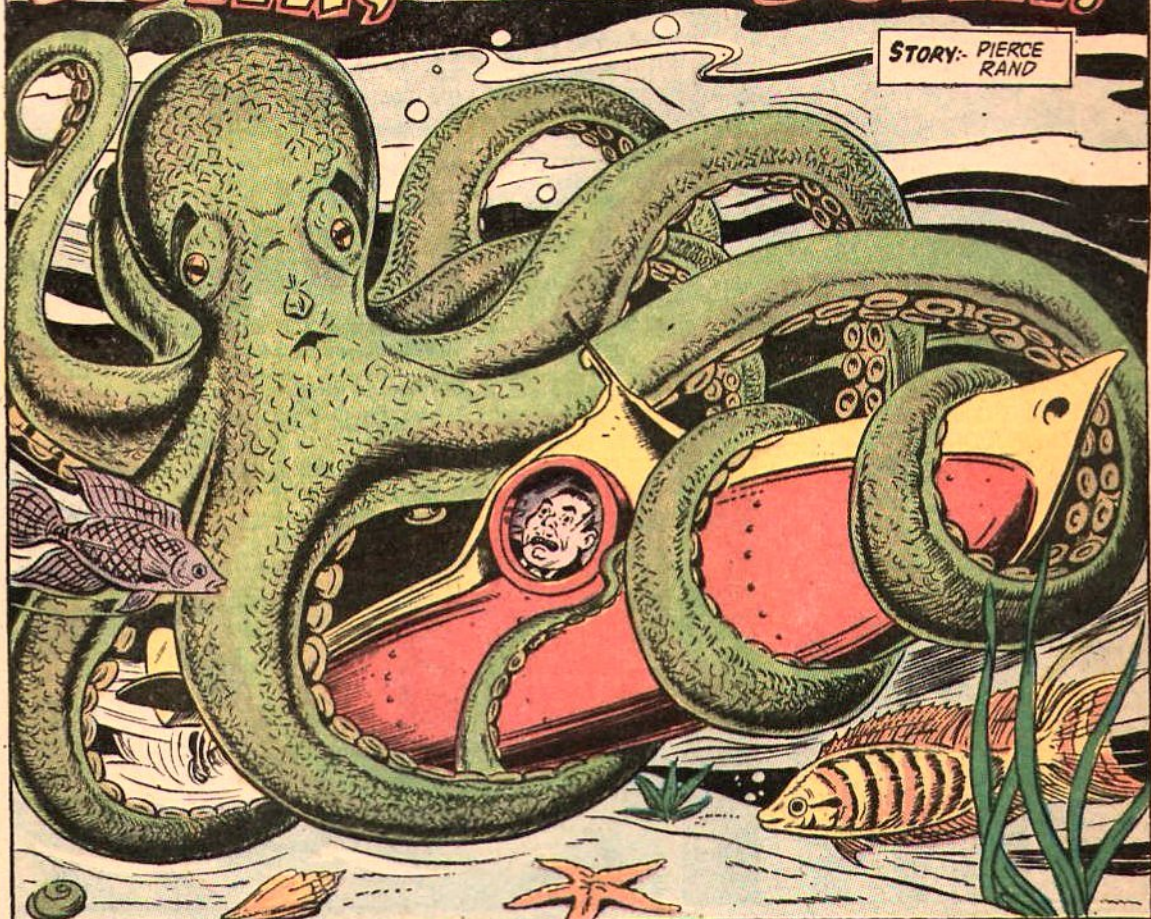


EVER WONDER ABOUT THE STRANGE SECRETS BURIED FAR BENEATH THE MYSTERIOUS DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN? WATCH AS THEY ARE REVEALED DRAMATICALLY TO ONE MAN...THE MAN WHO WENT--

DOWN, DOWN, DOWN!

STORY- PIERCE RAND



ALPHONSE ORR WAS A MOUSY LITTLE MAN... BUT A MAN WITH IDEAS...

LET'S SEE... I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO PRODUCE AN IMPROVED CARBURETOR WITH THIS NEW APPROACH...



HIS FERTILE MIND LED TO INVENTION AFTER INVENTION...

IT WORKS... AND IT BEATS THE CONVENTIONAL GEIGER COUNTER ALL HOLLOW!



