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COMIC

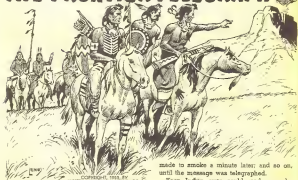
The Flying A's

NO. 2 10¢

RANGE RIDER



THE FRONTIER TELEGRAPH



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Though the white men's telegraph lines related the news of General George Custer's massacre with lightning speed to the civilized world, it was known in the Indian lodges from the Little Big Horn country to the short grass Plains of the Southwest before it could be printed in frontier newspapers. Pawnee scouts, on their way to Custer's aid, read of it in puffs of smoke that rose against the blue sky, and they turned back, saying: "No use, Custer dead."

The Crow scout Curley, sole survivor of the great massacre, carried the tragic news from the battlefield—and smoke signals relayed it across the land. However, the Indians' frontier telegraph was not operated by spreading a blanket over a fire and releasing puffs of smoke, as is popularly believed.

According to the Plains tribes, separate fires were used. When each blaze was smothered under a quantity of green stuff thrown upon it, a column of white smoke rolled skyward. Another blaze was thus

made to smoke a minute later and so on, until the message was telegraphed.

Even Indian eyes could read a smoke message from great distances, and quickly relay it on to more distant points. In this way, Indian messages were relayed faster than a modern car can travel.

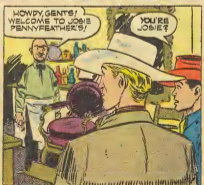








WHEN THE RANGE RIDER AND DICK REACH YELLOW MOON...







HERE YOU ARE! HOPE YOU CAN HANG ONTO THAT'S INSIDE!

I AM! TO! THIS IS ONE HUNK OF CASH THE INDIAN GHOST WON'T GET!



WHAT'S THE MATTER, JUST ARENT YOU STAYIN' OVER FOR SUPPER TONIGHT?

NOT IF I NEVER EAT, JESSE! NO MEDICINE MAN GHOST'S GONNA FIND ME HERE, COME NIGHTFALL!



RALPH! WHAT'S EVERYBODY IN SUCH A HURRY ABOUT?

THEY'RE TRYING TO GET HOME BEFORE DARK BECAUSE O' THE GHOST! SOMETHING IS LIK TO BE TOO! KATY'S LIKELY TO BE NERVOUS!



LATER...

RALPH! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO KEEP THAT CHEST HERE... IN THE HOUSE?

ONLY TILL AFTER SUPPER!



THEN WE'RE GOING TO HIDE IT UNDER THE HAY IN THE BARN LOFT! PICK AND I WILL STAND GUARD!



THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!

AFTER SUFFER... SO WAS I...

YOU'D BETTER GET BACK TO KATY (RALPH SHE'S REAL UPSET!)
TILL YOU BOYS SHOWED UP THEN I OUI WORRYING!

HURRIEDLY THE RANGER RODE HOBB THE CHEST



THERE! THAT POSS IT! NOW, LET'S GET SETTLED!



'SETTLED' HE SAYS! OKAY RANGE RIDE! WHEN DO YOU WANT MET?



THAT MANGER OUGHT TO HOLD YOU, ALL RIGHT PICK! BUT DON'T BLEED IF YOU CAN HELP IT!
DON'T WORRY! THE SPINTERS'LL KEEP ME AWAKE!



I'LL GET INTO THE BACK SEAT OF THIS SURREY!
NOT WISHING YOU ANY BAD LUCK... BUT I HOPE IT'S AS UNCOMFORTABLE AS THIS IS!



FIVE LONG HOURS LATER...

OH-OH! SOMETHING'S MOVING UP AT THAT WINDOW!

MONUMENTARY, DICK FREEZES, SPEECHLESS...



BUT THE RANGE ROPER'S KEEN BARS
CATCH THE RUSTLER OF HAY...



NIGHT OF THE RANGE ROPER SNAPS DICK
BACK INTO ACTION...





