

KING
COMICS

SEPT.
No.1
ICD

124
BRAND NEW!

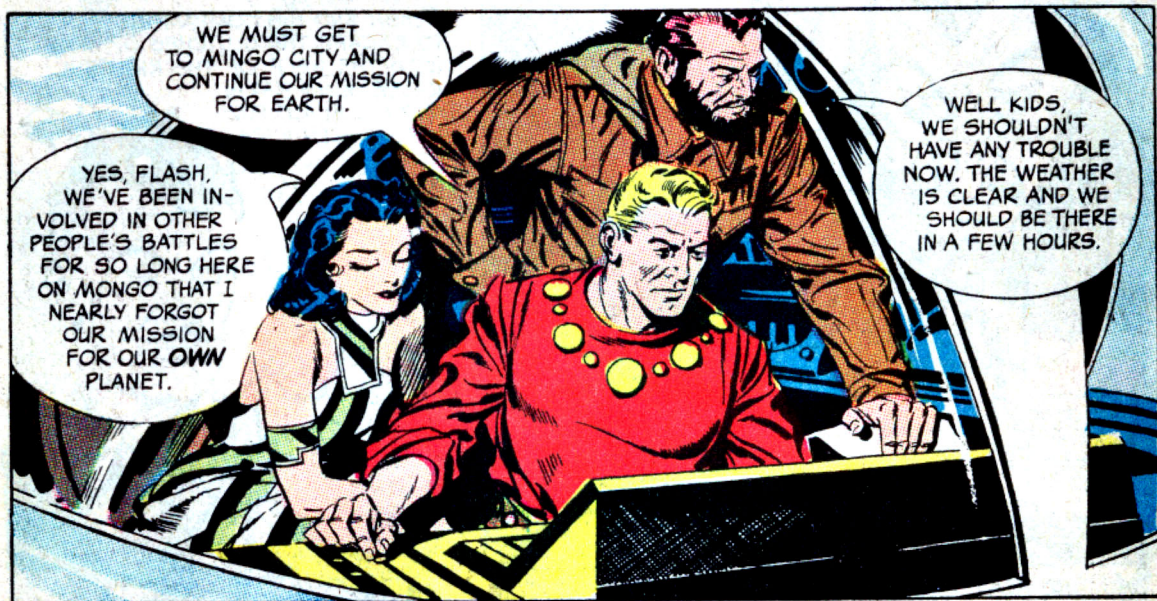
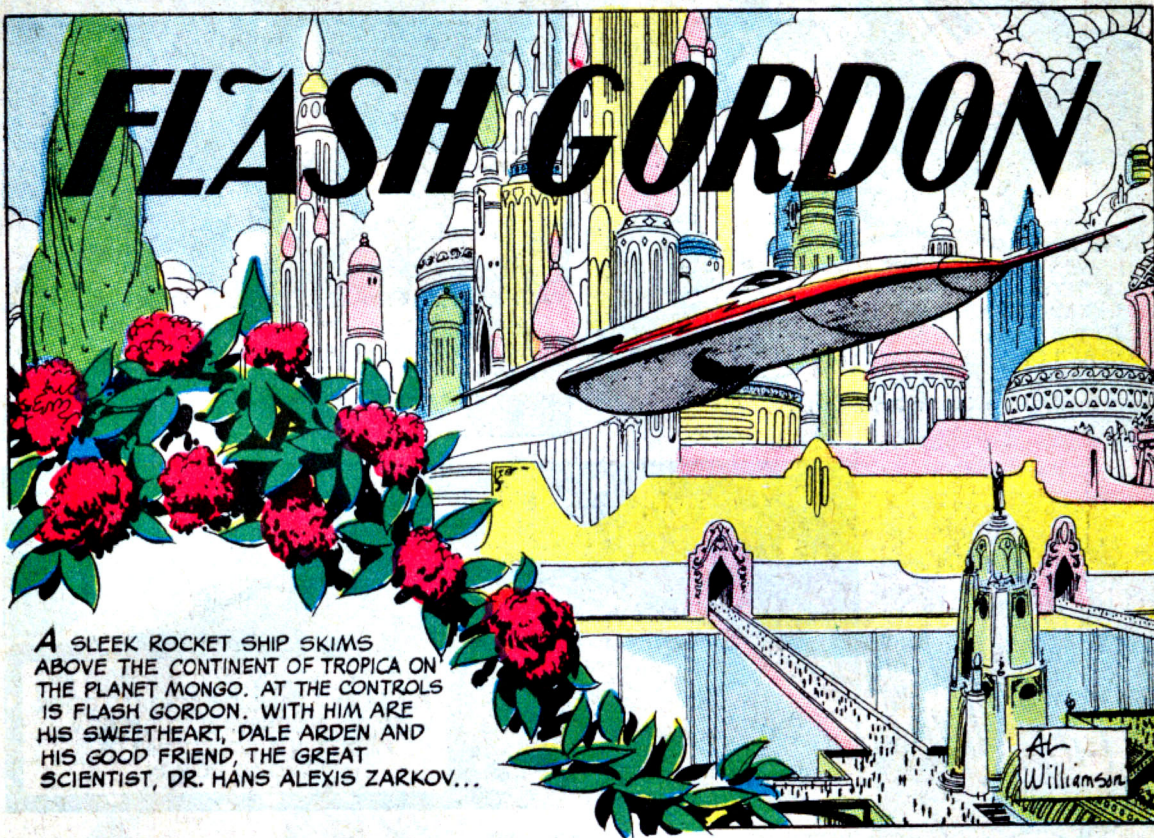
FLASH GORDON

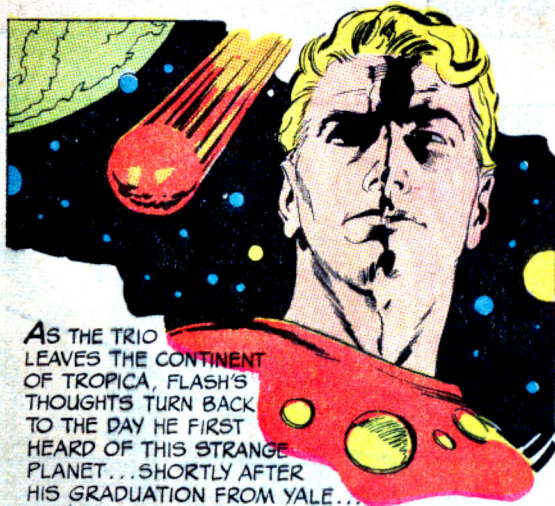


**Return with Flash
to the strange planet MONGO!**

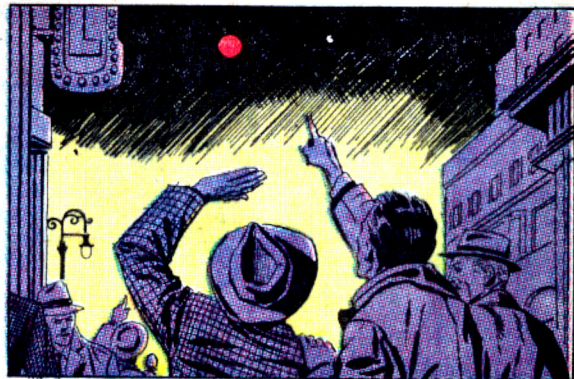


**FLASH
GORDON**
AND THE
UNDERWATER
PEOPLE

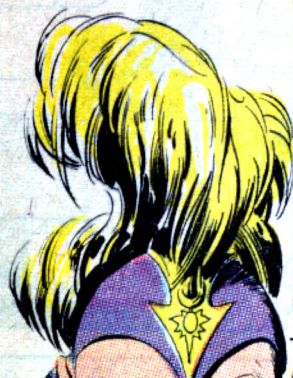




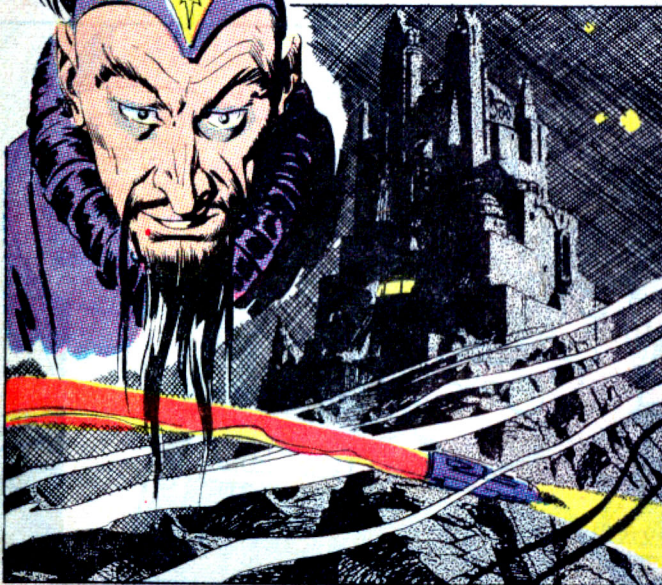
AS THE TRIO LEAVES THE CONTINENT OF TROPICA, FLASH'S THOUGHTS TURN BACK TO THE DAY HE FIRST HEARD OF THIS STRANGE PLANET... SHORTLY AFTER HIS GRADUATION FROM YALE...



PEOPLE OF EARTH FEARED THAT THE ORBIT OF A NEWLY-SIGHTED PLANET WOULD EVENTUALLY BRING IT INTO A COLLISION COURSE WITH EARTH!



BUT DR. ZARKOV, ACCOMPANIED BY FLASH AND DALE, DISCOVERED OTHERWISE BY JOURNEYING TO THE NEW PLANET IN A ROCKETSHIP OF ZARKOV'S DESIGN.



AS THEY NEARED THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL OF MONGO THEY LOST CONTROL OF THE SHIP AND CRASH-LANDED IN THE REALM OF **MING THE MERCILESS**, SELF-PROCLAIMED EMPEROR OF MONGO, WHO TRIED TO IMPRISON THEM.

FLASH AND HIS COMPANIONS MANAGED TO ESCAPE THE CLUTCHES OF MING WITH THE HELP OF THE RIGHTFUL RULER, KING BARIN AND HIS BEAUTIFUL WIFE, QUEEN AURA, MING'S DAUGHTER.



AMONG THE OTHERS
WHO SIDED WITH FLASH
IN HIS ATTEMPT TO
OVERTHROW MING
WERE KING VULTAN
AND HIS
HAWKMEN...



...AZURA, THE
WITCH QUEEN...



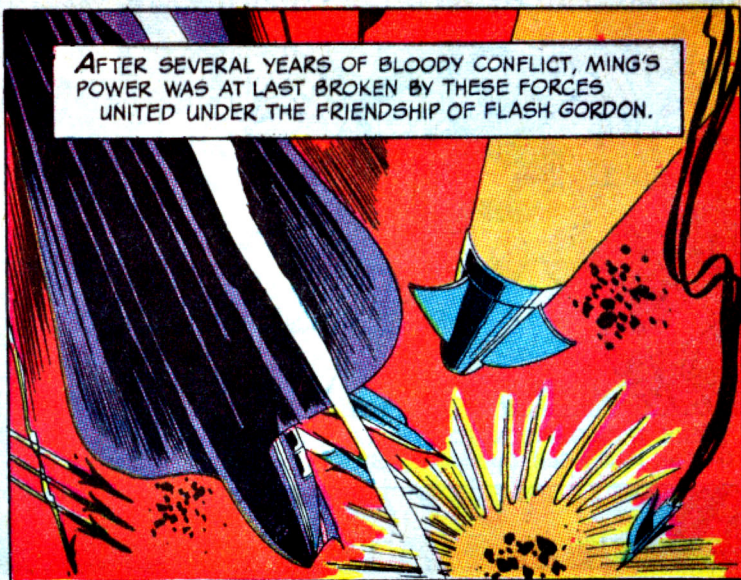
...THE UNDERWATER PEOPLE OF QUEEN UNDINA...



...AND IN FRIGIA, THE LAND TO THE
NORTH, QUEEN FRIA AND HER HUS-
BAND RONAL, COUSIN OF KING BARIN.

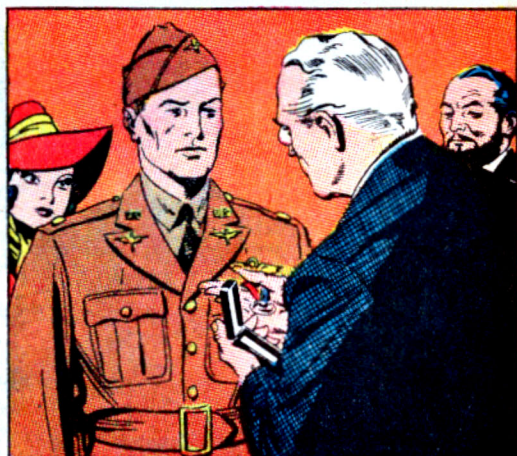


AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF BLOODY CONFLICT, MING'S
POWER WAS AT LAST BROKEN BY THESE FORCES
UNITED UNDER THE FRIENDSHIP OF FLASH GORDON.





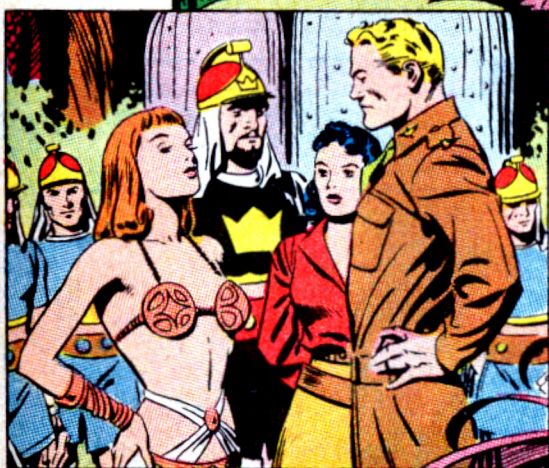
THE PEOPLE OF MONGO WANTED FLASH AS THEIR NEW LEADER, BUT EARTH WAS AT THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW WAR, AND HE WAS ANXIOUS TO RETURN.



LEAVING KING BARIN IN COMMAND, THE TRIO RETURNED TO EARTH TO PRESENT THE UNITED STATES WITH SECRETS OF MONGO SCIENCE WHICH WOULD HELP MAINTAIN PEACE. FOR HIS EFFORTS, FLASH WAS GIVEN THE MILITARY RANK OF COLONEL.



A SERIOUS PROBLEM DEVELOPED...THE PEACE-KEEPING DEVICES WERE NOT EFFECTIVE WITHOUT HUGE QUANTITIES OF RADIUM, A MINERAL FOUND IN ABUNDANCE ON MONGO. SO THE TRIO SET OUT ONCE AGAIN FOR MONGO--ONLY TO CRASH UPON THE CONTINENT OF TROPICA!



