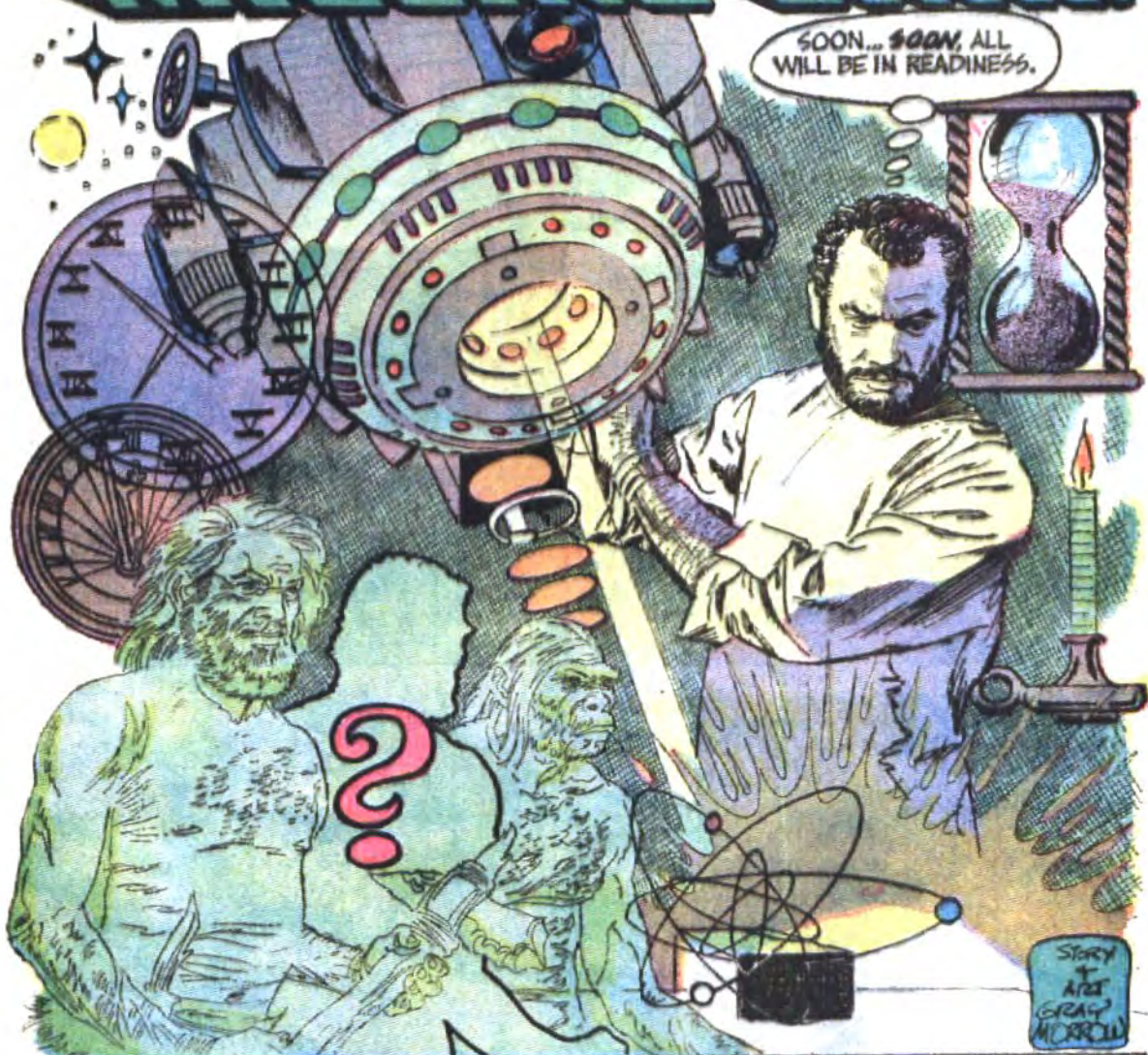


**DR. BURRIS IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF UNRAVELING ONE OF THE GREATEST MYSTERIES OF THIS PLANET... THE ENIGMA OF MANKIND'S EVOLUTION FROM THE STOOPED APE-LIKE NEANDERTHAL INTO THE UPRIGHT FORERUNNER OF MODERN MAN, THE CRO-MAGNON. IN OTHER WORDS, THE MUCH DISCUSSED CONTROVERSIAL, AND AS YET, UNSUBSTANTIATED...**

