

NO.  
47

# ZIP

## COMICS

SUMMER  
10¢

AN  
**MLJ**  
MAGAZINE

**BIJOU THEATRE**  
**"CROOKS CAN'T WIN"**  
*Starring*  
**STEEL STERLING** and **RED RUBE**





IT'S EASY TO BE TOUGH . . IF YOU KNOW

American

JUDO

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# STEEL STERLING

MAN OF STEEL

IN

THE STRANGE  
CASE OF THE  
TIMID  
CORPSE



STRANGE THINGS HAPPEN ON ANY  
POLICEMAN'S BEAT, AND CLANCY IS NO EXCEPTION!



MRS. ADAMS--  
LOOK OUT--!

OHHHH!



MOAN!



BUT CLANCY ARRIVES!

DON'T STAND  
THERE LIKE A  
DUMMY, MAN!  
HELP ME CARRY HER!



CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS, AND...

MY ANKLE--OHHH!  
IT FEELS  
BROKEN!



I'M GOING TO FAINT  
AGAIN--OHHH! BUT  
GUARD THIS DIAMOND,  
OFFICER! IT'S  
THE KOH-  
NOOR --  
WORTH  
\$50,000!  
PLEASE  
WATCH  
IT!



AND LURKING AROUND THE CORNER  
IS ANOTHER, LURED BY THE FABULOUS  
GEM--KNOWN AS DIAMOND JIM!

HEY, WHAT A BREAK!  
I BEEN TRAILIN' DAT  
KOHNOOR DIAMOND  
A LONG TIME,  
WAITIN' TO NAB IT!  
NOW'S MY CHANCE--  
IN DA HOSPITAL!



WHEN THE HOSPITAL STAFF  
WAS TAKEN OVER...

THE MADAM SENT ME  
HOME! BUT SHE INSISTS  
ON KEEPING THE DIAMOND  
WITH HER!

BLAST IT ALL!

I'LL KEEP AN  
EYE ON THINGS  
HERE!

SIMPLE  
FRACTURE.  
SHE'LL BE OUT  
IN A WEEK!

BUT WHAT  
ABOUT THAT  
DIAMOND, DOC?  
SHE WAS WORRIED  
ABOUT IT--!

SURGEON JAMES TRENT IS TO OPERATE ON AN  
OLD FRIEND, ROGER MIEK!

OH THAT! WE  
NOTICED IT! IT  
WAS PLACED IN  
HER BED TABLE,  
WITH HER BELONG-  
INGS! EXCUSE ME,  
NOW--I HAVE AN  
EMERGENCY AP-  
PENDECTOMY WAITING!

JIM! JIM! WILL  
I-- WILL I-- LIVE?

OF COURSE, ROGER!  
WE'RE OLD FRIENDS.  
AND YOU KNOW I  
WOULDN'T KID YOU!

ETHER!

MEANWHILE, CLANCY VISITS  
HIS PATIENT

EVERYTHING  
ALL RIGHT.  
M'AM?

YES, OFFICER!  
THANK YOU SO  
MUCH! I'LL KEEP  
MY VALUABLE DIA-  
MOND WITH ME, IN THIS  
DRAWER! WHAT COULD  
BE SAFER THAN  
A HOSPITAL?

EEEK! IT'S  
GONE-- MY  
DIAMOND'S  
GONE!

WHA--??



WHO TOOK IT? OHH!

NO ONE WAS HERE EXCEPT MYSELF AND DR. TRENT!

HAH!



DIAMOND JIM! SO YOU GRABBED THE ROCK! C'MON, COUGH IT UP!

I DIDN'T, S'HELP ME! YA CAN SEARCH ME, COPPER!



SEE?

I'LL BE-- I SHOULD PULL YA IN ON A VAGRANCY CHARGE, BUT BEAT IT! I GOTTA LOCATE THAT DIAMOND!



I HEARD SOMEONE AT THE DOOR!



THE CHAUFFEUR! WHAT'RE YOU BACK FOR? DID YOU GRAB THAT DIAMOND?

OOOPS!



I--ER--CAME BACK FOR A GLOVE I DROPPED! BUT I HAVEN'T THE DIAMOND!

IT'D BULGE OUT IF YA DID! HOLY SMOKE! HOW COULD THAT ROCK VANISH WHILE I WAS STANDIN' GUARD OUTSIDE THE DOOR ALL THE TIME?

MEANWHILE, DR. TRENT FINISHES HIS OPERATION!

YOUR APPENDIX, ROGER! IT'S OUT, AND YOU'RE ALL SEWED UP! THAT WASN'T SO BAD, NOW, WAS IT?

THE PATIENT, WEAK BUT GAME, MAKES A TIME-HONORED JEST--

SURE YOU-UH-DIDN'T LEAVE YOUR--UH--SCISSORS INSIDE OF ME, JIM? HA, HA!



HA HA!

LATER, CLANCY TELLS THE STORY TO HIS FRIEND, STEEL STERLING--

"THEN I SEARCHED TH' WHOLE BLAMED HOSPITAL! HAD A SIGN OF THAT DIAMOND, STEEL! SOMEBODY GOT AWAY WITH IT-- BUT WHO?-- AND HOW?"



HMM! MAYBE IT JUST ROLLED IN A CORNER! IT MAY SHOW UP NICE AS YOU PLEASE, ONE DAY!

BUT A MONTH LATER--

NOPE! NEVER SHOWED UP, STEEL! BLAST IT-- I'D LOVE TO CRACK THIS CASE OPEN!

THIS INTRIGUES ME NOW! A FAMOUS DIAMOND LOST FOR A MONTH-- C'MON, LET'S VISIT THE HOSPITAL AND RETRACE THE EVENTS!



AS THEY ARRIVE, ROGER MIEK IS JUST BEING DISCHARGED--

THANKS, JIM! I FEEL FIT AS A FIDDLE!

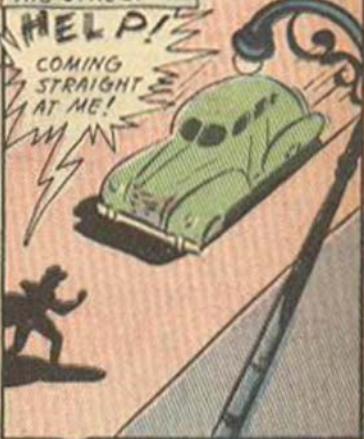


SO LONG, ROGER!

GOSH! OPEN AIR FEELS GOOD AGAIN! GEE, MY FRIENDS WERE GOOD TO ME WHILE I WAS THERE, BRINGING ME FLOWERS AND FRUIT! WHY, I HAVEN'T AN ENEMY IN THE WORLD!



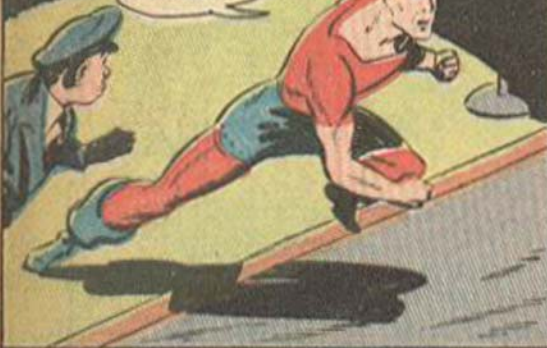
BUT AS IF TO BELIEVE HIS WORDS, A BIG CAR SUDDENLY SEEMS ABOUT TO RUN HIM DOWN AS HE CROSSES THE STREET--



HELP!

COMING STRAIGHT AT ME!

HOLY SOCKS! THAT LITTLE GUY'S IN TROUBLE!



THE MAN OF STEEL STOPS THE PLUNGING VEHICLE!



WHOA, BOY!

THE DRIVER IS NONE OTHER THAN  
MRS. ADAMS CHAUFFEUR!

HEY, YOU! WHAT'S  
THE IDEA, TRYIN'  
TO RUN HIM  
DOWN?

I-I-I--ER--JUST  
AN ACCIDENT! WHEEL  
SLIPPED OUTA MY HANDS,  
THAT'S ALL!

GOLLY! WHAT A  
SCARE! BUT IT MUST  
BE AN ACCIDENT, OFFICER!  
I DON'T KNOW THIS MAN!  
HE COULDN'T HAVE ANY  
REASON FOR WANTING  
TO KILL ME!

WELL, ALL  
RIGHT, IF YOU  
SAY SO!

SOMETHING GOOFY  
ABOUT THAT! WHY  
SHOULD THAT CHAUF-  
FEUR TRY TO KILL  
MIEK? HE WAS AFTER  
THE DIAMOND, YOU TOLD  
ME--SO WHAT'S THE  
CONNECTION?

GUESS I  
GOTTA LET  
HIM GO!

HAS YOUR  
LIFE EVER  
BEEN THREATENED  
BEFORE, MIEK?

NEVER! THIS  
IS REALLY UP-  
SETTING!

SADLY PUZZLED, MEEK MR. MIEK  
GOES OFF, HIS LITTLE SOUL SHAKEN!

MEANWHILE, STEEL AND CLANCY  
ENTER THE HOSPITAL, AND

DR. JAMES  
TRENT, PLEASE!  
OFFICER CLANCY  
CALLING!

DOWN THE  
HALL, ROOM  
106!

DR. TRENT IS THE  
ONLY ONE WHO  
SAW THE DIAMOND  
PUT IN THE DRAWER  
MAYBE HE CAN  
GIVE US A CLUE--

WE'LL SEE  
HIM!