HERE THEY BEFRIENDED QUEEN DESIRA WHOSE THRONE HAD BEEN TAKEN OVER BY A TYRANT.

NOW, AFTER LONG MONTHS OF INTRIGUE AND ADVENTURE, THEY ARE AGAIN ON THEIR WAY TO MINGO CITY...

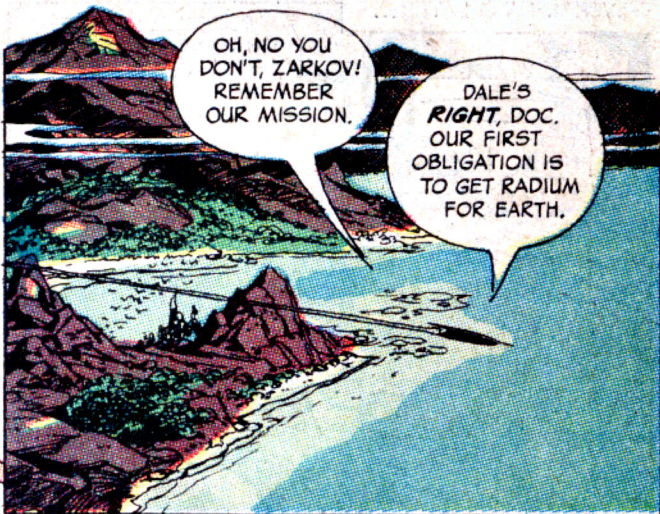


LOOK, FLASH! A LARGE LAND MASS NOT CHARTED ON THE MAPS... MIGHT BE INTERESTING TO EXPLORE.



OH, NO YOU DON'T, ZARKOV! REMEMBER OUR MISSION.

DALE'S RIGHT, DOC. OUR FIRST OBLIGATION IS TO GET RADIUM FOR EARTH.



KING BARIN AND QUEEN AURA WELCOME THEM WITH TEARS OF JOY.

FLASH... I NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD SEE YOU AGAIN. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW HAPPY I AM.

IT'S GOOD TO BE BACK IN MINGO CITY, BARIN--EVEN WITH ALL THE BAD MEMORIES IT HOLDS.



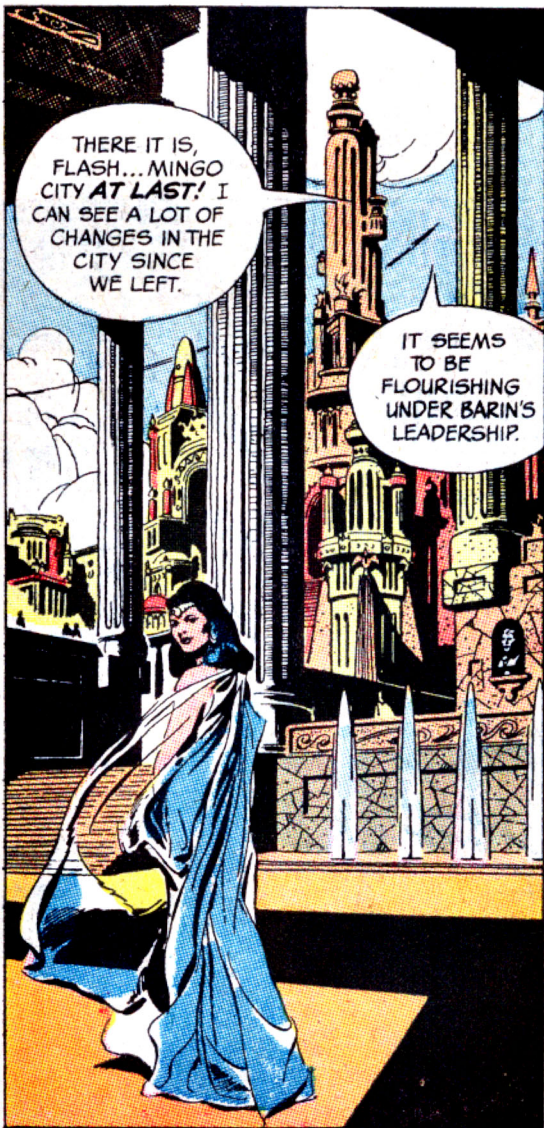
I'M AFRAID THIS ISN'T JUST A PLEASURE TRIP, BARIN. WE'VE COME TO GET A SUPPLY OF RADIUM FOR EARTH.

THAT WILL MEAN A TRIP TO THE FRIGIA RADIUM MINES. QUEEN FRIA AND RONAL WILL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.



THERE IT IS, FLASH... MINGO CITY AT LAST! I CAN SEE A LOT OF CHANGES IN THE CITY SINCE WE LEFT.

IT SEEMS TO BE FLOURISHING UNDER BARIN'S LEADERSHIP.



SEVERAL DAYS LATER...



REMEMBER ME TO FRIA AND RONAL, FLASH. I WILL HAVE OUR NEW ROCKETSHIP READY WHEN YOU GET BACK.

GOOD OL' DOC. YOU'VE NEVER FAILED US!

AND EVIL PLANS ARE SHAKEN...



THIS IS *UNFORTUNATE* TIMING, BELLAM.

NOT AT ALL. COUNT TRIVAL. WE WILL DISPOSE OF GORDON ALSO. HE WOULD EVENTUALLY SPELL TROUBLE FOR US.

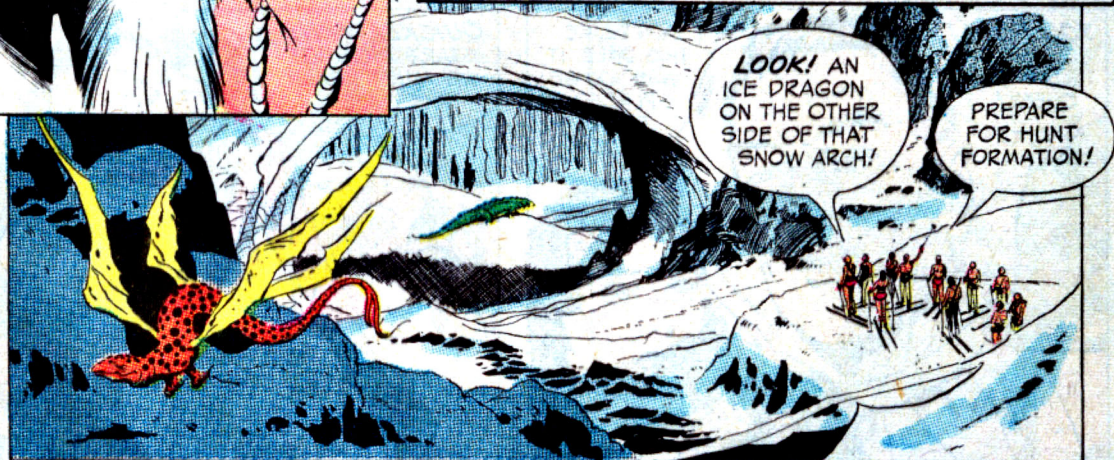
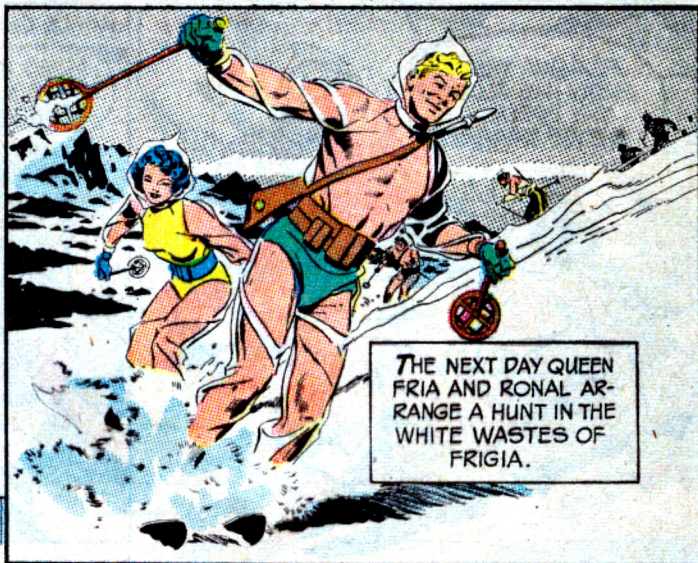


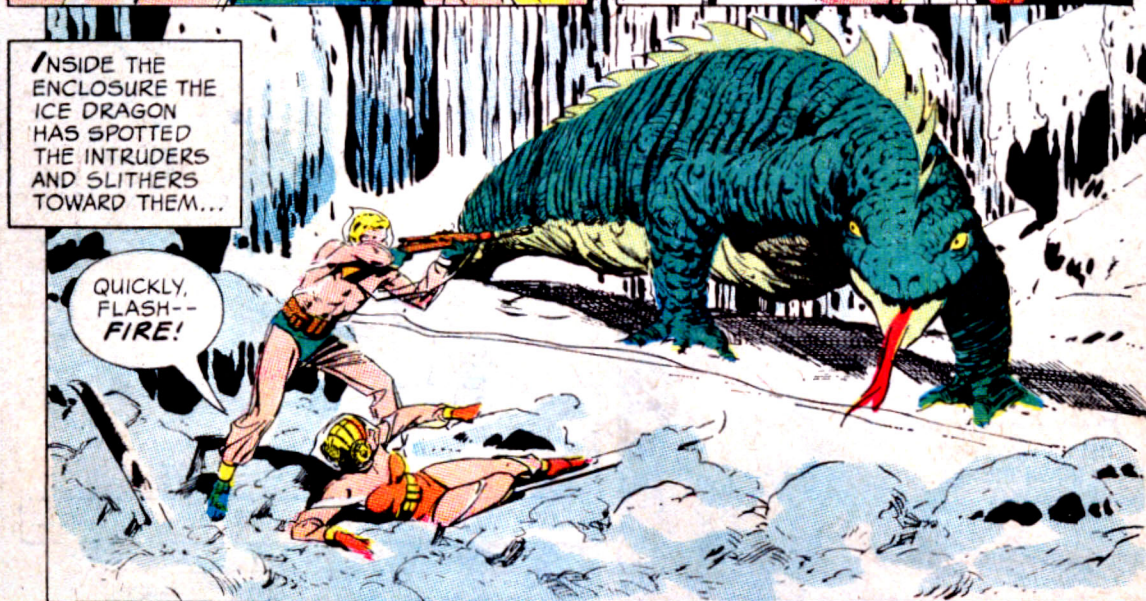
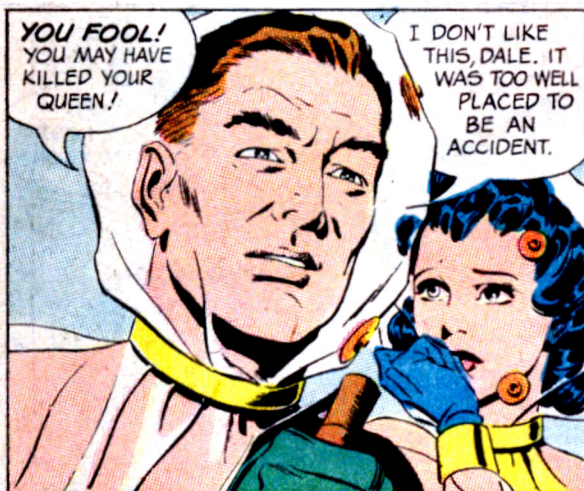
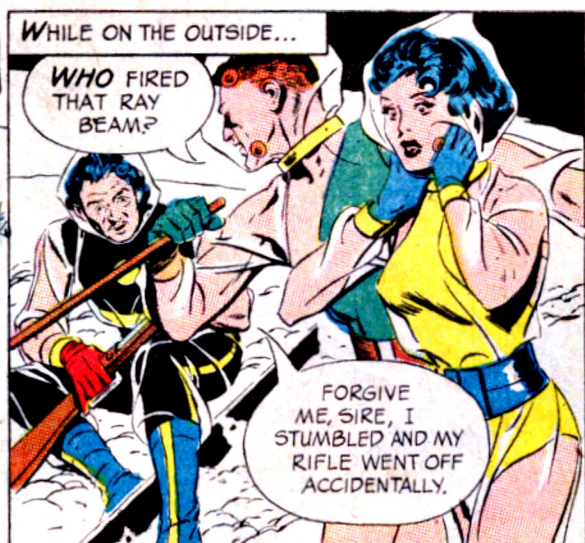
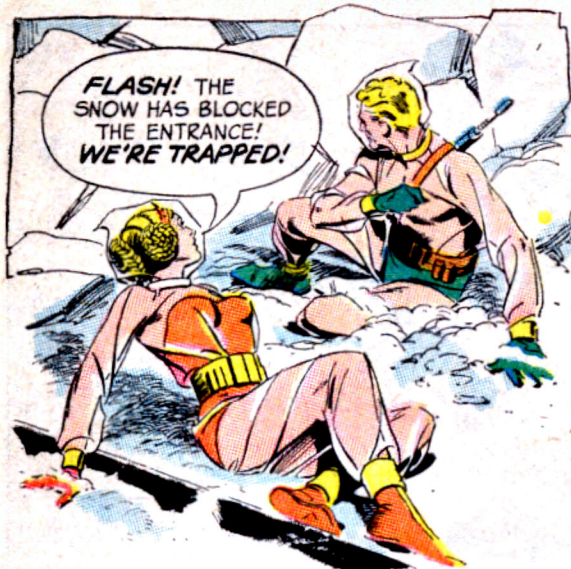
MEANWHILE, IN FRIGIA...

