

SPIDER-MAN

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the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE!
ALL MY SUPER-
POWERS HAVE
FAILED ME!

EXACTLY AS I
PLANNED, FOOL!
IN MOMENTS, YOU
WILL BE

DEAD!!

-- AND YOUR OWN
SPIDER-MOBILE
WILL BE YOUR
MURDERER!



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Enroll now as a member of the Junior Sales Club of America. We'll send you a Free Prize Catalog, Membership Card, full selling information plus your first order of 12 boxes of lovely All Occasion Greeting Cards or sensational new Christmas Cards. As each order is sold, you may order additional cards until you've met your prize requirements. Cards are sent on credit. **YOU PAY NOTHING IN ADVANCE.**

Each box of 18 fine quality greeting cards cost just \$2.00. That is about 11¢ a card. Think of all the people you know — relatives, friends, neighbors — who'll want to buy these handsome cards by the box. Many J.S.C.A. members have earned a prize in only a few hours. **IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY TAKE AS YOUR PRIZE 70¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL.**

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Join now — it costs you nothing

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FILL IN COUPON-REPLY CARD - CUT & MAIL TODAY - NO STAMP NEEDED

While attending a demonstration in radiology, student PETER PARKER was bitten by a spider which had accidentally been exposed to RADIOACTIVE RAYS. Through a miracle of science, Peter soon found that he had GAINED the insect's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider!..

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN™

LEN WEIN [ROSS ANDRU] [MIKE ESPOSITO] [GLYNIS WEIN] [JOE ROSEN] [IRV FORBUSH]
WRITER/EDITOR [ILLUSTRATOR] [EMBELLISHER] [COLORIST] [LETTERER] [HEAD MECHANIC]



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WELL, AT LEAST NOW I KNOW HOW THAT HOMICIDAL HOTROD DIS-APPEARED, AFTER BEING SUNK UP TO ITS HUBCAPS IN THE HUDSON RIVER OOZE! *



*A DISAPPEARANCE FIRST NOTED BACK IN 15H #157. --LEN AGAIN.

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Research shows people usually judge a guy by the size of his chest. Why?—Look around. Do guys parade about town in swim suits? No! Everybody wears clothes. While your other muscles can be hidden under clothing, a big chest stands out at first glance. Your stomach, thigh and leg muscles can be concealed under pants. Arm muscles can be hidden under sleeves. But, a big chest is an attention-getter. It can indicate virility, dynamism and courage.

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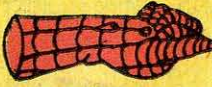
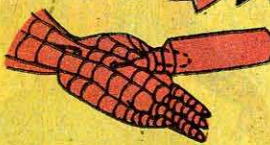
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when I planned to retire before fifty

this is the business that made it possible

a true story by John B. Haikay

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.



"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise

offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, less than \$1500 starts a Duraclean dealership.) I could work it as a one-man business to start. No salaries to pay. I could operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead. For transportation, I could use the trunk of my car. (I bought the truck later, out of profits.) And best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And, what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs, and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive part of the dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing of carpeting does. Instead it *lifts* out the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture

fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over \$40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

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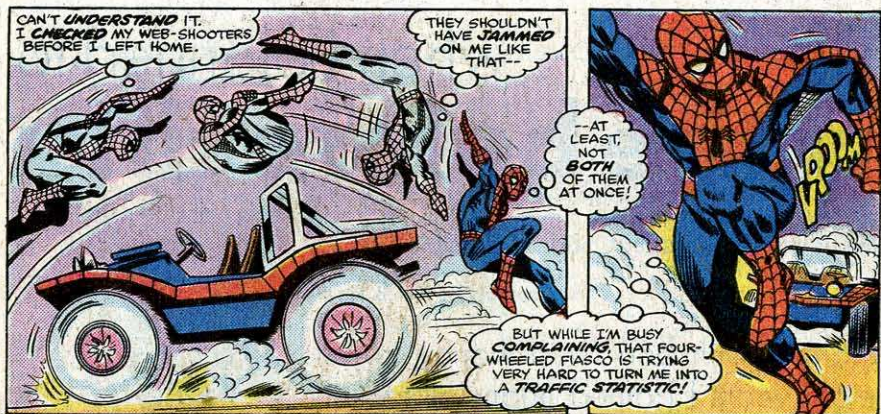


