



Special...A NEW MAD HATTER ADVENTURE!

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FEB.
NO. 161

BATMAN

"The BAT-MITE
HERO!"

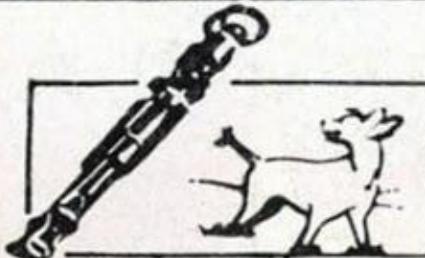
HOW DO YOU
LIKE MY NEW HERO,
BATMAN? THANKS
TO MY POWERS, HE
CAN TAKE THOSE
CROOKS TO POLICE
HEADQUARTERS IN
STYLE!

OH-OH!
BAT-MITE
HAS SPOILED
MY PLANS!



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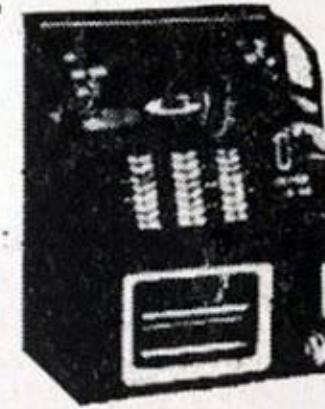
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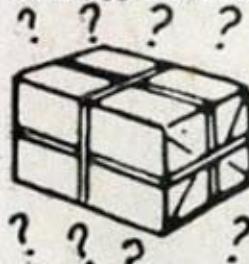
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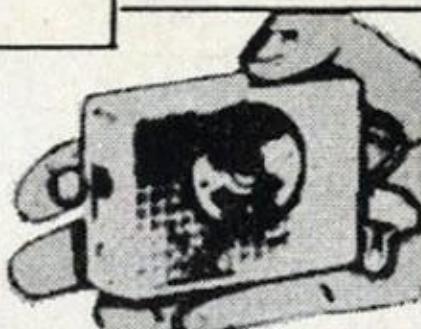
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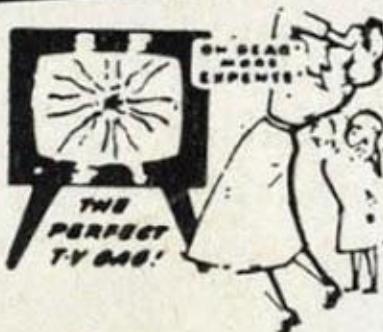
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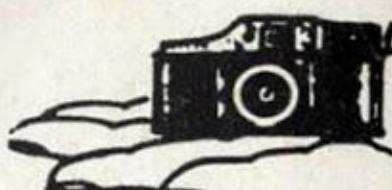
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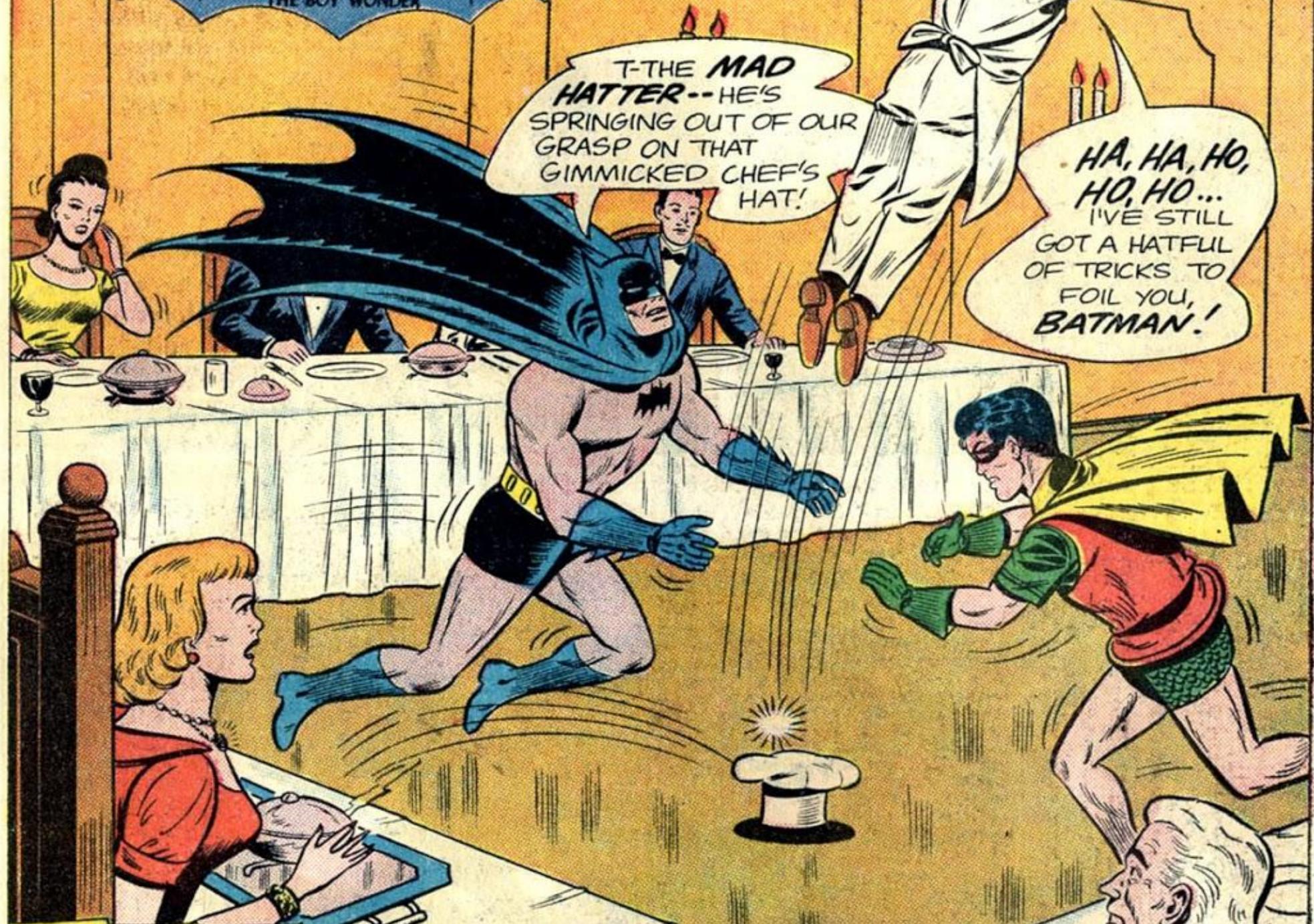
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BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER



DON'T FLIP YOUR LIP--BUT JERVIS TETCH IS BACK TO HEAP A HATFUL OF TROUBLE ON GOTHAM CITY AND THE DYNAMIC DUO WITH MORE OF HIS MADCAP CRIMES! STILL A FANATICAL HAT COLLECTOR, THE SLY VILLAIN NOW SEEKS TO UTILIZE THEM TO GAIN A FORTUNE! AND BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THEMSELVES ON THE BRIM OF DESPAIR AS THEY ATTEMPT TO SOLVE...

THE NEW CRIMES OF THE MAD HATTER

BOB KANE

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BATMAN



BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD,
DICK GRAYSON, BOLT DOWN A SECRET
STAIRWAY IN THE WAYNE MANSION AS...

...AND ESCAPED CONVICT
JERVIS TETCH WAS
LAST SEEN ON THE
HIGHWAY TO GOTHAM...

THE MAD
HATTER--ON
THE LOOSE
AGAIN! WE'LL
HAVE TO DRESS
FOR THE OCCASION
IN OUR CRIME-
FIGHTING TOGS,
DICK!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE DEPTHS OF THE BAT-CAVE...

HE SURE WAS A ZANY
CRIMINAL, BATMAN-- A HOBBY-
ROBBER WHO KEPT A CRIME
COLLECTION OF BIZARRE
STOLEN HATS!

YES,
ROBIN,
HE WAS A
HATFUL OF
TROUBLE FOR
SOCIETY... AND US!



TWO HOURS
LATER, AT
GOTHAM TRUST
CO...

A GAS-MAIN LEAK HAS BEEN
DETECTED BENEATH THE
BANK! IT MAY BLOW AT ANY
MOMENT! CLEAR THE
PREMISES AT ONCE!

GOTHAM TRUST CO.

YES,
CHIEF!

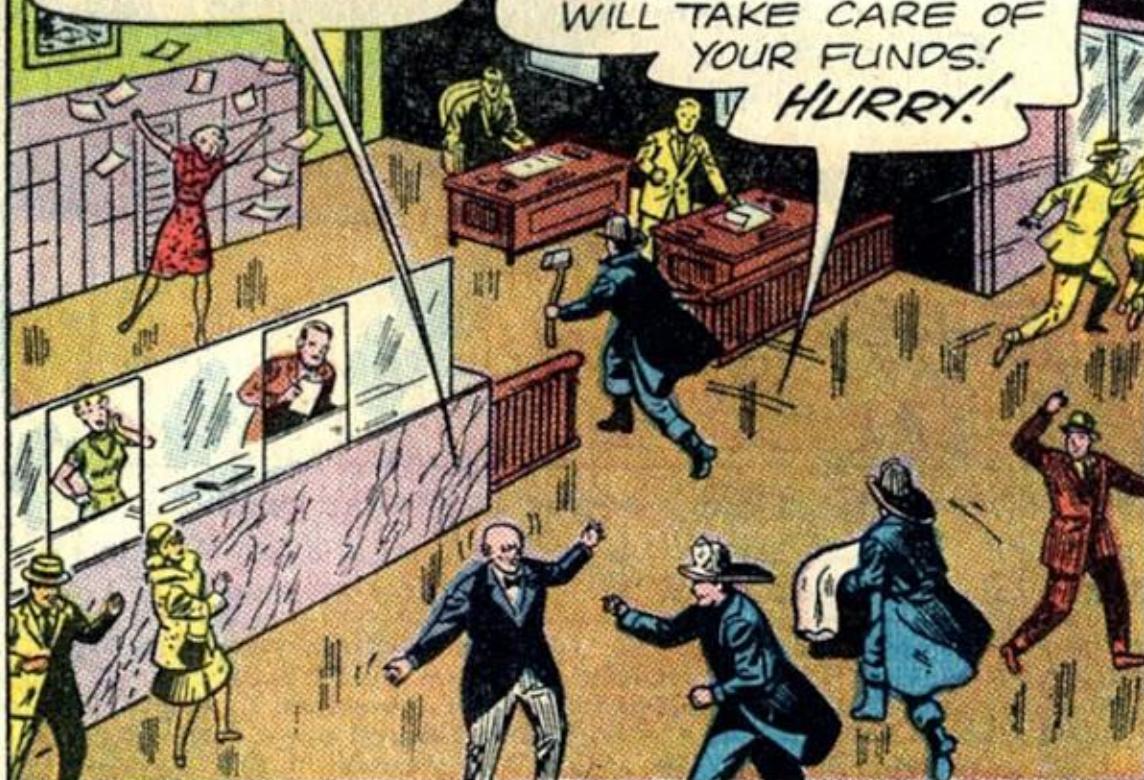


ABRUPTLY, NEAR PANIC FILLS THE BANK AS...

B-BUT THE MONEY
IN THE CAGES...
THOUSANDS
OF DOLLARS!

THERE'S IMMEDIATE
DANGER, SIR! CLEAR
YOUR EMPLOYEES FROM
THE AREA -- MY MEN
WILL TAKE CARE OF
YOUR FUNDS!

HURRY!

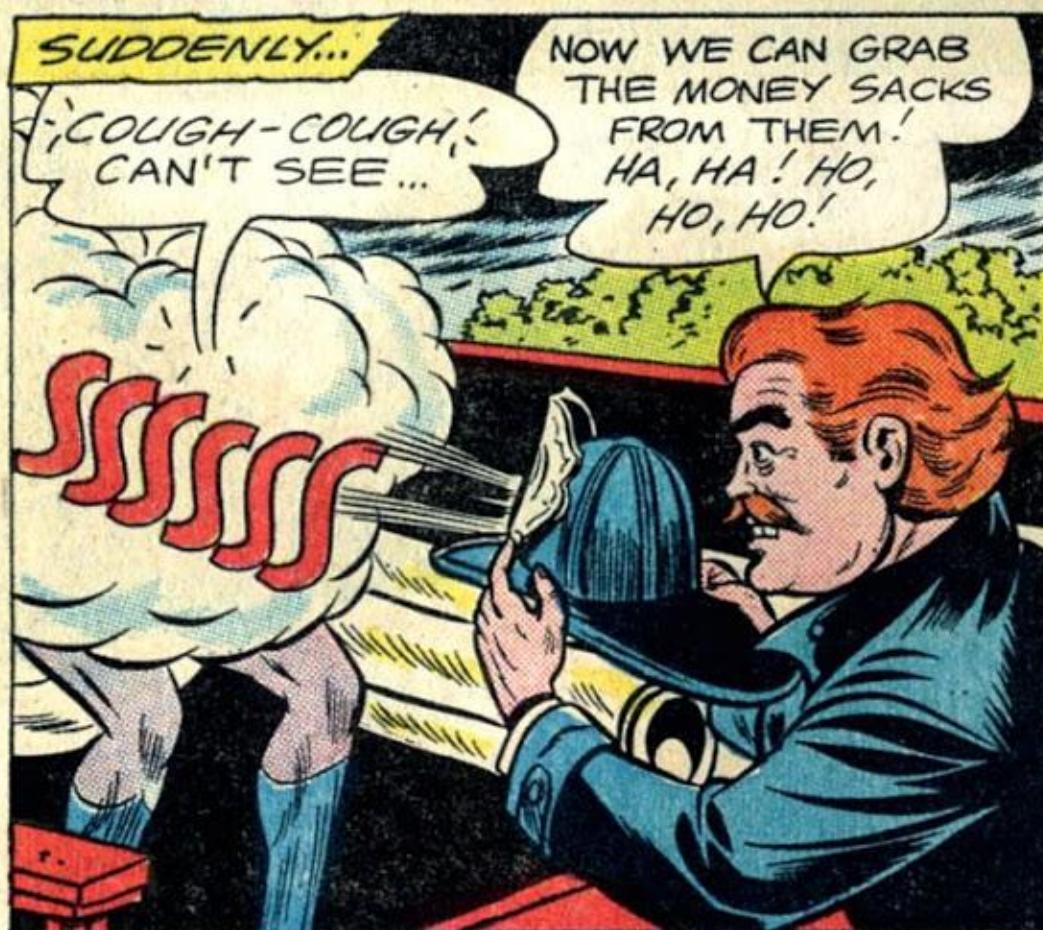
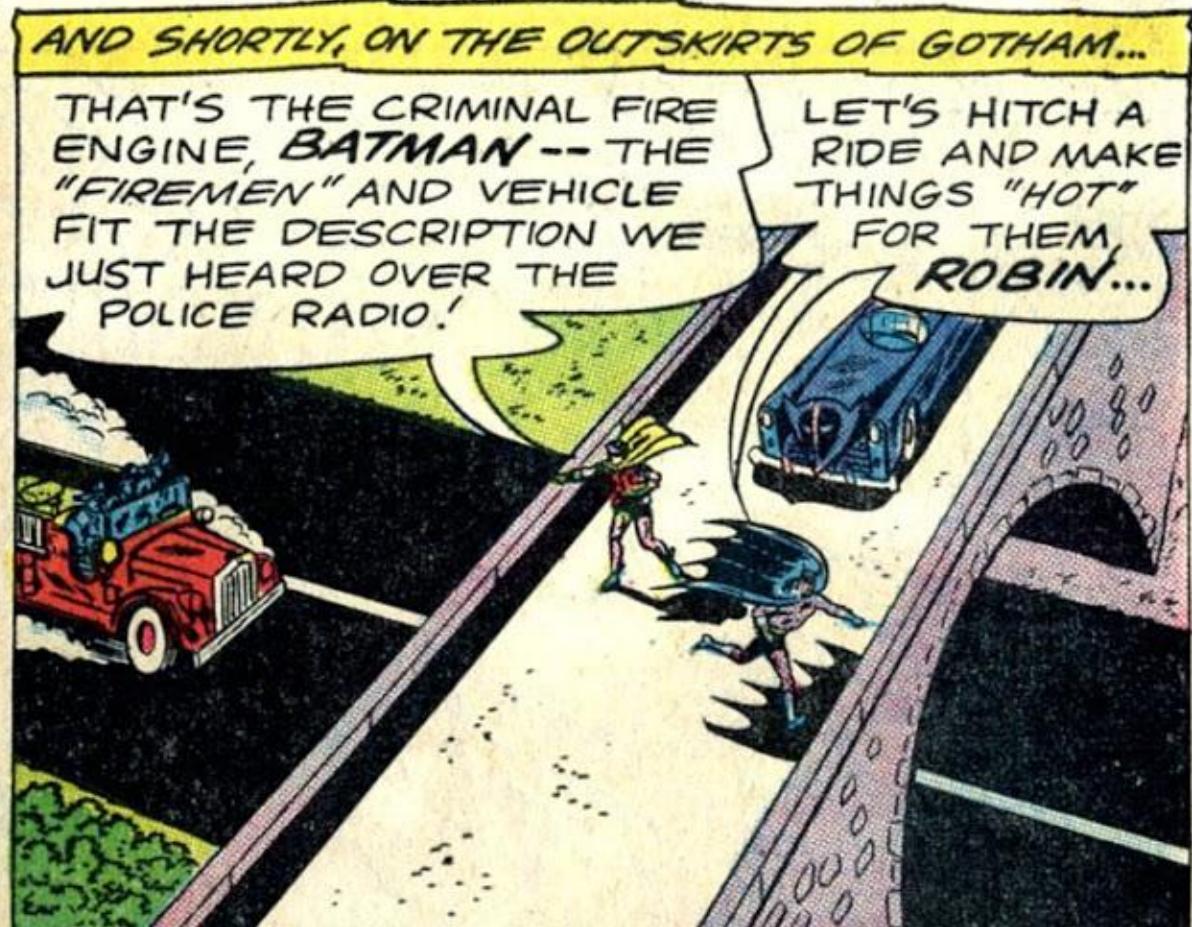