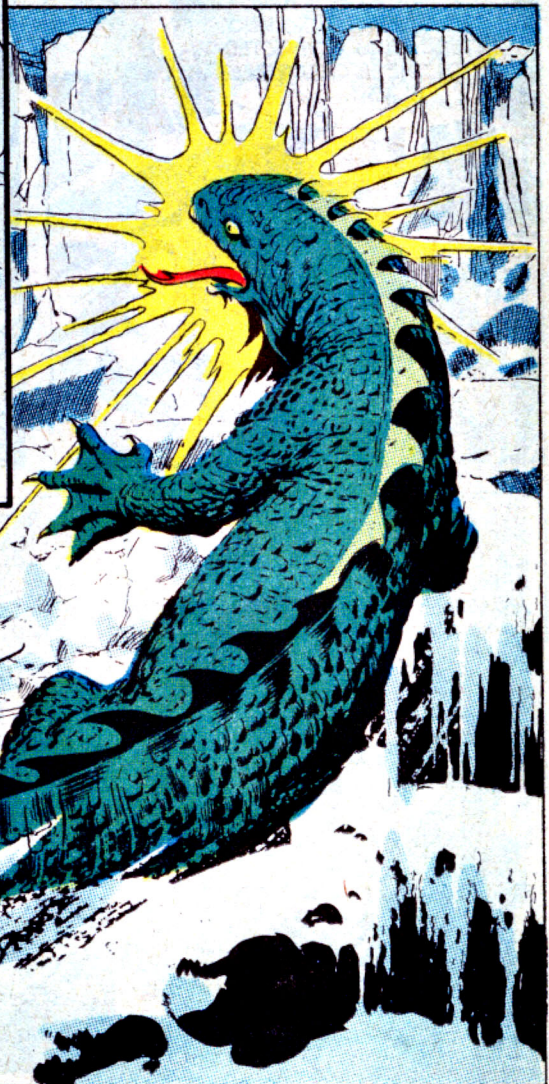
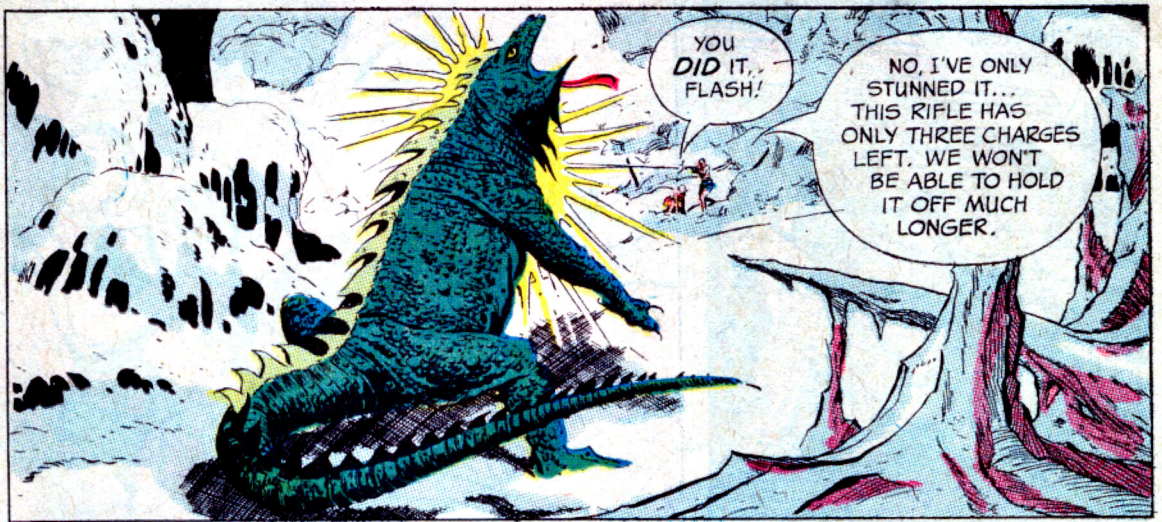
OH RONAL, WE MUST PREPARE A CELEBRATION TO WELCOME OUR GOOD FRIENDS.

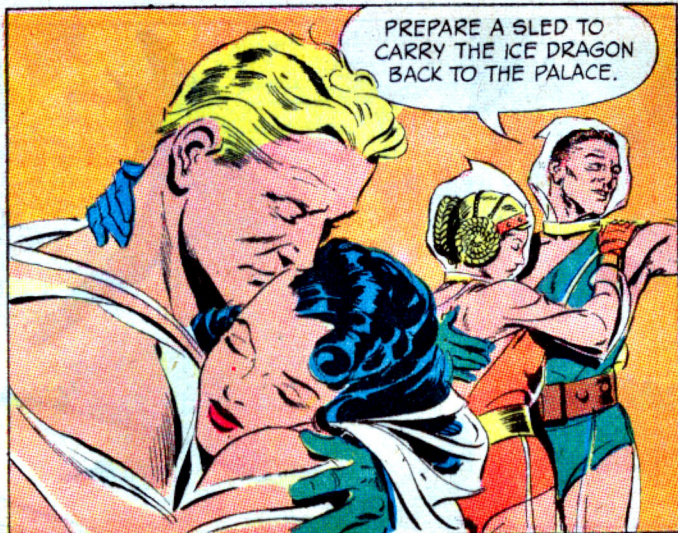


FLASH AND DALE ARE GREETED WITH GREAT FANFARE. A HOLIDAY IS DECLARED IN THEIR HONOR...

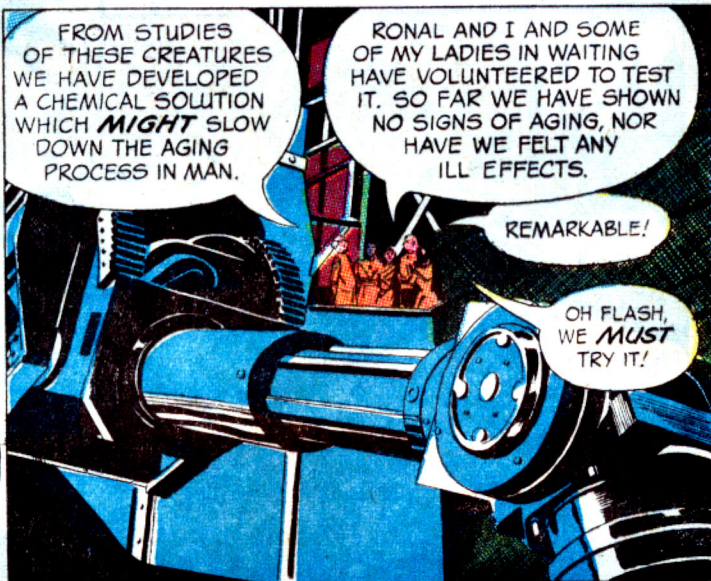
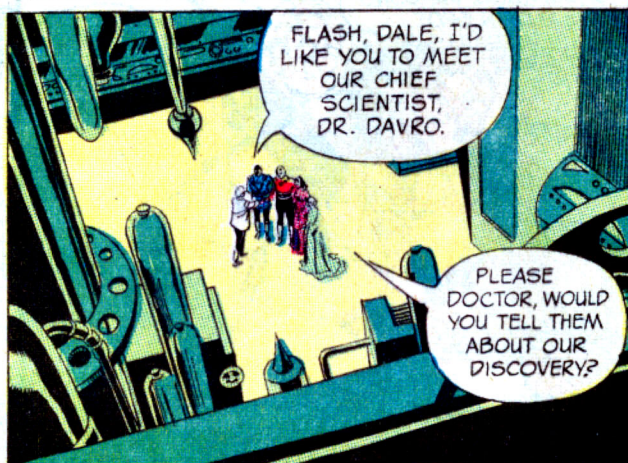




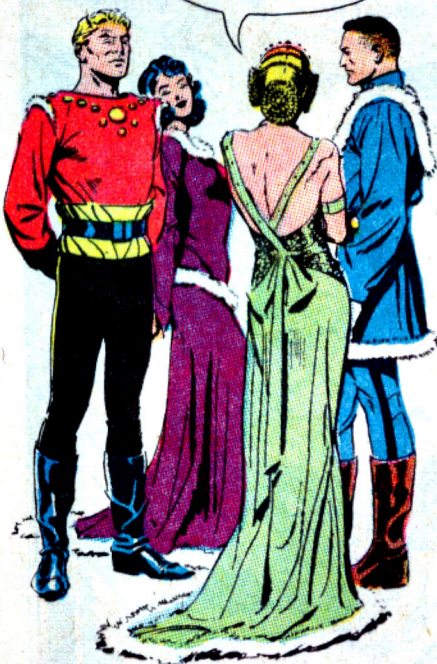




THE NEXT DAY AT THE PALACE LABORATORY...



WE DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN, BUT MY SCIENTISTS THINK IT MAY BE FIFTEEN OR TWENTY YEARS BEFORE WE BEGIN TO AGE AGAIN.

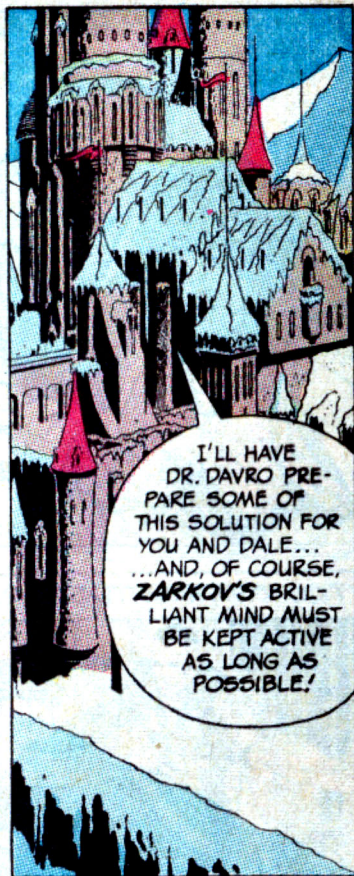


I COULD NEVER IMAGINE YOU ANY OLDER, FRIA.

OH I CAN, FLASH, THAT IS WHY I FIND THIS EXPERIMENT SO INTERESTING.



I'LL HAVE DR. DAVRO PREPARE SOME OF THIS SOLUTION FOR YOU AND DALE... AND, OF COURSE, ZARKOV'S BRILLIANT MIND MUST BE KEPT ACTIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE!



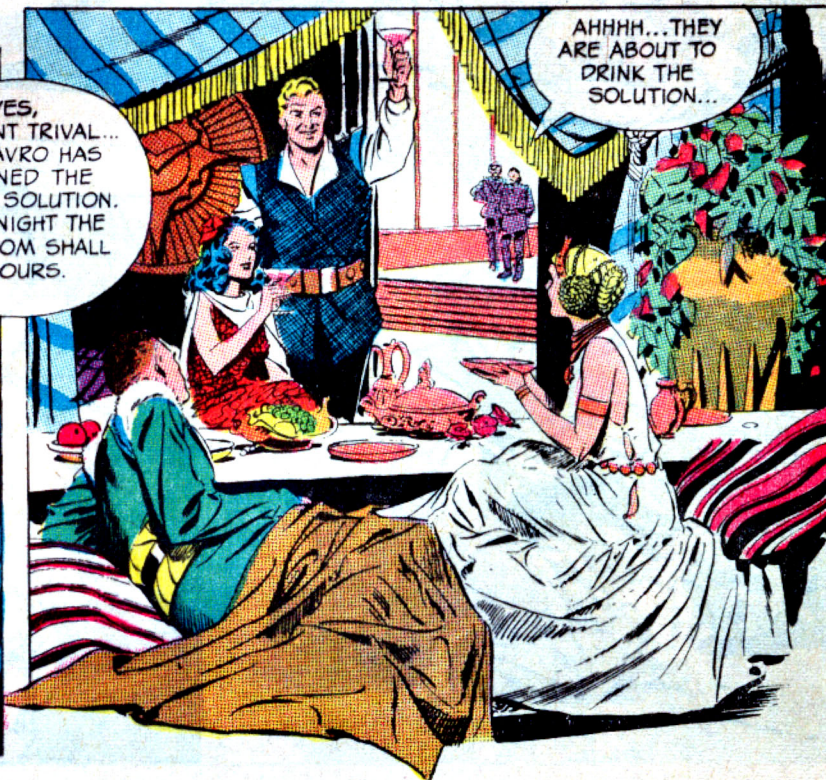
LATER THAT EVENING...

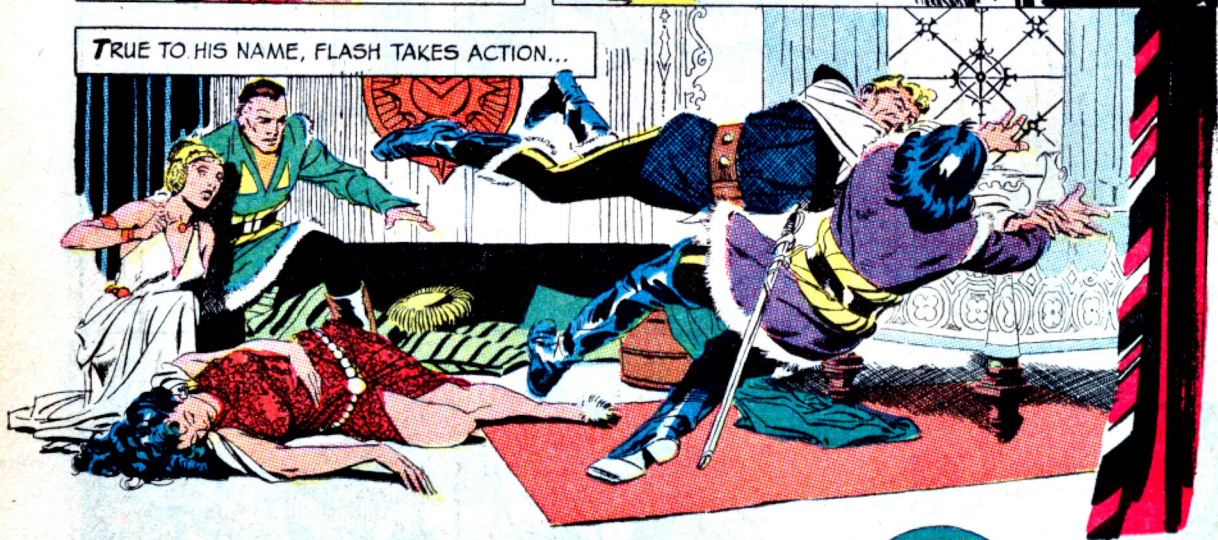
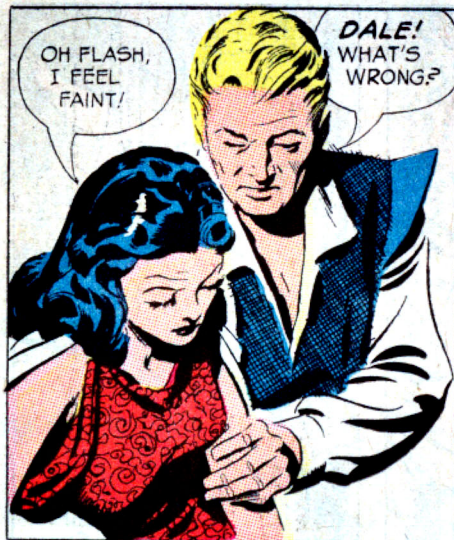
HAVE YOU FOLLOWED INSTRUCTIONS, BELLAM?

YES, COUNT TRIVAL... DR. DAVRO HAS POISONED THE ENTIRE SOLUTION. BY MIDNIGHT THE KINGDOM SHALL BE OURS.



AHHHH...THEY ARE ABOUT TO DRINK THE SOLUTION...

