

LARIAT LUCY

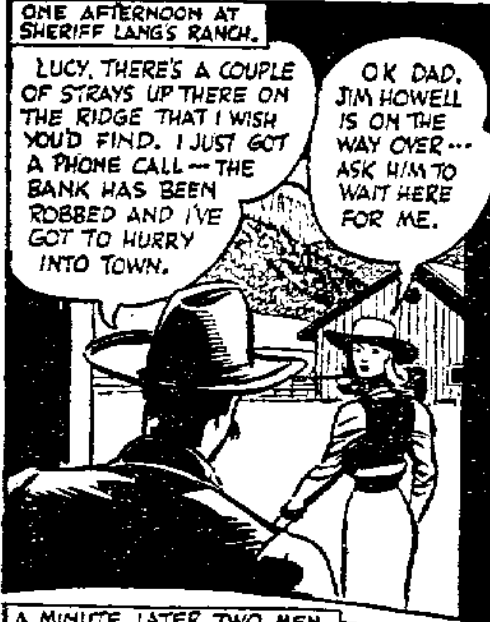
TENDERFOOT
KILLERS

BY R. MORTON

ONE AFTERNOON AT
SHERIFF LANG'S RANCH.

LUCY, THERE'S A COUPLE
OF STRAYS UP THERE ON
THE RIDGE THAT I WISH
YOU'D FIND. I JUST GOT
A PHONE CALL -- THE
BANK HAS BEEN
ROBBED AND I'VE
GOT TO HURRY
INTO TOWN.

OK DAD,
JIM HOWELL
IS ON THE
WAY OVER --
ASK HIM TO
WAIT HERE
FOR ME.



3 P.M. -- UP ON THE RIDGE ROAD.

BANG!
BANG!

BANG!

I WONDER WHO'S
DOING ALL THE
SHOOTING? -- DEER
SEASON ISN'T
OPEN YET!



A MINUTE LATER TWO MEN
RUN OUT OF THE FOREST.

WHAT'S THAT THEY'RE
CARRYING? -- AND WHY ALL
THE HURRY? -- I'D BETTER
SEE IF THEY NEED HELP!



BUT AS LUCY RIDES CLOSER --

HIDE
THAT THING! --
AND DON'T LET
THAT DAME GET
AWAY!





MEANWHILE IN THE SPEEDING TRUCK---

YOU SURE GLUMMED THINGS UP SWELL, RED! THE BIG BOSS SENDS US OUT HERE TO KNOCK OFF A BANK ---WHICH WE DO--- THEN YOU GET THE BRIGHT IDEA WE SHOULD TAKE BACK A DEER'S HEAD FOR THE BOSS'S NIGHT CLUB WALL--- SO A RANGER CATCHES US SHOOTING A DEER OUT OF SEASON AND WE HAVE TO KNOCK HIM OFF-- AND NOW THERE'S A WITNESS AROUND LOOSE ---

RIDGE RD.
FIVE POINTS
SQUARE DANCE TONIGHT AT FIVE POINTS BARN

DON'T WORRY EVERY GAL IN THIS SECTION WILL BE THERE TONIGHT--- AND SO WILL WE!

BACK AT THE RANCH

I'VE GOT TO GO TO TOWN AND REPORT THE RANGER'S MURDER.

WELL, DON'T FORGET YOU PROMISED TO BE THE CALLER AT THE 5 POINTS DANCE -- DON'T BE LATE!

9 P.M. AT THE FIVE-POINTS BARN

I'LL WAIT HERE IN THE PICK-UP--YOU GO IN AND FIND THAT DAME.

O.K. -- IT'S A GOOD THING WE GOT THOSE RANCH CLOTHES.

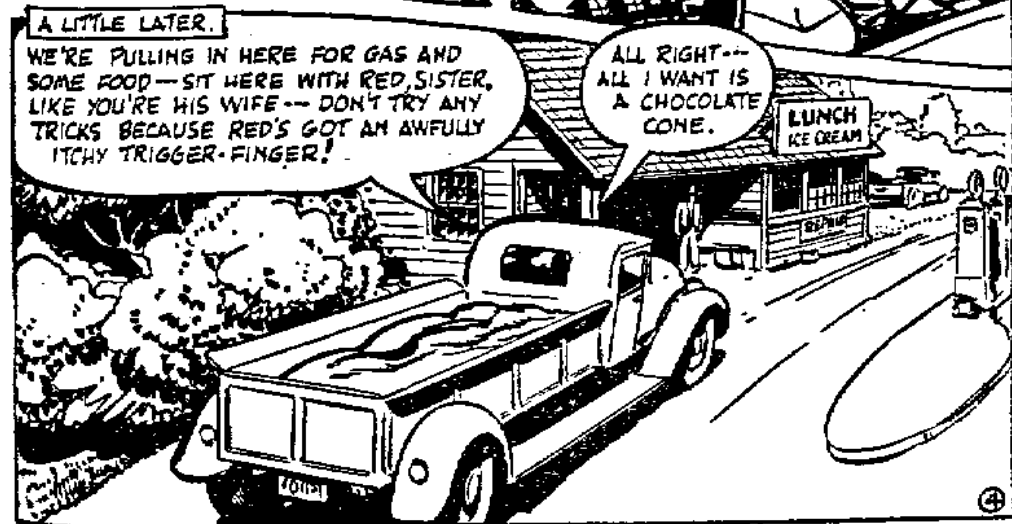
A FEW MINUTES LATER--AS JIM CALLS THE DANCES.

