

DELL  
COMIC

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*The Flying A's*

# RANGE RIDER





During the 1860's, justice and law enforcement were almost unknown in the frontier Montana territory. In those wild times, every man was a law unto himself. Gold miners, rangers, and all other honest men, went heavily armed against an increasingly lawless element that, for a time, threatened to control the entire territory.

Gold miners were killed for a poke of dust, stages were robbed of gold consignments, and cattle were rustled in hard-size quantities. Rustlers became so handy with knife and running iron that they could change ear-marks, dewlaps, and brands so skillfully that it was nearly impossible to tell what the original markings and brands had been. For a time, the larger cattle companies were almost at the mercy of the rustlers.

It was then that the 3-7-77 vigilantes were organized to deal out justice with six guns and hangman's ropes. These vigilantes carried crude signs bearing a skull and crossbones and the figures 3-7-77, which they nailed to the cabin doors of all lawbreakers, as a warning to clear out.

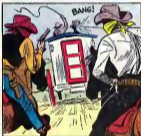
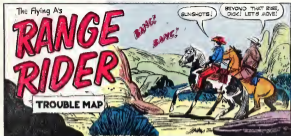
3-7-77 stood for the dimensions of a grave — 3 feet wide, 7 feet long, and 77 inches deep. These signs warned offenders they would have firsthand experience with these measurements unless they were gone by sunset. In this way, law was brought to the Montana territory.



The Flying As

# RANGE RIDER

TROUBLE MAP







DUCK! WHAT HAPPENED?

LUCKY SCRAPED HIS LEG ON A ROCK! IT'S NOT SERIOUS BUT I CAN'T RIDE HIM FOR A BIT!



WE'LL FIND YOU ANOTHER MOUNT TILL LUCKY'S LEG HEALS! MEANTIME, DEAN-DEE CAN CARRY TWO!



**45th ANNUAL LATER...**

THOSE BANDITS MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING TO HOLD

DESPERATE! UP A TWO-BIT MEDICINE SHOW!

SAY, WHAT'S THE GIRL LOOKING AT? IS THERE SOMETHING BEHIND US?

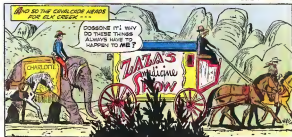


HOLY SHMUCK!



AN ELEPHANT!

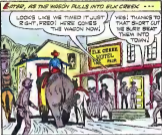






BUT, DAD, SHE'S THE ONLY STAR ACT WE HAVE LEFT! OF COURSE, IF YOU'D GO BACK TO YOUR TRICK SHOOTING--

NO, PESSY! NO SHOOTING EVER, AGAIN!



LATER, ALL THE MESSY BILLS INTO BILK CREEK - - -

LOOKS LIKE WE TIMED IT JUST RIGHT, FRED! HERE COMES THE WAGON NOW!

YES! THANKS TO THAT SHORT-SUIT HE SURE BEAT THEM INTO TOWN!



TOM! THAT HORNER IN SUCKING IS THE RANGE RIDER! THE KID HE RALL-- DICK WEST!

WARR-- THAT KIND OF COMPLICATED TURN! BUT WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT PIECE O' HAP! REGARDS!



WELL, IF IT ISN'T BLACKLES TROY! HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THAT CRACK IN SHAKE BEND!

THAT'S ANCIENT HISTORY! I'VE TURNED OVER A NEW LEAF! I'M A RESPECTABLE HOTEL OWNER NOW!



I'LL GIVE YOU THE BENEVOLENCE OF THE COURT FOR THE TIME BEING! --- NOW, HOW ABOUT A ROOM --- WITH A GOOD, STRONG LOCK ON THE DOOR!

I'LL REGISTER YOU MYSELF! COME ON!



I'M GONNA PUT UP THESE POSTERS, DAD! YOU WATCH THE HORSES! AND PLEASE PEAK UP!

--- I'LL TAKE THEM, HONEY!









