

10622 Kimberley Avenue,
Cleveland, Ohio,
June 12, 1934.

Dear Mr. Keaton:

You will find enclosed the first week's script for the cartoon strip, SUPERMAN. While the idea is a trifle fantastic -- a man with "infinite strength" -- I think it will follow the lines you like. We begin with "Superman" as a child and follow his history all the way up to maturity when the real story begins: of his adventures in helping those in need. Since Clark Kent possesses incredible strength there are great possibilities for humor and adventure in his experiences as a child and youth. The story of his youth will run at great length before we detail his adventures as an adult. Early, he will find that his great strength, instead of making friends for him, cause people to fear him. Mothers will not permit their children to associate with him, he will be hated in school sports because he never loses, etc. We can weave a very human story about him.

Here is the script for a possible Sunday strip. It will acquaint you with the secret of Clark Kent's origin.

I.

1. In his laboratory, the last man on earth worked furiously. He had only a few moments left.
2. Giant cataclysms were shaking the reeling planet, destroying mankind. It was in its last days, dying....
3. The last man placed his infant babe within a small time-machine he had completed, launching it as ---
4. --- the laboratory walls caved-in upon him.
5. The time-vehicle flashed back thru the centuries, alighting in the primitive year, 1935 A. D. A passing motorist sighted the metal cylinder...
6. ...and upon investigating discovered the sleeping babe within.
7. The infant was placed in an orphanage. The first day, it playfully bent its metal bed out of shape. The astounded attendants, of course, did not realize they were caring for a child whose physical structure was millions of years advanced from their own.
8. The babe, named Clark Kent, was a physical wonder. At the age of five, when an older boy sought to bully him, Clark sent him flying thru the air.
9. Clark's colossal strength was a source of wonder and pleasure to him. He found, at twelve, that he could easily shatter the world's high jump and dash records.
10. His powers increased unbelievably. When maturity had been attained, Kent discovered he could leap over a ten story building, raise unheard-of weights, run as fast as an express train, and that nothing less than a bursting shell could penetrate his tough skin.
11. & 12. Early, Kent decided he must turn his titanic strength into channels that would benefit mankind. And so was created SUPERMAN, champion of the oppressed, the physical marvel who had sworn to devote his existence to helping those in need!

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Let me know if you would care to work with me upon this strip. I'll be glad to receive suggestions. The idea, incidentally, is liked by the General Manager of Bell Syndicate. Awaiting your reply....

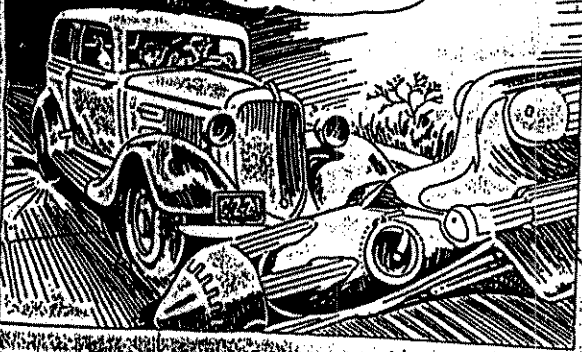
Sincerely,

Walter Scott

SUPERMAN

SAM/STOP!
STOP/OH!!

I HAVE STOPPED, AND
LUCKY I DID! WHAT ON
EARTH IS THAT THING
BLOCKING THE ROAD?



GREAT HEAVENS,
MOLLY! LOOK --
THERE'S A CHILD
SLEEPING INSIDE!

WHY IT MIGHT HAVE
BEEN RUN OVER AND
KILLED! WHO COULD
HAVE LEFT IT HERE?



WHAT ARE WE GOING
TO DO WITH IT, SAM?

WE'LL TURN HIM OVER TO THE
PEOPLE AT THE EDGEWOOD
ORPHAN HOME. THEY'LL TAKE
GOOD CARE
OF HIM!



