAIRS LONG AS I LIVE!
OW-W-W-EEE!
????
NOW WHAT IN BLAZES IS WRONG?
THIS GOL-OURNED TREE'S ALIVE! IT UP AND SMACKED ME ON THE HEAD!
YOU MUST'VE BEEN DREAMING! I DON'T SEE ANY---OH-OH! WHAT'S THIS?
A STRONG-BOX!
GUESS THAT'S WHAT HIT ME!

WONDER WHAT MAKES IT SO HEAVY?
WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! SET IT THERE--- IN THE FIRELIGHT!
GOL-DURN IT! LOCKED TIGHTER'N A BANK VAULT!
MOVE ASIDE! I'LL SHOOT OFF THE LOCK!
BLAM!
HUMPH! NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCH O' CANVAS POKES!
SOMETIMES POKES ARE FULL OF REAL INTERESTING STUFF! LET'S HAVE A LOOK INSIDE A COUPLE!
SUFFERIN' CATS! GOLD NUGGETS!
THIS BAG'S STUFFED WITH GOLD DUST! LOOKS LIKE YOU BUMPED INTO MORE THAN A BOX CORNER, ALFIE!
MEANIN' WHAT?
THAT THIS IS STOLEN GOLD! PROBABLY SWIPED FROM SOME PROSPECTOR WHO'S BEEN SAVING IT FOR MONTHS!

IN THE MORNING, WE'LL TAKE IT IN TO THE SHERIFF AT ANGELS CAMP! MORE'N LIKELY, HE'LL BE ABLE TO LOCATE THE OWNER!
WISH WE COULD GO ON TONIGHT! DON'T RECKON I'LL DO MUCH SLEEPIN' WITH ALL THAT PAY DIRT SO CLOSE BY!
SUPPOSIN' THE BANDITS COME BACK?
THEN WE'LL TURN THEM OVER TO THE SHERIFF, TOO!
AN HOUR PASSES...
THIS IS LOCO, ACE! TRYIN' TO FIND OUR WAY THROUGH THE BIG TREES BY LANTERN-LIGHT! WE COULDA WAITED TILL MORNIN'!
AN' TAKEN A CHANCE ON KANE OR A LAWMAN SPOTTIN' US? WE HAD A TOUGH TIME SHAKIN' THAT OLD GRISSEL-HEEL AS IT WAS!
NOT AFTER WE SPLIT UP! SAY! ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN PICK OUT THE TREE WHERE---
HOLD IT! LOOK! ISN'T THAT A CAMP-FIRE GLOWIN' THROUGH THE TREES?
YEAH! AN' A HORSE AN' BURRO, TOO!
BUT THEY'RE NOT KANE'S! HE WAS RIDIN' A BAY!

