

'THE LOADED DOG'

AND OTHER STORIES

By

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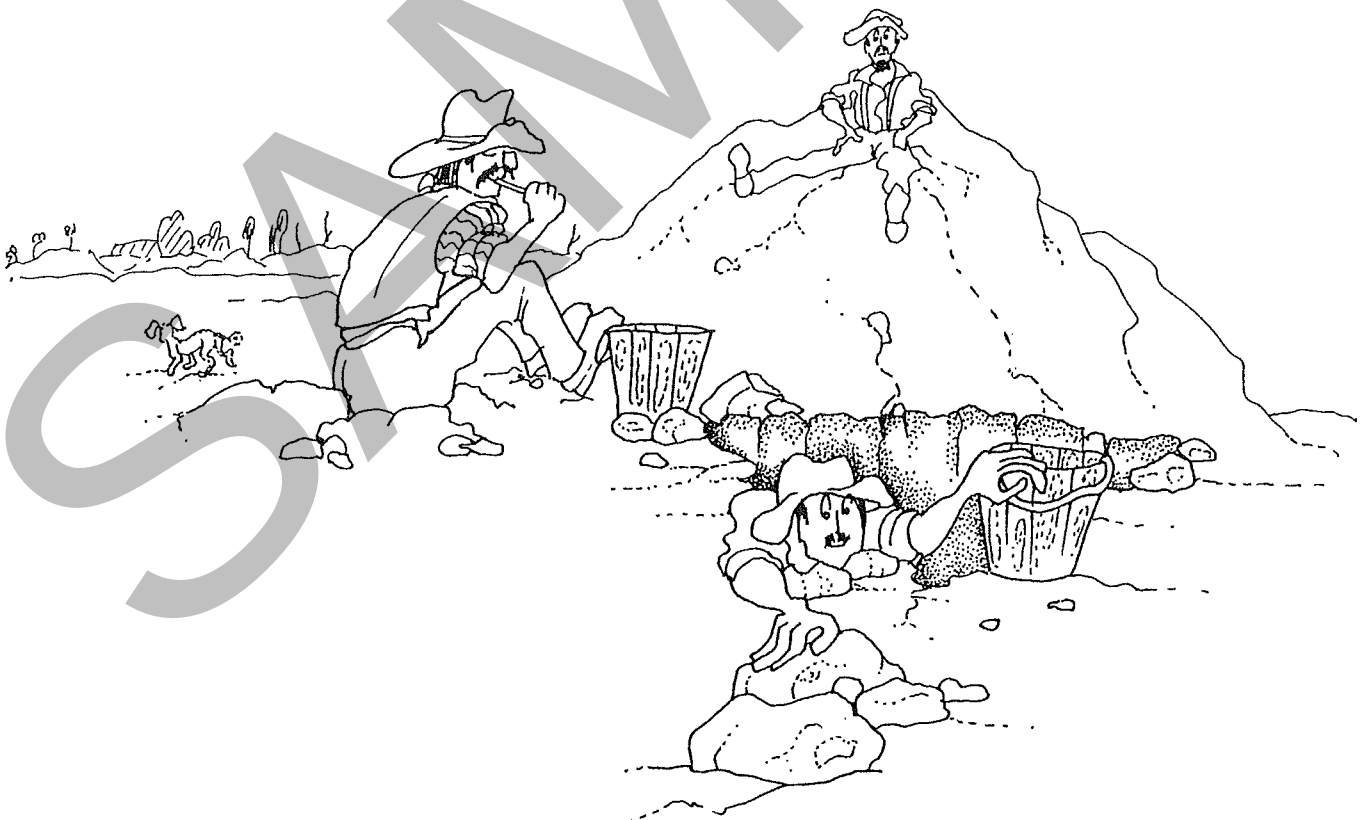
1 - THE LOADED DOG

Meet Dave, Jim and Andy

Dave Regan, Jim Bentley and Andy Page were sinking a **shaft** at Stony Creek in search of a rich gold quartz reef which was supposed to exist in the area. (There is always a rich reef supposed to exist in the area - the only questions are whether it is three metres or hundreds of metres beneath the surface, and in which direction).

