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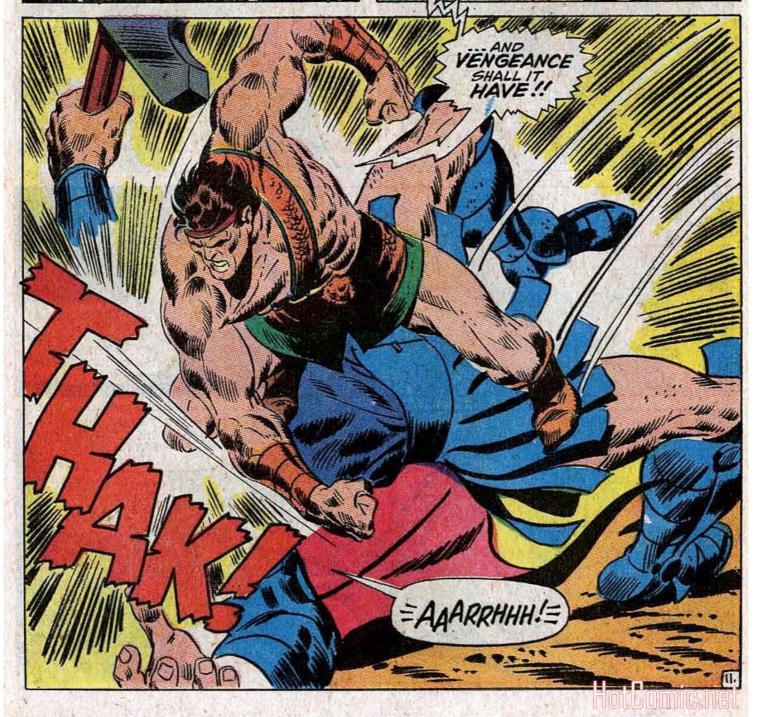




























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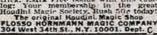


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COME 'N GET IT, TIGER — HERE'S OUR NEW YEAR'S GIFT TO YOU!!

We promised to start '68 off with a bang, and we kidded thee not! So, hang on to your crash helmet, pilgrim — this is what you've been waiting for!

ITEM! It's finally happened! The star-spangled Captain America — and the great, green-skinned Hulk — have both been awarded their own full-length mags each month! That means, starting right now, you can buy the big, new, action-packed CAPTAIN AMERICA COMICS, as well as the sensational, spectacle-filled INCRED-IBLE HULK COMICS, and thrill to their awesome adventures from cover to cover!

BUT - now you're probably wondering what'll happen to Iron Man, and the swingin' Sub-Mariner! Well, you didn't think we'd forget about 'em, didja? For this month only, they're both sharing the same mag and both their names will be featured up in the cover title. That's right -- we said "For this month only"! Because, next month - aw, no sense telling you now! We've got some big changes coming month after month - and we might as well clue you in a little at a time, as we go along! So, watch for the big surprise announcement coming up next ish - and the ish after that - and after that - and after that! Yessir! 1968 is the year of Marvel and you better believe it!

Y'KNOW, we're so excited about our two brand-new smashes, CAPTAIN AMERICA and THE INCREDIBLE HULK, that we can hardly talk about anything else! Both mags feature all the action, drama, and suspense which you've come to expect from your blue-eyed Bullpen — plus the added treat of a couple of ORIGINS tossed in for good measure, for the benefit of those who really like to get their money's worth! And, like we said, this is only the beginning!

REMEMBER how it all started? Lots of frantic ones thought of Marvel was getting lazy - they thought we were satisfied to sit back and rest on our laurels! Then, we hit 'em with a sudden one-two punch -first, the magnificently mad NOT BRAND ECHH, which has proven to be the unexpected smash hit of the decade - and then, almost before they could catch their breath, along came the daringly different CAPTAIN MARVEL, who seems to have taken superhero fandom by storm! Lazy, are we?? Know thou this - we're just getang started! This is the beginning of the SECOND Golden Age of Marvel — and it's gonna be a never-ending joyride! Next ish we'll tell you about lots more of the goodies in store - as if you didn't know!