ROOM  
106  
DR. JAMES  
TRENT



MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE OFFICE, DIAMOND JIM HAS THE SAME IDEA!

DAT DOC KNOWS SOMETHIN' ABOUT DA DIAMOND! WHAT'S DIS? --HIS PRIVATE DIARY?

AHA! BOY DIS MAKES IT ALL CLEAR!

WANTA PLAY ROUGH, EH!

A COP-- AND STEEL STERLING!

DIAMOND JIM! WHAT IN BLAZES ARE YOU --!

GOTTA SCRAM!

OKAY!

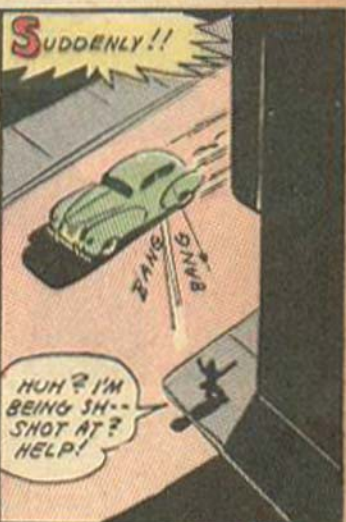
UGH!

STOP HIM! HE KNOWS SOMETHING!

BUT OUTSIDE THE DOOR, DR TRENT ARRIVES JUST IN TIME TO ACCIDENTALLY AID DIAMOND JIM'S ESCAPE!

HEY! WHAT GOES ON IN MY OFFICE - UGH!

OOF!





WOULDN'T YA LIKE TA KNOW, WISE GUY?

HEY, BOSS. WE BETTER SCRAM!

CRACK



CAUGHT ME NAPPING! BUT I'D BETTER SEE HOW ROGER MIEK, IS!



BUT THE LITTLE MAN HAS BEEN STRICKEN WITH PANIC!

I'LL RUN... HIDE... CHANGE MY ADDRESS... SOMETHING!

WHA--? WHERE'S HE RUNNING TO?



ARE THEY AFTER ME? WHERE CAN I GO? WHAT SHALL I DO?



BLIND WITH PANIC, THE FRIGHTENED LITTLE MAN RUNS OFF THE DOCK EDGE INTO THE WATER...

WHA--? HELP! I CAN'T SWIM! I'LL DROWN!

TWO CARS ROAR UP, AND STOP, AND FROM THEM LEAP TWO MEN WHO ONLY RECENTLY SOUGHT TO KILL ROGER MIEK!



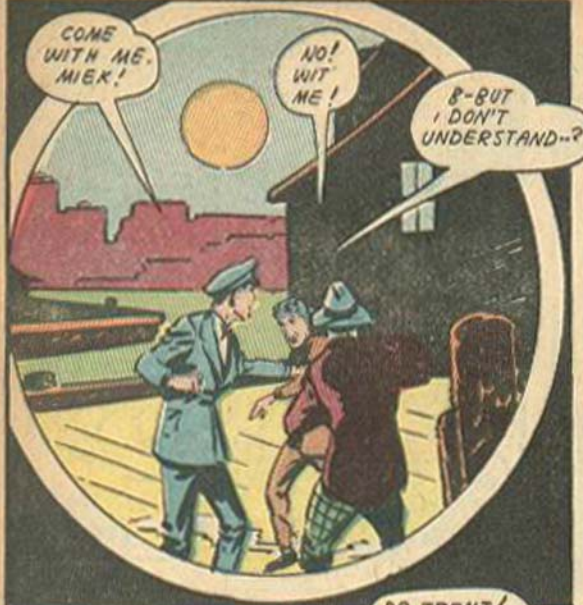
HELP! GLUB! CAN'T SWIM!

HOLD ON, MIEK! I'LL SAVE YOU!

I'LL SAVE YA, MIEK!



THAT CLINCHES IT! THE CHAUFFEUR AND DIAMOND JIM TRIED THEIR BEST TO KILL MIEK BEFORE! NOW THEY RESCUE HIM FROM DROWNING! THAT GIVES ME THE ANSWER I WANT!



COME WITH ME, MIEK!

NO! WIT ME!

B-BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND--?



SORRY, FELLAS! MIEK IS COMING WITH ME!

OOF!

WHAM!



I'M SO CONFUSED! I'M GOING MAD, I TELL YOU! WHY HAS MY LIFE BEEN ONE WRETCHED MESS SINCE I LEFT THE HOSPITAL?

THAT'S THE ANSWER, MIEK - AT THE HOSPITAL!



DR TRENT! YOU TOOK OUT ROGER MIEK'S APPENDIX LAST MONTH-- BUT YOU SEWED UP IN HIM THE KOHNOOR DIAMOND! YOU ARE THE THIEF!

WHY YOU'LL'



NOW, NOW, DOCTOR! I DON'T NEED AN OPERATION!

UGH!



HERE, MR MIEK IS TRENT'S PRIVATE RECORD OF WHY HE SEWED THE DIAMOND INSIDE YOU!

GULD! A DIAMOND! SEWED INSIDE ME!



THAT WAS WHY THEY TRIED TO KILL MIEK FIRST-- THEN SAVED HIM FROM DROWNING! HIS BODY WOULD HAVE FLOATED AWAY IN THE RIVER!

WHAT A SCREWY CASE! DOC TRENT THOUGHT HE COULD MAKE HIS FORTUNE BY THAT ONE SIMPLE OPERATION! HIDING A STOLEN DIAMOND INSIDE A LIVING MAN! AIN'T THAT TH' LIMIT?

*Doc Trent's appendix was a large enough hole to sew a diamond back into a man's body. I will operate and remove the diamond. Long after case no longer...*

# GINGER



GEE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THAT FIRST DATE WITH TOMMY!

by GINGER



GINGER IS DRESSING FOR A DATE WITH TOMMY. IT'S GOING TO BE A PERFECT DATE BECAUSE GINGER SAYS SO... AND YOU KNOW GINGER!!

IT WAS AT THE YACHT CLUB DANCE UNDER A JUNE MOON AND TOMMY WAS SINGING TO ME



IF I HAD MY WAY DEAR FOREVER THERE'D BE A GARDEN OF ROSES FOR YOU AND FOR ME

OH TOMMY, THIS IS TOO ROMANTIC!



A THOUSAND AND ONE THINGS... OOPS!!



GOOD GOSH!  
I JUST FELT A  
DROP OF RAIN!  
AND I'VE GOT  
DAD'S TUX ON!

I KNOW  
JUST THE  
THING!



QUICK! HERE'S A SHORT  
CUT TO THE CLUB... IF  
I'M NOT MISTAKEN...

ARE  
YOU  
SURE?

SURE, I'M SURE! WHY  
I'VE COME THIS WAY  
HUNDREDS OF...

SUDDENLY!

R-R-RIP

BANG

CRASH



OH, TOMMY, WE'VE  
HIT A ROCK!

YOU JUST KEEP  
BAILING WHILE I  
PADDLE!

WATCH WHERE  
YOU'RE GOING NOW!  
IF THIS TUX GETS WET  
DAD'LL KILL  
ME!

WHY, OF COURSE!  
I KNOW THIS  
STREAM LIKE  
A BOOK!

DUCK,  
TOMMY!  
DUCK!





OH, TOMMY, YOU'RE SO CLUMSY! WHY DIDN'T YOU DUCK?

HEY, GET ME DOWN OUTA HERE!



DON'T WORRY! I'LL SAVE YOU!

HURRY! I TOLD YOU THIS IS MY DAD'S TUX!



... AND I MUSTN'T GET IT W...

OH! IT'S RAINING!



WHY, LOOK! ISN'T THIS FUNNY? WE COULD HAVE WALKED ASHORE!

OH HHH!



AND THEN-- THEN I JUST HAD TO GIVE A PARTY TO MAKE UP TO TOMMY!



HIYA, GINGER!

GEE, BUT YOU'RE LOOKING SHARP TOMMY, DEAR! DID YOUR DAD GET A NEW TUX?



AND I THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO START HIM TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF...

TOMMY DEAR, TELL EVERYONE ABOUT THAT TOUCHDOWN YOU MADE!

YEH, TOM! TELL US!

WELL - IF YOU INSIST --  
IT WAS THE LAST QUARTER AND  
THEY WERE AHEAD - SEVEN  
TO SIX --



WE WERE ON THE  
FORTY YARD LINE,  
WITH ONE MINUTE  
TO PLAY!



HE'S COMPLETELY  
FORGOTTEN ABOUT  
GETTING THAT SILLY  
OLD TUCK ALL WET!



JO THE QUARTERBACK  
SAID, "TOMMY, IT'S UP TO YOU  
NOW! YOU GOTTA WIN THIS  
BALL GAME FOR US!"

GOSH, I'M  
SO GLAD!



