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GIANT

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BATMAN

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BATMAN



NEW! "THE SCARECROW'S TRAIL OF FEAR!"



A DOUBLE-LENGTH SHOCKER--"THE ROUND ROBIN DEATH THREATS!"

BATMAN AND THE MUMMY

THE MUMMY HAS CAPTURED THE PROFESSOR AND HIS BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER!

GREAT CHEOPS!

THEY VIOLATED THE TOMB OF HIS ANCESTORS AND HE WANTS REVENGE!

I'LL ROLL THIS TWO TON STONE... THEY'LL NEVER GET OUT ALIVE!



FROM THE
NIGHT-
SHROUDED
ROOFTOPS,
THE

EMERGES, PURSUING A
QUARRY WHO IN ONE
MINUTE WILL BE SCARED
TO DEATH ALONG --

ONLY YESTERDAY, IT
WAS SUMMER...
CHILDREN SQUEELED
WITH LAUGHTER,
AND WARM BREEZES
CARESSED SMILING
FACES!

BUT NOW, ON
THIS MIDNIGHT,
THE BITE OF
WINTER IS
ALREADY IN
THE AIR...
AND EVIL
THROBS LIKE
A LIVING
BEING IN
GOTHAM
CITY...

THE SCARECROWS
TRAIL OF FEAR!

A DC QUALITY MAGAZINE

EDITED BY JULIUS SCHWARTZ
WRITTEN BY DENNY O'NEIL

ART BY ERNIE CHIA & DICK GIORDANO

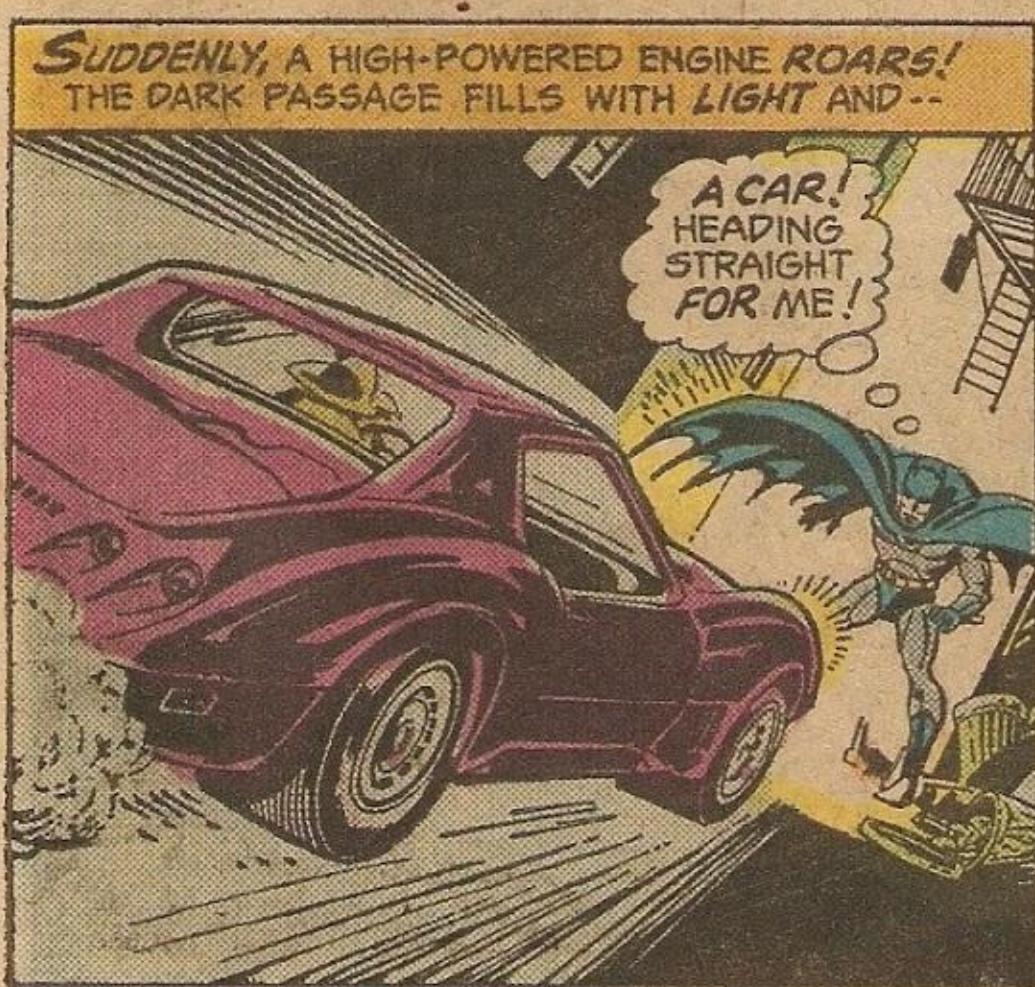
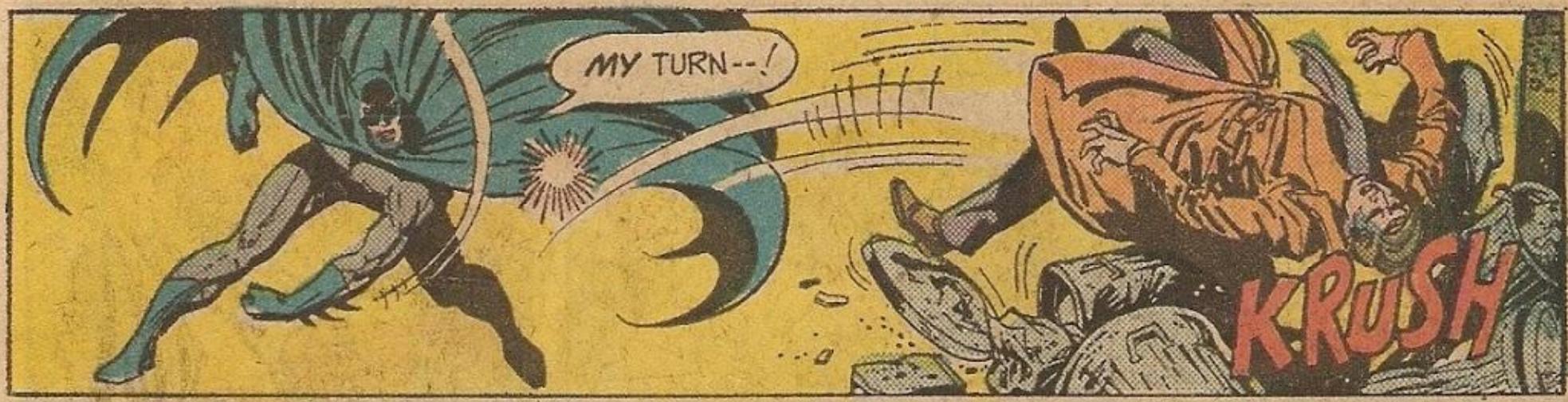
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RUN, ROBERT TOOMEY! HEAR THE BREATH EXPLODING FROM YOUR TORTURED LUNGS AND RUN!
RUN UNTIL YOU CAN RUN NO FURTHER!...





HE MISSED...
BUT NOT FOR LACK
OF TRYING!

BATMAN--
YOU ALL
RIGHT?

COMMISSIONER
GORDON! WHAT
BRINGS YOU TO
THIS DISMAL
PLACE?

YOU WEREN'T THE
ONLY ONE TRAILING
TOOMEY!

WE POLICE MAY
NOT BE BATMEN,
BUT WE DON'T
SPEND ALL OUR
TIME GIVING
PARKING
TICKETS!

SPEAKING OF
THE LATE MISTER
TOOMEY... WHAT
HAPPENED?

I'M NOT SURE...
BUT I THINK
HE WAS--
--SCARED
TO DEATH!

HARDLY... I WAS
ALMOST AS SPOOKED
AS HE WAS!

IT ADDS UP TO A
CRIMINAL I HOPED
WAS OUT OF THE
ACTION FOREVER!

A MAN NAMED
JONATHAN CRANE...
A PROFESSOR OF
PSYCHOLOGY WHO WAS
SHUNNED BECAUSE OF
HIS APPEARANCE...

THEY RIDICULE
MY LOOKS... MY
SHABBY CLOTHES!
THEY CALL ME A
SCARECROW!

"SO HE BECAME A
SCARECROW... A
SYMBOL OF BOTH
POVERTY AND FEAR...
WHO USED FEAR
AS A WEAPON TO
GET MONEY..."

YOU FIGURE
THE SCARECROW
IS MIXED IN
THIS MESS?

BET ON IT, COMMISSIONER!
AND WORSE... HE OBVIOUSLY
HAS A NEW GIMMICK...

...A GIMMICK THAT
INDUCES FEAR FROM
A DISTANCE! BOTH
TOOMEY AND I FELT
ITS EFFECTS!

THEN HE
WAS THE
HOT WHEELS
ARTIST?

YES... AND I SUSPECT THE
SCARECROW OVERHEARD
TOOMEY TELLING ME
ABOUT AN AMUSEMENT
PARK!

WHICH MEANS HE'LL ALSO
BE AFTER THE CHARITY
LOOT!

DURING THE NIGHT, THE FIRST SNOW HAS FALLEN.
THE AIR IS CHILL, THE DAWN PALE AS A REGIMENT OF OFFICERS APPROACHES THIS BLEAK
PLACE OUTSIDE GOTHAM...

YOU'RE SURE THE
MONEY'S HIDDEN HERE,
BATMAN-- IN GRAND
GLOBE FUN PARK?

NOT ABSOLUTELY
SURE... BUT TOOMEY
DID SPEND A MONTH
HIDING NEARBY!

HERE -- WITH
THESE WIDE-
TIRE TRACKS!

THEY LOOK LIKE
THOSE MADE BY
THE SCARECROW'S
CAR --

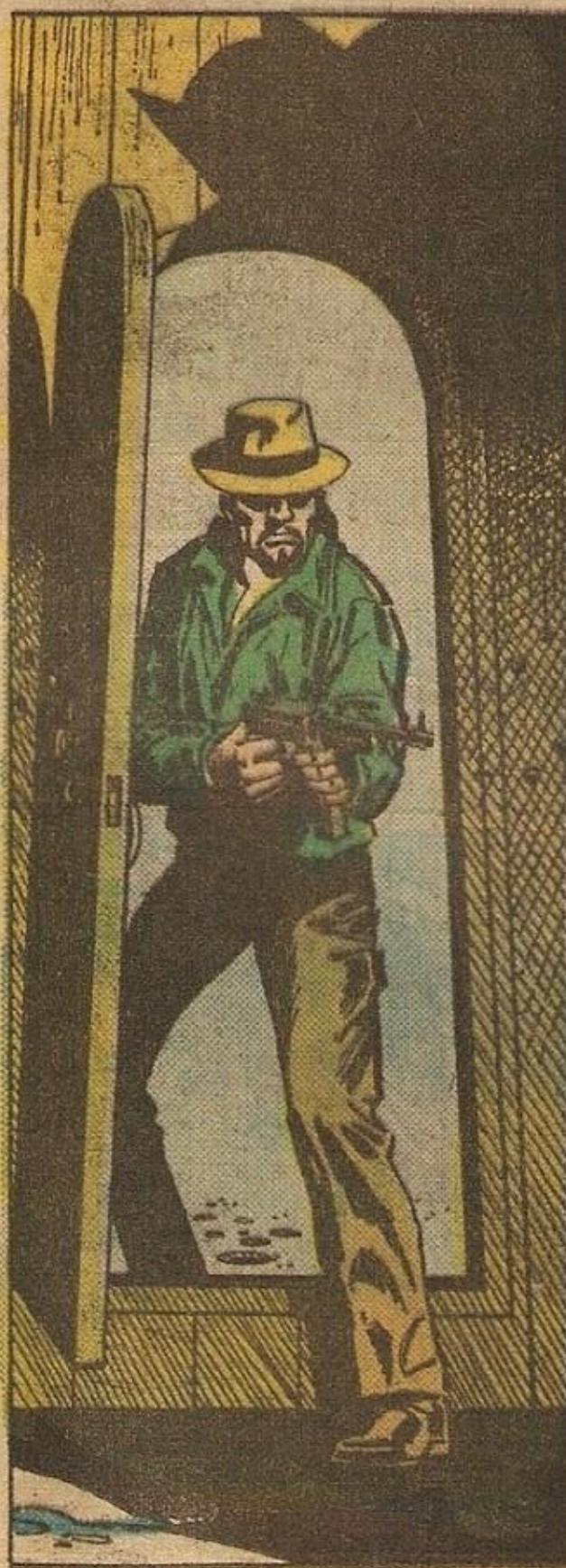
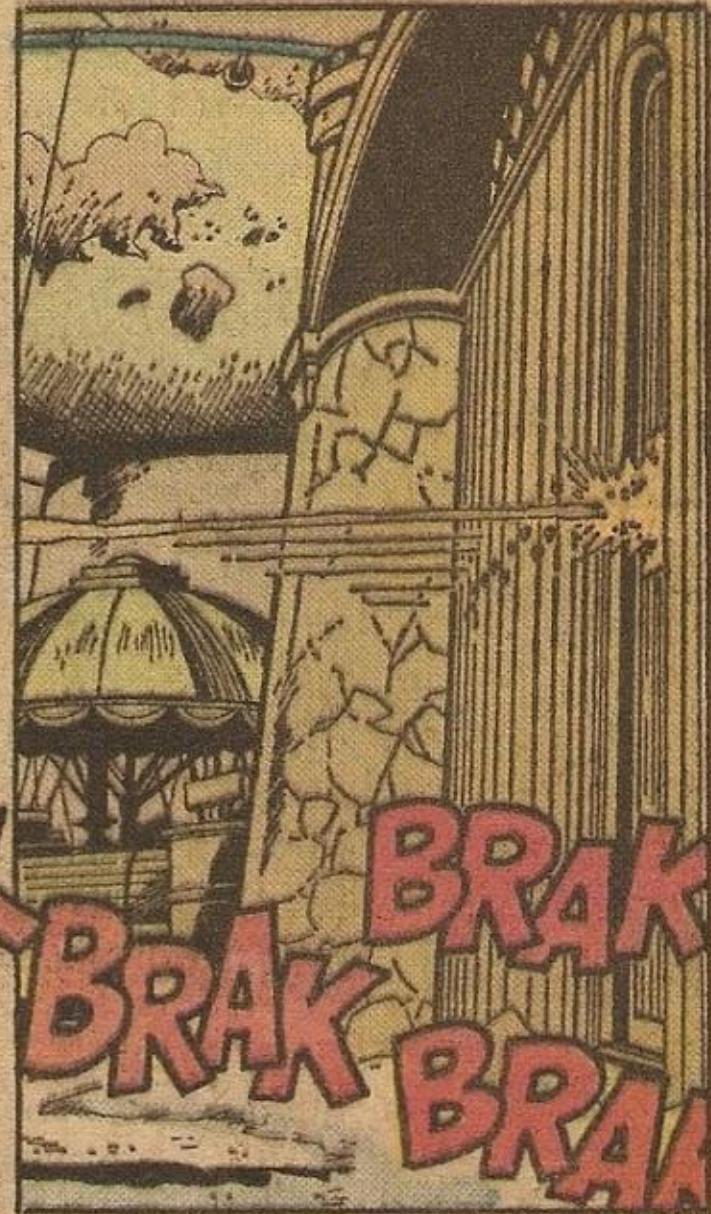
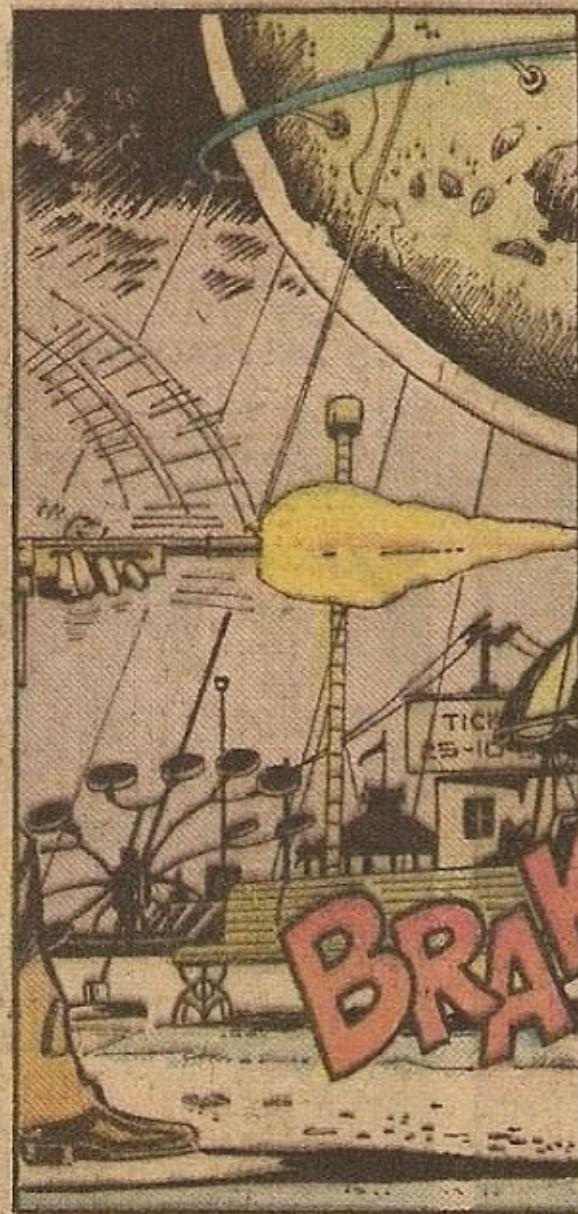
-- AND THEY
LEAD STRAIGHT
TO THE GATE!
WE'LL CHARGE
INSIDE AND...

WHERE DO
WE START
LOOKING--?

WHOA, COMMISSIONER!
REMEMBER THE SCARECROW'S
FEAR GIMMICK!

YOU PUT ARMED MEN
IN THERE AND THEY'LL
PANIC... MAYBE
SHOOT EACH
OTHER!





TOOMEY SAID "WHIR..." OR
"WIRL..." BEFORE HE DIED!
HE WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO
GET IT ALL OUT...

...BUT MY HUNCH
IS HE WAS TRYING TO
CONFESS THE LOCATION
OF THE MONEY!

WHIRLIGIG

THE
WHIRLIGIG!

COULD THIS
BE WHAT TOOMEY
TRIED TO TELL ME?

THERE
HE IS...
THE
BATMAN!

HE AIN'T NO BAT!
--HE'S A PIGEON
...OUR PIGEON!

WE WAIT TILL
HE'S ON THE
DINGUS--

KLIK

--AN' WE
TURN IT ON
TO THROW
HIM OFF
BALANCE!

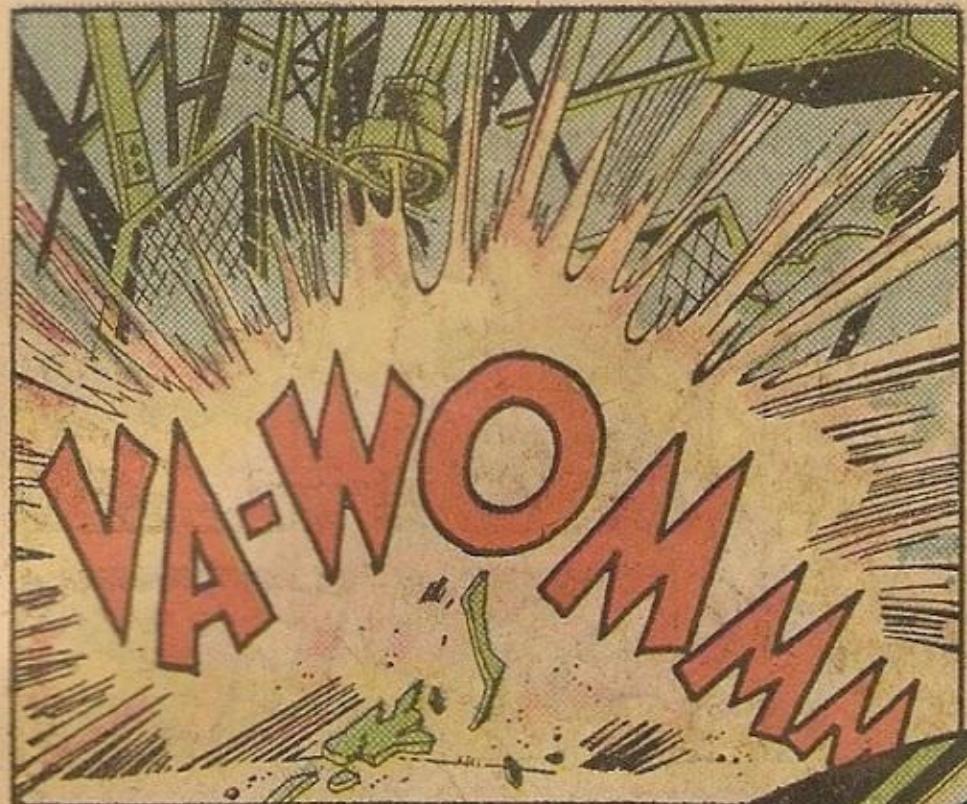
HE'S SLIPPED...
INTO ONE OF THE
CHAIRS!

SO HE'LL DIE
SITTIN'--!

ALL WE GOTTA
DO IS FEED 'IM
THIS!

TK

HERE, BATMAN--
HAVE A PINEAPPLE
ON US!



HOW, INDEED? TO LEARN THE ANSWER, WE MUST BACK UP TEN SECONDS... TO THE MOMENT THE BATMAN GLANCED UP AND SAW DANGER--!

HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY REACTED INSTANTLY...

...AND HE HURLED HIMSELF IN A PERFECTLY FLAT DIVE TOWARD THE OPENING IN THE CENTER OF THE REVOLVING PLATFORM!...

THOSE TEN SECONDS HAVE ELAPSED ... AND NOW--

H-HE'S GONE--!?

--WITHOUT A TRACE! BUT... HOW?!





