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15¢

NO. 219
FEB.

BATMAN



"DEATH CASTS
THE DECIDING VOTE!"



IF YOU NEED EXTRA MONEY & YOU KNOW JUST 10 PEOPLE...

**YOU CAN MAKE \$50⁰⁰, \$100⁰⁰, \$200⁰⁰ AND MORE
IN YOUR SPARE TIME—It costs you nothing to try!**

Everyone You Know Needs Greeting Cards ... and Everyone Loves Wallace Brown Cards.

Do you know 10 people? Of course you do! Add up several neighbors, some relatives, the grocer, the milkman, your dentist, a few friends—and you've got a lot more. So what are you waiting for? These folks alone can bring you in at least \$50, probably \$100 and more extra money in just a few hours spare time. And this is just a start. Everyone uses Greeting Cards for Birthdays, Get-Well, Anniversaries, etc., and when you show them the thrilling new Wallace Brown line of Cards and Gift items—it's love at first sight. They'll snap up 2, 3, 6 or more Box Assortments and other things, too! This is the fun way of making money because it's so easy.

Mail Coupon Below TODAY! Get Free Giant Catalog, Too!

We'll send you everything you need to start making money at once. So hurry! Mail business reply coupon below TODAY! It needs no postage! You'll get 3 fast-selling All-Occasion Assortments on approval plus FREE big, colorful 48-page Catalog packed full of lots of money makers—greeting cards, gift wraps, imported novelties and gifts, household items, decorated and personalized stationery, etc. Mail coupon this minute—you'll be glad you did!

Last year some folks made only \$25 to \$50 while others made \$150-\$250-\$500 and more selling our entire line of greeting cards. Many church groups, organizations, schools, lodges, etc. do this year after year.

CUT OUT ENTIRE
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FILL IN COUPON-ENVELOPE,
FOLD OVER FIRMLY,
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AND MAIL TODAY
No Stamp Necessary



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Beautiful Photos.
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Sparkling Pets
Ass't. Irresistible
Lovable—15 Gay
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Pink Parchment
Ass't. 20 Jeweled
Cards—Matching
Pink Envelopes!

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I want to make extra money with the Wallace Brown line. Please rush me three best-selling All-Occasion Assortments on approval, the Free 48-page catalog of money-making gift items and everything I need to start making money at once. As a Wallace Brown Dealer I will also be privileged to receive additional FREE money-making literature, catalogs, special offers and seasonal samples on approval as they become available.

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Dept. WBW-400

STORY BY:
FRANK
ROBBINS

ART By:
IRV NOVICK
&
DICK
GIORDANO

BATMAN

"IF I COULD HAVE
GUESSED THEN THAT
MY FIRST VENTURE INTO
THE MURKY WORLD
OF POLITICS..."

"...WOULD HAVE GOTTEN ME ARRESTED (AS BRUCE
WAYNE) BY THE F.B.I. ABOARD A WASHINGTON-
BOUND PLANE...AS A HI-JACKER..."

"...WOULD HAVE SPLIT BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN
INTO TWO SEPARATE ENTITIES..."

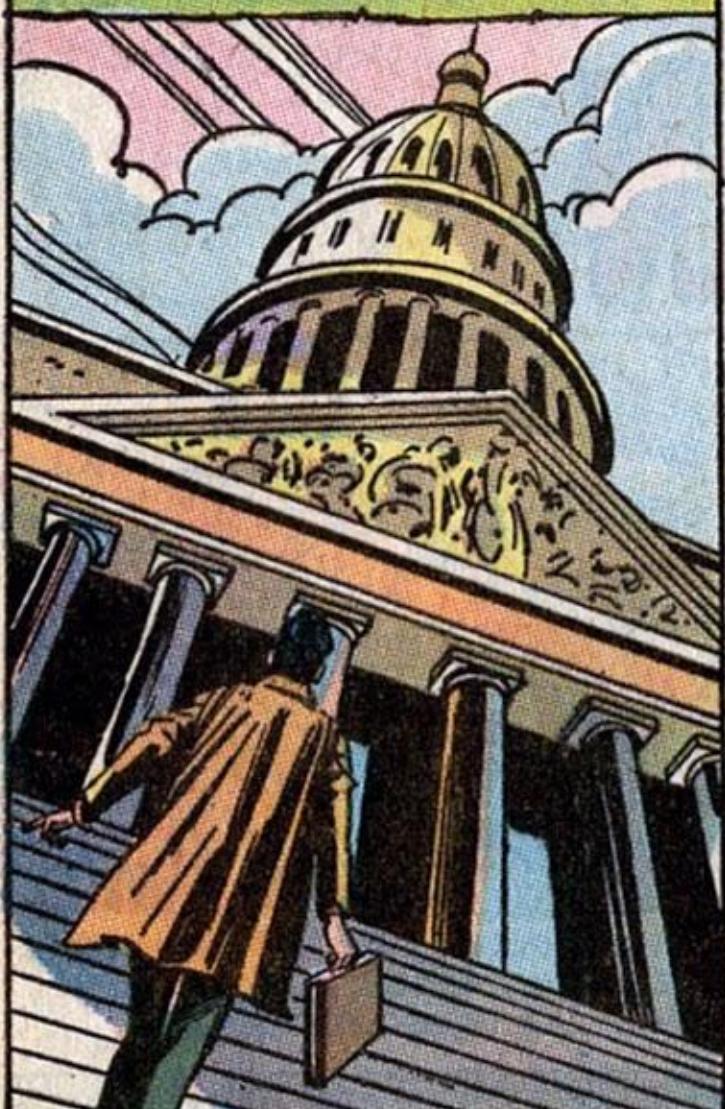
"...AND TOPPED THAT WITH THE BIGGEST
AERIAL ACT EVER PUT ON OVER WASHINGTON,
D.C.—WITHOUT A 'CHUTE..."

DEATH CASTS THE DECIDING VOTE

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"IF I'D ONLY KNOWN--THAT FATEFUL DAY I ENTERED THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING--WHAT I KNOW NOW! BUT, ANY FOOL CAN HAVE HINDSIGHT..."



"I'D COME TO LOBBY FOR PUBLIC FUNDS TO AUGMENT MY PRIVATELY-FUNDED V.I.P. (VICTIMS INC. PROGRAM)... ALREADY BEYOND MY MEANS..."



YES, MR. WAYNE--I HAVE YOU DOWN ON MY CALENDAR FOR 4:00! I'LL SEE IF GOVERNOR PUTNAM IS FREE...



OH, I'M SORRY, SIR! DIDN'T REALIZE YOU HAD...

QUITE ALL RIGHT, MISS HOPKINS! MY VISITOR DIDN'T COME IN THE USUAL WAY!

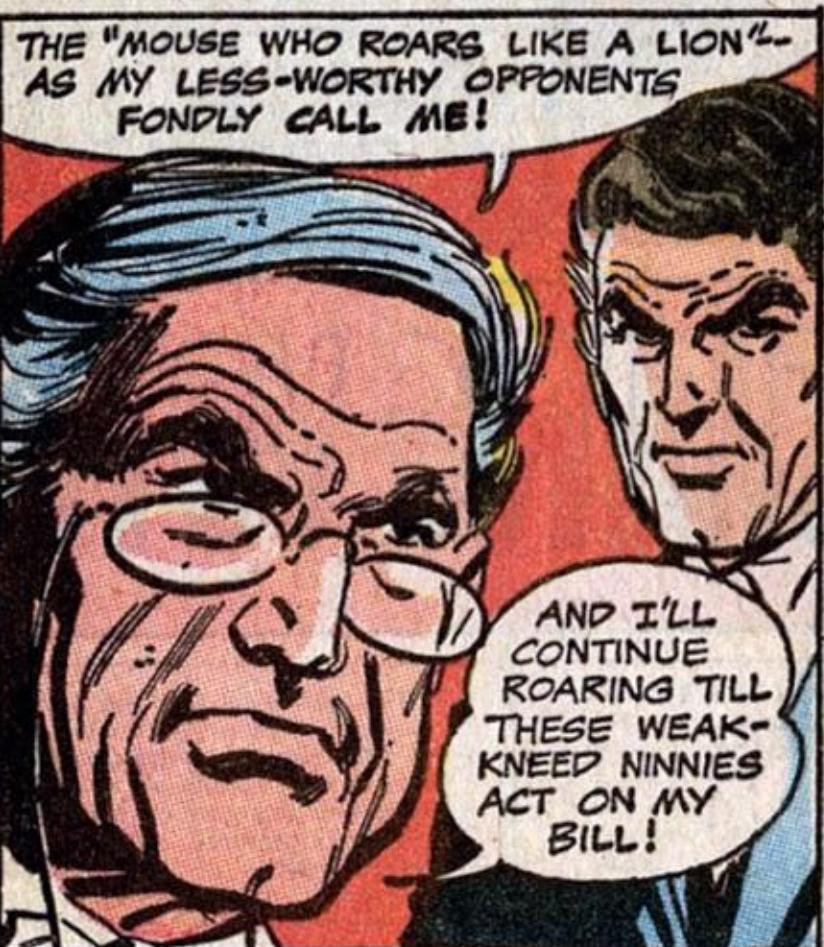
BESIDES, I WANTED MR. WAYNE TO MEET HIM! SHOW HIM IN, PLEASE.



YOU TWO HAVE A COMMON CAUSE, BRUCE--THE BURNING DESIRE TO COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME!

THIS IS THE "ELDER GADFLY" OF OUR PARTY IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL...

"OLD SILVER MANE"-- SENATOR LINCOLN WEBSTER!



AND I'LL CONTINUE ROARING TILL THESE WEAK-KNEED NINNIES ACT ON MY BILL!



LINC'S STRONG ANTI-CRIME BILL IS COMING UP FOR A VOTE ON THE SENATE FLOOR TOMORROW MORNING, BRUCE...

...SO HE FLEW IN TO PLOT PARTY-STRATEGY WITH ME! STRICTLY OFF-THE-CUFF, YOU UNDERSTAND?

THE GOVERNOR HAS SHOWN ME
YOUR PROPOSED LEGISLATION,
WAYNE--VERY IMPRESSIVE!
BUT...

I'VE READ IT,
SENATOR! YES,
IT WILL GO A
LONG WAY TOWARD
CURBING CRIME,
BUT-- I'M
AFRAID...

...MY BILL IS
DESIGNED TO PUT
YOUR LOBBY OUT-
OF-BUSINESS!
S-102,320 WILL
PREVENT "VICTIMS"!
"INCORPORATED"--
OR OTHERWISE!

I LIKE YOU, WAYNE--YOU DON'T PUSSYFOOT
WITH ME! YOU'RE RIGHT-- I'M
AFRAID TOO, WE'LL
ALWAYS HAVE
VICTIMS!

BUT AS YOU
KNOW, THIS IS NOT
JUST A LOCAL
ISSUE...

I'D LIKE YOU TO COME BACK TO
WASHINGTON WITH ME! THERE
ARE SOME...AH...INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE, WHO MIGHT APPEND
YOUR IDEAS TO A FEDERAL
BILL ON "HEALTH AND
WELFARE"!

THIS IS
MORE THAN
I EXPECTED,
SIR...

IN MY BUSINESS, WAYNE,
YOU DON'T EXPECT
ANYTHING-- YOU
FIGHT FOR IT!

I KNOW, GOVERNOR--
THE BACK-DOOR
OUT! AS FAR AS
ANYONE KNOWS--I'M
STILL IN WASHING-
TON, D.C.!

YEAH, BOSS--IT'S HIM
ALL RIGHT! JUST SNEAKING
OUT THE BACK-DOOR OF
THE GUY'S BAILIWICK!

HAS TO BE HIM,
ACCORDING TO OUR
INFORMANT! PASS
THE WORD TO THE
BOYS AT THE
AIRPORT!

GUESS THIS CLOAK-AND-
DAGGER ROUTINE IS
NECESSARY IN INTER-
PARTY POLITICKING.
SENATOR WEBSTER?
WOULDN'T WANT THE
OPPOSITION TO GET
WIND OF...

MORE THAN THAT,
WAYNE! THERE ARE
POWERFUL FORCES IN
THE UNDERWORLD
WHO MIGHT STOP AT
NOTHING TO PREVENT
MY BILL FROM GOING
THROUGH!



ON OUR-RIGHT?
BUT, OF COURSE...

WE'RE OFF COURSE!...I'D BETTER CHECK WITH THE CAPTAIN...

COOL IT, FELLA! THE CREW DON'T NEED HELP FROM NOSEY PASSENGERS!

