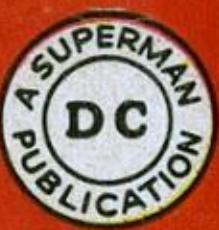
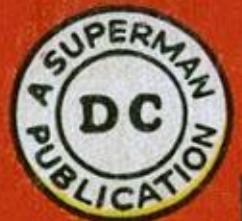


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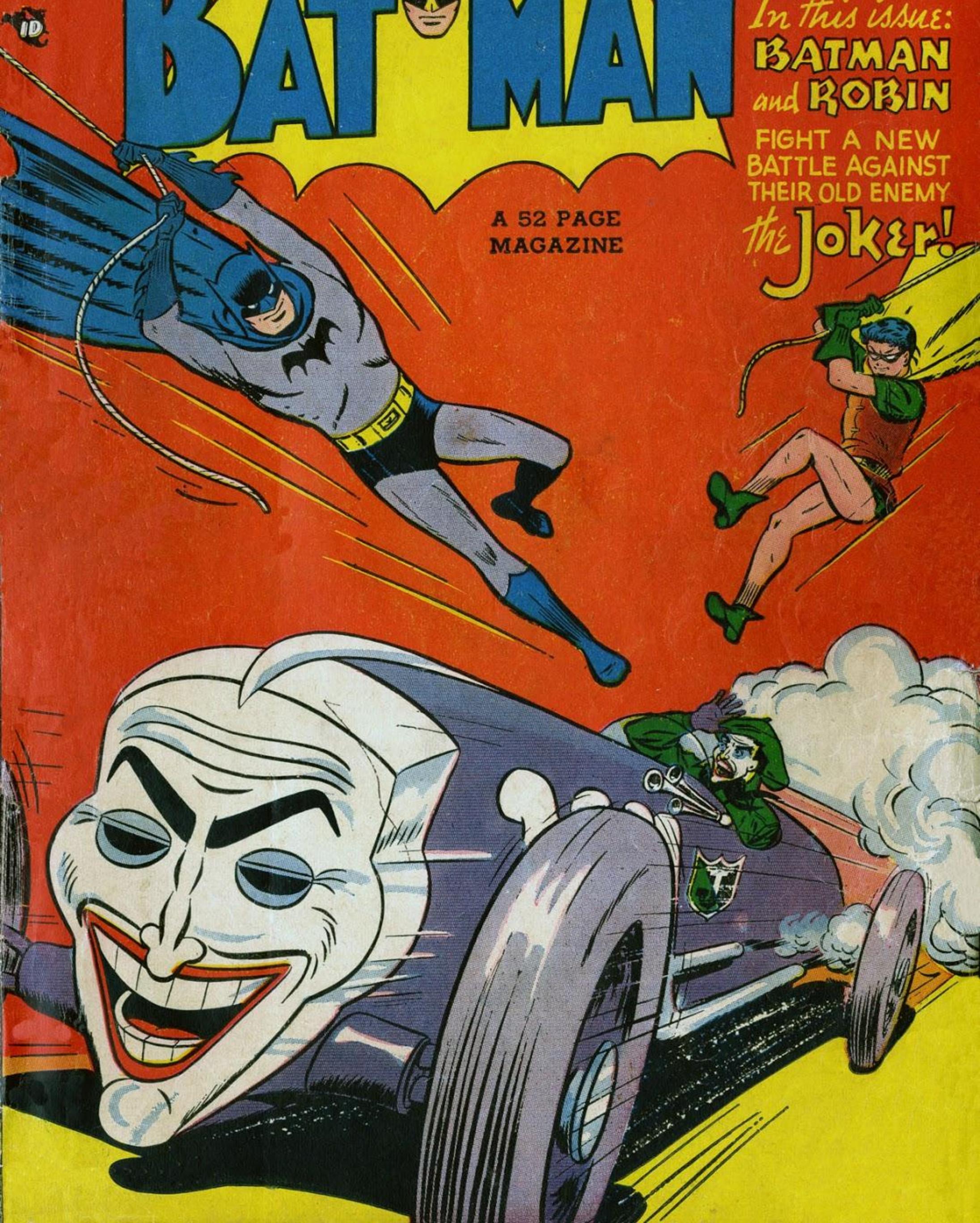
TEN CENTS



BATMAN

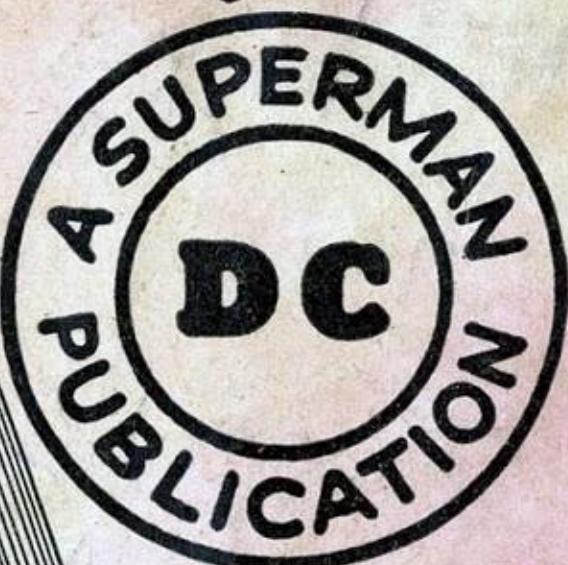
A 52 PAGE
MAGAZINE

In this issue:
BATMAN
and **ROBIN**
FIGHT A NEW
BATTLE AGAINST
THEIR OLD ENEMY
the Joker!



NOW MORE THAN EVER

~LOOK
FOR THIS
FAMOUS
SYMBOL!



THERE ARE
MORE COMICS ON THE NEWS-
STANDS THAN EVER BEFORE
- SOME GOOD, SOME BAD,
SOME AVERAGE...

THAT'S WHY IT'S MORE
IMPORTANT THAN EVER
FOR YOU TO LOOK FOR
THE **SUPERMAN-DC**
SYMBOL AT THE TOP OF
EVERY COMIC MAGAZINE
YOU BUY! IT'S YOUR
GUARANTEE OF THE **BEST**
IN COMIC READING!

**TOP VALUE
IN THE TOP
MAGAZINES!**

BATMAN

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

BY
Bob Kane

DO YOU REMEMBER ALFRED, BRUCE WAYNE'S TRUSTED BUTLER, THE OVER-ZEALOUS, WOULD-BE SHERLOCK WHO MANAGES TO GET INVOLVED IN THE ODDEST ADVENTURES? WELL, GOOD OLD ALFRED, THE ONLY PERSON EXCEPT ROBIN WHO KNOWS THAT BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN, TANGLES WITH A MONSTROUS MASTER-CRIMINAL WHO ALSO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW BATMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY—AND WHO HAS PERFECTED THE MEANS OF EXTRACTING THIS WORLD-SHAKING INFORMATION FROM UNIQUE INVENTIONS WHICH MAKE HIM KNOWN AS...

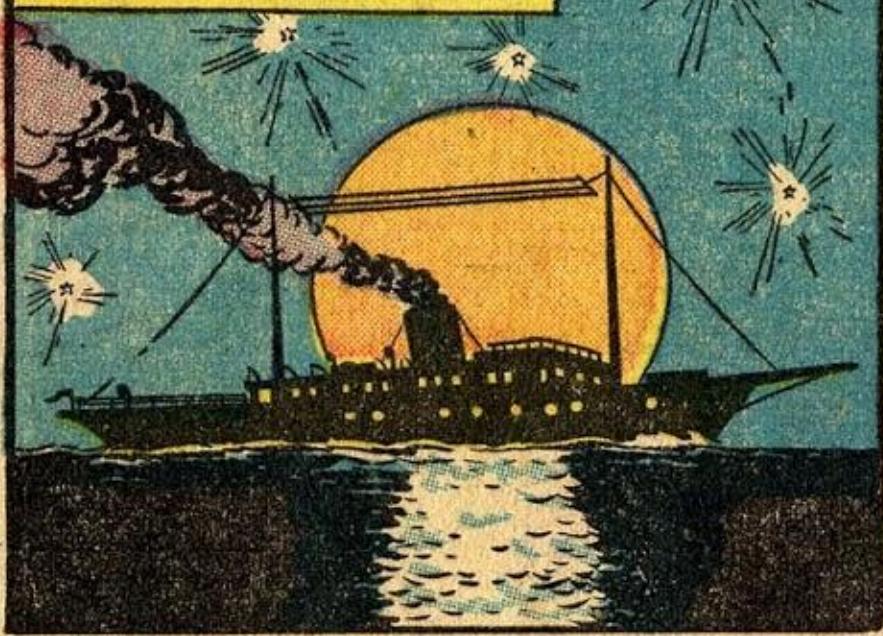
"**THE MAN WITH THE AUTOMATIC BRAIN!**"

BATMAN
WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE

ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

BATMAN

ON A STAR-SPRAYED SUMMER NIGHT,
THE YACHT "CAROLINA" PLIES
STEADILY SOUTHWARD ON ITS
GALA MAIDEN VOYAGE, ITS
PASSENGERS UNAWARE OF
IMPENDING DISASTER!



ABOARD, FESTIVITY IS
THE KEYNOTE OF GOTHAM
CITY'S CAFE SOCIETY
AS...

METHINKS MISS VICKI
VALE DOETH TAKE TOO MANY
PICTURES OF OUR HANDSOME
PLAYBOY, BRUCE WAYNE! ARE
THEY FOR PICTURE MAGAZINE—
OR YOUR DIARY?

MEOW!

AND ELSEWHERE
IN THE SALON...

WASN'T IT THOUGHTFUL
OF BRUCE TO PROVIDE US
WITH ALFRED FOR THE
VOYAGE? YOU'VE DONE
WONDERS, ALFRED!

THANK YOU,
SIR.



BUT, SCARCELY AN HOUR
LATER, WHEN VICKI GOES ON
DECK FOR A BREATH OF AIR,
THE GAIETY IS SHATTERED
ABRUPTLY WHEN...

WHAT'S
GOING ON
OVER THERE?
IS THAT YOU,
ALFRED?

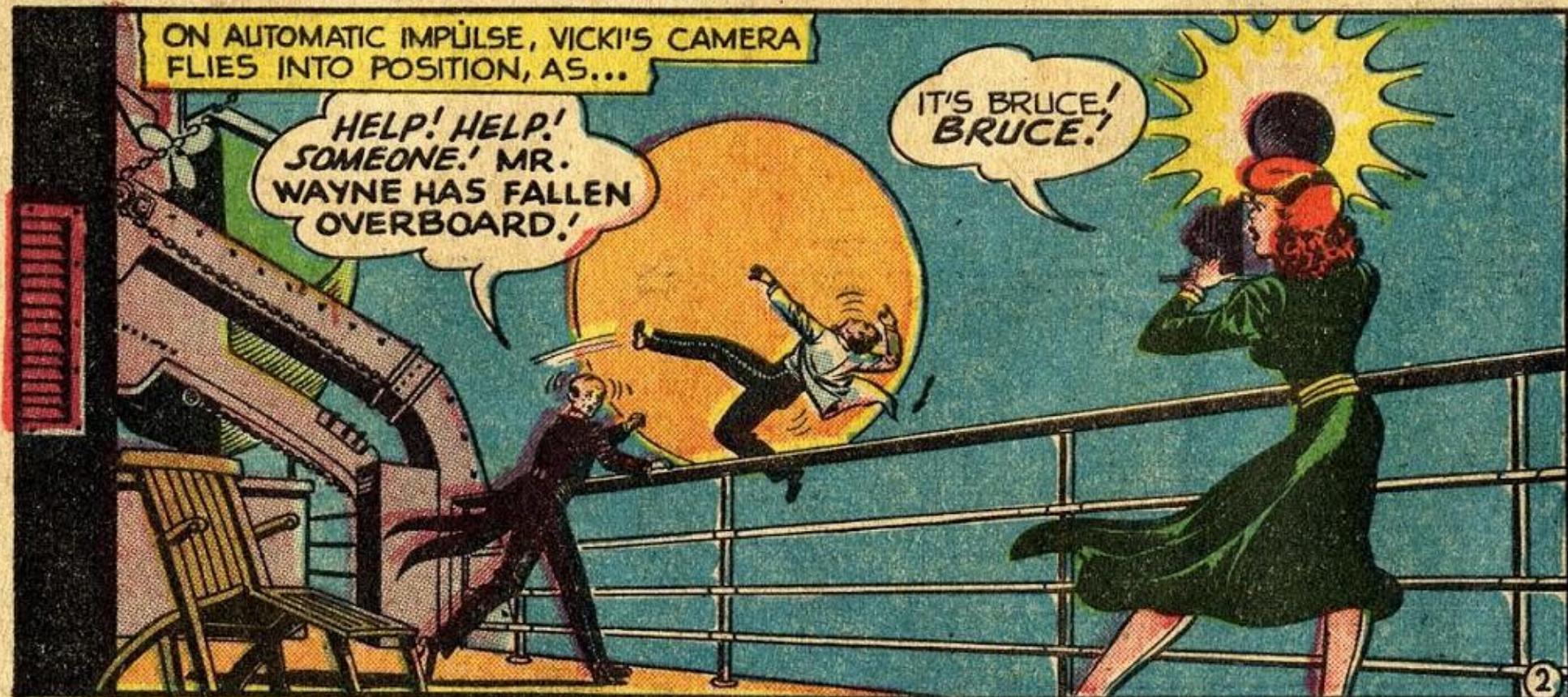
DON'T DO IT, MR.
WAYNE! YOU'LL LOSE
YOUR BALANCE!
PLEASE, SIR—
COME BACK!

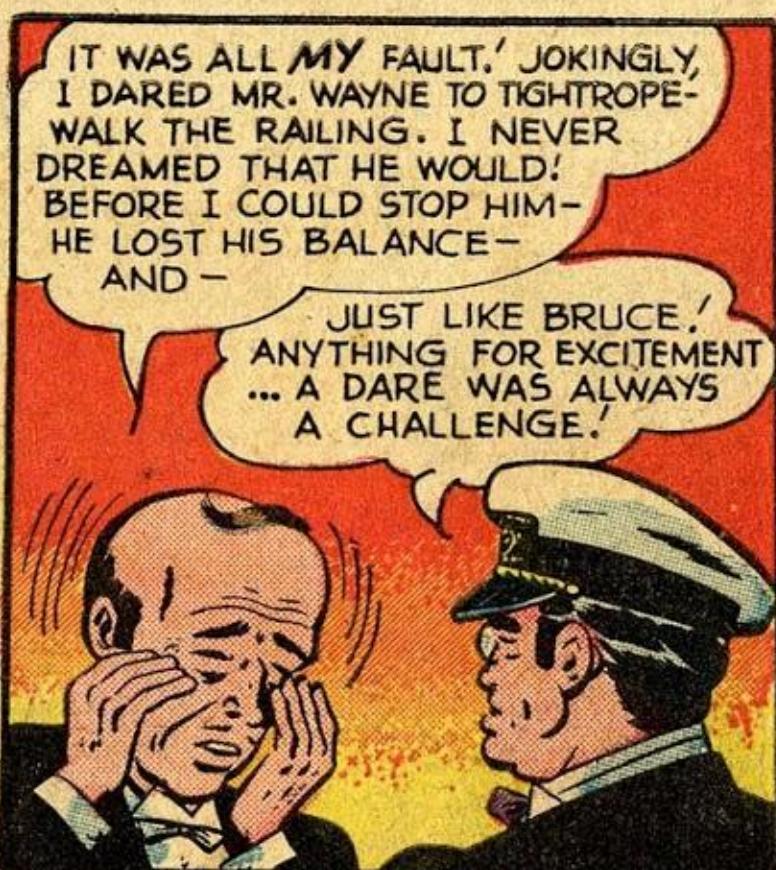
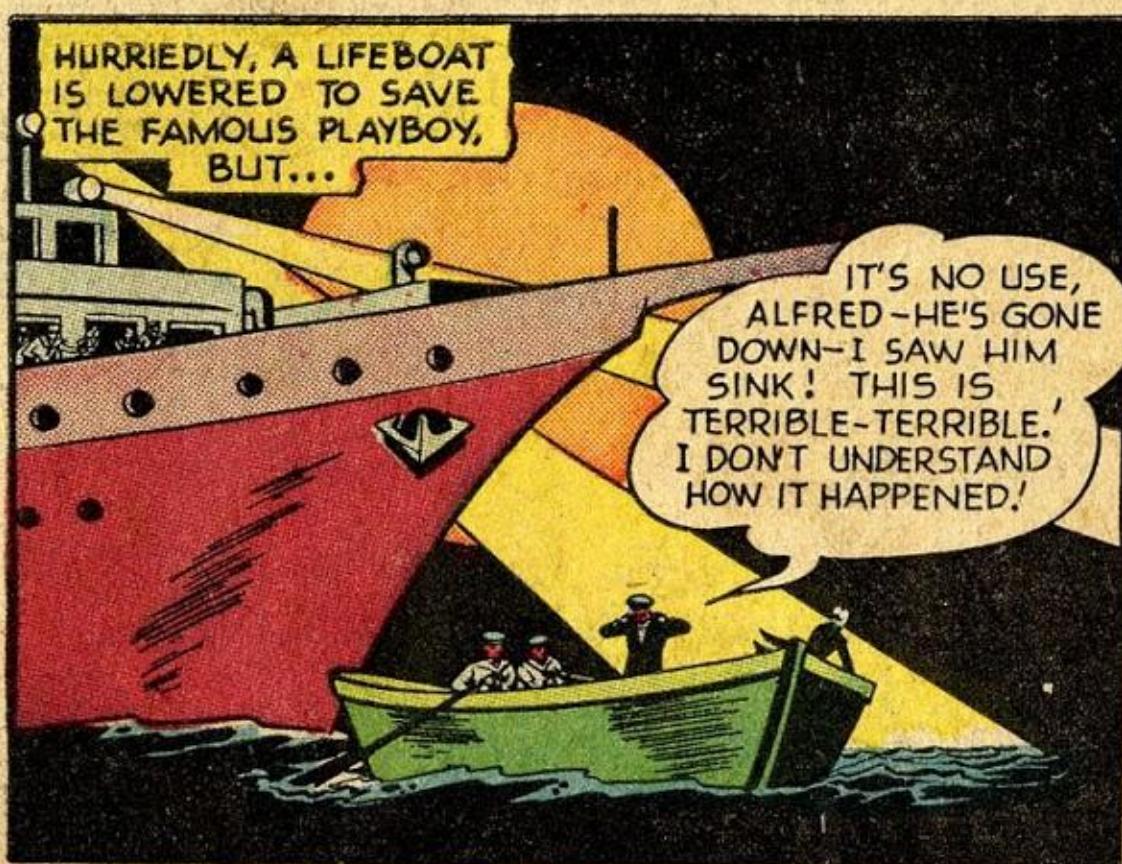


ON AUTOMATIC IMPULSE, VICKI'S CAMERA
FLIES INTO POSITION, AS...

HELP! HELP!
SOMEONE! MR.
WAYNE HAS FALLEN
OVERBOARD!

IT'S BRUCE!
BRUCE!





BATMAN

PROTESTING IN VAIN,
ALFRED IS BOOKED
ON SUSPICION OF
MURDER, AS...

I TELL YOU
SIR - IT'S OPEN
AND SHUT! WE'VE GOT
THE MOTIVE NOW, TOO!
THE BUTLER INHERITS A
FORTUNE UNDER THE
TERMS OF BRUCE
WAYNE'S WILL!

DID ALFRED **MURDER** BRUCE?
OR WAS IT REALLY AN ACCIDENT?
FOR THE AMAZING TRUTH, WE
MUST TURN BACK TIME...

OH, DEAR -
NOW I'M **REALLY**
IN A JAM! AND
BATMAN CAN'T
HELP ME ANY
MORE!

... BACK TO ANOTHER DAY
IN GOTHAM CITY SPRAWLING,
PULSING GIANT OF A TOWN...
WHERE A MILLION SEPARATE
DRAMAS UNFOLD EACH
MOMENT... INCLUDING THE
STARK TRAGEDY OF **CRIME**!

LIKE TWIN METEORS,
BATMAN AND **ROBIN** STREAK
INTO ACTION!

