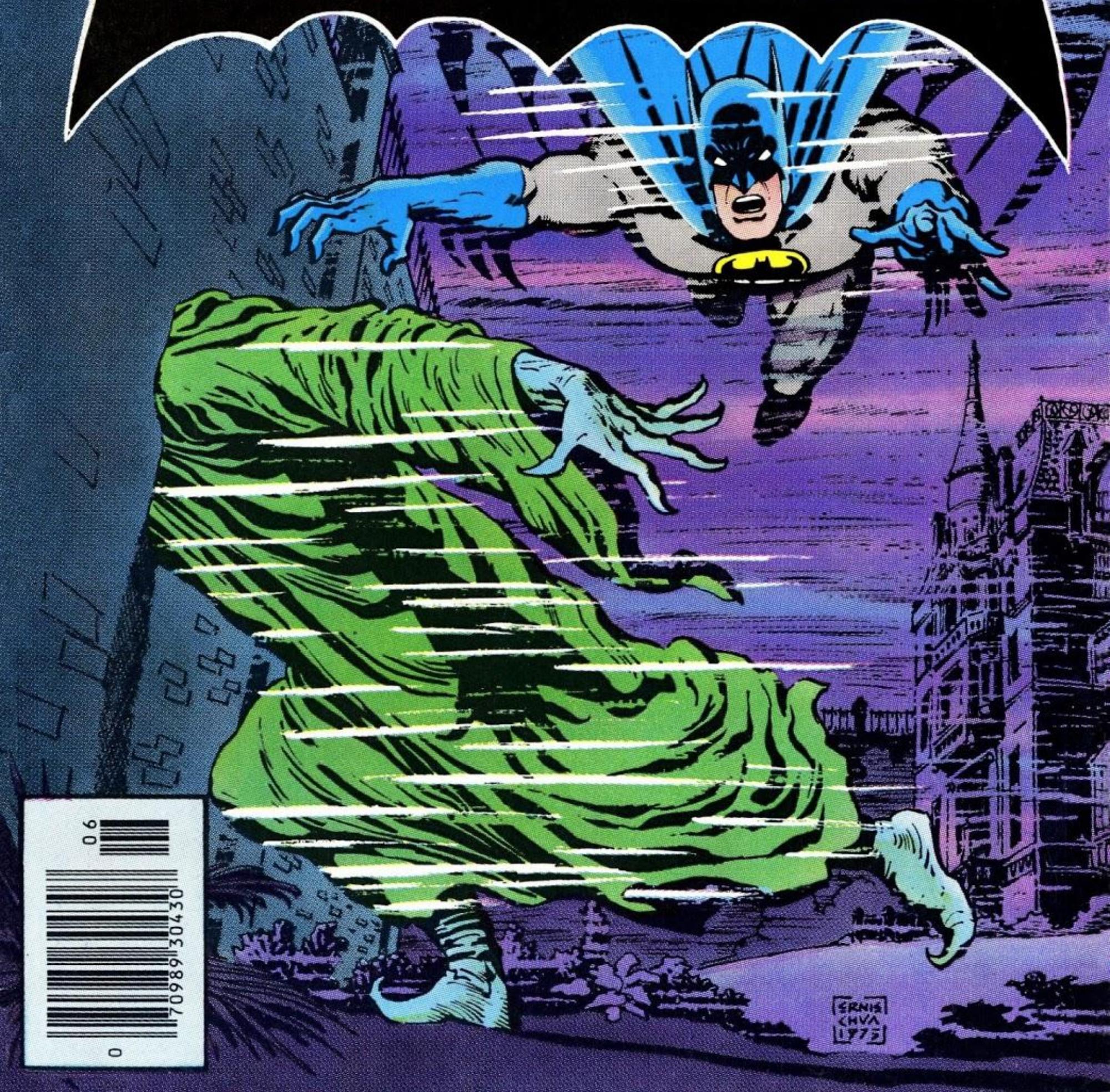


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NO. 276  
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# BAT MAN



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ERNIE  
CHUA  
1972

ADVERTISEMENT

# SUPERMAN SAVES THE EARTH

ZOOMING  
THROUGH  
SPACE,  
SUPERMAN  
HEADS FOR  
AN ALIEN  
PLANET...

MUST REACH THE  
MEETING OF THE  
INTERSTELLAR  
COUNCIL BEFORE  
IT'S TOO LATE!

EARTH IS A  
BACKWARD  
PLANET! IT HAS  
NEVER COME UP  
WITH ANYTHING  
GOOD!

I SAY--  
DESTROY  
IT!

STOP!

BUT,  
SUPERMAN--  
AS A NATIVE  
OF KRYPTON,  
YOU KNOW  
HOW PRIMITIVE  
EARTH IS!

NOT IN  
EVERY WAY!  
LET ME TAKE  
YOU THERE  
AND SHOW  
YOU SOME  
EARTH FOOD!

THIS IS  
A FOOD  
MARKET!

AND WHAT  
ARE THESE?

# Hostess

HOSTESS  
CUP CAKES!  
THEY'RE  
GREAT!

MMM... HOSTESS  
CUP CAKES ARE  
DELICIOUS! HOW  
DO YOU DESCRIBE  
THEM?

THEY'RE DEVIL'S  
FOOD CAKE,  
CHOCOLATY ICING  
AND CREAMED  
FILLING!

TERRIFIC, EH?

THEY SURE ARE! IF EARTH  
CAN PRODUCE FOOD LIKE  
THIS, IT DESERVES TO SURVIVE!  
IN FACT, MAYBE THEY CAN  
SEND SOME TO US;  
WE'RE ONLY 2 BILLION  
MILES AWAY.

HEY!  
YOU GOTTA  
PAY FOR  
THOSE!

SEND THE  
BILL TO  
MY FRIEND  
CLARK  
KENT!

YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT  
IN EVERY BITE  
OF HOSTESS® CUP CAKES

\* Hostess is a registered trademark of ITT Continental Baking Company



S-2241

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**2:30 A.M.... THE  
NIGHTBOUND  
CITY LIES QUIET  
AS THE BATMAN  
SWEEPS ACROSS  
KINGSBORO  
BRIDGE--ONE OF  
HIS HABITUAL  
CROSSINGS--ON  
ROVING PATROL...**

SUDDENLY--DIRECTLY  
IN THE PATH OF THE  
**BATMOBILE**-- AS IT  
SCREECHES TO A STOP..

*YES, BATMAN, IT'S ME--  
VAL KALIBAN--THE SPOOK!*

ARREST ME!  
PUT ME UNDER  
PROTECTIVE  
CUSTODY!

WHAT ARE YOU  
TALKING ABOUT?

**IT  
CAN'T  
BE!**

NO!

**SCREECH**

I'M BEING HAUNTED  
BY THE GHOSTS OF  
TWO MEN I'VE  
MURDERED!

THEY'RE  
TRYING TO  
**AVENGE** THEIR  
DEATHS BY  
PULLING ME  
INTO THE  
**BEYOND!**

SAVE ME!  
HOLD ON  
TO ME!

HUH? I WENT  
RIGHT *THROUGH*  
HIM!

**HE'S FADING AWAY--!**

HURRY!  
HELP ME!  
SAVE ME!

**GONE! LEFT  
ME EMPTY-  
HANDED...**

...AND  
SPOOKED!

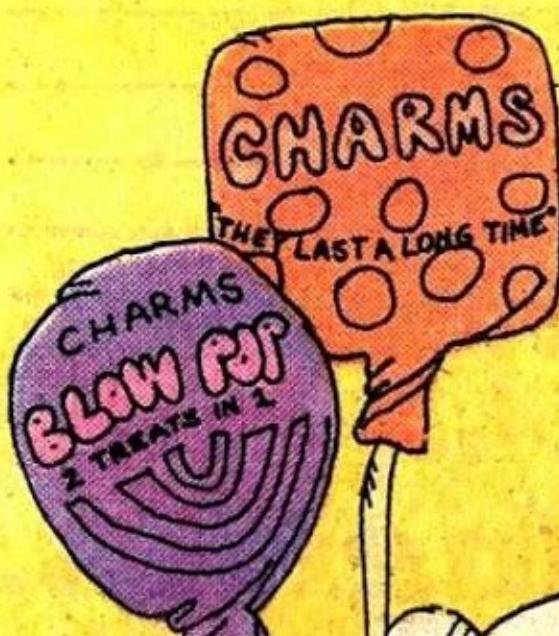
NEXT MOMENT--  
FROM OUT OF  
THE DARKNESS...





CONTINUED ON 3<sup>RD</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

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Book of 102 Tricks  
and others

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Snap It Mystery  
Coin Vanisher  
Dollar Bill Trick  
Book of 101 Tricks  
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SET A

SET B

SET C

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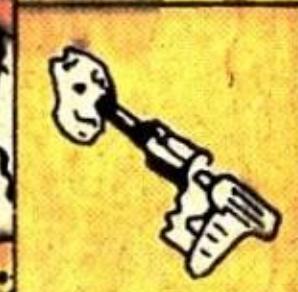
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City  State  Zip

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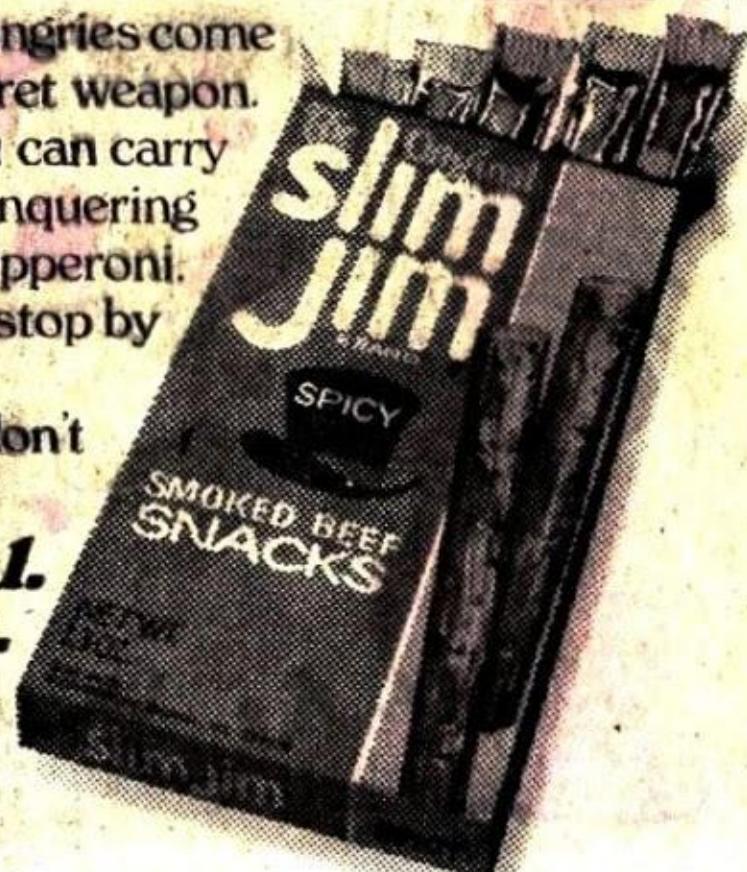
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***A little less than a meal.  
A little more than a snack.***



WITHIN THE HOUR--  
AT HIS BATCAVE  
LABORATORY--THE  
DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE  
"UNRAVELS" THE SPOOK...

THE "FLAMING"  
SPOOK WAS AN  
INFLATABLE FIGURE...  
FILLED WITH HYDROGEN  
TO FLOAT IT... THEN  
SET ABLAZE BY A  
SPARKING MECHANISM!

BOTH WITH  
RECORDED TAPES...  
CONTROLLED BY  
WIRE FROM ABOVE  
--BY THE REAL  
SPOOK!

THE  
"FADEAWAY  
SPOOK" WAS  
MADE OF TINY  
PARAFFIN  
FIBERS... SO  
DELICATE THAT  
MY BODY-HEAT  
MELTED  
THEM!

THE WATER  
CONGEALED THIS  
RESIDUE ON  
MY CAPE!

IN MY ENRAGED  
STATE, I HATE TO  
THINK WHAT I  
MIGHT'VE DONE  
TO HIM IF HE  
HADN'T DROPPED  
ME INTO THE  
RIVER!

I WONDER...  
WHAT'S HIS LATEST  
SPOOK-ROUTINE  
ALL ABOUT?

JUST A QUESTION  
OF TIME UNTIL  
IT POPS--

BEEEP...  
BEEEP...  
BEEEP.  
BEEEP...

--THE BATBEEPER!  
A STEADY STRING  
OF BEEPS--GORDON  
WANTS ME!

MAYBE  
IT'S POPPED  
ALREADY!

SHORTLY-- AT  
THE POLICE  
COMMISSIONER'S  
OFFICE...

