

GOLD



THE PHANTOM

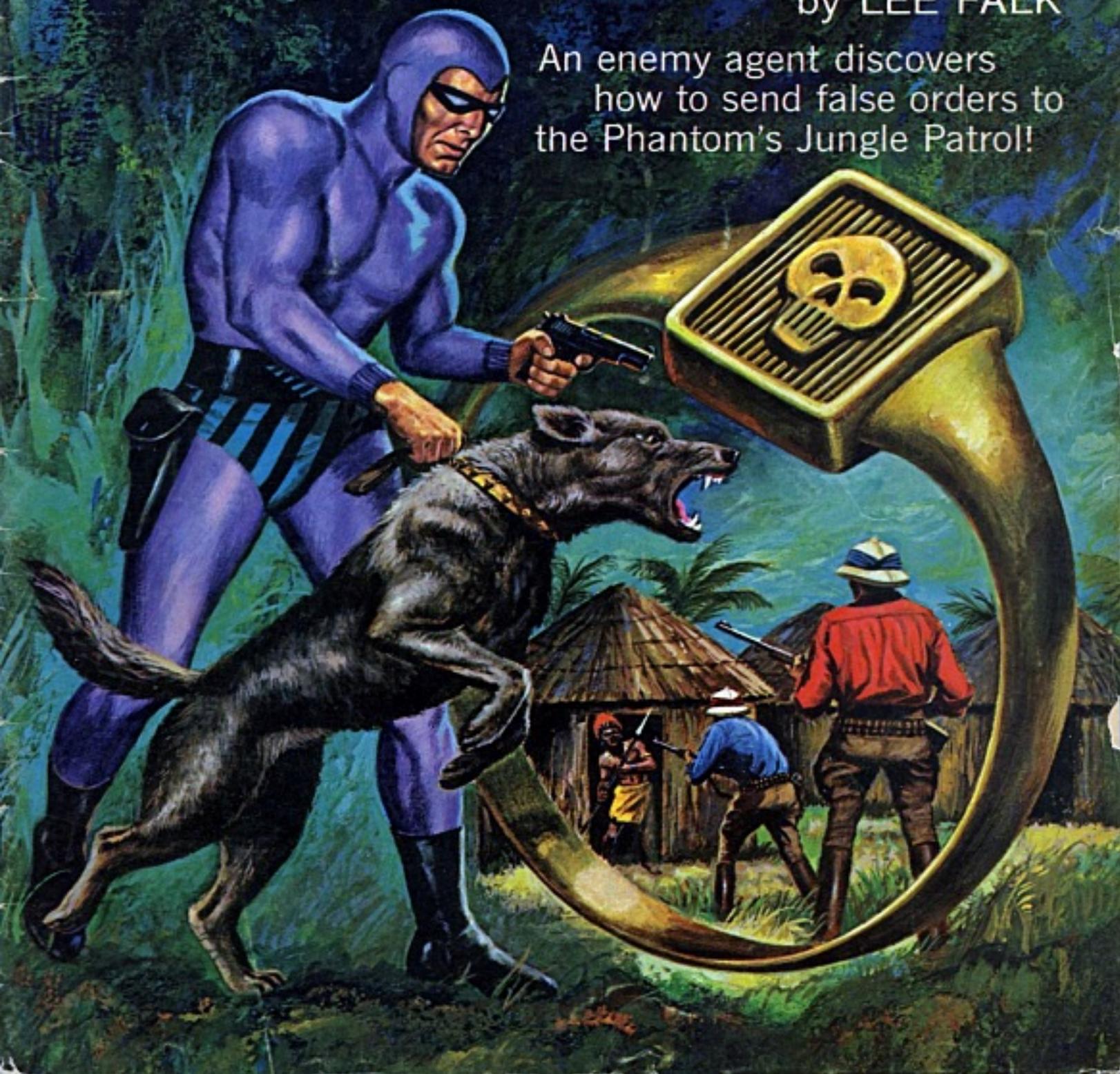
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THE PHANTOM

10014-510
OCTOBER

by LEE FALK

An enemy agent discovers
how to send false orders to
the Phantom's Jungle Patrol!





BUILD HIM! the ghost who walks is now a Revell model kit

This new plastic model kit of the Phantom and the Voodoo Witch Doctor is fun... and it's easy to assemble and paint. You'll really get a kick out of painting the mask on the Voodoo Witch Doctor! Both figures are yours in the one kit—for only one dollar! Start or add to your collection of famous comic characters with the Phantom and the Voodoo Witch Doctor! (Does not include cement or paint.)

Flash Gordon and the Martian Here's another really exciting model kit you'll want to own... The Space Age Soldier of the Future, Flash Gordon, and the Martian. Both figures go together in just a few easy steps. And they're fun to paint... use your imagination! Paint the Martian all sorts of wild colors. Flash Gordon comes complete with clear plastic space helmet and disintegrator ray gun. Again, only one dollar for both Flash Gordon and the Martian. (Does not include cement or paint.)



Flipper You'll get both Flipper and his best friend, Sandy, in this new Revell model kit. Both figures assemble in less than a minute—you just snap them together! No cement is needed, then paint Flipper and Sandy to look the way they do on their NBC-TV Color show! Add them to your model collection. Both Flipper and Sandy for only one dollar. (Does not include paint.)



Skyway Models PH-10 P.O. Box 66396 Los Angeles 65, California

Please send me:

_____ kits of the Phantom

_____ kits of Flash Gordon

_____ kits of Flipper.

Enclosed find _____ dollars. (Enclose one dollar for each kit you order.)

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

ZONE OR ZIP CODE _____

STATE _____

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The PHANTOM

The HISTORIAN

THE ENTIRE WORLD OWES A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO ITS DEDICATED LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES! THANKS TO ORGANIZATIONS LIKE THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE, THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, SCOTLAND YARD AND INTERPOL,

THE WORLD IS RELATIVELY SAFE FROM THE FORCES OF LAWLESSNESS AND CORRUPTION! ONE OF THE OLDEST AND TOUGHEST OF THESE GREAT POLICE ORGANIZATIONS IS *THE JUNGLE PATROL*, FOUNDED OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO BY THE FIRST *PHANTOM*! CHARGED WITH MAINTAINING THE PHANTOM PEACE IN THE VAST BENGALI JUNGLE, THE PATROL HAS DONE ITS JOB WELL AND HAS BECOME BOTH FEARED BY THE LAWLESS AND REVERED BY LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS EVERYWHERE!



ALTHOUGH ITS METHODS ARE SECRET, THE PATROL HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF COUNTLESS FASCINATING STORIES! ... BUT ONE FACT EVEN THE MOST DEDICATED RESEARCHER HAS NEVER BEEN ABLE TO UNCOVER IS THE IDENTITY OF THE PATROL'S UNKNOWN COMMANDER! IT HAS BEEN A MYSTERY SINCE THE BEGINNING EVEN TO MEMBERS OF THE PATROL ITSELF! BUT ONE HISTORIAN WAS ABLE TO FIND THE KEY TO THE SECRET AND NEARLY SUCCEEDED IN USING IT TO DESTROY THE PATROL AND ALONG WITH IT THE GREAT PHANTOM PEACE WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR THREE CENTURIES. . .

THE PHANTOM #14 - 658

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS should reach us four weeks in advance of the next issue date. Give both your old and new address enclosing if possible your old address label.

DR. HEG CLAIMED TO BE GATHERING MATERIAL FOR A BOOK ON THE PATROL, AND HIS QUESTIONS SEEMED NORMAL ENOUGH...

WELL, DOCTOR, HOW'S THE BOOK COMING? OUR MEN GIVING YOU THE HELP YOU NEED?

EXCEPT FOR ONE VERY IMPORTANT DETAIL, COLONEL! NO ONE WILL TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR COMMANDER!



THERE'S A VERY GOOD REASON FOR THAT! WE DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS!

WE GET OUR ORDERS FROM A SAFE IN HIS OFFICE! HOW THEY GET THERE IS A MYSTERY! WE DON'T EVEN WONDER ABOUT IT ANY MORE!



BUT HEG'S INTEREST IN THE JUNGLE PATROL IS FAR GREATER THAN HE CLAIMS...

I'VE LOCATED MOST OF THE FACTS ABOUT THE PATROL... STRENGTH, LOCATION AND ALL! ALL EXCEPT THE IDENTITY OF THEIR COMMANDER!

HM! FIVE AGENTS BEFORE YOU HAVE FAILED ON THAT POINT, HEG!

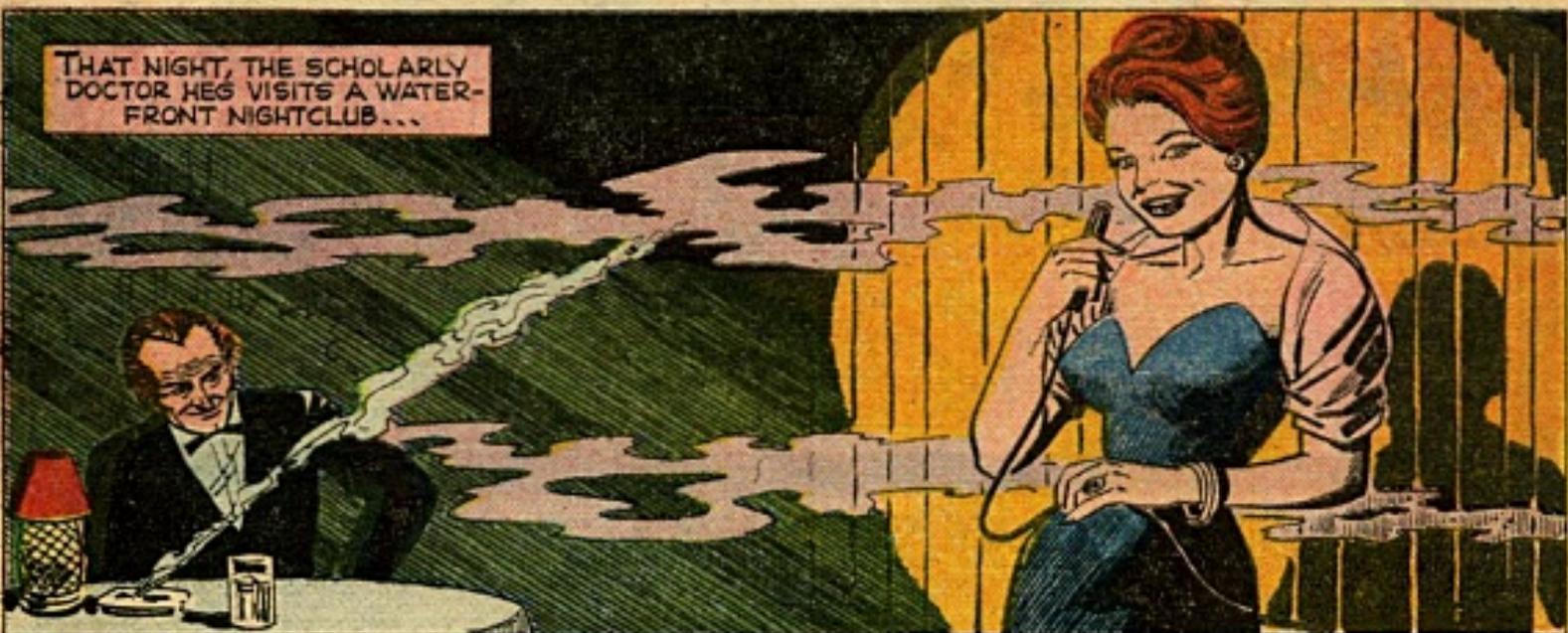


I'LL FIND OUT WHO HE IS! AFTER ALL, I'M THE GREATEST SPY ON EARTH!

