



The SPIDER-MAN™ Dossier

The Watcher's™ Chronicle

by Scott Davis
with
Dale A. Donovan



Official Game Accessory

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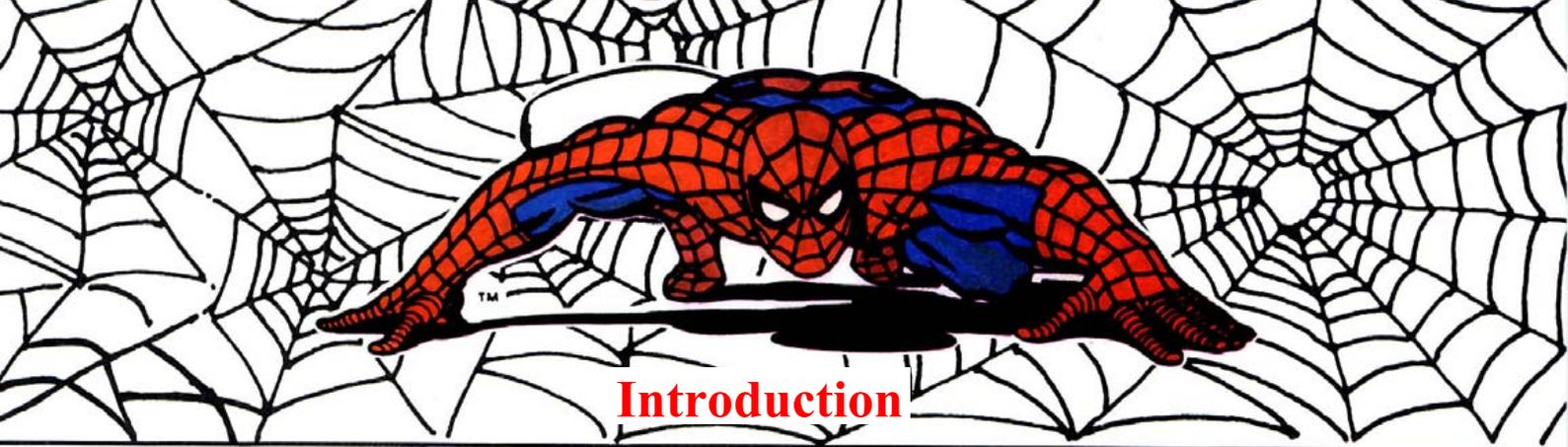
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Introduction

I am the Watcher. My race was ancient when life first arose from the mud of the planet Earth. Even so, we were not wise. Because of our foolishness and pride, a world was destroyed when we directly interfered with their destiny. We have since solemnly vowed to observe, and never to interfere again in the growth of races. It has been my role in the universe to observe all that occurs in this stellar system, focussing primarily on your planet, Earth.

One of the most enigmatic heroes on your world is the man, Peter Parker, also known to me as the Amazing Spider-Man. The public knows little of the web-slinging adventurer. Many even fear him, goaded into irrational behavior by the editorials of one J. Jonah Jameson, the publisher of an Earth newspaper, *The Daily Bugle*. Others, who you will meet in this journal, consider the arachnid adventurer a hero beyond compare, worthy of giving one's life for, if necessary.

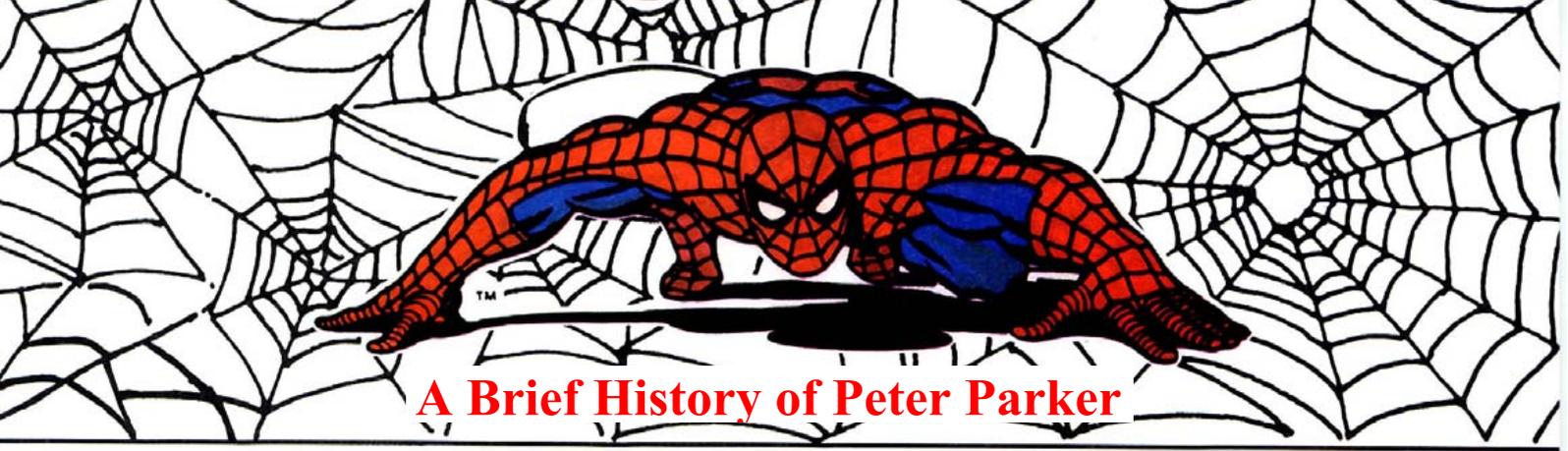
The volume you now hold contains a brief history of Parker's young life, including a journal of his own thoughts and reflections about his life and the many heroic and tragic turns that life has taken. Also presented here is a media presentation of which Spider-Man was the subject. The presentation originally appeared in *NOW Magazine*. In addition, I have gathered many of Parker's quotations in an effort to display his indomitable spirit, even in the face of battle. Finally, there is a listing of all of Spider-Man's adventures and exploits that I have had witnessed.

The companion volume to this one,

narrated by that Elder of the Universe, the Grandmaster, contains much statistical information on Parker and the various incarnations and power levels of his Spider-Man identity. Also included is details on his friends, allies, and villainous foes. As I understand it, the Grandmaster has also staged one of his infernal games within those pages. It is his intent to use Spider-Man, or other Earth heroes—it really matters little to him, and test his abilities to their limits, if not beyond. I wish whosoever takes part in that adventure the best of luck: It may well be needed.

I cannot intervene, however, for that is not my duty. My duty is to watch and record what I observe.





A Brief History of Peter Parker

Peter Parker was believed to have been orphaned at the age of six when his parents were reportedly killed overseas in an airplane crash. The young Peter went to live with his Aunt May and Uncle Ben in Forest Hills, New York.

Peter Parker grew up into a smart, quiet high-school student at Midtown High, until one event changed his life forever. While attending a science demonstration, Peter was bitten by a spider that had been affected by the experiment's radioactivity. The spider promptly died. Feeling queasy, Peter left the experiment and began walking home through an unfamiliar part of town. Not paying much attention to where he was going, Peter walked into the road and was nearly struck by an oncoming car. Acting by reflex alone, he leapt out of the car's way and found himself clinging onto the wall of a nearby building. Peter scurried up the side of the building to escape any prying eyes. On the roof, he discovered even more amazing abilities, such as enhanced strength and inhuman agility. Peter theorized that he must have been affected by the irradiated spider, which had seemingly passed these powers onto Peter.

Soon, Peter decided to test his powers. He put on a mask and wrestled a bruiser known as Crusher Hogan. Peter easily defeating his opponent and won one hundred dollars. A television producer saw him and gave him a business card. With a blue-and-red Spider-Man costume and a homemade pair of web-shooters, Peter appeared on television and was an instant hit.

As he was leaving the TV studio after his first night on the air, a security guard yelled for Peter's help in stopping a fleeing man. Ignoring the guard's pleas, Peter let the man pass him by. Peter could have easily stopped the man—even putting out

his foot to trip the man would've helped. However, Peter saw no reason to put himself in jeopardy to help some the guard, a total stranger. He had decided to look out for himself. The man reached an express elevator and escaped.





In the days that followed, Spider-Man became a national TV sensation.

Returning home from the studio one night soon after, Peter saw police cars outside of his aunt and uncle's home. Peter was told that a burglar had broken in. When Peter's Uncle Ben had confronted the burglar, the man shot and killed him.

In a state of shock and rage, Peter donned his Spider-Man costume and made his way to the abandoned Acme warehouse where the criminal had holed up. Avoiding the police, Spider-Man snuck into the building and soon had the burglar at his mercy. When Peter managed a good look at his uncle's murderer, he was astonished to see that he was the man that Spider-Man had declined to stop in the TV studio. Stricken by guilt, Peter Parker learned his greatest lesson, that with great power comes great responsibility.

Soon after Peter began his crime-fighting career, Spider-Man was decried as a vigilante and glory seeker by the publisher of the Daily Bugle, J. Jonah Jameson. Most of the readers of the Bugle were soon convinced of Spider-Man's guilt. This stigma has dogged Spider-Man through much of his career, and Jameson continues to rail against the hero to this day. Ironically, Peter has been an employee of the Bugle as a photographer on and off for years.

Peter Parker's life and friends quickly became intertwined with that of Spider-Man's career, usually to his detriment. The first woman he dated, Betty Brant, lost her brother in a fight

that involved Spider-Man, so she came to hate the web-slinger, forcing the two to part, while Flash Thompson continually picked on the nerdy Peter, while he virtually worshipped Spider-Man.

Worrying and thinking about his problems as Spider-Man made Peter appear aloof and snobbish, enough so that he almost missed becoming friends with Harry Osborn and Gwen Stacy. He managed to change their perceptions of him, and the three became fast friends. Indeed, he soon became seriously involved with Gwen.

Throughout his life, Peter has had to endure these dual-identity problems, because he feared that if his Aunt May ever learned about his secret identity, her frail heart wouldn't be able to stand the strain.

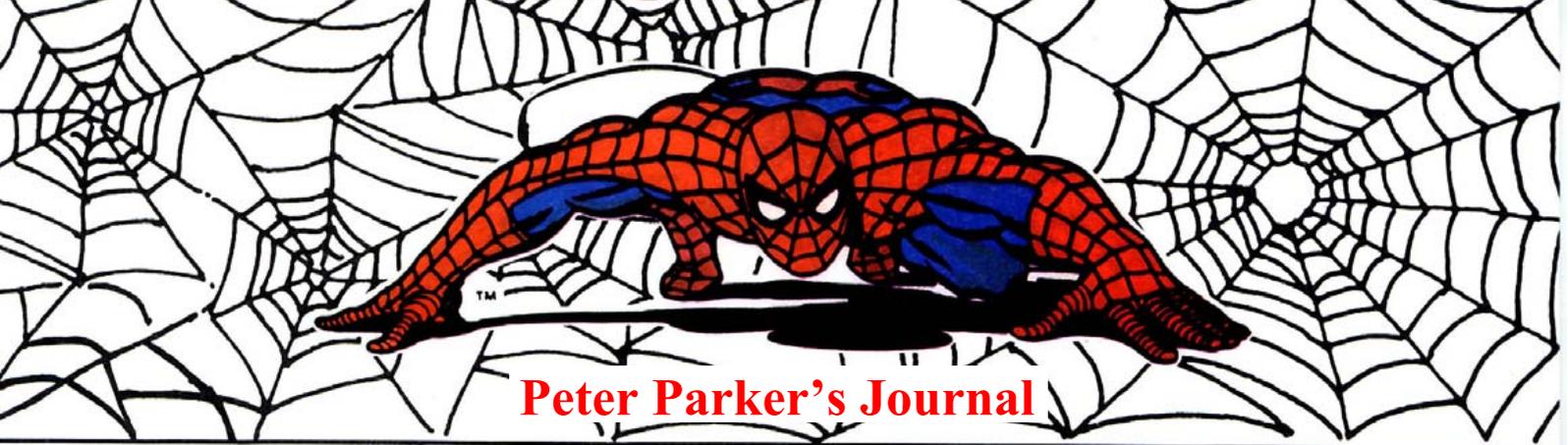
Throughout his career, Spider-Man has fought many colorful and strange villains, such as Doctor Octopus, a scientist who has mental control over four metallic arms and Venom, an alien symbiote and a human merged together to form a villainous whole with an extreme hatred of Spider-Man. The web-slinging hero has traveled to alien dimensions with the magician Dr. Strange and to the far reaches of space, during his stints with the Avengers and the Secret Wars.

The most tenacious and formidable opponent Spider-Man has faced over the years has been the Green Goblin, in all of his incarnations. What made the original so potent as a foe was the knowledge that Peter Parker was Spider-Man and the extraordinary

cunning with which he used that information. The original Green Goblin killed Peter Parker's love, Gwen Stacy, but was in turn killed soon after in an accident while battling Spider-Man. The original Goblin's son Harry Osborn, a long-time friend of Peter's, took over the Goblin's identity, and has continued his father's legacy on and off through the years. The Green Goblin also inspired the criminal career of the Hobgoblin, who based his costume and methods after his predecessor.

Currently, Peter Parker is married to old friend, model, and actress Mary Jane Watson and is working as a photographer for J. Jonah Jameson. Spider-Man has become a reserve member of the Avengers, giving him a modicum of respectability, and has teamed up with many of the new heroes based in New York city in recent days.

The most recent upheaval in Peter's life is the apparent return of his biological parents. It would seem that their deaths were faked long ago while they were actually imprisoned. They were recently released and made their way to New York to see their son. How their reappearance will affect Peter, and his identity as Spider-Man remains to be seen at this time.



Peter Parker's Journal

Contained herein is the journal of the mortal known 'as Peter Parker, never previously seen by eyes other than his. How is this possible, you may ask? All is possible to he who watches history unfold upon the sea-green and sky-blue gem in space known as Earth.

Read well the entries contained here, for they chronicle the maturation of one of Earth's greatest heroes. Represented here is a sampling of entries that the mortal Peter Parker has made therein.

The Watcher

Summer Camp

Stupid kids! They were all picking on me, just 'cuz I didn't want to swim or play ball. I might break my glasses, and then Uncle Ben and Aunt May would be mad and have to buy me new ones and they can't afford that. Those kids shouldn't have made fun of me and my glasses, calling me bug-eyes. I'm not a bug!

Unbelievable

I just found this old, tattered notebook under my bed and thought it would be a good idea to continue adding occasional thoughts and notes in it, to keep track of my life, especially after what happened today.

At a Midtown High science-fair demonstration today, I was bitten by a spider. I think it might have been radioactive, considering it was glowing before it bit me and died. I was standing near an experiment involving radioactivity when I was bitten. The spider must've been irradiated there.

Soon after, I left the hall because of a queasy stomach. As I walked out, I was able to leap out of the way of a car that was coming right at me, and climb a wall, just like a spider could. I'm also stronger and faster than I would ever have dreamed possible. Just wait until that jerk, Flash Thompson, gets a load of this! I won't have to take his loud-mouthed insults any more!

To test out my newfound power, I decided to challenge Crusher Hogan the wrestler, after I saw an advertisement. The sign said that anyone lasting three minutes with Crusher would get \$100. I put on a disguise and a mask, so I wouldn't be a laughing stock if I failed. I didn't fail! As a matter of fact, I carried him up a pole that was doubling as one of the corner posts.

After I collected my money, an agent named Maxie gave me his card. I wonder—should I take him up on the offer to book my act? If I do, maybe I can make some money to help out Uncle Ben and Aunt May.

A Name & a Costume

No longer am I Peter Parker. Now I'm Spider-Man! I just finished my first costume, Spider-Man's first costume. I figure since I have the powers of a spider, I might as well take the name of one as well. An old science project I worked on once has come in handy. I converted a "shooter" I had made into web-shooters that are sensitive to the slightest touch of my fingers. After all, it's only natural for a Spider-Man to have a web! If only that loudmouth Flash Thompson could see me now!



Peter and Ben look over Peter's new microscope. It was a little expensive, but the smile on his face made it all worthwhile!

Microscope

Uncle Ben and Aunt May bought me a new microscope today. Gosh, it's great! They are the best family a fellow could ever hope for. I have to tell them sometime about my life as Spider-Man, but I haven't found the right time yet. Maybe sometime this weekend ... I hope it doesn't scare them at all. I wouldn't want to cause them any concern.

Uncle Ben

It's been a few days since Uncle Ben's funeral, and I still can't get over how small, seemingly insignificant events can so affect life. At the TV studio, if I had only stepped forward one step and stopped that thief as the guard asked me to, Uncle Ben would be alive today. Because of my selfishness and greed, one of the people I care most about in life is now dead. I guess I'm responsible for Uncle



Ben's death.

All I could think about was myself, getting the money and living the good life. Looking out for number one was my only priority at the time. Well, all that has changed now.

The thief who I refused to stop last week broke into my aunt and uncle's house a few days ago. The thief, the same man that I could have stopped with a minor amount of effort, shot and killed my Uncle Ben. When I got home and found my uncle dead and the killer holed up in the old Acme warehouse, I knew exactly what I had to do. The thief could have held off an army in that old place, but one super-powered Spider-Man could take him out. I had to get him, because I'm responsible.

I snuck into the building and confronted the murderer. It was easy to catch him with my powers. My heart froze when I saw the face of the man I had captured. He was the thief I had refused to stop in the corridor at the studio. Uncle Ben is dead and it's all my fault. If I hadn't been so selfish.

I guess I'll keep doing the TV show to bring in enough money for Aunt May and I to live on. It's the least I can do for poor Aunt May, since I'm responsible for her being alone now.

J. Jonah Jameson

I was looking back on my last entry and had to laugh. Thanks to the publisher of the Daily Bugle, J. Jonah Jameson, I can't get a job anywhere, at any TV station, for any price. He has painted Spider-Man as a menace in his front-page editorials. I even saved his son John, the

astronaut, by bringing a guidance unit to his plummeting space capsule, and what does old JJJ do? He publishes another article claiming that I orchestrated the whole episode, for my own publicity! It just doesn't make sense.

Meanwhile Aunt May is pawning her jewelry so I can stay in school. I've got to do something to make some money for her.

Responsibility

I know now what I have to do. I must use these amazing spider powers responsibly. I've been given these powers for a reason, to fight the battles that normal people can't. I have an obligation that must be met. Every time I see a crime being committed, or I see a person I can help with my powers, I'm going to do it. I've learned the hard way that with great power comes great responsibility.

Making Friends & Foes

It's great, the stuff I can do with these spider powers. I helped that astronaut, John Jameson, survive the near-crash of his space capsule, even if his Daily Bugle publisher father, J. Jonah Jameson seems to have it in for me still.

I've met the Fantastic Four, defeated such criminals as the Chameleon, the Vulture, and the Terrible Tinkerer. I never realized how many super-powered criminals are out there.

By far, my most powerful opponent to date has been the deranged scientist known as Doctor Octopus. He even defeated me in our first

meeting. He just threw me out the window with those four metallic arms of his, as if I were an insect not to be bothered with anymore. Those arms are so strong! I almost gave up being Spider-Man that day until I realized that I can never give up. I heard the Human Torch of the FF at an appearance at the high school the other day and it was as if he were speaking directly to me. He was telling the group to never give up and I won't. The next time I faced "Doc Ock," I had him gift-wrapped and ready for the police to haul away to one of their high security cells. I don't want to face him again anytime soon, though.