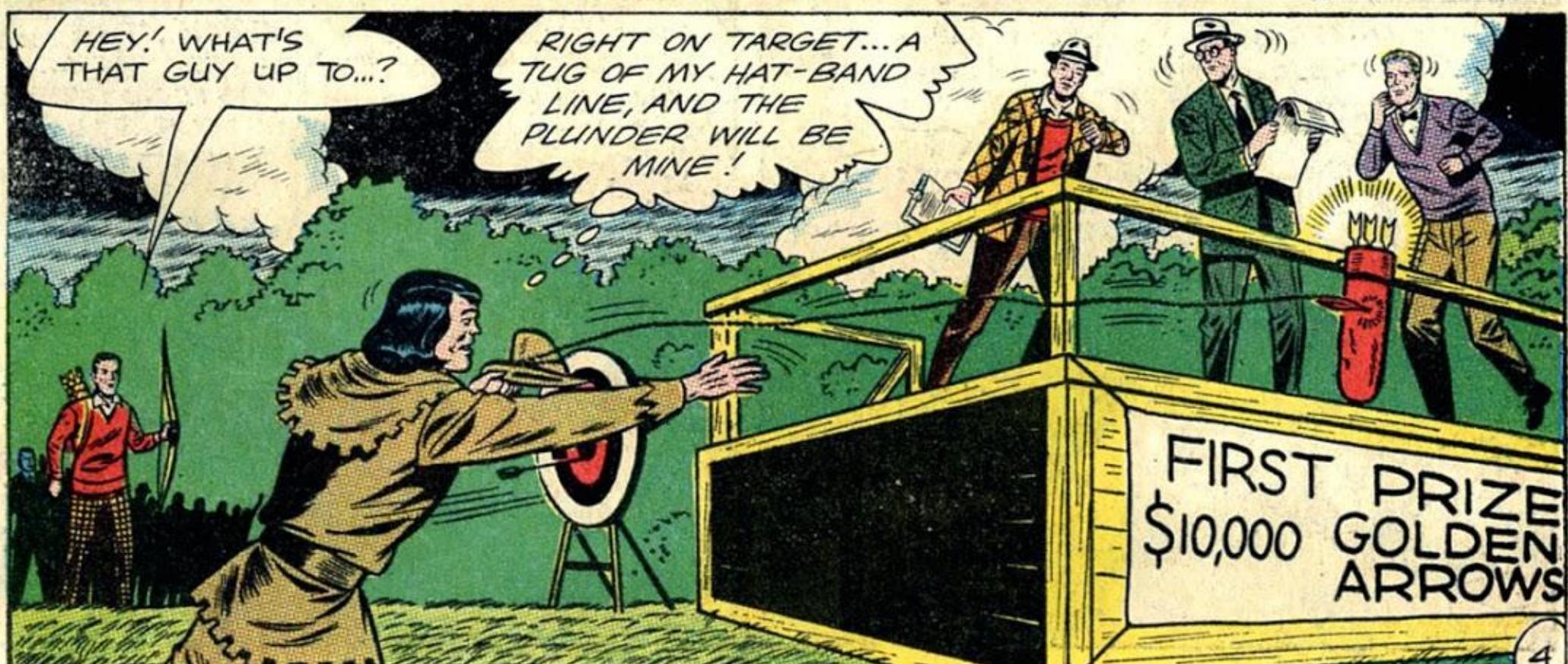
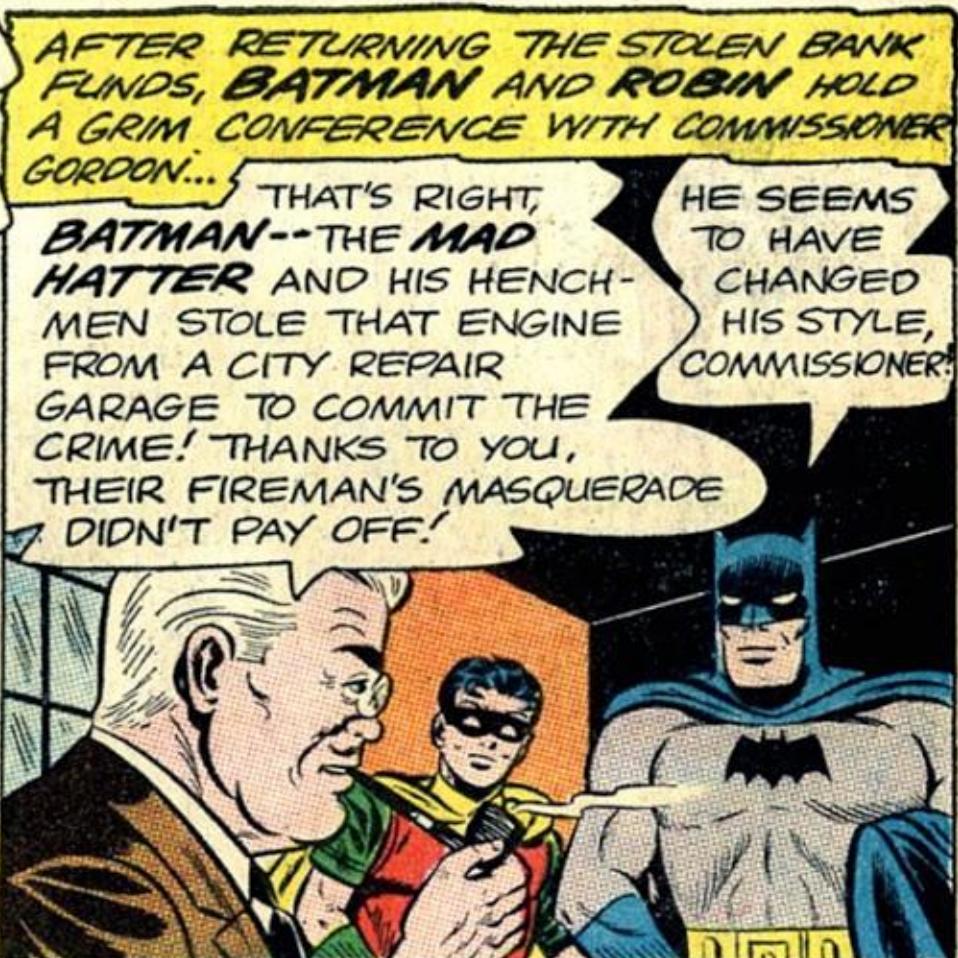
TENSE MINUTES PASS -- THEN...

HURRAH! THEY'VE
SAVED THE
BANK FUNDS!

BUT... WHY ARE
THEY GETTING
INTO THE FIRE
ENGINE?

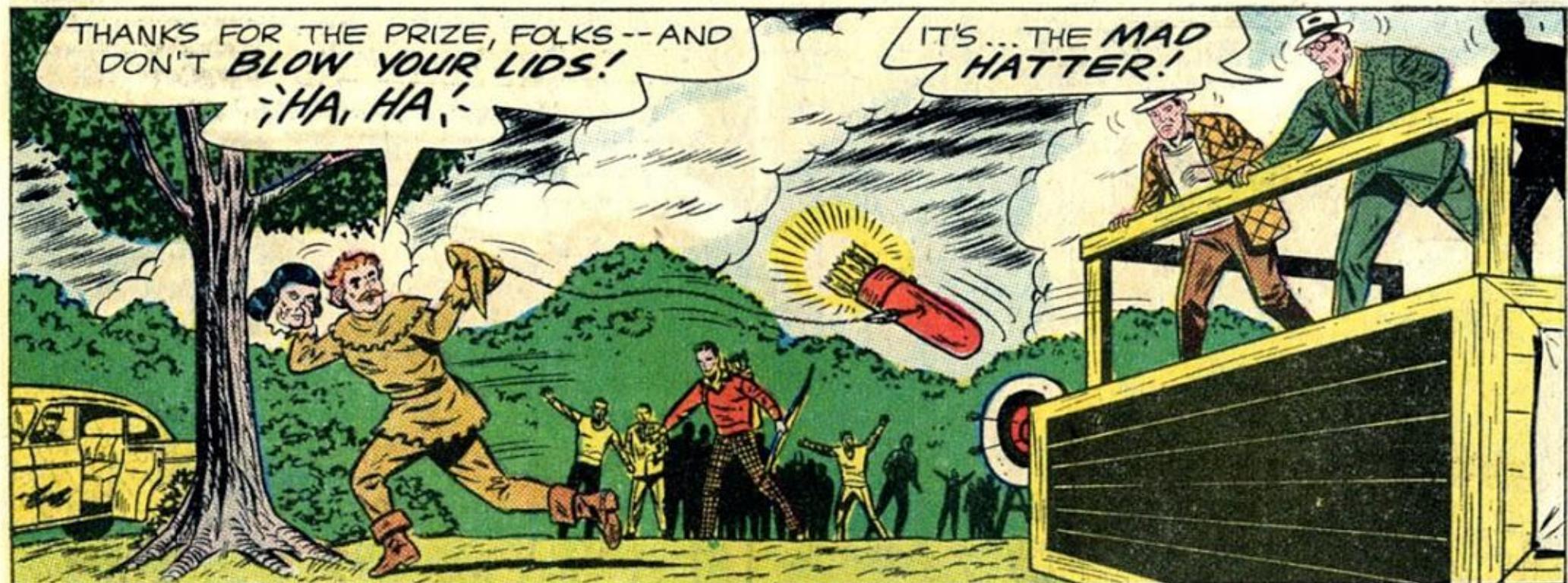


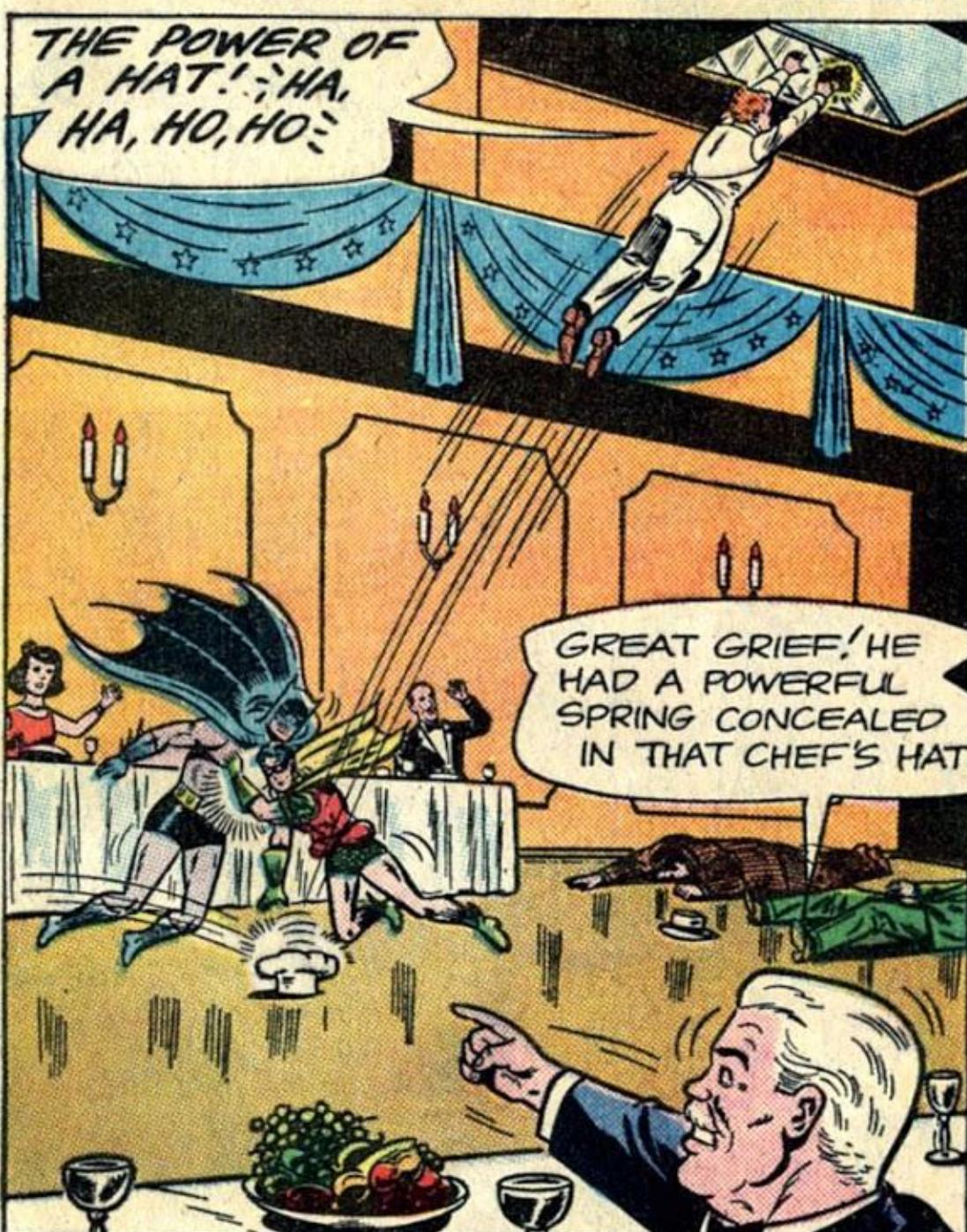






BATMAN





SHORTLY, IN THE BAT-CAVE...

FROM THE LEADS WE GOT FROM THE D.A.'S FILES, WE LEARNED THE ARCHER HAD BEEN THE 2ND JUROR AND THAT JUROR NUMBER THREE HAD BEEN A CHEF!

AND SO WE FIGURED THE **MAD HATTER** MIGHT ATTEMPT TO ROB THE ROYAL BANQUET DISGUISED AS A CHEF!

HMM... THE 4TH JUROR WAS A BOWLING ALLEY OWNER! WE'VE GOT TO LOOK FOR A LEAD THAT FITS THE CRIME PATTERN!



NEXT NIGHT, AT THE SWANK GOTHAM BOWL-O-DROME...

DA, DA, DEE, DEE--
A HATFUL OF
MONEY FOR
ME!

GOSH, **BATMAN**, IF OUR REASONING IS CORRECT, THE BOWL-O-DROME PRIZE MONEY COULD BE A **MAD HATTER** TARGET-- BUT WHAT KIND OF HAT COULD HE POSSIBLY USE HERE?

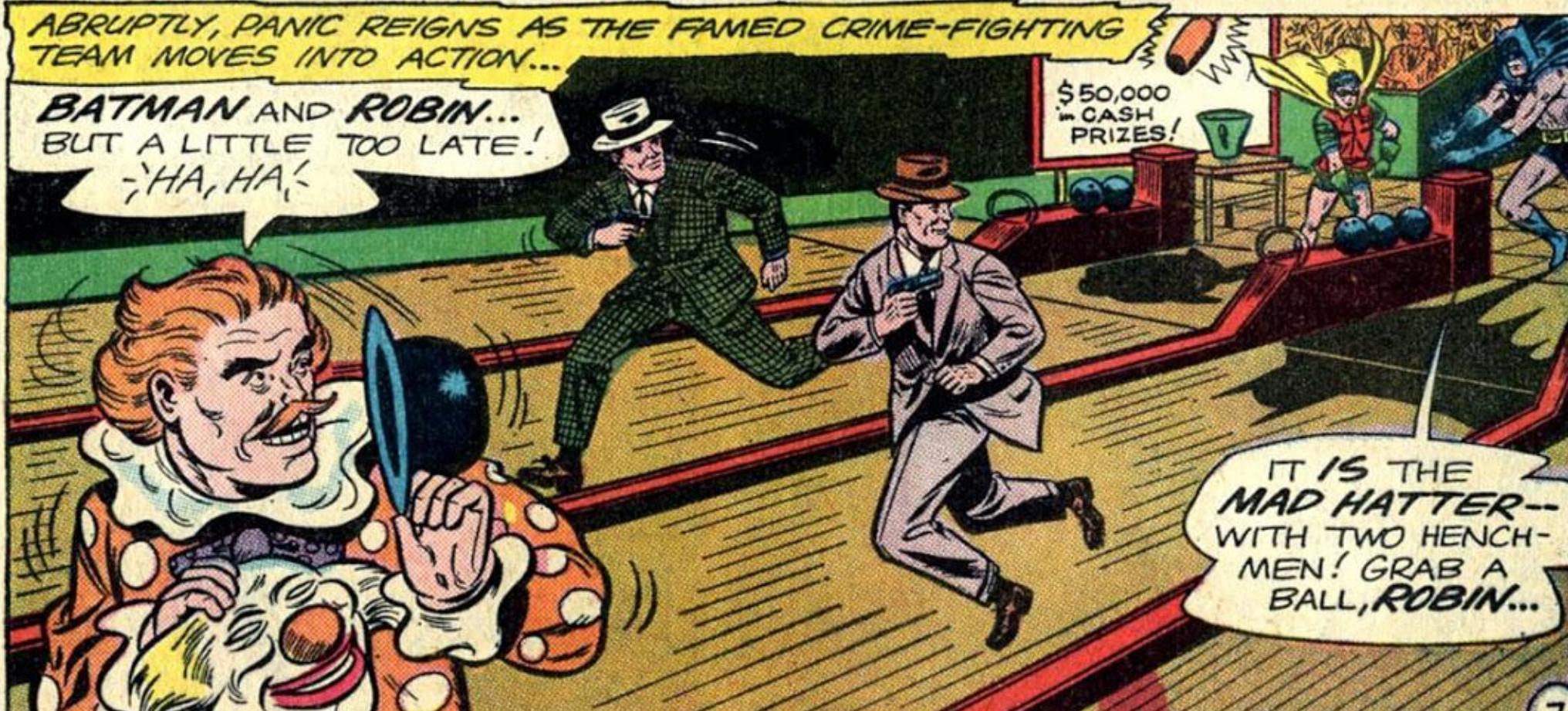
BOWLING ALLEY... A **BOWLER** HAT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE,
ROBIN-- AND THAT CLOWN'S WEARING ONE!

HEY! I DON'T REMEMBER HIRING A CLOWN! PUT THAT CASH DOWN!



