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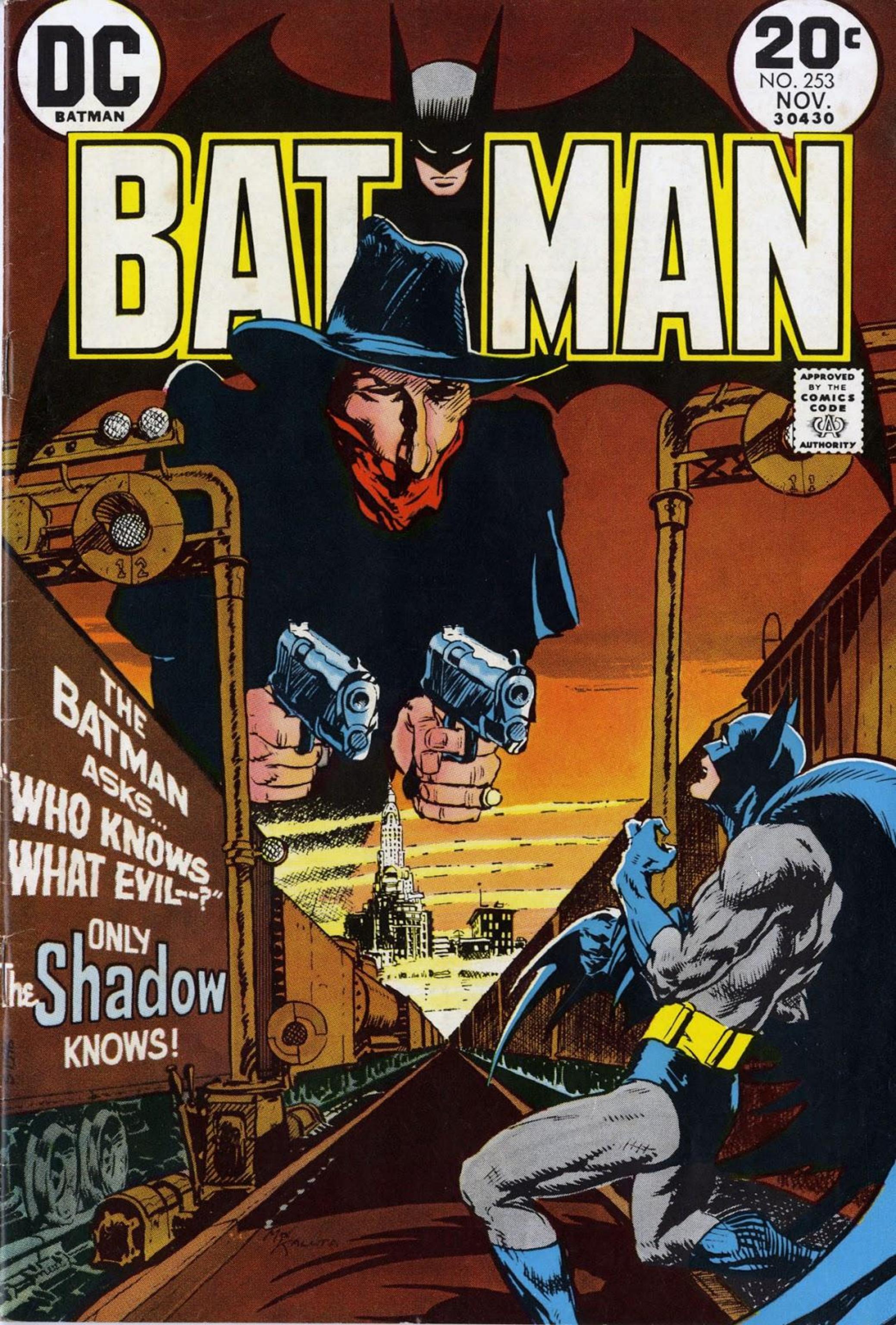
BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE

AUTHORITY

THE
BATMAN
ASKS...
WHO KNOWS...
WHAT EVIL--?"

ONLY
The Shadow
KNOWS!



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WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL--?

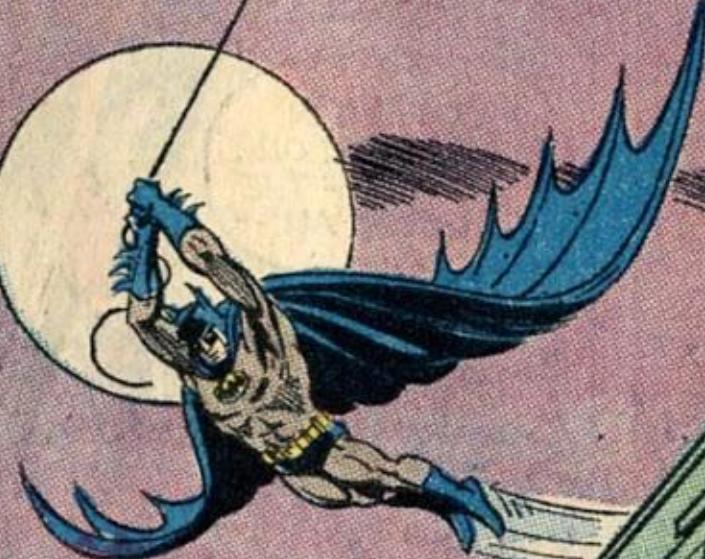
IT IS THE DARK TIME AT GOTHAM FREIGHT YARDS, WHEN DAWN IS YET NO MORE THAN A DISTANT PROMISE,, A TIME WHEN FURTIVE MEN DO FURTIVE THINGS,, AND WHEN THE



MOVES LIKE AN AVENGING WRAITH!

YES, THE BATMAN IS HERE THIS NIGHT-- AND SO IS ANOTHER--!

THE Shadow



RAILWAYS

FROM THE SECRET ANNALS OF THE BATMAN AS TOLD TO DENNY O'NEIL, WRITER, IRV NOVICK AND DICK GIORDANO, ARTISTS, JULIUS SCHWARTZ, EDITOR.

S-1469

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THAT WAS THE NEATEST
BIT OF SHOOTING I'VE EVER
SEEN!...NOT THAT I NEEDED IT!

I COULD'VE BEEN
BEHIND THE CAR BEFORE
THE HOOD GOT TO
BLASTING!

HE'S RUN INTO
A BLIND ALLEY--



AS THE CRIME-FIGHTER PAUSES,
DISMAYED, A MARROW-CHILLING
SOUND REACHES HIS EARS...



THEN...

THE STOOL PIGEON WAS
RIGHT! MY SPARRING PARTNERS
WERE UNLOADING COUNTERFEIT
BILLS!

PRETTY NEAT! THE
PHONEY MONEY IS
SMUGGLED INTO GOTHAM
IN A BOX-CAR AND
REMOVED WHEN THE
COAST IS CLEAR!



LATER, IN A CAVERN BENEATH A SUBURBAN MANSION...

IT'S INCREDIBLE, ALFRED! THE ENGRAVING
AND THE PAPER USED IN THESE COUNTERFEITS
ARE GOOD! FINE IMITATIONS OF THE
REAL MCCOY--

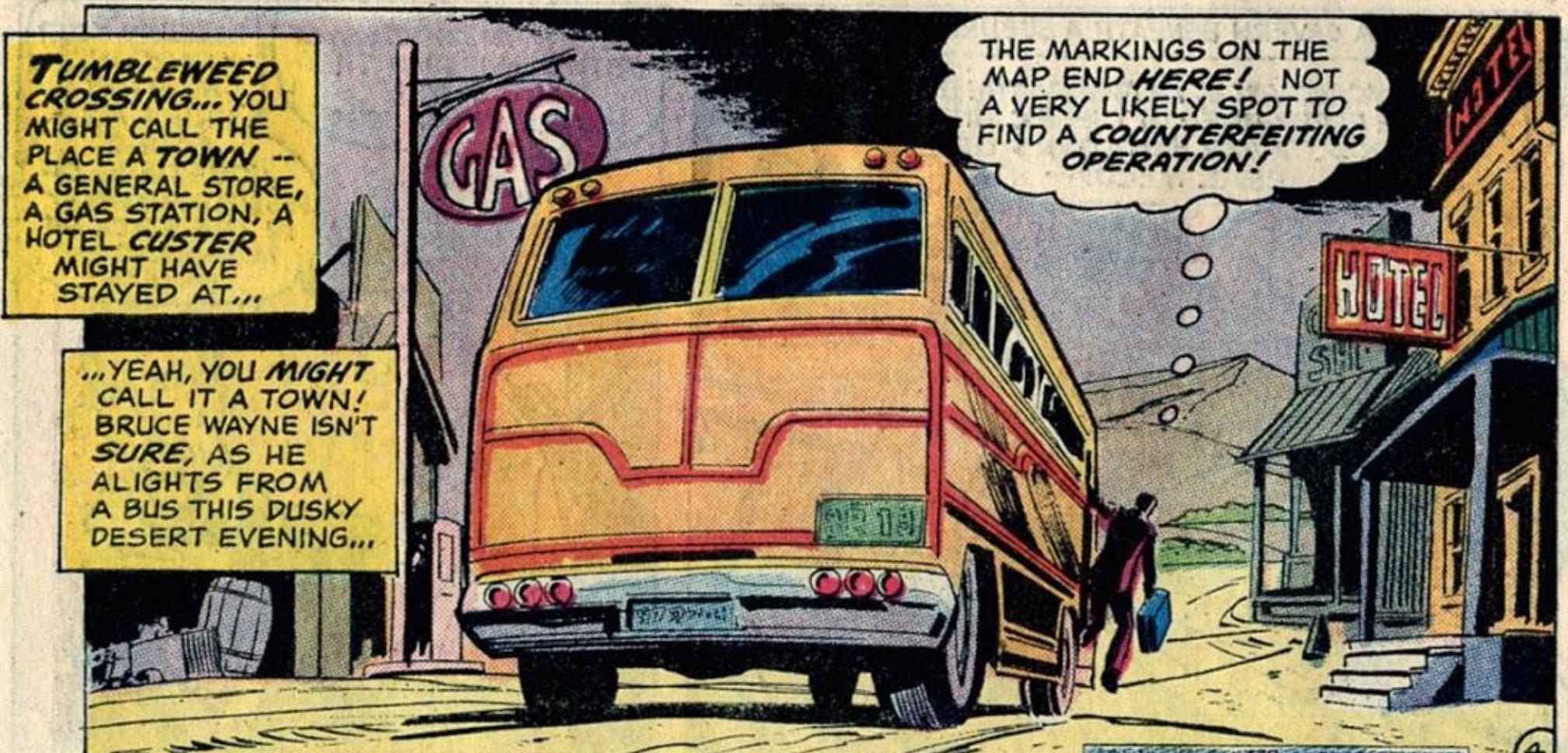
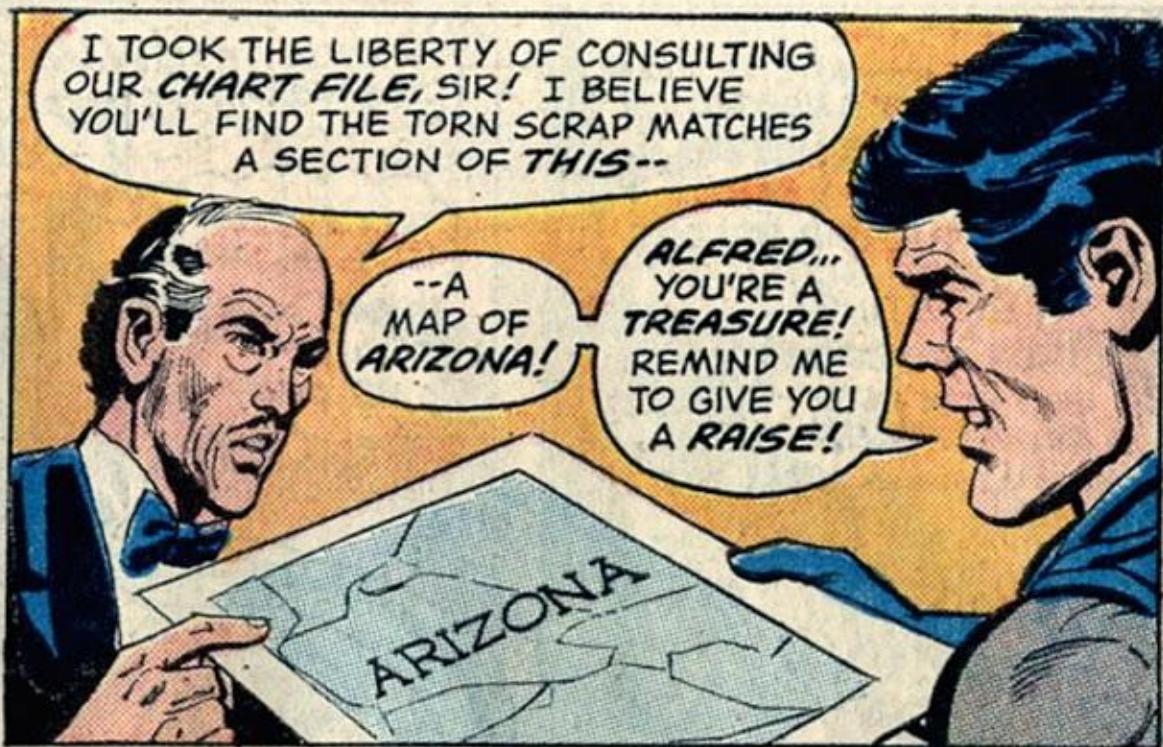
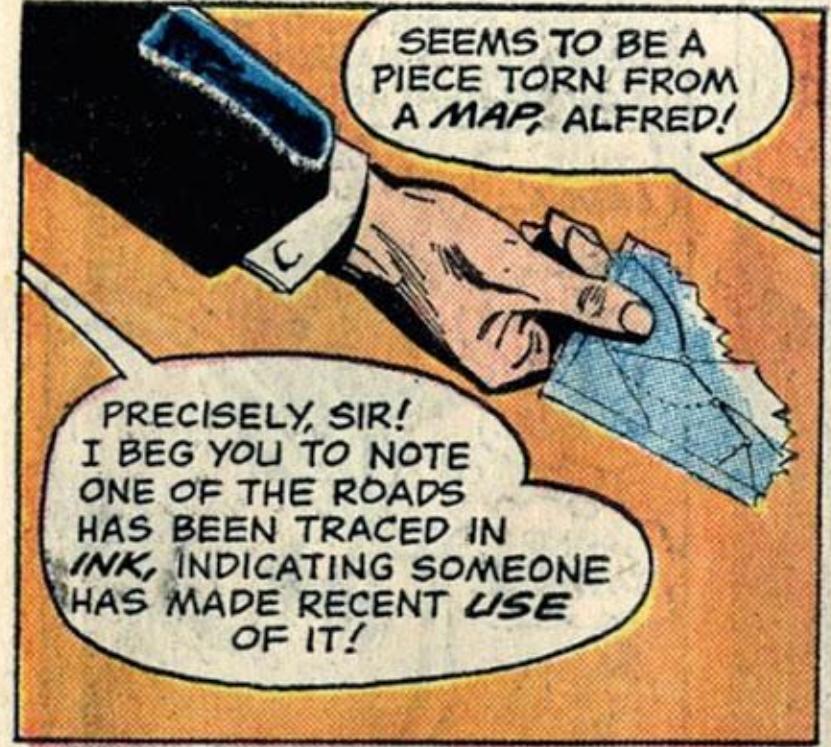
--BUT THE
INK IS
PERFECT!



THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN IT AND THE
STUFF THE
GOVERNMENT USES!

BEGGING YOUR
PARDON,
MASTER
BRUCE! I
FOUND
SOMETHING OF
POSSIBLE INTEREST
IN THE STACK OF
MISBEGOTTEN
MONIES!





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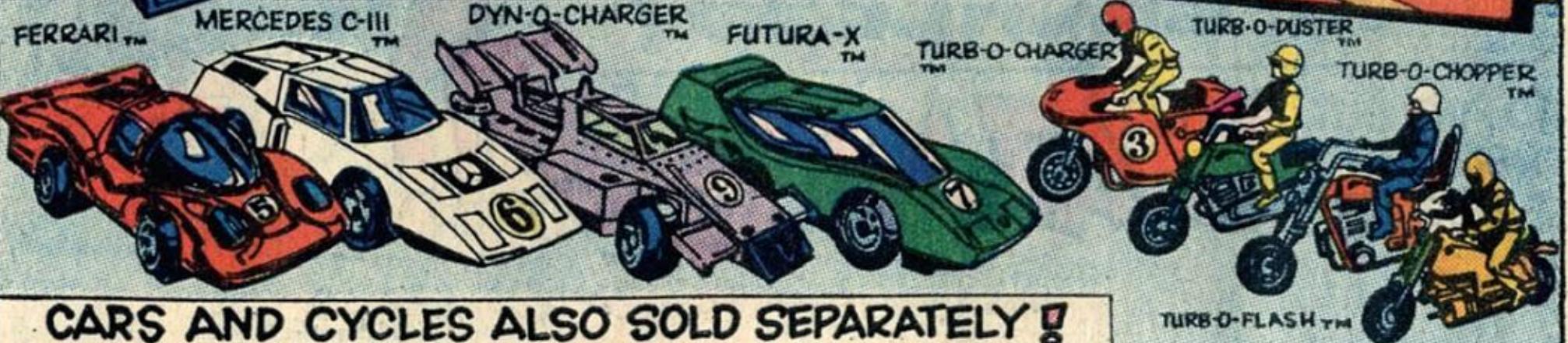


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WHEEL FASTER AND FASTER...
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THE ORIGINAL CAPTAIN MARVEL



HOLY MOLEY!

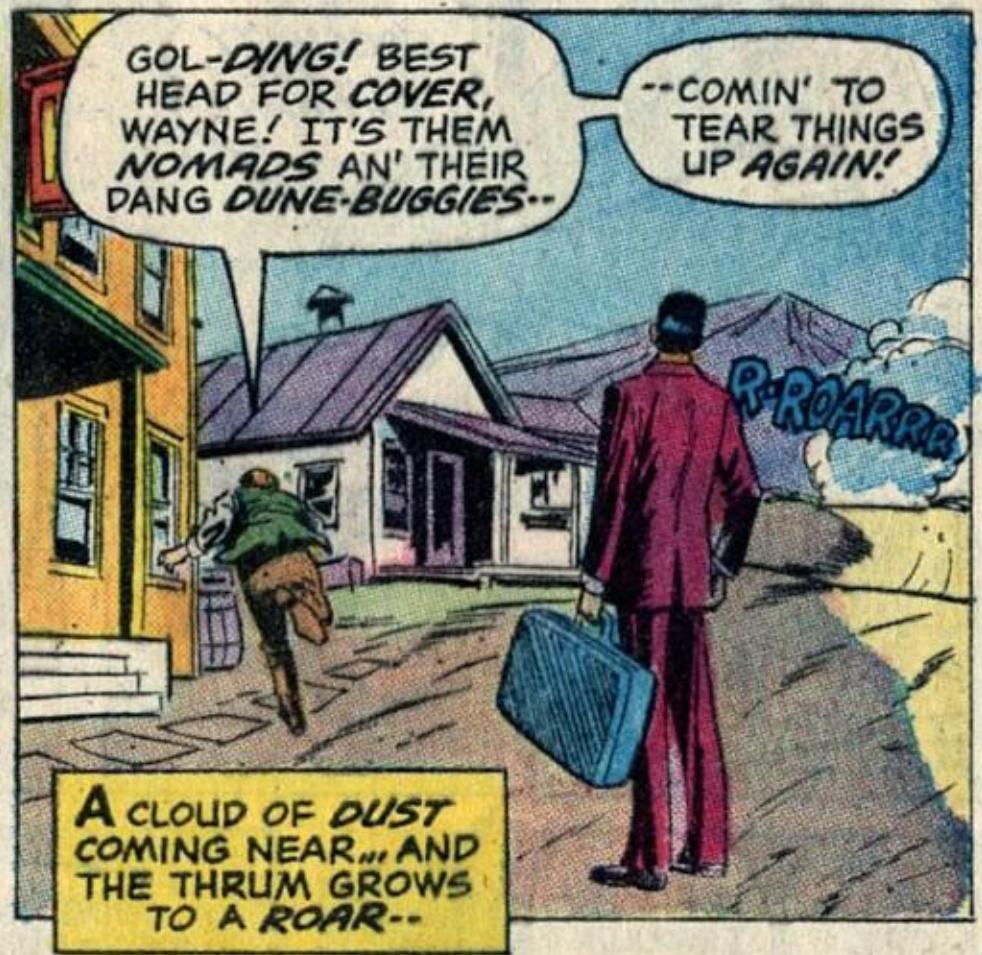
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THE WORLD-FAMOUS
TALKING TIGER--
SPEECHLESS?

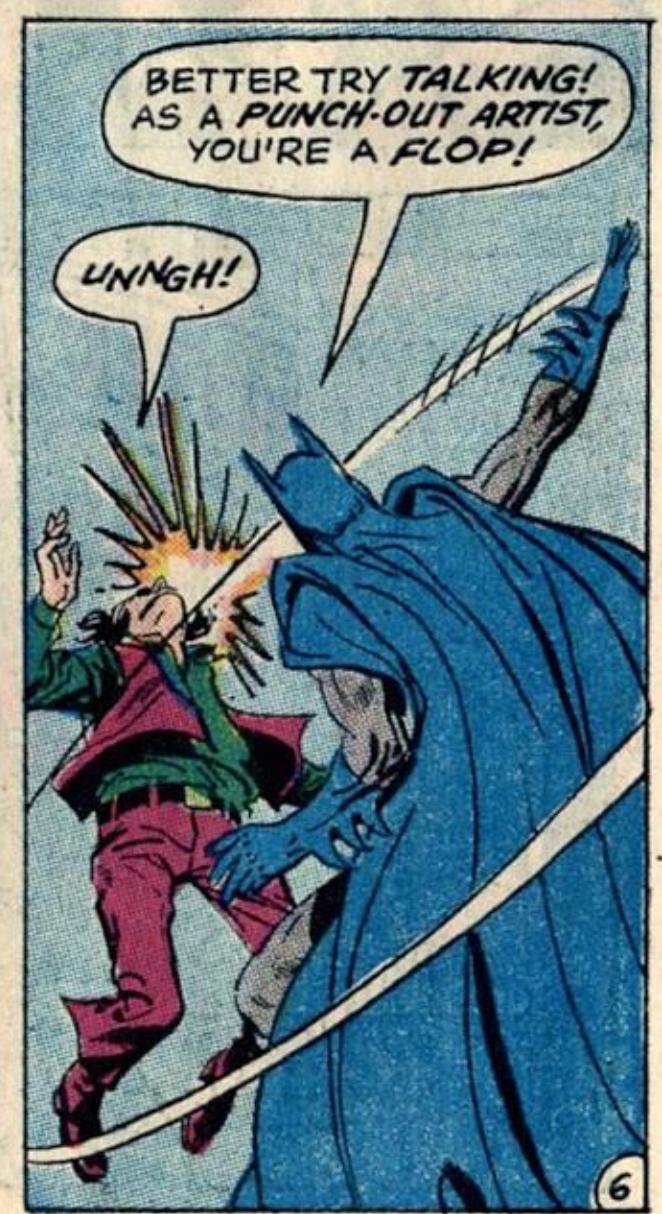
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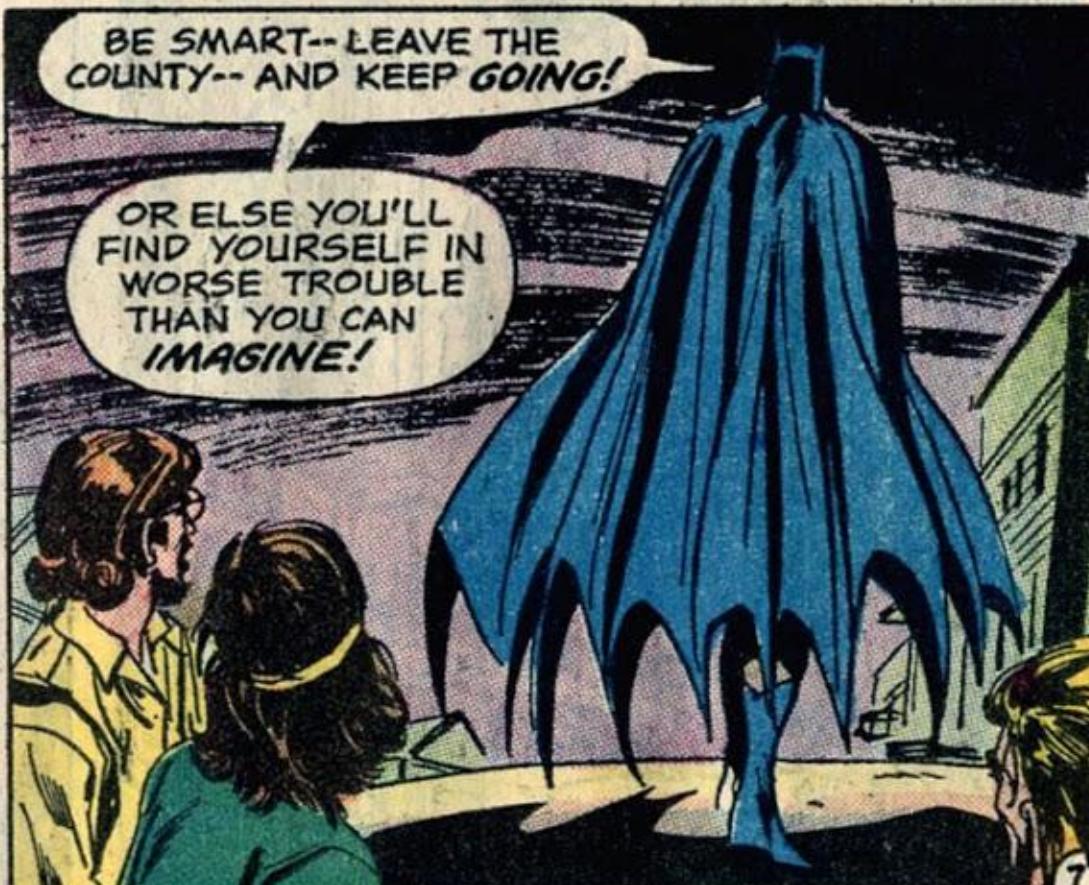
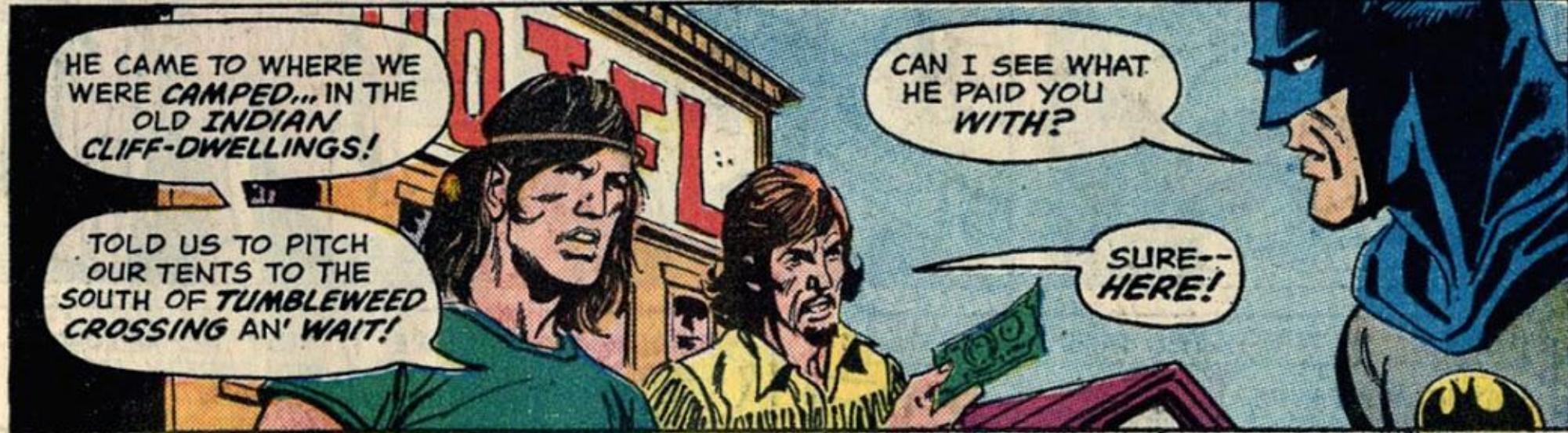
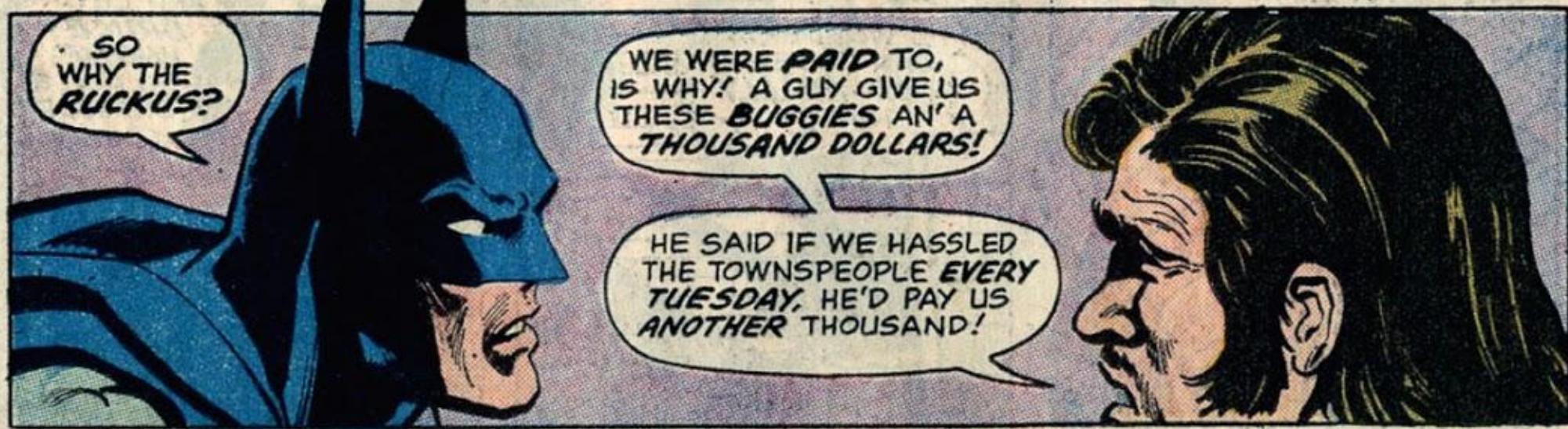
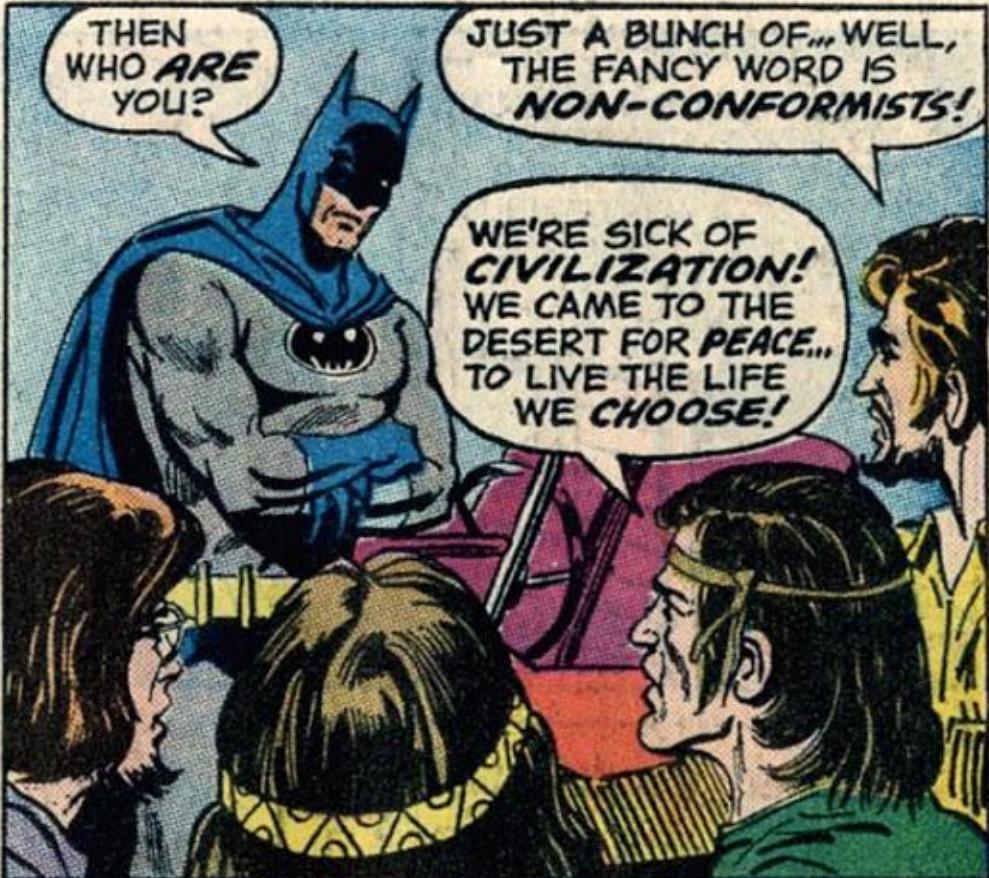
SHAZAM!

