

# ***FINDING THEIR ROOTS***



*WHERE IT ALL BEGAN...*

***THE COMIC BOOK FIRST  
AROSE IN AMERICA IN THE  
MID-1930S.***

***WHY?***

*WHY COMIC BOOKS?*

***PEOPLE BECAME MORE UNITED &  
AWARE.***

***THEY REALIZED THEY FACED HUGE ECONOMIC  
DEPRESSION AT THE TIME, MANY LOST THEIR  
JOBS, AND PEOPLE EVERYWHERE, NOT JUST  
THEIR TOWN, WERE STRUGGLING.***

***WHY COMIC BOOKS?***

***WE WERE ALSO FACING THE THREAT OF  
WAR IN EUROPE.***



In the 1930s one was aware of two  
great evils - mass unemployment  
and the threat of war.

— *James Meade* —

AZ QUOTES

***WHY COMIC BOOKS?***



***AND PEOPLE WERE LOOKING FOR  
ENTERTAINMENT THAT DID NOT COST A  
LOT.***

***COMIC BOOKS COST 10 CENTS OR LESS, AND  
ALLOWED THEM TO HAVE AN ADVENTURE AND  
FORGET THEIR OWN PROBLEMS, OVER AND  
OVER AGAIN.***

# FORERUNNERS OF THE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK: PULP FICTION

**SOMETHING NEW THAT  
WAS HAPPENING IN  
AMERICA. THERE WERE  
CHARACTERS, FOR  
EXAMPLE, COMING OUT  
OF THE PULP MAGAZINES,  
LIKE THE SHADOW.**





## **CROSSOVER**

**THEN THE SHADOW WAS ALSO A COMIC BOOK (AND LATER NOVELS) AND A RADIO SHOW, AND HE WAS IN MOVIES, TOO. THIS HAD NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE, WHERE YOU COULD WATCH A CHARACTER, YOU COULD READ ABOUT THEM, AND YOU COULD HEAR STORIES ABOUT THEM ON THE RADIO!**

**DOES THIS SOUND LIKE TODAY?**

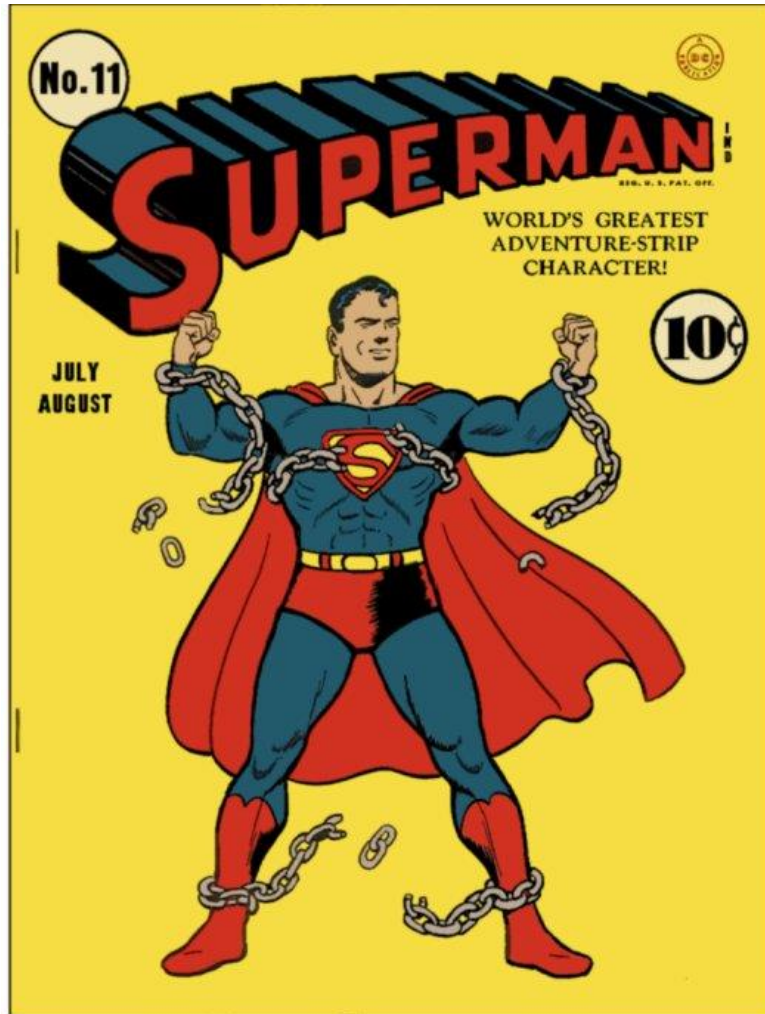


**NOT JUST ONE**

**AND THE SAME THING  
HAPPENED TO FLASH  
GORDON AND TARZAN  
AND SUPERMAN. ALL  
OF THESE THINGS  
LARGELY CENTERED  
AROUND HEROES.**