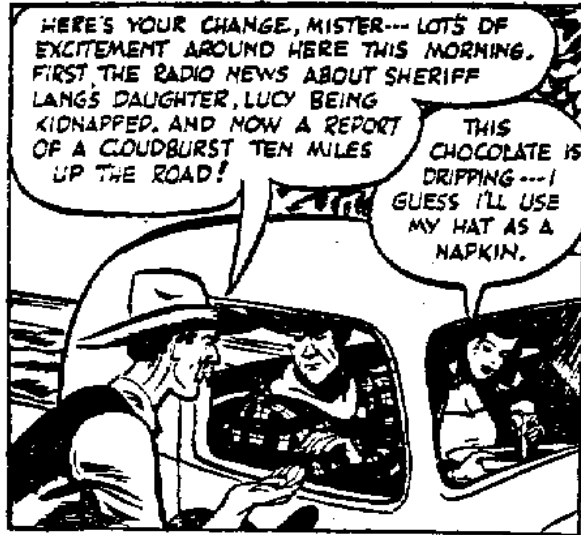
EVERYBODY! --- GET YOUR PARTNERS FOR THE COTTON-EYE-JOE!

HOW ABOUT THIS DANCE, MUSS?

I'M TOO TIRED FROM THE LAST ONE -- I'M NOT SURE I KNOW YOU --- ALTHOUGH THAT SHIRT LOOKS FAMILIAR SOMEHOW.

WE'LL COME ON OUT AND COOL OFF WHILE I CATCH A SMOKE. ---MAYBE I CAN REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.



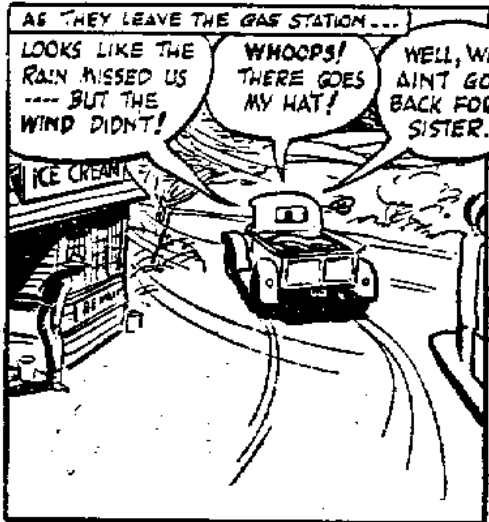


HERE'S YOUR CHANGE, MISTER--- LOTS OF EXCITEMENT AROUND HERE THIS MORNING. FIRST THE RADIO NEWS ABOUT SHERIFF LANGS DAUGHTER, LUCY BEING KIDNAPPED. AND NOW A REPORT OF A CLODBURST TEN MILES UP THE ROAD!

THIS CHOCOLATE IS DRIPPING--- I GUESS I'LL USE MY HAT AS A NAPKIN.



WHILE THE ICE CREAM DRIPS INTO HER HAT, LUCY STEALTHLY WRITES WITH HER FINGER.



AS THEY LEAVE THE GAS STATION---

LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN MISSED US --- BUT THE WIND DIDNT!

WHOOPS! THERE GOES MY HAT!

WELL, WE AINT GOIN' BACK FOR IT, SISTER.



CLODBURST, EH? MAYBE, I CAN FOOL THESE TENDERFOOT TOUGHS YET!

IF THERE'S BEEN A CLODBURST AHEAD, THE ROAD WILL BE BLOCKED OFF BY THE RANGERS.



