
SEE "THE RIDDLE OF THE SWAMP-LAND SPIRIT" (PG.12)
SUPER-MYSTERY COMICS
10¢
OCTOBER

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MAGNO AND DAVEY

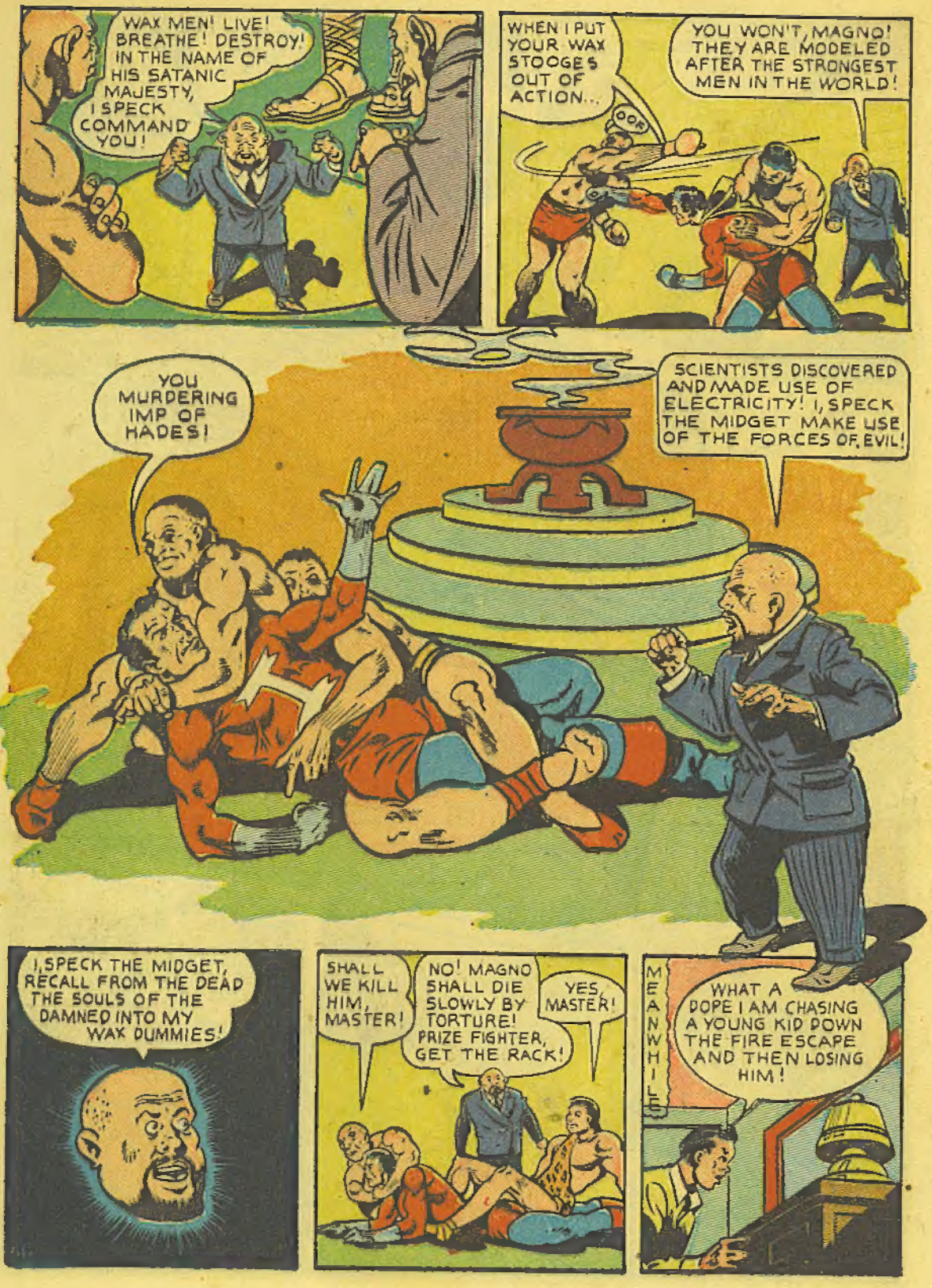


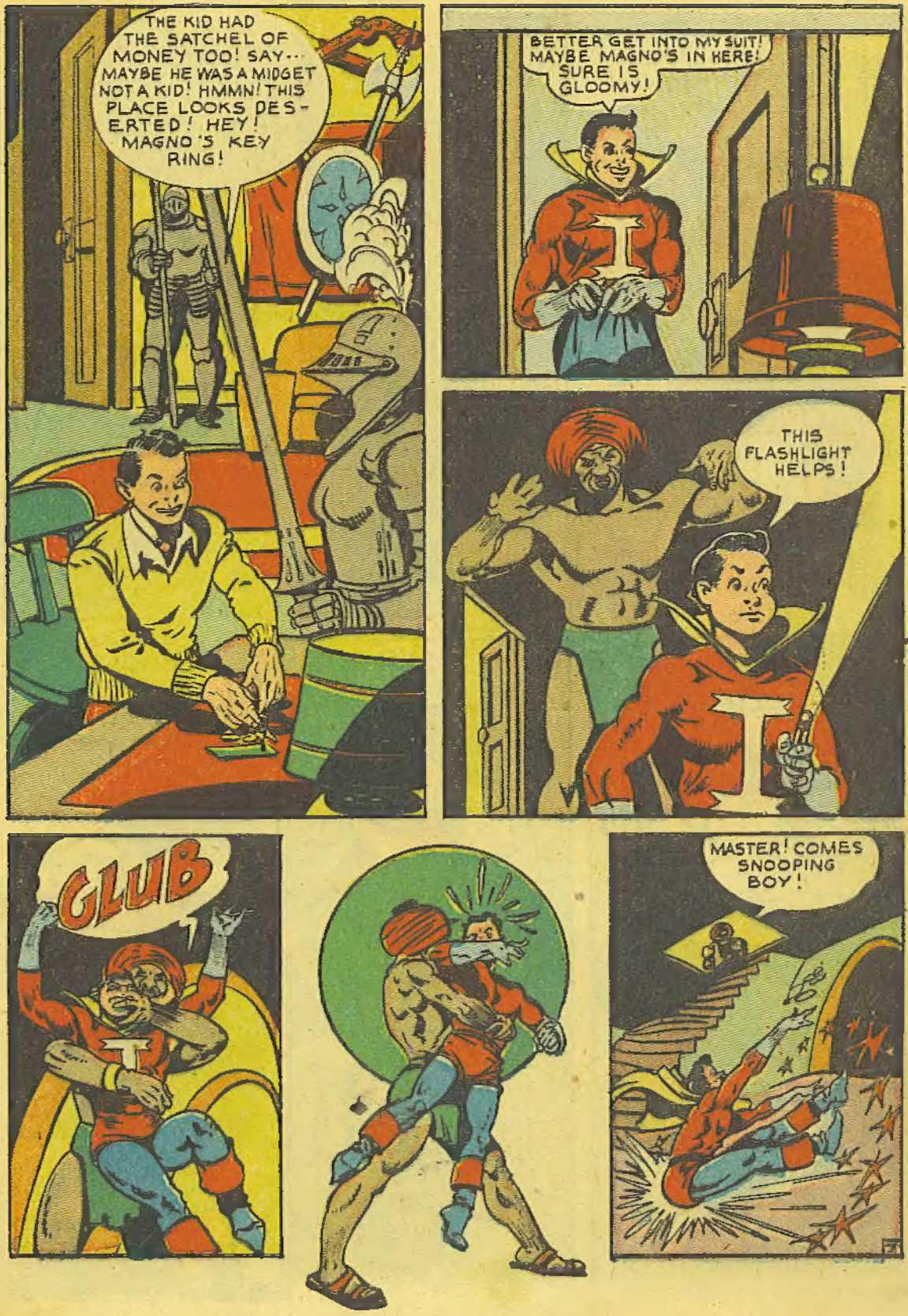

MAYOR MUST WANT TO SEE US ABOUT THE SUICIDES OF THESE FAMOUS PEOPLE DAVEY!
IT SURE IS A TOUGH CASE IF THE POLICE ARE BAFFLED!
AND OUR CITY IS BEING CALLED CITY OF SUICIDES! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US OUT, MAGNO
NEWSPAPERS SAY THE ACTIONS OF THE SIX MEN BEFORE KILLING THEMSELVES WAS EXACTLY THE SAME! IS THAT TRUE, MR MAYOR?
YES! AND NOW J.P GILTBILT HAS STARTED A PANIC ON WALL STREET BY TURNING EVERYTHING HE OWNS INTO CASH AS THE OTHERS DID BEFORE SUICIDE!
MAGNO, IT'S UP TO YOU TO STOP J.P GILTBILT FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE!
GILTBILT IS STAYING AT THE VASTORIA HOTEL, ISN'T HE ? LET'S GET GOING, DAVEY!
LATER···STRANGE SOUNDS FROM GILTBILT'S ROOMS!
LISTEN, MAGNO, IT SOUNDS LIKE A CHILD'S VOICE RAISING CAIN WITH MR GILTBILT!
FOOL! I OUGHT TO DESTROY YOU!
THAT CHILD, WE COULDN'T HELP HEARING IS CERTAINLY
YOU HEARD NO CHILD! I'M ALONE! ALONE DO YOU HEAR! STATE YOUR BUSINESS AND GET OUT!
JUMPY, AREN'T YOU, GILTBILT! WANT ME TO FIND THE KID FOR YOU?
GET OUT! YOU CAN'T CALL ME A LIAR!
STRIKE AT ME AGAIN, GILTBILT AND I'LL RETURN A PUNCH WITH INTEREST!
WHY YOU...