SEE THAT YOU DO! WE'RE PAYING YOU ENOUGH!



THAT NIGHT, THE SCHOLARLY DOCTOR HEG VISITS A WATER-FRONT NIGHTCLUB...





...WHERE HE HAS ARRANGED TO TALK WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL IN THE TERRITORY... *JADE!*

PARDON ME, ARE YOU DOCTOR HEG?

YES! I'M LOOKING FOR SOME INFORMATION! I'LL PAY WELL TO GET IT... SIT DOWN, MY DEAR!



I'M WRITING A HISTORY OF THE JUNGLE PATROL! IF YOU CAN FIND OUT ONE THING FOR ME, I'LL PAY YOU A THOUSAND DOLLARS, JADE!

A THOUSAND DOLLARS! ARE YOU A SPY OR SOMETHING?



A SPY?... OH, DEAR ME, NO! JUST A DULL HISTORIAN! NOW HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO FIND OUT...



THE NEXT DAY, JADE GOES TO WORK TO EARN HER THOUSAND DOLLARS...

NOBODY WILL EVER KNOW, SMITTY! SHOW ME THE OFFICE ... PLEASE?



WHY, THERE'S NOTHING HERE... EXCEPT THAT BIG SAFE!

THAT'S WHAT I TOLD YOU, JADE! OUR ONLY CONTACT WITH THE COMMANDER IS THROUGH HIS ORDERS FOUND IN THAT SAFE! NOBODY KNOWS HOW THEY GET IN THERE!



FASCINATING!
CAN YOU
OPEN THE
SAFE,
SMITTY?

WELL, ONLY THE COLONEL
IS SUPPOSED TO KNOW THE
COMBINATION, BUT I'VE
WATCHED HIM OPEN IT SO
OFTEN, I KNOW IT, TOO!
I GUESS NOBODY WOULD
KNOW IF WE OPENED IT
JUST THIS ONCE!



GOSH! THERE'S
A MESSAGE IN
HERE... FIRST TIME
IN MONTHS! I'D
BETTER GET THE
COLONEL... NO... I'M
NOT SUPPOSED
TO BE HERE!

OH, SMITTY... OPEN IT!
SEE WHAT IT SAYS... YOU
CAN PUT IT BACK!



The girl, Jade,
is the innocent
accomplice of
the master
spy, Heg!!
Be warned!
Commander -
Jungle Patrol



SPY? HONEST, SMITTY,
HE TOLD ME HE WAS A
HISTORIAN! HE PAID ME
A THOUSAND DOLLARS
TO HELP HIM!

JADE, WE'RE BOTH
IN A SPOT! ...IF I
SHOW THIS NOTE TO
THE COLONEL,
HE'LL KNOW I CAME
IN HERE ALONE!
STILL, HE SHOULD
KNOW ABOUT
THAT SPY!



IN A SECRET TUNNEL,
BELOW THE OPEN SAFE...
THE UNKNOWN COMMANDER
OF THE JUNGLE PATROL!

BUT HOW DID THIS MYSTERIOUS
COMMANDER OF YOURS KNOW
ABOUT HEG AND ME?

HOW DOES HE KNOW
ANYTHING? NOBODY
KNOWS! GOSH! WHAT'LL
I DO NOW, JADE?

AS THE PHANTOM LEAVES BY HIS OWN SECRET ENTRANCE...

YOUNG SMITH'S IN A JAM! IF HE ISN'T CAREFUL, HE AND THE PATROL WILL BE IN REAL TROUBLE! I'D BETTER KEEP AN EYE ON HIM... AND HEG!



JADE AND THE YOUNG LIEUTENANT ALSO LEAVE TO SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT OF THEIR PROBLEM...

MISTER HEG!... WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY APARTMENT?

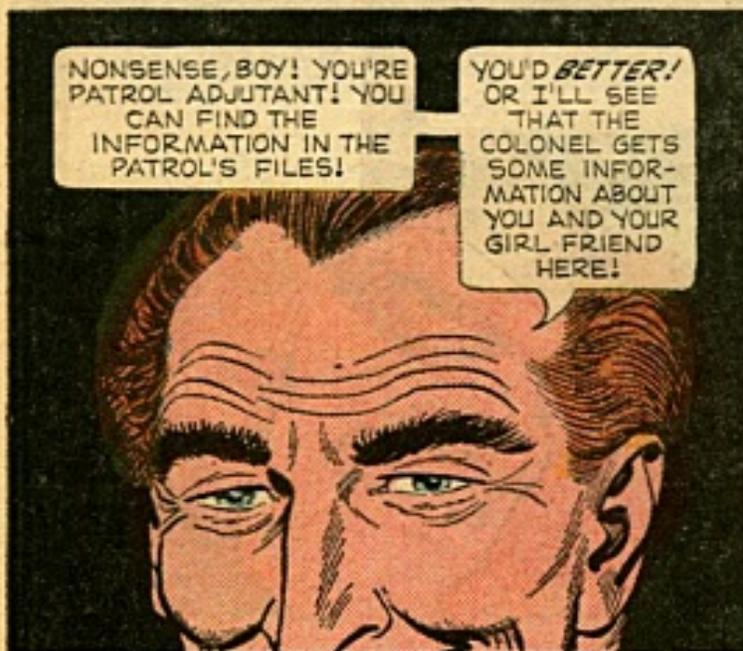
I'M WAITING TO FIND OUT WHO THE PATROL COMMANDER IS!

LISTEN HEG...OR WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS, NOBODY ON EARTH KNOWS THAT!



NONSENSE, BOY! YOU'RE PATROL ADJUTANT! YOU CAN FIND THE INFORMATION IN THE PATROL'S FILES!

YOU'D BETTER! OR I'LL SEE THAT THE COLONEL GETS SOME INFORMATION ABOUT YOU AND YOUR GIRL FRIEND HERE!



I-I'VE GOT TO DO IT!...OR BE BROKEN...OR DISGRACED! GOSH, I'M GETTING DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THIS!

OH, SMITTY... I'M SORRY!



LATER THAT NIGHT...

WHAT DOES IT MATTER ANYWAY? NO ONE WILL BE HURT BY KNOWING WHO THE COMMANDER REALLY IS!

I WOULDN'T DO THAT IF I WERE YOU!





YOU ARE...**THE PHANTOM!**

AND YOU ARE LIEUTENANT SMITH... ABOUT TO RUIN A FINE CAREER IN THE JUNGLE PATROL BY BECOMING A TRAITOR!



A SPY NAMED HEG WANTS YOU TO IDENTIFY THE PATROL COMMANDER! YOU GOT INTO THIS BY ENTERING THAT ROOM AGAINST ORDERS!



OK! OUR COMMANDER'S UNKNOWN... BUT WHAT DOES IT MATTER REALLY?

MATTER! THIS TINY PATROL POLICES A THOUSAND MILES OF JUNGLE BORDER! ITS STRENGTH IS KNOWN TO ENEMY POWERS... BUT THE COMMANDER PUZZLES THEM...



IS HE ONE MAN... OR THOUSANDS... **WHY** IS HE UNKNOWN-?

THERE'S ONLY **ONE** THING FOR YOU TO DO... TELL THE COLONEL THE WHOLE STORY AND TAKE YOUR PUNISHMENT! IT'LL BE MINOR!



WAIT! COULD YOU... BE... THE REAL COMMANDER?

YOU KNOW THE OLD PATROL SAYING... OLD-TIMERS NEVER ASK WHO THE COMMANDER IS... AREN'T YOU AN OLD-TIMER?

THE NEXT MORNING, SMITH TAKES THE PHANTOM'S ADVICE AND FINDS HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY...

IT TOOK REAL COURAGE TO TELL ME THIS! I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU UNDER TECHNICAL ARREST...

BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED YOUR HELP! TRY TO PICK UP HEG FOR ME... AND BRING THE GIRL IN, TOO! I'LL BET SHE'S PRETTY!



MEANWHILE, HEG CONTINUES HIS "RESEARCH"...

NOW, JADE, LET'S TRY AGAIN... WHO IS THE COMMANDER OF THE JUNGLE PATROL?

I DON'T LIKE YOUR METHODS, HEG! KIDNAPPING IS A NASTY BUSINESS!



BUT HEG'S METHODS PAY OFF! JADE TELLS ALL SHE KNOWS... WHICH ISN'T MUCH...

... EXCEPT FOR A BIG SAFE, THE ROOM WAS BARE! NO WINDOWS... NO OTHER DOORS...



FOR A MAN LIKE HEG, THOUGH, IT'S ENOUGH...

OBVIOUSLY THERE'S A TUNNEL LEADING TO THAT SAFE! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND IT!

