

10c ALL NEW STORIES

DEC.  
NO. 104

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CODE  
  
AUTHORITY

# BATMAN

Featuring  
The CREATURE  
from 20,000  
FATHOMS!"





Star of  
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a Paramount picture.

# Bob Hope!

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500 South 4th Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota  
Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.  
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State \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

DRAW BOB HOPE'S HEAD 5 inches high. Use pencil. Drawings for November 1956 contest must be received by November 30. None returned. Winner notified. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Mail your drawing today.

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

# BATMAN

With  
ROBIN  
THE BOY WONDER

**I**T'S THE BIGGEST SENSATION OF HIS CAREER WHEN BATMAN'S GREATLY GUARDED SECRET IS KNOWN! YES, WHEN HIS IDENTITY AS BRUCE WAYNE IS REVEALED, HIS AND ROBIN'S CRIME-CHASING CAREERS ARE IMPERILED BY...

## THE MAN WHO KNEW BATMAN'S SECRET!



BOB KANE

**O**NE NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY, A WAR WEAPON BECOMES A CRIME WEAPON!

THE BAZOOKA WE GRABBED FROM THE WAR MUSEUM DID THE JOB!

YEAH, IT BLEW A HOLE THROUGH THE WALL AND RIGHT INTO THE SAFE--LET'S GET IN AND CLEAN UP FAST!



**B**UT THE ATTEMPTED THEFT DOESN'T GO UNDETECTED BY A PATROLLING DUO...

THAT EXPLOSION CAME FROM THIS AREA--LOOK, THE SIDE OF GOTHAM BANK HAS A HOLE IN IT!

SOMEONE BLASTED INTO THE SAFE--BUT WE'LL TRAP THEM AT IT!

SCREEEEE

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# BATMAN

SUPERMAN  
DC  
NATIONAL COMICS

MOMENTS LATER...

BATMAN! HE CLOSED UP THE HOLE WITH HIS BATMOBILE -- AND THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT!

WE'RE SUNK-- THEY GOT US COLD!

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...

YOU'VE WORKED FOR JOHN YARDEN IN THE PAST-- DID YARDEN PLAN THIS JOB?

NO! BUT YARDEN IS PLANNING A JOB THAT'LL MAKE YOU LOOK SICK! YOU JUST WAIT, BATMAN!

LATER, IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

YARDEN IS DANGEROUSLY CLEVER! YET WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIS HIDEOUT!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE STRIKES! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO HUNT HIM OUT--

WHEN THE ANXIOUS DUO RETURN TO THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER, SIR! I TRUST ALL WENT WELL!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALFRED-- WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM FACING US!

EVEN AFTER BECOMING BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, THE PROBLEM PERSISTS...

WE'VE GOT TO HUNT DOWN YARDEN BEFORE HE ACTS!

RIGHT-- AND HERE'S HOW WE'LL DO IT! WE'LL START TOMORROW AND--

NEXT DAY, THE GRIM SEARCH BEGINS...

BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE UP TO SOMETHING BIG--THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS!

LET'S KEEP FOLLOWING THEM-- WE MAY GET A BIG STORY FOR OUR NEWSPAPER!

AT NIGHT, ANOTHER OBSERVER JOINS THE REPORTERS!

YOU'RE NO REPORTER-- WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN BATMAN?

I'M THADDEUS CRANE, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FROM UPSTATE-- I'M ANXIOUS TO STUDY HIS METHODS!

## BATMAN



AMONG THOSE MOST INTERESTED IS JOHN VARDEN, MOBSTER CZAR...

TO THINK THIS HICK DETECTIVE, THADDEUS CRANE, KNOWS WHO BATMAN IS! IF WE COULD GET HIM TO TELL US--

WE COULD NAIL BATMAN FOR GOOD! WE'LL GET THAT SECRET FROM CRANE SOMEHOW!

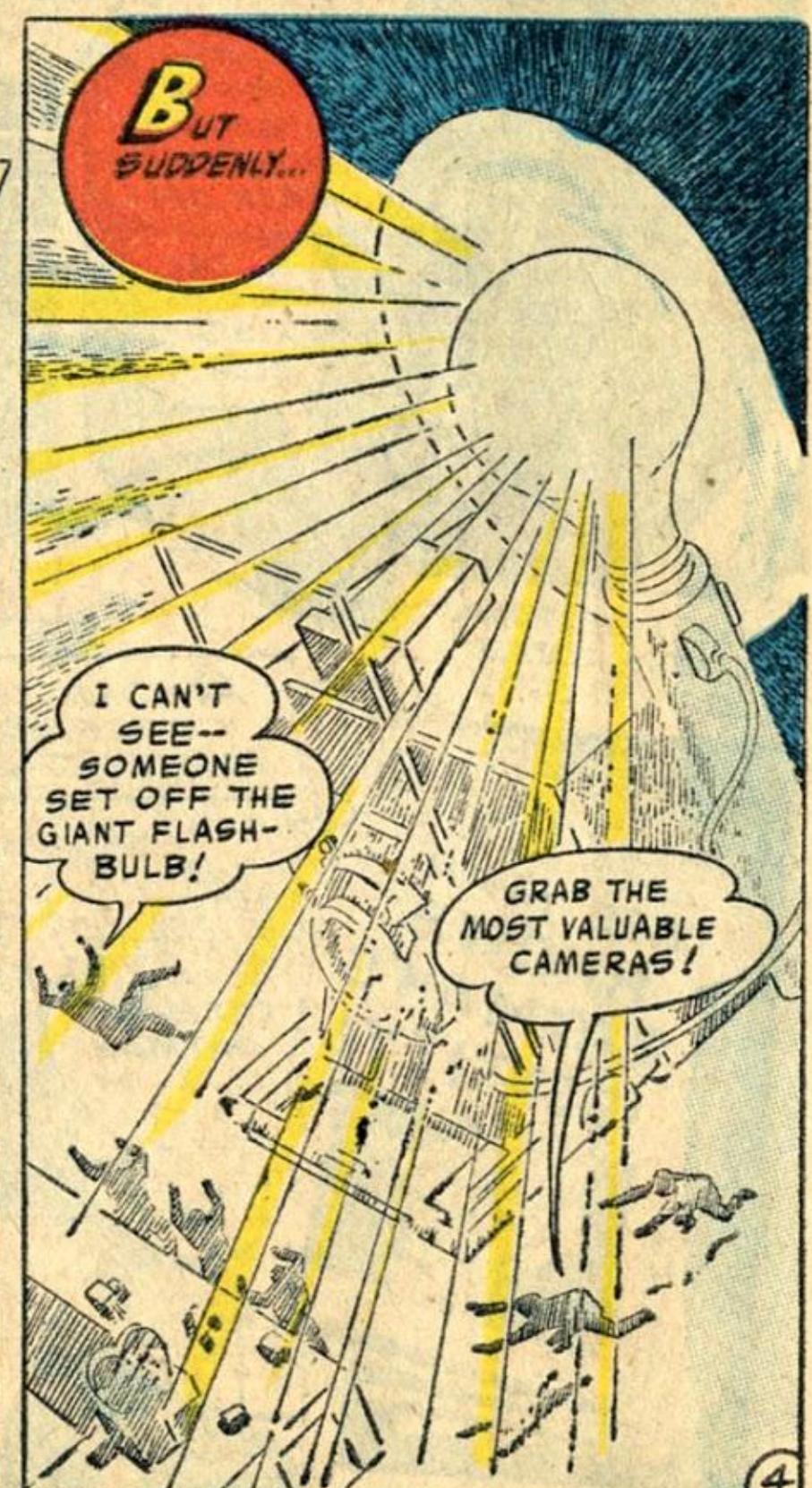
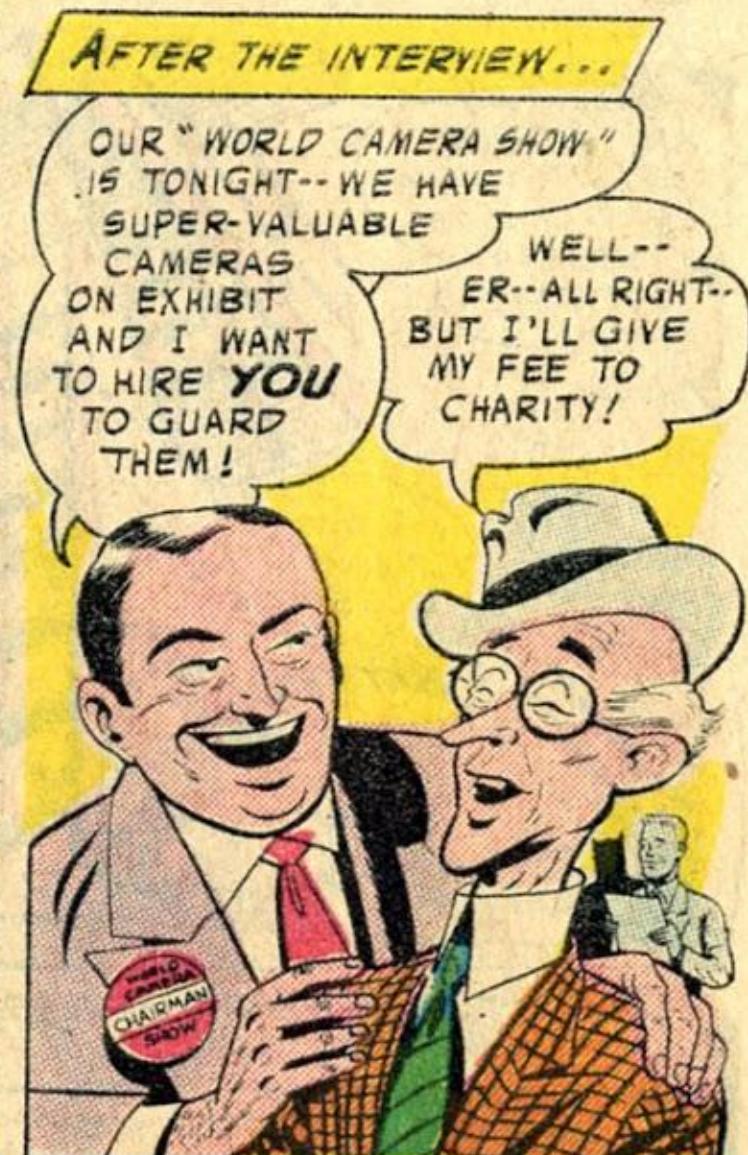
THAT THREAT HAS BEEN EXPECTED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO SUMMONS THE TRIO TO HIS OFFICE...

BATMAN, THE UNDERWORLD MIGHT FORCE YOUR IDENTITY FROM CRANE! HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO BRIGHT!

ROBIN AND I WILL HAVE TO GUARD HIM-- HE DID SEE AND RECOGNIZE MY FACE!



## BATMAN

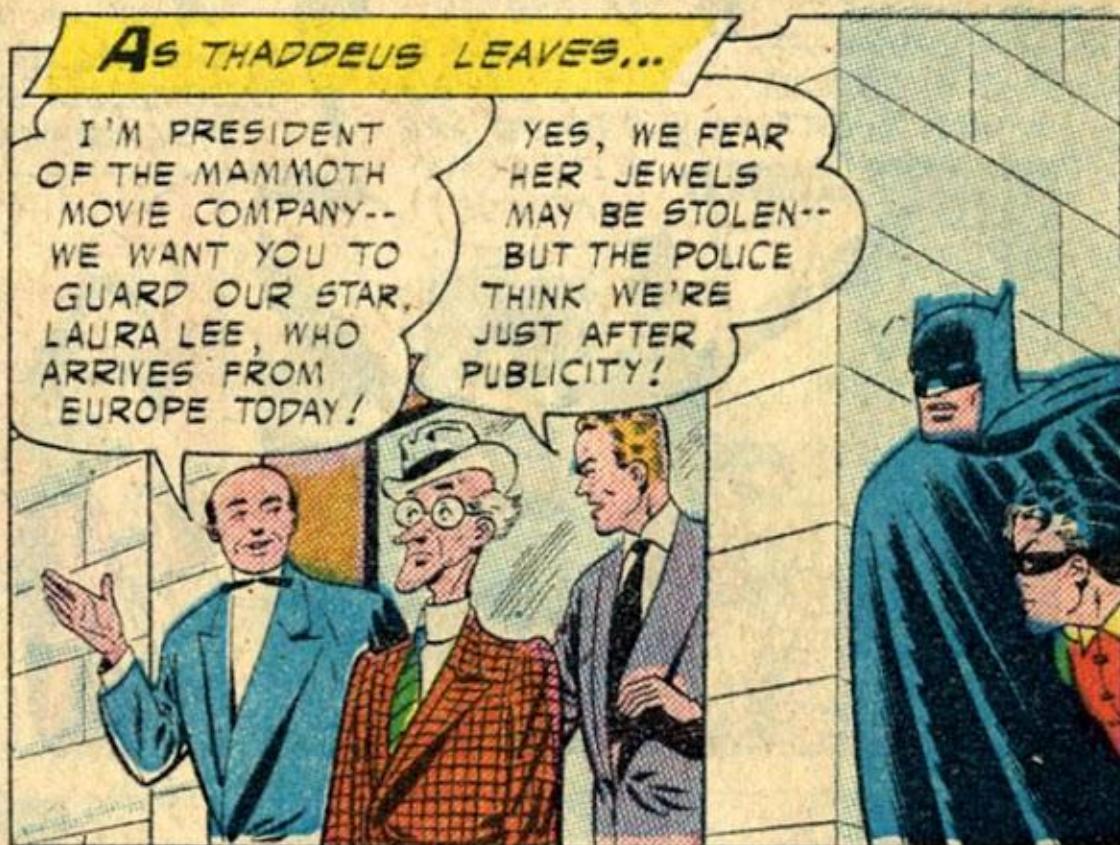


## BATMAN

BUT TWO FIGURES EMERGE FROM THEIR SECRET HIDING PLACE...

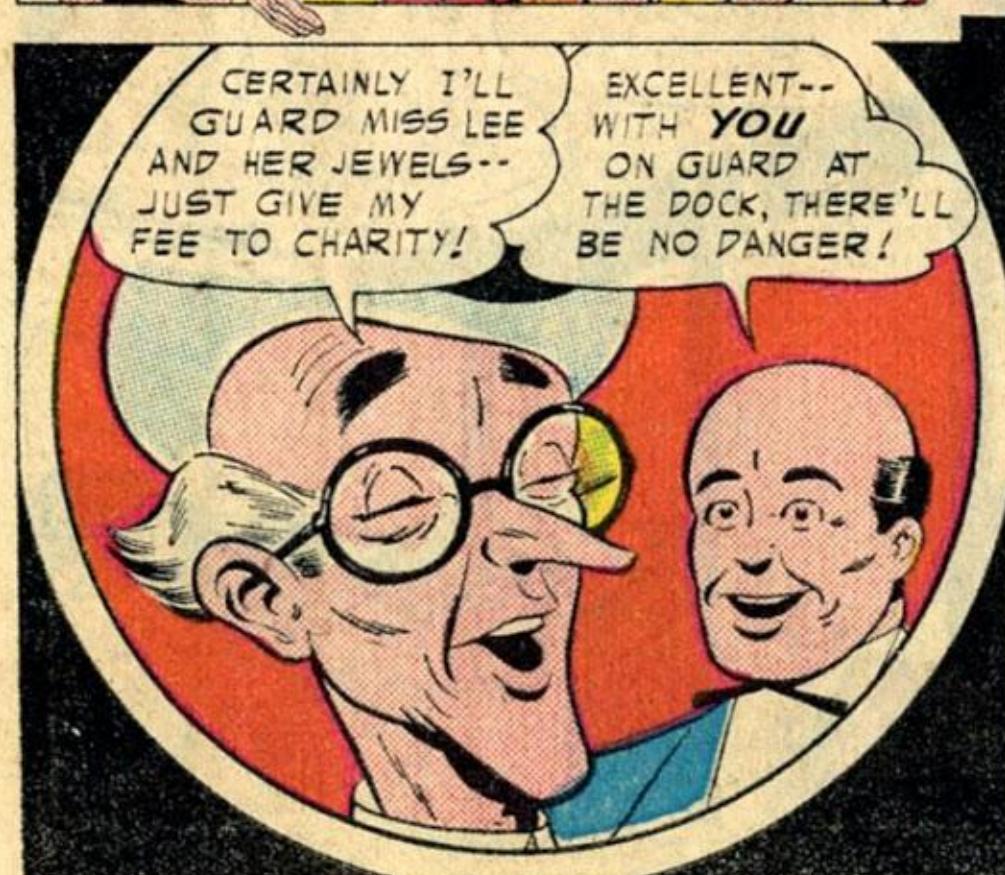


A ND WHEN EVERYONE RECOVERS...



CERTAINLY I'LL GUARD MISS LEE AND HER JEWELS-- JUST GIVE MY FEE TO CHARITY!

EXCELLENT-- WITH YOU ON GUARD AT THE DOCK, THERE'LL BE NO DANGER!



THIS WILL BE TERRIFIC PUBLICITY-- ANYTHING THAT DETECTIVE DOES MAKES HEADLINES NOW!

I'LL TELL THE PAPERS THAT THADDEUS CRANE IS GUARDING LAURA LEE'S JEWELS!





# BATMAN



**BUT LATER, AT THE DOCK...**

I WAS AFRAID THAT PUBLICITY WOULD REACH THE WRONG PEOPLE -- LOOK, TWO WANTED JEWEL-THIEVES WAITING IN THAT CAR!

COME ON, WE'LL GRAB 'EM!

NO-- WE CAN'T RISK ANY SHOOTING WITH THIS BIG CROWD! YOU GET THADDEUS-- I'M GOING TO SLIP BEHIND THEIR CAR AND FIX UP SOMETHING!

**A**

ND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO GUARD LAURA LEE, WHO'S COMING ASHORE SHORTLY...

THEN KEEP AN EYE ON THAT CAR! THE JEWEL-THIEVES ARE IN IT! COME WITH US!

**AND AS A GLAMOROUS AND BEJEWELED STAR DISEMBARKS...**

LOOK-- THAT CAR'S BEING LIFTED INTO THE AIR!

STAND BACK, EVERYONE!

IT'S ALL RIGHT.. I'M JUST KEEPING THE JEWEL-THIEVES UP IN THIS CAR UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!

WOW-- THADDEUS CRANE IS REALLY A HOT-SHOT DETECTIVE TO GRAB THEM THAT WAY!

BUT YOU REALLY CAUGHT THE THIEVES--

I KNOW, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR REPUTATION! GO ON DOWN-- WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU!

**AND IT'S WELL THAT BATMAN KEEPS WATCH!**

YES, I LOST MY LIFE-SAVINGS SOMEHOW WHEN I LEFT HOME! A GREAT DETECTIVE LIKE YOU COULD FIND MY MONEY!

AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY CLUE!

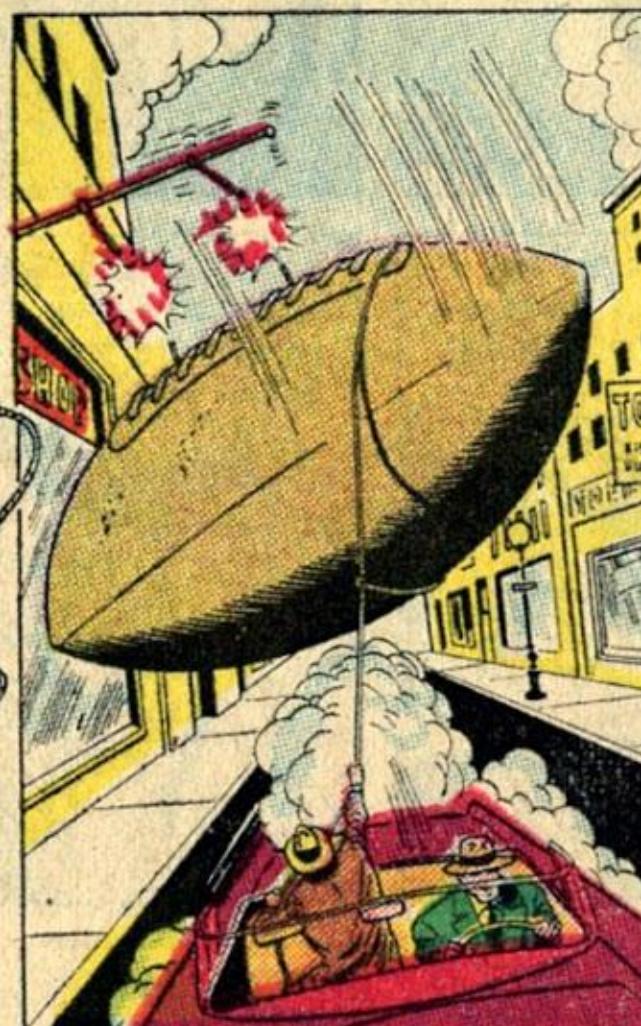
I'LL TRY-- I'LL GO WITH YOU

**ROBIN,** THAT'S ONE OF VARDEN'S MEN-- WE'LL FOLLOW THEM!

THERE COMES THE **BATMOBILE!** VARDEN WAS RIGHT-- BATMAN'S CLOSELY GUARDING CRANE, WHO KNOWS HIS SECRET!

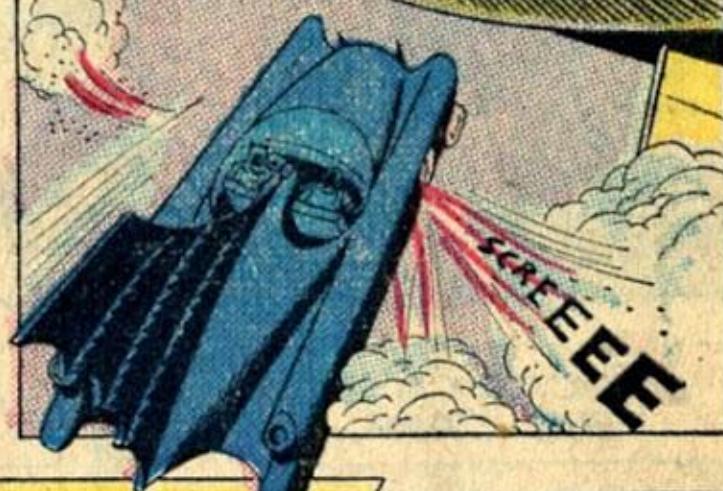
WE'LL STOP BATMAN, THE WAY WE FIGURED!

QUICK, BLOCK THE STREET-- THE **BATMOBILE'S** COMING FAST!



THAT SIGN WAS PULLED DOWN TO STOP US-- VARDEN MUST HAVE FIGURED WE'D FOLLOW!

THAT "FOOTBALL" IS MADE OF CARD-BOARD! I CAN HAUL IT OUT OF THE WAY!



AND MOMENTS LATER...

IT'LL BE OUT OF THE WAY HERE!

**ROBIN,** THEY DELAYED US LONG ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF SIGHT WITH THADDEUS!



SOON, IN THE HOUSE WHERE HE'D BEEN LURED...

NO, I WON'T TELL YOU WHO BATMAN IS-- NEVER! I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE JOHN VARDEN!

LOCK HIM IN, MEN-- THE TRAP WE SET UP FOR BATMAN WILL GET HIM THE FIRST TIME HE ANSWERS THE BAT-SIGNAL!



# BATMAN



THEN, AS THEY WAIT...

HE BROKE THROUGH THAT THIN DOOR LIKE WE FIGURED! AND NOW HE'LL SURELY WARN BATMAN BY PHONE!

YEAH, AND THAT TRICK PHONE ISN'T CONNECTED BUT WILL RECORD BATMAN'S PHONE NUMBER AS HE DIALS IT-- AND THAT'LL GIVE US HIS IDENTITY!

BUT, AN INSTANT LATER...

HE DIDN'T NEED TO PHONE, VARDEN-- WE GAVE HIM A BELT-RADIO AND HE CALLED US! IT WAS IN HIS BIG, OLD-FASHIONED WATCH!

WHY-- IT WAS A TRICK TO FIND ME--

LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

WE WERE SURE VARDEN WOULD TRY TO GRAB THADDEUS TO GET MY SECRET IDENTITY FROM HIM-- SO WE SET UP OUR OWN TRAP FOR HIM!

I WAS GLAD TO HELP BATMAN FIND VARDEN-- BUT NOW I'M GOING HOME! THE CITY'S TOO EXCITING FOR ME!

IT'LL ALWAYS MAKE ME UNEASY-- THE FACT THAT HE KNOWS YOUR REAL IDENTITY, BATMAN!

DON'T WORRY-- I FEEL SURE HE'LL NEVER TELL! WELL, WE'D BETTER GET HOME, ROBIN!

SHORTLY IN THE BAT-CAVE...

DID I DO WELL, SIR?

SPLendidly-- but you can take off that disguise now, ALFRED!

ALFRED? BATMAN'S LOYAL BUTLER?

YOU'RE STILL THE ONLY PERSON TO KNOW OUR IDENTITIES! SO WHEN YOU, IN DISGUISE, PRETENDED TO SURPRISE ME UNMASKED, IT DIDN'T REALLY LET OUT OUR SECRET!

NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THADDEUS CRANE, THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE WHO KNOWS BATMAN'S SECRET!

NOT MYTHICAL, SIR! MY MIDDLE NAMES ARE THADDEUS CRANE, YOU KNOW-- AND I FANCY I'VE PROVED THAT I AM A REAL DETECTIVE!

# CASEY

## THE COP

HENRY  
BOLTHOFF

LOOK AT THAT  
CAR SPEED!

PULL OVER!

WHAT'S THE  
TROUBLE?

YOU WERE GOING  
**SIXTY MILES**  
AN HOUR - THAT'S  
ALL!

AN HOUR? BUT THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE, OFFICER.  
I'VE BEEN DRIVING ONLY  
**TEN MINUTES!**

END.

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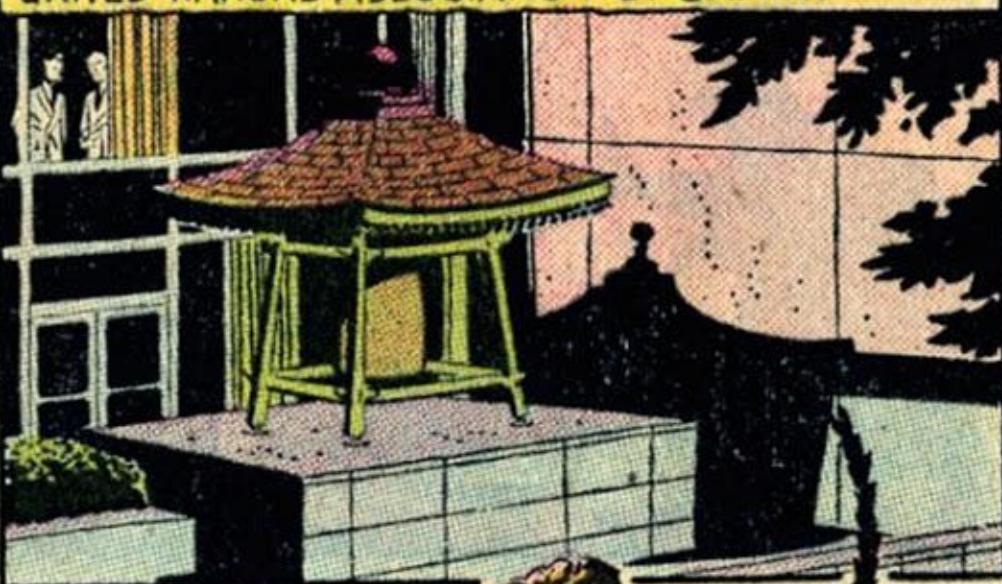
# *Gifts* to the UNITED NATIONS!

ALONG THE EAST RIVER IN NEW YORK CITY STRETCHES SIX BLOCKS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY--THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HERE 76 MEMBER NATIONS WORK TOGETHER FOR WORLD PEACE.

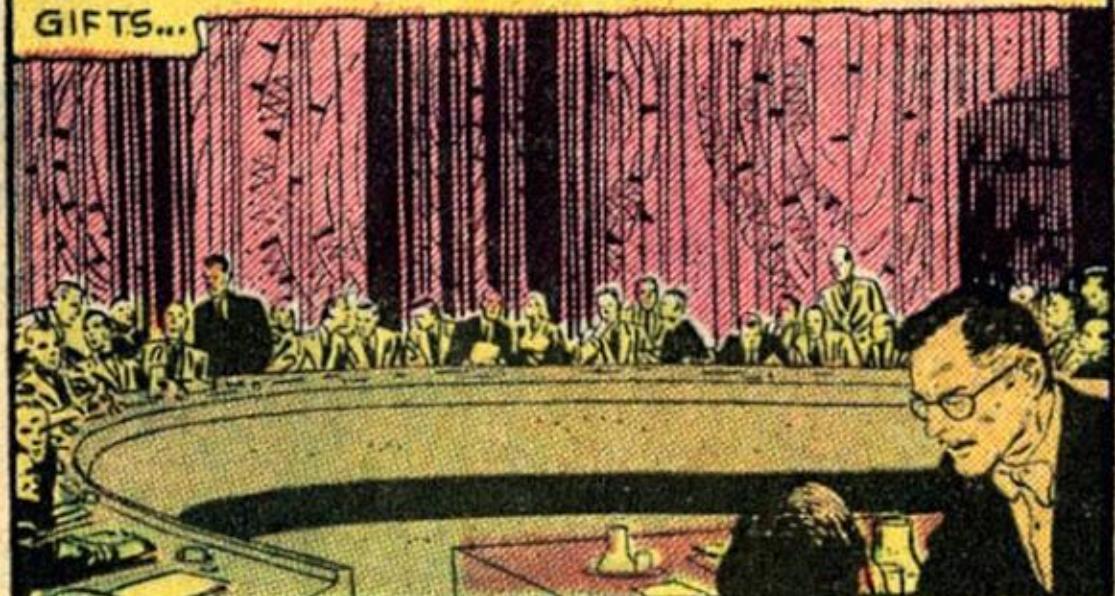
EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 800,000 PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD VISIT THE UN, WHERE THEY SEE THE MANY GIFTS FROM MEMBER NATIONS, GIVEN TO EXPRESS THEIR HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE.



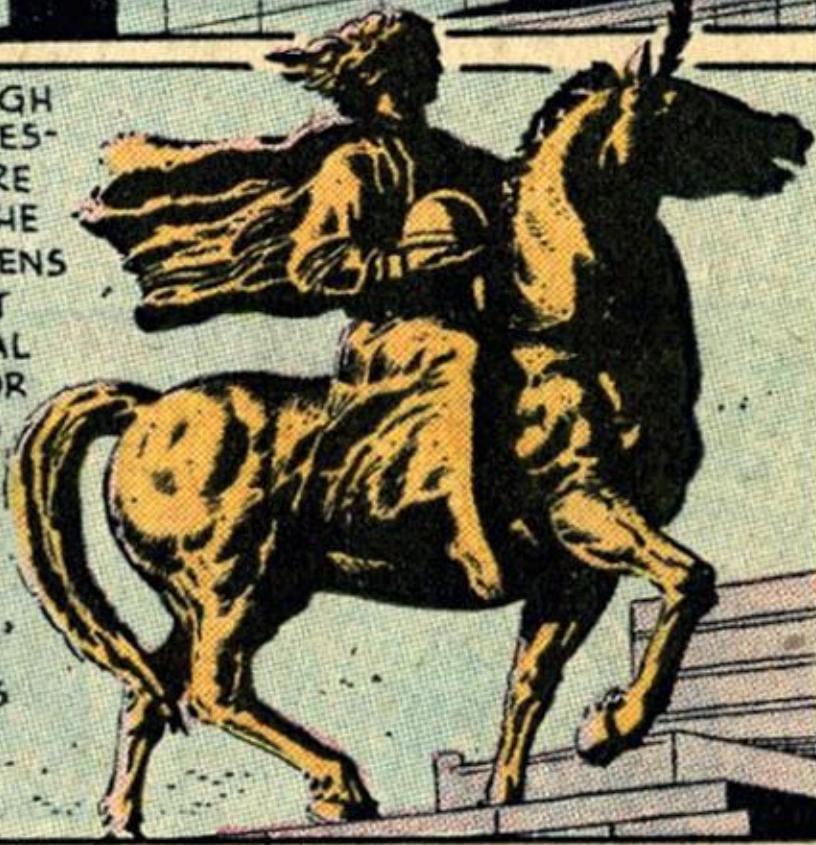
UNDER A JAPANESE SHRINE-LIKE STRUCTURE MADE OF JAPANESE CYPRESS WOOD, IS THE "PEACE BELL," CAST FROM COINS OF 60 NATIONS--A GIFT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN.



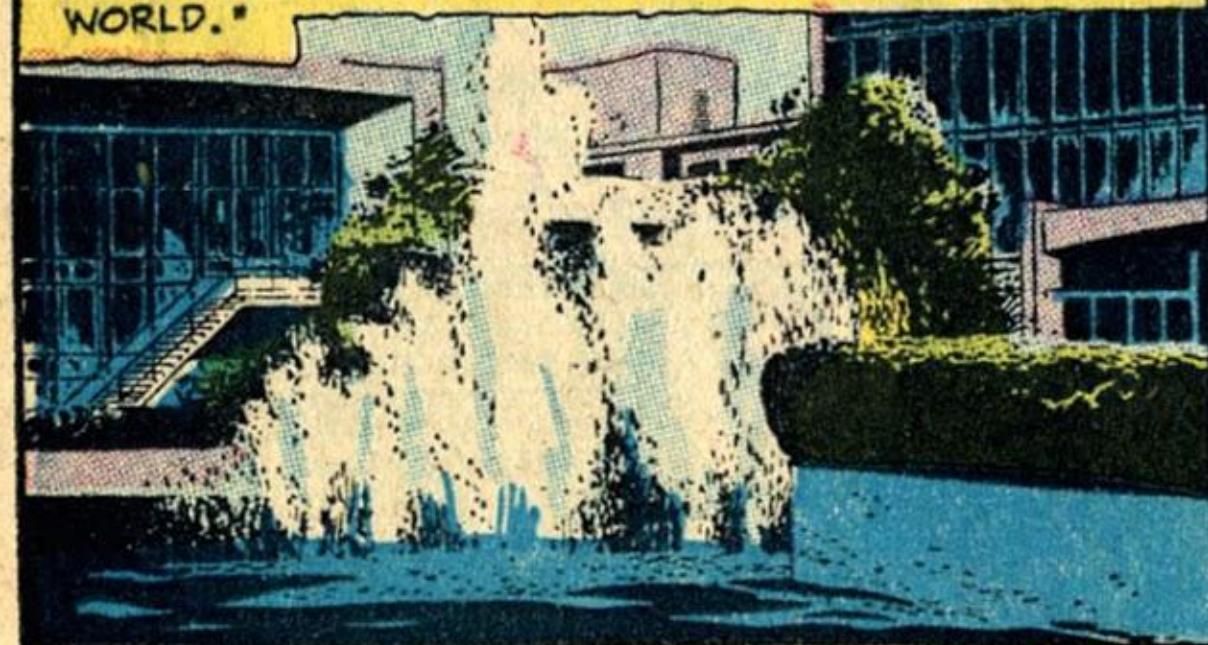
THE HUGE RED CURTAIN, SPECIALLY WOVEN OF WOOL AND HEMP AND WEIGHING 770 POUNDS, WHICH EXTENDS ACROSS THE EAST SIDE OF THE MEETING ROOM OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, IS ONE OF SWEDEN'S GIFTS...



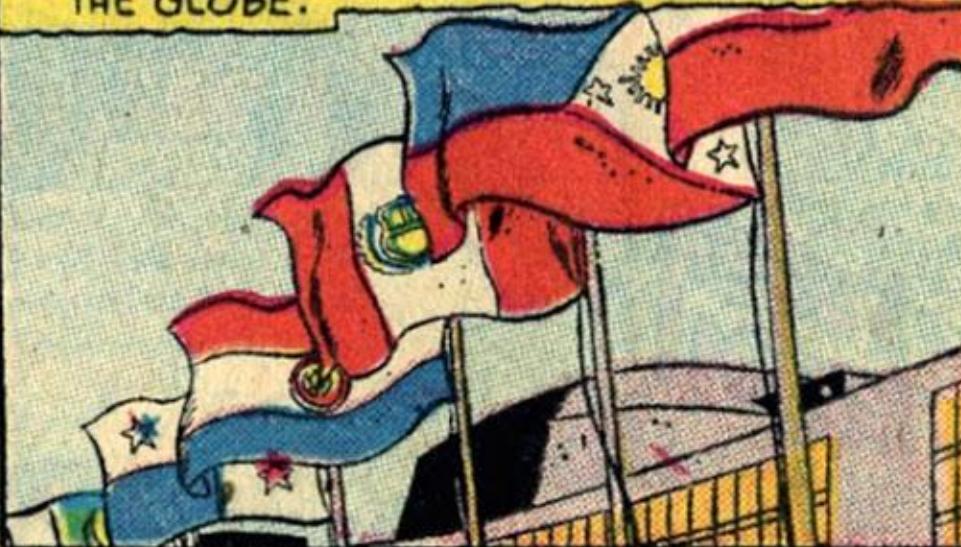
A 16-FOOT-HIGH BRONZE EQUESTRIAN FIGURE STANDS IN THE NORTH GARDENS ON A 26-FOOT HIGH PEDESTAL OF ROSE-COLOR MARBLE FROM YUGOSLAVIA. GIVEN TO UN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE STATUE SYMBOLIZES PEACE.



THE CENTRAL FOUNTAIN, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE UN SECRETARIAT BUILDING, WAS PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE CHILDREN OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES, AS A "GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD."



AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING FLY THE FLAGS OF THE 76 MEMBER NATIONS, PLACED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. THIS PROUD AND COLORFUL SIGHT IS A REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS OF THE HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD WHICH IS SHARED BY PEOPLES AROUND THE GLOBE.



# CLUE CARTOON

Can you solve it?

3 8-LETTER WORDS CAN BE SPELLED USING ALL 8 LETTERS SHOWN, IN EACH WORD. THE CLUE CARTOON WILL LEAD YOU TO THE FIRST WORD YOU ARE SEEKING. FOR THE SOLUTION TO THE OTHERS YOU ARE STRICTLY ON YOUR OWN. REMEMBER NOW, GIVE IT A GOOD TRY AND NO FAIR PEEKING AT THE ANSWER!

The ANSWER

I G N I E R D S

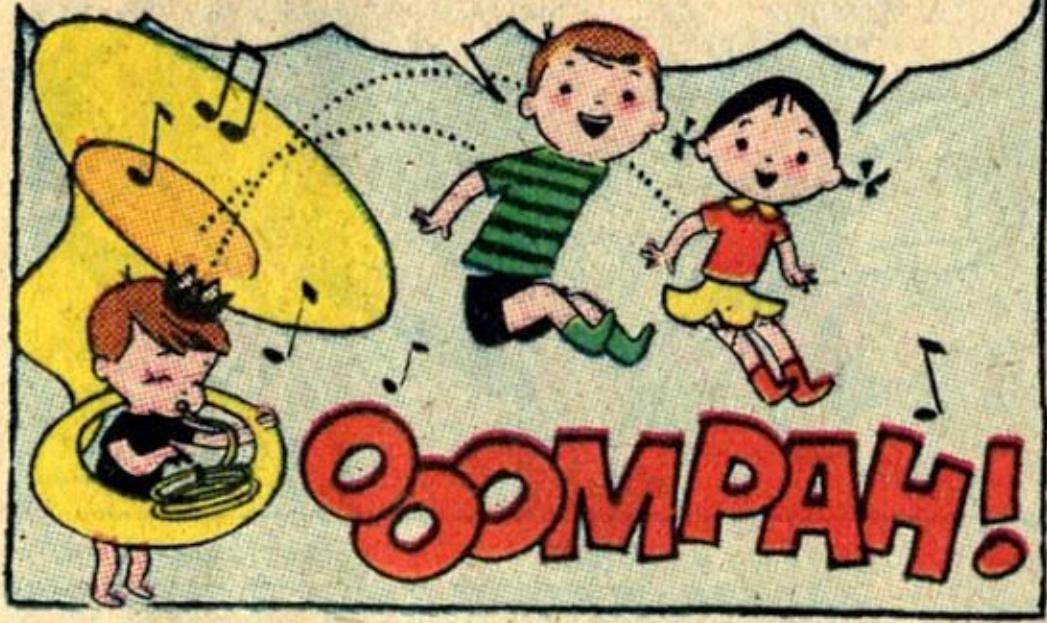
IT'S WHERE I SAT WHEN A WRESTLER FELL IN MY LAP!



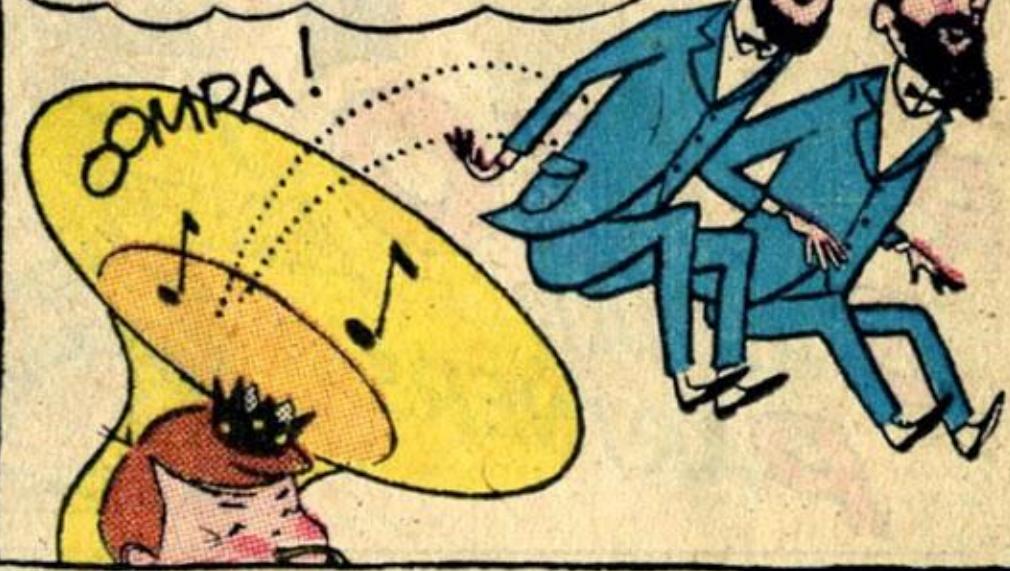
bumpin - bumpin - spabin

ADVERTISEMENT

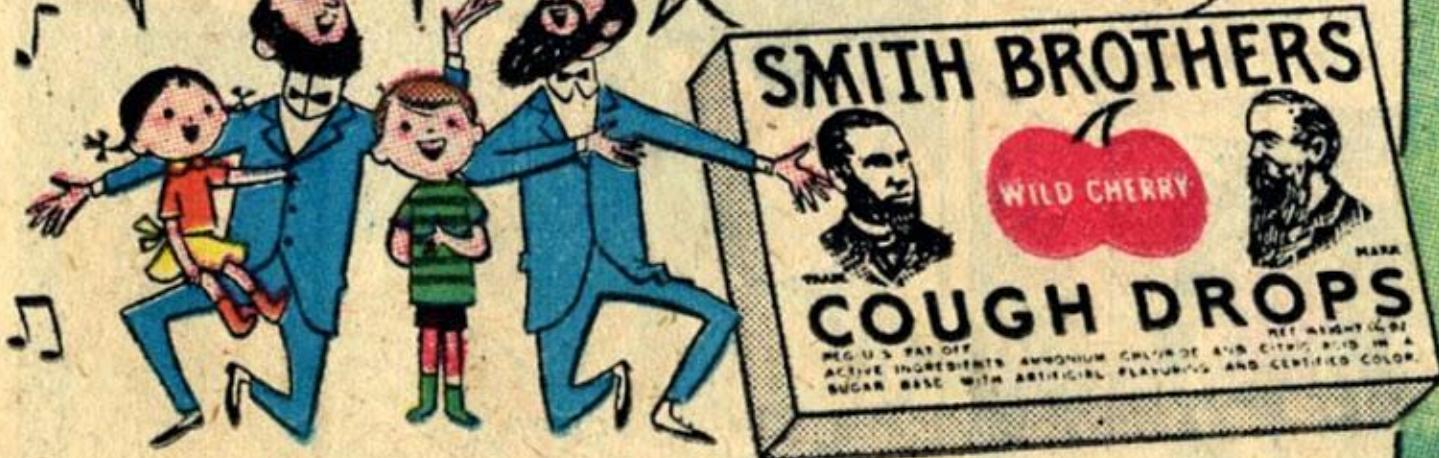
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... WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS...



... WE LOVE THOSE SMITH BROTHERS WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS!



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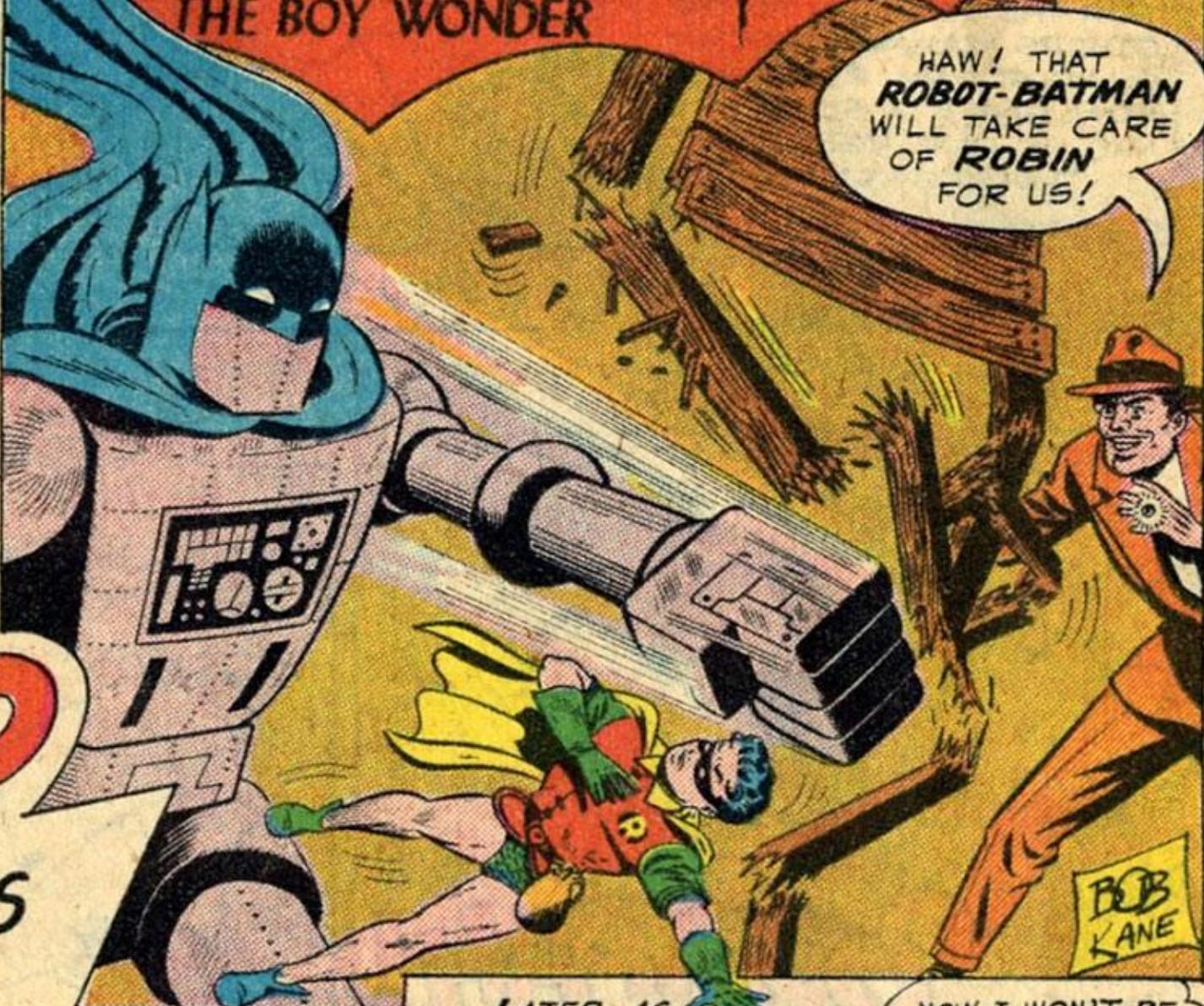
For really quick relief - this is it! And are they good - tantalizing Wild Cherry flavor that everybody loves. So get Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops today!

# BATMAN

With  
**ROBIN**  
THE BOY WONDER

HIS IS A CASE IN WHICH **BATMAN** DOES NOT APPEAR--EVEN THOUGH **BATMAN** CAN BE SEEN EVERYWHERE! IT IS ALSO THE STORY OF **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, WHO HAD TO BATTLE A CRIMINAL GANG ALL ALONE--EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A **BATMAN** CONSTANTLY BESIDE HIM! IMPOSSIBLE? NOT AT ALL--FOR YOU'LL READ THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER IN THE SUSPENSEFUL ADVENTURE OF...

## ROBIN'S 50 BATMAN PARTNERS



AT THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION IN GOTHAM CITY ONE DAY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RETURN UNEXPECTEDLY FROM THEIR REGULAR PATROL...

OH! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE MAWSTER? AN ACCIDENT?

YES, ALFRED! **BATMAN** BROKE HIS ANKLE WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING THE "SPARKLES" GRADY MOB! THEY WERE AFTER THE DIAMONDS WE RECOVERED FOR RAJAH PUNJAB!

LATER, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DOFF THEIR COSTUMES TO TAKE ON THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO CUT THE TAPE AT THE EXPOSITION THIS AFTERNOON! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER FOR ME, DICK!



THAT AFTERNOON, ROBIN OFFICIALLY OPENS THE FIRST EXHIBIT IN GOTHAM CITY'S NEW OPEN-AIR ARENA...

## BATMAN EXPOSITION

NOW, FOLKS, OUR CAMERAS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY INTO THE VAST ARENA HOUSING A GREAT COLLECTION OF MASTERPIECES CREATED IN HONOR OF BATMAN BY HIS NUMEROUS ADMIRERS!

ROBIN, WOULD YOU SAY A FEW WORDS TO THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE?

I'M SORRY BATMAN COULDN'T BE HERE HIMSELF TO SEE THIS GREAT SHOW IN HIS HONOR!

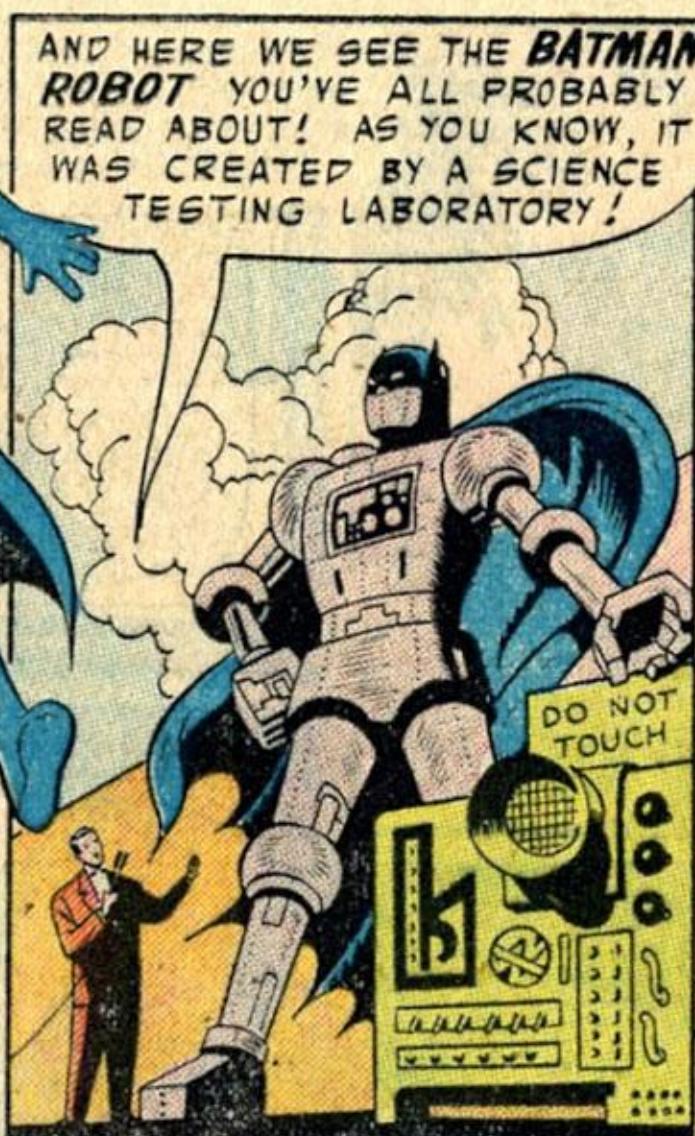
THIS HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED! THIS COLLECTION OF OVER FIFTY BATMAN MEMORIALS IS SO HUGE IT STAGGERS THE SENSES!

LATER, IN FRONT OF A BATMAN COLOSSUS, ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF A SMALL TOWN ONCE HELPED BY BATMAN...

SIR, I BELIEVE YOU'RE THE SCULPTOR WHO WAS COMMISSIONED TO DO THAT PIECE?

YES! A SHIPPING LINE WANTED TO HONOR BATMAN FOR HIS CAPTURE OF THE ROGUE WHITE WHALE THAT WAS MENACING THEIR FREIGHTERS!

WOW! IT MUST HAVE TAKEN DOZENS OF YARDS OF MATERIAL TO MAKE THAT CAPE!



THEN, BEFORE THE REPLICA OF THE GREAT TOWER CLOCK OF A EUROPEAN CITY...



WITH A CLICKING OF GEARs, THE MECHANICAL BELL-RINGER STIFFLY STRIKES THE HOUR WITH ITS GREAT HAMMER!

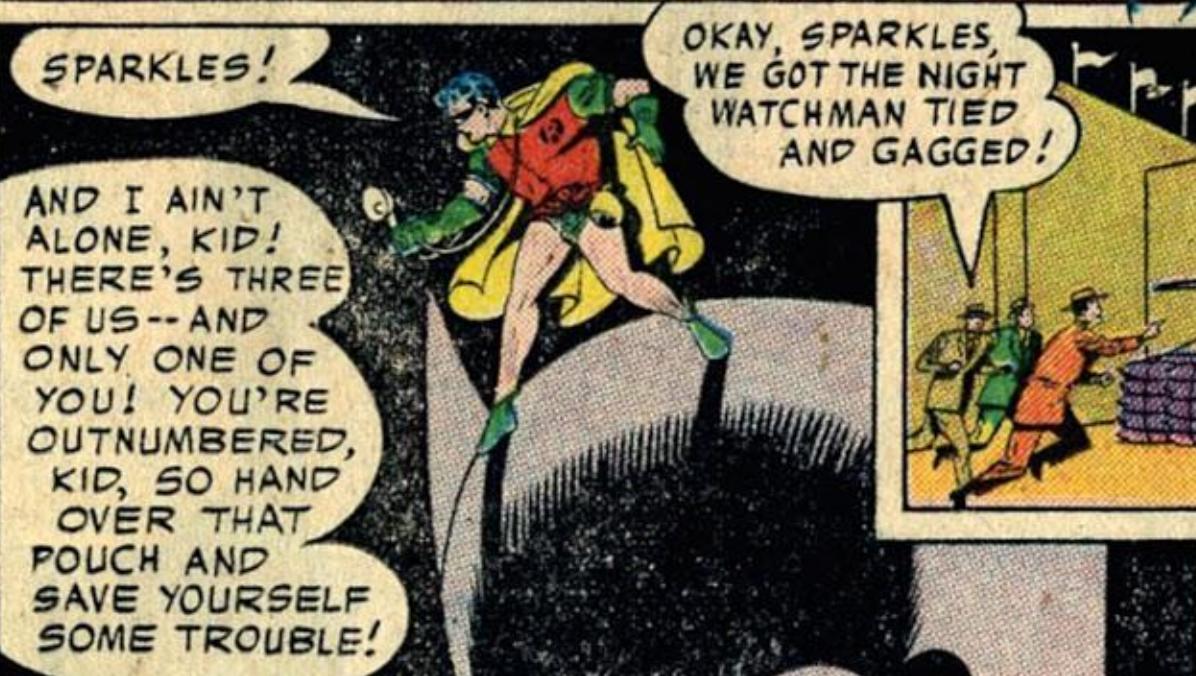
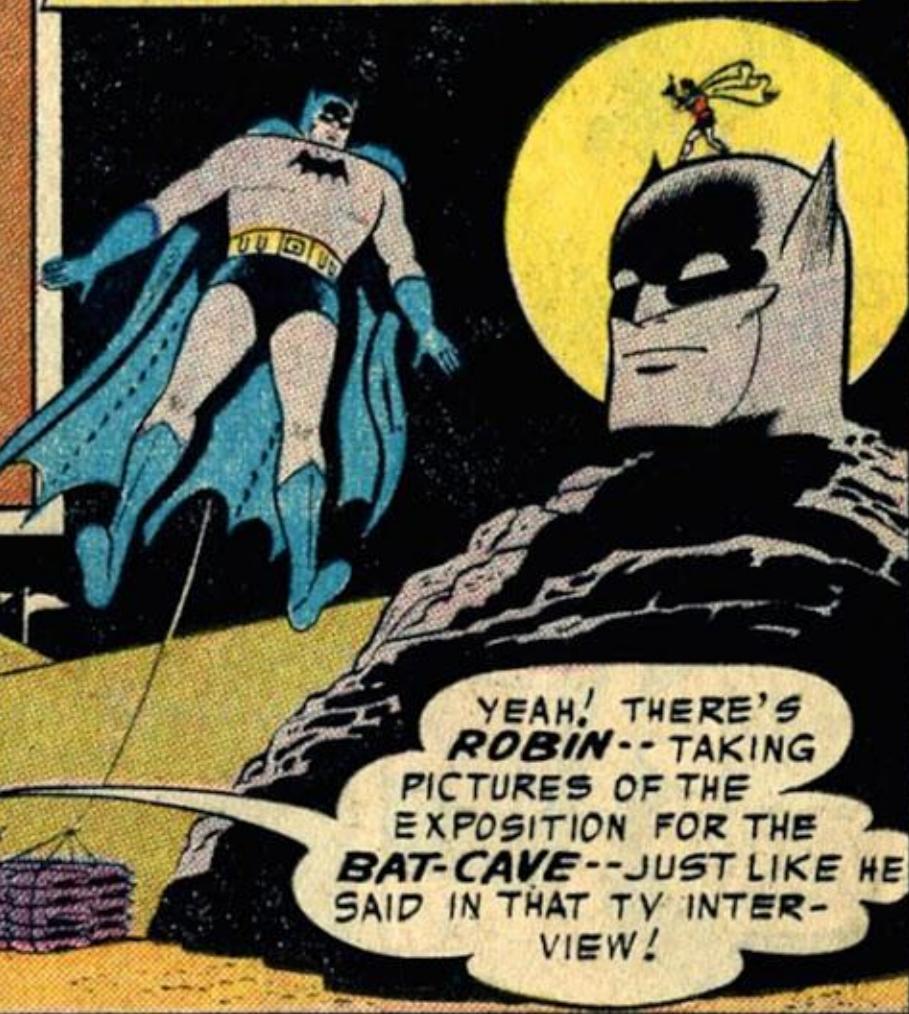


MEANWHILE,  
INSIDE THE HIDE-  
OUT OF THE  
NOTORIOUS  
BANDIT.  
SPARKLES  
GRADY...

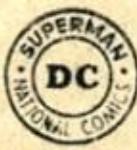
SPARKLES --  
LOOK! ROBIN'S  
STILL GOT THE  
DIAMOND POUCH  
HOOKED ON HIS  
BELT!

HE WON'T HAVE IT  
LONG! COME ON!  
WE'RE GOIN' TO THAT  
EXHIBIT!

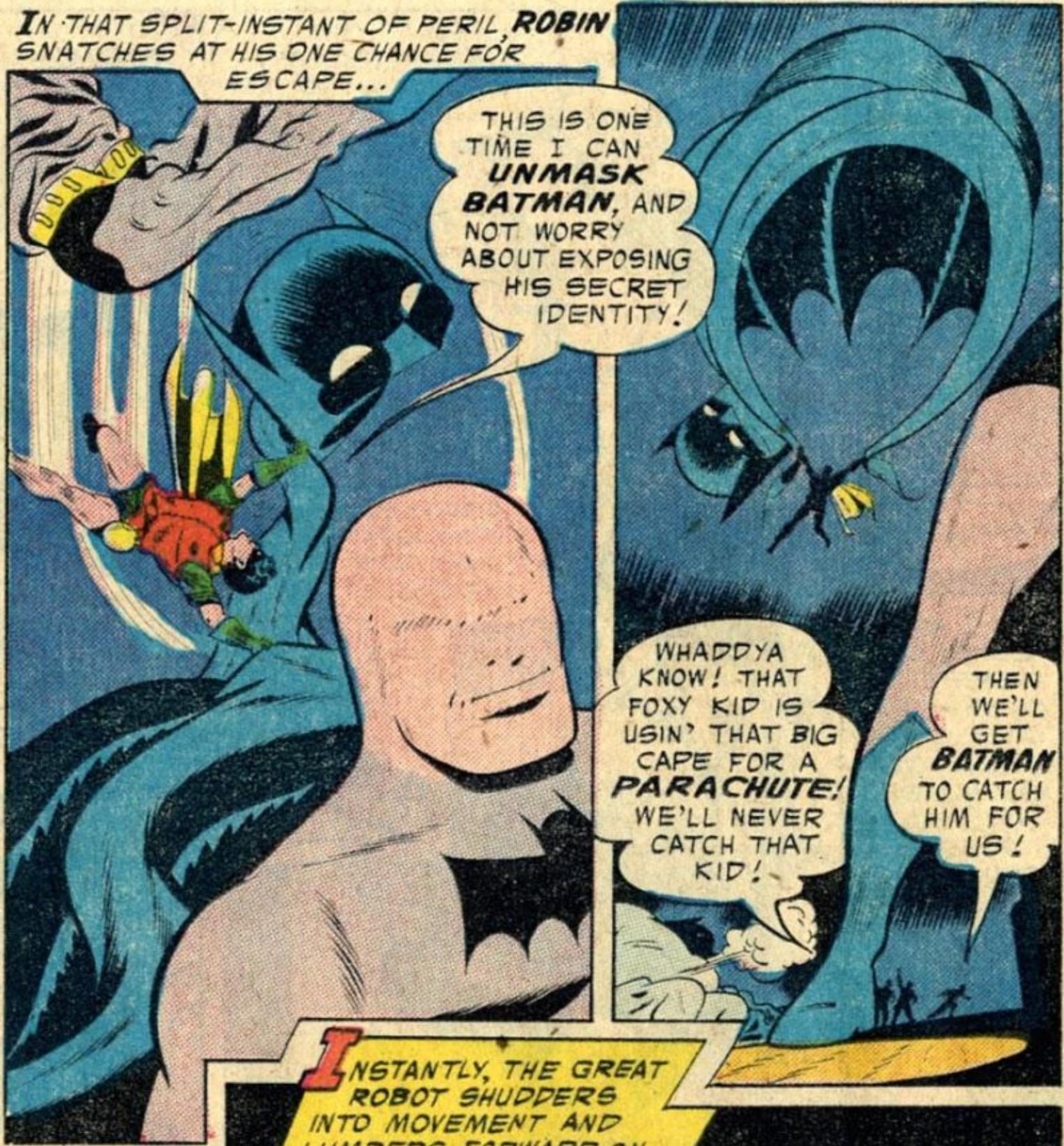
THAT NIGHT, AFTER CLOSING TIME, AS  
ROBIN STANDS ATOP THE REPLICA  
OF A BATMAN MONUMENT -- SIMILAR  
TO THE MT. RUSHMORE MEMORIAL...



# BATMAN



IN THAT SPLIT-INSTANT OF PERIL, ROBIN SNATCHES AT HIS ONE CHANCE FOR ESCAPE...

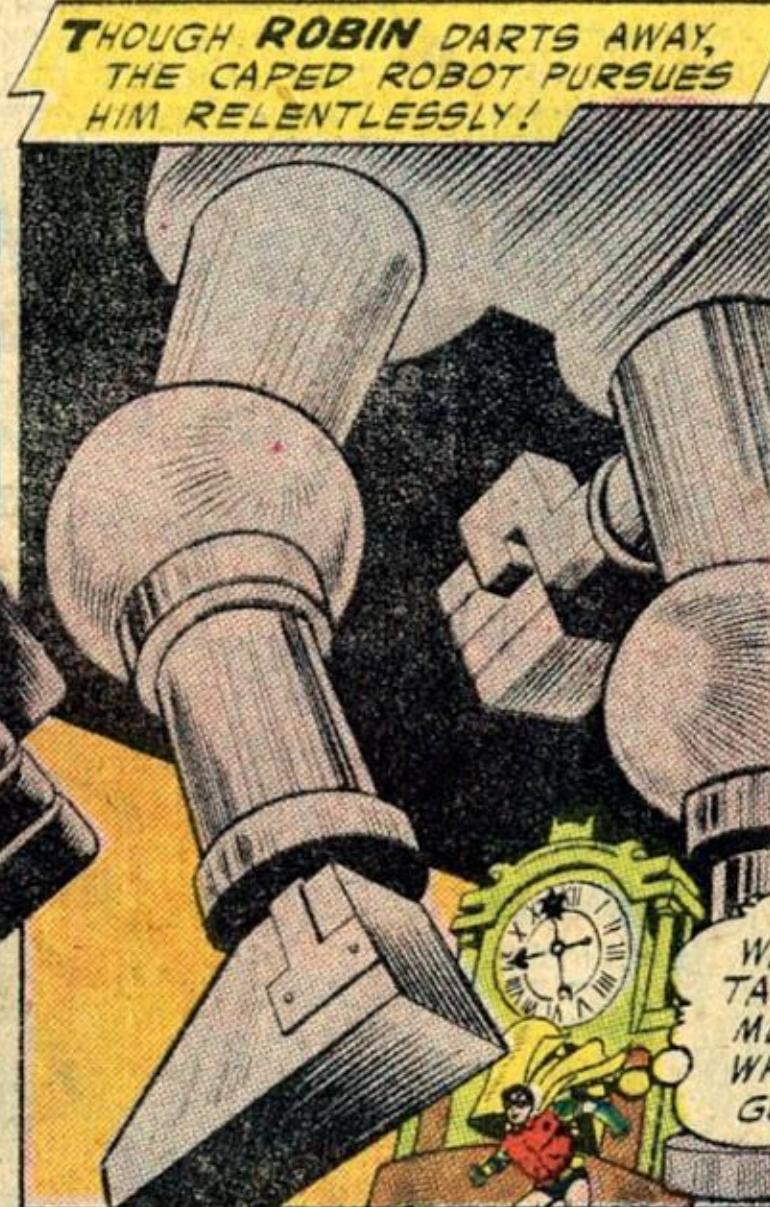


INTO THE ELECTRIC BRAIN CONTROLLING THE ROBOT-BATMAN, THE CRIMINAL SHOUTS A TERRIBLE COMMAND!



JUST IN TIME, ROBIN DODGES A STEEL FIST THAT COULD FELL A GORILLA!

THOUGH ROBIN DARTS AWAY, THE CAPED ROBOT PURSUES HIM RELENTLESSLY!



SUDDENLY, A DOOR POPS OPEN AND ANOTHER ROBOT-LIKE BATMAN APPEARS, AS IF TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGE TO COMBAT!



AS THE BELL-RINGER AUTOMATICALLY SWINGS THE HAMMER TO STRIKE THE HOUR, ROBIN DUCKS--AND...



THIS IS WHY I HAD TO STALL FOR TWO MINUTES--I KNEW THE BELL-RINGER-BATMAN WOULD COME OUT TO TOLL THE HOUR!



ONE MECHANICAL BATMAN WANTED TO TAKE MY LIFE--BUT ANOTHER MECHANICAL BATMAN SAVED IT!

AS THE GROGGY LAD TOTTERS AWAY... THAT ROBOT'S PUNCH KNOCKED THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM! LET'S TAKE THAT BRAT RIGHT NOW!

I'M STILL TOO WEAK--CAN'T GET AWAY! THE MYSTERY PACKAGE--THAT'S SOMETHING THEY WON'T EXPECT!



FROM THE PACKAGE, ROBIN TAKES A TUBE AND POINTS IT SKYWARD--AND INSTANTLY A HISSING STREAK OF FLAME SKYROCKETS HIGH!

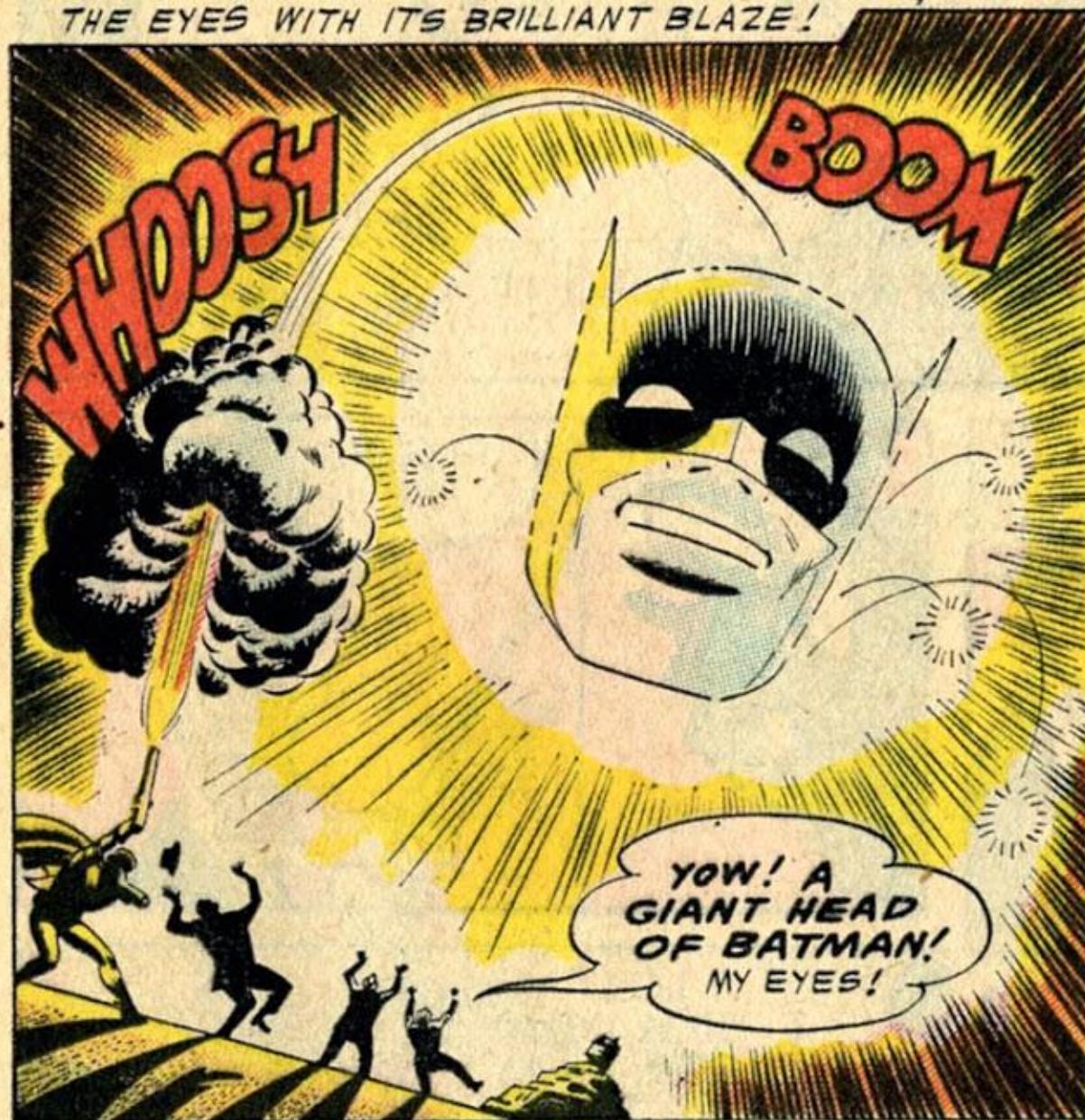
GOT TO SHADE MY EYES!



# BATMAN



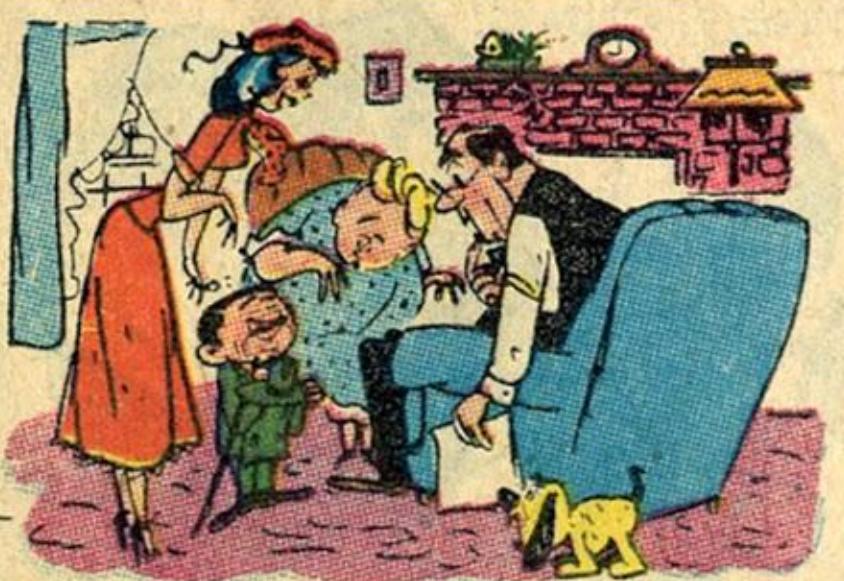
THE ROCKET BURSTS--AND LIKE A NEW SUN, A FACE OF FIREWORKS FLARES IN THE NIGHT SKY, DAZZLING THE EYES WITH ITS BRILLIANT BLAZE!





END.

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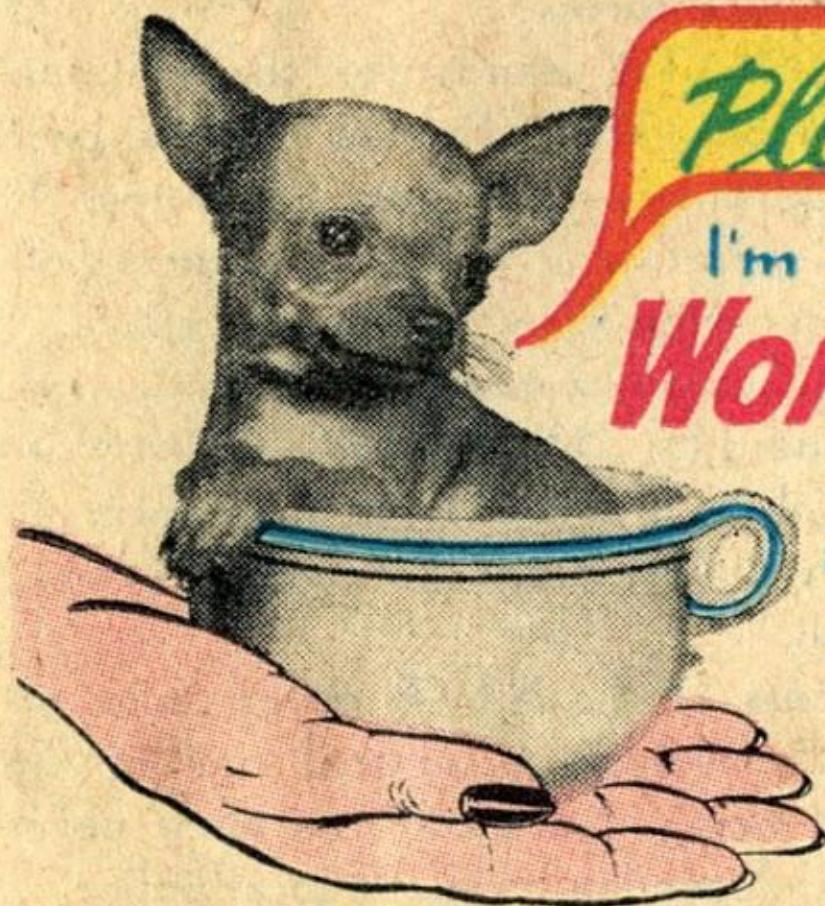
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# INVISIBLE DETECTIVES

When It Comes to Recovering Stolen Autos,  
These Men Are Aces

NOT long ago, a man walked onto the parking lot of a large eastern factory, moving stealthily to the side of a medium-priced automobile belonging to a worker.

Moving swiftly, he forced open a wide window to reach the inside handle. Once inside the car, he used a special device to "jump" the ignition, starting the engine. He then drove hurriedly to a private garage, where crooked mechanics went to work on the stolen car.

Special tools ground off the car's motor number, and license plates were substituted. A forged certificate of ownership was handed the thief, and a new motor number to match the number on the certificate was stamped on the motor.

The driver then got into the car and drove it to a used-car lot where he sold it to the innocent dealer for \$1900.

At police headquarters that same night, the police chief frowned when he learned that another car—the third one that week—had been stolen.

"It looks to me like the work of a gang, using a crooked garage, and fully organized for a wave of car thefts," he muttered. "I'm going to call in the NATB!" he added, grimly.

Next morning, special agents of the NATB listened silently while the police chief acquainted them with his suspicions. At the close of the conference, the agents nodded and left, promising immediate action.

Exactly three days later, an NATB agent entered the office of the police chief and placed on his desk a sheet of paper containing the address of the crooked garage and the names of the gang's

leaders. Squad cars went into action at once and several hours later the car-stealing gang found itself behind bars.

What is this mysterious NATB? And who are these special agents who remain in the background, are rarely seen, and go into action whenever called upon by local police forces?

The NATB stands for the National Automobile Theft Bureau. It has been tracking down car thieves for almost 40 years, operating so quietly that most people don't even know the bureau exists.

The bureau, a nonprofit organization, is financed by 233 companies which write automobile fire and theft insurance, although it takes cases that are not insured as well.

Agents of the NATB never make arrests themselves, a cardinal rule of the bureau being that its agents must never work independently of the local police.

The need for such a highly-trained invisible force, specializing in one single aspect of crime, is obvious. Police are trained to handle all categories of crime. But car-stealing gangs have become so adept at making off, and changing the appearance of, stolen autos, that a specially-trained force of experts became a necessity. That is how the NATB came into existence.

What has been its record since the bureau went into action almost half a century ago? The answer will amaze you. More than 90 per cent of all cars stolen have been returned to their original owners, thanks to the sleuthing of the invisible detectives of the NATB!

—Jack Miller



# BATMAN

WITH  
ROBIN  
-THE BOY WONDER-

NEVER DID BATMAN AND ROBIN EVER THINK THEY WOULD BECOME BODYGUARDS TO A LIVING FOSSIL... YET, FANTASTIC AS IT SEEMS, THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTERS TAKE ON THEIR STRANGEST ASSIGNMENT WHEN THEY SEEK TO PREVENT THE MURDER OF A MONSTER MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD! HOW?... WHY? THE ANSWERS ARE AS STARTLING AS THE VERY DISCOVERY OF...

## THE CREATURE FROM 20,000 FATHOMS



ONE NIGHT, AS WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, DON THE ACTION GARB OF THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES...

TONIGHT WE ATTEND OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE 50 FATHOMS CLUB! REMEMBER IT ROBIN?

SURE, BATMAN... ONLY UNDERWATER SPECIALISTS CAN BECOME MEMBERS, BUT BECAUSE WE SAVED THE CLUB PRESIDENT'S LIFE WITH OUR BAT-MARINE, THEY MADE US HONORARY MEMBERS!

AS BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE PAIR SOON JOINS THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 50 FATHOMS CLUB...

FERGUS... FROGMAN

DEVOE -- DEEP-SEA DIVER

PROF. BRIGGS  
BATHYSHERE EXPERT

SLOAN  
RETired SUB COMMANDER

# BATMAN

SUPERMAN  
NATIONAL COMICS  
**DC**

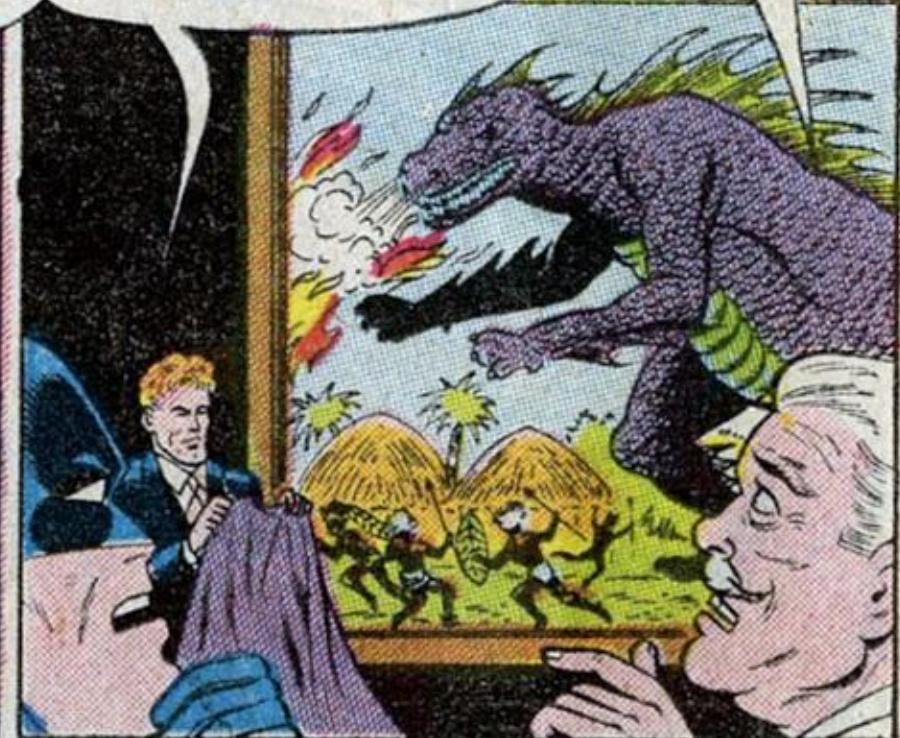
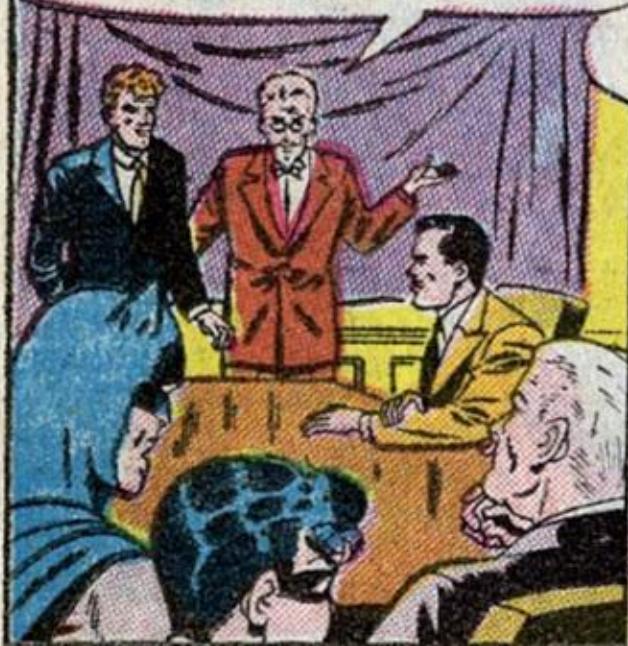
PROFESSOR JOHN BRIGGS, THE CLUB PRESIDENT, OPENS THE MEETING.

MEMBER DEVOE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A SALVAGE JOB IN THE PACIFIC! WHILE THERE, HE VISITED AN ISOLATED ISLAND THAT HE WILL TELL YOU ABOUT...

I HEARD THE ISLAND NATIVES LIVED IN TERROR OF A SEA MONSTER THEY CALLED **BABONGA!** AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST NATIVE LEGEND--UNTIL I **PHOTOGRAPHED** BABONGA EMERGING ONTO THE BEACH!

GREAT SCOTT! A FIRE-BREATHING CREATURE OF THE DINOSAUR AGE-- STILL ALIVE, AFTER MILLIONS OF YEARS!

IT'S A LIVING FOSSIL OF SOME UNKNOWN SPECIES!



IF WE COULD BRING BACK THAT BEAST ALIVE, WE'D MAKE A FORTUNE EXHIBITING IT!

BUT WE'D NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, AND THAT WOULD TAKE FINANCING!

I'M SURE WE'D ALL BE WILLING TO MAKE EQUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SUCH AN EXPEDITION. HOW ABOUT YOU, BATMAN?

YES--IF YOU'LL GIVE MY SHARE OF THE EXHIBITION RECEIPTS TO CHARITY!



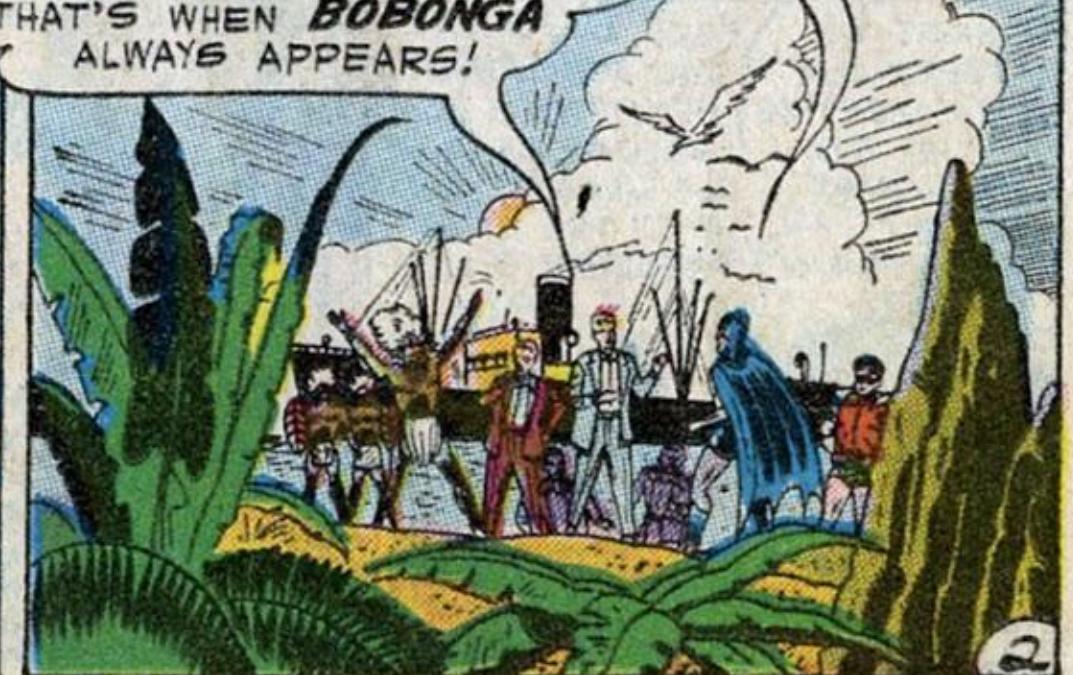
AND SO, DAYS LATER, AS TV AND NEWS CAMERAS RECORD THE HISTORIC SCENE, THE EXPEDITION SHIP SETS OFF ON AN EPIC ADVENTURE...

IMAGINE--TRYING TO BRING BACK A LIVE PRE-HISTORIC CREATURE! THAT'S WHAT I CALL LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!

UPON REACHING THE ISLAND AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE NATIVES...

WE'RE IN LUCK, **BATMAN!** THE CHIEF SAYS THERE'LL BE A FULL MOON TONIGHT-- AND THAT'S WHEN **BABONGA** ALWAYS APPEARS!

GOOD... WE'LL BE READY FOR IT!



# BATMAN



THAT NIGHT, ABOARD SHIP, THE HUNTERS WAIT TENSELY...

BATMAN,  
ARE YOU SURE THOSE  
TWO RIFLES WILL DO  
THE TRICK?

I HOPE SO! THEY'RE  
LOADED WITH TINY  
HARPOONS CONTAINING A  
CHEMICAL THAT SHOULD  
PARALYZE THE CREATURE  
ON CONTACT!

SUDDENLY, IN A SMOTHER OF FOAM, A SCALY BULK HUNCHES UP FROM THE SEA...

THE MONSTER!

AS THE GREAT REPTILE HURLS ITSELF UPON  
THE SHIP...

WHAT--?  
FERGUS!  
DON'T FIRE  
AGAIN!

MISSED!

BAM

IN A SURPRISE MOVE, BATMAN SNATCHES UP ROBIN'S FLASH CAMERA, AND...

I DON'T GET IT... IS HE TRYING TO GET PICTURES OF THE MONSTER BEFORE WE PARALYZE IT?

REACHING THE TOP OF THE MAST, BATMAN BRAZENLY EXPLODES FLASHBULBS AT THE DRAGON-LIKE HEAD...

POP!

POP!

...SO THAT THE HUGE CREATURE, BAFFLED BY THE SEARING SUN-BURSTS OF GLARE, GOES PLUNGING BACK INTO THE DEPTHS!

AFTERWARDS...

WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME BRING **BOBONGA** DOWN WITH OUR PARALYZER-HARPOONS?

LOOK AT WHAT YOUR FIRST SHOT DID TO THE SHIP'S RAIL... SOMEONE REMOVED THE HARPOONS AND SUBSTITUTED **HIGH-CALIBER EXPLOSIVE BULLETS!**

EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS DESTROYING A FORTUNE, FOR SOME ODD REASON, ONE OF YOU DOES NOT WANT THE CREATURE BROUGHT BACK ALIVE!



INDEED, A SHORT WHILE LATER, AS **BATMAN** TAKES HIS TURN AT NIGHT WATCH...

NOW'S MY CHANCE... I'LL THROW **BATMAN** OVERBOARD, THEN TELL THE OTHERS THAT THE MONSTER CAME UP AND SNATCHED HIM OFF THE DECK!

JUST IN TIME, HOWEVER, THE MASKED LAWMAN GLIMPSES TWO HANDS WHIPPING A SACK OVER HIS HEAD...

OH, OH... SOMEONE TRYING TO SMOOTHER ME!

INSTANTLY, HE RAMS HIS ELBOW REARWARD... CAN'T HOLD HIM-- HE'S TOO STRONG!

OOF!

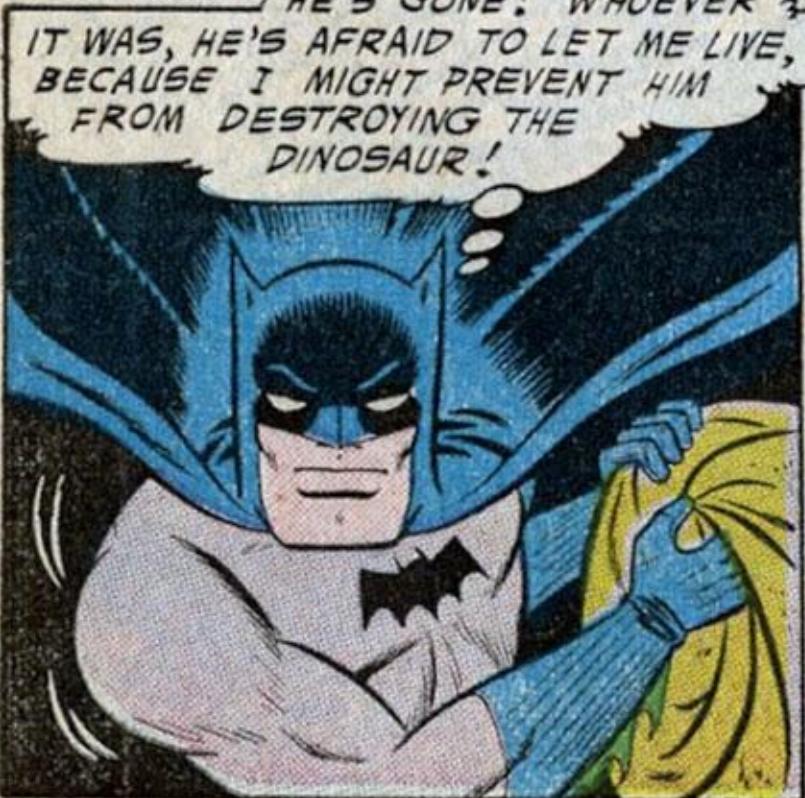


BUT BY THE TIME **BATMAN** REMOVES THE SACK...

HE'S GONE! WHOEVER IT WAS, HE'S AFRAID TO LET ME LIVE, BECAUSE I MIGHT PREVENT HIM FROM DESTROYING THE DINOSAUR!

NEXT DAY, AS RITUAL DRUMS SEND OUT A THROBBING CALL TO THE SEA...

THE NATIVES SAY **BABONGA** ALWAYS APPEARS WHEN THEY POUND THE DRUMS! WHEN IT DOES, THE **KNOCKOUT GAS** IN THESE BOMBS WILL DO THE REST!



# BATMAN



ABRUPTLY, A GIGANTIC HEAD REARS UP FROM THE WATERS...

AI-EE!  
BABONGA  
COMES!

OKAY,  
ROBIN--GET READY  
WITH YOUR GAS  
BOMB!

BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...

ROBIN! PUT THE BOMB  
DOWN! DON'T  
THROW IT!

WHAT--?

SNATCHING UP A DRUM, BATMAN POUNDS AND POUNDS, TILL  
THE BEAST TURNS IN ANSWER TO ITS BEAT...

BATMAN'S LURING THE CREATURE  
AFTER HIM... SO THAT IT WON'T  
HURT ANY OF US! WHAT A GUY!

TOM-  
TOM-  
TOM-

CLOSER, EVER CLOSER POUND THE CLAWED  
FEET OF THE LUMBERING COLOSSUS...

JUST A LITTLE MORE--AND I'LL  
BE AT THE TOP...

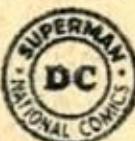
SECONDS LATER, AS THE CLIFF CRUMBLES UNDER THE  
TREMENDOUS TONNAGE, MAN AND MONSTER PLUNGE  
TO THE WATERS BELOW...

...WHERE BATMAN TAKES COVER FROM THE  
BAFFLED BEAST!

GUESS IT'S SAFE TO GO  
UP NOW...



# BATMAN



SHORTLY...

WHY DIDN'T YOU LOB A GAS BOMB AT THE BEAST?

BECAUSE AS I HELD ONE IN THROWING POSITION--LIKE THIS-- I HEARD LIQUID SLOSHING ABOUT INSIDE!

UPON OPENING THE MISSILE...

JUST AS I SUSPECTED... SOMEONE SUBSTITUTED A **Poisonous Acid!** THAT SAME SOMEONE IS STILL TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM BRINGING BACK OUR QUARRY ALIVE!



LATER...

WHO COULD IT BE?  
BRIGGS?...  
FERGUS?...  
SLOAN?...  
DEVOE?

IT CAN'T BE DEVOE!  
HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD US ABOUT THE CREATURE AND ORGANIZED THE EXPEDITION! SO IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE OTHER THREE... BUT WHICH ONE?



PRESENTLY...

I'LL GO DOWN IN THE BATHYSHERE AND LOCATE THE BEAST'S LAIR...

NO, PROFESSOR-- **ROBIN** AND I WILL GO... AND DEVOE WILL FOLLOW US DOWN IN A DIVING RIG, TO MAKE SURE THE BATHYSHERE HASN'T BEEN SABOTAGED, TOO!

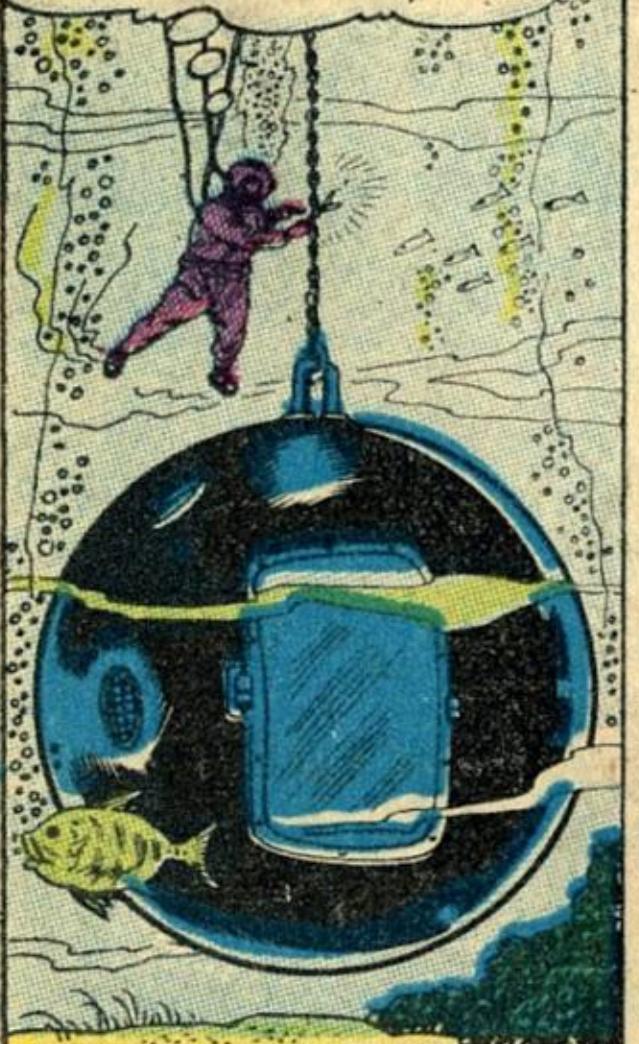


NEXT INSTANT, AS THE BATHYSHERE, CUT FROM ITS ONE LINK TO THE SURFACE, DROPS LIKE AN ANCHOR...

SO LONG, BATMAN!  
YOU WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS ANYMORE!

BUT AWHILE LATER, AS BATHYSHERE AND DIVER DESCEND, DEVOE HAS HIS PRIVATE THOUGHTS

BATMAN PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! I'LL CUT THE CHAIN WITH THESE POWERFUL CLIPPERS... THEN I'LL GO UP AND SAY THE CREATURE DID IT, WITH HIS TEETH!



## BATMAN

INTRIGUED BY THE ROUND OBJECT, THE MIGHTY REPTILE PAWS IT INTO ITS LAIR...  
**BATMAN!** DEVOE'S TAKEN THE BAIT! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?



NOTHING TO DO BUT GET OUT OF HERE. WHY ELSE DID WE SECRETLY STORE THESE OUTFITS IN THE BATHYSPERE?



SOON, CLAD IN FROGMAN OUTFITS, THE DUO POPS OUT INTO THE MONSTER'S DEN...



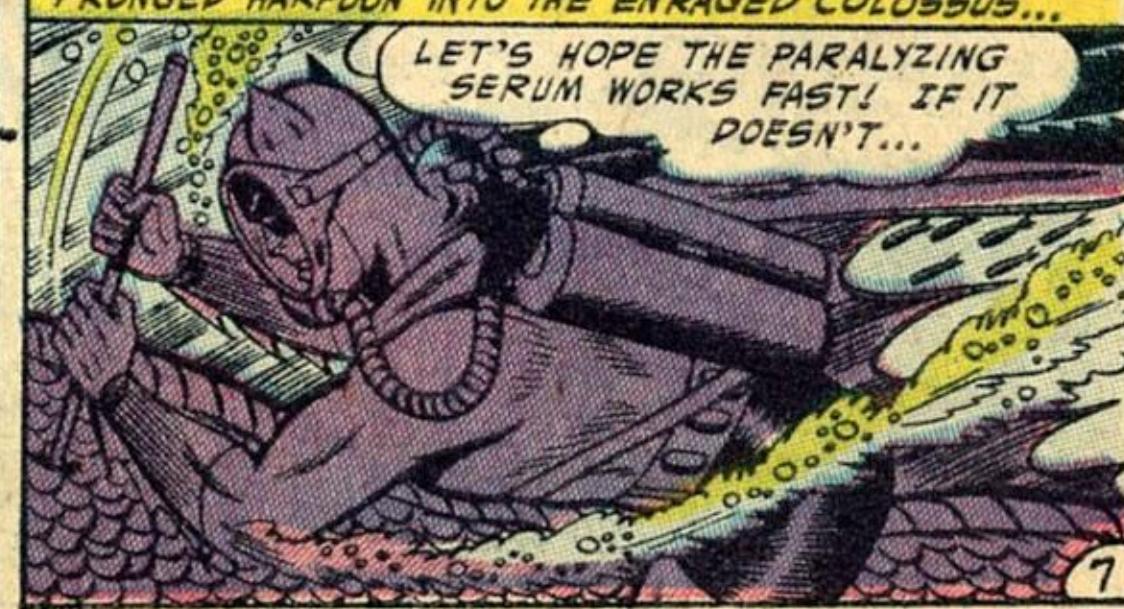
THRASHING FURIOUSLY, ROBIN AVOIDS A DEADLY SWIPE OF ITS CLAWS -- BUT BATMAN SWIMS DIRECTLY AT THE DENIZEN OF THE DEEP...



...UNTIL HE FINDS A PERCH ON ITS SCALY BACK!  
IT MUST BE DONE NOW... OR I'LL NEVER LIVE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!



WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE, BATMAN THRUSTS THE SHORT-PRONGED HARPOON INTO THE ENRAGED COLOSSUS...



# BATMAN



SOME TIME LATER, WHERE THE TREACHEROUS DEVOE TELLS HIS LIES TO THE CLUB MEMBERS...

...THAT'S RIGHT, THE BEAST BROKE THE BATHYSHERE LIKE AN EGGSHELL! I WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE THEM! IT WAS TERRIBLE!

YOUR STORY'S TERRIBLE, TOO!

Y-YOU!... ALIVE!  
AND YOU'VE GOT THE EGG!

YES, WE FOUND IT IN THE LAIR! THIS IS WHY YOU WANTED TO KILL THE CREATURE... YOU KNEW THE EGG WAS THERE ALL THE TIME!



YES, I SAW IT WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE ISLAND AND INVESTIGATED THE LAIR! THEN I GOT THE IDEA OF RETURNING HOME AND GETTING THE CLUB TO GO ON THE HUNT, BECAUSE SUCH AN EXPEDITION WOULD GET TREMENDOUS PUBLICITY!

AND THEN, WITH THE CREATURE DEAD, YOU'D WAIT FOR THE EGG TO HATCH-- SO THAT **YOU ALONE** WOULD OWN THE ONLY LIVING SPECIES!

YES... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS THE GUILTY ONE?

A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I REMEMBERED SEEING **GROOVE MARKS** ON THE WRISTS OF THE MYSTERY MAN WHO ATTACKED ME-- TRADEMARKS OF THE DIVER-- MADE BY THE TIGHT ELASTIC CUFFS OF HIS AIR-TIGHT DIVING SUIT!



AND SO, WHEN THE SHIP HEADS HOMeward WITH THE LIVING CREATURE IN ITS SPECIAL TANK...

DEVOE WOULDN'T HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO CASH IN ON HIS PLAN ANYHOW! HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS TYPE OF REPTILE EGG TAKES 100 YEARS TO HATCH!

BECAUSE OF THAT, AND BECAUSE YOU CAPTURED THE CREATURE FOR US, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE **50 FATHOMS CLUB** HAVE VOTED YOU A SUITABLE REWARD...

THUS DOES THE BAT-CAVE SOON ACQUIRE THE MOST UNUSUAL OF ALL ITS TROPHIES...

JUST THINK... WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE THAT EGG HATCH IN OUR LIFETIME, BUT THE NEXT **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** WILL!



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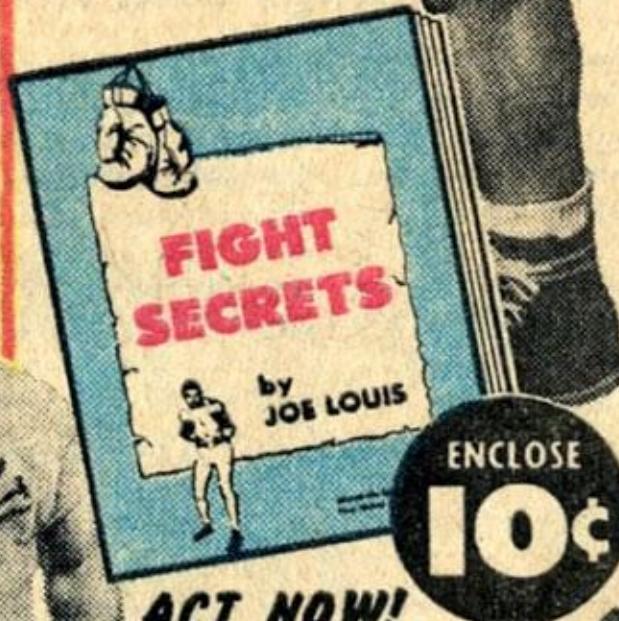
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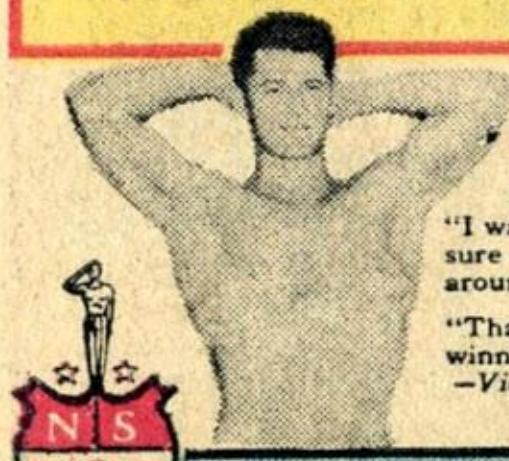
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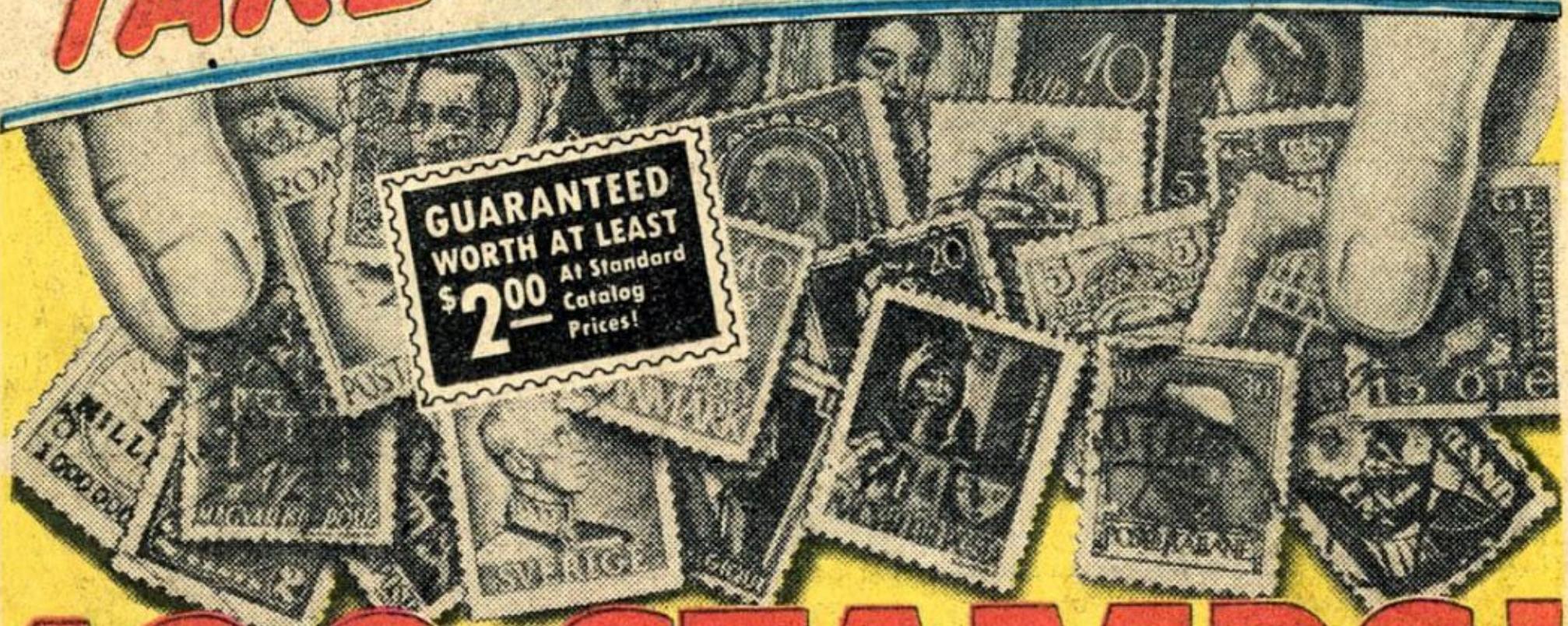


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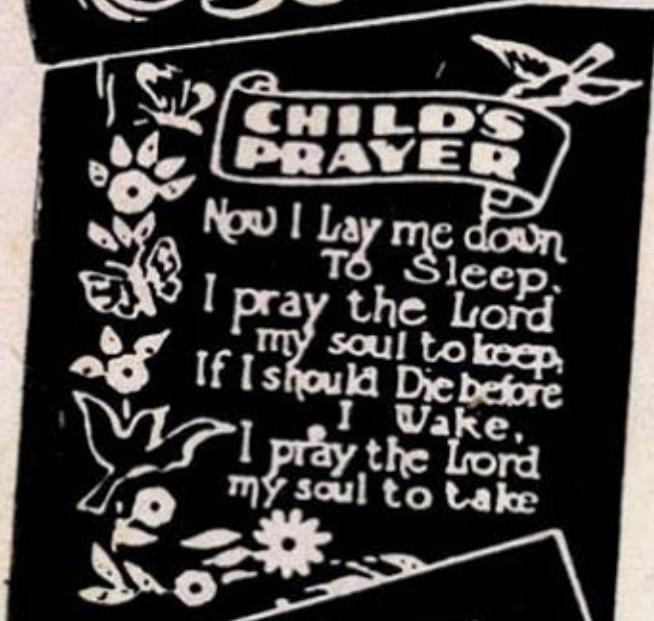
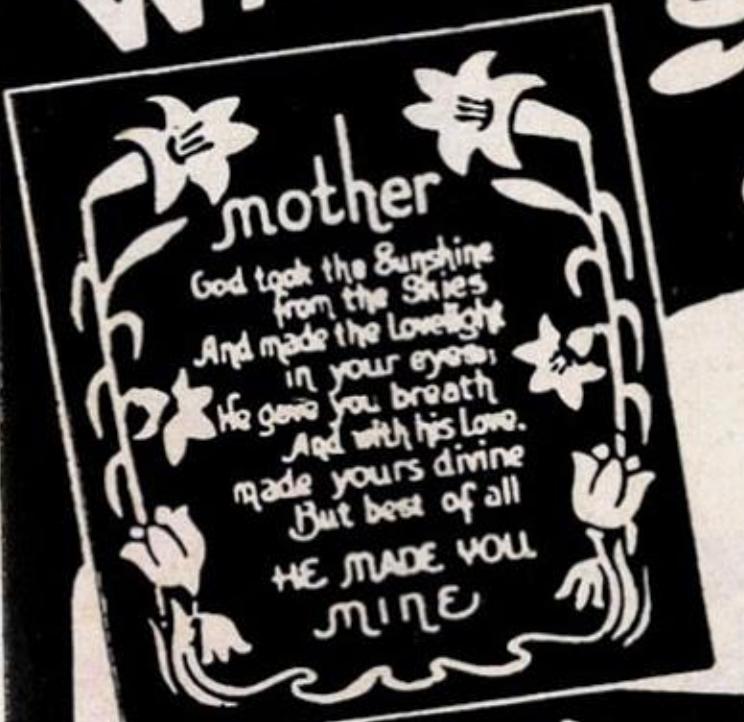
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