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BATMAN

NO. 261
MAR.
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BATMAN



100-PAGE SUPER SPECTACULAR
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DC
BATMAN
60¢

ROBIN AND I HAVE PLENTY OF
OTHER STORIES AND FEATURES
FOR YOU READERS --



--INCLUDING A CLASSIC
HOLIDAY STORY--
"A CHRISTMAS PERIL!"



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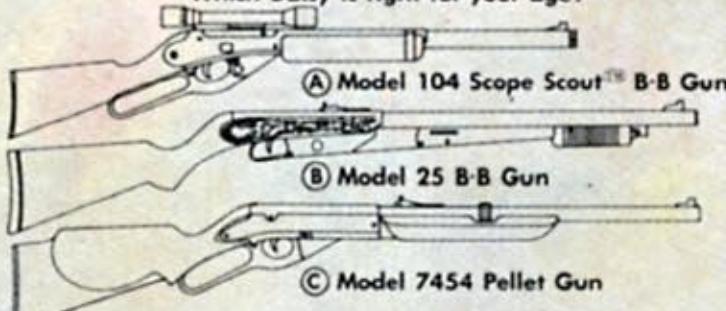
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in your free Daisy booklet.
12 years and older
8-10 years old
10-12 years old

Answers: 8-10 years old
 10-12 years old
 12 years and older

MAR.-APR.
NO. 263

COVER:
NICK CARDY

BATMAN

HERE'S A SPECIAL ISSUE,
WITH TALES OF MY
SECRET WEAPONS!

A NEW BATMAN PUZZLER-- "THE MYSTERY THAT NEVER WAS!"

CRIMINALS
BECOME
MODERN
BOUNTY
HUNTERS
in

"CRIME'S MAN- HUNT!"

PAGE 24

THE DYNAMIC
DUO
SEEKS A
NEW
WEAPON

"THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST!"

PAGE 73

THE MASKED
MANHUNTER'S
MOST
SPECTACULAR

WEAPONS--

"THE 1,001 INVENTIONS of BATMAN!"

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BATMAN
CAN'T STOP IT--
BUT
BRUCE WAYNE
CAN!

"The BLOCKBUSTER INVASION OF GOTHAM CITY!"

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A SPECIAL
HOLIDAY
TALE--

"A CHRISTMAS PERIL!"

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EXTRA ADDED
ATTRACTIOnS!

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BATMAN

STORY BY
DENNY O'NEIL
ART BY
IRV NOVICK &
DICK GIORDANO
EDITED BY
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

A TERRIBLE CONFLICT
RAGES IN HIS SOUL... AND
IMMENSE DANGER THREATENS
HIS VERY BEING... AS THE
BATMAN SEEKS TO SOLVE--

"The MYSTERY THAT
NEVER WAS!"

IT IS THE END OF A PLEASANT DAY SOMEWHERE SOUTH OF GOTHAM CITY AND THIS HUGE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IS QUIET--

--QUIET, YES, BUT NOT DESERTED! FOR BRUCE WAYNE IS STROLLING WITH AN OLD FRIEND-- HAL HEMINGWAY...

QUITE A LAYOUT, HAL!

BRUCE, MY BOY, YOU HAVEN'T SAID THE HALF OF IT!

I DESIGNED THE FACTORY'S SECURITY COMPLEX MYSELF--

--AND WHAT IT HASN'T GOT, HASN'T BEEN THOUGHT OF YET! RADAR, LASERS, AUDIO-PICKUPS... THE WORKS!

BELIEVE ME, BRUCE--A MOUSE COULDN'T GET PAST THE FENCE WITHOUT SETTING OFF ALARMS THAT'D WAKE THE MAN IN THE MOON!

HOWEVER...

HAL--LOOK! ARE THOSE YOUR PEOPLE?

N-NO... MUST BE INTRUDERS!

I HAVEN'T HAD MY GUN OUT SINCE I RETIRED FROM THE POLICE!

I'VE BEEN HOPING I'D NEVER HAVE TO USE IT AGAIN!

I'LL GO FOR HELP!

I WON'T HAVE TO GO FAR...

TOOLS

...JUST BEHIND THIS SHED...

...LONG ENOUGH TO CHANGE TO THE BATMAN!

HAL HASN'T LOST HIS
TOUCH! HE'S GOT THE
HOODS ON THE RUN!

... ALL EXCEPT FOR
THE ONE BEHIND HIM!

BAM-
BAM!

THE BATMAN!
AT YOUR SERVICE!

ANY
SUGGESTIONS
AS TO HOW
WE CAN
ROUND UP
JUNIOR'S
PLAYMATES?

THEY DUCKED BEHIND THE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING!

THEY'RE TRAPPED... NOBODY
COULD GET THROUGH THE FENCE
BACK THERE!

THEN
WHAT SAY
WE GO
BOUNCE
'EM--?

WITHIN SECONDS...

S-SEE... I TOLD YA
I SEEN THE BATMAN!

RIGHT!



BUT AS THE BATMAN SOFT-TREADS AFTER HIS QUARRY...











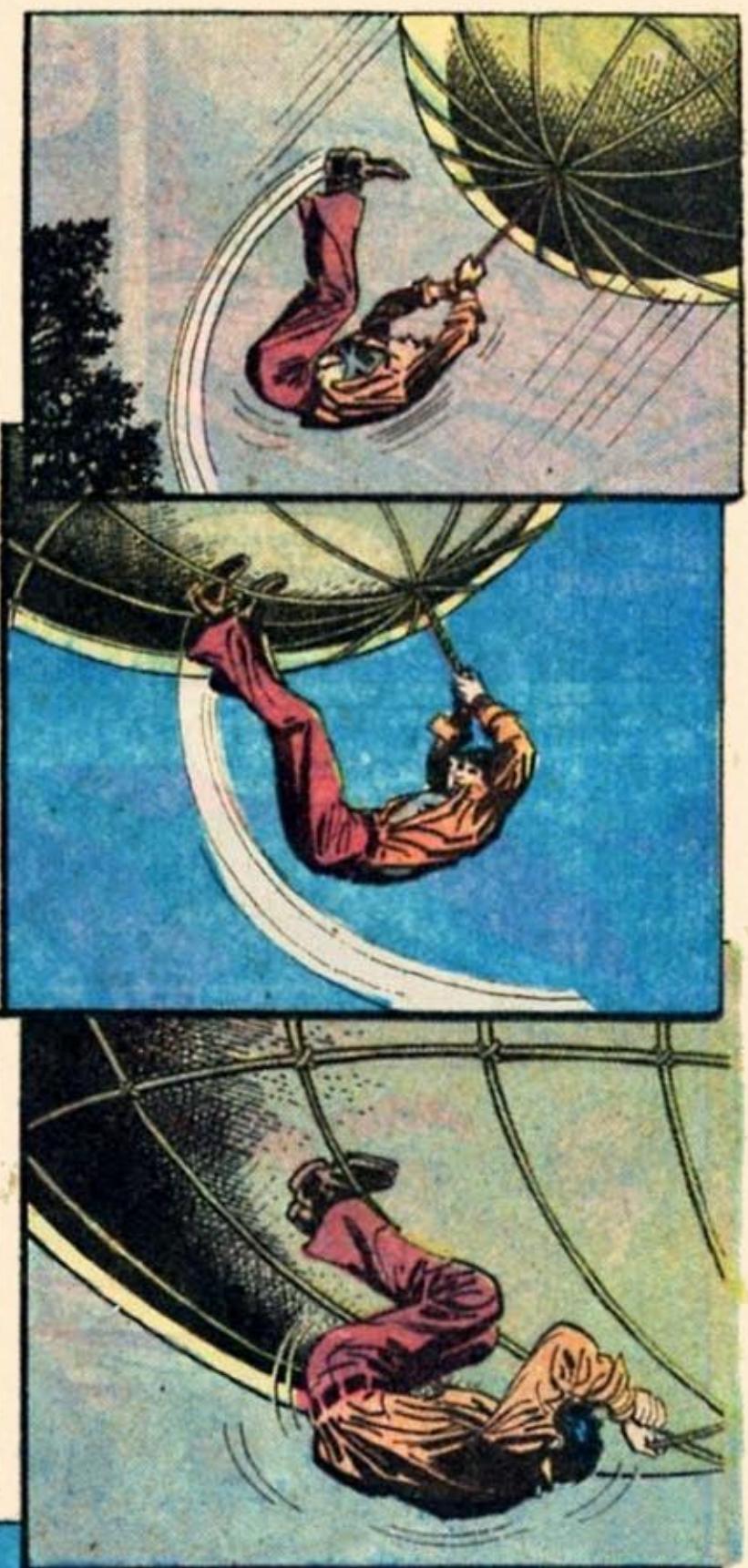


GLOATING HILARIOUSLY, THEY LEAVE, BOUND
ON A MISSION OF DEATH...

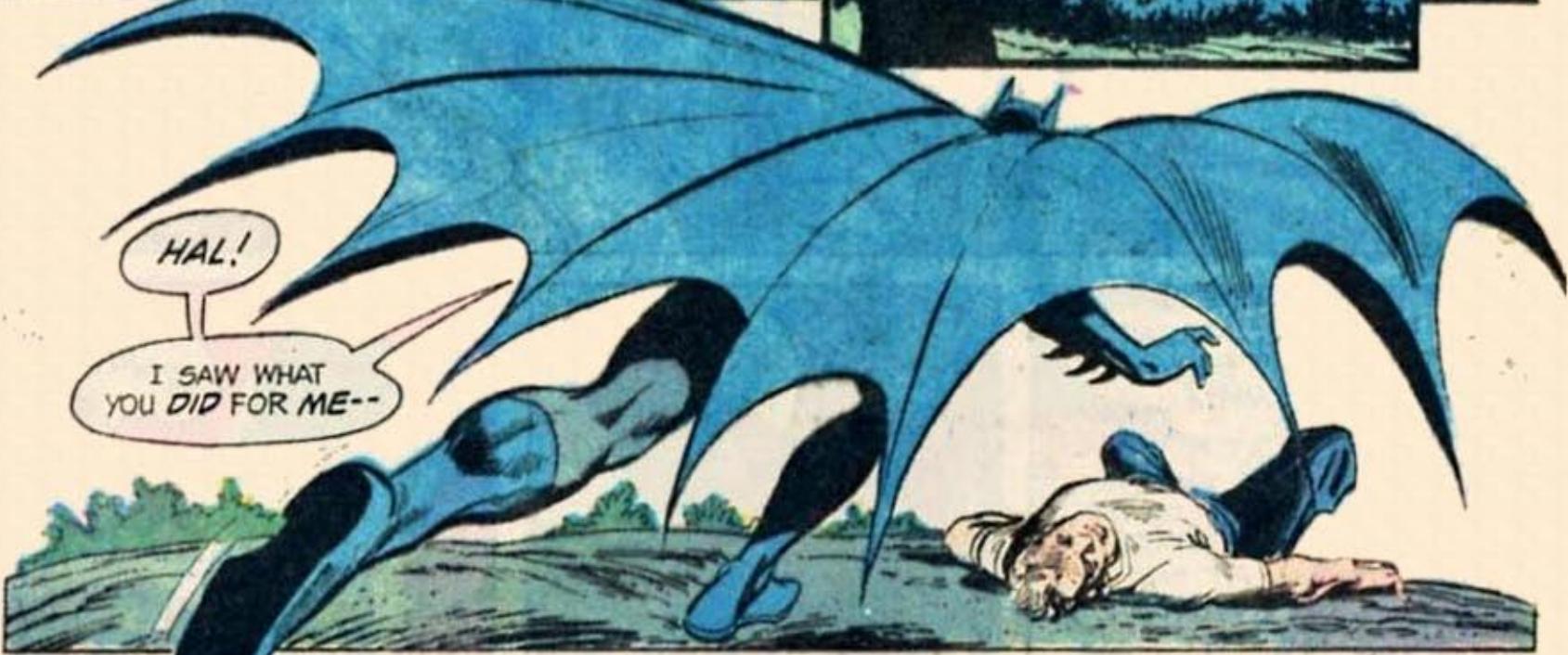




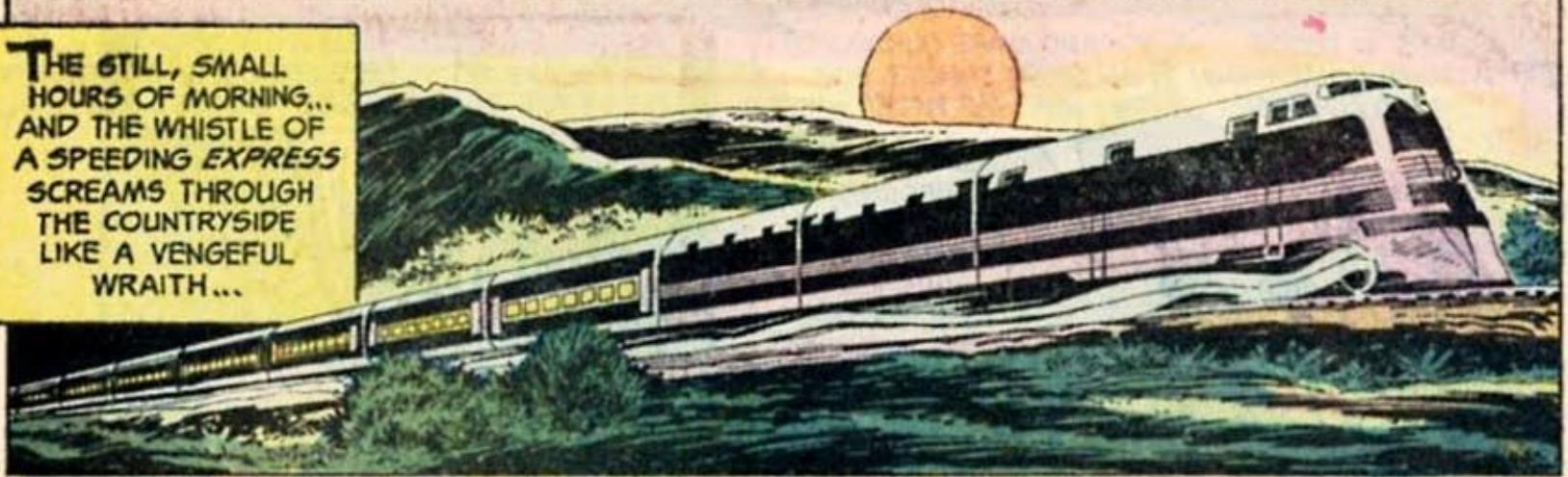








THE STILL, SMALL HOURS OF MORNING...
AND THE WHISTLE OF A SPEEDING EXPRESS
SCREAMS THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE
LIKE A VENGEFUL WRAITH...



...INSIDE, THERE IS GLOATING MIXED WITH A TOUCH OF DREAD...



--I WANNA GET AT LEAST
A CONTINENT BETWEEN
ME AN'... HIM!

I'M GOIN'
OUT TO THE
PLATFORM
AN' HAVE A
SMOKE!













I'M BATMAN'S SILKEN ROPE!
YOU MAY NOT THINK I LOOK
LIKE MUCH OF A WEAPON...

BUT READ THIS STORY AND YOU'LL
SEE HOW THE BATMAN USED A
"BATROPE" TO SAVE HIS LIFE AND
CAPTURE A DANGEROUS CRIMINAL...
BOTH AT THE SAME TIME!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

THEY WERE HUNTED MEN...
CRIMINALS AT LARGE... THEIR
REWARD POSTER IN THE STATES; BUT
THEY WERE VALUABLE. THESE OUTLAWS
...VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THE PRICE ON
THEIR HEADS! HUMAN BOOTY INDEED.
THIS BAND OF HOUNDED MEN AFRAID OF
THEIR OWN SHADOWS!

BUT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE JACKALS
OF GANGLAND GO AFTER THIS LEGAL
BOOTY? YES... WHEN CROOKS GO ROB-
BERHUNTING, THEY SNARE MORE THAN
THEY BARGAINED FOR IN THE LITHE, CAPED
FORMS OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN. THE
BOY WONDER, CROOK-CATCHERS EXTRA-
ORDINARY!

FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF A TRIO OF THIEVES
WHO FORGOT TO REMEMBER THAT
TOO MANY CROOKS SPOIL THE

"CRIME'S MAN-
HUNT"

THE BOY WONDER

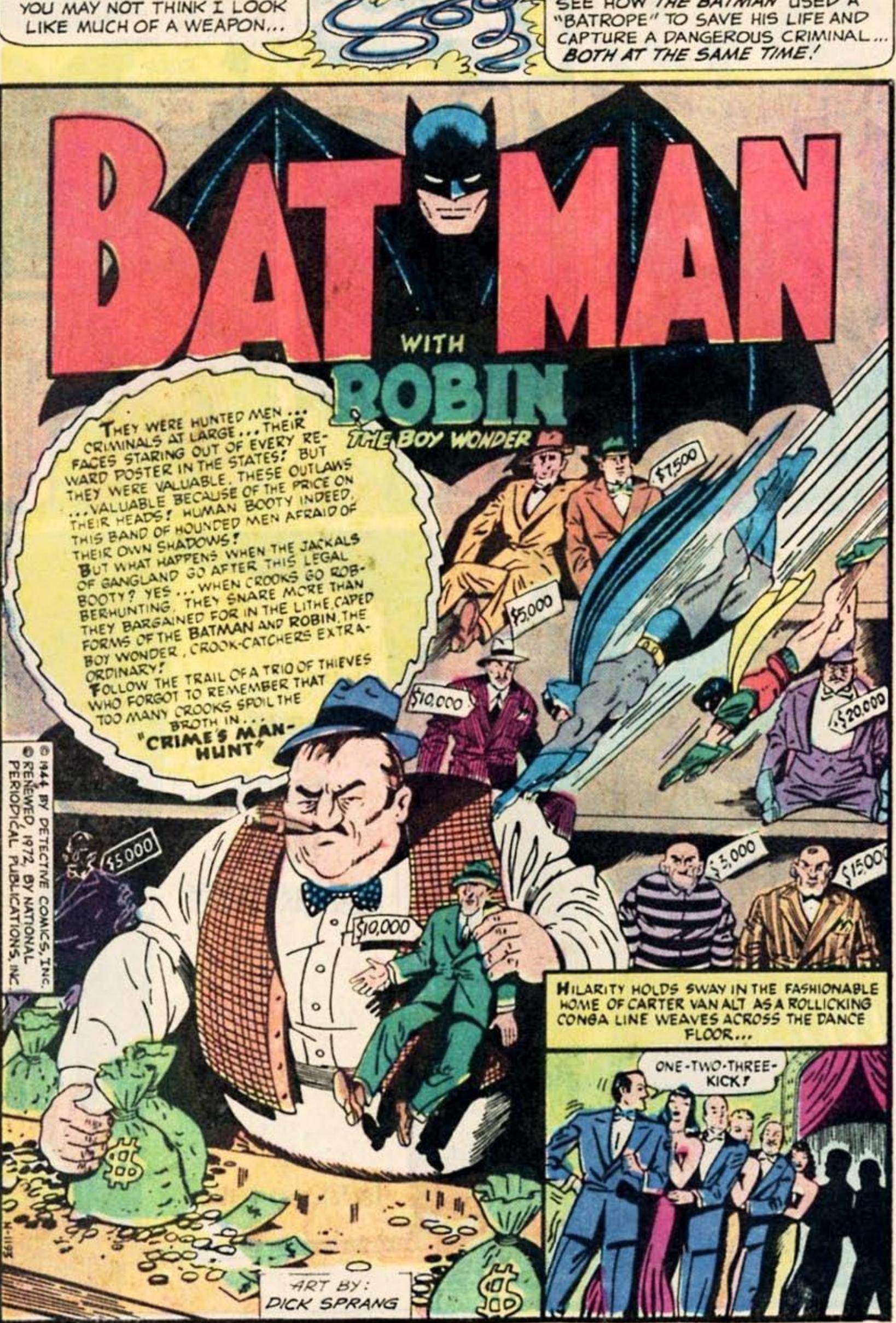
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HILARITY HOLDS SWAY IN THE FASHIONABLE
HOME OF CARTER VAN ALT AS A ROLICKING
CONGA LINE WEAVES ACROSS THE DANCE
FLOOR...



ART BY:
DICK SPRANG



CRIME'S MANHUNT

SUDDENLY THREE GRIM FIGURES MENACE THE MERRymAKERS...

KEEP SWINGING, FOLKS! RIGHT THIS WAY--- AND KEEP YOUR HANDS HIGH!

THE WAITERS!

OH! OH! ...IT'S A HOLD-UP! ...MY JEWELS!

AH-AH! NO HOLDING OUT! IS THAT NICE?

CAN'T SOMEBODY STOP THEM?

THEN, MIRACULOUSLY, THAT DESPERATE PLEA IS ANSWERED--FROM THE BALLROOM'S CRYSTAL-DOMED ROOF..



NEXT MOMENT, THE FLASH OF THE BATARANG THRU SPACE, AND THE TRIO ARE SNARLED IN BOLO FASHION...

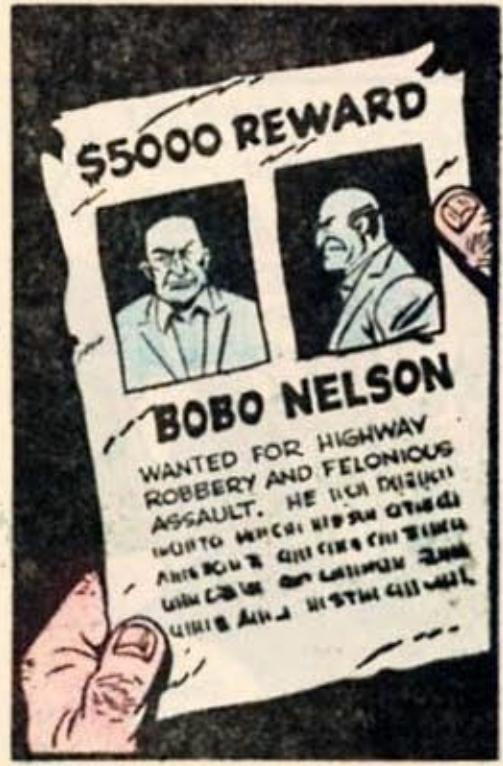


AND THE BIRDS BECOME JAIL BIRDS...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





CRIME'S MANHUNT



A WEEK LATER...

Pretty soft, Brainy... five grand and "the thanks of the community?"

BETTER THAN DUCKIN' THE COPS, EH, SLUG? NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! "TWISTY" HERMAN'S GONNA BE OUR NEXT MEAL TICKET!

YEAH, BUT TWISTY IS HIDING OUT OVER IN JERSEY! HE NEVER COMES OVER THE STATE LINE!

SEVEN AND A HALF GRAND!

THAT'S WHERE I COME IN BOYS. NOW LISTEN...

NEXT DAY AT TWISTY HERMAN'S RAMAPO MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT...

NIFTY HIDEOUT YOU HAVE UP HERE, TWISTY! SAFE FROM NEW YORK COPS TOO!

