

The Life and Times
of Scrooge McDuck

PART EIGHT

"KING of the
KLONDIKE"

D92514

FOR 16 YEARS YOUNG SCROOGE McDUCK HAS TRAVELED THE GLOBE SEEKING HIS FORTUNE! HIS SEARCH FOR RICHES HAS TAUGHT HIM MANY HARD LESSONS WHICH HAVE SHAPED HIS PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE!



NOW HIS QUEST HAS PUT HIM ON THE ROAD TO THE KLONDIKE, THE WORLD'S LAST FRONTIER FOR GAINING MASSIVE WEALTH THROUGH SWEAT, SAVVY, AND SPIRIT! SCROOGE HAS LIVED A LIFE OF POVERTY AND FAILURE, SO FAR.

...THAT LIFE IS NEARING AN END!



FINALLY--THE LAND OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS! I'VE STOKED BOILERS THE WHOLE 7500 MILES FROM PERTH TO GET HERE!



SO THAT'S ALASKA! AND ACROSS THE COASTAL MOUNTAINS, CANADA! TIME TO COLLECT MY BACK PAY AND GET GOING!



THERE Y'GO, MATE -- \$100! BUT I HATES T' LOSE YA! YOU WUZ THE HARDEST WORKER I EVER HAD!



SORRY, CAP'N! I'M NOT A COAL CHUCKER -- I'M A GOLD HUNTER!

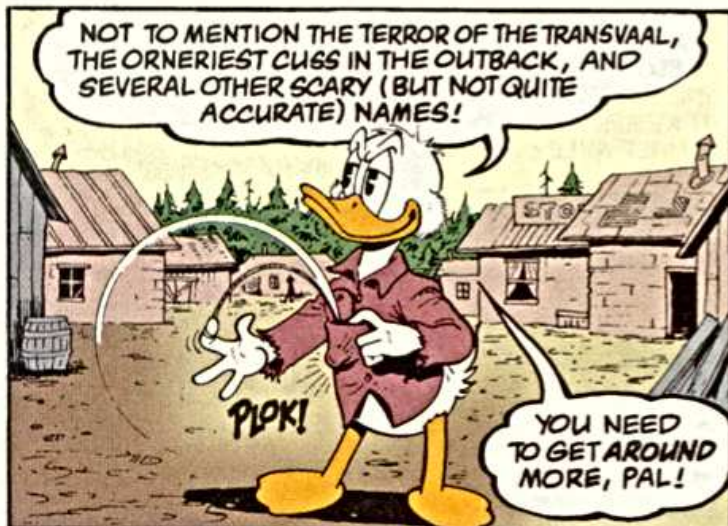
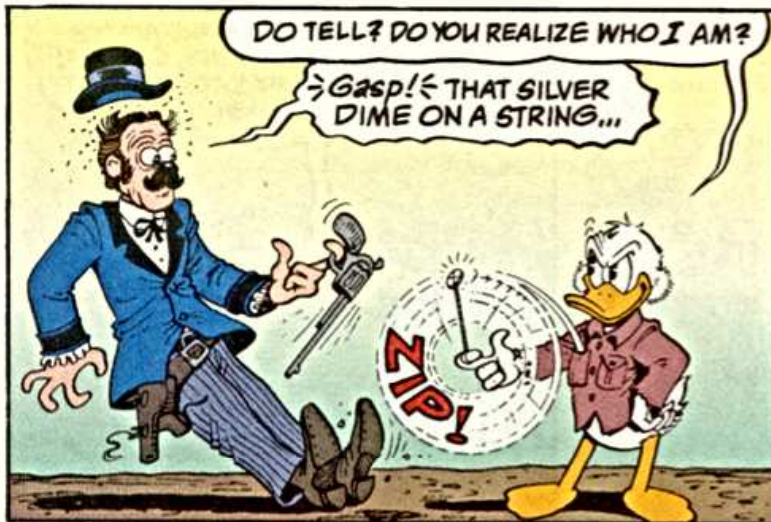
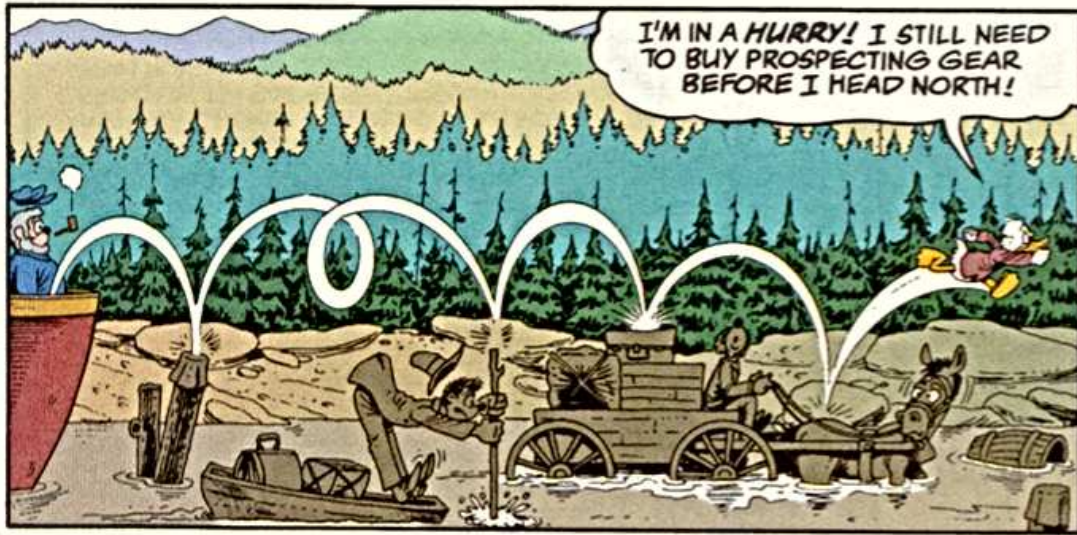


AN ARGONAUT, EH? GOOD ON YOU! BUT HAVE YOU ARRANGED A RIDE TO SHORE? THE MUD FLAT KEEPS US A GOOD HALF MILE OUT!



NO TIME! I'LL HAFTA IMPROVISE!





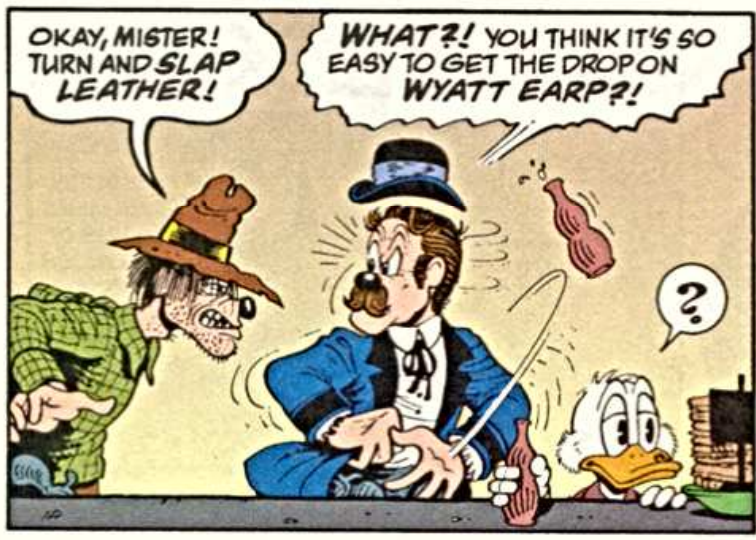


SORRY, CAN'T! I'M JUST PASSIN' THROUGH! BOUGHT ME THE "SECOND-CLASS SALOON" UP IN NOME!

BARKEEP! TWO SARGAPARILLAS FOR ME AND MY PARDNER, SCROOGE MCDUCK!

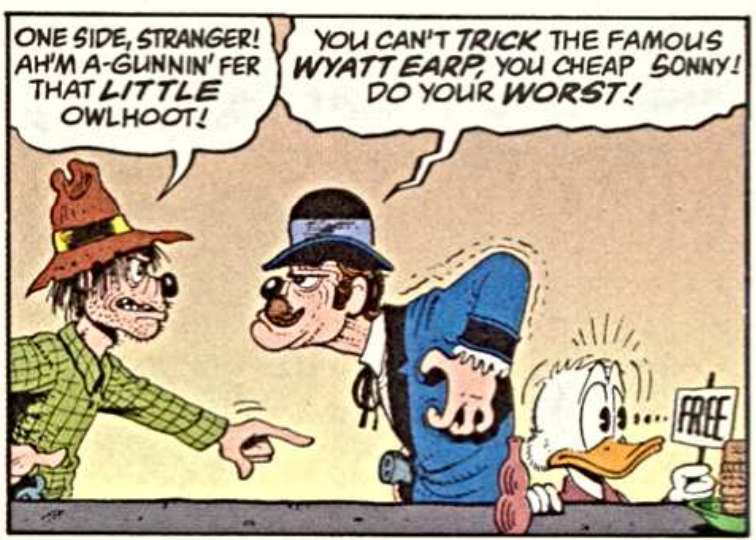


SCROOGE MCDUCK! HOG DANG! IF N I CAN OUTDRAW THE FASTEST GUN IN PIZEN BLUFF, MAH REPUTATION WILL BE MADE!



OKAY, MISTER! TURN AND SLAP LEATHER!

WHAT?! YOU THINK IT'S SO EASY TO GET THE DROP ON WYATT EARP?!



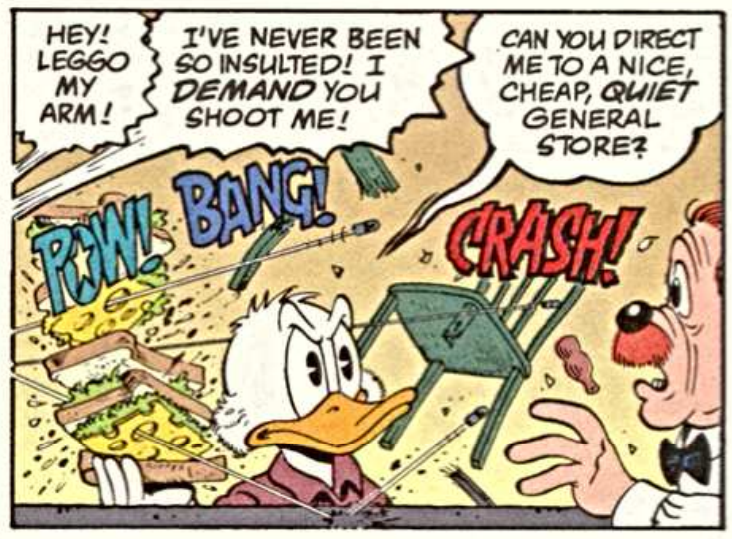
ONE SIDE, STRANGER! AH'M A-GUNNIN' FER THAT LITTLE OWLHOOT!

YOU CAN'T TRICK THE FAMOUS WYATT EARP, YOU CHEAP SONNY! DO YOUR WORST!



WILL YOU PUH-LEASE GET OUTTA MAH WAY?!

IT'S ME YOU WANT! THE WYATT EARP! BRAVE, COURAGEOUS AND BOLD--THE WHOLE BIT! DRAW! SHOOT!



HEY! LEGGO MY ARM!

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO INSULTED! I DEMAND YOU SHOOT ME!

CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO A NICE, CHEAP, QUIET GENERAL STORE?



WHAT'S GOING ON?

I'M WYATT EARP! AND HE SHOT ME! IN THE BIG TOE! LOOK! SEE?

WOTTA LIAR! HE GRABBED MAH ARM AND SHOT HISSELF!

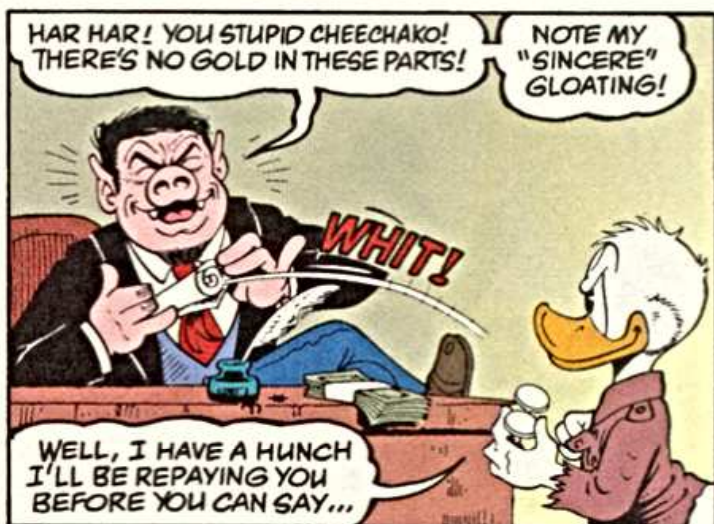
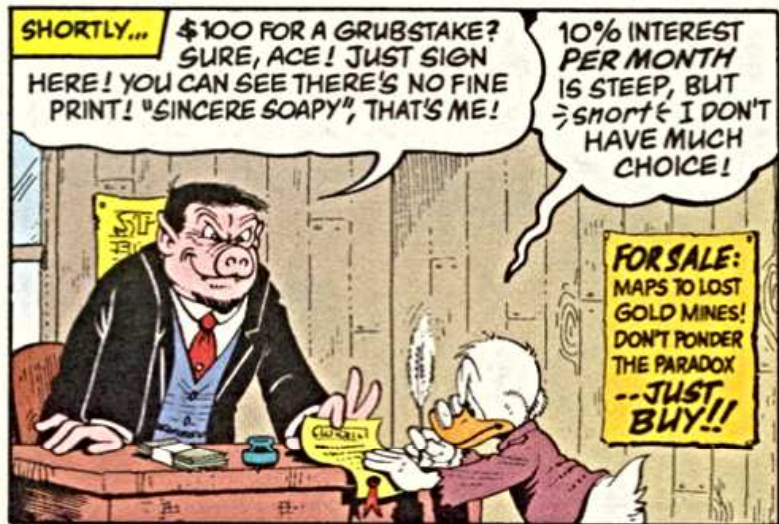


NYAH-NYAH! YOU SHOT ME! YOU DID IT!

LOCK 'EM UP!

THERE'S AT LEAST \$200 DAMAGE HERE! SOMEBODY'S GOTTA PAY!

I'LL SAY! JUST LOOK AT MY FOOD SUPPLY!



MY LOAN CONTRACTS DON'T HAVE FINE PRINT--JUST A SPACE BETWEEN THE 10 AND THE % BIG ENOUGH FOR AN EXTRA ZERO!

PRESTO! 100% INTEREST! AND THAT'S EVERY MONTH!



YOU CAN'T DO THAT! I'LL CALL THE LAW!

GO AHEAD, RUNT! I'LL BE OVER THE BORDER WITH YOUR CONTRACT!

