

DELL

JUNE-AUG.
NO. 997

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

Still 10¢



The Nine Lives of ELFEGO BACA

"The man they couldn't kill"



Tales of TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER

"How his six guns brought
law to frontier America"



"AS settlers moved west, they brought with them rifles—like the one I'm holding. They used them well — to provide food for their families and to protect their homes. But, with the honest frontiersman came others—those who used their firearms to rob, molest, and kill—and even worse, as weapons of threat, instilling fear and forcing men to yield to tyranny.

"There are heroes who emerge from such situations and times . . . courageous men, whose acts of daring will always be remembered . . . men like **TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER** and **ELFEGO BACA**."

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

Tales of TEXAS JOHN SLAUGHTER

IN THE YEAR 1870, A HOUSING STRANGER RIDES INTO THE RAW NEW TEXAS SETTLEMENT, NAMED FRONTOWN, AND IS GREETED BY A FLOOD OF FRIGHTENED TOWNPEOPLE, SCATTERING FOR COVER...

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY'S EVERYBODY RUNNING? THEY'RE EITHER LUCKY OR SCARED! I WONDER WHAT'S WRONG...!



SUDDENLY, ONLY THE STRANGER AND TWO OTHER ARMED MEN ARE LEFT IN THE SILENT, EMPTY STREET...

THIS IS SURE SPOOKY! I CAN'T SEE ANYBODY, BUT I'VE GOT A FUNKY FEELING I'M NOT ALONE...



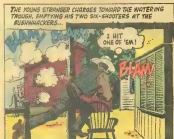
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AS TWO CABINES BLAZE FROM BEHIND THE WATERING TROUGH, THE STRANGER VAULTS FROM HIS SADDLE...

WHEN! THAT WAS CLOSE! LUCKY I HAD A MUNCH TO JUMP!



THE YOUNG STRANGER CHARGES TOWARD THE WATERING TROUGH, EMPTYING HIS TWO SIX-SHOOTERS AT THE BUSHWHACKERS...

I HIT ONE OF 'EM!

BLAM!



THEN, DODGING BEHIND THE CORNER OF A BUILDING, HE RELOADS HIS GUN...



I'LL GET HIM, AS SOON AS HE STEPS OUT OF COVER!



HOLD IT, FELLA! YOU DIDN'T FIGURE ON MY SLIPPING AROUND THE BACK OF THE BUILDING, DO YOU? DROP THAT GUN!

THE BUSHWHACKER SWINGS HIS ORBINE
IN A LAST DESPERATE TRY...



BUT THE YOUNG
STRANGER IS FASTER...



SUDDENLY,
THE STREET
IS FILLED
WITH
SMILING,
FRIENDLY
PEOPLE...

WELCOME TO FRONTOWN,
YOUNG MAN! I'M THE MAYOR!
THE WHOLE TOWN IS
GRATEFUL TO YOU!

WHO ARE THESE MEN?
WHY WERE THEY OUT
FOR ME?

THEY'RE THE OUTLAWS
WHO KILLED THE
SHERIFF! THAT'S WHY
WE SENT FOR YOU!



YOU SENT
FOR ME?

WE DECIDED ONLY A RANGER
COULD HANDLE THOSE TWO
GUNSLINGERS! AND WE
CERTAINLY WERE RIGHT!

NO! YOU WERE
WRONG! I'M THE
RANGER YOU SENT
FOR! MY NAME'S
BEN JENKINS,
COMPANY F!

THEN WHO
ARE YOU?

I'M JOHN SLAUGHTER!
JUST BOUGHT A
SPREAD NEAR HERE,
AND I AIM TO BE A
CIVILIAN!





AS JOHN RIDES TOWARD FRIETOWN, FRANK DRIVE AND HIS ADDED KUSTLER'S WATCH...

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT TO CLEAN OUT THAT LUNCH AGAIN, FRANK!

SURE DOES! I DIDN'T THINK ANYONE WOULD TRY AGAIN, AFTER THE LAST TIME!



THE NEW SETTLER'S GOT SOME GOOD-LOOKING CATTLE! BOYS, WE'LL MOVE OUR MAIN HERD THROUGH HERE AND SNEEP HIS BUNCH ALONG WITH OURS!



LATER, IN THE GENERAL STORE IN FRIETOWN...

YOU'RE THE FIFTH OWNER YOUR RANCH HAS HAD IN FIVE YEARS, SLAUGHTER!

THE FIFTH! WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?



THE FIRST TWO PACKED UP AND LEFT! THE THIRD WAS SHOT DEAD! THE FOURTH VANISHED WITH HIS HERD! DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! EACH TIME.