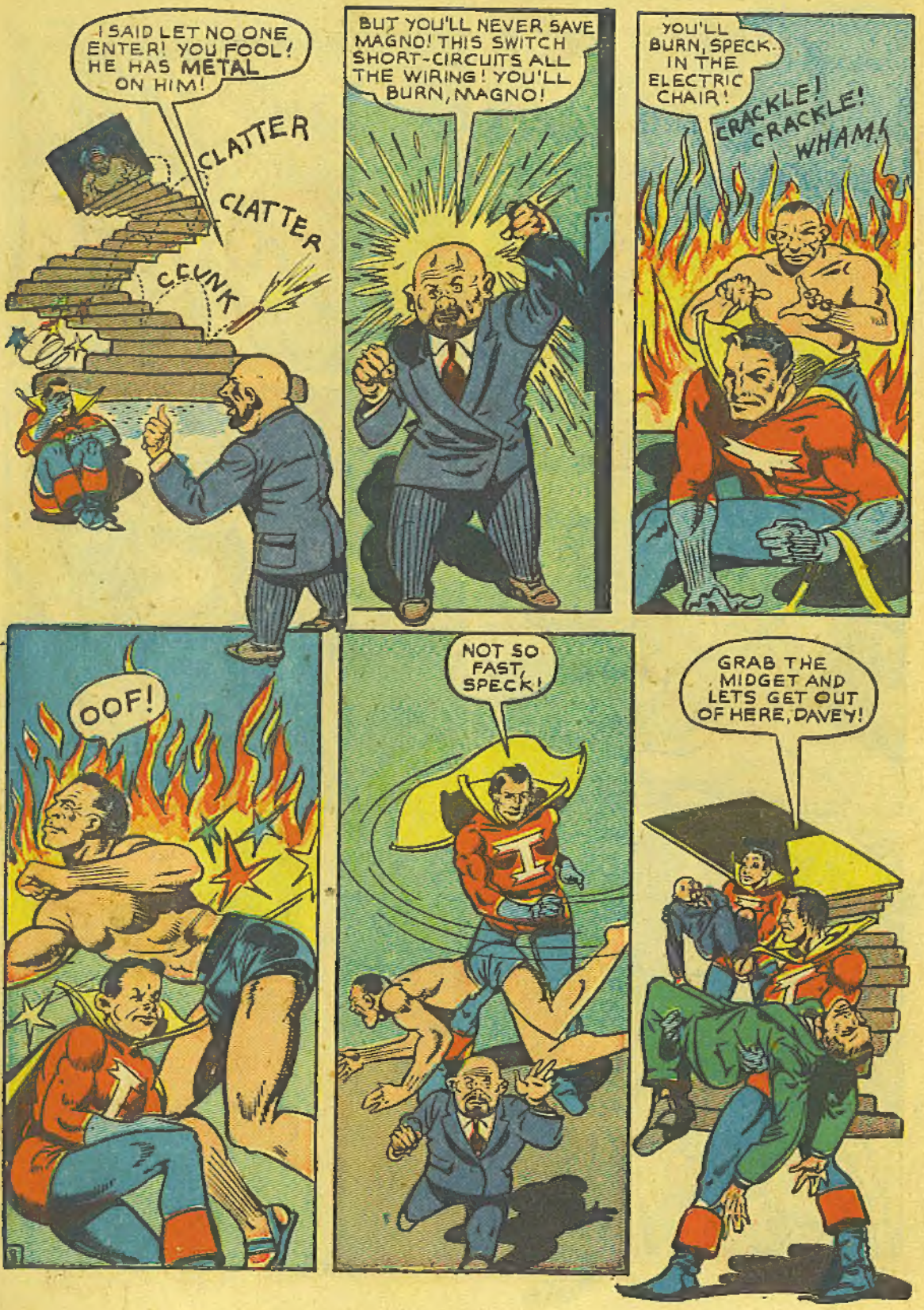

YOU ASKED FOR IT, GILTBILT! GREAT SCOTT!
SOCK
AIIIII E EEEEEEEEEE
INCREDIBLE! NO BLOOD... HMMN! THIS IS A WAX DUMMY! BUT IT WAS ALIVE!
THERE'S SOME OCCULT POWER AT WORK HERE! DAVEY... HE'S VANISHED!
DAVEY MUST'VE CHASED WHOEVER WAS IN THIS ROOM DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE! I'LL LEAVE A NOTE FOR HIM!
LATER
THERE'S THE WAX MUSEUM I LOOKED UP IN THE PHONE BOOK!
WAX MUSEUM

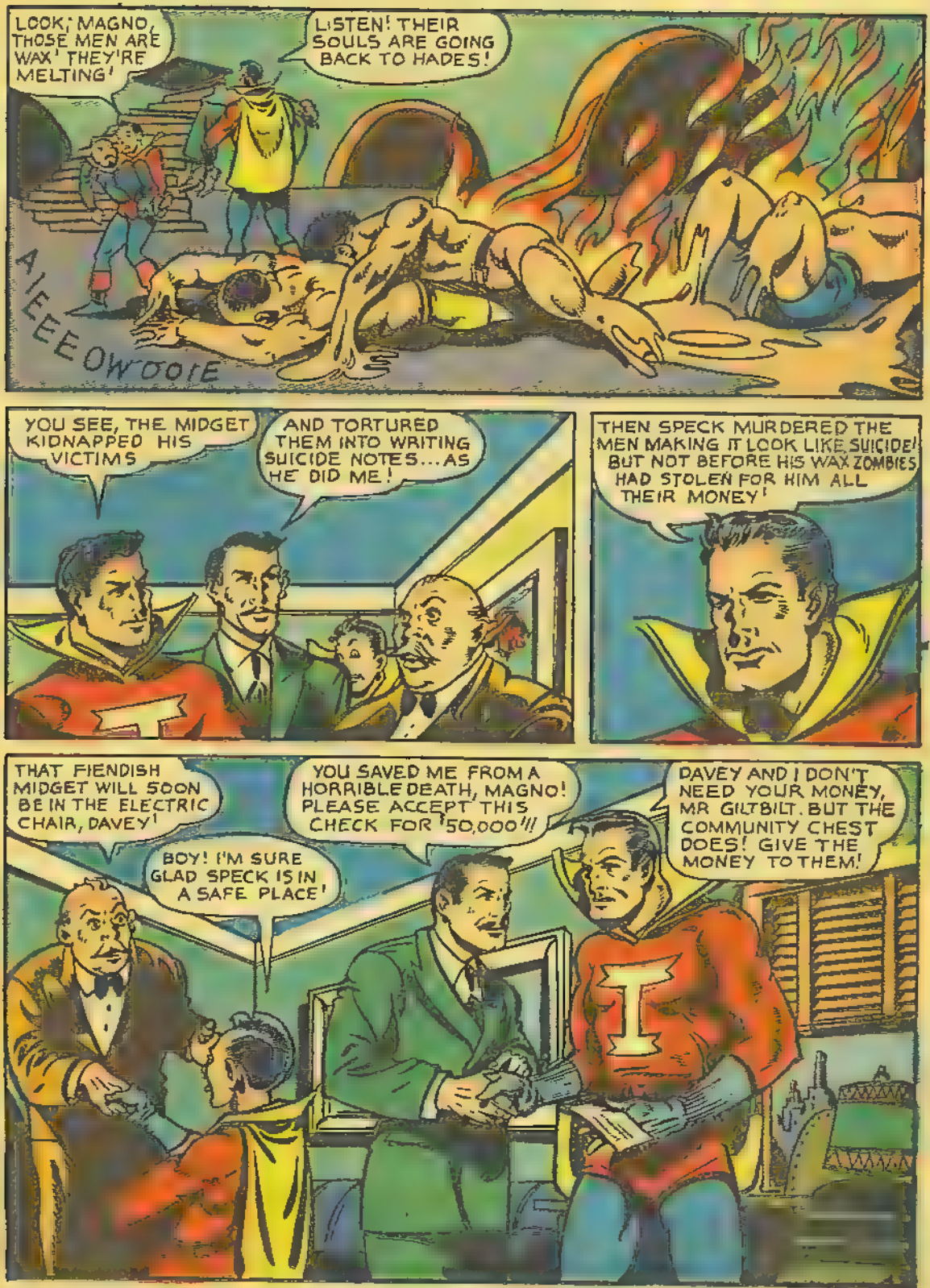

MAYBE I CAN GET A LINE ON WAX FIGURES HERE! WHERE'S THE MANAGER?
I, SPECK THE MIDGET, AM OWNER AND MANAGER, MAGNO!
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
KNOWING ABOUT FAMOUS PEOPLE IS MY BUSINESS! I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A WAX FIGURE OF YOU, MAGNO!
SOME OTHER TIME, SPECK! I'LL JUST HAVE A LOOK ABOUT YOUR MUSEUM!
WAIT! MAGNO! EMPTY YOUR POCKETS FIRST OF ALL METAL I'M REFINISHING MY DUMMIES! THE SLIGHTEST SPARK MIGHT START A FIRE!
THANK YOU, MAGNO!
I'VE HEARD THAT HIGH SQUEAKY BEFORE SOMEWHERE! HM, I WONDER...
A MEDIEVAL IRON BOOT TORTURE! GREAT SCOTT! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FAINT GROAN!
HEH HEH!
ANCIENT TORTURES


