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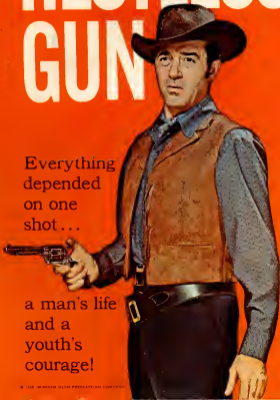
NOV.-JAN

Still 10¢

RESTLESS GUN

Everything
depended
on one
shot...

a man's life
and a
youth's
courage!





VINT BONNER'S better judgment warned him not to get mixed up in the personal affairs of the town's blacksmith . . .

But his sense of justice forced him to stand in defense of a youth battling to prove that size alone is not the measure of a man.

THE LITTLE GIANT



RESTLESS GUN

THE LITTLE GIANT

ONE MORNING, AS VINT BOASHER RIDES THE TRAIL TOWARD THE TOWN OF ROCK RIVER...

CRAACK!

ZING!

TWACK!

VINT QUICKLY GOES FOR COVER, DRAWING HIS GUN...

LUCKY WHOEVER FIRED THAT GIST IS A BAD MARKSMAN!

HE'S COMING TOWARD ME...

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VINT STABILIZES HIS SIX-GUN AND AS THE YOUTH APPROACHES...

HOLD IT, BOY!

WHAT???

MAYBE I'M DIFFERENT FROM MOST PEOPLE, BUT SOMEHOW I DON'T TAKE TOO KINDLY TO PEOPLE SHOOTING AT ME!

L-L-LOOK... YOU... YOU GOT ME ALL WRONG!

I WAS ONLY DOING SOME TARGET PRACTICE! GOSH, IF I'D KNOWN THERE WAS ANYONE DOWN HERE, I NEVER WOULD HAVE FIRED THE RIFLE!

TARGET PRACTICE, EH?

I'D SAY YOU NEEDED IT, YOUNG FELLA...THE WAY YOU WERE CARRYING THIS RIFLE, IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'VE HAD IT TOO LONG!

MY PA GAVE IT TO ME FOR A BIRTHDAY PRESENT.

I'M DANNY BARNES!

VINT BONNER...NICE TO MEET YOU, DANNY!



I'VE HAD THIS RIFLE ALMOST SIX MONTHS NOW... I FIGURED NOW, OF ALL TIMES, I'D BETTER LEARN TO USE IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "NOW, OF ALL TIMES"?



THERE'S A MOUNTAIN LION RUHHIN' LOOSE IN THE TERRITORY! HE'S KILLED CLOSE TO TWENTY HEAD OF CATTLE... TWICE AS MANY SHEEP! EVERYBODY IN THE AREA HAS BEEN TRYIN' TO CATCH HIM!



I FIGURED IF I LEARNED HOW TO USE MY RIFLE, PA WOULD LET ME JOIN THE OTHERS ON THE HUNT!

MAYBE YOUR FATHER DOESN'T WANT YOU SHOOTING THE RIFLE!



OH, IT'S NOT THAT... PA'S JUST BEEN BUSY... HASN'T TIME TO TEACH ME HIMSELF! THIS WAY IT'LL BE KIND OF A SURPRISE!

WANT SOME HELP?



SAY, THAT'D BE SWELL, MR BONNER!

THE FIRST THING TO LEARN IS CAUTION...



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THIS IS A SPECIAL GUN, DANNY! I JUST ATTACH THIS STOCK TO MY SIX-GUN AND IT BECAME A RIFLE!

ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOUR ELBOW IS DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH THE RIFLE WHEN YOU TAKE AIM...STEADY IT CAREFULLY...



THEN, TAKE YOUR TIME AND SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER... SLOWLY!



GOSH, IT LOOKS EASY WHEN YOU DO IT!

IT JUST TAKES PRACTICE, SON...



REMEMBER NOW, TAKE YOUR TIME...LINE UP YOUR SHOT CAREFULLY...



THAT WAS CLOSE, DANNY... NOW TRY IT AGAIN! KEEP YOUR RIGHT ELBOW IN CLOSE TO YOUR BODY!



AN HOUR GOES BY...

THAT'S IT, DANNY! NICE SHOT!