Keeping a Secret

I've found a secure place for this book. I must never let anyone see this, or my secret and Aunt May's safety may be threatened by my ever-increasing roster of foes. I should destroy this journal, but I want to keep some sort of record of my adventures. Maybe it's vanity, but I want to do it. I just have to be careful.

The Lizard

Now this is ironic. The Daily Bugle published a headline challenging Spider-Man to defeat the Lizard, the menace who was terrifying people down in the Florida Everglades. Jonah, ever the civic-minded publisher, didn't intend on Spider-Man fighting the Lizard, whom JJJ thought was a figment of someone's imagination anyway. He just wanted to sell more of his papers with a sensationalist headline.



Well, I accepted the offer as Spider-Man, and suggested that he take a photographer along with him to record my fight with the Lizard.

Jonah took me, as Peter Parker, to Florida with him to cover the upcoming battle. After we arrived, I paid a visit, as Spider-Man, to Dr. Connors, an expert on reptiles living in the Everglades. Well, he turned out to be the Lizard and I was able to stop him by forcing a serum down his throat to return him to normal.

The ironic part about the whole affair was, even though I had managed to snap a few photos of the Lizard, Jonah believed that they were fakes and ripped them up.

Just to get his goat, I sent JJJ a message through the mail. "Roses are red, violets are blue, I'm still at large, so phooey to you." So it's not excellent poetry, I still bet it burned him! I still chuckle when he does buy some of my Spider-Man shots, not knowing he's paying Spidey to take photos of himself.

Hey, that Betty Brant, JJJ's secretary, sure has beautiful blue eyes.

Green Goblin

One of the more interesting and dangerous menaces I've faced recently is the Green Goblin. He lured me to Hollywood and then sicced the Enforcers on me. I managed to get away from those three bozos when out of nowhere came the Hulk. Whew! Barely managed to survive my meeting with that green behemoth. He's the strongest thing on two legs that I've ever seen!



The Green Goblin got away in the end, but I know he's back in the city somewhere. I'll have to keep my guard up all the time and hope that I run across him by coincidence, and that my Spider Sense will tip me off.

Spider Slayer

JJJ has gone too far this time!

He actually had someone create a robot to attack and defeat me for him. The Daily Bugle publisher even had the audacity to have his face transmitted onto the head of the robot, known affectionately as the Spider Slayer. Well, I managed to prove that moniker incorrect as I was able to tear a plate off the robot and pull its plug. The look on Jameson's face when he found out I had won was so classic that I had to take a picture of his reaction to preserve it for posterity.

Current Events

I can't believe how weird life is these days. With juggling crimefighting against such foes as Kraven, Sandman, Scorpion, Mysterio, and the Beetle, and trying to keep my studies on track, I barely have the time to sleep, never mind get out on a date.

I met a sorcerer named Dr. Strange the other day, and helped him defeat a villain called Xandu. I even fought two mindless thugs in another dimension. I'm just your average neighborhood Spider-Man, and I'll be happy to remain that way thank you very much. No more different dimensions for me! (It was interesting from a scientific viewpoint though.)

I'm not positive I believe in all this hocus-pocus stuff either, but with everything else I've encountered, I can't discount the possibility that it's real. After all, I do have the proportional strength of a spider.



Other heroes that I've met and teamed up recently with include the fearless Daredevil and the Human Torch of the Fantastic Four.

Doc Ock Again

I just went through the hardest and most important fight of my career. Aunt May was dying in the hospital. I realized that a transfusion that I had given her in the past had irradiated her blood with my own unique radioactivity.

Dr. Curt Connors and I believed that an experimental serum, Iso-36, could save her, but before the serum reached the hospital, it was hijacked by a gang led by the mysterious Master Planner. Livid is a mild word to describe the state I was in when I heard that.

I found the Planner's lair in an undersea base and he turned out to be my old foe, Doctor Octopus. After a prolonged battle, I was pinned under tons of steel with water pouring into the chamber. I was trapped!

But just I couldn't give up when Aunt May was counting on me. I can never be responsible for her dying, like I was for Uncle Ben! Straining my strength to its limit, I managed to push the weight off me, grabbed the serum, and delivered it in time to save Aunt May's life. I'll never let her down like I did Uncle Ben—never!

My bones are still aching because of the strain, though. I think I need to take a little time off from crimefighting to recuperate. Besides, then I spend more time with Aunt May.

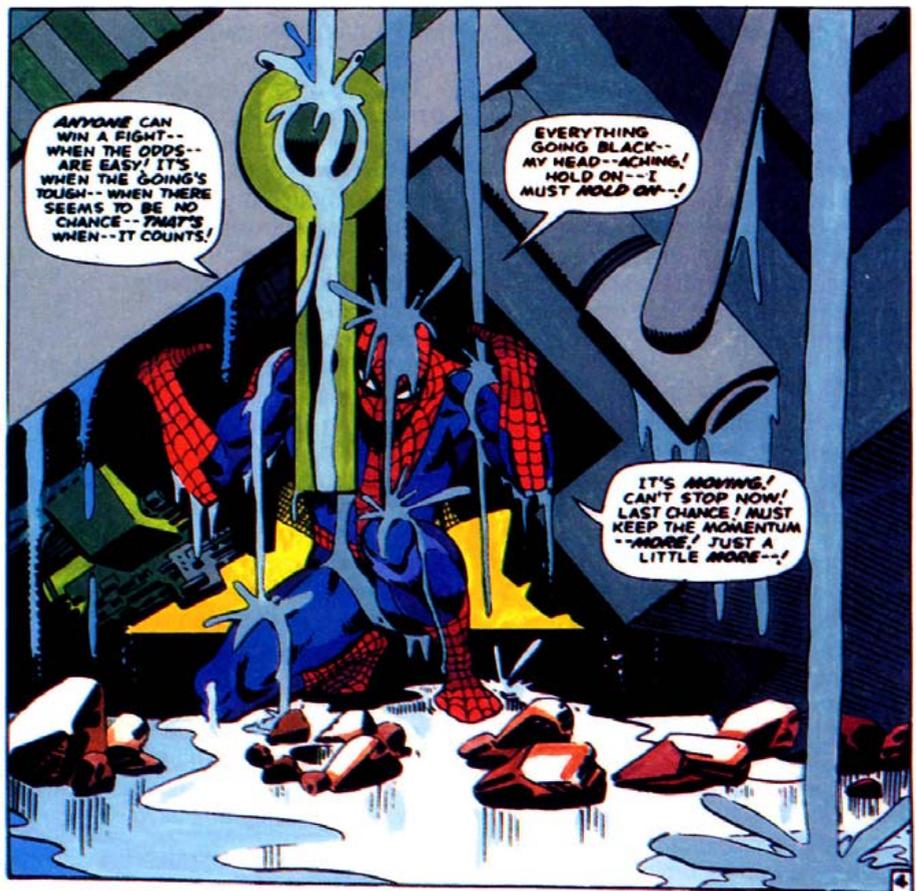
Goblin Defeated

I don't know how else this confrontation with the Green Goblin could have ended other than with my losing. I found out he was really Norman Osborn, Harry's father!

The Goblin had managed to use a spray on me that dulled my Spider Sense, allowing him to ambush me later and capture me. He had even figured out my secret identity!

In his megalomania, he revealed that he was Norman Osborn and he even let me loose to fight him to the finish—I was about to break my bonds anyway.

During the battle, the Goblin was hit by an electric shock that brought him out of his insanity and wiped out all his memories of my secret identity. I managed to burn his costume before the police arrived to preserve both our identities.





I'm glad that this chapter of my life is behind me now. I hope that Norman and Harry become the father and son that they always should have been, without the ghost of the Green Goblin hanging over them. I wish them luck.

Kingpin

You'd think a tub like the Kingpin of Crime to be a pushover in a fight. Well, I found out the truth when I tried to take him on in battle. Even without his blasting cane, he's as dangerous an enemy as I've ever faced. All that fat is actually muscle, like a sumo wrestler, and he knows how to use it. I was lucky to escape his clutches.

His strength isn't the only problem I had in dealing with him. As far as I can tell, his criminal organization is huge and quite competently organized. How do I fight that—a whole criminal network?

Mom and Dad

I finally found out what happened to my parents. Both Uncle Ben and Aunt May never spoke of them much, at least not in front of me. I've always wondered what happened to them, but never had the inclination to find out. I don't know why, but just the mention of their names seemed to pain Aunt May and Uncle Ben so much that I guess I suppressed any desire to find them.

While I was moving a trunk in the attic for Aunt May, I found some old newspaper clippings of my parent's obituaries. The paper said that they had died in a plane crash in Algeria and that certain incriminating

evidence had been found at the crash site. The evidence supposedly proved that my parents were traitors to the U.S.A. No, that's not possible! I just had to find out the truth for myself. I couldn't let their deaths go unexplained, and since I have the power to do something about it, I had to make the attempt.

After making some amateur mistakes while doing some routine crimefighting (I was so distracted thinking about my folks), I contacted Mr. Fantastic for transportation to Algeria.

We flew over in his new gyro-cruiser and I got off over the area known as Casbah. In the space of a few hours, I found the man who'd identified my parents' bodies. Then I was ambushed at the address where my parents supposedly worked, I found my father's identification badge, and encountered the Red Skull!

In our battle, the Skull accidentally blew up the whole area. I was able to recover my father's identification tag, and behind the picture was a secret section with a small card identifying my parents as being double agents. They were trying to infiltrate the Red Skull's organization for our government! I'm overjoyed! Now I can continue as Spider-Man without the specter of my parent's "traitorous" deaths hanging over me!

I'm content and relieved, having proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that my parents weren't traitors to the United States of America. If only they had made it back alive ...

Gwen

What a dream she is! After ignoring her and Harry for a while at school, I figured that I'd never have a chance with her, but lucky for me, she's more persistent than the average girl. I finally emerged from all my problems, and they were both there for me as friends—and in Gwen's case—even more than friends. Plus, her father, Captain Stacy, likes me as well! It just couldn't get any better than this!



*Peter with Gwen Stacy...
I think my nephew is in love!*

Capt. Stacy's Death

He knew and he always kept it to himself, never telling another soul of my secret. Captain Stacy, the father of my girlfriend, Gwen, was killed today when he tried to push a small child out of harm's way. Doc Ock smashed a chimney while he and I were fighting. The debris from that chimney would have killed this little boy, but instead it mortally wounded Gwen's dad, Captain Stacy, after he pushed the child to safety. I gathered



him up in my-arms and took him away from the crowds.

His dying words will stay with me forever, "It, It's Gwen! After I'm gone, there'll be no one to look after her. No one except you, Peter. Be good to her, son! Be good to her. . ."

He knew who I was and never told a soul. I'll always look after her, Captain Stacy.

What good are super-powers if you can't save the good people Captain Stacy?! I wonder, am I responsible for his death, too?

Harry's Drug Problems

With all my web-slinging these days, I sometimes neglect the friends around me. Harry exemplifies this neglect. I'm sure that I wasn't the sole cause of his drug addiction, nor even a major cause, but if I had recognized it sooner, I could have done something about it.

I did manage to get Harry to the hospital in time so that he should be all right. That was one thing I did right. To complicate matters further, I had to fight his father, the Green Goblin again, the only foe that knows my secret identity.

This time, I stopped the Goblin by forcing him to look at his son lying in the hospital bed and realizing how close to death Harry really was. This snapped Osborn out of his insanity. I burned his costume and the menace of the Green Goblin was put to rest again—I hope for good this time.

I'm glad that Harry is finally getting some help with his problem, and that his relationship with his father is getting better.

Gwen Returns

Gwen returned from England today. I was overjoyed at seeing her again and holding her in my arms. I want to ask her to marry me, but the shadow of Spider-Man always intrudes. She blames him for the death of her father.

Hey, what if Spider-Man's power didn't exist any more? What if I could find a way to rid myself of these strange abilities once and for all? I could marry Gwen and she'd never have to worry about Spider-Man ever again, because there wouldn't be a Spider-Man to worry about.

I'm going to try it!

Six Arms!

What was I thinking when I tried to get rid of my powers? The serum I concocted, instead of destroying my powers, altered me further toward becoming a spider. I now have six arms! How am I going to hide them from Aunt May and Gwen?

Four extra arms! I'm going crazy! How can I possibly hide extra arms? What am I going to do now?

Now, let's not try that experiment again! After encountering Morbius the Living Vampire and the Lizard, Dr. Curt Connors and I managed to devise a serum that would stop him from transforming into the Lizard and to cure me of my particular ailment. The four extra arms are gone now. If there weren't the holes in my costume, I'd be tempted to believe that it was all a nightmare. Even with the holes, it's still hard to believe!

Return of the Spider Slayer

Spencer Smythe has tried to get me again with his ridiculous Spider Slayers. This time, he came much too close to discovering who I am.

He had spy eyes placed up all over the city, and one caught me unaware as I was changing my clothes, and it transmitted a clear picture of my face back to Smythe. It took me a while, but I figured out a way to trick him.

After defeating his latest model of the Spider Slayer, I was able to convince him that the Parker face was just a mask, worn because I knew about the video cameras all along. That should keep him guessing at my true identity for a while.





More Deaths

Gwen's dead! The Green Goblin killed her! What'll I do now?

I—I'm so angry, my hand is shaking—I don't know if I can hold the pen long enough to write this. No sooner was Gwen killed than the Goblin was impaled with his own glider. Is death just following me around, waiting to kill someone else?

It must have begun a few days ago when Norman Osborn's sanity snapped again. Realizing he was the Green Goblin and I was Spider-Man, he took the cowardly way to get my attention and kidnapped Gwen.

When I arrived, he was holding her atop the Brooklyn Bridge. Gwen was unconscious. The Goblin, in an act of pure hatred, knocked her off the bridge with his glider. I managed to web her before she hit the water, but she was already dead from the impact of the glider and the shock of the fall. And he taunted me!!

I was out to get that killer, to avenge my love's death. I almost beat him to death, but at the last moment, I couldn't take another human life, even from the scum who killed the woman I wanted to spend the rest of my life with.

Fate and my Spider Sense intervened then. The Goblin had mentally ordered his glider to fly up and impale me from behind, but I ducked in time. The glider killed Norman instead, impaling him.

How am I going to go on without Gwen, the sweet woman who balanced the life that I faced as Spider-Man every day? Every day will never live up to its potential, because Gwen is no longer here.



Meeting the Punisher

This maniac who calls himself the Punisher is loose on the streets and I have to stop him. He's a vigilante who has declared war on all criminals. To say I don't agree with his methods is an understatement. He takes no prisoners and he set his sights on me, thanks to the Jackal. I convinced him that I was innocent of Gwen's and Norman's deaths before he made me his next statistic.

The Goblin Again

One of the things I most dreaded has happened. Harry Osborn has lost his mind and has taken over the persona of the Green Goblin. He even threatened my friends by placing bombs on chairs that held Flash,

Mary Jane, and Aunt May. He then told me that I had time to save only one person, and if I chose incorrectly, the person most dear to me would die.

I immediately went for Aunt May, because of the hint the Goblin gave me, removed the bomb from her chair and tossed it into the lake.

I swung back and took care of Harry. I removed our costumes after capturing Harry—he isn't as strong or as smart as his father. On the way out, Harry blurted out my secret to the policemen on the scene. I was just about to admit the truth when an older policeman asked Harry how he knew I was Spider-Man. In a maniacal voice, Harry told him that he was the Green Goblin.

A dramatic illustration of Spider-Man in his classic red and blue suit, crouching on a rooftop. He is looking towards a tall, dark skyscraper with a glowing top section against a dark, stormy night sky. A bright light source, possibly a flare or a fire, is visible on the right side of the building. The overall mood is intense and action-oriented.

NOW

MAGAZINE

Featuring:

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Interviews by Joy Mercado
Photographs by Peter Parker

INSIDE: A Retrospective on the Life and Career
of the Web-Slinger as seen by his allies
and enemies!



Joy Mercado here, bringing you the news you want to read NOW. This issue's insert investigates the myth and attempts to uncover the reality of one of this city's longest resident super heroes, Spider-Man. We're presenting interviews and two editorials on the subject, so you be the judge. Is Spider-Man the hero many people claim or is he just another super-powered menace plaguing the city of New York?

We start with an interview with Flash Thompson, a man who has met Spider-Man on more than one occasion.

Flash Thompson

Q.: "How did you first become involved with Spider-Man?"

A.: "You know, I was the founding member of his fan club," begins "Flash" Thompson, a long-time admirer of Spider-Man. "Even with the whole Hobgoblin affair, I knew that he wouldn't let me down."

The affair that Mr. Thompson to which is referring is the situation he found himself accused of being the super-powered criminal known as the Hobgoblin. Thompson was framed by the real Hobgoblin and was incarcerated for a time. Still, though it was Spider-Man who brought him to the police, Flash harbors no resentment.

"I've always had faith in Spidey. I've never doubted that he was a hero. And it worked out okay in the end, as I was cleared of the charges."

Q.: "What did you think of Spider-Man when you first saw him?"

A.: "It was in one of the classrooms at Midtown High School when I first saw him. He fought the Sandman, for the first time I think, and Spidey was just awesome. He finally captured the Sandman in an industrial strength vacuum. Proves that Spidey has brains to go along with everything else he's got going for him."

Through the years, Thompson has been a staunch supporter of the mysterious hero, even when Spider-Man was wanted in connection with the death of his former girlfriend, Gwen Stacy.

Q.: "What led you to believe in Spider-Man's innocence?"

A.: "I just know, down deep, that Spidey would never hurt anyone who didn't deserve it, so I always knew that Spidey didn't kill Gwen. He's too good a person."

Thompson spent time in Vietnam and, while in that country, he encountered a group of priests known as the Monks of the Hidden Temple. Because of confused communication between the military and the natives, the monks' temple was destroyed and Thompson was blamed. A price was put on his head by the surviving natives. Upon his return to the United States, Thompson's and Spider-Man's paths crossed again when he needed help against the natives, who had followed Thompson across the ocean.

Q.: "Can you tell us what happened?"

A.: "This is a part of my past that I'm not too proud of, because I couldn't

save those poor monks from being killed. I tried to tell them that they were going to be bombed, but no one would listen to me.

"Back in the U.S., I was captured by a group of fanatic natives who had put the price on my head. Spider-Man and some magician swooped in just in time to save my head from being separated from my body. Spidey must have remembered me from back in high school when I started his first fan club."

Q.: "And wasn't that about the time you met Sha Shan?"

A.: "That's a subject I don't want to talk about."

Recently, Thompson had another encounter with the topic of this issue, Spider-Man. Thompson was injured during a battle with the villain known as the Tarantula while valiantly helping his hero. Here, he recaps the situation.

"Spidey was in this building fighting the Tarantula when I overheard the head SWAT guy tell his men that they were going to storm the building soon, with guns blazing. I went inside to warn Spidey about the incoming gunfire, but I got mixed up with the fight. I mean, if I can do something to help, I have to do it. I ended up being kicked from behind by that creep, the Tarantula. Luckily, Spider-Man was able to stop him before he did more than drug me. Again, I owe my life to him."

