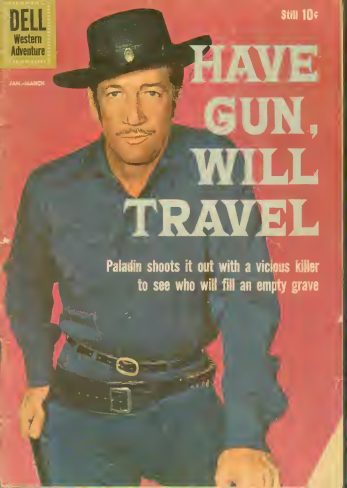


DELL
Western
Adventure

Still 10¢

JAN-MARCH



HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL

Paladin shoots it out with a vicious killer
to see who will fill an empty grave



HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL

THE DEAD LIST



When Paledin answers the call for help, he finds the reader so gripped with fear and suspicion that he greets him with gunfire.



With a marked man to protect, Paledin fights a grim battle against a deadly killer in a cemetery where an open grave awaits the loser.

THE ESCORT



Driving a pretty girl to her finishing school seems an easy mission. But once on the stage road, Paledin discovers the girl has vanished.



When he finds the missing girl, Paledin also finds trouble. Unarmed, he prepares to tangle with a man aiming a gun at his heart.

HAVE GUN,
WILL TRAVEL

The DEAD LIST



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DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS

AND THERE'S A MESSAGE ON ITS BACK!
"I NEED A BODYGUARD BADLY! WILL YOU
WELL? COME AT ONCE...
JOHNNY RICE!"

HAVE GUN, WILL



SADDLE
YOUR
HORSE?

YES! WITH HIS MESSENGER,
SHOT, MR. RICE MAY NEED MORE
PROTECTION THAN HE IMAGINES!



THE NEXT DAY...

THAT SHOULD BE RICE'S SPREAD - BUT
IT CERTAINLY LOOKS CLOSED UP!



HELLO, IN
THE HOUSE!















FOR A FEW HOURS THERE IS A PEACEFUL LULL, THEN SUDDENLY...



NEXT MORNING...





RICE! PEPPER
THAT SLOPE AND
COVER ME!



THANKS!



WE'RE GOING TO
WORK UP QUITE A
TAKEOFF BEFORE THIS
DAY'S OVER!

MAYBE I CAN FORCE
GATES INTO THE OPEN!
GUNSLINGS LIKE HIM
ARE USUALLY WAIN!



GATTS! HOW ABOUT MESSING ME
OUTSIDE--OR ARE YOU CLANKING
IN YOUR BOOTS TOO MUCH TO
SHOOT IT OUT?



WELL, GATES? I KNOW YOU'RE UP THERE! I CAN SEE YOUR YELLOW STREAK FROM HERE!



NO, DICE, MISTER! MY FIGHT'S NOT WITH YOU--IT'S WITH RICE!



ALL DAY, GATES' OCCASIONAL SHOTS HOLD PALADIN AND RICE INSIDE THE RANCHHOUSE! AS NIGHT COMES TO THE TWO THIRSTY MEN...

WE CAN'T HOLE UP HERE FOREVER, PALADIN!

I'M GOING TO SEE IF THE MOON'S ASHIND A CLOUD! IF IT IS, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!



RICE! GATES' MADE AND MOVE FIRST!



RICE, WHEN YOU COME OUT--I'LL BE WAITING!





M-MY SHOULDER

EASY, RICE! THAT SHOULDER WOUND MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE!

NEXT MORNING



SO GATES MADE GOOD HIS THREAT!

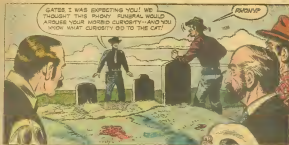
WE WOULDN'T BE HERE TO BURY RICE IF HE HADN'T!



POOR JOHN, A NICE FELLOW NEVER LIVED!



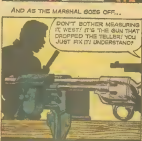
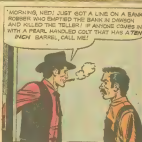
YE-RA-LAYN... THAT'S GATES!





I GUESS ONLY ONE OF US WAS DESTINED TO LEAVE HERE ALIVE!











the Joker



ILLUSTRATION BY PHILIP BRIDGES

"Purvey, I want you to give old Jake back his five hundred dollars. You knew that mine you sold him was petered out."

Bill Preston, sheriff of Sacorra, scowled as he spoke to Slip Purvey, the town's crookedest gambler and its biggest practical joker. Close beside the sheriff stood old Jake, the dishwasher of the Golden Bowl Restaurant. There were tears in old Jake's eyes. "Purvey, that five hundred dollars is old Jake's life's savings. If this is one of your fool jokes. . . ."

