

AND NOW: THE LONG-AWAITED MERGER OF MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST MAGS!

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MARVEL COMICS GROUP
NO. 88
WEEK ENDING
JUNE 23, 1976

8p

PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES™




FEATURING: THE PEERLESS PRINCE OF **VAMPIRES!**

THE MACABRE **MAN-THING!**

THE BATTLING BEASTS OF EARTH IN THE FUTURE

PABLO MARCES



FROM THE DARKEST REACHES OF TRANSYLVANIA AND THE PLAUSIBILITY OF A TERRIFYING FUTURE COMES THE GREATEST ACTION AND SUSPENSE COMIC FROM THE MIGHTY WORLD OF MARVEL... **PLANET OF THE APES AND DRACULA LIVES!** WE PROMISE SHOCK AFTER SHOCK, EVERY ISSUE, EVERY WEEK, WITH SIMIAN ADVENTURE, JUNGLE ACTION, SEETHING SWAMP FEVER, AND REAL HORROR! A FEAST OF FURY, CLEARLY CONSOLIDATING THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!

IMPETUOUS AND RASH, JASON HAS LEFT HIS FRIENDS TO GO ON AN ANGRY QUEST TO KILL BRUTUS, HIS PARENTS' MURDERERS. ON THE WAY HE MEETS LIGHTSMITH, ENLIGHTENED WAYFARER OF KNOWLEDGE AND PROGRESS, AND HIS APPRENTICE, GILBERT.

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **PLANET OF THE APES!**™





YES, HE IS **INDEED** AN APE, MY DEAR FELLOW. TO BE **PRECISE... GILBERT** IS A **GIBBON**. HEH HEH HEH.

NOW THEN, GILBERT-- I WANT YOU TO MEET OUR NEW **COMPANION**. SHAKE HANDS WITH **JASON...**

FOR A MOMENT, JASON **HESITATES...** REMEMBERING THAT **BRUTUS** IS AN APE...



HEH HEH HEH... THAT'S THE WAY THE **ANCIENTS** SHOOK HANDS...

GILBERT PICKED IT UP FROM AN **OLD PICTURE BOOK**.

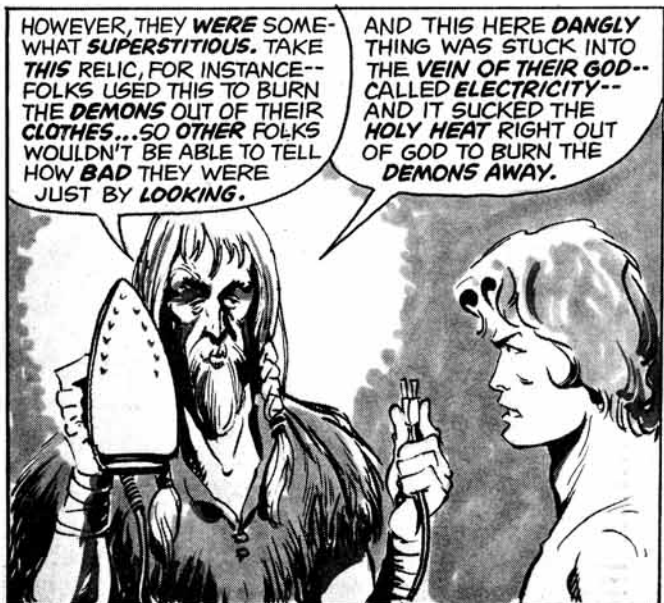
BUT COME ON **INSIDE...**



...AND TAKE A LOOK AT MY **MIRACULOUS ARTIFACTS OF PROGRESS**.

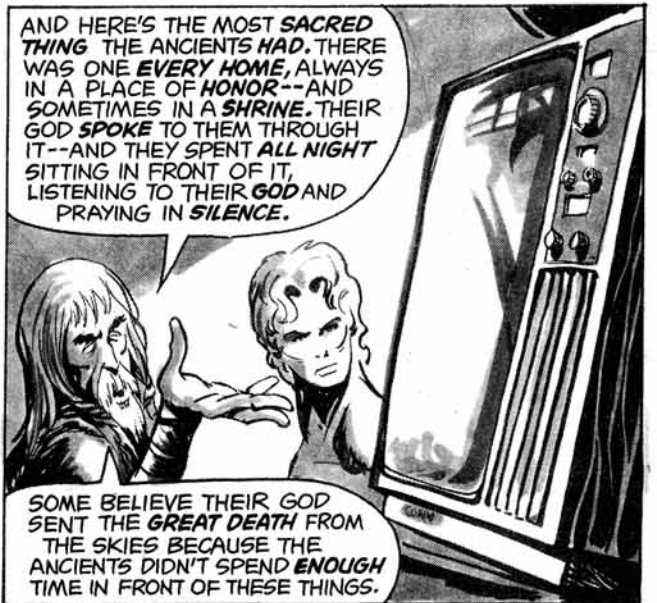
WH-WHAT...**IS...** ALL THIS... **STUFF?**

