

BATMAN

15¢

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
CARTOON
AUTHORITY

SEPT.
NO. 215

I--I'VE DONE
AS YOU
COMMANDED!

WAYNE MANOR--
AND EVERYONE
IN IT--HAVE BEEN
DESTROYED!

TNT

"CALL
ME
MASTER!"

Just A Few Of Our Terrific Prizes In Free Catalog

**Be a Sales Leader
Who Picks the
Prizes**

Fabulous

**or Chooses
the Cash**

\$100 a box

**for Selling the
Personalized
Christmas Cards**

They're in

**that Sell
Themselves**

FROM FREE ALBUM

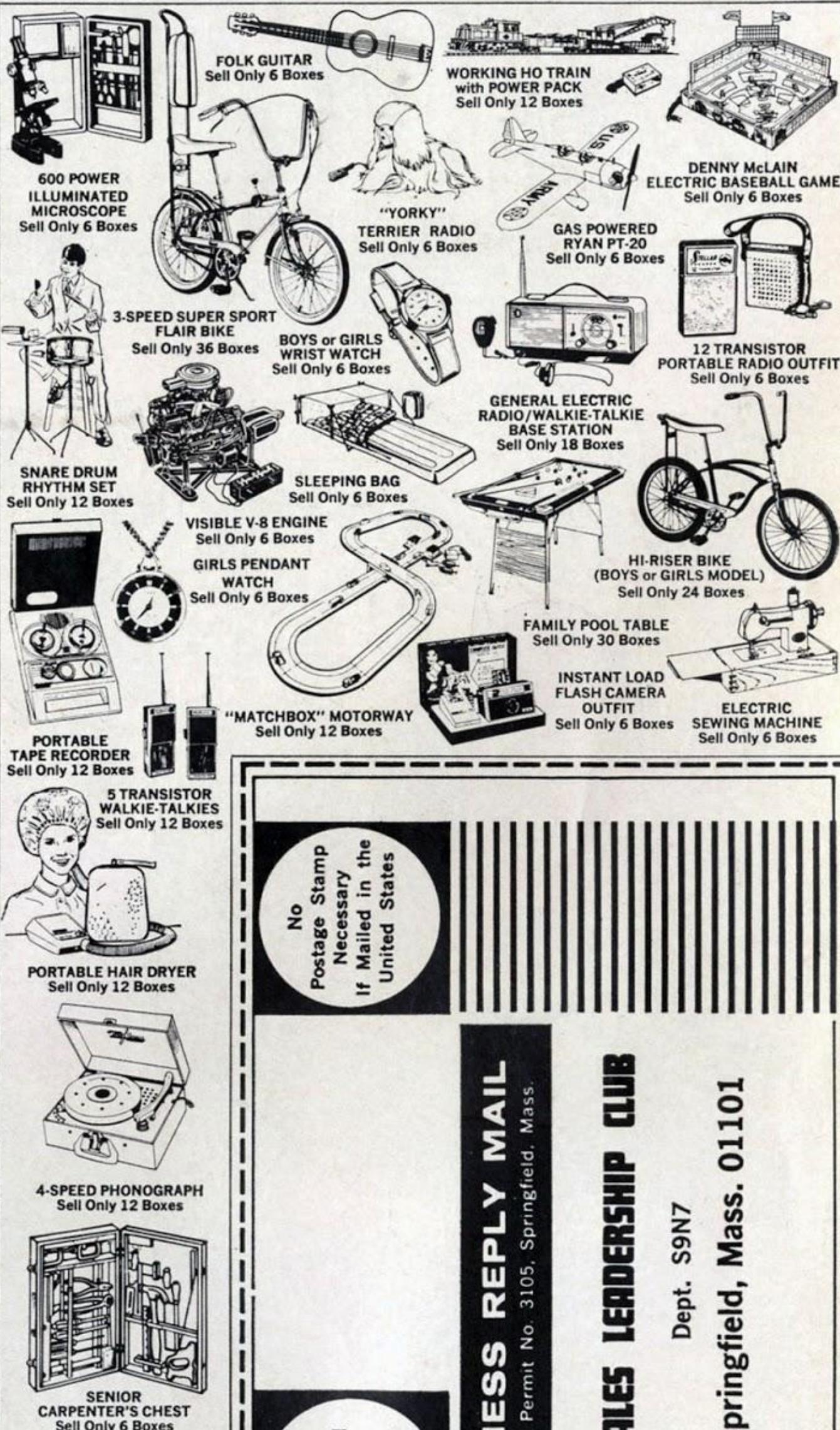
You Win!

**Join Sales
Leadership
Club**

EXTRA BONUS
Free Gifts For Re-Orders!

**JOIN THE CLUB
THAT GIVES YOU MORE ...**

- **FREE ALBUM** of Actual Christmas Cards — Yours to Keep!
- **AMAZING VALUE** top quality cards with **NAME IMPRINTED FREE** for LESS THAN 6¢ EACH!
- **FINEST SELECTION FOR EVERYONE** — Sell Faster, Easier!
- **NO BOXES TO CARRY OR RETURN!**
- **NO RISK — NO OBLIGATION — NO INVESTMENT!**



No Postage Stamp Necessary If Mailed in the United States

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
First Class Permit No. 3105, Springfield, Mass.

Postage Will be Paid by Addressee

SALES LEADERSHIP CLUB

Dept. S9N7

Springfield, Mass. 01101

Be "In"
And
WIN!

Join The
Leader
NOW!

SALES
LEADERSHIP
CLUB,
Springfield,
Massachusetts
01101

**IT'S EASY TO BE A SALES LEADER
GET FABULOUS PRIZES OR CASH**

Just fill in coupon below and mail at once — no envelope, no stamp necessary! We'll enroll you as a club member and rush everything needed to start you on the way to earning the prizes of your choice — ALL AT NO COST TO YOU! For many years, thousands like you have followed the Sales Leadership Club plan to success, just by showing our easy-to-carry Personalized Christmas Card Album to friends, relatives, neighbors and businessmen. The beautiful cards practically sell themselves . . . so you take orders at the bargain price of only \$2.95 per box, containing as many as 50 cards, depending upon designs selected — EACH CARD WITH NAME IMPRINTED FREE! Many valuable prizes can be yours for selling ONLY 6 BOXES, and there's no limit to the number you can earn! If you prefer cash instead of a prize, you may keep \$1.00 for each box sold. That's all there is to it! GET STARTED TODAY — THE PROVEN SALES LEADERSHIP WAY!

**Life Is Great When You're A Winner.
Everyone Who Tries Can Win!**

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINES — FILL IN & MAIL — NO STAMP NEEDED

COPYRIGHT © NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 1969

Fold Over ↑ Don't Cut! Just Seal (Paste, Staple or Scotch Tape)
Enroll me as a member. Rush FREE Membership Card, Christmas Card Album, Prize Catalog and full details on how to earn prizes or cash.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. No. _____

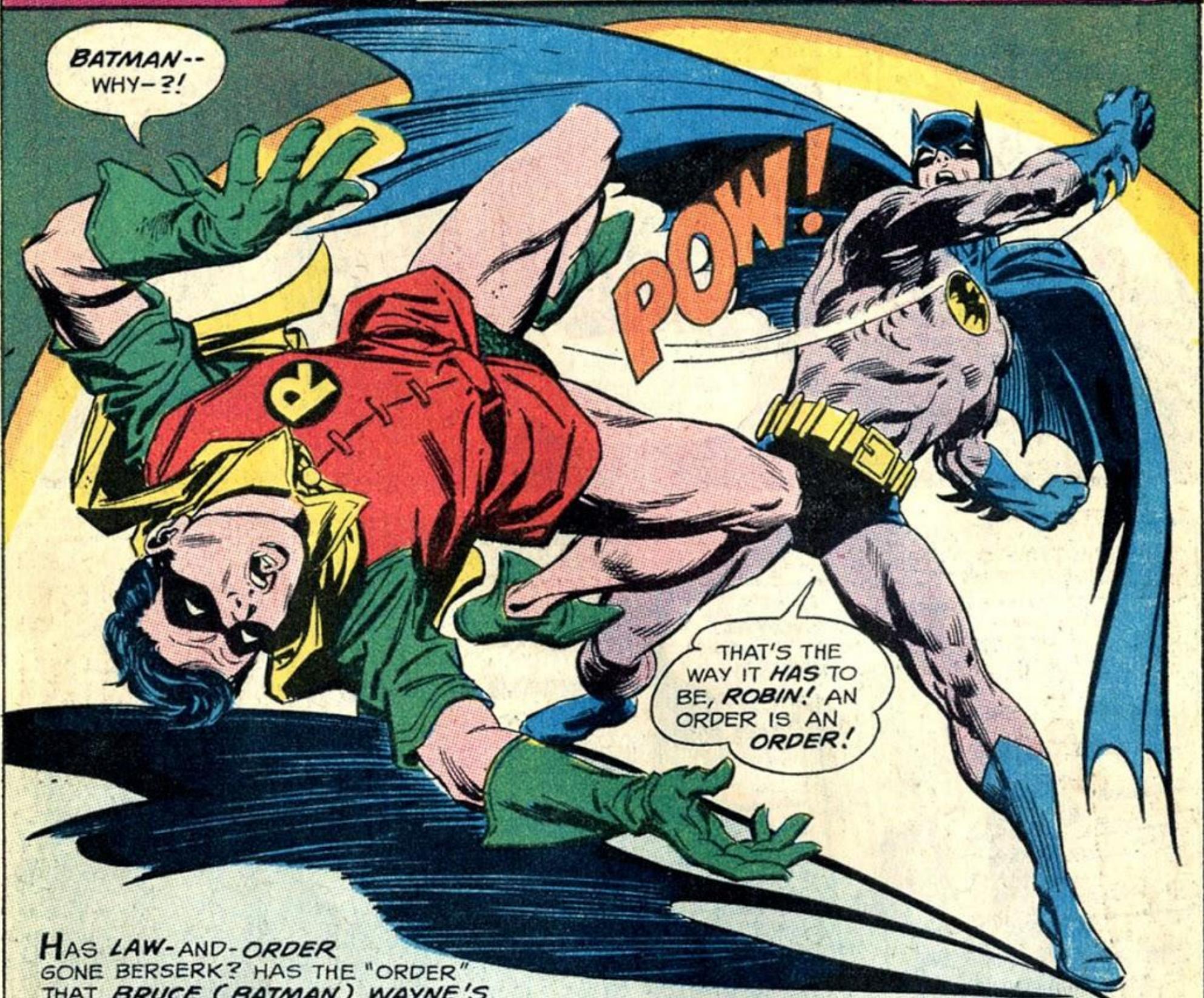
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

STORY BY:
FRANK
ROBBINS

ART BY:
IRV NOVICK
AND
DICK
GIORDANO

BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder



HAS LAW-AND-ORDER
GONE BERSERK? HAS THE "ORDER"
THAT BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE'S
DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO, TURNED INTO A MONSTROUS
TRAVESTY THAT THREATENS TO DESTROY HIM? WHO HAS
COMMANDERED THE CAPE CRUSADER TO--

"CALL ME MASTER!"

S-169

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Printed in U.S.A.

IN THE OFFICE OF ONE OF GOTHAM'S LEADING CITIZENS, J. CARLYLE, ESQ. ...