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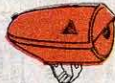
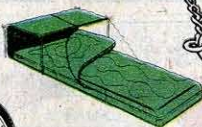
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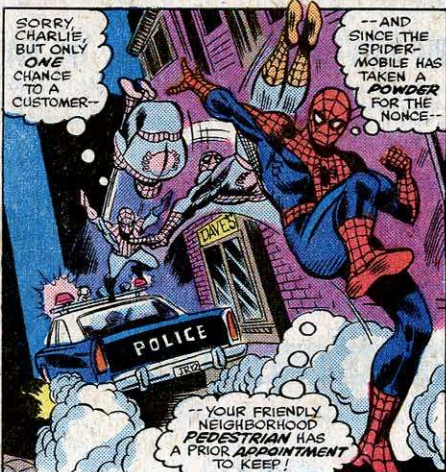
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AND ON THAT NOTE, LET'S AMBLE OVER TO CITY HOSPITAL A SHORT WHILE LATER...

SORRY TIGER--BUT HOSPITALS *DEPRESS* ME. I'D RATHER BE WHERE IT'S LIGHT, *BRIGHT*--WHERE THINGS ARE *SWINGING*.

WE'LL JUST STOP BY TO CHECK ON AUNT MAY, MARY JANE-- THEN I PROMISE I'LL BUY YOU THE MOST SWINGING MILK SHAKE IN TOWN--!

HEY--HARRY OSBORN? LIZ ALLEN? WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

HI, PETE. JUST THOUGHT WE'D PAY OUR RESPECTS TO YOUR AUNT.

HOPE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER, MRS. PARKER. HERE--THESE MOVIE MAGAZINES MIGHT HELP TO PASS THE TIME.

ISN'T THAT *NICE* OF MARY JANE, AUNT MAY? NOW YOU CAN FOLLOW ALL THE LATEST DIRT ON TONY ORLANDO AND DOWN.

THAT'S SWEET, PETER DEAR--

--BUT I'M REALLY MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN DONNIE AND MARIE OSBORN.

AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU* CHILDREN? WELL? SPEAK UP, ARE YOU BOTH GETTING *ALONG* THESE DAYS?

I'M AFRAID YOUR NEPHEW STILL HAS A FEW CORNERS, MRS. PARKER--

BUT MJ IS WORKING AT *ROUNDING THEM OFF*, AUNT MAY.

WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME, I MUST SAY.

AND *SPEAKING* OF TIME, PETE-- I'M AFRAID LIZ AND I HAVE GOTTA BE *GOING*.

WE'RE GLAD TO SEE YOU *LOOKING* SO WELL, MRS. PARKER-- AFTER YOUR ORDEAL WITH DR. OCTOPUS.*

YEAH, PRETTY LADY-- I GUESS MARY JANE AND I OUGHT TO MAKE A GRACEFUL *EXIT* AS WELL.

YOU TAKE IT EASY ON THE ICE HOCKEY PRACTICE NOW, HEAR?

OH, PETER-- YOU SPOIL ALL MY FUN.

*AS SHOWN THESE THREE ISSUES PAST, RIGHT?-- LIVELY LEN.

HEY, IT WAS REALLY GOOD *SEEING* YOU TWO AGAIN. WHY DON'T THE FOUR OF US *DOUBLE* SOME EVENING?

YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DATE, HANDSOME.

HARRY OSBORN AND...LIZ ALLEN? IT'S A SMALLER WORLD THAN I THOUGHT.

TAKE CARE, YOU GUYS. SEE YOU SOON.

AND WHILE PETER PARKER AND MARY JANE WATSON SET OFF IN SEARCH OF THE PENULTIMATE MILK SHAKE--

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M

--WHERE AN EVENT IS ABOUT TO OCCUR THAT MAY HAVE FAR-REACHING EFFECTS ON THE LIFE OF OUR HARRIED WEB-SLINGER!

BLASTED LIGHTER!
IT'S JUST LIKE
EVERYTHING ELSE
AROUND HERE-- IT
DOESN'T WORK!

MR. JAMESON,
THIS PARCEL
JUST CAME FOR
YOU-- SPECIAL
DELIVERY!

HAND IT
HERE, MRS. PRIMM--
AND WHILE YOU'RE
AT IT, HAND ME
A MATCH!

I'LL DO NOTHING OF
THE KIND SIR! I'VE
TOLD YOU **ONCE**, I'VE
TOLD YOU A **DOZEN**
DOZEN TIMES--

SMOKING IS A
FILTHY HABIT,
AND I'LL NOT HAVE
IT IN ANY OFFICE
WHERE I AM
EMPLOYED!

HUH?

WH-WHAT ARE YOU
DOING, WOMAN?

SAVING YOUR LIFE, MR. JAMESON,
IT'S THE DUTY OF A RESPONSIBLE
SECRETARY TO LOOK AFTER
HER EMPLOYER!