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD? THEY STRUCK GOLD UP NORTH!

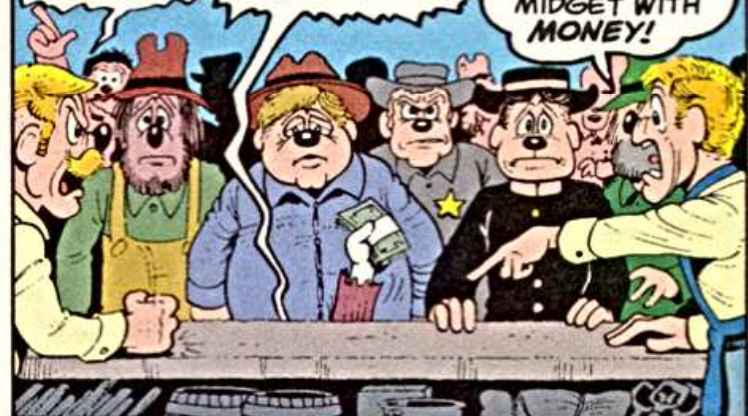
GRRR! I DON'T HAVE TIME TO DEAL WITH HIM! IN FIVE MINUTES THIS \$100 WON'T BE ENOUGH TO BUY A USED HORSESHOE!



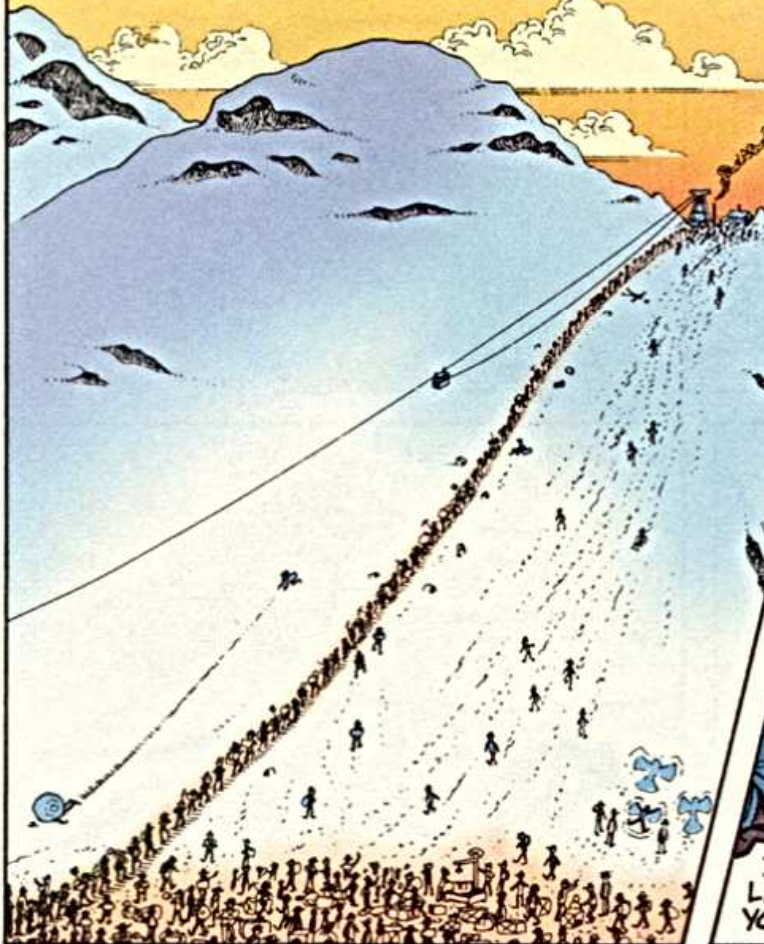
CASH ONLY! WHO HAS CASH?

HEY, UP THERE TOUCH! I HAVE YOWTCH! \$100!

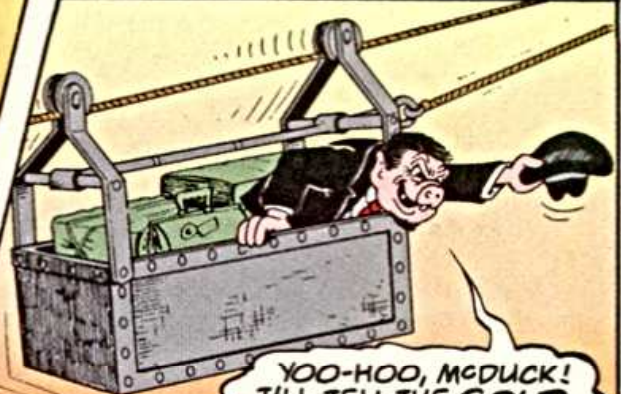
STAND ASIDE, TUBBY! YOU'RE STEPPING ON A MIDGET WITH MONEY!



THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH IS ON! THE FIRST (OF MANY) OBSTACLES FOR THE STAMPEDERS IS THE MOUNTAINOUS CHILCOOT PASS, THE ONLY ROUTE NORTH AND A NEAR-VERTICAL CLIMB UP 1500 STEPS CARVED INTO THE ICE!



BUT PEOPLE WITH MONEY CAN PAY TO BE HAILED UPON CABLES!



DOF!



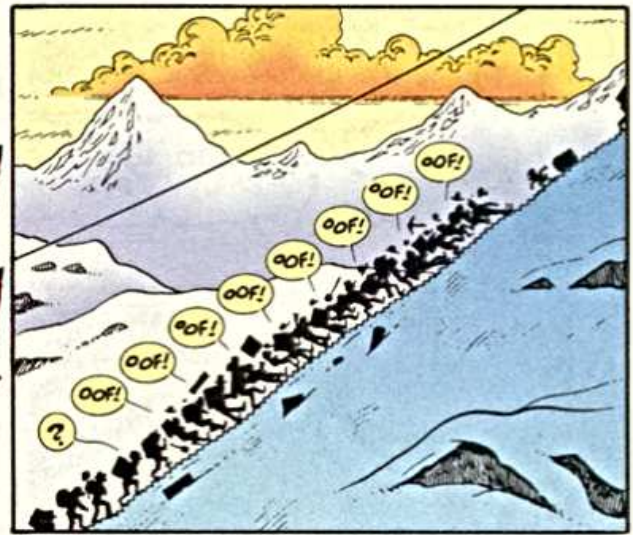
SHADDUP AND KEEP MOVIN', YA LITTLE SAWED-OFF PIPSQUEAK, OR I'LL SQUASH YA INTO THE SNOW LIKE A WORM!



YEAH!

THAT'S TELLIN' HIM, SPIKE!

KICK!
SOCK!

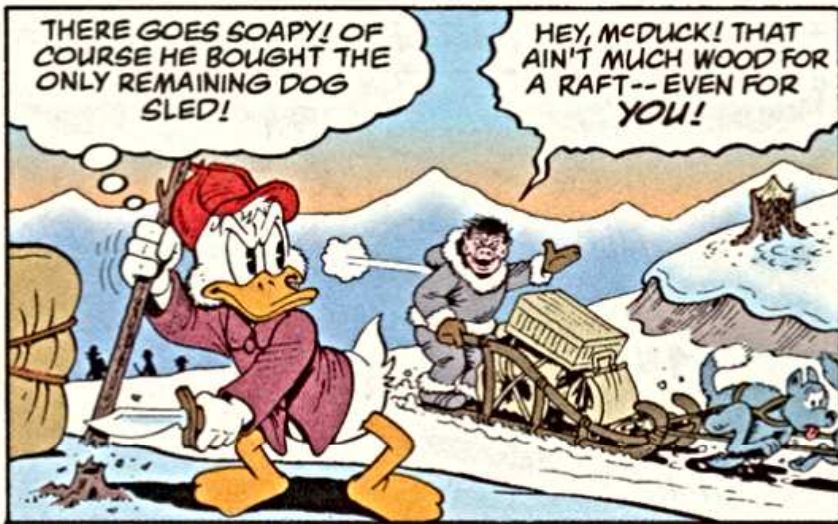


SIX HOURS AND MANY MILES BACK DOWN THE TRAIL LATER, IN SKAGWAY--



HEY! QUIT SHOVIN'!

ONCE OVER THE CHILCOOT, THE KLONDIKERS ARRIVE AT THE HEADWATERS OF THE YUKON RIVER! THEY EXPECT TO BUILD RAFTS, BUT FEW TREES GROW AT SUCH ALTITUDES!



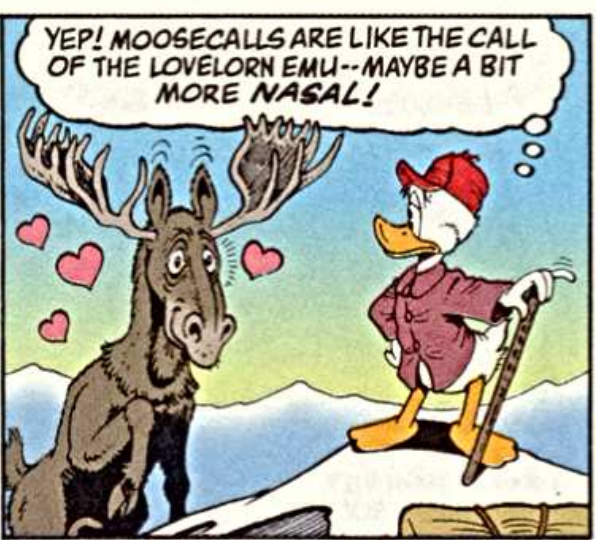
THERE GOES SOAPY! OF COURSE HE BOUGHT THE ONLY REMAINING DOG SLED!

HEY, MCDUCK! THAT AIN'T MUCH WOOD FOR A RAFT-- EVEN FOR YOU!

I DON'T NEED A RAFT! I LEARNED TO SADDLEBREAK LIONS IN AFRICA, AND PLAY A DIDGERIDOO LIKE THIS IN AUSTRALIA!



WAAOOGAH!



YEP! MOOSECALLS ARE LIKE THE CALL OF THE LOVELORN EMU--MAYBE A BIT MORE NASAL!



GO LONG, SUCKER! SEE YOU IN DAWSON!

THAT TOUGH LITTLE PYGMY WILL MEAN TROUBLE FOR ME SOME-DAY-- IF I DON'T GET HIM FIRST!

MANY DOG TEAMS AND AT LEAST ONE LONE MOOSE RIDER TAKE THE OVERLAND TRAIL TO DAWSON THAT AUTUMN!

IT'S A SMARTER ROUTE THAN ATTEMPTING TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE WHITE WATER AND WHIRLPOOLS OF THE YUKON RIVER!

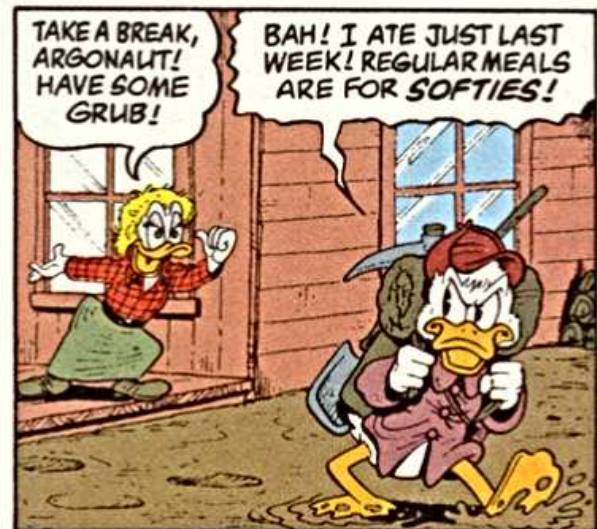
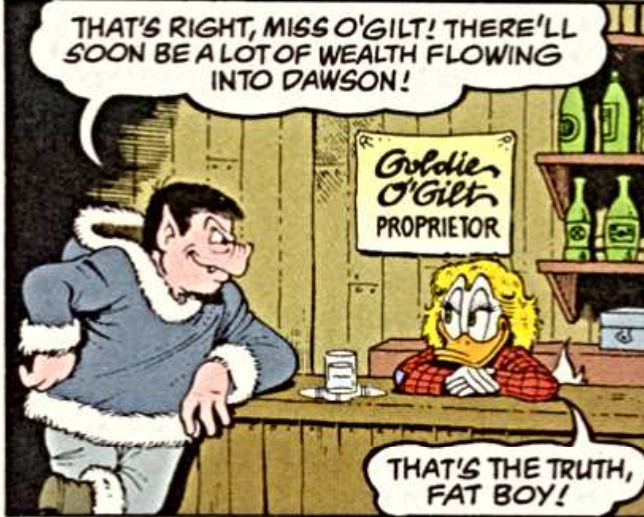


AND AT TRAIL'S END -- DAWSON CITY, THE LEGENDARY BOOMTOWN THAT IS SOON TO EXPLODE INTO THE LARGEST CITY IN NORTH OR WEST CANADA!

BUT AT THE DAWN OF THE GOLD RUSH, IT CONSISTS OF JUST TWO BUILDINGS! A BACKWOODS LUMBER MILL AND...



... THE BLACKJACK SALOON!



SO YOU WANT TO RENT A CORNER TABLE TO SET UP A LOAN-SHARK OPERATION, EH?

THAT'S RIGHT, MISS O'GILT! THERE'LL SOON BE A LOT OF WEALTH FLOWING INTO DAWSON!

WHAT WITH ALL THOSE SOURDOUGHS AND THEIR GOLD DUST, I EXPECT TO BE GLITTERING BY SPRING!

THAT'S THE TRUTH, FAT BOY!

HEY! I DON'T SERVE MOOSE! SCRAM!

HE WAS JUST TURNED LOOSE BY THAT SQUIRT HEADING FOR THE GOLD FIELDS!

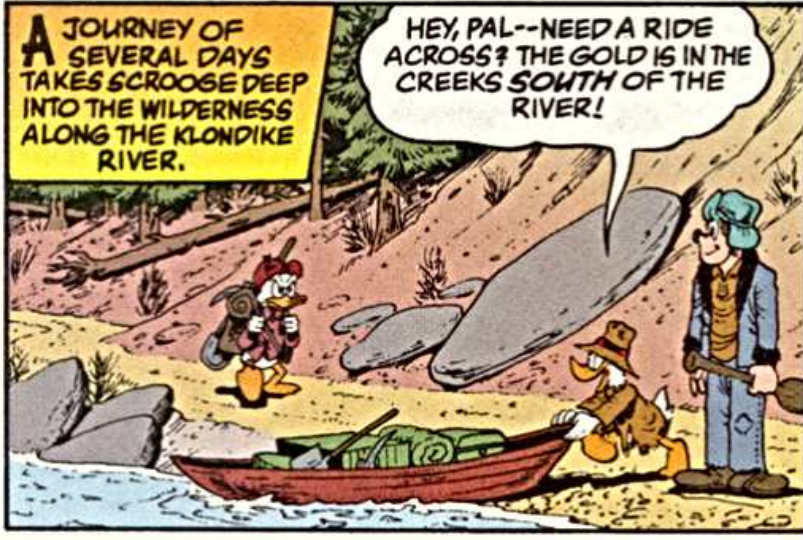
TAKE A BREAK, ARGONAUT! HAVE SOME GRUB!