GROAN
THERE IT IS AGAIN!
A TRAP DOOR! WE'LL SEE WHAT'S BELOW!
GROANN
J. P. GILTBILT!
LOOK OUT FOR THE MIDGET! BE CAREFUL!
THE REAL GILTBILT! YOU WERE KIDNAPPED BY THE SPECK!
MAGNO STRIPS FOR ACTION!
YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO MY TRAP, MAGNO! THERE ISN'T ONE SCRAP OF METAL IN THIS CHAMBER!
I DON'T HAVE TO MAGNETIZE TO SETTLE WITH YOU, SPECK!


WAX MEN! LIVE! BREATHE! DESTROY! IN THE NAME OF HIS SATANIC MAJESTY, I SPECK COMMAND YOU!
WHEN I PUT YOUR WAX STOOGES OUT OF ACTION...
OOF
YOU WON'T, MAGNO! THEY ARE MODELED AFTER THE STRONGEST MEN IN THE WORLD!
YOU MURDERING IMP OF HADES!
SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED AND MADE USE OF ELECTRICITY! I, SPECK THE MIDGET MAKE USE OF THE FORCES OF EVIL!
I, SPECK THE MIDGET, RECALL FROM THE DEAD THE SOULS OF THE DAMNED INTO MY WAX DUMMIES!
SHALL WE KILL HIM, MASTER!
NO! MAGNO SHALL DIE SLOWLY BY TORTURE! PRIZE FIGHTER, GET THE RACK!
YES, MASTER!
MEANWHILE
WHAT A DOPE I AM CHASING A YOUNG KID DOWN THE FIRE ESCAPE AND THEN LOSING HIM!

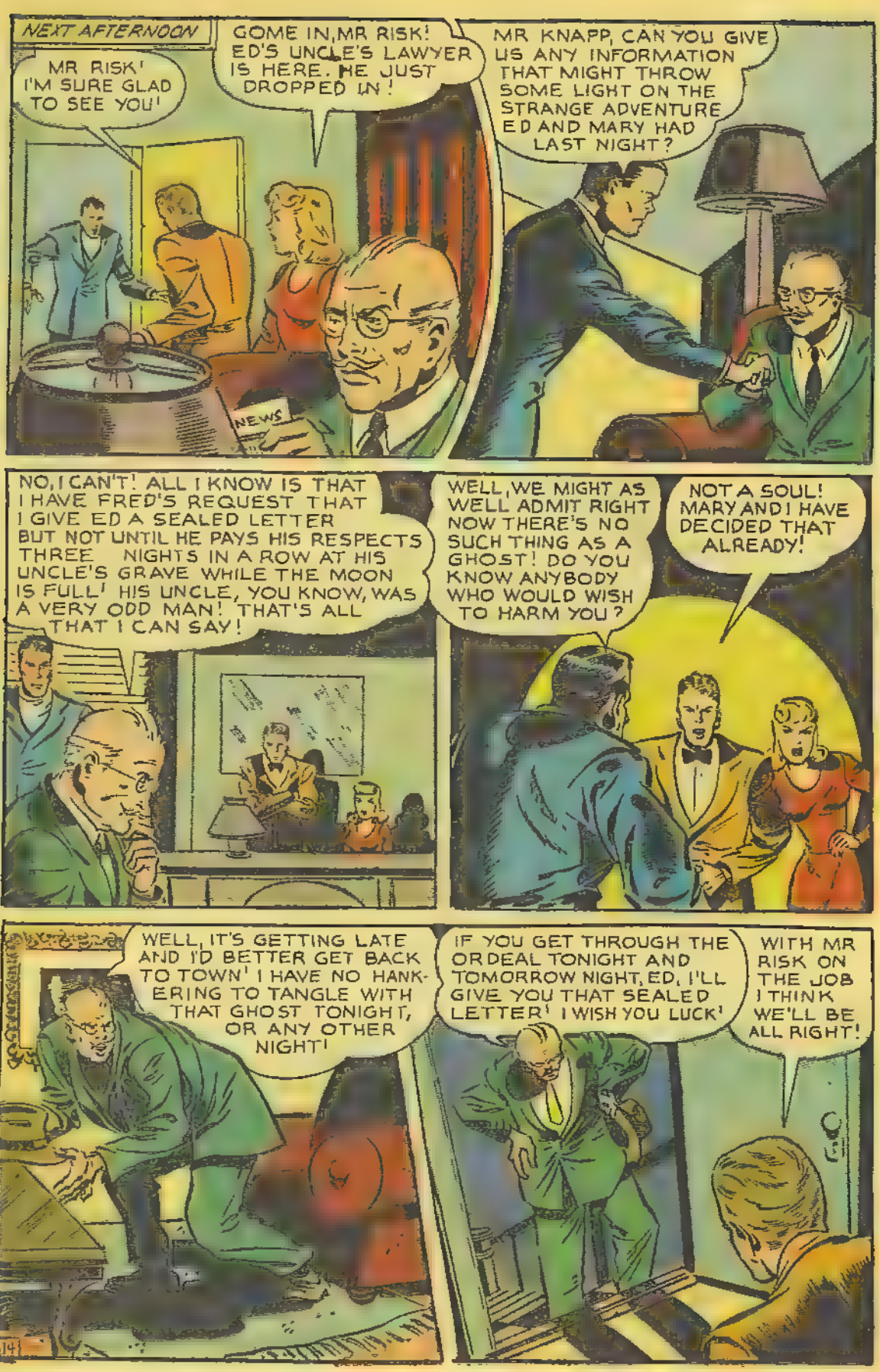

THE KID HAD THE SATCHEL OF MONEY TOO! SAY... MAYBE HE WAS A MIDGET NOT A KID! HMMN! THIS PLACE LOOKS DESERTED! HEY! MAGNO'S KEY RING!
BETTER GET INTO MY SUIT! MAYBE MAGNO'S IN HERE! SURE IS GLOOMY!
THIS FLASHLIGHT HELPS!
CLUB
MASTER! COMES SNOOPING BOY!