ON SALE
AUG. 16TH

C.C.
BECK







MMMM... IT'S BEGINNING TO MAKE **SENSE**!
THOSE DESERT RATS
BRIBED--A MYSTERIOUS SCIENTIST CHECKING LOCAL WATER, AND--

HA-HA-HA-HA-HA

--THAT **LAUGH** AGAIN! COMING FROM BEHIND THE HOTEL!

SOMEONE'S **RUNNING**! IN A FEW SECONDS, I'LL CATCH HIM-- AND...

...AND **NOTHING**... EXCEPT SHADOWS!

I WONDER... CAN IT BE-- HIM?-- REALLY HIM?

NO... HE'S BEEN GONE FOR DECADES!

I'D BETTER STOP WISHFUL THINKING AND LET BRUCE WAYNE DO A BIT OF SNOOPING!

SOON, IN THE HOTEL DINING ROOM...

WAYNE, MEET YORE FELLER GUEST-- LAMONT CRANSTON!

MY PLEASURE!

SAMMY SAYS YOU'RE A SCIENTIST... STUDYING THE LOCAL STREAMS!

YES! THEY'RE LOADED WITH UNUSUAL MINERAL DEPOSITS-- UNIQUE ON THIS CONTINENT!

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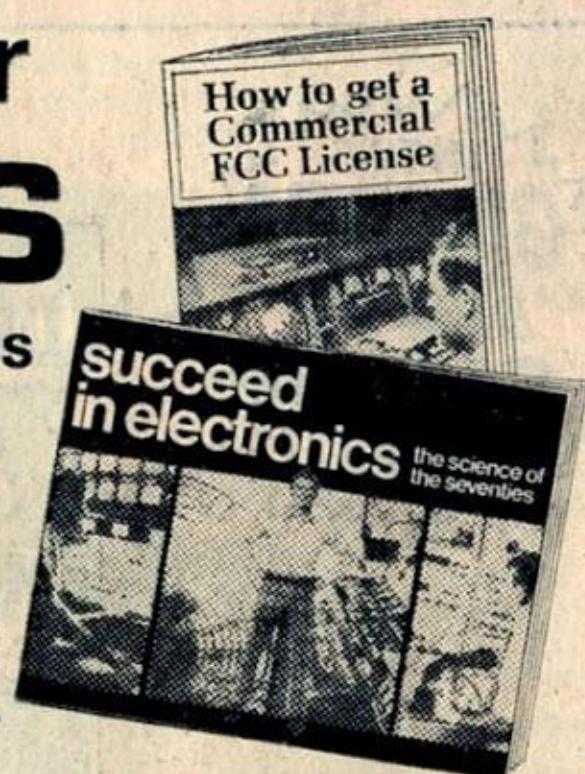
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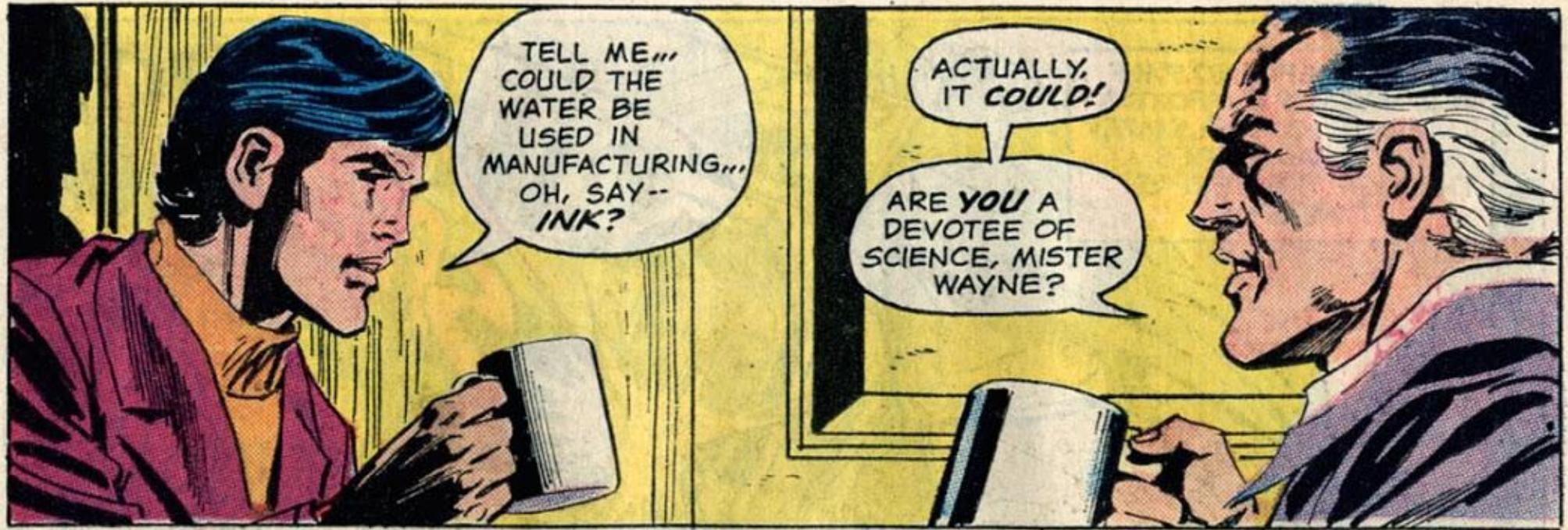
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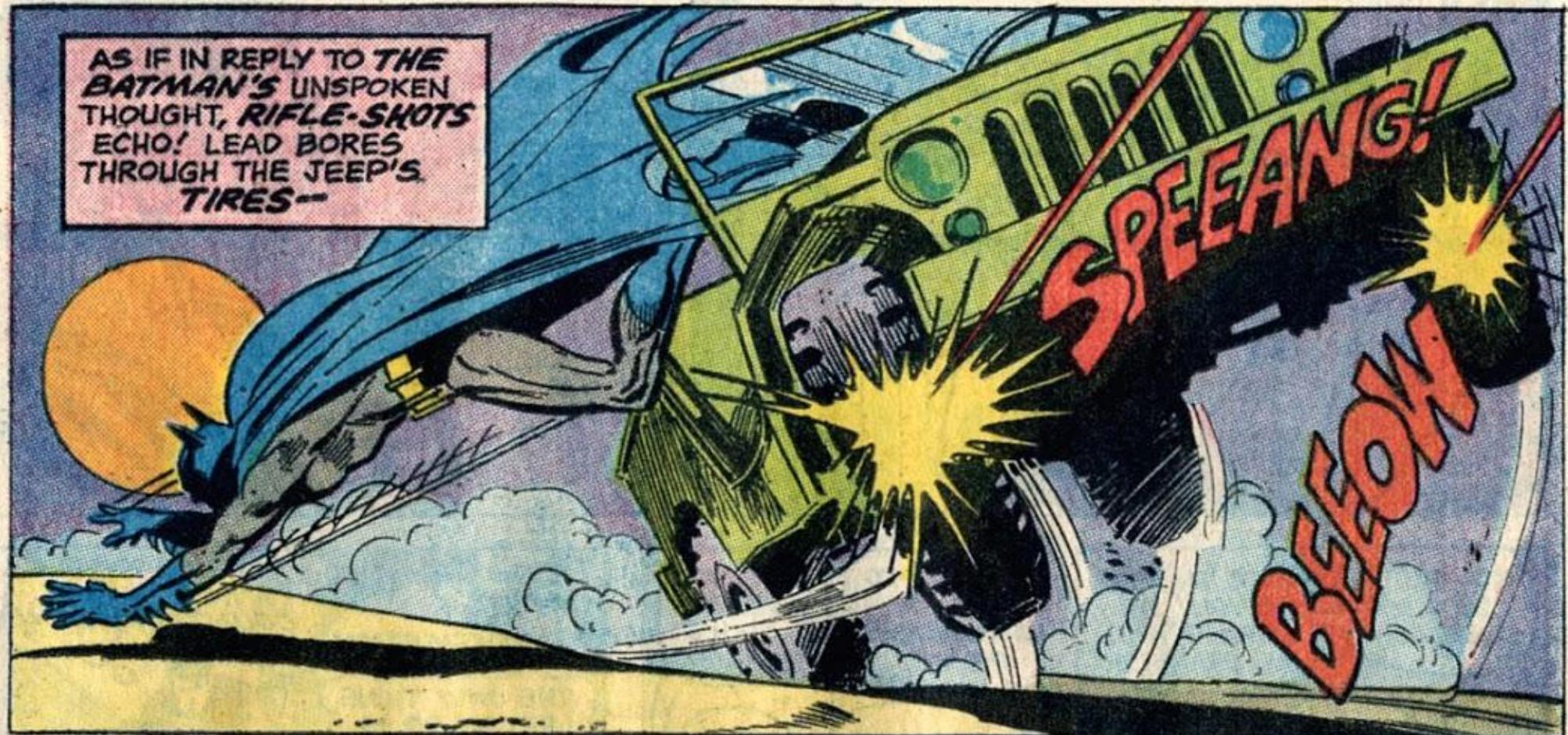
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AS IF IN REPLY TO THE
BATMAN'S UNSPOKEN
THOUGHT, RIFLE-SHOTS
ECHO! LEAD BORES
THROUGH THE JEEP'S
TIRES--



SNIPERS... BEHIND THE
BOULDER! MAYBE I
HAVEN'T GOT THE
PROBLEM SOLVED!

IT'S A GOOD HUNDRED
YARDS TO THEM... A LONG
DISTANCE TO COVER WHILE
DODGING BULLETS!



HOWEVER--

SOME KIND OF
AIRCRAFT! I'D SWEAR
IT'S AN AUTOGYRO...
AN EARLY VERSION OF
THE HELICOPTER!

BUT... THOSE
HAVEN'T BEEN
USED FOR
YEARS!

WHATEVER
IT IS--

-- IT'S
SAVING MY
HIDE!

-- DISTRACTING
THE GUNMEN
FOR A FEW
SECONDS--

BAM BAM

BAM



-- AND FOR SOMEONE WITH
MY TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE,
A FEW SECONDS IS
PLENTY!