YOU SO RARELY KNOW
WHAT'S GOOD FOR
YOU!

SNAP!

SECRETARY? YOU'RE
NO SECRETARY! YOU'RE
A DICTATOR IN
SKIRTS!

GET OUT
OF HERE,
PRIMM!
YOU'RE
FIRED!

ACCORD-
ING TO MY
CONTRACT,
MR. JAMESON--
YOU CAN'T
FIRE ME!

BUT NEVERTHELESS--
I QUIT!

I CERTAINLY
WILL NOT
STAY
WHERE MY
TALENTS
AREN'T
APPRECI-
ATED!

YOU WANT
APPRECIATION,
LADY-- BUY A
DOG!

THAT'S
THREE
DOWN.

AND AFTER THE STEAM HAS STOPPED
STREAMING FROM JOLLY JONAH'S
EARS...

SPECIAL
DELIVERY,
EH?

FUNNY...
THERE'S
NO
RETURN
ADDRESS.

HMMMM...
NO LETTER,
NO NOTE, NO
NOTHING!
JUST A HAND-
FUL OF CHEAP
SNAPSHOTS!

IF THIS IS A GAG BY
PETER PARKER
OR SOMEBODY,
I'LL DISLOCATE
HIS...

**GALLOPING
GADFREY!!**

TH- THESE ARE THE
MOST INCREDIBLE
PHOTOS I'VE EVER
SEEN! AND IF WHAT
THEY SHOW IS
TRUE--

-- THEN
SPIDER-MAN
IS FINISHED!

CURIOUS, FAITHFUL ONE? TRUTH TO TELL, SO ARE WE-- BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE TO TAKE LEAVE OF THE ASTONISHED JONAH JAMESON FOR THIS MONTH, AND CUT OVER TO PETER PARKER'S CHEERY CHELSEA PAD--

--OR WE'RE LIABLE TO MISS ALL THE ACTION!

HMMM--WEB-SHOOTERS ARE WORKING PERFECTLY AGAIN!

THWIP!

CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT--

--UNLESS THAT GAS MADE ME SO LIGHT-HEADED, I ACTUALLY FORGOT TO PRESS THE TRIGGERS BEFORE!

OF COURSE, THAT STILL DOESN'T EXPLAIN HOW I LOST MY WALL-CRAWLING ABILITIES!

FOR ME, FORGETTING HOW TO DO THAT IS LIKE FORGETTING HOW TO BREATHE!

SWELL, LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING'S BACK TO SO-CALLED NORMAL IN THAT DEPARTMENT TOO--

--AND MY EVER-READY SPIDER-STRENGTH CERTAINLY ISN'T ANY THE WORSE FOR WEAR!

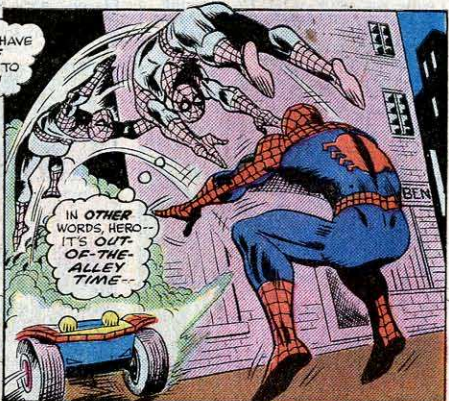
THAT'S /T THEN, GUESS EVEN THE BEST OF US CAN HAVE OUR OFF-DAYS.

JUST WONDER WHY MINE ALWAYS SEEM TO COME SO OFTEN!

RATS! I SHOULD NEVER HAVE HUNG FROM THE CEILING LIKE THAT. THE CHILL I HAD WITH MY MILK SHAKE KEEPS COMING UP ON ME.

BUT THEN, THAT'S THE MARK OF A TRIED-AND-TRUE HERO-- THE ABILITY TO GO INTO BATTLE WITH A SMILE ON HIS LIPS AND A *SLID INDICATION* IN HIS HEART!

OH, WHY COULDN'T THE SPIDER-MOBILE HAVE JUST STAYED SUNK IN THE HUDSON RIVER?





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THE SPIDER'S WEB

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Dear Len,

Oh, I'm so proud of myself. If you remember my LOC concerning the first appearance of the mysterious delinquent, Mrs. Mullaney's little boy offered the guess of Doc Ock. And for once, my guess was right. Len, you sure know how to make a guy feel good.

