

THE FLASH



FASTER THAN THE STREAK OF THE LIGHTNING IN THE SKY... SWIFTER THAN THE SPEED OF THE LIGHT ITSELF... FLEETER THAN THE RAPIDITY OF THOUGHT... IS **THE FLASH**, REINCARNATION OF THE WINGED MERCURY... HIS SPEED IS THE DISMAY OF SCIENTISTS, THE JOY OF THE OPPRESSED — AND THE OPEN MOUTHED WONDER OF THE MULTITUDES!!

By
**GARDNER
FOX**
and
**HARRY
LAMPERT**

BUT BEFORE HE BECAME KNOWN AND FEARED AS "THE FASTEST THING ON EARTH", JAY GARRICK WAS AN UNKNOWN STUDENT AT MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY...



OH, JAY... IT'S YOU!!

YES, JOAN... SAY, HOW ABOUT YOUR VICTORY DANCE DATE WITH ME?

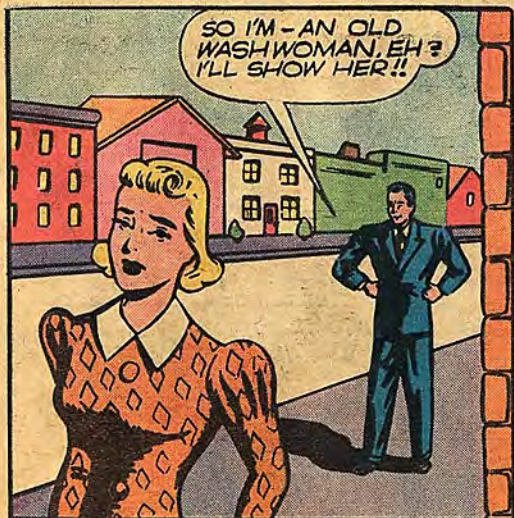


I... I DON'T THINK SO, JAY... YOU'RE --- A SCRUB ON THE FOOTBALL TEAM... AND CAPTAIN BULL TRYON'S ALREADY ASKED ME!!

YOU MEAN YOU WON'T GO WITH ME --- JUST BECAUSE I'M A FOOTBALL SCRUB?



NO... BUT BECAUSE A MAN OF YOUR BUILD AND BRAINS COULD BE A STAR... A SCRUB IS JUST AN OLD WASHWOMAN!! YOU WON'T PUT YOUR MIND TO FOOTBALL...!!



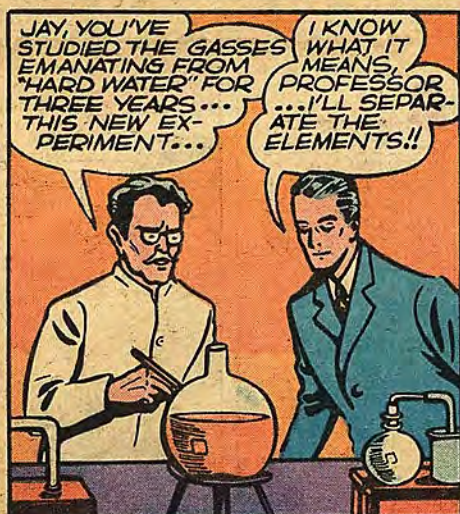
SO I'M - AN OLD WASHWOMAN, EH? I'LL SHOW HER!!

BUT JAY'S RESOLUTION SEEMS DOOMED TO FAILURE ...



COME ON, LEADFOOT! JAY! PLANT YOUR FEET FIRMLY!! HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU BEFORE...

BUT IN THE RESEARCH LABORATORY THE FOOT-BALL DUB IS A BRILLIANT STUDENT...



JAY, YOU'VE STUDIED THE GASSES EMANATING FROM "HARD WATER" FOR THREE YEARS ... THIS NEW EXPERIMENT...

I KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, PROFESSOR ... I'LL SEPARATE THE ELEMENTS!!



LONG INTO THE NIGHT THE EXPERIMENT GOES ON ...

THREE-THIRTY! I NEED A SMOKE!!



BOY, THAT FEELS GOOD ... FOOTBALL TRAINING OR NO TRAIN --- OOP!!