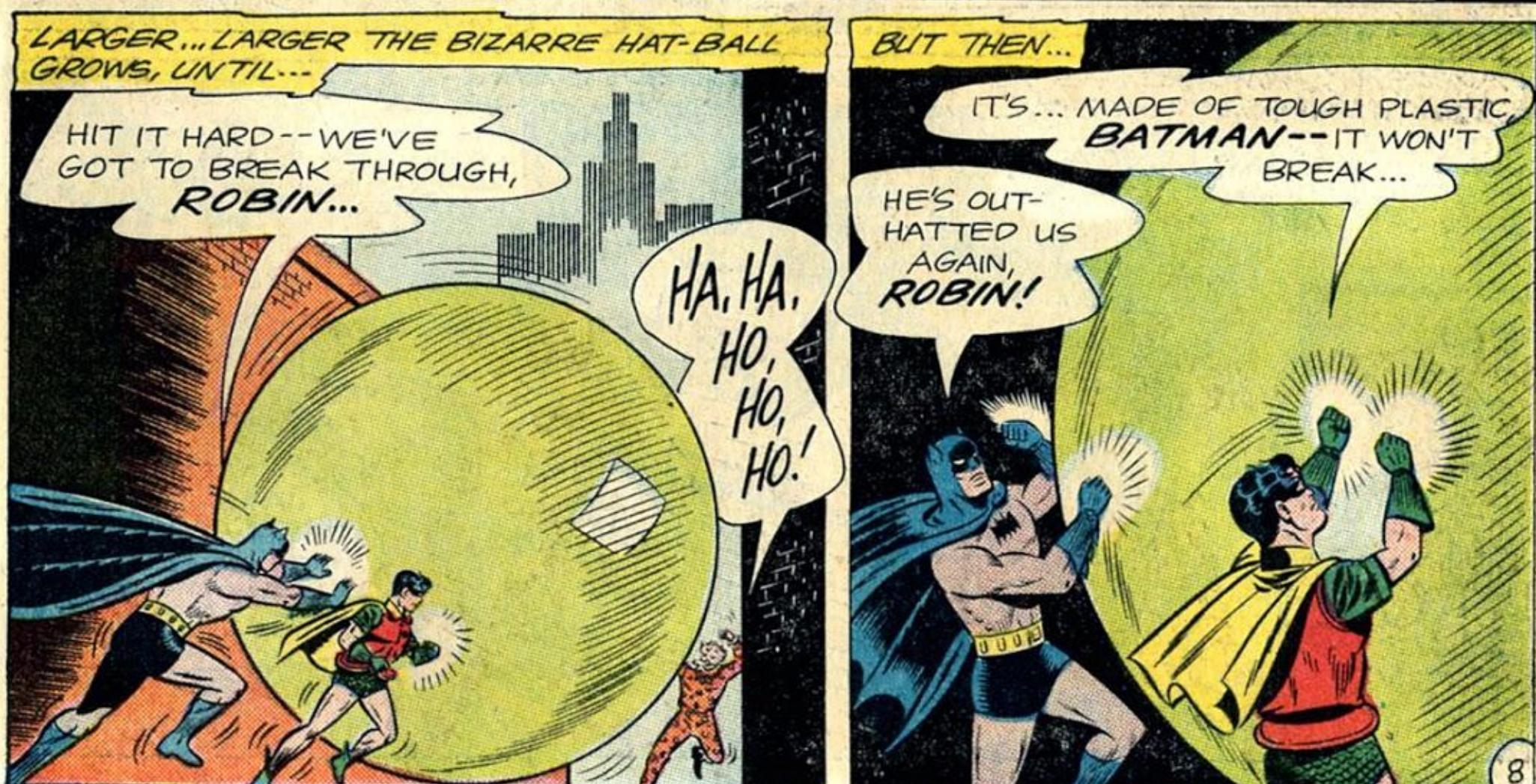
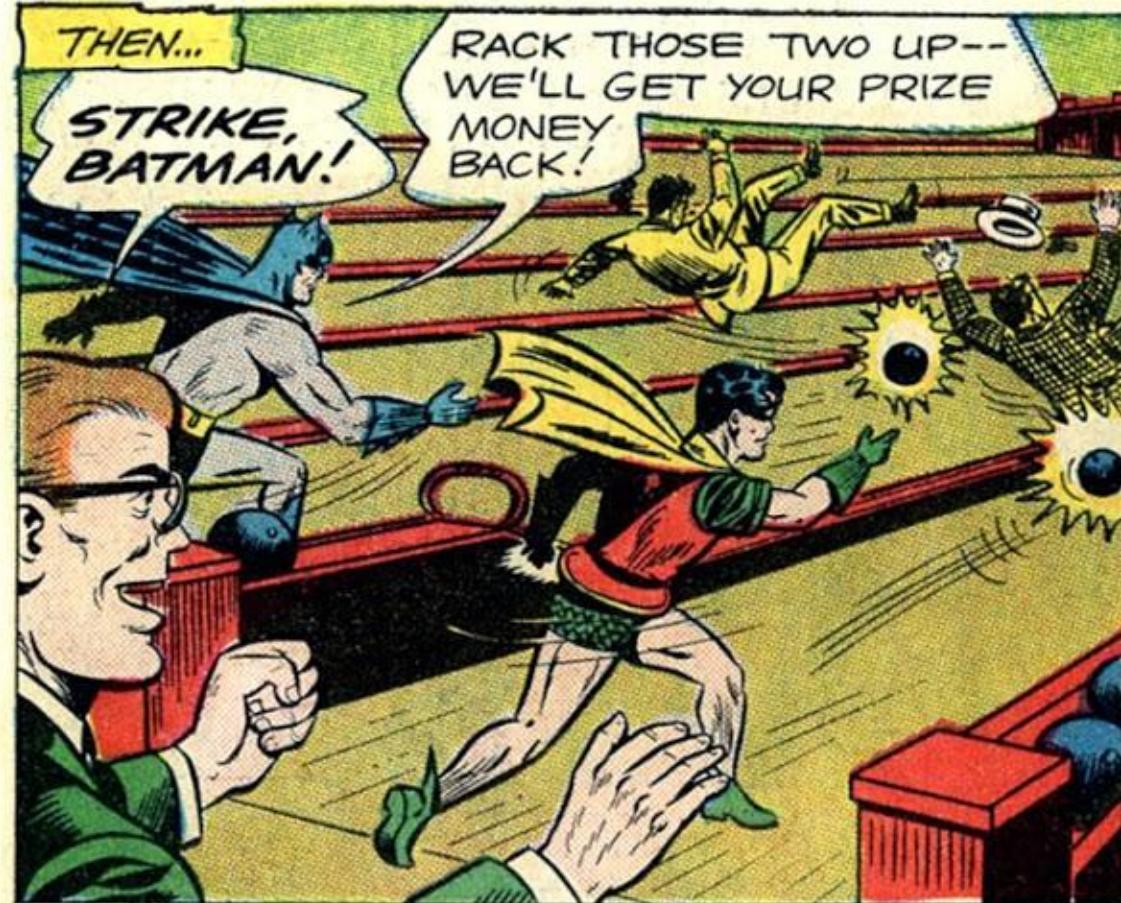
ABRUPTLY, PANIC REIGNS AS THE FAMED CRIME-FIGHTING TEAM MOVES INTO ACTION...

BATMAN AND **ROBIN**...
BUT A LITTLE TOO LATE!
HA, HA!





BATMAN





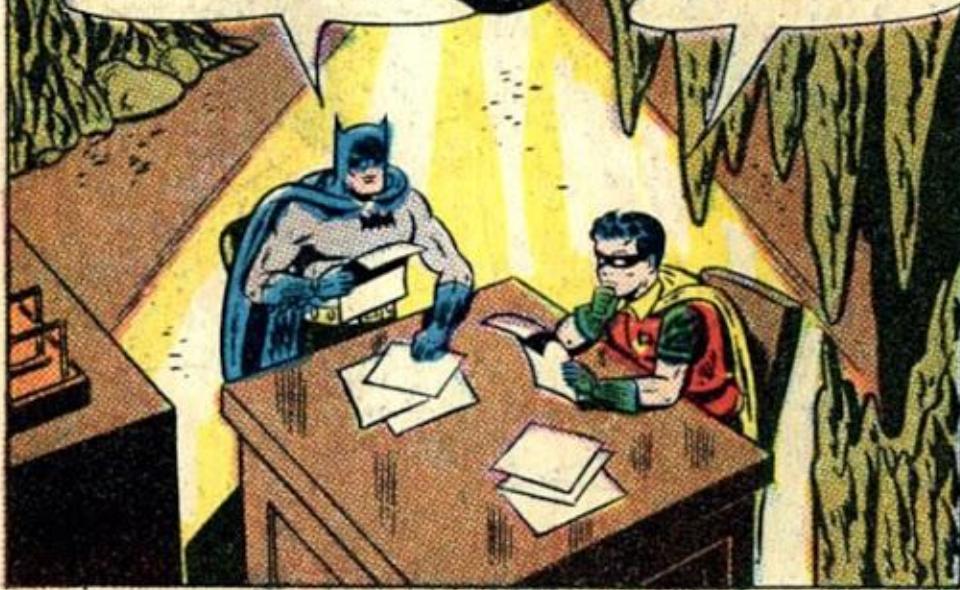
BATMAN



AND LATER, BACK IN THE **BAT-CAVE**...

LET'S SEE NOW... THE **FIFTH** JUROR HAS **THREE** OCCUPATIONS -- A JACK-OF-ALL-TRADES, SO TO SPEAK...

HE'S A FLORIST... SILK IMPORTER AND A RABBIT-BREEDER!



BUT... HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY DETERMINE WHICH OF THREE OCCUPATIONS THE **MAD HATTER** WILL SINGLE OUT TO COMMIT HIS SYMBOLIC HAT CRIMES?

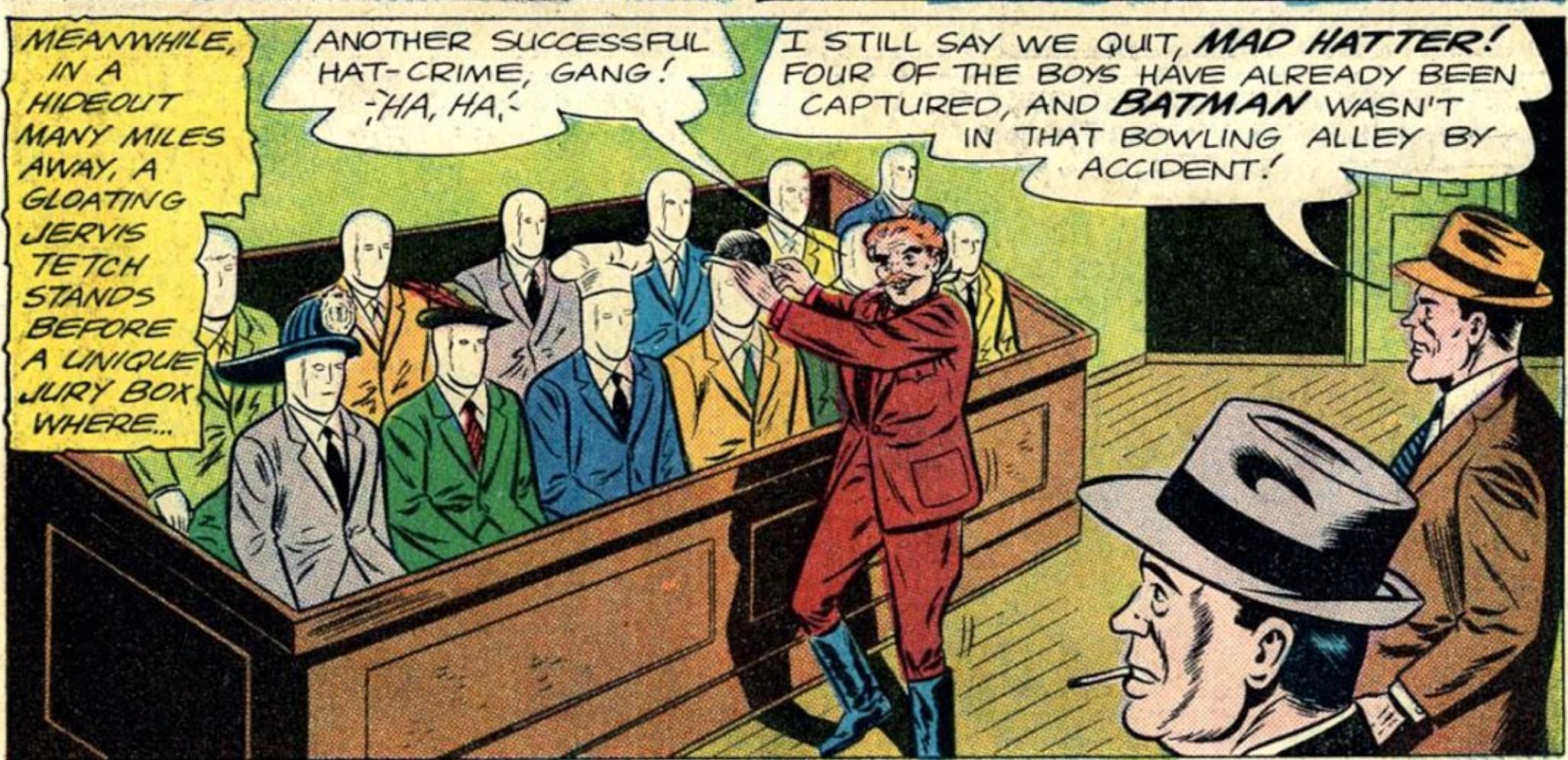
THERE **MUST** BE AN ANSWER, **ROBIN**-- AND WE'VE GOT TO FIND IT!



MEANWHILE, IN A HIDEOUT MANY MILES AWAY, A GLOATING JERVIS TETCH STANDS BEFORE A UNIQUE JURY BOX WHERE...

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HAT-CRIME, GANG! -HA, HA,-

I STILL SAY WE QUIT, **MAD HATTER**! FOUR OF THE BOYS HAVE ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED, AND **BATMAN** WASN'T IN THAT BOWLING ALLEY BY ACCIDENT!



YEAH--THE CRIME-FIGHTERS WERE LOOKING FOR **YOU**! THEY MUST HAVE TUMBLED TO YOUR NEW CRIME PATTERN!

AGREED, BOYS! THAT'S WHY I MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION IN THE FUTURE!

BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT NOT EVEN **BATMAN** IS SMART ENOUGH TO FIGURE OUT THE FIFTH CRIME I WILL COMMIT WITH THIS HAT... REPRESENTING JUROR NUMBER FIVE! -HA, HA, HA-



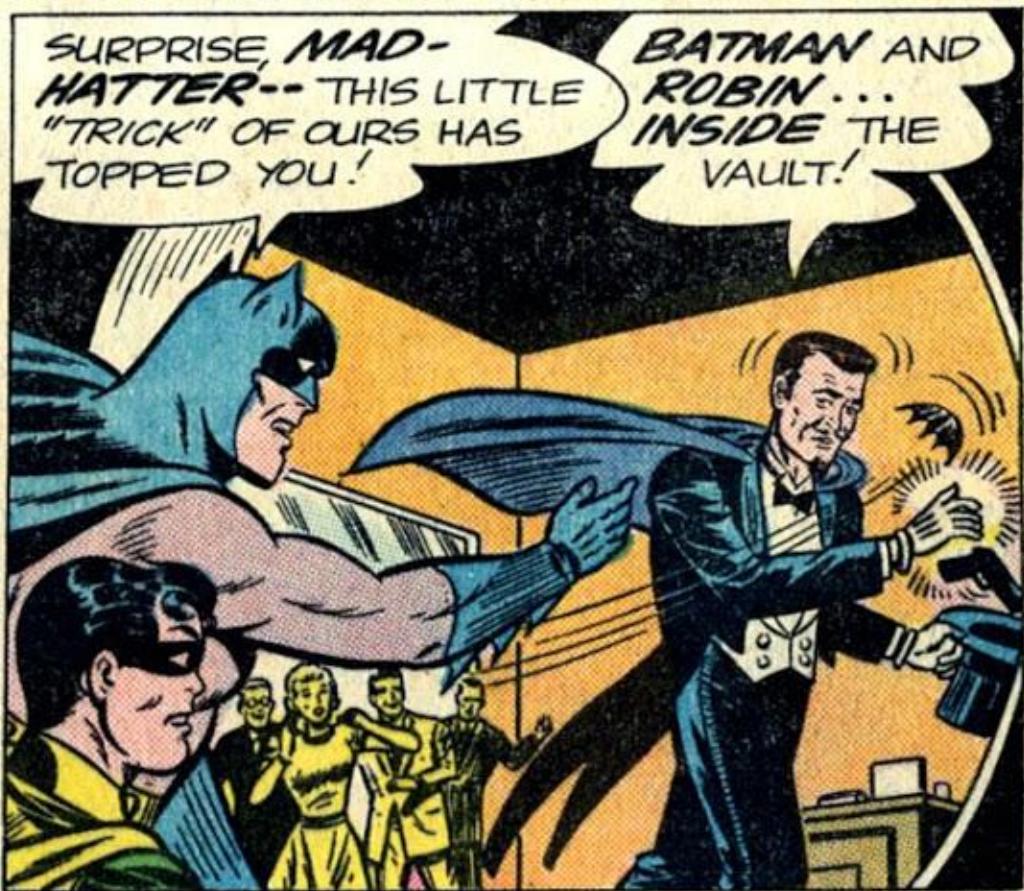


BATMAN



NEXT DAY, A FANTASTIC PUBLICITY STUNT IS LAUNCHED AT THE GOTHAM DIAMOND CENTER AS...

AND TO PROVE THAT OUR DIAMOND-FILLED VAULT IS BURGLAR-PROOF, WE HAVE CHALLENGED THE GREAT KAN-DU TO SEE IF HE CAN ESCAPE FROM IT! ARE YOU READY, KAN-DU?



THEN, AS SOME OF THE FUMES STAGGER THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS...

THEN, A QUICK MOVE, AND THE FAKE MAGICIAN PULLS A "RABBIT" OUT OF HIS HAT!

MAD HATTER ESCAPING... GOT TO STOP HIM... 'COUGH!'