BAH! I ATE JUST LAST WEEK! REGULAR MEALS ARE FOR SOFTIES!

MY, MY, MY...

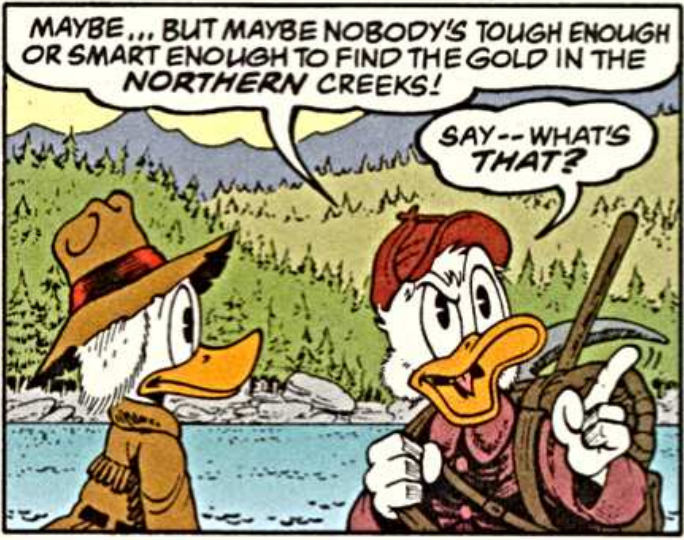
A JOURNEY OF SEVERAL DAYS TAKES SCROOGE DEEP INTO THE WILDERNESS ALONG THE KLONDIKE RIVER.

HEY, PAL--NEED A RIDE ACROSS? THE GOLD IS IN THE CREEKS SOUTH OF THE RIVER!



MAYBE... BUT MAYBE NOBODY'S TOUGH ENOUGH OR SMART ENOUGH TO FIND THE GOLD IN THE NORTHERN CREEKS!

SAY--WHAT'S THAT?



THAT'S MOOSENECK GLACIER! IT BLOCKS OFF WHITE AGONY VALLEY SO THE ONLY WAY IN IS THROUGH THE ICE CAVE CUT BY THE CREEK!



THEY SAY THAT EVEN IF YOU WITHSTAND THE COLD AND DANGER OF THE CAVE, THE GLACIER MONSTER WILL GET YOU!

NOBODY GOES THAT WAY! FORGET IT!



TOO ROUGH FOR SISSIES, EH? ONE SIDE--THAT'S MY KINDA PLACE!



FINALLY! A PLACE WHERE I'LL BE THE FIRST ONE WITH GUTS ENOUGH TO STRIKE IT RICH!



BRRR!! IT SURE IS COLD IN HERE! DANGEROUS, TOO! BUT SCROOGE McDUCK IS MADE OF STERNER STUFF!

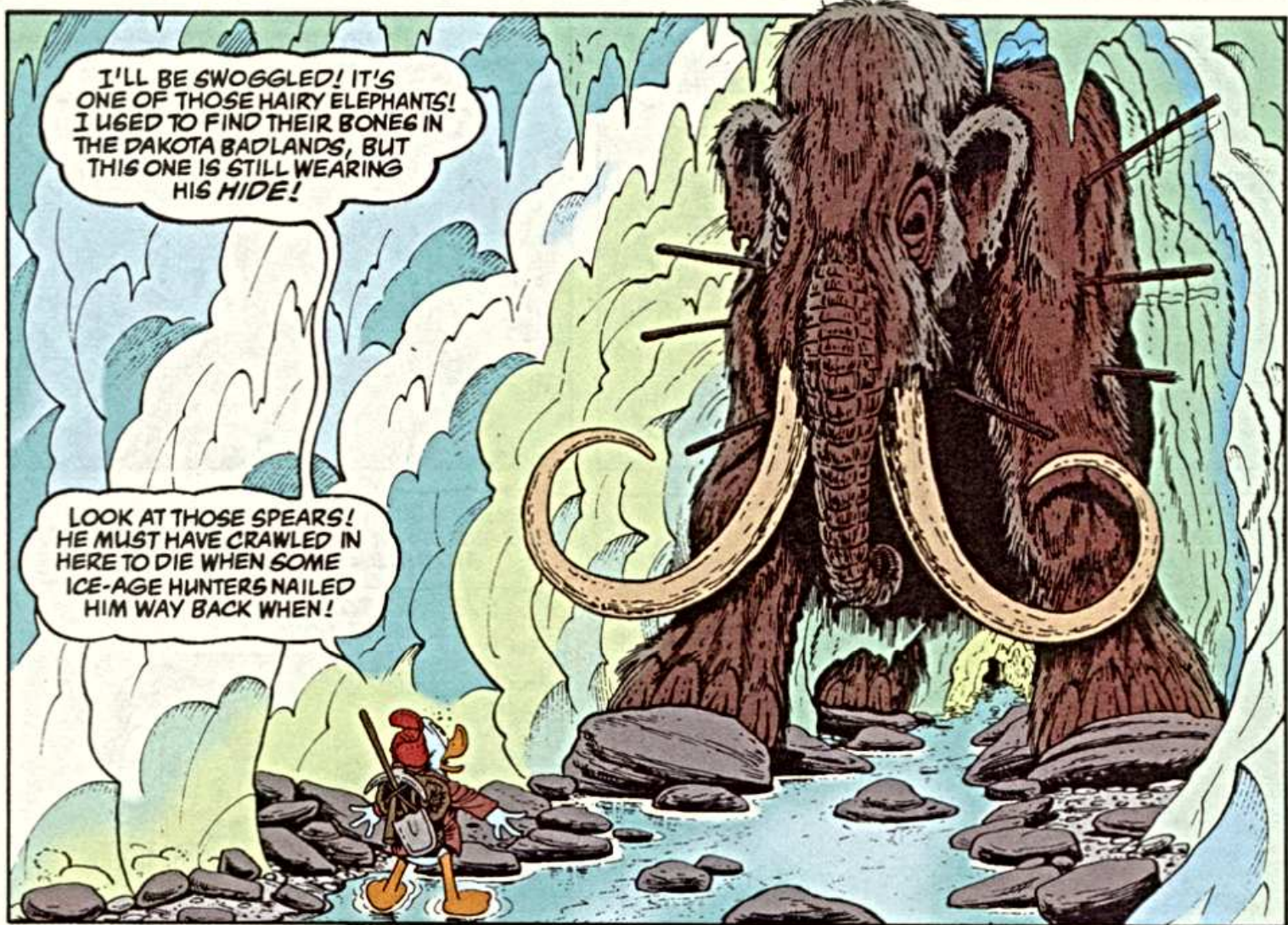


I WONDER WHAT THAT "GLACIER MONSTER" NONSENSE IS SUPPOSED TO --



WLP!



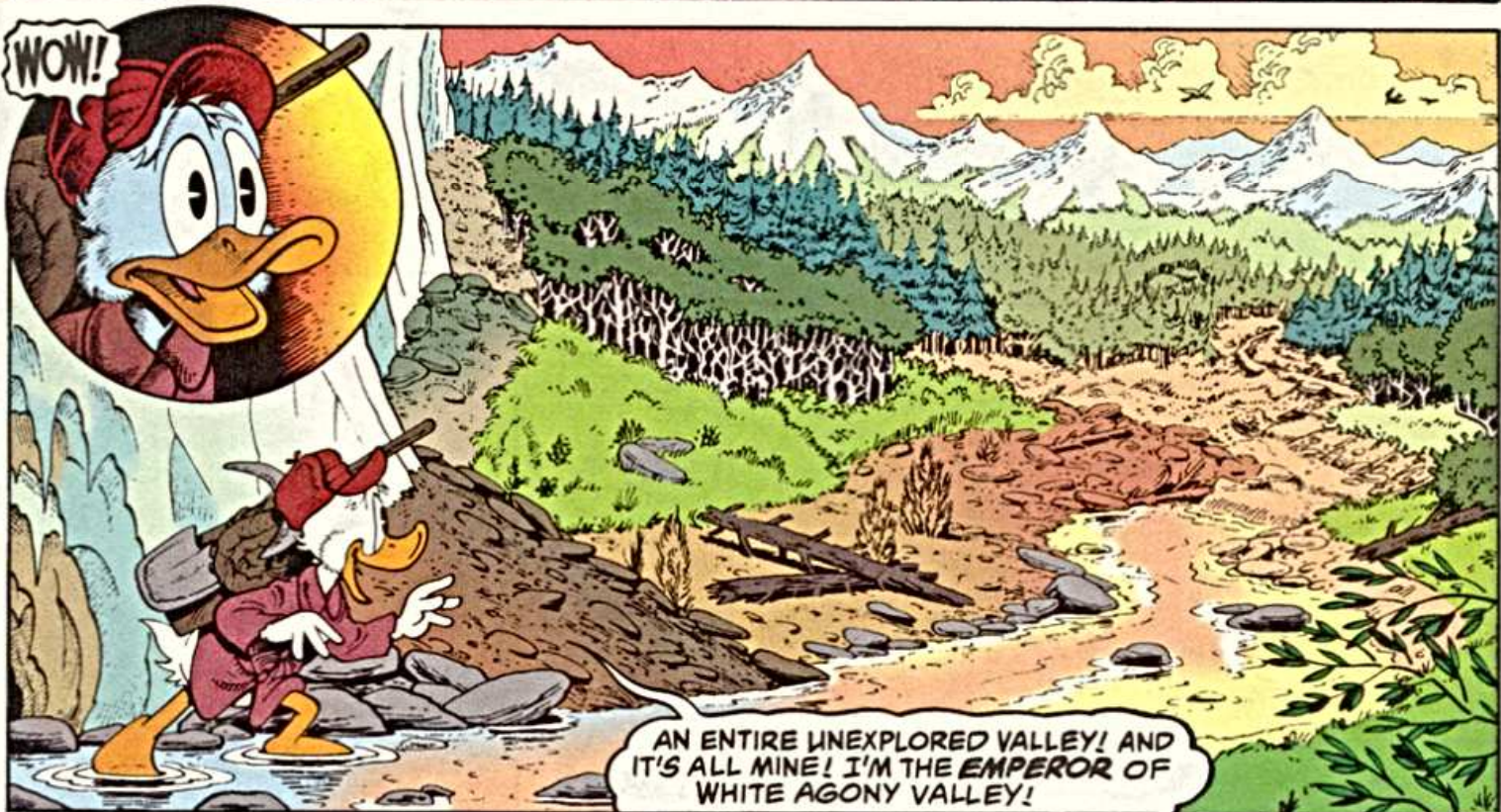


I'LL BE SWOGGLED! IT'S ONE OF THOSE HAIRY ELEPHANTS! I USED TO FIND THEIR BONES IN THE DAKOTA BADLANDS, BUT THIS ONE IS STILL WEARING HIS HIDE!

LOOK AT THOSE SPEARS! HE MUST HAVE CRAWLED IN HERE TO DIE WHEN SOME ICE-AGE HUNTERS NAILED HIM WAY BACK WHEN!

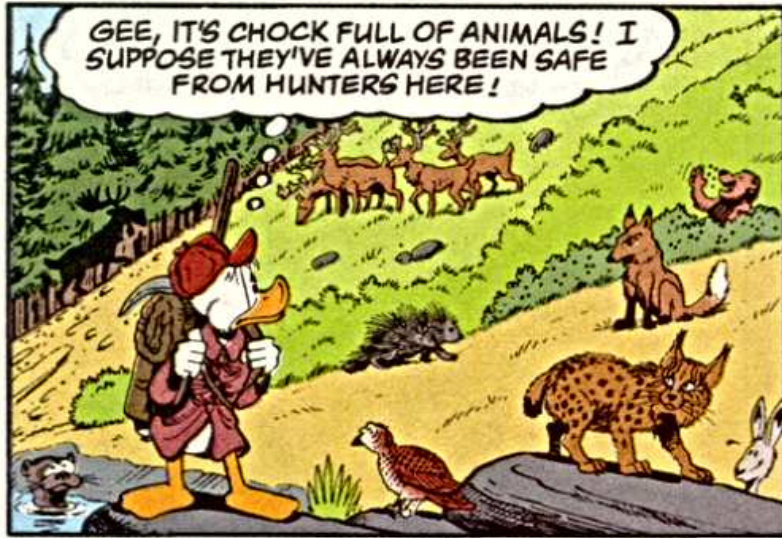


THE CREEK CUT A TUNNEL RIGHT BETWEEN HIS LEGS! BUT I'LL BET I'M THE FIRST GUY BRAVE ENOUGH TO PASS HIM!



WOW!

AN ENTIRE UNEXPLORED VALLEY! AND IT'S ALL MINE! I'M THE EMPEROR OF WHITE AGONY VALLEY!



GEE, IT'S CHOCK FULL OF ANIMALS! I SUPPOSE THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN SAFE FROM HUNTERS HERE!



SIGH! I LEARNED HOW TO FIND GOLD IN THE DESERTS OF ARIZONA AND THE MOUNTAINS OF THE RAND, BUT NEVER IN CREEKS!



HM... THOSE CRITTERS ALL SEEM TO LIVE OFF THE WATER AND FISH IN THE CREEK! MAYBE THEY'RE A SOURCE OF CLUES!



IF I CHECK VARMINTS IN THEIR TERRITORIES, IT MIGHT SAVE ME FROM SIFTING THROUGH WHITE AGONY CREEK INCH BY INCH!

GRRR!



SURE ENOUGH-- GOLD DUST! I'LL CHECK BEARS ALL THROUGH THE VALLEY FOR TRACES!



A WEEK AND MANY BEAR HIDES LATER...

THERE'S NO EVIDENCE OF GOLD BEYOND THIS POINT! IT MUST ENTER THE CREEK SOMEWHERE ALONG HERE!

GRRRR!

I'LL DOUBLE CHECK...



