Geronimo Stilton

THE FASTEST TRAIN IN THE WEST

All-new, full-color Graphic Novel
GERONIMO STILTON and THEA STILTON graphic novels are available for $9.99 each only in hardcover. Available from booksellers everywhere. You can also order online from www.papercutz.com. Or call 1-800-886-1223, Monday through Friday, 9 – 5 EST. MC, Visa, and AmEx accepted. To order by mail, please add $4.00 for postage and handling for first book ordered, $1.00 for each additional book and make check payable to NBM Publishing. Send to: Papercutz, 160 Broadway, Suite 700, East Wing, New York, NY 10038. GERONIMO STILTON and THEA STILTON graphic novels are also available digitally wherever e-books are sold.

www.papercutz.com
Geronimo Stilton

THE FASTEST TRAIN IN THE WEST

By Geronimo Stilton

PAPERCUTZ NEW YORK
It all began one hot summer morning when the city was preparing for the biggest sporting event of the season... the New Mouse City Grand Prix...

I was there to write an article. I'm not a sporty guy--rather a sporty mouse--but I'd been invited by Ratto Rosso, the most famous automotive company on Mouse Island.

I'd requested passes for the event for my sister Thea, my nephew Benjamin, and his friend Buzzy Wuzzle.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I'M SUCH A SCATTERBRAIN! I ALWAYS FORGET TO INTRODUCE MYSELF! MY NAME IS STILTON, GERONIMO STILTON, AND I EDIT THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND!

UNCLE, WHAT'RE YOU WRITING?

I'M TAKING NOTES ON THE TIRES Ratto Rosso USES. SMOOTH, SUITED FOR A DRY, HOT CLIMATE. THEY MUST BE--

THE TIRES?!

YOU'VE GOT THE NEW RATTO ROSSO MODEL, THE TOP RAT 7800, IN FRONT OF YOU, AND YOU'RE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE TIRES?!

I READ IT CAN GET TO 230 MPH...

230, AS A MATTER OF FACT...

WOW!

IT'S TOO FAST AND DANGEROUS FOR A CALM RODENT LIKE ME!

BUT UNCLE, THIS CAR ONLY GETS DRIVEN ON RACETRACKS AND HAS TO BE DRIVEN BY PROFESSIONAL DRIVERS!

THEN I CAN KEEP TAKING NOTES FOR MY FELLOW CITIZENS WITHOUT WORRYING TOO MUCH ABOUT IT!

YOU SHOULD LEAVE PLEASE. THE DRIVER JUST ARRIVED AND HE HAS TO FOCUS BEFORE THE START OF THE RACE. YOU CAN GO TO THE GUEST REFRESHMENT STAND.
There he is! It's the famous Ramon Corser, the driver for Ratto Rosso!

They say he's the fastest driver of them all. Let's see what he can do in this race!

I'd really love to have his job... and to speed along the track driving the Red Rat!

What's going on, Ramo? Do you feel okay?

My stomach... really... 'Aagh...! Hurts... 'Aagh...!

Corser?!

But where's he going? The race is about to begin!

Apparently he's not feeling up to par!
CORSER CAN'T DO THE RACE! QUICK! CALL THE SECOND DRIVER!

THE SECOND DRIVER-- YOU CALLED HIM, RIGHT?

WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM?

CALAMITOUS CATS! WE'RE IN TROUBLE!

CALM DOWN, FRIENDS! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME. I'LL DRIVE THE RED RAT!

I DON'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CLUE.

WHAT'S THAT?

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? AND WHAT'S MORE, WHY ARE YOU DRESSED LIKE A DRIVER?
Really now! That car can't be driven by the first person to show up...
Thank goodness I'm the second to get here, then!
Trap! Stop it right now!

I don't know anyone named Trap Geronimo! You've got the wrong person!

If you're not Trap, how come you know my name?
So? Are you still sure you're not Trap?

Umm... besides being a great driver, I'm also very lucky... I guessed... plus, your face looks familiar to me.

I'm going to call security!

Why? What happened?

Come on Geronimo! You're going to get me in trouble!

I was working at the buffet in the refreshment stand, when Corber got my snack confused with his meal. But not everyone has a fur-lined stomach like mine... and so now he's got a bellyache...

If they discover I caused Corber's illness, the catering company will no longer hire me!

Hm... I have a solution!
IT REALLY SEEMS LIKE YOU COULD USE A PAW, MY FRIENDS!

P-PROFESSOR VON VOLT?

HELLO, GERONIMO!

