

DELL
COMIC

THE LONE RANGER'S COMPANION

TONTO

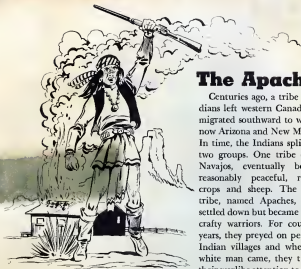
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PRO
BY ROBERT

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The Apaches

Centuries ago, a tribe of Indians left western Canada and migrated southward to what is now Arizona and New Mexico. In time, the Indians split into two groups. One tribe called Navajos, eventually became reasonably peaceful, raising crops and sheep. The other tribe, named Apaches, never settled down but became fierce, crafty warriors. For countless years, they preyed on peaceful Indian villages and when the white man came, they turned their warlike attention to them.

The quest for gold and fertile valleys brought the white man into Apache country in increasing numbers. Determined to stop the white men, the Apaches struck hard with sudden, savage raids. The Apache scourge became so menacing that the Army sent in their best Indian fighters. The Army fought the savages at their own game, never giving them a chance to rest. Every rock became a fort and every gully an ambushade against the Apache. On April 27, 1873, the years of Apache terror came to an end.



TONTO THE SIEGE OF SIERRA ORO

MEAT FOR THE POT!

LUKE, THERE'S A BUCK!



REIN IN! WE DON'T WANT TO SCARE HIM OFF!

WE'LL BE CAREFUL, AOK! AFTER A WEEK ON THE OOOGE, WE ALL COULD USE SOME REAL GRUB!



I'VE GOT HIM LINED UP---



WH-WHAT IN BLAZES? WHO FIRED?



PUT UP YOUR WINCHESTER AND THE REST OF YOU TRESPASSING POLE-CATS, REACH!



TONTO #17-5411

DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS







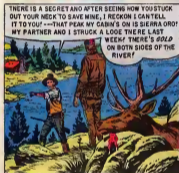
T-TONTO!

UGH! FIRST, TONTO
FIND RABBIT SNARE!
NOW TONTO SEE YOU
KILL DEER? YOU
SPOKE TO OTHERS
WITH FORKED
TONGUE!



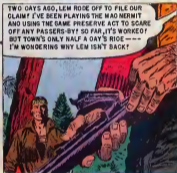
GUESS ANOTHER
LIE ISN'T GOING TO
COVER UP THE
FIRST---

---IF THERE'S A
SECRET AND YOU NOT
TRUST TONTO, YOU
NOT TELL-UM!



THERE IS A SECRET AND AFTER SEEING HOW YOU STUCK
OUT YOUR NECK TO SAVE MINE, I RECKON I CAN TELL
IT TO YOU! ---THAT PEAK MY CABIN'S ON IS SIERRA ORO!
MY PARTNER AND I STRUCK A LOOE THERE LAST

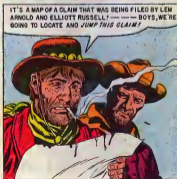
WEEK! THERE'S GOLD
ON BOTH SIDES OF THE
RIVER!



TWO DAYS AGO, LEM RODE OFF TO FILE OUR
CLAIM! I'VE BEEN PLAYING THE MAD NERMIT
AND USING THE GAME PRESERVE ACT TO SCARE
OFF ANY PASSERS-BY! SO FAR, IT'S WORKED!
BUT TOWN'S ONLY HALF A DAY'S RIDE ---
I'M WONDERING WHY LEM ISN'T BACK!



LOOK AT THIS, NOT
A MAP!

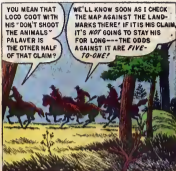


IT'S A MAP OF A CLAIM THAT WAS BEING FILED BY LEM
ARNOLD AND ELLIOTT RUSSELL! --- BOYS, WE'RE
GOING TO LOCATE AND JUMP THIS CLAIM!



AND FROM THE SIGNS ON THIS CLAIM MAP, I THINK WE'RE DOUBLING BACK TO THAT OLD-TIMER'S CABIN!

FROM THE SIGNS, HIS HORSE THREW HIM AND HE STRUCK HIS HEAD ON THIS ROCK! MUST'VE DIED INSTANTLY!