ITEM! It's title-time again! Here's the mightiest of all Marvel ranks — the one which adorns the very pinnacle of Marveldom! You've already been briefed about RFO (Real Frantic One), to be used by those who buy three or more Marvel mags a month — QNS (Quite 'Nuff Sayer), for those who've had a letter gracing our peerless pages — TTB (Titanic True Believer), for the richly-endowed recipient of a hallowed No-Prize — and KOF (Keeper of the Flame), for those who recruit a new discipletinto the rollicking realm of Marveldom. And now — the ultimate! The ne plus ultral The apex of titledom! PMM (Permanent Marvelite Maximus), to be cherished and guarded with pulsating pride by those fortunate few who have won all four of the

preceding titles! If you're a PMM, you're entitled to face the Baxter Building and wiggle your webs whenever the mood strikes you — and you can even call your friendly Forbush-Man by his first name! Tamam Shud!

STAN'S SOAPBOX!

Now that we've announced the start of the Second Golden Age of Marvel, we must also announce the end of an eral From this moment on, we'll no longer refer to our competition as Brand Echh! We coined that expression a few years ago as a gag, figuring it would be fun for us to needle some of the outfits who were older and bigger than we. However, thanks to the loyalty of you fabulous fans, and to the hard work, talent, and dedication of our beloved Bullpeners, we've managed to make ourselves the undisputed leaders of the comics industry. Perhaps we're still not the biggest - and we're certainly not the oldest - but we doubt that any group of magazines has ever before been so imitated, so universally acclaimed, or so zealously supported by its fans! - No, strike that word! You're more than fans! Much more! We've always thought of you as friends - and we always will! Anyway, when you're on top of the heap, it doesn't seem right to rib the other guy who hasn't quite made it - and that's why the only time we'll use the phrase BRAND ECHH from now on is in the title of our own goofy gag mag! So, to the artists, writers, and editors of the other companies in this batty business in which we toil, many of whom are close personal friends of ours - we hereby end the fatuous little feud we've been flaunting before the public, Let's just call it a draw and get on with the business at hand - the business of making today's comic mags the greatest entertainment value on earth - and tomorrow's even greater! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

NOT BRAND ECHH #7: This is almost too terrific to describe! Out of the goodness of our greedy little hearts, we present the ORIGIN OF THE FANTASTICAL FOUR — and, to prove we play no favorites, we also give you — and you can have it — the ORIGIN OF STUPORMAN! What more can we say?

FANTASTIC FOUR #73! It's true! Dr. Doom lives again! And, to celebrate this mind-staggering revelation, you'll thrill to one of the greatest battles aver staged, featuring none other than Spider-Man — Daredevil — and the mighty Thor! It's a mind-blaster!

SPIDER-MAN #59: This one's really different! Spidey battles a mysterious supervillain whom he doesn't even see till the very end! But, when he finally learns who The Brainwasher really is, it's one of the most startling surprises of the year!

X-MEN #42: The issue you never expected to see — and we never expected to print! Professor X dies — so that humanity might live! And, don't miss the pulsating showdown with the sub-human monster called Grotesk! This is the big one!

DAREDEVIL #38: We call it "The Living Prison," and no thriller was ever more aptly titted! Wait'll you see Daredevil, in the body of Dr. Doom, battling against Dr. Doom — in the body of Daredevil! Possibly the most daringly original theme you'll gasp at this year!

CAPTAIN MARVEL, STARRING IN MARVEL SUPER-HEROES: #13: Still on sale — if you're lucky! Marvel's newest hero gains a new identity — a new life — and a new and sinister foe, as the senses-shattering Sentry once more walks the earth! It's a gasser!

THOR #150: At last — the mighty Thunder God is claimed by Hela, Goddess of Death! Is this to be the end of the most spectacular series of modern times — or the beginning of new wonderment such as mortal eyes have never seen? Even we're not sure!

IRON MAN AND SUB-MARINER #1: Don't dare miss this one! Probably the only time these two superhero greats will costar in the same mag! Next month they go on to a still greater destiny, but till then—this one titanic issue will undoubtedly be the top collectors' item of the season! CAPTAIN AMERICA (Premiere Issue!): This is it! The star-spangled Avenger in his own full-length magazine! Featuring an unexpected origin bit, plus the startling solution to the macabre mystery of Zemo! You'll never part with this one—especially when the Panther goes into action!

