

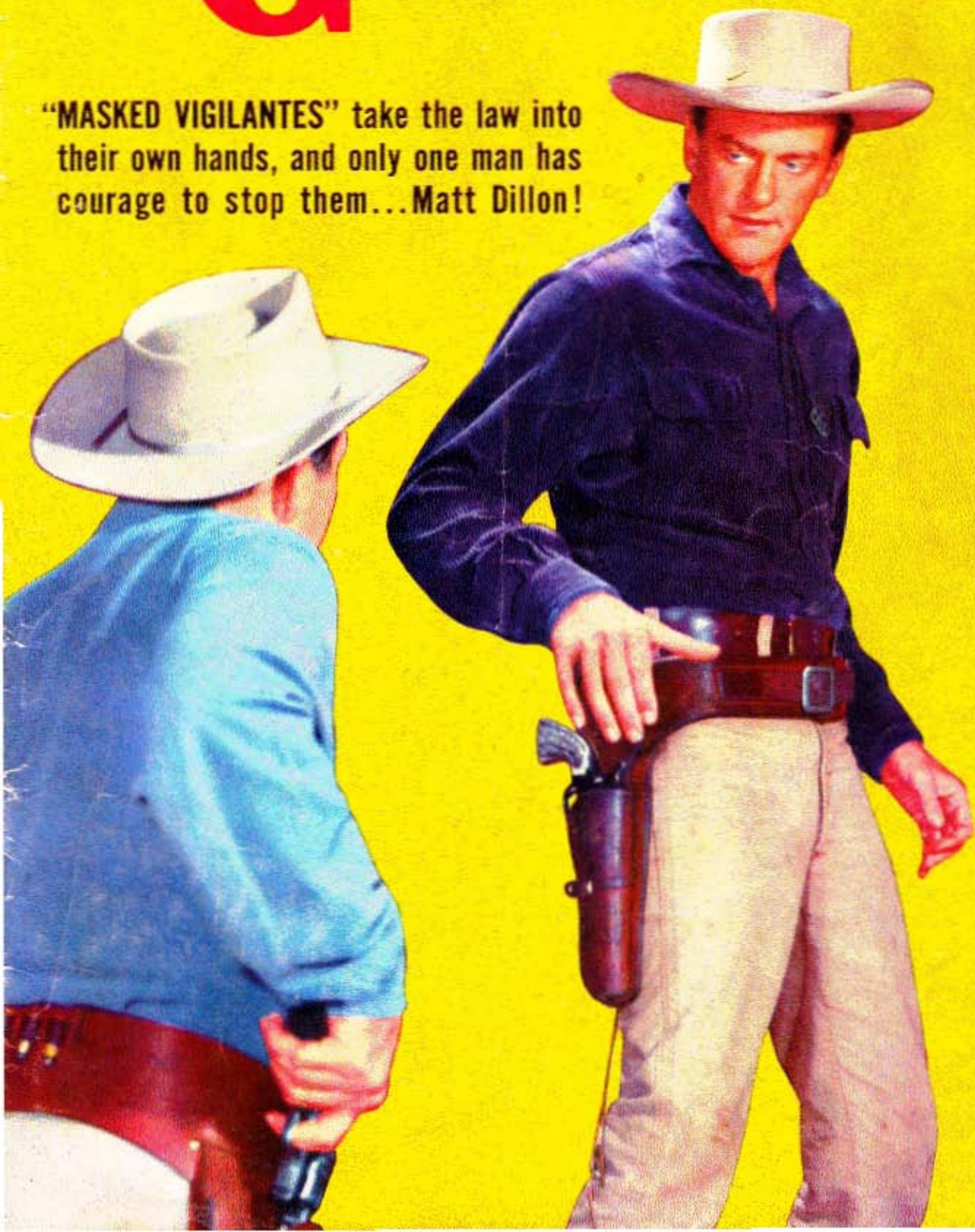
DELL

JUNE-JULY

Still 10¢

GUNSMOKE

"MASKED VIGILANTES" take the law into their own hands, and only one man has courage to stop them...Matt Dillon!



GUNSMOKE

MASKED VIGILANTES

AS A BANK TELLER TAKES A SHORT CUT FROM A DODGE CASINO TO HIS BANK WITH A FAT DEPOSIT IN HAND, SUDDENLY...