I SAID LET NO ONE ENTER! YOU FOOL! HE HAS METAL ON HIM!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLUNK
BUT YOU'LL NEVER SAVE MAGNO! THIS SWITCH SHORT-CIRCUITS ALL THE WIRING! YOU'LL BURN, MAGNO!
YOU'LL BURN, SPECK. IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
CRACKLE! CRACKLE! WHAM!
OOF!
NOT SO FAST, SPECK!
GRAB THE MIDGET AND LETS GET OUT OF HERE, DAVEY!


LOOK, MAGNO, THOSE MEN ARE WAX! THEY'RE MELTING!
LISTEN! THEIR SOULS ARE GOING BACK TO HADES!
AIEEE OWOOIE
YOU SEE, THE MIDGET KIDNAPPED HIS VICTIMS
AND TORTURED THEM INTO WRITING SUICIDE NOTES... AS HE DID ME!
THEN SPECK MURDERED THE MEN MAKING IT LOOK LIKE SUICIDE! BUT NOT BEFORE HIS WAX ZOMBIES HAD STOLEN FOR HIM ALL THEIR MONEY!
THAT FIENDISH MIDGET WILL SOON BE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR, DAVEY!
BOY! I'M SURE GLAD SPECK IS IN A SAFE PLACE!
YOU SAVED ME FROM A HORRIBLE DEATH, MAGNO! PLEASE ACCEPT THIS CHECK FOR $50,000!!!
DAVEY AND I DON'T NEED YOUR MONEY, MR GILTBILT. BUT THE COMMUNITY CHEST DOES! GIVE THE MONEY TO THEM!


MR. RISK
THE GHOST OF SAUCIER SIDAL AROSE FROM HIS GRAVE BY THE BAYOU TO KILL THE VERY ONES TO WHOM HE'D LEFT HIS FORTUNE! BUT WHY SHOULD HE, OR HIS GHOST, WISH TO MURDER THOSE HE LOVED? IT WAS UP TO MR. RISK TO UNRAVEL "THE RIDDLE OF THE SWAMPLAND SPIRIT!"
GEORGE GREGG
YOUR POOR UNCLE FRED! TO THINK HE HAD TO DIE ALL ALONE!
I WISH WE COULD'VE BEEN WITH HIM, MARY! HE WAS A GREAT GUY!
IT WAS WONDERFUL OF HIM TO LEAVE US HIS HOME AND ALL, BUT WHY DO YOU THINK HE LEFT THAT STRANGE WILL ASKING US TO PAY HOMAGE AT HIS GRAVE WHEN THE MOON IS FULL?
UNCLE WAS ODD, MARY! BUT IT WON'T HURT US TO OBEY HIS LAST WISH!
I-I'M NOT SO SURE! LOOK! OUT IN THE SWAMP! A GHOST