I TOLD YOU I'D TEACH YOU YOURSELF WHEN I HAD TIME! I GOT ENOUGH THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW WITHOUT THINKIN' ABOUT YOU SHOOTIN' YOUR POOL LEG OFF TRYIN' TO FIRE A RIFLE!

THE BOY LEARNS QUICKLY, MR. BARNES! I'M SURE YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT —

WHEN I WANT ADVICE FROM A STRANGER, I'LL ASK FOR IT!



HE'S MY FRIEND PA! I'VE ASKED MR. BONNER TO HAVE SUPPER WITH US!

MAYBE I'D BETTER MAKE IT SOME OTHER TIME, DANNY...



NO, IF THE BOY ASKED YOU, THEN YOU'RE WELCOME! I'LL FINISH UP HERE... DANNY CAN SHOW YOU WHERE TO WASH UP!



THAT EVENING...

THAT WAS A FINE MEAL, MR. BARNES...

GLAD YOU LIKED IT, BONNER! YOU AIM TO STAY IN TOWN WHILE?



A FEW DAYS, MAYBE...

I SPOSE THE BOY'S TOLD YOU ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN LION THE FOLKS HAVE BEEN HUNTING? MAYBE YOU CAN JOIN OUR NEXT HUNT!





I'LL BE GLAD TO GO ALONG IF I CAN BE OF HELP.

WE CAN USE EVERY MAN WHO CAN HANDLE A GUN ! IF WE DON'T GET THAT CRITTER SOON, HE'LL BE BANKRUPTING HALF THE RANCHERS AROUND HERE !



I'LL HELP, TOO, PA. HOW THAT I CAN USE THAT RUCLE ---

YOU'LL TEND TO THINGS RIGHT HERE, BOY ! THIS IS A JOB FOR MEN !



PA, I'M SEVENTEEN ! HOW DO YOU EXPECT ME TO GROW UP IF YOU DON'T ---

THAT'S ENOUGH, DANNY ! I'LL HEAR NO MORE ABOUT IT !



I'M TURNING IN, PA... I... I'LL SEE YOU IN THE MORNING ! 'NIGHT MR BONNER !

GOOD NIGHT, DANNY...



AS DANNY EXITS...

AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE ROUGH ON THE BOY, MR. BARNES ? MAYBE IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS BUT HE IS ALMOST A MAN !



AND HALF THE SIZE OF ONE ! WHY, I CAN PICK THE BOY UP WITH ONE HAND !

WHAT'S HIS SIZE GOT TO DO WITH IT ?

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT'S GOT TO DO WITH IT! HE'S MY SON, THAT'S WHAT! BIG JIM, THEY CALL ME... AND JUST LOOK AT THE BOY! WHY, HE HASN'T GROWN TWO INCHES IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS!

A LOT OF MEN ARE SHORT, JIM... WEIGHT DOESN'T MAKE A BIG MAN!



TAKES AFTER HIS MA... SHE WAS LITTLE—MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE IF SHE HAD BEEN A STRONGER WOMAN!

DANNY LOOKS TO ME TO BE A HEALTHY BOY...



GURE HE'S HEALTHY! AND HE'LL STAY A LOT HEALTHIER KEEPING AWAY FROM GUNS AND THE LIKE! BOY HIS SIZE JUST DOESN'T HAVE ANY PLACE TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH MEN!



I STILL THINK YOU'RE WRONG, JIM... IN THESE DAYS, A SEVENTEEN-YEAR-OLD AS A MAN! GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO PROVE IT! FORGET HOW TALL HE IS AND LET HIM GROW UP INSIDE!



I'LL GET A ROOM IN THE HOTEL IN TOWN... THANKS AGAIN FOR THE SUPPER!

JUST ONE THING BEFORE YOU LEAVE, BONNER... I'M GLAD YOU'RE DANNY'S FRIEND.



BUT, HOWEVER YOU FEEL ABOUT THIS, DON'T FORGET HE'S MY BOY! I'LL GAMB HIM THE WAY I SEE FIT, AND I DON'T WANT ANY INTERFERENCE!



THAT NIGHT, AT A NEARBY RANCH, A
SILENT, DEADLY ENEMY STRIKES AGAIN...