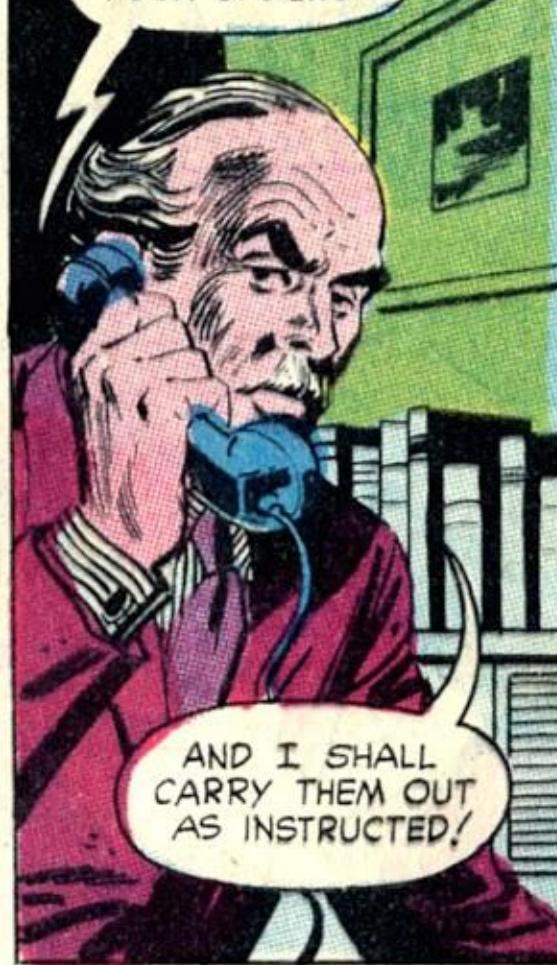
...YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN? **TONIGHT!**

IT WILL BE DONE, **MASTER!**



SHORTLY, IN THE EXECUTIVE SUITE OF ANOTHER CIVIC LUMINARY, ANDREW BARCLAY...

YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS--



AND AGAIN, AN URGENT CALL INTERRUPTS A BOARD MEETING...

...THE INSTRUCTIONS ARE EXPLICIT, MR. STERLING---YOU WILL FOLLOW THEM IN PROPER SEQUENCE--

--TO THE LETTER!



THAT EVENING, AT WAYNE MANSION--HOME OF GOTHAM'S OUTSTANDING YOUNG PHILANTHROPIST, BRUCE WAYNE...

I'M SORRY, SIR---HE'S OUT FOR THE EVENING! ANY MESSAGE?



NO, IT'S PERSONAL! I'LL TRY AGAIN TOMORROW!

HANGING UP, THE MYSTERY-CALLER DIALS ANOTHER NUMBER...

A SHAME I MISSED WAYNE, BUT--**THREE** WILL BE SUFFICIENT FOR TONIGHT!

JIGGER--THE OPERATION IS **ON!** MOVE YOUR MEN OUT AS PER PLAN!



ANOTHER ROUTINE NIGHT, ROBIN---NO HOT-LINE CALLS SO FAR...

BUT NO GUARANTEE WE WON'T GET ONE EN ROUTE, **BATMAN!**

PATROLING THE DARK STREETS OF GOTHAM IS BRUCE WAYNE, IN HIS OTHER GUISE AS **BATMAN**--NEMESIS OF THE UNDERWORLD!



NO NEED TO WAIT!
LOOK---OUR
FIRST "ACTION"!!

EARS LOGAN,
AT THE WHEEL,
WHERE HE GOES
-- TROUBLE
FOLLOWS!

FOLLOWED BY
DOUBLE-TROUBLE---US!

DISCREETLY GIVING THE SUSPECT
TRAILER-TRUCK A WIDE LEAD...

ONE OF JIM CARLYLE'S
STORAGE DEPOTS! AND
ODDS ARE EARS ISN'T
ONE OF HIS BONDED
CARRIERS!

BUT WE
DON'T STRIKE
TILL HE COMES
OUT-- RED-
HANDED!

THAT'S THE WAY WE WANT THEM, ROBIN!
THE "BOYS" HAVE GOTTEN AWFUL CUTE
LATELY...

... PULLING
EVERY TRICK IN
THE "CONSTITU-
TIONAL-LIBERTIES"
BAG, BATMAN!
FUNNY---THEY
MOVED IN AWFUL
EASY! AS IF
THE DOOR WERE
OPEN!...

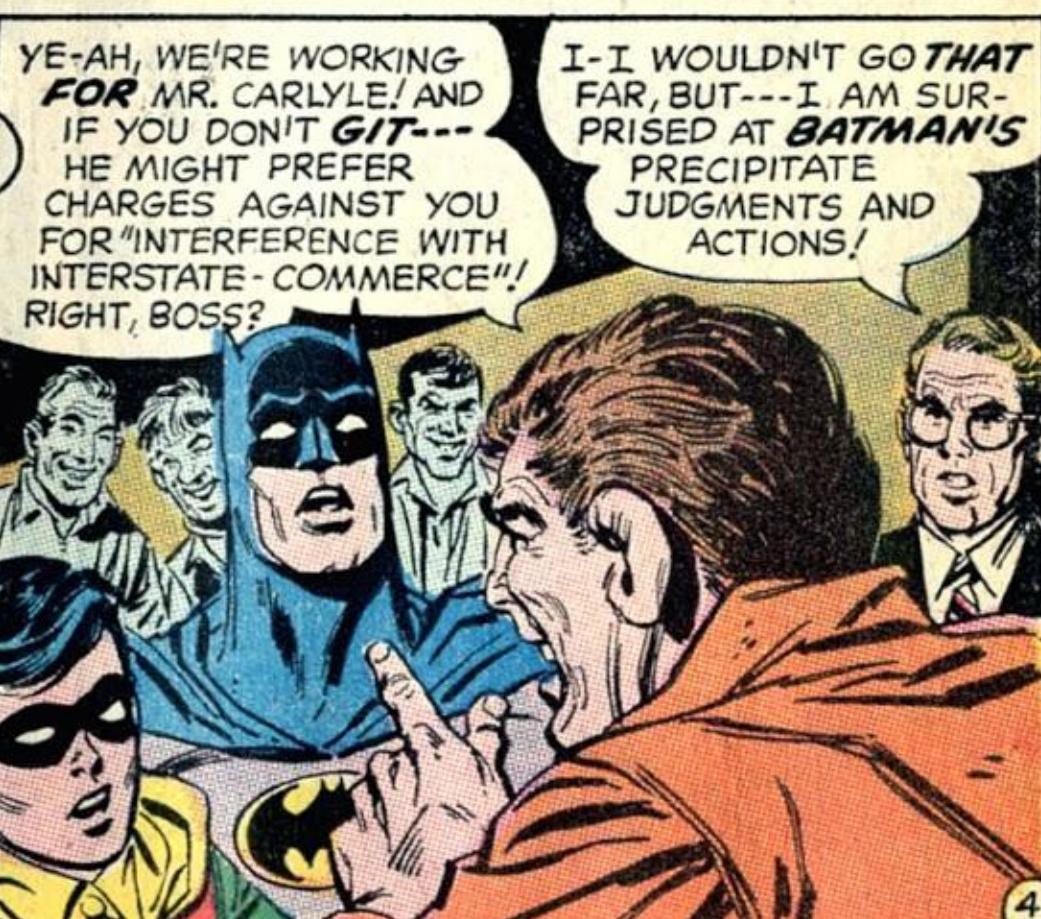
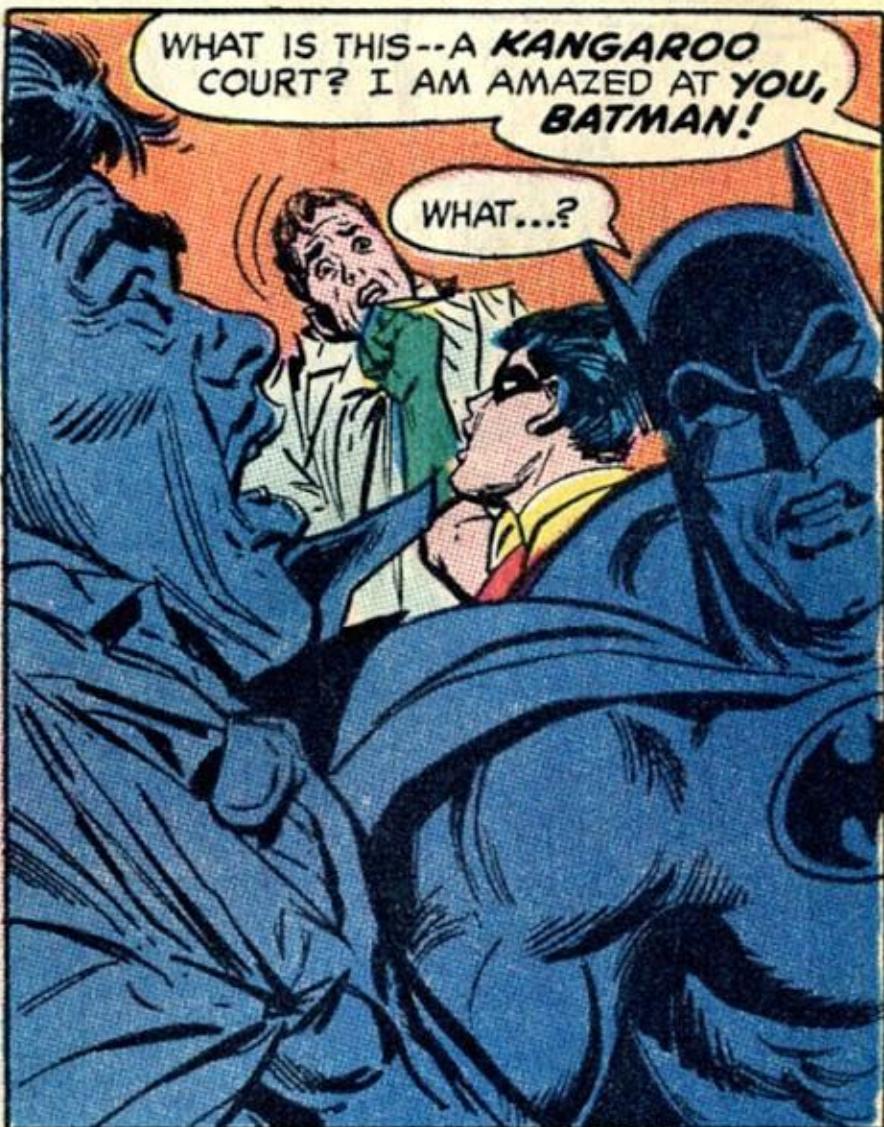
BATMAN?! HEADS UP,
BOYS--WE'VE GOT
"UNLAWFUL TRES-
PASSESS" ON OUR
HANDS!

... SO THERE GOES OUR
"FORCIBLE-ENTRY" CHARGE!

BUT NOT
OUR "ILLEGAL-
REMOVAL-OF
MERCANDISE"
PLEA! LET'S
HIT 'EM, ROBIN!

WE HAVE A SLIGHT
DIFFERENCE OF LEGAL
DEFINITIONS, SHYSTER!

ZAP!



DISMAYED MOMENTS LATER...

THERE THEY GO—**FREE** AND **CLEAR!** CAN'T UNDERSTAND CARLYLE **HIRING** PUNKS LIKE THAT...

...FOR AN **AFTER CLOSING-TIME** SHIPMENT? STRANGE! AND HAVEN'T HEARD HE WAS DOING ANY **REHABILITATION** WORK WITH **EX-CONS**, EITHER!

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S A PRIME AXIOM IN LAW-ENFORCEMENT THAT YOU **CAN'T** PROSECUTE ILL-DOERS---UNLESS THE VICTIM PRESSES **CHARGES!**

AND CARLYLE SURE DIDN'T ACT LIKE A VICTIM!

SHORTLY...

THIS TIME WE'VE GOT A **LIVE ONE, ROBIN!** UP THERE, IN **ANDREW BARCLAY'S MANSION!**

...A BLINKING FLASHLIGHT IN HIS STUDY! WINDOW **OPEN**--LOOKS LIKE...

...WE'VE GOT OURSELVES A---**CAT-BURGLAR!**
SO LET'S MAKE LIKE **BATS**---AND "BELL THE CAT"!

BELL? ODD---WHY DIDN'T THE ALARM-SYSTEM **GO OFF** WHEN THE CAT **ENTERED?**

SUDDENLY THE ROOM GOES DARK, AND...