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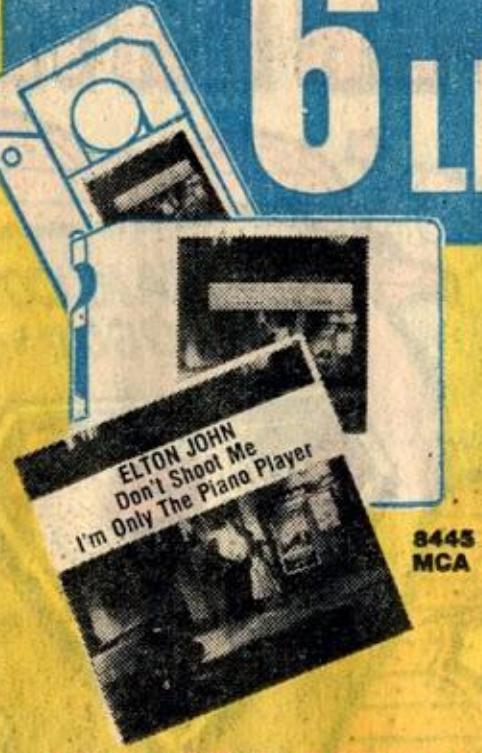
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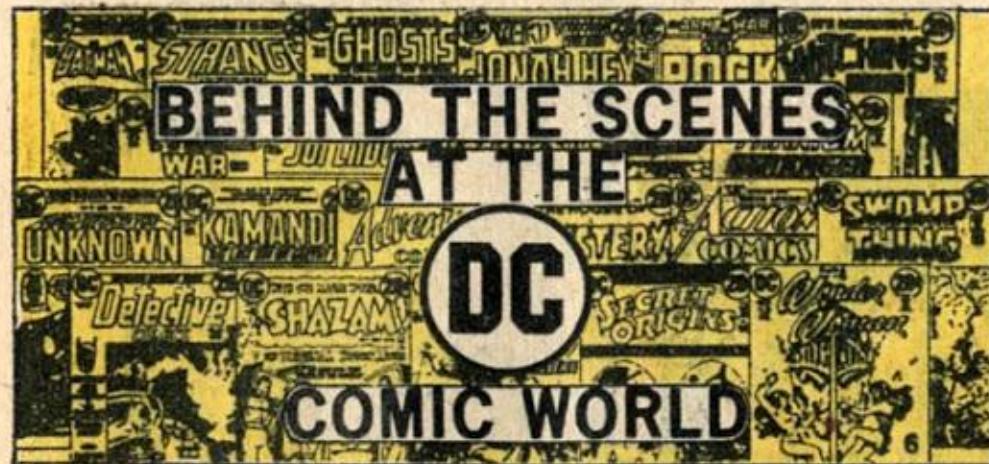
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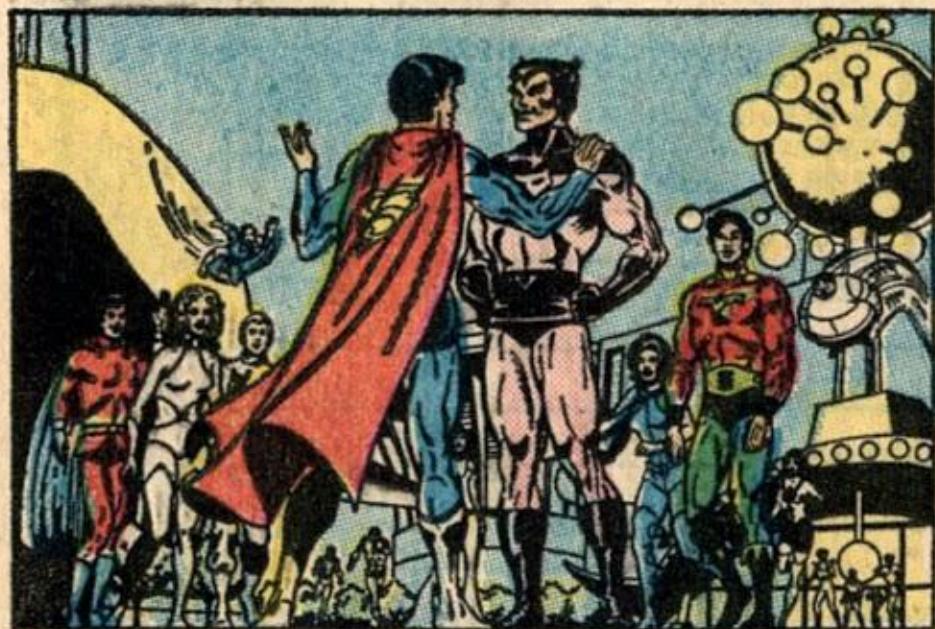
It's time for a historical look at one of *DC*'s most interesting features—a group of super-heroes who have been fighting for 15 years to earn a permanent home in one of our magazines . . .

THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES

The *Legion* was born in the April, 1958 issue of *Adventure Comics* (#247) when *Superboy* traveled through time to the future to join a club of super-beings. Editor Mort Weisinger never intended them to become regular supporting characters, but the demand for the *Legion* was so great that he had to bring them back dozens of times in the next few years, to play bit parts in practically every one of the *Superman* family magazines that he edited, from *Action* to *Jimmy Olsen*. Even in the days before most comics had letters pages, the *Legion* had a large band of supporters, which seemingly grew along with the super-hero club (It had grown from three members to about 15). Finally, they got their chance at a series of their own . . .

The *Bizarros* (Anyone out there remember *Superman*'s imperfect double and his family?) had worn out their welcome as the back-feature in *Adventure Comics*, so the *Legion* took over with #300 in September, 1962, with *Superboy* soloing in the lead story, as he had for over 15 years.

The *Legion*'s supporters were not going to settle for a mere back-feature; within a year, they had boosted the sales of *Adventure* issues with the *Legion* on the cover so much that our favorite super-stars took over the book—first as a 17-page cover feature, and then with book-length tales in a magazine re-titled *Adventure Comics featuring Superboy and The Legion of Super-Heroes!* The *Legion* held onto that slot until 1969 when *Supergirl* took over *Adventure* and they moved to the back of *Action Comics*, as they took another step backward on their long odyssey.



When Weisinger retired in 1971, Murray Boltinoff picked up the *Legion* for his stable of characters and featured them in the back of *Superboy*, picking former fans Cary Bates and Dave Cockrum (a life-long *Legion* freak) to handle the creative chores.

The masses of *Legion* fans still weren't happy;

they insisted that *DC* give the *Legion* its own mag again. Everyone at the office thought that they deserved another chance, too, so a *Legion* reprint mag was published to test the sales potential. It succeeded, and if you pick up a new issue of *Superboy*, you'll find that it's now *Superboy and The Legion of Super-Heroes*. The *Legion* has come full circle again, and I hope they stay around another 15 years!

FLASH! The lives of the *Legionnaires* will be changed drastically by the events that are going to take place in *Superboy* #200, so no *Legion* fan can dare to miss that one! Watch *Direct Currents* for the exact on-sale date!

* * * *

A few months ago, I wrote a *Behind The Scenes* column which talked about the Comic Art Convention, and I mentioned a few things about comic fans. Since then, I've received a number of letters asking more about the world of these people, and how to get involved in fandom. This month, then, let's take a long look at . . .

COMIC FANS!



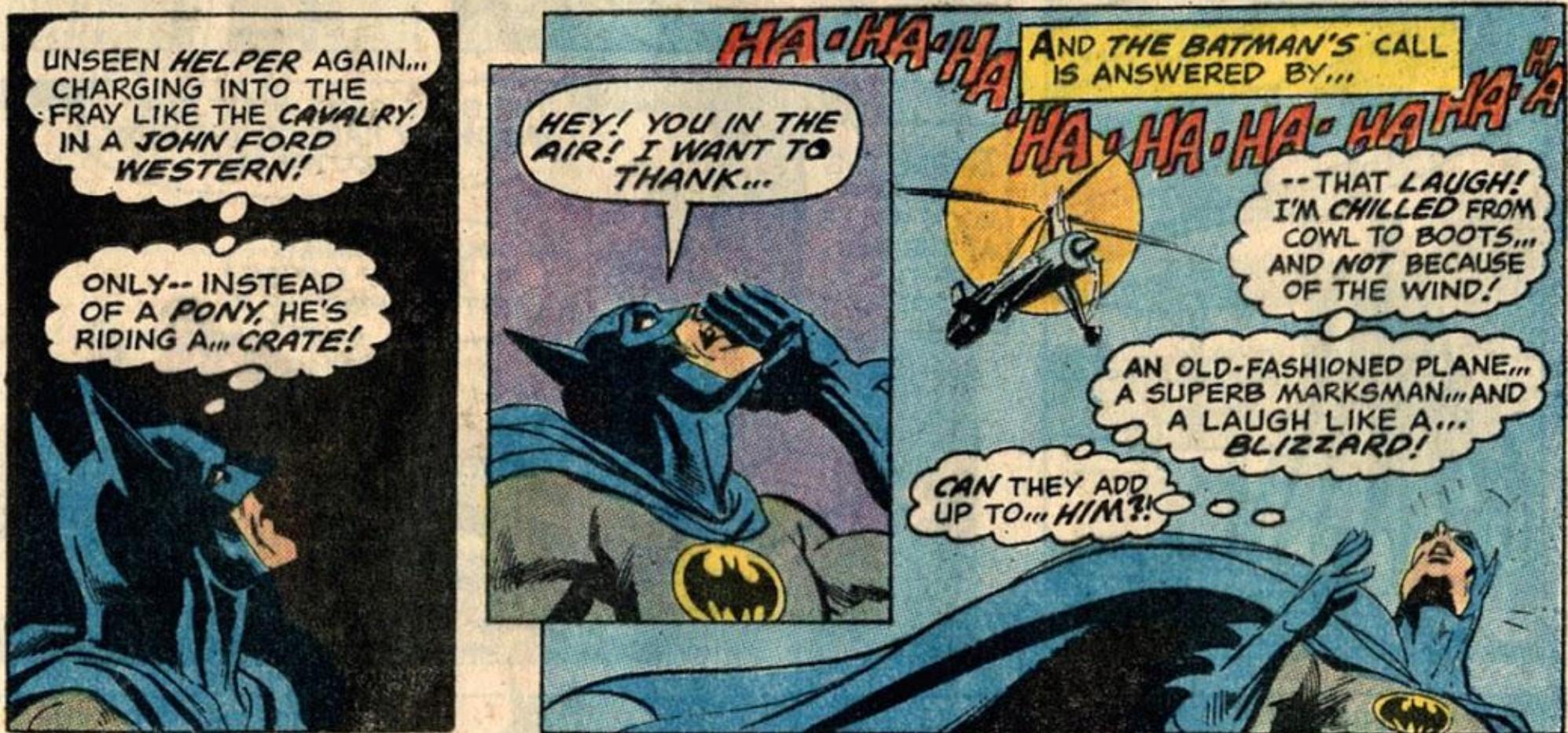
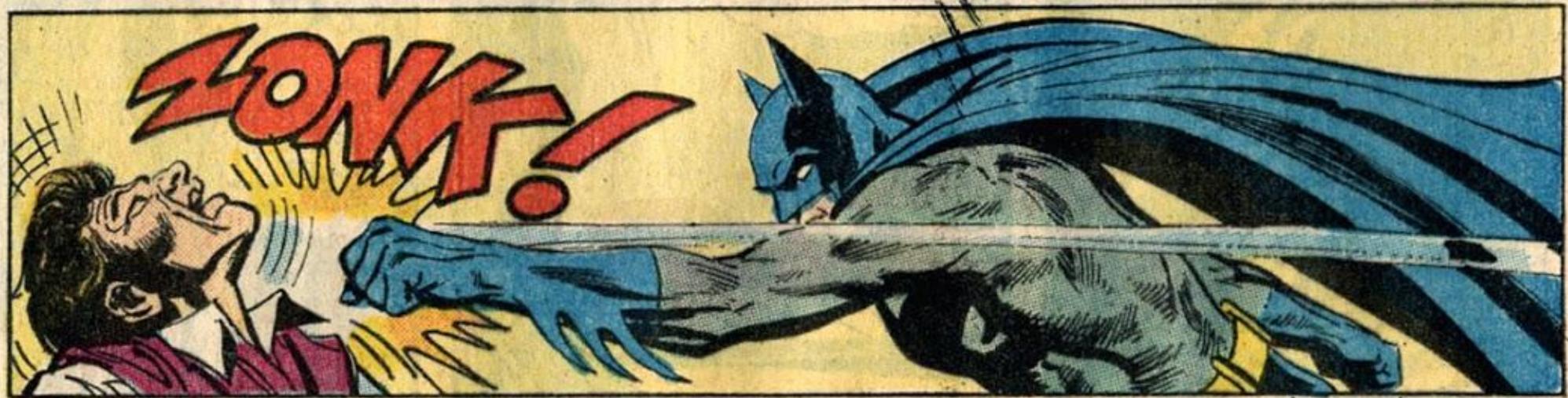
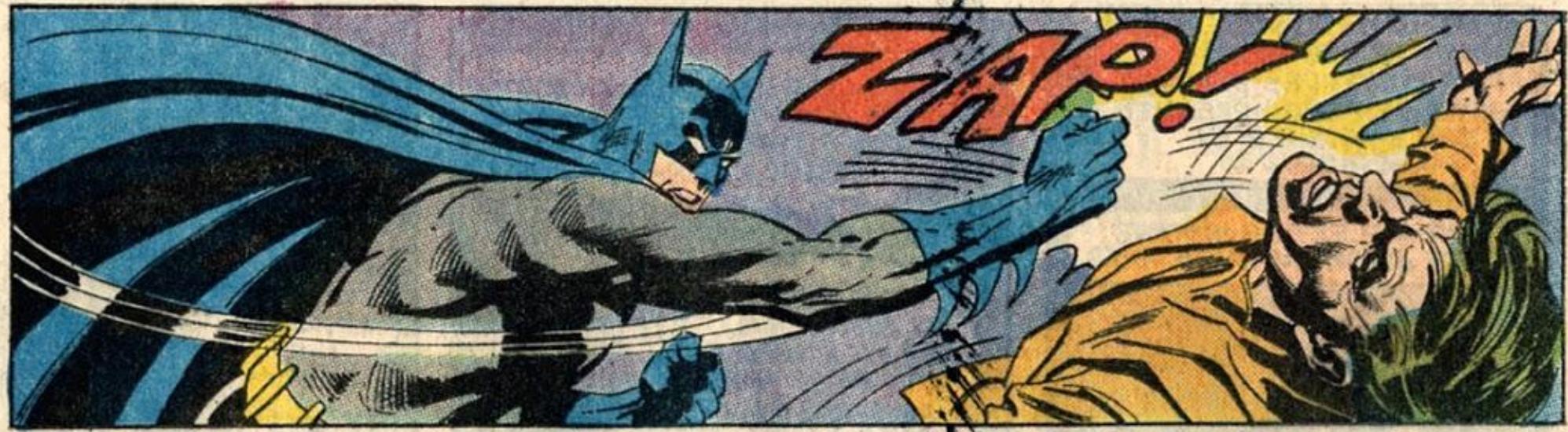
Comic fans are people who can tell you every issue of every comic that *Superman* ever appeared in, who drew it, and what the title of the story was. They know the date that the new comics are due at their newsstands, and which ones are due out in any given week. They've been known to spend up to \$500 for a copy of an old comic book, and deals for whole collections often run into thousands of dollars. They publish magazines about comics, ranging from news to unpublished stories by professional artists like Neal Adams or Berni Wrightson.