But Ockomments are for next ish. This letter's reserved for SPIDER-MAN #156 and the wedding. The most interesting part of the story to me was easily the introduction, with all the guests preparing for the occasion. Perhaps it's because I recall my own recent wedding, but I think rather that the characters involved are so strongly defined that a long-time reader could do nothing but revel in their individualistic attitudes. Pete's little escapade with Mrs. Muggins and his following inability to tie his tie were typically Parker, and therefore, typically funny. Jonah's humble assessment of his own appearance likewise brought a chuckle from my lips, as did Aunt May's universal repetitiveness. Flash's concern for Harry, Liz remembrances, and the Robertsons' care all aroused the fine thought of people who love their friends. And finally, MJ's resolving Pete's tie dilemma and subsequent loving apologies in light of the thought of a wedding...well, all the characters were played with perfection, and done so in as little as one panel each. Very, very well done, Len.

It's a known fact that in the Marvel Universe, a wedding is not allowed to be completed without a hitch, and the problem invented for this issue's wedding was better than most. I was disappointed by Spidey's ruthless defeat of the Mirage, since destroying the chandelier and having it fall on top of his foe was not exactly the most compassionate thing for Spidey to do. Yet, Mirage's basic plot, to rob four weddings at once in a hall such as Morgan's of Malverne (modeled after Terrace In The Park?), was a great one. Also, I was happy to see that the interfering party was not an old foe seeking revenge. All in all, it was a good one.

Dean Mullaney
168 Colon Avenue
Staten Island, NY 10308

Thanks for the words of praise, Dean: We never get tired of hearing them. (Around here, we don't have all that much else to look forward to.)

Seriously though, Len reluctantly agrees with your assessment of the way Spidey handled the Mirage. Although Len knew that the Mirage would be protected from permanent damage from the falling chandelier by the metallic shell of integrated circuitry he wore, the ol' Wall-crawler couldn't have known until after the fact, when he checked the Mirage's unconscious body (as he did on page 27 panel 4). Unless, of course, you're willing to believe that our hero's Spider-senses alerted him to the Mirage's protecting shell, and thus let us off the hook.

Oh, you're not, huh?

(Oh, by the way, Dean. Congratulations on joining the ranks of the happily wedded. May your morningstar never fade.)
Dear Len, Ross, Mike, and Bulpen:

When one thinks of the SPIDER-MAN series, all sorts of thoughts run through your head. There are the colorful villains, the interesting supporting characters, the sub-plots, and the many little things that add up to make this book what it is. This series, more than any other, seems to have been the one most consistent with the words *Marvel Magic*. Don't ask me why this series has been singled out, but that is probably the reason why Spidey is the best-selling and most popular comic character

in the world. (That last statement can really sink into you.) If this says something about the state of comics and comic readers today, so be it. I'm sure not complaining about having Spidey lead the whole pack.

Anyway, SPIDER-MAN #156 had all of those little bits and pieces of magic which have made this series what it is, and the whole thing was Spidey to the core. Len and Ross and Mike can certainly be proud of their efforts. It was nice to see Mrs. Muggins stick her ugly face up in the beginning of the issue. Whatever happened to that other character that was introduced around the time that Peter found his new apartment, that fashion model woman? Haven't seen her in a while. I'm also pleased with the way that you managed to work all of the supporting characters in. I was afraid that you had forgotten about Liz Allen. What's this I hear about her and Harry Osborn?

Most impressive was the fact that no matter how many colorful and exciting villains we've had in the past, you can still come up with more. Since we never got the whole scoop on Mirage's origin, I hope that this means he'll be slated for a return appearance at sometime in the immediate future. I liked the way he called Spidey "Insect." And I'm also fond of the way that you've been managing to bring back those older villains, such as Doctor Octopus. Hopefully, Hammerhead also managed to make it out of the nuclear explosion at the end of #131 alive. I'm looking forward to another one of those gang-boss type stories with all of the hoodlums and everything. Don't disappoint me.

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Sure hope we didn't disappoint you, Larry. But, by now, you've seen all three installments of the latest Doc Ock/Hammerhead extravaganza, so let us know, huh?

As far as that fashion model woman (Gloria Grant...Glory, to her friends) goes, she's joined our little cast of characters on a very permanent basis, and just wait'll you see how she fits into the picture as a whole. We guarantee it'll knock you clear out of your socks.

Oh, one last thing, Lar...what have you been hearing about Liz Allen and Harry Osborn?

Dear Marvel,

I always thought that Spider-Man's Spider-sense warned him of his enemies. But in issue #156, it warns him of Mrs. Muggins, his landlady. I don't think Spidey would consider her an enemy.

Do I get a no-prize?

