

12¢

BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

FEB.
NO. 145

BATMAN II
and ROBIN II
MEET
*"The SON of
THE JOKER!"*

IRONICALLY,
MY SON, WHO IS
NOW THE NEW
ROBIN, IS
OVERCOMING THE
SON OF MY OLD
ENEMY, THE
JOKER!





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Dear Boys and Girls:

First, we would like to thank you for having bought this DC magazine, even though it cost you two cents more than usual. Obviously, you like our magazine and consider our stories worth the extra two pennies. That makes us feel mighty proud!

However, we think we owe you an explanation as to why it was necessary to raise our price, after successfully publishing comics for over 25 years at 10¢. Over these past years the cost of producing our magazines has steadily risen. We have to pay more for art, engraving, paper and printing. You, too, have to pay more for most of the things you buy. U.S. Post Cards, which used to cost only 1¢, are now 3¢. Sodas and telephone calls were a nickel, now they are double that, ten cents. Hot dogs also were a nickel, now they are at least a dime, 15¢ in most places. Everything costs more today than just a few years ago. Your parents have to pay more for food, clothing and rent.

The retailer who sold you this magazine has also been affected by rising costs, and so has the company that delivered the magazine to him. All of us will share the additional two cents. Although some of our competitors are now charging 15¢ for the same size comic magazine that we produce, we feel that 12¢ adequately covers our rising production costs, and is therefore a much better value for you.

We feel confident that you understand the necessity for this slight adjustment, and will remain loyal fans. For our part, we promise to redouble our efforts to maintain the same high standards of publishing that have produced the world-famous line of SUPERMAN-DC Comics.

Sincerely yours,

The Editors

P.S.: Our GIANT ANNUALS will still cost only 25¢!

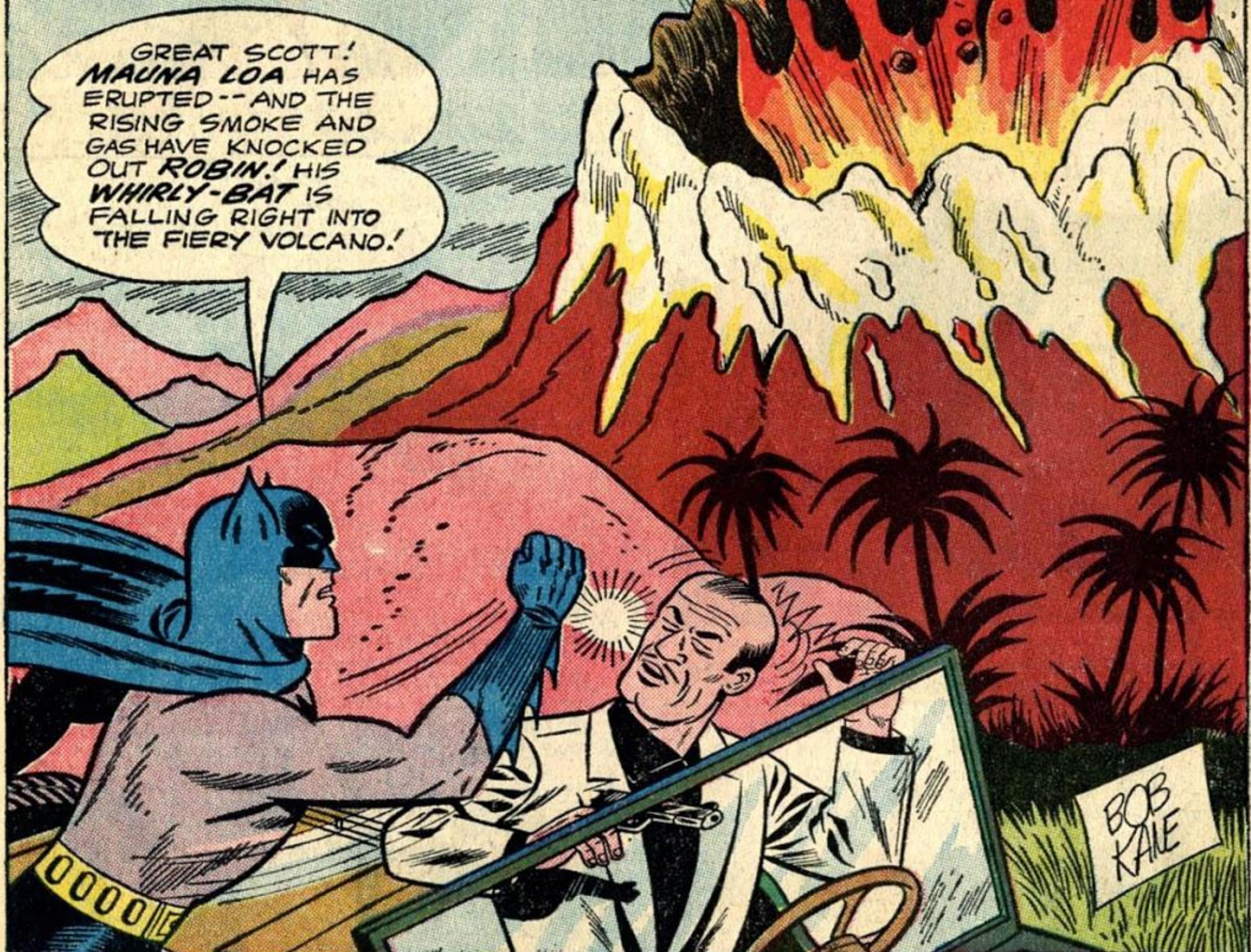
ACROSS THE PACIFIC LIES A GROUP OF FABULOUS ISLANDS THAT ARE CALLED THE HAWAIIAN ARCHIPELAGO--ISLANDS THAT COMPRIZE OUR NEWEST STATE--HAWAII! HERE, IN THIS LAND OF SUN AND SURF, TWO CRIME-FIGHTERS ARRIVE TO TRACK DOWN A CUNNING CRIMINAL! FROM THE LAVA CRATER OF MAUNA LOA VOLCANO, TO THE MOUNTAIN-STRADDLING CANE FIELDS, BATMAN AND ROBIN FOLLOW A STRANGE QUEST IN THEIR...

HUNT for MR. 50

BAT-MAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

GREAT SCOTT!
MAUNA LOA HAS
ERUPTED--AND THE
RISING SMOKE AND
GAS HAVE KNOCKED
OUT ROBIN! HIS
WHIRLY-BAT IS
FALLING RIGHT INTO
THE FIERY VOLCANO!



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BATMAN



IN GOTHAM CITY, BATMAN AND ROBIN PULL A SURPRISE RAID AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF A NOTORIOUS FENCE...

GEMS--WRAPPED IN RICE PAPER! THEY'RE THE ONES STOLEN FROM AUSTRALIA! THIS IS OUR FIRST BREAK IN CRACKING THE DIAMOND-SMUGGLING RACKET!

TALK, BRODY-- WHO GAVE YOU THE GEMS?

SOME GUY--I DON'T KNOW HIS NAME! HE IDENTIFIES HIMSELF WITH A \$50 BILL-- BECAUSE HIS BOSS IS CALLED MR. 50!

THE MYSTERIOUS MR. 50 WHOM NO ONE'S EVER SEEN! THAT TALLIES WITH WHAT WE'VE LEARNED! WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIS HIRELING?



NOTHING--EXCEPT THAT HE USES STRANGE WORDS! ONCE, WHEN I TRIED TO CUT DOWN MY PRICE, HE CALLED ME A KAKU!

"KAKU"-- AND WE KNOW THE GEMS ARE SMUGGLED IN FROM OVERSEAS! IT'S ALL STARTING TO ADD UP!

LATER, AFTER THE FENCE IS JAILED--THE SLEEK BAT-PLANE JETS SKYWARD...

ROBIN--THE WORD "KAKU" MEANS "BARRACUDA" IN HAWAIIAN! AND REMEMBER, THE SMUGGLING BOSS IS KNOWN AS MR. 50!

I GET IT! HAWAII IS OUR 50TH STATE...THAT MEANS MR. 50 MAY HAVE HIS HEADQUARTERS IN HAWAII!



SOON AFTER, IN THE OFFICE OF THE HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT...

THUS, HOURS LATER, OVER THE ISLAND GROUP AFTLY CALLED, "THE JEWEL OF THE PACIFIC"...

BATMAN AND ROBIN--I'M HONORED! HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

FIRST, I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK AT SOME RICE PAPER THAT WAS WRAPPED AROUND SMUGGLED DIAMONDS!



BATMAN

AFTER BATMAN EXPLAINS WHAT HE KNOWS OF THE MYSTERIOUS MR. 50...

RICE PAPER HAS CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS! THIS TYPE IS MADE HERE BY JAMES CHOW, THE PAPER MAKER! BUT I KNOW MR. CHOW-- HE'S AN HONEST MAN!

STILL, I WOULD LIKE TO TALK TO HIM!



LATER, AS THE LAWMEN THREAD THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CITY'S CONTESTED CHINATOWN...

SOME SORT OF CELEBRATION GOING ON?

IT IS THE CHINESE NEW YEAR! THE USUAL PARADE WILL START ANY MINUTE! WELL -- HERE'S CHOW'S SHOP!



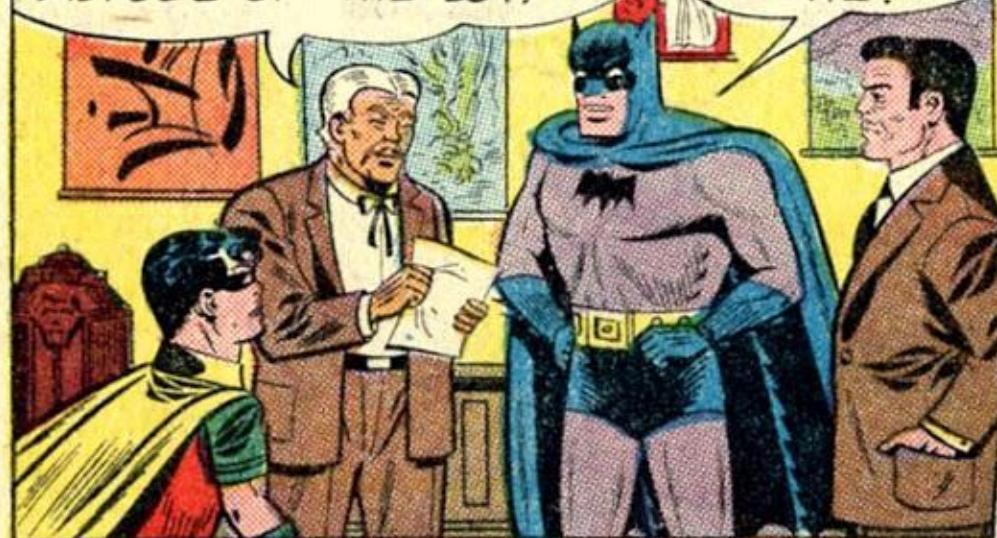
UPON SHOWING THE PAPER TO THE BENIGN OLD GENTLEMAN...

YES--IT IS MY PAPER... BUT IT WAS OF SUCH BAD QUALITY, THAT I ASKED MY ASSISTANT, EDWARDS, TO DISPOSE OF THE LOT!

PERHAPS HE DECIDED TO KEEP THE PAPER... WHERE IS HE?

THERE HE COMES NOW!
EDWARDS!
WAIT!

HE RAN AS SOON AS HE SPOTTED US! THAT'S THE ACT OF A GUILTY MAN!



AS THEY DASH INTO THE STREET...

THERE HE IS! BUT THE DRAGON PROCESSION HAS STARTED... WE'RE BLOCKED OFF!

NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!



AT BATMAN'S COMMAND, ROBIN BRACES HIS HANDS, AND...

ALLEY...

OOP!

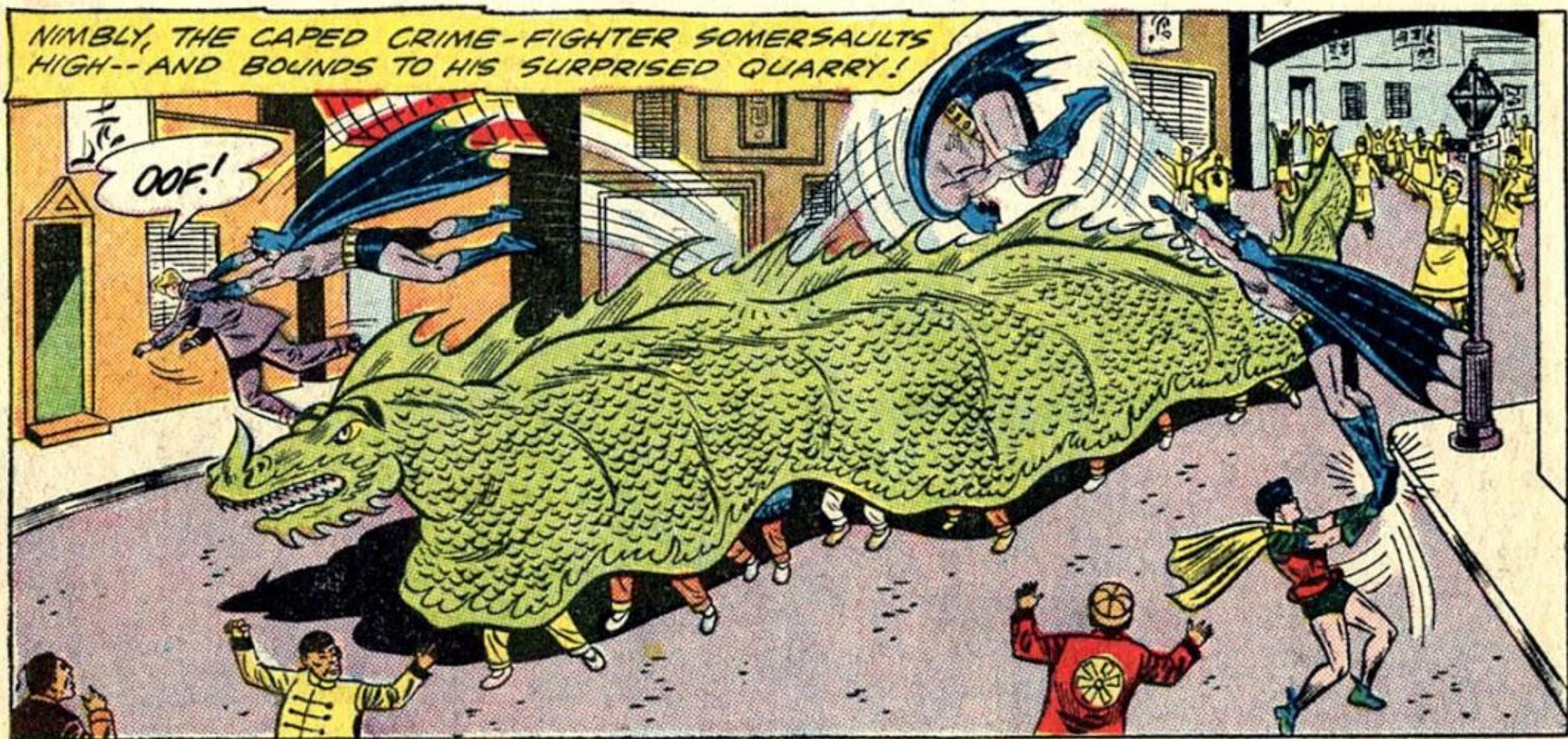




BATMAN



NIMBLY, THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER SOMERSAULTS HIGH--AND BOUNDS TO HIS SURPRISED QUARRY!

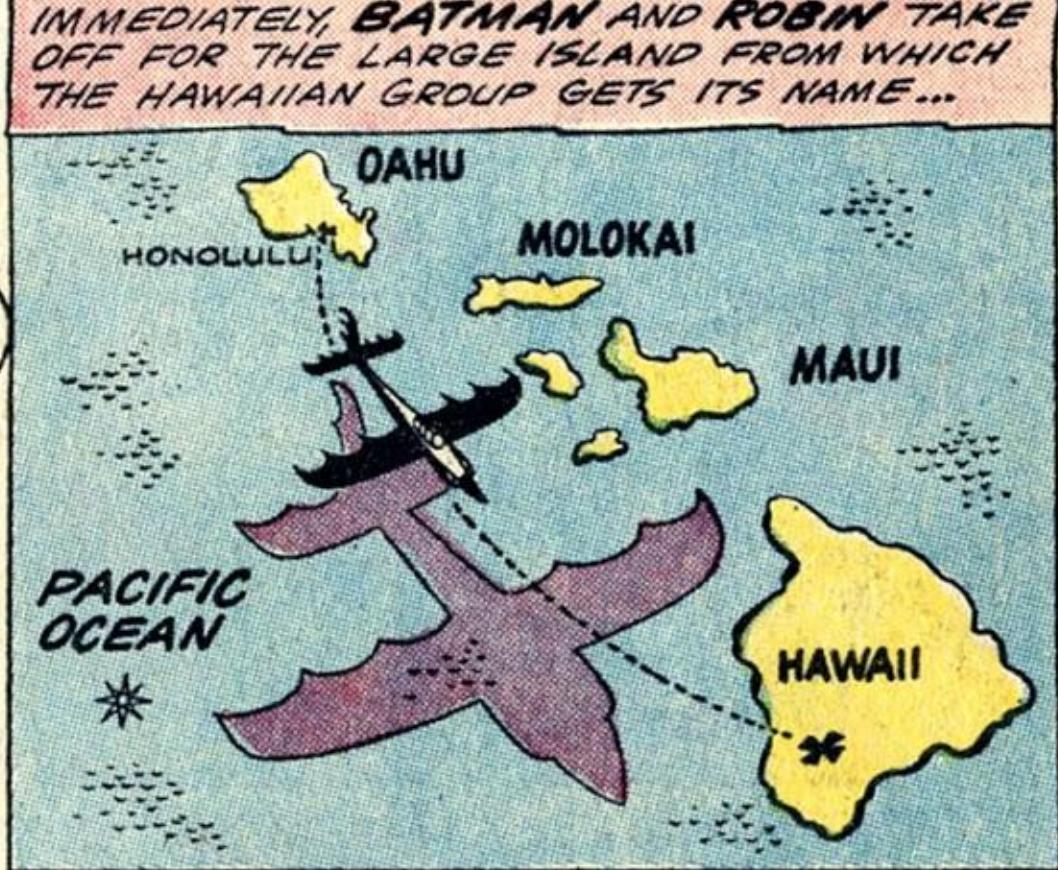
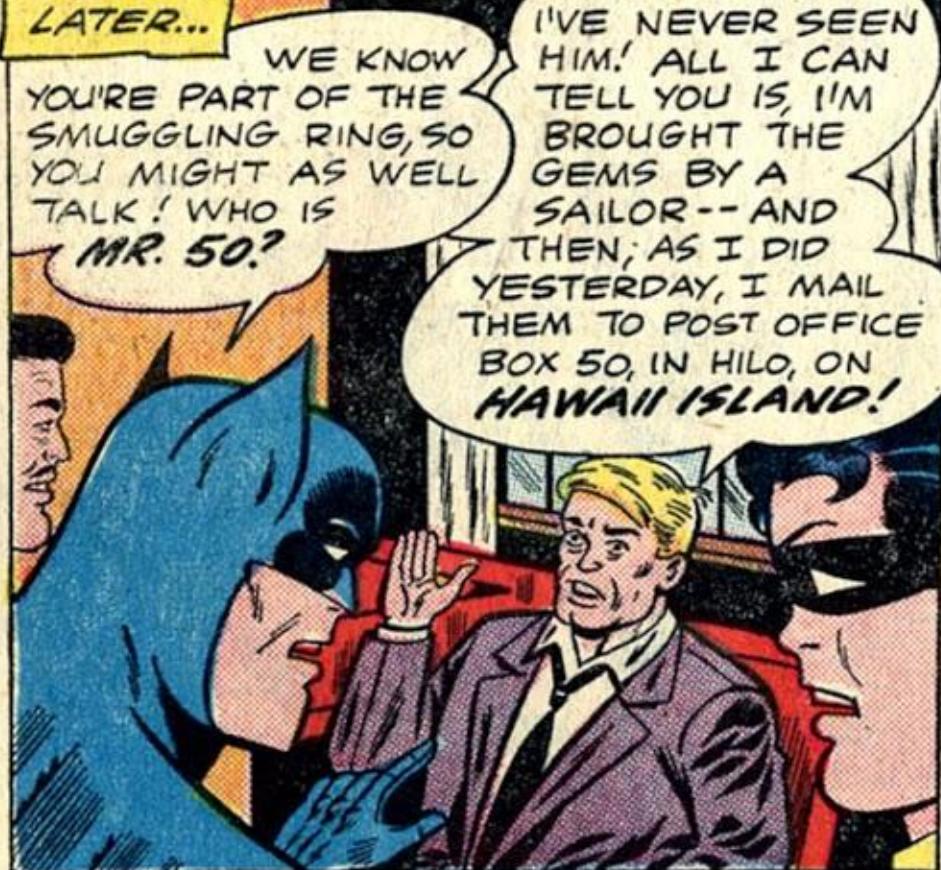


LATER...

WE KNOW
YOU'RE PART OF THE
SMUGGLING RING, SO
YOU MIGHT AS WELL
TALK! WHO IS
MR. 50?

I'VE NEVER SEEN
HIM! ALL I CAN
TELL YOU IS, I'M
BROUGHT THE
GEMS BY A
SAILOR-- AND
THEN, AS I DID
YESTERDAY, I MAIL
THEM TO POST OFFICE
BOX 50, IN HILO, ON
HAWAII ISLAND!

IMMEDIATELY, **BATMAN AND ROBIN TAKE**
OFF FOR THE LARGE ISLAND FROM WHICH
THE HAWAIIAN GROUP GETS ITS NAME...



LATER, UPON CONSULTING THE POSTMASTER
AT HILO...

THE MAN WHO
ALWAYS PICKS UP MAIL
FROM BOX 50 HAS JUST
LEFT IN HIS JEEP!

THANK
YOU!



