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THE **New!** ***MARVEL -PHILE***

33

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AUTHORITY



COME ON, LET'S GO...

SPACE TRUCKIN'!

THE ***MARVEL®-PHILE***

While I was born in 1972, I was never a huge fan of tractor trailers, semis or truckers. That's not to say I didn't like them or weren't somehow fascinated with the 'lingo' (look it up you pre-internet kids...), just that growing up in and around Cincinnati there wasn't much of an opportunity to get into anything like that. I can remember being taken to go see 'Smokey and the Bandit' at a rec center on Norwood Avenue and they showed it sixteen millimeter in a basketball gym with fold out chairs and very bohemia-style popcorn. Like most of the young men who sat down and watched the movie, I had a crush on Sally Fields afterwards, well until I discovered Olivia Newton-John, Carrie Fisher, and Farrah Fawcett (not necessarily in that order...).

My other big exposure to trucking came in the form of the television show 'B.J. and the Bear'. I know that my fascination with the show came from two things, there were a lot of really beautiful women in bikini tops and hot pants running around on the show that caught the attention of my fertile 6 year old mind, none of whom are all that memorable beyond what I just mentioned about them. The other thing was Greg Evigan, the lead star of the show, got to hang out with a chimp and in my 6-year-old mind that was infinitely cooler than getting to drive around in a truck. I had visions of me and Bear (the chimp in question...) going on adventures through the neighborhoods of Norwood, Ohio saving the little redheaded girl from next door and fighting off the local bullies.

So when I saw the 'all trucker' issue of the Phile was up for grabs I decided that I had to do it. Maybe it was my way of going back to a small piece of my childhood, a safer time and place? Maybe it was a love letter to all of those kids who saw a truck on the open road and dreamt of all the places it could take them? Maybe it was just too much fun not to write the issue, after all I wrote up U.S. Archer ages ago and did the write-up for the MUD1 book as well.

With all that said, we at the Unofficial Canon group proudly give you the 'U.S-1' issue of the Phile and if all of this isn't enough to whet your trucking appetite check out the write-ups for Devil Rig and Hellrider in the Silver Age Sourcebook and drop me a line on facebook and ask me to post stats for 'B.J. Burton and his sidekick 'Scatter' the chimp, an 'original' character available for a forthcoming campaign of mine.

Keith Kilburn

Let us know if you like what we are doing here, or if you want to see something different. Requests are always welcome, but please bear in mind, that we cannot possibly accommodate all requests. Feel free to send requests, feedback, and submissions (especially submissions!) to themarvelphile@gmail.com!

Please enjoy and feel free to give us feedback!

Profiles by Keith A. Kilburn and Jerry Jenkins.

Layout by Steve Jolly

All illustrations by the Marvel bullpen.

Dedicated respectfully to Burt Reynolds, Jerry Reed, Sally Fields, Greg Evigan and Kris Kristofferson

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U.S. ARCHER

STATISTICS

F GD (10)
 A GD (10)
 S TY (6)
 E GD (10)
 R GD (10)
 I GD (10)
 P GD (10)

Health: 36

Karma: 30

Resources: TY (6)

Popularity: +6 as U.S.-1

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Ulysses Solomon Archer

Occupation: Truck stop owner; Truck driver

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.

Identity: Public

Other Known Aliases: U.S. Ace

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Married

Known Relatives: Sidney Archer (father, deceased), Kathleen Archer (mother, deceased), Jefferson Hercules Archer (Highwayman, brother), Mary McGrill Archer (wife), unidentified son.

Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop in space.

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation:

KNOWN POWERS:

Cybernetic Skull: Due to a wreck, U.S. has had a cybernetic implant and reconstructive surgery done. Under a layer of clone skin U.S. skull plate is Remarkable material and provides Good (10) protection vs. physical attacks. As a result he gets a +1 to damage when charging attacks or head-butting.

The Cybernetics provide a number of unique abilities, including:

- **Radio transmission and reception:** Excellent; He's able to tune into C.B. transmissions as well as local, state and federal bands as well at Excellent ability over a 10 mile range.
- **Vehicle Communications and control:** Excellent ability. U.S. can control and communication with the U.S.1 rig, using this power (plus his driving skill!) to manipulate the rig as needed.

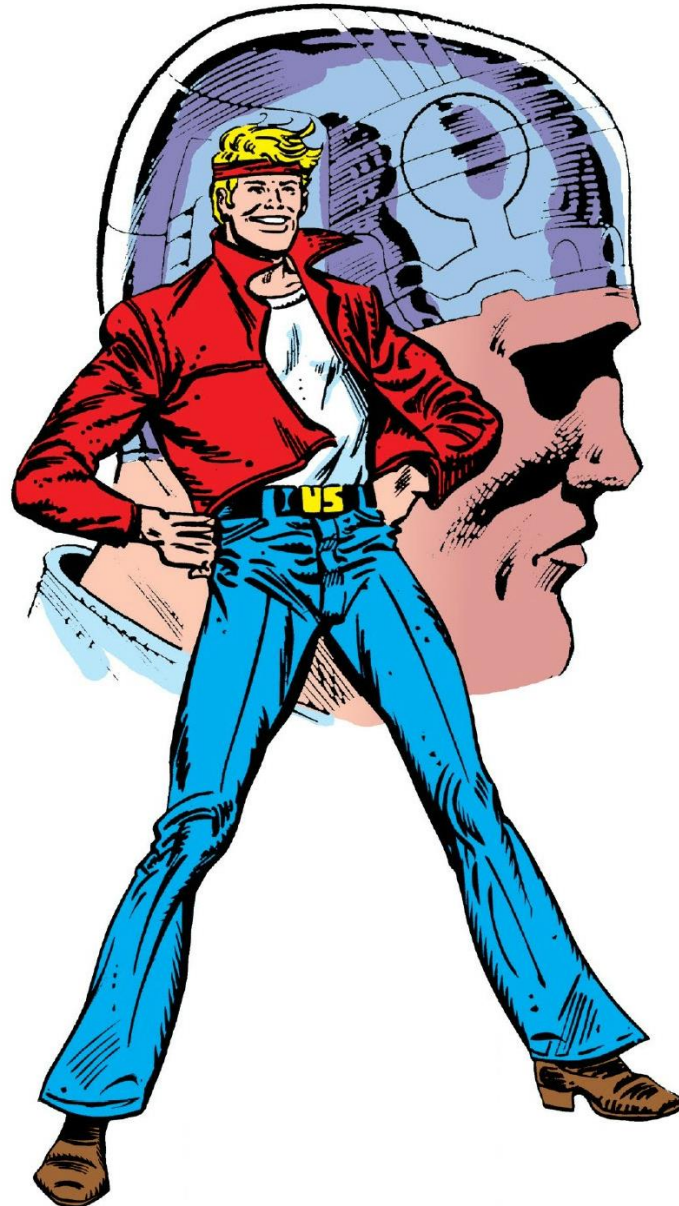
- **Resistance to Mind Control:** A side effect of his C.B. powered brain, he has resistance to mind control at Good ability.