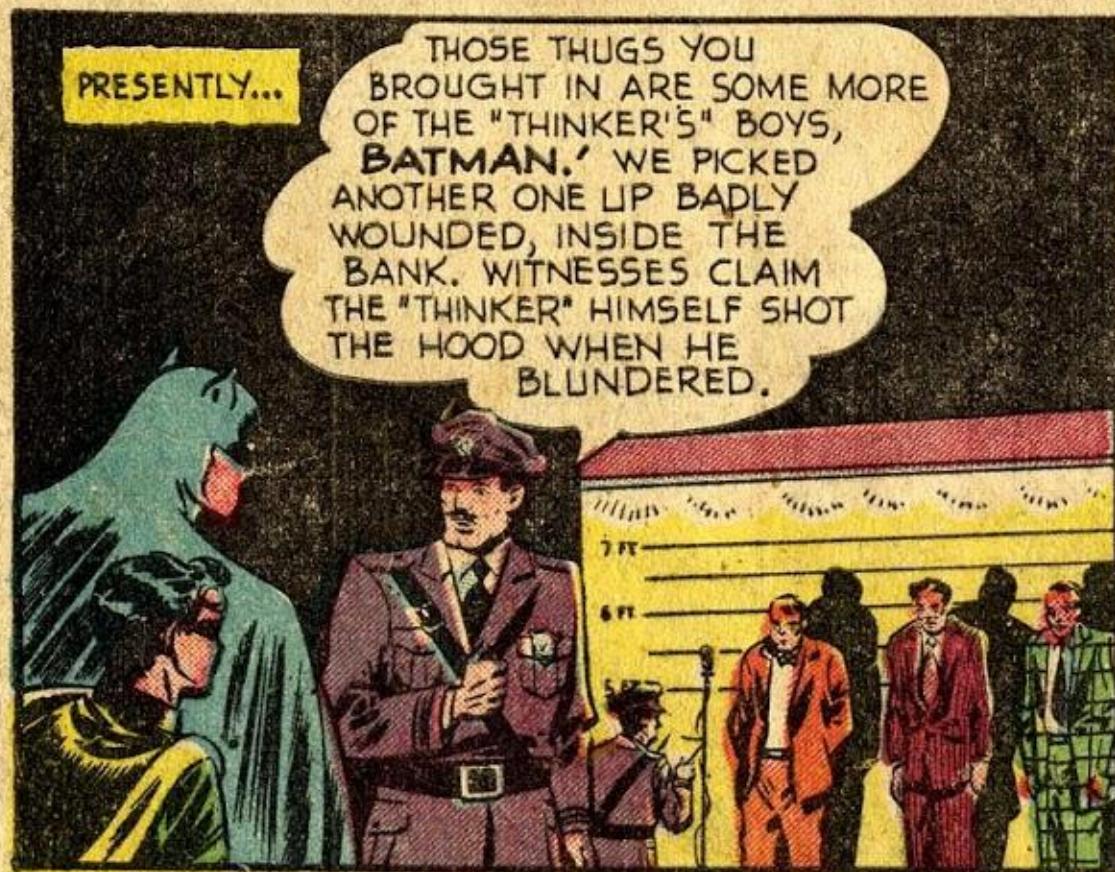
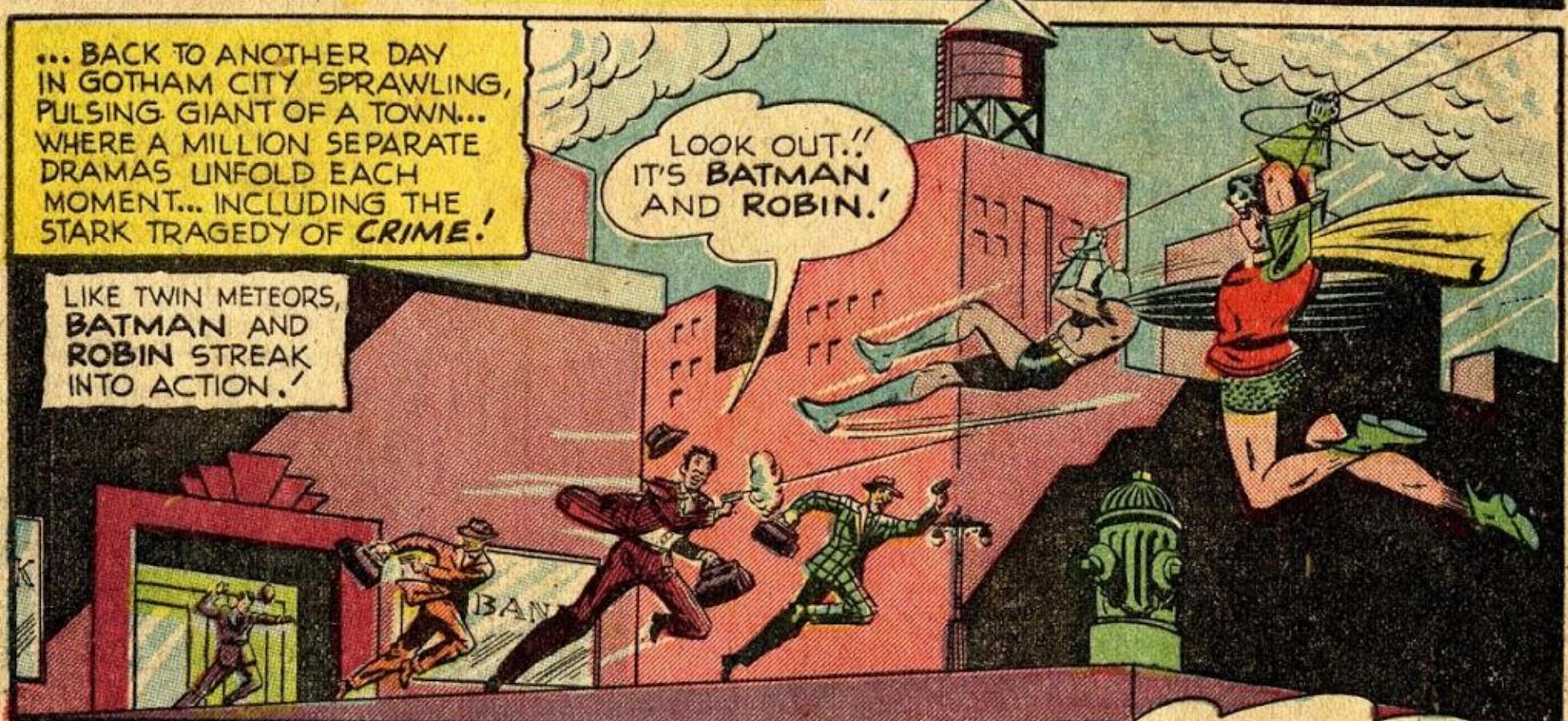
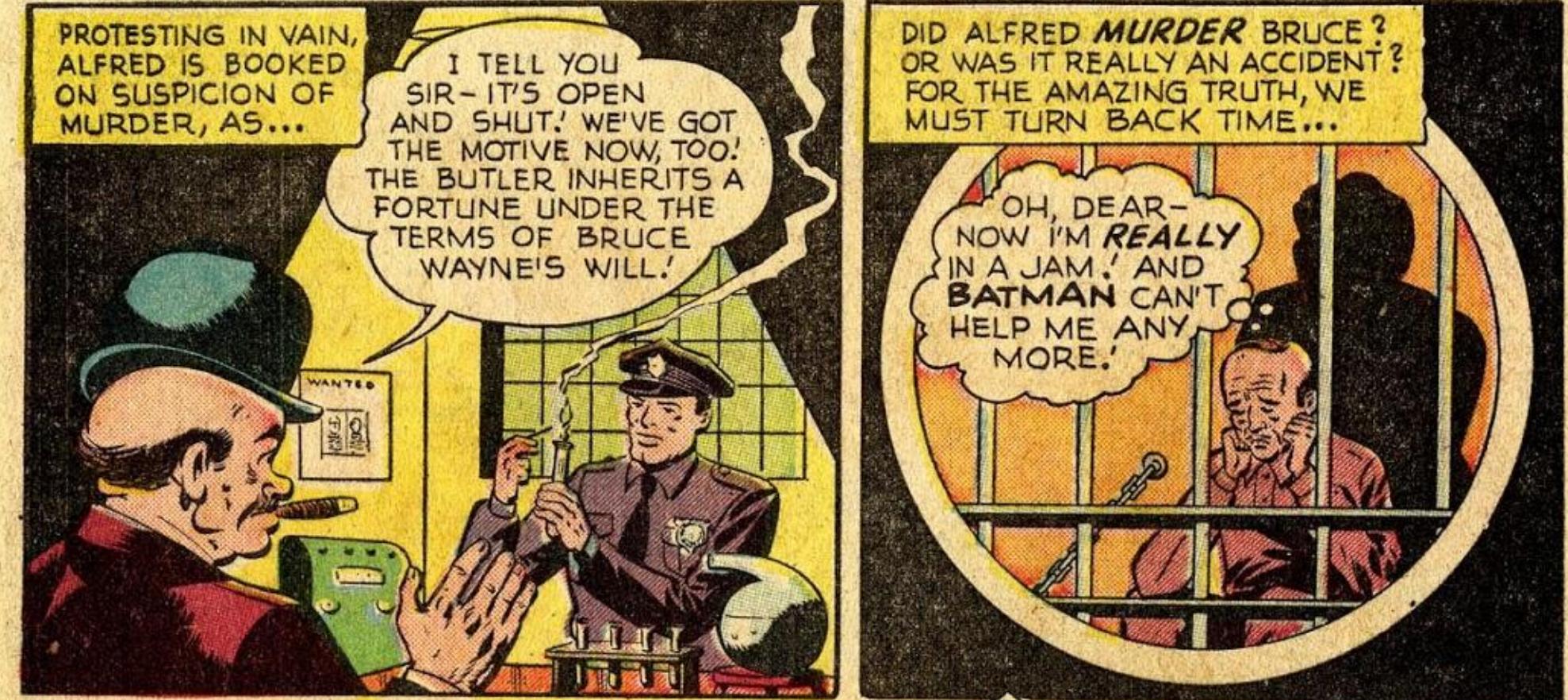
LOOK OUT!!
IT'S **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN**!

PRESENTLY...

THOSE THUGS YOU
BROUGHT IN ARE SOME MORE
OF THE "THINKER'S" BOYS,
BATMAN. WE PICKED
ANOTHER ONE UP BADLY
WOUNDED, INSIDE THE
BANK. WITNESSES CLAIM
THE "THINKER" HIMSELF SHOT
THE HOOD WHEN HE
BLUNDERED.

SOON
AFTER...

THE "THINKER" IS ONE
OF THE MOST FIENDISH CRIMINALS
OF OUR TIME, **ROBIN**! A MAN
WHO EMPLOYS SUPER-HUMAN
"THINKING MACHINES" TO PLAN
EVERY INCH OF HIS CRIMES - A
METHODICAL MONSTER WE'D
BETTER TRACK DOWN AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE.



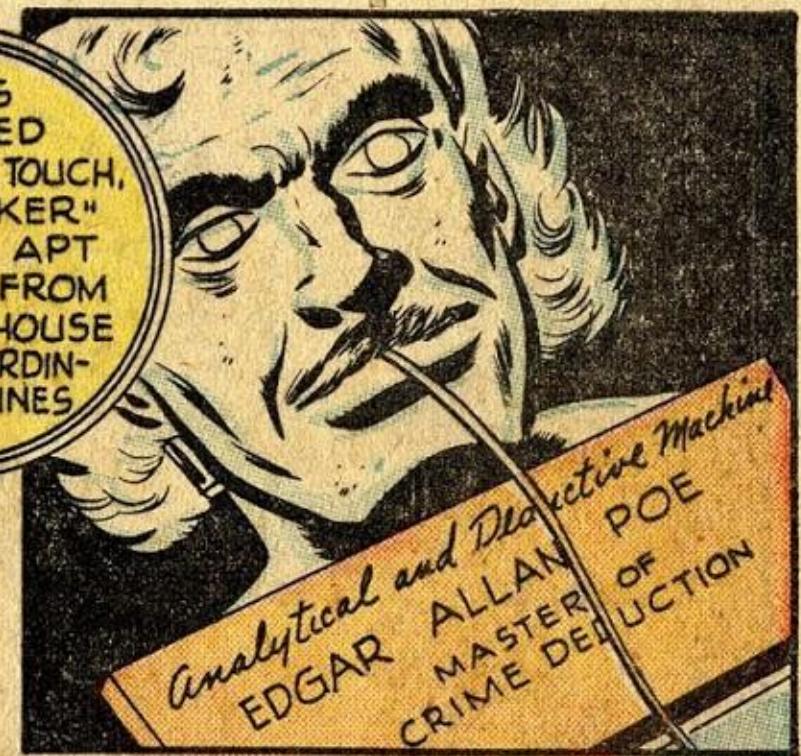


AND HERE, HEWN IN NEARBY MOUNTAINS, IS THE "THINKER'S" AMAZING, GIANT HIDEOUT!

AND AS AN ADDED DIABOLICAL TOUCH, THE "THINKER" CHOOSES APT FIGURES FROM HISTORY TO HOUSE HIS EXTRAORDINARY MACHINES . . .

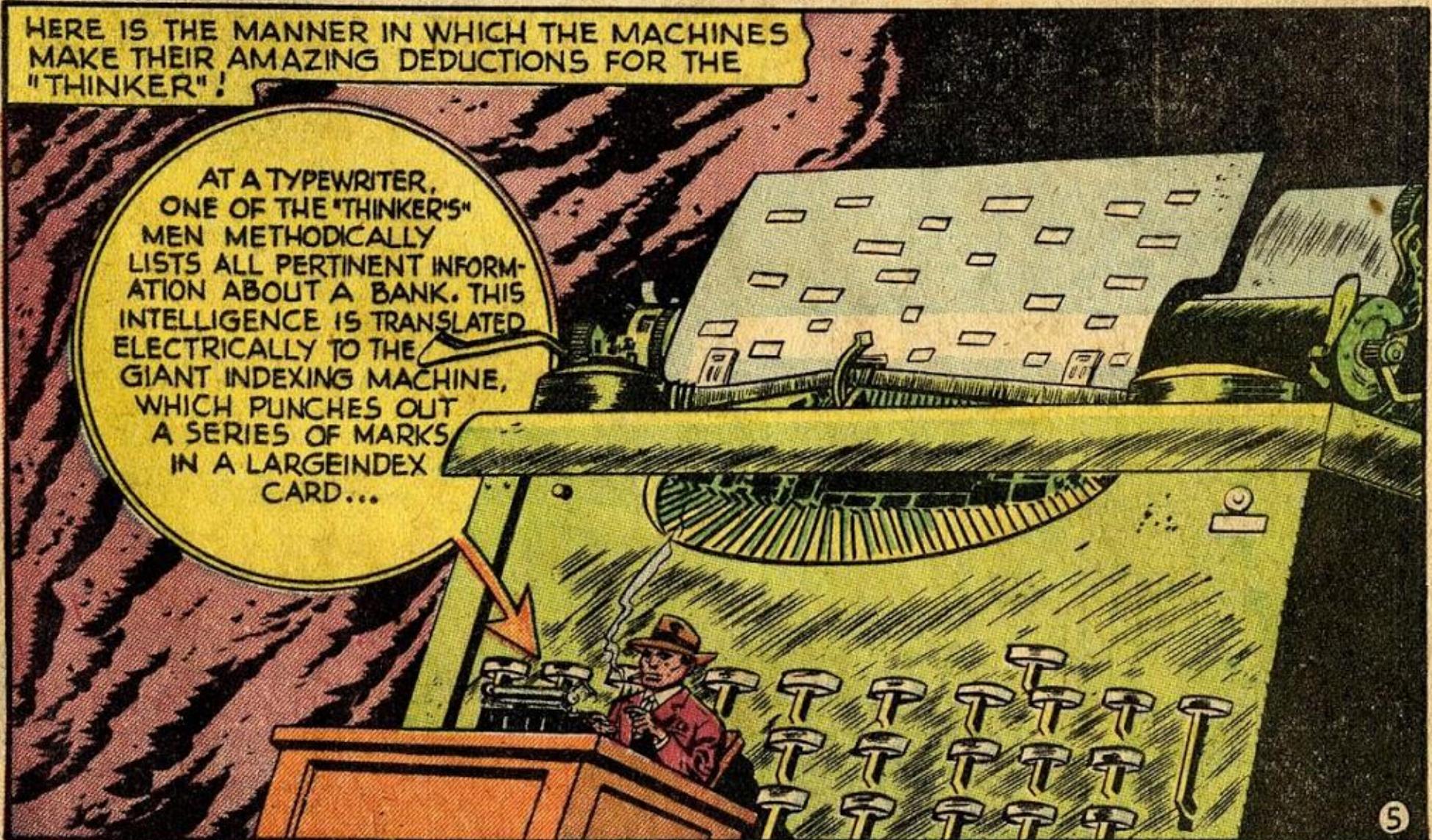


NO—THIS IS NO MUSEUM! WITHIN EACH CHISELED SKULL IS LODGED AN ELECTRONIC "AUTOMATIC BRAIN"—A "THINKING MACHINE" CAPABLE OF REDUCING IN HOURS A PROBLEM THAT MIGHT TAKE HUMANS MONTHS TO SOLVE!

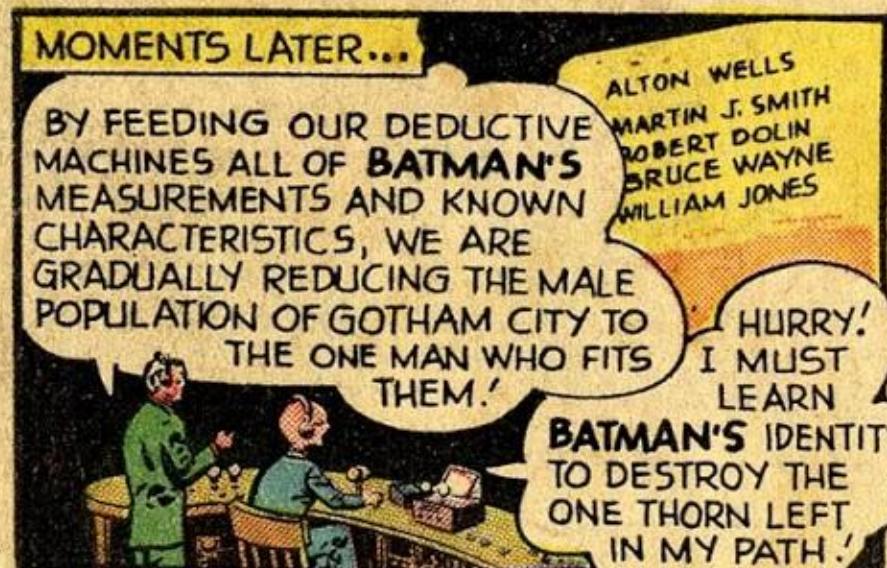
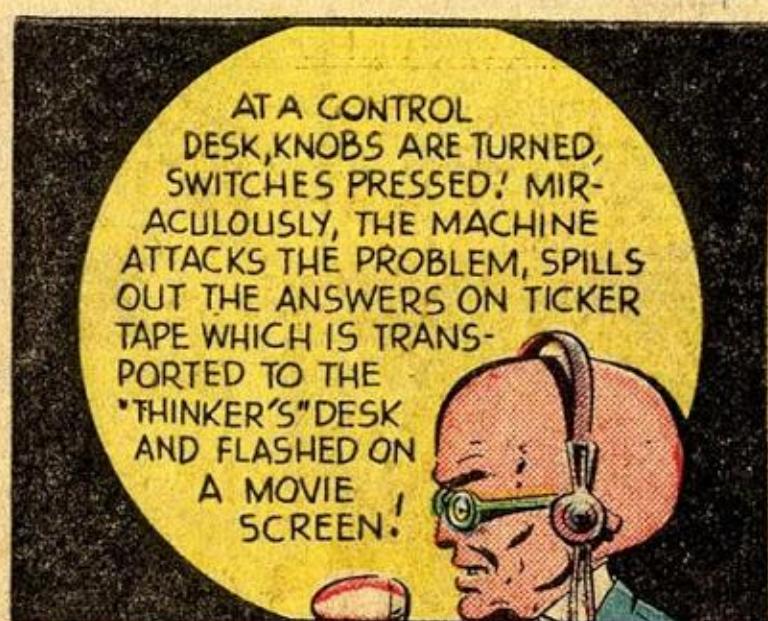
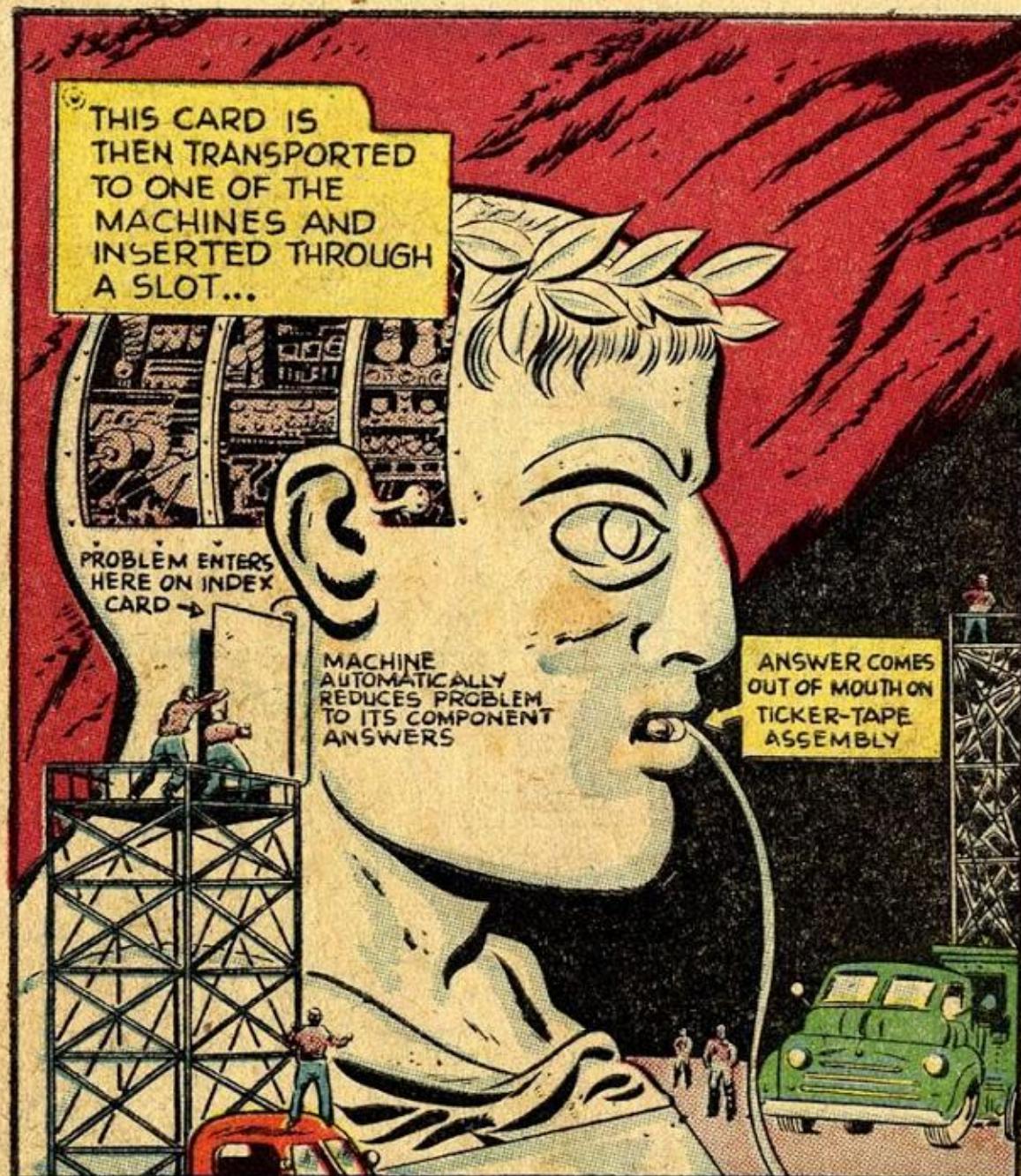


HERE IS THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MACHINES MAKE THEIR AMAZING DEDUCTIONS FOR THE "THINKER"!

AT A TYPEWRITER, ONE OF THE "THINKER'S" MEN METHODICALLY LISTS ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION ABOUT A BANK. THIS INTELLIGENCE IS TRANSLATED ELECTRICALLY TO THE GIANT INDEXING MACHINE, WHICH PUNCHES OUT A SERIES OF MARKS IN A LARGE INDEX CARD . . .



BATMAN



BATMAN

DC PUBLICATIONS
RETURNING TO THEIR REGULAR ROLES AS PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON . . .

"DEAD", THE "THINKER" WILL BE THROWN OFF THE TRACK. IT'S A STALLING TACTIC THAT MUST BE UNDERTAKEN AT ONCE—AND THIS DUMMY FROM OUR COLLECTION WILL HELP DO THE TRICK!

