

BUY U.S. SAVINGS !

THEY'RE MONEY-MAKING MARVELS "

SAYS

CAPTAIN MARVEL

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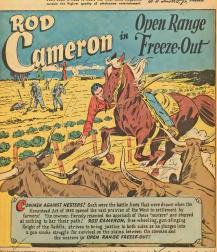
ROD CAMERON WESTERN . Executive Editor WILL LIESERSON WENDELL CROWLEY ALL SET

The following cutstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A FAWCETT FUBLICATION.

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[V. A. - Toware T.] President























HOLD ON, MISTER!







ROD CAMERON WESTERN













CG-TIE THE WAR-TALK

OTHING! THEY STARTED









































I'M HERE TO TALK



























































































GROUNDHOGS





IT'S WORKING! THEY'RE TURNING TOWARD THE RIVER! SUN, DON'T

































































WHAT DO

YOU MEAN









I SURE DO! WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO WIPE OUT EACH OTHER WHEN WE NEEDED EACH OTHER ALL

THE TIME! WE WERE JUST

TOO BLIND WITH











E DESERT RA

T HAD been a long, hard forty years for Smoky Marsh and his partner Flapjack.

Together the two old prospectors had covered every square acre of likely territory in six Western states. For forty years they had scraped and starved and somehow continued their search. At last, in a remote corner of the Sierra Nevadas, in a spot they had passed at least three times before, they struck it right

Rich? It was fabulous, A tiny outcropping of brightly colored rock that crumbled away as they swung their nicks, and opened up to a solid base of almost pure gold ore. Together Smoky and Flapjack dug and loaded sacks, until Sarah, their pack mule, was laden with as much as she could carry.

Then they set out for Gloversville-the nearest town.

As they tramped along, one on either side of the almost-staggering Sarah, the two old pros-

pectors chartled their jubilation. "Mansions! Banquets! Fine clothes!" dreamed Smoky Marsh aloud, "Flanjack when we get back to civilization, I'm entering society, I'll build a big house in California and entertain all the swells! And-and you can come, too!"

"Thanks," said his partner dryly. "As for me, I'm putting it all in the savings bank. And then I'm going to get a chair, sit outside the bank with a shotgun, and watch the interest growjust like a cornfield. Be pleasant, I reckon. . . ."

Through the day the desert rats and their pack mule moved slowly across the mountain slope. Then, as they reached level ground, Smoky's gnarled hand pointed out the trail that lav ahead.

"Follow that, son," he said, "and we'll be in Gloversville by the end of the week. Folks won't believe it at first, but when they see the load of gold old Sarah's carrying, they'll have to!"

"Load of gold?" A sudden, harsh voice cut through the deser-

The two prospectors turned as one, 'there. standing by the side of the trail, next to a giant boulder, was a tall man with a gun in his hand-The gun was a double-barreled shotgun, and it was pointed straight at Smoky and Flapjack. The man's law was grim and covered with a three day's stubble.

"Load of gold," the man said again, this time more softly.

ON'T move, either of you." He went on, "Here I been standing behind this boulder with my horse, ever since I saw you a mile away, coming down the slope."

With sudden, decisive steps, he walked over to the pack mule's side. His fingers clawed at the top of one of the sacks on her back. Opening it, his hand went in and came out, holding a palmful of gleaming golden nuggets. Quickly, unbelievingly, his hand explored the other sacks.

"Full! All full!" he grunted. "I-I never saw anything like it! Must be worth---" His words cut off short, and he swung the

shotgun in a menacing arc! Smoky Marsh and Flapjack each moved back a cautious step. "Listen, Mister," said Smoky in an almost pleading voice. "We looked for this bonanza for forty years. Flapiack and me, we just about dug our lives out to find it-and now

that we've got it, nobody's taking it away! "Do you understand that," he said, with his hand gripping the sawed-off pick-ax that always

hung at his side. "Nobody's taking it from us!" The big man with the gun did not move, but deep-cut lines of anger suddenly appeared on

either side of his mouth. Then he spoke. "Since you've told me your life history, Mister, I'll tell you mine. Been in jail six times. Killed two men. Been hunted just about everywhere you can name. A short time ago I robbed a bank-shot the teller and another guard. Don't know for sure, but if they died, too, that makes four!"

