



Gene Autry's **Champion**

A DELL COMIC
DELL NO. 379
A DELL COMIC
10¢

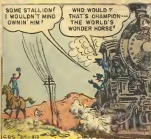
in **THE TRAIL
TO DANGER**



52 pages — ALL COMICS!



DEWE ALTY'S CHAMPION IN THE TRAIL TO DANIEL, No. 119. Published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 242 Fifth Ave., New York 14, N. Y. George T. DeLozier, Jr., President, Helen Mayer Van Praeden, Albert P. DeLozier, Vice Presidents. Send 50 cents for copy. Copyright, 1951, by Dewe Alty. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Western Printing & Lithographing Co., Denver for the authorized use of various dairymen and cream houses. The dairymen and events portrayed in this publication are strictly advisory and fictitious, and are unaffiliated with the said persons or parties, living or dead, if interested.











MEANTIME, IN RAINBOW BEND



YOU AN' YOUR OLD-TIME NOTIONS, BALDY! COME ON! LET'S PUT THAT CASH IN A GOOD SAFE PLACE PRONTO!



HEABNER! HOW'S FOR SOME SPECIAL SERVICE TODAY? GOT A PILE O' CASH TO DEPOSIT, AN' YOUR CASHIER LOOKS KINDA BUSY!

GLAD TO OBLIGE YOU, SMOKY! COME ON IN!



FROM THE HEFT OF THIS CASE, YOU HAD A MIGHTY SUCCESSFUL TRIP, BALDY!

YEP! I'M SURE GLAD TO HAND THAT CASH OVER! HARDLY SLEPT A WINK ALL THE WAY FROM CHICAGO FOR WORRYIN' ABOUT IT!

WHAT KIND OF A JOKE IS THIS?

WHAT IN TUNNET! LEMME SEE!



WADS OF NEWSPAPER! GUT TO BILL-SIZE!



BUT I DIDN'T LET THAT CASE OUT O' MY SIGHT, BOSS! WHERE'D IT GO NOW?

SOMEBODY SWITCHED CASES WITH YOU! PROBABLY DID IT ON THE TRAIN!





AFTER WE WIRE ZANESVILLE, WE'LL GET SHERIFF MELLISH AN' A POSSE AN' FIRE-BOB THAT PASS FOR HIS TRACKS!



YOU CAN START FOR THE PASS RIGHT AWAY, SMOKY! I'LL SEND THE WIRE!

THANKS, ARNER! THAT'LL SURE HELP! COME ON, BALDY! LET'S MOVE!



BOSS! I DON'T SAVVY HOW THAT HOMBRE JEST HAPPENED TO HAVE A BRIEF CASE EXACTLY LIKE MINE!

RECKON WE'LL GET THE ANSWER TO THAT WHEN WE GET HIM!



BOSS! LOOK! AIN'T THAT RICKY RUNNIN' FOR DOC'S?

SURE IS! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG AT THE RANCH!



HEY, RICKY! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

PLENTY! I'LL TELL YOU SOON AS I GET DOC STARTED FOR WOLF PASS!







ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! HEAD BACK TO THE PASS AN' CHECK FOR UNCLE SHOKY!



NOBODY HERE? RICKY MUSTA BEEN SEIN' THINGS? OR HAD A TOUCH O' SUN?



MEANTIME, DUD ARRIVES AT WOLF PASS ..

GOOD GRIEF! DOC CARLIN' HE'LL BUST A BUTTON IF HE GETS OUT HERE AN' FINDS OUT IT'S A WILD GOOSE CHASE!



'BETTER TAKE A SHORT CUT TO TOWN! MAYBE I CAN HEAD HIM OFF!





IF HE ISN'T THERE, I'LL
HAVE TO FIND HIM, OR
NEVER HOLD UP MY
HEAD AGAIN!



HEDDON I CAN COUNT ON YOU TWO TO
GIVE ME A HAND!

WAGON--NOW--
NOW!

ARR!
ARR!

SHORTLY AFTER BUGHEADS INTO
THE WOODS



SOME! THE LOW-DOWN
CROOK! AN' TO THINK
I FELT SORRY FOR HIM!



HE SURE LEFT A CLEAR
TRAIL IN THIS SAND!



HE REALIZED IT, TOO! THE
TRAIL ENDS AT THE
TRACKS! HE PROB'LY
TOOK TO THE TIES FROM
HERE ON!



SURE AS SHOOTIN', HE
DIDN'T CLIMB THAT GRADE!
NOT WHEN HE COULD O'
RIDDEN UP IT!



SO HE MUSTA HEADED
BACK THIS WAY!



SURE WISH YOU COULD
READ SIGN, REBEL! IT'S
TOUGH, WATCHIN' BOTH
SIDES O' THESE
TRACKS!



HOLD IT, CHAMP! LOOKS
LIKE A PRINT OVER THERE!



HMMM CAN'T RIDE
LETTIN' YOU TRY
TO WALK ACROSS
THAT BRIDGE,
CHAMP!

A FEW MINUTES LATER.