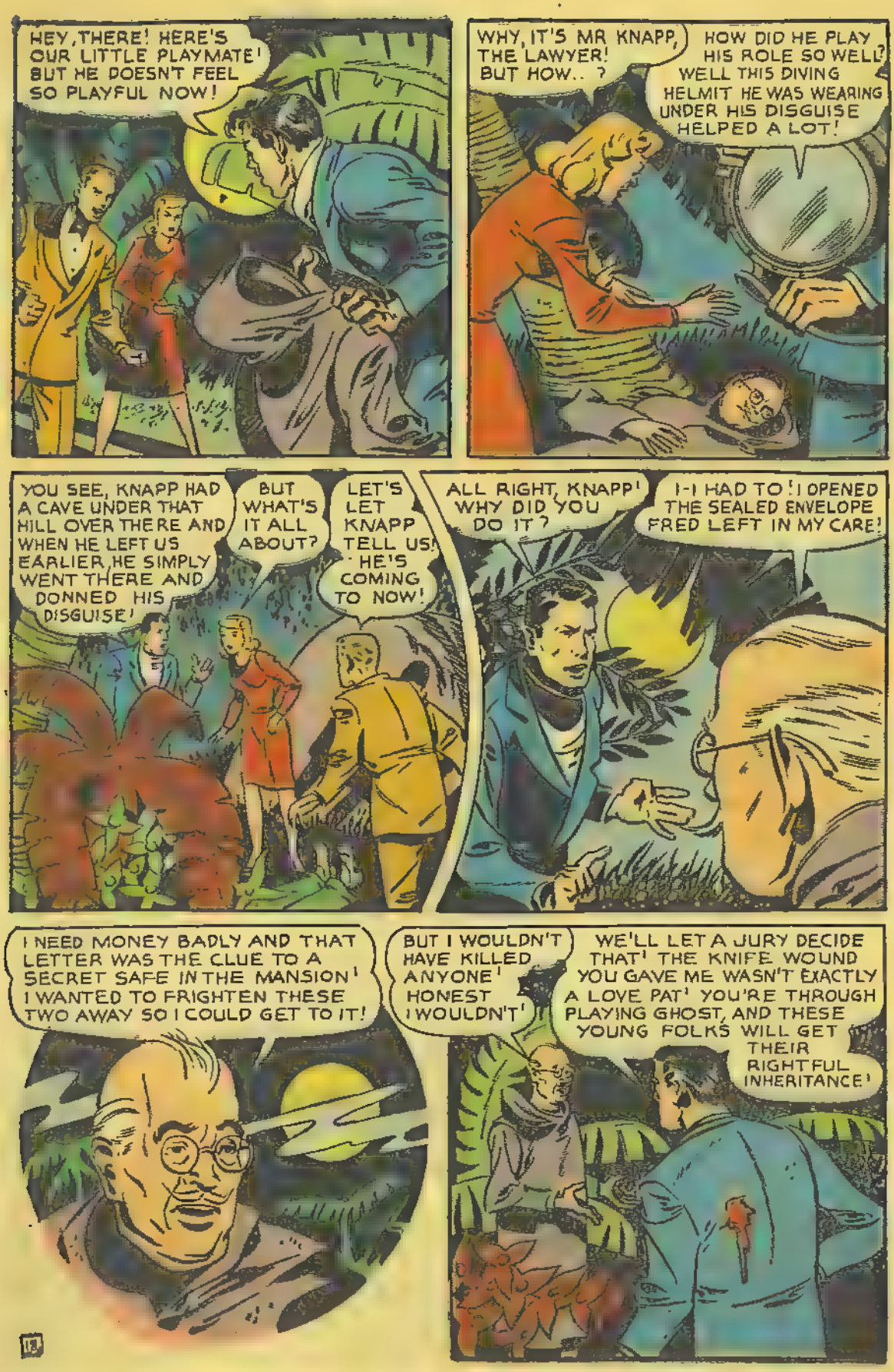

THIS IS SOME SORT OF A TRICK AND I'M GOIN TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS!
COME BACK, ED! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
WHAT KIND OF A GAG IS THIS? COME ON OUT HERE, WHOEVER YOU ARE
STAND WHERE YOU ARE OR I'LL SHOOT!
THIS WILL DO THE JOB! THERE! GREAT HEAVENS BULLETS DON'T HURT IT!
BANG BANG
IT MUST BE A REAL GHOST AFTER ALL!
YES! COME ON TO THE HOUSE! WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE THING!
LOOK! IT'S SINKING BACK IN THE SWAMP AGAIN! OH ED, WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THIS HORRIBLE PLACE!
NO! I'M GOING TO PHONE MR RISK AND HAVE HIM TAKE A PLANE DOWN HERE TOMORROW! HE CAN BE HERE BY LATE AFTERNOON!
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NEXT AFTERNOON
MR RISK! I'M SURE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
COME IN, MR RISK! ED'S UNCLE'S LAWYER IS HERE. HE JUST DROPPED IN!
NEWS