SO YOU KNOW  
ABOUT THE SPOOK  
BEING BACK--

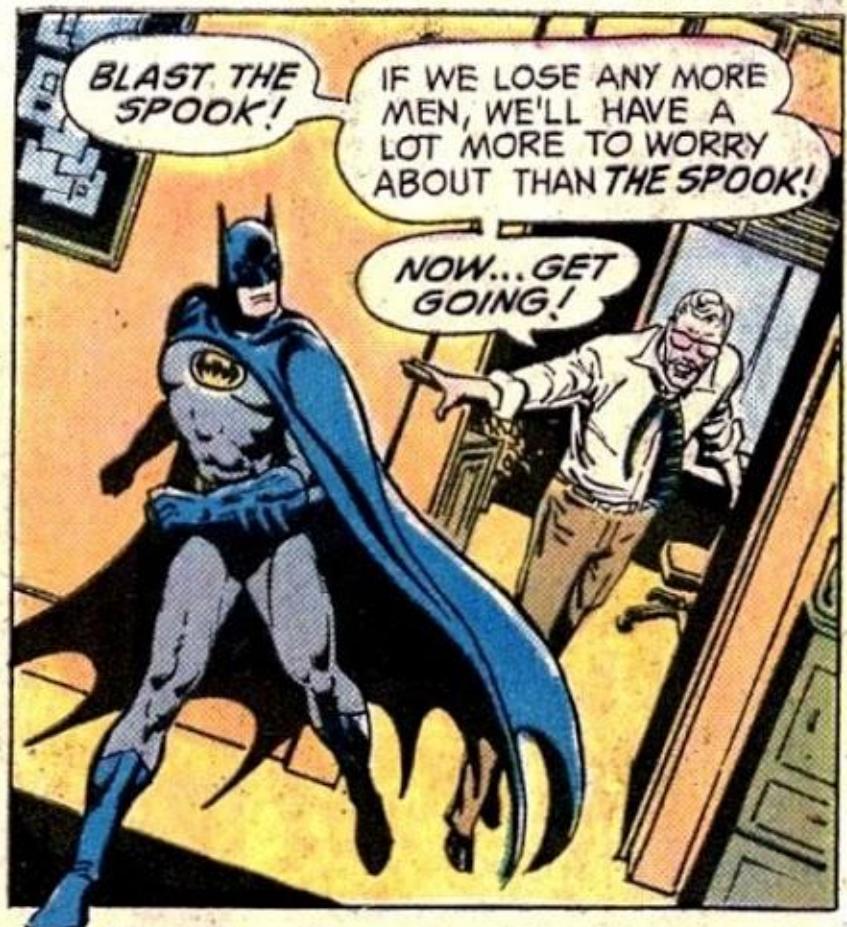
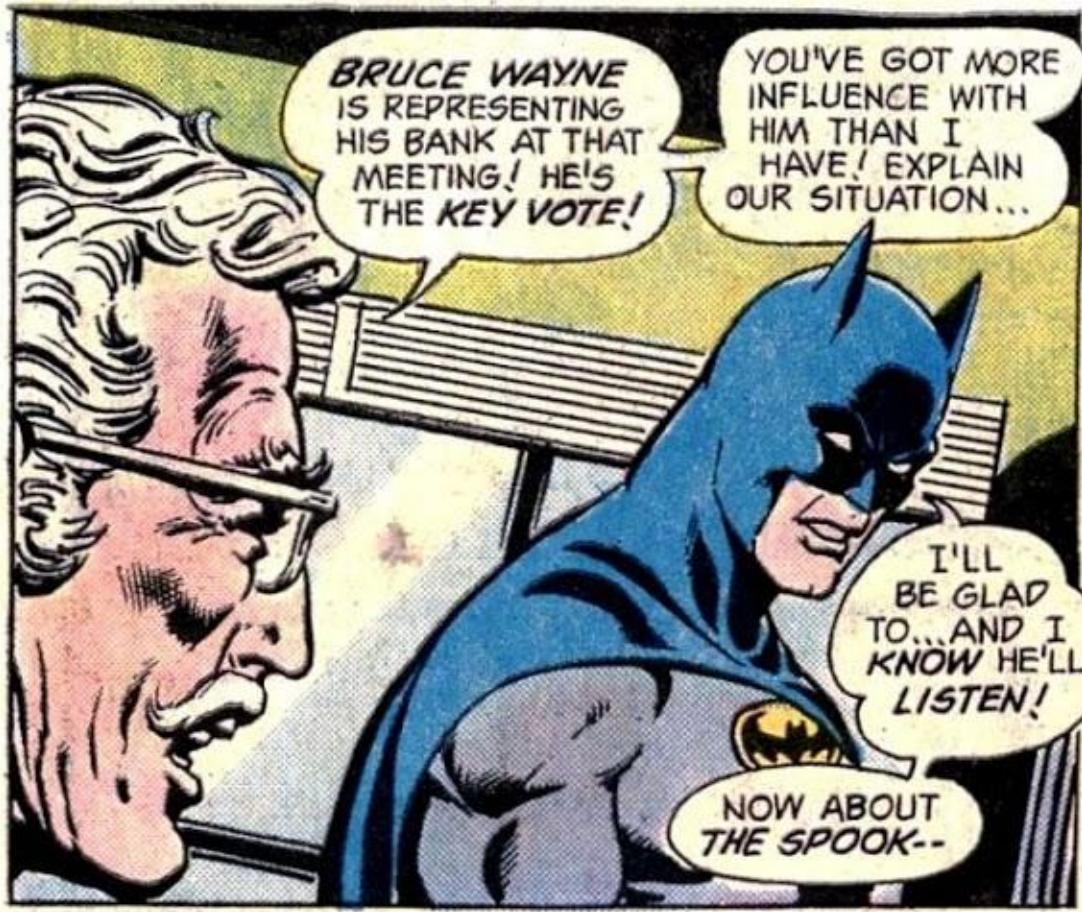
THE SPOOK?  
BACK? SAVE THAT  
FOR LATER!

I CALLED YOU  
FOR SOMETHING  
MORE IMPORTANT!

TOMORROW THE GOTHAM  
ASSISTANCE CORPORATION  
IS MEETING TO CONSIDER THE  
DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET!  
YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS--

--WHOLESALE  
LAYOFFS-- WHEN  
WE'RE ALREADY  
DESPERATELY  
UNDERMANNEDED!

YES,, BUT  
WHAT HAS THAT  
GOT TO DO  
WITH ME?



INSIDE--A MORE STARTLING DISCOVERY...

BECOMING A COLLECTOR, SPOOK?—IN SUCTION-CUP SHOES?

GET AWAY FROM ME, BATMAN! I'M WARNING YOU--

--YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME ALIVE!

INSTANTLY--COVERTLY--THE MYSTIC MASTERMIND'S DIABOLICAL WEAPONS COME INTO PLAY AS THE BATMAN ATTACKS--

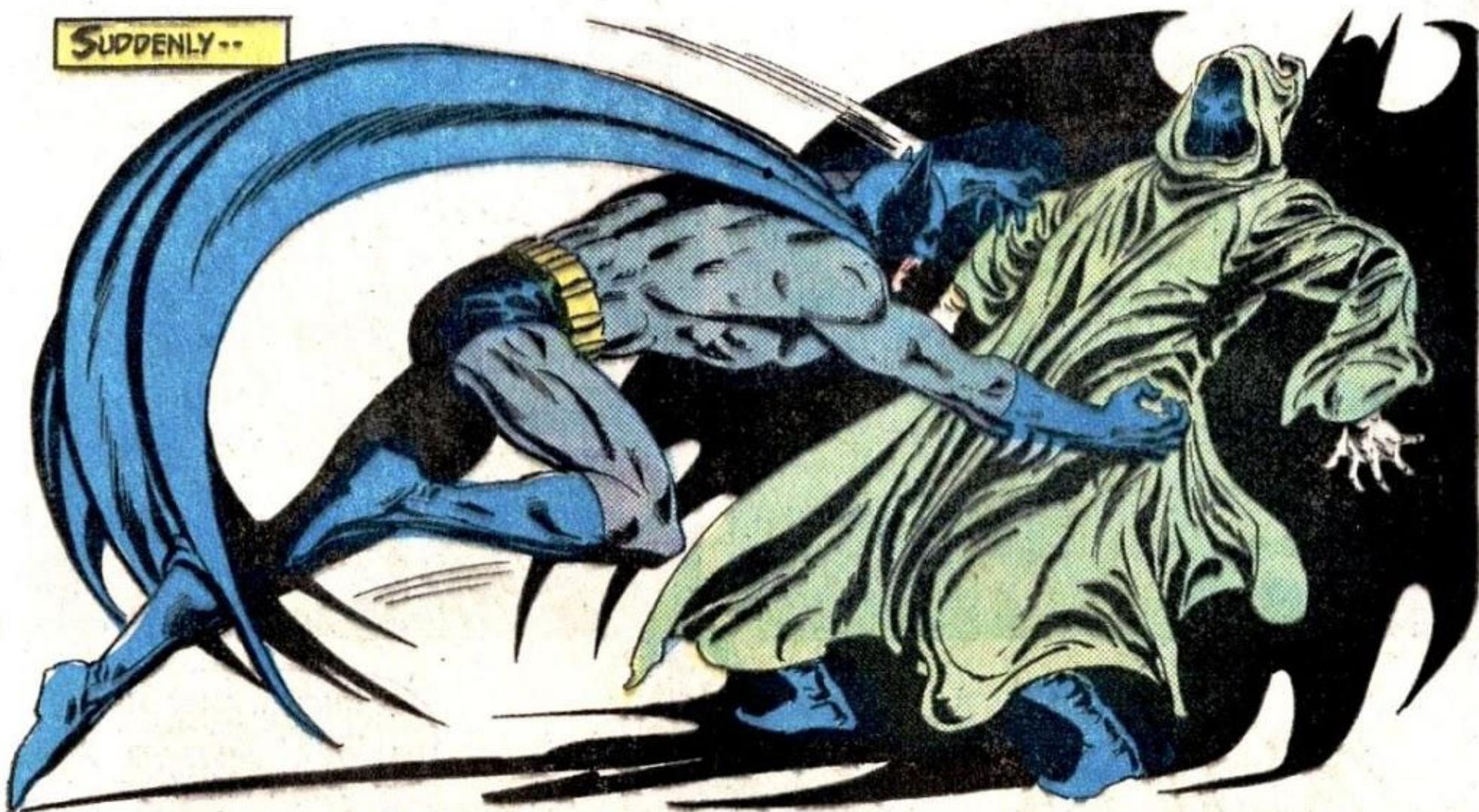
OTIS..  
9 PM..  
SAT.

I'VE HEARD THAT CORNBALL SPEECH BEFORE, SPOOK!

I'VE NEVER KILLED YET--AND I NEVER WILL!