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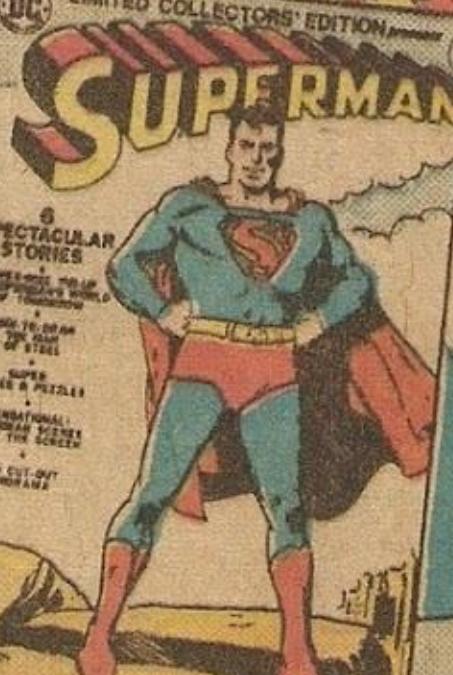
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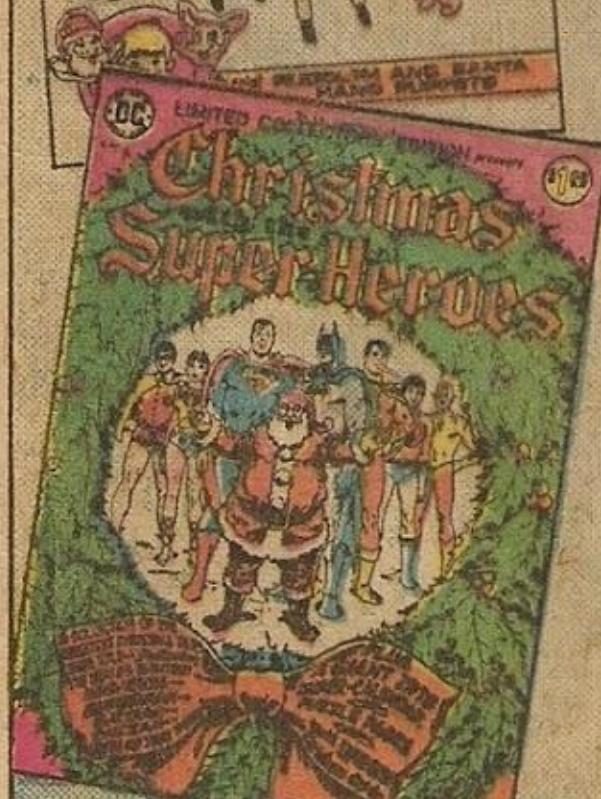
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AT THE VERY APEX
OF THE MOUNTAINOUS
RISE, THE MASKED
MANHUNTER SENSES
MOTION BEHIND HIM!
HE SPINS AROUND--

--AND THE WIND
BRINGS TO HIS
EARS A TAUNT...

YOU WON A PRIZE,
BATMAN--A FACE FULL
OF BUCKSHOT!

HEY, WHY
WASTE THE
AMMO?

LET'S JUST
RUN 'IM
OVER!

HE'S
DOWN--

YEAH...
AN' OUT!

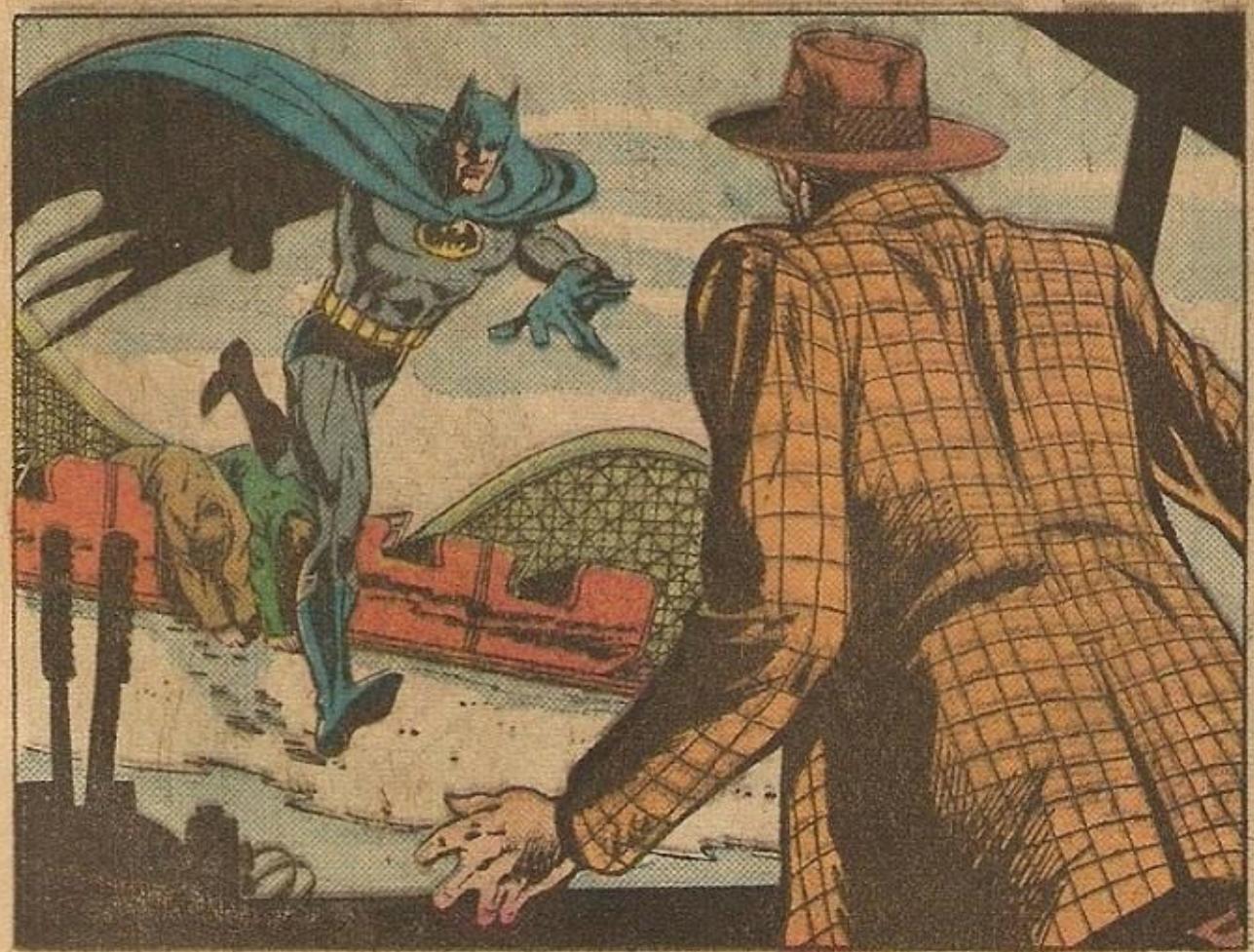
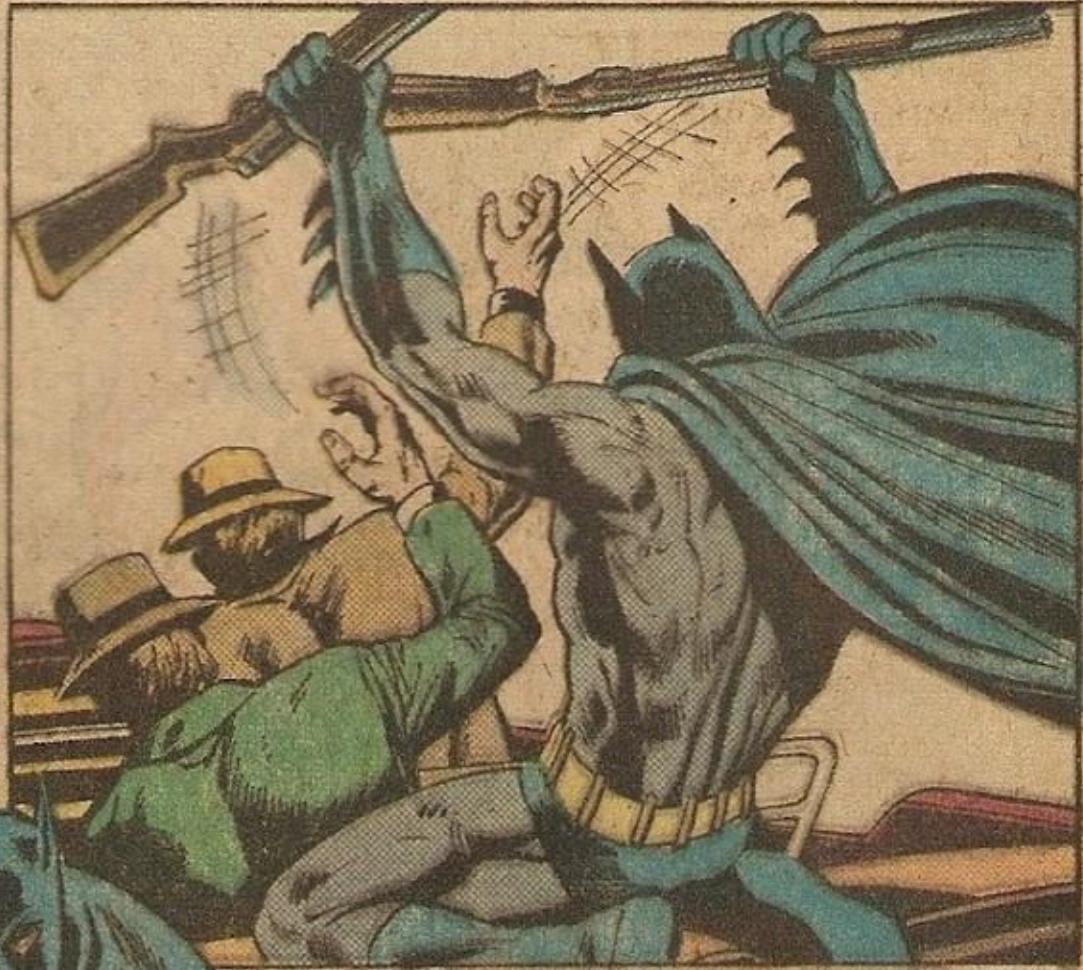
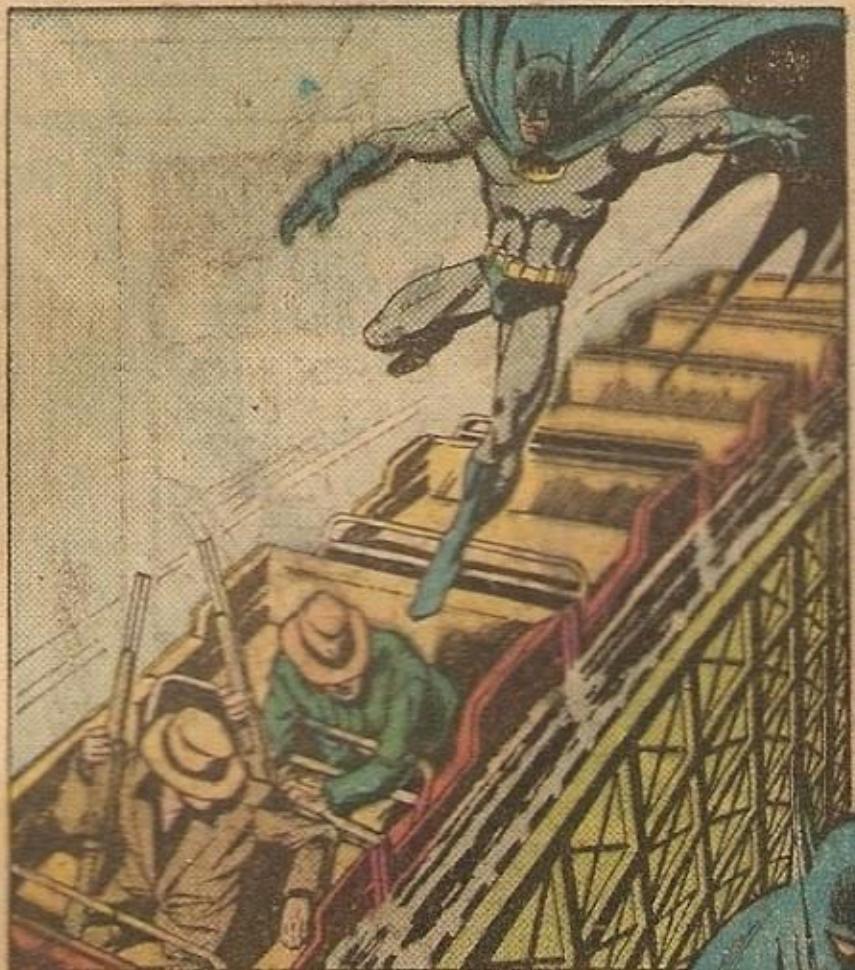
WHEEE
WHAT FUN!

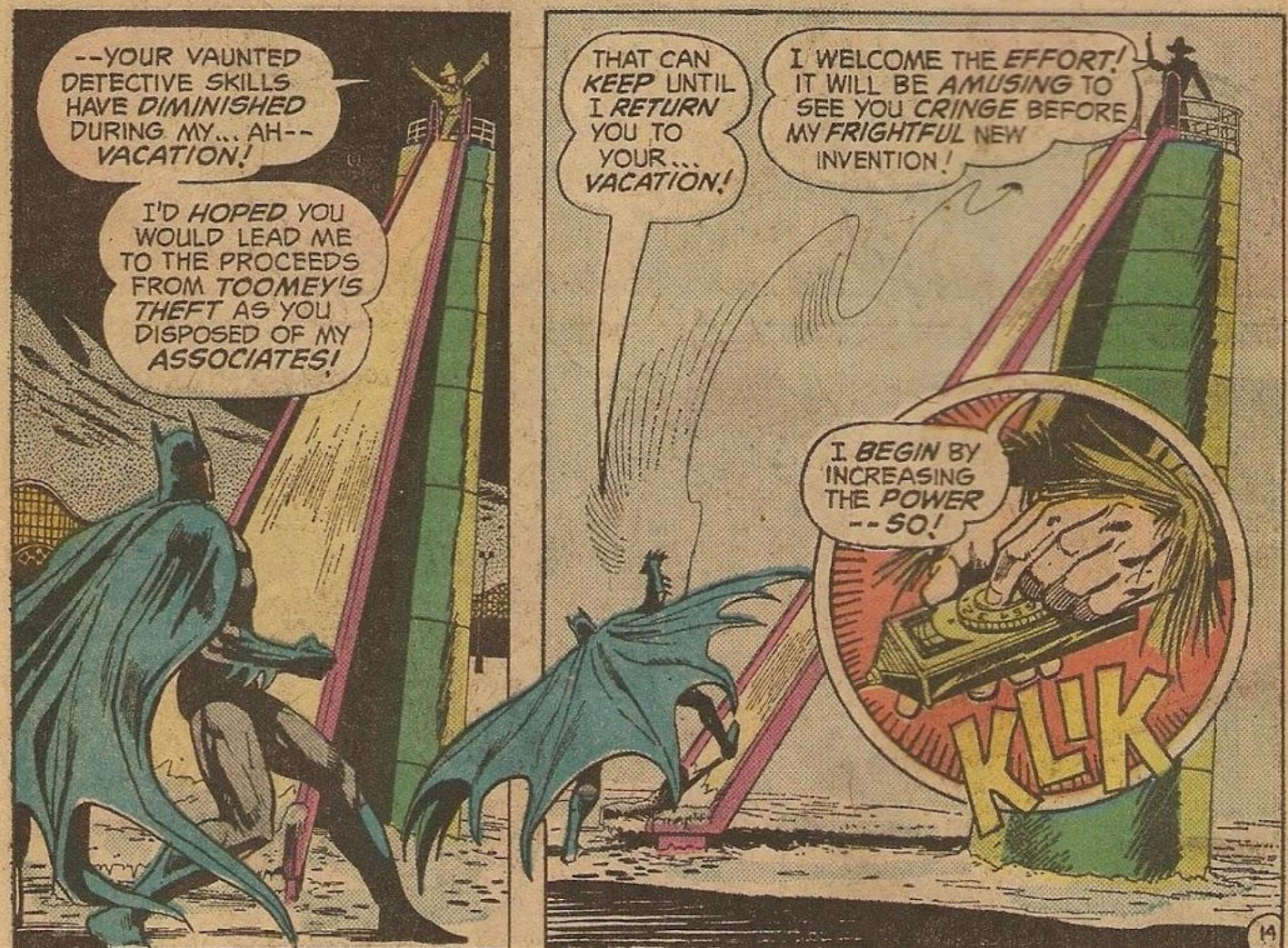
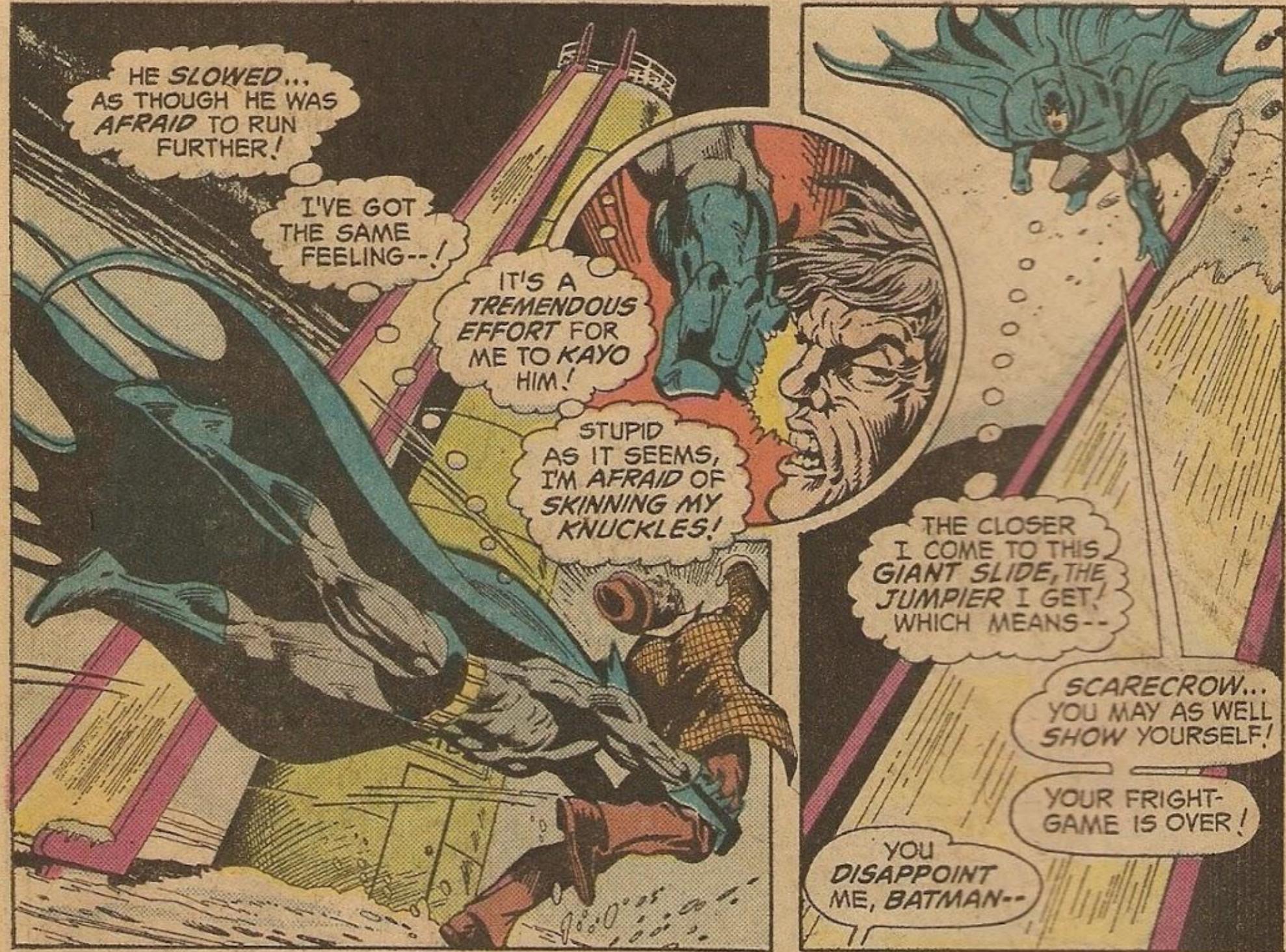
YOU SEE 'IM?

NAW... HE
MUSTA
FALLEN!

WE'LL
COLLECT
'IM--

--ON A
POSTAGE
STAMP!





STARTING TO FEEL
A TRIFLE... UNEASY,
BATMAN?

NOPE! I'M
CALM AS A CLAM,
SCARECROW!



A CRAWLING ON
YOUR SKIN, BATMAN?

FLUTTERING IN
YOUR BELLY?

UNH-UH!

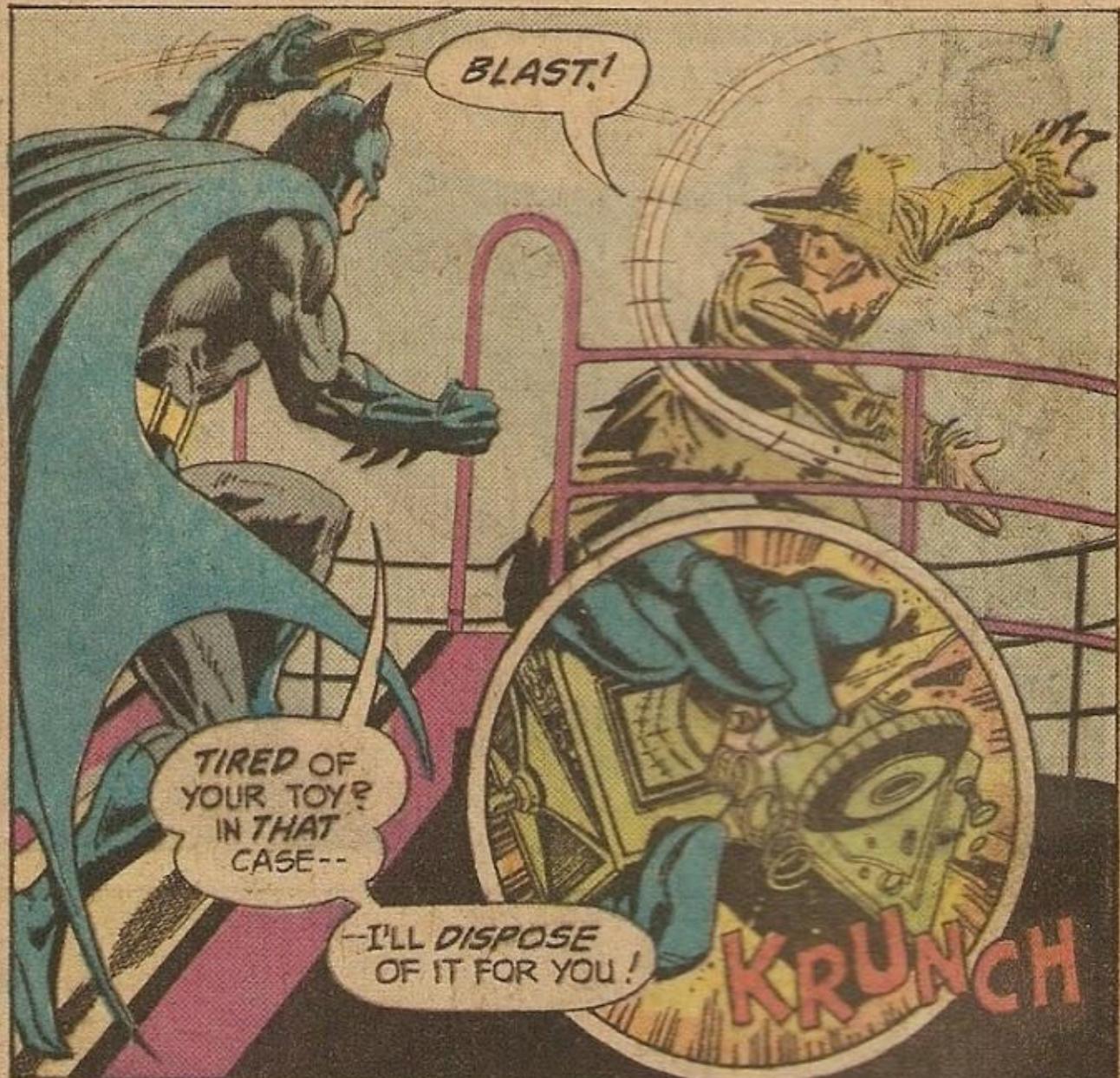


YOUR FOREHEAD
COVERED WITH COLD
SWEAT?

