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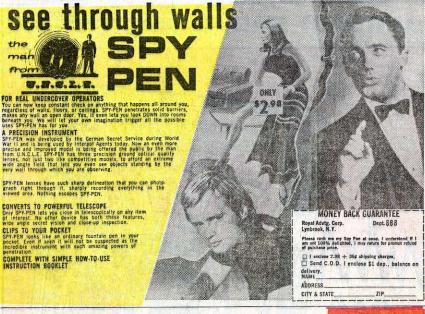




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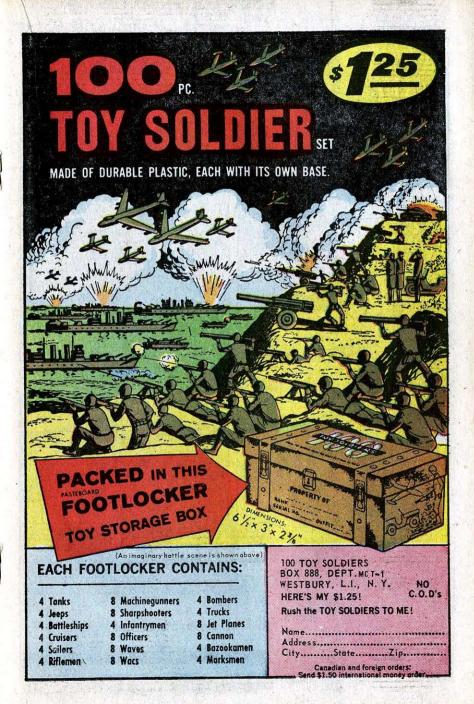








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(It's Easier Than Thinking Up A New Title!)

ITEM! You asked for it! And now you've got it! For the zillions of zingy zealots who can't get enough of SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS, we've finally added another block-busting battle bonanza to our lineup named CAPT SAVAGE AND HIS LEATHERNECK RAIDERS! It's on sale right now, written by Groovy Gary, pencilled by Darlin' Dick, and inked by a new Marvel old-timer — or an old Marvel newcomer, if you prefer — none other than SYD (The Kid) SHORES who illustrated many of our top strips during the First many of our top strips during the First Golden Age of Comics — strips such as Captain America, The Black Rider, The Blonde Phantom, and others which only Honest Irv remembers! Anyway, if you like Fury, o! Savage will boot you outta your fox-hole! So move it, Marvelite, while they

ITEM! And, speaking of new titles from the House of Ideas, we're keeping the great first ish of CAPTAIN MARVEL featured in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES - on sale for an extra month, to give you col-lectors an extra thirty days to latch onto this irreplaceable premier issue. We've got mighty big plans for CAPTAIN MARVEL, so we strongly advise you to get with him now, in order to be in at the very beginning!

ITEM! Whoops! Before we forget — don't dare miss our action-packed 100th Anniversary ish of TALES TO ASTONISH, now on sale, it features, for the first time, a complete, book-length thriller in which the Sub-Mariner battles the Incredible Hulk pencilled by Marvel-ous MARIE SEVERIN and embellished by Dapper DANNY AD-KINSI And STAN THE MAN's script is nothing to complain about, either, Need we say more?

ITEM! It's official! Lonesome GEORGE TUSKA is now back with us to stay! Two-Fisted Mr. T. was one of our mainstays way back when we had some of the most rugged adventure yarns of all. But then he took a long leave of absence to illustrate the Buck Rogers newspaper strip . . . re-turning briefly some months back to help us in a pinch. But now, he's back for good, although we won't tell you which mags he's appearing in — we thought you'd get a kick out of searching for him!