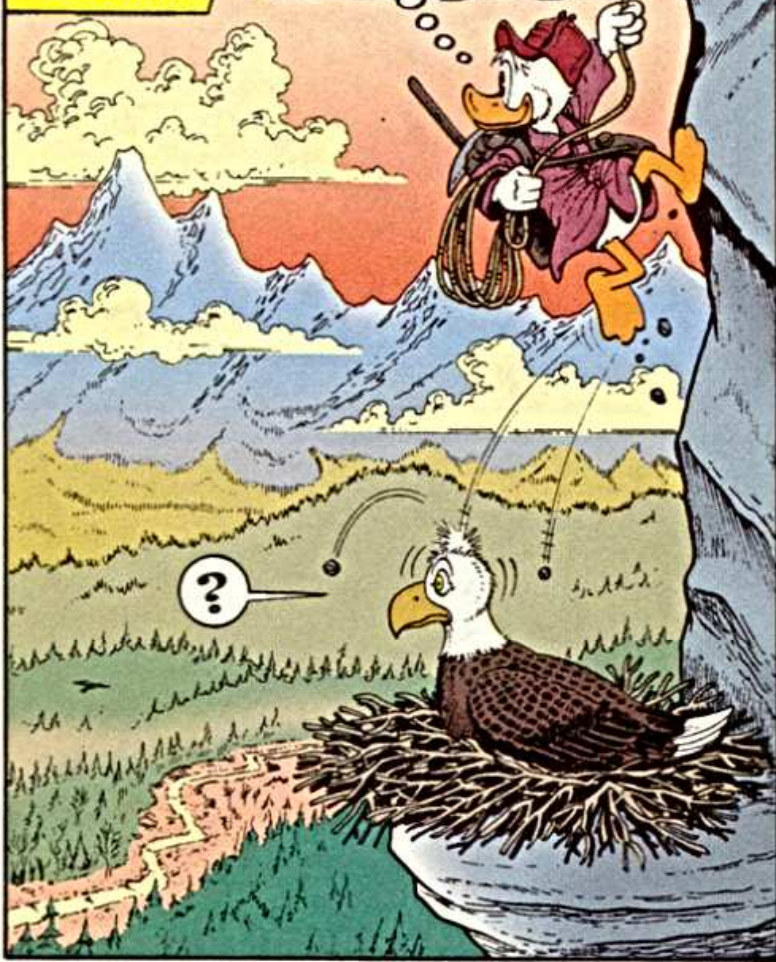
YES! TINY GOLD FLAKES! ANIMALS IN THIS AREA ARE THE FARTHEST UPSTREAM TO BE EXPOSED TO THE STUFF!



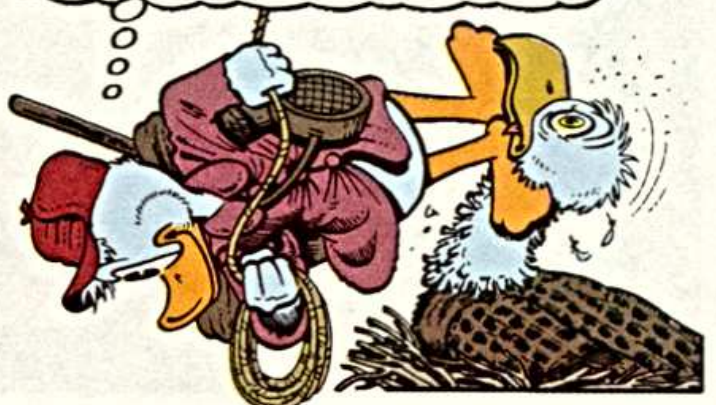
THAT MEANS THE ORIGINAL MOTHER LODGE WAS SOMEWHERE IN THESE MOUNTAINS! THAT'S WHERE I'LL SEARCH NEXT!

I IN THE EVER-SHORTENING DAYS THAT FOLLOW...

I'VE HAD YEARS OF EXPERIENCE TRACING THE SITES OF HIGH-ALTITUDE GOLD VEINS!

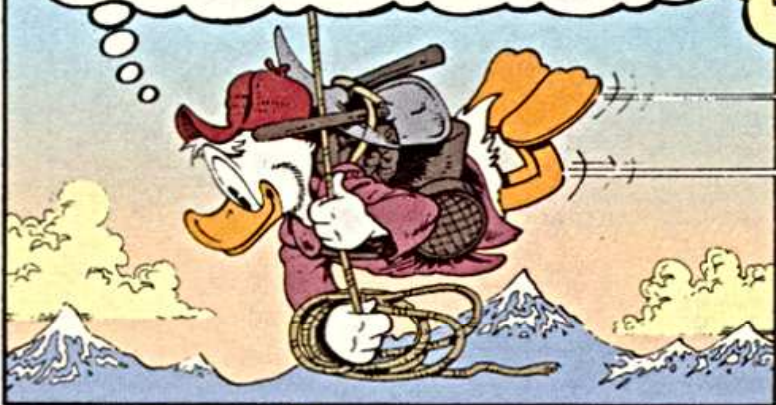


EONS AGO, THE WIND AND THE RAIN SLOWLY ERODED THE GOLD OFF THIS MOUNTAIN AND WASHED IT DOWN INTO THE VALLEY! BUT I NEED TO FIND THE EXACT LOCATION!



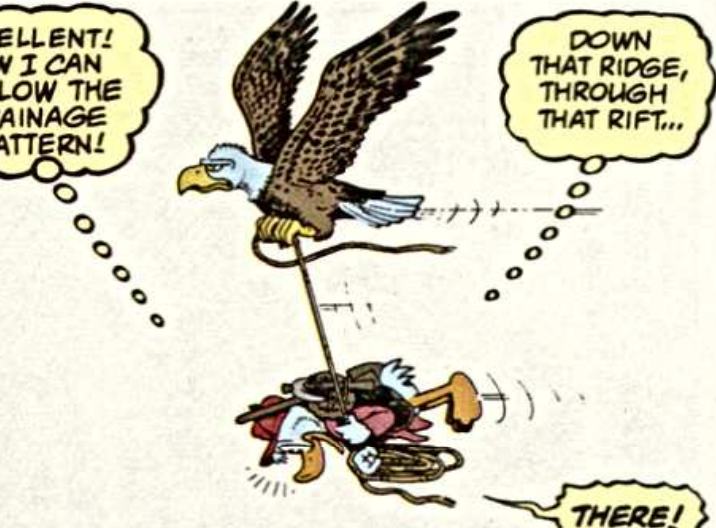
AHA! TRACES OF THE SORT OF COPPER THAT OFTEN ACCOMPANIES GOLD VEINS! THIS IS THE SPOT I'M LOOKING FOR!

NOW IF I CAN ONLY GET A GOOD VIEW OF THE DRAINAGE FLOW FROM UP HERE! I CAN'T QUITE SEE... WAIT! THE VIEW IS IMPROVING!



EXCELLENT! NOW I CAN FOLLOW THE DRAINAGE PATTERN!

DOWN THAT RIDGE, THROUGH THAT RIFT...



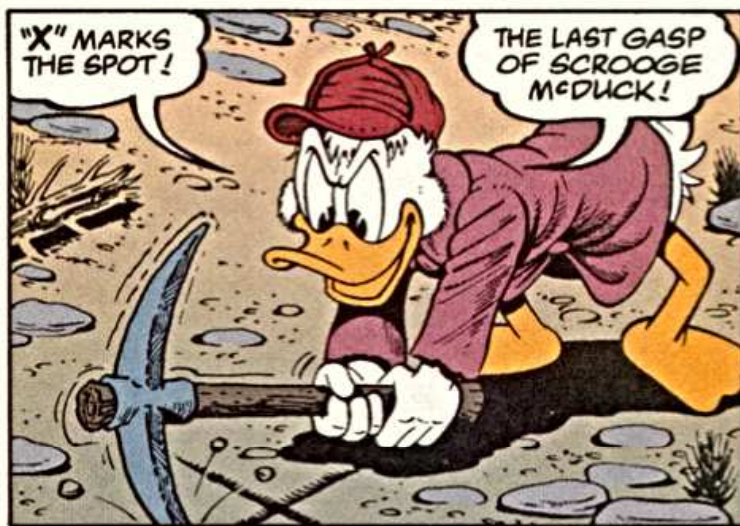
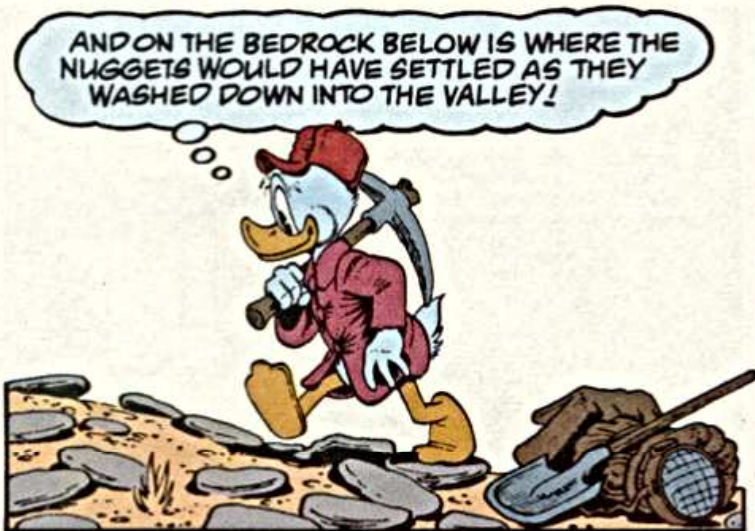
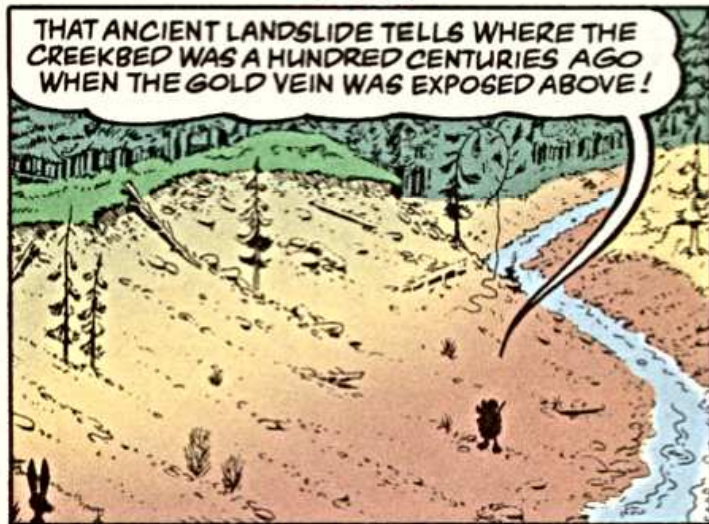
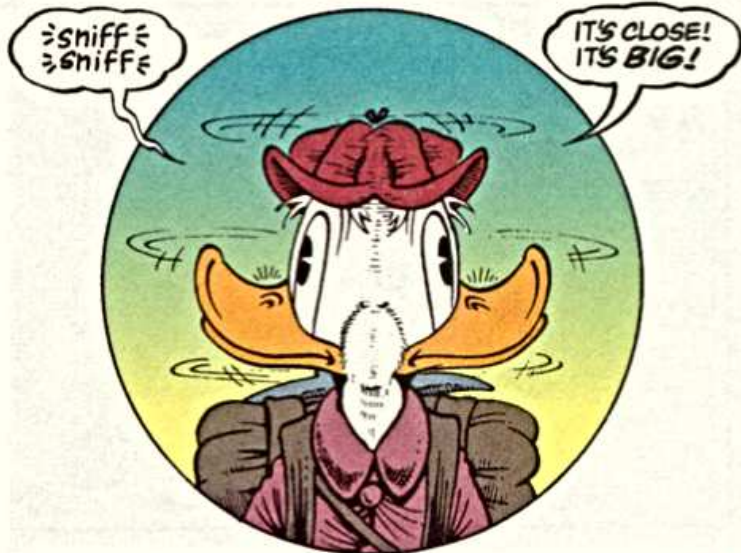
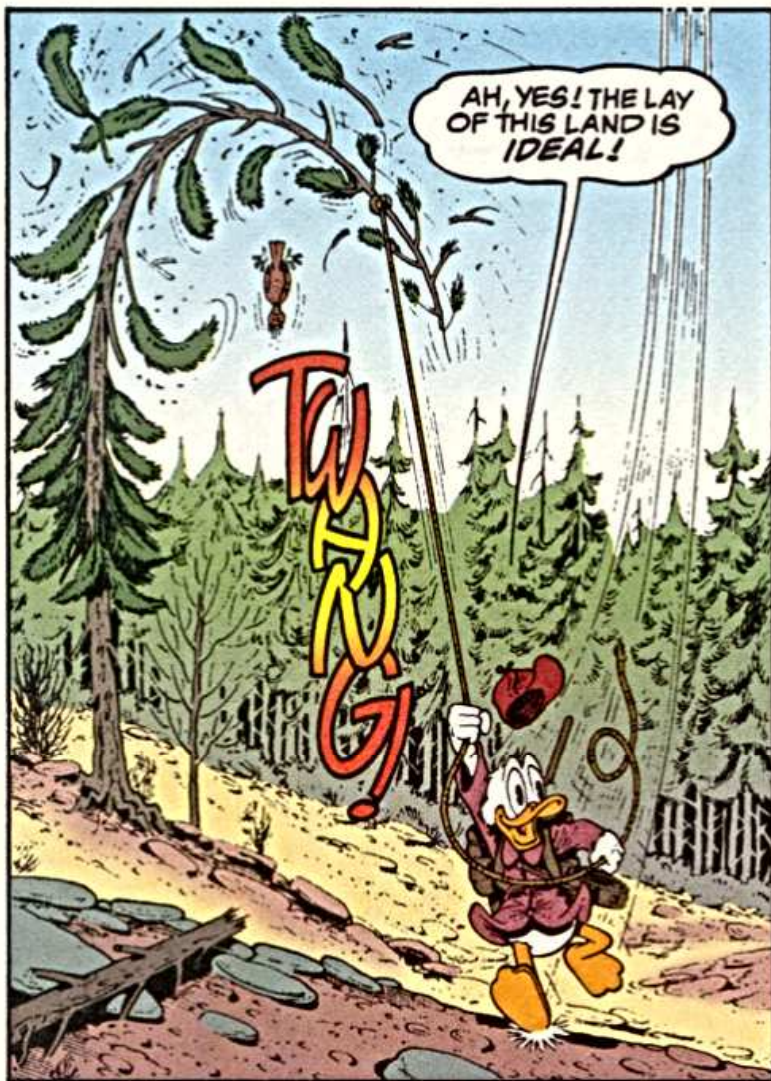
THERE!

THANKS! YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE!



DIRECTLY BELOW IS WHERE THE GOLD DUST WAS ENTERING THE CREEK IN THE DAYS WHEN MY FROZEN FRIEND IN THE ICE CAVE WAS STILL ROAMING THROUGH THIS VALLEY!





SOON, THE APPROACH OF THE KLONDIKE WINTER IS A PALPABLE THREAT--

IT'S SNOWING AGAIN! MAYBE I SHOULD BUILD A CABIN!