AND THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

...AND LAST NIGHT HE
STROCK AGAIN! WE GOT TO
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS
AND DO IT **FAST!**

IT'S LIKE THAT
LION KNEW OUR
THOUGHTS...HE ALWAYS
ATTACKS WHEN NOBODY'S
AROUND!



HAVE
YOU
TRIED
TRAPS?

WE'VE TRIED EVERY-
THING, BONNER...
NOTHING SEEMS TO
WORK! THAT LION'S
JUST TOO SMART FOR
THE USUAL METHODS...



THE WAY I FIGURE, WE'VE
GOT TO **ORGANIZE**...
EVERY MAN HAS TO WORK
TOGETHER!

THERE'S A LOT OF
GROUND TO COVER, BASED
ON WHAT YOU'VE TOLD
ME ABOUT THESE
ATTACKS...



I'D SUGGEST YOU SPLIT INTO
PARTIES OF THREE OR FOUR MEN...EACH
PARTY CAN PATROL A CERTAIN SECTION
OF LAND — TAKE TURNS AT NIGHT
GUARD!





YOU MEAN CAMP OUT ON THE TRAIL?

THAT'S RIGHT! ELIMINATE ALL POSSIBLE CHANCES THAT THE LION WILL STRIKE WHEN THERE'S NO ONE IN THE AREA!



SOUNDS GOOD TO ME! SAM, DAVE... YOU'LL GO WITH ME AND BONNER; WE'LL ROUND UP THE OTHER BOYS AND DIVIDE THEM INTO GROUPS!

WE'LL MEET HERE IN ABOUT AN HOUR!



I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, SON, BUT YOUR FATHER JUST DOESN'T WANT YOU HURT!

MAYBE THAT'S PART OF IT, VINT...



BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT EVER SINCE PA REALIZED I WASN'T GOING TO GROW AS BIG AS HE IS, HE'S BEEN DISAPPOINTED! HE'LL PROBABLY

TREAT ME THE SAME WAY TWENTY YEARS FROM NOW!



I WENT OUT AGAIN EARLY THIS MORNING AND DID SOME MORE PRACTICING WITH MY RIFLE!... HIT THE TARGET! EIGHT OUT OF TEN TIMES!

THAT'S GREAT, DANNY!



IF ONLY DAD WOULD LET ME SHOW HIM... IF ONLY HE'D GIVE ME A CHANCE!

MAYBE WE'LL HAVE TO...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

SUPPOSE YOU JOINED US LATER ON THE TRAIL... AFTER WE GET UP CAMP?



I'LL TAKE THE BLAME FOR ASKING YOU... AND IT JUST MIGHT BE A CHANCE TO SHOW YOUR FATHER YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THAT RIFLE...



LETS THAT AFTERNOON, THE TOWNSMEN TAKE THEIR POSITIONS THROUGHOUT THE AREA...

WE GOT EVERY PART OF THIS TERRITORY COVERED!

I JUST HOPE THAT CRITTER COMES NEAR THIS CAMP! I'VE BEEN WAITIN' A LONG TIME TO GET HIM IN MY RIFLE SIGHTS!



AT THAT MOMENT, NOT FAR AWAY...

VINT SAID THEY'D BE CAMPING JUST UP AHEAD ON SUNSET RIDGE.



SUDDENLY, AS DANNY NEARS A LEDGE...

THE MOUNTAIN LION!



QUETLY, DANNY RAISES HIS RIFLE...

GOT TO
AIM
CAREFULLY...

CRAACK!

THE SHOT WOUNDS THE BIG CAT AND HE TAKES
COVER IN THE ROCKS...

ARRROGGH!

AND AT THE CAMP SITE...

THAT WAS A SHOT,
ALL RIGHT! I
WONDER IF —

Look!

IT'S YOUR BOY, JIM!

DANNY!

THE LION! I WOUNDED HIM!
HE... HE HEADED OFF TOWARD
BLUE VALLEY...

WHAT ARE YOU
DOING UP HERE?
HOW IN
TARNATION —

I ASKED HIM TO COME, JIM!
I THOUGHT DANNY DESERVED
A CHANCE TO PROVE
HIMSELF!

YOU THOUGHT! I WARNED YOU ABOUT MEDDLING, BONNER, AND JUST LOOK! HOW HE PROVED HIMSELF... THERE'S NOTHIN' WORSE THAN A MOUNDED LION!