Larry Stefanich
5776 North 79th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53218

Yes, you do, Larry—but not for the reason you think. We're giving you that coveted non-entity for giving us a chance to explain something that's needed clarification for ages; namely, Spider-Man's Spider-sense!

As near as we can figure it these days, the Spider-sense does not warn our hero of his enemies, it warns him of imminent danger! Since an unexpected attack by one of his awesome foes almost certainly qualifies as danger, the Spidey-sense tingles with a vengeance whenever one of them rears his ugly head, but the Spider-sense will tingle just as urgently when Spidey is about to be attacked by anyone, from the above-mentioned Mrs. Muggins to effervescent Aunt May.

Clear enough, Faithful One?

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--THAT IS, UNTIL
I RUN OUT OF
ROOM TO
MOVE!

IT HAS TO BE ONE
GIANT LEAP FOR
SPIDER-KIND TO
THAT BUILDING
ACROSS THE
STREET--



--BUT I
DON'T EVEN
WANT TO
CONSIDER THE
ALTERNATIVES
IF I STAY
HERE!



HAVE TO GIVE
IT **EVERYTHING**
I'VE GOT--PUSH
MY MUSCLES TO
THEIR **LIMIT**--
AND TRUST MY
WEBBING TO
SAVE ME IF I
FALL **SHORT**--



--EXCEPT,
OF COURSE,
THAT MY WEB-
SHOOTERS
AREN'T
WORKING
AGAIN!

WELL, YOU CAN'T
SAY I DIDN'T
GIVE IT THE
OLD COLLEGE
TRY!

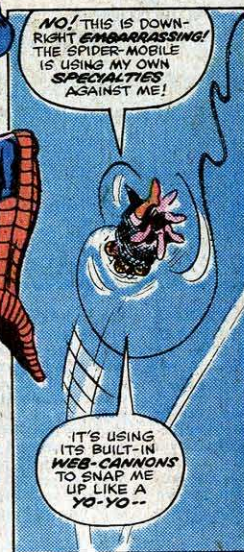
THAT'S NOT
MUCH OF AN
EPITAPH--
BUT I SUPPOSE
IT'LL HAVE
TO DO!



HUH?

SPAK!

SOMETHING'S
SNAGGED
THE BACK
OF MY
COSTUME!



NO! THIS IS DOWN-
RIGHT **EMBARRASSING!**
THE SPIDER-MOBILE
IS USING MY OWN
SPECIALTIES
AGAINST ME!

IT'S USING
ITS BUILT-IN
WEB-CANNONS
TO SNAP ME
UP LIKE A
YO-YO--



--AND DEPOSIT ME
LIKE AN OVER-STUFFED
DUFFEL BAG RIGHT
IN ITS WAITING
BACK SEAT!

IT'S FINALLY
HAPPENED!
I'VE BEEN HOIST
WITH MY OWN
PETARD!



--BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I FINALLY **MET** WHICHEVER IS **BEHIND** THIS **CAPER**!

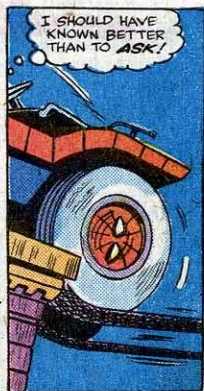
AND SINCE THE SPIDER-MOBILE OBVIOUSLY HAS SOME **DESTINATION** IN MIND, I'LL JUST SIT **SNUG** AND LET IT **TAKE** ME TO THE MAN WHOS **CONTROLLING**... **HUH?**

THWIP!

THWIP!

OH **NO!** THIS **AUTOMOBILE CLUB** OUTCAST ISN'T SERIOUSLY PLANNING TO DO WHAT I **THINK** IT'S **GONNA** DO...

... **IS** IT?



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NOT AT *ALL*, MY BOY. THAT *MASK* I LEFT YOU HOLDING WAS MERELY A *RUSE*--

--A SIMPLE PLOY TO DETER *PURSUIT* THAT I MUST SAY WORKED *EXCEPTIONALLY WELL!*

SINCE THEN, I'VE CHOSEN TO DESIGN SPECIAL WEAPONRY FOR *OTHERS* OF MY ILK TO USE, RATHER THAN RISK ANY DANGER TO *MYSELF*--THAT IS, OF COURSE, UNTIL *NOW!*

I'VE BEEN EMPLOYED BY SOMEONE WHO GREATLY WISHES TO *RENEW* HIS ACQUAINTANCE WITH YOU, MY BOY--AND IT IS *MY* JOB TO DELIVER YOU *TO* HIM.

TOY WILL TAKE *GOOD* CARE, SIR.

IMPRESSIVE, TINKY. GOT YOUR OWN TRAINED *PET* NOW, HUH?