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (Premiere Issue!):
Another triumph for mighty Marvell The
world's most powerful mortal starring at
last in his own magazine! As an extra
bonus, you'll thrill anew to Green Skin's
origin — as well as to the awesome action
when the might of Asgard is hurled against
him!

STRANGE TALES #167: Finally, the cataclysmic climax to the bombastic battle between Nick Fury and the Yellow Claw (honest)! And Doc Strange enters a deadly dimension of death in search of Victoria Bentley! This one you can't afford to miss! SGT. FURY #52: It's a wah-hooing work of war-mag wonderment when Happy Sam Sawyer leads the Howlers into a Nazi prison camp to rescue a captured Allied scientist! Talk about bombshells . . . hooo boy!

CAPTAIN SAVAGE #2: The Leatherneck Raiders lock horns with the sensational Samurai Squad in a desperate attempt to hait a world takeover plot by . . . none other than Baron Strucker! It's dynamite! MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #14: The FF, Iron Man, Doctor Strange, and the Hulk — all in one action-packed issue you'll never forget — unless you're holding out on the Marvel Age of Comics! (Perish the thought!)

MARVEL TALES #13: Spidey, Thor, Giant-Man, and — latch onto your seat belts from out of the glorious golden age . . . Marvel Boy, one of the most dramatically different superheroes ever! The House of Ideas has struck again!

Let's meet 26 more Tony Kopera Chicago, III. M.M.S. members! Richard Kad

Gregory Obdonnell Larry Lertent
Barkeros Point, N.B. New Orleans, La.
Rod Hansen Gerard Loughran
Pasco, Wash. Beldwin, N. Y.

Tony Kopera Chicago, III. Richard Kadiril Sulsun, Calif-Larry Lertent New Orleans, La. Gerard Loughran Baldwin, N. Y.

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THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR, 625 MADISON AVE., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022 LETTERS TO:

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

"The Agony and the Anthill!" in issue #46 was better than usual. Goliath, now Antman, and Wasp came alive this ish even though Cap and Speedy did some action. Speaking of Cap, it looks like quitting time for him. It's as though he's still a hero as Steve. Now the Avengers are Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, Antman, Wasp, and Hawkeye, possibly Herk. Have Thor and Iron Man rejoin. They'd bring more action to the Avengers. I'd even send for a subscription! Speaking of subscriptions, I was going to send for one, but \$1.75 for 12 issues is sort of high. Why do you have such high rates? Anyway, long live Marvell John Lund, 4499 Venada Dr. Santa Barbara, Cal. 95105

Wha' for, Johnny? So we can bask in the glory of bankruptcy that much longer? After all, if you say our subscriptions are too expensive, then our mags must be, too - 'cause the subscription rate is merely the newsstand price plus postage. We don't make a penny more on mail orders - honest! As a matter of fact, we wouldn't even bother with them if so many Marvelites hadn't demanded it! Now, how's about retracting that stunning statement - unless you wanna be responsible for another great depression! 'Cause, as goes mighty Marvel, so goes the world - we hope!



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

Letters such as the one that appeared back in issue #44 inspire me to comment. No fan, in my opinion, has the right to say that some Avengers must go. Personal taste influences a large part of your fan mail and this includes the selection of favorite heroes and heroines. Why else would you produce so many different magazines? I personally am an ardent Scarlet Witch fan and resent letters that say she should be booted out of the Avengers. I say if you must keep all the Avengers in the same mag at the same time, switch the lineup occasionally for a refreshing change of pace. Also, how about a contest featuring your ten or twenty most popular comic females? As the first entry, I submit my own favorite - the Scarlet Witch.

Ronald Kern, 1406 Lebanon Lacey, Wash. 98501

Thanks for the suggestion, Ron - but we fear your vote will have to be the only one! (And we're not about to tell anyone about it!) Sure, it'd be great to have one of our beauteous baddie-smashers chosen the most poular - but if the other gals didn't like the decision - hooo boy! The result'd make a Madison Square Garden tag-team match look like a posey-picking contest! Besides, even Bert Parks would have a tough time choosing between our glamor gals - don't ya think?