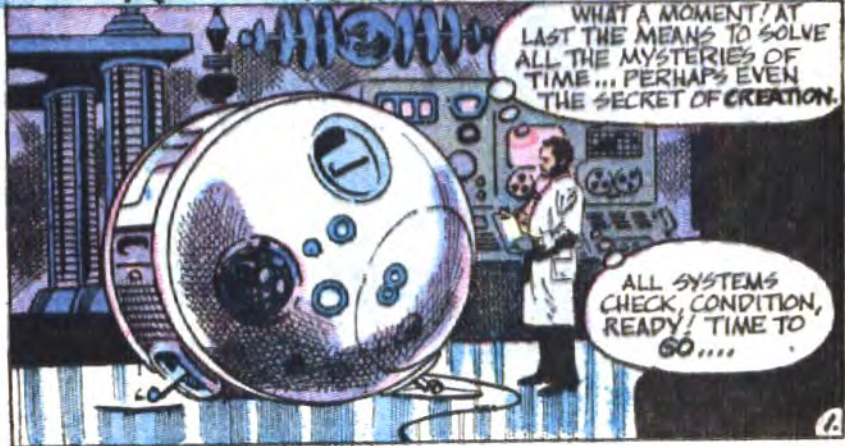
# MISSING LINK!



SOON... SOON, ALL WILL BE IN READINESS.

STORY BY  
ART BY  
GARY  
MORROW

**DR. BURRIS, WITHOUT THE UNIVERSITY'S KNOWLEDGE OR SANCTION, IS ABOUT TO DEPART ON A LITTLE SABBATICAL... TO THE PREHISTORIC PAST! HAVING CHANNELLED CERTAIN FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR A MORE MUNDANE KIND OF RESEARCH TO A PET PROJECT OF HIS OWN, HE HAS CONSTRUCTED AND OUTFITTED A TIME MACHINE TO SPAN THE CENTURIES AND SOLVE THE RIDDLES OF THE AGES.**



WHAT A MOMENT! AT LAST THE MEANS TO SOLVE ALL THE MYSTERIES OF TIME... PERHAPS EVEN THE SECRET OF CREATION.

ALL SYSTEMS CHECK, CONDITION, READY! TIME TO GO....

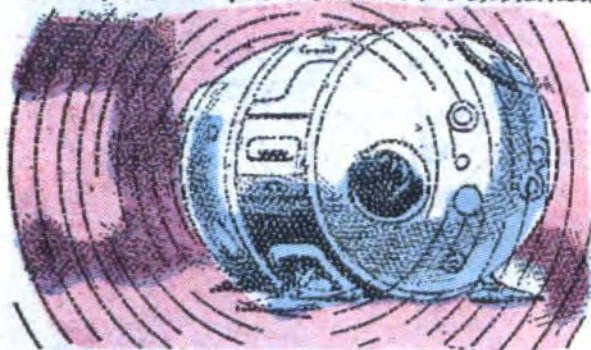


CHANGING INTO SUITABLE GEAR, BURRIS SEALS HIMSELF IN THE TIME SHIP. IN A COMPLICATED SERIES OF PRECISE, LONG-PRACTICED MOVEMENTS, HE DELICATELY ADJUSTS THE CONTROLS TO DEPOSIT HIM IN NORTHERN EUROPE AT THE APPROXIMATE TIME CRO-MAGNON MAN IS BELIEVED TO HAVE FIRST APPEARED ON EARTH.