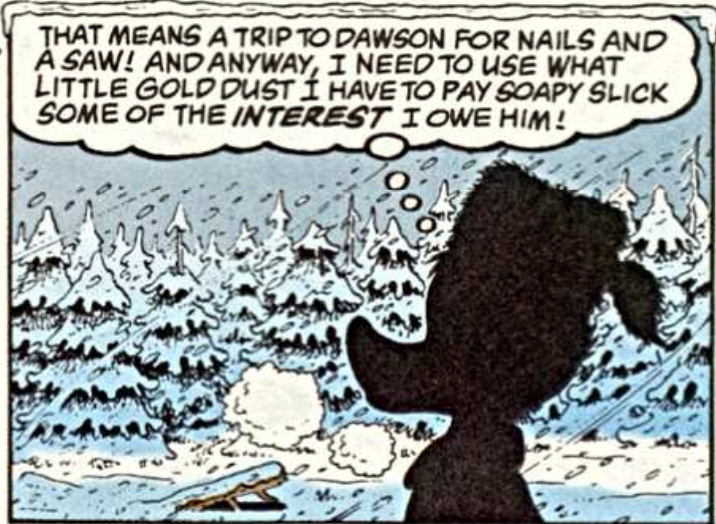
BAH! I COPED WITH KILLER CLIMATES IN DESERTS AROUND THE WORLD! TOO MUCH COLD IS THE SAME AS TOO MUCH HEAT-- ONLY BACKWARDS!



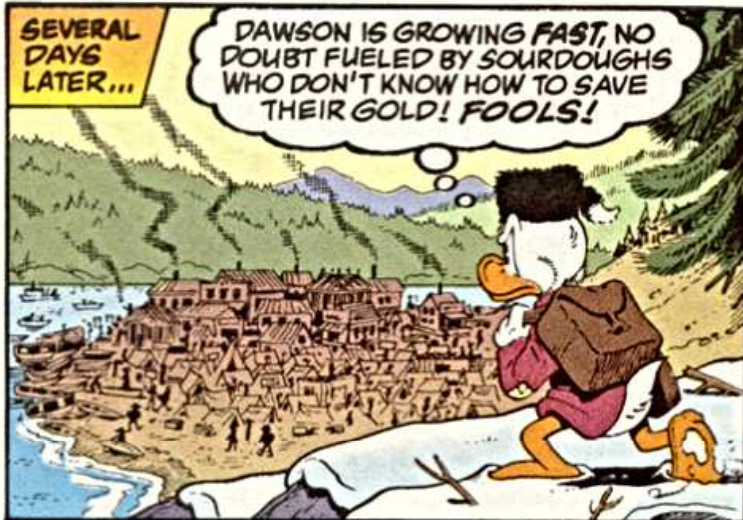
THE TENT SUITS ME! I CAN TAKE THE COLD!



BUT THE FIRE CAN'T! SIGH! IT'S CABIN TIME!



THAT MEANS A TRIP TO DAWSON FOR NAILS AND A SAW! AND ANYWAY, I NEED TO USE WHAT LITTLE GOLD DUST I HAVE TO PAY SOAPY SLICK SOME OF THE INTEREST I OWE HIM!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

DAWSON IS GROWING FAST, NO DOUBT FUELED BY SOURDOUGHS WHO DON'T KNOW HOW TO SAVE THEIR GOLD! FOOLS!



S. SLICK CASINO & LOAN CO.

YOUR ONE STOP FOR ALL YOUR BORROWING-MONEY-AND-STUPIDLY-LOSING-IT NEEDS!

HM... LOOKS LIKE SOAPY'S OPENED HIS OWN GAMBLING JOINT! THAT'S HIS STYLE!



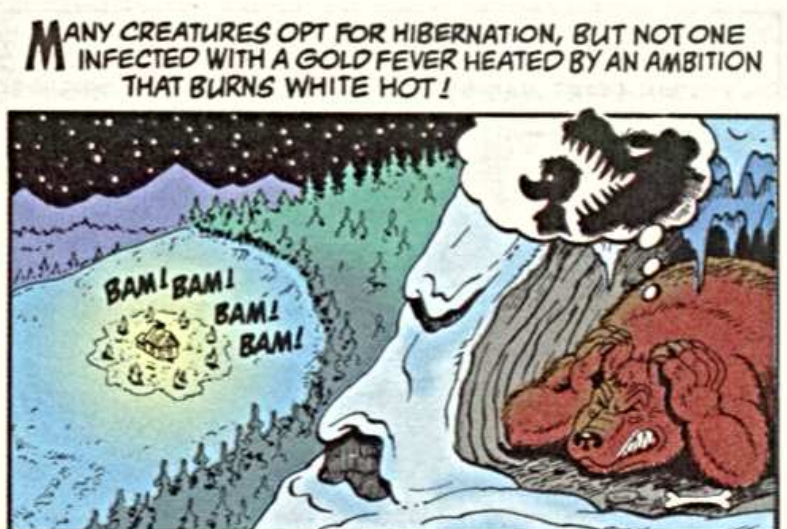
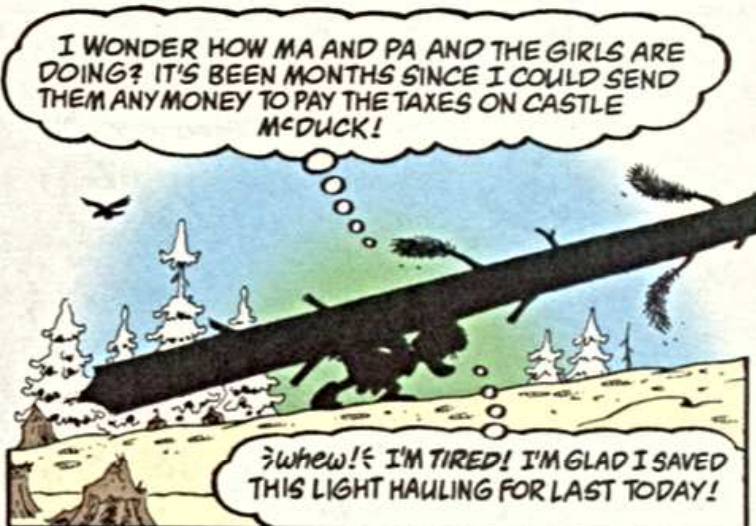
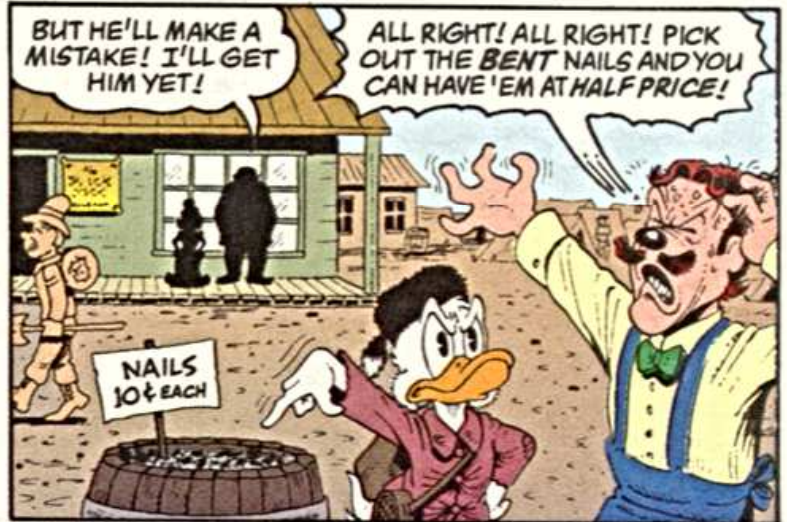
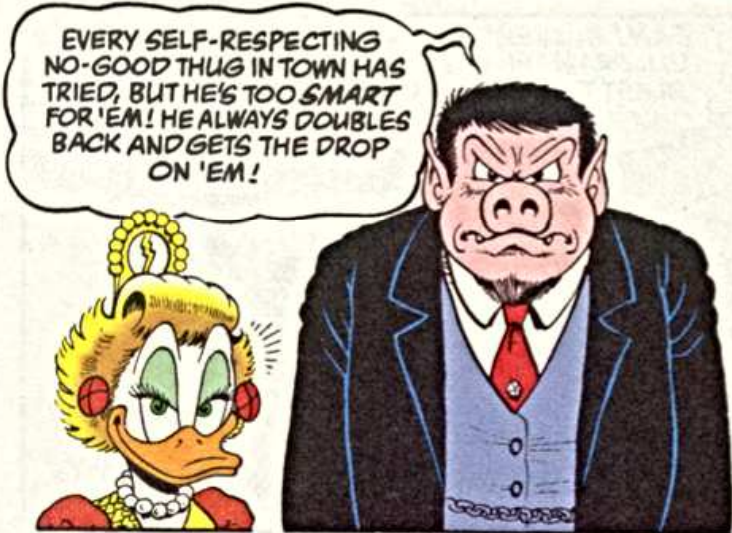
SO WE'VE HAD A BIT OF LUCK, EH?

THAT'S NEARLY ALL THE GOLD DUST I HAVE, BUT IT JUST ABOUT PAYS UP THE INTEREST ON MY LOAN!



HAVE YOU... ER... FILED A CLAIM YET?

IN DUE TIME! I'M NOT EAGER TO ALERT EVERY CLAIM JUMPER IN THE KLONDIKE TO WHAT I'VE FOUND!



AND YET, THE BRIEF PERIODS OF DAYLIGHT REVEAL TO THIS ARGONAUT A WORLD OF PEACE AND BEAUTY EVEN HE CANNOT IGNORE...

THIS FRONTIER IS LIKE SO MANY OTHERS I'VE KNOWN-- UNSPOILED BY THE RAVAGES OF MAN, STILL GLORIOUS AND UNSULLIED!



A MAN CAN FACE THE WORLD ON HIS OWN TERMS HERE! ENJOY THE FRUITS OF HIS OWN LABOR! LIVE IN A PARADISE OF TRANQUILITY AND BEAUTY AND... AND...



BAH! SUCKER TALK! WHEN I FIND GOLD, I'LL DRAIN THE CREEK WITH HYDRAULIC MINING, BLAST THE MOUNTAINS APART, AND FEED THE TREES TO LUMBER MILLS!



PROGRESS! EXPLOITATION! MONEY!



THE WINTER OF '96-'97 PASSES SLOWLY UNTIL, FINALLY, SPRING!

THE THAW HAS BEGUN!



EVERYBODY OUT! WINTER'S OVER AND I DON'T NEED FOOTWARMERS ANYMORE!



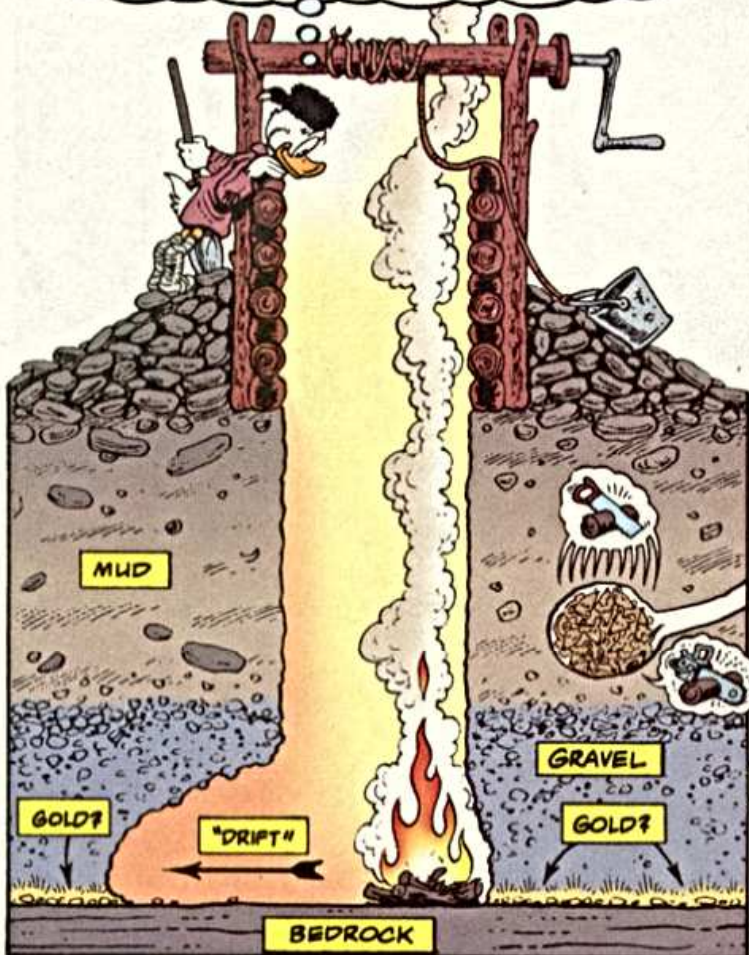
IT TOOK ALL WINTER TO DIG MY SHAFT AND BUILD MY SLUICE, BUT SOON THE CREEK WILL FLOW AGAIN AND I CAN START WASHING GOLD OUT OF THESE DIGGINGS!



LOOKS LIKE THE FIRE IN MY DRIFT SHAFT HAS DONE ITS JOB!



NOW THAT THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHAFT HAS THAWED, I CAN DIG OUT A FEW MORE FEET OF DIRT!



SHORTLY...

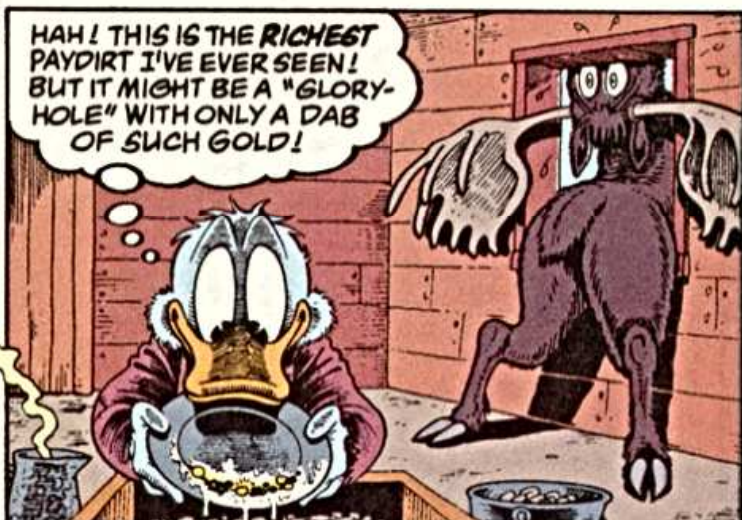
HEY! I TOLD YOU TO CLEAR OUT! I HAVE WORK TO DO!

EEP!

CRASH!



HAH! THIS IS THE RICHEST PAYDIRT I'VE EVER SEEN! BUT IT MIGHT BE A "GLORY-HOLE" WITH ONLY A DAB OF SUCH GOLD!