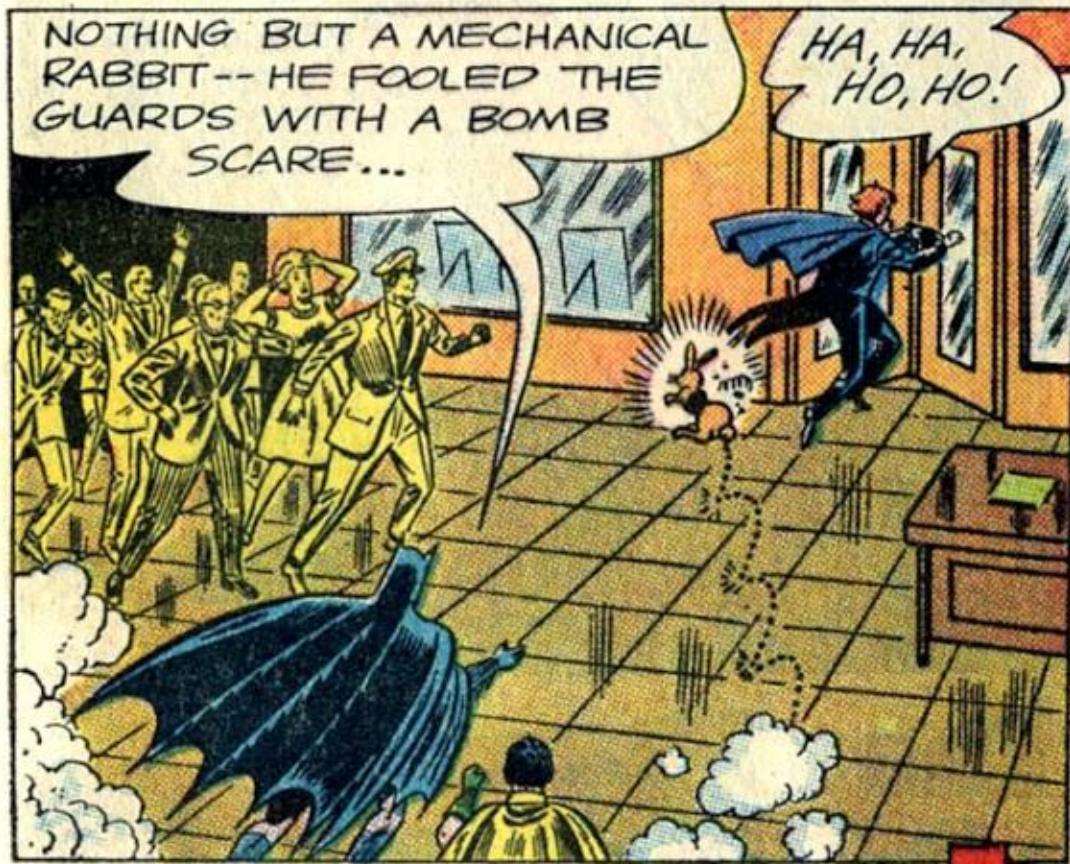
HERE YOU GO, GUARDS-- MEET MY MECHANICAL BUNNY BOMB! 'HA, HA!'

BACK... BACK EVERYONE -- HE'S PULLED A WALKING BOMB OUT OF HIS HAT...

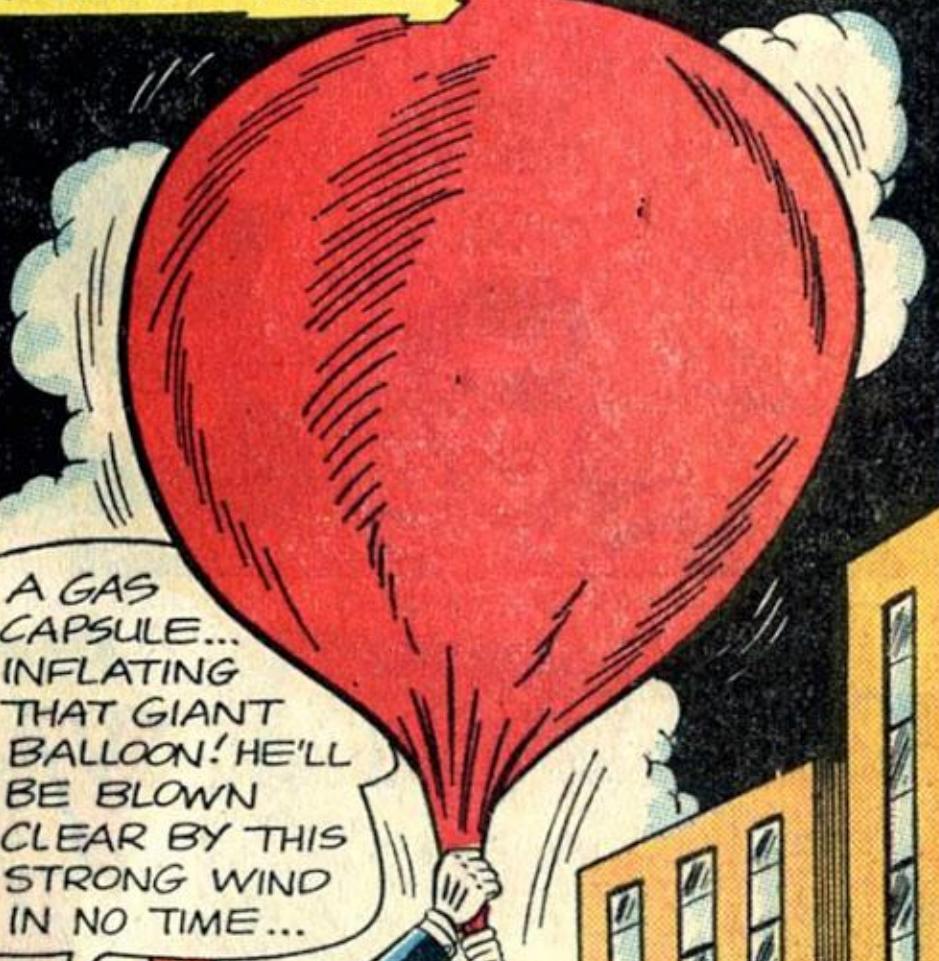


NOTHING BUT A MECHANICAL RABBIT -- HE FOOLED THE GUARDS WITH A BOMB SCARE...

HA, HA, HO, HO!



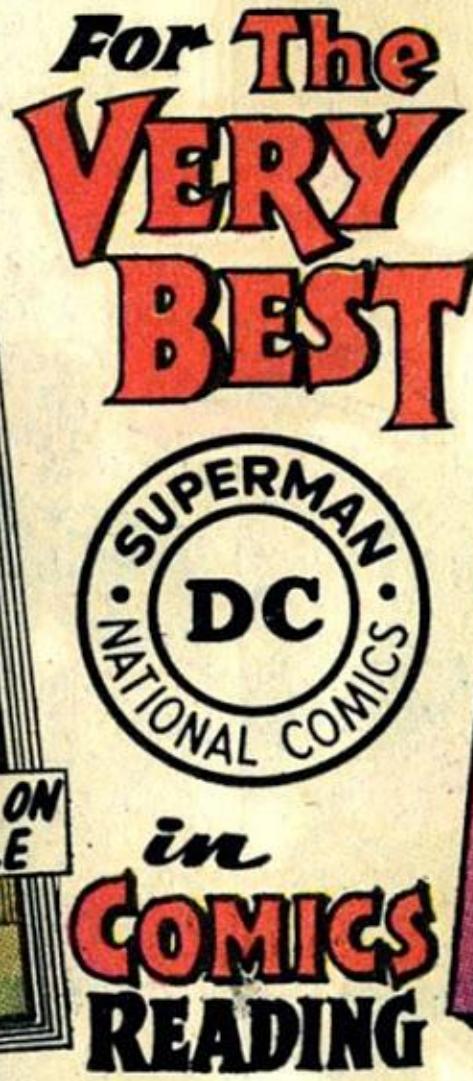
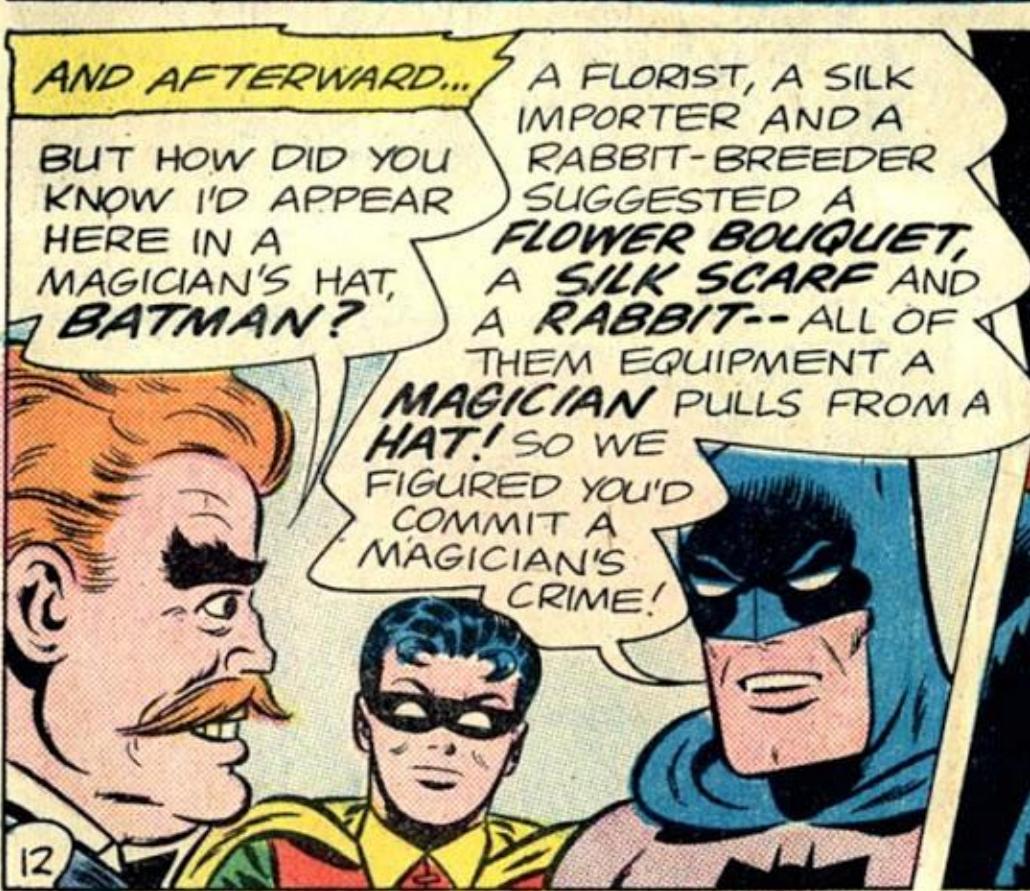
THEN, AS THE DISTRACTED TEAM SURGES FORWARD AGAIN...



BUT AS THE DYNAMIC DUO PLUNGES OUT INTO THE WINDY STREET...

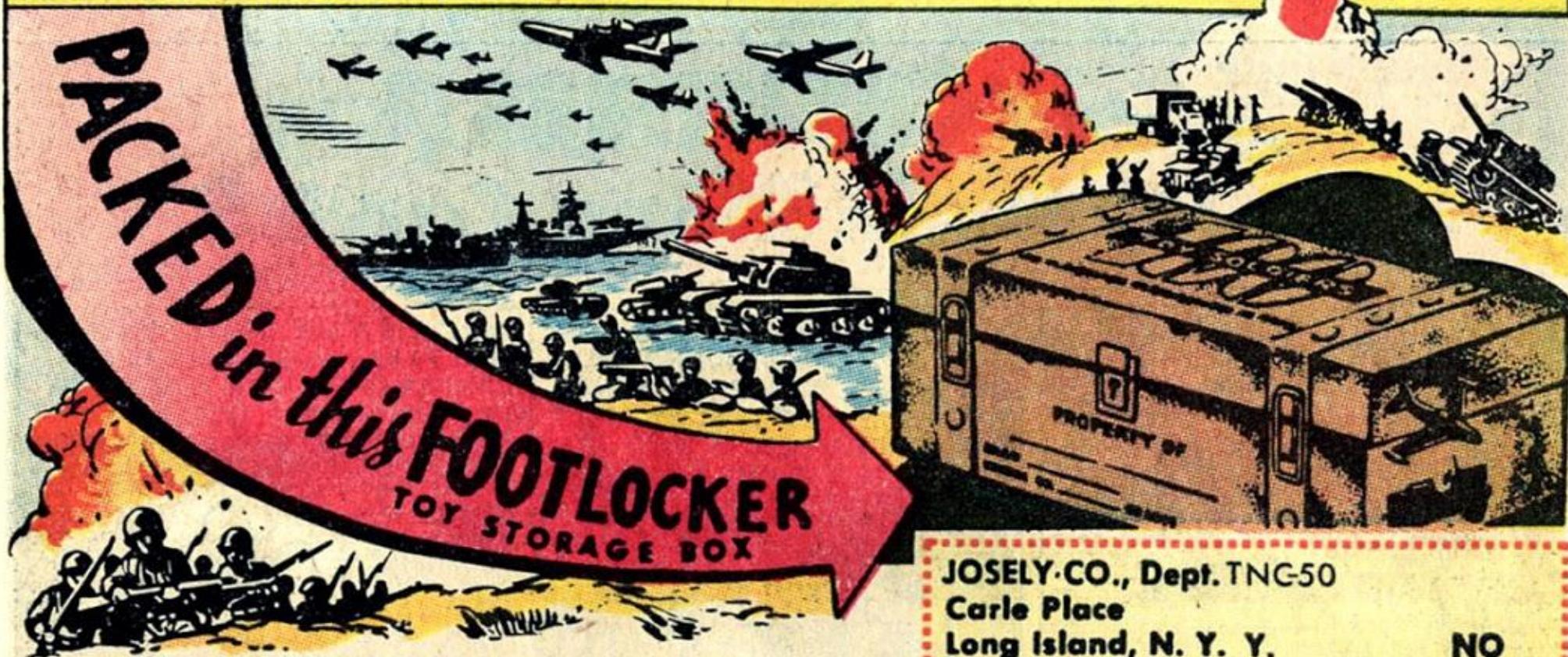
WOW! SILK SCARFS... HE SURE HAS A HATFUL OF MAGICIAN TRICKS!





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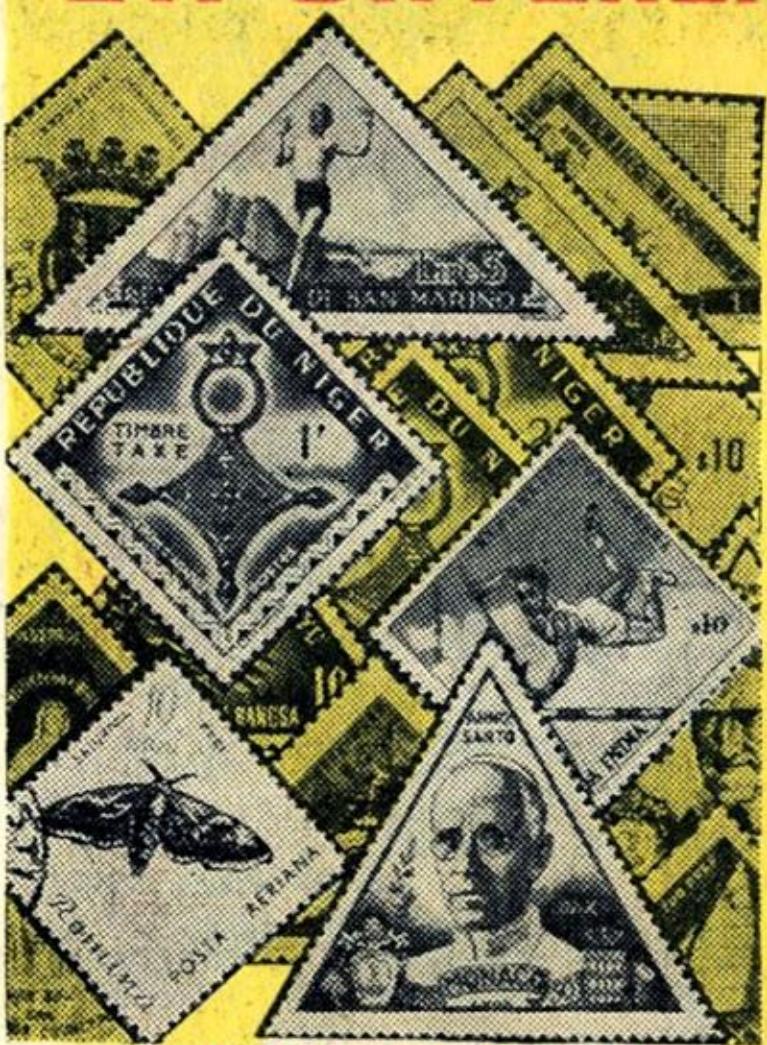
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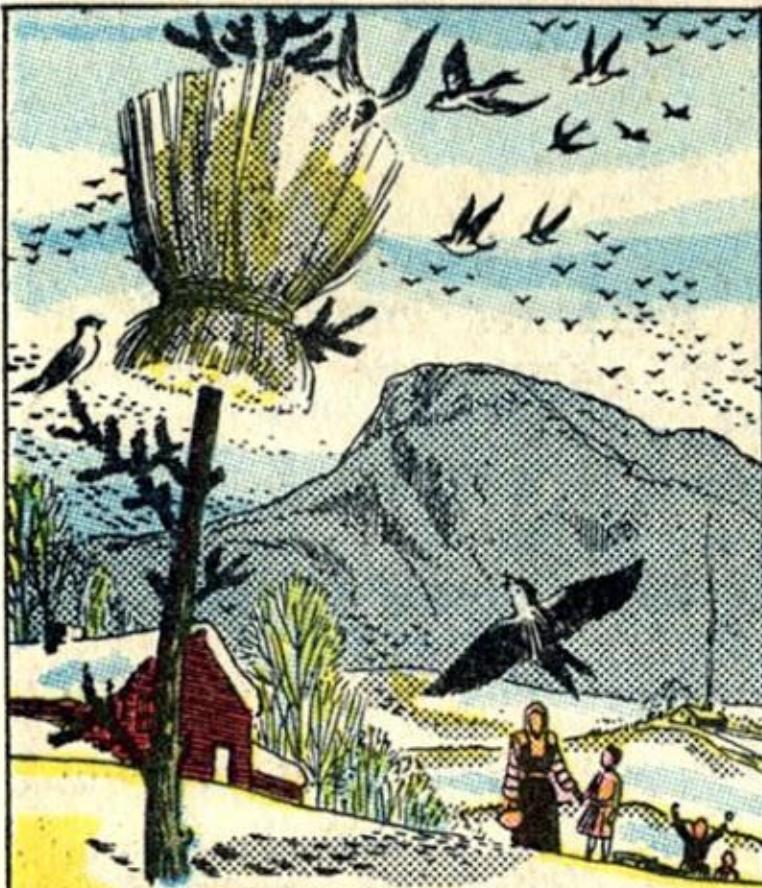
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Special CHRISTMAS Quiz

"Christmas in Many Lands!"