YEAH, BRAINY! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU TO THIS HILL! I LIKE TO COME HERE AND LAUGH AT THEM! THAT'S NEW YORK, DOWN THERE BUT THIS IS JERSEY...

SUDDENLY...

SURPRISE! HAPPY LANDINGS!

HEY---WHAT'S THE IDEA? I'M OFF-BALANCE-A-A-R-K!

PROPELLED BY BRAINY'S TREACHEROUS SHOVE, TWISTY MAKES A DISASTROUS DESCENT...

--BUT "AID" COMES SWIFTLY!

WELCOME BACK TO NEW YORK, TWISTY!

YOU CROSSED THE STATE LINE IN NOTHING FLAT!

SUCCESS! AND AS THE LOOT PILES UP, THE RACKETEERS MOVE TO MORE PALATIAL QUARTERS...

PRETTY SOFT! AND ALL GOOD, HONEST DOUGH!

THAT'S CHICKEN FEED! NOW WE'RE GOIN' AFTER REAL DOUGH! THERE'S TEN GRAND ON SAM AZARRA, AND HE'S HIDIN' RIGHT HERE IN TOWN! NOW HERE'S HOW WE'LL GRAB HIM...



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



NEXT DAY, WARY SAM AZARRA CAUTIOUSLY OPENS THE DOOR OF HIS APARTMENT...

WINDOW WASHER!

YOU'RE A NEW MAN, EH? AWRIGHT, COME IN---AND GET DONE WITH IT IN A HURRY!



THREE LITTLE PELLETS TUMBLE NOISELESSLY INTO THE WINDOW WASHER'S SCRUB-PAIL...

OUTSIDE THE CLOSED WINDOW, THE WASHER TOILS INDUSTRIOUSLY...

GO TO SLEEP,
MY BABY,
MY BA-A-ABY!
~ ~

THOSE SLEEPING
GAS TABLETS
ARE
BEGINNING
TO WORK!



S-O-O-SLEEPY...
CAN'T KEEP MY EYES OPEN...

THAT'S OKAY, BROTHER!
NOW YOU'RE READY FOR
DELIVERY---C.O.D.? YES,
SIR---THE D.A. WILL
SHELL OUT TEN GRAND
FOR YOU!



Rewards! Rewards! The golden harvest rolls in!

TEN GRAND! GEE BRAINY, I HATE TO THINK ABOUT THE YEARS WE WASTED IN THE PEN!

YEAH, BUT WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
WE'RE RUNNIN' OUT OF GUYS TO GRAB!

NO MORE GUYS TO GRAB? THE PEN IS FULL OF THEM! ALL WE GOTTA DO IS SPRING A GUY, WAIT FOR THE REWARD FOR HIS RECAPTURE, AND THEN HAND HIM BACK AGAIN! NOW LET'S SEE---THERE'S NICK ROSSI---

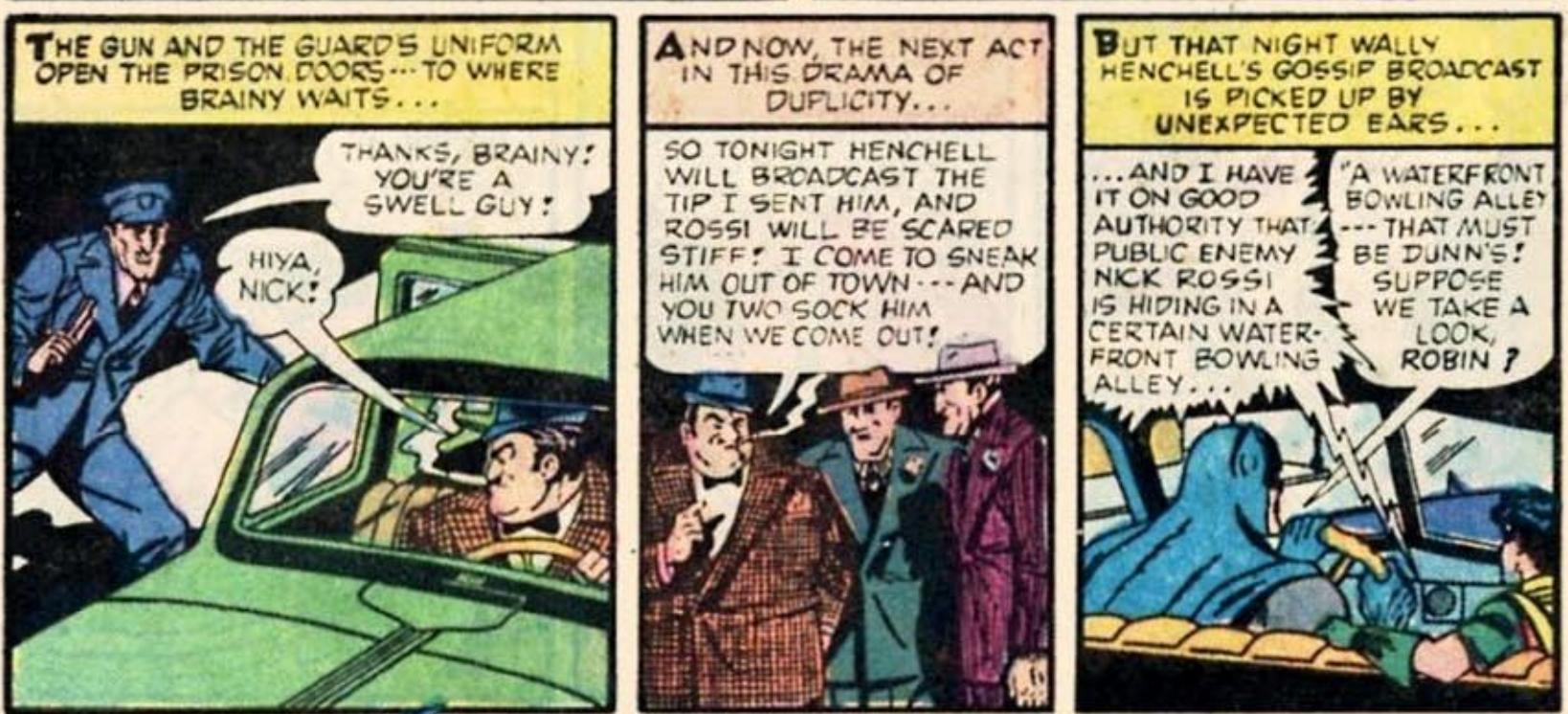


PRESENTLY, HALF A DOZEN GIFT RADIOS ARRIVE AT STATE PRISON---BUT THE ONE DESTINED FOR NICK ROSSI'S CELL PRODUCES MORE THAN MUSIC!

THINK OF FINDING YOU HERE! HEH HEH...YOU SURE LOOK MEAN, BABY!...HERE'S WHERE I GO INTO ACTION!



CRIME'S MANHUNT





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





CRIME'S MANHUNT



Rossi reaches the head of the stairs---to find the way to freedom blocked by a mere boy!



OUT OF THE WAY, KID!

ANYTHING TO OBLIGE, BUT...



...YOU'D BETTER TAKE A CUE FROM ME!

AND AT THAT MOMENT BRAINY'S WILD SHOUTING BRINGS A RESPONSE



A PERFECT CAROM SHOT, ROBIN! YOU'RE GETTING GOOD!

WANT TO KNOW MY SECRET? I STUDIED UNDER A MASTER!



YOU'LL GET HURT PLAYING ON THE STAIRS!



HEADS UP, PAL!

IN A FLASH THE PEERLESS PAIR HAVE THEIR MAN...ON THEIR WAY TO THE WAITING BATMOBILE...



TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ON THE HOOF WEIGHS PLENTY, EH, ROBIN?

LUCKY FOR US WE DIDN'T PICK UP A MILLION!

NEXT DAY, BRAINY'S BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN BUBBLE HAS BURST...

THE BATMAN MUSCLES IN ON OUR RACKET AND SWIPE OUR REWARD...AND THEN WHAT DOES HE DO WITH IT? TURNS IT OVER TO THE U.S.O.F.

THE DIRTY CHISELING CROOK! THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TRY TO GO STRAIGHT!

AND THEN COMES THE BOOMERANG!

EXTRA! \$1000 REWARD FOR BRAINY BULOW! READ NICK ROSSI'S CONFESSIONS

NICK SQUEALED! NOW EVERY RAT IN TOWN WILL BE READY TO TURN ME IN FOR THE REWARD!

HM---IT'S ONLY ONE GRAND! WE WOULDN'T...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



IN FAR MORE COMFORTABLE SURROUNDINGS THE SAME HEADLINES INTEREST BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

HMM...SO THERE'S A REWARD OUT FOR BRAINY FOR HELPING ROSSI BREAK JAIL! THAT'S ONE REWARD BRAINY WON'T GO AFTER!

BUT THE BATMAN WILL TURN IN CROOKS FOR THE REWARDS IS ONE THING... BUT ARRANGING JAIL-BREAKS IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER!

BRAINY WILL BE IN HIDING, SO WE'LL NEED BAIT TO BRING HIM OUT --- BAIT HE CAN'T RESIST! LET'S SEE NOW...

MAYBE SOME OF THESE ROGUES GALLERY VALENTINES WILL HELP YOU!

SO, IN A FEW DAYS, A NEW REWARD NOTICE IS CIRCULATED THROUGHOUT GOTHAM CITY...

\$25,000 REWARD
FOR THE CAPTURE OF
SOUPY McCUE
ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH
10th THIS VETERAN
CRACKSMAN AND EX-CON-
VICT BROKE INTO THE
SAFE OF THE GOTHAM
JEWELERS AND MADE
OFF WITH GEMS TO THE
VALUE OF MORE THAN
\$250,000. THE MISSING
GEMS ARE DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS:

THE FERRET EYES OF THE UN-
DERWORLD SPY THE START-
LING POSTERS...

TWENTY-
FIVE
GRAND?
AND NO
QUESTIONS
ASKED?
OH, BOY!

GEE,
I'D
TURN
MYSELF
IN FOR
THAT!

WHO
IS
THIS
SOUPY
McCUE?

25,000
REWARD
FOR
THE
CAPTURE
OF
SOUPY

YEAH, I KNOW WHERE
SOUPY McCUE IS HIDING!
I TAKE FOOD UP TO HIM
EVERY NIGHT! ---SLIP
ME A HUNDRED SMACKERS
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHERE
HE IS...

SURE, PAL! HAVE
ANOTHER COFFEE!
HOW ABOUT SOME
PIE? ...

HALF AN HOUR LATER...

IT WENT OFF LIKE CLOCKWORK!
FOR A COUNTERFEIT
HUNDRED-DOLLAR BILL AND
A HAMBURGER I GAVE
SLIM ALL
THE DOPE!

AND
TONIGHT
WE GO
TO
WORK!

AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT...

TWENTY-FIVE GRAND!
I CAN'T COLLECT IT, BUT
SLIM CAN! THEN WE
CAN BLOW THIS TOWN
AND START UP SOME-
WHERE ELSE---WITH NO PESKY
BATMAN TO MUSCLE
IN ON US!

IT'S A
CINCH,
BRAINY!



CRIME'S MANHUNT





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



DAZED THE BATMAN IS MOMENTARILY HELPLESS---AND THAT SPLIT SECOND IS ALL BRAINY NEEDS...

SO YOU TRIED TO GYP ME AGAIN, EH, BATMAN? BUT I'VE PUT A REWARD ON YOUR HEAD---AND THE NOTICE READS "DEAD OR ALIVE!"

LISTEN, BATMAN... LISTEN!

THE TRIGGER-FINGER TIGHTENS... BUT EVEN AS DEATH BLASTS FROM THE GUN THE BATMAN SPEEDS INTO ACTION...

ROLL, ROBIN---ROLL! BACK OF THE SETTEE!

SAFE AT FIRST, ANYWAY!

BUT THAT'S A LONG WAY FROM HOME!

A FEW SECONDS REPRIEVE---BUT THE BATMAN ASKS NO MORE...

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

THROUGH THAT BEDROOM DOOR! THIS GADGET OUGHT TO INTEREST OUR FRIEND BRAINY! HERE GOES!

ZING-Z-Z
ZING-Z-Z

HERE'S SOME SOLID THOUGHT FOR YOU, BRAINY!

CLUNK

SAFE IN THE BEDROOM! BUT A THIN WOODEN DOOR IS SLIGHT PROTECTION AGAINST LEAD SLUGS...

THIS GAME SURE IS TOUGH ON FURNITURE!

ONE DOOR IS SAFE---BUT IN FROM THE OTHER...

DON'T BLAME ME FOR THAT BATMAN--- IT'S THESE GENTS WHO BARGE IN WITHOUT KNOCKING!

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY MAGIC CARPET?

THAT'S TAKING OUT THE INTERFERENCE, ROBIN!

CONTINUED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING.

This fully Automatic ELECTRIC ADDING MACHINE INCLUDED when you train at home with us for a



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5 for 89¢



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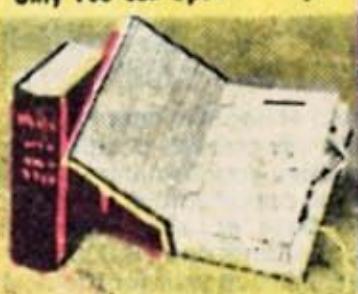
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With Combination Lock ONLY
Only You Can Open \$1.50



Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

No. 700

SILENT DOG WHISTLE

This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.

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TALL / AUTHENTIC
COLORS

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DARK EYES

\$1.00

ONLY

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solutely harmless.

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Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too good!

5 slices to a pack

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No. 137

25¢

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35 WILBUR ST., LYNBROOK, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days FREE TRIAL for full refund of purchase price.

We cannot accept orders totaling less than \$1.00.

NAME & NUMBER OF ITEM	HOW MANY	TOTAL PRICE

Please add 25¢ to total order for postage and handling.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED

For COD orders please send 50¢ good will deposit. Pay postman the balance on delivery plus COD and handling charges.

NAME

ADDRESS

ZIP

New York State residents add appropriate sales tax.

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Obeys Your Commands!
OVER 7 FEET TALL

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With Combination Lock ONLY
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Looks like any book to camouflage your valuables. Securely locked with your own private combination. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding.

No. 700



This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.

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FISTS AGAINST BULLETS, THE BATMAN LEADS THE WAY...



...AND WINS FAR MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN HE DARED HOPE!



SICK WITH CERTAINTY OF WHAT HE WILL SEE, THE HEART-BROKEN BATMAN STRIDES MECHANICALLY TO THE WINDOW...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



SWIFTLY THE BATMAN'S LIGHTNING BRAIN FORMULATES A DESPERATE PLAN...



ALL IN HAND BELOW, SIR!

GOOD BOY! NOW HANG ON!

A DEADLY HAIL RIDDLES THE BATMAN'S SABLE WINGS AS HE LEAPS INTO SPACE!



BUT DOOM HOVERS TENACIOUSLY ABOVE HIM...

ALL RIGHT, ROBIN... ALL SET?

SWING AWAY BATMAN! I GOT LOTS OF BULLETS!

I GET IT!

YOU WON'T HOLD STILL, EH? WELL, SUPPOSE I PICK OFF THE KID INSTEAD!

GO ON... YOU COULDN'T HIT THE SIDE OF A BARN!

THE DEADLY MUZZLE TURNS TO ROBIN'S BARELY MOVING FIGURE... BUT BRAINY MISSES THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THAT DESPERATE PINWHEEL---UNTIL---

SORRY BUT THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF!

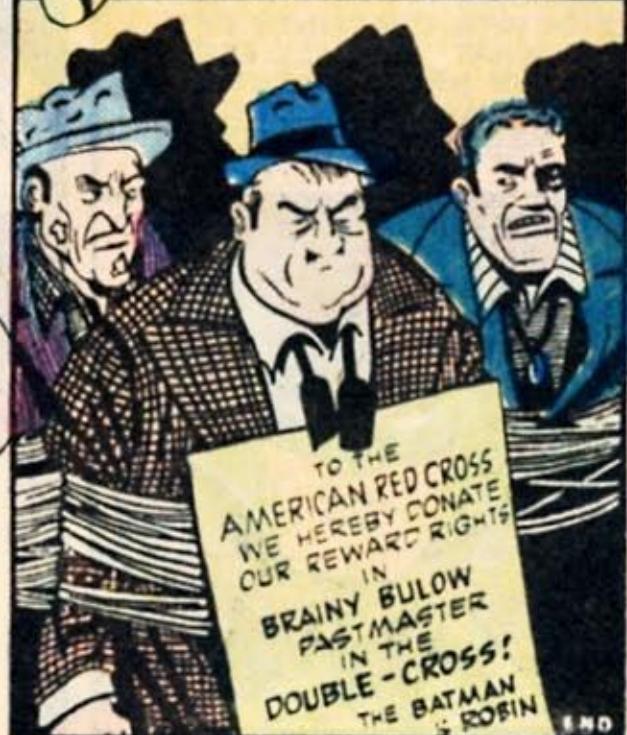
UGH!

AND SO WE REACH THE END OF THE SORDID RACKET TRAIL...

HELLO COMMISSIONER! WE HAVE THREE CUSTOMERS HERE WAITING FOR THE PATROL WAGON! AND THERE'S A LITTLE REWARD WE WANT TO DONATE TO---

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THE BATMAN
ROBIN



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by
Bob Rozakis



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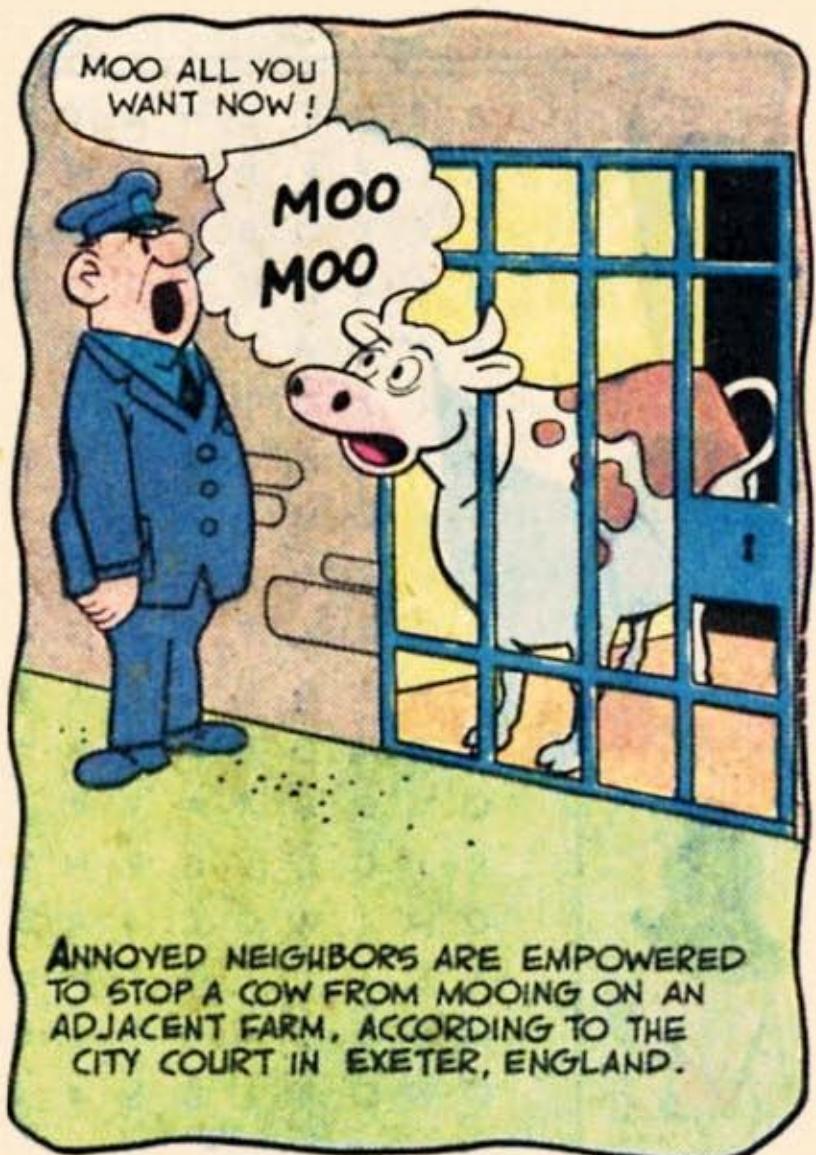


The names of the characters and equipment appearing in BATMAN are hidden in the puzzle above, along with the names of the writers, artists and editors who have brought you the adventures of the Dynamic Duo over the years. Can you find all the names listed below? Answer appears on page 89.