A DARTING HAND IS TOO SLOW TO SAVE THE RETORTS ...



WHICH CRASH ON THE METAL FLOOR!!



OVERCOME BY THE FUMES, JAY LURCHES FORWARD...



ALL NIGHT LONG JAY INHALES THE DEADLY FUMES OF THE GAS ELEMENTS OF "HARD WATER"... IN THE EARLY DAWN PROFESSOR HUGHES BECOMES CURIOUS.....



WHILE IN ANOTHER SECTION OF THE HOSPITAL...

IT'S STRANGE!! WE'VE TAKEN TWENTY TESTS, AND THEY ALL INDICATE THE SAME THING! I DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU, PROFESSOR...

WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER?



UNLESS THE SPECIALIST FROM NEW YORK IS CRAZY... YOUR BOY WILL BE THE FASTEST THING THAT EVER WALKED ON EARTH!! THE ELEMENTS OF HARD WATER WILL SPEED UP A PERSON'S REFLEXES... THE GAS INJECTS HIM LIKE A VACCINATION...



SCIENCE KNOWS THAT HARD WATER MAKES A PERSON ACT MUCH QUICKER THAN ORDINARILY... BY AN INTAKE OF ITS GASES, JAY CAN WALK, TALK, RUN AND THINK SWIFTER THAN THOUGHT... HE WILL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO OUTPACE A BULLET!! HE IS A FREAK OF SCIENCE!!

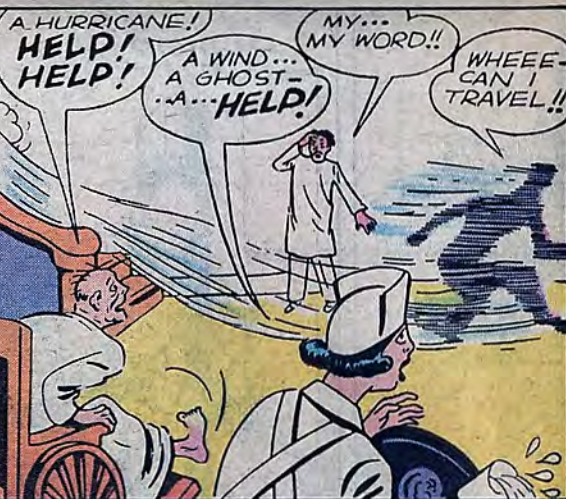


BUT THE FREAK OF SCIENCE IS THINKING OF A GIRL...

JOAN! OH, JOAN, WAIT UP...



IN HIS ANXIETY THE PATIENT DISCOVERS THAT THE DOCTORS ARE RIGHT...!!



A HURRICANE! HELP! HELP!

A WIND... A GHOST... A... HELP!

MY... MY WORD!!

WHEEE- CAN I TRAVEL!!

...AS HE GETS TO JOAN BEFORE SHE CAN COMPLETE ONE STEP!!

JOAN! IT... IT'S JAY!!

WHY... WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU APPEARED BEFORE ME!!



I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! I WAS GOING TO GET A BOOK FROM THE LIBRARY...

YOU WERE? LET ME, INSTEAD! I WON'T BE A MINUTE!



UHP!! YOU... YOU SPRANG FROM THE THIN AIR!!

NEVER MIND THAT... STAMP THIS BOOK!!





DOWN THE FIELD JAY STREAKS ...-TO A TOUCHDOWN!



AS TOUCHDOWN AFTER TOUCH-DOWN PILE UP....



I QUIT !! I AIN'T PLAYIN' NO GHOST !!

NOR ME NO HURRI-CANE !!

I CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM NOW!

IN BETWEEN SIGNALS JAY DISAPPEARS...



HOW 'M I DOIN' JOAN ?

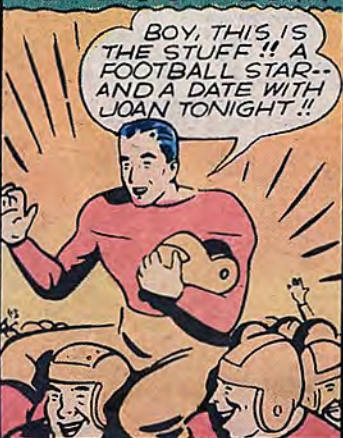
WHY... WONDERFUL ...