RUSSELL KEATON

BY JEROME SIEGEL AND RUSSELL KEATON

While driving along the highway saw Kent and his wife Molly discovered a sleep in car within a set of an engine projector like machine together they journeyed toward Edgewood orphan home where they turned the youngster over to Miss Andrews the matron



SAM AND MOLLY KENT, UPON FINDING A CHILD IN A WEIRD METAL PROJECTILE DIRECTLY IN THE CENTER OF A ROADWAY, APPARENTLY ABANDONED, HAD TURNED IT OVER TO THE ATTENDANTS OF AN ORPHANAGE. AWAKENING THE (B)ADY HAD BEEN FRIGHTENED, AND TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THE HORRIFIED ONLOOKERS PROCEEDED TO LEAP OVER THEIR HEADS — A FEAT IMPOSSIBLE OF COURSE FOR AN INFANT, OBVIOUSLY ONLY TWO OR THREE YEARS OLD.

THE CHILD STRUCK ITS HEAD AGAINST A CABINET AND FELL.



HE SEEMS ALL RIGHT. THE JAR KNOCKED HIM UNCONSCIOUS, THOUGH.

OH, SAM, WHAT CAN IT MEAN? THAT INFANT — IT LEAPT OVER OUR HEADS — IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!

3

I — I'M ALL RIGHT. THAT CHILD, IT'S ABNORMAL — A FREAK!



YOU'D BETTER LEAVE NOW, MR. AND MRS. KENT. WE'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE YOU CALL AGAIN.

MISS ANDREWS, AS SOON AS THE KENTS HAD DEPARTED, TOOK A PRECAUTION...



THERE! LET'S SEE, YOU JUMP THROUGH THOSE IRON BARS, YOU — YOU LITTLE MONSTER!

WILL MERTON

AFTER BEING SEVERELY SHOCKED UPON SEEING A THREE-YEAR-OLD YOUNGSTER BRING OVER HER HEAD, MISS ANDREWS WOULD CARE THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RECURRENCE OF THE INCIDENT UNDER HER DIRECTORSHIP. THE INCIDENT IN FACT WAS IN A CAGE WITHIN METAL GUARDS.

"TELL YOU, DOCTOR HINES, I'VE ALMOST HIT THE CEILING AND THEN I FAINTED! I

NONSENSE, MISS ANDREWS. YOU ARE ONLY JOKING!



MISS ANDREWS! YOU'D BETTER COME! THAT CHILD YOU HAD CONFINED WILL BE

COME ALONG, DOCTOR HINES. WE'LL SEE WHETHER IT WAS JOKING!



WATER! QUICK! THEY DOCTOR HAS FAINTED!



FRIGHTENED BY HAVING A THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD LEAD UP TO THE CEILING MISS ANDREWS HAD BEEN CONFINED WITHIN A METAL CAGE. THEN, TO HER SURPRISE SHE FOUND HIM TWISTING AND CRUMBLING THE METAL BARS AS THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN MADE OF PUTTY.

HE BELONGS IN A CIRCUS, NOT AN ORDINARY ASYLUM. I DON'T STAND FOR THE CREATOR BEING THERE, AND THAT'S FINAL!

DO NOT BE HASTY, YOU CAN'T

MR. AND MRS. KENT ARE HERE TO SEE YOU, MISS ANDREWS.

YES, I WOULD LIKE TO ADOPT THE YOUNGESTER!

YOU SEE, WE HAVE NO CHILDREN OF OUR OWN, AND WELL - WE LIKE THE LITTLE FELLOW!

I'M SURE IT CAN BE ARRANGED

AND SO A FEW DAYS AFTER THEY HAD BROUGHT THE CHILD TO THE ASYLUM THE KENTS ADOPTED IT.

WELL, HE'S OUR SON NOW, MOLLY.

WE'LL BE THE BEST PARENTS IN THE WORLD TO HIM!



