

Bantam BUCKAROO

LOOK, MIKE! IT'S KILLER--THAT BIG WILD STALLION NOBODY'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO CAPTURE! GOLLY, WISH I COULD GET A ROPE ON HIM!

DON'T EVER LET ME CATCH YUH NEAR HIM! THEY GAVE 'IM THAT NAME BECAUSE HE'S AN OUTLAW-- A MURDEROUS CAYUSE THAT'LL FINISH OFF ANY HOMBRE HE KIN GIT TO!

YOU'VE MET WESTERN HEROES APLENTY, READER-- FAST-SHOOTING, HARD-RIDING WADDIES THAT WROTE THEIR MARK IN BLAZING BULLETS! BUT NOW MAKE WAY FOR YOUR FAVORITE AND OURS--A PINT-SIZED PACKAGE OF PURE URANIUM THAT'S GEARED FOR ACTION! MAKE WAY FOR LITTLE LOBO-- THE BANTAM BUCKAROO!



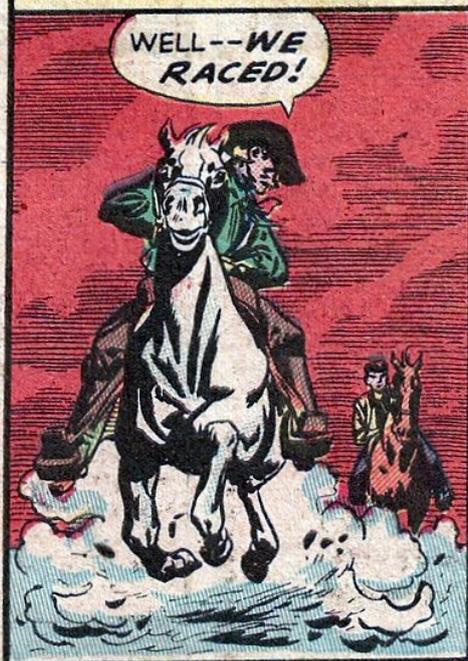
BUT IF IT'S GOOD HOSS-FLESH YUH'RE INTERESTED IN, WHUT'S WRONG WITH SPUD HERE --THE GREATEST, FASTEST NAG EVER BRED IN THIS COUNTRY?

MEBBE--BUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY BRONC? TELL YUH WHAT, MIKE-- LET'S RACE!



BUT LOBO'D BITTEN OFF FAR MORE THAN HE COULD CHEW!

WELL--WE RACED!



YESSIR--BUT WAIT'LL I REALLY RACE SPUD AT THE COUNTY FAIR NEXT WEEK! HE'LL SURPRISE EVERYBODY-- INCLUDIN' PARSON BLAKE AN' THAT SPEEDY CAYUSE O' HIS THAT'S WON ALL THE RACES IN THESE PARTS!

AHEM! CAN IT BE THAT MY HORSE'S VICTORIOUS STANDING IN THIS COMMUNITY IS BEING QUESTIONED?



--OR CAN IT BE THAT YOU ARE JUST TALKING BIG--**BLUFFING**, AS IT WERE? WHICH IS MY OPINION, SIR! I SHALL BE GLAD TO BACK IT BY A \$10,000 WAGER ON MY **CHIEFTAIN**--AS AGAINST YOUR SPUD!

I WON'T TAKE THAT FROM **NO-BODY**--NOT EVEN YOU, PARSON! IF ONLY I HAD THAT KIND O' MONEY TO BET--

AH, BUT YOU HAVE A **RANCH** OF THAT VALUE! SHALL WE MAKE IT YOUR SPREAD AGAINST MY \$10,000 --OR DO YOU FIND YOUR COURAGE FALTERING?

NO, KEEP OUTA THIS, LOBO!

PARSON, YUH'RE SHORE BUCKIN' A TOUGH HOMBRE--AN' A FAST HOSS! **YUH'RE ON!**

GOOD! THEN IT SHALL BE MY ENTRY AGAINST YOURS! BUT REMEMBER--THERE CAN BE NO WITHDRAWAL FROM THE RACE! IF EITHER OF US FAILS TO RUN A HORSE--

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! JIST CONCEN-TRATE ON THE **BEATIN' YORE NAG'S GONNA TAKE!**

HE LOSES!