YOUR
NERVES
SPASM?

NONE OF
THAT!





P-PLEASE
D-DON'T...

H-H-HIT...

...M-M-ME...

LIMP AS HIS
NAMESAKE,
THE SCARECROW
SLIDES
DOWNWARD--

--TO THOSE
WHO WAIT!

YOUR TIME WAS UP,
BATMAN! BUT AS USUAL,
I SHOULDN'T HAVE
WORRIED... NOT
FOR A SECOND!

THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT TO
DO--

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

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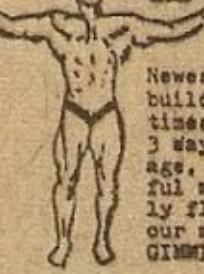
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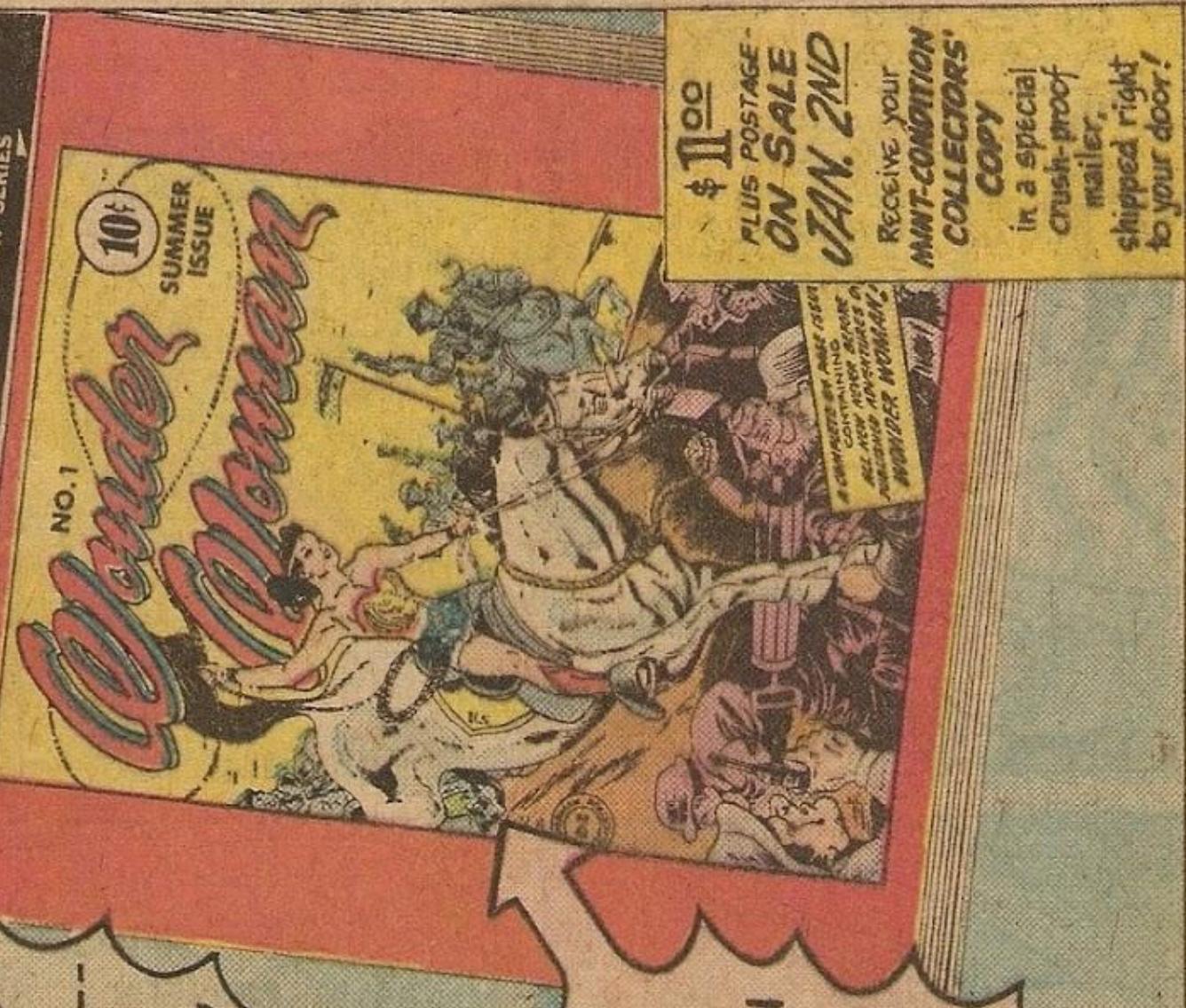
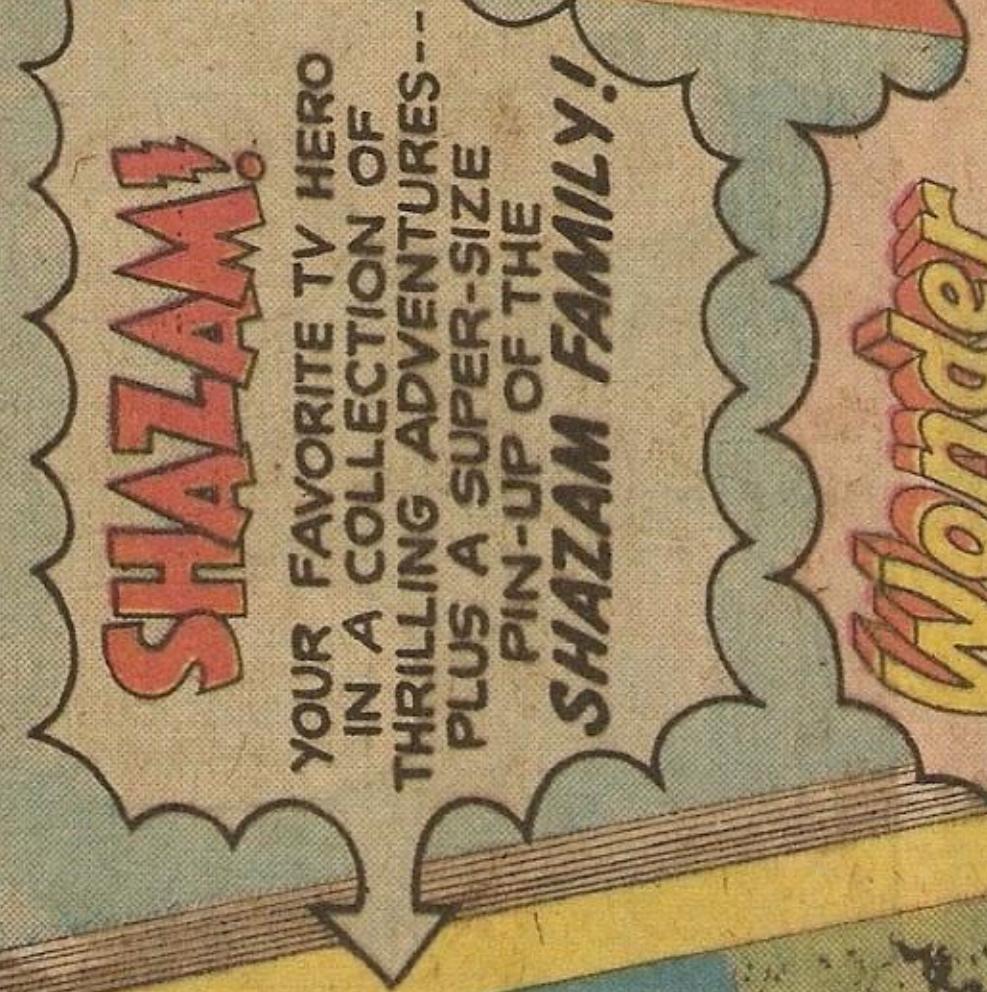
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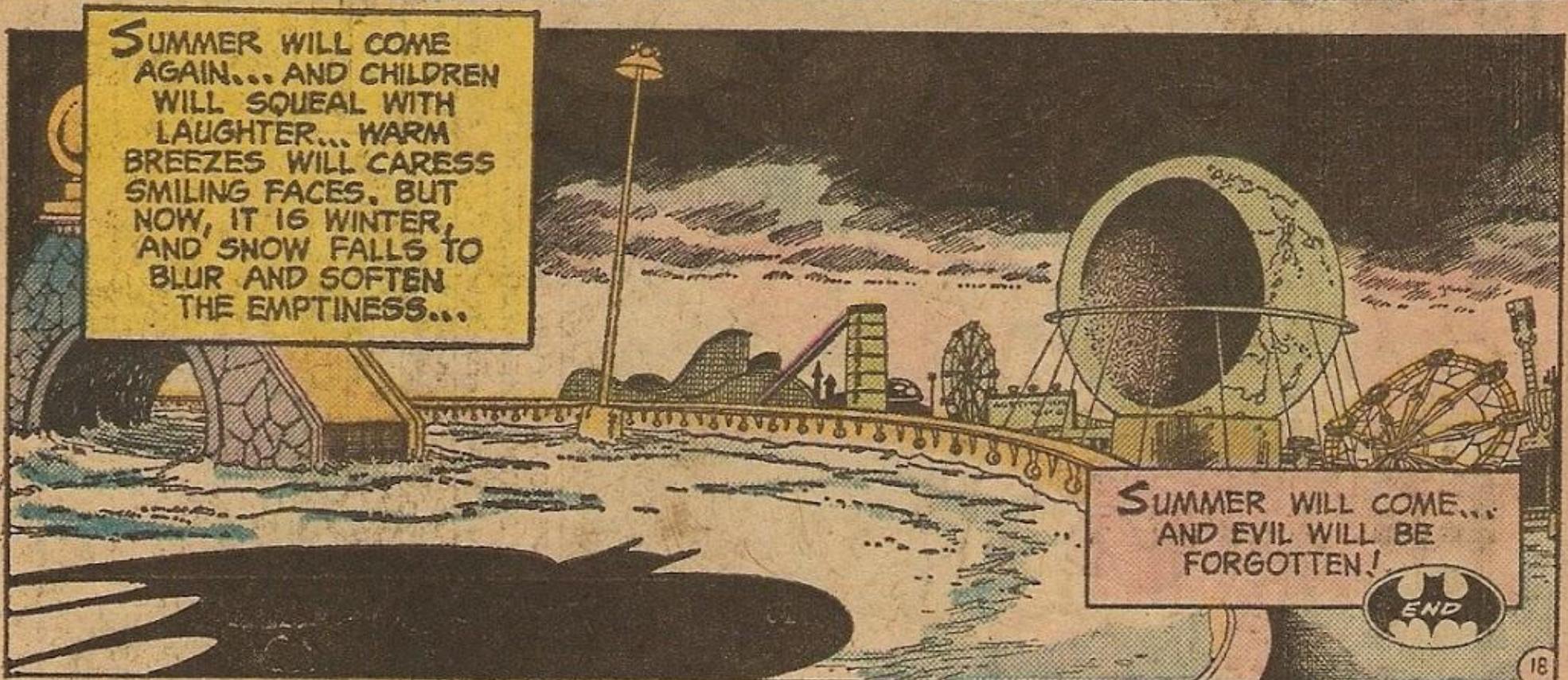
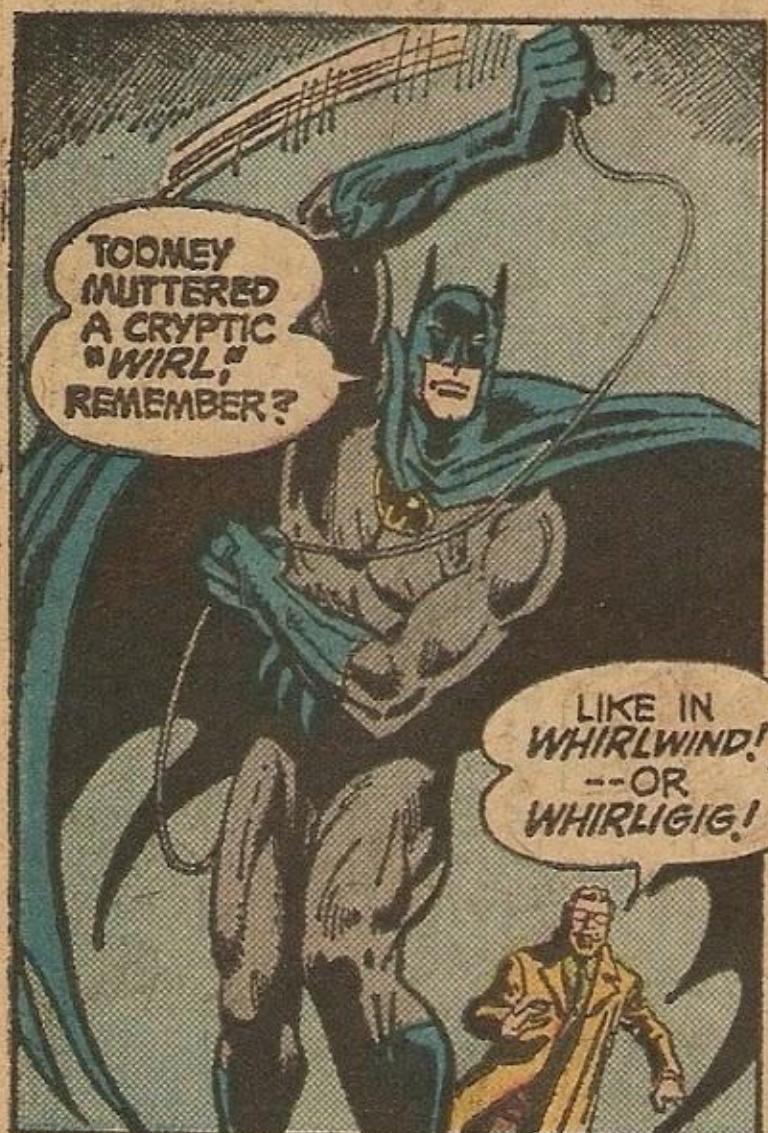
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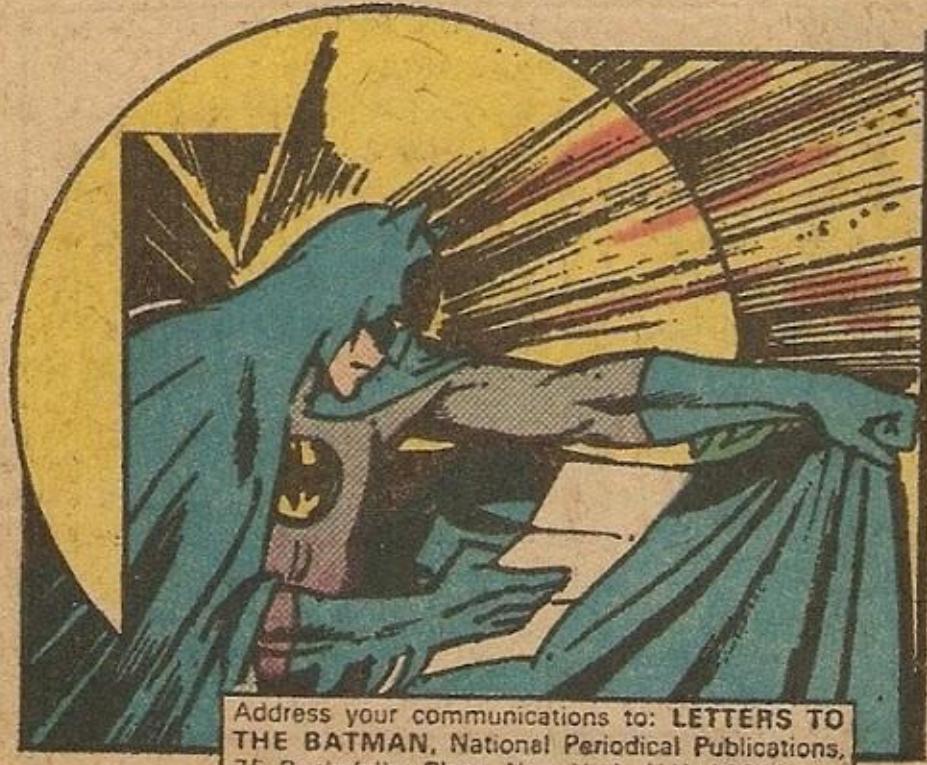
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Address your communications to: LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

"The Night of the Shadow" in **BATMAN #259** is a vast improvement over last year's **Batman-Shadow** meeting. Back then, **The Shadow** complimented **The Batman** on being such a talented crimefighter and I kept wondering why, since **The Batman** had spent the entire issue getting himself into jams from which **The Shadow** had to free him. This time, **The Batman** was almost entirely on his own, winning his battles all by himself, as **The Shadow** indeed notes he must at story's end.

"Night" was not just a typical bats-and-robbers tale like most of the stories in this magazine. Whether intentional or not, it became a statement on fate, evil, youth, and the process of maturing. The vehicle for these themes was that tried-and-true plot device of mystery and Gothic horror tales: The return! The present seems bright and fairly comprehensible; the past, especially the events of childhood when one sees good and evil in sharp contrast to each other, seems fuzzy, dark, half-forgotten and perhaps a bit frightening. The idea of a murky, terrifying past returning, repeating itself and trying to take control of the present is particularly disturbing.

"Night" makes effective use of this idea right from its opening presentation of a horrific incident from Bruce Wayne's childhood, an incident particularly replete with the allegorical overtones that would impress upon a child's subconscious. The gunmen become wild anarchical forces, turning their surroundings into chaos, usurping property, destroying the silence around them with their shots, threatening to kill bystanders and, in the process, tear apart a father and son. Most important, their actions severely wound a child's psyche.

The Shadow aptly fills the role of a mysterious, vengeful Fate, violently correcting the imbalance wreaked in the moral order. As time passes, **The Shadow** and Stamper, the chief criminal, pass from view, but the forces of good and evil remain taking new forms. Wayne himself embodies the good while his parent's murder becomes the evil. Yet the great figures of the old days have not vanished. They eerily live on, hidden from view but somehow retaining their youthful energy, as if their work is not yet done. Stamper literally builds up his energies during the intervening years for a new

LETTERS to the **BATMAN** S-1926

assault on society. The **Shadow**'s task is to help the new representative of the forces of moral stability, **The Batman**, meet Stamper's challenge. Though **Batman** can defeat the evils he perceives as an adult, he cannot yet cope with the buried fears left over from his childhood.

As if directed by fate, the past swiftly swirls around **The Batman**, apparently from nowhere. It begins with Gordon's chance (?) question about guns and **Batman**'s hesitant response hints that his dislike of firearms is not simply a matter of moral scruples, but a matter of irrational fear as well. (It is good to see some psychological depth for once given to a superhero's typical but risky refusal to carry guns.)

Quickly thereafter, the past reappears, bit by bit. First, there is the theft of the tiara, then the return of Swofford and the nurse, now aged and ghostly, and finally, the return of Stamper, strangely youthful and strong as ever. Rather, he is stronger, for this time he succeeds in causing death where before he failed, and the death of Swofford recalls that of Thomas and Martha Wayne as depicted earlier in the story. **The Batman** is in the same position he was in as a child, standing helplessly by as someone dies. The elevator trap again almost reduces **Batman** to childish helplessness, confronted as he is with the juvenile fears of falling and being trapped in an enclosed place.

The scene of the final battle, the abandoned jewelry store, caps the imagery: the bright shiny place of childhood experience has become a dark, dingy, forgotten home of fear, like a twisted section of the subconscious. Where once there were living people, there are now only unmoving manikins, as inactive as their now aged and dead counterparts would be. The dummies are non-entities, just as the bystanders years before were in terms of the greater drama of the confrontation of good and evil, **Shadow** and Stamper.

The Shadow now returns, appearing at first like a godlike voice out of nowhere, hinting at retribution and the knowledge of the workings of fate. At first, **The Batman**'s attack of uncontrollable fear during the final fight seems inexplicable in such a strong-minded man, but under close examination, one can see how each event in the story brought that fear closer to the surface until it finally erupted.

But at that point, the story launches into its second theme, that of the process of achieving maturity. When he rescued Bruce and his father from that nightmare of destruction, **The Shadow** made as powerful an impression on Wayne's mind as the gunfire had. When violence re-entered his life with the death of his parents, Bruce Wayne immediately thought back to **The Shadow**, his father's savior of another time, and ultimately determined to become a crimefighter like **The Shadow** in order to avenge his parents' deaths and prevent crimes in the future.

Oddly enough, Thomas Wayne's death set Bruce free to follow the path of the second father figure he had adopted. He would grow up to be both a respectable rich man like Wayne and a crimefighter like **The Shadow**. In their meeting last year, **The Batman** and **The Shadow** were merely two superheroes from different generations, affirming the link between the pulps and the comics by their handshake. In "Night" there is an inescapable sense of a father-son relationship between them.

The **Shadow's** laugh when **Batman** is paralyzed with fear breaks Stamper's spell just as the memory of **The Shadow's** example enabled Wayne to go on, determined to right wrongs. **The Shadow** first inspired Bruce to resist his childhood psychic wounds by fighting against evil forces like those which caused them. Now he leads him to obliterate those wounds by inspiring Bruce to defeat their original source.

By defeating Stamper, **The Batman** proves himself Stamper's superior, and true heir to Stamper's former master, **The Shadow**. The monster of Bruce's youth proved to be a vulnerable human after all and with that ancient evil finally laid to rest, **The Shadow** can retire from the scene. But he does not do so without having an intriguing conversation with **Batman**, full of a sense of a stern-but-kind parent and an admiring son trying to communicate but finding themselves at cross-purposes. **The Shadow's** eyes are concealed from our view as he praises **Batman** for justifying his faith. Perhaps he is trying to conceal his emotions, but certainly, he leaves before the conversation can turn from crimefighter's shop talk to **The Batman's** expression of gratitude.

To sum up, this story was in many ways the best **Batman** tale in a long, long time, achieving psychological depth and relevance not by twisting comics conversations into heavy-handed think pieces, but by building upon and developing the mythic import in the concept of superhero and mystery stories.

PETER SANDERSON, Milton, Mass.

(Normally, it would be impossible for us to print a letter as long as this one, Peter, but the fact that it was so well-written, coupled with our changeover to monthly publication, gave us the opportunity to share your views with the rest of our readers. And while we wait till next issue for your comments on **BATMAN #260**, let's take a look at some **BAT-EXTRAS!**—BR)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

It's rather obvious that the character and appearance of **Batman** has changed quite a bit since he first appeared in **DETECTIVE #27** in 1939. His costume back then was different from the one he wears now, although the basics of the outfit remain unchanged over the 35 years.

With his early costume, for example, the mask was slightly different and his cape could form two "wings" though he could not fly with them. Then, in the forties, the costume became much what it is today. In 1939, he wore only regular gloves; in the forties, the fringes appeared on them.

Then, in 1964, came the "New Look" **Batman**. The bat-emblem on his chest got the bat-signal circle around it. Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson let

their hair grow a bit and some minor modifications were made in the equipment.