THE KENTS
SOON
DISCOVERED
THAT THEIR
ADOPTED SON
USED WORDS
ENTIRELY
FOREIGN TO
THEM

IT CAN'T BE BABY,
TALKS TOO OLD
FOR THAT AND YET
IT SOUNDS LIKE NO
LANGUAGE I EVER
HEARD AND I'VE
HEARD QUENTY
OF 'EM

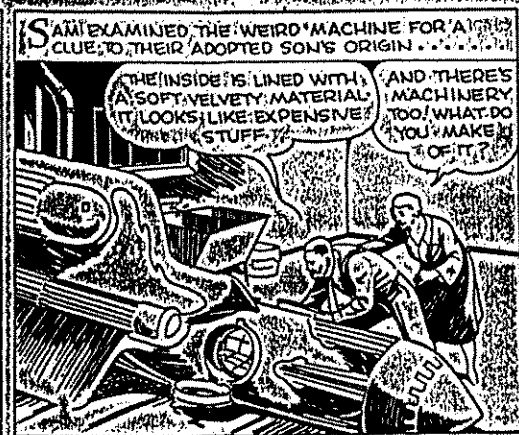
PERHAPS HIS PEOPLE CAME FROM
A FOREIGN
COUNTRY



SAM EXAMINED THE WEIRD MACHINE FOR A CLUE TO THEIR ADOPTED SON'S ORIGIN . . .

THE INSIDE IS LINED WITH
A SOFT VELVET MATERIAL.
IT LOOKS LIKE EXPENSIVE
STUFF.

AND THERE'S
MACHINERY
TOO. WHAT DO
YOU MAKE
OF IT?



AND DISCOVERED A CLUE!!

A NOTE! IT WAS
HIDDEN IN THE
FOLDS OF THE
CLOTH!!

WHAT DOES
IT
SAY?



Russell Prato

WHILE SEARCHING WITHIN THE METAL PROJECTILE FOR A HINT AS TO THEIR ADOPTED SON'S ORIGIN, MOLY AND SAM HAD DISCOVERED A NOTE!

IT'S WRITTEN IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE - MAKES NO SENSE TO ME!

WE'LL WE'LL SAVE IT! SOMEDAY, WHEN CLARK IS GROWN, WE'LL SHOW IT TO HIM. THE BOY HAS A RIGHT TO LEARN WHO HIS REAL PARENTS ARE!

NEWS OF THE ADOPTION SPREAD SWIFTLY. HAVE YOU HEARD, MRS. PRYN? THE KENTS HAVE ADOPTED A THREE-YEAR-OLD CHILD! REALLY!

SAY UNCLE!

OUCH! AWW! CUT IT OUT!

BEHAVE, EDGAR! NOW COME INTO THE HOUSE AND GET CLEANED UP! WE'RE GOING CALLING ON THE KENTS!



POSTAL PLATO





MOLLY, THIS IS SERIOUS! THESE EXHIBITIONS OF CLARK'S SUPER STRENGTH MUST STOP! THE ENTIRE NEIGHBORHOOD IS TALKING! I'M SQUEAMISH! ONLY FOR THE BOY'S SAKE!

I KNOW, IF HE IS TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE HE CAN'T KEEP THIS UP. PEOPLE FEAR AND RESENT HIS SUPERIOR STRENGTH!

BUT WHEN MOLLY AND SAM ENTERED CLARK'S NURSERY,

HE'S GONE! LOOK! THE WINDOW IS OPEN!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM AT ONCE! HE MAY ALREADY BE INVOLVED IN SOME TERRIBLE THING!

WHY HE'S CRYING! MOLLY, I THINK HE'S HOMESICK FOR HIS REAL PARENTS!

IF ONLY WE KNEW FROM WHERE HE CAME AND WHO HIS PARENTS ARE!

From:
Jerome Siegel,
10622 Kimberley Ave.,
Cleveland, Ohio.

SUPERMAN

- 1.a. Molly: "Why did you stop the car, Sam?"
Sam: "There's something blocking the road -- looks like a metal cylinder. I'm going to see what's in it."
(NOTE: Illustration shows elderly couple have stopped their car on a highway to investigate the cylinder which blocks their path.)
- 1.b. Kent: "Great Heavens, Molly! Look -- there's a child sleeping inside!"
Molly: "Why it might have been run over and killed! Who could have left it here?"
(NOTE: The man and wife are kneeling at the side of the cylinder and regarding the sleeping babe within.)
- 1.c. Molly: "What are we going to do with it, Sam?"
Sam: "We'll turn him over to the people at the Edgewood Orphan Home. They'll take good care of him."

