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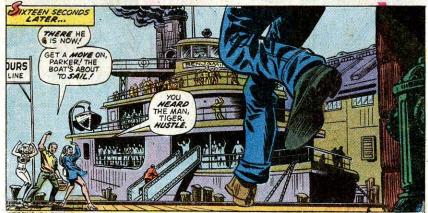


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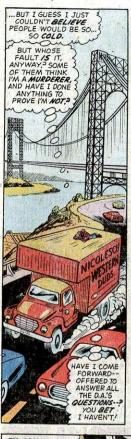
























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MESPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP. SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Roy, Gerry, and Ross,

I must say I put my foot in it when I said that Gil Kane was the only aritst to draw Spidey. Since taking over SPIDER-MAN. Ross Andru has steadily improved to the point that I hope he continues on the book for a long time to come, Issues 129 and 130 were exceptionally fine. Going over them carefully, I found that Ross had paced both issues extremely well. He left enough room all around for glimpses at Harry, Mary Jane, J.J.J., and Peter Parker as himself and the web-slinger. Ross has been drawing some fine perspective shots of Spidey in action, and he's putting lots of detail into his backgrounds. Keep up the great work, Ross. When it comes to Marvel. I don't mind comin' up red-faced once

Gerry Conway, what can I say? In one issue #130, you've given us the return of Hammerhead, the Spider-Mobile, Aunt May marrying Doc Ock, and the further mystery of the Jackal. I wasn't sure what to think when I first read about the Spider-Mobile, but I believe you may just have pulled it off, playing things for laughs. This Jackal character has me stumped. I've always enjoyed those "who's hidin' behind the mask?" stories in SPIDEY, since the days of the Crime-Master. Half the fun is having an excuse to look through my SPIDEY collection trying to figure out who it could be. Doc Ock's marrying of Aunt May on the last page was the kind of wholly unexpected thing you guys spring on us from time to time, trying to see if we have weak hearts. You people are gonna have a lot of mail to read after this one; I guarantee it.

Ralph Macchio. 188 Wilson Dr. Cresskill, N.J. 07626

Our thanks, Ralph, for the good words and kind wishes You'll be happy to know that most of Marveldom agreed with your assessment of SPIDER-MAN #130. An overwhelming majority praised it as one of our recent best.

On the other hand...

Not everyone was so sure that we "just may have pulled off" the Spider-Mobile shtick. A representative comment fol-

Dear Stan, Roy, and Gerry,

Having been a SPIDER-MAN reader for more than seven years. I have had an opportunity to watch you guys take Spidey through numerous fluctuations. Generally, the writing is superb, with an occasional "off" issue. SPIDER-MAN #130, however, was the all-time low. The Spider-Mobile?!? Aargh!!! Surely you've learned (through your comics and your competitors'), that such contrivances do nothing but subtract from the reality and appeal of a high-class comic such as SPIDER-MAN. You gave Captain America a normal, everyday motorcycle. Originally, Peter Parker had the same thing.

Then why the Spider-Mobile? What's more, why have Spidey ride into battle with it, especially when he is much more mobile when just using his manufactured webbing? My point is, please get rid of the Spider-Mobile, and I will try to forget that it ever existed as a blemish on the writing prowess

of Gerry, Thanks,

Roger Schwed 151 West 86th St. New York, N.Y. 10024

If you recall, Rog, we accidentally let slip (in SPIDEY #129) that the Spider-Mobile was headed for a rather strange fate. We won't say any more on that score just yet, but we think we can safely promise that what finally becomes of that gasguzzling wonder will please both the "realism" supporters. who opposed its introduction, and the "wildness" supporters. who applauded same. Okay?

Dear People.

I am really shook by the appearances of the self-righteous executioners that are popping up in your mags. The Hangman from WEREWOLF BY NIGHT) and the Punisher (from SPIDER-MAN) are prime examples of them. The Hangman was a mental defective who might warrant sympathy, if not for his murderous activities. The Punisher seems like his head's together, except for his "the only good criminal is a dead criminal" attitude. I'm not saying that every lawbreaker is a product of a bad environment, a mixed-up kid, or a thrillseeker. There are victous and unprincipled people for