But, most recently, even more changes were made. **Bruce** and **Dick** grew even longer hair, the **Batcave** looks nothing like it used to, the **Batmobile** became a blue sportscar and **Batman** began to threaten crooks. Even the **Bat-signal** changed, both on the chest and in the sky. And **Batman's** ears have become quite long, like they were originally.

Now we come to the question of **Robin**. The readers seem to have some idea that he should be dropped completely. This is purely insane! Some of the newer readers of **Batman** who are not familiar with **Robin** have taken a disliking to him and want him dropped, not even realizing that he has been an active part of the **Batman** legend since **DETECTIVE COMICS #38** in 1940. That's 34 years and it's too long to just drop a character and forget about him. As for the older readers who want the **Teen Wonder** dropped... think about it, guys. What would it be like without **Robin**? That's one change in **Batman** that goes a bit too far!

Robin has been a part of **Batman** for too long. If you want to get rid of him, you might as well get rid of **Batman** too!

KENNY BLACK, Oak Park, Ill.

It's interesting to note, Kenny, that both you and Peter, above, mention in your letters that you don't expect them to be printed because they are not typical of the LOC's we usually publish! Readers, take note: These are the types of letters—though not quite this long—that we would like to publish, if we got more of them! Don't write a typical letter, write an atypical one!—BR)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

I was sitting in my insurance class and I thought of something so dumb that it was probably never asked, even back in the good old days when every letter to the **BatCave** was something like, "Will Dick Grayson ever ask Kathy Kane's niece for a date?" or "How come Robin's utility belt doesn't have vials like **Batman's**?"

To continue the grand tradition of dumb questions, I find myself obligated to ask this question of national importance: What would happen if **The Batman** were chasing a crook and another crook came from behind and stepped on his cape? Would the cape come off automatically or does our hero gag?

GREG COBEN, New Brunswick, N.J.

(To continue the grand tradition of ANSWERING those dumb questions, Greg, we reply—and our predecessors would be proud—"Do you have x-ray eyes? Have you peeked into our story vault? The answer to your question will appear in a **PRIVATE LIFE OF CLARK KENT** story titled 'Bogus Batman' appearing in **SUPERMAN #287!**"—Bob Rozakis)

BAT-BIBLIOGRAPHY: "The Round-Robin Death Threats" and "Where There's a Will—There's a Slay" appeared in **DETECTIVE COMICS**, issues 366-367 (Aug. and Sept., 1967), respectively.

**HERE
IT IS...**

A TRIVIA QUIZ GUARANTEED TO DRIVE YOU...

BATS!



1

COMMISSIONER GORDON FREQUENTLY CONTACTS THE BATMAN WITH THE BAT-SIGNAL! WHERE IS THIS DEVICE LOCATED?

- A) ATOP THE GOTHAM STATE BUILDING
- B) IN THE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE
- C) ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS
- D) IN BRUCE WAYNE'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT

2

YEARS AGO, THE BATMAN WAS FREQUENTLY AIDED BY A CIRCUS PERFORMER WHO BECAME THE BATWOMAN. WHAT WAS HER REAL NAME?

- A) VICKI VALE
- B) KATHY KANE
- C) SELINA KYLE
- D) BARBARA GORDON

3

JUST AS SUPERMAN WAS PESTERED BY MR. MXYZPTLK, BATMAN WAS OFTEN VISITED BY AN IMP FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION. WHAT WAS HIS NAME?

- A) BAT-MITE
- B) BAT-IMP
- C) MR. BATZPTLK
- D) THE BAT-GENIE



4

BAT-HOUND WAS THE PET OF A FRIEND OF BRUCE WAYNE'S WHO DONNED A MASK AND HELPED THE DYNAMIC DUO. WHAT WAS BAT-HOUND'S "SECRET IDENTITY"?

- A) REX
- B) STREAK
- C) KRYPTO
- D) ACE



YEARS BEFORE THE CURRENT BATGIRL MADE HER DEBUT, THERE WAS ANOTHER BATGIRL. WHAT WAS THE TITLE OF THE STORY IN WHICH SHE FIRST APPEARED?

- A) "THE MILLION-DOLLAR DEBUT OF BATGIRL"
- B) "BAT-GIRL"
- C) "HERE COMES THE BATGIRL"
- D) "I WANTED TO JOIN THE LITTLE LEAGUE, BUT THEY'D ONLY LET ME BE THE BATGIRL"

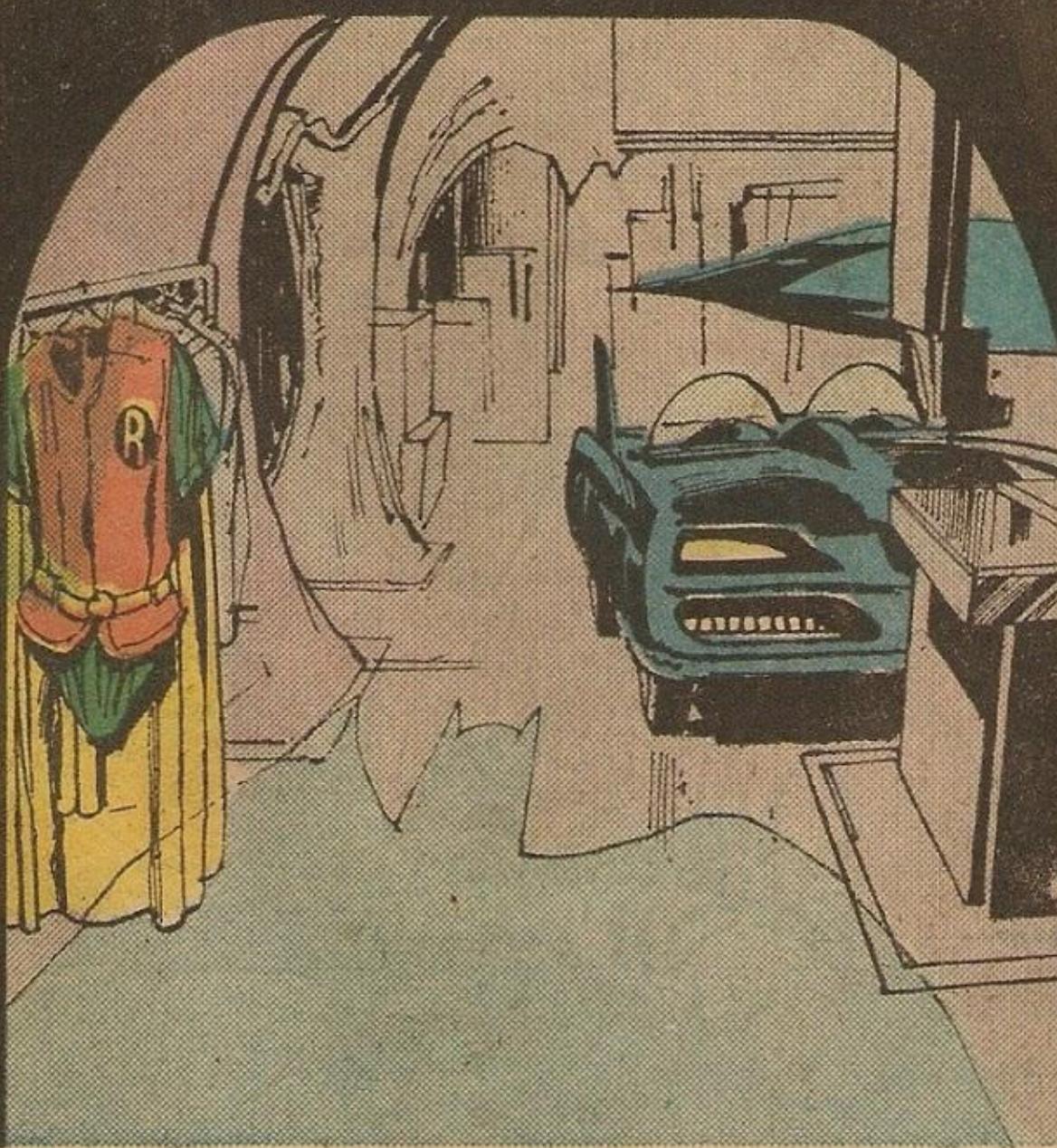
5



6

BRUCE WAYNE DISCOVERED THE BAT-CAVE

- A) BENEATH WAYNE MANOR.
- B) IN A COVE OFF GOTHAM BAY.
- C) UNDER POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
- D) DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM.



7

ORIGINALLY, BRUCE AND DICK WENT TO THE BAT CAVE

- A) DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS BEHIND A GRANDFATHER CLOCK.
- B) IN AN ELEVATOR BEHIND THE CLOSET.
- C) DOWN THE BAT-POLES BEHIND THE MOVING WALL.
- D) IN A TAXICAB.

B-B-B-Bat's All Folks!

THE ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 47

DOWN MEMORY LANE with
BATMAN & ROBIN
A MEMORABLE TWO-PART TALE
CULLED FROM THE FILES OF THE
DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE!



BATMAN

WITH ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE
SWITCHING
ON OF A
RADIO...

THE
RING-
ING
OF A
DOOR-
BELL--
THE
DIALING OF
A TELEPHONE!

COMMONPLACE
ACTIONS THAT
SEEM HARM-
LESS ENOUGH,
BUT PROVE TO
BE MURDER
METHODS OF A
MYSTERIOUS
MASTERMIND!

HERE
IS A
BAT-
MAN
THRILLER
IN THE
"GRAND
OLD"
TRADITION!

THE ROUND-ROBIN DEATH THREATS

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I'M TRYING
TO STRETCH
THIS FIGHT
OUT--

DON'T WANT TO
CAPTURE THESE
CROOKS TOO
QUICKLY!

BUT I'M BEING
FORCED TO FIGHT
FASTER--AND
FASTER!



STORY BY
GARDNER FOX

ART BY
CARMIN INFANTINO
2 SID GREENE

IT IS EARLY EVENING IN WAYNE MANSION--WHEN ALFRED THE BUTLER APPROACHES BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE IN HIS STUDY...

A SPECIAL DELIVERY LETTER FOR YOU, SIR.

IT JUST ARRIVED!

THANKS, ALFRED.



WHAT COULD HAVE CAUSED SUCH A THING, SIR?

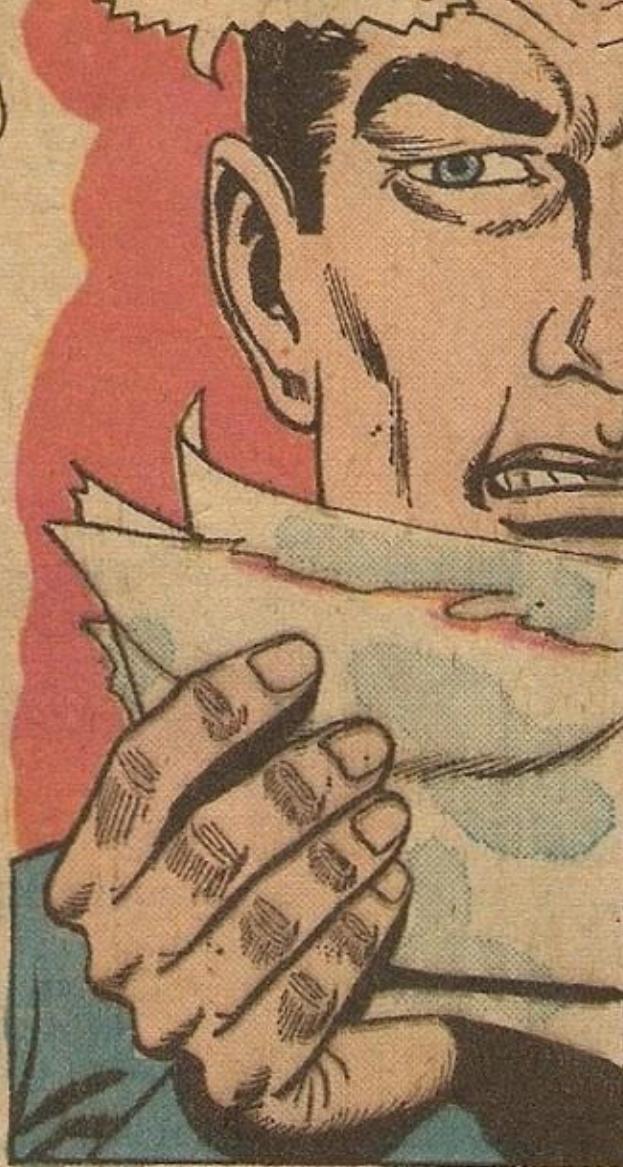
A FORM OF-- INSTANTANEOUS COMBUSTION! EVIDENTLY, THE BODY HEAT OF MY FINGERS, AS I HELD THE LETTER TRIGGERED A CHEMICAL REACTION OF THE FLUIDS WITH WHICH THE PAPER WAS DOUSED!

ALFRED, I MUST TELL YOU THE LETTER'S CONTENTS--

I'VE GOT TO-- TO CONVINCE MYSELF THIS WASN'T THE WORK OF A CRANK!

AS HE READS THE CONTENTS, BRUCE WAYNE'S FACE GROWS HARD AS MARBLE...

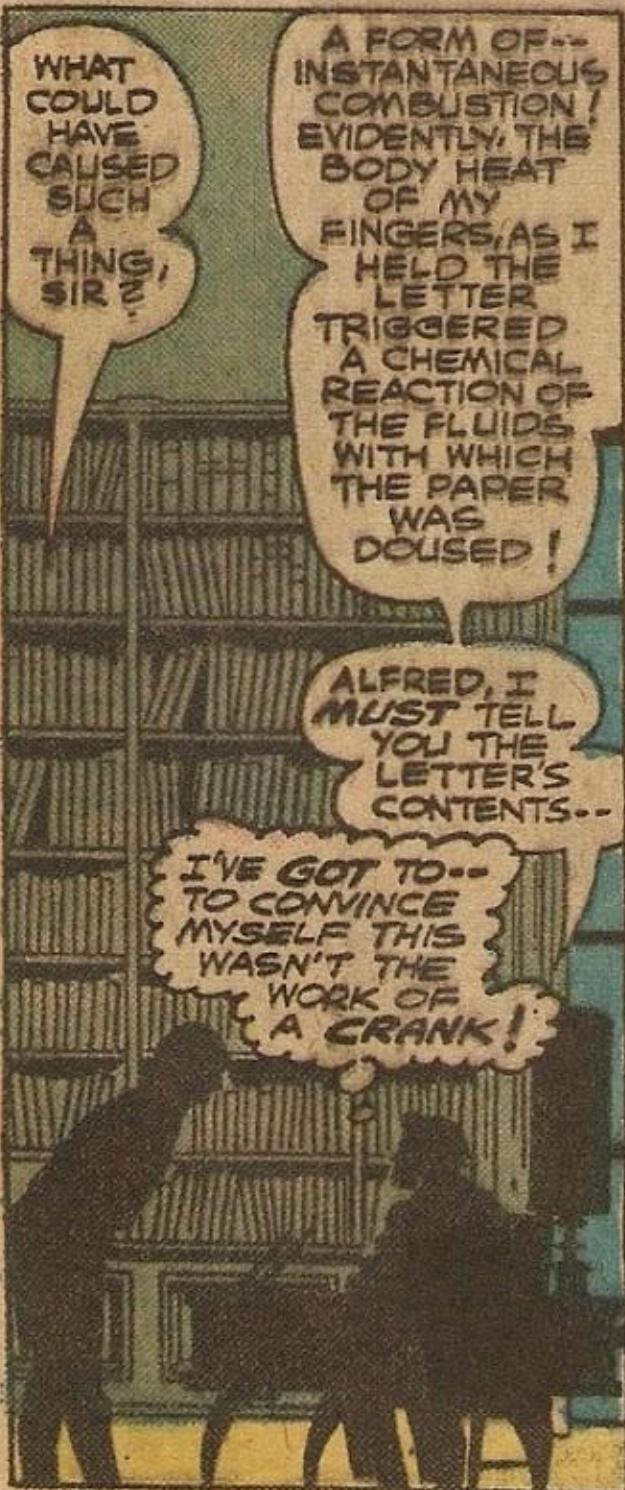
INCREDIBLE!



SCARCELY HAS HE FINISHED THE LETTER THAN ...

IT--BURST INTO FLAMES!

THOSE FLAMES RELEASED SOME GAS--



;HUMBLE! ;HUMBLE!

I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?

I'M TRYING TO TELL ALFRED... BUT I CAN'T! THE LETTER COMMANDED ME NOT TO INFORM ANYONE OF ITS CONTENTS--AND THE GAS IS MAKING ME OBEY!



AS HE DRESSES FOR HIS NIGHTLY PATROL, THOUGHTS RUN RIOT IN THE MIND OF THE CAPE CRUSADER...

THE LETTER DIRECTED ME TO BE AT COMMISSIONER GORDON'S HOUSE AT NINE O'CLOCK--AND TELL HIM TO TURN ON HIS SHORT-WAVE RADIO SET AT WAVEBAND 1207!

IT SEEMS LIKE A HARMLESS COMMAND-- BUT I HAVE A STRONG FEELING SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN IF I FOLLOW THIS THROUGH!



SHORTLY, THE POWERFUL BATMOBILE IS WHEELING ACROSS TOWN IN A DIRECTION OPPOSITE TO WHERE COMMISSIONER GORDON LIVES...

I WISH ROBIN WERE WITH ME, BUT HE HAD A BOOK REPORT TO WORK ON--AND HIS SCHOOLWORK MUST COME FIRST!

NEVER HAVE HIS EYES BEEN SO KEEN, HIS SENSES SO READY TO DETECT CRIME...

I HAVE EVERY ELECTRONIC GADGET TURNED ON FULL POWER! I MUST FIND A CRIME--SOON!

FOR IF I'M BUSY FIGHTING CRIMINALS--MILES AWAY FROM GORDON'S HOUSE--I WON'T BE ABLE TO FULFILL MY MISSION!

AH! MY IMPROVED SOUND AMPLIFIER IS PICKING UP THE THUMP OF HUMAN HEARTBEATS--IN THAT DARK BUILDING!

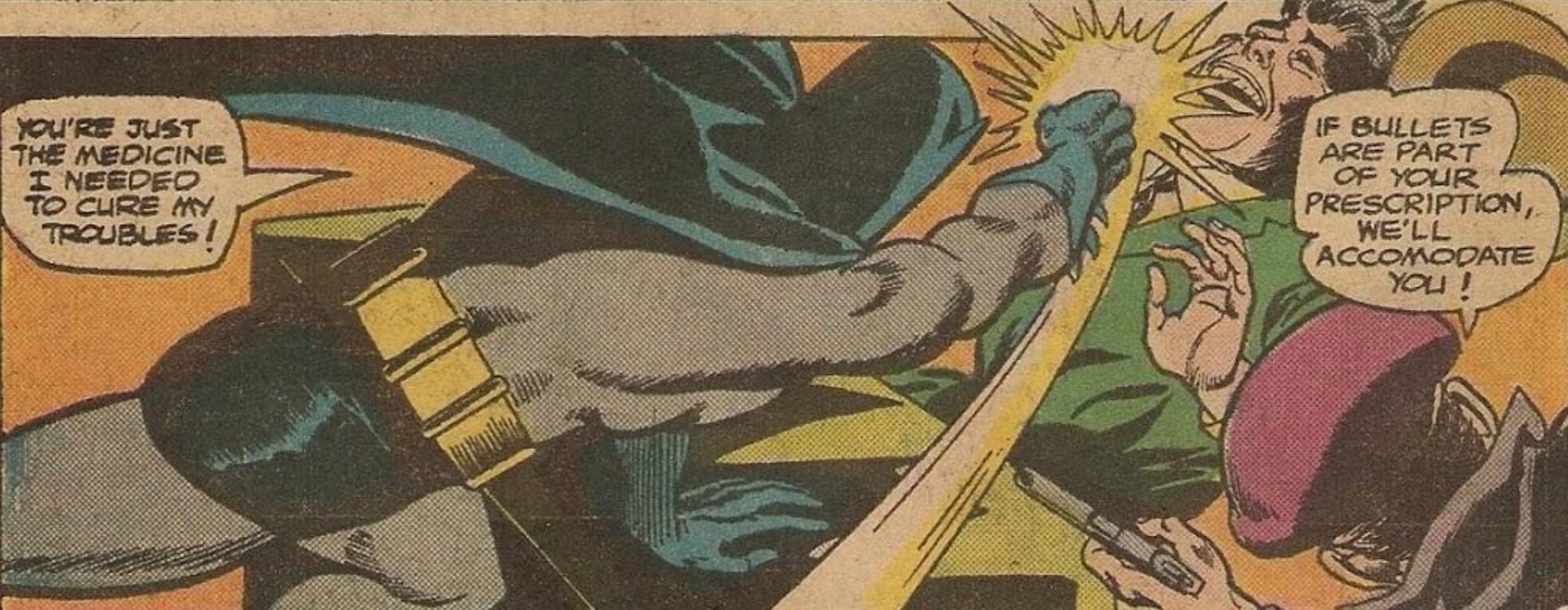
HEART-BEATS THAT I'VE GRAPHED AS TELLTALE SIGNS OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY!

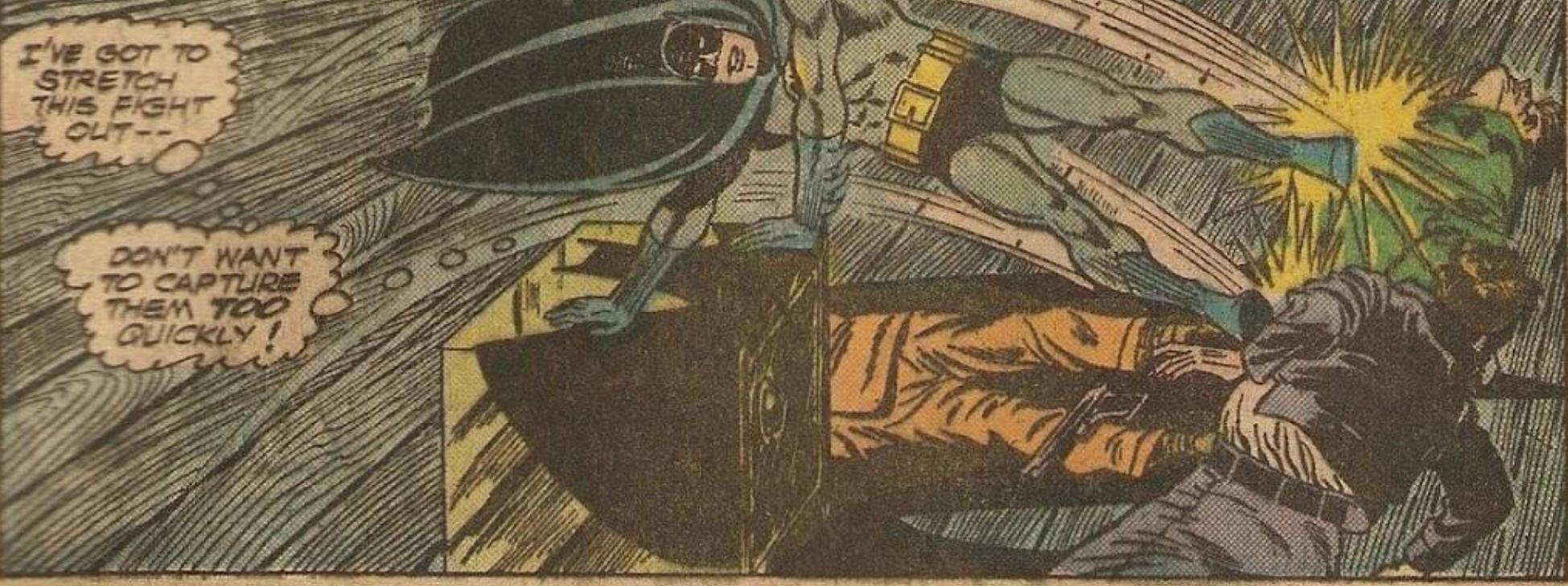
A GOOD EDUCATION IS ONE THING THAT NOT EVEN THE CLEVEREST CRIMINAL IN THE WORLD CAN STEAL FROM YOU!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD...