ITEM! Yessir! Marvel's really hitting its stride right now — and remember, this is only the beginning! Those of you who've been clamoring for more writers, more artists, and especially more magazines, are in for some very pleasant surprises in the months to come. Not the least of these surprises is our recent acquisition of the ented services of Artful ARCHIE GOOD-WIN as Marvel's newest stupefyin' scriptwriter! O!' Arch had been editor and head writer (No, Irving, that doesn't mean he wrote on heads!) for another publishing company until recently when he saw the light and entered the sanctified realm of True Believers, He's cutting his teeth on IRON MAN and the ever-noble SUB-MAR-INER, but after that the sky's the limit. Who knows? He may even someday reach the halcyon heights of writing MILLIE THE MODELI

ITEMI Okay - grab your pencils and get ready for the next assignment. We've the latest title of Marveldom for you to memorize. Remember the first two we gave you? We started with RFO (Real Frantic

One), to be used by those who buy three or more Marvel mags a month. Then, we segued into QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), the appellation for those favored few who've had one or more letters published on any of our pulsatin' pages. And now — the third rank of Marveldom Assembled — the three letters which are destined to become an everlasting part of literary lore and legendom — namely, TTB (Titanic True Believer), the hard-earned and well-deserved title for anyone who has ever won a noteworthy, non-negotiable No-Prize! But. we still have a couple of more titles waiting backstage, so don't miss this page next month, when we clue you in on the munifi-cent meaning of - K.O.F. Till then, back to our itinerant items -

THE WRAP-UP! What say we tie the whole thing up with another confusing collection of capricious comments from our light-hearted leader —? (No, Irving, light-hearted — not light-headed! SHEEESH!)

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Every day the mail brings a few requests from our far-flung legions of loyal ones, asking us to explain what in the name of Aunt Petunia the little stamp at the upper right-hand corner of our covers really means. You know, the one that reads: Approved By The Comics Code Authority. Well, just as the motion picture industry has a selfregulatory agency to insure the propriety of its product - so too does the comics magazine industry. Any periodical which might contain offensive or unacceptable material cannot win that little stamp which appears upon all our covers, It's just as simple as that, Now then, we've often been asked how we at Marvel actually feel about having to submit our masterful yarns to an outside agency for approval. Our answer is, we're delighted to do it. After all, the Comics Code Authority and your batty Bullpen share the same overall objectives - we both want the stories you read to remain within the bounds of good taste. Our creative surge is in no way stifled by this process - our employment of satire is in no way curtailed - and we enjoy the same ele-ments of literary and artistic freedom as any other practitioners of the arts in any other media. The Comics Code Authority asks us to do nothing that we would not do even if they weren't in existence. So, to those of you who've been wondering - that's the story. And, before we sign off, we'd like to tip our hat to Code Administrator Len Darvin and his sagacious staff for the truly excellent work they've done in a difficult and offtimes thankless job. -

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

Marvelous Mags on Sale Right Now! NOT BRAND ECHH #6: It's almost too funny to describe! Our big love-and-marriage issuel Spidey-Man gets engaged - an' wait 'til you see to whom! The Human Scorch gets married and meets his in-laws! And don't miss our most mystical superhero's rollickin' romance with a Brand Echh heroine! It's wild!

FANTASTIC FOUR #71: At last we end the sensational saga of the rampaging, run-amok Thing! But, as all true believers know, when Marvel ends something, we manage to do it with - a difference!

AVENGERS #48: From out of the night sky comes the grim, dark-clad form of ... the new Black Knight! But, does he come as friend - or as foe? The answer'll really grab ya, tiger!

X-MEN #40: It'll take more than their dynamic new costumes to help our merry mutants when they meet the most famous monster in history - none other than Fran-kenstein himselfi Hood boy!

DAREDEVIL #36: As if the blistering bat-tle between ol' Hornhead and the terrible Trapster isn't enough, we can safely promise you the most unexpected surprise of the year when you reach the end of this landmark issuel

THOR #148: Not since the never-to-be-for-gotten Absorbing Man has mighty Thor faced a foe like the Wrecker!! But now, against the most deadly of menaces, our hero's power is at its lowest ebb! Not for the timid!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, starring in MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #12: This fabulous introductory issue is still on sale! If you can still find a copy, don't dare miss it! Capstill find a copy, don't dare miss it! Cap-tain Marvel is destined to become the most provocative superhero of the year—and Gentleman Gene's awesome artwork is really something else! We kid thee not!