Thompson's final words on the subject of Spider-Man: "Spidey has always done what was right, even if that means he'd get hurt. I guess that's the biggest lesson I've learned from him over the years."



Frank Castle

Behind a plexiglass screen sits one of the most wanted men in America today—Frank Castle, better known to the public as the Punisher. He has been captured by New York authorities and is now incarcerated in Ryker's Island Prison to serve 30 years on three manslaughter charges. This interview was conducted through a telephone with four guards present at all times, two in my room, two in his.

Q.: "Do you consider Spider-Man to be an ally or adversary?"

A.: "When his goal and mine are similar, we're allies. If he stands in the way of me completing my mission, he gets treated the same as anyone else who tries to stop me."

Q.: "Does that mean that you would shoot him?"

A.: "If he attempted to stop me or got in my way, yes. However, if I had the time, I'd probably aim to disable, not to kill. Spider-Man does bring criminals to justice, even if he is soft on them."

Q.: "What is your opinion of Spider-Man?"

A.: "He's a do-gooder who needs to be hardened in his battle against crime. He's also naive in believing that this country's system is capable of correctly dealing with the criminals that he brings to it. A more permanent solution is necessary for the hardened criminals that we deal with."

Q.: "What adventures have the two of you shared?"

A.: "Most of the times we've been associated have involved the criminal gangs of New York City."

Trying to bring down such high-powered criminal overlords as Hammerhead, the Kingpin of Crime and other similar, but weaker, criminals, such as Jigsaw. I can't go into detail about these or any of my missions as that would jeopardize any future activities I may take."

Q.: "Would you care to guess his secret identity?"

A.: "No. I haven't done any investigation on that subject, so I have no idea. If he was in the position to jeopardize me, then that would present me with cause to pursue the matter, but up until that point, there is no reason to inquire."

Just before being led back to his cell, Castle fixes me with a deep, no-nonsense stare and slowly intones, "If you do decide to publish this, tell Spider-Man not to give up and to keep up the good fight. There are still innocents out there that need protection." Haunted by those eyes, this reporter decided to follow the Punisher's advice and print this postscript to the interview.

A note to our readers—since the time of this interview, Frank Castle has seemingly accomplished the impossible and has escaped from Ryker's Island prison. We made the decision to run this story as written.

J. Jonah Jameson

"Spider-Man is a menace! I've been saying so for years and I fully intend to continue saying so until he is exposed for the criminal that he is. Not only does he flaunt the notion of justice in this country and our beloved city by operating as a costumed vigilante outside the law, he also has insulted this paper's integrity time and time again."

"Starting with trying to upstage my son during his first space mission up to his involvement with all the recent gang wars, Spider-Man has been mixed up in underworld affairs. He has even been seen in the company of the self-proclaimed vigilante, the Punisher. Eyewitness accounts support the shocking news that Spider-Man actively collaborated with the cold-blooded mercenary."

"The webbed menace also has a lot of explaining to do. Spider-Man has been implicated in the death of that sweet girl, Gwen Stacy, and the injury of countless citizens of New York City. He should be brought to justice, unmasked, and made to pay for his crimes like any other citizen would. If any other person were even a witness to gunshots, they would be taken downtown and interviewed. How much more does this vigilante have to do before the police are convinced that he is the menace that I've always said he's been?"

"I suggest that every decent citizen in this city watch out for costumed adventurers and report any out of the ordinary actions of any of them, especially if Spider-Man takes any illegal actions!"



Thomas Fireheart

"Spider-Man is a hero! Now that the obligatory initial statement is out of the way, I'll go into detail about why the man known as Spider-Man should be considered a hero. First, I'll let his accomplishments speak for themselves.

"He recently let himself be accused of a burglary so that a money launderer for the Maggia would be discovered and prosecuted.

"He valiantly fought and defeated the villainess, Titania, when she was threatening the Daily Bugle staff.

"He has continually involved himself in the gang wars that occasionally threaten this city, always working towards a swift and bloodless resolution of problems.

"His participation was integral to the discovery and capture of the criminal known as the Sin-Eater. Without Spider-Man's help, that villain would still be out on the streets and the public would have believed that Emil Gregg was the killer, instead of being discovered as an ill individual, a crime confessor.

"Spider-Man continually puts his life on the line battling villains for what he believes is right. Against such foes as Venom, Sabretooth, the Hobgoblin, and the Sinister Six, his life truly is on the line every second of the confrontation. What more can you ask of a man, any man?

"I have the greatest respect for Spider-Man. He truly strives to do the best that he can, and I respect him for that striving."

Avengers

The Avengers have graciously accepted this reporter's request for interviews with several members who know the mysterious web-slinger best.

First up is Jarvis, the caretaker of Avengers Mansion.

Q.: "What is your opinion of Spider-Man?"

A.: "Spider-Man usually keeps his own counsel up on the walls and ceiling. His flippant attitude belies a man of great courage as documented in his adventures with the Avengers throughout the years.

"I do wish he'd be more careful about where he puts his feet however, especially after we have experienced inclement weather. Cleaning wet or muddy footprints off the wall and ceiling can prove tiresome for a man of my age.

The next person this reporter had the privilege to speak to was Captain America. The sentinel of liberty has worked with Spider-Man a few times in the past and has some definite opinions about him.

Q.: "What is it like working with Spider-Man?"

A.: "The youngster has all the right stuff but needs to be more serious when it comes to performance on missions. He has to learn that when we go out together, each member has to be able to count on the others. If that element of trust isn't there, then a second's hesitation could cause the injury or death of a friend and ally. I'm not saying Spider-Man is careless, but I wish he would be a little less flippant.

"However, a strength of his is the depth of his commitment to the battle against injustice. Spider-Man has never hesitated to answer a call to arms against evil in all its guises. Without his valiant aid, the universe might be in thrall to a being known as Thanos to this day.

"When he is called as an Avenger, he has always acquitted himself with poise and courage. I'm proud to call him a teammate and friend."

Janet Van Dyne, also known as the Wasp, was the next Avenger questioned.

Q.: "What is your opinion of Spider-Man?"

A.: "You know, the wasp and spider are instinctive enemies, but I've had nothing but good experiences with Spider-Man. From the time we stopped Equinox together to his work with the Avengers, he's done well in combat and has always heeded my advice when I've offered it."

This reporter also spoke with the Black Widow about NYC's most controversial "spider."

Q.: "Have you worked with Spider-Man often, and if so, what comments do you have to say about him?"

A.: "Spider-Man and I have met more than once and I've found him to an accomplished fighter and competent ally. His methods aren't the most professional I've ever seen and I doubt that he'd last in any sort of formal organization for more than a short while. For short missions, however, there aren't too many other people I'd want at my side.



Fantastic Four

Spider-Man has often worked with the Fantastic Four over the years, especially with Johnny Storm, the Human Torch. The team allowed this reporter to visit their headquarters, where this interview was conducted.

Q: "Johnny Storm, according to my records, you used to have a somewhat adversarial relationship with Spider-Man. Could you comment on what has changed?"

A.: "It's true that we fought in the past, but it was never anything big. Once we even argued over the fact that he was flirting with my girlfriend at the time, Doris Evans. But when the Beetle kidnapped her, we teamed up and took that clown out."

Q.: "What was your most memorable adventure together?"

A.: "It has to be the time he and the Frightful Four attacked me at the Baxter Building. I knew he was being controlled, because Spidey usually moves like nobody's business, but he was out of it. During the fight, he was clumsy and stiff, and that gave it away. I snapped him out of it and we beat the bad guys, easily."

Q.: "What do you think of the web-slinger on a personal level?"

A.: "Ah, he's an okay guy, a bit full of himself but generally trustworthy. I'd be willing to fight alongside him any time."

Q.: "So you know who he really is?"

A.: [Laughing] "Nice try, but no I don't. From his extroverted manner, I'd guess that he might be some sort of public figure, an actor or politician—well, maybe not a politician."

This reporter also spoke with the "god of thunder," Thor.

Q.: "Thank you for allowing me to ask a question of you. What is your opinion of Spider-Man?"

A.: "The son of Odin doth proclaim Spider-Man as a most valiant and honorable comrade, one always welcome to serve by my side, regardless of the dangers to be faced. His humor in the face of peril

is most heartening to the heart of a warrior—his droll manner doth belie a noble and worthy heart. Whilst battling the deadly foe, Nebula, in the recent past, the bold arachnid proved his mettle yet again, throwing himself into vast dangers for the good of all Midgard [Earth].

"Verily, Spider-Man shouldst be praised for his work on Midgard—Earth."



At this point in the interview, Ben Grimm, the Thing, enters the room.

"G'wan, squirt. Stretcho wants your help for a new experiment of his. I'll take over here for now."

Q.: "We were just talking about the subject of Spider-Man's secret identity. Do you have any guesses?"

A.: "Ya, I'd say it's that publisher of the Daily Bugle, Jameson. I figure if he's protests so much, he's got somethin' to hide. Can ya think of a better way to hide his identity than behind the strength of years of anti-Spider-Man editorials? If I remember right, Jameson has been running these things since Web-head's first appearance. Coincidental or not, I'll leave that up ta you ..."

Q.: "Can you recall a memorable adventure with Spider-Man?"

A.: "There was the time that Spidey teamed up with Ghost Rider, Wolverine, and the Hulk to help us beat a Skrull with delusions of grandeur. What a crew that was, battlin' away in a huge cavern, against thousands of subterranean creatures and giant monsters. What a time we had! Too bad I couldn't get a swing in on the Hulk, though. I owe him a few lumps."

Q.: "What is Spider-Man's strongest suit?"

A.: "Usually clubs, king high. Aw, just kidding. Spidey just doesn't give up, even when the odds are against him. I can admire that in a guy."

Reed and Sue Richards now enter the room.

"Ben, Johnny left the experiment mumbling about a surprise. Do you know anything about this?"

"The matchstick must be settin' up another practical joke. Better go stop him before he does something to get me really mad."

As the Thing leaves, the premier super hero couple settles down for the moment.

Q.: "I might as well ask you the same question, have you any guesses on Spider-Man's secret identity?"

A.: Reed: "I'm sure that if I devoted some time to the subject of discovering Spider-Man's true identity, it wouldn't be much of a difficulty. However, I respect the man enough that I wouldn't delve into his personal affairs any more than I would wish him to delve into mine."

Sue: "He's such a sweet man. I'm sure he has a reason for keeping his identity a secret from the public. Besides, if we knew, do you think we would tell you or any other reporter?"

Q.: "Probably not. Mr. Richards, what is your assessment of Spider-Man's powers?"

A.: "Spider-Man has an interesting assemblage of powers. Once again, we're approaching the edges of privileged information. Let it suffice to say that I believe Spider-Man to be relatively unique in the world."

Q.: "Mrs. Richards, what is your most memorable encounter with Spider-Man?"

A.: "Some gangsters had captured my son, to use him as a hostage. They forced me to rob a bank and bring them the money. Somehow—it may be one of his powers, who knows—Spider-Man discovered the problem and offered his services.

He came up with a risky plan, with

most of the risk being shouldered by him, all to save my son. Obviously, we were successful, as Franklin is quite alive and healthy to this day. There isn't a greater compliment to give than that I trusted him with the life of my son. Spider-Man shall always have my undying gratitude for his part in Franklin's rescue."

With that, there came a loud crash in another room.

Reed: "It appears that Ben and Johnny are up to their old tricks again. If there is anything else you'd like from us, please give us a call later. As it is, we have to go break up another brawl before it gets out of hand and spills into my laboratory."

Peter Parker

This photographer for the Daily Bugle has recently published a retrospective book of his photos of Spider-Man through the years. Mr. Parker has had the uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time to take many photos of the mysterious Spider-Man.

This interview was conducted at the J. Gibb restaurant, in the company of Mr. Parker's lovely wife, Mary Jane Watson-Parker, who is known to our readers as Sybil, on the soap opera, Secret Hospital.

Q.: "So, Mr. Parker, the obvious first question is how do you get all your photos of the web-slinger?"

A.: "I'd say it's about 90% luck and 10% skill. Over the years, I've made some good guesses about where Spider-Man would be at specific times."



Q.: "There have been rumors in the past that you and Spider-Man have made some sort of deal, so you can get photos of him? Would you comment on that?"

A.: "Well, we have had our discussions in the past and he did tip me off once where he was going to be. That only happened once, under special circumstances, and I doubt that it'll ever happen again. When we last spoke, there was a falling out. I haven't seen him, other than through my lens, for a long while now and don't intend to go looking for him."

Mary Jane chimes in: "Oh, don't let Peter kid you, he's a big fan of Spider-Man. If the web-slinger does want to patch it up, I'm sure Peter would be willing to talk to him."

Grinning broadly, Peter responds, "She's right. She usually is, you know. I'd love to be able to get some more exclusives of good old Spidey, so if you're reading this, let me know where your next battle with Dr. Octopus is going to be, and I'll be there. I'll even try to get your good side, okay?"

Q.: "How are you handling all the recognition you've been getting since the publication of your book?"

A.: "What recognition? My wife still gets all the autograph hounds when we go out on the town. Actually, I've enjoyed the book tour and have liked meeting all the people across the country."

We close out our retrospective on the arachnid Avenger with comments from a number of people who have met or seen Spider-Man.



May Parker, once engaged to Spider-Man's arch-foe Doctor Otto Octavius.

"That awful creature scared me half to death when he disrupted my wedding, but times have changed since then. Spider-Man recently saved my nephew, his wife, and me from the clutches of that evil man, the Vulture. I may have been too harsh on Spider-Man in the past, but he's still not my favorite person in the world."

"I worry about my nephew, Peter, taking pictures of all those super-powered people. He must be putting himself in incredible danger to get his photos. I wish he would go back to school and avoid the dangers that Spider-Man represents."

Sliver Sable, leader of the mercenary group known as the Wild Pack, often seen in Spider-Man's company

"Spider-Man is a good ally, but he needs to be a bit more disciplined. Working alone over the years hasn't fostered an attitude of teamwork in his combat style. There is a potential there though, rough as it may be. He's fast, agile, and can think quickly when the situation demands it. I'd take him on my side rather than against me any day."

Nick Katzenberg, freelance photographer

"Aw, he's a bum. Who can believe a guy who puts on a red-and-blue suit and swings through the city? I mean, can he really have all his marbles up there? Personally, I think he's taking us all for a ride, and laughing behind our backs. All those unsolved burglaries—I bet he's behind some of them. All I know is I wouldn't turn my back on him."

Natalie Jacobs, a NY homemaker was saved from a mugging by Spider-Man

"He swooped out of the darkness on that web of his, wrapped up the muggers with some more webbing, then picked up and returned my purse. He was a gentlemen throughout and, if you're reading this, thank you Spider-Man. I was too choked up at the time to thank him. He's a wonderful man, just wonderful."



Joe "Robbie" Robertson, Editor-in-chief of the Daily Bugle.

Robbie has had many encounters with Spider-Man, the most recent in conjunction with Robertson's trial for concealing knowledge of murder and his involvement with the criminal Tombstone.

"Spider-Man's heart is in the right place. He did all he could to help me while I was in prison and against Tombstone, and I appreciate it.

"Spider-Man has always been a hero in my book, despite what Jonah believes. All I've ever seen Spider-Man do is help others."

John Smalley, cab driver

"Well, if the Daily Bugle publishes it, it must be true, so I wouldn't trust Spider-Man at all. I have seen him swinging by on his web a couple of times, and did he ever help me get out of the traffic jam I was stuck in? Not once did he stop and help us, even with all the honking I did to get his attention. He should help us working guys more often."

We received this note, addressed to NOW, allegedly from the Black Cat. We have run it unedited. You make up your own mind whether it's the real item or not.

NOW Magazine staff,

I heard that you're putting an issue about Spider-Man together and I wanted to get my two cents in.

We've had our share of adventures together, much more than that rag the Daily Bugle has reported on. Spider is a hero through and through. He deserves all the praise given him and only a little of the criticism. Many times over, he has saved my life, from such foes as Doc Ock and that fat guy of crime, the Kingpin. He's set me straight, or as straight as I can be set.

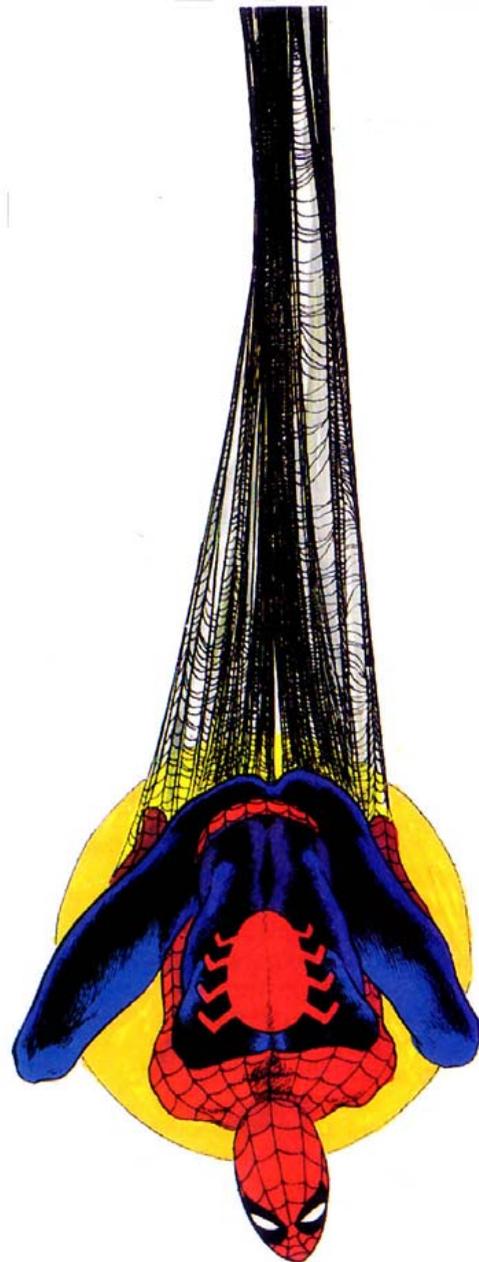
Thanks for the good times, Spider.