WATCH IT, **ROBIN!**
THIS CAT HAS **SHARP CLAWS!**

KWEE!

C-CLOSE...

GOT TO GET IN AT HIM!

ROBIN, SWING YOUR CAPE ACROSS THE WINDOW TO DRAW HIS FIRE---



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

Souped-up Coupe.



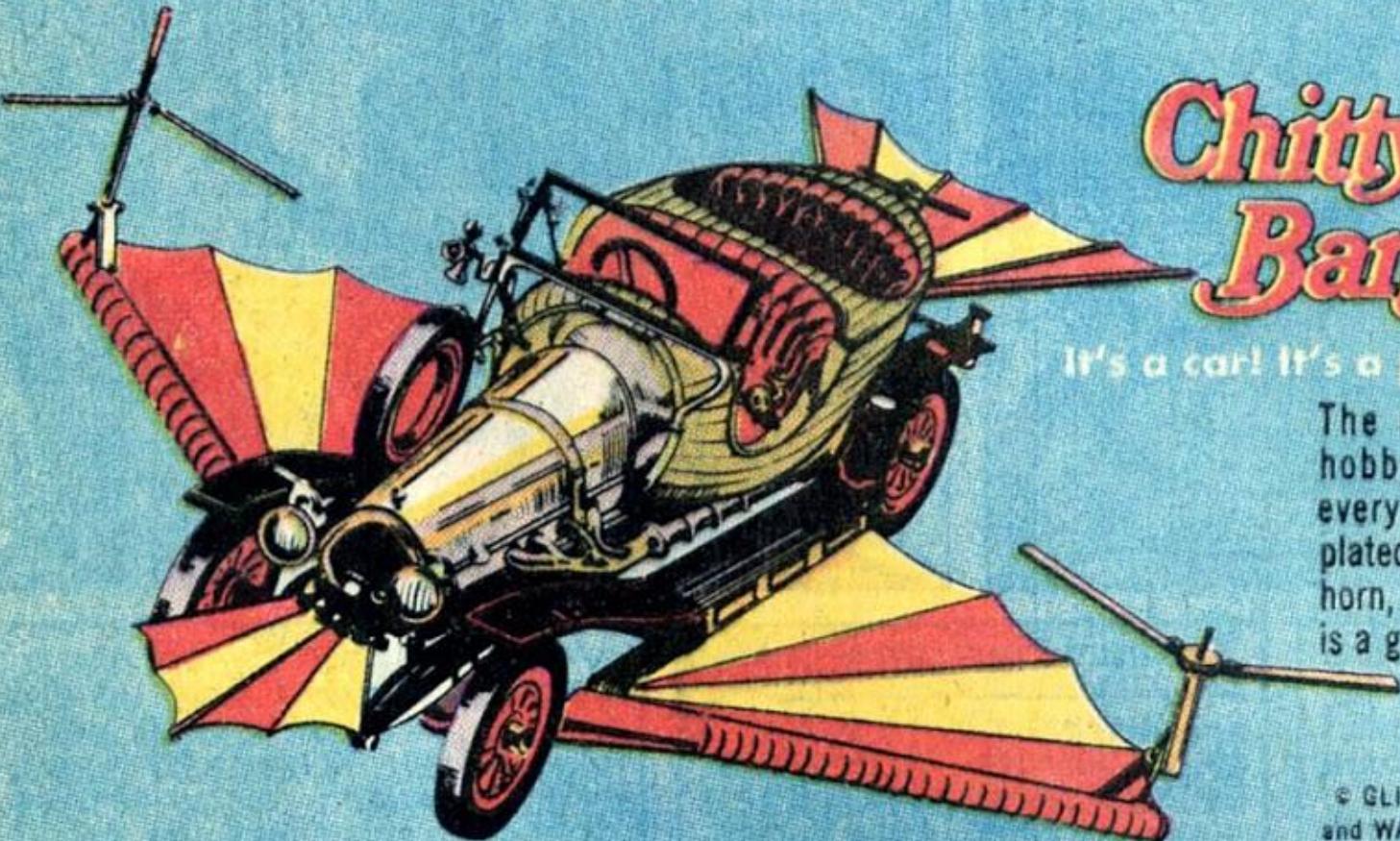
It's Kaiser's spunky little '51 Henry J—a hot contender in the gas-coupe drag class at strips across America. Revell's new 1/25 scale model of Henry J has the same authentic features as the real drag car. You build it like it really is, with hood and front fenders that tilt forward, doors that open, detailed 427 SOHC Ford engine. You'll dig the hollow tires, tinted windows and chrome trim.

Send 35¢ for new 1969
color catalog of Revell kits.
Revell, Inc.
4221 Glencoe Avenue
Venice, California 90291



July 1969 • Model of the Month
'51 Henry J Drag Coupe

FAR-OUT NEW HOBBY KITS from AURORA



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

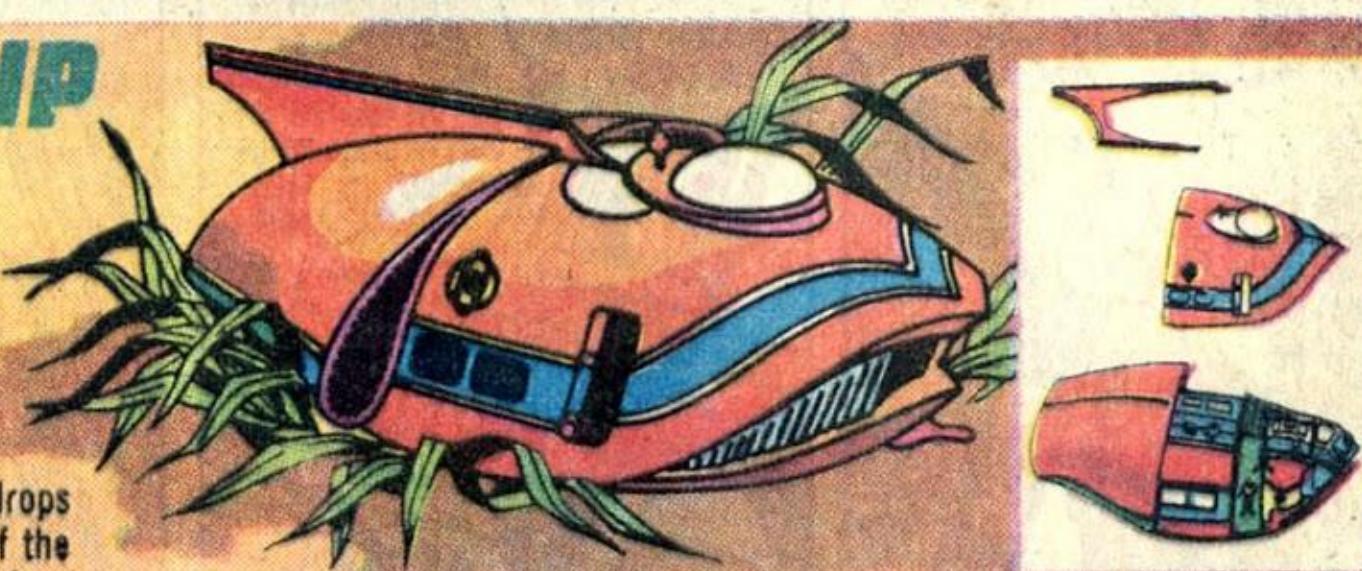
It's a car! It's a planet! It's a boat!

The most fantasmagorical hobby kit in the history of everything. From its chrome plated hood to its gold plated horn, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang is a gasser.

© GLIDROSE PRODUCTIONS, LTD.
and WARFIELD PRODUCTIONS, LT.

SPACESHIP

from



Right out of your television set drops the Space Ship into the Land of the Giants. Features lift-off roof to show three figures, authentic interior, and exciting detail.

©TWENTIETH CENTURY-FOX TELEVISION, INC. and KENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Inc.

MOONBUS

from the movie **2001**
A SPACE ODYSSEY

An exact 10" long replica of the fabulous Moonbus from the movie "A Space Odyssey... 2001". One of the most detailed kits Aurora's ever produced, it comes complete with four astronauts.

Models can be painted as shown. Kits do not include paint or cement.

©1969 AURORA PLASTICS CORP., WEST HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK

The World's Largest Manufacturer of Hobby Products

Aurora products are manufactured entirely in the U.S. for distribution in America;
in Canada for the Commonwealth nations; and in Holland for Europe and Africa.





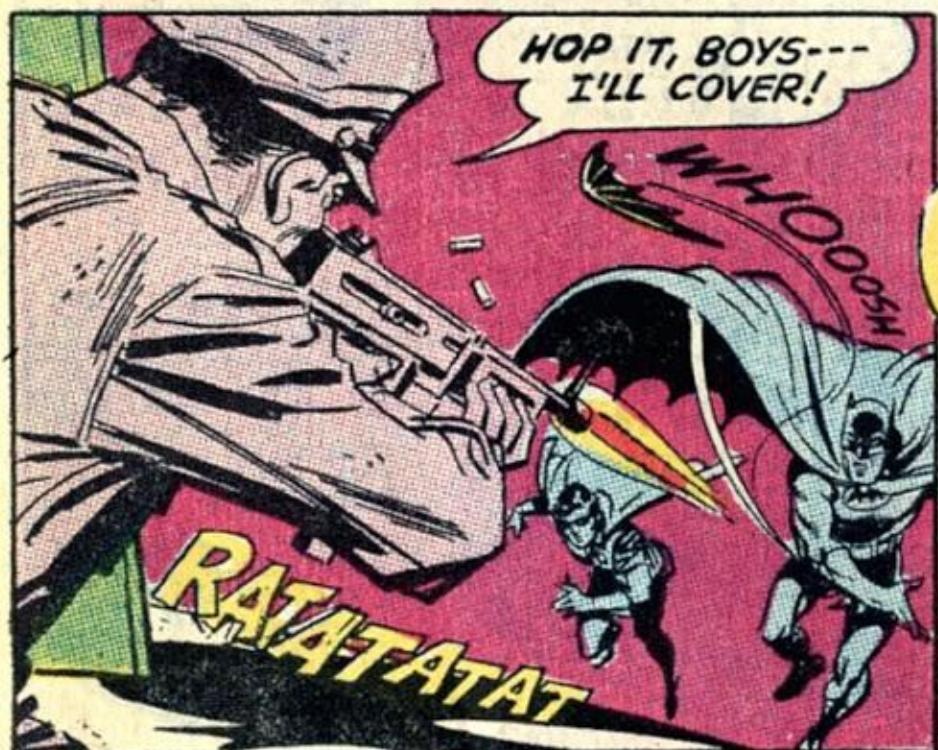
NOT WITH JIGGER LEADING THOSE PHONEY GUARDS! I'D SPOT HIM ANYWHERE!



HOP IT, BOYS---
I'LL COVER!

YOU'LL COVER-- THE
PAVEMENT, JIGGER!

I'LL DO A LITTLE
PAVING MYSELF!



AND THIS GAME'S
A SHUT-OUT!

KLAANG!

WITH A
SHUT-IN!

THEY'LL KEEP HERE
TILL WE INVESTIGATE
INSIDE!

AWH, IT WAS A LEAD-PIPE
CINCH---TILL YOU HAPPENED
ALONG!

YOU SURE BIT OFF
A BIG ONE THIS TIME,
JIGGER! HOW COME
YOU GOT SO
FOOLISH!



CURIOUS... NO MARKS OF
FORCIBLE ENTRY INSIDE, AND---
THE ENTIRE ALARM-SYSTEM
SHUT OFF!

THAT EXPLAINS
HOW THEY JUMPED
THIS GUARD--WITHOUT
FOREWARNING!