GOSH, MIKE, THE RANCH IS ALL YUH GOT! YUH SHOULDN'T O' DONE IT!

FERGET IT! MY SPUD'S THE FASTEST THING ON FOUR FEET--AN' THAT \$10,000 IS AS GOOD AS MINE!

IT'S NOT SPUD I'M THINKIN' ABOUT--BUT **PARSON BLAKE HIMSELF!** I DON'T TRUST HIM, MIKE! THAT WOULDN'T-HURT-A-FLY LOOK THAT MAKES FOLKS CALL HIM **PARSON**-- I THINK IT COVERS A **BLACK HEART!**

YUH'RE LOCO! WHY, HE'S NOTHIN' BUT A TIMID LITTLE GUY WITH A COUPLA TOUGH RIDERS!

THE DAY BEFORE THE RACE--

HE RAN THAT MILE IN NOTHIN' FLAT, LOBO! I **TOLD** YUH THERE WAS NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT!

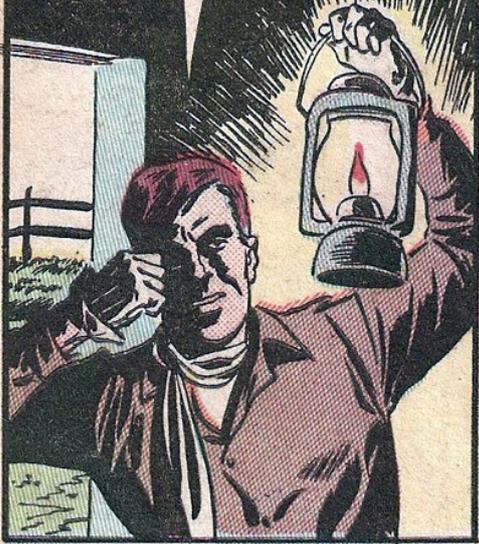
I **STILL** DON'T TRUST PARSON! PLEASE, MIKE, AS A FAVOR TO ME--**HAVE SLIM SLEEP IN THE STABLE TONIGHT!**

HIDDEN ON A NEARBY HILL--

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO--ER--SHAKE MY CONFIDENCE IN MY OWN HORSE'S SPEED! IT IS INDEED REGRETTABLE, BUT WE SHALL HAVE TO TAKE STEPS--**TONIGHT!**

MIDNIGHT--

HEARD A NOISE...
WHO'S THERE?



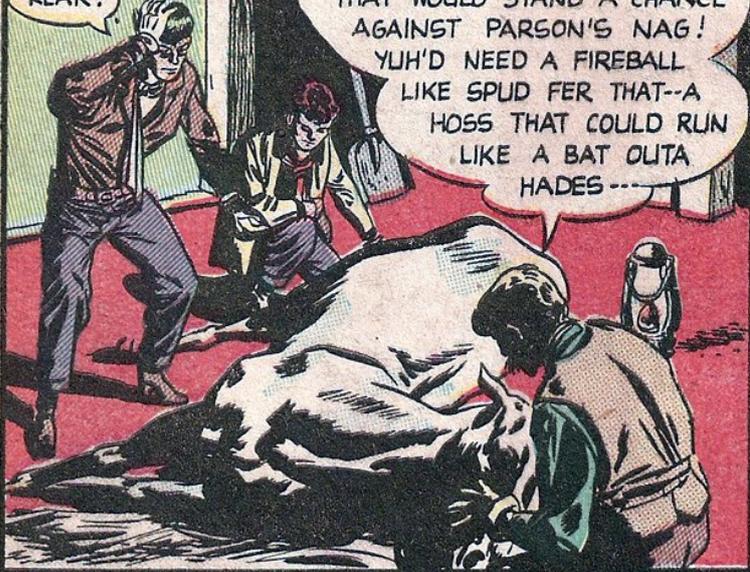
A SHOT--FROM
THE STABLE!



MINUTES LATER--

I-I DIDN'T SEE HIM--
HE GOT ME FROM THE
REAR!