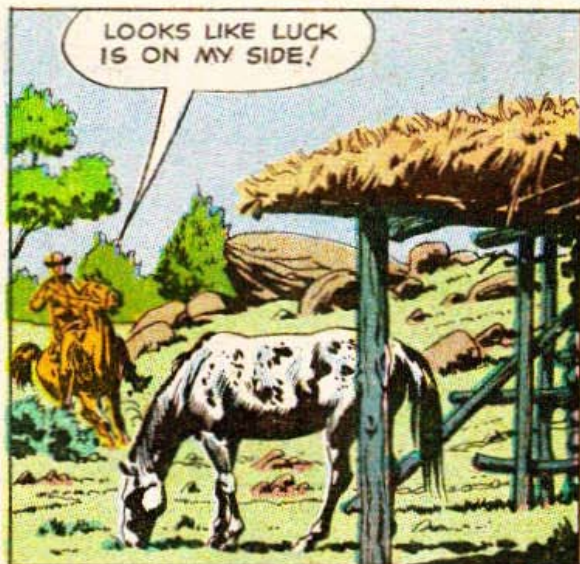
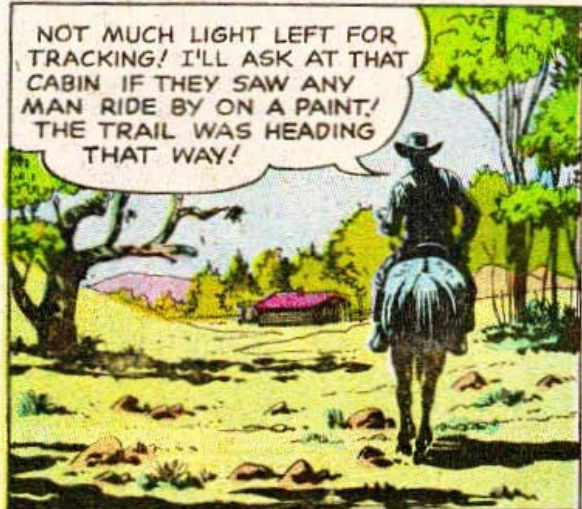


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PICKING UP A TRAIL BY THE ALLEY, MATT DILLON RIDES ALONG IT, AS DUSK COMES...





ALL RIGHT,
REACH!



MARSHAL DILLON!---I DIDN'T
RECOGNIZE YOU OUT THERE
IN THE DARK! THAT'S WHY I
FIRED! SAW A FELLOW WITH
A GUN COMING UP SO I CUT
LOOSE!

THAT'S
FAST
THINKING!
NOW WHERE'D
YOU CACHE
THE MONEY
YOU TOOK FROM
THE BANK TELLER!



MONEY? I DON'T
KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
MARSHAL!

THE MAN
WHO ROBBED THE TELLER
LIT OUT ON A PAINT!



THAT *ISN'T* MY HORSE! LEAST IT WASN'T
TILL ABOUT AN HOUR AGO! A STRANGER
RODE UP! OFFERED ME THAT PAINT AND
FIFTY DOLLARS FOR MY FRESH
HORSE! YOU
DON'T ASK
QUESTIONS
ABOUT A
DEAL LIKE
THAT!

SIT DOWN!
I'LL LOOK FOR THE
MONEY MYSELF IN
CASE THAT "STRANGER"
HID IT HERE
WHILE YOUR
BACK WAS TURNED!

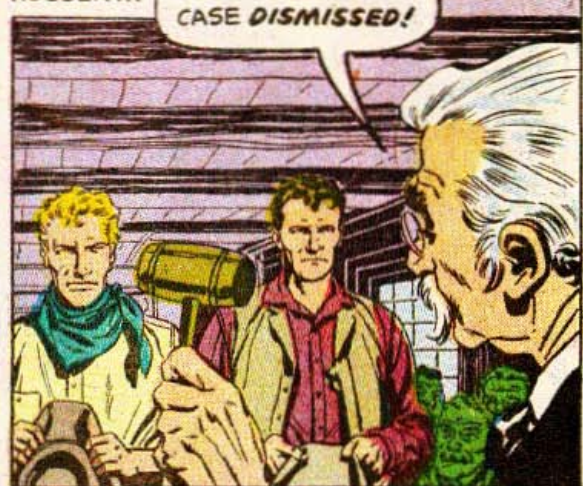
SOON...