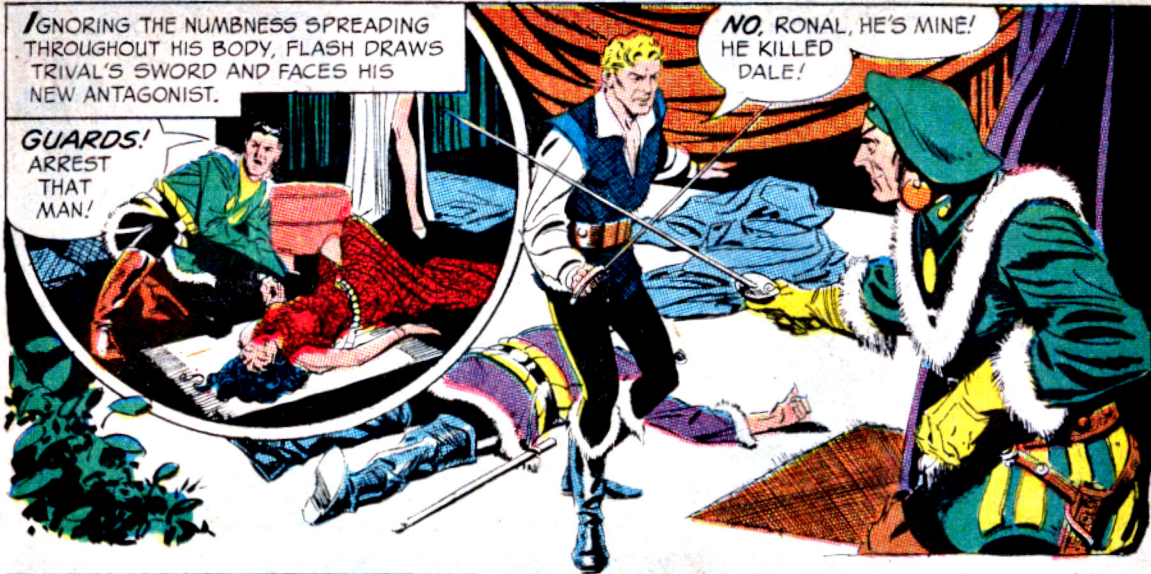




IGNORING THE NUMBNESS SPREADING THROUGHOUT HIS BODY, FLASH DRAWS TRIVAL'S SWORD AND FACES HIS NEW ANTAGONIST.

GUARDS!
ARREST
THAT
MAN!

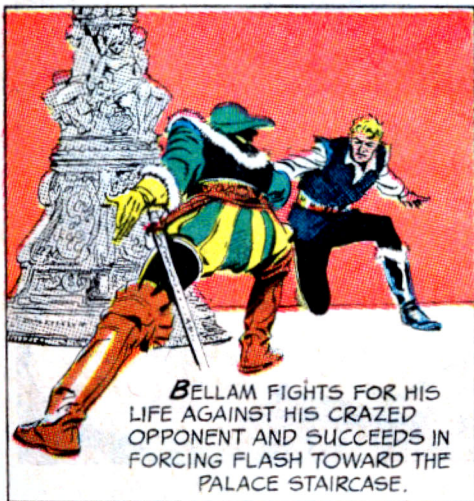
NO, RONAL, HE'S MINE!
HE KILLED
DALE!



YOU CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER,
GORDON. YOU'RE WEAKENING
ALREADY.

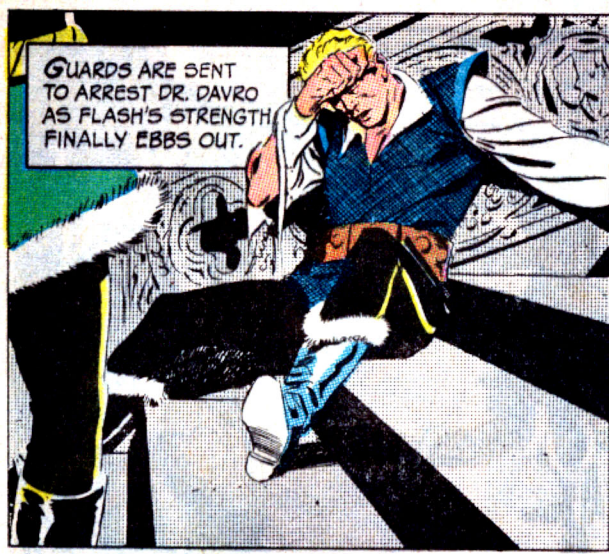
BEFORE
I DIE I'LL HAVE
THE SATISFACTION
OF KILLING
YOU!

BELLAM FIGHTS FOR HIS
LIFE AGAINST HIS CRAZED
OPPONENT AND SUCCEEDS IN
FORCING FLASH TOWARD THE
PALACE STAIRCASE.

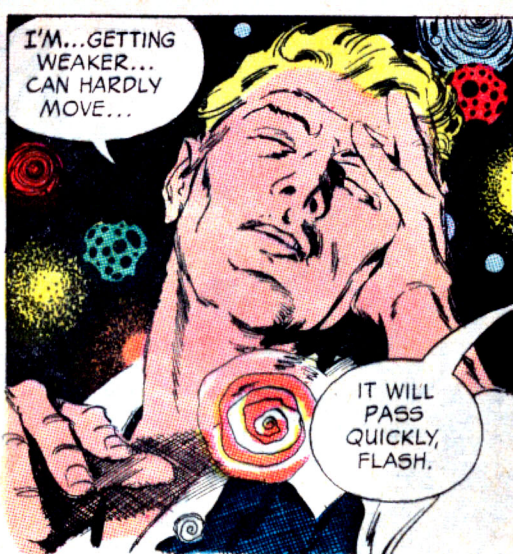


AS BELLAM RUSHES
IN FOR THE KILL,
FLASH GATHERS
HIS REMAINING
STRENGTH INTO A
DECISIVE THRUST.



A man with blonde hair, wearing a blue vest over a white shirt and black pants, is being carried away by two guards. One guard is holding him from behind, and the other is supporting him from below. They are in a room with ornate architectural details.

GUARDS ARE SENT
TO ARREST DR. DAVRO
AS FLASH'S STRENGTH
FINALLY EBBS OUT.

A close-up of Flash's face. He has a pained expression, with his hand pressed against his forehead. His eyes are closed, and his mouth is slightly open. There are colorful, swirling patterns around his head, suggesting a headache or intense pain.

I'M...GETTING
WEAKER...
CAN HARDLY
MOVE...

IT WILL
PASS
QUICKLY,
FLASH.

A close-up of Flash and Dr. Davro. Flash is on the left, looking towards Davro on the right. Davro is wearing a white lab coat and dark sunglasses. He has a beard and is smiling slightly.

DAVRO,
YOU!!

YES, FLASH.
THERE WAS NO
POISON.


Flash is standing in a large, ornate room, looking towards a group of people in the distance. The room has high ceilings and decorative columns. A large, colorful, swirling pattern is visible in the background.

WHAT?!

BELLAM TRIED
TO BRIBE ME, BUT
I HAVE REMAINED
LOYAL TO THE
QUEEN.

Flash and Dale are embracing. Flash is on the right, holding Dale from behind. Dale is on the left, looking up at Flash. They are in a room with green walls and a large window.

HE'S RIGHT,
FLASH.
I FEEL
FINE.

A close-up of Dr. Davro's face. He is wearing a white lab coat and dark sunglasses. He has a beard and is looking towards the right. He is holding a small object in his hand.

INSTEAD OF POISON,
I PLACED A MILD DRUG
IN THE SOLUTION WHICH
WOULD PRODUCE MO-
MENTARY UNCONSCIOUS-
NESS. I HOPED THAT
BELLAM'S ACCOM-
PLICE WOULD
REVEAL HIMSELF.

DALE, I
THOUGHT
I HAD
LOST
YOU.

THE FOLLOWING DAY THEIR SHIP IS LOADED WITH THE PRECIOUS RADIUM SUPPLY FOR EARTH. AFTER SAD FAREWELLS, FLASH AND DALE DEPART THE LAND OF FRIGIA.

WITHIN HOURS THEY ARRIVE AT MINGO CITY WHERE ZARKOV HAS COMPLETED REPAIRS OF THE ROCKET-SHIP WHICH WILL CARRY THEM BACK TO EARTH.

EVERYTHING IS IN READINESS, FLASH. ONCE THE RADIUM IS ABOARD WE CAN TAKE OFF FOR EARTH.

IT WILL BE HARD LEAVING BARIN AND AURA AGAIN.

ONCE AGAIN FLASH, DALE AND ZARKOV TAKE LEAVE OF THE PLANET MONGO WITH THEIR MISSION COMPLETED.

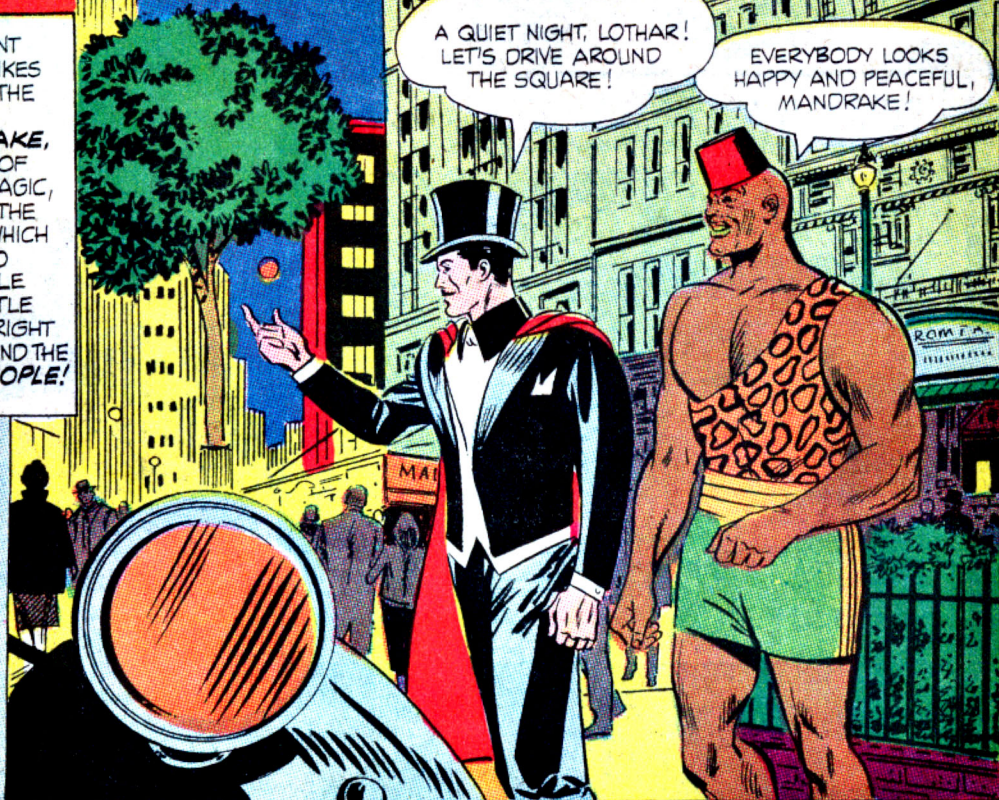
MANDRAKE THE MAGICIAN

MIDNIGHT with MANDRAKE!

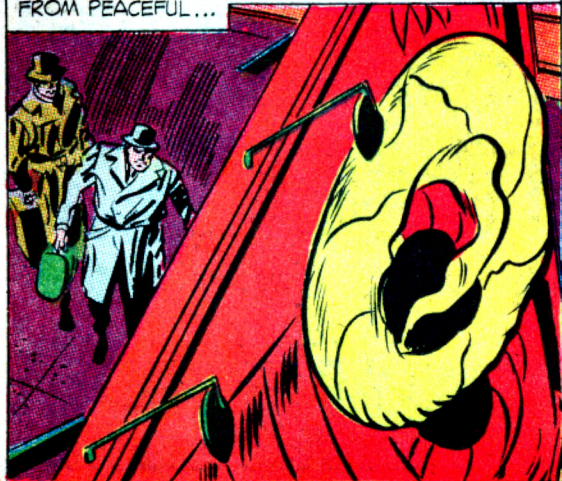
AS A GIANT
CLOCK STRIKES
TWELVE IN THE
BIG CITY,
MANDRAKE,
THE MAN OF
MIGHTY MAGIC,
CRUISES THE
STREETS WHICH
SWARM TO
THE HUSTLE
AND BUSTLE
OF THE BRIGHT
LIGHTS...AND THE
NIGHT PEOPLE!

A QUIET NIGHT, LOTHAR!
LET'S DRIVE AROUND
THE SQUARE!

EVERYBODY LOOKS
HAPPY AND PEACEFUL,
MANDRAKE!