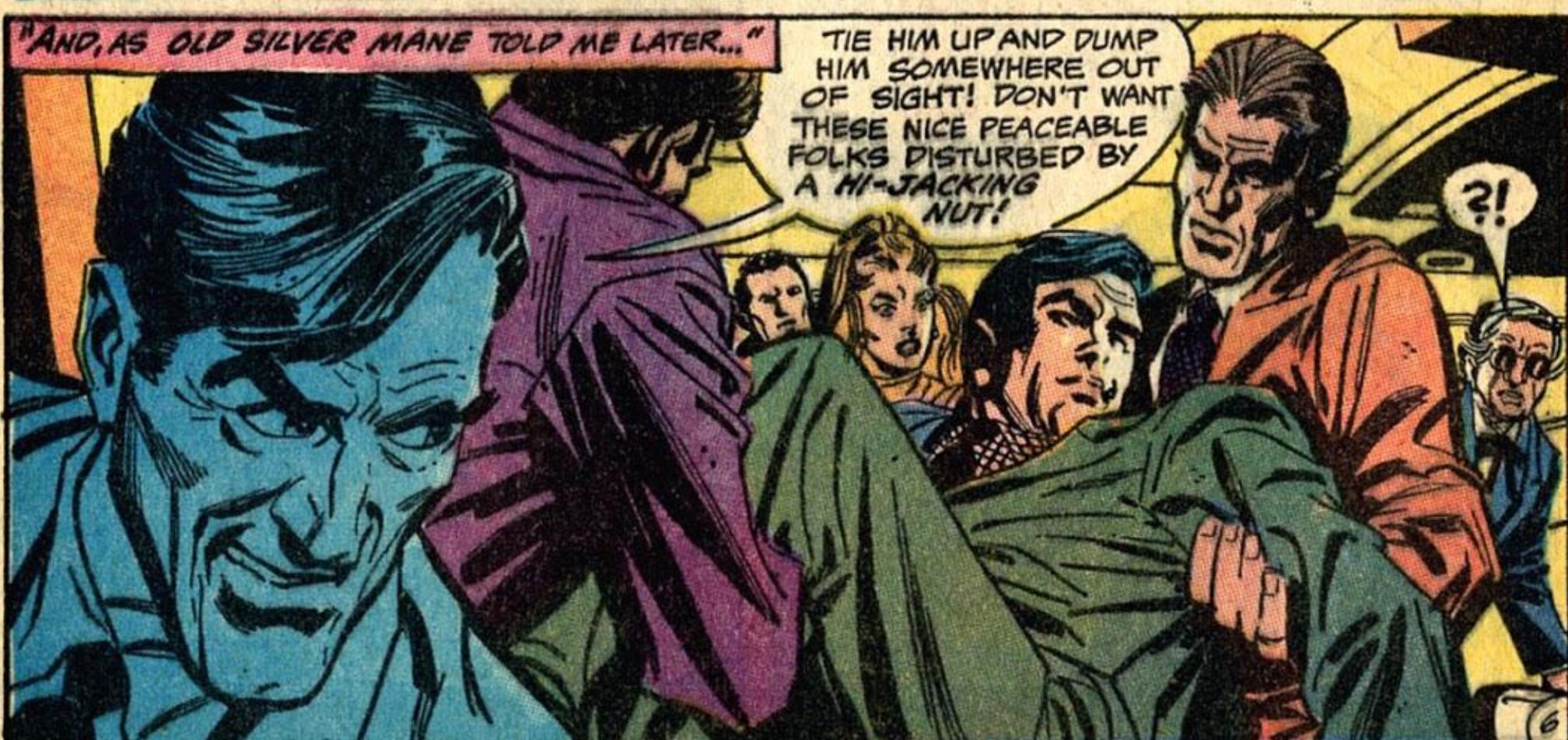
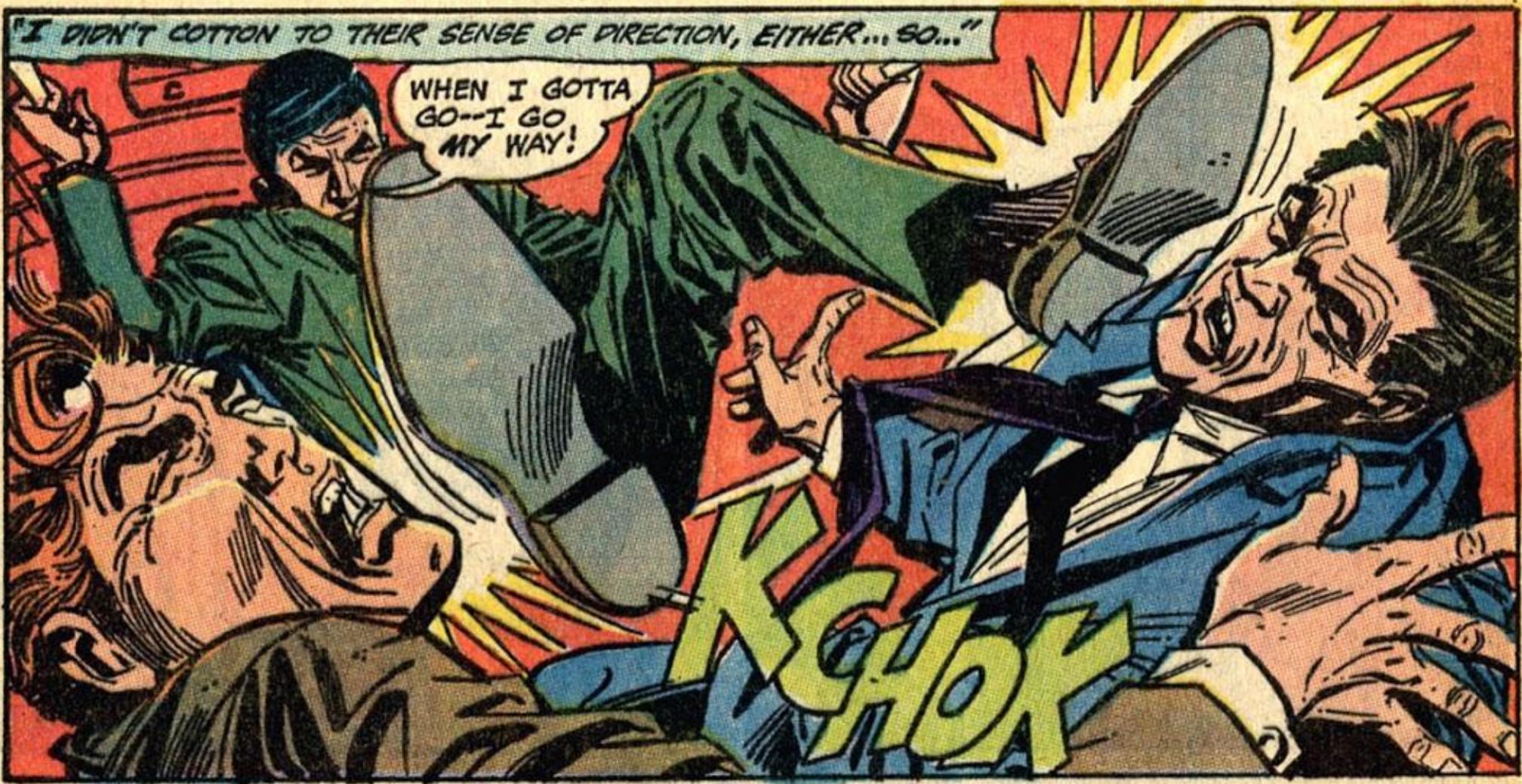
WHAT...?

I NEVER DID TAKE TO BEING PAWNED BY STRANGERS!

YOU SIT THIS ONE OUT,
PAL--I DON'T NEED INSTRUCTIONS FROM NOSEY PASSENGERS!

"BUT HIS BUDDIES WERE NOT ONLY NOSEY...THEY WERE HARD-NOSED!"

THE LI'L BOY'S ROOM IS BACK THAT WAY, MISTER!



"SENATOR WEBSTER ROSE TO HIS FULL FIVE-FOOT HEIGHT OF OUTRAGED DIGNITY, AND..."

JUST WHAT IN Tarnation DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! I'LL PERSONALLY VOUCH FOR THIS MAN...

I WOULDN'T, GRAND-POP! WE'VE HAD THIS JOKER UNDER SURVEILANCE SINCE HE CAME ABOARD!

F.B.I.--FOLKS! RELAX--EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL NOW!

IS IT? SOMETHING SMELLS TO THE CAPITOL DOME HERE, BUT...

"I'D KNOWN IT HAD TO END UP THIS WAY--AND IT SUITED MY PLANS PERFECTLY! ALONE IN THE FOOD-COMPARTMENT, ONE GUARD OUTSIDE..."

THERE COMES A TIME WHEN "BRUCE WAYNE" IS HELPLESS, BUT...

"I DIDN'T NEED HOT COFFEE TO WAKE ME UP, BUT... IT SERVED A BETTER (IF MORE PAINFUL) PURPOSE!"

...BATMAN ISN'T!

"SATURATING THE DRY ROPE ENABLED ME TO STRETCH IT ENOUGH TO..."

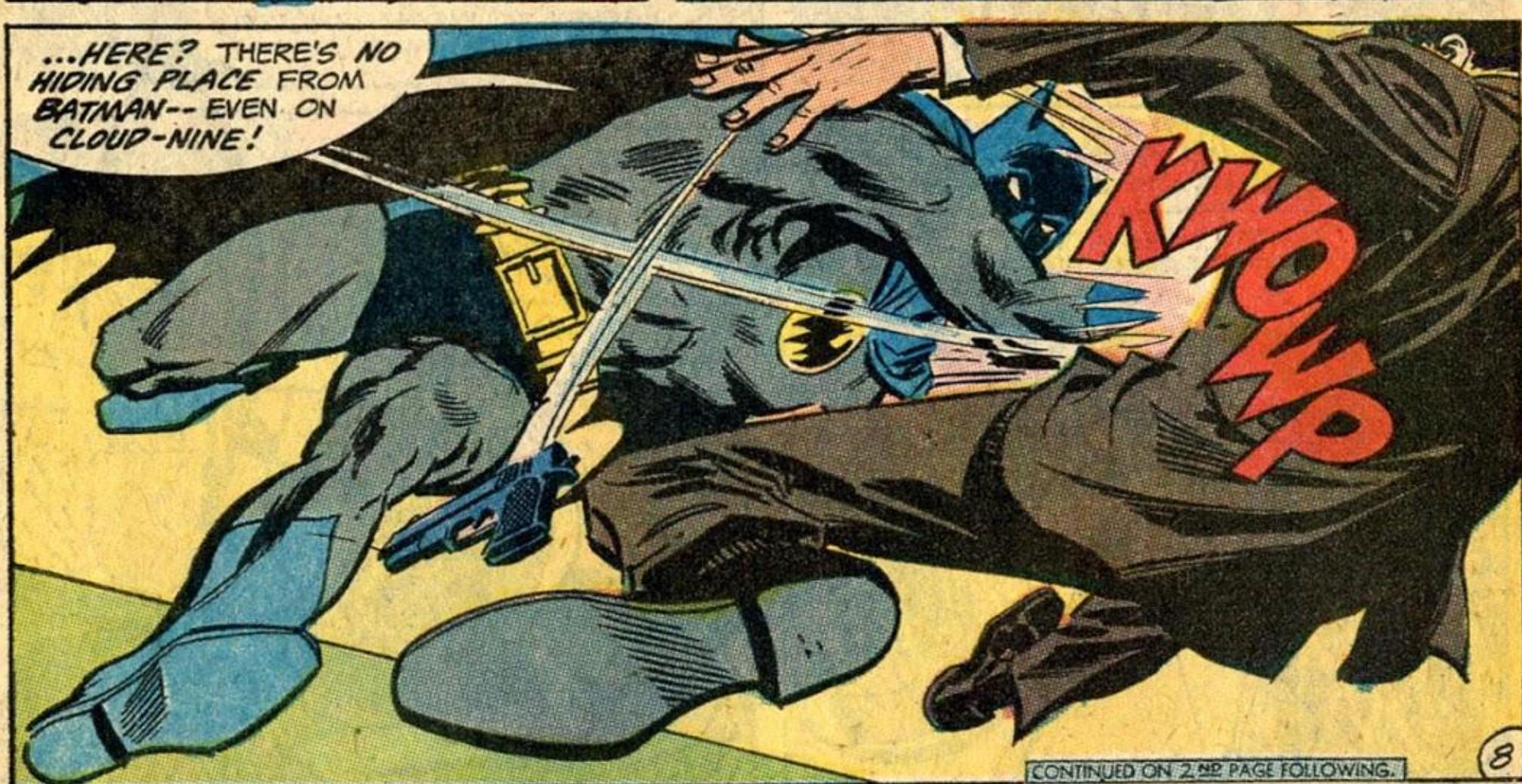
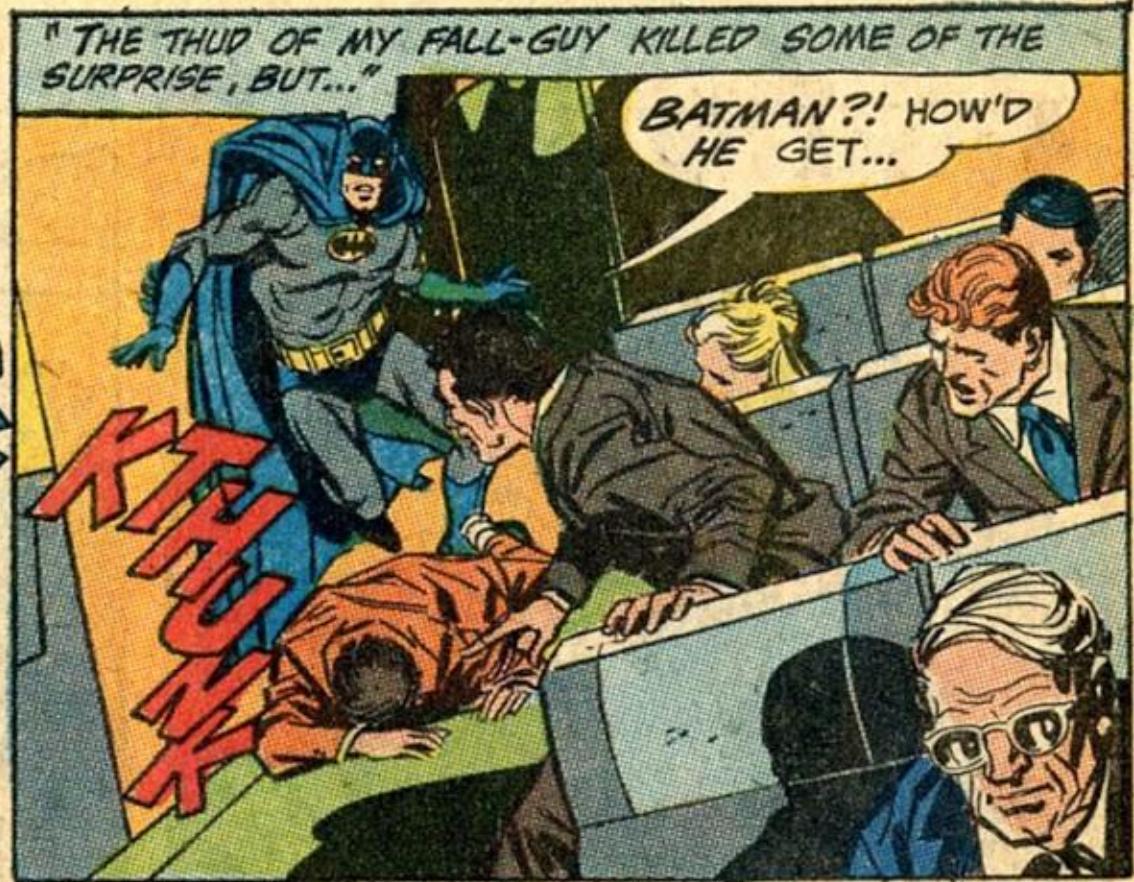
LOOSENERED UP--
LIKE LIMP SPAGHETTI!
HERE WE GO...