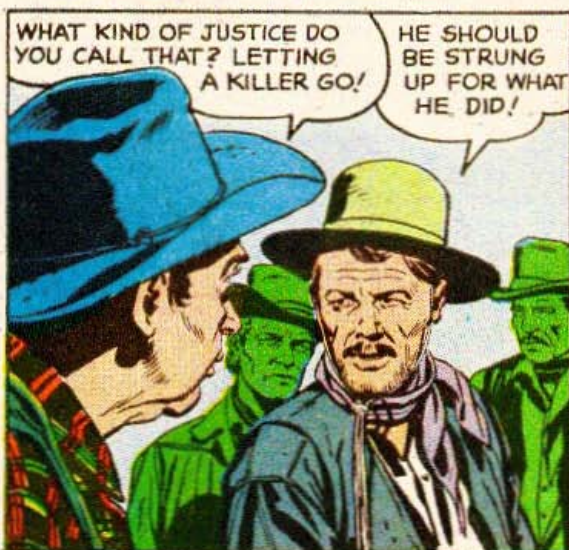
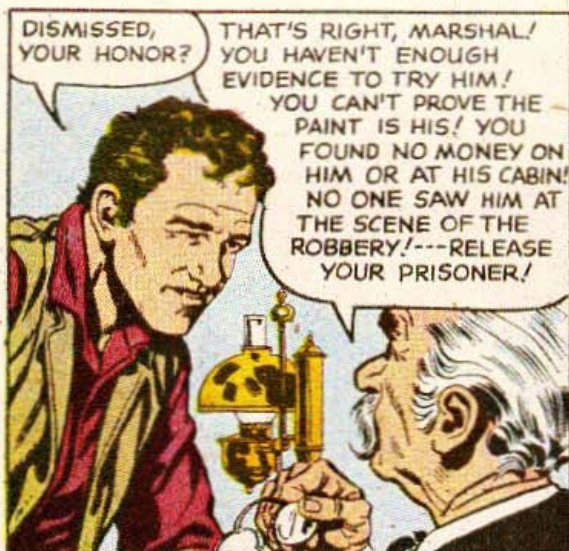
I TOLD YOU
I DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
MONEY!

WE'LL
SEE HOW
THAT CLAIM
STANDS UP
IN COURT!

THE NEXT DAY, ALL DODGE TURNS OUT TO
HEAR THE TRIAL OF THE SUPPOSED KILLER-
ROBBER...



CASE DISMISSED!

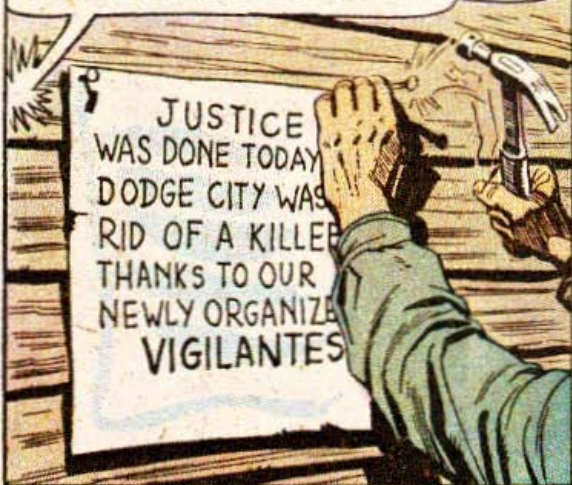




BUT THE NEXT DAY, INSTEAD OF KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT, THE FREED PRISONER SHOWS UP...



NAIL THOSE UP ALL OVER TOWN SO FOLKS'LL KNOW THERE'S LAW IN DODGE!



MR. DILLON! MR. DILLON, SOMEONE WAS SHOT IN THE PAIR OF DICE!



MOVE BACK! LET ME THROUGH!



WE SENT FOR THE DOCTOR!

IT'S GOING TO BE TOUCH-AND-GO! I WON'T BE GETTING ANY STATEMENT FROM HIM!



WHAT HAPPENED?---SOMEONE MUST HAVE SEEN IT!



FOR A MINUTE THERE IS ABSOLUTE SILENCE ...

WHO SHOT HIM?

MAYBE THE FELLOWS FIGURE THERE'S NO POINT IN TELLING YOU, MARSHAL! YOU'LL BRING HIM IN AND THE JUDGE'LL FREE THE OWLHOOT!