WELL, I CAN SEE **YOU'RE STILL AFFLICTED WITH IGNORANCE**. I'D BETTER CONDUCT YOU THROUGH A **LITTLE TOUR OF ENLIGHTENMENT**. YOU SEE, EVEN AFTER ALL THIS **TIME**, THE **ANCIENTS** STILL HAVE MUCH TO **OFFER...**



HOWEVER, THEY **WERE** SOMEWHAT **SUPERSTITIOUS**. TAKE **THIS RELIC**, FOR INSTANCE-- FOLKS USED THIS TO **BURN THE DEMONS** OUT OF THEIR **CLOTHES...** SO **OTHER FOLKS** WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO TELL HOW **BAD** THEY WERE JUST BY **LOOKING**.

AND THIS HERE **DANGLY** THING WAS STUCK INTO THE **VEIN OF THEIR GOD--** CALLED **ELECTRICITY--** AND IT SUCKED THE **HOLY HEAT** RIGHT OUT OF GOD TO **BURN THE DEMONS AWAY**.



AND HERE'S THE MOST **SACRED THING** THE **ANCIENTS** HAD. THERE WAS ONE **EVERY HOME**, ALWAYS IN A PLACE OF **HONOR--** AND SOMETIMES IN A **SHRINE**. THEIR **GOD SPOKE** TO THEM THROUGH IT--AND THEY SPENT **ALL NIGHT** SITTING IN FRONT OF IT, LISTENING TO THEIR **GOD** AND **PRAYING IN SILENCE**.

SOME BELIEVE THEIR **GOD** SENT THE **GREAT DEATH** FROM THE **SKIES** BECAUSE THE **ANCIENTS** DIDN'T SPEND **ENOUGH** TIME IN FRONT OF THESE THINGS.

NOW **THIS** WAS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THE ANCIENTS. IT FED GOD'S EMIS-SARIES ON EARTH--CALLED **COMPUTERS**--AND IF THE COMPUTERS WEREN'T FED **ENOUGH**, THEY'D GET **SICK** AND REPORT IT TO THEIR **GOD** AND THINGS WOULD START TO **FALL APART**.

THEN EVERYONE HAD TO STAND IN **LINE**S TO RECEIVE A PENITENT SACRAMENT OF SOME-THING CALLED **BREAD**.

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AND THESE--THESE ARE FASCINATING. SOME EXPERTS OF THE PAST BELIEVE THESE WERE **MAGIC TALISMANS...**

...BUT I JUST CALL THEM **GOOD LUCK CHARMS OF PROGRESS**.

HERE--A **GIFT**... IF YOU CAN FIND A PLACE TO **PIN IT ON**...

I LIKE IKE

I HOPE YOU'LL ENJOY THE **DINNER** GILBERT HAS PREPARED FOR US, JASON...

WE CALL IT THE "**BLUE HUBCAP SPECIAL**"... HEH HEH HEH.

UH... IT LOOKS VERY... **TASTY**...

...I THINK.

FOR **ALEX** THIS IS MERELY THE FIRST TIME HE HAS VENTURED SO FAR FROM THE CITY. FOR **MALAGUENA**, WHO HAS NOT EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE CITY, IT IS A DEEPENING OF INSECURITY...AND YET ANOTHER EXTENSION OF HER BLEAK SEARCH FOR A NEW HOME...

FOR **BOTH**, THE FOREST IS VERY DARK... AND FILLED WITH SHADOWS. THEY SPEAK SOFTLY...

ALEX, WE'VE BEEN RIDING FOR **SEVEN DAYS** NOW...

DON'T REMIND ME. I'VE GOT **SORES** WHERE I SIT.