Dear Stan, Roy, and John, AVENGERS #46 was great, especially the ant hill scenes. Are you sure that was an ant hill? I never saw an ant hill with glass sides. Keep up Quicksilver's growing hatred of humans. John's art is very good. And Vince's inking gives the art a Kirby touch of greatness. Also, how does Coliath see through his . . . visor? . . . glasses? Does he see everything yellow? Are those black lines shade lines or a design? I saw F.F. and Spidey on TV and I was wondering if you can change the time? I have to get up at 7:30 every morning to watch them. May I have a no-prize for that? How about for poor typing? Poor spelling??

Louis Wilson, 840 Cardenas S.E.

Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87108

Say no more, O bombastic believer in the boob tube! Your Nielsen-approved no-prize is on its way! We figure that anyone who gets up at 7:30 in the A.M. (isn't that the middle of the night?) is definitely deserving of it! We can't do anything about the time our scintillatin' shows start, though - sorry! Incidentally, you must've been cramming AVENGERS #46 in between commercials, 'cause if you'd studied it carefully, you'd know that the ant hill Hank and Jan were trapped in was part of a glass-encased ant-farm in High Pocket's laboratory! As for the groovy goggles, Hank sees normally through them! They're merely a typical "I can see out but you can't see in" item which are colored yellow because it matches the rest of Goliath's threads! Dig? Then, if that answers all your questions, get thee to bed, lad! It'll be Saturday morning before you know it!

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I'd like to compliment Roy on the changes he's made in the Avengers, such as Quicksilver's power of flight, Goliath's going down to ant size, the appearance of Hercules, and Jan's inheritance. By the way, who thought of Cap's retirement? Did Smilin' Stan or Rascally Roy devise it? John's artwork is nothing to sneeze at either. The way he drew the Hydra back in ish #43 was magnificent. Also, the F.F. and Spidey TV shows are great. I also agree with the fan who said your villains are too darn intelligent. Right now the only ones I can think of who aren't scientific geniuses are Powerman and the Gladiator. Well, I might as well shuteth up, so until next time, so long - so William Yambor be itl

Perkiomenville, Pa. 18074

If you insist, Willy - but Rascally Roy and Big John were sort of hoping you'd rave on forever! Anyway, they send their heartfelt thanks for thy tender, loving words! But, before Mr. T's chest explodes — we will have to admit that Cap's retirement was dreamed up by ol' Smiley. The whole thing started in the Red, White, and Blue Avenger's own strip - in TALES OF SUSPENSE, 'member? (If you don't - go to jail! Go directly to jail! Do not pass Go! Do not collect \$200! 'Nuff said!)

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

Usually I flip over any changes you guys make in my favorite reading matter, but now you really blew it. What are you doing to the fabulous Avengers? Two months ago you had an eight-member cast. You drop the fascinating Black Widow, leaving seven. When she marries Hawk-eye, he will have to quit, leaving six. Quicksilver is acting as if he will turn bad again, so five left, Now, worst of all, Cap is bowing out, or so it says in ish #47 preview. When Hercules leaves for Olympus, the Avengers will be Hank, Jan and Wanda. Who are they going to fight -

Jarvis the butler? Don't turn the mighty Avengers into a bigger joke than Forbush-Manl By the way, issue #46 was as great as usual. Charles Perkins, 96 Howard St. W. Bridgewater, Mass.

And we'll bet our special pass key to the Avengers' mansion that by now you've decided that that illustrious ish was only the beginning in your favorite reading matter's new rise to the greatest heights ever! Sure, we'll grant you that the number of active Avengers has dwindled a bit recently - but that just means they'll have to fight that much harder to stay on top and that means more of what all you magniloquent Marvel minions have been demanding - action! So, ya see, Charlie, no matter what happens, you readers always turn up the winners - at least we try to keep it that way!

Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

Going back a few issues, AVENGERS #44 was just beautiful. The start of the Red Guardian in #43 was also beautiful. When I saw the ending was continued to #44 I almost cried! When #44 came out, I loved the cover. The inside was just so good, I flipped! It was really cool when Wanda shot her hex and Hank tried to stop that cart with the two claws and Pietro had smashed the twoclawed thing. But I can't understand how he did it! The part where Steve, Hank, Jan, Wanda and Pietro were fighting on pages 6 through 9 is what I call action plus. By the way, I really have to hand it to you on the AVENGERS SPECIAL — it was great! Bye!