SOMEBODY SAW STRANGERS...

STRANGERS! TO BETTER HURRY HOME!



BUT JOHN IS TOO LATE... HANK AND THE CATTLE ARE GONE!

HANK! WHERE ARE YOU? HANK!



AND SUDDENLY JOHN'S CONCERN TURNS TO COLD ANGER...

SOMEBODY'LL PAY FOR THIS! I PROMISE YOU THAT, HANK!



JOHN FINDS THE TRACKS OF A LARGE
HERD ON HIS HILLSIDE...



LATE THAT AFTERNOON, JOHN CATCHES UP WITH THE
HERD...



SOMEBODY KILLED MY HIRED HAND
AND STOLE MY CATTLE! I DEMAND
A CATTLEMAN'S RIGHT TO
INSPECT YOUR HERD!

GO AHEAD!



OF COURSE! RIDE
UP ON THE RIDGE
AND SEE HOW MANY
MEN CAME WITH
HIM!

THE FOREMAN RETURNS WITH SURPRISING
NEWS...

THERE'S NOBODY
WITH HIM, FRANK!
HE CAME ALONE!

ALONE! I MUST
SAY HE'S GOT
NERVE! TAKE CARE
OF HIM!





AND JOHN
SLIDES
OUT OF THE
SADDLE...



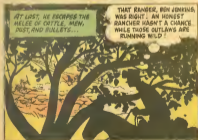
THE TWO GANGS BLAZE AT ALMOST THE SAME MOMENT...



THEN CLINGING TO
THE SIDE OF HIS
HORSE, JOHN WEAVES
HIS WAY THROUGH
THE STAMPEDING
CATTLE...

WE'LL GET
HIM!

THE BOSS SAID TO
FINISH HIM OFF!



AT LAST, HE ESCAPES THE
HELIX OF CATTLE, MEN,
DUST, AND BULLETS...

THAT RANGER, BOY JOHNS,
WAS RIGHT! AN HONEST
RANCHER HADNT A CHANCE
WHILE THOSE OUTLAWS ARE
RUNNING WILD!



WE'RE HEADING FOR THE
RANGER CAMP OUTSIDE
FOWLERTON, BOY!
LET'S GO!

A SHORT TIME
LATER...

JOHN
WILL
BE A

CREDIT TO THE BARBERS,
CAPTAIN COOPER: HE'S
GOOD IN A FIGHT!

I'M SURE OF THAT!
SORRY I CAN'T TAKE
YOU IN MY UNIT,
SLAUGHTER, BUT
YOU'RE A
TEXAN!



I WON'T PUT ANY MAN IN
A POSITION WHERE HE
MIGHT HAVE TO ARREST
RELATIVES OR FRIENDS!...
AWH — BUT YOU SURE
HAVE A FINE HORSE!

WELL, IT LOOKS
LIKE MY HORSE
MADE IT, SO...
YOU CAN'T KEEP
ME OUT, CAPTAIN!
I'M STAYING!



JOHN'S DETERMINATION
FINALLY WINS OUT,
AND HE JOINS
CAPTAIN COOPER'S
RANGER UNIT...

POWLETON'S HAVING A BIG FOURTH
OF JULY CELEBRATION: FRANK DAVIS'S
GANG OF OUTLAWS WILL BE THERE!
I WANT YOU TWO BOYS TO GO AND
ARREST SAM BARRETT!

SAW A RANGER! HE WORKED
HIS WAY INTO THE DAVIS GANG
TO GET INFORMATION FOR US!



LATER, IN THE CROWDED PLAZA AT POWLETON...

HERE COMES SAM
BARRETT! DON'T
LOOK AT HIM!

OKAY! BE CAREFUL, BEN! SOME
TOUGH-LOOKING HONKERS'RE WATCHING
US!



SAM BARRETT SLIPS A FOLDED
PAPER INTO BEN'S HAND AS HE
PASSES HIM IN THE CROWD...



SAM'S NOTE SAYS TO START A FIGHT IF WE'RE PLANNING TO ARREST HIM, AND TO MAKE IT LOOK GOOD!

SAM'S AT THE SHOOTING GALLERY! LET'S GO!



JOHN STRIDES TOWARD THE SHOOTING GALLERY AND TAKES A QUICK SHOT AT THE TARGET...



HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING...? OH, IT'S YOU...

THAT'S RIGHT! AND I'M WARNING YOU, MISTER! GET OUTA TOWN FAST! IF I COULD PROVE YOU'RE A KILLER AND A RUSTLER, YOU'D RIDE OUT OVER YOUR SADDLE!



NOBODY TALKS TO MY BOSS LIKE THAT!



