

IF ANOTHER RACE OR ANOTHER CIVILIZATION HAD TO SUFFER, WHAT WAS THAT TO LORIMER? ONLY ONE THING MATTERED TO HIM: FINDING...

A WORLD TO CONQUER

ALL RIGHT, THIS SPOT WILL DO! IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A WORLD, IT DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE WHAT SPOT YOU CHOOSE FOR THE CEREMONY!

LARRY LEBER



LORIMER HAD DONE THIS SO MANY TIMES BEFORE! AND YET THE THRILL, THE FEELING OF IMPORTANCE, WAS ALWAYS NEW...



CAREFULLY, LORIMER PLACED HIS BANNER! SLOWLY HE UNROLLED THE SCROLL HE CARRIED AND BEGAN TO READ...



ALL THE SATISFACTION OF THAT MOMENT? BUT THE MOMENT WAS SPOLIED! WHY DID THERE HAVE TO BE PEOPLE LIKE HELEN? TWO, FEARFUL PEOPLE?



WHY? WHY DID THERE HAVE TO BE PEOPLE WHO HAD QUALMS AND SCRUPLES... WHO COULD NOT REALIZE THAT ONLY SUCCESS MATTERED?



CRUSH THEM, SLASH THEM... THAT WAS THE WAY! HELEN WAS A SENTIMENTAL FOOL! SO AFTERWARD, LOEWER AVOIDED HER, TRIED TO IGNORE HER...



LORIMER LOST HIMSELF IN HIS WORK, UNTIL... AT LAST, HE WAS READY! AND THE GREAT DAY WAS JUST AS SATISFYING AS HE HAD KNOWN IT **WOULD** BE!



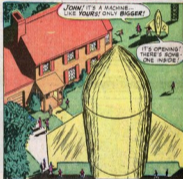
WE'LL LET HELEN WEEP! THIS WAS LORIMER'S CROWNING MOMENT! HE TURNED TO HIS MACHINE... AND THEN HE HEARD THE GROWING MURMUR...



IN THE END, LORIMER DID NOT ENTER HIS OWN MACHINE! HE STARED... AND THEN HE SCORCHED! BECAUSE HE, BETTER THAN ANYONE, UNDERSTOOD!



LORIMER WAS HAPPY, EXCEPT FOR HELEN...



IN THE END, TEARS STREAKED LORIMER'S FACE! TEARS OF ALARM AND DISAPPOINTMENT... BUT ALSO OF HOPE...



THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT FOR LORIMER THEN, BUT HOPE! HOPE THAT THE GIANT DID NOT FEEL ABOUT "ALien RACES" AS LORIMER HAD FELT!