Peter Kowal, 61 Burnett St.

Avenel, N. J.

Waddaya mean, bye? Surely you're not heaping all those lavish praises on us merely to fade into oblivion never to be heard from again by the ranks of Marveldom assembled! Next time you sign off, Petey-O, how's about making it a "so long till next ish"? Your bloodshot Bullpen has enough to worry about without fearing the loss of a titanic true believer like you! Phew!



Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

I have a solution to your overcrowded Avengers problem. My idea is to make all the Avengers part-time. This includes Thor and Iron Man. When a summons for the Avengers goes out, then all the members who aren't busy with personal matters or other cases answer the summons, and they all go out and obliterate the character who is perpetrating no-no's. You could have different Avengers each month as the same members wouldn't answer every call. Using this method you wouldn't have to kick-out, eradicate, or put out to pasture anyone's favorite N.V.S. (Nefarious Villain Shellacker). Since only about half of the members would then be in each issue, you won't over-crowd the Avengers — you could have them all team up

in special issues or annuals. I'll read Marvel till Irving Forbush takes a bath — and that's a long time! Don McRitchie, 1404 Glen Aulen

Modesto, Cal.

Don't be too sure of it, frantic one - 'cause we happen to have it on the very best authority that Mama Forbush tosses the Honest One in the tub for a scrub-down every Saturday night! Sheesh! It's bad enough just having a Forbush around — but a filthy Forbush? Never! We think your idea of switching the Avengers around from ish to ish is a good one, and we're sure you've noticed by now that we've been doing exactly that for the past few issues. And, while we still wanna keep three or four main NVSers around on a permanent basis, you, bet your MMMS card that the others like Goldilocks and Shell Head will be showing up in guest appearances from time to time! Okay? Okay!