YOU MEAN THAT LOOD COOT WITH HIS "DON'T SHOOT THE ANIMALS" PALAVER IS THE OTHER HALF OF THAT CLAIM?

WE'LL KNOW SOON AS I CHECK THE MAP AGAINST THE LAND-MARKS THERE! IF IT IS HIS CLAIM, IT'S NOT GOING TO STAY HIS FOR LONG---THE ODDS AGAINST IT ARE FIVE-TO-ONE!



MEANWHILE---

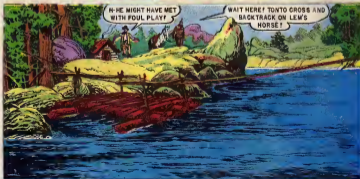
HAVE SOME MORE CHOW, TONTO---

---LISTEN! SCOUT WHINNY!

NEIGH!



JEHOSHAPHAT! THAT'S LEM'S HORSE! BUT WHERE'S LEM?



HE MIGHT HAVE MET WITH FOUL PLAY!

WAIT HERE! TONTO CROSS AND BACKTRACK ON LEM'S HORSE!







THEY'VE TAKEN
GOVER IN THE
CABIN!

RIDDLE EVERY LOG
WITH LEAD---WE CAN'T
BE SURE OF THIS CLAIM TILL
WE GET THEM BOTH!



ALL AFTERNOON, BULLETS SMASH AGAINST THE
LOGS AND AT DUSK...

IT WILL BE DARK SOON AND THEY WILL
PROBABLY TRY TO CROSS BY THE
FERRY! IF I CAN CUT THE ROPES
ON THIS SIDE, THE FERRY WILL
BE USELESS!



PLENTY CLOUDS
TONIGHT! WHEN IT
DARK, MAYBE THEM
START TO FERRY
OVER!

I WAS AFRAID
THOSE POLEGATS
WERE WATCHING!



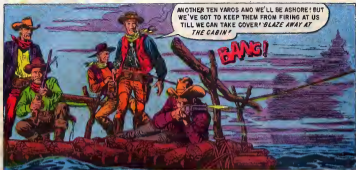
LATER...

I CAN'T SEE THE FERRY, TONTO!
THERE'S A MIST ON THE RIVER,
BUT AT THIS END, THE LINE WENT
TAUT! COULD MEAN THEY'RE
PULLING OVER ON IT!

WE TRY TO
STOP-UM!



THERE THEY ARE!
MY ONLY CHANGE IS
TO TAKE THEM BY
SURPRISE!



ANOTHER TEN YARDS AND WE'LL BE ASHORE! BUT WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM FROM FIRING AT US TILL WE CAN TAKE COVER! BLAZE AWAY AT THE CABIN!

BANG!



GET-UM UP, SCOUT!



H-HEY!

WHAT IN BLAZES-- THE RED-SKIN!

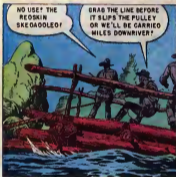


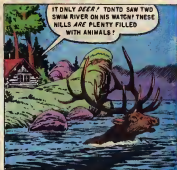
PUSH-UM BACK, FELLER!



HE'S CUTTING THE LINE!

GET HIM!





THERE GOES ANOTHER TREE! ONLY ONE REASON WHY THEY'D FELL TIMBER--- TO MAKE A RAFT!

ONLY WAY TO BEAT-UM IS TO TAKE-UM BY SURPRISE ON *THEIR* SIDE OF RIVER BEFORE THEY USE RAFT!



BUT HOW CAN YOU CROSS OVER? THE MOON'LL BE FULL TONIGHT AND THERE'S NOT A CLOUD IN SIGHT TO COVER IT!

TONTO HAVE WAY THAT WEGBE LET HIM CROSS THE RIVER IN FULL MOON-LIGHT AND STILL *NOT* BE SEEN!



THAT NIGHT...

THERE! THE LASHING'S FINISHED! WE'LL SOON BE ON OUR WAY!



AO! SOMETHING'S CROSSING THE RIVER!