SUSPENSE #98: Iron Man battles Whiplash in the most memorable mishmash of modern mayhem you've ever thrilled to! And wait'll you see Captain America fighting side-by-side with the bludgeoning Black Pantherl This is for action-lovers!

ASTONISH #100: The greatest anniversary issue of all! You'll gape at the earth-pounding battle between the Hulk and Sub-Mariner - all in one double-length tale, as a mind-snapping tribute to Green-skin and our water-logged Subby!

STRANGE TALES #165: Nick Fury faces the power-mad Yellow Claw in a battle to decide the fate of humanity - and there was no name we could give our Dr. Strange epic except . . . "Nightmarel" 'Nuff said!

SGT. FURY. #50: The Howlers lead the great Allied assault on Tarawa in a desperate attempt to rescue Izzy Cohen - only to find that "On the Beach Waits... Death!" This one you dare not miss!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #1: The power-packed premiere of a pulse-pounding new battle-mag bombshell — in the great SGT. FURY tradition! It's destined to become a contemporary cembat classic!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #13: Wouldja believe the F.F., ol' Shell-head, the Hulk, Dr. Strange, and the Watcher—all in one ish? Well, you better, frantic one!

MARVEL TALES #12: The mostest in mighty Marvel memorabilia starring Spidey, Torchy, Thor, and the wonderful Wasp and all for only a quarter! Hope boy!

Let's meet 26 more Fort Worth, Tex. M.M.M.S. members! Arthur Taylor Jackson, Mich.

Jerry Wayne Cynthia, Ky. Irwin Nemitz Montreal, Quebec

Thomas Reynolds McArthur, W. V. Jack Thornton Dorchester, Mass. Barry Routh Palisades, Calif. Bruce Nagle Daniel Navarri Mastic Beach, N. Y. Oxnard, Calif. Bensenville, III.

Rick Notte Phila., Pa Daniel Navarro David Reese Fred Nemiroff Albuquerque, N. M. Forest Hills, N. Y. Brent Laird Brand Haskell Reno, Nev.

Mike Repak Mitchell Lakefman Montreal, Quebec Barry O'Hnlon Lynbrook, N. Y. Marty Tenney Toronto, Ont

Jeff Taylor Akron, Ohio Paul Reyes Lovington, N. M. Paul Newton Detroit, Mich. Larry O'Hara Pittsburgh, Pa.

El Paso, Tex. Larry Niler Brooklyn, N. Y. James Thompson Chicago, III. Donald Rehm Chicago, III.

was a white was a subject of the sub YOUR OWN MUNIFICENT MEMBERSHIP AN ALL NEW MEMBERSHIP PIN.. AN OFFICIAL RECORDING OF THE MAMS SONG.. SWINGIN' STICKERS OF EIGHT MARKEL HERDES... A NUTTY NEW NOTE PAD.-A MAGNILO QUENT MARVEL MINI-BOOK... A MIND-SNAPPING MARVEL FENCIL... A MAJESTIC MAMS CERTIFICATE, AND OKAY, MADMEN...HERE'S MY HARD-EARNED \$00 WHICH I'M SENDING YOU AT: M.M.M.S., MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 625 MADISON AVE., N.Y.C., N.Y., 10022 MAKE ME A MAGNILOQUENT MERRY MARCHER AND RUSH ME MY KRAZY KIT! NAME. ADDRESS CITY_ STATE ZIP_ NOTE TO PRESENT MEMBERS: WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU, PRANTIC ONES! WE'RE OFFERING YOU THE NEW KIT AT THE SPECIAL-PRICE OF 75¢! (OUR OWN COST!) SO JUST SEND YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER WITH THE COUPON TO KEEP YOURSELF MARCHING IN STEP! MARVEL SUPER-HERO T-SHIRTS ONLY \$1.60 EA. PLUS 25¢ FOR POSTAGE





"SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,
I am confused! What happens to the web design stretched between Spidey's arms and ribs when he's fightstretched between Spidey's arms and nos when he's fighting? I was rereading Spidey's great battle in issue #52
and I noticed the design was gone. For example, page
13, panel 5 - it's not there; page 14, panel 4 - it's there;
page 15, panels 1 & 3 - it's there on one side; page 16,
panel 5 - it's gone again, and it finally comes back on page
20, panel 1,only to disappear again in the last panel. How
does Spidey swing this? Sam Wood, 1531 Lenora Tyler, Tex. does Spidey swing this??

What's the matter with Spidey's now-you-see-it-now-you-don't webbing? Don't you like variety, Sammy? But you want an explanation, and that's what you're gonna get! So-o — Have you ever run into a spider web 'cause you didn't see it? Well, that's how it hangs with the Great Arachnid! From certain angles, or in certain light, the webbing isn't visible. That's why you can sometimes even see webbing on one side of Spidey — and not on the other side! Now you tell us — Is this the Marvel Age of Exemplary Excuses?



Dear Stan and John,

The trouble with Mysterio is that he lacks mystery. In his first appearance we wondered if he really had magic powers, and it turned out that he didn't. Although Marvel needs more super-scientists who specialize in one field (Klaw, Psycho-Man, Melter), it already has enough "all-knowing" super-scientists like Doom, Kang, Wizard, and Mysterio. I'd like to see Mystie get real supernatural powers somehow. I don't want to make him so powerful Spider-Man can't handle him, but powerful enough to again become one of Spidey's greatest foes. Even if you don't go along with my suggestion, next time let Spider-Man have a hand-to-hand fight with him so Mysterio can show off his spider-sense-jamming device, his web-dissolving mist, and his other weapons built into his costume.

Peter Sanderson, Jr., 27 Gov. Belcher Lane
Milton, Mass. 02186

What other weapons, Pete? Hah! You aren't really sure, are you? But don't think we're gonna be knocked sure, are your but don't think we te going as anotester or a loop just because we don't know either! No matter what kind of groovy gizmos Mysterio comes up with next time around — you can bet your web-shooter that he and Spidey will be mixing it up fisticuff style before the battle ends! After all, is there any other way to run a wall-crawler's magazine? And we'll sign off now before you answer that!

Dear Stan and John,

Congratulations on another one! Issue #53 was the

greatest! Dr. Octopus is a real challenge for Spidey, but I know Webhead will come out okay. Ol' J.J.J. is as crummy as ever. Why does that boob hate our friendly neighborhood wall-crawler anyway? Well, this is no time to argue about that. Those action scenes at the Science to argue about that. Hose action scenes at the Science Expo were stupendous. Johnny is great when it comes to fight scenes. He's also good when he does everyday settings. He draws terrific females, especially Gwen and Mary Jane. Speaking of the gals, I notice that Pete has something going with Gwen. If you're not careful, you'll have a comic-book battle over Mr. Parker. Also, M.J. has been out of the picture for the last few issues. What's up? Is she moonlighting or has she turned into a hermit? So, until the Kingpin goes on a diet, I'll sign off.

Scott Thurlow, 16 Keswick Rd.

S. Portland, Me. 04106

Too late, Scotty! The Kingpin was caught sneaking out of a health food center with a quart of carrot juice - so you'd better sign on again! As for the missing Miss Watson, let's just say she's been out of sight lately - but don't worry, with her looks it isn't likely she's been farmed out to Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band!