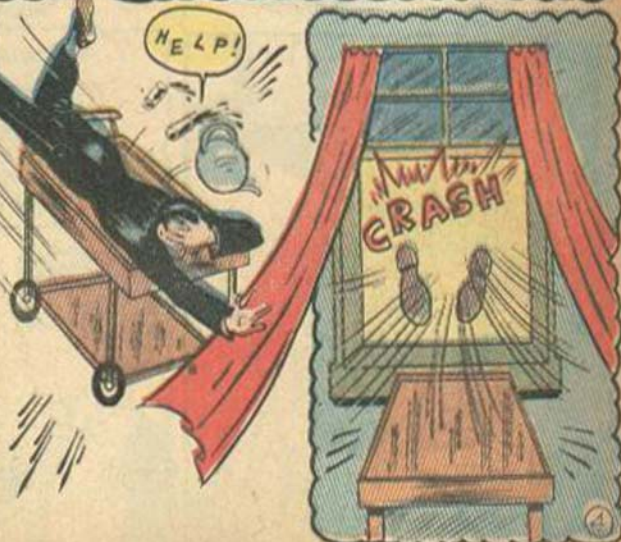
I GRABBED  
THE BALL  
FROM CENTER,  
SPUN AROUND--



... AND RACED  
FOR THE --



HELP!







AND I MADE THE TOUCHDOWN!

AND NOW BACK TO THE PRESENT



THAT MUST BE TOMMY NOW! I KNOW TONIGHT IS GOING TO BE JUST TOO WONDERFUL!



GEE, TOMMY YOU LOOK KEEN! AND GUESS WHAT, DAD IS LETTING US TAKE THE SEDAN!

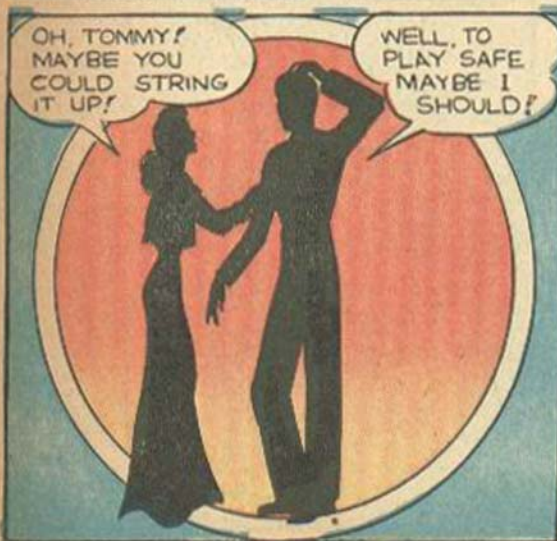
GOSH, GINGER, THAT'S SUPER. BECAUSE MY DAD DOESN'T KNOW I'M WEARING HIS NEW TUX, AND IF...

OH, THERE YOU ARE!



I'M SORRY, GINGER BUT I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE CAR TO PICK UP MIKE MOORE... HE'S GOING TO STRING UP THE AERIAL!

AW GEE! DAD?



OH, TOMMY! MAYBE YOU COULD STRING IT UP!

WELL, TO PLAY SAFE MAYBE I SHOULD!



BECAUSE, I SURE WOULDN'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN A STORM WITH DAD'S TUX ON!

OH STOP YOUR MUTTERING AND HURRY UP!

JUST THEN

**CRASH**

YI!

OH, TOMMY  
HURRY DOWN--  
IT'S STARTING  
TO RAIN!



COME ON AND  
STOP MUMBLING!

HEY, WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?



GINGER!  
HOLD  
THE  
LADDER!

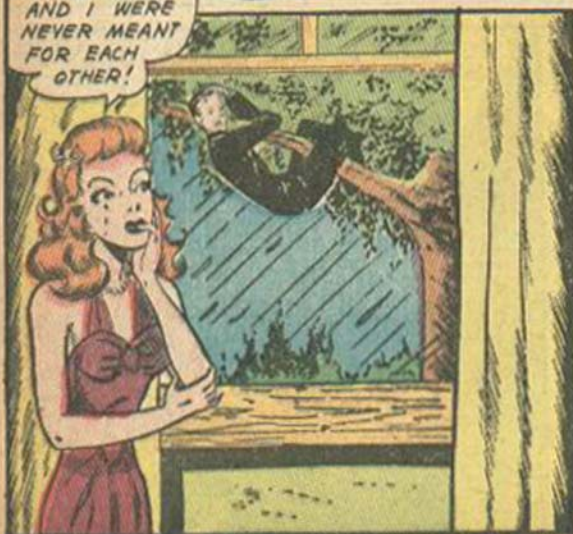
OH H H H!



**HALP!**

TOMMY!  
THE VERY  
IDEA! WHY  
DON'T YOU--  
OH...

OH, DEAR!  
MAYBE TOMMY  
AND I WERE  
NEVER MEANT  
FOR EACH  
OTHER!



AND IF I EVER  
SEE ANOTHER  
TUX, I'LL  
SCREAM!

# RED RUBE



H-HEY,  
R-RUBE!

DOWN MEXICO WAY, EVERYONE KNOWS ABOUT "EL TORNADO!", THE FIERCEST BULL THAT EVER GORED A MATADOR! IT IS RUMORED THAT EL TORNADO CAN OUTCHARGE AN ARMORED TANK, THAT HIS HORNS ARE SHARPER THAN BAYONETS, AND THAT HE IS SO FEROCIOUS THAT A MERE LOOK AT HIM TURNS THE BRAVEST MAN INTO A COWARD! SO WHEN RED RUBE IS INVITED TO MEXICO TO FURTHER LATIN-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND FINDS HIMSELF IN THE ARENA WITH EL TORNADO, SURPRISING THINGS BEGIN TO HAPPEN! SURPRISING BOTH TO RED RUBE... AND EL TORNADO!



Bill Vigoda

IN THE OFFICES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS COUNCIL—

WHAT A CALAMITY!  
WITH POLITICAL CONDITIONS  
SO UNCERTAIN IN MEXICO  
CITY, OUR AMBASSADOR  
AND HIS WHOLE STAFF  
COMES DOWN WITH  
THE MEASLES!



BUT WHO CAN  
WE GET? WHO?

I ADVERTISED FOR  
SOMEONE WHO KNOWS  
RED RUBE! I  
THOUGHT MAYBE  
HE'D APPEAR!



UNLESS WE COULD  
SEND A GOOD-WILL  
AMBASSADOR DOWN  
THERE TO SMOOTH  
THINGS OVER  
TEMPORARILY, THE  
LATIN-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS WILL  
SUFFER A  
DAMAGING BLOW!



IT'S TOO LATE!  
WE'RE RUINED!

PARDON  
ME



IS SOMEBODY  
HERE LOOKING  
FOR RED  
RUBE?

WHAT DO YOU  
CARE? YOU'RE  
NOT RED RUBE!



I THINK I  
KNOW WHERE  
TO FIND HIM!

YOU DO? WELL  
THEN, BRING HIM  
HERE!





IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME A MINUTE... I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!



ONCE OUTSIDE THE OFFICE, REUBEN REUBEN PRONOUNCES THE MAGIC WORDS--

INSTANTLY THE AIR VIBRATES WITH A STRANGE ELECTRICITY--

HEY, RUBE!



NOW I'LL SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

AND REUBEN REUBEN THE NEWSBOY BECOMES THE MIGHTY RED RUBE!



RED RUBE!

HE DID COME! OH JOY!

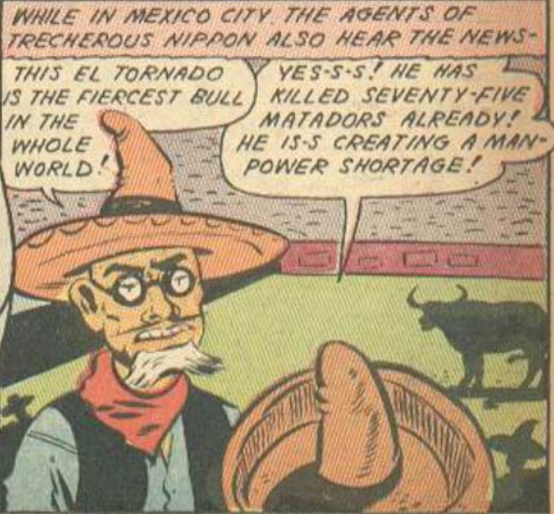


QUICKLY THE SITUATION IS EXPLAINED--

I'LL BE GLAD TO SERVE IN SUCH A GOOD CAUSE! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!

GOOD! THE PLANE LEAVES FOR MEXICO CITY IN AN HOUR!

RED RUBE TO MEET EL TORNADO!



WHILE IN MEXICO CITY THE AGENTS OF TREACHEROUS NIPPON ALSO HEAR THE NEWS--

THIS EL TORNADO IS THE FIERCEST BULL IN THE WHOLE WORLD!

YES-S-S! HE HAS KILLED SEVENTY-FIVE MATADORS ALREADY! HE IS-S-CREATING A MAN-POWER SHORTAGE!

LOOK HOW BIG HE IS-S! YES-S?

IT IS-S POSSIBLE HE CAN DEFEAT RED RUBE, YE-S?



WE MUST DO SOMETHING! NOW HERE IS-S MY PLAN....

MOST EXCELLENT! STUPENDOUS-S-S! IT IS EVEN OKAY!



YOU'RE A HIT! THE PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

I HOPE THEY STILL LIKE ME AFTER I MEET EL TORNADO IN THE ARENA TOMORROW!



WHY DECEIVE OURSELVES? WE HAVE ALL HEARD OF THIS RED RUBE! WE KNOW WHAT HE CAN DO!

HE WILL TEAR EL TORNADO APART WITH HIS BARE HANDS!



MEANWHILE RED RUBE ENTERS MEXICO CITY IN A TRIUMPHANT PROCESSION-

VIVA RED RUBE!