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menace of - the Conquistadors!) - MAS-TER OF KUNG FU #19 - MARVEL TEAM-UP #24 (Fire vs. cold! The Human Torch vs. Iceman!) - SUB-MARINER #71 - MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #16 (The Son of Satan - exorcist extraordinairel) - KA-ZAR #4 - DEFENDERS #14 (A Defender leaves the ranks - perhaps forever!) - MARVEL PREMIERE #16 (The Origin of Iron Fist - part two!) -JUNGLE ACTION #10 - CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #30 (The Mark of the Man-Wolf! J. Jonah's star-cursed son now in a series all his own!) - MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #4 (When the Thing teams up with Captain America - look out, world!) - FRANKENSTEIN #11 - CAP-TAIN MARVEL #33 - AMAZING ADVEN-TURES #25 (Killraven vs. the Devil's Marauder!) - SGT. FURY #120 - and KID COLT #184! (Watch out for the Kid - he'll probably dance on all our graves

whom the only answer is imprisonment. But these murdering vigilantes ignore the ideals of the Founding Fathers conceming punishment fitting the crime. A lot of "criminals" could be helped by the rehabiliatory rather than the punishing aspects of penal institutions. I realize that the two characters, I've mentioned are products of a very real condition that exists in the world. However, I hope the embodiment of this idea never materializes in our world on any grand scale.

Brad Oseland 447 Dulaney Avenue Woodriver, III. 62095

Amen, Brad, Amen.

It's unfortunate, but the world is filled with complicated questions and men who insist on finding too-simple answers. The Punisher, the Hangman, and the Foolkiller (from MAN-THING) are examples of such men. We hope you— and the rest of Marveldom Altogether— clearly understand that by by telling their stories we are in no way endorsing their solutions, only examing them.

(Though we must add: there's more, far more, to the Punisher than was revealed in that first story. And we'll be exploring his character again more closely and more fully in the near future.)

Gentlemen:

The Question: Who is he?

The man in doubt: the Jackal.

The man behind the mask: HARRY OSBORN!

Go back to his father, Norman Osborn, the Green Goblin. Remember his style of speaking? Remember his cunning? Remember his costume? Take out a picture of the Goblin and compare it to one of the Jackal. Especially compare the masks: the eyes, ears, even the costumes' colors are similar.

He knows Spider-Man's identity (pages 28, 30, ish #130) from the Goblin's papers.

Look at all the above-mentioned as evidence in the Parker-Spider-Man-Octavius-Osborn-Jackal-Hammerhead case.

Do I get a no-prize? If so, please send in a no-mobile in a no-marked envelope.

Harry Daniels P.O. Box 205, Gilman Hall Johns Hopkins U. Baltimore, Md. 21210

Nope. Sorry, Harry, but no no-prize just yet. True, the similarities you point out between the late Green Goblin and the all too punctual Jackal are, shall we say, interesting. But they're hardly conclusive. And what's more, we found a Bullpen-Page on page 28 of SPIDEY #130, rather than a



clue. And the Jackal didn't have to know Spidey's secret identity in order to get him involved in the Hammerhead/Doc. Ock feud. That little bit of chicanery only required that the Jackal be aware that Pete and Spidey are acquaintances.

And besides, Mr. Daniels, even though we haven't peeked behind the Jackal's mask ourselves yet...we think you're wrong. But our thanks for a noble attempt. Better luck next time.

To Whom It May Concern:

Why did you move from 625 to 575 Madison Avenue?

Keith Cooper

30 Montrose Avenue (Apt. 19-T) Brooklyn, N.Y. 11206

We had to, Keith. They were after us.

And on that paranoid note, we bid thee hail and farewell until next month.



MARVEL VALUE STAMP

FOR THIS ISSUE! CLIP 'EM AND COLLECT 'EM!



MONUMENTAL MEMORANDA ABOUT MONSTER-SIZE MAGS!

STAN LEE'S

There's so much to tell I don't know where to begin! By now you must have heard about our great new Giant-Sized 35¢ comics - our fantastic new 60¢ Super-Sized series our dynamite one-dollar Collectors' Treasury Editions - as well as the half-dozen sensational new blackand-white 75¢ers with which of Marvel is taking the world by storm! In the past few months we've brought superheroes to the peak of their popularity - made a world-wide cult of monster masterpieces - given fandom the greatest in sword-and-sorcery as well as magic, kung fu, and outasight science-fiction and supernatural chillers - and, believe it or not, we've only just begun! We've got whole brand-new series in the planning stages right now for older readers, for younger readers, even for readers who don't wanna read! As for our sensational TV and movie projects, I'll clue you in as soon as they're declassified top secret! But one thing remains to be done. Wouldja believe that FOOM has more than 25,000 members by now? There's never been such a blockbusting fan club in the history of comicdom! We've gotta do something to celebrate -- we want to do more than send you those fabulous FOOM mags every three months - but we're too busy writing and drawing the galaxy's greatest strips to give it enough thought! So how about helping your shy, modest Bullpen buddies? Let's start another mildly magnificent Marvel No-Contest, and award the usual priceless No-Prizes to everyone sending us a usable suggestion about what to do to make FOOM even better than it is. We know it's tough to improve upon perfection, but Marveldom Assembled won't let us down! Remember, FOOM is your club, so don't just stand there, Send your awesome inspirations and Idiotic Ideas to THE VOICE OF FOOM, c/o Marvel Comics, 575 Madison Ave., NYC NY 10022 - and be grateful for the chance. After all, does The Pentagon ever ask you how to run the army? Also, be here without fail next ish because, if the Hulk doesn't lose his vitamin pills, I'll hit you with the most eagerly awaited announcement of the year-and that's on the levell Till then, fill your days with joy, your nights with peace, your life with love.