NEXT MORNING...



HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT! TAR AND FEATHERS NEVER KILLED ANYONE! BUT ONCE THE VIGILANTES FEEL THEY'RE IN POWER, THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT THEY WILL TRY NEXT!



LATER...

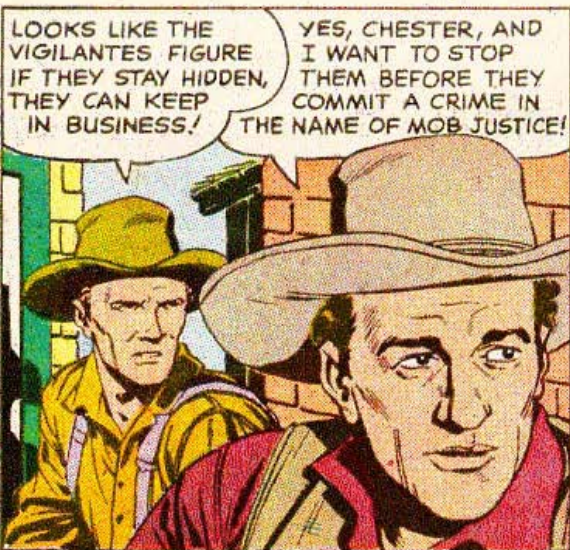


JUSTICE IS IN DANGER IN DODGE! A SELF-STYLED GANG OF LAWYERS, THE VIGILANTES, ARE TRYING TO DEAL OUT JUSTICE! WE HAVE LAWS ON THE BOOKS AND OFFICIALS TO CARRY THEM OUT! THERE ISN'T ROOM IN DODGE FOR **TWO** KINDS OF LAW!



WHO ARE THE VIGILANTES? I'D LIKE TO HEAR THEIR SIDE! LET THEM STEP FORWARD! ---I'M STILL WAITING OR ARE THEY AFRAID TO MOVE WITHOUT BEING PROTECTED BY A MASK?

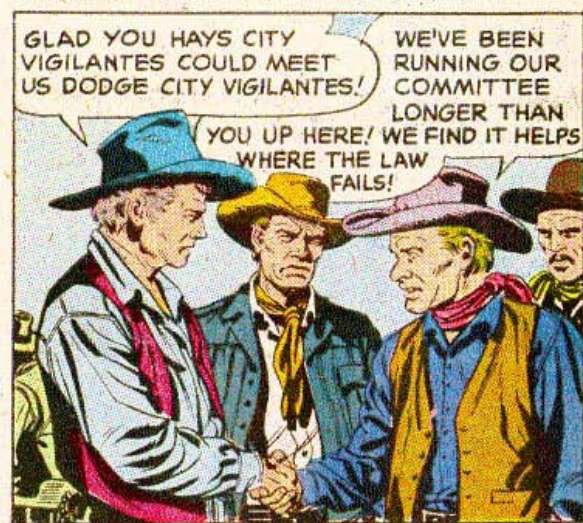




LOOKS LIKE THE VIGILANTES FIGURE IF THEY STAY HIDDEN, THEY CAN KEEP IN BUSINESS!

YES, CHESTER, AND I WANT TO STOP THEM BEFORE THEY COMMIT A CRIME IN THE NAME OF MOB JUSTICE!

THE NEXT DAY AT THE LONG BRANCH...



GLAD YOU HAYS CITY VIGILANTES COULD MEET US DODGE CITY VIGILANTES!

WE'VE BEEN RUNNING OUR COMMITTEE LONGER THAN WHERE THE LAW FAILS!

YOU UP HERE! WE FIND IT HELPS



OUR IDEA IS THIS! WALDEN AND I KNOW ALL THE HAYS CITY TROUBLEMAKERS ON SIGHT! WE FIGURE SOME ARE USING DODGE AS HEAD-QUARTERS FOR MAKING FORAYS INTO OUR TOWN!

JUST POINT 'EM OUT TO US, DEPFORD!



THAT'S WHAT WE AIM TO DO! WE TWO WILL STAY WITH YOU DODGE VIGILANTES AND PICK OUT THE HAYS CITY TROUBLEMAKERS WHILE YOU SEND TWO OF YOUR MEN TO HAYS TO IDENTIFY ANY DODGE HARD-CASES!



AGREED! SEEN ANYONE YET?