IT'S TIME TO GO INTO DAWSON AND FILE MY CLAIM! AND CATCH UP ON MY LOAN INTEREST TO SOAPY SLICK! MAYBE I'LL SOON BE DONE WITH HIM!



YEP! WHITE AGONY CREEK JUST MIGHT BE THE END OF MY RAINBOW!

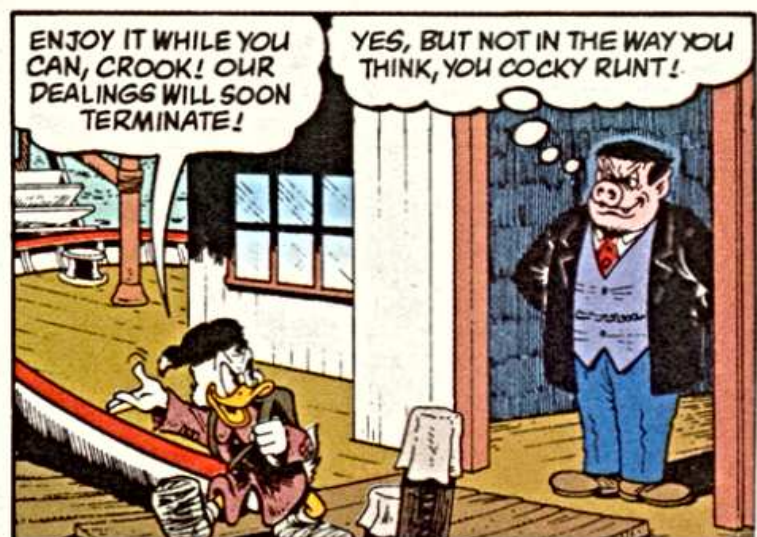
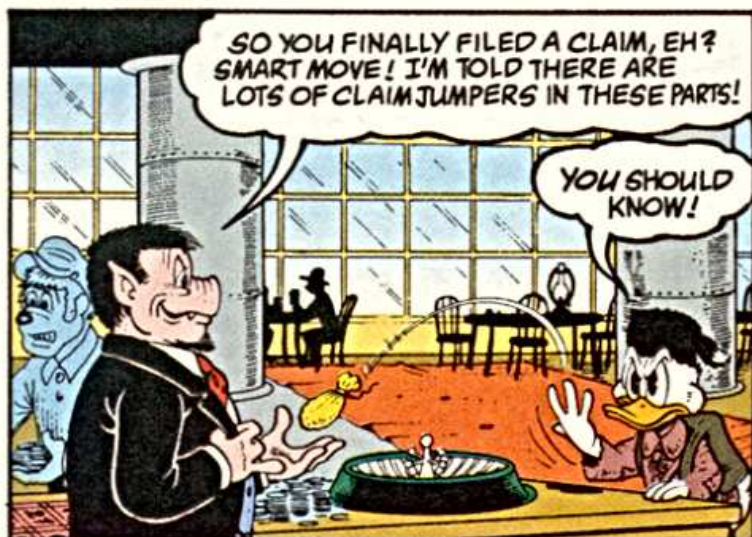
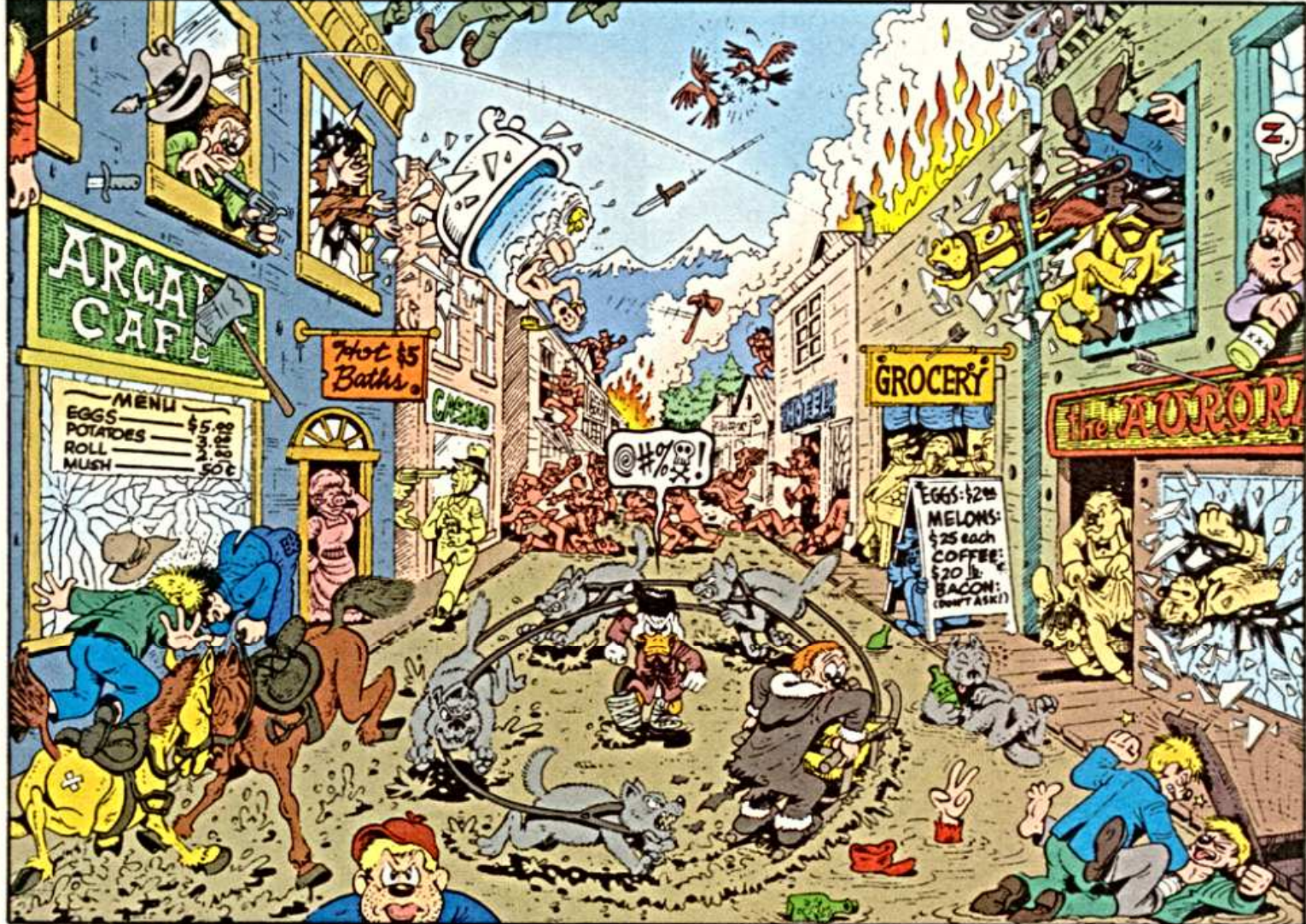


SEVERAL DAYS LATER SCROOGE REACHES DAWSON, BUT IT IS A NEW DAWSON, UNLIKE ANY TOWN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE HAS EVER KNOWN!

HE IS ABOUT TO ENTER INTO THE WILDEST, MOST LAWLESS AND JUST PLAIN CURSEDEST SETTLEMENT IN NORTH AMERICA!



HE IS ALSO ABOUT TO ENTER INTO LEGEND!





THERE GOES THAT SKINFLINT, SCROOGE MCDUCK! HE NEVER SPENDS A CENT ON FUN!

NO, THAT'S NOT HIS STYLE!



YAAAA! TIGHTWAD!

G'WAN! GET OUTTA TOWN!

BEAT IT!

SOMEDAY, WHEN I HIT IT BIG, I WILL GO IN THAT JOINT AND SHOW THEM A THING OR TWO!



SHORTLY...
POST OFFICE

OBOY! MAIL FROM HOME! I'LL READ IT AS SOON AS I CAN SNEAK OUT OF TOWN UNSEEN!

Z.



YAWN! GOSH ALL FISHHOOKS! I'M BUSHED!

A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IN A SOFT BED! THEN IT'S BACK TO MY CLAIM IN THE MORNING!



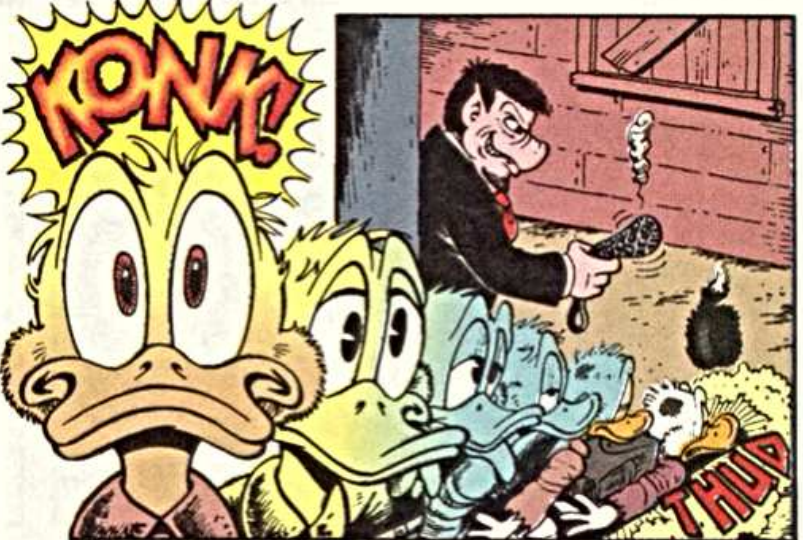
EEEK!

HEY! WHATSA IDEA?!

SORRY, FOLKS! JUST PASSING THROUGH! GO BACK TO SLEEP!

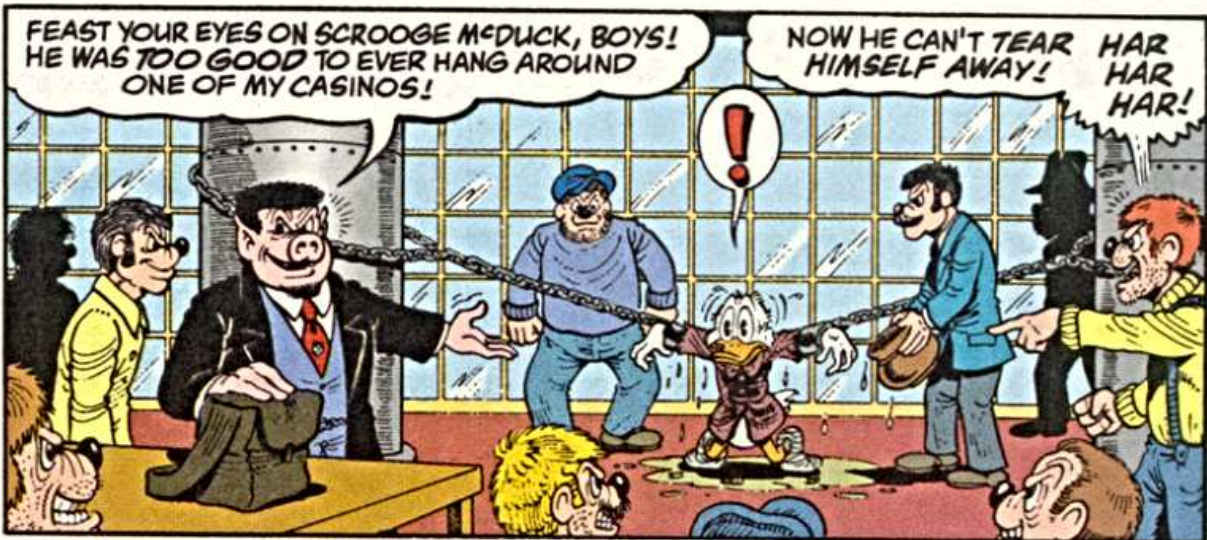


TRICKING CLAIMJUMPERS IS A BREEZE! ANYONE TOO LAZY TO WORK FOR HIS MONEY IS NO MATCH FOR SCROOGE MCDUCK!



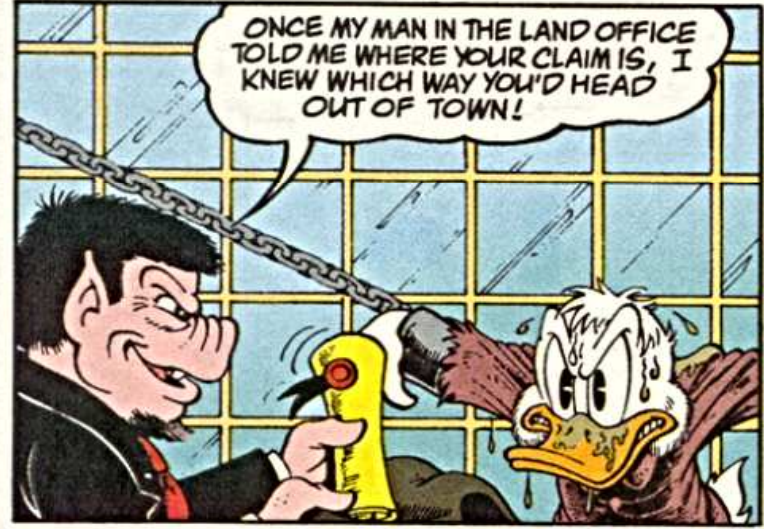
KONKA!

THUP!

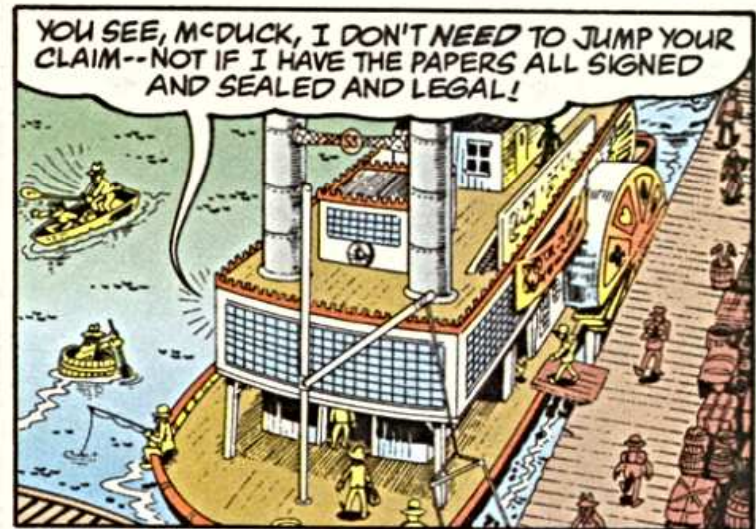


FEAST YOUR EYES ON SCROOGE MCDUCK, BOYS! HE WAS TOO GOOD TO EVER HANG AROUND ONE OF MY CASINOS!

NOW HE CAN'T TEAR HIMSELF AWAY! HAR HAR HAR!