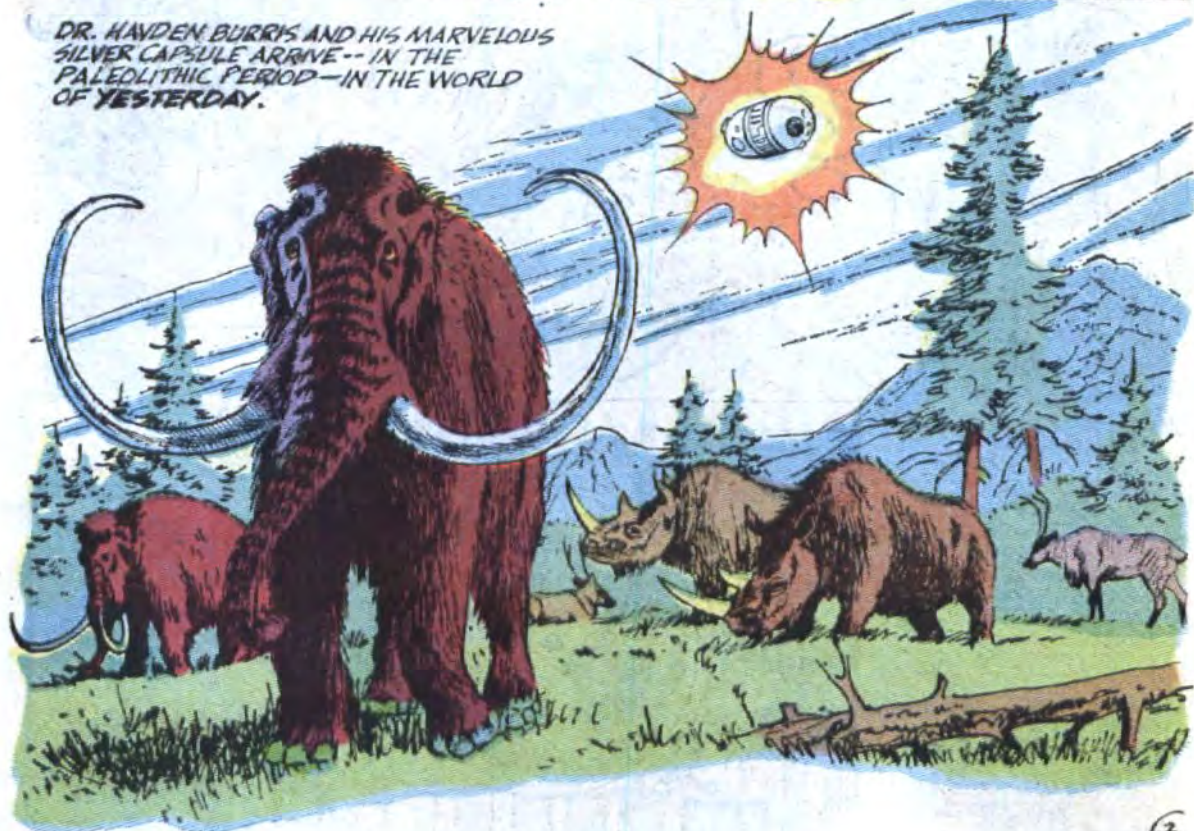
WITH THE EVIDENCE I BRING BACK... LIVING EVIDENCE, IF NECESSARY, I'LL GAIN SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO RECORD ALL IMPORTANT EVENTS IN HISTORY, NO MORE ARCHEOLOGICAL GUESSWORK, NO MORE TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER PUZZLES WITH ONLY PART OF THE PIECES.

IN A LOW THROBBING HUM, THAT RISES TO A HIGH KEENING WAIL, THE SHIP'S CONFIGURATION BLURS, DISTORTS, THEN WINKS OUT OF EXISTENCE...



...THEN AN ALL-ENVELOPING DEAD SILENCE, A FEELING OF DISORIENTATION, AND....

DR. HAVEN BURRIS AND HIS MARVELOUS SILVER CAPSULE ARRIVE-- IN THE PALEOLITHIC PERIOD-- IN THE WORLD OF YESTERDAY.