POCKET SPY TELESCOPE
Magnified 64 times over. 8 Power. Terrific power yet so small as fountain pen. Precision lenses. All metal, chrome finish. Reverse and turn as microscope magnifying 900 times! \$225. Super Spy Series \$1.75



Hear Police, Fire, Aircraft Calls on ANY Radio

Trans-Converter Use with standard radio. Solid state circuit. Uses 9 v. transistor battery.
6120. Police, Fire Calls (130-50 MHZ) ... \$5.95
6119. Aircraft, Tower Calls (118-128 MHZ) \$5.95

8 FOOT HOT AIR BALLOON
Goes to amazing heights on just hot air. Safe. No flames are carried aloft. Fly over and over again. Will carry parachutes, instruments, etc. Ideal for July 4th, celebrated science clubs or just real fun!
7077. Complete ... \$2.50

Cuckoo Clock
Authentic, attractive German Black Forest Design. 6-ft. chain with weight makes winding easy. Adjustable swinging pendulum accurately regulates clock. Over 1 foot high. Assemble & operate in a few minutes.
Complete Postpaid
\$106. ... \$3.25



MIDGET SPY CAMERA

Take secret or regular pictures. Size of pocket watch. Concealed in hand. Imported bargain. Precision made with fine lens, solid metal construction, chrome trim, rapid view finder, guaranteed economical, good pictures. Fine enlargements. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. Takes ten pictures on 16 mm. roll. With leather ever-ready case.
No. 4897. Camera & Case \$1.35
No. 4898. Film & rolls \$1.00



FELT Emblems
For Sweater, Shirt, Jacket

Big, colorful. For teams, clubs, fun.
7016A Bulldog, 7738 Skull, 7019A Wild.
cat, 7736 Tiger. 25c ea. 3 for 65¢

4 NICKELS TO 4 DIMES

Small brass cover placed over 4 nickels; remove brass cover and nickels have changed to 4 dimes! Everything done in sight; examine before & after. No sleight; no practice.
No. 3173. Complete, Postpaid \$1.00

BEETLE WIG
Wear as it is. Cut & arrange to suit. Beautiful, silk-like realistic, fine quality. Adjustable size, can change.
74807A. Dark Brown \$2.95

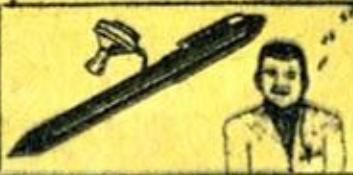
Hypnotic Whirling Coin
HYPNOTIZE FAST! Fascinating pocket-size invention. Hold plastic HYPNO-COIN in front of person. Then, by gently moving coin it whirls. It captures and holds their attention while they are hypnotized QUICKLY! Complete with simplified book that tells you what to say and do, how to command, how to re-hypnotize with snap of finger, amazing stunts.
No. 8103. Set ... \$8.50

Tear Out & Mail. No Letter Needed

Free New Catalog 2000 Novelties

Send for world famous catalog of novelties, live animals, scientific supplies, hobbies, sunmakers, planes & boats, looms, magic tricks, joke articles, unusual items, gadget timesavers, cameras, optical goods, projectors, movies, lucky jewelry, religious novelties, disguises, musical instruments, telescopes, cameras, puzzles, fortune tellers, radios, auto & bike accessories, telescopes, magnifiers, compasses, banks, smokers, gadgets, artist supplies, printing sets, engines, motors, shockers, etc. Send postcard or this ad. No letter needed. CHECK HERE → YES—I want FREE Catalog. My Name & Address Attached or on Envelope

MAIL YOUR ORDERS TO **JOHNSON SMITH & CO.**, Dept. 407, Detroit, Mich 48224



"SECRET AGENT" Pen Radio
Hear sports, music, news in bed, office, school, almost anywhere. Featured on NBC TV programs. Wear in pocket like fine pen. Tiny ear phone for private listening. Self-powered solid state circuit. No electricity. No batteries. Plays forever. Full range tuner. Money back guarantee.
7052. Pen Spy Radio, Complete \$1.95

MICROPHONE TRANSMITTER
Midget microphone for transmitting and pick-up.

do many magical & supernatural stunts. Use as detectophone, phone pick-up, amplifier, telephone, etc. Complete except for battery & earphone or speaker. With directions.
No. 2988. Only \$1.00
No. 6592. Earphone \$1.50 Each

BROADCAST THRU TV SET
WIRELESS TV TRANSMITTER, Talk, Sing, thru ANY television set on channels 2, 3, or 4. Fool friends, make special announcements, practice. No connections to set. Easily wired. Uses standard battery. Solid state.
6128. Microphone - Transmitter Set ... \$6.50

HORIZONTAL STEAM ENGINE
Powerful, precision-made horizontal engine with grooved pulley and hardened fly-wheel for driving 6-hp. pump.

Heavy brass stained blue, polished fittings including oscillating cylinder, safety valve, steam whistle, etc. + chimney. No electricity required. Burns dry or liquid fuel. Comes complete, ready to operate. 6 x 7" metal base.
6446. Price Postpaid. \$11.95

JET ENGINE
For boats, cars, plane models, jet engine experiments, science of jet propulsion, etc. No moving parts. Easy to start. Runs on standard gasoline. Gives continual thrust. About 6-inches long. Adaptable to most models. Comes complete.

No. 7411. Price Each. \$1.75
2 for \$3.00

SCIENTIFIC WONDER
IT CAN'T BE TRUE, BUT LOOK FOR YOURSELF.

Greatest illusion of the century! Apparently see bones thru skin, see thru clothes, etc. Girls will never trust you with these, but let them look for themselves and apparently see legs right thru your pants. Amaze and embarrass everyone! Regular size glasses with built-in optical device.
No. 3762. Pair, Postpaid Only 95¢

DRAW IMMEDIATELY
People, Pets, Objects, Any Scene! No Practice. No Talent. Beautiful Work. AMAZING Art Reproducer is precision optical instrument. Reflects any view on to paper in full natural colors. Amazingly accurate, exact, life-like work easy. Pencil or ink, crayons or paint. Most views take only few minutes. Use indoors or outdoors in natural light.
No. 6916. \$1.50

POCKET RADIO-\$1.75
Listen to MUSIC, SPORTS, NEWS, SPECIAL BROADCASTS with your own personal pocket-size radio. Self-powered—nothing to plug in. Listen in bed, at school, almost anywhere. Hearing-aid style earphone included. Plastic case. Dial tuner. Size of cigarette package. About 3½x2". Lifetime guarantee.
No. 6598. Complete Ready to Play Only \$1.75



SPEEDY JET RACERS
FAST! LOUD! Metal jet engines burn any fuel. Race or run indoors or outdoors in water. Adjustable rudder. Colorful, realistic detail. About 5". With fuel. (2 for \$1.00).
3387. Flying Saucer Space Ship 65¢
3388. Jet Submarine 65¢ 2 for \$1.00
3389. Racing Speedboat 65¢
3411. Extra Fuel ... 50¢ Pkg. 3 for 1.25



LIVE PET CHAMELEON
CHANGES COLOR. Tongue catches flies in mid-air. Fun. Easy to keep. Wear on lapel. Live delivery guaranteed. 4" long.
5061. 2 Chameleons, Live Food, Instructions. All Postpaid Only \$1.95

Flesh Eating Plant
Bites Finger, Eats Film, Bugs, Hamburgers! Obeys YOUR COMMAND WHEN TO BITE. Exotically beautiful plant snaps shut on anything: finger, pencil, bugs. Feeds itself by trapping & eating insects. Darwin said "most unusual plant in world". Do home & school experiments. Fool friends. Complete, ready-to-grow indoor plant. Lovely white flowers. 12"
5011. Venus Fly Trap \$1.00

ELECTRIC Shocker and GENERATOR
Stores charge of static electricity. Lights neon lamp on top. Gives off sparks and shock. Fun. Do experiments.
4997. Only 75¢ .3 for \$2.00

JET ENGINE
For boats, cars, plane models, jet engine experiments, science of jet propulsion, etc. No moving parts. Easy to start. Runs on standard gasoline. Gives continual thrust. About 6-inches long. Adaptable to most models. Comes complete.

No. 7411. Price Each. \$1.75
2 for \$3.00

Surprise Package
Special "loss leaders" for new customers. Most worth several times cost. LIMIT: One of each per order. Surprise items include new samples we receive from all over world, factory surplus bargains, special novelties, etc. Money back if not delighted.
2997. ... \$1.00

"THROW YOUR VOICE"
Into box, outside, under hat, make dummy talk and many other tricks. FOOLS EVERYONE! Instructions include VENTRILLO or DOUBLE THROAT. This tiny instrument fits in mouth out of sight. Also do amazing bird and animal imitations easily. No. 3461. Complete outfit \$25.45

POWERFUL JET ENGINE
For driving rockets, planes, cars, boats, science experiments. Light weight. Solid fuel burns to give strong, continuous action. Aluminum.
7431. Hell Cat Jet Engine \$1.00
7433. Engine Booster. More power, faster action. \$1.95
7432. Solid Fuel. Pack (10 charges) 1.75
3 Packs \$2.00 10 Packs \$15.50

SUPER POWER MAGNETS
GO TREASURE HUNTING. FISH WITH A MAGNET. Hours of profitable fun. LIFTS 60 POUNDS ON LAND—EVEN MORE UNDERWATER! Thousands of practical uses. Recover valuable outboard motors, tackle, tools, metal objects. Have fun doing many science experiments, including locating hidden metal objects in buildings, underground, etc.

POWERFUL THRUST for driving rockets, planes, cars, boats, science experiments. Light weight. Solid fuel burns to give strong, continuous action. Aluminum.
7431. Hell Cat Jet Engine \$1.00
7433. Engine Booster. More power, faster action. \$1.95
7432. Solid Fuel. Pack (10 charges) 1.75
3 Packs \$2.00 10 Packs \$15.50

Live Sea Horses
Read like a book! Tail like monkey! Pouch like kangaroo! Change color! Father gives birth to about 25 baby ponies from his pouch. Grow to 2" long. Independently revolving eyes. Protective armor. Swim, mate, entwine tails around each other. Fun & funny. Easy to keep & raise. Nature's cutest oddity. Set includes special 1½ qt. aquarium, sea horse hitching post, foliage & stones, sea salt, food (enough for months), 2 fresh live sea horses, booklet. Live delivery guaranteed.
No. 5006. Complete Sea Horse Set Postpaid \$1.95

Slot Machine
Replica of Las Vegas machine. Take a chance! Insert coin, pull "one arm bandit" and watch dial spin. BIG PAYOFF if you hit jackpot. Collect money for your "bank". Rugged metal, precision made, smooth action. Nearly 5" high.
4062. Price Postpaid \$2.95

Automatic Hypnotizing Record
Learn hypnotizing in minutes. Amazing scientific recording by world-famous hypnotist tells subject into deep hypnotic sleep then turns control over to you. Second recording induces self-hypnosis. Bring fame and popularity into your life. Be the hit of the party.
No. 6930. Complete Set \$5.00

1001 THINGS FREE
Get FREE samples, books, stamps, coins, show tickets, games, products, maps, toys, films, food-drug samples, science material, records, jewelry, hobbies, travel info, etc. from companies, gov't agencies, clubs, non-profit groups, schools, etc. Kit includes Request Cards, pens, new 64-page directory, 1019. Complete Kit Only \$1.00

BOOK SAFE
Locks like attractively bound book, but opens to reveal combination lock safe. Keep valuable papers, jewels, money, etc. hidden away. 4x6x1-1/2".
4012. Price Postpaid. \$1.25

UGLY BLACKHEADS OUT IN SECONDS!
Eliminates Pimples! Be Good Looking! removes blackheads in seconds, cleanly and safely. No pinching. Guaranteed. No. 4641. \$1.00

REAL FOLDING QUARTER
Genuine quarter made so it actually "folds". When released, "spring device" automatically snaps it back into original shape. Do "impossible" tricks. Insert into pop bottle. You can remove without breaking bottle. Often sold for \$1.00 or more.
No. 5870. Real Folding Quarter \$1.00

\$20 GOLD COIN \$1.00
Exact authentic replicas. 3 for \$2.25.
5705. \$20 U.S. Gold Coin \$1.00
5714. Calif. Gold Dollar \$1.00
5888. U.S. Silver Dollar \$1.00

RING WITH SURFER & IRON CROSS
Rare silver "German Iron Cross" and figure of surfer on black ground. Handsome, rugged ring. Can be engraved on face of wrap-around silver band.
No. 8913. Price Postpaid \$1.00

Rubber Masks
Natural, life-like, horrible! Thin-latex rubber. Clings when worn. Amazingly realistic. Eat, drink, smoke, talk! Full size.
4837W. ... Wild Cave Man \$2.50
4717. ... Wild Monkey \$2.50
4820. ... Ape with Hair \$2.50

MAGIC FINGER CHOPPER
Maple Guillotine. Insert 2 cigarettes. Sharp blade chops both in half. Now insert finger (if friend lets you!) in top hole. Drop blade. Lower cigarette out, but finger not touched! Amazing. Thrilling.
3178. Complete \$1.25

Jew's Harp
Play at Once. Pucker Harp. Be popular, have fun. Fine tone. BOSS. Only 50¢

JOKE GUM!
Hot Pucker Gum. Looks red.
3724. Pack 20s 3 pkgs. for \$1.00

Canada & Foreign: Send 25¢ for Catalog BEFORE ORDERING.