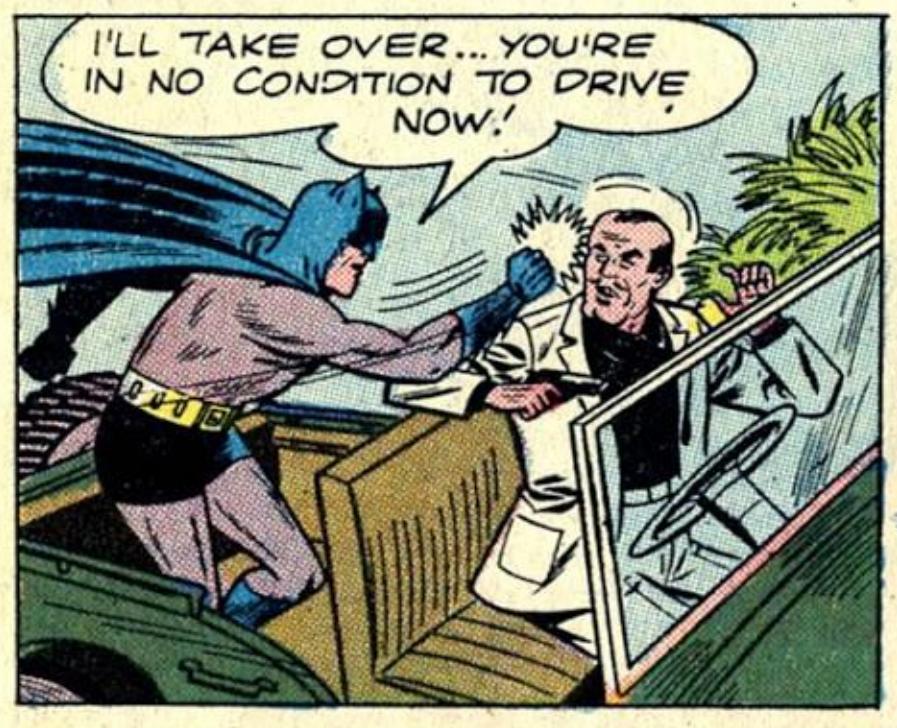
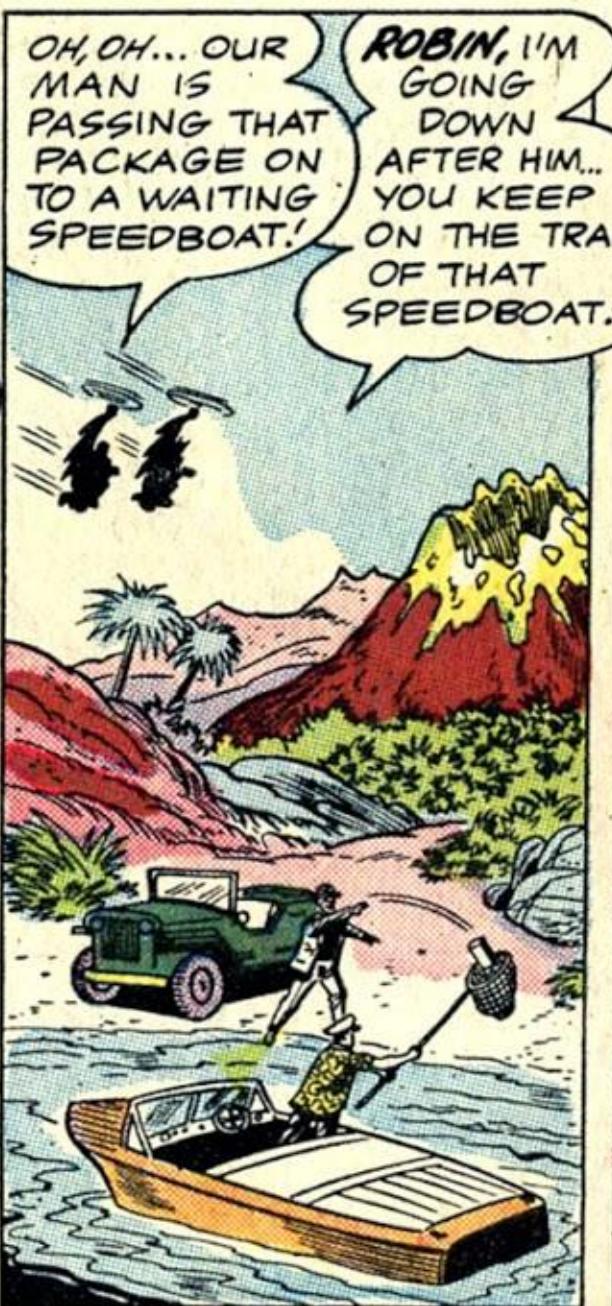
THERE
HE GOES!

QUICK, ROBIN--OUR BAT-
PLANE IS ON A FIELD
NEARBY! WE'LL GET OUT THE
WHIRLY-BATS AND TRAIL
THAT JEEP FROM
THE SKY!



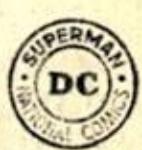


BATMAN





BATMAN



INSTANTLY, BATMAN RACES TO HIS WHIRLY-BAT AND SOARS SKYWARD...

JUST AS I FEARED... THE FUMES HAVE AFFECTED ROBIN! HE'LL DROP RIGHT INTO THAT MOLTEN LAVA --UNLESS I GET TO HIM FIRST!-



NEXT MOMENT, INCHES AWAY FROM FIERY DOOM...



LATER, WHEN ROBIN HAS RECOVERED...

WHO DID YOU PASS THAT PACKAGE TO? WAS IT MR. 50?

I JUST FOLLOW ORDERS -- AS ALWAYS! IF THAT MAN IS MR. 50, I WOULDN'T KNOW IT! NONE OF US IN THE ORGANIZATION KNOWS WHO HE REALLY IS!



AFTER JAILING THEIR CAPTIVE, BATMAN AND ROBIN WING SEAWARD AGAIN, TO PICK UP THE TRAIL OF THE ELUSIVE MR. 50...

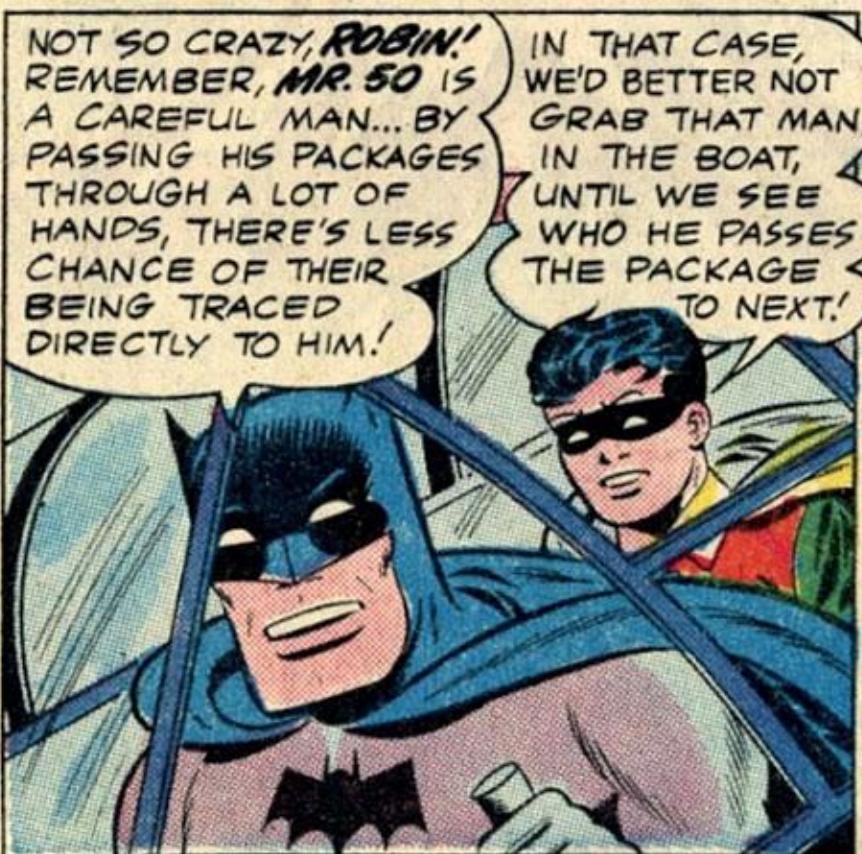
ROBIN, WE'RE IN LUCK! THERE'S THE SPEEDBOAT AHEAD! IT SEEMS TO BE HEADING FOR OAHU-- HONOLULU'S ISLAND!

WE'RE GOING RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED FROM! IT'S CRAZY!

AND INDEED, THAT IS ALREADY BATMAN'S PLAN--FOR SOMETIME LATER...

NOT SO CRAZY, ROBIN! REMEMBER, MR. 50 IS A CAREFUL MAN...BY PASSING HIS PACKAGES THROUGH A LOT OF HANDS, THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF THEIR BEING TRACED DIRECTLY TO HIM!

IN THAT CASE, WE'D BETTER NOT GRAB THAT MAN IN THE BOAT, UNTIL WE SEE WHO HE PASSES THE PACKAGE TO NEXT!



HE'S PUT IT IN AN OIL DRUM ON THAT SUGAR CANE PLANTATION!

HERE AND SEE WHO RETRIEVES IT! MEANWHILE, YOU GRAB THAT SEAMAN --FAR AWAY, SO YOU WON'T BE SEEN!



ROBIN LEAVES, AND BATMAN STARTS HIS LONE VIGIL -- WHEN SUDDENLY...



LUCKILY, I HEARD ABOUT THE ARREST OF EDWARDS -- AND WAS KEEPING A SHARP EYE OUT FOR BATMAN! NOW, I'LL DEPOSIT HIM FURTHER IN THE CANE FIELD -- AND AFTER THAT, HE'LL NEVER BOTHER ME AGAIN!



LATER, WHEN ROBIN RETURNS...

WHAT'S GOING ON?
ARE THEY
DELIBERATELY
BURNING THE
CANE FIELDS?

YES -- IT IS ALWAYS DONE BEFORE THE HARVEST,
TO REMOVE USELESS
FOLIAGE! FLAMES
CONSUME LEAVES AND
TASSELS SO FAST, THE
JUICY STALK IS
UNHARMED!



AS THE FLAMES SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE,
BATMAN LIES A PRISONER WITHIN
THEIR FIERY PATH!

I'M FINISHED! MR. 50 TIED
ME UP SO TIGHTLY, I CAN'T
EVEN MOVE!



BUT SUDDENLY...

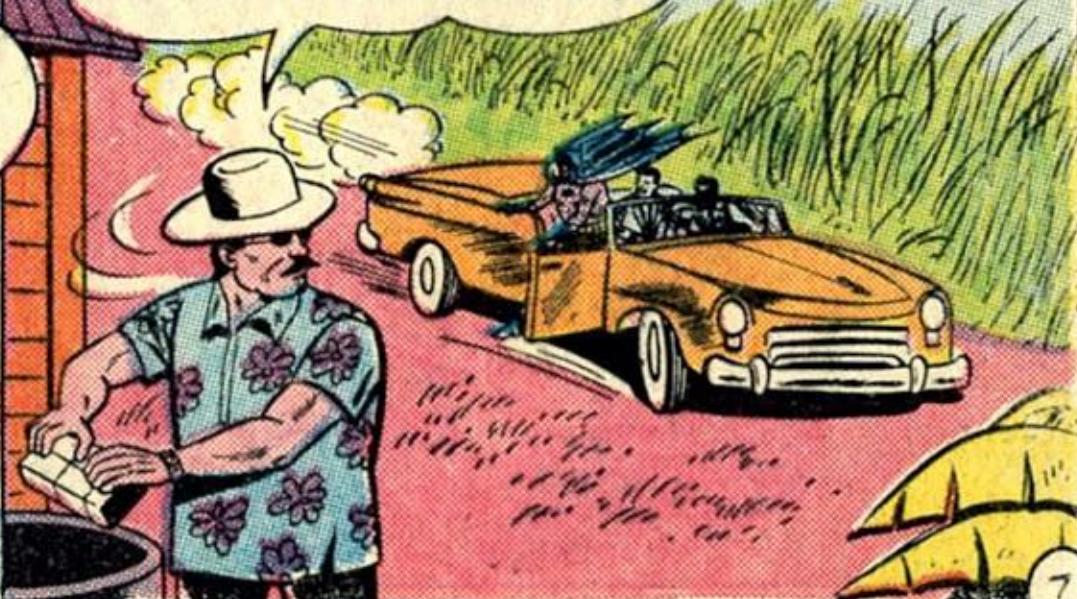
ROBIN! HOW
DID YOU
KNOW I
WAS HERE?

WHEN ROBIN NOTICED
YOU WERE GONE FROM
WHERE HE LEFT YOU,
AND SAW THE CRANE'S
TRACTOR-TREADMARK'S
LEADING AWAY FROM
IT, HE GUessed WHAT
HAPPENED! SO WE
FOLLOWED THE
TREADMARKS HERE!



MINUTES LATER, A FIGURE MOVES WARILY
TOWARD THE OIL DRUM, AND...

NOW, I CAN SAFELY REMOVE
THE PACKAGE AND... **WHAT?**
BATMAN!... ALIVE!



DESPERATELY, MR. 50 LEAPS ATOP A BUNDLE OF CUT CANE BEING WASHED DOWN TO THE MILL THROUGH A GREAT FLUME...

BUT EVEN AS THE BUNDLE OF CANE RACES DOWN THE MOUNTAINSIDE, BATMAN PUTS AN END TO THE CUNNING OF MR. 50!



LATER, AFTER MR. 50 CONFESSES...

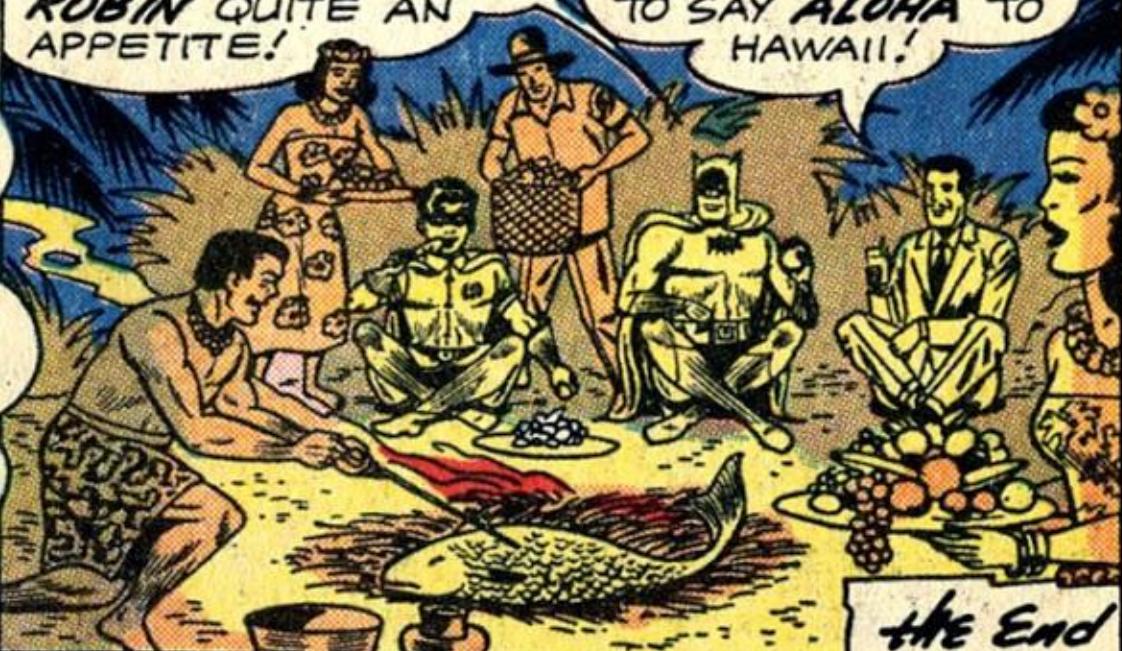
MR. 50, WHOSE REAL NAME IS NARKIN, USED HIS JOB AS FOREMAN ON THE PLANTATION TO SECRET STOLEN GOODS INSIDE HUGE SACKS OF SUGAR... SUGAR EXPORTED TO AMERICA!

HE PUT THE GEMS IN SUGAR SACKS SENT TO A CERTAIN DISTRIBUTOR IN GOTHAM CITY! BY CHECKING THE SHIPPING RECORDS, WE CAN ROUND UP THE REST OF THE GANG BACK HOME!

AND SO, THAT NIGHT, THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTERS ARE HONORED GUESTS AT A LUAU (NATIVE FEAST)...

WELL--IT LOOKS LIKE ALL THAT EXERCISE HAS GIVEN ROBIN QUITE AN APPETITE!

YES--I THINK YOUR YOUNG PARTNER WILL FIND IT VERY HARD TO SAY ALOHA TO HAWAII!



THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL
IS YOUR
Guarantee
OF THE **BEST**
IN COMICS
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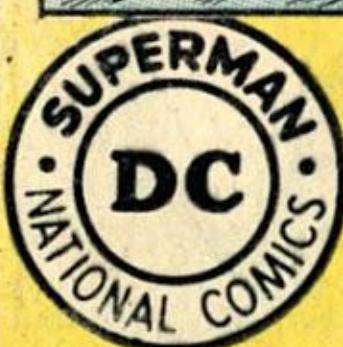
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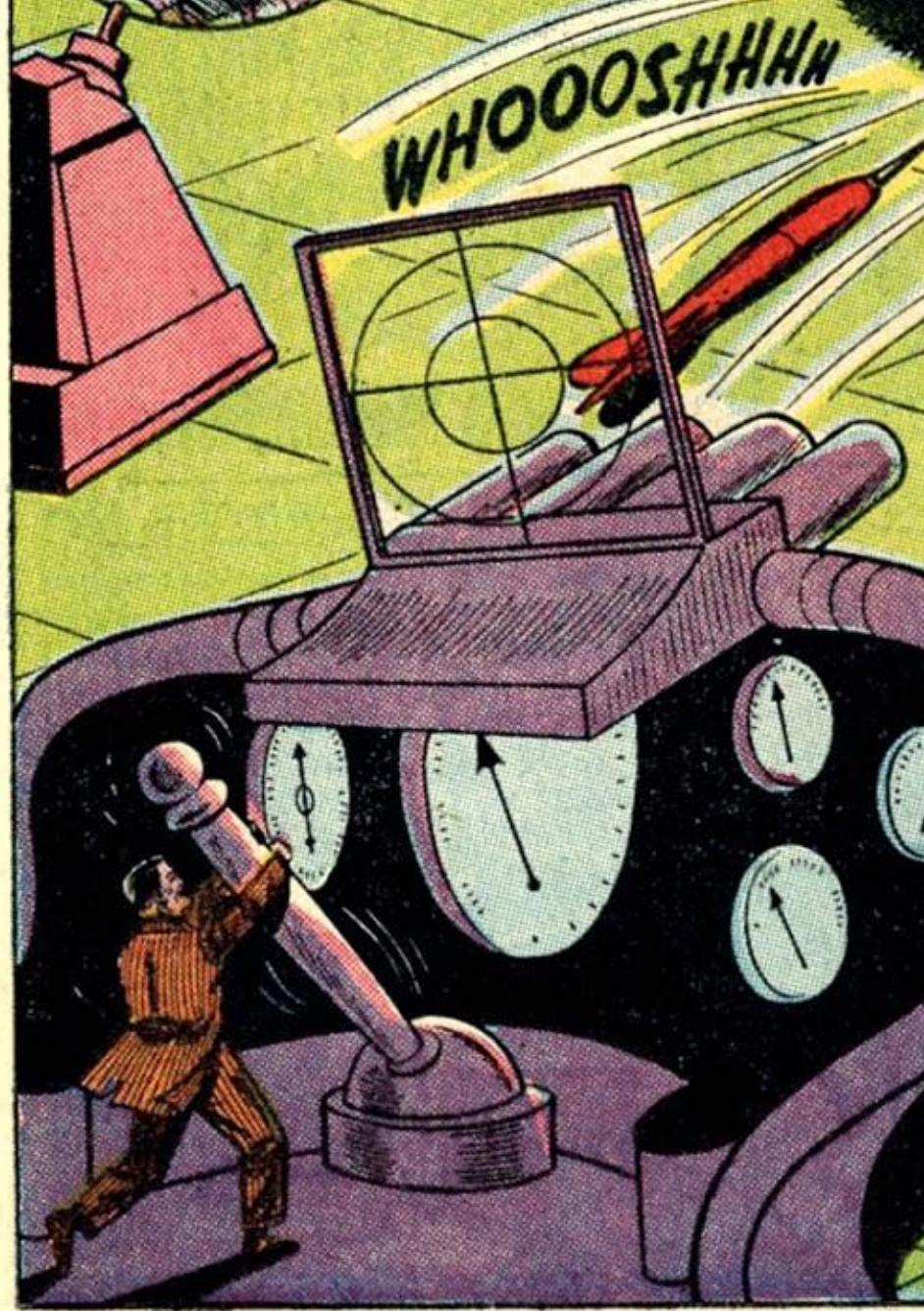
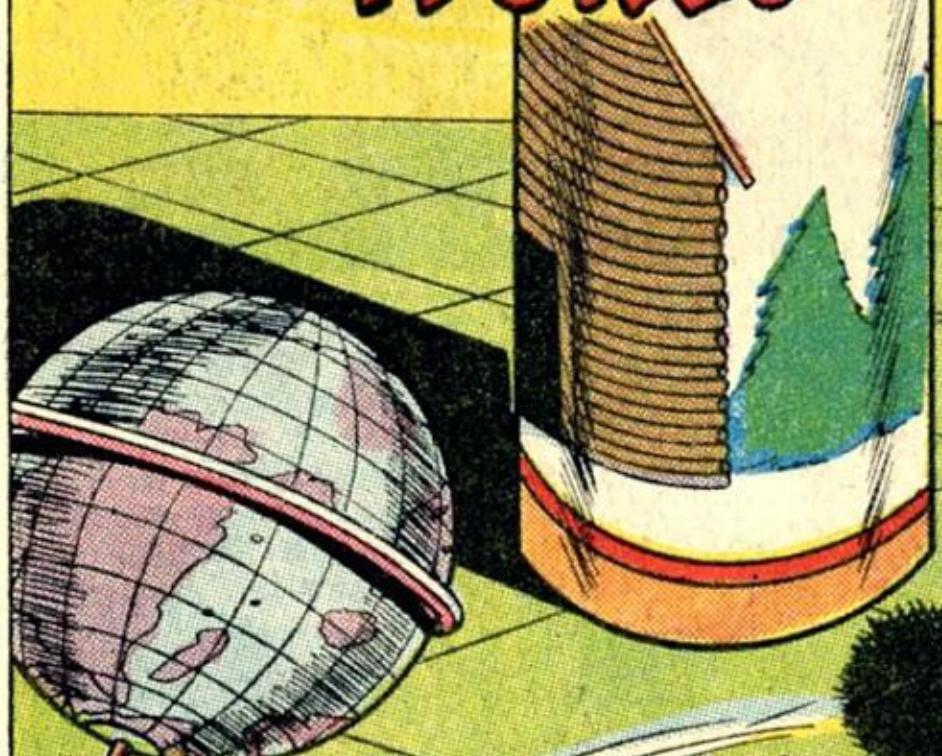


BATMAN



IMAGINE AN ADVENTURE IN WHICH ORDINARY TOYS LOOM AS LARGE AS TERRIBLE TITANS! IMAGINE A THREE-INCH BATMAN FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE, AS HE COMBATS THESE DIMINUTIVE DANGERS! IMAGINE ALL THIS AND MORE, AS YOU WATCH THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER ON A MINIATURE MANHUNT FOR...

