

The Life and Times
of \$crooge McDuck
PART SEVEN

DREAMTIME DUCK OF THE NEVER-NEVER

PIZEN
BLUFF

"SO, YOUR LAD DIDNAE FIND ANY GOLD
IN AFRICA! WHERE DID HE GO NEXT--
SOOMWHERE IN AMERICA AGIN',
WARN'T IT?"

PERTH

KALGOORLIE

MALLEE
SCRUBLAND

DESERT
FLATS

MAP OF
AUSTRALIA

The Dalton Boys
entering town

The Dalton
leaving town

"AYE, TO A REMOTE WESTERN TOWN CALLED PIZEN
BLUFF! THE POOR LAD SEARCHED FOR GOLD AND
FOUGHT OUTLAWS FOR FOUR YEARS, BUT FOUND
ONLY WEE NUGGETS!"

FERGUS, YOUR BOY HAS
BEEN AROUND THE WORLD
TWICE AND HE'S NAE YET
THIRTY YEARS OLD!

AYE, JAKE, AND YOU AN'
I HAE NEVER EVEN LEFT
SCOTLAND!

STILL, THE LAD SENDS HOOM ENOUGH
MONEY TO KEEP US LIVIN' IN OUR
ANCESTRAL CASTLE!

WHERE IS
HE NOW?

HE'S
DOON
UNDER!

AH-VE NO DOUBT THE LAD WILL PASS ON
SOOMDAY, BUT SURELY HE'S STILL
WITH US?!

NO, NO-- I MEAN HE'S IN AUSTRALIA! HE
HEARD GOLD WAS FOUND IN KALGOORLIE,
SO HE CAUGHT THE FIRST CLIPPER HEADIN' THAT WAY!

OH!

"BOOT HE NEVER GETS TO THE GOLDFIELDS FAST ENOUGH TO GRAB A GOOD CLAIM! THIS TIME HE EVEN RODE CROSS-COUNTRY IN A KANGAROO POUCH, BOOT HE WAS STILL TOO LATE!"



"KANGAROO? THE BEASTIE WITH A GUNNY SACK IN ITS BELLY?"

"AYE! THE LAD WRITES TO US ABOUT THE STRANGEST ANIMALS! GIANT WINGLESS BIRDS, FLYING POSSUMS, BIRDS THAT STEAL SHINY BAUBLES TO DECORATE THEIR NESTS, EGG-LAYIN' OTTERS..."



"...BOOT IN SPITE OF THAT, HE'LL FIND HIS POT O' GOLD YET! HE'S SOOCH A HARDWORKIN' BOY!"

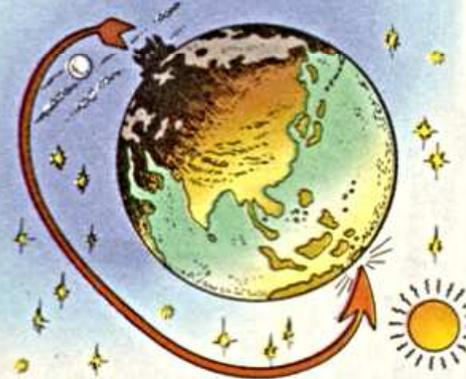
AYE! A TOAST TO THE LAD!



HERE'S TO SCROOGE McDUCK!



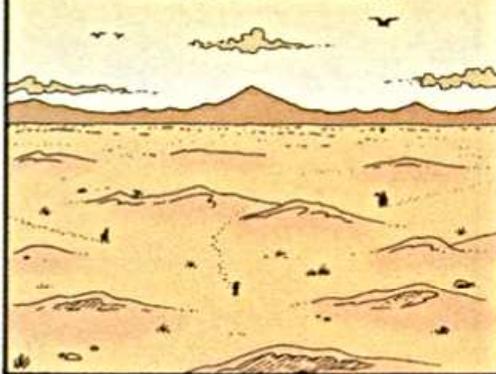
AT THIS MOMENT, YOUNG SCROOGE IS ON THE ABSOLUTE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PLANET FROM HIS SCOTTISH HOME.



WELL, NO, THAT WOULD BE IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN, SOUTH OF NEW ZEALAND, ACTUALLY...



BUT A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY IN A LESS WET AREA-- IN FACT, A DESERT ON THE WEST AUSTRALIA PLATEAU-- THREE LONE FIGURES APPROACH EACH OTHER...



THE FIRST IS AN AGED ABORIGINE WISEMAN.

HEY! BAIL UP THERE, YOU OLD SUNDOWNER!



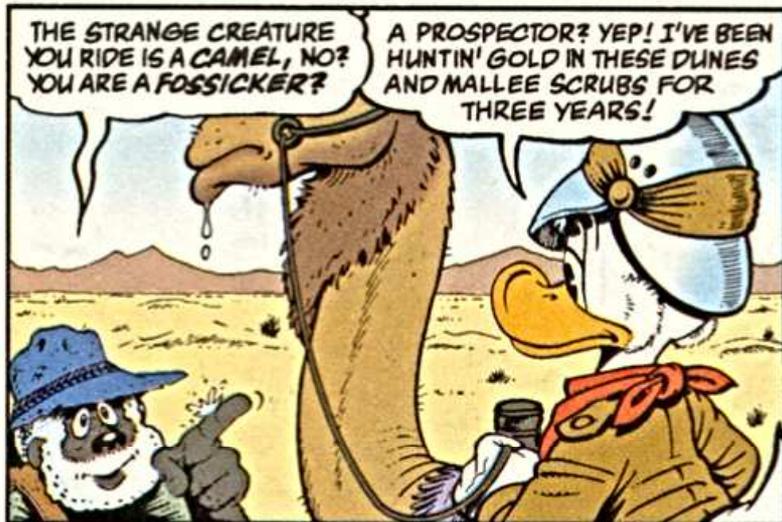
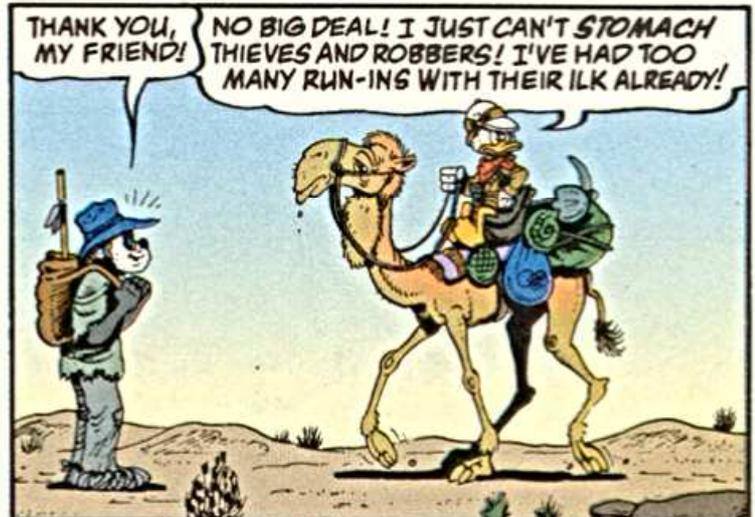
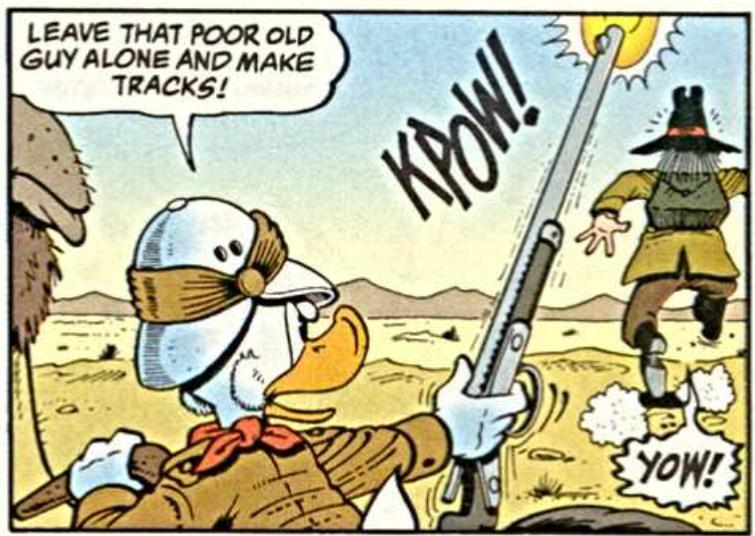
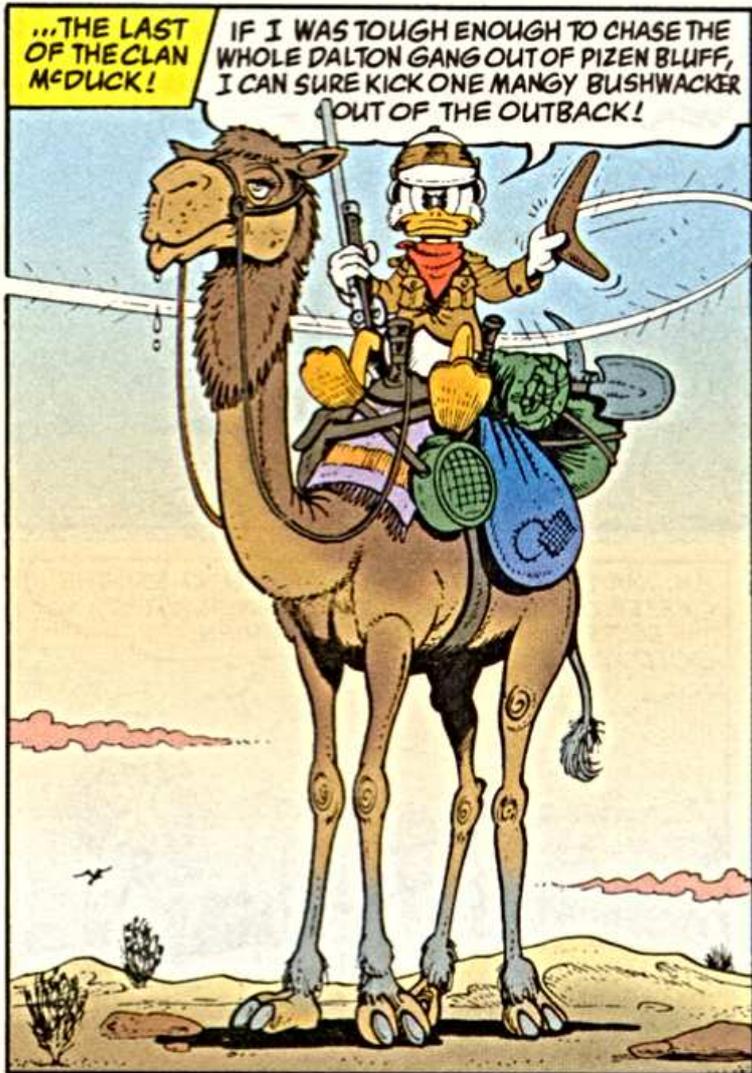
THE SECOND IS A HIGHWAYMAN-- A ROBBER!

LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR SWAG, MATE!



AND THE THIRD WAYWARD TRAVELLER IS...