(ANSWERS IN LAST PANEL)



IN WHAT COUNTRY DO THE CHILDREN MAKE AN OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS TREE OF WHEAT SHEAVES FOR THE BIRDS?

"BREAKING THE PINATA" IS A CHRISTMAS GAME IN WHICH BLINDFOLDED CHILDREN SMASH A BIZARRE CLAY POT WHICH SPILLS OUT CANDIES AND GOOD-LUCK CHARMS. IN WHAT COUNTRY IS IT PLAYED?



WHERE IS IT THE CUSTOM FOR CHILDREN TO FILL WOODEN SHOES ON CHRISTMAS EVE WITH TIDBITS FOR ST. NICK'S WHITE HORSE?



WHERE DO PEOPLE OBSERVE CHRISTMAS BY GATHERING AROUND A LIGHTED COMMUNITY TREE IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE TO SING CHRISTMAS CAROLS?

IN WHAT COUNTRY IS A CHRISTMAS CEREMONY PERFORMED IN WHICH THE MOTHER CLUCKS LIKE A HEN AND HER CHILDREN CHIRP LIKE CHICKENS, WHILE SCATTERING STRAW ON THE FLOOR OF THEIR HOME?



WHERE IS THE CHRISTMAS FIESTA CLIMAXED BY A GAY DANCE CALLED THE *CUECA*, PERFORMED OUTDOORS UNDER A SUMMER SKY BY A COWBOY AND A COUNTRY GIRL?



THE ANSWERS...
READ UPSIDE DOWN
1. NORWAY 4. UNITED STATES
2. BELGIUM 5. YUGOSLAVIA
3. MEXICO 6. CHILE

Letters to the BAT-CAVE



Dear Editor: Wow! Batman must really be terrific! I had laid my BATMAN, WORLD'S FINEST, DETECTIVE AND JLA comics out on our couch. A little while later, my cat came and went to sleep beside them. Later, I came to look at your fine covers, as I often do. When I reached for my comics, my cat meowed at me as if to say, "Hey, don't! I'm reading them!" Comics with Batman in them must be really good if you have cats reading them!

It just so happens I like Batman just as much as my cat does. We both feel he is the best character you have ever published—we feel he is by far your most realistic one. My cat hopes you have a Bat-cat some day! Keep up the good work!

Gary Storm, Los Alamos, N. Mexico

(Meow . . . meow! Translation: Many thanks!
—Ed.)

Superman returned him to our earth. More stories like this, please.

Howard Reiss, New Haven, Conn.

* * *

Dear Editor: I have just finished reading your Sept. issues of BATMAN, DETECTIVE and WORLD'S FINEST. Your stories in the BATMAN issue were okay, but they were too short. In DETECTIVE, "The Fantastic Dr. No-Face" was excellent. It kept me guessing all the way. In WORLD'S FINEST, "The Batman Nobody Remembered," I guessed Batman had been hurled into a world parallel to ours. Your Green Arrow story was terrific. J'onn J'onzz was fabulous. I hope you have more stories of him going into the past.

Clarence Gensiak, Scranton, Pa.

* * *

Dear Editor: In WORLD'S FINEST, Sept. issue, in the story, "The Batman Nobody Remembered," Batman went into the twin world and Superman was there. Was he a robot? Because in the Aug. LOIS LANE issue, she went into the twin world also and Superman was killed by Luthor. Will you please explain?

Richard Puchyr, Chicago, Ill.

(The two stories have no connection. They were different parallel worlds, and Superman was not a robot.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I just finished reading "The Batman Nobody Remembered." It was great. I haven't been reading D.C. comics for a while, but now that you have longer length stories, and if they're as good as this, you will sure enough have another reader. The art also was superb.

Kenny Goldberg, New York, N.Y.

* * *

Dear Editor: "The Batman Nobody Remembered" in Sept. WORLD'S FINEST was tops. Poor Batman! I felt sorry for him. He was so bewildered he even thought his career was something he imagined. He must've felt great when the other

Dear Editor: Your story in BATMAN No. 158, "Ace the Super Bat-Hound" was great. I hope you'll print more stories about Bat-Mite and Bat-Hound. In WORLD'S FINEST, "The Batman Nobody Remembered" was very good, too. Could you please tell us what's next in BATMAN, DETECTIVE and WORLD'S FINEST?

Pat Pond, Lubbock, Tex.

(We anticipated your wish about Bat-Mite with the story in this BATMAN issue. Coming up in the March issue is a super-length thriller, "The Batman Creature," that we're sure will provoke lots of reader comment. Plus a warm, personal story, "Robin's New Secret Identity." In Feb. DETECTIVE, you'll find a bizarre adventure, "Menace of the Robot Brain," with Batman and Robin hanging on for dear life. And in Feb. WORLD'S FINEST, look for "The Ghost of Batman," another super-length story that we predict everybody will remember as long as "The Batman Nobody Remembered."—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: Congratulations! "Batman and Robin, Impostors" (in BATMAN No. 158) was a big hit in my neighborhood. Why don't you have a Batwoman or Bat-Girl story in some of your Batman comics. I enjoyed the last one.

Eugene McCarthy, New Bedford, Mass.

(For comment on Batwoman and Bat-Girl, see the letter below.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: All right, I give up!!! What's going on? Are you editors all bachelors or just the plain, ANTI-FEMALE type? I am referring to many (not all) of your Batman stories in which you don't feature Batwoman, much less Bat-Girl. True, it is a Batman and Robin comic, and true, you shouldn't feature Batwoman and Bat-Girl in every story, but couldn't we have a little more of them, please? Pretty please?

Joan Gadek, Perth Amboy, N.J.

(We do not plead guilty, but we couldn't resist the lovely appeal. We will have more, but please remember that in the Nov. BATMAN we had Batwoman and Bat-Girl in "The Great Clayface-Joker Feud"—comment on which will appear in the next Bat-cave column—and in the Dec. DETECTIVE, Bat-Girl appeared helping Robin in "The Menace of the Batman Genie." Also, coming up in "The Batman Creature," mentioned above, Batwoman will play a prominent role, as she will in the Mar. DETECTIVE, "Strange Lives of the Cat-Man." And looking even further ahead, in the May BATMAN, Bat-Girl will be featured in an unusual adventure, more about which also will be in our next Bat-cave column. Okay? . . . pretty please?—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I thought the Sept. issue of BATMAN was truly sensational. The second story, "Batman and Robin, Impostors," was very exciting, but I thought the third story was the best of all, especially when the giant armadillo attacked Batman, Robin and Ted. And don't let me forget the first, "Ace, the Super Bat-Hound"—that was also an excellent story. I also admired the Sept. issue of WORLD'S FINEST, which was by far the most sensational Superman-Batman comic I have ever read. At first, I thought they were playing a hoax on Batman, but I changed my mind when Robin revealed Batman's identity—because Robin would never do that in Batman's world.

Michael Maddox, Louisville, Ky.

* * *

Dear Editor: In your Sept. issue of BATMAN (No. 158), the stories were really excellent. But in "Batman and Robin, Impostors," you made a boo-boo. On page three, panels five and six, Bradford would have known that his "Batman and Robin team" have different voices than the real team. He should have noticed that the Commissioner would know it was the real Batman and Robin by their voices, thus giving them away. Otherwise, the story was positively brilliant.

Harvey Blake, Bloomfield, N.J.

(*Batman and Robin as the impostors disguised their real voices. But since they were supposed to be impersonating the real Batman and Robin, Bradford wouldn't be suspicious—he would think they were imitating the voices of the real Batman and Robin when talking to Commissioner Gordon.—Ed.*)

* * *

Dear Editor: I just read "The Fantastic Dr. No-Face," and I enjoyed it very much. And after reading "The Batman Nobody Remembered," and "Ace, the Super Bat-Hound," and "Batman and Robin, Impostors," I just can't decide which of these four great stories is the best!

Lane Tyson, Audubon, Pa.

* * *

Dear Editor: Great is all I can say about September's BATMAN. The Super Bat-Hound story had me thinking that Bat-Hound was the crook's pet until the last page. "The Secret of the Impossible Perils" was very good, too, as was "Batman and Robin, Impostors." The way you had Batman and Robin play themselves, the two crooks and then Batman and Robin again was terrific.

Thomas Pellerito, Drexel Hill, Pa.

* * *

Dear Editor: You did a wonderful job in DETECTIVE COMICS (Sept. No. 319), featuring "The Fantastic Dr. No-Face." You did an even better job in BATMAN (Sept. No. 158) in the story, "The Secret of the Impossible Perils." I don't think you will print this letter; in fact, I have some bets with my friends that you won't. And I also have a bet that you won't give me a personal answer. But I am sending it anyway. I enjoy all your Batman comics. Keep up the good work!

Jimmy Kunz, Corpus Christi, Tex.

(*You lose the first bet, but you win the second. We're glad you sent the letter in, anyhow. Many readers write to us in a similar manner, and we would like to make it clear that we can't answer all the questions that come in asking for personal answers, nor can we print all the letters requesting that we do. We try to publish those that are most interesting and typical of the thousands we receive. In that way, the opinions of a broad cross-section are read by all, and answers can be given to questions that are often asked. Quite a number of queries come in that can only be answered by reading the magazines regularly; otherwise we'd have to spend days giving summaries of the characters and their backgrounds.*

Please address all mail to: Letters to the Bat-Cave, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N.Y.—Ed.)



THE LITTLE TYKE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION WANTED A HERO OF HIS **VERY OWN**--ONE THAT WOULDN'T SCOLD HIM FOR HIS PRANKS, AS **BATMAN** HAD DONE! BUT THE MISCHIEVOUS IMP SOON LEARNED THE ERROR OF HIS WAYS WHEN HIS SELF-MADE HEROES DEVELOPED "FEET OF CLAY"! AND THEN, ONLY THE DYNAMIC DUO COULD STAVE OFF THE MENACE OF...

THE BAT-MITE HERO

BATMAN

GOTHAM STADIUM-- AS SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, LEAVE THEIR SEATS DURING THE SEVENTH-INNING STRETCH...

LET'S GO BACK TO THE COUNTER AND GET A SANDWICH, BRUCE! GOSH... 10-0... LOOKS LIKE OUR TEAM HAS WON!

BUT THE GAME'S NOT OVER UNTIL THE LAST OUT, DICK!

ALSO PRESENT, UNKNOWN TO BRUCE AND DICK, IS THEIR MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE FRIEND FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION...

YAWN-YAWN! WHAT A SLAUGHTER! NO EXCITEMENT AROUND HERE!



PLEASE... DON'T SHOOT! I'LL... GIVE YOU THE RECEIPTS...

LISTEN... SOUNDS LIKE A STICK-UP, DICK! LET'S GET INTO OUR CRIME-FIGHTING TOGS-- FAST!



TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A NEARBY STADIUM STORAGE ROOM, THE PAIR EMERGES SECONDS LATER AS...

BATMAN AND ROBIN! RUN FOR IT...

YOU WERE RIGHT, BATMAN-- WE'VE NIPPED A ROBBERY IN THE BUD!



THEN, AS THE PANICKY THIEVES BOLT DOWN AN AISLE AND ONTO THE PLAYING FIELD...

LOOK! IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN... PURSUING THREE MEN...

CROOKS, I'LL BET 'CHA! YIPPEE! HERE'S A CHANCE TO LIVEN THINGS UP... WITH MY OWN BALL GAME!



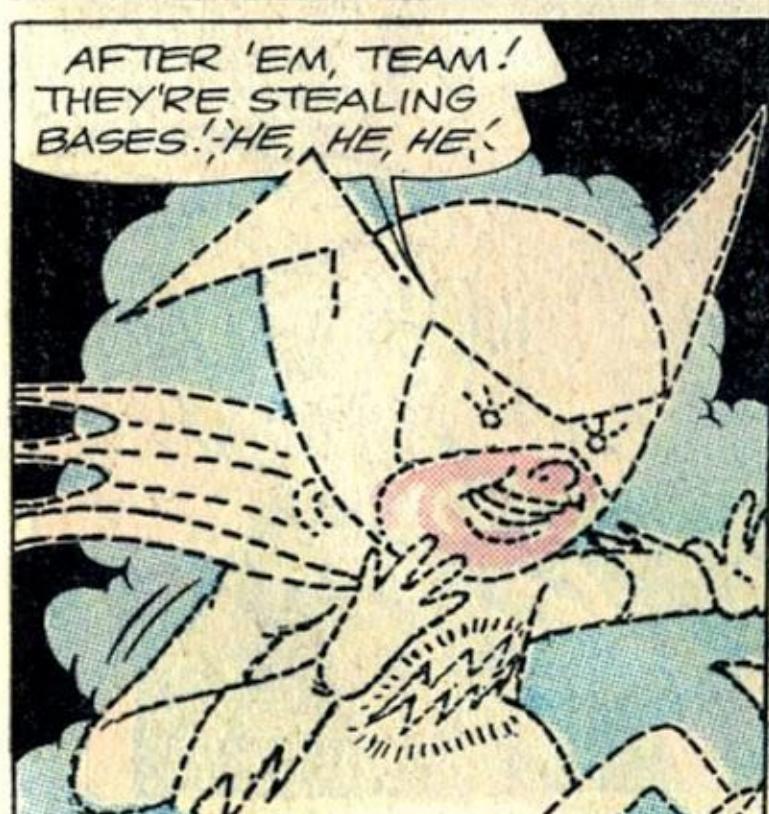
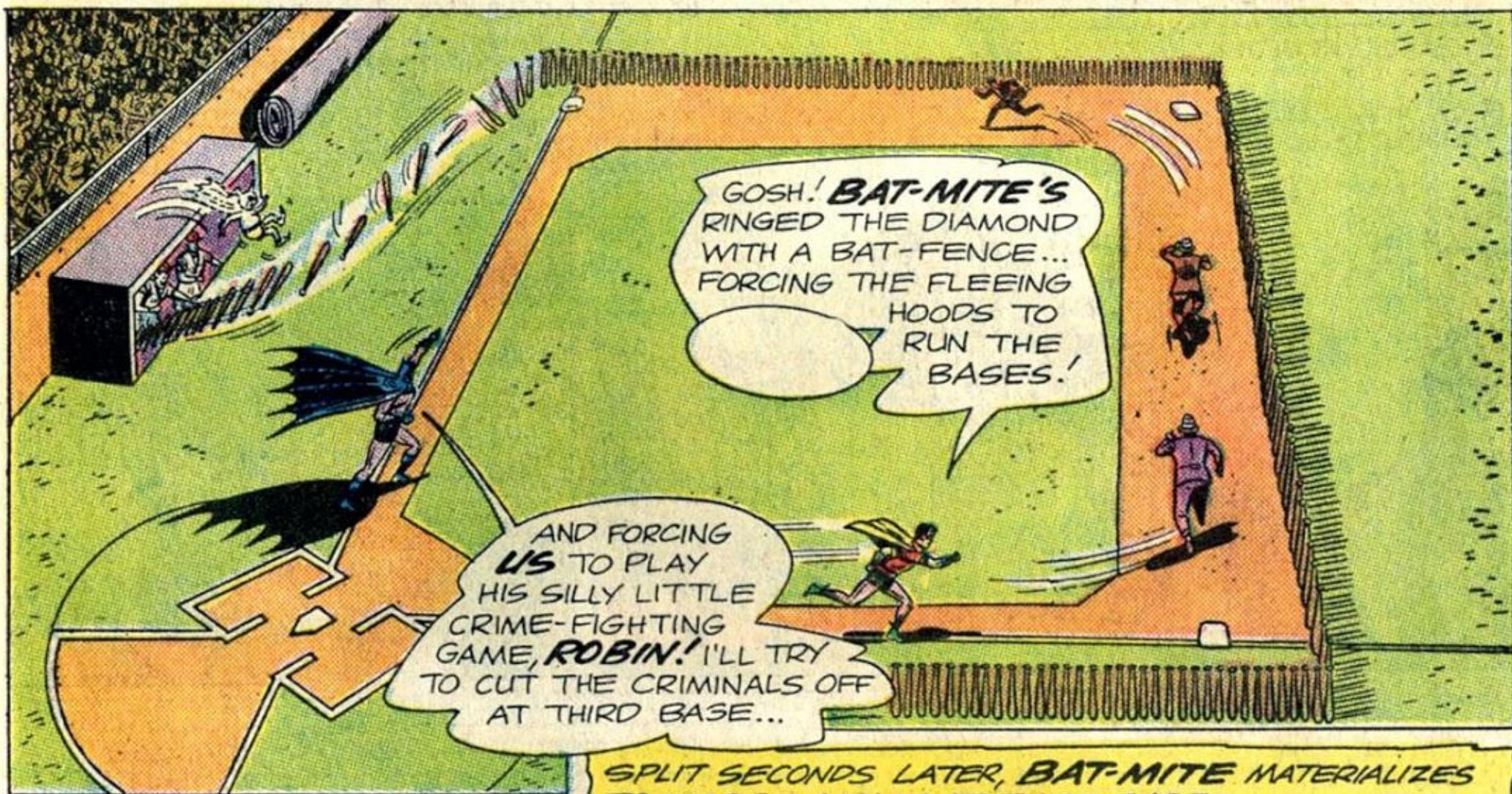
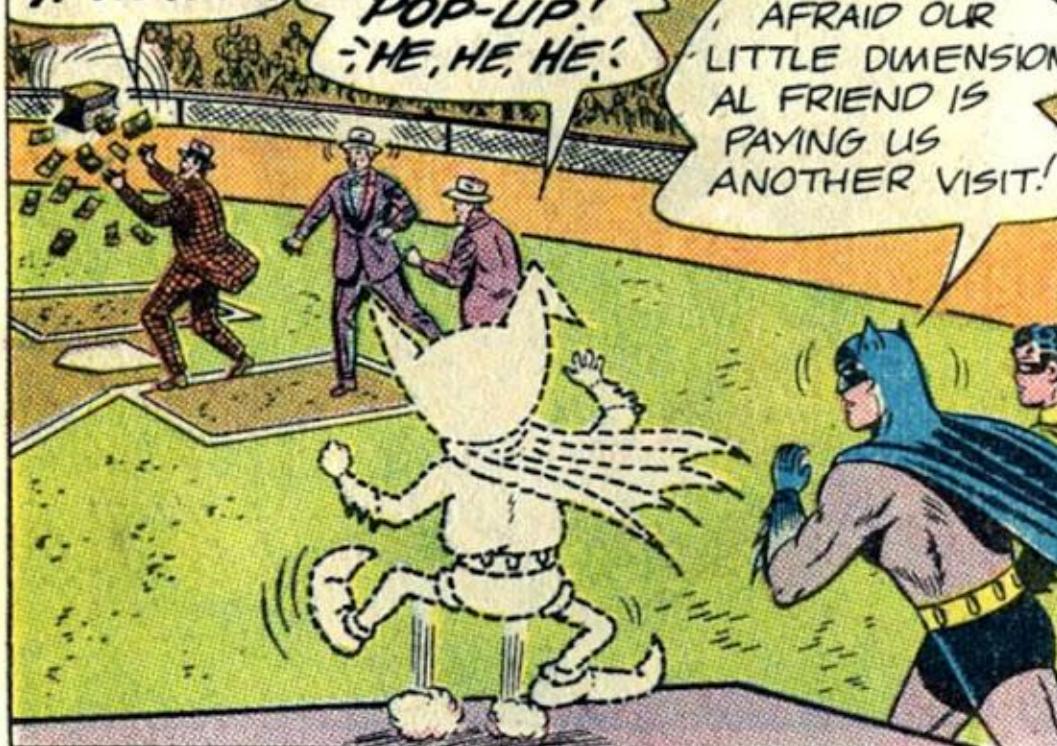
BATMAN

THE MISCHIEVOUS IMP QUICKLY BRINGS HIS MAGICAL POWERS INTO PLAY AND...