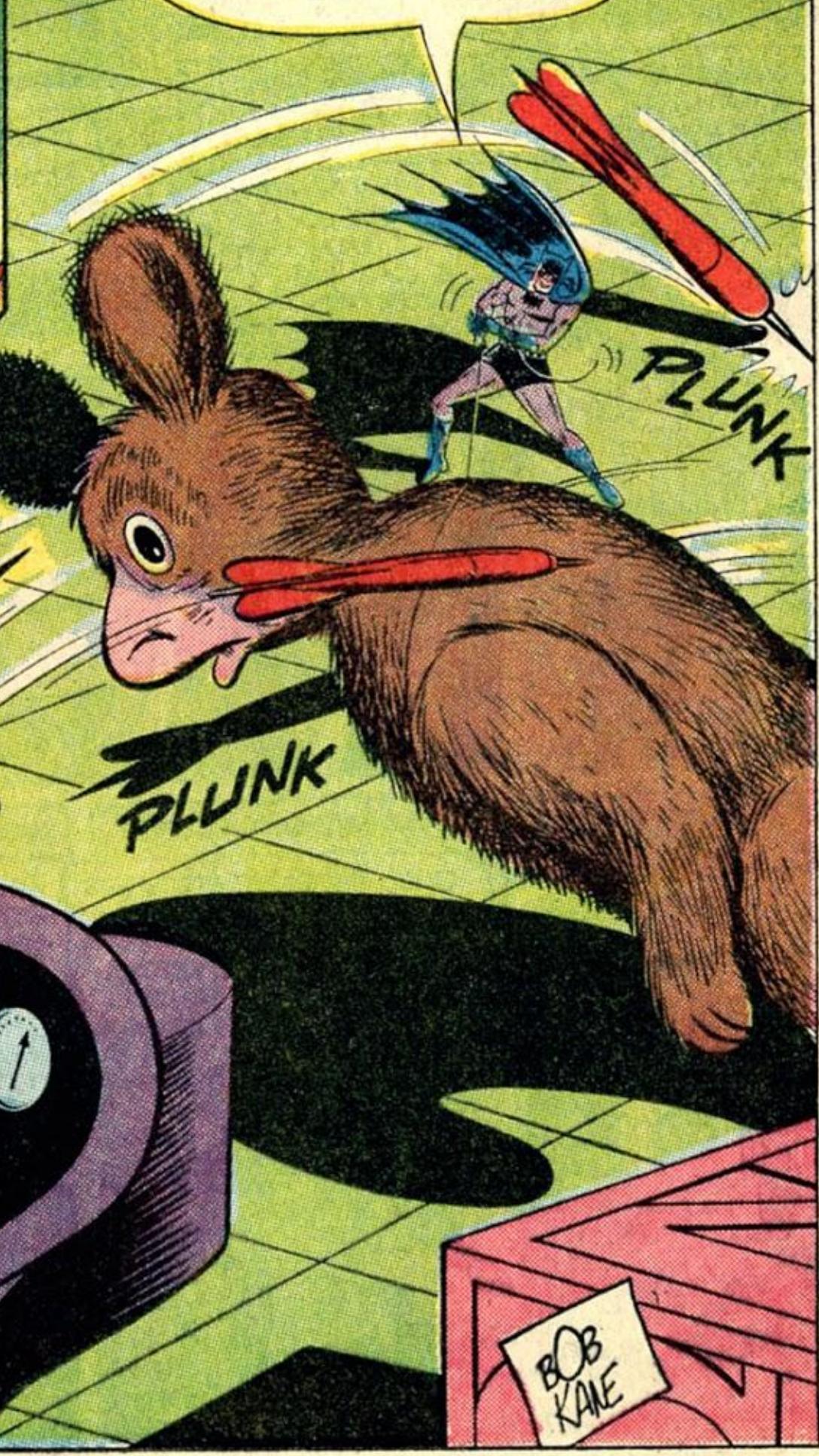
THE TINIEST VILLAIN IN THE WORLD



BAT-MAN

WITH ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

GREAT SCOTT! BURR HAS SUBSTITUTED DARTS FOR THE ROCKETS OF THAT TOY LAUNCHER!



ON THE TRAIL OF A FLEEING FUGITIVE,
BATMAN AND ROBIN SEARCH HIS
ABANDONED HIDEOUT FOR CLUES TO HIS
WHEREABOUTS...

BURR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN
INTERESTED IN THIS NEWSPAPER
CLIPPING! IT'S A LEAD WE
CAN'T IGNORE...

SCIENTIST
INVENTS SHRINKING
MACHINE
PROF. NORENZ CLAIMS
HIS DEVICE CAN
REDUCE A MAN TO
AS LITTLE AS
THREE INCHES

MEANWHILE, WHERE A SCIENTIST HAS BEEN
WORKING LATE IN HIS LABORATORY...



FORCED TO GIVE INSTRUCTIONS, THE
FRAIL SCIENTIST IS THEN GAGGED,
BOUND--AND USED AS A HUMAN GUINEA
PIG!

BOSS--
LOOK! HE IS
SHRINKING!

YEAH... NOW THAT I
TEST IT ON HIM, I
KNOW IT WORKS--
AND I CAN USE
IT ON MYSELF!

YOURSELF?

SURE... I'VE GOT IT ALL
PLANNED! NEAR HERE IS THE
GOTHAM TOY COMPANY! IT'S
EMPTY THIS LATE AT NIGHT--
SO WE'RE GONNA BREAK IN!
I'LL TAKE THE PROFESSOR ALONG--
IN CASE HIS MACHINE EVER
NEEDS REPAIRS...



SOON AFTER, WHEN **BATMAN AND ROBIN**
ENTER THE LAB...

THE PROFESSOR'S
GONE--AND SO IS
HIS INVENTION!

BUT HIS TAPE RECORDER
IS STILL RUNNING! HE
MUST HAVE BEEN
DICTATING SOME NOTES
INTO IT, WHEN BURR
ARRIVED! I'LL PLAY IT BACK
AND WE'LL
HEAR WHAT
WAS
SAID...

AFTER LISTENING TO THE RECORDING...

HMM... SINCE ALL ESCAPE
ROUTES ARE CLOSED TO
HIM, I'LL WAGER BURR
INTENDS TO SHRINK
HIMSELF--HIDE IN A TOY
SHIPMENT--AND GET
HIMSELF SMUGGLED
OUT OF THE COUNTRY!

WITH THE MACHINE
AND THE PROFESSOR,
TOO--TO SOME
HIRELING WHO'LL
THEN USE THE
MACHINE TO
MAKE HIM
GROW BACK TO
NORMAL
SIZE!



BATMAN

SO, SHORTLY, AT THE GOTHAM TOY COMPANY, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CHARGE IN TO SEE...



SIZING UP THE SITUATION, BATMAN HURLES AT THE THUG WORKING THE MACHINE...



BY THE TIME THE CRIME-FIGHTERS CAN TURN THEIR ATTENTION TO BURR, THE NOW TINY CRIMINAL SCUTTLES AWAY...

NOW HE'S RUN OFF-- AND TAKEN THE PROFESSOR WITH HIM! WITH HIS TINY SIZE, HE COULD HIDE ANYWHERE IN THIS PLACE!

I DON'T DARE LOOK FOR HIM! IN MY PRESENT SIZE, IF I MOVED AROUND, I MIGHT ACCIDENTALLY STEP ON THE PROFESSOR!

BUT IF I WERE BURR'S SIZE, I COULD HUNT HIM DOWN WITHOUT RISK TO THE PROFESSOR! ROBIN, I WANT YOU TO USE THE SHRINKING MACHINE ON ME!



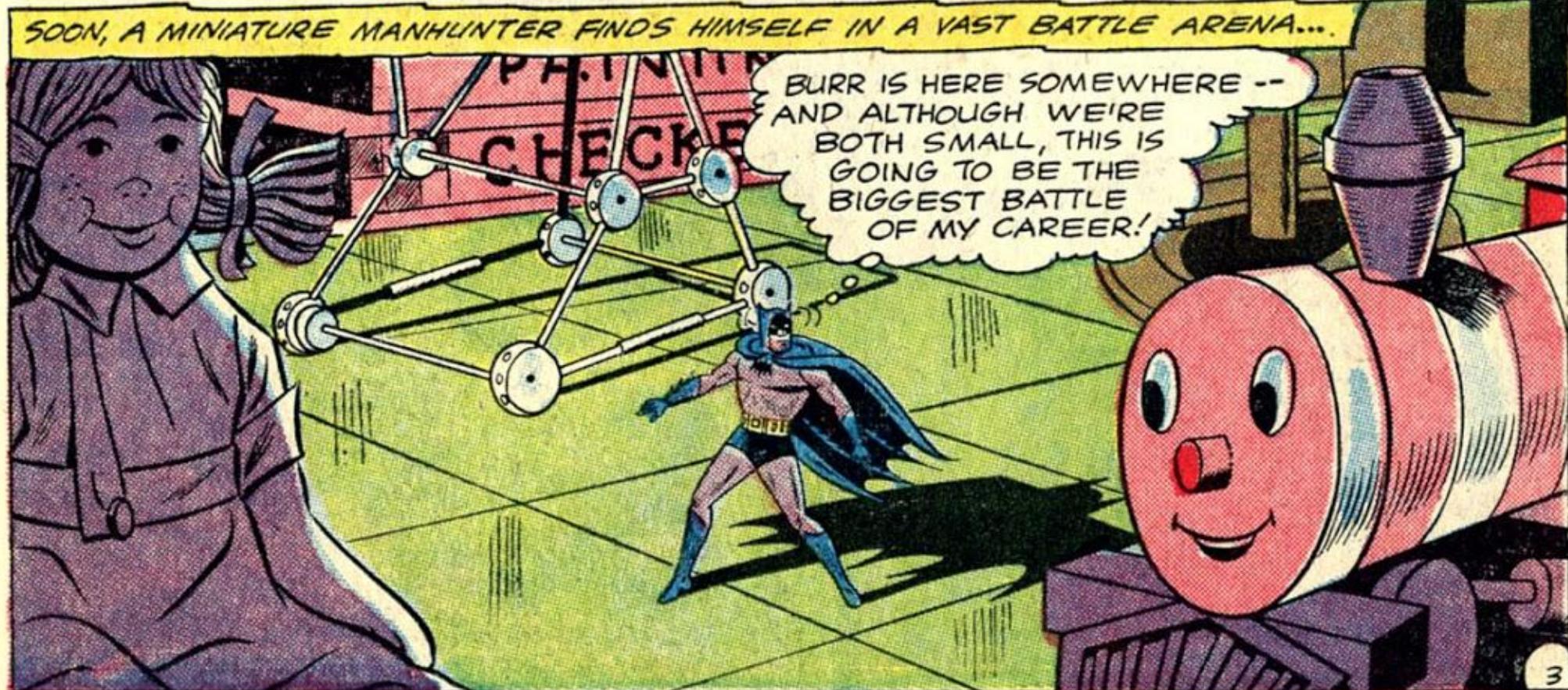
MOMENTS LATER, BATMAN'S MUSCULAR FRAME GLOWS IN AN AURA OF WEIRD ENERGY...

ROBIN, CALL THE POLICE! TELL THEM TO SURROUND THE PLACE! AFTERWARD, YOU WAIT HERE WITH THE MACHINE-- AND DON'T MOVE AROUND UNTIL I SIGNAL YOU!

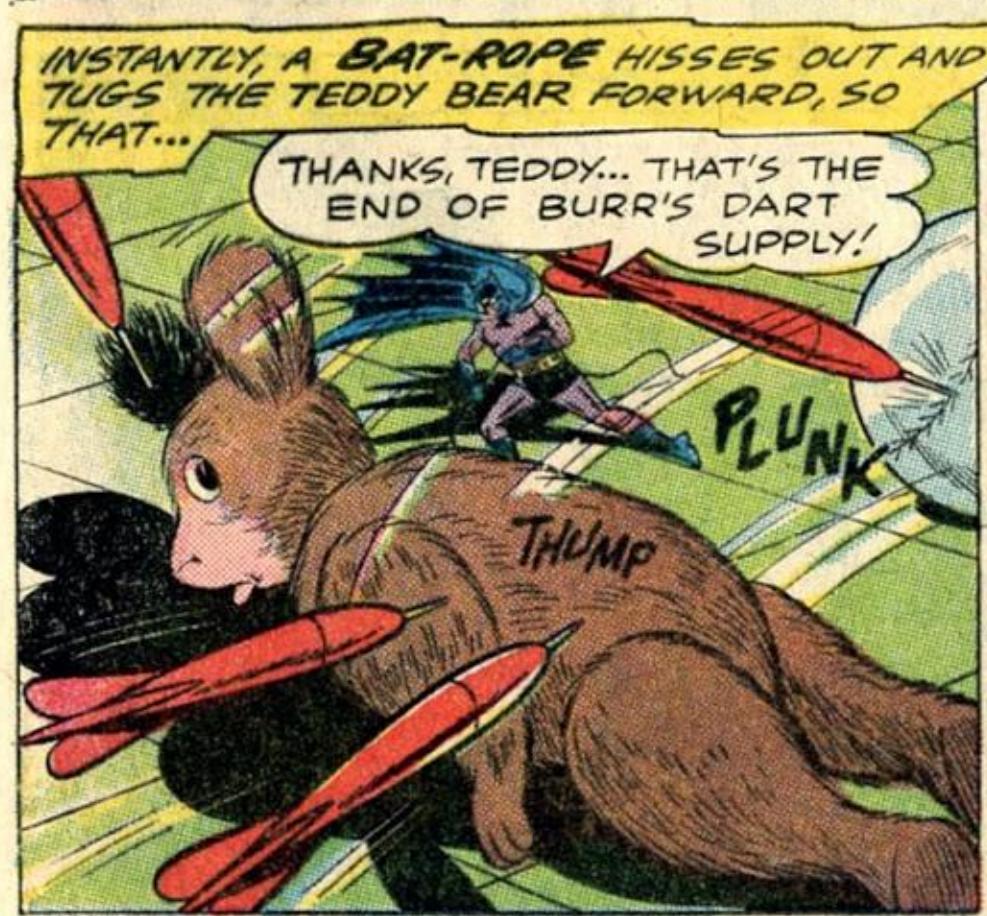
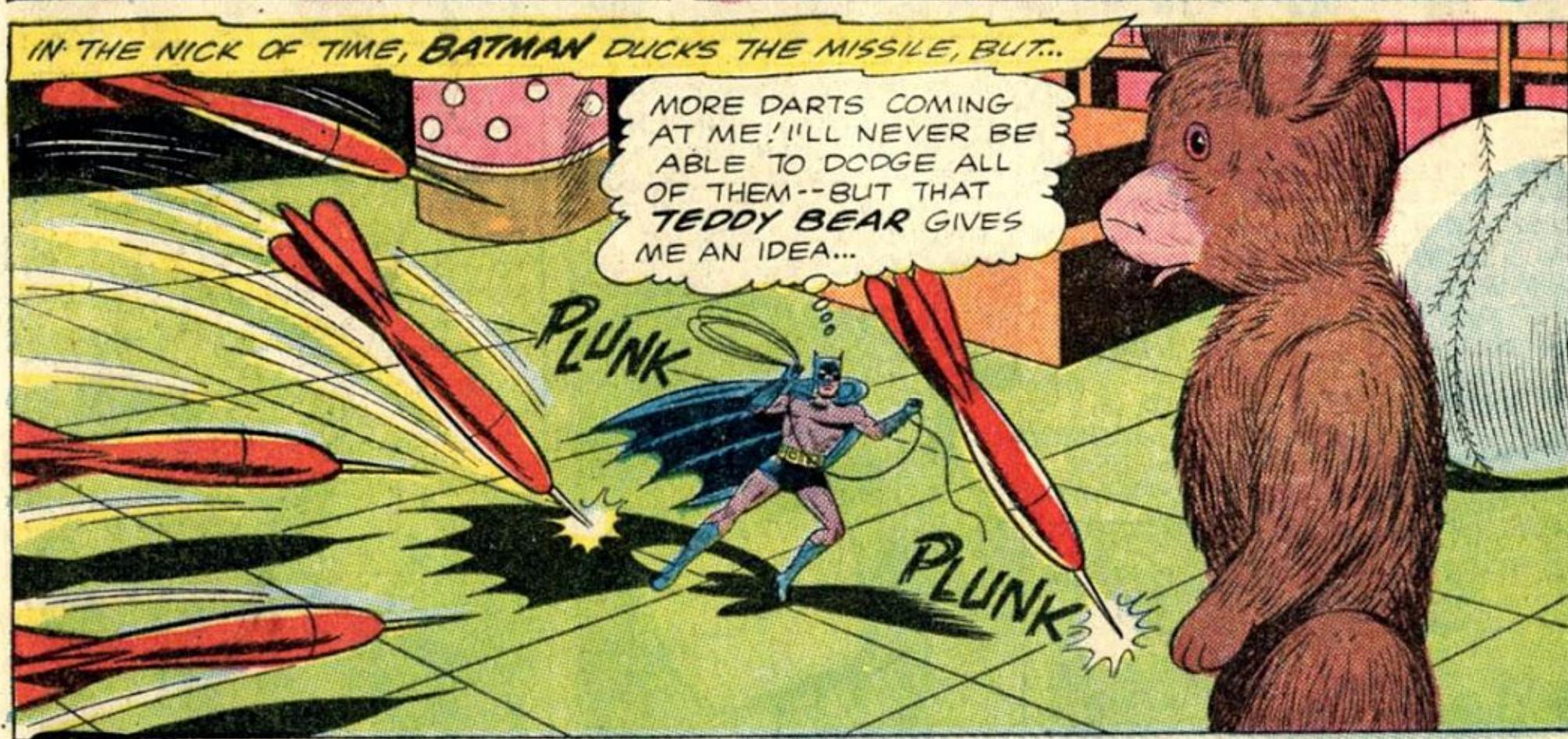
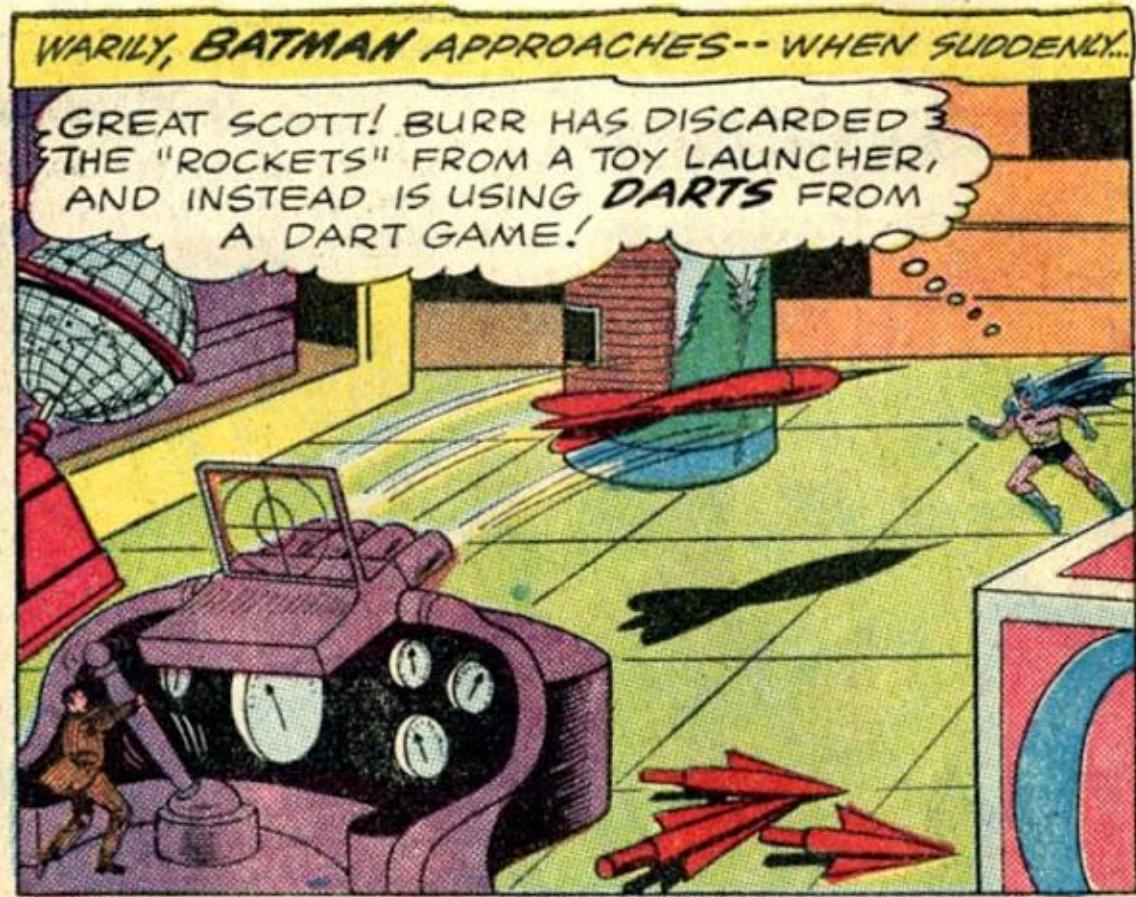
OKAY... G-GOOD LUCK, BATMAN!



SOON, A MINIATURE MANHUNTER FINDS HIMSELF IN A VAST BATTLE ARENA...

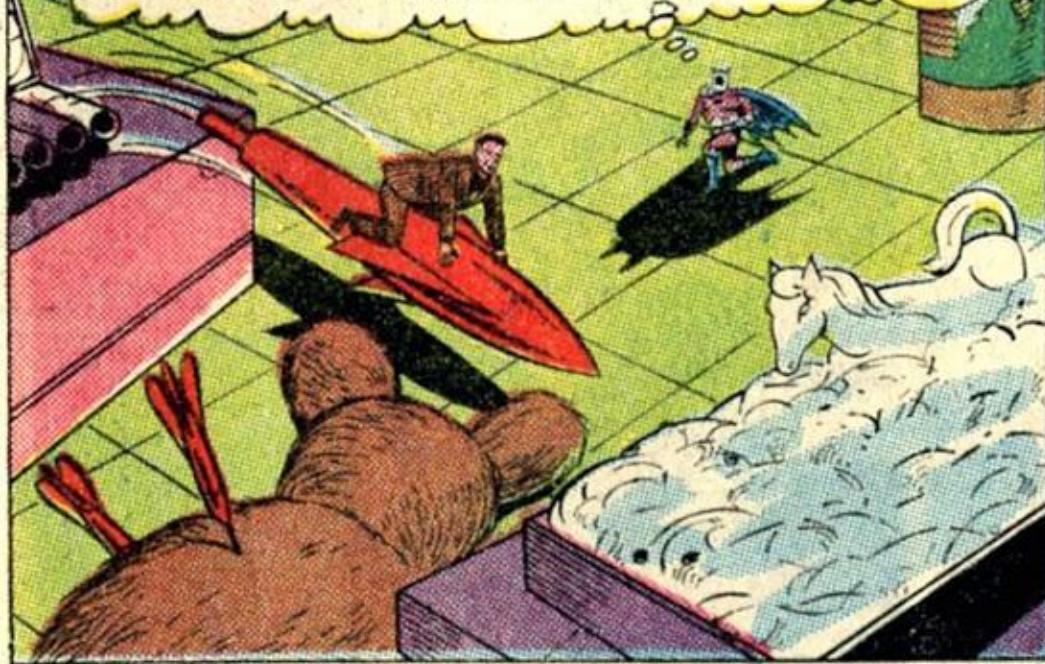


BATMAN



BY THE TIME BATMAN CAN RECOVER HIS BREATH...