EQUIPMENT

U.S.-1

This specially modified sleeper has a king sized bed in a rear area for U.S. to rest in as well as a radar tracking device, the ability to generate an oil slick, tire-shredding shrapnel bombs, smoke screens, homing devices, weather satellite hook-ups and an ejection seat!

Control: Gd Speed: Rm
 Protection: Rm Body: Rm



The U.S.-1 has minor A.I capabilities and should be considered to have Typical Reason for the purposes of problem solving or following a Garmin.

Later modifications included:

- **Life Support:** The U.S.-1 is modified with a life support generator providing protection vs. the vacuum of space and a breathable atmosphere.
- **Flight:** The U.S.-1 has been modified to fly, its usual speed is Remarkable, in space it's able to attain a maximum speed of Monstrous.
- **Warp Drive:** The U.S.-1 was modified with a warp drive allowing get around quicker. Consider this power to

operate like 'gateway' at Amazing ability.

- Astronav-Centralized Broadcaster (A-C.B.) This allows him to communicate in deep space and navigate the galactic highways with Remarkable ability.

Talents: Engineering, Computer, Electronics, Football, Trucker, Repair/Tinker and Astro-navigation

Contacts: Mary McGrill (his wife), Razorback, She-Hulk.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

Archer is the archetypal everyman hero. While he's nothing really special, he's very brave, determined and always ready to help his friends even in the toughest, most strange circumstances. Unfortunately for him, he's quite open and make friends easily.

HISTORY

U.S. and his older brother Jefferson are the sons of a pair of truck drivers. U.S. idolized his older brother and thought he let him win all the time to make him feel good. However Jefferson was too humiliated to admit that his little brother was better at everything. Even as a child, U.S. wanted to be a truck driver, but his parents insisted on him getting a good education. When their parents were killed an accident, U.S. and Jefferson were informally adopted by Poppa Wheelie and Wide Load Annie. They were the owners of the truck stop their parents frequented, The Short Stop. Jefferson took a job driving truck so

U.S. could go to college. Jefferson hated U.S., blaming him for making him give up his own dreams. U.S. was the college's star quarterback and graduated with many degrees, including Electronic Engineering and Computer Programming. A group of aliens came to Earth seeking to recruit truck drivers to become starship pilots. Led by Al, they wanted to recruit U.S. but got Jefferson instead, since to them all humans look alike. They customized his truck with advanced technology and taught him how to use it. Jefferson worried that the aliens would realize their mistake, so he tried to keep his distance from U.S. In order to do this he convinced U.S. he was dead and became the Highwayman, naming his truck the Blackrig. After college U.S. went on a ride with Jefferson when they were ran off the road by the Blackrig, the truck was actually under Jefferson's control with a dummy in the seat. The truck went over a cliff and U.S. was severely injured in the crash. The dazed U.S. looked up the cliff to see the Highwayman and some demons mocking him. The demons were actually the aliens that were beginning to realize their mistake and were trying to contact U.S. The aliens took U.S. to a hospital where they replaced his shattered skull with a metal one that could pick up CB transmissions. Jefferson then persuaded the aliens to keep him, and let him prove that he was better than U.S. After recovering, U.S. returned to the Short Stop and built his truck, U.S.-1. Months later, believing that Jefferson was Highwayman's hostage, U.S. went out on the road to find him. The Highwayman in the Blackrig ambushed U.S. U.S. managed to defeat him, and Highwayman's truck over a cliff, but it never reached the bottom. Highwayman then sent Midnight to attack U.S. She took control of him using her Hypno-Whip. U.S. convinced her to grant him a last request, a stick of gum. He kept the gum in the foil and stuck it in his mouth, letting him escape her control.

Jefferson than posed as an old trucker to spread rumors of Highwayman having a demonic past. U.S. chased after the old man, while being attacked by other trucks, and being bombed by blimps. When he finally caught up to Jefferson he found out that the old man was actually the

Highwayman. Baron Von Blimp then challenged U.S. to a race. The object was to deliver chickens for the Great Chicken Colonel. Despite Blimp's cheating, U.S. easily won. U.S. found that he actually came in second in the race to his friend Taryn O'Connell. The Colonel allowed a second race between him and Taryn. This time U.S. was interrupted by the aliens, having him run through a giant maze. It was a test by Al to confirm that U.S. was the one he was looking for. Al then pretended that his ship had broken down and that he required the chicken parts U.S. was hauling to fix it. Al then flew U.S. allowing him to win the race. Later, Midnight took control of the people at the Short Stop and challenged U.S. to redeem herself. U.S. defeated her again learning to use his CB skull to remote control his truck. After the fight, U.S. and everyone at the Short Stop believed Taryn was Midnight. U.S. chased her, but was confronted by the real Midnight. U.S. and the people at the Short Stop fought Midnight, Baron Von Blimp, and his neo-Nazis. U.S. learned to use his skull to control Midnights whip, and she was unmasked by Taryn, revealing her to be Short Stop waitress Mary McGrill. They were then all confronted by Highwayman revealing that Mary was innocent and under his control. Jefferson started to explain his actions, but noticed he was followed by the aliens. Seeing this Jefferson went into a blind rage and started strangling U.S. The aliens subdued Jefferson and brought them both back to the Short Stop. There the aliens explained the mix up to both of them. The aliens then arranged a contest between them. The aliens altered the Blackrig and U.S.-1, and sent them on a race that circled the globe, and went into space. U.S. got the hang of space flight quicker than Jefferson and got the lead. Furious, and refusing to lose again, Jefferson attempted to ram US and kill them both. U.S. dodged, and highwayman crashed on the Moon. After U.S. was declared the winner, the aliens revealed why they wanted truckers. U.S. and most of the crew of the Short Stop were taken to space. There they renamed the Short Stop as the Star Shop. Sometime after leaving Earth, US married Mary McGrill.

STATISTICS

F EX (20)
 A GD (10)
 S EX (20)
 E RM (30)
 R GD (10)
 I GD (10)
 P GD (10)

Health: 80

Karma: 30

Resources: TY (6)

Popularity: 0 as Buford / +6 as Razorback / +20 in Texarkana

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Buford T. Hollis

Occupation: Scientist, Trucker, Pilot and Adventurer

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.

Identity: Secret

Other Known Aliases: None

Place of Birth: Presumably somewhere in Arkansas.

Marital Status: Single

Known Relatives: Bobby Sue Hollis (Sister)

Base of Operations: Arkansas

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation: Battalion and NASA

KNOWN POWERS:

Intuitive Driving: Razorback has the mutant ability to be able to drive virtually any kind of vehicle, even if he possesses only a very limited degree of knowledge as to how the vehicle operates. Razorback gets a +3cs to Reason when trying to operate any vehicle for the first time. Once he makes this roll, Razorback quickly masters the vehicle's operation.

Great Height: Razorback stands an imposing seven and half feet tall. His opponents receive a +1CS when trying to hit him in combat, but his great height grants him the equivalent of Martial Arts C.