QUICK! BEFORE THE MECHANICS RETURN! THESE TRAYS AREN'T REAL; THE ONE AT THE BOTTOM IS THE DOOR TO A HATCH! FOLLOW THE LIGHT AND YOU'LL GET TO MY LABORATORY!

PROFESSOR, HOW'D YOU MAKE AN ENTRANCE TO THE LAB FROM HERE, TOO?

HEE! HEE! HEE! I DESIGNED THE TOP RAT! BOO!

THEN YOU COULDN'T MAKE IT A BIT MORE CONVENIENT?

IT'S JUST A WHISKER AWAY... FROM WHAT I SAW ON THE MONITOR, YOU WERE IN REAL TROUBLE!

MY COUSIN ALWAYS HAS THE ABILITY TO GET HIMSELF INTO A MESS-- RIGHT, TRAP?

PROFESSOR, DID YOU JUST CALL US TO HELP US OUT OR HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
I noticed a temporal disturbance! The pirate cats are traveling into the past again!

And where are they going this time?

According to my calculations, they're in the state of Utah in 1869, but I don't know why!

Oh, no! But it's perfectly clear, Professor!

In Utah, 1869, the Union Pacific Railway was completed—the first transcontinental American railroad! If I remember correctly, it took place at Promontory Summit, to be exact!

Good job, Geronimo! Your knowledge can't be beat!

Yes, cousin. It's nice to know that I don't always have to figure everything out.

Hee! Hee! I may not be a mouse of action but these kinds of things fit me like macaroni goes with cheese!

First Transcontinental Railroad

In 1862, the United States Congress, led by Abraham Lincoln, authorized construction of the first transcontinental railroad, the first railway that would connect the West Coast to the East Coast. Two companies, Union Pacific and Central Pacific, built two lines, one from the West and the other from the East. On May 10th, 1869, the two railway lines met at Promontory Summit, in the state of Utah.
WE HAVE TO, HOWEVER, FIGURE OUT WHAT THEIR PLAN IS!

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR! THE SPEEDRAT WILL LET US CATCH UP TO THEM AND FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS RIGHT AWAY!

AND YOU? WERE YOU THINKING OF GOING TO ISS99 DRESSED LIKE THAT?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, UNCLE?

OF COURSE NOT, BUT WHEN AM I GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO DRIVE THE SPEEDRAT IN A RACECAR DRIVER'S SUIT?

WELL, IF TRAP'S DRIVING...

...IT'S WORTH TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION!

OF COURSE NOT, BUT WHEN AM I GOING TO GET A CHANCE TO DRIVE THE SPEEDRAT IN A RACECAR DRIVER'S SUIT?

SO THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! GO! TRAP, YOUR CLOTHES ARE IN THE SPEEDRAT.

EXCELLENT, PROFESSOR! WE'LL GET THERE RIGHT AWAY!

HOW I WISH I WAS IN MY HOUSE, READING A NICE BOOK... I'M A REALLY CALM GUY, RATHER A CALM MOUSE...
Meanwhile, the pirate cats had already joined the laborers building the railroad on the line coming from the east.

I hope it doesn’t rain tomorrow! The work on the tunnel is very complicated!

What do you say, friend? Want a bite of cheese before going to bed?

Um, no... I'm so tired I'd rather go to bed right away without eating...

I know how you feel.

What's going on?!
A cave-in! The internal structure of the tunnel must have collapsed!

No one’s missing here! That means everyone’s left the tunnel, thank goodness!

Yes, but work will be interrupted... again!

You were the last to leave the tunnel. Lucky nothing happened to you!

Uh, yes, I’m a very lucky caretaker, rat.

Now, if you’ll excuse me, I’m going to go recover from my scare!

But of course, try to rest!

I felt the earth shake! I guess the explosion worked!

Everything’s going perfectly. Yes, but...
I almost lost my whiskers! I was checking to make sure nobody was in the tunnel, but the explosives you had me put in there detonated only a few moments after I got out!

Oh, actually. I could’ve given you a longer fuse...

The important thing is that we slowed the work down. This way we’ll have lots of time to sabotage construction of the railroad.

Tracks

To slow down the workers, let’s start by changing the names on the crates. They’re not heavily monitored where they’re stored, I’ll take care of it.

Scratch scratch

In the meantime, Castradone will deal with knocking the equipment a bit out of order...

While you, Bonzo, are going to let the horses escape from the corral. It’ll take days to find them all!
WHY IS IT ALWAYS MY TURN TO DO THE DANGEROUS JOBS? IT'S NOT FAIR!