BURR IS HITCHING A RIDE ON A "ROCKET" HE'S LAUNCHED! HE'LL LAND SAFELY ON THE COTTON PADDING AROUND THAT DELICATE GLASS ANIMAL! I'LL HAVE A JOB LOCATING HIM NOW!



IN THAT SAME MOMENT...

THE WAREHOUSE'S MOUSE-CHASER! GOOD GRIEF--HE LOOKS BIG AS A DINOSAUR!



ONCE AGAIN, SUPERB AGILITY SAVES BATMAN FROM CERTAIN DOOM...

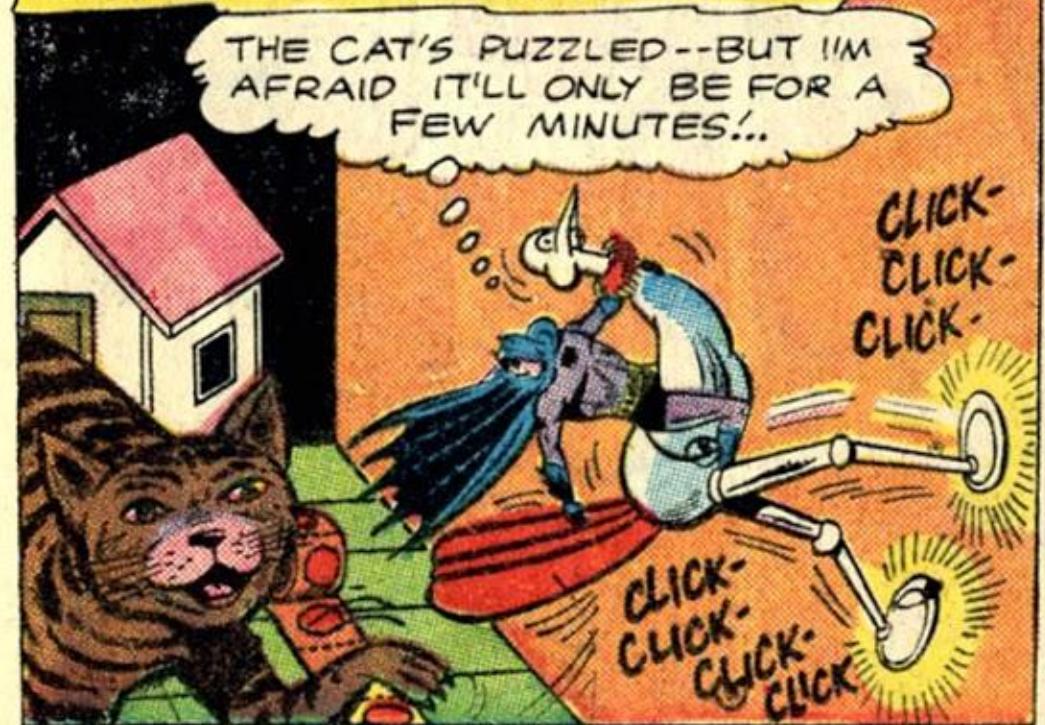
THAT TOY AHEAD--A CLIMB-THE-WALL BIRD! BY PRESSING DOWN ITS TAIL FEATHERS, YOU START ITS SPRING-MOTOR!



INDEED, AS THE SPRING WINDS DOWN--AND AS THE TOY STOPS, THE CAT AGAIN LEAPS!

SLAPPING THE TAIL, BATMAN LEAPS ASTRIDE HIS BIZARRE STEED AS ITS SUCTION-CUPPED FEET SLOWLY CLIMB THE WALL...

THE CAT'S PUZZLED--BUT I'M AFRAID IT'LL ONLY BE FOR A FEW MINUTES...



CLICK-CLICK-CLICK-

CLICK-CLICK-CLICK-CLICK-

THIS SHELF-BRACKET...I CAN GRAB IT AND CLIMB ONTO THE SHELF ITSELF!



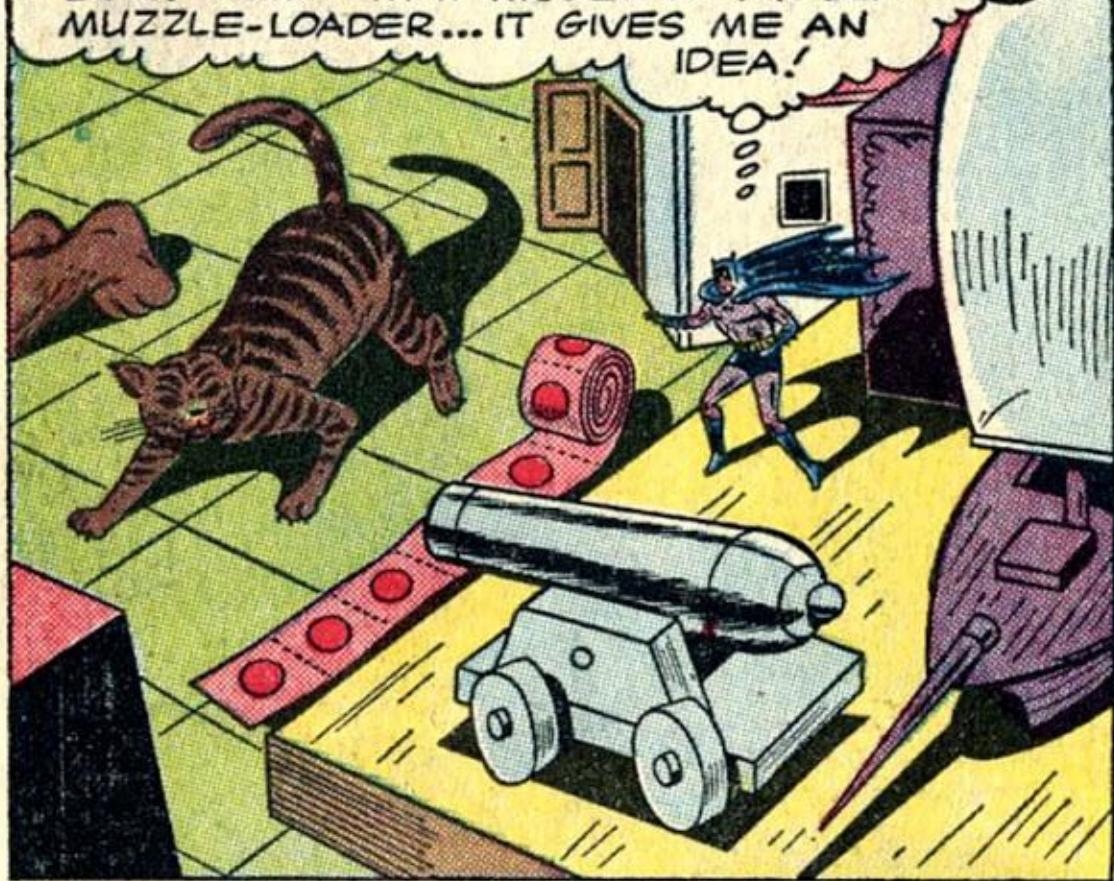


BATMAN



BUT EVEN AS THE THREAT OF DEATH REMAINS...

ANY MINUTE NOW, THAT CAT WILL GET WISE AND MAKE AN EASY JUMP FROM A HIGH BOX! HMM--THAT MODEL OF AN OLD MUZZLE-LOADER... IT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



STRAINING AGAINST THE HEAVY CANNON, BATMAN ROLLS IT FORWARD --AS THE CAT EYES A NEARBY BOX...

UHH--GOT TO MAKE IT--NOT MUCH TIME--EVERY SECOND COUNTS--UHH...



AT LAST, THE WHEELS TIP-- AND THE HEAVY CANNON PLUNGES DOWN, TO SLAM LIKE A HAMMER AGAINST CAP-PISTOL POWDER CAPS!

I'LL BET THAT'S THE FIRST TIME GUN-POWDER WAS USED WITH A CANNON THIS WAY! IT'LL SEND THAT SCARED TABBY SCOOTING RIGHT OUT OF HERE!



NEXT, BATMAN MAKES A SPECTACULAR DESCENT-- BY STANDING ATOP A JACK-IN-THE-BOX, AND RELEASING THE CATCH...



THEN, SPREADING HIS "PARACHUTE"--A SAIL TAKEN FROM A MODEL FRIGATE...



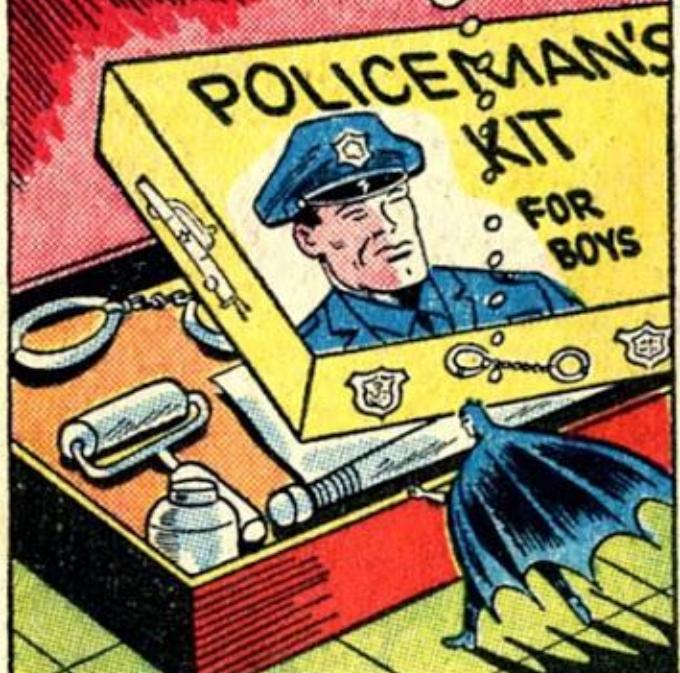


BATMAN



DODGING INTO THE SHADOWS,
BATMAN WARILY STALKS
HIS QUARRY, UNTIL ...

HMM... I MAY BE A TINY
LAWMAN NOW--BUT I CAN
STILL CARRY OUT MY JOB
BY USING A PIECE OF
THAT EQUIPMENT!



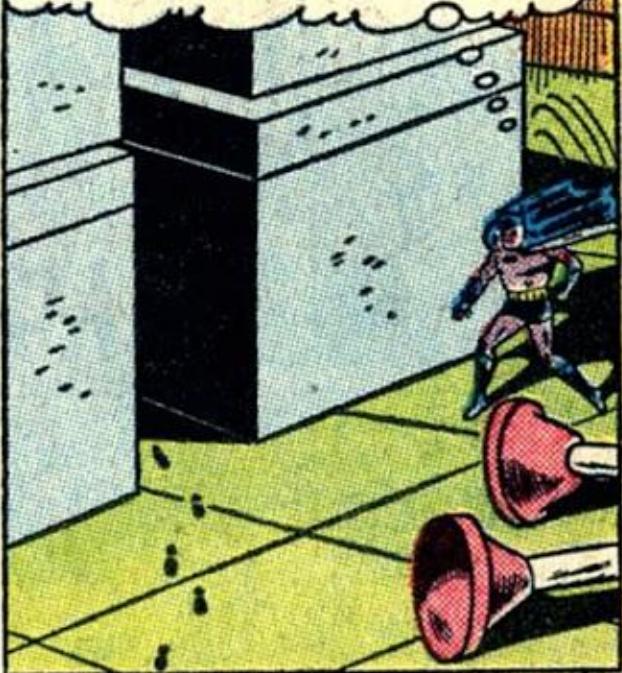
SOME SWIFT PREPARATIONS IN
THE SHADOWS--AND MOMENTS
LATER, AS A RUBBER BALL
COMES ROLLING TOWARD BURR...

MY PLAN WORKED! THAT
DARK "ALLEY" BETWEEN
THE PACKING CASES
WAS HIS **ONLY** ESCAPE
ROUTE! HE THINKS HE'LL
LOSE ME NOW!



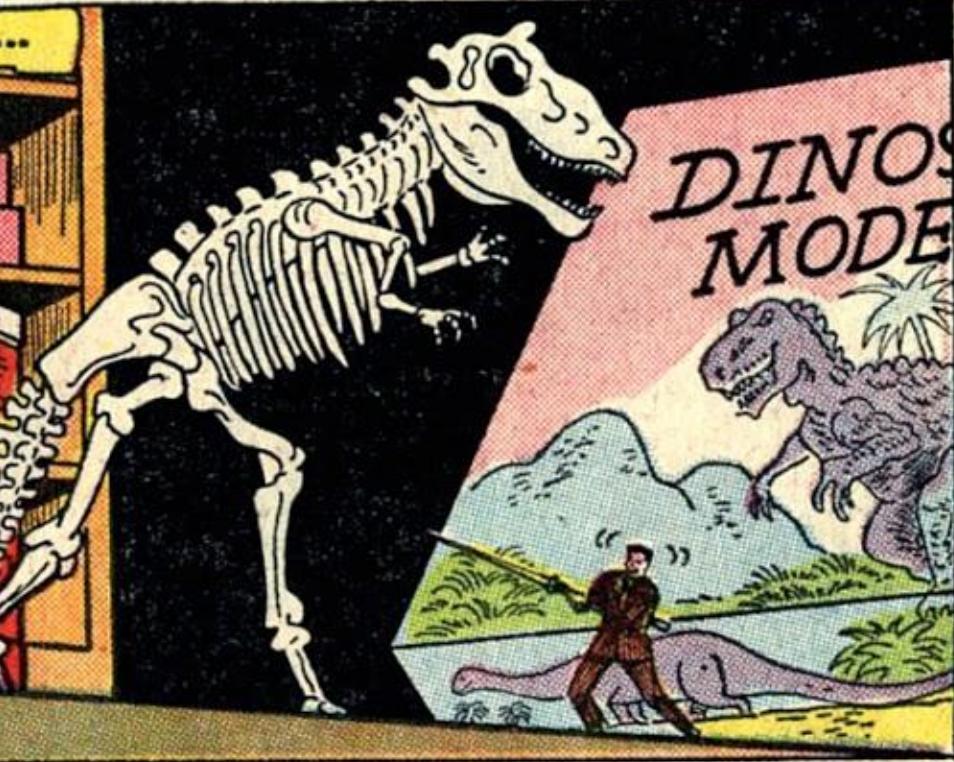
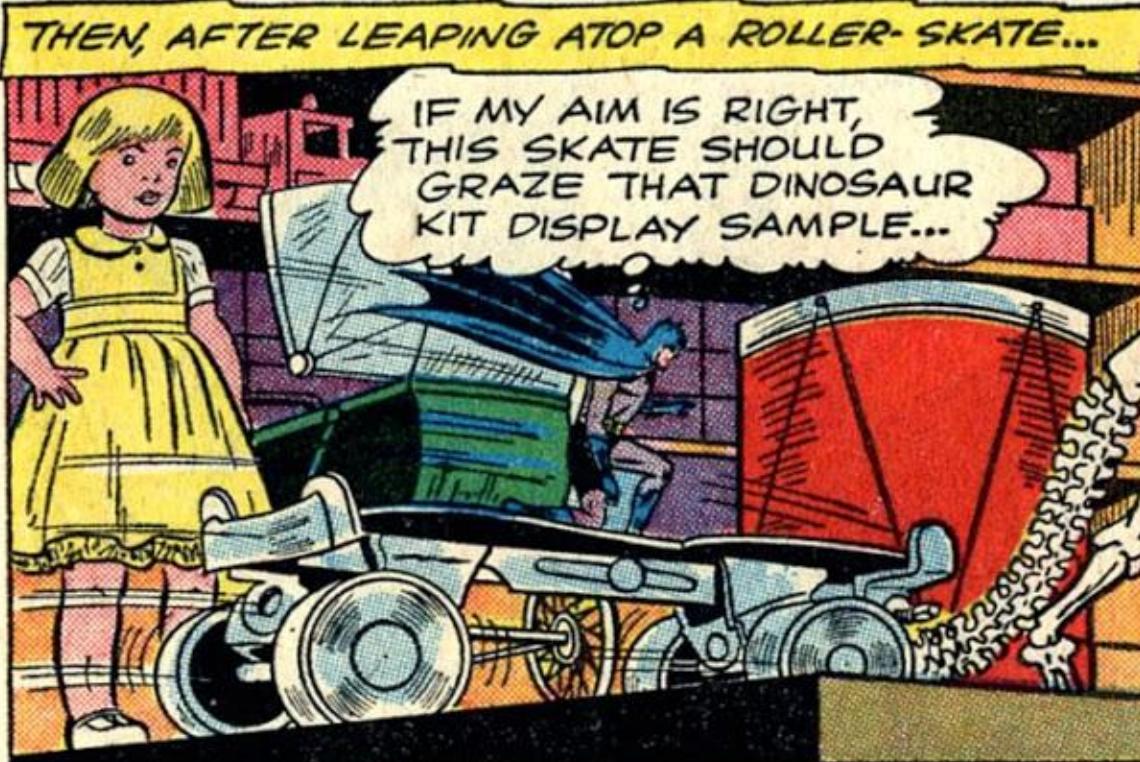
BUT, ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE CASES ...

BURR DIDN'T KNOW I'D
PLACED THE OPEN **INK PAD**, FROM THAT BOY'S
POLICEMAN'S KIT IN THE DARK
ALLEY! NOW HIS **FOOT-
PRINTS** POINT THE
DIRECTION HE'S TAKEN!

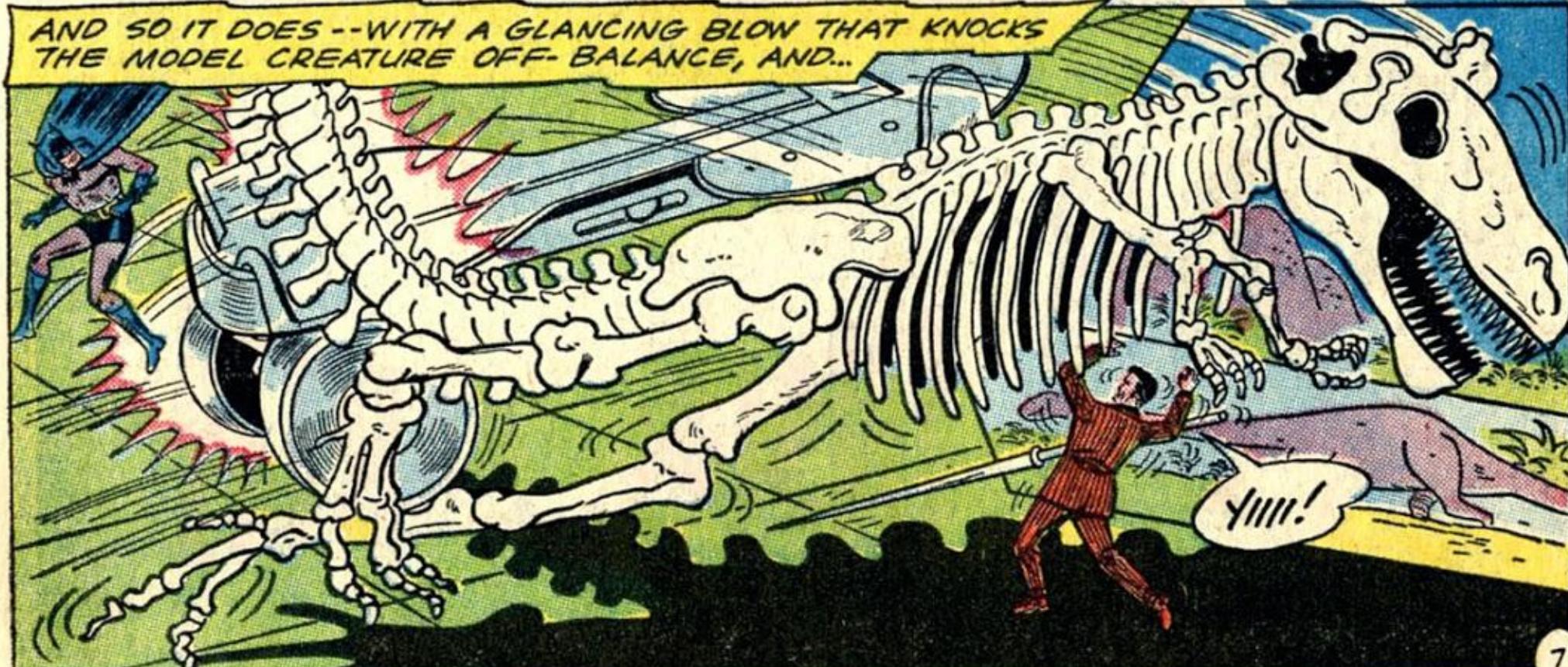


THEN, AFTER LEAPING ATOP A ROLLER-SKATE...

IF MY AIM IS RIGHT,
THIS SKATE SHOULD
GRAZE THAT DINOSAUR
KIT DISPLAY SAMPLE...



AND SO IT DOES--WITH A GLANCING BLOW THAT KNOCKS
THE MODEL CREATURE OFF-BALANCE, AND...



THAT'S THAT, BURR! SOON, YOU'LL BE TRANSFERRED FROM THAT RIB CAGE -- TO A CAGE IN THE STATE PRISON!



FINALLY, WITH A CRAYON, BATMAN LABORIOUSLY WRITES A MESSAGE TO ROBIN...

"OKAY"... THAT MEANS BATMAN WANTS ME TO TURN HIM BACK TO NORMAL WITH THE MACHINE!



MOMENTS LATER, GLAD TO BE HIS SIX-FOOT STATURE AGAIN, BATMAN RETRIEVES HIS TINY CAPTIVE, AND...

BURR, SO FAR YOU'RE CHARGED WITH ARMED ROBBERY... BUT UNLESS YOU TELL WHERE YOU'VE HIDDEN PROFESSOR NORENZ, HE'LL DIE--AND YOU'LL FACE A MURDER CHARGE!

I'LL TALK, BATMAN!



AND SO, AFTER FINDING THE PROFESSOR AND, RESTORING HIM AND BURR TO NORMAL SIZE...

BATMAN, EVEN THREE INCHES HIGH, YOU WERE STILL THE BIGGEST CRIME-FIGHTER!

YES--AND ONE LOOK AT THIS SO-CALLED CRIMINAL BIG SHOT PROVES IT!



The End

A FANTASTIC New Adventure... BENEATH the EARTH!



ONCE AGAIN, *Cave Carson* AND HIS FRIENDS BURROW BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST IN THE **mighty mole**, TO BATTLE BIZARRE MENACES in...

"THREE CAVERNS of DOOM"

A 3-PART THRILLER...

INSIDE EARTH

IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF...

The BRAVE and the BOLD

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS

ON SALE
EVERWHERE
DEC. 21st

Letters to the BAT-CAVE



Dear Editor: I've read about criminals being identified through their fingerprints, or the shape of their ears. How about a man's eyes—could they pinpoint his identity?