BUT WHAT I MEAN IS... DO YOU THINK WE'LL EVER FIND JASON?

SURE WE'LL FIND HIM. YOU'LL SEE.

BUT THERE IS LITTLE REASSURANCE IN HIS VOICE...



BUT WHAT IF SOMETHING FINDS US FIRST--?

QUIT WORRYING SO MUCH, MALAGUEÑA.

THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE BUT US AND THE--



CHOK

!!!



ALEX--! W-WHO COULD HAVE--

I D-DON'T KNOW...

I DON'T WANT TO KNOW--!



THEY DROP LIKE LIVING SHADOWS--

--RIPPED FROM A DEEPER DARKNESS--

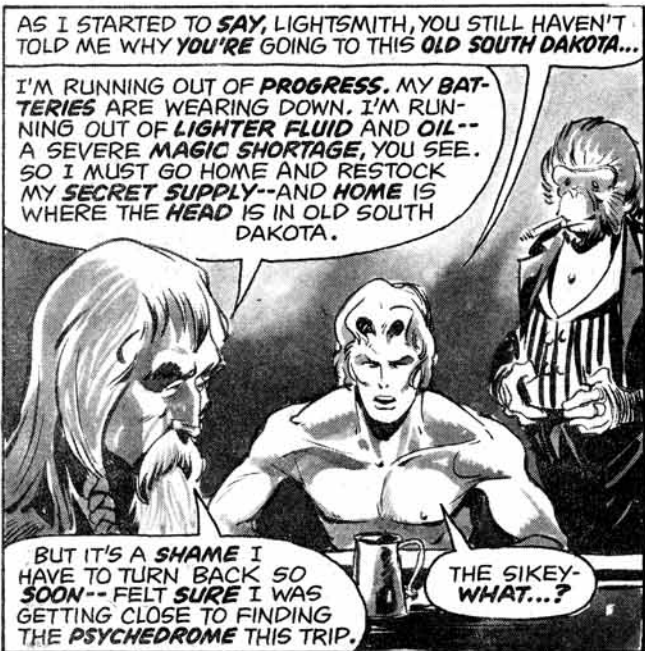
ALEX--!!

I SEE THEM-- I SEE THEM!!



MALAGUEÑA TRIES TO SCREAM...

THE SOUND IS SMOTHERED.



THE **PSYCHEDROME**. FINDING IT IS MY **LIFE'S AMBITION**. IT COULD BE THE SUPREME ACHIEVEMENT OF THE **DECADE**--RESTORING **CIVILIZATION** TO THIS POOR IGNORANT WORLD.

CIVILIZATION? YOU KNOW WHAT CIVILIZATION IS-- ALL THAT **RUBBLE** IN THE **FORBIDDEN ZONES**...

YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO BRING BACK THE **GREAT DEATH FROM THE SKIES**--?

NO, NO, **NO**--THE GLORIOUS STUFF OF PROGRESS LYING **UNDER** THE GREAT DESTRUCTION--LIKE THE **ARTIFACTS** HERE IN THE **WONDER WAGON**. AND THE ONLY WAY TO BRING THESE THINGS **BACK** IS TO FIND THE **PSYCHEDROME**--

--THE LEGENDARY PLACE WHERE ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENTS IS STILL **STORED** AND WAITING TO BE **USED**. BUT IT JUST ISN'T MEANT TO BE **FOUND** THIS TIME, I GUESS...

NOW WHY ARE YOU HEADED OUT TO OLD SOUTH DAKOTA?

I'VE GOT MY **REASONS**--

"--AND THEY'RE ALL SPELLED **BRUTUS**. I DON'T THINK I SHOULD SAY ANY MORE THAN THAT."

"SUIT YOURSELF, JASON. BUT EITHER WAY, WE LEAVE IN THE--"

MORNING: THE STRANGE WONDER WAGON RACKETS DOWN TORTUOUSLY WINDING MOUNTAIN ROADS...

WON'T THIS THING GO ANY **FASTER**--?

I'M TRYING TO CATCH UP TO SOMEONE ON **HORSEBACK**--AND SINCE I SPENT SEVEN DAYS ON **FOOT**, ANYONE ON **HORSEBACK** WOULD BE WAY AHEAD OF ME BY NOW.

NOT WITHOUT **RISKING AN ENGINE BLOW-UP**--AND IT'S A LONG WAY DOWN FROM WHERE WE'RE SITTING...HEH HEH HEH.