AND NOBODY HITS A RANGER, FELLA!



THE OUTLAWS LEAP TO SAM'S DEFENSE AND A WILD STREET BRAWL RAGES IN THE PLAZA...



THE FOWLERTON SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTIES FINALLY STOP THE FIGHT AND ARREST THE RANGELERS...

WE'LL TAKE THESE HOODLIMS TO JAIL, RANGERS!

WE'LL BE IN LATER TO SIGN CHARGES AGAINST THAT SCOUNDREL FOR DELIBERATELY STRIKING A RANGER!



THERE'S THE ONE I WANT, BEN! LET'S ARREST HIM, TOO! CHARGE HIM WITH BURGLARY AND MURDER!

WE CAN'T! YOU HAVEN'T ANY EVIDENCE! AND WE DIDN'T JOIN IN THE FIGHT!



I'LL FIND EVIDENCE SOMENOW! DO YOU KNOW HIS NAME? HE'S THE ONE WHO RAN OFF THE MEAT!

HE'S FRANK DAVIS, THE ALMIGHTY ONE OUTLAW WERE AFTER! SAM JOINED HIS GANG TO GET EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM!



FRANK DAVIS AND THE REST OF HIS OUTLAW GANG RODE AWAY FROM TOWN...

READ THIS NOTE, FRANK! I SAW SAM SLIP IT TO A RANGER! I GRABBED IT IN THE FIGHT!



SO SAM BARRETT'S A RANGER! A DIRTY SPY! FIRST TIME A LAWMAN EVER FOOLED ME!

IT'LL BE BAD FOR US, IF SAM TALKS IN COURT, FRANK!



HELL NEVER GET TO COURT! JERRY, TELEGRAPH THE BOYS IN LAREDO THAT I'M COMING THE SPECIAL WAY! THE REST OF YOU START FROM THIS END! LET'S MOVE!



THAT NIGHT, JOHN IS CALLED TO THE HOTEL IN FOWLETON...

ADELINE! IT'S YOU! I DON'T EXPECT...

I ASKED FATHER TO BRING ME HERE! I HAD TO SEE YOU, JOHN!



I UNDERSTAND NOW WHY YOU GAVE UP THE RANCH AND JOINED THE RANGERS! I'M GLAD YOU DID!

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY, ADELINE!



WE'VE GOT TO BRING LAW TO THIS TERRITORY, SO PEOPLE LIKE US CAN MARRY AND LIVE IN PEACE ON OUR LAND!

I KNOW! I'LL WAIT, JOHN!



LATER THAT NIGHT, AS JOHN CROSSES THE STREET, A WILDLY GALLOPING HORSE ALMOST RUNS HIM DOWN...

IT'S FRANK DAVIS...



SUDDENLY, THE STREET IS FULL OF EXCITED PEOPLE, SO JOHN DOES NOT WASTE TIME AT THE FLEEING HORSEMAN...

CRAZY, RANGER! BAD TROUBLE AT THE JAIL!



SOMEbody SHOTGUNNED SAM BARRETT THROUGH THE JAIL WINDOW AT TWELVE O'CLOCK, MIDNIGHT! THE KILLER GOT AWAY!



JOHN CARRIES THE NEWS TO THE RANGER CAMP...

I'M SURE I SAW FRANK DAVIS RIDING FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE JAIL, CAPTAIN!

GO AFTER HIM, BOYS! AND BRING IN ANY OF DAVIS'S MEN THAT YOU CAN ROUND UP!



THE RANGERS RETURN EARLY NEXT MORNING WITH THREE OF DAVIS'S GANG...

FRANK LEFT FOR LAREDO YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WHEN YOUR RANGER TOLD HIM TO GET OUTA TOWN, CAPTAIN!

WE HAD BUSINESS THERE THIS MORNING! CHECK WITH LAREDO!

THEY'RE DYING, CAPTAIN! DAVIS WAS IN POWELLTON LAST NIGHT! I SAW HIM!



IF WE WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR THE WRONG MAN, THE REAL KILLER WILL GET AWAY! ARE YOU ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...?

YES! I KNOW I SAW DAVIS!

IT'S A HUNDRED MILES TO LAREDO; IF DAVIS LEFT YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, HE COULD BE THERE THIS MORNING!

BUT WE SHOT SAM AT MIDNIGHT, SO HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY MAKE IT IN EIGHT AND A HALF HOURS!



THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! I'LL TELEGRAPH THE MARSHAL AT LAREDO AND ASK HIM IF DAVIS IS THERE!

SWAK, CAPTAIN! BUT DAVIS CAN'T BE IN LAREDO!