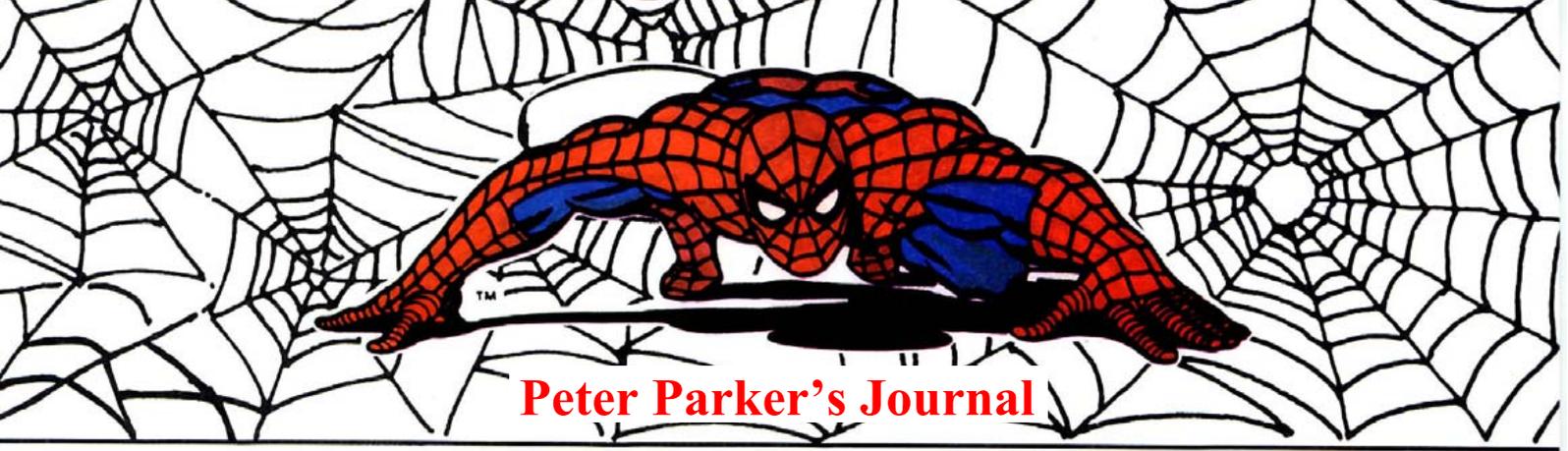
Meow,
Black Cat

The letter was imprinted with a cat's paw under the signature.

Note from Latveria

Since Dr. Doom has been seen in Spider-Man's presence at least once, we tried to solicit a quote from the ruler of Latveria, but all we received was a short, terse, typed note on official stationery stating, "The monarch of Latveria has no wish to contribute any material for a Spider-Man tribute."





Peter Parker's Journal

Luckily for me and my secret, the policeman realized that Harry must have been quite young when the Goblin first came on the scene years ago, so Harry was considered to be crazy and just ranting anything that came to mind.

Gwen Returns

I'm going crazy, totally crazy. I saw her die—I cradled her body in my arms atop the Brooklyn Bridge. How can she still be alive?

Gwen Stacy walked back into my life today, back from the grave. This can't be real, it just can't be!

—a few days later—

I've been so busy that I haven't had time to sort out my feelings for Gwen and for Mary Jane. This thing with MJ had just started when Gwen walked back into my life. What is going on? What am I going to do?

Gwen Explained

Finally, the truth of Gwen and the second Spider-Man came out into the open. Prof. Miles Warren was the Jackal, and he had created Spider-Man and Gwen Stacy clones. I stopped him, but a bomb exploded, killing both my clone and Prof. Warren.

Gwen left, leaving behind a city that believed her dead, to start a new life.

As for my clone, I don't know why I tossed the body down that chimney. I was in a state of shock. I couldn't think of anything else to do with it and I couldn't just let the police find it,

Again, the Green Goblin

I haven't picked this book up in a while, but the return of the Green Goblin was so bizarre that I need to write it down, if only to keep it straight.

Harry Osborn had been going to a psychiatrist to cope with his problems. In the sessions, his doctor, Dr. Hamilton, had learned of the Goblin's secret, and decided that he could take the power for himself.

Using the knowledge that Harry gave him while under hypnosis, Hamilton became the new Green Goblin. Hamilton captured Harry and imprisoned him, to keep him out of the way while he pursued his criminal ambitions.

Harry escaped and he also assumed the identity of the Green Goblin, to get revenge on Hamilton.

Hamilton was killed by a bomb blast intended for Harry and me. When he woke up, Harry had lost his memory of being the Green Goblin, so the threat of the Goblin has been stopped again, at least temporarily.

Graduation & Justification

I finally graduated college. Well, almost. I was one credit shy. I forgot to take a silly one credit gym course. Me, a super hero, short a gym credit!

A short time later, D.A. Tower informed me I had been cleared of all criminal charges that the police had pressed against me. There couldn't have been a better graduation present than not having to worry about the police trying to arrest me when we crossed paths.

Mysterio and Aunt May's "Death"

Some more mysteries of my life have been explained, such as why the robber was breaking into my Aunt and Uncle's house the evening that Uncle Ben died.

This all began when I received a call from the Restwell Nursing Home informing me that Aunt May had died of a cardiac infarction. That drove me a bit crazy as I tried to find out what happened. Behind the scheme was that master of misdirection, Mysterio and his ally, the burglar who killed Uncle Ben! Aunt May explained later that they had wanted stolen loot hidden in Aunt May's house, and were questioning her about it. Her death was faked to keep me from coming around to visit.

Don't these people have feelings? To them this was only a stalling tactic, but to me, it was as if my whole life crumbled around me. For the life of me, I'll never understand the criminal mind.

In my confrontation with Uncle Ben's killer, I revealed my identity. I just had to let him know why I wasn't going to give up and that he was going to take the fall for his actions. Once he knew, he honestly thought that I was going to kill him. I didn't—he had a heart attack from the stress and died.

That's one part of my past that has come full circle now and I'm glad it's over. Aunt May is all right. She sure is one tough lady and I'm proud to have her as my aunt.



Madame Web

I have to get this down onto paper.

Today I encountered one of the strangest people I've ever met. Her name is Madame Web and she is a precognitive. She has these strange premonitions about events and can sometimes figure out what will come to pass before it happens. She gives me the willies.

Even worse, her powers revealed my real identity to her. She promised to keep it a secret, but I find it hard to trust her completely. I suppose only time will tell whether my trust is justified or not. She could be a good ally or an extremely dangerous foe.

Juggernaut

The Juggernaut has the strength to rival the Hulk, but his brainpower is way down there among the common thugs. He tore up downtown New York during his trip to find Madame Web. I did everything I could to stop him, but nothing slowed him down.

When he found Madame Web, he disconnected her from her life-support systems to take her with him, not realizing that the machines were what kept her alive. In one of the most callous acts I've ever seen, he said she was of no use to him, so he dropped her in the rubble, and left. I kept her alive with CPR until the authorities arrived, then went after him.

The Juggernaut was eventually tricked into walking into a building foundation of fresh concrete. It slowed him down, but I doubt that even tons of liquid concrete can stop him for long. He's almost like a force of nature or something akin to that.

Hobgoblin

The specter of the Green Goblin has risen from the grave again. Someone has found one of Osborn's old lairs and has made the Goblin's old weapons even more powerful. This new villain calls himself the Hobgoblin.

If the Hobgoblin has all the Green Goblin's secrets, I wonder if he knows my secret identity. He didn't show any evidence of it during our fight, so I assume he doesn't. I'll keep my fingers crossed.



Timothy Harrison

I was taught a lesson in real courage this evening. When I read Conover's Corner in the Daily Bugle this morning, I knew that I had to do something. This nine-year-old boy,

Timothy Harrison, had collected Spider-Man memorabilia for most of his nine years on this planet and his one wish was to meet me. I showed up at his room tonight at Slocum Brewer Hospital and proceeded to tell him more about myself than I've ever told anyone else. How I got my power from the radioactive spider, how my webshooters work, why I became a crimefighter, and even who I really am—all this I told to one young man.

He actually had film footage of my appearance on the "Variety Time!" TV show long ago. I didn't think that stuff like that still existed. Another memento he had were bullets I had dodged while bringing in a group of bank robbers. I can't believe how dedicated he is to Spider-Man and how comprehensive his collection is.

I had to go, so I gave him a parting hug, from friend to friend.

Nine years old and two weeks to live—You see, Slocum Brewer is a cancer institute and Tim has terminal leukemia. He's a true hero.

The Secret War

I just got back from a jaunt across the Cosmos during which the heroes of Earth fought the most its powerful villains for the "ultimate prize." I need to kid about it, because thinking about it may drive me totally crazy. I've been involved with some large crises but this was the most mind-blowing experience I've ever had. The powers involved on both sides were beyond comprehension.



I got this great new costume out of it as well. While we were on the alien planet, my red-and-blue costume got shredded in a battle with the villains. I found a machine that created things and I asked for a replacement set of

clothing. Voila, a new black-and-white fashion statement.

Best of all, it's not just regular clothing. The costume responds to my thoughts and can emulate any type of clothing. I can save a bundle

on my laundry costs. And I won't be a slave to fashion as I'll be able to update my wardrobe with a thought! Your well-equipped super hero shouldn't go anywhere without one!





Costume Again

That black-and-white costume wasn't clothing at all. It's an alien symbiote that had fastened itself onto me, physically and mentally. It had been forcing me to go out web-slinging at night while I was still asleep. Can you believe that? I've heard of sleepwalking before, but never "sleep web-swinging!"

Luckily, I was at the Fantastic Four's headquarters, undergoing tests to determine exactly what the costume was made of, when the discovery was made by none other than Mr. Fantastic himself.

Richards was able to get it off me with a sonic weapon and imprisoned it in a plexiglass cage. Just looking at it gave me the creeps now. That thing had been using my body for its own unknown purposes. Brrrr. I'm just glad to be rid of the thing!

Mary Jane's Secret

She's known all along and never told me. Mary Jane knows I'm Spider-Man! She spotted me as Spider-Man when I was leaving my aunt's house going after my uncle's killer those many years ago and has kept the secret all this time.

Upon further thought, it's a relief having someone to talk to about my adventures, someone who has a viewpoint that is grounded more in day-to-day life, in reality, so to speak. I'll be able to bounce my problems off her and get an answer from someone who has known me for a long time.

Gang War

So many gangs and their leaders are fighting that I'm not sure who is on whose side anymore. The main players are the Kingpin, the Rose, Hobgoblin, and Hammerhead. They are the villains that I need to worry about. I need to take down somehow.

Mary Jane

She said Yes, she actually said Yes! It took a different city and a life-threatening situation to get it out of her, I got her answer! MJ said she'd marry me!

This is going to change my life! Aunt May has been trying to get the two of us together since before I first proposed to MJ years ago. She's going to be so happy! I can't wait to tell her the good news. MJ is going to marry me!

Wedding

Whew, I almost missed my own wedding. In the end, I had to resort to wall-crawling to get there on time.

Present at the ceremony, other than MJ and I, were Aunt May, Anna Watson, Flash Thompson, Harry Osborn, Robbie Robertson, and Betty Brant-Leeds. Even good old Jolly Jonah made it! One of the best days of my life, one that I won't ever forget!

Venom

The alien costume has come back to haunt me. The symbiote has fastened itself onto another person, a reporter for the Daily Bugle, Eddie Brock.

Brock claimed that I destroyed his journalistic career during the Sin-Eater investigation. He had been contacted by Emil Gregg, a man professing to be the Sin-Eater, and Brock had written stories based on information taken from Gregg. I found out the true Sin-Eater (and murderer of Jean DeWolff), Stan Carter, and the resulting backlash against Brock cost him his job and the respect of his peers.

He was in a church one evening, praying for forgiveness when a shadow passed over him and merged with him. My alien costume had found a new host, one that hated me as much as it did.

Calling themselves Venom, they almost killed me, but in the end I was able to subdue them by using the vibrations generated by a church bell to knock the symbiote out. I left them in a "sonic chamber" at Four Freedoms Plaza again, where the FF will keep them until Venom is transferred to the Vault, a government super-prison in the Rockies.

I hope that this is the last time I have to face that costume. Since it was part of me for a while, my Spider Sense doesn't work on it. I'd hate to think what would happen if it got free and was able to ambush me. It's enough to give a guy nightmares just thinking about it.



Cosmic Powers

I had the ability to fly, shoot energy bolts out of my fists, and the strength to go toe-to-toe with the Hulk, and, boy, am I ever glad it's all gone. Whatever responsibilities I feel toward helping others was magnified an immeasurable amount when my power level went into the cosmic class. I'm happy just being your friendly, neighborhood Spider-Man, not your local space quadrant Cosmic Spider-Man. Let someone else inherit the powers next time. Sheesh! As if I don't have enough to worry about!

Venom Again

Venom renewed our grudge, but with a twist. He didn't want any innocents being threatened, so we went to a deserted island to finish this.

I left Venom on the island with the impression that I'm dead. It may have been a cowardly way out, but it was the only thing that I could think of at the time. I found a skeleton and faked an explosion, after planting my costume on the skeleton. With his thirst for revenge sated, I hope he'll stay on the island and leave the rest of the world alone. Brock and the alien seem to hold innocent life sacred, so I have high hopes that I'll never see the two of them again.

Team-Ups

Recently, I got involved with a mess of heroes, all of whom were battling the Secret Empire, against a former sidekick of Moon Knight, Midnight. The Secret Empire convinced the kid that Moon Knight had abandoned him. The group then turned him into a powerful cyborg. Here's a list of the participants; Punisher, Moon Knight, Night Thrasher, Nova, and Darkhawk.

It's getting so you can't swing across town without running into at least one other super hero! We may have to get flight patterns or something just to get across town!



Carnage

Venom. I had to go get Venom's help to take out the alien symbiote's offspring, Carnage. And what a child it is! Instead of merging with a human with at least a rudimentary sense of right and wrong such as Brock, the alien child landed on Cletus Kasady, a homicidal maniac. As Carnage, they've been randomly killing people for days now.

To get Venom to agree to help, I promised Brock that he'd go free after we captured the second symbiote and Kasady. Well, in good conscience, I couldn't let that happen. I had contacted Mr. Fantastic for backup, and after Carnage was stopped with a barrage of sonics, Reed finished the job on Venom with a portable sonic gun.

Lord help me if Venom ever escapes again. If he wasn't convinced before that I'm not an innocent, he certainly has the proof now. I still feel crummy about what I did, but there was no choice. I couldn't let Venom go free any more than I could let Carnage continue his rampage unchecked. There was no right answer. I just did what I felt was necessary.

Harry's Insanity

I guess it was inevitable that Harry would crack again. He's never gone this far before though! He kidnapped his wife, son, and brother-in-law for some sort of bizarre dinner, to gather the entire Osborn clan together. The hell that he put his son and wife through, asking if little Norman

thought his daddy was crazy, then denying that Liz was an Osborn, was too much for me. We started to thrash each other across the room, when Harry let loose a bombshell. He had discovered his father's strength enhancement formula and had used it on himself. He truly was the Green Goblin now.

I stopped him and called the police. The only thing that was settled that day was that I was no longer afraid that Harry would tell the world who I was. I've dealt with worse crises, and I would deal with it if the Green Goblin decided to blurt out that I was actually Peter Parker. He kept it to himself, for whatever twisted reasons he may have. I'm not going to lose any more sleep over it. It's time to put it behind me and face the future without worrying about the past.



Parents Return

I had noticed that Aunt May sounded upset or excited when she called and asked MJ and me to come over, but I had no idea! When we walked in, Aunt May introduced us to a middle-aged couple. Aunt May said they were my parents! My real parents! I can't believe it! I don't know if I should believe it. I'm stunned. That's the only way to describe it. What can happen next in my life?





Spider-Man's Quips and Quotes



By putting on his Spider-Man mask, the human Peter Parker dons the identity of Spider-Man, yet the man under the mask is still that human being. He may be more comical or flippant, but essentially, Peter remains himself, gallant, heroic, and truthful.

In the following section are sayings about Peter Parker and words spoken both by Spider-Man and those close to the web-slinging hero. It is my sincere hope that these insights into the characters of Spider-Man's world will give you a better understanding of the mortal behind the mask and the life he leads.

The Watcher

After a particularly vehement editorial by J.J. against Spider-Man raises the public's fears of the hero early on in his career, Peter muses to himself.

"Can they be right? Am I really

some sort of crack-pot, wasting my time seeking fame and glory?? Am I more interested in the adventure of being Spider-Man than I am in helping people?? Why do I do it? Why don't I give the whole thing up? And yet I can't! I must have been given this great power for a reason! No matter how difficult it is, I must remain as Spider-Man! And I pray that some day the world will understand."

(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #4)

With Aunt May in the hospital and the original Green Goblin on the loose, Peter once again questions his role as Spider-Man.

"And the one person who's been kinder to me than anyone else in my whole life is in the hospital now and there's nothing I can do to help her. A lot of good it does to me to be Spider-Man! Sometimes I wish that I

had never heard that name! Why don't things ever seem to turn out right for me? Why do I seem to hurt people, no matter how I try not to? Is this the price I must always pay for being Spider-Man??"

(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17)

When stopping a group of bank robbers.

"Hold on, boys. What's your hurry? Didn't you know that this is 'Let's get acquainted with Spider-Man week?' Don't worry about a thing, boys this'll only hurt for a minute!"

(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #16)

After a streak of poor luck, Peter once again realizes that Spider-Man is needed.

"Now there's nothing to stop me from being Spider-Man again. Aunt May has enough gumption for both of us. I won't have to worry about her



anymore! As for J. Jonah Jameson, before I'm through, he'll be eating his words about me! Fate gave me some terrific super-powers, and I realize that it's my duty to use them ... without doubt... without hesitation!! And that means Spider-Man is going into action again! I'll fight as I've never fought before! Nothing will stop me now!! For I know at last that a man can't change his destiny ... and I was born to be ... Spider-Man!!!"
(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #18)

With Aunt May in the hospital waiting for a miracle drug (in Spider-Man's hands), the exhausted hero struggles with a tremendous weight pinning him down.

"I'll do it. Aunt May! I won't fail you! No matter what—I won't fail—Anyone can win a fight when the odds—are easy! It's when the going's tough—when there seems to be no chance—that's when—it counts! Everything going black—my head—aching! Hold on—I must hold

on—! It's moving! Can't stop now! Last chance! Just keep the momentum—more! Just a little more—! I did it! I'm free!!!"

(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #33)

To a couple of ordinary-looking goons who attack Spider-Man.

"Hey! Are you guys kidding? Taking a poke at me is like instant annihilation! But I guess you wanna be able to brag to your grandchildren that you were once knocked out by Spidey ... so here's your chance!"

(SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #2)

Spider-Man, while fighting a minor villain known as ...

"The Ringer? The Ringer?! Oh, no! Oh-ho-ho. Pardon me for laughing, pal, but you can't be serious! Sure ... I've fought guys who had mechanical arms, and human lizards, and big dumb lugs who can turn into sand... but really!! Rings?! He-he hee!"

(SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #58)

A determined Spider-Man in pursuit of the Hobgoblin.

"He's not getting away from me again! I'm going to fight him like I've never fought before—and I'm going to win! When I'm finished with him, the Hobgoblin's going to know he's been beaten. He's going to know what it means to face the power of Spider-Man!!!"

(AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #259)



Spider-Man's Bibliography

Here are all the major appearances of Spider-Man in the MARVEL UNIVERSE, as of this writing. We've tried to include his many crossover appearances, with the exception of quick cameos and flashbacks.