✓ LUCKILY THE RANGE RIDER LIVES AN INDIAN TRICK...



LATER, BACK AT THE RANCH...

IT'S ALL MY FAULT! I SHOULD'VE YELLED WHEN I SPOTTED HIM... BUT I COULDN'T FIND MY VOICE!

WE'LL FIND THE MONEY, THOUGH... DON'T WORRY! NOW, LET'S ALL GET SOME SLEEP!



BUT THE RANGE RIDER IS RESTLESS...

IF I COULD ONLY FIND SOMETHING TO PLOVE IM ON THE RIGHT TRACK!



I COULDN'T SLEEP EITHER, RANGE RIDER! SO... DO YOU FIND SOMETHING?

IT'S PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT! BUT LET'S KEEP IT JUST BETWEEN US FOR NOW!



NEXT DAY...

WHAT DO YOU KNOW? A BARBER IN NEED OF A SHAVE? THAT'S LIKE THE SHOEMAKER'S CHILDREN GOIN' BAREFOOT!

I'VE GOT A SKIN IRRITATION! THE DOCTOR WON'T LET ME SHAVE! ...SAY RALPH! AREN'T YOU IN TOWN NIGHTLY EARLY?



WITH GOOD REASON! THE MEDICINE MAN GHOST STOLE MY CASH LAST NIGHT!

TKK-TKK! THAT'S TOO BAD! SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE! I WAS TELLING THE SHERIFF THAT, WHILE I WAS SHAVIN' HIM THIS MORNING!



A FEW MINUTES LATER...

GLAD TO MEET YOU, RANGE RIDER! AND YOU, TOO, WEST/IM. SURE OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS... AND HELP!

THEN YOU'LL GET BOTH... WHEN THE MONEY SHIPMENT COMES IN!





THAT NIGHT AT THE BAR-N-L RANCH...



LONG HOURS PASS SLOWLY...



BUT THE "GHOST" LITERALLY SLIPS FROM THE RANGE RIDER'S HANDS...



AFTER THIS, I'M PACKIN' A GUN!
EVEN IF IT HENT IN CHARACTER!



AGAIN THE BLACK CLOAK COVERS THE
"SHOOTER" ESCAPE.

I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN HE'D
HAVE BEEN PREPARED IN CASE ANY-
BODY GRABBED HIM! HE SLIPPED
THROUGH MY FINGERS LIKE A
GREASED PIG!



PHOSPHORUS PAINT!
THAT EXPLAINS A LOT!
DID YOU SEE HIM
CLOSE?

SO CLOSE MY
HAND BRUSHED
HIS FACE! I...
GREAT SCOTT!



WHAT'S
LIFE?

PLENTY! I JUST PUT TWO
AND TWO TOGETHER AND GOT
THE RIGHT ANSWER! JINGLE
YOUR SPIRITS! WE'VE GOT TO
GET TO TOWN FAST!



I'LL CHECK WITH
LAWD AN' THEN
COME IN!

OKAY! WAIT AT YOUR
OFFICE! WE'LL CONTACT
YOU THERE!



SOON IN TOWN...

NO TIME FOR
THAT NOW! YOU
KEEP WATCH
HERE! AND I
MEAN WATCH!

I GUESS YOU KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE DOING,
RANGE KID! BUT I
WISH YOU'D TELL ME!







BUT THE RANGE RIDER WAS ONLY
LAYING A TRAP...







THE FLYING A'S

Range Rider

TROUBLE IN
WELCOME
RIVER

ONE MORNING IN THE HILLS
ABOVE WELCOME RIVER VALLEY...

VACATION'S OVER, DID
SOMEBODY'S DRIVING A
FLOCK OF SHEEP INTO
THE VALLEY! YOU KNOW
WHAT THAT MEANS!

I SURE DO! DON
BONER'S GONNA
KILL 'EM AND ALL
SHEPHERD WHO GET
FOOT THERE!