Conventions of fans take place all the time, all over the country. Regular monthly "cons" are held in New York City and Boston, and larger, annual affairs, are held in most major cities. If you want to enter the world of fandom, that's the best place to do it! A complete listing of conventions is unavailable, but a good list is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope from Phil Seuling, 621 Avenue Z, Brooklyn, New York 11223.

It's a bit harder to get a hold of a list of quality fan magazines, however, I'll steer you in the direction of two of the most popular ones, and you can go from there. The first, if the truth be known, is my own magazine. (Secret identity revealing time, folks!) *The Comic Reader*, which is the *TV Guide* for the comics industry, is available from a hack named Paul Levitz at Post Office Box #23, Brooklyn, New York 11203. If you're more interested in reading comics than reading about comics, try *The Menomonee Falls Gazette*, a weekly newspaper composed entirely of comic strips, including Golden Age episodes of *Superman* and *Tarzan*, and strips by DC greats like Frank Robbins, Neal Adams, Doug Wildey, and an editor by the name of Archie Goodwin. Write for details to Post Office Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, 53051.

All this should start you on a career as a comic fan if that's what you're interested in. It's a wonderful world, and a lot of fun, and I hope you'll become a part of it.

—Paul Levitz



CLIFF-DWELLINGS...ANCIENT
INDIAN HOMES HEWN
FROM CLIFFSIDES BEFORE
WHITE MEN EVEN DREAMED
OF THE EXISTENCE OF
AMERICA...

FOR A FLEETING INSTANT,
THE BATMAN HALTS, AWED...

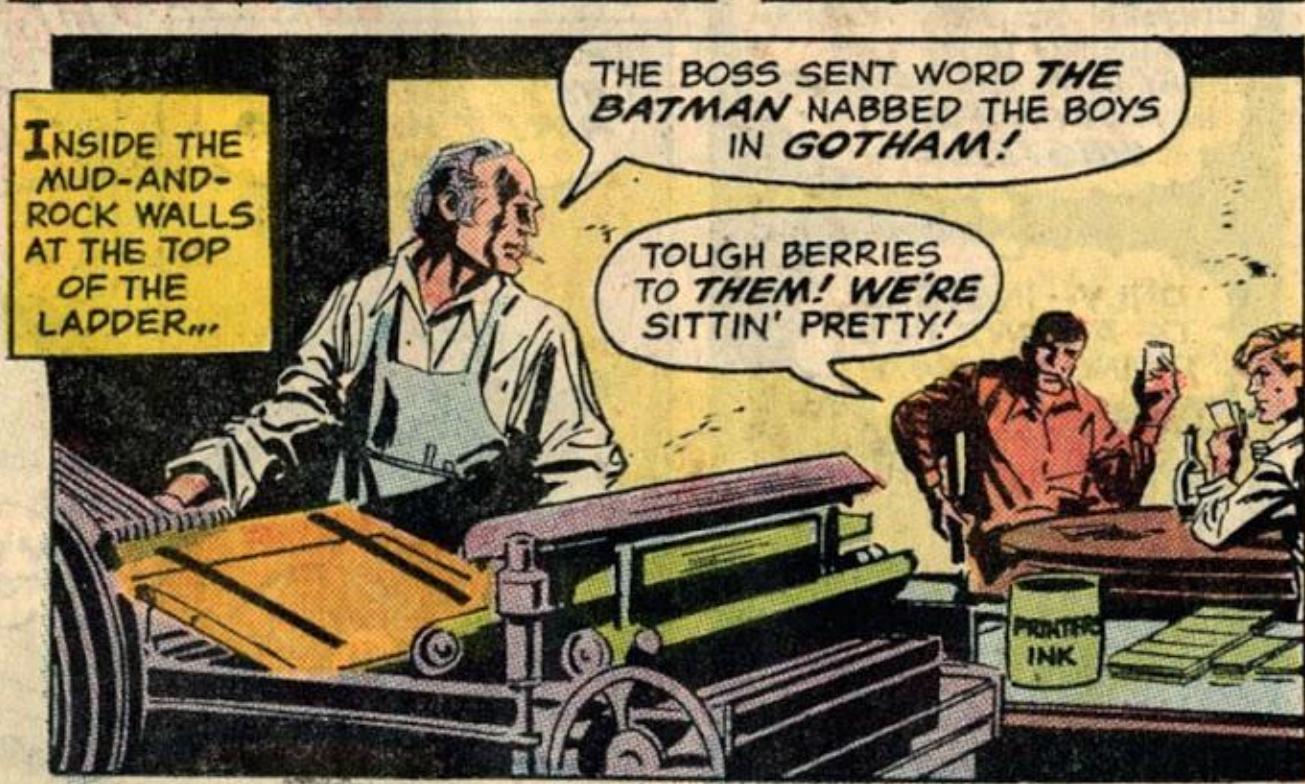
...THEN HE TURNS TO HIS TASK...

THEY MUST HAVE TRANSPORTATION!
IT'S A CINCH THEY DON'T WALK
ACROSS TWENTY MILES OF
DESOLATION--

--AND THERE
IT IS! A SMALL
PLANE EQUIPPED
WITH SKIS FOR
LANDING IN
SOFT SAND!

I'VE
GOTTEN
THE LAY
OF THE
LAND...
LOCATED
THE
ENEMY...

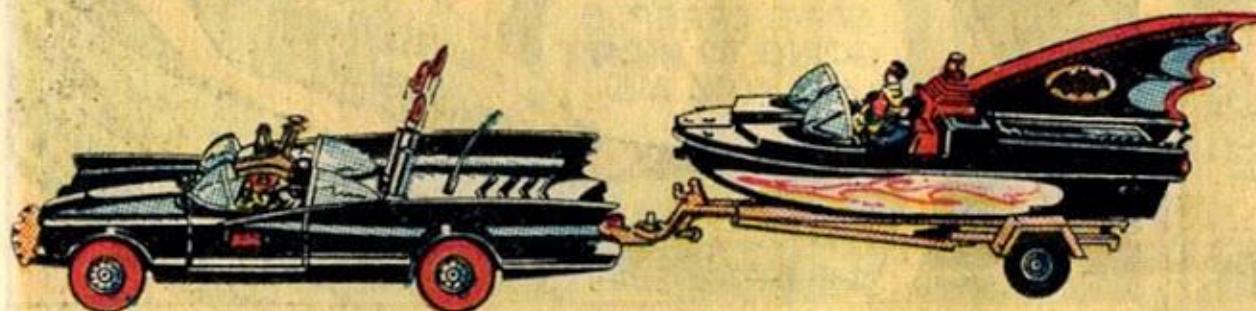
--ALL
THAT'S
LEFT IS
TO...SIC
'EM!



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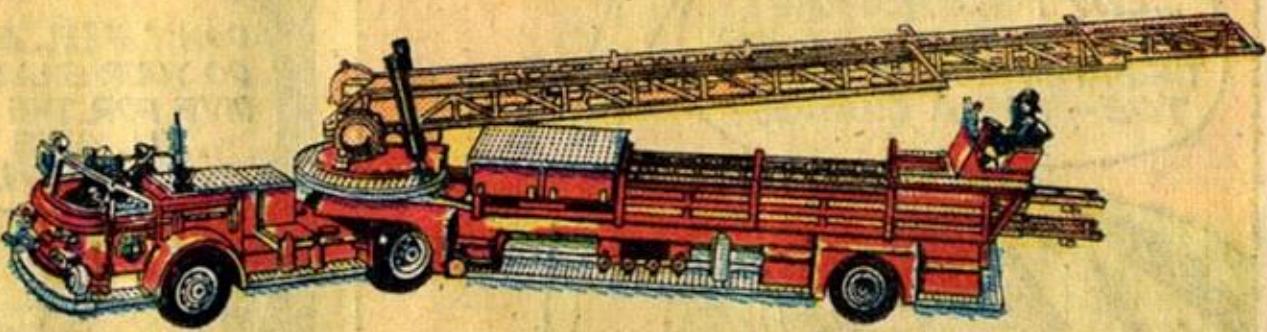


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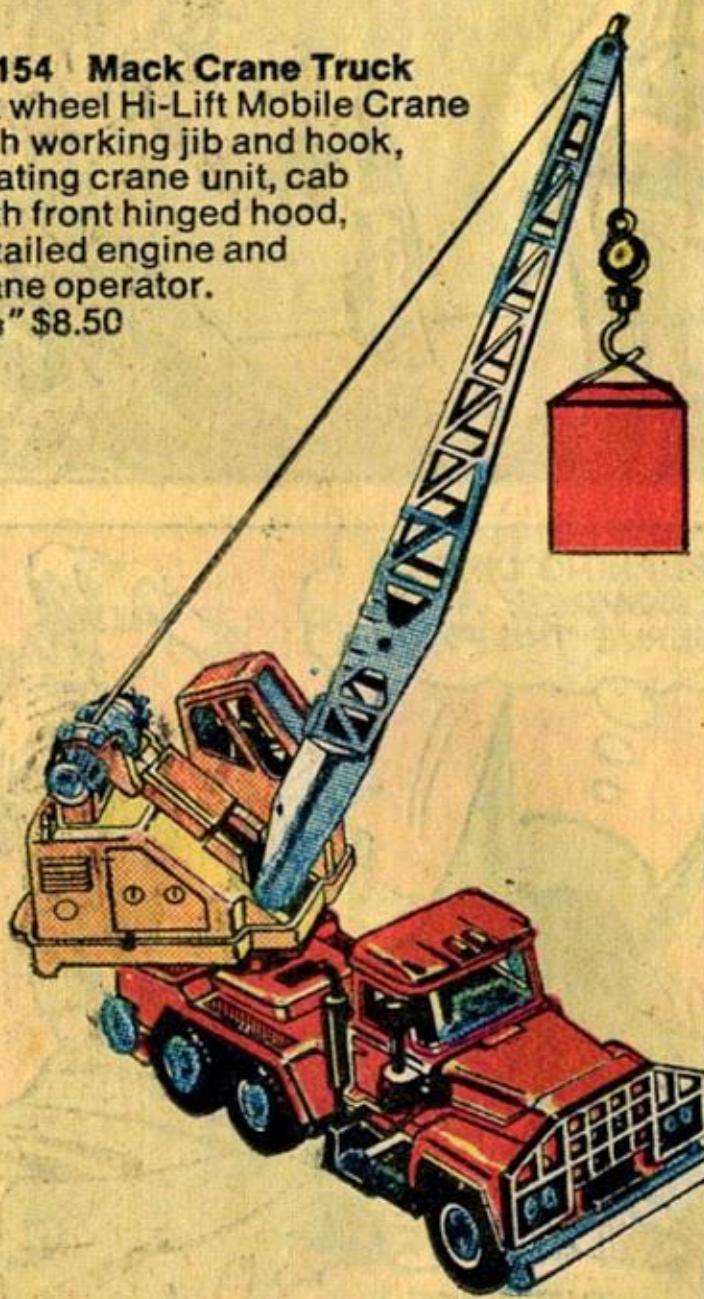
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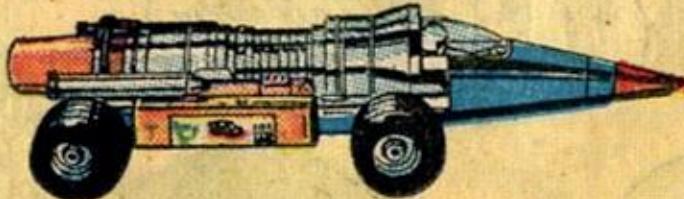
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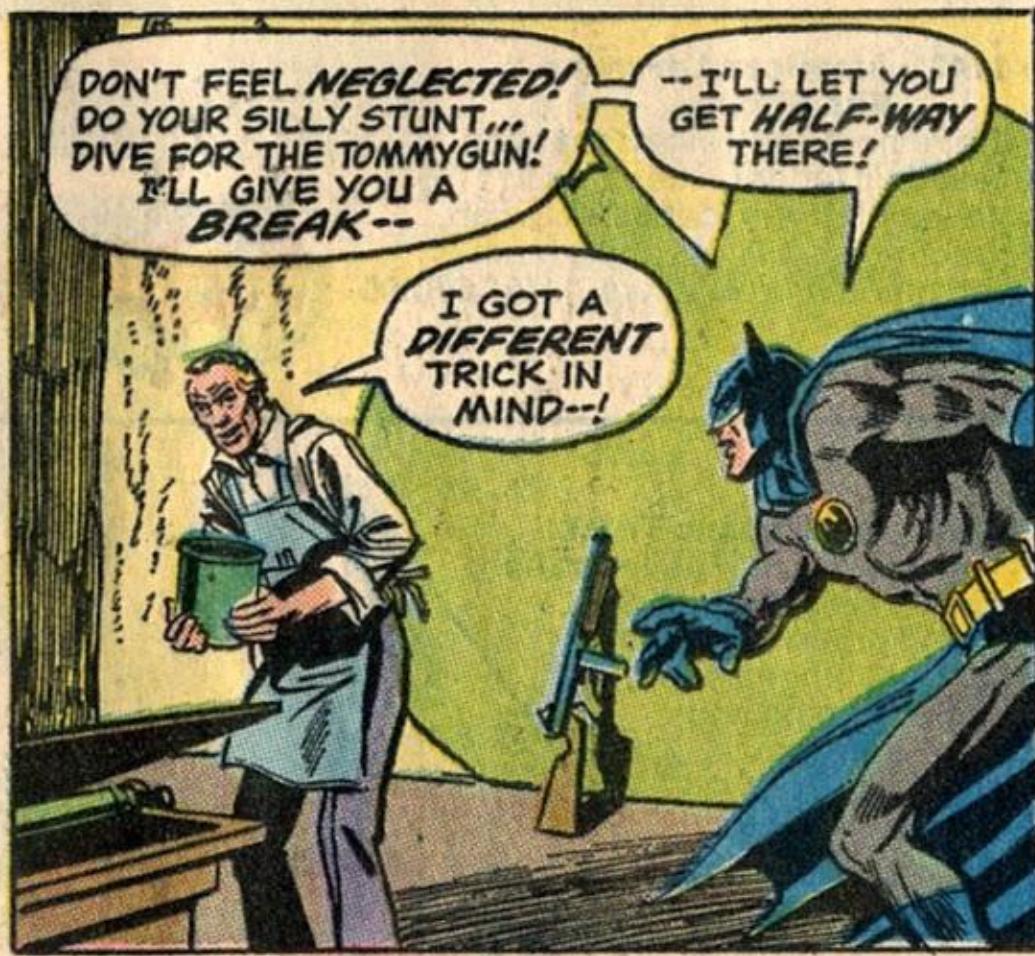
Modelled after the jet propelled Silver Streak, authentic details include safety nose cone, plated engine and driver. 6" \$2.50