ALPHA FLIGHT: #74, 75 (alternate world version)
AMAZING FANTASY: #15
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN: All to date, including Annuals, Special, and Giant-Size issues.
AVENGERS: #11, 221, 236, 237, 258, 314-318, 329, 330
CAPTAIN AMERICA: #137, 138, 265, 266
CLOAK AND DAGGER (1st): #3; (2nd) #16-18
DAMAGE CONTROL I: #1
CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS: #1-3
DAREDEVIL: #16, 17, 27, 54, 77, 103, 270, Annual 4
DARKHAWK: #2-3
DAZZLER: #1-2
DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN: #1-4
DEFENDERS: #61, 109
DOCTOR STRANGE: (1st) #179
FANTASTIC FOUR: #73, 207, 250 (fake), 299, 347-349, 362
FOOLKILLER: #8
GHOST RIDER: (1st) #18 (hallucination), (2nd) #16-17
GIANT SIZE SUPER-HEROES: #1
HERO FOR HIRE: #12
HOWARD THE DUCK: #1
INCREDIBLE HULK: #278, 279, 300, 349, 359 (fake) Annual 11
HUMAN FLY: #1
INFINITY GAUNTLET: #1-6
IRON MAN: #234
KA-ZAR: (1st) #3; (2nd) 20, 22-26



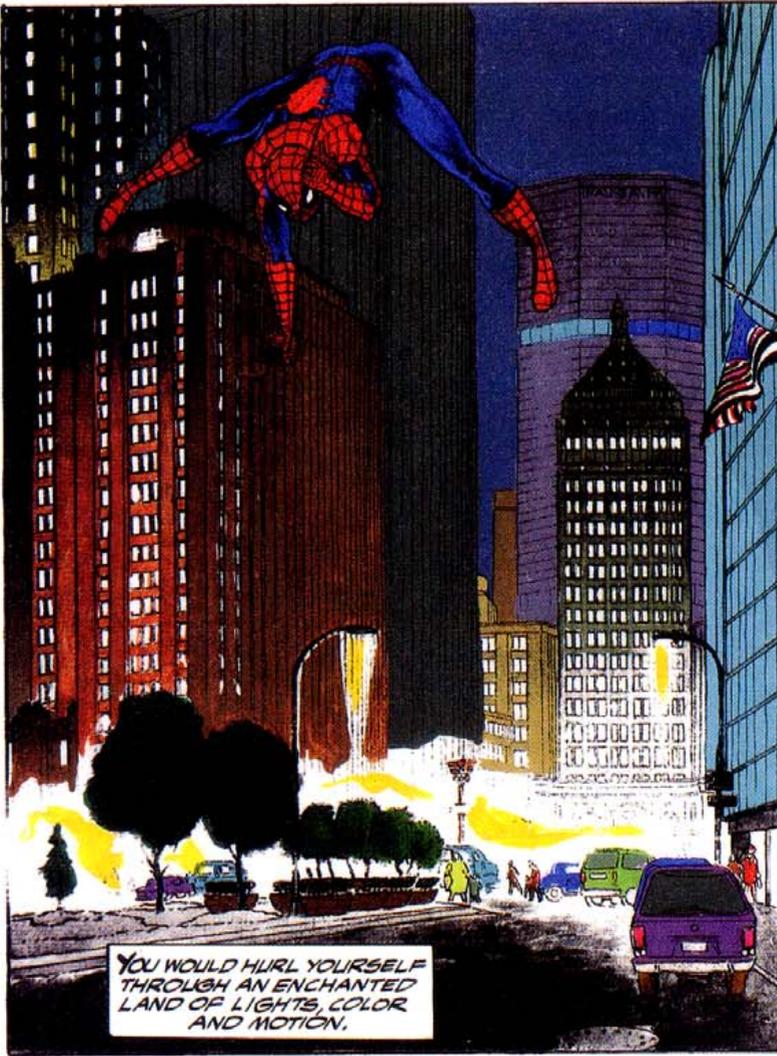


LONGSHOT: #4
MAN-THING: #22 (hallucination)
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS: #39,
48-50, 67
MARVEL FANFARE: #1-2, 6, 42, 45
(pin-up), 47
MARVEL GRAPHIC NOVELS: Death
of Captain Marvel, Parallel Lives,
Spirits of the Earth
MARVEL SUPER HEROES: (1st
series) #14 (2nd series) #3
MARVEL TALES: All
MARVEL TEAM-UP: All but #18, 26,
29, 32, 35, 104, 105 (including
annuals)
MARVEL TREASURY: #1, 9, 14, 18,
22, 25, 27-28 (reprints)
MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE: #17-18, 90,
Annual#2
MOON KNIGHT (3rd series) #3, 19-
21, 32-33
NFL SUPERPRO: #1
NOVA: #12, 15 (robot)
POWER PACK: #6, 21, 29
PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL: #14-15
QUASAR: #7 (Cosmic powers)
SECRET WARS I: #1-12
SECRET WARS II: #2,7-8
SHE-HULK: (2nd series) #3, 29
SILVER SURFER: (1st series) #14
SLEEPWALKER: #5-6
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN: All,
including annuals
SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN:
Magazine #1-2
SPIDER-MAN: All
SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING
FRIENDS: #1
SPIDER-MAN AND WOLVERINE:
#1
SPIDER-MAN SAGA: #1-4
SPIDER WOMAN: #20, 29
STRANGE TALES: (1st) #115, 119,
Annual 2

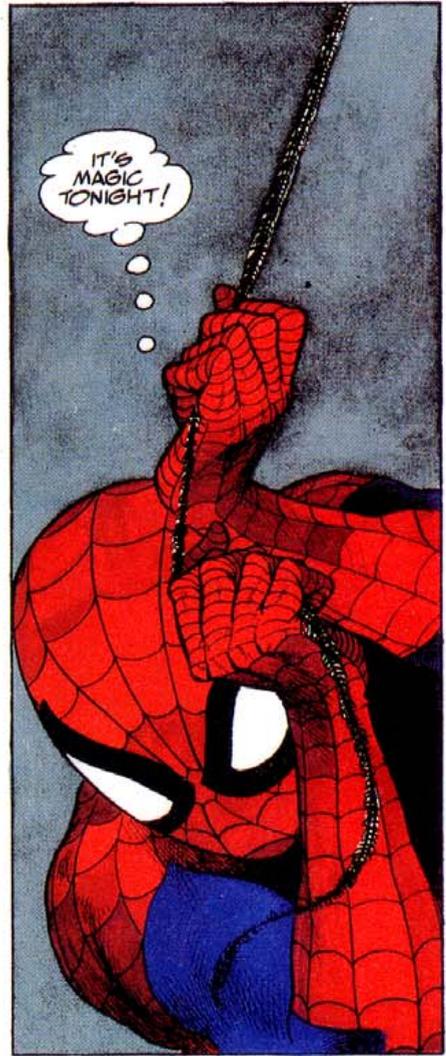


SUB-MARINER: #40, 69
TALES TO ASTONISH: #57
THING: #5 (hallucination)
THOR: #259, 391, 447
TRANSFORMERS: #3
VISION AND THE SCARLET
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WEB OF SPIDER-MAN: All,
including annuals
WHAT IF? (1st series) #1, 7, 19, 24,
38, 46; (2nd series) 4, 17, 20-21
WITHIN OUR REACH CHRISTMAS
SPECIAL
X-MEN: #35 (and reprint #83), 191



YOU WOULD HURL YOURSELF THROUGH AN ENCHANTED LAND OF LIGHTS, COLOR AND MOTION.



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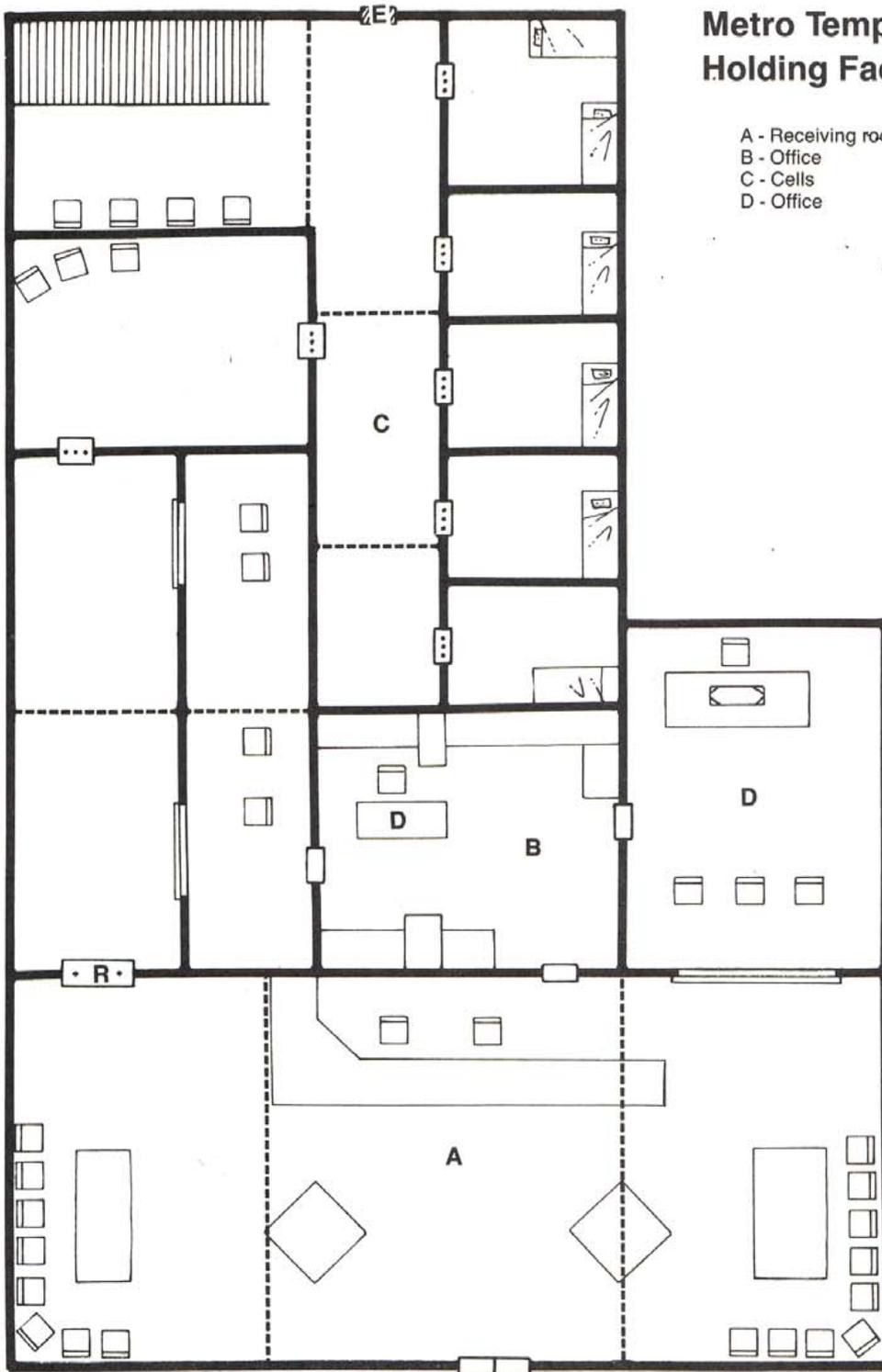
THE CITY LOOKS LIKE A HUGE TOY JUST WAITING FOR ME TO WIND IT UP AND LET IT LOOSE.

DOWN BELOW, THE DRAGONS OF THE CITY CLING TO THE EARTH...

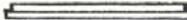
BELLOWING UP AT YOU...

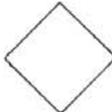
Metro Temporary Holding Facility

- A - Receiving room
- B - Office
- C - Cells
- D - Office

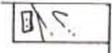


- (key)
 D = desk
 C = chair
 R = reinforced door
 E = emergency door

 = One-way mirror

 = Large statues

 = Cell door

 = Bed



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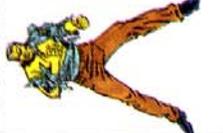
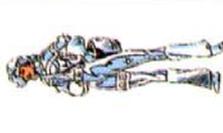
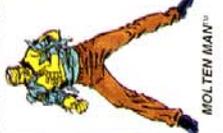
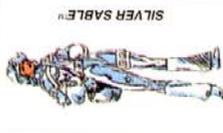
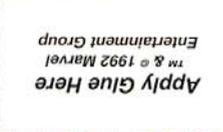
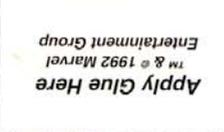
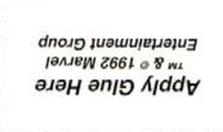
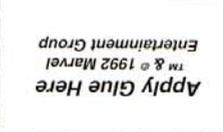
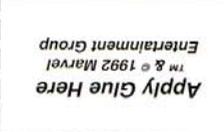
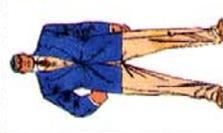
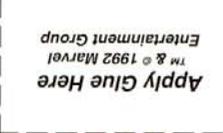
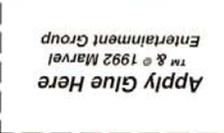
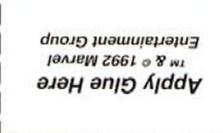
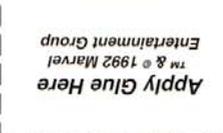
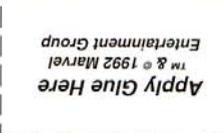
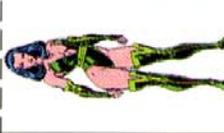
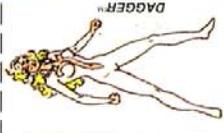
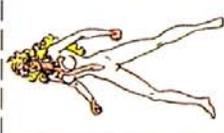
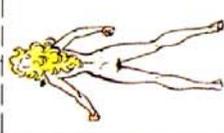
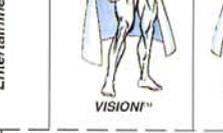
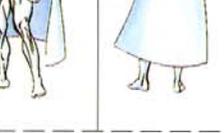
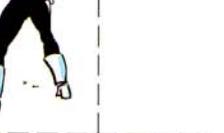
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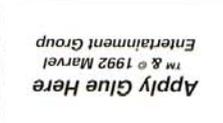
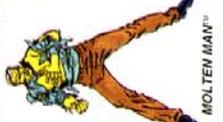
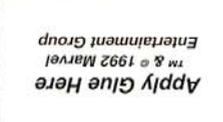
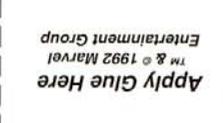
VISION™

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PUNISHER™

MADAME WEB™



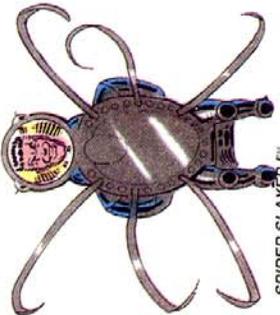
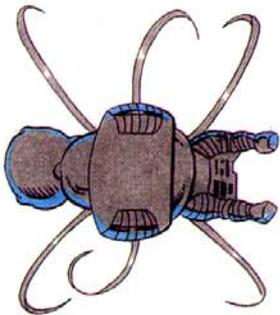
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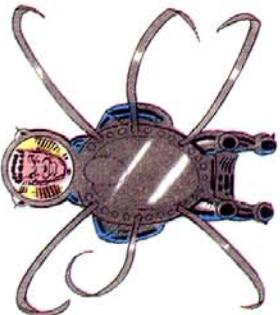
SPIDER SLAYER II™



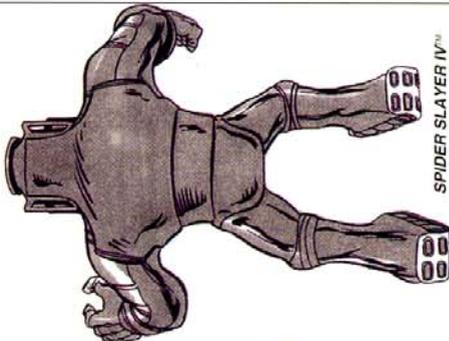
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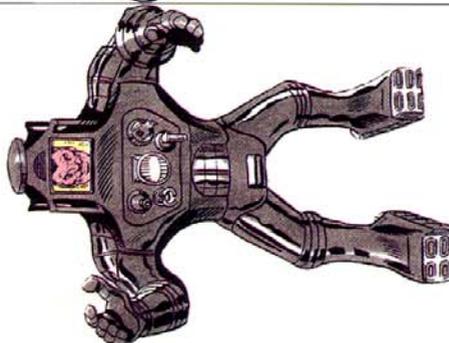
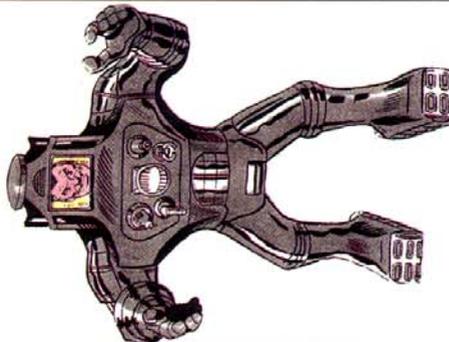
SPIDER SLAYER I™



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SPIDER SLAYER IV™



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COP I™



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COP II™



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COP I™



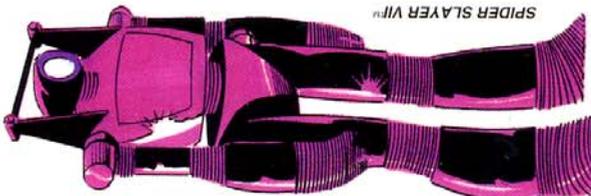
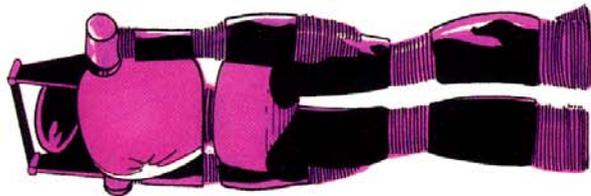
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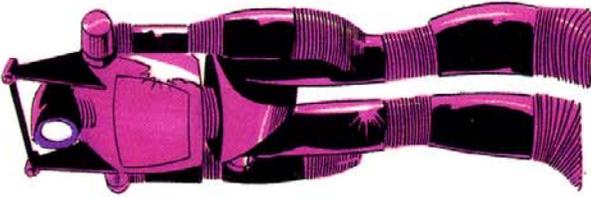
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SPIDER SLAYER V™



FOLD ALONG SOLID LINES, CUT ALONG DASHED LINES

6907XXX1201

W

9th St.

N

Grant St.

1

Playground

Sargent Memorial School

3

Williams' Mus

2

Lowder's Video H

1

W

10th St.