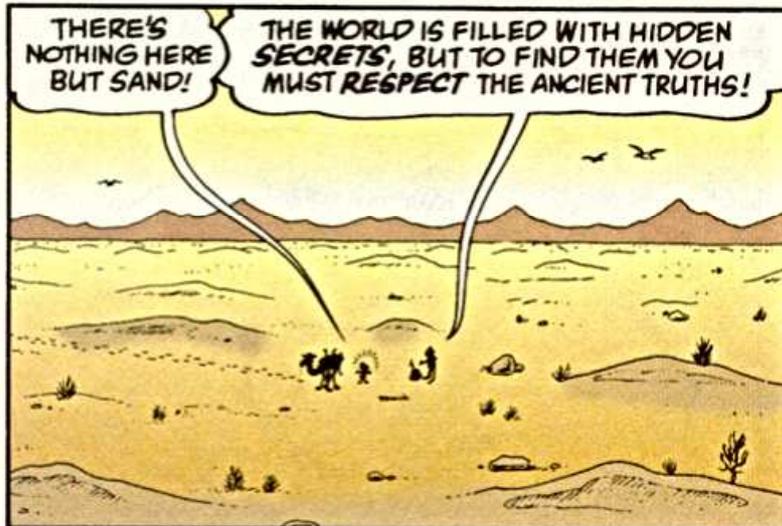
TO THE WHICH TO READ THE WHAT?

PARDON ME... MY CRYSTAL SHOWS ME THAT THE WHITE COCKATOOS ARE POINTING EARTHWARD!



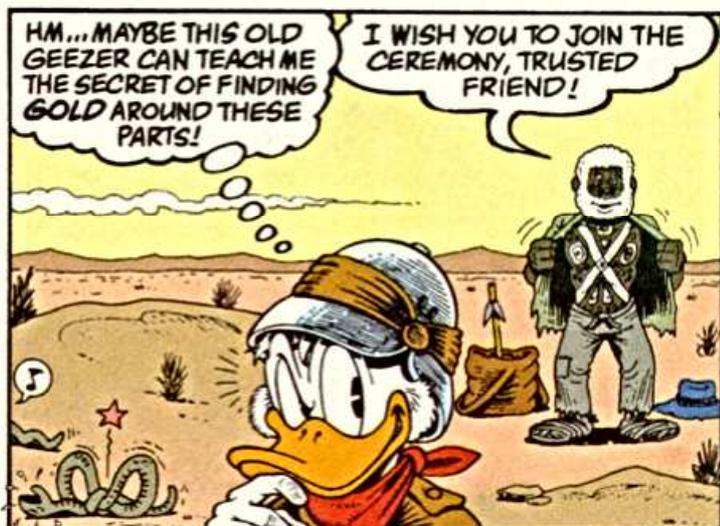
WHITE COCKATOOS? THOSE CLOUDS?

WE ARE AT THE CAVE OF BINDAGBINDAG'S DREAM! I MUST PREPARE!



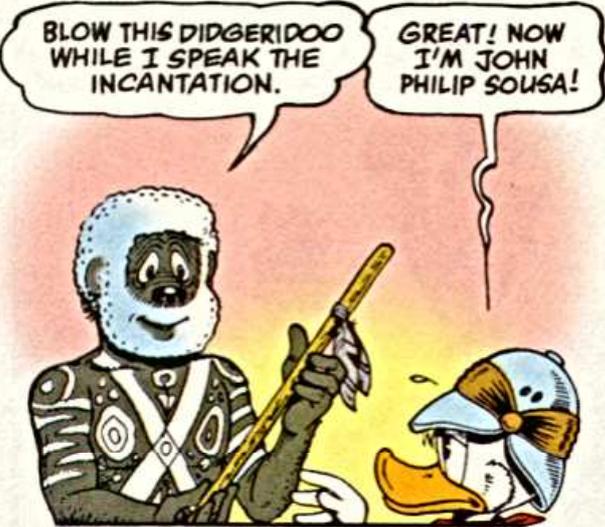
THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT SAND!

THE WORLD IS FILLED WITH HIDDEN SECRETS, BUT TO FIND THEM YOU MUST RESPECT THE ANCIENT TRUTHS!



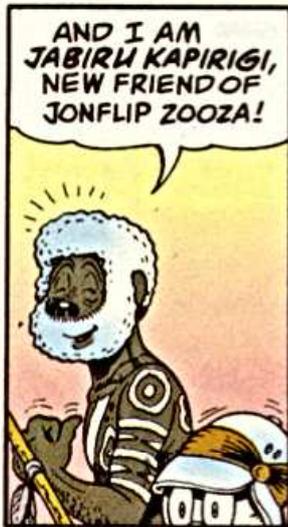
HM... MAYBE THIS OLD GEEZER CAN TEACH ME THE SECRET OF FINDING GOLD AROUND THESE PARTS!

I WISH YOU TO JOIN THE CEREMONY, TRUSTED FRIEND!

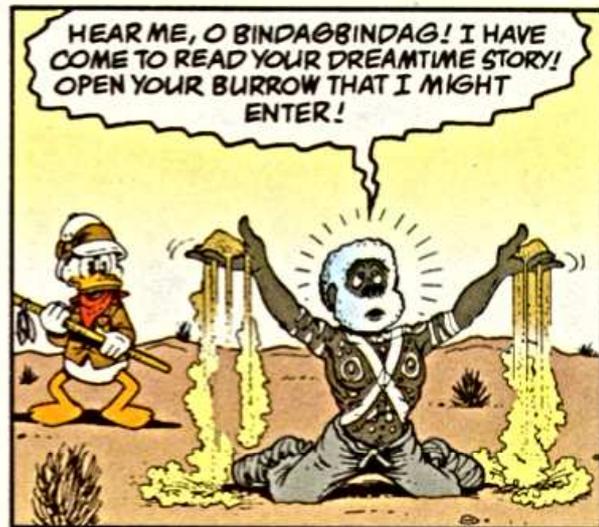


BLOW THIS DIDGERIDOO WHILE I SPEAK THE INCANTATION.

GREAT! NOW I'M JOHN PHILIP SOUSA!



AND I AM JABIRU KAPIRIGI, NEW FRIEND OF JONFLIP ZOOZA!



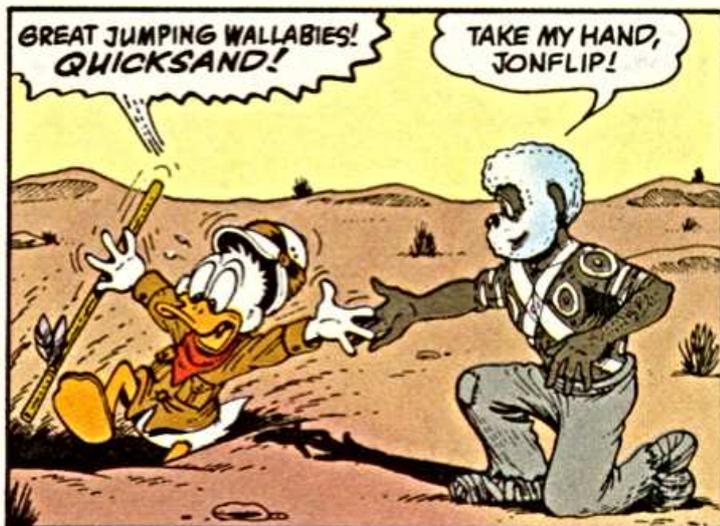
HEAR ME, O BINDAGBINDAG! I HAVE COME TO READ YOUR DREAMTIME STORY! OPEN YOUR BURROW THAT I MIGHT ENTER!



TWOOAAULT!



TWOOAAULT! ?



GREAT JUMPING WALLABIES! QUICKSAND!

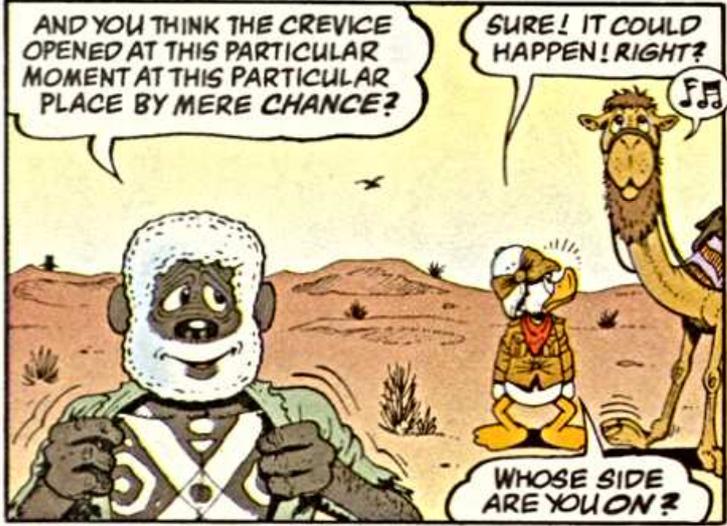
TAKE MY HAND, JONFLIP!



YOU SEE? BINDAGBINDAG OPENS HER BURROW FOR US!

JIGGERYPOOK! A CREVICE JUST OPENED IN THE BEDROCK, AND SAND IS POURING IN!

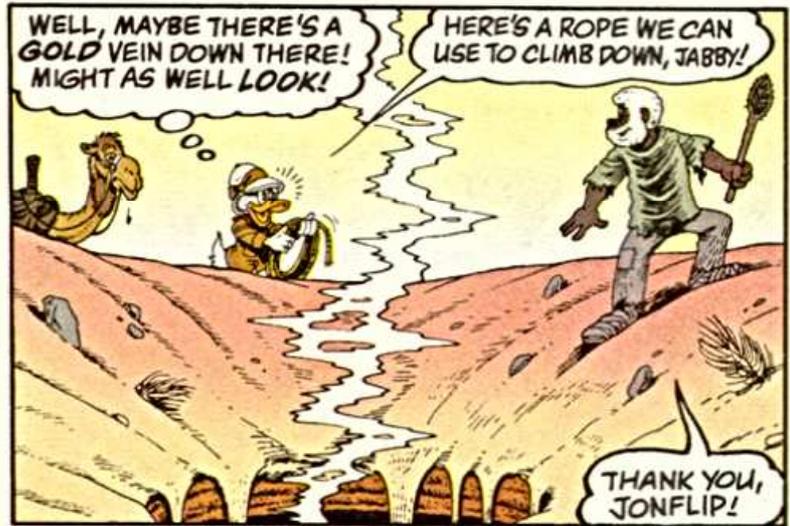
CRASH!



AND YOU THINK THE CREVICE OPENED AT THIS PARTICULAR MOMENT AT THIS PARTICULAR PLACE BY MERE CHANCE?

SURE! IT COULD HAPPEN! RIGHT?

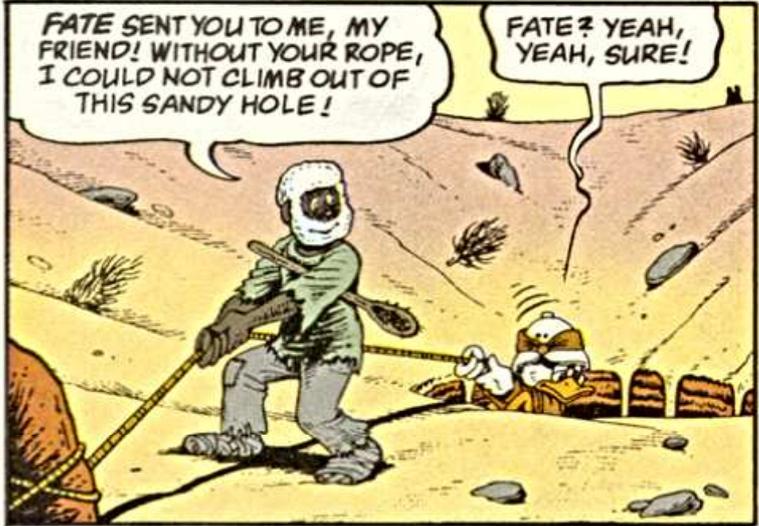
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?



WELL, MAYBE THERE'S A GOLD VEIN DOWN THERE! MIGHT AS WELL LOOK!

HERE'S A ROPE WE CAN USE TO CLIMB DOWN, JABBY!

THANK YOU, JONFLIP!



FATE SENT YOU TO ME, MY FRIEND! WITHOUT YOUR ROPE, I COULD NOT CLIMB OUT OF THIS SANDY HOLE!