VIVA LOS AMERICANOS!



YOU'RE A HIT! THE PEOPLE ARE GOING CRAZY ABOUT YOU!

I HOPE THEY STILL LIKE ME AFTER I MEET EL TORNADO IN THE ARENA TOMORROW!



LATER, IN THE SUITE OF ROOMS AT MEXICO CITY'S LARGEST HOTEL! -

I'M NOT WORRYING ABOUT MYSELF! BUT I HOPE I CAN PUT ON A GOOD SHOW FOR THESE PEOPLE! THEY'VE BEEN SWELL!

I BRING YOU ICE WATER, YES-S!



LITTLE DOES RED RUBE SUSPECT THAT THIS INNOCENT GLASS OF ICE WATER CONTAINS ENOUGH SLEEPING PILLS TO PUT THE AVERAGE MAN INTO A COMA LASTING FIFTY YEARS!

YOU'LL BE A SENSATION!  
ONLY DON'T BE TOO  
ROUGH WITH EL TORNADO!



I'M A LITTLE  
TIRED! GUESS I'LL  
GRAB SOME  
SLEEP!

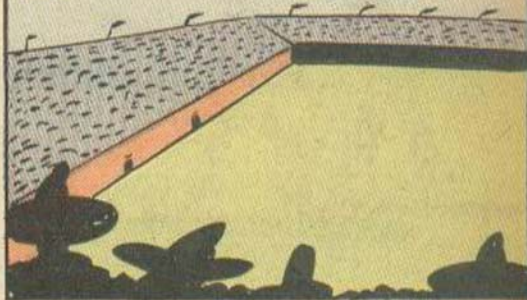
SEE YOU  
AT THE  
ARENA  
TOMORROW!



HEH! MEH! IF RED RUBE GOES  
TO FIGHT EL TORNADO IN THE  
MORNING, HE WILL BE A DEAD  
MAN TOMORROW AFTERNOON!  
YES-S-S!



NEXT DAY A HUGE CROWD  
GATHERS AT THE ARENA TO  
WATCH THE BATTLE OF THE  
CENTURY.. RED RUBE VS. EL  
TORNADO!



HERE HE  
COMES!

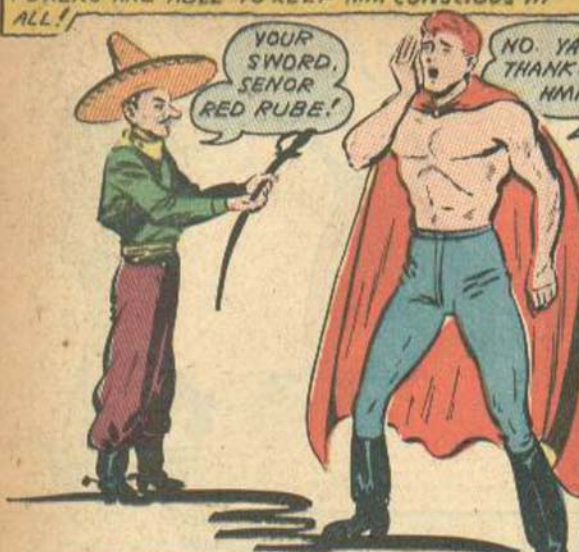
BUT WHAT'S THE  
MATTER WITH HIM?  
HE LOOKS HALF ASLEEP!



WHAT'S GOT INTO  
HIM? HE CAN'T  
STAND UP!



HALF ASLEEP? ONLY RED RUBE'S MAGNIFICENT POWERS ARE ABLE TO KEEP HIM CONSCIOUS AT ALL!



YOUR SWORD, SENOR RED RUBE!

NO. YAWN. THANKS! HMM. ZZZ

DIOS MIO! HE HAS REFUSED TO TAKE A SWORD!

SOOCH COURAGE! HE IS JUS' AS WONDERFUL AS LES AMERICANES SAY!



YOUR CAPE, SENOR?

ZZZ I'LL USE MY OWN. HMM. THANKS, ANYWAY!



SANTA MARIA! HE DOES NOT EVEN USE THE CAPE!

EL TORNADO WILL KILL HIM SURE FOR CERTAIN!



AT THIS MOMENT EL TORNADO EMERGES INTO THE ARENA -

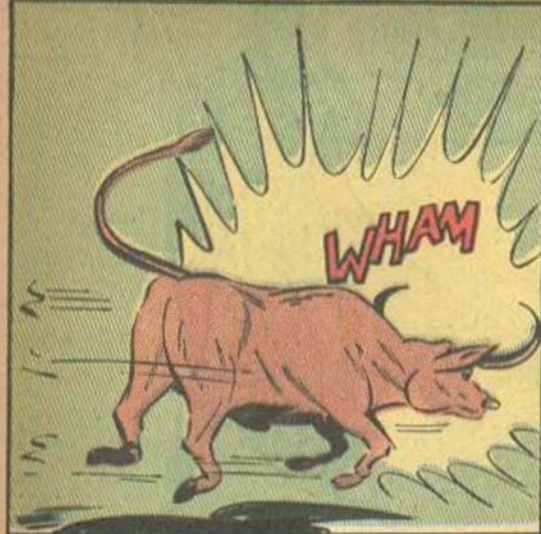
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!



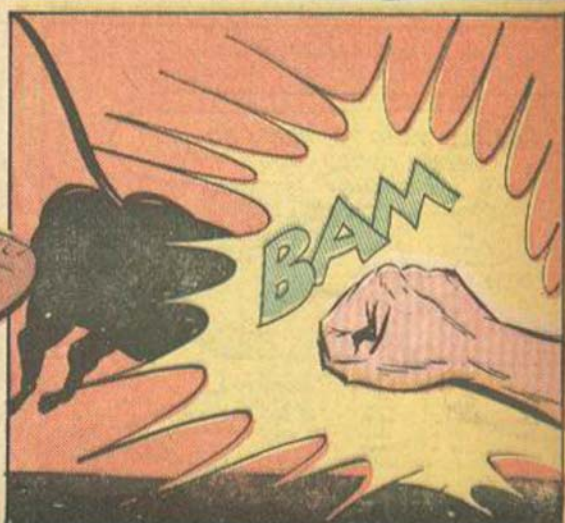
ONE MATADOR DOES NOT RUN QUITE FAST ENOUGH AND EL TORNADO TRAPS HIM IN THE ARENA -

POOR SANCHO! I CANNOT BEAR TO LOOK!





THEN EL TORNADO CATCHES SIGHT OF RED RUBE, AND A HALF TON OF HORNED FURY CHARGES ON OUR SLEEPING HERO.





WH--WHAT HAPPENED!  
SEEMS LIKE I FELT  
SOMETHING JOSTLE  
ME!



ID BETTER LOOK  
OUT... YAWN... I'M  
SO SLEEPY...  
HUMMM!



GOSH! I CAN'T  
DUCK HIM THIS  
TIME!



SO I'LL HAVE  
TO GO OVER  
HIM!

BUT ONCE THE DANGER IS AVERTED, RED  
RUBE BECOMES SLEEPY AGAIN...



I'M TOO TIRED TO MOVE! HO-HUM!  
I FEEL I COULD SLEEP FOR  
A WEEK!

MEANWHILE THE CROWD, NOT REALIZING THE  
TRUTH, APPLAUDS RED RUBE'S SHOWMANSHIP.



SEE HOW NONCHALANT  
HE IS? HE IS NOT AFRAID  
OF EL TORNAADO AT ALL!

HE IS SO RELAXED!  
ONE WOULD  
ALMOST THINK  
HE IS ASLEEP!

WE MUST DO SOMETHING!  
THE PEOPLE THINK THIS  
RED RUBE IS WONDER-  
FUL!

AND POOR  
EL TORNADO  
IS WORN OUT!

PUFF  
PUFF

THERE IS ONE THING THAT MAKES EL  
TORNADO FURIOUS-S-S! GARLIC! I  
BROUGHT IT ALONG IN CASE ANY-  
THING WENT WRONG!

THERE!

ONE SMELL OF THE HATED GARLIC AND EL  
TORNADO IS TRANSFORMED FROM A TIRED  
BULL...

SNIFF  
SNIFF

... INTO A THUNDERING AVALANCHE OF WILD-  
EYED DESTRUCTION!

THE TERRIBLE THUNDER OF EL TORNADO'S  
HOOF'S WAKENS EVEN RED RUBE -

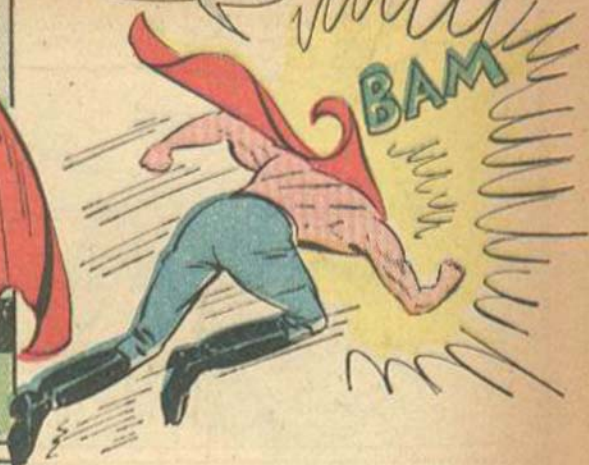
HO-HUMM! I CAN'T  
UNDERSTAND WHY I'M  
SO SLEEPY... YEOUW!