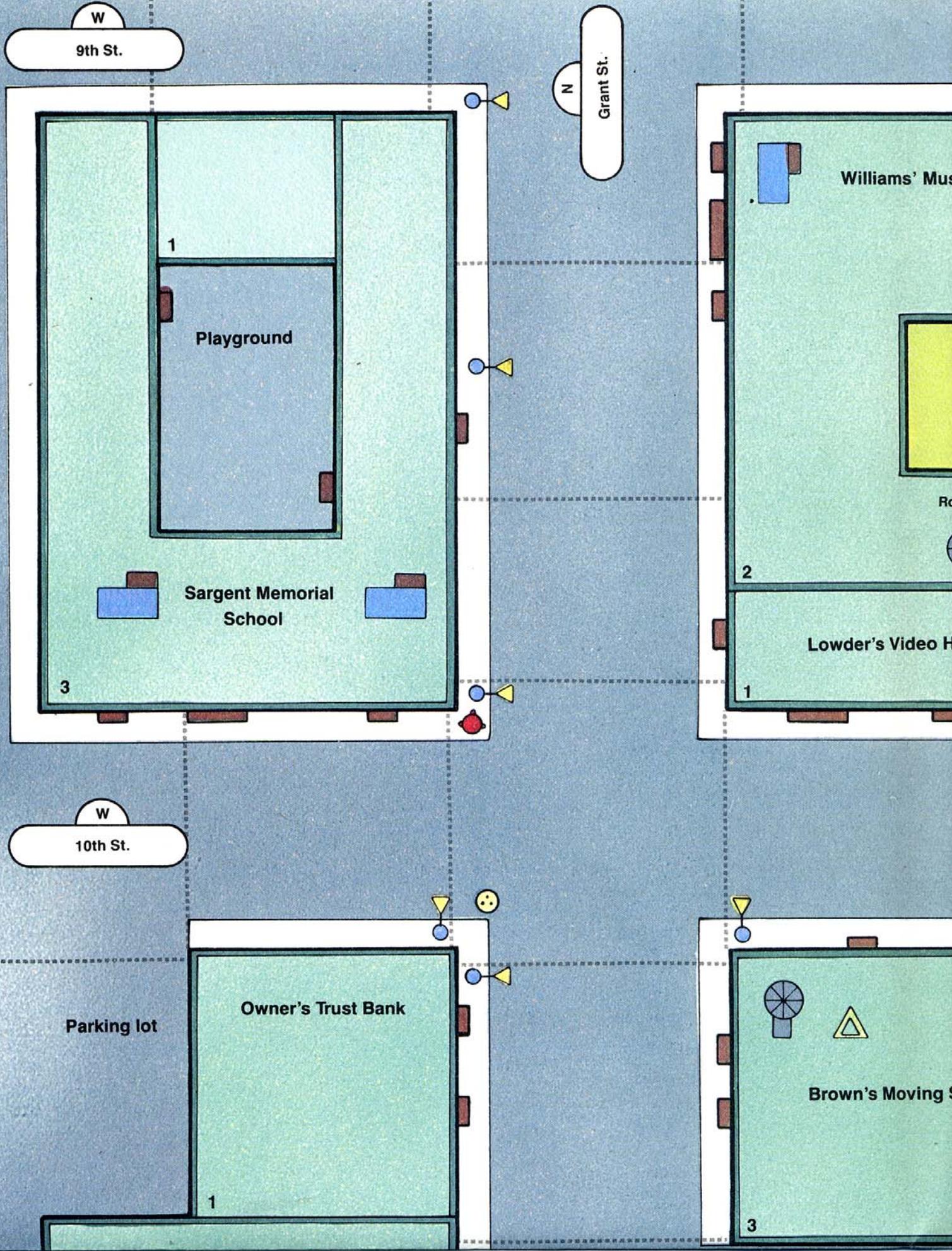
Parking lot

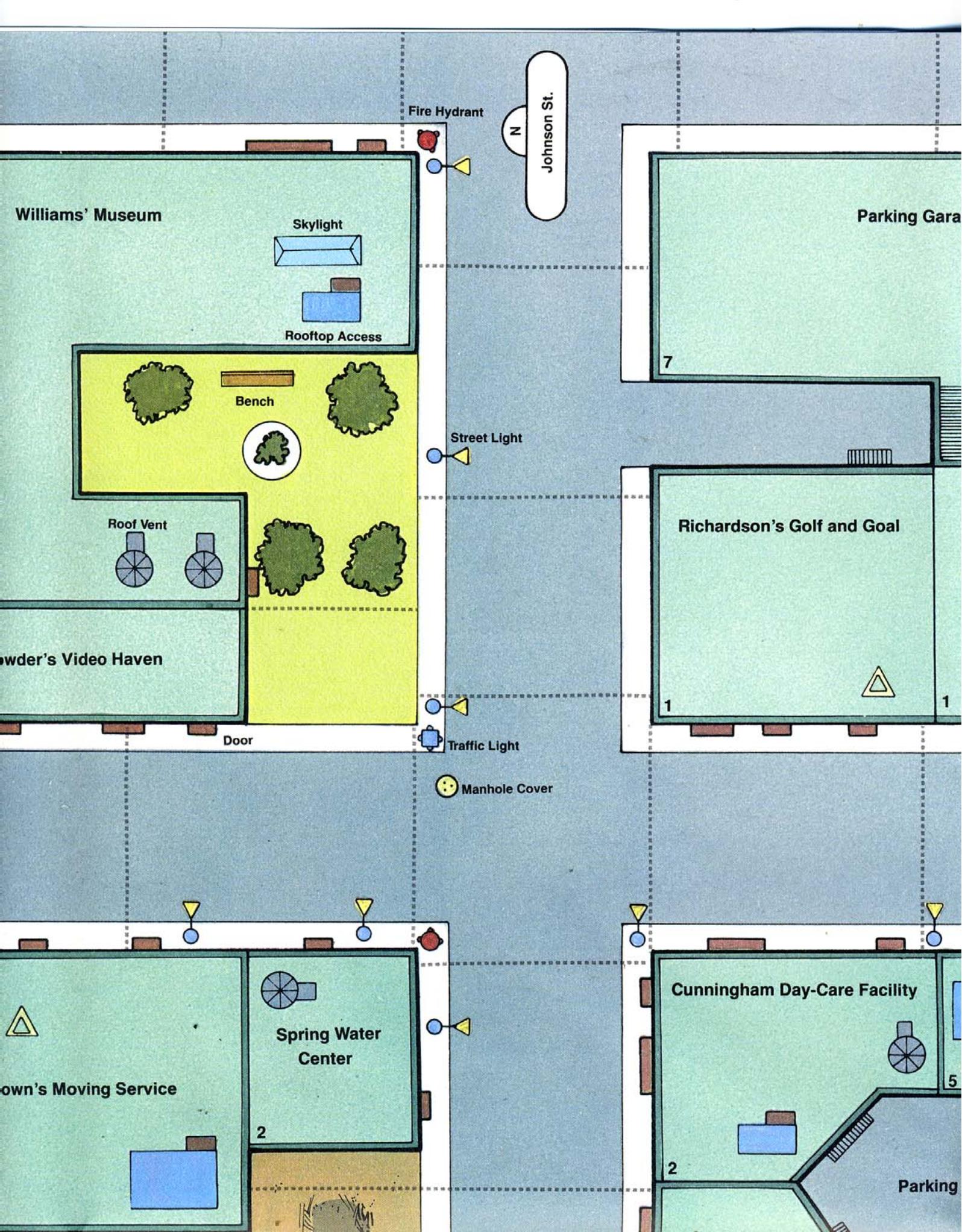
Owner's Trust Bank

1

Brown's Moving S

3

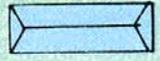




N
Johnson St.

Williams' Museum

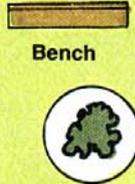
Skylight



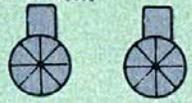
Rooftop Access



Bench



Roof Vent



Powder's Video Haven

Door

Fire Hydrant



Street Light



Traffic Light



Manhole Cover



Parking Garage

7

Richardson's Golf and Goal

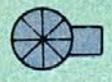
1

1

Johnson's Moving Service

2

Spring Water Center

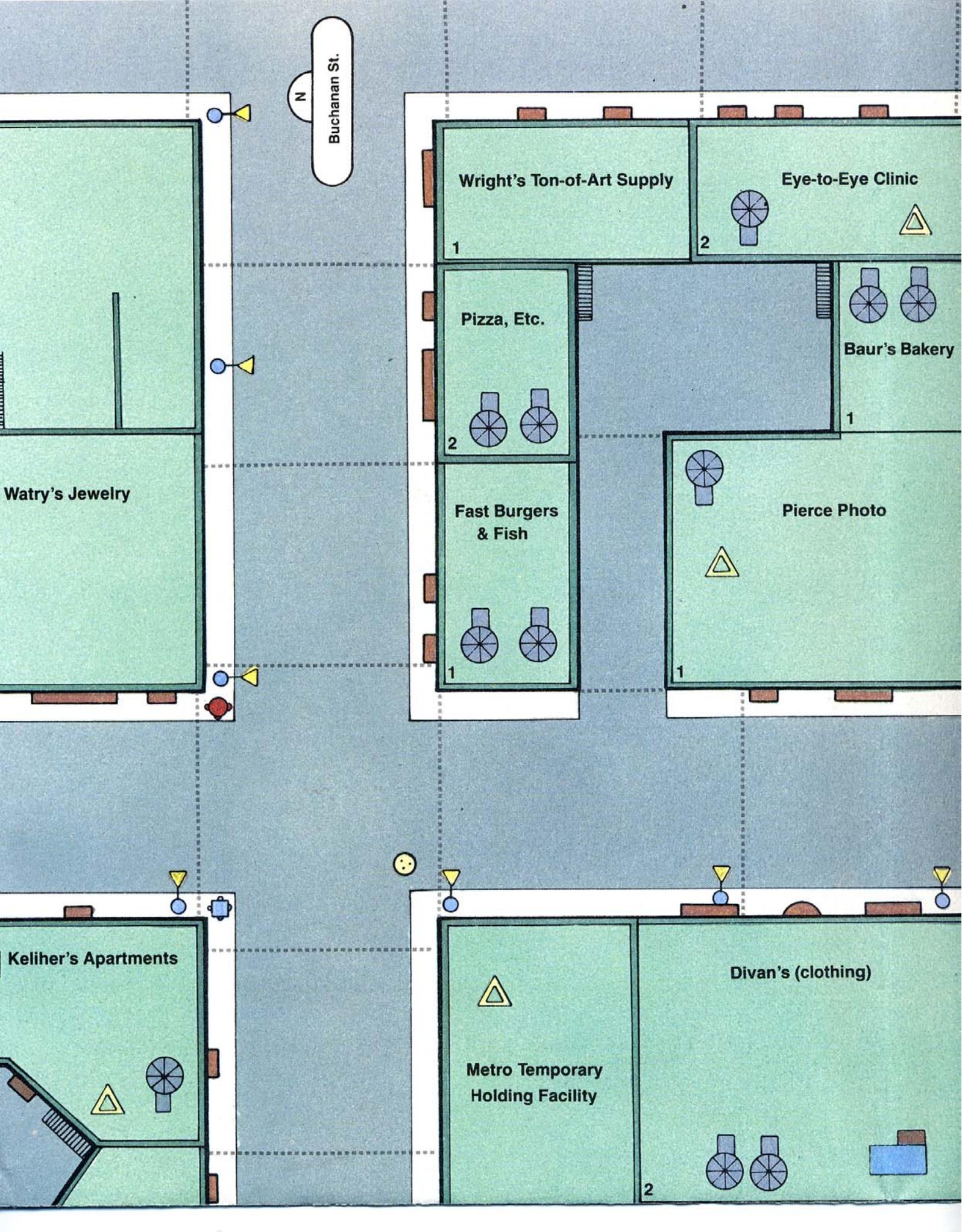


Cunningham Day-Care Facility

2

Parking

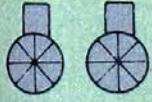
5



Eye Clinic



Baur's Bakery



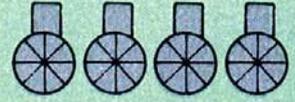
1

Photo

N
Pierce St.

Bakersfield Eatery

2



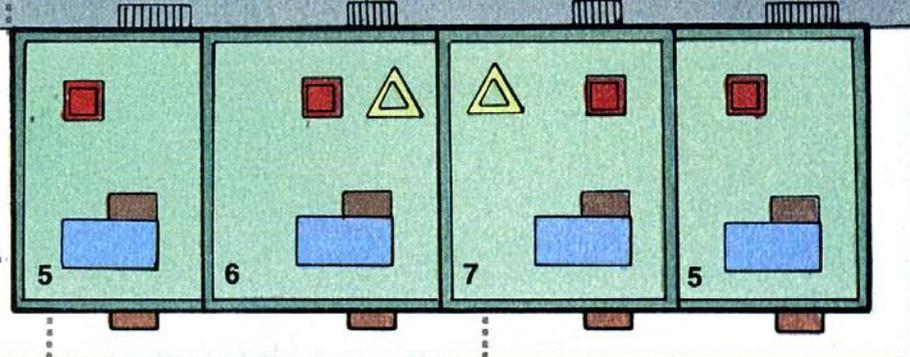
Manchester Apartments

5

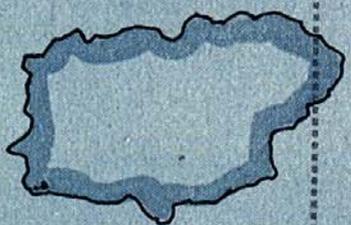
5

7

6

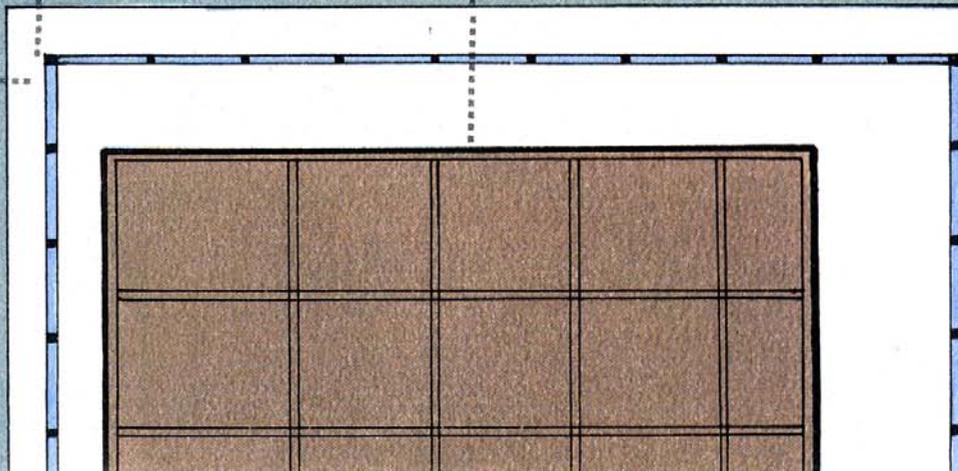


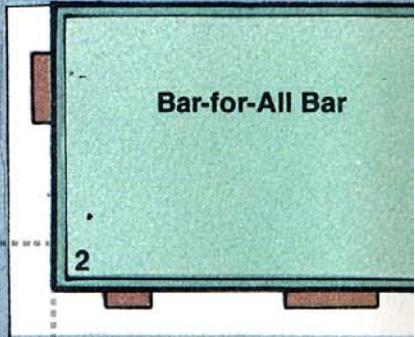
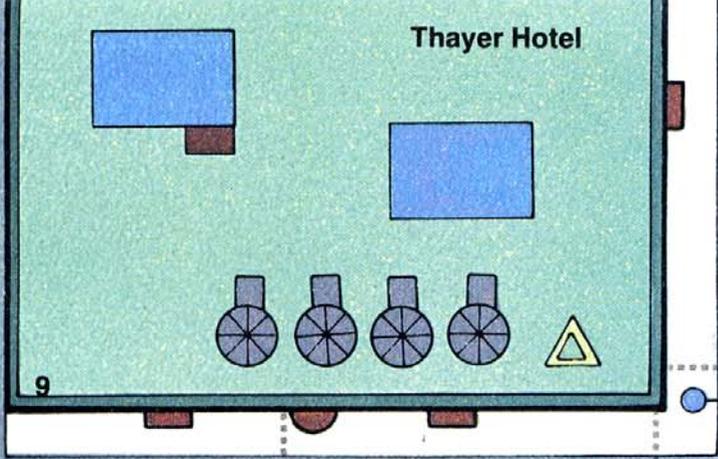
Street Closed



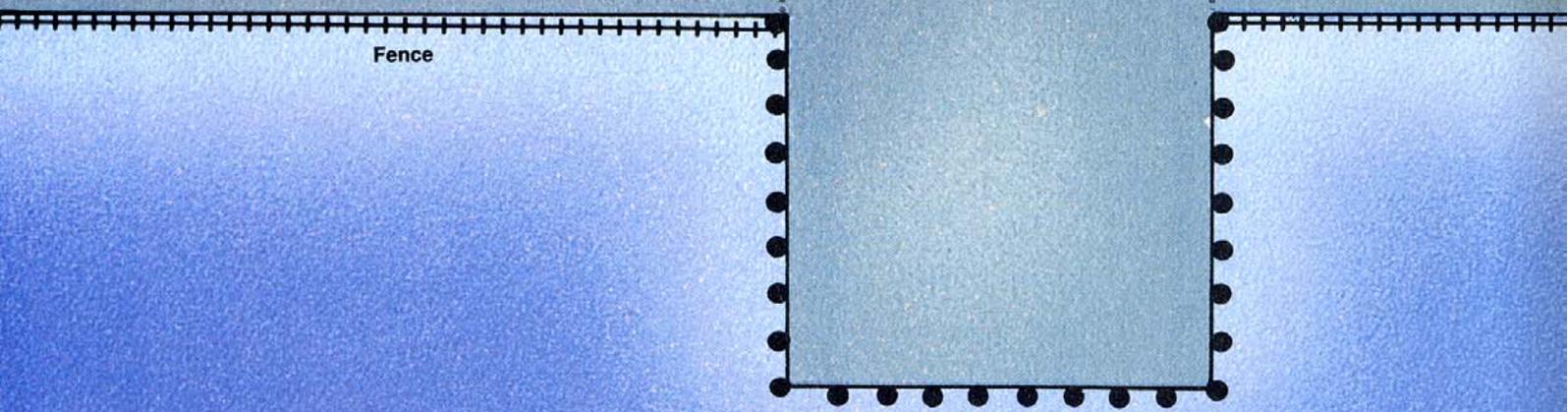
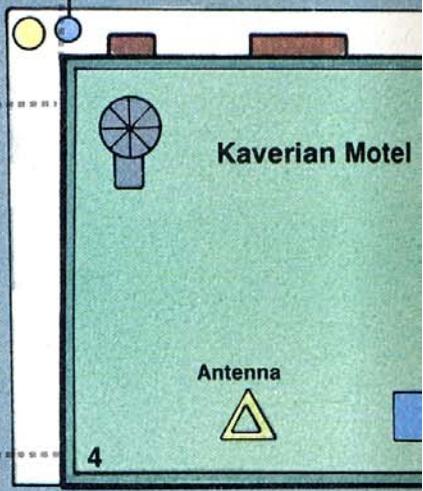
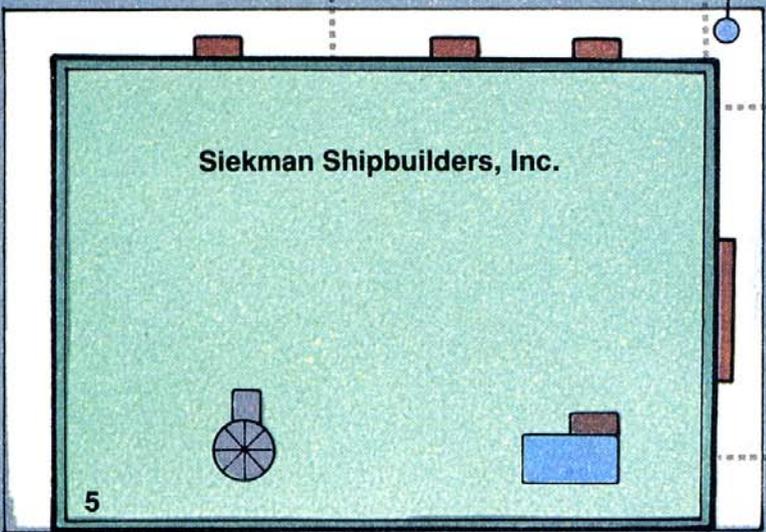
Road Blocks