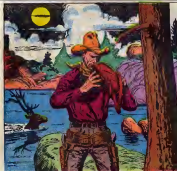
A DEER!--- THIS IS A REGULAR FORD FOR ANIMALS! SAW 'EM SWIMMING IT LAST NIGHT, TOO! DON'T INTERRUPT OUR WORK AGAIN FOR SOME NORMED CRITTER!



HERE ARE THE POLES, AO!

GOOD! NOW LATCH ONTO THIS RAFT AND EASE IT TOWARD THE RIVER SO WE CAN LAUNCH IT!









THE BLASTED CAYUSES HAVE REALLY HIGH-TAILED IT! NOW, WHAT'S WRONG HERE, LUKE?



GET HANDS UP PLENTY FAST!

THUNDERATION!

THE REOSKIN!



TAKE OFF SUNBELTS! THEN THROW-UM IN RIVER! IF ANYONE REACHES FOR GUN, TONTO SHOOT-UM!



BETTER PLAY ALONG WITH HIM, HE'S HOLDING THE WINNING HAND!



NOW YOU LIE FACE DOWN WHILE TONTO TIE YOU!



SOUNDS LIKE GREAT FUN, INDIAN! BUT EXCUSE ME FOR RUNNING OUT ON THIS PARTY!





THE NEXT DAY, TONTO AND THE PROSPECTOR QUICKLY CAPTURE THE HORSELESS OUTLAWS.



REIN IN, OUR SEARCH IS ENDED! WE'VE BEEN TRAILING THOSE FIVE OWLHOOTS FOR OVER A WEEK! THEY'RE WANTED FOR A STAGE ROBBERY!

THEY'RE ALL YOURS, SHERIFF! I'M RIDING TO TOWN TO FILE A CLAIM!

HALF OF MY CLAIM'LL BE FORWARDED TO LEM'S KIN! AND I KNOW THE FIRST EXPENSE I'M GOING TO RUN UP IS FOR SIGNS TO STAKE MY PLACE AS A GENUINE GAME PRESERVE! IF DEER HADN'T REGULARLY SWAM THE RIVER AND IF I HADN'T COLLECTED SOME ANTLER TROPHIES, MY ONLY CLAIM NOW'D BE TO SIX FEET OF EARTH!



BUT THANKS TO THE GAME AND YOUR INGENUITY, TONTO, SIERRA ORO IS STILL MINE!

GET-UM UP, SGOOT!



TONTO THE HORSE RAID

YOUR TRAVOIS IS WELL LOADED, HAWK TALON! WHERE DO YOU JOURNEY?

TO SUMMER DAWN VALLEY! THE BUFFALO THERE ARE MANY!

YOUR LOAD MAY FALL BEFORE YOU RETURN! THIS HARNESS STRAP IS WEAK!

IT WILL LAST THE TRIP, TONTO!

IT IS EASIER TO STOP TROUBLE WHEN YOU FIRST DISCOVER IT, THAN LATER! I LEARNED THAT HARD LESSON MANY, MANY MOONS AGO, WHEN I HAD JUST COME TO LIVE AMONG STONE BEAR'S PEOPLE---

ON A WARM SUMMER'S DAY,

WAIT, FLEET RIDER! THE CORRAL POST IS DOWN! IT WOULD BE EASY TONIGHT FOR THE HORSES TO WANDER OFF!

WE LEFT CAMP TO SWIM! COME ON!

IT WILL NOT TAKE LONG!

IT IS TOO HOT TO WORK NOW! THE RIVER WILL BE COOL! WE WILL REPAIR THE FENCE LATER! HURRY!



MOVE QUICKLY! SOME BRAVE
IS CERTAIN TO HEAR US!



WHAT WAS THAT?
---HOOFBEATS!
THE HORSES ARE
STIRRING!



NO REASON
TO ROUSE
THE CAMP
UNTIL I SEE
WHY THE HORSES
ARE RESTLESS!



NOW I KNOW WHY THE POST WAS DOWN! IT
WAS THE WORK OF THE CROW!



SILENCE
HIM!

STONE BEAR!
RAIDERS!









BUT, AS STONE BEAR TRIES TO WHIRL HIS HORSE ABOUT, THE HORSE LOSES HIS FOOTING, AS SUCCENLY . . .



STONE BEAR!