I CAN'T GET AWAY!  
THERE'S NOTHING TO DO  
EXCEPT...



MEET THE DANGER  
HEAD ON!

BAM



AS THE DUST AND HAZE OF THAT TERRIFIC COL-  
LISION FADES, WE SEE A STRANGE SCENE -

THERE, THERE!  
YOU'LL BE ALL  
RIGHT! YOU'LL  
JUST HAVE A  
BAD HEADACHE  
FOR A  
WHILE!



LATER... THESE MEN THREW GARLIC TO EL  
TORNADO! WE CAUGHT THEM TRYING  
TO ESCAPE! THEY DEED NOT GET  
VERY FAR!

JAPS! I MUST  
CONGRATULATE  
YOU ON YOUR  
EXCELLENT POLICE  
WORK!



COME TO THINK OF IT, ONE  
OF THOSE MEN LOOKED LIKE  
THE BELLBOY AT THE HOTEL!  
I'LL BET THAT'S WHY I FELT  
LIKE I WAS  
DRUGGED!  
I REALLY  
WAS!



BUT ALL'S WELL THAT  
ENDS WELL. AND LATER  
RED RUBE SHARES THE  
PLAUDITS OF THE  
CROWDS WITH HIS  
VALIANT OPPONENT -

VIVA! LONG LIVE RED  
RUBE! LONG LIVE EL  
TORNADO!



THAT'S ALL FOLKS! EXCEPT  
THAT EL TORNADO WAS  
NEVER THE SAME AFTER-  
WARD! IN FACT, HE BECAME  
THE MOST PEACEFUL BULL  
IN THE WHOLE OF MEXICO!  
HE LEARNED HIS LESSON  
FROM RED RUBE!



# STEEL STERLING



IN  
THE  
CASE OF  
THE  
TALKING  
DOG

GEE! I'VE ALREADY SOLD 159 TICKETS TO THE POLICEMAN'S BALL! AL SMITH, THE THEATRICAL BOOKING AGENT, IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR ONE!

NO ANSWER! THAT'S FUNNY, I CALLED HIM ON THE PHONE, THIS MORNING AND HE SAID HE'D BE IN! HMMM—THE DOOR IS OPEN!

HUH? NO ONE HERE BUT A POOCH!



HERE DOGGIE, NICE DOGGIE!

SNIFF! SNIFF!

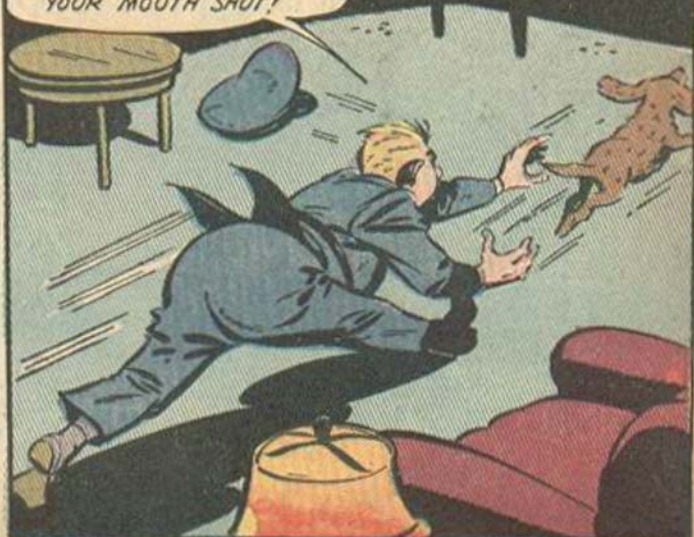
AW, GO FUDDLE A DUDDLE, FATTIE!

OK, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT IT!



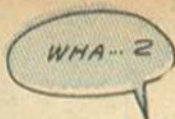
HUH? WHAT DID YA SAY? WHY YOU—!!

YOU MUTT! IF I LAY MY HANDS ON YOU, YOU'LL WISH YOU'D KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT!





GOTCHA!



WHA...?



OOF!



ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR, TEMPER, CLANCY WATCH YOUR TEMPER! FIVE, SIX, .....



NOW, SEE! YOU GOT ME ALL UPSET! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF NOW? — SO YOU WON'T TALK, EH?



- TALK? WHAT AM I SAYING? OH MY GOSH! DID THAT DOG REALLY TALK?



YOU'RE COMIN' WITH ME! WE'RE GONNA FIND YER MASTER, HELL CLEAR THIS UP! MAYBE I'M CRAZY, BUT I COULDA SWORN I HEARD YOU TALK!



I'VE TRIED EVERYPLACE BUT THE BEDROOM, WELL WHADDAYA KNOW? THERE'S AL... ASLEEP IN THE BED!

HEY AL! GET UP! GEE HE SURE CAN SLEEP! HEY AL, WAKE UP! IT'S ME, CLANCY!

I'LL YANK THE COVERS OFF YA 'N YE'LL HAVE TO GET UP! YOU LAZY BUGGER!

HUH! OH GOSH! HE'S- HE'S- HE'S-

MEANWHILE AT THE POLICE STATION---

CLANCY MAY BE YOUR PAL, STERLING, BUT HE SURE IS DUMB!


YOU'RE NO QUIZ KID YOURSELF, MULLIGAN!

GRAB YOUR PHONE! IT'S RINGING!

PHONE? WHAT PHONE! OH YEAH! YOU MEAN MY PHONE!

HULLO! WHO-WHAT? TALKING DOG? - WHO IS THIS? - DEAD? - WHO'S DEAD? - CLANCY? - CLANCY'S DEAD? - DOG? AL SMITH? -





HERE, YOU TALK TO THAT CLUCK! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING HE SAYS!




IT'S STEEL, CLANCY. NOW CALM DOWN AND TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE, AL SMITH'S... 1340 ELM ST. OKAY, WE'LL BE RIGHT THERE!



WELL, SMITH'S DEAD ALL RIGHT... BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A TALKING DOG, CLANCY?


YEAH, STUPID! IF YOU USED YER EYES MORE AN' YER IMAGINATION LESS, YA MIGHTA CAUGHT THE MURDERER!

BUT IT DID TALK I TELL YA!




G'WAY, ARE YOU TRYIN' TO TELL ME THAT THIS POOCH TALKED?

YEAH!... AND IT MADE MORE SENSE THAN YOU!




CLANCY YER NUTS!

IZZASO! WHY DON'T YOU ASK THE POOCH A QUESTION AN' SEE FOR YOURSELF, WISE GUY!



I'LL TRY IT CLANCY WHAT'S YOUR NAME, POOCH?



LISTEN! I KNOW WHAT YOU GUYS ARE THINKIN'! BUT I'M NOT CRAZY I TELL YA! THAT DOG TALKED!



I DON'T THINK YOU'RE NUTS - I KNOW YOU ARE! I'M CALLIN' FOR THE CORONER TO REMOVE THE BODY!



LATER, AT STEEL'S APARTMENT -  
MAYBE MULLIGAN'S RIGHT-- MAYBE I AM CRAZY (GULP)  
HMM-- SMITH WAS IN THE SHOW BUSINESS AND BOOKED PLENTY OF PRANKS! BUT, TALKING DOGS!



BY GEORGE! CLANCY I'VE GOT IT!

HUM? WHAT?

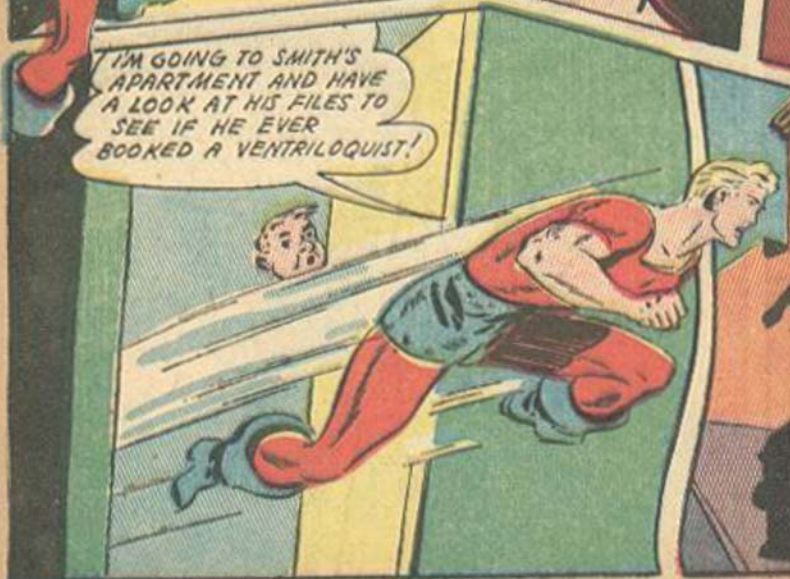


MAYBE THAT DOG DID TALK! BUT I THINK I KNOW HOW!



YOU DO? HOW?

VENTRILO-QUISM, CLANCY!



I'M GOING TO SMITH'S APARTMENT AND HAVE A LOOK AT HIS FILES TO SEE IF HE EVER BOOKED A VENTRILOQUIST!



I ONLY HOPE THE KILLER DIDN'T THINK OF IT FIRST!

AT AL'S APARTMENT SOMETIME LATER--

NOW WHERE IS THAT COP MULLIGAN LEFT HERE TO GUARD THE PLACE!

WHAT'S THAT?

DEAD.. I GOT HERE TOO LATE!