(ing)





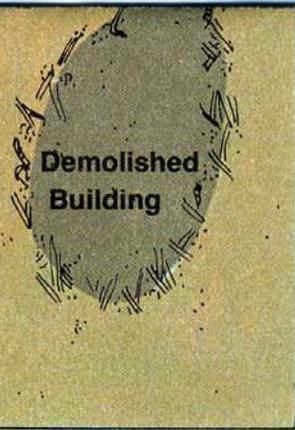
W
11th St.



for-All Bar



Demolished Building



Community Medical Center



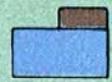
4

Kaverian Motel

Chimney

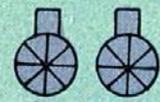


Antenna

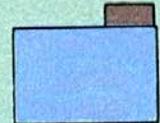


2

Tony T's Bar-and-Grill

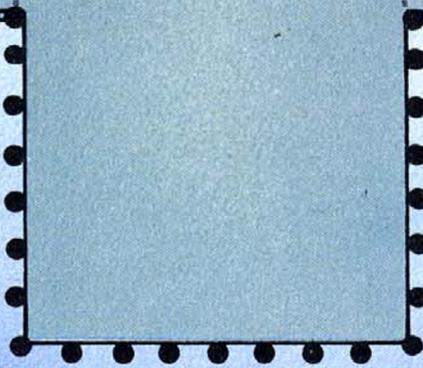


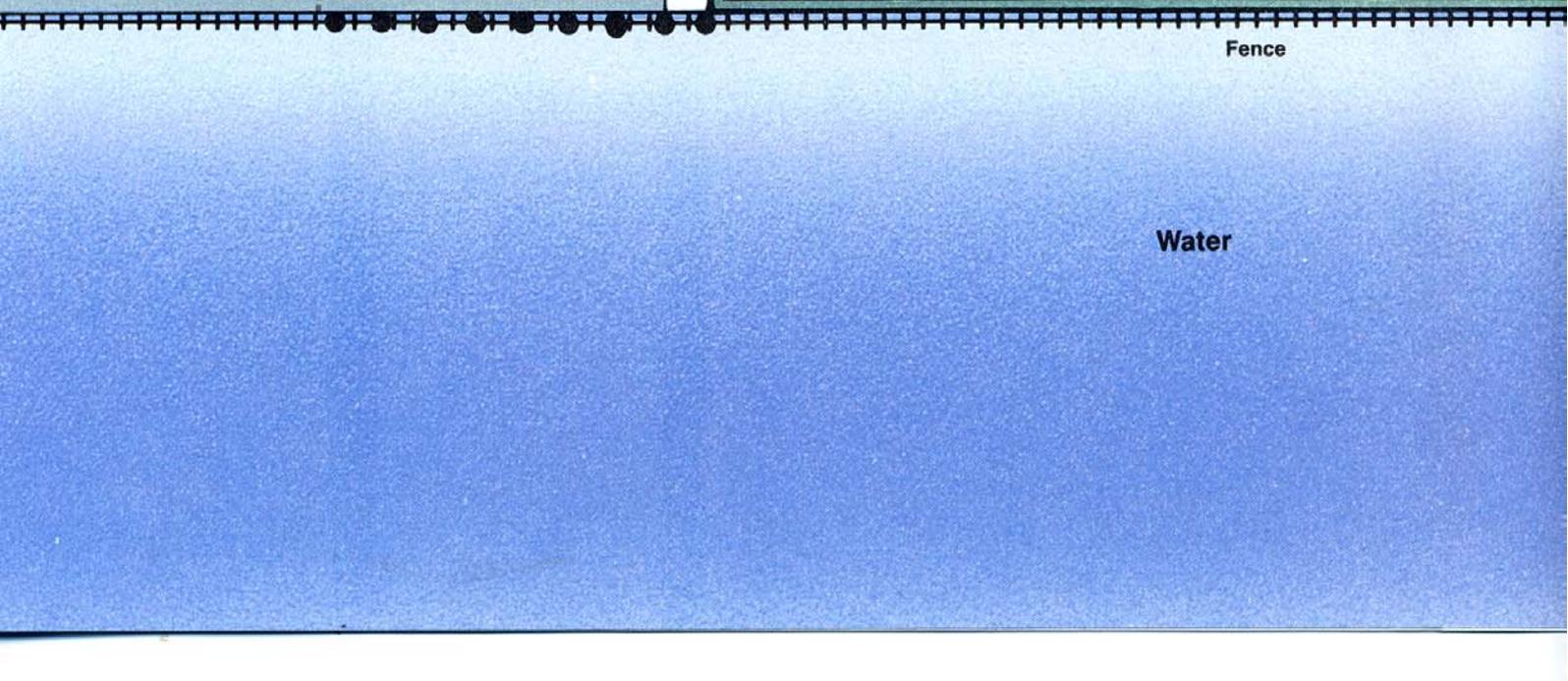
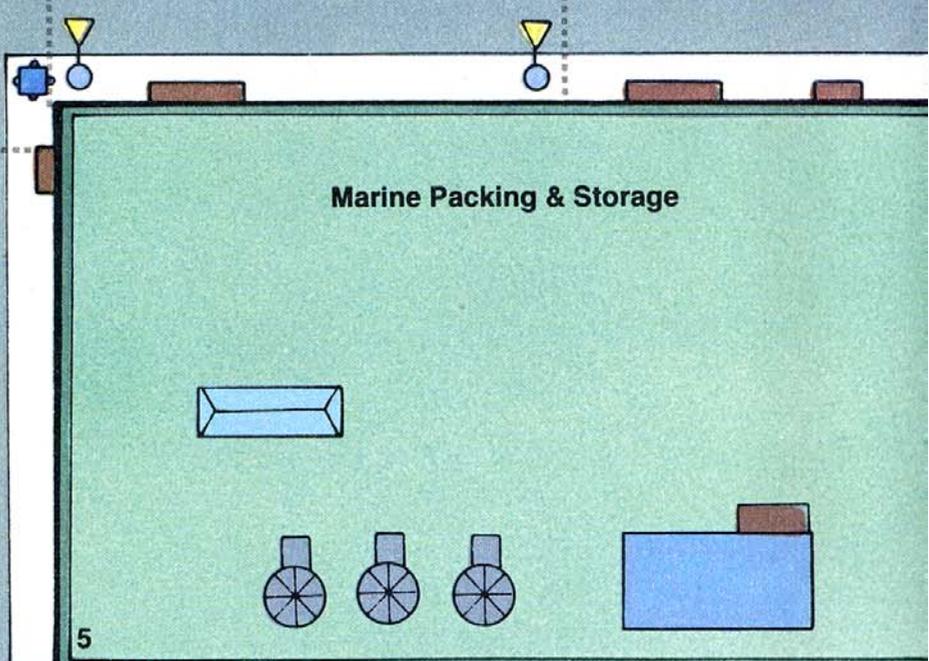
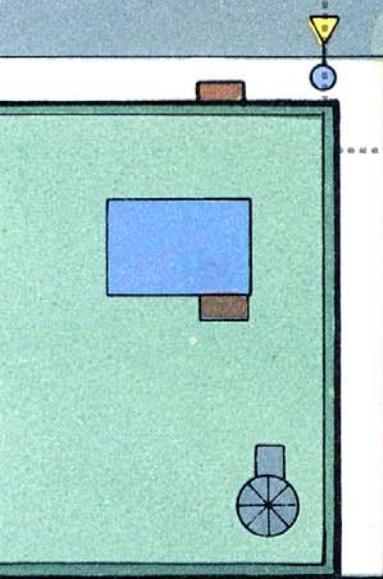
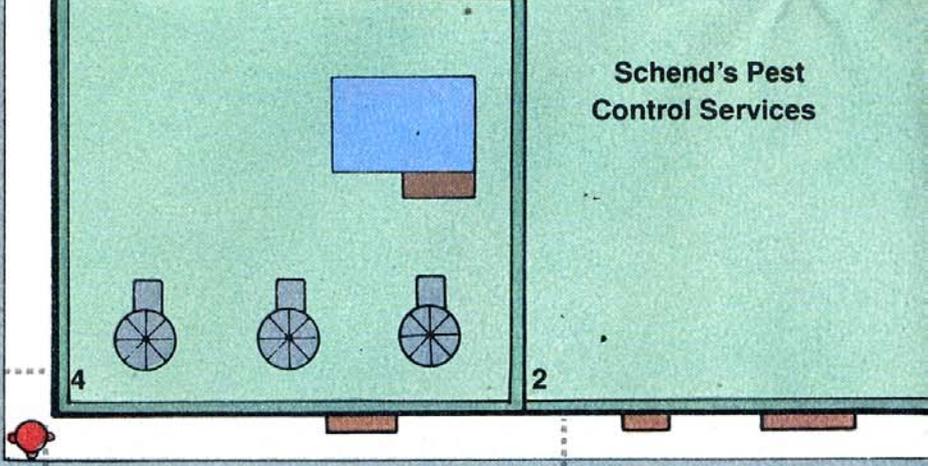
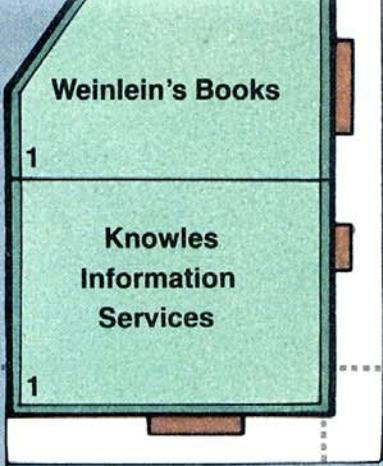
Abandoned Warehouse



4

Water





's Pest
services

Under Construction

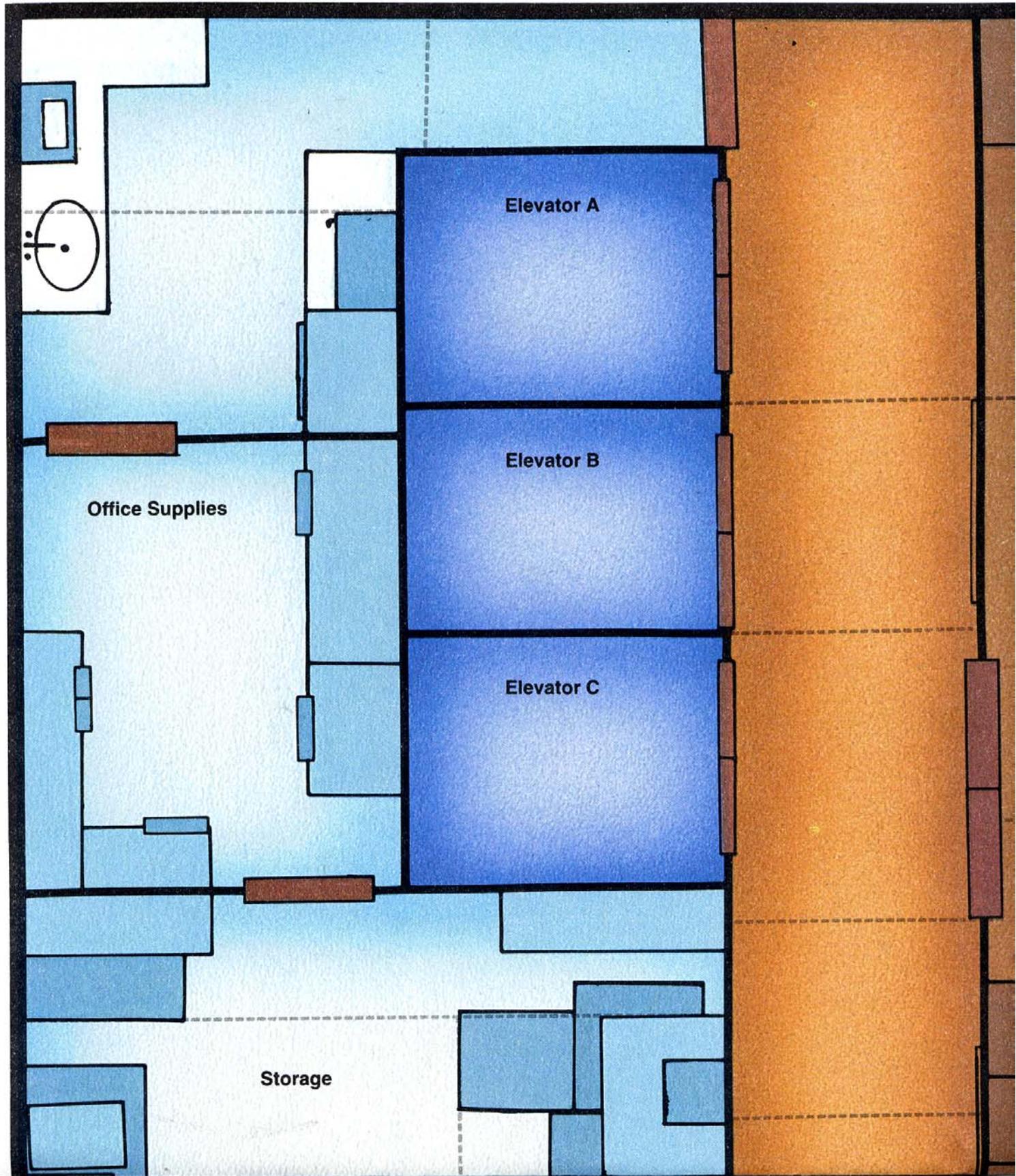
16

AJ's Construction (trailer)