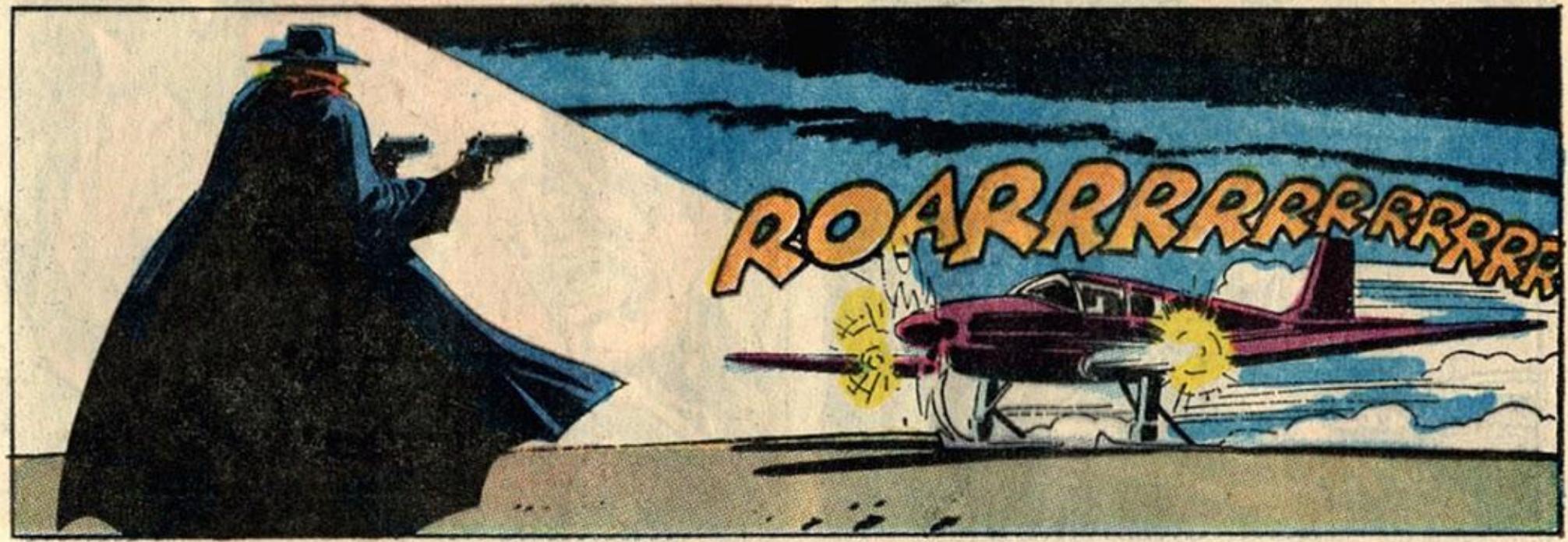
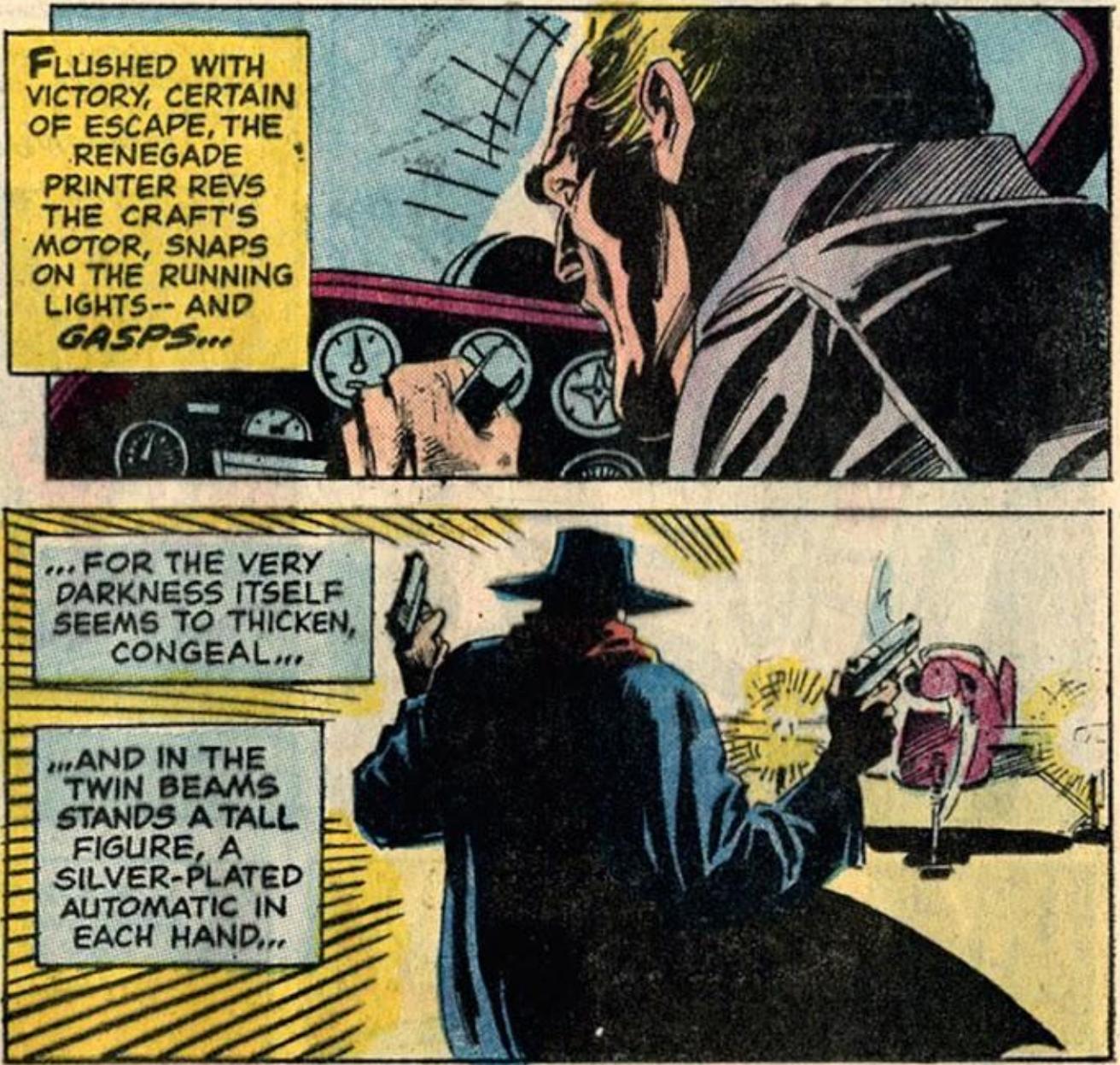
Corgi cars available at toy, hobby and department stores.

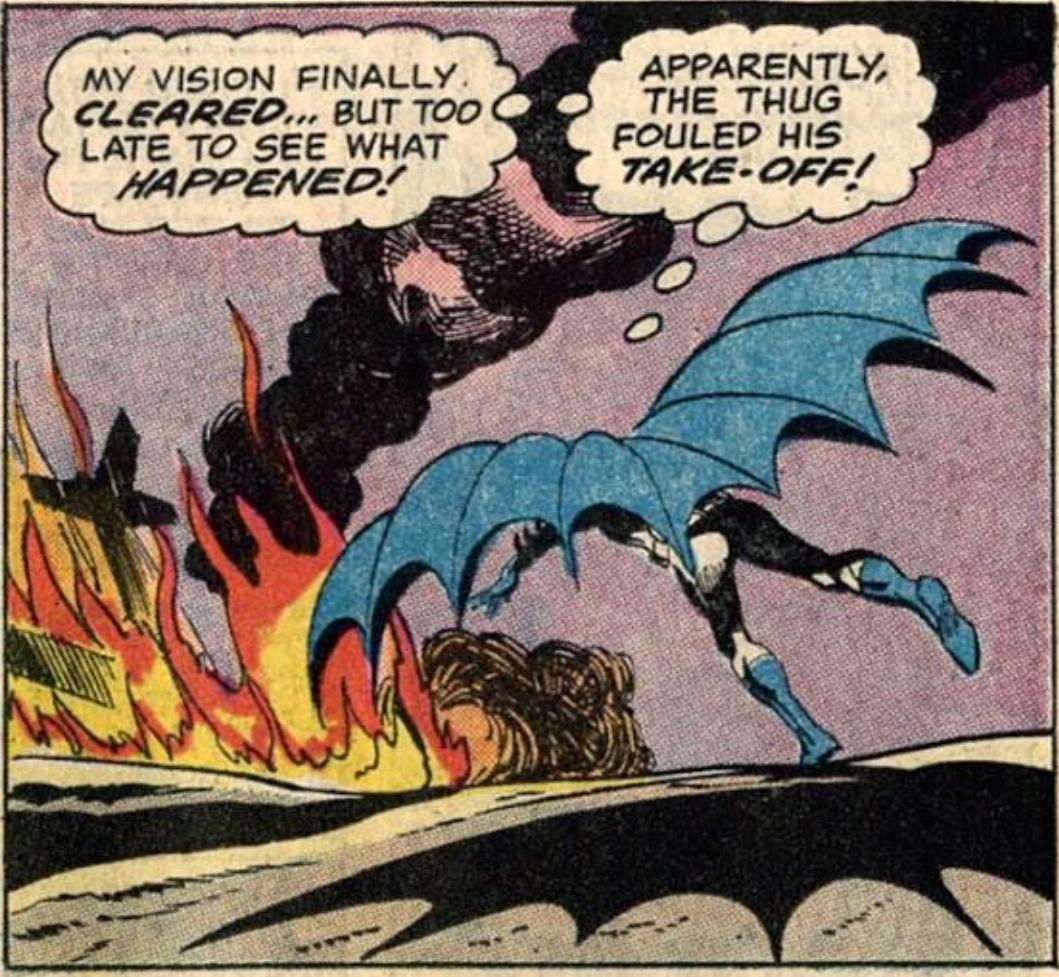
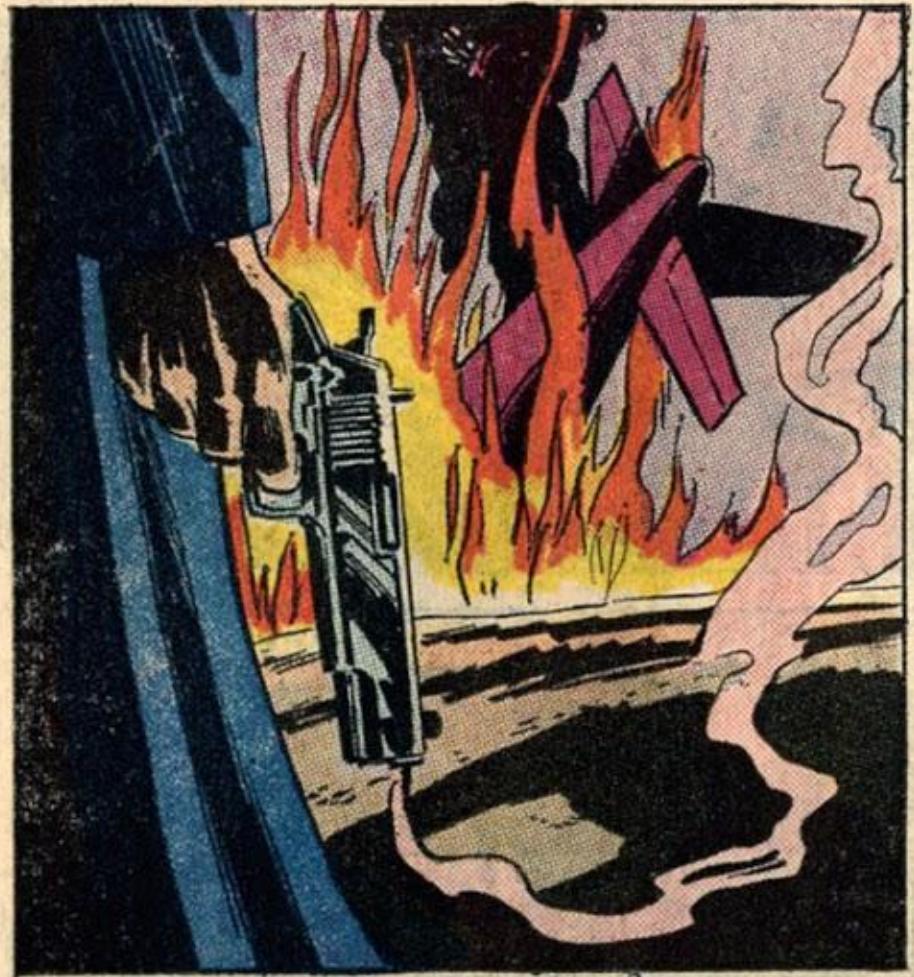


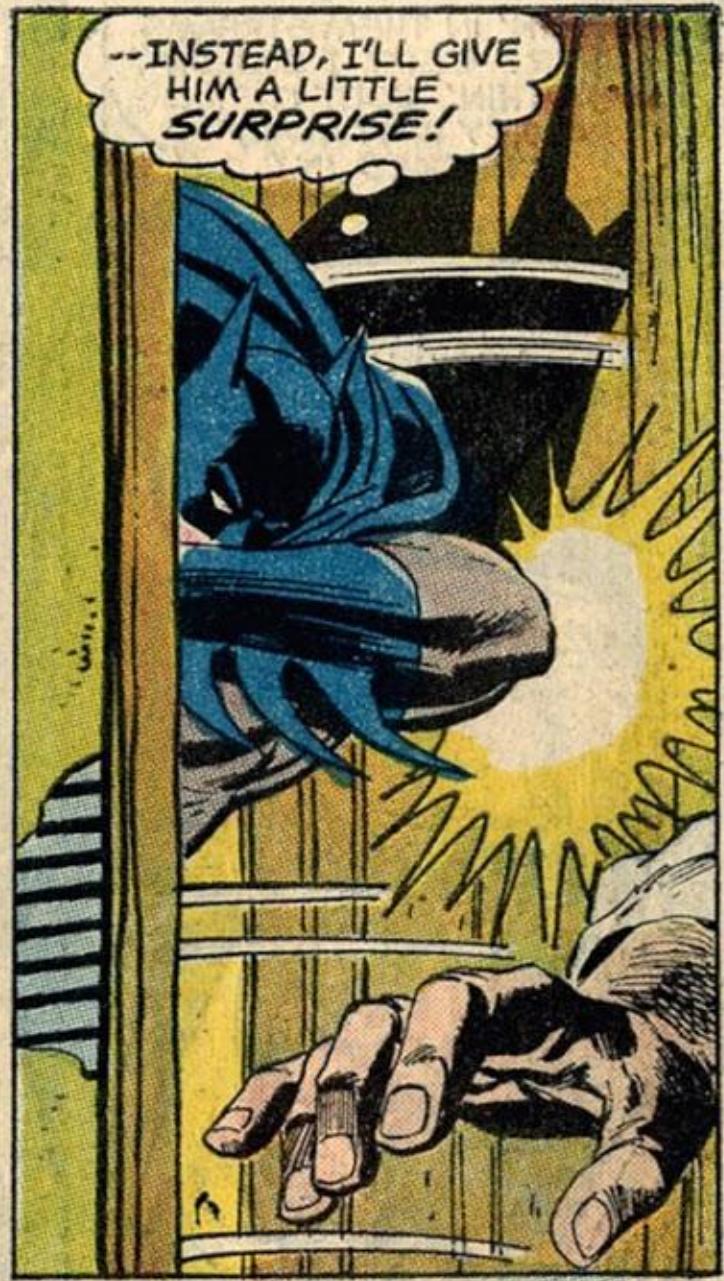
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*SEE PAGE 9, PANEL 4.