HIS INVENTIONS SOLD HUGELY... BUT WAS ALPHONSE ORR RICH? NO... SAD TO STATE, HE WAS POOR...

I WONDER... COULD I AFFORD PIE TODAY? NO... I JUST HAD IT MONDAY...



BUT THINGS WERE DIFFERENT WITH HIS BOSS, EDGAR W. SIMMONS...

I'VE HEARD YOU TRIPLED YOUR PROFITS THIS YEAR... BUT DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW WHY! IF YOU DIDN'T HAVE THAT LITTLE ALPHONSE ORR TO INVENT PRODUCTS FOR YOU TO MANUFACTURE, WHERE'D YOU BE?

PAL, THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW HOW SMART I AM!

HE CAME TO ME YEARS BACK, STARVING... BECAUSE HE WAS TOO TIMID TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION, AND COULDN'T GET A JOB ANYWHERE ELSE! BUT WHEN HE TOLD ME SOME OF HIS IDEAS, I PLAYED A MASTER STROKE! I SIGNED HIM TO A LONG-TERM CONTRACT FOR NEXT TO NOTHING, JUST TO INVENT--AND THE PATENTS ARE ALL IN MY NAME!

YES, ED SIMMONS KNEW THAT HE HAD LITTLE ALPHONSE DEAD TO RIGHTS, AND HE WASN'T GIVING AN INCH, AND WHEN ALPHONSE CAME TO HIM TIMIDLY, ASKING FOR MORE MONEY...

DO YOU THINK I'M **MADE** OF MONEY? LOOK AT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE FOR YOU... PICKED YOU UP OUT OF THE GUTTER, GAVE YOU A JOB...

ER... ALL RIGHT, MR. SIMMONS! I... I'M SORRY I ASKED!



IT... IT ISN'T ONLY THE MONEY... IF ONLY I COULD HAVE EVEN **ONE** INVENTION OF MY OWN, I'D FEEL SO **PROUD**...

IT WAS THEN THAT ALPHONSE GOT THE IDEA! IF HE WERE TO WORK OVERTIME, IT WOULD BE HIS OWN TIME... AND THAT WAY, HE'D BE ENTITLED TO ANYTHING HE INVENTED! AND SO, NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, HE REMAINED IN HIS LABORATORY...

IT CAN'T BE TOO BIG... IT WOULDN'T DO TO PRESENT THE WATER WITH TOO LARGE A SURFACE AGAINST WHICH TO EXERT PRESSURE. BUT A **ONE-MAN SUB**... WITH A FIELD OF FORCE RADIATING OUTWARD WHICH WOULD BOTH PROPEL IT AND REPEL PRESSURE... IT JUST **MIGHT WORK!**



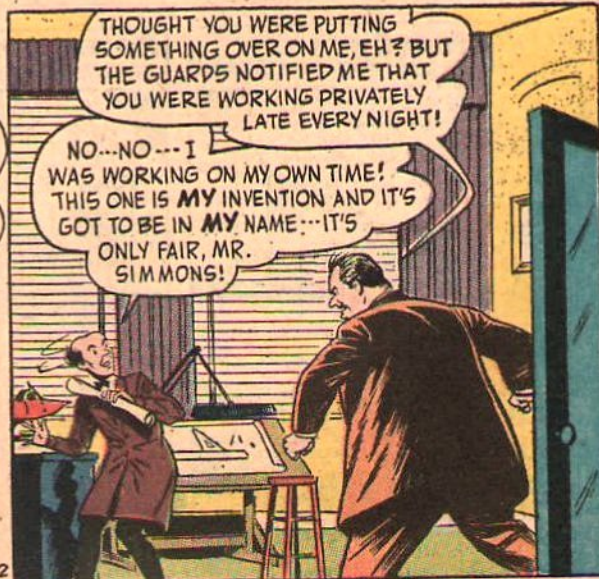
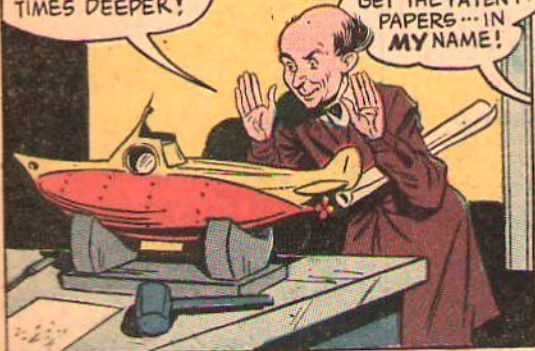
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT HE WORKED TO THE LIMITS OF HIS FRAIL STRENGTH... AND FINALLY HIS LATEST AND GREATEST INVENTION STARTED TAKING SHAPE...

