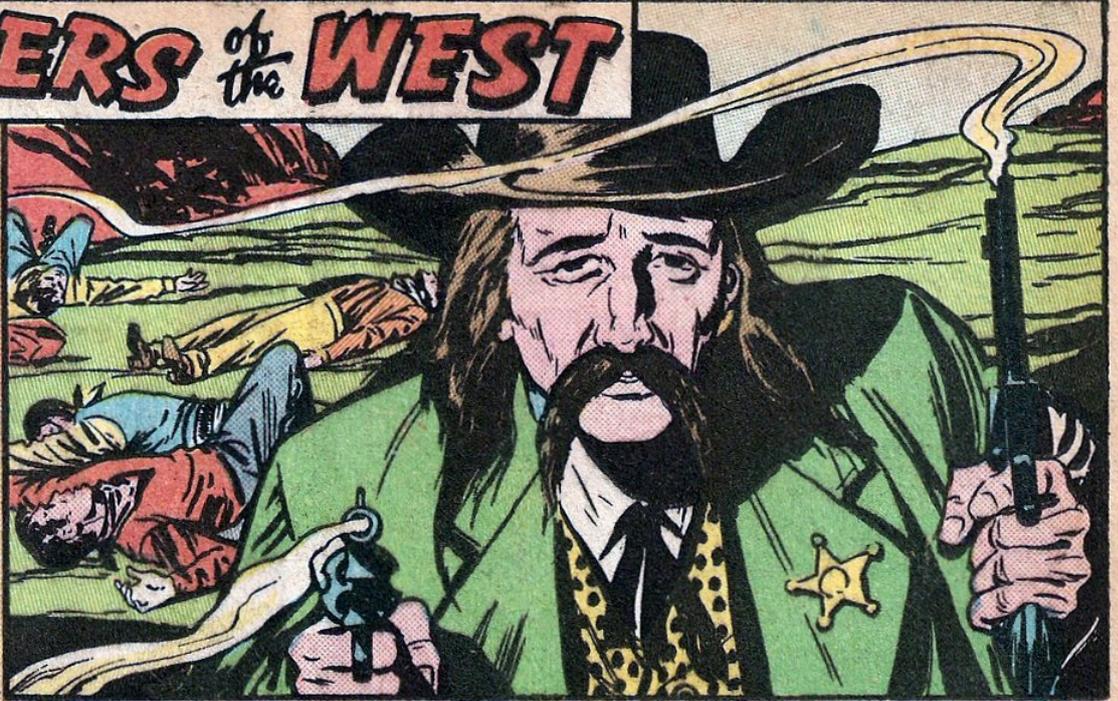


# WINNERS *of the* WEST

**JAMES BUTLER HICKOK-- THE FAMED WILD BILL** WAS BY FAR THE GREATEST DUELIST OF THE OLD WEST! HIS SMOKING SIXGUNS BLASTED MORE THAN A HUNDRED MEN TO THEIR DOOM-- BESIDES ALL THE INDIANS HE SENT TO THE HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS! BUT NEVER DID WILD BILL FACE MORE DANGEROUS ODDS THAN IN HIS FABULOUS BATTLE TO THE DEATH WITH THE MCCANLES GANG!



IT ALL STARTED IN NEBRASKA THE DAY WILD BILL LEFT HIS CAVALRY DETACHMENT TO VISIT MRS. WELLMAN, AN OLD FAMILY FRIEND! BUT AT HER CABIN...

MR. HICKOK-- YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE! YOU'VE GOT TO FLEE-- FOR YOUR LIFE!

WHY, WHAT'S WRONG, MRS. WELLMAN?



MCCANLES AND HIS GANG OF CUTTHROATS WERE HERE LOOKING FOR YOU--- THEY HEARD YOU VISIT ME, AND THEY SAID THEY'D BE BACK TO CUT YOUR HEART OUT! YOU'VE GOT TO GET AWAY BEFORE THEY RETURN!

MCCANLES, EH? I REMEMBER HIM-- HAD SOME TROUBLE WITH HIM IN THE MOUNTAINS--- AN' I RECKON HE DIDN'T FORGET ME!