He stepped forward a pace, and his broad hand gripped the mule's halter "There's a posse after me," he said. "Maybe

half a day behind. But I'm taking your muleand the gold on her back-and I'm heading for Mexico. When I get across the border I'll be safe, and neither you nor a dozen old desert rats can stop me!"

MOKY MARSH'S face went white! Then, with a choking cry, the old prospector suddenly gripped the pick-ax and, swinging it high, lunged at the outlaw. But, even as Smoky went forward, the badman stepped aside, Deftly, he avoided the prospector's attack-and slammed the butt of his shotgun down on his shoulder. Smoky staggered, but whirled about gamely, ready to try again. This time the younger, bigger man slammed

his gun down hard, grazing the prospector's

Groaning, Smoky Marsh slumped to the Immediately, the outlaw turned his gun to

bear on Flapjack, who had made a move toward a shovel on the mule's back!

"Get back," he commanded.

When Flapjack moved back, the badman gave him a stern order. "Get my horse," he said. "He's picketed behind that big boulder. Get him-and hurry!"

Obediently, Flapjack turned away, and went behind the boulder. He was out of sight for several moments, and the badman stirred impatiently. Then he came out again, leading a

big hav horse. The outlaw mounted the horse, and took the mule's halter in his hand.

"What took you so long," he asked, "I-I couldn't undo the rope," Flapjack answered, "Nervous, I g-guess."

The big man laughed once, contemptuously. Then, raking the bay with his spurs, he wheeled away, with Sarah following. When he was fully out of sight, Smoky Marsh

raised himself on one elbow, still rubbing his head. "What a pal you are!" he said, "Flapjack,

here I practically give my life, to save our haul, and you obey his orders like a tame pussycat, Flapjack, you're nothing but a no-account-" But Flaniack shook his head, and a smile was

on his old lips.

Suddenly, he held out his hand, palm up. In it were several long, twisted nails.

"See these?" he asked. "Recognize them?" Smoky Marsh was bewildered, "They're nails, Nails from a horse's hoof. But-but where'd they come from? I don't understand," LAPJACK grinned again. "When I went

behind the boulder to get his horse, I took a little extra time. I also took four or five nails from each of that horse's hoofs, Before L ever met vou. I was a blacksmith, Smoky. Still comes easy. Anyway," he chuckled, "in a couple of miles, the rest of the nails on that horse will come loose, and his shoes are going to start coming off. When that happens, he won't travel anymore. That outlaw's going to be left without transportation-in a mighty mean spot?" Smoky's eyes were wide with triumph.

"Then-then the posse'll follow him . . . and catch him . . . sure as blazes! He can't get away! We'll get our gold back-plus, maybe, a reward!"

Flapjack nodded.

"That's right," he said. "Now who's a noaccount-"

"Stop!" interrupted Smoky. "I take it all back! And Flapjack, I just wanted to tell you, when I build my big mansion out in California, you're welcome to come and visit after all! But remember, I'll be high society. You'll have to shave-at least once a month!"

THE END



ROD CAMERON WESTERN SCLES! C'MON! WE'D BETTER JUMPIN' JASPERS! THANKS, HAPP THAT STUFF IS MAKING GET YUH TO YORE HOTEL FOR A FIVAL ME ACT FUNNY AND J ROOM BEFORE YUH PO CANDIDATE THE WORST PART SOMETHING THAT WIL YOU'S MISH IS THAT HURT YORE BLECT HOW MAKING SAM OF TO SLEEP IS GOING TO GET YOU BLECTED







































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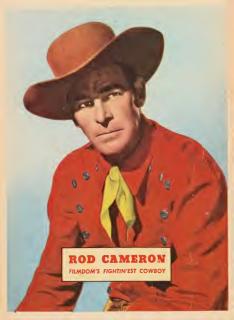
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