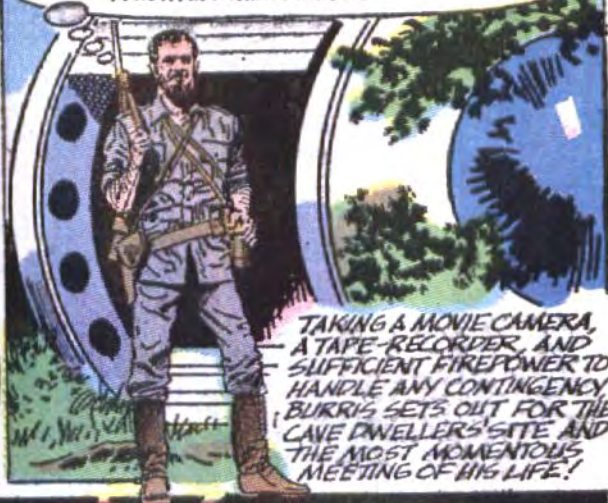


BURRIS CRUISES OVER THE RUGGED TERRAIN, EAGERLY SEEKING THE MOST UNUSUAL ENCOUNTER OF ALL TIME... THE CONFRONTATION BETWEEN MODERN MAN AND HIS ANCESTORS... TWENTIETH CENTURY HOMO SAPIENS AND THE CAVE MAN!

AH, THERE THEY ARE! NEANDERTHALS FROM WHAT I CAN SEE IN THE VIEWSCOPE.

