

DELL
COMIC

THE LONE RANGER'S COMPANION

TONTO

10c





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2

THE GHOST DANCE



3

In the 1880s, the Indian found living hard. The buffalo were gone and food was very scarce. A new religion sprang up among the Flatheads of Nevada, symbolized in the Ghost Dance. Soon it spread to the Sioux.

While they danced in a circle, the Sioux braves chanted their wild songs. One day the buffalo would return. One day the white man would be swept from the earth. One day the Great Spirit would smile on his Indian children again.

The great Sioux medicine man, Sitting Bull, joined the new religion. When the dancers began to threaten reservation agents and chanted war songs in the dance, Indian policemen were sent to arrest the old warrior. Sitting Bull resisted and was killed.

Some of the dancers fled from the reservation and made for the Bad Lands of South Dakota. Every man wore a ghost shirt which he believed would not be pierced by the white man's bullets. The medicine men had told them that they could not be killed while wearing a ghost shirt bearing the sacred symbols of the religion. The U. S. Cavalry caught the fleeing braves and forced them to camp while they were searched for arms. No one knows who fired the first shot while the search was in progress, but when the battle was over, 128 Indians and 31 soldiers were dead. The Sioux ghost dance was over.

TONTO

THE BUFFALO HUNT

LOOK, STONE BEAR, THAT ANCIENT BUFFALO HEAD STILL LIES BLEACHING ON THE PRAIRIE SANDS!

YES, TONTO, IT WAS MANY, MANY YEARS AGO WHEN YOU BROUGHT IT DOWN!



IT WAS ON MY FIRST BUFFALO HUNT AND THAT ONE WAS MY **FIRST KILL!**

YOUR FIRST KILL? HE, TONTO, SURELY YOUR MEMORY PLAYS YOU TRICKS FOR YOU HANDED YOURSELF ON THAT HUNT LIKE AN EXPERIENCED BUFFALO HUNTER!



NO, STONE BEAR, IT WAS MY FIRST WINTER AMONG YOUR PEOPLE AND IT WAS A COLD, BITTER WINTER.

GAME IS SCARCE! THE COOKING FIRES BURN DIMLY! EVERY MAN AND BOY WHO CAN USE HIS WEAPONS WILL GO FORTH TO HUNT! I SHALL SEND EACH PARTY ON A DIFFERENT ROUTE! IF GAME IS FOUND... REPORT TO CAMP AT ONCE!



ONE BY ONE, THE BRAYS ARE SENT OFF UNTIL ONLY THE TWO BOYS REMAIN.

RUNNING HORSE AND TONTO, YOU WILL HUNT EAST OF **BARROW PASS!**

YES, STONE BEAR, AND IF WE SEE ANY SIGN OF BUFFALO OR DEER, WE WILL RETURN SOONER TO BRING THE OTHERS.



YOU SPEAK LIKE A CHILD, TONTO! IF THERE WERE GAME TO THE EAST OF BARROW PASS, WOULD STONE BEAR SEND TWO BOYS THERE? -- NO, WE SHALL FIND **NOTHING!**

TAKE YOUR LANCES AND BOWS, RUNNING HORSE! IF OUR PEOPLE ARE TO LIVE, WE **MUST** FIND GAME!



PERHAPS THE BRAVES WILL COME UPON SOME GAME,
BUT WE WISELY WILL TIRE OUR HORSES, PLAYING
HUNTER ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!



SOON . . .

NOT A SIGN
OF GAME---

---BEH! IF THERE IS A
TUMBLEBUSH IF THERE ARE
BUFFALO NEARBY, HE WILL
POINT THE WAY!



OUR BEST
HUNTERS
HAVE FAILED
TO FIND GAME.
TENTS, BUT YOU
THINK THAT
BEEF LIE
CAN?"

YES, RUNNING HORSE! WE HEARD
MORE THAN WEY --- LOOK! BOTH HIS
HORSES POINT TO NARROW PASS, THAT
IS WHERE BUFFALO WILL BE FOUND!



I WILL RIDE WITH YOU THROUGH
THE PASS, BUT ONLY TO PROVE
YOUR TUMBLEBUSH IS A POOR
PROPHET!



