

NEW RIO KID STORIES

by W. O. G. Lofts

It is surprising what one can still find out these days that is completely new in the hobby. One could almost say astonishing when it concerns one of Charles Hamilton's famous characters - The Rio Kid.

In Derek Adley's record book of The Ranger, that was compiled many many years ago now, he lists a series of The Outlaw Kid that appeared in the initial small series of 1931. Nos. 8 to 17. Then much later in 1933 there was a single tale in No. 113. Derek has always assumed that these stories must have been reprints of earlier Popular tales, basing this fact simply because our editor has not mentioned them at all in his numerous articles about the famous sunburnt outlaw.

However, recently in writing to Eric about them, and the possibility of them being the same as the Boys' Friend Library issue No. 471. To my surprise he informed me that he had not heard of the series in The Ranger before. In fact if they had only been advertised at the time in other papers quite obviously he would have bought them.

Later, I have been able to establish from official records of the old Amalgamated Press that indeed the stories were Charles Hamilton originals as he was paid for them. Seemingly they were written for The Popular, but when this paper became 'The Ranger' they were used there under the new title.

I'm not qualified to say how good the stories are, only our editor is probably expert enough to do this. The series features Slick Samson, Texas Davis, Lillian Rose Judd and is about Bart Ranch and a haunted gold mine. The story starts with the good looking outlaw singing.....

"On our mustagro grey,  
We rode away,  
With the merry Ranger band,  
And our campfire shone,  
When the sun had gone,  
On the banks of the Rio Grande."

Copies are rare of the early Ranger, but if any C.D. reader, has any issues with the numbers listed above, I'm sure our editor would be pleased to either purchase or borrow them for his interest and appraisal.

(EDITORIAL COMMENT: We're learning all the time. Just when we think we know

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everything about the old papers, something fresh turns up. I had no idea that the Rio Kid ever featured in the Ranger. Though many advertisements for the Ranger featured in the other papers, I never saw the Rio Kid advertised to appear therein. Quite remarkable!)

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