Electrified Mane: Remarkable (30)
 Electrical damage to anyone seizing his mane

Unique Vehicle:

BIG PIG (original) - This tractor-trailer has been modified by Buford to be faster and more durable than the normal rig. Its stats are as follows:

Control: Ex Speed: Ex
 Body: Rm Protection: Ex



- Specially reinforced with heavy duty shocks.
- It has a security system designed by Buford so that only he may operate it.
- The Big Pig specially designed C.B. Radio, which has a 200 mile range, it can be tuned to police, federal and S.H.I.E.L.D. bands.
- Remote control: This can start and summon the Rig to him, it has a 10

- area range and has Good Control on 'auto-pilot'.
- Is a sleeper sized semi with a king-sized bed in the back and can comfortably hold up to 8 people in the cramped cab.
- Tracer: Buford designed a number of tracers allowing him to track targets with Good ability up to 10 miles away.

BIG PIG III-This experimental NASA spacecraft has been modified by Bufford to be faster and more durable than the normal spacecraft. Its stats are as follows:

Control: Am Speed: Mn
Body: Ex Protection: Ex

Weapons Systems:

-Warp Drive: The Big Pig III achieves CL1000 speeds when it engages its warp drive.

-Life Support: The Big Pig III is modified to provide protection vs. the vacuum of space and a breathable atmosphere.

-Artificial Gravity: The Big Pig III is modified to maintain earthlike gravity within its confines.

History: An experimental NASA spacecraft, it was hijacked on its launch day by Razorback and Taryn O'Connell in an effort to reach the Star Stop. After the intervention of Jennifer Walters, they were given permission to be the test pilots.

Talents: Mechanics, Wrestling and Martial Arts A.

Contacts: Spider-Man

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

Razorback is a stereotypical trucker, who enjoys his life as a costumed hero. At first Buford appears to be a buffoon - but has proved himself to be a competent crime fighter.

HISTORY

Bufford Hollis was a truck driver who adopted the costumed identity of Razorback to stop a band of thieves in his hometown of Texarkana, Arkansas. When his younger sister, Bobby Sue, left home under mysterious circumstances to join a pseudo religious cult, Razorback tracked her down to New York City in an effort to bring her home. He encountered Spider-Man, and the two of them teamed to defeat the unknown leader of the cult, a sinister being called The Man-Beast. Although freed of the cult's influence, Bobby Sue refused to return home with Bufford, claiming that she still had to find direction in her life. Razorback returned home to his career as a super-hero in his hometown.

Razorback, A.K.A. Bufford Hollis, joins his father's trucking company, John Hollis Trucking, upon his return home. He lives at home with his father and mother (Pearl Hollis) in Texarkana, Arkansas along with his younger brother Terry James (TJ) Hollis. Although his identity is known by just about everyone in the small town, he still wears his costume and battles crime as Razorback. Razorback joined the big-time when he was asked to join the Rangers Initiative as one of the newest members and he proudly accepted.

BARON VON BLIMP

STATISTICS

F GD (10)
A TY (6)
S TY (6)
E GD (10)
R GD (10)
I GD (10)
P EX (20)

Health: 32

Karma: 40

Resources: RM

Popularity: -10

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Unknown

Occupation: Terrorist and Dirigible promoter

Legal Status: Presumably a citizen of the United States, with a criminal record.

Identity: Secret

Other Known Aliases: None.

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Unknown

Known Relatives: None known

Base of Operations: Mobile across the United States.

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation: None.

KNOWN POWERS

None

EQUIPMENT

Saber: This Excellent (20) material weapon inflicts Good (10) edged damage.

Dirigible(s):

Control: PR (4) Speed: GD (10)

Body: TY (6) Protection: TY (6)

- **Bombs:** The Baron has his Dirigibles stocked with bombs that inflict Remarkable (30) scatter damage over 1 area.
- **Cloud Cover:** The Dirigibles can cloak themselves with Typical (6) ability by providing artificial cloud cover.

Followers:

F: GD (10)

A: TY (6)

S: TY (6)

E: TY (6)

R: TY (6)

I: TY (6)

P: TY (6)

Health: 28



ADDITIONAL NOTES:

These neo-nazi like soldiers are loyal to the Baron and have the following stats. Each of them has the Military and Martial Arts E talents.

Talents: Leadership, Sharp Weapons, Business/Finance and Piloting.

Contacts: His legion of followers (no known name for his legion...)

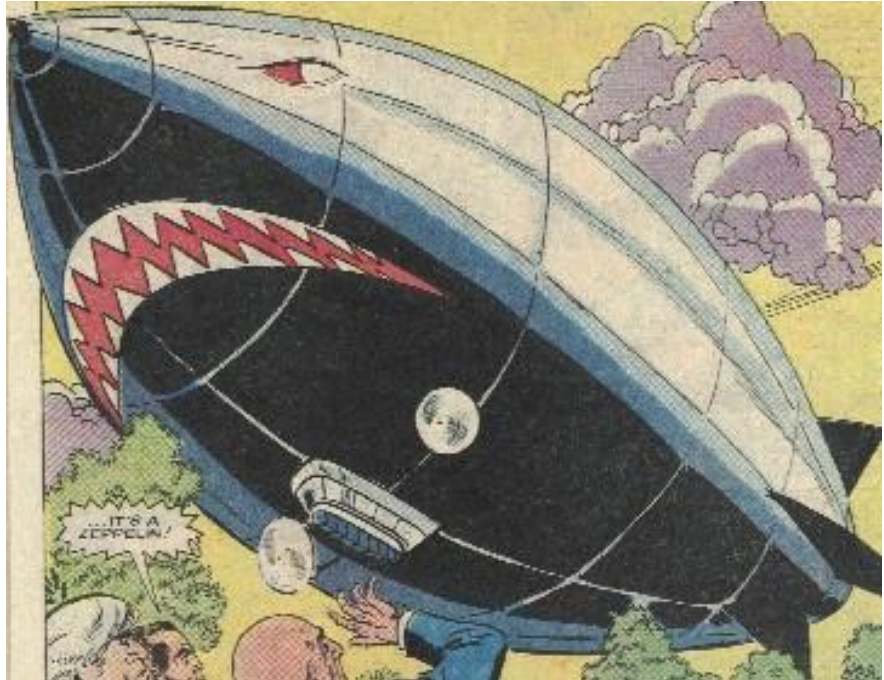
ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

The Baron is a comical little man who speaks with a horrendous fake German accent and espouses the air superiority to ground vehicles (especially Semis!) He goes to extraordinary lengths in his attempts to prove he is right.

HISTORY

Von Blimp's motto had always been "financial victory through air power." Ever since the Hindenburg disaster, people had mistrusted lighter than air craft. He planned to make the zeppelin thrive again, so that they would replace the trucking industry as the major mover of goods in America, and eventually the world. While US Archer sought to track down the Highwayman, he was suddenly attacked by bombs from above. Unable to see anything, US activated his rig's radar scope, which identified a blimp as the source of his problems. After a near miss, he had his "co-pilot" Retread unleash a large smokescreen, making it appear that he had been hit, and the blimp pulled back, allowing them to escape in secret.