Jim Mulligan, Springfield, Ill.
(Yes. Like fingerprints, the vein patterns of the eyes differ from person to person. BATMAN, over the years, has collected a file of close-up color photographs of criminals' eyes, revealing their unique vein formations. He has found this file invaluable, for example, in identifying a crook who has undergone plastic surgery.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: BAT-MITE and MR. MXYZPTLK are about the zaniest pair of trouble-makers I've ever seen, and I'm sure everyone who read your first story about them agrees with me. Maybe BATMAN, ROBIN and SUPERMAN wouldn't like to see those two imps return to our dimension, but I'll bet all your readers would.

Marge Spencer, Raleigh, N. C.
(Right on both counts, Marge! In the FEBRUARY issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 123, BATMAN, ROBIN and SUPERMAN will again be having their hands full with "THE INCREDIBLE TEAM OF BAT-MITE AND MR. MXYZPTLK!"—Ed.)

Dear Editor: Where does BAT-HOUND stay when he's not out on a case with BATMAN and ROBIN?

Alvin Edwards, Utica, N. Y.
(With his mask and costume off, BAT-HOUND, like his famous masters, has a secret identity. He is simply Ace, the house pet of Bruce Wayne and Dick Grayson.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: Suppose, when they're some distance apart, BATMAN and ROBIN find it necessary to conduct a long strategy conference via their belt-radios. Wouldn't some cunning crook be able to tune in on such a conference with his own radio receiver?

Martin Muller, Joplin, Mo.
(The belt-radios operate on a number of secret wavelengths, which are changed from time to time. In any long conversation, BATMAN and ROBIN would switch from one wavelength to

another—often enough to prevent anyone who might possibly tune in on them from hearing more than bits of meaningless talk.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: I think super-scientific criminals make the best opponents for BATMAN and ROBIN. Please alert me when you're planning another such adventure.

Jeff Bellows, Tucson, Ariz.
("THE BIZARRE POLKA-DOT MAN" is just the sort of criminal you mean. BATMAN and ROBIN come up against him in the FEBRUARY issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 300.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: A friend of mine, who's a BATMAN fan, boasted that BATMAN could solve a murder case just by examining the victim's beard. How would that be possible?

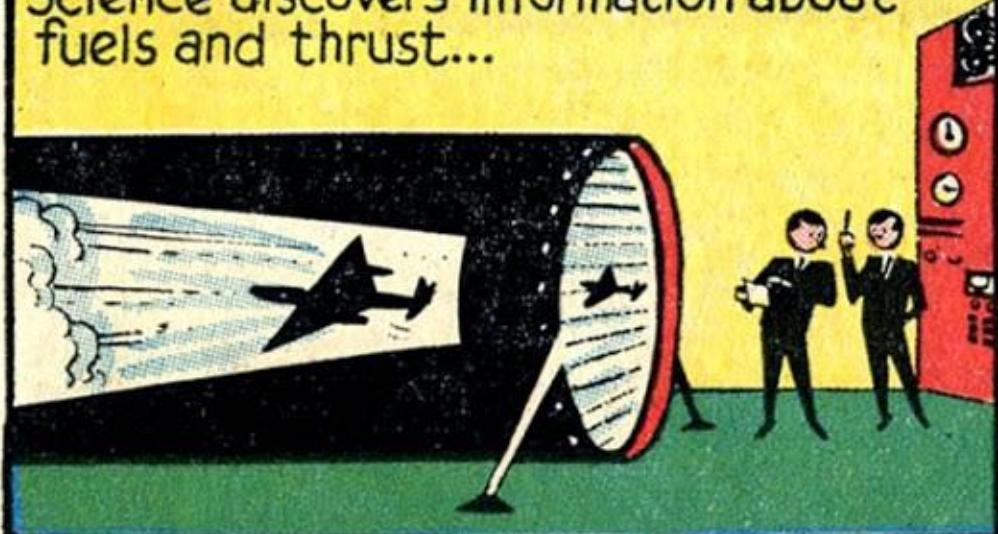
"Mac" MacDonald, Spokane, Wash.
(That's a pretty "iffy" question, but I'm sure BATMAN would be up to it. The situation could be something like this: A man summons the police to the home of his business partner, and there points out the body of the partner, his hand still clutching the gun—an evident suicide. There is also a suicide note, dated three days earlier. The man who has called the police claims he entered the house, with a duplicate key he possessed, to find out why he couldn't contact the dead man for the past three days. However, BATMAN, who's come along with the police, notices that the victim's face is clean-shaven. That would mean his partner must have been lying, because a beard continues to grow for a while after a man dies. If this man had taken his own life three days earlier, there should have been a stubble on his face. BATMAN therefore deduces that the partner killed the man that same morning, and then forged the suicide note.—Ed.)

Dear Editor: Has BATMAN ever had a case in which his opponent seemed to be some entity from the supernatural world?

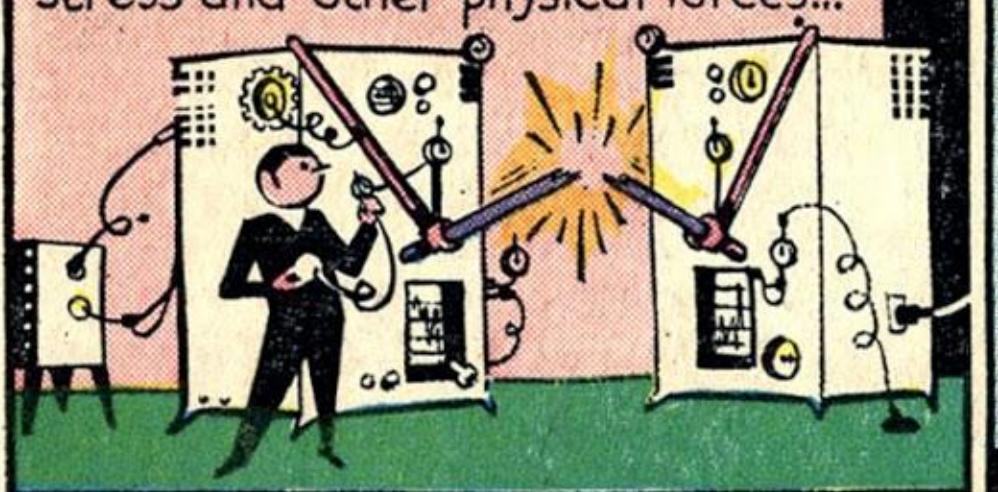
Lee Hines, Culver, Colo.
(Yes, he did, when he came up against "THE DEADLY CURSE OF KORABO," appearing in the MARCH issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 146.—Ed.)

LET SCIENCE SERVE YOU!

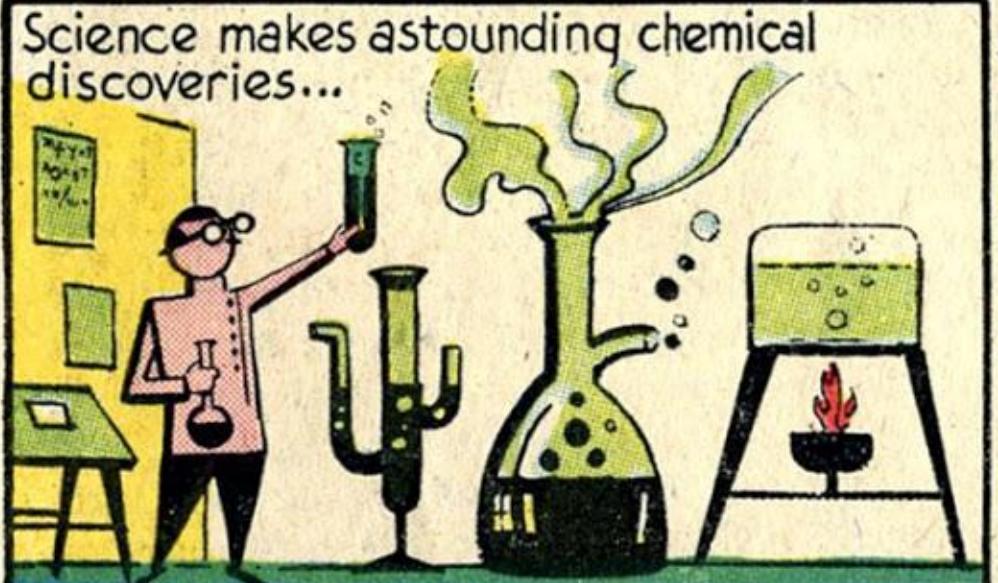
Science discovers information about fuels and thrust...



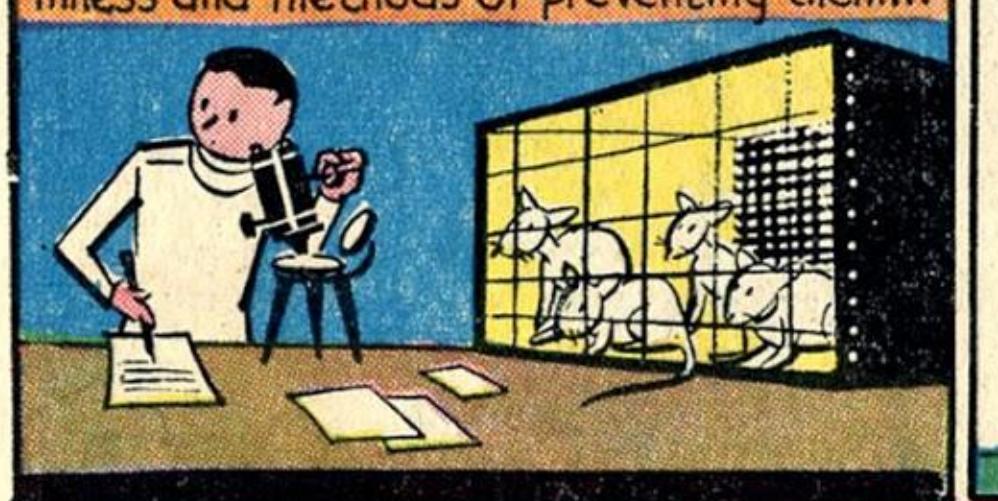
Science discovers facts about stress and other physical forces...



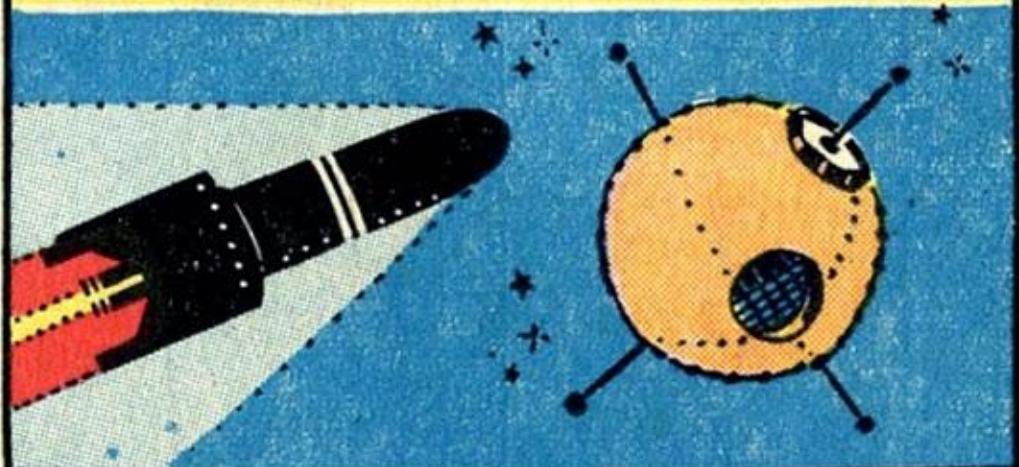
Science makes astounding chemical discoveries...



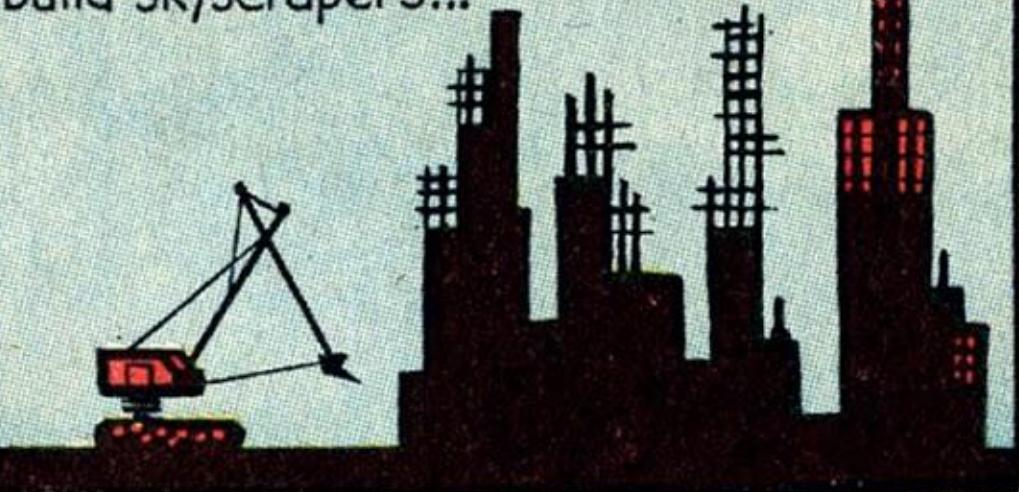
Science discovers the causes of illness and methods of preventing them...



and Aviation Engineers build satellites and rockets...



and Architects and Construction Engineers build skyscrapers...



and Manufacturers make things out of fiberglass, nylon, plastics...



and You must be the engineers and builders of your own good health!



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE LATEST IN SCIENCE--GET A REGULAR PHYSICAL CHECK-UP AND IMMUNIZATION AGAINST POLIO, TETANUS AND OTHER DISEASES!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY,
COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U.S.



BATMAN



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

ONE DAY, BATMAN WILL HAVE TO RETIRE... ONE DAY, ANOTHER BATMAN WILL CARRY ON HIS FAMED TRADITION! HERE IS A STORY OF SUCH A FUTURE--A FUTURE IN WHICH THE SECOND BATMAN MEETS A SECOND JOKER! WILL THE NEW BATMAN AND ROBIN BE VICTORIOUS, AS THE ELDER BATMAN WAS AGAINST HIS NOTORIOUS FOE? READ ON, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM FIGHTS...

the SON of **THE JOKER**

"HA, HA! I'LL ESCAPE FROM YOU AS EASILY AS MY FAMOUS FATHER DID!"

FASTER, ROBIN--
FASTER! THE HONOR OF THE BATMAN NAME IS AT STAKE!





BATMAN



THESE ARE THE HANDS OF ALFRED, FOR MANY YEARS THE BUTLER AND CONFIDANT OF BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE...

I, ALFRED, AM AGAIN TYPING AN ADVENTURE THAT MAY TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE, AFTER BATMAN HAS DECIDED HE'S BECOME TOO OLD FOR CRIME-FIGHTING...



"LONG AGO, BRUCE WAYNE MARRIED KATHY (BATWOMAN) KANE -- AND AS THEY WATCHED THEIR SON, BRUCE JR., GROW INTO A FINE BOY, THEY REACHED A DECISION..."

DICK, IT'S TIME I RETIRED NOW--SO INSTEAD OF BEING ROBIN ANY LONGER, YOU WILL REPLACE ME AS BATMAN!

AND YOU, SON, WILL CARRY ON THE FAMILY TRADITION BY BECOMING THE NEW ROBIN!



"THUS WAS BORN THE NEW HEROIC TEAM OF BATMAN II AND ROBIN II, ONE OF WHOSE EXCITING ADVENTURES BEGAN IN AN UNEXPECTED WAY..."

HERE WE GO, ROBIN-- AS JUDGES AT THE WATER SKIING OBSTACLE RACE THAT'S BEING PUT ON FOR CHARITY!

UH-HUH... THE WINNER OF THE RACE GETS \$5,000 CASH IN A GOLD VICTORY CUP!



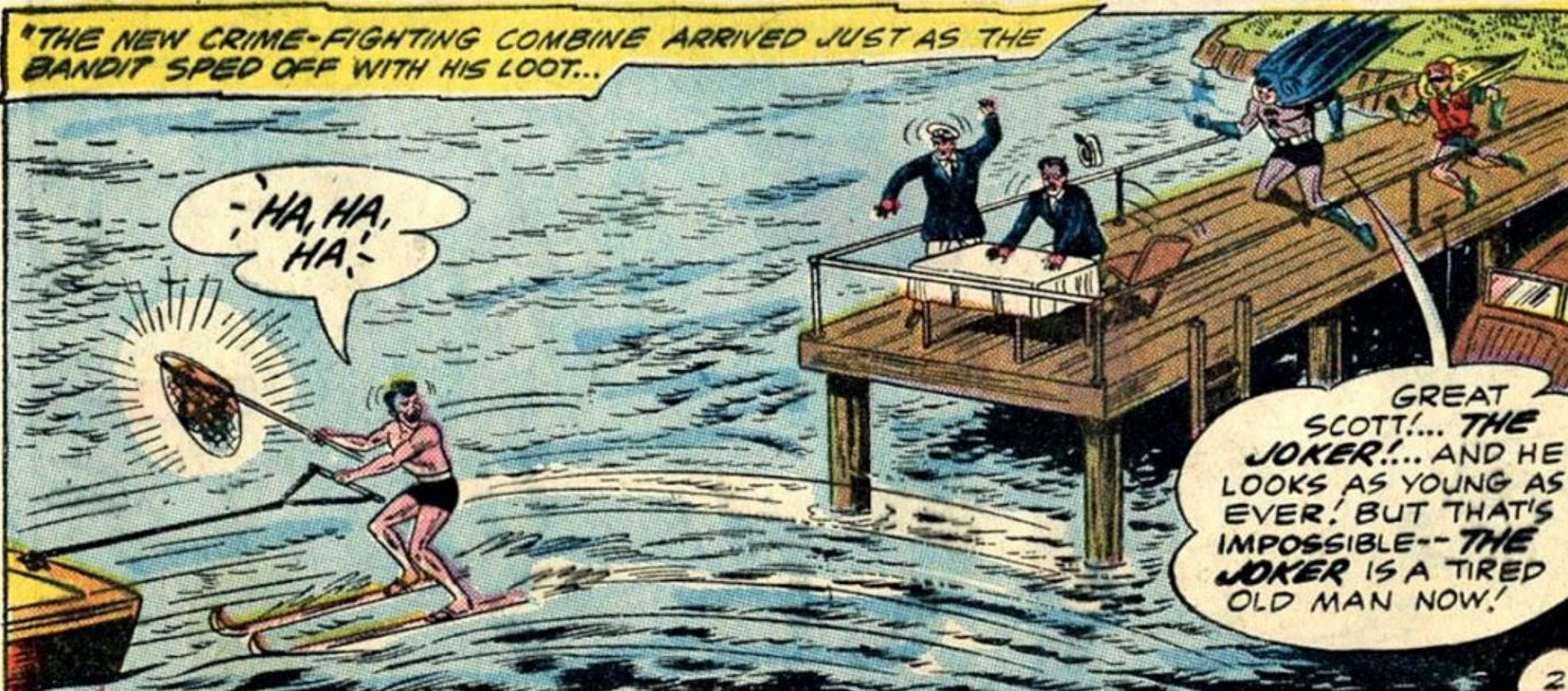
"AT THE JUDGES' PLATFORM, BEFORE THE RACE STARTED, A MOTORBOAT SUDDENLY FLASHED OUT FROM BENEATH THE PIER, AND..."

I'VE JUST DECLARED MYSELF THE VICTOR; HA, HA, AND TO THE VICTOR BELONGS THE SPOILS... HA, HA, HA!



"THE NEW CRIME-FIGHTING COMBINE ARRIVED JUST AS THE BANDIT SPED OFF WITH HIS LOOT..."

HA, HA, HA!



GREAT SCOTT!... THE JOKER!... AND HE LOOKS AS YOUNG AS EVER! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE-- THE JOKER IS A TIRED OLD MAN NOW!

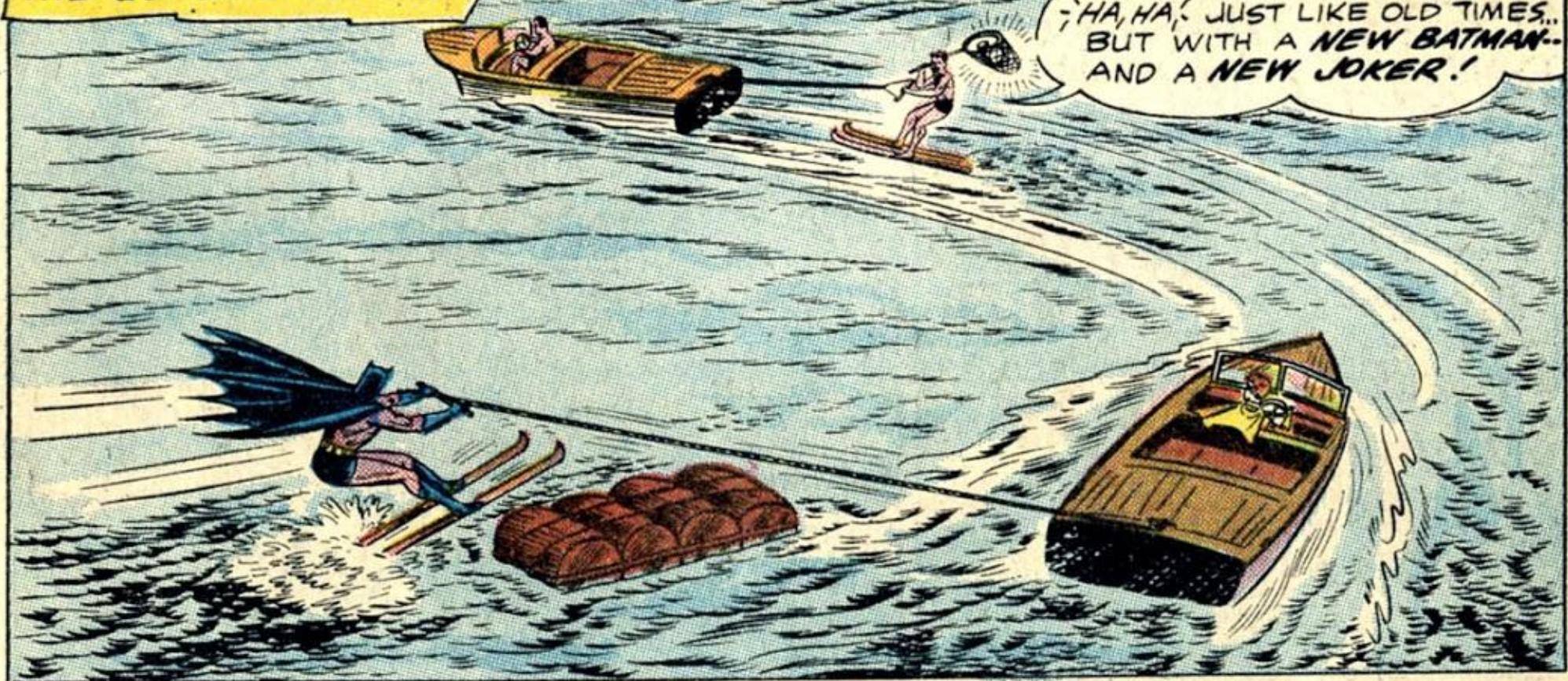


BATMAN



"ACTING SWIFTLY, THE NEW TEAM RISKED THE OBSTACLE COURSE, TRYING TO CUT DOWN THE JOKER'S LEAD..."