...BUT IS ON THE FIELD AGAIN BEFORE SIGNALS ARE OVER !!



THIS 'LL MAKE IT SIXTY-FIVE TO THIRTY !!

AND JAY FINDS HIMSELF THE HERO OF THE DAY!



BOY, THIS IS THE STUFF !! A FOOTBALL STAR-- AND A DATE WITH JOAN TONIGHT !!

THE YEAR SWEEPS BY...AND GRADUATION IS AT HAND...



I'M GOING TO HELP DAD IN HIS "ATOMIC BOMBARDER" SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES...

I'M OFF TO NEW YORK... ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIP AT COLEMAN UNIVERSITY!



ONE EVENING IN NEW YORK, JAY GARRICK TAKES TIME OUT TO READ THE DAILY PAPER...

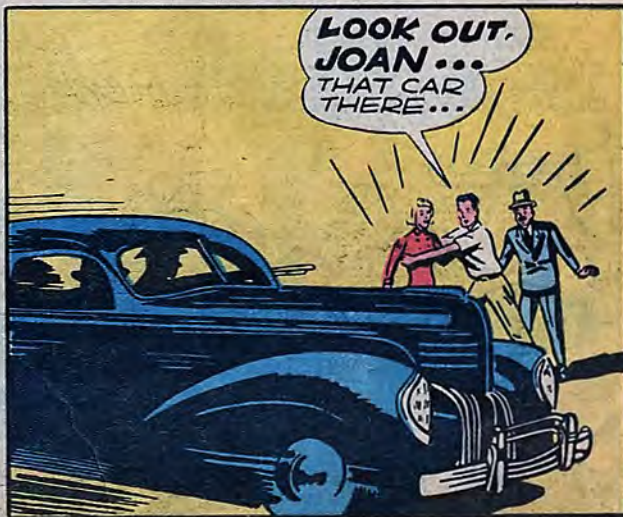


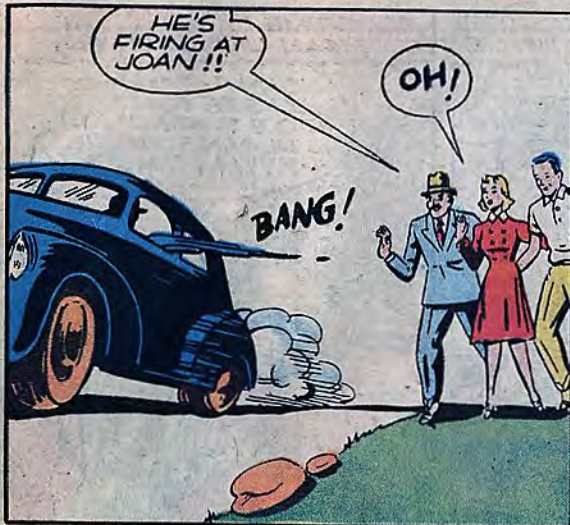
MAYBE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY WASN'T FAST ENOUGH FOR THEM...HM...SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE DONE ABOUT THIS !!

That Night-

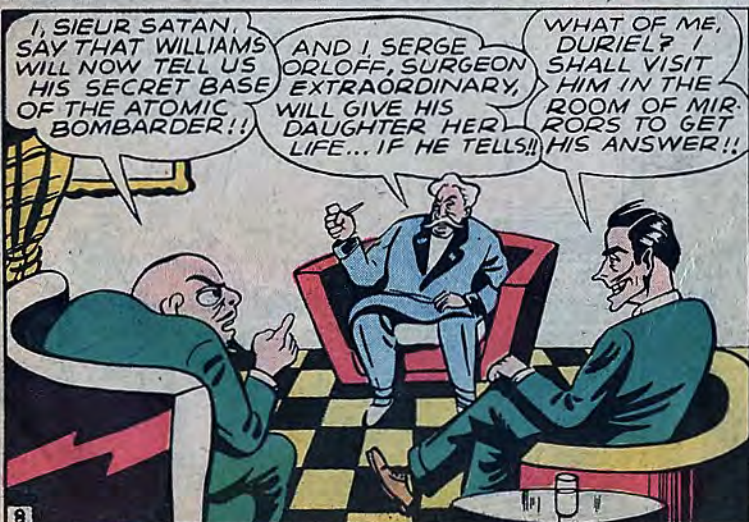
THE GANGSTERS ARE VISITED BY A FIGURE CLAD IN THE WINGS OF MERCURY... A HUMAN BOLT OF LIGHTNING... THE FLASH!