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT... IT WILL DIVE DEEPER INTO THE OCEAN DEPTHS THAN ANYTHING ELSE BEFORE... MANY TIMES DEEPER!

NOW ISN'T THAT **DUCKY!** THANK YOU, ALPHONSE... I'LL START MANUFACTURING IT JUST AS SOON AS I GET THE PATENT PAPERS... IN **MY NAME!**

THOUGHT YOU WERE PUTTING SOMETHING OVER ON ME, EH? BUT THE GUARDS NOTIFIED ME THAT YOU WERE WORKING PRIVATELY LATE EVERY NIGHT!

NO... NO... I WAS WORKING ON MY OWN TIME! THIS ONE IS **MY** INVENTION AND IT'S GOT TO BE IN **MY** NAME... IT'S ONLY FAIR, MR. SIMMONS!



THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK! AREN'T YOU FORGETTING THAT YOU WERE USING MY LABORATORY, MY FACILITIES? THAT MAKES THE INVENTION MINE! AND THESE PLANS I JUST TOOK FROM YOU WILL MAKE IT ALL THE EASIER!

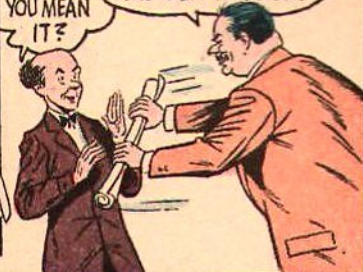
YOU--- YOU'VE ONLY GOT PART OF THE PLANS --- AND I'LL NEVER TELL YOU WHERE THE R-REST ARE!



THERE WAS HYSTERIA IN HIS TONE, AND ED SIMMONS KNEW HE HAD TO HANDLE THE MATTER IN ANOTHER WAY, IF HE WANTED TO GET THIS INVENTION---

HA-HA! I WAS JUST HAVING A BIT OF FUN, ALPHONSE! AFTER ALL YOU'VE WORKED FOR ME SO LONG AND DONE SUCH GOOD WORK --- YOU'RE REALLY ENTITLED TO THIS ONE! HERE---TAKE THE PLANS BACK!

YOU... YOU MEAN IT?



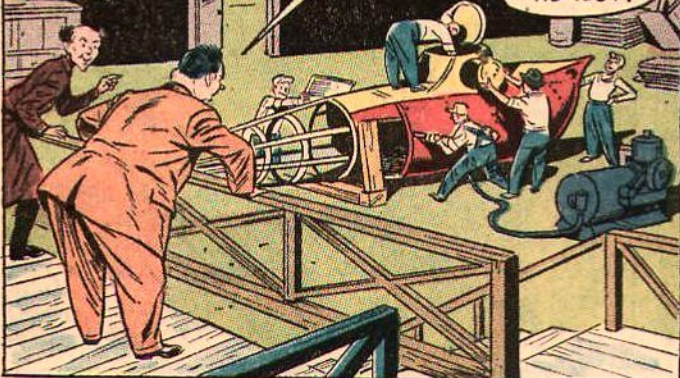
OF COURSE I DO --- I'VE ALWAYS HAD YOUR INTERESTS AT HEART! I'LL PROVE IT --- YOU COULD NEVER BUILD THAT MIDGET SUBMARINE YOURSELF --- IT TAKES MONEY. I'LL BUILD IT FOR YOU IN MY SHOPS, AND IF IT OPERATES WELL, I'LL REGISTER THE PATENT IN YOUR NAME!