MR KNAPP, CAN YOU GIVE US ANY INFORMATION THAT MIGHT THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE STRANGE ADVENTURE ED AND MARY HAD LAST NIGHT?
NO, I CAN'T! ALL I KNOW IS THAT I HAVE FRED'S REQUEST THAT I GIVE ED A SEALED LETTER BUT NOT UNTIL HE PAYS HIS RESPECTS THREE NIGHTS IN A ROW AT HIS UNCLE'S GRAVE WHILE THE MOON IS FULL! HIS UNCLE, YOU KNOW, WAS A VERY ODD MAN! THAT'S ALL THAT I CAN SAY!
WELL, WE MIGHT AS WELL ADMIT RIGHT NOW THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A GHOST! DO YOU KNOW ANYBODY WHO WOULD WISH TO HARM YOU?
NOT A SOUL! MARY AND I HAVE DECIDED THAT ALREADY!
WELL, IT'S GETTING LATE AND I'D BETTER GET BACK TO TOWN! I HAVE NO HANKERING TO TANGLE WITH THAT GHOST TONIGHT, OR ANY OTHER NIGHT!
IF YOU GET THROUGH THE ORDEAL TONIGHT AND TOMORROW NIGHT, ED, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT SEALED LETTER! I WISH YOU LUCK!
WITH MR RISK ON THE JOB I THINK WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
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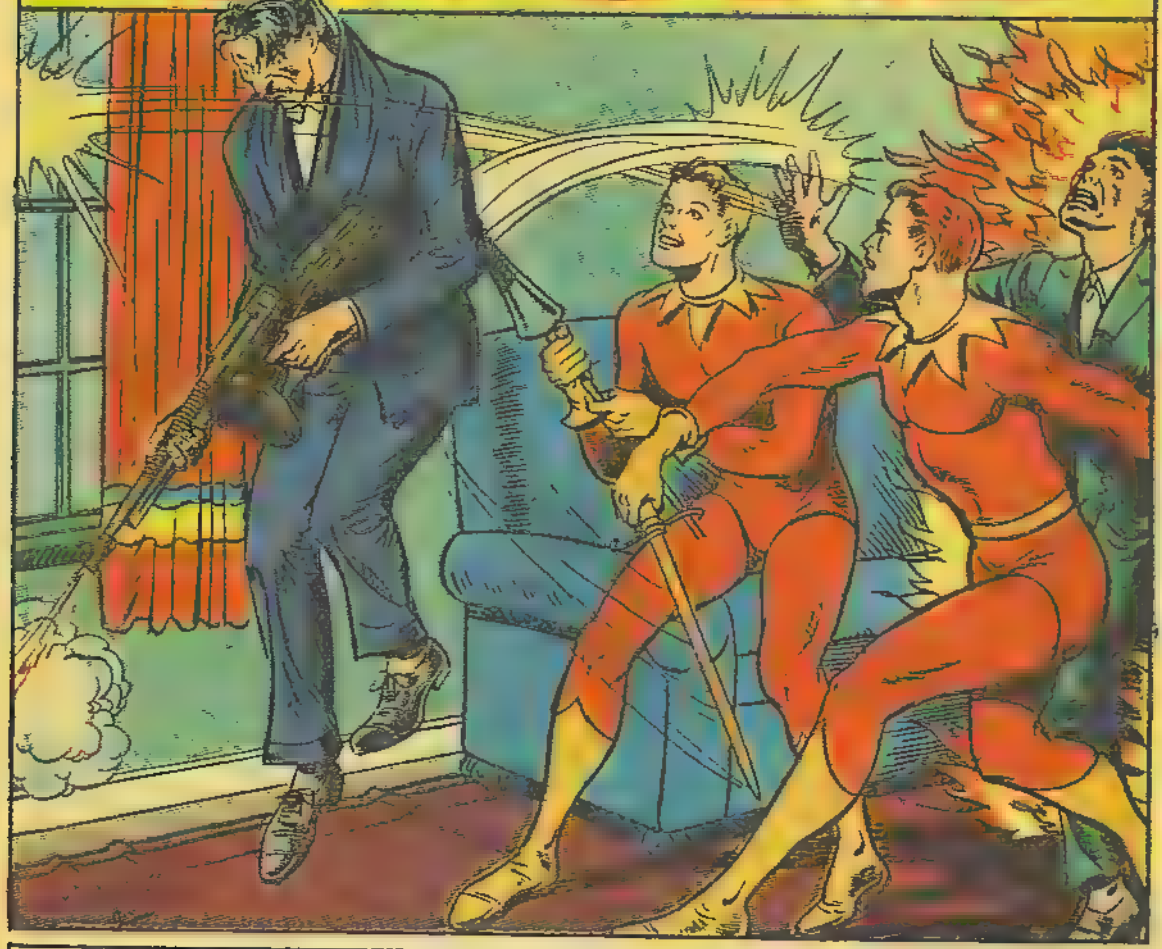

