



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 arachnid's powers...and had, in effect, become a human spider...

STAN LOG SPIDER-MAN.

MARY WOLFMAN & JIM STARLIN | SCRIPT/EPIT-CO-PLOTTERS-LAYOUTS

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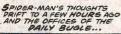


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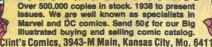
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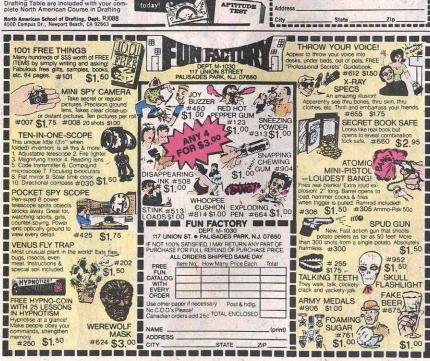
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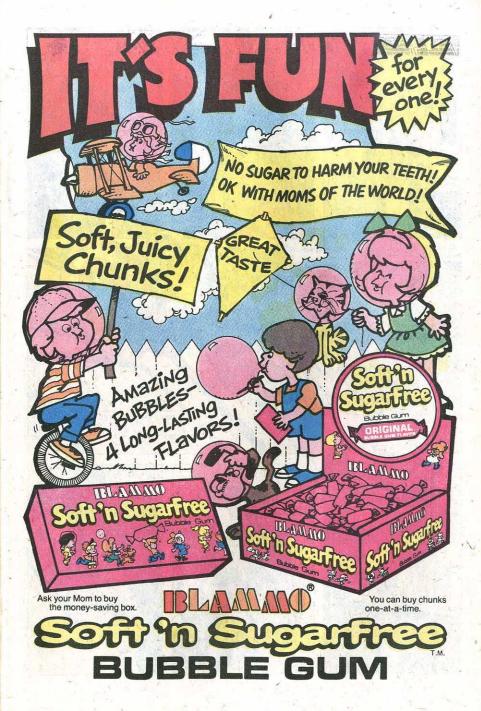
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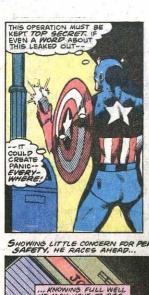
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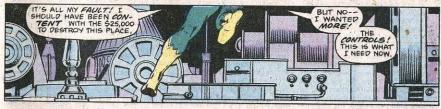


















LDEN BULLE

Hey, remember me telling you I was going to Tokyo in May to help launch some new Marvel projects? Well, now that I'm back, I thought you'd like to know that all of Japan seems to be madabout-Marvel! They're doing their own version of Spider-Man, live-action, as a weekly TV series; publishing more stories of our shy little superheroes than I could count; and I wish you could see all the clever toys and games they've based on our Marvel mythos. One of these days we'll do an article showing some of our more picturesque Japanese items, as soon as we can figure out which mag to print it in

Item! You'll soon be seeing a great new feature in the Sunday Comic pages of newspapers from coast to coast called "Marvelous Fun and Games" by Owen McCarron (the talented whiz who brought you the first few Simon & Schuster Marvel Fun Books.) The full-color feature presents your superhero favorites in a merry melange of puzzles and games. Who says we're not spreading culture all over the land?

And now, it's time to reply to the first of the many, many questions you've sent me in answer to an earlier Soapbox request. This query was one of the most frequently asked, so I'll tackle it first. "Will comicbooks get better and better, or will the field just stagnate with the same recycled ideas?" Naturally, I'm no more of a prophet than you, but here's the way I see it. We'll continue to use the same "recycled" ideas, if that's

ITEM! They came from the wooded glens of Connecticut, and from the exotic shores of New Jersey, from the far off glades of Penn's Woods and from nearby Midtown. From Flushing by the 7 train they travelled, and from Inwood by the A. One plucky lady, 'tis said, braved the awesome dangers of the dreaded LIRR to traverse the staggering distance from her home in the fabled City of Gardens to the Hallowed Halls of Marvel. One by one they came, until at last, to a man they stood united; and the gathered throng thus convened this year's second Mighty Marvel Writers Meeting, Editor-in-Chief JIM (Trouble) SHOOTER presided, Consulting Editor Marvelous MARY WOLFMAN generously gave of his valuable time to lend an assist, and the Editorial Staff took notes as discussion ranged from the Art of Storytelling to the Science of Balloon Placement. Long into the afternoon they spoke, and when at length they adjourned, if no Great Issues were resolved, it was clear that every single body in that room cares about his work, and cares deeply. It