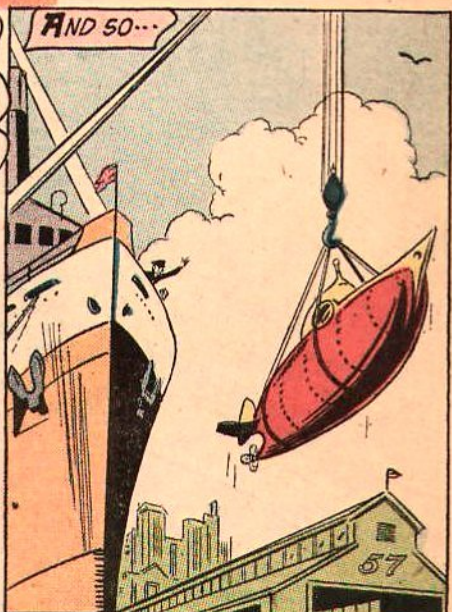
AS THE SUBMARINE TOOK SHAPE---

I CAN'T WAIT TO TEST IT--- BUT WHAT SPOT IN THE OCEAN IS DEEP ENOUGH TO SHOW WHAT IT CAN REALLY DO?

I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU! I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED FOR AN EXPEDITION TO MARINER FELL, THE DEEPEST SPOT IN THE PACIFIC---WHERE NO BOTTOM HAS EVER BEEN FOUND! WE'LL GO THERE AND YOU'LL HAVE THE HONOR OF TAKING YOUR INVENTION DOWN FOR ITS TEST!



AND SO---



AS THE LONG VOYAGE PROCEEDED---

YESSIR, I'M TAKING IT DOWN! IT'S MINE, EVERY INCH OF IT!

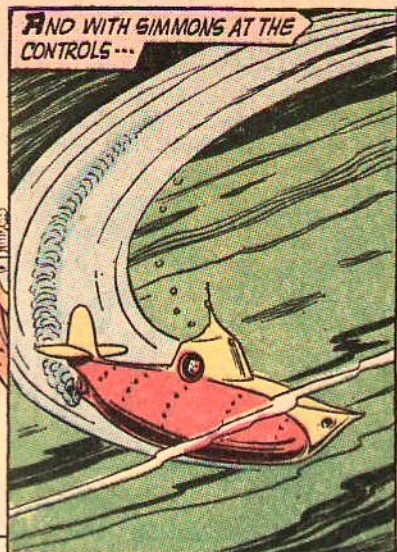


FINALLY, THEY REACHED THE APPOINTED SPOT---ALL WAS IN READINESS. NOW SIMMONS SPRANG A SURPRISE---A BROADCAST TO THE WORLD---

WE'RE HERE AT LAST, FOLKS--- THE SPOT WHERE MY LITTLE SUBMARINE WILL MAKE ITS TRY AT GOING DOWN DEEPER THAN MORTAL MAN HAS EVER GONE! SHE'LL DO IT, TOO, AND I OUGHT TO KNOW--- BECAUSE NOT ONLY DID I BUILD IT, BUT I INVENTED IT! AND NOW I'M TAKING IT DOWN---

NO... NO!





FURTHER AND FURTHER INTO THE DEPTHS THE LITTLE SUBMARINE SANK... FOR AT THIS POINT, THERE SEEMED TO BE NO BOTTOM...

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THIS... I CAN HARDLY CREDIT IT MYSELF! BUT WE'RE 120 MILES DOWN... ONLY A RADICAL SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLE HAS MADE THIS POSSIBLE! AND HERE I AM SAFE AS...

BUT SUDDENLY...

OH, NO
... NO ...
NO!



NO ELECTRIC SHOCK COULD ROUT THIS GIANT UNDERSEA MONSTER... NOTHING MADE BY MORTAL MAN COULD WITHSTAND IT...



WE JUST HEARD SCREAMS COMING OVER THE RADIO, THEN A RIPPING NOISE... THEN SILENCE! ONE THING SURE... WE'LL NEVER SEE THAT SUB AGAIN!

THAT PART DOESN'T DISTURB ME... IT CAN BE REBUILT...

BUT HE'S GONE... SIMMONS... THE MAN WHO PERSECUTED ME, KEPT ME IN A BONDAGE OF FEAR! I'M NOT FRIGHTENED ANYMORE, NOW THAT HE'S GONE... I KNOW THAT I CAN DO THINGS ON MY OWN AND GO ON TO A BETTER LIFE. I'M FREE AT LAST!



THE END!