RIDE OFF, TONTO!
THE HORSES
ARE ALMOST
UPON US!



TAKE MY HAND!

THERE IS NO
TIME LEFT!




SWING
UP!



WITH THE DOUBLE LOAD, IF
YOUR HORSE FALTERS, WE
WILL BOTH BE TRAMPLED!



WE HAVE CLEARED
THE PASS! SAFE!



THE CROW'S PLAN FAILED! WE WERE
NOT STOPPED AND A DOZEN MOUNTS
ARE OURS!



I WILL ROUND UP THESE
HORSES AND LEAD THEM
BACK TO CAMP! BLAZE A
TRAIL FOR US TO FOLLOW
WHEN I RETURN WITH
OUR WARRIORS!



YOU SHOULD BE
ABLE TO SEE BENT
BRANCHES IN THE
MOONLIGHT!

SOON



THE RAIDERS PASSED
THIS WAY AND---
WHAT WAS THAT?

PLUMBLE!



THE CROW HAVE STARTED
A ROCKSLIDE!




AND AS THE ROCKS HURTLE DOWN, THE SOFT LEDGE BEGINS TO GIVE WAY UNDER THE SUDDEN POUNDING...






HE HAS GAINED HIS FOOTING!




BUT THE ROCKSLIDE WILL HAVE COVERED THE RAIDERS' TRAIL!



I CAN STILL HEAR THE HOOFBEATS FROM THE SOUND'S DIRECTION, THEY ARE DRIVING THE HORSES NORTH!



IF I AM RIGHT, THEY ARE HEADING FOR EAGLE PASS! I COULD TAKE THE SHORT-CUT OVER THE RIDGES AND NEAR THEM OFF! ONCE THERE, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND THE PASS ALONE UNTIL STONE BEAR AND THE OTHERS COME!



THE RIDGE TRAIL IS BLAZED FOR STONE BEAR, BUT IF MY JUDGMENT ERREO AND WE FIND THEY DID NOT TAKE THE PASS--- THE CROW RAIDERS AND OUR HORSES WILL BE OUT OF REACH!



HERE IS THE PASS!



THERE IS NO SIGN OF THE RAIDERS' TRACKS ON THE GROUND IN THE PASS! IF THEY ARE COMING THIS WAY, I HAVE REACHED HERE FIRST!



WHILE THERE IS TIME, I WILL MAKE A FIRE! THERE IS ONE THING THAT WILL SURELY KEEP THE WAR PONIES BACK--
FLAMING ARROWS.



SOON---

MY GUESS WAS RIGHT! THEY COME!



BUT I SHALL HAVE TO HOLD THIS PASS ALONE!







THE HORSES
TURN BACK!

NO MATTER! WHILE HE WAS BUSY
WITH THEM, HE DID NOT SEE US
CLIMB UP HERE! HE IS BUT A
YOUTH AND WILL BE SHORT
WORK FOR US!



MOVE TO THE LEFT!
THE ROCK SHIELDS
HIM TOO WELL!



A ROCK SLIPPED
---CROW!



HE CAN HIDE FROM OUR
ARROWS, BUT *NOT* FROM
MY TOMAHAWK!



THERE IS NOT EVEN A WARRIOR'S
FEATHER IN THE SCALP THAT SHALL
SOON HANG FROM
MY TENT POLE!





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Royal Canadian Mounted Police

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SERGEANT PRESTON

LATEST ISSUE AT YOUR FAVORITE COMICS DEALER NOW!



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ONLY TWO RIDE OFF,
STONE BEAR!

TAKE THEM!



I WILL STOP THIS
RIDER!

THIS THIEVING CROW
IS MINE!



OWWW!



REIN IN!



THE NEXT DAY ...

WHILE MY PEOPLE SLEPT, THESE CROW STIRRED! WHILE MY PEOPLE TRUSTED
THE CROW CHIEFTAIN'S WORDS OF PEACE, THESE BRAVES STOLE OUR HORSES!
DOES THE CROW CHIEF SPEAK WITH A FORKED TONGUE? IS THERE PEACE
BETWEEN US — — — OR IS THERE WAR?



Another

misterjeed

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ALWAYS IN DREAMING
MAYBE THIS IS ONLY
A DREAM!