Excelsion

Fon

ITEM! So you thought the biggest news to hit the comic-mag scene was our dramatic new line-up of 35# Giant-Size mags, eh? Well, close - but no cigar! 'Cause, starting now, we're adding still another species of monster-size masterworks to bedazzle youl Yep, we're talking about our sensational new 60\$ SUPER-GIANTS - a terrific trio of 100page extravaganzas, each sporting a new, novel-length epic-more special features than you ever dreamed ofsome of the mightiest Marvel classics ever - and each on sale four times a year! First and foremost of these is the SUPER-GIANT SPIDER-MAN, which is actually not simply a Spidey mag at all, but much more - in short, a bouncin' big brother to our regular-size MARVEL TEAM-UP hit! That's right-each issue of the SUPER-GIANT SPIDER-MAN WIII bring our wondrous wall-crawler face to face with still another of our everincreasing array of stars. (Ish #1, in fact, spotlights the story you virtually dared us to print - as Spidev encounters the one and only COUNT DRACULA! How's that for openers?)



ITEMI What's more, the merry month of May will see the debut of the SUPER-GIANT AVENGERS, and in June we'll be bustin' out with a much-demanded SUPER-GIANT CONAN, a fit eompanionmag to our smash 75-center, SAYAGE TALES, if you want more details on our eyes on our awesome ads, scattered thru our various issues — but whatever you do, wherever you go, don't miss out on this collectors' item first issue, or you'll regret it for years to come! We have spoken — so there!

ITEM! Like we said above, we'll let our ads (and the mags themselves) do most of our talking for us, but this month also heralds the premieres of two more 35¢ thrillers you've been waiting for. First, there's GIANT-SIZE CREATURES and no, Irving, that doesn't mean that everyone in it is over ten feet tall. It's simply that each and every issue sports 52 big pages - and the star of CREA-TURES is a certain WEREWOLF BY NIGHT who's taken Marveldom and Monsterdom by storm. (And if our hairy anti-hero isn't enough for you, wait'll you meet Tigra, the Were-Woman, in that selfsame issuel) A couple of weeks later, there's GIANT-SIZE SUPER-TEAMS #1. starring the dynamic DEFENDERS. no less, to place alongside the two 35¢ blockbusters which star Spidey and the fabulous F.F.I Read 'em and enjoy, pilgrim - you've been waiting a long time for comic-mags like these - and so have

ITEMI Just for a breather from telling you about this month's new biggies, friends, howzabout we give you a hurried hint about a brand new feature which begins in May, okay? It's called DEATHLOK, THE DEMOLISHER — with a story concocted and drawn by RICH (Swash) BUCKLER, and dynamite dialogue by Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH. We haven't got room to preview Deathlok's awesome appearance, but take it from us, he's gonna shock, startle, and stupefy — starting in ASTONISHING TALES #25I And that's a promise!

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! Here's a personal

tid-bit or two we thought might be of interest: First off, let's give a harried hello to Lethal LARRY HAMA, who takes over as artist of our new IRON FIST feature in the current ish of MARVEL PREMIERE. Larry's knowledgeable in karate, kung fu, and the martial arts in general - so look out. Shang-Chi. competition's on the way! . Speaking of kung fu, we've gotta tell you how pleased we are with Peerless PAUL GULACY. who's taken over our much-heralded MASTER OF KUNG FU title now that Judo JIM STARLIN's devoting his full time to his own rendition of CAPTAIN MARVEL, Paul, like Valiant VAL MAYERIK and Crafty CRAIG RUSSELL before him. is a former protégé of Dapper DAN ADKINS - who's become a regular Talent Scout out there in the wilds of Ohiol . Another too-brief tip of the hat to Dauntless DON PERLIN, whose work on WEREWOLF BY NIGHT (in both its 25¢ and 35¢ incarnations) is winning him a whole legion of fans. (Who knows? A few of 'em might even be human!) . Whew! Looks like it's Welcome-Aboard Month, as Debonair DAVE COCKRUM returns to the fold as embellisher of the AVENGERS. Dave's work on the Mighty Ones a few months back was wildly hailed by Marveldom Assembled - and this time it looks like he's back to stay! · Add the above names to the roster of new young talents who are swiftly growing to Marvel-ous maturity, a list which already includes Affable AL MILGROM. (Santa) KLAUS JANSON, plus the other new lights we've discovered - or, more truthfully, who've discovered us, since we're nothing without 'em - and you've got at least a part of the reason why the 1970's are gonna be the Marvel Age of Comics all over again!