FATE? YEAH, YEAH, SURE!



WHOA! THERE'S NOT ENOUGH ROPE IN SYDNEY TO EXPLORE THIS BOTTOMLESS PIT!

I NEED ONLY VISIT THIS SIDE GALLERY!



GOSH ALL FISHHOOKS! CAVE PAINTINGS AS FAR AS I CAN SEE! IT'S LIKE A MUSEUM!

EXACTLY RIGHT! THIS IS THE DREAM OF BINDAGBINDAG-- PAINTED HERE AT THE BEGINNING OF ALL TIME!



WHAT'S WITH ALL THE HANDPRINTS?

IT IS THE LOG! I MUST SIGN IT AS HAVE MY ANCESTORS ON EACH TRIP TO THIS CAVE!



I HAVEN'T SEEN SO MANY WAVING HANDS SINCE I SAILED FROM THE GLASGOW DOCKS! YOU GUYS MUST'VE BEEN COMING HERE FOR A COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS, EH?



TIME IS MEANINGLESS, JONFLIP! SHAMANS JOURNEY TO DIFFERENT DREAM CAVES EACH CYCLE! THE LAST VISITOR HERE WAS MY FATHER'S FATHER, ONE HUNDRED SEASON-CYCLES AGO!



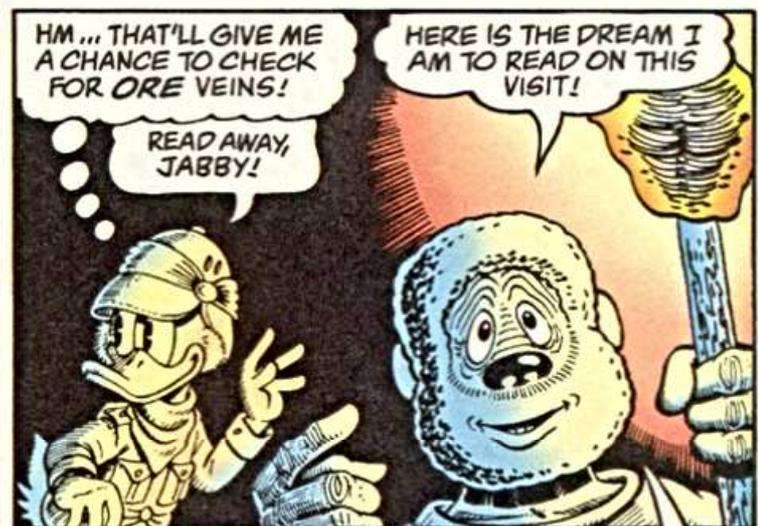
GLEEP! SEVERAL HUNDRED VISITS--THAT'S OVER 20,000 YEARS!

DREAMTIME WAS NOT LAST WEEK, JONFLIP!



SHUDDER! THESE PAINTINGS WERE MADE MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED CENTURIES AGO?!

THAT DOES NOT CHANGE THEIR TRUTH, MY FRIEND! SHALL I READ FOR YOU?



HM... THAT'LL GIVE ME A CHANCE TO CHECK FOR ORE VEINS!

READ AWAY, JABBY!

HERE IS THE DREAM I AM TO READ ON THIS VISIT!



IT TELLS OF KAKADU THE DINGO. HE STEALS THE CROCODILE EGG FROM ITS NEST!

BUT THE GREAT PLATYPUS CHASES KAKADU...

...AND IIRIA, THE BLACK COCKATOO, SENDS BUNYIP, THE WATER MONSTER, AFTER THE EGG THIEF!

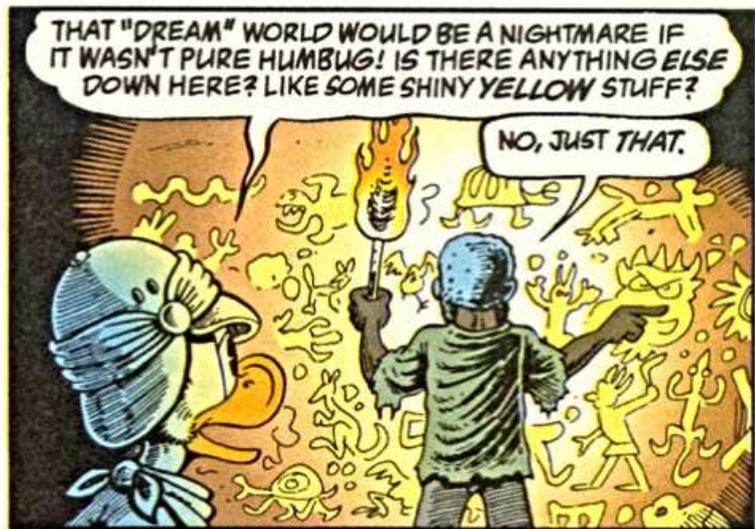
BUNYIP CHASES THE DINGO...

... AND THE GREAT PLATYPUS FINDS THE SACRED EGG, BUT LOSES HIS FIRSTBORN IN THE FIGHT!



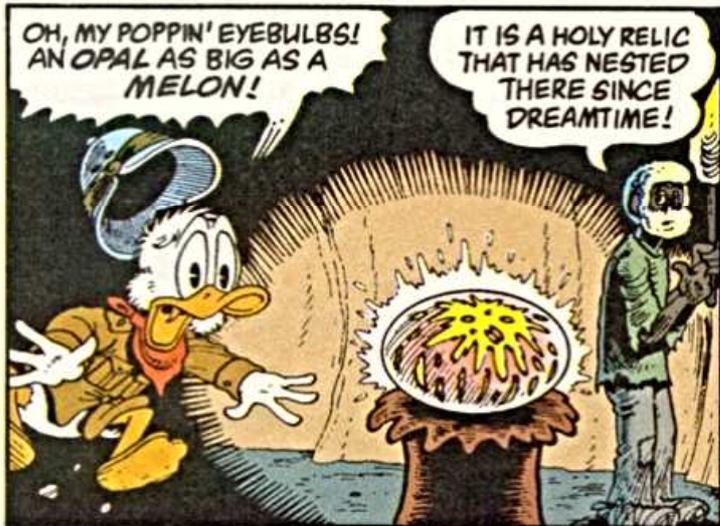
LOSES HIS FIRST-BORN? THAT'LL TEACH HIM TO MIND HIS OWN BUSINESS!

BUT DOES THE GREAT PLATYPUS RETURN THE EGG TO ITS NEST? HM... THAT PART IS UNCLEAR!



THAT "DREAM" WORLD WOULD BE A NIGHTMARE IF IT WASN'T PURE HUMBUG! IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE DOWN HERE? LIKE SOME SHINY YELLOW STUFF?

NO, JUST THAT.



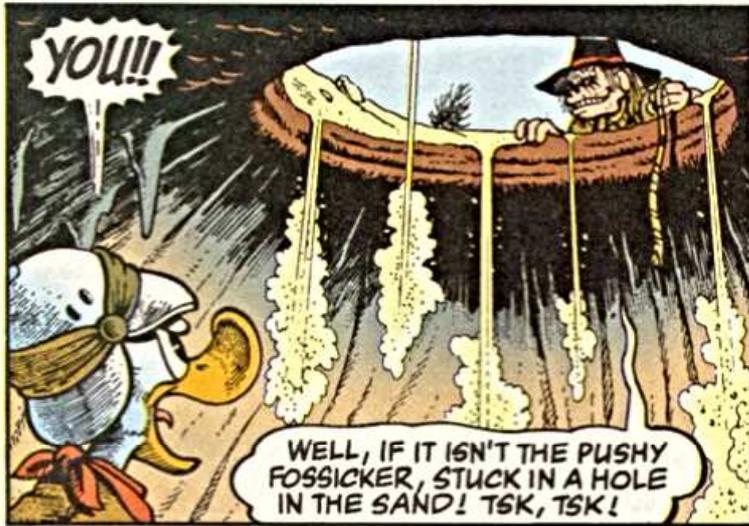
OH, MY POPPIN' EYEBULBS! AN OPAL AS BIG AS A MELON!

IT IS A HOLY RELIC THAT HAS NESTED THERE SINCE DREAMTIME!



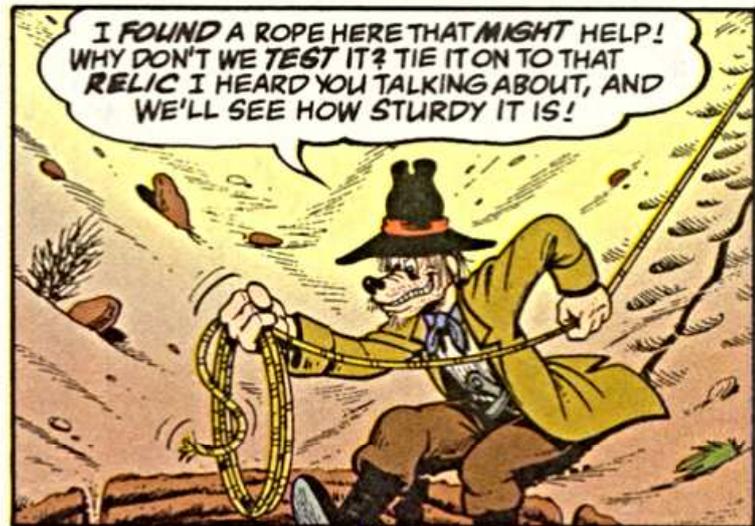
LISTEN, JABBY-- WHO DO I TALK TO ABOUT... er... BUYING THAT "RELIC"?

LOOK, JONFLIP! THE ROPE LEAVES US!



YOU!!!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T THE PUSHY FOSSICKER, STUCK IN A HOLE IN THE SAND! TSK, TSK!

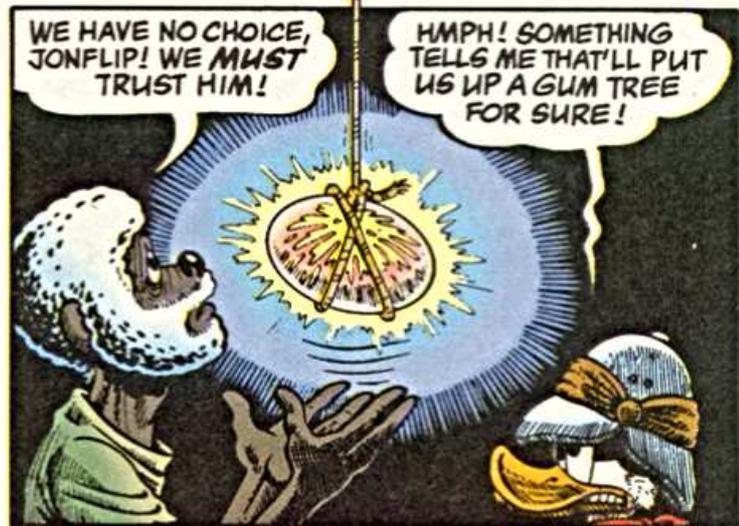


I FOUND A ROPE HERE THAT MIGHT HELP! WHY DON'T WE TEST IT? TIE IT ON TO THAT RELIC I HEARD YOU TALKING ABOUT, AND WE'LL SEE HOW STURDY IT IS!