Dear Stan and John, SPIDER-MAN #53 was greater than usual. Of course, every ish is better than the last! Doc Ock reached new heights of villainy. If he gets any meaner, I won't be able to sleep at night. Gwen gets any interact, I won't be able to sleep at night. Gwen gets prettier every day. I wish she and Pete would swing like a pendulum does. The last page really shook me up and I can't wait to see what happens. While reading your letters page I discovered the letter concerning Cpl. St. Clair. This particularly touched me. I think I echo your sentiments of hoping the boys hurry home. I really appreciate you guys taking a stand on world affairs. May the bird of paradise hold a lucky star over your head at all times!

Ray Hurkey, 209 Oakway Ave. Spartanbury, S. C. 29801

And may the butterfly of bliss come to roost on your rosebush, Ray! As for Gwen and Petey making like Big Ben, don't be too surprised if it happens - on the Dig ben, con't be too surprised it it happens — on the other hand, though, unless you want a panicking pussyeat to jump right out of her go-go boots, maybe Mr. P. had best just keep playing the field. But, if he were to hitch up regularly with MJ, maybe Gwen would . . . awww, now you've got us so confused we might even just have him give up both gals! After all, we hear computer dating is what's happening!

Dear Stan and John,
I've been reading Spider-Man for the past 2 years and The been reading spider-man for the past 2 years and think it's great. I just got issue #53 and was overjoyed to see Doc Ock. The cover was the best in my collection! In the letters pages a fan complained that you did not bring back enough old baddies. I disagree. The old baddies had to start as new baddies. So please mix new ones with the old. Keep Gwen and Pete together, have Mary Jane and Harry get together, and have Flash team up with a new girl. But don't have Pete and Harry mad at each other. My vote goes for friends for Peter. Spidey has enough problems so please don't let Pete have so Eddie Boes, 2101 No. Salisbury W. Lafayette, Ind.

Gosh, Ed - we get loads of letters from fans who think Petey has it too easy now! What're we gonna do? Create a twin brother named Paul who can have all the probs, and ease up on Pete? (We get the

Now hear this! Please keep all letters no longer than ONE PAGE! Have mercy, mellow ones!

you've got to admit that there are some problems even poor overburdened Mr. Parker might not object to - like Gwen and M.J.!

Dear Stan and John, I'm writing for several reasons, the first being to congratulate you on ish #53. After reading the last panel I was left with the impression that many interesting devel-opments are about to unfold. It's good to see our eightbimbed friend back again, even if he is against Spidey. The second reason is to ask you, to beg you, to reprint the cover of ish #50 in a poster-like form. It's the most beautiful cover in comic mag history! Oh, before I forget, on page 14, panel 3, it shows Spidey with half his costume on page 14, panet of it shows space you did it as a joke, and I say it is a mistake. Please pass the verdict as to who is right. 'Nuff said! Jim Balmer, 500 Hillside Ave. Mill Valley, Calif. 94941

Yeah - and the less said about that goof the better, Jimmy! Spidey was sure nobody would notice, until we told him how many readers he has. He's been slinkwe tou nim now many reacers ne nas. ne's been sink-ing around the place ever since! Seriously, 'twas just a coloring error! And it's no joke that you've won a fushcia-on-heliotrope no-prize! We hope you're tickled pink! (Ugh! Sorry 'bout that!) As for your pulsatin' poster proposition, we'd try it if it weren't for one small hang-up - namely, you're the only one who's asked so far! But, we'll hang loose...!

Dear Stan and John.

I feel compelled to tell you gentlemen of the excellence of the 4th annual edition of the SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL. This issue's quality far surpassed that of its predecessors. However, one error was so evident that it managed to mar an otherwise flawless masterpiece. In the full-page scene depicting the Amazing One supporting the weight of all the Marvel characters with strength greater than he, one super-hero was omitted - Iron Man. Apart from this minor oversight, the issue was superlative

Gary Schmidt, 812 Ashwood Ave. Vallejo, Cal. 94590

Minor oversight, eh? Somehow we don't think ol' Shellhead would appreciate your terminology, Gary! Anyway, it wasn't really an oversight. How many superheroes do you think we can fit on a circular slab with a 4" radius? Besides, we were talking about natural strength — and ol' smoothie Stark gets his from that agonizin' armor! Dig?