# WHY HEROES?



**HUMANITY OFTEN SEEKS A HERO WHO CAN SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS, AND THESE COMIC BOOK HEROES SEEMED TO OFFER PEOPLE THAT POSSIBILITY.**

**DOES THAT STILL HAPPEN TODAY? WHY DO WE LIKE SUPERHERO MOVIES SO MUCH? VIDEO GAMES, COMIC BOOKS, ETC.**

# POLICE AS VILLAINS?

- **AMERICANS SEEMED TO FEEL AT THE TIME THAT THE POLICE WEREN'T AS EFFECTIVE AS THEY SHOULD BE, THAT MAYBE SOME OF THEM WERE CORRUPT.**
- **AND SO MOB BOSSES, HIT MEN AND CORRUPT POLICE OFFICERS BECAME THE MAIN VILLAINS IN STORIES.**



## **CRIME FIGHTERS**

**IT'S NO SURPRISE, THEN, THAT SO MANY OF THE IMMEDIATE ANCESTORS TO SUPERHEROES, LIKE THE GREEN HORNET, THE SHADOW ("WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN?"), AND DICK TRACY, FOUND THEMSELVES BATTLING THESE BADDIES IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON THE RADIO.**



# RADIO HOUR

- **ONCE UPON A TIME, BEFORE THE WORLD-WIDE WEB; BEFORE 157 CHANNELS; BEFORE FACEBOOK... 93% OF ALL PEOPLE LISTENED TO THE RADIO EACH WEEK.**
- **AUDIENCES WAITED EAGERLY FOR THEIR FAVORITE SHOWS TO COME ON EACH WEEK & FAMILIES WOULD GATHER AROUND THE RADIO.**
- **LISTEN TO CLIPS FROM AN EPISODE OF *THE SHADOW* FROM [TIMES PAST OLD TIME RADIO](#).**



Return with us now to those Thrilling Days  
of Yesteryear ...

THE  
**LONE RANGER  
RIDES AGAIN!**

PREMIERING  
APRIL 14th

Every MONDAY,  
WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY  
at 7 PM

**KODA RADIO**  
1010 AM



## ***THE 'THEATER OF THE MIND'***

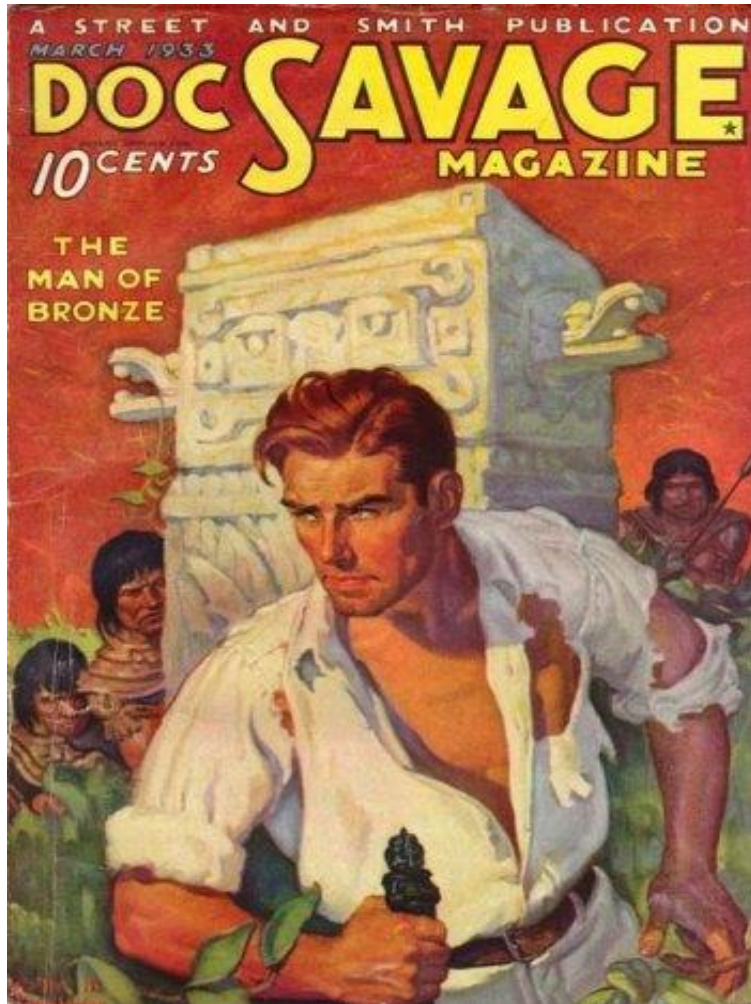
***HOW DO YOU "SEE" THE ACTION? WITH  
IMAGINATION!***