I'LL LOOK ANYWAY TO MAKE SURE!

HOPE .. NOTHING HERE ... JAY WHAT'S THAT ON THE FLOOR?

ASHES AND VERY FRESH FROM THE LOOKS OF IT!

IT'S A FAR-FETCHED CHANCE!



BUT I'LL TAKE THIS TO THE POLICE LAB!



DO YOU THINK YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ANALYZE THESE ASHES 2

I THINK SO! AS LONG AS THE ASH ISN'T BROKEN UP, I CAN GET SOMETHING OUT OF IT!



AFTER AWHILE-

WELL, HERE'S THE RESULT STEEL! I HOPE IT'S WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

SO DO I!

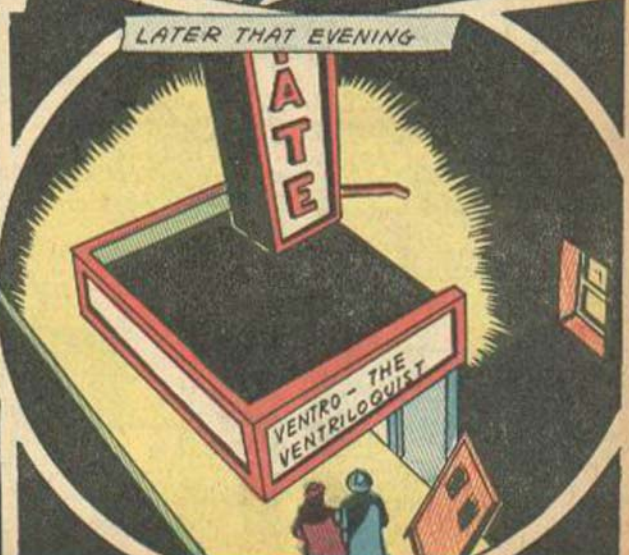


AL SMITH BOOKING AGENCY  
THEATRICALS  
NAME - Ventró the Ventriloquist  
ADDRESS - 452 Alabama Ave  
BOOKINGS - Bijou Theatre  
Roxy  
Capital  
State




PERFECT EVER HEAR OF VENTRO, THE VENTRILOQUIST, DOC!

SURE JUST CAUGHT HIS ACT AT THE STATE LAST NIGHT! CLEVER CHAP!




LATER THAT EVENING

VENTRO - THE VENTRILOQUIST



I LIKE YOUR CRUST CALLING ME DUMB, CHARLIE! WHY YOU'RE CLOSE TO A MORON!

HMM--SO I'M CLOSE TO A MORON, VENTRO, AM I?




IN THAT CASE I'LL MOVE AWAY HEH, HEH! SOME JOKE HUH FOLKS!



SAY CHARLIE, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A VENTRO AND A GLASS OF BEER?



THAT'S EASY! A GLASS OF BEER HAS A HEAD ON IT! HO, HO, HO




ASK ME ANOTHER ONE FOLKS! ANY SIMILARITY TO AN INSULT IS PURELY INTENTIONAL!



HERE'S AN EASY ONE, CHARLIE! WHY DID YOUR BOSS, VENTRO, KILL AL SMITH?

STEEL STERLING!



TOO BAD FOR YOU, YOU FOUND OUT, STERLING!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T PISTOL PACKIN' VENTRO!

PANIC-STRICKEN, VENTRO BARTS BACKSTAGE

I WONDER WHERE THAT BUGGER DISAPPEARED TO!



OH! OH! DON'T BOTHER ANSWERING THAT! I KNOW WHERE HE IS!

I DON'T SUPPOSE I CAN COAX YOU TO COME DOWN!

WHAM  
SO I'LL COME UP AFTER YOU!



THE JIG'S UP VENTRO YOU MAY AS WELL CONFESS RIGHT NOW!

ALLRIGHT STERLING, I'LL CONFESS, BUT YOU MUST LET ME DO IT IN MY OWN WAY!

MEANWHILE ON STAGE  
PLEASE BE CALM, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! IT WAS ALL A MISTAKE AND EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL NOW! VENTRO WILL NOW GO ON WITH HIS ACT!



NOW FOR THE \$64 QUESTION, CHARLIE! WHO MURDERED AL SMITH—AND WHY?

SIMPLE! YOU DID, BOSS! SMITH WAS A RAT AND GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HIM!

HE WAS CHEATING YOU FOR YEARS, GIVING YOU HALF THE BOOKING MONEY THAT WAS COMING TO YOU!

GOOD LORD! THE FOOL'S SHOT HIMSELF!

WELL, WE SURE CRACKED THAT CASE, HUH, STEEL?

I DON'T KNOW, NEXT DAY. WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU, CLANCY!

BOY AM I A SUCKER FALLING FOR A GAG LIKE THAT! IMAGINE ME THINKING A DOG CAN TALK! HAW, HAW! AIN'T THAT A LAUGH!

YEAH, HOW CAN ANYONE BE SO STUPID AS TO THINK AN ANIMAL CAN TALK!

YOU SAID A MOUTHFUL HORSE!

SEE, IT'S SIMPLE! JUST PLACE THIS GADGET ON THE TIP OF THE TONGUE AND YOU CAN THROW YOUR VOICE ANYWHERE!

HUH!

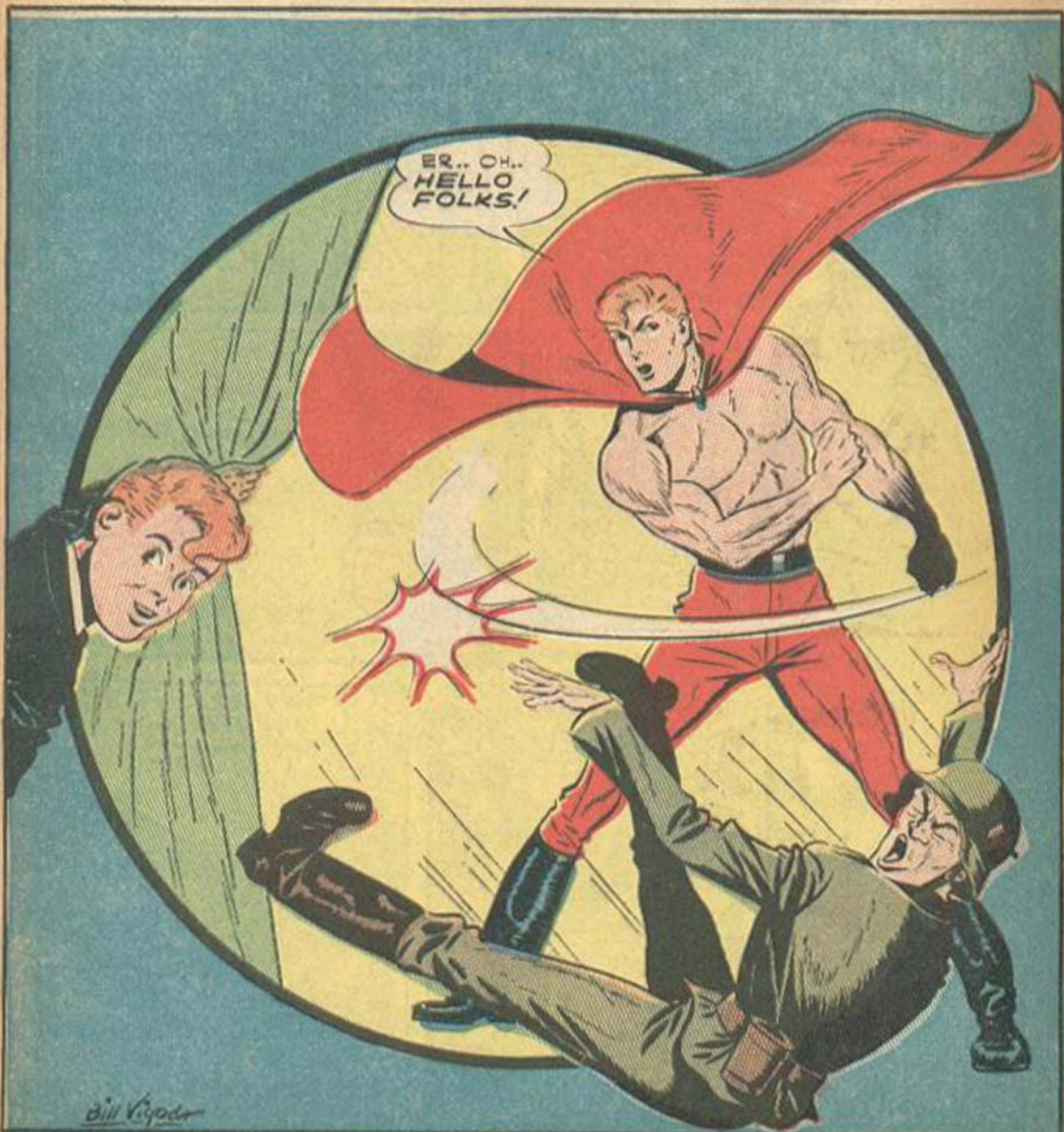
AS I WUZ SAYIN, STEEL....

GAVE SCRAP PAPER, AND HELP WIN THE WAR...

# RED RUBE



ER.. OH..  
HELLO  
FOLKS!





RUEBEN STEPS OUT OF THE SUBWAY, ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK, WHEN...

HEY!  
WHAT'S EVERYONE RUNNING FOR?