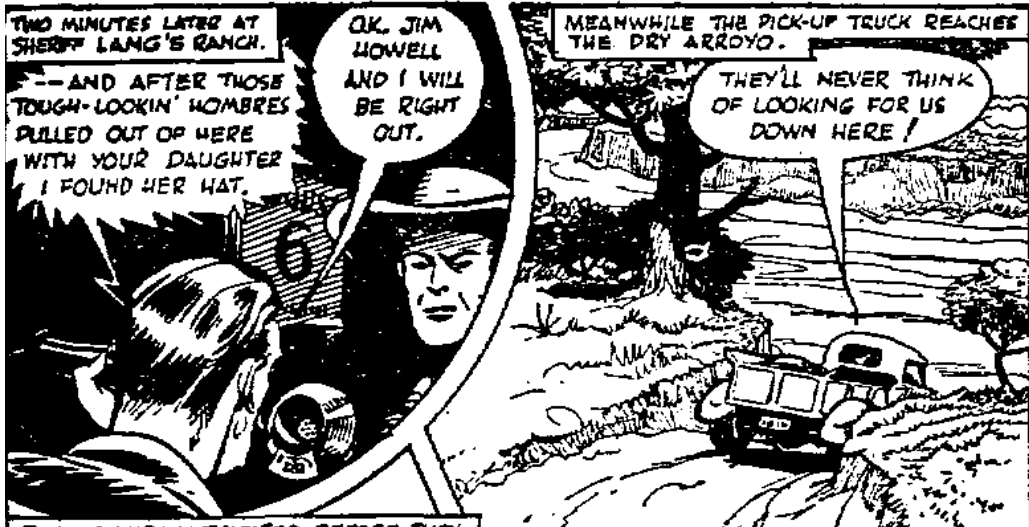
WELL WE CANT STAY HERE! WE'LL TAKE THIS SIDE ROAD OVER INTO THAT DRIED-UP CREEK BED AND HIDE OUT UNDER THAT TREE TILL DARK.

AH! MY HUNCH IS WORKING--- I MIGHT GET KILLED BUT ITS MY ONLY CHANCE.



BACK AT THE GAS STATION.

THAT FELLA'S WIFE LOST HER HAT--- -HEY!---WHAT'S THIS WRITIN' HERE?



TWO MINUTES LATER AT SHERIFF LANG'S RANCH.

-- AND AFTER THOSE TOUGH-LOOKIN' HOMBRES PULLED OUT OF HERE WITH YOUR DAUGHTER I FOUND HER HAT.

OK, JIM HOWELL AND I WILL BE RIGHT OUT.

MEANWHILE THE PICK-UP TRUCK REACHES THE DRY ARROYO.

THEY'LL NEVER THINK OF LOOKING FOR US DOWN HERE!

BUT, AS LUCY ANTICIPATED, BEFORE THEY HAD GONE 50 YARDS THEY WERE Mired HUB-DEEP IN THE SOFT SAND.

NOW WE'RE REALLY STUCK, HANK!

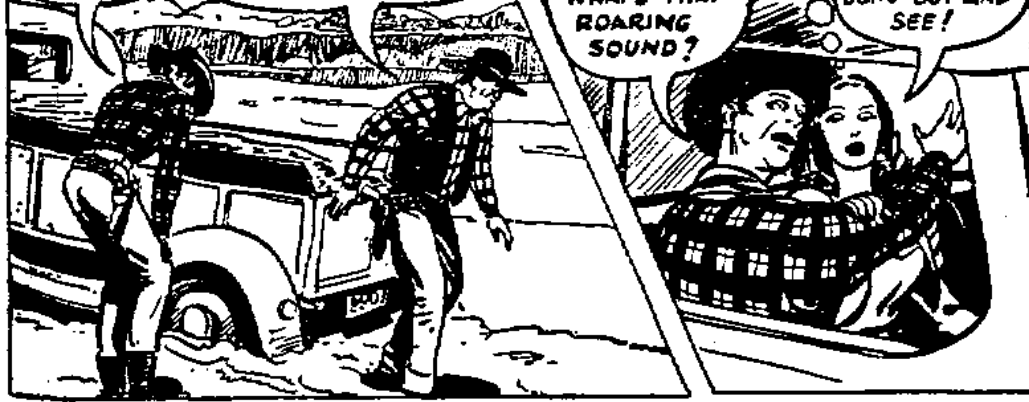
I'LL GO AND GET THAT GAS-STATION HICK AND MAKE HIM PULL US OUT.

AFTER HANK LEAVES--

NOW THAT WE'RE ALONE, SISTER, HOW ABOUT-- HEY, WHAT'S THAT ROARING SOUND?

HERE IT COMES! GOT TO WORK FAST!

YOU'D BETTER JUMP OUT AND SEE!



AROUND THE BEND OF THE ARROYO RUSHES A WALL OF WATER--- THE FLASH-FLOOD THAT LUCY HAS BEEN EXPECTING.

WHAT, TH--!

QUICKLY LUCY UNTIES HER ANKLES AND MAKES A LASSO KNOT IN THE ROPE.