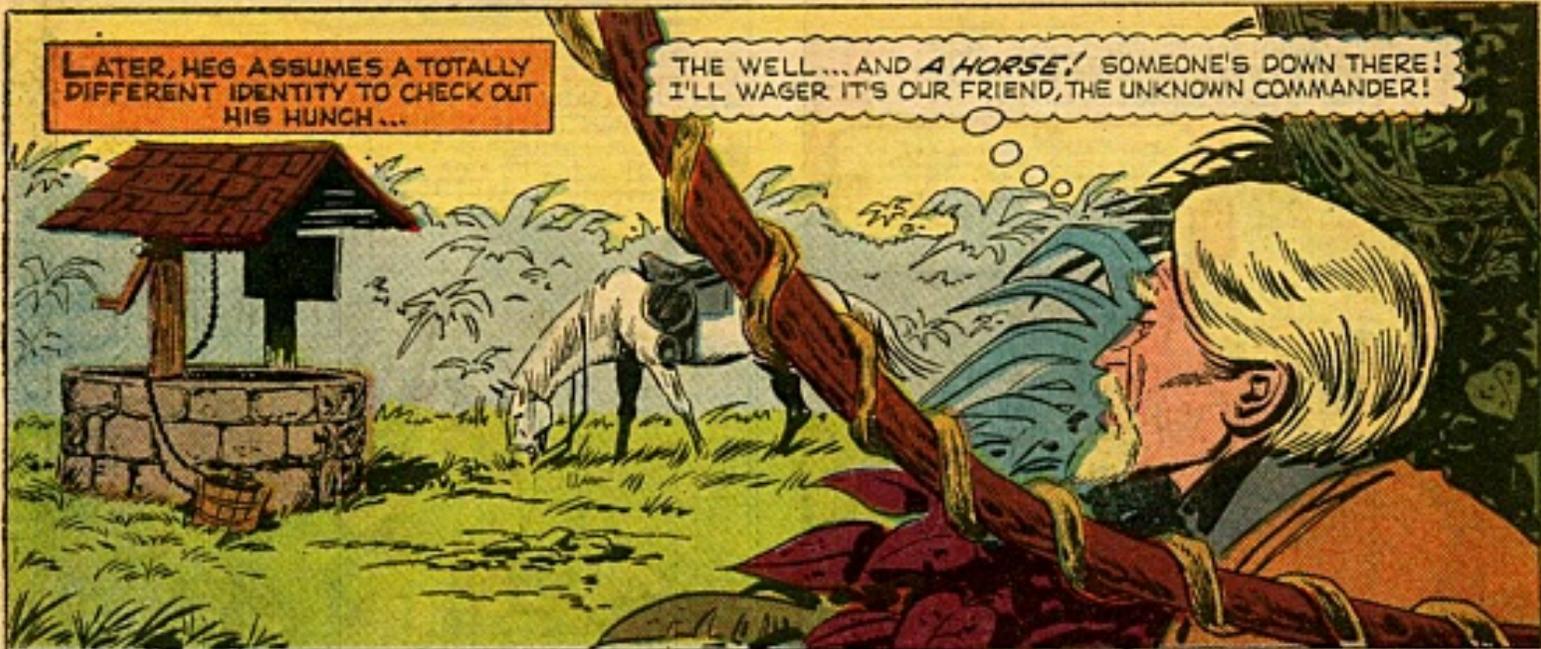


... ROADWAYS ON THREE SIDES... TOO MUCH TRAFFIC... HMM... WAIT A MINUTE! THERE IN BACK... AN OLD WELL... I'LL BET THAT'S IT!



LATER, HEG ASSUMES A TOTALLY DIFFERENT IDENTITY TO CHECK OUT HIS HUNCH...

THE WELL... AND A HORSE! SOMEONE'S DOWN THERE! I'LL WAGER IT'S OUR FRIEND, THE UNKNOWN COMMANDER!



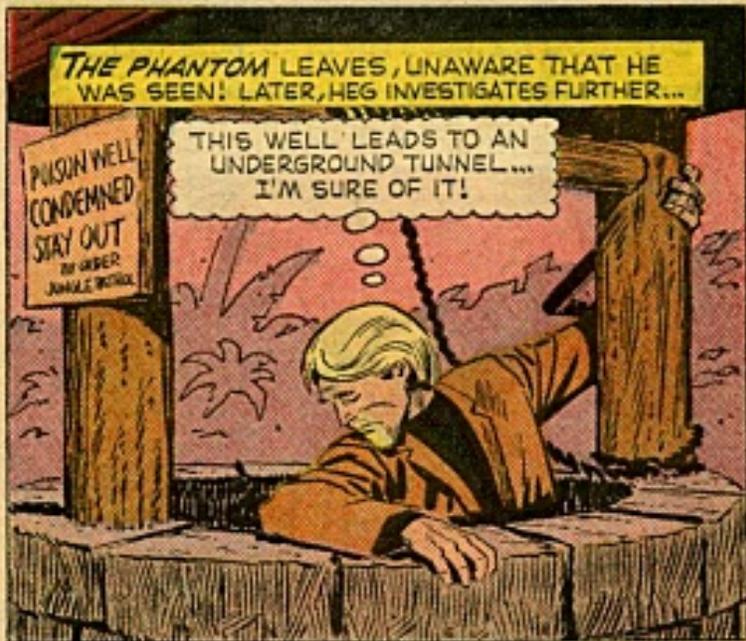
HE FINDS HE DOESN'T HAVE LONG TO WAIT...

CAN THAT BE THE UNKNOWN COMMANDER OF THE JUNGLE PATROL? HE MUST BE IF MY IDEA ABOUT THAT OLD WELL IS CORRECT!



THE PHANTOM LEAVES, UNAWARE THAT HE WAS SEEN! LATER, HEG INVESTIGATES FURTHER...

THIS WELL LEADS TO AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL... I'M SURE OF IT!



THERE'S GOT TO BE A TUNNEL DOWN HERE SOMEWHERE!



AFTER CAREFUL SEARCHING, HE FINALLY FINDS THE OPENING...



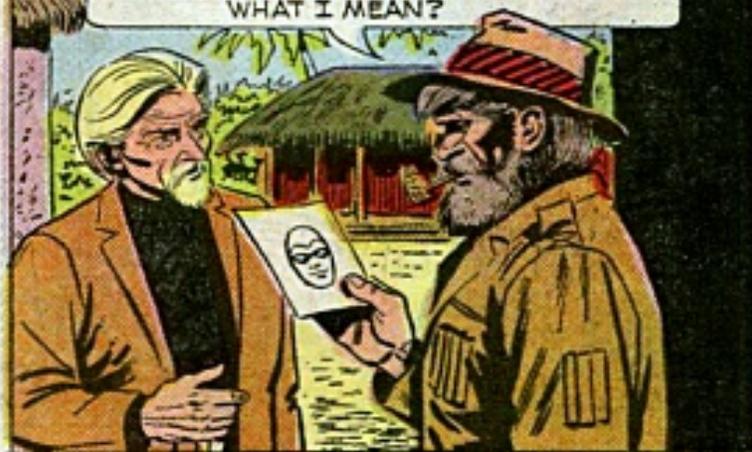
... BUT HE DOESN'T NOTICE A SMALL THREAD WHICH BREAKS WHEN THE DOOR OPENS...

CAUTIOUSLY, HE MOVES THROUGH THE SUBTERRANEAN TUNNEL BENEATH JUNGLE PATROL HEADQUARTERS...



BUT KNOWING THE COMMANDER'S METHODS, HE'S STILL UNSURE OF HIS IDENTITY...

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHO THIS IS? *THE PHANTOM*, THAT'S WHO! ...NOT A REAL MAN! A SUPERSTITION... A MYTH...KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

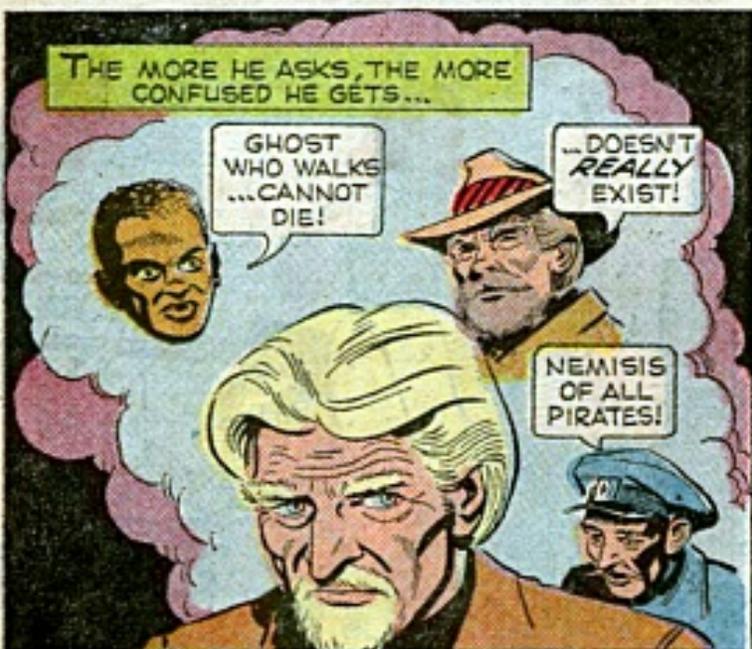


THE MORE HE ASKS, THE MORE CONFUSED HE GETS...

GHOST WHO WALKS ...CANNOT DIE!

... DOESN'T REALLY EXIST!

NEMESIS OF ALL PIRATES!



MEANWHILE, AS SMITH SEARCHES FOR JADE...

I'VE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE! I'M SURE HE'G KIDNAPPED HER, BUT I CAN'T FIND HIM EITHER!



JADE IS TRYING TO HELP HERSELF...

FREE AT LAST! NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE!

SOMEONE'S COMING!





THE GIRL!
SHE'S GETTING
AWAY!

DON'T SHOOT, FOOL!
YOU'LL HAVE THE WHOLE
TOWN DOWN ON US! SHE'S
NOT IMPORTANT...YOUR
MISSION IS!



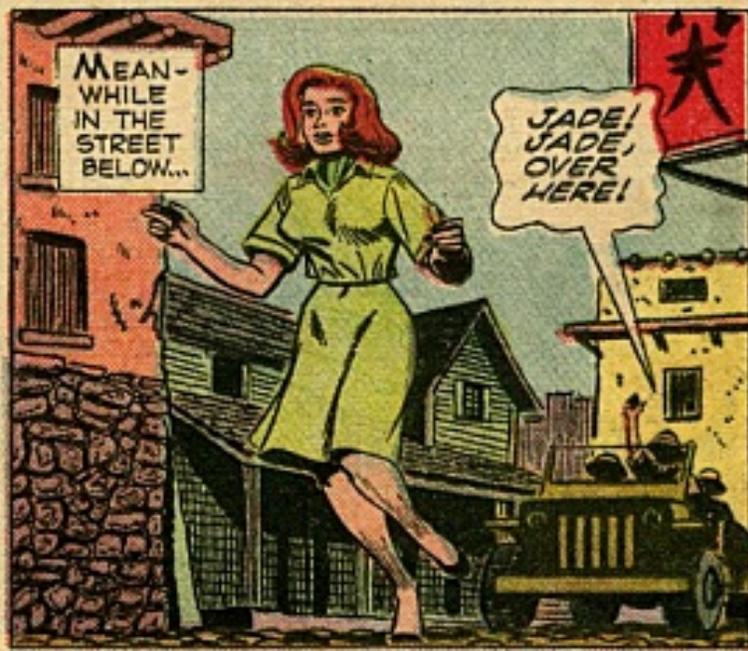
HERE HE IS...THE UNKNOWN
COMMANDER! THE PHANTOM!
THE GHOST WHO WALKS! A
MAN WHO CAN'T DIE,
THEY SAY!