A LITTLE LATER...

I'VE JUST RECEIVED THE MARSHAL'S ANSWER, JOHN! HE TALKED TO FRANK DAVIS PERSONALLY AT NINE O'CLOCK THIS MORNING IN LAREDO!

I STILL SAY I SAW DAVIS LAST NIGHT!



YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN, JOHN! NOT EVEN THE PONY EXPRESS COULD MAKE IT FROM FOWLERTON TO LAREDO IN NINE HOURS!

THE PONY EXPRESS! THAT'S IT, SEN!



JOHN FINDS CAPTAIN COOPER...

SO YOU THINK DAVIS PLAYED PONY EXPRESS, CHANGING HORSES EVERY FEW MILES!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY HE COULD HAVE MADE IT!



IT'S WORTH TRYING, JOHN! WE'LL SEND FIVE GOOD MOUNTS FROM HERE AND RENT FIVE IN LAREDO! YOU'LL HAVE A FRESH HORSE EVERY TEN MILES!

THE NEXT MORNING...

IT'S NINE O'CLOCK! IF I'M IN LAREDO BY SIX, WE'LL KNOW DAVIS COULD DO IT!

I'LL TELEGRAPH THE MARSHAL YOU'RE ON YOUR WAY AND ASK HIM TO KEEP DAVIS IN TOWN! GOOD LUCK, JOHN!



THE TELEGRAPH OPERATOR IN LAREDO SPEEDS THE NEWS OF JOHN'S RIDE...

THE TELEGRAM TO THE MARSHAL SAID THE RANGERS' ON HIS WAY NOW!

NOBODY CAN MAKE A HUNDRED MILES IN NINE HOURS!

LOOKS LIKE THE RANGERS HAVE DISCOVERED YOUR SPECIAL WAY OF TRAVELIN', FRANK! YOU'D BETTER GET OUTA HERE NOW!



PORT MEN AT ALL THE ROADS LEADING OUT OF TOWN, FRED! HE WANT TO KNOW WHO TRIES TO LEAVE!

OKAY, MARSHAL!

DID YOU HEAR THAT? I DON'T DARE TRY TO LEAVE NOW! THE MARSHAL'S WATCHING ME LIKE A HAWK! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THAT RANGER!



IN THE MEANTIME, JOHN RIDES ACROSS ROLLING PLAINS, JAGGED HILLS AND TREACHEROUS STREAMS, CHANGING HORSES EVERY TEN MILES...

YOU'RE AHEAD OF TIME, JOHN! YOU'VE MADE IT HALF WAY IN LESS THAN FOUR HOURS! KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN! THIS IS ROUGH COUNTRY!

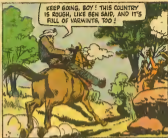
I SURE WILL, BEN!



AS JOHN REARS THE END OF HIS LONG
KICK, HIS WATCHFUL EYES SEE THE
TALL, SLIM GHOST OF A RIFLE BARREL
BEHIND THE TRAIL...



KEEP GOING, BOY! THIS COUNTRY
IS ROUGH, LIKE BEN SAID, AND IT'S
FULL OF VAGABONDS, TOO!



AS JOHN GALLOPS TOWARD THE OUTSKIRTS OF LAREDO...

A RIDER'S COMING!
HE'S WEARING A
WHITE HAT!

IT CAN'T BE THE
RANGER YET! IT'S
NOT POSSIBLE!



DAVIS SLINKS THROUGH THE CROWD,
TRYING TO AVOID THE MARSHAL'S EYE...



IT IS
THE RANGER!

MURDER FOR
TEXAS JOHN
SLAUGHTER!

WE WEREN'T EXPECTING YOU SO
SOON, SLAUGHTER! YOU MADE IT
IN EIGHT HOURS AND FIVE
MINUTES!

HE DIDN'T
THINK IT
COULD BE
DONE!





WHERE IS DAVIS, MARSHAL ?

HE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO ...



OUT OF THE WAY, EVERYBODY !

ZING!



JOHN'S GUN BLAZES BEFORE THE FLEEING DAVIS CAN FIRE A SECOND TIME ...

STOP, DAVIS !
DROP YOUR GUN !



YOU ONLY WOUNDED HIM, SLAUGHTER !

I WANT HIM TO LIVE TO STAND TRIAL IN FOWLERTON ! I PROMISED HANK THAT, MARSHAL !



WHEN JOHN RETURNS TO THE RANGERS CAMP...

CONGRATULATIONS FOR DOING A FINE JOB, JOHN! NOW WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE TO STOP DAVIS FOREVER !

