

Treasure Chest

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OF FUN & FACT

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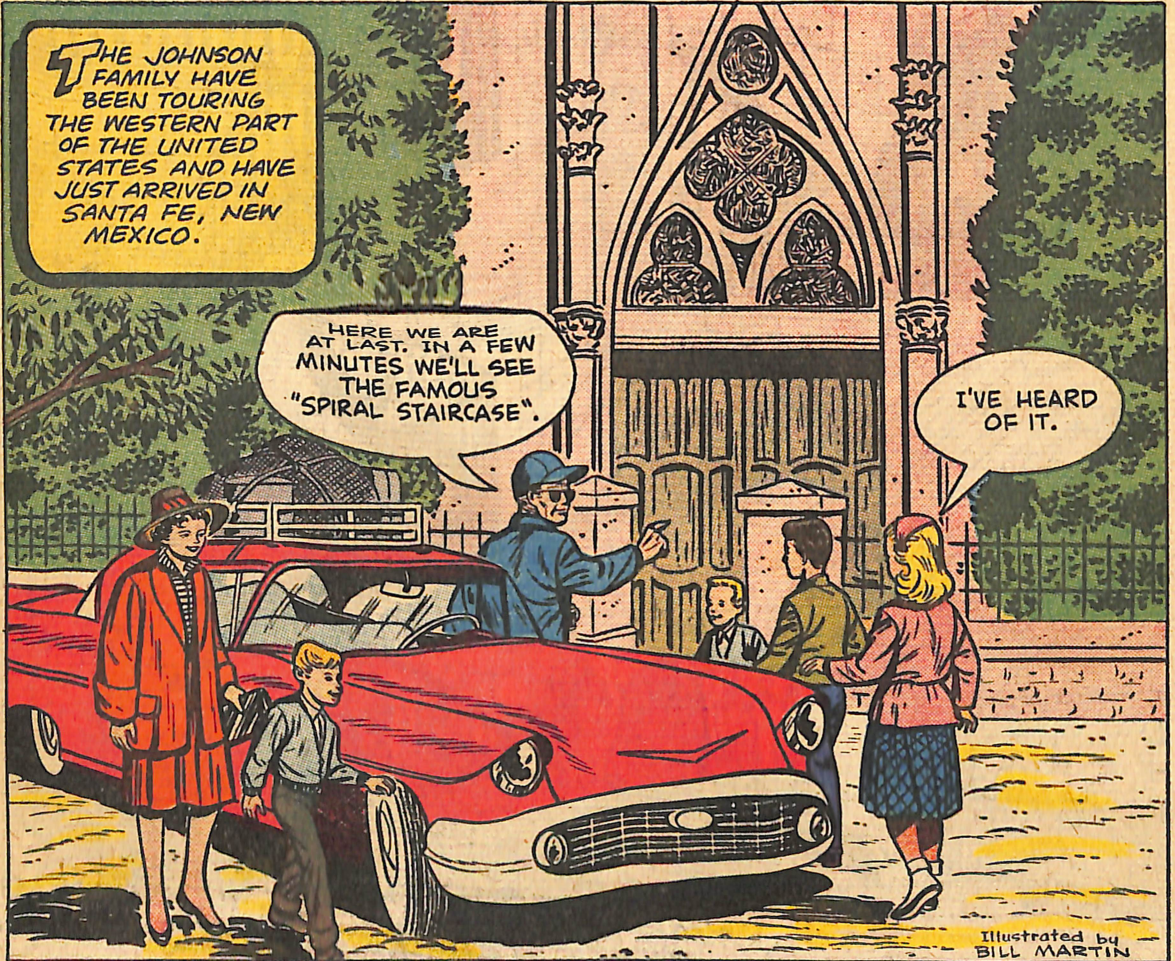


*The Wonderful Staircase
of Santa Fe*

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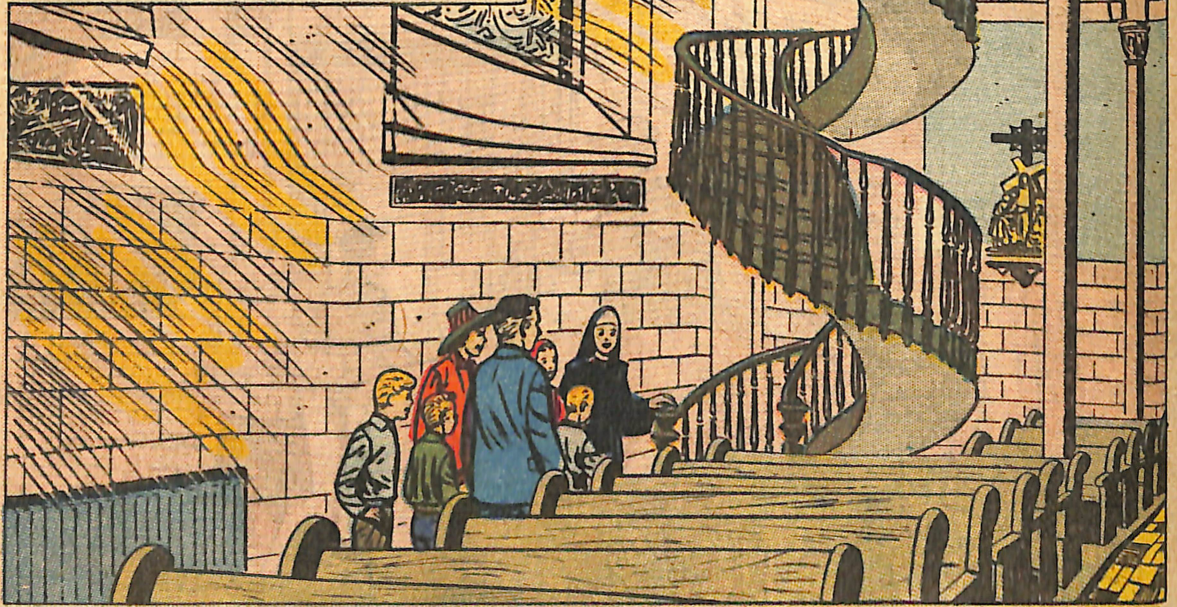
the SPIRAL STAIRCASE

