REBEL, THE DOG, IS PLENTY SMART, TOO! BETWEEN THOSE THREE, SMOKY ASHTON'S FLYING-A RANCH IS A MIGHTY LIVELY PLACE!

KEEP IT UP, FELLAS! WE DON'T WANT BALDY TO MISS OUR SHOW, AN' HE'S LIABLE TO BE IN THE LAST CAR!

NOW LET'S HEAD FOR TOWN AN' GIVE BALDY A REAL WELCOME HOME!

HOLD IT, CHAMP! SOMEBODY'S ON THE BACK PLATFORM

BUT IT AIN'T BALDY! IT'S SOME CITY DUDE!

WHAT'S AILIN' YOU, REBEL? SOMETHING'S WRONG DOWN THERE!

WOOF! WOOF!

WOLF PASS? GREAT GUNS! I WONDER—

BOSS! YOU'RE HEADIN' THE WRONG WAY! TH' SHERIFF—

YOU GO TELL HIM WHAT'S UP! RIGHT NOW, I'M MORE INTERESTED IN TALK IN' TO RICKY!

BUT, MRS. CARLIN, I'VE GOTTA FIND DOC PRONTO! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!

I KNOW, RICKY, BUT THE DOCTOR'S MAKING HIS CALLS! I HAVE NO IDEA—

RICKY! WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOIN' ON UP IN WOLF PASS?

THERE'S A HURT HOMBRE UP THERE! BUSTED HIS LEG WHEN HE FELL OFF O' TH' TRAIL! BUT WHY'RE YOU SO HET UP ABOUT IT?

'CAUSE I'VE GOT A HUNCH HE'S THE POLE- CAT WHO STOLE MY CATTLE MONEY! WAS HE TOTIN' A BRIEF CASE?

YES! A DEAD-RINGER FOR THAT ONE! BUT HOW—

I'LL TELL YOU WHILE WE'RE RIDIN' TO TH' PASS TO PICK UP HIS TRAIL!

YOU MEAN PICK HIM UP! HE CAN'T MOVE! HE'S HURT!

YEAH! WAL, SEEIN'S BELIEVIN'! WAT HERE? I'LL BE BACK SOON AS I ROUND UP A POSSE!

I WONDER IF THAT HOMBRE WAS LYIN' ABOUT SEEIN' HURT!

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! HEAD BACK TO THE PASS AN' CHECK FER UNCLE SMOKY!

NOBODY HERE! RICKY MUSTA BEEN SEEIN' THINGS ' OR HAD A TOUCH O' SUN!

Meantime... BUD 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!

REGION HE DOESN'T KNOW BENT GRASSES ARE'AS EASY TO FOLLOW AS FOOT-PRINTS.

THIS SUN'S HOTTER THAN 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 DUCK IN THERE TILL THAT RIDER GOES PAST!

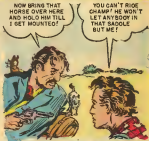BY KEEPING TO THESE ROCKS, I WON'T LEAVE ANY TRACKS FOR HIM TO FOLLOW!

Panel 1: SOUNDS LIKE HE'S GETTING CLOSE! WELL, I'M READY FOR 'IM!

Panel 2: HANG IT! I'LL BE LATE MEETING SAM! BUT FOR FIFTEEN GRAND, I GUESS HE'S BEING "DEAD WAITING"!

Panel 3: REBEL! YOU CAN'T GO RABBIT-CHASIN' NOW!

Panel 4: SUPPOSIN' WE CATCH UP WITH THAT CROOK? YOU AN' CHAMP ARE THE ONLY WEAPONS I'VE GOT FOR CAPTURIN' 'IM!

WOOF! WOOF!

Panel 5: IT'S THAT KID! MUST'VE BEEN TRAILIN' ME! I'LL TEACH—

Panel 6: HMMM END OF HIS TRACKS! WONDER IF HE COULD BE HOLED-UP IN THAT SHACK?

"TWO MEN UP ON ONE HORSE!" AN' A DOG!"

"RECKON IT'S THEM, BOSS?"

"IT MUST BE! JINGLE YOUR SPURS! AN' KEEP YOUR GUN HANDY!"

"BOSS! THEY AIN'T IN SIGHT!"

"KEEP GOIN'! MAYBE THEY HEADED DOWN THAT ARROYO YONDER!"

"RIDERS! INTO THOSE TREES, KID! FAST!"

"UP, CHUM!"

"WH-H-H-"

"IT'S UNCLE SMOKY, AN' BUG! BUT HOW'LL I LET 'EM KNOW WHERE WE ARE?"

RICKY GETS A SUDDEN INSPIRATION, AND ...

BUT REBEL'S EARS ARE EXTRA SHARP.

NOISELESSLY, HE HEADS OUT INTO THE NIGHT.

AND LIKE A SHADOW, MOVES ACROSS THE YARD.

MEANWHILE.

THIS'LL MAKE A SWELL BON-FIRE!

AN' SMOKE SCREEN—TO COVER UP OUR GETAWAY.

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 SHAN'LL GO UP MO' PRONTO!

GUESS WE'LL TAKE THAT CALICO PONY! I SURE WISH CHAMP WAS AROUND NOW, THOUGH!

HE'S SO SMART, HE SMELLS OUT RABBITS ALMOST AS GOOD AS YOU DO!

WHEE-EEE-AH!

CHAMP! YOU SCALAWAG!

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I EVER HAD A WISH COME TRUE SO FAST! HOW'RE YOU FEELING--NO BETTER?

WHEE-UH-UH!

WHO KNOWS--MAYBE HE'LL SCARE UP A DIAMONDBACK! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A RATTLESNAKE BELT!

Later...

DOUSE THAT FIRE! QUICK! A RIDER'S HEADIN' THIS WAY!

On Gene Autry's Ranch