***"THE THEATER OF THE MIND" WAS THE  
PERFECT MEDIUM IN WHICH TO PRESENT  
PROGRAMS FILLED WITH BLOOD AND THUNDER,  
TWO-FISTED ACTION, AND HIGH ADVENTURE.  
AFTER ALL, WHAT WOULD COST HUNDREDS OF  
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS ON A MOVIE SCREEN  
COULD BE "SEEN" FAR BETTER ON THE RADIO  
& MADE A LOT CHEAPER!***

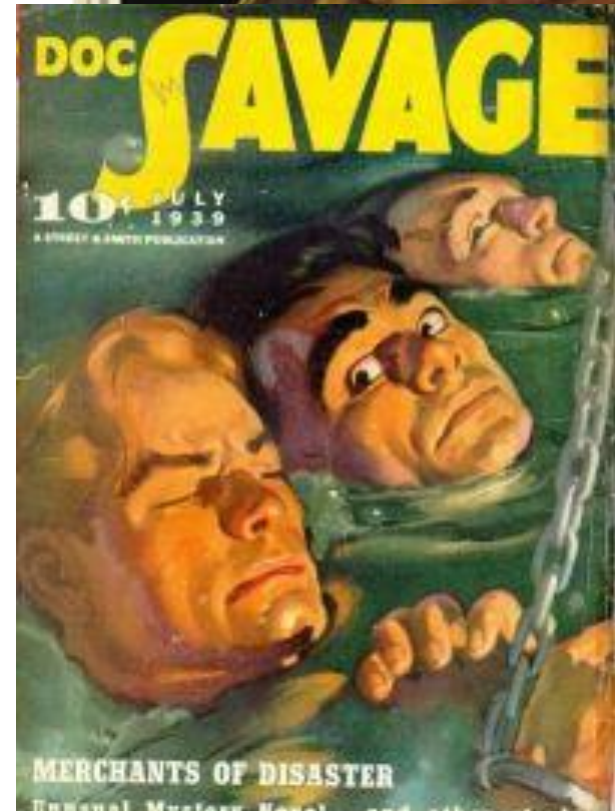
**...TO BE CONTINUED**

**BEING A RADIO SHOW (AND TO KEEP AUDIENCES LISTENING) EACH SEGMENT WOULD RAMP UP TO PRECIPICE POINT ...AND THEN LEFT YOU WAITING UNTIL THE NEXT WEEK EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE READY TO LEARN MORE AT THAT EXACT MOMENT AS THE SHOW COMES TO A CLOSE.**