ONCE MY MAN IN THE LAND OFFICE TOLD ME WHERE YOUR CLAIM IS, I KNEW WHICH WAY YOU'D HEAD OUT OF TOWN!



YOU SEE, MCDUCK, I DON'T NEED TO JUMP YOUR CLAIM--NOT IF I HAVE THE PAPERS ALL SIGNED AND SEALED AND LEGAL!



HAH! THE SO-CALLED "BUCKAROO OF THE BADLANDS"! THE "PIZEN OF PIZEN BLUFF"! JUST CHEAP PULP FICTION! TALL TALES! BLUFF!



ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WAS BETTER 'N US, EH?

WHERE'S THE CUTE LITTLE SKIRT ALL YOU SCOTTISH SISSIES WEAR?



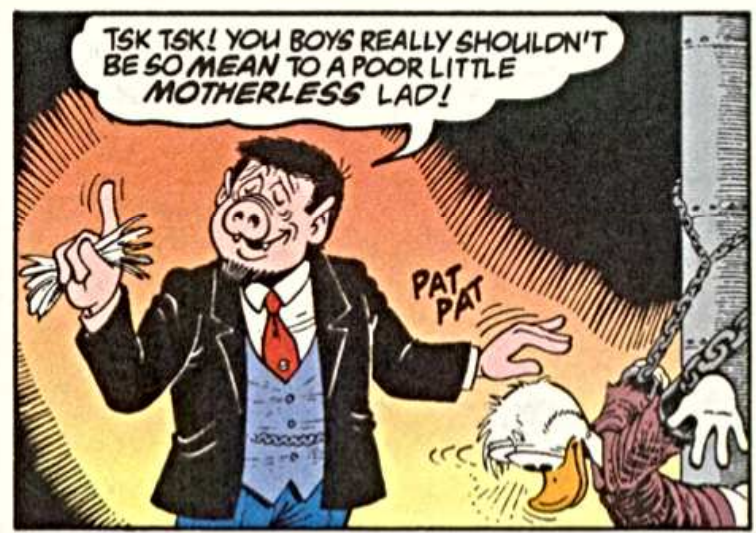
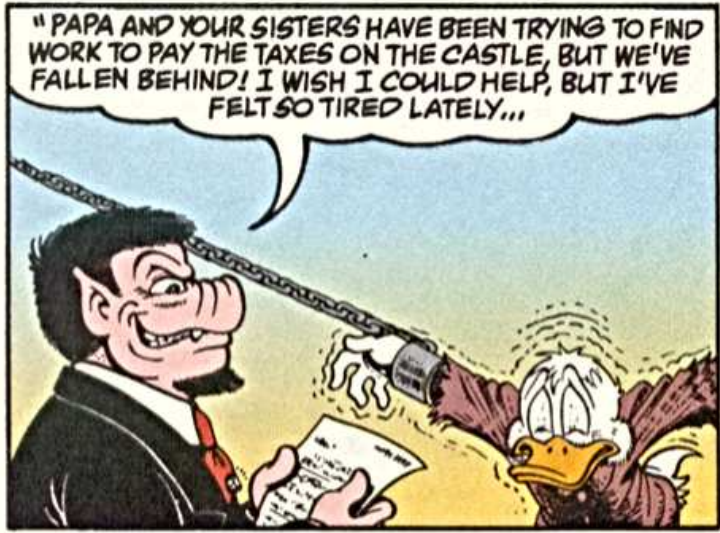
SCROOGE MCDOPE OF THE CLAN MCDOPE!

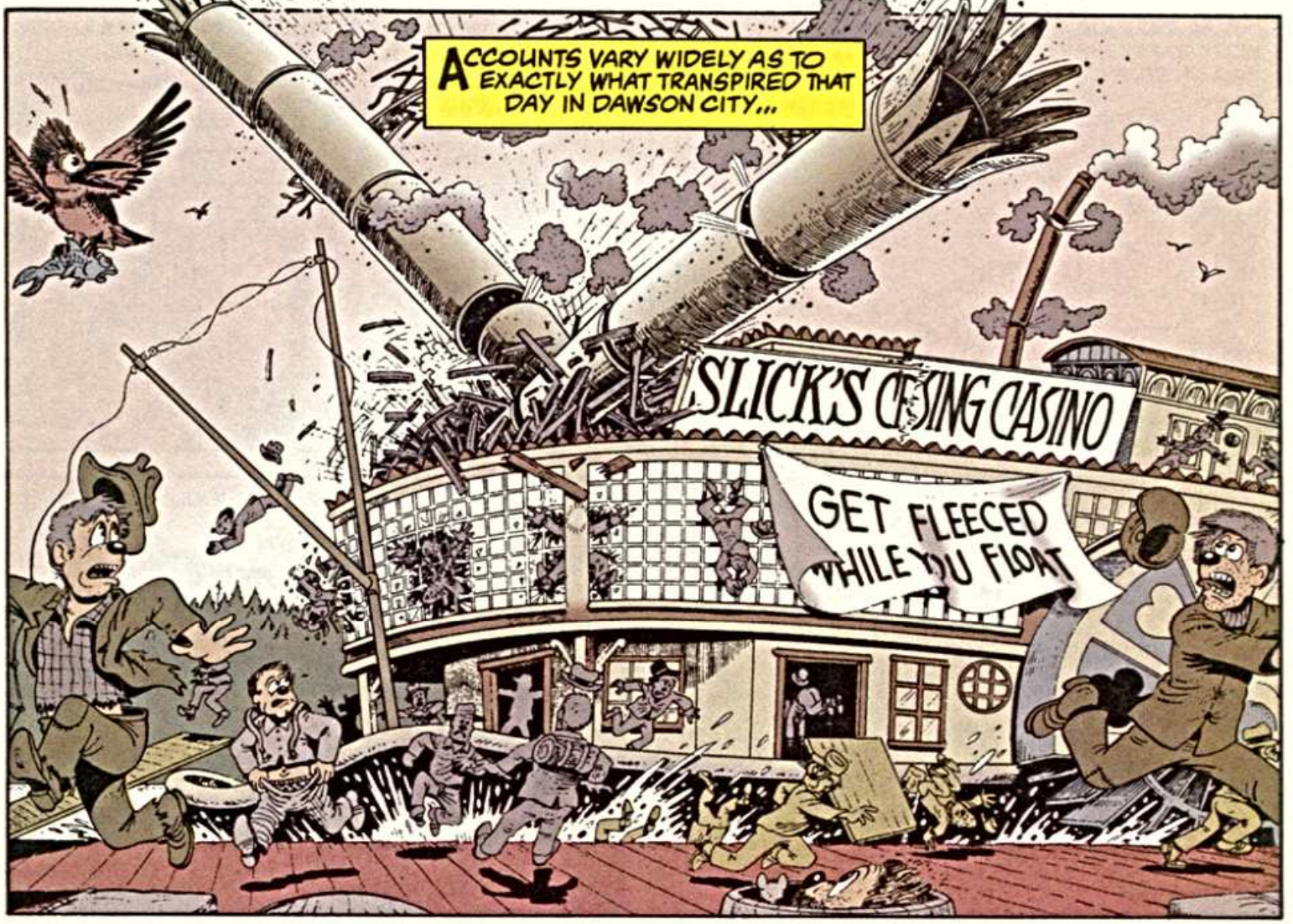
SPEAKING OF WHICH, LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE, BOYS! LETTERS FROM HOME!



LISTEN TO THIS--A MISSIVE FROM MAMA! "DEAR SCROOGEY, IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE YOU'VE WRITTEN! WE KNOW YOU MUST BE VERY BUSY, SO DON'T WORRY..."

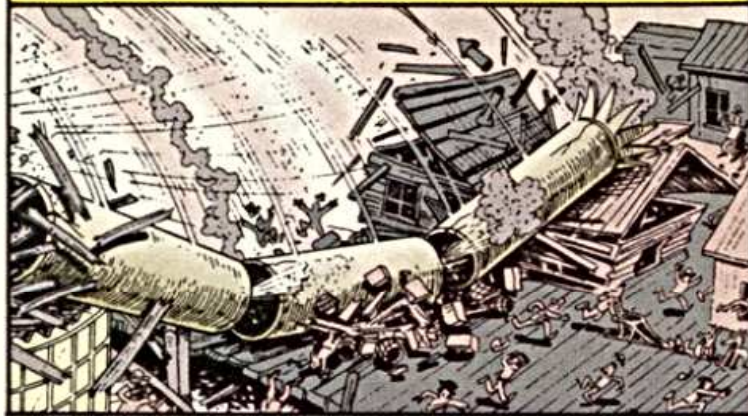
YAAA! MAMA'S BOY!



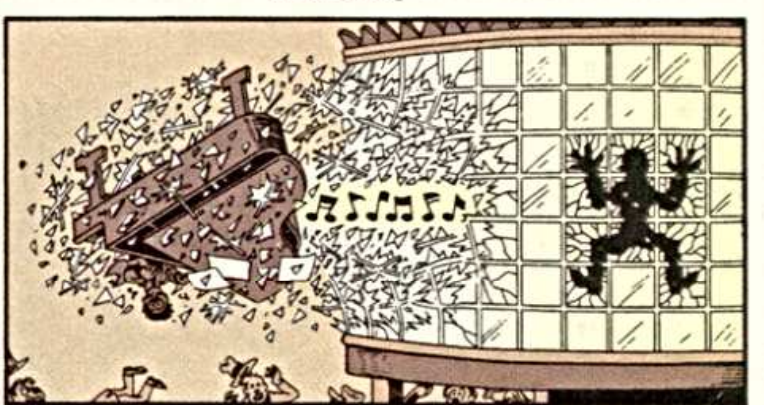


ACCOUNTS VARY WIDELY AS TO EXACTLY WHAT TRANSPIRED THAT DAY IN DAWSON CITY...

METAL FATIGUE! THAT'S HOW THEY EXPLAINED IT LATER! THOSE SMOKESTACKS MUST HAVE HAD WEAK SPOTS IN THEIR BASES! BOTH OF THEM!



IT WAS A BIT MORE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN WHAT CAUSED THE CONCERT GRAND PIANO TO GO SAILING THROUGH THE IMPORTED STAINED-GLASS WINDOW!



BUT IT WASN'T TOO HARD TO ACCOUNT FOR THE FIRE THAT BROKE OUT! WHAT ELSE WOULD ONE EXPECT WHEN A CAST-IRON STOVE CRASHES THROUGH THREE BULKHEADS?



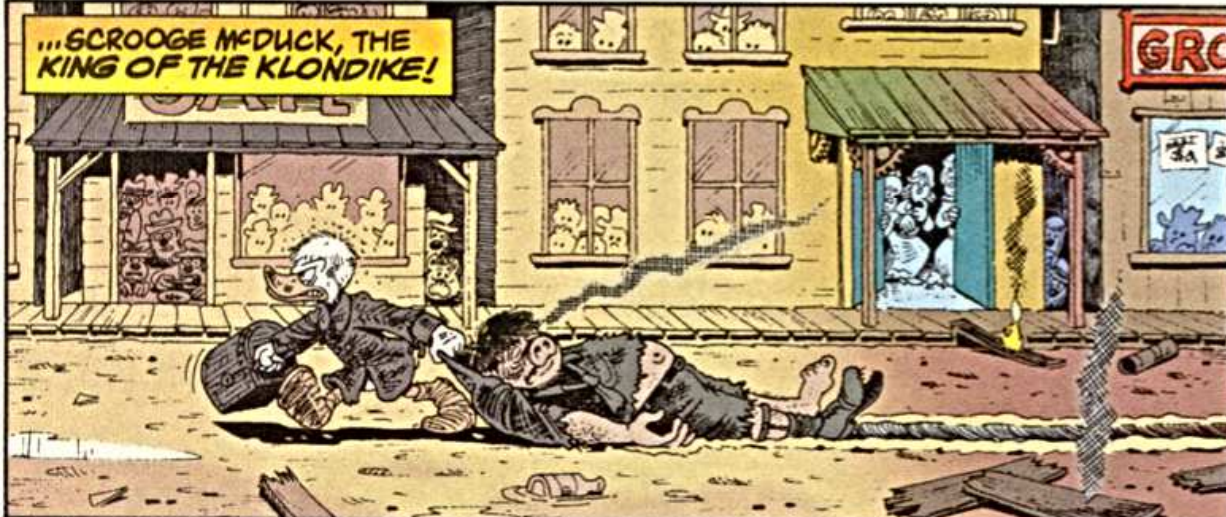
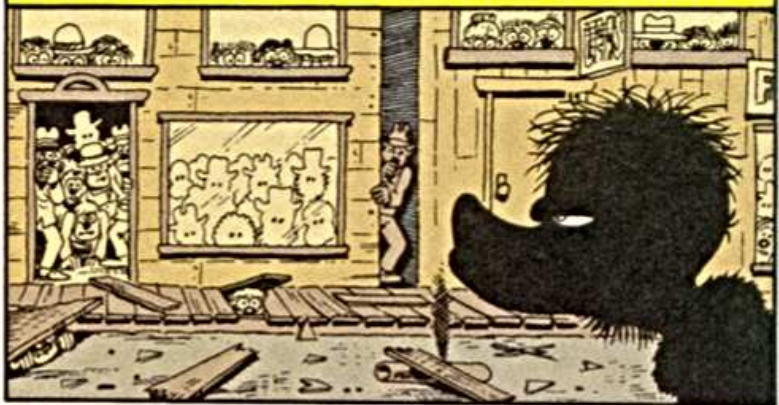
SOME SAID SLICK'S RIVERBOAT WAS DEMOLISHED BY A FREAK TIDAL WAVE FROM THE BERING SEA-- TWELVE HUNDRED MILES DOWNRIVER!



THE WHOLE INCIDENT WAS PROBABLY EXAGGERATED IN THE MANY RETELLINGS THAT FOLLOWED. POSSIBLY, IT DIDN'T ACTUALLY HAPPEN AT ALL!



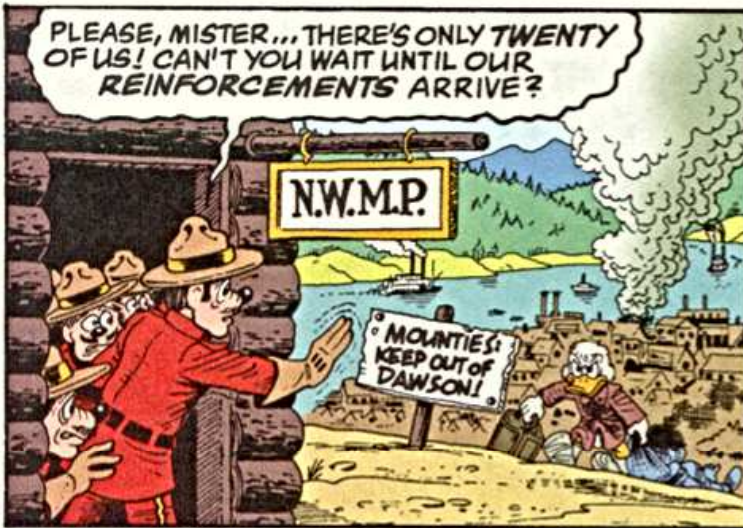
BUT THIS WAS THE ERA OF THE BIRTH OF LEGENDS, AND THE NON-STOP LIFE OF DAWSON PAUSED THAT DAY TO WATCH A NEW CHARACTER ENTER THE STORY-BOOKS ALONGSIDE PAUL BUNYAN AND PECOS BILL...