FRESH AN' MADE BY CITY
SHOES! SET A GOOD
SNIFF, REBEL, IT'S
HIS ALL RIGHT!



BUT I KNOW YOU CAN SWIM THAT RIVER WITHOUT HALF TRYIN'!



BEFORE WE GIVE IN, I'LL CHECK FOR PRINTS AGAIN! THAT CROOK MIGHTA GOT COLE FEET ABOUT WALKIN' THAT TRESTLE!



BUT HE DIDN'T HE STOPPED HERE FOR A REST! THERE'S THE MARK O' THE BRIEF CASE!



LET'S GO, BOYS! HE'S NOT TOO FAR AHEAD! THOSE PRINTS WERE MADE IN THE LAST HALF HOUR!



GEE! THIS CURRENT'S STRONGER N I THOUGHT!

WHEE-E-CAN!

WOOF!





RECKON HE DOESN'T
KNOW BENT GRASSES
ARE AS EASY TO
FOLLOW AS FOOT-
PRINTS!



THIS SUN'S HOTTER'N A BLAST
FURNACE! IT'LL BE A RELIEF TO GET
INTO THOSE TREES AND--- WHAT'S
THAT?

AT THAT MOMENT, NOT TOO FAR AWAY . .



HOOFBEATS! BUT THE LAW COULDN'T
BE THIS CLOSE YET! BESIDES, THERE'S
ONLY ONE RIDER!



BETTER NOT
TAKE ANY
CHANCES,
THOUGH!



WHAT LUCK! A DESERTED
CABIN! I'LL OUGH IN THERE
TILL THAT RIDER
GOES PAST!



BY KEEPING TO THESE ROCKS,
I WON'T LEAVE ANY TRACKS
FOR HIM TO FOLLOW!





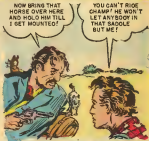


CHAMP TRIES TO BREAK THE STRANGER'S HOLD ON HIS SADDLE...



JUST AS REBEL LEAPS INTO ACTION...





EASY, CHAMP!
IT'S OKAY—



NOW WHERE?
FOUR CORNERS! AND I KNOW THESE PARTS SO DON'T TRY ANY TRICKS!



IT'S SURE EASY TO FOLLOW RICKY'S TRAIL, BOSS!

YEAR— BUT I WON'T FEEL EASY TILL WE CATCH UP WITH HIM!



MEANWHILE...

WHY IN TINKET HE TOOK OFF AFTER THAT CROOK ON HIS OWN, I CAN'T SAVVY! HE USUALLY SHOWS MORE SENSE!

PROB'LY BLAMES HIMSELF FOR NOT SPOTTIN' THE VARMINT FOR A MD-GOOD RIGHT OFF!



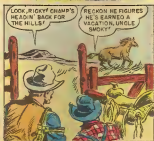
BUT TO TAKE SUCH CHANCES! HE—

HOLD IT, BOSS! LOOK OVER THERE! GOIN' OVER THAT RISE!





RICKY GETS A SUDDEN INSPIRATION, AND ...



LATER

THERE COME THE BOYS WITH
THE FUZZTAILS, REBEL! LET'S
GO MEET THEM!

Champion

In
EL LOBO THE KILLER





AAAAH---UNSHOD
HOOFPRINTS UNDER
THE WOLF TRACKS!



GOLLY! I'LL BET
THAT WOLF'S
TRACKIN' STARLIGHT!



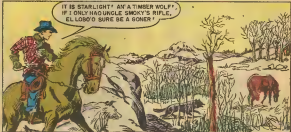
AFTER 'EM, REBEL! STRETCH
YOUR LEGS, CHAMP! OR
WE'LL BE TOO LATE!



MOVE, CHAMP!
LOOKS LIKE
REBEL'S
FOUND 'EM!



IT IS STARLIGHT! AN A TIMBER WOLF!
IF I ONLY HAD URGLE SMOKY'S RIFLE,
EL LORO'D SURE BE A GONER!











WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, REBEL?

WOOF!
WOOF!



FORK YOUR HOSS PROMPTO, BENE! HE WANTS US TO FOLLOW HIM!

OKAY! SOON AS I TURN THE COLT INTO THE CORRAL!



A LITTLE LATER ...

IF ANYTHING'S HAPPENED TO RICKY---

DON'T WORRY, BOSS! CHAMP'LL LOOK OUT FOR HIM! THAT HOSS IS PLENTY SMART!



WH--WHERE AM I? --- AN' WHAT'S THAT SNARLIN'--- OH! I REMEMBER! THE WOLVES!

SNA--ARLL!

SNA--ARLL!

SNA-ARLL!



WOLF--OH--WOLF!

GOLLY! CHAMP WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST ALL THOSE WOLVES! AN' NEITHER WILL I!





NOT ANY MORE!



RICKY! YOU'RE HURT!

IT'S ONLY A SPRAINED ANKLE! WHAT ABOUT REBEL?



HE'S BLASHED UP SOME! NOTHIN' SERIOUS! HE'LL BE OKAY!

THANK GOODNESS!