DON'T THINK YOUR JOB'S DONE, JOHN! THE OTHER TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE OUTLAWS IN DAVIS'S GANG ARE STILL LOOSE ! AND THEY'RE ALL YOURS !

IF THE CAPTAIN'S WILLING, I'LL HANDLE AFTER THEM INSTEAD OF RIDING !

WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

The Nine Lives
of
**ELFEGO
BACA**

ONE DAY, IN THE YEAR 1882, FRIGHTENED SPANISH-AMERICAN RESIDENTS OF A SMALL SOUTHWESTERN TOWN WATCH IN HORROR AS AN ANGRY MOB OF COWBOYS AND RANCHERS FUR ROUND AFTER ROUND OF AMMUNITION INTO A SMALL WOOD HUT AT THE END OF A DUSTY STREET.

HE HAS NO CHANCE AGAINST THAT MOB!

CAN WE NOT STOP THIS? THEY ARE WRECKING YOUR HOME, ANITA!

MY HOME IS NOT IMPORTANT! THE POOR MAN HAD TO HIDE SOMEWHERE!



INSIDE THE BESIEGED HUT, THE MAN KNOWN AS ELFEGO BACA LIES PRONE AS THE BULLETS WHINE OVERHEAD...

ELFEGO KNOWS HIS CHANCES ARE SLIM, BUT HE IS DETERMINED TO HOLD OUT AS LONG AS POSSIBLE...



HOW DID ALL THIS START?

ELFEGO ARRESTED ONE OF DICE SMITH'S DRUNKEN COWBOYS! IT WOULD NOT HAVE HAPPENED IF OUR JUSTICE OF THE PEACE HAD BACKBONE! ELFEGO HAD TO FACE THEM ALONE!



WHAT COULD I DO? I TRIED TO TELL ELFEGO HE WAS MAKING A MISTAKE! NO MAN CAN STAND AGAINST DICE SMITH AND HIS GANG!

ELFEGO HAS FRIENDS IN SOCCOERO! PERHAPS THEY WILL HELP! I WILL RIDE IMMEDIATELY!



MEANWHILE, DICE SMITH AND HIS COWBOYS CONTINUE THE BARRAGE...

...AND THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE GUNS BLAZE, BUT ELFEGO FIGHTS ON...

HOW CAN ANYONE BE ALIVE IN THERE? THOSE WALLS ARE ONLY MUD AND WE'VE THROWN SLUGS INTO EVERY INCH OF IT!

WE'LL GET HIM SOON! IF BULLETS DON'T WORK, MAYBE DYNAMITE WILL!



FIRE TORCHES FAIL TO IGNITE THE MUD ROOF...

ONE BY ONE, ELFEGO'S SHARPS FALL...

AS A LAST RESORT, DYNAMITE IS USED...



DURING THE THIRTY-THREE HOUR SIEGE, OVER FOUR THOUSAND BULLETS ARE SHOT... BUT BUMPERS STILL COMES FROM THE RUBBLE AND RUIN...



HE STILL LIVES!
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

ELFEGO BACA IS NOT
HUMAN! HE'S GOT
MORE LIVES THAN
A CAT!

*FINALLY THE HELP FROM
SOCORRO ARRIVES...*



ELFEGO! IT IS ME!
DEPUTY MORGAN...
COME OUT AND YOU
WILL NOT BE HARRED!
I AM TAKING YOU
INTO PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY! THERE
WILL BE A FAIR
TRIAL!



WHAT DOES
PROTECTIVE
CUSTODY
MEAN?

IT MEANS HE AIMS TO
GET THAT MURDERIN'
SKUNK AWAY FROM US!

BUT YOU JUST WAIT... TRIAL OR NO TRIAL...
I'M GOING TO PROVE ELFESO BACA IS
AS HUMAN AS THE REST OF US!



*TWO DAYS LATER, ELFEGO IS GIVEN A
CHANCE TO TELL HIS STORY TO A COURT...*



GOOD LUCK, ELFEGO!
THEY'LL BELIEVE
YOU JUST TELL 'EM
THE TRUTH!

ANYBODY'D BELIEVE
YOU BEFORE THEY'D
LISTEN TO THAT NO-
ACCOUNT DICE
SMITH!

THREE HOURS LATER...



AS ELFEGO CROSSES THE STREET...



BEFORE ELFEBO CAN DRAW HIS GUN,
DICE SMITH FIRES ...



THOSE TWO LOOK LIKE
THEY'VE SEEN A GHOST!
HOW DID YOU DO IT,
ELFEBO? I SAW HIM
SHOOT YOU, TOO!