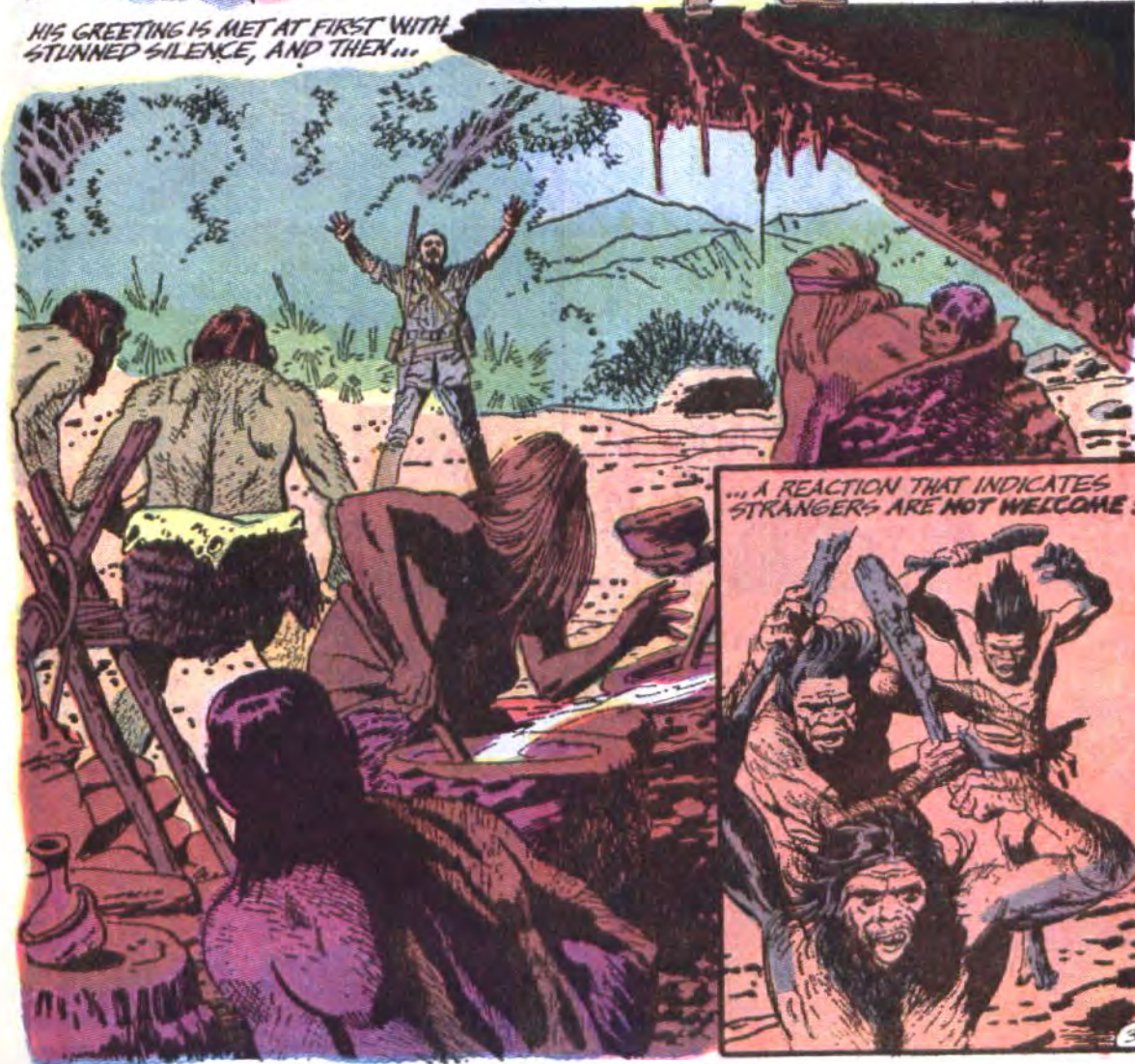


HAVE TO LEAVE THE TIME-POD OUT OF SIGHT HERE AND APPROACH THEM ON FOOT. DON'T WANT TO FRIGHTEN THEM AWAY.



TAKING A MOVIE CAMERA, A TAPE-RECORDER, AND SUFFICIENT FIREPOWER TO HANDLE ANY CONTINGENCY, BURRIS SETS OUT FOR THE CAVE DWELLERS' SITE AND THE MOST MOMENTOUS MEETING OF HIS LIFE!

HIS GREETING IS MET AT FIRST WITH STUNNED SILENCE, AND THEN...



... A REACTION THAT INDICATES STRANGERS ARE NOT WELCOME!





THEN DR. BURRIS DOES WHAT, ON THE FACE OF IT, SEEMS TO BE A VERY FOOLISH THING. DROPPING HIS RIFLE AND EQUIPMENT, HE MEETS HIS ATTACKERS HEAD ON! HOWEVER, THE ROBUST DOCTOR IS MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE BRAWNY CAVEMEN, THANKS TO A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF KARATE, AND HE TOTALLY VANQUISHES AND BEWILDERS THE AWE-STROCK NEANDERTHALS!

THEY ADOPT HIM INTO THE TRIBE IN A SIMPLE CEREMONY....



HAAA!



... AN ARRANGEMENT THAT WORKS OUT TO THEIR MUTUAL SATISFACTION. NEVER HAVE THE HAPTI, (THE PEOPLE), AS THEY CALL THEMSELVES, GAINED SO MUCH FROM ANY SINGLE EVENT IN THEIR EXISTENCE. THE GOOD DOCTOR BRINGS THEM THE BOUNTY OF TWENTIETH CENTURY MAN'S KNOWLEDGE AND IN TURN EXPERIENCES A RICHER FULLER LIFE THAN HE HAD EVER KNOWN.



THE PROBLEMS, POLITICS AND POLLUTION OF HIS AGE BEGIN TO DIM IN HIS MEMORY... SO MUCH SO, THAT HE NEARLY FORGETS THE ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF HIS INCREDIBLE JOURNEY. THE LINK BETWEEN THESE PEOPLE AND THE CRO-MAGNONS, THE MISSING LINK....

THE HAPTI CANNOT HELP HIM. THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN ANY OTHERS WHO RESEMBLE THE PICTURES BURRIS HAS SHOWN THEM, AND THEY BECOME INCREASINGLY FRETFUL WHEN HE LEAVES THEM ON PROLONGED TRIPS TO FIND THE OBJECT OF HIS SEARCH. DISHEARTENED HE IS ABOUT TO TRY ANOTHER TIME PERIOD WHEN DISASTER STRIKES! A SUDDEN VOLCANIC ERUPTION...

...A STAMPEDE...