SUDDENLY--



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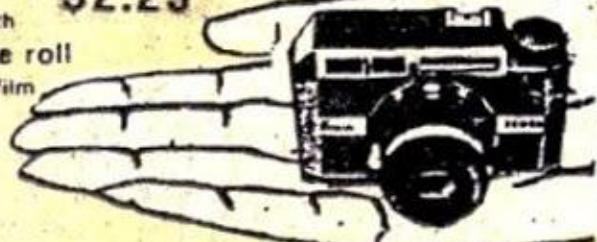
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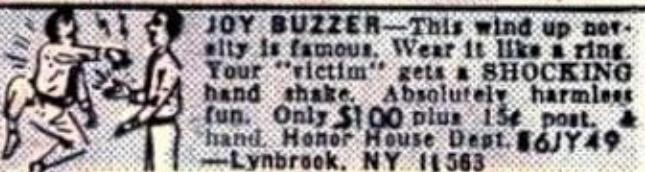
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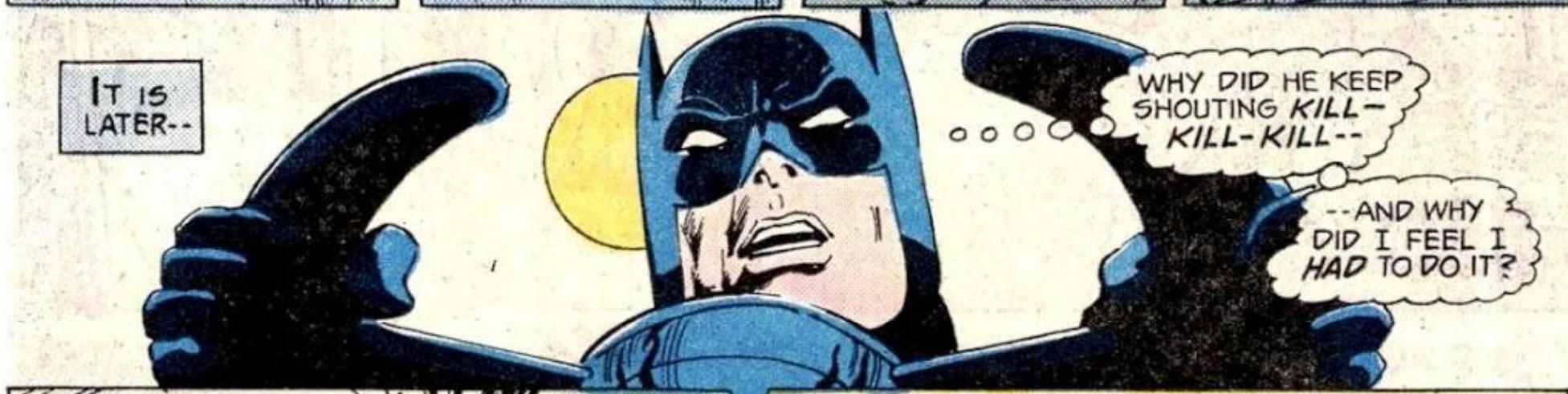
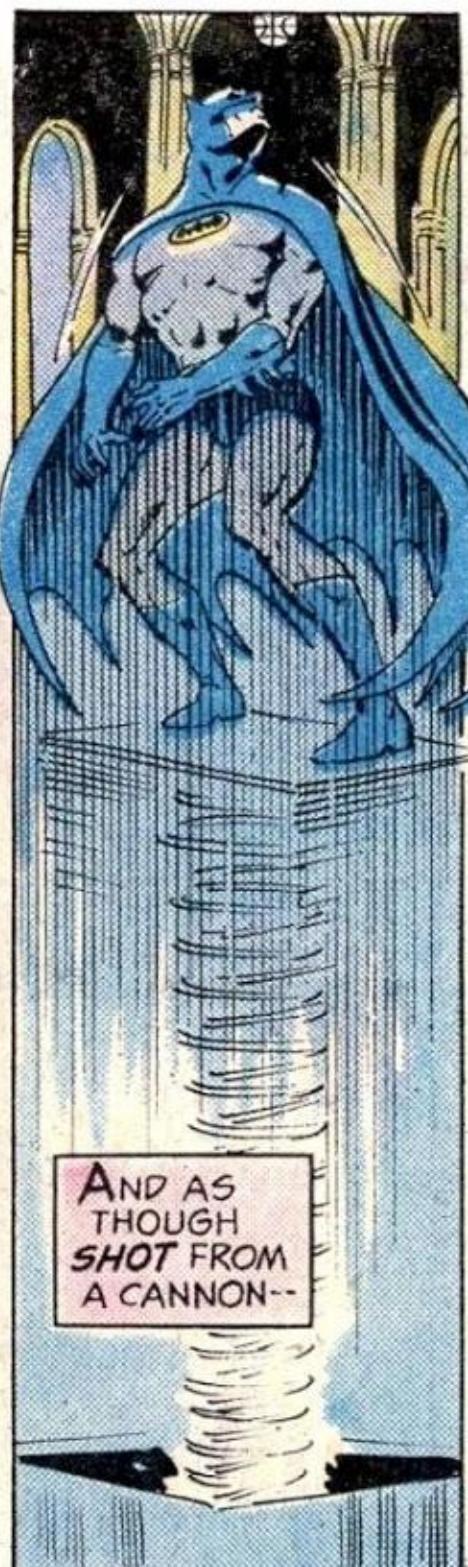
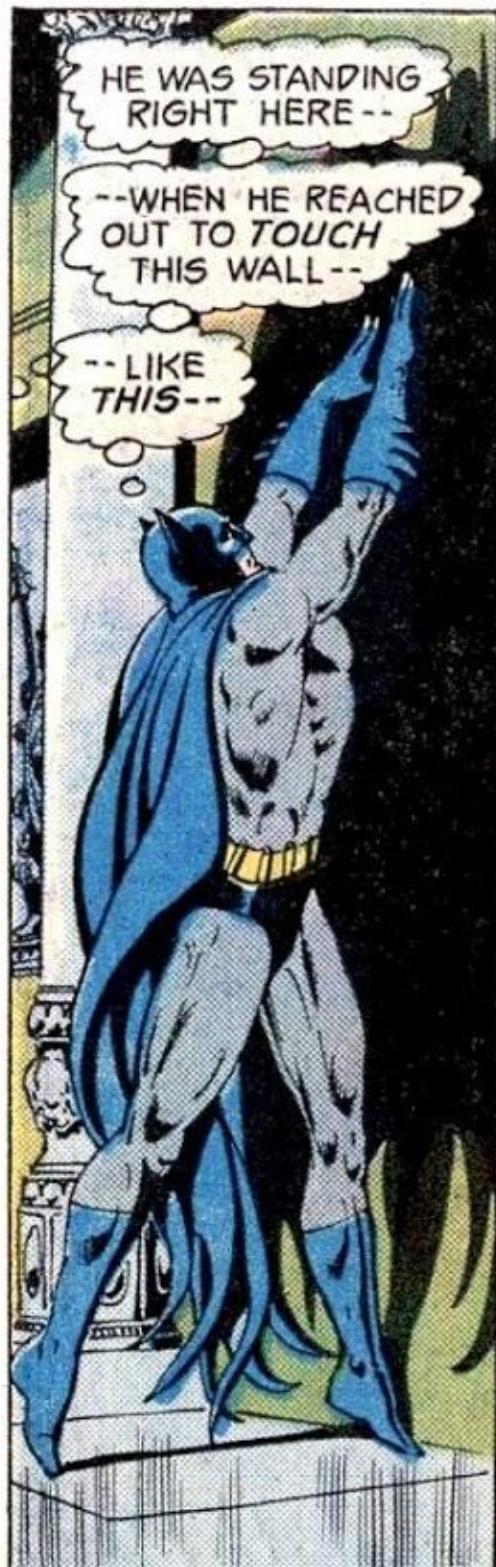
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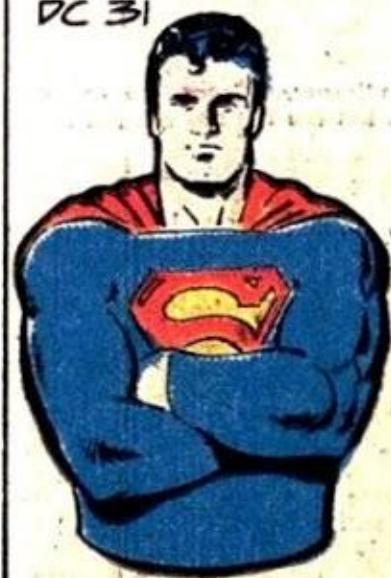
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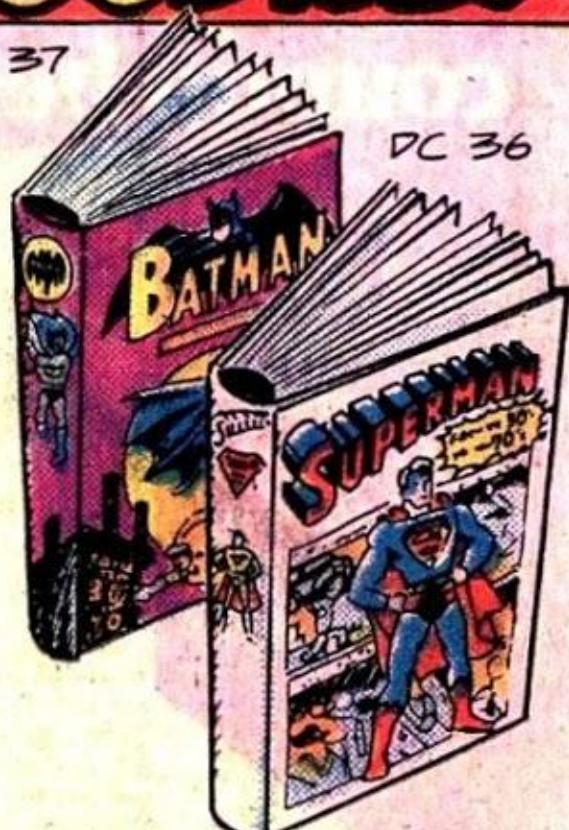
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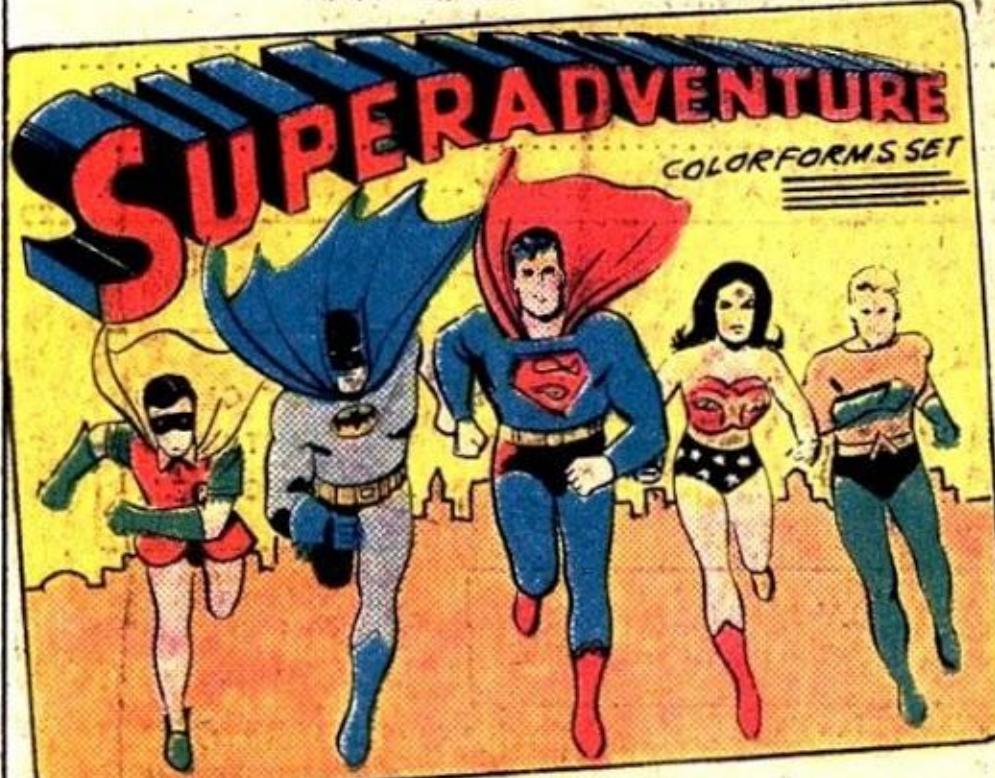