NO, BUT WE'RE POSITIVE WE'LL COME UP WITH AT LEAST ONE FELLOW!



SOON AFTER, KITTY TELLS WHAT SHE OVER-HEARD...

CAN YOU POINT OUT THESE HAYS CITY FELLOWS, KITTY?

SURE, MATT! BUT IF YOU PICK THEM UP, YOU'LL BE BUCKING THE DODGE VIGILANTES!

THIS TOWN CAN ONLY HAVE ONE LAW ORGANIZATION, KITTY, AND I WAS NAMED TO UPHOLD IT! COME ON!



THOSE TWO, MATT!

LEAVE ME, KITTY! NO POINT IN THEIR KNOWING YOU HELPED ME!



HOLD ON, FRIENDS! I UNDERSTAND YOU'RE FROM HAYS CITY!

THAT'S RIGHT, MARSHAL! VISITING DODGE! NICE TOWN YOU GOT HERE!



WE WANT TO KEEP IT THAT WAY SO DON'T START POINTING YOUR FINGERS AT ANY-ONE AND TELLING THE VIGILANTES TO GET HIM! IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON A MAN WANTED IN HAYS, COME TO ME!

SOME FOLKS SAY THAT DOESN'T DO MUCH GOOD!



THAT'S STILL THE WAY THE LAW WORKS! UNDERSTAND?

MARSHAL, UNLESS YOU WANT TO HOLD US ON SOME CHARGES, WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY!



TWO DAYS LATER...



I HOPE THEY LEFT SOMETHING ON HIM TO TELL ME WHO HE WAS! THEN I'M RIDING TO HAYS CITY AND SEE JUST WHO HE SUPPOSEDLY KILLED TO DESERVE THIS HANGING!



LATER IN HAYS CITY...

DID CARL JEFFERS KILL ANYONE? ARE YOU KIDDING, DILLON? HE WAS A FINE CITIZEN!

DID HE HAVE TROUBLE WITH ANYONE HERE?



YES, HE DID! HE WAS IN A LEGAL HASSLE OVER WATER RIGHTS! DEPFORD AND WALDEN WERE TRYING TO ROB HIM OF A LAKE ON HIS RANCH, BUT THE COURT WAS ABOUT TO THROW OUT THEIR PHONY MAP!

THANKS! I'VE LEARNED ALL I NEED TO KNOW!



QUICKLY MATT RIDES BACK TO DODGE...

HAVE YOU SEEN THOSE TWO HAYS CITY MEN, CHESTER?

HEARD THEY WENT UP TO KINDER'S CABIN WITH SEVERAL OTHERS! ALL WERE WELL ARMED, AS IF THEY FIGURED YOU MIGHT BE COMING FOR THEM!



MOUNTING UP, MATT DILLON AND CHESTER RIDE STRAIGHT FOR THE CABIN...

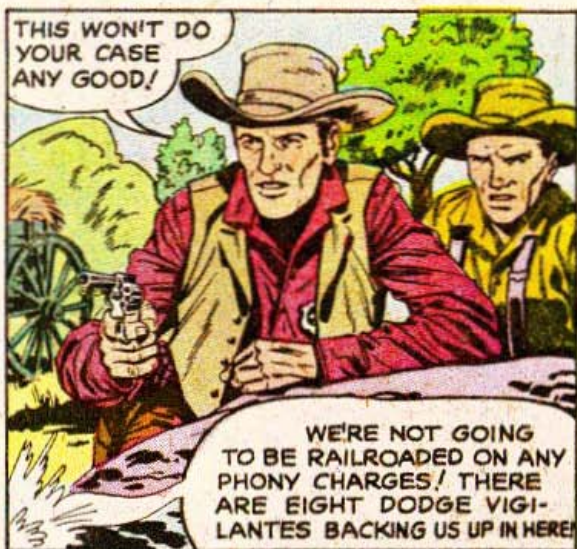
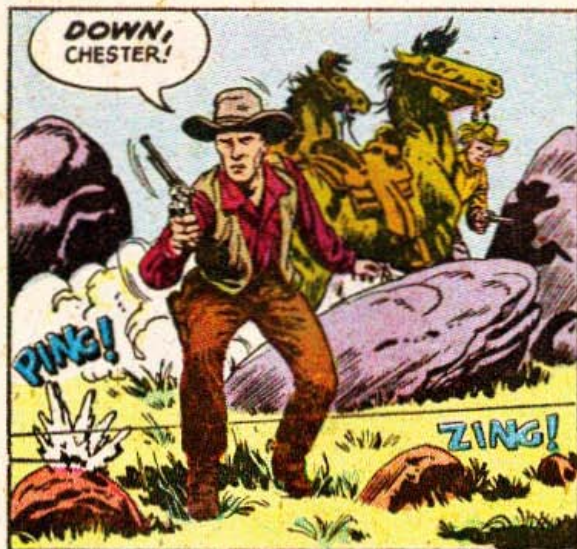
DEPFORD! WALDEN! I WANT TO SEE YOU! COME ON!