SUDDENLY...

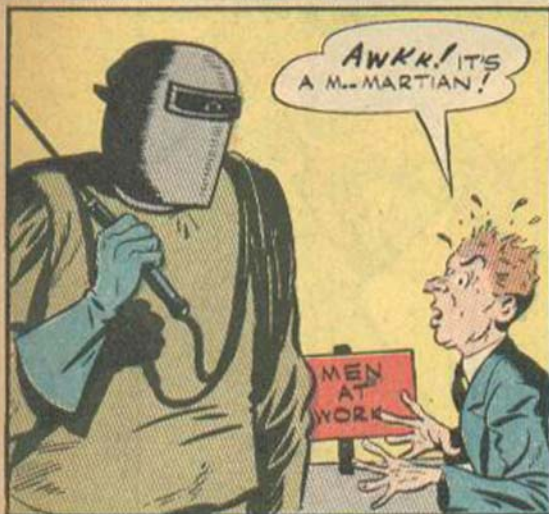
WHAT TH...!

ATTENTION! EARTHMEN!  
BE PREPARED FOR AN INVASION BY MARTIANS!  
ALL ATTEMPTS TO RESIST WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!



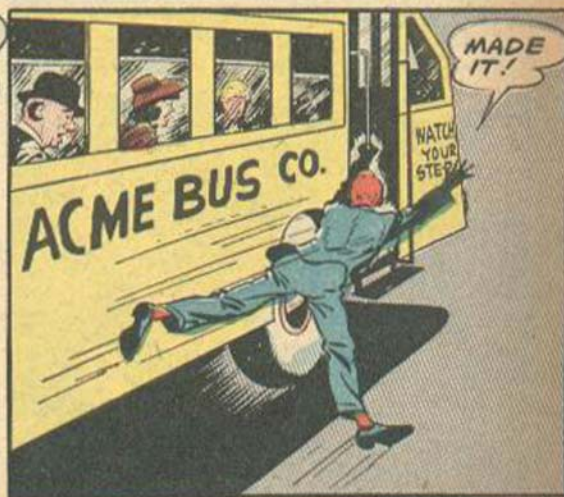
AWKK! IT'S A M...MARTIAN!

SAY... WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?  
LOOK AT THAT GUY RUN!



WHAT A STORY!  
I'M GETTING BACK TO THE OFFICE!

MADE IT!



GEE! HOPE NO ONE ELSE HAS BROUGHT IN THE STORY!



I TELL YOU, WE'RE BEING INVADED BY MARS!

THIS GUY IS A CRACKPOT! THROW HIM OUT, JOE!



C'MON, BUDDY, OUT YOU GO!



YOU'LL REGRET THIS! WHEN AMERICA IS CONQUERED, YOU'LL COME TO ME FOR MERCY!

SAX. THIS SOUNDS SERIOUS! I'LL FOLLOW HIM, AND GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS!



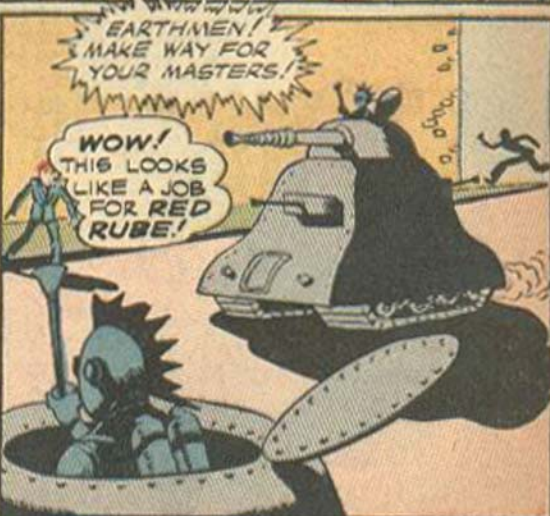
HELP! THE MARTIANS ARE HERE!

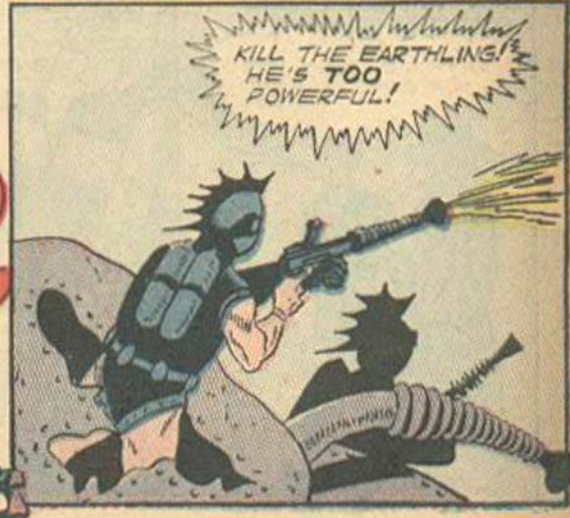
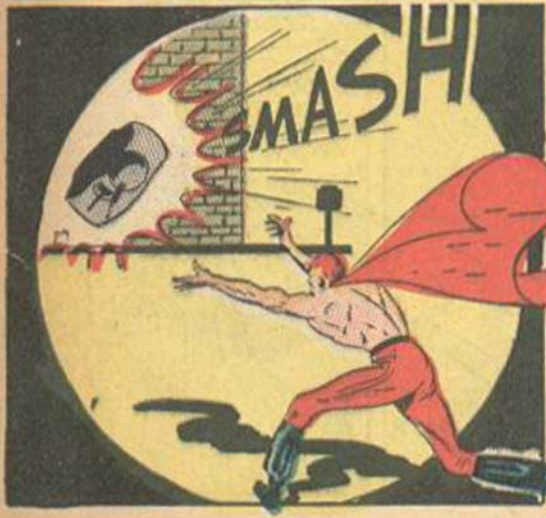
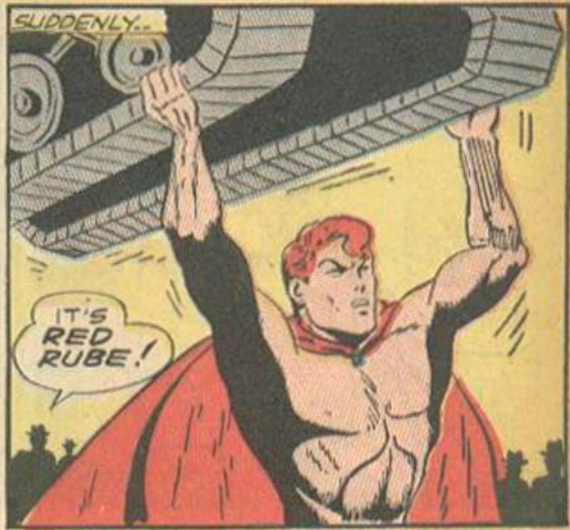
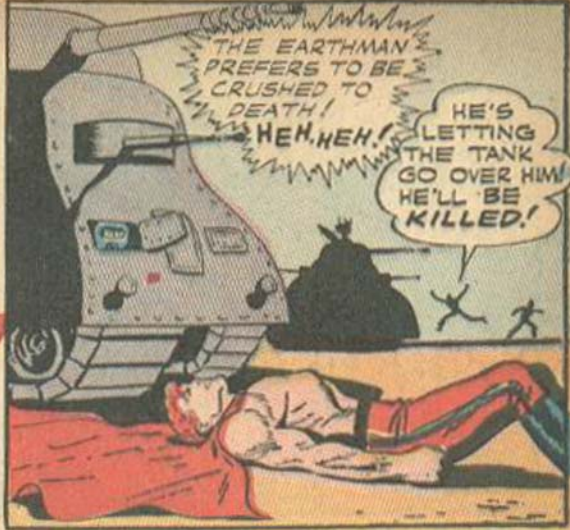
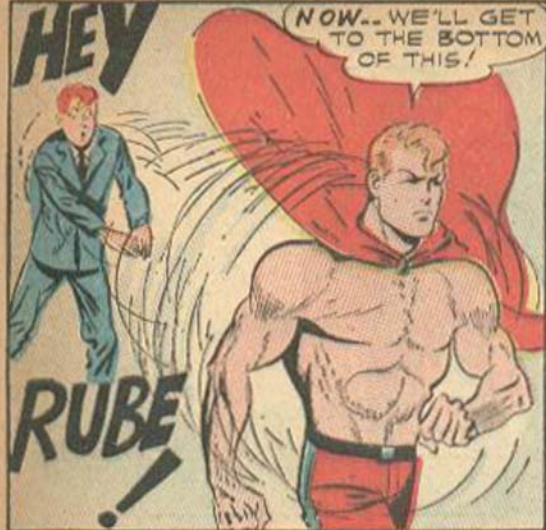
WHAT.. AGAIN?