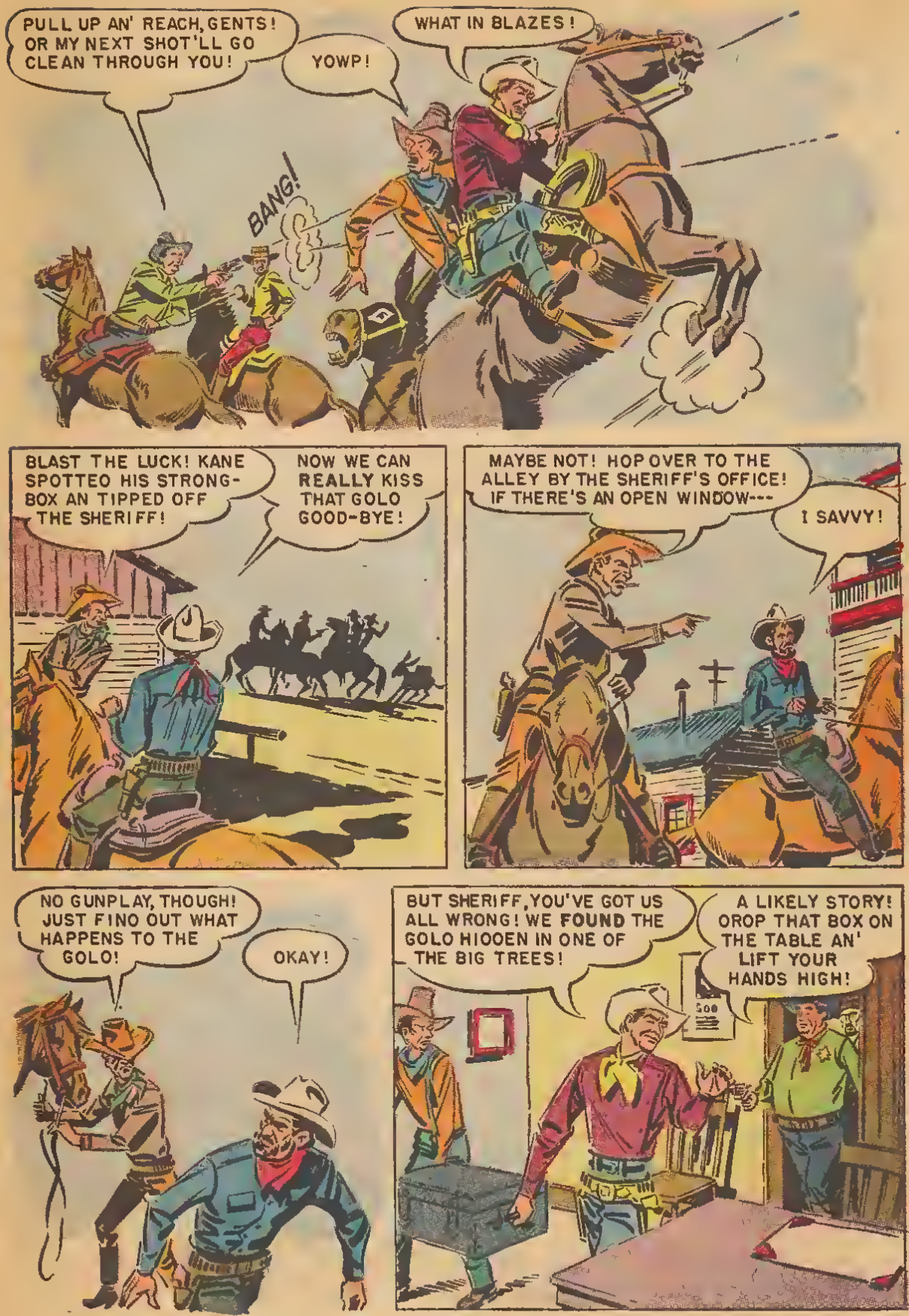
THE HOMBRE WHO OWNS 'EM MUST BE CLOSE BY! BUT I DON'T SEE---
SLATS! THAT FIRE IS SQUARE IN FRONT O'THE TREE WHERE I HID THE STRONGBOX!
THEN, TWO TO ONE, THE HOMBRE WHO OWNS THOSE CRITTERS IS POUNDIN' HIS EAR INSIDE THERE!
RIGHT! DOUSE THAT LANTERN! I'LL TRY TO GET IT WITHOUT WAKIN' HIM UP!
OWW! MY STUMMICK!
WHAT IN BLAZES!
CAME BACK FOR THE GOLD, EH? WELL, HAVE A FACEFUL OF FIST INSTEAD!
SLATS! ROLL YOUR GUN! PRONTO!
OOOF!

ON YOUR FEET! AND NO TRICKS!
YOU BLASTED POLECAT! I'LL TEACH YOU TO STEP ON MY STUMMICK!
ALFIE! NO!
AT THAT MOMENT...
OOMPH!
SKIP IT! I'VE GOT MINE! C'M ON! LET'S GET THAT STRONGBOX WHILE THOSE TWO FIGHT EACH OTHER!
MY GUN! I'VE GOTTA FIND---
YOU LOCO IDIOT! CUT ITOUT! I'M BILL!
WH-WHAT?
DROP THAT GUN, MISTER!
YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH!

AS ACE SQUEEZES THE TRIGGER...
AN' YOU TAKE--- OWWWW!
HERE'S WHERE I CLEAR OUT!
BANG!
BILL! THEY'RE GETTIN' AWAY!
SAVE THE WORDS! THROW LEAD!
IF YOU'D SEEN WHAT YOU JUMPED AT, WE'D BE ROPING THAT PAIR INSTEAD OF WASTING BULLETS ON THEM!
GOL-DURN IT CAN'T SEE WHAT I'M SHOOTIN' AT!
YOU SURE MESSED THINGS UP, ACE! WE SHOULDA GUNNED DOWN THOSE TWO BEFORE TRYIN' TO GET AWAY WITH THE GOLD! WE'LL NEVER SEE IT AGAIN!
DON'T BE TOO SURE!
BUT WHEN THEY OPEN THAT BOX---
THEY'LL CLOSE IT AGAIN AN' CART IT TO THE NEAREST SHERIFF!