IT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO ANYONE, JIM... AT LEAST THE BOY HIT HIM... SOMETHING NONE OF US HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO!



YOU KEEP OUT OF THIS! ALL OF YOU!

PA, PLEASE...



AS FOR YOU, BONNER, I'M GONNA TEACH YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!



CUT IT OUT, JIM! I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!



BUT BIG JIM EARNEST HAS NO INTENTION OF QUITTING...

COME ON, BLAST YOU! FIGHT!



BUT FINALLY...

I'M SORRY TO DO THIS, JIM... BUT WE'RE WASTING VALUABLE TIME!

SOCK!





THE TRIO MOVES SLOWLY ALONG THE VALLEY FLOOR, UNWARE OF HOW CLOSE THEY ARE TO THEIR QUARRY...





GO AHEAD,
DANNY...IT'S
YOUR SHOT!
MAKE IT
GOOD!



CRAACK!



THE HUNT IS OVER...

NICE
SHOOTING,
DANNY...



YOU SEE THAT, BONNER?
THE BOY'S AIM WAS
STEADY AS A ROCK!
YOU SEE THE WAY HE
LINED UP HIS SHOTS
AND —

WNT TAUGHT
ME, PA...I...
I COULDN'T
HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT HIM!



ALWAYS KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, BOY!
WHY, I SAID TO MYSELF YEARS AGO
...WHEN DANNY GROWS UP HE'S
GOING TO BE JUST LIKE HIS PA!

BUT, PA... ALL
THE THINGS YOU
SAID BEFORE! I
... I DON'T
UNDERSTAND —



MAN'S GOT A RIGHT TO CHANGE HIS MIND, HANST
ME? CAN'T BE A STUBBORN OK ALL OF HIS LIFE,
CAN HE, BONNER?

NO, JIM... BUT
I'M GLAD YOU SAID IT...

RESTLESS GUN

GUNFIGHT TRAIL





NOT WHY ALL THE TARGET PRACTICE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE MINING BUSINESS!

I HAVEN'T REALLY GIVEN UP MINING, VINT... BUT I'M A MARRIED MAN NOW!



SO I TOOK A JOB RIDING GROUND FOR THE SILVER CITY FREIGHT COMPANY... A MAN'S GOT TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY! WHEN I LOCATE MYSELF A GOOD CLAIM, THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR MINING...

CONGRATULATIONS, TOM...



COME ON INSIDE AND MEET MY WIFE! GREATEST GIRL A MAN COULD WANT!



A SHORT TIME LATER...

I BLESS YOUR NAME IS AS WELL KNOWN IN THIS TOWN AS MY OWN, MR. BONNER! TOM TALKS ABOUT YOU A LOT!

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS A LONG TIME, MRS. TEMPLE...



YOU'LL STAY WITH US A SPELL, WON'T YOU?

WELL, I HADN'T PLANNED...



YOUR PLANS ARE CHANGED! A GOOD FRIEND LIKE YOU CAN'T SHOW UP AFTER MORE'N TWO YEARS AND THEN GO RIDING OUT! YOU'RE STAYING, VINT...

I'VE GOT A RUN TOMORROW FROM SILVER CITY DOWN TO DENTON... GOON'S I GET BACK WE'LL HAVE TIME FOR A NICE LONG TALK!



I'LL RIDE INTO TOWN WITH YOU TOMORROW... I'VE GOT A FEW SUPPLIES TO PICK UP AND MY HORSE COULD STAND A NEW SET OF SHOES!



I'LL GET DINNER STARTED TOM!... SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR OUR COMPANY!



THE NEXT DAY, IN THE NEARBY MINING TOWN OF SILVER CITY.

YOU WOULD HARDLY KNOW THE PLACE, WOULD YOU, VINT? WHEN YOU WERE HERE TWO YEARS AGO, IT WASN'T MORE THAN A FEW TENTS AND A WITCHING POST!



COME ON INSIDE A MINUTE! I WANT YOU TO MEET SOME FRIENDS OF MINE!



VINT BONNER, MEET BILL CARTER, THE BOSS OF THIS COMPANY! AND HIS NEPHEW, STEVE PETRIE!



PLEASUED TO MEET YOU, VINT!