SPEEDY ORDER BLANK

Johnson Smith Co. Dept. 407 Detroit, Mich. 48224

Please send me:

How Many Number or Name Price Each Total

AND THE VAULT-ROOM WIDE
OPEN---NO SIGNS OF A
NITRO BLOW-OUT! JUST
LIKE---LIKE SOMEONE ROLLED
OUT THE RED
CARPET FOR
THEM!

AN INSIDE
JOB?

WHAT BOthers
ME IS--BOTH THE
ALARM-SYSTEM AND
THE VAULT LOCK-
TIMER...

... CAN ONLY BE
ACTIVATED BY A
VERY SPECIAL
KEY---HELD
ONLY BY A HIGH
OFFICER OF THE
CONCERN!

ITS
PRESIDENT
--- CLEM
STERLING?!

YES,
STERLING
HERE!
YOU,
BATMAN?
WHAT'S
UP?

A SLIGHT CASE OF
YOUR VAULT BEING
STRIPPED! DID YOU
--FOR ANY REASON...

...SWITCH
OFF THE
ALARM-
SYSTEM
AND OPEN
THE VAULT
TONIGHT?



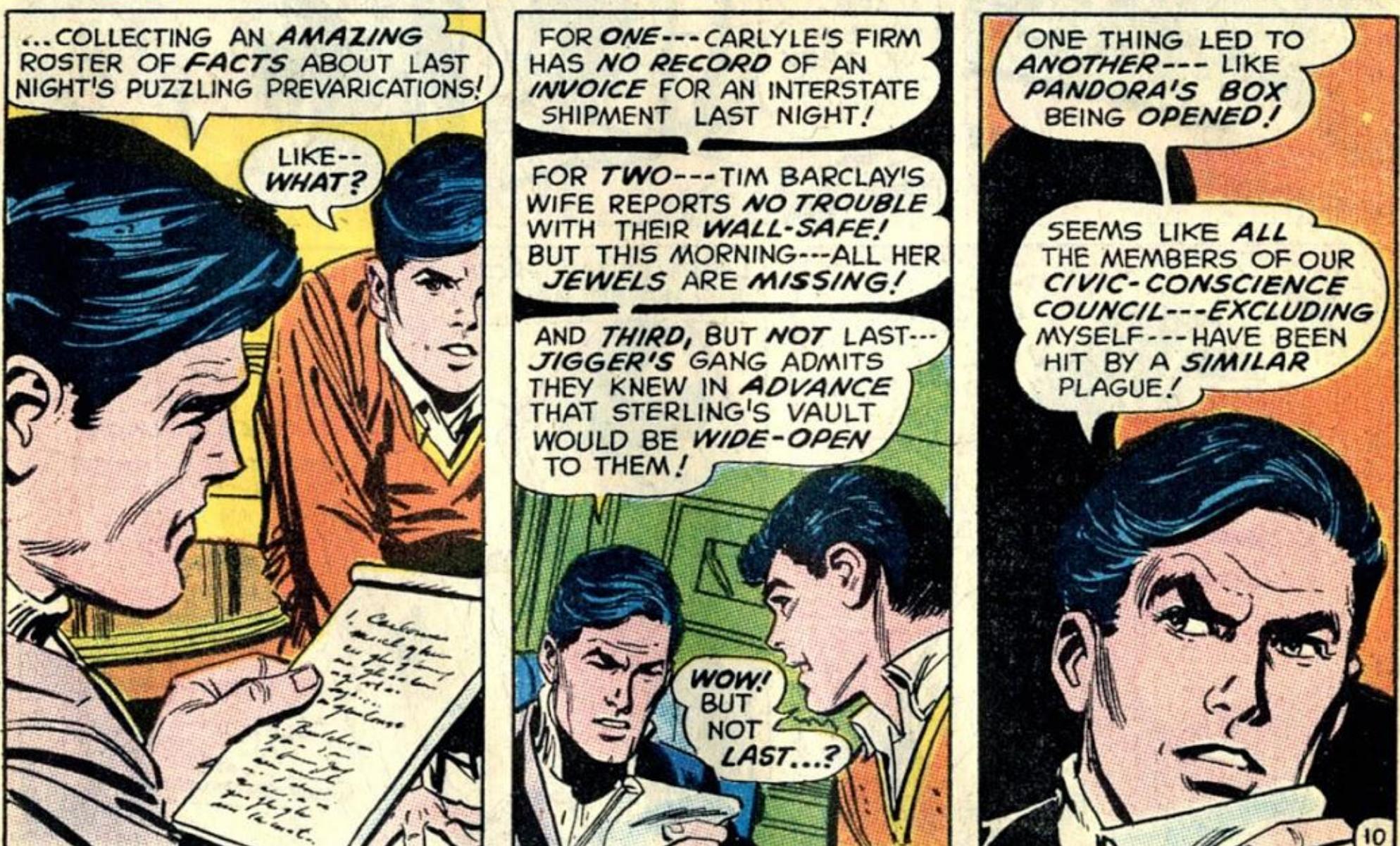
CRYPTIC---
BUT STRAIGHT,
MR. STERLING!
NO---THEY
DIDN'T GET A
THING!

NOW, GET
SOME SLEEP---
BE BACK AT YOU
TOMORROW WHEN
YOUR HEAD'S
CLEAR!

LATER, EXITING FROM THE SECRET BATCAVE ELEVATOR
INTO WAYNE MANSION...

SURE A PUZZLE, DICK!
THREE OF MY CLOSEST
ASSOCIATES IN
GOTHAM'S CIVIC-
CONSCIENCE COUNCIL...

... AND THEY
DISPLAY THE MOST
DISTINCTLY
ANTI-CIVIC
BEHAVIOR, ALL
IN ONE NIGHT!



YOU
MEAN...?

EMIL HARTZ ALLOWED
HIS FLEET OF RENTAL-CARS
TO BE STOLEN!

MYRON MYCROFT
---DITTO WITH HIS
PRICELESS CHRONO-
SCOPE COLLECTION!

LAWRENCE NELSON
---LIKEWISE WITH
HIS PRECIOUS STAMP
COLLECTION!
BUT WHY GO ON?
ELEVEN GOOD MEN,
ALLOWING OR HELPING
CRIME TO FLOURISH
---UNTOUCHED!

BUT WHY---WHY? WHAT
UNKNOWN PRESSURE ARE
THEY UNDER? HAS THE UNDER-
WORLD GOTTEN TO THEM---
IS IT BLACKMAIL?
EXTORTION? HYPNOSIS?

BUT THEY CLAM UP---
SAY THEY DON'T KNOW
WHAT COMPULSION DROVE
THEM TO THIS!

ELEVEN MEN, TRIED
AND TRUE---THE
PILLARS OF GOTHAM
SOCIETY---HOW IS IT
POSSIBLE?

YES, THIS IS BRUCE WAYNE!
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU--?

RING

THIS IS WHAT
YOU WILL DO
FOR ME...

AND AS A STRANGELY SHAKEN BRUCE HANGS
UP...

YOUR MYSTERY
CALLER? WHO WAS
HE---WHAT
DID HE...

I-I DON'T KNOW!
BUT I DO KNOW
WHAT I MUST DO!

THAT NIGHT--AFTER A CURIOUSLY SILENT DINNER...

SOMETHING'S BEEN BUGGING BRUCE
EVER SINCE THAT PHONE CALL, BUT
I CAN'T PULL IT OUT OF HIM!
BETTER PRETEND
NOTHING'S WRONG...

WE'D BETTER
GET READY
FOR OUR
NIGHT PATROL,
BRUCE...

HEY, YOU ARE PREOCCUPIED!
THE BATCAVE ELEVATOR IS THIS WAY...

GET STARTED WITHOUT ME, DICK!
THERE'S A JOB I MUST ATTEND TO FIRST!

ALARMED,
DICK QUICKLY CHANGES INTO ROBIN-- AND SPEEDING TO A NEARBY VANTAGE POINT...

SEEMS IN AN AWFUL HURRY! BRUCE IS HEADING DOWNTOWN---TOWARD THE WAYNE RESEARCH INSTITUTE!

HATE TO TAIL MY BUDDY-- BUT I HAVE A FEELING IT'S FOR HIS OWN GOOD!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

12

A NEW GIANT IS BORN!

ON SALE JULY 22ND



Young America Record Club's

Top-Hit Records

75¢ and up

DISCOUNTS 25% 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ % 50% UP TO 75%!

ALL LABELS ★ ALL STARS ★ NO EXCEPTIONS!

★ No Minimum Number Of Records To Buy ★ Order Any Day, Any Week — Same Day Shipments ★ Get Top Hits Even Before In Stock In Your Home Town

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Buy all the LP's, all the Singles, all the Tapes you want—EVERY label, EVERY star—at BIG DISCOUNTS—25%, 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %, 50%, even up to 75%. Top-hits records begin as low as 75¢, plus a small charge for speedy delivery to your home. Buy all the records you want OR NOTHING. There's no obligation ever to purchase a minimum number of records.

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Monthly bulletins mailed to you showing nearly 500 records—ALL THE HITS played most by disc jockeys, on the juke boxes. Join today and get 15-record set of "Oldies and Goodies" (an original \$13.35 value) free. Your membership dues is just \$1.00. Money-back if not happy you joined. Mail \$1.00 with coupon to: Young America Record Club, Dept. 10799, 120 E. 56th ST., N.Y., N.Y. 10022



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FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!

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Print Name _____

Print Address _____

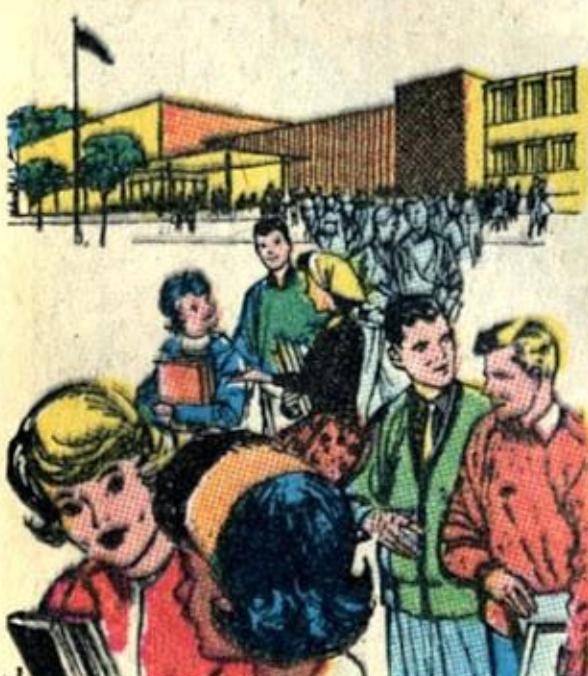
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THE ONLY RECORD CLUB WITH
ALL YOUR FAVORITE STARS!