RAISED HIM FROM A COLT, AND
NOW--**DEAD!** AND GOODBYE
RANCH! THERE'S NO OTHER
HOSS I KIN ENTER IN THE RACE
THAT WOULD STAND A CHANCE
AGAINST PARSON'S NAG!
YUH'D NEED A FIREBALL
LIKE SPUD FER THAT--A
HOSS THAT COULD RUN
LIKE A BAT OUTA
HADES----



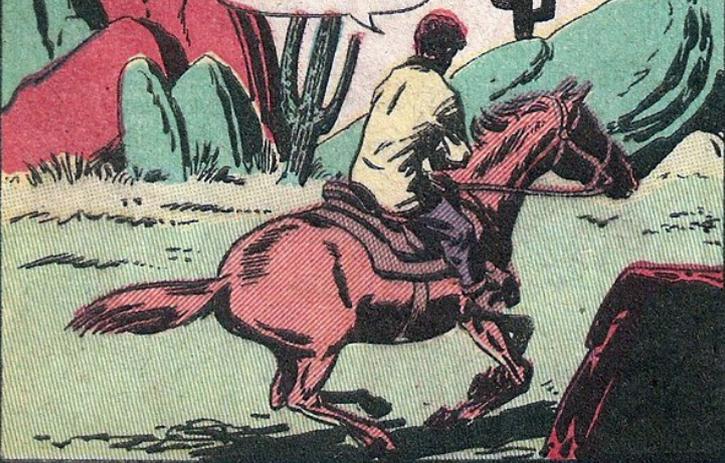
THIS IS PARSON'S DOING--I'M
SURE OF IT! IT'S HIS WAY
OF MAKING SURE OF HIS BET!
AND IF WE COULD ONLY **PROVE**
HE SHOT SPUD, THE BET
WOULD BE OFF!

I'M SICK AN'
TIRED OF HEARIN'
YUH YELLIN' ABOUT
PARSON BLAKE!
CLEAR OUTA HERE,
BEFORE I--



AND SO THE BANTAM BUCKAROO CLEARED OUT--AND
SET FORTH ON A SECRET ERRAND!

MY MIND'S MADE UP, AN' MIKE CAN'T CHANGE
IT! I'M GONNA INVESTIGATE OUT AT PARSON'S
RANCH, AN' TRY TO PIN SOMETHIN' ON HIM BEFORE
THE RACE TOMORROW! GOLLY--THAR ISN'T
MUCH TIME--

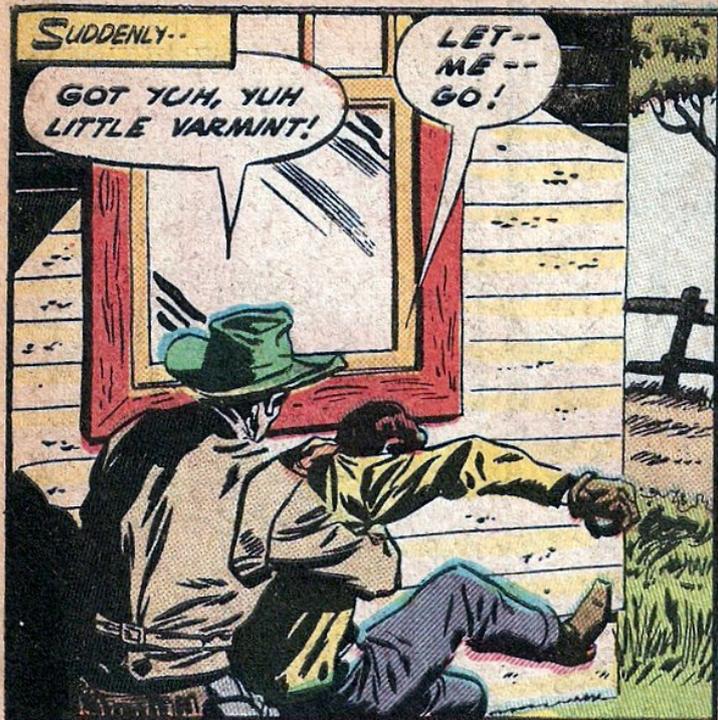


AT THE BLAKE SPREAD--LOBO OVERHEARS--

SMART OF YUH,
SHOOTIN' THAT NAG,
BOSS! THAR'S NO
WAY WE KIN LOSE
THE RACE **NOW!**

AND NO WAY I CAN POSSIBLY
LOSE MIKE HARNEY'S **RANCH!**
AH, IT POSSESSES THE AMPLE
WATER AND FINE GRAZING I'VE
WANTED SO LONG! AND EN-
TICING HIM INTO OUR WAGER
--IT WAS A STROKE OF
GENIUS!