VINT'S VISITING ME, BOYS
...SO THE SOONER WE GET
THIS RON OVER WITH THE
BETTER I'LL LIKE IT!

THE WAGON'S DUE IN FROM THE
MINE ANY
MINUTE, TOM!



GOOD! I'LL JUST WALK OVER TO THE
STABLE WITH VINT AND BE RIGHT
BACK!



SHORTLY...

JUST MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME
AROUND TOWN, VINT...I SHOULD BE
BACK EARLY 3:15 AFTERNOON!

WANT ME TO
RIDE ALONG
WITH YOU?



I'D ENJOY YOUR COMPANY, BUT
YOU'VE HAD A LONG TRIP, SO
YOU MIGHT AS WELL RELAX
HERE IN TOWN FOR A WHILE!



LATER, AS THE FREIGHT WAGON WINDS ITS WAY DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN FROM THE MINING TOWN...

HERE IT COMES,
BRADY!

AS THE WAGON APPROACHES THE MASKED HORSESMAN...



TOM TEMPLE SWINGS HIS GUN UP TO FIRE...



BUT AS HE DOES...



TOM'S GUN FALLS TO FIRE AND HE SLUMPS OVER, WOUNDED...



DRIVER! GET DOWN OFF THAT WAGON!

YOU'LL GET THE SAME IF YOU DON'T OBEY ORDERS!



WHAT... ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

WE'RE TAKIN' YOUR WAGON, BUSTER... AND ALL THAT SILVER YOU'RE HAULING!





MOMENTS LATER, THE TOWN LEARNS WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST — WHY, TOM NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO FIRE A SHOT!

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM TO A DOCTOR!



AND SOON...

HOW IS HE, YINT? WHAT DID THE DOC SAY?

HE'LL BE UNCONSCIOUS AWHILE YET BUT HE'LL PULL THROUGH!



THANK HEAVEN FOR THAT!

I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT! IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE THAT TOM DIDN'T GET ONE OF THOSE STEALING CONOTES!



STEVE, YOU AND THE DRIVER GO ON OVER TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE... TELL HIM ALL THE DETAILS! I HAVE TO MAKE A REPORT ON THIS!

RIGHT!



PRETTY BIG LOSS, WASN'T IT?

BIG ENOUGH TO PUT ME OUT OF BUSINESS IF IT ISN'T RECOVERED! MY INSURANCE WON'T COVER MOREN HALF OF THAT SILVER!



A FEW HOURS LATER, IN A ROOM ADJOINING THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...

YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER TAKEN THE JOB, TOM... I WAS AFRAID SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN!

NOW STOP WORRYING, MONEEY! I'M ALIVE AND THE DOC SAYS I'LL BE ON MY FEET IN A WEEK!

THE WORST PART ABOUT IT IS I DIDN'T DO MY JOB! FOR ALL THE GOOD I DID DOING THAT MAGON, I MIGHT AS WELL HAVE STAYED HOME!



I... I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, VINT! I REMEMBER PULLING THE TRIGGER ON MY RIFLE; I HAD ONE OF THOSE OUTLAWS LINED UP PERFECT! BUT NOTHING HAPPENED!

YOU MEAN THE RIFLE JAMMED?

I'M NOT SURE... IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST! IT WAS WORKING FINE THE NIGHT BEFORE; YOU SAW ME PRACTICING WITH IT!

I'M SURE BILL CARTER UNDERSTANDS IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT, TOM!



JUST THE SAME, I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT THE RIFLE... I'D FEEL BETTER IF I KNEW THE REASON IT WON'T FIRE!

I'LL CHECK IT FOR YOU, TOM!

MEANWHILE, YOU JUST REST... SOON AS THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU CAN BE MOVED, WE'LL GET YOU HOME TO YOUR OWN CABIN!

GUESS YOUR VISIT IS KIND OF SPOILED BY ALL THIS, VINT!





FORGET IT !
WE'RE FRIENDS,
TOM...
AND I'LL BE
STAYING
HERE IN
SILVER
CITY AS
LONG AS
YOU
NEED
ME !



SHORTLY...
I STILL DON'T
UNDERSTAND A
LOT OF THIS...
UNLESS TOM
GOT SCARED
AND —

IT WASN'T THAT, MR. CARTER !
SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH
THAT RIFLE !



