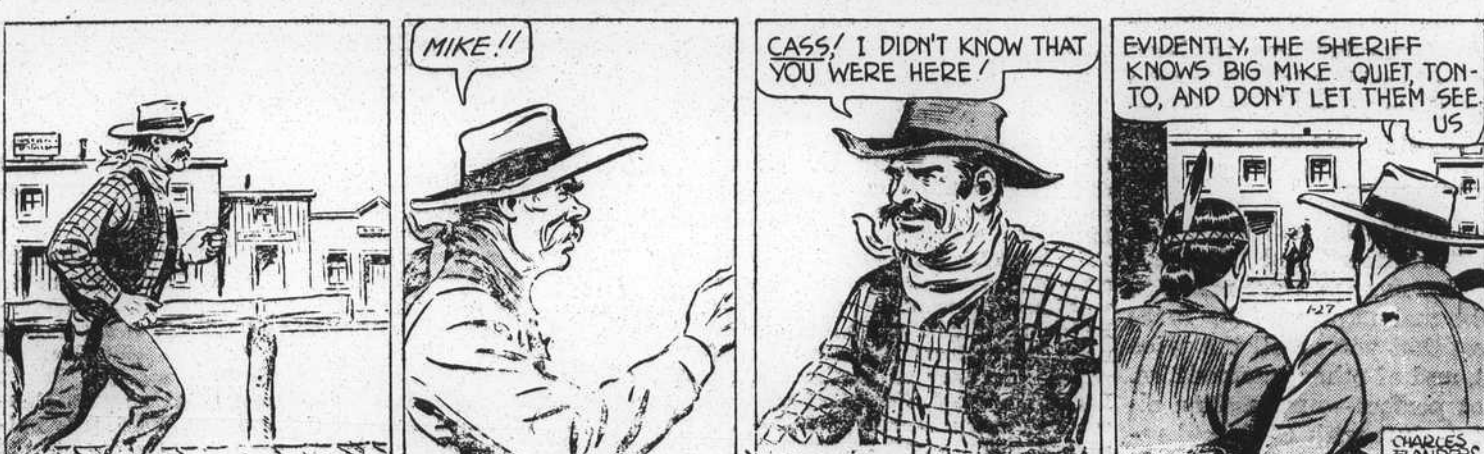


THE LONE RANGER

BY FRAN STRIKER



Coronet Rates Hickory as Great For All Time

When Hickory became "Polio City" last June . . . 13,000 citizens pitched in and licked the epidemic in a way that made American medical history, according to an article in the February issue of Coronet magazine. Overnight it brought about a miracle of united community spirit and civic cooperation.

On June 12 terror stalked the streets of Hickory for a little 8-year-old boy became violently ill and the diagnosis was to be infantile paralysis. Before another 24 hours passed six cases were reported in the nearby vicinity, 20 in the country, and quickly the disease spread from family to family. At this moment the town of Hickory became great—for all time.

Two doctors, Dr. H. C. Whims of Newton and Dr. A. Gaither Hahn of Hickory, began the difficult task of turning untrained civilians into nurses, attendants and medical aides. The race against death was on and even as the architect was drawing plans for a new hospital, lumber began to move toward the building site. Men who had worked as dentists or artists, now pounded nails and hoisted timber. Mothers left their children to the men in white and turned to cooking meals, heating water, washing blankets, continues Coronet.

In just 55 hours a great building feat had become fact—a 55-bed hospital had been built and equipped, but even as the last nail was driven and the last bed moved in, the hospital was found to be not large enough. With 224 cases reported, the epidemic had kept pace with the workmen. So the architect went back to his plans and new beds were being moved in even as the roof was being nailed down. Then the outside world began to move in. Nurses left high-salaried jobs and came to the improvised Hickory hospital; the Red Cross moved in; Johns Hopkins Hospital sent experts and doctors, specialists, physical therapists, Kenny-trained nurses and iron lungs arrived, as if by magic, to combat the epidemic, relates Coronet.

How much it actually cost to set up Hickory's emergency treatment center is not yet known, but it's estimated that \$50,000 could not possibly pay for the labor and equipment involved. While due credit must be given to all cooperating agencies it was Hickory and its civilian population which really performed the miracle. From June 12 to September 27 the town was completely mobilized and there was no "normal life". For Hickory in that four-month period built an eight structure hospital and cared for more than 400 cases of Polio.

The hospital stands today as a monument to a people's courage and the selfless devotion of an entire city of people. The brave little city has taken a terrific financial beating and willingly took on itself the stigma of being known as "Polio City". By that very sacrifice, concludes Coronet, Hickory became great for all time.

Celluloid, the first plastic, was developed in 1869 on a wood pulp base, as a result of a search for a substitute for ivory billiard balls.

WAR BONDS
MEAN MORE THAN A GOOD INVESTMENT

KEEP ON
Backing the Attack!
WITH
WAR BONDS