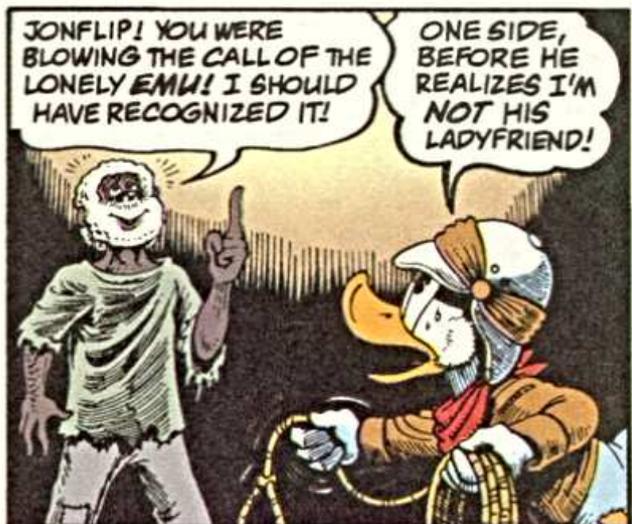
DON'T TRY TO CLIMB UP OR THE ROPE MIGHT JUST BREAK, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT!

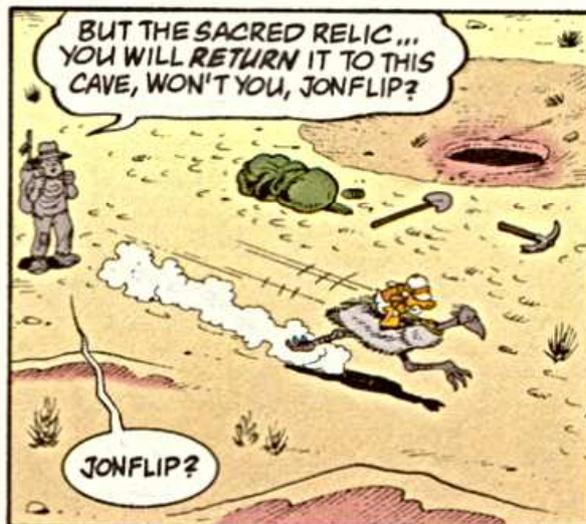
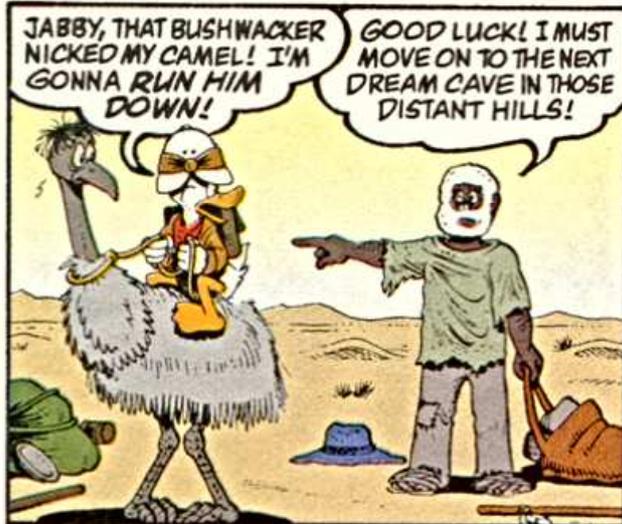
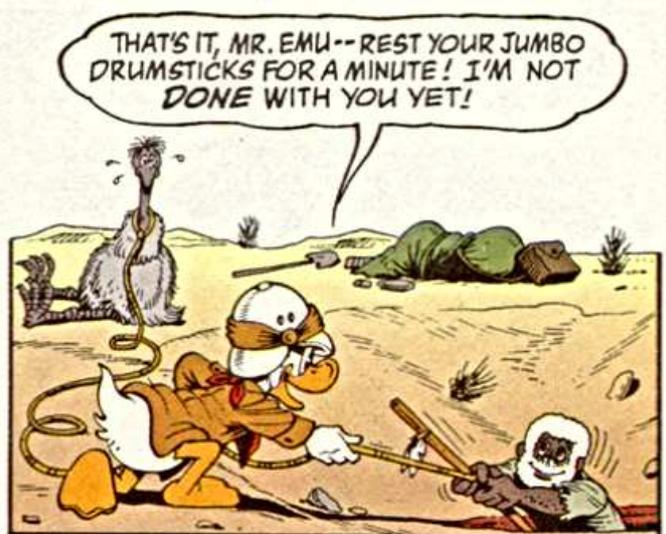
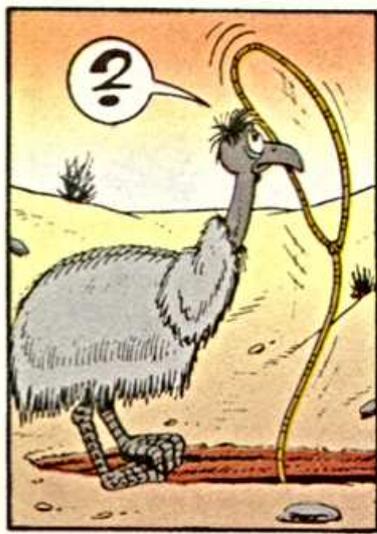
MY MAMA DIDN'T RAISE ANY STUPID PROSPECTORS!



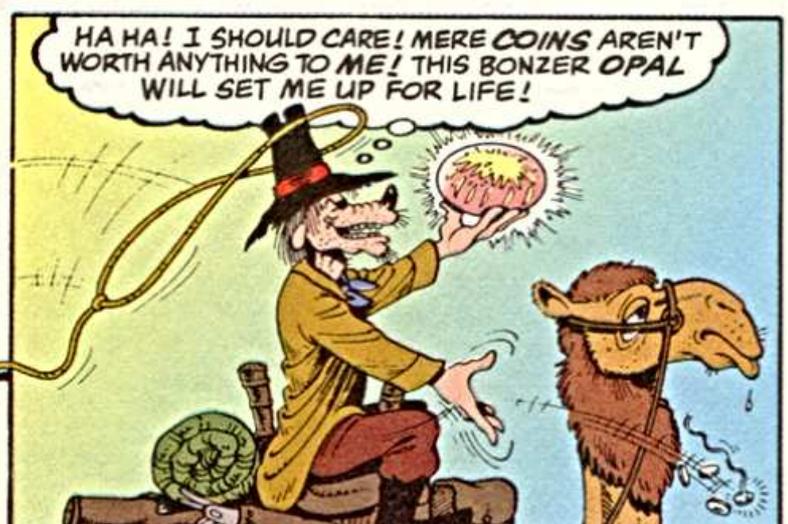
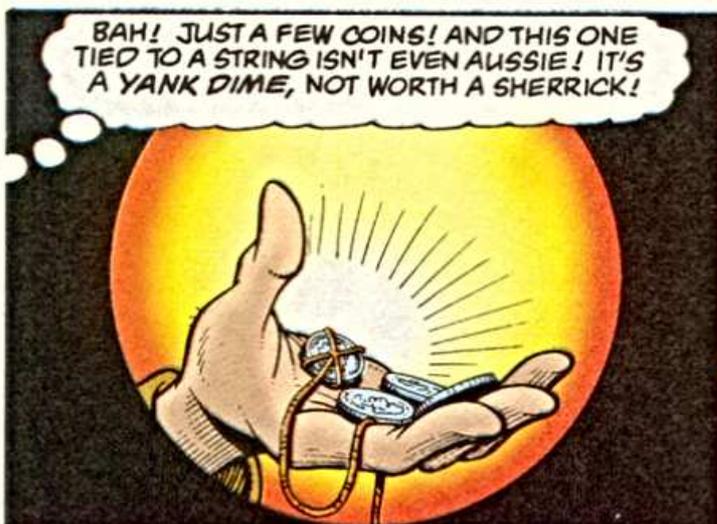
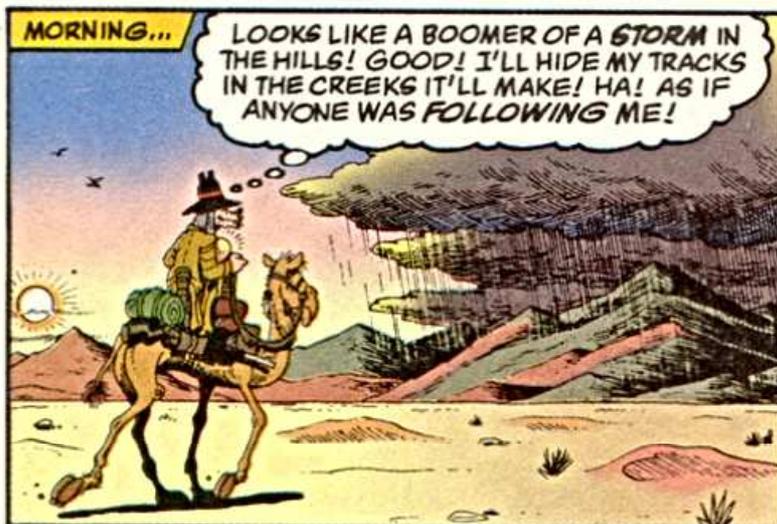
WE HAVE NO CHOICE, JONFLIP! WE MUST TRUST HIM!