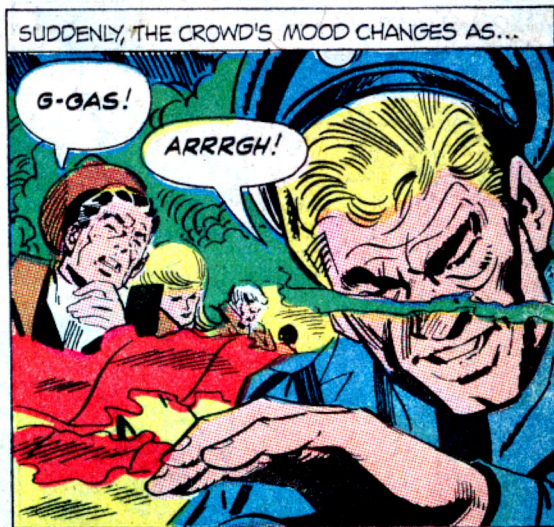
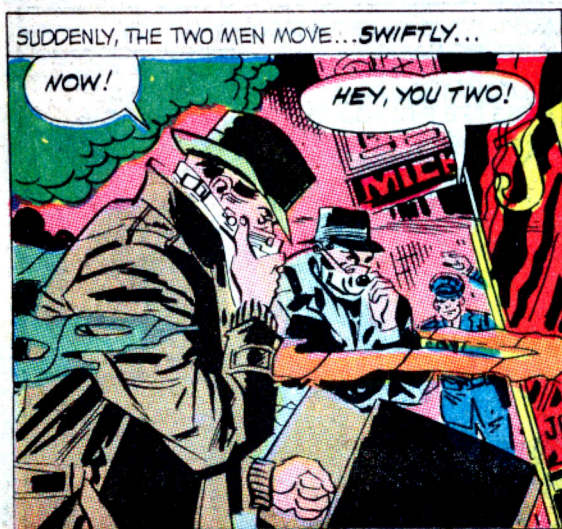
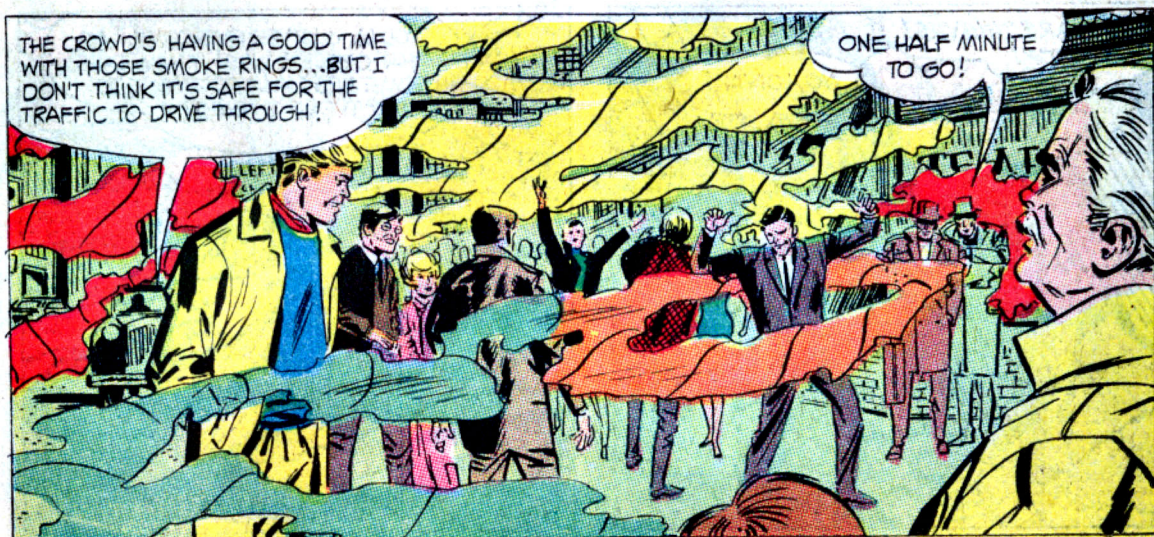
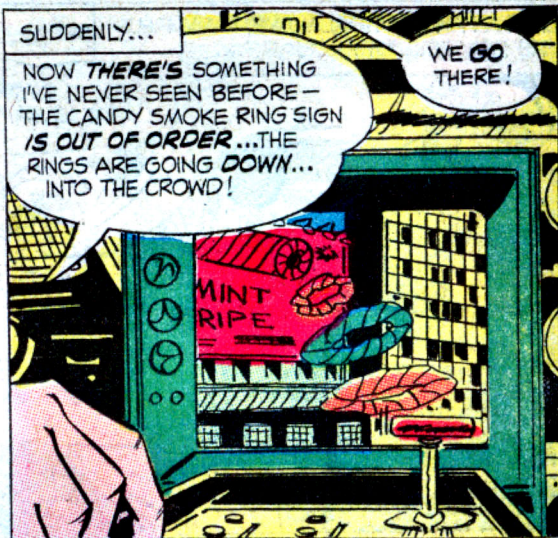
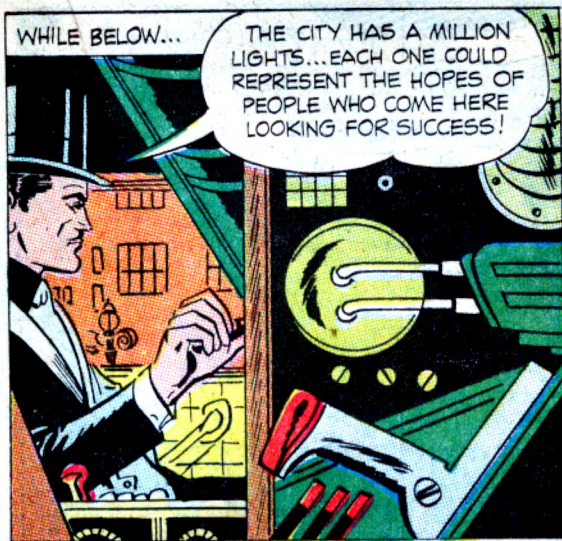


BUT TWO MEN IN THE CITY SQUARE ARE **FAR**
FROM PEACEFUL ...



THE PAIR WORKS QUICKLY...CAREFULLY...





LIKE AN ANGRY TIDAL WAVE, PANIC FILLS
THE PEACEFUL CITY SQUARE...

PEOPLE CHOKING...FALLING!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?

GAS, LOTHAR!...IT'S
THOSE SMOKE RINGS!
LISTEN!...THE JEWELRY
STORE IS BEING
LOOTED!

BRRING!

THERE ARE THIEVES!
WE STOP!

NO, LOTHAR!

YOU'LL JUST BE OVERCOME...AS
THAT OFFICER WAS! IT WILL TAKE
SOME SPECIAL TREATMENT TO
STOP THOSE THIEVES!

MANDRAKE GESTURES HYPNOTICALLY...

AND THE THIEVES GET A TASTE OF MIGHTY
HYPNOTIC MAGIC...

L-LOOK! THE SMOKE
RINGS ARE F-FOLLOWING
US!

A-AND THEY AREN'T
SMOKE RINGS NOW!
TH-THEY'RE IRON
BANDS!

THE UNCANNY ILLUSION MANDRAKE HAS CREATED
IN THE THIEVES' MINDS BECOMES STRONGER...

YIPES! DOZENS
OF THEM! THEY'RE
ATTACKING US!

T-THE SUBWAY...
DOWN THE STAIRS...
QUICK!



...UNTIL THEY ACTUALLY **FEEL** THE NONEXISTENT
IRON BANDS!

YAAAAAA!

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!

BUT, OF COURSE, THE IRON BANDS EXIST ONLY IN THEIR MINDS

LET US OUT!
W-WE SURRENDER!

WH-WHAT IN SAM HILL? I'VE
NEVER SEEN THIEVES GIVE
UP LIKE THAT BEFORE!
WHAT AILS THEM?



TAKE OFF THE
I-IRON BANDS!
P-PLEASE!

I GUESS THEIR GUILTY
CONSCIENCES MAKE THEM **FEEL**
THAT THEY ARE TRAPPED! THEY'LL
BE ALL RIGHT LATER, OFFICER!



WELL, LOTHAR, SHALL WE
CONTINUE OUR MIDNIGHT
TOUR OF THE **PEACEFUL**
CITY?

GOOD JOKE,
MANDRAKE...BUT YOU
PLAY **BETTER** JOKE
ON CROOKS!



TEENAGE SPACE EXPLORERS

The adventures of Flash Gordon officially began back in 1934 when the late Alex Raymond introduced the now world-famous Flash in a Sunday color page for newspapers.

Not many years before that, a group of German hobbyists had built a liquid-fuel rocket that could rise to an altitude of about a mile. And at about the same time, a group of men in New York formed the American Interplanetary Society, an organization devoted to the design and construction of rocket engines by amateurs. The members of the German group included such names as Wernher von Braun, Hermann Oberth, Willy Ley, Johannes Winkler among its 1,000 members. The American group also included many of today's professionals. Indeed, its members formed a company which they called Reaction Motors, Inc. And their engines were used to power the *Bell X-1*, the first plane to break through the sound barrier, and the *Martin Viking*, which for many years held the altitude record for single-stage rockets of 158 miles.

During World War II, most of the amateur rocket societies stopped their experimenting. But the end of the war saw the birth of new, even more enthusiastic groups. Among them, California's Reaction Research Society has launched several successful mail-carrying rockets. Today there are hundreds of such organizations all over the United States and the world. In this country, they are all affiliated with the American Astronautical Federation, which collects and distributes information and promotes space flight.

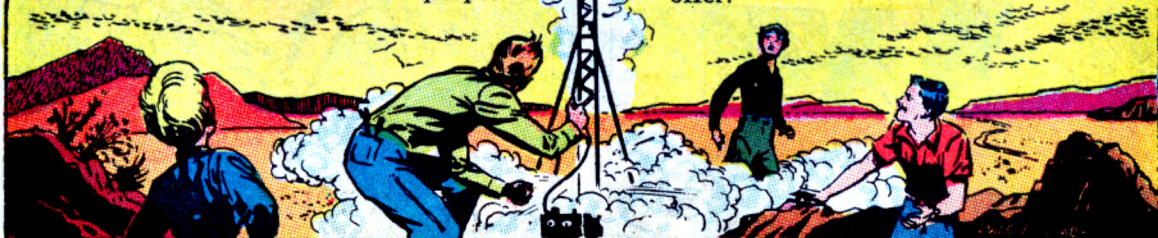
Members of these clubs are people

interested in design and construction both of the missile itself and the tiny engines used. Some of them are interested in the development of propellants, a challenge to their knowledge of mathematics, physics and chemistry. Others are photography bugs who provide vital photographic records of every launching and flight. Many of them, of course, are teenagers with an eye on the future. All of them gain basic knowledge of rocketry and the teamwork required for every successful flight.

Naturally, real space flight by amateurs is not likely. They don't have the money or the access to the sophisticated materials required. But they do get first-hand knowledge of problems waiting to be solved. And by exchanging information and participating in actual experiments, they learn the basic principles of rocket flight.

Is it a safe hobby? Irresponsible thrill-seekers have given amateur rocketry a bad name in recent years. The propellants used in rockets are dangerously explosive chemicals and should be handled carefully. But when all the rules of safety are followed carefully, when experimenting is done by a responsible group, serious injuries do not generally occur.

If you want to take up rocketry as a hobby, join one of the hundreds of established groups. As an individual, no one has the time, the skills or the money to design, build and fire his own rocket. Even if it were possible, he'd be cheating himself of the rewarding experience of the exchange of ideas and enthusiasm only a group project can offer.



See it in September: FLASHES—a page of your comments and suggestions. Send your cards and letters now to: Flash Gordon, King Features Syndicate, 235 East 45th Street, New York, N. Y. 10017. Then look for your letter in September and other future issues of **Flash Gordon**.

FLASH GORDON

AND THE MOLE MACHINE

Williamson

FLASH GORDON, DALE ARDEN AND DR. HANS ZARKOV RETURNED FROM THE PLANET MONGO AFTER WORLD WAR II TO FIND THAT EARTH SCIENTISTS HAD DEVELOPED WEAPONS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE WORLD. DR. ZARKOV RETREATED TO HIS SECRET LABORATORY TO EXPERIMENT WITH MONGO INVENTIONS. IT IS THERE THAT FLASH AND DALE ARE NOW HEADED...

OH, FLASH!
IT WILL BE GOOD
TO SEE ZARKOV
AGAIN.

YES, DALE.
ON THE PHONE THE
OLD BOY SOUNDED
EXCITED AS A KID.
HE MUST HAVE
FINISHED HIS
PROJECT.

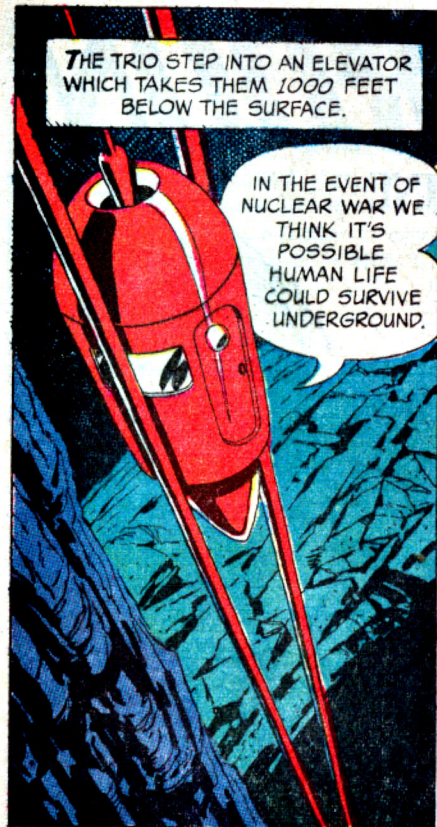
HELLO DOC.
WHAT HAVE YOU
GOT UP YOUR
SLEEVE *THIS*
TIME?

DEAR
ZARKOV!

FLASH, DALE!
I'M SO HAPPY
YOU'VE
COME!

YOU HAVE
QUITE A LAYOUT
HERE, DOC.

YES, THERE
ARE MANY YOUNG
SCIENTISTS EAGER
TO DEVOTE THEIR
LIVES TO KEEPING
OUR COUNTRY
SAFE.



THE TRIO STEP INTO AN ELEVATOR WHICH TAKES THEM 1000 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE.

IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WAR WE THINK IT'S POSSIBLE HUMAN LIFE COULD SURVIVE UNDERGROUND.



SINCE I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO EXPLORE THE INNER EARTH, WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A MOLE MACHINE, CAPABLE OF BORING THROUGH SOLID ROCK.

AND NOW IT'S FINISHED! ARE YOU WILLING TO TEST IT WITH ME, FLASH?



I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK, DOC!

NOW JUST A SECOND. HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ME?



NO DALE, I HAVEN'T. I DON'T WANT ANY OF MY ASSISTANTS TO KNOW IT'S READY JUST YET. WE'LL NEED YOU HERE TO KEEP IN RADIO CONTACT WITH US.



HMMM... WELL, I DON'T KNOW.

AW, C'MON, DALE. WE WON'T BE GONE FOR MORE THAN A FEW HOURS.

I'M OUTNUMBERED. YOU WIN.
BUT PLEASE BE CAREFUL,
BOTH OF YOU.

GOOD
GIRL!

A FEW MINUTES LATER, INSIDE
THE MOLE MACHINE.

THE MOLE DETONATES
SMALL ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS
TO PULVERIZE THE ROCK
AHEAD OF IT.

I SEE FROM THE
INSTRUMENT PANEL
THAT IT CAN ALSO
FLY THROUGH
AIR AND NAVIGATE
UNDER WATER.
INGENIOUS!

THE MOLE STARTS ITS TEST
JOURNEY, SEALING ITS TRAIL
AS IT BORES THROUGH
SOLID ROCK.