*IN SPIDER-MAN #2 (AND CONSIDER YOURSELF *NO-PRIZED* IS NOW CAN REALLY REMEMBER THAT FAR BACK. --NOT-*SO*-LIVELY LEN.

TOY, TAKE CHARGE OF OUR GUEST, PLEASE.

I WOULD NOT *UNDERESTIMATE* TOY IF I WERE YOU, MY BOY.

THE THINKER IS *RIGHT*. THIS GORILLA LOOKS LIKE HE COULD TEAR ME APART WITH HIS *TOES!*

GOT TO PUT HIM *OFF-BALANCE* BEFORE I MAKE MY *MOVE!*

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR AN *ENCORE* JOY-BOY--WAVE *BYE-BYE?*

HAH! LITTLE MAN IS *JOKING* WITH TOY.

YOU CAN ONLY *JOKE* WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS A *MIND*, BOZO--AND YOU COULDN'T FIND *YOURS* IF IT WAS NAILED TO YOUR *NOSE!*

WHAT--? NOBODY *INSULTS* TOY LITTLE MAN!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH OR TOY WILL RIP YOU IN *HALF*--

--*LIKE THIS!!*

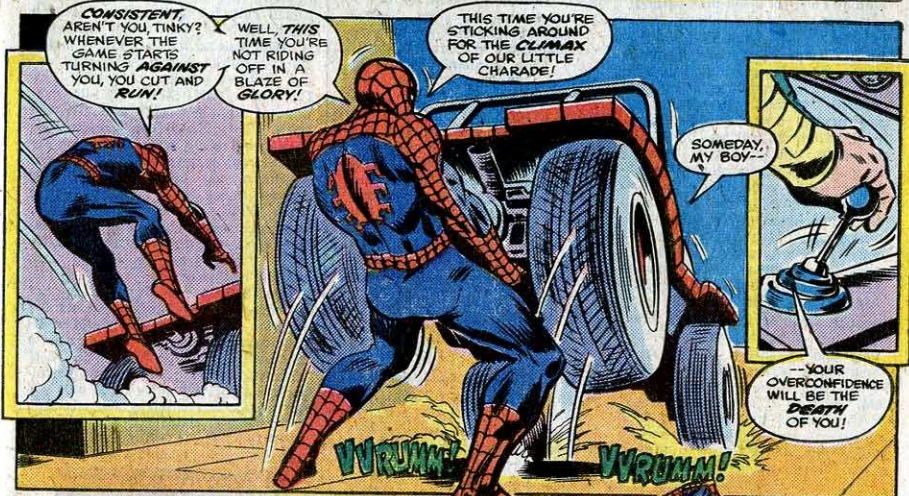
KRIPPPPP!

THANKS FOR MAKING THINGS *EASY* FOR ME, BRIGHT-EYES!

REMEMB ME TO RETURN THE *FAVOR* SOMEDAY!

POW!

KROOM!



A QUAFF OF QUIXOTIC QUIPS TO QUENCH YOUR QUALES AND QUANDARIES!

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, gang. Big news this month. It seems you just can't keep a good writer down. Remember when Rascally Roy Thomas gave up his editorship last year because he wanted to return to scriptwriting? Well, it looks like Marvel-ous Marv Wolfman got bitten by the same bug. Ol' Marv is swapping our editor's chair for a full-time writing schedule here at the bullpen. But, not to worry, chappies. With all the indescribable talent running rampant in the hallowed halls of Marvel, we're sure to come up with another winner! In fact, we've already practically decided who our editorial ramrod will be—but, just to keep you guessing, we'll announce the big decision next ish! We'll tell you this much, however—you'll flip when you learn the name! Anyway, how can we go wrong with the greatest group of artists, writers, and editors ever assembled! With a staff like ours, no wonder they call me Smilin' Stan! And, if all that still isn't enough, Larrupin' Larry Lieber, who gave his all for Atlas Comics not long ago (remember them?), has also come aboard to handle the

issues which we produce for an ever-growing army of Marvel fanatics in Great Britain. Wouldja believe they're on sale weekly over there; so we're bettin' that Larry'll be kinda busy. And, speaking of keeping busy, there's a great new book on sale, brought to you by the ever-lovin' Simon & Schuster book publishers, called **THE MIGHTY MARVEL SUPERHEROES FUN BOOK**. It sells for \$2.95, and it's a giant collection of puzzles, riddles, and games, all based on the stories and characters in Marvel Comics! Every page contains brand-new material, it'll keep you busy for hours, and you'll find it at bookstores, airports, and wherever strictly sensational books are sold. It's bound to be a treasured collectors item—after all, it's got the longest title this side of Yancy Street! And now, without any further ado (we used up all our ado last week), I'll turn you over to our Armadillos, with this one last admonishment—never tangle with a ten-ton truck, 'cause it might belong to Howard the Duck!