HUMPH! THEY'LL POCKET IT, OR I MISS MY GUESS!
YOU MISS ALL RIGHT, SLATS! I RECOGNIZED THAT COWPOKE! HE'S WILD BILL ELLIOTT, ONE O' THE SMARTEST UNOFFICIAL LAWMEN IN THE WEST!
AN' WHEN HE AN' HIS PAL START FOR ANGELS' CAMP TOMORROW, WE'LL BE WAITIN' FOR 'EM--- WHERE THE TRAIL'S REAL NARROW! SAVVY?
YEAH!
GOOD! ALFIE'S STILL DEAD TO THE WORLD! HERE'S HOPING HE STAYS THAT WAY FOR AT LEAST FIFTEEN MINUTES!
SUNUP, THE NEXT MORNING...
SURE HATE TO TRICK HIM! BUT I CAN'T TAKE CHANCES ON HIM GIVING ANYTHING AWAY IF WE SHOULD RUN INTO THOSE OWLHOOTS BETWEEN HERE AND TOWN!
BACON SURE SMELLS GOOD, BILL! ANY SIGN O' THEM OWLHOOTS?
NO! BUT WE'LL SEE THEM AGAIN! YOU CAN BANK ON THAT! START EATING! WE'VE GOT TO GET MOVING!
HALF AN HOUR LATER...
HEY! BILL! THERE AIN'T GONNA BE ANY ROOM ON THERE FOR ME!
YOU'RE RIDING WITH ME! STORMY'S USED TO CARRYING DOUBLE!

GOL-DURN IT! THIS HERE TRAIL'S SO ROUGH, I CAN'T EVEN CAT-NAP!
WE'VE BEEN CUTTING CROSS-COUNTRY SINCE WE LEFT THE BIG TREES! I FIGURED THOSE BANDITS MIGHT BE WATCHING THE TRAIL!
AND STILL LATER...
SURE AS SHOOTIN', ELLIOTT'S GIVEN US THE SLIP, ACE! PROB'LY CUT DOWN TOWARD SOAP CREEK!
JUST WHAT I'VE BEEN THINKIN! MAYBE WE CAN BEAT HIM TO ANGELS' CAMP!
ANGELS' CAMP! Y'KNOW, BILL, I NEVER FIGGERED ON GETTIN' HERE ALL IN ONE PIECE!
FRANKLY, NEITHER DID I! KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED! THOSE BIRDS MIGHT STILL PULL A DRYGULCHING!
MIDAFTERNOON...
IT'S THEM, ACE! I RECOGNIZE THAT DAPPLE GRAY!
RIGHT! DRAW A BEAD! BUT DON'T SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER TILL I GIVE THE WORD!
SHERIFF! THAT STRONG BOX! IT'S MINE! THOSE'RE THE VARMINTS THAT SWIPED MY GOLD!
WHAT!


PULL UP AN' REACH, GENTS! OR MY NEXT SHOT'LL GO CLEAN THROUGH YOU!
YOWP!
WHAT IN BLAZES!
BANG!
BLAST THE LUCK! KANE SPOTTED HIS STRONG-BOX AN TIPPED OFF THE SHERIFF!
NOW WE CAN REALLY KISS THAT GOLD GOOD-BYE!
MAYBE NOT! HOP OVER TO THE ALLEY BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE! IF THERE'S AN OPEN WINDOW---
I SAVVY!
NO GUNPLAY, THOUGH! JUST FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO THE GOLD!
OKAY!
BUT SHERIFF, YOU'VE GOT US ALL WRONG! WE FOUND THE GOLD HIDDEN IN ONE OF THE BIG TREES!
A LIKELY STORY! DROP THAT BOX ON THE TABLE AN' LIFT YOUR HANDS HIGH!

YOU'RE PLUMB LOCO, SHERIFF! THIS HOMBRE'S WILD BILL ELLIOTT! EVER HEAR O' HIM?
OF COURSE! BUT I DON'T BELIEVE ANYTHING UNLESS IT'S PROVED!
MY CREDENTIALS ARE IN THIS POCKET!
HAND 'EM OVER!
BY GLORY! YOU ARE WILD BILL! SORRY FOR DOUBTIN' YOU BUT---
THAT'S ALL RIGHT!
ROCKS! MY GOLD'S GONE!
IT'S SAFE, KANE! I FIGURED THOSE OWLHOOTS MIGHT TRY TO GRAB IT ON THE WAY TO TOWN, SO I LEFT IT WHERE I FOUND IT--- IN THE BIG TREE!

BILL! THAT HOMBRE! HE WAS LISTENIN' AT THE WINOOW!
BANG!
WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
HEY! WAIT FOR ME!
WHAT HAPPENED?
THEY SPOTTED ME! AN' TRICKED US! THE GOLD IS OUT IN THE BIG TREE! ONLY ROCKS IN THE STRONGBOX!
THEY'RE SURE TO HEAD THIS WAY, STORMY, SEEING AS IT'S THE ONLY ROAD OUT OF TOWN!