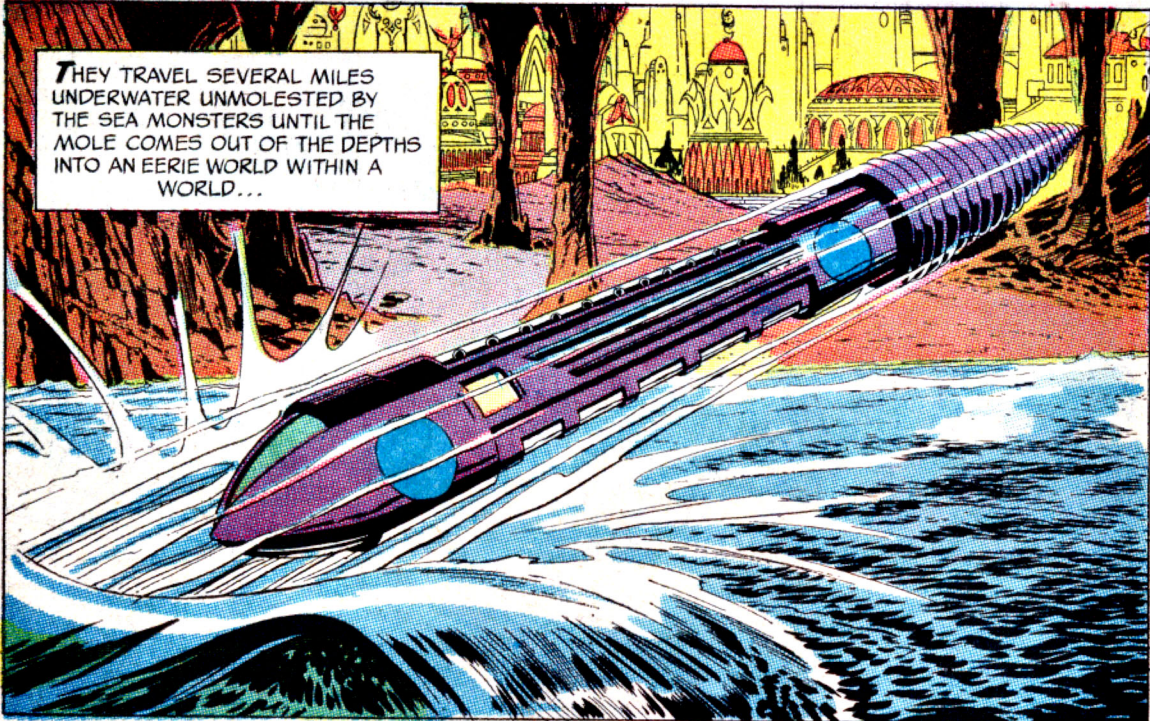
FOR SEVERAL MILES THE TWO EX-
PLORERS SEE NOTHING BUT ROCK.
THEN, SUDDENLY, THEY FIND THEM-
SELVES IN AN UNDERGROUND OCEAN!

...AN OCEAN FILLED WITH MANY STRANGE MENACING
CREATURES...

THUNDERATION, FLASH.
LOOK AT THE SIZE OF
THOSE MONSTERS!

IF I DIDN'T
KNOW BETTER,
I'D SAY WE
WERE BACK
ON MONGO.

THEY TRAVEL SEVERAL MILES UNDERWATER UNMOLESTED BY THE SEA MONSTERS UNTIL THE MOLE COMES OUT OF THE DEPTHS INTO AN EERIE WORLD WITHIN A WORLD...



DR. ZARKOV BRINGS THE MACHINE TO A HALT ON THE BEACH...

THIS IS **FANTASTIC**, FLASH. THE INSTRUMENTS SHOW THE ATMOSPHERE TO BE PERFECT FOR HUMANS.

AND THAT CITY! IT **PROVES** THAT MAN CAN LIVE UNDERGROUND. WE **MUST** GET A CLOSER LOOK!

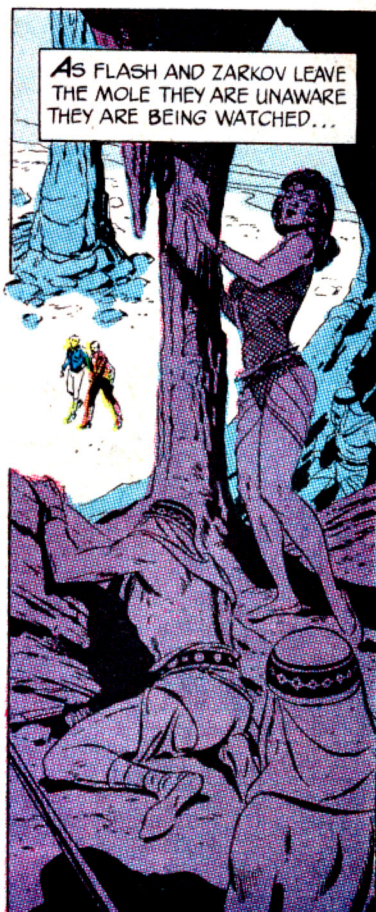


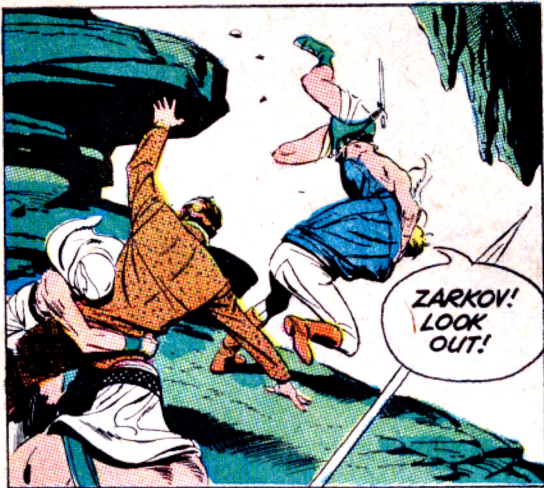
I'LL CHECK WITH DALE AND TELL HER WE WILL PROBABLY BE LONGER THAN WE EXPECTED.

GOOD, FLASH, THIS IS A GREAT DISCOVERY! I JUST CAN'T LEAVE WITHOUT EXPLORING THE CITY.

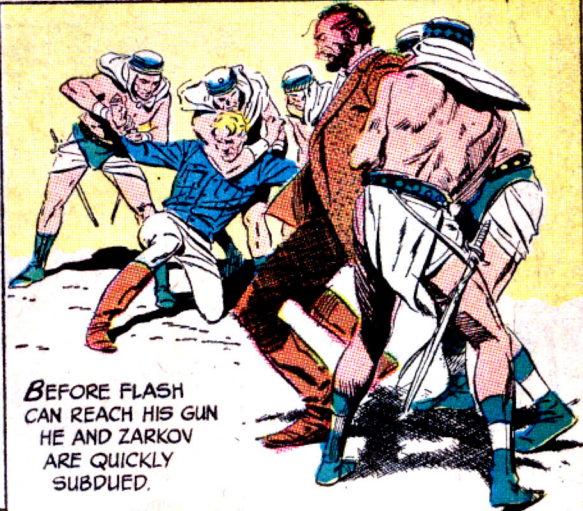


AS FLASH AND ZARKOV LEAVE THE MOLE THEY ARE UNAWARE THEY ARE BEING WATCHED...





ZARKOV!
LOOK OUT!



BEFORE FLASH
CAN REACH HIS GUN
HE AND ZARKOV
ARE QUICKLY
SUBDUED.



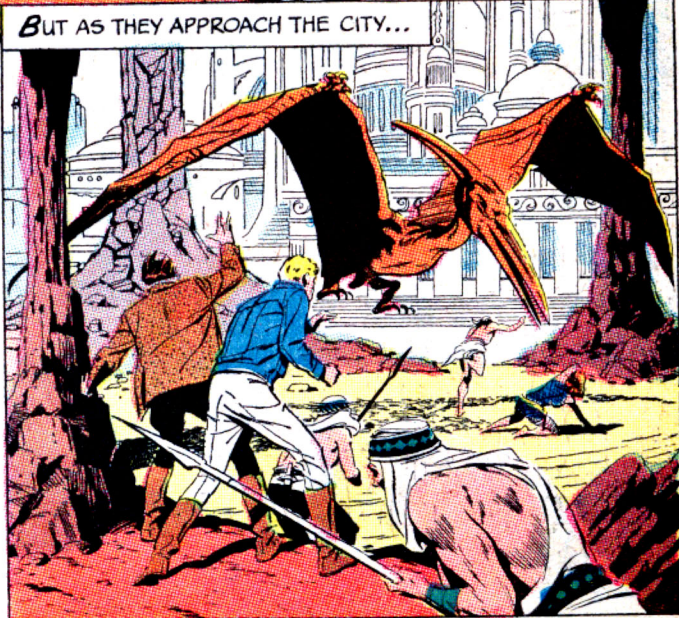
DO NOT BE AFRAID,
SURFACE MEN. I AM
PRINCESS DARLA. MY
FATHER RULES THIS
WORLD. YOU WILL NOT
BE HARMED IF YOU
COME QUIETLY
WITH US.

WE COME
IN PEACE. WE
MEAN NO HARM
TO YOU OR YOUR
PEOPLE.

THEY DIDN'T TAKE
MY GUN. WE'LL WAIT
OUR CHANCE.

GOOD, FLASH.
BUT LET'S NOT
BE HASTY.

BUT AS THEY APPROACH THE CITY...





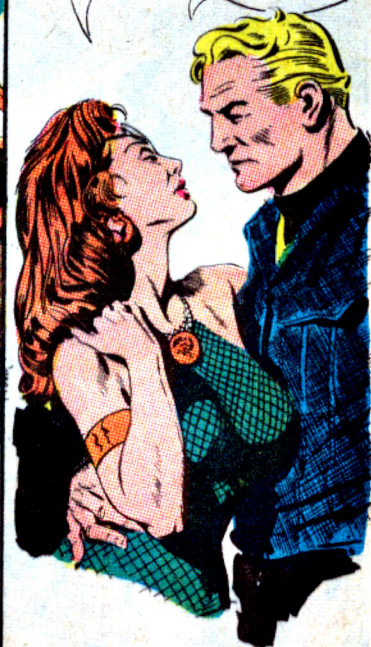
GRABBING
A SPEAR
FROM A
FRIGHTENED GUARD...



FLASH
KILLS THE
HUGE BIRD
BEFORE IT CAN HARM
THE PRINCESS.

YOU SAVED
MY LIFE! YOU'RE
A **VERY**
BRAVE MAN.

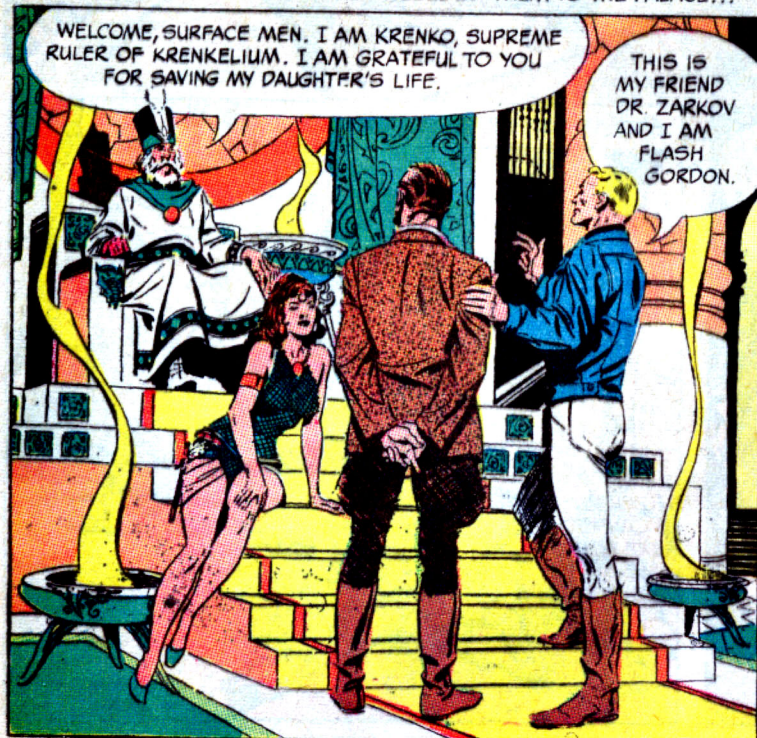
I HOPE
THIS PROVES
OUR
INTENTIONS.



NEWS OF FLASH'S HEROIC DEED PRECEDES THEM TO THE PALACE...


WELCOME, SURFACE MEN. I AM KRENKO, SUPREME
RULER OF KRENKELIUM. I AM GRATEFUL TO YOU
FOR SAVING MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

THIS IS
MY FRIEND
DR. ZARKOV
AND I AM
FLASH
GORDON.



FOR YOUR BRAVE DEED YOU
WILL BE GIVEN YOUR FREEDOM...
WITHIN THE CONFINES OF KREN-
KELIUM. THE MACHINE YOU CAME
IN MUST BE DESTROYED. IF
OUR EXISTENCE BECOMES
KNOWN ON THE SURFACE WE
WOULD BE UNABLE TO STEM
THE FLOW OF THE GREEDY
AND WAR-LIKE.






YOU MEAN TO KEEP US
HERE FOR THE REST OF
OUR LIVES?


BUT WE
HAVE OBLIGATIONS
TO OUR OWN
WORLD.

OUR LAW DOES
NOT PERMIT STRANGERS
TO LEAVE HERE. BUT COME,
LET US DINE AND LATER
WE SHALL INTRODUCE
YOU TO THE WONDERS
OF KRENKELIUM.

BUT AS FLASH
STARTS TO SPEAK...



IT IS BEST
NOT TO OPPOSE
THE WILL OF
MY FATHER.



ZARKOV! WE CAN'T
LET THEM DESTROY
THE MOLE!

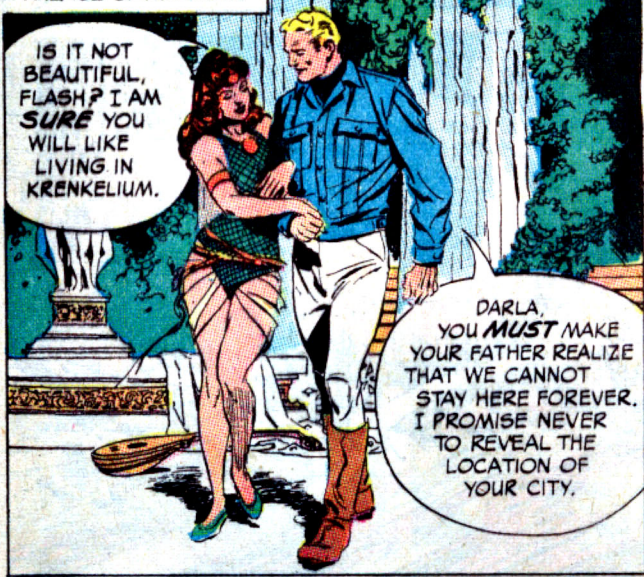
DON'T WORRY,
FLASH, THEY CAN'T
GET INTO THE
MACHINE AND THEY
DON'T HAVE THE
WEAPONS TO
DESTROY IT!



THE FOOD IS *DELICIOUS*,
SIR... COMPLETELY UNLIKE
OUR SURFACE PRODUCTS.


MOST OF IT
IS MADE IN OUR FOOD
LABORATORIES,
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE
MANY FORMS WHICH
GROW WITHOUT
SUNLIGHT.

LATER AS DARLA TAKES FLASH FOR A STROLL IN THE
PALACE GARDENS...




IS IT NOT
BEAUTIFUL,
FLASH? I AM
SURE YOU
WILL LIKE
LIVING IN
KRENKELIUM.