# **WHAT'S UP 'DOC'?**



**DOC SAVAGE WAS  
ONE OF THE FIRST  
AND FOREMOST  
OF THE GREAT  
PULP  
SUPERHEROES.**

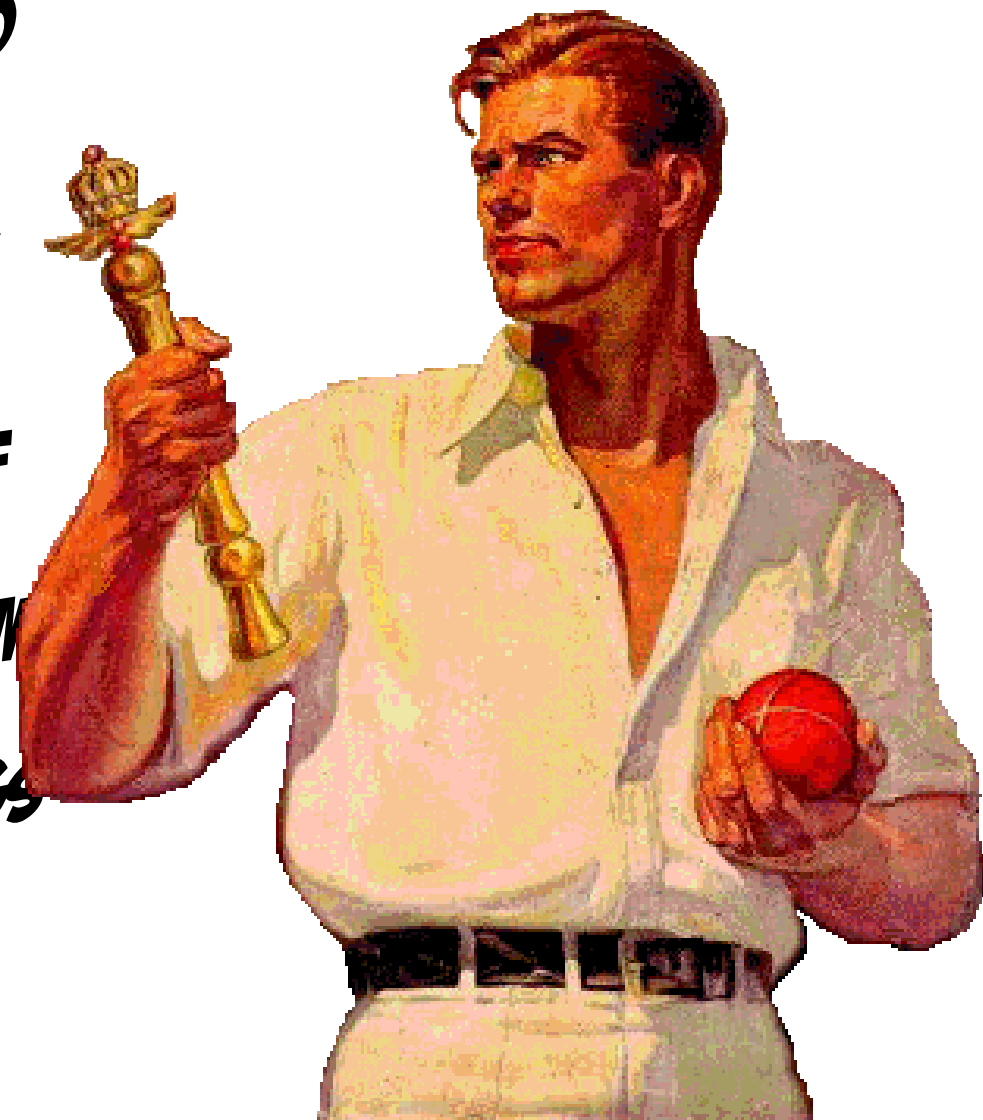




## ***POWERS OF THE MIND***

***UNLIKE THE SHADOW CLARK SAVAGE (OR "DOC" TO HIS FRIENDS) HAD NO SPECIAL POWERS.***

***HE WAS 'JUST' A PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, SCIENTIST, ADVENTURER, INVENTOR, EXPLORER, RESEARCHER, AND MUSICIAN; AS WELL AS HAVING A PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY; AND BEING A MASTER OF MARTIAL ARTS; A MASTER OF DISGUISE; AND A GREAT IMITATOR OF VOICES, BUT WAS RAISED FROM BIRTH BY HIS FATHER AND OTHER SCIENTISTS TO BECOME ONE OF THE MOST PERFECT HUMAN BEINGS IN TERMS OF STRENGTH, INTELLIGENCE, AND PHYSICAL ABILITIES.***



# ***A SUPER MAN***

***DOC SAVAGES' MOST HEAVY INFLUENCE WAS ON TWO YOUNG KIDS FROM CLEVELAND, OHIO, JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER, WHO WOULD LATER CREATE SUPERMAN.***



# A MAN OF BRONZE



The Adventures of Doc Savage – Radio Archives by VicSage2005

**IN 1933, DOC SAVAGE WAS ADVERTISED IN THE PULPS AS, QUOTE UNQUOTE, "SUPERMAN." HE WAS KNOWN AS THE MAN OF BRONZE. SUPERMAN BECAME THE 'MAN OF STEEL.' DOC SAVAGE'S REAL NAME, CLARK SAVAGE. SUPERMAN'S REAL NAME? CLARK KENT.**