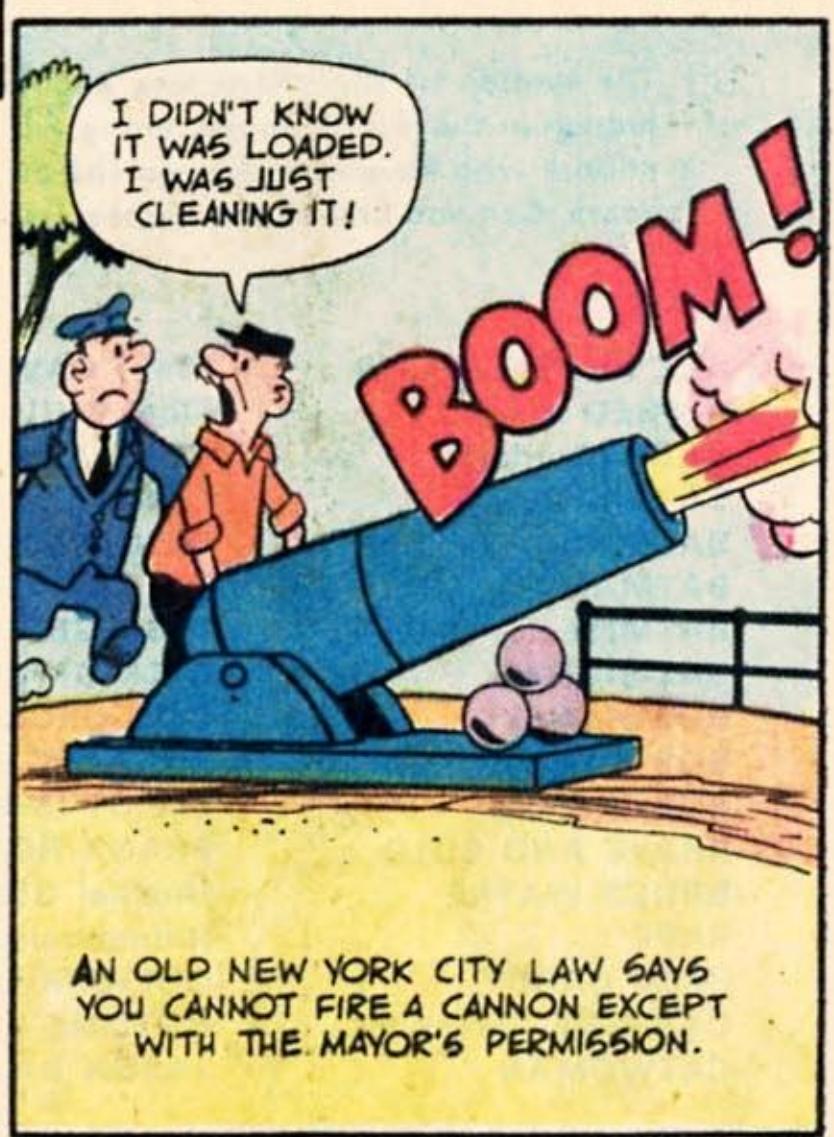
ACE (the Bat-Hound)	(Bat-) CAVE	JIM APARO
ALFRED	(Joe) CHILL	JLA
BABS (Gordon)	CLAYFACE	JOKER
BATARANG	COWL	JULIE (Schwartz)
BATGIRL	DENNY (O'Neil)	MAN-BAT
BATMAN	DETECTIVE (Comics)	MR. FREEZE
BATMITE	DICK GIORDANO	MURRAY BOLTINOFF
BAT-SIGNAL	DICK GRAYSON	NEAL (Adams)
BOB HANEY	DON HECK	PENGUIN
BOB KANE	DYNAMIC DUO	POISON IVY
BOB (Rozakis)	ELLIOT (Maggin)	RAS AL GHUL
BRAVE AND BOLD	FRANK ROBBINS	RIDDLER
BRUCE WAYNE	(Archie) GOODWIN	ROBIN
CAPE	(Commissioner) GORDON	SUPERMAN
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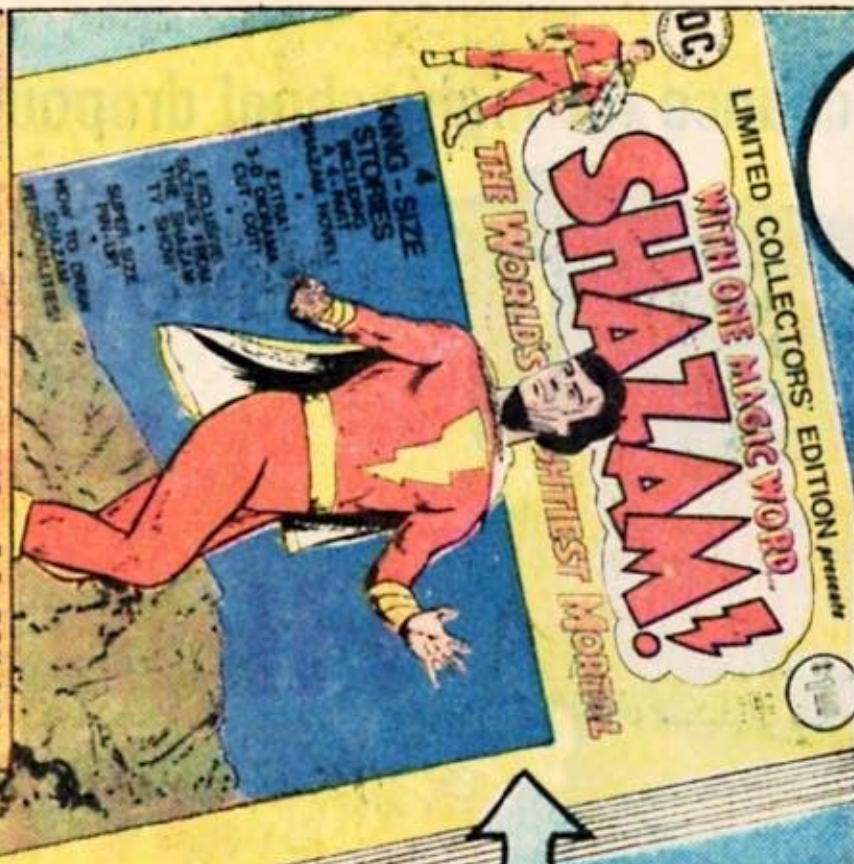
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I AM ONE OF THE BATMAN'S INVENTIONS... A SPY DEVICE CALLED THE FLYING EYE!

IN THIS TALE YOU'LL LEARN HOW I SPIED ON CRIMINALS... AND FOUND THEY HAD STOLEN ONE OF THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTER'S WEAPONS!

BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THE WHOLE WORLD KNOWS OF THE DETECTIVE SKILL OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, BUT LESS WELL KNOWN IS THE SCIENTIFIC GENIUS OF THE DYNAMIC DUO! THAT'S BECAUSE THEY HAVE GUARDED THE SECRET OF THE MANY ASTONISHING INVENTIONS THEY HAVE DEVISED IN THEIR WAR AGAINST LAWBREAKERS!

BUT NOW, TO THEIR DISMAY, THERE LOOMS OVER GOTHAM CITY A MYSTERIOUS MENACE THAT COMES FROM...

The 1,001. **INVENTIONS** of **BATMAN**

ART: DICK SPRANG

OVER GOTHAM CITY, BY NIGHT, MOVES A SILENT, SELF-POWERED LITTLE MACHINE...



... THAT FINALLY HOVERS OUTSIDE AN OPEN, HIGH WINDOW--AS THOUGH WATCHING AND LISTENING!

YEAH... THE BOSS IS GONNA LEAD US IN A BIG ROBBERY, USING ONE OF BATMAN'S OWN INVENTIONS!

HA, HA,
IF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ONLY KNEW ABOUT IT!

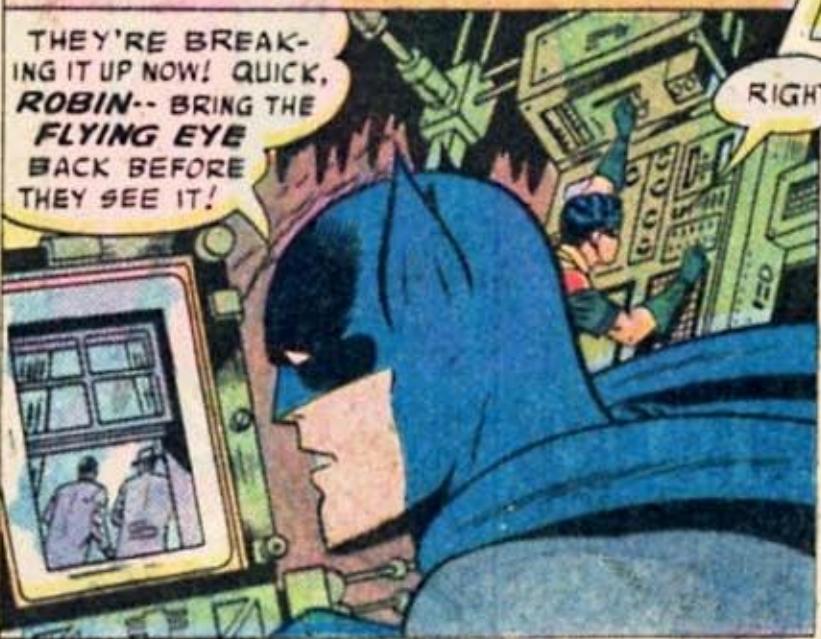


BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



BUT THEY DO KNOW ABOUT IT--FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN THE SECRET BAT-CAVE...

THEY'RE BREAKING IT UP NOW! QUICK, ROBIN--BRING THE FLYING EYE BACK BEFORE THEY SEE IT!



WITHIN MINUTES, AS THE BOY WONDER SKILLFULLY OPERATES A REMOTE-CONTROL PANEL...

HERE IT COMES! THROUGH ITS TELEVISOR LENS AND MICROPHONES, WE SAW AND HEARD PLENTY!

YES--WITHOUT THEIR REALIZING IT! BUT WHAT INVENTION OF OURS IS SOMEONE PLANNING TO USE FOR ROBBERY?



THE WORRIED DUO INSPECT ITS SCIENTIFIC SECRETS IN THE BAT-CAVE TROPHY HALL...

ALL THESE THINGS, LIKE THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED FLYING EYE WE JUST USED, CAN COME IN HANDY...BUT IN THE HANDS OF THIEVES, THEY'D BE DANGEROUS!

YET, NOT ONE OF THEM HAS BEEN STOLEN... THEY'RE ALL HERE!

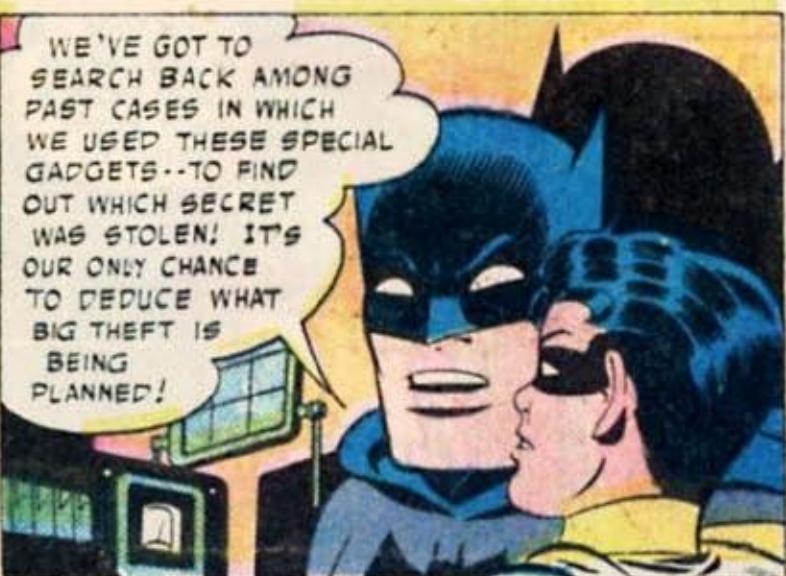
YES...BUT MAYBE THE SECRET OF ONE WAS STOLEN, WHEN WE USED IT IN THE PAST!

THAT COULD BE--
BUT WHICH ONE?



SOME THINGS, LIKE THIS HUMAN JET-POWER UNIT, COULDN'T HAVE BEEN STOLEN, BECAUSE WE NEVER LET ANYONE ELSE TOUCH THEM!

STILL, WE'D BETTER CHECK BACK ON ALL OF THEM! THAT JET-POWER UNIT WAS INVENTED FOR A SPECIAL NEED--





1,001 INVENTIONS OF BATMAN



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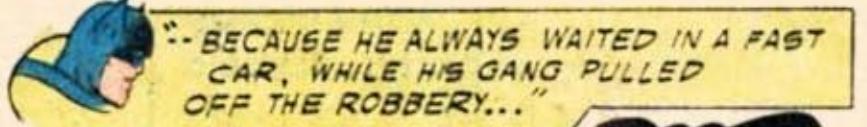
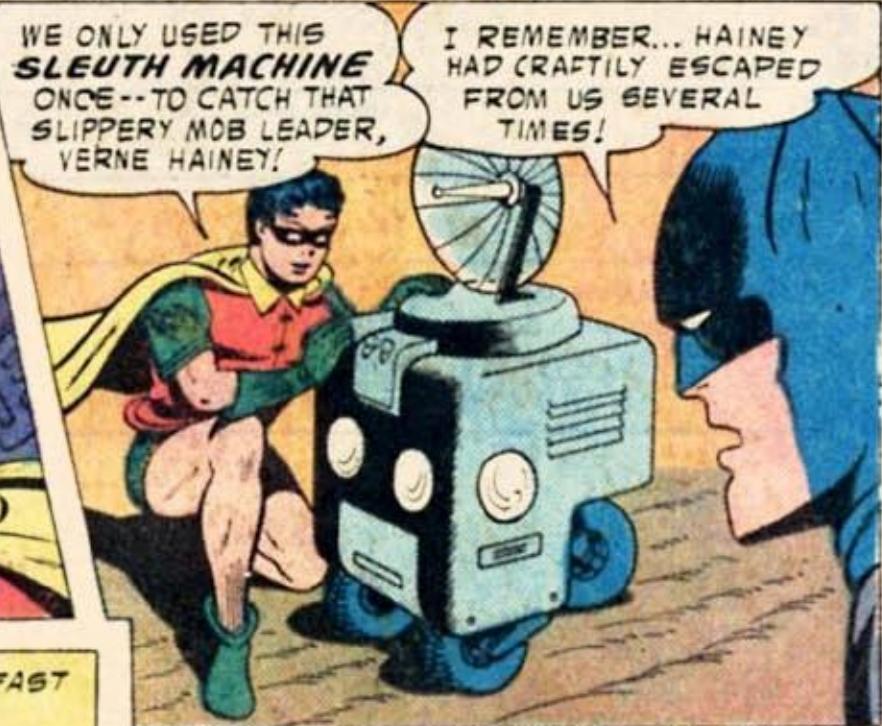
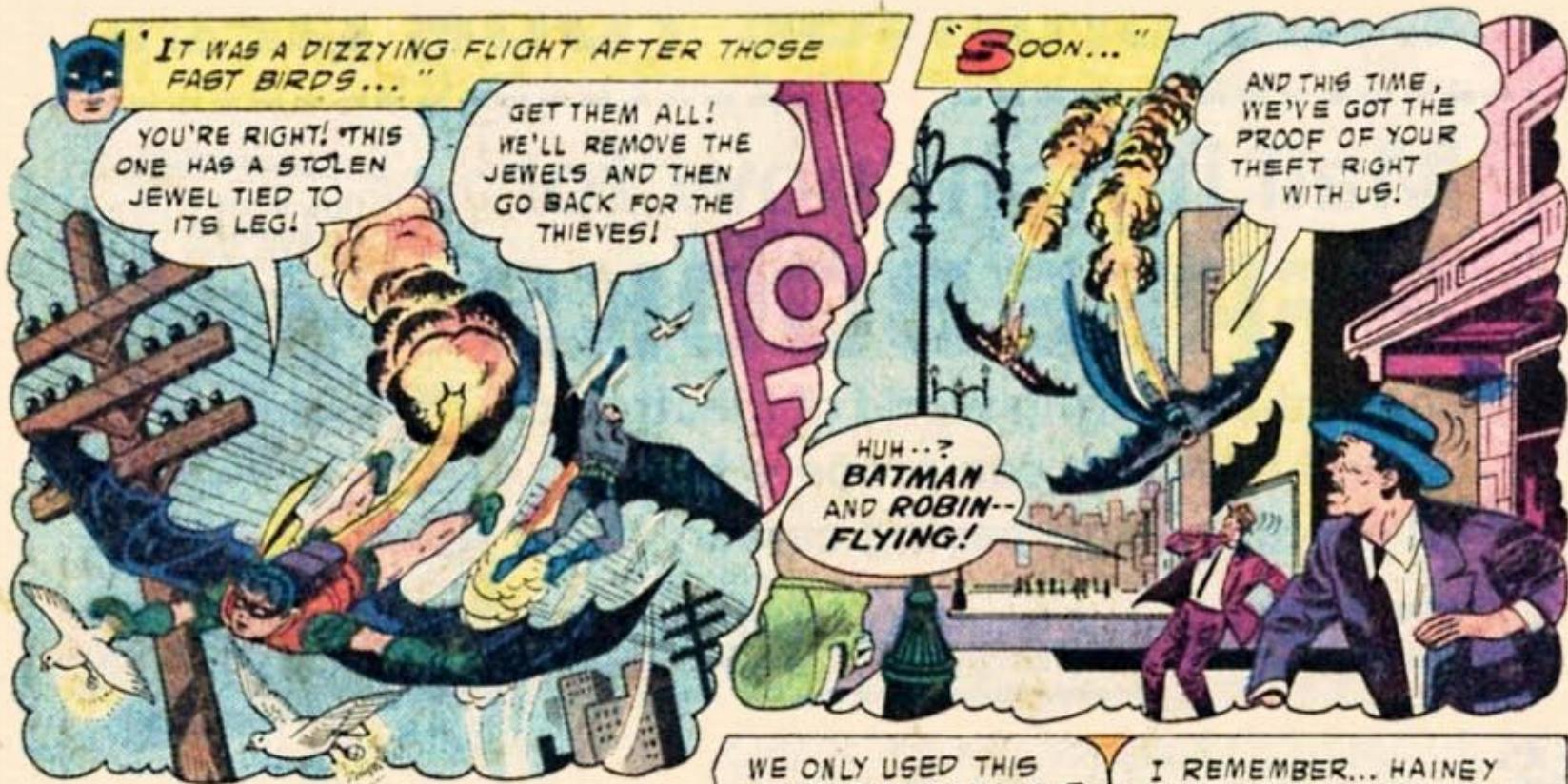
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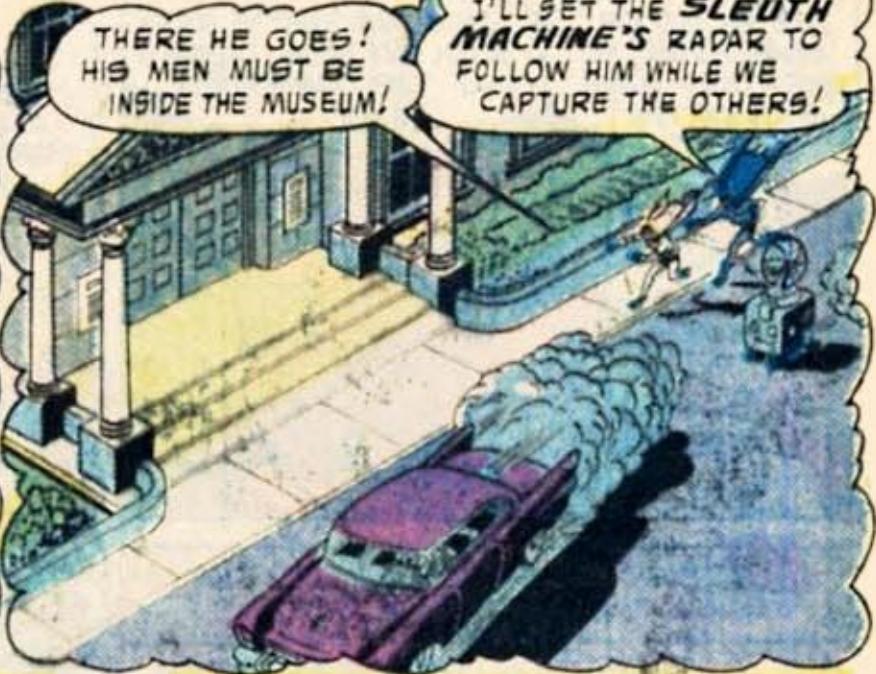
"AGAIN, WE WORKED AT TOP SPEED..."

IT'S RADAR, WHEN LOCKED ONTO ANY OBJECT, WILL MAKE THE MACHINE AUTOMATICALLY FOLLOW THAT OBJECT, WHILE EMITTING RADIO-SIGNALS CONSTANTLY!

WHICH WE CAN PICK UP ON OUR BELT-RADOS! FINE... WE'LL TAKE IT ON PATROL WITH US!

"AND SO THE NEXT TIME HAINY MASTER-MINDED A RAID..."

I'LL SET THE SLEUTH MACHINE'S RADAR TO FOLLOW HIM WHILE WE CAPTURE THE OTHERS!



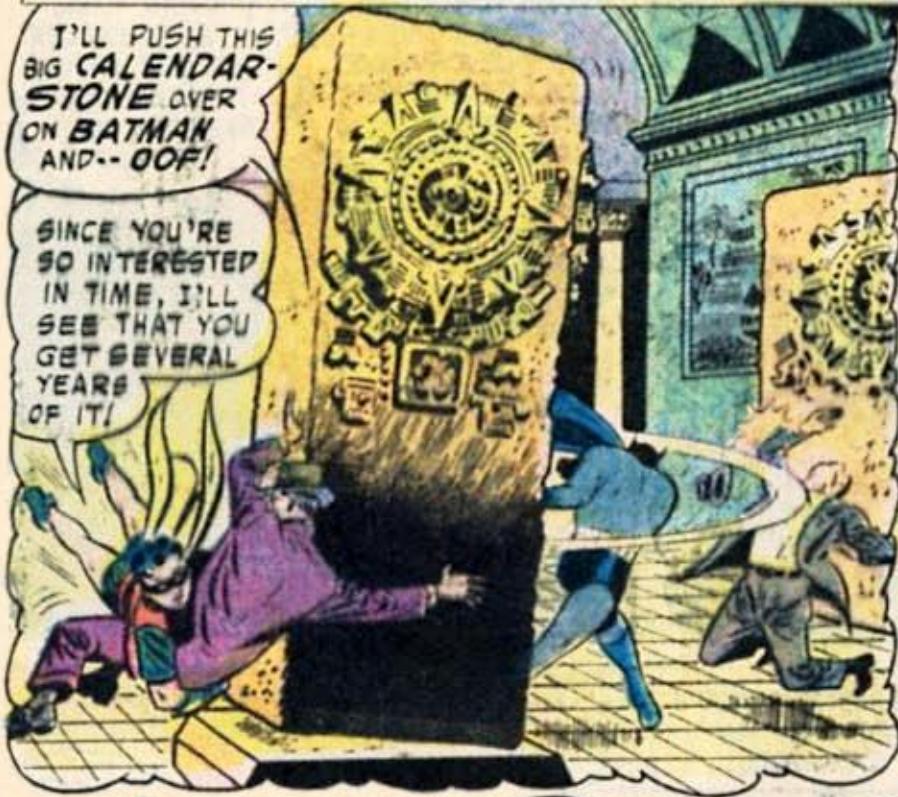
"MINUTES LATER, WHERE THE GANG WAS TRYING TO STEAL SOME ANCIENT GOLD RELICS..."

I'LL PUSH THIS BIG CALENDAR-STONE OVER ON BATMAN AND-- OOF!

SINCE YOU'RE SO INTERESTED IN TIME, I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET SEVERAL YEARS OF IT!

"AND WHILE WE ROUNDED THEM UP, OUR MECHANICAL PARTNER WAS TRAILING THEIR LEADER..."

EVEN IF BATMAN NABS THEM ALL, HE'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHERE I... HUH--? WHAT'S THAT FOLLOWING ME?