THE SAINTS MUST
BE WATCHING
OVER ME.
ZANGANO ...
DICE SMITH'S
BULLET HIT MY
BELT BUCKLE!



ELFEBO'S FAME SPREADS...AND
PERSUADED BY DEPUTY MORGAN, HE
AGREES TO TAKE A NEW JOB ...

I HOPE YOU WON'T
BE SORRY, ELFEBO--

I NEED A JOB WHILE
I'M STUDYING LAW,
MORGAN... THIS
SHOULD SUIT ME
FINE!



... AND IS UNWILDED TO SEE
HIS TARGET STILL STANDING ...



AND SO FROM THAT DAY ON, ELFEBO
BACA BECOMES KNOWN AS THE MAN
WITH NINE LIVES ...

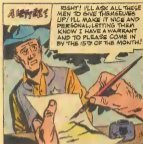


IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE THE PEOPLE
OF SODDARD REALIZE ELFEBO BACA IS A
DIFFERENT KIND OF SHERIFF ...

I MADE A LIST OF
THOSE DANGEROUS
MEN THAT ARE
WANTED, ELFEBO!
SHALL I DEPUTIZE
SOME MEN TO GO
AFTER THEM?

NO, DEPUTY... I'M
GOING TO WRITE
THEM A LETTER...





IF YOU'LL BE SO KIND AS TO DRAG UP THE LETTER, DEPUTY, I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHORT TRIP TO VISIT A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE... ANITA CHAVEZ!

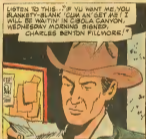
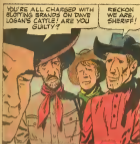


ELFEGO'S LETTERS ARE SENT OUT, AND AS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH APPROACHES...



THE STUNNED DEPUTY ESCORTS THE MEN INSIDE THE OFFICE...







THE NEXT DAY, AS ELFEGO RIDES INTO CHEOLA CANYON...



SLURRY, HE BEGINS TO SCALE
THE STEEP CANYON WALLS...



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION,
ELFEGO TOSSES A ROCK INTO
THE CANYON...



WASN'T FAIR-
TRICKIN' ME
LIKE THAT!

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
EASIER IF YOU'D COME
OF YOUR OWN ACCORD-
LIKE I ASKED! NOW I'LL
HAVE TO TAKE YOU BACK!



NOW WHERE IN CONSNARN
TARNATION DID THAT
VARMINT DISAPPEAR TO?



THEN, SUDDENLY...



I'M NOT GOIN' BACK!
CAN'T LEAVE MY RIGHTS
UNPROTECTED! SOMEONE
MIGHT FIND WHAT I'VE
SPENT A LIFETIME
LOOKIN' FOR! IF YOU
WANT TO TAKE ME OUTA
HERE, YOU'LL HAVE TO
KILL ME!

LOOK, CHARLIE...
MAYBE WE CAN
MAKE A DEAL!
IF YOU PROMISE
NOT TO SHOOT
ANYONE ELSE,
I'LL LET YOU OFF
THIS TIME!



WELL... I'LL HAVE TO SHOOT IF THEY GET TOO CLOSE!

JUST WARN THEM... DON'T SHOOT UNLESS THEY DRAW ON YOU FIRST!



I'LL WARN THEM... AND IF THEY DON'T MOVE FAST ENOUGH, I'LL SHOOT! THAT GOOD ENOUGH?

FOR NOW, IT'LL HAVE TO BE!



AS ELFEGO STARTS BACK DOWN TO THE CANYON FLOOR, CHARLIE BEGINS TO SING...

BUT ELFEGO'S ADMIRATION IS SOMEWHAT DIMMED AS CHARLIE SENDS HIM A PARTING GOOD-BYE...

IN THE SWEET BYE AND BYE, WE SHALL MEET ON THAT SEE-U-TIFUL SHORE...

I CAN'T HELP BUT ADMIRE THE OLD FELLA--

...WE SHALL MEET ON THAT SEE-U-TIFUL SHORE...

WHY THAT ORNERY OLD SIDEWINDER!



THINGS ARE QUIET FOR THE NEXT TWO DAYS, THEN ONE EVENING, AS ELFEGO RENOVES HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH THE BEAUTIFUL ANITA CHAVEZ...

ELFEGO! ELFEGO, YOU MUST COME QUICK!

JUST WHEN I WAS BEGINNING TO THINK EVERYTHING WAS SO PEACEFUL...





BUT SHORTLY...

YOU STOP! YOU NOT GO FARTHER!

I COME AS A FRIEND... I AM LOOKING FOR A MAN OF MY OWN BLOOD! HE IS A KILLER AND A DISGRACE TO MY PEOPLE! HAVE YOU SEEN HIM? HE RIDES A BUCKSKIN HORSE!