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Turtles
Jefferson Airplane
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Herb Alpert
Blues Magoos
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The Beatles
Johnny Mathis
Ventures
Peter, Paul and Mary
Righteous Brothers
The Yellow Balloon
Five Americans
Moby Grape
The Love Generation
Letterman
Tosy Bennett
Englebert Humperdinck
Dave Clark Five

Aretha Franklin
Temptations
Bill Cosby
The Monkees
The Yardbirds
Rolling Stones
Herman's Hermits
Four Tops
Paul Revere
The Bee Gees
Dionne Warwick
Loving Spoonful
Petula Clark
Harper's Bazaar
Supremes
Stevie Wonder
Elvis Presley
Sonny and Cher
Frank Sinatra
Nancy Sinatra
Mamas and Papas
Dean Martin
Bob Dylan
Nancy Wilson
MANY MORE



A WILD CHASE LATER, WITH AN ODDLY COM-PULSIVE BRUCE WAYNE HEADING AS IF TO AN IRRESISTIBLE RENDEZVOUS...

MY HUNCH
WAS RIGHT! HE'S OPEN-
ING THE STRONG-ROOM
CONTAINING VALUABLE
STORES OF SCARCE
ANTI-BIOTICS!
BUT---
WHY?

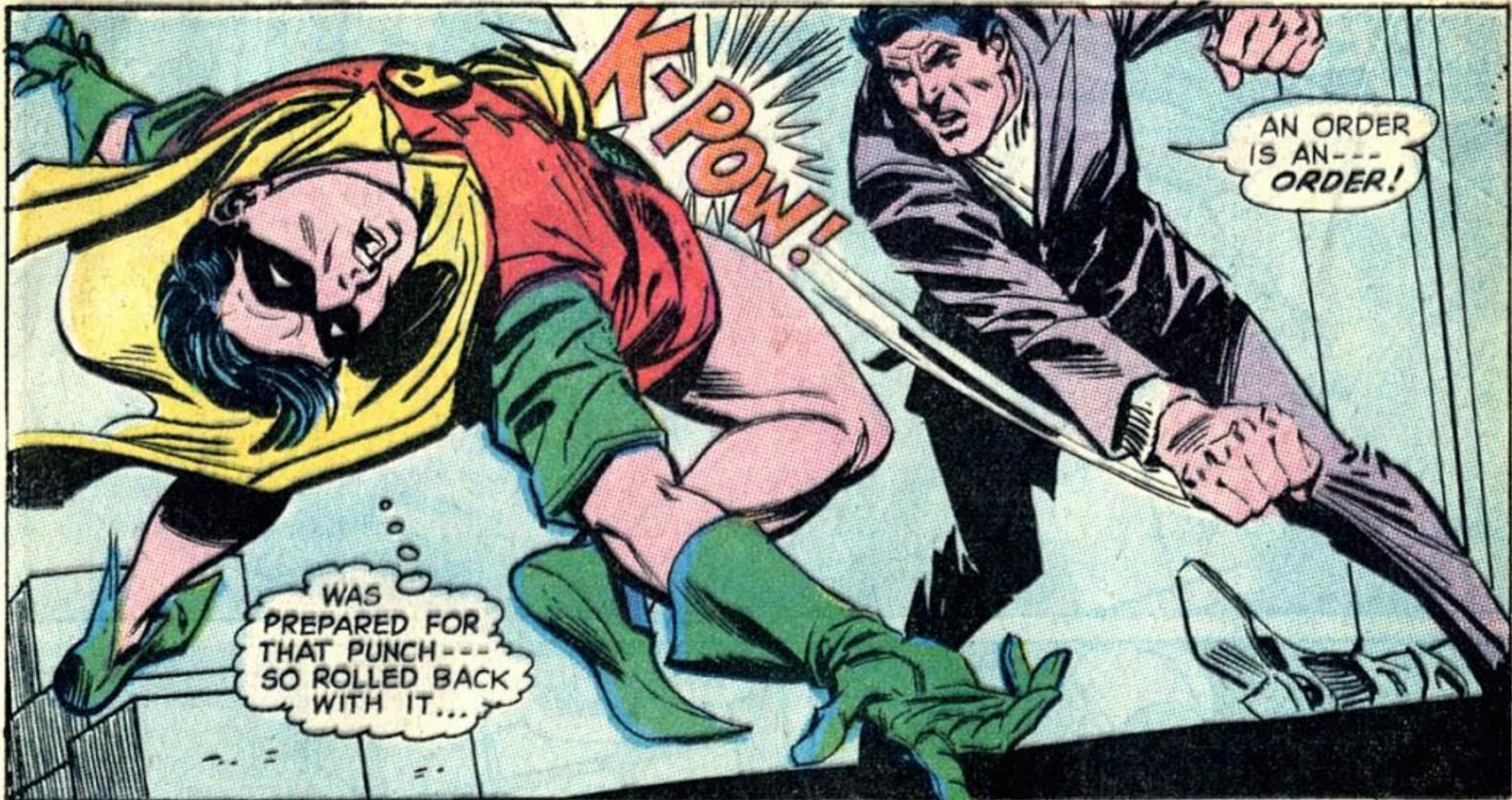
MOMENTS LATER...

A "JOB" THAT INCLUDES
TWO OF THE SHARPEST
SMUGGLERS OF PHARMA-CEUTICALS TO BLACK-MARKETS ABROAD?

THIS---THIS
CAN'T BE THE
BRUCE I KNOW!







--LAST WEEK! THE ANNUAL DINNER GIVEN BY THE CITY FATHERS TO HONOR OUR COUNCIL OF TWELVE!

BUT ONLY THE MOST IMPORTANT, REPUTABLE, CIVIC-MINDED PEOPLE WERE PRESENT! WHO COULD'VE SLIPPED US THIS MENTAL-MICKEY?

THE NEXT MORNING...

GOHAM NEWS BIOTIC BURGLARS BAGGED BY BATMAN AND ROBIN!

AGAIN! FIRST, THE GEM HAUL, NOW THIS...! HADN'T COUNTED ON THIS SORT OF INTERFERENCE WHEN I ORGANIZED THE PERFECT-CRIME SYNDICATE...

...COMPOSED OF UNWILLING BUT CO-OPERATIVE MEMBERS OF HIGH CIVIC-STANDING! BUT NOW I MUST CONCENTRATE ON--ELIMINATING THE INTERFERENCE!

MEANWHILE, WITH THE "INTERFERENCE"...

THANKS FOR COVERING AND TELLING THE POLICE THAT "BATMAN" WAS IN ON LAST NIGHT'S CAPER, DICK! IT MAY BE THE WAY TO BREAK THIS CASE!

I'M NOT QUITE WITH IT, BRUCE!
HOW...?

BECAUSE OUR MENACE--- WHOEVER HE IS--- HAS TO TRY TO STOP US! WE'RE BECOMING THE FLIES IN HIS OINTMENT...

...ONLY I PREFER TO BE THE SPIDER THAT BAITS THE WEB FOR HIM! SO---I'VE CALLED A SPECIAL MEETING OF OUR COUNCIL OF TWELVE!

YOU JUST LOST ME! BUT MAYBE AFTER THE MEETING, I'LL CATCH UP!

LATER, AT THE WAYNE INSTITUTE...

GENTLEMEN, AS CHAIRMAN, I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF CALLING THIS EMERGENCY SESSION BECAUSE...

WE'VE ALL BECOME VICTIMS OF A BIZARRE SCHEME TO EXTORT OUR WEALTH FROM US--WITH OUR HELP!

PLEASE---DON'T DENY IT! OR OUR UNKNOWN VICTIMIZER WILL SUCCEED, BECAUSE HE COUNTS ON OUR SILENCE! AND OUR MUTUAL SHAME...

THAT'S ABSURD!

AGREED! BUT HOW CAN WE DEFEAT HIM--WHILE HE HAS THIS STRANGE HOLD ON US?

SINCE UNDOUBTEDLY OUR CORRUPTOR HAS JUST BEGUN TO CONTROL US---I'VE TAKEN CERTAIN PRE-CAUTIONS!

THROUGH COMMISSIONER GORDON, I'VE CONTACTED THE ONE MAN HE CAN'T CONTROL---BATMAN!

AT LEAST---HE DOESN'T KNOW HE CAN! BATMAN HAS PROVIDED THESE SPECIAL BUGS THAT WE'RE TO WEAR AT ALL TIMES! HE WILL MONITOR EVERY WORD WE SAY ON THE PHONE---TO ANYONE!---AND THE NEXT TIME AN ORDER IS GIVEN---BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL STRIKE!

AFTER THE BUGS ARE DISTRIBUTED...

OH? NOW BATMAN'S REALLY GOT TO GO! WITH THIS MINI-TRANSMITTER IN OPERATION---I'M STYMIED! MY MEN CAN'T MOVE---

--WAIT! THE MEDDLING IDIOT HAS JUST DELIVERED HIMSELF INTO MY HANDS!

THAT NIGHT, IN THE BATCAVE...

ALL NIGHT PATROLS ARE CANCELLED, ROBIN---TILL WE NAIL THIS MENACE! WE MONITOR ALL THE PHONE-INDUCTION-ALERT BUGS UNTIL WE GET THE BREAK WE'RE WAITING FOR!

WHEN ANY OF THE TARGETS ON THE BOARD LIGHTS UP---WE KNOW INSTANTLY WHO IS TRANSMITTING AND MOVE OUT!

ONE THING'S SURE---WAYNE MANOR WON'T TRANSMIT! "BRUCE WAYNE" IS OFFICIALLY OUT FOR THE NIGHT!

LOOK! NUMBER 7 IS ON---MYRON MYCROFT!

YES, MASTER
---WHAT IS YOUR WISH?

I'M TO TAKE ALL MY NEGOTIABLE SECURITIES...

...MEET YOU... THIRTY MINUTES... FRONT OF THE NIGHT-DEPOSITORY OF GOTHAM FIRST NATIONAL...

THAT'S IT! OUR MYSTERY MAN IS MAKING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH HIS VICTIM!

WE'LL BE THERE WAITING FOR HIM!

A HALF-HOUR LATER...

HERE COMES MYCROFT NOW-- NO ONE ELSE IN SIGHT!

OUR PHONE-PHONEY WOULDN'T PICK A BUSY THOROUGHFARE! WE WAIT TILL HE MAKES THE GRAB--- THEN WE NAB HIM!

MOMENTS LATER...

MOVE, ROBIN!

OKAY, PHONE-PAL--- FREEZE!

B-BATMAN!

BUT AT A SUDDEN SOUND BEHIND THE DYNAMIC DUO...

AMBUSH! BATMAN--- DUCK!

DOWN-- MYCROFT!

KAANG!

RATATA!



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Just Add Water —
you've got "INSTANT LIFE"®

Yes, it's the living truth! In only five minutes you will actually hatch a whole tumbling, playful, happy troupe of Sea-Monkeys that are even more fun than a zoo full of chattering, howling jungle monkeys! World's most amazing new pet, children and adults alike will laugh and thrill with wonderful excitement. Watch the comic antics of these fantastic underwater buffoons that are really alive. Any minute of the day or night, you'll see them chase one another in a playful game of tag. The loser gets caught by his tail and is spun in a dizzy circle. See the "showoffs" turn cartwheels of joy in the water... see the ticklish ones "scratch" each other's backs. Watch them swim singly or in ever-changing graceful formations, creating a live sea-circus.