WHAT FOR, MARSHAL?



YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR CONSPIRACY TO MURDER CARL JEFFERS!

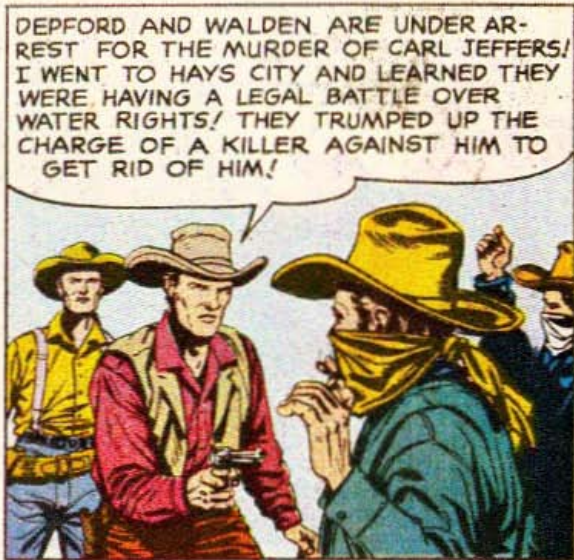






OWW!

DON'T SHOOT!

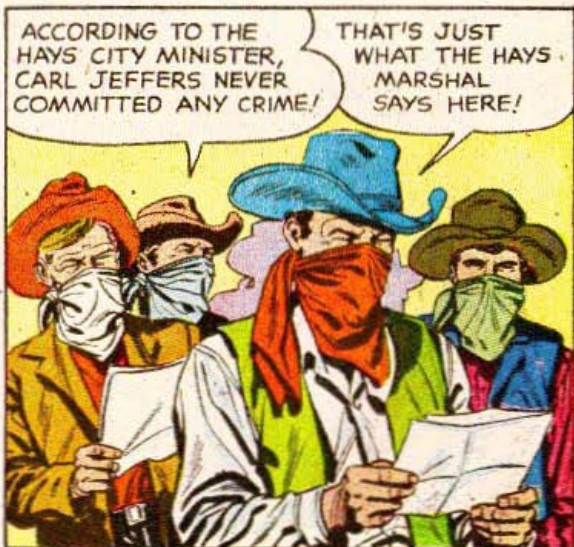


DEPFORD AND WALDEN ARE UNDER ARREST FOR THE MURDER OF CARL JEFFERS! I WENT TO HAYS CITY AND LEARNED THEY WERE HAVING A LEGAL BATTLE OVER WATER RIGHTS! THEY TRUMPED UP THE CHARGE OF A KILLER AGAINST HIM TO GET RID OF HIM!



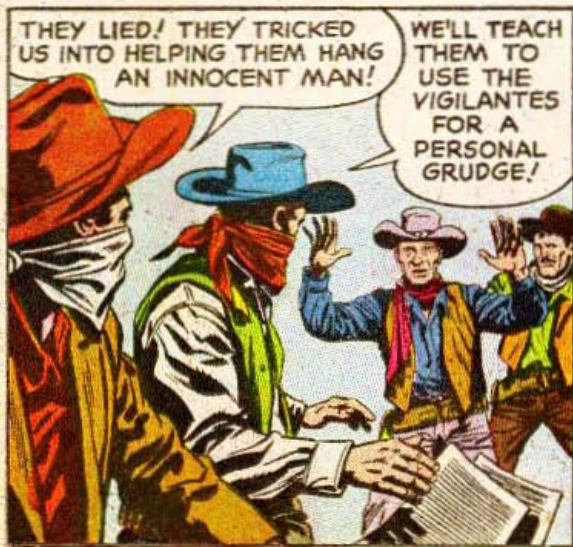
YOU'RE LYING! HE WAS A KILLER---

---MAYBE YOUR MASKED FRIENDS WOULD LIKE TO READ THESE TWO AFFIDAVITS!