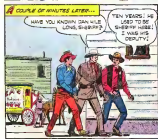
DAN: WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

NOTHING BUT HORSEPLAY, SHERIFF! NO HARM DONE!



DAN THREW AWAY THE BROWN PAPER CLOTHES AND GAVE A GOOD LOOK AT HIS FACE...

MONEY! HIS FACE LOOKS LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO PLACE THAT BEARDED HORSEY'S FACE!



A COUPLE OF MINUTES LATER...

HAVE YOU KNOWN DAN WILE LONG, SHERIFF?

TEN YEARS! HE USED TO BE SHERIFF HERE! I WAS HIS DEPUTY!



DON'T TELL ME THAT TIED, SAYS OLD BELLOW WAS A LIARMAN!

WE SURE WAS! AN A BARNED GOOD ONE! UNTIL THE DAY HE WENT AFTER A PAIR OF OUTLANDS!



HE TRACKED 'EM DOWN, CAPTURED ONE AN' KILLED THE OTHER! THE ONE HE KILLED WAS HIS OWN SON!



DAN WENT UP HIS GUNS THAT DAY AN' TURNED IN HIS BADGE! HE AN' REBBY BOUGHT THE MEDICINE SHOW AN' LEFT TOWN! NEVER SAW 'EM AGAIN TILL TODAY!



WHO HAS THE BANDIT HE'S CAPTURED?

A WORKHOPPER NAMED TOM ROSSON! HE'S IN STATE'S PRISON! GOT FIVE MORE YEARS TO SERVE!



ANYTHING---

OF ALL THE STUPID TRICKS! STARTING A FIGHT WITH YOUNG BERT! AND CALLING ATTENTION TO YOURSELF!

SO I REPLIED WRONG!



I FIGURED I COULD TAKE THE KID EASY! THEN THE BANGS RIDER WOULD FITCH IN! AN THE SHERIFF WOULD TOSS 'EM BOTH IN JAIL, FOR DISTURBING THE PEACE! YOU SAID THEY WERE BAD MEDICINE!



THEY ARE! BUT RIGHT NOW, THEY'RE NOT AS IMPORTANT AS THAT PROOF OF MAP! AND I'M SURE DAN OR THE GIRL HAS IT!

THEN WHAT WE WAITING FOR? LET'S MAKE 'EM TALK!



MEDDLE, AT THE HOTEL STABLE---

THAT SCRATCH LOOKS CRAZY, DICK! IT WON'T BEAT LUCKY TO RIDE HIM NOW!

THEN WHY ARE YOU FROWNING?



I'M PAZZLED! DID THAT BEARDED MAN YOU TANGLED WITH LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?

NO! BUT HE SURE WILL --- FROM NOW ON!

WELL, HE REMINDS ME OF SOMEBODY!  
THE SET OF HIS SHOULDERS --- THE WAY  
HE HOLDS HIS HEAD --- USES HIS HANDS---  
HE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE FRED TROY,  
THEY COULD BE---



BROTHERS?

EXACTLY! AND THE TWO OF  
THEM COULD BE THE OUTLAW  
WHO TRIED TO HOLD UP THE  
MULES!



THAT'S  
A WILD  
IDEA!

I'VE GOT AN EVEN  
WILDER ONE! THAT THE  
BEARDED MAN'S NAME  
IS REALLY BOSSON!



GREAT GRIEF! YOU  
ARE REACHING!  
HE'S IN POISON!

WHY DO ESCAPE!  
COME ON! LET'S DO  
A LITTLE CHECKING!



TAKE IT ALL, YOU!  
YOU'VE WAGGLED  
THE OLD MAN  
COLOR--- BRING  
SEA TO--- DIRT!  
AND DON'T MAKE  
ANY NOISE! WE  
DON'T WANT TO  
ATTRACT ANY  
ATTENTION!