Watch the Miracle of Life

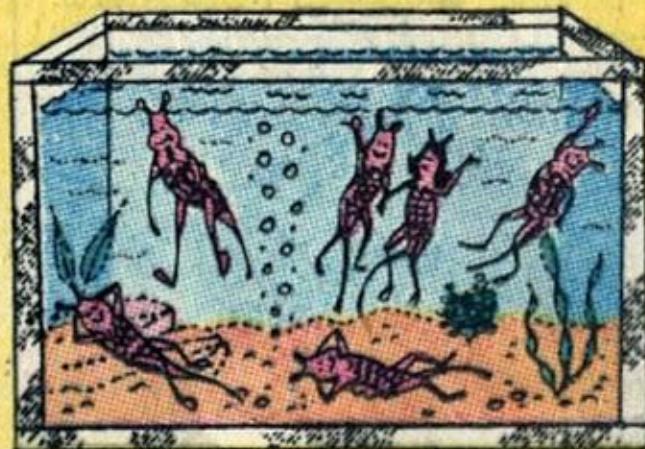
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They Obey Your Silent Commands

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Rush me my kit(s) for hatching my live Sea-Monkeys at once. If I am not 100% delighted, I may return it for prompt refund of my purchase price.

I enclose \$1 plus 25¢ ship. charges for each kit. Send ____ kit(s).

Cash Check Money Order.

Total amount enclosed \$ _____. (No C.O.D.'s please)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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BATMAN — SUPERMAN

INVITE
YOU TO
GET YOUR
FREE
COUPON
HERE

ADMIT ONE (1) TO

PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK

ADMISSION **FREE** PARKING

GOOD MONDAY,
WEDNESDAY
AND FRIDAYS

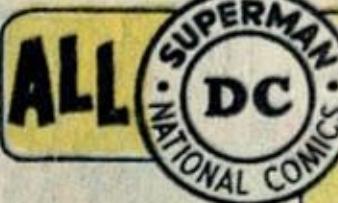
WORTH
\$1.10

(EXCEPT
HOLIDAYS)
UNTIL 7PM.

PALISADES

AMUSEMENT **PARK** N.J.

1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



**COMICS IN
MAY THROUGH
OCTOBER HAVE
THE FREE COUPON!**



Free Ride
CAROUSEL

Free Ride
WHIP

BUT IF I COULD
CONTROL BATMAN...?
WHAT A TRIUMPH!
MUST DEVISE A
TEST---TO BE
SURE HE'S NOT
TRICKING ME!

WE'RE HAULING
THIS PUNK
DOWN TO
POLICE H.Q.
---MAYBE HE'LL
TALK! YOU BETTER
GET SOME SLEEP,
MYCROFT!



A SHORT TIME LATER, AT HOME IN MYCROFT'S DEN...

MUST DREAM UP A TEST
HE'D NEVER PERFORM---
UNLESS HE WAS UNDER MY
COMPLETE CONTROL!



* MANY TIMES, WHEN BATMAN HAD TO APPEAR WITH "BRUCE WAYNE", A STAND-IN... ALFRED THE BUTLER... SOMETIMES EVEN SUPERMAN... HELPED IN THE MASQUERADE...



AN HOUR LATER, AFTER ARDUOUSLY SPADING HIS WAY ENTIRELY AROUND WAYNE MANOR...

IT'S DONE! ALL THAT REMAINS... IS TO COMPLETE THE **MASTER'S ORDERS!** MUSTN'T LOOK BACK-- OR I'LL COME ALL APART!

THEN, UNDER THE **MASTER'S** AVID EYES, **BATMAN** REVEALS WHAT HE HAS KEPT HIDDEN LIKE A **GUilty SECRET!**...

AH! YOU ARE A GOOD, OBEDIENT PUPPY!

NOW YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE YOUR **UTTER DEVOTION** TO MY COMMANDS...



HIS GIANT MUSCLES QUIVERING, BUNCHING IN BUNDLES OF OUTRAGE AND PROTEST AGAINST A DRIVING, PERSISTENT WILL STRONGER THAN HIS, **BATMAN** FIGHTS ON...



...AND ON, SHUTTING HIS EYES AS IF TO SHUT OUT THE VERBAL BATTERING ECHOING IN HIS TORTURED BRAIN!



164 ASTROFORCE

SPACE SOLDIERS
of the FUTURE

ONLY \$1.98

164
PIECES

EVERYONE WILL WANT TO OWN THIS SUPERB AND UNUSUAL COLLECTION OF ASTROFORCE SPACE SOLDIERS OF THE FUTURE TOGETHER WITH FULL BATTLE EQUIPMENT. NOW--YOU, TOO--CAN PLAN AND FIGHT INTERPLANETARY GALACTIC BATTLES IN THE WAR OF THE WORLDS. BUT--CAN YOU SUCCESSFULLY REPEL THE INVADERS OF OUR EARTH WORLD? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF. YOU GET ENOUGH SOLDIERS AND EQUIPMENT TO MAKE TWO BIG ARMIES--AN ATTACKING AND DEFENDING ARMY. ALL SOLDIERS COME ON THEIR OWN BASES AND ARE ESPECIALLY DESIGNED TO HOLD AND WEAR THE MANY BATTLE ACCESSORIES THAT COME WITH THIS FINE COLLECTION. YOU'LL ENJOY HOURS OF FUN WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

ACTUAL SIZE

MAKES
2 BIG
ARMIES



HERE IS WHAT YOU'LL GET...

60 FIGHTING ASTROFORCE SPACE SOLDIERS
(FOUR DIFFERENT COLORS)

16 RADI-ACTIVATOR GUNS

16 DISINTIGRATING RAY PISTOLS

16 ASTRO HELMETS

16 OXI-RADAR FLIGHT PACKS

16 GALACTIC RECEIVERS AND SENDERS

4 INTERPLANETARY COMMUNICATIONS

ALL OF THE ABOVE TOYS ARE HARNESSLESS
AND ARE MADE IN NON-BREAKABLE PLASTIC

SOLDIERS REST ON THEIR OWN BASES

IMAGINARY BATTLE
SCENE IS SHOWN ABOVE

SPACE ARMIES Dept. SA-99
P.O. BOX 397 Rockville Centre, N.Y.
Rush me set(s) of 164 pieces of
Fighting Space Soldiers and Full Battle Equipment.
I enclose \$1.98 postpaid for each set ordered.

2 sets for ONLY \$3.49

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NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____
CANADIAN AND FOREIGN \$2.50 INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDER

AND THEN...
HIS MIGHTY
WILL POWER
CRACKING SUDDENLY
AS A GIANT OAK
SNAPPING IN A
GALE...

WHAM!

I HAVE DONE AS YOU ORDERED,
MASTER! WAYNE MANOR---
AND EVERYONE IN IT---ARE
DESTROYED!

HAH! YOU HAVE
PASSED MY TEST!
AND NOW YOU,
BATMAN---ARE
MY SLAVE!

BUT, AS
A SUDDEN
BREEZE
DISPERSES
THE
OPPRESSIVE
BLACK PALL
OBSCURING
THE
DEVASTA-
TION OF
ONCE-
PROUD
WAYNE
MANOR...

M-MYRON MYCROFT?!
Y-YOU ARE THE---
MASTER?!

YOU'VE
TRICKED
ME!

WAYNE MANOR---INTACT?
UNDAMAGED...? THEN DICK
AND ALFRED ARE...

B-BUT I SWEAR,
MASTER --- I
FOLLOWED YOUR
ORDERS TO THE
LETTER!

BAH! YOU ONLY PRETENDED
TO OBEY ME---TO TRICK
ME INTO REVEALING MY
TRUE IDENTITY!

YOU'VE DISCOVERED
HOW I GAINED
CONTROL OVER
YOU AND THE
OTHERS!

YOU LEARNED YOU WERE WEARING ONE OF MY MICRO-WAVE WILL-POWER NULLIFIERS--- AND REMOVED IT!

BUT THAT KNOWLEDGE WON'T HELP YOU NOW!

WEARING ONE? ONE---WHAT? WHAT DEVILISH DEVICE DID MYCROFT PLANT ON ME---AND WHEN?

I DON'T NEED A WILL-POWER DESTROYER TO DESTROY YOU NOW! DIE, BATMAN!

WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! MYCROFT-TYCOON AND BRILLIANT INVENTIVE FOUNDER OF THE FINANCIAL EMPIRE AND PRODUCT THAT BEARS HIS NAME!

NEGATIVE, MYCROFT! NOW I GIVE THE ORDERS!

DROP THAT GUN!

YOU'RE---GIVING ME ORDERS? NO--- YOU COULDN'T HAVE PLANTED ONE OF MY OWN DEVICES ON---ME!

YOUR DOUBT IS ALL I NEEDED...

MOMENTS LATER...

MYCROFT, EH? NEVER WOULD'VE GUESSED---BUT WE DID GUESS YOU WERE ACTING UNDER ORDERS, BATMAN...

AND BEGGING YOUR PARDON, SIR---WE REPLANTED HARMLESS FIREWORKS AND SMOKE-BOMBS TO SIMULATE A MASSIVE EXPLOSION!

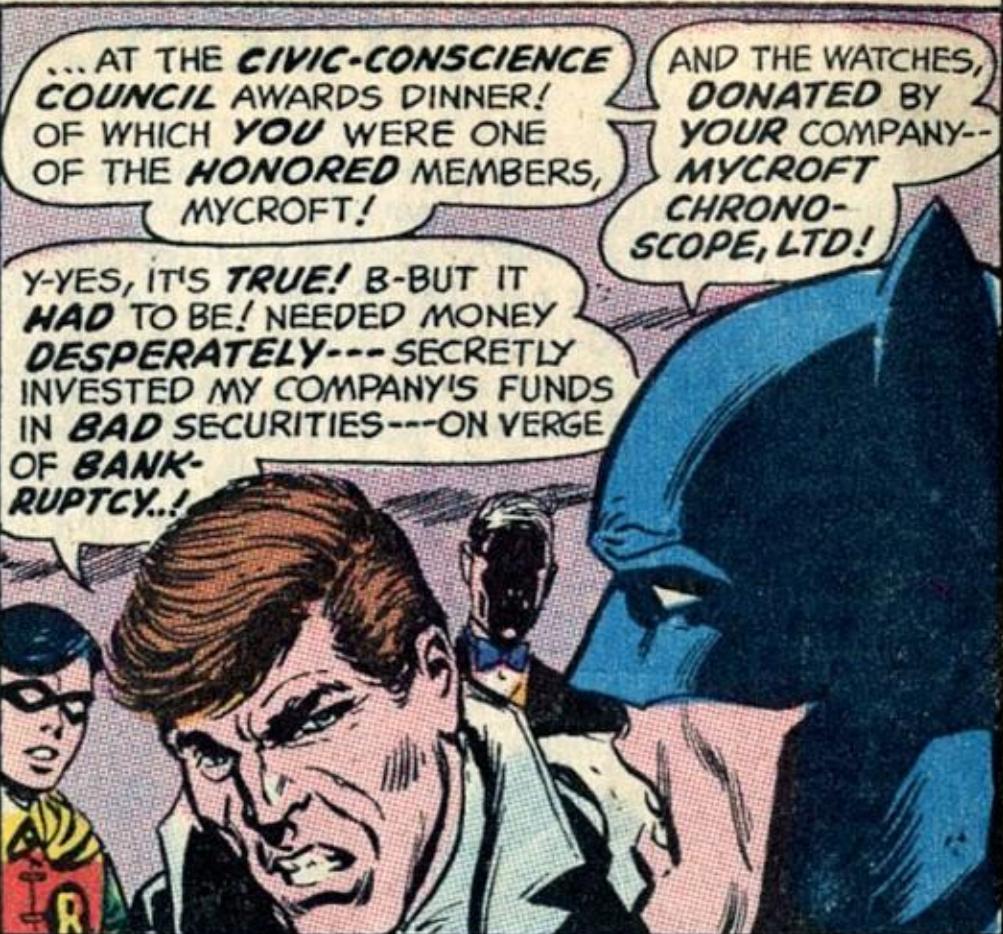
...WHEN WE FOLLOWED YOU AND DUG UP WHAT YOU'D "PLANTED" AROUND WAYNE MANOR!

