

Issue 2 - "Through a Heaven's Stormy Rage" Part 2:

Mercury Rising

Mike gets over his surprise at seeing his old enemy (after first putting up a struggle) and listens as "Spiro Masters" explains how he managed to acquire Black Rock after the wormhole business, not only bringing Popkiss and Jimmy under his wing but turning the laboratory into the corporate giant currently in existence. Masters then explains how Mike's re-appearance reveals the wormhole process' worth as a method of time travel. Masters wants to keep the secret from falling into the hands of a government, but Mike clearly recognizes Masters' desire to acquire time travel for himself. Masters wants Mike to fly Supercar into space and acquire Beaker's wormhole generator: "Leap Frog". Mike solidly refuses but, later on, Jimmy and Popkiss explain that Masters is holding a threat over their heads in the form of Mitch who is not dead but, rather, has been held in suspended animation all these years. Masters will kill Mitch if there is no cooperation. Mike reluctantly agrees that Masters has the situation under control. Meanwhile, Jan and Felicity Farnsworth confront Masters and threaten all sorts of legal action unless the Farnsworth-Beaker family receives an enormous financial restitution. Masters mildly demurs and hopes that Mike will be able to succeed with recovering Leap Frog; thus providing Masters with a new tool to use against such troublesome people as the Farnsworths. That evening, though, Mike quietly breaks into Popkiss' computer records (secretly aided, once again, by Berta Karsendorf). He studies the files pertaining to the crash of the second Supercar prototype. The next morning, accompanied by Popkiss and Jimmy, Mike confronts Jan and Felicity with the theory he'd been formulating ever since seeing the evidence in Popkiss' computer . . . namely, that Doctor Beaker is still alive.



Issue #3 - "Through a Heaven's Stormy Rage" Part 3

Transit of Mercury

Transit of Mercury The next day finds Mike undergoing a test of Supercar prior to setting off for outer space. Or so it seems. The test begins normally, but Mike soon breaks away from the agreed on plan and flies Supercar west towards the Pacific. Following him are Jimmy, Popkiss, Jan and Felicity on board a cargo-variant Supercar. Masters threatens Mike directly, and it's here that Mike tells Masters that Beaker is alive. Mike also tells Masters that Beaker is the only one who can make the time travel process work efficiently, and Mike will recover him . . . but on his terms. Masters has no other course but to agree, but he is not out of schemes yet and quietly follows Mike's path of research regarding Beaker's whereabouts. Over the Pacific, Jan and Felicity explain how both Beaker and Bill Gibson may have been flying towards Kyoryo: an island reputed to hold numerous exotic botanical specimens. No one can speculate as to why, if Beaker and Gibson had survived, had they remained silent all these years, and Mike can only hope that his theories bear fruit. En route the team is intercepted by a combat-variant Supercar. It's flown by Josh Dodson and he's clearly out to stop the team. Mike falls back in Supercar and, using some fancy manoeuvres, manages to buy time to allow the others to continue on. He then attempts to evade Dodson by traveling underwater, but Supercar is blown to bits when it returns to the surface.



Issue #4 - "Through a Heaven's Stormy Rage" Part 4

Mercury Steady

It turns out that Supercar hasn't been destroyed but has returned underwater. Mike used the same trick Beaker had used to make it seem as if the second Supercar prototype had blown up. Continuing submerged, Mike and the others arrange to rendezvous at Kyoryo. Arriving at the island, Mike finds an underwater tunnel and takes Supercar in, hoping to find a clear entrance to the island's interior. The others land on the shore and set off, soon locating the remains of the second Supercar prototype. They also locate a tribe of armed natives led by Bill Gibson, who doesn't seem to recognize any of the team members and has them taken prisoner. Mike surfaces in a lagoon on the island and leaves Supercar just as Dodson shows up again, attacking from the air and damaging Supercar. Mike escapes only to find himself captured by another group of the natives. He's taken to where the others are waiting in a village. There he not only sees Bill Gibson, but at last he comes face to face with Doctor Beaker . . . now reduced to a mumbling stupor. It's Felicity who supplies an explanation, pointing out that the air around them is rich with hallucinogenic spores being released by the luxurious fungal growth on the island, and they'll soon be affected as well. It doesn't look as if they'll have a chance to be affected, though, as Beaker is quickly arranging for a "sacrifice" of Mike. But Dodson suddenly reappears and attacks again, causing everyone to scatter. Mike has an inspiration and, taking an oxygen mask from a first aid kit, goes to Beaker and forces him to breathe the pure air. Beaker's mind clears and, with Mike's help, he manages to bring down Dodson's craft by cleverly re-directing the attacking ship's lasers. Supercar is then quickly repaired and the team . . . now accompanied by Beaker and Bill Gibson . . . leave Kyoryo. Back at Masterworks, Masters is angrily trying to find out what's happened. He goes to the window and sees Supercar . . . piloted by Mike, and also holding Beaker, Berta Karsendorf and the canister holding Mitch in suspension. Masters and Mike face each other briefly, and the two old enemies formally renew their grudge before Mike flies off into the sunset. Accompanied by Popkiss, Jimmy, Jan, Felicity and Bill Gibson, the nucleus of a new Supercar team now find themselves on the run from an old enemy who's become larger, and heading towards a whole new life.