I WAS NEVER SO GLAD TO SEE CROOKS IN ALL MY LIFE!

THE FEELING AIN'T MUTUAL, BATMAN!





AS HE KNOCKS THE LAST OF THE CROOKS, HIS KEEN EARS DETECT THE WAILING SIREN OF AN APPROACHING POLICE PROWL CAR...

I'LL TELL THOSE POLICE OFFICERS TO BOOK THESE PRISONERS FOR ME!

EEEEE
YEEEEE

I'VE GOT A MORE PRESSING PROBLEM TO TAKE CARE OF--!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE BAT-MOBILE IS FLEEING LIKE A DISEMBODIED SPIRIT THROUGH THE STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...

I'VE GOT TO MAKE IT...

GOT TO MAKE IT...

AND WHEN THE TOWN HALL CLOCK TOWER STARTS SOUNDING THE HOUR OF NINE...

COMMISSIONER--

TURN ON YOUR SHORT-WAVE RADIO TO WAVE-LENGTH 1207!

QUICKLY!

BUT BATMAN-- THAT WAVE-LENGTH IS NEVER USED--

OH, ALL RIGHT!

BONGGG

BUT AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON STRETCHES OUT HIS HAND TO TURN THE DIAL...

BUT BEFORE THE CAUSE OF THE CRASHING INTERRUPTION IS REVEALED...

KAARASH!

WHO--?

LET US GO BACK AN HOUR TO THE WAYNE MANSION WHERE...

SHUCKS!

IF I'D KNOWN I WAS GOING TO GET THAT BOOK REPORT DONE SO SOON, I'D HAVE ASKED BATMAN TO WAIT FOR ME...

SO I COULD GO OUT ON PATROL WITH HIM...

I DIDN'T WANT TO DISTURB YOU, MASTER DICK--

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I THINK YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT!



CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

KARATE

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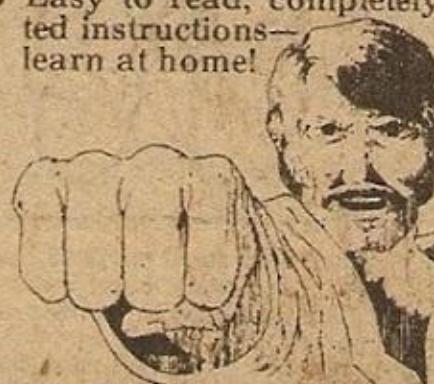
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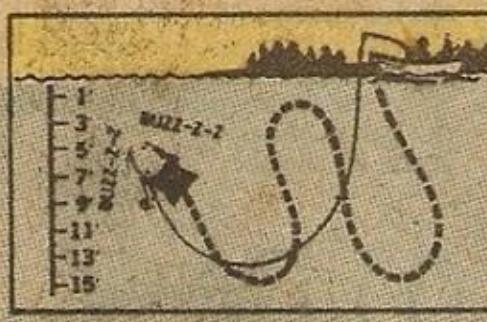
Drives pan fish, game fish, salt water fish into a frenzy! Gets savage bites that simply can't pull loose from your hook!

Completely under its own power, ACTION LURE swims and dives like a live darting minnow, then returns to the surface to dive again and again, even on a slack line! As amazing ACTION LURE dives down deep to where the big ones are lurking, fish see its free swimming action, hear its buzzing sound, and bite savagely utterly without fear or hesitation!

**Swims & dives to 15 feet!
No tugging, no pulling!**

ACTION LURE swims by itself without being pulled. It swims various depths down to 15 feet for up to one hour or more, with a slow, erratic maimed-minnow motion that no fresh or salt water fish can resist, all the time sending out its enticing buzzing insect sound to attract fish from yards away!

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You'll haul in limit catches when others aren't even getting a nibble, in lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, wherever you fish! Just picture your self-propelled ACTION LURE slashing through the water in brilliant reds, whites & yellows, only 2" long yet carrying enough fuel to cut through the water for as much as one full hour with a single load! Plunging down to fifteen foot depths, rising again to the surface almost once every minute, ACTION LURE plows through the water tirelessly, pulling in the big ones from hundreds of yards around you!

Here's how ACTION LURE works: All you do is snap open the fuel chamber, drop in two pellets of fuel, and close the fuel chamber again. Takes less than 60 seconds; you don't even dirty your hands! And then... simply cast or lower ACTION LURE into fresh or salt water, and get set for the fishing thrill of your life!

Granted U.S. Patent
No. 2,932,915



For perhaps one minute ACTION LURE will float quietly; then, as water reaches the fuel, your lure will seem to shudder for a second, then spring dramatically to "life!" Making the buzzing sound of a dying bee, ACTION LURE will point its nose downward, and begin its first descent! Slowly, jerkily, like a maimed minnow, it will swim noisily downward, buzzing and humming, traveling about nine feet every fifteen seconds! If no fish intercepts it, its descent automatically stops, it slowly raises up its nose and climbs to the surface again!

And again! And again! Tirelessly, hour after hour, far beyond the reach of your own casts! Roaming restlessly over every foot of water beneath you — even on slack line — even when your boat is tied up — even when you're curled upon the dock, sound asleep! And all the while ACTION LURE is swimming and buzzing and driving the fish around you to such a frenzy they practically tear the rod out of your hands!

World's first self-propelled lure!

No wonder this revolutionary ACTION LURE took six full years to develop! Here's what ACTION LURE will do for YOU! . . .

It frees you forever from the filthy tasks of digging for worms & crawlers, catching frogs, or paying 50c to \$1 for a bucket of minnows that die on you before you can even get them into your boat! It frees you forever from paying \$3, \$4, or even \$5 for those fancy "Dead-as-a-Duck" lures that only work when you tow them!

Tomorrow, for the first time in your life, you'll be weighing down your boat with bass, trout, pike, pickerel, perch . . . limit catches of pan fish, game fish, fresh and salt water fish, wherever you can drop a line! You'll fish better — novice or pro — sound asleep at the bottom of your boat, than most fishermen sweating and casting till their arms ache from exhaustion!

And you'll have the time of your life, amazing your friends and family with your hauls, and seeing your fisherman friend's eyes pop as they watch your incredible self-propelled ACTION LURE at work!

Try one full month at our expense!

You have nothing to lose! Fish with ACTION LURE for one full month entirely at our risk! Cost is only \$2.98. You receive ACTION LURE plus enough fuel to last up to a full year, together with complete instructions. Four "alluring" colors: red, green, orange, yellow. Order all four for only \$9.98; you get four times as much fuel, and you save \$2.00.

For the fishing thrill of your life, order direct from:

ACTION LURE, DEPT. 1079, U.S. P.O.BOX 69440, LOS ANGELES, CA 90069

MAIL NO-RISK COUPON TODAY!

**ACTION LURE, DEPT. 1079
U.S. P.O.BOX 69440, LOS ANGELES, CA 90069**

Please send me ACTION LURES as checked below; it is clearly understood I must be completely satisfied in every respect or I may return ACTION LURES within 30 days for complete refund.

- 1 ACTION LURE with full year's supply of fuel, \$2.98.
- 2 ACTION LURES, each a different color, each with full year's supply of fuel, \$5.50. (Save 45c)
- 4 ACTION LURES, each a different color, each with full year's supply of fuel, \$9.98. (Save \$1.94)

Get Limit Catches. Order Extra Fuel Pellets.

- 1 pack (50 pellets) only \$1.00.
- 2 packs (100 pellets) only \$1.75. (Save 25c!)
- 6 packs (300 pellets) only \$4.98. (Save \$1.02!)

\$ _____ Payment enclosed: Cash Check M.O.

COD OK: I enclose \$1.00 deposit for each ACTION LURE ordered; I agree to pay balance plus COD & postal charges.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State and Zip _____

ACTION LURE GUARANTEE

ACTION LURE is guaranteed to catch more fish and bigger fish in every kind of water, in every kind of weather. If you are not completely satisfied in every respect, return ACTION LURE within 30 days for complete refund.



AFTER ALFRED HAS EXPLAINED ABOUT THE BURNING LETTER...

ALFRED, I THINK WE CAN LEARN WHAT WAS IN THIS!

I'LL NEED TWO GLASS PLATES AND AN ATOMIZER WITH SOME FIXATIVE * IN IT!

I'LL FETCH THEM AT ONCE, MASTER DICK!

SCARCELY HAS THE TOWN CLOCK BEGUN ITS BONGING THAN, JUST OUTSIDE THE GORDON HOME...



* A MIXTURE OF SHELLAC AND ALCOHOL.



NOW WHEN I SLIP THIS INTO A PRINTING FRAME IN THE BATCAVE--

AND PHOTOGRAPH IT ON AN ORTHOCHROMATIC PLATE AND PRINT IT ON COMPRESSION PAPER --

I'LL HAVE AN EXACT COPY OF THE LETTER!

THEN WHEN THE COMPRESSION PAPER COPY IS READ...

INCREDIBLE!

THE VERY WORD MR. WAYNE USED WHEN HE READ THE LETTER!

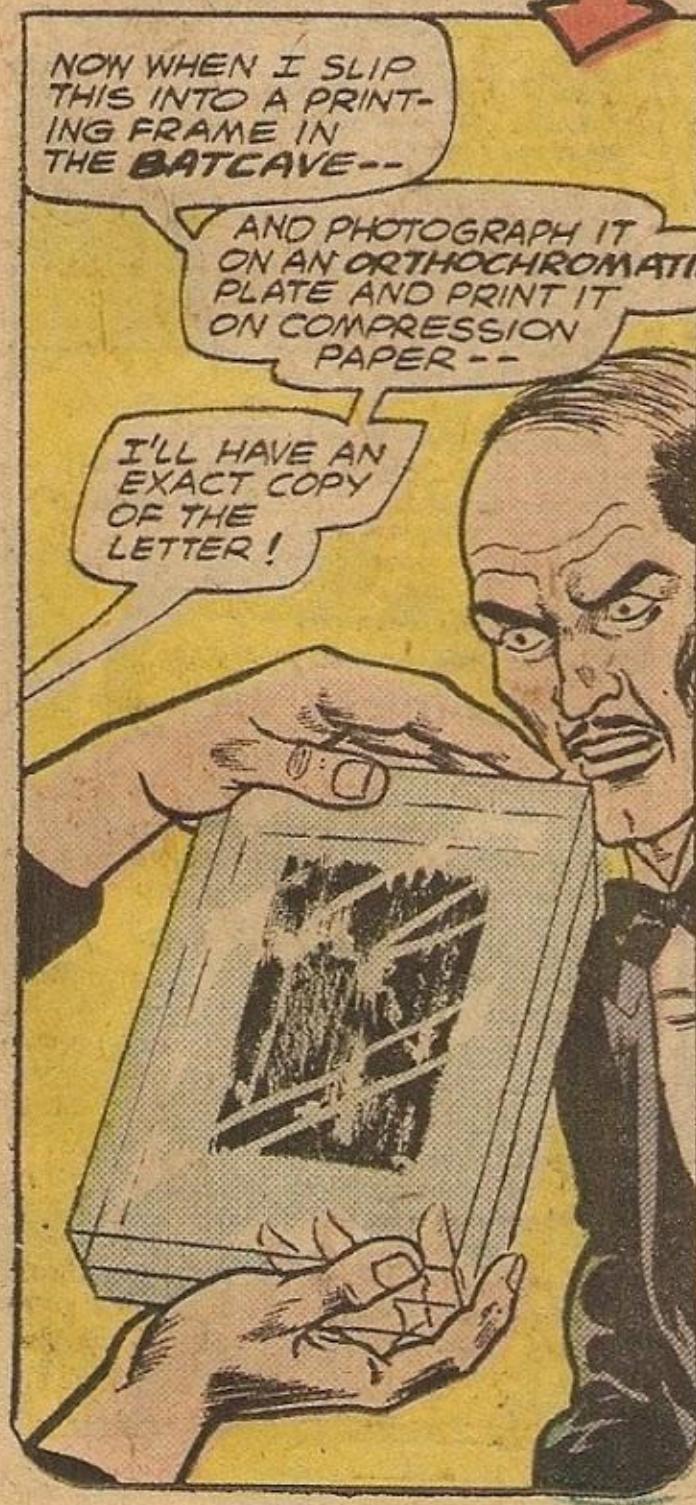
ALFRED, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!

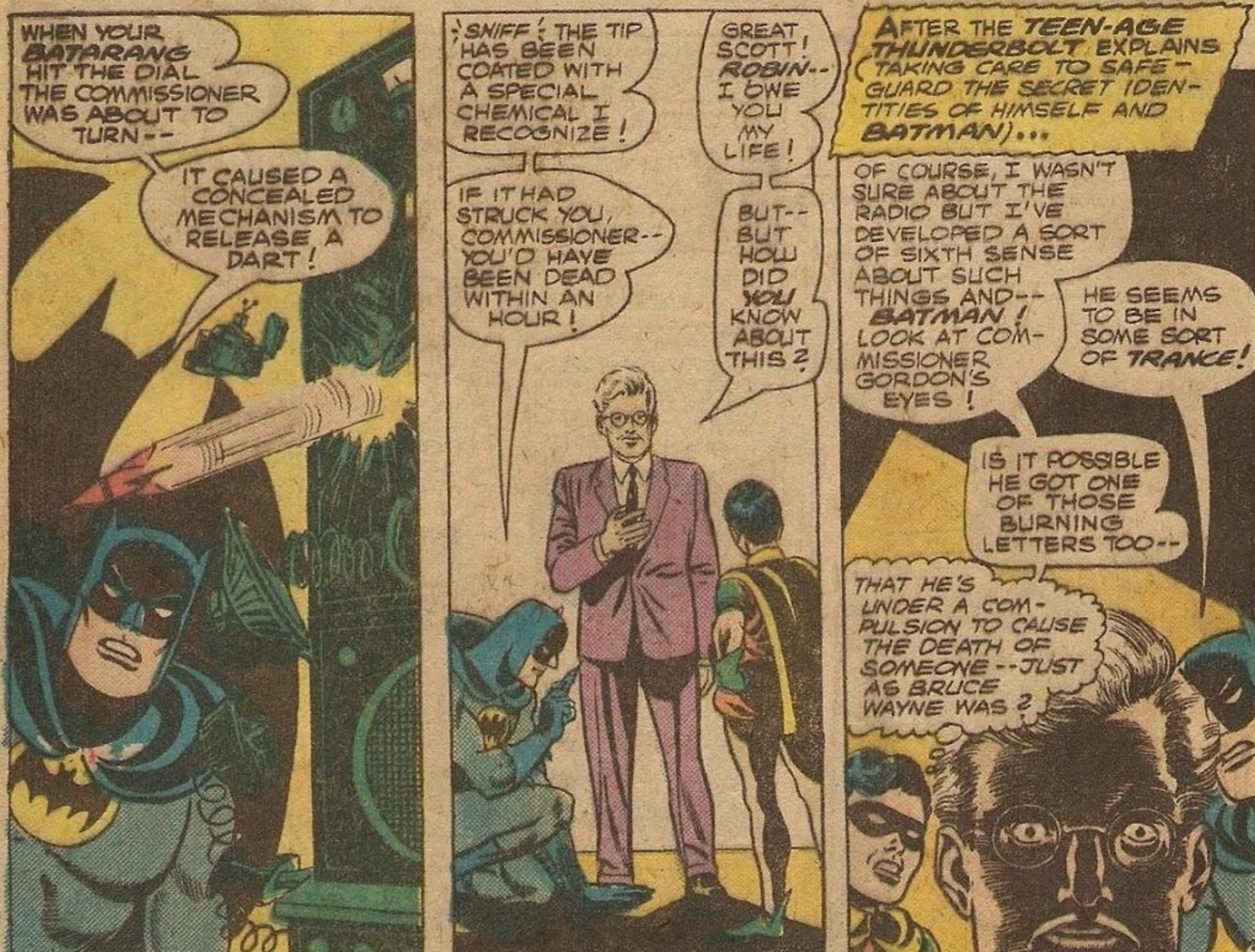
IT'S INTO MY ROBIN COSTUME AND -- OFF TO SEE COMMISSIONER GORDON!

YOU DON'T HAVE A SECOND TO SPARE, MASTER DICK!

BONGG

THE BAT-COPTER'S ON AUTOMATIC CONTROLS! IT'LL HOVER IN THE AIR UNTIL I NEED IT AGAIN!





WITH EVERY SENSE ALERT, THE DYNAMIC DUO WATCHES AS THE COMMISSIONER ABRUPTLY STRIDES OUT OF THE ROOM...

THERE HE GOES!

WE'LL FOLLOW HIM, ROBIN-- AT A LITTLE DISTANCE!

I KNOW YOU'RE UNABLE TO TALK ABOUT IT, BUT LIKE YOU-- HE'S TAKING OFF ON SOME MYSTERIOUS MURDER MISSION!

PERHAPS WE'LL GET THE CHANCE TO SAVE ANOTHER LIFE THIS NIGHT!

THE POLICE COMMISSIONER'S TRAIL LEADS TO THE HALLWAY OF A SHABBY TENEMENT HOUSE...

HE'S RINGING A DOORBELL!

SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH--!

eh? HE'S TURNING AWAY! WITHOUT WAITING FOR AN ANSWER!

APPARENTLY HE'S COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT! THAT MEANS--

--WHOEVER'S IN THAT APARTMENT AND ANSWERS THE DOORBELL-- MAYBE TAGGED TO DIE!

I BETTER OPEN THE DOOR FIRST...



TRIVIAL LITTLE TASKS--LIKE TURNING ON A RADIO AT A PREARRANGED TIME, OR RINGING A DOORBELL--

AT WHICH NOT EVEN THE MOST SUSPICIOUS OF MEN WOULD OBJECT-- HAVE BEEN USED BY SOME MASTER KILLER TO DEAL OUT-- DEATH!

HEY, WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? JUST BECAUSE I DIDN'T ANSWER MY DOORBELL FAST ENOUGH IS NO REASON TO--

BATMAN!!

IT'S JUST MY WAY OF SAVING YOUR LIFE!

HAD YOU TOUCHED THE DOORKNOB--

YOU'D HAVE SIGNED YOUR DEATH WARRANT!

AS THE CLOAKED CRUSADER EXAMINES THE DOORKNOB...

JUST AS I SUSPECTED! MINUTE ELECTRODES EMBEDDED IN THE METAL OF THIS SPECIALLY MADE DOORKNOB!

TELL ME, SIR-- WERE YOU INSTRUCTED BY A "BURNING LETTER" NOT TO TOUCH THE KNOB UNTIL THE DOORBELL RANG AT TEN O'CLOCK?

MUMBLE!
MUMBLE!
HE CAN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANYMORE THAN YOU CAN, BAT-MAN!





CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

Have you seen this coupon before?

It has helped
to start
many men
and women
on the road to
greater
accomplishment

Just looking
at it won't
get you
anything...
but mailing it
could lead to
a more
rewarding
future!

The LaSalle
coupon is one of
the most often-
seen coupons in
America. To many
of those who have
already mailed it,
it has proved a
first step to
opportunity.

Right now, ambitious men and women in many walks of life are preparing for better futures with the help of LaSalle spare-time training. Whether your goals are increased career opportunities or self-improvement you owe it to yourself to find out what LaSalle home study can do for you.

For more than sixty years, LaSalle has been a leader in home study. It has a large staff of experienced instructors. That is why your training is in good hands; why a LaSalle diploma is a respected credential.

LaSalle offers you many kinds of home-study programs. Your choice is wide. LaSalle gives you modern comprehensive instruction in many of today's growth

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Cut coupon along dotted lines, fill in your name and address . . . fold, seal (tape, paste or staple) and mail. No stamp or envelope is necessary.

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- Complete Training

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- Complete Training

COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

- Basic Training

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SECRETARIAL

- Complete Training

HIGH SCHOOL

- Diploma Program

Dept. 64-006

Mr.
Mrs.
Miss

Address.....

City &
State.....

(Circle title and please print)

Age.....

Apt. No.....

Zip.....

46D FOLD HERE ↓ (DO NOT CUT) SEAL AND MAIL TODAY — NO STAMP NEEDED.

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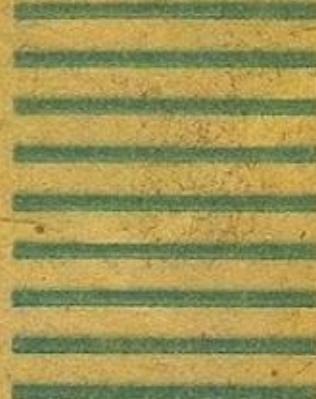
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**FROM THE WORLD OF
ONE MILLION YEARS AGO!**



COMING SOON!

10:15 P.M. --
IN THE PLUSH
PENTHOUSE
APARTMENT OF
SPORTS WRITER
FRED TINNEY...

BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!

COME IN,
COME IN!

FRED, WERE
YOU
INSTRUCTED
TO ANSWER
YOUR TELE-
PHONE AT
EXACTLY
TEN O'CLOCK
SHARP
TONIGHT--
AND NOT
BEFORE?

MUMBLE!
MUMBLE!

NEVER MIND! YOU'VE
GIVEN US YOUR
ANSWER!

IT'S
YES!

MOMENTS AFTERWARD, AS THE PHONE IS WRAPPED
IN A TOWEL AND HELD IN A WATER-FILLED BATH-
TUB...

HAD YOU ANSWERED
THAT TEN-O'CLOCK
CALL--

AN
INTENSE
SOUND-WAVE
WOULD HAVE
HIT YOU--
CALUSED YOU
TO DIE
INSTANTLY--

--UNLESS YOU
TOO HAVE
BEEN TAGGED
TO CARRY ON
THE ROUND-
ROBIN KILLINGS!

UH-OH!
HE'S GOT
THAT
ENTRANCED
LOOK IN
HIS EYES!

WHEN HE
TAKES
OFF AFTER
THE NEXT
VICTIM--
SO DO
WE!

OUT INTO THE NIGHT STREETS
OF GOTHAM CITY GOES THE
SPORTS WRITER...

HE'S WALKING
VERY, VERY
SLOWLY! NOW
THAT HE
REALIZES HE
MAY BE GOING
TO CAUSE
SOMEBODY'S
DEATH--

HE MUST BE
TRYING TO FIGHT
OFF THE ORDERS
HE GOT-- JUST
AS I TRIED
TO DO.

HE SUDDENLY
TURNED INTO
THAT JEWELRY
STORE!

HE MUST
KNOW
THAT WE'RE
FOLLOWING
HIM...