THERE IS NOTHING AHEAD TO
SCARE OFF -- EXCEPT MORE
TUMBLEBUSH!

STAY CLOSE,
RUNNING HORSE!
IF THERE IS
GAME AHEAD AND
YOU GALLOP
THROUGH THE
PASS, YOU WILL
SCARE IT OFF!



T-T-T-T-T!









THEY ARE GOING INTO THE CANYON!

AND THERE IS MEAT ENOUGH TO LAST OUR PEOPLE THROUGH THE WINTER!



RUBBING HORSE IN DE YE GAMP AND BRING THE GRANES! I WILL STAY HERE AND TRY TO KEEP THE HERD IN THE CANYON!

THAT IS NOT AN EASY TASK! I SHALL RIDE SWIFTLY, TONTU!



LATER

THE HERD SHOWS RESTLESS! THEY DO NOT LIKE BEING PENNED IN!



IF I CAN STOP ONE BUFFALO SO HE WILL BLOCK THE CANYON ENTRANCE, THE OTHERS WILL OBTAIN BACK FROM THE DEAD ONE AND REMAIN INSIDE!



NOW!— BUT IF THIS ARROW MISSES, BEFORE I CAN REARM MY BOW, THEY ALL WILL ESCAPE!







**THESE
THURS!**

AYYY!

THE WIND BLOWS TOWARD THE CANYON! THE SCENT OF FRESH BLOOD MAY MAKE THE BUFFALO HERD UNRESTY! IF THEY TRY TO BREAK OUT AGAIN, I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO STOP THEM A SECOND TIME! --- BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT WILL KEEP THEM IN THE CANYON! --- *FOUR!*



**THEY
FLEE!**



SOON,

THE FIRE IS TENDED BY A BOY HE IS FROM STONE BEAN'S TRIBE AND HE KEEPS A HERD OF BUFFALO CAPTIVE IN THE CANYON!

RIDE SWIFTLY AND LET US TAKE HIS SCALP!



THIS IS NOT A WARRIOR'S WORK, TO COUNT DOWN AGAINST A NEXT BOY!

IT IS NOT THE BOY I WANT TO MESSLE TO STAMPEDE THE BUFFALO! IF STONE BEAN'S BRAVE'S FIND NO GAME, THEY WILL SPLIT UP INTO SMALL HUNTING BANDS --- EASY PREY FOR OUR HUNTING PARTY!



**SLAY
HIM!**





UP, BOY!
GET UP!



OH MY HEAD—
KUNTS—



THE HERD IS
STAMPEDING!



BEFORE I CAN RUN TO SAFETY,
THE HERD WILL BE DOWN
UPON ME!



IF I AM TO ESCAPE, THERE IS BUT
ONE WAY—ON THE BACK OF
THE LEAD BUFFALO!

I HAVE A GRIP ON HIS
HORN-- NOW TO TRY
TO HOLD ON!



OH! SLIP AND THE HORNS
OF THE OTHERS WILL
CLAIM ME!



BUT THE BUFFALO, ANNOYED BY
THE SUDDEN BURDEN, BUCKS
FURIOUSLY.



ARRP!



AND AS THE OTHER BUFFALO PRESS CLOSELY
AROUND, SUDDENLY

I AM LOSING MY
GRIP-- I AM
SLIPPING!





AS THE LEAD BUFFALO RESPONDS TO THE SPUR-LIKE PROMPTINGS OF THE NAIFE, THE HERD THROES AFTER IT TOWARD STONE BEAR'S CAMP.



OUR ARROWS HAVE NOT STRUCK HIM! RIDE TO THE FRONT OF THE HERD AND LET OUR LANCES BRING HIM DOWN!

IT WILL NOT BE EASY TO REACH HIM THERE... THE BUFFALO RAGE LIKE THE BEST HERD!

SLOWLY, THE WARRIORS GAIN ON THE LEAD BUFFALO.



HIT THE BUFFALO IF THE HORN FALLS, THE BOY FALLS WITH HIM!