Explanatory panel: While driving along the highway, Sam Kent and his wife Molly discovered a sleeping child within a strange cylinder. Together they journeyed toward the Edgewood Orphan home where they turned the youngster over to Miss Andrews, the matron.)

- 2.a. Miss Andrews: "I assure you the child will be well taken care of."
Molly: "Sam! His eye-lids are fluttering! He's awakening!"
(NOTE: They are standing at the side of the bed where the child lies asleep.)
- 2.b. Sam: "Don't startle him. The little tyke seems scared."
Miss Andrews: "There, there, little fellow -- now don't you be frightened."
(NOTE: Miss Andrews is reaching out to stroke the child's cheek.)
- 2.c. (NOTE: The child has sprung from the bed, is leaping high over their heads. Miss Andrews is shrieking and fainting.)
Miss Andrews: "EEEEEE!"
Molly: "Sam! -- this can't be!"
Sam: "Stop him!"

Explanatory panel: Sam and Molly Kent, upon finding a child in a weird metal cylinder directly in the center of a roadway, apparently abandoned, had turned it over to the attendants of an orphan asylum. Awakened, the baby had been frightened, and to the amazement of the horrified onlookers, proceeded to leap over their heads -- a feat impossible, of course, for an infant obviously only two or three years old.)

- 3.a. The child struck its head against a cabinet and fell.
Sam: "He seems all right. The jar knocked him unconscious, though."
Molly: "Oh, Sam, what can it mean? That infant -- it leapt over our heads. It's impossible!"
(NOTE: Sam is lifting the child in his arms.)
- 3.b. Miss Andrews: "I -- I'm all right. That child! It's abnormal -- a freak!"
An attendant: "You'd better leave now, Mr. and Mrs. Kent. We'll be glad to have you call again."
(NOTE: Miss Andrews is being supported by an attendant.)
- 3.c. Miss Andrews, as soon as the Kents had departed, took a precaution...
Miss Andrews: "There! Let's see you jump through those iron bars you -- you little monster!"
(NOTE: Metal bars have been placed about the bed.)

(Continued on the next page)

Page Two.

Superman

Explanatory panel: After being severely shocked upon seeing a three-year-old youngster spring over her head, Miss Andrews took care that there should be no recurrence of the incident. Under her directions, the incredible infant was placed within metal bars.)

4.a. Miss Andrews: "I tell you, Doctor Hines, he almost hit the ceiling. And then I fainted. I --"

Doctor Hines: "Nonsense, Miss Andrews. You are only joking..."
(They are speaking within an office of the orphan home.)

5.b. Attendant: "Miss Andrews! You'd better come! That child you had confined, well he ----"

Miss Andrews: "Come along, Doctor Hines. We'll see whether I was joking."
(NOTE: The attendant has rushed into the office; is excited.)

4.c. (They have entered the room where the child is kept to see the baby tearing the metal bars apart, playing with them. They are all thunderstruck by the sight.)

4.d. Miss Andrews: "Water! Quick! The doctor has fainted!"
(NOTE: Doctor Hines had fainted in her arms.)

Explanatory panel: Frightened by having a three-year-old child leap up to the ceiling, Miss Andrews had him confined within a metal cage. Then, to her consternation she found him twisting and crumpling the metal bars as though they had been made of putty.)

5.a. Miss Andrews: "He belongs in a circus, not an orphan-asylum. I won't stand for the creature being here, and that's final!"

Doctor: "Do not be hasty, you can't ----"

Attendant: "Mr. and Mrs. Kent are here to see you, Miss Andrews."

5.b. Sam: "Yes, we'd like to adopt the youngster."

Molly: "You see, we have no children of our own, and we -- we like the little fellow"

Miss Andrews: "I'm sure it can be arranged."

5.c. And so, a few days after they had brought the child to the asylum, the Kents adopted

Sam: "Well, he's our son now, Molly."

Molly: "We'll be the best parents in the world to him."

Explanatory panel: The Kents soon discovered that their adopted son lisped words entirely foreign to them.

6.a. Sam: "It can't be baby-talk. He's too old for that. And yet, it sounds like no language I ever heard, and I've heard plenty of 'em."