I'LL ARRANGE FOR ALFRED TO SAIL WITH ME TOMORROW ON THE 'CAROLINA'. AT A PREDETERMINED TIME, I'LL DISAPPEAR AND YOU, ALFRED, WILL DUMP THE DUMMY OVERBOARD AND FAKE AN ACCIDENT!

WHEN WATER REACHES THIS POWDER, IT WILL HARDEN INTO STONE AND SINK THE DUMMY. IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT THREE MINUTES... ENOUGH TIME FOR WITNESSES TO SEE ME "DROWN"!

AND THUS IT IS THAT BRUCE WAYNE IS "DEAD AT SEA". A CLEVER PLAN THAT WORKS TO PERFECTION... EXCEPT FOR THE UNEXPECTED TWIST OF ALFRED BEING HELD FOR MURDER!

I CAN'T TELL THE TRUTH! THAT WOULD DESTROY THE HOAX AND PUT BATMAN AT THE "THINKER'S" MERCY. OH, DEAR...

THAT AFTERNOON, POLICE ALLOW A LAWYER TO VISIT ALFRED...

SHHHH! SIT TIGHT—DON'T WORRY. I'LL FIGURE A WAY OUT FOR YOU. MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT TO MAKE SOME APPEARANCES AS BATMAN, SO THAT HE AND BRUCE WAYNE ARE FOREVER DISASSOCIATED! I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN!

WHILE THE NEWSPAPERS STILL BURN WITH STORIES OF BRUCE WAYNE'S MURDER, BATMAN ROARS AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD WITH RENEWED FRENZY TO MAKE SURE HIS PRESENCE IS KNOWN TO THE "THINKER"!

BATMAN

COME AND
GET ME, COPPERS!
UGH - IT'S
BATMAN!

I'VE NEVER
SEEN THE **BATMAN**
LIKE THIS. IN THE PAST
FEW DAYS, HE'S BEEN
LIKE AN AVENGING
MADMAN!

MEANWHILE,
IN PRISON...

SO YOU'RE THE GUY
WHAT RUBBED OUT WAYNE,
EH? YA DON'T LOOK SO
TOUGH TA ME!

GOODNESS - MUSTN'T
LET THESE CHAPS CATCH
ON - HAVE TO PLAY THE
PART...

OH, YEAH? EVER HEAR
OF THE MORTON AXE
MASSACRE, AND THE
KING KELLEY KILLINGS?
THAT WAS MORE
OF MY WORK,
BUB!

LATER, IN THE
PRISON YARD...

I GUESS YOU'RE
THE MCCOY, PAL.
THE "THINKER"!
COULD USE A
GUY LIKE YOU!

THE "THINKER"!
HMM - I'LL STRING
ALONG...

LISTEN, PAL -
THE "THINKER'S"
GONNA SPRING US
GUYS TONIGHT!
WANNA COME
ALONG AND
JOIN THE
OUTFIT?

MAYBE I CAN
TRAP THE "THINKER"!

COUNT
ME IN, BUB!

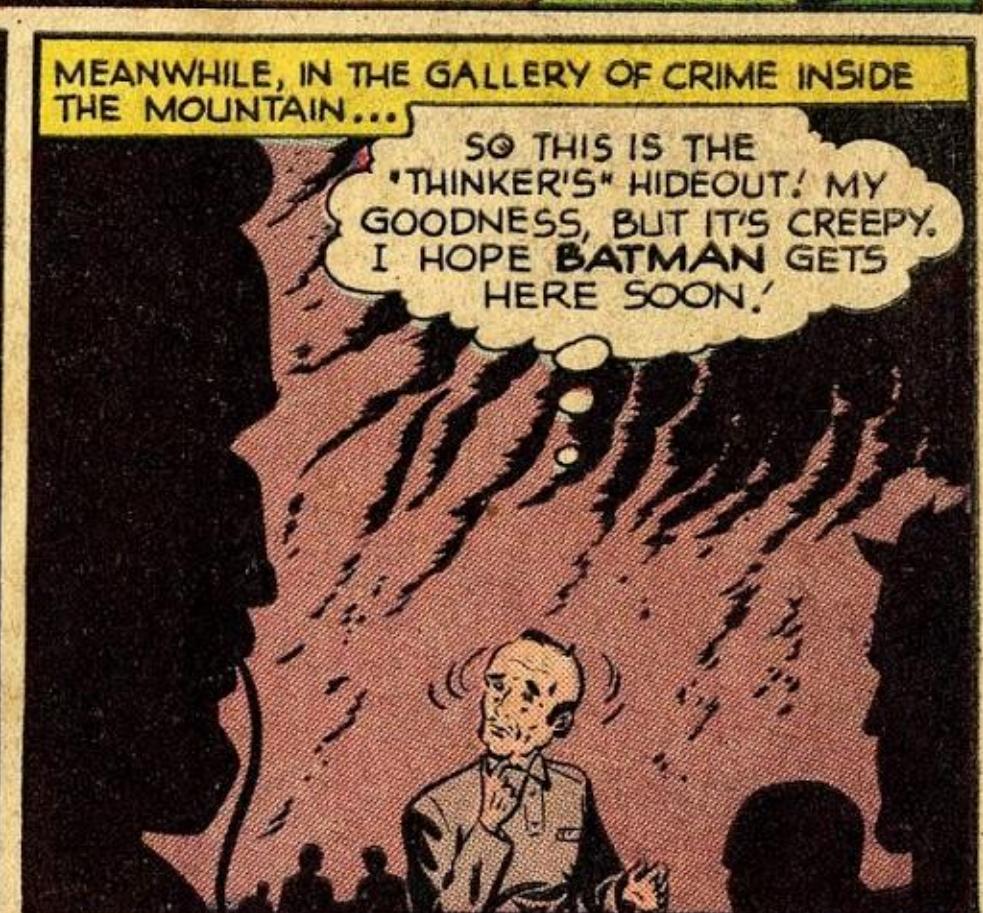
AND, SHORTLY AFTER
MIDNIGHT.

BOY - THE
"THINKER" FIGGERED
EVERYTHING TO
PERFECTION!
LET'S GO!

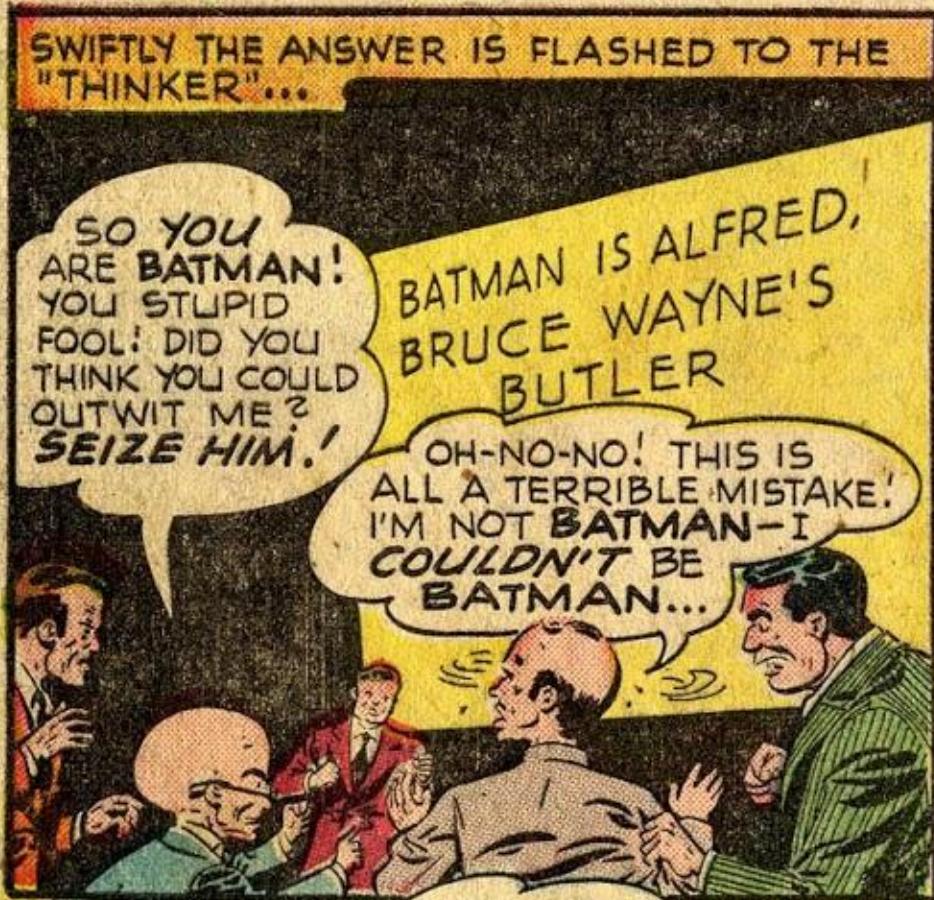
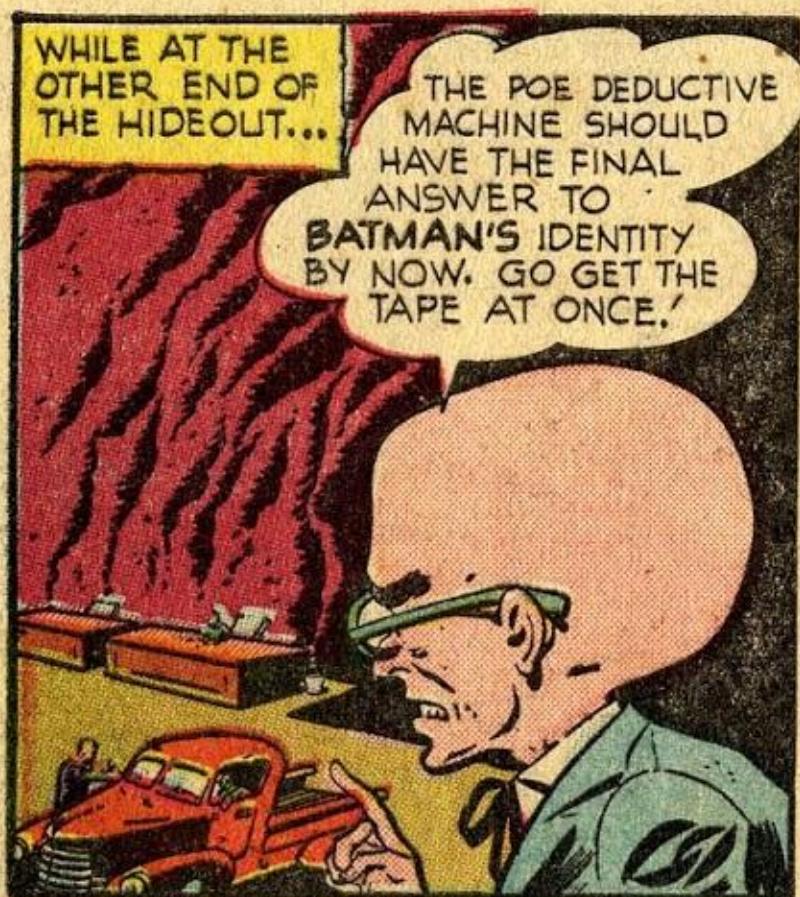
BATMAN



BUT, UNSEEN BY THE EXULTANT CROOKS, A STRANGE CRAFT WINGS THROUGH THE NIGHT—THE BATPLANE!



BATMAN

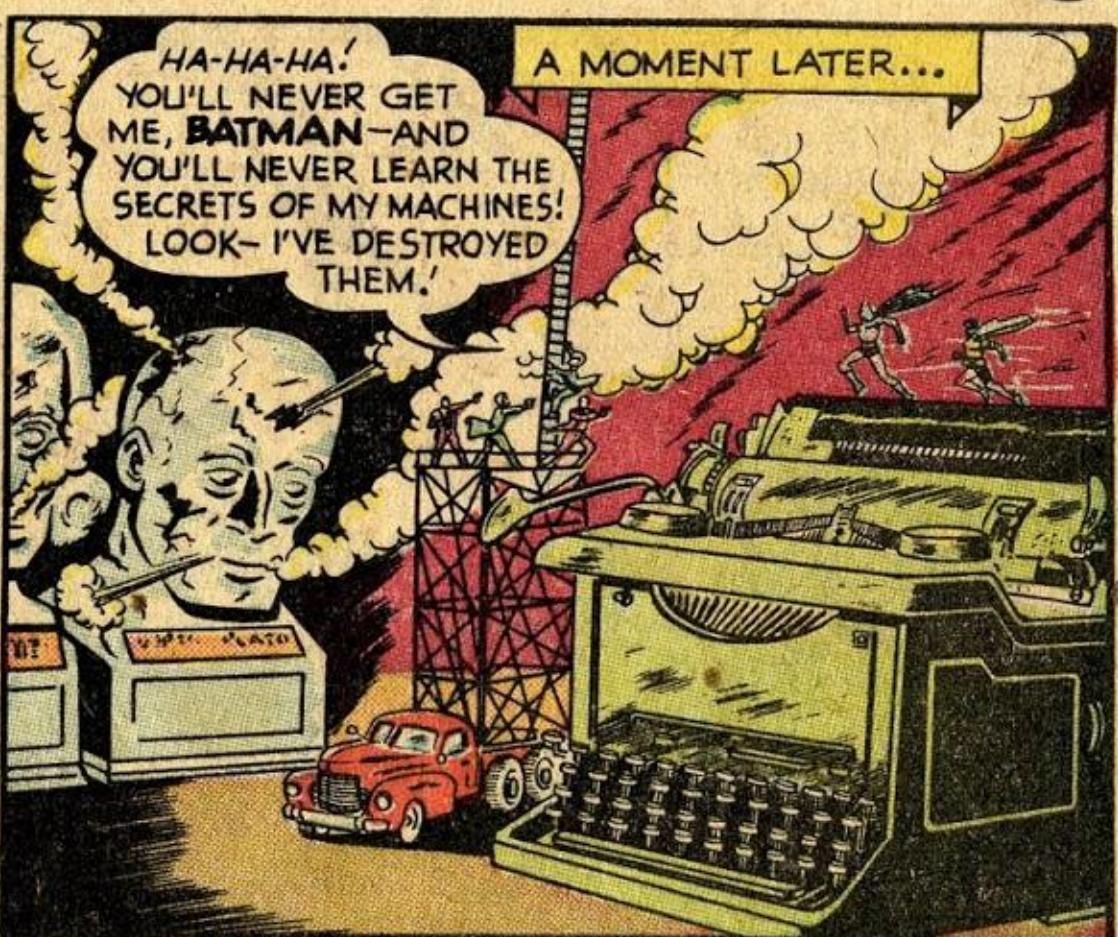


IN THE CONFUSION,
THE "THINKER"
MANAGES TO
GET BACK TO
HIS DESK AND...

I'LL SABOTAGE
EVERY MACHINE
... THEN MAKE MY
GETAWAY ON THE
EXTENSION
LADDER!

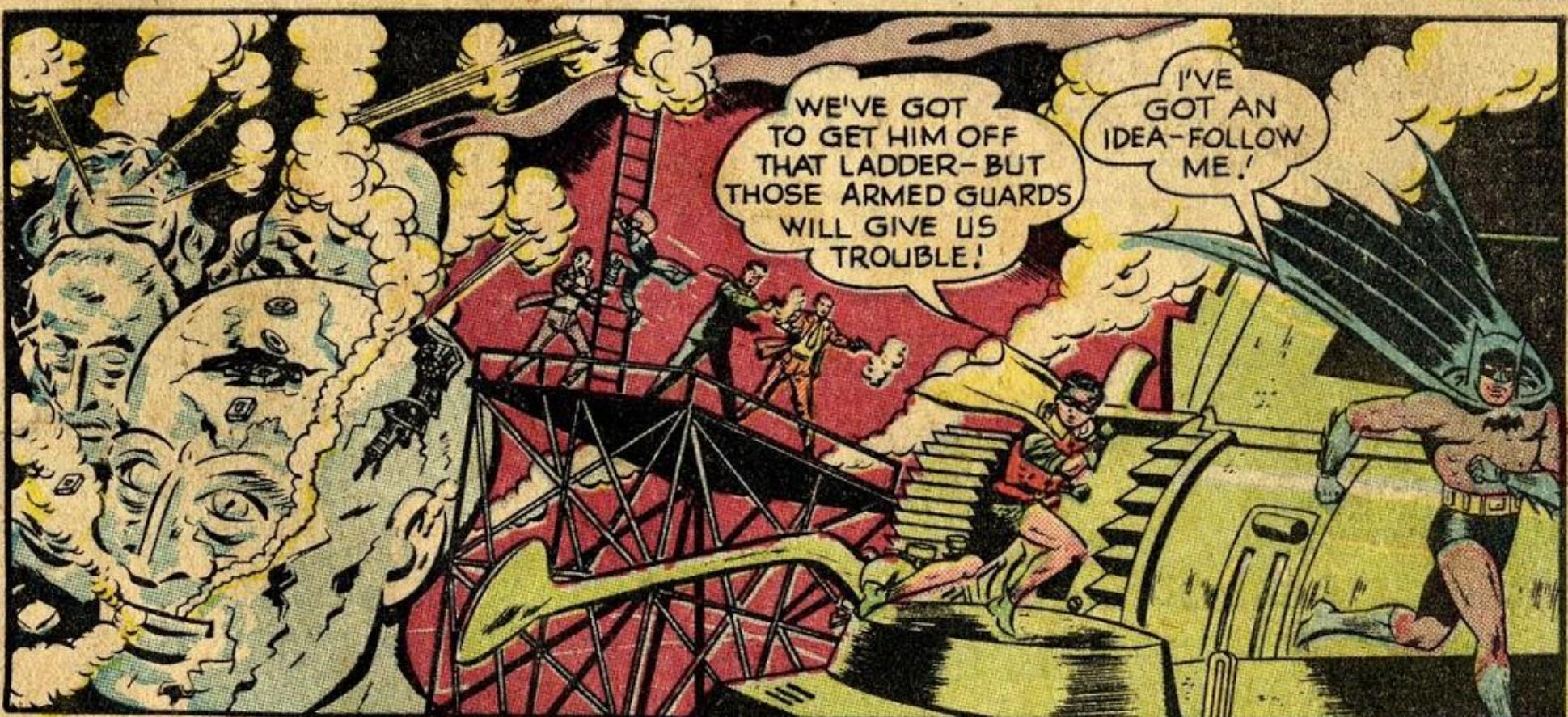
HA-HA-HA!
YOU'LL NEVER GET
ME, BATMAN—AND
YOU'LL NEVER LEARN THE
SECRETS OF MY MACHINES!
LOOK—I'VE DESTROYED
THEM!

A MOMENT LATER...



WE'VE GOT
TO GET HIM OFF
THAT LADDER—BUT
THOSE ARMED GUARDS
WILL GIVE US
TROUBLE!

I'VE
GOT AN
IDEA—FOLLOW
ME!

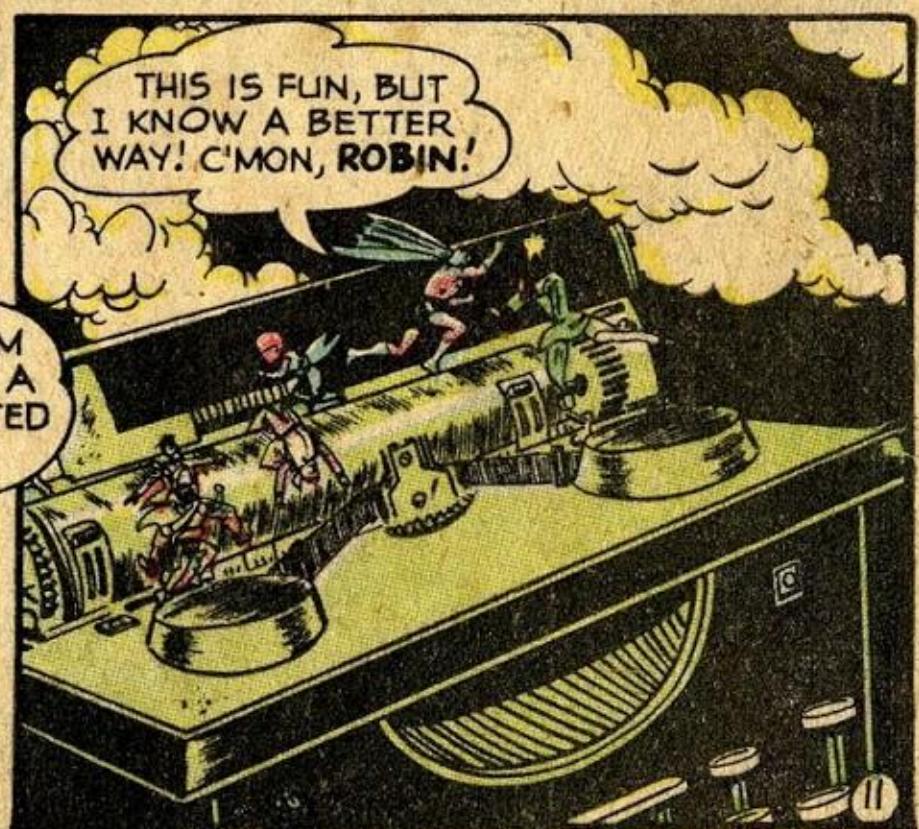
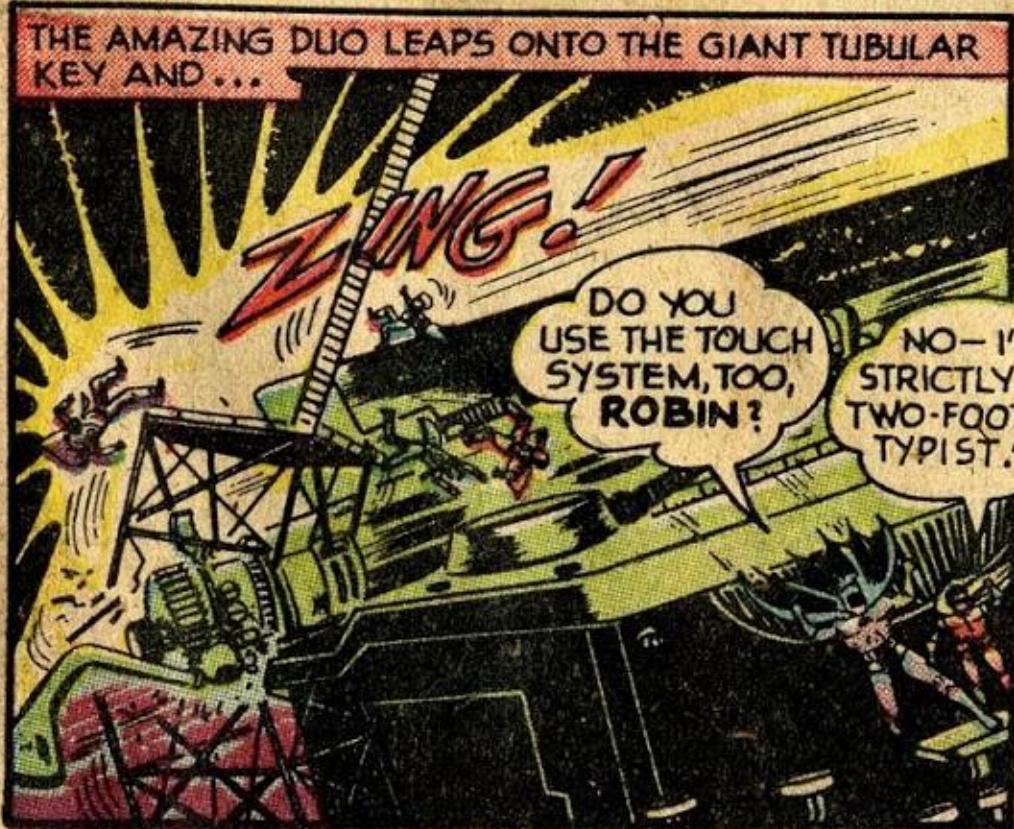


THE AMAZING DUO LEAPS ONTO THE GIANT TUBULAR
KEY AND...