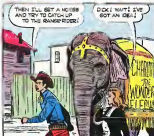




**THE DANCE DROOP'S WASTLE**

**THREE RACES BACK**





**MEANTIME**---

YOU SLEPPED WRONG, PEEB!  
THE RANGE RIDER'S COMING EAST!  
I'LL HANG BACK AND  
SHOW HIM OFF WOULD--

NO! YOU RIGHT AHEAD! THEN  
THE LEAD WOULD FLY! WE  
DON'T WANT DAN HURT TILL  
WE FIND THE MAP!



WE'LL SPLIT UP! AND MEET AT THE SHACK!  
THAT'S THE WAY HE LOST HIM BEFORE!

OKAY!



SO! THEY'RE SEPARATED! WELL,  
IF I TEAL THAT  
ONE---



I'M SURE TO CATCH UP  
EVENTUALLY WITH THE  
OTHER ONE, AND  
DAN, TOO!



**AT THAT MOMENT**---

LOOK, MISS PEEB!  
OVER THERE!



**LATER**---

WONDER I'VE  
LOST HIM!







**BUT THE RANGE RIDER JUMPS BACK QUICKLY...**



**MEANWHILE, BOB HAS FINISHED DRIVING...**



THE FLYING A'S

# RANGE RIDER

EARLY MORNING FINDS THE RANGE RIDER RIDING TOWARD DARK MOON TO MEET HIS PARTNER, DICK WEST—



HOLD IT, IRVINGIDE / UNLESS I'M WRONG, THE HORSE THAT MADE THOSE TRACKS IS IN BAD SHAPE!





JACK RABBIT--SCARED  
HORSE ---BOLTED---  
THROW ME!

DON'T  
TRY TO  
TALK!



GOT TO--FIND BUCK  
TALBOT-- HIDE-OUT NEAR  
INDIAN ROCK --- TELL  
HM I--- DOOH!

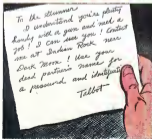
HE'S  
GONE!  
LOOKS LIKE  
HIS HEAD  
STUCK A  
DOCK!



SO THE NOTORIOUS AND WANTED  
BUCK TALBOT'S HIDING OUT NEAR A  
PLACE CALLED INDIAN ROCK?  
RECALL THAT DEER-HUNTING TRIP  
DICK AND I PLANNED WILL HAVE  
TO WAIT A BIT!



I WONDER HOW THIS HORSE  
TIES IN WITH TALBOT--- HAH---  
A LETTER / MAYBE IT HOLDS  
THE ANSWER!



To the steamer  
I understand you're pretty  
handy with a gun and need a  
job! I can see you! Contact  
me at Indian Rock near  
Dark Horse! Use your  
dead partner's name for  
a password and identify  
Talbot



SO YOU WERE 'THE  
GUNNER', RUSLER--  
ROAD AGENT-- AND  
Hired KILLER / AND  
IF I RECALL, YOUR  
PARTNER'S NAME WAS  
SPIKE DUNSEL / YES,  
THAT'S IT!



OBVIOUSLY TALBOT DOESN'T KNOW THE GUNNER BY SIGHT / SO I THINK I'LL CHANGE CLOTHES WITH HIM AND KEEP THAT DATE AT INDIAN ROCK /



A LITTLE LATER ...



FIRST, I'LL HAVE TO GET WORD TO DICK / ON THE QT, TOO / TALBOT'S APT TO HAVE A LOOKOUT IN DARK MOON /

MEANWHILE, DICK WEST WAITS IN TOWN...



BOSSONEE IT / THE RANGE RIDER SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE A COUPLE OF HOURS AGO / SURE HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM /



THAT WHISTLE / THE RANGE RIDER'S SECRET SIGNAL / IT CAME FROM THAT ALLEY YONDER /



THAT WHISTLE ALWAYS MEANS TROUBLE / I WONDER WHAT PARTICULAR BRAND WE'RE IN FOR THIS TIME /



PRRRT— / DICK / HOLD IT AND DON'T LOOK THIS WAY /

WHAT'S UP ?