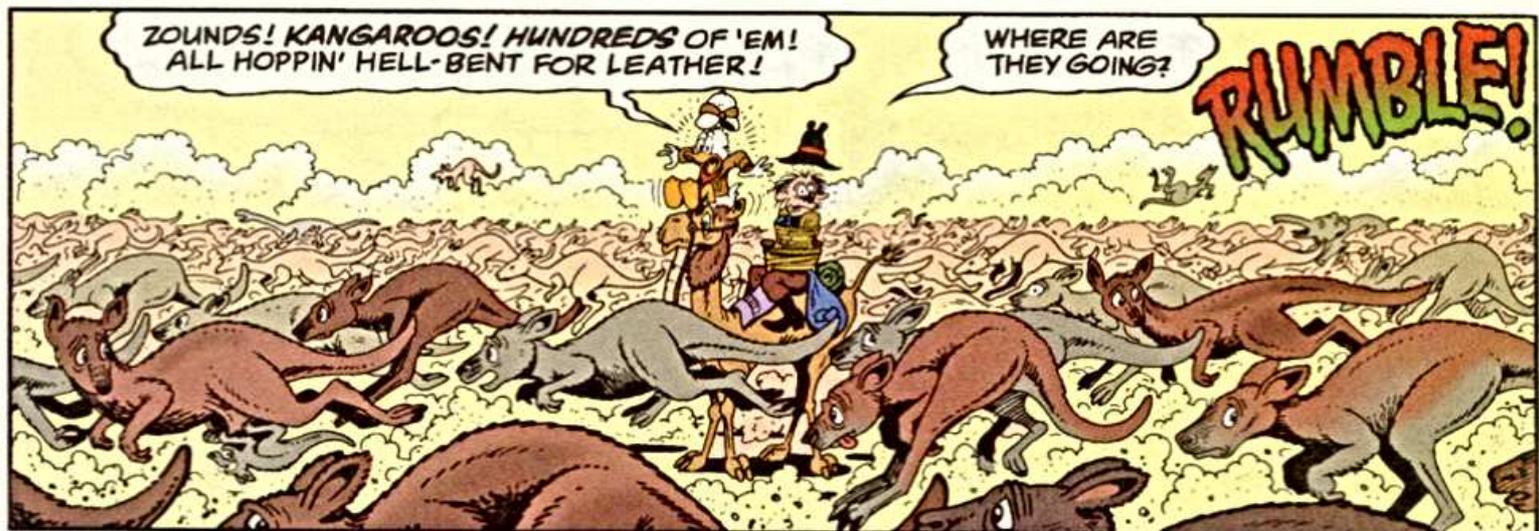
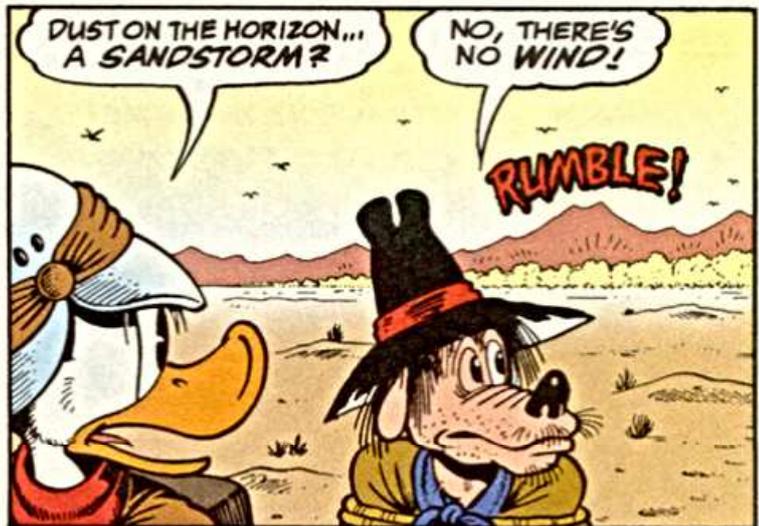
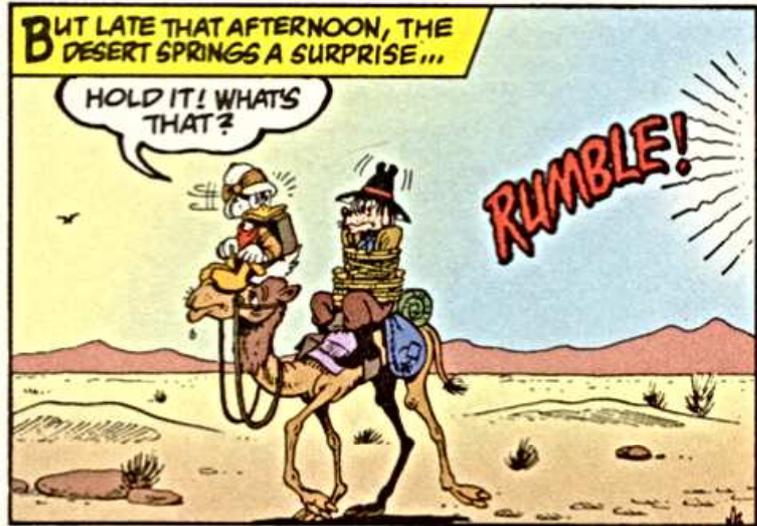
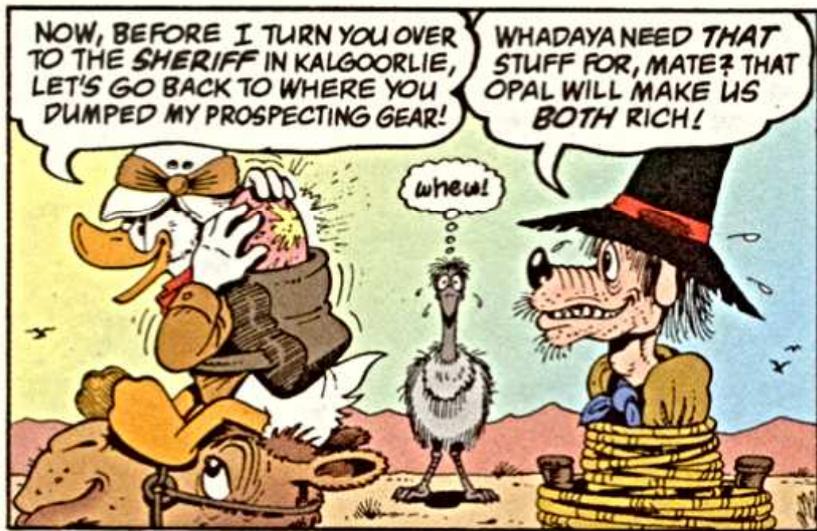
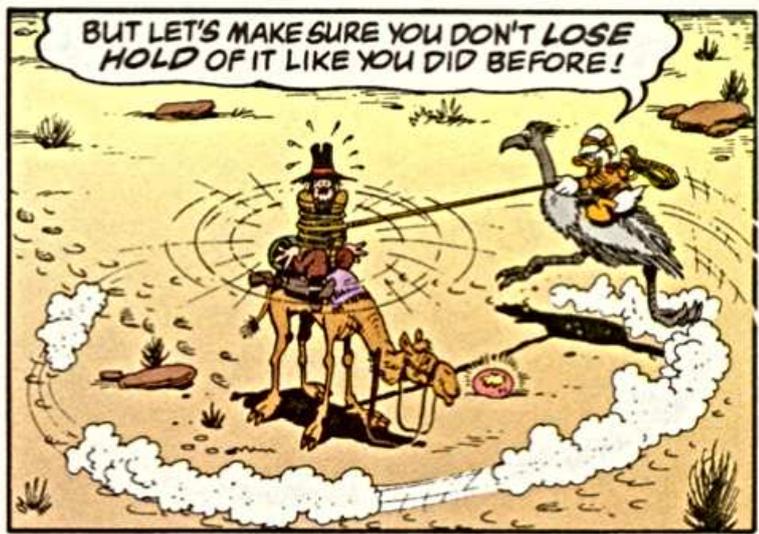
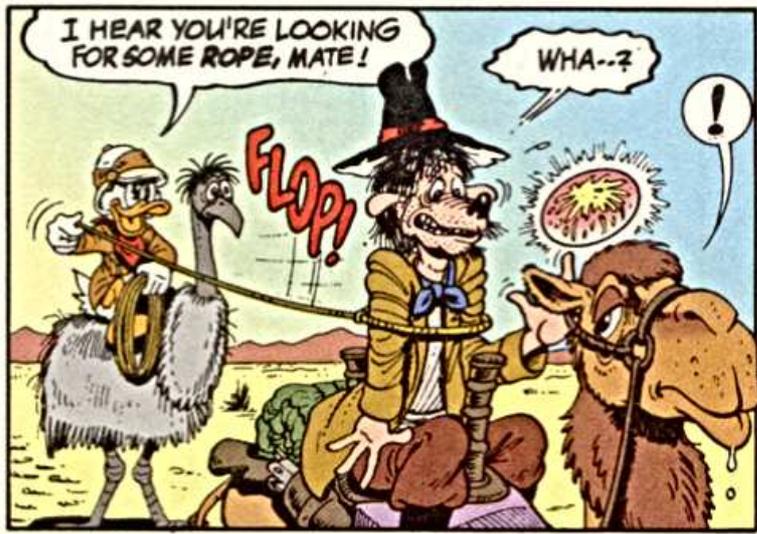
HMPH! SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT'LL PUT US UP A GUM TREE FOR SURE!





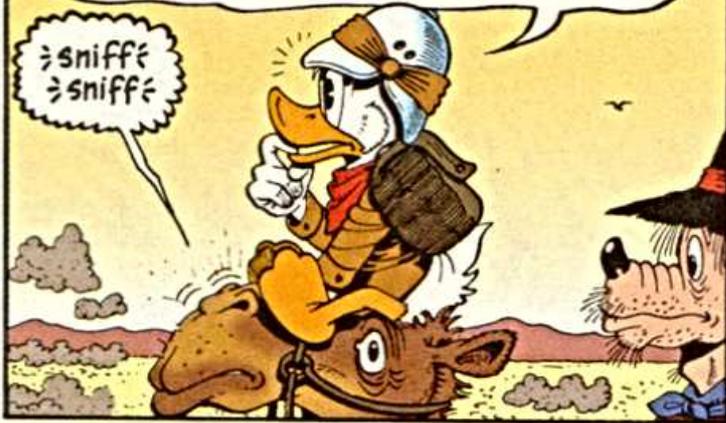
ON THROUGH THE NIGHT SCROOGE RACES, FOLLOWING THE BUSHWACKER'S TRACKS BY THE LIGHT OF THE FULL MOON.





REMINDS ME OF ELEPHANTS STAMPEDING IN THE TRANSVAAL WHEN THERE WAS A GRASS FIRE! BUT THERE'S NOTHING TO BURN HERE BUT SAND!

sniff sniff



WHOOA! WHO'S STEERIN' THIS CONTRAPTION? WHERE'S THE BRAKES?

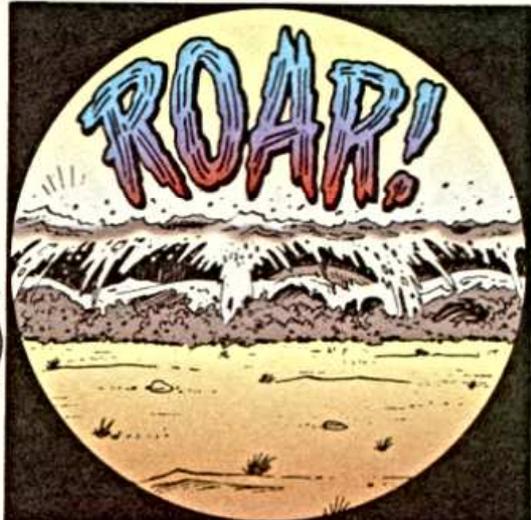
HEY!!



UH-OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE ANOTHER BUNCH OF KANGAROOS COMING! I'LL BE HOPPED TO A PULP!



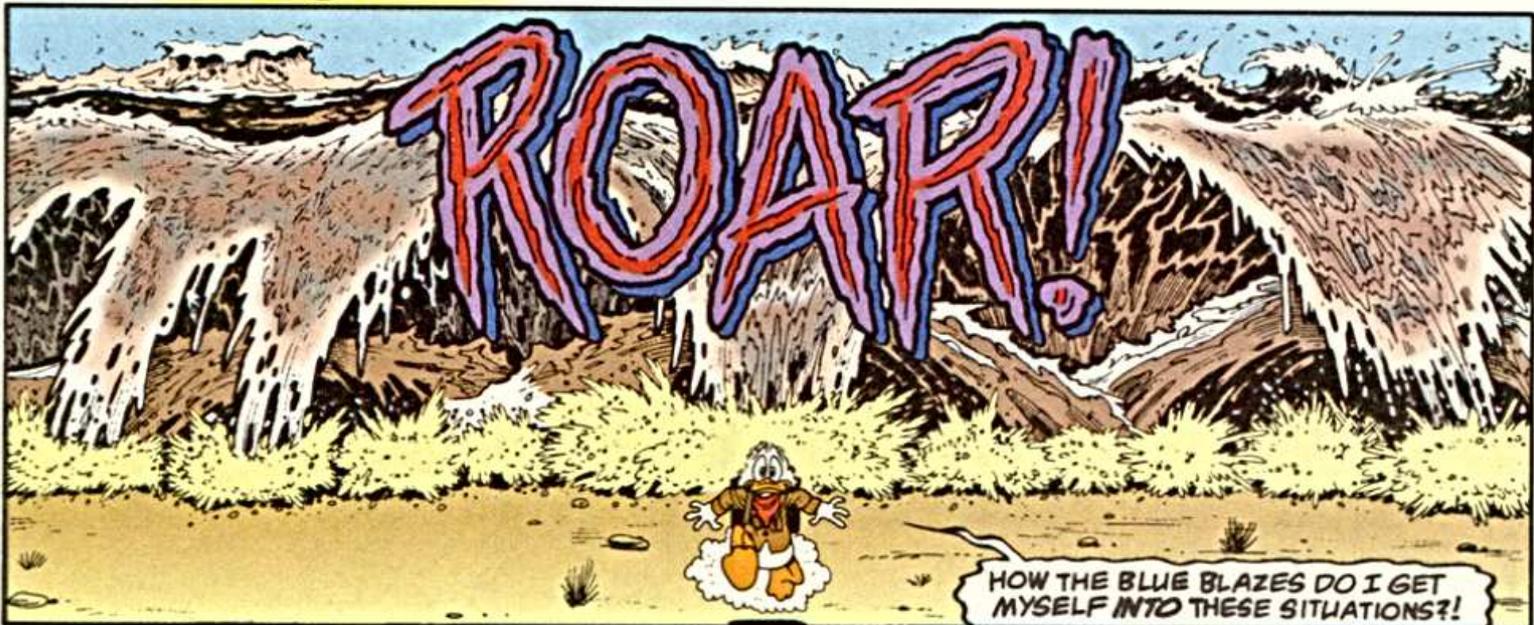
BUT I DON'T GET IT-- THERE'S NO BULLDUST BEING KICKED UP! I WONDER WHAT...