H-HUH?
POP-UP!
POP-UP!
HE, HE, HE!

THAT VOICE...
ROBIN! I'M AFRAID OUR LITTLE DIMENSIONAL FRIEND IS PAYING US ANOTHER VISIT!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN! AND NOW HE'S UTILIZING HIS MAGICAL POWERS TO "FLY" THOSE BATS FROM THE DUGOUT! BUT WHY?





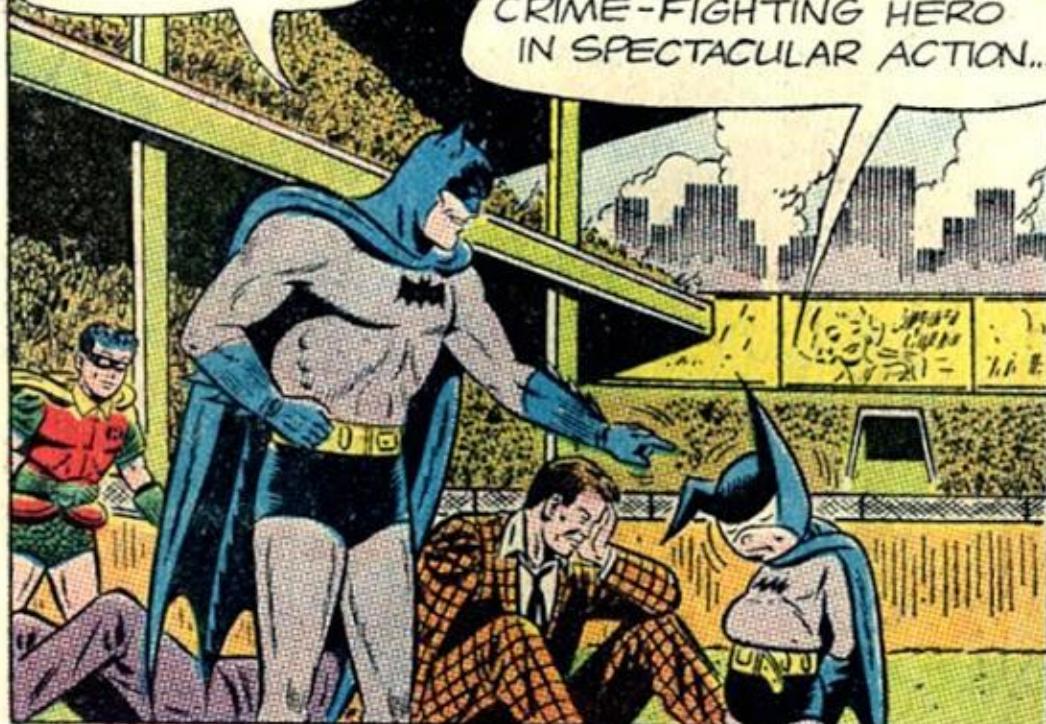
BATMAN



CATCHING CRIMINALS IS NO GAME, LITTLE FELLER! YOU'D BETTER LEARN THAT FAST!

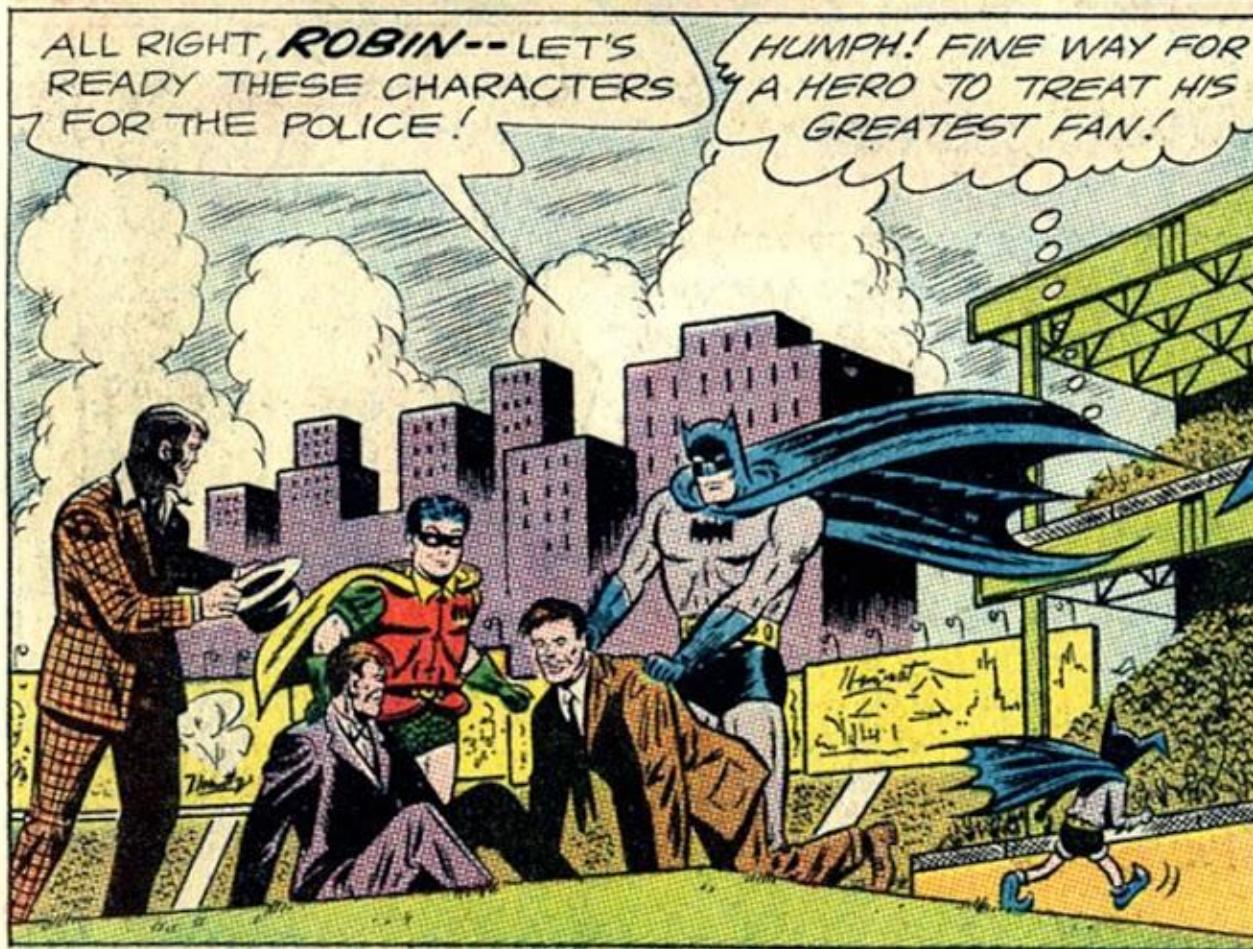
OH GEE-GOLLY, **BATMAN**-- I JUST WANTED TO SEE MY FAVORITE CRIME-FIGHTING HERO IN SPECTACULAR ACTION...

WELL, SINCE YOU CAN'T CONTROL YOUR EMOTIONS, GO AND FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER HERO, **BAT-MITE**!



ALL RIGHT, **ROBIN**-- LET'S READY THESE CHARACTERS FOR THE POLICE!

HUMPH! FINE WAY FOR A HERO TO TREAT HIS GREATEST FAN!



"GO AND FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER HERO!" HMM... MAYBE THAT'S JUST WHAT I'LL DO! I'LL SHOW HIM... HE'S GOT NO MONOPOLY ON BEING A CRIME-FIGHTER!



SHORTLY...

WHY... WITH **MY** MAGICAL POWERS I COULD MAKE ANYONE MY HERO CRIME-FIGHTER-- **ANYONE**! HEY, YOU! WANNA BE A HERO?

H-HUH...? THE FAMOUS LITTLE **BAT-MITE**... FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION!

SINCE YOU RECOGNIZE ME, YOU KNOW I'M NOT SPOOFING! WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY? HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A CRIME-FIGHTING HERO... JUST LIKE **BATMAN**?

ME... JEROME WITHERS... A CRIME-FIGHTER! THAT'S... THAT'S ASKING THE IMPOSSIBLE, **BAT-MITE**!



SUDDENLY, THE DIMENSIONAL WAIF WAVES HIS HAND AND...

IMPOSSIBLE, NOTHING, JEROME! THERE YOU ARE... IN MY OWN PERSONAL CRIME-FIGHTING ATTIRE! THE NEW **BAT-MITE HERO!**

GOSH, YOU WEREN'T KIDDING! BUT... JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...?

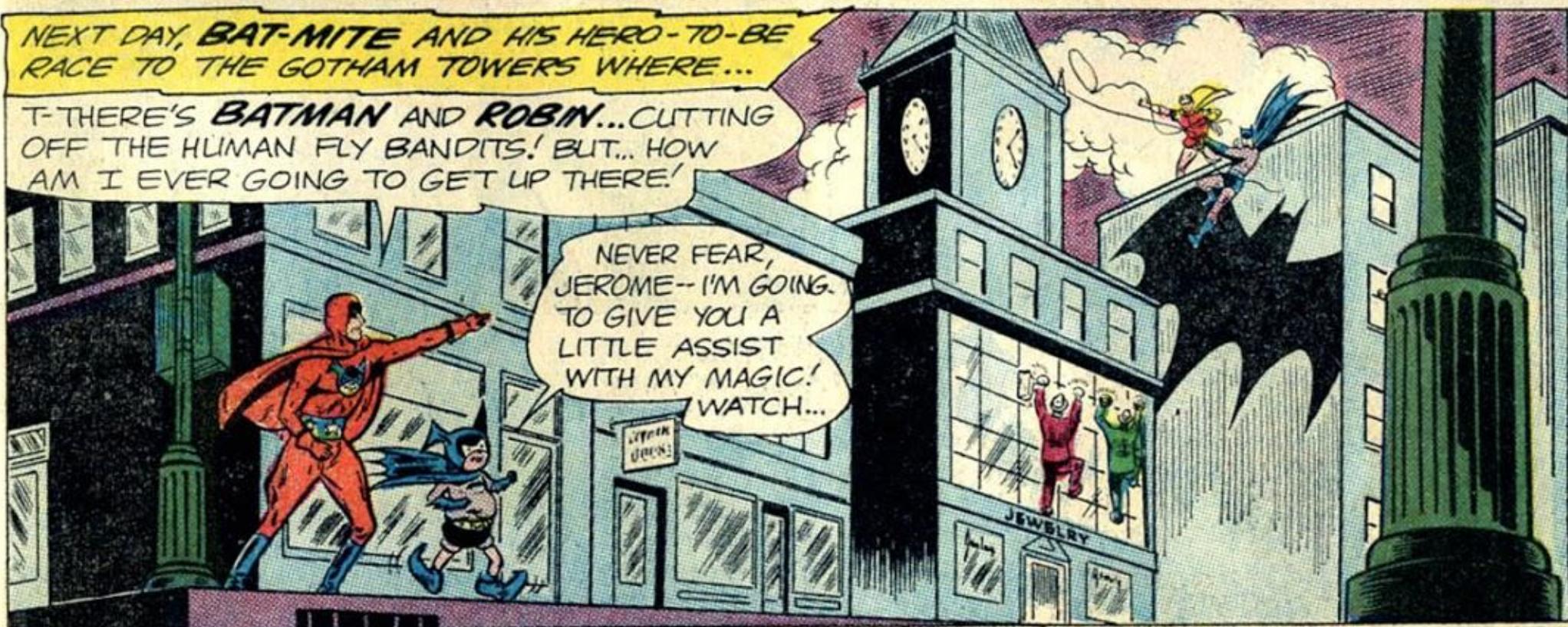
SHOW UP MY EX-HERO, **BATMAN**, JEROME! WE'LL JUST SIT TIGHT AND WAIT UNTIL HE GOES INTO ACTION AGAIN--THEN, THE **BAT-MITE HERO** WILL TAKE OVER! HE, HE, HE!



NEXT DAY, **BAT-MITE** AND HIS HERO-TO-BE RACE TO THE GOTHAM TOWERS WHERE...

THERE'S **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**... CUTTING OFF THE HUMAN FLY BANDITS! BUT... HOW AM I EVER GOING TO GET UP THERE!

NEVER FEAR, JEROME--I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE ASSIST WITH MY MAGIC! WATCH...



SUDDENLY...

AND AWAY WE GO! STAND-BY FOR CRIME-FIGHTING ACTION, JEROME...

YIPES!
A--A
MAGIC
CARPET!

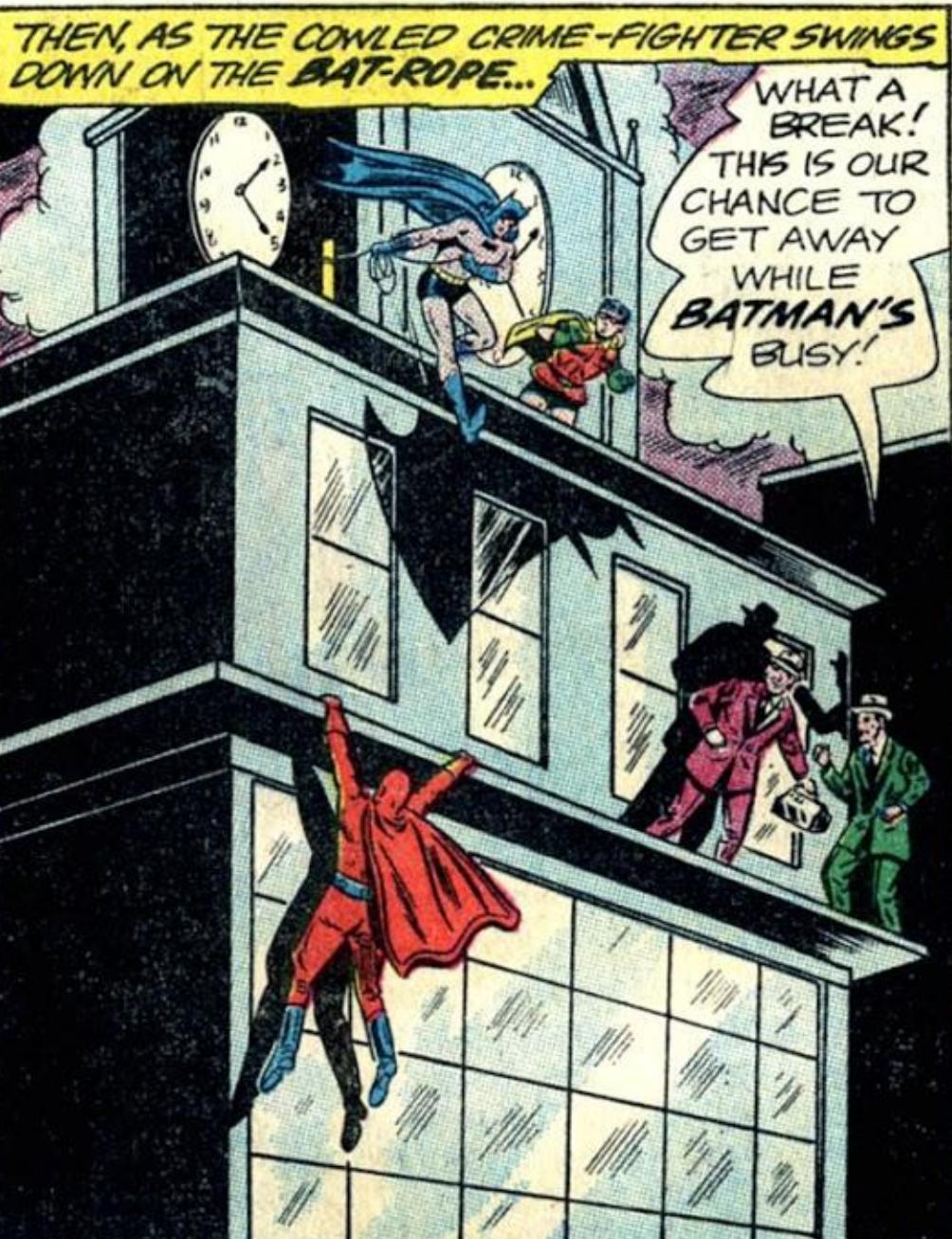
THEN, AS THE BIZARRE CARPET ZOOMS UP TO A LEDGE OF THE BUILDING...

