

GOLD
KEY

THE RIFLEMAN

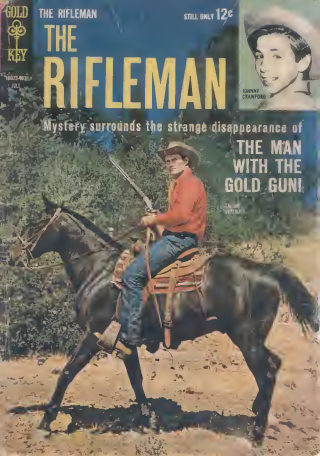
STILL ONLY 12¢

THE RIFLEMAN



EDWARD G. ROBINSON

Mystery surrounds the strange disappearance of
THE MAN WITH THE GOLD GUN!



What's One
Thing That Can't
Be Beaten?

A
Broken
Drum!



- - and - -
GOLD KEY COMICS!

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THE MAN WITH THE GOLD GUN

LUCAS AND MARK WEGAN ARE TRACKING A MURDERING MOUNTAIN LION. WHEN SURELY THEY REACH THE END OF THE TRAIL...

THERE HE IS PA!

I'LL GET HIM, MARK!



THANKS, MISTER. IT'S LUCKY YOU CAME ALONG WHEN YOU DID!

LUCKY FOR US, TOO! WE'VE BEEN AFTER THAT LION FOR A LONG TIME!



THE RIFLEMAN, by Paul Frawley, is a weekly comic strip published by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., New York, N.Y. It is published in cooperation with the National Rifle Association. The strip is published in the U.S.A. and in other countries. The strip is published in the U.S.A. and in other countries. The strip is published in the U.S.A. and in other countries.

CRIMINALS OF ALL KINDS should reach us first weeks in advance of the next issue here. It is the best way to get your hands on the best of the best.

LUCAS INTRODUCES HIMSELF AND MARK TO THE STRANGERS...

I'M PETER NEWTON! MY DAUGHTER NANCY! WE'RE HEADING TO NORTH FORK TO CATCH THE WEST-BOUND STAGE.

YOU'RE WAY OFF THE MAIN ROAD.

WE FOLLOWED THE CREEK TILL WE FOUND THIS SPOT TO REST AND EAT! OUR STAGE LEAVES TOMORROW, SO WE'RE IN NO HURRY.



LATER, LUCAS AND MARK RIDE WITH THE NEWTONS TO THE MAIN ROAD TO NORTH FORK...

GOOD-BY AND GOOD LUCK, NEWTON! AND THANKS FOR THE LUNCH!

I HOPE WE'LL MEET AGAIN, M'CAIN!

I HATE TO SAY GOOD-BY SO SOON, NANCY,

SO DO I, MARK! MAYBE YOU'LL COME TO CALIFORNIA SOME DAY! I'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER WHEN WE'RE SETTLED!

NANCY AND HER FATHER ARE ALONE, LIKE US, BUT THEY HAVEN'T ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER! NANCY'S BEEN IN BOARDING SCHOOL!

THEN IT'S GOOD THEY ARE TOGETHER NOW!



...WE HAVE TO GO TO TOWN TOMORROW FOR SUPPLIES! MAYBE WE CAN GO EARLY!

...AND GET THERE BEFORE THE WEST-BOUND STAGE LEAVES! WE CAN, SON!



SO, NEXT MORNING...

THE STAGE IS LOADING NOW! BUT I DON'T SEE NANCY OR HER FATHER, MARK!

NEITHER DO I! MAYBE THEY'RE STILL IN THE HOTEL! LET'S LOOK!



NANCY! THE STAGE IS READY TO PULL OUT. WHY AREN'T YOU AND...

WE'RE NOT GOING, MARK! FATHER HAS GONE AWAY AND LEFT ME HERE!



GOING AWAY? WHERE?

I DON'T KNOW, I FOUND THIS NOTE WHEN I WOKE UP THIS MORNING!



WHAT DID YOUR FATHER SAY IN THE NOTE, NANCY?

HE SAID HE HAD TO LEAVE ON BUSINESS, BUT HE'D BE BACK SOON! HE TOLD ME TO STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR HIM!



HAS YOUR FATHER SAID ANYTHING THAT MIGHT GIVE YOU AN IDEA WHERE HE'S GONE, OR WHAT HIS BUSINESS MIGHT BE?