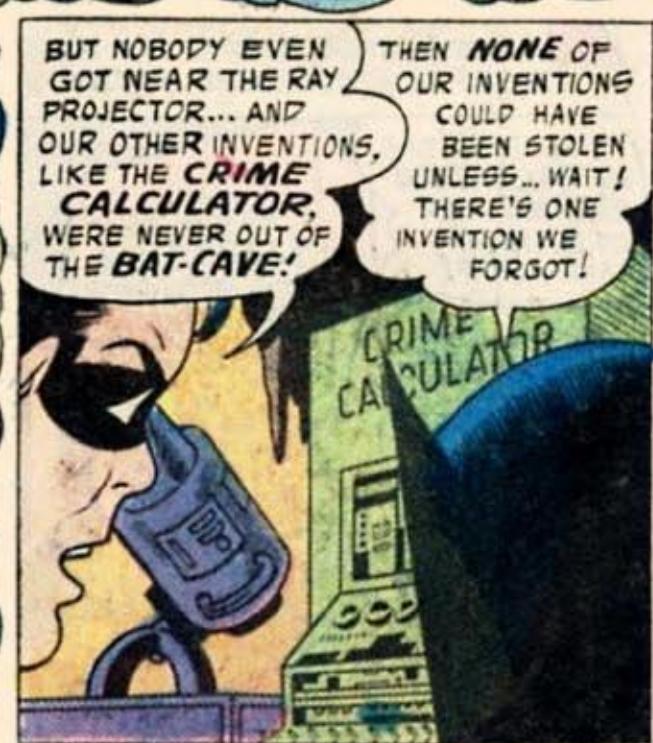
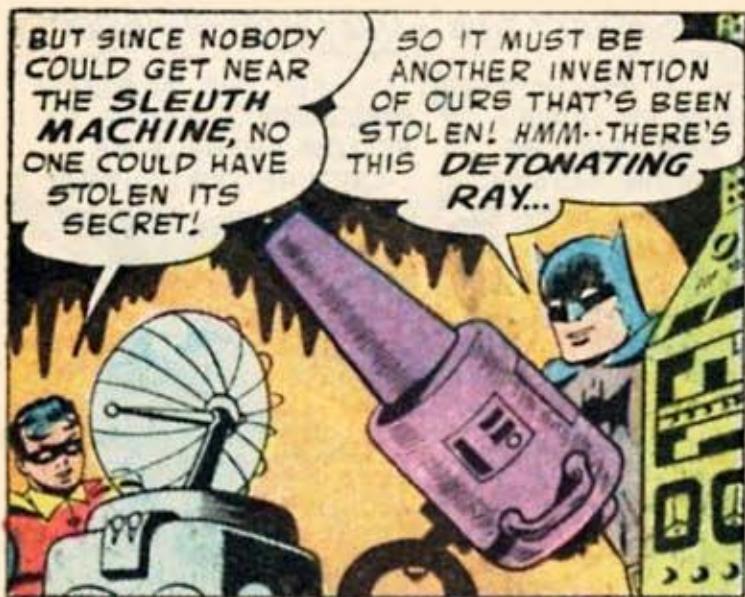
"BUT WE HAD EVEN PROVIDED FOR THAT POSSIBILITY..."

I PUFF CAN'T GET NEAR IT! ITS PHOTO-ELECTRIC BEAMS OPERATE TO MOVE IT AWAY WHEN I COME CLOSE! AND THERE'S BATMAN... THE RADIO-SIGNALS BROUGHT HIM RIGHT HERE!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





1,001 INVENTIONS OF BATMAN





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



INDEED, THAT VERY SAME NIGHT...

SEE?... MY **FLYING EYE** HAS LOCATED THE TRUCK! YOU CAN AMBUSH IT EASILY!

AS SOON AS WE SEE JUST WHICH WAY IT'S COMING, WE'LL START!



BUT OTHER EYES ARE ON THE GOLD-LADEN TRUCK, TOO...

THERE'S THE CROOKS' **FLYING EYE**! SINCE WE'RE ABOVE IT, WE CAN'T BE SEEN!

NOW'S THE TIME TO CARRY OUT OUR PLAN... BUT REMEMBER, DON'T GET IN FRONT OF ITS LENS--OR MATHIS WILL SEE US!



USING THEIR HUMAN JET-POWER UNITS, THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTERS ATTACK THEIR OWN STOLEN CREATION...



HUH--? YOUR **FLYING EYE** WENT DARK, ALL OF A SUDDEN!

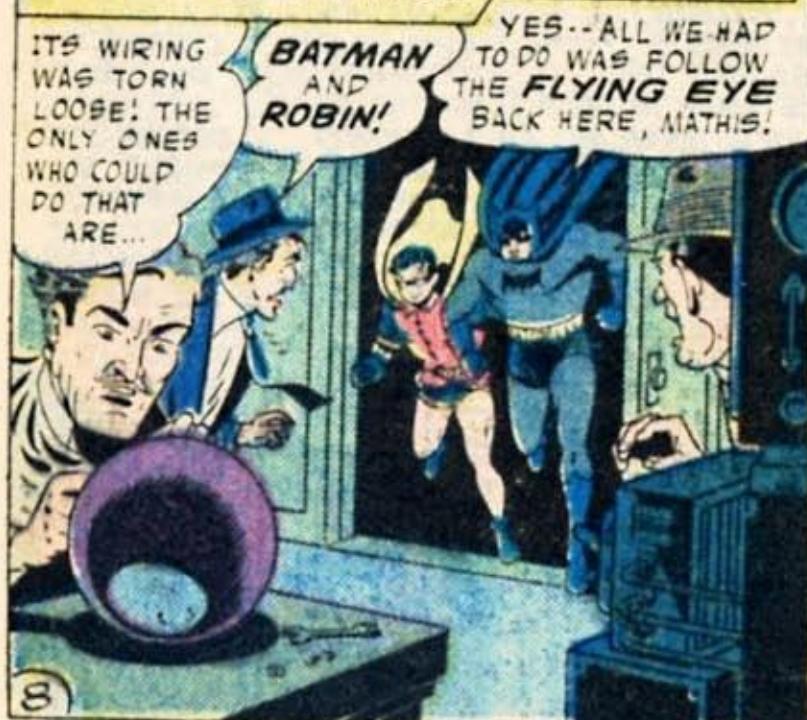
SOME MINOR FAILURE OF THE TELEVISION CAMERA! I'LL BRING THE **EYE** BACK AT ONCE AND REPAIR IT SO WE CAN KEEP TRAILING THAT TRUCK!

BUT AWHILE LATER, AS THE SCIENTIST MAKES REPAIRS...

IT'S WIRING WAS TORN LOOSE! THE ONLY ONES WHO COULD DO THAT ARE...

BATMAN AND **ROBIN**!

YES--ALL WE HAD TO DO WAS FOLLOW THE **FLYING EYE** BACK HERE, MATHIS!



AND SO, AFTER JAILING THE CRIMINALS...

WITH MATHIS' COPY OF THE **EYE**, AND THE X-RAY FILM HE TOOK OF IT, THE SECRET IS SAFE AGAIN!

I ONLY WISH WE COULD INVENT A WAY TO MAKE SUCH THIEVES REALIZE THEY CAN'T WIN! THAT WOULD BE A **REAL** INVENTION!



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ALFRED PENNYWORTH HERE! AS BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER, I KNOW ALL ABOUT HIS PRIVATE LIFE! I AM NOT GENERALLY ONE TO TELL WHAT I SEE AND HEAR, BUT IF YOU'LL PROMISE TO KEEP IT ALL SECRET, I'LL REVEAL THE FACTS ABOUT...

THE WOMEN

"JULIE MADISON WAS MASTER BRUCE'S FIANCÉE FOR A WHILE. BEFORE MY TIME, THOUGH..."



"WHEN I ENTERED MR. WAYNE'S SERVICE, HE WAS GOING WITH LINDA PAGE, A SOCIETY GIRL WHO CHUCKED THE SOCIAL WHIRL TO BECOME A NURSE. THAT IS SHE IN THE CHAIR... BUT UNKNOWN TO HER, THE BEAUTICIAN IS REALLY..."



"...SELINA KYLE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE CATWOMAN... A CRIMINAL WHO HAS EYES FOR THE BATMAN!..."



"THE NEAREST MASTER BRUCE CAME TO HAVING HIS OWN 'LOIS LANE' WAS VICKI VALE, NEWS PHOTOGRAPHER, WHO SUSPECTED HIS SECRET IDENTITY..."



"AND LET US NOT FORGET KATHY KANE, WHO FOR SEVERAL YEARS PURSUED A CRIME-FIGHTING CAREER... AND THE MASTER... AS THE BATWOMAN..."



"PATRICIA POWELL, A POLICEWOMAN, HAD A CRUSH ON MR. WAYNE. NOTHING CAME OF IT, HOWEVER..."



"WHEN VIRGINIA JENKINS WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL, THE PROPHECY SHOWN HERE WAS MADE IN THE YEARBOOK. HAPPILY, IT WAS NOT FULFILLED..."



IN THE BATMAN'S LIFE

"POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS A DAUGHTER, BARBARA. SHE IS ONE YOUNG WOMAN WHO HAS NO ROMANTIC NOTIONS ABOUT THE BATMAN. SHE IS A CONGRESS-WOMAN AT PRESENT..."



"I SOMETIMES WONDER, THOUGH, WHETHER SHE MIGHT BE BATGIRL. SILLY OF ME, I SUPPOSE. STILL..."



"POISON IVY WAS ANOTHER BEWITCHING BEAUTY WHO GAVE THE MASTER A BAD TIME WITH HER CRIMINAL HI-JINKS..."



"AND THERE WAS KAYE DAYE, A PROFESSIONAL ACQUAINTANCE, SO TO SPEAK. SHE AND THE BATMAN BOTH BELONG TO THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY..."



"OF COURSE, MOST IMPORTANT IN HIS LIFE WAS HIS MOTHER, MARTHA WAYNE, WHO WAS KILLED WHEN HE WAS A CHILD..."



"NEXT TO HER CAME MRS. CHILTON, HIS UNCLE'S HOUSEKEEPER. SHE REALLY RAISED THE LAD..."



BUT, DEAR ME! MY TIME IS UP AND I HAVE YET TO MENTION AUNT HARRIET AND TALIA AND SO MANY OTHERS...



...BUT IF I KNOW MR. WAYNE, HE'S OUT WITH A NEW FEMALE ACQUAINTANCE RIGHT NOW! THAT PLAYBOY LIFE ISN'T ALL JUST PRETENSE!

YOU ALL KNOW ME... SANTA CLAUS,
THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS! AND
THAT SPIRIT IS ALSO ONE OF
THE BATMAN'S WEAPONS...

...BECAUSE WHILE OTHER WEAPONS CAN
CONQUER WRONG-DOERS, ONLY THE IDEALS
OF PEACE ON EARTH AND GOOD WILL TO
MEN CAN CHANGE THEM SO THEY'LL DO
GOOD!

BATMAN AND ROBIN

By
BOB
KANE

ANY RESEMBLANCE
BETWEEN THIS ADVENTURE
AND DICKEN'S BELOVED
MASTERPIECE, "A CHRISTMAS CAROL",
IS STRICTLY INTENTIONAL... FOR THE GREAT
ENGLISH NOVELIST WROTE OF THE SPIRIT OF
BROTHERHOOD THAT STIRS ANEW IN THE WORLD
WHEN THE MYSTICAL STAR OF THE WISE MEN
SHINES AT YULETIDE--AND THAT IS THE GUIDING
BEACON OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN
AS THEY FARE FORTH ONCE MORE AGAINST
EVIL AND INJUSTICE, TO TELL AN OLD
STORY IN A STARTLING NEW WAY--

"A Christmas
Peril!"

ART BY:
JERRY ROBINSON

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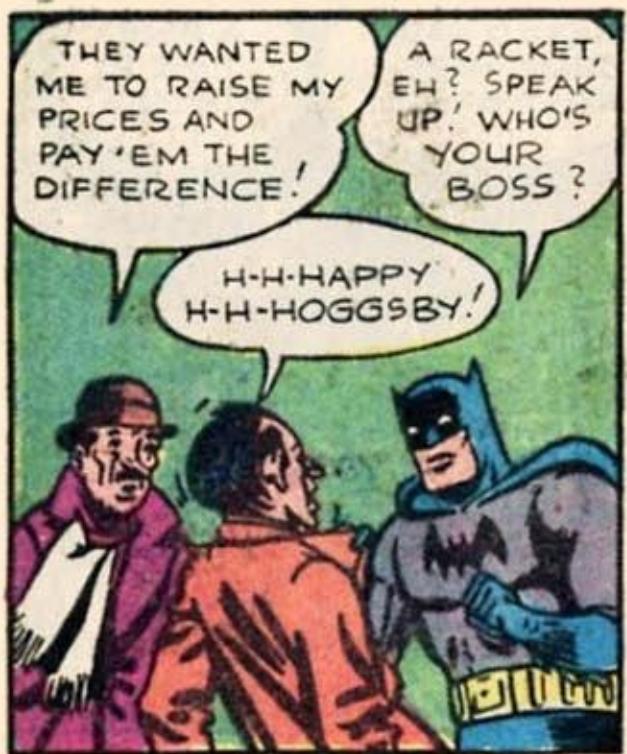


A CHRISTMAS PERIL





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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"Every successful bodybuilder has got to use the most advanced bodybuilding methods available. UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING offers the best! Using UNIVERSAL methods, I have made excellent gains!"

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WILL BEGIN
TO GROW!

BEFORE

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NOT FOR THE
SUPER
BODYBUILDING SYSTEM!

**BE BETTER THAN THE BEST,
BE DYNAMIC!**

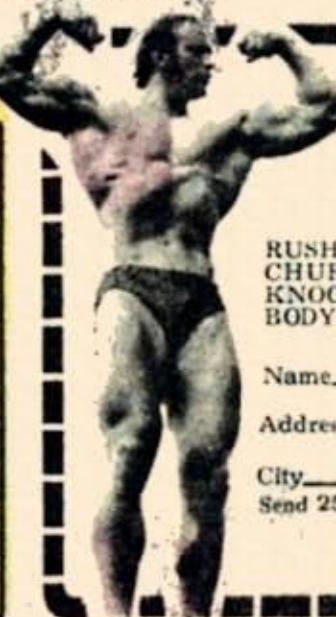
MOST MEN NEVER REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL FOR MUSCULARITY. Why? Probably because they've never come across or taken advantage of a training program quite like the one we offer here at UNIVERSAL BODYBUILDING. Our course has the ULTIMATE MASTERPLAN for TOTAL BODY DEVELOPMENT!

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A CHRISTMAS PERIL





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





A CHRISTMAS PERIL





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



CONTINUED ON 35TH PAGE FOLLOWING

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to readers of this magazine

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(Set in Genuine Silver Ring)

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ZOLATRON is completely different from phony-looking plastic stones glued into cheap jewelry. Prove the big difference yourself with this tough, daring test: (1) Drop this dense, man-made stone into a cup of acetone nail polish remover. Don't worry! Simply rinse it off and it's as good as new! (2) Examine the polished and precision-cut facets—how dramatically they shimmer—even in moonlight! (3) Inspect it carefully under a hi-power, illuminated magnifier. Not a bubble, crack, or carbon speck!

Yes! We challenge you to compare ZOLATRONS with costly African diamonds. Not one diamond out of a hundred, extracted from the fabulous Kimberley Mines, can beat it for color, clarity, or flawless perfection! That's why even an expert might confuse it for a regular diamond!



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MILLIONAIRES ALSO WEAR SIMULATIONS!

Many wealthy persons wear simulated diamonds, but keep



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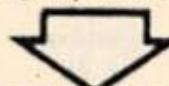
the secret to themselves. Those "genuine" diamonds your friends are wearing may not be "genuine" after all! ZOLATRONS are so unbelievably real looking—they may even fool certain experts at times! That's why so many rich people, actors and actresses wear simulations. They impress fans and friends and avoid risk of burglary or loss. Of course, rich people do own costly African diamonds. But many keep them locked up in bank vaults!

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A CHRISTMAS PERIL



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



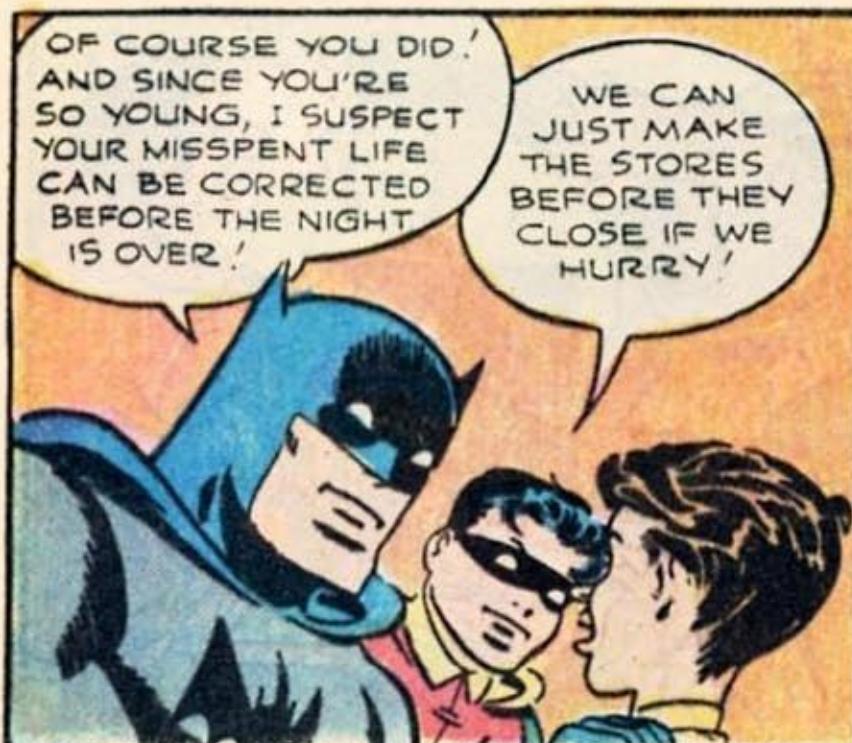
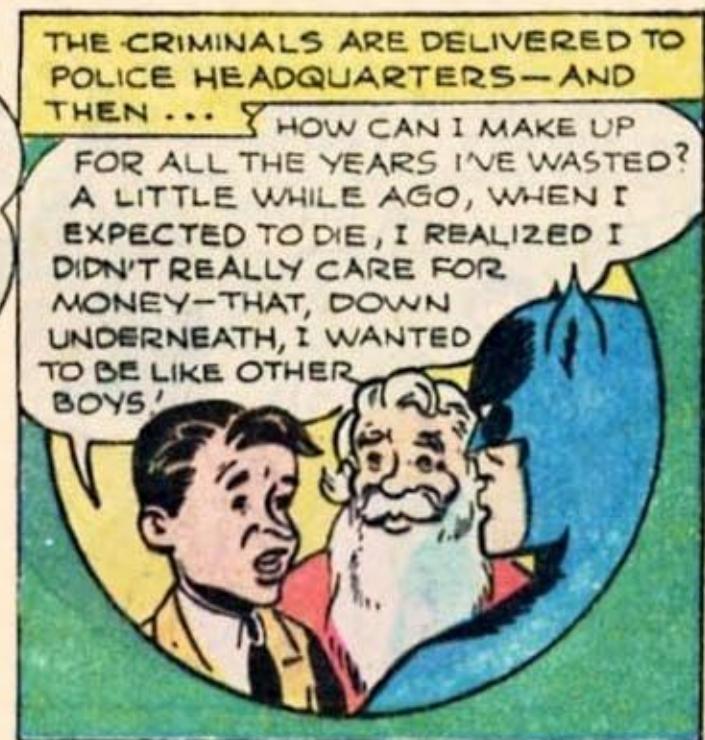
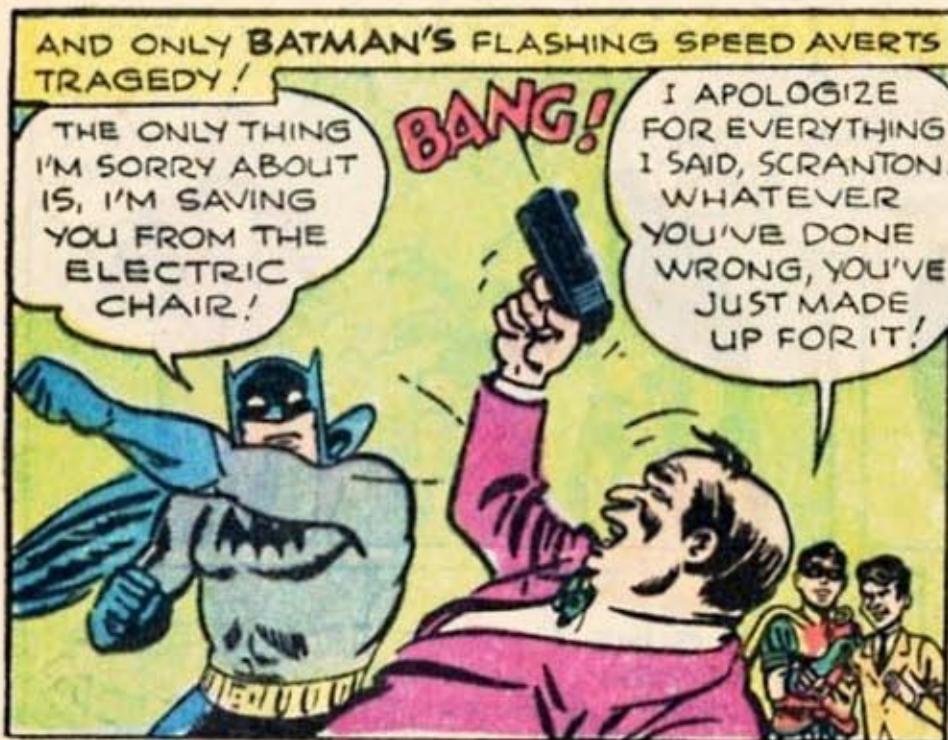


A CHRISTMAS PERIL





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





A CHRISTMAS PERIL



AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES ANNOUNCE THE BIRTH OF CHRISTMAS DAY...

JINGLE BELLS!
JINGLE BELLS!...



BONG BONG

WAIT FOR ME!

LESS NOISE! THEY'LL HEAR US!

TAKE IT EASY, UNCLE TIM!

AS IF BY A MIRACLE, A DREARY SLUM DWELLING IS TRANSFORMED INTO A PLACE OF JOY!

WHY DIDN'T ANYBODY EVER TELL ME IT WAS FUN DOING THINGS FOR OTHERS?

GEE, WE WERE AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T FIND US THIS YEAR, SANTA!

BLESS YOU!

LATER, IN THE HOSPITAL, WHERE FAMOUS DOCTORS HAVE LED JOE MEEKER OUT OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH...

YOU'RE GOING TO GET WELL, JOE - AND SANTA CLAUS HAS BOUGHT US A NEW AND BETTER STORE!

DON'T BE ASHAMED OF BAWLING... I FEEL LIKE IT MYSELF!

IT'S THE HAPPIEST CHRISTMAS WE'VE EVER HAD, AFTER ALL!

AND THE LORING MANSION IS NO LONGER GLOOMY.

WE DIDN'T SAVE A SINGLE PRESENT FOR SCRANTON!

WHY, I'VE JUST BEEN GIVEN THE FINEST PRESENT ON EARTH - SOMETHING ALL MY FORTUNE COULDN'T BUY!

I'VE LEARNED THE SECRET OF REAL HAPPINESS! I'M GOING TO DEVOTE MY TIME AND MONEY TO SPREADING CHEER THE YEAR 'ROUND -- AND I ONLY WISH EVERYONE COULD KNOW HOW MUCH FUN I'M GOING TO HAVE!

LET'S TELL THE WORLD ABOUT IT - SHALL WE?

GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL FROM UNCLE TIM!

AND FROM YOUNG SCROOGE LORING — WHO WON'T BE KNOWN BY THAT NAME ANY LONGER!

AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS, EVERYBODY, FROM BATMAN -

AND ROBIN!

The End

12

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WRITE RIGHT NOW!

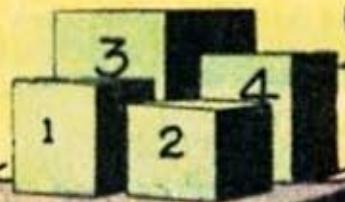
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WE ARE FOUR WEAPONS,
DEvised FOR THE
BATMAN'S USE...