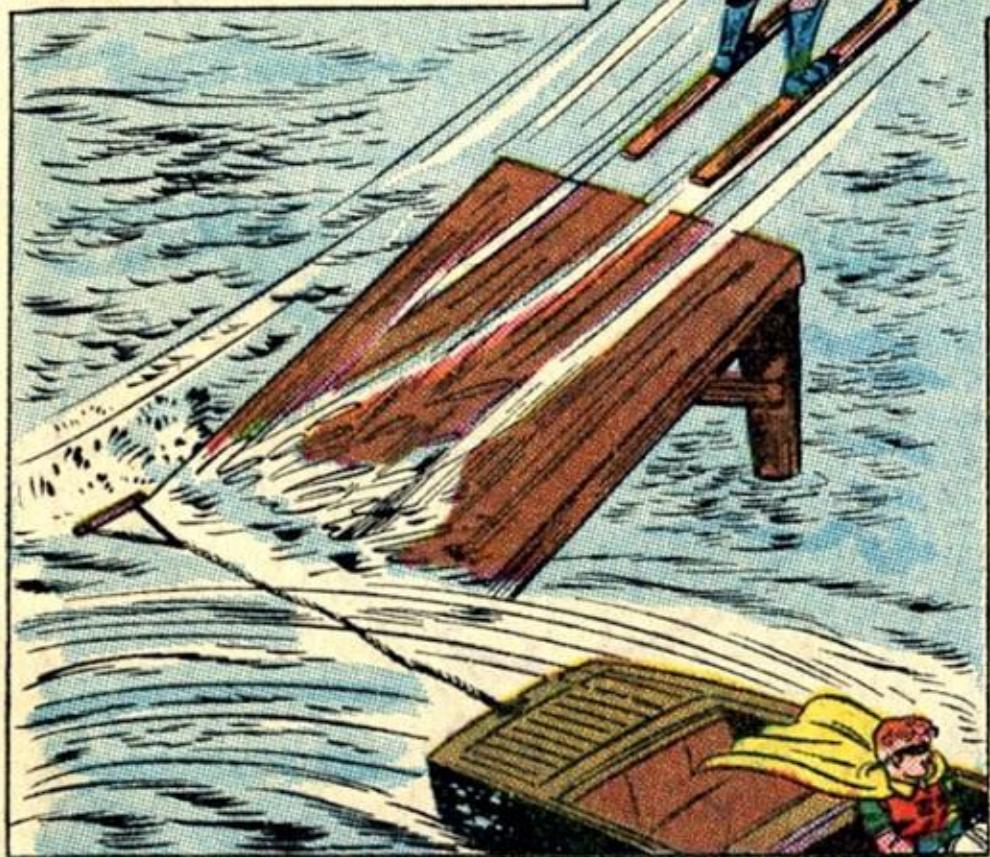
"HA, HA! JUST LIKE OLD TIMES... BUT WITH A NEW BATMAN-- AND A NEW JOKER!"



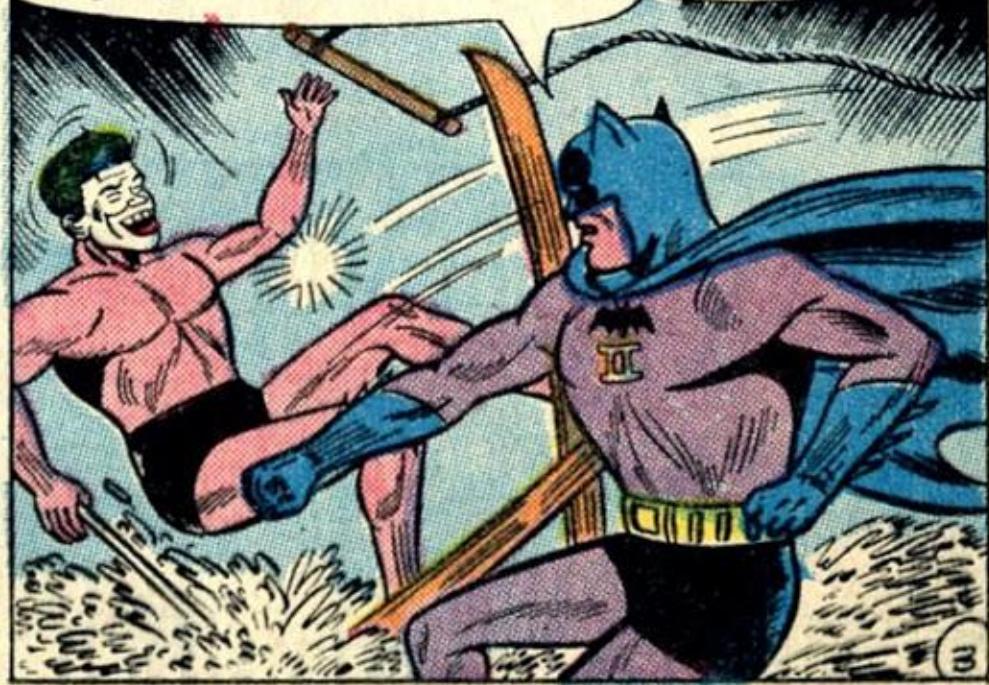
THE MAN YOU FOUGHT,
WHEN YOU WERE THE
FIRST ROBIN, IS MY
FATHER... I AM
HIS SON!

THE
JOKER'S
SON?

"AS THE SON OF THE JOKER TRIED AN ESCAPE MANEUVER,
THE TEAM PERFORMED ONE TO MATCH IT..."



THE JOKER'S SON, EH? WELL, YOU'RE
ONE CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK THAT'S
GOING TO BE BLOCKED!



BATMAN

"KICKING OFF HIS WATER SKIS,
BATMAN II RACED TO NET HIS
PRIZE CATCH..."

LOOKS LIKE THAT SOCK KNOCKED
HIM UNCONSCIOUS! HE'LL DROWN
UNLESS I GET TO HIM FAST!



"BUT AS HE DOVE BELOW THE SURFACE..."

WHAT--? THAT CUNNING CLOWN!... HE
SLIPPED OUT OF HIS SKIS--AND DONNED
SKIN-DIVING GEAR HIS PAL BROUGHT
DOWN TO HIM, FROM THEIR BOAT!
I'LL NEVER CATCH THEM NOW!



"AFTERWARD, IN THE BAT-CAVE, THE NEW
TEAM TOLD MY MASTER WHAT HAD
OCCURRED..."

THE JOKER'S SON?...
BUT THE JOKER RETIRED FROM CRIME
AFTER SERVING A LONG PRISON TERM.
I THINK I'LL
PAY HIM A
VISIT!



"SO AWHILE LATER, THE ELDER **BATMAN**
CALLED AT THE ISOLATED RETREAT OF HIS AGED
ONE-TIME ENEMY..."

BATMAN! HOW NICE OF YOU TO
REMEMBER ME! NOW THAT I'M
AN OLD, FORGOTTEN MAN, I
HARDLY HAVE VISITORS! COME
IN, AND HAVE A FRESH
LEMONADE!

HOW STRANGE
TO SEE THE
ONCE TERRIBLE
JOKER...STIFF
WITH AGE--
TENDING
FLOWERS!

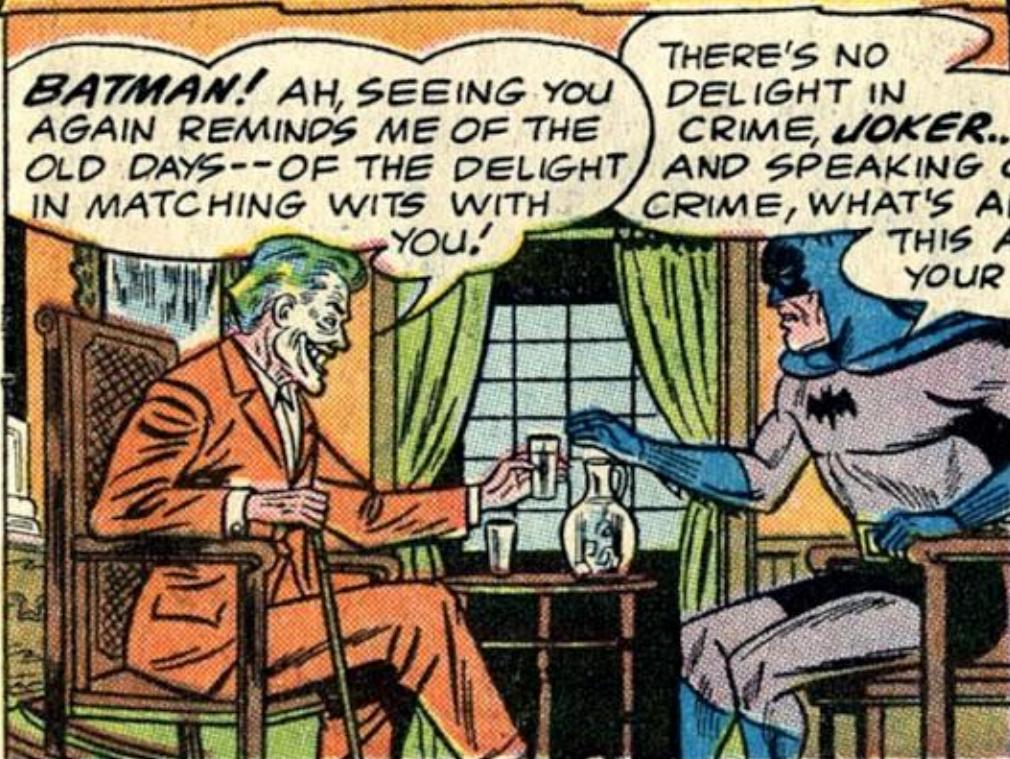


"INSIDE, THE JOKER SEEMED PATHETICALLY
GLAD OF COMPANY--SOMEONE TO TALK TO..."

BATMAN! AH, SEEING YOU
AGAIN REMINDS ME OF THE
OLD DAYS--OF THE DELIGHT
IN MATCHING WITS WITH
YOU!

THERE'S NO
DELIGHT IN
CRIME, **JOKER**...
AND SPEAKING OF
CRIME, WHAT'S ALL
THIS ABOUT
YOUR SON?

MY SON? I HAVE NO SON! THAT RASCAL I
READ ABOUT IS AN **IMPOSTOR**, WHO
OBVIOUSLY STUDIED MY OLD CRIME
METHODS --AND NOW HOPES TO CASH
IN ON MY GOOD NAME!





BATMAN



I'D LIKE TO THRASH THAT WHIPPERSNAPPER FOR STIRRING UP THINGS! I'M AN OLD MAN NOW... I HAVE MY FLOWERS, MY BOOKS... I JUST WANT TO LIVE OUT MY REMAINING YEARS IN PEACE!

I'LL TRY TO BELIEVE THAT, JOKER!



"THE NEXT NIGHT, IN A BROWN-STONE WHERE DICK GRAYSON NOW LIVED ALONE, HE LIFTED A SECRET TRAPDOOR..."

ONLY I AND THE WAYNE FAMILY KNOW THAT MY BASEMENT IS RIGHT OVER AN ABANDONED SECTION OF THE OLD SUBWAY! I'LL SLIP ON MY BATMAN COSTUME, WHICH I KEEP IN A SHED BELOW...



"SOON, BATMAN II WAS SPEEDING SWIFTLY OVER THE TRACKS OF AN ELECTRIC CART..."

I BOUGHT MY HOUSE BECAUSE I ACCIDENTALLY DISCOVERED THAT THIS SUBWAY TUNNEL LED TO A CAVERNOUS AREA ADJOINING THE BAT-CAVE! BY KNOCKING DOWN A WALL, AND EXTENDING THE TRACKS, I CAN NOW TRAVEL, UNSEEN, FROM MY HOME RIGHT TO THE BAT-CAVE!



"UPSTAIRS IN THE WAYNE HOUSE, A BUZZER ALERTED YOUNG BRUCE..."

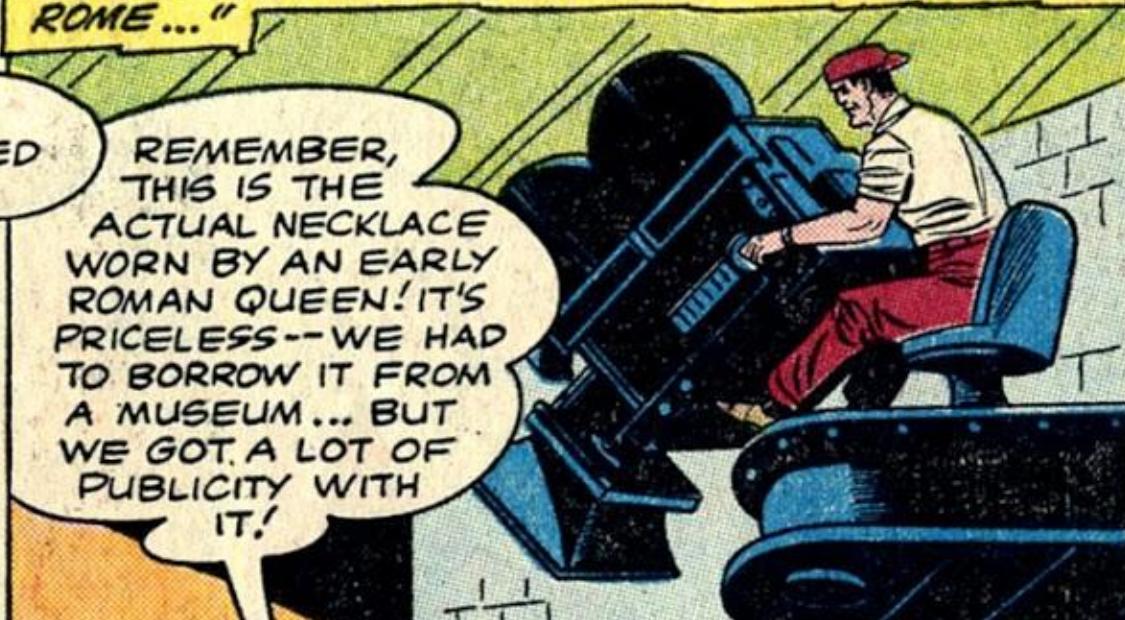
THE SIGNAL FROM THE BAT-CAVE... UNCLE DICK IS WAITING! GOSH, I HOPE WE RUN INTO THAT "SON" OF THE JOKER AGAIN!

SIGH! I'M AFRAID I'M LIKE ALL MOTHERS... I'M ALWAYS WORRIED OUR BOY MAY GET HURT!



"NOT FAR AWAY, PARAGON PICTURES WAS FILMING A SUPER-SPECTACLE ABOUT ANCIENT ROME..."

REMEMBER, THIS IS THE ACTUAL NECKLACE WORN BY AN EARLY ROMAN QUEEN! IT'S PRICELESS -- WE HAD TO BORROW IT FROM A MUSEUM... BUT WE GOT A LOT OF PUBLICITY WITH IT!



"LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, THE NEW TEAM WAS HANDED A LETTER THAT HAD BEEN ADDRESSED TO THEM..."

LIKE MY FATHER, I'M CHALLENGING YOU TO A GAME OF WITS! I'VE WON THE WATER SKI RACE, AND I INTEND TO WIN ANOTHER RACING CONTEST! CAN YOU GUESS WHICH ONE FROM MY CLUE?

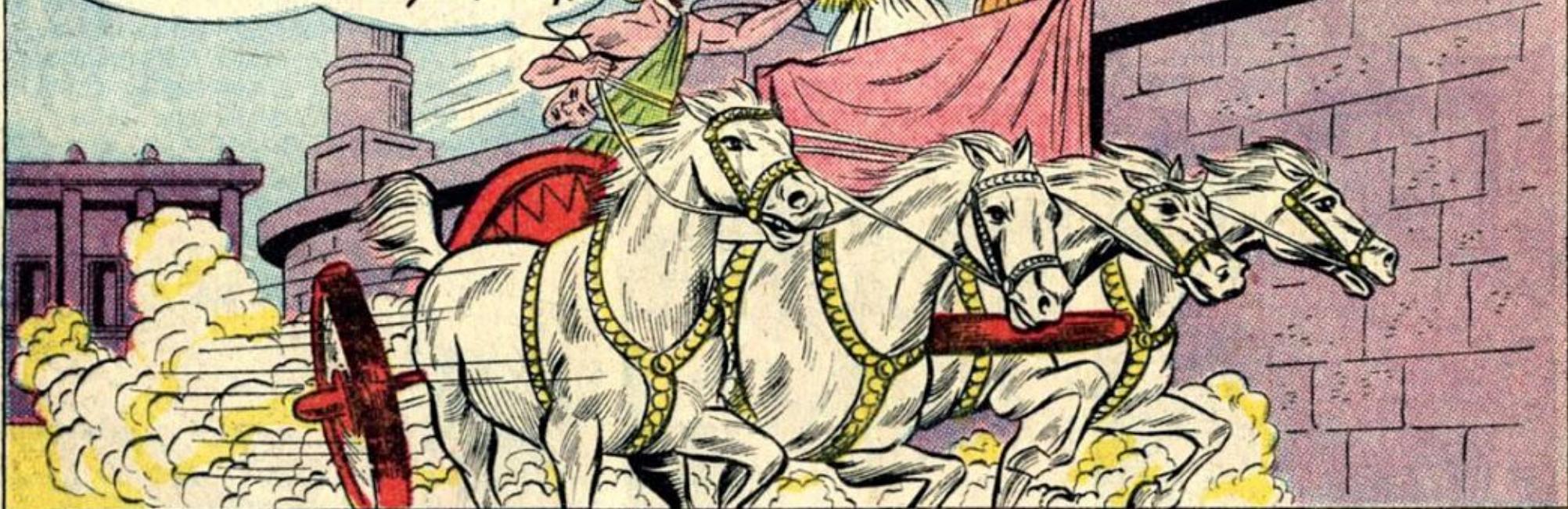
HMM... A DRAWING OF THE "SON" OF THE JOKER, WEARING THE HELMET OF AN ANCIENT ROMAN LEGIONNAIRE!



"AS THE CAST ASSEMBLED FOR A BIG CHARIOT RACE SCENE, A CHARIOTEER SUDDENLY WHIPPED OFF HIS DISGUISE, AND..."

IF ANYONE IS GOING TO BE THE STAR OF THIS SCENE, IT WILL BE ME...;*HA, HA,*

EEK! THE SON OF THE JOKER... HE'S GRABBED THE NECKLACE!



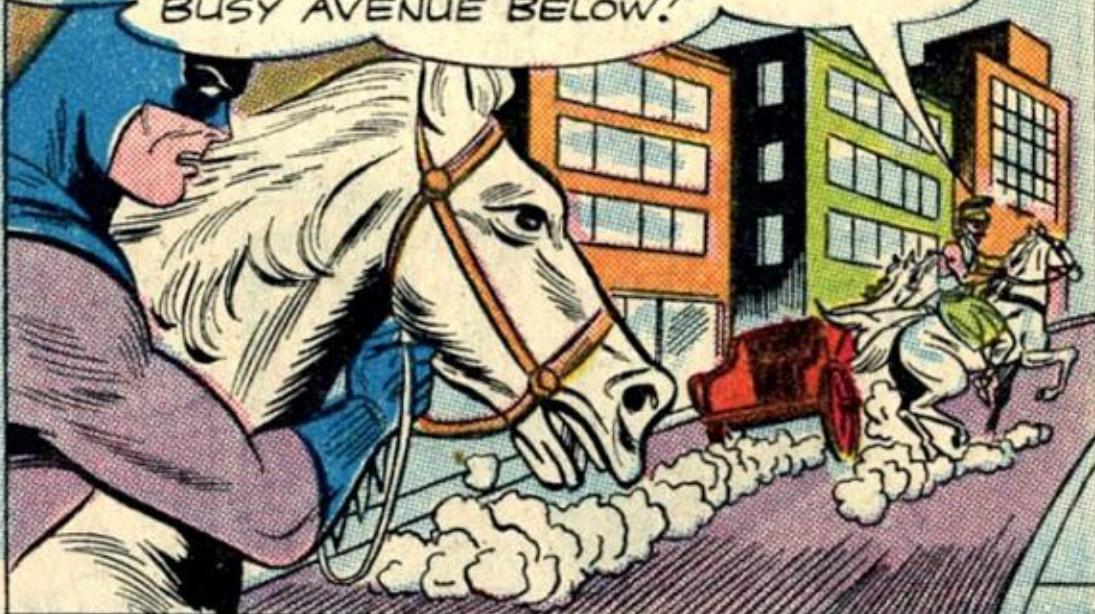
"BUT, AS THE NEW 'JOKER' WHIPPED HIS CHARIOT OUT OF THE STUDIO LOT-- A REAL RACE ENSUED..."

SO YOU FIGURED OUT MY CLUE, EH? WELL--IT WON'T DO YOU MUCH GOOD...;*HA, HA, HA,*



"UP A SLANTING STREET THEY SPED, UNTIL..."

THIS IS MY OWN GIMMICKED CHARIOT! WHEN I PUSHED A LEVER, IT TRIGGERED A TIME-BOMB INSIDE! UNLESS YOU STOP THE CHARIOT, IT WILL ROLL DOWN THIS HILL--INTO THE BUSY AVENUE BELOW!



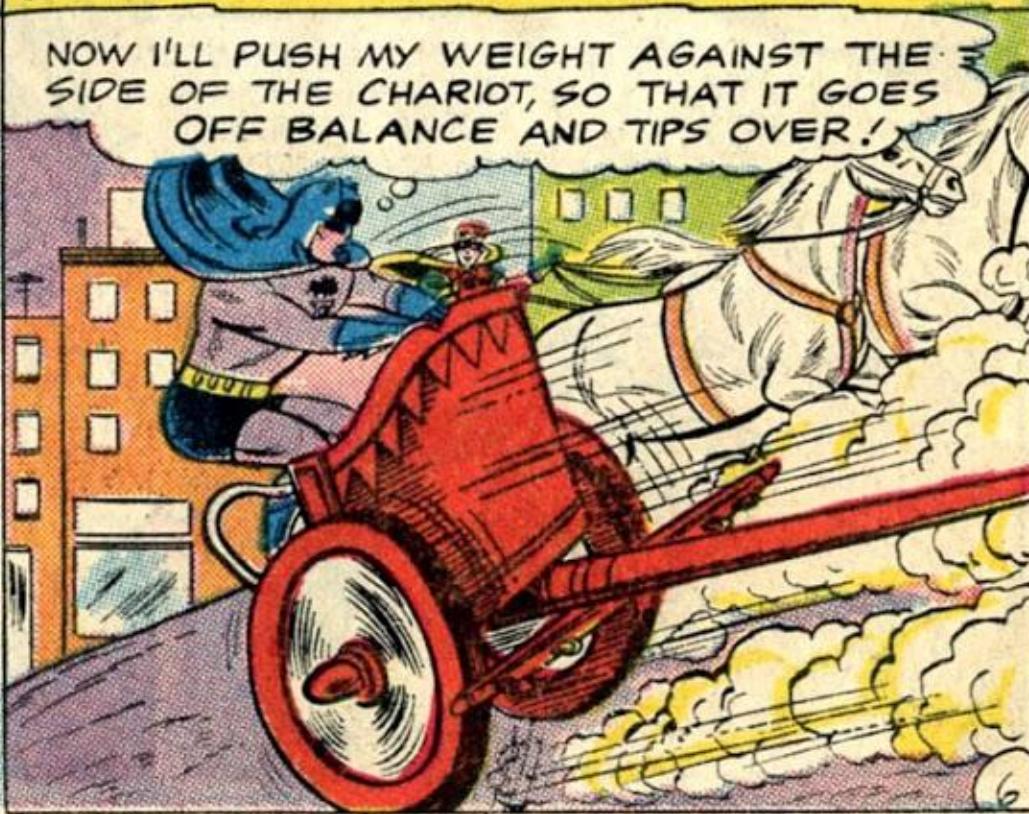
BATMAN, HE MAY BE BLUFFING--TO STALL US OFF!