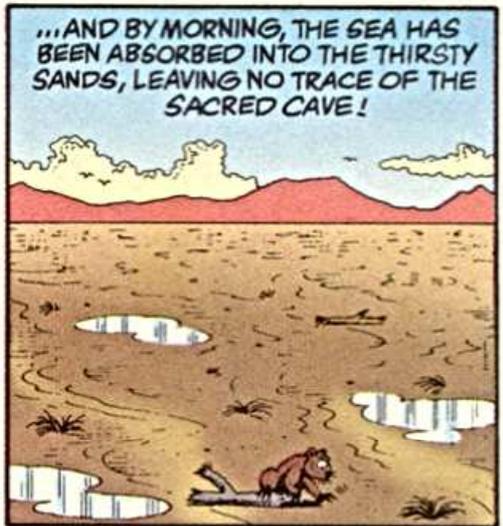
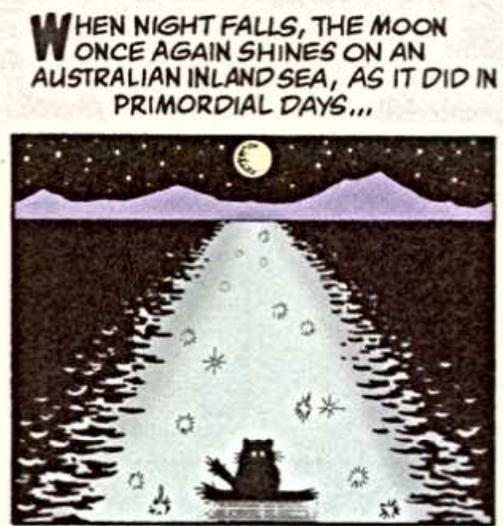
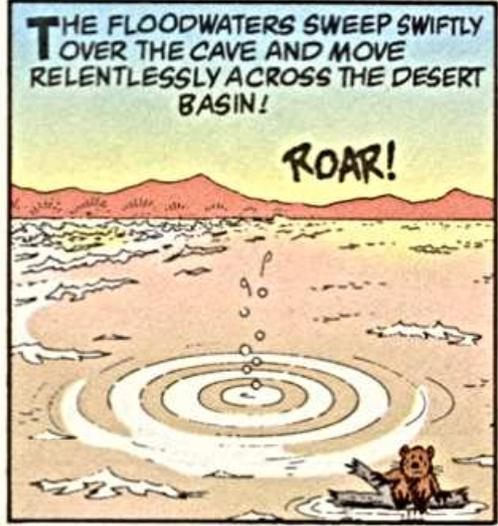
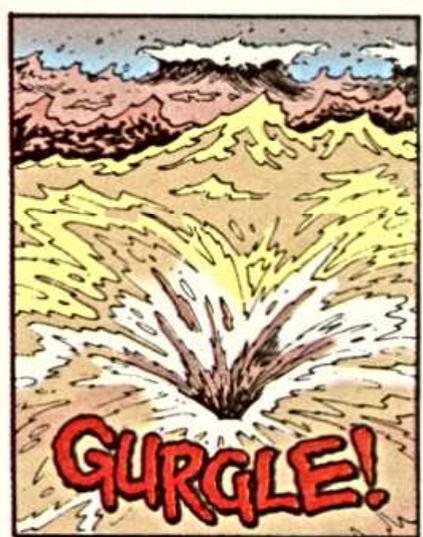
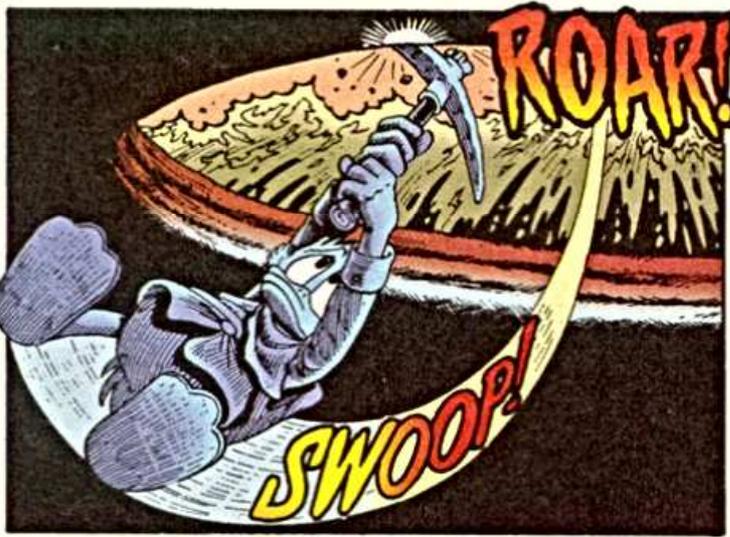
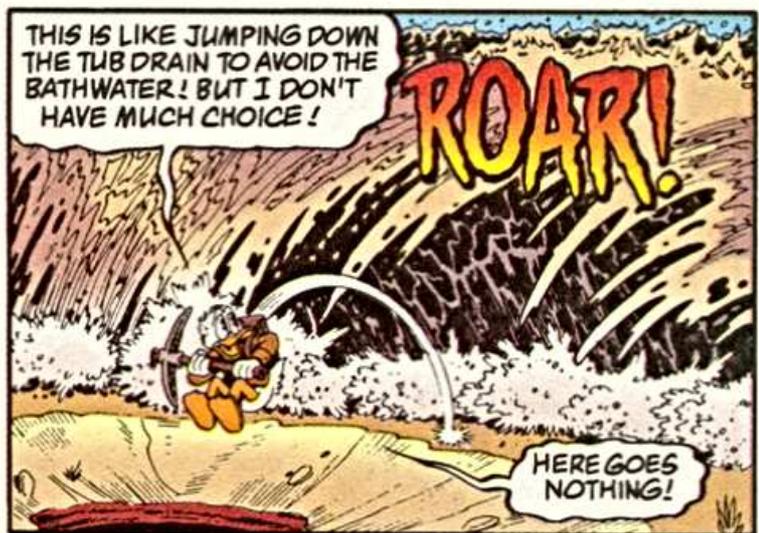
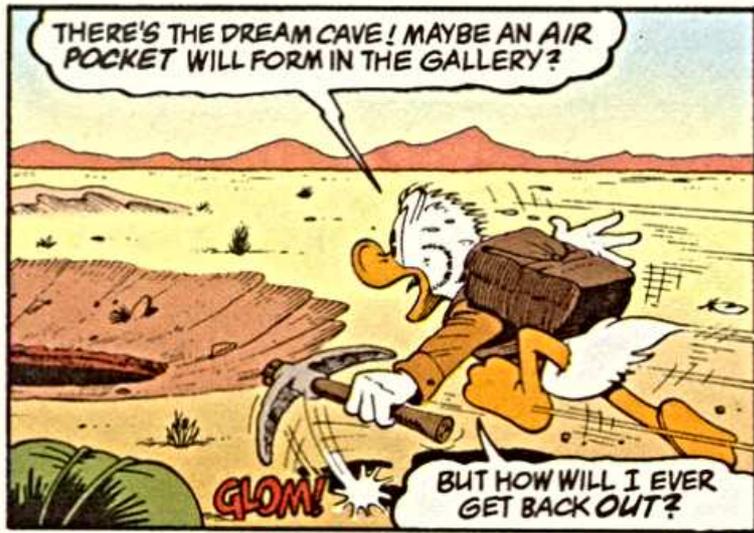
WAK! A FLOOD! A FLASH FLOOD IN THE DESERT! IT MUST BE FROM THAT HUGE STORM IN THE MOUNTAINS!

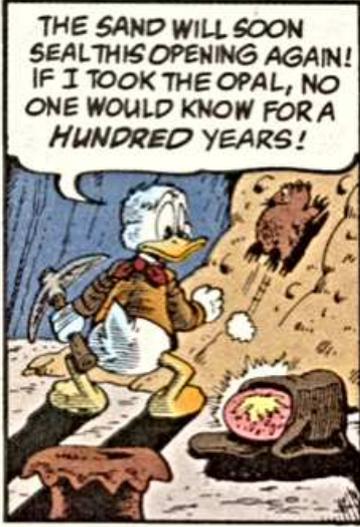


THERE'S NO BREAKWATER TALLER THAN A MALLEE SCRUB FOR TEN MILES! I'M DOOMED!

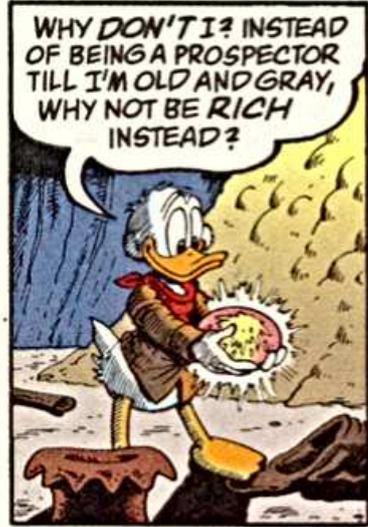


HOW THE BLUE BLAZES DO I GET MYSELF INTO THESE SITUATIONS?!





THE SAND WILL SOON SEAL THIS OPENING AGAIN! IF I TOOK THE OPAL, NO ONE WOULD KNOW FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!



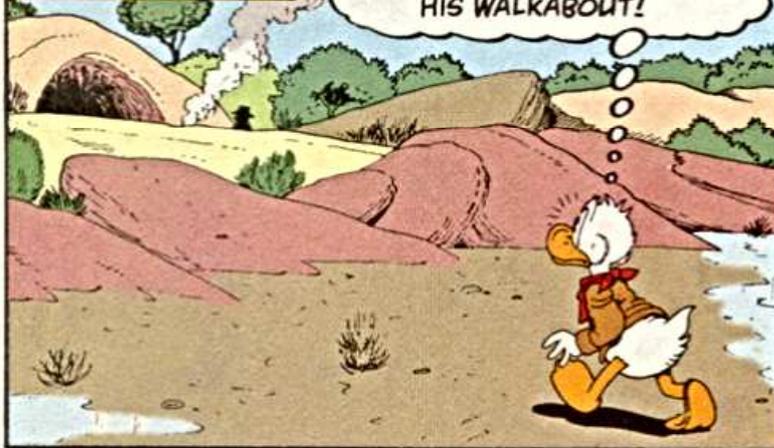
WHY DON'T I? INSTEAD OF BEING A PROSPECTOR TILL I'M OLD AND GRAY, WHY NOT BE RICH INSTEAD?



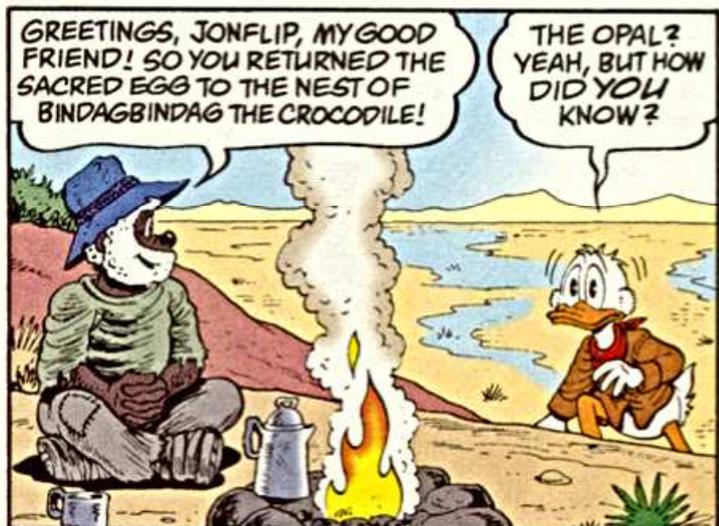
IT'S WORTH MILLIONS! AND WHO NEEDS SELF-RESPECT WHEN YOU'RE RICH? HA HA HA HA HA A A A A W NUTS!