...BY HIS ADMIRERS! EACH
OF US WAS TO BE TRIED OUT...

...BUT ONLY ONE WOULD BE ACCEPTED
BY THE MASKED MANHUNTER!

WHAT WE ARE, AND WHICH OF US WON,
YOU'LL FIND IN THE FOLLOWING
ADVENTURE!



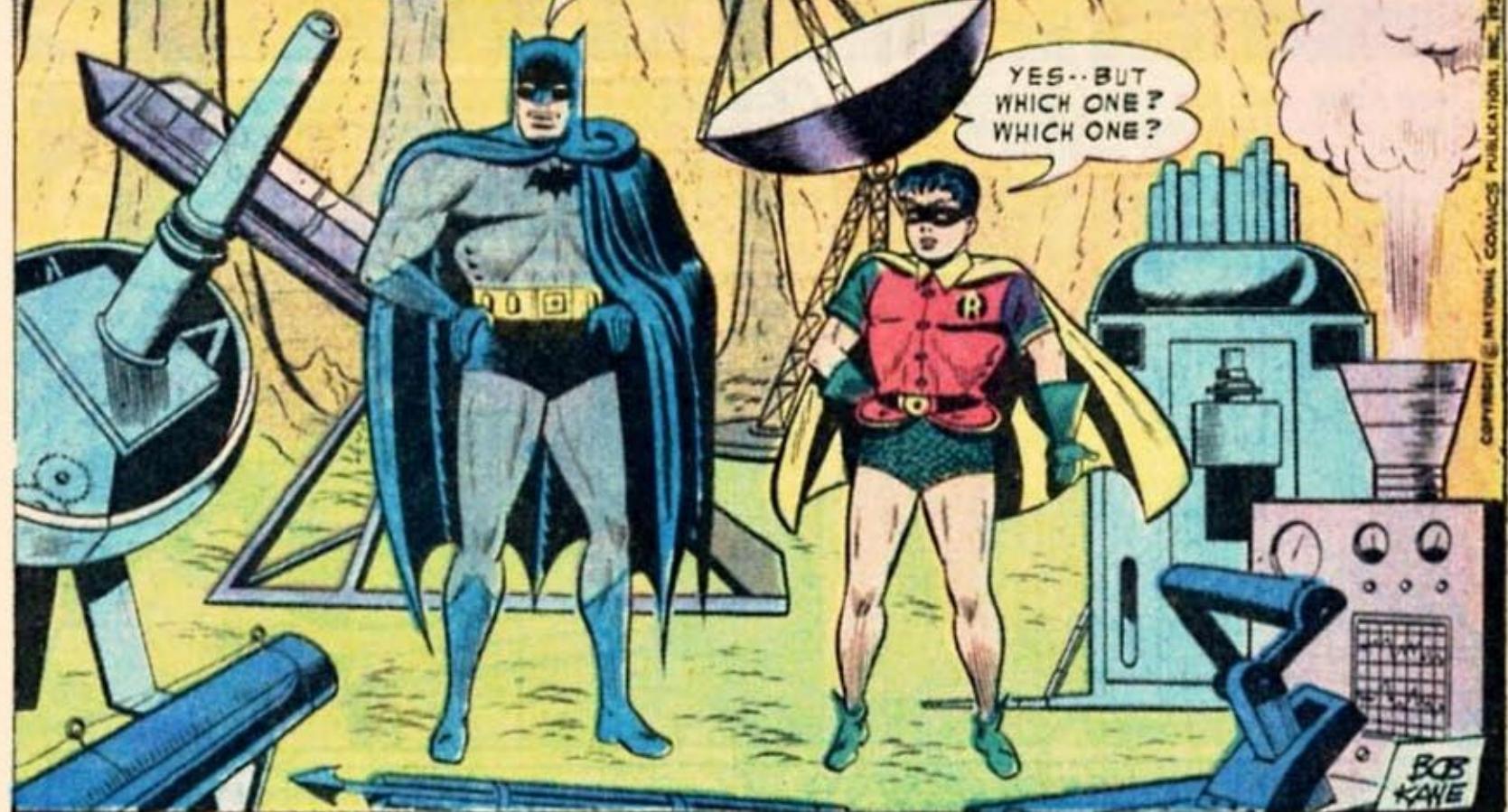
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

ROBIN, SOMEWHERE IN
THIS CAVE IS AN INVENTION
THAT WILL BECOME A GREAT
WEAPON IN OUR FIGHT
AGAINST CRIME!

THE SILKEN LASSO, THE UTILITY BELT, THE BATARANG,
THE BATPLANE, THE BATMOBILE -- EVERYONE HAS
SEEN BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER.
USE THESE AMAZING TOOLS TO FIGHT CRIME!
BUT SUDDENLY, A UNIQUE, NEW "BAT-
WEAPON" MAKES ITS APPEARANCE! WHAT
IS THIS NEW INVENTION? HOW IS IT
USED? ALL THESE QUESTIONS ARE
ANSWERED WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO
UNVEILS THE AMAZING WINNER IN...

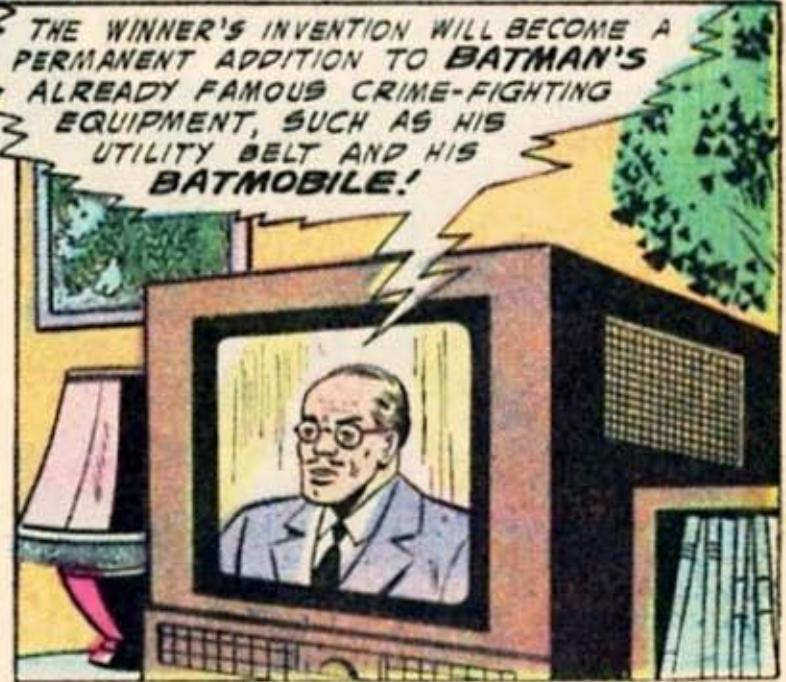
THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST



EXCITING NEWS IS REPORTED IN A NATION-WIDE TELECAST ONE EVENING...

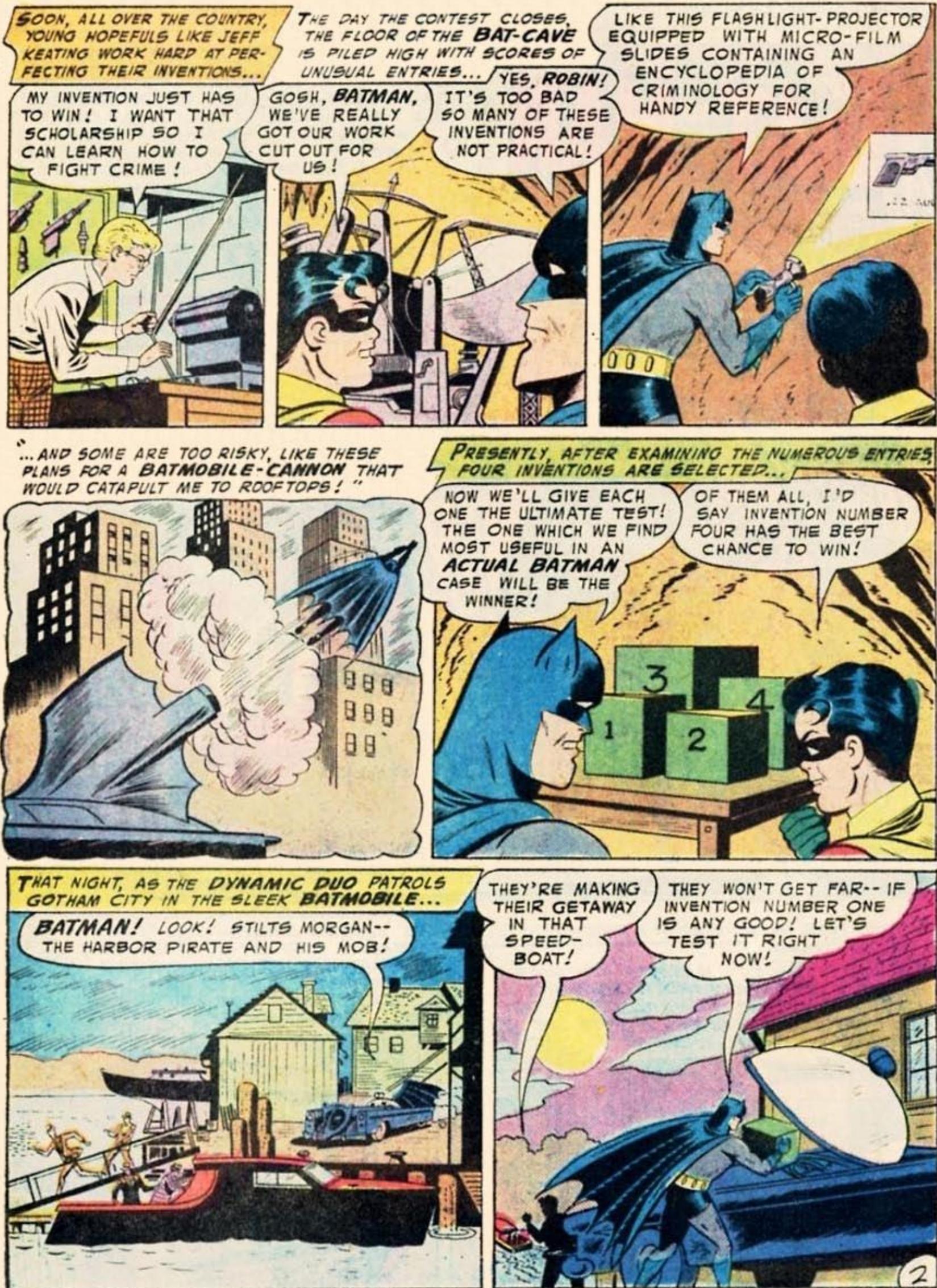
TODAY, IN GOTHAM CITY, BATMAN ANNOUNCED HE'D AWARD A BATMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR A FOUR-YEAR COURSE IN CRIMINOLOGY TO THE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WHO INVENTS THE BEST NEW "BAT-WEAPON"!

THE WINNER'S INVENTION WILL BECOME A PERMANENT ADDITION TO BATMAN'S ALREADY FAMOUS CRIME-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS HIS UTILITY BELT AND HIS BATMOBILE!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST



INVENTION NUMBER ONE--AN INSTANTLY INFLATABLE WATER-CRAFT MADE OF CLEAR PLASTIC...

ACCORDING TO THE INVENTOR, THESE COMPRESSED AIR CYLINDERS IN THE STERN WILL PROPEL IT FORWARD LIKE A JET! LET'S SEE IF IT DOES!

A SPLIT SECOND LATER, WITH A RUSH OF RELEASED COMPRESSED AIR, THE PLASTIC BOAT PARTS FORWARD...



MINUTES PASS AS THE FANTASTIC CRAFT PURSUDES THE SPEEDBOAT, WHEN SUDDENLY...

WE'RE OUT OF FUEL! THE TROUBLE WITH THIS "BOAT" IS THAT IT CAN ONLY RUN FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

AND SO, INVENTION NUMBER ONE IS REJECTED, AS BATMAN USES A TIME-TESTED BAT-WEAPON AGAINST CRIME-- HIS RELIABLE BELT-RADIO...

BATMAN CALLING HARBOR PATROL! HAVE SPOTTED STILTS MORGAN MOB! WILL GIVE LOCATION...

LATER, WHEN THE HARBOR POLICE CONTACT THE DYNAMIC DUO...

WE ARRESTED MORGAN'S MOB, BUT MORGAN GAVE US THE SLIP!

WE JUST GOT WORD HE'S HIDING OUT IN THE LIGHTHOUSE!



SOON AFTER, AT THE LIGHTHOUSE, WHERE THE DEFIANT MOBSTER HAS BARRICADED HIMSELF IN THE WATCHTOWER...

I GOT THE DOORS BARRED FROM THE INSIDE! IF ANYONE TRIES TO BREAK IN, HE'S GONNA GET BLASTED!

I HAD A HUNCH THIS WOULD HAPPEN! THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT ALONG INVENTION NUMBER TWO--SUCTION SHOES FOR WALKING UP THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



MOMENTS LATER, LIKE A HUMAN FLY,
BATMAN MOVES SLOWLY BUT
SURELY UP THE SLICK SURFACE
OF THE LIGHTHOUSE...



THEN, AS THUNDER RUMBLES...

IT'S STARTING TO RAIN! WELL... JUST A SHORT WAY TO GO NOW! IT LOOKS AS IF INVENTION NUMBER TWO MAY BE THE WINNER!

SUDDENLY, AS BATMAN TRIES TO WRENCH ONE FOOT FREE TO TAKE ANOTHER STEP, HE REALIZES HE CANNOT MOVE...

IT'S BECAUSE OF THE RAIN! THE FILM OF WATER ON THE SLICK SURFACE ACTS LIKE A SEAL AND MAKES THE SUCTION CUPS PERFECT VACUUMS!



AT THAT MOMENT, THE RESTLESS GUNMAN SPIES THE HELPLESS CRIME-FIGHTER...

HAW! BATMAN-- STUCK LIKE A HUMAN FLY ON FLY PAPER! YOU'RE AN EASY TARGET, BATMAN!



ONCE AGAIN, BATMAN IS FORCED TO REJECT A NEW INVENTION AND USE AN OLD RELIABLE-- THE BATARANG!

WEAPONLESS, STILTS SURRENDERS TO THE POLICE WHO RESCUE BATMAN! LATER...

YES... AND INVENTIONS ONE AND TWO FAILED THE TEST! THAT LEAVES ONLY WEAPONS THREE AND FOUR!

OF THEM BOTH I'D SAY THE VERY SIMPLICITY OF INVENTION FOUR WILL MAKE IT THE WINNER!





THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST



THE NEXT NIGHT, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN PATROL GOTHAM'S STREETS...

BATMAN! MASKED MEN!

QUICK.. BACK INTO THE BUILDING! SPLIT UP INSIDE! THAT WAY WE GOT A CHANCE!

AS THE BANDITS DISAPPEAR INTO THE WAREHOUSE.

THE ONLY WAY TO OUTWIT THEIR STRATEGY IS TO COPY IT-- WITH A DIFFERENCE! WE'LL USE INVENTION NUMBER THREE-- THESE PORTABLE TV- WALKIE-TALKIE OUTFITS!



SOON AFTER, BATMAN AND ROBIN KEEP IN VISUAL CONTACT THOUGH THEY SEARCH THROUGH DIFFERENT ROOMS OF THE VAST WAREHOUSE...

AM ENTERING FURNITURE STORAGE ROOM OF WEST WING! NOTHING DOING SO FAR!

SO I SEE!

SUDDENLY, DANGER ENCIRCLES THE BOY WONDER...

ROBIN! LOOK OUT! THEY'VE GOT YOU SURROUNDED!



I CAN'T GET TO YOU IN TIME, ROBIN-- BUT DON'T WORRY! I'LL BE YOUR EYES! CAREFUL-- TWO ARE COMING AT YOU FROM BEHIND!

THEN IT HAPPENS-- THE TV SCREEN SHOWS ONLY JAGGED LINES!

ELECTRICAL INTERFERENCE-- FROM A MOTOR OF SOME KIND NEARBY!

JUST WHEN WE DEPENDED ON IT MOST, INVENTION NUMBER THREE FAILED US! I HOPE I CAN GET TO THAT ROOM IN TIME TO HELP ROBIN!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



MEANWHILE, WITH THE ODDS AGAINST HIM, ROBIN TURNS TO HELP FROM ANOTHER OLD BAT-WEAPON STANDBY...

I CAN ALWAYS RELY ON THE SILKEN LASSO!

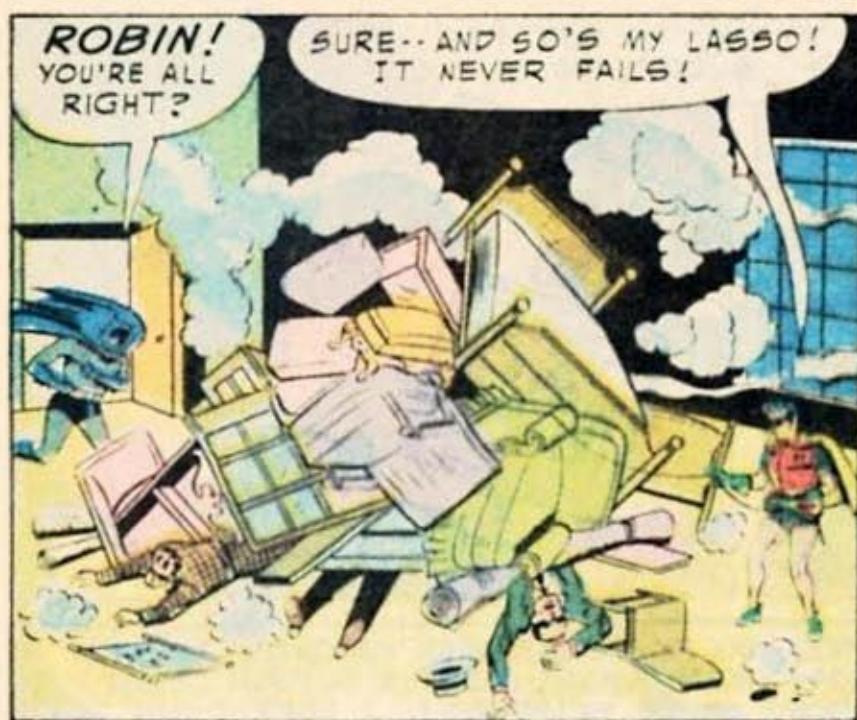


AN AVALANCHE OF FURNITURE SPILLS OVER THE BANDITS!



ROBIN! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

SURE-- AND SO'S MY LASSO! IT NEVER FAILS!



LATER... INVENTION NUMBER THREE HAS PROVED UNDEPENDABLE! NOW IT'S UP TO NUMBER FOUR! LET'S HOPE IT LIVES UP TO PROMISE!



NEWS OF THE THREE FAILURES ELECTRIFIES THE NATION...

ALL OVER AMERICA, WHEN THE BIG TIME COMES! QUESTION IS: I WORKED HARD TO MAKE IT FOOL-PROOF! WILL YOUNG JEFF KEATING'S INVENTION PASS THE TEST?

TWO DAYS LATER, THE TIME DOES COME!

AT LAST, ROBIN -- WE FINALLY GOT OUR FIRST LOOK AT THE HELICOPTER USED BY THE CROOKS WHO HAVE BEEN LOOTING PENT-

HOUSES!

IF ONLY WE WERE IN OUR BATPLANE... THEN WE COULD TELL WHICH ROOFTOP IT LANDED ON!

WE DON'T NEED THE BATPLANE FOR THAT! WE HAVE INVENTION NUMBER FOUR!





THE GREAT BATMAN CONTEST



FROM OUT OF THE CARTON, **BATMAN** TAKES THE CRYPTIC INVENTION ABOUT WHICH THE NATION WONDERS... / LOOKS JUST LIKE A FOLDED-UP UMBRELLA, DOESN'T IT? NOW WATCH WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I PRESS THIS TINY BUTTON!



INSTANTLY, THE GADGET POPS OPEN AND EXPANDS TO FORM--A **BAT-KITE**!



TO THIS UNIQUE **BAT-KITE**, **BATMAN** ATTACHES A TINY, THUMB-SIZED CAMERA AND SENDS IT ALOFT...



MOMENTS LATER, THE CAMERA'S TIMER CLICKS THE SHUTTER FROM ON HIGH...



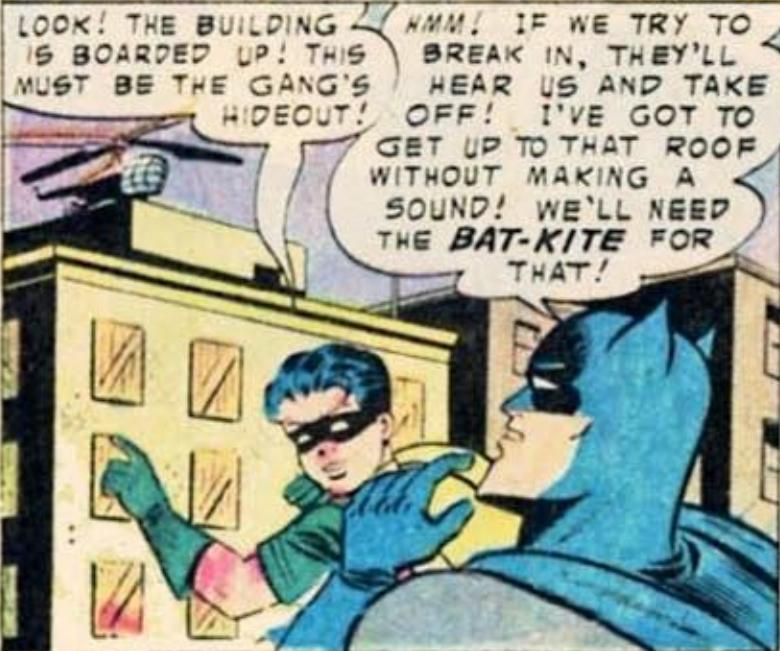
WHEN THE **BAT-KITE** IS HAULED DOWN, AND THE PHOTOGRAPH IS TAKEN FROM THE INSTANT-PRINT CAMERA...



LATER, UPON REACHING THE PARTICULAR BUILDING, THEY RUN INTO ANOTHER PROBLEM...

LOOK! THE BUILDING IS BOARDED UP! THIS MUST BE THE GANG'S HIDEOUT!

HMM! IF WE TRY TO BREAK IN, THEY'LL HEAR US AND TAKE OFF! I'VE GOT TO GET UP TO THAT ROOF WITHOUT MAKING A SOUND! WE'LL NEED THE **BAT-KITE** FOR THAT!