Von Blimp's dirigible hovered overhead the Short Stop, and von Blimp climbed down the ladder, slapped US in the face, and challenged him to a competition. Having heard of US and his truck's legendary prowess, von Blimp wished to humble him, so that the world would no that air power is superior to diesel power. He convinced US to participate in a race by offering to provide him with information on the Highwayman. Von Blimp made arrangements for the contest with the Chicken Colonel: Each of them would transport a load of his Finger Lickin' Chickens, with the winner arriving at their destination first. The race was barely begun when von Blimp began dropping bombs at US, who countered with anti-aircraft missiles. von Blimp took his dirigible up, beyond the range of the missiles and then planned to kill him with his bombs. The Highwayman ordered him not to kill US, as he had his own agenda for the master trucker. US's radar scope detected an approaching storm, and he led von Blimp towards a tunnel, knowing that he would be waiting for him on the other side. Von Blimp got too close, and US managed to hook his dirigible with a grappling hook and then board it. US tackled the Baron, who drew his sword on him. US managed to lower his head into one of the Baron's wings, catching the flat of his sword on



his metal skull, shattering the blade. As the storm descended on the dirigible, US set loose all of the live chicken cargo, causing mass chaos as he slid down his line back into his truck. The US1 arrived at their destination before von Blimp--who did not arrive at all. However, they both lost to Taryn O'Connell, who had secretly been a part of the race.

Baron von Blimp met with the investment firm of Clutch, Grab, and LeGreed, taking a large sum of money to help them shut down the Short Stop. He allowed the three men to join him aboard his ship. The Highwayman secretly watched all of this, and was not pleased with von Blimp's double dealing. During a semi-related brawl at the Short Stop, von Blimp's pseudo-neo-Nazis descended into the parking lot on ropes, and promptly got their butts whupped by a bunch of truckers. The fight was partially broken up when US managed to take Midnight's hypno-whip and use it to negate the hypnotic commands she had given to some of those present. The Highwayman himself then arrived. As the fighting wrapped up, the Highwayman began to reveal his origins. Von Blimp climbed down his ladder, planning to help the Highwayman against his foes, but instead he slipped on the ladder and fell to the ground. Disgusted, the Highwayman cursed von Blimp for ruining the moment of his dramatic revelation, but further distraction

occurred when the ship of AI and the Aliens arrived overhead. The Aliens put a stop to the still smoldering fight between the "Nazis" and truckers by teleporting von Blimp and his compatriots to downtown Tel Aviv, Israel...where they received just the welcome you might expect.

HIGHWAYMAN

STATISTICS

F GD (10)
A GD (10)
S RM (30)
E RM (30)
R GD (10)
I GD (10)
P EX (20)

Health: 80

Karma: 40

Resources: EX (20)

Popularity: +2 / -10

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Jefferson Hercules Archer

Occupation: Trucker, soul harvester, space traveler, Trucking company owner.

Legal Status: A citizen of the United States, with an extensive criminal record.

Identity: Known to the authorities

Other Known Aliases: None

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Presumably single

Known Relatives: Kathleen Archer (mother, deceased), Sidney Archer (father, deceased), Ulysses Archer (brother), Mary McGrill Archer (sister-in-law), unidentified nephew

Base of Operations: Highwayman Trucking Corporation, Florida

Past Group Affiliations: The Blackrig demons

Present Group Affiliation: Highwayman Trucking Corporation

KNOWN POWERS:

Demonic nature: Jefferson no longer has need for Air, food, drink sleep or other human needs.

Regeneration: Remarkable (30)

EQUIPMENT

Blackrig: Initially this rig was powered by alien technology, but after his deal with the devil this Rig took on a life of its own.

Control: Gd Speed: Mn

Protection: Rm Body: Rm

- Regeneration: Remarkable (30), just like that Stephen King movie, this rig can pull itself back together even from total destruction.
- Airwalking/Wallwalking: The rig is capable of taking flight or go up or down vertical surfaces at Monstrous (75) speed.
- Remote Control: Through mental command, the Highwayman can

mentally summon or control the Blackrig.

- Force Field: Remarkable vs. Physical and Energy, this can't be used while moving.
- Demonic Storage: Stored in the trailer are a host of demons, presumably they fuel the truck and as reward the

Highwayman feeds them the heads of his victims.

Talents: Leadership, Business/Finance and Driving. He is also knowledgeable of Occult Lore and has the Mystic Background talent as well.



Contacts: Al the Alien, Mephisto and the demons from Hell.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

The Highwayman ranges from being an operatic caped villain who lurks in the background to a demonic figure that cuts the heads off of his victims and feeds them to the demons in his truck. Whatever his reasons for doing any of these things, it's to serve his own purposes and plans as he is an excellent tool for a gamemaster to use in an effort to introduce murder and mayhem.

HISTORY

Jefferson Archer became a trucker at a young age, after the death of his parents. He put his dreams on hold in order to take care of other responsibilities like the welfare of his brother, Ulysses. He began to feel resentment which eventually turned to hatred, and Jefferson pursued supernatural means to restore his youth. Salvation soon came for him in the form of alien beings in search of truckers to pilot their star ships. Mistaking Jefferson for Ulysses, the aliens outfitted his truck with advanced technology, yet Jefferson spread a rumor his abilities came from demons. Changing his identity to the Highwayman, he became the scourge of truckers everywhere. Jefferson attempted to repeatedly end his brother's life - even hired agents Midnight and Baron von Blimp to do his bidding - but Ulysses consistently stopped them. Eventually, the aliens learned of their blunder and arranged for an orbital race between the brothers. Ulysses proved to be the better pilot, and Jefferson crashed his rig into the moon as his final attempt to kill his brother failed. The aliens took Ulysses and sent Jefferson back to Earth.

Sometime later, Highwayman made his false origin become a reality, and the legend continued.

There once was a trucker, normal as can be, and he hauled his loads all over the country. As he got older, he found himself losing more and more jobs to younger drivers who needed less sleep, so they could drive longer. There wasn't a miracle pill the trucker could take, and no amount of praying seemed to do the trick, so he resorted to other means to get an edge. He looked elsewhere for help and wound up making a deal with the devil. From then

on, the trucker didn't need to rest, and his Black Rig could outrun any police vehicle on the road. He didn't know fear and would haul the most dangerous cargo through the most treacherous terrain. However, the more he drove, the more of his humanity was lost until only the Highwayman was left. Some think he's only a ghost story, but those unfortunate enough to cross his path not only lose their heads - they lose their souls.

A few truckers found out the Highwayman was all too real when an out of control truck, operated by a headless driver, collided with the truck stop they were in and exploded - killing everyone inside. A short while later, a bus full of people met their end when the Highwayman took their heads and fed them to the demons in the Black Rig's trailer. Unluckily for the Highwayman, a passing Daniel Ketch came across the slaughtered innocents and the Ghost Rider was unleashed seeking vengeance for the dead. The Highwayman had the advantage while inside his hellish vehicle, but Ghost Rider soon found a way to subject the Highwayman to the same type of torture he visited upon others. The Black Rig crashed and overturned having no one to steer it, and Ghost Rider ignited the Highwayman's head and set his truck on fire with it as well. Satisfied vengeance was served, Ghost Rider went on his way.

A few days later, the Highwayman showed his face at another truck stop, still recuperating from his wounds, and looking for a new rig. He started the Highwayman Trucking Company and sent his returned brother on doomed missions to transport hyperspace combustion manifolds, and to transport dead souls out of Hell via an ice bridge.