Purvey's smile touched the lawman. "It's a joke all right, but the joke's on old Jake. I sold him a gold mine, but I never said there was any gold in it. It's just the old man's hard luck." Without another word Purvey walked away.

The sheriff stared after him. Somehow Purvey's practical jokes always managed to bring him profit, like the time he sold the wind-broken stallion to an ignorant tenderfoot. Or the time he spread a rumor about a new railroad coming in and unloaded ten thousand acres of desert along the rumored right of way.

And looking after Purvey the sheriff

suddenly brightened. "Jake," he said, "I think I know a way to cure that joker—"

Two days later Purvey saw old Jake scuttle secretively out of the assay office. His curiosity aroused, Purvey poked his head inside the office. He was just in time to see the assayer sweeping the last of some earth off the counter and into a special bag.

That sample of earth—he recognized it. It was from the pile of "tailings," the mine waste heaped near the petered-out shaft he had sold to old Jake.

A quick investigation uncovered an exciting rumor that was sweeping the town. Old Jake had found a fortune in silver inside those huge piles of ore waste. It was not uncommon for gold and silver to be found in the same formation. But the original owners of the mine had been so busy extracting gold they had ignored the silver. Now Jake had found himself a hidden fortune.

Chagrined, Purvey sought out the old man. Jake, smoking an immense Corono, sat before the hotel, a picture of prosperity.

"Jake, I just heard about your luck. Remember, it was me who sold you that mine. Local you could do it sell me a share of it now."

Jake looked at him fondly. "Well, reckon I do owe you something, Purvey, even though you tried to borrowaggle me. I'll sell you half my interest for say twenty thousand."

"It's a deal," said Purvey excitedly. "Come on down to the bank and I'll get the money for you."

It wasn't until a week later that Purvey discovered he'd been tricked. Within a matter of moments he had drooped old Jake before the sheriff, but the lawman only looked at Purvey with a smile.

"Sorry, Purvey, but from everything I heard Jake never told you there was silver in those 'tailings.' It's your hard luck if you believed that story."

"But somebody must have started that rumor. It was a trick—a dirty trick!"

The sheriff grinned. "Let's say it was a joke—just a practical joke, Purvey. And the joke's on you, at last!"

HAVE GUN,
WILL TRAVEL

THE ESCORT



CHEEKMATE! I'M AFRAID YOU'RE
RIGHT, MR. PALADIN!



PLAYING WINNING CHESS
SHOULD PROVE THAT YOU'RE
REFINED ENOUGH FOR MY
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT! NOW
TO SEE IF YOU CAN SHOOT!

NAME YOUR
TARGET, MR.
LORD!

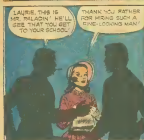


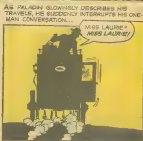
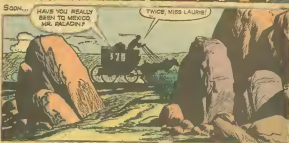
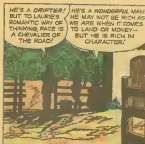
THAT HELP IS MAKING FOR
MY CHICKEN COOP!

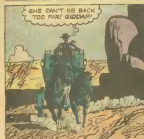


YES, PALADIN I FEEL
CERTAIN YOU QUALIFY FOR A
VERY DELICATE ASSIGNMENT!









WE'RE PLANNING ON GETTING MARRIED TOMORROW! WE MET LAURIE HERE SO WE COULD SPEND THE NIGHT IN JOSELYN! ANY OBJECTIONS?

THIS SEEMS MORE AN OCCASION FOR CONGRATULATIONS!



DIDN'T HER OLD MAN GIVE YOU ANY CACERS ABOUT ME?

YES-- BUT HE PROBABLY PAID ME IN ADVANCE! I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK!



NO, I WON'T STOP THEIR WEDDING BY DRAWING MY GUN ON FACE! MY ONLY HOPE IS TO MAKE LAURIE HERSELF COME TO SEE WHAT KIND OF A MAN FACE REALLY IS!



SOON, AT JOSELYN!

IS A MISS LORD STAYING HERE?

THAT WOULD BE ROOM TWENTY SECOND FLOOR.



SHE'S EXPECTING ME!



HOLD IT, FRIEND!





I WANT TO
SEE MISS
LAURIE!