I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW / THERE'S  
A DESERTED MINE HALF A MILE  
EAST OF TOWN / MEET ME  
THERE PROMPT!

RIGHT!



LATER... AT THE OLD MINE...

SO IF I CAN CONVINCE  
TALBOT I'M THE GUNNER,  
MAYBE WE CAN RAISE THE  
WHOLE GANG!

IT'S A MIGHTY RISKY  
DEAL, RANGE RIDER!



IT'LL BE WORTH IT TO COLLAR  
TALBOT / TELL THE SHERIFF WHAT'S  
GOING ON / I'LL SET IN TOUCH  
WITH YOU LATER!

OHAY / AND  
GOOD LUCK!



NEARLY NOON...

INDIAN ROCK AHEAD,  
RANGERSIDE / WITH LUCK IT  
WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE  
COME FACE TO FACE  
WITH TALBOT!



PULL UP MISTER /  
AN' GRAB FOR THE  
SAY / OR I'LL AIM  
LOVER NEXT  
TIME!

ZING!



THIS HERE'S PRIVATE  
PROPERTY / WHO ARE YOU AN'  
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?

OH CALLED 'EM  
GUNNER / BUCK  
TALBOT'S EXPECTING  
ME!









HOLY SMOKE / HE SHOT THE TOP NAIL CLEAR OUT OF THIS HASP / SATISFIED NOW, ANDY ?

I RECKON SO !



NOW THEN LETS GET DOWN TO BUSINESS / IM TOO BROKE FOR COMFORT / GOT ANY JOBS LINED UP ?

YES / THE BIGGEST WEVE TACKLED YET /



THE WELLS FARGO OFFICE IN DARK MOON / THE SAFE IS LOADED WITH GOLD / I FIGURE WE'LL START OUT AT DUNDOWN TOMORROW /



NEXT MORNING ...

IM GURE GLAD THE RANGE RIDER IS COMING TO DARK MOON / NOBODY CAN STOP HIM WHEN IT COMES TO ROUNDING UP OWLHOOTS /

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN SHERIFF /



THE RANGE RIDER / I'VE GOT TO TELL THE BOSS ABOUT THIS - PRONTO !



ACE HIGH-TAILS IT TO THE HIDE-OUT...

ACE / IS SOMETHING WROING ?

NOT YET / BUT IT WONT BE LONG NOW / THE RANGE RIDER'S HEADED FOR DARK MOON TO HELP THE SHERIFF ROUND UP SOME OUTLAWS /

BUCK / DO YOU  
THINK THAT  
HELMS US ?

MORE'N LIKELY / BUT IM  
NOT WORRIED / NOT  
SCARED / WE'LL GO  
THROUGH WITH THE EXPRESS  
JOB AS PLANNED / DICKY  
BY YOU, GUNNER ?



YEAH, BUT I DON'T LIKE TO GO ON  
A JOB WITHOUT FIRST SCOUTING  
THE LAYOUT / SUPPOSE WE RIDE  
INTO TOWN FOR  
A LOOSEE ?

A GOOD IDEA /  
ANDY, YOU AND  
ACE KEEP  
WATCH ON  
THINGS  
HERE !



THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY  
ABOUT THAT HORSEB / IM  
GOING TO MOSBY AND TOWN  
AND HELP MY EYE ON HIM!

THE BOSS WON'T LIKE  
THAT, ANDY / BUT IT'S  
YOUR FUNERAL !



**T**HE RANGE RIDER DELIBERATELY STEERS  
TOWARD A ROUNDABOUT WAY ...

SAY GUNNER / WANTS  
THE IDEA OF TAKING  
THE LONG WAY  
TO TOWN ?

TWO REASONS /  
TO GET THE LAY  
OF THE LAND IN CASE  
WE HAVE TO  
LEAVE IN A  
HURRY—



-AND TO SHOW YOU THAT  
GRAVE YONDER / IT'S WHAT  
DELAYED ME GETTING  
TO YOUR PLACE /

YOU MEAN  
THAT'S THE  
LAWMAN YOU  
SPOKE ABOUT ?



FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF,  
BUCK / ONLY ONE MAN I KNOW  
OF WHO WEARS BUCKSKINS  
LIKE THOSE /

GREAT SCOTTY!  
THE RANGE  
RIDER !





**A**S THE RANGE RIDER AND BUCK  
RIDE OUT OF TOWN...

SOMEbody MUST HAVE BEEN  
WATCHING ON THE RANGE RIDER  
MOLLIFY! I HAVE PULLED THAT  
TRICK! I RECKON THIS NOTE  
WILL TELL ME WHAT'S UP!



Express Office!  
Just after Sun-  
down tonight!  
Tell Sheriff and  
get set with  
incoming  
Committee.

LOOKS LIKE THINGS  
ARE COMING TO A HEAD—  
EVEN QUICKER THAN WE  
FIGURED!



**A** LITTLE LATER...

I TELL YOU, BOSS, THE  
SUNNER DELIBERATELY  
BUMPED INTO THAT KID!  
WHAT I WANT TO  
KNOW IS WHY!



THEN ASK HIM!  
BUT IF YOU GET  
LEAD POISON IN-  
STEAD OF AN  
ANSWER, DON'T  
BLAME ME!

JUST THE SAME, BOSS,  
I'LL GIVE GODS HE'S UP TO  
SOMETHING! WE'D BETTER  
CANCEL THAT EXPRESS  
JOB AND...

NOTHING DOING!  
BUT WE'LL SET UP  
THE TIME --- JUST  
IN CASE.



**A**N HOUR OR SO BEFORE SUNDOWN---

THIS IS A BOLD MOVE FOR  
ONLY THREE MEN! WHAT  
HAPPENED TO ACE AND  
PAT?



THEY'VE GONE ON AHEAD!  
THEY'LL COVER US WHEN WE  
LEAVE TOWN! GET GOING,  
ANDY! WE'LL MEET YOU AT  
THE EXPRESS OFFICE!



MAKE A L.G. GUNNER /  
THE BOYS'LL GET UNEASY /  
IF THEY HAV' TO WAIT  
TOO LONG !

BUT I THOUGHT WE  
WERENT GOING TO  
PULL THE JOB 'TILL  
JUST AFTER 'MIDNOWN !

I CHANGED MY  
MIND ! ANY  
OBJECTIONS ?

OF COURSE NOT !  
ONE TIME'S AS GOOD  
AS ANOTHER 'O  
ME !



**B**LUCK AND THE RANGE RIDER RIDE BOLDLY INTO TOWN --



THERE'S LUCKY AT  
THE HOTEL HITCHHACK !  
THAT MEANS DICK  
ISNT TOO FAR  
AWAY !



BUT HE'S NOT IN SIGHT !  
AND I'VE GOT TO GET WORD TO  
HIM THE JOBS COMING  
OFF EARLY !



I'LL HAVE TO TAKE A CHANCE  
HE'S WITHIN EARSHOT !



WHY IN BLAZES  
ARE YOU DOING !





**T**HE RANGE RIDER CATAPULTS THROUGH THE AIR...

**A**N...



SHERIFF / THE OTHER TWO ARE WAITING BEHIND THE LIVERY STABLE /

GET THEM, BOYS!



SO YOU'RE THE RANGE RIDER -- / AND THEN THAT GRAVE --

THE GUNNERS / I BORROWED HIS NAME AND CLOTHES / AND I'M READY TO SHED THEM BOTH RIGHT NOW!

**L**AFTER...



WE GOT THE WHOLE GANG, RANGE RIDER / AND I'M MIGHTY GRATEFUL / I WISH YOU'D TAKE THE REWARD, THOUGH!

TALBOT'S VICTIMS WILL HAVE MORE USE FOR IT / DIVIDE IT AMONG THEM / RIGHT, DICK?

RIGHT AGAIN, RANGE RIDER!