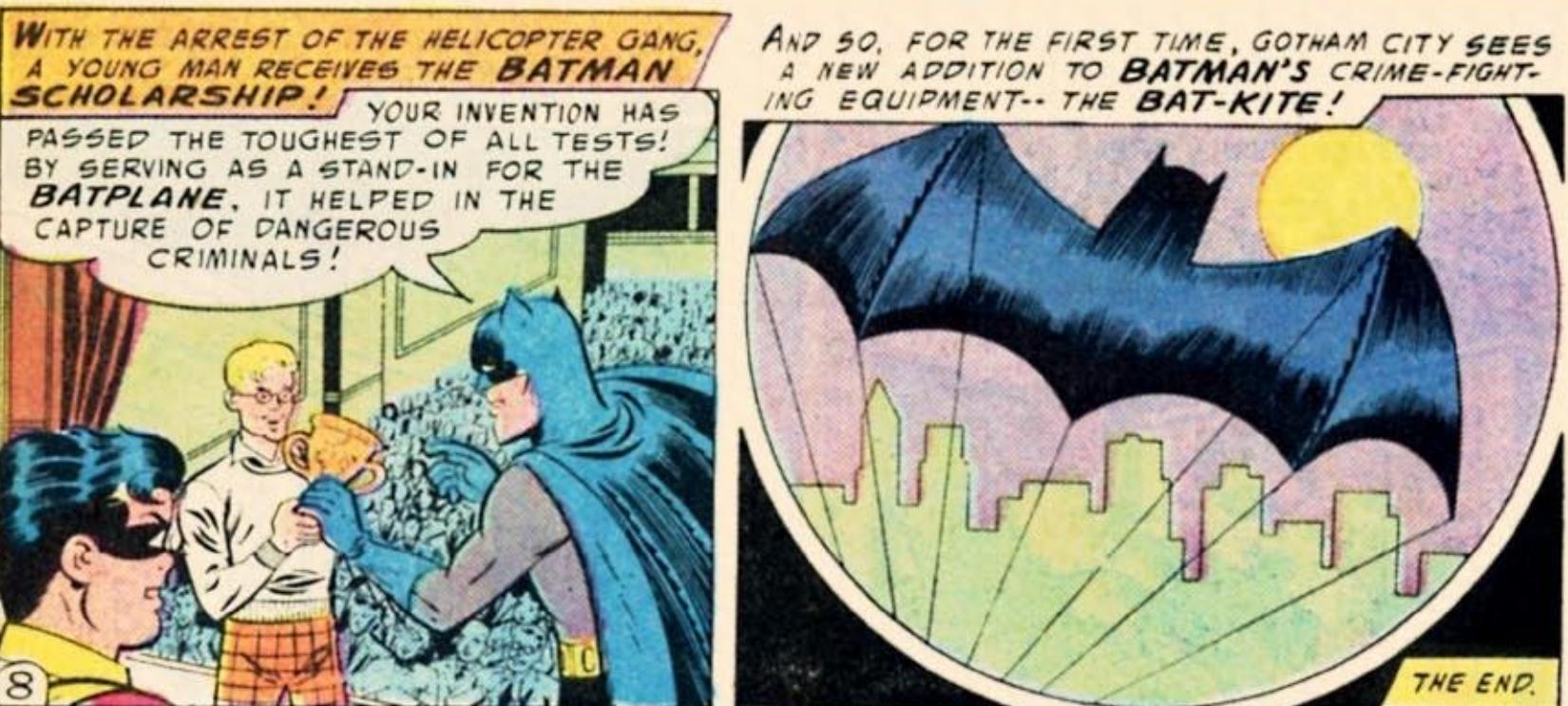
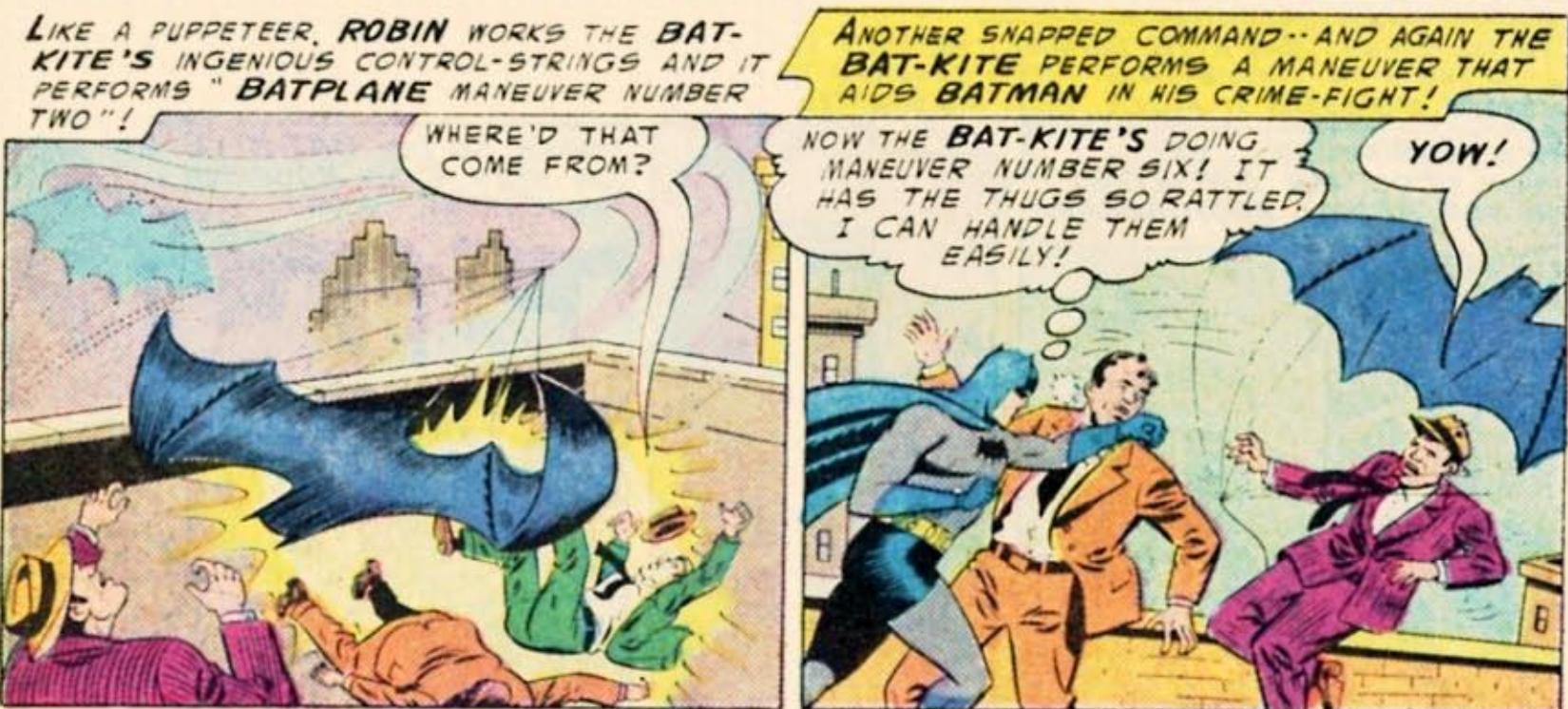


MOMENTS LATER, MANIPULATING THE **BAT-KITE**, ROBIN MAKES IT DROP A HOOKED SILKEN LASO TO A COPING...





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR





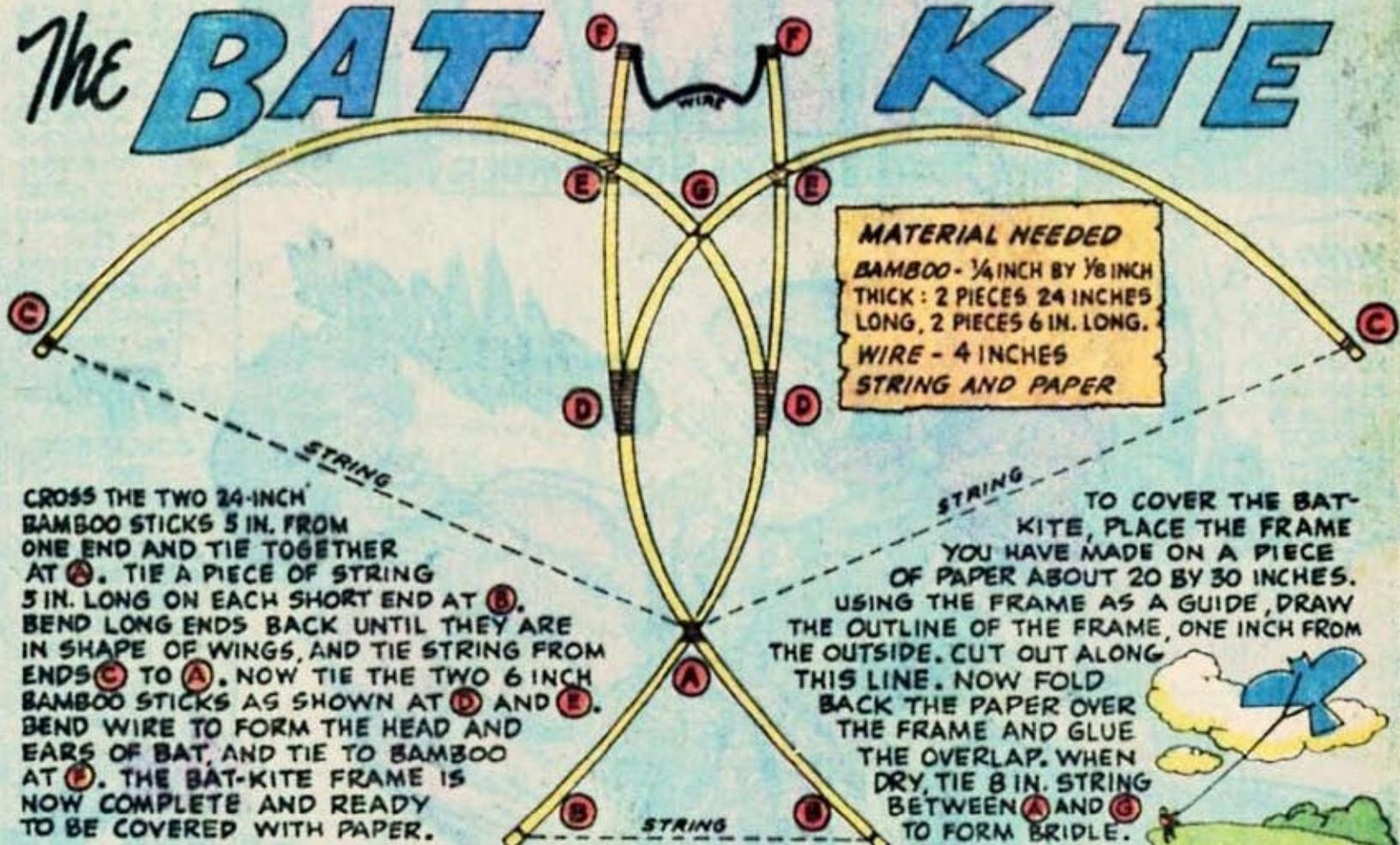
COME INTO THE
BATCAVE WORKSHOP
AND I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW TO MAKE YOUR
OWN BAT-KITE!

BATMAN



WORKSHOP

The BAT KITE



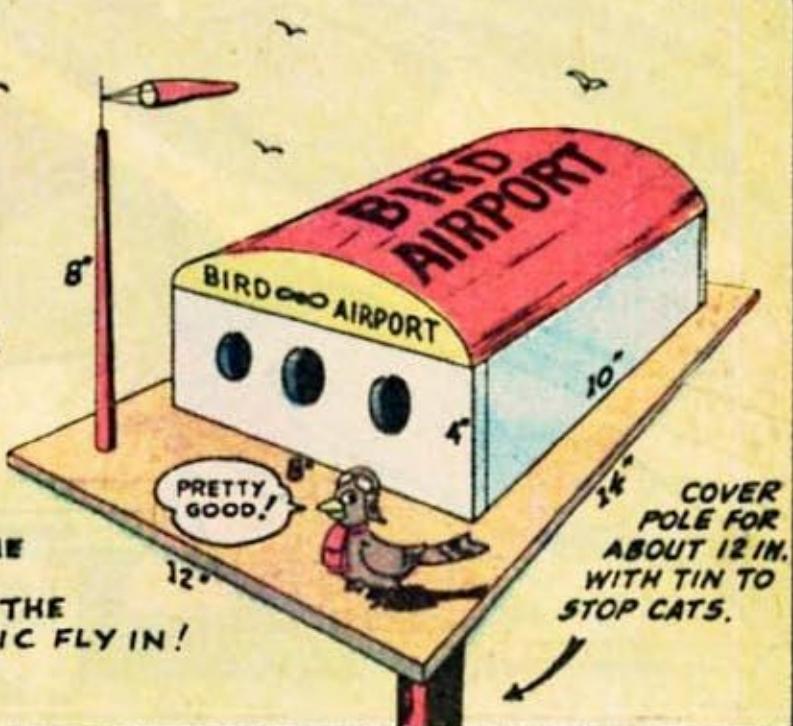
CROSS THE TWO 24-INCH BAMBOO STICKS 5 IN. FROM ONE END AND TIE TOGETHER AT A. TIE A PIECE OF STRING 5 IN. LONG ON EACH SHORT END AT B. BEND LONG ENDS BACK UNTIL THEY ARE IN SHAPE OF WINGS, AND TIE STRING FROM ENDS C TO A. NOW TIE THE TWO 6 INCH BAMBOO STICKS AS SHOWN AT D AND E. BEND WIRE TO FORM THE HEAD AND EARS OF BAT, AND TIE TO BAMBOO AT F. THE BAT-KITE FRAME IS NOW COMPLETE AND READY TO BE COVERED WITH PAPER.

TO COVER THE BAT-KITE, PLACE THE FRAME YOU HAVE MADE ON A PIECE OF PAPER ABOUT 20 BY 30 INCHES. USING THE FRAME AS A GUIDE, DRAW THE OUTLINE OF THE FRAME, ONE INCH FROM THE OUTSIDE. CUT OUT ALONG THIS LINE. NOW FOLD BACK THE PAPER OVER THE FRAME AND GLUE THE OVERLAP. WHEN DRY, TIE 8 IN. STRING BETWEEN A AND G TO FORM BRIDLE.

FASTEN YOUR LINE TO THE BRIDLE (BETWEEN A AND G) - TRY VARIOUS POINTS FOR BALANCE - YOUR BAT-KITE IS READY TO FLY!

Build this AIRPORT BIRDHOUSE

TO WELCOME BACK THE BIRDS RETURNING FROM THEIR WINTER HOME, YOU CAN MAKE THIS BIRD AIRPORT TO PUT IN YOUR YARD ON TOP OF A POLE. USE A FRUIT CRATE FOR YOUR MAIN BUILDING MATERIALS. A PIECE OF TIN, CUT FROM AN OIL CAN WILL MAKE THE ROOF. FOR THE WINDSOCK MAST, YOU CAN USE AN OLD CURTAIN ROD, OR A THIN BROOMSTICK. THE DIMENSIONS INDICATED IN THE DRAWING AT THE RIGHT ARE APPROXIMATE. YOU CAN MAKE THE BIRD AIRPORT ANY SIZE, DEPENDING ON THE SIZE OF THE WOOD YOU HAVE ON HAND. MAKE THE HOLES ACCORDING TO THE SIZE OF THE BIRDS YOU WANT TO USE THE BIRDHOUSE. SPRINKLE SOME GRAIN OR BREADCRUMBS ON THE FRONT APRON, AND WATCH THE BIRD TRAFFIC FLY IN!



SURPRISED TO SEE ME... BRUCE WAYNE... HERE? HOW, YOU ASK, CAN I BE ONE OF THE BATMAN'S WEAPONS?

YET I WAS! THE BLOCKBUSTER WAS ONE BANDIT I COULDN'T HANDLE IN MY COSTUMED IDENTITY, BUT ONLY AS BRUCE WAYNE!

BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder

YAAAAA!
IF SOLID STEEL HAND-CUFFS CAN'T HOLD THIS FUGITIVE FROM A HORROR MOVIE-- NOTHING CAN!

GIAAAAGH!

CAME PLODDING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE-- A DUMB BRUTE SO STRONG AND SO GIGANTIC THAT NONE OF MAN'S WEAPONS AND PRISONS COULD STOP OR RESTRAIN IT!

IT MOCKED MUSCLES OTHER THAN ITS OWN!

IT COULD NOT BE DEFEATED-- YET BATMAN AND ROBIN WERE DETERMINED TO WAGE A WAR TO THE FINISH TO STOP...

The BLOCK-BUSTER INVASION of GOTHAM CITY!

I'VE GOT TO--
KEEP PUNCHING--
FIND THIS
BLOCKBUSTER'S
WEAK SPOT!

STORY BY
GARDNER FOX
ART BY
CARME INFANTINO &
JOE GIELLA

N-1194

THROUGH THE SURGE AND HEAVE OF A STORM-BATTERED SEA, A CABIN CRUISER LIFTS AND DIPS HELPLESSLY IN THE TROUGH AND SWELL OF MAD-DENED WATERS...

THE YELLOW SCRATCH OF LIGHTNING AGAINST A BLACKENED SKY HIGHLIGHTS THE RENDINGS CRASH AND SPLINTERING OF A WOODEN PROW ON JAGGED, KNIFE-LIKE ROCKS...

HAVE TO ABANDON SHIP! WHAT A MISERABLE WIND-UP TO A DAY OF DEEP-SEA FISHING!

CRAACK!

LIGHTNING SPOTLIGHTS THE FIGURE OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE AS HE SPLITS THE WAVES IN A CLEAN DIVE FROM THE DECK OF THE TOSSED, DYING VESSEL BEING POUNDED TO PIECES AGAINST THE RUTHLESS ROCKS...

SPOTTED AN ISLAND CLOSE BY! GOT TO MAKE A SWIM FOR IT!

A WET, BEDRAGGLED FIGURE STAGGERS ASHORE A LITTLE LATER AS THE FULL FURY OF THE STORM SMASHES OVERHEAD IN A DIAPASON OF DEADLY DESTRUC-TION!...

PANT! WONDER IF THERE'S ANY SHELTER FURTHER INLAND? ANYTHING'D BE BETTER THAN THIS!



THEN IN A LULL BETWEEN THE OMINOUS CRESCENDO OF CRASHING THUNDER, BRUCE WAYNE HEARS A CRY, A WAIL OF DESPAIR, OF UTTER HOPELESSNESS...

HELP!...HELP!
PLEASE--
SOMEBODY...
HELP ME!

GOOD GOSH!
SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEONE'S
WORSE OFF
THAN I AM!



HE LURCHES FORWARD BLINDLY THROUGH THE AWESOME DOWN-POUR--AND COMES TO A DEAD STOP WHEN HE SEES...

A BOY--CAUGHT IN A QUICK-SAND BED! KEEP CALM, YOUNGSTER--DON'T THRASH ABOUT SO MUCH! YOU'RE ONLY MAKING YOURSELF SINK DEEPER...



HIS POWERFUL HANDS BREAK OFF A BRANCH AND THRUST IT OUT OVER THE GRIPPING QUAG-MIRE! HIS VOICE SOOTHES AND COMFORTS...

JUST RELAX...AND YOU WON'T STIR UP THE SANDS THAT DRAW YOU DOWNWARD! ATTABOY! NON--GRAB HOLD OF THIS BRANCH AND I'LL HAVE YOU OUT IN A JIFFY!



THEN, WITH HIS ARM ABOUT THE BOY FOR SUPPORT, BRUCE HEADS INLAND -- AND COMES UPON ANOTHER WANDERER OF THE ISLAND WOODLANDS, HIS FACE DISTORTED WITH PANIC, HIS VOICE THICK WITH FEAR...

MARK! MARK-- IS THAT YOU? I WAS SO WORRIED! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

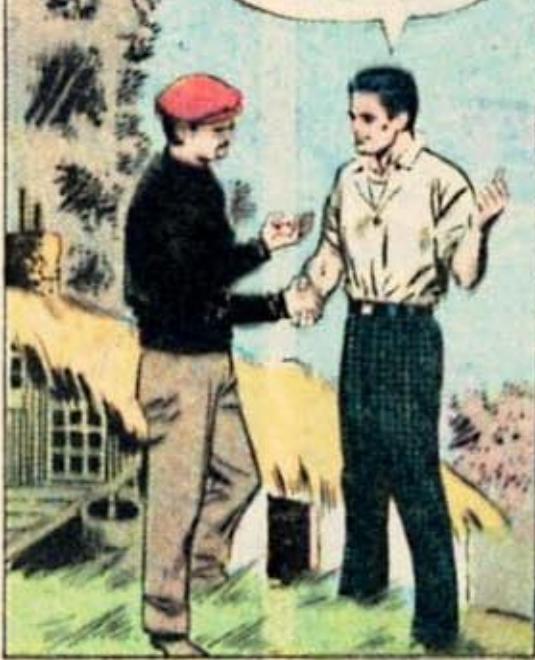
HE FELL INTO A QUICKSAND BOG-- BUT HE SHOULD BE OKAY BY MORNING!



AND IN THE MORNING A GRATEFUL ROLAND DESMOND GRIPS BRUCE WAYNE BY THE HAND AS CLEAR SKIES REVEAL A CHANGE IN WEATHER...

THANKS AGAIN FOR SAVING MY BROTHER MARK'S LIFE! IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO--

THE OVER-NIGHT SHELTER YOU PROVIDED SQUARED THINGS AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED! NOW IF YOU'LL JUST TAKE ME BACK TO THE MAINLAND...



THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS AND THE WEEKS INTO MONTHS. THEN ONE EVENING AS BAT-MAN AND ROBIN MAKE THEIR PATROL OF THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF GOTHAM CITY...

TAKE A GANDER AT THAT! A BIG HOLE IN THAT WALL -- AND POLICE PROWL CARS GATHERED TO INVESTIGATE IT!

ODD THAT WE DIDN'T HEAR ANY EXPLOSION ON OUR ROUNDS!



THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION, BATMAN! A SINGLE MAN MADE THAT OPENING -- WITH SHEER BRUTE STRENGTH!

WHAT?



"YES, HE SLAMMED INTO THAT WALL LIKE A FULL BACK RAMMING THE LINE-- CLEAVING A PATH THROUGH BRICK AND CONCRETE AS IF MADE OF TISSUE PAPER!..."



"INSIDE THE BANK HE STUFFED A DOUBLE KNAPSACK FULL OF MONEY! WE SAW HIM COMING OUT-- AND WHEN HE IGNORED OUR WARNING TO STOP..."

OUR BULLETS FLATTEN OUT WHEN THEY HIT HIS BODY -- AND BOUNCE OFF!

THINGS LIKE THIS ARE ONLY SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN IN HORROR MOVIES!



"AS IF TO SHOW HIS DEFIANCE OF US, HE LIFTED MY PARKED SQUAD CAR HIGH INTO THE AIR WITH ONE HAND..."

CHAACH!

"THEN, SETTING THE CAR DOWN, HE RACED OFF INTO THE NIGHT..."

MAN, WHAT A NIGHTMARE EVENING THIS HAS TURNED OUT TO BE!

WOWEE! - HOW DOES ANYONE FIGHT A BLOCKBUSTER LIKE THAT!

BLOCKBUSTER!! SAY, THAT'S A TERRIFIC HEADLINE NAME FOR HIM! THE "BLOCK-BUSTER BANDIT"! YEAH!