YOU DIDN'T EVEN TELL ME WHAT THE CLEVER PLAN IS? WHY ARE WE SLOWING DOWN WORK ON THE RAILROAD?

BECAUSE I SAID SO! I INVENT CLEVERER AND CLEVERER PLANS. TERRI SILLA ORGANIZES THE DETAILS, AND YOU FOLLOW OUR ORDERS!

OH, THIS IS MY MOST STRATEGIC PLAN EVER! ONE THAT WILL BRING MY NAME ETERNAL GLORY!

YOU DON'T WANT TO TELL ME, RIGHT?

OH! STOP IT! I'LL TELL YOU!

IF WORK ON THE RAILROAD DOESN'T GO FORWARD, THE PROJECT WILL BE ABANDONED. THAT WAY THERE WILL NO LONGER BE A WAY TO CROSS THE CONTINENT IN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME...

AND HOW WILL THAT BENEFIT US?

YOU REMEMBER THAT LARGE TANK WE ATTACHED TO THE CATJET?

"OF COURSE. IT WAS A REAL PROBLEM DRIVING THE CATJET THIS TIME."

"WELL, IT CONTAINS GAS FOR DIRIGIBLES."

DIRIGIBLES? AND WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO WITH DIRIGIBLES?

CONQUER THE WORLD!
"THE GAS WE BROUGHT WITH US WILL LET US INFLATE THE HULLS OF THE DIRIGIBLES AND ESTABLISH A TRANSPORTATION SERVICE. IT WON'T TRAVEL ON TRACKS, BUT INSTEAD WILL FLY IN MY DIRIGIBLES!"

DIRIGIBLES ARE LIKE HOT AIR BALLOONS AND ARE STEERED BY MOTORS AND STABILIZATION CONTROLS. THEY CONSIST OF A HULL, WHICH CONTAINS A GAS THAT'S LIGHTER THAN AIR, A PANELWORK, STABILIZERS, A GONDOLA FOR PASSENGERS TO GO UP IN, AND MOTORS, WHICH THE PROPELLERS ARE ATTACHED TO. THE FIRST SOFT DIRIGIBLES WERE BUILT IN FRANCE IN 1882.

AND WHERE ARE WE GOING TO FIND DIRIGIBLES?

FOR THE MOMENT, LET'S DEAL WITH THE RAILROAD, THEN WE'LL SEE.

YOU CAN ALWAYS BUILD ONE FOR US!

OH, NO!
IN THE MEANTIME, WE’D ARRIVED IN 1869, BUT THE SITUATION WASN'T SO SIMPLE...

TRAP, TELL ME WHY YOU BROUGHT US TO THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT?

I PUT IN THE COORDINATES THAT PROF. VON VOLT GAVE ME, COUSIN. IT’S NOT MY FAULT!

OF COURSE NOT.

AS GERONIMO TOLD YOU BEFORE, THE TWO RAILWAY LINES MET AT PROMONTORY SUMMIT, BUT IT WASN'T AN INHABITED AREA!

THEN WE HAVE TO FIND THE NEAREST INHABITED AREA. THAT WAY WE CAN FIND OUT HOW THE WORK'S GOING AND WHAT THE PIRATE CATS ARE UP TO...

THEA, LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THE MAP. THE NEAREST TOWN SHOULD BE...

BEAR RIVER CITY! IN THAT DIRECTION!

IT’S PRETTY FAR AWAY, ARE YOU SURE IT’S THE NEAREST TOWN?

TRAP, WE’RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT! IF THERE WERE SOMETHING ELSE, WE’D SEE IT, RIGHT?
We used the speedrat again to get close without wearing ourselves out.

In the meantime, I'll hide the machine. ~ Humph! ~

No, trap, that won't be necessary.

?!

Why won't we need to hide the speedrat? We can't let it be discovered.

Cousin, maybe it's because I'm hot and hungry, but I don't understand you. What are these and I supposed to do with the speedrat?

I know that, but we'll need it again. Rather, you and trap will need it.

We don't know what the pirate cats' plan is. For that reason, we'll have to split up. Some of us should stay at Promontory Summit, for the arrival of the track, but the rest of us should go check to see how work is going at the site. As far as I can see, the track from the east isn't getting closer!

Why do we have to stay in Bear River City? I want to see the worksite!

I need your help checking if the pirate cats are in town. We have to be cautious!

You can count on us, uncle!
AND BESIDES, I’M VERY GLAD TO AVOID ANOTHER FLIGHT IN THE SPEEDRAT WITH TRAP! THAT WOULD BE THE THIRD IN A SHORT TIME!