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! Rascally ROY THOMAS dropped into the Bullpen the other day, fresh from a sojourn to the ever-popular Pacific Coast. As he's wont to do, our favorite Editor Emeritus came bursting with new ideas—not the least of which is a planned relocation to Los Angeles, where he'll join JACK "King" KIRBY and Madman MIKE ROYER as a premiere member of Southern California's Bullpen West. We said Roy was exploding with ideas—and one of those ideas is a brand-new Giant-Size title called "WHAT IF...?" Now, we've been given to hyperbole in the past, but this time it's safe to say that "WHAT IF...?" is one of the most exciting concepts to come down the pike since THE FANTASTIC FOUR. In fact, it is the FF, and SPIDER-MAN, and HULK, and—aw, nuts. Just wait till you see it, compadre. It's a knockout.

ITEM! Speaking about Bullpen West reminds us that we've managed to talk JACK KIRBY into lending his titanic touch to yet another of our coveting characters—one the King designed 'way back when he and Smilin' STAN LEE

produced our fabulous Fantastic Four-ome. We won't tell you which book Jack is going to take over (we have to have some secrets, don't we?), but we will tell you this—it's going to be King working with King. And if that piques your interest just a little, old friend, hang in there. We'll present a stainless steel, platinum-plated **no-prize** to the first Marvelite who guesses which of our heroes we mean. No peeking now, effendi!

ITEM! Now here's a newsflash, also from Bullpen West, San Francisco division. Stainless STEVE ENGELHART, whom we all know and love as steady scripter of DOCTOR STRANGE, is moonlighting as a professional astrologer. It seems Steve has always had a passing interest in the stars, and his involvement with the adventures of the Master of the Mystic Arts brought that involvement to a climax. For the past few months, in between bouts on the AVENGERS and the aforementioned good Doctor, our boy on the Bay has been preparing horoscopes commercially. (Which begs the question—when

are we gonna get ours, amigo?) So, if you're ever up Frisco way and you're curious about your future—Stainless Steve is definitely the man to see. And that's the truth.

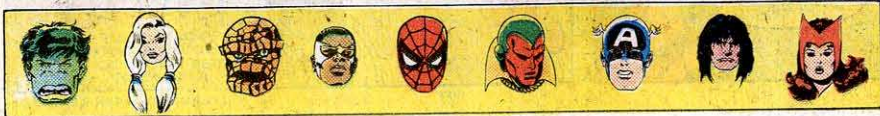
ITEM! Every Friday a gang from the Bullpen haunts the nearby Brillo Coffee House during lunch, and on various Fridays this menage includes almost everyone who strolls through the office—from Lively LEN WEIN to Dapper DON PERLIN, not to mention our powerhouse editorial staff and our boyish Editor Emeritus. Last Friday, while we were all waiting for the Brillo's famed Bunsen Burner Burger, we pulled out our advance copies of GIANT-SIZE CONAN, GIANT-SIZE TWO-IN-ONE, and (of course) GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN. Well, friend, the burgers may have been rancid and rotten, but our novel-length mags made up for all the heartburn. We could tell you how wonderful they are, but we couldn't do them justice without stretching your capacious credibility. We promise you this, though—they're the best GIANT-SIZE books we're publishing this month! Nuff said!

ITEM! Before we forget (or get squeezed out of space), we should mention that STEVE "Baby" GERBER has received permission to sell a HOWARD THE DUCK FOR PRESIDENT button to all your faithful feather-followers. It's available for \$1.00 plus 25¢ for postage and handling, and you don't write us, you write him, care of MAD GENIUS ASSOCIATES, Room 806, 850 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY, 10019.



And before we forget—don't miss our Super-Bicentennial Special, on sale in June! Nuff said!

See you next month, True Believer.



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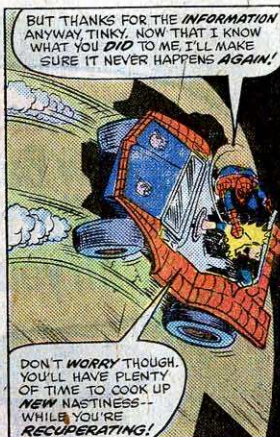
THE MODIFICATIONS I MADE IN THE SPIDER-MOBILE--!

THE GAS I DEvised TO CLOG YOUR PORES AND YOUR WEB-SHOOTERS AND THUS NULLIFY YOUR POWERS--!