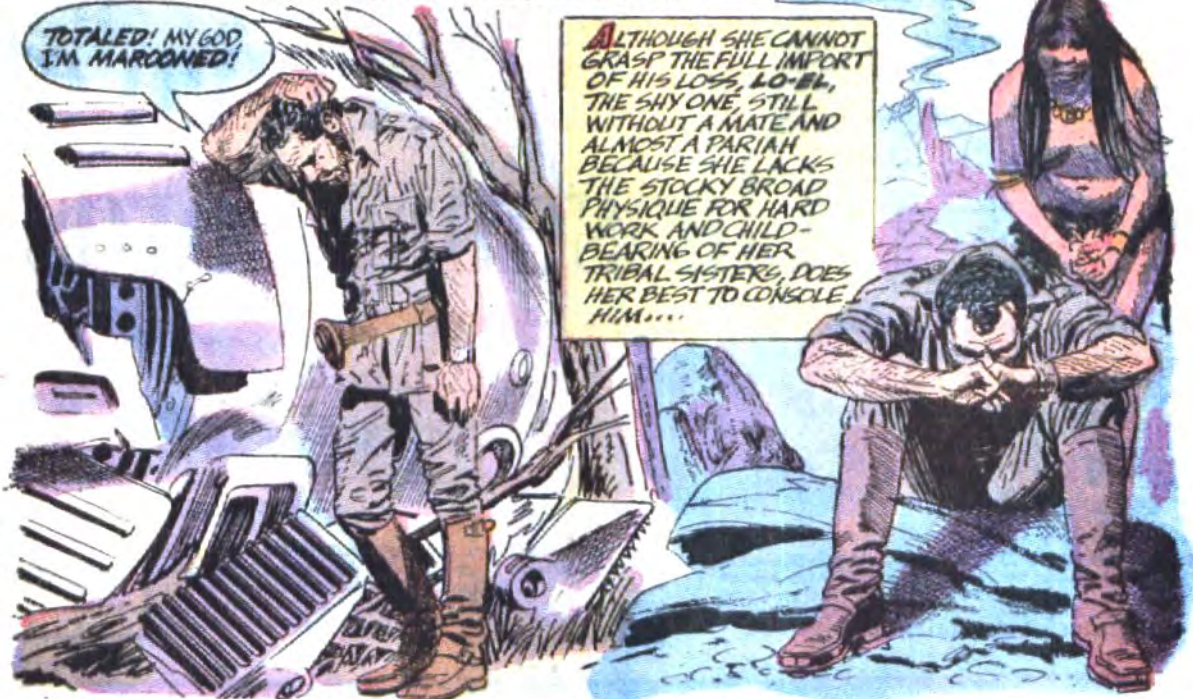
... AND DIRECTLY IN ITS PATH IS BURRIS' TIME CAPSULE....



....BURRIS' PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE IS NO MORE!

TOTALED! MY GOD, I'M MARCONED!

ALTHOUGH SHE CANNOT GRASP THE FULL IMPORT OF HIS LOSS, LO-EL, THE SHY ONE, STILL WITHOUT A MATE AND ALMOST A PARIAH BECAUSE SHE LACKS THE STOCKY BROAD PHYSIQUE FOR HARD WORK AND CHILD-BEARING OF HER TRIBAL SISTERS, DOES HER BEST TO CONSOLE HIM....



EVENTUALLY RESIGNED TO HIS FATE, HAYDEN BURRIS BECOMES SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THE BUSINESS OF SURVIVAL, EDUCATING AND GUIDING HIS PRIMITIVE 'CHARGES', THAT IT DOES NOT OCCUR TO HIM UNTIL ONE DAY SOME MANY MONTHS LATER, WHEN HE AND HIS MATE, LO-EL, ARE PLAYING WITH THEIR FIRST-BORN, WHO LOOKS QUITE A BIT DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER CHILDREN, THAT....

.... BEFORE HIM IS THE ONE HE TRAVERSED THE AGES BACK INTO PREHISTORIC TIME TO FIND--THE MISSING LINK, THE FIRST CRO-MAGNON MAN...



... HIS SON!  
THE END...  
.. AND THE BEGINNING.