TRAP, YOU SHOULD TRY TO GET HIRED AS A WORKER AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE. THEN, TRY TO KEEP OUR COUSIN FROM SLOWING DOWN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK.

HEE! HEE! HEE!

REMEMBER, WE DON’T KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THE PIRATE CATS WILL SWING INTO ACTION!

MOLDY MOZZARELLA! IT’S THE FIRST TIME I’VE DRIVEN THE SPEEDRAT WITH ONLY ONE PASSENGER! I’LL TRY OUT SOME NEW AEROBATICS!

CALM DOWN, COUSIN, WE’LL SEE TO IT!

DON’T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT, TRAP! WE’VE GOT VERY LITTLE TIME TO FIND THOSE SCOUNDRELS!

COME ON, KIDS, LET’S GO CHECK OUT THE WILD WEST!

THE WILD WEST (PARD WEST OR OLD WEST) WAS A TERM USED IN THE 1800s FOR THE REGION BETWEEN THE GREAT PLAINS AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, EXTENDING WESTWARDS FROM THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER TO THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND TOWARDS CANADA. THE AREA WAS INHABITED BY NATIVE AMERICANS, THAT IS TO SAY, AMERICAN INDIANS.
IN THE MEANTIME, TRAP AND THEA HAD REACHED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE RAIL LINE THAT WAS HEADING EASTWARDS...

BUT IF WE LEAVE THE SPEEDRAT HERE, HOW WILL WE GET IT BACK? IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!

EASY, WE'LL BRING IT WITH US!

THE WORK SITE MOVES WITH THE WORKERS, SO THE CRATES WON'T REMAIN HERE.

LIL, NO?

THEY'LL COME WITH US UNTIL THE WORK IS FINISHED. IT'S ENOUGH TO PROVIDE EXACT INFORMATION. THIS CRATE WILL BE ONE OF THE MANY THAT ARE FOR THE INAUGURATION!

GREAT! NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO START LOOKING FOR THOSE CRUMMY CATS!

EXCUSE ME, GENTLE-MOUSE!

WHO ME?
MY COUSIN AND I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE WONDERFUL PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON! WHAT CAN WE DO?

WELL, YOU CAN GIVE THE STOKERS A HAND. YOUR COUSIN CAN DEAL WITH THE SUPPLIES. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INVENTORY.

WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS?

THE CRATES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN SCRAMBLED. SOMETIMES IT TAKES A WHOLE DAY TO FIND THE PIECES WE NEED.

BETWEEN THESE GLITCHES, THE EXPLOSION IN THE TUNNEL, AND THE BAD WEATHER WHEN WE GOT HERE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!

OKAY! WE'LL START LOOKING HERE!

"LOOKING HERE" FOR WHAT?

NO, MY COUSIN MEANT WE'D START LOOKING FOR WORK HERE!

AH!

WE'RE SEEING THE PAW PRINTS OF THE PIRATE CATS HERE!

RIGHT! THEY MUST BE THE ONES WHO'VE CREATED THE CONFUSION WITH THE SUPPLIES.

I WONDER HOW GERONIMO'S FARING?
THE WILD WEST WAS TURNING OUT TO BE MUCH WILDER THAN WE'D EXPECTED!

HURRY UP WITH THAT KNOT! YOU DON'T WANT THE SHERIFF TO DISCOVER US, DO YOU?

REMEMBER, BROTHER, AS SOON AS YOU LEAVE, WE SPLIT UP. MEET AT THE OLD QUARRY!

CRAAAAM!
APLOGIZE TO MY NEPHEW RIGHT NOW!

I SAID, APOLOGIZE TO MY NEPHEW RIGHT NOW!
OWIE! OWIE! OWIE!

CATCH!

LAST CHANCE. APOLOGIZE TO MY NEPHEW RIGHT NOW!
YAH!

?!?

AHHHH!

I SAW EVERYTHING! THAT MOUSE IS A HERO!

WHAT HAPPENED? WHO WAS SHOUTING?

ME?
This gentlemouse faced one of the ratton brothers unarmed, without backing down from his fierce glare!

He's a mouse without fear!

I've never seen anything like it!

But actually, I didn't do anything, it was just a coincidence!

What's your name? I'll resound at this evening's celebration!

Interesting! A mouse with no name! We'll call you Ice eyes for how you stopped Ratton!

Stop! Everyone, I know who this mouse is!

No, no, my name isn't important.

And who is he, Sheriff Yuma?

Hurrah!

He's the new deputy Sheriff of Bear River City!