"A CONVENIENT SUPPLY OF MAE WESTS--WITH THEIR SELF-INFLATING MECHANISM--HELPED FILL BRUCE'S EMPTY CLOTHING!"

IT'LL PASS A CURSORY INSPECTION
IN CASE ANYONE IS IN A POSITION
TO GET CURIOUS--AFTER I
MAKE MY APPEARANCE!

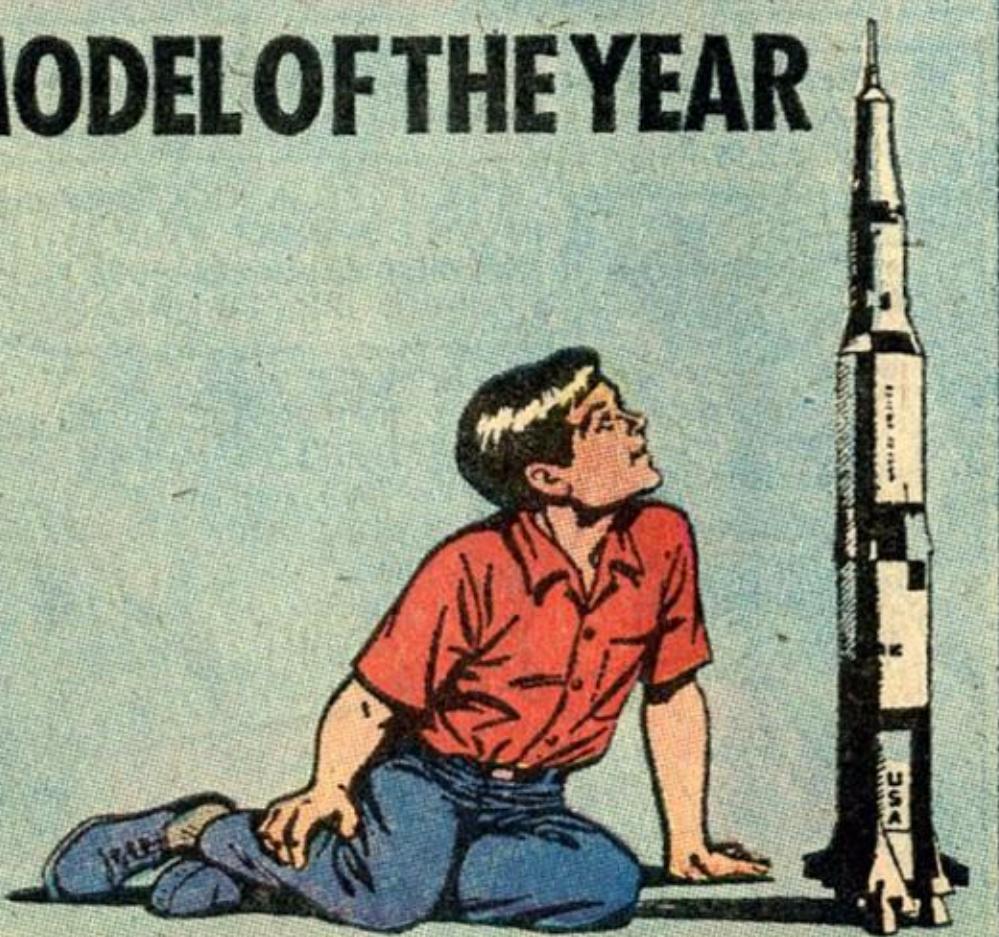
NOW TO GET
TO THE BOTTOM
OF THIS! THEY
WEREN'T AFTER
ME... JUST
WHAT IS
THEIR
GAME?

MAE WESTS
OPEN ONLY IN
AT-SEA DITCHING
EMERGENCIES!



CONTINUED ON 2 ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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Peter, Paul and Mary's TOP HIT SONG BOOK

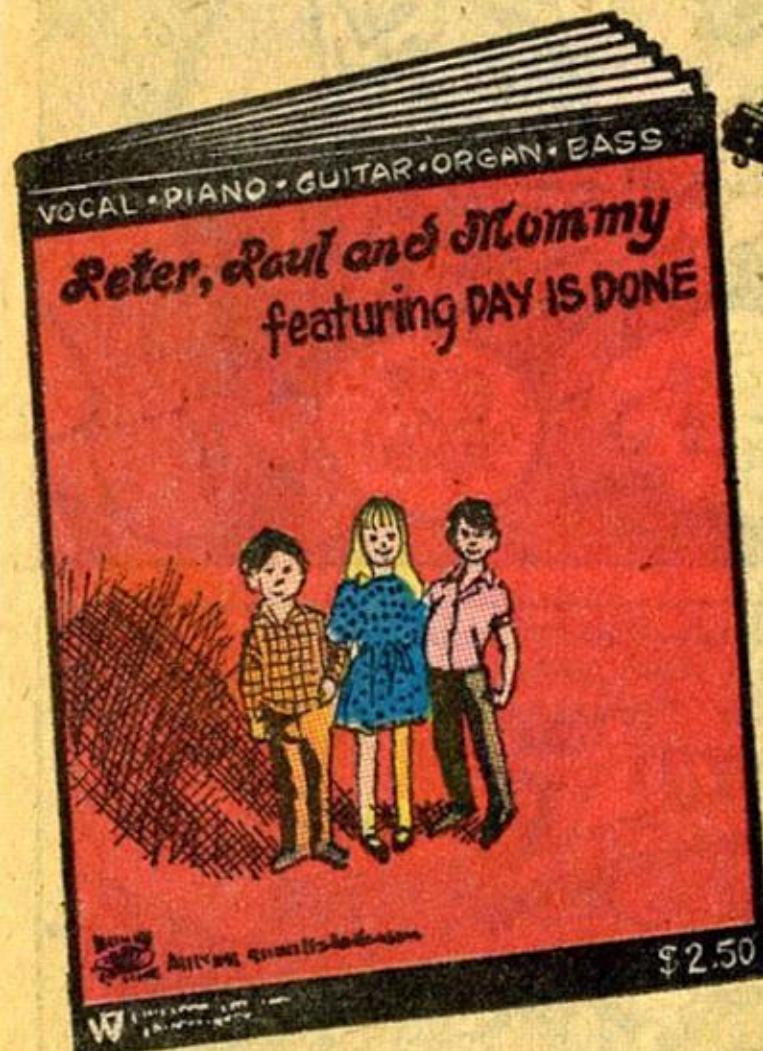


from their new

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with these exciting TOP HIT SONGS:

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- ★ Puff (The Magic Dragon)
- ★ Leatherwing Bat
- ★ All Through The Night
- ★ Make-Believe Town
- ★ Christmas Dinner
- ★ Going To The Zoo
- ★ I Have A Song To Sing, O!
- ★ The Marvelous Toy
- ★ Mockingbird

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the Peter, Paul and Mary poster as my free gift.

I NAME.....

I ADDRESS.....

I CITY..... STATE..... ZIP.....

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And, if you act now, you'll receive a poster of Peter, Paul and Mary absolutely Free! So don't miss the fun. Mail the money-saving order form today!

"I CONTINUED TO PILE UP POINTS FOR THE BATMAN-LEGEND... HITTING THEM WHERE IT HURT!"

ANYTIME YOU PICK THE SPOT-- NO MATTER WHERE...

COUNT ON ME TO BE THERE-- AND TO PUT YOU ON IT!

"I PUT HIM ON THE SPOT ALL RIGHT--ONLY THE 'HIM' TURNED OUT TO BE..."

OKAY, CRIME-BUSTER-FREEZE! OR I FREEZE OLD SILVER MANE!

?!
COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THE SENATOR'S IDENTITY, UNLESS-- HE WAS THEIR "TARGET" ALL ALONG!

GRAB HIM, BOYS!

FASTEN SEATBELTS! WE'RE LANDING!

WE'RE HERE! NO TIME NOW TO FOOL WITH BAT-STUFF-- TOSS HIM IN WITH THE OTHER CREEP!

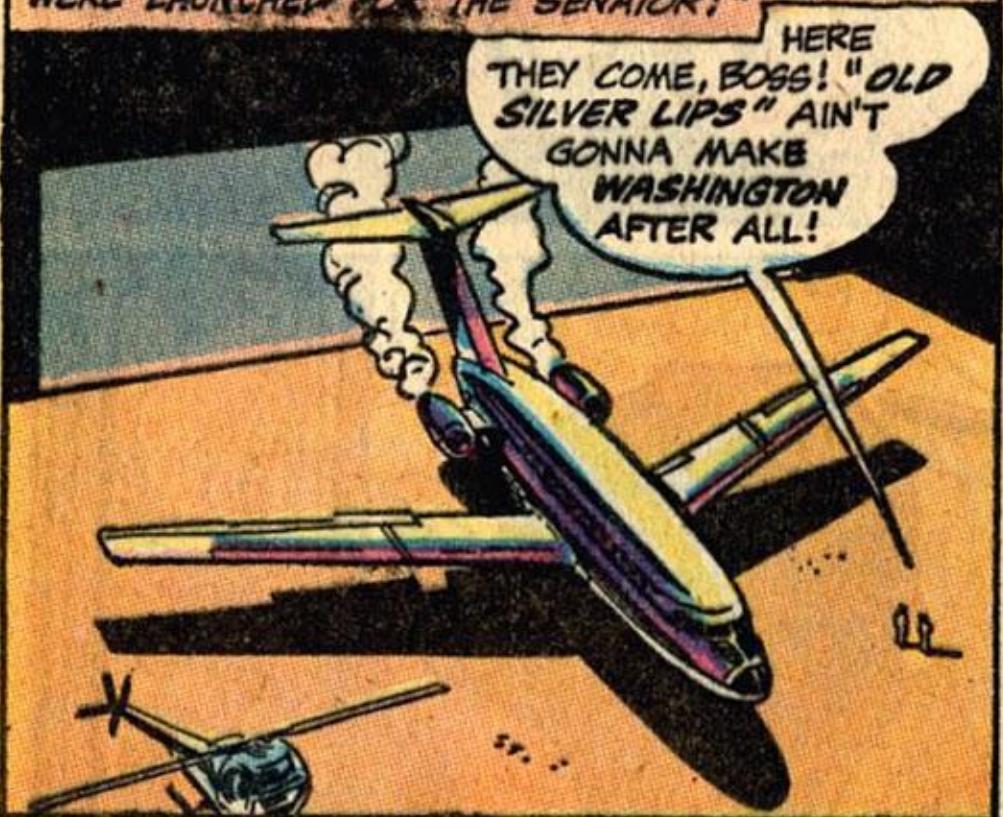
"SO THERE I WAS--RIGHT BACK WHERE I STARTED FROM! AND 'BRUCE' WAS NO GREAT HELP TO ME NOW!"

THE BOSS WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM!

"WE CAME IN OVER AN ABANDONED AIR-STRIP,
SOMEWHERE DEEP IN THE BACKWOODS..."



"...AND TAXIED INTO A HANGAR! THEY WERE TAKING
NO CHANCES ON BEING SPOTTED IF AN AIR-SEARCH
WERE LAUNCHED FOR THE SENATOR!"



HERE
THEY COME, BOSS! "OLD
SILVER LIPS" AIN'T
GONNA MAKE
WASHINGTON
AFTER ALL!

I DEMAND TO
KNOW WHO'S
RESPONSIBLE
FOR THIS--THIS
OUTRAGE!

HUSH YOUR SILVER TONSILS,
OLD COOT! LET THE BOSS
TELL YOU...