STATISTICS

F GD (10)
 A GD (10)
 S TY (6)
 E GD (10)
 R TY (6)
 I TY (6)
 P TY (6)

Health: 36

Karma: 18

Resources: PR (4)

Popularity: 0 as Mary; -2 as Midnight

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Mary McGrill Archer

Occupation: Waitress and Adventurer

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.

Identity: Secret

Other Known Aliases: Mary Archer

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Married, but legally separated.

Known Relatives: Ulysses Archer (ex-husband), unidentified son, Jefferson Archer (ex-brother-in-law), Sidney Archer (ex-father-in-law, deceased), Kathleen Archer (ex-mother-in-law, deceased)

Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop in space.

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation:

KNOWN POWERS

Alter Ego (sort of...): While under the hypnotic control of the Highwayman, Mary would on occasion take on the persona of 'Midnight', while there are no stat differences she gained access to talents and weapons that she would otherwise not have as her regular self.

EQUIPMENT

Hypnotic Whip: This Incredible (40) material whip and does Good (10) damage, 2 area range.

- It can snatch weapons or devices from the hands of others on a grappling feat equal to its material rank.
- It can induce a hypnotic effect at Good (10) rank through an unknown means. This effect can be resisted on a psyche feat roll.

Motorcycle:

Control: Gd Speed: Rm

Protection: 0 Body: Gd

Later modifications included:



- Rocket Booster: This modification allowed Midnight to increase her speed +3 C/S for D10 rounds, it also (assuming a ramp or ramp-like structure was accessible...) allowed her to make Amazing (50) leaps landing safely on a control feat.

Contacts: U.S. Archer (her Husband), Razorback and She-Hulk.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Talents:

As Mary: Cooking, Blunt Weapons and Business/Finance

As Midnight: Motorcyclist and Weapon Specialist: Whip

ROLE-PLAYING NOTES

Mary is sweet and loving. She harbored a crush on U.S. for a long time before she was finally able to admit to him how she felt. Even though she is a loving and caring person, there is a darkside to her buried deep inside.

HISTORY

Mary McGrill was a short order cook at the Short Stop and she was kind of sweet on US Archer.

At some point, she was hypnotized by the Highwayman, causing her to take on the identity of Midnight.

After participating in one of the Short Stop's regular brawls, Mary briefly became Midnight and forced one of the brawlers to give her information on how US fought. Later, after a little cattiness with Taryn O'Connell, her rival for US's affections, she became Midnight again and took off after the US1. After confronting him and evading some of his rig's weaponry, she managed to hypnotize him with her whip. She then directed him to drive his rig right into a rock wall, but he used the foil from a gum wrapper, pressed against the fillings in his mouth, to interact with his CB skull and disrupt her control. Without her hypnosis controlling him, her motorcycle was no match for the US1, and he easily ran her off the road and knocked her off her cycle. She got back on her bike and fled. After US had a nightmare about the Highwayman, Mary comforted him. Later, in the Short Stop, Mary heard an old man give a questionable account of the Highwayman's origins. Mary also met Retread, and briefly shared a saucer of milk with Taryn.

Baron von Blimp threatened the Short Stop, and then she served her friends her own special brand of coffee. Later when US accepted a racing challenge against von Blimp, Mary gave US a kiss for good luck. Later Mary served some coffee while the realty firm of Clutch, Grab, and LaGreed threatened to foreclose the mortgage on the Short Stop. Later, as Midnight, she followed US and Wide Load Annie on a haul to Peaceful Vista, where she hypnotized Wide Load.

Mary was present back at the Short Stop when US and Wide Load returned, but soon after, as Midnight, she hypnotized Retread and Poppa Wheelie. She then used US' friends to hold him while she softened him up with a few lashes of her whip. US managed to use his remote control silver dollar to

send the US1 after Midnight. Under his control, the truck used a grappling hook to disarm her of her whip, and she then fled. As Midnight escaped over a hill, the US1 fired missiles at her, blowing up her cycle. When US and the others went over the hill to check, all that could be found was the wreckage of her motorcycle.

Mary was back at the Short Stop, serving up her coffee with a friendly smile when Taryn arrived, looking rather beat-up. Taryn used her injuries to pry some TLC from US, but Mary then ran in with Midnight's whip and costume, saying she had gotten it out of the back of Taryn's rig. As everyone suspected Taryn of being Midnight, she grabbed Midnight's whip to hold them back. Mary jumped her, but Taryn kicked her away and took off. US eventually caught Taryn, who denied being Midnight. No one believed her until the real Midnight showed up and reclaimed her whip.

Midnight again hypnotized the others, but Taryn grabbed her and managed to knock her whip from her hands. US used the whip to free the others from her control, and then Taryn ripped Midnight's wig off, revealing her to be...Mary McGrill. Mary was extremely disoriented, and then the Highwayman showed up.

The Highwayman revealed that he had hypnotized Mary to become Midnight. He then released her from his control so she could witness his triumph over US. Mary remained somewhat dazed, but was nonetheless present as the Highwayman revealed his origins, and as AI the Alien set up the final race between US and the Highwayman. After defeating the Highwayman, US accepted AI and the Aliens' offer to travel to the stars. Mary McGrill and the others decided to go with them (AI said they "could use a good cup of Java out there"), but Taryn chickened out and stayed on Earth. Mary continued as a short order waitress at the Star Stop.

Mary married US, and she became pregnant not too long afterwards. Taryn O'Connell, with the aid of Razorback and the She-Hulk, traveled to the Star Stop to try for another shot at US, but was devastated to learn that Mary had married him and was nearly at full term in her pregnancy. Mary didn't feel too bad for her. There wasn't much time for idle chit-chat, as Xemnu the Titan burst into the Star Stop. After subduing the others, Xemnu hooked Mary up to a Psycho Relay helmet, transmitting the metamorphological data to her unborn

child, reshaping its genetic structure so that when it would be born, it would be of his race. She-Hulk broke free and attacked Xemnu, while Razorback destroyed the device intended to mutate Mary's fetus. Xemnu then abducted She-Hulk and planned to mutate her instead, but was defeated by a convoy of Aliens led by AI.



Employees: Mary McGrill Archer, US Archer, Poppa Wheelie, Retread, Wide Load Annie and Taryn O'Connell

Purpose: To serve good food to the traveling man, in an efficient manner, at an affordable price, and with a big dose of hospitality

Base of Operations: An uncertain location in deep space, in a well-traveled quadrant of the Milky Way formerly a truck stop in an unknown part of the USA

The Short Stop was a truck stop owned by Ed "Poppa Wheelie" Wheeler and his wife, "Wide Load" Annie. It was a favorite amongst many truckers, including the parents of US and Jefferson Hercules Archer. When their parents were killed, the two boys were adopted by Poppa Wheelie and Wide Load Annie. Later, when Jefferson had been apparently killed and US had been injured by an attack from the Highwayman, Poppa and Annie supported US in his plans to design his dream truck, the US1. After one of the many trucker's brawls that occurred at the Short Stop, there was a small round of cattiness as Mary McGrill and Taryn O'Connell vied for the affections of US, who left them both behind. Annie and Poppa were unable to make their mortgage payment, due to US's hospital bills, the cost of financing the construction of the US1, and US' lack of taking any hauling jobs due to his pursuit of the Highwayman. Phil LeGreed, one of a trio of realtors seeking to foreclose on the mortgage of the Short Stop and make it their own, threatened Wide Load with his plans after the missed payment. Annie tossed him out through the front window and chased him off. Later, to avoid the heat, she went out on a trucking trip with US.