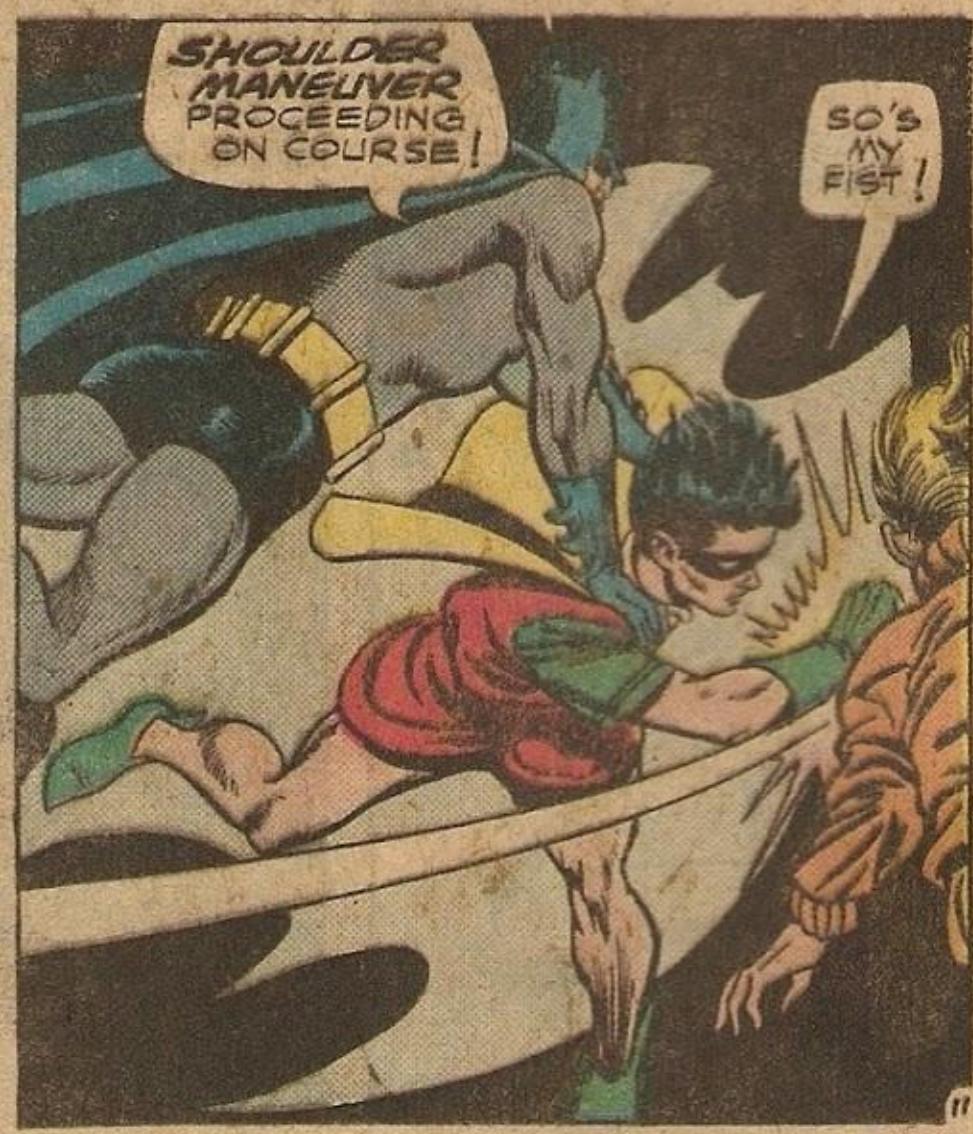
WHAT'S
HE UP
TO?

HE WANTS
US TO
ARREST
HIM-- PUT
HIM IN A
JAIL
CELL
WHERE
HE CAN'T
HARM
ANYONE!





GET THAT GUY!



THAT JUST
ABOUT SETS
UP THESE
TWO--

LANDING CAT-LIKE ON HIS FEET, THE GOTHAM GANGBUSTER IS IN EXACT POSITION FOR THE FINISHING BLOWS...

TO GO
DOWN--

KRAK!

...AND
OUT!

AFTER SPENDING THE REST
OF THE NIGHT SEARCHING IN
VAIN FOR THE SPORTS
WRITER, BATMAN AND
ROBIN RETURN TO THE
BATCAVE...

BATMAN!
TINNEY'S
GONE!
HE MUST
HAVE COME
TO-- AND
GONE ON
ABOUT HIS
MISSION
OF DEATH!

COME
ON--
MAYBE
WE CAN
STILL
FIND
HIM!

LET'S HOPE
THE POLICE'S
ALL POINT'S
BULLETIN ON
TINNEY
BRINGS
RESULTS!

YOU BETTER
GRAB SOME
SLEEP,
ROBIN--

WHILE I
TAKE CARE
OF A FEW
THINGS IN
THE
BATCAVE!

IF ONLY I COULD TELL
ROBIN THAT I'VE
FIGURED OUT WHO
THE NEXT ROUND-ROBIN
VICTIM WILL BE--

ME--
BRUCE
WAYNE--
WHO BEGAN
THIS
MURDER-GO-
ROUND!

FROM THIS MOMENT ON MY LIFE IS IN DEADLY DANGER! A SIMPLE THING LIKE ANSWERING A TELEPHONE--A DOORBELL--COULD DOOM ME!

SOMEHOW, DESPITE THE RESTRAINT PUT ON ME, I MUST ALERT ROBIN--

SO IN CASE THE WORST HAPPENS TO ME--HE CAN CARRY ON AND BRING THE REAL CULPRIT TO JUSTICE!

ROBIN MUST FIND OUT--FROM WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO--

THAT SEVEN YEARS AGO THERE WAS A SCIENTIST-TURNED-CRIMINAL--"DOC" HASTINGS--

WHO USED HIS SCIENTIFIC SKILLS TO ROB IN GOTHAM CITY...

"ONE NIGHT AT THE GOTHAM LABORATORIES, HASTINGS OVERCAME THE NIGHT WATCHMAN..."

"BY THE TIME HASTINGS HAD ACCUMULATED HIS LOOT AND WAS RACING OUT OF THE LAB, THE WATCHMAN CAME TO AND..."

GOT TO SOUND THE ALARM...

STOP THAT CROOK...

"AS THAT WHISTLE-BLAST RANG OUT--COMMISSIONER GORDON, SPORTS WRITER FRED TINNEY AND I--BRUCE WAYNE--WERE RETURNING FROM A GOTHAM GARDEN SPORTS SHOW..."

TWEET

THAT'S A POLICE WHISTLE!

THAT MAN HOTFOOTING IT TOWARD US--MUST BE A THIEF!

THE THREE OF US CAN STOP HIM!

BECAUSE WE WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR CAPTURING HIM, HASTINGS SWORE VENGEANCE ON ALL FOUR OF US--

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN JOHN KOBLER, GORDON, TINNEY, AND MYSELF...

FOR SEVERAL AGONIZED
MOMENTS, BATMAN
SCRATCHES A PEN ACROSS
PAPER... HIS HAND SHAKING
WITH EFFORT... SWEAT
BEADING HIS FOREHEAD,
STAINING HIS MASK...

WILL ROBIN UNDER-
STAND WHY I'VE
WRITTEN THIS
WILL?

WHEN HE IS DONE, HIS EYES SCAN
WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN...

I, Bruce Wayne, being
of sound and disposing
mind and memory, do make
and declare this to be my
last will and testament.
FIRST, I give, devise and bequeath
to the Wayne Foundation all of
my estate both real and personal,
with the following exception:
To my ward Dick Grayson,
known also as Robin, the Boy
Wonder, I leave the sum
of Ten Dollars and
Sixty-six Cents.
Bruce Wayne
(alias) Batman

NOW-- IF I FAIL TO
PREVENT MY MURDER--
ROBIN HAS ENOUGH
TO GO ON AND FIND
MY KILLER-- IF HE CAN
READ BETWEEN
THESE LINES!

CAN YOU SOLVE THE
CLUE LEFT BY BATMAN
FOR ROBIN? TRY IT--
THEN GO ON TO THE
EERIE CLIMAX OF THIS
STORY!

14

Answers to BAT-TRIVIA QUIZ!

1 - C) ON THE ROOF OF POLICE HEAD-
QUARTERS

6-A) BENEATH WAYNE MANOR.

2-B) KATHY KANE

7-A) DOWN A FLIGHT OF STAIRS
BEHIND A GRANDFATHER
CLOCK.

3-A) BAT-MITE

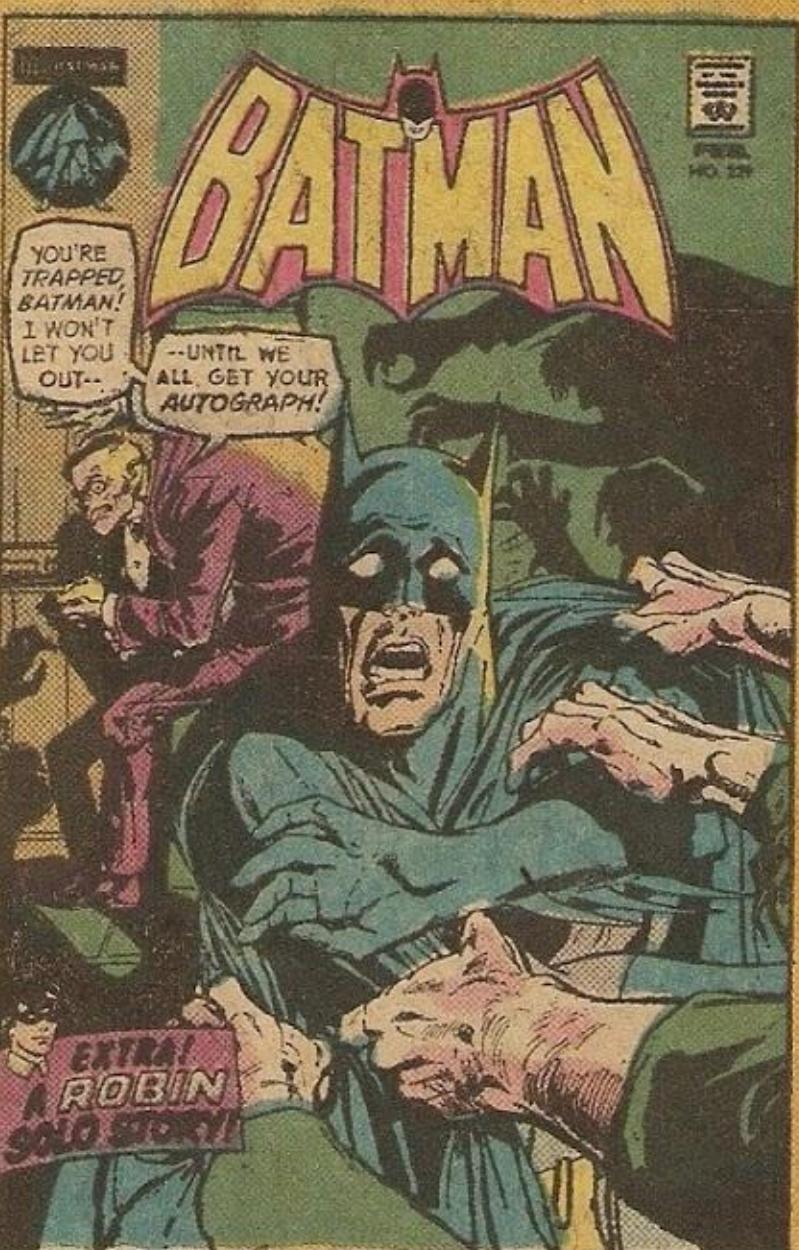
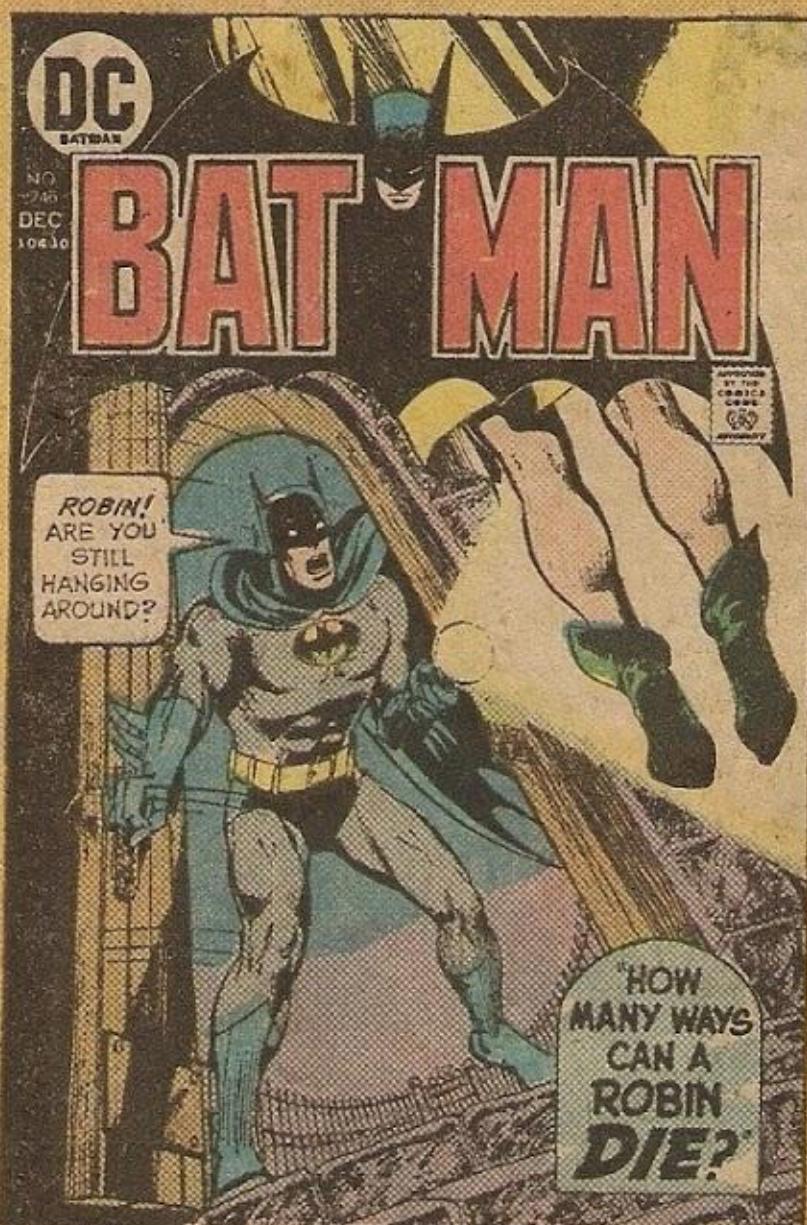
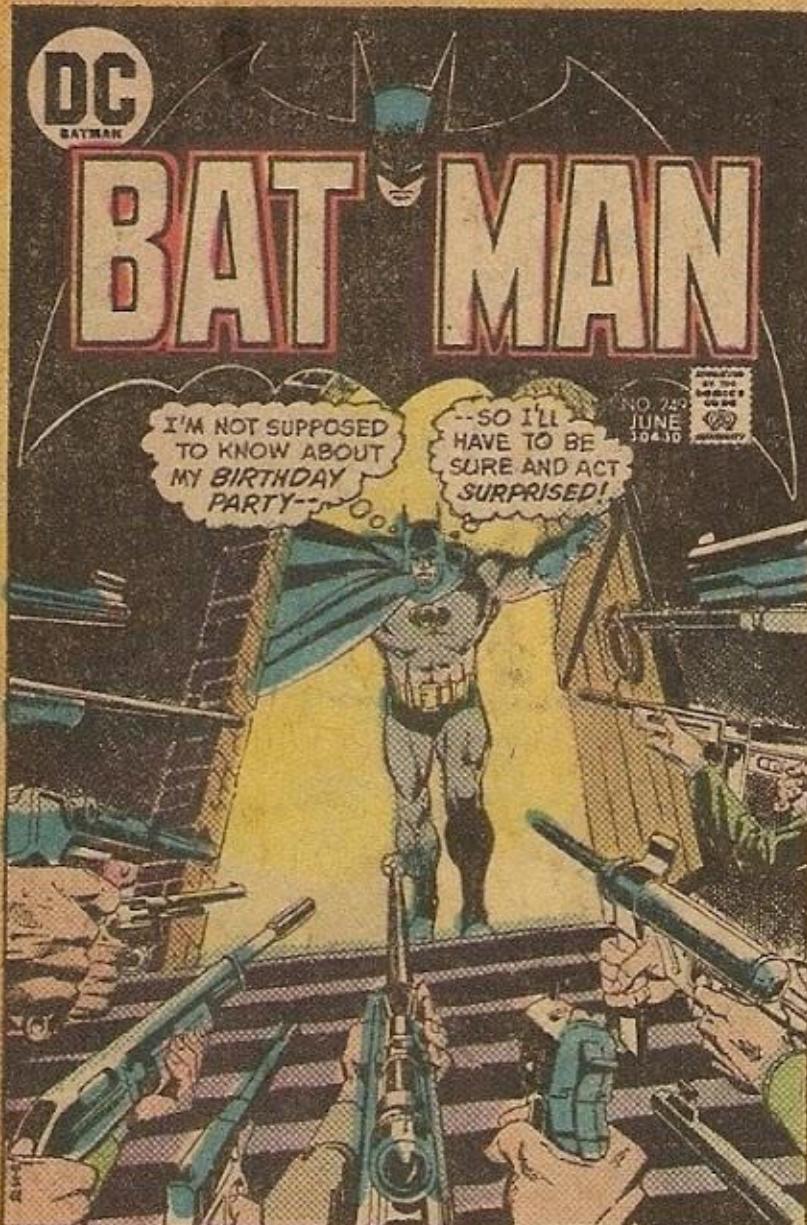
4-D) ACE

5-B) "BAT-GIRL"



COMEDY COVER CARERS

HERE ARE SOME BATMAN COVERS FROM YEARS PAST--ONLY WE'VE CHANGED THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE TO GIVE IT A HUMOROUS SLANT!



(FOR THE ORIGINAL COVER BALLOONS, SEE PAGE 63)

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

FOUR MEN RIDING A MURDER-GO-ROUND--EACH DOOMED TO KILL THE ONE
IN FRONT OF HIM--WITH THE REAL ASSASSIN SECRETLY WORKING THE
CONTROLS!

ALTHOUGH BATMAN AND ROBIN MANAGE TO SAVE THE LIVES OF
THREE OF THEM...THEY ARE COMPLETELY HELPLESS TO SAVE THE
FOURTH VICTIM...*Bruce Wayne*!
BUT EVEN IN HIS DESPERATE PLIGHT, BATMAN KNOWS--AND HOPES
ROBIN WILL KNOW--THAT...

BRUCE
WAYNE,
MILLIONAIRE



POLICE
COMMISSIONER
GORDON

WHERE THERE'S A WILL-- THERE'S A SLAY!

JOHN KOBLER,
RETIRED
WATCHMAN

FRED TINNEY,
SPORTS
WRITER

NOW THAT YOU'RE
IN NO POSITION TO
RESIST, BATMAN--
I'M GOING TO
SIZZLE YOU TO
A CRISP!

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STORY BY
GARDNER FOX

ART BY
CARMEINE
INFANTINO
& SID
GREENE

IT IS EARLY MORNING IN THE MANSION OF MILLIONAIRE BRUCE WAYNE. THROUGH A SHATTERING WINDOW COMES A RUBY...



IN AN UPSTAIRS BEDROOM, DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON BELTS HIS DRESSING GOWN AND SHOUTS...



MOMENTS AFTERWARD, IN THE LIVING ROOM...



ALFRED--I WONDER IF THIS RUBY COULD HAVE BEEN STOLEN BY THE MYSTERIOUS KILLER--

AND MAILED TO TINNEY WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO FLING IT INTO BRUCE'S LIVING ROOM...?

BUT HOW COULD THE RUBY POSSIBLY KILL MR. WAYNE?

IT SEEMS HARMLESS ENOUGH!

THE RUBY'S HARMLESS--

BUT I BET THAT SAFE ISN'T!

I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN!

IF THE MASTER WERE HERE, HE'D PROMPTLY PUT THE RUBY BACK!

BUT MR. WAYNE IS NOWHERE ABOUT!

IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF SKULDUGGERY-- THE MURDER-MASTERMIND BOOBY-TRAPPED THE SAFE AFTER REMOVING THE RAJAH RUBY!

I'M GOING TO OPEN THE SAFE AND SEE IF I'M RIGHT!

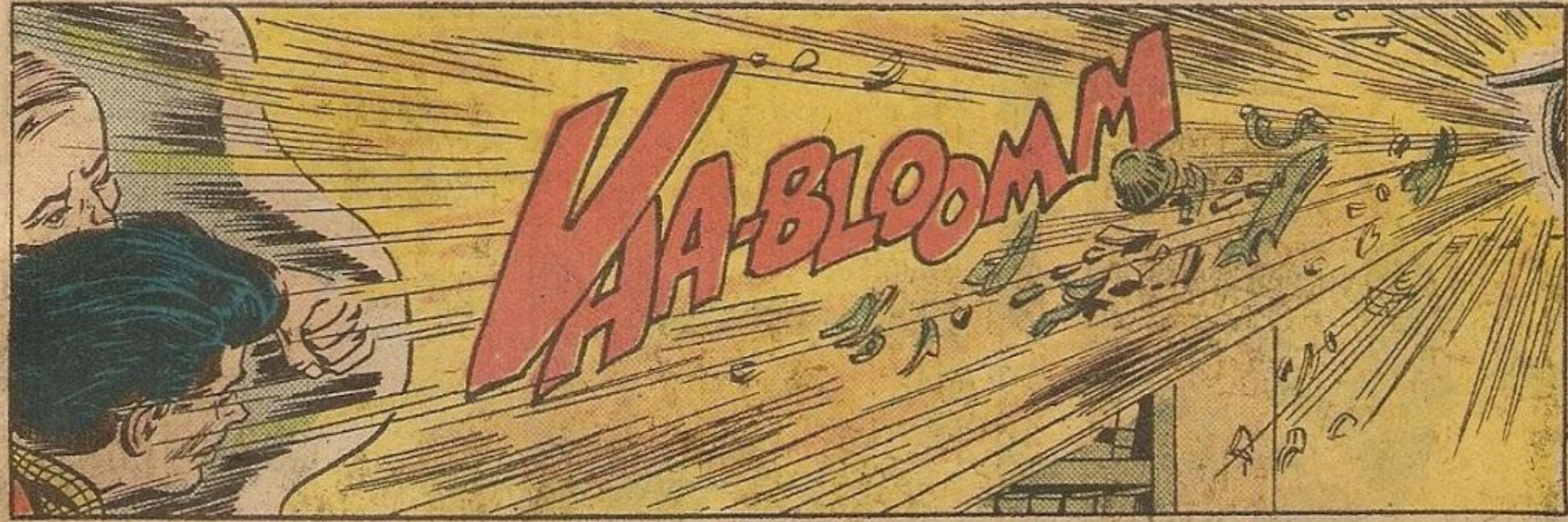
SOME MINUTES LATER...