MUCH LATER, AT THE DESERT'S EDGE...

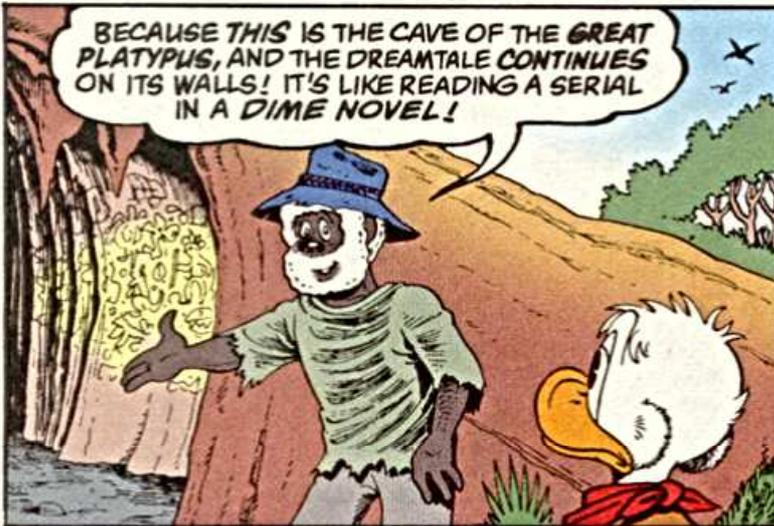


SMOKE! THAT COULD BE JABBY AT THE NEXT SACRED CAVE ON HIS WALKABOUT!



GREETINGS, JONFLIP, MY GOOD FRIEND! SO YOU RETURNED THE SACRED EGG TO THE NEST OF BINDAGBINDAG THE CROCODILE!

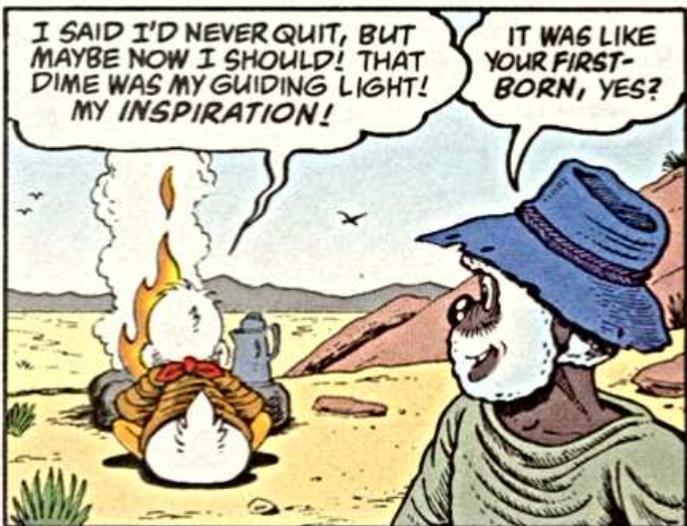
THE OPAL? YEAH, BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?



BECAUSE THIS IS THE CAVE OF THE GREAT PLATYPUS, AND THE DREAMTALE CONTINUES ON ITS WALLS! IT'S LIKE READING A SERIAL IN A DIME NOVEL!

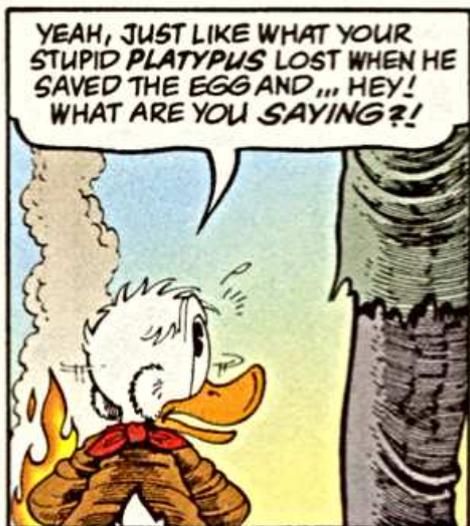


WHO CARES? FOR THE UMPTEENTH TIME, I'VE LOST EVERYTHING I OWN! ONLY THIS TIME, THAT EVEN INCLUDES MY FIRST DIME!



I SAID I'D NEVER QUIT, BUT MAYBE NOW I SHOULD! THAT DIME WAS MY GUIDING LIGHT! MY INSPIRATION!

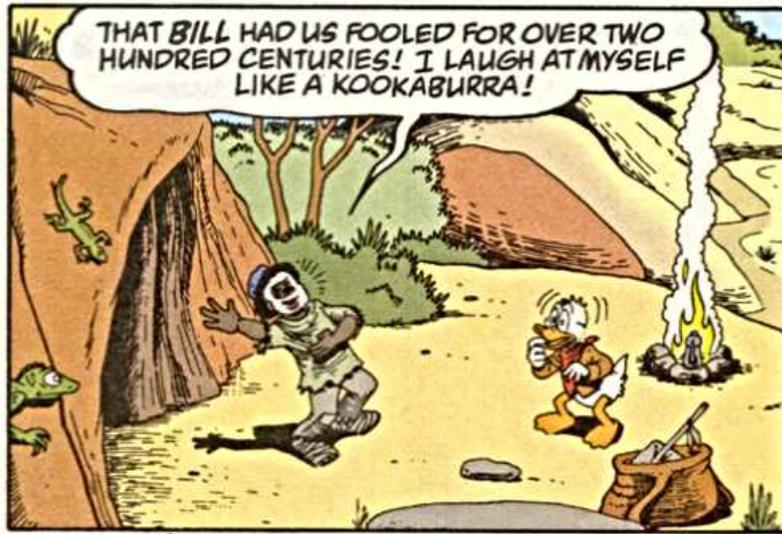
IT WAS LIKE YOUR FIRST-BORN, YES?



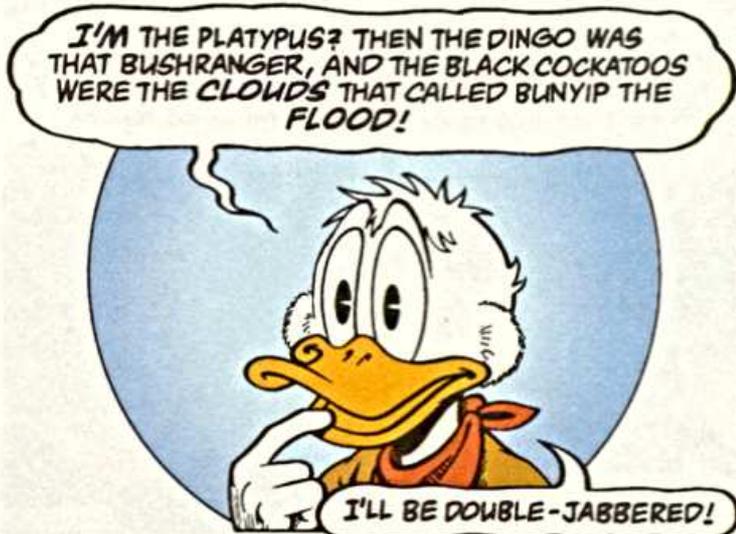
YEAH, JUST LIKE WHAT YOUR STUPID PLATYPUS LOST WHEN HE SAVED THE EGG AND ... HEY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!



I AM SAYING THAT YOU, JONFLIP, ARE THE GREAT PLATYPUS!



THAT BILL HAD US FOOLED FOR OVER TWO HUNDRED CENTURIES! I LAUGH AT MYSELF LIKE A KOOKABURRA!



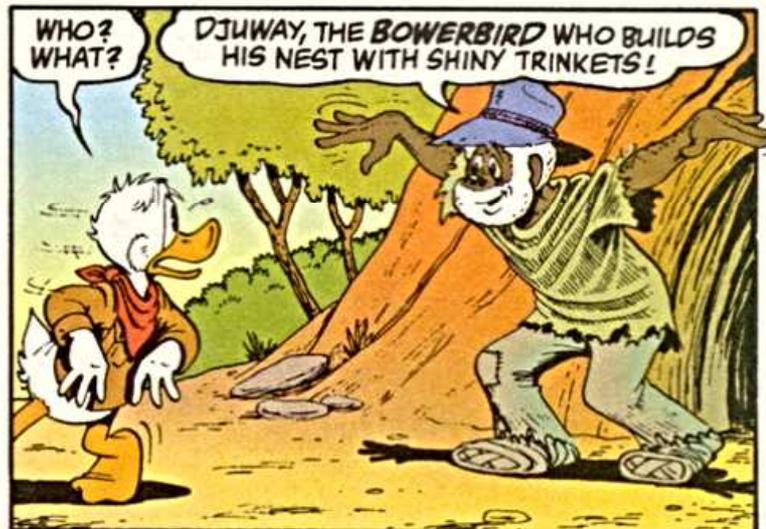
I'M THE PLATYPUS? THEN THE DINGO WAS THAT BUSHRANGER, AND THE BLACK COCKATOOS WERE THE CLOUDS THAT CALLED BUNYIP THE FLOOD!

I'LL BE DOUBLE-JABBED!



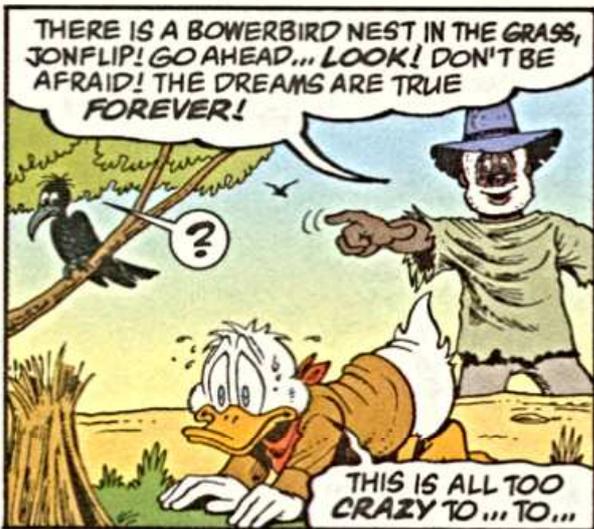
BUT SO WHAT? MY DIME IS STILL LOST!

I TOLD YOU THE DREAM CONTINUES! THE PLATYPUS' FIRSTBORN IS RESCUED BY DJUWAY!



WHO? WHAT?

DJUWAY, THE BOWERBIRD WHO BUILDS HIS NEST WITH SHINY TRINKETS!



THERE IS A BOWERBIRD NEST IN THE GRASS, JONFLIP! GO AHEAD... LOOK! DON'T BE AFRAID! THE DREAMS ARE TRUE FOREVER!

THIS IS ALL TOO CRAZY TO... TO...