Hurrah!

And the plan is to investigate discreetly, Uncle?

And the plan is to investigate discreetly, Uncle?

Well, now that I've got the Deputy Sheriff's star, it'll be much easier to investigate!
WHAT GREAT TIMING, DEPUTY! TIM LELAND STANFORD AND I PERSONALLY Began WORK ON THE RAILROAD SIX YEARS AGO. I'VE FOLLOWED THE WORK ON THE TRACK COMING FROM THE WEST, AND IT SHOULD MEET THE TRACK COMING FROM THE EAST VERY SOON. RIGHT NEAR HERE. IT WILL BE AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY FOR OUR NATION!

THERE WILL BE VISITORS FROM EVERYWHERE AND WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES SMOOTHLY!

WITH THE HELP OF THE TELEGRAPH, WE'LL INFORM CONGRESS THE MOMENT THAT THE LAST SPIKE IS PLACED. IT WILL BE A HISTORIC MOMENT!

INTERESTING!

I'LL PERSONALLY DRIVE IN THE LAST SPIKE, WHICH WILL BE MADE OF GOLD, FOR THE OCCASION.

LELAND STANFORD
(1824-1893)

IN 1885, HE FOUNDED STANFORD UNIVERSITY, ABOUT 35 MILES SOUTH OF SAN FRANCISCO.

ULP!
IN THE MEANTIME, THEA AND TRAP WERE ALSO VERY BUSY...

I CAN'T OPEN AND CLOSE CRATES ANY MORE!

ONE CRATE WAS ADDED TO THE LIST AFTER WORK STARTED. IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE PIRATE CATS WHO MARKED IT ON THE LIST TO HIDE THE CATJET.

BUT WE'VE OPENED ALMOST ALL OF THEM! AND NOW THE WORKERS ARE STARTING TO GET SUSPICIOUS OF ME!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS! THESE DAYS OF BAD WEATHER HAVE SLOWED THE WORK DOWN, BUT WE'RE EXPECTING TO GET TO PROMONTORY SUMMIT SOON.

UH, THEA?

WHAT IS IT?

OF COURSE NOT! WE PUT OURS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORK SITE.

AND IF THE PIRATE CATS HAD THE SAME IDEA AS WE DID?

THE CRATE THAT WAS ADDED TO THE LIST ISN'T OURS, RIGHT?

BUT DID YOU EVEN HEAR ME BEFORE, TRAP? I TOLD YOU THEY PROBABLY HID THE CATJET IN A CRATE, TOO, AND THAT'S PRECISELY THE ONE WE'RE LOOKING FOR!
AND SO THEY ALSO WROTE "TO BE OPENED AT INAUGURATION" ON THEIR CRATE TO KEEP SOMEONE FROM DISCOVERING IT?

THE PIRATE CATS ARE BECOMING REALLY CUNNING! QUICK, TRAP, OPEN IT!

CRACK

TO BE OPENED AT INAUGURATION

THIS CRATE IS FULL OF DYNAMITE!

DYNAMITE HAS ONLY BEEN INVENTED FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS! IT'S UNLIKELY THAT IT WOULD'VE ALREADY BEEN USED AT THIS SITE! THIS HAS TO HAVE BEEN THE PIRATE CATS!

AND WHAT'S WORSE, THERE'S A GOOD DEAL OF IT! THEY BROUGHT IT TO USE IT SOMEWHERE!

QUICK, WE'VE GOT TO STUDY THE MAP AND Figure Out What the PIRATE CATS HAVE IN MIND!

DYNAMITE IS AN EXPLOSIVE PRODUCED BY MIXING NITROGLYCERIN WITH ABSORBENT SUBSTANCES, CALLED SORBING. THE FIRST TO PATENT THE EXPLOSIVE WAS ALFRED NOBEL IN 1867. HE MANAGED TO GET AN INERT POWDER TO ABSORB NITROGLYCERIN WHICH HAD BEEN INVENTED ABOUT 20 YEARS EARLIER BY AN ITALIAN, ASCANO SOBERRO, SO THAT IT COULD BE HANDLED.
THE NEXT MORNING...

TRAP! I FINALLY FIGURED IT OUT!

THE CATS WILL STRIKE HERE WITH A BIG EXPLOSION! IF THEY SUCCEED, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SALVAGE THE TRAIN!

WHAT SPOT DOES THAT X CORRESPOND TO ON THE MAP?

THE WOODEN BRIDGE.
I'm afraid it's too late: the cats have put the explosives on the train!

Then we have to stop the train!

Explosives?!