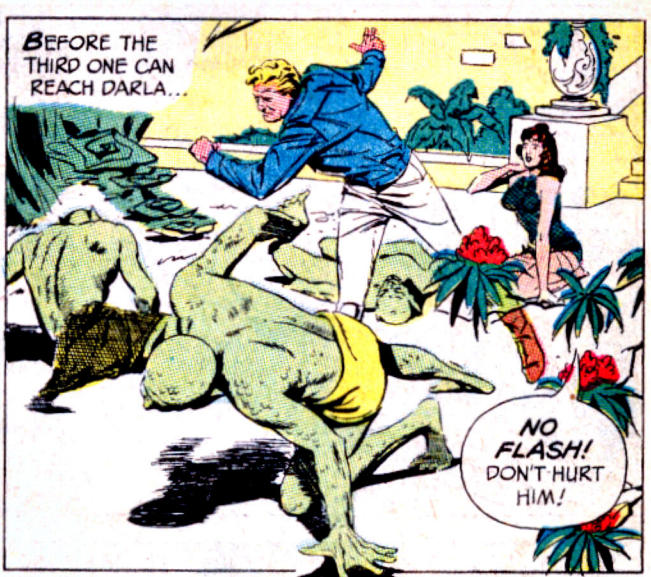
DARLA,
YOU **MUST** MAKE
YOUR FATHER REALIZE
THAT WE CANNOT
STAY HERE FOREVER.
I PROMISE NEVER
TO REVEAL THE
LOCATION OF
YOUR CITY.



SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING,
THREE DARK FIGURES ATTACK...

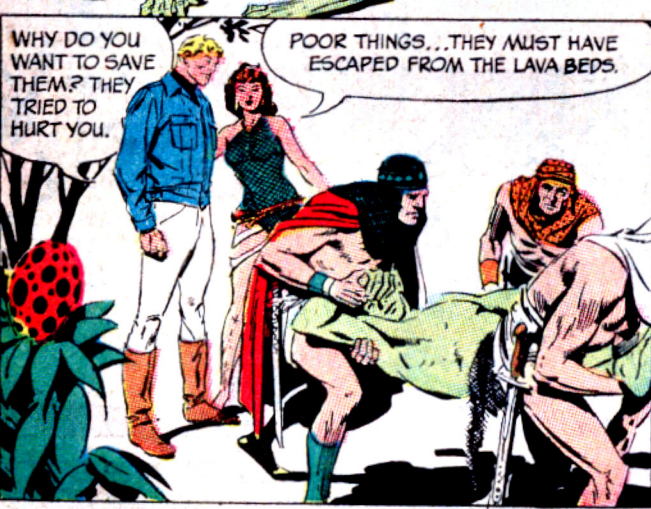
Flash, wearing a blue jacket and white pants, is shown in a dynamic pose, subduing a green-skinned, muscular attacker. The attacker is on the ground, and Flash is leaning over him.

FLASH QUICKLY
SUBDUES TWO
OF THE
ATTACKERS...

Flash is running quickly towards the right, with a green-skinned attacker on the ground in front of him. In the background, a woman (Darla) is visible, and another attacker is on the ground.

BEFORE THE
THIRD ONE CAN
REACH DARLA...

NO
FLASH!
DON'T HURT
HIM!

Flash is standing and talking to a group of people. A woman (Darla) is standing next to him, and two other people are visible in the background.

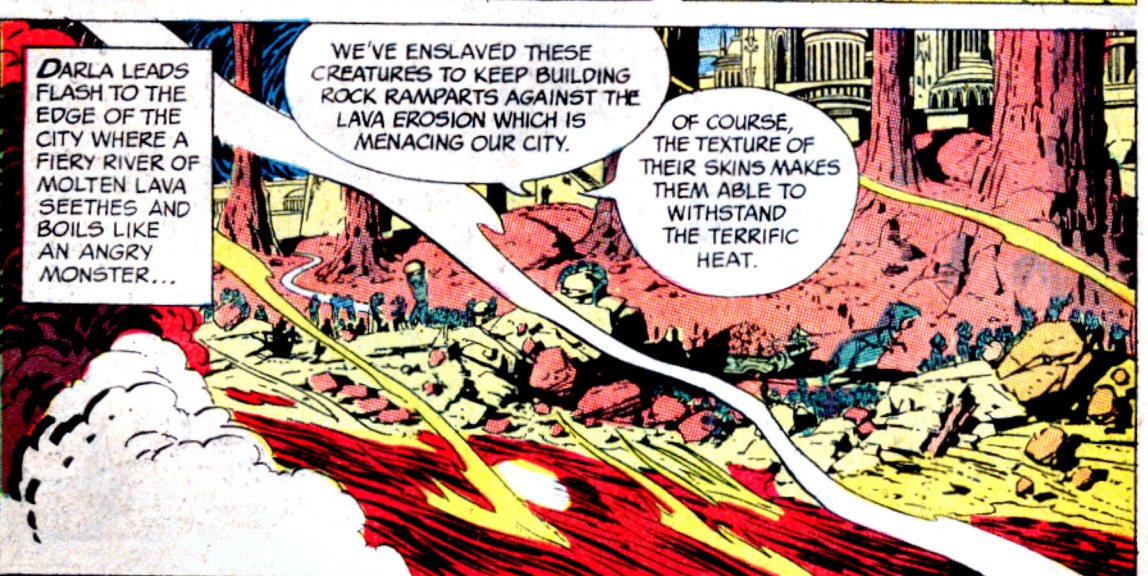
WHY DO YOU
WANT TO SAVE
THEM? THEY
TRIED TO
HURT YOU.

POOR THINGS...THEY MUST HAVE
ESCAPED FROM THE LAVA BEDS.

Flash is talking to Darla, who is standing next to him. They are both looking at each other.

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

COME, I
WILL SHOW
YOU.

Flash and Darla are walking towards the right, away from the lava. They are both looking at each other.

DARLA LEADS
FLASH TO THE
EDGE OF THE
CITY WHERE A
FIERY RIVER OF
MOLTEN LAVA
SEETHES AND
BOILS LIKE
AN ANGRY
MONSTER...

WE'VE ENSLAVED THESE
CREATURES TO KEEP BUILDING
ROCK RAMPARTS AGAINST THE
LAVA EROSION WHICH IS
MENACING OUR CITY.

OF COURSE,
THE TEXTURE OF
THEIR SKINS MAKES
THEM ABLE TO
WITHSTAND
THE TERRIFIC
HEAT.

I'VE ALWAYS HOPED THAT MY FATHER WOULD FREE THESE POOR CREATURES, BUT THE VERY EXISTENCE OF OUR CITY DEPENDS UPON MAINTAINING THIS WALL.

DARLA, I THINK MY FRIEND DR. ZARKOV CAN HELP SOLVE THIS PROBLEM.



RETURNING TO THE PALACE FLASH AND DARLA TELL ZARKOV OF THE LAVA MENACE...



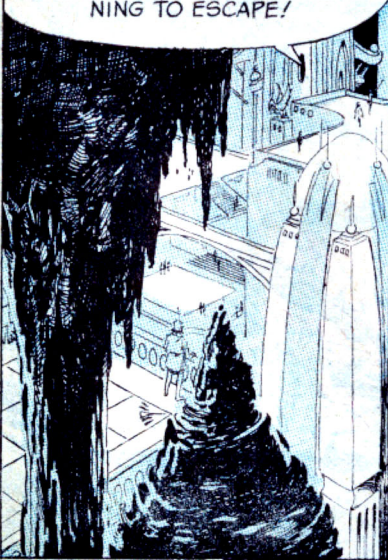
YES, FLASH. I THINK THERE IS A WAY IT CAN BE DONE.

FLASH AND ZARKOV APPROACH KING KRENKO WITH A PLAN...



YOUR HIGHNESS, WE ARE **CONVINCED** THAT WE CAN DIVERT THE LAVA RIVER THAT ENDANGERS YOUR CITY. IF YOU WILL ALLOW US TO RETURN TO OUR SHIP WE CAN MAKE PREPARATIONS.

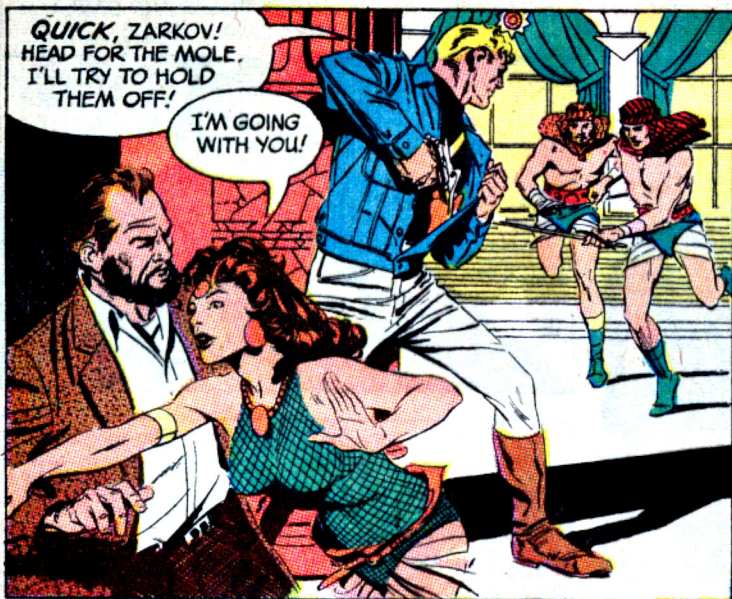
DO YOU TAKE ME FOR A FOOL? I AM NOT DECEIVED BY YOUR RUSE. YOU ARE PLANNING TO ESCAPE!



NO! FATHER, THEY ARE HONORABLE MEN. IF YOU WOULD GIVE THEM A CHANCE...



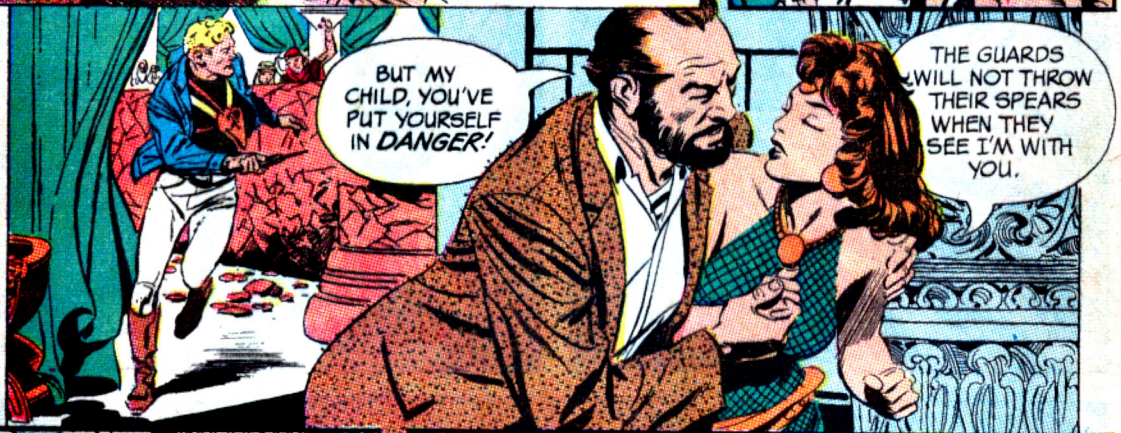
SILENCE. DAUGHTER. **GUARDS!** CONFINED THESE MEN TO THEIR QUARTERS.



QUICK, ZARKOV!
HEAD FOR THE MOLE.
I'LL TRY TO HOLD
THEM OFF!

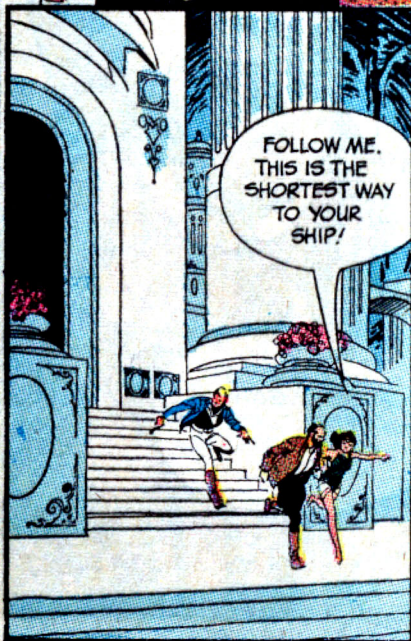
I'M GOING
WITH YOU!

FIRING A RAY BOLT AT THE BASE
OF A PILLAR, FLASH SLOWS THE
GUARDS' PURSUIT...

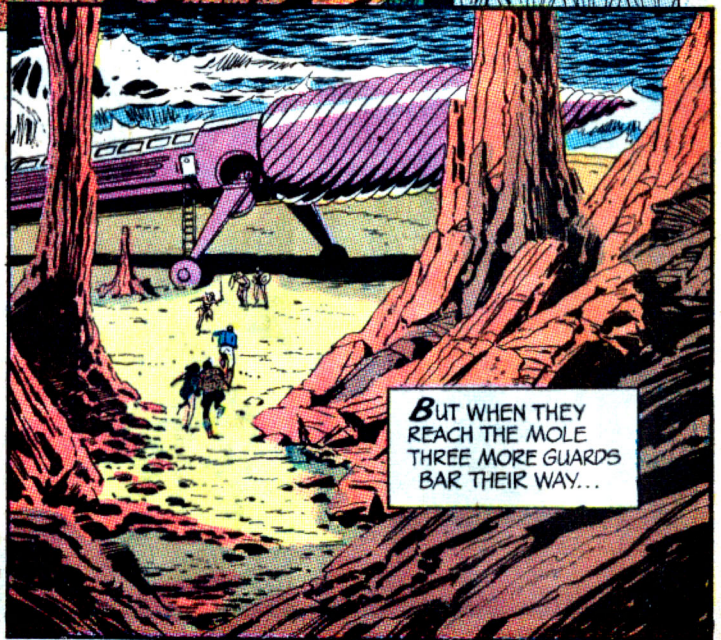


BUT MY
CHILD, YOU'VE
PUT YOURSELF
IN DANGER!

THE GUARDS
WILL NOT THROW
THEIR SPEARS
WHEN THEY
SEE I'M WITH
YOU.