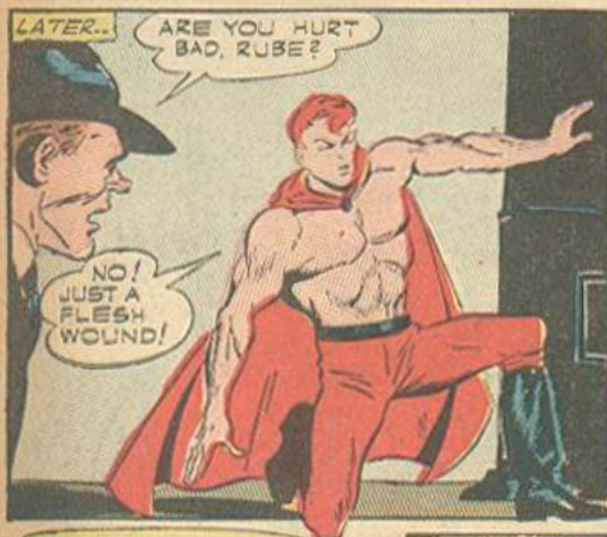


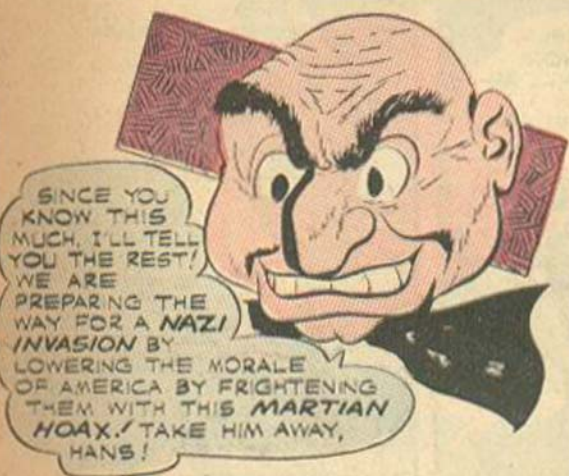
EARTHMEN! MAKE WAY FOR YOUR MASTERS!

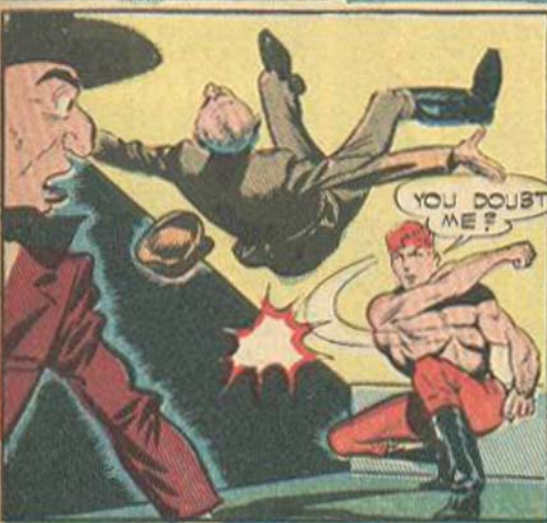
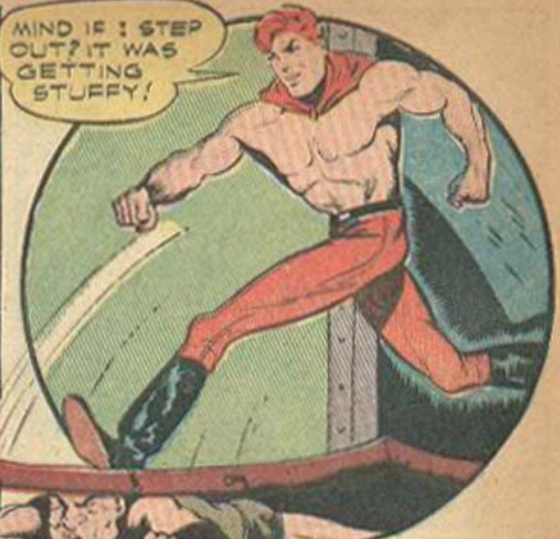
WOW! THIS LOOKS LIKE A JOB FOR RED RUBE!
















I'M GOING, BUT I'LL BE BACK... MEANWHILE, WHY DON'T YOU HANG UP YOUR COATS?



DARN IT! THERE GOES THAT ANNOUNCEMENT AGAIN! IF I COULD ONLY FIND ITS SOURCE! IT'S CREATING A PANIC!



IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM THIS STREET! I WONDER IF THOSE MAINTENANCE MEN COULD HELP ME??




BUT WAIT! WHAT'S THAT ON HIS BACK?? HEY! IT'S A LOUD SPEAKING UNIT!




HEY, YOU! COME DOWN!

RED RUBE!

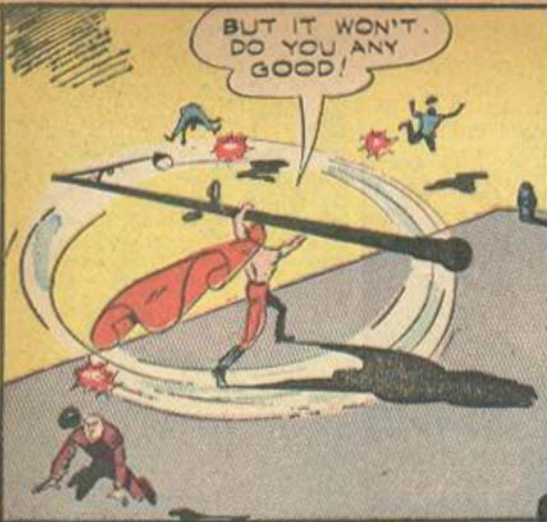


OBSTINATE, EH? THIS WILL UPSET YOUR EQUILIBRIUM!



RUN, YOU RATZIS!

BUT IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD!

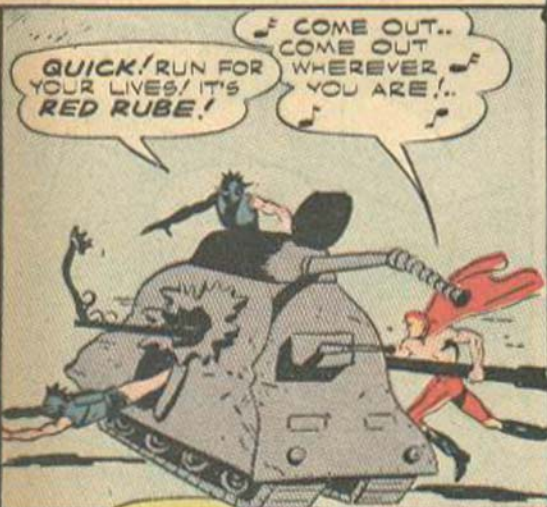


MORE NAZIS! THIS INTERESTS ME!



QUICK! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! IT'S RED RUBE!

COME OUT.. COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE!..



TGH.. TGH! NOW LOOK WHAT I'VE DONE!

AAEEGH!



AMERICANS! GATHER AROUND!



THIS IS ALL A NAZI TRICK TO LOWER YOUR FIGHTING SPIRIT! THEY'LL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE ARMY! SO LET'S GO BACK TO OUR FACTORIES, AND HELP THE BOYS AT THE FRONT!



NOW TO SEE HOW MY FRIENDS ARE DOING! ER.. YES??

5TH. PLATOON JUST ARRIVED! ANYTHING WE CAN DO, RED RUBE??

SURE.. COME WITH ME, LIEUTENANT!







THERE THEY ARE, BOYS! ALL YOURS! READY AND WAITING!

THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! LET ME DOWN!

UNHOOK THEM SERGEANT! THEY LOOK LIKE PIGS ON A HOOK!



I'LL WRITE TO DER FUEHRER! THEY CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!

AW, QUIET! DER FUEHRER IS TOO BUSY WITH HIS OWN TROUBLES IN RUSSIA!

KEEP MOVING CHUMS!



I'VE GOT SOME CALLS TO MAKE, S'LONG!



OKAY, REUBEN! YOU CAN TAKE OVER FROM NOW! HEY RUBE!



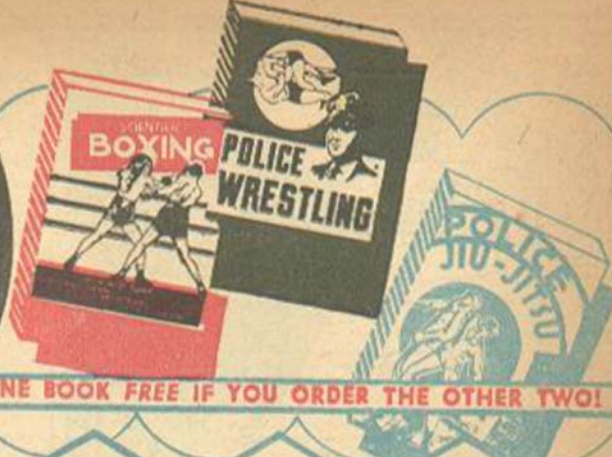
HELLO...CHIEF? YEH! THIS IS REUBEN! HAVE I GOT A SCOOP FOR YOU...STRAIGHT FROM RED RUBE! ALL ABOUT THAT CRACKPOT PROFESSOR! OKAY, I'LL BE RIGHT OVER!



LATER..

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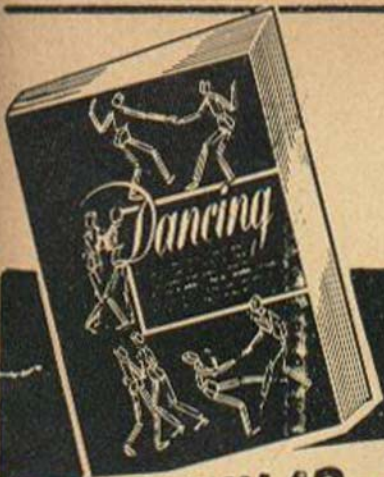
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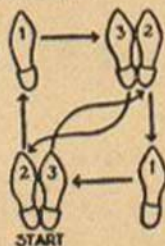
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