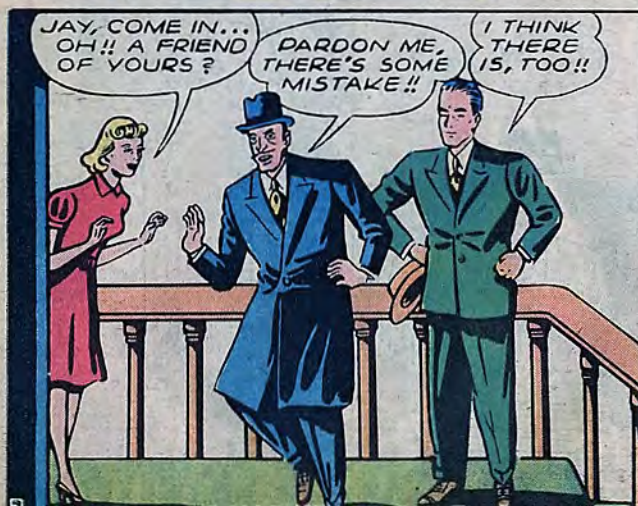
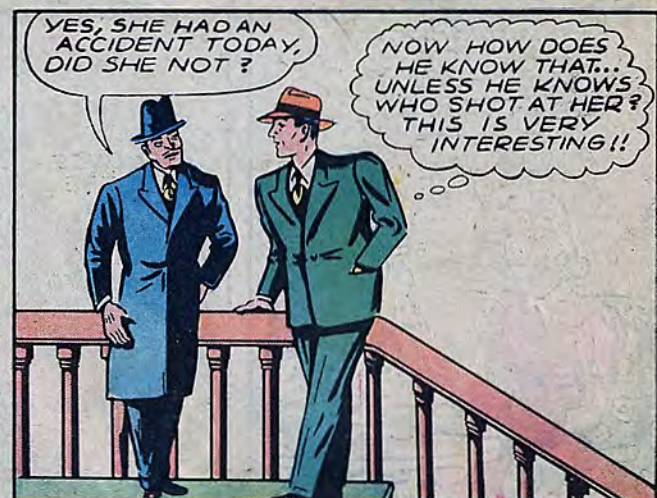


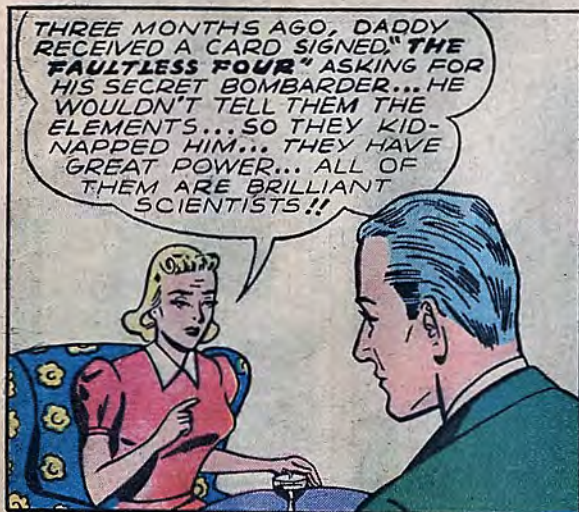




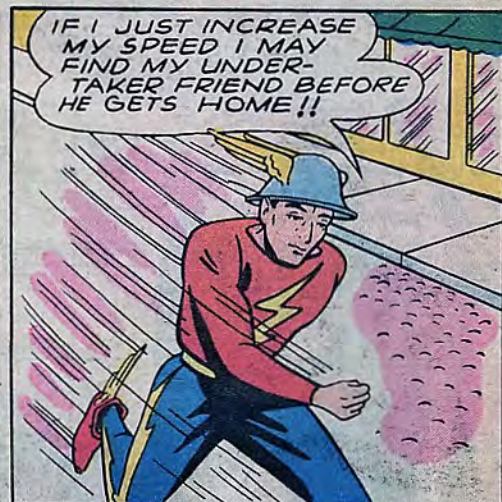
BUT THE FLASH
LEAPS INTO INSTANT ACTION....
ATTUNING HIMSELF TO THE SPEED OF THE BULLET TO AVOID INJURY, HE LURCHES FORWARD!







