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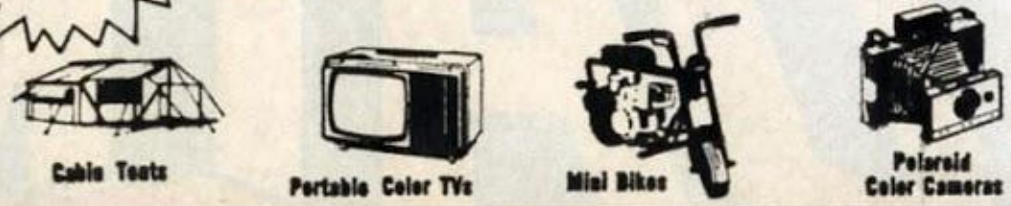

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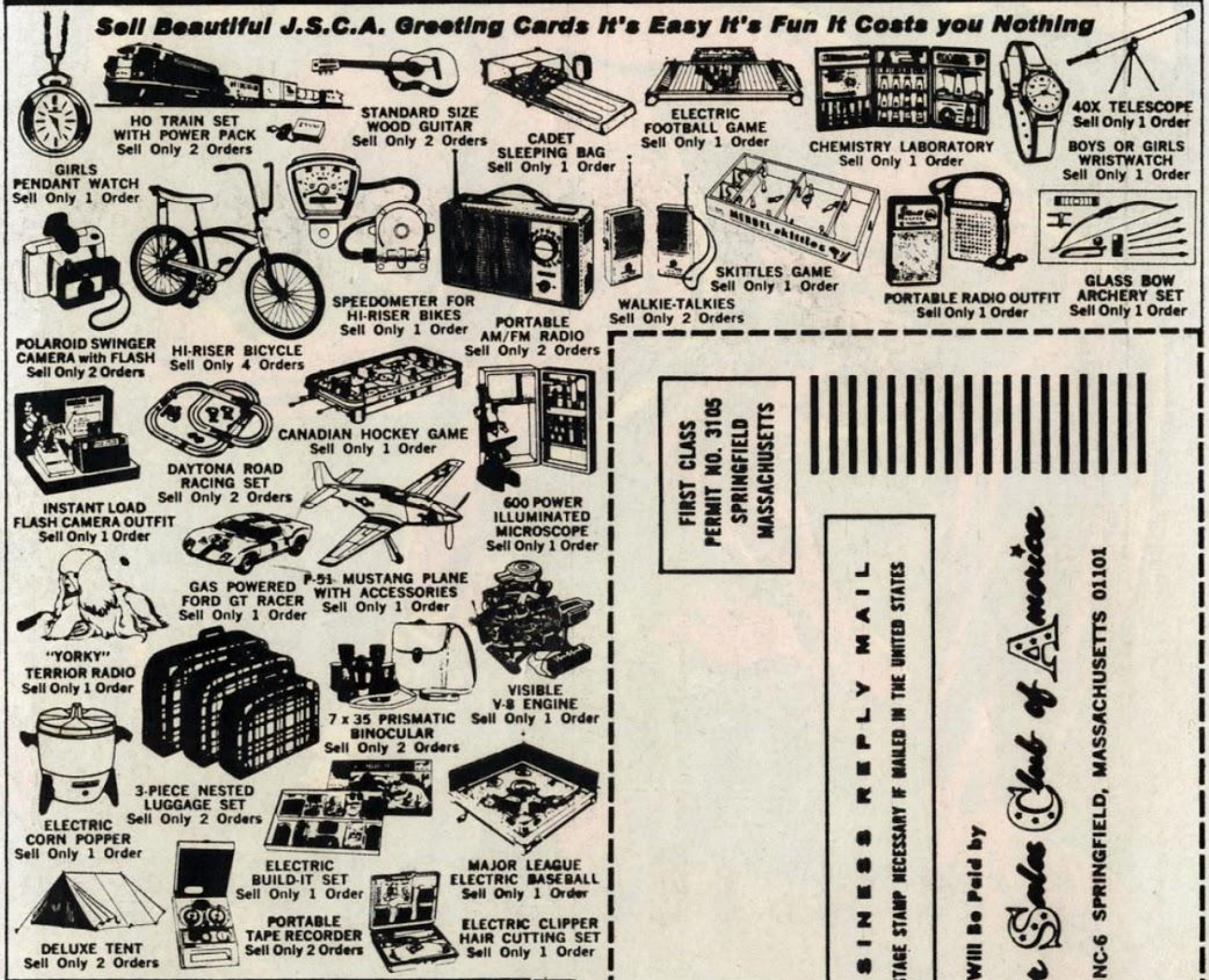

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CLOUDS CLUSTER IN A SLATE-GREY SKY LIKE ANCIENT MOURNERS... A FINGER OF WIND POKES SHARPLY FROM THE RIVER... AND RAIN FALLS WITH A SAD WHISPER ON NEW ORLEANS...

BATMAN, No. 224, Aug., 1970. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October, by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., Sparta, Ill. 62286. EDITORIAL, EXECUTIVE OFFICES, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. Second Class Postage Paid at Sparta, Ill. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1970. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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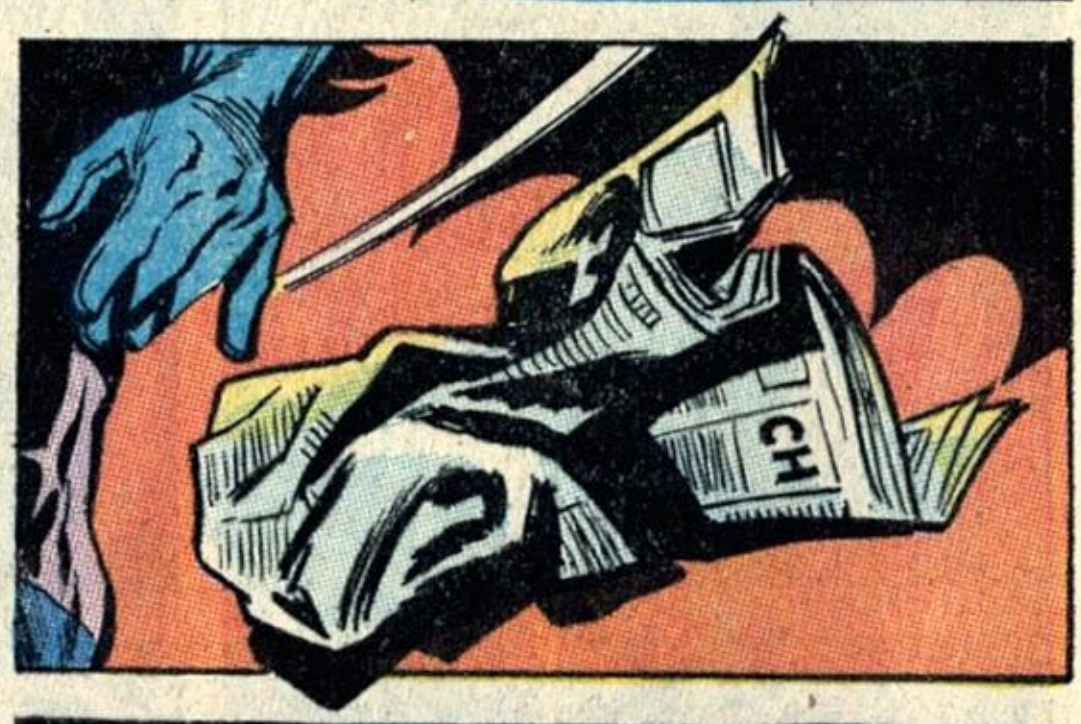
A MISSION OF MERCY-- AND VENGEANCE-- TAKE THE DREADED

BATMAN

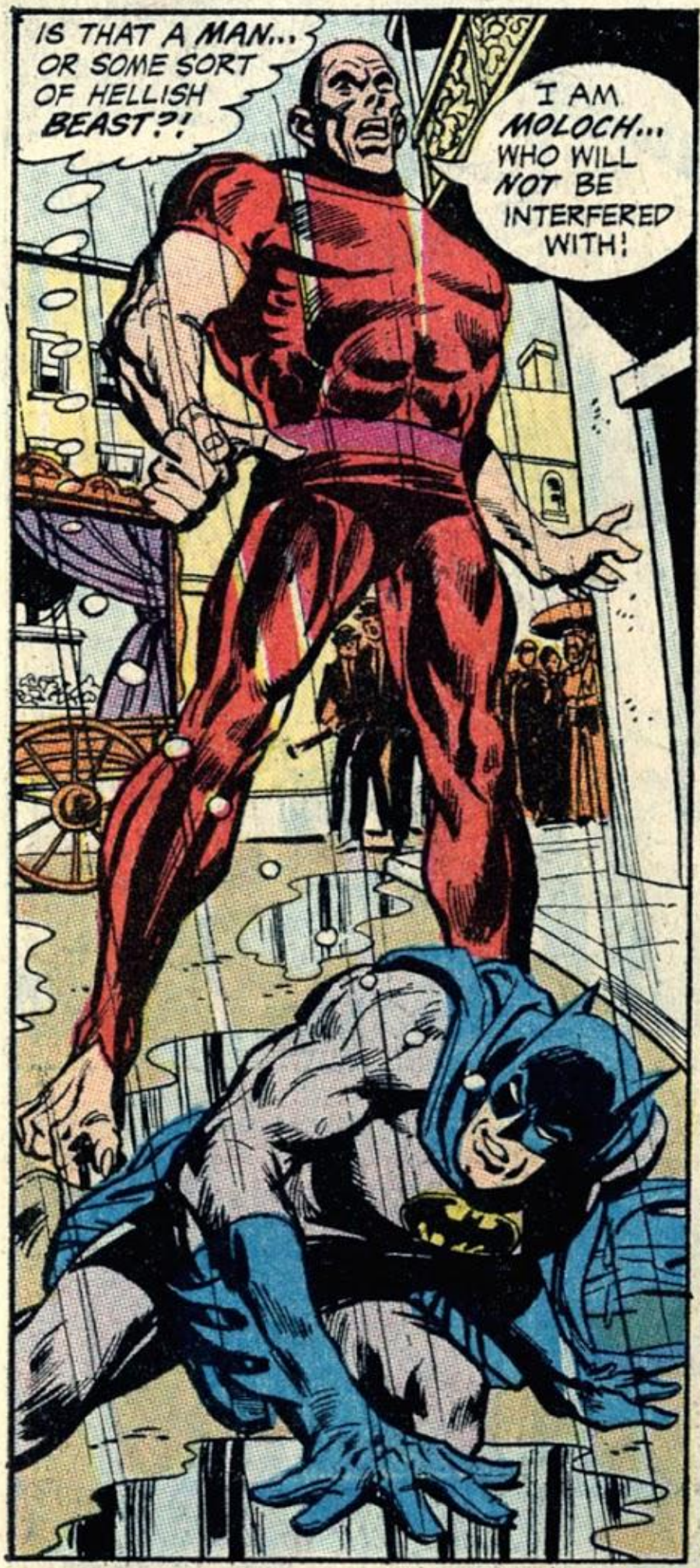
TO THE LOVELY AND HISTORIC CITY ON THE BANKS OF THE **MISSISSIPPI**, BIRTH-PLACE OF JAZZ, AND SETTING FOR ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE STRUGGLES OF HIS CAREER... A DEATH-DUEL WITH A LIVING FIEND AT THE--

"CARNIVAL of the CURSED"



YOU DON'T SEE THEM MUCH ANYMORE, NOT EVEN IN NEW ORLEANS... THE OLD-FASHIONED JAZZ FUNERALS. BUT NO OTHER KIND WOULD BE RIGHT FOR CHARLES "BLIND BUDDY" HOLDEN... LAST--AND GREATEST--OF THE HORN-MEN...
...BECAUSE NEW ORLEANS JAZZ IS AN HONEST MUSIC, A JOYOUS SOUND THAT CELEBRATES LIFE WHILE NEVER FORGETTING DEATH! SO THESE MOURNERS TRUDGE THROUGH THE CITY'S HISTORIC FRENCH QUARTER, WEEPING OPENLY...
...THERE AREN'T MANY TRADITIONAL JAZZMEN LEFT, AND THAT IS A SHAME... IT'S SAD THAT A MAN'S LEGEND CAN DIE BEFORE HIS BODY DOES...
SUDDENLY, FROM A DARKENED DOORWAY...
OUTTA THE WAY, POPS!
WE'RE JOININ' THIS HERE PLANTIN' PARTY!
VERMIN! CRAWL BACK TO YOUR HOLE--

SUDDENLY, A DARK SHAPE HURLS FROM A NEARBY BALCONY--AND FELLS THE MIGHTY CRIME-FIGHTER...


IS THAT A MAN... OR SOME SORT OF HELLISH BEAST?!
I AM MOLOCH... WHO WILL NOT BE INTERFERED WITH!

IT TALKS LIKE A HUMAN BEING... SO MAYBE IT'LL FALL LIKE ONE!
I'D BETTER TRY TO FINISH THIS FAST...

HE LOOKS TREMENDOUSLY POWERFUL... I DON'T WANT TO TRADE PUNCHES WITH HIM!
AND WITH THE PROPER JUDO-HOLDS, I WON'T HAVE TO!

IT DIDN'T TAKE--! HE'S BRUTALLY STRONG--!

HE'S NOT SAYING A WORD! LIKE SOME RELENTLESS DEMON--!
I WON'T BEAT HIM BEING FANCY!--HAVE TO CHANCE SLUGGING IT OUT!

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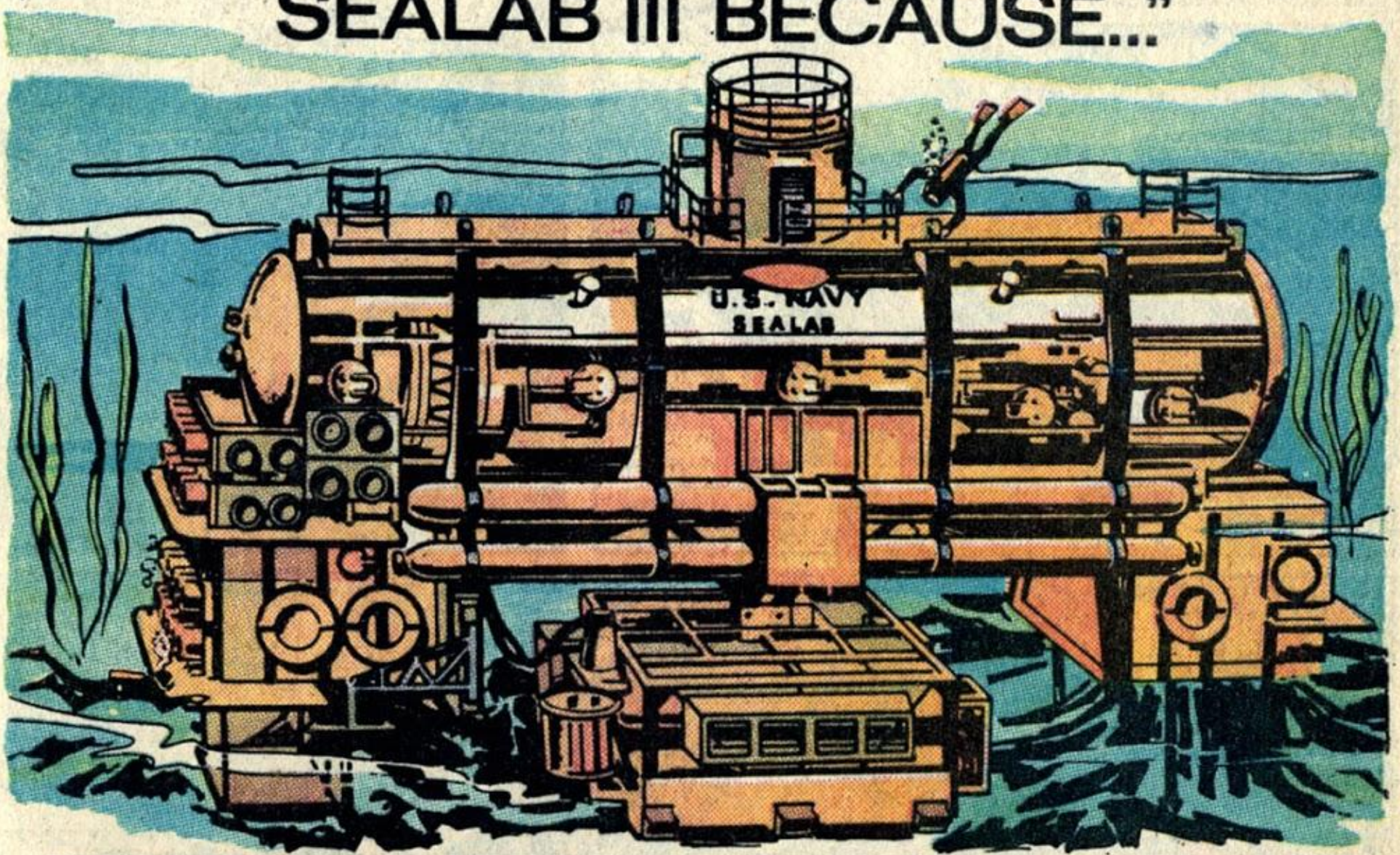
"I'D LIKE TO LIVE FOR TWO WEEKS ON THE OCEAN FLOOR IN SEALAB III BECAUSE..."



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Send in your entry, along with your name and address. Enclose an end flap from an Aurora U.S. Navy Sealab III Kit, or a reasonable facsimile. At your favorite hobby counters now. This contest is void in states where it is prohibited by law. All entries must be received by July 31, 1970.

AURORA "THE WORLD'S LARGEST MANUFACTURER OF HOBBY PRODUCTS"
•AURORA PLASTICS COR WEST HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11552

ONLY SUPERB REFLEXES AND A LIFE-TIME'S TRAINING ENABLE THE BATMAN TO BREAK HIS FALL... AND LIE STUNNED, INSTEAD OF INJURED...
...GAZING UP, HE WITNESSES AN AMAZING FEAT--A JUMP SUCH AS HE HAS NEVER DREAMED POSSIBLE...

QUICK... SOMEONE CALL THE POLICE! I'LL...
PLEASE! RECALL THAT WE MUST SEE OUR FRIEND BLIND BUDDY TO HIS FINAL RESTING PLACE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, REVEREND! AND... I'M SORRY!

JAZZ IS DEFIANT MUSIC... IT INSISTS THAT YOU'VE GOT TO BE HAPPY BECAUSE SOME DAY YOU WILL HAVE TO DIE...
...AND SO BLIND BUDDY'S HORN SOUNDS ACROSS THE GRAVEYARD, SINGS, SINGS-- "THIS BLACK MAN IS STILL NOW, BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT, BECAUSE WHEN HE WAS ALIVE, HE LIVED!"

AND THEN, AS IS ONLY PROPER, THE HORN, TOO, IS LAID TO REST...

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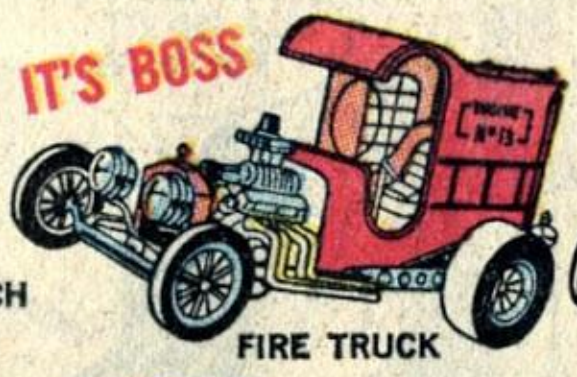
WHAT'S THE WORD?

IT'S WILD

RAIDERS COACH

IT'S BOSS



FIRE TRUCK

IT'S GROOVE

ICE CREAM TRUCK

EASY TO BUILD — HARD TO DESCRIBE. THAT'S MPC'S CUSTOM CAR KITS! BUT IF YOU HAVE A WORD THAT TAGS THE **POP CORN WAGON**, MPC'S GREAT NEW MODEL CAR KIT IN SUPER-SIZE 1/20th SCALE, LET US KNOW! BUILD THE POP CORN WAGON. THEN WRITE DOWN YOUR LATEST GROOVE WORD DESCRIBING IT AND SEND THE WORD TO US. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. IN ONE WORD.

IT'S _____
POP CORN WAGON

MPC

SEND TO: ONE WORD, MPC, DEPT. C, 126 GROESBECK HWY., MT. CLEMENS, MICH., 48043 THE ONE WORD IN MODEL KITS

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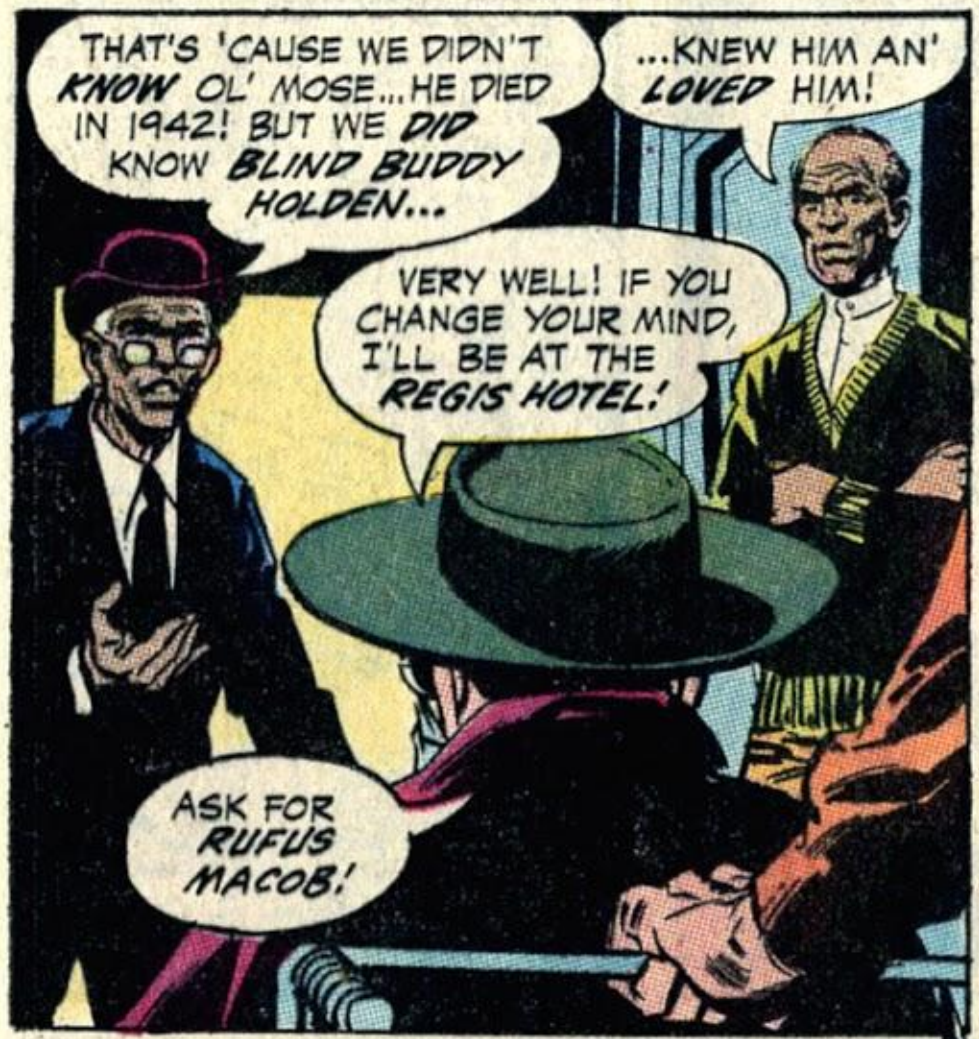
Free Ride WHIP


THAT'S 'CAUSE WE DIDN'T KNOW OL' MOSE...HE DIED IN 1942! BUT WE DID KNOW BLIND BUDDY HOLDEN...
...KNEW HIM AN' LOVED HIM!
VERY WELL! IF YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND, I'LL BE AT THE REGIS HOTEL!
ASK FOR RUFUS MACOB!

LET'S GO, HARRY!
INTERESTING... MR. MACOB'S BODYGUARD IS "HEAVYFOOT" HARRY HARNET--
--WHO USED TO DRIVE THE GETAWAY CAR FOR A BROOKLYN MOB!

FIRST THAT WEIRD MOLOCH CHARACTER... AND NOW THE MYSTERIOUS MACOB AND HIS HOODISH SERVANT!
IT COULD BE COINCIDENCE... BUT NOT LIKELY! I CAN'T TAKE ACTION...
...BUT MAYBE I CAN SPOOK MACOB--WITH A LITTLE GIFT!

AFTER HASTILY OUTLINING HIS PLAN TO MAX DILL, THE BATMAN MAKES A PURCHASE AT A NEARBY BOOKSTORE, AND HIRES A MESSENGER...
BOOKS

AND, LATER THE SAME NIGHT, AT A LUXURY HOTEL SUITE IN DOWNTOWN NEW ORLEANS...
THIS PACKAGE JUST COME FOR YOU, BOSS! NO RETURN ADDRESS...
WELL, OPEN IT, IMBECILE!

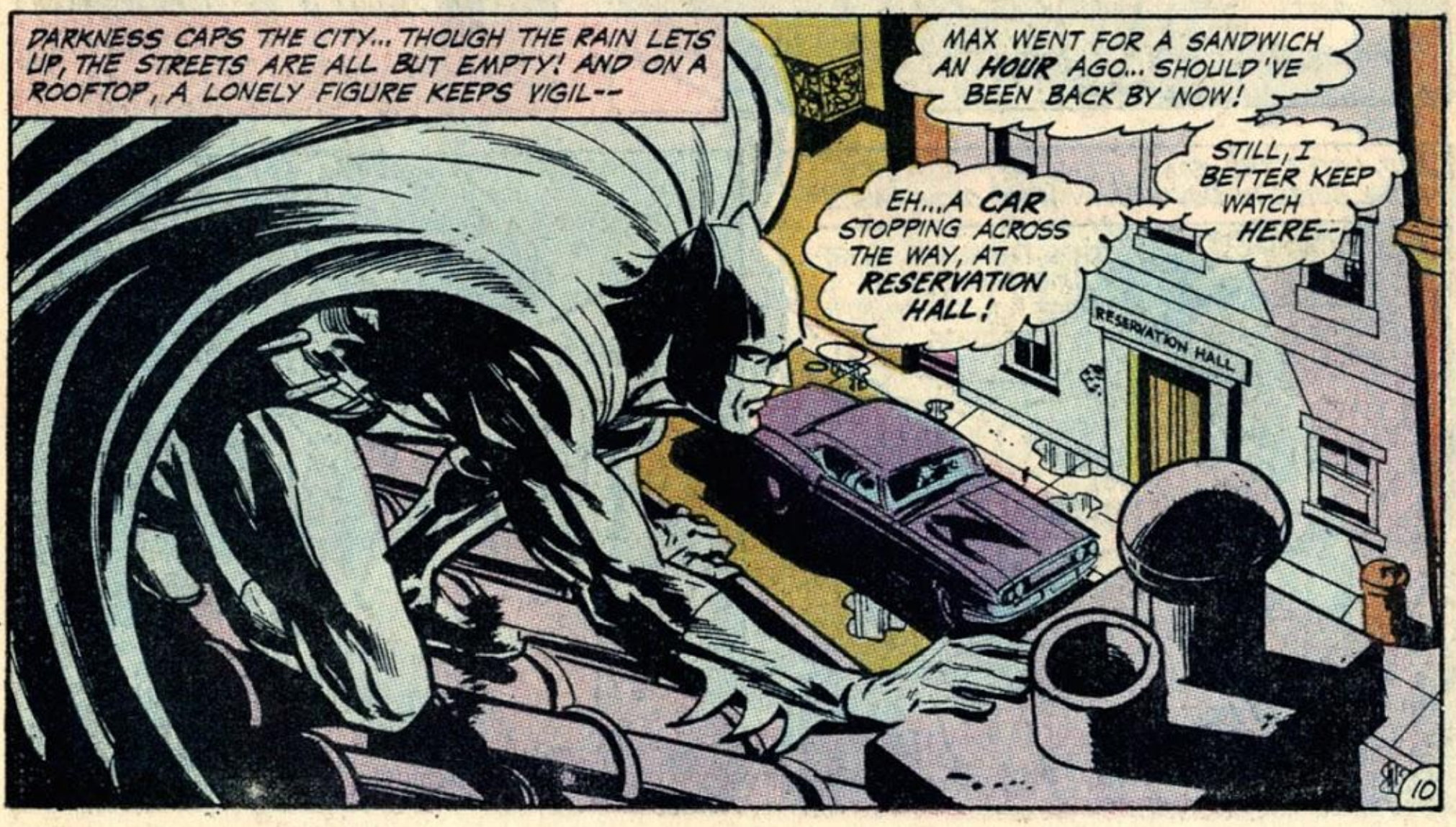
THE HISTORY OF JAZZ
A BOOK--!? WHO IN SATAN'S NAME WOULD SEND ME THIS BOOK?

A B-BAT--!
THERE'S SOME KINDA NOTE TOO--

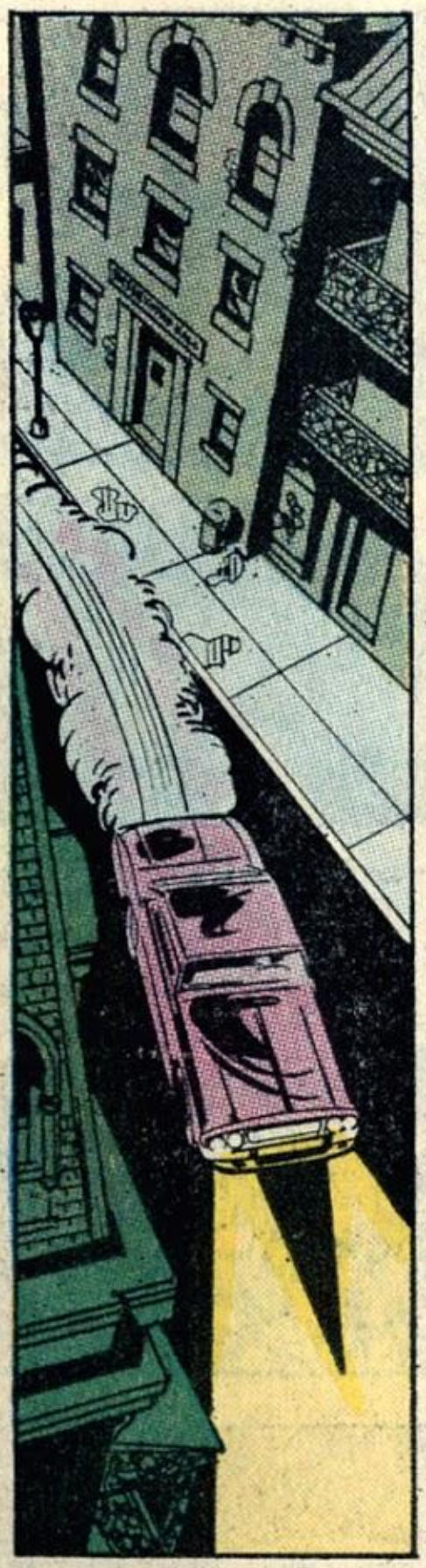
IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON YOUR CONSCIENCE, CONTACT ME THROUGH MAX DILL!

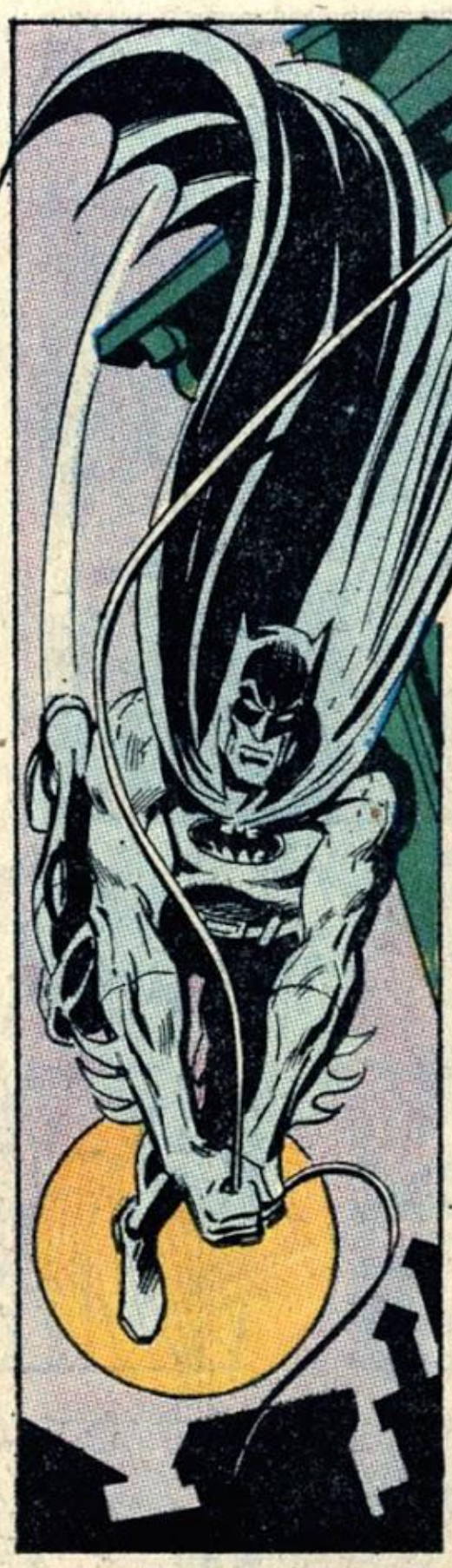
B-BOSS, I DON'T WANNA MESS WITH NO BATMAN!
NONSENSE! HE IS ONLY HUMAN... MORE HUMAN THAN I!

WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR... IN FACT, WE CAN USE HIM TO ATTAIN OUR ENDS!
NOW LISTEN CAREFULLY! I WANT YOU TO COLLECT THE OTHERS AND GO TO MAX DILL'S ROOM...


DARKNESS CAPS THE CITY... THOUGH THE RAIN LETS UP, THE STREETS ARE ALL BUT EMPTY! AND ON A ROOFTOP, A LONELY FIGURE KEEPS VIGIL--
MAX WENT FOR A SANDWICH AN HOUR AGO... SHOULD'VE BEEN BACK BY NOW!
STILL, I BETTER KEEP WATCH HERE--
EH...A CAR STOPPING ACROSS THE WAY, AT RESERVATION HALL!
RESERVATION HALL

RESERVATION H





BATMAN--
MEET ME AT OLD BOAT, PIER 13. URGENT!
Max

THEY MUST HAVE CAPTURED MAX... AND ARE USING HIM TO BAIT A TRAP!
TRAP OR NO...I'VE GOT TO GO, FOR MAX'S SAKE!
BUT I DON'T HAVE TO GO THE WAY THEY EXPECT ME TO!

AND SO, AS THE CITY'S CLOCKS CHIME ELEVEN...
13
AN OLD STERN-WHEELER... I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE ANY LEFT!
DANGER KEEP OFF!
THAT RELIC'S 150 YEARS OLD IF IT'S A DAY--

SOMEONE'S COMING... A LOT OF SOMEONES! LOOKS LIKE A PARADE--

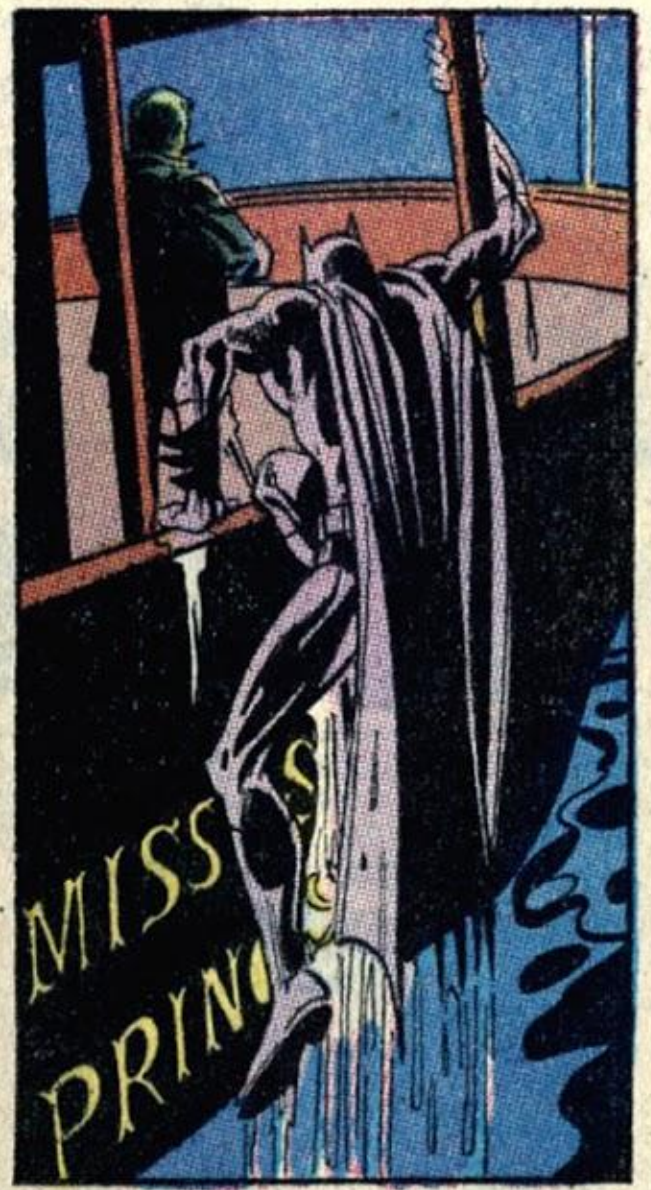
OF COURSE! THIS IS SHROVE TUESDAY... THE TIME OF THE MARDI GRAS!

THAT EXPLAINS WHY THE BACK STREETS WERE SO DESERTED!

EVERYONE WAS DOWNTOWN... PARTYING!
BUT FUN IS A LUXURY I CAN'T AFFORD--

THEY'LL BE EXPECTING ME TO COME UP THE GANGPLANK-- SO I'LL SURPRISE THEM!

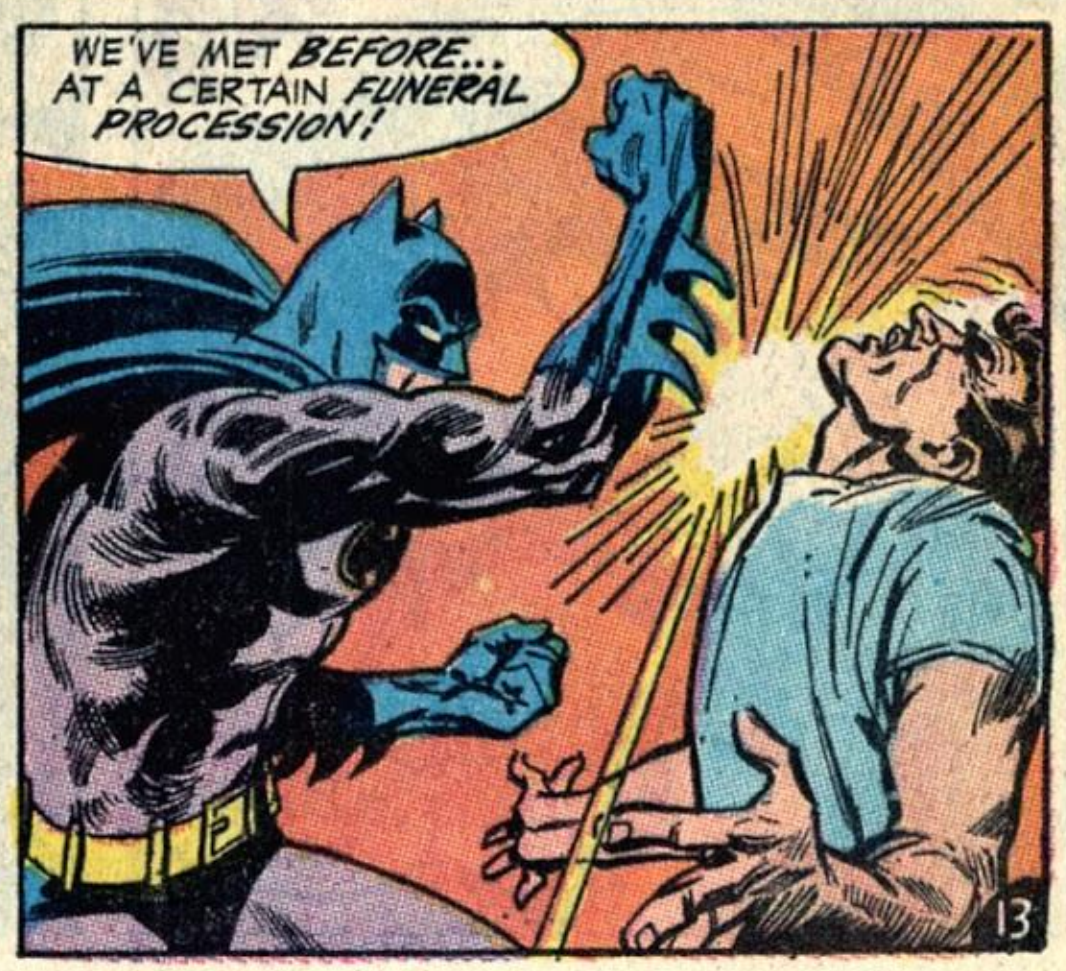
WITH SWIFT, STRONG AND SILENT STROKES, THE BATMAN BREASTS THE FIERCE, RAIN-SWOLLEN CURRENT OF THE MISSISSIPPI--OUT INTO THE CHANNEL, AND THEN AROUND...


MISS
PRIN

THONK

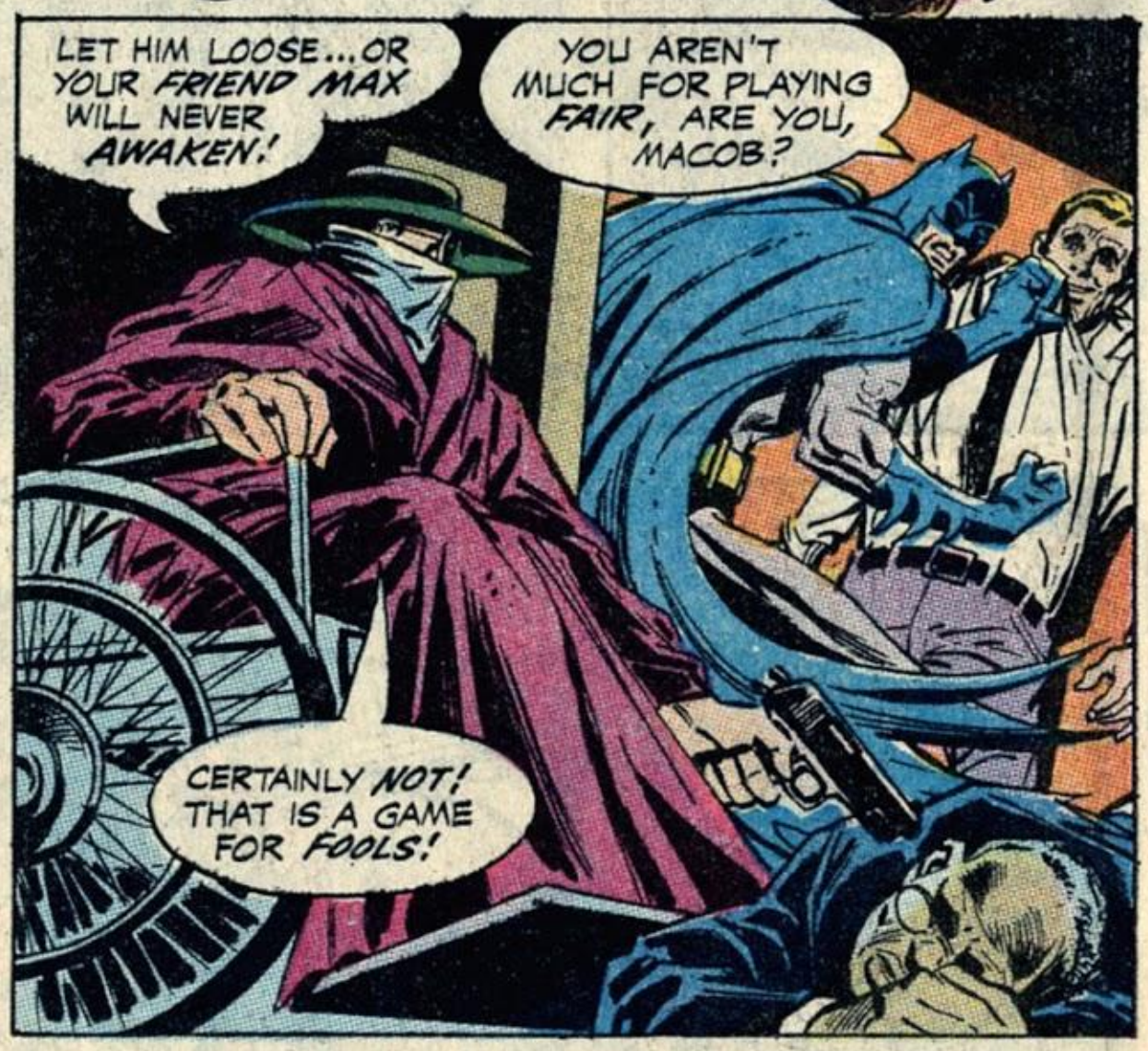
AND, IN THE CRAFT'S SALON, ONCE THE SITE OF LAVISH BALLS AND MERRY FLIRTATION...
YA KNOW, THE GUYS WHAT BUILT THIS TUB KNEW HOW TO LIVE!
AIN'T IT THE TRUTH! MAN, THIS'S REAL CLASS!

ENJOY IT WHILE YOU CAN... PUNKS!
THE BATMAN AGAIN--!


WE'VE MET BEFORE... AT A CERTAIN FUNERAL PROCESSION!

THEN YOU WERE MASKED... AND AFTER SEEING YOUR FACES--I CAN'T BLAME YOU!

YOUR TURN, HARRY--!
YOU'LL GET... EXACTLY WHAT YOU DESERVE -- UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHERE YOUR BOSS IS!
RIGHT HERE, BATMAN!

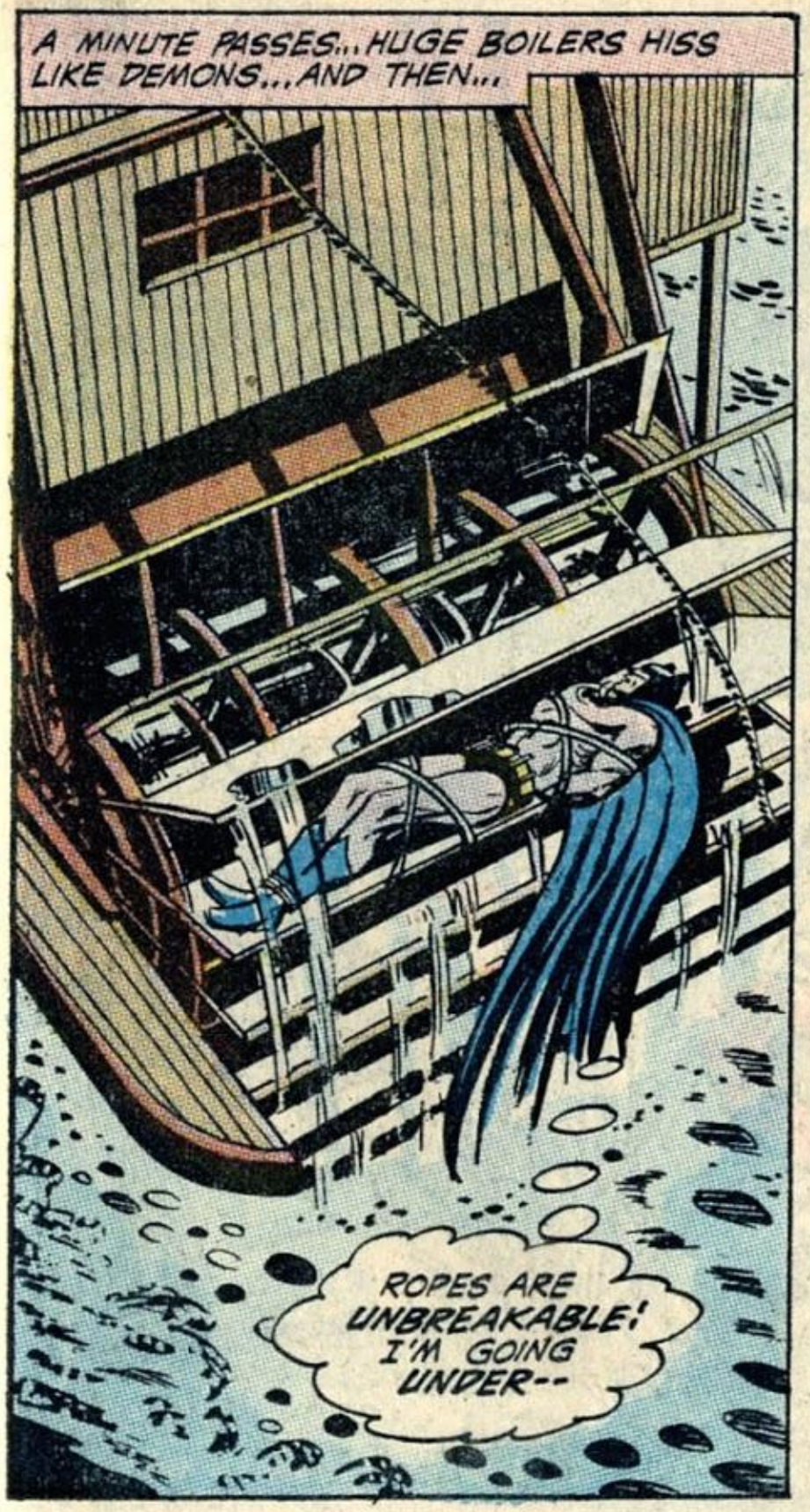

LET HIM LOOSE...OR YOUR FRIEND MAX WILL NEVER AWAKEN!
YOU AREN'T MUCH FOR PLAYING FAIR, ARE YOU, MACOB?
CERTAINLY NOT! THAT IS A GAME FOR FOOLS!

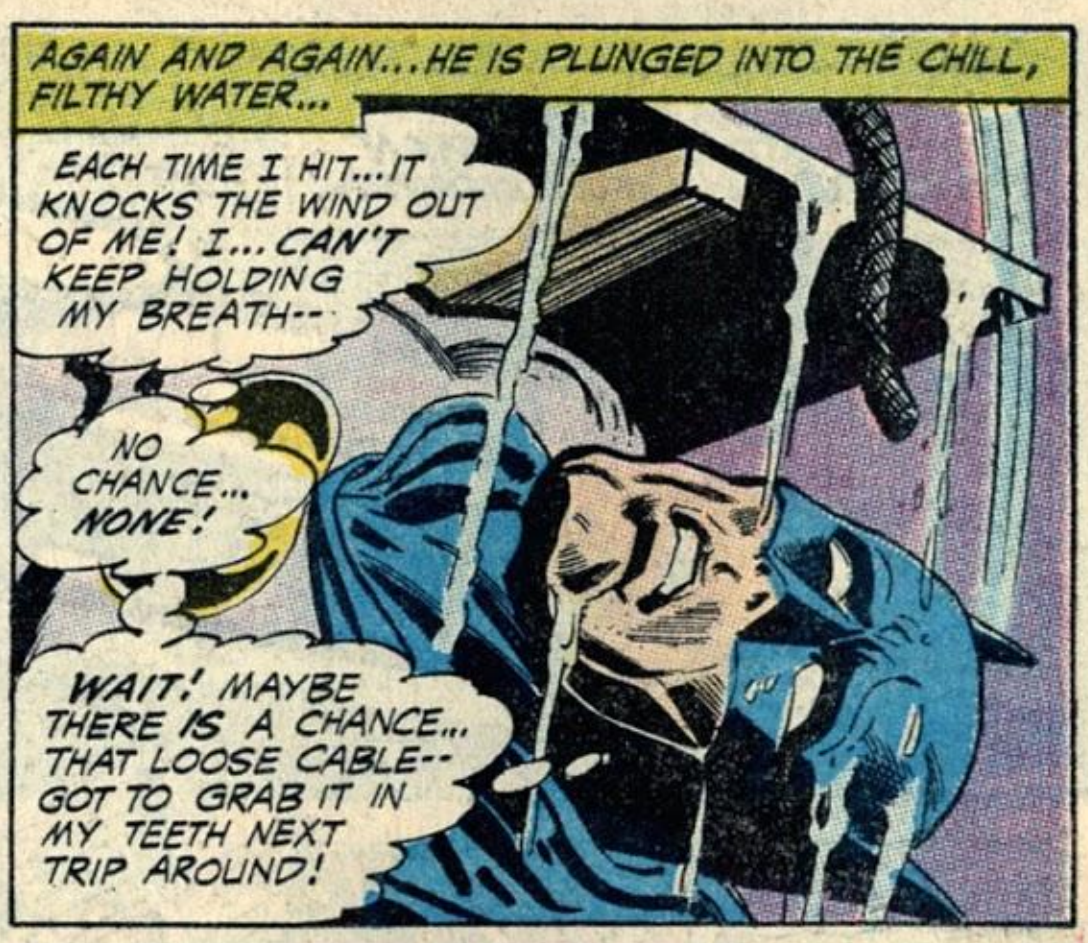
HARRY--?
KA-RATCH
WITH PLEASURE, BOSS!

TAKE HIM OUTSIDE! THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY HAS RESTORED THIS BOAT TO PERFECT CONDITION...
...AND THAT GIVES US A HIGHLY INTERESTING WAY TO DESTROY THE BATMAN!

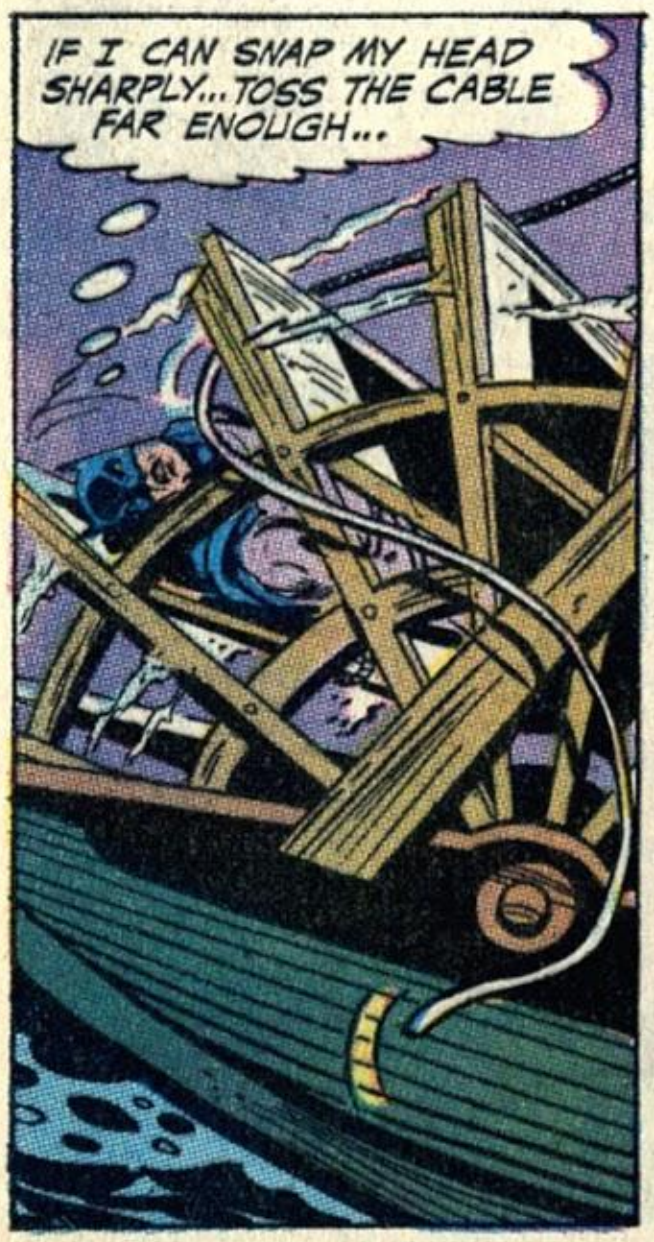
AN ETERNITY OF AGONY LATER, THE MAN FROM GOTHAM OPENS HIS EYES...
YOU ARE CONSCIOUS! GOOD! YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE AMUSING END I HAVE DEVISED FOR YOU!
HARRY HAS STOKED THE BOAT'S ENGINE! WHEN HE RELEASES THE BRAKE, THE WHEEL WILL BEGIN TO TURN--

--TAKING YOU INTO THE RIVER...BUT YOU WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DROWN BEFORE YOU REACH IT!
COME, HARRY... AND FAREWELL, BATMAN!


A MINUTE PASSES...HUGE BOILERS HISS LIKE DEMONS...AND THEN...
ROPES ARE UNBREAKABLE! I'M GOING UNDER--


AGAIN AND AGAIN...HE IS PLUNGED INTO THE CHILL, FILTHY WATER...
EACH TIME I HIT...IT KNOCKS THE WIND OUT OF ME! I...CAN'T KEEP HOLDING MY BREATH--
NO CHANCE... NONE!
WAIT! MAYBE THERE IS A CHANCE... THAT LOOSE CABLE-- GOT TO GRAB IT IN MY TEETH NEXT TRIP AROUND!

GOT IT! I HAVE ONLY A SECOND--



THE THICK LINE RATTLES AROUND THE WHEEL'S AXLE...

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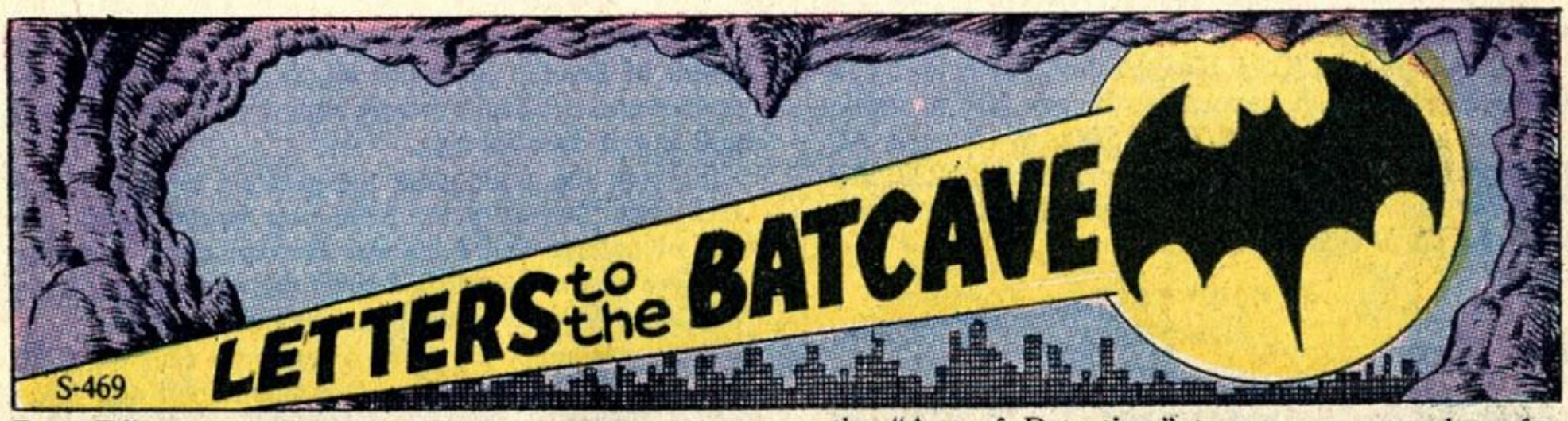


Dear Editor:

This is not a letter to congratulate you on the way you've collaborated with your writers and artists to bring *Batman* back to the heights of mystery and suspense that was his in the '40's; when men called him *"The Batman!"* instead of a personal *"Batman"*. No, this is not the purpose of this letter.

This letter is also not to tell you about how you've brought Bruce Wayne, the MAN, more into the spotlight and generally made the strip more realistic with the absence of costumed villains. No sir.

This letter is to ask whether or not you're going to change the title of your letter column. LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE is a grand tradition, but it doesn't fit.

—CHRISTOPHER JERRECICH, Burlingame, Cal.

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Well, everything concerning *Batman* seems to have changed. However, there is still one thing that needs to be changed: the title of the letter column. LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE is inappropriate since *Batman* isn't using his *Batcave* anymore. A new title, hopefully selected by the readers, is needed.

—ROGER SCHOOLCRAFT, Follansbee, W.Va.

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

As there is no longer a *Batcave*, methinks the lettercol needs a new name! BAT-SIGNALS, maybe?

—PETER C. PHILLIPS, Lancs., Eng.

(Three representative letters of the many asking for a switch in titles to this department. Do we go with something new, or do we stay wedded to the old? Readers—pro *and* con *us!*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Describing "This Murder Has Been Pre-Recorded" in *Batman* #220 would be nearly impossible. You had a firm plot, four strong leading characters, sensational art, a minimum of messy details, and in short—a believable story. The change in *Batman* has come off remarkably well.

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(Short—and to the point. The next critic takes longer to get to the same point.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Batman #220 was superb, with Frank Robbins coming through with his best script yet. Looking at the splash panel, I doubted *Batman* could possibly be back next issue! Introducing Miss Marla Manning was a nice touch. I hope she does indeed come back!

Bruce Wayne was perfect in his role, assembling the clues for *Batman* to work with. As *Batman* is and always will be an escapist fiction form, it is *Batman* we should escape with.

Starting with a murder mystery, author Robbins led the "Ace of Detectives" to uncover one clue after another. It was a good idea to make the villain a specialist. When *Batman* drove to the airport, I was sure that this was his method of escape. But the way it was employed was even more masterful. The ending was the only bad point; a bit *schmaltzy*.

The art was MAGNIFICENT! The Novick-Giordano team has gone from fair to fantastic. Although the overall art was terrif, the panel that impressed me most was the first one on page seven. You have a winning team.

Oh, yes, the cover. Very good. That's Neal Adams all the time. It reminded me of Infantino's work.

—MARK LeTOURNEAU, Otis AFB, Mass.

(Neal Adams' cover on Batman *220 may have reminded you of Infantino's work because our editorial director—'scuse, please—our* esteemed *editorial director laid out a rough sketch of the cover for Neal to work his remarkable skills upon.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Regarding *Batman* #220: Good job. The new cover logo is startling, to say the least. As a matter of fact, I'm not entirely sure I like it better than the old one. At worst, it's gaudy and reminiscent of the overblown *camp* craze (now blissfully buried)...and at best, it's just plain too big to do much with—or should I say, do much around. Oh well; the inside was a lot better anyway. Frank Robbins' story was quite excellent, except for one spot we shall comment upon in the next paragraph. The best part was being introduced to yet another woman in *Batman's* life...Marla Manning. No romance, please, but I would like to see her appear again. After all, she does have something in common with our *Gotham Gallant*, being a crime-exposé journalist. Besides, Irv Novick's artistic rendition of Miss Manning made her appear quite a classy dame. Kudos!

Now, to get back to the story: the only mar to be found was the fact that we STILL have *Batman* dummies as stand-ins for the supposedly-fatal deathtraps. Perhaps hypnosis is the only answer, but please, O Ed, try to make Mr. Robbins forget that there even could be such things as *Batman* dummies. It's been overdone, used too much, and just plain worn out.

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

(Okay, no more dum-dum dummies!—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

"This Murder Has Been Pre-Recorded" was certainly a broad step backwards to the glorious golden years of the *Batman*. I thoroughly enjoyed this issue #220 because (1) Frank Robbins wrote the tale, and as everyone knows, when it comes to the *Gotham Goliath*, Mr. Robbins is a world-beater; (2) the Novick-Giordano team's efforts in portraying the dreaded and

mysterious appearances of the *Batman;* (3) minus the "e" in Sandra and Tom Sloane's last name and you have—Sloan—which happens to be *my* last name!

—*CARLTON SLOAN, Chicago, Ill.*

(Enough of this lavish praise for Batman *#220. It's high (or rather* low*) time for* Pesky Pasko *to represent the vocal minority!*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Good morning, Mr. Schwartz. This letter you are looking at is from a long-time *Batman* fan who is only mildly amused by hokey stories which feature bits that take off on aspects of certain popular TV shows, such as pre-recorded telephone messages that "self-destruct". He refers specifically to such a message as appears in "This Message Has Been Pre-Recorded" in *Batman* #220. He dislikes this sort of thing because it's a cutesy-type throwback to the days of *Bat-camp,* and because this specific sequence revealed the identity of the murderer in the story on the first page. And, since we all know that *Batman* would never *really* be killed in his own magazine, there really was no mystery in the murder mystery story. And that, Mr. Schwartz, is like cherries jubilee without the cherries.

There was very little originality of plot to be found in "Pre-Recorded". About 100 out of every 1,000 B-grade gangster flicks made since 1930 have utilized the two angles involved in issue #220: the ruthless employer who holds his employee's job (and, in this case, a song to the tune of "You Owe Me Your Life) like the Sword of Damocles over his head; and the demolitions-expert-turned killer. At any rate, *Nova* certainly was an unusually articulate murderer. It's been years since we've been treated to as eloquent or as witty threats as "Lay off..., or else!"

It's unfortunate that ever since Bruce Wayne got involved with this "Victims Incorporated" program of his he is behaving more and more like Mr. Supersleuth Nonpareil both in *and* out of *Bat*-costume. The reason that this is "unfortunate" is that it comes at a time when we fans were just getting used (and happily, too) to a more human *Batman.*

So, your mission, Mr. Schwartz—should you accept it—is to ensure that your writer, Frank Robbins, is henceforth more cognizant of the many principles upon which the standards of good comics-writing at DC are built, and of the *concepts* that it became so necessary to grasp before launching into the latest remodeled *Batman.* Make sure you're conscious of all the premises on which the changes are built. If any of your *Batman* production team is caught slipping, you will be deluged with irate letters, and your boss (es) will disavow all knowledge of your actions. Goodbye, and—good luck, Mr. Schwartz. This letter will self-destruct in five seconds.

—*MARTIN PASKO, Clifton, N.J.*

(POW!—Editor.)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

In the night, through the almost-intangible darkness, moves a blue-and-gray-clad figure—the *Batman!* A creature of the night, terrifying, mysterious, right out of the nostalgic Golden Age.

Don't you dare do that to *Batman. Camp* was bad enough, but reliving the past is worse.

I'm not criticizing the current image; I'm crazy about it! *Batman* again has an air of mystery, but the stories and art are infinitely superior to those of two and a half decades ago.

Batman has undergone the greatest change of any DC hero. Twenty years from now (when *Robin* gets out of college and dons the *Batman* cowl, assuming he ages at the established rate) the stories now being published will be as fresh as they are today.

This was supposed to be a letter on *Batman* #220, but this is the first time I've mentioned the issue, which brings up a potential problem. The problem is, anything I write about "This Murder Has Been Pre-Recorded" can be said for any other "new look" issue. The new policy in *Batman,* good as it is, has been in effect for too short a time to predict the long-range effects, but is it not possible that these stories may become repetitious?

Knowing this, I can only assume this is a transitory phase; you have other changes in store for *Batman.* If not (and I for one would hate to see it end), I can only hope that an off-beat or otherwise different story appears from time to time.

—*R.L. THOMAS, Capron, Ill.*

(The follow-up 221st Batman *had a "different" story in "Hot Time In Gotham Town Tonight"; #221 reunited* Batman *and* Robin *in "Dead Till Proven Alive" along with the off-beat "Case of No Consequence"; and wouldn't you say the current* Batman *book-lengther is—to borrow an old* Astounding Stories *tag-line—a "thought-variant"?*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

This will be the first time I have written to you, although over the years I have had some pretty strong feelings about the happenings in the *Batman* mag. I am, however, the lazy type who prefers to sit back and listen to both sides of the argument and then root for my side.

I could not resist writing about the story in issue 220. No, not really about the story but rather about the appearance of Marla Manning. For quite a while there has been a running debate as to whether or not *Batman* or Bruce Wayne should marry. If so, to whom? Recent issues have produced prospective candidates as Ginny Jenkins. From the reactions in the lettercols, she seemed to have made a hit. I personally found her to be a welcome change but I really do not think that she is the type for a person like *Batman/* Bruce.

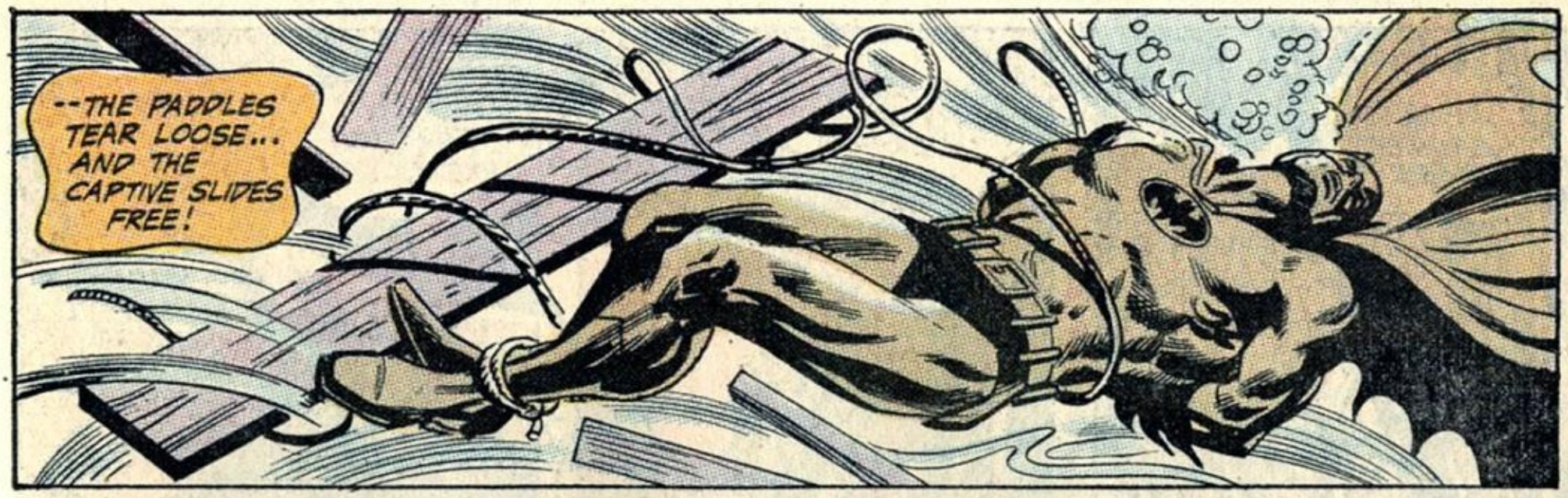
Since there was really no one else in the running and since Ginny has not made a reappearance, I held my peace. Perhaps I stand alone in this respect but I do think that the introduction of Marla should be followed up. She has already shown to be a very pretty woman and an intelligent one. A bit foolhardy, perhaps, but that just makes her seem all the more feminine (if it's not overdone). Even her name appeals to me (strange as that may seem!).

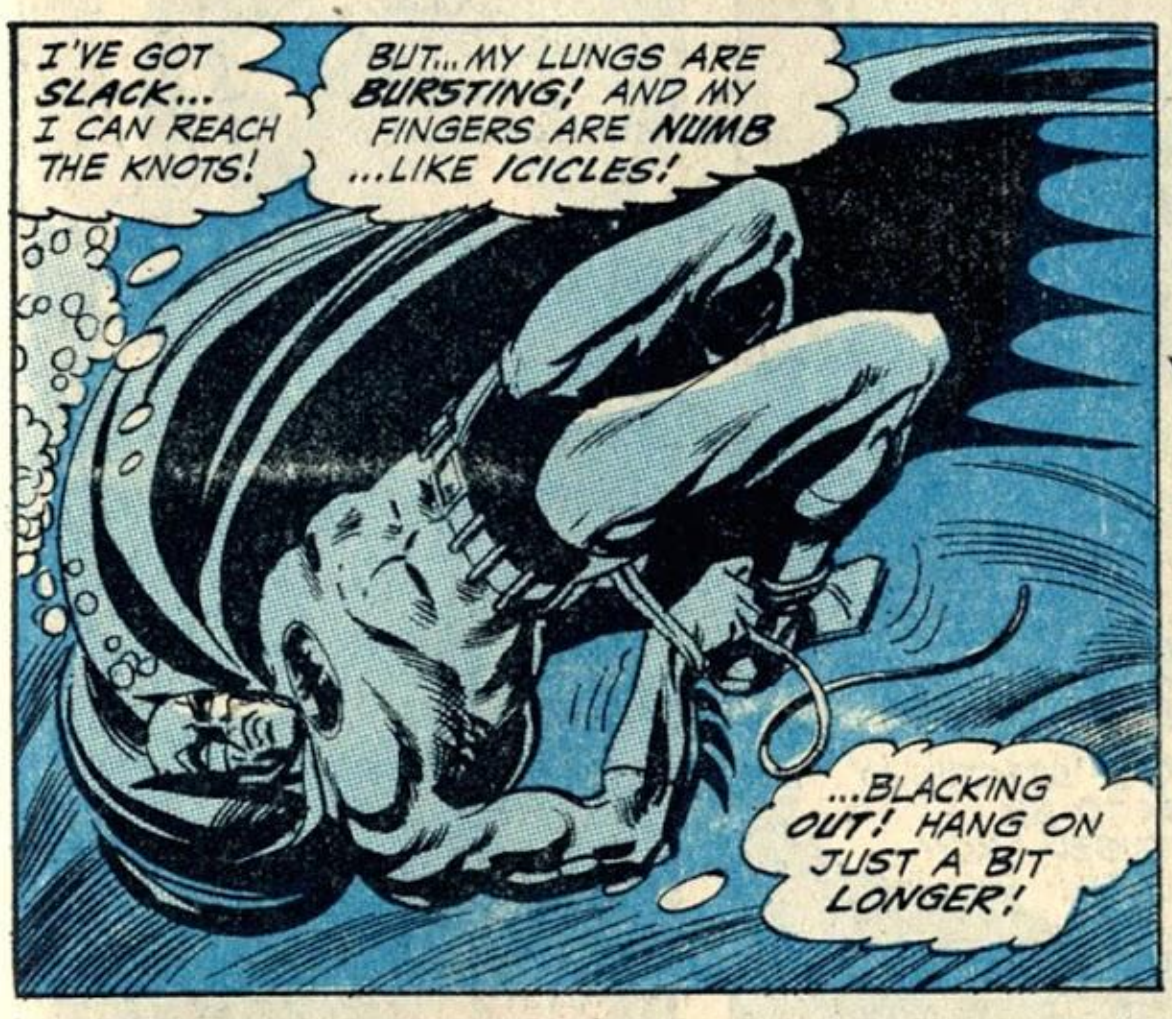
—*MARLA RIVERS, Salem, Oregon*

(We leave it to our readers' deductive abilities to unstrange Miss Rivers' final remark!—Editor)

* * * * * *

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022


--THE PADDLES TEAR LOOSE... AND THE CAPTIVE SLIDES FREE!


I'VE GOT SLACK... I CAN REACH THE KNOTS!
BUT... MY LUNGS ARE BURSTING! AND MY FINGERS ARE NUMB ...LIKE ICICLES!
...BLACKING OUT! HANG ON JUST A BIT LONGER!

THEN...
NEVER THOUGHT PLAIN AIR COULD TASTE SO GOOD!

CAN'T SIT AROUND CONGRATULATING MYSELF! GOT TO FIND MAX!

AND IN THE SALON, HE DOES--
TAKE IT EASY, OLD-TIMER! YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK!
I WANT TO!-- THEY MADE ME TELL... MADE ME!
TELL WHAT--?

WHERE BLIND BUDDY'S HORN IS... HOW WE BURIED IT WITH HIM! THEY SAID THEY WERE GOIN' TO DIG IT UP!
AHOY! THIS IS THE COAST GUARD--

DEEP INTO THE WANING HOURS OF THE NIGHT, THE REVELERS CONTINUE THEIR CELEBRATION OF THE MARDI GRAS...

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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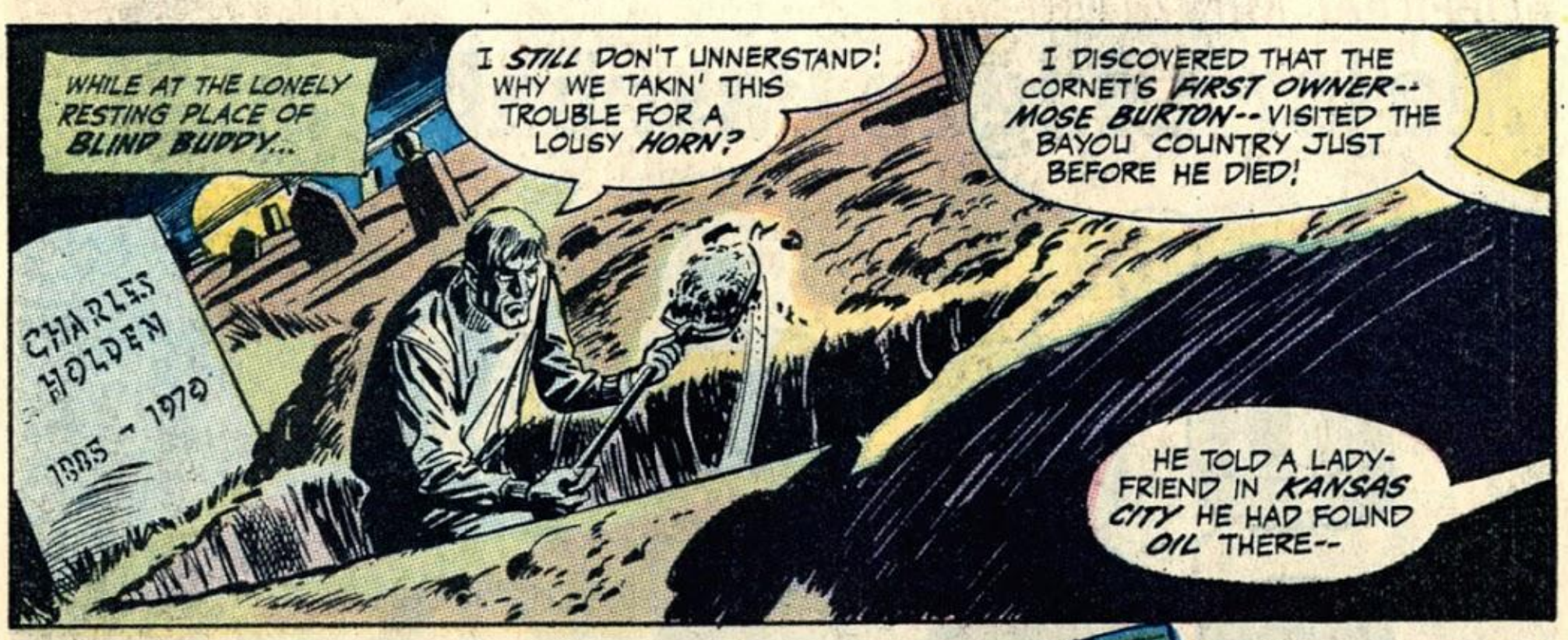
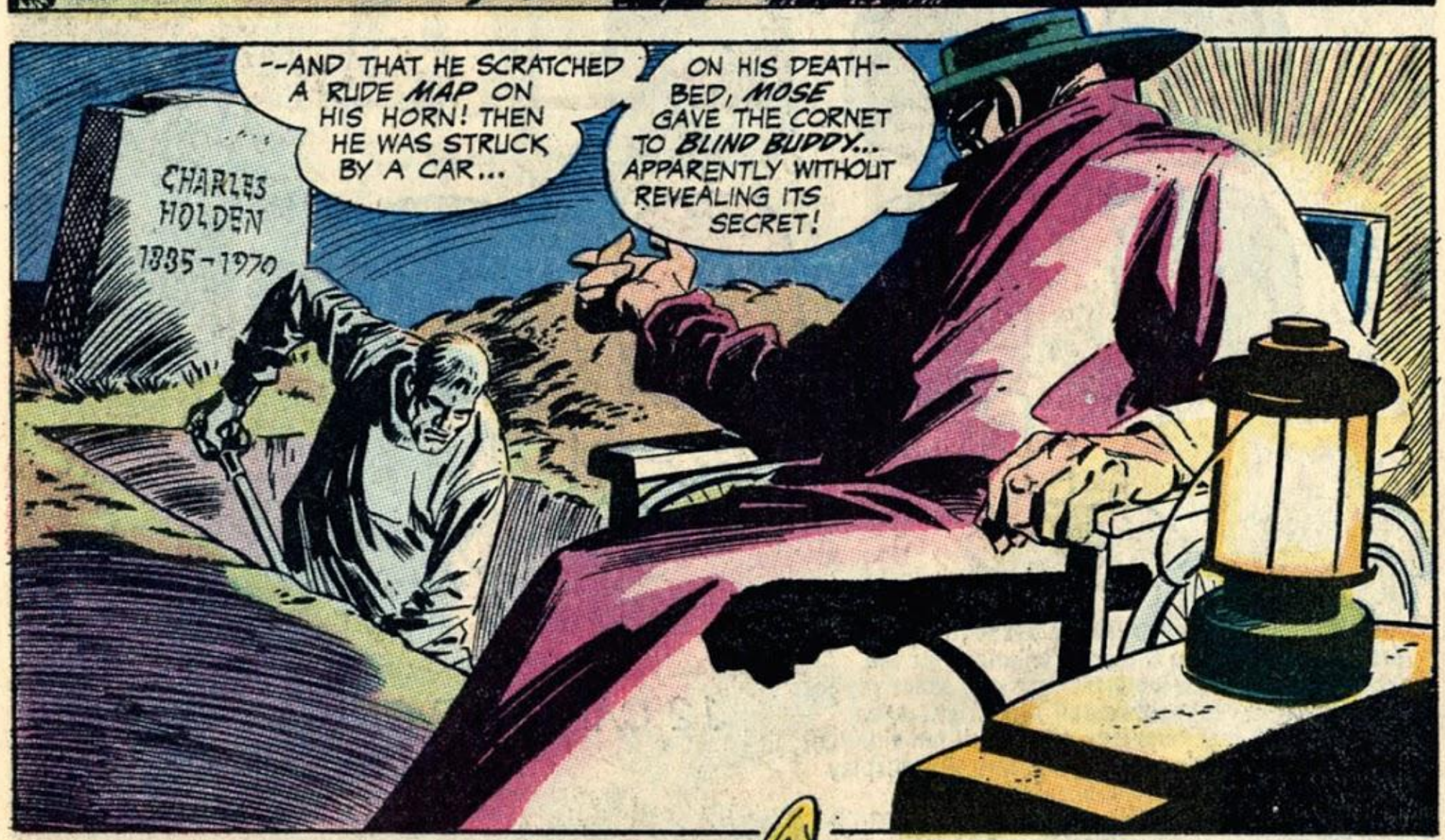
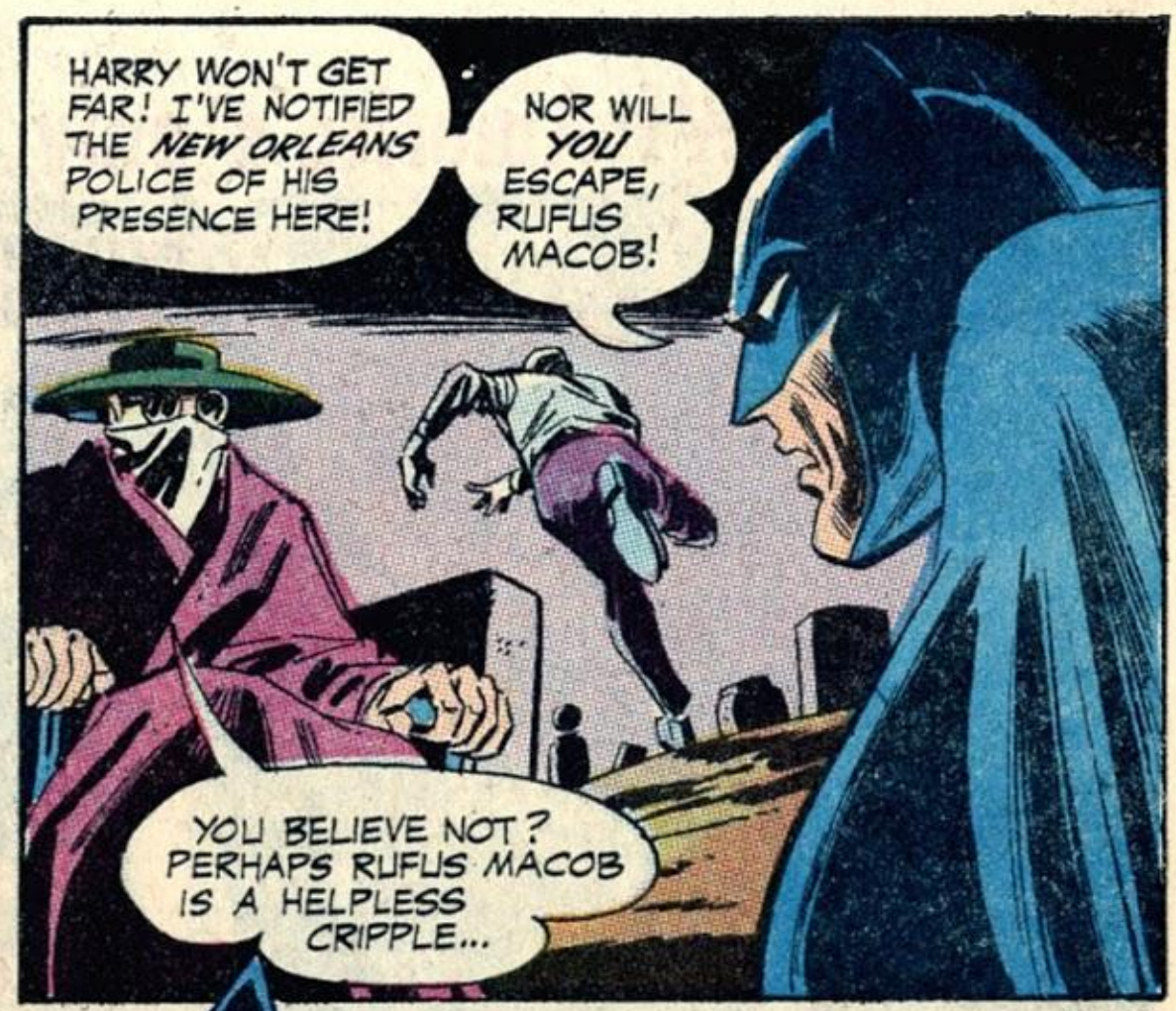

WHILE AT THE LONELY RESTING PLACE OF BLIND BUDDY...
I STILL DON'T UNNERSTAND! WHY WE TAKIN' THIS TROUBLE FOR A LOUSY HORN?
I DISCOVERED THAT THE CORNET'S FIRST OWNER-- MOSE BURTON-- VISITED THE BAYOU COUNTRY JUST BEFORE HE DIED!
CHARLES HOLDEN 1885 - 1970
HE TOLD A LADY-FRIEND IN KANSAS CITY HE HAD FOUND OIL THERE--


--AND THAT HE SCRATCHED A RUDE MAP ON HIS HORN! THEN HE WAS STRUCK BY A CAR...
ON HIS DEATH-BED, MOSE GAVE THE CORNET TO BLIND BUDDY... APPARENTLY WITHOUT REVEALING ITS SECRET!
CHARLES HOLDEN 1885-1970

WE'RE IN, BOSS! I GOT THE THING...

I GOT... --ULP!



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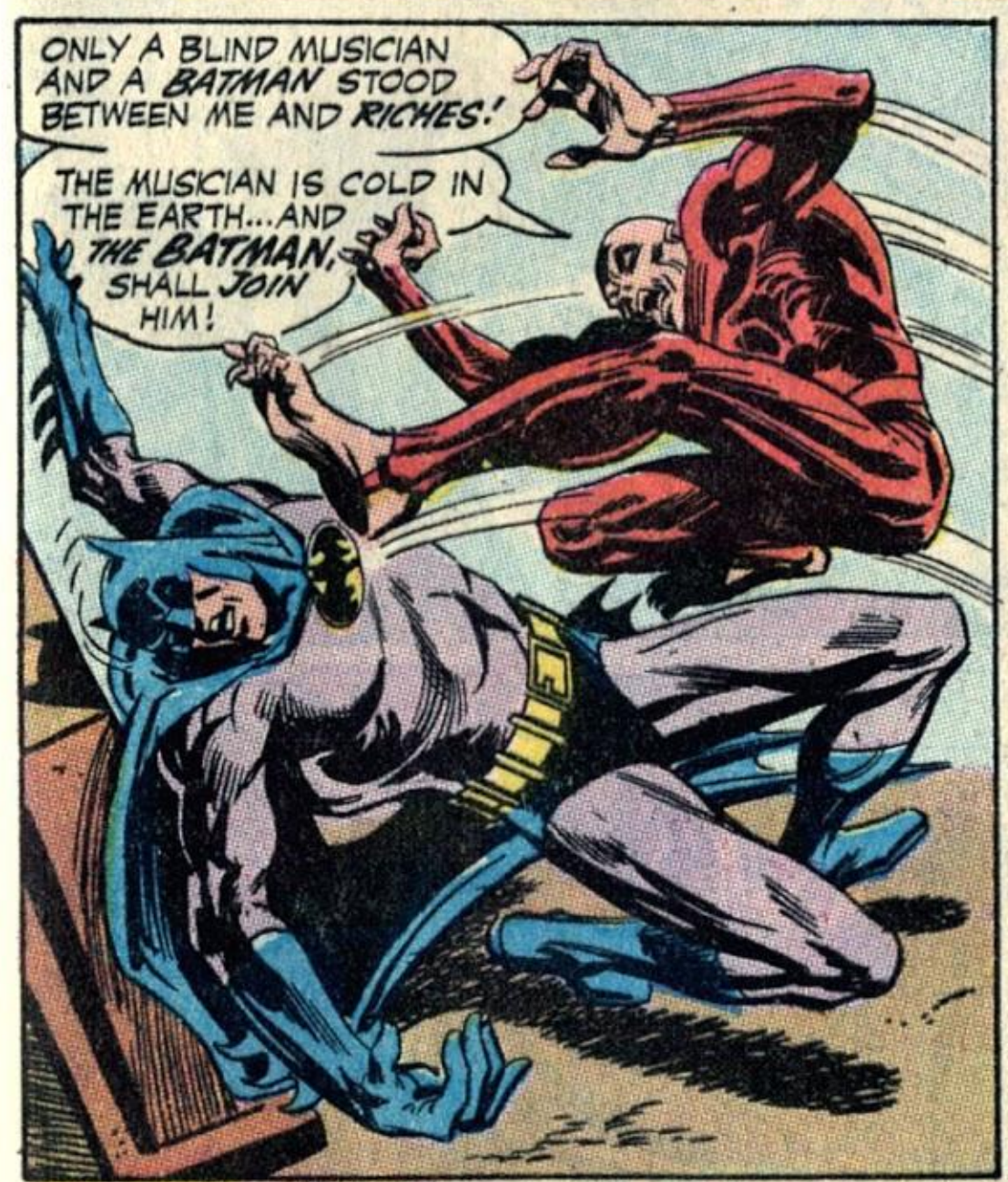
NOT EVEN YOU ARE QUICK AS I!
UNNGH!
WHUMP


ONLY A BLIND MUSICIAN AND A BATMAN STOOD BETWEEN ME AND RICHES!
THE MUSICIAN IS COLD IN THE EARTH...AND THE BATMAN, SHALL JOIN HIM!

ON THE RIVER, I UNDERESTIMATED YOUR INGENUITY! I SHALL NOT MAKE THAT MISTAKE TWICE!
RRR
RRR
RRR
THIS DEATH, BATMAN, WILL BE PERMANENT...
EH...? THAT SOUND!
POLICE SIRENS, MOLOCH! I TOLD YOU I NOTIFIED THE AUTHORITIES!

OOOPS--! SORRY, CHUM!

HEY, THAT IS SOME OUTFIT!

I THINK HE'S CUTE! GIVE US A LITTLE KISS...

FOOLS! --STAND ASIDE! I MUST ESCAPE!

MOLOCH JUMPS... BUT HIS INJURED FOOT PREVENTS HIM FROM CLEARING THE FLOAT! AND WHILE HE WAS DELAYED, HIS NEMESIS HAS REACHED THE SCENE...

LIKE A PREYING FURY, THE BATMAN PLUNGES FROM HIS PERCH--

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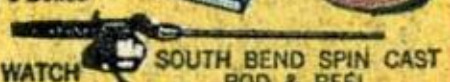
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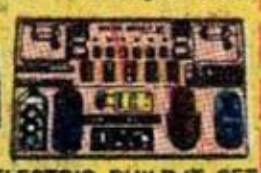
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