Clutch, Grab, & LeGreed plotted to prevent Annie and Poppa from making their mortgage payments so that they could foreclose on their loan and sell the land to the Bongo Condo Corporation. Clutch, Grab, & LeGreed joined forces with Baron von Blimp against the Short Stop. Midnight used her whip against the cast/crew, but a brawl erupted, involving the crew, the customers (who were mad from the lack of service), and a bunch of von Blimp's pseudo-neo-Nazis. US broke Midnight's control over the crew and then Taryn attacked her, exposing Midnight as Mary McGrill, who had been controlled by the Highway-



man. The Highwayman confronted US and the Short Stop crew, revealing his true origins as Jefferson Archer. Von Blimp showed up, intending to join with the Highwayman, but his clumsiness got the better of him and he fell to the ground. The Highwayman planned to punish von Blimp for joining with others, but then the Aliens showed up

While Clutch, Grab, & LeGreed bailed out on von Blimp, the Aliens sent the dumpy dirigible driver and his pseudo-neo-Nazis to downtown Tel Aviv, where they were not met with happy faces. The Aliens revealed the full origins of the Highwayman and their intended plot: Space needs Truckers! The Aliens then set up a final race between US and Jefferson to determine their champion. The crew helped US supe up the US1 for the race around the world, which he won. Everyone was sad to see US go, but then AI the Alien said, "We could sure use some good home-cooking in space. And judging by the way you helped adapt US' rig to our advanced technology, it won't take long for you to become crack celestial mechanics!" He invited Annie and Poppa to join US in space, and they agreed. Mary and Retread decided to go, too, but Taryn was too frightened by the idea and stayed on Earth. The Aliens lifted the entire Short Stop up into space and brought it with them, and sometime later it had been set up as the Star Stop in a "well-traveled quadrant of the Milky Way." Clutch, Grab, & LeGreed then

foreclosed on the loan and brought a Bongo Condo Corporation representative to see the land. However, they found it glowing with radioactivity and refused to buy it.

Sometime later, Taryn, regretting her decision not to accompany US Archer into space, recruited Razorback to help her hijack the Starblazer space shuttle so she could rejoin him in the Star Stop. They ended inadvertently bringing the She-Hulk with them. Upon arrival, they found Poppa giving directions to Vance Astro and the Guardians of the Galaxy. He was quite glad to see Taryn again, but he and Annie informed her that US and Mary had gotten married and were expecting their first child any day now. And then Xemnu the Titan crashed the US1 (now the Star Rig) into the Star Stop and flattened everyone present with his mental powers. Xemnu revealed his plot to take US and Mary's baby as part of his plot to repopulate his home planet, but the She-Hulk and Razorback destroyed his machine and saved Mary and the unborn child. Xemnu then escaped with the She-Hulk and attempted to transform her into one of his race, to be his mate. However, this plot was foiled by AI and the Aliens, who captured Xemnu, dampened his powers, and placed him in the possession of Big Enilwen. Razorback and Taryn were hired to continue piloting the Starblazer, which he had

renamed "Big Pig III," into even deeper regions of unexplored space.



POPPA WHEELIE

Ed Wheeler

- F: TY (6)
- A: TY (6)
- S: TY (6)
- E: TY (6)
- R: GD (10)
- I: GD (10)
- P: GD (10)

Health: 24
Karma: 30
Resources: TY (6)
Popularity: 0

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Ed Wheeler
Occupation: Former race driver, Mechanic and Business Owner.
Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: Papa Wheelie
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Married
Known Relatives: Wide Load Annie (Wife), U.S. Archer and Jefferson Archer (Adopted Sons), Mary McGrill-

Archer (Daughter-in-law) and Unnamed Grandson

Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop in space.

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation:

EQUIPMENT

Mechanics tools

Talents: Driving, Repair/Tinker, Business/Finance Piloting and Astronavigation.

Contacts: U.S. Archer, Razorback and She-Hulk.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Papa is laid back and friendly. He is a good host and rarely fights, leaving that for Annie to take care of.

HISTORY

Ed Wheelie was a former drag racing champion, before retiring, marrying Wide Load Annie, and opening the Short Stop. He is a skilled mechanic and always a friendly host. When it came time for fighting, though, he always preferred to stay in the backgrounds, and let Wide Load strut her stuff. However, equally as often he served as the voice of reason to her hot-headed nature. He continues his former job at the Star Stop.



RETREAD

Real Name Unknown

- F: TY (6)
- A: TY (6)
- S: TY (6)
- E: TY (6)
- R: GD (10)
- I: GD (10)
- P: GD (10)

Health: 24
Karma: 30
Resources: TY (6)
Popularity: 0

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Unknown
Occupation: Too many to list.
Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: None known
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Presumably single
Known Relatives: None known
Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop in space.
Past Group Affiliations: None.
Present Group Affiliation:

Talents: None

Contacts: U.S. Archer, Razorback and She-Hulk.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Retread is a shiftless wanderer. He has never found a job that suited him and this trend has continued even into deep space.

HISTORY

Taryn picked him up a quarter mile away from the Short Stop after his run-down truck had broken down. He's got a history of trying his hand at just about every career, including being a private investigator, but never found a job that really suited him. That's why he took up driving a truck: He could roam around, looking for something he was good at...and earn a living while looking...besides, it's kinda fun. He rode along with US on a few missions, including the pursuit of the old man who had told them of the Highwayman, and the race against Baron von Blimp. Retread joined the rest of the crew in space and went into hauling space cargo, often riding alongside US in the Star Rig. He and US were overwhelmed by Xemnu the Titan and imprisoned alongside the rest of the crew until Xemnu's defeat. He picked up the transmission from Razorback reporting their capture. He also joined US, She-Hulk, and Weezi in the mission to rescue Buford and Taryn.



WIDE LOAD ANNIE

Anne Wheeler

F: GD (10)
A: TY (6)
S: GD (10)
E: GD (10)
R: TY (6)
I: TY (6)
P: TY (6)

Health: 36

Karma: 18

Resources: TY (6)

Popularity: 0

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Anne Wheeler

Occupation: Former trucker turned business owner.

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.

Identity: Public

Other Known Aliases: Anne Getchurgunn, Wide Load Annie

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Married

Known Relatives: Ed (Papa) Wheeler (Husband), U.S. and Jefferson Archer (Adopted Sons), Mary McGill-Archer (Daughter-in-law), Unnamed Grandson

Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop in space.

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation:

Talents: Driver, Martial Arts E, Business/Finance and Cooking

Contacts: U.S. Archer, Razorback and She-Hulk.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Annie is a fiery hothead and very protective of the ones she loves.