AND ONCE AGAIN THE **FLASH** IS ON HIS WAY WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT-!!



AND IN THE APARTMENT OF THE FAULTLESS FOUR...

THE GIRL IS STILL ALIVE... I'VE NEVER MISSED BEFORE... I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!!

YOU BUNGLED!! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN!!



I WOULDN'T ADVISE TRYING AGAIN!!



THE FLASH!! I'VE HEARD OF HIM!!



BANG!

AGAIN ATTUNING HIS SPEED TO THAT OF THE BULLET, THE FLASH LUNGES FORWARD!!!!

THIS'LL SLAY 'EM... AND WHAT I MEAN!!



HOW DOES THE FLASH STOP A BULLET IN FLIGHT WITHOUT SUFFERING INJURY TO HIMSELF?

EXPLANATION. HIS PROCESS OF THOUGHT AND ACTION DUE TO HIS INHALATION OF THE HARD-WATER GASES, HAVE BEEN SO QUICKENED, THAT HE HAS THE SPEED OF LIGHT ITSELF!

AS A RESULT, HE CAN EASILY MATCH THE SPEED OF A BULLET...

WHEN TWO BODIES TRAVEL ALONG TOGETHER AT EQUAL SPEED EVEN THO THEY MEET, THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO FRICTION - AND THEREFORE NO INJURY !!!

WOULDN'T TRY THAT AGAIN!!

HE... PLUCKED THE BULLET OUT OF THE AIR!!

ULP!



I CAN SEE THAT... YOU FOOL!! THE QUESTION IS... WHERE?

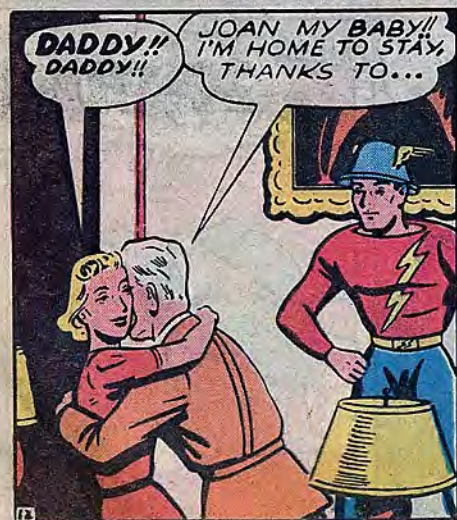
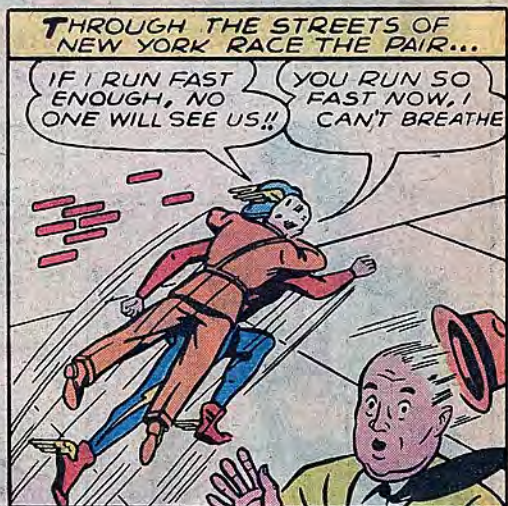
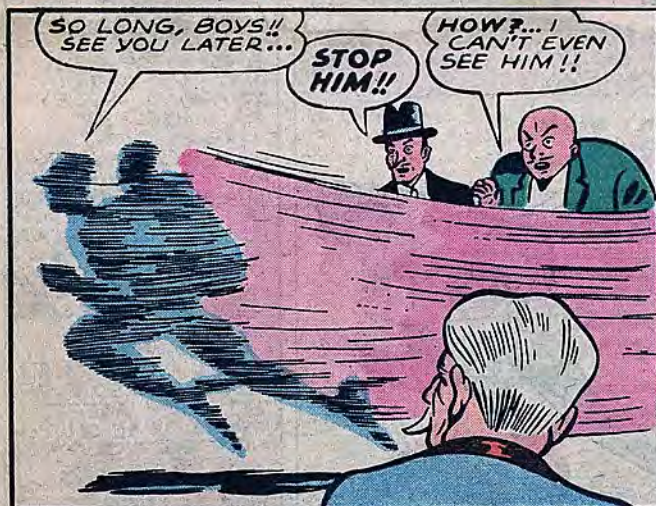
HE'S GONE!! HE'S GONE AFTER WILLIAMS!!