MATTER OF FACT, THAT'S WHY I CAME
OVER HERE ! I'D LIKE TO HAVE A LOOK
AT IT !

THE RIFLE ?
BUT I DON'T
HAVE IT !



I DIDN'T SEE IT
WHEN THEY BROUGHT
TOM INTO TOWN...

WE MUST'VE LEFT IT ON
THE STAGE ! IT WAS
LYING RIGHT IN THE
CAB ON THE FLOOR !



STAGE PULLED OUT A
HALF-HOUR AGO ! MUST
STILL BE THERE !

WHEN'S THAT
STAGE DUE
BACK ?



TOMORROW MORNING !
I KNOW THE DRIVER...
WE'LL BRING THE RIFLE
BACK WITH HIM IF HE
FINDS IT !

YOU ACT CONCERNED
ABOUT THIS, MR.
BONNER...

IT'S JUST THAT I WANT TO CHECK IT OVER, STEVE, TO FIND OUT WHERE THE FAULT LIES! I HATE TO HAVE PEOPLE WONDERING IF TOM TRIED TO STOP THAT ROBBERY OR NOT! IT'S IMPORTANT TO ME!

OF COURSE! AND I BELIEVE HIM ABOUT THE RIFLE! TELL HIM THAT, IF IT'LL DO ANY GOOD!

I WILL AND THANKS!

YOU CAN ALSO TELL HIM THE SHERIFF'S TAKING A POSSE OUT TO THE HOLDUP SPOT...MAYBE THEY CAN TRAIL THAT WAGON...



THAT NIGHT AT A CAMPFIRE SOME MILES FROM TOWN...



IT'S STEVE!

WHAT IN TORNATION ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO COME IF YOU TWO HAD DONE LIKE I SAID! I TOLD YOU TO GRAB THAT GUARD'S RIFLE AFTER THE HOLDUP!

WE WERE IN A HURRY, STEVE, DIDN'T SEEM IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO —



ONE OF YOU MIGHT BE DEAD IF I HADN'T REMOVED THE FIRING PIN! YOU THINK STEALING THAT WAGON WOULD BE SO EASY IF THAT GUARD'S RIFLE WAS WORKING?



I STUCK MY NECK OUT SO WE COULD GET THAT SILVER, AND I'VE GOT TO STAY IN THE CLEAR! THERE'S A GUY NAMED VINT BONNER LOOKING FOR THAT RIFLE!

WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?





YOU'LL HAVE TO GET IT FIRST!
IT'LL BE ON THE STAGE COMING
IN TOMORROW MORNING FROM
PINE RIDGE!

THE
STAGE?
BUT
HOW—



THE WAGON DRIVER
LEFT IT THERE! NOW
GET IT!

WE'LL TAKE
CARE OF IT,
STEVE!



WHAT ABOUT
THE SILVER? DID
EVERYTHING GO
ALL RIGHT?

WE'VE GOT IT
STASHED UP NEAR
YELLOWSTONE
RIDGE, JUST LIKE
YOU SAID!



AND WE SHOVELED THE WAGON
OVER NEAR FALL CREEK! IF
THE SHERIFF FINDS IT, HE'LL
NEVER PICK UP A TRAIL FROM
THERE... WE WENT UPRIVER
ALL THE WAY!

THEN THE ONLY
THING STANDING
IN OUR WAY IS
THAT RIFLE...



DON'T SLIP UP THIS TIME OR
WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AS STEVE RETURNS TO TOWN...

SEEMS LIKE HE'S BEEN DOING A LOT
OF RIDING FOR THIS TIME OF THE NIGHT!
THAT HORSE LOOKS LIKE IT HAS BEEN
ON QUITE A TRIP!

INSIDE THE ROOM ADJOINING THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE WHERE TOM IS RECOVERING...

I'M NOT SURE, MRS. TEMPLE!

IS ANYTHING WRONG, VINT?

OFFICE

BUT THERE ARE A COUPLE OF THINGS BOTHERING ME THAT I WANT TO CHECK ON... IF I'M NOT BACK EARLY IN THE MORNING, TELL TOM NOT TO WORRY...

YOU'RE LEAVING TOWN?

JUST A SHORT TRIP... I'M GOING TO MEET THE STAGE! I WANT TO BE SURE I GET THAT RIFLE BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE DOES!