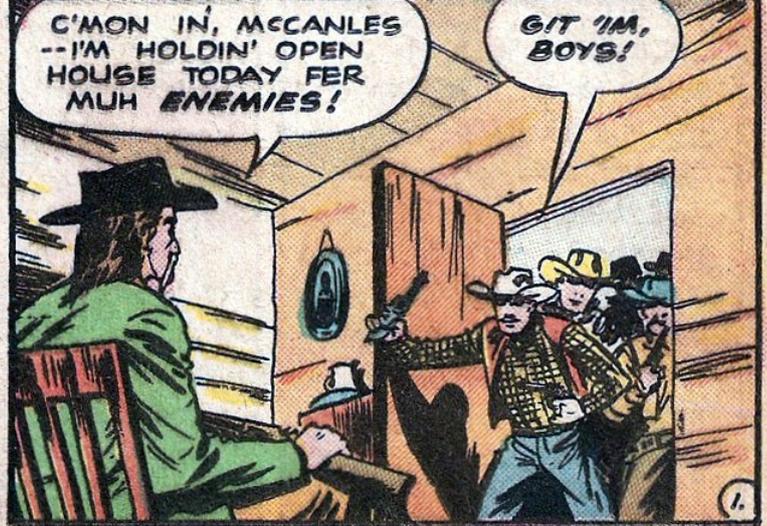
I RECKON I'LL JEST SET IN YORE CABIN AN' WAIT FER HIM, MRS. WELLMAN! YUH KIN GO STAY AT A NEIGHBOR'S PLACE!

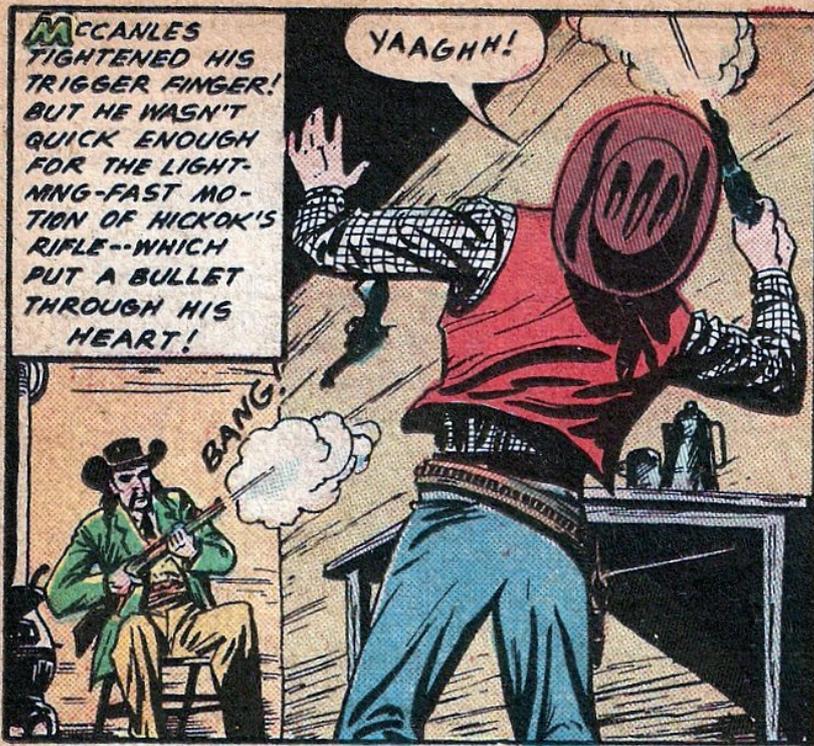


WILD BILL DIDN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT! THE CLATTER OF HOOVES SUDDENLY SOUNDED OUTSIDE, THE DOOR BURST OPEN--- AND THERE STOOD MCCANLES, AT THE HEAD OF A GANG OF TEN ASSASSINS!

C'MON IN, MCCANLES -- I'M HOLDIN' OPEN HOUSE TODAY FER MUH ENEMIES!

GIT 'EM, BOYS!





**M**CCANLES TIGHTENED HIS TRIGGER FINGER! BUT HE WASN'T QUICK ENOUGH FOR THE LIGHTNING-FAST MOTION OF HICKOK'S RIFLE--WHICH PUT A BULLET THROUGH HIS HEART!

