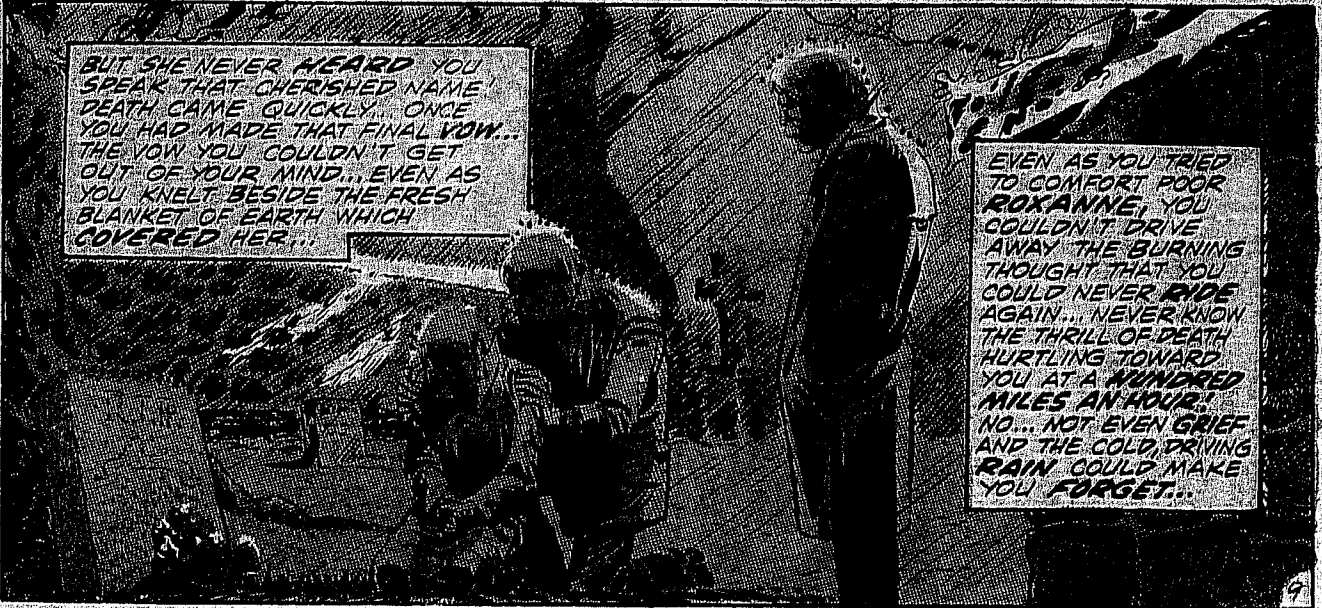




SHE WASN'T EVEN RELATED TO YOU... STILL, SHE'D RAISED YOU... AND GIVEN HER LIFE FOR YOU.



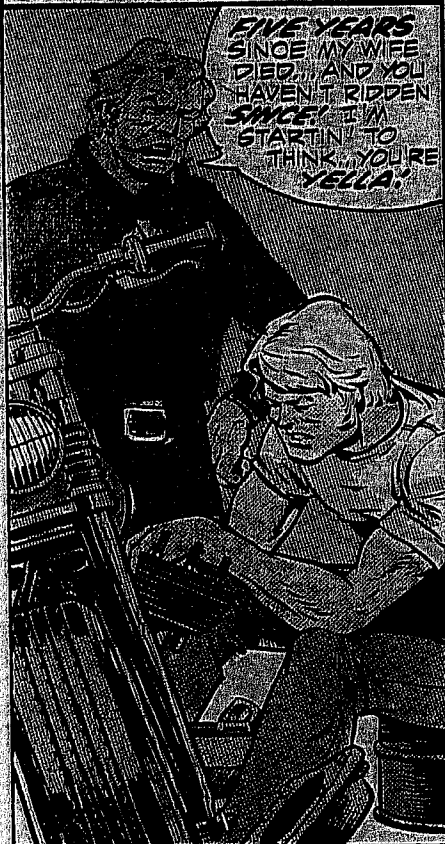
SO THERE WAS NO WAY YOU COULD DENY HER LAST REQUEST.



BUT SHE NEVER HEARD YOU SPEAK THAT CHERISHED NAME! DEATH CAME QUICKLY... ONCE YOU HAD MADE THAT FINAL VOW... THE VOW YOU COULDN'T GET OUT OF YOUR MIND... EVEN AS YOU KNELT BESIDE THE FRESH BLANKET OF EARTH WHICH COVERED HER...

EVEN AS YOU TRIED TO COMFORT POOR ROXANNE, YOU COULDN'T DRIVE AWAY THE BURNING THOUGHT THAT YOU COULD NEVER RIDE AGAIN... NEVER KNOW THE THRILL OF DEATH HURTLING TOWARD YOU AT A HUNDRED MILES AN HOUR! NO... NOT EVEN GRIEF AND THE COLD, DRIVING RAIN COULD MAKE YOU FORGET...