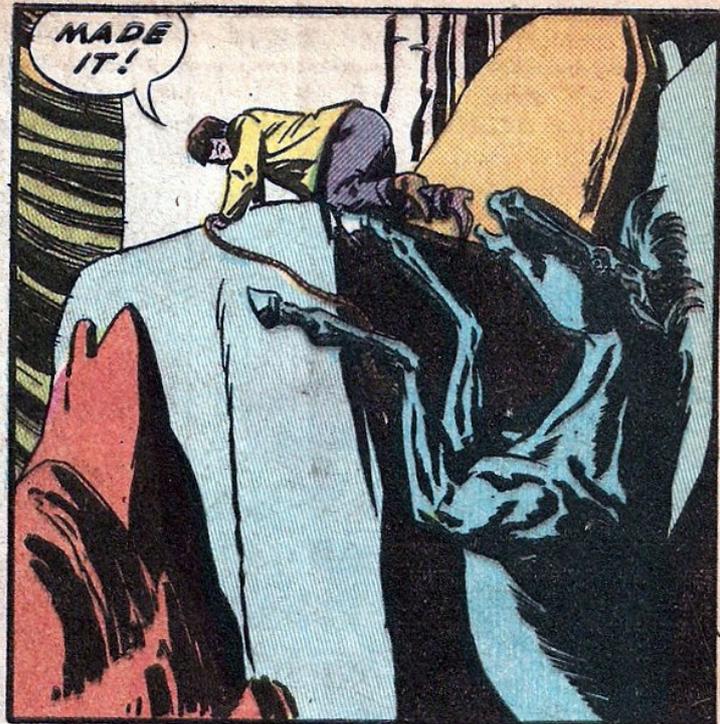








BETTER TRY TUH SCUTTLE UP THAT CLIFF PRONTO--OR IT'LL BE ALL UP WITH ME!



MADE IT!



ULP! I'M--LOSIN' MY BALANCE!



WHAM!

URF!



I'LL BE--TRAMPLED TUH DEATH IF HE EVER SHAKES ME OFF! AN' I GOT ONLY ONE CHANCE TUH STAY ON! IF--IF ONLY I KIN MAKE A HACKAMORE OLITA THIS STRAND O' ROPE--



IT WAS TOUCH AND GO--BUT LOBO MADE IT!

NOW, YUH DEVIL--DO YORE WORST!



IT WAS A TERRIFIC DUEL--A VOLCANO OF WILD HORSE-FLESH AGAINST A MERE BOY! BUT THE BOY WAS THE BANTAM BUCKAROO--AND HIS WIRY, RANGE-HARD-ENED BODY WITHSTOOD THE AWFUL TEST!

IT'S LIKE--TRYIN' TUH RIDE--AN' EARTHQUAKE! BUT I GOTTA HANG ON-- I GOTTA!

AND FINALLY--THE GREAT HORSE WAS BROKEN!

EASY, BOY--EASY!--IT--IT'S HARD TUH REALIZE I'VE TAMED THE GREATEST HOSS THAT--HEY! WHAT WAS IT THAT MIKE SAID--THAT THE ONLY CAYUSE THAT COULD STAND A CHANCE AGAINST PARSON BLAKE'S NAG WAS A FIREBALL LIKE SPLD--A HOSS THAT COULD RUN LIKE A BAT OUTA HADES--!



WELL--I GOT THAT HOSS RIGHT HERE! THAR ISN'T TIME--THE RACE'LL BE ON BEFORE I KIN GIT THAR-- BUT I'M GONNA GIVE IT A TRY, ANYWAY!



LATER--AT THE COUNTY FAIR GROUNDS--

IT--IT SORTA GOES AGAINST THE GRAIN, PARSON--BUT I'M ASKIN' YUH TUH CALL OUR BET OFF! MUH HOSS IS DEAD-- MURDERED--AN' I GOT NO OTHER MOUNT TUH ENTER!