BUT, RANGE RIDER,
WHAT CAN WE DO
ABOUT IT? BONER'S
A POWERFUL
CATTLEMAN!

I DON'T KNOW... YET!
WE'LL GET INTO TOWN
AND KEEP OUR EYES
OPEN! BUT FIRST, DAVE
GONNA TO POLISH OFF
SOME OF THIS STEW!

LATER... WHILE THE RANGE RIDER AND
DICK RIDE A TRAIL TOWARD TOWN...

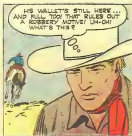
RIGHT PLACE! HERE, DA, BONER?
COME MORNING I'LL START BUILDIN'
THE HOUSE! MAYBE I CAN GET IT UP BEFORE
DORNA AND JOE...

OH-OH!
VISITORS!

HOWDY, GENTS!
MY NAME'S
RAL, ATKINS!

IT'LL BE ALRIGHT IF YOU
DON'T GET THOSE WOOLLY
OUTA HERE HURRY!
RIGHTO!







A LITTLE LATER...

HE'S BANNY ON US. BIFFY LET'S STAND AN' SHOOT IT OUT!

AN' RISK OUR OWN HIDES? NOTHIN' DONT! WE'LL PLAY THIS SMART!



KEEP BANNY AROUND THE BEND! THEN SNEAK BACK ON FOOT! MEANTIME, I'LL SHOW HIM DOWN!



HERE'S WHERE I SETTLE YOUR WASH, MISTER SMART ALECK!



DONNY!



SO THAT'S THE WAY YOU PLAY!



WELL, HERE'S THE WAY I PLAY!



WASH!

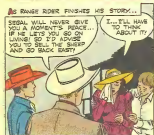
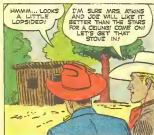


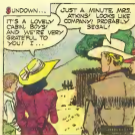


THE RANGE RIDER FOLLOWS HIS SHOT WITH A DOWNWARD LEAP...









TOWARD DAWN, THE NEXT MORNING ...











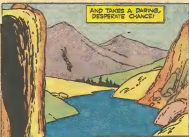
THE FIGHT CARRIES BOTH MEN INTO THE RIVER...



AT TOP SPEED THE RAISE RIDE
SADES FOR A CLIFF ABOVE THE
RIVER...



AND TAKES A DARNEL
DESPERATE CHANCE!



WHILE THE RANGE RIDER AND THE DEPUTIES
ARE RACING TOWARD WELCOME RIVER ...

NO! NO! YOU CAN'T HANG
THEM, SIBBY! BESIDES, WE
STILL HAVE TWO HOURS...

TAKE 'EM OVER TO THE GROVE, BOYS!
AND YOU LIKE, KEEP THAT FEMALE
UNDER CONTROL!



TOO LATE NOW, ABB, BEHIND THE BOYS
HAVE BEEN HANKERING FOR SOME ACTION!
I AIM TO GIVE IT TO THEM!

HURRY UP WITH
THAT COFFEE!



ALL RIGHT...
TAKE IT!

OWWWW!



IF I'M ONLY
IN TIME!



SHORTLY...

ANY LEFT WORDS, GENTS?



HANDS UP! AND THROW DOWN YOUR GUNS! OR I'LL PUT DAYLIGHT THROUGH YOUR BOSS!

HOW!



DICK TAKES ADVANTAGE OF SONIA'S SURPRISE APPEARANCE



OOOH!

NICE GUNS, LUCK! MAYBE WE'D BETTER STRAP HER UP TOO!



NOT WHILE I'M ALIVE AND KICKING!



OWW!

HURRAH! IT'S THE RANGE RIDER!



AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU RANGE RIDER! BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW WHERE WE WERE?

WE RAISED THE HOUSE JUST AS THAT MAN RAN OUT, DRIPPING COFFEE! SO WE FOLLOWED HIM!