DAWN FINDS VINT ON THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL TO PINE RIDGE...

THAT STAGE OUGHT TO PASS THIS WAY SOON!

AT THAT MOMENT, JUST A HALF MILE AHEAD OF VINT...

THAT'S THE STAGE, BRADY? LET'S GET THAT RIFLE AND CLEAR OUT OF HERE!



WINT'S ACTION ENABLES THE STAGE DRIVER TO REACH HIS GUN ...



MOMENTS LATER...

YOU ALL RIGHT?

SURE, THANKS TO YOU
ARRIVING WHEN YOU DID!
DOGGONED IF I CAN FIGURE
THIS OUT ... ALL THAT FELLA
STOLE WAS A RIFLE SOME-
ONE LEFT LYIN' IN THE
STAGE YESTERDAY!



THAT RIFLE'S THE KEY TO THE
SILVER ROBBERY!
WATCH THAT
MAN ... I'LL
BE BACK!



VINT RIDES AWAY AFTER THE FLEEING OUTLAW.



HE'S GAINING ON ME!



PULLING AHEAD OF BRADY, VINT LEAPS...



I'LL FIN YOU, MISTER!



POW!



VINT EXAMINES THE RIFLE...

JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE FIRING PIN HAS BEEN TAKEN OUT!



LATER, BACK IN TOWN...

... AND THIS PROVES IT, TOM! SOMEONE FIXED THAT RIFLE SO YOU COULDN'T FIND IT!

BUT THE RIFLE WAS NEVER OUT OF MY SIGHT... EXCEPT FOR A FEW MINUTES YESTERDAY MORNING WHEN...

THE SAME THING I WAS THINKING! YOU LEFT IT IN THE FREIGHT OFFICE WHILE WE WALKED TO THE STABLE! IT TIES IN WITH LAST NIGHT, WHEN I SAW STEVE PETRIE RIDE BACK INTO TOWN LATE...



AS RYAN AND THE SHERIFF CROSS THE STREET...

WHAT'S ALL THE EXCITEMENT, SHERIFF? ONE OF THE BOYS SAID YOU GOT TWO OUTLAWS IN JAIL AND

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE THREE IN JAIL SOON, BILL!



RYAN BONNER CAN EXPLAIN IT ALL TO YOU WHILE I TAKE YOUR NEPHEW TO JOIN HIS PALS! THANKS TO HIM, YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOUR SILVER BACK!



AND LATER THAT DAY...

BILL CARTER SAYS YOUR JOB IS WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU'RE UP AND AROUND... AND WITH DOUBLE THE SALARY!

SURE GOING TO BE GOOD TO BE HOME AGAIN!



A PLEDGE TO PARENTS

The Dell Pledge is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.

DOUBLE-DUTY GUNS



Viet Bonner's unique weapon, which serves doubly as a pistol and rifle, has seen him through many scrapes. However, it is not the first such double-duty gun. Throughout the history of firearms there have been men with inventive minds who designed guns to be used for dual purposes.



As far back as the 17th century, the Germans combined a flintlock pistol and a battle-axe into one weapon. Just how successful it was is not known.



Jailers in England often carried a combination key and pistol which would not only open the doors to the cells, but afforded some measure of protection to the jailer.



Some scheming fellows used cleverly constructed pistols with barrels that did not actually fire. By filling the barrels with gems, they smuggled the jewels from one country to another without being under suspicion.

"RIGHT NOW, you're probably asking yourself-

What's a famous chef's secret for making food taste better?"

**"Fresh up"
Freddie
says:**



"I'm Chief Chef of the Hot Dog Palace. I bake hot dog cakes treated with pickle relish—and hot dog pies with mustard whipped cream."



"I do a rocking business. Kids are hungry to get my hot dog deliveries. And I know why. I've discovered how to make hot dogs taste better than ever! What's my secret?"



"Seven-Up! Chilled 7-Up makes whatever you eat taste better. Here a bottle with your next hot dog and see what I mean. Nothing does it like 7-Up!"

Start asking for 7-Up with your hot dogs and all your snacks. The fresh, clean taste of 7-Up between bites will make your favorite foods taste extra good.

As "Fresh up" Freddie always says: "Fresh up" with 7-Up!