STONE BEAR, THAT MUST BE THE HERD WE FORCED INTO THE CANYON!



THE CROWD HAVE SURROUNDED THEM! DRIVE THEM BACK!

STONE BEAR'S BRAVES COME!

THEY ARE TOO MANY FOR US, BUT BEFORE WE RIDE OFF THE BOY SHALL DIE!



THIS TIME, I WILL NOT STRIKE UNTIL MY BLOW IS CERTAIN TO SLAY!



"A LANCE AND A HORSE!" WITH THEM I MAY BE ABLE TO KEEP THE HERD FROM SPREADING OUT FURTHER!



UP!



IF I CAN TURN THEM BACK, THE BRANES WILL BE ABLE TO KILL THE HERD THIS!



**HOLD 'EM BACK!
TURN!**



THE FRIGHTENED HERD LEADERS SUDDENLY TURN ...

THE BEST IS NOW FOR REAL HUNTERS!







TONTO

THE PRISONER

THERE'S PLENTY SHOOTING
BY MESA! GET 'EM UP,
SCOTT!

BANG!
BANG!

FELLER DOWN HERE HAVE
WARR ON MESA TOP
TRAPPED!

BANG!

WHAT DO YOU WANT,
INJUNT?

WHEE YOU
SHOOT AT MAN
UP THERE?

BECAUSE I'VE BEEN TRAILIN' THAT ONE WOOD UP
THERE FOR FIVE DAYS! I HAVEN'T TIME FOR MORE
QUESTIONS! NOW VAMPOON! UNLESS YOU WANT
TO GIVE ME A HAND!

YOU SHERIFF?

THAT'S WHAT THE BADGE ON MY
JACKET SAYS! NOW SNEADIDDLE!

NO! TONTO
STAY! TONTO
HELP YOU
CAPTURE
BUTLAN!

THANKS! I DON'T LIKE TO ASK ANYONE TO SHARE MY OFFICIAL DUTIES WITH ME, BUT I SURE CAN USE HELP IN ROUNDIN' UP THIS WARREN!

YOU COVER TOMTO? TOMTO TRY TO CLIMB UP AND GET-UM!

YOU'RE TAKIN' AN AWFUL RISK----

---YOU MAKE-UM STAY DOWN? IT NOT HARD TO CLIMB UP ME SA, IF HIM NOT BEE TOMTO!

I'LL KEEP THROVIN' LEAD IF THERE' OUD BE CAREFUL---- HE'S A BILLYB!

MY FOOTHOLD IS SLIPPIN'!

THE SHERIFF IS KEEPIN' HIM BACK! NOW TO REMAIN UNSEEN UNTIL I CLEAR THE TOP!

BOOM!











LATER...

THAT POOL SHERIFF IS SURE
GONN' TO REGRET HAVIN'
GIVEN ME THE SMOKE!



'CAUSE IF MY FRIENDS ARE
SEARCHIN' FOR ME, I KNOW
JUST HOW TO *SIGNAL*
'EM!



SOON...

TENTS,
LOOK BACK!

CIGARETTE YOU
GIV-UM GONNE?
NOW OUTLAW'S GOT
KITH WHICH WAY
WE GO?

THAT RICH, AN' SHERRIFF HANDE MON'S FOR WATER...

LISTEN, FORTO, DON'T BE A SACKER! YOU'LL NOT GET
A RED CENT FOR SPYVIN' ME IN! DURING FREE AN'
I'LL CUT YOU IN ON A SHARE OF THE LOOT I CATCH!



YOU WASTE
WORDS!

ALL RIGHT, BUDD! PLAY IT HOWEVS--- AN' DUMBE!

I WAS ONLY FOUR MILES FROM OUR APPOINTED
MEETIN' PLACE WHEN I WAS CASHIN'! WHEN I DON'T
SHOW UP THIS MORNIN', THEY MUST'VE STARTED
LOOKIN' AND THEY COULDN'T HELP BUT SEE THE
SHERIFF INSTEAD OF GETTIN' RICH BY FREEIN'
ME, YOU'LL GET PAID OFF IN *LEAD*!





