LEAP TO THE LEDGE, JEROME! YOU'VE GOT TO APPREHEND THOSE HOODS BEFORE MY EX-HERO DOES...

"EX-HERO!"
BAT-MITE'S TRYING TO CREATE A HERO OF HIS OWN--TO SPITE **YOU, BAT-MAN!**



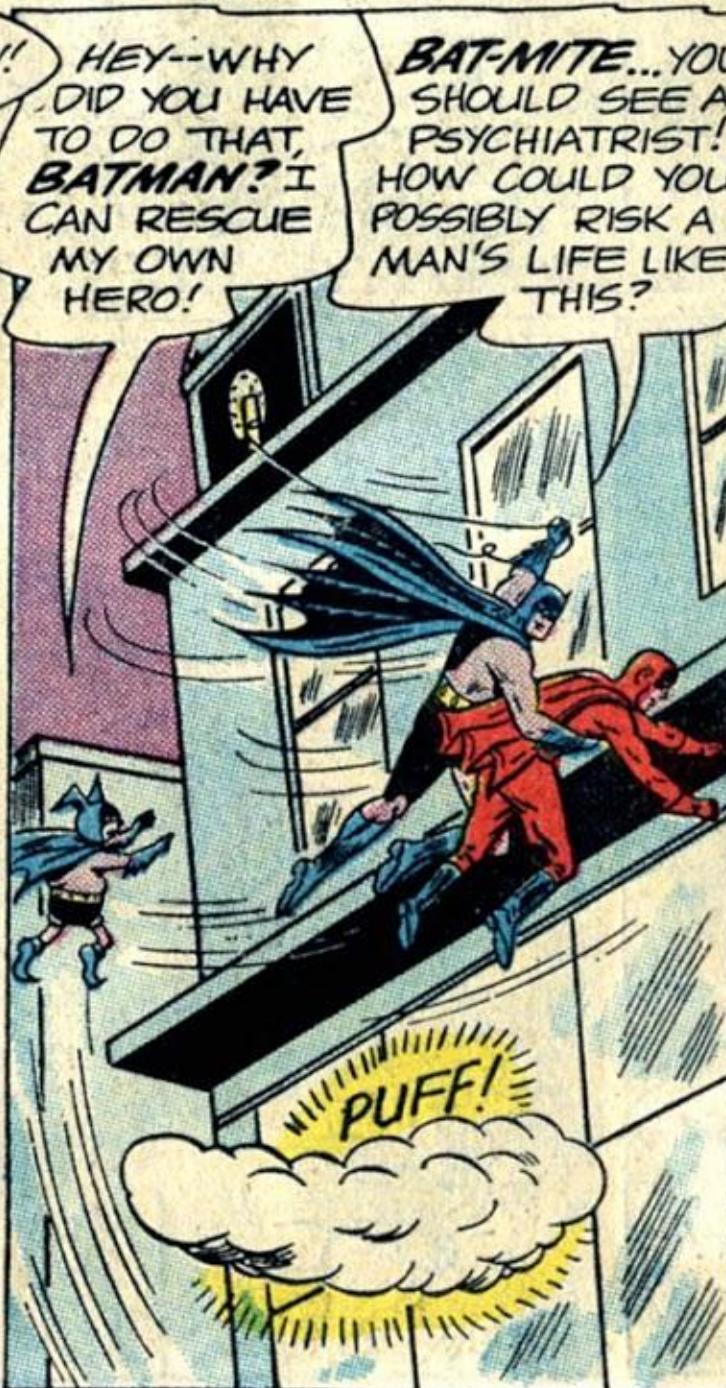
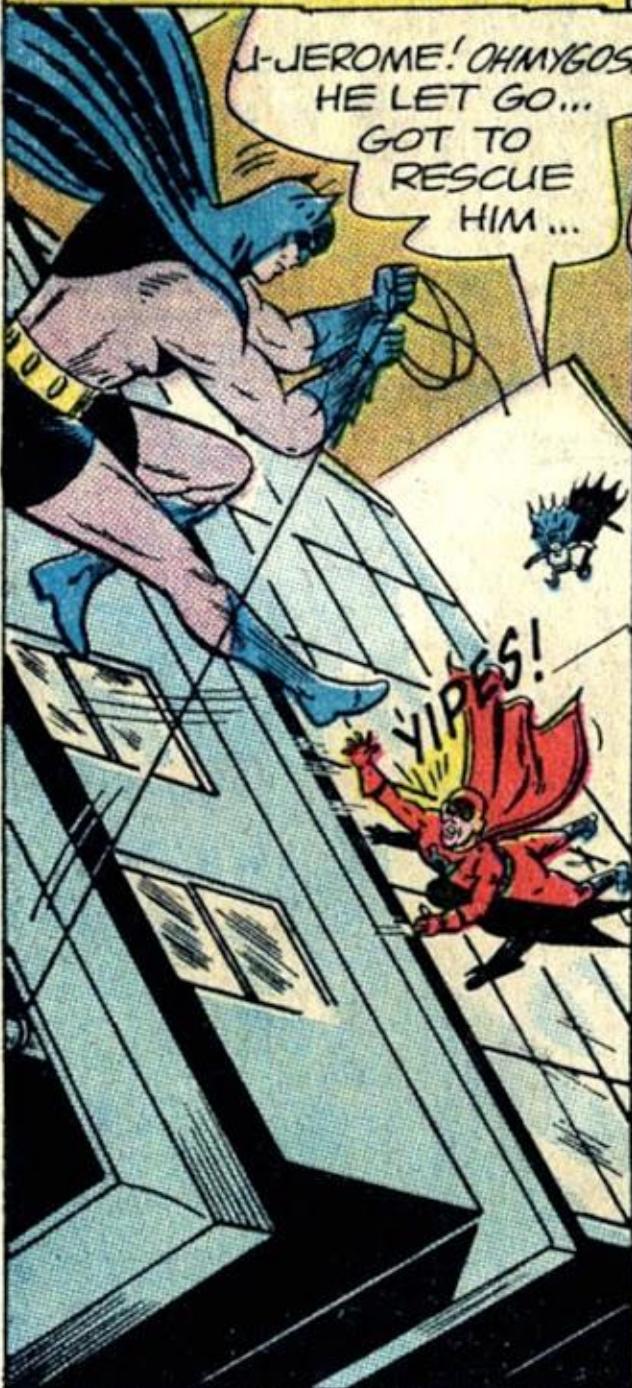
BUT HIS "HERO" IS OFF BALANCE, ROBIN! THAT ZANY LITTLE CHARACTER'S DISRUPTED OUR CRIME-FIGHTING JOBS AND HAS ENDANGERED THAT MAN'S LIFE! I'VE GOT TO RESCUE HIM...



THEN, AS JEROME WITHERS' STRENGTH SUDDENLY GIVES...

BUT THEN, A POWERFUL ARM GRASPS THE FALLING FIGURE...

I DIDN'T EITHER! MY MAGICAL "CATCH CLOUD" WOULD HAVE SAVED HIM! YOU'RE JUST TRYING TO STEAL MY HERO'S THUNDER, BATMAN!





BATMAN



FORGET IT, BATMAN! THE POLICE HAVE ALREADY NAILED THE THIEVES-- LOOK!

THAT'S A RELIEF! BUT IT STILL DOESN'T ABSOLVE YOU OF THIS ZANY STUNT, LITTLE MAN!

COME ON--LET'S GET YOUR "HERO" OFF THIS LEDGE BEFORE HE WILTS ON US!



SHORTLY, WITH A WAVE OF BAT-MITE'S HAND, JEROME IS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES ONCE AGAIN...

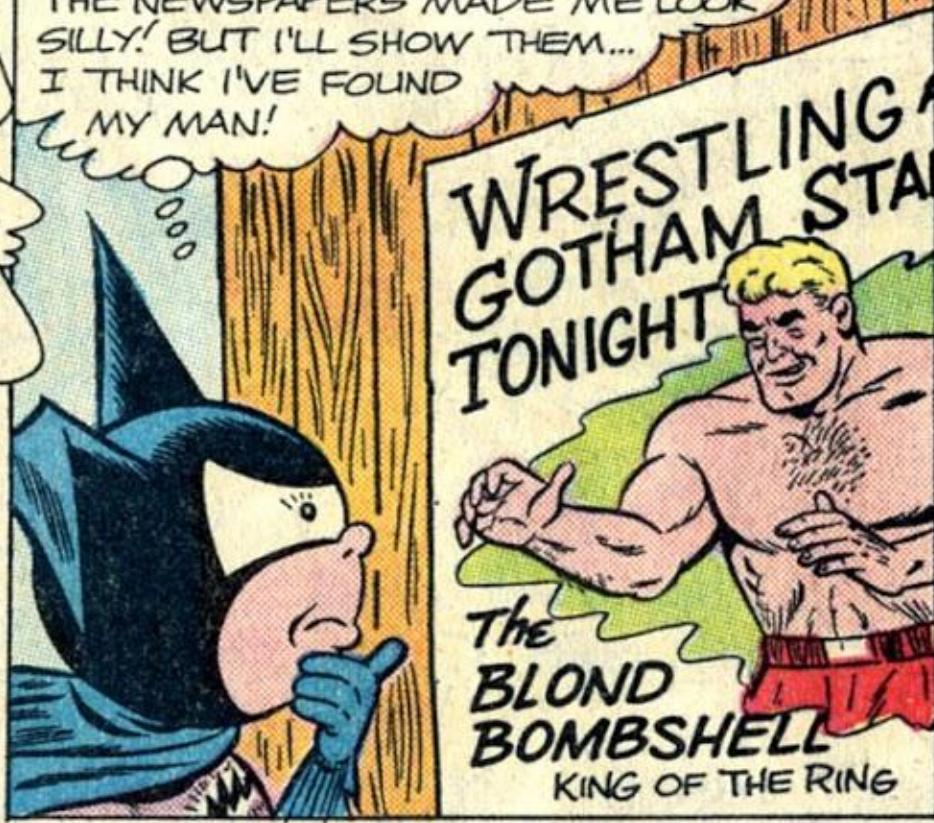
I HOPE THIS WILL BE A LESSON TO YOU, BAT-MITE! YOU CAN'T GO AROUND ENDANGERING LIVES BECAUSE YOU WANT TO "MAKE" YOUR OWN HERO!

AW PHOOEY! IF I HADN'T PICKED A GUY WITHOUT ANY ATHLETIC ABILITY, I'D HAVE HAD MYSELF A HERO! NEXT TIME I GOTTA CHOOSE A REAL HE-MAN!



LATER THAT DAY...

THE NEWSPAPERS MADE ME LOOK SILLY! BUT I'LL SHOW THEM... I THINK I'VE FOUND MY MAN!



SOON, IN A DRESSING ROOM AT GOTHAM STADIUM...

ME... A CRIME-FIGHTIN' HERO? GEE, I DUNNO-- THAT'S A LITTLE OUTA MY LINE...

BUT THINK OF THE PUBLICITY, BOMBSHELL! ONCE YOU'RE A FAMOUS HERO, YOU'LL PACK EVERY HOUSE YOU WRESTLE IN!



YEAH... YEAH, YOU GOT A POINT THERE...

THEN, WE HAVE OURSELVES A DEAL, B.B.! AND JUST WAIT TILL BATMAN SEES MY NEW HERO-- A BLOND BRUISER!



BATMAN

NEXT DAY, TWO FAMILIAR FIGURES PEER FROM AN ALLEY WHERE...

SOME OF THE SAXTON GANG... ROBBING THE DEPARTMENT STORE! THAT TIP WE RECEIVED WAS A GOOD ONE, **ROBIN!** LET'S PUT OUR PLAN INTO OPERATION!



AT THAT MOMENT, ACROSS THE STREET...

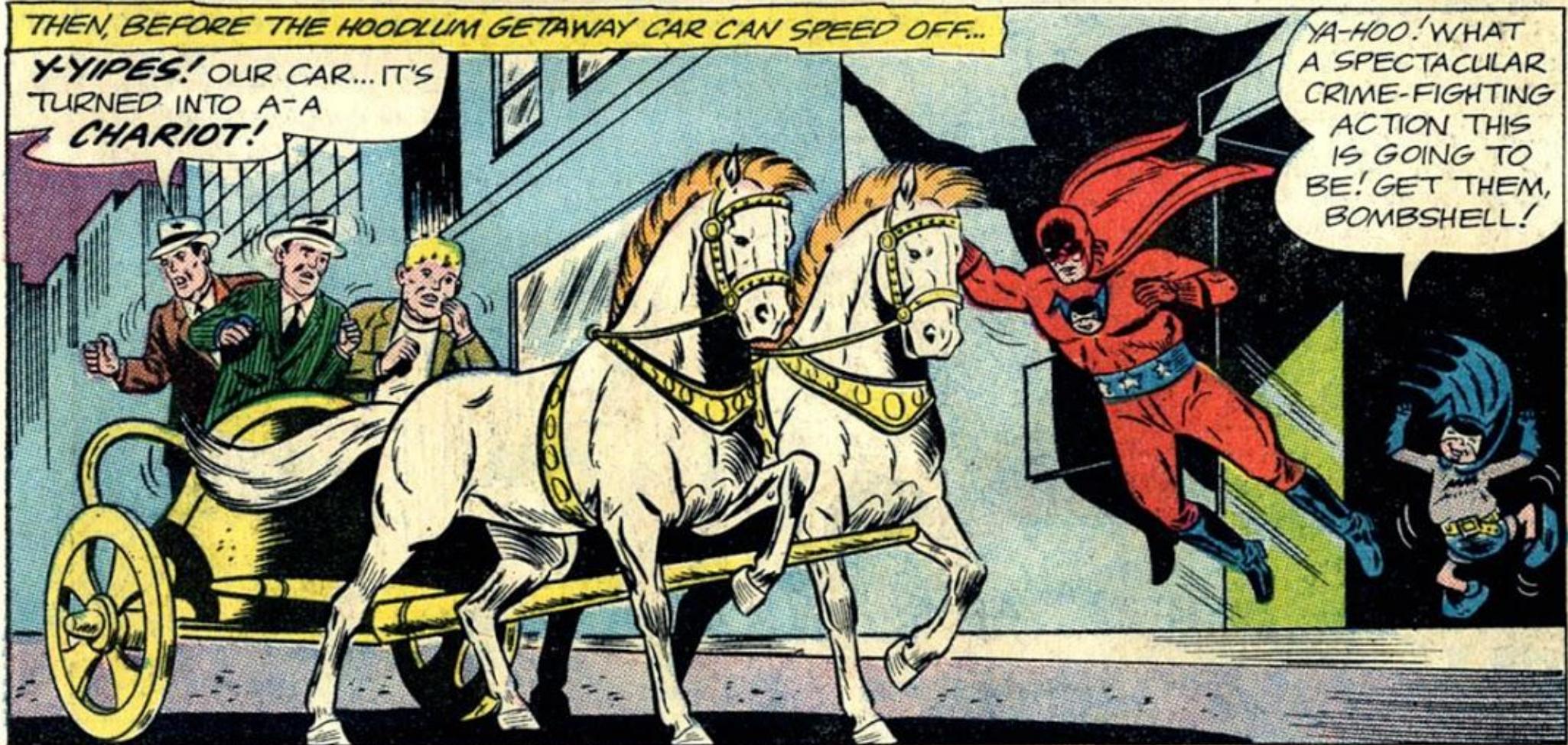
'HEE, HEE,' I KNEW **BATMAN** WOULD LEAD US TO A CRIME IF WE TAILED HIM LONG ENOUGH! AND NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO OUTDO HIM WITH MY MAGICAL HELP AND CAPTURE THOSE CRIMINALS!



THEN, BEFORE THE HOODLUM GETAWAY CAR CAN SPEED OFF...

Y-YIPES! OUR CAR... IT'S TURNED INTO A-A CHARIOT!

YA-HOO! WHAT A SPECTACULAR CRIME-FIGHTING ACTION THIS IS GOING TO BE! GET THEM, BOMBSHELL!

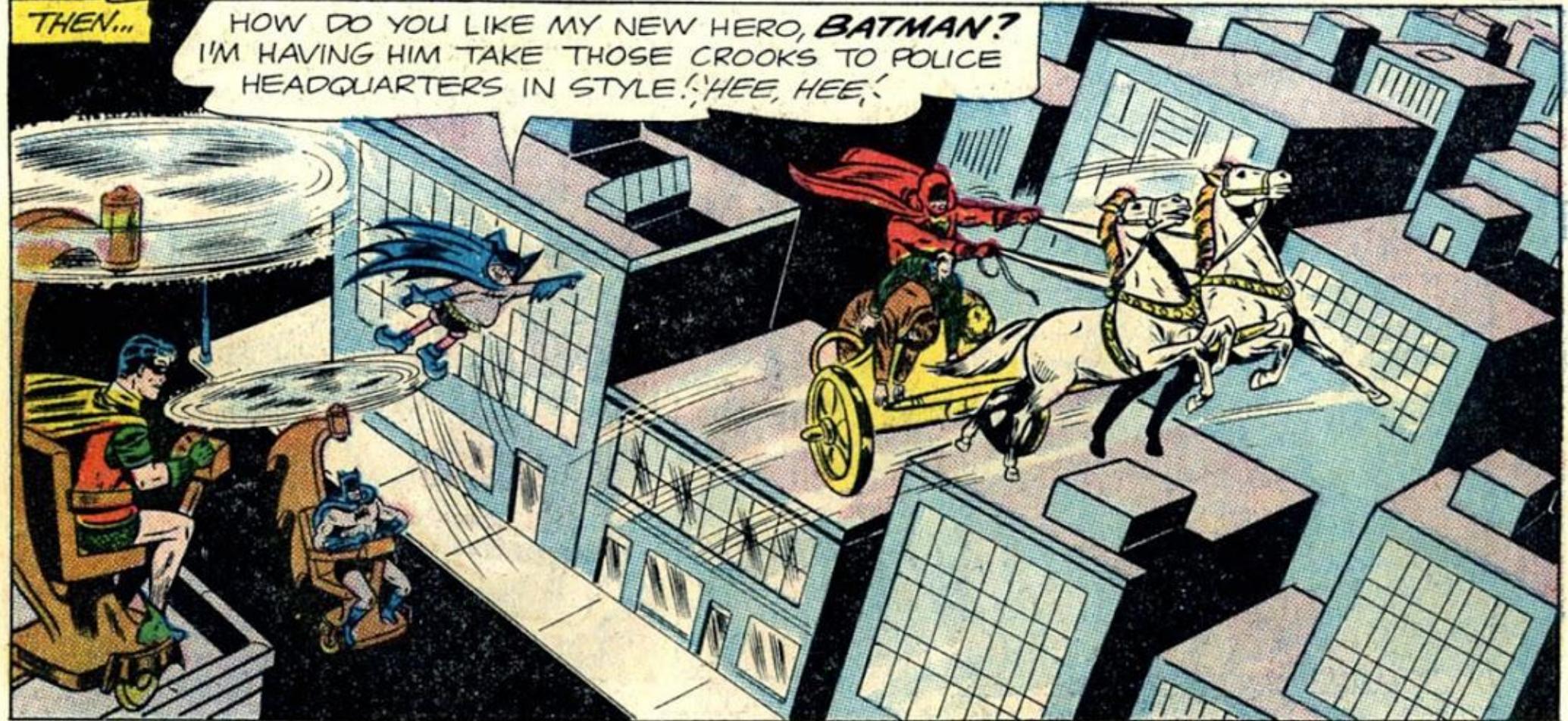


OH-OH... ANOTHER **BAT-MITE** HERO! OUR PLAN HAS GONE UP IN SMOKE!