Dear Stan and John

SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #4 was a pretty good issue. The lead story was written and drawn well and I'm glad that liltin' Larry Lieber has returned - the art was great. You've used the scene before, where a hero blunders into a movie set - but not with a real super-hero before. The Torch was a good guest star, but Spidey is really a loner. I don't know where Spidey gets all of the asbestos web-I don't know where spinely gets an of the asbestos webbing. He usually has money problems, but in the Special
he does pretty well. Say, I noticed how of Larry snuck
Kid Colt onto page 10. Let us know when the moviebegins to be released, as I like Kid Colt. The Wizard must
go to the same plastic surgeon as the Hulk. In their first
few appearance, both were as ugly as sin, but now the
Wizard isn't so bad. The special features in your annuals

feelin' that that one's been used before!) Anyway, are always fabulous, and this ish was no exception. Next year you should do even better with the saga of Peter's perents. Keep up the good work — you're my kind of people!

Terry Levin, 7938 Jeffery Blvd.
Chicago, Ill. 60617

And you're our kind of people, Terry! But don't hold your breath until the Torch vs. Spider-Man flick is released, 'cause the Wizard never put any film in the cameras! A dolled-up villain he might be, but a Fellini he's not!



Dear Stan and John,
The SPIDEY SPECIAL was one of the greatest yet.
Are you sure Larry Lieber penciled it? Talk about improvement! I was paging through it and the F.F. SPE-CIAL, trying to decide which to read first and I thought, "Boy, Romita seems to be improving." I almost keeled over when I saw who pencilled it. Even if Jack Kirby had inked it, he couldn't have made it as great as it was. Stan, did you have to have Spidey just happen to pick up the magnetically-activated fluids? It wasn't too bad but sheesh! Spidey could just have reversed a switch when but sneesh spidey could just have reversed a switch When he shot his web through the hole. On pages 6 & 7 when Spidey rips out a hydrant, it's O.K. When he glues it back, being good-hearted, that's fine. But did you ever think what'll happen in one hour when his web fluid dissolves away? Please, I beseech you, give Spidey back those little lines that denoted his spider-sense. Join the Marvel rebellion against old comic concepts — I'm thinking Marvel alreadyl Norman Elfer, 5745 Cameron Blvd. New Orleans, La. 70122

And don't ever stop, Norm - it makes our heavy hearts soar! Boy! Larry was eestatic when he read your lolla-palooza of a letter, but we sorta wish you'd sent it in a brown paper wrapper. We can still hear an occasional sob coming from the direction of Jazzy Johnny's teardrenched drawing board! But he doesn't have to worry who do you think's coaching Larry? As far as the Spidey-tingle goes, we counted no less than 22 of those little wavy lines in the SPECIAL! Any more than that and the mag would begin to look like a seismograph!

Now about that fire hydrant —

NEXT ISH: Sure, Spidophile - there'll be a next ish! Wewouldn't dream of coppin' out on you now, even if we have boxed ourselves into a corner! Naturally, we can't tell you too much about what's in store, because the surprises are gonna come fast and furious, but we can tell you this - you'll see more galvanized action with Zabu and his long-haired human playmate - plus the return of an old-time foe of Spidey's - probably the last super-baddie you'd ever expect - and possibly one of the most dangerous of all! And wait'll you see how JJJ figures into this one — it's almost more than mortal Marvelite can bear! So, keep thy webs ever untangled — you never know when you'll have to use one for a shoelace! Excelsior — 'n stuff like that!



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JON WHITCOMB BEN STAHL AL PARKER ROBERT FAWCETT STEVAN DOHANOS AUSTIN BRIGGS GEORGE GIUSTI HAROLD VON SCHMIDT PETER HELCK ALBERT DORNE

into good artists. Albert Dorne asked. "Why can't we give these people the training they need-including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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