...SCROOGE McDUCK, THE KING OF THE KLONDIKE!



WHAT A DUCK! QUITE A CHALLENGE FOR ME... SOMEDAY SOON...



PLEASE, MISTER... THERE'S ONLY TWENTY OF US! CAN'T YOU WAIT UNTIL OUR REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE?



RELAX! I'M MAKING A DELIVERY! I THINK THESE FILES WILL SHOW THAT SOAPY SLICK IS BEHIND A LOT OF CLAIMJUMPING IN YOUR TERRITORY!



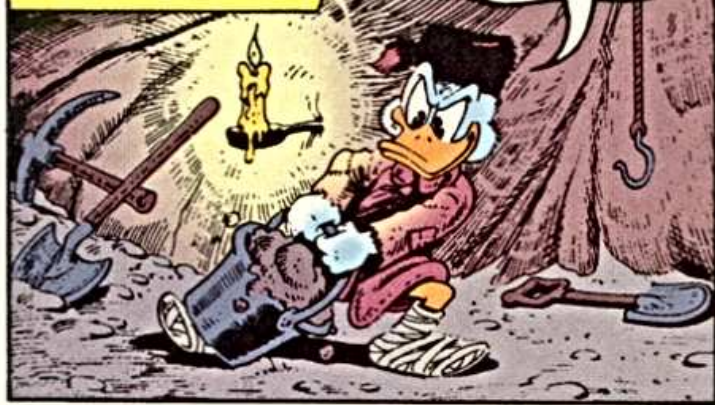
WE'VE FINALLY GOT THE GOODS ON YOU, SLICK! WE'RE DEPORTING YOU TO ALASKA ON THE NEXT BOAT TO GOLDBOOM! DON'T COME BACK TO CANADA!



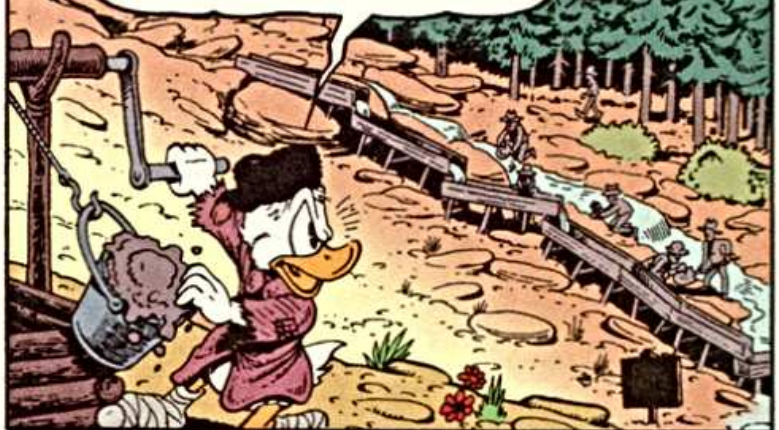
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, McDUCK! I STILL HAVE YOUR LOAN CONTRACT! I'LL BE WAITING FOR MY MONEY IN GOLDBOOM!

SOON, SCROOGE IS ONCE MORE HARD AT WORK ON WHITE AGONY CREEK...

THERE! ANOTHER BUCKET OF DIRT READY FOR THE SLUICE!



DOGGONE IT! EVER SINCE I FILED MY CLAIM, MORE AND MORE NOSY-BODIES ARE BRAVING THE TRIP IN THROUGH THE ICE CAVE!

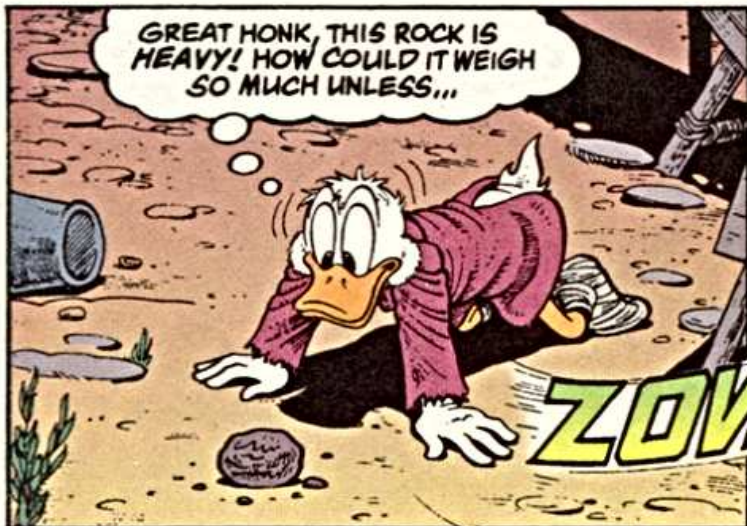
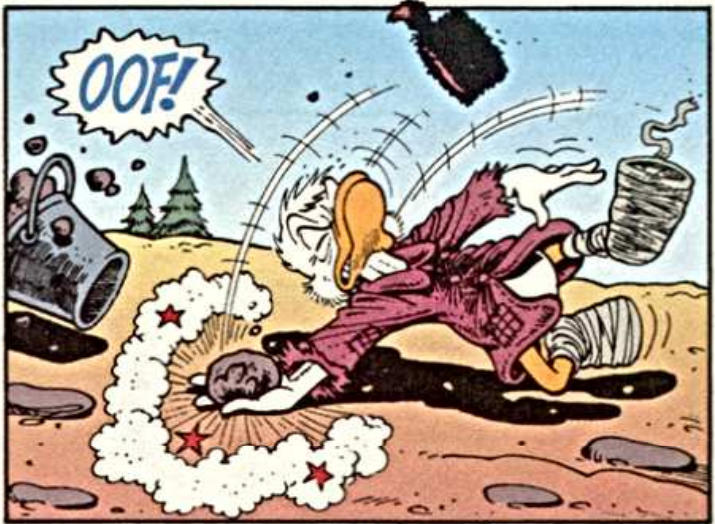


YIPES! IT'S HIM!

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!

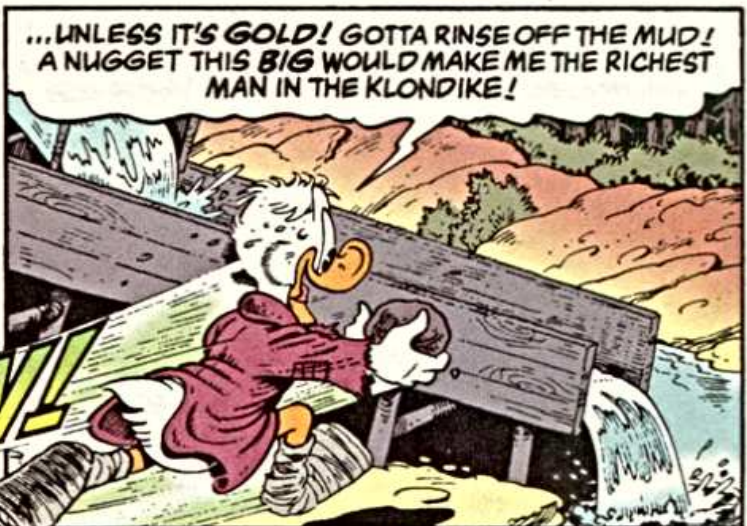
IF YOU SEE HIM PULL OUT A CONCERT GRAND PIANO, DUCK!

AND IF ANY OF YOU NO-GOOD VARMINTS COME AROUND AGAIN, I'LL DUST OFF YOUR NOGGINS WITH A BIG ROCK!



GREAT HONK, THIS ROCK IS HEAVY! HOW COULD IT WEIGH SO MUCH UNLESS...

ZOW!



...UNLESS IT'S GOLD! GOTTA RINSE OFF THE MUD! A NUGGET THIS BIG WOULD MAKE ME THE RICHEST MAN IN THE KLONDIKE!

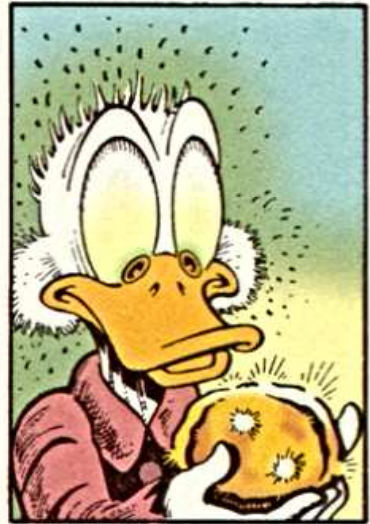
BUT IF IT IS GOLD, THAT WILL MEAN MY QUEST IS FINISHED! I'LL BE RICH! I'LL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN!



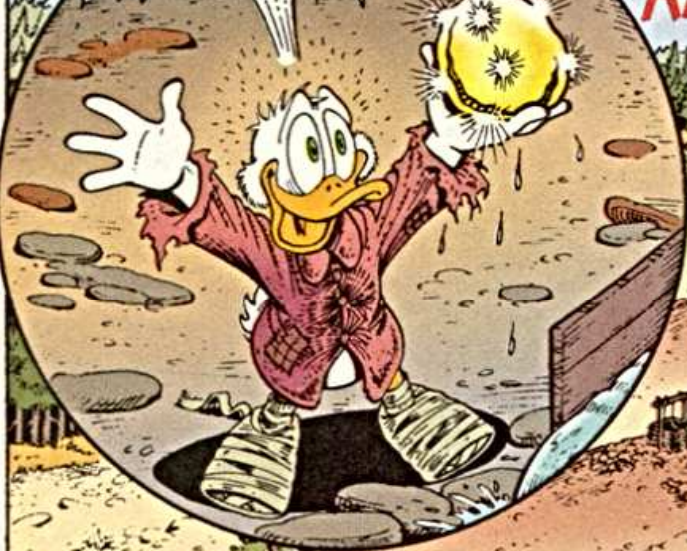
WILL CLEAN AIR SMELL ANY SWEETER? WILL SUNNY DAYS BE ANY BRIGHTER? WILL STARRY NIGHTS HOLD ANY MORE WONDER? OR WILL I LOSE ALL THAT?



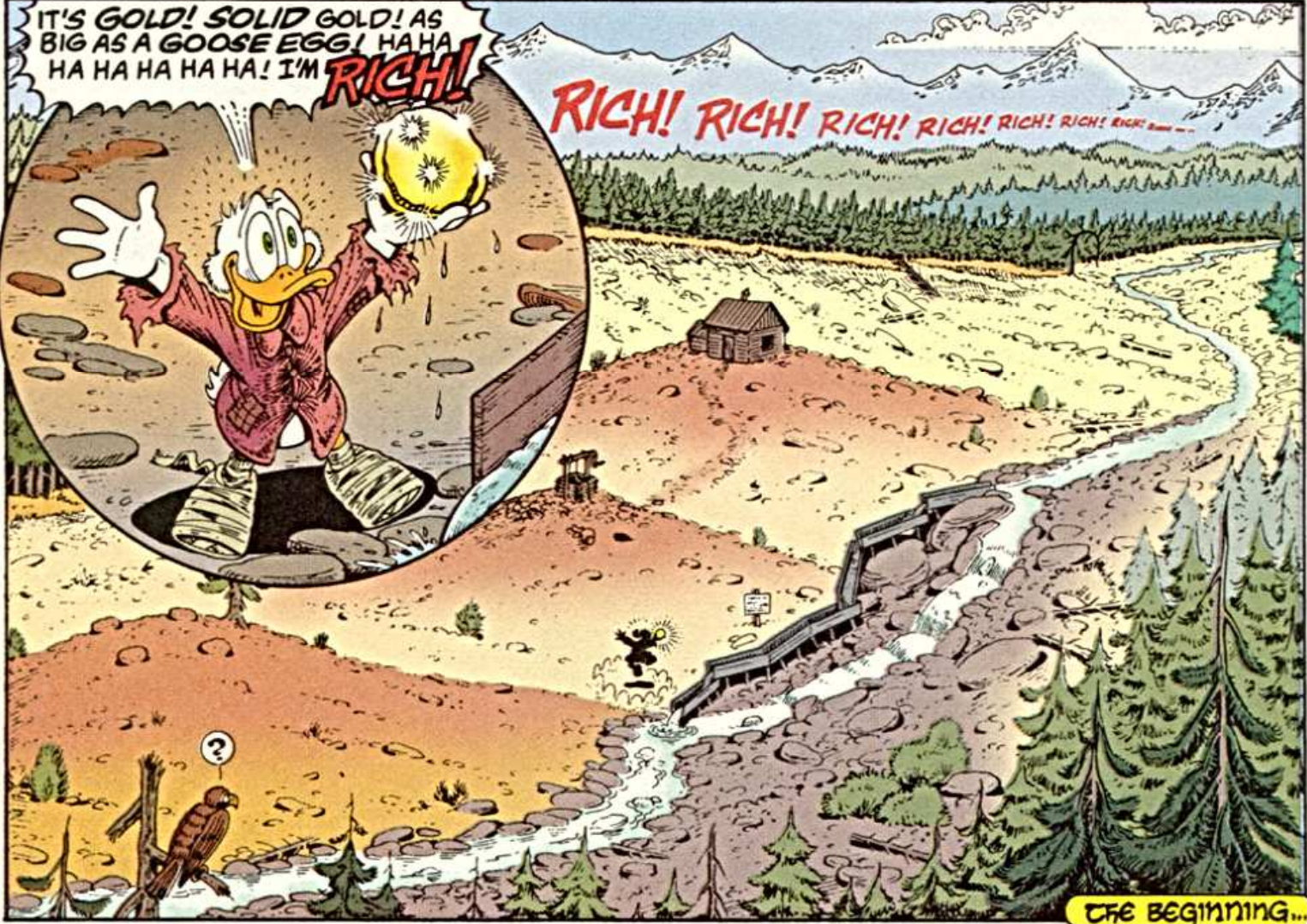
DO I REALLY WANT TO BE... RICH?



IT'S GOLD! SOLID GOLD! AS BIG AS A GOOSE EGG! HAHA HA HA HA HA HA! I'M **RICH!**



RICH! RICH! RICH! RICH! RICH! RICH! RICH! RICH!



THE BEGINNING...