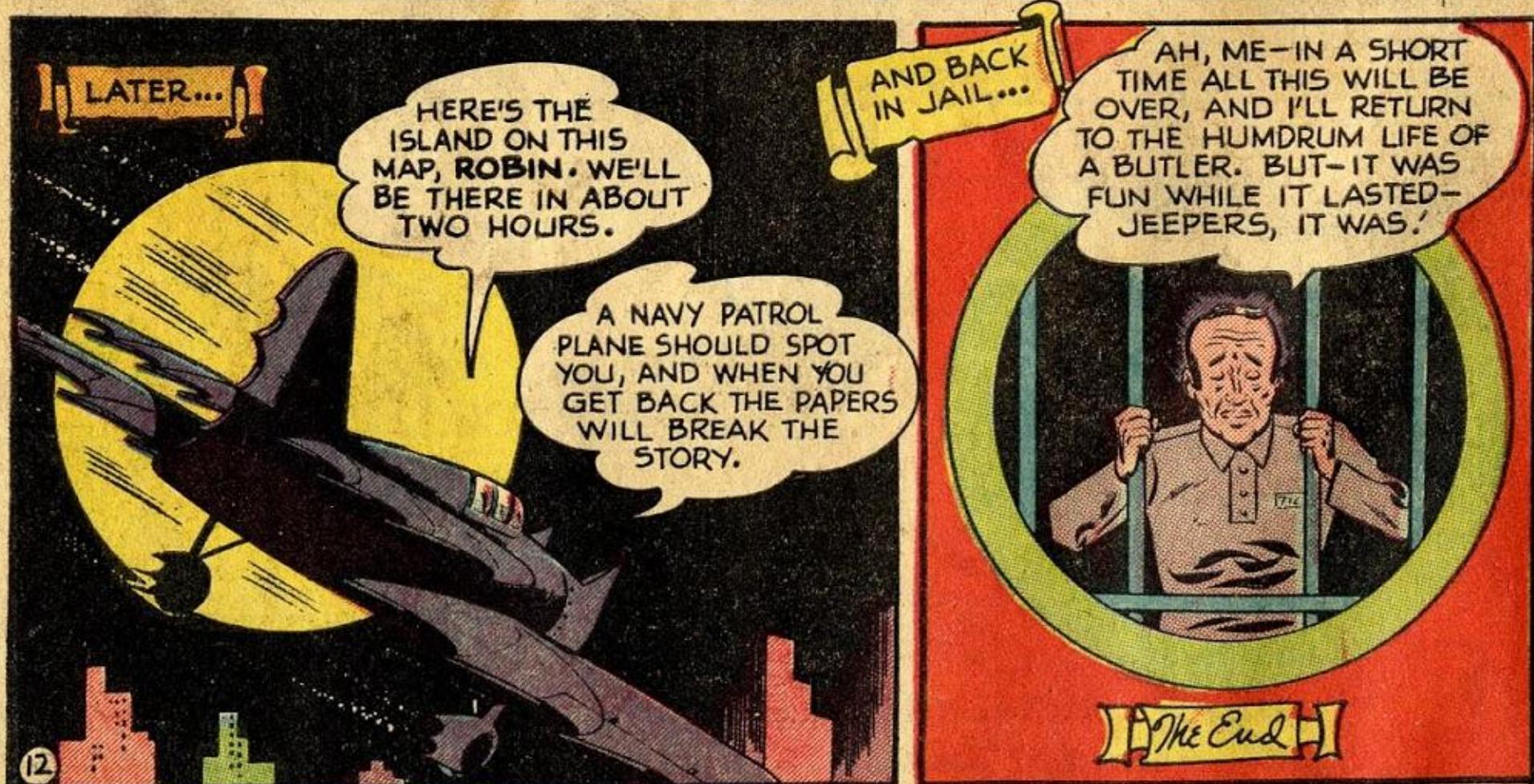
ZING!
DO YOU
USE THE TOUCH
SYSTEM, TOO,
ROBIN?

NO—I'M
STRICTLY A
TWO-FOOTED
TYPIST!

THIS IS FUN, BUT
I KNOW A BETTER
WAY! C'MON, ROBIN!



BATMAN



ADVERTISEMENT

NO SEWING NEEDED! PRESS 'EM ON!

BIG FELT LETTERS

WE GOT LETTERS AND NUMERALS FOR THE WHOLE TEAM WITH **BAZOOKA** WRAPPERS!

YOURS FOR ONLY 10¢ EACH!
WITH A BAZOOKA WRAPPER
PICK YOUR COLOR!

4-inch letter or number (0-9) in washable felt, in your favorite color. No sewing needed—just press the letter onto your shirt or sweater with a hot iron.

COMIC STRIP IN
EVERY PACK!
VALUABLE PRIZES
FOR WRAPPERS!

6 BIG CHEWS
FOR 5¢

OUR CLUB GOT
LETTERS, TOO!
WE JUST **PRESS**
THEM ON! **NO SEWING!**



USE THIS COUPON, OR WRITE TO
BAZOOKA
BOX 20, MADISON SQUARE STATION,
NEW YORK 10, N.Y.

PLEASE SEND ME _____
(GIVE LETTER OR NUMBER DESIRED AND COLOR PREFERRED)
ENCLOSE 10¢ AND A BAZOOKA WRAPPER FOR EACH
LETTER OR NUMBER REQUESTED.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

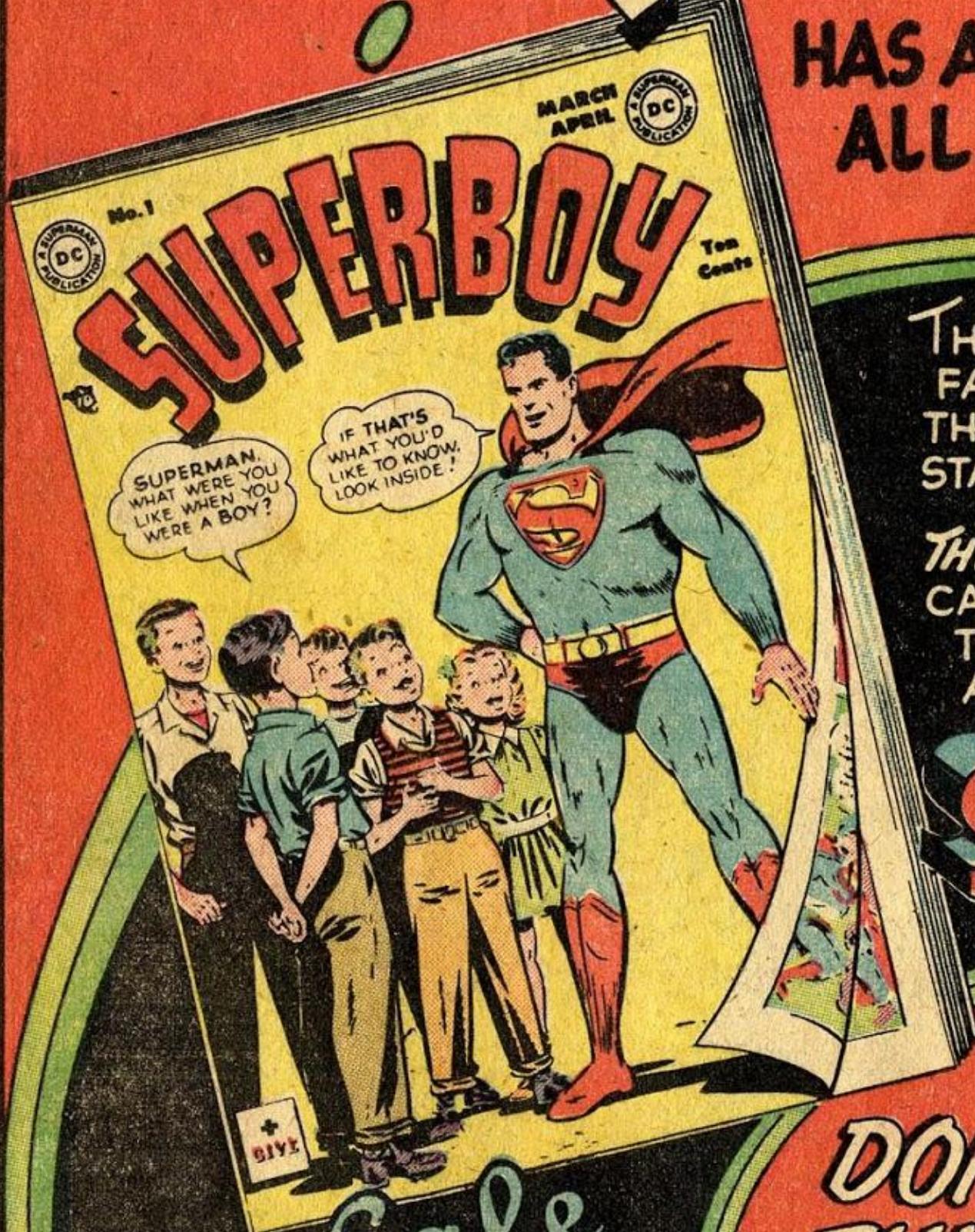
CITY _____

A BIG
HIT in
ADVENTURE
COMICS

— AND NOW

SUPERBOY

HAS A MAGAZINE
ALL HIS OWN!



THE MILLIONS OF
FANS WHO HAVE
THRILLED TO THE
STARTLING EXPLOITS
OF
THE MAN OF STEEL
CAN THRILL AGAIN
TO THE AMAZING
ADVENTURES OF

SUPERMAN
WHEN HE
WAS A BOY!

On Sale
Everywhere

DON'T MISS
THIS GREAT
FIRST ISSUE!

BATMAN

A DELL PUBLICATION
DC

BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS DISCOVERED AMERICA, THE NEW WORLD WAS VISITED BY THOSE HEROIC SEAFARERS, THE ANCIENT VIKINGS! AND STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM, THOSE OLD NORSE EXPLORERS LEFT HERE A PUZZLING ENIGMA THAT DIRECTLY CONCERN'S BATMAN IN THE PRESENT TIME! SO MUCH DOES IT CONCERN THE INTREPID CRIME-FIGHTER THAT HE AND ROBIN SPEED BACK A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE PAST AND DARE THE PERILS OF THE VIKING AGE TO UNRAVEL THE RIDDLE OF...

**"Batman and
The Vikings!"**



BY
Bob Kane



AT HOME, THE WHISPERS STILL ECHO IN BRUCE WAYNE'S EARS ...

SNAP OUT OF IT BRUCE. AFTER ALL, IT WASN'T YOU—IT WAS ONLY SOMEONE WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU!

I KNOW, DICK—BUT I FEEL AWFUL ABOUT IT JUST THE SAME! ANOTHER ME DISGRACED FOR ALL TIME!

BUT NO ONE JUST LIKE YOU COULD BE A COWARD, BRUCE! THIS DOUBLE OF YOURS IN THE PAST MUST HAVE BEEN MISJUDGED!

YOU'VE GIVEN ME AN IDEA, DICK! I'M GOING TO FIND OUT! I'LL GET PROFESSOR NICHOLS TO SEND ME BACK INTO THE PAST AGAIN!

AND ONCE MORE, THE UNIQUE SCIENTIFIC METHOD OF PROF. NICHOLS HURLS TWO INTREPID ADVENTURERS BACK INTO THE PAST!

... A THOUSAND YEARS—THE NORWAY OF THE OLD VIKINGS—

A SENSATION OF FALLING THROUGH DARKNESS, A SHOCK, A BLINDING LIGHT...

THEN...

NORWAY OF THE VIKINGS, IN THE YEAR 990!

FIRST—to find out WHO IN THIS TIME LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE ME!

WARRIOR, TELL ME—DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO LOOKS LIKE ME?

HO! SO YOU'VE DARED COME BACK TO NORWAY, YOU CRAVEN!

WAIT, I'M NOT THE MAN YOU THINK I AM—

ARE YOU LIAR AS WELL AS COWARD, OLAF ERICKSON?



LATER, THE VIKING
GALLEY RECON-
NOITERS THE GREAT
HOSTILE CITY OF
BYZANTIUM!

THAT'S THE
CITADEL WHERE
VIKING PRISONERS
ARE HELD! I WISH WE
COULD LIBERATE
THEM—BUT THERE'S
NO WAY!

PERHAPS
THERE IS! ROBIN
AND I WILL SWIM
ASHORE WHEN
IT'S DARK!

BUT MY SIZE
CAN TAKE ME THROUGH
THE WALL—UP THIS
STORM-DRAIN THAT
EMPTIES FROM
INSIDE!

WHEN NIGHT FALLS...

NOT EVEN
OUR ACROBATIC
SKILL CAN TAKE US
UP THIS SHEER
WALL!

I STILL DON'T
LIKE TO LET YOU
GO IN THERE
ALONE!

YOU'RE TOO
BIG TO GET THROUGH!
JUST WAIT HERE FOR
MY SIGNAL!

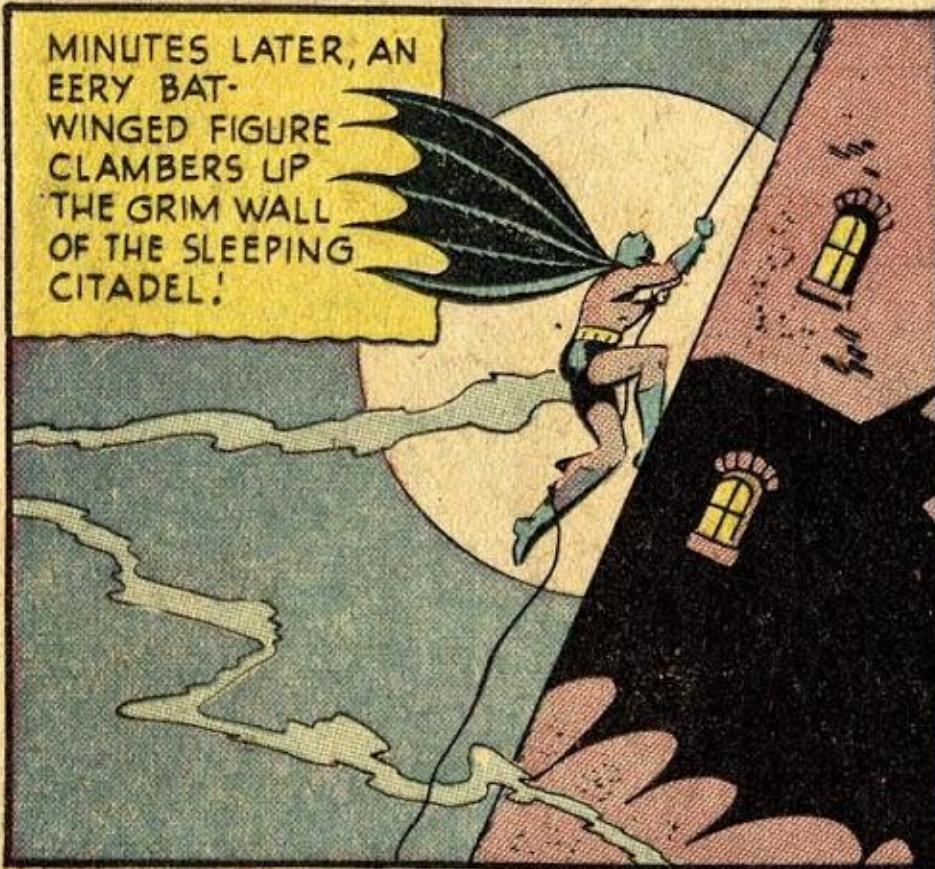
THE BOY WONDER BEGINS AN ODYSSEY
THROUGH THE AWESOME DARKNESS OF THE
GREAT DRAINS!

I HOPE THIS
ISN'T A BLIND
ALLEY!

THIS LEADS INTO
THE CITADEL IF MY
SENSE OF DIRECTION
IS RIGHT!

SOON...
LUCKY THEIR GUARDS
ARE ALL ON WATCH OUTSIDE
THE CITADEL! NOW TO TIE
OUR SILKEN ROPES
TOGETHER AND
DROP A LINE TO
BATMAN!

MINUTES LATER, AN EERY BAT-WINGED FIGURE CLAMBERS UP THE GRIM WALL OF THE SLEEPING CITADEL!



YOU SLIDE DOWN AND HAVE THE VIKING GALLEY COME CLOSE INSHORE! I'LL FIND THE JAILER AND TRICK HIM INTO TAKING ME TO OLAF'S CELL!

ROGER!

ON THE ROOF OF THE CITADEL, BATMAN IS SPEAKING TENSELY TO ROBIN.

LEFT ALONE, BATMAN DOES SOMETHING THAT HE HAS ALMOST NEVER DONE!



AND A SURPRISED JAILER MAKES A NATURAL MISTAKE!



BUT AS THE DUPED GUARD OPENS THE CELL OF THE REAL OLAF...



I THOUGHT I COULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF HIS SURPRISE TO LOCK HIM IN!

BY THOR, YOU ARE ME! YOU LOOK JUST LIKE ME! WHO ARE YOU?





LATER, AS THE GALLEY APPROACHES NORWAY AGAIN...

THAT OLAF ERICKSON WILL GET A COLD RECEPTION WHEN WE GET HOME.

BATMAN IS STILL TIMID—WON'T EVEN SPEAK TO ME! MAYBE HE'S BROODED TOO MUCH OVER THE COWARDICE OF HIS DOUBLE!

UPON LANDING...

OLAF ERICKSON THE COWARD! WHY HAVE YOU DARED COME HOME?

LET OLAF ENDURE THE THREE ORDEALS, IF HE DARES! IT IS HIS RIGHT!

WE'LL MAKE THE ORDEALS ESPECIALLY HARD FOR THIS COWARD!

BATMAN EVEN SEEMS AFRAID OF THIS CROWD!

SOON, THE FIRST ORDEAL OF ANCIENT VIKING CUSTOM—THE IDROTTIR, OR WRESTLING!

WHAT STRANGE HOLD IS THE COWARD OLAF USING ON OUR CHAMPION SWAIN?

WHY—THAT'S A FLYING MARE OLAF'S USING! NOBODY IN THIS AGE KNOWS THAT HOLD!

OLAF WINS—AND PASSES THE FIRST ORDEAL OF COURAGE!

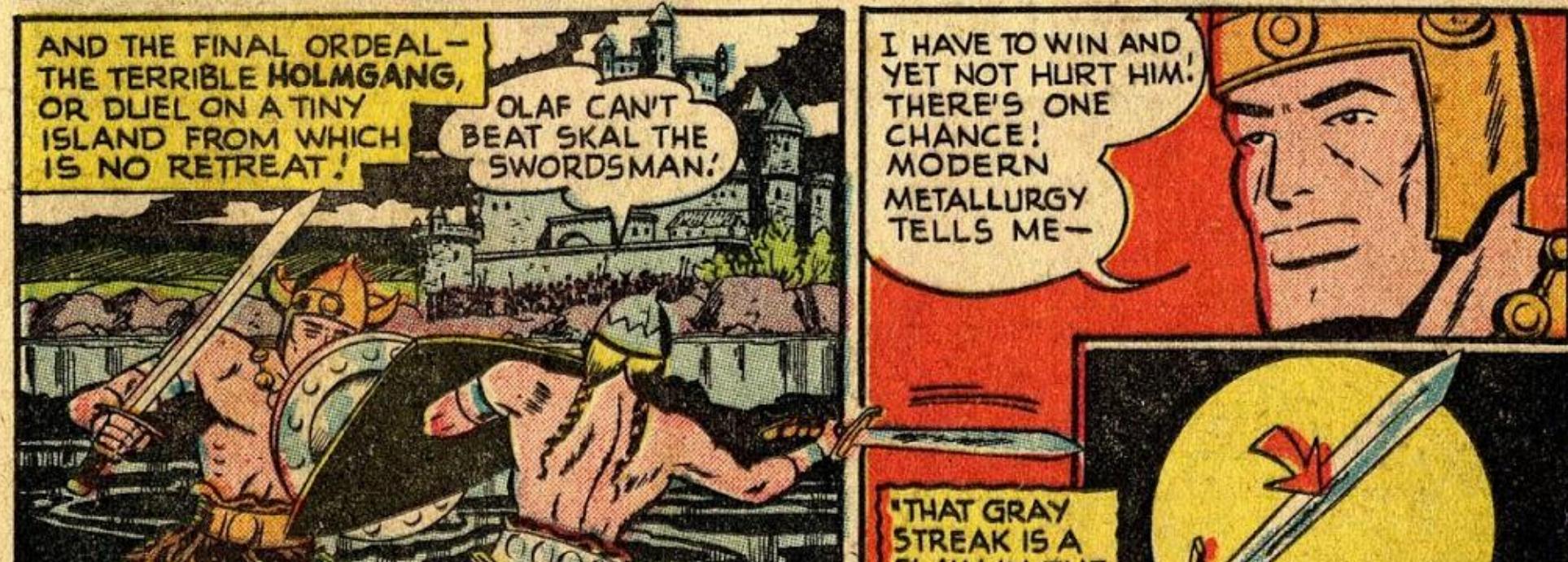
NOW I GET IT! SO THAT'S WHY BATMAN'S BEEN SO TIMID AND STRANGE!

SEIZING A MOMENT BETWEEN CONTESTS...

YOU'RE NOT OLAF—YOU'RE BATMAN, AREN'T YOU?

YES, I CHANGED CLOTHES WITH OLAF—TO PASS THE ORDEALS FOR HIM AND GIVE HIM HIS CHANCE TO REDEEM HIMSELF! I HAD NO CHANCE TO TELL YOU!

BATMAN



BUT LATER, AFTER BATMAN AND OLAF HAVE SECRETLY RE-EXCHANGED IDENTITIES...

THIS IS YOUR GREAT CHANCE, OLAF! YOU CAN REDEEM YOUR NAME FOREVER IF YOU BRAVELY LEAD THIS EXPEDITION TO VINLAND!

I'LL DO MY BEST! YET I STILL DOUBT MY COURAGE — YOU PASSED THOSE ORDEALS, NOT I!

WE GOT HERE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE COLUMBUS!

DAYS LATER, OLAF'S EXPEDITION REACHES VINLAND, THE LAND NOW CALLED AMERICA!

THAT'S MY COUSIN'S FORT! HE AND HIS FRIENDS ARE STILL ALIVE!

BUT AS THEY REACH THE FORT —

THE OLD VIKING NAME FOR THE INDIANS! QUICK, INSIDE AND CLOSE THE GATE!

THE SKRELLINGS!

THERE ARE HUNDREDS TRYING TO BREAK IN! BUT WITH THE BRAVE OLAF TO LEAD US, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED!

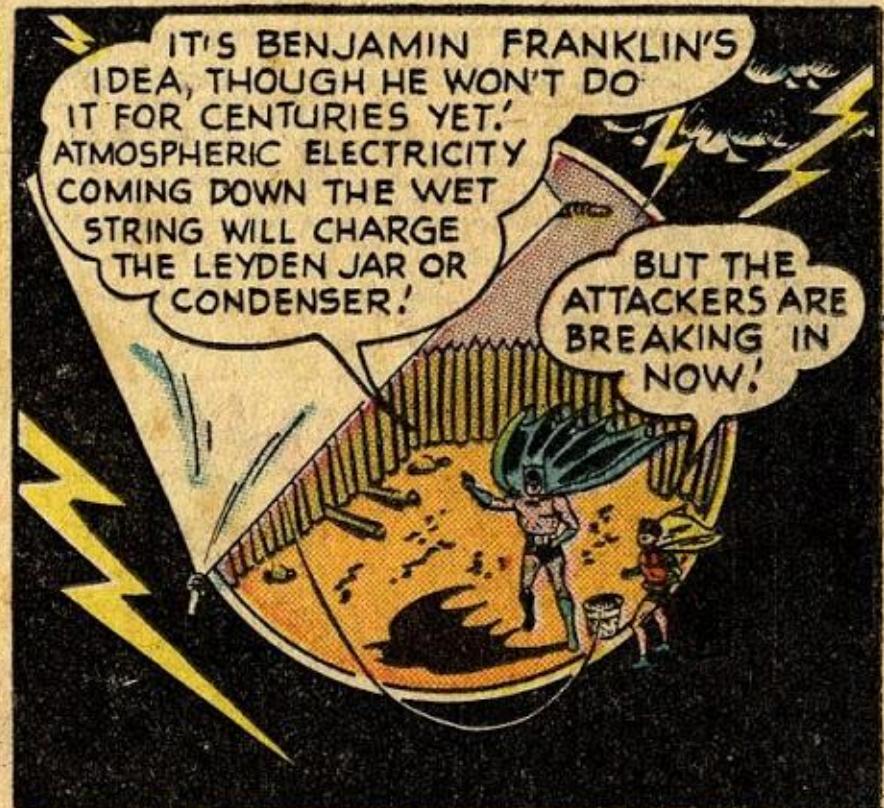
OLAF, IT TOOK THE GREATEST KIND OF COURAGE TO CONFESS THAT! YOU CANNOT BE A COWARD!

AND IN THEIR FAITH, A MAN AT LAST FINDS HIMSELF!

IF YOU BELIEVE IN ME, WE CAN'T BE CONQUERED! WE'LL HOLD THAT GATE AGAINST THEM SOMEHOW!

A STORM IS COMING UP! ROBIN, YOU COME WITH ME — I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

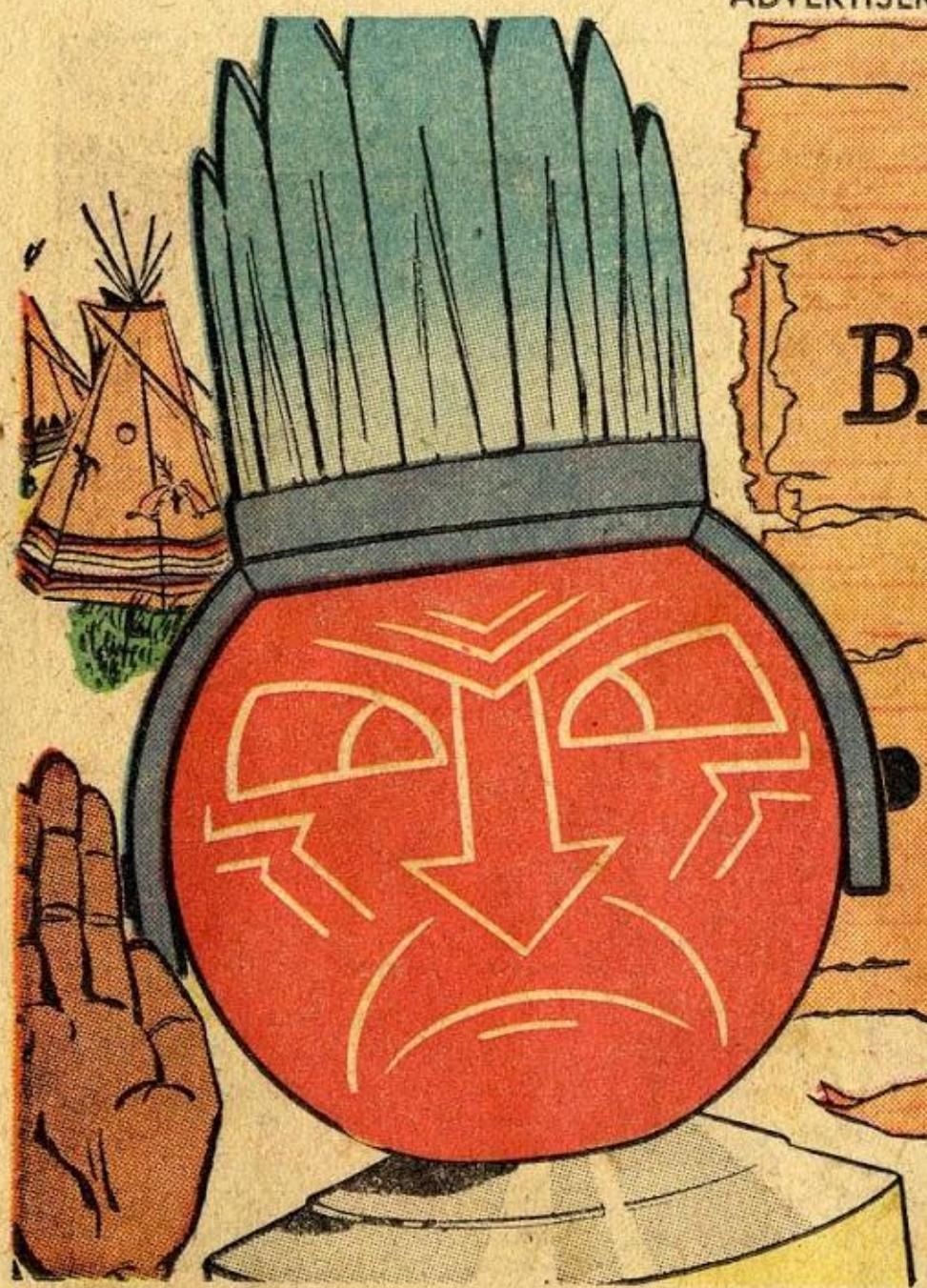
I CAN'T LIE TO YOU! I'M NOT BRAVE! IT WAS BATMAN HERE WHO PASSED THE ORDEALS FOR ME!



BATMAN



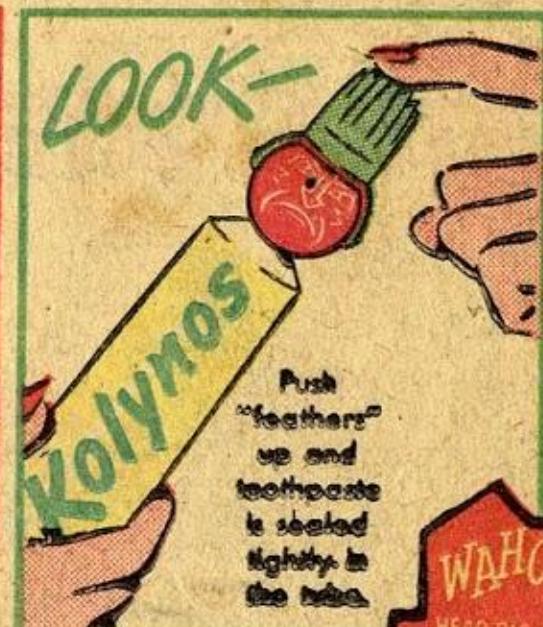
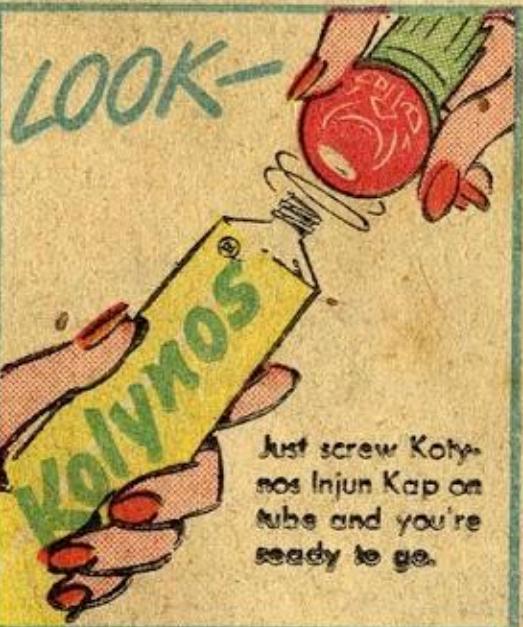
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KIDS!

BRUSHING TEETH IS FUN WITH NEW KOLYNOS INJUN KAP!

THE ONLY TOOTHPASTE CAP
THAT WORKS LIKE THIS!

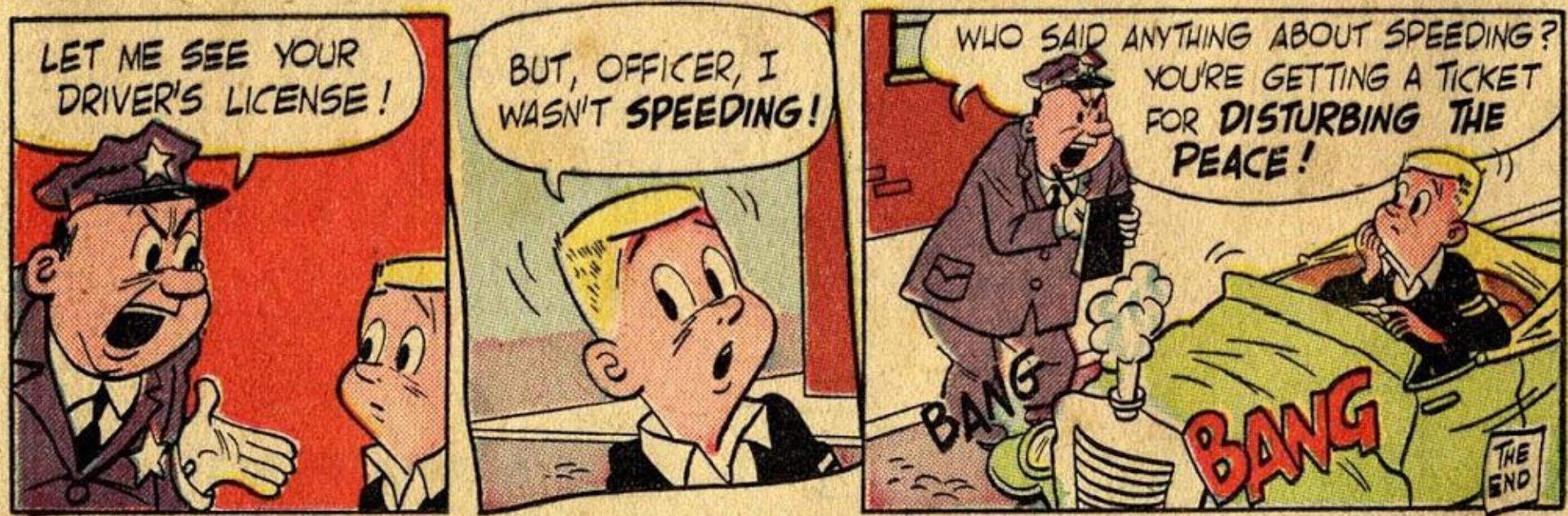
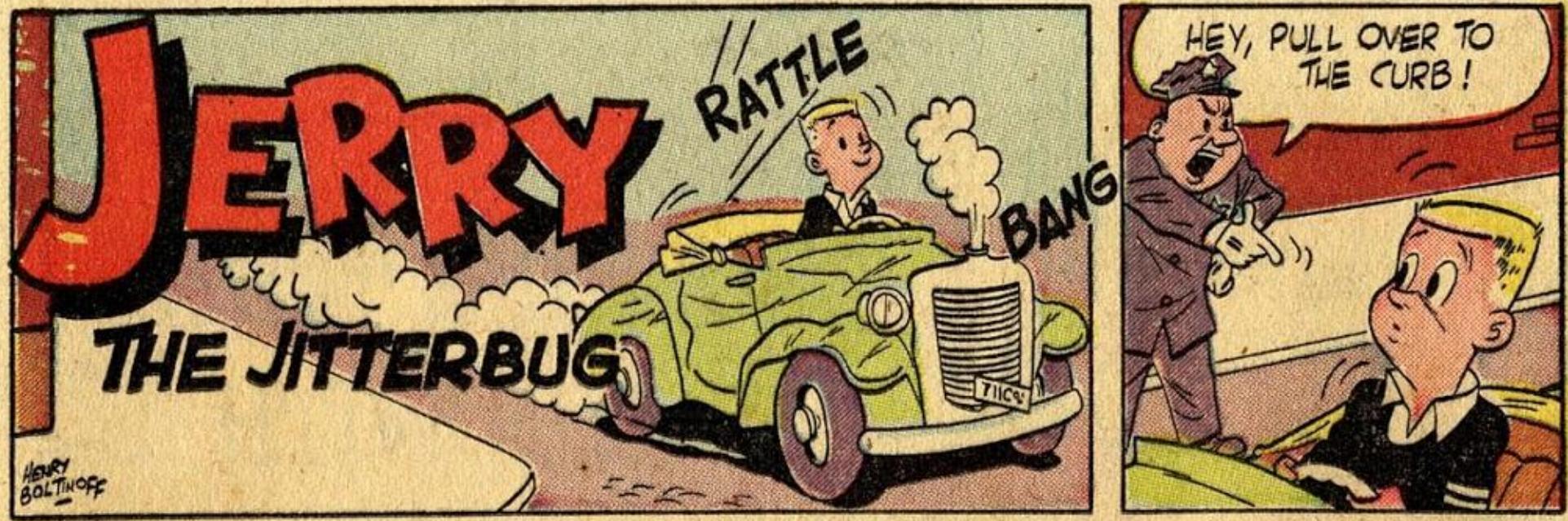


AND I
CAN'T
DROP OFF—
CAN'T
GET LOST!

WAHOO!
HEAP BIG FUN
FOR CHILDREN



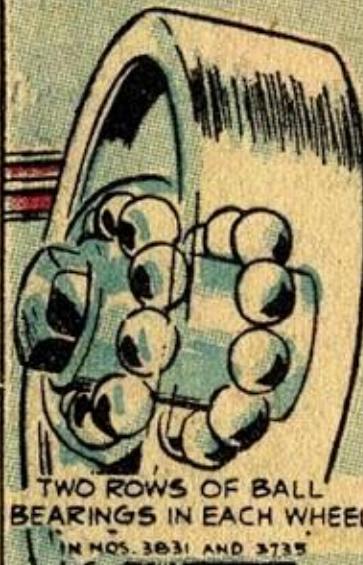
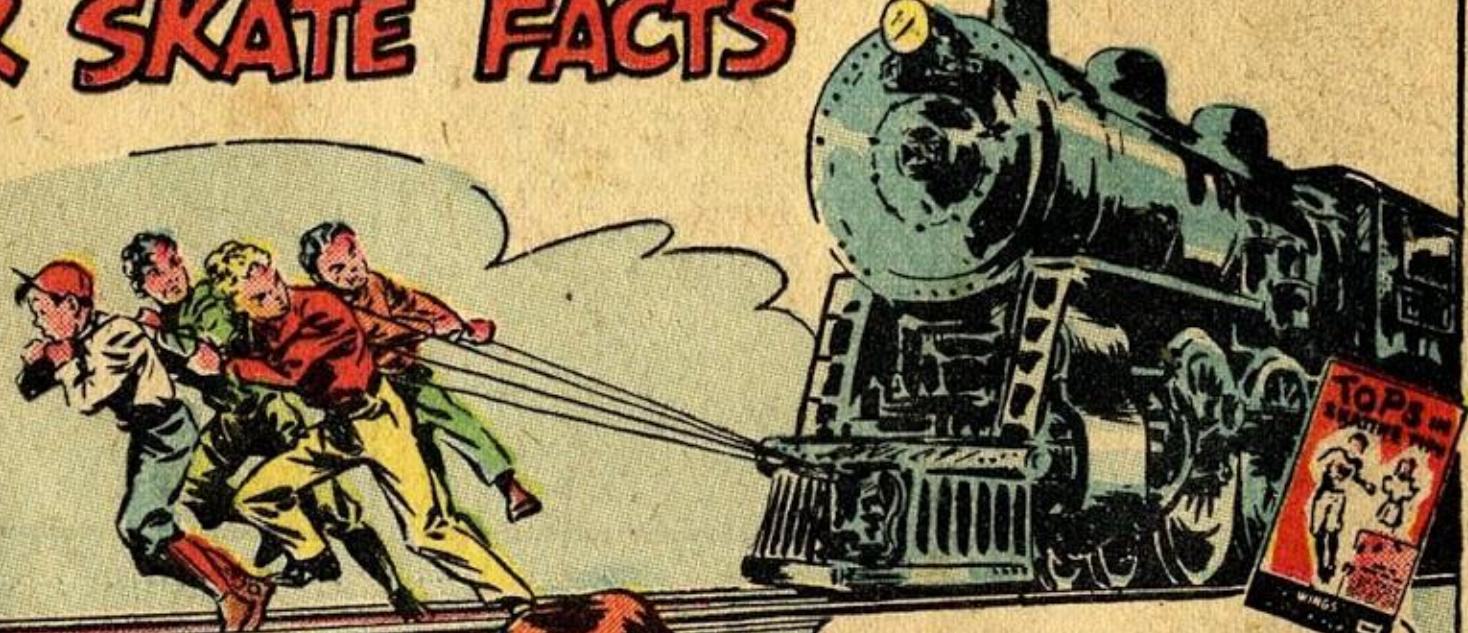
LOOK FOR THIS DISPLAY AT YOUR DRUGGIST



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ROLLER SKATE FACTS

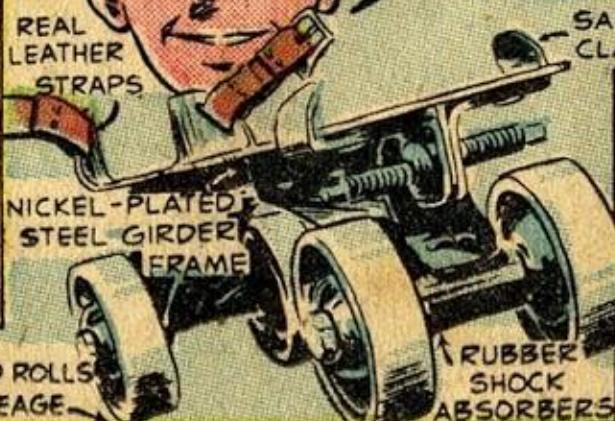
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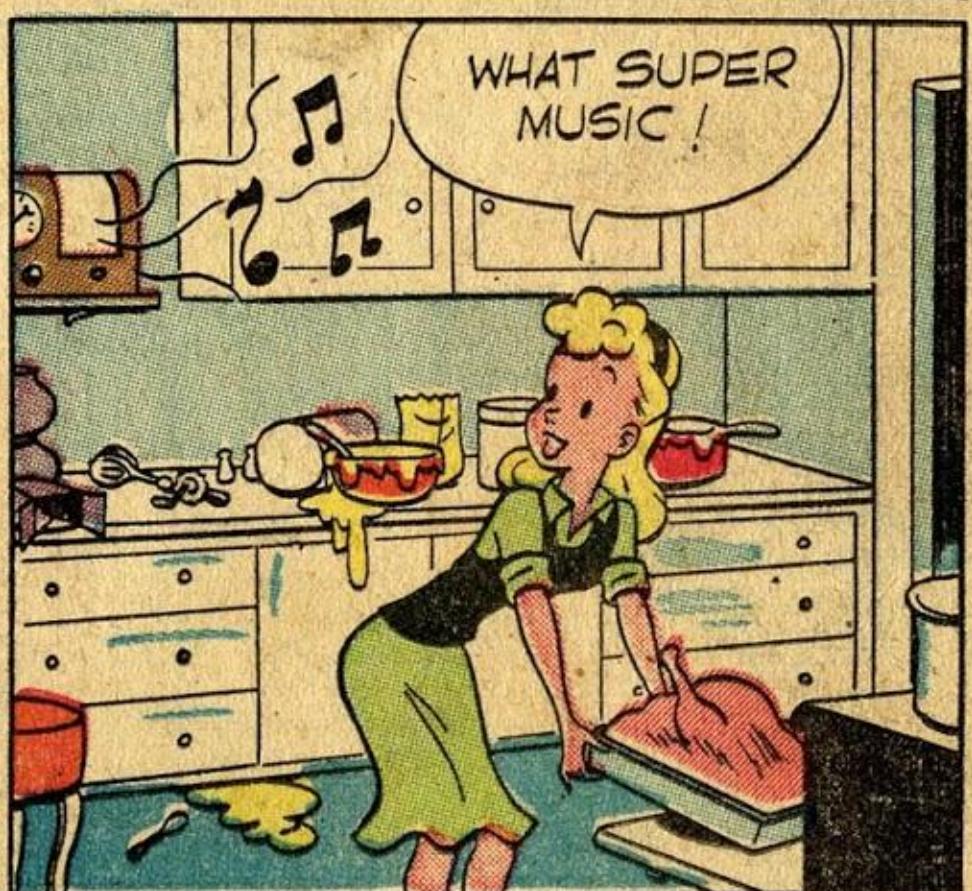
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WRITE TO

DOUBLE TREAD ROLLS
FOR MORE MILEAGE

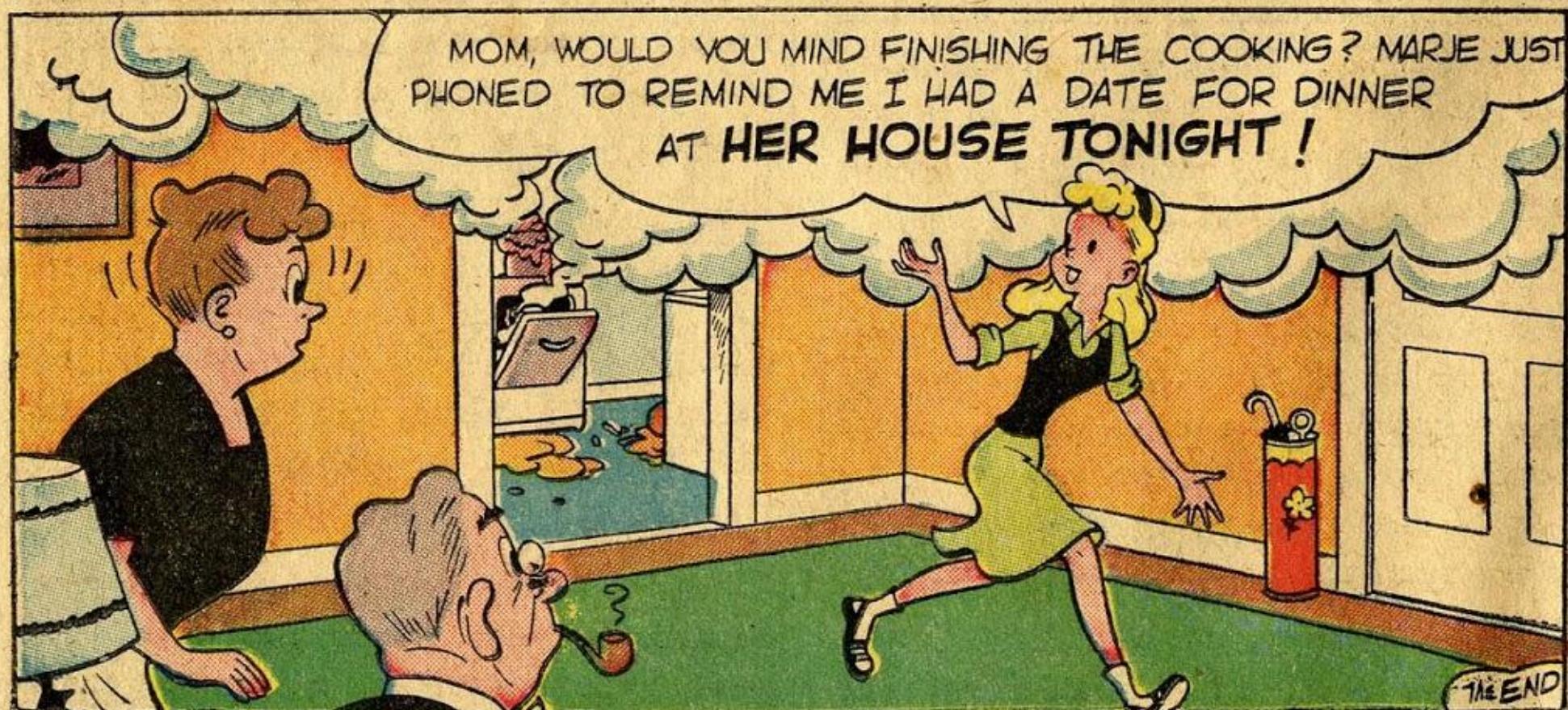
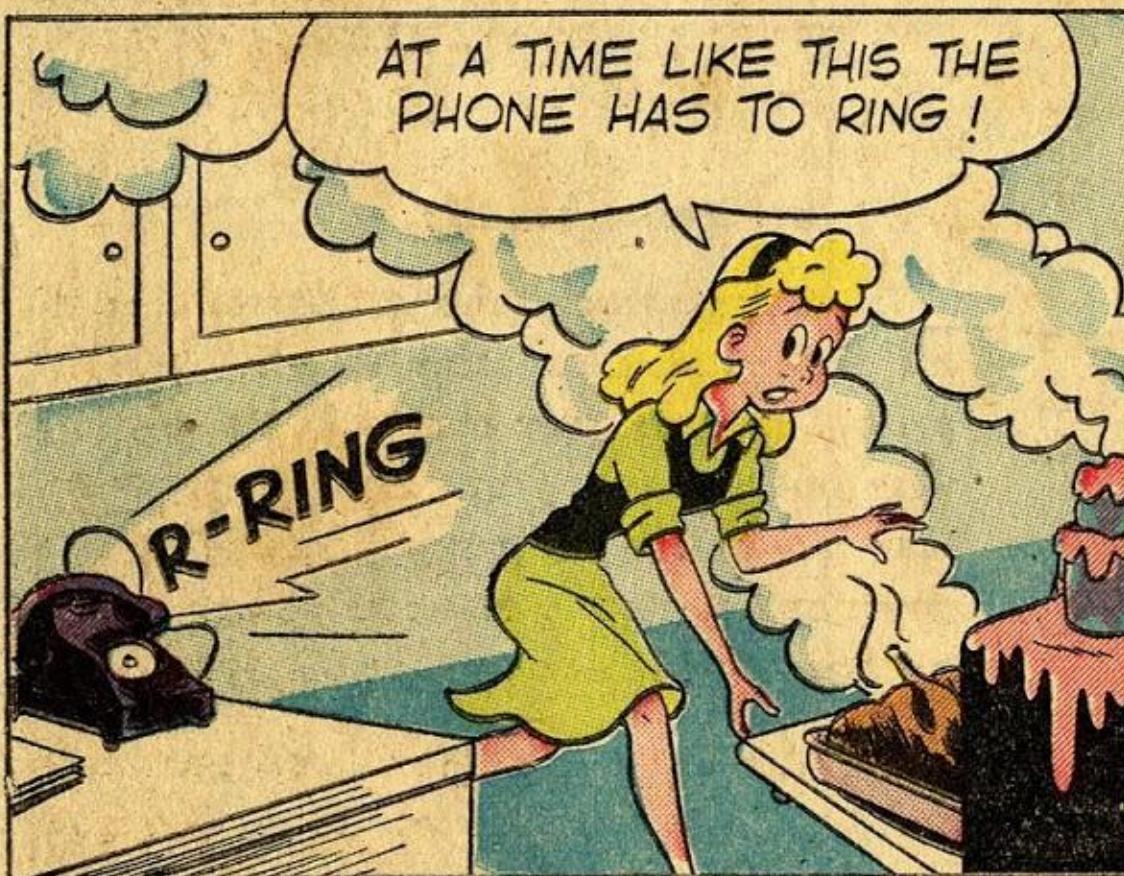
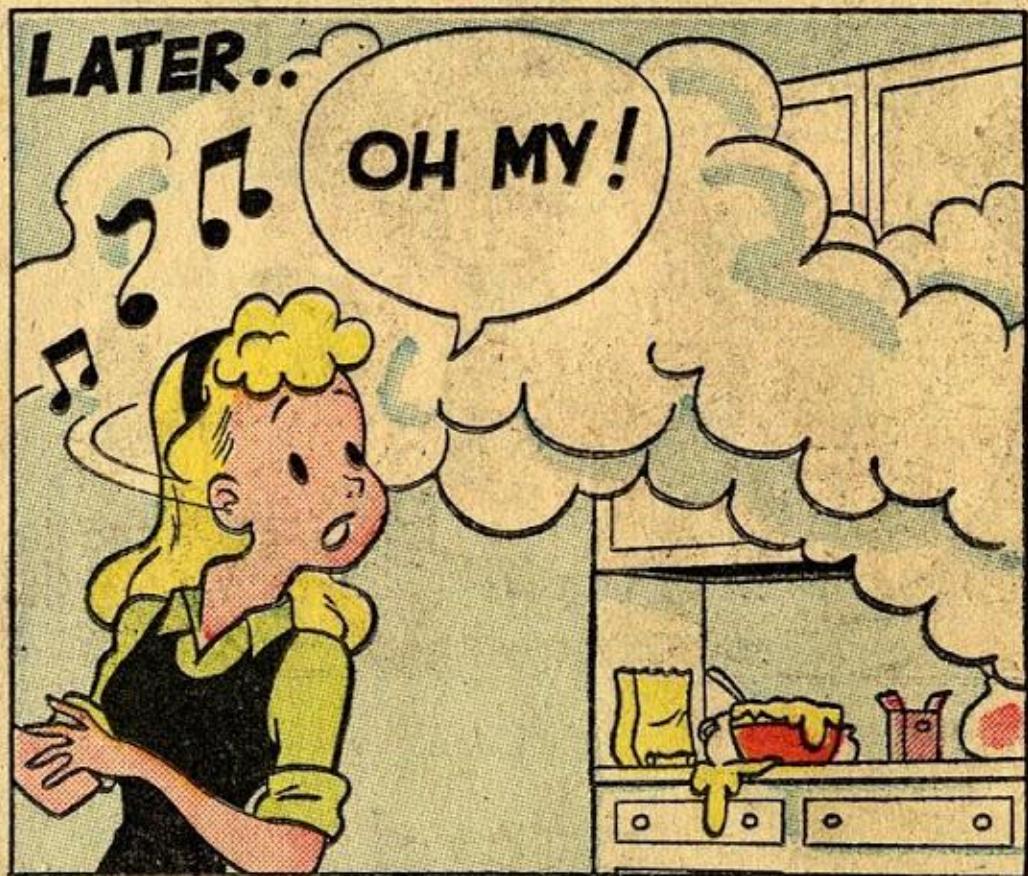


FELLERS, HERE'S MY NEW
FREE "TOPS IN SKATING TIPS" BOOKLET... FOR SOME HINTS ON EXPERT SKATING. THEY'RE GOING FAST -- SO WRITE TODAY.

REMEMBER, INSIST ON
WINCHESTER
FREE WHEELING
ROLLER SKATES
GET THEM AT YOUR LOCAL DEALER'S



BATMAN





FEARLESS WISE MAN

"**GUILTY!"**

That was the verdict of the court.

"The penalty—death!"

This was the verdict, and this was the sentence, pronounced 2000 years ago on a man named Socrates.

After the death sentence was pronounced upon him, Socrates, then seventy years old, rose to his feet and addressed the court. He stood erect. His heart was heavy, but his head was unbowed. He told the court they were sentencing an innocent man, but he did not hate them for it. He was not afraid to die.

"Gentlemen, the hour of departure has arrived, and we must go our own way. I to die; you to live. Which is the better—only God knows." Those were the last words spoken by Socrates to the five hundred judges in the court of Athens.

Socrates was then tied in chains and thrown into prison to await the final hour. Not once in all those thirty days was he ever afraid. Not once throughout the entire month was he ever melancholy about his fate. He had an educated sense of humor, and it remained with him to the last moment.

Socrates could have escaped jail and

avoided death. His friends had bribed the prison guards and planned thoroughly the route of escape. But Socrates refused to flee. He had spent his life fighting for truth, for justice and for law. He was ready to die for what he thought was right, as he had been throughout his life.

On the morning of the last day of his life, his wife and sons came to visit him in prison. He was very cheerful. He told his wife not to worry, that his friends would take care of her and the children. She broke down and started to cry, and he had one of his friends take her and the children home.

Socrates was one of the richest poor men that ever lived. He had no money and possessed no wealth of any kind. But he had friends. Friends, who were true and loyal, who would sacrifice their lives and their fortunes for him, if he would only let them.

At sunset of the last day, the prison warden entered Socrates' cell to wish him farewell. The cell was crowded with Socrates' faithful friends. There were tears in the warden's eyes when he told Socrates that he was, "the bravest, the gentlest, the best man I have ever known—in prison or out."

Shortly a man holding a cup of poison entered. Socrates' hands and eyes were steady as he took the cup. He recited a short

prayer, raised the cup to his lips and drank the poison, as calmly as any man drinks his coffee. At this point his friends broke down and started to cry. Several became hysterical. Socrates, disappointed in their behavior, scolded them gently.

He walked up and down the cell till his feet began to feel heavy. Then he lay down and covered his head with a sheet. The poison was heading towards his heart. Silence filled the room. The old man lay motionless. Suddenly Socrates uncovered his head and spoke to his friend, Crito.

"Crito, we owe a debt to Asclepios. Don't forget to pay it." He spoke in a weak tone. When he finished he covered his head again with the sheet. His movements were those of a man whose end was near.

There was a convulsive movement. The man who had brought the poison uncovered the body. Socrates was dead.

Thus Socrates died in the city of Athens in 399 B.C., over two thousand years ago. But why? Why was he killed? What was his crime? Whom did he murder? What did he steal? He murdered nobody. He stole nothing. The only thing that Socrates ever murdered was superstition and falsehood. And the only thing he ever stole from any man was ignorance and sin.

Socrates was born in 469 B.C. in Athens. At the time Athens was at the height of her glory. He had a powerful physique. Though he ate very little, he had great energy and endurance. He wore the same kind of clothing in winter as in summer and always walked barefoot. His record as a soldier in the Athenian army was an exemplary one, demonstrating his great courage, endurance and calmness under fire.

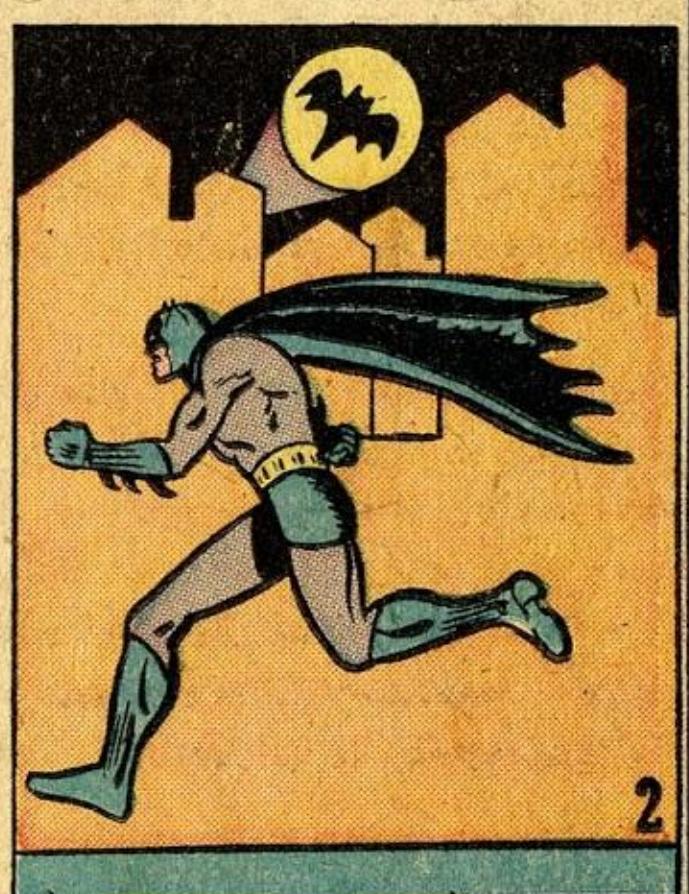
Socrates started out life as a sculptor but soon left that to start on his lifelong search

for truth, knowledge and beauty. He had very little schooling as a youth in Athens, and most of what he knew he had taught himself. He was a humble, sincere man who never got angry. He became the greatest thinker of his age and perhaps the greatest thinker of all time. Two men who might equal or surpass him are Plato and Aristotle, and they were his pupils and followers. Whatever we know today about religion, philosophy, psychology, mathematics or physics we owe, directly or indirectly, to either Socrates, Plato or Aristotle. These three men of ancient Greece laid the foundation on which modern man's knowledge is based.

Socrates was a philosopher, a thinker, a pursuer of truth and knowledge and virtue. He was a man of ideas. As his ideas spread, he became popular and influential. But his ideas differed from the ideas of the men in power at the time. His ideas were a threat to the power and prestige of the men who held the reins of the Athenian government. They tried to kill his ideas, but Socrates' ideas were too strong to be killed—truth and justice were on his side. Unable to kill his ideas, they killed Socrates himself.

Over two thousand years have passed since Socrates died, but his ideas are still alive today. The criminals in history have tortured, exiled and murdered men with new ideas since time immemorial. Their crimes are futile. For if the idea has truth, justice and mankind's progress on its side, it will live eternally and its creator will be immortal. Socrates will live till the end of time in the hearts and minds of all thinking men who pursue truth, justice and virtue.

"In death the noblest, in life the wisest and most just." In these words, spoken by Plato, the life and death of Socrates are adequately described.



CUT OUT PANELS NO. 1 AND NO. 2. PLACE NO. 1 DIRECTLY OVER NO. 2. THEN, AS SHOWN HERE, FLIP NO. 1 RAPIDLY UP AND DOWN ... AND, PRESTO... YOUR CARTOON FLIPS WILL move!



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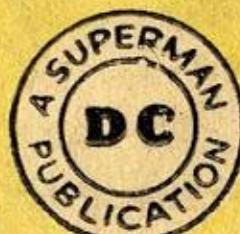
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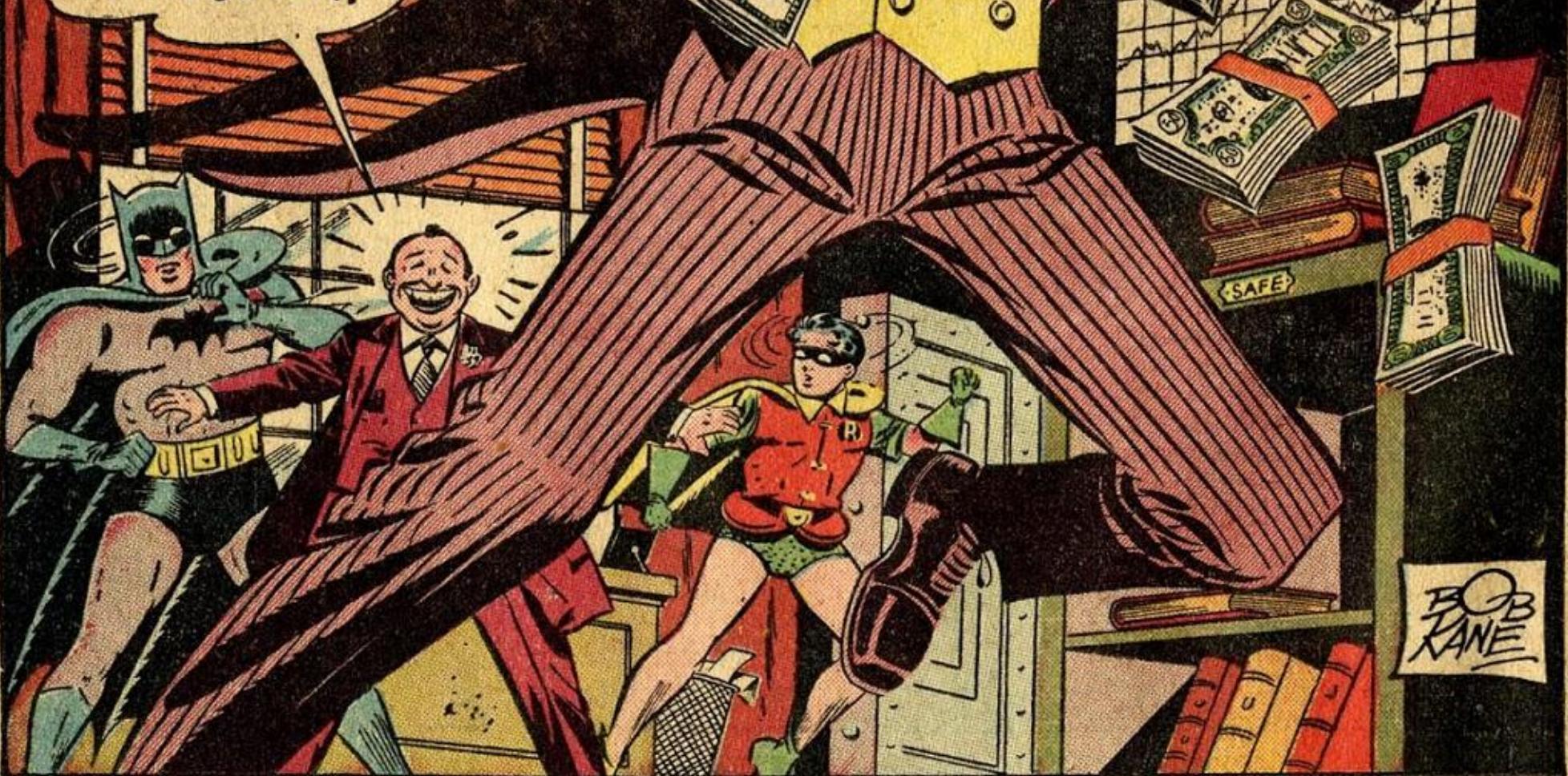
BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

WOULD YOU
THINK IT FUNNY TO BE
ROBBED BY THE JOKER?
OF COURSE NOT, BUT SOME
PEOPLE DO! WHY?? THE ANSWER
TO THAT JACKPOT QUESTION MAKES
FOR THE WHACKIEST STORY OF THE
YEAR AS BATMAN AND ROBIN GO
DAFFY TRYING TO SOLVE THE CRAZY
CASE OF...

"The Happy
Victims!"

STOP,
BATMAN! LET THE
JOKER ESCAPE WITH
MY \$10,000! HA! HA!
I NEVER LAUGHED SO HARD
IN MY LIFE! HA! HA! IT'S
FUN TO BE ROBBED
BY THE JOKER!



BOB KANE



A FEW DAYS LATER, AT THE ESTATE OF WEALTHY MRS. CARLIN, WHERE FISHING IS PROHIBITED...

YOU WISHED YOUR ERMINE COAT, MADAME...
OHH!

OHHH!

I WISH THE COAT!

THEN BOTH VIEW AN EXTRAORDINARY SIGHT!

FIRST FISH I EVER CAUGHT WEARING FUR SCALES! HA-HA!

AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE QUESTION MRS. CARLIN...

HA-HA!
IT WAS SO HUMOROUS! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HIM "PADDLING" AWAY! HA-HA!

YOU'VE TOLD US THAT STORY A DOZEN TIMES, MRS. CARLIN. NOW FOR A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR FUR COAT-

EEEK!
IT'S THE JOKER!

DEAR ME! I'VE BEEN LAUGHING SO HARD OVER THE JOKER THAT I COMPLETELY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE COAT.

DON'T WORRY... WHEN WE CATCH THAT CROOKED CLOWN, WE'LL HAVE YOU SIGN A WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST!

I WON'T SIGN A WARRANT! AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IT WAS WORTH THE PRICE OF THE COAT TO BE ROBBED BY THE JOKER! I NEVER LAUGHED SO MUCH IN ALL MY LIFE!
HA-HA!

HUH!?

LATER, THAT SAME DAY, THE WINDOW OF A STAMP SHOP IS SMASHED...

CRASH!

STARK'S STAMP SHOP

HA-HA-HA!

THIS ALBUM HOLDS A STAMP COLLECTION VALUED AT \$10,000.

THEN, IN AN ALMOST ABSURDLY DIGNIFIED MANNER, THE JOKER MAKES HIS ESCAPE ON THE MOST LUDICROUS OF VEHICLES!



LATER, WHEN THE STAMP SHOP OWNER IS QUESTIONED...

HA-HA-HA! THAT "CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN" POGO STICK! HA! HA!



FORGET IT! I DON'T WANT THE JOKER ARRESTED FOR THAT! HE GOT A \$10,000 COLLECTION, BUT I COLLECTED A MILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF LAUGHS!

WAH-AAT?



WHAT'S GOOD TONIGHT, WAITER?

I RECOMMEND STEER STEAK, SIR!

MMMM! THERE'S NOTHING TASTIER THAN THICK, JUICY STEER STEAK!



WHEN THE WAITER RETURNS...

HERE'S THE STEER, SIR! WOULD YOU SHOW ME WHICH CUT OF MEAT YOU WANT?

LOOK! HE BROUGHT THE ORDER ON THE HOOF! HA! HA!



SUDDENLY, THE WAITER JABS A PIN IN THE STEER'S HIDE AND THE ANIMAL STAMPEDES!

THIS GUY ISN'T ONE OF OUR WAITERS! WE BETTER TAKE HIM TO THE BOSS!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

EEEEK!



BUT ONCE INSIDE THE CLUB OWNER'S OFFICE, THE WAITER STRIPS A MASK OFF HIS FACE, REVEALING ...

THANKS FOR TAKING ME WHERE I WANTED TO BE. NOW OPEN THAT SAFE! HA! HA!

THE JOKER!

MEANWHILE... IN THE PATROLLING BATMOBILE, A POLICE ALARM IS HEARD...

CALLING CAR 14! WILD STEER REPORTED STAMPEDING FROM "DUDE RANCH" CLUB ON 52ND STREET. INVESTIGATE!

THAT'S JUST UP THE STREET, ROBIN! WE'LL BE THERE BEFORE THE POLICE CAR!

MOMENTS LATER...

THAT BUCKING BRONC IS RUNNING WILD!

ROBIN, YOU ROUND UP THAT STEER! I'M GOING TO ROUND UP A JOKER!

AND ABOVE THE STREET FAMED FOR ITS COLORFUL NIGHTCLUBS, BATMAN PURSUES THE JOKER ON THE EYE-DAZZLING PARADE OF SPECTACULAR SIGNS!

BATMAN'S SILKEN LASSO UNCOILS...

JUST THE SPOT FOR A GOOD FIGHT!

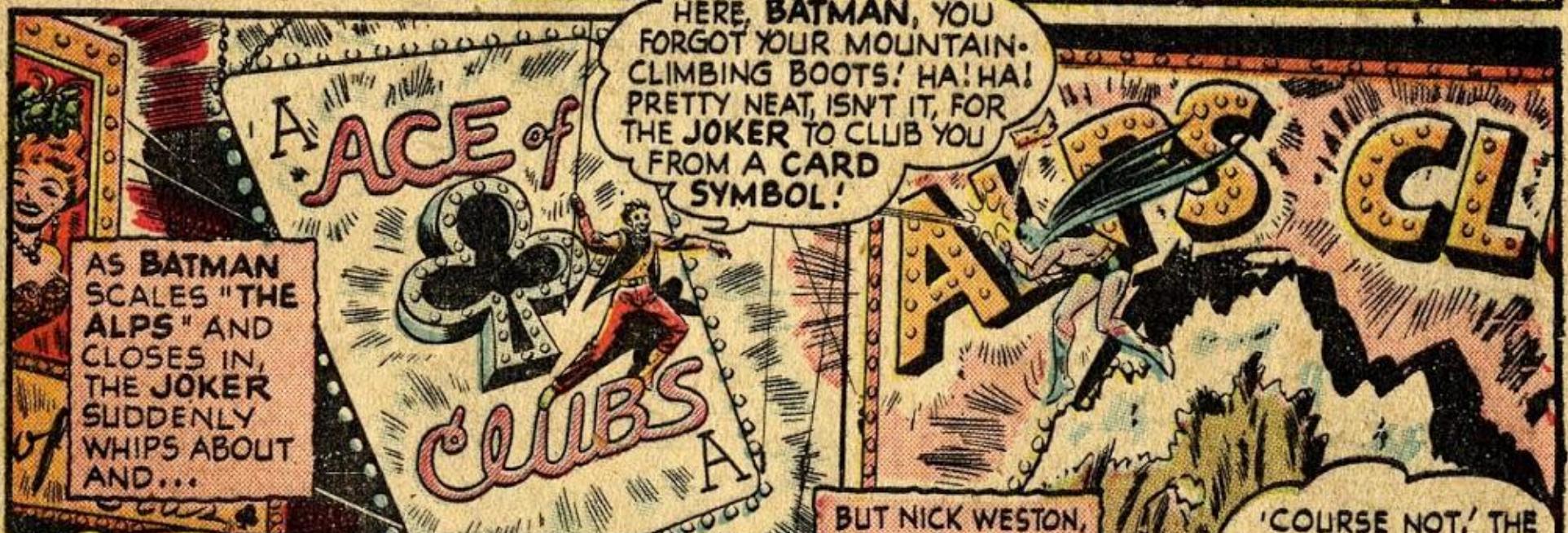
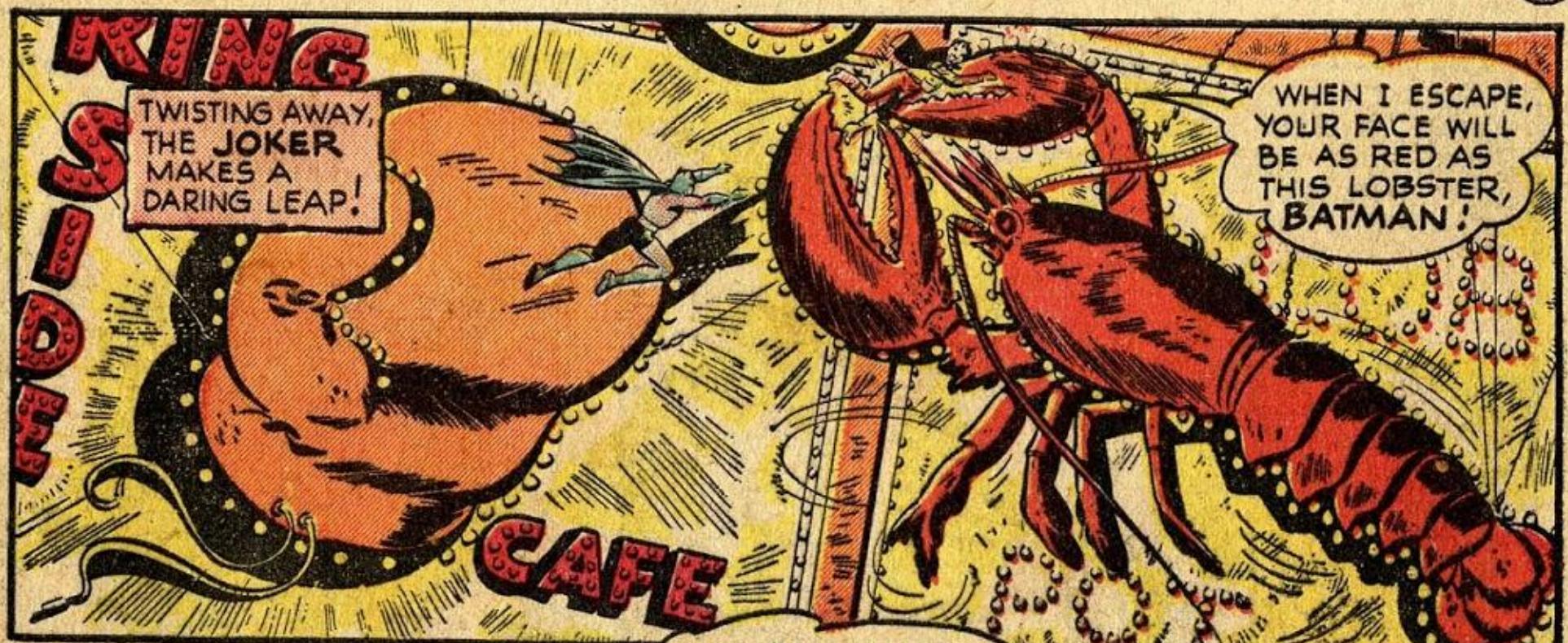
RING

SIDE

RINGSIDE CAFE

RINGSIDE CAFE

BATMAN

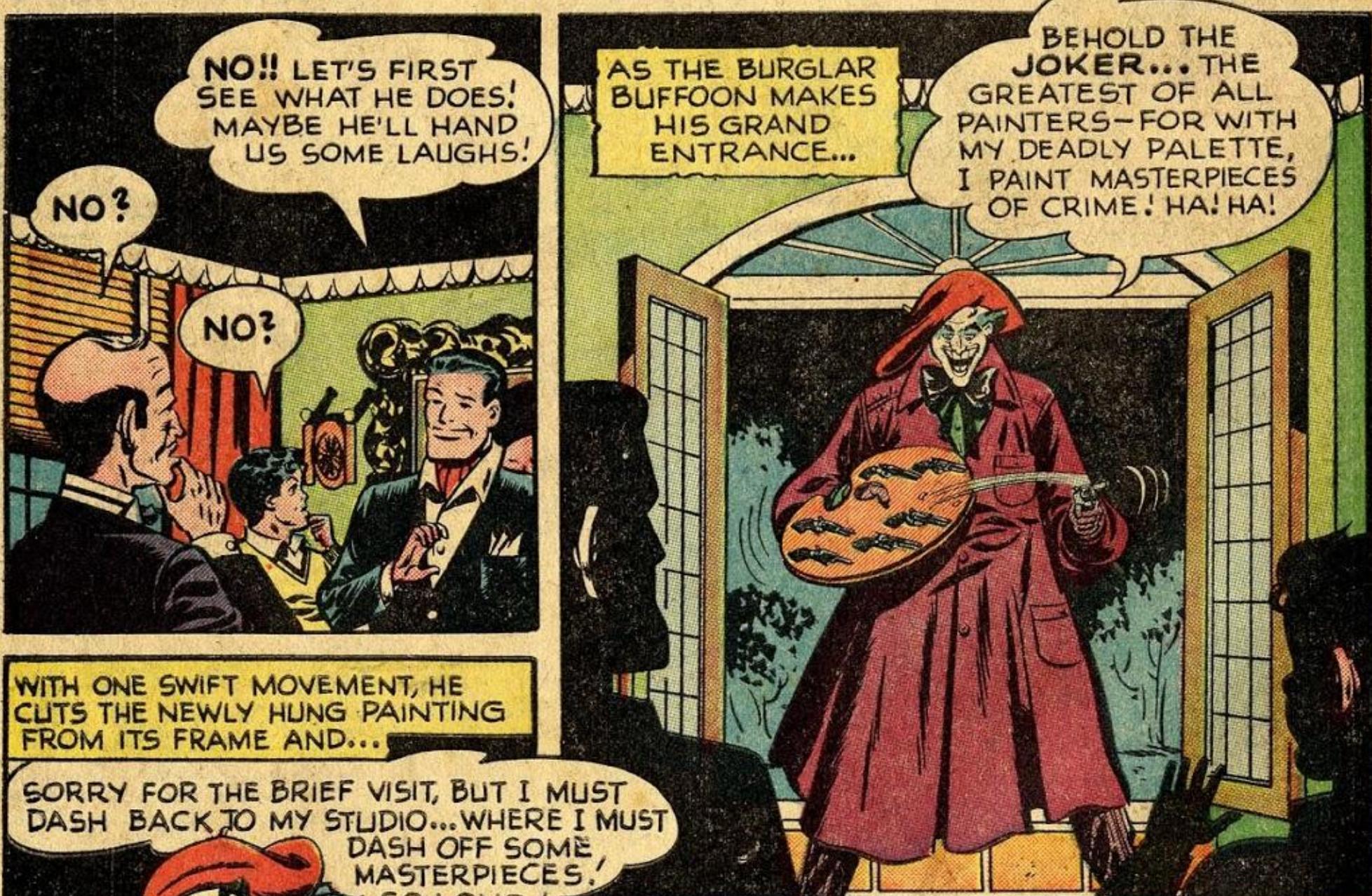




BUT BEFORE BRUCE CAN ANSWER...

LOOK-IT'S THE JOKER! AND HE'S COMING HERE! QUICK, LET'S CHANGE INTO OUR ACTION COSTUMES AND COLLAR THAT CLOWN!

NO!



WITH ONE SWIFT MOVEMENT, HE CUTS THE NEWLY HUNG PAINTING FROM ITS FRAME AND...

SORRY FOR THE BRIEF VISIT, BUT I MUST DASH BACK TO MY STUDIO... WHERE I MUST DASH OFF SOME MASTERPIECES! SO LONG!

HA! HA! DID YOU SEE HIS COSTUME? THE FLOPPY BERET WAS A RIOT! HA! HA! IT'S TRUE-THE JOKER CERTAINLY MAKES ROBBERY A PLEASURE! HA!

WHAT'S THIS? BRUCE WAYNE..THE BATMAN ... ALSO FINDING THE CRIME CLOWN FUNNY?

BATMAN

ANNOYED WITH BRUCE, DICK WHIPS OFF HIS OUTER GARMENTS...

YOU CAN STAY HERE AND LAUGH, BUT I'M GOING AFTER THAT GIGGLING GARGOYLE!

NO, ROBIN... WAIT! COME BACK!

BUT OUTSIDE, ROBIN GETS A SURPRISE BLOW—FROM THE SKY!

ALFRED, MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE TOLD ROBIN I WANTED THE JOKER TO ESCAPE... SO I COULD TRAIL HIM TO HIS HIDEOUT AND RECOVER THE LOOT FROM THE PREVIOUS ROBBERIES!

EH?

ROBIN! WHERE'D THAT BRAT COME FROM?

GOOD THING HE DIDN'T NOTICE OUR GETAWAY BLIMP! I'LL KEEP HIM AS A HOSTAGE IN CASE BATMAN SHOWS UP!

MOMENTS LATER... THE BATPLANE WINGS INTO THE NIGHTSKY!

ROBIN DIDN'T KNOW I HAD PAINTED THAT "LAUGHING CAVALIER" PICTURE MYSELF... WITH RADIOACTIVE PAINTS! WITH THIS GEIGER COUNTER THAT REGISTERS RADIO-ACTIVE IMPULSES, I CAN TRAIL THE JOKER'S BLIMP EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUT OF SIGHT!

CLICK CLICK

WHY... IT LOOKS LIKE THE MINIATURE HOUSES I USED TO BUILD WITH PLAYING CARDS WHEN I WAS A KID!

LANDING, THE LAWMAN STEALTHILY ENTERS THE ODD BUILDING AND...

HA! HA! MY TELESCOPE SHOWED YOU FOLLOWING ME, BATMAN, SO I LED YOU INTO MY LATEST TRAP! NOW YOU AND I SHALL PLAY MENTAL POKER!

SLAM!

BATMAN

© DC COMICS INC.

"IF YOU TRY TO BREAK YOUR WAY OUT, MY HOUSE IS RIGGED TO COME TUMBLING DOWN! BUT IF YOU PLAY YOUR CARDS RIGHT, YOU'LL FIND THE EXIT! HA! HA!"



"I CAN EXPLAIN! THE OTHER NIGHT, I LOOKED UP THE JOKER'S VICTIMS IN OUR CRIME FILE... AND I LEARNED SOMETHING ASTONISHING!"



"SO, MRS. CARLIN ONCE RAN A GAMBLING HOUSE... STARK ONCE COUNTERFEITED STAMPS... WESTON IS AN EX-GANGSTER! PERHAPS THOSE "ROBBERIES" ARE REALLY A WAY OF PAYING THE JOKER — BLACKMAIL! THEY ALL HAD SHADY PASTS!"



"THAT NIGHT, I DISGUISED MYSELF AS A THUG AND MIXED WITH SOME GABBY HOODLUMS IN A TOUGH DIVE..."

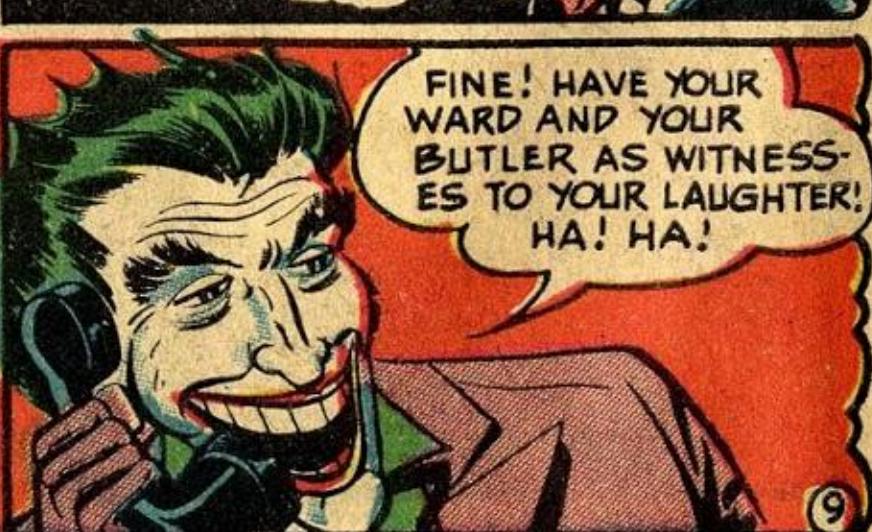


"NATURALLY, I HADN'T REALLY BOUGHT A STOLEN PAINTING, BUT I WANTED THE JOKER TO THINK I DID, AND THAT NIGHT HE PHONED ME..."



"SUDDENLY, THE WHOLE CRAZY CASE BECAME CLEAR TO ME..."

"HE PLANNED FOR HIS GREEDY "VICTIMS" TO HELP HIM PUZZLE BATMAN IN A GAME OF WITS! WHY, THE CONCEITED HAM!"





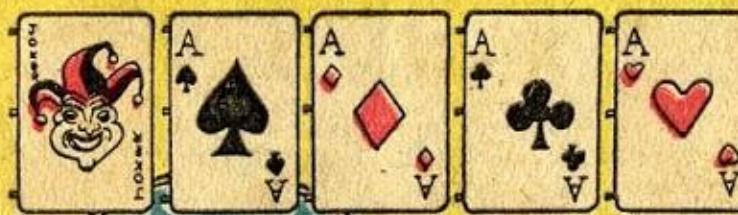
THE NEXT MOMENT—
THE HOUSE OF CARDS
TUMBLE'S DOWN ON
BATMAN AND ROBIN!

BUT TWO
FIGURES CRAWL
UNHARMED FROM THE
WRECKAGE—

CRASH!

WE'RE ALIVE... BECAUSE
YOU FIGURED OUT
WHAT THE NOTCHES
ON THE FIVE ACES
MEANT!

THOSE FIVE ACES,
MADE OF TOUGH
STEEL, FITTED TO-
GETHER TO FORM A
CRASHPROOF
SHELTER THAT
WARDDED OFF THE
FALLING BEAMS!



WE'LL PICK UP THE
BATMOBILE! THE JOKER'S
FINISHED WITH HIS CRIME-
GAGS, SO HE MUST BE
PAYING OFF HIS
VICTIMS!

WHAT
NOW?



THE DYNAMIC DUO SPEEDS
TO STARK'S STAMP SHOP...

THE JOKER JUST
LEFT! HE RETURNED TWO
COLLECTIONS OF STAMPS
AS HE PROMISED—BUT
THEY'RE RUBBER
STAMPS!

BUT WHEN THE MAN-
HUNTERS ARRIVE AT MRS.
CARLIN'S HOME, THE
CRIMINAL CLOWN HAS
COME AND GONE!...

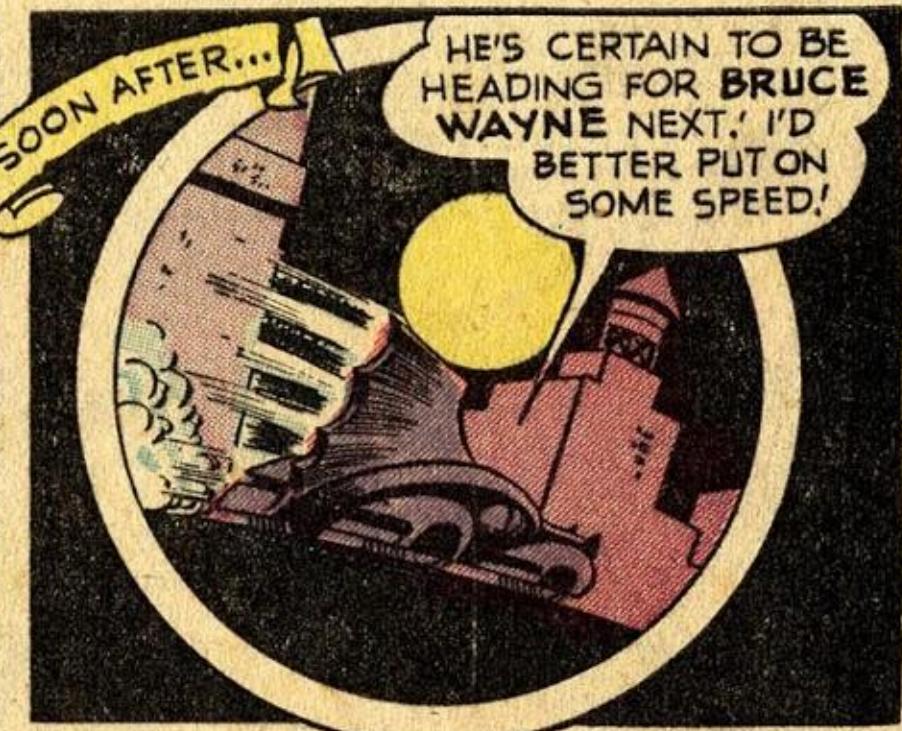
I KNOW ABOUT YOUR
DEAL WITH THE JOKER
SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL
CONFESS!

BUT HE NEGLECTED
TO TELL ME THE COATS
WOULD BE THE "COATS"
ON TWO SMALL
ERMINES!

PERHAPS
THIS COSTLY
LESSON WILL
TEACH YOU NEVER
TO MAKE DEALS
WITH "HONORABLE"
CROOKS!

YES, I MADE A
DEAL... WHEN HE PROMISED
TO GIVE ME TWO ERMINE
COATS IN RETURN!

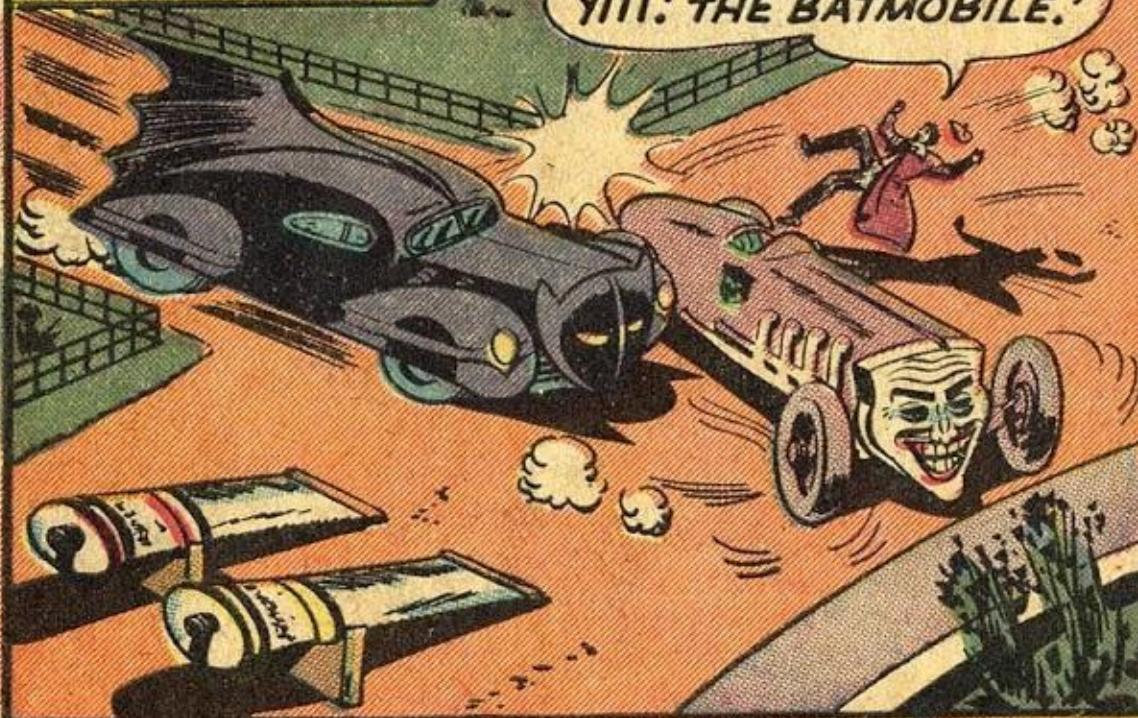




BATMAN

SUDDENLY, A DARK JUGGERNAUT THUNDERS FROM THE BLACKNESS AND EXPERTLY SIDESWIPES THE JOKERMOBILE!

YIII! THE BATMOBILE!



YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL, JOKER!
UGHH!

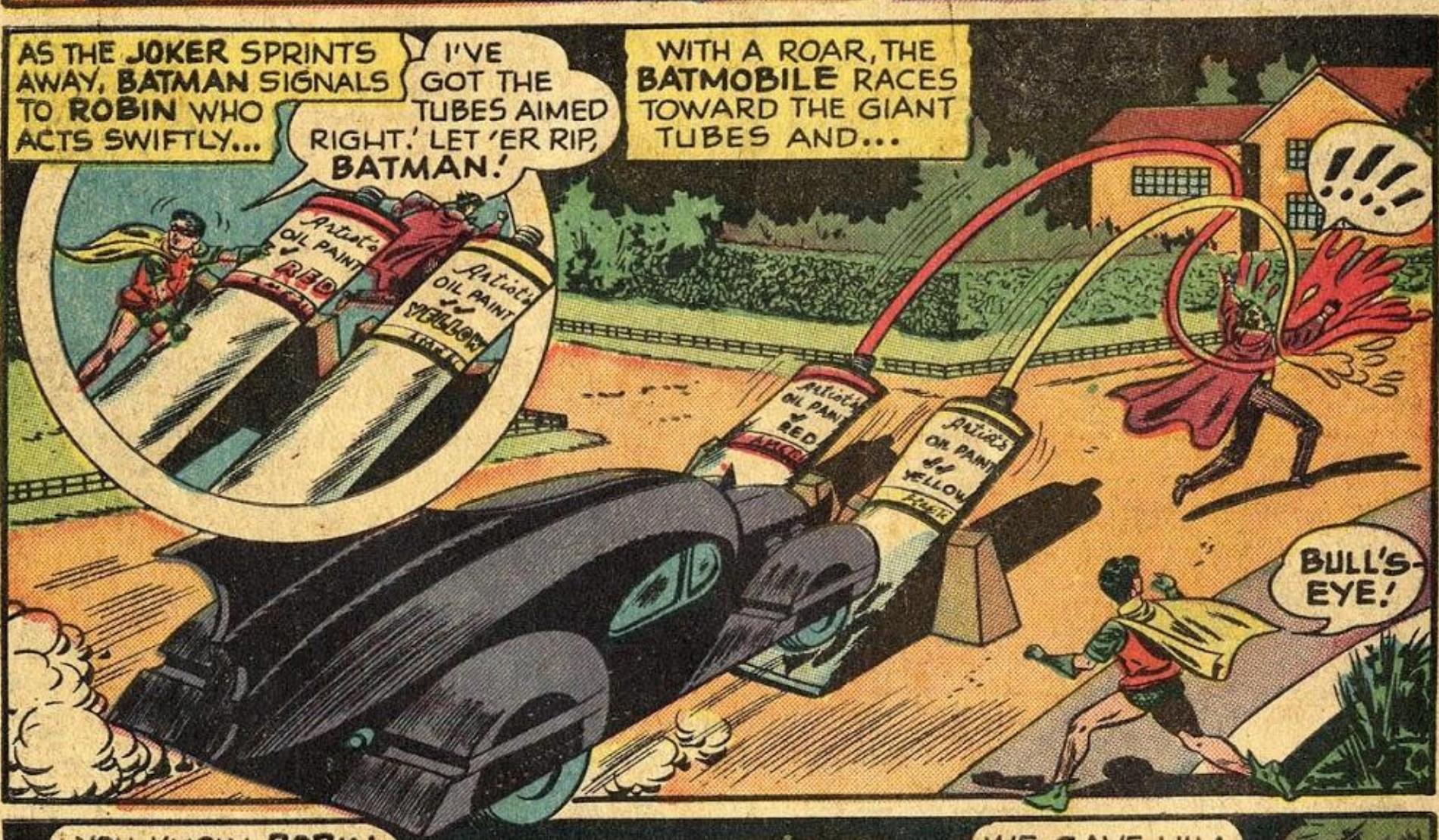
YOU'LL HAVE TO ARREST ME FIRST!



AS THE JOKER SPRINTS AWAY, BATMAN SIGNALS TO ROBIN WHO ACTS SWIFTLY...

I'VE GOT THE TUBES AIMED RIGHT! LET 'ER RIP, BATMAN!

WITH A ROAR, THE BATMOBILE RACES TOWARD THE GIANT TUBES AND...



BULL'S-EYE!

YOU KNOW, ROBIN, THE JOKER MADE US SEE RED... BUT IN RETURN WE'VE MADE HIM SEE RED AND YELLOW!

BAH!

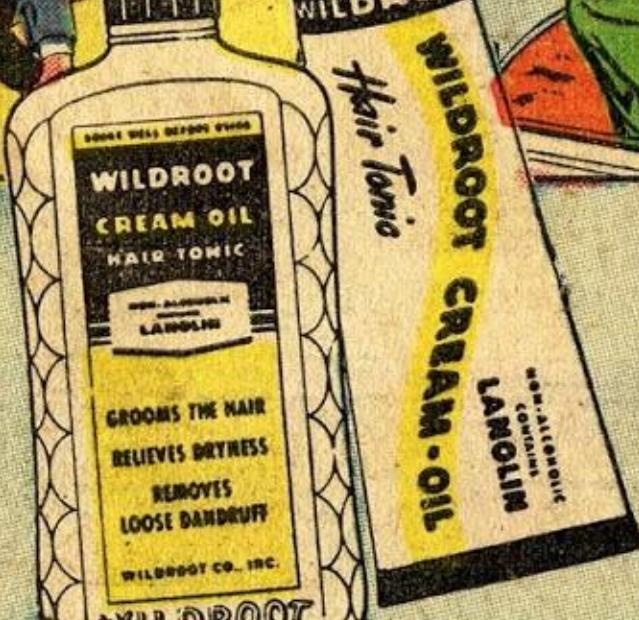
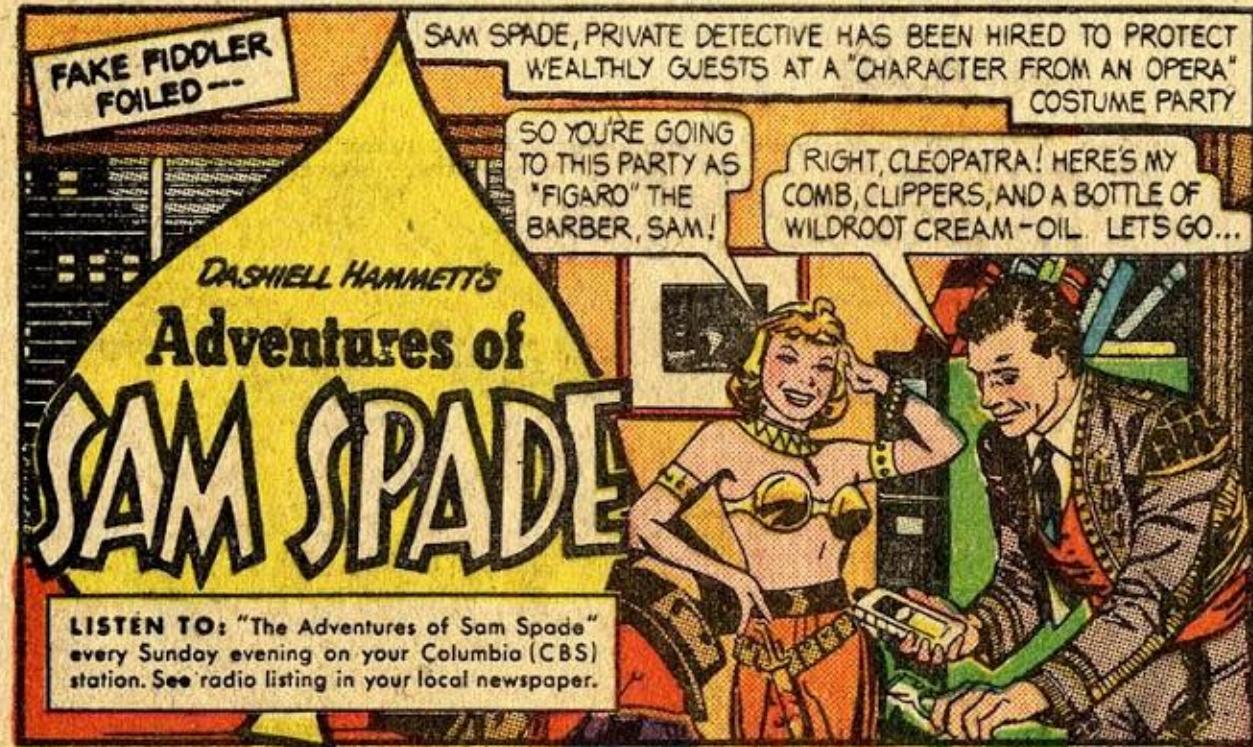
WE GAVE HIM TWO FOR ONE, JUST LIKE HE GAVE HIS VICTIMS! HA! HA!



(B) BATMAN AND ROBIN CLASH WITH OTHER VILLAINS IN DETECTIVE COMICS, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, AND STAR SPANGLED COMICS!

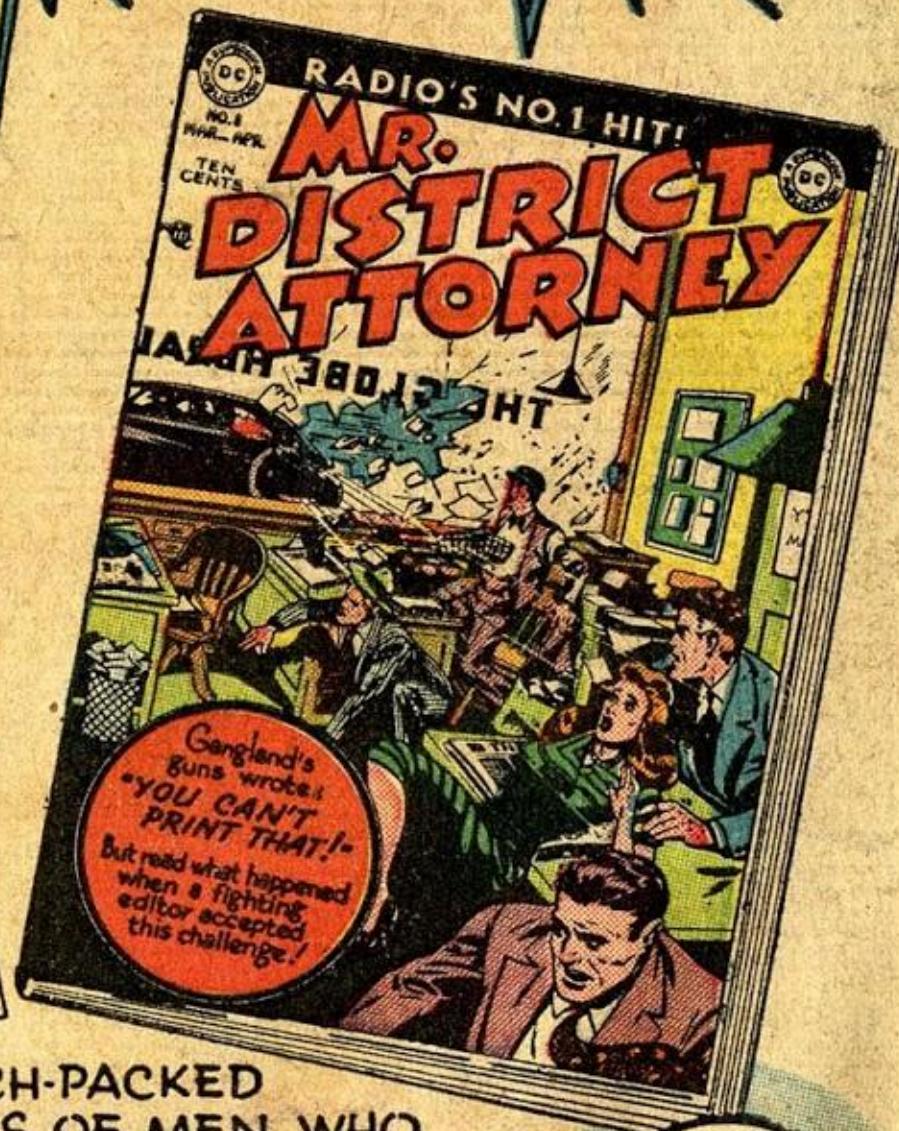
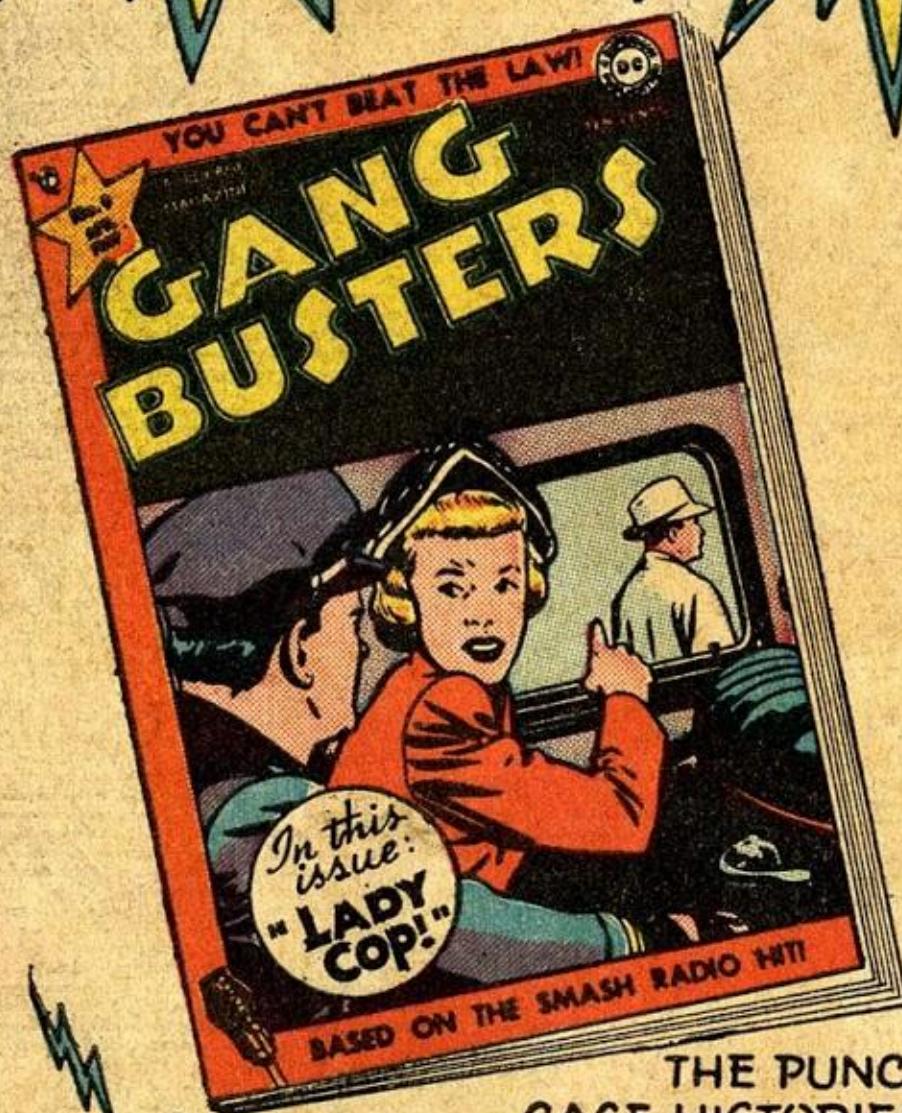
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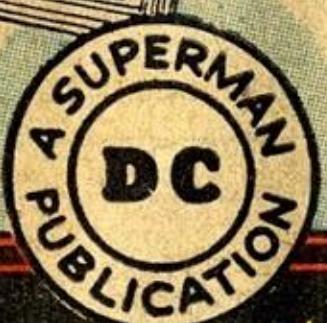
DRAMA! EXCITEMENT! ACTION!



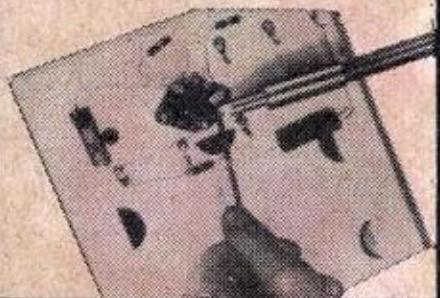
THE PUNCH-PACKED
CASE-HISTORIES OF MEN WHO
TRIED TO BEAT THE LAW—AND
OF THE LAWMEN WHO BEAT
THEM TO THE FINAL DRAW!



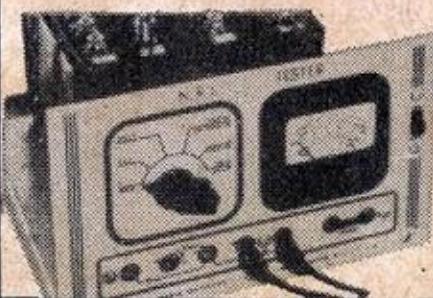
TOPS IN RADIO!
Now TOPS IN COMICS!



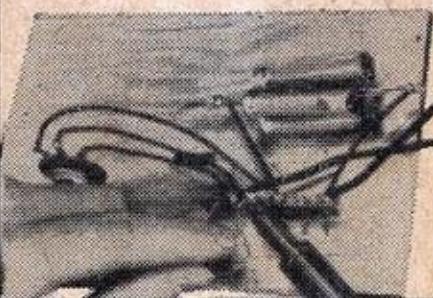
YOU PRACTICE Radio soldering, mounting, connecting with soldering equipment and Radio parts I send you.



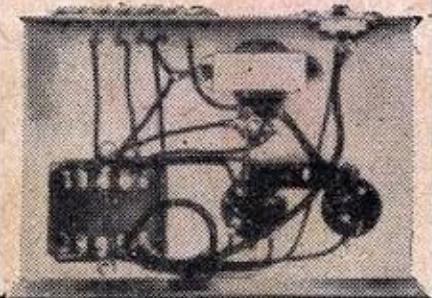
YOU BUILD this Tester that soon helps you EARN EXTRA MONEY fixing neighbors' Radios in spare time.



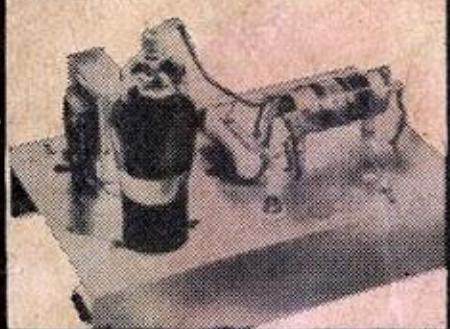
YOU BUILD special Radio Circuits like this with parts I send. Learn how to locate and repair defective circuits.



YOU BUILD Vacuum Tube Power Pack, get experience correcting Power Pack troubles of many kinds.



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