NO, MR. MCCAIN. HIS BUSINESS DEALS WITH THE RAILROAD, BUT HE'S RETIRED NOW!



I'LL CHECK THE LIVERY STABLE AND SEE IF YOUR FATHER TOOK HIS RID, NANCY.



SI, HAVE YOU SEEN PETER NEWTON THIS MORNING?

SURE! 'FORE DAYLIGHT HE RENTED A SADDLE HORSE! TOLD ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIS RID 'TILL HE CAME BACK... MIGHT BE WANTING TO SELL IT.



DID HE SAY WHERE HE WAS GOING?

HOPE! JUST PAID ME IN ADVANCE AND HE LIT OUT IN A HURRY! THINK I'LL CLEAN UP HIS BUGGY AND SURPRISE HIM!



LATER...

BUT WHY DIDN'T FATHER TELL ME WHERE HE WAS GOING?

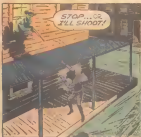
HE'LL EXPLAIN, WHEN HE COMES BACK, NANCY! RIGHT NOW, I THINK YOU SHOULD COME HOME WITH US!



SHORTLY...

I TOLD THE HOTEL CLERK WHERE YOU WERE GOING IN CASE YOUR FATHER RETURNS!





LUCAS SEARCHES THE AREA, THEN
RETURNS TO THE ROOM...

HE GOT AWAY. THERE WAS NO USE
TRYING TO TRACK HIM DOWN IN
THE DARK!



THAT MAN WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
IN THIS ROOM, NANCY! DO YOU HAVE ANY
IDEA WHAT IT COULD BE?

NOT ONE... UNLESS
IT WAS...



SO DID NANCY.
UNLESS IT WAS
MURKIN?

FATHER TOLD ME NOT
TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT
IT... AND TO KEEP IT
WITH ME ALWAYS...



WERE YOUR FRIENDS, NANCY! YOU CAN
TELL US! IT MAY BE IMPORTANT TO YOUR
SAFETY... AND TO YOUR FATHER'S!

ALL RIGHT! IT'S
THIS SEALED PACKAGE,
MR. MCCAIN!



DO YOU KNOW
WHAT'S IN IT,
NANCY?

NO! FATHER SAID I
MUST NEVER OPEN IT,
UNLESS I HAD POSITIVE
PROOF HE WAS DEAD. MAY-
BE IT'S HIS WILL AND
BUSINESS PAPER.



PROMISE ME
YOU WON'T
OPEN IT OR
TELL
ANYONE
ABOUT IT.

I PROMISE! BUT I THINK
YOU SHOULD TELL THE
MARSHAL, AND PUT IT
IN HIS CARE.



NANCY AGREES, AND THEY GO TO MARSHAL MICAH TORRANCE'S OFFICE AND TELL HIM ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED...

THE MARSHAL IS YOUR FRIEND, TOO, NANCY! HE'LL KEEP YOUR SECRET!

THE PACKAGE IS SAFER HERE THAN IN YOUR HANDBAG! I'M SURE YOUR FATHER WOULD SAY SO, TOO!

THAT MEN MAY TRY AGAIN TO FIND WHAT HE WAS AFTER, MICAH! NANCY ISN'T SAFE AT THE HOTEL!

SARAH BROWN HAS A SPARE ROOM! NANCY WILL BE SAFE THERE!

AFTER NANCY IS SETTLED IN SARAH BROWN'S COTTAGE, LUCAS AND MARK RETURN TO MICAH'S OFFICE...

SI! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE THIS TIME OF NIGHT?

GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU! I FOUND **FAPS** UNDER THE SEAT OF NEWTON'S BUGGY, WHILE CLEANING IT TONIGHT!

A MIGHTY FANCY PISTOL! THE HANDLE'S REAL GOLD!

HE LIT OUT IN SUCH A BUSH, HE FORGOT IT! LOOK AT THE INITIALS ON IT: T.W. NEWTON'S INITIALS ARE RN!

NEWTON PROBABLY BOUGHT IT FROM SOME-BOO!

NO, LUCAS— THIS PISTOL IS ONE OF A FAMOUS PAIR! IT BELONGS TO TOP WALLER!





LATER, LUCAS AND MARK
START FOR HOME...

DO YOU THINK
MR. NEWTON
COULD BE
TOO WALLER,
PA?