**DOC SAVAGE HAD A SECRET BASE, STRANGE AND WONDERFUL HEADQUARTERS HIDDEN AWAY IN THE FROZEN NORTH. IT WAS CALLED THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE. SOUND FAMILIAR?**

**LISTEN TO A CLIP OF THE DOC SAVAGE RADIO SHOW FROM RADIO ARCHIVES: THE ADVENTURES OF DOC SAVAGE OVER ON THE [RETROIST](#).**



**Note:** We will also have access to the complete audio files for The Adventures of Doc Savage, as well as The Adventures of Jungle Jim, Volume 1, and The Adventures of Philip Marlowe, Volume 3 [Author Raymond Chandler's hard-boiled gumshoe, Philip Marlowe was one of the most popular sleuths in the history of the crime fiction genre.]

# A CLEARER PICTURE

- **TO GIVE US A BETTER IDEA HOW SUCH RECORDINGS AND RADIO SHOWS TOOK PLACE, LET'S WATCH A CLIP OF THE SHOW REMEMBER WENN (CREATED BY RUPERT HOLMES--ABOUT A RADIO STATION (AND THE FUN CAST OF CHARACTERS WHO WORK THERE & DO THE SHOWS) IN THE 1940S.)**
- **LIMITED EPISODES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE, LIKE [SEASON 1, EPISODE 1](#). THE FIRST THREE AND HALF MINUTES GIVE A BRILLIANT EXAMPLE OF HOW THESE SHOWS (AND COMMERCIALS) WERE PUT ON, THE SOUNDS WERE MADE, AND JUST HOW VERSATILE THE ACTORS HAD TO BE.**



Remember WENN 1x01

## ***IN SEARCH OF A HERO!***



***AS THE THIRTIES CAME TO A CLOSE, A SECOND WORLD WAR GOT UNDERWAY IN EUROPE AND ASIA.***

***OUR PULP HEROES, THEY WERE TRYING THEIR BEST TO KEEP US ENTERTAINED, BUT WE NEEDED SOMETHING MORE.***

***SOMEBODY FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET, MORE POWERFUL THAN A LOCOMOTIVE, ABLE TO LEAP TALL BUILDINGS IN A SINGLE BOUND.***

***WHO MIGHT THAT BE?***

# ***IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A...VILLAIN?***

***WHAT MANY FANS DON'T REALIZE IS THAT SUPERMAN HASN'T ALWAYS BEEN THE BIG, BLUE BOY SCOUT THEY'VE COME TO KNOW AND LOVE. IN FACT, IN THE VERY EARLY STAGES OF THE CHARACTER'S DEVELOPMENT, HE WASN'T A HERO AT ALL, BUT A VILLAIN.***

***A BALD SUPER-VILLAIN WHO, FOLLOWING A BOTCHED SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT, USES HIS POWERS TO TRY TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD USING THE POWER TO READ AND CONTROL PEOPLE'S MINDS. THE COMIC WAS CALLED "THE REIGN OF THE SUPER-MAN".***

# The REIGN SUPER

By  
Herbert S. Fine



The bread-line! Its row of downcast, disillusioned men; unlucky creatures who have found that life holds nothing but bitterness for them. The bread-line! Last resort of the starving vagrant.

With a contemptuous sneer on his face, Professor Smalley watched the wretched unfortunates file past him. To him, who had come of rich parents and had never been forced to face the rigors of life, the miserableness of these men seemed deserved. It appeared to him that if they had the slightest ambition at all they could easily lift themselves from their terrible rut.