A SPECIAL PULSATIN' P.S. FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLIPENI Uip! We had so much inside info to toss at you this month that we've squeezed our invaluable Checklist right off the page! So look for it this month in — you guessed it — the letters section of most of our much-lauded maga! "Nulf said!

Till next time - keep 'ere flyie'.

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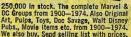
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We'll get around in a second to telling you what special benefits will soon be yours. But first —

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What's more, each and every Stampbook will have its own special number which'll be of ever-increasing importance as the weeks go by! Why? Don't ask not yet, anyway. After all, we've gotta keep a few secrets for a while, don't we? And that's not all: Just to make

sure you feel you're getting your money's worth we're tossing in a SPECIAL BONUS POSTER, in full color, with each and every order! We can't tell you just what Marvel super-star it features, but take it from us— this is an offer you can't refuse!

Okey, so suppose it's a few short months from now, and you've got your Stampbook, with precisely one hundred MVS mini-posters pasted neatly into place. Now, besides just looking at it, and saving it for future generations to extol and admire, what else'll it get you?

Well, over the months to come, we've got a bunch of surprises up our sleeves, which we're just waiting to spring on you. But, here's the first benefit you may accrue, just to whet your appetite:

As you may already know, for the past nigh-decade, there have been colorful Comic-Book Conventions held all over the U.S.A. — as well as in Canada, England, and elsewhere — in fact, just about

everywhere that the comic-mag itself is in vogue.

These fan-oriented conclaves — which feature panel-discussions on the comics, big-name guest stars, back-issue comics for sale, etc., etc.

Well, just for starters, two of the largest and finest of these conventions (often called "cons," for short), both of which have been going concerns for some years now, have cheerfully volunteered to give special discounts on admission to every person who shows up with a completely-filled MVS Stampbook!

Don't worry, though — you won't have to surrender the prized Stampbook it self, after all your hard work. The friendly toll-takers at each con will simply stamp a pre-marked place in the book, and you'll be able to keep the book itself — so that you can use it another day, another way.

Here are the first two comicons to make this offer:

(1) Easily the number-one, most prestigious, most star-spangled of all is the New York Comic Art Convention, hosted each year by fearless Phil Seuling at a major hotel in Manhattan itself. As you doubtless know from past Bullpen Bulletins Pages, this New York con attracts many of the most talented titans of the comic-book (and comic-strip) field; in fact, it's safe to say that at least half of Marvel's editors, writers, and artists will turn up sooner or later at this con, which is held each year over the weekend closest to July 4. In '74 a couple of guys named Rascally ROY THOMAS and Jazzy JOHNNY ROMITA - ever hear of em? - will be among this convention's major guests, hosting panels and answering questions about everything in sight.

For fuller info about this con, including the amount of the special MVS DIS-COUNT, just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Phil Seuling Box 177 Coney Island Station Brooklyn, N.Y. 11224

And, that brings us to -

(2) The star-studded San Diego Comics Convention, to be held in sunny Southern California later this summer. (See? Just 'cause Marvel's editorial offices are on the East Coast, that doesn't mean we've forgotten the rest of the countryl) In addition to those Bullpenners and other comics pros who inhabit the western half of our fair land—including, for instance, Stainless STEVE ENGLEHART, Mischievous MIKE RRIEDRICH, Far-Out FRANK BRUNNER, and others—one of the San Diego Con's several Special Guests this year will, be the selfsame ROY THOMAS listed above. Again, for the full scoop on this convention, including the MVS DISCOUNT and other dynamic details, just send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

Mr. Shel Dorf P.O. Box 7531 San Diego, Ca. 92107

Got it? And, even as we pen these perishable words, we're busily lining up other cons, all across the nation, which in the coming year or so will offer MVS Discounts to everyone who presents a full MVS STAMPBOOK at the door.

Now, an aside for those of you who can't attend any comic-book conventions, either on the coasts or in between:
Next Bullpen Bonus Page, we'll be cluing you in on still another amazing extra that'll be yours when that spectacular Stampbook is full to overflowing. And we're racking our brains, every day, to dream up even more sensational surprises

What's more, since you may have a few ideas and suggestions about things that Marvel could offer you without making you send in your treasured Stamp-books themselves (which we know you!! want to keep and collect), we'd like to know about 'em. Just add your comments when you fill out the coupon below, all right?

Just one final reminder: Don't delay in sending for your Stampbook, if you're gonna take advantage of the conventions or the other dazzling discounts we'll be offering this summer and beyond. After all, it takes a short time to process your orders and for your specially-numbered copy to reach you by mail—and you don't wanna have to wait till '75 to jump on the bandwagon, do you?

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