THERE THEY GO! STRETCH YOUR LEGS, BOY!
SPARKS FLY FROM THE GREAT STALLION'S RACING HOOFS...
KEEP MOVING, STORMY! IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
END OF THE LINE, GENTS!
OOOFFF!
LATER...
BILL, I SURE WISH YOU'D TAKE A REWARD FOR NABBIN' THOSE POLECATS!
THAT'S REWARD ENOUGH, KANE! GIVE ALFIE MY SHARE! HE'S OUT OF WORK AND BROKE!
WRONG, BILL! SHERIFF JACKSON'S MAKIN' ME A DEPPITY! GONNA GIVE ME A SURE-'NOUGH HOSS TO RIDE, TOO!
SAMPSON WILL BE MIGHTY HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!

The PUEBLO BUILDERS

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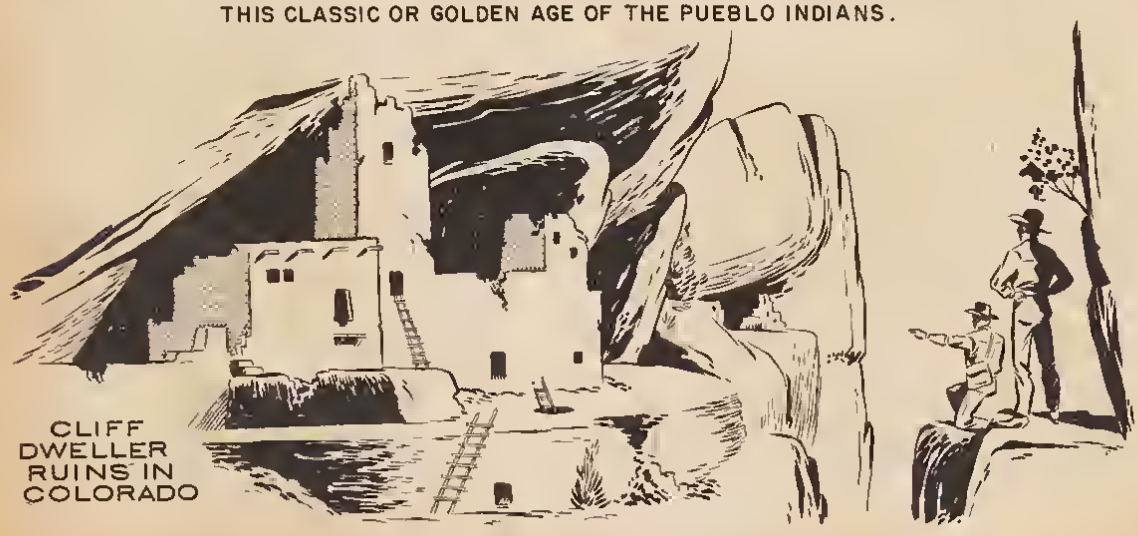
BASKET MAKERS 40 TO 700 A.D.

WHILE THE ROMAN LEGIONS WERE CONQUERING BRITAIN IN 40 A.D., EARLY AMERICAN INDIANS WERE ROVING THROUGH THE SOUTHWESTERN AREAS OF NORTH AMERICA. DUE TO THEIR ABILITY TO WEAVE BEAUTIFUL BASKETS, SCIENTISTS HAVE CALLED THIS ERA THE BASKET MAKING PERIOD. AS CENTURIES PASSED, HE ABANDONED HIS WANDERINGS AND BUILT PIT HOUSES UNDER THE SHELTER OF HUGE OVERHANGING CLIFFS AND LEDGES.

PUEBLO CLIFF DWELLERS 1050 TO 1300 A.D.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE PERIOD 1050 TO 1300 A.D THAT THE PUEBLO INDIANS REACHED THEIR CULTURAL PEAK. GREAT TERRACED STRUCTURES WITH HUNDREDS OF ROOMS AND OFTEN WITH FOUR AND FIVE STORIES, WERE BUILT ALONG SHEER CANYON WALLS. THEIR ARTS AND CRAFTS, ARCHITECTURE, HUNTING AND WAR WEAPONS WERE THE VERY FINEST IN EARLY AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORY SEVERE DROUGHTS, AND WARLIKE, INVADING INDIANS BROUGHT AN END TO THIS CLASSIC OR GOLDEN AGE OF THE PUEBLO INDIANS.



CLIFF DWELLER RUINS IN COLORADO