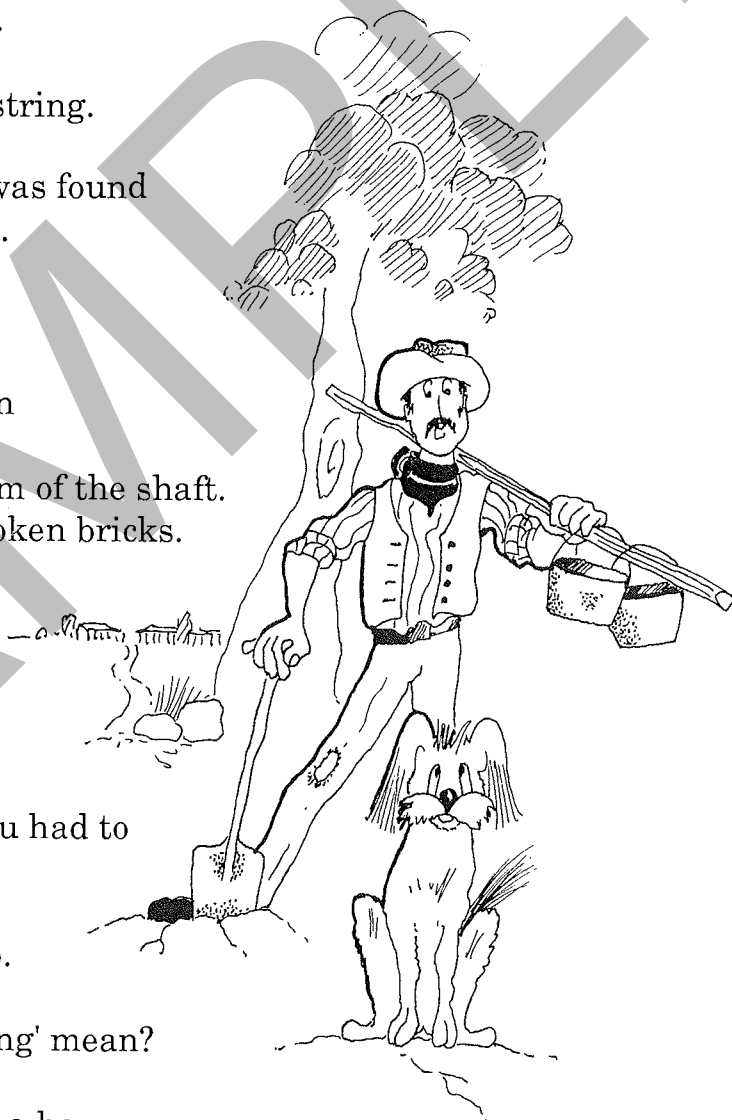
They had struck some pretty solid rock, also some water in the shaft which kept them **bailing**. To break up the rock they used old-fashioned blasting powder with a time fuse. They'd make a sausage-shaped bomb or cartridge of blasting powder wrapped in a skin of strong calico or canvas with the mouth sewn and bound around the end of the fuse. They'd dip the **cartridge** in melted fat to make it watertight, get the drill-hole as dry as possible and drop in the cartridge with some dry dust. Last, they would pack and ram the bottom of the hole with stiff clay and broken brick. Then they'd light the fuse and get out of the hole and wait.

The result was usually an ugly pot-hole in the bottom of the shaft and half a barrow-load of broken rock.



CIRCLE THE LETTER THAT BEGINS EACH CORRECT ANSWER

- 1 Dave, Jim and Andy were searching for
(a) gold. (b) silver.
(c) quartz.
- 2 At the bottom of the shaft the miners met with
(a) water and stiff clay. (b) hard rock.
(c) water and hard rock.
- 3 The rock was
(a) difficult to work. (b) easy to work.
(c) soft.
- 4 They kept the cartridge dry by
(a) covering it with calico.
(b) dipping it in fat.
(c) sewing it with strong string.
- 5 At Stony Creek the gold was found
(a) mixed with red topsoil.
(b) in the creek bed.
(c) in hard quartz rock.
- 6 Each explosion resulted in
(a) a broken barrow.
(b) a pot-hole in the bottom of the shaft.
(c) stiff clay and many broken bricks.
- 7 The cartridge was
(a) short and round.
(b) flat on top.
(c) long and thin.
- 8 To set the cartridge off you had to
(a) light the fuse.
(b) melt the fat.
(c) wrap it in strong calico.
- 9 What does the word 'bailing' mean?
(a) Digging.
(b) Breaking up rock with a hammer.
(c) Throwing out water.