THAT NIGHT
WELL, IF OUR GHOST IS A CONSISTENT TYPE, HE OUGHT TO SHOW UP TONIGHT!
I'M FRIGHTENED! I'M AFRAID THAT SOMETHING AWFUL WILL HAPPEN!
WHERE DID YOU FIRST SEE THIS APPARITION LAST NIGHT?
RIGHT OUT THERE! IT CAME UP OUT OF THE SWAMP LIKE SOMETHING IN A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!
I'M GOING TO WALK ALONG THE EDGE OF THE SWAMP FOR A MINUTE AND SEE IF THERE ARE ANY CLUES I CAN SPOT! I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
PROBABLY PRETTY DEEP OUT THERE A SHORT DISTANCE! HM! I WONDER ..
AT THAT MOMENT .
THE MONSTER STRIKES...

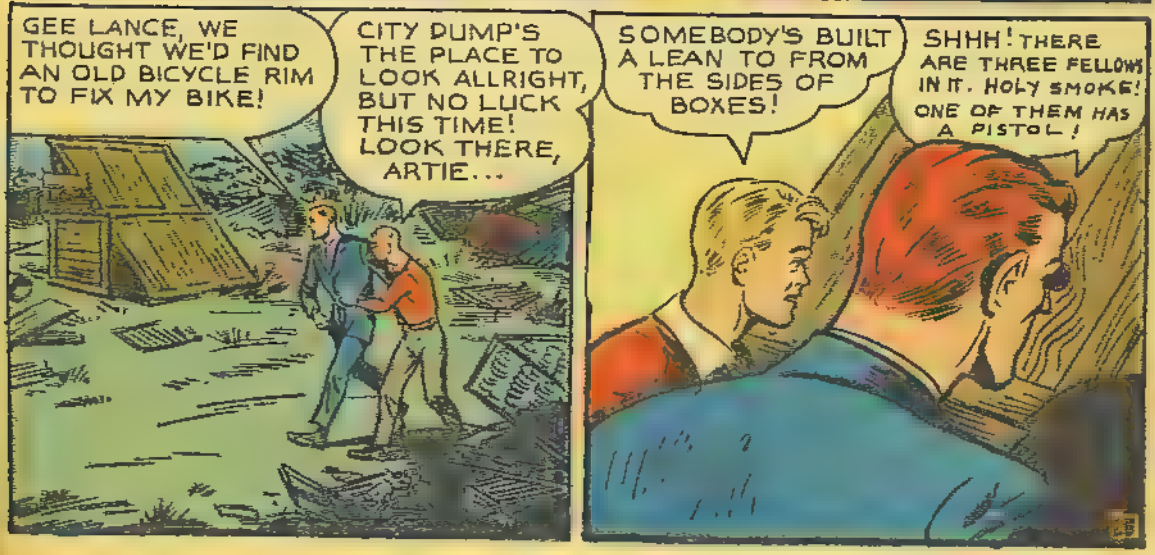

ED! IT'S MR RISK! THE GHOST HAS MURDERED HIM!
GOOD HEAVENS! COME ON!
MR RISK! YOUR BACK IT'S BLEEDING
NOT A BAD CUT, ED! I SAW THE SHADOW OF THE GHOST JUST BEFORE HE STRUCK AND I TWISTED OUT OF THE WAY! I ONLY GOT A FLESH WOUND IN MY SHOULDER!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH THAT CANE STALK?
I'M GOING TO CATCH OUR FRIEND, THE GHOST WITH IT!
COME BACK! SOMETHING AWFUL WILL HAPPEN, I KNOW
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT! ONLY IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OUR WOULD-BE MURDERER!
I THINK MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! THE FLOOR OF THE SWAMP IS RISING AGAIN INTO SHALLOW WATER! NOW IF I'M LUCKY I SHOULD SOON FIND OUR GHOSTS HIDEOUT!
BY BREATHING THROUGH THIS REED I CAN PROCEED UNDER WATER AND NOT BE DETECTED!


JUST AS I THOUGHT! THERE'S A CAVE BACK HERE! AND SOMEBODY'S HOME!
HM! THIS IS ONE GHOST THAT LIKES TO RETIRE TO A NICE DRY PLACE AFTER HE'S THROUGH WITH HIS HAUNTING!
YOU LOOK MIGHTY SOLID FOR A GHOST! LET'S SEE HOW YOU FEEL!
NO WONDER BULLETS WOULDN'T HURT YOU! A SUIT OF ARMOR'S UNDER THAT OUTFIT!
CLANG!
THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT, AND MORE THAN ONE WAY TO STRIP A PHONEY GHOST!
OKAY, FRANKINSTEIN! NOW LET'S SEE WHAT YOU REALLY LOOK LIKE! I HAVE AN IDEA THAT ED AND MARY WILL BE SURPRISED TO SEE YOU!
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HEY, THERE! HERE'S OUR LITTLE PLAYMATE! BUT HE DOESN'T FEEL SO PLAYFUL NOW!
WHY, IT'S MR KNAPP, THE LAWYER! BUT HOW.. ?
HOW DID HE PLAY HIS ROLE SO WELL?
WELL THIS DIVING HELMIT HE WAS WEARING UNDER HIS DISGUISE HELPED A LOT!
YOU SEE, KNAPP HAD A CAVE UNDER THAT HILL OVER THERE AND WHEN HE LEFT US EARLIER, HE SIMPLY WENT THERE AND DONNED HIS DISGUISE!
BUT WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?
LET'S LET KNAPP TELL US! HE'S COMING TO NOW!
ALL RIGHT, KNAPP! WHY DID YOU DO IT?
I-I HAD TO! I OPENED THE SEALED ENVELOPE FRED LEFT IN MY CARE!
I NEED MONEY BADLY AND THAT LETTER WAS THE CLUE TO A SECRET SAFE IN THE MANSION! I WANTED TO FRIGHTEN THESE TWO AWAY SO I COULD GET TO IT!
BUT I WOULDN'T HAVE KILLED ANYONE! HONEST I WOULDN'T!
WE'LL LET A JURY DECIDE THAT! THE KNIFE WOUND YOU GAVE ME WASN'T EXACTLY A LOVE PAT! YOU'RE THROUGH PLAYING GHOST, AND THESE YOUNG FOLKS WILL GET THEIR RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE!