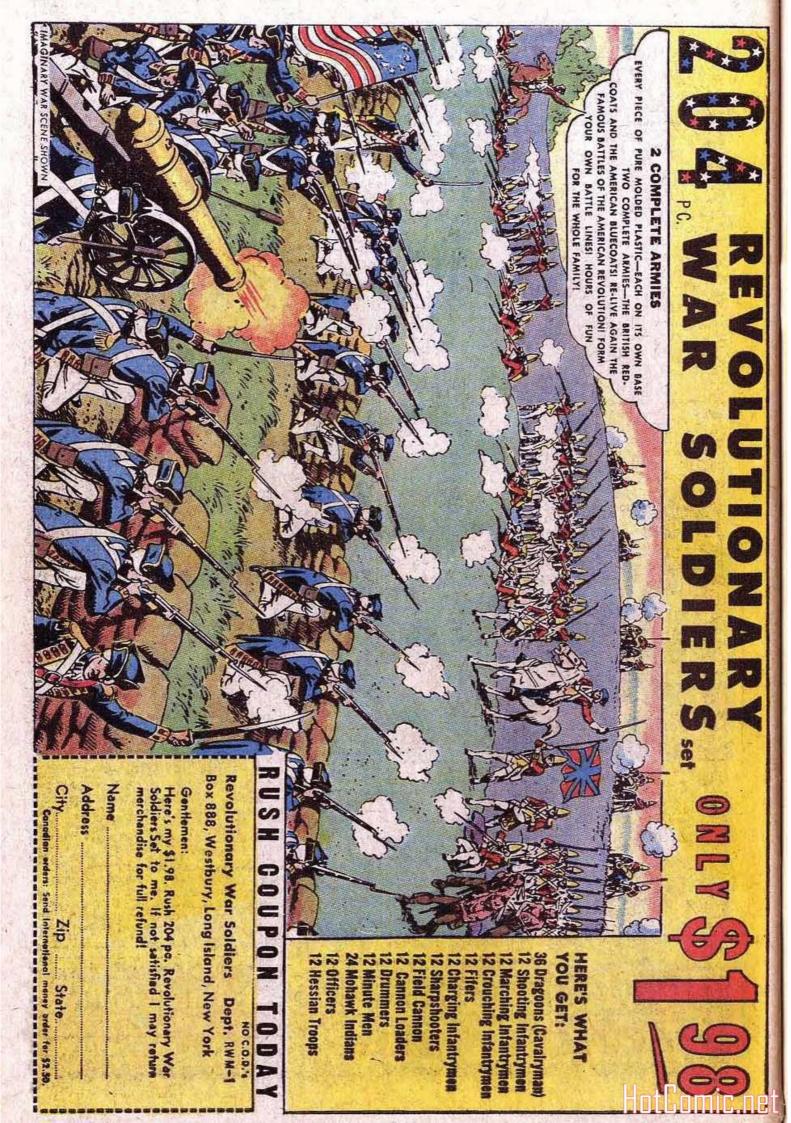
Dear Stan, Roy, and John,

If you are going to change the Avengers, change them to this lineup - Black Widow, Captain America, Goliath, Hawkeye, Hercules, Iron Man, Quicksilver, Scarlet Witch, and Thor. Wouldn't that make the team too crowded, you ask? Nay! Don't feature all the Avengers. Cap, Thor, and Iron Man would appear only when they're not doing anything in their own strip. There are countless ways to get rid of the others occasionally, such as in issue #46 where you sent four of the team on a walk. A rotating membership like this would leave room for guest stars like Daredevil, Black Panther, Torch, Angel, etc. AVENG-ERS #46 was very good, both in art and story. The Avengers seem more like true friends than any other group in comics. Where else can a hero say to a god, "C'mon, Herk! Grab your gal, and me and my girl will join you for a walk!"? Or "Hey, Cap! Let's go to a ballgame!"? Terrific! The sequence in the ant farm was one of the most dramatic, thrilling scenes I've ever seen in comics. A hardy well-done to all the staff of this issue.

Tony Isabella, 11203 Peony Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44111

And from our Avengin' staff, a hardy "thanks, tiger" to you, Tony lad! Now, as for your suggested line-up for everybody's favorite assemblers, what can we say except that we'll keep it in mind - although, to tell the truth, we kinda dig the current roster! Don't give up hope, though - after all, as any loyal follower of the Avengers knows, their batting order changes al most as frequently as the New York Mets'!





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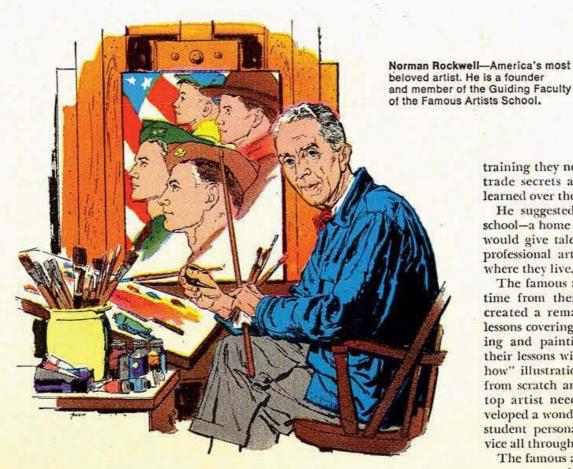
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'We're looking for people who like to draw'

says Norman Rockwell

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Some of the people the Famous Artists have helped

Carl Kock was an 18-year-old apprentice in a Chicago art studio when he enrolled. Today he prepares ads for such companies as General Motors and Firestone—has won five gold medals.

Howard Sanden of Minneapolis took the Course while still in high school. He is now a successful artist—recently he and his wife traveled through Europe and the Middle East on important art assignments.

Paul Sullivan enrolled at 14. His Famous Artists training helped him work his way through college.

Kathleen Gironda of Indiana, Pennsylvania, was an 18-year-old salesgirl in a department store. She still works for a department store, but now it's as an advertising artist and fashion illustrator. With Famous Artists training James Ryan, formerly a clerk, has become an illustrator at Hughes Aircraft—and turns out a steady stream of well-paying free-lance artwork in his spare time.

Oregon housewife Helen Tryk lives 150 miles from the nearest big city. But she does fashion illustration, has her own studio, runs an art work shop, does portraits.

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Norman Rockwell Jon Whitcomb Al Parker Stevan Dohanos George Giusti Peter Helck Fred Ludekens
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Albert Dorne

training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years?"

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