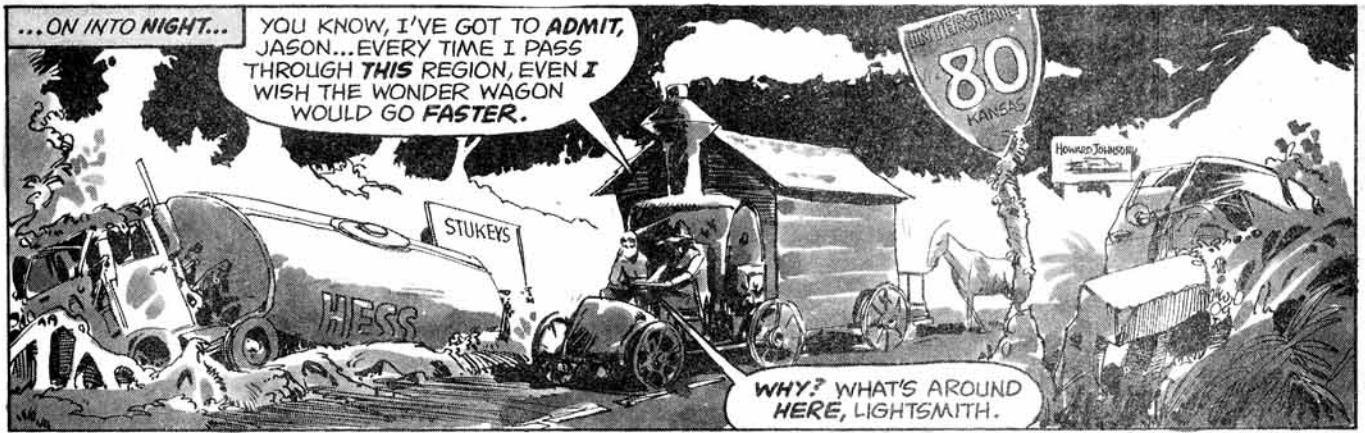
WHAT'S THE **HURRY**, ANYWAY?

WELL, I'M **SORRY**, JASON-- BUT **HORSE-SPEED'S** ABOUT ALL THE **WONDER WAGON** CAN **MANAGE**...

BUT AT LEAST THE STEAM ENGINE DOESN'T GET **TIRED** AND HAVE TO STOP FOR **RESTS**. SO WHY DON'T YOU JUST **RELAX**--?

WE'VE GOT ANOTHER TWO DAYS' **RIDE** TO GO.

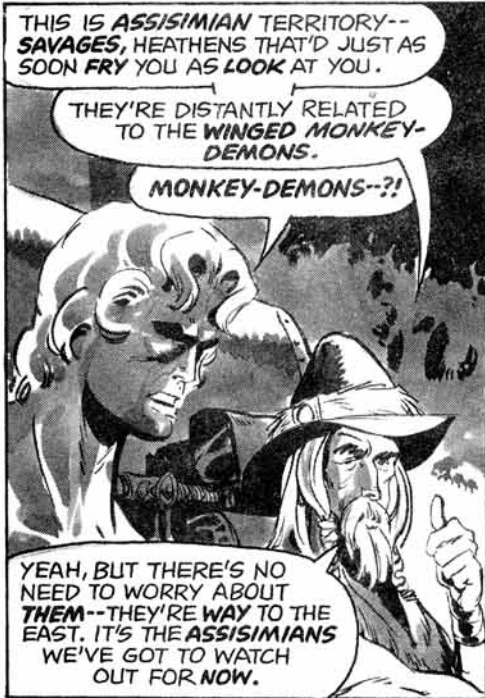
AND THE **WONDER WAGON** RUMBLES ON...



...ON INTO NIGHT...

YOU KNOW, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT, JASON... EVERY TIME I PASS THROUGH THIS REGION, EVEN I WISH THE WONDER WAGON WOULD GO FASTER.

WHY? WHAT'S AROUND HERE, LIGHTSMITH.



THIS IS ASSISIMIAN TERRITORY-- SAVAGES, HEATHENS THAT'D JUST AS SOON FRY YOU AS LOOK AT YOU.

THEY'RE DISTANTLY RELATED TO THE WINGED MONKEY-DEMONS.

MONKEY-DEMONS--?!