I COULDN'T HAVE DONE ALL OF THIS IN VAIN!

WANNA BET, CHUCKLES?

UUNHHH!!



BUT THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION ANYWAY, TINKY. NOW THAT I KNOW WHAT YOU DID TO ME, I'LL MAKE SURE IT NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!

DON'T WORRY THOUGH. YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO COOK UP NEW NASTINESS-- WHILE YOU'RE RECOVERATING!



EH? MY SPIDER-SENSE--TINGLING--! WHAT'S GOING... HOLY COW!

HIT THE BRAKES, TINKERER--FAST! THE SPIDER-MOBILE IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR A VERY DEAD END!



OH, NO!

MY FOOT WENT RIGHT THRU THE FLOOR!



THEN FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE, JUMP--

--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

WRROM!



THE TINKERER IS OUT FOR THE COUNT--

--AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'M LIABLE TO JOIN HIM!

HERE COMES THE ONE-MAN CAVALRY AGAIN-- AND THIS TIME HE'S OUT FOR BLOOD!



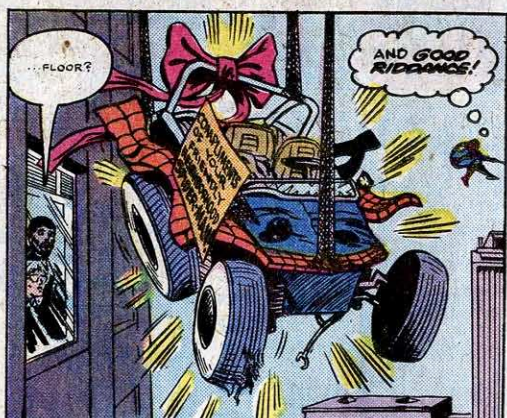
NOW, LITTLE MAN--TOY WILL CRUSH YOU!

AND MY WEB-SHOOTERS STILL WON'T WORK!



THAT MUSCLE-BOUND MARBLE-HEAD IS GONNA TURN ME INTO A TINKER-TOY...

...UNLESS...



**NEXT
ISSUE**

THE PULSE-POUNDING PUNISHER RETURNS IN PURSUIT OF THE MOST ASTONISHING GUEST STAR OF ALL! (OR IS IT THE OTHER WAY AROUND?) BE HERE FOR...

...AND THE NIGHTCRAWLER
CAME PROWLING, PROWLING...!

204

P.C.

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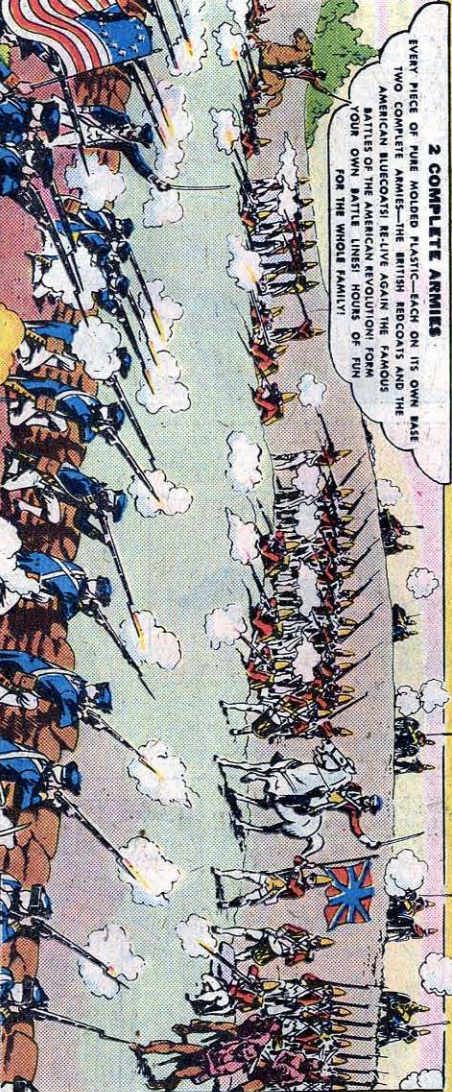
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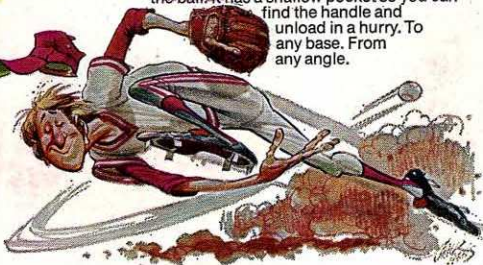
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