I REGRET THE
NEED FOR
CONCEALMENT,
SENATOR
WEBSTER--BUT
A MAN IN MY
POSITION CAN'T
AFFORD THE
PUBLIC
ACCLAIM YOU
ENJOY!

BECAUSE--EVEN THOUGH
YOUR ANTI-CRIME BILL
WILL FAIL TO PASS
TOMORROW...

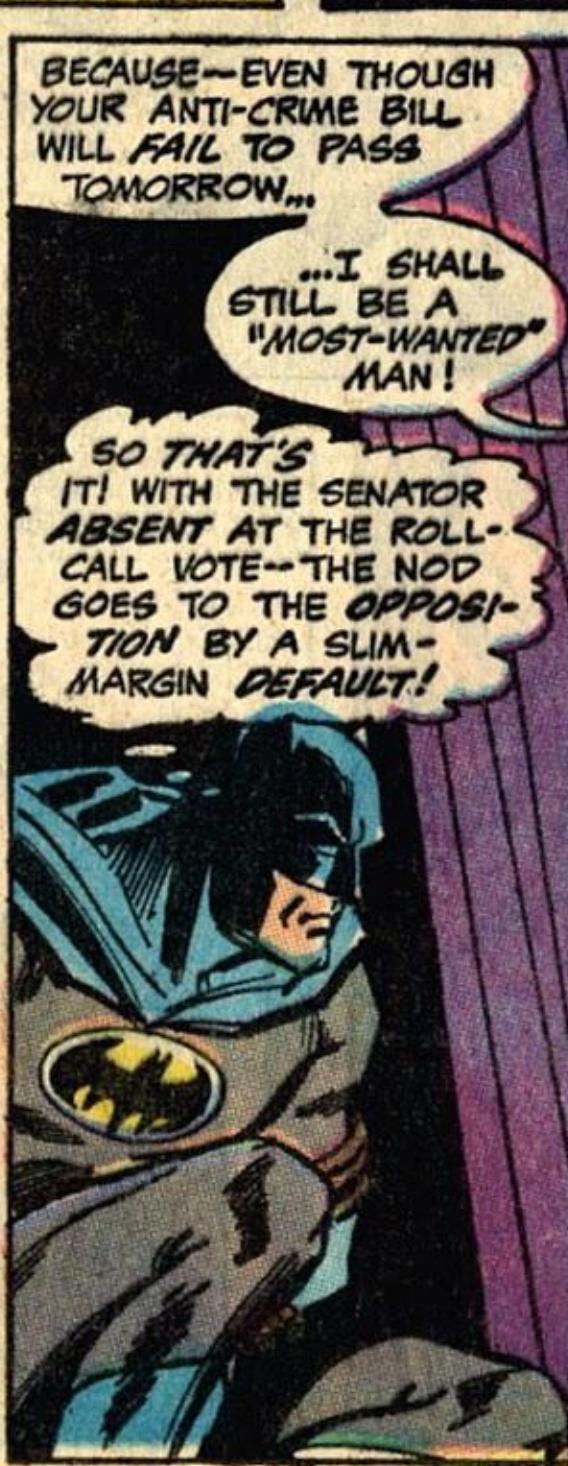
...I SHALL
STILL BE A
"MOST-WANTED"
MAN!

SO THAT'S
IT! WITH THE SENATOR
ABSENT AT THE ROLL-
CALL VOTE--THE NOD
GOES TO THE OPPOSI-
TION BY A SLIM-
MARGIN DEFAULT!

REST ASSURED, SENATOR--NOT A
HAIR OF YOUR SILVER MANE
WILL BE HARMED!

IN THE MORNING--AFTER
YOUR BRAIN-CHILD IS
DEFEATED--YOU'LL BE
FLOWN BACK TO
WASHINGTON!

WHY, YOU--
YOU
UNMITIGATED,
CORRUPT IMITA-
TION OF A MAN;
IF YOU THINK
I'LL REST
UNTIL...



EASY, SENATOR--WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO STRAIN YOUR HEART! YOU'RE ON BORROWED TIME RIGHT NOW--AFTER THOSE LAST TWO CORONARIES!

Y-YES--YOU'RE RIGHT! I HAVE TO LIVE--TO SEE YOU AND YOUR FOUL SYNDICATE BEHIND BARS!

BUT EVEN YOU WOULDN'T LET MY FRIENDS--BRUCE WAYNE AND BATMAN--REMAIN TRUSSSED UP ALL NIGHT?

BATMAN--HERE?!! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME...?

DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, BOSS! WE HAD A LITTLE HASSLE --BUT THEY'RE SAFE...

"THEY WEREN'T PREPARED FOR THE SURPRISE I'D PLANNED FOR THEM... WHEN THEY CAME TO CHECK!"

SAFE?! WHO'S THAT?

WAYNE--THE JOKER WHO PLAYED HERO! BUT--

...BATMAN'S GONE! EMERGENCY-EXIT...

YOU IDIOTS! FIND HIM! WITH THAT MENACE ON THE LOOSE...

...THIS WHOLE SCHEME COULD GO UP IN SMOKE!

"IT WAS THE OLDEST RUSE IN THE BOOKS--BUT IT WORKED! LEAVE AN OPEN DOOR... AND THEY ALWAYS FIGURE SOMEONE JUST LEFT!"

OOOH, M-MY HEAD! W-WHO DROPPED THE BOOM...

NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS! YOU'VE CAUSED ME ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR ONE NIGHT!

...WHO ARE YOU?

"HE SURE HAD ENOUGH TROUBLE NOW...NOT TO WORRY ABOUT ME! SO I WAS UNTIED AND..."

NOW GET BACK IN YOUR SEAT-- AND STAY THERE!

BRUCE! YOU ALL RIGHT...?

I'LL BE A LOT BETTER IF YOU LISTEN CAREFULLY...

"THEN, GIVING THEM ENOUGH TIME TO GET REAL UPTIGHT ABOUT THE MISSING BATMAN, WE WENT INTO OUR ACT!"

HE'S NOWHERE, BOSS! BUT LIKE INTO THIN AIR--KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

URGH-H... M-MY-- HEA-RT!

I WARNED HIM AGAINST GETTING WORKED UP! HASN'T HE GOT SOME MEDICINE ON HIM?

'FRAID NOT! HE TRIED TO REFILL HIS "DIGITALIS" PRESCRIPTION AT THE AIRPORT BEFORE WE LEFT--BUT THE DRUGGIST WAS CLOSED!

GOT TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL...FAST!

UNLESS YOU WANT TO CAP THIS KIDNAPING CAPER-- WITH A MURDER!

UH-UH--YOU EXPECT ME TO FLY HIM FOR HELP SO HE CAN RECOVER IN TIME TO VOTE THAT ANTI-CRIME BILL INTO BEING?

YOU GOT TO BE NUTS!

YOU'RE THE NUT! THE LAST THING YOU NEED ON YOUR HANDS NOW--IS A DEAD SENATOR!

WHEN THE NEWS HITS THE HILL**-- EVERY "FENCE SITTER" IN THE HOUSE WILL SWING OVER TO HIS BILL! HIS DEATH WILL GUARANTEE PASSAGE!

BOSS, THERE'S A BUSH-PILOT MEDIC 'BOUT TEN MILES FROM HERE~ WE COULD RADIO HIM....

YOU HAVEN'T THE TIME--YOU CAN FLY HIM THERE FASTER!

"AND AS WE
TOOK WING
AGAIN..."

OKAY, BIRDMAN--
JUST FLY AND KEEP
YOUR EYES FRONT!

"...IN THE PILOT'S CLOSED COMPARTMENT, THE NOSE WHEEL-HOUSING ACCESS-DOOR
SPRANG OPEN, AND...!"

BATMAN?!

YI-I-I!
H-HE COMES
FROM--
NOWHERE!
EVERWHERE...!

"MY MYSTERIOUS APPEARANCES FINALLY GOT TO THEM... AND
THEY CRACKED!"

H-HE JUST V-VANISHES--
AN' TH-THEN...

H-H-HE
POPS UP--
AND...

CHONK!

SEEM TO REMEMBER--
I OWE YOU BOYS
SOMETHING!

PEAK



"WITH THE DOOR SHUT BEHIND ME--AND THE CREW'S EYES FROZEN AHEAD--I YANKED THE VALVE-RELEASES ON THE 'MAE WESTS' THAT HAD INFLATED MY COSTUME..."



"AND THEN, ON OUR APPROACH TO WASHINGTON AIRPORT--AS THE WHEELS CAME DOWN, THE SUCTION YANKED OUT MY DEFLATED COSTUME, SNAPPING THE TIE-CORD!"

SURE IS A MYSTERY HOW BATMAN APPEARED IN MID-AIR--AND DISAPPEARED JUST AS COMPLETELY, EH, SENATOR?

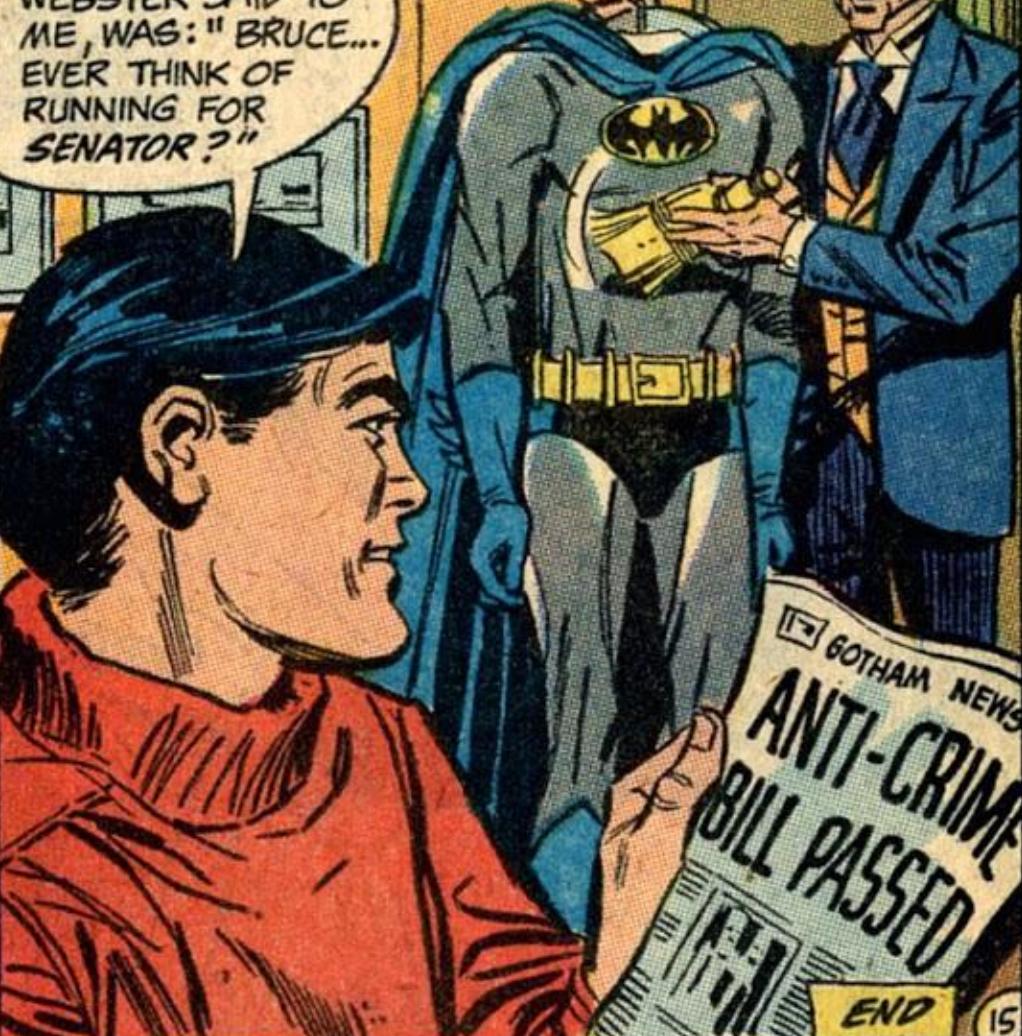
BEYOND MY POOR COMPREHENSION, BRUCE! BUT I DO KNOW--

ONCE I GET MY BILL PASSED, ORGANIZED CRIME WILL DO A DISAPPEARING ACT TOO!

...AND SO, ALF--YOU CAN SEE WHAT HAPPENED! AND THE "MASKED MARAUDER"--ONE OF THE BRAINS BEHIND THE MOB--BECAME THE FIRST VICTIM OF "OLD SILVER MANE'S" BRAINCHILD!

I SAY, SIR--CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER MAN FOR THE JOB!

FUNNY THING, THOUGH--LAST THING SENATOR WEBSTER SAID TO ME, WAS: "BRUCE... EVER THINK OF RUNNING FOR SENATOR?"



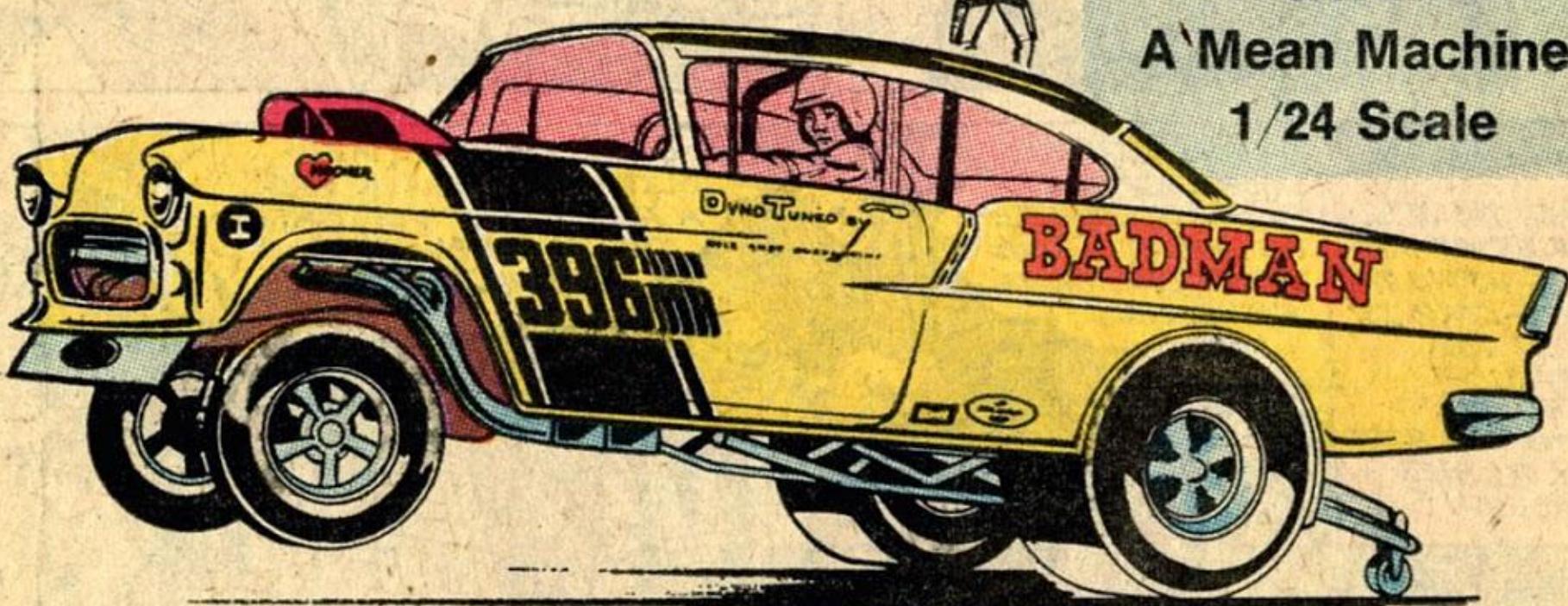
BADMAN



The "Funny Car" Modified Screamer With Jacked-Up Front End!

A Mean Machine!

1/24 Scale



Monogram

quality hobby kits



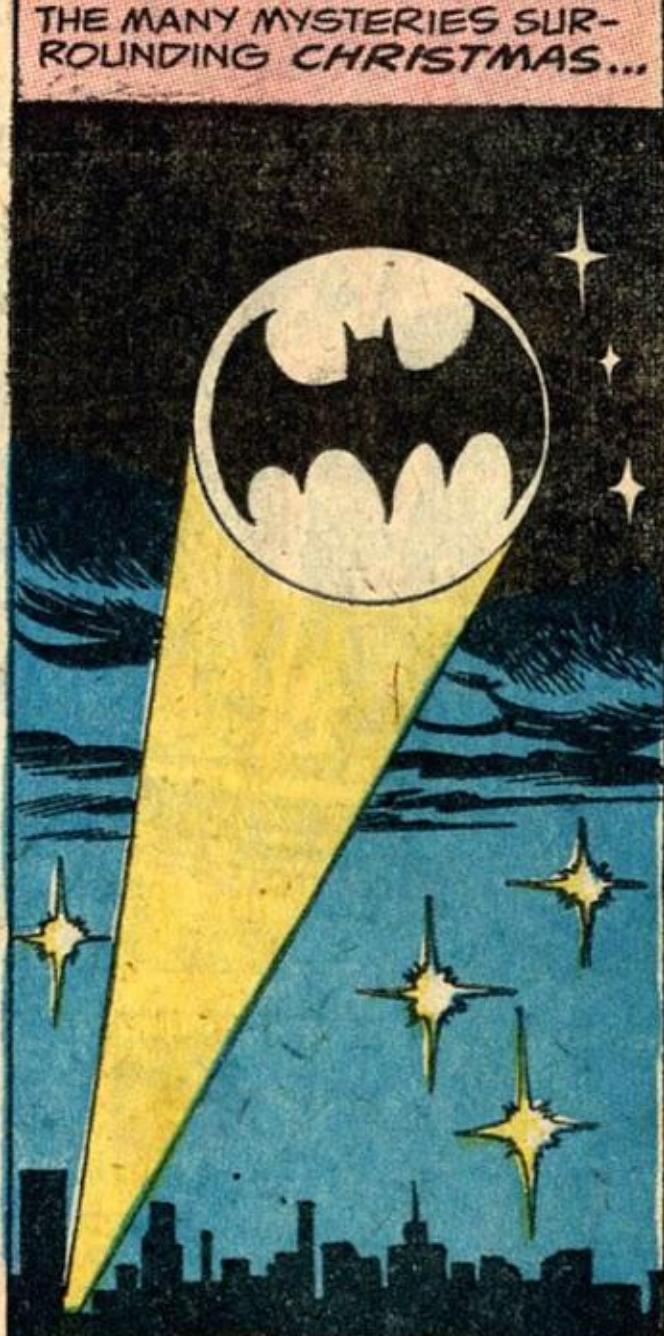
Monogram Models, Inc.,
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Excitement on wheels for drag fans and go-go modelers. The Badman is a real, honest-to-goodness "funny car" loaded with eye-catching goodies. . . . Lots of fun and plenty laughs.... Great '55 Chevy body molded in one piece. Wild new red tinted windows and hood

scoop. Detailed chassis with modified 327 Chevy engine, blower and tuned exhausts and ladder type traction bars. Spoked mag wheels with wide ovals up front and wide jumbos on the rear. "Wheelie" wheels too. Get one at your favorite store. About 2 bucks.

NIGHT FALLS ON CHRISTMAS EVE IN GOTHAM. THE SIDEWALKS BUSTLE WITH LAST-MINUTE SHOPPERS. A PEACEFUL--ALMOST HEAVENLY SCENE--WOULD INJUSTICE AND TRAGEDY DARE CREEP IN? THERE IS TOO MUCH CONTRARY EXPERIENCE TO BELIEVE OTHERWISE FOR ... THE BATMAN!

THEN, AS THE EERIE BAT-SIGNAL SHIMMERS AGAINST A SNOW-FILLED CLOUD, THE ATMOSPHERE TAKES ON A CELESTIAL COMPOSITION. FOR TWO THOUSAND YEARS, MYSTICS HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MANY MYSTERIES SURROUNDING CHRISTMAS...



the Silent Night of the BATMAN

WHAT'S THE
EMERGENCY
TONIGHT,
COMMISSIONER?



NO EMERGENCY, BATMAN!
QUITE THE OPPOSITE, IN
FACT! I CALLED YOU IN
BECAUSE CHRISTMAS EVE
IS NOT A NIGHT FOR YOU
TO BE OUT PATROLLING--
"TIS THE SEASON TO BE
JOLLY!"

LIKE THE SAYING
GOES--YOU KNOW
IT AND I KNOW IT...
NOW TELL THEM!
CRIME AND DISASTER
AREN'T INCLINED TO
OBSERVE HOLIDAYS!



TONIGHT IS GOING TO
BE... DIFFERENT!
I KNOW IT!

HE SOUNDS
ALMOST INSPIRED.
BUT NOTHING EVER
HAPPENS BY JUST
SAYING IT!

C'MON, BATMAN-- HOW
ABOUT CONTRIBUTING YOUR
DEEP VOCAL CHORDS TO
SOME CHRISTMAS CAROLS!



WHY NOT? I
CAN ENJOY
MYSELF UNTIL
SOMETHING
HAPPENS...

Jingle bells,
Jingle bells.
Jingle all the way!
Oh what fun
it is to ride
In a one-horse
open sleigh...







We three Kings of orient are

Bearing gifts we traverse afar...

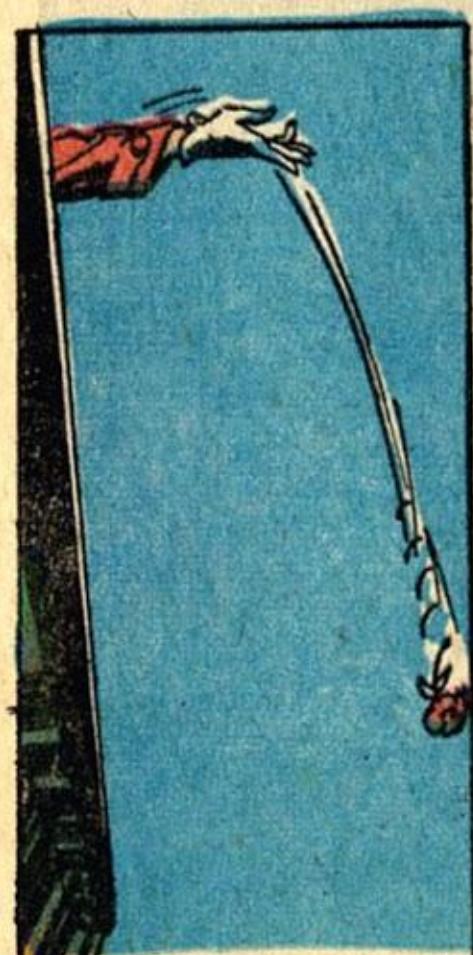
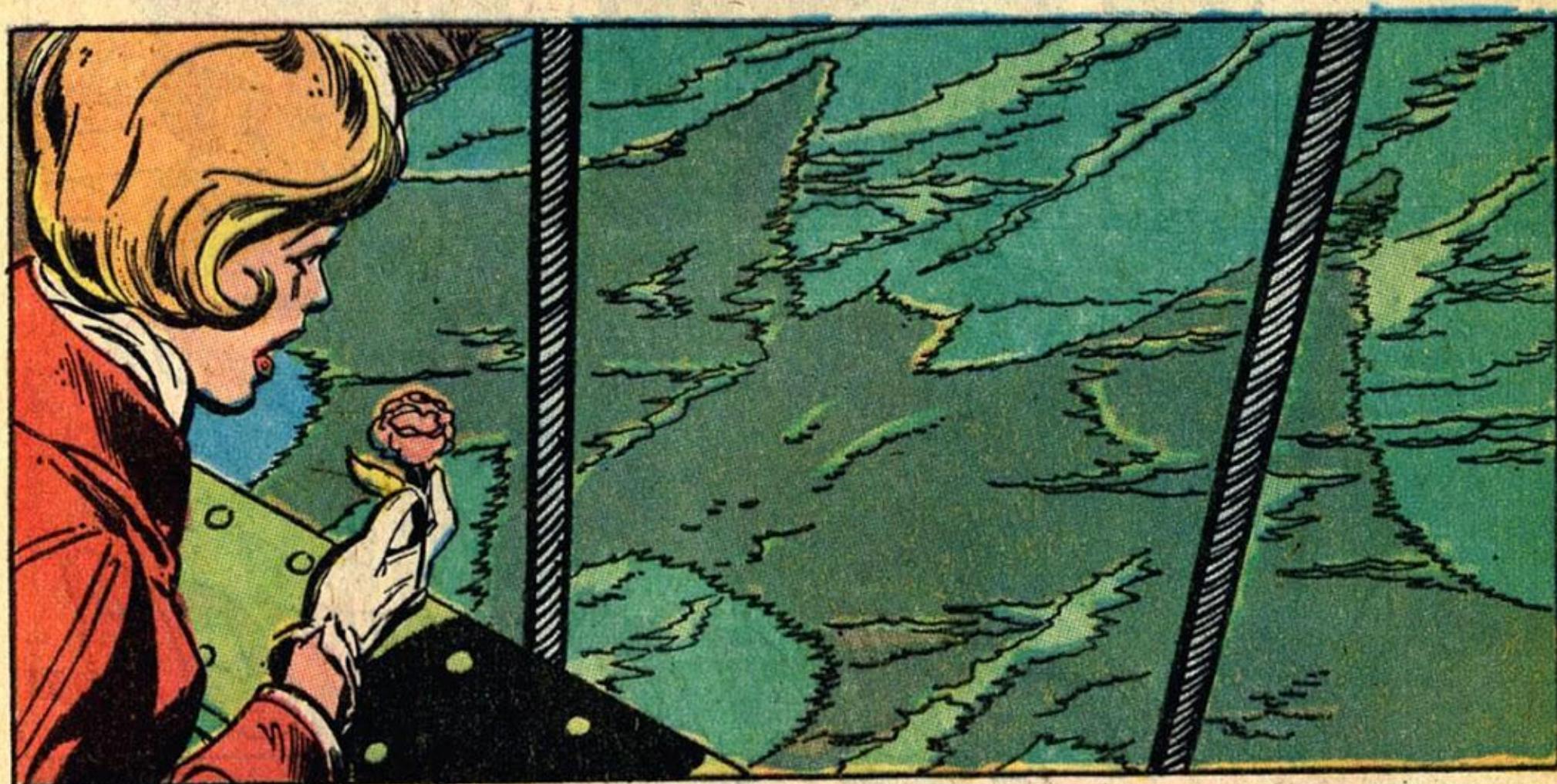
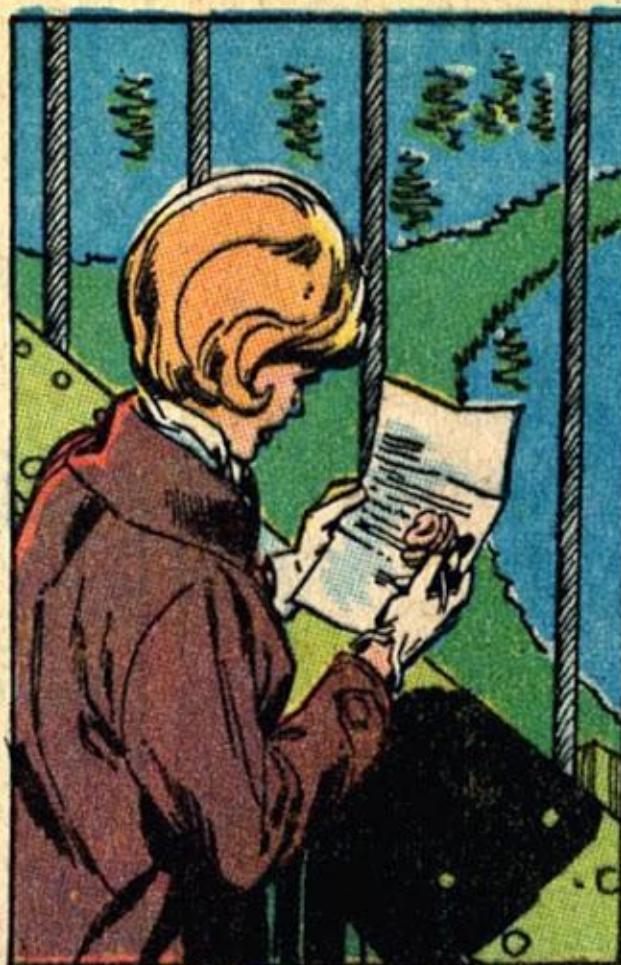




you better watch out.
you better not cry.
you better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town...
He's making a list

Checking it twice





Silent night,
holy night... all is bright!...



GOOD HEAVENS!
IT'S SIX
O'CLOCK! WE'VE
BEEN SINGING
HERE ALL
NIGHT!

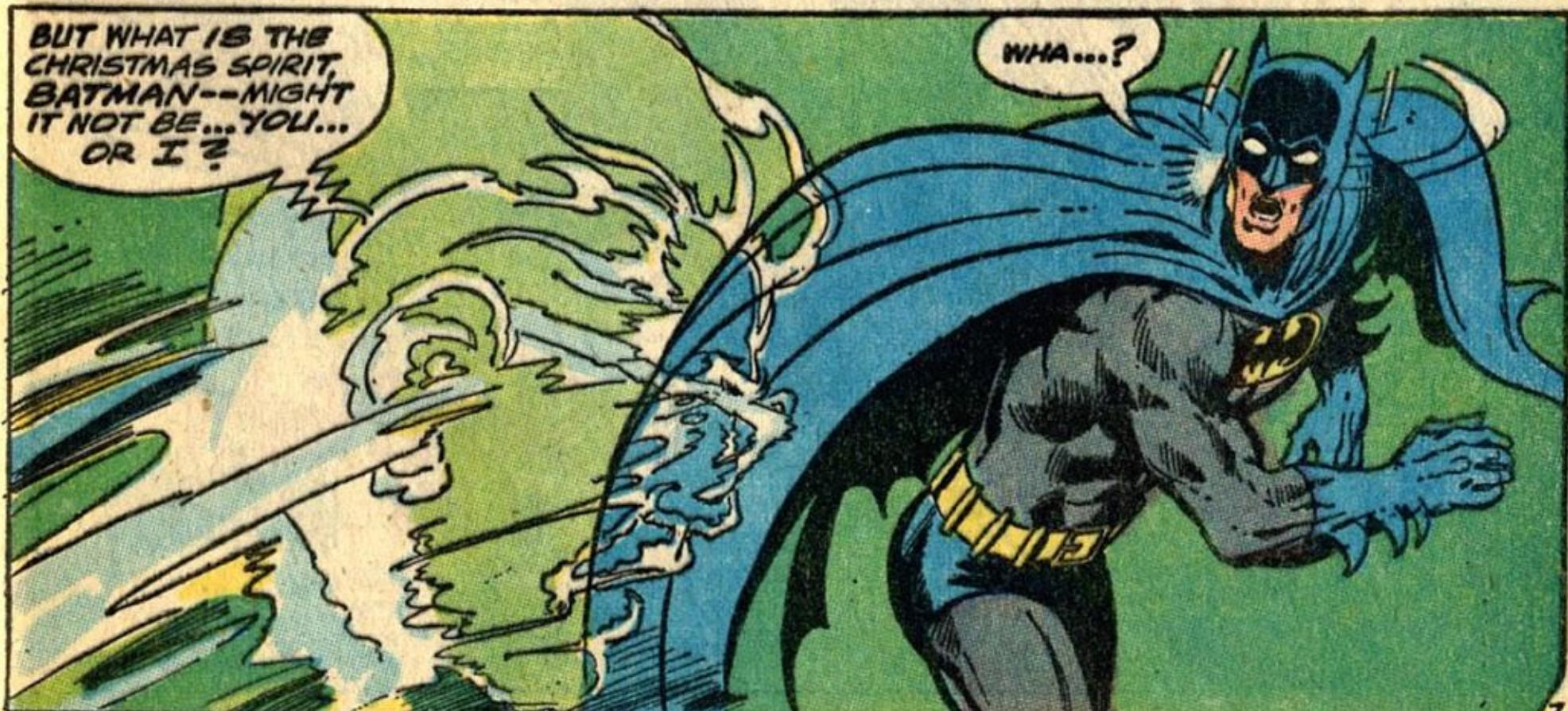
WE
HAVEN'T
BEEN
DISTURBED
BY ONE
REPORT OF
ROBBERY, MURDER,
DRUG-PEDDLING...

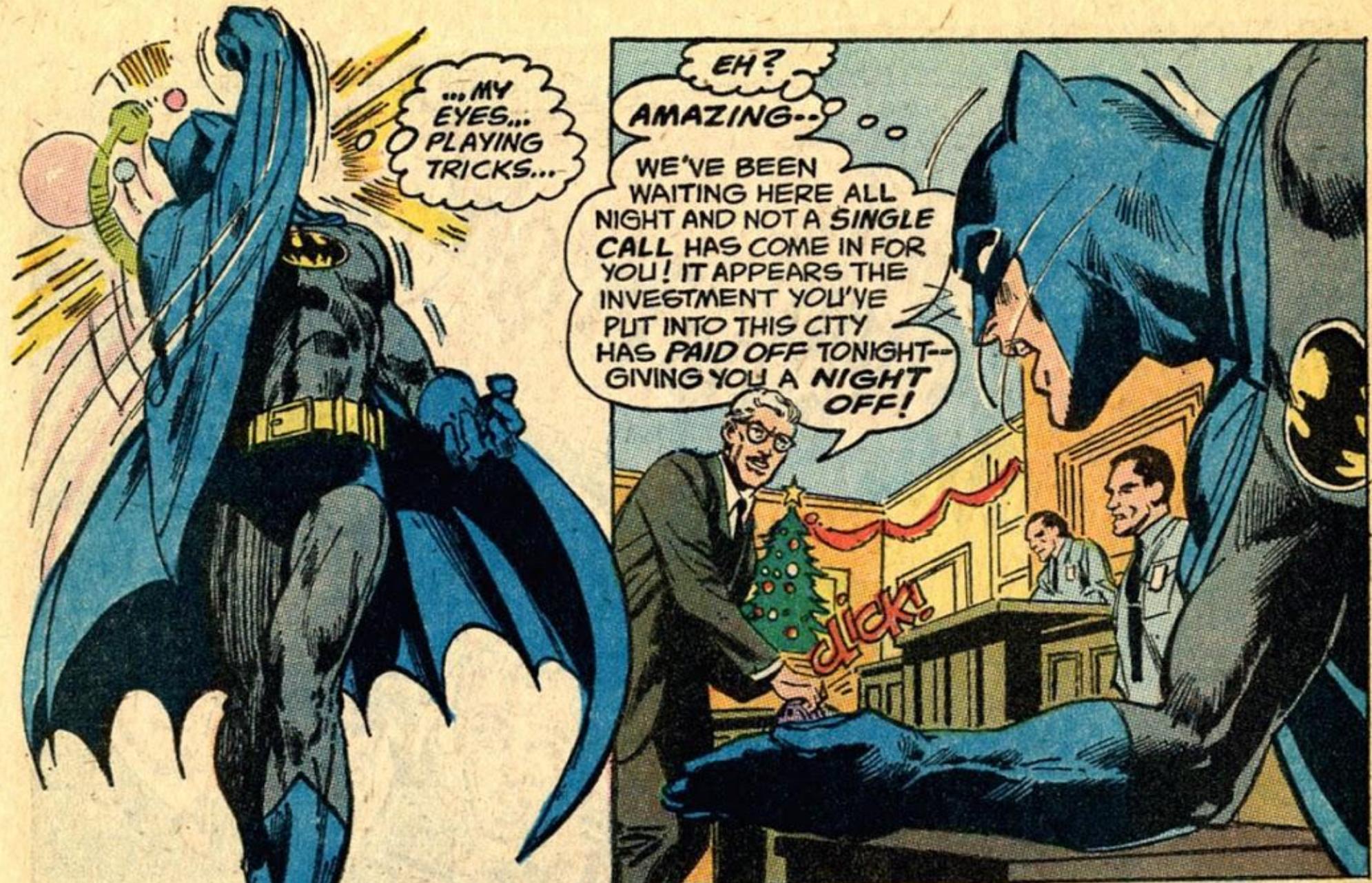
...ANYTHING!

IT'S LIKE
THE SPIRIT
OF
CHRISTMAS
PEACE TOOK
HOLD ON
EVERYONE...!

BUT WHAT IS THE
CHRISTMAS SPIRIT,
BATMAN--MIGHT
IT NOT BE... YOU...
OR I?

WHA...?





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YOU'LL FIND
LOTS OF LAUGHS
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MAGIC



PUZZLES

NOVELTIES

JOKES

GAGS

GAMES

TRICKS

FUN GALORE



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No. 106

ONLY 50¢



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JUST GO AWAY

50¢

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COMPLETELY SATISFIED, I MAY RETURN AFTER
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ITEM NO.	NAME OF ITEM	HOW MANY	PRICE

SORRY WE CANNOT SHIP
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\$1.25 EACH. I ENCLOSE \$_____
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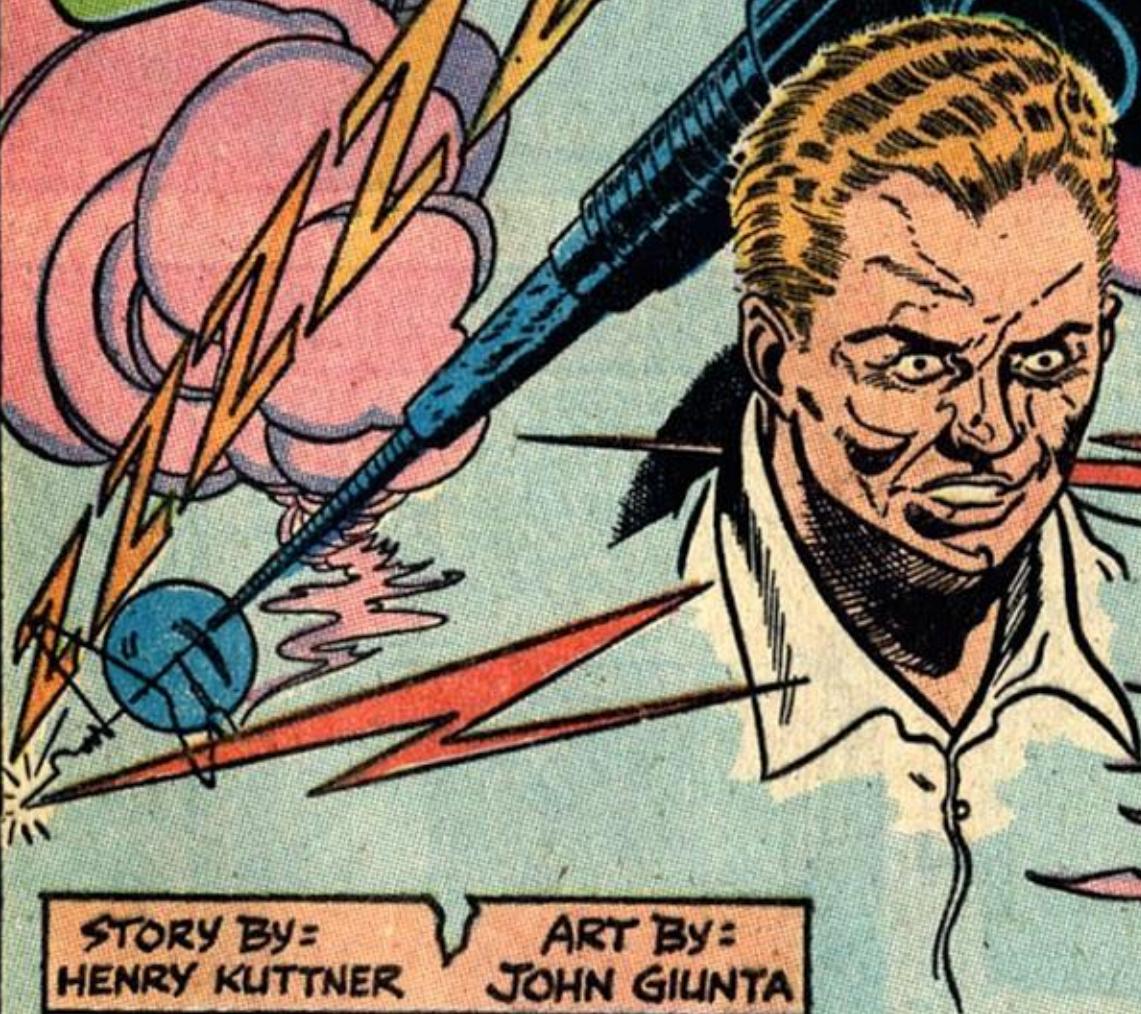
SOUND AND THE FURY



WHAT IS THE REASON FOR
THE WORLD'S GREATEST
SUPER-HEROES DESERTING
EARTH IN ITS HOUR OF CRISIS?

A BOY, HIS BIKE..
AND THE STRANGEST
SEARCH EVER TOLD.

TIME TO KILL!



STORY BY:
HENRY KUTTNER

ART BY:
JOHN GIUNTA

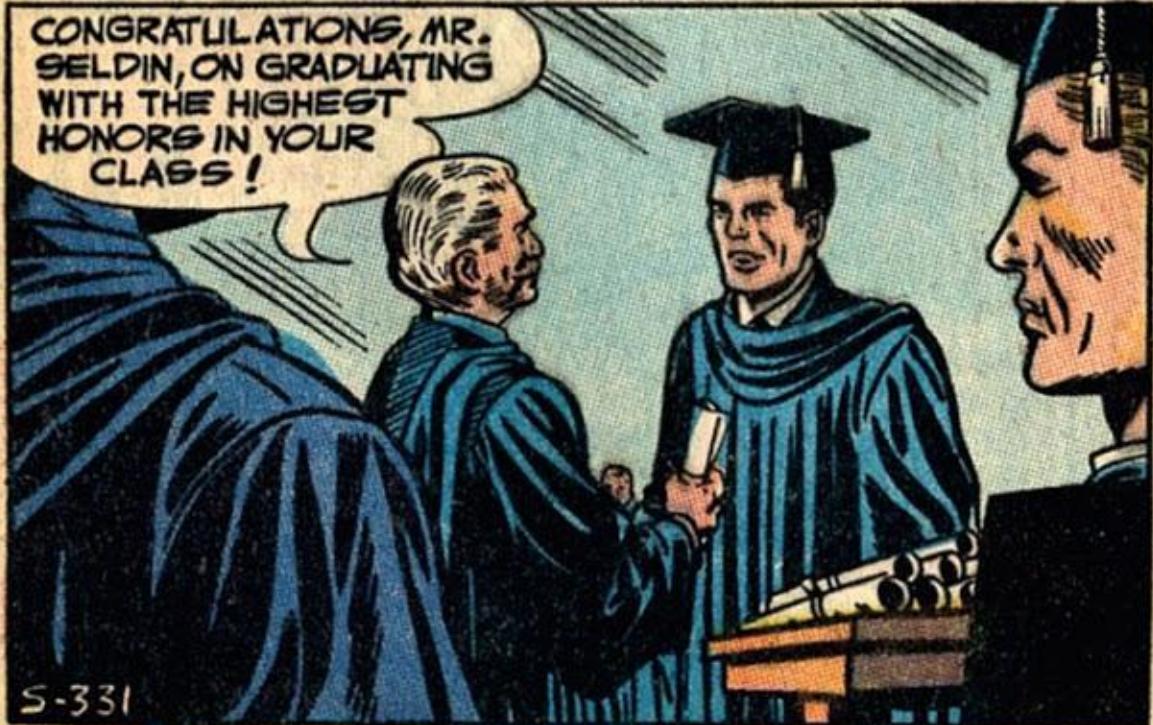
A
DC
EXTRA

IN THIRTY DAYS, JED BRUNO KNEW, HE WOULD ACHIEVE HIS GREATEST AMBITION-- FOR HE HAD ALREADY TRAVELED THIRTY DAYS INTO THE FUTURE AND HAD ACTUALLY WITNESSED HIS TRIUMPH! BUT TIME HAS AN UNPREDICTABLE WAY OF DECEIVING PEOPLE, THAT NOT EVEN JED BRUNO COULD FORESEE!



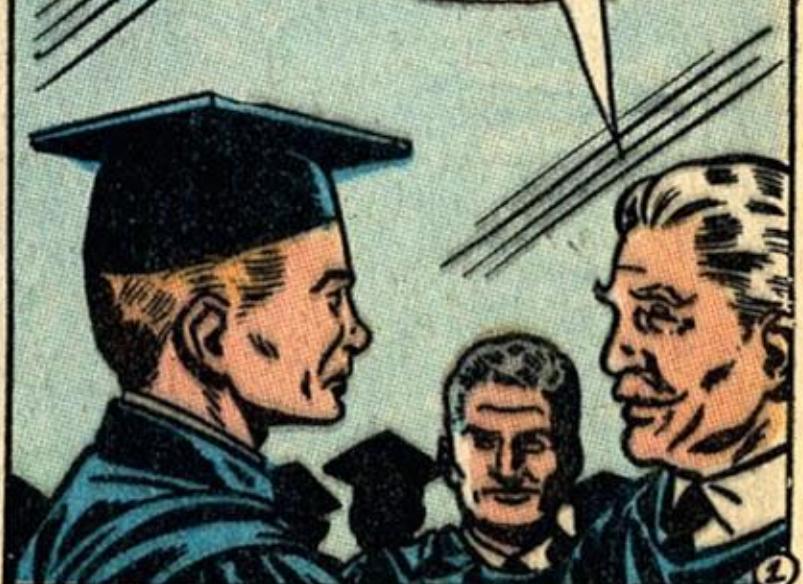
AS THE PAST EVENTS OF MY LIFE UNREEL BEFORE ME, IT BECOMES CLEAR NOW THAT GRADUATION DAY FROM COLLEGE MARKED THE START OF MY BITTER RIVALRY WITH ANDREW SELDIN...

CONGRATULATIONS, MR. SELDIN, ON GRADUATING WITH THE HIGHEST HONORS IN YOUR CLASS!

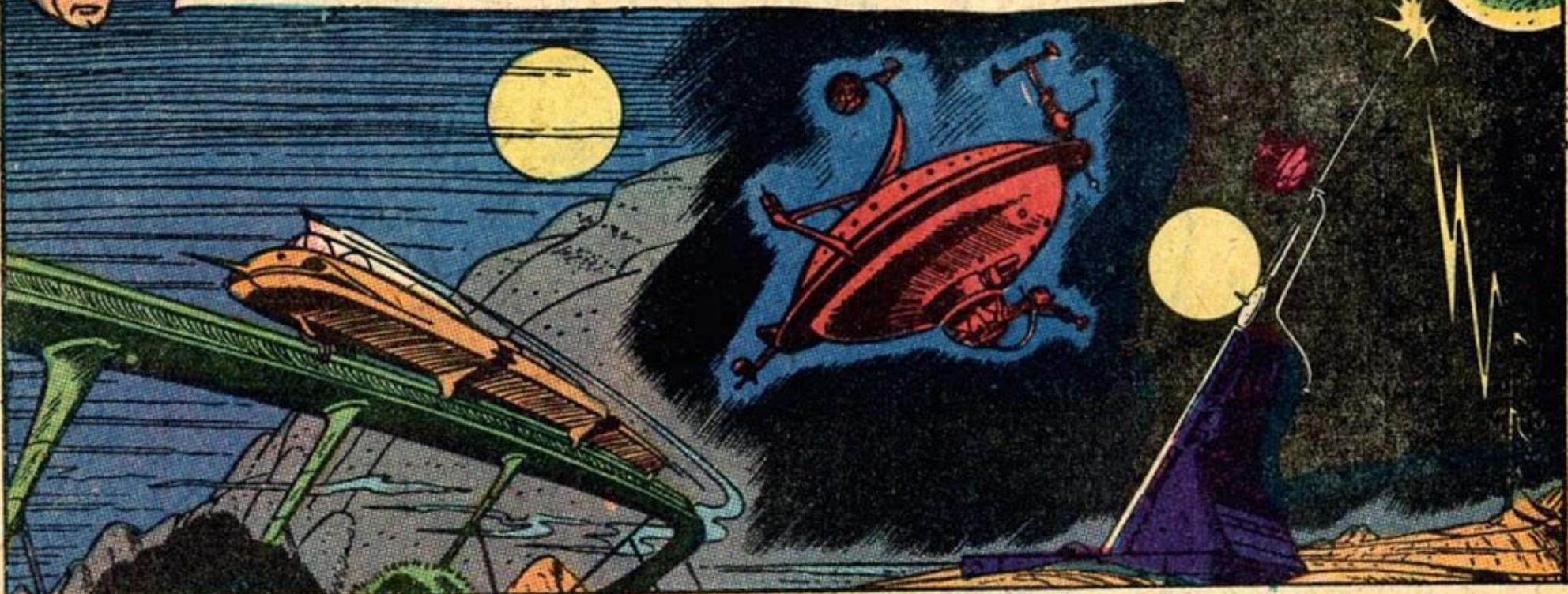


AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED "SECOND BEST" MEANT NOTHING IN MY PRIVATE DUEL WITH SELDIN...

AND YOU, MR. BRUNO,
GRADUATE WITH
SECOND HIGHEST
HONORS...



WE WERE BOTH SCIENTISTS, BUT EACH TIME I FAILED, SELDIN SUCCEEDED! HE BUILT THE WORLD'S FASTEST MONORAIL-- PLANNED THE FIRST SPACE-STATION--PERFECTED WIRELESS TRANSMISSION OF ENERGY...



BUT I WAS WILLING TO IGNORE ALL OF SELDIN'S TRIUMPHS, IF I COULD ONLY BEST HIM IN ONE INVENTION...

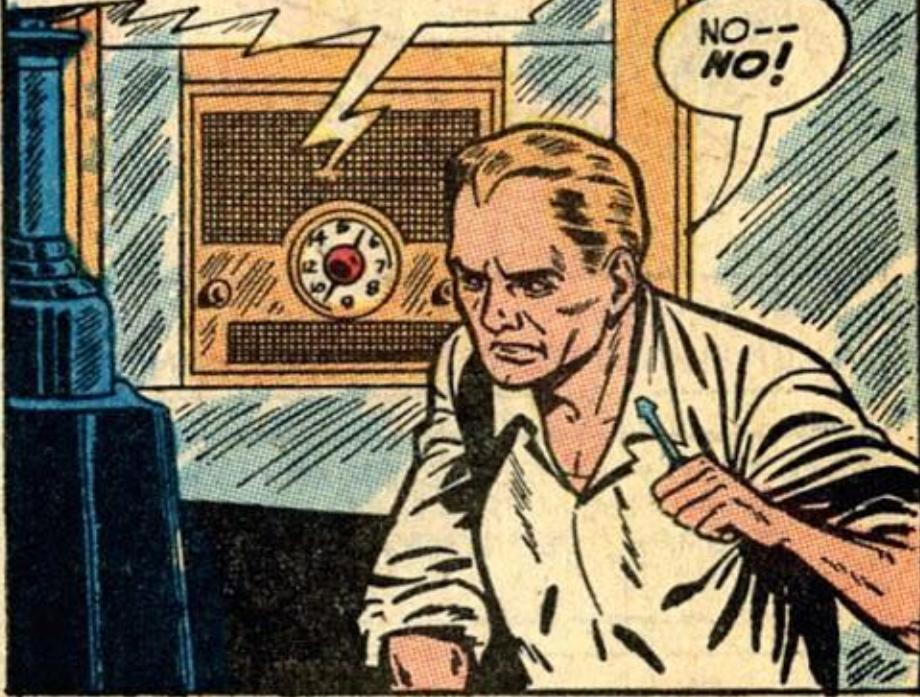
THIS MACHINE FOR TRAVELING THROUGH TIME! I KNOW I'M CLOSE TO MAKING IT WORK!



BUT EVEN THIS VICTORY WAS SNATCHED OUT OF MY GRASP, WHEN...

...THE ELECTRIFYING NEWS THAT PROFESSOR SELDIN HAS INVENTED A TIME-MACHINE! IT WILL BE DEMONSTRATED IN GOTHAM SQUARE ONE MONTH FROM TODAY!

NO--NO!



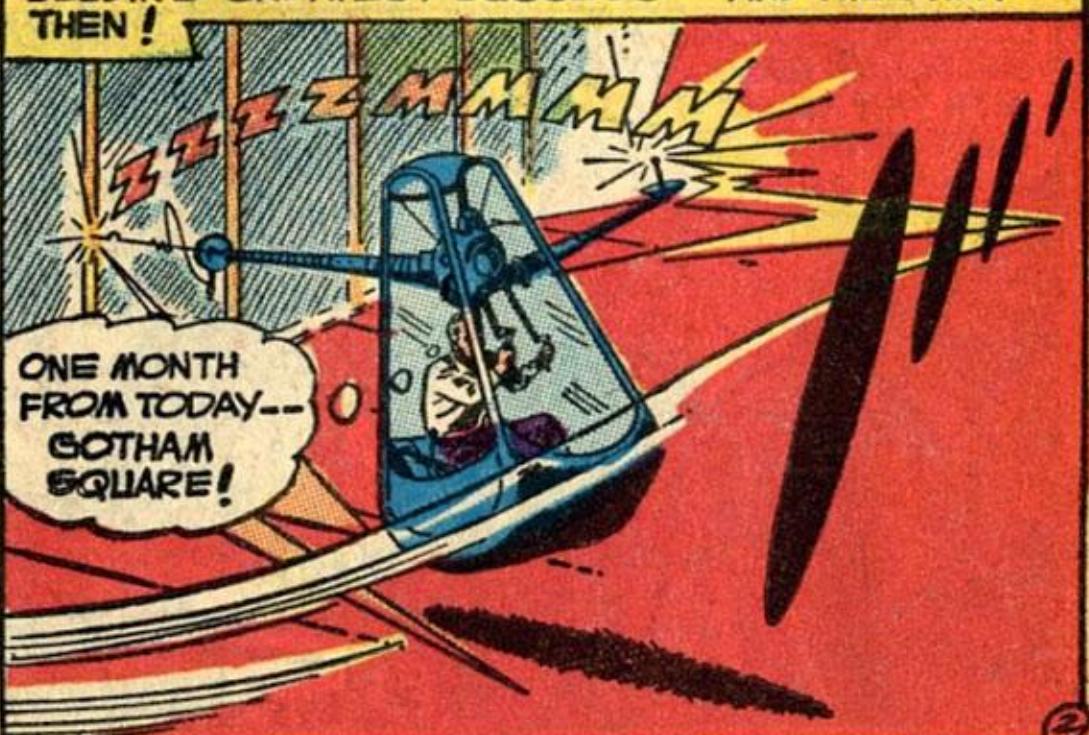
THAT NIGHT I RESOLVED TO STEAL SELDIN'S PLANS FOR HIS TIME-MACHINE AND USE THEM MYSELF...

I CAN'T OPEN HIS SAFE! BUT I'VE THOUGHT OF A BETTER WAY TO ROB HIM OF HIS TRIUMPH!



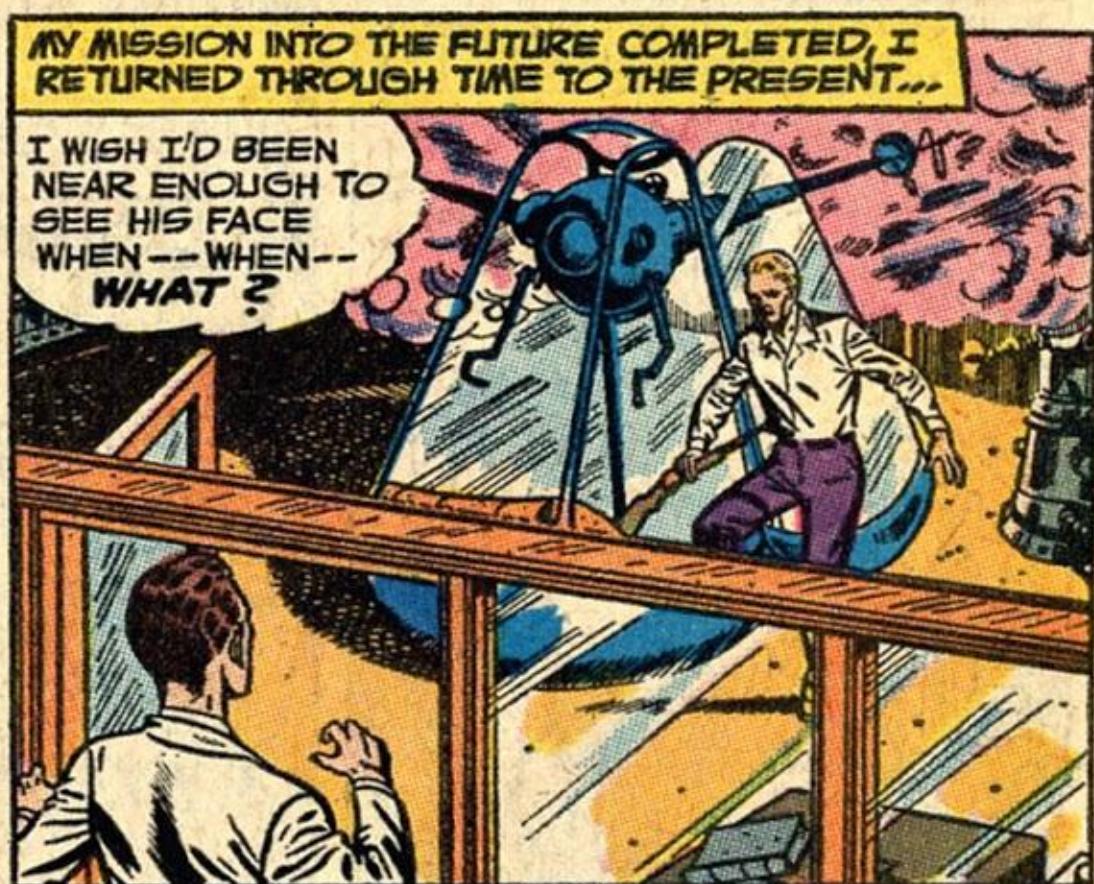
I GLOATED AT THE SHEER SIMPLICITY OF MY PLAN! I'D TRAVEL INTO THE FUTURE TO THE MOMENT OF SELDIN'S GREATEST SUCCESS--AND KILL HIM THEN!

ONE MONTH FROM TODAY-- GOTHAM SQUARE!



ZDON'T KNOW HOW "LONG" IT TOOK ME TO TRAVEL THIRTY DAYS INTO THE FUTURE! IT REALLY DIDN'T MATTER...

ANDREW SELDIN'S MOMENT OF GLORY IS ABOUT TO TURN INTO HIS MOMENT OF DEATH!





THE PLANS FOR THE TIME-MACHINE WEREN'T
IN THE SAFE--I FOUND THEM IN
SELDIN'S POCKET...

SELDIN'S TIME-MACHINE
WILL NEVER WORK AGAIN--
BUT MY MODEL WILL!



NO ONE SUSPECTED ME OF THE MURDER--AND
A MONTH LATER THE WORLD OF SCIENCE
HAILED ME AS THE INVENTOR OF THE FIRST
TIME-MACHINE...

WHAT HAPPENED IN THAT
MINUTE BEFORE I
KILLED SELDIN? I
CAN'T REMEMBER...



IN MY HONOR, A CEREMONY WAS
HELD IN GOTHAM SQUARE...

LADIES AND GENTLE-
MEN, I PRESENT THE
INVENTOR OF THE
TIME-MACHINE!



AN INNER VOICE TRIED TO WARN ME TO TURN
AROUND, JUST AS A RIFLE SHOT RANG OUT...



NOW--I
REMEMBER!

HE'S BEEN
SHOT! IT'S
MURDER!



NO...IT'S
SUICIDE!
ANDREW SELDIN
HAS BEATEN
ME AGAIN!



LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-327

Dear Editor:

If anyone had told me a year ago that I'd anxiously await every issue of *Batman* that came out, I'd have given him my best sneer and said, "You're out of your mind!" But stranger things have happened, for it seems that I am uncommonly glad when I see each new issue on the stands.

Why in the world do I suddenly enjoy the magazine so much? The only reason I can find is *Frank Robbins*. I now instinctively know that should I read even the first page, I will be beckoned onward and will end up reading the whole issue right there. I rate few magazines so high, so Frank should be quite happy knowing it's his scripts that made me this way.

Batman #215 boasted a Robbins masterpiece, "Call Me Master!" All I really wanted was a good detective story, but why was it so hard for everyone else? *Mystery*, a word I love, resounded from every panel, even after the "Master's" identity was revealed. Robbins deftly held off until the last page before revealing the means by which Mycroft dulled comrades' wills. And throughout the story, well, everything went as smooth as—no pun intended—clockwork. Robbins writes his puzzles so nicely, allowing each piece to reveal itself bit by bit until it is assembled at the end.

Well, now! The sneaky side of you shows itself as I eye-ball this issue's art credits. Yes, I do believe I heard something of Dick Giordano being an artist before an editor. And now he must prove his worth, for in me he will find an art critic second to none. I look him over. And I am impressed. Yes, indeed, Dick is an artist, and a good one. I was aware his inks merged well with Mike Sekowsky's pencils, and it looks like he and Novick have hit it off as well. I will be honest and say he's not as good as Joe Giella. But I will give him 99% rating, and that's worth a gold star or two in anybody's book.

It looks more than ever that the *new Batman* is in reality the *old Batman*. And that's just the way I like it.

—GARY SKINNER, Columbus, Ohio.

(The measly 1% that the above correspondent withheld from Dick G's rating-score as a Novick-inker is enthusiastically handed to him by the next critic.—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Shades of Dick Giordano (are better than the shades of Joe Giella, that is)! For years upon years on end, I could never figure out why Joe Giella never appealed to me. Come Gil Kane, Bob Kane, Irv Novick or Bob Brown, the inks pressed the "off" button on me. Coupled by the raves of LOC's on the inks, I doubted my sanity and resigned myself to admiring cereal box covers.

But now I know why the Giella inks flopped—he's not as much an inker as he's a penciler. His art on the *Batman* newspaper strip was great (oh, what trite adjectives I can dig up)! Turned inker, Giella took out the natural life of many artists' pencils. They were stagnant, uninteresting, and two-dimensional. Comes along Mr. Giordano and the pencils of Irv Novick are crisp, fresh, and re-vitalized. Technically, Giella never varies the thickness of his brush lines, causing a monotonous "sameness" throughout the magazine. Not so with Mr. Giordano. The speed with which he inks makes the lines...what the heck! Why go on? I'll just bore the world with compliments.

—KLAUS JANSON, Bridgeport, Conn.

(But for the surprising pay-off on the inking-switch, take heed of the upcoming reaction.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

Your change in inking artists didn't make the art seem any different from the past few issues. In fact, I didn't know there had been a change until I finished the story and looked back at the credits on the splash page. (I usually don't do this, but I had skipped it before I started the story.) In spite of this, I still thought "Call Me Master" was pretty good.

—TIM ATWATER, Mill Valley, Cal.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

The cover of *Batman* #215 was one that should live forever in comics history. The contrasting dark foreground with the explosive-light background, and the taut, anguished *Batman* pushing the plunger to destroy Wayne Manor, made for an excellent cover.

"Call Me Master" was very nicely done. The first five panels gave the story an aura of suspense. The subtle satire on pages 3 to 7 were a nice change of pace, especially after the campy stories we readers had so long endured. The ending, with the villain explaining his motives to the bitter end, so frequently found in Robbins' stories, but usually leaving the reader feeling he has just fallen from a cliff and discovering he can't hit the ground, fitted perfectly with this story. One thing about the yarn bothered me, though. Had *Batman* actually killed the inhabitants of Wayne Manor, he would have had a great deal of difficulty serving the villain, what with a murder charge hanging over his head!

Artwise, the story was a total success. Irv Novick and Dick Giordano were more compatible than the Novick-Giella team ever were. Had the panel layout been different, it would have been almost like having Neal Adams doing the art!

—RAY ELLIS, Tyler, Tex.

(What with Novick-Giordano and Adams-Giordano each represented in this issue, we can look forward to a new round of artistic sparring among our readers.—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Frank Robbins' "Call Me Master" was average. I must elucidate by adding that what is average for Robbins is magnificent for any other writer. I very much enjoyed his caption which read, "Gotham's outstanding young philanthropist, Bruce Wayne..." Despite a reader's claim that Bruce must be 40 by now, I have always thought of him as being about the age of 28 or 29. And while we're discussing Bruce Wayne's vital statistics, I must take issue with the enigmatic "Pittsburgh Sam", who in his interesting letter quotes *Batman's* height as exactly 6'0". A 1955 story cited his height as 6'1", and I feel that today 6'2" would not be anomalous for a big, strapping fellow like our *Gotham Goliath*.

As for Sam's claim that *Batman's* muscle shouldn't "spring out at you as it does on a Steve Reeves type", I will defend the artists' tradition of giving our hero bulging muscles. After all these years of rigorous training and exercise, coupled with herculean action-use of his physique, *Batman* would not be perfectly symmetrical. Large muscles also add an air of distinction and keep up the good ol' super-hero image.

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

* * * * *

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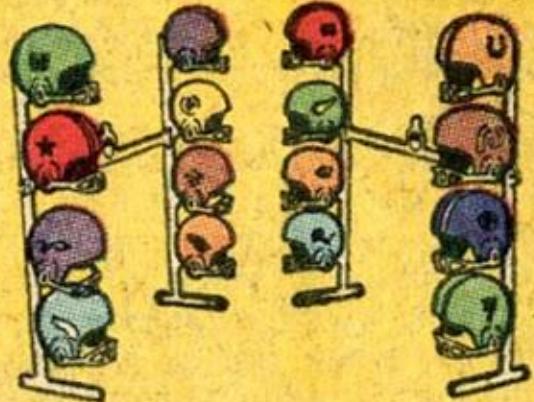
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