YEAH, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THEM-- THEY'RE WAY TO THE EAST. IT'S THE ASSISIMIANS WE'VE GOT TO WATCH OUT FOR NOW.



THEN... THAT SMOKE OVER THE TREETOPS AHEAD--?



YEP-- LOOKS LIKE ONE OF THEIR CAMPS, ALL RIGHT. THEY MUST BE HAVING SOME SORT OF GATHERING...

WONDER IF THEY'RE PLANNING WAR AGAIN...?



MIND IF WE GO TAKE A LOOK, JASON? IF THEY ARE PLANNING WAR, THERE'S A LOT OF FOLKS I'D LIKE TO WARN...

ARE THESE ASSISIMIANS APES?



YEAH-- SAVAGE APES, TOO.

THEN LET'S GO.

ALL RIGHT, BUT QUIET NOW. YOU HEAR THOSE DRUMS--?



IT'S THE ASSISIMIANS, ALL RIGHT...

...AND THEY'RE WEARING THE PAINT, TOO. YOU SEE THEM...?

YES, I... SEE...

"THAT'S A WAR-DANCE IF I EVER SAW ONE. WONDER WHAT TOUCHED THEM OFF THIS TIME... PROBABLY SOMEONE TRESPASSING ON THEIR TERRITORY AGAIN..."



SEE THAT BIG ONE OVER THERE-- SITTING UP HIGHER THAN ANY OF THE OTHERS--?

YEAH...?

THAT'S MAGUANUS-- THE LEADER OF THE ASSISIMIANS...

...AND A MEANER SON-OF-A-CUSS YOU'LL NEVER FIND.



LOOK AT HIM--! WHAT'S HE STARTED YELLING ABOUT--?

"WHO KNOWS? PROBABLY ORDERING HIS WARRIORS TO BRING HIM A BLANKET OR SOMETHING... HEH HEH HEH..."





OOPS--I TAKE THAT BACK. THEY'VE GOT PRISONERS...

...AND MAGUANUS IS ORDERING THEM OVER TO THE FIRE...!

POOR DEVILS... I WONDER WHO THEY ARE...?



"OH NO--! THAT'S MALAGUENA--AND ALEX!!"

"YOU MEAN YOU KNOW THEM? THEN THEY'RE THE ONES YOU WERE TRYING TO FIND--?"



NO... BUT MAYBE THEY WERE TRYING TO FIND ME...

THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO GO DOWN THERE AND RESCUE THEM RIGHT?



"I DIDN'T SAY THAT. I TOLD THEM I NEVER WANTED TO SEE THEM AGAIN..."

"OH, I SEE. WELL, ARE THEY SO BAD THAT THEY DESERVE TO HAVE THEIR SKIN PEELED OFF--"

"--AND THE REST OF THEIR BODIES FRIED BEFORE THEY'VE HAD A CHANCE TO DIE--?"



OF COURSE NOT--BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A MONSTER ABOUT IT!

I WOULD'VE DECIDED TO SAVE THEM ON MY OWN...!

SURE, SURE, JASON-- BUT HOLD ON MINUTE!

NO NEED TO GO RUSHING INTO ANYTHING...



I'VE GOT A DISGUISE I PICKED UP DOWN SOUTH THAT JUST MIGHT FOOL THE HEATHEN FIENDS.



COME ON-- IT'S BACK IN THE WONDER WAGON--!

AND WHAT AN ENTRANCE THIS WILL MAKE!

NEXT WEEK: MASQUERADE!

APES FORUM

Dear Stan and Co.,

I was Marvelised when I received No. 1 of POTA, the artwork being fab, the cover even better. Having read it, I wanted more Marvel fantasy, so soon I got Spidey and the Superheroes. Here are my views.

POTA. Fab!! I found Ka-Zar complete rubbish, Warrior of Mars was reasonable, but not up to your usual standards, Captain Marvel spoilt the mag (I never did and probably never will, like him), but when Warlock arrived I went wild. He adds glamour, style and I hope he returns some day.

SMCW. Spidey, great! Fab! The return of the dreaded Doc Ock was great, but when Hammerhead showed up I was thrilled. Iron-Man is great. The Gladiator brought with him true Marvel adventure. Thor is not my style. The covers are fantastic. The Super Spiderman comics are the best out – Spidey is still good, Iron-Man is ever-improving. Thor, stories are rubbish. Thing and Cap... Great! Doc Strange is good.