MAYBE--BUT WE CAN'T TAKE THE CHANCE! GO AFTER THAT RUNAWAY CHARIOT!



"SWIFTLY, THEY CLOSED THE GAP--AND THEN, BATMAN II JUMPED FROM HIS HORSE..."

NOW I'LL PUSH MY WEIGHT AGAINST THE SIDE OF THE CHARIOT, SO THAT IT GOES OFF BALANCE AND TIPS OVER!





BATMAN



"WHILE AT WORK, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS WERE UNAWARE THAT A PASSERBY WAS WATCHING THEM..."

HE DID HAVE A BOMB IN THE CHARIOT--BUT WE DE-ACTIVATED IT! LOOK--FRESH TAR ON THE WHEELS...THAT MEANS IT WENT OVER A FRESHLY-TARRED ROAD BEFORE IT REACHED THE STUDIO...

THERE'S A NEWSPAPER THAT PAYS \$25 FOR ANY NEWS TIP! I'LL TELL 'EM WHAT I OVERHEARD!



"LATER, UPON CHECKING AT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS..."

THE ONLY TWO STREETS BEING NEWLY PAVED ARE FOURTH STREET AND SYCAMORE DRIVE!

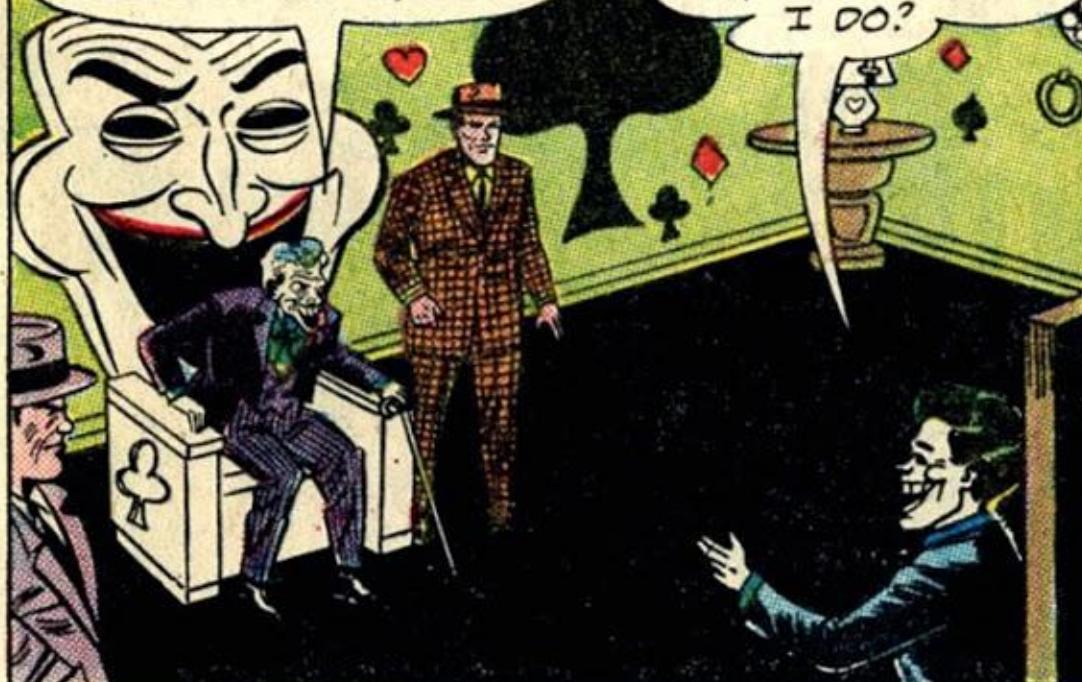
SYCAMORE DRIVE? THAT'S WHERE THE FIRST JOKER HAS HIS HOUSE!



"MEANWHILE, THE 'SON' OF THE JOKER WAS GOING THROUGH A SECRET PASSAGEWAY THAT LED INTO A FANTASTIC HIDEAWAY..."

WELCOME HOME, "SON"!

HI, "DAD"--HOW'D I DO?



FINE, FINE! I NEVER HAD A SON, BUT I ALWAYS WANTED ONE--AND WHEN I CHOSE YOU TO BE MY PROTEGÉ, I KNEW YOU'D CARRY ON THE JOKER TRADITION IN GOOD STYLE!



YOU'RE STILL A BIT CRUDE, OF COURSE--BUT IF YOU REMEMBER ALL THE TRICKS I'VE TAUGHT YOU, YOU'LL BE WORTHY OF THE NAME... THE "SON" OF THE JOKER!



"AT THAT MOMENT, BRUCE WAYNE WAS READING THE NEWS STORY RELATED BY THAT TIPSTER..."

"A TIME-BOMB IN THE CHARIOT"--"TAR ON THE WHEELS"...EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED WHEN I ONCE FOUGHT THE ORIGINAL JOKER, MANY YEARS AGO! COULD THIS BE A COINCIDENCE?





BATMAN



COULD THE NEW JOKER HAVE STUDIED THE OLD JOKER'S TACTICS SO CLOSELY AND... GREAT SCOTT! I JUST REMEMBERED--THE ORIGINAL JOKER DELIBERATELY PUT TAR ON THE WHEELS TO LURE ME INTO A TRAP!

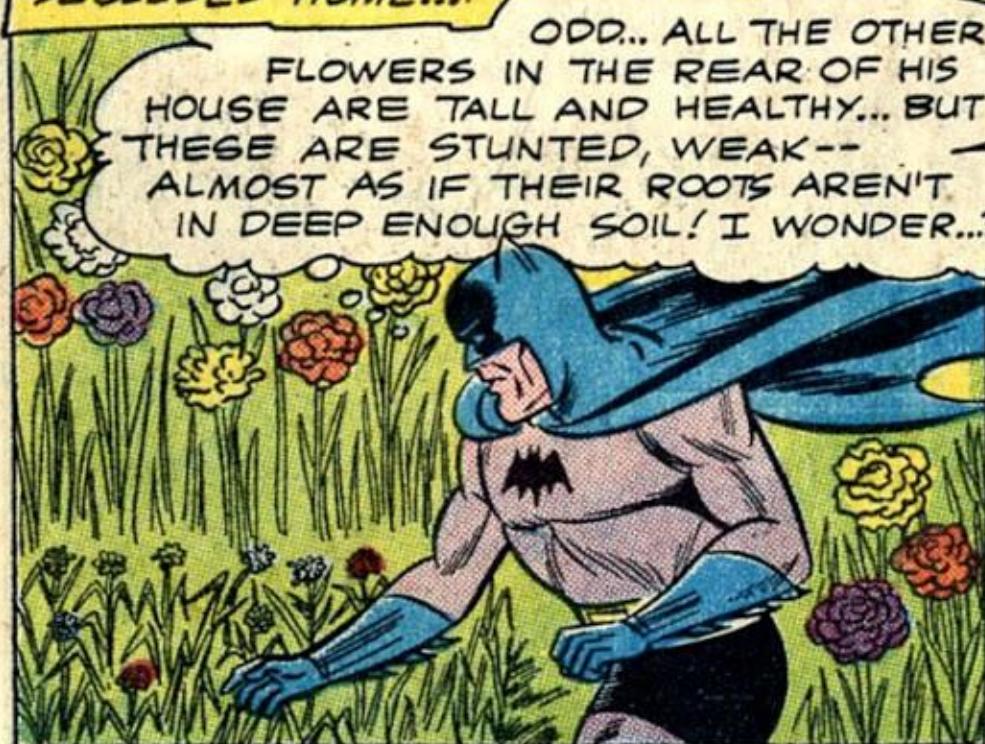
KATHY, I MAY BE OVERLY CONCERNED, BUT I'M GOING TO CHECK ON THE OLD JOKER AGAIN!

-SNIFF! OH, I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE THIS AWFUL COLD... THEN I COULD GO WITH YOU -SNIFF! AS BATWOMAN!



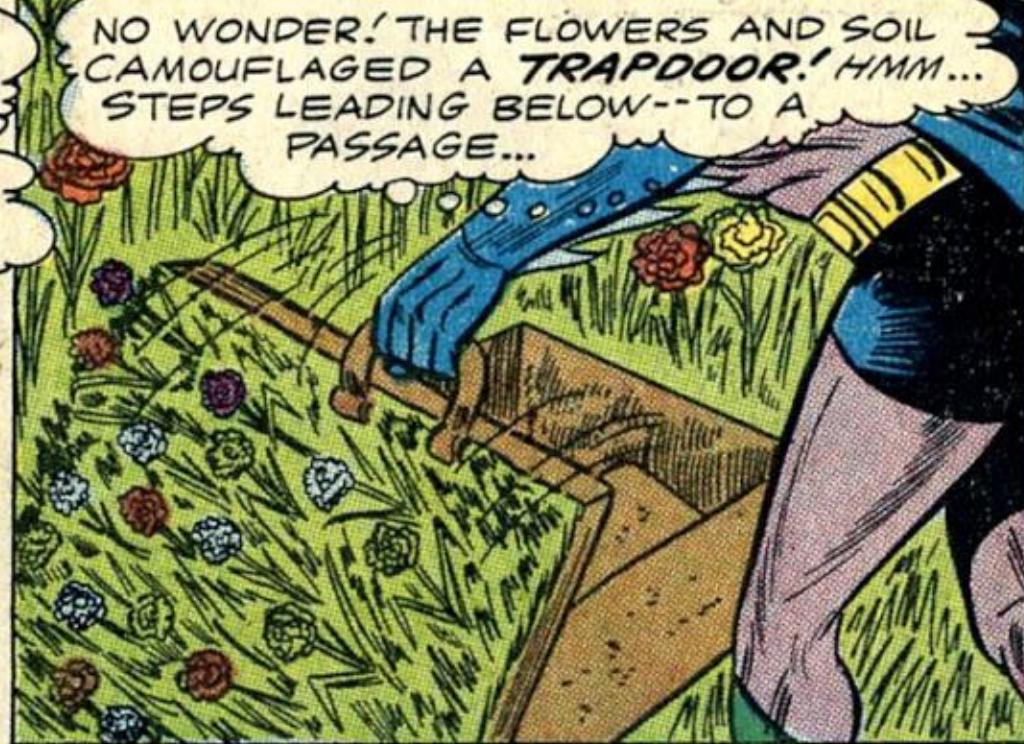
"SOON AFTER, BATMAN WARILY CHECKED THE GROUNDS ABOUT THE OLD JOKER'S SECLUDED HOME..."

ODD... ALL THE OTHER FLOWERS IN THE REAR OF HIS HOUSE ARE TALL AND HEALTHY... BUT THESE ARE STUNTED, WEAK-- ALMOST AS IF THEIR ROOTS AREN'T IN DEEP ENOUGH SOIL! I WONDER...?



"FEELING AROUND THE SOIL, BATMAN SOON DISCOVERED THE ANSWER..."

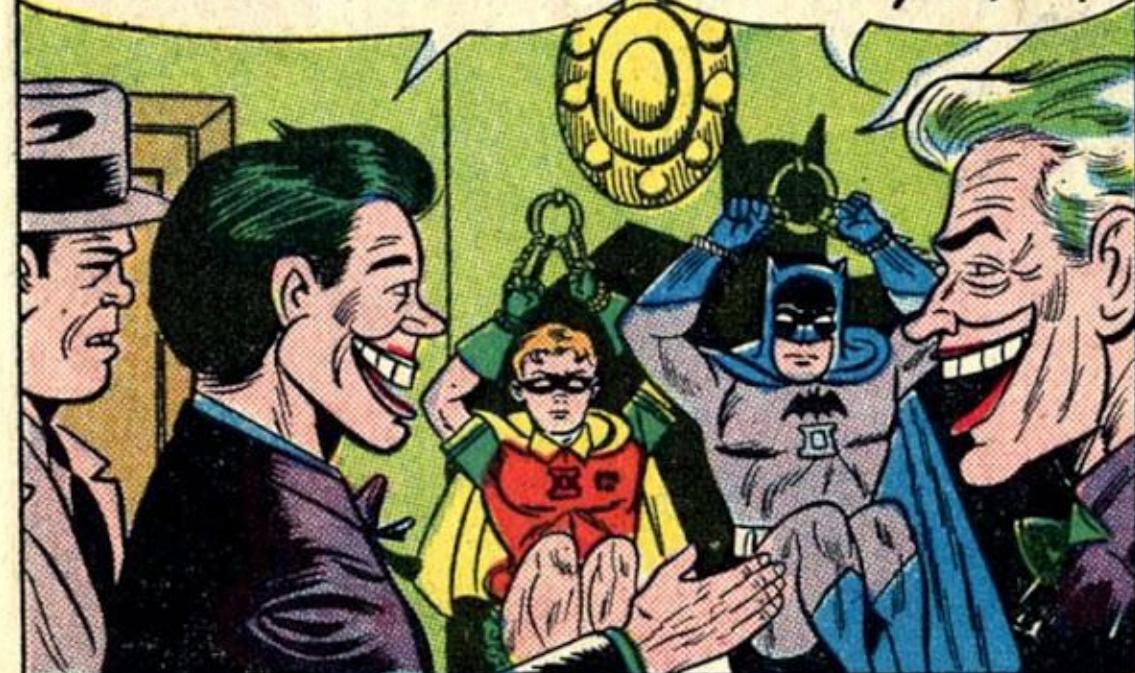
NO WONDER! THE FLOWERS AND SOIL -- CAMOUFLAGED A TRAPDOOR! HMM... STEPS LEADING BELOW--TO A PASSAGE...



"MEANWHILE..."

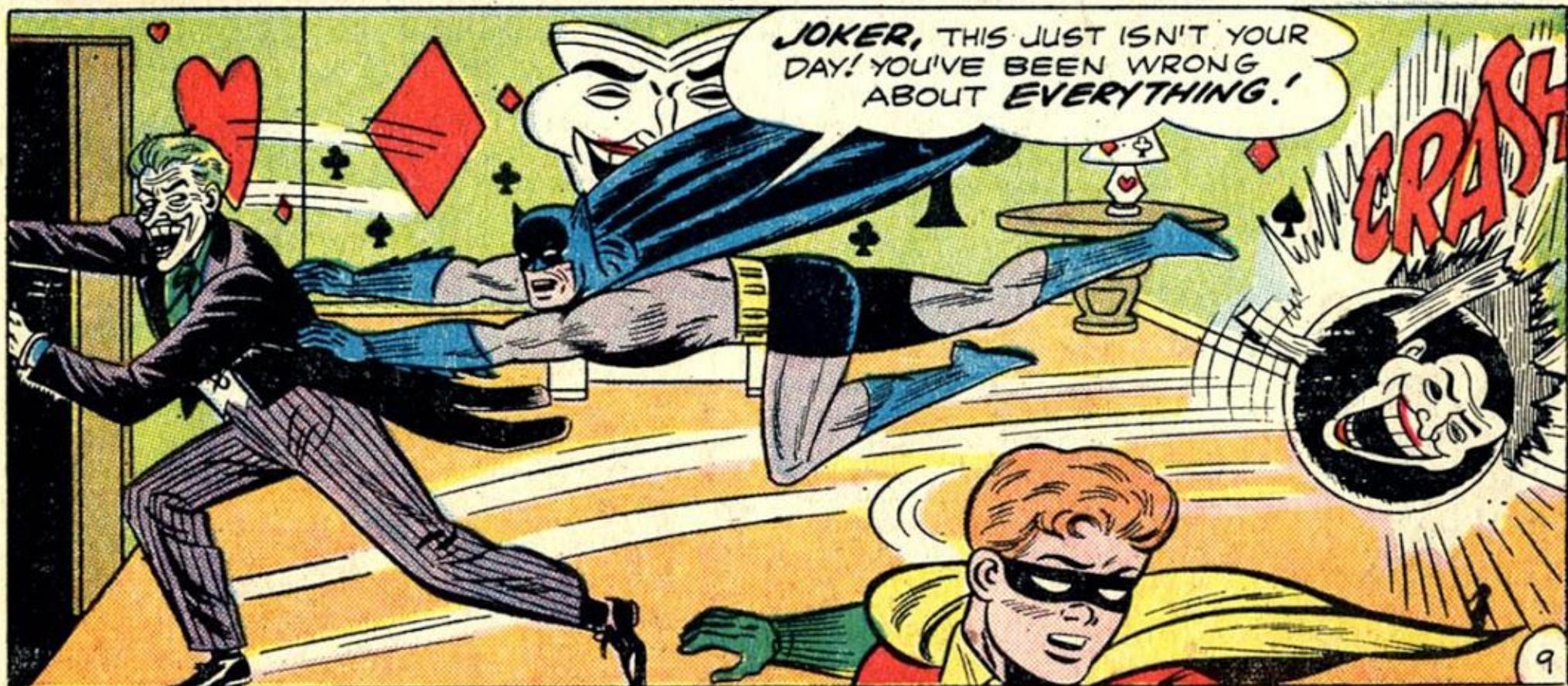
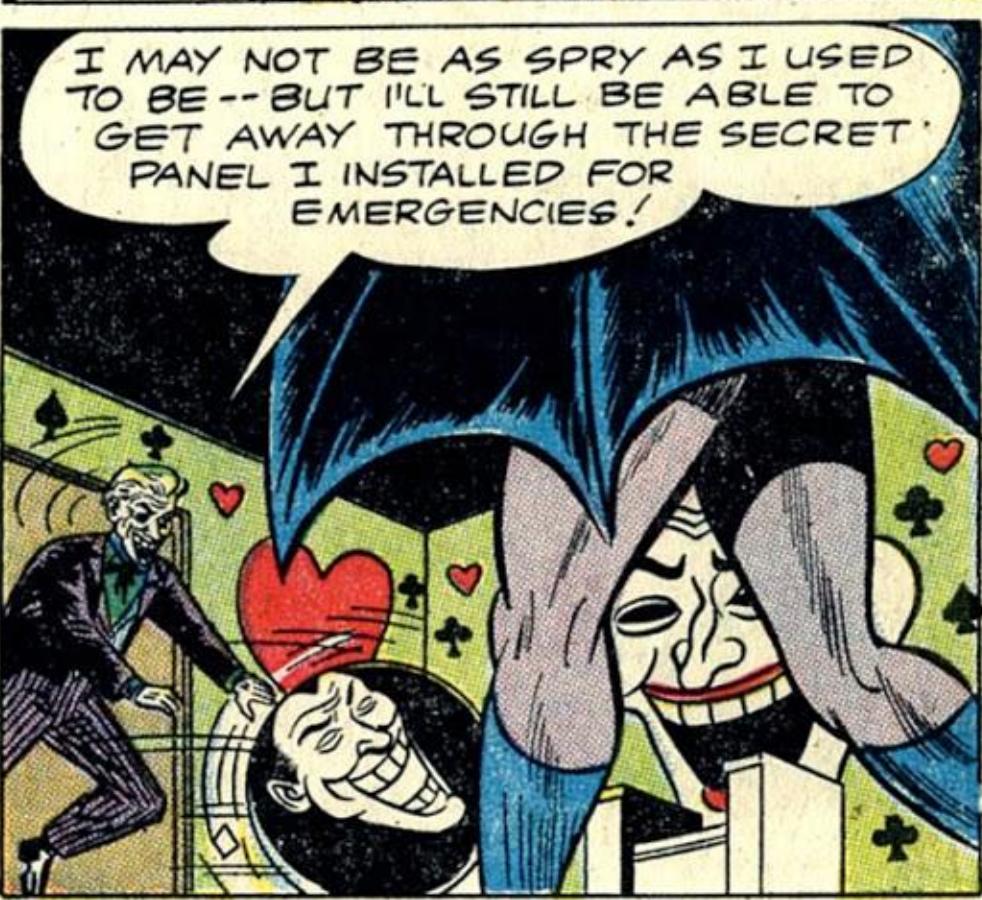
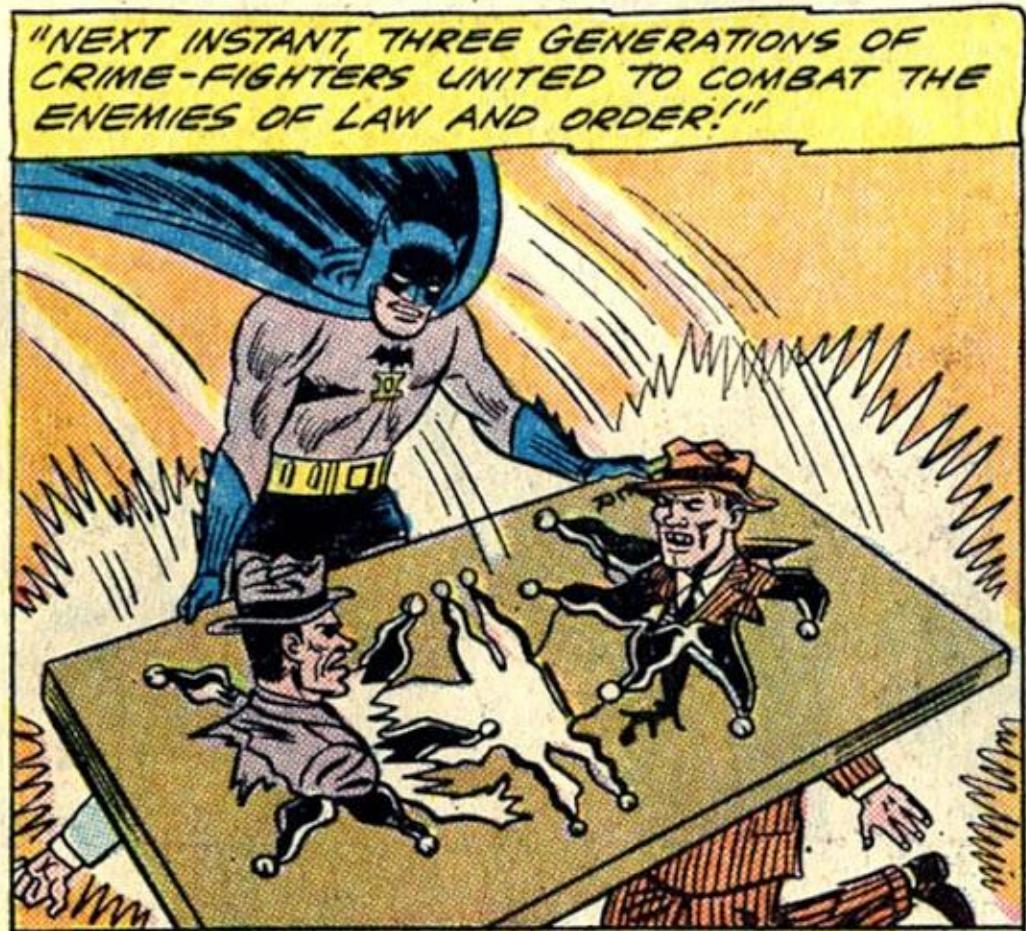
WELL, "POP"--THE TAR TRICK YOU TAUGHT ME LED THEM HERE, JUST AS YOU SAID IT WOULD!