Molly: "Perhaps his people came from a foreign country."

6.b. Sam examined the metal cylinder for a clue to their adopted son's origin...

Sam: "The inside is lined with a soft velvety material. It looks like expensive stuff."

Molly: "And there's machinery too! What do you make of it!"

6.c. ...and discovered a clue!

Sam: "A note! It was hidden in the folds of the cloth."

Molly: "What does it say!"

NOTE: I have included the explanatory panel material so as to follow the lay-out used in the other John Dille strips.

SUPERMAN

By Jerome Siegel and Russell Keaton

7.a. While searching within the metal projectile for a hint as to their adopted son's origin, Molly and Sam had discovered a note.
Sam: "It's written in a foreign language -- makes no sense to me."
Molly: "Well, we'll save it. Someday, when Clark is grown, we'll show it to him. The boy has a right to learn who his real parents are."

7.b. News of the adoption spread swiftly.
Woman-Neighbor: "Have you heard, Mrs. Pryin! The Kents have adopted a three-year-old child!"
Mrs. Pryin: "Really!"

7.c. (NOTE: Mrs. Pryin is calling to her boy from the door of her house. Her son, Edgar, is straddling a smaller boy and twisting his arm behind him.)

Edgar: "Say, 'Uncle'!"
Boy on Ground: "Ouch! Aw, cut it out, Ed!"
Mrs. Pryin: "Behave, Edgar! Now come into the house and get cleaned up. We're going calling on the Kents!"

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8.a. (NOTE: Scene is in the home of the Kents. Mrs. Pryin has just entered.)
Mrs. Pryin: "You play with Clark, honey, while I talk to Mrs. Kent."
Edgar: "I ain't gonna play with no baby!"

8.b. (NOTE: Clark is playing with an electric-train. Edgar scornfully kicks it off the track. -- The parents have gone into the next room.)
Edgar: "An' if you weren't so little, I'd do the same to you!"

8.c. Mrs. Pryin: "When my Edgar was as old as Clark, I used to feed him lots of cereals and vegetables. Now if you want Clark to be as strong and healthy as my Edgar, well spinach and carrots are...."

Mrs. Kent: "Thank you for the advice, Mrs. Pryin, but ----"

Shout from the Next Room: "MA-A-A-a-a-a!"

8.d. Mrs. Kent: " --- you see, Clark is quite strong and healthy all ready!"
(Mrs. Pryin is astounded.)

Edgar: "Ma! Make him let go!"

(Clark, angered, is holding Edgar up in the air with one hand, and shaking him vigorously.)

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9.a. Sam: "Molly, this is serious! These exhibitions of Clark's super strength must stop! The entire neighborhood is talking. I'm squeamish only for the boy's sake."

Molly: "I know! If he is to live a normal life, he can't keep this up. People fear and resent his superior strength."

9.b. But when Molly and Sam entered Clark's nursery...

Sam: "He's gone! Look! ... the window is open!"

Molly: "We've got to find him at once! He may already be involved in some terrible mess!"

9.c. Finally, they discovered him.

(NOTE: Molly and Sam are looking down into the cellar from the top of the stairs. They see Clark sobbing, his arms flung around the metal projectile.)

Sam: "Why ... he's crying! Molly, I think he's homesick -- for his real parents."

Molly: "If only we knew from where he came and who his parents are!"

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SUPERMAN

By Jerome Siegel and Russell Keaton

10.a. (NOTE: Molly and Clark are on the second floor of their home, in Clark's nursery, looking out of the window at Sam, who is across the street, waving at them.)

Molly: "Look, Clark -- daddy's coming home from work. See him waving to us!"

10.b. But Clark's sharp eyes note Sam is in peril of his life. An automobile, out of the driver's control, is careening toward the tree at Sam's side! (NOTE: Picture shows car swerving toward Sam, who is unaware of the danger.)

10.c. (NOTE: Clark is leaping into action, seeing his father is in danger. He has sprung onto the window-sill and is preparing to leap out of the window.)

Molly: "Clark! -- Don't! -- Oh-h!"