I'll check the train. We have to stop the bridge from collapsing?!

The bridge from collapsing?!

Oh, don't worry about it. My cousin likes to make up adventure tales!

But that's... Tersilla!

Where did they hide them?

Stop!

Farewell, suffering squeakers! Your journey's over!
OH, NO!

WERECAT BONES! IT'S STUCK TO THE FLOOR!

TRAP! YOU'VE GOT TO GET THE LOCOMOTIVE UP TO TOP SPEED! IN THE MEANWHILE, I'LL TRY TO UNHOOK THE TRAIN CAR WITH THE EXPLOSIVES!

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

EVERYTHING'S GOING TO EXPLODE!

I THINK I HEARD A VOICE!

KAA-BOOOOOOM!
WE'RE SAFE!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

THE BRIDGE IS ABOUT TO COLLAPSE!

WE'RE TOO SLOW! WE'RE TOO SLOW!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT! WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT!

YOU'RE RIGHT... UNFORTUNATELY!

I DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CHOICE...
I’LL HAVE TO SACRIFICE MY STOCKPILE OF CORCONICOLA AND AGED MOZZARELLA SUBS!

FOR A HIGH-SPEED TRAIN WE NEED A SUPER-ENERGIZING SNACK!

MAYBE WE’LL MAKE IT! MAYBE WE’LL MAKE IT!

FROM NOW ON, I’M ONLY TRAVELING BY FOOT... OR HORSE!

BRILLIANT! FAT BURNS THE BEST AND WILL GIVE US MORE SPEED!
KA-RASSUMMMM

NOW LET'S HURRY! THEY'RE WAITING FOR US AT PROMONTORY SUMMIT!
Meanwhile, we were waiting for the arrival of the train from the East at Promontory Summit, unaware of what had just happened...

Ladies and gentlemen, the train will be here in minutes! Then we can finish the track!

But the work is finished; where's the train?

I'm looking forward to enjoying their disappointment! The train from the East will never arrive!

Who knows what happened after the bridge collapsed?

Those suffering squeakers will have crashed! Shh!

When Stanford realizes it collapsed, I'll offer him my dirigibles and I'll be rich! We'll be rich, you mean!

Don't doubt my plan!

I'll let you drive the dirigibles, but only because I'm magnanimous!
IT SHOULD'VE ALREADY GOTTEN HERE A WHILE AGO! IT'S MAY 10TH, 1869. IF IT'S STILL LATE, THAT MEANS THE CATS HAVE TRULY CHANGED HISTORY!

BUT NO, UNCLE, YOU'LL SEE THAT TRAP AND THEN WE HAVE THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL.

STILL THAT STORY ABOUT SHOOTERS?! INSIDE'S, WHO WOULD EVER BE AGAINST A MARVEL LIKE THIS?

THE UNION PACIFIC LABORERS SAID THAT WORK WAS FINISHED ON THE EASTERN FRONT AND THE TRAIN JUST HAD TO BE DRIVEN TO PROMONTORY SUMMIT!

AS I SAID, THE FUTURE IS ARRIVING HERE FAST!

SO, DEPUTY SHERIFF! WHAT'S THAT LONG FACE? WE'RE MAKING UNITED STATES HISTORY HERE!

I KNOW, SHERIFF YUWA. IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE A FUNNY FEELING!

LET'S HOPE SO!
TOO FAST, EVEN!

THAT REALLY SEEMS--

THEA!

WE CAN'T STOP! GET OUT OF THE WAY!

OH, JUST AS I TOLD YOU, RIGHT ON TIME!

BUT IT'S JUST THE ENGINE. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CARS?

IS IT NORMAL FOR IT TO MAKE ALL THAT SMOKE?
IT’S USELESS! WE’LL BE TOO CLOSE WHEN THEY REALIZE WE CAN’T BRAKE!

"NNGG!" THE BRAKE IS TOO HEAVY!

COME ON! GIVE ME A HAND INSTEAD OF WHINING!

WE’RE DONE FOR! WE’RE DONE FOR!

"NNGGG!"

SCREEEEE

JUST A LITTLE BIT HARDER!
THE TRAIN DERAILED!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I DON'T KNOW, BUT WE HAVE TO SAVE THE MICE ONBOARD THE TRAIN!

I DON'T EXACTLY LIKE HOW THIS IS GOING!

WHAT? THIS WILL SHOW THAT THEIR TRAINS AREN'T SAFE!

WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE TRAIN BEFORE IT CRASHES SOMEWHERE!

GERONIMO!
HANG ON! WE'RE COMING!