I DON'T KNOW, SON!
THE SUN AND HIS
RUNNING AWAY MAKE
HIM LOOK SUSPICIOUS!



IF HE *IS*
WALLER, I'M
SURE NANCY
DOESN'T
KNOW IT!

SO AM I! IF HE DOESN'T
COME BACK SOON, I THINK
NANCY WILL BE WILLING
TO OPEN THAT PACKAGE!



THEY RIDE TO NORTH FORK NEXT MORNING AND FIND
ANGIE WITH NANCY AT SARAH BROWN'S COFFAGE...

MY WORRIES ARE OVER! I HAVE A
TELEGRAM FROM FATHER. I'M TO
MEET HIM IN YUBA CITY!

HERE'S NEWTON'S
TELEGRAM, LUCAS! IT
WAS SENT FROM YUBA
CITY. IF SHE TAKES THE
NOON STAGE, SHE'LL
BE THERE EARLY THIS
EVENING!



ANYBODY COULD HAVE SEEN THAT WIRE!
IT MIGHT BE A TRICK BY THE MAN WHO
SEARCHED HER ROOM! NANCY CAN'T GO,
UNLESS WE'RE SURE HER FATHER *IS*
REALLY WAITING FOR HER!

LUCAS
IS RIGHT,
NANCY!

I'LL RIDE BACK TRAIL TO
YUBA CITY AND SEAT THE
STAGECOACH! I'LL TELEGRAPH
IF YOUR FATHER'S THERE,
THEN YOU CAN TAKE
TOMORROW'S STAGE!



LUCAS IS WAITING IN YUBA CITY... BUT EVENING HAS COME, AND THE STAGE FROM NORTH FORK ARRIVES... BUT NEWTON IS NOT IN SIGHT.



AFTER ALL THE PASSENGERS LEAVE THE COACH...



LUCAS CAUTIOUSLY FOLLOWS THE TWO MEN, AND FINALLY...



















BORDER DEAL



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Ezra Starnham knew his horse to a sudden halt and dismounted as a fire, as dust and sand billowed up behind him.

"Tornado, Jed! Hurry! he shouted. "I he rushed over to a small barn that stood near a stream. What are you doing? That's my barn you're building! You need on."

Jed did not look up as he pried the nails into the frame. "Just gotta be a shed. Jed yelled. "A guy's not adding to your barn! The barn's half built and I can prove it!"

Ezra marched right over to his friend, his square jawed face twisted and he belted, "Prove it! You can't prove I built this barn myself! Well, well, well. How do you figure it? I tell you."

"Had a surveyor out here, surveying, and just like I've been thinking, you built this barn right on the edge of the land. It'll help it if you can't find a way out to the land surveyor. Well, I thought I got your land if you can't find a way out to the land. Jed exploded, "I can't find a way out to the land."

"Why go? Don't mess arounding skunk!" Ezra shouted. "I can't find a way out to prove that you're wrong!"

Ezra tried to do justice, but after a while to the land office. He had the idea that Jed was right. There wasn't anything he could do about it, the barn was Jed's and Jed kept adding on to the barn.

What Ezra had thought to be a shed turned out to be a bunkhouse, complete with all the necessary comforts for Jed's ranch hands. And as much as Ezra tried to ignore the new building, Jed would not let him for-

get how terrible the old barn looked attached to the new bunkhouse. Finally, Ezra decided to pretend that the bunkhouse did not exist. Then he decided not to put his hay crop in the barn so he would not have to go near the place so often. But even with these decisions, Ezra found himself riding over the ridge one afternoon to see if there was anything new going on around the bunkhouse and barn.

As he reigned up on the hill, Ezra saw a big black cloud in the sky. Taking a second look, he recognized the cloud to be a real twister... and it was heading right in the direction of his barn. "Gotta outrun it and close the doors on my barn," he thought as he spurred toward the building.

There were no men in the bunkhouse to lend Ezra a hand, so he latched the doors of his barn and, without thinking, he did the same to the windows and doors of the bunkhouse. Then as the wind gained momentum, Ezra mounted up and dashed for rocky cover.

The big cloud twisted and turned, dipped and rose, and headed straight toward the building. Shrubs were tugged out of the earth and wagons were overturned. "Look at that," Ezra yelled aloud, as if his horse might be interested. "Never knew a storm could act like that. We gotta get Jed... tell him what's happened here."

