

THE FOLLOWING "E.C. QUICKIE" SHOWS HOW YOUR EDITORS OBTAINED THEIR AUTHENTIC INFO RE PLANET MARS! WE GOT THE DOPE THE TIME WE HIRED...

# THE EXPERT!



THIS FIRST "E.C. QUICKIE" BEGINS AT THE OFFICES OF THE ENTERTAINING COMICS GROUP ON A WARM SPRING DAY IN MAY! YOUR EDITORS, BILL AND AL, ARE BUSY RACKING THEIR BRAINS? FOR A NEW IDEA!

GET THIS, BILL! WE DO A SCIENCE-FICTION STORY ON SEVENTEEN DIFFERENT WAYS THE EARTH IS WIPED OUT! GOOD?

NO GOOD! WE COULDN'T THINK OF SEVENTEEN NEW WAYS TO WIPE OUT THE EARTH! WE'VE DONE IT EVERY CONCEIVABLE WAY ALREADY!



HMMM! YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S SEE! I GOT IT! GET THIS! THERE'S THIS SCIENTIST SEE...AND HE'S GOT A FEMALE ASSISTANT! SHE'S GORGEOUS! HE'S MARRIED TO A SHREW! NOW, WHEN THE STORY OPENS...

THIS IS SOMETHING NEW? G'MON! WE'VE OVERDONE THAT ONE TOO! WHAT WE NEED IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT... SOMETHING AUTHENTIC! LIKE A...LIKE A DOCUMENTARY OF THE FIRST LANDING ON MARS!



HEY! THAT'S GREAT!  
MARS, EH? A DOCU-  
MENTARY, EH? REALLY  
AUTHENTIC, EH?

THAT'S  
WHAT I  
SAID...  
EH?

GEE! WE COULD  
DEVOTE A WHOLE  
BOOK TO IT! I  
CAN SEE IT NOW...  
"SPECIAL ISSUE!"

"A DOCU-  
MENTARY  
OF THE  
ACTION AT  
THE CHANGJIN  
CANAL!"

AW, GUT IT OUT!  
I'M SERIOUS!

HOW DO? I'M  
BILL! SERIOUS,  
EH? ANY RELATION  
TO DEADLY  
SERIOUS, THE  
NOTORIOUS HATCHET-  
SCIENTIST-KILLER,  
WHO, BACK IN THE  
TWENTY-FIFTH  
CENTURY, HACKED  
OUT A NAME FOR  
HIMSELF...

VERY  
FUNNY!  
I'M  
HYSTERICAL!

OH COME! IT WASN'T THAT HILARIOUS!  
ALTHOUGH I MUST ADMIT THAT AT  
TIMES MY SOPHISTICATED WIT  
AND CLEVER REPERTEE PRODUCE  
REACTIONS SOMEWHAT RESEM-  
BLING OUTBURSTS OF LAUGHTER...

ALL RIGHT, YOU SOPHISTICATED  
WIT! TELL ME HOW WE'RE  
GOING TO WRITE AN AUTHENTIC  
DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE FIRST  
LANDING ON MARS, WHEN WE  
DON'T KNOW BEANS ABOUT  
THE PLANET!

SIMPLE! WE'LL  
GET THAT  
EXPERT ON  
MARS TO GIVE US  
THE LOWDOWN!  
YOU KNOW! THAT  
GUY THAT WROTE  
ALL THOSE BOOKS  
ABOUT THE PLACE!  
HE'S MADE A LIFE'S  
STUDY OF THE  
PLANET! HE'D BE  
JUST THE ONE...

HO, HO! AGAIN COMIC RELIEF!  
AND WHAT, DEAR HILARIOUS  
SCROOGE, ARE WE GOING TO  
PAY THIS EXPERT WITH...  
COPIES OF TWO-FISTED  
TALES?

DETAILS! ALWAYS  
DETAILS! PAY...?  
EH? WHY...WHY...  
YOU MEAN? YOU  
MEAN HE'LL WANT...

YES, KIDDO! HE'LL  
WANT THE REAL  
THING! FAT...GREEN...  
MONEY!

WHY DON'T I LEARN  
TO KEEP MY BIG  
MOUTH SHUT?

BUT NEVERTHELESS, THE IDEA IS A GOOD ONE ... SO FORSAKING ALL OF OUR TREASURED IDEALS, WE DECIDE TO HIRE THE EXPERT ON MARS ANYWAY... EVEN IF IT WILL COST...

BILL! THIS IS PROFESSOR GUERNSEY VON HOLSTEIN, THE EMINENT ASTRONOMER AND UNDISPUTED CHAMPION EXPERT ON THE PLANET MARS!

HI, PROF! GRAB A CHAIR AND PLOP!

VOT HE SAY?



HE SAID SIT DOWN, PROFESSOR!

OH! DANK YOU! NOW, IN MY FURST BOOK ON MARS, I BROUGHT OP DE QUESTION OF DE CANALS...

C'MON, PROF! YOU DON'T ACTUALLY HOLD TO THAT OLD ROUTINE ABOUT THE CANALS? I THOUGHT THAT THEORY WENT OUT WITH LOW PRICES...



OH, NO! DE CANALS... ISS GAINZ! UND ON DE CANALS ISS GONDOLAS! YOU KNOW! GENTLY FLOWING OFER DE PURPLE VATER!

FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD, AL! IT WAS YOUR IDEA, HOT SHOT!

NOW, IFF YOU ISS GOING TO DRAW A MARTIAN, YOU ISS HAVING TO DRAW HIM JOOST LIKE A HUMAN BEEENG!

YOU MEAN, THEY AIN'T TENTAGLED, BUG-EYED, SLOBBERING BLOBS OF 600?

OH, NO! MARTIANS ISS EXACTLY LIKE HUMAN BEEENGZ! ZEPT FOR VON LITTLE TING!

AND WHAT'S THAT, PROFESSOR?



VEN A MARTIAN ISS GETTING EXCITED, OUT FROM HIS HEAD IS POPPING TWO LITTLE ANTENNAS! THE CHARGE FROM ANGER ISS THEN SHOOTING ACROSS FROM VON ANTENNA TO DE ODDER! ISS, LIKE YOU SAY... BLOWING OFF STEAM! SUCH A PRETTY SPARK, TOO!

GET THIS CRUM OUT OF HERE, AL, BEFORE I...

AW, HE'S KIDDING, BILL! BESIDES...

... WE CAN'T KICK HIM OUT! WE SIGNED A CONTRACT! HE'S GOT TO DO THE JOB! IF HE DOESN'T, WE GO BANKRUPT!

I HAF A CLEVER LAWYER!

WHY DON'T I LEARN TO KEEP MY BIG MOUTH SHUT?!



AND SO, PROFESSOR GUERNSEY VON HOLSTEIN SETS TO WORK ON THE SCRIPT FOR THE SPECIAL ISSUE ABOUT MARS! TWO DAYS LATER, HE'S BACK IN OUR OFFICES...

IN TWO DAYS YOU TYPED UP TWENTY-EIGHT PAGES OF SCRIPT?!

I HAF A CLEVER SECRETARY, TOO!

OKAY! OKAY! LET'S STOP THE HORSIN' AROUND! LEMME SEE!



BILL POURS OVER THE SCRIPT! FIRST THERE IS THE INK BOTTLE ON HIS DESK! THAT POURS OVER IT! THEN THERE'S THE BICARB WATER...

WHAT! YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT THIS GARBAGE IS SCIENTIFIC FACT?

ABSOlutELY, MISTER GAINZ! THESE ARE FACTS NEFER BEFORE DISCLOSED!

AH! YOU JUST DISCOVERED 'EM, EH?



OOH, NO! I KNEW THEM ALL THE TIME! I WAS JOOST WAITING FOR THE PROPER PERIODICAL IN VICH TO PUBLISH THESE TRUE FACTS!

AND OUR SCIENGE-FICTION BOOKS ARE IT, EH?

OOH, YES! I HAF ALWAYS RESPECTED AND ADMIRED YOUR BOOKS! I HAF WAITED A LONG TIME FOR DIS VONDERFUL HOPPORTUNITY...

AND I'VE WAITED LONG ENOUGH TO TELL YOU THIS PROFESSOR!

YOU'RE FIRED! THROUGH! WASHED UP! AS FAR AS YOUR CONTRACT IS CONCERNED, YOU CAN SUE ME IF YOU LIKE! I'M NOT PRINTING THIS ROT!

ROT, YOU CALL IT? VOT DO YOU KNOW? I AM DE HEXPERT... NOT YOU!



I'M EXPERT ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT THIS IS ALL HOGWASH! PURPLE-WATERED CANALS! GONDOLAS! MARTIANS THAT LOOK LIKE HUMANS! PHOOEY! I'LL TELL YOU WHAT MARS IS LIKE! IT'S RED...RED SAND! AND THEY AREN'T CANALS! THEY'RE CANYONS...FAULTS... CAUSED BY THE DRYING OF THE CRUST...

I'M AFRAID YOU ARE VERY WRONG, MISTER GAINZ! VOT I SAY IS TRUE! I KNOW!

PROFESSOR HOLSTEIN'S FACE GROWS QUITE RED AS HE SPEAKS! HE IS AWFULLY ANGRY! AND THE SPARK THAT SHOOTS ACROSS THE TWO ANTENNAE THAT POP FROM HIS HEAD IS INDEED... VERY PRETTY...

YOU ZEE, MISTER GAINZ! I AM A MARTIAN! I SHOODO KNOW!



THE END