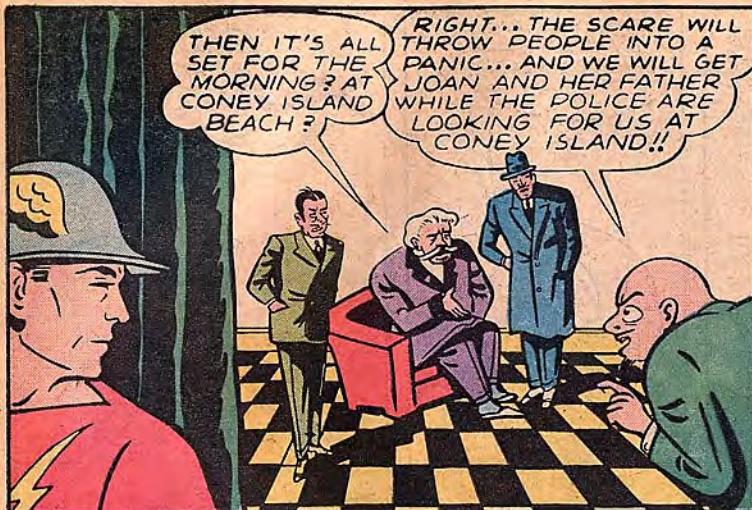


MEANWHILE

I'VE SEARCHED EVERY ROOM... AH- A TRAP-DOOR!!







THEN IT'S ALL SET FOR THE MORNING? AT CONEY ISLAND BEACH?

RIGHT... THE SCARE WILL THROW PEOPLE INTO A PANIC... AND WE WILL GET JOAN AND HER FATHER WHILE THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR US AT CONEY ISLAND!!

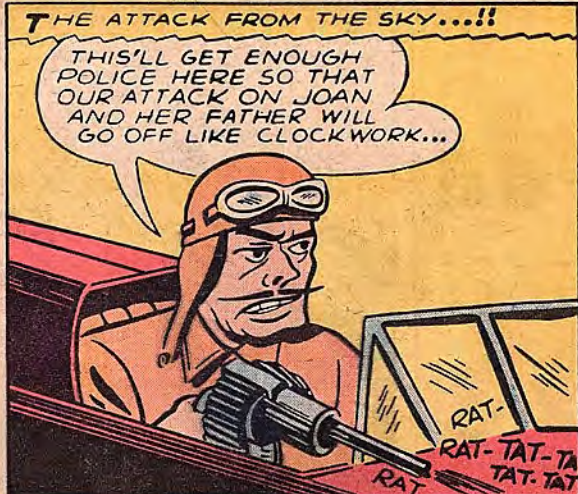


IF I LET THEM GO THRU WITH IT, SECURE IN THE BELIEF ALL WORKS SMOOTHLY... I'LL GET THEM IN THE ACT OF MURDER!!

THE NEXT DAY AT CROWDED CONEY ISLAND BEACH...