A Modern-Day Wonder



Illustrated by BILL MARTIN





"MOTHER MAGDALEN HIRED MASONS, CARPENTERS, AND ARCHITECTS TO BUILD THE CHAPEL."

THE STORY OF THE STAIRCASE BEGINS BACK IN 1873 WHEN THIS CHAPEL WAS BEING BUILT. THE SUPERIOR, SISTER MAGDALEN, HAD STARTED A SCHOOL FOR GIRLS HERE IN SANTA FE, IN 1852.



"BEFORE VERY LONG THE CHURCH WAS COMPLETED... BUT A PROBLEM AROSE..."

SISTER, SOMEONE'S MADE A DREADFUL MISTAKE!

YES. THERE ISN'T ENOUGH SPACE TO BUILD A STAIRWAY TO THE CHOIR LOFT.

HOW ARE THE SISTERS GOING TO GET UP AND DOWN?



"SOME OF THE SISTERS WENT TO INSPECT THE WORK."

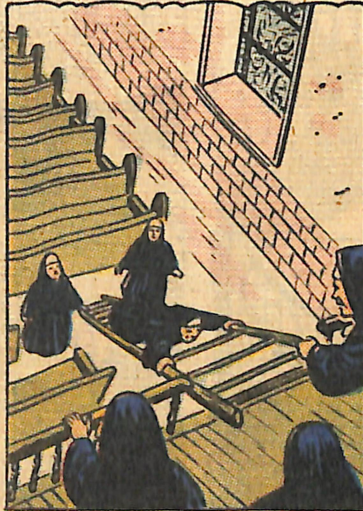
THE WORKMEN ARE RIGHT. THEY COULD NEVER FINISH A STAIRCASE IN THAT SPACE.

WELL, THEY STARTED, ANYWAY. THEY TELL ME THAT AFTER THEY PUT THE TWO LARGE BOLTS IN THE CHOIR LOFT, AT THE BEGINNING OF THE STAIRCASE, THEY FOUND IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE.



"THE SISTERS USED A LADDER."

WELL, THERE IS ONE WAY TO GET UP TO THE CHOIR LOFT.



I'M SURE THAT IF WE PRAY HARD ENOUGH, ST. JOSEPH WILL FIND THE ANSWER. HE HASN'T FAILED THE SISTERS OF LORETTO YET.



"ONE DAY, WHILE SISTER MAGDALEN WAS TALKING TO SOME OF HER PUPILS..."

WELL, CHILDREN, TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF OUR NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH. I HOPE HE HAS HEARD OUR PRAYERS.

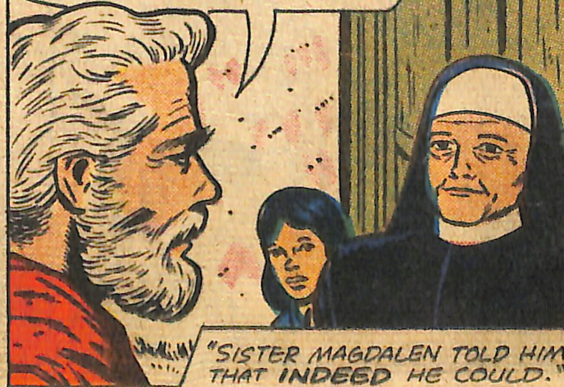
I'M SURE HE HAS, SISTER!

I WONDER WHO THAT OLD MAN IS, SISTER.

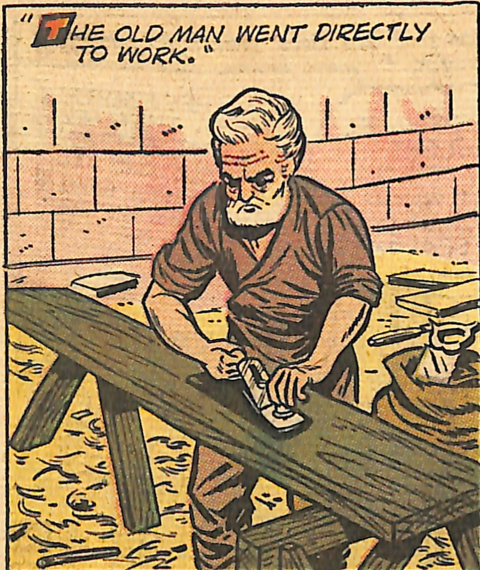


"THE OLD MAN APPROACHED SISTER MAGDALEN, AND..."

I HEAR THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A CARPENTER, SISTER. PERHAPS I CAN HELP YOU.



"SISTER MAGDALEN TOLD HIM THAT INDEED HE COULD."



"ONE DAY, SISTER MAGDALEN ENTERED THE CHAPEL TO FIND THE STAIRWAY FINISHED..."