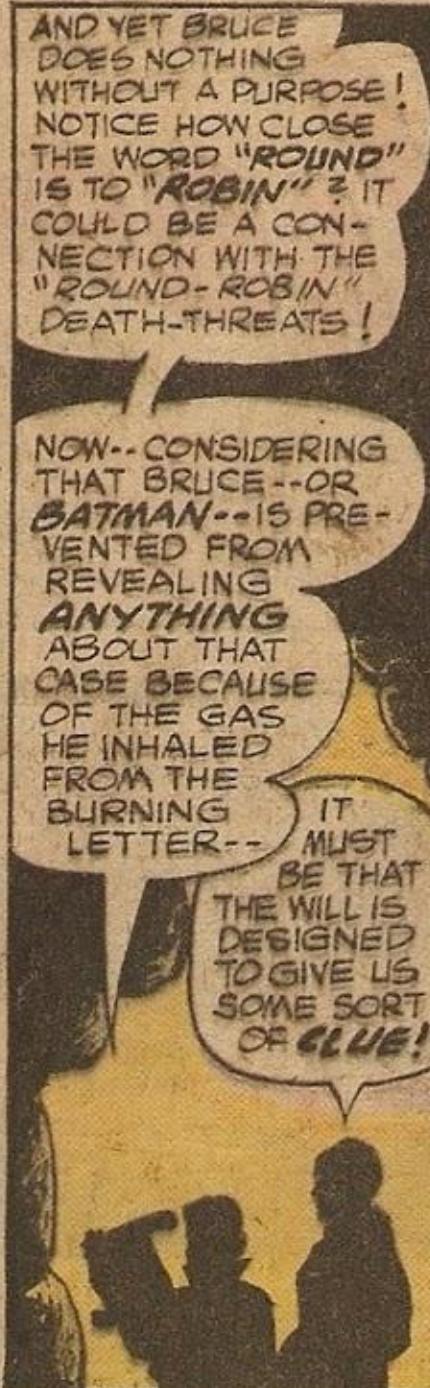
THIS SHIELD FROM MR. WAYNE'S MEDIEVAL ARMS COLLECTION WILL SERVE TO PROTECT US!

HERE GOES... AS I TURN THE DIAL WITH THIS EXTENSION ARM!

41 RIGHT... LEFT TO 27... BACK TO 14 AND THEN THE FINAL NUMBER...







SOON, ABOVE THE WAYNE FOUNDATION PARKING LOT...

THE LOT'S JAMMED!

I'LL HAVE TO USE THE ROOF!

SETTING DOWN THE BATCOPTER ON THE FLAT ROOF, ROBIN LOWERS HIMSELF ON A BAT-ROPE ALONG THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING...

I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE BRUCE'S FACE...

WHEN I TELL HIM HE HAS NOTHING MORE TO FEAR...

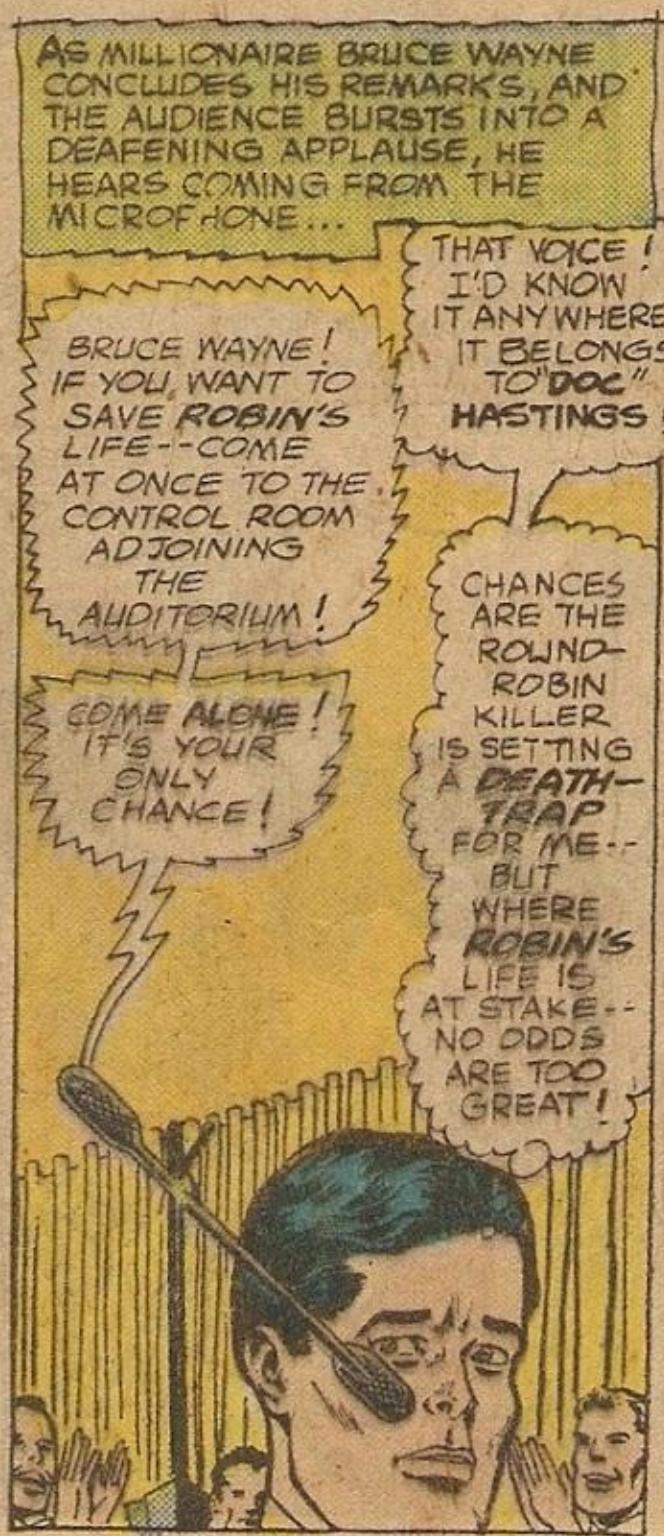
MIGHT AS WELL JUMP THE REST OF THE WAY--

HOLD IT!

DID I JUST SEE A FAMILIAR FACE IN THAT CONTROL ROOM?







THE HANDS OF
BRUCE WAYNE
REACH OUT--
THEN PAUSE...

ROBIN'S SKIN--BLUISH!
HE'S HARDLY
BREATHING!
HIS BODY--
RIGID, STIFF!

THE SYMPTOMS OF
ELECTRIC SHOCK--
WHEN AN ELECTRIC CURRENT
PASSES THROUGH THE
BREATHING CENTER AT
THE BASE OF THE BRAIN--
AND CAUSES BREATHING
TO STOP...

IF THE ELECTRIC
SHOCK WASN'T
TOO SEVERE--

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO
BRING HIM AROUND--
BY ARTIFICIAL
RESPIRATION--

--EVEN IF IT
MEANS WORKING
OVER HIM FOR
HOURS!

STIFFNESS OF A
BODY IS NOT AN
ABSOLUTE SIGN
TO STOP ARTIFICIAL
RESPIRATION--
ACCORDING TO
THE AMERICAN
RED CROSS
FIRST AID
HANDBOOK!

WITHIN
MOMENTS,
A HALF-ALIVE
ROBIN
GRINS UP AT
HIS RESCUER...

HI... THERE...
BRUCE...

IT'S WORKING FASTER THAN I DARED HOPE...

THAT WAS QUITE
A WILL... YOU LEFT
IN THE BATCAVE
;OWOOD!

ROBIN--
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

SOMETHING...
STICKING INTO
MY BACK... LIKE
A BASEBALL...

YES--I FEEL
SOMETHING!
DON'T MOVE!
THAT OBJECT
UNDER YOU
IS--A
GRENADE!

"DOC"
HASTINGS'
DEATH-
TRAP
FOR ME!

YOUR BODY WEIGHT
KEPT THE PLUNGER
DOWN--PREVENTING
THE GRENADE FROM
EXPLODING!

SLOWLY--CAREFULLY--GRIPPING
THE PLUNGER HARD--HE DRAWS
OUT THE LETHAL BOMB...

HAD I ATTEMPTED
TO LIFT YOU AS I
FIRST INTENDED--
BEFORE I
RECOGNIZED
THE SYMPTOMS
OF ELECTRIC
SHOCK--I'D
HAVE KILLED
US BOTH!

HASTINGS
THOUGHT
I WAS
DEAD--OVER-
LOOKING THE
FACT THAT I
ABSORBED THE
GUN'S ELECTRIC
BLAST IN MID-
AIR--WHEN I
WASN'T
GROUNDED!

AFTER BRUCE DE-ACTIVATES
THE GRENADE AND ROBIN
FILLS HIM IN ON THE INCIDENTS
LEADING TO HIS PRESENCE
HERE...

YOU NEED
TO REST UP, ROBIN!
TAKE THE BATCOPTER
HOME! I'M GOING
AFTER MY "KILLER"--
AS BATMAN!

BUT HOW
CAN YOU FIND HASTINGS?
WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A
CLUE TO HIS WHERE-
ABOUTS!

I'M GOING TO GET
A LIST OF NAMES
FROM THE ELECTRIC
LIGHT COMPANY!
THAT LIST WILL
TELL ME WHERE
HE'S HIDING OUT!

SHORTLY, IN THE ELECTRIC COMPANY OFFICES ...

SINCE HASTINGS IS A SCIENTIST, HIS MANY EXPERIMENTS WILL CAUSE HIM TO HAVE AN UNUSUALLY LARGE ELECTRIC LIGHT BILL!

I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, BATMAN!

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON PHONED AND ASKED US TO GIVE YOU OUR FULL COOPERATION...

BY CHECKING OVER THE LIST OF PRIVATE SUBSCRIBERS...

A LIST OF SIX "POSSIBILITIES" IS NARROWED DOWN BY A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION...

THREE OF THESE MEN HAVE BEEN IN BUSINESS FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS OR MORE-- AND HASTINGS SPENT THE LAST SEVEN YEARS--IN PRISON!

THE FOURTH I KNOW PERSONALLY-- UNIMPEACHABLE REPUTATION...

LEAVING-- JOHN JORALEMON AND--CHARLES STEINMETZ! OBVIOUSLY, CHARLES STEINMETZ IS THE MAN I'M AFTER!

"OBVIOUSLY"? BATMAN-- HOW COULD YOU POSSIBLY KNOW THAT--FROM A NAME THAT BEARS NO RELATION TO HASTINGS?!

BECAUSE, MY DEAR-- THE REAL CHARLES STEINMETZ WAS AN ELECTRICAL WIZARD WHO MADE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO ELECTRICAL RESEARCH!

"DOC" HASTINGS IS EGO-MANIACAL ENOUGH TO ASSUME THE NAME OF A FELLOW ELECTRICAL GENIUS!

SIGH: YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO EASY!



COUNTING ON HASTINGS TO WIRE HIS DOORS AND WINDOWS TO KEEP OUT UNWELCOME VISITORS--

I ARRANGED WITH THE ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY TO SHUT OFF HIS POWER AT PRECISELY THREE OCLOCK!

AT THREE O'CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON...

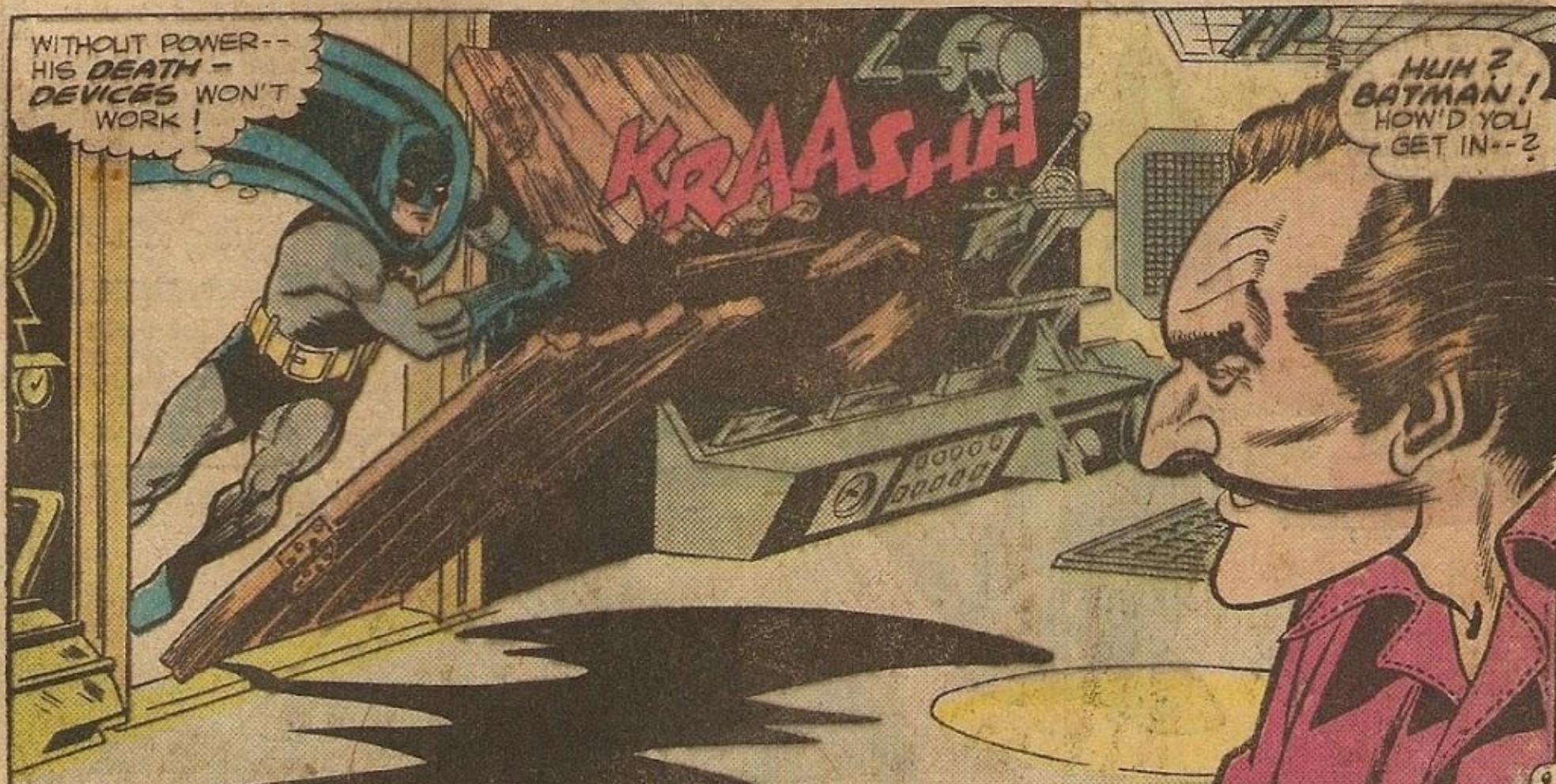
AT THREE O'CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON...

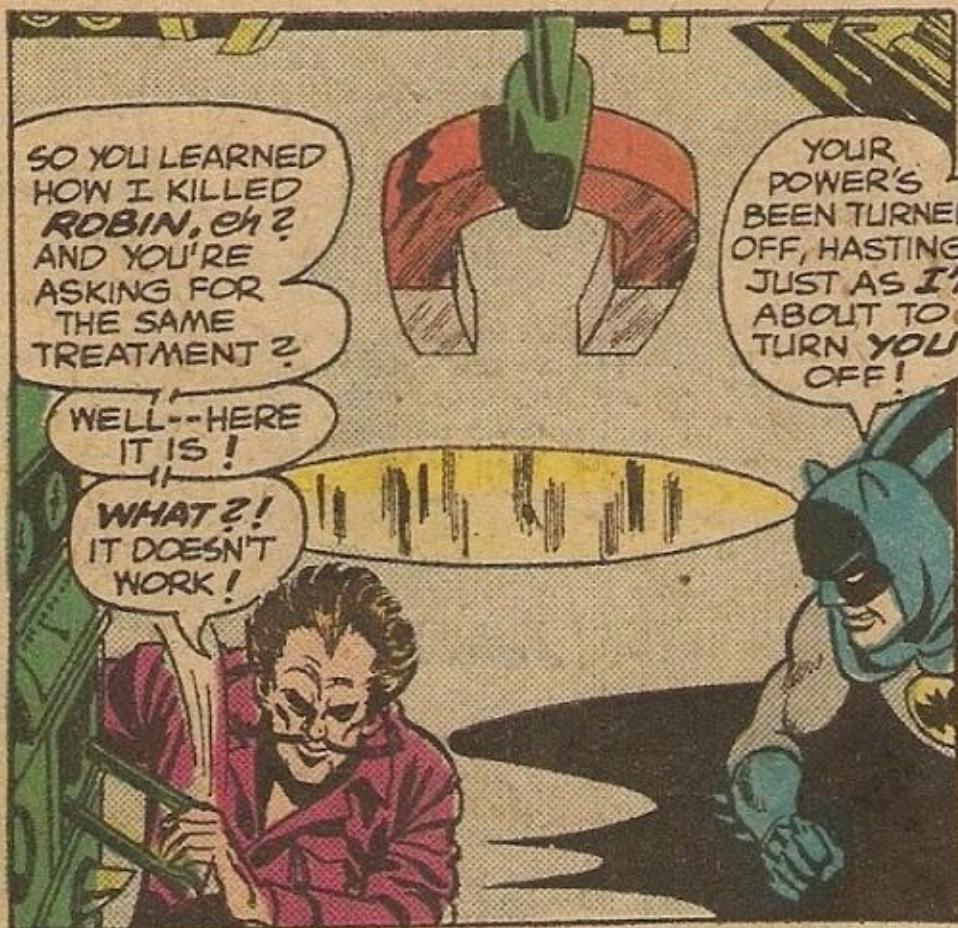


WITHOUT POWER-- HIS DEATH-DEVICES WON'T WORK!

KRAASHH

HMM? BATMAN! HOW'D YOU GET IN--?





This fully
Automatic ELECTRIC
ADDING MACHINE
INCLUDED when you
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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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CYCLES ARE BIG BUSINESS

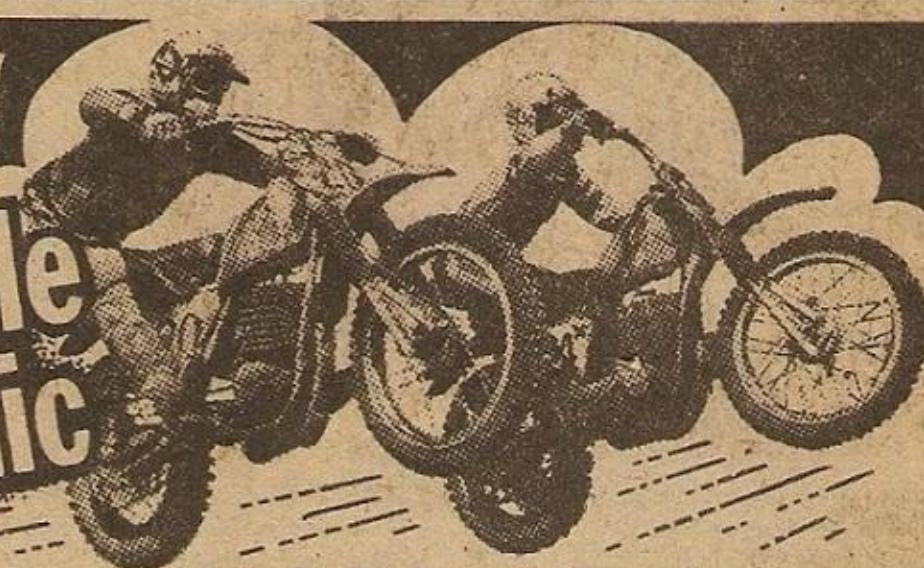
...AND SO IS FIXING THEM!

More than 3 million cycles are registered in the U.S. today. Plus an estimated 3 million more dirt bikes. But, there are fewer than 10,000 motorcycle mechanics available to repair them. No wonder career opportunities are so great... and getting better every day. Rush coupon for FREE "Motorcycle Mechanic Career Kit."



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Professional tools plus your North American "know-how" turn you into a skilled mechanic. We include wrenches, sockets, gauges, test instruments and more to get you started fast! Yours to use during training... yours to keep in your action-packed career as a motorcycle mechanic.



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Circle of Friends Be the envy of friends & neighbors as they flock around to watch you tear down and tune-up all kinds of motorcycles. And just think of the satisfaction in knowing you've got the best performing bike in town. Plus, you can make extra dollars fixing motorcycles for your friends and neighbors.

SEND FOR FREE CAREER KIT

Get all the facts now... without obligation. Be the first in your neighborhood to cash in on the big demand for motorcycle mechanics.

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Rush me your introductory offer! I understand that while I have to buy \$1 worth of stamps from your approval selection to keep the Illustrated Album, 110 British Empire Stamps and a complete set of England's 42 Kings & Queens as my Special Bonus—the 40 Red China Stamps and "How To Collect" booklet are mine to keep FREE. In return, I agree to examine your unusual Stamps-On-Approval Selections from which I may purchase any or none—return balance in 10 days—and can cancel service anytime. I enclose 10¢ for mailing.

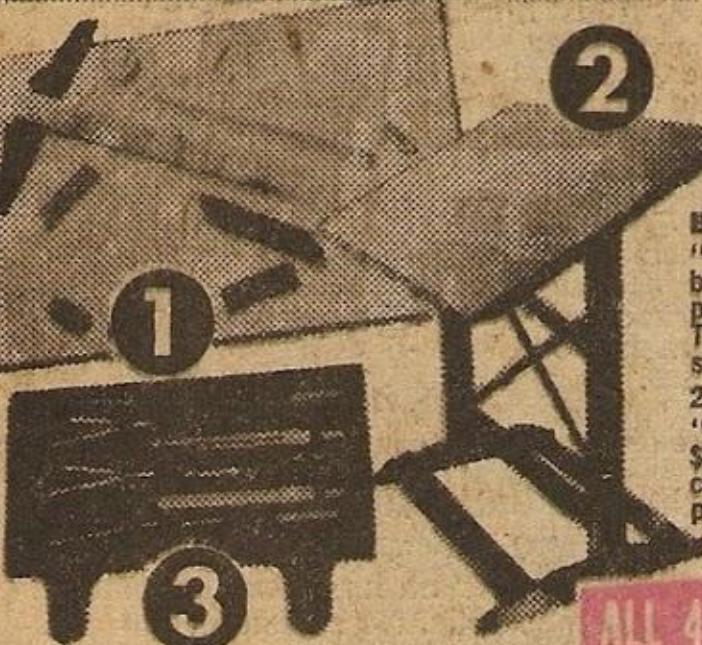
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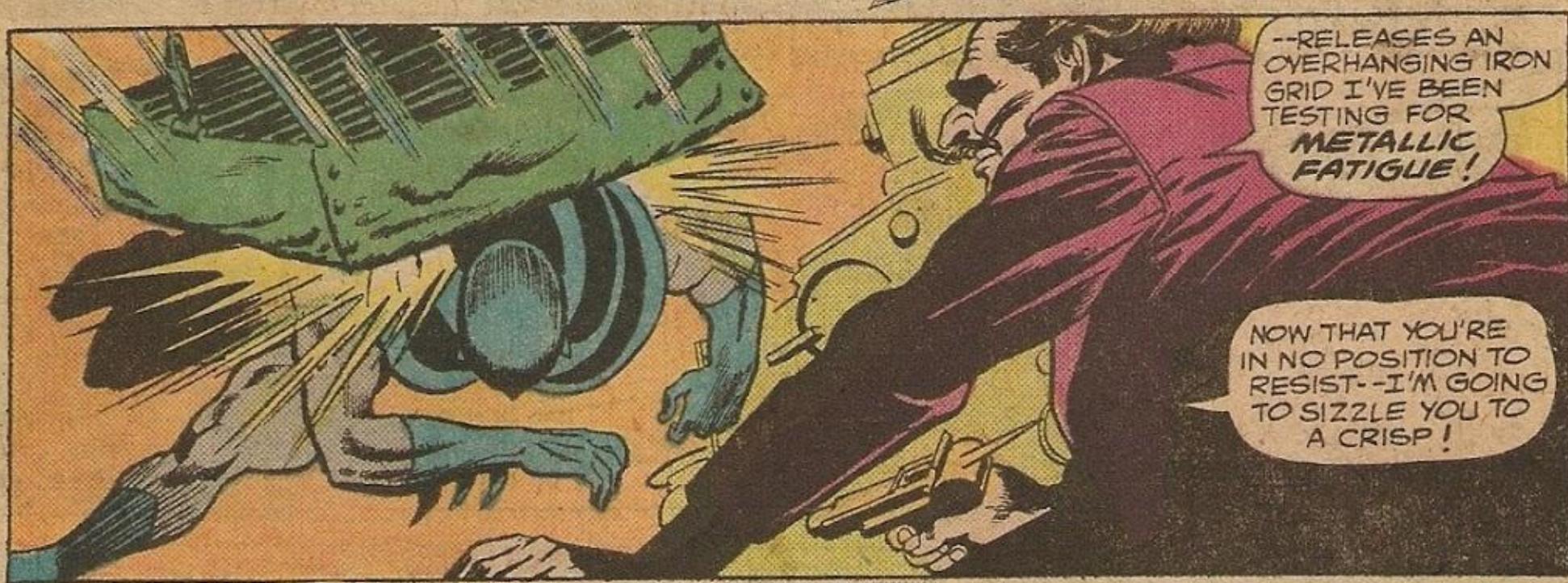
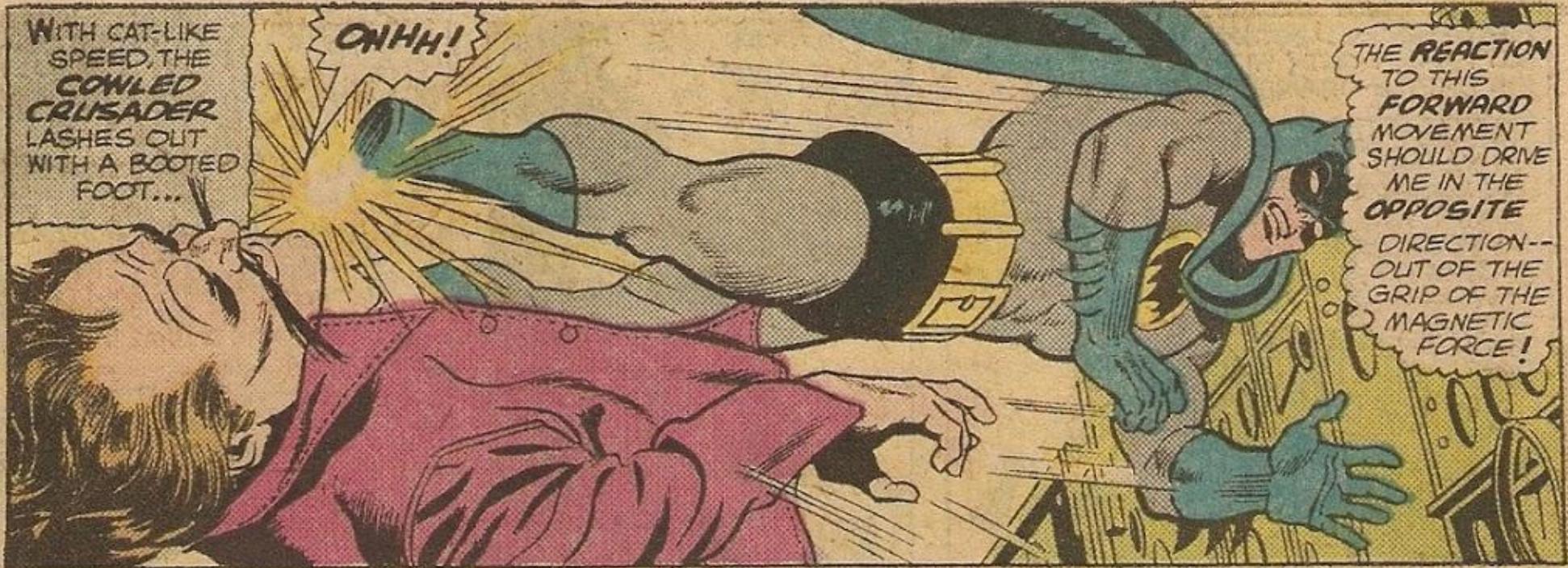
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* Precision Drawing Instrument Set, Professional Drafting Board Outfit & Fingertip Tilting Drafting Table are given to you with your complete North American Course in Drafting.

A home-study program in association with Cleveland Engineering Inst.



HARD-PRESSED BATMAN MAY BE DOWN--
BUT HARDLY OUT! WITH ONE SURGE OF
HIS BATTLE-TRAINED MUSCLES...

I'VE GOT AN
AUXILIARY
GENERATOR
OF MY OWN--
MY FIGHTING
SPIRIT--

THAT
CHARGES
ME UP--
WHEN THE
GOING IS
TOUGHEST!

GOT ONE MORE
DOOM-STUNT--
TO PULL ON
HIM!

THIS BULB WILL
GLOW THE INSTANT
I TURN ON THE
SWITCH, BATMAN--
AND SNUFF OUT
YOUR LIFE!

THERE'S NO WAY FOR
YOU TO REACH ME
IN TIME!

SMASHED MY
ELECTRIGUN!?

NO WAY
FOR ME--
BUT A SNAP
FOR MY
BATARANG!

SOMETIMES LATER,
IN THE BATCAVE...

WITH HASTINGS'
IMPRISONMENT,
THE CASE OF THE
ROUND-ROBIN
"MURDERS" IS
FINISHED!

NOT QUITE, BATMAN!
WE STILL HAVE TO
RECORD IT FOR OUR
FILES!

OHHH, I--BY--ALMOST
FORGOT! YOU'RE STILL
UNDER A COMPLISSION
THAT PREVENTS YOU
FROM REVEALING
ANYTHING ABOUT
THIS CASE!

OKAY--I'LL
DO IT ON
MY OWN!

TO WIND UP THE AFFAIR, BRUCE WAYNE GIVES A DINNER PARTY TO THE WOULD-BE ROUND-ROBIN VICTIMS...

HERE'S TO BATMAN AND ROBIN!

I WONDER WHY THEY'RE TOASTING BATMAN AND ROBIN, DICK?

AUNT HARRIET WOULD UNDERSTAND-- IF SHE COULD READ THEIR THOUGHTS!



SINCE NONE OF US CAN TALK ABOUT THE CASE, WE CAN ONLY THINK WHAT WE FEEL!

HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO ROBIN-- WHO ENABLED ME TO CARRY ON AS BATMAN!

BATMAN AND ROBIN NOT ONLY PREVENTED US FROM COMMITTING MURDER...

THEY SAVED US FROM BEING KILLED!



HERE IS THE ORIGINAL DIALOGUE FOR THE COVERS on page 48



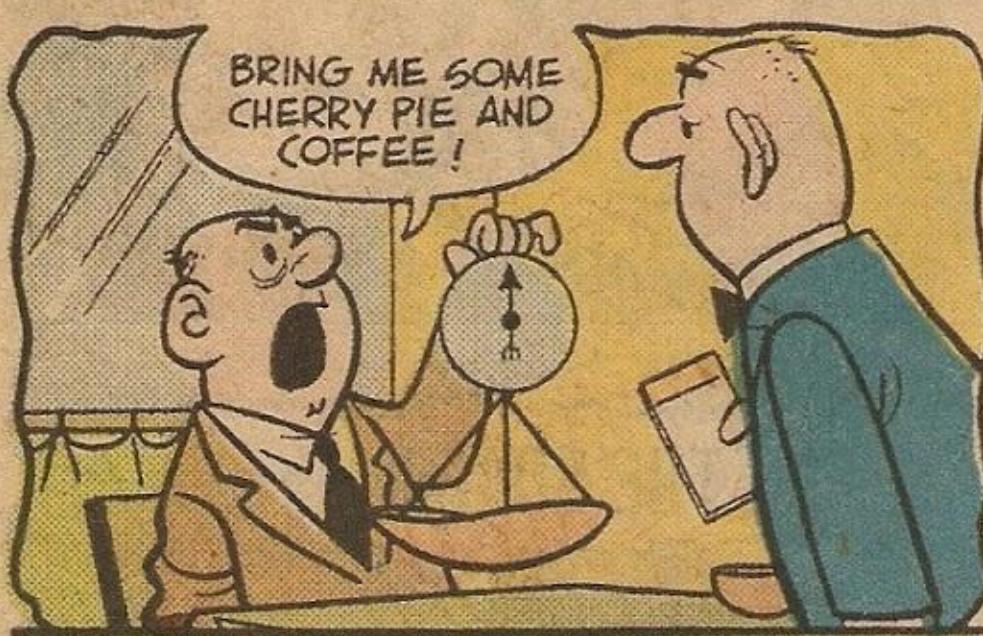
STRANGE OLD LAWS



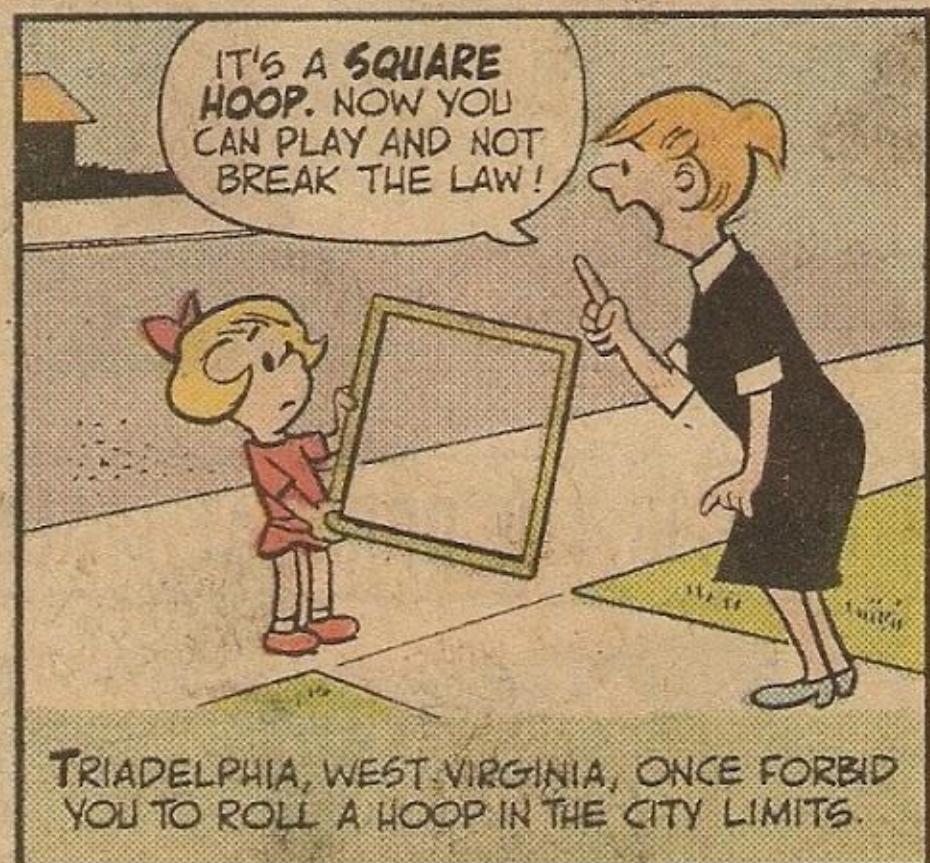
THE POSTMASTER OF VANCOUVER, B.C., WOULD NOT DELIVER MAIL TO PEOPLE WHO DID NOT HAVE MAILBOXES.



WISCONSIN HAS A LAW MAKING IT ILLEGAL TO WEAR A NAVAL UNIFORM. IT WILL TAKE A LEGISLATIVE ACT TO CORRECT THE INADVERTENT WORDING OF THE OLD STATUTE.



IN TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN, A LAW DECREED THAT A CHERRY PIE SERVED IN RESTAURANTS MUST CONTAIN AT LEAST ONE POUND OF CHERRIES.



TRIADELPHIA, WEST VIRGINIA, ONCE FORBID YOU TO ROLL A HOOP IN THE CITY LIMITS.

COMING IN THE NEXT ISSUE--

HELLO! I'M THE RIDDLER-- AND I HAVE ONE FOR YOU...



WHAT DO I DO THAT EVERY CROOK WITH A TOMMY GUN WOULD LIKE TO DO?

ANSWER: I RIDDLE THE BATMAN!



AND YOU CAN BET I'LL BE DOING IT AGAIN IN MY LATEST CLASH WITH THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE--

"RIDDLER ON THE MOVE!"

IN THE MAY BATMAN--#263
ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN FEBRUARY!

TM

ZINGER SH

They're the heaviest, hairiest fistfuls of muscle ever! Giant engines bulging and spilling over with supersize blowers, headers, and pipes! And easy to assemble! And great to collect!



ZINGER VAN



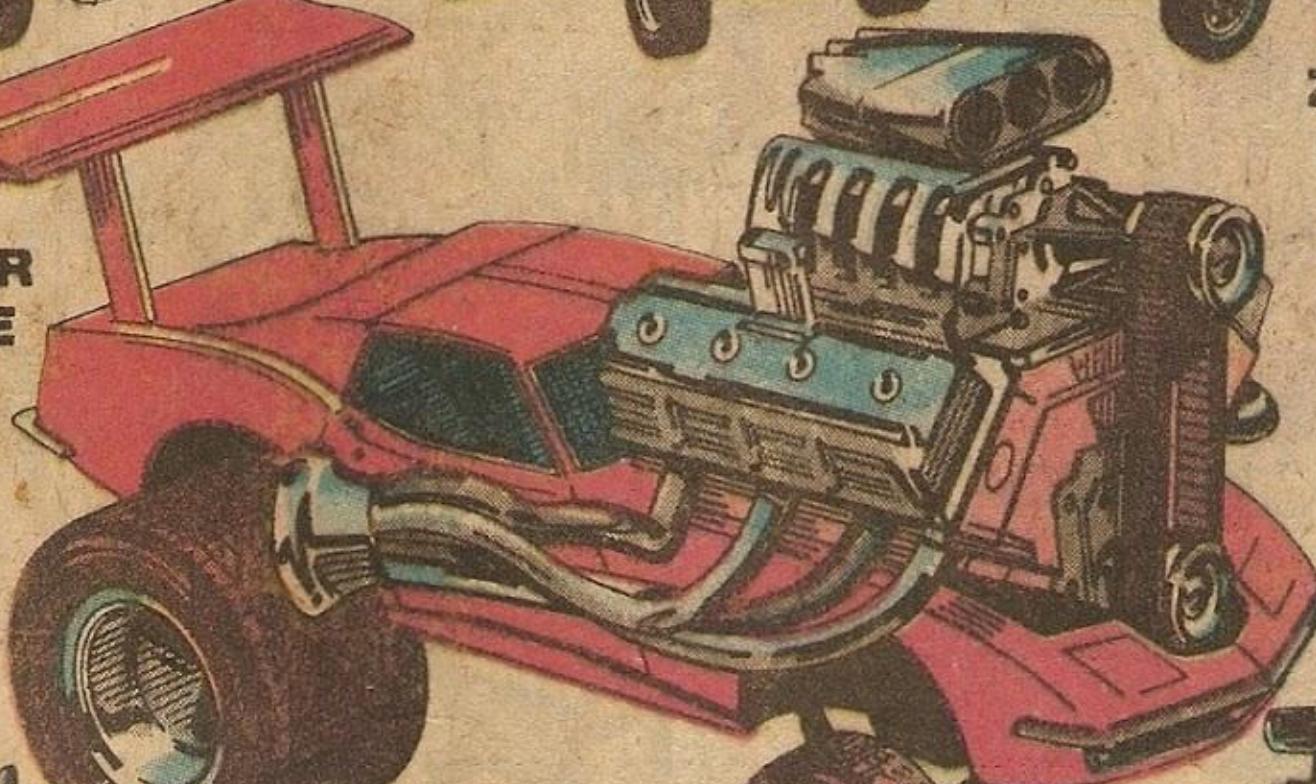
**DUNE BUGGY
ZINGER**



ZINGER VW



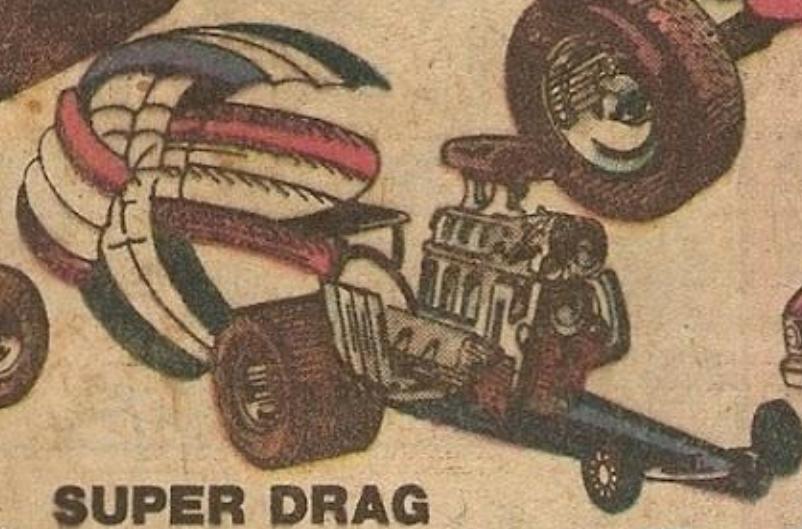
**ZINGER
VETTE**



**LITTLE
RED
ZINGER**



**SUPER
SEMI
ZINGER**



**SUPER DRAG
ZINGER**



**'57 CHEVY
ZINGER**

IMP

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2
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shown below is an imaginary battle scene.

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\$ 2 25

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- 4 Generals—Mounted
- 24 Cavalrymen—with Spears & Armor
- 4 Cavalrymen with banners
- 16 Spearmen with Shields
- 16 Archers with bows
- 16 Slingers
- 4 Chariots with drivers
- 4 Working Catapults
- 16 Pieces of ammunition (harmless) for catapult
- 24 Foot soldiers with broadswords and shields
- 4 Buglers



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Dept. RN

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FAMOUS
NAME

PRIZES OR CASH

THE EASY
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WAY!

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EARN \$1.00 A BOX! • • •



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ALL YOU DO is sell Olympic's beautiful Everyday Selections — the lovely new Olympic All-Occasion Card and Note Ensemble for 1975, the All-Birthday and All-Get Well Assortments, popular fast selling Personalized Stationery, and smart Correspondence Note Selections. Wherever you call, people will be thrilled with the new Olympic line — and the price of just \$2.95 a box (many cards less than 10¢ each) will make sales a snap! Sell enough boxes to get the prize you select, or keep \$1.00 for each box sold.

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FROM _____

MY NAME _____

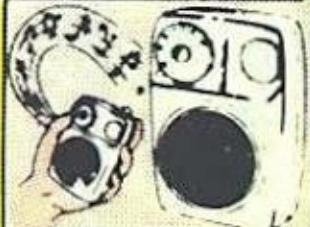
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They make my customers' gardens grow as well as my bank account.
Scott Bloom
Washington



Last year I went to them (my customers). This year they came to me.
Lois Pease
Maine



It just wouldn't be spring if someone in our family didn't sell American Seeds.
Tom DeLaney
Pennsylvania



CROQUET SET



JR. GUITARS



WRIST WATCHES



VOLLEYBALL SET



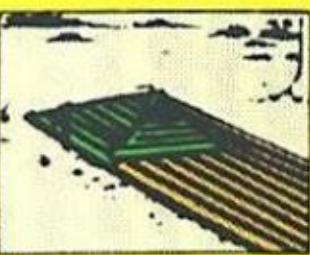
TENNIS RACKET



SWIM SET



CASSETTE TAPE RECORDER



SLEEPING BAGS



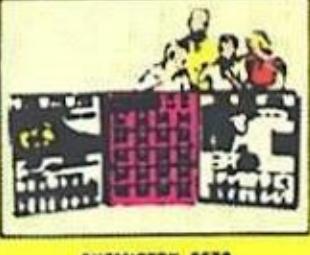
30-POWER TELESCOPE



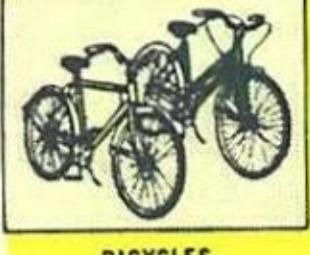
COMPLETE ARCHERY SETS



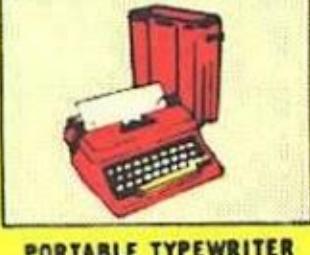
FLYING MODELS



CHEMISTRY SETS



BICYCLES



PORTABLE TYPEWRITER



MAGIC SET



MICROSCOPE SETS



FOUR PLAYER BADMINTON



INSTANT LOAD CAMERA

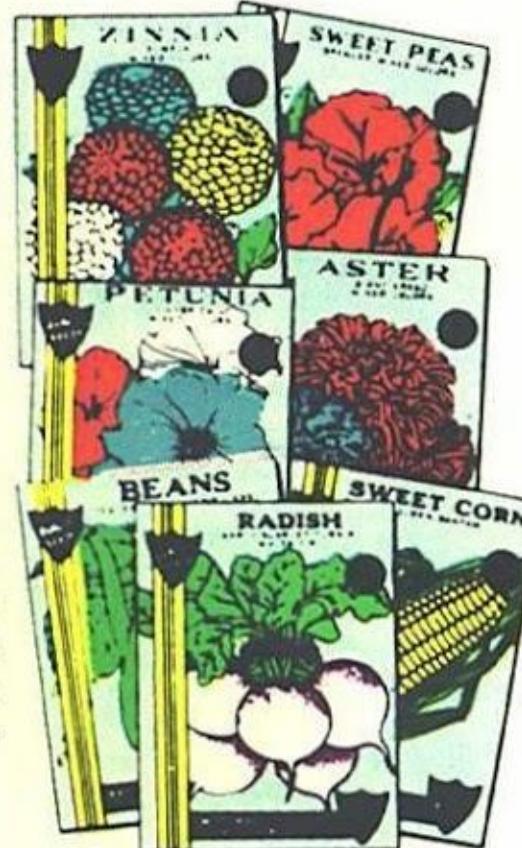
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Whip
Inflation
Now

in your neighborhood with
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