WE PAID YOU
A FORTUNE
AND YOU
COME BACK
WITH FAIRY
TALES!



I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT
MYSELF! EVERYONE HAS
A DIFFERENT STORY
ABOUT HIM!... BUT I SAW
HIM WITH MY OWN EYES!

WE WANT
FACTS, HEG!
TALK FAST!



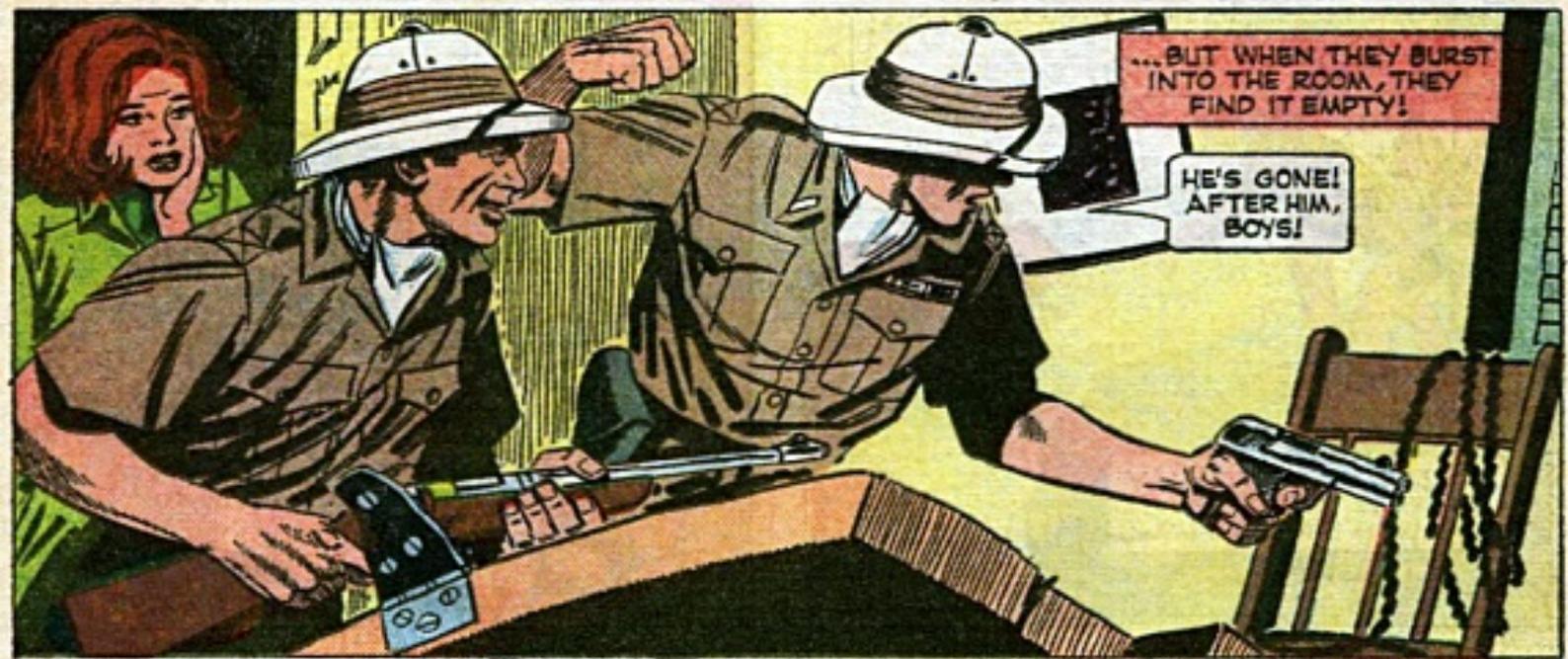
MEAN-
WHILE
IN THE
STREET
BELOW...

JADE!
JADE,
OVER
HERE!



OH, SMITTY!...I WAS SO
SCARED! BUT I GOT AWAY!
HEG'S UP THERE NOW...
WITH ANOTHER MAN!

GOOD! I WAS LOOKING FOR
HIM, TOO! LET'S GO NAB THE
SLIPPERY MR. HEG, BOYS!



...BUT WHEN THEY BURST INTO THE ROOM, THEY FIND IT EMPTY!

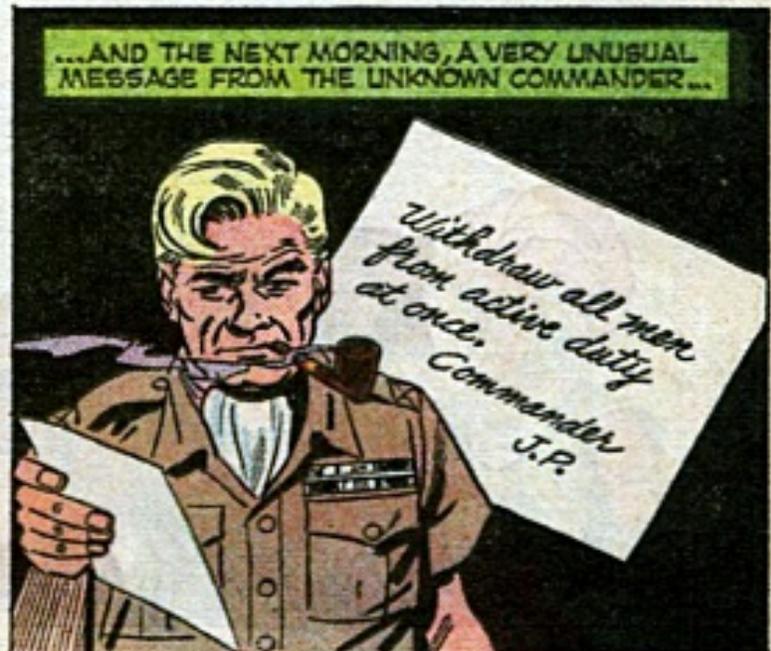
HE'S GONE! AFTER HIM, BOYS!



THAT NIGHT, THE ELUSIVE MR. HEG TURNS UP IN THE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL BENEATH PATROL HEADQUARTERS...

THE PATROL OBEYS THE ORDERS THEY FIND IN THE SAFE...

THIS TIME, THEY'LL FIND MY ORDERS THERE!



...AND THE NEXT MORNING, A VERY UNUSUAL MESSAGE FROM THE UNKNOWN COMMANDER...

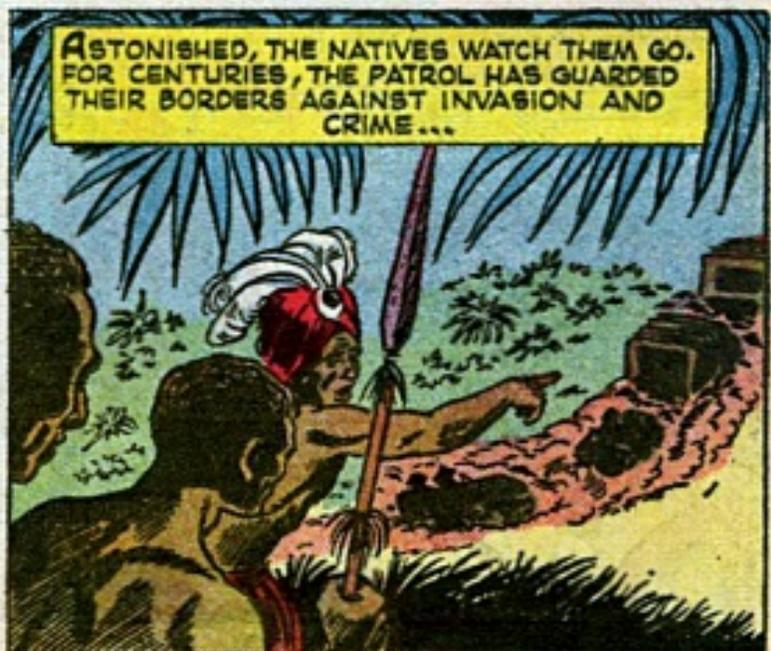
Withdraw all men from active duty at once.
Commander J.P.



THE ORDERS ARE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT QUESTION.

NO MORE ACTIVE DUTY? WHAT IS THIS?

LEAVE THE BORDER LINGUARDED? I DON'T GET IT!



ASTONISHED, THE NATIVES WATCH THEM GO. FOR CENTURIES, THE PATROL HAS GUARDED THEIR BORDERS AGAINST INVASION AND CRIME...





MOVING QUICKLY, THE PHANTOM CHECKS THE ABANDONED WELL...

SOMEONE HAS BEEN IN HERE! THE THREAD I LEFT ATTACHED TO THE SLIDING PANEL HAS BEEN BROKEN!



THAT NIGHT...

**POISON WELL
CONDEMNED
STAY OUT**
BY ORDER
JUNGLE PATROL

... MY SECOND AND LAST MESSAGE TO BE PUT INTO THE SAFE! YOU'LL PAY WELL FOR THIS!



FINDING THE SECRET PASSAGE, HEG MOVES CAUTIOUSLY TOWARD THE SAFE ...



HE ALSO FINDS THE PHANTOM!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SENT THOSE FAKE ORDERS... MR. HEG, I BELIEVE!



AND YOU MUST BE THE ONE WHO HIRED HEG!