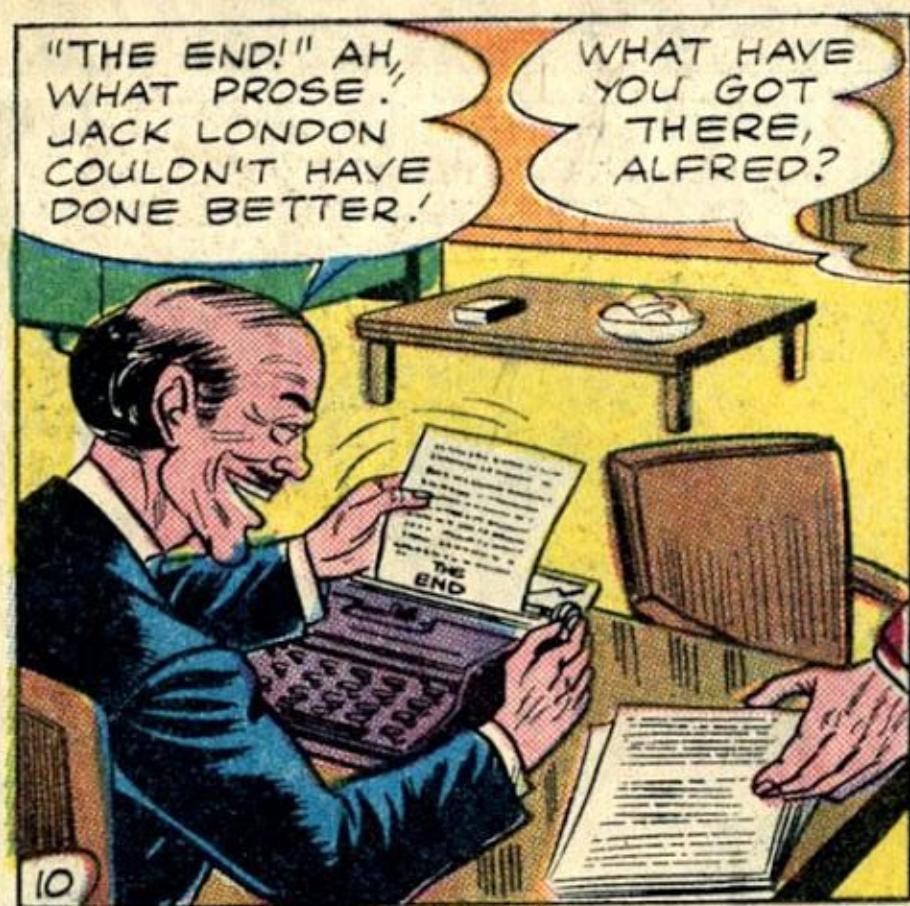
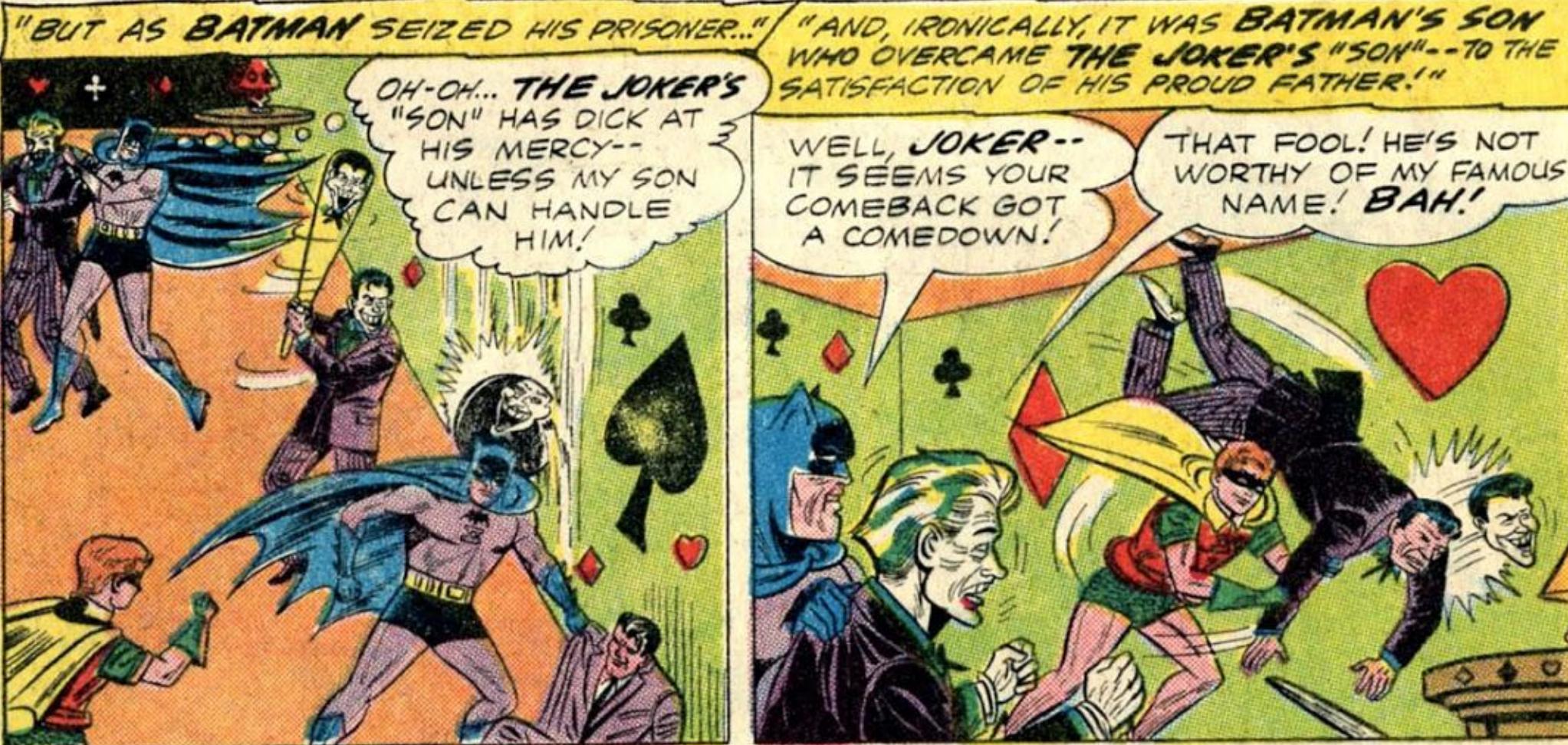
YES, "SON"-- AND KNOCKOUT GAS BOMBS GOT THEM QUICKLY, THE MINUTE THEY ENTERED THE HOUSE... HA, HA!



NOW, AT LONG LAST, I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY DREAM--TO UNMASK BATMAN! ONCE I KNOW BATMAN IT'S IDENTITY--THEN I'LL ALSO KNOW THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN I!







STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF BATMAN, published 8 times yearly at Sparta, Illinois for October 1st, 1961.

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4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: 485,000.

J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of September, 1961.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public
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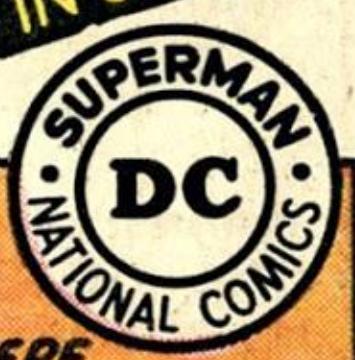
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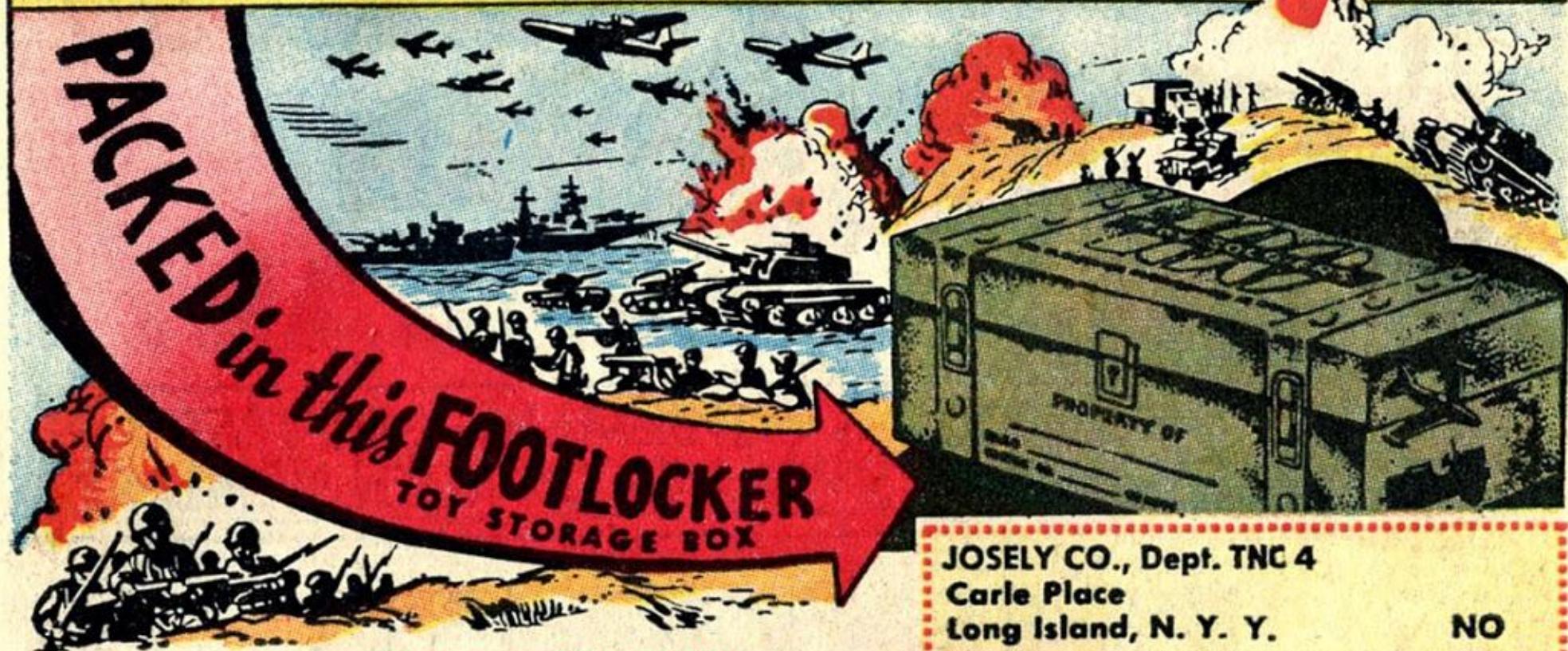
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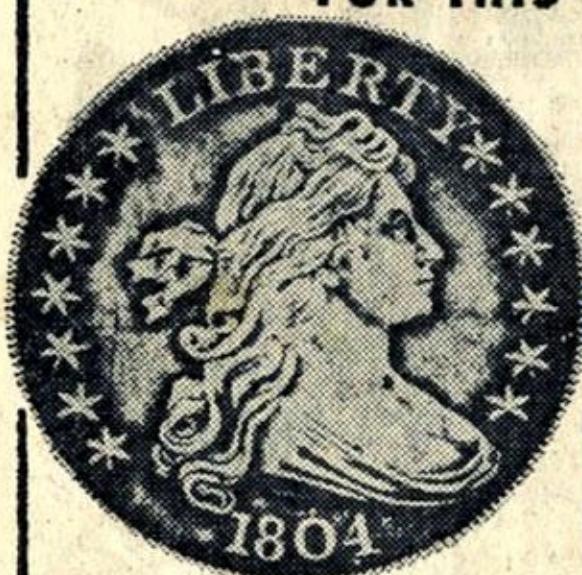
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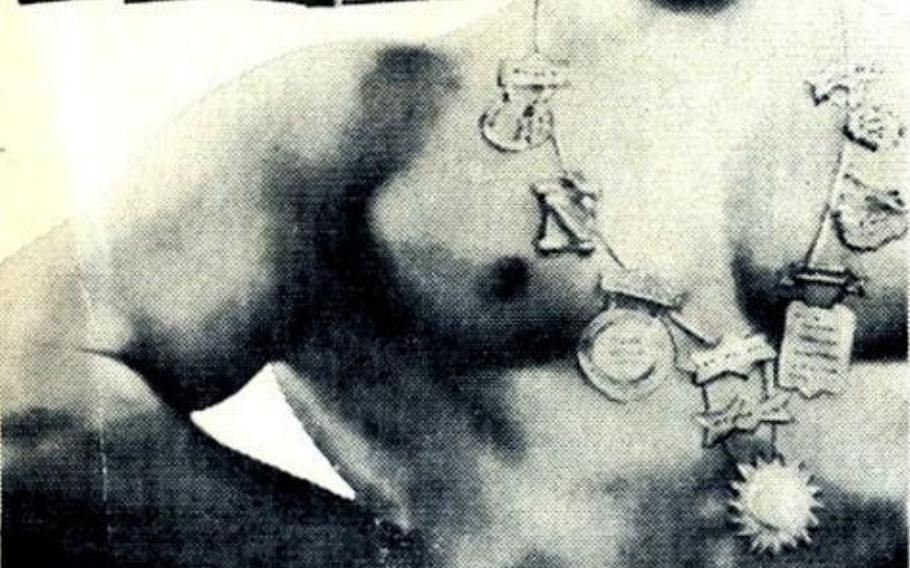


Illustrated: 1804 silver dollar — 19,000 minted, only 12 accounted for—where are the rest?

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MOLDER OF HANDSOME HE-MEN and CHAMPS out of WEAKLINGS says

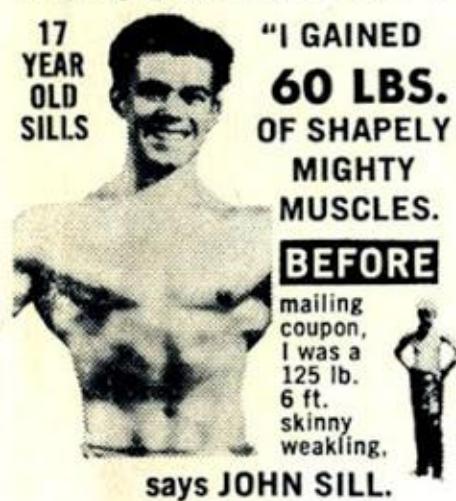
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just as I did.



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SILVER TROPHY with name on it,
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OF DANGEROUS
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FAT
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WAIST!"

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the right was ME a few
short weeks ago."

JOWETT streamlined my
body, made me a new man
my 47" chest
my 32" waist
15" difference
attracts admiration at the beach.

YOU become A WINNER in ALL you do
like these and MILLIONS of my pupils!



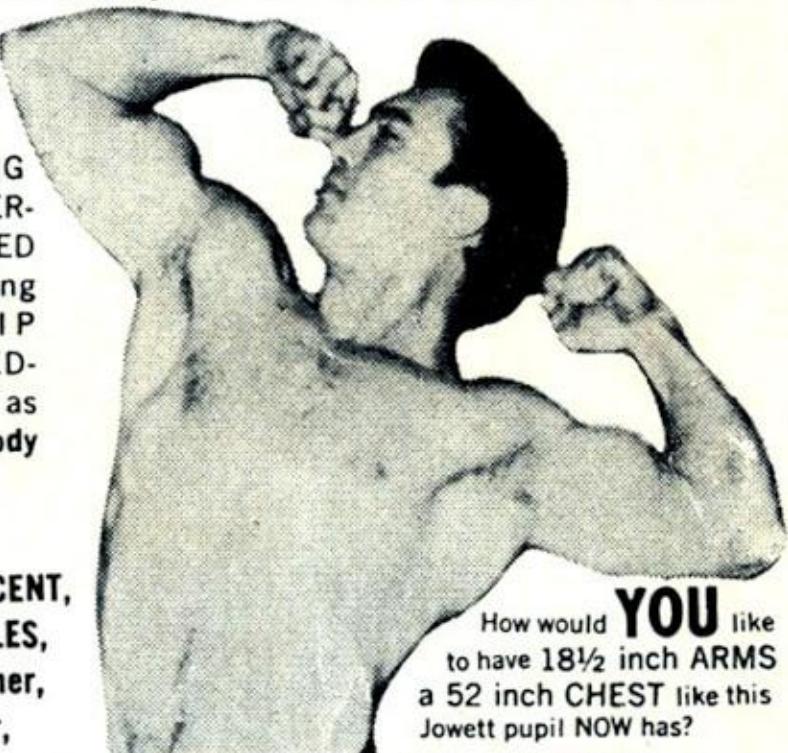
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says to YOU, "No matter WHAT your age, I advise you, SEND for the
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Under the World's GREATEST BODY-BUILDER, George Jowett, I
now have 18½" ARMS, a 52" CHEST my STRENGTH has greatly improved. So have my sports. I have won titles like 'Mr. Virginia',
'Mr. State Y.M.C.A.', etc."

YOU can soon be a HERO of MEN like Butler is
and an IDOL of WOMEN in a few weeks!

Yes! In just 10 THRILLING MINUTES a day, in the
SECURITY of YOUR OWN ROOM at home, MY RAPID-FIRE, EASY as ABC FAMOUS PICTURE METHODS
will start building you THE VERY FIRST NIGHT. I'll
show you How to Mold 16 INCH ARMS of MIGHT,
a big, deep 45 INCH CHEST housing TIRELESS
LUNGS, WIDE MANLY SHOULDERS — a BROAD
BRAWNY BACK, tapering to a SLENDER WAIST with
punch-proof STOMACH MUSCLES, LEGS of RUNNING
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WOMEN always say, "I just adore
JOWETT ALL-MALE HE-MEN".

NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are
now, if you're in your teens, twenties, thirties or
forties, I'll show you in just 10 thrilling minutes
in your home, how you can make yourself over by
the easy, quick method I turned myself from
wreck to WORLD CHAMPION and turned MILLIONS
of others into all-male he-men!

YES! You'll ADD INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLES to
your ARMS, deepen your CHEST, broaden your
BACK and SHOULDERS. From HEAD to HEELS
you'll gain SIZE, POWER, LIGHTNING SPEED
ENDURANCE. You'll become a SUCCESSFUL HE-
MAN in LOOKS and ACTS — a WINNER in EVERY-
THING — athletics, business, studies.

BEFORE

mailing
coupon
this
JOWETT
pupil was
this
90 lb.
skeleton.
Gained
70 lbs.
Made
football
team.

You wouldn't
give me
a tumble
before
I gained
28
JOWETT
lbs.



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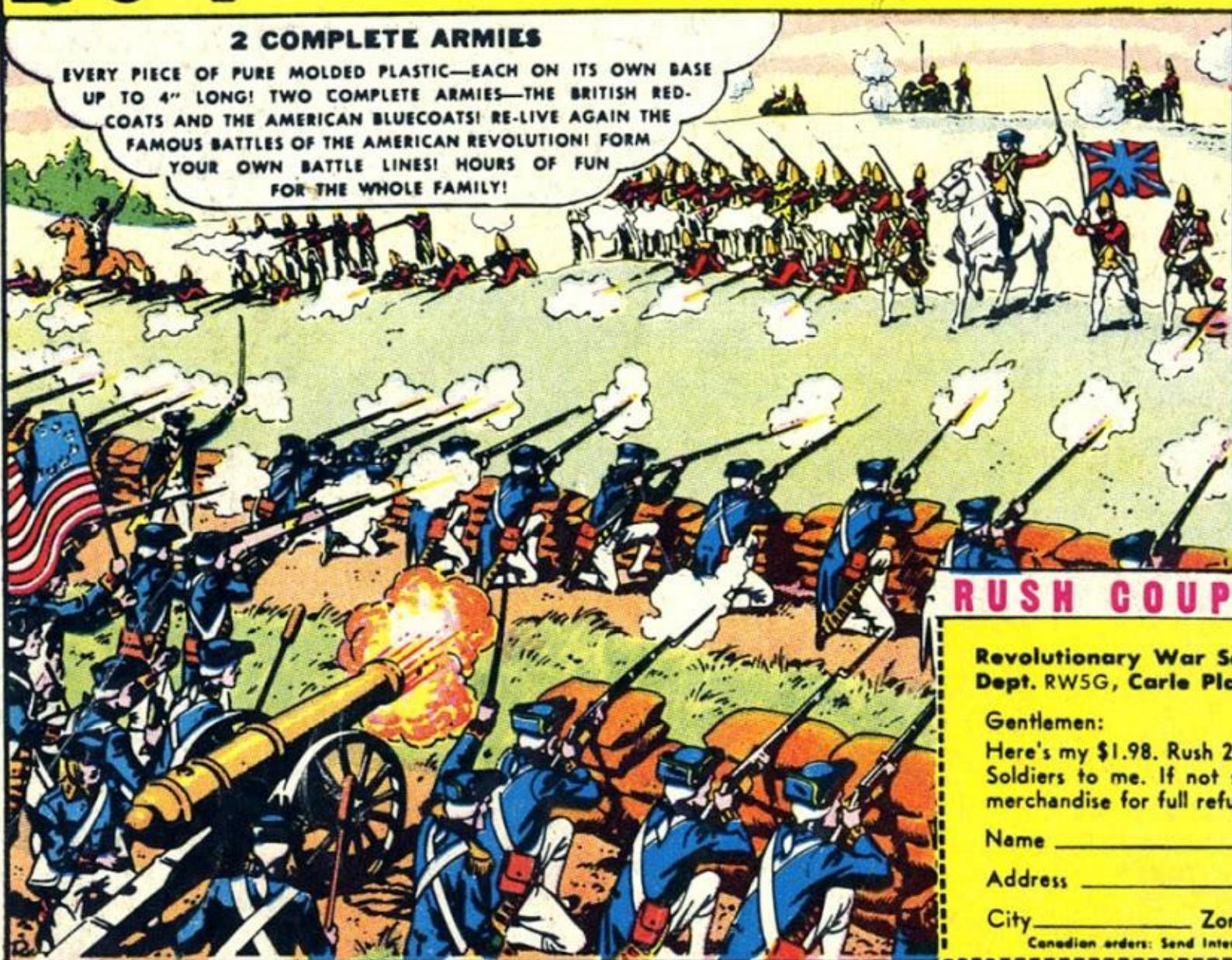
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- 12 Cannon Loaders
- 12 Drummers
- 12 Minute Men
- 24 Mohawk Indians
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