HISTORY

Anne Getchurgunn took Poppa Wheelie's last name, Wheeler, after getting married. She was a truck driver before getting married, retiring, and opening the Short Stop. Annie's got a fiery temper and likes not too many things better than a good brawl, in which she is always in the center of the action. She tossed Phil LeGreed out of a window when he made threats to foreclose on their mortgage. After that she laid low and hid out with US on a haul until things cooled down. On that mission she secretly raced and beat Iron Mike (King of the Bike), who had been terrorizing a small town. When it was revealed that he had been beaten by a middle-aged woman, his reign of terror was over. She continues his former job at the Star Stop.



TARYN O'CONNELL

F: GD (10)
 A: GD (10)
 S: TY (6)
 E: GD (10)
 R: TY (6)
 I: TY (6)
 P: TY (6)

Health: 36
Karma: 18
Resources: PR (4)
Popularity: 0

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Taryn O'Connell
Occupation: Trucker and Adventurer
Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: 'Taryn down the road'
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Single
Known Relatives: None known
Base of Operations: Mobile on Earth, the Star Stop or Big Pig III in space.

Past Group Affiliations: None.
Present Group Affiliation:

EQUIPMENT

Taryn has a long haul semi, but it has standard stats.

Talents: Driving

Contacts: U.S. Archer, Razorback and She-Hulk.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Taryn is feisty and speaks her mind. She carried a torch for U.S. Archer for years and once she knew for certain that he was off the table, she set her sights on Buford 'Razorback' Hollis.

HISTORY

known as "Taryn down the Highway," she was a fellow trucker, and a rival with Mary McGill for US' affections. She defeated both US and Baron von Blimp in a race for the Chicken Colonel, but lost to US in a rematch. She was framed as Midnight by Mary, and was nearly killed in the process of being subdued, but managed to survive, as well as to help corral the real Midnight. However, despite all of her braggadocio, when the time came to put up or shut up--or to join US in space--Taryn chickened out and stayed on Earth. Feeling regretful, she convinced Razorback to help her find US and the Star Stop, which they did by stealing the Starblazer. She had chosen Razorback since he was the only superhero who was also a trucker. While the trip was a bust, as US had since gotten married to Mary, she found new romance with Buford/Razorback, and she joined him in his new job as NASA pilot, exploring deep space. She and Buford were captured by the Xartans, but were rescued by She-Hulk, US, and others. With the Starblazer destroyed by the Xartans' petrification effect, She and Buford returned to Earth



THE CHICKEN COLONEL

F: TY (6)
 A: TY (6)
 S: TY (6)
 E: TY (6)
 R: GD (10)
 I: TY (6)
 P: GD (10)

Health: 24
Karma: 26
Resources: EX (20)
Popularity: +3

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Unknown
Occupation: Business owner
Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: 'The Colonel'
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Unknown
Known Relatives: None known
Base of Operations: Presumably mobile on Earth
Past Group Affiliations: None.
Present Group Affiliation:

EQUIPMENT

Chickens and chicken frying equipment

Talents: Business/Finance and Oratory

Contacts: Any of his restaurants

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

The Colonel is the ultimate salesman when it comes to 'finger-licker-chicken'.

HISTORY

Baron von Blimp contacted the Chicken Colonel to host a race between Baron von Blimp's dirigible and U.S. Archer's rig U.S.1. Craving the publicity for his company the Chicken Colonel happily agreed to host the race. Hearing about Blimp challenging Archer Taryn O'Connell contacted the Chicken Colonel to ask him if she could participate in the race as well and he gave her permission to do so, though neither the Chicken Colonel nor Taryn told anybody that she was in the race. The morning after Baron von Blimp had challenged U.S. Archer to the race the Chicken Colonel arrived at the Short Stop in front of a crowd to introduce the contestants of the "Fowls of a Finger-Lickin' Race": Baron von Blimp & U.S. Archer, in a race that pitted a dirigible against a rig. The winner of the race would not only get the glory of winning, but also the rights to do all the shipping for Finger-Lickin' Chickens in the future. After hundreds of crates with living chickens were loaded into the respective vehicles the Chicken Colonel asked the contestants to shake hands, but Baron von Blimp had no intentions to shake hands. Shortly after the Chicken Colonel started the race.

Taryn started with the same cargo under the same conditions as the others and won the race. When U.S. Archer arrived first at the factory the Chicken Colonel welcomed him and told him that Taryn O'Connell had won the race. A surprised U.S. Archer quickly accused Taryn of cheating and the Chicken Colonel suggested to hold another race between U.S. and Taryn for the contract with Finger-Lickin' Chicken. Taryn and U.S. agreed to the terms. After the trucks were loaded the race between Taryn and U.S. started, but not without complications for Taryn, whose truck wouldn't start because U.S. friend Retread had disconnected the distributor wires in her truck. She eventually took the lead when she took a shortcut and U.S. took a detour. He still won because during the detour he encountered Al the Alien, who updated his truck, so it could fly to the finish. Taryn came in second. Though the Chicken Colonel was not seen again at the end of the race U.S. Archer was the winner of the lucrative hauling contract

of Chicken Colonel's Finger-Lickin' Chicken restaurant chain.

JOBBER

Job Carosella

F: TY (6)
A: TY (6)
S: TY (6)
E: TY (6)
R: GD (10)
I: TY (6)
P: TY (6)

Health: 24

Karma: 22

Resources: EX (20)

Popularity: 0

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Job Carosella

Occupation: Businessman.

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.

Identity: Public

Other Known Aliases: None.

Place of Birth: Unknown

Marital Status: Unknown

Known Relatives: None known

Base of Operations: mobile on Earth

Past Group Affiliations: None.

Present Group Affiliation: Jobber shipping

Talents: Driving and Business/Finance

Contacts: Truckers that he employs, including U.S. Archer.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Jobber is a businessman, but with a good heart.

HISTORY

Jobber sometimes hired truck drivers Ulysses and Jefferson Archer to haul goods for him. Jobber sent several drivers to deliver shipments to Peaceful Vista, Arizona. Unfortunately for him the Heaven's Devils M. C., who were raiding the town repeatedly, stole the shipments and beat up his drivers. Eventually Jobber couldn't find anyone else to deliver shipments to Peaceful Vista. Welcoming Ulysses and Wide Load to his company Jobber commented on the fact that he had not seen Ulysses since his brother Jeff's alleged accident. When Ulysses told Jobber that they were looking for work Jobber offered them a job, but he warned them it would be dangerous. Ulysses was cautious at first because Wide Load was riding, but she told him that she wasn't afraid of anything and wanted to know more about the job. Explaining the situation Jobber told them that he had problems delivering shipments to Peaceful Vista, Arizona, a town terrorized by a biker gang, who had beaten up his drivers and stolen previous shipments. Although Ulysses still considered it too risky, Wide Load agreed to take the job. Jobber aided Ulysses in loading up his truck while telling Wide Load that he wasn't able to find anyone else to deliver the shipment after what had happened to the other drivers. Complimenting Ulysses on his new truck Jobber asked was sure he was making a lot of money with it, but Ulysses wasn't yet and hoped to start now.