YAAA!

JUST A LITTLE BIT CLOSER, THEA...
I can't hold on any longer!

Hang on!

Ahahaha!

GOTCHA!
HURRY UP AND JUMP, YOU THREE!
YOU GO!
NO! SAVE YOURSELF!

THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE! JUMP!

HEEEEEE!

COME ON, TRAP! THE TRAIN'S ABOUT TO CRASH!

UH-OH!

HAAAALP!
WE WERE SO CLOSE THIS TIME!

THOSE SUFFERING SQUEAKERS RUINED EVERYTHING! WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE THIS TANK OF FUEL HOME!

WELL, AT LEAST THIS TIME THERE ISN'T AN ANGRY MOB CHASING US!

BUT THERE'S A LOCOMOTIVE CHASING US...

AAAIIHH!  AAAIIHH!

LOOK, UNCLE!
Farewell, suffering squeakers! We'll meet each other again soon!
LOOK, A FALLING STAR!

Actually, it looks to me as if it's rising.

And besides, it's day-time!

We can wish on it anyway.

Will they finish the railway soon?

Eh, well, yes... otherwise how will people go from New York to San Francisco? By dirigible?

You know, that wouldn't be such a bad idea?

Excuse me, may I have your attention?

AT PRECISELY THAT MOMENT, A TELEGRAPH MESSAGE WAS SENT TO BOTH ENDS OF THE UNITED STATES, NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO, TO SAY THAT WORK HAD BEEN COMPLETED...

...WHICH WAS CELEBRATED BY THE BELLS TOLLING.

ALL THAT REMAINED FOR US TO DO WAS SAY GOODBYE WHICH WAS MET WITH EVERYONE'S GRATITUDE...

COME ON, GERONIMO, WE'LL BE RUNNING IN JUST A FEW MINUTES!

THANKS, BUT AFTER ALL THAT ACTION, I COULD USE SOME PEACE AND QUIET!

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IS A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM INVENTED FOR TRANSMITTING INFORMATION FROM A DISTANCE. INVENTED BY SAMUEL MORSE, IT USED A SINGLE WIRE AND A CODE THAT ENCRYPTED THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET INTO SEQUENCES OF PULSES OF DIFFERENT DURATION (DOTS AND DASHES).

COME ON, KIDS! OUR SAHARA RIDE JUST ARRIVED!
It all went well, Professor! We saved history again this time!

Professor, Professor!

There you are, finally! I was beginning to worry!

What is it, Trap?

Send me back to the race track. I'm still in time to drive the top rat 7500!

AND WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'LL SUCCEED NOW?

What?

Well, after driving a train on a collapsing bridge, I really think I can drive a car...

Trap you really never learn!

You're really incorrigible!

My dear rodent friends, farewell until the next adventure...a whiskerful of an adventure written by Stilton, Gertrude Sulfur!
Welcome to the roughest, toughest, rootin', tootinist, thirteenth GERONIMO STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, those East Coast city-slickers (even if Editor Michael Petraneck is from Texas) dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages. I’m Salicrup, Jim Salicrup, the Editor-in-Chief around these here parts. Even though I was born in The Bronx, I grew up around westerns. Allow me to explain…

Back when I was just a youngin', there was only one TV set for my whole family. That meant we all had to share the same TV. And this was way before cable TV or 24-hour channels with nothing but cartoons (you guys don’t know how lucky you are!). My mom liked to watch romantic shows, my dad and brother liked to watch action shows (which included lots of westerns, or as my dad called them, "Shoot ’em ups"!), and I enjoyed comedies. For better or worse, we all got to watch a lot of shows we may not have been all that interested in at the time, but in my case, I’m glad I got to watch so many great Western shows such as Gunsmoke, Bonanza, The Wild, Wild, West, Wagon Train, The Rifle Man, Zorro, and many more. There were even western comedies such as F Troop and Range, and even western cartoons such as The Lone Ranger and Yogi Bear, which I also loved.

Looking back, I think it’s great that I was exposed to so many types of entertainment. As a result, even today I like a lot of variety—in movies, books, TV, music, food, and even in comics. Papercutz is proud to offer a great assortment of titles—everything from ARIOL to LEGO® NINJAGO. But with exception of ZORRO and one HARDY BOYS graphic novel, we haven’t published any westerns… until now (even if it does include time-traveling mice!). We hope you love “The Fastest Train in the West” as much as we do, and hope you’ll be back for GERONIMO STILTON #14 “The First Mouse on the Moon.” That’ll be the first time Geronimo goes back into a time where I was actually alive! MOLDY MOZZARELLA! I’m getting really old! Check out the preview on the following pages.