YAAGHH!

BANG!



**W**ITH THEIR LEADER DEAD, THE VICIOUS GANGMEN CAME RUSHING IN, INFLAMED WITH HATRED AND THIRSTY FOR REVENGE!

FILL 'IM WITH LEAD! CUT 'IM TUH PIECES!

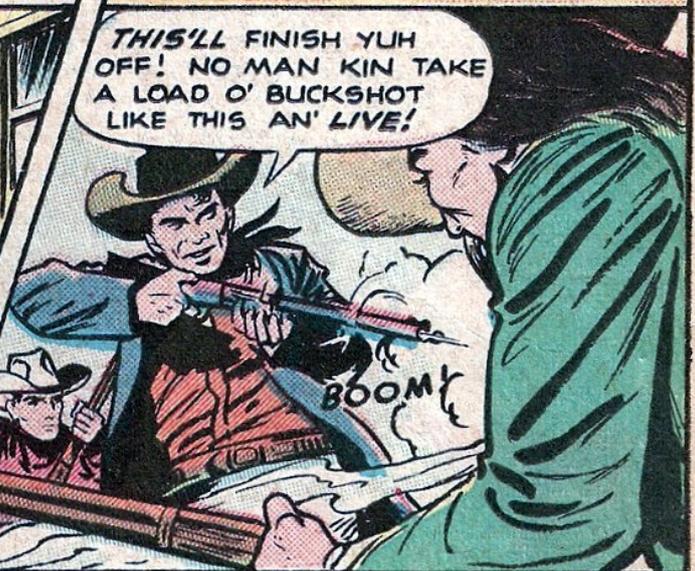
THEY'RE SURROUNDIN' ME--I'D BETTER GIT MUH BACK AGAINST THE WALL!

**A**S HICKOK HIMSELF WAS QUOTED IN HARPER'S MAGAZINE OF 1867, "I NEVER AIMED MORE DELIBERATELY IN MY LIFE! ONE--TWO--THREE--FOUR!----AND FOUR MEN FELL DEAD!"

**B**UT THAT DIDN'T STOP THE REST! TWO OF THEM BROUGHT THEIR HEAVY SHOTGUNS INTO PLAY--AT ALMOST POINT-BLANK RANGE!



BANG!  
BANG!  
BANG!  
BANG!



THIS'LL FINISH YUH OFF! NO MAN KIN TAKE A LOAD O' BUCKSHOT LIKE THIS AN' LIVE!

BOOM!

**B**UT WILD BILL HICKOK WAS NO ORDINARY MAN--AND WHAT WOULD HAVE KILLED MOST MEN MERELY STUNNED HIM! THROUGH A HAZE OF SMOKE AND A FILM OF PAIN, HICKOK LOOKED UP--JUST IN TIME!

**H**ICKOK ROSE FAST FROM THE FLOOR--AND HIS FIST ROSE WITH HIM!

**T**HEN, WHIRLING AROUND LIKE A WILD ANIMAL AT BAY--



WE GOT 'IM DOWN--CUT HIS HEART OUT!



I MAY'VE BEEN DOWN--BUT I'M SHORE NOT OUT!

POW!



YUH BLASTED --AAGHH!

NO-- YUH'RE BLASTED!

CRACK!

SEEING THAT IT WASN'T SAFE TO TACKLE THE WILD BULL OF THE PLAINS SINGLE-HANDEDLY, THE REMAINING GUNMEN MADE A CONCERTED RUSH--AND HICKOK WAS SWAMPED UNDER!

WE GOT 'IM NOW--PIN 'IM TUH THE BED WHILE I FINISH 'IM!



BUT HICKOK WASN'T BEATEN YET--AS LONG AS HE COULD GET HIS TWO STRONG HANDS INTO PLAY!

YOWWW! MUH ARM--IT'S BROKEN!



THE WILD STRENGTH OF WILD BILL HURLED THE TWO REMAINING MEN OFF HIM--BUT BEFORE HE COULD GET OFF THE BED...

THAT'S IT--NOW LET ME CARVE 'IM UP!