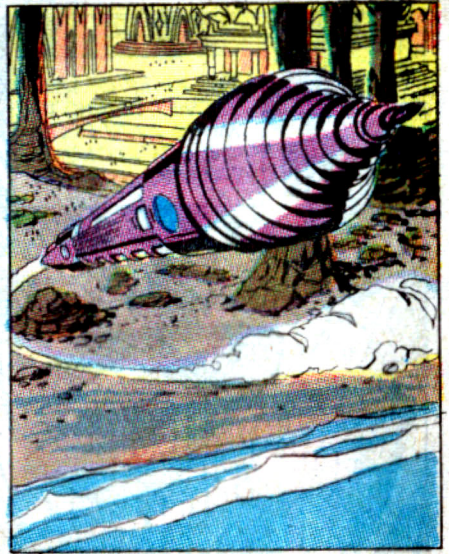
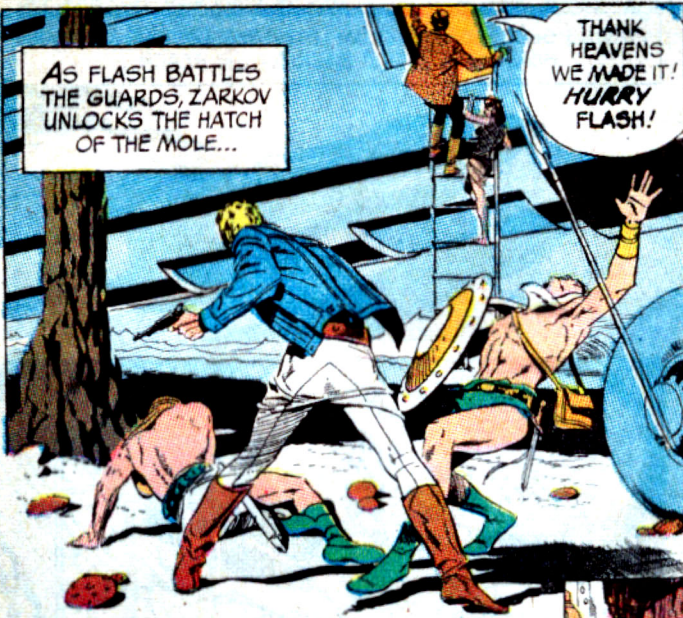
FOLLOW ME.
THIS IS THE
SHORTEST WAY
TO YOUR
SHIP!



BUT WHEN THEY
REACH THE MOLE
THREE MORE GUARDS
BAR THEIR WAY...

AS FLASH BATTLES THE GUARDS, ZARKOV UNLOCKS THE HATCH OF THE MOLE...

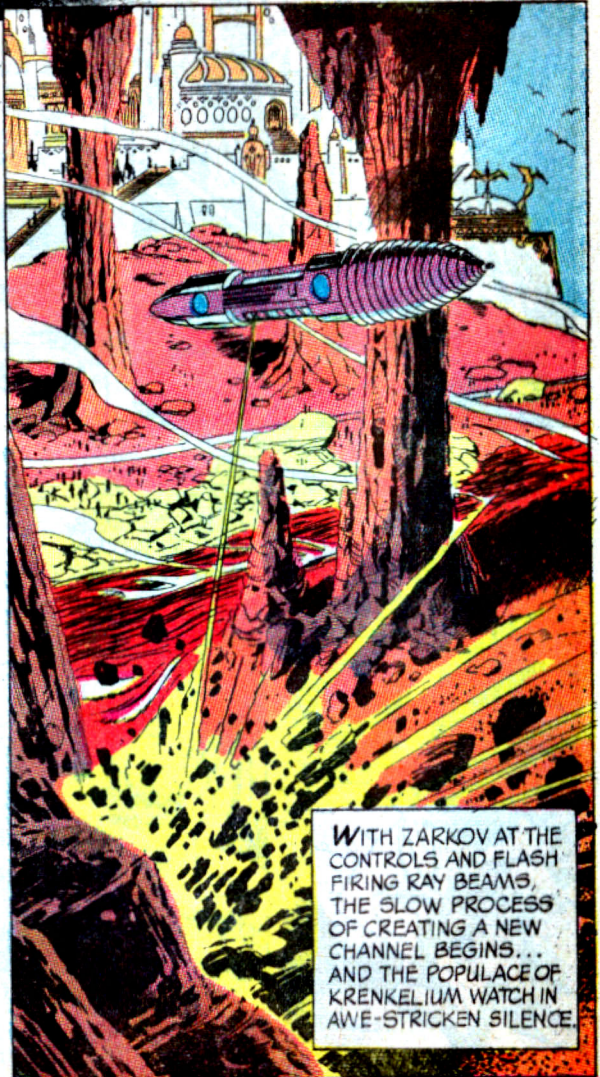
THANK HEAVENS WE MADE IT! HURRY FLASH!



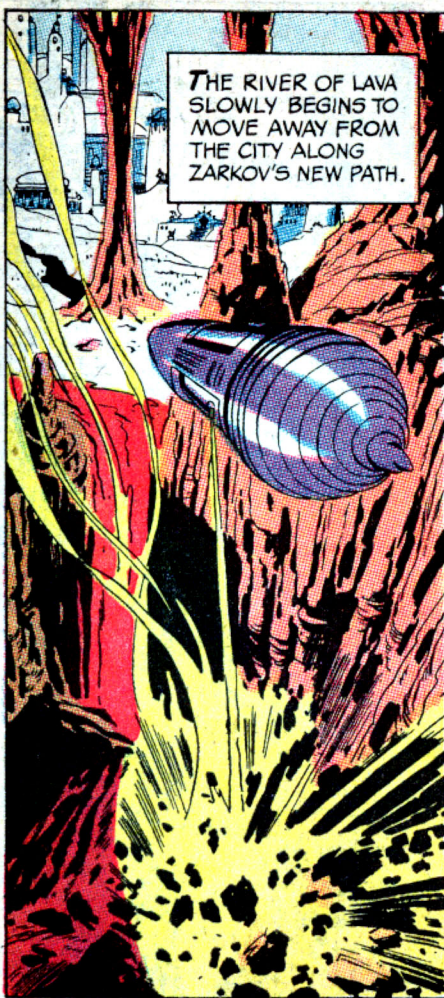
WHILE FLASH STEERS THE MOLE MACHINE TOWARD THE LAVA RIVER, ZARKOV MAKES SOME QUICK CALCULATIONS...



I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL USE THE RAY BEAMS TO BLAST A NEW CHANNEL FOR THE LAVA RIVER AWAY FROM THE CITY.

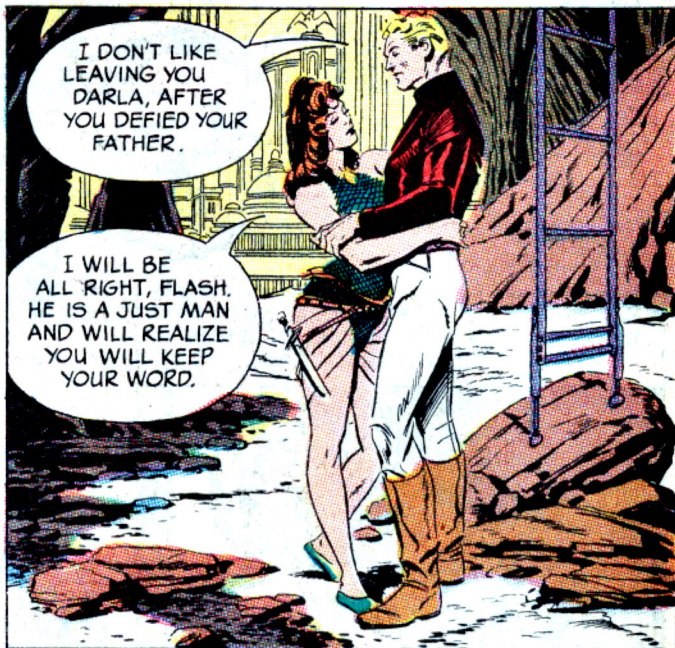
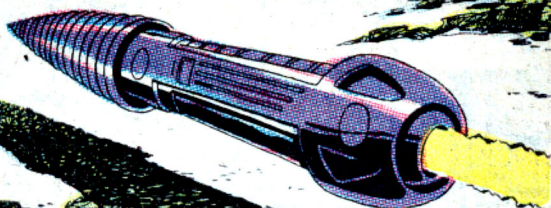


WITH ZARKOV AT THE CONTROLS AND FLASH FIRING RAY BEAMS, THE SLOW PROCESS OF CREATING A NEW CHANNEL BEGINS... AND THE POPULACE OF KRENKELIUM WATCH IN AWE-STRIKEN SILENCE.



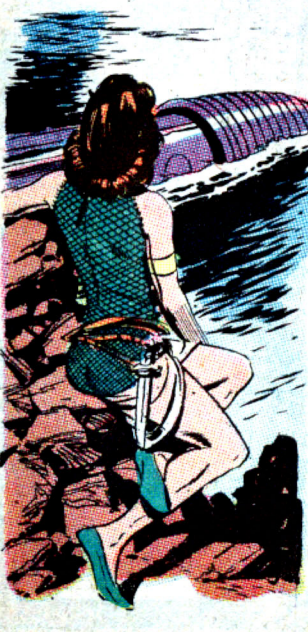
THE RIVER OF LAVA SLOWLY BEGINS TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE CITY ALONG ZARKOV'S NEW PATH.

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE DETOUR, ZARKOV HEADS THE MOLE BACK TO THE BEACH...



I DON'T LIKE LEAVING YOU DARLA, AFTER YOU DEFIED YOUR FATHER.

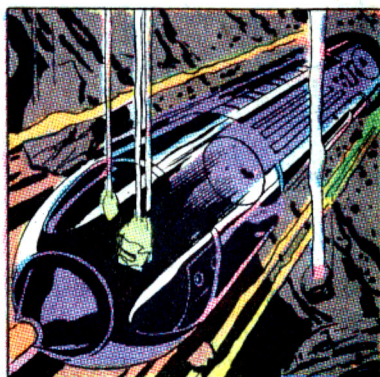
I WILL BE ALL RIGHT, FLASH. HE IS A JUST MAN AND WILL REALIZE YOU WILL KEEP YOUR WORD.



FLASH! ZARKOV! I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE BACK! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY. WHAT HAPPENED?

WE HAD A LITTLE TROUBLE GETTING BACK TO THE MOLE.

WE'RE HEADING HOME RIGHT NOW.



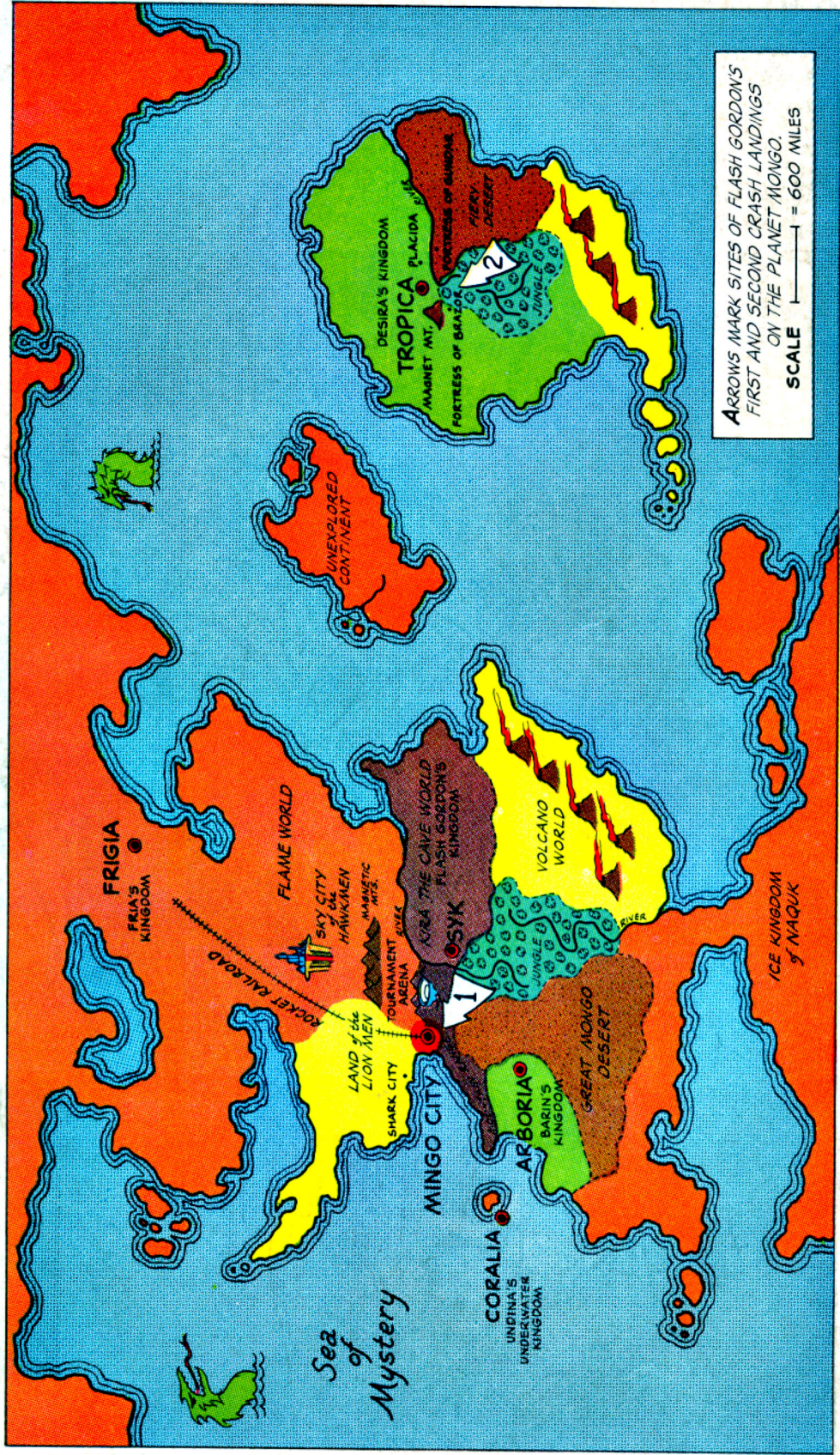
BUT AS FLASH AND ZARKOV TRAVEL BACK TO THE SURFACE OF EARTH THEY KNOW IN THEIR HEARTS THAT SOME DAY THEY WILL RETURN TO THE BEAUTIFUL UNDERGROUND CITY OF KRENKELIUM.



MING
THE
MERCILESS

MAP OF THE PLANET MONGO

MONGO IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HALF THE DIAMETER OF EARTH BUT HAS A GRAVITATIONAL DENSITY THAT IS ONLY SLIGHTLY LESS. IT IS A RELATIVELY YOUNG WORLD WITH TOWERING MOUNTAINS NOT YET WORN SMOOTH BY TIME AND MANY AREAS OF VOLCANIC ACTIVITY. ITS VEGETATION IS STILL LIMITED TO ISOLATED AREAS OF BOTANICAL GIANTS. BIOLOGICALLY, IT IS STILL IN THE ERA OF REPTILIAN GIANTS. MAN EVOLVED FAST INTO DIVERSE RACES, MANY OF WHICH POSSESS AMAZINGLY ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY WHILE OTHERS STILL LIVE IN PRIMITIVE AND UNEXPLORED REGIONS.



ARROWS MARK SITES OF FLASH GORDON'S FIRST AND SECOND CRASH LANDINGS ON THE PLANET MONGO.
SCALE 1" = 600 MILES