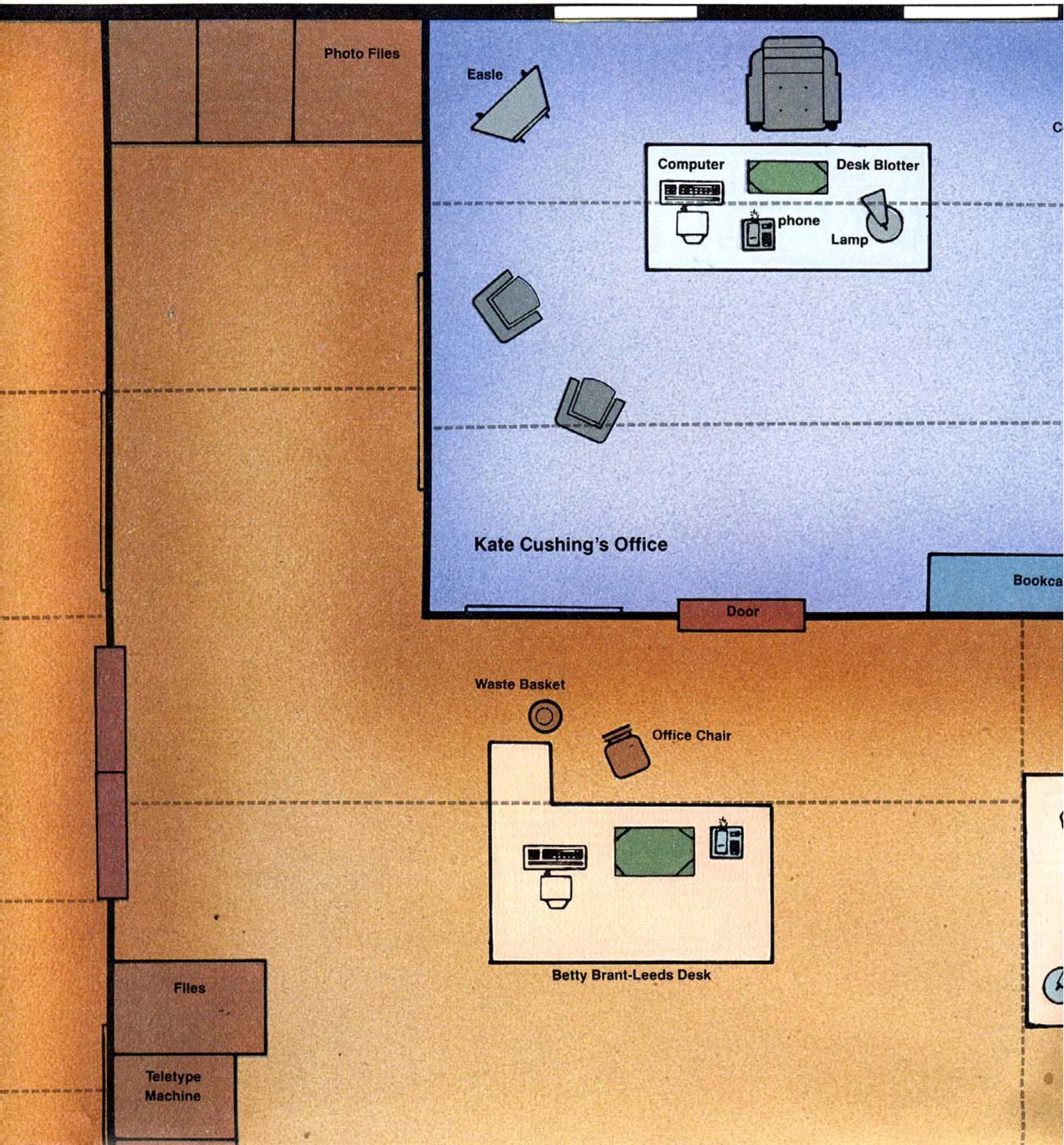
11

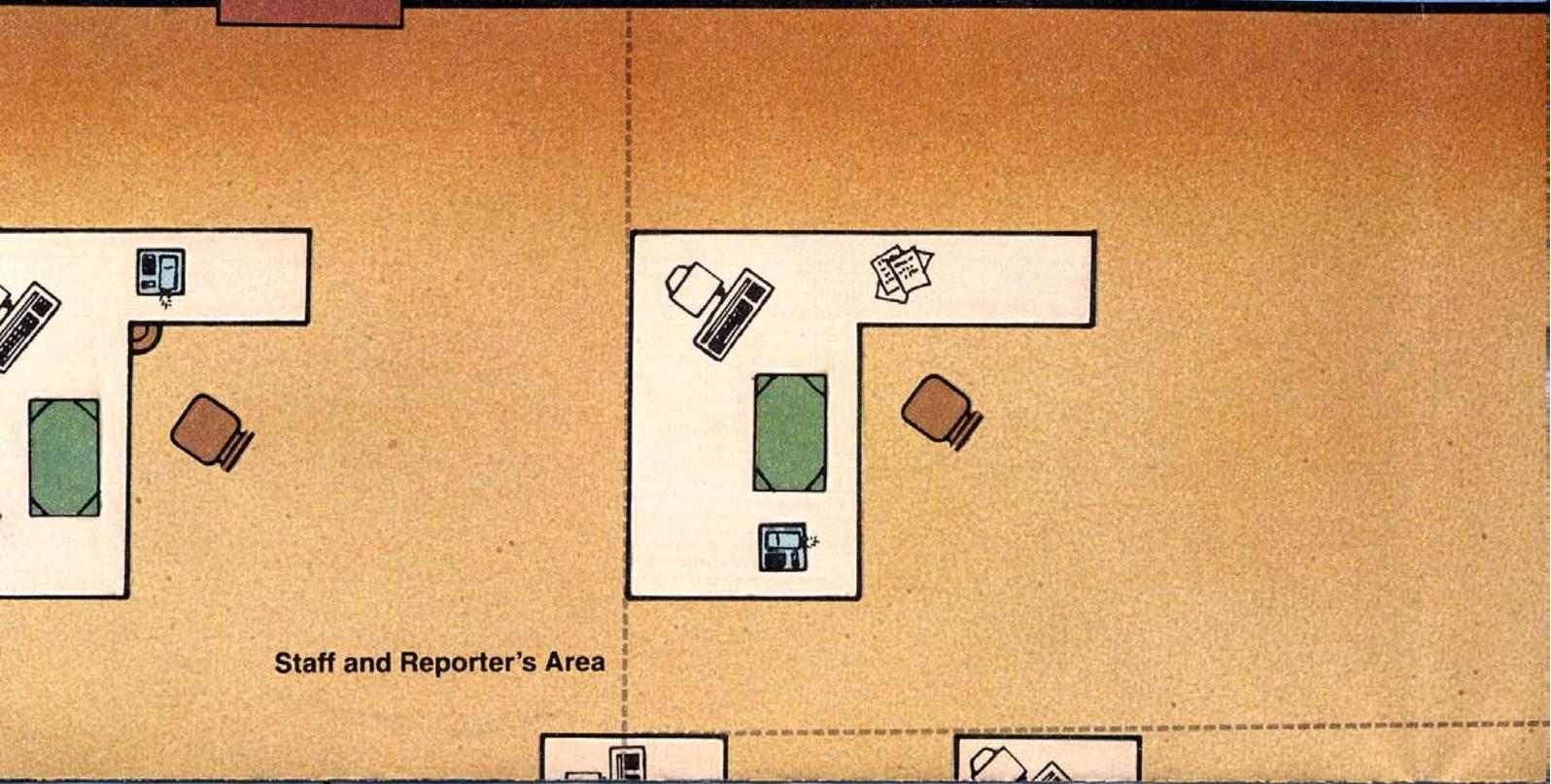
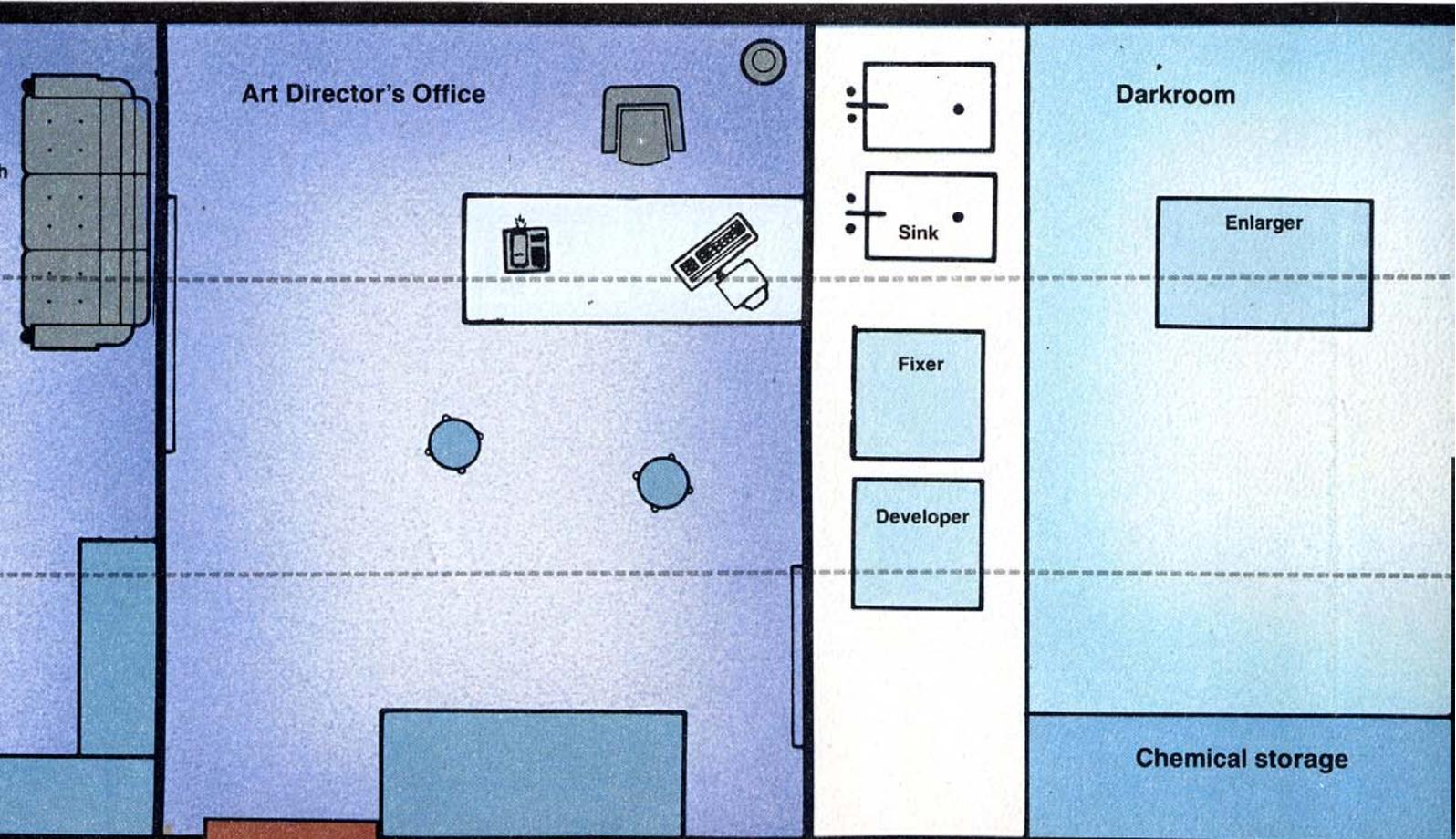
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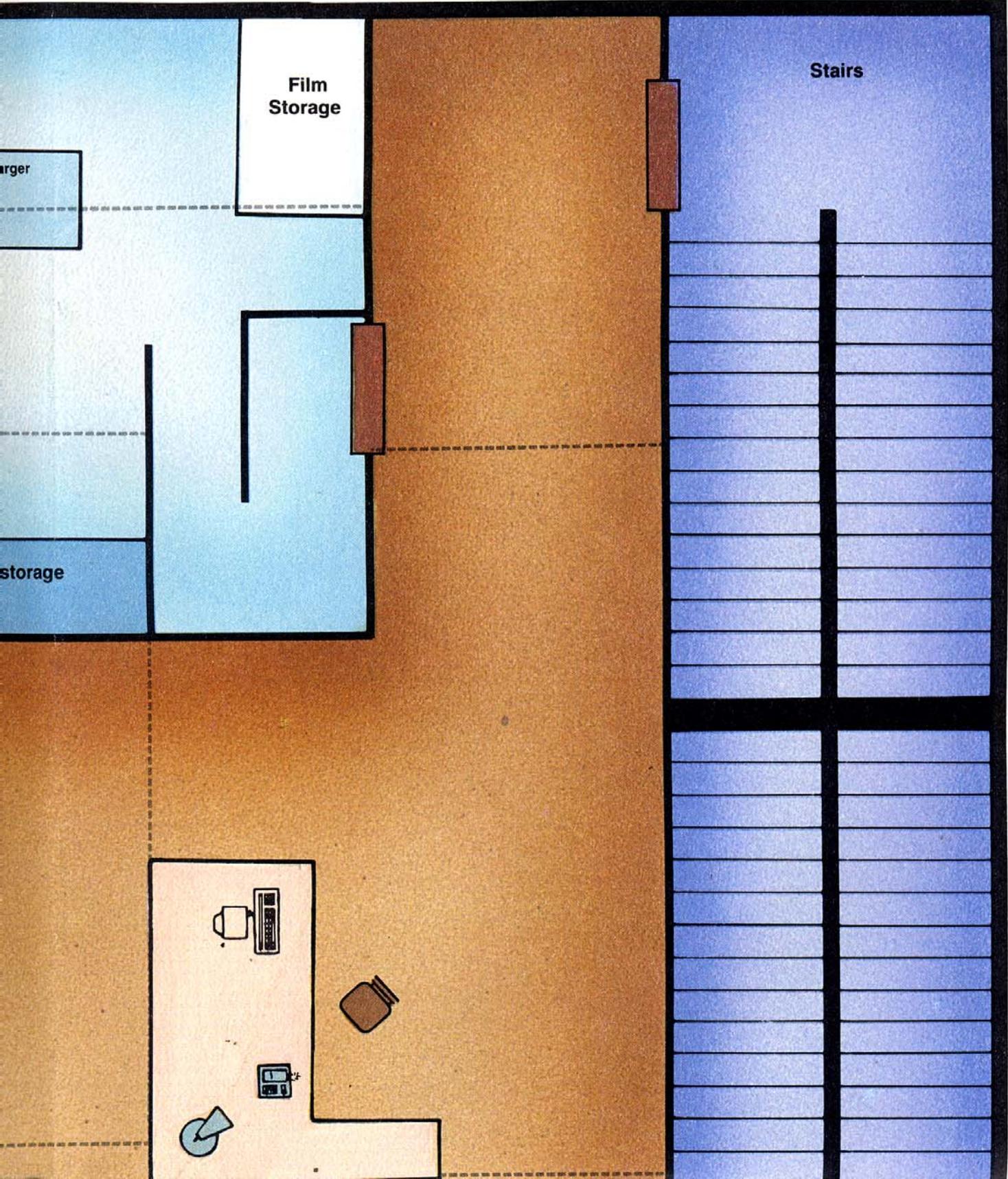
The Daily Bugle City Room, 17



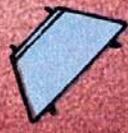
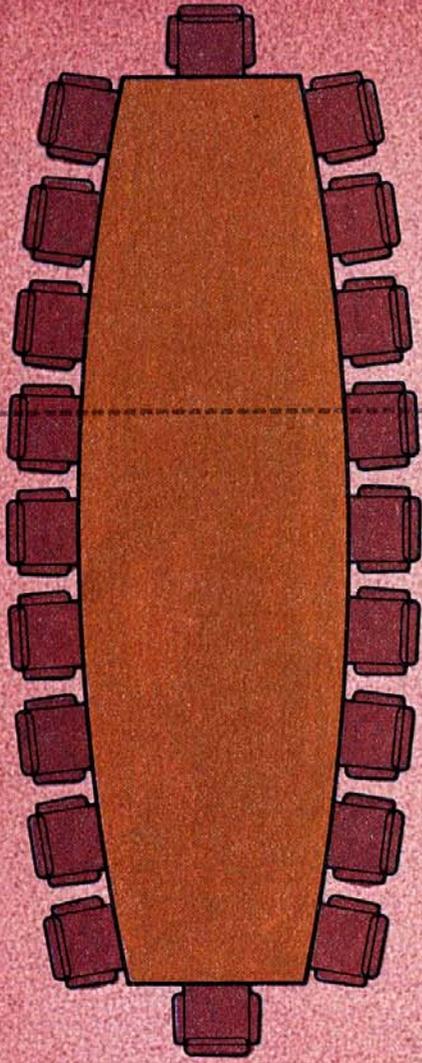
m, 17th Floor



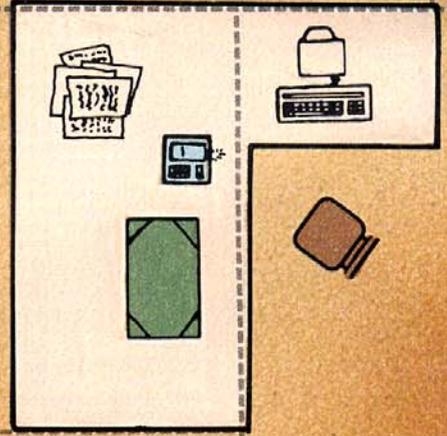
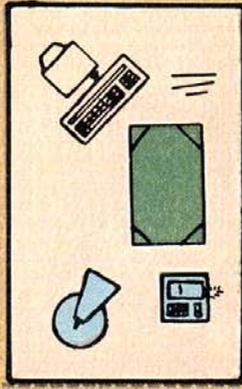




Meeting Room

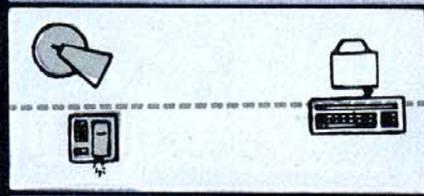


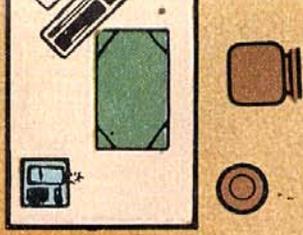
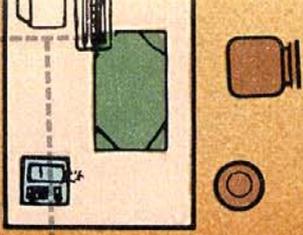
AP Newswire



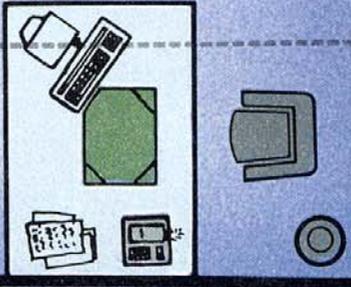
Storeroom

Vacant

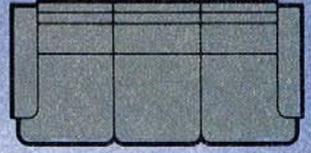




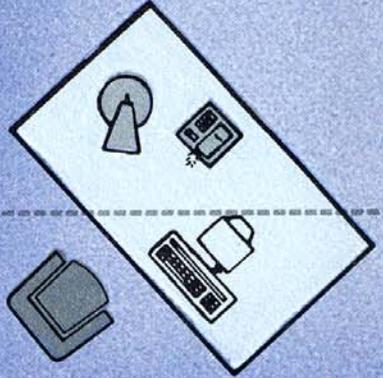
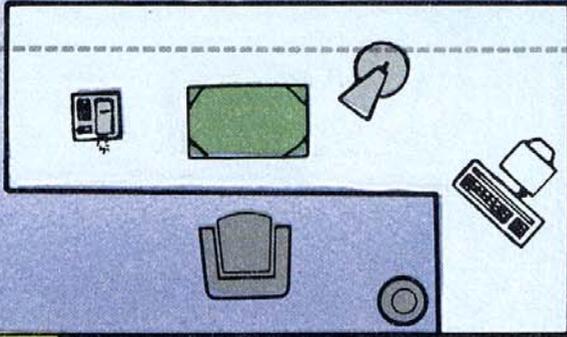
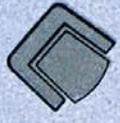
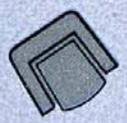
Glory Grant's Office

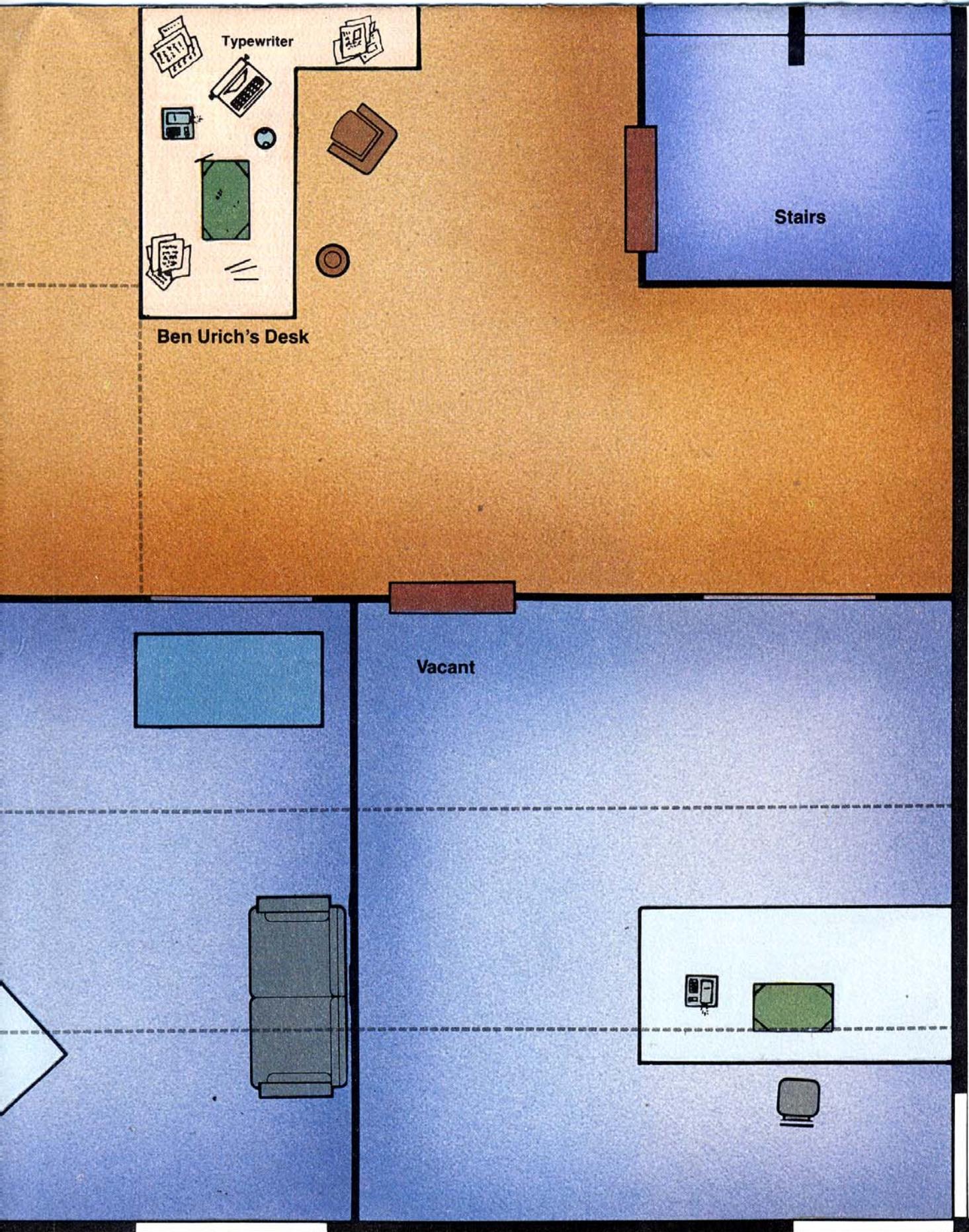


Robbie Robertson's Office



Vacant





Typewriter

Ben Urich's Desk

Stairs

Vacant