Continuation Story

A New Home Base

"Selamat Datang! (Welcome in the Malay language)

After the return of Mike Mercury in Supercar, it became hideously obvious that the new team would have to relocate to a new headquarters somewhere. They needed someplace which was fairly secluded, but within reasonable distance to some town or facility which could receive cargo whenever necessary. Also needed was some form of hangar for Supercar, as well as adjacent available space which could be easily converted into laboratories and living quarters. Fortunately, for the new team, one of their members was Miss Felicity Farnsworth. For several years now she had owned and maintained a considerable rubber plantation near the town of Tinipor in the Sarawak state of Malaysia. Her plantation ("Mon Repos", or "My Rest") had been, in turn, inherited from French colonials who had originally established the property early in the 20th Century. Mon Repos occupies some 3500 acres of prime rubber producing farmland near Tinipor which is, itself, located near the port town of Kuala Baram (if you look at a map of Malaysia then go to the northeast portion of Sarawak and you can locate Kuala Baram and neighbouring Miri near the border with Brunei). The Batang Baram River cuts through part of the estate. Along with rubber, Mon Repos also maintains a small tin mine. The plantation also borders the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak. In fact, Felicity Farnsworth had donated part of Mon Repos to the Park during the 1970's when she also assisted Britain's Royal Geographic Society in its mapping and survey of the region. In spite of their work, however, much of the area still remains fairly unknown and is a lush tropical rainforest punctuated by impressive rock formations, extensive caves and is in the shadow of the mountains of Gunung Mulu, Gunung Api and Gunung Benarat. (Mon Repos also borders part of the swamp lowlands which are prominent along part of the coast. It was in these lowlands, in fact, that Felicity Farnsworth almost met her end at the hands of Masterspy.) Felicity offered the resources of Mon Repos to the new Supercar team, but it was immediately understood that the team couldn't take up residence at the plantation proper as it'd be the first place Masters and his people would look. It would be obvious enough where the team had fled to, and something a bit more secluded was desired. Military history provided something of a solution. Felicity explained how, during World War II, Malaysia had been occupied by the Japanese who exploited the rubber and tin industry for their own purposes. Numerous bases had been built in and around the country, and one of them still stood where the plantation touched the coast of the South China Sea. It was a small base with concrete shelters, nestled in a deep secluded cove which allowed submarines or surface ships to dock and take on rubber or tin. Typhoons had long since altered the coastline, and it was no longer practical to bring in ships, but seaplanes could still land on the water. The base itself was slightly further inland, and well hidden by the rainforest. There had once been an airfield but it had long since been overgrown by the forest. The single hangar and support buildings, as well as the dock facility on the water had been well-built, though . . . made to withstand Allied bombing and were still in good shape. What's more, the buildings connected with a spur of the vast cave system which extends throughout the Sarawak region (it was the presence of these caves which had also prevented the area from being turned into plantation land. Not enough solid ground to support rubber trees). The facility was ideal for the needs of the new Supercar team. Assisted by their new allies within the Malaysian government, the sole hangar

was refurbished to allow the main concrete shell to roll back and forth on rails, thus giving Supercar a place to land and take off from. Immediately adjacent to this structure was a smaller one which became the new "console room" and "flight support" (i.e. fuel storage, repair rooms, etc.). The other remaining concrete structure was large enough to be partitioned into laboratory space, with generators, computer mainframes and storage rooms occupying the cave space below. The only new structures to be built on the base itself were two bungalows which would provide living quarters for the team. One bungalow would be for the male contingent, while the other bungalow would house the females. A garage was also built for the two jeeps which could reach the single road that led northeast to Tinipor, Miri and Kuala Baram, and southwest to Bintulu. The base itself, despite its updating, remains mostly hidden from casual observers. The dock at the cove is visible, as is a single radio/radar mast which rises above the trees. Two satellite dishes can also be observed near the lab building.