Returning to the Short Stop after a successful haul to Peaceful Vista after dealing with the biker gang Jobber was already waiting for them. Congratulating



them on a job well done Jobber paid Ulysses and gave him a large extra bonus (even though Poppa Wheelie told them the situation could've been cleared two weeks ago if Jobber had given him the job...old braggart). Ulysses then gave the money to Poppa Wheelie to help with the Short Stop's mortgage. Jobber had a big smile on his face watching Ulysses' gesture.



IRON MIKE

Michael (Surname unknown)

F: GD (10)
 A: TY (6)
 S: TY (6)
 E: TY (6)
 R: TY (6)
 I: TY (6)
 P: PR (4)

Health: 24
Karma: 26
Resources: PR (4)
Popularity: -2

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Michael (Surname unknown)
Occupation: Biker, former accounting student.

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with a criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: None.
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Unknown
Known Relatives: Unnamed mother.
Base of Operations: mobile on Earth
Past Group Affiliations: None.
Present Group Affiliation: The Heaven's Devils M.C.

EQUIPMENT

Motorcycle (Typical Stats)

Talents: Motorcyclist and Accounting.

Contacts: The Heaven's Devils M.C.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

Mike is a braggart and bully who was broken after Wide Load Annie got a hold of him.

HISTORY

Mike's mom wanted him to be an accountant, but he became a biker instead, eventually coming to lead the Heaven's Devils M. C. Iron Mike led the Heaven's Devils M. C. to raid the town of Peaceful Vista, riding roughshod over the people and place, as well as the drivers of any rigs that brought supplies into the town. In response, "Jobber" Carosella sent U. S. Archer out to investigate, and he brought his adoptive mother Wide Load Annie with him.

No sooner had US and Wide Load arrived when Iron Mike and the Heaven's Devils M. C. tore into town, preparing to loot their supplies. Mike bullied the mayor into allowing him to take the supplies, and US tried to stop him, punching Mike square in the face...and hurting his hand. When Mike chased him, US wisely chose the better part of valor and took off, grabbing Wide Load and starting up the US1. The special truck made short work of the bikers, but Mike then challenged U.S. to a race "for the bossin' rights to Peaceful Vista. The US1 had its trailer section removed, and swiftly caught up to Mike after he took an early lead. Though Mike kept cheating--including nearly running over a young boy and forcing the US1 to swerve to stop this, the US1 stayed right on his tail. Mike then pulled his gun and rushed the US1, but it shot out a stream of tear glass which blinded him, and he crashed into a lamp-post.

Though he lost, Mike had no intention of honoring the deal. He planned on smashing Archer and then

trashing the town, but when Wide Load Annie revealed that it had been her driving the rig. Devastated by this humiliating defeat, Mike wandered off in a daze. U. S. suspected that Mike meant have been an agent of the Highwayman, but Mike had no idea what he was talking about.



CLUTCH, GRAB AND LEGREED REALTY FIRM

F: PR (4)
 A: TY (6)
 S: PR (4)
 E: TY (6)
 R: GD (10)
 I: TY (6)
 P: PR (4)

Health: 20
Karma: 20
Resources: EX (20)
Popularity: -2

BACKGROUND

Real Name: Ebenezer Clutch, Phineas Grab, Phil LeGreed Occupation: Realty agents

Legal Status: Citizen of the United States with no criminal record.
Identity: Public
Other Known Aliases: None.
Place of Birth: Unknown
Marital Status: Unknown
Known Relatives: None known.
Base of Operations: Unknown state
Past Group Affiliations: None.
Present Group Affiliation: Clutch, Grab and LeGreed Realty Firm

Talents: Business/Finance

Contacts: Baron von Blimp, Iron Mike and The Heaven's Devils M.C.

ROLEPLAYING NOTES

The firm of Ebenezer Clutch, Phineas Grab, Phil LeGreed are presented as greedy land grabbing.

HISTORY

Through LeGreed's apparent employment at the bank, he learned that the land on which the Short Stop truck stop was built was sought for purchase by the Bongo Condo Corporation for luxury condominium development. He shared the information with his partners, Clutch and Grab, and they plotted to force the foreclosure of the Short Stop's mortgage so they could gain the land themselves and sell it to Bongo Condos to add to their already considerable wealth. Bongo Condos agreed to have the investors drive the current owners out. Poppa Wheelie and Wide Load Annie got behind on their mortgage payments on the Short Stop due to spending so much money on U.S. Archer's medical bills and the US1 super-truck, combined with US focusing on finding the Highwayman and not taking on any real hauling jobs. Phil LeGreed came by the Short Stop and threatened to foreclose on their mortgage if they didn't pay before the end of their grace period. Wide Load assured him they'd make the payment somehow and warned him to mind his manners and to not get uppity.

Wide Load threw LeGreed through the front window of the Short Stop, then threatened to make him pay for it. LeGreed, in turn, threatened to sue her for assault and battery. She told him they'd make the payment and told him to leave before she beat him further, and he reminded her of the due date, noting he'd happily foreclose on their mortgage. LeGreed showed up soon after with the police, intending to press charges for the assault, but everyone present denied having seen any such thing. When LeGreed accused everyone of lying, a big fight broke out at the Short Stop. The chief officer recommended that Wide Load get out of there until things calmed down, and US took her away in the US1. LeGreed jumped in the truck's path to try to stop it, but Wide Load just reached over and stepped on the gas, forcing LeGreed to leap out of the way at the last minute. US Archer then took a job and made

enough money to pay off the mortgage for that month.

When Wide Load and US returned, LeGreed showed up with the police again, agreeing to not press charges if she would apologize. He taunted and baited her, presumably hoping she'd try to beat him up in front of the cops, but Wide Load -- who was at the time, unbeknownst to all, under the psychic control of Midnight, calmly apologized, promising it would never happen again. He accepted her apology, but reminded her that it would be his pleasure to foreclose on the Short Stop the next time they missed a mortgage payment.

Ebenezer Clutch questioned LeGreed in what was taking so long in their takeover of the Short Stop property, and Phineas Grab reminded him that they had learned of Bongo Condos' interest in the land. LeGreed told them that the owners had narrowly avoided forfeiture once, and that he had taken steps to guarantee that they would miss a payment in the future. Ebenezer, looking especially sinister, reiterated how they would sell the land to Bongo Condos to add to their already considerable wealth.

LeGreed led Clutch and Grab to a quiet stretch of highway to introduce them to Baron von Blimp, who would aid them in preventing the owners of the Short Stop from paying their mortgage, both to regain his honor after being defeated in a race by US Archer and to gain the sizable sum of money LeGreed had offered him. The three investors accompanied von Blimp aboard his zeppelin and watched as he sent his pseudo-Nazis to attack the Short Stop and their customers to discourage people from going there. Clutch, in particular, seemed disturbed over von Blimp's use of Nazis, and von Blimp explained that neither he nor his agents were even German, but that he just liked their uniforms the best.

Ultimately, the Aliens took the entire Short Stop and its crew into space with them. Clutch, Grab, and LeGreed then brought Mr. Leonardo of Bongo Condos to see the land, and he was pleased with their success, and even moreso since they had gotten rid of the unsightly diner; but then he noticed that the land was glowing with radiation, and that no one could use it. The deal was off, and Clutch, Grab, & LeGreed were less than happy about it.