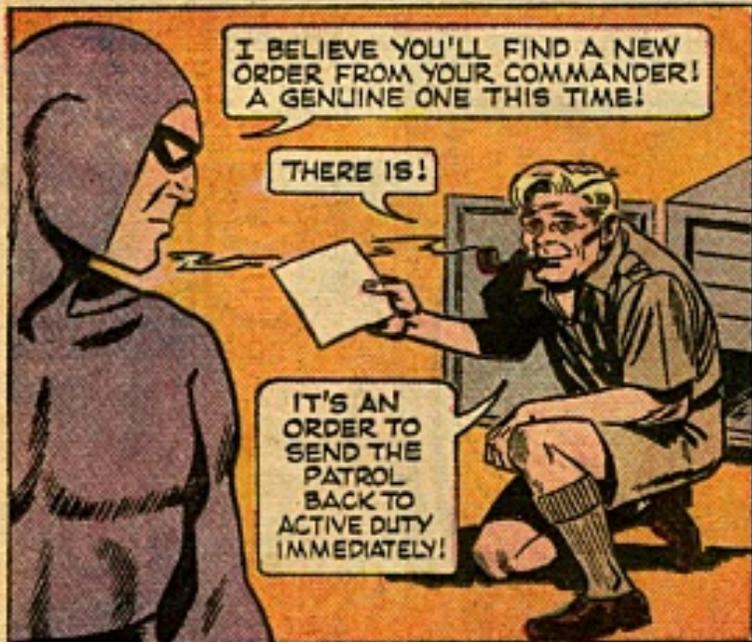
**POISON WELL
CONDEMNED
STAY OUT**
BY ORDER
JUNGLE PATROL



HERE THEY ARE, COLONEL, HEG THE SPY...AND HIS BOSS! THEY PLANTED THE FAKE ORDERS FROM YOUR UNKNOWN COMMANDER!

THAT'S HEG, ALL RIGHT!

I'LL BE—! AND HE ALMOST DEMOBILIZED US, TOO!



I BELIEVE YOU'LL FIND A NEW ORDER FROM YOUR COMMANDER! A GENUINE ONE THIS TIME!

THERE IS!

IT'S AN ORDER TO SEND THE PATROL BACK TO ACTIVE DUTY IMMEDIATELY!



AND SO THE PATROL RUSHES BACK TO ITS TIME-HONORED JOB OF KEEPING PEACE AND LAW IN THE JUNGLE BORDERS.



HE NEVER DID TELL ME WHO HE WAS! HOW DID HE KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THE PATROL AND...

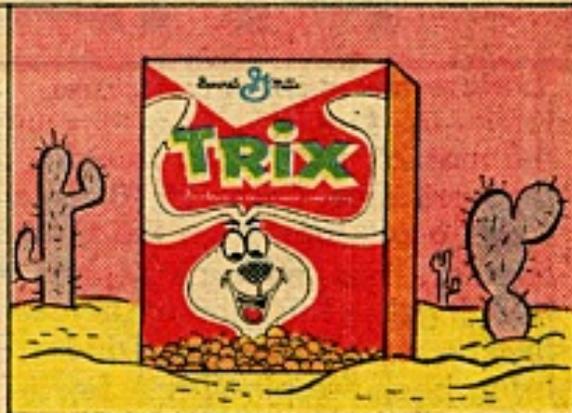


COULD HE BE OUR UNKNOWN COMMANDER? COULD BE...OR NOT! I GUESS I'LL NEVER REALLY KNOW!

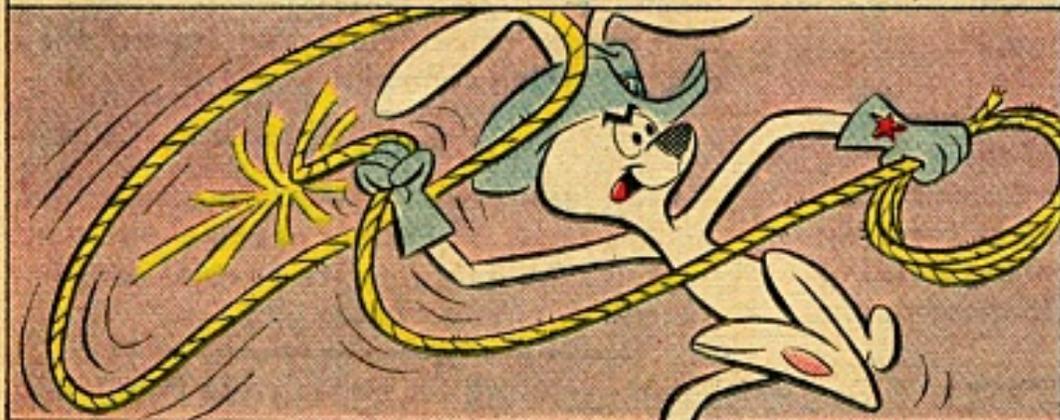
HOW'S TRIX?

WORTH
ROUNDING UP...

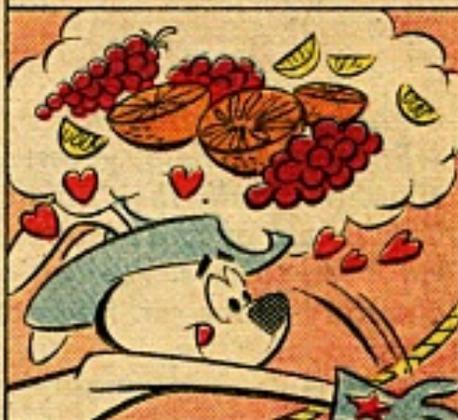
TRIX...THE CORN CEREAL WITH...



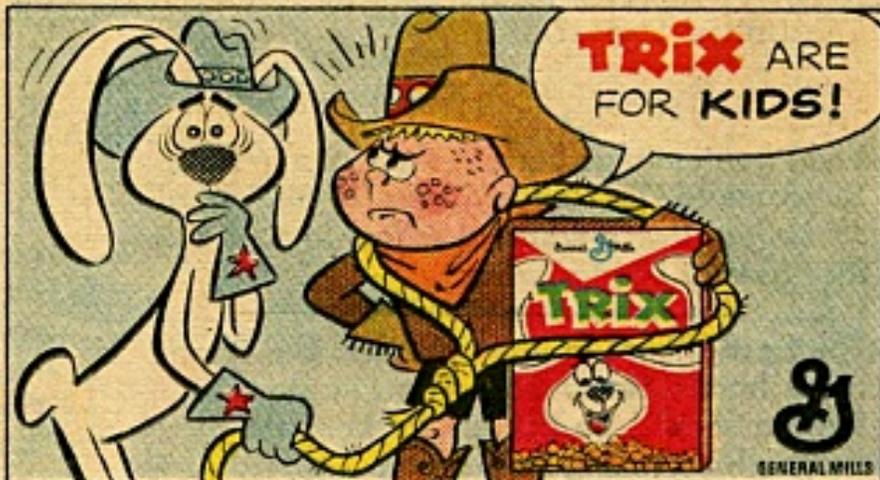
THE TANGY TASTE OF NATURAL FRUIT...



FRUIT COLORS, TOO!



AND AS WE ALL KNOW...



BONANZA
DOCTOR SOLAR
DANIEL BOONE
MIGHTY SAMSON
THE TWILIGHT ZONE
KORAK, SON OF TARZAN
THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.
BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY

YOU GET MORE
ADVENTURE
AND
ACTION

TOTAL WAR
THE PHANTOM
THE LONE RANGER
TARZAN OF THE APES
TUROK, SON OF STONE
MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER
RIPLEY'S TRUE WAR STORIES
VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA

GOLD KEY COMICS

PHAN-MAIL!

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I think the Phantom is the best magazine on the market, but I have found a mistake in the April issue. On page 18, Colonel Weeks reads a message from the Unknown Commander. Then, on page 24, one of the men is saying that The Phantom helped him. Does he know who the Commander is? Please bring back the pin-ups. A few issues back, you said there was a girl Phantom. When will you show a story about her?

James Konopacz,
Chicago, Ill.

The Phantom often helps Jungle Patrolmen who need his help, yet none of them knows that he is really their unknown Commander. This is one of The Phantom's most carefully guarded secrets. We are planning to bring the story of the girl Phantom to these pages very soon!

Is The Phantom a native or a person from The United States?

John Noell,
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Phantom was born in the Deep Woods, but came to The United States for his formal schooling. It was while at school in America that he met Diana Palmer.

The best animal in your comic is The Phantom's horse, Hero. Both The Phantom and Tarzan should be put on TV because they are both so strong and brave. I would like to know how much a subscription would cost for people in Canada. My favorite of all The Phantom comics was The Game, when The Phantom's sweetheart, Diana Palmer was kidnapped and he had to go through seven deadly obstacles to save her.

Rusty Heinonen,
Sudbury, Ontario

Now that The Phantom is issued bi-monthly, a Canadian subscription would cost 90c per year. U. S. subscriptions are 65c, and foreign costs \$1.15 per year.

I realize most fan letters are thrown away unopened because of the time-volume element, but I hope you will read this one. I am a fan of 25 years and love your magazine. In the last Phan Mail, a reader asked why there wasn't a movie made of The Phantom. About 1946 I remember a twelve-week serial about The Phantom. Also there was a hardcover book some years ago telling the story of The Phantom. I don't know if it's still available or not. I wish you would refer to your magazine as "Illustrated Stories" they actually aren't comics!

Bob Saxon,
Britton, Okla.

No fan letters are thrown away unopened. All are read, and many of the suggestions used. It's the only way we have of knowing exactly what you want.

Thanks so much for making The Phantom a bi-monthly comic. I hope this means your other fine comic, Magnus, Robot Fighter, will do the same! The April issue had the best cover since #7. Your cover artists do a terrific job. They give your magazines a quality that sets them off as "high class" material. As for the inside, Bill Lignante did a commendable job, although he seems to be losing some of the fine touches of his earlier work. "Blind Man's Bluff" wasn't outstanding, but it was good reading. The ending was especially good! Lee Falk, creator of The Phantom, deserves all the praise he can get. If you ask me, a short biography of Mr. Falk in The Phantom is long overdue! Very little is known in fandom about this man who has, in fact, created the most successful character of its kind.

Rocky Midyett,
W. Covina, Cal.

Although it isn't possible to answer each and every letter, your ideas and suggestions are appreciated. Address your mail to:

THE PHANTOM
K. K. Publications, Inc.
Poughkeepsie, New York

ROCKY and BULLWINKLE

ARE **CHEERIOS** YOUR FAVORITE CEREAL BULLWINKLE?

RIGHT, ROCK.

Cheerios.
Breakfast in a minute and a half.