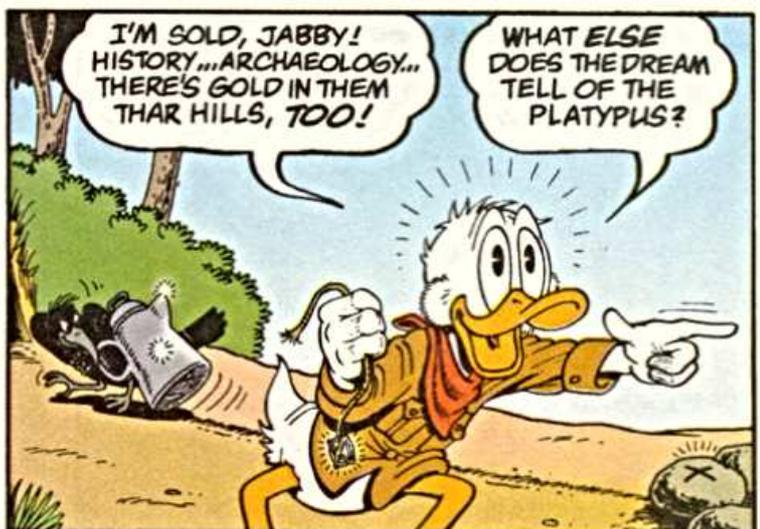
Gasp! MY DIME! MY FIRST DIME!



IT'S TRUE! IT ALL CAME TRUE! I'M DESTINED NEVER TO BE PARTED FROM THIS DIME FOR LONG! HO HO HO HO!!!

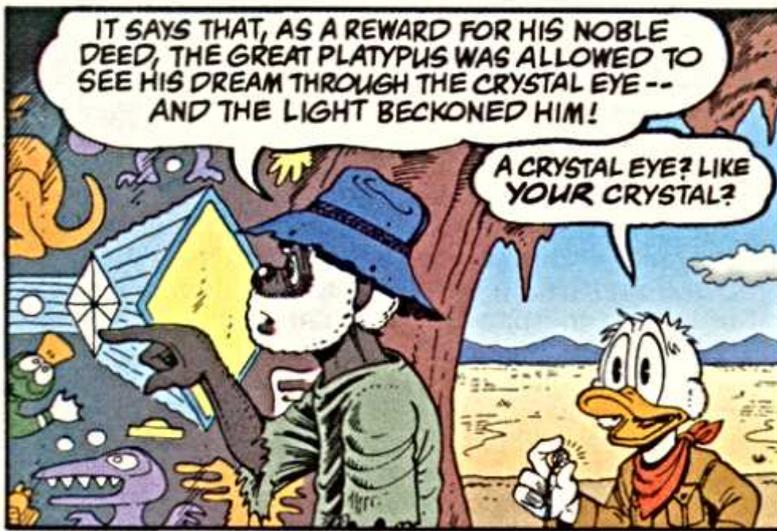


REMEMBER, JONFLIP! THE DREAM TRUTHS CAN BE A TRAIL TO GREAT RICHES! WHO CAN SAY IF THEY BE RICHES OF MIND OR PURSE, BUT NEVER AGAIN BELITTLE THE QUEST FOR THE PAST!



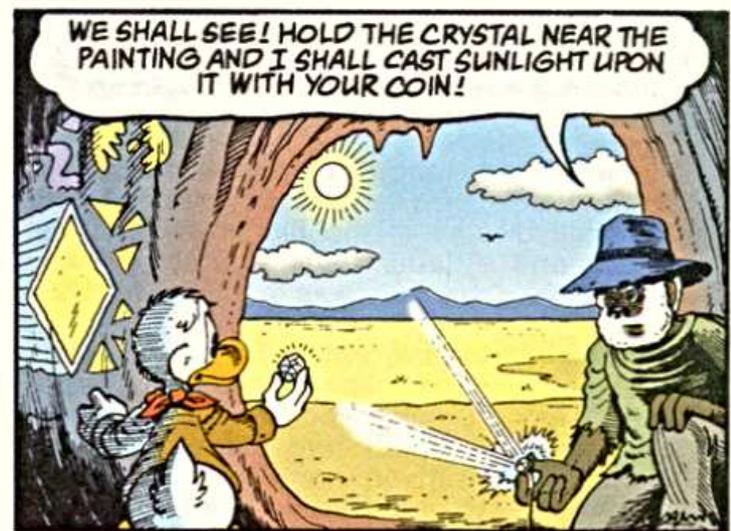
I'M SOLD, JABBY! HISTORY... ARCHAEOLOGY... THERE'S GOLD IN THEM THAR HILLS, TOO!

WHAT ELSE DOES THE DREAM TELL OF THE PLATYPUS?

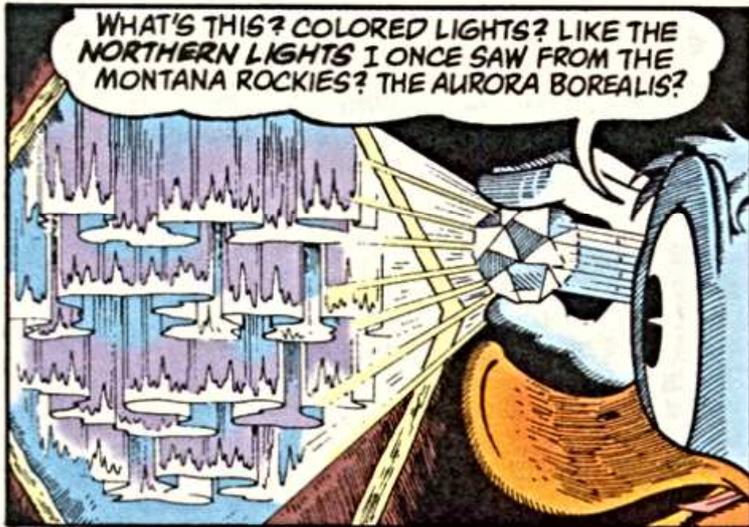


IT SAYS THAT, AS A REWARD FOR HIS NOBLE DEED, THE GREAT PLATYPUS WAS ALLOWED TO SEE HIS DREAM THROUGH THE CRYSTAL EYE -- AND THE LIGHT BECKONED HIM!

A CRYSTAL EYE? LIKE YOUR CRYSTAL?



WE SHALL SEE! HOLD THE CRYSTAL NEAR THE PAINTING AND I SHALL CAST SUNLIGHT UPON IT WITH YOUR COIN!



WHAT'S THIS? COLORED LIGHTS? LIKE THE NORTHERN LIGHTS I ONCE SAW FROM THE MONTANA ROCKIES? THE AURORA BOREALIS?

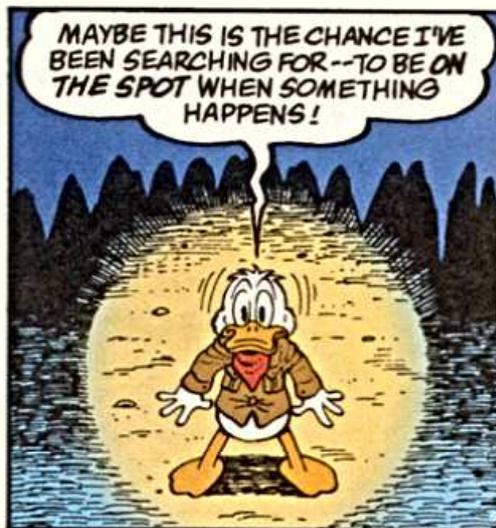


IS THE DREAM TELLING ME TO HEAD NORTH OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS?

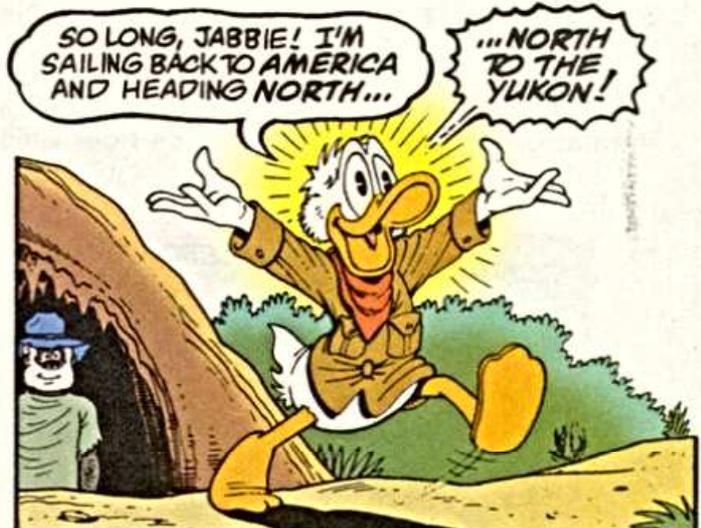
PERHAPS THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE TELLING YOURSELF! WE MUST EACH READ THE TRUTH OF OUR OWN DREAM!



TO ME IT LOOKED LIKE PRETTY DRAPES! I THOUGHT PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BECOME AN INTERIOR DECORATOR!

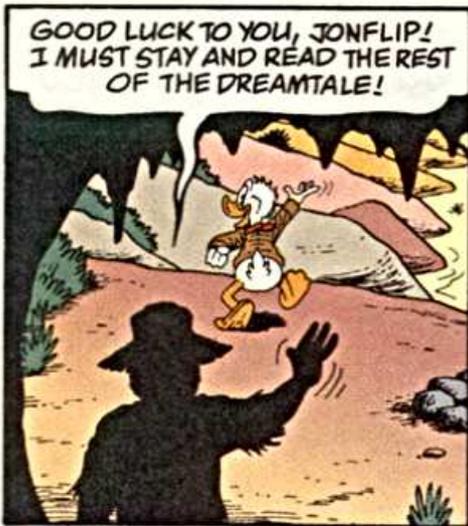


MAYBE THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR -- TO BE ON THE SPOT WHEN SOMETHING HAPPENS!

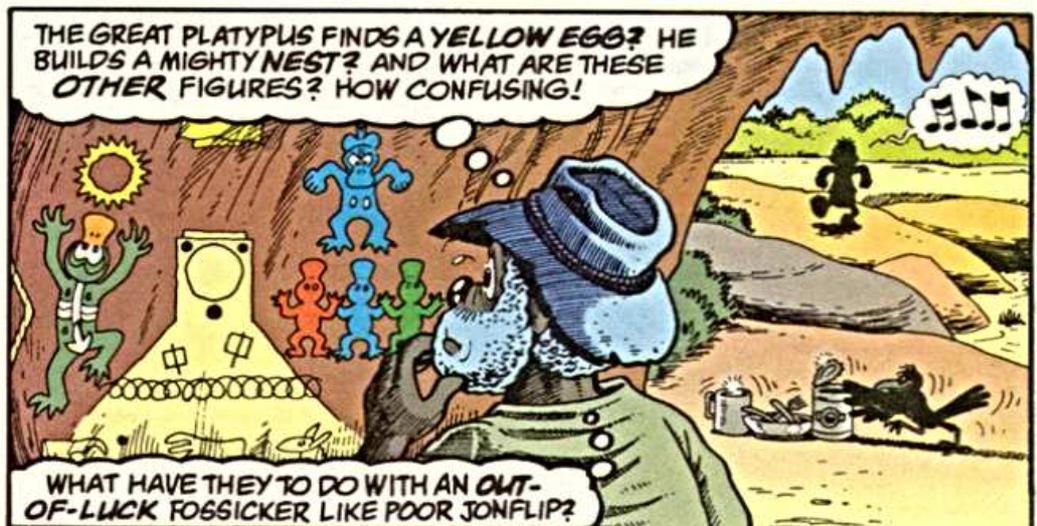


SO LONG, JABBIE! I'M SAILING BACK TO AMERICA AND HEADING NORTH...

...NORTH TO THE YUKON!



GOOD LUCK TO YOU, JONFLIP! I MUST STAY AND READ THE REST OF THE DREAMTALE!



THE GREAT PLATYPUS FINDS A YELLOW EGG? HE BUILDS A MIGHTY NEST? AND WHAT ARE THESE OTHER FIGURES? HOW CONFUSING!

WHAT HAVE THEY TO DO WITH AN OUT-OF-LUCK FOSSICKER LIKE POOR JONFLIP?

TO BE CONTINUED