THE NEXT DAY

HERE'S YOUR SHARE O' THE BOUNTY FOR THOSE WOLVES, RICKY! TWENTY DOLLARS!

THANKS! FIRST THING I'LL DO IS BUY REBEL A STEAK AN' CHAMP A PECK O' APPLES!



IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR THEM, I'D O' BEEN WOLF MEAT, FOR SURE!

FREE--ON--ON!



ORMERY KNOXHEAD? I'LL
TEACH YOU TO DUMP ME!

Champion

In
BAD MAN'S VENGEANCE

HEY!

WHO TOLD YOU--- YOU
COULD RIDE CHAMPION?

AS LONG AS I'M WORKIN'
HERE, I'LL RIDE ANY
HORSE I WANT TO---

WE'LL SEE ABOUT TH-----'
WHAT'IN THUNDER!

AS RICKY TURNS TO LEAVE...

GOLLY! CHAMP'S
WEARING A
SPRINKLE
GIT!











YOU BOYS FILL 'ER UP WITH
HAY WHILE I GET THE
KEROSENE!



THEY'LL BE A
CINCH!



I'D SURE LIKE TO SEE ASHTON'S
FACE WHEN HIS BARN GOES
UP IN SMOKE!



CLEAN
KEROSENE



WHEW! IF
SOMEBODY
HEARD THAT...



LUCKY FOR ME,
THEY'RE ALL
SOUND
SLEEPERS!



BUT REBEL'S EARS ARE EXTRA SHARP



NOISELESSLY, HE HEADS OUT INTO THE NIGHT.



AND LIKE A SHADOW, MOVES ACROSS THE YARD.



THIS'LL MAKE A
SMELL NON-
FIRE!

AN' SMOKE SCREEN---
TO COVER UP OUR
GETAWAY!

MEANWHILE.



SEEMS LIKE A LOT O'
UNNECESSARY WORK!
WHY'N'T WE FIRE THE
BARN AN' BE DONE
WITH IT?



'CAUSE BEFORE THE FLAMES COULD
GET A GOOD START, SOMEBODY MIGHT
SEE 'EM AND PUT 'EM OUT! THIS
WAY, THE WHOLE BARN'LL GO
UP MUY PROMPT!







I'LL BE DAMNED! ERNIE HICKS!
I'O KNOW THAT PINTO
ANYWHERE!



UNCLE SMOKY?
THOSE SHOTS!
WHAT HAPPENED?

NOTHIN', THANKS TO
REBEL'S WARNIN'! BUT
FROM THE LOOKS AN'
SMELL O' THAT WAGON,
I'O SAY HICKS AN' HIS
PALS FIGGERED ON
GETTIN' MY BARN
AFIRE!



COME DAYLIGHT, I'M GOIN'
TO TAKE SIX O' THE BOYS
AN' TRACK 'EM DOWN IF
I HAFTA TRAIL 'EM TO
TIMBUKTU!



GARN! UNCLE
SMOKY! I DON'T
SEE WHY I CAN'T
RIDE WITH YOU!

HUNTIN' MEN'S NO JOB
FOR A YEARLIN'! TILL
YOU'RE A HEAP SIGHT
BIGGER, YOU'LL HAFTA
STICK TO RABBITS!

SURUP..



HUMPH! WHAT'S EXCIT-
IN' ABOUT RABBIT
HUNTIN'?

RR-RUFF!



YOU THINK THERE IS
SOMETHIN', HUH? OKAY!
WE'LL TRY AN' SCARE
UP A FEW COTTON-
TAILS!





I'LL BE HANGED! IT'S
RICKY WEST! AN' THAT
BLASTED DOG!

TO SAY NOTHING O' THE FINEST PIECE O'
HORSEFLESH I EVER LAID EYES ON!



THAT'S CHAMPION---
THE CRITTER THAT
GOT ME FIRED!



DID I'VE GOT AN IDEA!
WE ALL NEED CASH!
OLD MAN ASHTON'S
GOT PLENTY----

I SAY!! WE
SNATCH THE
KID FOR
RANSOM!



RIGHT! ASHTON OUGHTA
PAY PLENTY TO KEEP
THE KID FROM GETTIN'
HURT!



BOOM, YOU FELLAS'RE
SLIPPIN'! ALL YOU'VE
FLUSHED SO FAR ARE TWO
CHIPMUNKS AN' A PORCUPINE!



GOTCHA!

WHA---
OOOOF!



DUD! CARLO! QUICK!
THROW LEAD AT THAT
HORSE AND DOG!



REBEL! CHAMP!
RUN!



UNCLE SMOKY
WILL GET YOU
FOR THIS,
HICKS!

IF HE WANTS YOU
BACK ALIVE, HE'D
BETTER NOT
TRY!



HE'D BETTER DO WHAT
THIS NOTE SAYS, TOO!



SAY, HICKS! HOW'RE
YOU GONNA GET
THAT NOTE TO
ASHTON?

REBEL CAN TAKE IT!
I'M SURE HE ISN'T
VERY FAR AWAY!











On Gene Autry's Ranch