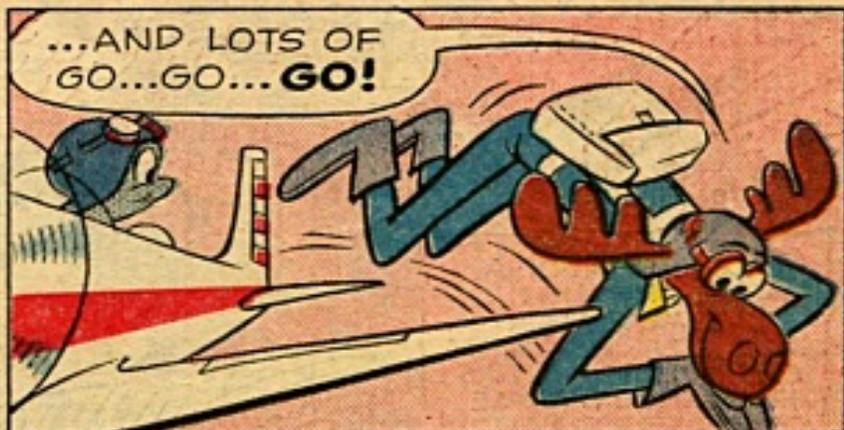
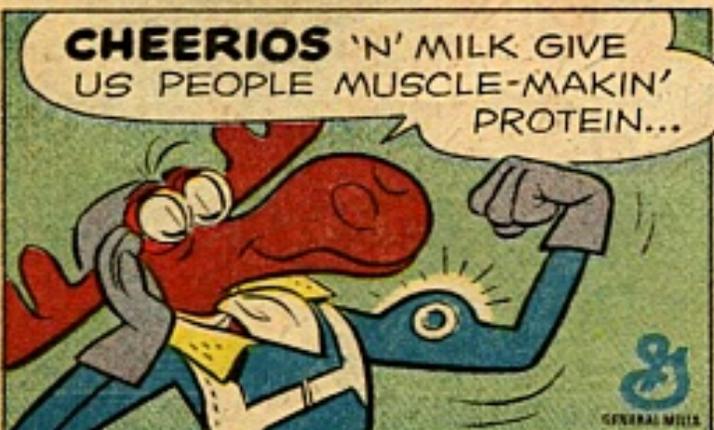
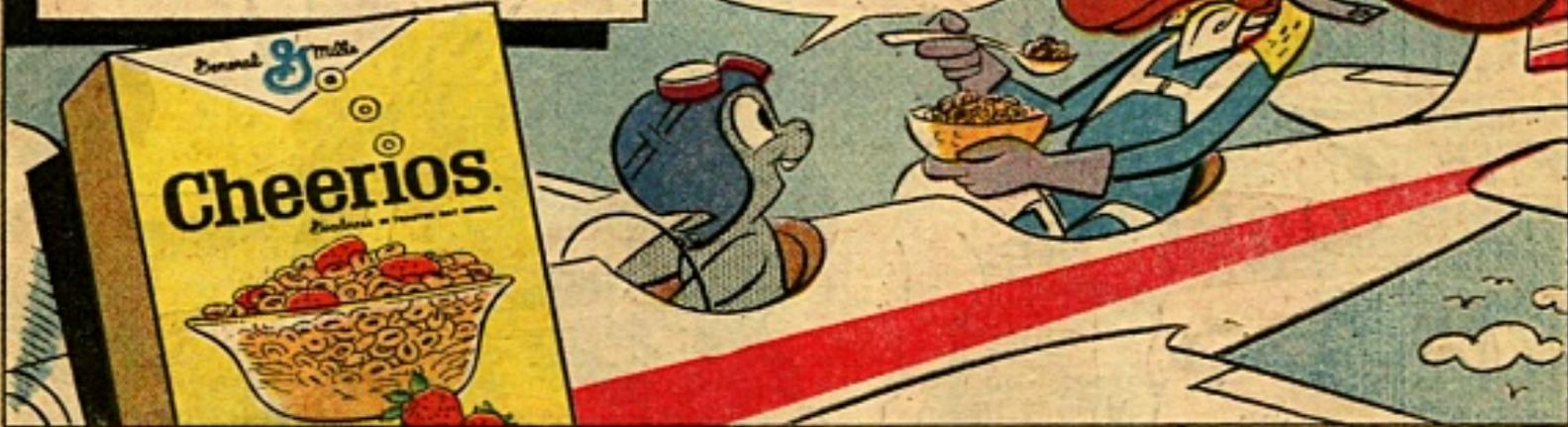
CHEERIOS 'N' MILK GIVE US PEOPLE MUSCLE-MAKIN' PROTEIN...

...AND LOTS OF GO...GO...**GO!**

DO YOU MEAN THAT EVERYONE SHOULD GO WITH THE GOODNESS OF **CHEERIOS**?

MOST ASSUREDLY, ROCK!

BUT THEY SHOULD WATCH WHERE THEY'RE GOING!



SAFARI INTO THE UNKNOWN

TRACK HUNTER



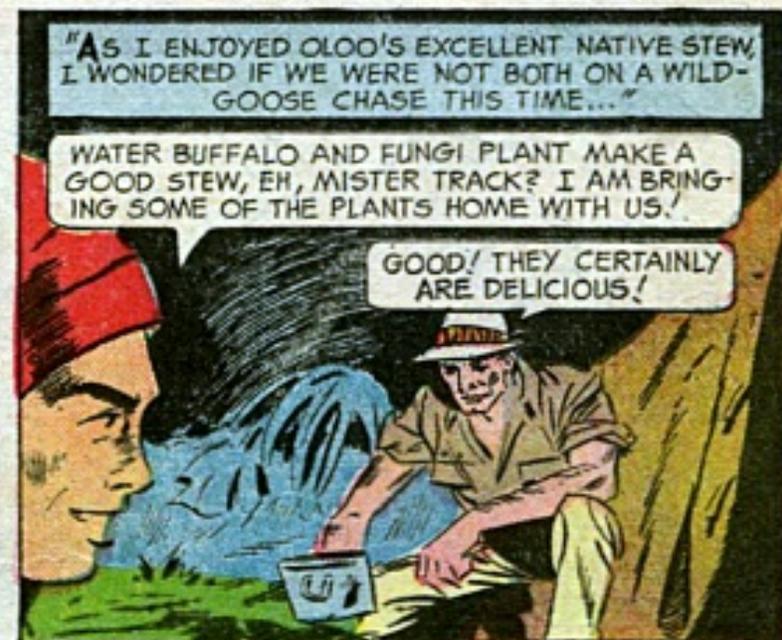
"OLOO, THE SON OF A NATIVE CHIEFTAIN, HAD HELPED ME EXPLAIN MANY BIZARRE LEGENDS OF HIS TRIBE-- BUT AS HE TOLD ME THE TALE OF OUR NEXT PLANNED VENTURE, I COULD NOT HELP BUT GAPE IN WONDER! SURELY, THERE COULD BE NO LOGICAL EXPLANATION TO... "THE LAND OF THE MINIATURE MONSTERS"!"

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"AS OLOO CONTINUED, HIS STORY BECAME WILDER AND WILDER..."

IT WAS NOT JUST THE ELEPHANTS WHO WERE SMALL AND WILD WITH RAGE, MR. TRACK--- ALSO, THE TINY LIONS ATTACKED... A-AND EVEN THE JUNGLE FOLIAGE STRUCK LIKE SNAKES!





"SUDDENLY, A FIERCE TRUMPETING BROKE THE JUNGLE STILLNESS... THE FOLIAGE LASHED THE AIR BEFORE US..."

THE TINY MONSTER ELEPHANTS! I-IT IS TRUE... TRUE!

THE RIFLES, OLOO... T-THEY SEEM CRAZED!



"ROUND AFTER ROUND, WE FIRED AT THE ON-RUSHING HERD..."

INCREDIBLE! SMALL AS THEY ARE, THE BULLETS HAVE NO EFFECT! RUN FOR IT, OLOO!



"BUT THE DEMONIC LITTLE PACHYDERMS WERE FLEET AS DEER... THEY THUNDERED OVER US IN A TRUMPETING HORDE..."



"FINALLY, WHEN THE NIGHTMARISH ATTACK HAD ENDED..."

THE FANTASTIC LEGEND OF YOUR TRIBE IS TRUE, OLOO ... DO YOU REALIZE THAT JUST ONE OF THOSE DWARF ELEPHANTS WOULD BE WORTH A FORTUNE! WE'LL RETURN WITH A SAFARI... CAPTURE THEM ALIVE...



"ABRUPTLY, THE FAINT ROAR OF A LION SMOTE OUR EARS AND..."

MISTER TRACK - THE TINY LIONS!



"THE CRAZED, DIMINUTIVE BEASTS STRUCK US WITH AN INSANE FURY..."



"THEIR FLAILING CLAWS SEEMED TO RAKE OUR FACES AGAIN AND AGAIN..."



"IT MUST HAVE BEEN HOURS LATER WHEN OUR SENSES RETURNED AND..."

W-WE SURVIVED... LET US HURRY FROM THIS FEARSOME PLACE, MISTER TRACK!

ONE MOMENT, OLOO... THERE IS SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT ALL THIS...



WE HAVE NO SCRATCHES... AND THERE IS NOT ONE SIGN OF ANY ANIMAL TRACK IN THE AREA!

B-BUT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE, WOULD IT NOT?



"SUDDENLY, I SNATCHED THE BAG OF FUNGI PLANTS THAT OLOO WAS BRINGING HOME WITH US..."

NOT SO IMPOSSIBLE, OLOO-- THESE PLANTS ARE SIMILAR TO THE POISON TOAD STOOLS THAT GIVE WHO EAT THEM HALLUCINATIONS!

HALL... HALLUCINATIONS, MISTER TRACK...?



CERTAINLY, MY FRIEND-- WE HAVE BEEN IMAGINING THE MINIATURE ANIMALS! EVIDENTLY THIS PARTICULAR SPECIES OF POISON FUNGUS INFLECTS ITS VICTIMS WITH THE SAME TYPE OF HALLUCINATIONS-- DEMONIC LITTLE ANIMALS!

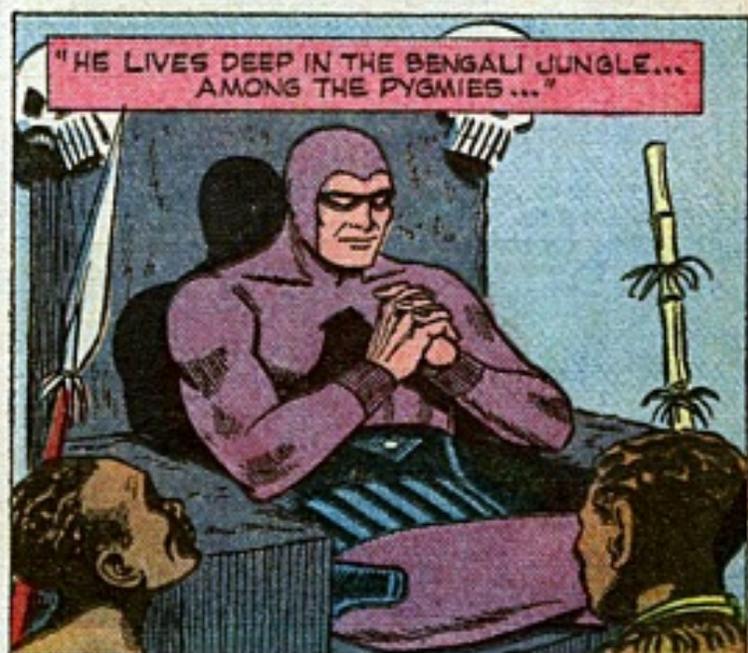
BUT WE HAVE LEARNED THAT YOUR TRIBAL LEGEND IS TRUE, OLOO!