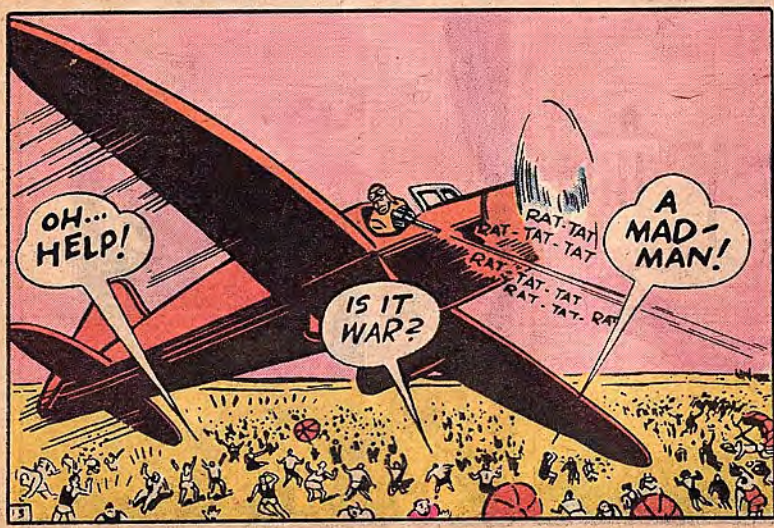


IT STARTS...



THE ATTACK FROM THE SKY...!!

THIS'LL GET ENOUGH POLICE HERE SO THAT OUR ATTACK ON JOAN AND HER FATHER WILL GO OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK...



OH... HELP!

IS IT WAR?

A MAD-MAN!



SUDDENLY A FIGURE AMONG THE CROWDS DOFFS HIS CLOTHES AND GOES INTO LIGHTNING ACTION!!



HE'S GOT ME ON THE GO, BUT I CAN KEEP THIS UP TILL HE RUNS OUT OF BULLETS!

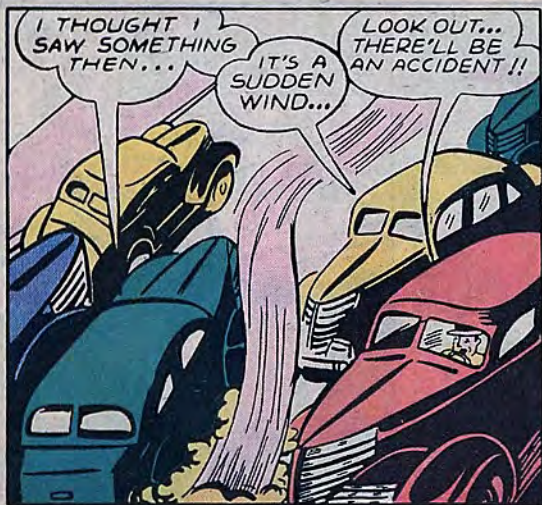


THE FLASH!! I MUST WARN THE OTHERS!!



HE'S GONE... NOW FOR THE ATTACK ON JOAN!!

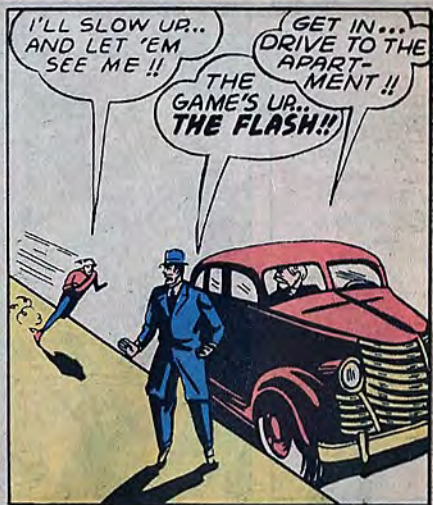
IN AND OUT OF TRAFFIC SLIPS THE FLASH...



I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING THEN...

IT'S A SUDDEN WIND...

LOOK OUT... THERE'LL BE AN ACCIDENT!!



I'LL SLOW UP... AND LET 'EM SEE ME!!

GET IN... DRIVE TO THE APARTMENT!!

THE GAME'S UP... THE FLASH!!



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, JOAN?

YES, DADDY AND I ARE SAFE...



THIS TIME... NO MERCY!!



I AM HERE, GENTLEMEN!!



**NEXT
MONTH!**
ANOTHER
AMAZING
STORY
OF THE ONE
AND ONLY
FLASH!