As the twister moved on, Jed hurried over to Ezra's and together they rode back to the border property.

"Take a look at your bunkhouse, Jed," Ezra pointed. "and at my barn, too!"

Jed, with open mouth and wide eyes, had no comment as he looked at the work of the big twister.

"Do you still own what you said about what's on your property is yours and what's on mine is mine?" Ezra asked.

Jed still did not speak. He just nodded. He was too dumfounded to say a word. There, fully on Ezra's land, without a splinter out of place stood the whole barn and bunkhouse... just as if it had been built there.

"You should've seen the way that old twister lifted up the whole thing, set it down, and whirled away. Ezra roared with uncontrolled laughter.

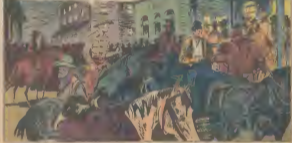
"Bust my britches, Ezra, you sure got the last laugh," sighed Jed, looking at what had once been his bunkhouse.

The Rifleman in
GUNFIRE VALLEY

LAND RUN!
BLACKHAWK SECTION TO BE OPENED
TO THE PUBLIC FOR SETTLEMENT!

NO WONDER BLUFFTOWN IS ALIVE TONIGHT. EVERYBODY FOR MILES AROUND MUST BE HERE FOR THE PUBLIC LAND RUN. I JUST HOPE THERE'S ONE ROOM LEFT AT THE HOTEL... I'M TIRED FROM THAT RIDE.

BLUFFTOWN
HOTEL WELCOME



SORRY, FELLOWS! THERE'S NOT A ROOM LEFT IN THE HOUSE! BEEN SOLD CLEAN OUT SINCE LAST MONDAY.

WHEN'S THE LAND RUN?



TOMORROW MORNING! ONLY PLACE I CAN SUGGEST YOU TRY FOR A PLACE TO SLEEP IS FARNUM'S STABLE.

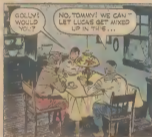
STABLE?













LOOKS LIKE ED'S GOT A FRIEND IN THE RUM! GOOD THING I HAVE THE BOYS SPREAD OUT IN CASE ANYBODY TRIES TO GET THE SPOT I WANT!



THE SIGNAL FOR READINESS IS GIVEN AND A MINUTE LATER...



... WITH THE SOUND OF THE STARTING GUN, THE MASS OF EAGER SETTLERS ROAR ONTO THE PLAINS IN A THUNDERING DEW OF DUST AND NOISE...











BETTER GET OUT OF THOSE ROCKS AS FAST AS YOU CAN! I'VE OWNED TOO LONG TO LOSE THIS GREAT PROPERTY!



SORRY, HART... I'VE GOT A FRIEND THAT I CAN'T LET DOWN!

OHH!

OWHH!

BLAM!



POW!



YOUR TWO PALS PROBABLY WISH THEY WERE IN THAT WATER WITH YOU, HART! I IMAGINE THEY ARE QUITE HOT BY NOW...

SPLASH!





STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 27, 1946

1. Name of publication: **The World**

2. Title of publication: **The World**

3. Issue of this Statement: **1**

4. Location of the principal office of the publication: **100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

5. Name and complete address of the publisher: **World Publishing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

6. Name and complete address of the editor: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

7. Name and complete address of the business manager: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

8. Name and complete address of the circulation manager: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

9. Name and complete address of the advertising manager: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

10. Name and complete address of the printer: **World Printing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

11. Name and complete address of the distributor: **World Publishing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

12. Name and complete address of the subscription agent: **World Publishing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

13. Name and complete address of the circulation agent: **World Publishing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

14. Name and complete address of the advertising agent: **World Publishing Co., 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

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Financial Statement, Profit and Loss, and Balance Sheet

1. Name of the company: **World Publishing Co.**

2. Title of the statement: **Financial Statement, Profit and Loss, and Balance Sheet**

3. Issue of this statement: **1**

4. Location of the principal office of the company: **100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

5. Name and complete address of the president: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

6. Name and complete address of the vice president: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

7. Name and complete address of the treasurer: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

8. Name and complete address of the controller: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

9. Name and complete address of the general manager: **Walter Dill Scott, 100 West Broadway, New York 5, N. Y.**

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