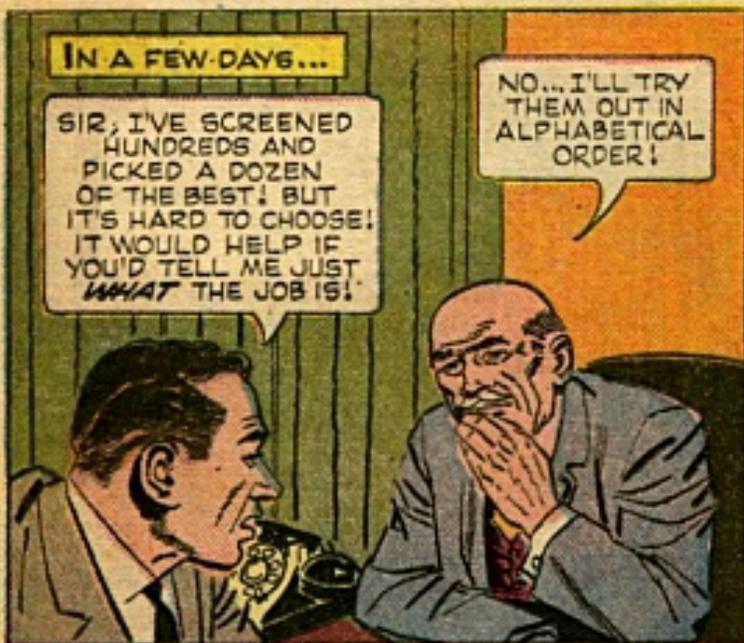


The
PHANTOM

GRANOPA

AT THE HOME OF DIANA PALMER, THE PHANTOM'S SWEETHEART, AN ELDERLY MAN ARRIVES FOR A SHORT VISIT... GRANDPA!







GRANDPA, THEY WERE ALL NICE MEN, BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE LIKE *HIM!*

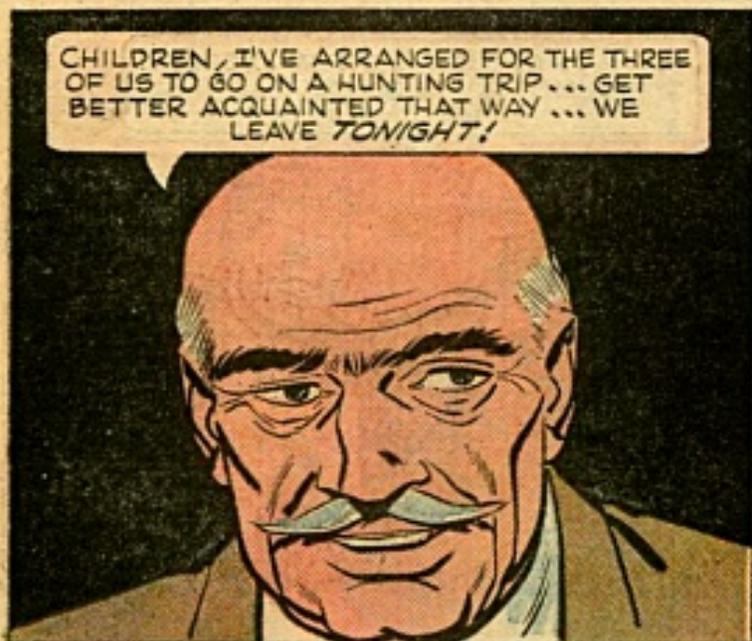
NONSENSE! I'VE PICKED OUT THE PERFECT MAN MYSELF... HE'S OUTSIDE NOW!



DIANA, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE MR. BOB GLOVER!

OH, WE ALREADY KNOW EACH OTHER! I JUST MISSED YOUR SAFARI IN KENYA LAST YEAR!

OF COURSE! AND I WATCHED YOU SKI LAST MONTH... YOU WERE *WONDERFUL!*



CHILDREN, I'VE ARRANGED FOR THE THREE OF US TO GO ON A HUNTING TRIP... GET BETTER ACQUAINTED THAT WAY... WE LEAVE *TONIGHT!*



LATE THAT NIGHT... A VISITOR!

DIANA LEFT MY WINDOW OPEN AS USUAL! WON'T *SHE* BE SURPRISED IN THE MORNING!



BUT IN THE MORNING IT'S *THE PHANTOM* WHO IS SURPRISED...

GONE...?

YES, SHE WENT HUNTING WITH HER GRANDFATHER AND A NICE YOUNG MAN *WE ALL* HOPE SHE'LL MARRY! THEY'VE GONE TO COPPERTOWN IN THE ROCKIES!

HIGH IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS...

THAT OLD BOY'S PALMER ...
PALMER'S INDUSTRIES! CARRIES
A LOT OF MONEY AROUND
WITH HIM!

NICE OF HIM!
WE'LL SEE MORE
OF HIM... LATER!

THE NEXT MORNING, THE HUNT BEGINS...

I'LL GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO BE
ALONE TOGETHER! THEY BOTH
LOOK HAPPY! MY PLAN'S WORKING!

... BUT DIANA AND
BOB GLOVER ARE
NOT ALONE...

SHE SEEMS TO LIKE
HIM! I GUESS I WAS
A FOOL TO FOLLOW...
AND TRY TO BUTT IN!
SHALL WE GO HOME,
DEVIL?

A GRIZZLY! MOVING THIS
WAY! HE'S UPWIND OF US
... LET'S WAIT HERE!

IF
ONLY
HE
WERE
HERE!

THE BEAR
IS COMING...
READY...

BOB...
BEHIND US!
ANOTHER
ONE!



...AND MY GUN IS JAMMED!

UH...I HIT THE OTHER ONE... BUT TOO HIGH... HE'S ONLY WOUNDED... NO TIME TO RELOAD!



LET'S GET OUT OF HERE... QUICK!

WE CAN'T... OUTRUN... A BEAR... BUT WE'D BETTER... TRY!



MEANWHILE... THE PHANTOM, FROM HIS HIDING PLACE, SEES DIANA'S PERILOUS SITUATION...

A PISTOL'S NO GOOD AGAINST A BEAST THAT SIZE... MUCH LESS TWO OF THEM! COME ON, DEVIL!



DIANA!

...TRIPPED... UH!



GOT TO TRY AND KEEP THAT BEAR AWAY FROM DIANA!



HOLD OFF THE OTHER BEAR, DEVIL!

THE BEAR'S ADVANCE IS HALTED BY A PURPLE STREAK DESCENDING FROM THE ROCKS ABOVE!



THE HUGE BEAST STRAINS, BUT HIS FIGHTING AGAINST IRON JUNGLE MUSCLES...

SNAP!



FINISHING OFF THE FIRST BEAR, HE TURNS TO FACE THE SECOND...

THIS ONE'S BIGGER THAN THE FIRST!



THE PHANTOM'S SUDDEN LUNGE AT THE BEAR'S MID-SECTION CATCHES THE BEAST BY SURPRISE...

GRUNT!



THE FORCE OF THE ATTACK TOPPLES THE PAIR DOWN A SLOPE INTO A SWIRLING STREAM...



DIANA!
HOW...
IS SHE-!

UNCONSCIOUS...
BUT NOT HURT!

DID YOU
SEE THAT
MAN...THAT
MASKED
MAN?



MOST AMAZING THING I EVER SAW! ONE
MAN AGAINST TWO HUGE BEARS! NO SIGN
OF HIM DOWN THERE! GUESS HE'S GONE!

WE'D BETTER GET
DIANA TO THE LODGE,
MR. PALMER!



FAR DOWNSTREAM, RUSHED ALONG BY
THE RAGING CURRENT... *THE PHANTOM*
AND THE BEAR STRUGGLE TO STAY
AFLOAT...



THEY REACH A FORD... EXHAUSTED, HALF-
DROWNED... SUDDENLY, THE WOUNDED BEAR
WHIRLS AROUND AND TROTS OFF INTO THE
BRUSH... HE'S HAD ENOUGH!

(WHEW!) THAT... WAS A
CLOSE ONE, DEVIL... AFTER
I GET MY... BREATH, WE'LL
GO BACK... AND SEE
HOW DIANA IS!



ALL I REMEMBER IS THAT BIG BEAR LOOKING UP OVER US!

YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS! THEN THE MASKED MAN APPEARED!

HE KILLED ONE BEAR... AND WENT OVER THE CLIFF WITH THE OTHER ONE!



MASKED MAN? WHERE IS HE?... I MUST SEE HIM!



SUDDENLY...

DON'T NOBODY MOVE! WE WANT TO JOIN THE PARTY!

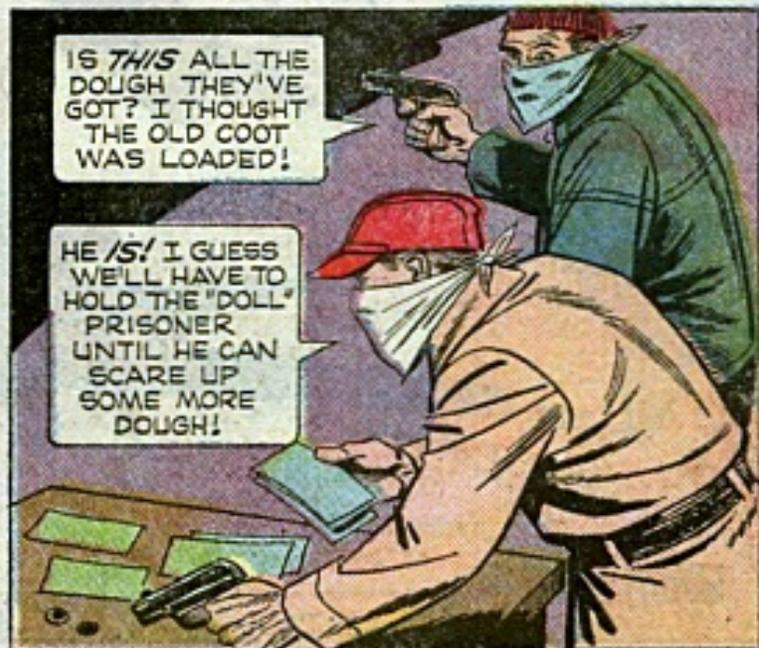
WHAT IS THIS?