A STUNNED ROBIN GIVES VOICE TO THE THOUGHTS THAT SWIRL ABOUT IN EVERYONE'S MIND...

SOON AFTERWARD IN THE BATCAVE, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND THE BOY WONDER BUCKLE DOWN TO SEVERAL HOURS' WORK...

IF THAT BLOCK-BUSTER IS GOING TO HAUNT OUR NIGHTLY PATROLS--WE'D BETTER BE READY TO DEAL WITH HIM!

WITH SOME VERY SPECIAL WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT TO HANDLE HIS VERY SPECIAL CASE!

ONE NIGHT--TWO NIGHTS--A THIRD NIGHT SLIPS BY WITHOUT INCIDENT! THEN ON THE SHORT-WAVE RADIO OF THE BATMOBILE COMES THE ALARM THEY HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...

ATTENTION, ALL UNITS! AN OFFICER ON THE BEAT HAS REPORTED SEEING THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT CRASHING INTO THE TOLLIVER ART GALLERY!

WE'RE ONLY A COUPLE OF BLOCKS FROM THERE, ROBIN!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD, TWO GRIM FIGURES VAULT FROM THE BATMOBILE--LADEN WITH THEIR BLOCKBUSTER-BANDIT-CONTROL-GEAR...

MY ORDERS WERE NOT TO INTERFERE WITH THE BLOCK-BUSTER--JUST GIVE THE ALARM!

HOLD THE POLICE RE-INFORCEMENTS OUT HERE WHEN THEY ARRIVE-- WHILE WE TAKE A CRACK AT HIM WITH OUR SPECIAL WEAPONS!



TOWERING LIKE A COLOSSUS IN THE ART GALLERY, THE **BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT** TURNS A SAVAGE FACE TOWARD THE ON-RUSHING CRIME-FIGHTERS...



AS DEFTLY AS A WELL-OILED MACHINE, THE DARING DUO MOVES INTO ACTION! A LEAPING BAT-MAN RAMS A FIST INTO A JUTTING JAW...



AND AS THE CREATURE REACHES OUT TO GRASP AND CRUNCH HIM, ROBIN DARTS BENEATH THOSE ARMS TO SNAP TIGHT THE SPECIAL STEEL MANACLES PREPARED FOR THIS MOMENT..



A GLARE OF INSENSATE RAGE CROSSES THE FEATURES OF THE TITANIC TERROR AS HIS MUSCLES BULGE AND BUNCH! STEEL STRAINS--CRACKS--FLIES WIDE APART...



NOW THE TEEN-AGE THUNDER-BOLT HURLS A GAS PELLET--EVEN AS THE COWLED CRUSADER WHIRLS A STEEL-CABLED BOLA...



ONCE AGAIN THE BELLOW OF THE MADDENED GIANT SOUNDS IN THE GALLERY AS STEEL CABLES SNAP AND FLY...

GYAAGH!

NOT A FEAR IN HIS EYE! HE DOESN'T ANYTHING BOTHER THIS FREEP ??



*EDITOR'S NOTE: SLANG FOR A COMBINATION FREAK AND CREEP!

A MASSIVE HAND DARTS OUT-- AND CLOSES IN A GRIP OF UNIMAGINABLE POWER...



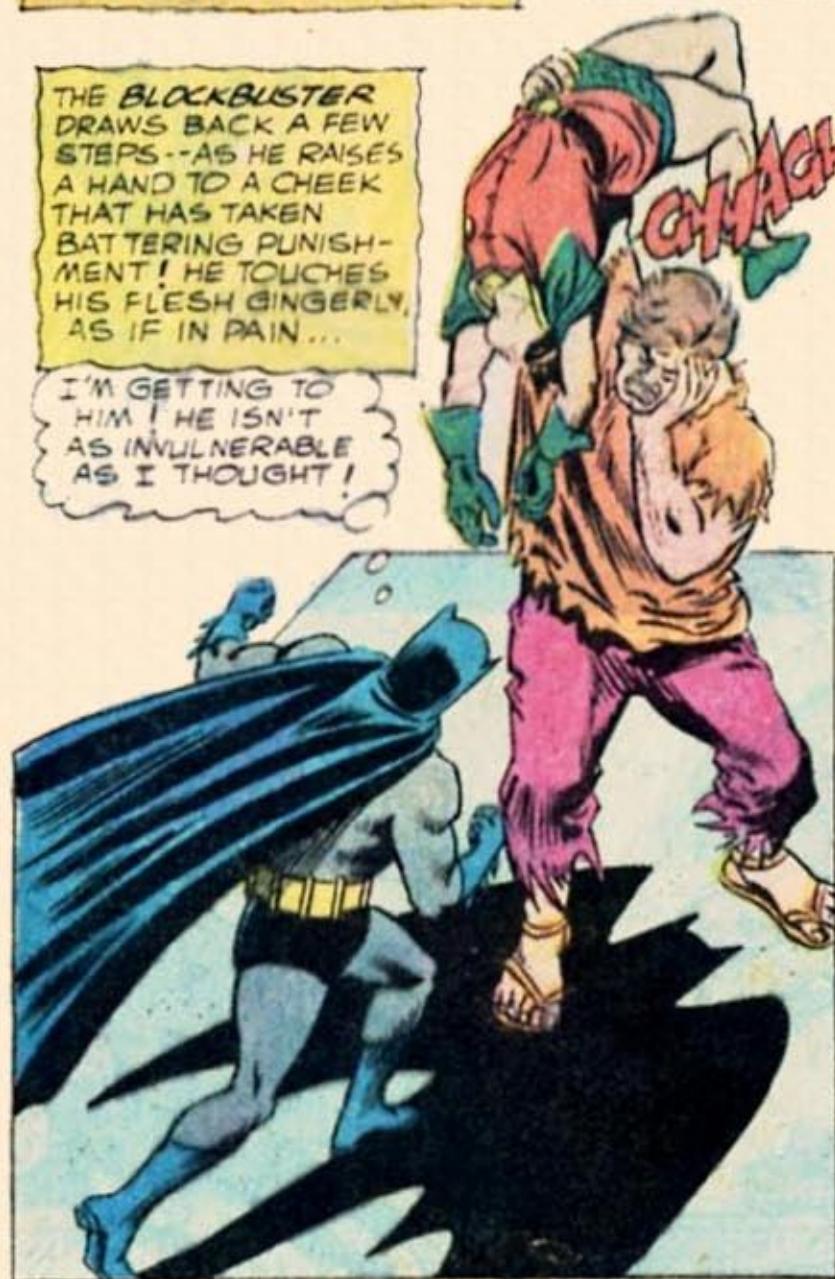
FISTS THAT HAVE NEVER MET THEIR EQUAL BASH AND THUD UP AND DOWN THAT ROCK-LIKE BODY! BATMAN FIGHTS AS HE HAS NEVER FOUGHT BEFORE--TO FREE HIS YOUNG COMPANION FROM THAT AWE-SOME GRIP...

LIKE BANGING ONE'S HEAD AGAINST THE PROVERBIAL WALL...



THE BLOCKBUSTER DRAWS BACK A FEW STEPS--AS HE RAISES A HAND TO A CHEEK THAT HAS TAKEN BATTERING PUNISHMENT! HE TOUCHES HIS FLESH GINGERLY, AS IF IN PAIN...

I'M GETTING TO HIM! HE ISN'T AS INVULNERABLE AS I THOUGHT!



AGAIN THE COWLED CRUSADER HITS-- AND YET AGAIN--WITH BLOWS THAT WOULD FELL AN OX! AND STUNG TO A WILD, ANIMALISTIC FURY--THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT ROARS WITH ANGER...

GYAAAGH!

THUNNK!
THUNNK!



OUTSIDE THE GALLERY WAITS A FORCE OF EAGER, WELL-TRAINED POLICEMEN...

DON'T INTERFERE! GIVE BATMAN AND ROBIN A CHANCE TO "GET THEIR MAN"!

BLAPPP!
VOOMPF!

WHAT A BATTLE THEY MUST BE PUTTING UP!

AND THEN--WITH A CRASH OF MASONRY AS HE KICKS THROUGH BRICK AND MORTAR--COMES THE CRIME COLOSSUS ...

HIGH ABOVE HIS HEAD ARE LIFTED THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT--INERT WEIGHTS IN THE MIGHTY HANDS OF THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT...

CRASH!

MAN ALIVE! HE GOT 'EM BOTH!

GYAAGH!

THEN THEY ARE FLUNG LIKE CANNON-BALLS AT THE STUNNED POLICE--BOWLING THEM OVER LIKE TENPINS...

WHAM

THE BLOCKBUSTER RACES OFF -- SMASHING HIS WAY THROUGH ANOTHER BUILDING WALL -- THEN BLASTING DOWN INTO A CELLAR ...



HE MAKES HIS WAY INTO A SEWER-WAY, SPLASHING ALONG AT EVERY STEP...



UNTIL HE COMES TO AN ABANDONED SUBWAY TRACK, WHERE HE SCAMPERS OFF INTO THE DISTANCE ...



BEHIND HIM HE LEAVES A SERIES OF GAPPING HOLES, CRUNCHED - THROUGH BUILDING WALLS, THAT POINT A PATH TO THE NOWHERE INTO WHICH THE CRIME COLOSSUS HAS DISAPPEARED...

THE TRAIL HAS PETERED OUT! HE'S GONE!

BUT HE'LL BE BACK -- AND NEXT TIME WE'LL REALLY BE READY FOR HIM! LET'S GO SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON, ROBIN!

MORE THRILLS AND CHILLS FOLLOW IN THE NEXT CHAPTER -- STARTING ON NEXT PAGE

HERE IS THE ANSWER TO THE BAT-PUZZLE
ON PAGE 39

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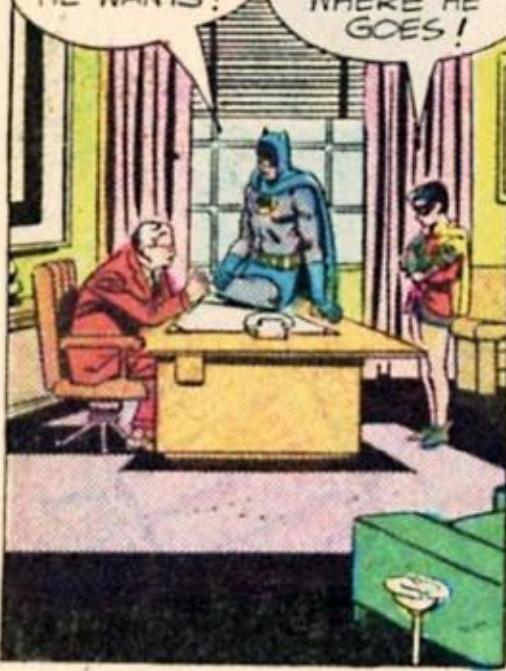


The BLOCKBUSTER INVASION of GOTHAM CITY-- PART TWO

DURING THE NEXT SEVERAL HOURS, THE DISGRUNTLED DUO CONFERS WITH THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER...

THEN IT'S AGREED! NEXT TIME HE APPEARS-- WE LET HIM STEAL WHAT HE WANTS!

WHILE WE'LL BE ABOVE THE CITY IN THE BAT-COPTER-- TO FOLLOW AND SEE WHERE HE GOES!



FOR THE NEXT TWO NIGHTS THE DARK, GRIM SHAPE OF THE BATCOPTER HOVERS LIKE A GREAT BIRD OF PREY ABOVE THE CITY ROOFTOPS...

WE'LL FIGHT HIM ON HIS HOME GROUNDS--AND HOLD HIM UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE WITH ELECTRIFIED NETS!



THEN ON A CLOUDY NIGHT, WHEN DARKNESS CLOAKS THE CITY-- THE BEHEMOTH OF BANDITRY CRASHES INTO A CITY MUSEUM...

THERE HE GOES! NOW KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED FOR HIM WHEN HE COMES OUT!

RIGHTO, BATMAN! MY PUPILS ARE ALREADY PANTING!



ALL GOTHAM CITY HAS BEEN ALERTED TO THE TERRIBLE DANGER! LET THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT COME AND GO WITHOUT INTERFERENCE...

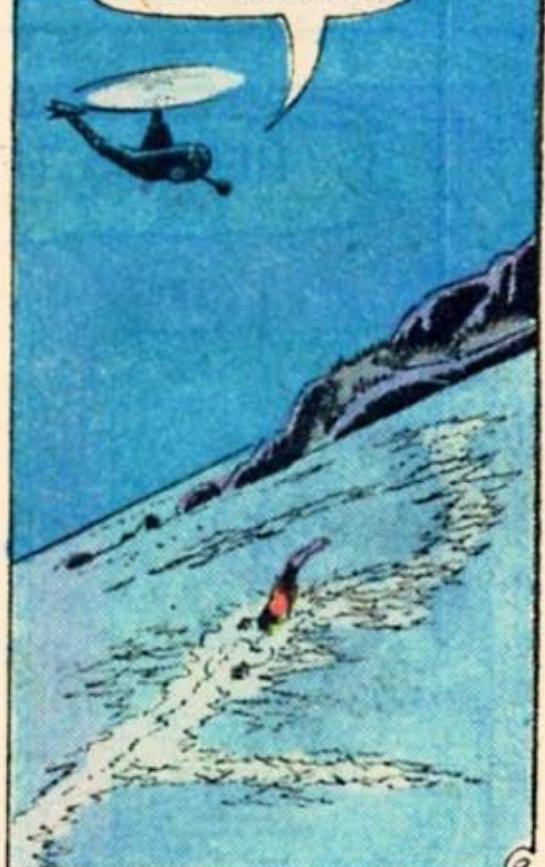


MINUTES LATER, HOLLOW FOOT-FALLS SPEED ALONG THE DESERTED CITY STREETS-- WHILE OVERHEAD THAT DREAD FORM IS SHADOWED BY THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTERS...



INTO THE SEA HE PLUNGES, SWIMMING WITH POWERFUL STROKES AS THE ALMOST SILENT ROTORS OF THE BATCOPTER FOLLOW OVERHEAD...

SAY, HE'S HEADING TOWARD THE ISLAND WHERE I RESCUED THAT BOY MARK DESMOND! I WONDER IF THERE CAN BE ANY CONNECTION?



THEN ABOVE THE ISLAND--CRIES ARE WRUNG FROM STARTLED THROATS AS THE WHIRLYBIRD DIPS AND BEGINS TO FALL!...

THE 'COPTER'S OUT OF CONTROL! WE'VE RUN INTO SOME SORT OF HIGH-FREQUENCY INTERFERENCE THAT'S JAMMED THE MOTOR!

OUR RADIO'S GONE DEAD! WE CAN'T CONTACT THE POLICE! BATMAN--WE'RE ON OUR OWN!

A BLADE SNAPS AS THE GALLANT CRAFT HITS THE UPPER BRANCHES OF A WOODLAND GIANT--AND SPILLS ITS HUMAN OCCUPANTS...

LIKE THIS IS JOURNEY'S END, MAN!

WOWW!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, ROBIN--
REAL TROUBLE IS ON ITS WAY!

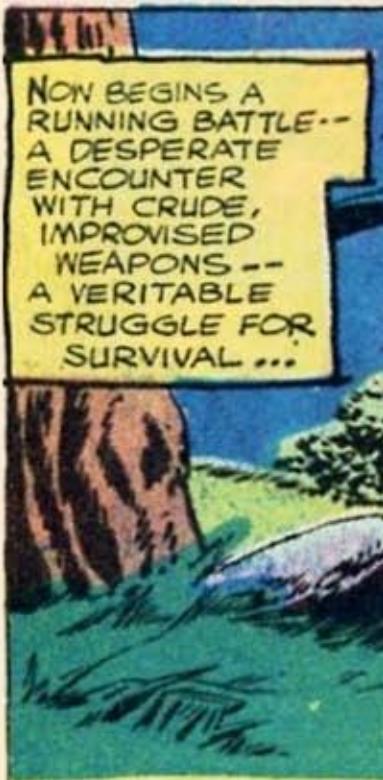
FROM A FOOTPATH BELOW THE WRECKED BATCOPTER THE BLOCKBUSTER BANDIT RECOGNIZES HIS FIGHTING FOES! A MAD SHRIEK TEARS FROM HIS THROAT...

GYAACH!

SOUNDS LIKE HE HASN'T INCREASED HIS VOCABULARY ANY! BOY, WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE TO MAKE HIM CRY "UNCLE"!

HIS HUGE HANDS GRIP AND SHAKE THE TREE BOLE! AND LIKE OVER-RIPE FRUIT THE DUO COMES TUMBLING TO THE GROUND...

I FEEL LIKE AN APPLE ABOUT TO BE SQUASHED! IT WOULDN'T DO ANY GOOD TRYING TO REASON WITH HIM! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO COMPREHEND US--



DODGING AROUND TREES --
CHANGING DIRECTION ABRUPTLY...
THEY COME IN SIGHT OF...



ON FEET THAT FLY LIKE THOSE OF OLYMPIC SPRINTERS, THE CRIME-FIGHTING COUPLE DASHES INTO THE CELLAR-WAY OF THE HOUSE...



THE MADDENED MIGHT OF THE CRIME COLOSSUS IS NOT TO BE DENIED! HE LUNGES FORWARD-- AND THE HEAVY OAK DOOR SPLINTERS BEFORE HIM...



TELLING IN THE ALERT DEDUCTIVE BRAIN OF BATMAN IS THE ONE POSSIBLE HOPE OF VICTORY IN THIS UNEQUAL STRUGGLE...

ROBIN-- I THINK THE BLOCKBUSTER IS THE SAME FELLOW I SAVED FROM THE QUICKSAND BED-- MARK DESMOND! THERE'S JUST ENOUGH FACIAL STRUCTURE LEFT SO THAT THEY LOOK ALIKE! IF THAT'S SO-- I CAN STOP HIM!

BUT YOU TOLD ME MARK WAS A SCRAPPY KID! THIS ONE'S A-- A BLOCK-BUSTER!

DESPERATELY THE BOY WONDER FLINGS HIMSELF UPON THE MASKED MANHUNTER! HIS VOICE PLEADS AS HIS HANDS RESTRAIN...

NO, NO, BATMAN! YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE BLOCK-BUSTER! HE'S TOO TOUGH AN OPPONENT!

TOO TOUGH FOR BATMAN-- BUT NOT FOR BRUCE WAYNE!



AS BATMAN THROWS OFF HIS UNIFORM TO STAND IN SLACKS AND SHIRT--THE BEHEMOTH BANDIT PAUSES! ACROSS HIS FACE FLITS A STRANGE EXPRESSION! IS HE REMEMBERING THAT NIGHT MONTHS AGO, WHEN THIS VERY MAN SAVED HIS LIFE--AS MARK DEMONO?...

NO SIGN OF RECOGNITION YET! ROBIN, GO FIND THE OTHER MAN-- HIS BROTHER ROLAND! IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, HE'S THE BRAINS BEHIND THIS CHARACTER! THE SAME ONE WHO BROUGHT DOWN OUR 'COPTER AND CUT OFF OUR RADIO!



THEN THAT EXPRESSION FADES AS A MAMMOTH FIST BASHES OUT! ONLY THE INSTANT REFLEXES OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE SAVE HIM...



MOMENTS LATER, BRUCE IS RUNNING FOR HIS LIFE ALONG AN ISLAND TRAIL! BEHIND HIM COMES THE THUDDING FOOTBEATS OF THE BLOCKBUSTER...



A SPLASH OF SANDY WATERS! A THUMP OF HEAVY FEET! AND NOW IT IS BRUCE WAYNE HIMSELF WHO WILDLY THRASHES IN THE STEADY TUG OF THE DEADLY BOG...

I MUST DUPLICATE EVERY MOVE MARK MADE WHEN HE WAS IN THE QUICKSAND--TO HELP HIM REMEMBER OUR FIRST MEETING--THAT HE OWNS HIS LIFE TO ME--AND WILL SPARE MINE!



THE COLOSSUS SWAYS! HIS EYES GLAZE OVER! HIS DAZED BRAIN STRUGGLES FOR THOUGHT, FOR MEMORY...

GYAHZ
GYAAGH?!
GYAACH!!



SUDDENLY HIS HANDS HOLD OUT THE VERY SAME BRANCH WHICH BRUCE WAYNE USED TO RESCUE HIM!...

HE REMEMBERED!
HE KNOWS--
BRUCE WAYNE
IS HIS
FRIEND!



AND YET--I'M IN A QUANDARY! I CAN'T BECOME BATMAN AGAIN--OR BLOCKBUSTER WILL ATTACK ME! BUT IF I REMAIN AS BRUCE WAYNE--HIS BROTHER ROLAND WILL TUMBLE TO THE SECRET OF MY DOUBLE IDENTITY!



AT THIS MOMENT,
ROBIN IS ON THE
ATTACK! HE, TOO,
REALIZES THE
DILEMMA CON-
FRONTING BRUCE
WAYNE--AS HIS
FIST THUNDERS
AGAINST THE
JAW OF
ROLAND DESMOND...

ZOK!

I MUST
KAYO
HIM--
FAST!

THEN AS BRUCE
APPEARS IN
THE DOORWAY,
THE TEEN-AGE
THUNDERBOLT
IS STARTLED
BY HIS
COMMAND...

TAKE ROLAND TO HIS
BOAT! AND HURRY!
THE THREE OF US
ARE GETTING OUT
OF HERE!

B-BUT WHAT
ABOUT THE
BLOCKBUSTER?
I GUESS HE'S
YOUR "FRIEND"
NOW--BUT WE
CAME HERE
TO CAPTURE
HIM!

WHILE ROBIN
LUGS ROLAND
TO THE BOAT,
BRUCE RE-
TURNS TO THE
CELLAR WHERE...