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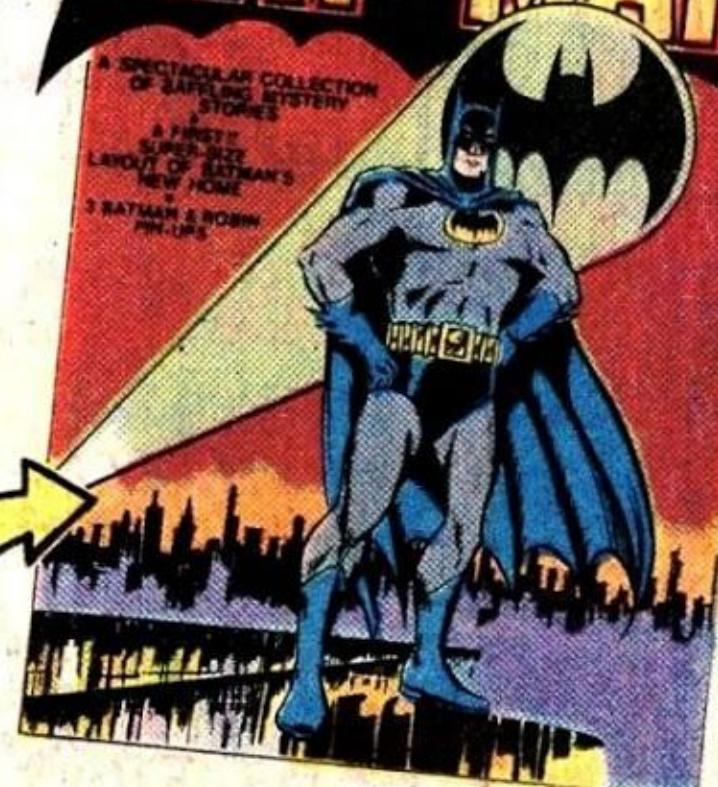
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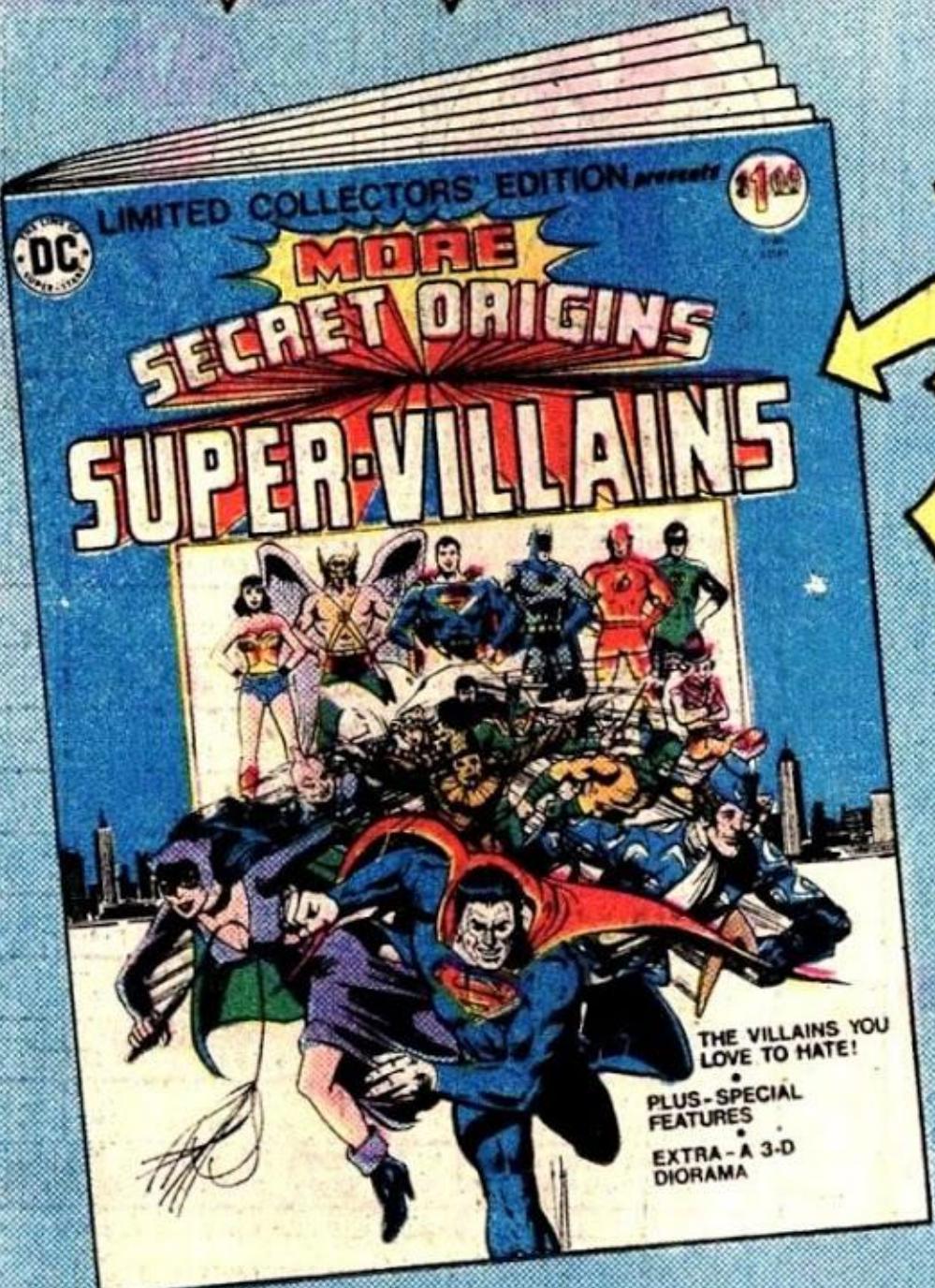
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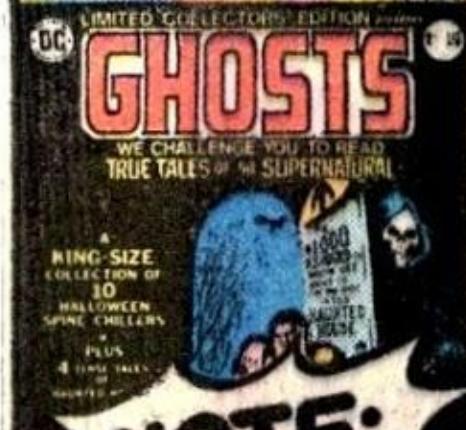
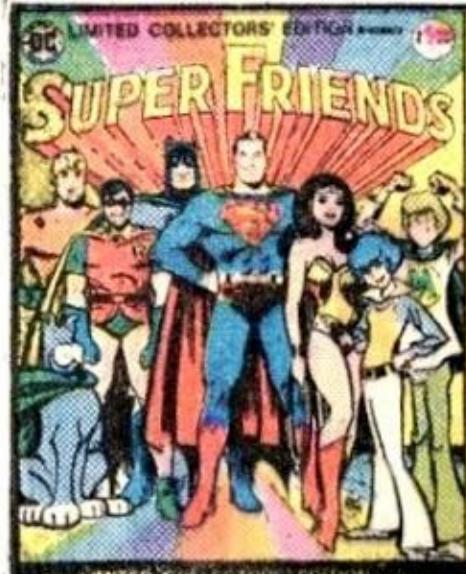
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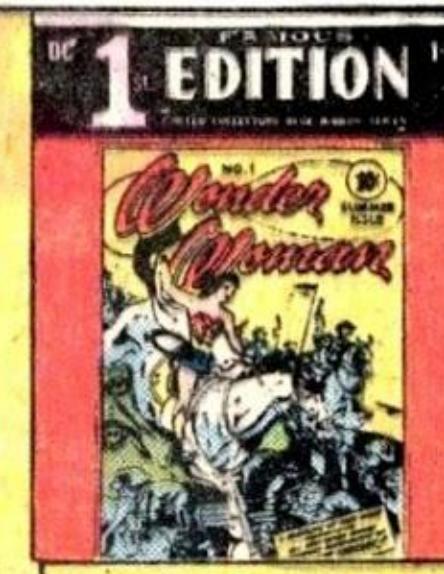
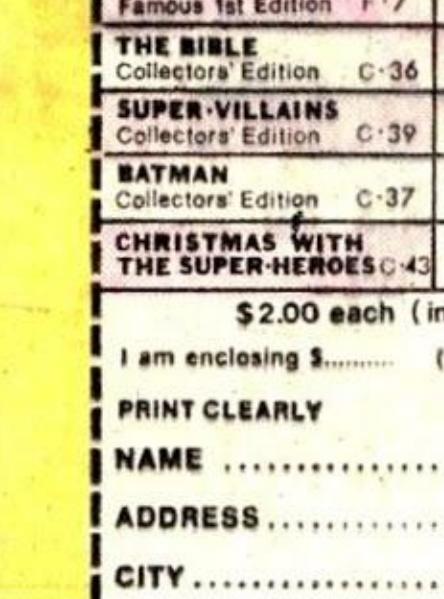
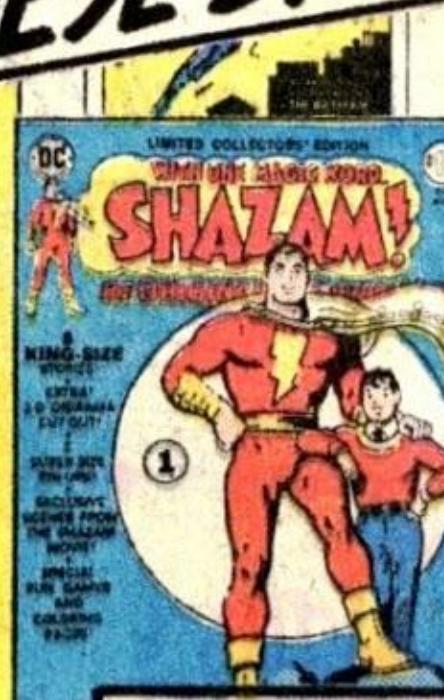
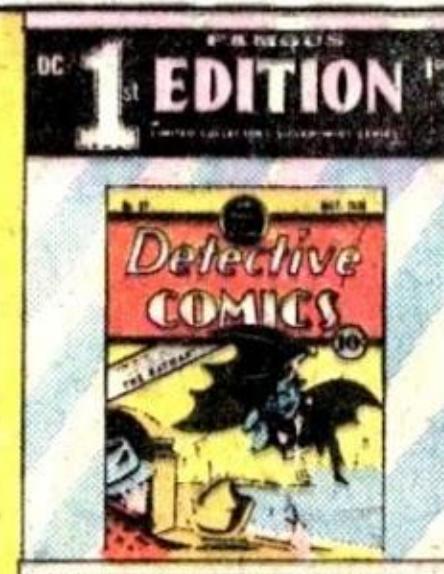
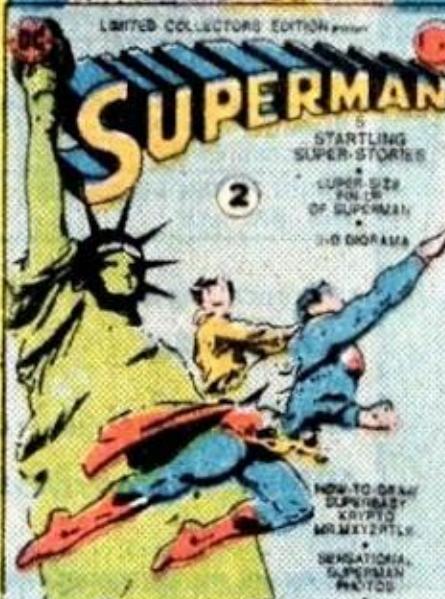
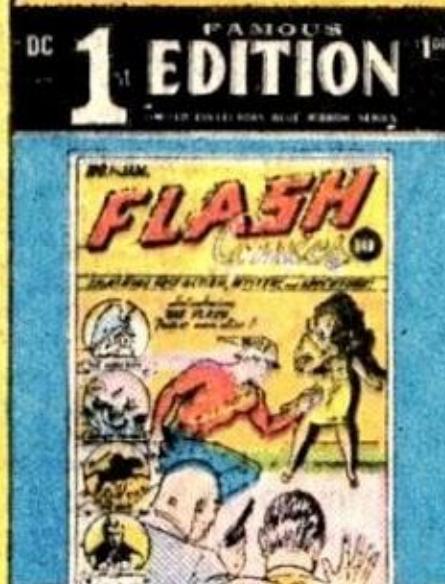
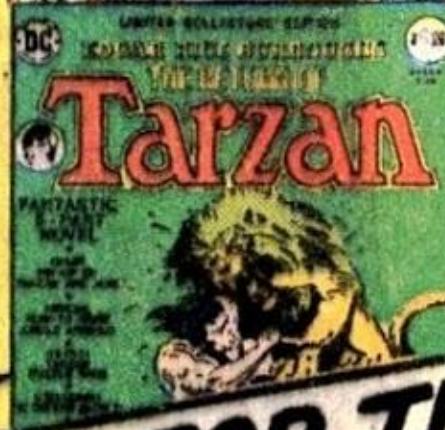
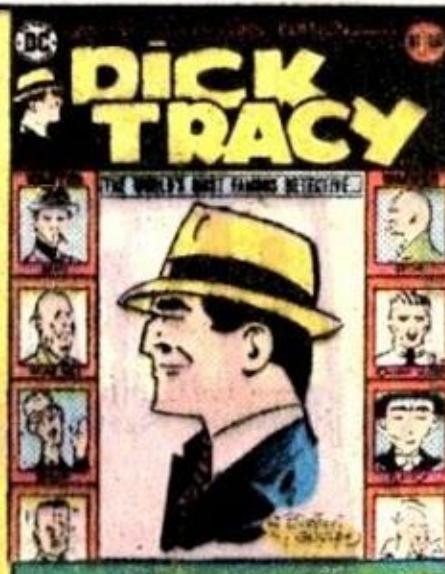
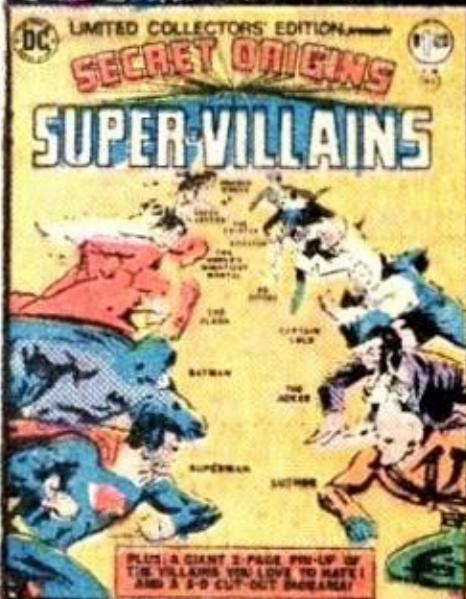
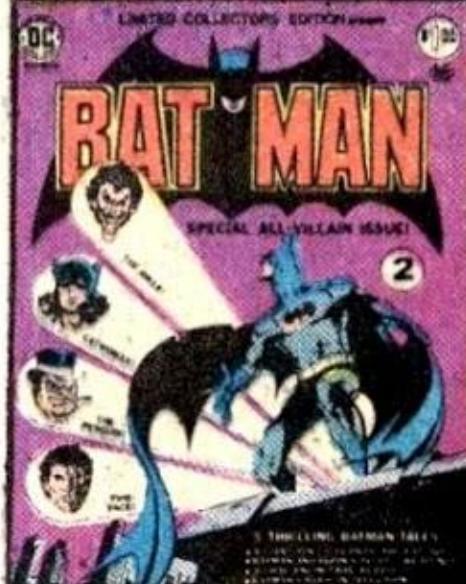
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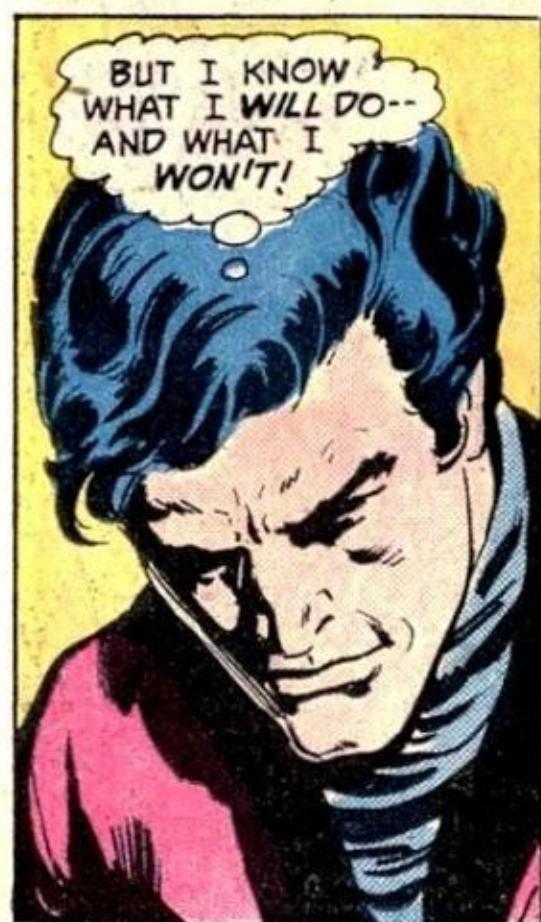
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CONTINUED ON 35 PAGE FOLLOWING.

# when I planned to retire before fifty

this is the business that made it possible

a true story by John B. Haikey

Starting with borrowed money, in just eight years I gained financial security, sold out at a profit and retired.

"Not until I was forty did I make up my mind that I was going to retire before ten years had passed. I knew I couldn't do it on a salary, no matter how good. I knew I couldn't do it working for others. It was perfectly obvious to me that I had to start a business of my own. But that posed a problem. What kind of business? Most of my money was tied up. Temporarily I was broke. But, when I found the business I wanted I was able to start it for a small amount of borrowed money.

"To pyramid this investment into retirement in less than ten years seems like magic, but in my opinion any man in good health who has the same ambition and drive that motivated me, could achieve such a goal. Let me give you a little history.

"I finished high school at the age of 18 and got a job as a shipping clerk. My next job was butchering at a plant that processed boneless beef. Couldn't see much future there. Next, I got a job as a Greyhound Bus Driver. The money was good. The work was pleasant, but I couldn't see it as leading to retirement. Finally I took the plunge and went into business for myself.

"I managed to raise enough money with my savings to invest in a combination motel, restaurant, grocery, and service station. It didn't take long to get my eyes opened. In order to keep that business going my wife and I worked from dawn to dusk, 20 hours a day, seven days a week. Putting in all those hours didn't match my idea of independence and it gave me no time for my favorite sport—golf! Finally we both agreed that I should look for something else.

"I found it. Not right away. I investigated a lot of businesses offered as franchises. I felt that I wanted the guidance of an experienced company—wanted to have the benefit of the plans that had brought success to others, plus the benefit of running my own business under an established name that had national recognition.

"Most of the franchises offered were too costly for me. Temporarily all my capital was frozen in the motel. But I found that the Duraclean franchise

offered me exactly what I had been looking for.

"I could start for a small amount. (Today, less than \$1500 starts a Duraclean dealership.) I could work it as a one-man business to start. No salaries to pay. I could operate from my home. No office or shop or other overhead. For transportation, I could use the trunk of my car. (I bought the truck later, out of profits). And best of all, there was no ceiling on my earnings. I could build a business as big as my ambition and energy dictated. I could put on as many men as I needed to cover any volume. I could make a profit on every man working for me. And I could build little by little, or as fast as I wished.

"So, I started. I took the wonderful training furnished by the company. When I was ready I followed the simple plan outlined in the training. During the first period I did all the service work myself. By doing it myself, I could make much more per hour than I had ever made on a salary. Later, I would hire men, train them, pay them well, and still make an hourly profit on their time that made my idea of retirement possible—I had joined the country club and now I could play golf whenever I wished.

"What is this wonderful business? It's Duraclean. And, what is Duraclean? It's an improved, space-age process for cleaning upholstered furniture, rugs, and tacked down carpets. It not only cleans but it enlivens and sparkles up the colors. It does not wear down the fiber or drive part of the dirt into the base of the rug as machine scrubbing of carpeting does. Instead it lifts out the dirt by means of an absorbent dry foam.

"Furniture dealers and department stores refer their customers to the Duraclean Specialist. Insurance men say Duraclean can save them money on fire claims. Hotels, motels, specialty shops and big stores make annual contracts for keeping their carpets and furniture



fresh and clean. One Duraclean Specialist signed a contract for over \$40,000 a year for just one hotel.

"Well, that's the business I was able to start with such a small investment. That's the business I built up over a period of eight years. And, that's the business I sold out at a substantial profit before I was fifty."

Would you like to taste the freedom and independence enjoyed by Mr. Haikey? You can. Let us send you the facts. Mail the coupon, and you'll receive all the details, absolutely without obligation. No salesman will ever call on you. When you receive our illustrated booklet, you'll learn how we show you STEP BY STEP how to get customers; and how to have your customers get you more customers from their recommendations.

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WITHOUT OBLIGATION mail letter and 24-page illustrated booklet explaining how I can increase my income and family security with a Duraclean Dealership. No salesman is to call.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# Imagine making up to \$100.00 in a single hour

...operating a "business" you can carry in your pocket!

INTERESTED IN MAKING MONEY? Then picture this: A business that you can go into without any special experience . . . that doesn't require any investment but your time . . . that involves only the simplest kind of selling . . . a business you can literally carry in your pocket or purse — BUT a business that our better Dealers report pays them PROFITS as high as \$25.00 to \$100.00 for a single hour of easy spare-time "work"!

Sound impossible? It isn't! In fact, if you mail this coupon now, you can start in this business, with a chance to enjoy these fantastic profits, one week from today . . . as a part-time Merlite Jewelry Dealer!

Merlite Industries, a famous name in Direct Selling for 28 years, has assembled an incomparable collection of the world's most beautiful jewelry, priced to sell and sell FAST at just \$6.00 to \$84.00. There are over 200 popular men's and women's styles for customers to choose from: rings, earrings, pendants, crosses, fashion accessories, unusual gift items, and much, much more! What's more, every Merlite Creation is furnished with an elegant Gift Case at no extra charge . . . AND with a sales-clinching Lifetime Guarantee of Satisfaction!

## JUST SHOW... AND SELL!

If you're interested in making money — and we mean *real* money — here's your chance! Just show Merlite Jewelry to people you know — friends, neighbors, relatives — and we'll give you a 200% — yes, TWO HUNDRED PERCENT — profit on every Merlite item bought from you!

Think of it! When someone buys an \$18.00 Merlite Ring from you, you keep \$12.00! When someone buys a \$24.00 Merlite pendant, you keep \$16.00! Just show our jewelry, write up the orders, and put your money in your pocket!

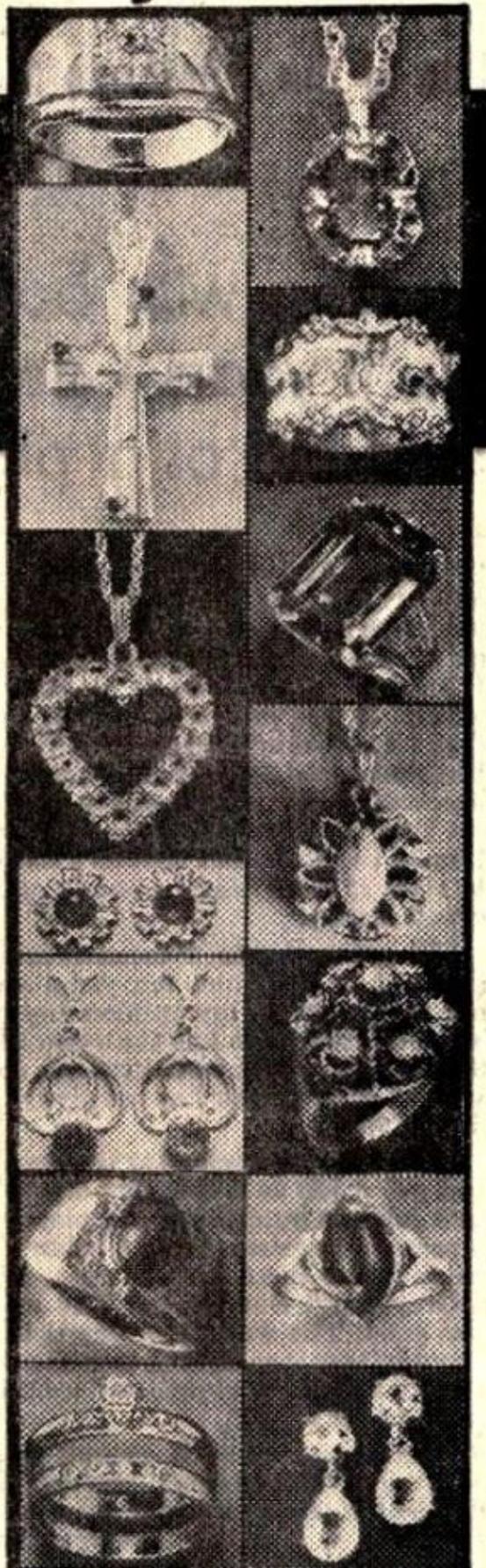
And by the way, that word "show" is important. Don't even try to sell Merlite Jewelry — because it isn't necessary! These lovely creations really do sell themselves — on sight — wherever they're seen! Your only "problem" may be convincing your customers that expensive-looking Merlite Jewelry retails for just \$6.00 to \$84.00!

## SEND TODAY FOR FREE MONEY-MAKING OUTFIT!

Sound like the kind of opportunity you've been looking for? You bet it does! Ready to make money with Merlite Jewelry? Of course you are! And all it takes to get started is a minute, right now, to fill out and mail the coupon below. When we receive it, we'll rush you your complete Merlite Money-Making Outfit: 40-page full-color Catalogue, detailed Profit Manual, Price Lists, Order Forms . . . everything you need to write up your first order — and enjoy your first 200% profits — the day your Outfit arrives!

What does all this cost you? Not one penny — it's FREE! What's more, sending for it places you under no obligation whatsoever, nor will you be asked to return this valuable material if you decide not to become a Merlite Dealer!

Make us PROVE to you just how much money YOUR spare time can be worth with Merlite Jewelry — mail the coupon TODAY!



MERLITE INDUSTRIES, INC. Dept. 379-P  
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YES, I'm ready to start making 200 PERCENT PROFITS the easy Merlite Way! By return mail, rush me my complete Merlite "Show and Sell" Profit Outfit — FREE and without any obligation on my part!

Mr.  Mrs.  Miss

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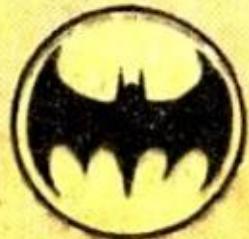
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ALL SUNDAY  
THE BATMAN  
WAITS  
IMPATIENTLY,  
REVIEWING  
HIS PLANS!  
AT NIGHTFALL,  
HE RESUMES  
PATROL--  
READY FOR A  
RENDEZVOUS  
WITH THE  
UNEXPECTED!...



THEN--AT  
11:50 P.M.--

THIS IS IT!

AT MIDNIGHT  
I'VE GOT TO BE  
AT 9TH AVENUE  
AND 37TH  
STREET!

MIDNIGHT--  
AND THE  
SPOOK-STRIKE  
TOGETHER!...

FRANKLIN JEWELRY

KRASH

RAISING HIS  
RIGHT ARM--  
HERE IT COMES!

BETTER DO  
THIS FAST--  
BEFORE IT  
REALY GETS  
TO ME!

NOW,  
BATMAN!

KILL  
ME!

YORK & 4--  
11 PM--  
MON.

BUT THE  
BATMAN'S  
HEADLONG  
ATTACK  
SUDDENLY  
FALTERS...  
AND--

FRANKL

HE  
STUMBLED...  
FELL!

HE'S NOT  
GETTING  
UP--NOT  
MOVING!

WAS IT TOO  
MUCH FOR HIM?  
MORE THAN  
ANY BRAIN  
COULD TAKE?

HE'S NOT BREATHING!  
NO PULSE... NO PUPIL  
REFLEXES... NO VITAL  
SIGNS!

THE BATMAN  
IS DEAD!

HOW COULD  
HE DO THIS  
TO ME?

AND THEN--AN EPISODE UNPARALLELED IN GOTHAM'S BIZARRE ANNALS OF CRIME--

YOU'VE OUTWITTED ME, BATMAN-- ACCOMPLISHED IN DEATH WHAT YOU COULD NEVER DO IN LIFE!

ALL MY WORK... ALL MY PLANS... FOR NOTHING!

YOU FOOL! I WAS THE ONE WHO WAS MEANT TO DIE!

I WOULD HAVE HAD A FUNERAL... BEEN BURIED! YOU DIDN'T KNOW I SPENT TWO YEARS IN INDIA LEARNING SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

I COULD'VE REMAINED BURIED FOR WEEKS! AND YOU--THINKING YOU WERE A KILLER--WOULD NEVER AGAIN DARE TRUST YOURSELF!

THAT WAS TO BE THE END OF THE BATMAN!

WITH THE SCREAMS OF APPROACHING SIRENS COMING CLOSER AND CLOSER--THE SPOOK FINALLY ENDS HIS RAVING TIRADE AND--

REEE  
REEEE  
REEEE  
REEEE  
I'VE FAILED... FAILED!

THE TRAGIC SCENE PLAYS TO ITS END... TO AN UNSEEN AUDIENCE...

THEY'VE GIVEN UP TRYING TO REVIVE HIM-- COVERED HIS FACE!

HE'S DEAD... THE CHEAT!

1:10 A.M.--ST. JAMES HOSPITAL--WHERE THE MOOD IS ANYTHING BUT FUNEREAL...

YOU WERE OUT ALMOST AN HOUR, BATMAN! HOW DO YOU FEEL?

THE SPOOK HIMSELF SEEMS PRESENT AS HIS VOICE FILLS THE ROOM WITH THE FRENETIC CADENCE OF FRUSTRATION AND DESPAIR...

...NEVER AGAIN DARE TRUST YOURSELF! THAT WAS TO BE THE END OF THE BATMAN!

NEVER BETTER, DOCTOR!

NOW, LET'S LISTEN TO THE MINI-TAPE RECORDER I HAD WORKING WHILE I WAS OUT!

I WANTED YOU TO CARRY THAT KNOWLEDGE ALL THROUGH YOUR LIFE-- TO SEE CRIME BEING COMMITTED ALL AROUND YOU--

--AND BE UNABLE TO LIFT A FINGER AGAINST IT!

GOOD LORD, WHAT A BIZARRE REVENGE...AND IT ALMOST WORKED!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW, BATMAN?

BRING HIM IN, COMMISSIONER! --WHAT ELSE?

BUT WHERE WILL YOU FIND HIM?

AT THE MOMENT, I DON'T KNOW WHERE--BUT WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'LL BE THERE!

NEXT NIGHT-- AT THE SUBLIMINALLY APPOINTED TIME AND PLACE --YORK & 4TH...

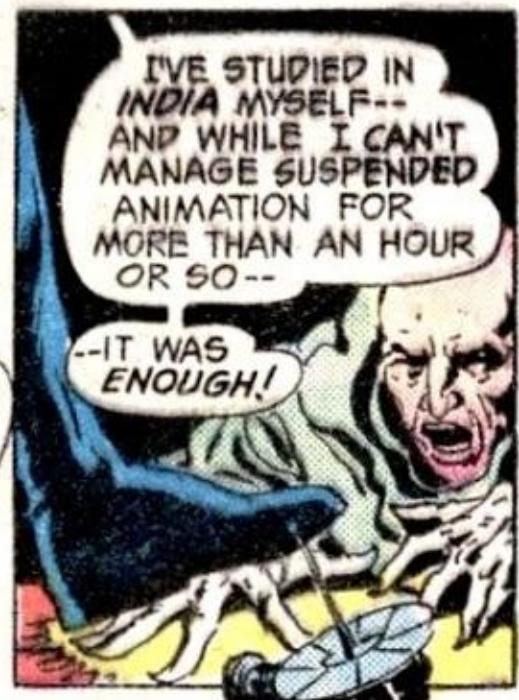
THERE HE IS!-- AND UNDOUBTEDLY DOESN'T REALIZE WHY HE HAD TO COME HERE--

--EVEN THOUGH HE THINKS I'M DEAD!

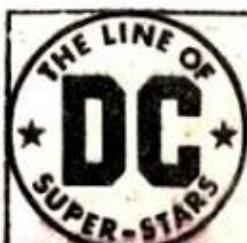
AS THE SPOOK DEPARTS--THE MASKED MANHUNTER FOLLOWS...

THE TWO-WAY REFLECTING LENSES I WORE LAST NIGHT SENT HIS OWN SUBLIMINAL MESSAGE BACK TO HIM!

WONDER WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT NO ANNOUNCEMENT YET OF MY "DEATH"? HUSHING IT UP--?



CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING



# DC SALUTES THE BICENTENNIAL WITH A GREAT FREE OFFER!

LOOK FOR OUR JULY AND AUG.  
COVERS WHICH HAVE THE RED,  
WHITE AND BLUE HEADINGS AND  
ARE IDENTIFIED BY A RIGHT-CORNER  
NUMBER #1 THROUGH #33.



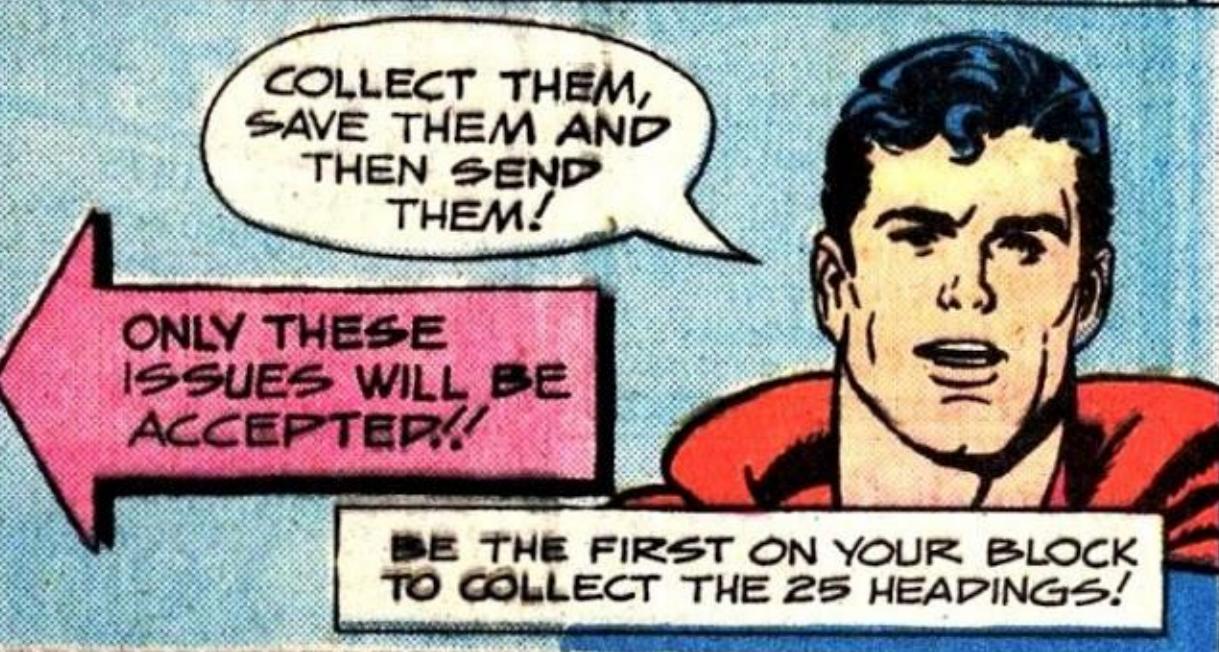
IF YOU SEND US AT LEAST 25  
DIFFERENT COVER HEADINGS,  
WE WILL SEND YOU, FREE,

A METAL SUPERMAN BELT BUCKLE!

(IN ANTIQUED SILVER FINISH!)

1	OUR ARMY AT WAR #294
2	GHOSTS #48
3	WEIRD WESTERN TALES #35
4	KAMANDI #43
5	BATMAN FAMILY #6
6	JUSTICE LEAGUE #132
7	THE JOKER #8
8	FREEDOM FIGHTERS #3
9	SUPERMAN #301
10	HOUSE OF MYSTERY #243
11	BATMAN #277
12	PLOP! #22
13	OUR FIGHTING FORCES #168
14	WEIRD WAR TALES #47
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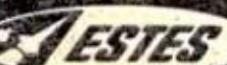
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YOU'VE GOT ALL THE ANSWERS, BATMAN--EXCEPT ONE--

HOW AM I GOING TO HOLD ON TO THE SPOOK?

THERE YOU HAVE ME, SIR--

--BUT YOU CAN HARDLY EXPECT ME TO SHARE HIS CELL WITH HIM?

NO, COMMISSIONER, LET'S JUST CONTINUE DOING BUSINESS THE OLD WAY!

I CATCH 'EM-- YOU KEEP 'EM!

WAIT! HOW ABOUT BRUCE WAYNE--?

TUESDAY-- AND THE G.A.C. HOLDS ITS POSTPONED MEETING--

MR. WAYNE, IT'S BECOME PAINFULLY OBVIOUS WE'LL GET NOWHERE UNLESS WE MEET YOU HALFWAY--

--SO WE'LL AGREE NOT TO CUT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET!

SPLendid!

I MUST SAY, BRUCE, YOU CERTAINLY SEEM LIKE A NEW MAN TODAY!

I GATHER YOU MUST'VE HAD A GREAT WEEKEND?

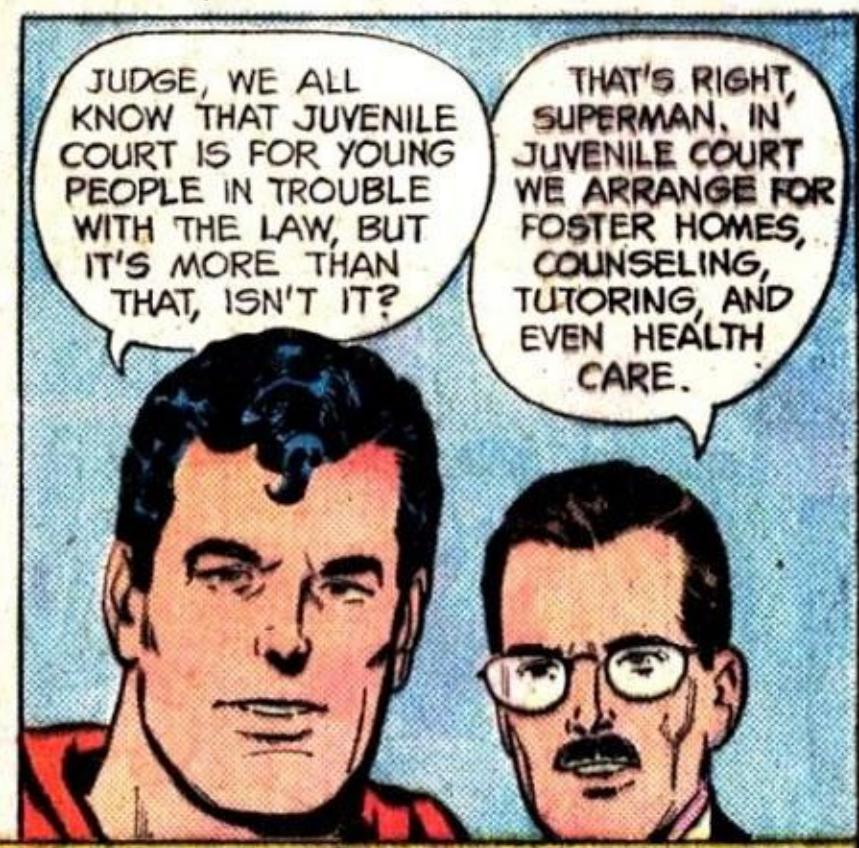
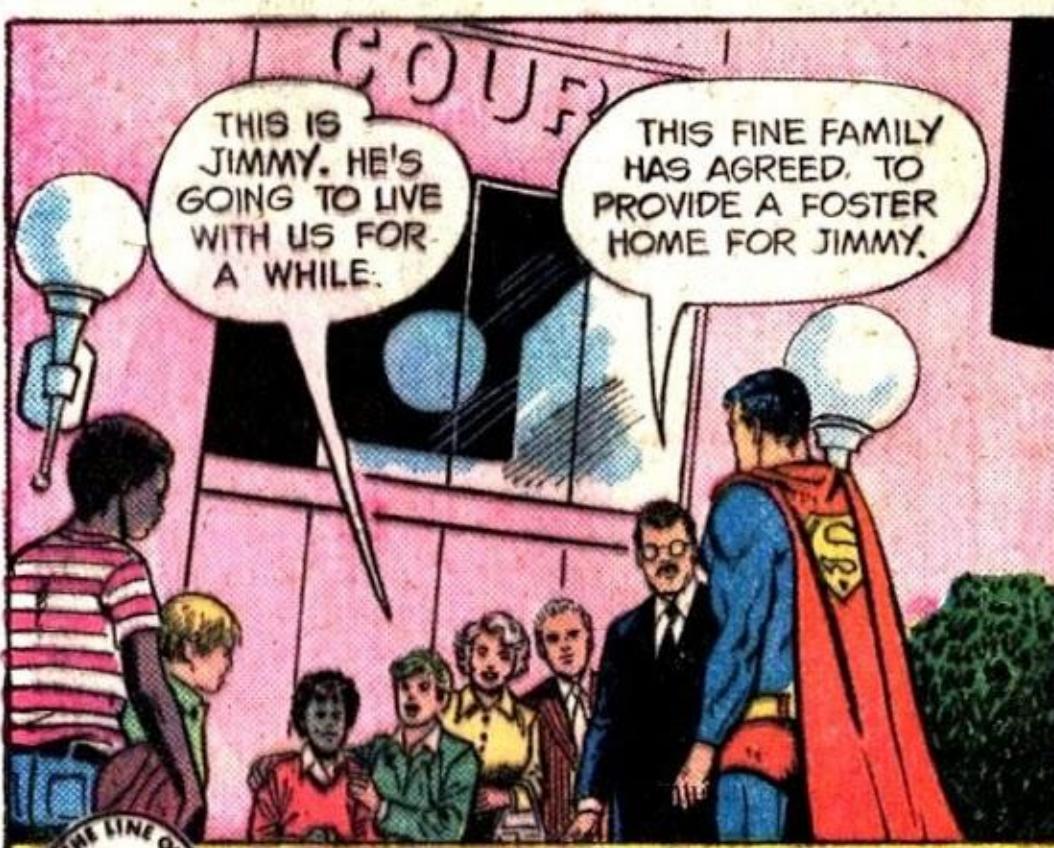
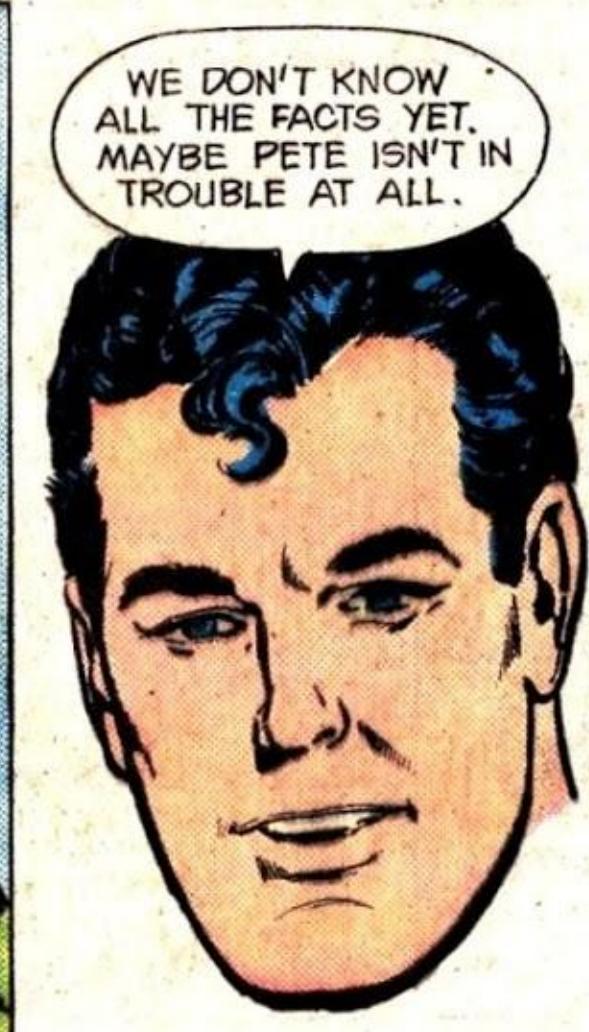
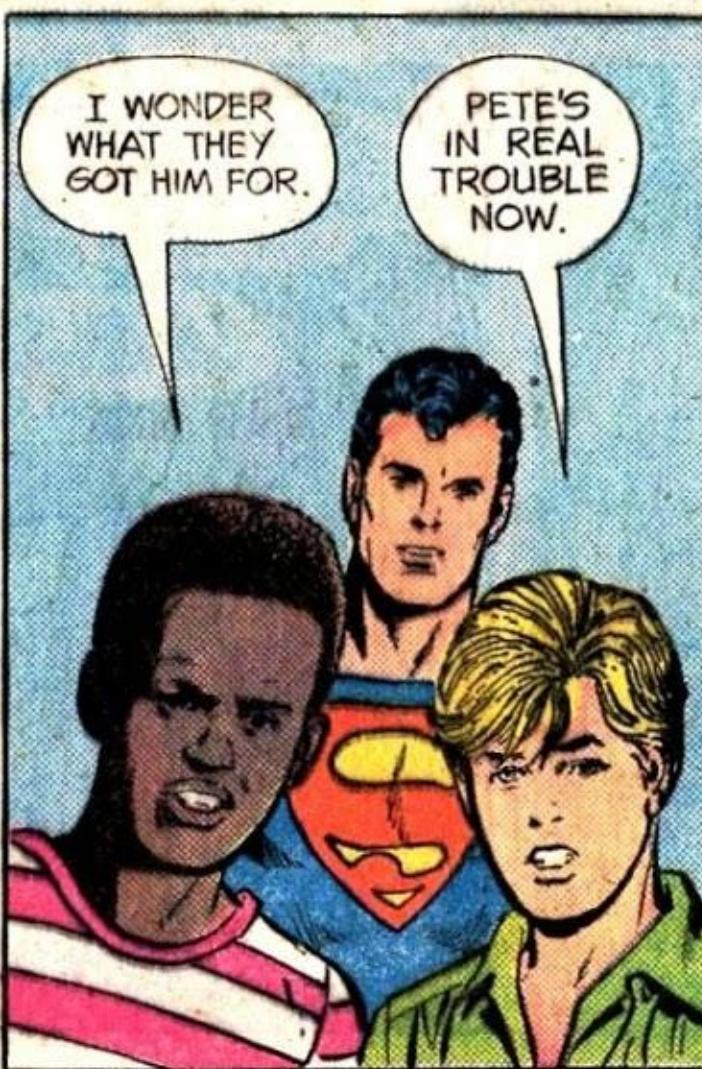
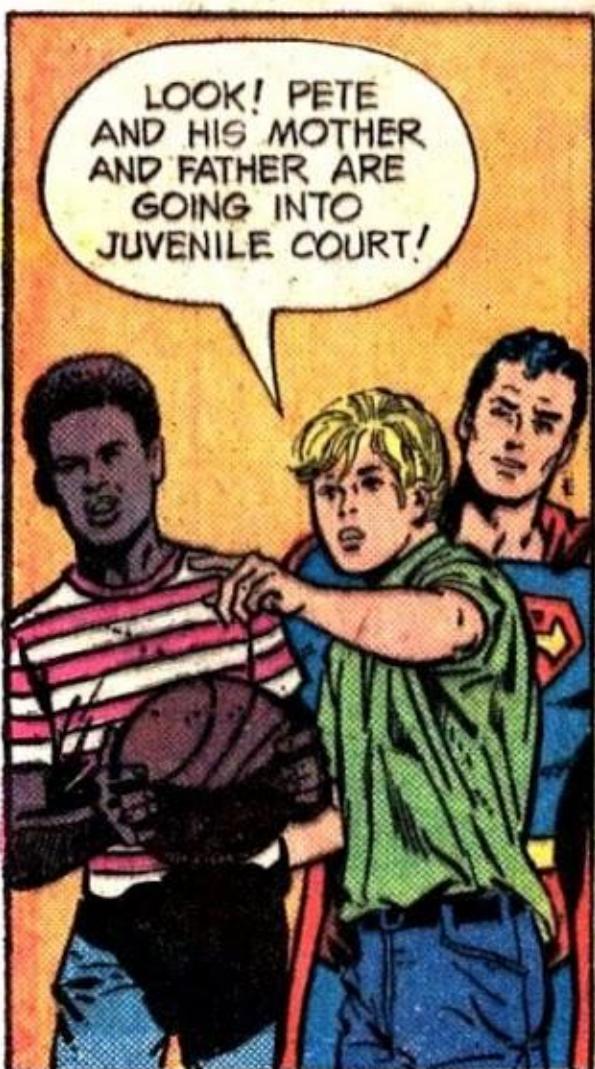
GREAT? YES... I'LL SETTLE FOR THAT!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN APRIL

END

JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDES CHILDREN, 4

# JUSTICE FOR ALL INCLUDES CHILDREN



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IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE, THE  
RESEARCH DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JUVENILE COURT JUDGES.



# LETTERS to the BATMAN

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,  
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

S-2287

Dear Editor:

No one can top Denny O'Neil at capturing that moody atmosphere so wonderfully prevalent in his Batman tales. And I doubt if anyone else would be able to weave murder mysteries quite like Frank Robbins did on many occasions for the Caped Crusader's readers. But both these Bat-scripters are doing other things and someone else has to fill us in on the adventures of the man who never sleeps. Batman readers should be overjoyed that that someone is David V. Reed. He does a fine job at capturing moody atmosphere, weaves some great mysteries and still adds one more thing—ADVENTURE!

Adventure is the only word to describe "The Underworld Olympics '76" (BATMAN #272) or, for that matter, any other Reed story. He's got The Batman brawling with anyone and everyone, but at the same time always using his deductive powers. Under Dave Reed, Batman's mind calculates at a fevered pace, but it does get side-tracked once in a while, showing that the Masked Manhunter is not infallible.

I could go on and on about Reed, but he's so good (and getting better) that any sample of his work is enough to convince non-believers.

And speaking of work, J.L. Garcia Lopez is dazzling us with his. The layouts and his fight scenes were beautiful and original. And his cover was superb.

BATMAN has not suffered one bit by going monthly, as many fans predicted. Instead, it has improved—immensely!

JOE PELUSO, Brooklyn, N.Y.

(You're not alone in your praise of Reed and Lopez, Joe! Their work is winning them fans all around the country, as our next letter confirms!—BR)

Dear Julie and Bob,

Well, well! Batman versus the world's greatest criminals! Looks like it's going to be one heck of a fight!

Jose Luis Garcia Lopez did a fine job on the cover, but his inside work was even better. His action scenes are as good as Kirby's and his facial expressions on par with Novick's. Great stuff!

It seems that multi-parters bring out the best in David Reed. He has set up quite a plan for the next few issues. But one thing bothers me. There are four continental groups gathered at the meeting—North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Surely Africa and Australia have something to offer—though Antarctica leaves me cold! (Wait a minute! I just thought of an emissary from the South Pole—The Penguin!)

MIKE WHITE, Mackinaw, Ill.

(As you've seen, the Africans joined forces with the Asian team, but it appears the criminals from "down under" decided to stay home. As for that Foul Fowl, The Penguin is about as representative of Antarctica as our next letter is of reader reaction to BATMAN #272!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Cowled Ones:

BATMAN #272 was a first! Now I can imagine Bob Rozakis reading that and thinking, "Here comes a complimentary letter!" Wrong! By "first" I mean that it was the first Batman issue that ever caused me to giggle. Then I threw it across the room, something I don't often do.

"Hmmm, why did he do that?" Rozakis will be wondering. I will explain: Batman is a figure of the night. He prowls the streets of Gotham, dropping down on evil-doers and causing them to shake and quiver in fear. That is Batman. The jerk in "Underworld Olympics" was not! There he fights some low-grade morons who want to see who can steal the most gumballs. It was, in a word, forgettable!

A word of advice to David V. Reed: Batman does not start off his attack on criminals by yelling, "One vanilla please, with sprinkles!"

A word of advice to Julius Schwartz: I don't want flaming heads, invitations to murders, criminal employment agencies or Underworld Olympics. I want realistic mysteries, figure-of-the-nightism, desperate manhunts, fights against time and maybe a little espionage.

And a word of advice to Bob Rozakis: Letter columns are not for the purpose of showing the reader how a past issue had 100% raves. They should always have at least one pan letter, given a decent amount of space, like this one from . . .

ADAM CASTRO, New Rochelle, N.Y.

(Considering that in the huge pile of mail we've received on BATMAN #272, yours was the ONLY pan letter, isn't it conceivable that there WERE issues with 100% raves? After all, even YOU don't dislike everything we do!—BR)

• • • •

Dear Editor:

It was great fun watching The Batman as he solved the murder mystery in "Underworld Olympics '76", especially since, though he did crack the case, he has no inkling of the motive. David Reed has managed to capture the personality of Batman-on-the-hunt—a brisk and determined detective, totally without humor, despite his occasional "cute" lines. I get so tired of heroes who jazz up their fight scenes with "jokes" and witticisms so moronic they defy description. Fortunately, Batman will have none of that. He isn't dealing with old vaudevillains, but criminals so vicious and real we couldn't laugh at them under any circumstances.

SCOTT GIBSON, Evergreen, Colo.

(You certainly won't be laughing at next issue's villain as Batman squares off against The Wringer, who cries "Stop Me Before I Kill" in BATMAN #277 on sale in mid-April.—Bob Rozakis)

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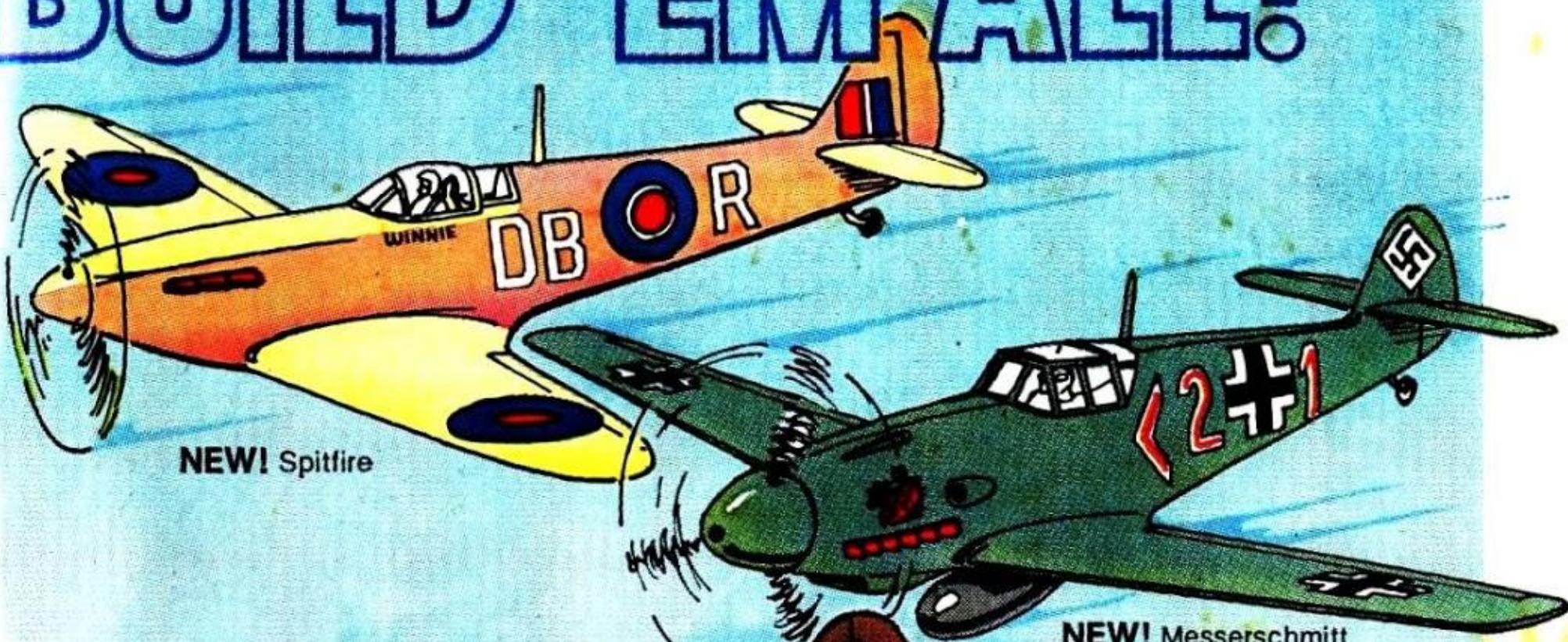
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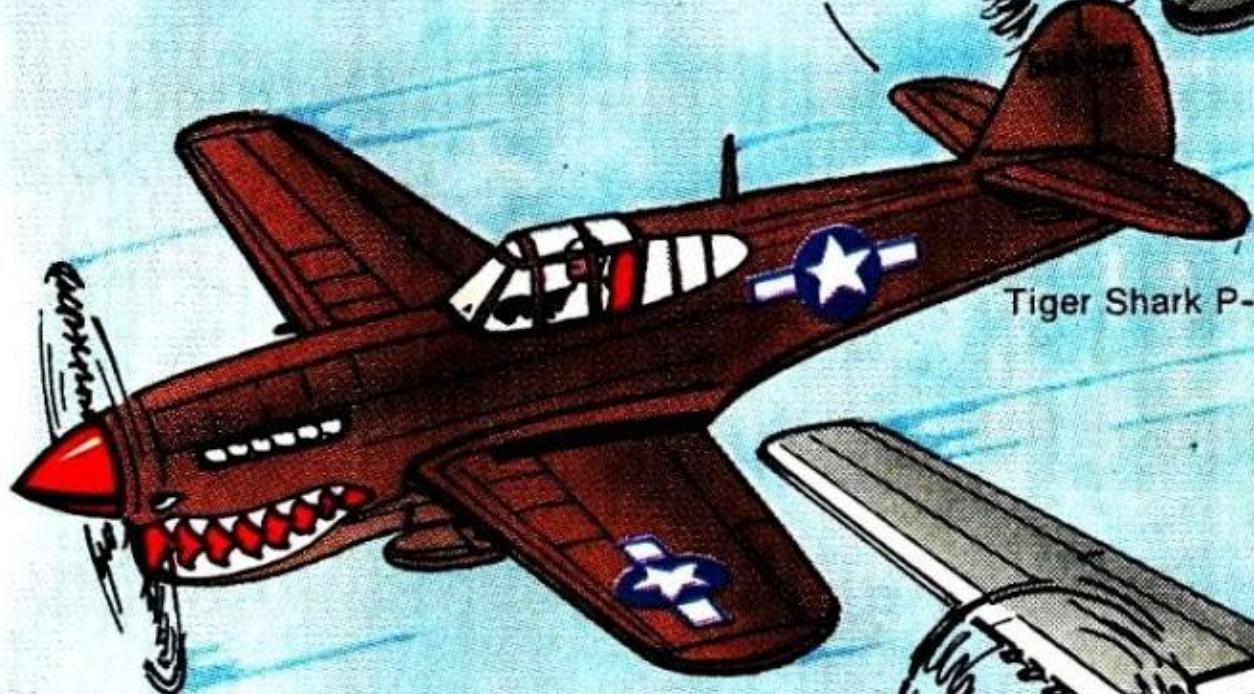
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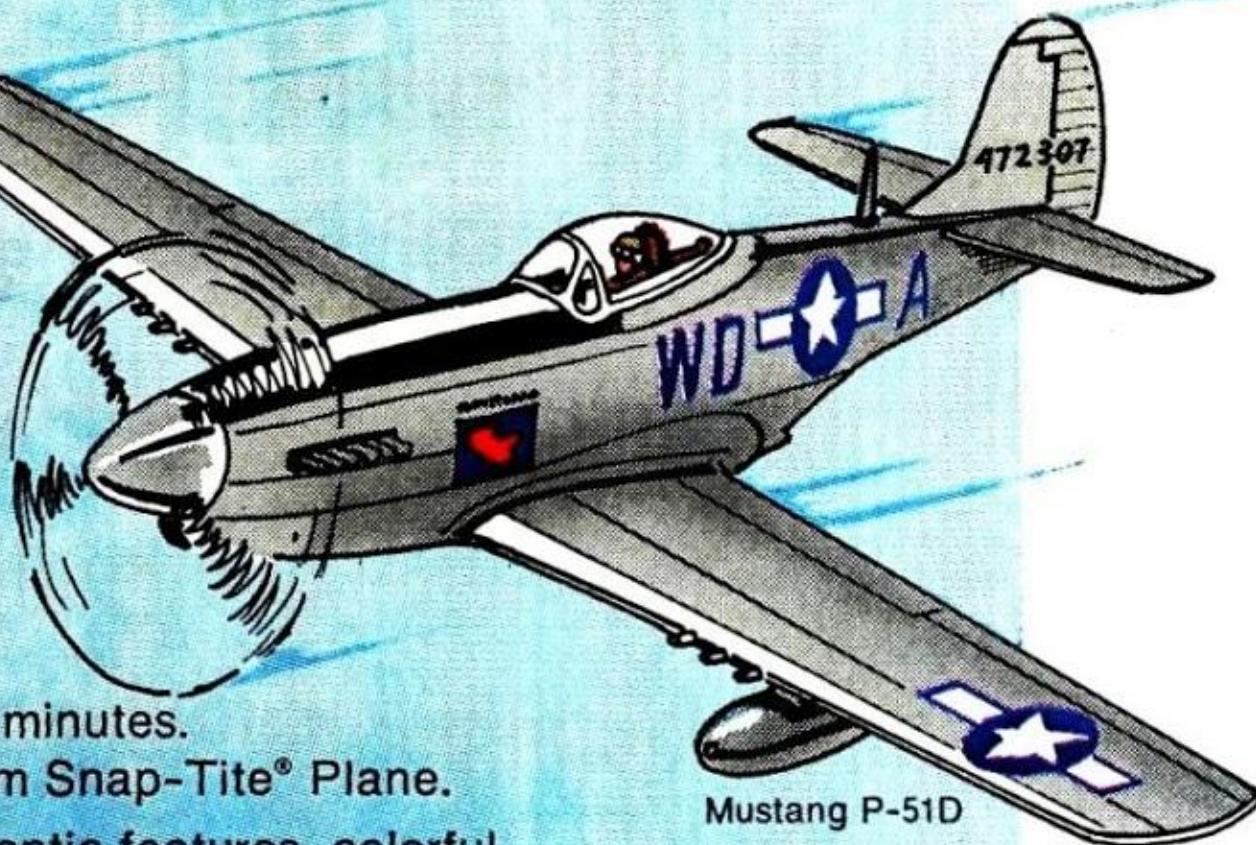
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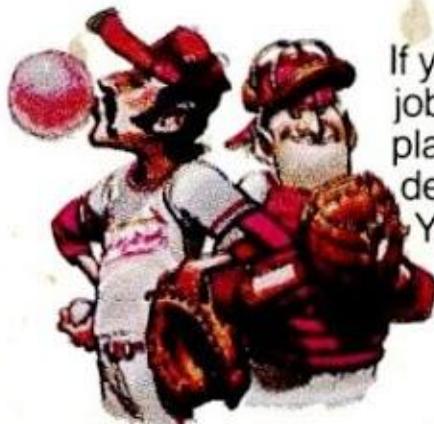


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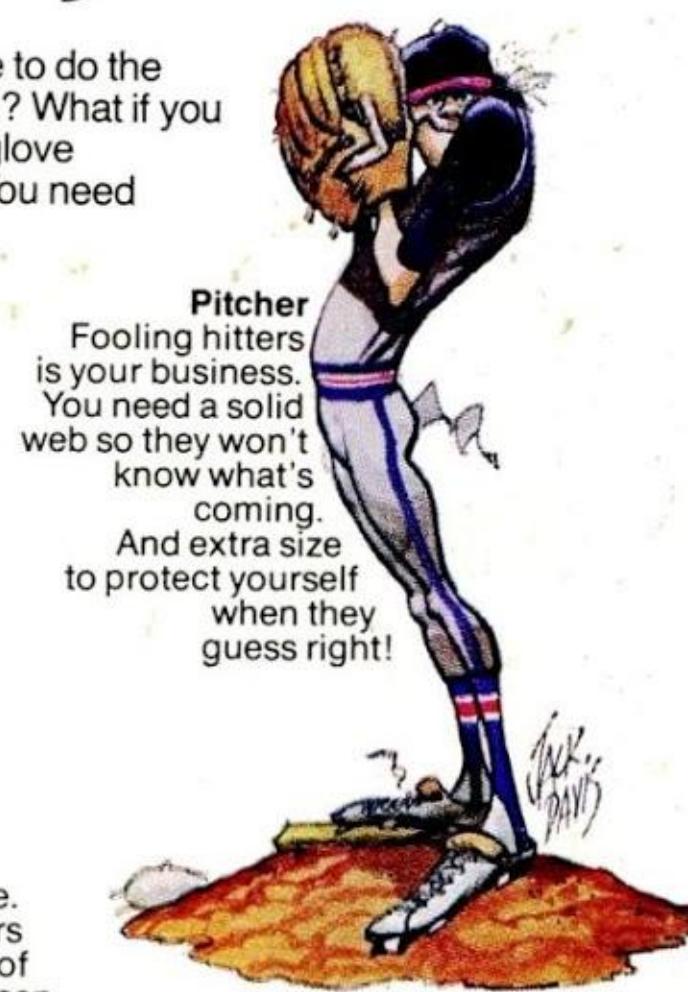
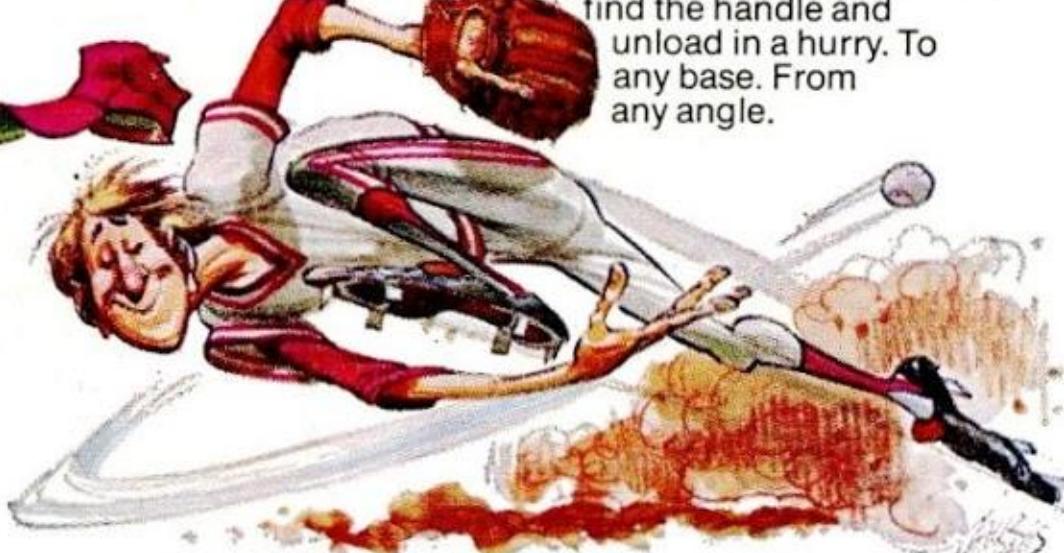


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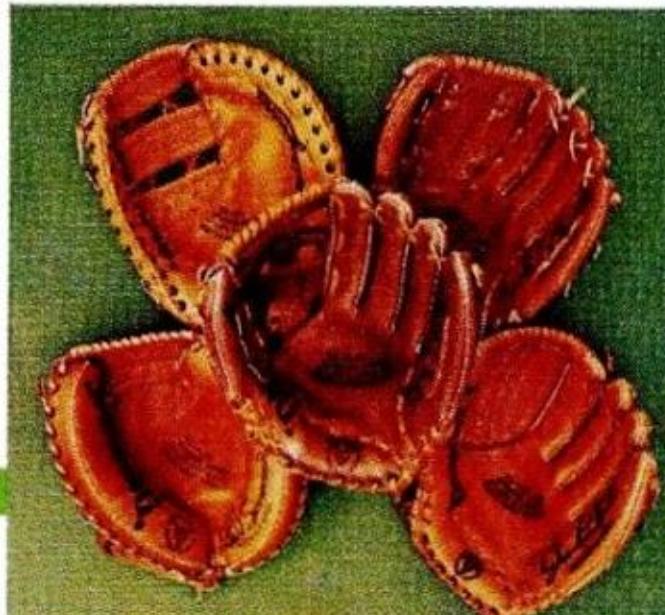
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