THE TRAIL CONTINUES, AND AS ELFEBO CROSSES THE BORDER...



I HAVE NO AUTHORITY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BORDER! I WILL HAVE TO BRING HIM BACK HERE AND ARREST HIM ON THIS SIDE!

AND INSIDE THE CANTINA...

MY NAME IS ELFEBO SACA, SHERIFF OF SODERO COUNTY! I HAVE COME TO ARREST YOU FOR MURDER!

HA! THAT IS THE STATEMENT OF A FOOL! I HAVE SHOT BETTER MEN THAN YOU WITH MY EYES CLOSED!



THE INDIANS ENGAGE IN A WHISPERED CONVERSATION FOR A MOMENT AND THEN...

WE TRUST YOU! THE MAN YOU ARE LOOKING FOR PASSED HERE YESTERDAY! HE GAVE US SILVER AND SAID HE WAS BEING PURSUED BY WHITE MEN! WE DID NOT KNOW HE WAS A KILLER!



THANK YOU, MY FRIENDS! I AM MOST GRATEFUL!

FINALLY, IN A DUSTY MEXICAN TOWN...



THE BUCKSKIN! I HAVE FOUND THE MAN I AM LOOKING FOR!

BUT AS EL SHERIFF ENDEAVORS TO DRAW HIS GUN...



NEXT TIME, SHERIFF... YOU SHOULD OPEN YOUR EYES!

ELFEBO TAKES HIS PRISONER ACROSS THE BORDER WHERE HE FORMALLY PLACES HIM UNDER ARREST...

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO SOMEONE OF YOUR OWN BLOOD?

YOU ARE NOT OF MY BLOOD! YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM A HE-BEAT!



NO MATTER HOW BAD HIS CRIME... EVERYONE IS ENTITLED TO LEGAL AID! AND IF ANYONE TRIES TO TAKE EL SIVERGUENZA AWAY FROM ME, THEY'LL HAVE TO SHOOT ME FIRST! AND THEY SHOULD KNOW I'D STILL HAVE A FEW LIVES LEFT AFTER THAT!



WELL, ONE MOB IS NO DIFFERENT FROM ANOTHER! YOU ARE NOT HUMAN BEINGS ANY MORE... YOU ARE A MOB! GO HOME AND BECOME HUMAN BEINGS AGAIN... LET THE LAW TAKE CARE OF THIS!



ELFEBO IS RIGHT! WE ARE BLINDED BY HATE AND GRIEF!

LATER, IN THE SOGGARD SHERIFFS OFFICE...

I'VE GOT A HUNCH OUR PRISONER WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FACE TRIAL, ELFEBO! I EVEN HAD TO MOVE SOME OF THE PRISONERS OUT OF HIS CELL SO THEY WOULDN'T HURT HIM! WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT GETTING HIM A LAWYER?



SOON AN UNRULY MOB GATHERS OUTSIDE THE JAIL...

LISTEN TO ME! ONCE ALL OF YOU SAW ME FACE A MOB THAT WANTED TO TAKE MY LIFE! WHEN I STOOD UP TO THEM, YOU THOUGHT I WAS A HERO!



THAT NIGHT WITH HIS CELLMATE, NEESEE MOBB, EL SIVERGUENZA PLOTS ESCAPE...

I TELL YOU I HAVE FRIENDS WAITIN' FOR ME OUTSIDE WITH HORSES... ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET OUT OF THIS CELL!



I HAVE AN IDEA...

LATER, DEPUTY MORGAN BRINGS THE PRISONERS THEIR SUPPER...



AS MORGAN SETS THE TRAY DOWN...



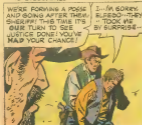
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE BACA GETS BACK!



THE PRISONERS SLIP OUT INTO THE DARKNESS...



MOMENTS LATER, THE ESCAPE IS DISCOVERED...



THE POSSE HAS ALREADY RACED OUT OF TOWN AS ELFESO STEPS INTO THE STREET...



AS ELFEBO CROSSES THE STREET...



THINKING HE HAS KILLED ELFEBO,
EL SINVERGÜENZA CROSSES TOWARD THE
LIVERY STABLE...



HOUNDED EL SINVERGÜENZA TRIES TO FLEE,
BUT LIKE AN AVENGING GHOST, ELFEBO
SAGA RISES AND PLAGUES HIM...



BOOM IN THE LIVERY STABLE...



THE OUTLAW FIRES BLINDLY BUT
A SPLIT-SECOND LATER...



THE FOLLOWING DAY...





