

Can a man disappear in a puff of smoke? One man can!

THE WILL O' THE WISP O' THE WEST

I SHALL BE DELIGHTED TO APPEAR AT THE CONCERT. I HAVE OFFICIALLY RETIRED BUT I SEE NO REASON WHY I SHOULDN'T GIVE ONE MORE ASTOUNDING PERFORMANCE. NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME—



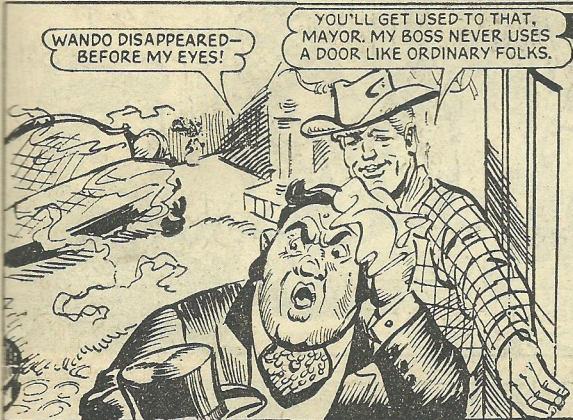
WANDO, a magician, had retired to the Crooked K ranch, just outside Sandy Creek. Elmer Puddy, the mayor of Sandy Creek, had come out to the ranch to ask Wando if he would do an act at a local concert.



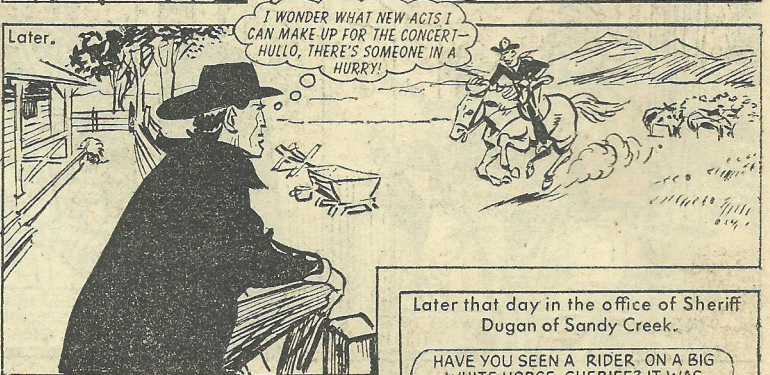
WH-WHAT'S-H-HAPPENING?

WANDO DISAPPEARED— BEFORE MY EYES!

YOU'LL GET USED TO THAT, MAYOR. MY BOSS NEVER USES A DOOR LIKE ORDINARY FOLKS.

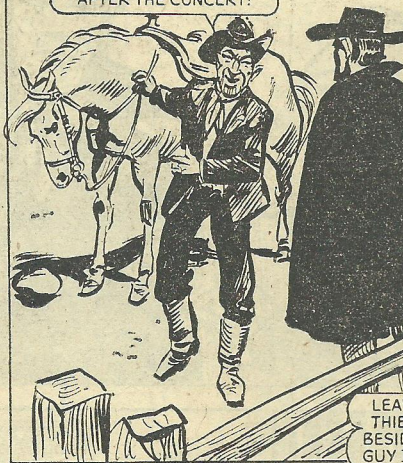


Later.



I WONDER WHAT NEW ACTS I CAN MAKE UP FOR THE CONCERT— HULLO, THERE'S SOMEONE IN A HURRY!

IT'S A DEAL. MULLIGAN'S THE NAME. YOU KEEP THE HORSE HIDDEN UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT THEN I'LL PICK IT UP AFTER THE CONCERT!



Later that day in the office of Sheriff Dugan of Sandy Creek.

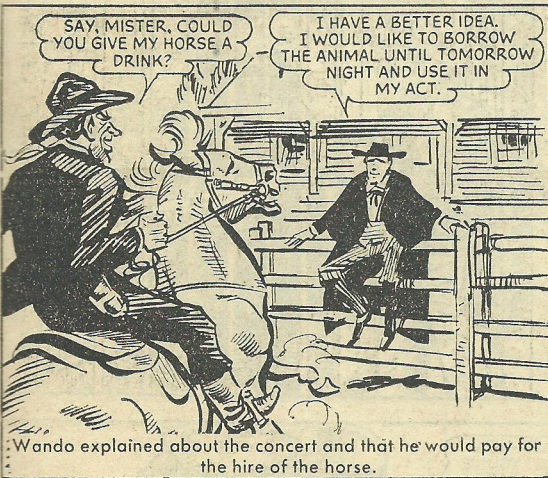
HAVE YOU SEEN A RIDER ON A BIG WHITE HORSE, SHERIFF? IT WAS STOLEN FROM THE CARTER RANCH LAST NIGHT. I FOLLOWED THE THIEF TOWARDS SANDY CREEK BUT LOST HIS TRAIL JUST OUTSIDE TOWN!



LEAVE IT TO ME. NO HORSE THIEF CAN ESCAPE ME AND BESIDES, THERE'S A CERTAIN GUY I'M KEEPING AN EYE ON.

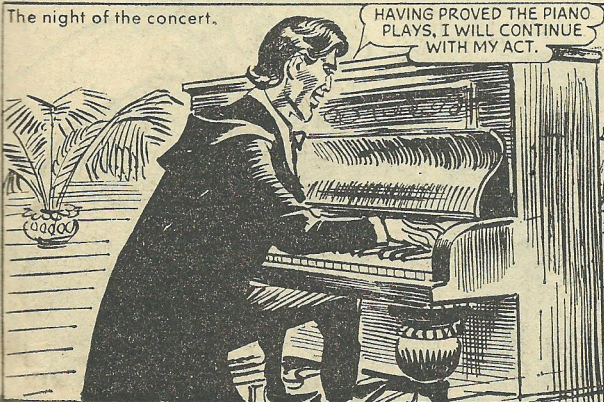
SAY, MISTER, COULD YOU GIVE MY HORSE A DRINK?

I HAVE A BETTER IDEA. I WOULD LIKE TO BORROW THE ANIMAL UNTIL TOMORROW NIGHT AND USE IT IN MY ACT.



Wando explained about the concert and that he would pay for the hire of the horse.

The night of the concert.



HAVING PROVED THE PIANO PLAYS, I WILL CONTINUE WITH MY ACT.



Dugan was sure that Wando was a crook and kept a wary eye on him.