ACCORDING TO THE HAYS CITY MINISTER, CARL JEFFERS NEVER COMMITTED ANY CRIME!

THAT'S JUST WHAT THE HAYS MARSHAL SAYS HERE!

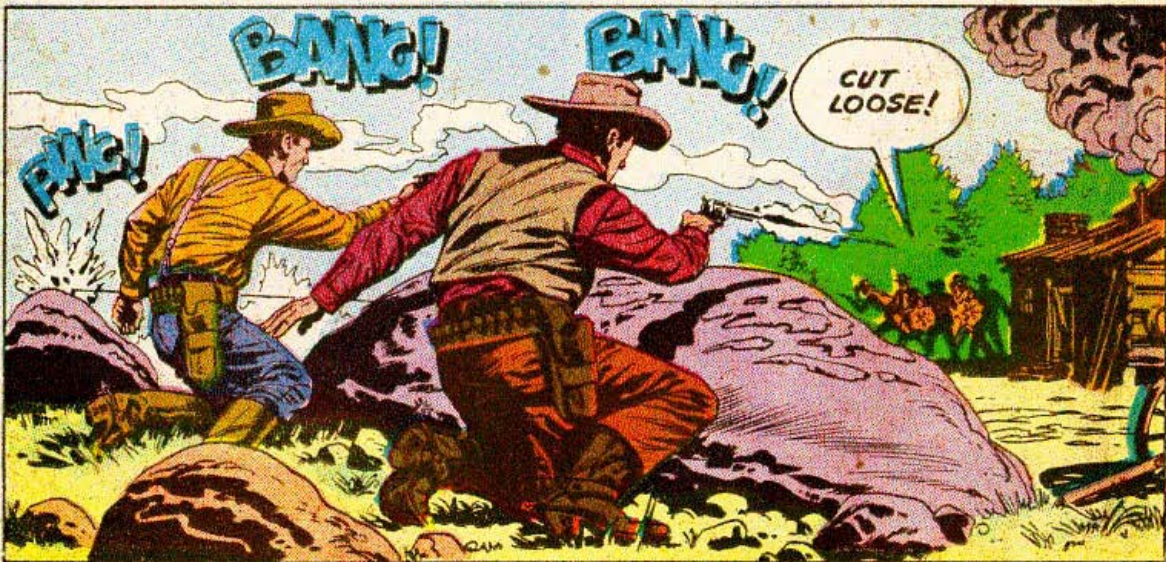
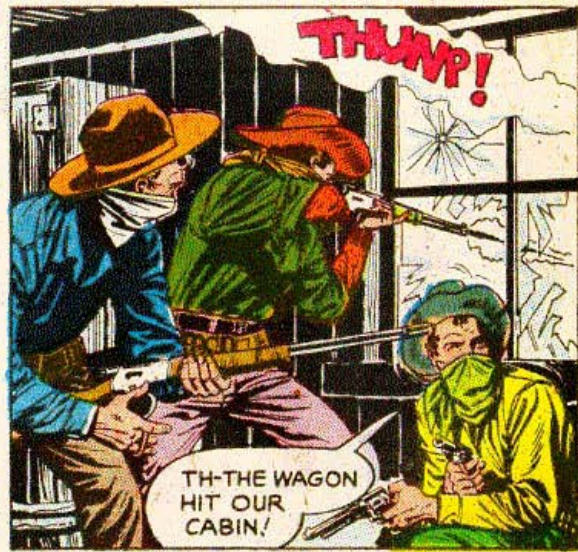
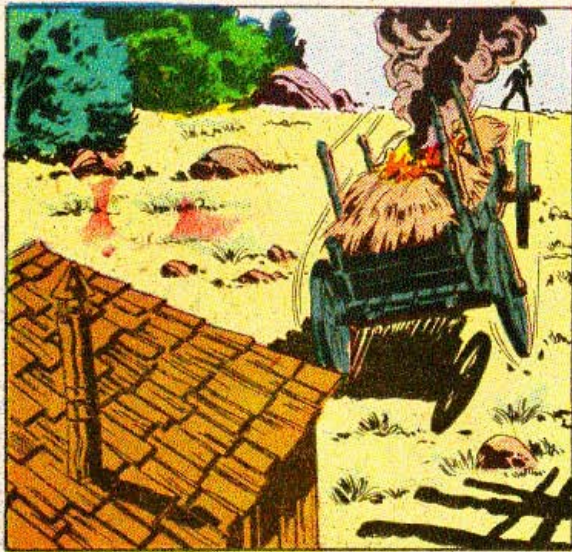


THEY LIED! THEY TRICKED US INTO HELPING THEM HANG AN INNOCENT MAN!