what you mean by new adventures of our world-famous superheroes being published month after month, year after year. We'll keep producing them as long as you want them, and judging by the way you've been gobblin' them up, your interest hasn't slackened. But, besides bringing our usual literary fare, we spend virtually all of our free time trying to dream up new characters, new formats, new concepts, to keep the world of comics vital and alive and evergrowing. Just look at some of our recent innovations: the Marvel line of rock star mags, such as KISS, the BEATLES, the upcoming SHAUN CASSIDY, SGT. PEPPER, ROLLING STONES, and other titles. The new Marvel super-specials, \$1.50 magazines with artwork in fullcolor on glossy paper, such as our CONAN SUPER SPECIAL, with many other titles to follow. Then too, there are the new Marvel movie and book adaptations, plus PIZZAZZ, the steadily growing CRAZY, and the countless new Marvel projects in the works from Simon & Schuster and Pocket Books. And, as soon as we can catch our breaths, we'll be coordinating our projects with our own magazines in a new different series of publications, 'Nuff said?

Next ish-the answer to another of your most oft-repeated questions: "Is Irving Forbush a real person?" Till then. if you can bear the suspense, why not take a duck to lunch?

Excelsion

seems to us that there's no ingredient more necessary to Quality than Caring - and we're pretty darn proud to be the kind of people and the kind of company that cares!

ITEM! Speaking of GODZILLA-just when we thought we'd seen it all, Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH and Happy HERB TRIMPE came through with a little idea that flipped our embroidered babushkas! It's incredible! It's unbelievable! It's a beautifully ironic twist of fate that is guaranteed to leave Marvel continuity buffs everywhere astonished and delighted! It's real-and it's happening in the pages of GODZILLA #17, on sale right now! So get out there, Lizard-philes, and nab your copy before it gets away. Be warned, however-there's a Godzilla you've never seen before lurking inside!

ITEM! The shredding sound you hear, should you happen to be in the Apple near 575 Mad Avenue, is probably Marvel Editor Broadway BOB HALL feeding another page of the rulebook to the Armadillos. As if it weren't enough permitting, nay, wholeheartedly

approving the madness currently raging 'twixt the covers of GODZILLA, Bob has thrown caution, convention, and sanity to the winds with the Dynamic DEFENDERS as well. Once again, he has combined the not inconsiderable talents of DAVE (The Dude) KRAFT and Energetic ED HANNIGAN and more-or-less turned them loose on a three part mini-epic ranging from the pits of Earthly Urban Blight to (are you ready for this?) the gleaming spires of Eternal ASGARDI Dave and Bob have been closely coordinating with Consulting Editor and resident Mythology Expert: Rascally ROY THOMAS concerning the Defenders' doings in the Golden Realm, to make certain everything meshes perfectly with Roy's current storyline in the pages of THOR. As for what's actually going on, Dave, Ed, Bob and able Assistant Editor MARY JO DUFFY asked us not to say! We will tell va however, they have spent quite a bit of time lately chortling over their plans, so you can be sure what's coming up, beginning in DEFENDERS #66, (on sale now) is not what you'd expect. Get your copy and let us know what you think-should we fire the lot of 'em-or give 'em a raise? ITEM! And now for something completely

different! You say your car won't start, your

bowling average is down and your ring-

around-the-collar is loud enough to wake the neighbors? Well, you lose. Sadly, we must admit that our new MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL PIN-UP BOOK will do absolutely nothing to right most of the cruel injustices of Fate. What it will do is dazzle you with its 21 huge 11"x15" full-color illustrations of Marvel's Magnificent Heroes and Heroines in action! It's all here - all the glory, grandeur, power, and drama that marks the Marvel Age of Comics, caught in the carefully created and skillfully selected poster shots that tell it best. The accompanying narrative will excite and enlighten you. No collector should be without his own copy. You'll see it at better book stores everywhere—if you look soon! ITEM! For those of you who are independently wealthy, and, therefore, send your chauffeur down to the magazine store to pick up the latest batch of Marvel's monthly offerings, and then don't bother to count the change from the C-Note you gave him, we feel obligated to mention that Marvel Comics are still only 35¢ a throw. That, of course, is an academic point to the landed gentry, but to the rest of you-and us-it means a lot. We've been getting the message from your many cards and letters for umpteen months back, that today's up-up-and-away prices are squeezing you hard-and you just don't have the bucks to pay 50¢ or a Dollar for

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Okay, guys, we're listening. We heard yal And

we're holding the line!





OCCO



























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