# of the MAN

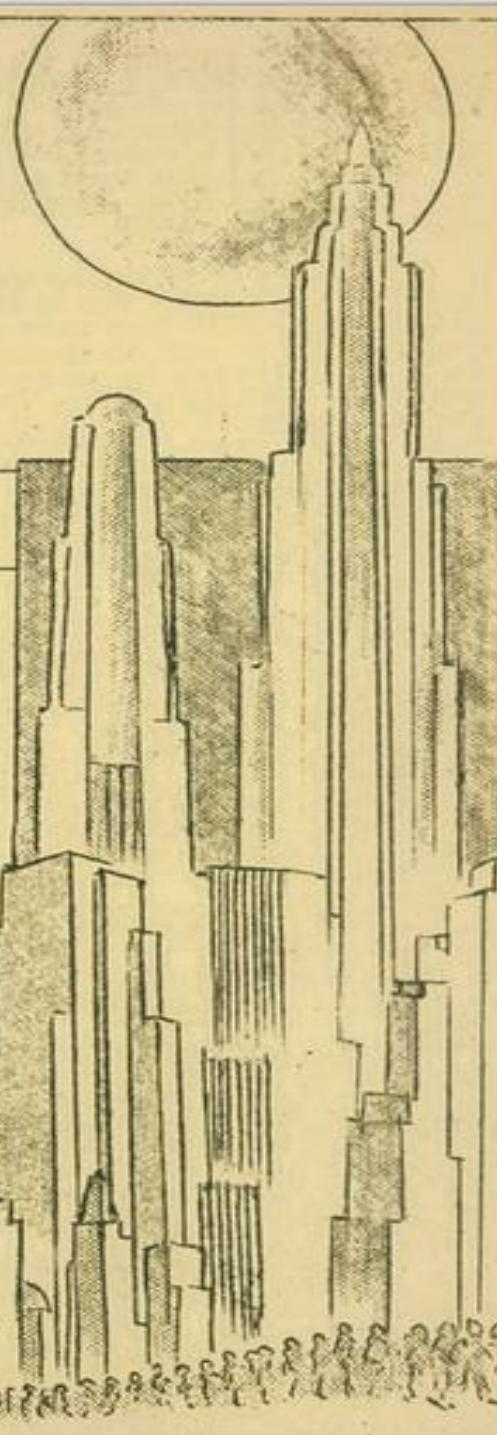
Another Thrilling Story By The Writer  
of "Smoking The Master"

But while he eyed them with a world of condescension, he was busy scanning their faces, searching for the man he sought. Time and time again he scanned on the point of reaching out and putting a restraining arm on the hand of one of the men. But ever he hesitated at the last moment and allowed the fellow to file past.

At last, however, he gave up his search in despair and resignedly claimed the attention of the rascally-dressed parson who happened to be before him at that moment. "How would you like to have a real meal and a new suit?" he inquired.

The resentment in the parson's face died as he saw that Smalley wore costly apparel. "I'd like nothing better, mister." Then, suddenly suspicious -- "What do you want me to do for you? Nothing crooked, I hope?"

Professor Smalley laughed. "I assure you my intentions are purely humanitarian. But if you doubt .....





## **CHANGING HIS STORY**



- **SIEGEL, HOWEVER, HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT SUPERMAN AS A VILLAIN AND REIMAGINED HIM AS A HERO—SOME SPECULATE THAT THE INSPIRATION FOR THE CHANGE WAS THE MURDER OF HIS FATHER AT THE HANDS OF A ROBBER.**
- **SIEGEL TURNED TO THE STORIES OF HERCULES AND SAMSON AS WELL AS HIS OWN STATUS AS AN IMMIGRANT OUTSIDER TO COME UP WITH THE IDEA OF A CHILD FROM ANOTHER PLANET WHOSE PARENTS SAVE HIM FROM THEIR DYING PLANET KRYPTON.**
- **THE REVISED CHARACTER HAD ENOUGH STRENGTH TO LIFT A CAR AND THE ABILITY TO JUMP GREAT DISTANCES, EXACTLY ONE-EIGHTH OF A MILE. SUPERMAN WAS BORN. WAIT! HE COULDN'T FLY?**



**FOR SALE...SOLD!**



**THE CHARACTER WAS PUBLISHED AS THE FIRST EDITION OF A NEW SERIES, ACTION COMICS. WITH LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF COPYRIGHT LAW AND ABSOLUTELY NO CONCEPT OF HOW ICONIC (AND PROFITABLE) SUPERMAN WOULD BECOME, SIEGEL AND SHUSTER AGREED TO THE STANDARD WORK-FOR-HIRE ARRANGEMENT, UNDER WHICH THEY SOLD THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO SUPERMAN FOR \$10 A PAGE, TOTAL OF \$130.**

**NO, THAT WASN'T A TYPO. SUPERMAN, THE MOST FAMOUS OF ALL SUPERHEROES, A BILLION DOLLAR FRANCHISE SPANNING COMICS, RADIO, TELEVISION, MOVIES, AND VIDEO GAMES, WAS ACQUIRED FOR \$130!**