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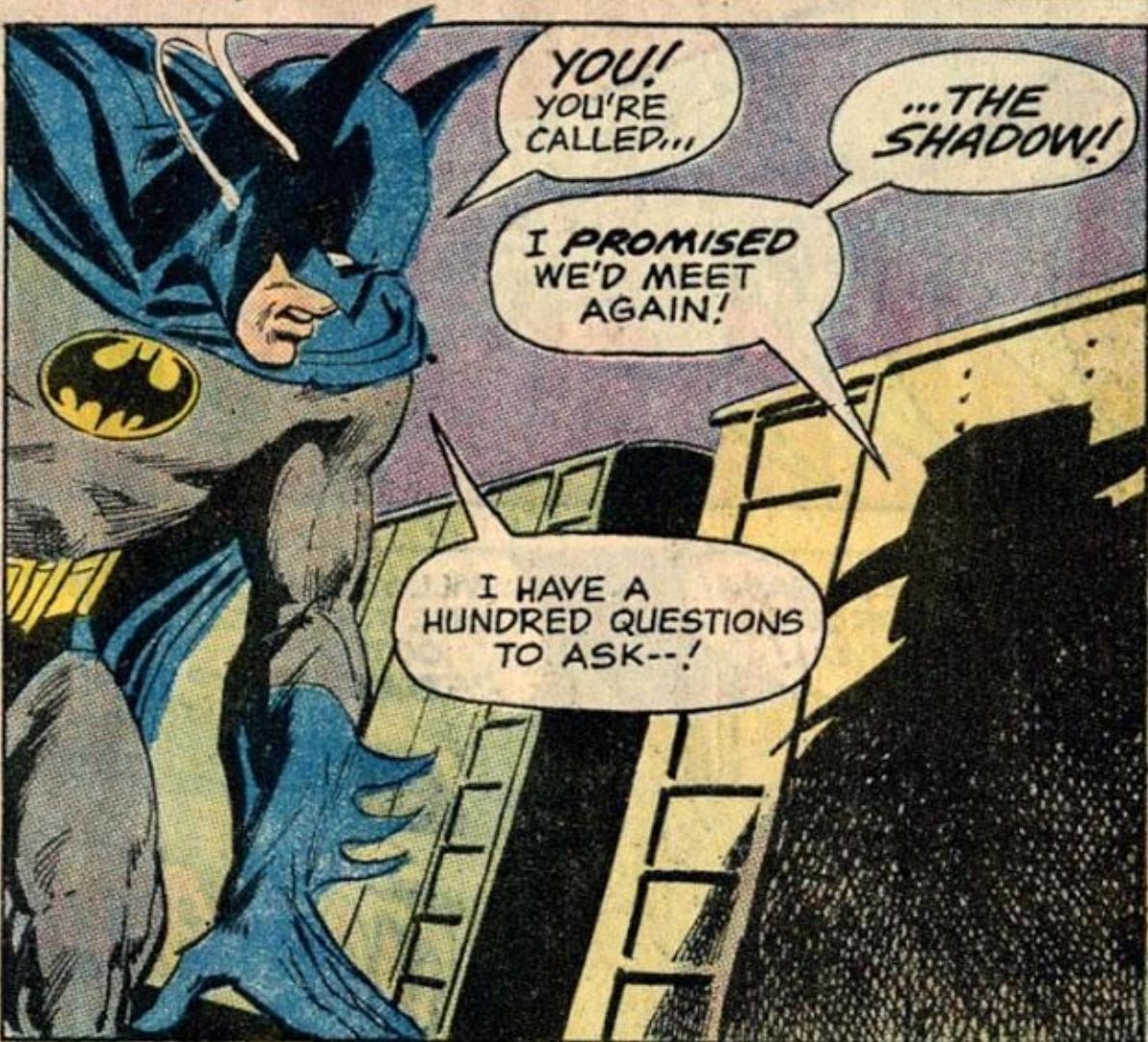
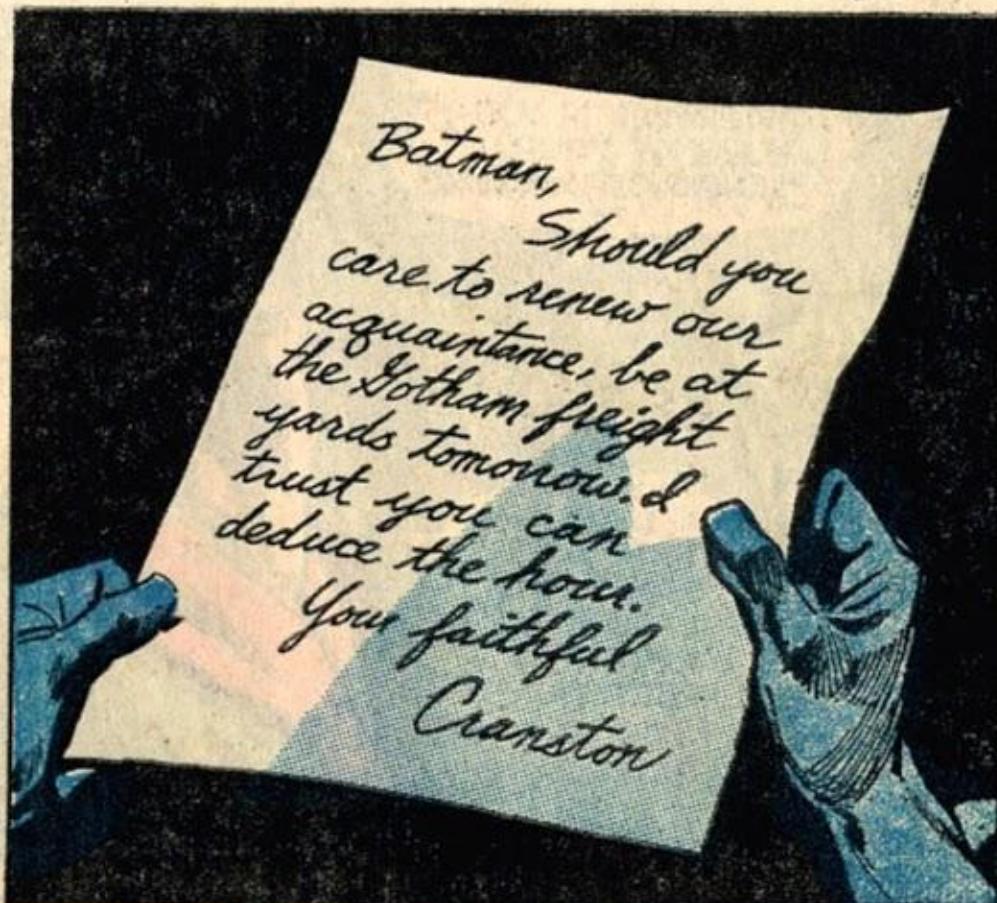
Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knot and... OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a \$5 then the \$5 changes to \$10. A135 1.25

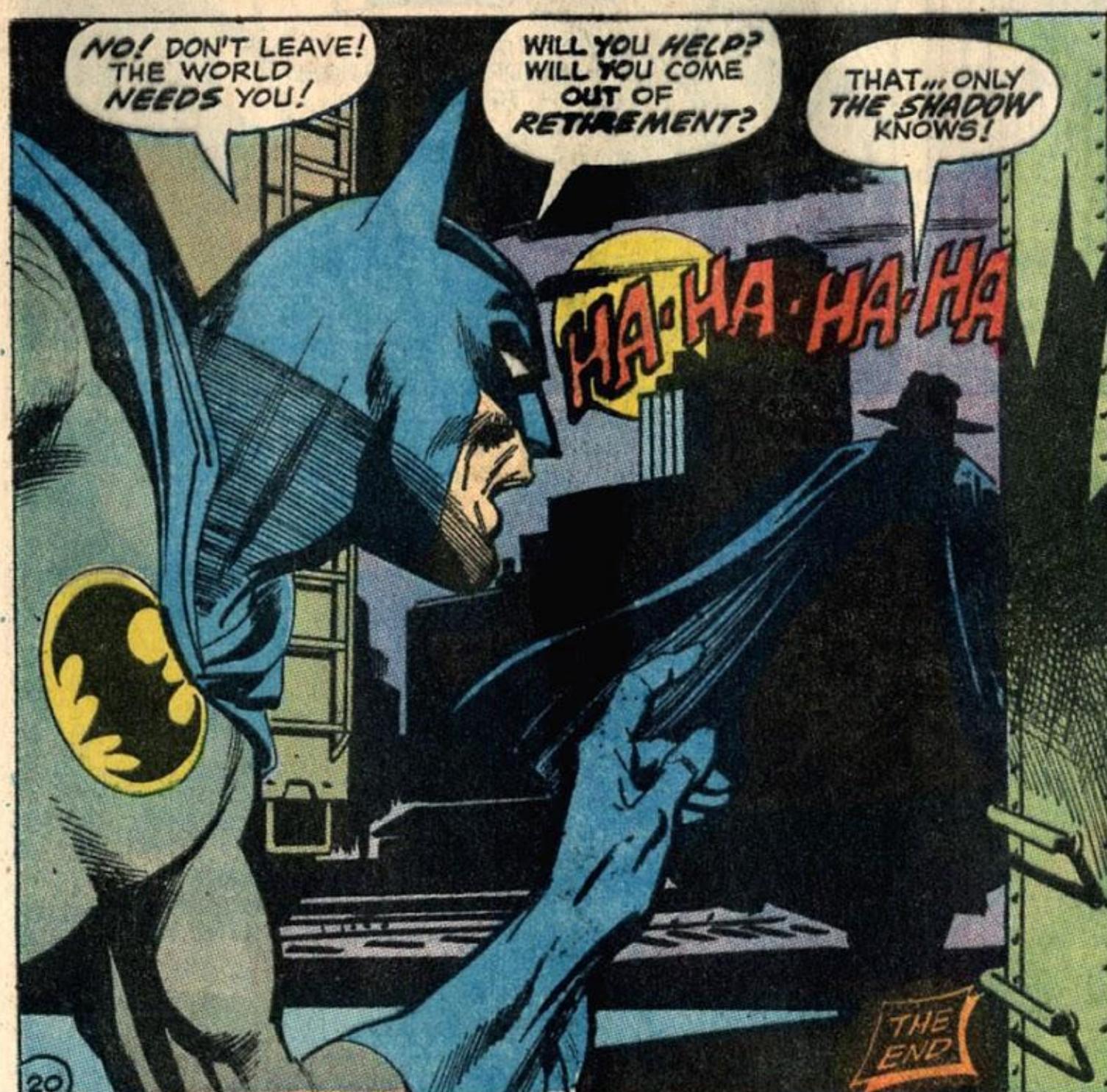
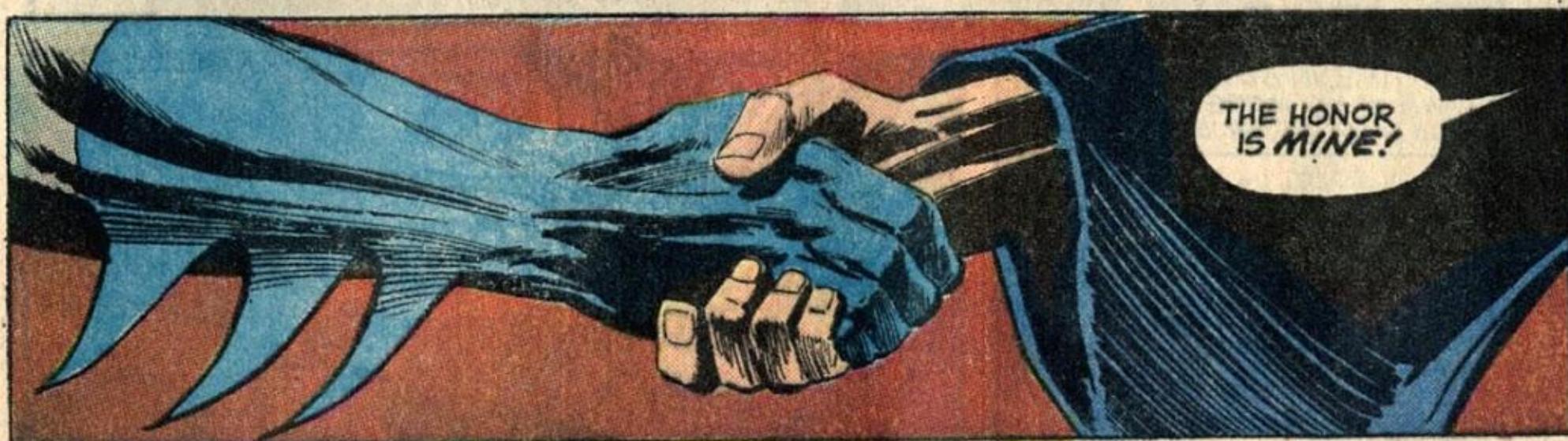
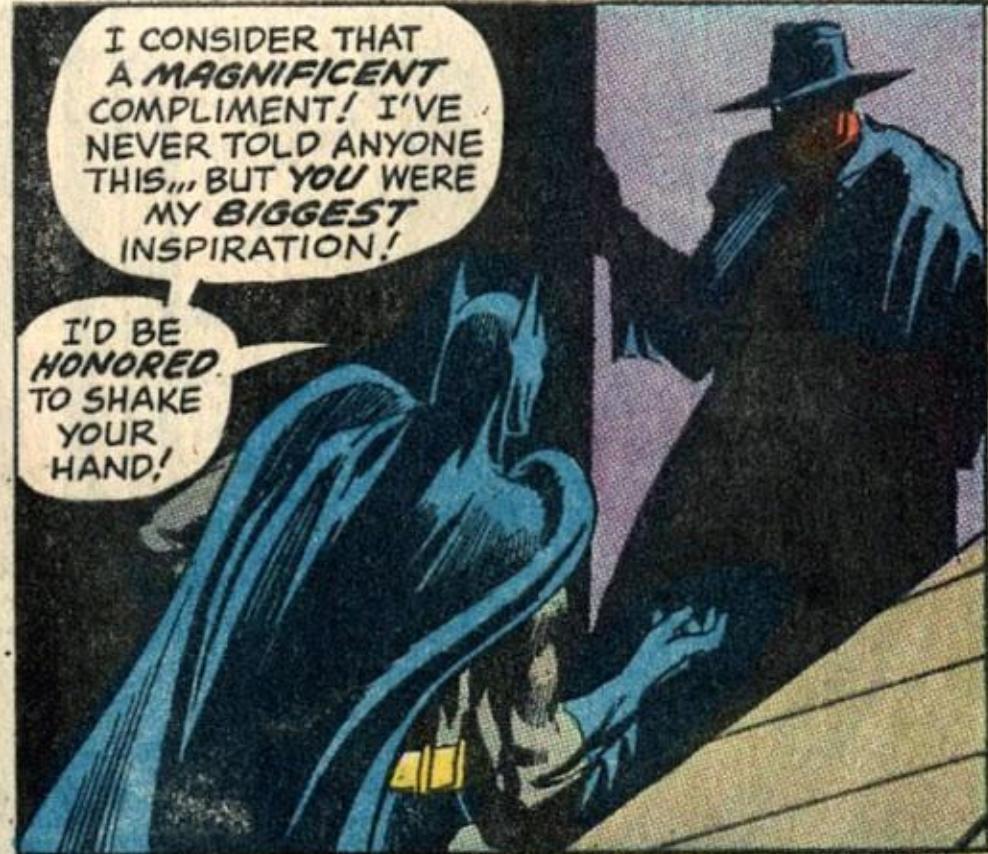
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WHO KNOWS WHAT EVIL LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF MEN--?

THE SHADOW KNOWS!



Dear Editor:

Again I must compliment you on *Batman*, this time issue #250. In "The Deadly Numbers Game," Frank Robbins provided another fine story with an original plot, smooth-flowing form, good construction, and continuity—articles now present in Frank's stories as opposed to his relatively poor stories of about six months ago. He has improved tremendously and I now look forward to reading his work. Irv Novick and Dick Giordano illustrated this tale as well as ever.

Irv Novick also blended well with Frank McLaughlin as shown in "Return of the Flying Grayson," the *Robin* yarn flawlessly scripted by Elliot Maggin.

Frank Robbins batted out another hit with "The Batman Nobody Knows," a short 6-pager. The ending was surprisingly funny when the three boys recognized Bruce Wayne as *The Batman*. Another good Dick Giordano art-solo accompanied the script.

A final thought: I have been pushing for a MONTHLY *Batman*, but giving the subject even more thought, I came to the conclusion that if you had to push for 12 issues a year, the high quality of the stories would not be there, as happens to some magazines that come out too often. So I guess that 8 issues of just about the best comix magazine out today is better than 12 issues of a second-rate one.

PAUL EDWARDS, N. Bellmore, N.Y.

(Believe us, Paul, while we appreciate your acceptance of *Batman* as an 8-times-a-yearer, we would much rather increase the frequency to a monthly—guaranteeing no loss in "high quality"—provided we were guaranteed a corresponding increase in circulation!—JS)



Dear Editor:

I am stunned! *Batman* #250 was more than I expected and here's why:

"The Deadly Numbers Game": Frank Robbins scripted this novelette in the traditional *Batman* style. The style, of course, is the mystery that the Darknight Detective must solve. And what makes it better is when the villain has an intricate method of operation.

"Return of the Flying Grayson": Elliot Maggin hit a homer with this one. I have but one complaint: why would a poster of a group that has been out of business for years be on sale now—and especially after the Graysons had died a gruesome death? I'm willing to let that one pass as well, because Mr. Maggin covered the rest of the elements beautifully, such as the automatic brake on *Robin's* motorcycle. After all, cycles don't grow on trees—they come from plants! Time to move on (oooh!).

"The Batman Nobody Knows": A fine thriller—though it was obvious this tale was played strictly for humor. I see it that these youngsters were envisioning themselves as the *Caped Crusader*—and to impress their friends at the same time, for everyone must know what *The Batman* is really like! I chuckled at the end, because this and

LETTERS to the BATMAN

the *Robin* story ended with kids making monkeys of the *Dynamic Duo*!

Analysis: *Batman* #250 was a triple joy to behold!
CLINT THOMAS, Oak Hill, W. Va.

(Contrast the pleasant aroma arising from this analysis with the "smell" that overwhelmed the next analytical critic.—JS)



Dear Editor:

Frank Robbins' opening story may have been built around a number progression, but it added up to a big zero. Admittedly, one cannot expect a brilliant, full-length tapestry in eleven pages, but Robbins' "The Deadly Numbers Game" was stymied by a lead-balloon conclusion. All of a sudden Gil Adams (a Kane and Neal hybrid?) is Mr. Raven's ward, and notice how smoothly Robbins builds up his punch-line: "Any idea of why he picked on you as his victim? Who are you?" asks *Batman*. There is no transition between these two sentences; it sounds as if *Batman* is reading a cue card. The plot was dead before it was born.

Elliot Maggin's "Return of the Flying Grayson" was a pleasant blend of past and present, but the author falls into the well-trodden trap for comix writers: using narrative for dialogue. On page 3, *Robin* thinks, "Several valuable works of art were recently stolen from the Barton Museum." The point, you see, is that *Robin* knows this already and would not be thinking like this just to let the reader know what's happening.

"The Batman Nobody Knows" was one of Robbins' best stories since he learned the alphabet. He here captures that wonderful world of children's imagination, a world impervious to our poor excuse for reality. The kids regret the real thing; let the adults play their games, we have the facts!

DAVID DASCH, Brooklyn, N.Y.



Dear Editor:

It's been quite a long time since *Batman* has featured three stories and I suppose that the reason was the amount of space needed to weave a really good yarn. Well, that myth is dead with #250.

"The Deadly Numbers Game" was a well-done detective tale, despite the fact that we were given no opportunity to discover the identity of the crook. It was fun just guessing what historic numbers would be used for each crime.

"The Return of the Flying Grayson" was an above par *Robin* story, though I'm puzzled as to why Dick didn't reveal to the boys that he was the same Grayson as the one in the poster.

Finally, my favorite story was "The Batman Nobody Knows!" Frank Robbins has taken a good story idea and turned it into a delightful story. The ideas about *The Batman* that the three boys had were cute and well-done. As for Bruce's appearance in costume, I got a good chuckle out of it. Let's have more of these human interest shorties in the future. They serve as a nice change-of-pace from the usual stories.

BOB ROZAKIS, Elmont, N.Y.



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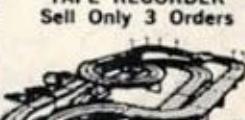


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Sell Only 4 Orders

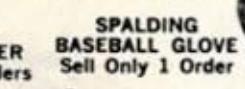


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SLUMBER BAG
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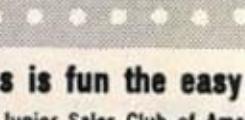
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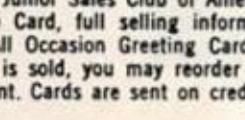
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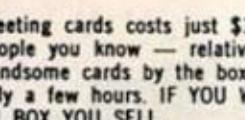
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ARCHERY SET
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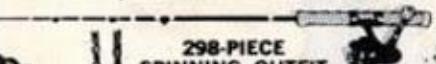


DROOPY DOG
RADIO
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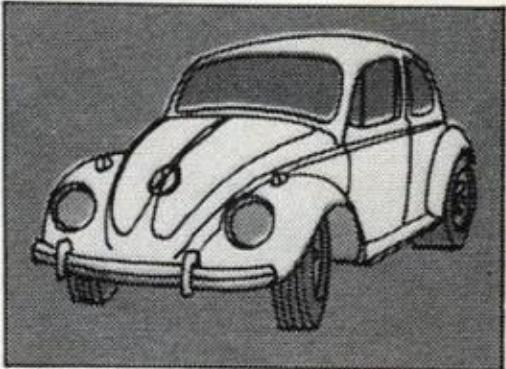
Parent's Signature _____

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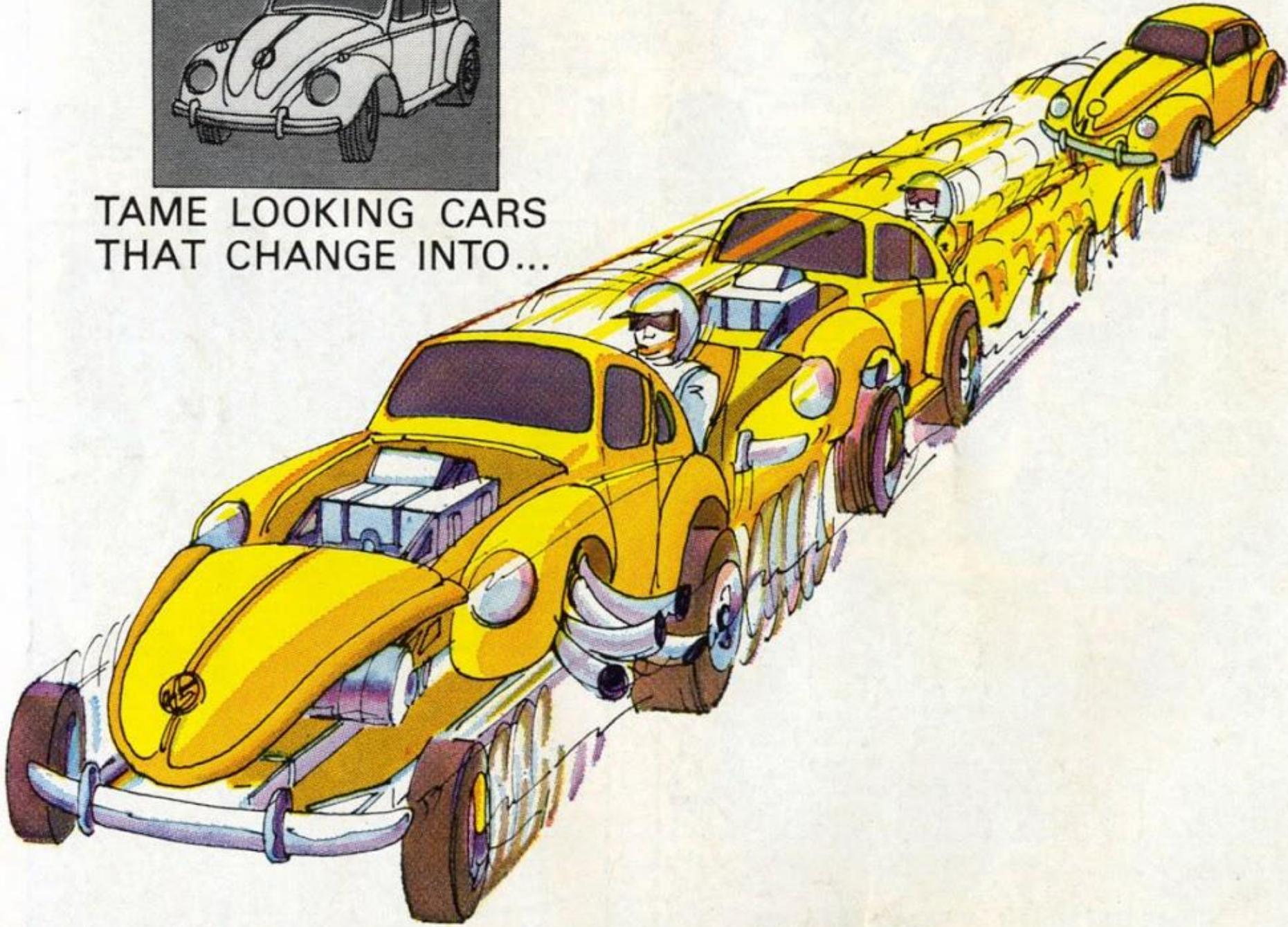
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THE IMPOSTERSTM

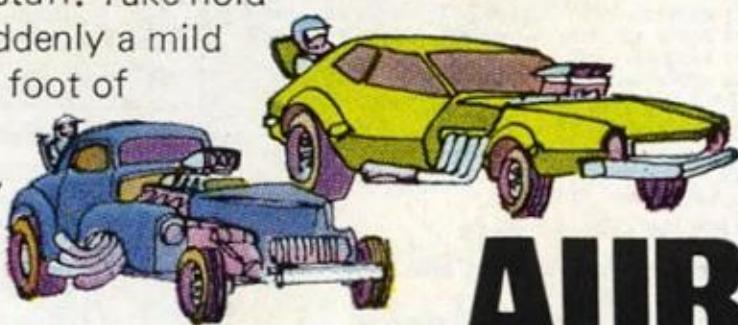


TAME LOOKING CARS
THAT CHANGE INTO...



MEAN RACING MACHINES

The Imposters. You have to see them do their stuff. Take hold of the stick shift and get ready for a shock. Suddenly a mild mannered street machine changes into nearly a foot of road gobbling racing machine. Front end out. Engine up. 400 cubes. Then up pops the driver, ready to cut down all comers. The Imposters. They're a lot more car than meets the eye.



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