INDEED REG-RETTABLE, SIR--AND YOU HAVE MY SYMPATHY! BUT YOU KNOW THE TERMS OF OUR WAGER--AND AS A SPORTING MAN, YOU REALIZE THAT THE BET MUST RIDE!

LOBO WAS RIGHT ABOUT HIM--AN' I WAS WRONG! IF ONLY I'D REALIZED--

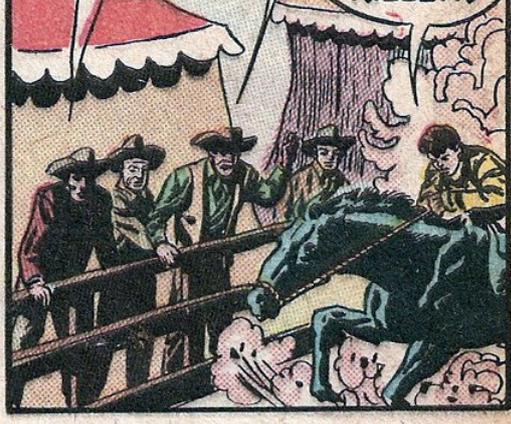
THEY'RE OFF!



THE RACE IS ON! THEN--FROM OUT OF NOWHERE--

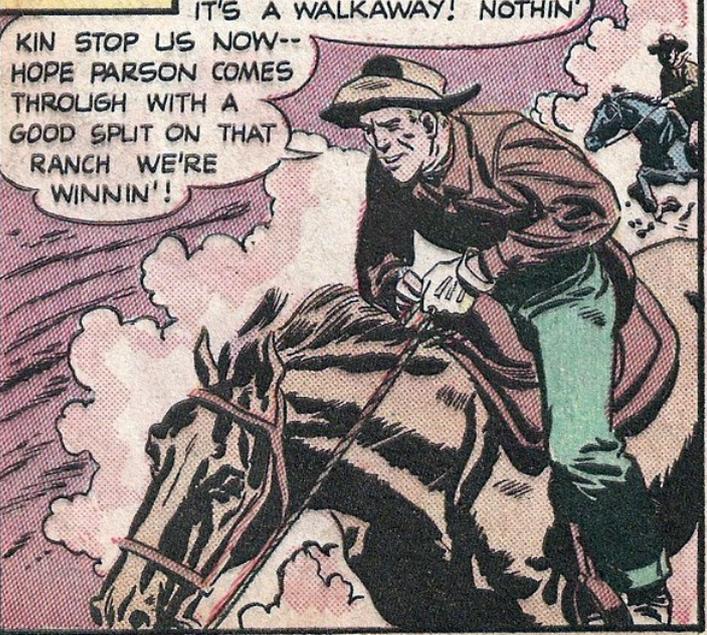
WHERE'D THEY COME FROM? HOLY HANNAH-- THAT'S KILLER, THE WILD STALLION!

IT'S-- WE'RE FAR BEHIND-- LOBO! OUTA THE RACE ALREADY BUT I'LL TRY, ANYWAY! LET'S GO, KILLER!



MEANWHILE, UP AT THE FRONT OF THE PACK--SERENELY CONFIDENT--

IT'S A WALKAWAY! NOTHIN' KIN STOP US NOW-- HOPE PARSON COMES THROUGH WITH A GOOD SPLIT ON THAT RANCH WE'RE WINNIN'!



BUT SUDDENLY--

SUFFERIN' SUN-FISH--DO YUH SEE WHAT I SEE?

NO-- IT CAN'T BE! WE MUST BE DREAMIN'!

LOBO! LOBO!