SHE AND PACE ARE SITTING IN
HER ROOM! THEY DON'T WANT TO BE
DISTURBED--SPOILS THE OCCASION!



CATCH!



HE-HEY!

THAT KEEPS ONE
OF YOU BUSY!



CATCH!

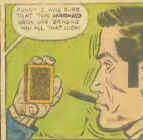


I'LL GET
HIM!











YOU'RE LOOZY!
THEY'RE NOT
MARKED!

DO YOU WANT ME TO
POINT OUT THE TINY DOTS
ON THE BACK OF THE CARDS
FOR MISS LAURE, OR WILL
YOU DO IT?



IF FACE SAYS THEY
AREN'T MARKED, THAT
ENDS THE MATTER AS
FAR AS I'M CONCERNED!

LOVE HAS MADE
YOU MORE THAN
BLIND! IT'S MADE
YOU DUMBY!



FACE! DID
YOU HEAR HIM
INSULT ME?

I'LL REPEAT IT IF HE DIDN'T!
NOT THAT REPEATING IT WILL
MAKE HIM DRAW ON ME!



I SAW YOU DRAW AGAINST HANK!
I'M NO SUCKER, PALADIN! BUT
SINCE YOU'RE CHALLENGING ME,
I'LL CHOOSE THE WEAPONS--
FISTS!

I'M
YOUR
MAN,
FACE!



CLEAR
BACK,
FOLKS!



AS PALADIN STARTS FOR FACE, SUDDENLY,





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A FLUDGE **DELL** COMICS TO PARENTS

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DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS

EXPRESS COMPANIES OF THE OLD WEST



EXPRESS COMPANIES PERFORMED MANY SERVICES FOR EARLY SETTLERS AROUND SAN FRANCISCO. THE MINERS WERE AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR CLAIMS FOR FEAR SOMEONE ELSE WOULD GRAB THEIR GOLD STRIKE, SO THE EXPRESS COMPANIES DELIVERED FOOD, MAIL AND PACKAGES TO THE WORKING MINERS, IN ADDITION TO PICKING UP GOLD DUST FROM THEM.



EXPRESS COMPANIES ASSAYED THE ROUGH ORE FOR ITS GOLD CONTENT AND WEIGHED THE PAYMENT OF PURE GOLD. MINERS TRUSTED THE COMPANIES' HONESTY.



THE EXPRESS COMPANIES ACTED AS BANKS, CHARGING ONE HALF TO ONE PER CENT OF THE VALUE OF THE GOLD FOR THEIR SERVICE TO THE MINER IN STORING IT.



SHIPPING GOLD ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD WAS AN EXPRESS COMPANY SPECIALTY. ANYTHING LOST OR STOLEN FROM THE COMPANY WAS IMMEDIATELY PAID FOR IN FULL.



EASTERN MAIL AND PAPERS WERE DELIVERED BY FORTY EXPRESS TO SAN FRANCISCO IN TEN DAYS, AS ANOTHER SERVICE PERFORMED BY SAN FRANCISCO'S EXPRESS COMPANIES.

SAN FRANCISCO



SPANISH SOLDIERS AND MISSIONARIES FOUNDED SAN FRANCISCO. THE QUIET LIFE OF THE FARMING SETTLEMENT WAS OCCASIONALLY BROKEN BY A FIESTA DE COCK FIGHT.



(FROM A CONTEMPORARY PRINT, 1848)

IN 1849 GOLD WAS DISCOVERED AND FORTY NINERS SWARMED. FRISCO'S POPULATION FROM EIGHT HUNDRED TO FORTY THOUSAND IN ONE YEAR.



WHEN THE GIANT SEMAPHORE ON TELEGRAPH HILL SIGNALED THE ARRIVAL OF A CLIPPER SHIP, BELLS RANG, WHISTLES BLEW, AND PEOPLE RUSHED FOR NEWS OF HOME.



SAN FRANCISCO SERVED AS ENTRY PORT FOR CHINESE WORKERS IN THE GOLD FIELDS AND ON THE RAILROADS. IT HAD THE LARGEST CHINESE SETTLEMENT OUTSIDE OF ASIA.



LATER, LAWLESS GANGS TERRORIZED SAN FRANCISCO. ROBBING AND MURDERING, THEY STARTED AN FIRES WHICH NEARLY DESTROYED THE CITY. THREE THOUSAND CITIZENS FORMED A VIGILANTE COMMITTEE AND CAPTURED THE CRIMINALS WHO HAD BEHIND DISHONEST LAWYERS AND CORRUPT JUDGES. THE VIGILANTES ESTABLISHED LAW IN THE NOW THRIVING CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO.