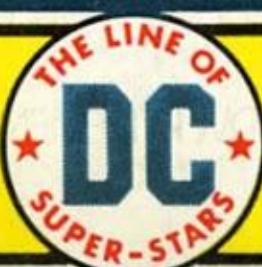




BAT MAN



A NIGHTMARE NOVEL-- 30c
"STOP ME BEFORE I KILL!" NO. 278
AUG. 30430



BAT MAN

THE WRINGER HAS STRUCK AGAIN!

WHO WILL BE HIS NEXT VICTIM?

5-2337



ERNEST CHVIA
1976

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YOU'RE
MY PUPPET,
BATMAN!

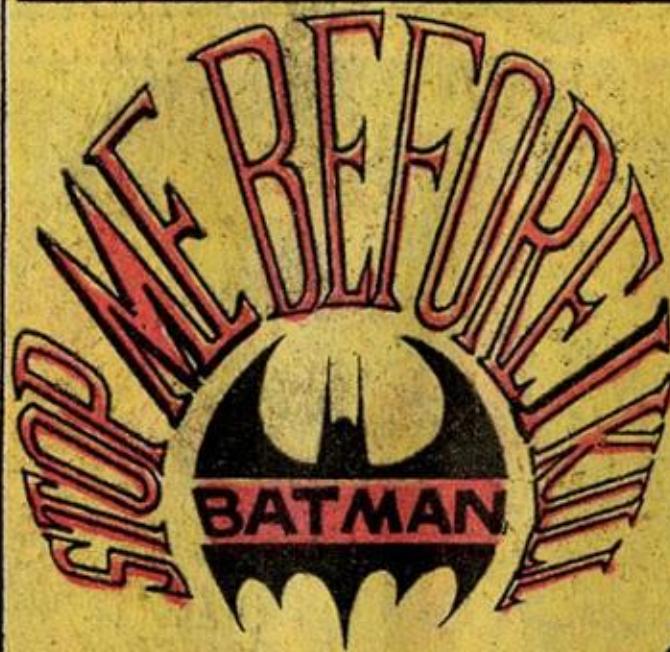
YOU DO
WHAT
I SAY!

YOU MOVE WHERE
AND WHEN I SAY!

AND BECAUSE
I AM BEYOND
CONTROL--I
CONTROL YOU!

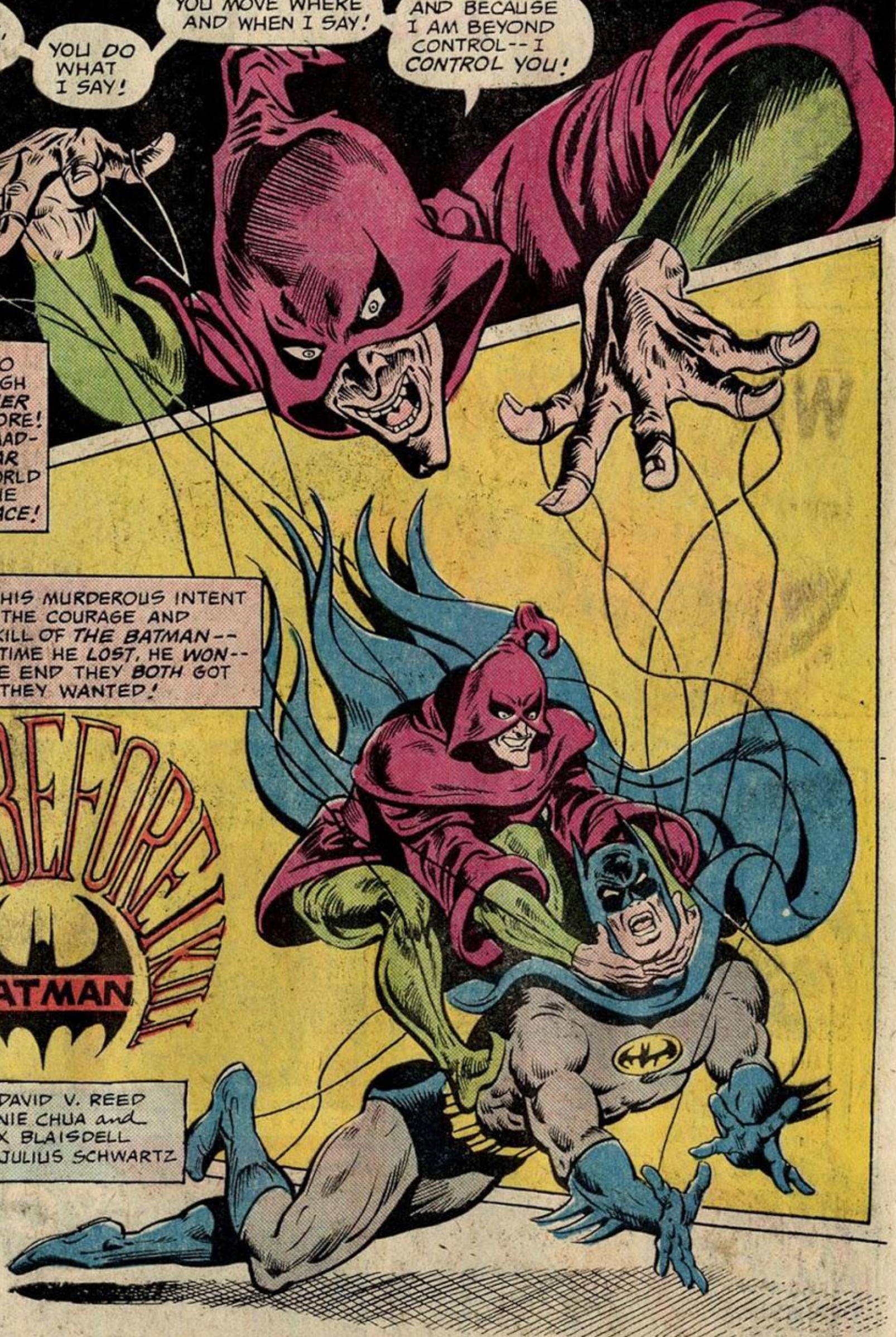
HE CAME TO
KILL--THOUGH
HE HAD NEVER
KILLED BEFORE!
HE WAS A MAD-
MAN AT WAR
WITH THE WORLD
--THOUGH HE
WANTED PEACE!

HE PITTED HIS MURDEROUS INTENT
AGAINST THE COURAGE AND
AWESOME SKILL OF THE BATMAN--
BUT EVERY TIME HE LOST, HE WON--
UNTIL AT THE END THEY BOTH GOT
WHAT THEY WANTED!



Story By: DAVID V. REED
Art By: ERNIE CHUA and
TEX BLAISDELL
Edited By: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

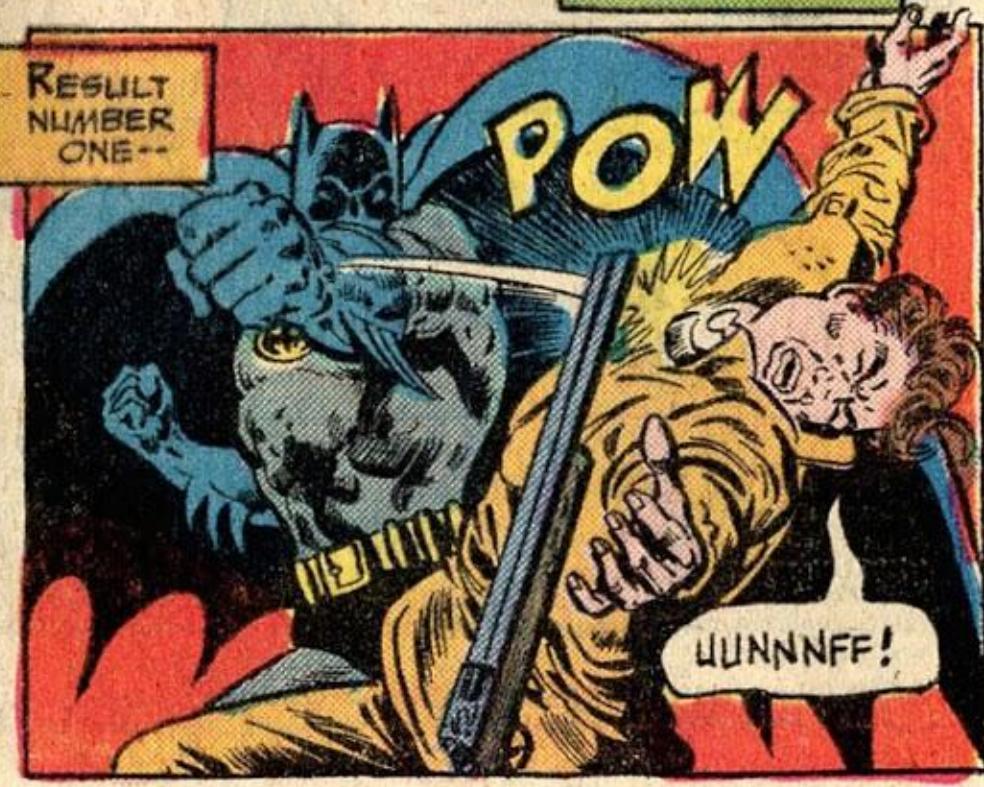
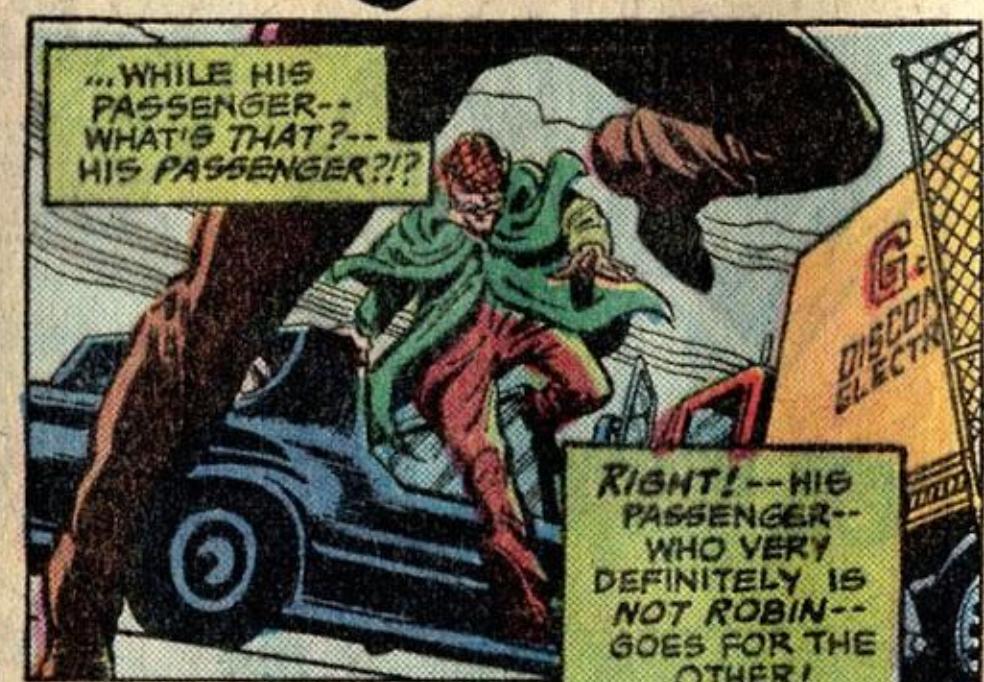
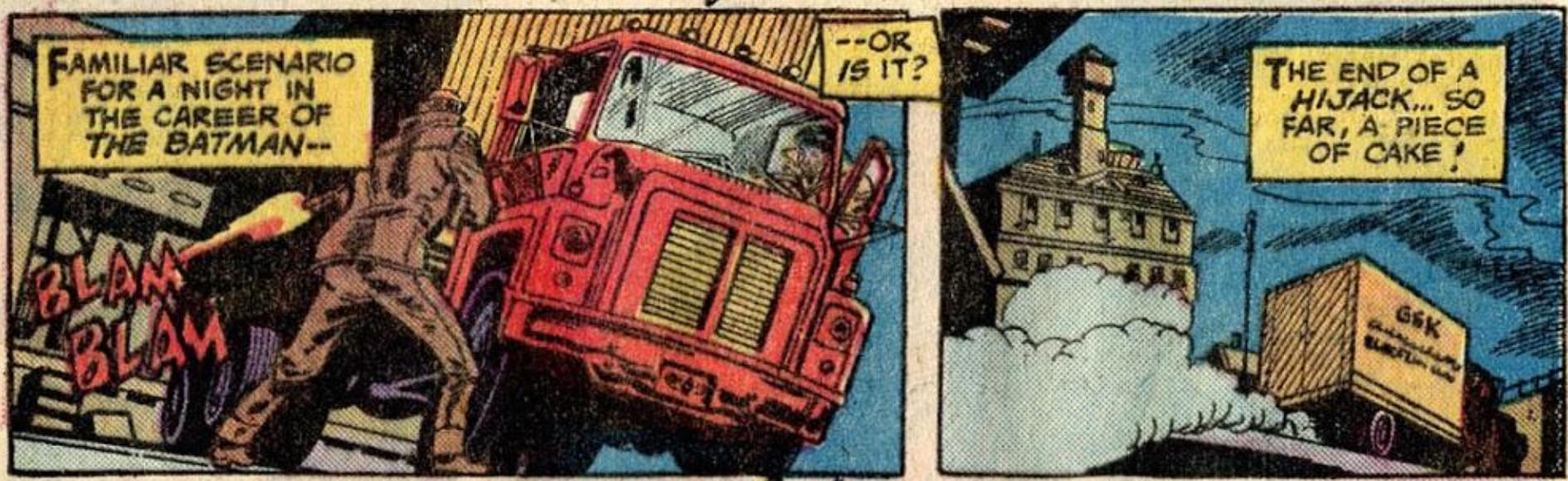
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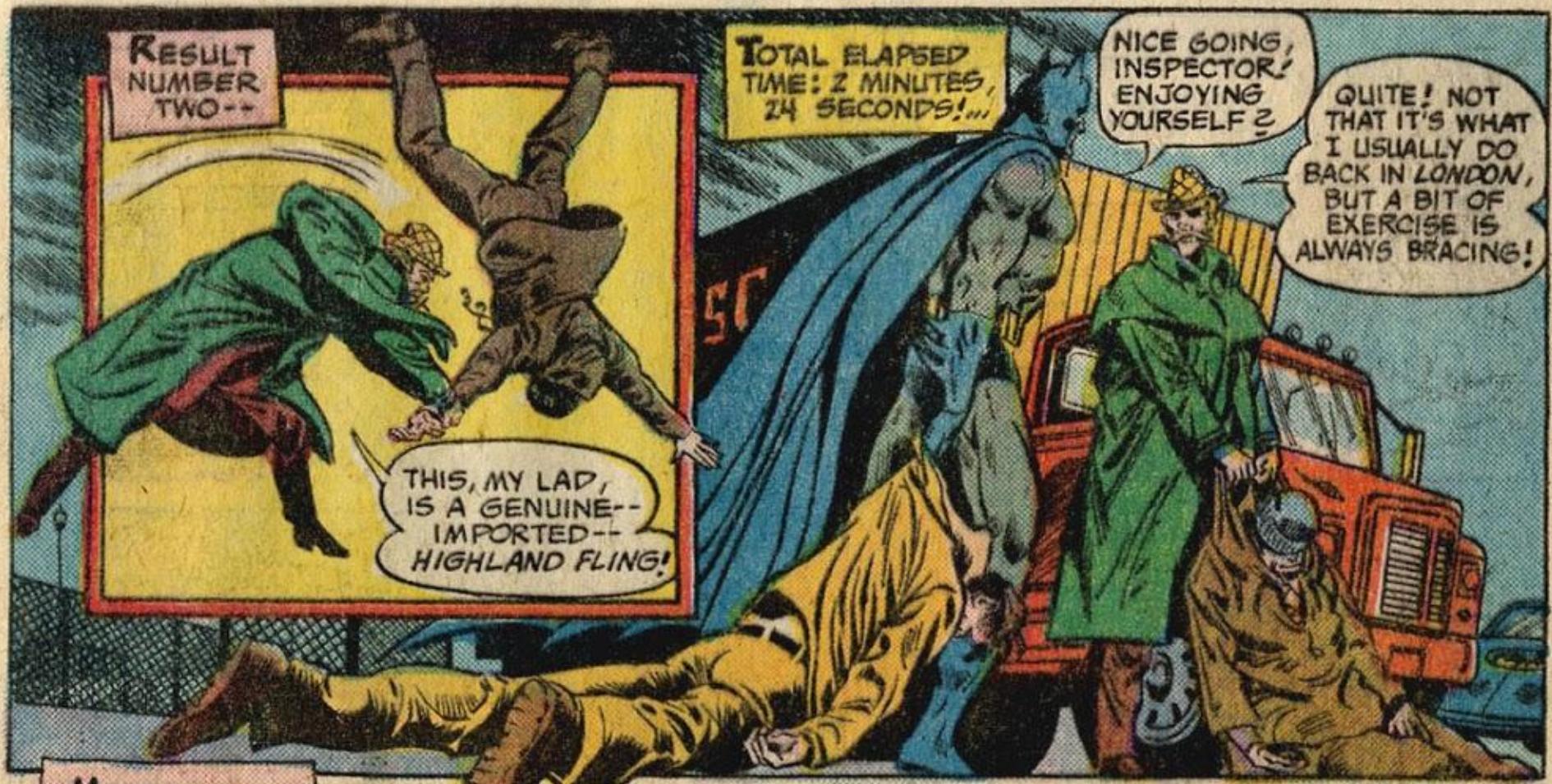


BATMAN, Vol. 37, No. 278, August, 1976. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019. Carmine Infantino, Publisher. Julius Schwartz, Editor. E. Nelson Bridwell, Associate Editor. Bob Rozakis, Assistant Editor. Sol Harrison, Vice President—Director of Operations. Bernard Kashdan, Vice President—Business Manager. Jack Adler, Production Manager. Second Class Postage paid at New York, N.Y. and Additional Mailing Offices. Advertising Representative, Sanford Schwarz & Co., Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017. (212) 391-1400. Copyright © 1976 by National Periodical Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred. Printed in U.S.A.

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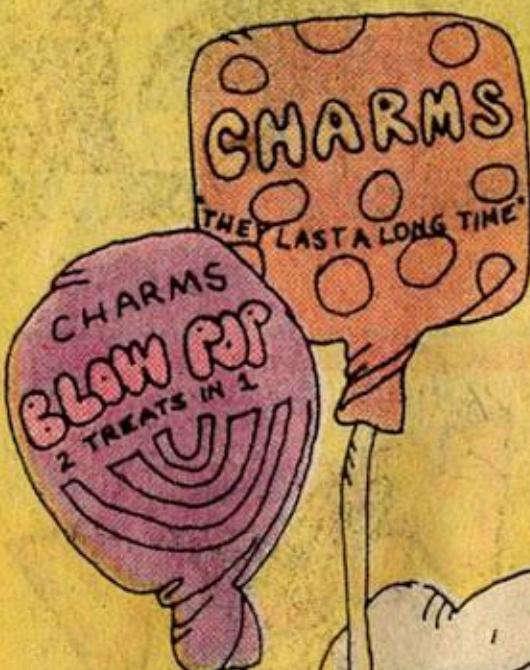
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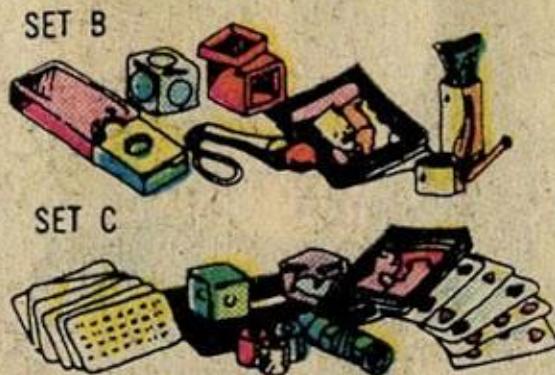
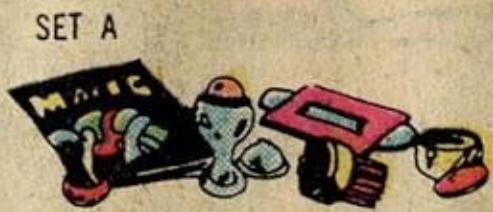


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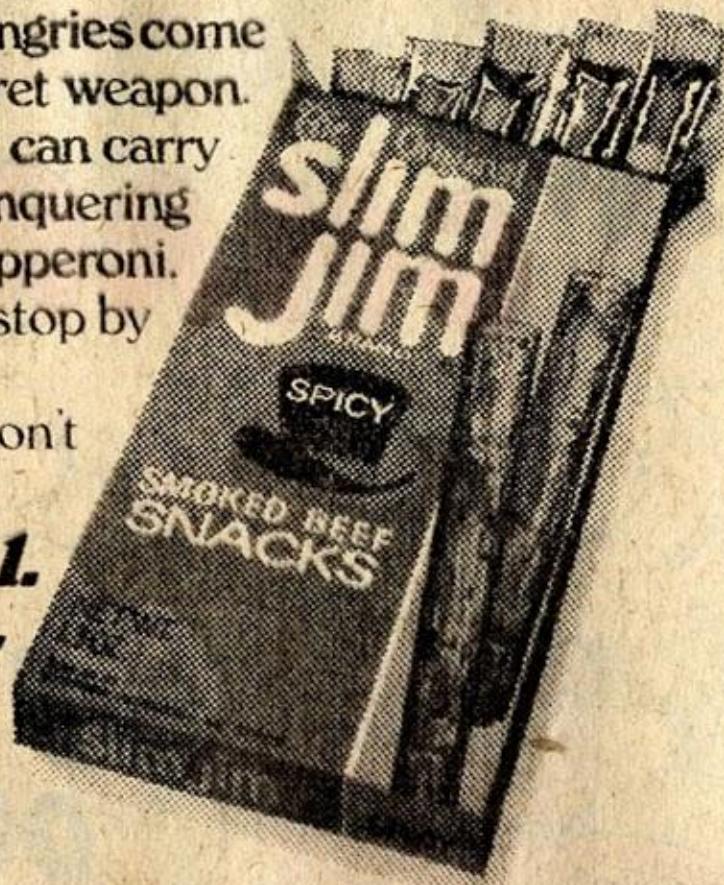
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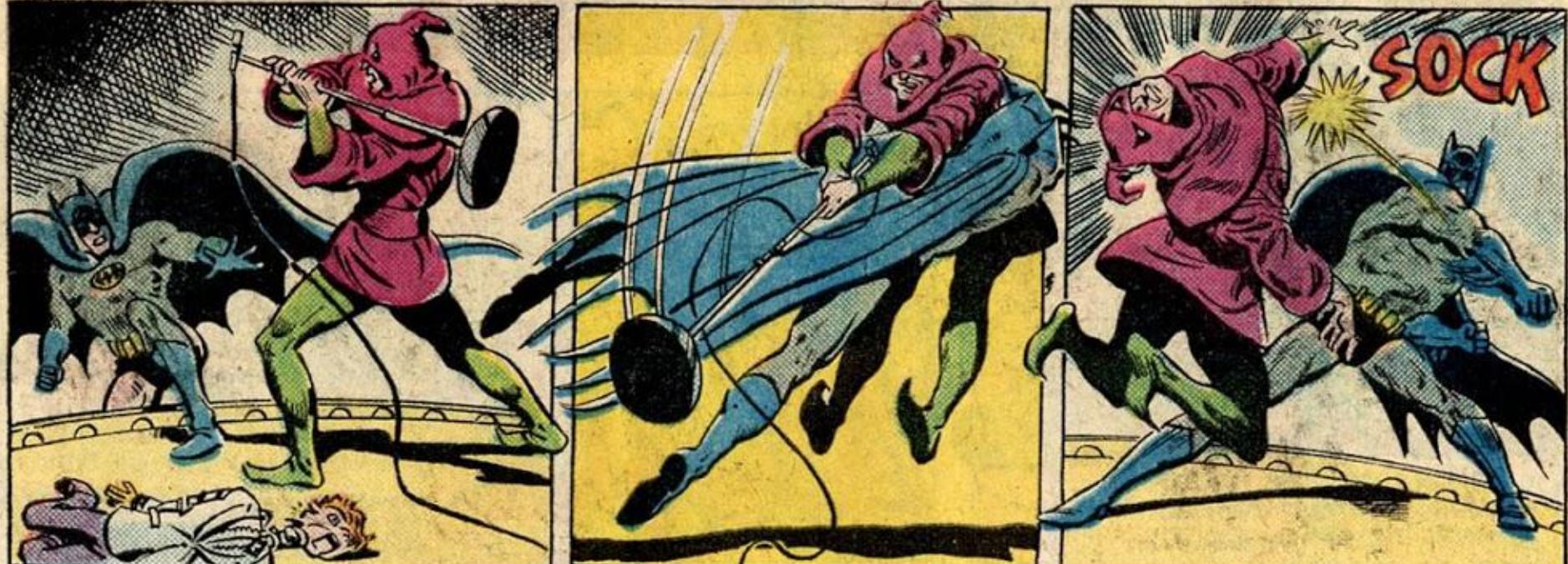
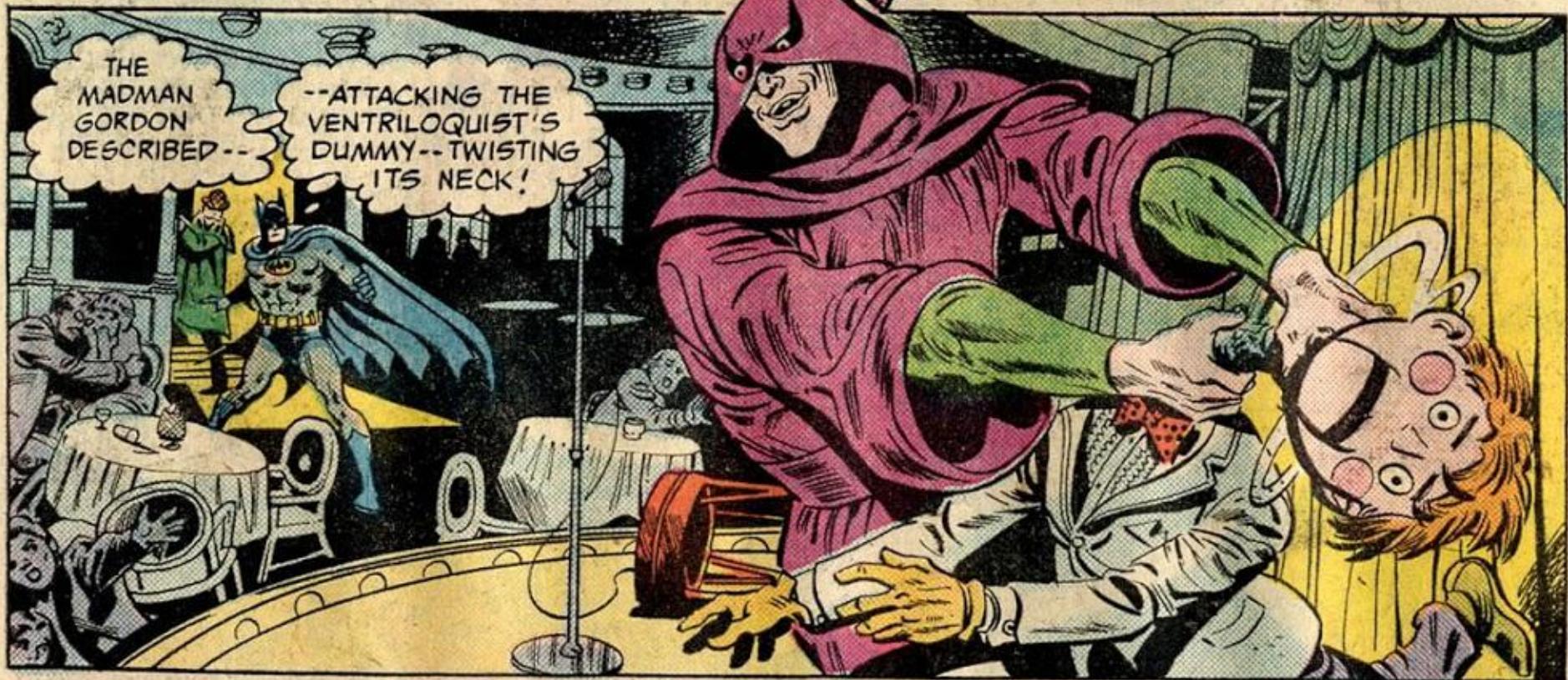


THAT NIGHT... THE BATMOBILE WINDS ITS LEISURELY, UNEVENTFUL WAY THROUGH THE BLAZE OF GOTHAM'S LIGHTS... THE BATMAN'S INNER-CITY RUN-- MORE OF A SIGHTSEEING TOUR THAN ANYTHING ELSE...

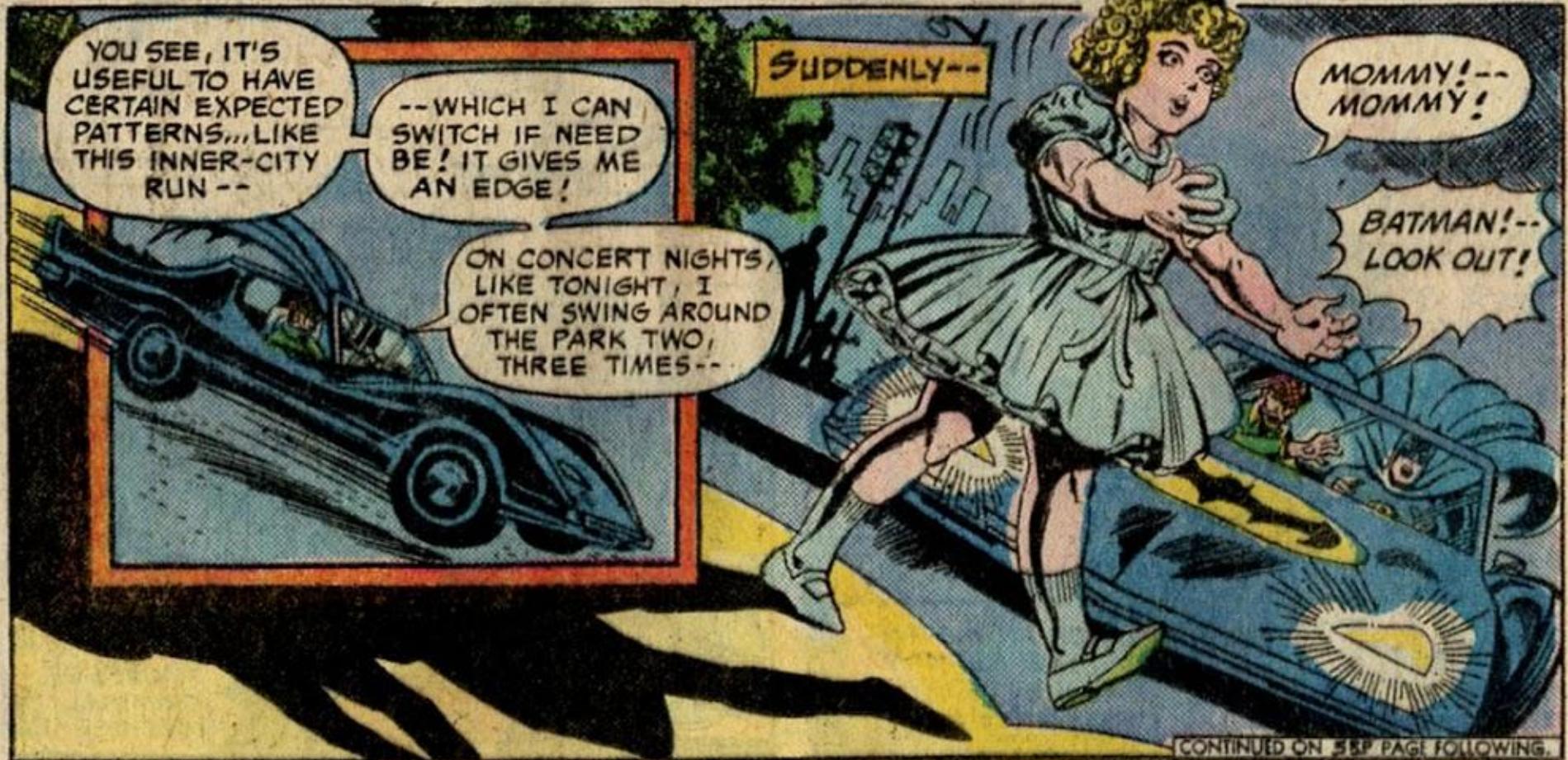
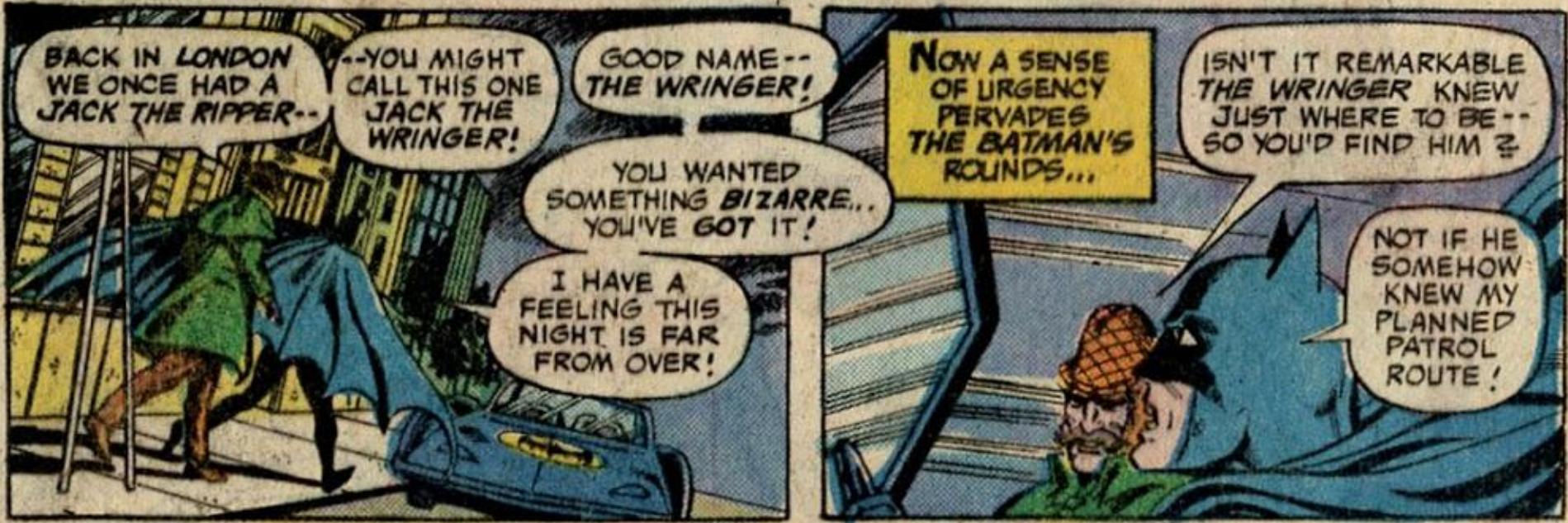
BY THE WAY, BATMAN, I HAVE A WAGER WITH YOUR FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE --

YES, HE TOLD ME ABOUT IT, INSPECTOR! SORT OF MAKES US FRIENDLY RIVALS...

... THOUGH I DOUBT WE'LL GET A CHANCE TO PROVE --







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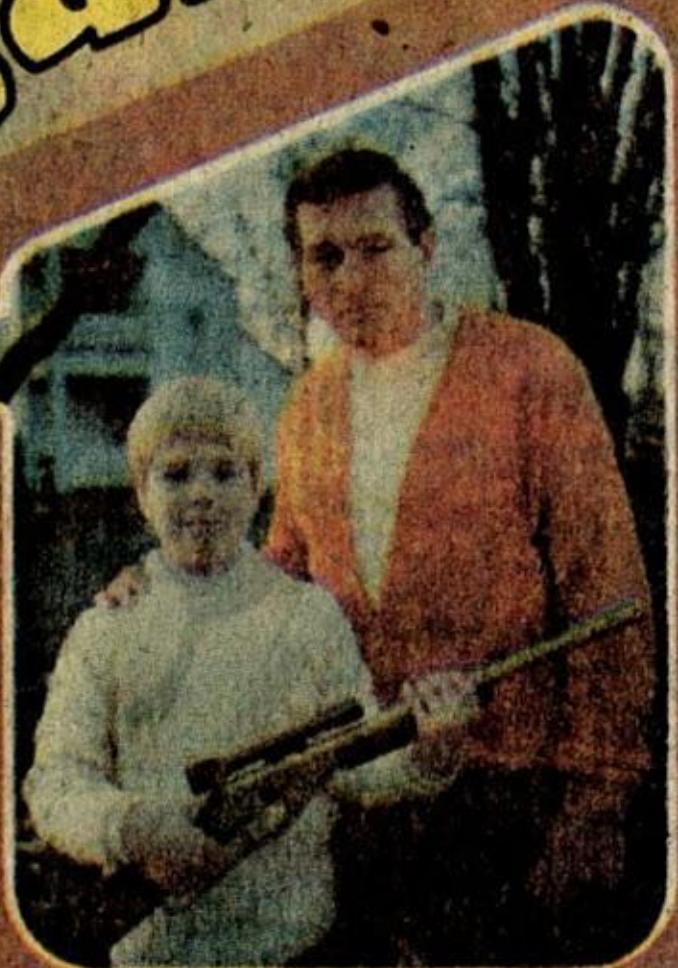
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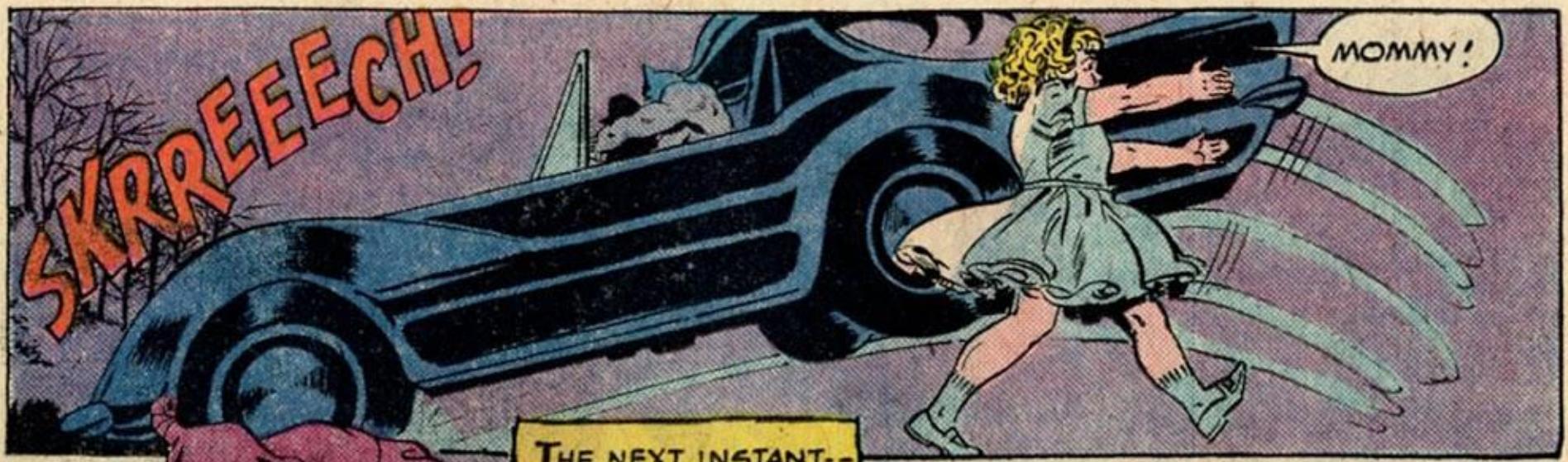
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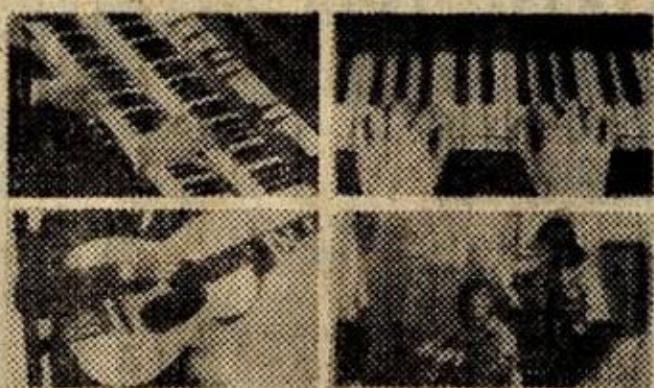
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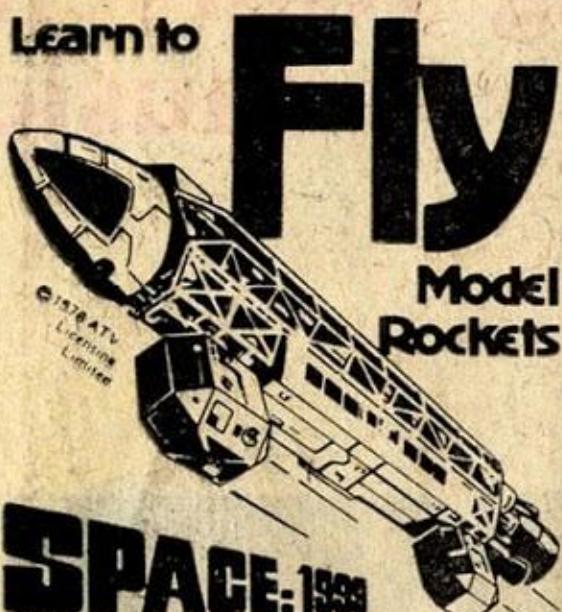
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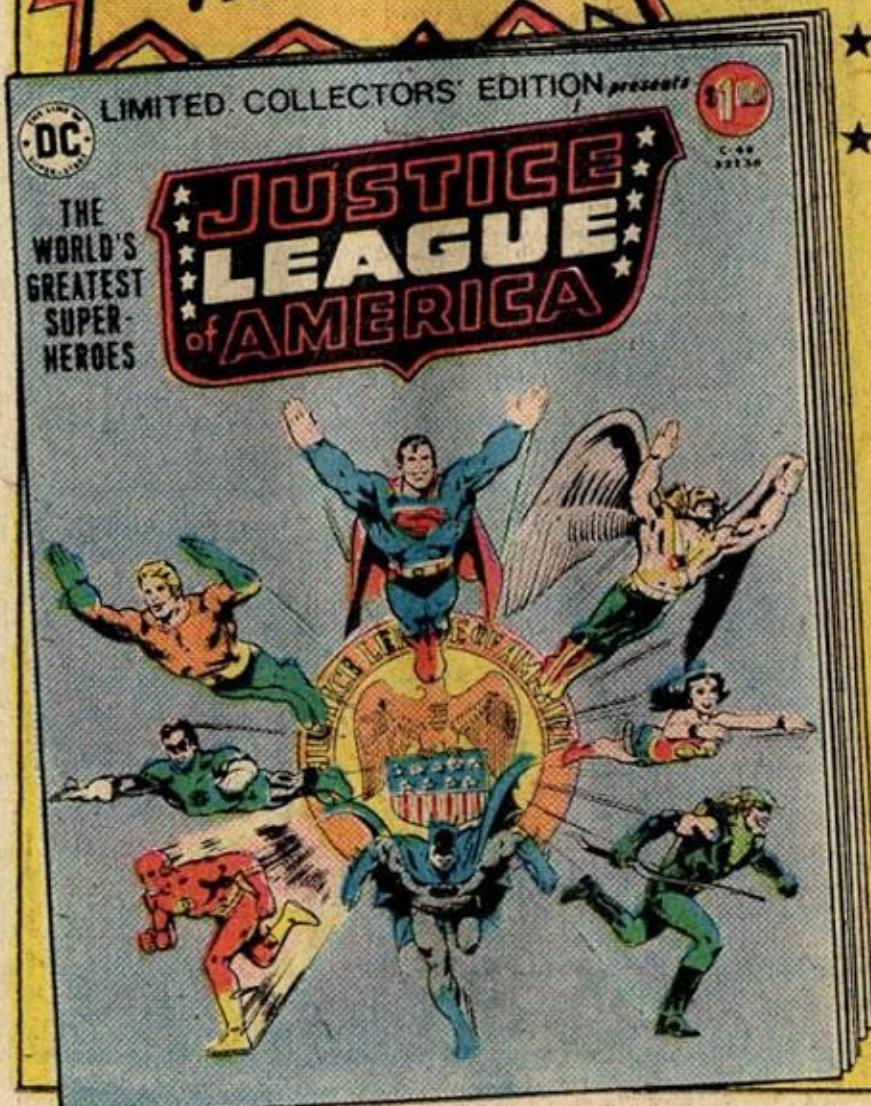
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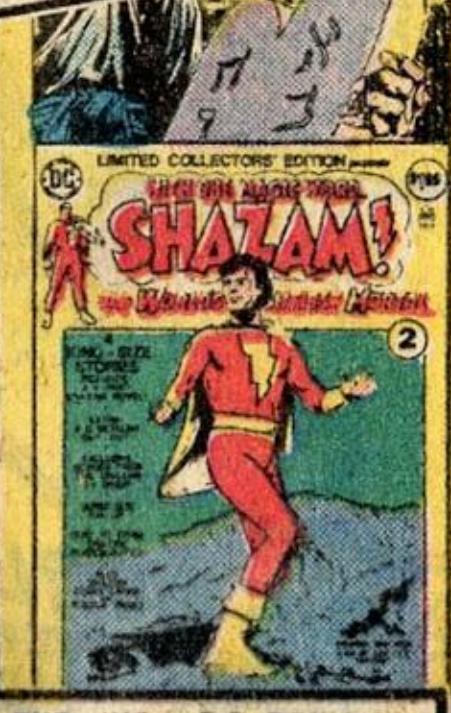
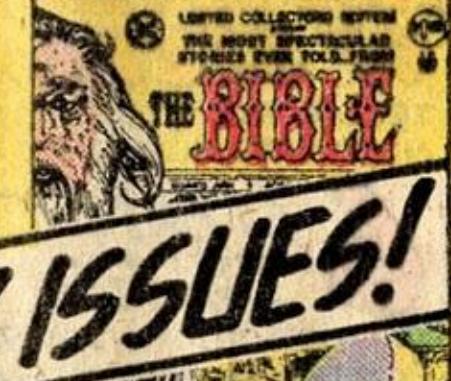
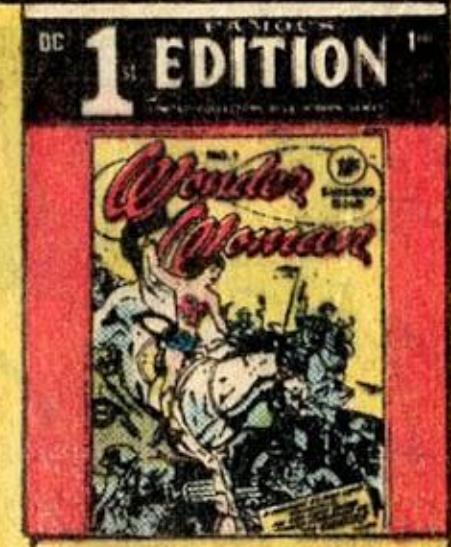
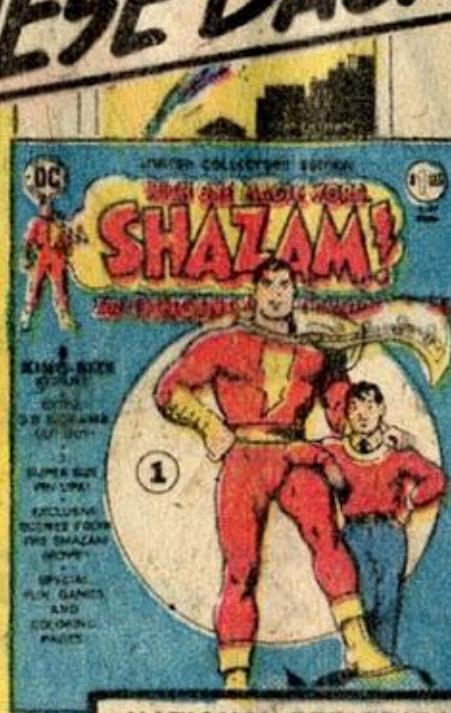
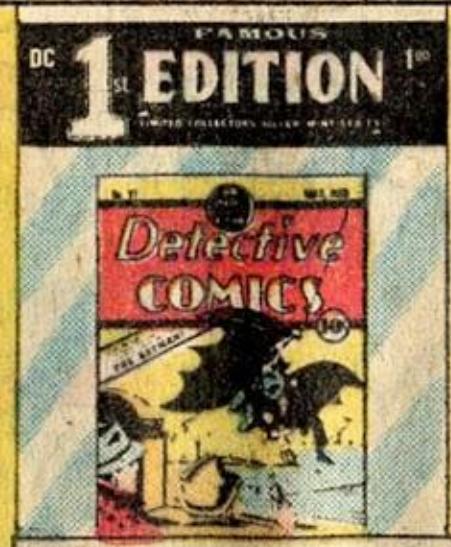
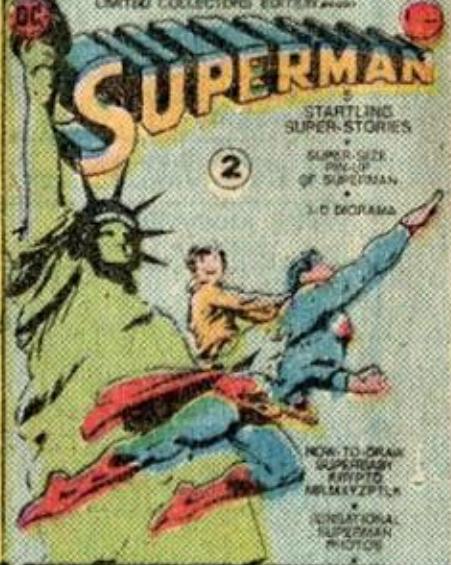
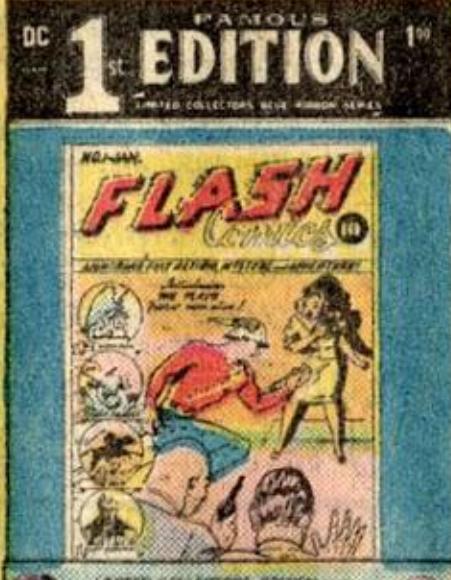
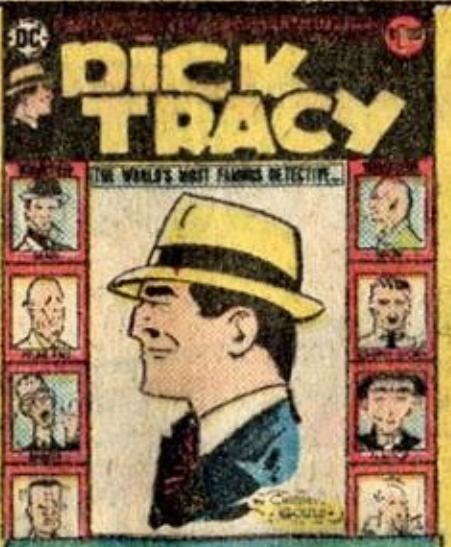
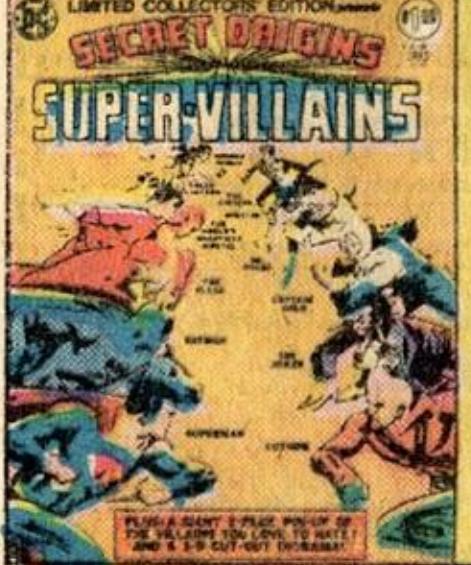
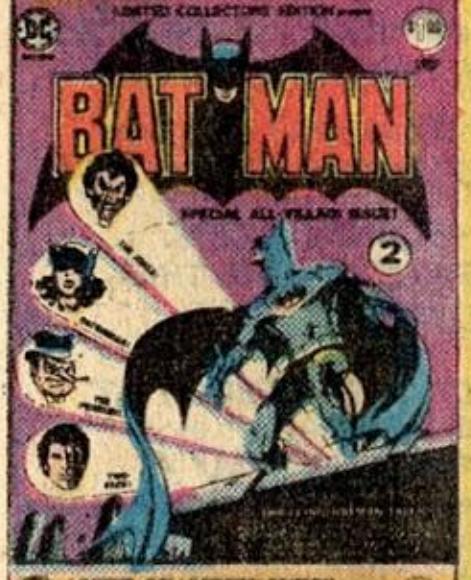
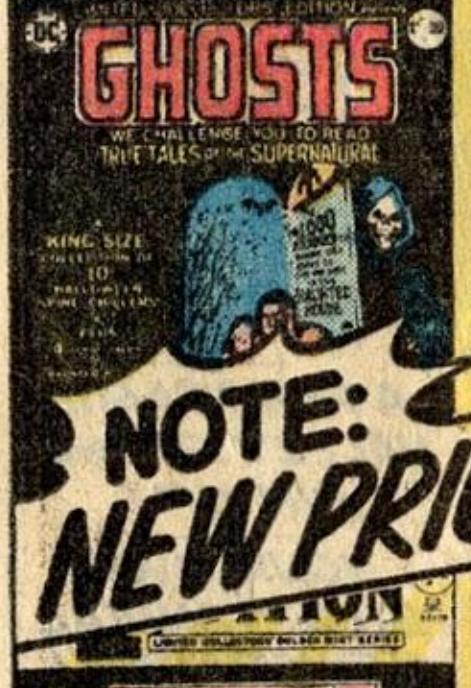
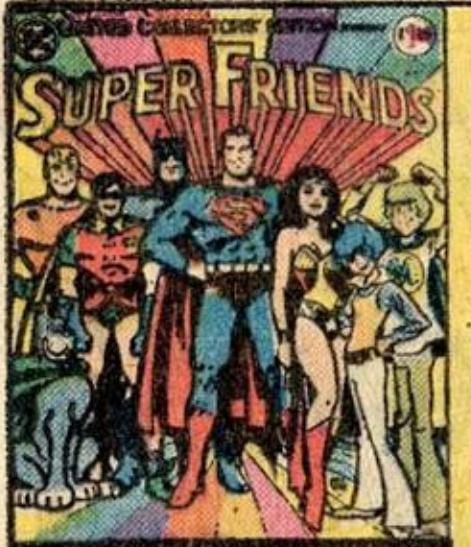
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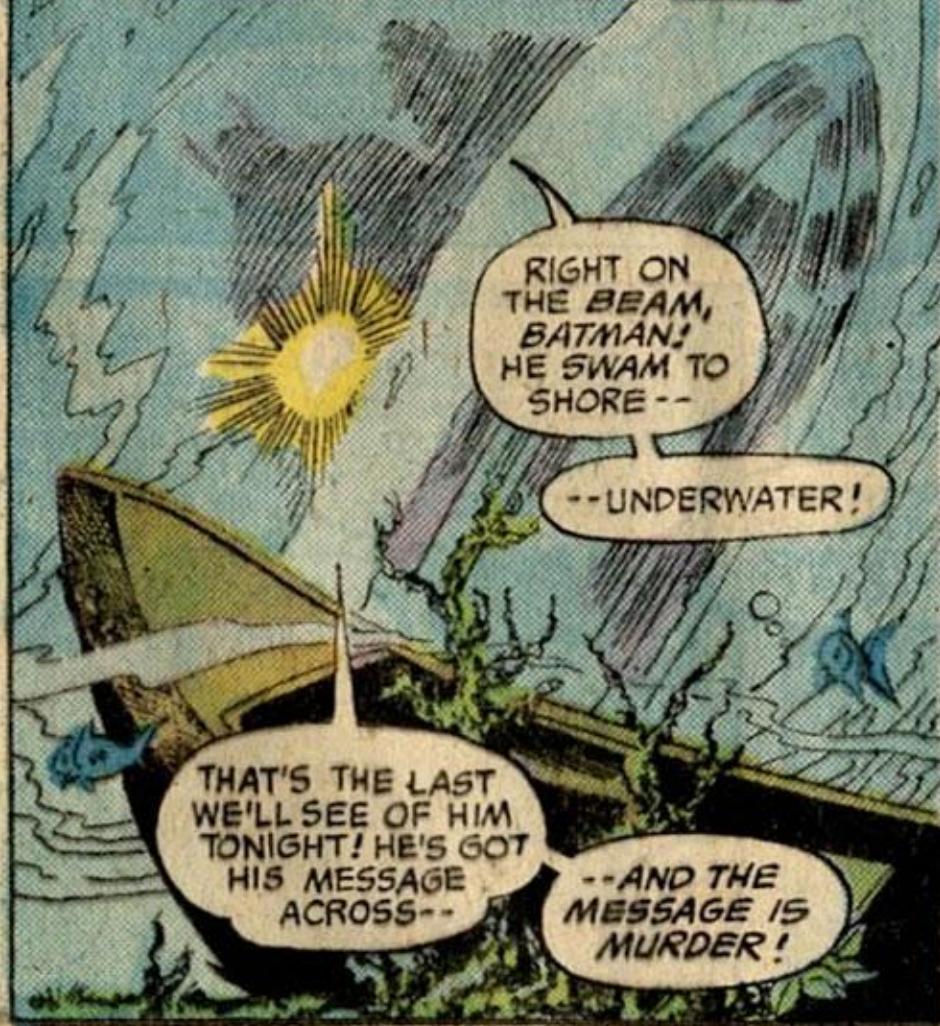
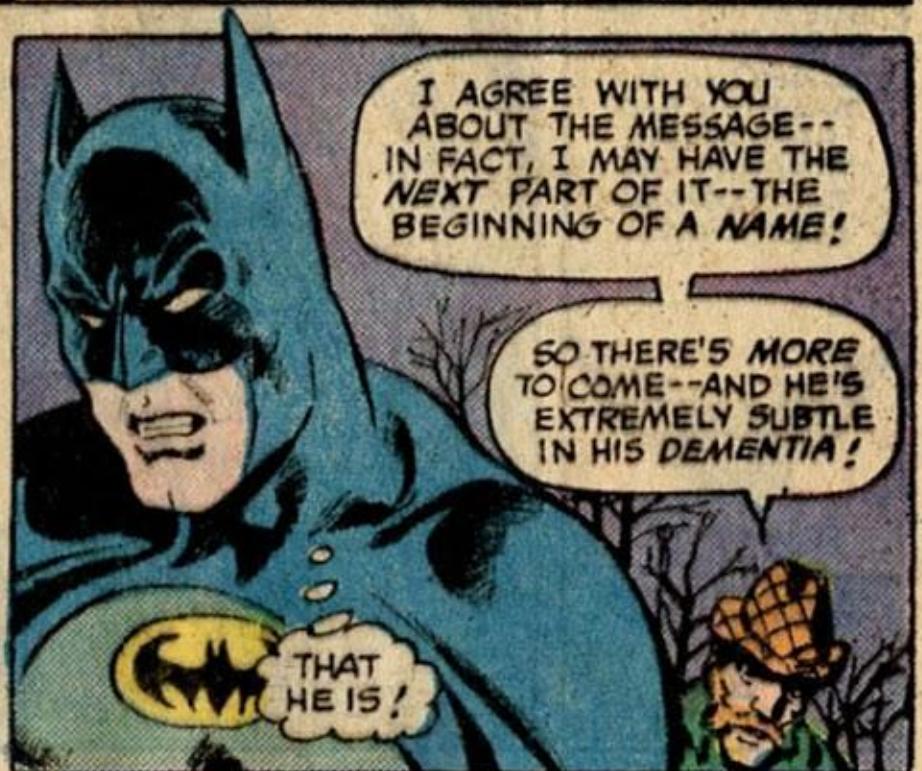
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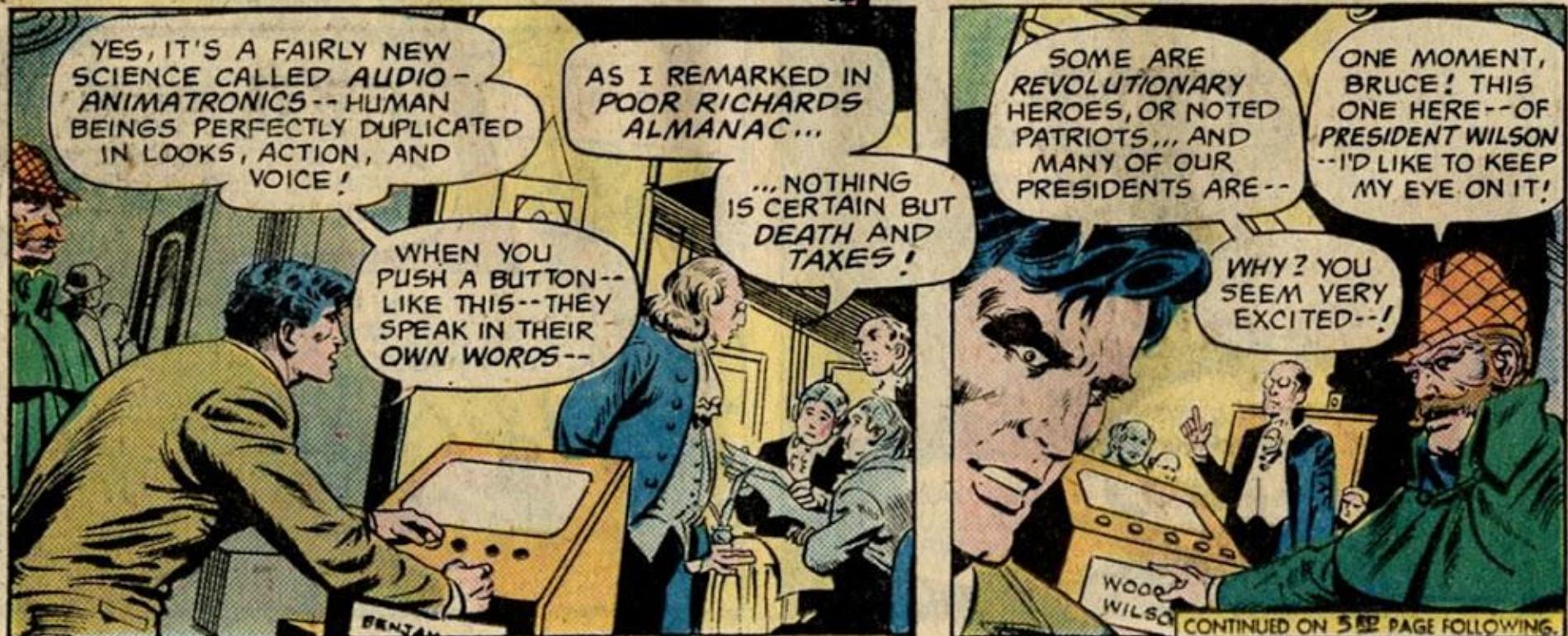
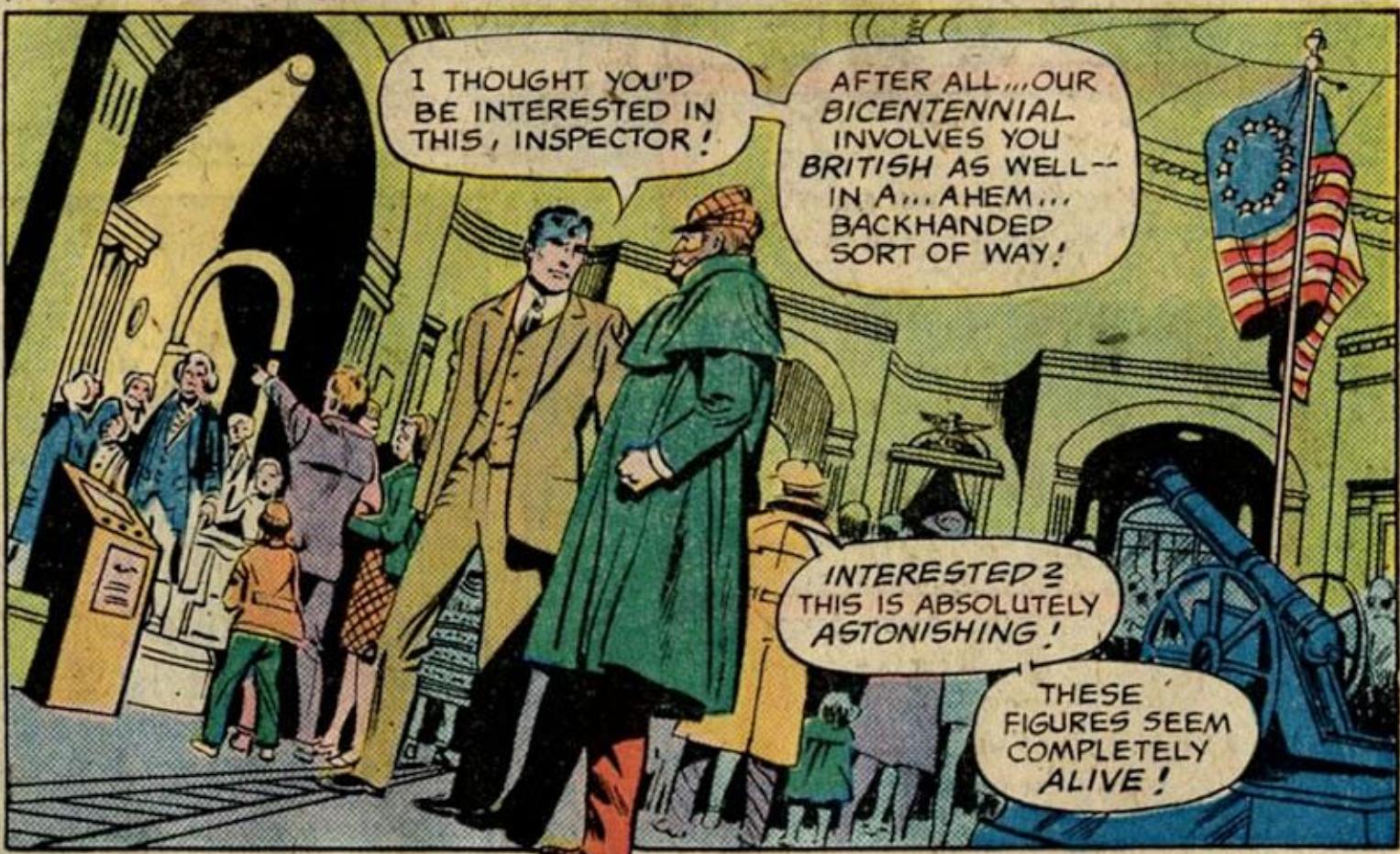
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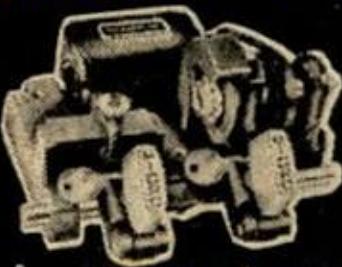


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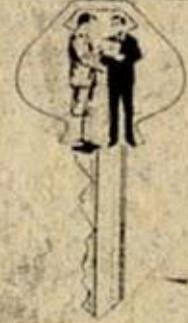
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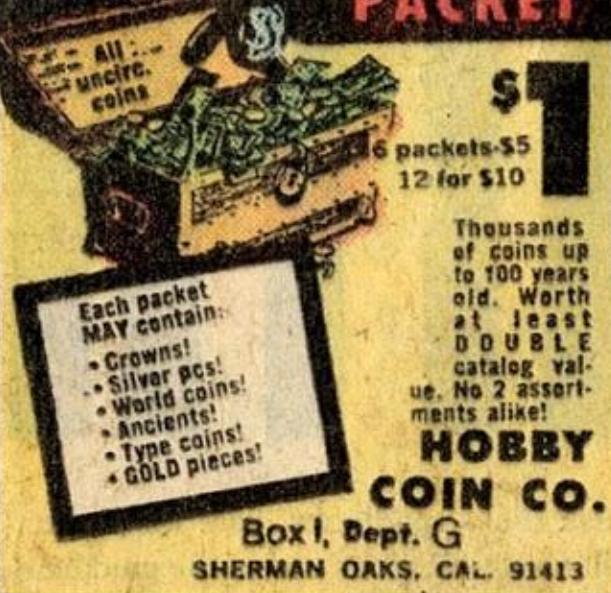
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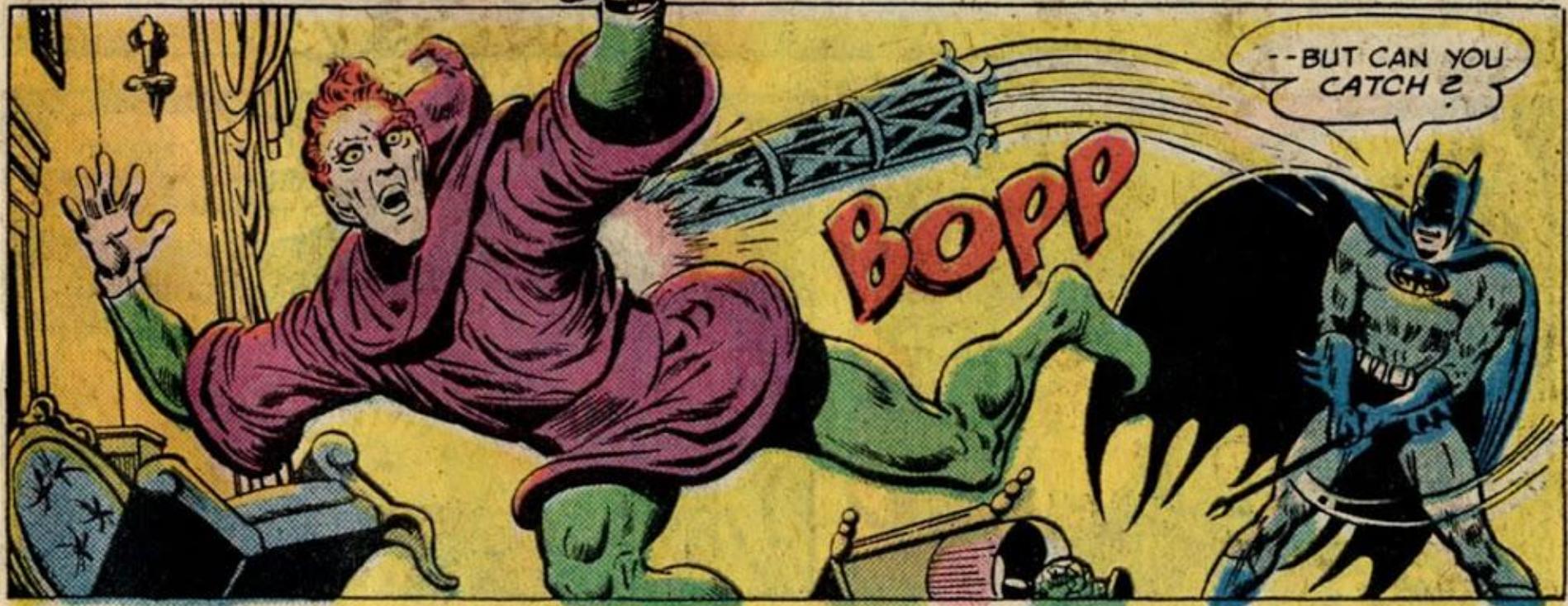
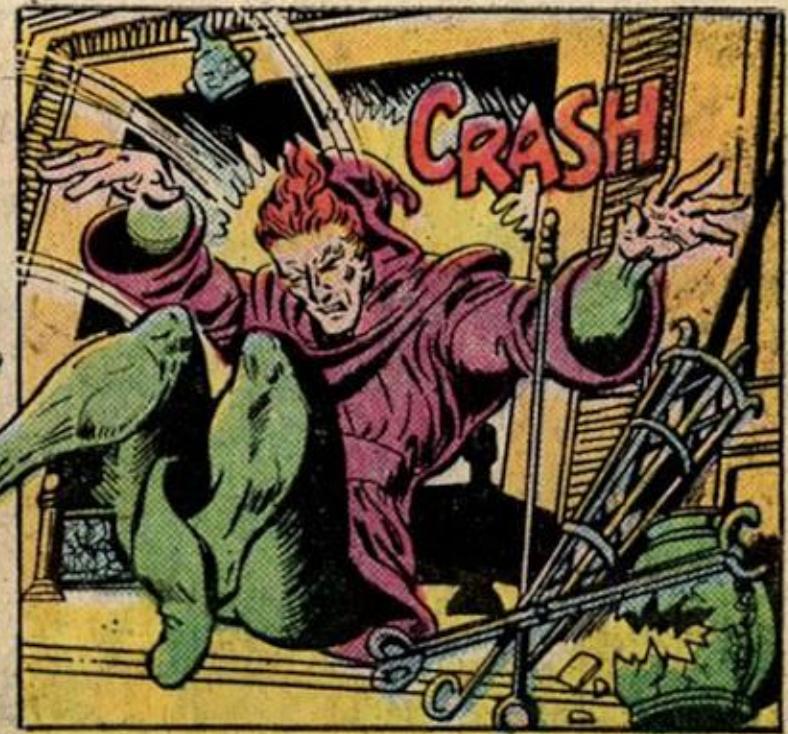
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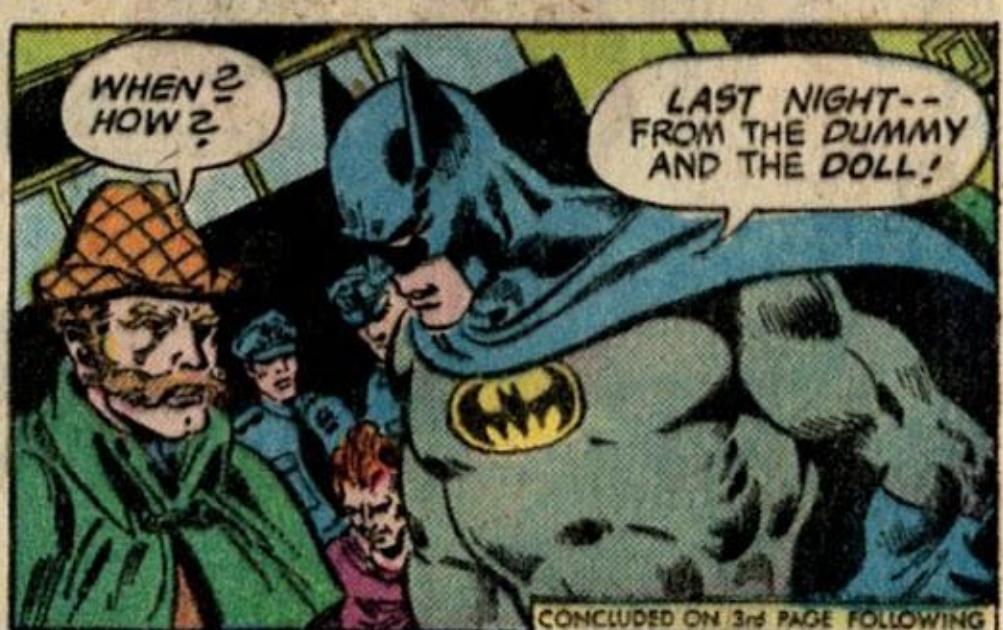
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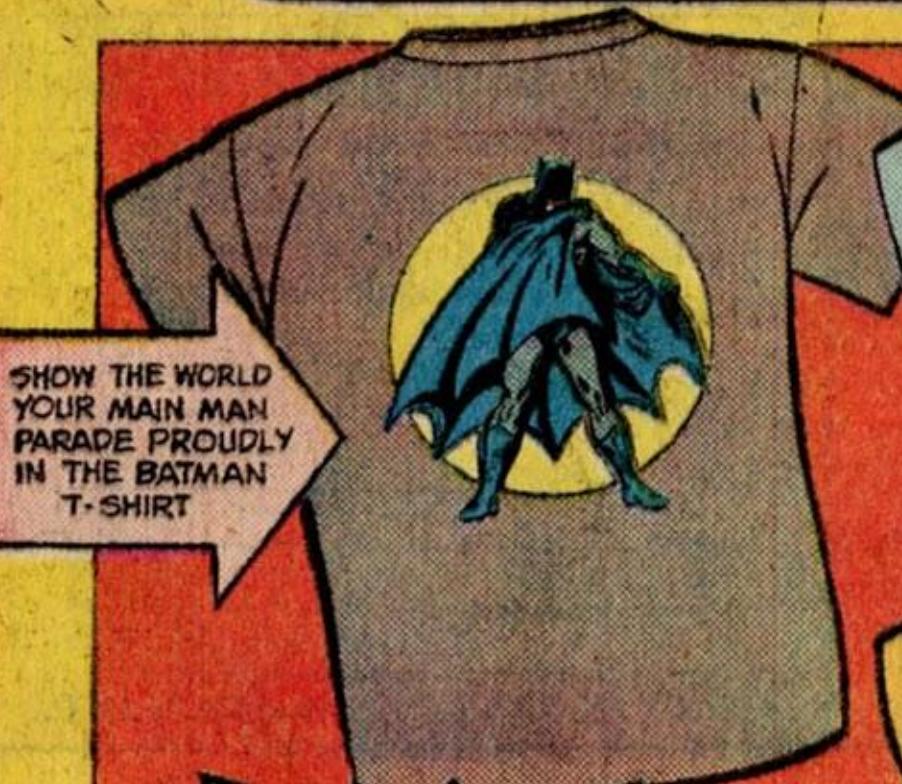




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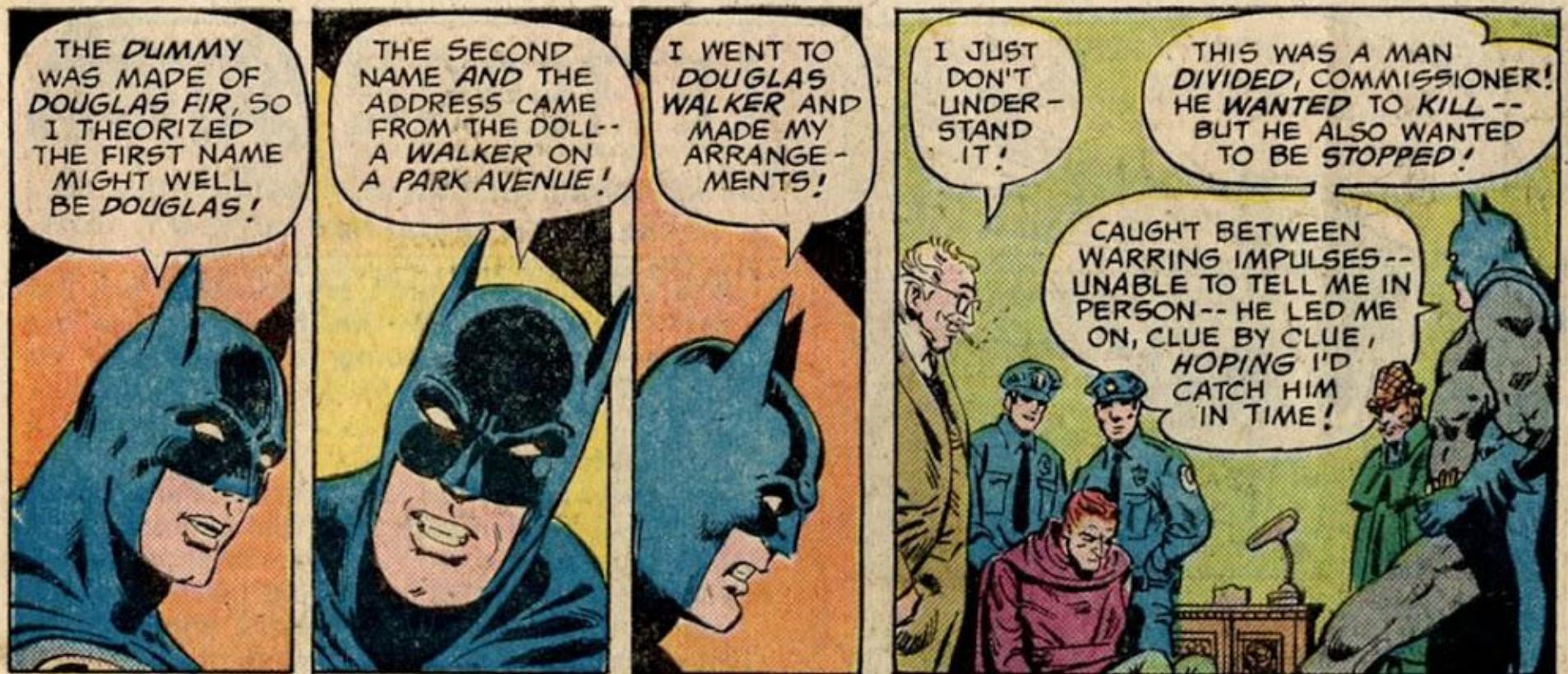
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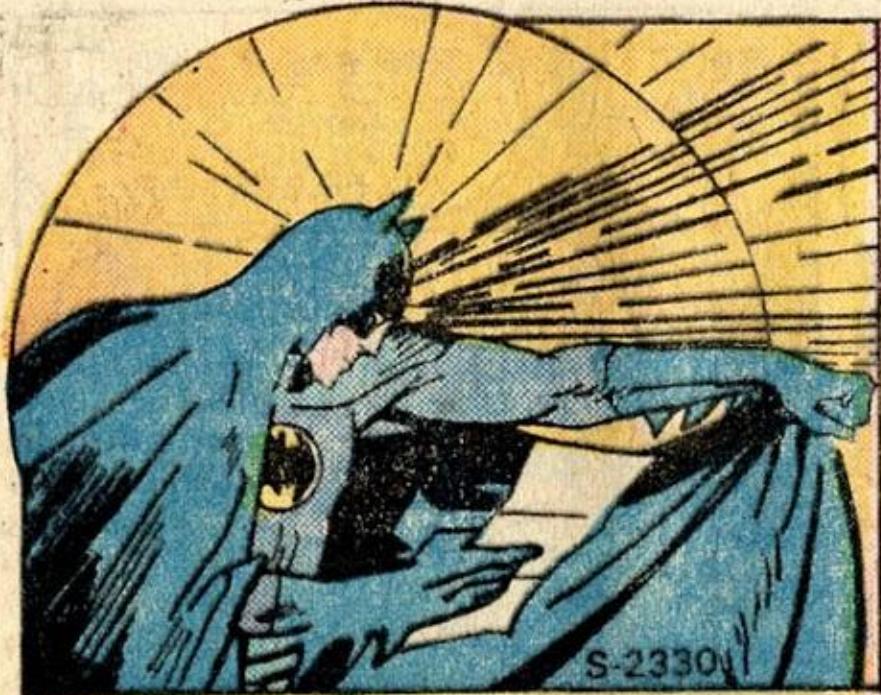
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LETTERS to the BATMAN

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(We probably shouldn't tell you this, but next year's Olympics will be held in New Rochelle—and you're going to be the first victim!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

I object! In the third installment of the **Underworld Olympics**, you have one of the best **Batman** stories ever . . . a near-classic, seventeen pages of action that you could make an Oscar-winning movie out of! My favorite scene was the fight with Amba Kadiri, with some of Ernie Chua's best art yet!

Yet despite this monument of literature, I still object! Why? Because this 17-page classic lasted 18 pages—the last one being plain stupid. The corny crusader shows off his knowledge of old movies and says, "Commissioner, it's as if we're in some kind of Underworld Olympics!" What a brain!

CHRIS ARNOTT, Winchester, Mass.

(If you think **Batman's** lines were corny, wait'll you see some of Robin's puns when he joins his Masked Mentor in next issue's "Riddler on a Rampage!"—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

The Ernie Chua cover for **BATMAN #274** was a searing eyepopper, the kind that makes a reader snatch up a copy and buy it right away. Slightly reminiscent of the "Batman vs. outlandish costumed villain" era, the cover was actually much more. The solid black background, drawing focus immediately to **Batman**, costume ripped and chest crimson with blood, was a definite plus. Cover illos should always be simple—the least detail with the most impact. Happily this was the case for what is definitely the best **BATMAN** cover in months.

"Gotham City Treasure Hunt" has finally set our hero on the trail of the Olympics contenders. At least he has an inkling of where they'll strike next and who will do the striking. There is little to be said about the actual plot of the story, however, since it was basically the same as the previous two installments. It contained all the finest elements—**Batman** tracking, **Batman** battling and **Batman** solving! It was nice to see a female crook finally participating in the Olympics—and such a good one, too. Amba (Steel Claw) Kadiri would make a fine addition to **Batman's** Rogues' Gallery.

My lone objection was the icy and ill-tempered characterization of Bruce Wayne. It just isn't him—The **Batman** was always very good at keeping his crimefighting from interfering with his good humor. Bruce is a nice guy and snapping at Alfred was totally out of character.

SCOTT GIBSON, Evergreen, Colo.

(Considering the circumstances of Bruce's snapping—two guards having been killed while **Batman** was following a red herring trail—don't you think his mood was justified?—Bob Rozakis)

Dear Editor:

"Gotham City Treasure Hunt" (**BATMAN #274**) is an **Underworld Olympics** masterpiece, both storywise and artwise!

Amba Kadiri gave some suspenseful action to the tale and Ernie Chua's stylish handling of the Caped Crusader's sliced cape was wonderful.

David V. Reed gets better with every passing month. Plots are good and there is a real element of mystery that is lacking in **Batman** tales by other scripters. One thing that usually spoils the fight scenes, however, is the dialogue **Batman** has been spouting. A perfect example—"Uncle **Batman** wants YOU!" is found in this story. The line is, to be frank, kinda stupid! Luckily, though, it is more than made up for by the accompanying art.

Chua gave an animated effect to pages 5 and 7 using the multipanel-for-one-scene effect he seems fond of. He's not the only one, though. I like it too!

PHIL GLADSTONE, Belgrade Lakes, Me.

(While most readers agree that Dave's scripts get better every issue, our next correspondent has other ideas!—BR)

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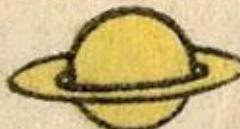
Dear Julie and Bob,

Quick! Is there another **Batman** writer in the house? Gotham City is suffering from a bad plague of the Stupids!

You want some examples? Okay—Amba Kadiri, the so-called scourge of Gotham, is willing to be captured by the police so that her partners in crime can steal a title off a movie marquee. **Batman**, the avenger of the night, doesn't mind that the library thieves are shooting at him, but he goes into a rage when he realizes that some books may burn. And all those campy crooks are in a crime competition undergoing all that risk for no particular reason.

I'm getting pretty sick of these **Underworld Olympics**. I don't know why any crook would want to participate. What especially struck me was **Batman's** ignorance of geography. He figures out there's an olympics going on, and deduces that with South America, Europe, Africa and Asia out of the way, only North America is left. Please don't tell **Batsy** that there are crooks in Australia too or we might have an issue in which he fights a kangaroo boxer!

ADAM CASTRO, New Rochelle, N.Y.

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VOLUME 76 ISSUE 2

WEEK OF MAY 10th, 1976

BOB ROZAKIS: EDITOR

SUPERMAN MISSING!

JUSTICE LEAGUE ORGANIZES SEARCH

(JLA Satellite) — The members of the Justice League of America have announced plans to search for Superman, who has been missing since the group's battle with Sonar and the Queen Bee. Also joining in the search is Supergirl, the Man of Steel's cousin.

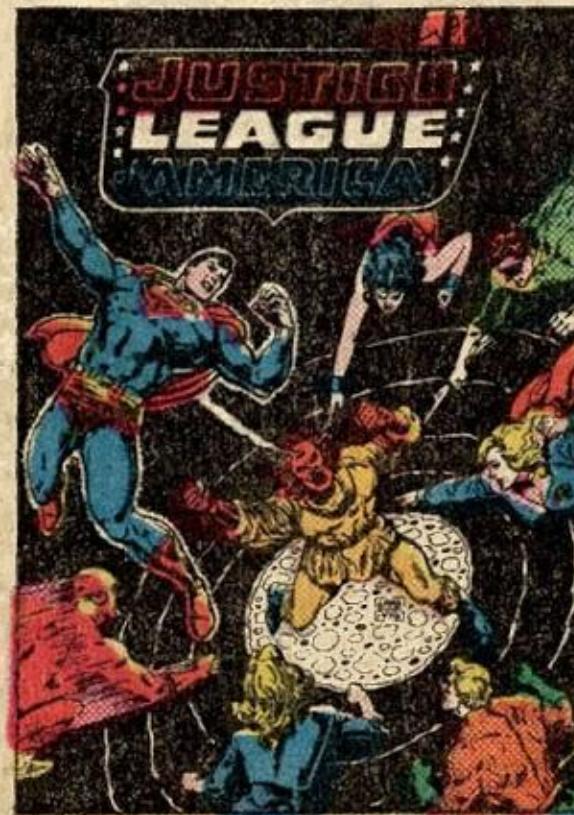
It has been reported, however, that the missing superhero has been located by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin in JLA #133! Under the story title "Missing—One Man of Steel," they reveal that Superman has been transported to the planet Sirkus. Unaware that his fellow JLAers are unable to locate him, the Son of Krypton has been duped into working with actors portraying Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman and Aquaman to battle one of the Justice League's oldest foes. Said villain is Despero, the evil three-eyed dictator from another dimension.

Can the Sirkian duplicates do as well as their JLA counterparts? Will Superman realize what's going on? Do the real JLAers have any hopes of finding him? You'll find the answers and more in JLA #133, on sale the week of May 17th.

GODS AT WAR! HERCULES BATTLES ARES TO THE DEATH



(Europe) — It's a battle of the gods that can only end in death for either Ares, the god of war, or our hero, Hercules! On an Earth already ravaged by World War III, how much more damage can be done, you ask? You'll find out when Gerry Conway, Jose Luis Garcia Lopez and Wally Wood reveal how "Even a God May Die" in HERCULES UNBOUND #6, on sale the week of May 17th.



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KOBRA #4: A shocker of an ending is waiting for you as the friends of the Servitor from outer space brings Jason Burr and Kobra together again. Martin Pasko, Pat Gabriele and Terry Austin demand you don't miss it!

KUNG FU FIGHTER #11: Somebody's still out to waste Ben Turner, but it's off to China for Richard Dragon and company before they can track down the assassin! "When Strike the Samauri" is by guest writer David Anthony Kraft, and artists Ric Estrada and Jack Abel.

PLASTIC MAN UNCOVERS MONSTER IN SEWER

(New York) — On assignment for the N.B.I., Plastic Man has uncovered the secret of a strange creature lurking in the sewers beneath Manhattan. Created by a scientist from foods rejected by the National Food Administration, the creature—code-named Meat By-Product—emerged from a garbage truck and took up residence below ground, surviving on tons of trash floating in the sewage system.

Add to this the problem of another creature—code-named Sludge—existing on the west coast and you've got a real caper for Plastic Man and Woozy. It's all in "Meat By-Product and Sludge," an Elliot Maggin/Ramona Fradon/Mike Royer presentation in PLASTIC MAN #14, on sale the week of May 17th.

TRIVIA QUIZ #2

Villains are all the rage these days, so let's test your knowledge on some of ours. Do you know the real names of 1) *The Riddler*, 2) *Mirror Master*, 3) *Terr-Man*, 4) *The Mad Hatter*, 5) *The Joker*? Answers next week. ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: The Star Spangled Kid is Sylvester Pemberton, his partner was Stripesy (Pat Dugan) and they appeared together in (what else?) STAR SPANGLED COMICS!

WITCHING HOUR #65: Our three bewitching hostesses present a trio of tales—"A Handy Way to Die" (by Jack Phillips and E. R. Cruz); "The Loathesome Loner" (by Carl Wessler and Ricardo Villamonte); and "Laugh? I Thought You'd Die..." (by Wessler and Redondo).

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TAKE EASY FAST ORDERS FOR MUCH WANTED
PERSONALIZED METAL SOCIAL SECURITY PLATES

If you want to make extra cash easy in spare time, we'll send you a complete compact money-making outfit which includes an actual sample engraved Plate, Carrying Case Emergency Card and 8-Year Calendar, plus everything else you need to start taking orders and making money from the very day you receive it. This complete Outfit is yours ABSOLUTELY FREE and entirely without obligation. Just show it to everyone. They'll be amazed and delighted by the low price only \$2.00 each especially when they discover that they also get a smart Carrying Case, an Emergency Card, and an exclusive 8-Year Calendar all FREE! You make \$1.00 profit on every order. Take as many as 15 or more orders in an hour — make \$15 or more in every spare hour that you show this sample. To get your money-making Outfit by return mail entirely FREE just fill in and

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THE WORLD FAMOUS NEW AMERICAN PHYSIQUE CHEST DEVELOPER

A FABULOUSLY SUCCESSFUL TOTAL SYSTEM FOR NEW BIG CHEST INCREASE



**GUARANTEED YOU MUST INCREASE CHEST
MEASUREMENTS 2 TO 4 INCHES IN JUST
14 DAYS OR YOUR MONEY BACK!**

FREE!
crushing
vice-grip
course

Why is this approach to muscle building world famous? We are perhaps the only successful bodybuilders who concentrate on a big chest first and offer the complete total system in a complete kit. **NOTHING ELSE TO BUY!**

Results are not uniform and vary with user. You increase at your own pace.

For the man or boy whom fate denied a beautiful, strong body, help is here! How? Our new easy system in complete packaged kit with our world famous pectoral chest developer lets you attain enormous chest measurements fast! Then at your own convenience, add a total of 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20 inches on your chest, back and shoulders.

Research has shown the chest is the dynamic focal point, the power center of the physique, around which your entire bodybuilding program can be structured. If your chest is small or scrawny, body development can be slow, almost never ending. When your chest becomes big, other muscles can be built up super-fast! A big chest first! Always!

Research shows people usually judge a guy by the size of his chest. Why? Look around. Do guys parade about town in swim suits? No! Everybody wears clothes. While your other muscles can be hidden under clothing, a big chest stands out at first glance. Your stomach, thigh and leg muscles can be concealed under pants. Arm muscles can be hidden under sleeves. But a big chest is an attention-getter. It can indicate virility, dynamism and courage.

ONLY
\$7.95
NOTHING
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TO
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Guys with big chests command respect. A big chest warns, "Don't tangle with me!" Girls love to be seen with guys who look like winners.

FREE!
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BIG CHEST FIRST!
OTHER BODY MUSCLES LATER!

What does our exclusive, chest building kit include? Our copyrighted, illustrated method-course to increase chest measurements fast, plus an engineered pectoral chest building mechanical aid, sold for many many years the world over.

We are so absolutely confident you will regard our total system as your fantastic success story that if you do not see 2 to 4 new inches in just 14 days, return valuable kit for full, immediate refund. Why is our kit famous? It is our belief this renowned method is the world's most effective bodybuilding plan because it lets you attain a big chest first. Then at your own convenience, add a total of 6, 8, 10, 12, 16, 20 inches on chest, back and shoulders. Fantastic!

**NEW AMERICAN PHYSIQUE,
GPO Box 1694-NA, Boston, Mass. 02105**

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Address _____

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Hercul-ease
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Details: 25¢

Boston, Mass. 02103

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Now you can make those dreams come true by building a model that looks exactly like the real thing . . . right down to the smallest detail.

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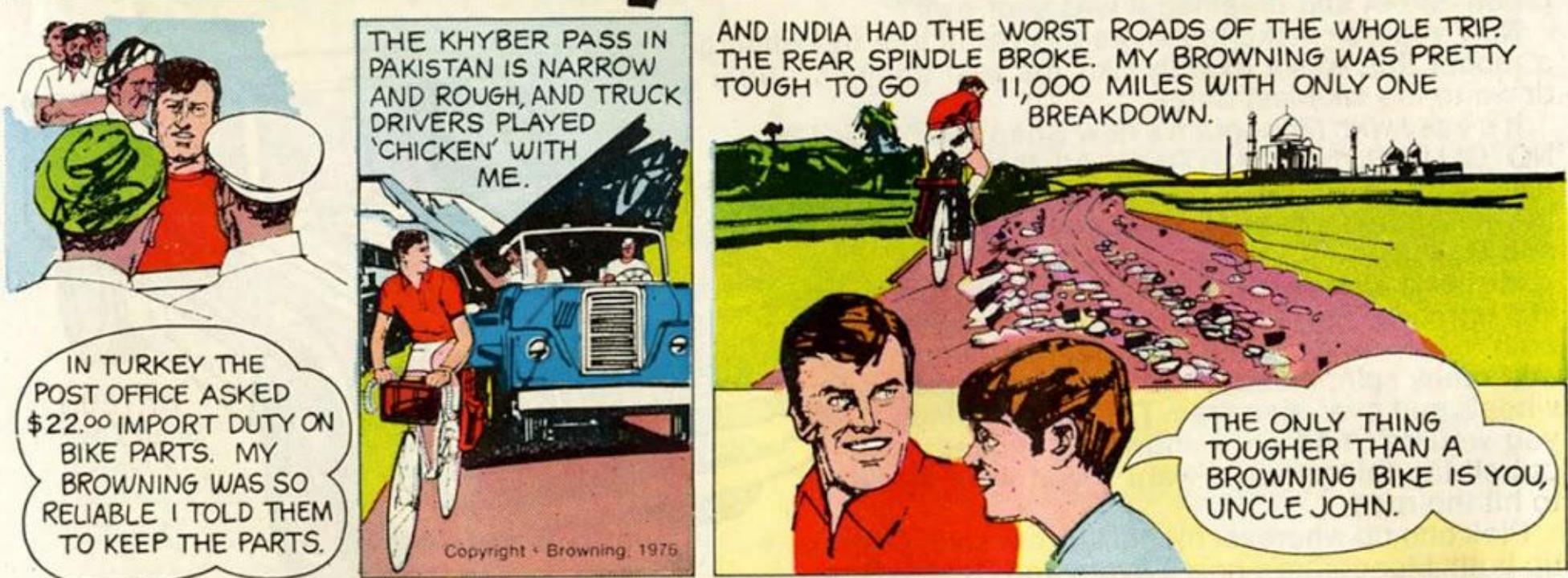
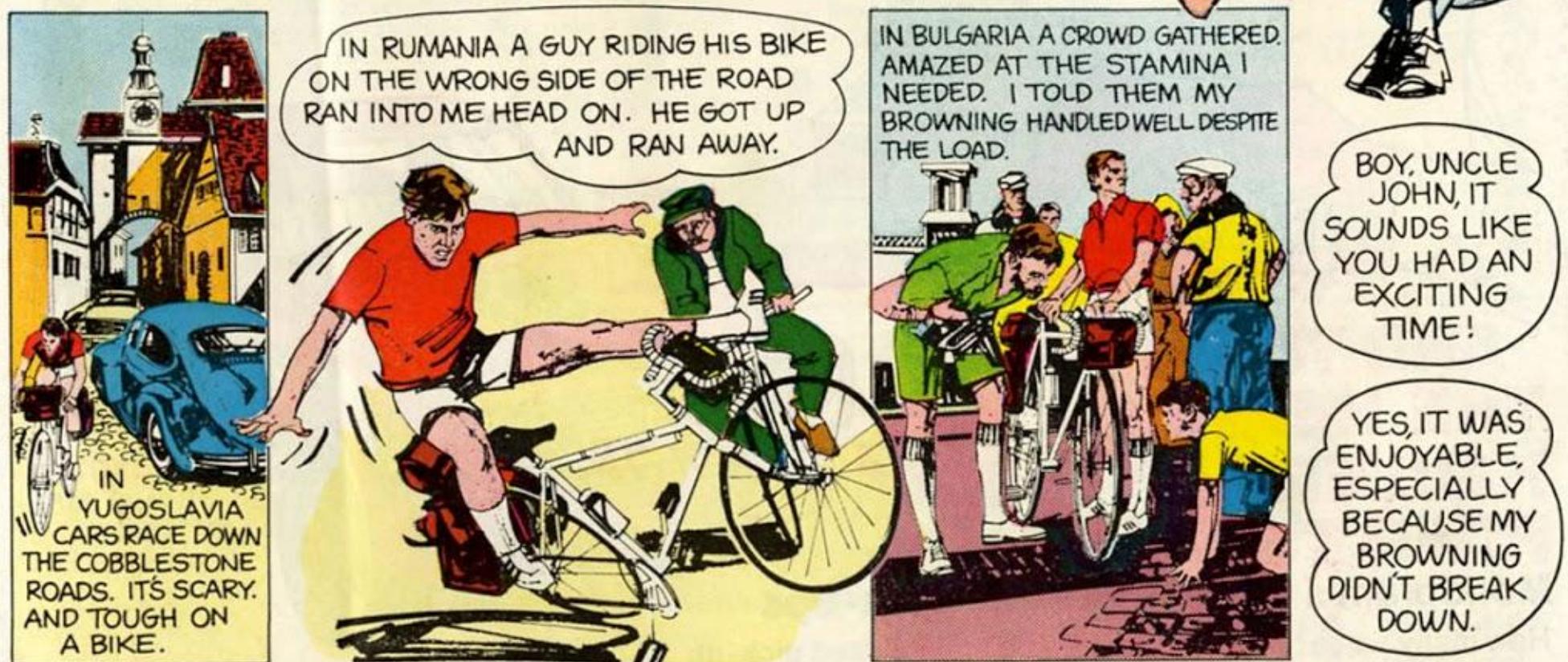
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