THEN, IF THEY COVERED FOR YOU---YOU WERE STILL UNDER MY CONTROL, WHEN...

HOW DID YOU...?

REALIZED--- TOO LATE--- THAT YOUR "PRODUCT" WAS SOMEHOW

THE KEY TO EVERYTHING! DROPPED IT OFF MY WRIST BEFORE I SLUGGED YOU...

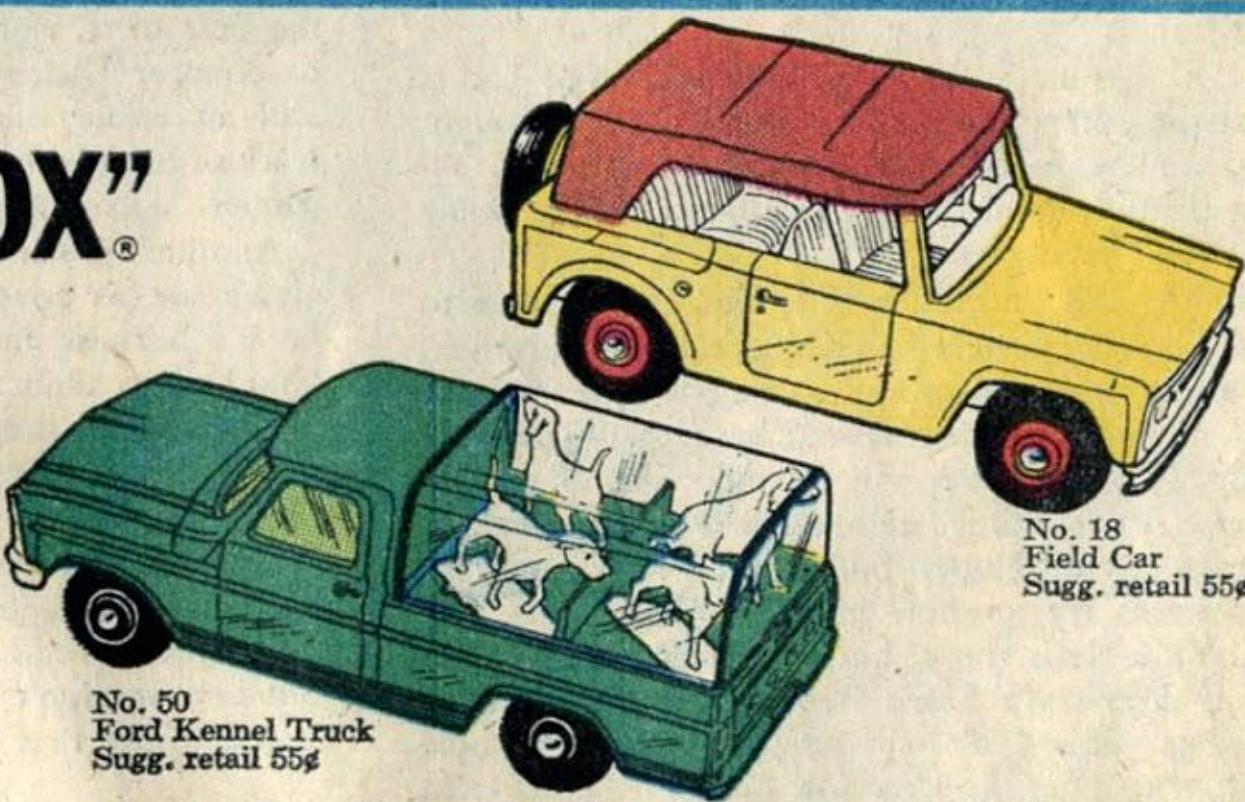


NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.

Dog Show or African Safari!

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LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-218

Dear Editor:

I am writing for no other reason than to tell you how much I admire the artist team of Irv Novick and Joe Giella. I had never liked Irv's solo work too much, but he is such a perfect penciler for Joe that I dare say even Bob Kane and Carmine Infantino were merely close seconds. One case is the upper outside corners of pages 4 and 5 (*Batman* #211), on which one will find two of the most perfect renditions of Dick Grayson ever seen. It's as though the inks were put over a photograph.

Something I'd like to mention to Irv is the matter of *Batman's* jaw. I appreciate the more box-like quality that was the trademark of the stern jaw of *Batman*, which Irv is slowly bringing back. However, I would still like to see a more or less complete return to the features of the old *Batman*. Think of it not as a jaw, Irv, but a pair of 90 degree angles you're drawing for algebra class. I know some readers consider this type of jaw as comical and non-existent in reality. I don't know. The late and great *John Larkin*, actor extraordinaire, was a box-jawed dream as a *Batman* portrayer.

Well worth noting when mentioning the good old days are scripts like "Batman's Big Blow-Off!" If the "real" *Batman* ever does return, it will be through no small contribution from Frank Robbins. As a *Bat*-writer, Frank's the one!

—GARY SKINNER, Columbus, Ohio

(By one of those quirks in editorial timing—just when such praise is lavished on the Novick-Giella team—this issue pops up with a switch in inkers! We're hopefully anticipating approval of Dick Giordano's stylish treatment—a preliminary move in the BIG CHANGE that's coming to *Batman* in the December issue! You'll have to see it to believe it! More artful comments follow in the next letter.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Read *Batman* #211. The quality of the story continues to amaze me. You seem to be getting quite a balance of action, mystery, and melodrama in your latest bunch.

In 211's "Batman's Big Blow-Off" you even had a moral at the ending. Imagine, a moral, after I thought you did well with the main story itself, using an all-modern theme out of today's headlines. You're doing well, sir, on the stories.

As for the art, I'm still a little finicky. It's nice to see that Giella's mastered the square head. However, I notice that your artists are starting to give *Batman* a very long neck and a somewhat basketball-type player body. This will never do! I would like to remind you that *Batman* has a height of 6'0"—no more. He has a perfectly developed body—not overly muscular as your artists try to show him. In other words, you know the muscle is there, but it doesn't spring out at you as it does on a Steve Reeves type. I believe if your artists studied *Batman* number 5 for a couple of hours, they'd get the idea how *Batman* should look.

—Pittsburgh Sam

(But, Pittsburgh Sam—whoever you may be—is the Batman of three decades ago the very same Batman that should be doing his thing today—and still be the

same three decades from now—in the year 2000?—Editor)

Dear Editor:

With *Batman* 211, I feel more and more that Frank Robbins used to read the *Bat-Man* as a kid, and recently picked up the habit again (after some years) when he first began to write for DC. "Batman's Big Blow-Off" stunk. *Batman* has been around for thirty years and has had more than his share of identity cover-ups. Yet this story didn't show it. *Batman* would not, at this point of his career, even think about revealing his identity for convenience. Having Dick be the one to remind Bruce of the dangers of acting as *Batman* in public got me sick.

Criminals would not go off to shoot the four suspects; at least not until which one was *Batman* had actually been revealed. If *Batman* had ignored the exposé, *It's Your Bag* would have had to admit its error, and no one would get killed. If you don't see my argument, let me point out another flaw. Now that everyone knows that *Batman* posed as Howard Hayes, the threat against the four people still remains.

—HARVEY SOBEL, Commack, N.Y.

(You base your arguments on the way you would compulsively act under given circumstances. Why shouldn't Batman reconsider from time to time the advantages and disadvantages of revealing his secret identity? Secondly, there are criminals of all frames of mind—and who is to state categorically how some of them would "time" their killing off of Batman? Finally, since the exposé was revealed as a phoney, it is evident that the four Batman "suspects" would be cleared.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Batman was actually going to divulge his Bruce Wayne identity! That's something! Only, did he really want to? Notice how Bruce kept on thinking of the benefits of divulging his I.D. It could be that he was looking at the bright side to block out the disadvantages. What good is it to be something but keep thinking of its bad sides? If something must be done, make the best of it, right? That might be why Bruce tried to counter Dick's morbid thoughts of added glamor and an easier life. But even he can't shut out the truth of life and he has to face the cold facts of added danger, accounting for the food-poisoning thought.

Another possibility is that Bruce wouldn't mind giving up his cover. Perhaps for more fame or maybe it's because he's sick of hiding. For thirty years he's had to duck behind alleys, cover for his other identity, etc. I don't think that if I were in his shoes, I'd dig doing what he has had to do for all those years!

Another reason could be that he'd like to be widely known. How many millionaires have you heard of? Perhaps quite a few, but there are probably a lot of them you haven't heard of. If you were a guy like *Batman*, wouldn't you like everyone to know? Deep down inside, Bruce may feel the same way.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

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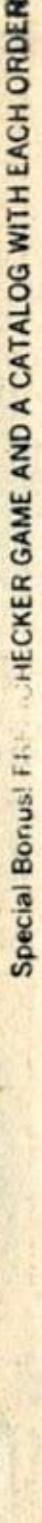
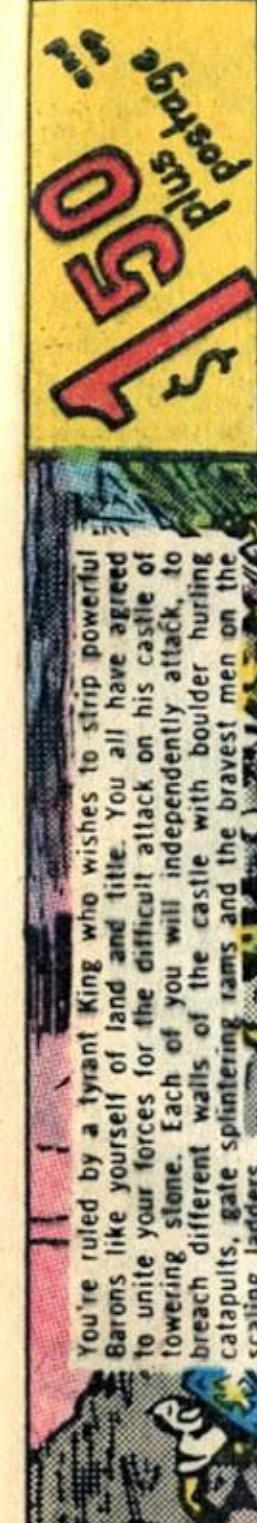
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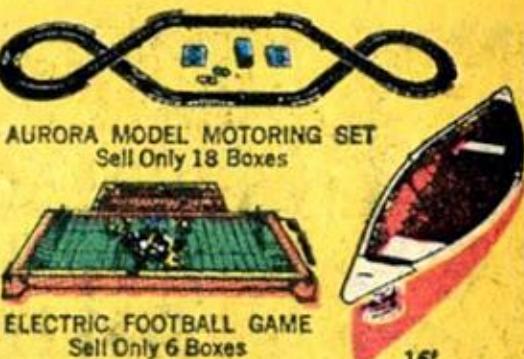
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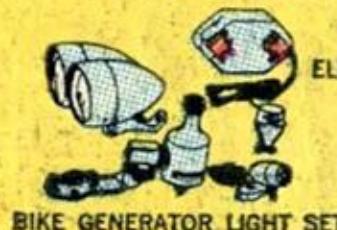
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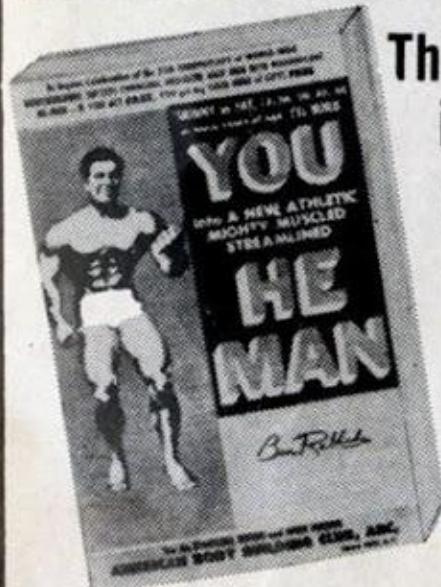
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