10.d. (Picture shows Clark springing down from the second-story window. Molly has rushed to the window and is looking down after him, horrified.)

11. (Explanatory panel:) Seeing his father menaced by a swerving automobile, three-year-old Clark Kent had leapt down from a second-story window.

11.a. Landing with scarcely a jar, and pausing not for an instant, Clark sped toward his father with the speed of an unleashed arrow....

11.b.vaulting over a passing truck that barred his way!

11.c. Too late!

(NOTE: Picture shows auto crashing into tree. The tree snaps at its narrow base and is toppling upon Sam, who, transfixed with fear, cannot avoid its path. Clark, straining himself to the utmost to arrive in time, is bearing down -- but it can be seen he will arrive too late to avert the tragedy.)

12.a. The fallen tree, which has pinned Sam to the earth, is slowly crushing out his life. Clark with a final spring reaches the tree's side, braces his feet firmly against the ground, and pits his strength against its bulk --

12.b. Slowly the great weight rises! With his free hand, Clark drags his father to safety!

(NOTE: Clark is supporting the raised tree with one hand, and with the other he is dragging his father from out under the tree.)

12.c. (NOTE: Sam, in a hospital, is sitting up in bed and speaking to Molly who has come with Clark to visit him. Perhaps you might place a nurse and interne in the background.)

Sam: "We've been blind, Molly. The lad's strength is a god-send! I see now that he's destined for wonderful things. It is our duty to train him, Molly -- raise him so that he will use his super strength to help those in need of assistance."

Molly: "You're right, Sam! We have a duty now, a duty greater than that of being simply loving parents to our -- our SUPERMAN!"

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End of Second Week's Release

SUPERMAN

By Jerome Siegel and Russell Keaton

13. (Explanatory panel) In the years that followed, Sam and Molly instilled in their adopted son the conviction that he must turn his titanic strength into channels that would benefit mankind. When Clark's beloved foster-parents passed away, he swore at their deathbeds a binding oath. And so was created SUPERMAN, the physical marvel who champions the oppressed!
- 13.a. Clark: It's no use! I've puzzled over this unintelligible note, which holds the secret of my origin, hundreds of times. But I'm no closer to its secret.
- (NOTE: Clark, in his bedroom, is seated at a table, reading the note Sam and Molly had found in the projectile, long years ago. On the table, open, is the small metal box in which he keeps the note.)
- 13.b. Replacing the Mystery Note in a metal box, Clark prepares to retire --
- Clark: I'll look at it again, in the morning.
- 13.c. --unaware that a prowler crouches outside his window.
- Prowler: He acts like whatever's in th' box is worth plenty. I'll wait 'till he's asleep, then sneak in.
- (NOTE: The prowler is on the roof of the house, peering in to the room. You might show Clark, in his pajamas, about to turn off the room's light.)
- 14.a. (Picture shows the burglar coming into the room through the window. Kent is asleep in his bed.)
- 14.b. (The burglar's flashlight is shining on the metal box, which one of his hands is grasping.)
- Prowler: Here she is!
- 14.c. Suddenly the lights flash on!
- (NOTE: Clark, awakened, has arisen. His hand is on the light-switch.)
- Clark: I thought so -- a petty thief! Put down that box, pronto!
- 14.d. Prowler: Button your lip! One more peep or move an' you get punctured. -- Say, what're you grinnin' at!
- (NOTE: On the wall of the room is placed two crossed swords. As the burglar speaks, he snatches one of the swords down from the wall, holding it in readiness.)

SUPERMAN

15.a. (Clark is stepping forward, grinning. The burglar has the sword raised in two hands, ready to crash down with it.)

Prowler: I'm warnin' yuh -- stand back!

Clark: Drop that sword, you fool, before you hurt yourself!

15.b. Prowler: You asked for it!

(Clark has sprung forward. With all his strength, the burglar smashes the blade against Clark.)

15.c. The blade harmlessly glances off Clark's super-tough skin, leaving not even a scratch!

15.d. (The burglar is cowering back, speechless with fear and amazement. Clark is breaking and crumbling the sword to pieces in his two bare hands.)

Clark: You're next!

Prowler: No -- no! Don't touch me!