BUT TELL ME ... WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHER ESCAPED PRISONER, JESSE HOGG? DID YOU FIND HIM?

WE CHASED HIM INTO CIBOLA CANYON, ELFEBO. THEN THE STRANGEST THING HAPPENED! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SHOOT AT HIM WHEN SOMEBODY PLUGGED HIM! WE LOOKED ALL AROUND, BUT DIDN'T SEE A SOUL!



BUT YOU HEARD SOMEONE SINGING "IN THE DESERT EYE AND EYE"?

YEAH! HOW IN TARNATION DID YOU KNOW THAT?



I ONCE HAD A TWENTY DOLLAR HAT THAT WAS RUINED! ... THAT WAS OLD GRUB-STAKE CHARLIE PROTECTING HIS RIGHTS! I GUESS HIS SHOOTING HAS IMPROVED!



WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, ELFEBO?

(I'M GOING TO SANTA FE, ANITA ... TO STUDY LAW! THEN, WHEN I AM FINISHED I WILL OPEN A LITTLE OFFICE -- HERE IN SOCORRO -- AMONG MY FRIENDS!)

A FEW DAYS LATER, ALL SOCORRO GIVES THEIR HEED TO A MAN'S WORDS!



GOOD LUCK! COME BACK SOON, ELFEBO!

THERE, MY PRETTY LITTLE SEÑORITA, GOES A REAL MAN - ELFEBO BACA, THE MAN WITH NINE LIVES!

A PLEDGE **DELL** TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark 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.

Texas JOHN SLAUGHTER

By Stan Jones

His bow-draw while Station
and penit-handled gun
Were known both far and wide.

With Station as white
And a penit-handled gun
Station' on his side,

Chorus:

Texas John Slaughter
woud' 'cud do what they oughten
'Cuz if they didn't they died.

From Louisiana
he went west to Texas
As a young man in all his pride,
And -- (repeat chorus)

In Texas a Ranger
he had to become
And outlaws he defied,
For -- (repeat chorus)

The Ranger's badge
he wore right well,
Making outlaws go and hide,
For -- (repeat chorus)

He fought for the right in
the new land out west
And his future helped decide,
For -- (repeat chorus)

He told men just once
the law to obey
Or get on his horse and ride,
'Cuz -- (repeat chorus)

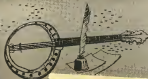
He wore two things
by which he was known
And wherever he would ride,
Folks said -- (repeat chorus)

John fell in love with a
cattlemen's daughter
And asked her to be his bride,
While -- (repeat chorus)

John searched for a home
on this wild frontier
In peace to take his bride,
While -- (repeat chorus)

His bow-draw while Station
and penit-handled gun
Were known both far and wide
Were known both far and wide

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THE NINE LIVES OF ELFEGO BACA

Words and Music By
Richard Dehr and Frank Miller

In the land of big men
When the great West was wild,
Elfego was small and his nature was mild,
And the legend was that like el gato the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.

Chorus:

Elfego was wise and Elfego was strong,
Elfego el gato who made right from wrong,
And the legend was that like el gato the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego Baca.

He dared to stand up to the toughest of men,
He faced all their six guns again and again,
All the people in town
And the folks all around
Sing the praise of Elfego, el gato
(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was calm and his aim it was true,
He'd ride with the law 'til
The battle was through,
With a star on his chest,
He was law in the West,
They called him Elfego, el gato
(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego had lived with his life on a thread
For many a gunman had left him for dead
And the legend was that like el gato, the cat,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.
(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was small but Elfego was brave,
There were many who wanted him asleep
in his grave,

But the bad men who tried were
The bad men who died,
Nine lives had Elfego, el gato.
(Repeat Chorus)

Elfego was good and Elfego was kind,
To the men on the ramp,
And the men in the moon,
The people in town and the good
folks around,
Sing the praise of Elfego, el gato,
(Repeat Chorus)

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WALT DISNEY PRESENTS

TWO MEN... sharply different in background and personality, but alike in courage, faith, and in the strong belief of the rights of others... two men, neither of whom intended to be a lawman — both of whom were destined to join the law through strange circumstances and to earn undying fame.



Elfego Baca...

quiet, almost soft-spoken. Surviving a siege of eighty men, he became known as El Galo, the cat, "the man with nine lives." A man who fought for his people's rights under an unyielding creed: "If there is one to be buried and one to be tried, I'm going to be the one to be tried."



Texas John Slaughter...

a powerful man, with remarkable, penetrating eyes, which riveted the attention of others. A skillful trail blazer and an uncanny tracker, who unfailingly trailed his quarry to the end... and justice.