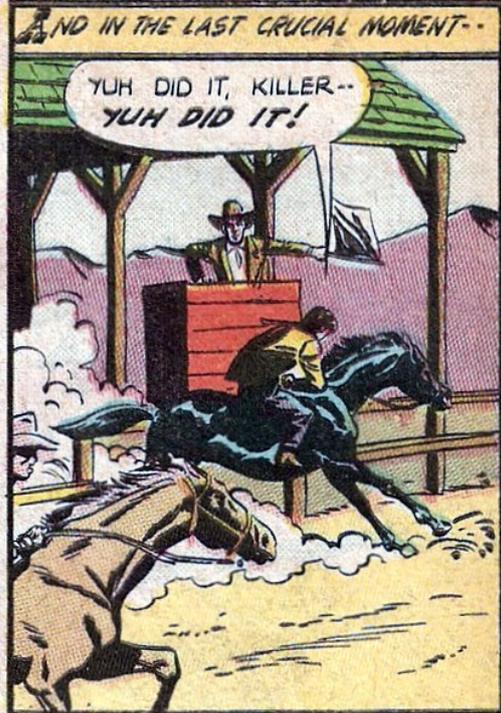
FROM FAR OUT OF THE RACE, LOBO--THE BANTAM BUCKAROO--AND A FLAMING WILD STALLION WHOSE LIGHTNING SPEED WAS UNEQUALED--



COME ON, KILLER--GIVE IT ALL YUH GOT! WE'RE GAININ' ON PARSON'S HORSE! MEB-BE--MEBBE WE'LL DO IT YET!



RUN, YUH VARMINT-- RUN! HE'S--CATCHIN' US!



AND IN THE LAST CRUCIAL MOMENT-- YUH DID IT, KILLER-- YUH DID IT!



NEVER MIND THE CONGRATULATIONS, MIKE--THERE GOES PARSON! HE SHOT SPUD--I HEARD HIM BOASTIN' ABOUT IT--AN' HE TRIED TUH HAVE ME KILLED, TOO!

HE DID, EH? WELL--HERE'S WHAR I GET BACK SOME OF MUH OWN!

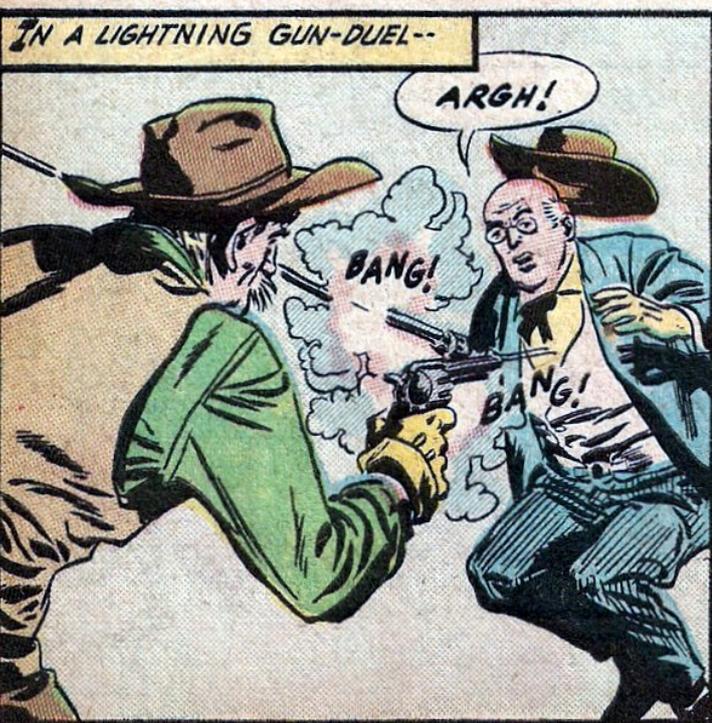


AS MIKE AND LOBO TEAM UP IN A FAST CHARGE--

FLOWERS FER YUH, WADDY--AN' YUH'LL NEED 'EM!

HOLD ON THAR, PARSON! YUH GOT A DATE WITH THE SHERIFF!

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, YOU FOOL!

