



TEX RITTER WESTERN Published birronthly by Charlton Comics Gr Valares 1, Number 27 Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Buildies, Detty, Desimal by Al Page Studies. Printed in the U.S.A.

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The Prince Albert Kid

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# "SECURITY FOR THE STAGECOACH"

Carlino Ciry was a repidly growing westen town, Frans house were rining among the toddis, And in the conservation divided there in the entering and the second second second tion. There were ideavails of plank or heel tamped ciry. They ran underseath the instritioble would an owing, which interheded from the fails fromt of stores and selecons. Poin coils. At the manent, versything losids de seconful on the surface of Carlina Ciry. But underseath there was in no uncertaints into of voide.

"The stage holdups must stop. My company is losing a lot of maney as a result of the insurance agreement we made with the Carlton City Coach Campony. Surely you should be able to give better protection against these read agent. I hat to say what is in people's minds, but you can listen to them campiain. I bits again abbet what noses an each store."

Sheriff Carl Mindedal was in his early fifties. He had been a lawmon for most of his life. He clenched his fists and managed to control his temper. It wasn't a pleasant situation to be under suspicion.

"We sent six extra ormsd guordi, with the last cooch, the worth hald up, Alco, we didn't leorn, until it reoched Hightown Falls, that it didn't carry a valuable shipment. If people talk, you just con't stop their tongues from wegging. But there is one main in the Wast who can help, and I sent him a letter applaining the problem. He never refuses a pilo for pany right now and speak to Jense Harel. About this time, ny frind should be there:

The man riding the horse wore a Prince Albert. His pearl-handled guns had seen a lot of shaoling. He stapped in frant of the stage caach office and dismounted fram his horse. The animal was a beautiful creature with spirited eyes, expended nostriis, well-made limbs and a black, glossy skin. Proudly she had carried her owner through all kinds of adventures. No need to tell the good people, and the not-to-geod people of Carrien Gity, who their lactsi guest was. One look at him and you knew his identity. He entered the bine, and the circle, Foul Kustin, recognized him, bine circle, foul Kustin, recognized

"They are waiting inside far you, sir," he sold. "Hope you had a pleasant ride here through the Indian territory.",

The Prince Albert Kid smiled at the greeting and acknowledged it with a few words.

"Chief Long Knee rade with me up to the autskirts of the tawn and then returned to his people."

Inside the private office were the sheriff, the insurance mon, James Harel, the owner of the line, and naw the Prince Albert Kid joined them.

"Glad you could come to help us," thanked the sheriff with pride in his voice. "This gong has been riding high, and now it's about time they learned a lesson from you."

The Prince Albert Kid quickly and efficiently studied the men before him. Somewhere and somehow there was a leak about what each coach carried. And by some mysterious means if got to the stage agents hiding in the hill country.

"In one hour, occording to your schedule, the stage outside is to leave on No regular rum," began the Prince Albert Kid. "I am gaing to try something, Mr. Harel, you will have three guards on that stage. After he gets his orders from you, I will tell you the next step."

At two-thirty to the minute, Mr. Harel went outside and handed a sealed envelope to Lou Minkers, the driver. Then he hended him a canvas package. Mr. Harel returned to the office and faced the Prince Albert Kid.

"What next?"

In reply the famous man of the West simply withdrew a six-shooter from his right holster and addressed the other three men.

"We all remain here for two days. We will sleep and eat here. None of us will leave. I want to learn just what will happen to that stage. Will the road agents know the route it takes? Will they know the contents of the package you gave them?"

The insurance man opened his mouth in protest against such high-handed procedure.

"You can't keep me here. I'll protest to the law."

The sheriff laughed loudly at that last threat and gave a sensible answer.

"If the law doesn't object, mister, then you got nothing to say. Seems to me that the Prince Albert Kid is figuring a way to give security to the stagecooch. So here we stay to steep ond eot."

Two days later a returning stagecoach brought the good news. There had been no holdup of the leaving coach. It had arrived safety or its estimation. The Prince Albert Kid left the men puzzled and road to the outskits of the lown. There he mel his good valuable information. Then he returned to the hortffs office and found the lowman alone.

"I now know how they get their information," he told the sheriff. "And J even know their leader. I am going to leave town, I think they will hold up the next coach when it leaves this friday."

On Friday marning, Bill Hesper; owner of the Big Drink Saloon and Gambling Establishment, entered the stage company office and handed a package to the clerk, Paul Kustin.

"There's seventy-thousand dollors in here in big bills. I om sending it to my bank in St. Louis. They buy government bonds for me. I want this insured."

The clerk mode out the required receipt, He gave 204, part to Bill Hesper and kept the other part in his record book. Then he entered the private office of James Harel and told him about the packade.

"It will go out on this stoge. I'll send three guards with the driver. Hope everything will be fine on this run."

The stagecoach was about twenty miles from town when it was stopped by the sheriff who was riding next to the Prince Albert Kid.

"This stage is going to be wrecked and you men killed," he informed them. "The guards will get off right now, and we'll put dummies in their place. The Prince Albert Kid is going to drive the stage himself. If you fellows want fahing and action, then just follow me."

The stagecoach was rounding Wimper's Bend, and fram a hill it was carefully observed by Mark Juvers who spoke to two of his gang.

"There - she's a comin'. Right on time. Let those racks fall down and wreck it."

There was a slight rumble of earth, and a miniature avalanche headed for the gragecaach. The Prince Albert Kid jumped dawn to the boot of the stopecach and kicked a juin. Then he jumped as the searest hairs. The animals water free and dashed of to the kick. Two minutes later the stopecach was a camstagecoach. Their leader immediately want for the valuable box. He shot off the lack and took out a package.

"We got the money, boys. Now to our horses."

But they never mode it. For a second avalanche started, and as the men tried to run to safety, they were tropped by the earth, racks and debris. None were killed, but all were injured to some extent.

Chief Long Knee and many of his braves surrounded the trapped outlows. Soon they were joined by the Prince Albert Kid. And then an hour later the sheriff and the men with him appeared on the scene.

"I want it understood clearly," sold the famous man of the West, "that all reward money will go to Chief Long Knee and his braves. They discovered how this gang operated and helped me capture them. Now, back to town and we'll get the brains of this autfut."

A startled clerk found himself facing o gun in the sheriff's hand.

"You are under orrest for planning the robberies of the stages on this line," sold Sheriff Cort Mindedol. "Pretty clever of you, sending up sundes signals from the stove to your men in the hills. You sent those signals up last line and told them not to hold up the stage. This time you told them it carried o founce in bills."

"Well, seventy-thousond dollars was worth the risk," snarled the crooked clerk.

"But not in Confederate money," snapped back a laughing Prince Albert Kid who hod brought security to the stagecooch.







































