HE...HE'S LIKE A MADMAN--YUH CAN'T KEEP 'IM DOWN! NOW I KNOW WHY THEY CALL 'IM WILD BILL!

HICKOK---NO---NO!



AND WHEN THE BATTLE WAS OVER--

I... GOT 'EM ALL!



"ALL OF A SUDDEN," HICKOK RELATED LATER, "IT SEEMED AS IF MY HEART WAS ON FIRE... I WAS BLEEDING EVERYWHERE!" AND WELL HE MIGHT BE---FOR WILD BILL HICKOK HAD ELEVEN BUCKSHOT AND THIRTEEN KNIFE WOUNDS IN HIM!



AND SO ENDED THE GREATEST CLOSE-RANGE FIGHT OF ONE MAN AGAINST ODDS IN THE HISTORY OF THE ENTIRE WEST! WILD BILL HICKOK'S MAGNIFICENT STRENGTH AND VITALITY PULLED HIM THROUGH--- AND HE WENT ON TO FIGHT AS A SHARPSHOOTER AND SCOUT IN THE UNION ARMY--AND TO TAKE ON THE TOUGHEST JOB IN THE WEST-- MARSHAL OF ABILENE!



The End..

# HINTS about HORSES

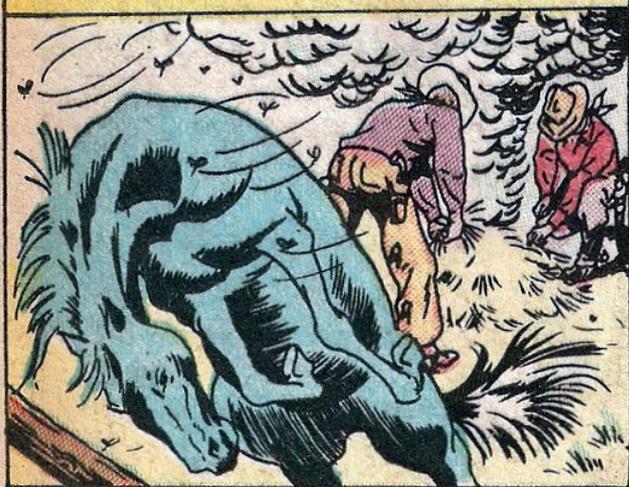
SO YUH'RE HAVIN' TROUBLE TAMIN' A WILD BRONC, EH? WELL, JEST BEND AN EAR AND TAKE SOME TIPS FROM AN OLD-TIMER WHO'S GENTLED THE WILDEST, MOST ORNERY BRONCS THE WEST EVER BRED! THE SECRET OF IT ALL IS IN GENTLIN' THE HOSS -- 'CAUSE IF YUH ABUSE HIM AN' TRY TO BREAK HIS SPIRIT BY FORCE, YUH'RE LIABLE TO WIND UP WITH AN OUTLAW KILLER WHO'LL NEVER BE TAMED!



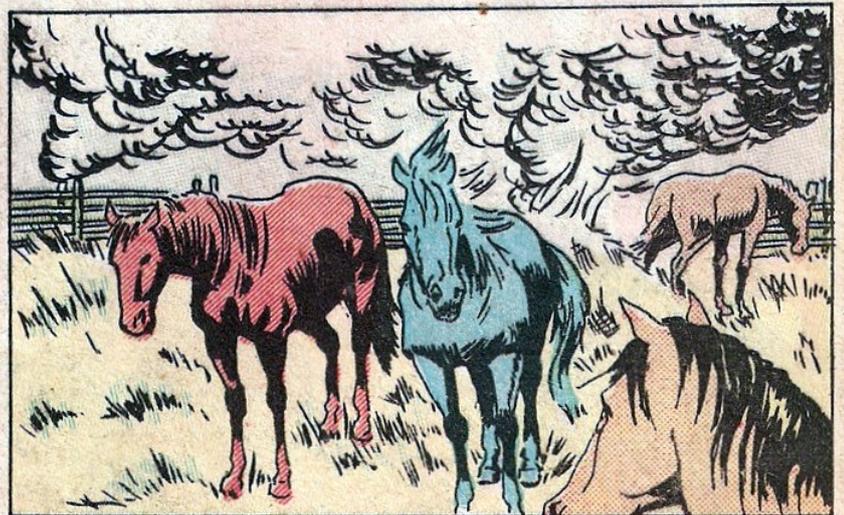
"FUST THING TUH DO AFTER YUH'VE CAUGHT YORE WILD BRONC IS TUH LEAD HIM INTUH A LARGE FENCED-IN PASTURE -- BUT DON'T TRY TO DRAG HIM OR YUH'LL MAKE HIM EVEN MORE ORNERY! IF YUH'RE HAVIN' ANY TROUBLE, JEST HAVE A FEW TAMED BRONCS AROUND TUH ACT AS DECOYS OR LEADERS -- AND YUH'LL FIND THE WILD BRONC MUCH EASIER TUH HANDLE!"