Andy and Dave go Fishing

There was plenty of fish in the creek, fresh-water bream, cod, cat-fish and tailers. The miners were fond of fish, and Andy and Dave liked fishing. Andy would fish for three hours at a stretch if he had a nibble or a bite now and then (say once in twenty minutes.) The butcher was always willing to give them meat in exchange for fish when they caught more than they could eat.

Now it was winter and the fish wouldn't bite. The creek was so low it was just a chain of muddy waterholes. Some holes had just a few bucketfuls in them while the larger pools had an average depth of two or three metres. Dave and Andy could get fish by bailing out the smaller holes or muddying up the water in the larger ones till the fish rose to the surface.

"There was the cat-fish, with spikes growing out of the side of its head. If you got spiked by it you'd know it," Dave said.

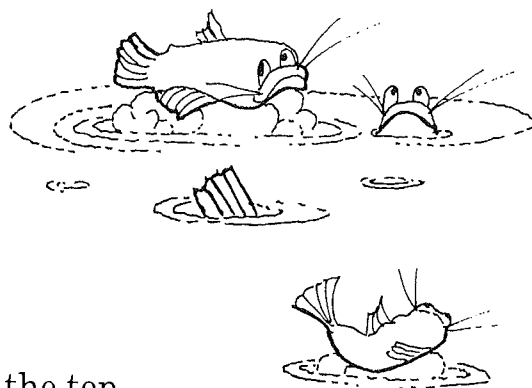
One day Andy took off his boots, tucked up his trousers, and went into a hole to stir up the mud with his feet, and he knew it.

Dave scooped one out with his hand and got spiked, and he knew it too. "My arm swelled, and the pain throbbed into my shoulder, and down into my stomach, too," he said, "like a toothache I had once, that kept me awake for two nights. But the toothache wasn't as bad as that fish," Dave said.



CIRCLE THE LETTER THAT BEGINS EACH CORRECT ANSWER

- 1 What kept Andy fishing for hours at a time?
 - (a) The thought of the fish.
 - (b) Andy was lazy.
 - (c) A few nibbles and bites.
- 2 What did the miners get in exchange for fish?
 - (a) Sugar.
 - (b) Meat.
 - (c) Tea and sugar.
- 3 The fish wouldn't bite because
 - (a) it was winter.
 - (b) the creek was too muddy.
 - (c) Andy had the wrong bait.
- 4 How did they get fish out of the larger holes?
 - (a) By bailing out all the water.
 - (b) By feeling the fish with their feet.
 - (c) By making the fish rise when the water was muddied.
- 5 The most dangerous fish in the creek was the
 - (a) cat-fish.
 - (b) bream.
 - (c) tailer.
- 6 Cat-fish have spikes on their
 - (a) backs.
 - (b) tails.
 - (c) heads.
- 7 Andy took off his boots because
 - (a) he was stung.
 - (b) he wanted to make the fish rise to the top.
 - (c) he wanted to cross the creek.
- 8 When Dave was stung
 - (a) his arm went blue.
 - (b) his tooth ached.
 - (c) his arm swelled, his shoulder throbbed and his stomach ached.



-- ANSWERS --

1 - THE LOADED DOG

Pages 2 & 3

Meet Dave, Jim and Andy

1 (a) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (a) 9 (c)

Pages 4 & 5

Andy and Dave go Fishing

1 (c) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (a) 6 (c) 7 (b) 8 (c)

Pages 6 & 7

Dave's Idea

1 (c) 2 (b) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (a) 6 (c) 7 (b) 8 (b) 9 (a)

Pages 8 & 9

Tommy, the Retriever

1 (a) 2 (b) 3 (b) 4 (a) 5 (c) 6 (b) 7 (c) 8 (c) 9 (a) 10 (a) 11 (c)

Pages 10 & 11

The Loaded Dog

1 (a) 2 (c) 3 (c) 4 (c) 5 (a) 6 (c) 7 (b)

Pages 12 & 13

Tommy Meets the Yellow Dog

1 (a) 2 (c) 3 (c) 4 (a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (c) 8 (b) 9 (a)

Pages 14 & 15

The Explosion

1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (a) 4 (c) 5 (a) 6 (b)

Pages 16 & 17

Afterwards

1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (b) 4 (c) 5 (b)