WE'LL TEACH THEM TO USE THE VIGILANTES FOR A PERSONAL GRUDGE!



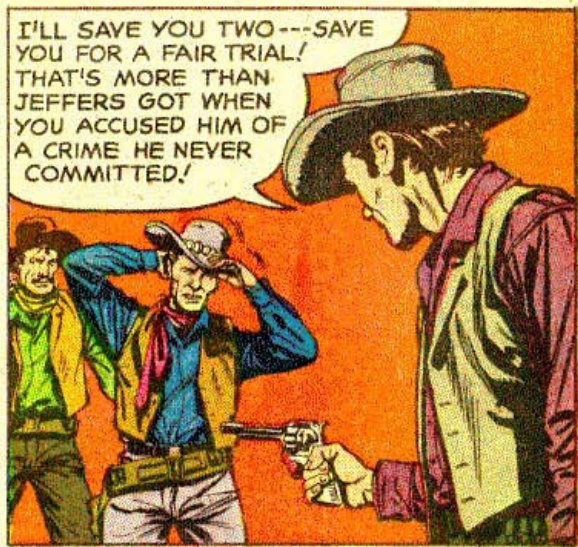
MA-MARSHAL HELP!





ALL OF YOU ---
GET BACK!

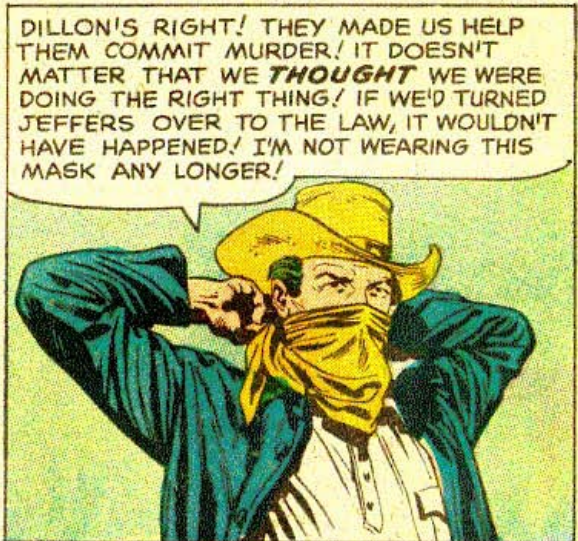
SAVE ME,
MARSHAL!



I'LL SAVE YOU TWO ---SAVE
YOU FOR A FAIR TRIAL!
THAT'S MORE THAN
JEFFERS GOT WHEN
YOU ACCUSED HIM OF
A CRIME HE NEVER
COMMITTED!



MAYBE NOW YOU REALIZE WHY THE
LAW HAS TO OPERATE AS IT DOES ---WHY
DUE PROCESS OF THE LAW THAT OCCA-
SIONALLY MAY FREE THE GUILTY CAN
ALSO SAVE THE INNO-
CENT! AND NOW,
HERE ARE TWO OF
YOUR MEN BEGGING
HELP FROM THE
LAW THEY THOUGHT
THEY COULD
REPLACE!



DILLON'S RIGHT! THEY MADE US HELP
THEM COMMIT MURDER! IT DOESN'T
MATTER THAT WE **THOUGHT** WE WERE
DOING THE RIGHT THING! IF WE'D TURNED
JEFFERS OVER TO THE LAW, IT WOULDN'T
HAVE HAPPENED! I'M NOW WEARING THIS
MASK ANY LONGER!

ONE BY ONE, THEIR HANDS RIP OFF THEIR MASKS...



LOOKS LIKE DODGE CITY WON'T
BE TROUBLED BY VIGILANTES
AGAIN, MR. DILLON!



YES, CHESTER ---BUT LOOK
WHAT HAD TO HAPPEN TO
BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES!

THE
END