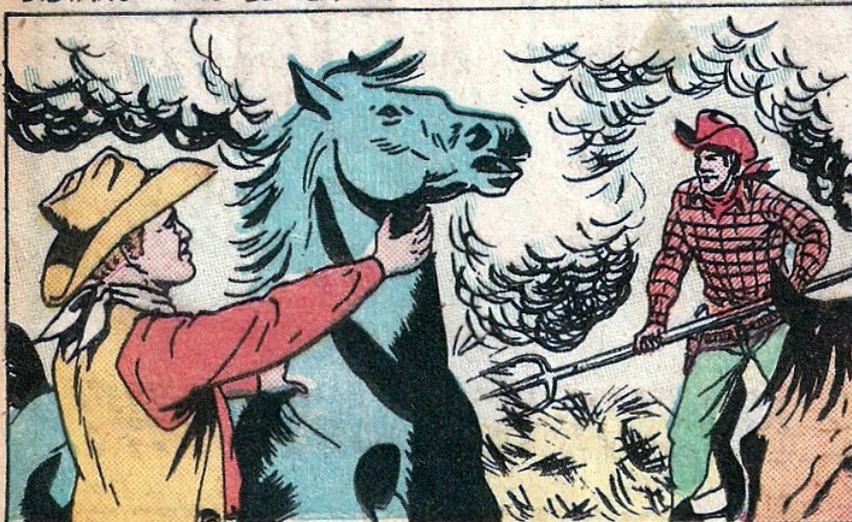
"IF YUH'RE A WESTERNER, I DON'T HAVE TUH TELL YUH ABOUT THE SUMMER MOSQUITOES THAT COME IN SWARMS AN' JEST ABOUT DRIVE MEN AN' HOSSSES LOCO -- SO YORE NEXT STEP IN GENTLIN' YORE WILD HOSS IS TUH LIGHT UP SMOKE SMUDGES FROM BIG PILES OF WET HAY NEAR THE BRONC!"



"YORE TAME DECOY HOSSSES WILL KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE SMUDGE GIVES 'EM RELIEF FROM THOSE PESKY 'SKEETERS, AN' THEY'LL COME RUNNIN' FER THE SMUDGE! THE WILD BRONC WILL BE RIGHT BEHIND 'EM -- AN' YUH'LL SOON FIND HIM STANDIN' RIGHT PEACEFUL-LIKE IN THE DENSE SMOKE, ENDURIN' IT FER THE SAKE O' RELIEF FROM THE BITES!"



"NOW'S YORE TIME TUH GO OUT AN' MINGLE WITH THE OTHER HOSSSES, ADDIN' MORE FUEL TUH THE SMUDGES, TALKIN' LOW AN' GENTLE TUH THE WILD BRONC -- AND EVEN THE WILDEST WILL SOON SAVVY THAT YUH BUILT THE SMUDGES AN' DIDN'T AIM TUH HARM HIM! PURTY SOON THE CRITTER THAT WOULDN'T EVEN LET YUH GIT WITHIN' ROPIN' DISTANCE WILL BE LETTIN' YUH PAT 'IM!"



"FROM THEN ON, IT'S ALL EASY -- FER ONCE YUH'VE GAINED THE WILD BRONC'S CONFIDENCE, HE'LL ALLUS THINK OF YUH AS A FRIEND -- AN' HE'LL MAKE THE BEST, MOST LOYAL HOSS A MAN EVER HAD!"