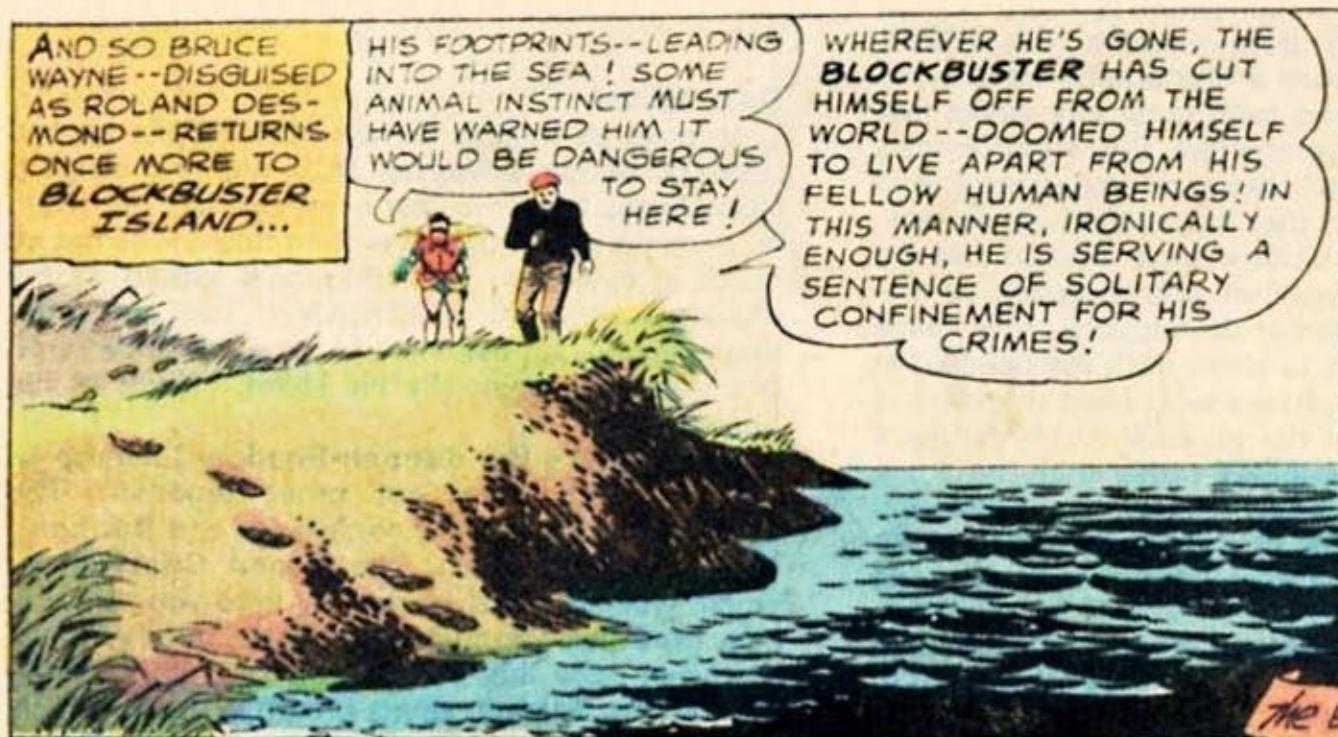
WHEN ROBIN GIVES IT
SOME THOUGHT, HE'LL
REALIZE THAT BLOCK-
BUSTER MUST STAY
ON THE ISLAND UNTIL
WE CAN RETURN, AND
THAT ROLAND MUSTN'T
SEE ME --AS
BATMAN!

WHILE BLOCKBUSTER WANDERS
AROUND THE ISLAND, BATMAN
SNEAKS OFF TO THE WAITING
BOAT...

YEAH, YOU CAUGHT
ME! AND YOU'RE RIGHT
ABOUT MARK! HE'S THE
BLOCKBUSTER--BUT HE
ONLY OBEYS ME! AND
HE'LL GET YOU YET--
BECAUSE I'LL NEVER TELL
HIM NOT TO!

MARK WAS ALWAYS THE
GENIUS OF THE FAMILY,
BUT HE WAS A SCRAPPY
KID! SO HE WORKED OUT
A SERUM THAT WOULD
AFFECT CERTAIN ENDO-
CRINE GLANDS TO MAKE
HIM GROW BIG AND
STRONG! BUT HE WAS
OVER-ANXIOUS--HE
NEVER BOthered TO
TEST HIS DISCOVERY
FIRST!

WHAT NATURE GAVE WITH
ONE HAND, IT TOOK AWAY
WITH THE OTHER! AN
OVER-ACTIVE ANTERIOR
LOBE OF THE PITUITARY
GLAND MADE HIM SHOOT
UP LIKE A GIANT--WITH
TREMENDOUS STRENGTH!
BUT SIMULTANEOUSLY, A
FAULTY ENDOCRINE GLAND
RETARDED HIS MENTAL
DEVELOPMENT...



The End

14

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

BEGINNING NEXT ISSUE--
BAT-MAN GOES MONTHLY!

AND THE APRIL ISSUE #262-- FEATURES
 THE RETURN OF BATMAN'S MOST
 FRIGHTENING FOE

The SCARECROW'S TRAIL OF FEAR!

PLUS A CLASSIC BATMAN and ROBIN ADVENTURE:
"THE ROUND-ROBIN DEATH-THREATS!"

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN JANUARY



Address your communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Julie,

I thought I'd be a long time in making so bold a statement as the following, but I find now that I must: Denny O'Neil is THE best writer in the comic book field today! I recently had the pleasure of going through many of my comics from recent years and I noticed that a consistent pattern of excellence has emerged from anything with O'Neil's name on it. There were a few bombs—and I can point to a story or two from most any writer that would top O'Neil's average tale. But when Denny's good, he can't be beat! He has an understanding of comics as a medium that is matched by no one.

Many of Marvel's writers forget that comics are primarily a visual medium and become so entranced with vivid verbal descriptions, they leave nothing for the artist to show with his pencil. I'm one of the minority of fans who feels the story is more important than the art and usually follow a series because of the author rather than the artist. But I recognize that the artist is very important and think it a shame many of the newer writers don't seem to agree. That's a criticism I can't place on Denny O'Neil!

An outstanding example of the use of art and story is "Night of the Shadow" in **BATMAN #259**. On page 14, Bruce Wayne thinks, "Funny... I can almost feel his presence already!" while in the background, a dark, mysterious **Shadow** appears against a building's side. I shudder to think how a Marvelite would have handled this panel—taking pains to point out **The Shadow** in a yellow caption. And the tragedy is that anyone old enough to read it doesn't need to!

"Night of The Shadow" is quite possibly the best comic story to appear this year. Not only did we get a quick retelling of **Batman's** origin, but we have an adventure with the two most fearsome crimefighters the world has ever known. O'Neil's use of understatement is excellent. After four pages of gunfire in which a young Bruce Wayne sees his father shot at and then both his parents killed, **Batman** explains his refusal to use sidearms with a simple "I... just don't like 'em, commissioner!" Fantastic! (One slight bit of nit-picking, though—didn't **Batman** carry a gun in some of his earlier stories?) And again: "Leave, **Batman**! I have no quarrel with you!" Then, "Willy Hank... you don't know how wrong you are!" Where else can you find such a use of human emotion and irony? Nowhere, I submit, but in another O'Neil-

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

S-1907

scripted **Batman** tale!

Denny O'Neil has finally captured all that is **The Batman**. His earlier scripts on the series have been good and have helped make **The Batman** the most human of comic book heroes. But only in this story have we seen that **The Batman** is truly human, complete with his own set of fears and hopes. I'm hoping to see more of this avenging night figure.

DAVID B. KIRBY, Richmond, Va.

(David, your comments echo our own editorial opinion on what makes a good comic and we hope all the would-be writers and artists out there will pay heed. As to **THE BATMAN** using a gun, our Walking Encyclopedia of Comic Lore, E. Nelson Bridwell, points out that it was the Caped Crusader of Earth-Two who used one... and only on special occasions—such as the time he needed silver bullets to kill vampires!—BR)

• • •

Dear Editor:

It looks as though we are entering the second reign of Denny O'Neil as DC's greatest scripter. He's always been the best in my opinion, but when he became an editor, his writing talent was not so much in evidence. Now that he's settled as the regular scripter for **BATMAN**, I can see great things ahead. An overview of his work since #256 is impressive, especially his latest, "Night of the Shadow!"

Please make the **Batman-Shadow** team-up an annual event. They are great together: **The Shadow's** coolly remote confidence and **Batman's** star-struck admiration. The **Caped Crimefighter** works well with just about any hero you throw at him, from **Superman** to **Sgt. Rock**, but I've never seen him quite this good. I also liked the explanation of why **Batman** shuns firearms. It was simple and believable and I applaud Denny for building a tremendous tale around it!

Irv Novick and Dick Giordano are better than ever. I especially liked the shot of **Batman** on page 6. It seems to epitomize the new **Batman** philosophy. True, he is still the dark, terrifying creature of the night, but you will notice that he's smiling...

BOB RODI, Oak Brook, Ill.

(You're not alone in your opinion of Denny O'Neil and "Night of The Shadow," Bob! As we write this, the issue has been on sale for a month and we have yet to receive a negative response on it! More praise follows!—BR)

• • •

Dear Editor:

I could sum up **BATMAN #259** in many ways, but the first word that comes to mind is FANTASTIC! At first, I was hesitant to buy the issue because, even though I collect many different comics, I have never read **THE SHADOW**! But as an avid fan of **Batman** and **Robin**, I gave in... and I'm glad I did!

"Night of the Shadow" had everything a mystery fan could want. A great plot, beautiful art, a joining of the mysterious manhunter and the man of the macabre, plus a touching dedication. What more could a person ask?

MARCI MUEHLBACH, St. Louis, Mo.

Dear Editor:

Whether it be a fill-in feature or a Shazam winner, Denny O'Neil always manages to bring out the human side of Batman in every story he writes. Such was the case in "Night of the Shadow!"

It was quite intriguing to discover young Bruce Wayne had had a run-in with The Shadow before his parents were killed. Even more interesting was young Bruce's fear of guns and his "I... just don't like 'em" reply to Commissioner Gordon.

The story did have one hokey point: When Mildred Miller left the Caped Crusader saying, "Forgive me... I want to pray!" Nobody would say that! More likely, she'd just turn her wheelchair around and say "I want to be alone!" (Shades of Garbo!) or nothing at all.

CLINT "BUC" THOMAS, Oak Hill, W. Va.

(How do you know NOBODY would say "Forgive me... I want to pray?" Mildred Miller said it and she's SOMEBODY! Seriously, Clint, we try to give our characters a variety of feelings and emotions rather than having them fall into a predictable mold... which is why the dialogue isn't always what you might expect it to be!—BR)

Dear Editor:

"Night of the Shadow" was the best Batman saga since "Moon of the Wolf" in #255. For the past eight months, Denny O'Neil had struggled valiantly to make the reappearances of Catwoman, Penguin and Two-Face succeed. On the latter, I must admit that there was nothing lacking as far as Two-Face's characterization was concerned. It was the completely unnecessary appearance of Robin that ruined what might have been a good story.

"Night of the Shadow" was rich in character and emotion like all the great O'Neil scripts. Denny's plot and dialogue were beautifully embellished by the Novick-Giordano artwork. I've never seen Irv Novick give The Batman as much atmosphere, though it's obvious that this is also due to Dick Giordano's marvelous inks.

One final note, please have the good sense to keep the villains' appearances to a minimum. Within their characters, the above-named felons have a grand flaw. They are antiquated. They are not fearsome in the least. Catwoman and the Penguin should be put away with all the other relics of the Batcave. Give the Batman some actual mystery tales without any token villains.

MICHAEL VERDEROSA, Englewood, N.J.

(You bring up a point which we have discussed in these pages before, Mike—which villains should BATMAN be fighting, if any at all. Since the response was far from overwhelming, we'll take this opportunity to again invite reader response. Are CATWOMAN and the PENGUIN

over the hill? Have TWO-FACE and the JOKER lost their fearsomeness? Are the SPOOK and RAS AL GHUL better foes for the Caped Crusader than the RIDDLER and the SCARECROW? We want to know what YOU think!—BR)

Dear Editor:

I have been reading DC comics for a number of years and one thing bothers me. All the reprints you use are too new! Why can't you give us material from the forties only?

Excerpted from Numerous Letters

(To all of you who have asked that we reprint only stories from (a) the forties (b) the fifties (c) the sixties, we must reply that we prefer: (d) ALL of the above! Though some of our older readers have seen the more recent material before, there are plenty of fans who haven't. Is it fair to expect them to wait thirty years before they get a chance to see these gems? Which gives us the opportunity to tell you that "The 1,001 Inventions of Batman" came from BATMAN #109 (Aug. 1957) while #27 (Feb/Mar. 1945) gave us "A Christmas Peril" and #100 (June 1956) presented "The Great Batman Contest." "Crime's Manhunt" is from DETECTIVE COMICS #92 (Oct. 1944) while #345 of that magazine debuted "The Blockbuster Invasion of Gotham City."—Bob Rozakis)

COMING BAT-TRACTIONS: Next issue marks the long-awaited return of the SCARECROW but that's not all! "The Scarecrow's Trail of Fear" introduces a brand-new penciller to the BATMAN series—Ernie Chua! You've seen his art in our mystery books and more recently he's done work on The SPECTRE and FABULOUS WORLD OF KRYPTON. Wait'll you see how he handles the World's Greatest Detective! And there's still more good news... You won't have to wait two months for #262 because BATMAN is becoming a monthly magazine with the next issue—on sale the second week in January!

Not enough for you yet? Well, DETECTIVE COMICS #446 features the third installment in the BAT-MURDERER series, "Slaughter in Silver!" by Len Wein and Jim Aparo. Plus: The Elongated Man tackles the "Case of the Reverse Pickpocket!" And to top it all off, with this April issue, DETECTIVE is also going monthly!

Finally, (What's left for us to do, you ask?) 1975 will introduce a new magazine to the Line of Super-Stars featuring a character who has been around almost as long as BATMAN himself—one whose popularity has increased steadily and has finally earned him the right to his own book! Who is it? Be on the lookout for the book you probably thought you'd never see: THE JOKER! Denny O'Neil wrote it, Irv Novick and Dick Giordano drew it and you can't afford to miss it! That's the premiere of the Clown Prince of Crime, coming from DC in February!

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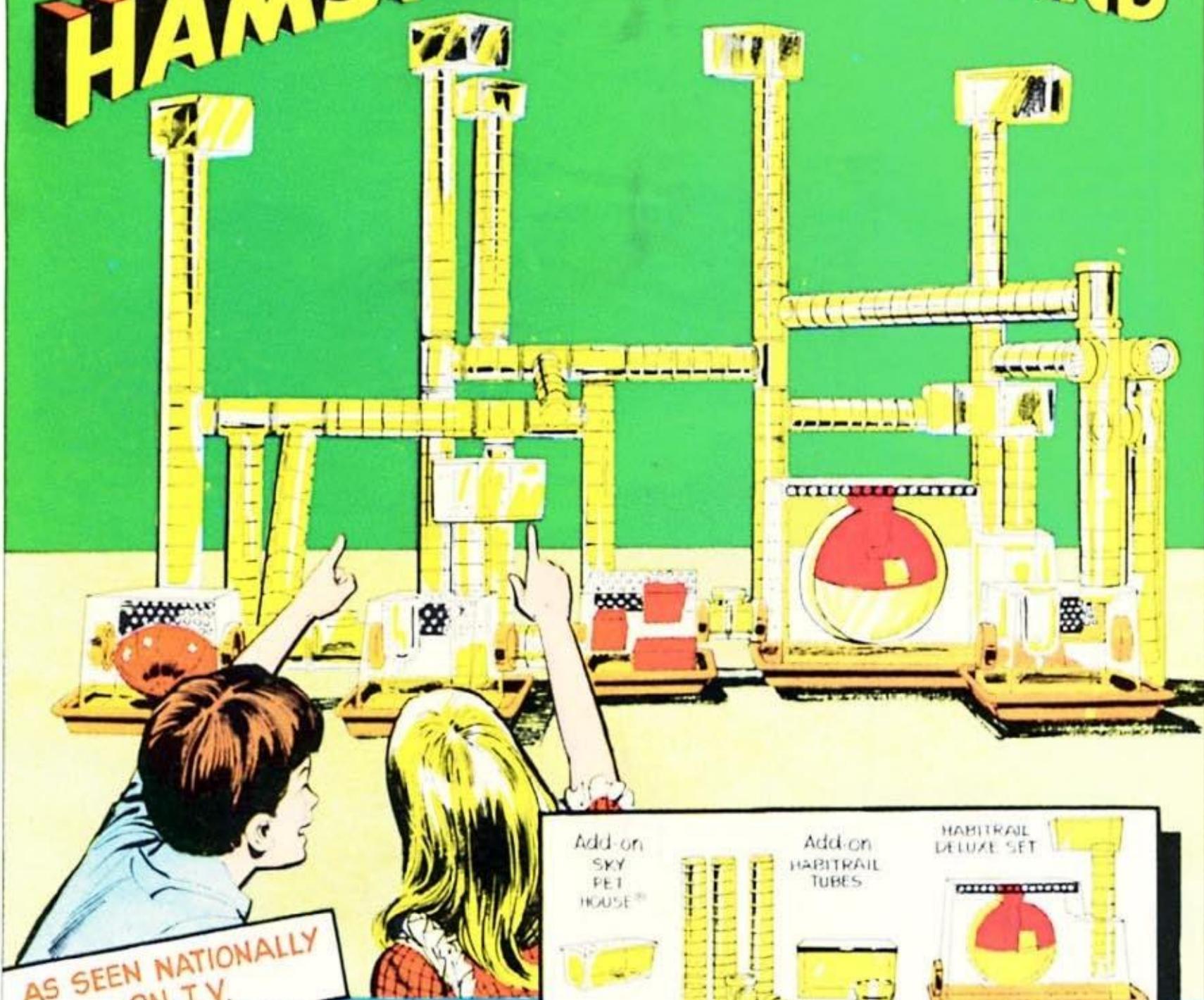
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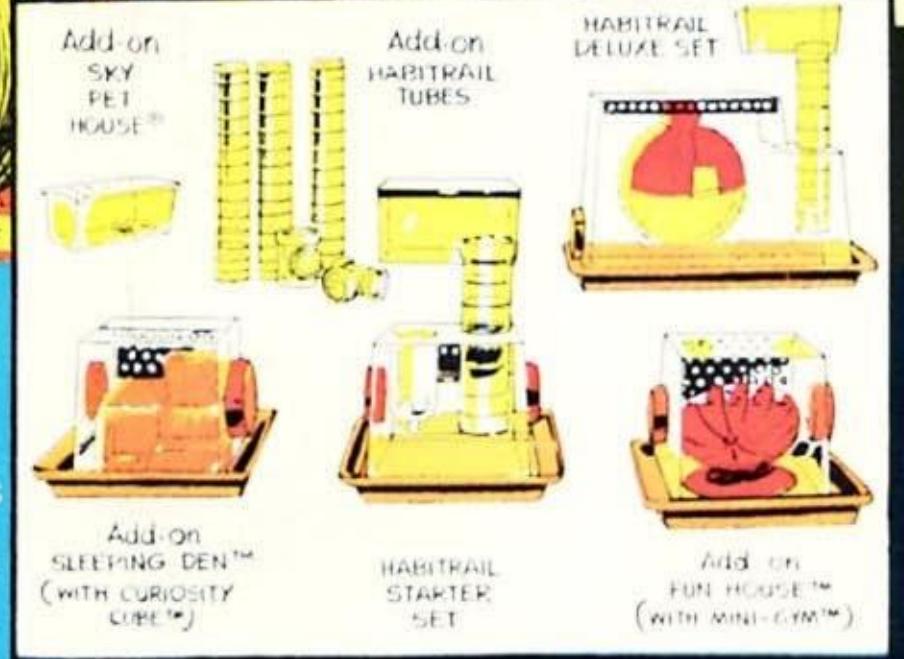
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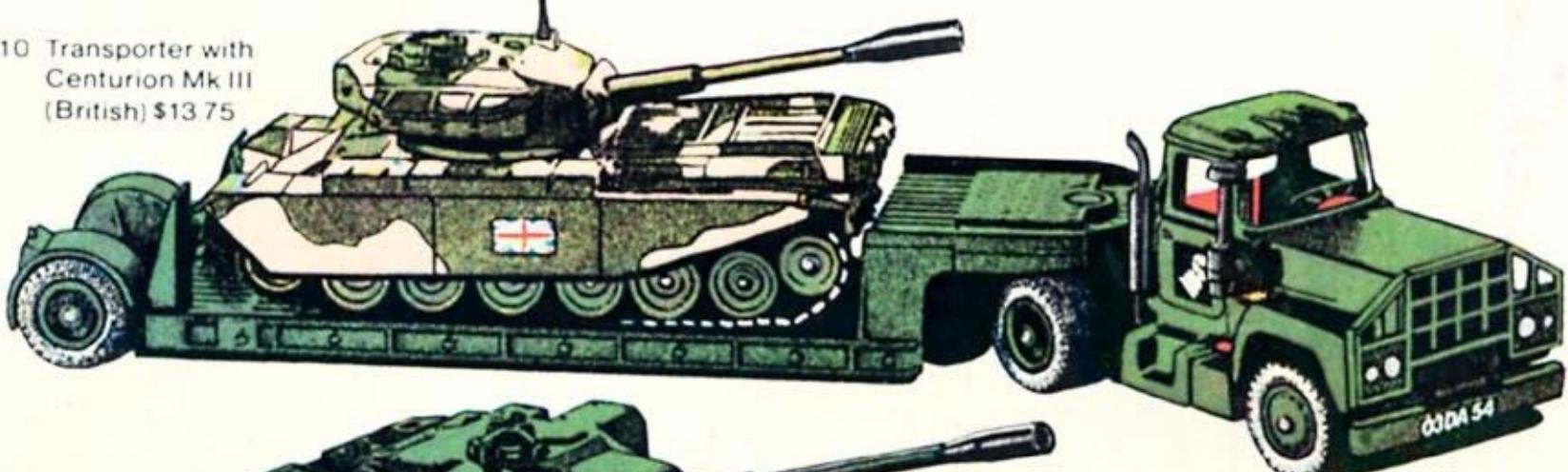
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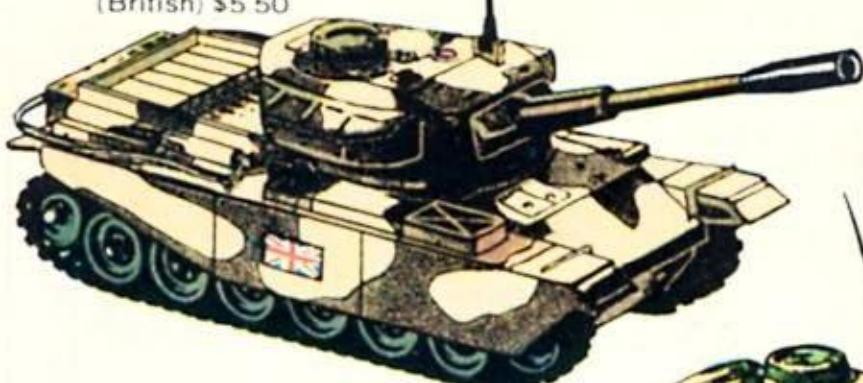
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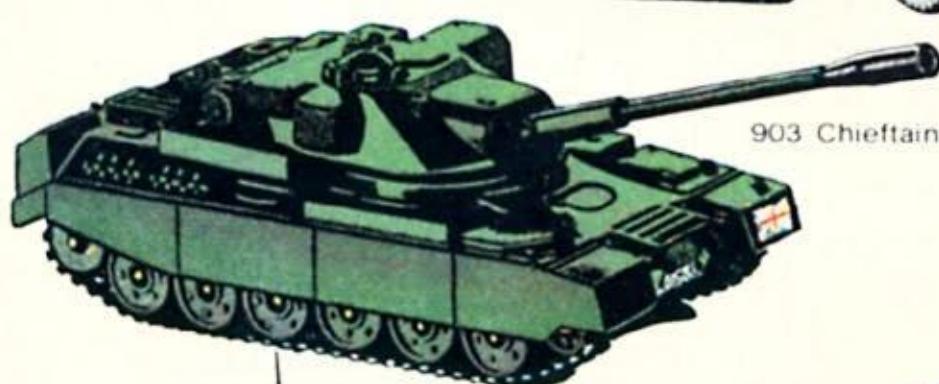
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