See you in the future!

Jim

---

STAY IN TOUCH!

EMAIL: salicrup@papercutz.com
WEB: www.papercutz.com
TWITTER: @papercutz
FACEBOOK: PAPERCUTZGRAPHICNOVELS
FAN MAIL:
Papercutz, 160 Broadway, Suite 700,
East Wing, New York, NY 10038

Caricature of Jim by Steve Bednor drawn at the MoCCA Art Fest.
Special preview of GERONIMO STILTON #14 “The First Mouse on the Moon”!

It all began one beautiful morning in New Mouse City....

I was at the town’s amusement park after getting a rat-tastic surprise...

I’d received five free passes to the opening of the most famous circus on Mouse Island...
THE CIRQUE DU TOPHE!

FOR THE EVENT, I'D INVITED MY RELATIVES, BUT I HADN'T SEEN THEM GET HERE YET.

SKITCH! SKITCH!

GERONIMO!

BUT I'M SO SCATTERBRAINED. I HAVEN'T INTRODUCED MYSELF, MY NAME IS STILTON. 'GERONIMO STILTON,' AND I EDIT THE RODENT'S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND!

HERE YOU ARE, FINALLY!

AND THAT'S MY SISTER THEA, MY COUSIN TRAP, AND MY NEPHEW BENJAMIN, WITH HIS FRIEND BUGSY WUGSY.

WE WERE ON TIME, UNCLE. BUT TRAP WANTED TO STOP AND BUY SOME CANDIED CHEESE...

THERE WERE DIFFERENT FLAVORS, I HAD TO TAKE MY TIME CHOOSING.

COME ON, THE SHOW'S ABOUT TO BEGIN!

YOU DIDN'T TELL US HOW YOU GOT THESE TICKETS!
IT’S A MYSTERY, REALLY! I GOT THEM FOR FREE IN AN ENVELOPE WITH NO RETURN ADDRESS... I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GIFT FROM YOU!

MAYBE IT WAS A GIFT FROM THE CIRCUS AND THEY WANTED YOU TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT THEM!

SO WHY NOT SAY WHO THE SENDER WAS?

OUR ANTICIPATION WAS RISING, AND WE WEREN’T DISAPPOINTED! ALL THE MOST FAMOUS CIRCUS CHARACTERS WERE THERE...

THE CONSTRUCTIONISTS...

LET’S NOT THINK ABOUT THAT ANY LONGER, THE SHOW’S ABOUT TO BEGIN NOW!

AND I DO THESE EXERCISES EVERY MORNING AS SOON AS I GET OUT OF BED!
THE CLOWNS...

But the principal artists, which the Cirque du Topel was famous for, were still to come...

Hey, when Geronimo comes with me to go shopping, we always wind up like that!

Shhh, trap! We don't want to know what you think about every single act!

The Trapeze artists!

And now, as is our custom, our grand finale on the trapeze will include an audience member, chosen at random! A trapeze will drop wherever our spotlight shines!

The rodent with the glasses and the red tie!

And the lucky rodent who'll participate in this intrepid performance is...

Don't miss GERONIMO STILTON #14 “The First Mouse on the Moon”!
Geronimo Stilton boxed sets! Three Graphic Novels collected in each box!

Available at booksellers everywhere.
GERONIMO STILTON IS THE EDITOR OF THE RODENT’S GAZETTE, THE MOST FAMOUS PAPER ON MOUSE ISLAND. IN HIS FREE TIME HE LOVES TO TELL FUN, HAPPY STORIES. IN THIS ADVENTURE, Geronimo HAS TO FACE HIS WORST ENEMIES, THE PIRATE CATS, WHO HAVE DISCOVERED A WAY TO TRAVEL BACK IN TIME AND CHANGE HISTORY...

UTAH, USA, 1869. WORK ON THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD CONNECTING THE EAST AND WEST COASTS KEEPS SUFFERING MYSTERIOUS MOUSEHAPS. CAN IT BE THE DASTARDLY WORK OF CATARDENO AND HIS BAND OF PIRATE CATS? IN THE UNLIKELY ROLE OF DEPUTY SHERIFF, GERONIMO STILTON MUST ONCE AGAIN SAVE THE FUTURE BY PROTECTING THE PAST!

“Geronimo fans will eat this up quicker than a wheel of cheddar.” –Washington Times

“Is it fact? Is it fiction? It’s fiction, and it’s fun.”
–Shelf-Employed