A STICK-UP, GRAMPS!



IS THIS THE MASKED MAN YOU MEANT?

OF COURSE NOT!



IS THIS ALL THE DOUGH THEY'VE GOT? I THOUGHT THE OLD COOT WAS LOADED!

HE *IS*! I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO HOLD THE "DOLL" PRISONER UNTIL HE CAN SCARE UP SOME MORE DOUGH!



BUT THAT'S KIDNAPPING!

LOOKS LIKE I ARRIVED JUST IN TIME!

THAT'S A NASTY WORD, GRAMPS! LET'S JUST SAY THE GIRL'S OUR INSURANCE THAT YOU'LL COME BACK WITH THE LOOT!

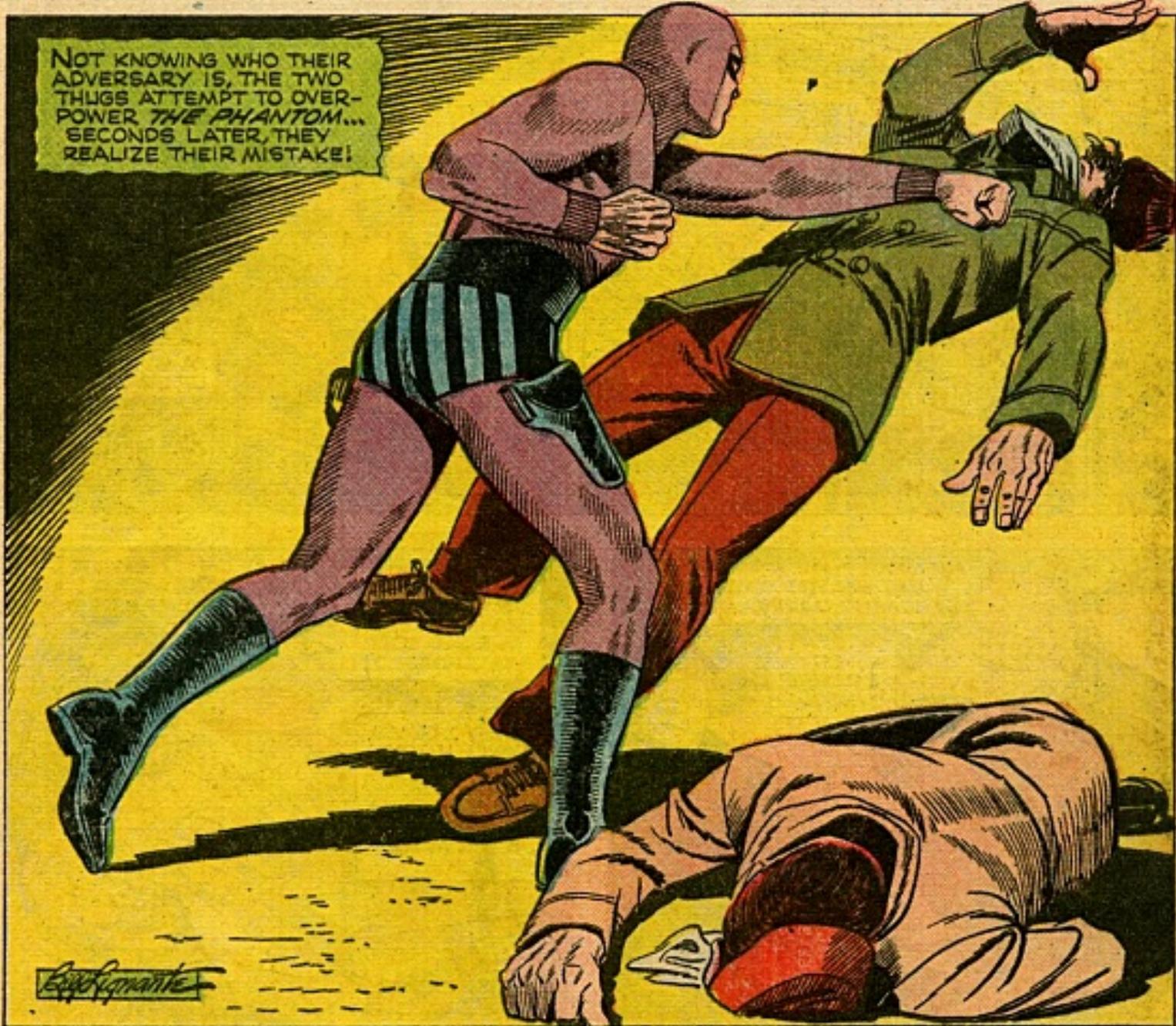


AS YOU WERE, GENTLEMEN!

THE MASKED MAN!

DARLING!

BAM BAM



NOT KNOWING WHO THEIR ADVERSARY IS, THE TWO THUGS ATTEMPT TO OVERPOWER THE PHANTOM... SECONDS LATER, THEY REALIZE THEIR MISTAKE!

Edwards

A WEEK LATER...

...AND YOUR MOTHER TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE GOING TO MARRY BOB GLOVER!

GRANDPA WAS TRYING TO FIND A HUSBAND FOR ME AND I WAS HUMORING HIM! YOU KNOW THERE'S ONLY *ONE* MAN FOR ME!



SEEING YOU AGAIN, DIANA, HAS BEEN A TONIC ... BUT I'M ALREADY OVER DUE BACK IN THE DEEP WOODS! I'LL BE BACK SOON!

I'LL BE WAITING... ALWAYS!

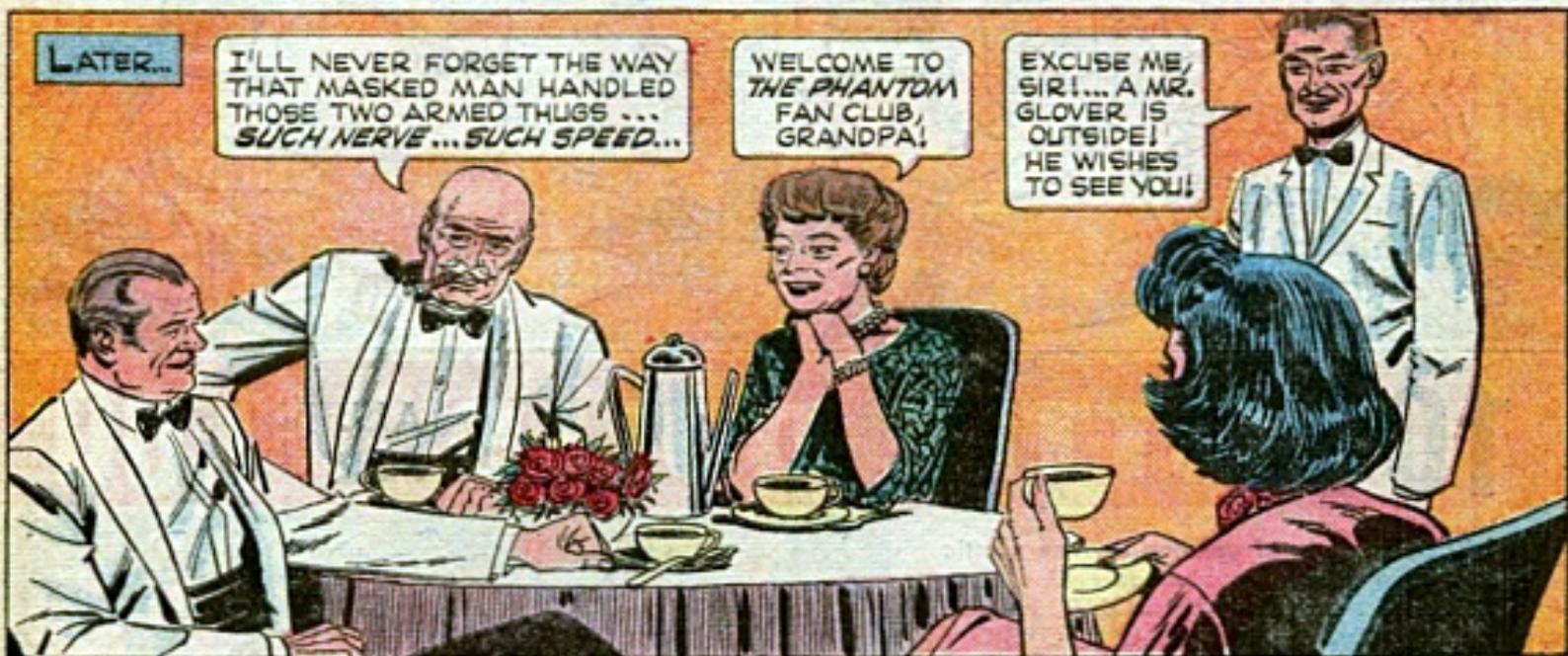


LATER...

I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WAY THAT MASKED MAN HANDLED THOSE TWO ARMED THUGS ... *SUCH NERVE... SUCH SPEED...*

WELCOME TO THE PHANTOM FAN CLUB, GRANDPA!

EXCUSE ME, SIR!... A MR. GLOVER IS OUTSIDE! HE WISHES TO SEE YOU!



OH... ER... TELL HIM THE JOB I HAD IN MIND HAS *ALREADY* BEEN FILLED!

HE WOULDN'T LET *HIS* GRAND-DAUGHTER MARRY A MAN WHO LIVED IN A CAVE! HE'D FIND A PROPER HUSBAND FOR HER! *NOW* LISTEN TO HIM!



GRANDPA, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF MY MASKED MAN NOW? THINK HE'S WORTH WAITING FOR?

DIANA PALMER... IF YOU *EVER* LET GO OF THAT MAN... I'LL CUT YOU OFF WITHOUT A DIME!



THE CUCKOO BIRD YUKS IT UP!

Hi GRAMPS! WHAT DID THE BALD MAN SAY WHEN HE RECEIVED A COMB FOR A PRESENT?

I DUNNO... WHAT DID HE SAY?

I'LL NEVER PART WITH IT...
YUK! YUK! YUK!



YAHOO! I'M CUCKOO FOR COCOA PUFFS!
CUCKOO FOR COCOA PUFFS

CUCKOO FOR COCOA PUFFS!
COCOA FOR COO COO POOS!

THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HIM THE CUCKOO BIRD!



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