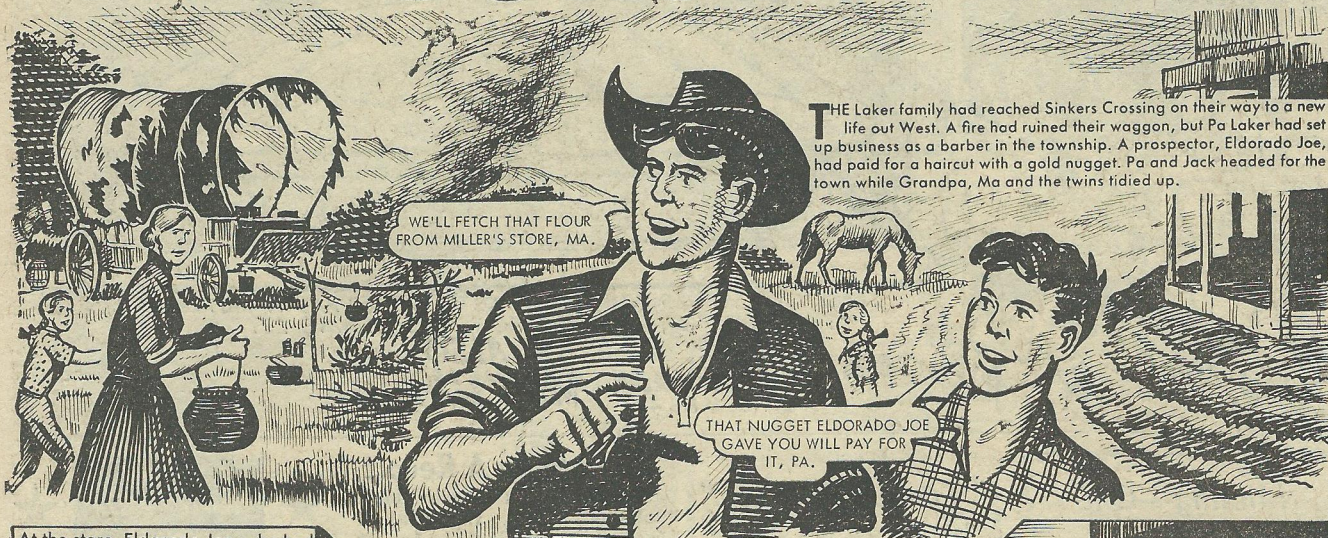


IT'S BOOM TIME IN SINKERS CROSSING—BUT THE LAKERS' BUSINESS GETS THE BOOT!

# IT'S TOUGH ON THE SUNSET TRAIL



THE Laker family had reached Sinkers Crossing on their way to a new life out West. A fire had ruined their waggon, but Pa Laker had set up business as a barber in the township. A prospector, Eldorado Joe, had paid for a haircut with a gold nugget. Pa and Jack headed for the town while Grandpa, Ma and the twins tidied up.

WE'LL FETCH THAT FLOUR FROM MILLER'S STORE, MA.

THAT NUGGET ELDERADO JOE GAVE YOU WILL PAY FOR IT, PA.

At the store, Eldorado Joe, who had struck it rich in the hills, was on a spending spree.



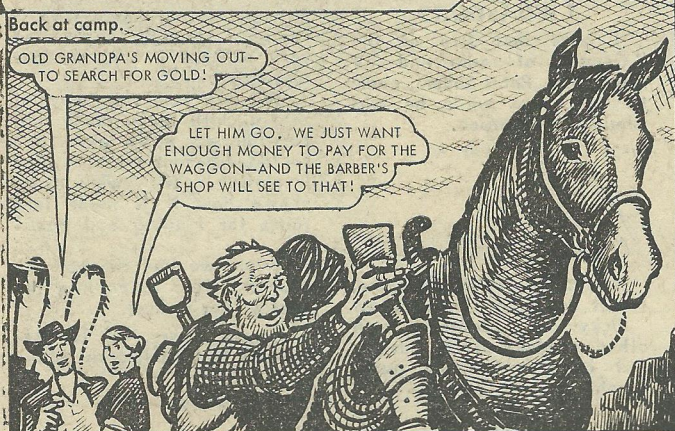
YOU'VE HIT IT RICH AT LAST THEN, JOE?

I AIN'T SAYING, BUT I'LL TAKE A DOZEN OF THEM CIGARS. THAT NUGGET SHOULD PAY FOR WHAT I'VE BOUGHT.



COME ON, JACK, LET'S GET THIS SACK OF FLOUR BACK TO YOUR MA. JOE AND HIS GOLD ARE GOING TO CAUSE SOME UPHEAVAL HERE, YOU'LL SEE.

LOOK! IT MUST BE GREAT BEING A PONY EXPRESS RIDER.



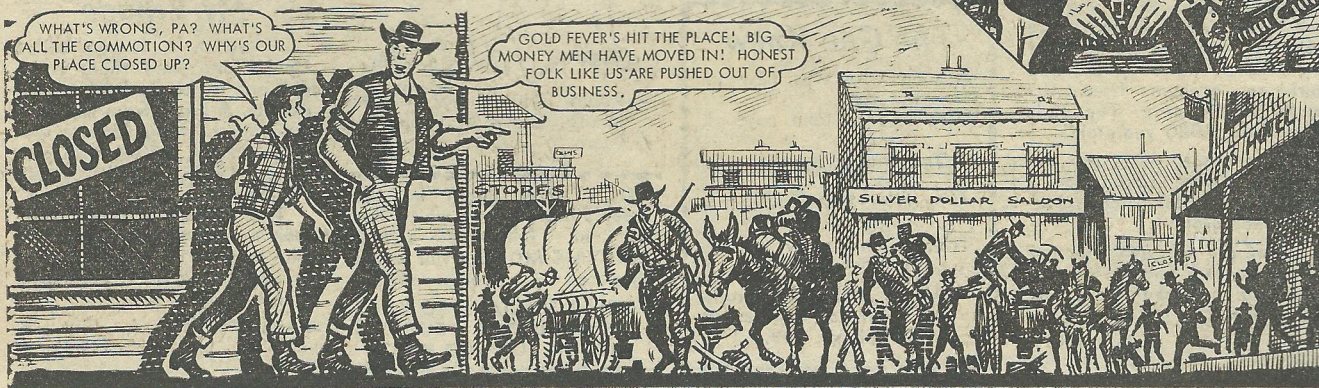
Back at camp. OLD GRANDPA'S MOVING OUT—TO SEARCH FOR GOLD!

LET HIM GO. WE JUST WANT ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE WAGGON—AND THE BARBER'S SHOP WILL SEE TO THAT!



Next morning. HEY! WHAT'S UP? THIS HERE'S MY SHOP.

I'M FRED BERTRAM, MISTER, AND I'M TAKING OVER! I'VE JUST BOUGHT THE HOTEL, YOUR SHOP, AND THE SALOON NEXT DOOR! I'M TURNING IT ALL INTO THE FINEST SALOON IN THESE PARTS.



WHAT'S WRONG, PA? WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION? WHY'S OUR PLACE CLOSED UP?

GOLD FEVER'S HIT THE PLACE! BIG MONEY MEN HAVE MOVED IN! HONEST FOLK LIKE US ARE PUSHED OUT OF BUSINESS.