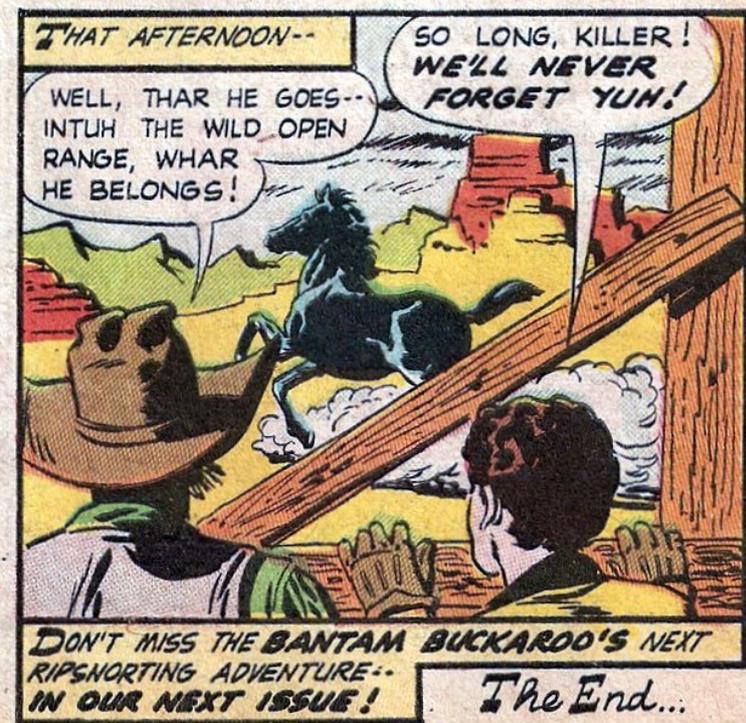


IN A LIGHTNING GUN-DUEL--

ARGH!

BANG!

BANG!



THAT AFTERNOON--

WELL, THAR HE GOES--INTUH THE WILD OPEN RANGE, WHAR HE BELONGS!

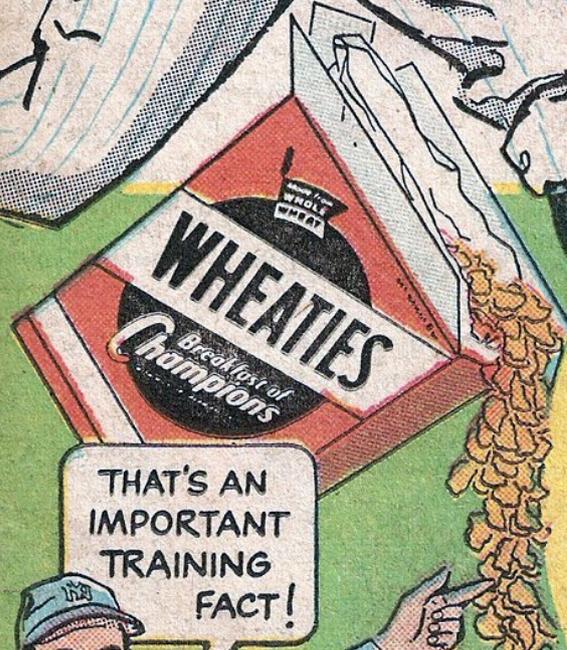
SO LONG, KILLER! WE'LL NEVER FORGET YUH!

DON'T MISS THE BANTAM BUCKAROO'S NEXT RIPSNOTTING ADVENTURE-- IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

The End...

PHIL RIZZUTO
 MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AMERICAN LEAGUE

WHAT BUILDS A CHAMPION BUILDS YOU!

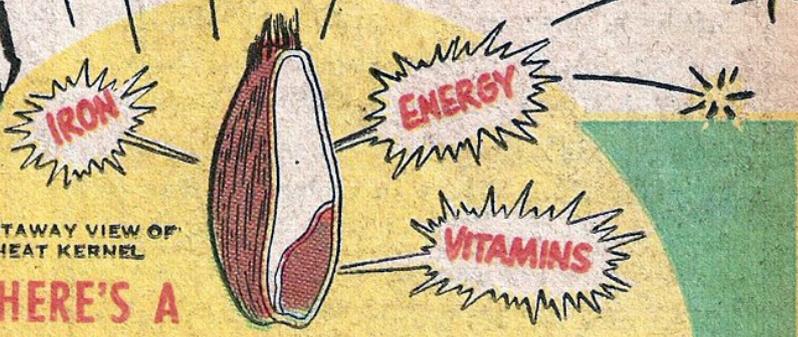


THAT'S AN
 IMPORTANT
 TRAINING
 FACT!

GUTAWAY VIEW OF
 WHEAT KERNEL

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 WHOLE KERNEL OF WHEAT
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