The SWORD




GEE LANCE, WE THOUGHT WE'D FIND AN OLD BICYCLE RIM TO FIX MY BIKE!
CITY DUMP'S THE PLACE TO LOOK ALLRIGHT, BUT NO LUCK THIS TIME! LOOK THERE, ARTIE...
SOMEBODY'S BUILT A LEAN TO FROM THE SIDES OF BOXES!
SHHH! THERE ARE THREE FELLOWS IN IT. HOLY SMOKE! ONE OF THEM HAS A PISTOL!


WATCH OUT, LANCE! THEY HEARD US!
CATCH 'EM, MIKE! THEY'RE STOOL PIGEONS FOR SLUG MALTZ!
THE RATS!
SAM! MIKE! STAND CLEAR OF THE MUGS!
YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS TO SLUG MALTZ'S STOOLIES!
YOU THINK LANCE AND I WORK FOR SLUG MALTZ, THE GANGSTER? YOU'RE NUTS!
WE'LL FIND OUT WHO'S NUTS! GET GOING!
SAM AND ME CAN HANDLE THE OTHER ONE!


ALL RIGHT, YOU GUYS ARE O K WE'RE JUST JUMPY! SLUG MALTZ'S RATS HAVE BEEN HUNTING US ALL OVER THE CITY TO RUB US OUT!
BUT WHY, NICK?
SAM, MIKE AND I ARE BROTHERS, SEE? MY FATHER LEFT US A DRUG STORE ON THE BLOCK THAT SLUG MALTZ BOUGHT UP FOR THE HOTEL HE'S BUILDING.....
...WE WOULDN'T SELL OUT TO MALTZ! SO HE FRAMED US ON A STOLEN GOODS CHARGE! THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR US, TOO!
MALTZ FORGED A BILL OF SALE FOR OUR DRUG STORE NOW HE'S TRYING TO RUB US OUT SO IT WONT HOLD WATER!
AND WHO'S GOING TO STOP MALTZ FROM KILLING US? MIKE, SAM AND ME HAVE THREE STRIKES ON US!
WE'RE ER FRIENDS OF THE SWORD! WE'LL GET HIM!
ARTIE AND I KNOW SOMEBODY WHO'LL HELP YOU... THE SWORD!
SO DOSE PUNKS ARE GONNA GIT DE SWORD IN ON DIS, DAT'S WHAT DEY TINK!


OKAY, NICK! WE-ER- THE SWORD'LL MEET YOU FELLOWS IN THE ALLEY ACROSS FROM MALTZ'S HIDEOUT!
MIKE AND SAM AND ME ARE STAKIN' OUR LIVES ON THE SWORD BEIN' THERE, ARTIE!
WE'VE GOT TO STEP ON IT BACK TO YOUR HOUSE, ARTIE
YOU SAID IT! AND GET OUT OF ITS HIDING PLACE, IN THE CELLAR EXCALIBUR!
HEY YOUSE GUYS! WHERE'S NORTON STREET?
DOWN THAT WAY, MISTER... WHAT TH...
SLUG MALTZ WANTS TO SEE YOUSE PUNKS!
SO THAT'S YOUR GAME... (GROAN)
YOUSE IS GOIN FOR A RIDE! OOF!
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
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COME 'ERE, YOUSE, OR I'LL...
YOU'LL WHAT, MISTER?
MIND IF I TAKE A SHORT CUT OUT OF HERE?
ZING
UNHEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD, I'M MOVING!
BANG
THOSE GANGSTERS GOT LANCE...
THE SWORD HAS PLENTY TO SETTLE WITH THOSE RATS!
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WHILE ARTIE RACES FOR EXCALIBUR...
SO YOU WON'T TELL US WHERE YOUR PAL IS! AFTER I DRIVE DIS BLADE UNDER YOUR FINGERNAILS YOU'LL SQUEAL!
YOU YELLOW RAT!
BUT AT THAT INSTANT ARTIE BECOMES THE SWORD!—AND LANCE- THE LANCER!
WHERE'D DIS GUY COME FROM?
IT'S THE SWORD'S SIDE-KICK! DRILL HIM, TONY!
OWWW!!
BANG!


HEAVY ODDS!
SLAM!
HOPE I CAN HOLD OUT UNTIL THE SWORD GETS HERE!
DIS PINEAPPLE'LL BLAST HIM OUT! BUST DE DOOR OPEN!
CRASH!
STAND CLEAR, MUGS! HERE IT COMES!
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WITH PRACTICE, YOU'D PITCH A GOOD CURVE, MALTZ!
THE SWORD!
SMACK!
BLAM!
DROP THAT GUN!
DON'T! D-DON'T KNOCK ME OFF!
CONFESS THEN- YOU FRAMED MIKE, SAM, AND NICK WITH STOLEN GOODS! AND GOT POSSESSION OF THEIR DRUG STORE WITH A FORGED BILL OF SALE!
Y-YEH, I FRAMED 'EM! B-BUT I'LL B-BUILD 'EM A NEW STORE! I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT, SWORD!
DOUBLE VANILLA SODAS COMING UP! LIKE OUR NEW PLACE, FELLOWS?
BEFORE HE WENT TO JAIL, MALTZ SETTLED WITH US FOR CASH!
ARTIE, IT'S SURE LUCKY YOU AND LANCE ARE FRIENDS OF THE SWORD! HOW'D YOU GET TO KNOW HIM?
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, FELLOWS!
SO'S THE WAR A LONG STORY. BUT YOU CAN MAKE IT A SHORT STORY BY BUYING BONDS!