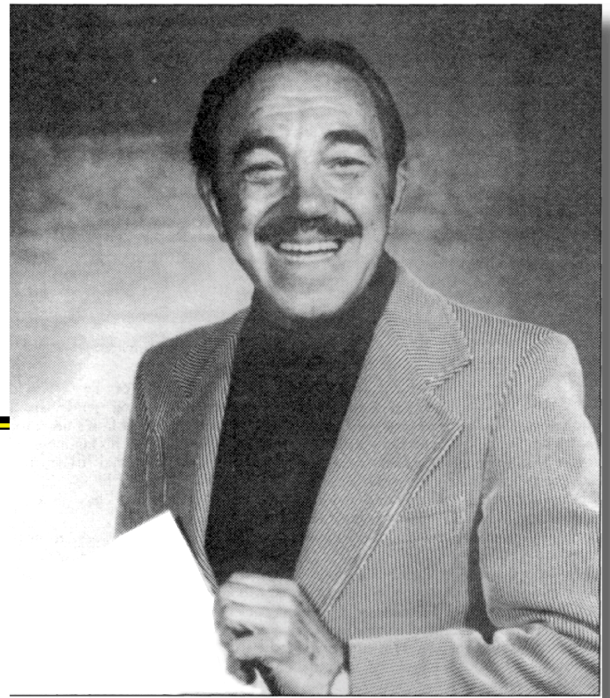


SAMUEL MAXWELL "JERRY" IGER (1903-1990)

Artist/Writer/
Innovator,
Idabel

**OKLAHOMA
ARTIST**

**OKLAHOMA
WRITER**



Samuel Maxwell "Jerry" Iger was a real pioneer in his boyhood and a pioneer in the innovative sense as a man.

Iger was born in New York City in 1903 to parents who not long before had emigrated from Austria. In 1908, the family moved to the new state of Oklahoma so Jerry's father could pursue an opportunity to join his cousin in a merchandising venture.

Jerry grew up in Oklahoma and always considered it his home. He moved back to New York City with his family in 1916.

By 1922, Iger was employed by the Max Fleischer animation studios in Manhattan. Then he moved on to the New York American, where he stayed a decade.

In the mid-1930s, Iger's interest in the new field of comic books began. After contributing fillers to Famous Funnies, he began writing, editing and selling new material. To produce "WOW! What a Magazine!" he advertised for cartoonists to help him. The first to answer the ad was Will Eisner. Next was Bob Kane.

From this nucleus came the first comics packaging "shop," producing comic books like Jumbo, Planet, Hit and Wonderworld for various publishers including Fox, Fiction House, Quality, Harvey and EC and creating such characters as Sheena Queen of the Jungle, The Blue Beetle, The Flame, Phantom Lady and Wonder Man. Eisner became his business partner for the next five years before creating The Spirit.



Other artists associated with Iger over the years included Lou Fine, Reed Crandall, Jack Kirby, Mort Meskin, Matt Baker, Bob Webb, Jack Kamen and Al Feldstein.

Iger later was feature editor for Fiction House as well producing stories and art for Classics Illustrated. He also ran small newspaper syndicates including Phoenix Features.

Iger is the great-uncle of current Disney CEO, Robert Iger.

JERRY IGER

P.S. I was raised in Idabel, Okla!