BUT YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE!



FIVE YEARS SINCE MY WIFE DIED, AND YOU HAVEN'T RIDDEN SINCE! I'M STARTIN' TO THINK YOU'RE YELLA!

YOU, ROCKY... EVEN YOU DOUBT MY COURAGE?!



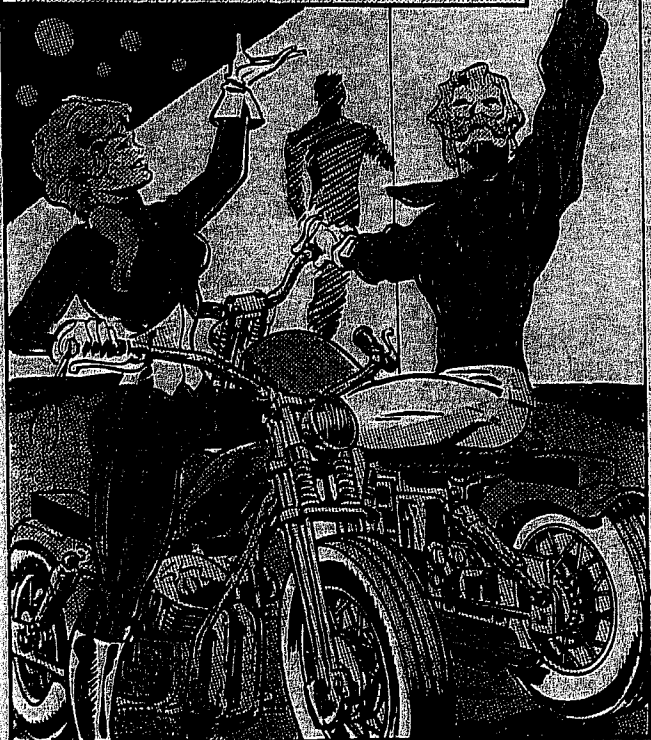
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO, JOHNNY, EVEN THOUGH I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT?!

YOU WON'T RIDE... AND THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON FOR IT I CAN THINK OF... COWARDICE!

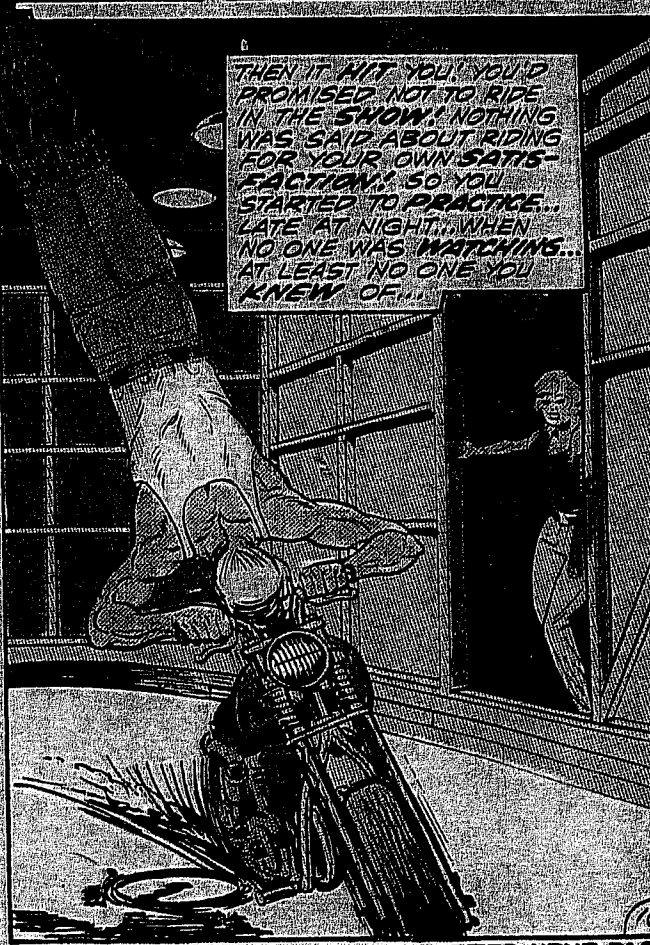
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M CHICKEN... SO LET'S LEAVE IT AT THAT!



YOU COULDN'T LEAVE IT AT THAT THOUGH... AS THE SHOW GOT BIGGER, THE APPLAUSE GREW LOUDER... THE STUNTS BECAME MORE DANGEROUS... YOU STOOD IN THE SHADOWS AND WATCHED, CHEATED OF FAME AND FORTUNE BY A PROMISE TO A DYING WOMAN...



THEN IT HIT YOU! YOU'D PROMISED NOT TO RIDE IN THE SHOW! NOTHING WAS SAID ABOUT RIDING FOR YOUR OWN SATISFACTION! SO YOU STARTED TO PRACTICE... LATE AT NIGHT, WHEN NO ONE WAS WATCHING... AT LEAST NO ONE YOU KNEW OF...



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE