

BATMAN

NO.56
DEC...JAN.

In this issue:
THE DYNAMIC DUO
IN A SWASHBUCKLING
SOUTH AMERICAN
ADVENTURE--

"RIDE,
BAT-HOMBRE,
RIDE!"



JIMMY'S BIGGEST CHRISTMAS (THANKS TO DAD)

MOTHER, JIMMY AND I ARE GOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING. I'LL TRY TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF A BICYCLE HE WANTS.

BE CAREFUL NOT TO GIVE OUR SURPRISE AWAY.



XMAS MORNING

MERRY CHRISTMAS, JIMMY!

HOT DOG! A ROADMASTER! WHAT A CHRISTMAS! THANKS MOTHER AND DAD! I'M THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD!

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BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

SALUDOS, AMIGOS!

WHO IS THIS **BAT-HOMBRE**,
WHO LASHES OUT WITH A
COURAGE AND A DARING
EQUALLED ONLY BY HIS
NAMESAKE, **BATMAN**?

AND WHAT ARE **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN** DOING IN THE
LAND OF THE GAUCHO AND
THE WILDEST BANDITS IN
THE WORLD?

FOR HIGH ADVENTURE THEN,
COME WITH US, AMIGOS,
DOWN SOUTH AMERICAN WAY
WHERE THE NATIVES CRY...

"RIDE, BAT-HOMBRE, RIDE!"

KILL HIM!
KILL THE
BAT-HOMBRE!

BOB
KANE

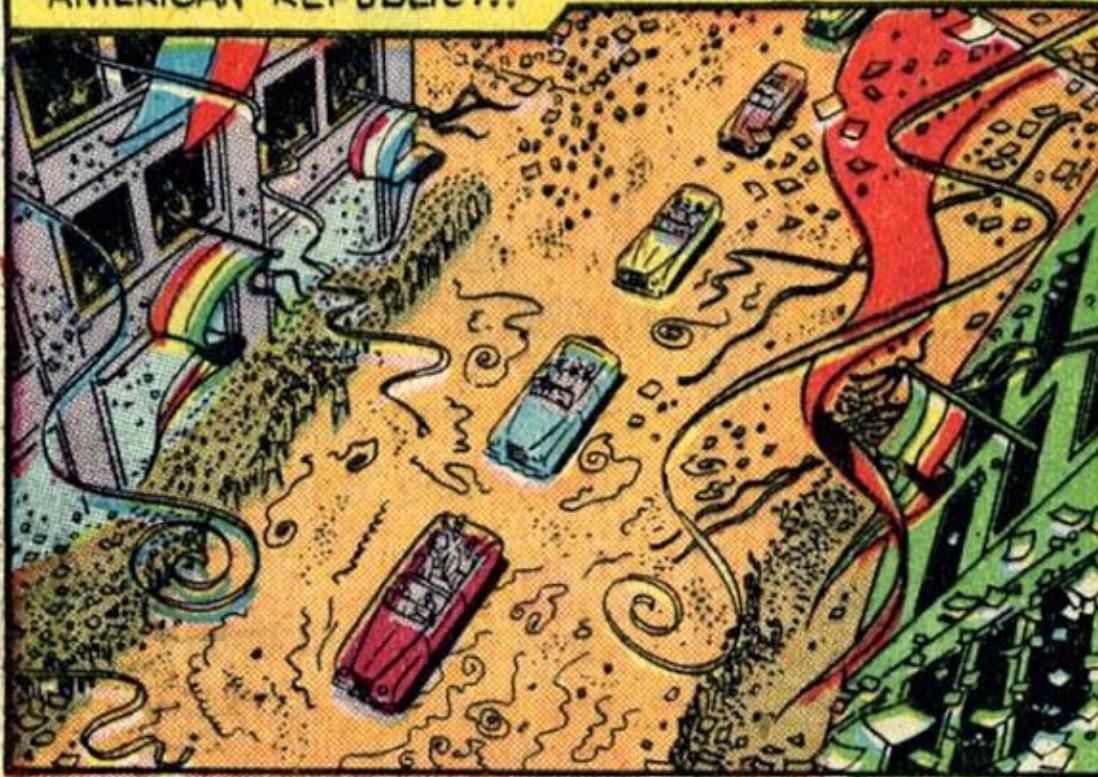


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HIGH FESTIVITY REIGNS, AS ALL GOTHAM CITY WELCOMES THE VISITING PRESIDENT OF MANTEGUA, TINY LATIN-AMERICAN REPUBLIC...



ALL EYES ON HIM, AGED, BELOVED PRESIDENT JOSÉ CAMARAN WARMLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE ROARS OF THE CROWD...



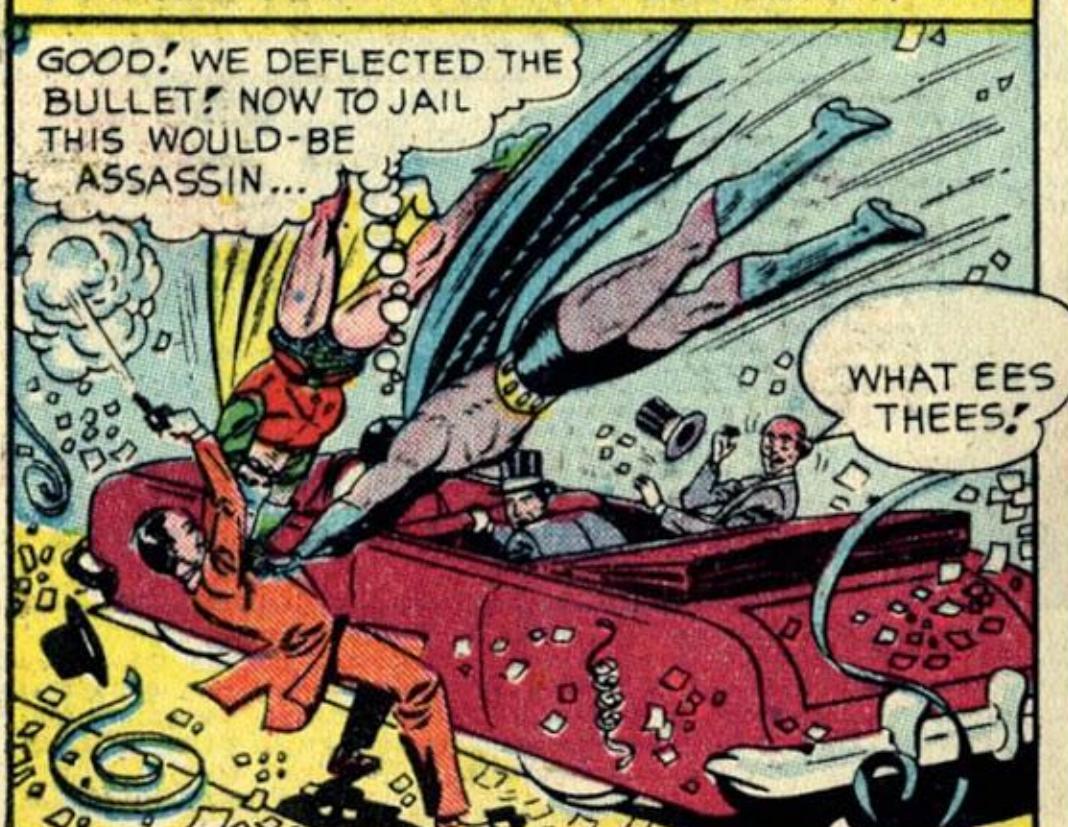
AND, AS THE PROCESSION CONTINUES, IT PASSES THE VANTAGE POINT OF GOTHAM CITY'S FAMOUS CRIME-BUSTERS, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER.



AND, IN THE NEXT MOMENT, THE MAN **BATMAN** HAS BEEN WATCHING SUDDENLY WHIPS OUT A GUN, AS...



BUT, MOVING WITH THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE **DYNAMIC DUO** DIVES ON THE ATTACKER, AS...



AND LATER, IN PRESIDENT CAMARAN'S HOTEL SUITE...

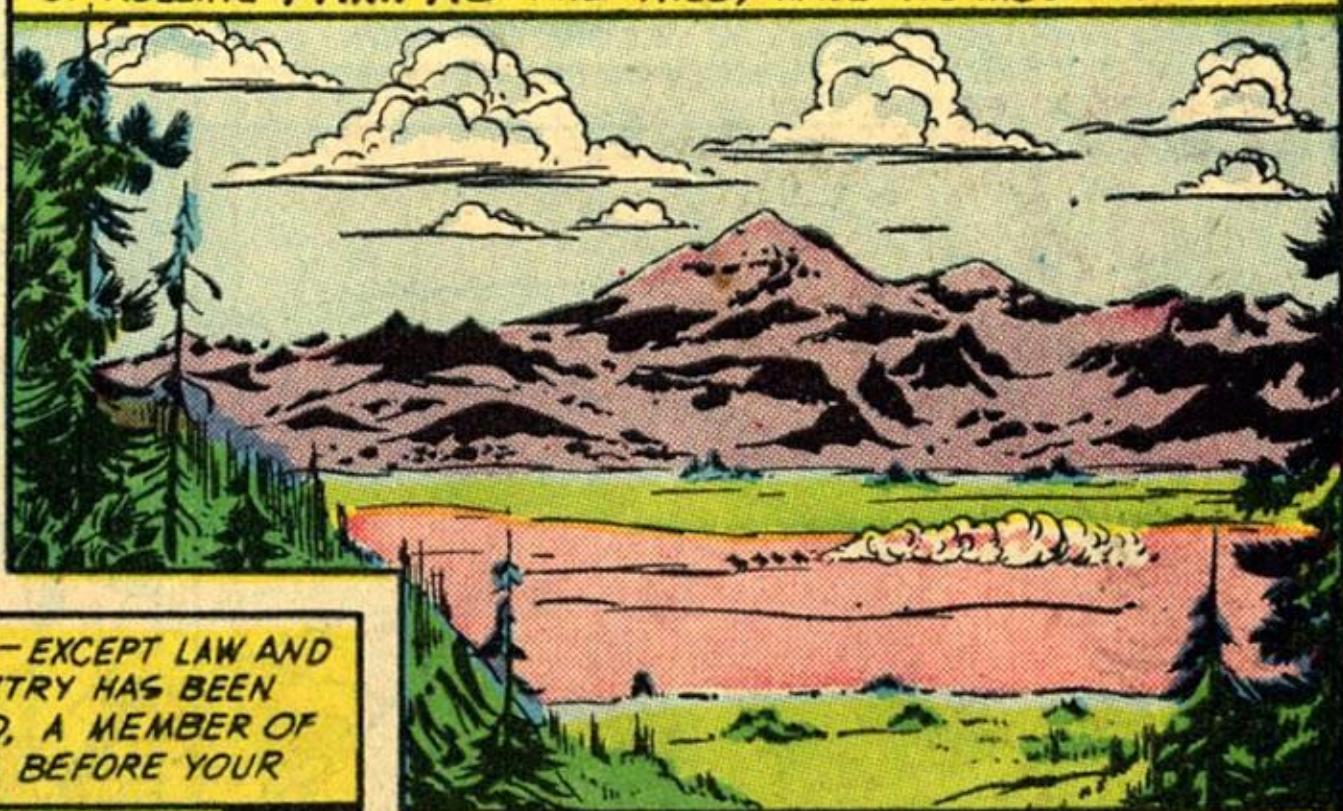


BATMAN

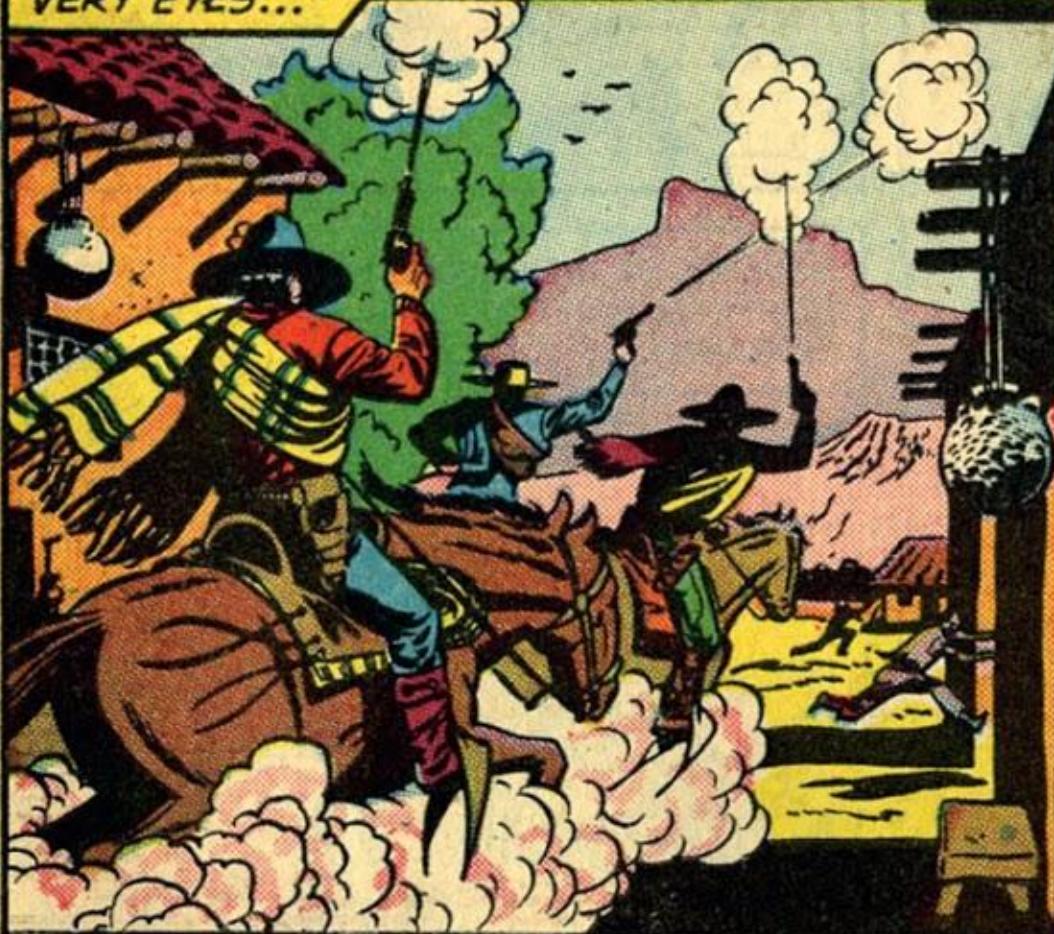
I AM TEMPTED TO ASK OF YOU A GREAT FAVOR, BATMAN! BUT FIRST, I WOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING ABOUT THE COUNTRY I RULE...



"IT IS A TINY COUNTRY, BATMAN—BUT A BEAUTIFUL ONE--A LAND OF ROLLING PAMPAS AND WILD, MAJESTIC MOUNTAINS..."



"WE LACK FOR NOTHING, BATMAN — EXCEPT LAW AND ORDER. FOR YEARS NOW, MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN TERRORIZED BY A CRIMINAL BAND, A MEMBER OF WHICH TRIED TO ASSASSINATE ME BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES..."



"THE LEADER OF THIS BAND IS A RUTHLESS OUTLAW WHO IS KNOWN AS EL PAPAGAYO OR, "THE PARROT," BECAUSE OF THE PARROT "TOTO" THAT IS HIS MASCOT..."

HO-HO! PANCHO-YOU HAVE THE LOOT! MAGNIFICO! YOU ARE A REAL AMIGO, PANCHO—REAL AMIGO! YOU ARE LIKE BROTHER TO ME!

GRACIAS, EL PAPAGAYO, GRACIAS!



"EL PAPAGAYO IS A DEADLY HOMBRE, BATMAN! ONE MOMENT HE CAN BE AS FRIENDLY AS A PUPPY, AND THE NEXT MOMENT HE CAN SHOOT YOU DOWN IN COLD BLOOD!"

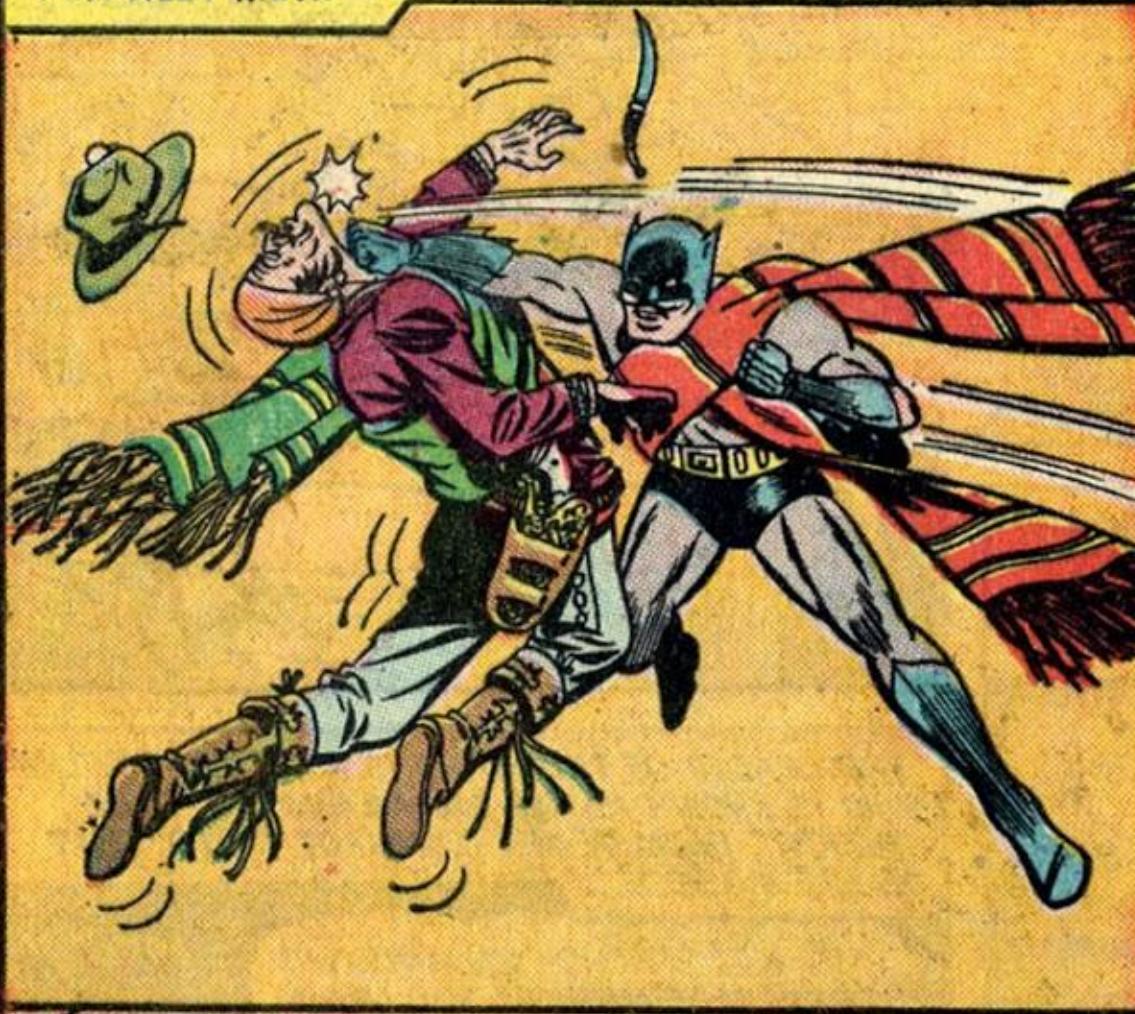


"YOU CAN IMAGINE, BATMAN, HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR MY COUNTRY TO RID ITSELF OF SUCH A VILLAIN—A MAN WHO LETS THE WHIMS OF A BIRD DECIDE THE FATE OF HIS PRISONERS..."

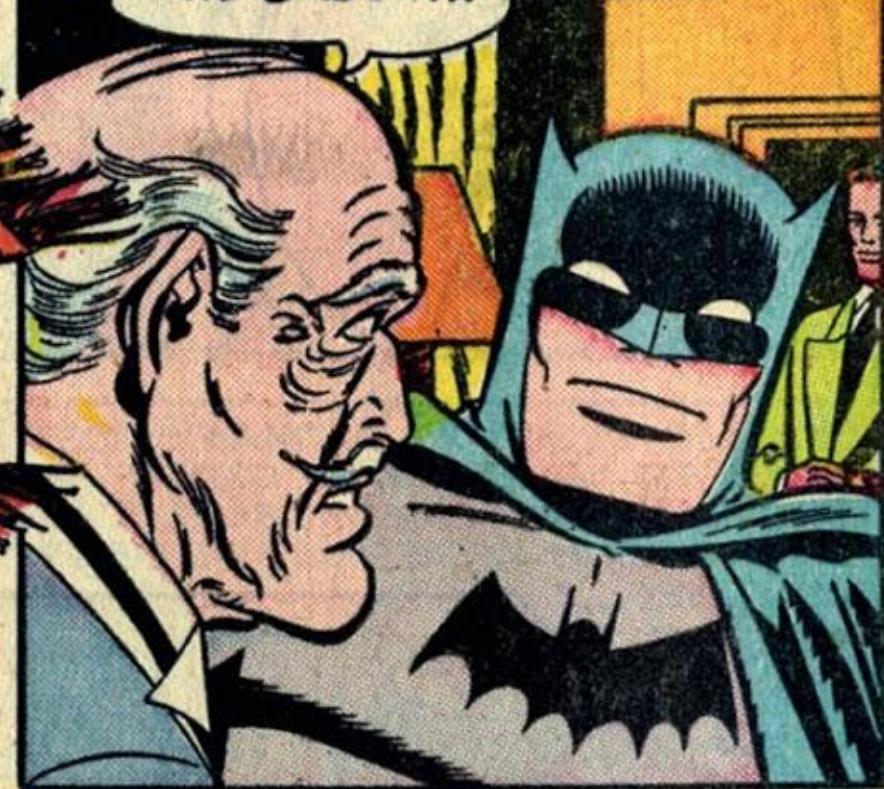


BATMAN

"SEEING YOU, BATMAN, HAS REVIVED AN OLD DREAM OF MINE - A DREAM THAT YOU WOULD COME DOWN TO MY COUNTRY AND TRAIN SOMEONE TO IMITATE YOU - A BAT-HOMBRE, WHO WOULD RID US OF EL PAPAGAYO FOR ALL TIME..."



THAT IS THE FAVOR I WOULD ASK, SENOR BATMAN. THAT YOU TRAIN ANOTHER BATMAN, WHO WOULD COOPERATE WITH THE POLICE TO MAINTAIN LAW AND ORDER...



I AM AN OLD MAN - I HAVE NOT MUCH LONGER TO LIVE. IN MY TIME I WOULD LIKE TO SEE EL PAPAGAYO BROUGHT TO JUSTICE AND MY COUNTRY DELIVERED FROM HIS BONDAGE...



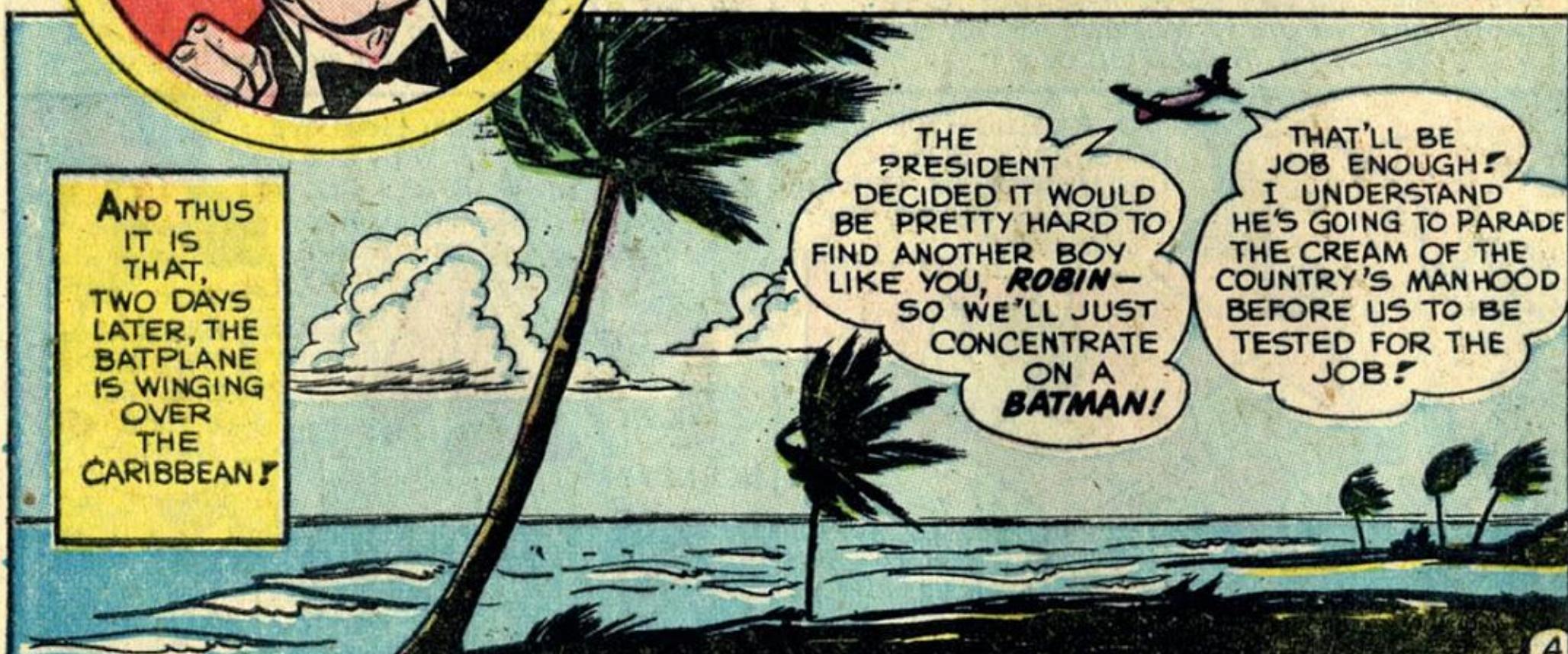
BY ALL MEANS, BATMAN, ACCEPT! IT'S PRETTY QUIET HERE RIGHT NOW - WE CAN SPARE YOU. AND YOUR VISIT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL AFFIRMATION OF OUR GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY!



AND THUS IT IS THAT, TWO DAYS LATER, THE BATPLANE IS WINGING OVER THE CARIBBEAN!

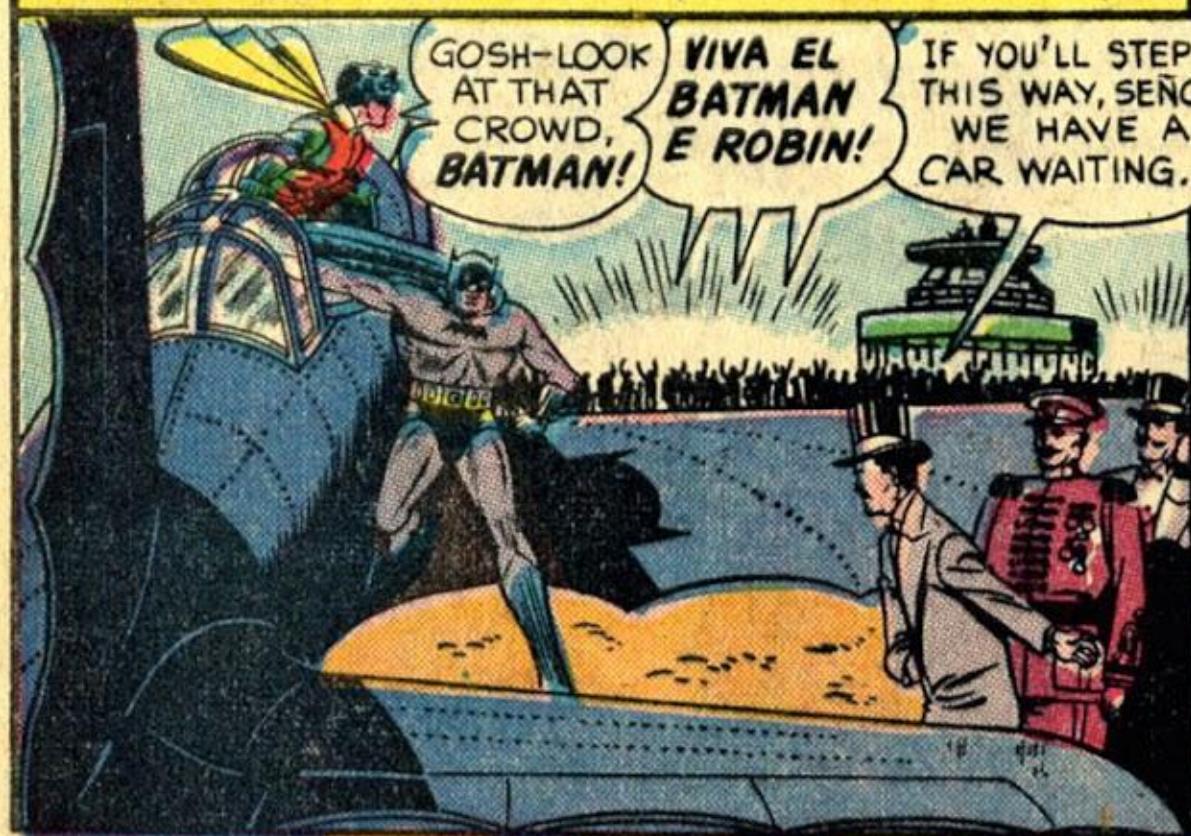
THE PRESIDENT DECIDED IT WOULD BE PRETTY HARD TO FIND ANOTHER BOY LIKE YOU, ROBIN - SO WE'LL JUST CONCENTRATE ON A BATMAN!

THAT'LL BE JOB ENOUGH! I UNDERSTAND HE'S GOING TO PARADE THE CREAM OF THE COUNTRY'S MANHOOD BEFORE US TO BE TESTED FOR THE JOB!

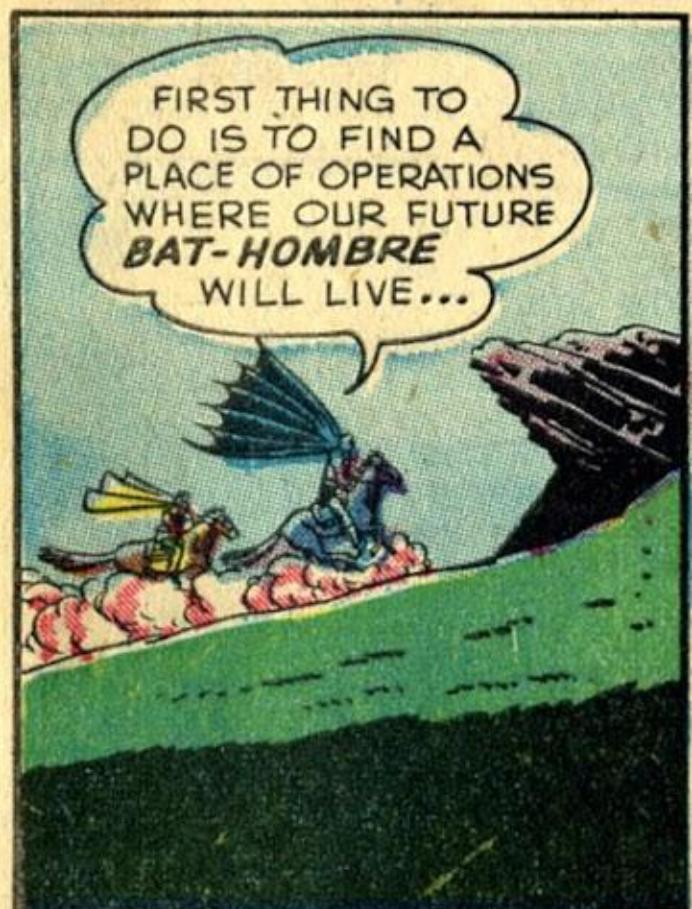
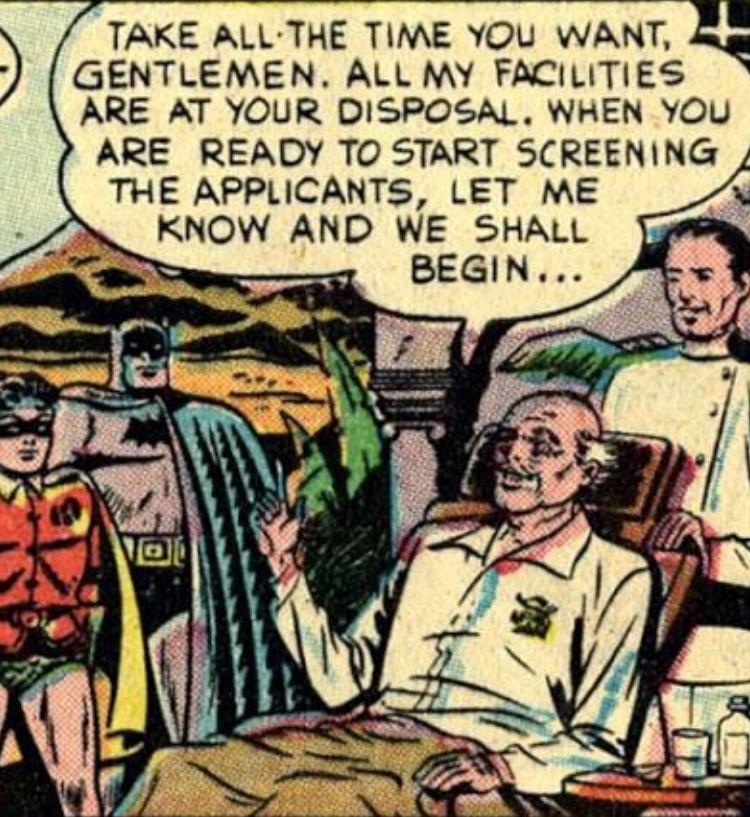


BATMAN

AND, AT THE AIRPORT IN CASANEGRO, CAPITAL CITY OF MANTEGUA...



LATER, AT THE EXECUTIVE MANSION...



FOR DAYS, BATMAN AND ROBIN SET THE STAGE FOR THE NEW BAT-HOMBRE...

NO BATMOBILES IN THIS TERRAIN, ROBIN! BUT THIS THOROUGH-BRED RACER FROM THE ARGENTINE SHOULD BE FASTER THAN ANY OTHER HORSE AROUND...



THEN, THE FIRST COMPLICATION ARISES, WHEN PRESIDENT CAMARAN THROWS OPEN HIS COLLECTION OF WEAPONS FOR THE FUTURE BAT-HOMBRE'S USE...

NO, MR. PRESIDENT—WE CAN'T ACCEPT ANY OF THESE WEAPONS! BATMAN NEVER FIRES A GUN OR USES A KNIFE!

BUT—EL PAPAGAYO AND HIS MEN ARE RUTHLESS KILLERS! HOW COULD ONE FIGHT THEM WITHOUT WEAPONS LIKE THESE?



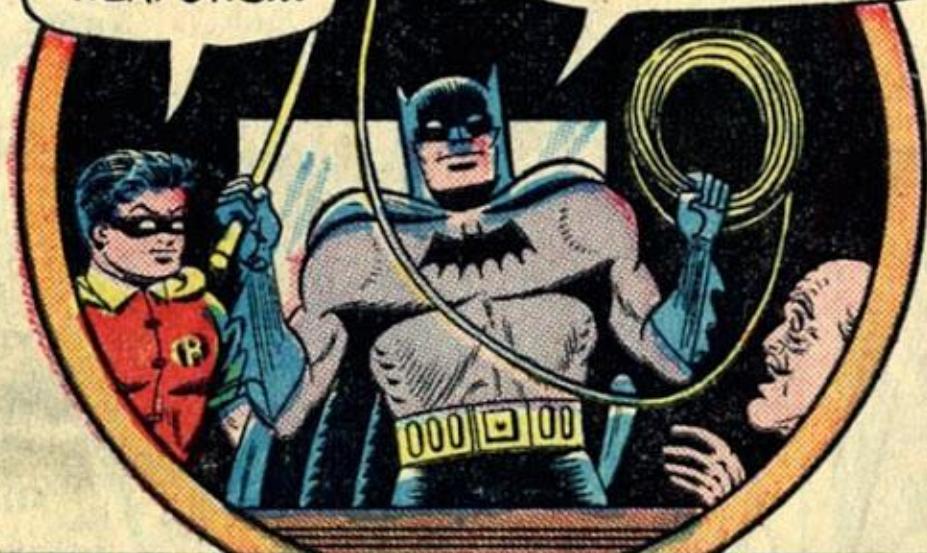


BATMAN



WE HAVE RUTHLESS KILLERS IN **OUR** COUNTRY, TOO, MR. PRESIDENT—AND WE'VE MANAGED WITH OUR OWN WEAPONS...

YES—AND INSTEAD OF OUR **SILKEN CORD**, THE **BAT-HOMBRE** WILL USE THIS **WHIP!** WATCH—I'LL DEMONSTRATE...



AND, AS THE WHIP'S END SNAKES AROUND THE BRANCH OF A TREE...



AND AS APPLICANT AFTER APPLICANT DISPLAYS HIS ATHLETIC PROWESS BEFORE THE CRITICAL EYES OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**...

REMOVE HIS NAME, TOO, **ROBIN!** HE'S FAILED TO CHIN THE NECESSARY 50 TIMES...



QUICKLY, THE VAUNTED **LAWMAN** LASHES THE WHIP OUT A WINDOW...

WITH THIS WHIP, THE **BAT-HOMBRE** WILL BE ABLE TO SPEED THROUGH THE ROUGHEST TERRAIN ...



LATER, HAVING SECURED ALL THE **BAT-HOMBRE'S** EQUIPMENT, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE READY TO INTERVIEW APPLICANTS...

WE'LL TAKE THEM ONE AT A TIME, AND WEED OUT THE ATHLETICALLY UNFIT FIRST IN A SERIES OF ACROBATIC EXERCISES...



FOR DAYS, THE CREAM OF MANTEGUA'S MANHOOD GOES THROUGH A GRUELING EXAMINATION...

GOOD! HE KNOCKED THE GUN RIGHT OUT OF THE DUMMY'S HAND! HE'S GOT EXCELLENT CONTROL OF THAT WHIP!



BUT, AS TIME PASSES, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** ARE FACED WITH WHAT SEEMS A HOPELESS TASK...

SCORES OF APPLICANTS—
AND NOT ONE GOOD ENOUGH
TO BE **BAT-HOMBRE**!
IF ONE IS AN ATHLETE, IT
TURNS OUT HE'S NO DETECTIVE;
AND IF ONE IS A DETECTIVE,
IT TURNS OUT HE'S NO
ATHLETE!

THIS WILL BREAK
PRESIDENT CAMARAN'S
HEART! THERE MUST
BE **SOMEONE**
WHO CAN QUALIFY—
COME ON, **ROBIN**,
WE'VE A FEW NAMES
LEFT...



LATER, **BATMAN** CONGRATULATES THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE,
A PLEASANT YOUNG MAN NAMED LUIS PERALDA, IN THE
GROTTO THAT IS TO BE HIS FUTURE **BATCAVE**!

NICE GOING, LUIS! NOW YOU'RE READY
FOR SPECIAL TRAINING— AND TO LEARN
THE SECRETS OF **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!
BE HERE EARLY TOMORROW, WHEN WE'LL
BEGIN... AND, OF COURSE, YOU MUST
PLEDGE YOURSELF TO SECRECY!

NO WORRY,
SEÑORS! I
AM AWARE OF
THE IMPORTANCE
OF MY JOB;
LUIS LIPS ARE
SEALED!



THEN, DESPAIR TURNS TO ELATION, AS ONE OF THE LAST
APPLICANTS PASSES ALL TESTS WITH FLYING COLORS!



BUT, THAT EVENING...

HELLO, PEDRO!
THIS IS LUIS.
I FOOLED THE
BATMAN!
I GOT THE
JOB!

BUENO! EL
PAPAGAYO WILL
BE IMMEDIATELY
INFORMED! HE WILL
REWARD YOU
HANDSOMELY, LUIS!

THIS IS
THE UTILITY BELT.
YOU WILL FIND IT
EXCEEDINGLY HANDY
TO PULL YOU OUT OF
SCRAPES...

HA-HA! AFTER YOU'VE
EXPLAINED IT TO ME,
BATMAN, I'LL USE IT
AGAINST **YOU**, FOR
CRIME!



BATMAN



THIS IS YOUR
BELT-RADIO.
I USE IT TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH **ROBIN**-
YOU WILL USE
IT TO
COMMUNICATE
WITH THE
POLICE...

YOU
MEAN EL
PAPAGAYO,
YOU
FOOL?
HA-HA!

THEN, THAT NIGHT, **BATMAN**
HASTENS TO PRESIDENT CAMARAN,
TO BRING HIM THE ENCOURAGING
NEWS ABOUT **BAT-HOMBRE**...

AHHH, SEÑOR **BATMAN**- THAT
IS GOOD! YOU KNOW, I WAS
BEGINNING TO LOSE FAITH-I
WAS BECOMING ASHAMED OF
MY PEOPLE BECAUSE NO
MAN COULD MEET YOUR
QUALIFICATIONS...

BUT NOW IT IS
DIFFERENT- NOW
AN OLD MAN CAN
DIE IN PEACE,
KNOWING HE HAS
PUT HIS COUNTRY
ON THE RIGHT
ROAD...

YES, MR.
PRESIDENT-
IN A FEW
DAYS YOUR
OWN **BAT-**
HOMBRE
WILL BE HOT
ON THE TRAIL
OF EL PAPAGAYO!



BUT AT THAT
VERY MOMENT,
IN THE HIDDEN
OUTLAW CAMP,
BAT-HOMBRE
HAS FOUND EL
PAPAGAYO,
UNDER
CIRCUMSTANCES
OF WHICH
BATMAN
IS
COMPLETELY
UNAWARE!

HO-HO! YOU HAVE DONE WELL, AMIGO!
BY TOMORROW, YOU WILL HAVE LEARNED
ALL OF **BATMAN'S** SECRETS-AND THEN
WE WILL HAVE SOME
FUN, EH, TOTO?
HO-HO!

SI-SI! MUCHO
FUN! SI-SI!
MUCHO FUN!



AND, AS THE CELEBRATION GROWS WILDER...

CARAMBA! THE
BIRD'S CLAWS HAVE
TORN MY UNIFORM!

HO-HO! LOOK-
EVEN TOTO IS
HAVING A GOOD
TIME!

GOOD WORK,
BAT-HOMBRE!
GOOD WORK,
BAT-HOMBRE!



MOST SENSATIONAL TOM MIX OFFER EVER!

SEND FOR THIS MAGIC
MINIATURE OF MY
OWN SIX-SHOOTER.
READ BELOW ABOUT
THE TRICKS IT DOES!



IT'S A BEAUTIFUL WATCH FOB,
BRACELET OR KEY CHAIN!



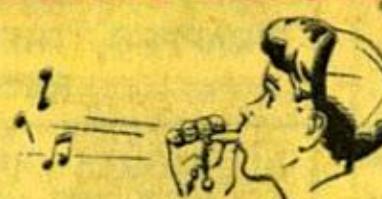
HIDDEN HOOK holds arrowhead on your belt above watch pocket.
Fasten special clasp to wear around your wrist.

IT'S A NEW KIND
OF COMPASS!



Dangle gun from chain and it
always points north. Find your
way at night, too! It GLOWS!

IT'S A SHRILL
SIGNAL WHISTLE!



HIDDEN WHISTLE (in arrow-
head) permits you to signal
friends, call for help.

ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL
LITTLE MAGNETS YOU'VE EVER SEEN!



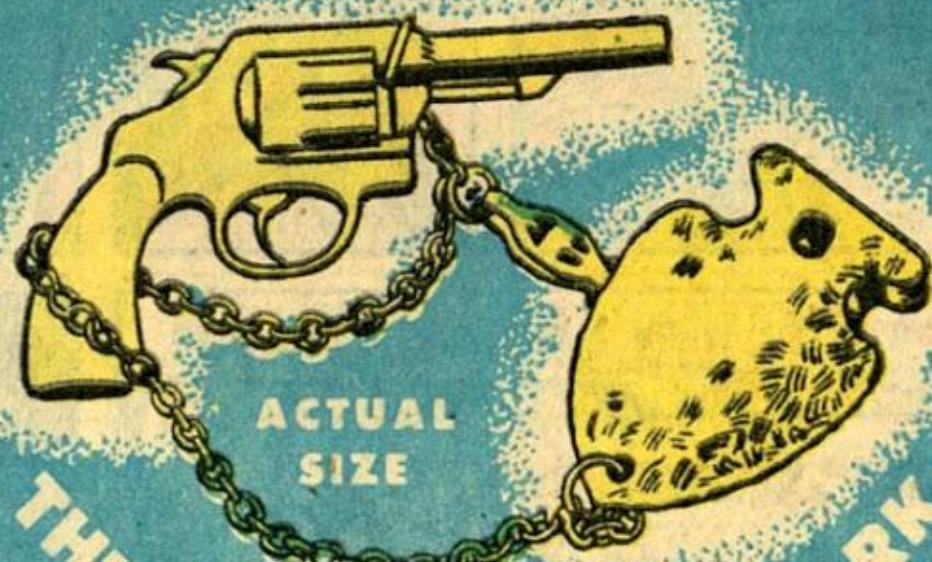
Makes pins, paper clips jump $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in air. Put small piece of metal
under paper—gun above—and it lifts paper and all! Holds heavy letter
opener by tiny point. AMAZING MAGNETIC POWER!

TOM MIX

SUPER-MAGNETIC

Compass Gun

AND SIGNAL WHISTLE



ACTUAL
SIZE

THEY GLOW IN THE DARK

It's really super! Be among the
first in your neighborhood to get
this perfect little model of Tom's
Six-Shooter — amaze your friends
with the tricks it will perform.

YOURS FOR ONLY 15¢

and one
Hot Ralston or
Instant Ralston
box top



DON'T DELAY—USE THIS COUPON!

TOM MIX, Box 808-C, St. Louis, Mo.

Enclosed are 15¢ cash and one Ralston box top for
Tom's Magnetic Compass-Gun & Signal Whistle.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

If you don't have coupon write name and address on Ralston
box top and mail with 15¢. Offer good only in U.S.A. and may
be withdrawn at any time.

BUT WHAT WILL I TELL
BATMAN AND ROBIN?
THEY WILL SURELY
NOTICE...

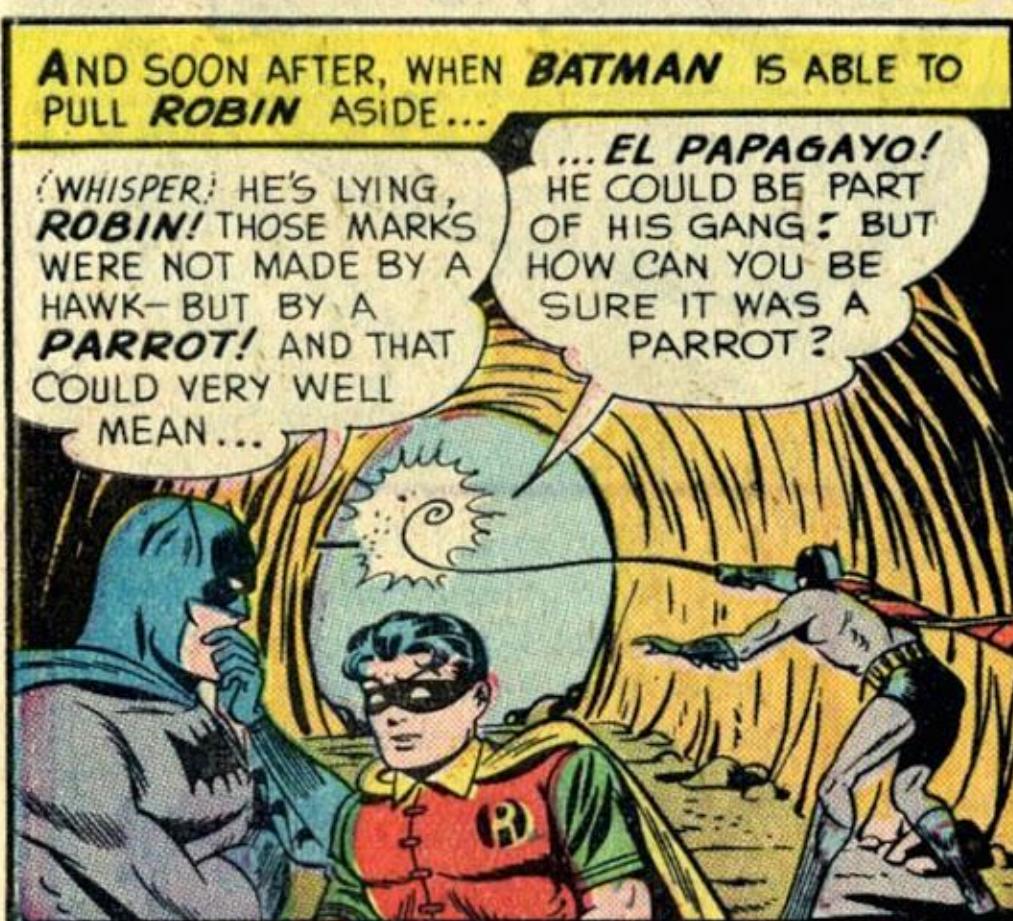
BAH-IT IS NOTHING!
A BIRD'S CLAWS-THAT
IS ALL! TELL THEM
YOU WERE ATTACKED
BY A NIGHT HAWK...



AND SOON AFTER, WHEN **BATMAN** IS ABLE TO
PULL **ROBIN** ASIDE...

(WHISPER) HE'S LYING,
ROBIN! THOSE MARKS
WERE NOT MADE BY A
HAWK-BUT BY A
PARROT! AND THAT
COULD VERY WELL
MEAN...

...EL PAPAGAYO!
HE COULD BE PART
OF HIS GANG! BUT
HOW CAN YOU BE
SURE IT WAS A
PARROT?



CONVINCED THAT SOME SORT OF TREACHERY
IS AFOOT, **BATMAN** TRIES A SURPRISE ATTACK,
AND...

THOSE CLAW MARKS
ON YOUR SHOULDER
WERE MADE BY A
PARROT, LUIS!
WE KNOW
WHERE YOU'VE
BEEN!

YOUR BLUFF
WORKED, **BATMAN!**
HIS GUILT IS
NOW EVIDENT!



BUT YOU
COULDN'T!
I COVERED
MY TRAIL—
I (GASP).

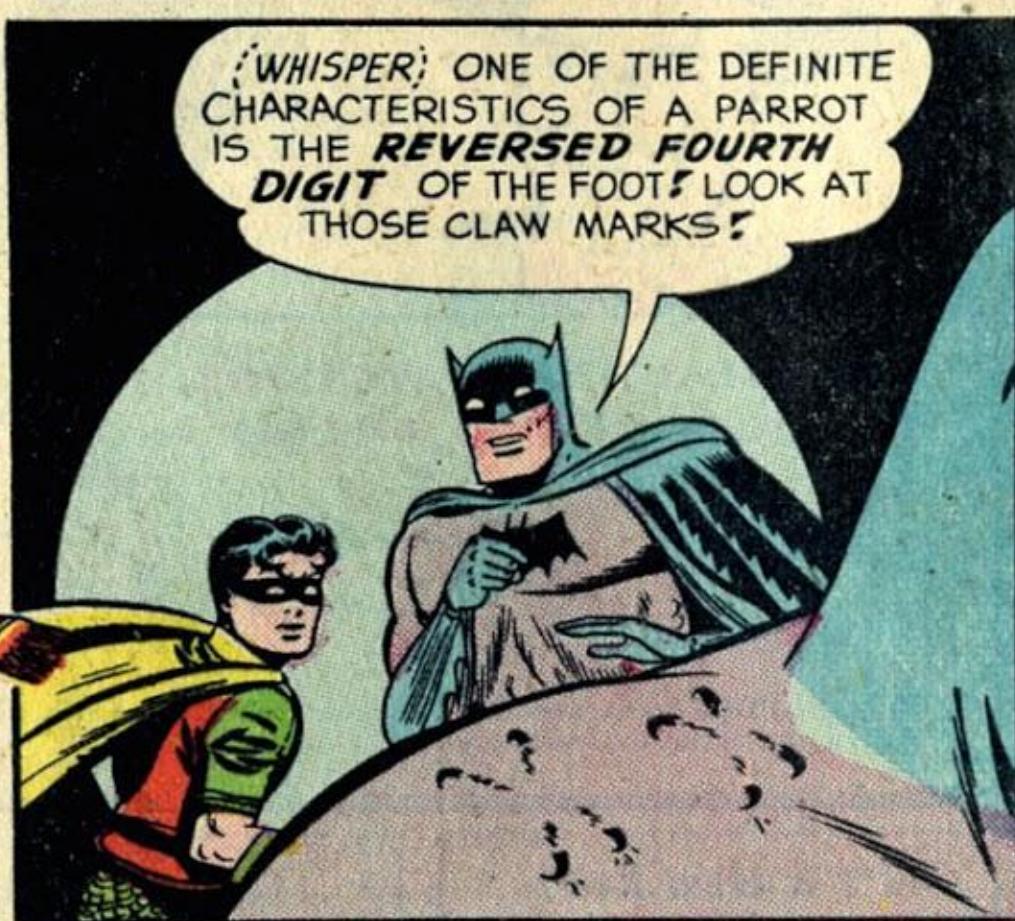
AND, THE NEXT DAY...

...IT WAS SOMETHING, I TELL
YOU! THIS UGLY HAWK
SWOOPED OUT OF THE NIGHT
AND TRIED TO MAKE OFF
WITH ME! BUT I KILLED
IT QUICKLY...

HMMMM-HE'S
DELIBERATELY
LYING?
THIS IS
SERIOUS!



(WHISPER) ONE OF THE DEFINITE
CHARACTERISTICS OF A PARROT
IS THE **REVERSED FOURTH
DIGIT** OF THE FOOT! LOOK AT
THOSE CLAW MARKS!



TRAPPED, THE FALSE **BAT-HOMBRE** QUICKLY
REGAINS HIS WITS, AS...

ALL RIGHT-YOU'RE ON
TO ME! BUT YOU DARE
NOT EXPOSE ME! IF
CAMARAN WERE TO
LEARN OF THIS, IT
WOULD BREAK HIS
HEART!

HE'S RIGHT, **ROBIN!**
I'VE TOLD CAMARAN
THAT A **BAT-HOMBRE**
WOULD RIDE AGAINST
CRIME TOMORROW—
THIS NEWS WOULD STAGGER
THE OLD MAN!



LET'S FACE IT, **BATMAN!** LUIS WAS THE CLOSEST REPLACEMENT TO A **BATMAN** WE COULD FIND - AND NOW **HE'S OUT!** THERE JUST ISN'T A **ANOTHER BATMAN ANYWHERE!**

BUT WE CAN'T LET CAMARAN DISCOVER THAT! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!



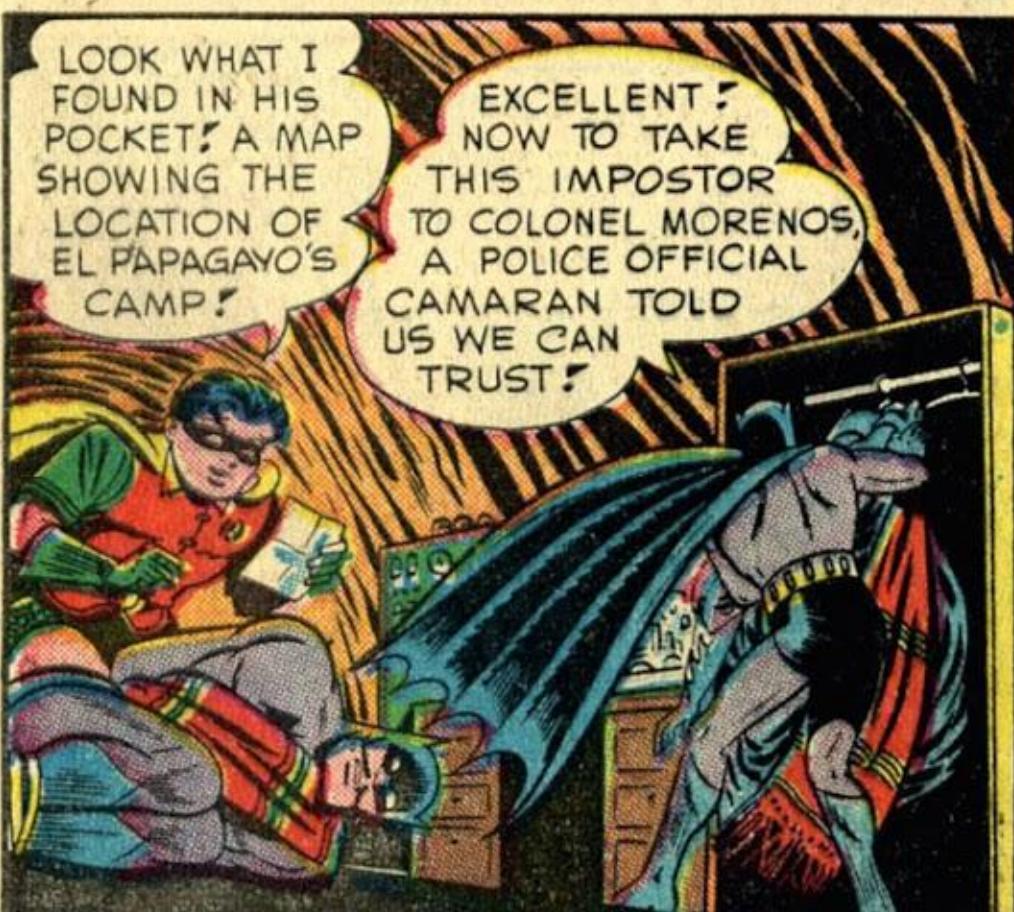
HIS BRILLIANT MIND RACING, **BATMAN** SUDDENLY MAKES HIS DECISION!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY, **ROBIN!** WE'LL KEEP LUIS ON ICE, WHERE HE CAN'T REACH CAMARAN - **AND I'LL TAKE OVER AS BAT-HOMBRE!**



LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN HIS POCKET! A MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF EL PAPAGAYO'S CAMP!

EXCELLENT! NOW TO TAKE THIS IMPOSTOR TO COLONEL MORENOS, A POLICE OFFICIAL CAMARAN TOLD US WE CAN TRUST!



AND LATER, IN COLONEL MORENOS' OFFICE...

NO NEED TO WORRY, **BATMAN!** I WILL PUT HIM IN SOLITARY - HE WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK TO NO ONE!

GOOD! NOW - **ROBIN** WILL LEAVE YOU A COPY OF THE MAP! AS SOON AS YOU CAN, ROUND UP A FORCE TO MEET US AT EL PAPAGAYO'S HIDEOUT!



AND, STILL LATER, **BATMAN** PAYS THE PRESIDENT A SURPRISE VISIT...

BEFORE I LEAVE TO CAPTURE EL PAPAGAYO, I THOUGHT I'D PAY MY RESPECTS, MR. PRESIDENT!

AT LAST - OUR COUNTRY HAS ITS OWN **BAT-HOMBRE!** GODSPEED! GODSPEED!



MEANWHILE, AT THE PRISON...

EVEN THE GREAT **BATMAN** CAN SLIP UP! IN THE EXCITEMENT, HE FORGOT THAT I STILL HAVE THE **UTILITY BELT** - MY PASSPORT TO FREEDOM FROM THIS FOUL JAIL!





BATMAN



NICE OF
BATMAN TO
HAVE SHOWN ME HOW
TO CREATE AN EXPLOSION!
NOW TO HALT HIM
BEFORE HE REACHES
EL PAPAGAYO!

MEANWHILE, AN AWESOME SPECTACLE LOOMS
UP ON THE ROLLING PAMPAS — THE **BAT-HORSE**,
THUNDERING INTO ACTION!

HOLD ON, **ROBIN!**
THIS **BAT-HORSE** IS
A FOUR-FOOTED
TORNADO!

AND, IN THE JAGGED MOUNTAINS NEAR EL PAPAGAYO'S
CAMP...

THE CAMP'S
DEAD AHEAD! GO
DOWN THIS SIDE,
ROBIN — AND LOOK
FOR A TRAIL. I'LL TRY
THIS OTHER SIDE
AND MEET YOU
HERE IN FIVE
MINUTES...

FRANTICALLY, **ROBIN**
CLINGS TO HIS LEDGE
AS THE BATTLE
REACHES ITS VIOLENT
CONCLUSION ...

REACHING THE FOOT OF THE
CLIFF, **ROBIN'S** FOOT TANGLES
IN A VINE. AND, AS HE
STRUGGLES TO FREE HIMSELF
SUDDENLY...

A WILD, SWAYING BATTLE
SKIRTS THE EDGE OF THE
CLIFF! THEN, AS **ROBIN**
BREAKS FREE, AND RUSHES
TO HELP **BATMAN**...

HA-HA-BATMAN!
THE TABLES ARE
TURNED! NOW
I WILL
KILL
YOU!

IT'S LUIS!
HE'S
ESCAPED!

SOMEONE'S
FALLING!
IS IT
BATMAN?

BATMAN!
BATMAN!
IS THAT YOU?



BATMAN



ONCE AGAIN, DEATHLY SILENCE GRIPS THE AIR. THEN, AS **ROBIN** BRACES...

HE'S COMING! WHOEVER IT IS— HE'S COMING!



THEN SUDDENLY, THE FREEZING SUSPENSE IS SHATTERED AS...

WELL, **ROBIN**—WHAT ARE **YOU** DOING?
WAITING FOR A STREET-CAR?

OH, **BATMAN**—IT'S
YOU! PHEW—
WAS I WORRIED!



THEN, WITHOUT WARNING, A SWARM OF BANDITS LEAPS OUT TO SURPRISE AND CAPTURE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!

THROW THEM UNDER GUARD UNTIL EL PAPAGAYO RETURNS.

EL PAPAGAYO'S MEN!
THE NOISE OF THE FIGHT MUST HAVE BROUGHT THEM!



LATER, IN THE TENT WHERE THEY ARE HELD PRISONER...

A FINE MESS WE'VE MADE OF THINGS!

WAIT! THESE BERRIES—
AND THIS CURARE BARK GIVE ME AN IDEA!



AND, PRESENTLY, WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO IS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BANDIT CHIEFTAIN...

HAH! THIS FOREIGNER, JUST **BATMAN**, WOULD MEDdle FEEDING IN MY AFFAIRS! HERE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOUR PARROT SOME BERRIES, EL PAPAGAYO. I'M VERY FOND OF PARROTS!

THE NERVE OF HIM! TRYING TO BRIBE THE PARROT!



THEN, EL PAPAGAYO ASKS TOTO TO PASS SENTENCE UPON **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**!

KILL THEM! GIVE THEM WHIPS—MAKE THEM BEAT THEMSELVES TO DEATH WITH THE WHIPS!

TERRIFICO, TOTO,
TERRIFICO! YOU HAVE GREAT IMAGINATION!
QUICKLY, CARLOS—
BRING WHIPS!



MOMENTS LATER...

GO ON!
START
WHIPPING
EACH OTHER!

:WHISPER:
READY, ROBIN!
FOLLOW MY
LEAD!

SUDDENLY, BATMAN AND ROBIN LASH OUT WITH
THEIR WHIPS - BUT IN A MANNER TO SURPRISE
COMPLETELY EL PAPAGAYO AND HIS MEN!

QUICKLY,
ROBIN - UP
INTO THE
TREE!

CARAMBA!
SEIZE
THEM!

OKAY, LOUIE -
DROP THE
GUN!

THEN, COILING THEIR WHIPS AROUND THE BRANCHES OF ANOTHER
TREE, THE AMAZING LAWMEN LITERALLY BOWL THEIR OPPONENTS
OVER, AS...

NICE TO HAVE BUMPED
INTO YOU AGAIN,
EL PAPAGAYO!

LOOK!
COLONEL
MORENOS
AND A
POSSE!

THE COMPLETELY-DISORGANIZED BANDITS ARE NO MATCH
FOR MORENOS AND HIS MEN, AND IN A FEW MOMENTS
ALL ARE CAPTURED!

JUST BEFORE WE LEFT CASANEGRITO,
WE HEARD THAT PRESIDENT CAMARAN
HAD DIED - BUT WITH A SMILE ON
HIS LIPS... THANKS TO YOU,
BATMAN AND ROBIN...

HIS DEATH
WAS INEVITABLE,
I SUPPOSE.
ROBIN AND I
CAN TAKE SOLACE
IN THE FACT THAT
HE DIED A HAPPY
MAN...

AND NEXT DAY, WINGING HOMeward IN THE
BATPLANE...

THAT WAS A NEAT
TRICK, BATMAN -
FEEDING THE PARROT
THOSE CURARE-DOSED
BERRIES AND THEN
IMITATING ITS VOICE TO
GET US THOSE WHIPS!

BUT WHAT ABOUT
CURARE - ISN'T IT A
DEADLY POISON?

IT IS - EXCEPT WHEN
USED IN CAREFUL,
MINUTE DOSES. THEN
IT HAS A PARALYTIC
EFFECT, AND IN THIS
CASE PARALYZED THE
BIRD'S VOCAL
CHORDS!

ADVERTISEMENT

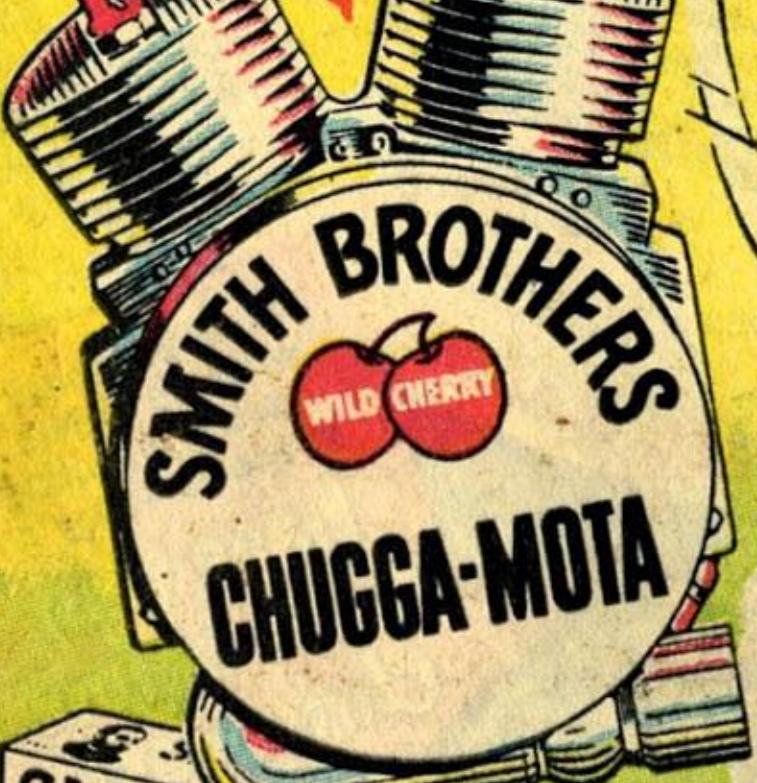
BOYS!
GIRLS!



HURRY! BE THE FIRST TO GO
ROARING BY WITH A WONDERFUL

CHUGGA-
MOTA!

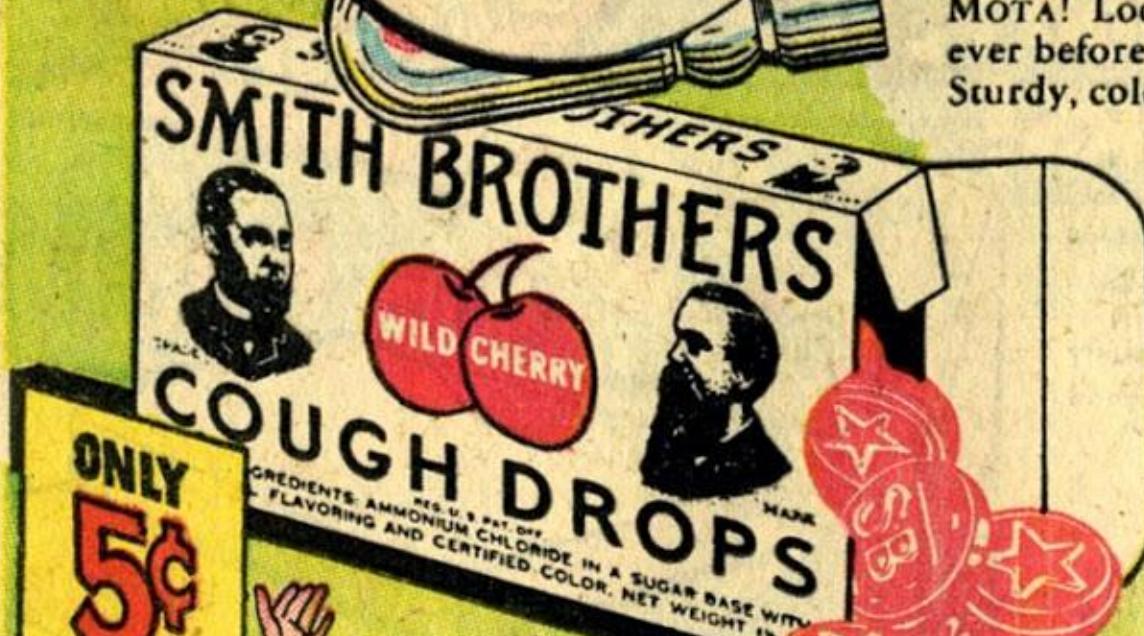
SOUNDS LIKE A
REAL MOTORCYCLE



ONLY **20¢**

WITH TWO FRONT COVERS
OF SMITH BROTHERS
WILD CHERRY
COUGH DROP BOXES

Here's how it works. You'll be the envy of every kid in the neighborhood when you go ripping and roaring down the street with your Smith Brothers' CHUGGA-MOTA! Looks like a real two-cylinder motor. Nothing ever before made with this special motor sound chamber. Sturdy, colorful. You just fasten it onto the rear wheel of your bike—or the front wheel of a tricycle—and the faster you pedal, the louder it roars! Play speed cop, or army messenger. Have wonderful parades. Get several! They make dandy birthday presents, too!



JEEPERS! THESE
WILD CHERRY COUGH DROPS
ARE THE BEST THINGS
I EVER TASTED!

HERE'S ALL YOU DO

To get your own wonderful roaring CHUGGA-MOTA . . . print your name and address on any little slip of paper. Put it in an envelope along with 20¢, and the front covers from two boxes of Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops—and mail to:

SMITH BROTHERS
P. O. Box No. 207
New York 46; N. Y.

HURRY! While supply lasts!

WOW! KIDS!

I'M GIVING AWAY
10,000 OFFICIAL BAZOOKA
SCOUTING KNIVES!



YESSIREE! IT'S THE KNIFE
YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
WHAT A GIFT!



TO THE FIRST 10,000 BOYS &
GIRLS TO SEND IN 100 PENNY
BAZOOKA WRAPPERS!

YOU CAN WIN my official scouting
knife! Just follow these simple rules!

1. Start today to save the wrappers from delicious PENNY BAZOOKA Bubble Gum. All BAZOOKA wrappers are good for this KNIFE OFFER.

2. When you have collected one hundred of these red, white and blue silver foil wrappers, put them in an envelope, with your name and address on a slip of paper inside.

3. Mail to BAZOOKA, Dept. RB, Box 100, Brooklyn 32, N. Y. The first 10,000 entries received in this prize award will win my BAZOOKA Scouting Knife. Entries judged by the date and hour of the postmark on your letter to give everybody, everywhere the same chance. Duplicate prizes in case of ties.

4. Entries must be postmarked not later than midnight, December 15, 1949, to qualify.

5. Offer open to residents of the U. S., its territories and possessions, except employees, and their families, of Topps Chewing Gum and its advertising agency.

Prizes!
Comics!

Send no money...
write no letters...
Start Collecting
Wrappers Today and

have your
Knife before
Christmas!



2 BIG CHEWS 1¢

Made by the makers of Topps Chewing Gum



BATMAN

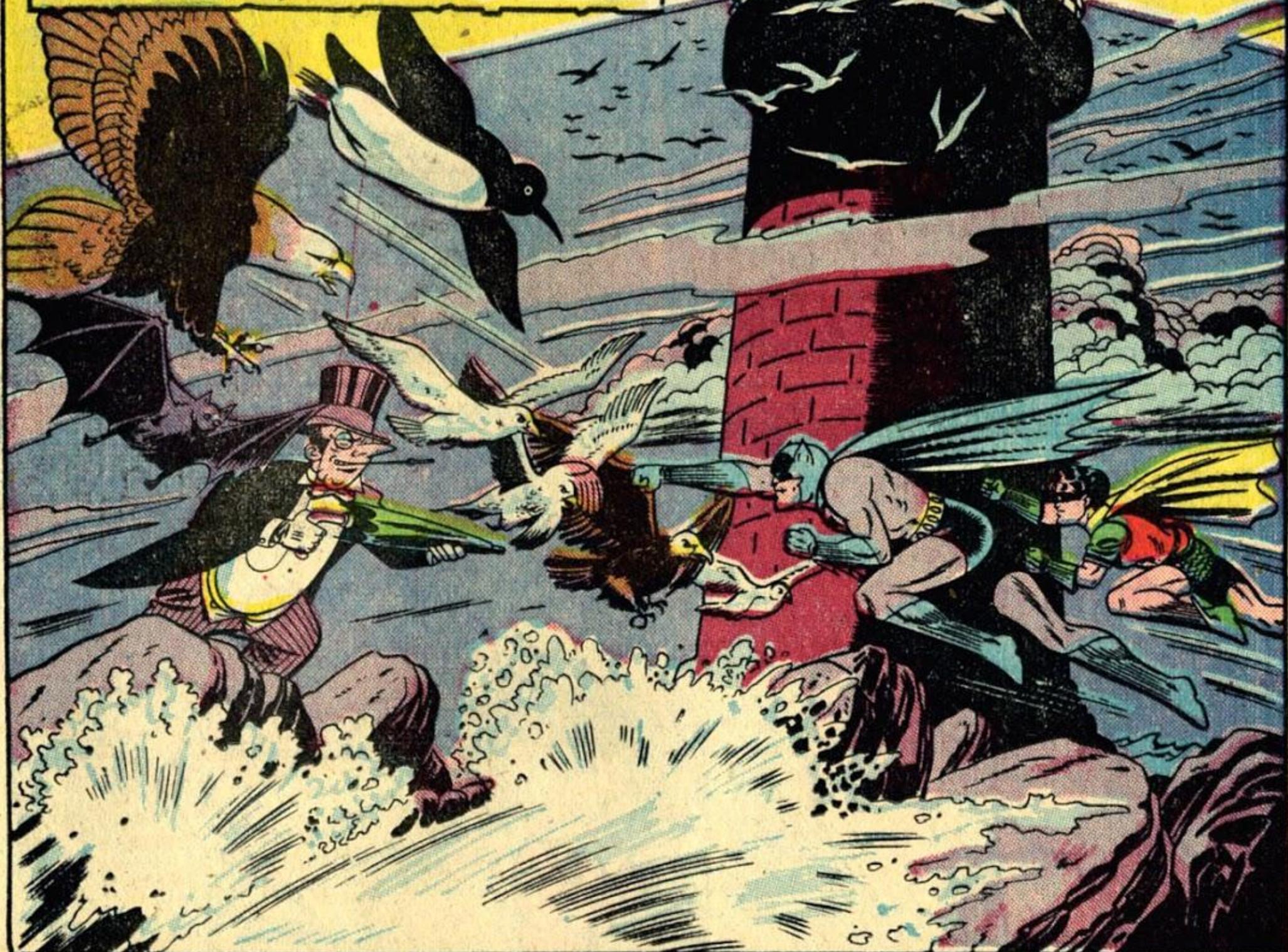
WITH
ROBIN

He's Back — THAT DROLL LITTLE MAN OF A THOUSAND UMBRELLAS, ALL OF THEM DANGEROUS... THAT AMAZING UNDERWORLDLING WHO MAKES HENCHMEN OUT OF BIRDS, BOMBS OUT OF EGGS, AND FOOLS OUT OF MANY PEOPLE.—IN SHORT, THE PLOTTING, PILFERING, PLUNDERING PENGUIN! BACK FROM THE BIG HOUSE--WITH NOVEL AND NEFARIOUS NOTIONS FOR ELUDING THE LAW, A QUARTER-MILLION-DOLLAR PRIZE TO STRIVE FOR, AND A FANTASTIC CRIME PROGRAM THAT DRAWS BATMAN AND ROBIN INTO ONE OF THE STRANGEST CASES OF THEIR ADVENTUROUS CAREER..

"The RIDDLE of the SEVEN BIRDS!"

-THE BOY WONDER-

BOB
KANE





BATMAN



AS "SQUEEZE" MILLER WALKS "THE LAST MILE" TO THE GOTHAM PENITENTIARY DEATH-HOUSE...

"I'D NEVER BE GOIN' TO THE CHAIR IF THE PENGUIN HADN'T SQUEALED TO GET HIS OWN SENTENCE CUT."

THERE'S NO HONOR AMONG THIEVES, MILLER—BUT AT LEAST THE PENGUIN NEVER KILLED ANYBODY!



A STRANGE COINCIDENCE—! THE PENGUIN'S SENTENCE ENDS ON THE SAME DAY AS "SQUEEZE" MILLER'S EXECUTION!

HERE'S YOUR \$5 FROM THE STATE. I HOPE IT STARTS YOU ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH!

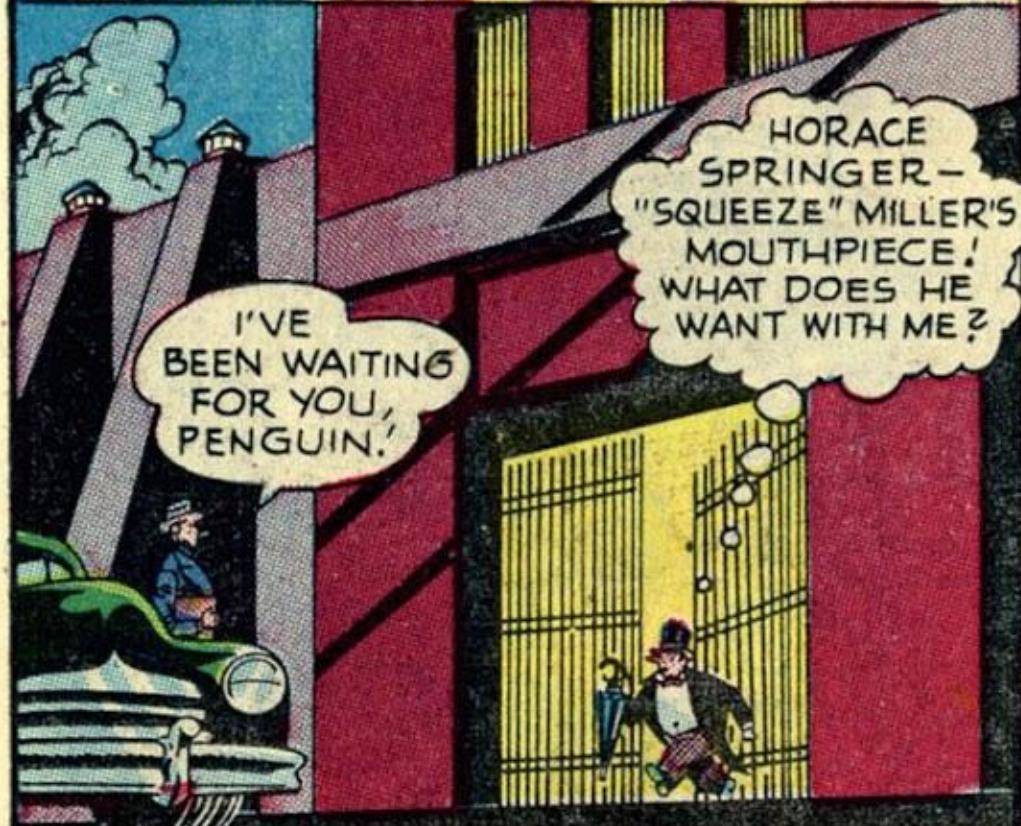
BELIEVE ME, WARDEN, I'M A CHANGED MAN! BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE CONVINCED ME I CAN'T BEAT THE LAW!



OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALLS...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, PENGUIN!

HORACE SPRINGER—"SQUEEZE" MILLER'S MOUTHPIECE! WHAT DOES HE WANT WITH ME?



WHAT? YOU SAY MILLER LEFT ME \$250,000 WORTH OF BONDS IN HIS WILL? BUT HE HATED ME! WHAT'S THE CATCH?

THERE ARE CERTAIN CONDITIONS WHICH I WILL READ TO YOU...



THE CONDITIONS ARE STRANGE--THE PENGUIN HESITATES--THEN CONSENTS.'

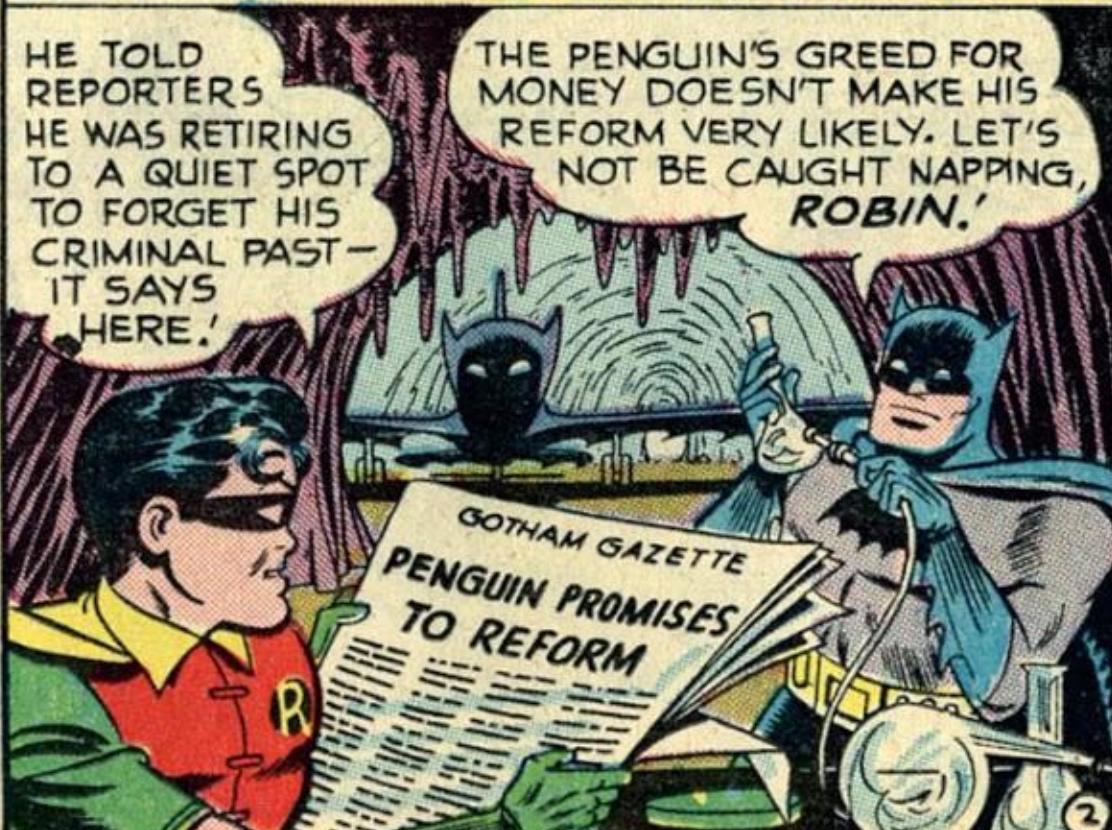
SEVEN JOBS...WITH SEVEN DIFFERENT BIRDS...AND I'D HAVE TO KEEP BATMAN FROM GETTING WISE... BUT \$250,000... I'LL DO IT!



MEANWHILE, BATMAN AND ROBIN WONDER IF THE PENGUIN HAS REALLY REFORMED, IN THE BATCAVE...

HE TOLD REPORTERS HE WAS RETIRING TO A QUIET SPOT TO FORGET HIS CRIMINAL PAST—IT SAYS HERE!

THE PENGUIN'S GREED FOR MONEY DOESN'T MAKE HIS REFORM VERY LIKELY. LET'S NOT BE CAUGHT NAPPING, ROBIN.

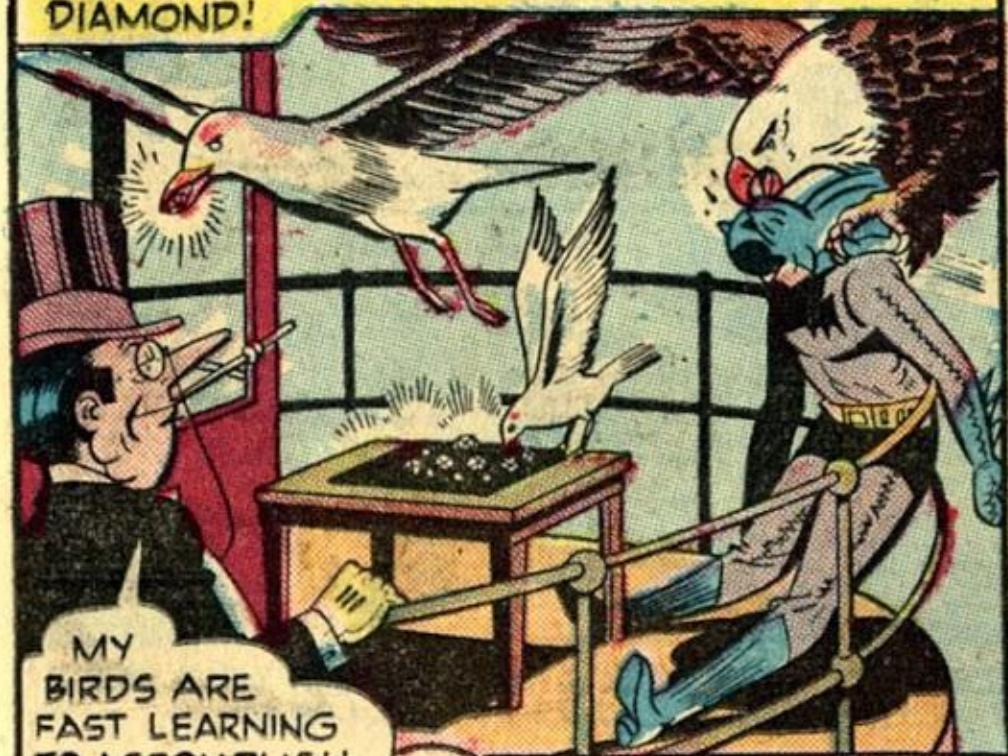


BATMAN

THE "QUIET SPOT"... THE NEW PENGUIN ROOST!



IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE PENGUIN'S BIRDS ARE BUSY! AN EAGLE CLAWS AT A DUMMY OF BATMAN! A SEAGULL SNATCHES AN IMITATION DIAMOND!

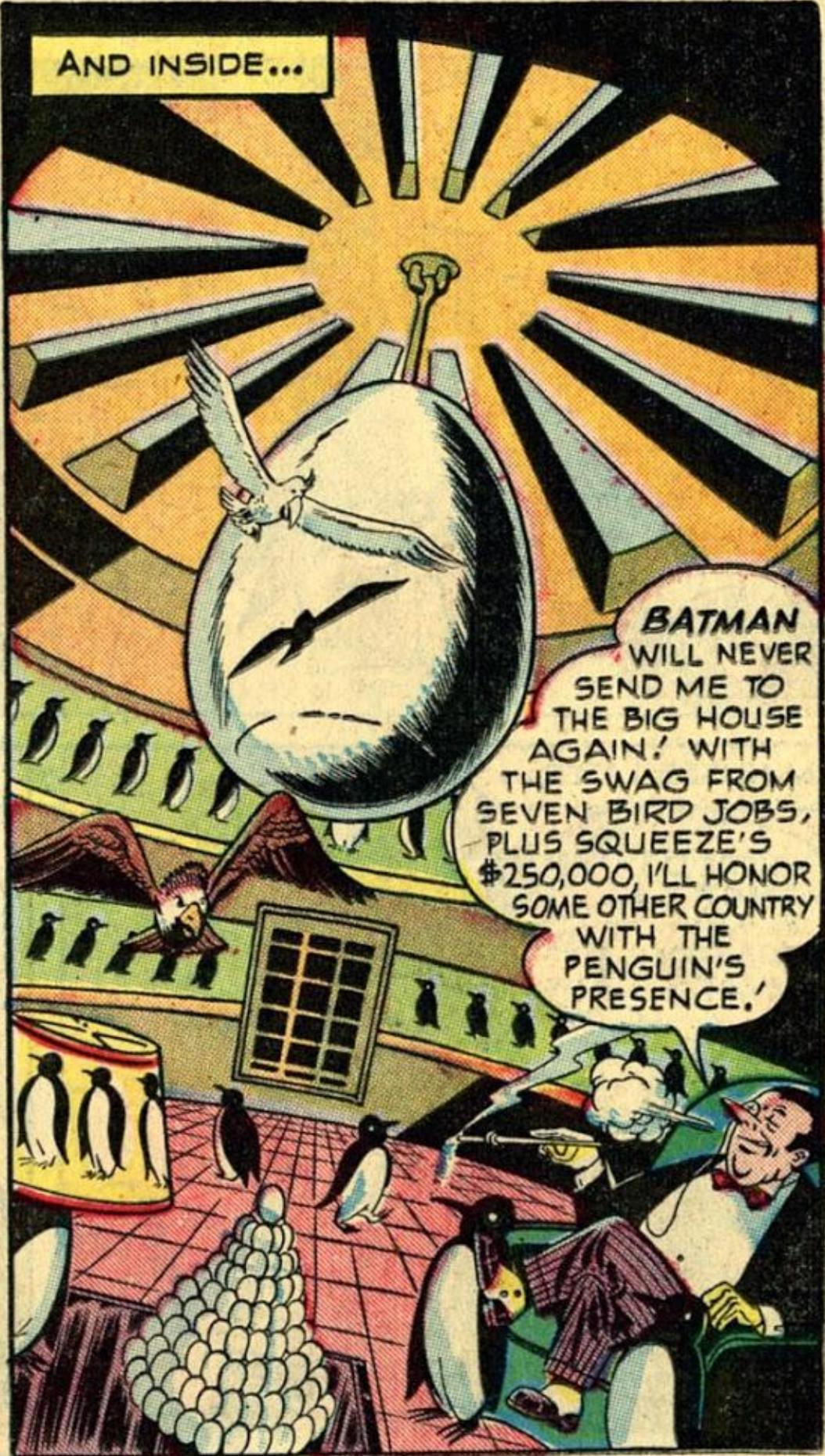


MY BIRDS ARE FAST LEARNING TO ACCOMPLISH THE SEVEN THINGS IT WILL TAKE TO MAKE ME RICH!

AND WITH MY TRICK UMBRELLAS TO THWART BATMAN'S FISTS... MY PENGUIN ROCKET PLANE TO PLAY TAG WITH HIS BATPLANE... MY EGG BOMBS... AND MY SUPERIOR BRAIN... HOW CAN I LOSE?



AND INSIDE...



CONFIDENTLY, THE PENGUIN PREPARES TO CARRY OUT THE FIRST PROVISION OF "SQUEEZE" MILLER'S WILL WITH THE AID OF - A PELICAN!

THE FIRST OF THE SEVEN BIRDS -- AND THE PERFECT ONE FOR THE PERFECT CRIME I'M PLANNING!

BATMAN

PRESENTLY, IN THE CHINESE ROOM OF GOTHAM MUSEUM...

NOT A GUARD IN SIGHT, AND AT THIS TIME OF MORNING THE MUSEUM'S NEARLY EMPTY! I'M IN LUCK!

SNAP!

FROM THE INTERIOR OF HIS CAPACIOUS UMBRELLA, THE PENGUIN PRODUCES SMALL FISH, WHICH HE PLACES UPON THE MOST VALUABLE PIECES OF JADE...

NOW TO RELEASE MY FISH-LOVING PELICAN, AND SHOW AN EMPTY SATCHEL TO THE GUARD AT THE DOOR AS I PASS OUT...

MINUTES LATER...

WHERE'D THAT THING COME FROM... WHAT?

HEY! SOMEBODY STOLE THE MING JADES!

BACK AT PENGUIN ROOST...

PERFECT CRIME NUMBER ONE! NOW FOR NUMBER TWO-- WITH EAGLES!

PELICANS... EAGLES... WHAT KIND OF WILL DID "SQUEEZE" MILLER WRITE?

AS BRUCE WAYNE WEALTHY MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, STROLL ABOUT A FRIEND'S CHINCHILLA RANCH NEXT DAY...

I'M STILL WONDERING WHETHER THERE WAS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE THEFT OF THE MING JADE AND THAT PELICAN!

HOW COULD THERE BE?.. LOOK, BRUCE-- EAGLES--A LOT OF THEM! AND THEY'RE ALL HEADED THIS WAY!

BATMAN

FOR A SPLIT SECOND, THE COMPANIONS ARE HELD SPELLBOUND BY AN AMAZING SPECTACLE! THEN...

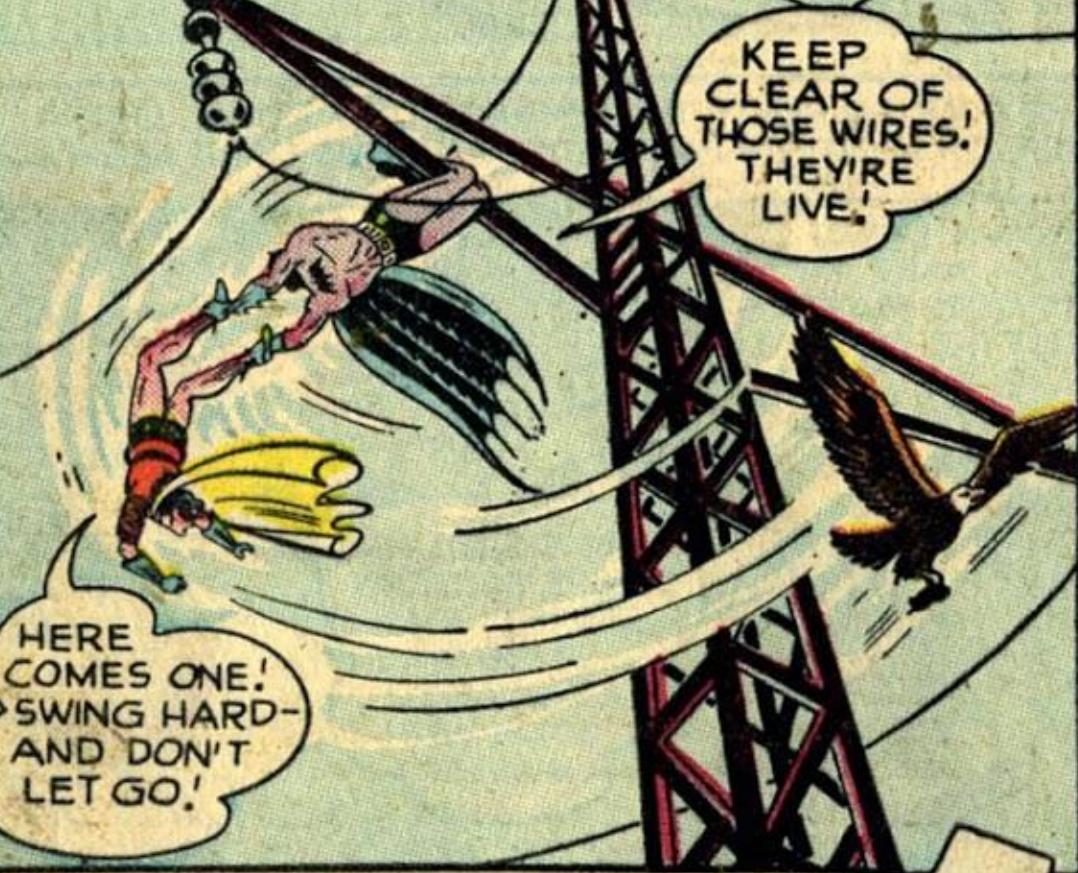
BRUCE! THE EAGLES!
THEY'RE KILLING
ANIMALS WORTH
A FORTUNE!

NO,
DICK--CARRYING
THEM AWAY ALIVE!
THE EAGLES' TALONS
HAVE BEEN CLIPPED!
COME ON--BATMAN
AND ROBIN MAY BE
ABLE TO DO SOMETHING!

A LIGHTNING TRANSFORMATION... AND
BATMAN AND **ROBIN** LAUNCH A DESPERATE,
DANGEROUS COUNTER-ATTACK!

THEY'RE
ALL FLYING
EXACTLY THE
SAME COURSE, AS
IF FOLLOWING A
BEAM-- AND
PASSING SO CLOSE
TO THE MAST
WE OUGHT TO
GRAB SOME
TAIL FEATHERS,
AT LEAST!

EVEN IF
WE ONLY SCARE
THE OTHERS OFF,
IT WILL SAVE
A LOT OF MONEY
AND WORRY!



SUDDENLY... TWIN FURIES, WHOSE TALONS
HAVE NOT BEEN CLIPPED, STRIKE WITH
TERRIFIC FORCE!

OW! IT ISN'T
FUN ANY MORE!
LET'S GET OUT
OF HERE!

GREAT
SCOTT-- THEY'RE
GIANT EAGLES,
TRAINED TO ATTACK
MEN! AND I CAN'T
LET GO OF YOU
TO FIGHT
THEM!



HELPLESS, AND IN AGONY FROM THE RAKING CLAWS AND STABBING BEAKS, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS TAKE A DESPERATE CHANCE...

I CAN USE ONE HAND! SWING UP TOWARD THE CABLES, AND IF I CAN KNOCK THIS FLYING TIGER AWAY FROM ME --

ALL RIGHT! WE CAN'T STAND THIS FOR LONG! JUST REMEMBER, IF YOU'RE TOUCHING THE BIRD, WE'LL ALL BE GONE!

THRUSTING MIGHTILY, ROBIN STARTLES HIS TORMENTOR INTO RETREAT--AND AS THE GREAT BIRD'S PINIONS BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN TWO CABLES...

HE'S FINISHED--BUT HE CAME NEAR FINISHING US!

AND YOU'VE SCARED THE OTHER ONE AWAY, THANK GOODNESS!

IN THE BATCAVE, AFTER THE BATTLE...

NOW I'M WILLING TO BELIEVE THAT PELICAN HAD A PART IN THE JADE ROBBERY, BATMAN, AND SOME HUMAN BRAIN MUST BE DIRECTING THESE BIRDS IN CRIME! WHOSE?

I'M NOT SAYING WHOSE, BUT I THINK WE BOTH CAN GUESS!

NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, THE DYNAMIC DUO PROWL LIKE A PAIR OF HUNTING PANTHERS--AND ONE DARK NIGHT...

A SWANK LAWN PARTY--AND A PRETTY GIRL STARTING TO CUT THE BIGGEST CAKE I EVER SAW!

THAT'S SHEILA VAN SVELT'S BIRTHDAY PARTY! THE GUESTS WILL BE LOADED DOWN WITH JEWELS!

AS THE ENORMOUS CAKE IS CUT OPEN...

BATS! OH-H-H!

LIGHTS OUT, NIPPER! CUT THOSE WIRES!

I'M GOING TO FAINT!

-Hi Fellows! The NEW

LIONEL TRAINS

Catalog is Ready



SEE THE NEW
DIESEL LOCOS-
and the marvelous
DIESEL SWITCHER

Boy! — I'll bet you and dad are planning a new and bigger LIONEL Railroad for this Christmas! Lots of new LIONEL locos, cars, and accessories to choose from! You know, boys, nobody but LIONEL gives you true railroad realism. The new 1949 catalog tells all about the famous LIONEL smoke puffing locos, the built-in real R.R. whistles, and the sensational Lionel Electronic Railroad. LIONEL Train Sets priced from as little as \$15.95.

See Lionel trains at
your favorite store.

WRITE FOR THE CATALOG TODAY!

LIONEL TRAINS

LIONEL TRAINS, P. O. Box 139
Madison Square Station, New York 10, New York

I enclose 10c. Please send me the new 40-page,
full-color Lionel Train Catalog for 1949.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____



BATMAN



WHILE FRIGHTENED WOMEN AND CONFUSED MEN MILL IN THE DARKNESS, NIMBLE FIGURES DART AMONG THEM—AND NIMBLER ONES SWING IN!

A HIT-AND-RUN SNATCH JOB—with BATS TO START THE CONFUSION!

MY PEARLS!



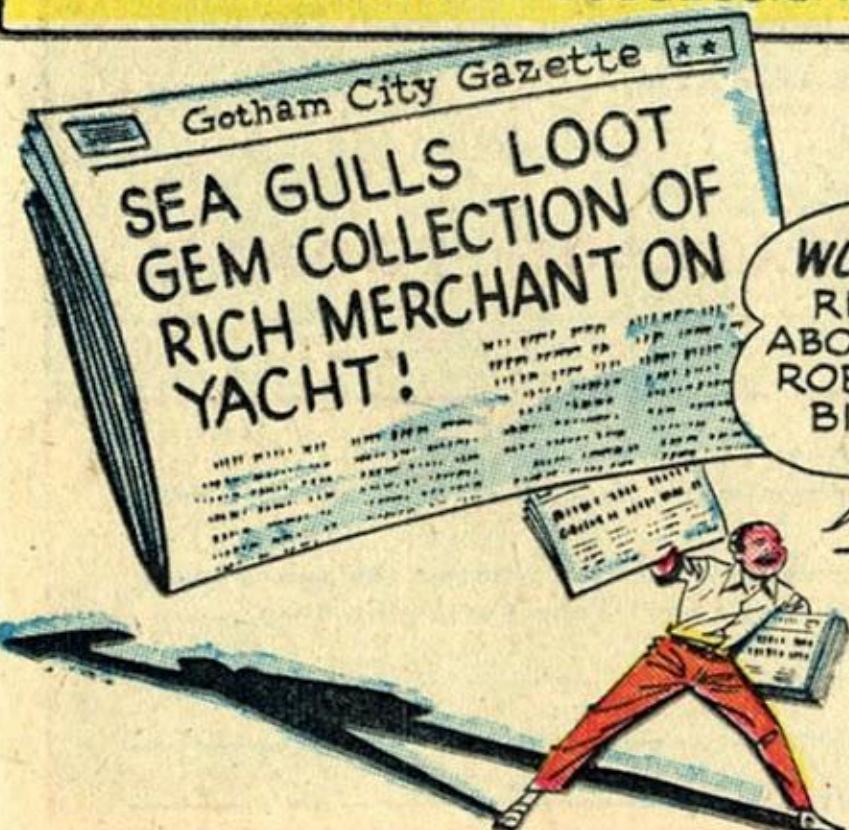
ANOTHER LURKER IN THE SHRUBBERY, BEING DISCOVERED, PROCEEDS TO MAKE HIMSELF INVISIBLE!

BATMAN! HERE'S SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T BELONG!

THE BATS DID THEIR JOB PERFECTLY, BUT--I'VE BEEN SPOTTED! THIS FOG-SCREEN WILL KEEP ME FROM BEING RECOGNIZED!



OTHER BIRD CRIMES, EVERY BIT AS INCREDIBLE, FOLLOW IN SWIFT SUCCESSION...



WUXTREE!
READ
ABOUT THE
ROBBER
BIRDS!

A HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN ACCEPTS AN ANONYMOUS GIFT OF A PAIR OF RARE UMBRELLA BIRDS FROM THE GUIANAS—TO HIS SORROW.

STOP THEM! THEY GOT OUT OF THEIR CAGE AND PICKED UP RADIUM WORTH HALF A MILLION!



BATMAN



ONE HUGE BIRD IS SHOT...

IT FLEW IN AND GRABBED THE BIGGEST BUNDLE OF CASH IN SIGHT! LUCKY I HAD THIS SHOTGUN HANDY, IN CASE OF HOLDUPS! WHAT IS IT, BATMAN?

AN INDIA VULTURE — BIGGER AND STRONGER THAN THE AMERICAN VARIETY!



ALWAYS THERE IS A PATTERN, INTENTIONAL OR ACCIDENTAL, TO SUCH A FANTASTIC SERIES OF CRIMES — AND BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEK IT.

HMM... THAT UMBRELLA BIRD MIGHT BE A CLUE TO A CERTAIN SOMEBODY WHO IS FOND OF UMBRELLAS...

I'VE FOUND IT, BATMAN! THIS BAT, STUNNED AT THE BIRTHDAY PARTY, AND DIFFERENT THAN THE ONES AROUND HERE, IS A NOCTULE BAT. IT'S FOUND IN MEXICO!

PELICAN
EAGLE
BAT
SEAGULL
UMBRELLA BIRD
INDIA VULTURE

THAT DOES IT, ROBIN! FOR SOME IDIOTIC REASON, THE MAN BEHIND THESE CRIMES HAS ACTUALLY TOLD US HIS NAME!

I DON'T GET IT!

BATMAN WRITES AND STEPS ASIDE, REVEALING...

PENGUIN— ALL BUT THE LAST LETTER! HE'S SIGNING HIS CRIMES! BUT WHY?

WE'LL FIND OUT WHEN WE'VE FOUND HIM — AND I KNOW HOW! WARM UP THE BATPLANE WHILE I DO A COUPLE OF THINGS.

PELICAN
EAGLE
BAT
SEAGULL
UMBRELLA BIRD
INDIA VULTURE

PELICAN
EAGLE
NOCTULE BAT
GULL
UMBRELLA BIRD
INDIA VULTURE

THRUST FORWARD BY SUPER-JETS, THE ONE AND ONLY BATPLANE RACES ACROSS THE SKIES — CARRYING THIS TIME A LIVE BAT.

BATS WILL FLY HUNDREDS OF MILES BY INSTINCT TO FIND THEIR OWN KIND, ROBIN. IF THE PENGUIN HAS OTHERS, THIS ONE WILL LEAD US TO THEM!

BUT HOW CAN WE FLY ON THE TRAIL OF A BAT AT NIGHT?

EVER HAVE ANY TROUBLE SEEING A FIREFLY AT NIGHT, AS LONG AS HE KEPT LIT UP?

GREAT! YOU GAVE HIM A COAT OF THAT NEW PHOSPHORESCENT PAINT WE DEVELOPED IN THE LABORATORY!

BATMAN



SO PRESENTLY...

HOO?

JUST US,
CHUM!

BUT THE PENGUIN, RETURNING FROM A
SECRET MISSION, IS FOREWARNED...

SO THEY FOUND MY
ROOST, DID THEY? WELL,
I'M PREPARED FOR
VISITS OF THIS KIND!

NEXT
INSTANT...

YOU'LL
FIND ME
AN
EGGCELLENT
HOST.
TEE-HEE.

YOU
GRINNING
JAILBIRD!

WHA-?
HEAD'S
UP!

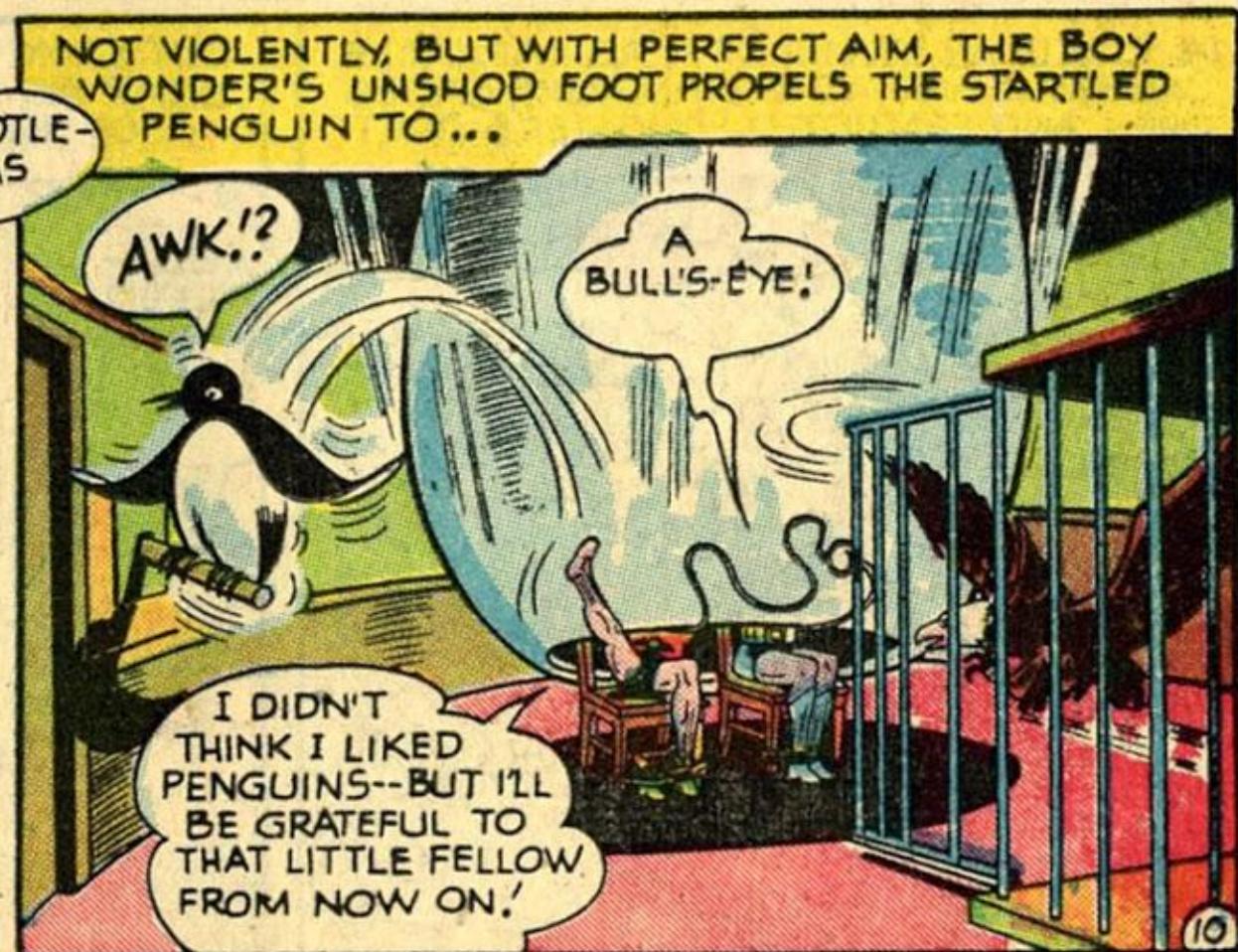
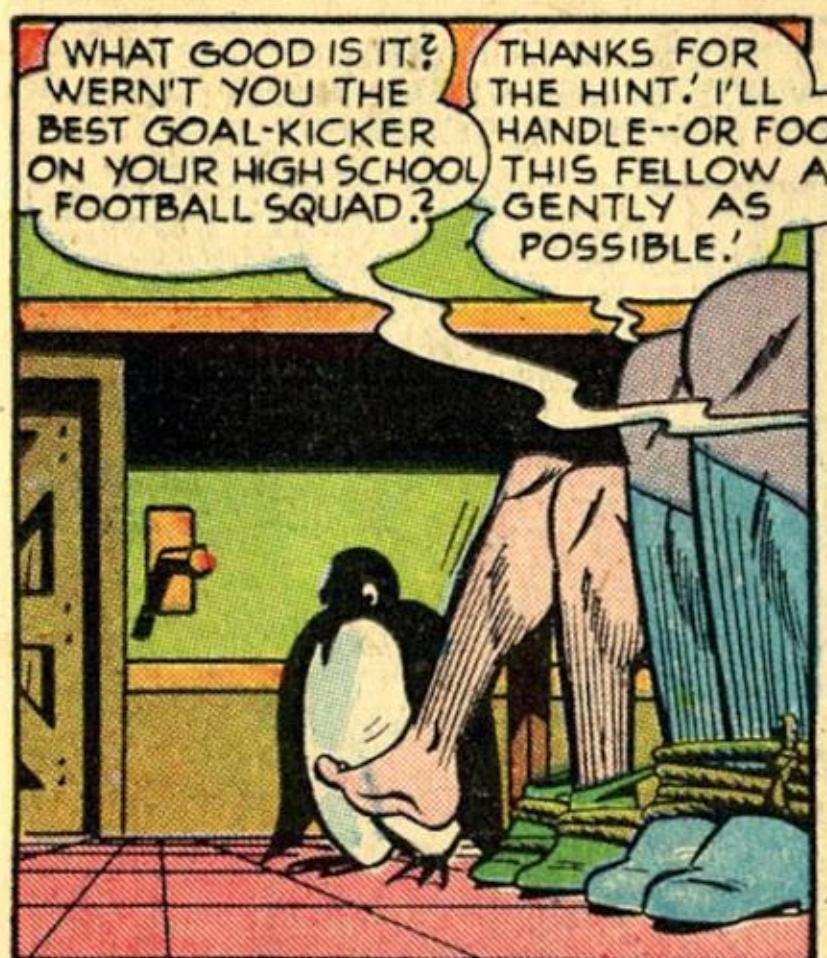
COUGH!
COUGH!

I'M
CHOKING!

A HARMLESS
GAS-- BUT IT'LL
LEAVE THEM
HARMLESS LONG
ENOUGH FOR ME
TO ARRANGE
THINGS!



BATMAN





BATMAN



HITCHING THEIR CHAIRS BACK TO BACK, THE PRISONERS WORK ON ONE ANOTHER'S BONDS WITH A KNOW-HOW BORN OF LONG PRACTICE...

IF WE CAN MAKE IT, I CAN GUESS WHERE THE PENGUIN'S HEADING—LOOSENING AND HE SAID HE HAD A PLANE!

WE CAN MAKE IT! THE KNOTS ARE LOOSENING ALREADY!

WHAT ABOUT THE EAGLES?

FEND THEM OFF WITH A CHAIR—BUT DON'T WASTE TIME FIGHTING THEM FOR THE FUN OF IT!

THEN, BOARDING THE PENGUIN'S OWN PLANE...

MORE FUN THAN A ROLLER COASTER! THAT DOME'S THE PLACE, EH?

IT'S THE CLUB NIGHTINGALE, OPENING TONIGHT—AND I SUSPECT THE PENGUIN IS OPENING IT!

BENEATH THE CRYSTAL DOME OF THE LOFTY GOTHAM TOWER, A GLITTERING THrong HAS GATHERED FOR THE NIGHT CLUB OPENING...

THAT MUST BE GUINPEN, THE MASKED MASTER OF CEREMONIES THE ADVERTISEMENTS TOLD ABOUT!

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, DEAR PEOPLE?

A CIRCULAR SWEEP OF A REMARKABLE UMBRELLA AND AS IF BY MAGIC, CAGES OPEN AND FEATHERED SONGSTERS DART INTO THE DOME...

IT ISN'T MAGIC, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- IT'S ONLY A MAGNETIC WAVE!

OH, CADWALLADER-- ALL THOSE NIGHTINGALES--ISN'T THAT CUTE?

BUT WHAT'S THIS?... NEAR-INVISIBLE THREADS SNAP AS WINGS BRUSH THEM--AND A SHOWER OF EGG-BOMBS DESCENDS!

EGGS-- FILLED WITH GAS! I -- CAN'T BREATHE-

MERELY A PARALYSIS GAS, CHUMPS, EFFECTIVE WITHIN A THREE-FOOT RADIUS! YOU'LL WAKE UP IN TEN MINUTES!



BATMAN



AND NOW—
ENTER THE
DYNAMIC
DUO!

BUT BY
THAT TIME --
SINCE THE
GAS ALREADY
HAS BECOME
HARMLESS - I'LL
HAVE COLLECTED
EVERY VALUABLE
JEWEL IN
THE PLACE!
HA, HA!

HERE WE
GO AGAIN,
FELLA!

IT
CAN'T
BE YOU AGAIN!
BUT JUST
IN CASE IT
IS—
OOPS!

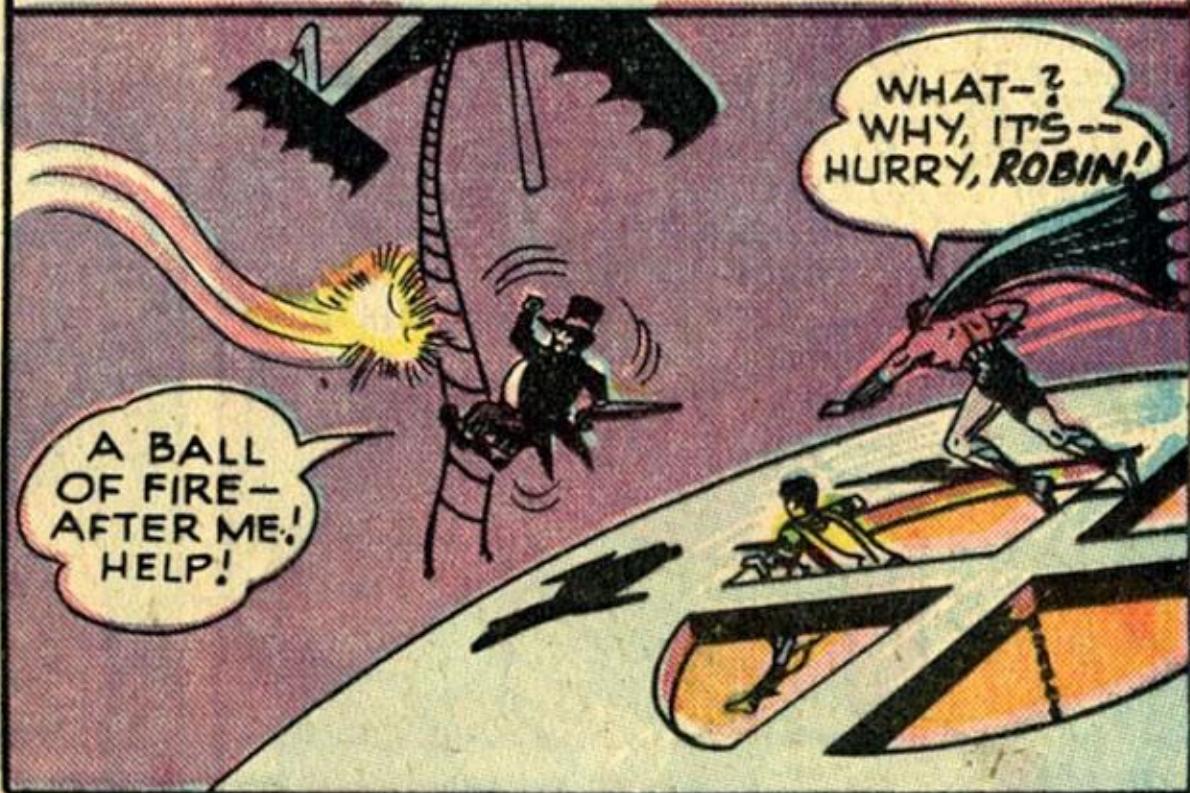
TOO LATE THE PUDGY VILLAIN SEES HIS PERIL! FLAME
SPITS FROM AN UMBRELLA-- AND BURNS EMPTY AIR!

FIREWORKS
WITH THE
FLOOR SHOW,
NO LESS!

ON THE ORCHESTRA STAGE, THE PENGUIN
LEAPS UPON A KETTLEDRUM--WITH
ASTONISHING RESULTS!



AS THE DYNAMIC DUO REACHES THE PEAK OF THE DOME
WITH THE AID OF BATMAN'S SILKEN ROPE...



PLUMMETING TO THE CURVE OF THE DOME, THE PENGUIN
SLIDES TOWARD THE THREAT OF DEATH HUNDREDS OF
FEET BELOW...

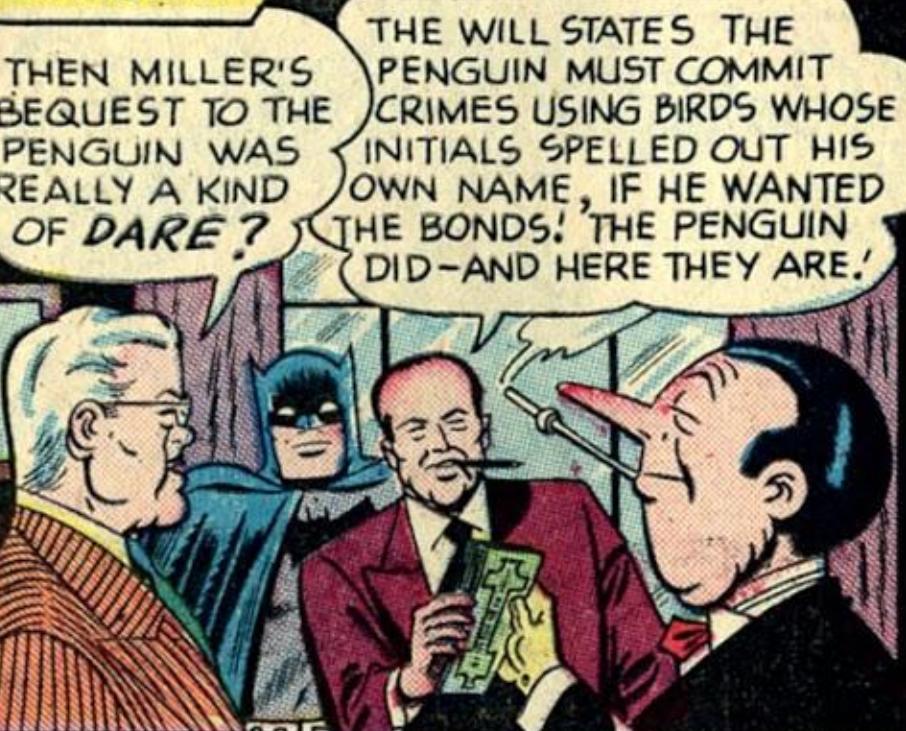


BATMAN

THOUGH MATCHLESS ACROBATS AND PARTNERS IN PERIL, SELDOM HAS THE PRECISION PAIR PERFORMED SO PERILOUSLY! A PLUNGE... A SICKENING SLIDE... AND AT THE VERY EDGE OF THE ABYSS...



LATER, WITH THE HELP OF INFORMATION FROM HORACE SPRINGER, THE WHOLE AMAZING STORY COMES OUT IN COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...



YET, EVEN IN THIS DARK MOMENT, THE PECULIAR PENGUIN CAN LAUGH!



ADVERTISEMENT

OUR BUNCH ALL MUNCH

WON'T YOU JOIN US, TOO?

NESTLÉ'S CRUNCH MILK CHOCOLATE

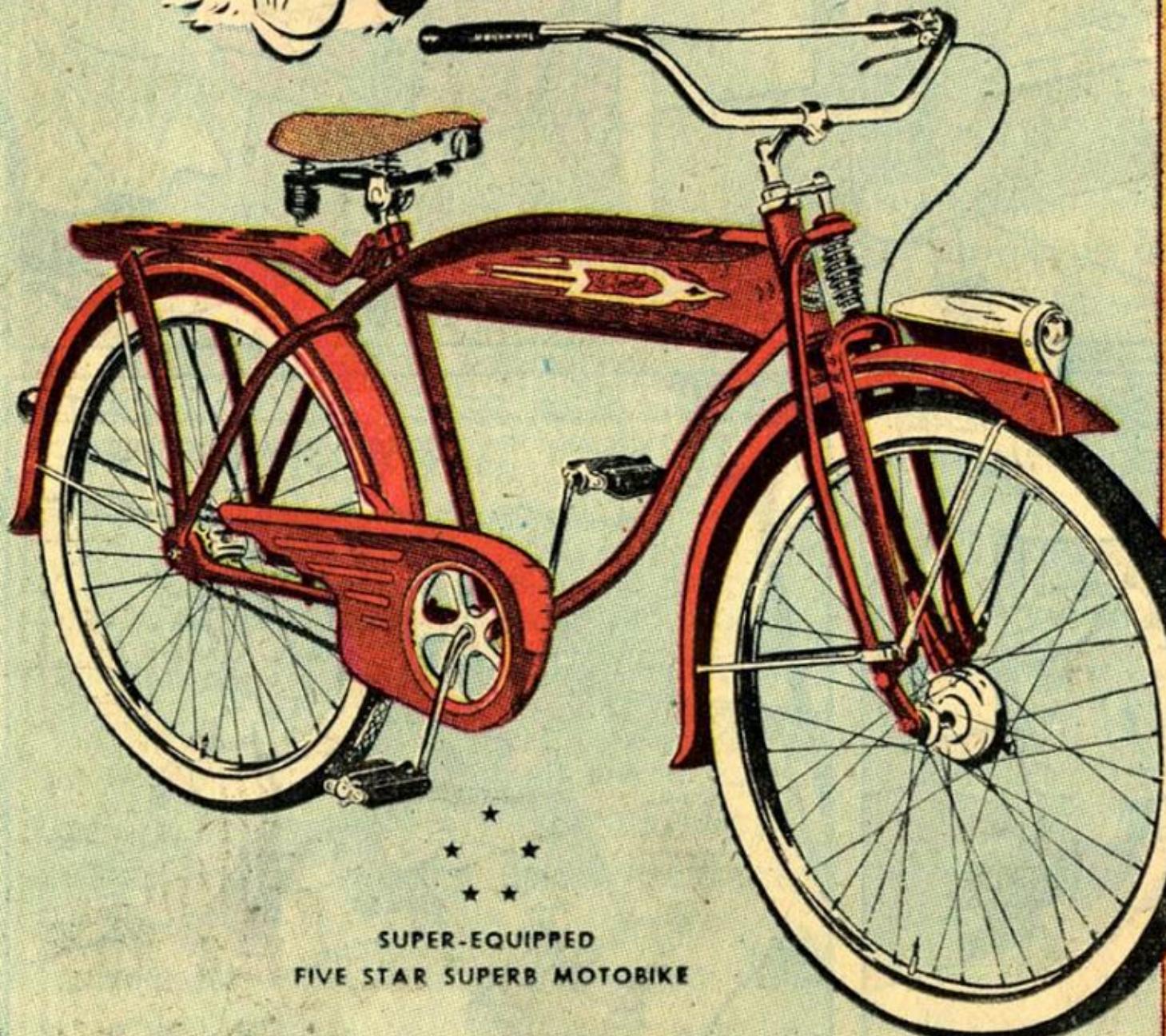
MFG. BY NESTLÉ SWISS CHOCOLATE CO., INC., BETHLEHEM, PA.

NESTLÉ'S CRUNCH

Delicious-Different



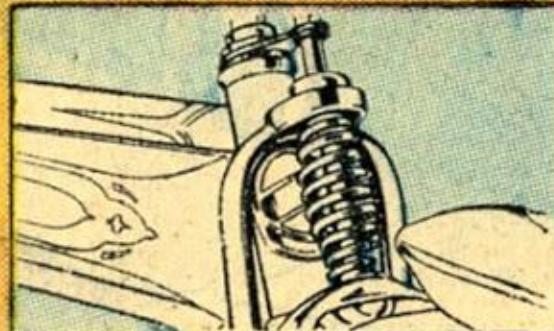
*Ps-s-st! Want this Great
Columbia Bike for Christmas?*



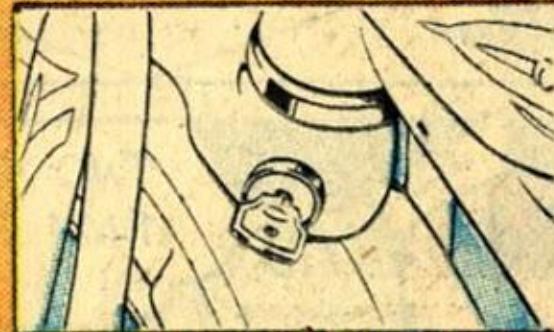
SUPER-EQUIPPED
FIVE STAR SUPERB MOTOBIKE

FOR CHRISTMAS, wouldn't you like to have the slickest, smartest bike that ever came down the pike? This new Columbia is a flashy dream of bright Duo-Tone Color, with gleaming chromium galore! It's got the new Columbia Floating-Action Spring Fork that makes the bumpiest road feel like velvet. It's got big, cross-braced handlebars with hand-operated front wheel expansion brake. It's got the super-safe Full Protection Chain Guard, the convenient Columbia Built-In Kick Stand, and other proud features aplenty. And of course, the Theft-Proof Protecto-Lock to safeguard such a wonderful bike!

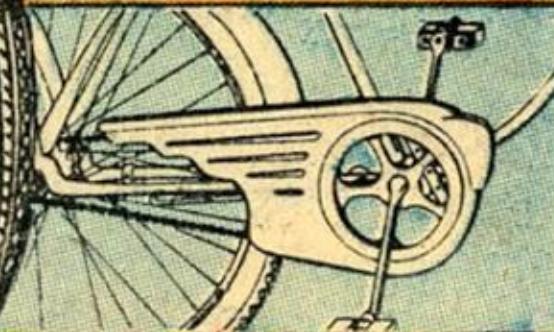
LET US HELP YOU GET IT! If you want this grand bicycle for Christmas we'd like to help you get it. Write name of your Father, Mother or Guardian on the coupon, and we'll send a catalog and letter saying that you want it, and telling all the reasons why it is the best bike for you!



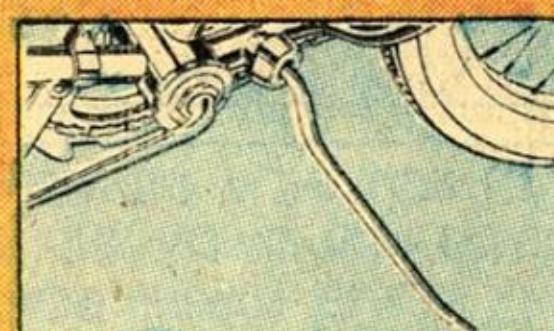
FLOATING-ACTION SPRING FORK
brings you the smoothest ride
of any bike on the road.



THEFT-PROOF PROTECTO-LOCK
locks front fork and handle bars,
safeguards your bicycle.



FULL-PROTECTION CHAIN GUARD
gives top and bottom protec-
tion, streamlines appearance.



BUILT-IN KICK STAND is incon-
spicuous, absolutely rigid in
use, easily operated.

MAIL THIS COUPON TODAY!



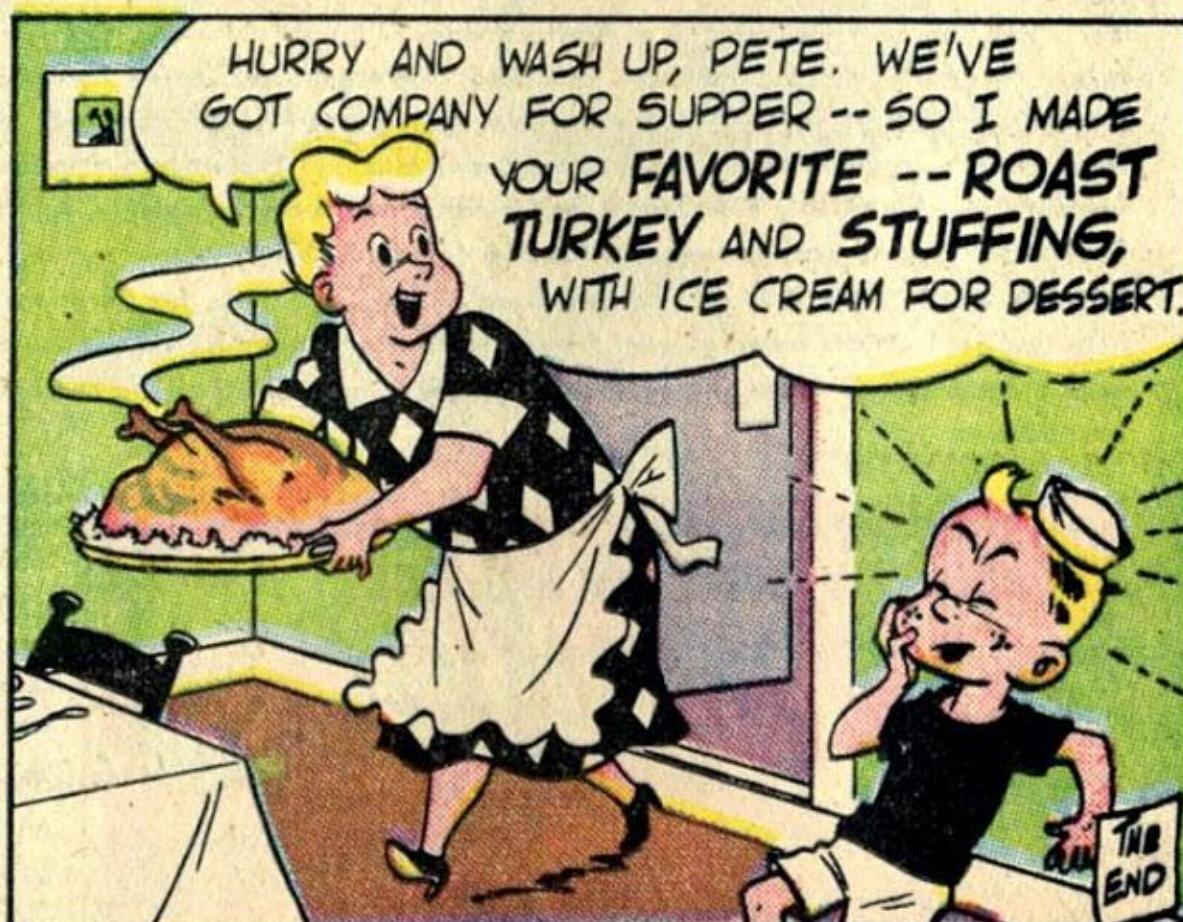
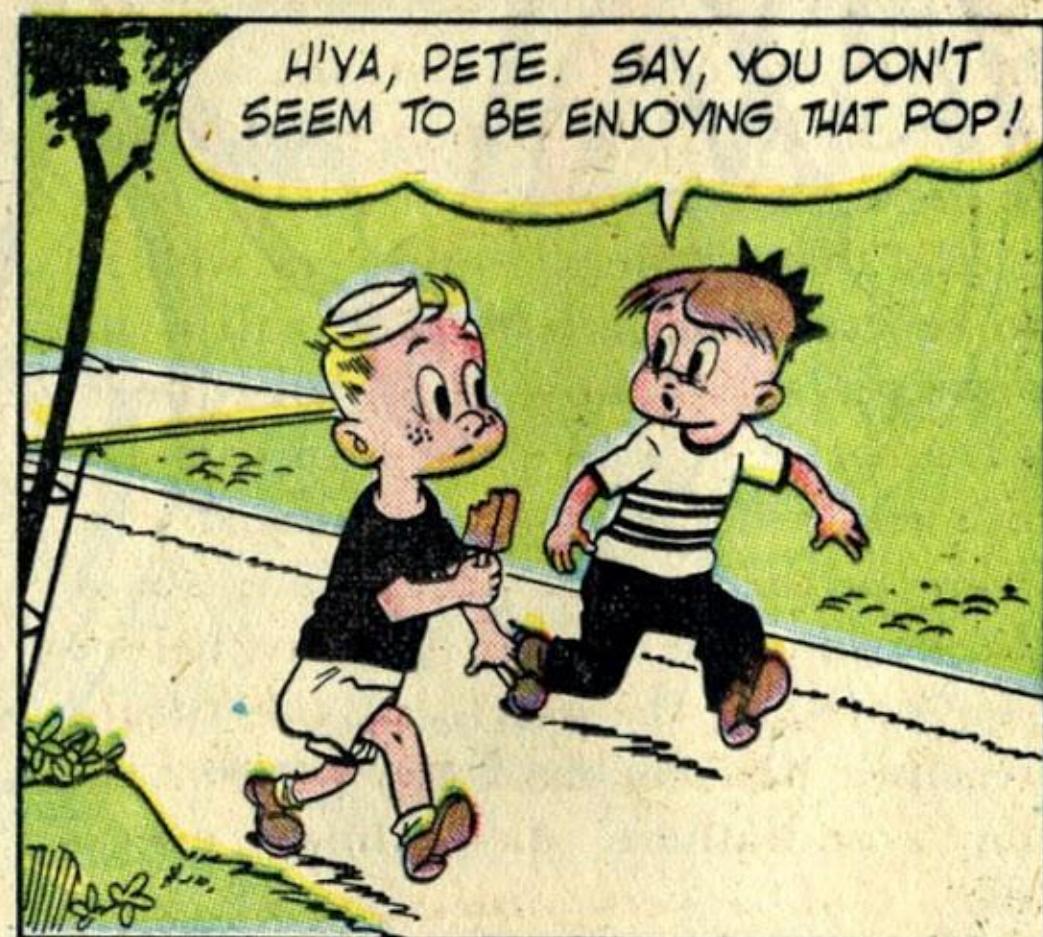
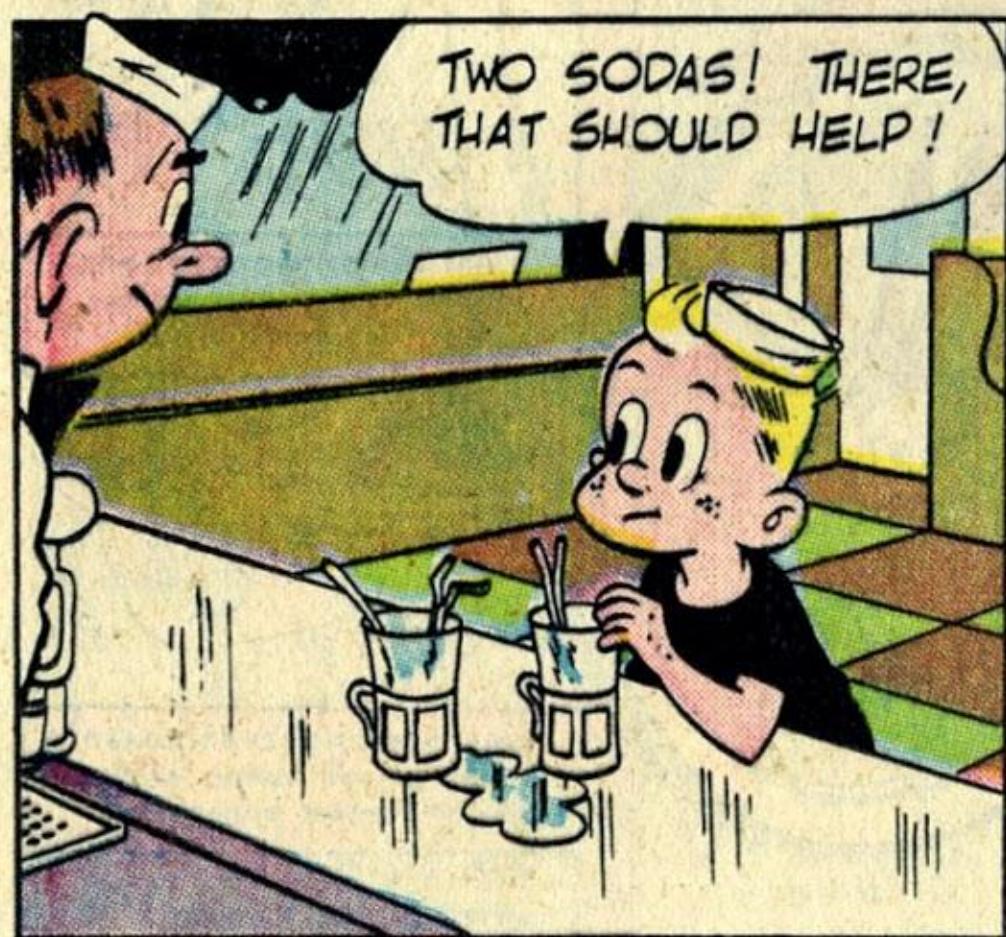
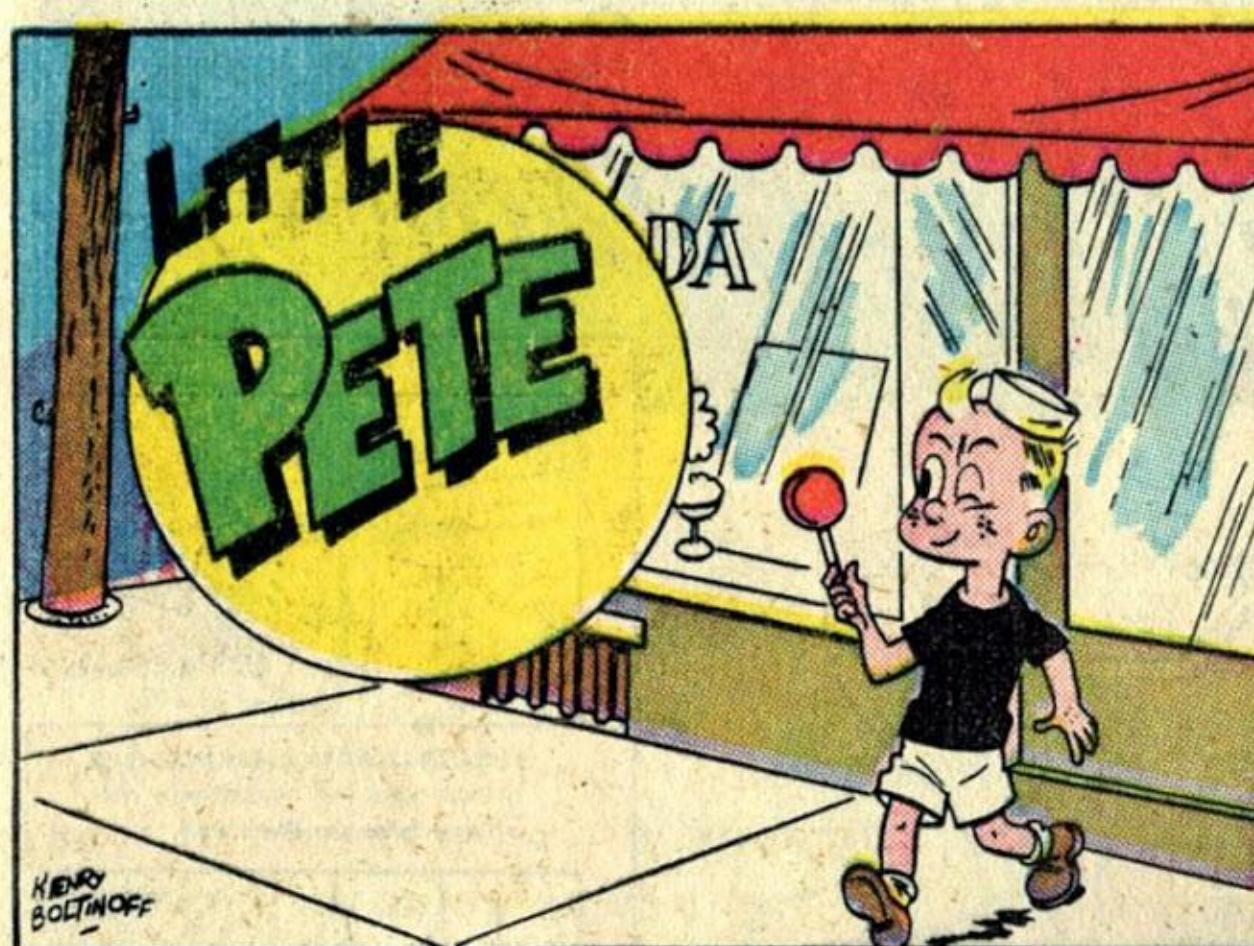
The Westfield Manufacturing Company
412 Cycle Street, Westfield, Massachusetts

(Fill in below and we'll send a big color catalog and a letter telling your folks why a shiny new Columbia is the best present Santa Claus could bring you!)

My name _____ Age _____

My Father's Name _____

Address _____



W-H-O-O-S-H

-and You're There!



"WE made up our minds at the last minute to go to Buenos Aires yesterday. Dad had something to talk over with the South American office, and wanted to do it in person; we had a quick lunch at home, and made Buenos Aires before dinner."

And that, readers, could very well be an excerpt from a letter you will write some years from now. It probably doesn't surprise you. We have, in this age of science, come to accept almost anything in the way of predictions about the world of the future. Anyway, before you know it, the world of the future becomes the world of the present. In our grandfathers' day, almost everybody took a very dim view of "progress." Telephones, radios, automobiles, electricity, and flying were all considered nightmares of impractical dreamers. Even when they made their appearance, there were still a few die-hards who maintained stubbornly that these "newfangled" inventions would soon disappear.

But in this day and age, nothing is impossible. We are on the brink of the *rocket age*. During the last war, we became accustomed to the work of rockets—deadly work, and terrifying. Now, however, with the hope of eternal peace in mind, scientists are beginning to see

the actuality of putting rockets to work for humanity instead of against it. Soon, we may very well be seeing the rocket age with its many contributions to a better way of life.

Ten years ago, there were scientists who claimed that jet-propelled craft couldn't work. Now, scientists are talking of reaching other planets, such as Mars and Venus.

You may ask, to what uses can rockets be put? Aside from super-speed for world-girdling passengers, there must be some other practical reasons for rockets.

Actually, scientists are thinking of rocket travel, not so much for people, as for research into cosmic problems, hitherto never solved.

Within a few months, a well-developed course in rocket study will start at two of the nation's leading centers for rocket research. Princeton University and the California Institute of Technology will turn their attention to the planning of peacetime rocket uses.

One of the outstanding phases of rocket research is high altitude findings. From New Mexico, V-2 rockets have zoomed off into the stratosphere, carrying photographic equipment, instruments of all kinds for weather measuring, and other gadgets for determining what goes on above us. A recent trip

by a V-2 rocket is known to have soared 250 miles upwards into space.

Weather may be forecast exclusively by rockets in the not too distant future. The method used today is balloon ascension. Instruments are placed in the balloon, which is sent aloft. But the balloon has many disadvantages for weather findings. They tend to drift and are subject to all sorts of uncertainties. Small rockets, it is hoped, may be put into use for meteorological experiments. They could penetrate any kind of weather, and would be controlled in such a way that they would bring back weather reports to a designated spot.

High altitude rockets have already proved to be of enormous value in photography, mapping problems, searching for lost aircraft, etc.

Not long ago, rockets bearing photographic equipment reached altitudes of 60 to 80 miles, returned to earth, and revealed many things. The camera is usually smashed in such trips back to earth, but the film is always intact.

Astronomers, too, are very excited about the future of high altitude rockets. At this time, astronomers have had to be content with pictures and sights of the sun, stars, and planets through a

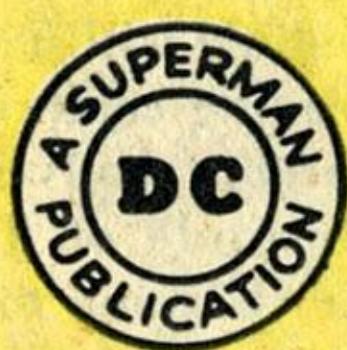
thick haze of the earth's atmosphere—some 200 miles of it to be exact. By day, the stars are invisible because of sunlight. By night, the impressions of the stars reach us without many of their natural characteristics, such as ultra-violet and other wave-lengths. It is hoped that rocket photography may disclose the nature of the universe.

Other hopes that may become realities are the swift delivery of mail all over the world, transportation of express items, etc., that bid fair to make the telegraph system look obsolete.

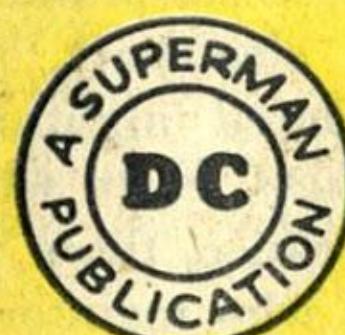
But even more exciting to contemplate, of course, is the idea of you rocketing around from here to there just as comfortably and calmly as you might ride a bike or take a train trip.

Experiments being conducted now give evidence that there will be a long-range rocket craft for passenger use. Such transcontinental or trans-oceanic flights will be the final and hopeful goal of a true One World.

You want to spend an afternoon with a Chinese farmer, watch the machine production in a factory in Hungary, buy some cheese in Denmark, bring a gift back for Susy from Persia? Rocket away! The time is near.



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BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

WE DON'T NEED
YOU ON THIS CASE,
BATMAN! WE'VE
GOT AN EXPERT!

BOB
KANE



FOR YEARS, THE MIGHTIEST ALLIES OF THE POLICE IN THEIR UNCEASING WAR AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD HAVE BEEN THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRIME-CRUSHERS--THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! ALWAYS, THE POLICE HAVE BEEN GRATEFUL FOR THE INTREPID DUO'S HELP--ALWAYS, UNTIL NOW! FOR SUDDENLY THE DYNAMIC DUO IS OUTDONE BY AN AMATEUR SLEUTH THE POLICE REGARD AS...

"A GREATER DETECTIVE THAN BATMAN!"

BATMAN

IN THEIR PRIVATE GYM, BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON ARE ENGAGED IN THEIR REGULAR DAILY WORKOUT...

A SWELL IDEA TO WORK OUT TO RADIO MUSIC, BRUCE!

IT HELPS GET THE NECESSARY RHYTHM, ALL RIGHT!

A SWIFT CHANGE OF COSTUME, AND FROM THE HIDDEN BATCAVE ROLLS THE MIGHTY BAT-MOBILE!

THAT'S FUNNY--I DON'T SEE THE BAT SIGNAL CALLING US YET!

IT WILL, IN A MOMENT!

SUDDENLY, A STARTLING INTERRUPTION BREAKS THEIR ROUTINE!

WE INTERRUPT THE MUSIC FOR A NEWS-FLASH! THE NOTORIOUS CRIMINAL "SPEC'S" ROSE JUST STAGED A ROBBERY OF INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS DOWNTOWN!

"SPEC'S" ROSE ON THE LOOSE AGAIN! THAT MEANS COMMISSIONER GORDON WILL BE CALLING FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN!

BUT AS MINUTES PASS, AND THE DUO RACES INTO GOTHAM CITY...

STILL NO BAT-SIGNAL! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE POLICE?

WE'LL SOON FIND OUT!

YOU DIDN'T CALL US BY THE BAT-SIGNAL, COMMISSIONER, BUT WE CAME ANYWAY WHEN WE HEARD OF THAT ROBBERY!

WE DIDN'T CALL YOU, BATMAN, BECAUSE WE DIDN'T NEED YOU! JACK STARR, THE GOTHAM EXPRESS CRIME REPORTER, HAS ALREADY CRACKED THE CASE!

POLICE
COMMISSIONER
GORDON

WHAT, ALREADY? THAT'S MIGHTY FAST WORK, STARR!

IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY!

DON'T BE SO MODEST, STARR! IT WAS A BRILLIANT PIECE OF DETECTION! LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT IT, BATMAN!



BATMAN



"IT STARTED WHEN SPECS ROSE SLUGGED THE WATCHMAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL DIAMOND COMPANY, RIGHT NEXT TO THE GOTHAM EXPRESS OFFICE!"



"THIS DESPERATE CRIMINAL FORCED THE SAFE AND CARRIED OFF SEVERAL BIG CASES OF INDUSTRIAL DIAMONDS USED IN DRILLS, WORTH THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS!"



"CRIME REPORTER JACK STARR, FROM THE EXPRESS NEXT DOOR, WAS ON THE SCENE FIRST, AND FOUND A CLUE!"

SAY, THIS SLIP IS A TOLL-BRIDGE RECEIPT! IF THE BANDIT CAME THAT WAY, HE'D GO BACK THE SAME WAY TO HIS HIDEOUT!



"STARR PHONED THAT BRIDGE IN TIME TO HAVE ALL CARS BLOCKED AND SEARCHED, AND..."



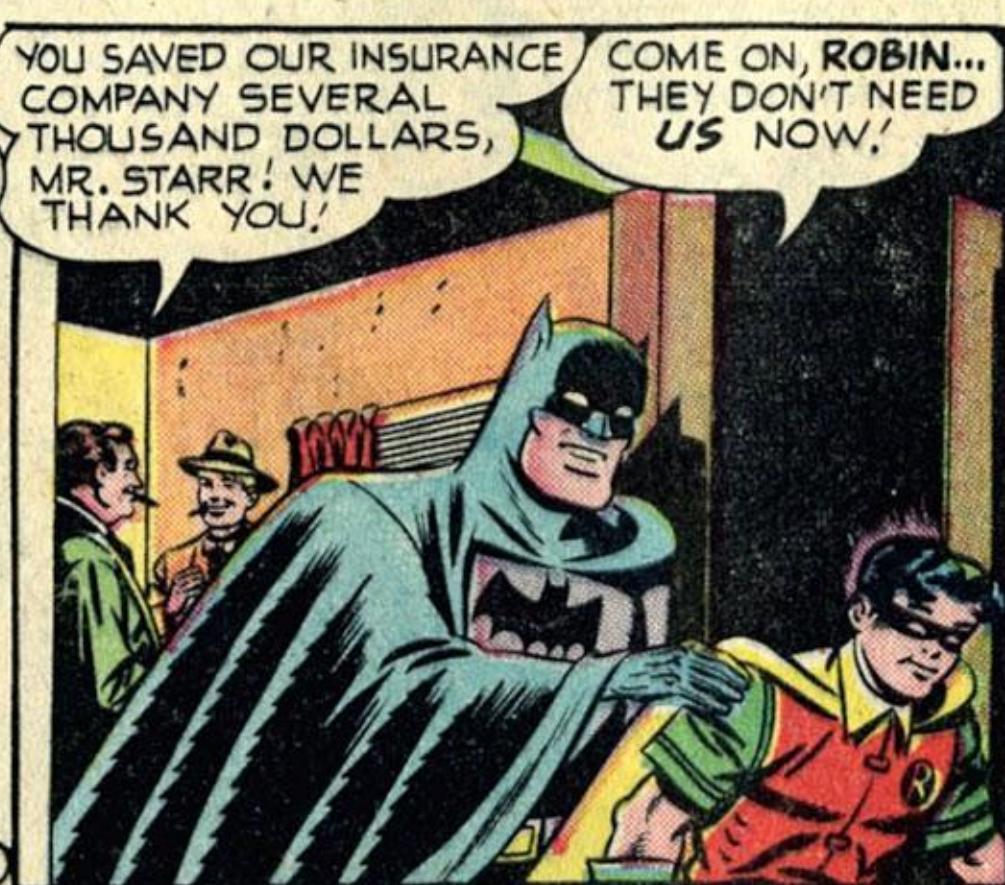
I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!

SPECS ESCAPED ON FOOT, BUT HIS CASES OF LOOT WERE TOO HEAVY TO CARRY AND SO WE RECOVERED THEM--THANKS TO JACK STARR!

GEE, MR. STARR, THAT WAS SLICK SLEUTHING!

YOU SAVED OUR INSURANCE COMPANY SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS, MR. STARR! WE THANK YOU!

COME ON, ROBIN... THEY DON'T NEED US NOW!





WAIT,
BATMAN!

IT'S VICKI VALE,
THE PICTURE MAGA-
ZINE PHOTOGRAPHER
-- SHE'S GOING TO
GUM THINGS UP
FOR US AGAIN!

JACK STARR WAS JUST LUCKY!
HE CAN'T COMPARE WITH **YOU**
AS A DETECTIVE -- AND I'LL SEE
YOU GET AS MUCH PUBLICITY
AS HE DOES!

WE'RE NOT AFTER
PUBLICITY, VICKI, BUT TO CATCH
SPEC'S ROSE! I'VE AN IDEA
HE'LL STRIKE SOON AGAIN!

THE NEXT NIGHT, AS THE DYNAMIC
DUO PATROLS GOTHAM CITY IN
THEIR POWERFUL **BATMOBILE**...

BURGLAR ALARM
SOUNDING AT ACME
CHEMICAL CO.

THAT SOUNDS
LIKE SPEC'S.
LET'S GO!

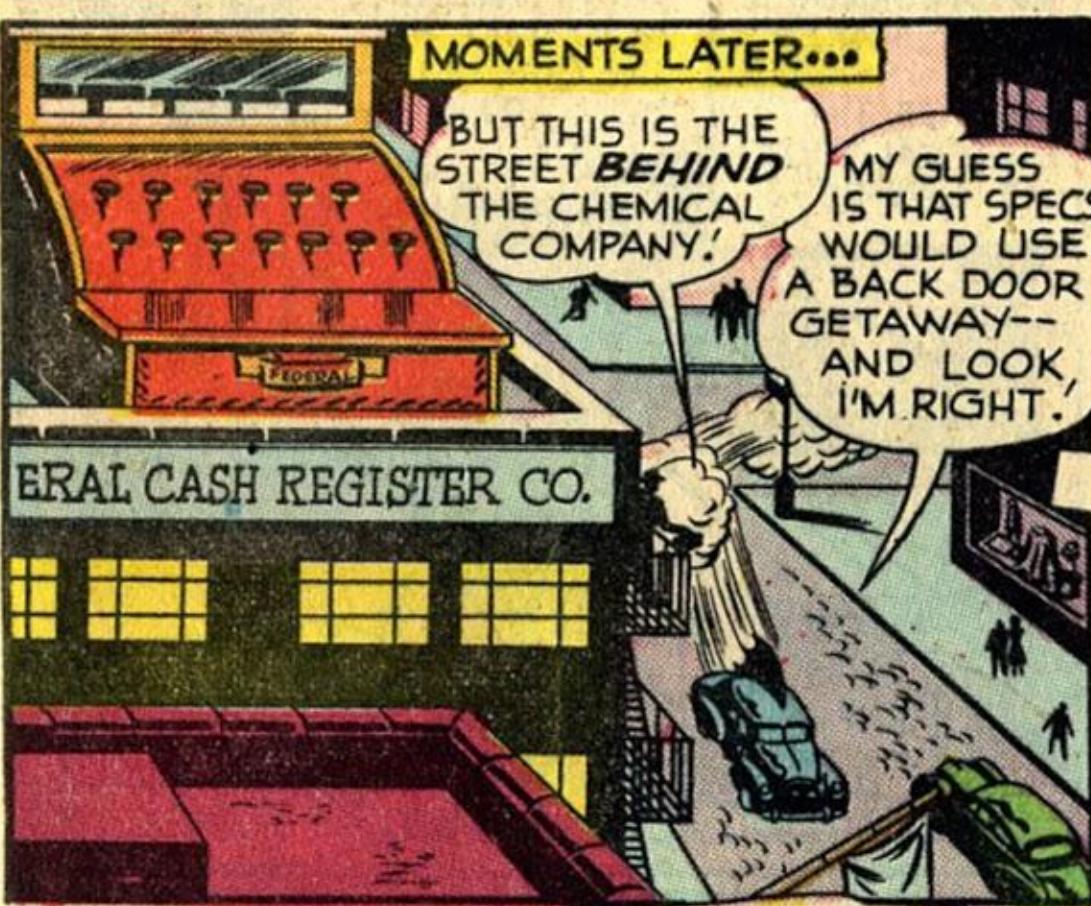


MOMENTS LATER...

BUT THIS IS THE
STREET **BEHIND**
THE CHEMICAL
COMPANY!

MY GUESS
IS THAT SPEC'S
WOULD USE
A BACK DOOR
GETAWAY--
AND LOOK,
I'M RIGHT.

AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** CLAMBER UP
THE FIRE ESCAPE AFTER SPEC'S, VICKI VALE
CATCHES THE SCENE THROUGH THE VIEW
FINDER OF HER CAMERA...



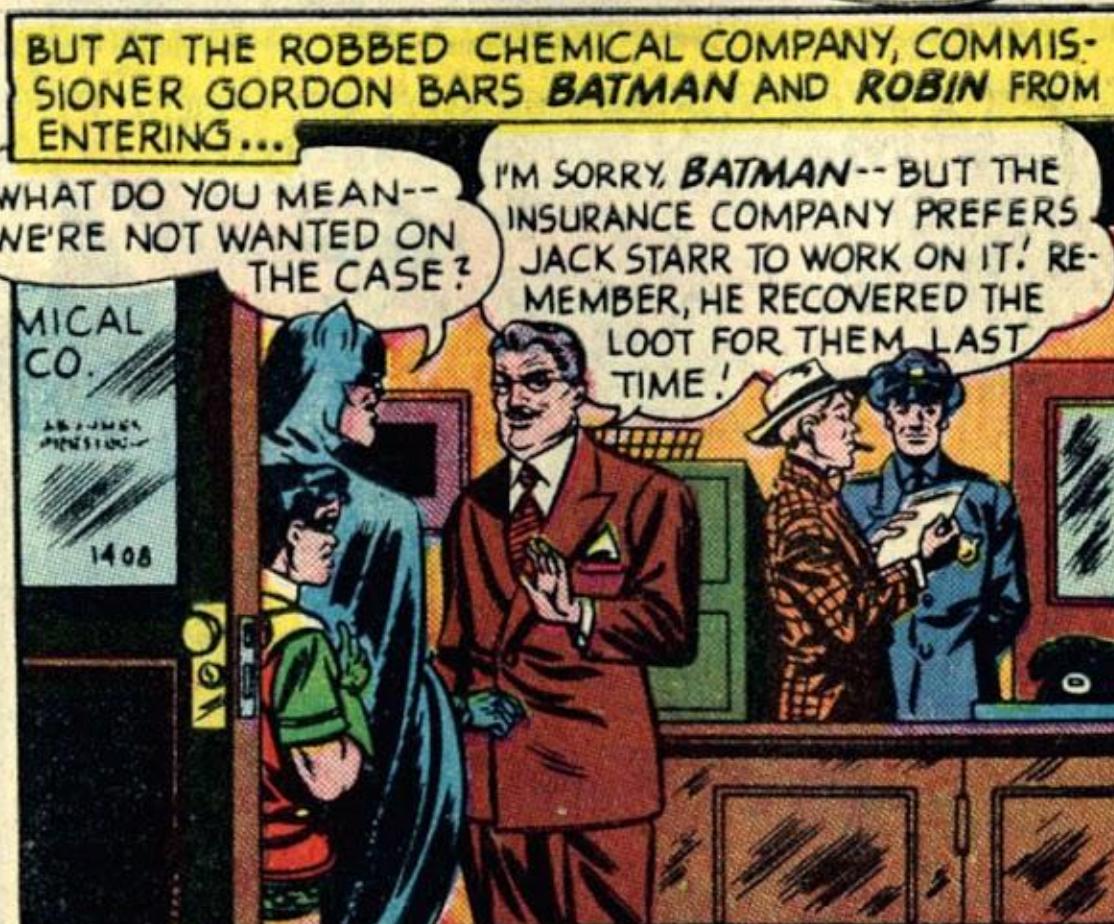
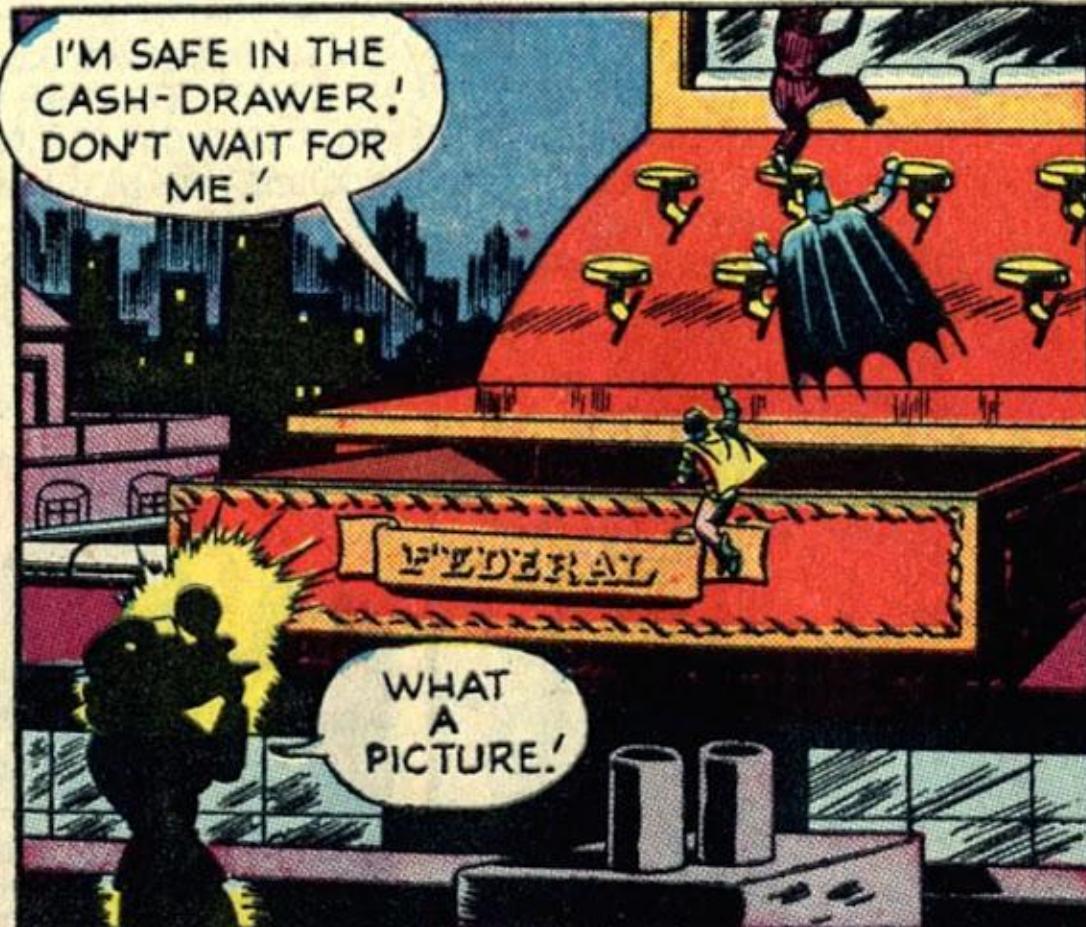
BETTER GIVE UP, SPEC'S!
YOU'RE CORNERED!

I KNEW YOU'D
BE HERE WHEN
I HEARD THAT
FLASH, **BATMAN**! I'LL
GET SOME SHOTS OF
YOU IN ACTION THAT
WILL MAKE JACK
STARR LOOK SICK.

VICKI,
STAY
BACK!



NOT THIS TIME,
BATMAN!
THIS TIME IT'S...



CONTINUED ON SECOND PAGE FOLLOWING

This mammoth bridge is made entirely of Erector girders. So strong it can support 200-lb. man.

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World's greatest construction toy
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Gilbert
Hall of Science

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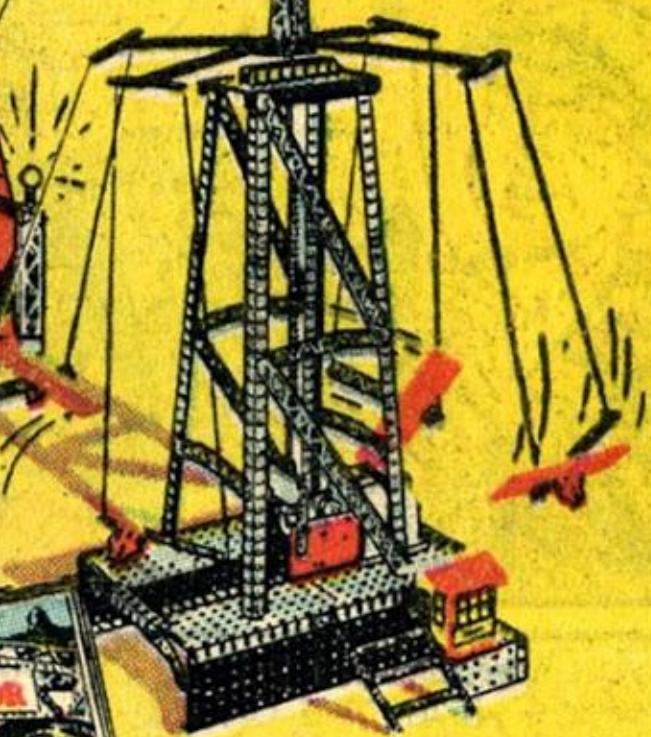


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BATMAN

MEANWHILE, JACK STARR, THE AMAZING AMATEUR DETECTIVE BEGINS HIS SLEUTHING ...

HE GOT ONLY A FEW HUNDRED DOLLARS WORTH OF PLATINUM, MR. STARR. HERE'S AN EMPTY BOX HE LEFT BEHIND WHEN HE COULDN'T FILL IT WITH LOOT.

WHY, THIS IS A FROZEN-FOOD CARTON! IT SAYS "ARCTIC FOOD LOCKER" INSIDE IT! BETTER CHECK THAT LOCKER AT ONCE!

YOU GUessed IT, MR. STARR! HE'D CACHED THE LOOT AWAY IN A PUBLIC FOOD-LOCKER!

AGAIN YOU'VE SAVED OUR INSURANCE COMPANY MONEY, MR. STARR.

LATER...

AGAIN OUTSHINES BATMAN AS DETECTIVE.

IT MAKES ME SICK! ANYONE COULD DO WHAT HE DID, WITH SUCH OBVIOUS CLUES!

FORGET IT-ROBIN AND I ARE GOING TO KEEP SEARCHING THESE STREETS FOR SPECS!

THE NEXT DAY, WHEN VICKI VISITS THE GOTHAM EXPRESS OFFICE...

THE IDEA OF YOU COMPARING YOURSELF TO BATMAN!

AW, HE'S A LITTLE OVERRATED. AND WHY DON'T YOU STOP SPYING ON ME, MISS VALE, AND GO BACK TO YOUR OWN MAGAZINE?

PHONE FOR YOU, JACK--ONE OF YOUR NEWS-TIPS, I GUESS.

YOU SAY YOU JUST SAW SPECS NEAR THE UNDER-SEA SALVAGE COMPANY? I'LL GET THERE PRONTO!

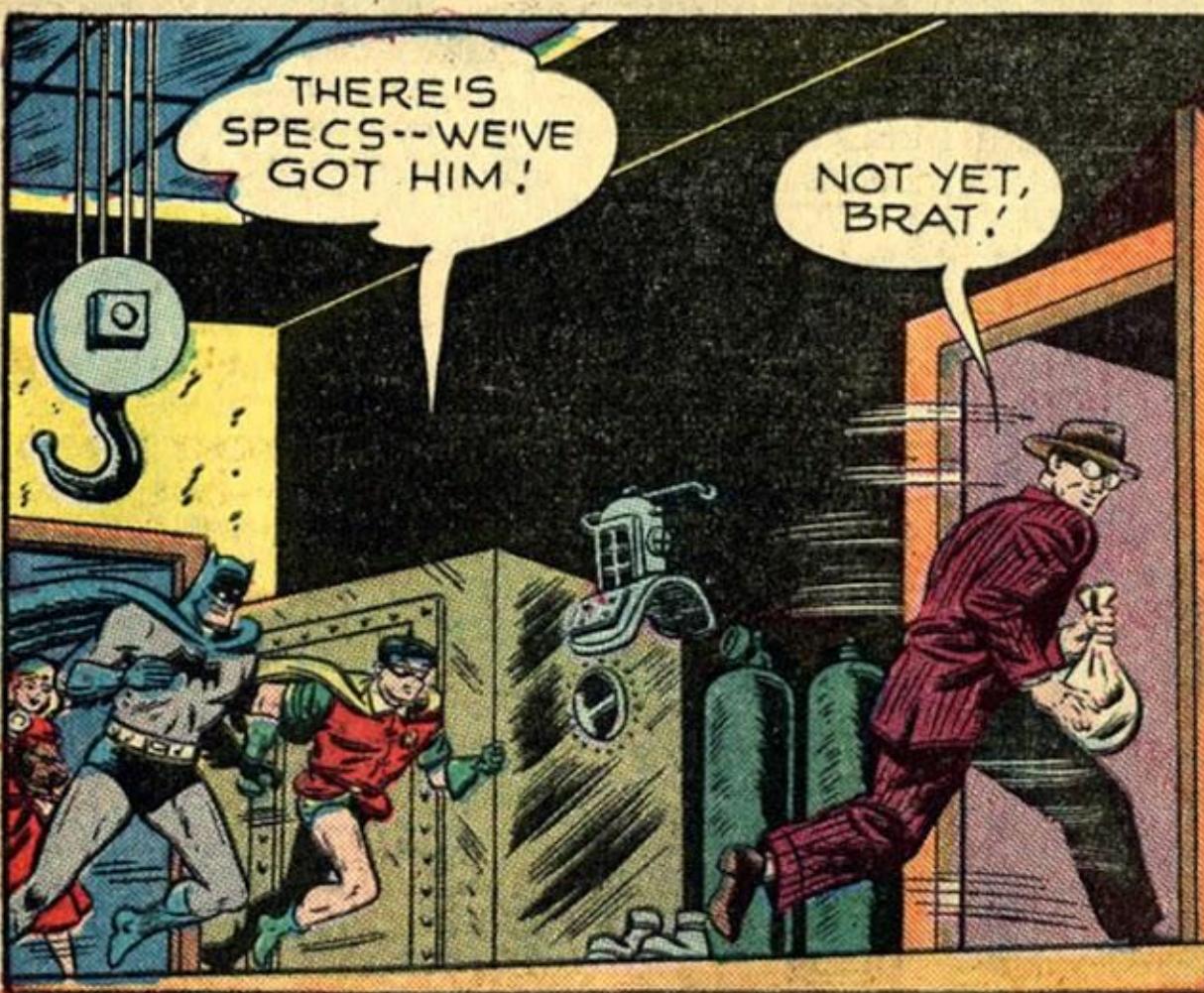
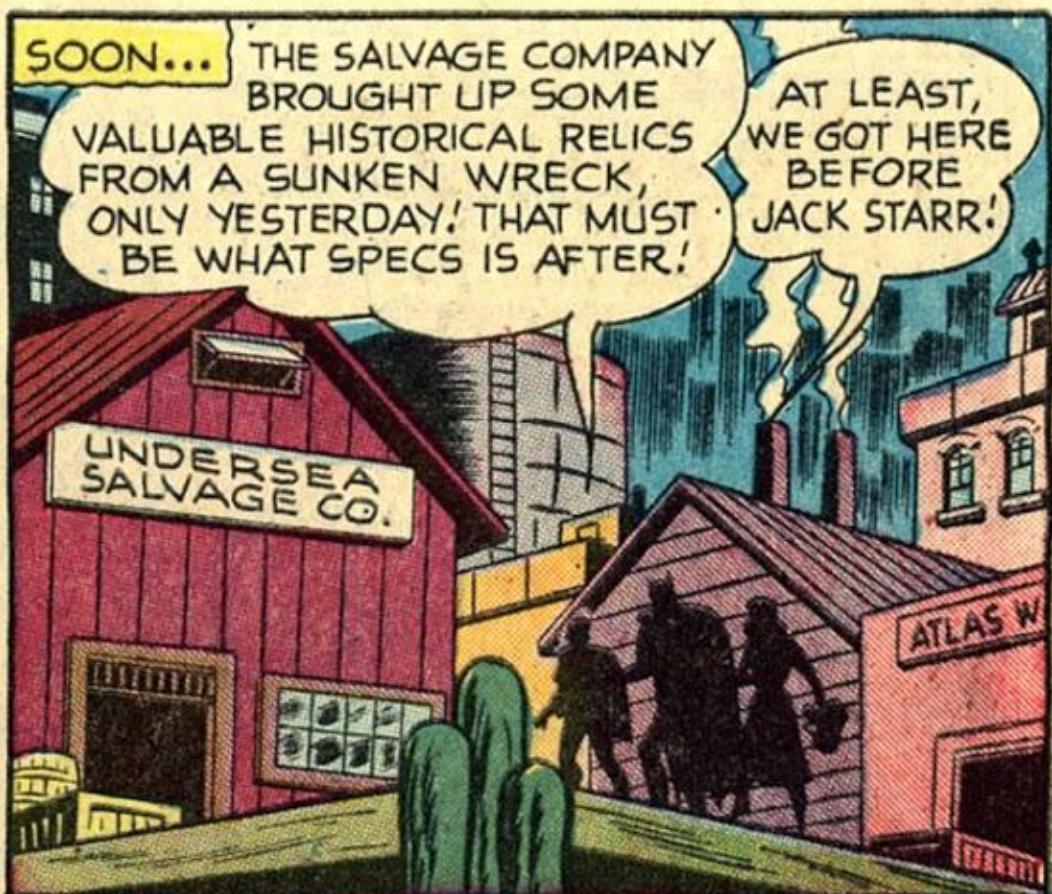
I'VE GOT TO TELL BATMAN THIS AT ONCE!

MOMENTS AFTERWARDS...

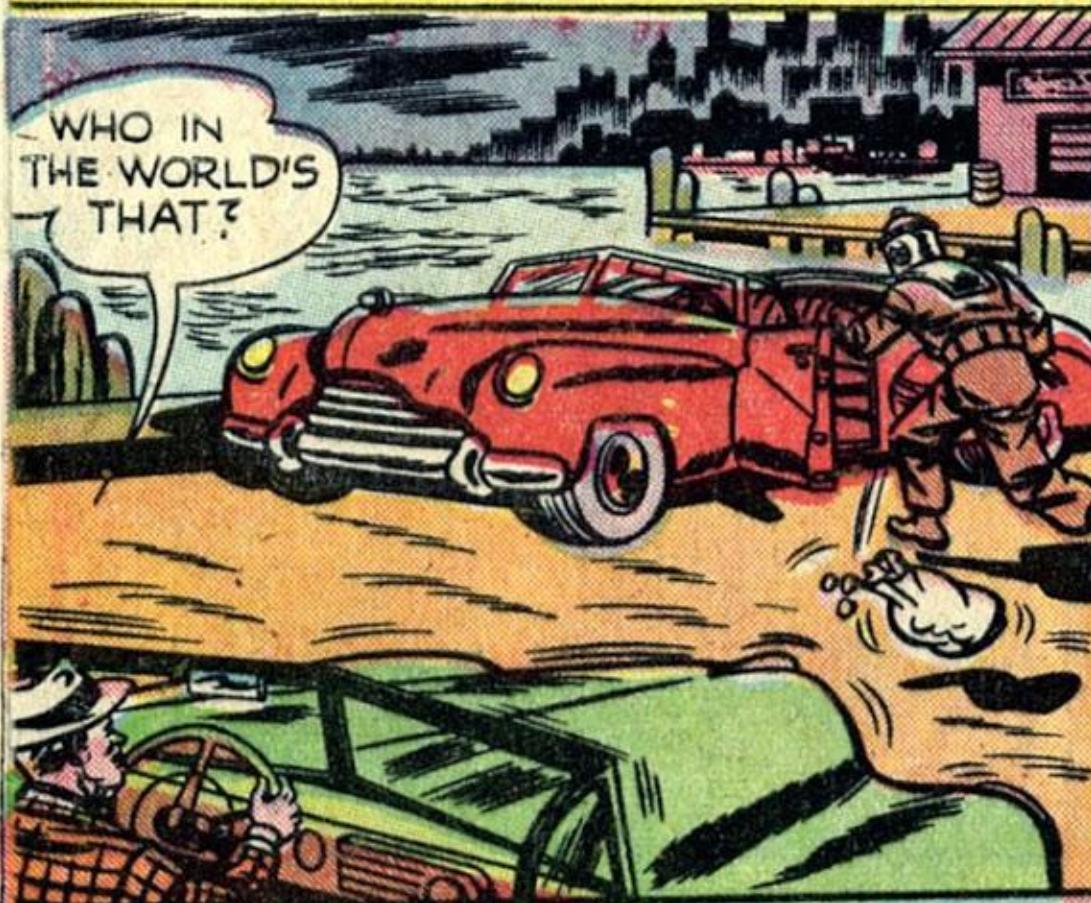
BATMAN, SPECS IS PROWLING AROUND THE UNDER-SEA SALVAGE COMPANY!

THAT'S ALL I WANT TO KNOW! I KNOW A SHORT-CUT THERE!

BATMAN



BUT AS JACK STARR RACES ONTO THE SCENE...



MOMENTS LATER, WITH A BANDIT AGAIN ESCAPED...



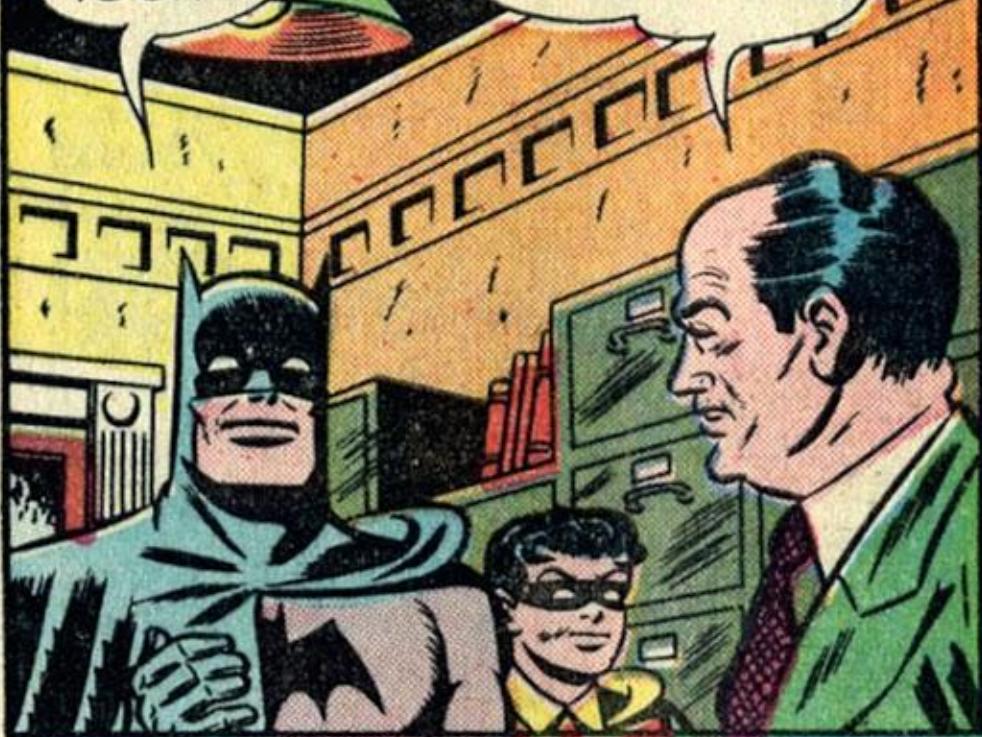
IT'S MY FAULT HE GOT AWAY FROM YOU! AND AGAIN JACK STARR RECOVERED THE LOOT BY SHEER LUCK!

I BELIEVE SPECS IS PLAYING A DEEP GAME! LET'S GO BACK TO THAT INDUSTRIAL DIAMOND COMPANY HE FIRST ROBBED!



WAS ALL THE LOOT RECOVERED THAT SPECS ROSE TOOK?

ALL OF IT, EXCEPT ONE DIAMOND-DRILL. BUT THAT WASN'T MUCH LOSS!



EACH TIME, SPECS GOT AWAY WITH SOMETHING HE WANTED--A DIAMOND DRILL, A FLASK OF POWERFUL ACID, AND NOW A DIVING SUIT! HE'S PLANNING SOME BIG CRIME AND NEEDS THOSE THINGS FOR HIS COUP!

BUT WHY DID HE TAKE THE OTHER LOOT, AND THEN LET STARR RECOVER IT?



I BELIEVE THAT WAS A BLIND, SO NOBODY WOULD NOTICE THE OTHER THINGS HE TOOK AND GUESS HIS PLANS!

WHAT CRIME CAN HE BE PLANNING? WHAT ROBBERY COULD HE COMMIT WITH A DIVING SUIT?





BATMAN



I'VE AN IDEA ON THAT! SEE THAT RAILROAD TRESTLE? A BIG BANK-CURRENCY SHIPMENT IS COMING IN BY TRAIN THIS WAY, TODAY!

A DIAMOND-DRILL, ACID, A DIVING SUIT--**BATMAN**, NO! IT WOULD BE TOO TERRIBLE A CRIME EVEN FOR SPECS ROSE!

BUT AT THAT MOMENT ON THE STEEL TRESTLE...

EVEN THIS SUPER-STRONG STEEL IS LIKE CHEESE TO A DIAMOND-DRILL!

AND THIS ACID WILL QUICKLY EAT INTO THE GIRDER, SO IT WILL COLLAPSE UNDER THE NEXT TRAIN! ONCE THE TRAIN'S CRASHED INTO THE RIVER, I CAN SAFELY GET THE CURRENCY OUT OF IT WITH MY DIVING SUIT!

WE'LL GO DOWN AND INVESTIGATE THOSE GIRDERS! IT'LL SOON BE TIME FOR THE TRAIN.

THWACK!
BATMAN,
SOMEONE'S
SHOOTING
AT US!

LOOK, DRILL-HOLES FILLED WITH ACID! THIS TRESTLE WILL COLLAPSE UNDER A TRAIN'S WEIGHT!

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM QUICKLY! **ROBIN**, YOU'RE THE LIGHTEST AND WILL FLY FARTHER... SO, OUR OLD TRAPEZE THROW!

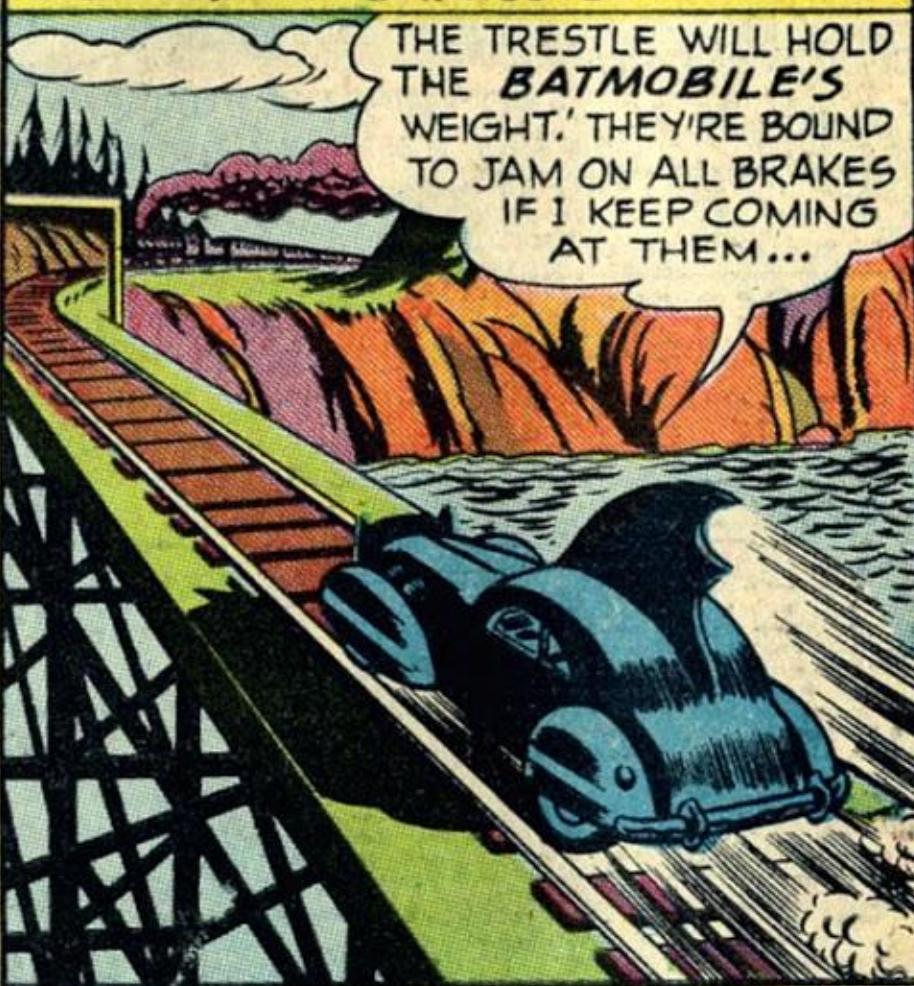
READY!



A MOMENT LATER... SURE I PLANNED IT-- AND BUILT UP JACK STARR BY PLANTING OBVIOUS CLUES FOR HIM TO FIND SO YOU WOULDN'T GET ON THE CASE AND GUESS WHAT I WAS PLANNING! BUT YOU'RE TOO LATE TO SAVE THAT TRAIN!



STRAIGHT TOWARD IMMINENT DESTRUCTION THUNDERS THE BATMOBILE!



LATER, AFTER SPECS ROSE HAS BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE.

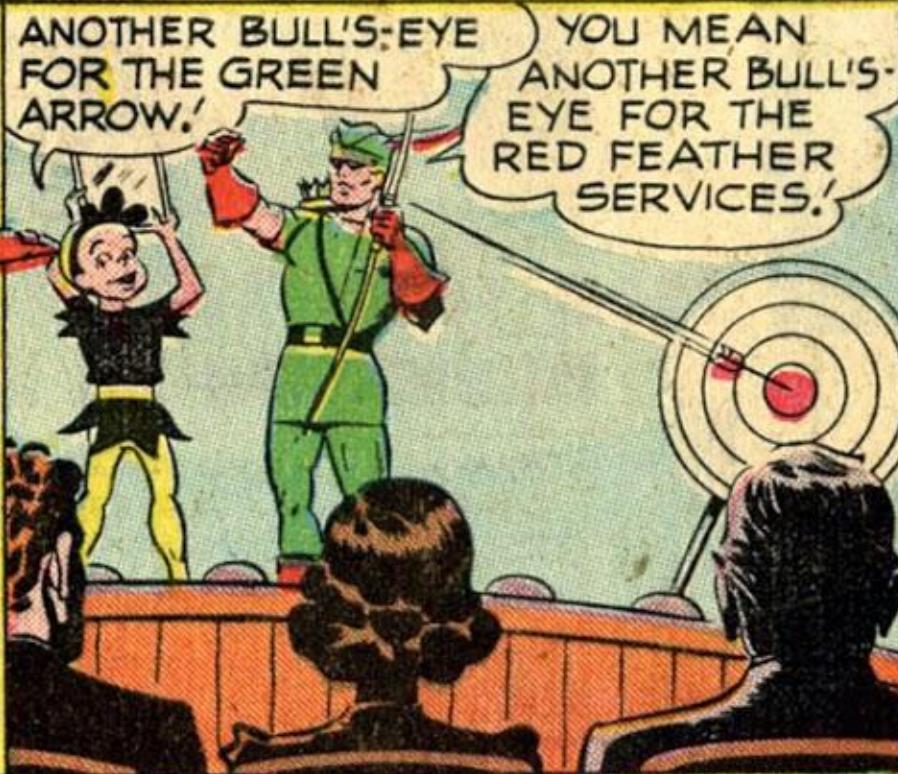
FROM NOW ON, I'LL REPORT CRIME, BATMAN-- AND LEAVE IT TO YOU TO STOP IT. AND HERE'S MY APOLOGY.



THE GREEN ARROW

and the Red Feather Kid

IN A PACKED AUDITORIUM, A THRILLED CROWD WATCHES THE GREEN ARROW, WORLD'S FOREMOST ARCHERY EXPERT, DISPLAY HIS WIZARDRY WITH THE BOW AND ARROW...



I'VE DISCARDED MY USUAL GREEN-FEATHERED ARROWS AND USED THESE RED-FEATHERED ONES FOR A SPECIAL REASON -- TO EMPHASIZE THE RED FEATHER, A SYMBOL OF SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE AGES... LIKE THIS ONE THE RED FEATHER KID WEARS IN HIS CAP...



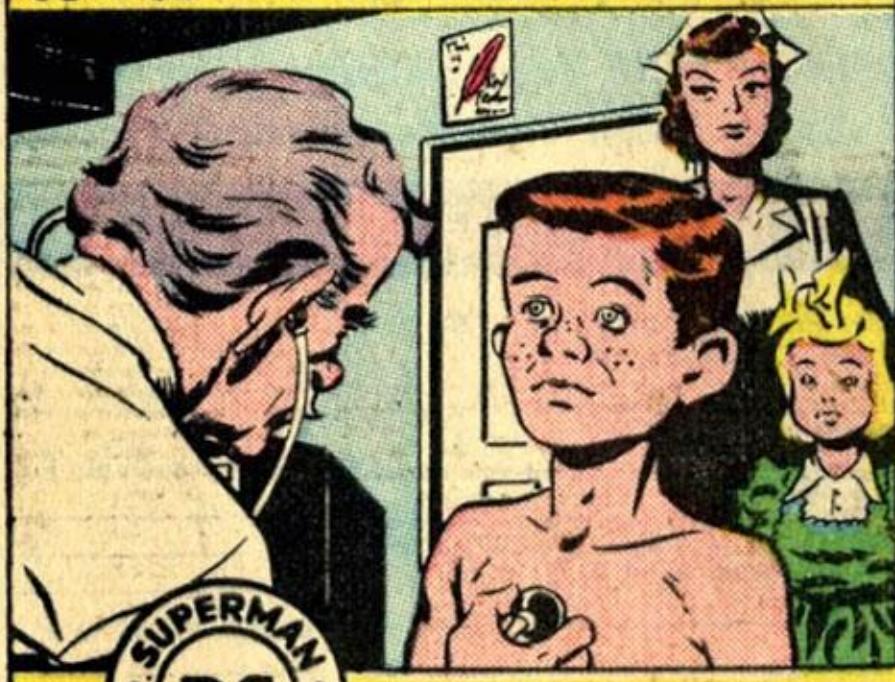
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"... SERVICES FOR YOUNGSTERS IN DAY NURSERIES, SETTLEMENT HOUSES AND FOSTER HOMES..."



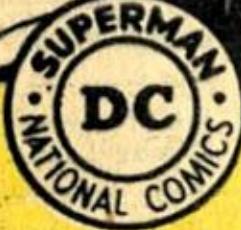
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SERVICES! REMEMBER, IT'S "A FEATHER IN YOUR CAP" TO WEAR A RED FEATHER!



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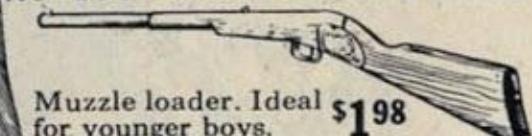
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