TITANS. Neal Adams' artwork was the best yet. The stories soon lacked Marvel's standards so I scrapped the mag and got...

THE AVENGERS. Conan is good, but the script is getting lousy. The Avengers themselves are better than ever, art, script and the stories are at top level. I feel that Goliath and The Vision could do with a separate script of their own in the POTA mag, but altogether the group are ever mighty. Iron Fist is great in every way. The stories are wild, but good. Now here are some questions...

1. How far ahead do you plan your mags?
2. Do you have any idea of how many Superheroes there are?
3. Will there ever be a POTA big special?
4. Could you put a pin-up (in SMCW) of Iron-Man fighting the Gladiator?

Dominic Murphy,
12 Shephard's Meadow, Beaford,
Nr. Winkleigh, N. Devon.

Thanks for that run-down from the West, Dominic. The reader reviews are now streaming in from all corners of the country and beyond! And to prove our gratitude we'll put answers to those questions you tagged on to the end of your letter. 1. How can anyone pin-point the exact moment when a mag can be said to be in the 'planning stage'? Is it when a script-writer first gets a story inspiration in, say, his morning tub? Or when an artist, doodling on the tablecloth starts to get an idea for a new character? See how difficult it is? What say we settle for this is an answer. Roughly four

weeks elapses between starting to prepare a mag for press and the date it actually goes to press. Then the purists among us might wish to add to that the six-week printing schedule that you may have known us mention now and then. And, just in case you're in doubt as to exactly what we mean by that, it's the length of time between the mag going to press and the day it appears in the shops. 2. No, we can't carry out a count, because very often it's a matter of personal opinion as to whether or not a particular character IS a super-hero. 3. If we have anything to do with it, there most certainly will! 4. Will do, Dominic. Will do.

Dear Marvel,

Thank you for mentioning my name and address in "Planet of The Apes". I have had quite a good response, but further letters are more than welcome!

Could you please ask all further applicants to enclose a stamped addressed envelope when writing as this saves much time and guarantees a reply.

Mike Burgess,
Secretary Simian Centre,
45 Wykeham Road, Hastings, Sussex.

Glad to know that it's all happening down in Happy Hastings, Mike. Stand by for a further deluge of mail!

Dear Marvel,

I'm writing to congratulate you on your latest POTA story. Mike Ploog is easily your best artist, and his drawings of the Inheritors and the Drones make Planet the best Marvel mag of the moment for art. I've got every issue except 64, and if anyone wants a copy of 58 I'm prepared to swap. I also buy The

Avengers, originally just for Conan, but I've got used to The Avengers, and even like The Vision. I agree with M.S. Kingscott – Britain needs Howard the Duck!

Christopher Jenkins,
13 Kenwood Road, Copthorne,
Shrewsbury, Salop.

In return for those graceful compliments we're all sitting cross-fingered in the Bullpen, hoping you strike lucky in your quest for ish 64.

Dear Stan,

In volume two of The Childrens' Britannica it tells you what 'Banshee' means. Quote: "The word 'Banshee' comes from an old Irish word meaning 'Woman of the Faires'. Irish people, and people in the other Celtic countries of Wales, the West Highlands of Scotland and Brittany, have a great many stories of fairies and strange supernatural beings that move about in the world and are sometimes seen or heard by human beings. One belief of this kind is that certain old families have guardian spirits who watch over them; these spirits are the Banshees. When any person in those families is about to die, the Banshee is supposed to utter a mournful 'keening' or screaming, in the night. The expression 'to howl like a Banshee' comes from this belief."

Darren Buckland,
Longford Road, Melksham, Wilts.

What are you trying to do, Darren? Get us hiding under the sheets at nights?

apes forum

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ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

PLANET OF THE APES FAN CLUB
CODED MESSAGE

Use Code Letter E.

21.15.13.2 13.14.1 2.15.1.
18.20.14.2.15.4.13.2.1.23. 26.10. 24.13.17.1.23.
22.13.6.12.15.2.26.22. 13.22.4. 14.26.22.
15.13.14.3.1.14.?

Send your decoded message – and your answer to the fan club address. You must enclose your name, address and MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, otherwise your entry will not be valid.

A prize will be sent to the first correct answer opened – so hurry!

PLANET OF THE APES FAN CLUB
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