THEN...

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY NEW HERO, **BATMAN**? I'M HAVING HIM TAKE THOSE CROOKS TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN STYLE! 'HEE, HEE!'



AND SHORTLY...

HERE YOU ARE, SERGEANT--
THREE OF JOEY SAXTON'S
BOYS READY FOR THE
COOLER! 'HA, HA!' I BEAT
BATMAN AND ROBIN
TO THE ARREST!

AND WRECKED OUR
PLANS TO TRAIL
THESE MEN
TO THEIR
HIDEOUT... ARREST
THEIR BOSS,
SAXTON... AND RE-
COVER THEIR FORMER
PLUNDER!

BOMBSHELL! YOU MEAN
YOU **RECOGNIZED** THESE
HOODS AS MEMBERS
OF THIS SAXTON GANG?

YOUR HERO ISN'T
A TRAINED
CRIME-FIGHTER...
OR HE WOULD
HAVE KNOWN
BETTER, **BAT-**
MITE! NOW, WE'VE
LOST A GOOD
LEAD!



WELL, MY BRAINLESS
WONDER GOOFED! I'M
GOING TO GIVE HIM HIS
WALKING PAPERS!

PSST! **BATMAN**...
LOOK HERE! SOME
DIRT THAT FELL FROM
THE CRIMINAL'S SHOE--
IT CONTAINS RED CLAY
FOUND ONLY IN
GOTHAM CANYON!



THEN, THAT MUST BE THE
GANG'S HIDEOUT LOCALE!
WE'LL BE ABLE TO ARREST
SAXTON AND RECOVER
THE STOLEN LOOT, AFTER
ALL! BUT NO THANKS TO
OUR LITTLE FRIEND...

LET'S JUST
HOPE **BAT-**
MITE'S
LEARNED
HIS
LESSON!

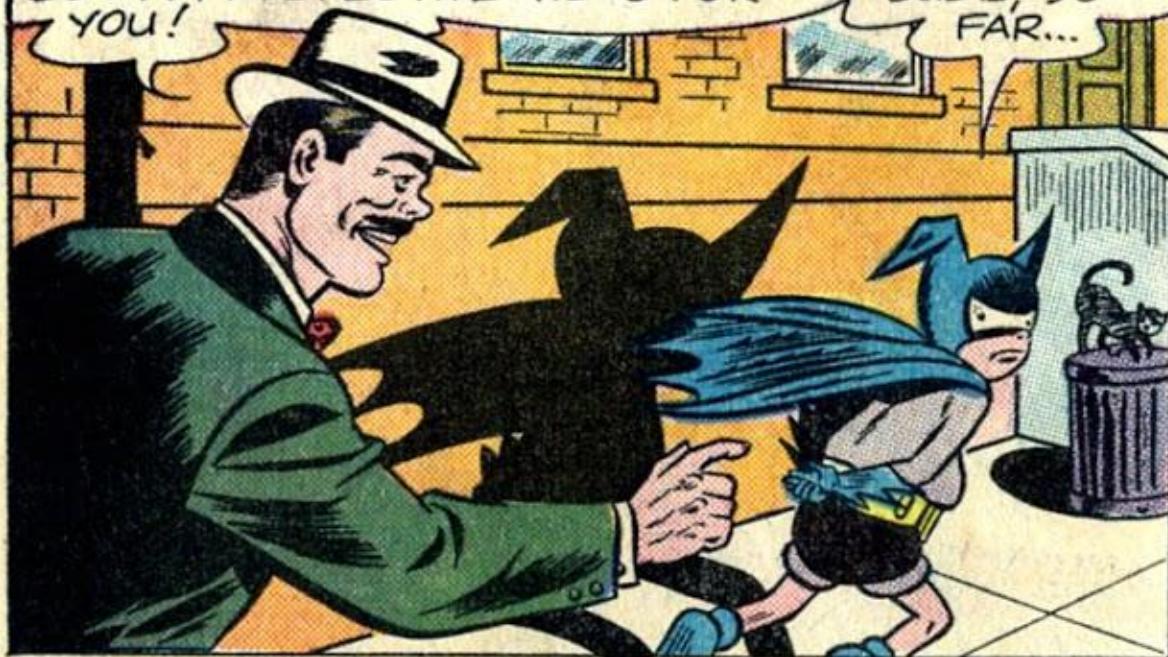


THAT NIGHT, AS THE DESPONDENT LITTLE IMP FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION STROLLS THROUGH GOTHAM...

BAT-MITE... FOUND YOU AT LAST! HERO? I DUNNO-- I'M FRANK COLLINS! I'VE READ ABOUT YOUR TWO FAILURES AND I'VE GOT A PROSPECTIVE HERO FOR YOU!

BUT THE MAN I HAVE IN MIND IS A FORMER OLYMPIC CHAMP... A COLLEGE GRADUATE, AND NOW A PRIVATE DETECTIVE! YES SIR, BILL STRONG'S A NATURAL!

GOLLEE-- HIS QUALIFICATIONS SURE FIT! LEMME MEET HIM, HUH?



SHORTLY, IN A NEIGHBORHOOD GYM, BAT-MITE'S EYES TWINKLE AS...

ALL THAT MUSCLE... AND BRAINS, TOO! THAT'S HIM -- BILL STRONG'S A CINCH TO MAKE THE GRADE AS MY BAT-MITE HERO! 'CHUCKLE!' 'CHUCKLE!' AND WAIT TILL BATMAN SEES HIM IN ACTION!



NEXT DAY, THE BATMOBILE ROARS FORTH FROM THE BAT-CAVE CARRYING AN UNINVITED PASSENGER...

NOT BEFORE CRIMINALS... ATTEMPTING TO STEAL THE PAYROLL AT THE CLEAN-ALL SOAP FACTORY! WE'LL TRY TO APPREHEND THEM, COMMISSIONER GORDON!

MY BAT-MITE HERO DOES, BAT-

MAN... 'TEE-

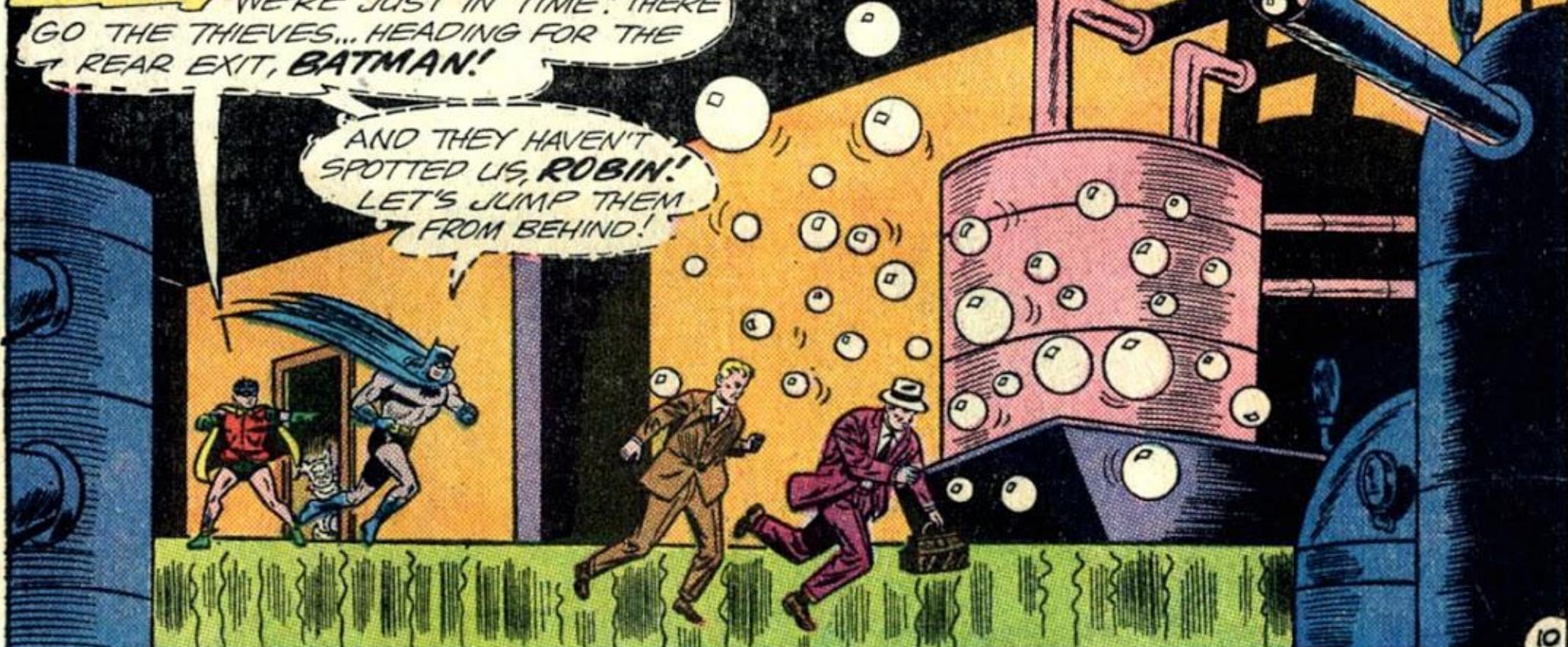
'HEE! I'LL GET HIM THERE IN TIME WITH MY MAGIC!



AND SOON AFTER, AT THE SOAP FACTORY...

WE'RE JUST IN TIME! THERE GO THE THIEVES... HEADING FOR THE REAR EXIT, BATMAN!

AND THEY HAVEN'T SPOTTED US, ROBIN! LET'S JUMP THEM FROM BEHIND!



BATMAN

THE DYNAMIC DUO BOUNDS THROUGH THE AIR-BUT THEN...

T-THE CRIMINALS...FLOATING OUT OF OUR GRASP IN A-A GIANT SOAP BUBBLE...

BAT-MITE... PLAYING GAMES AGAIN!



THEN, AS THE BAT-MITE HERO FOLLOWS THROUGH...

HOW DID YOU LIKE THAT SHOT?
"HA, HA!" IT WAS JUST LIKE
THE ONE I MADE TO WIN
THE DECATHLON MEDAL IN
BASKETBALL...

AND YOU
EARNED
THE RIGHT
TO TAKE THEM
TO POLICE
HEADQUARTERS!



SUDDENLY, THE LITTLE TYKE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION
BRINGS HIS MAGIC INTO PLAY AND...

THAT'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO TRY
AND STEAL MY HERO'S
THUNDER, BATMAN!

THE LITTLE RASCAL... HE'S FORMED
A PATH OF SOAP TO PUT THE SKIDS
ON OUR PLANS... CAN'T KEEP OUR
BALANCE...



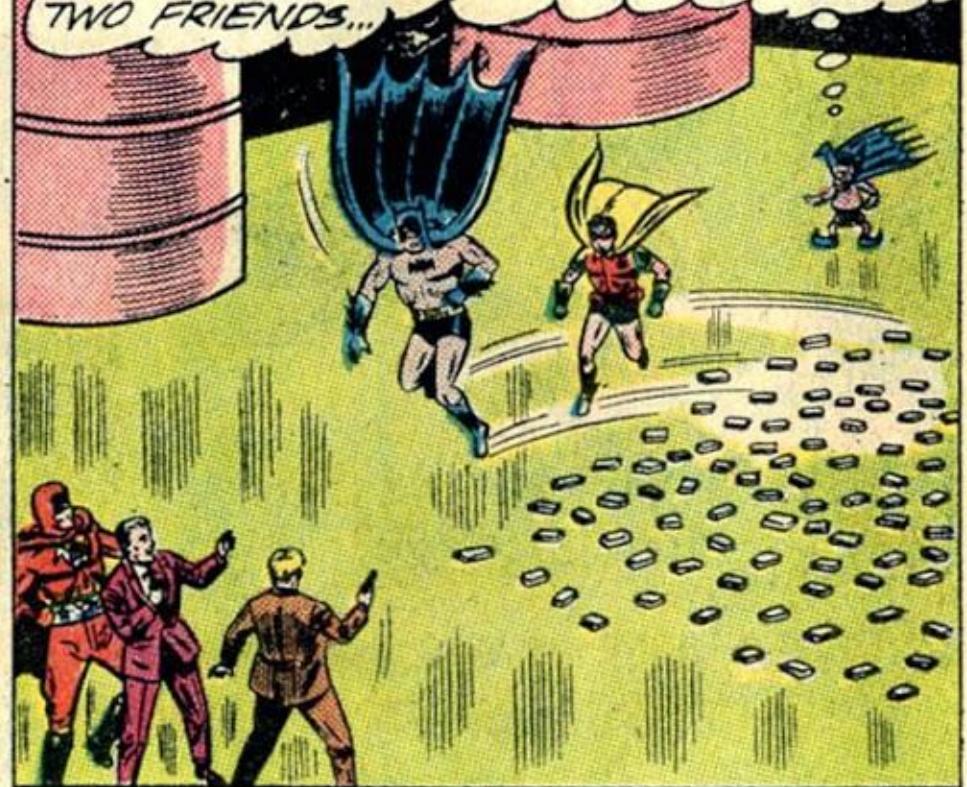
THEN, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN SCRAMBLE TO
THEIR FEET...

BATMAN'S WISE
TO US! LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE
FAST!

OHMYGOSH! MY NEW
HERO HAS RELEASED
THE TWO CRIMINALS--
AND THEY'RE RUNNING
OFF TOGETHER! BAT-
MAN MUST BE RIGHT! I'VE
BLUNDERED!



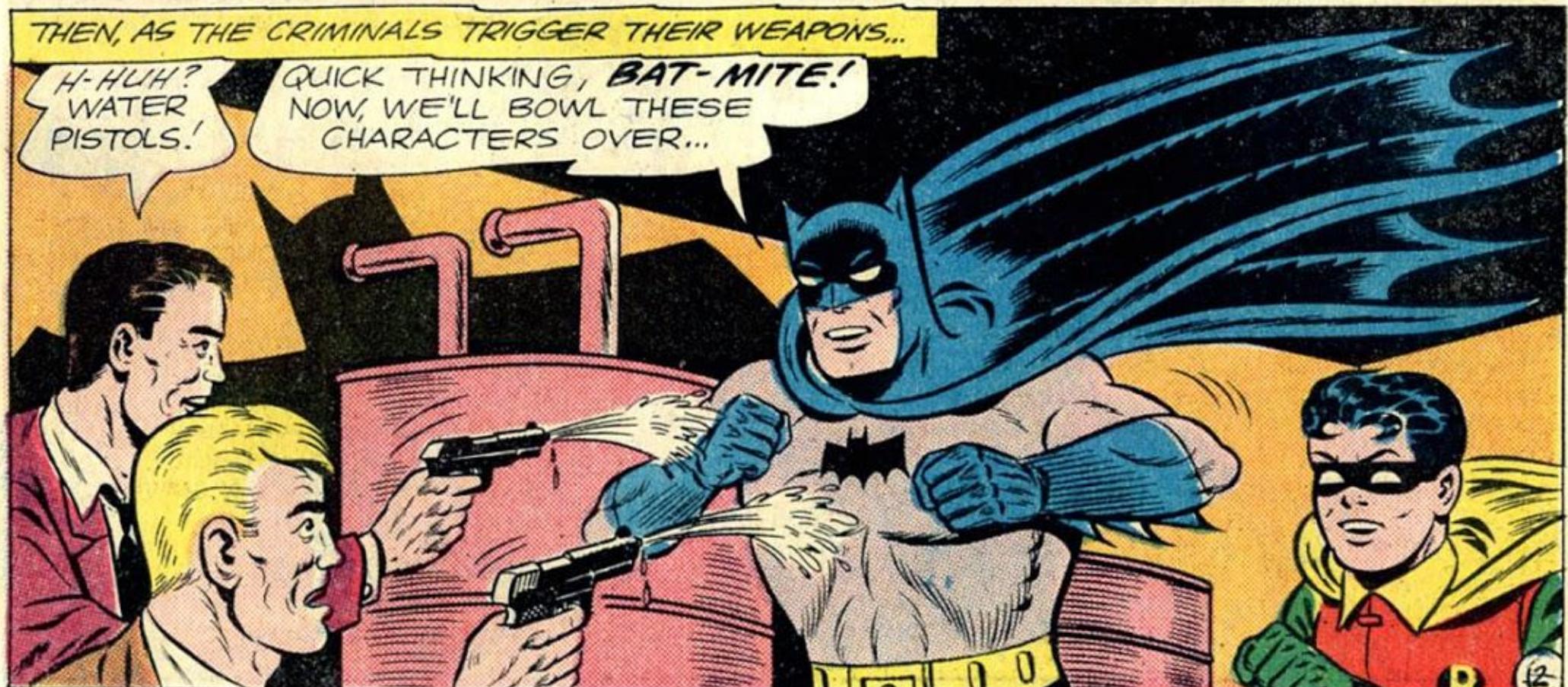
THOSE CROOKS ARE PULLING THEIR
GUNS! CAN'T LET THEM BLAST MY
TWO FRIENDS...



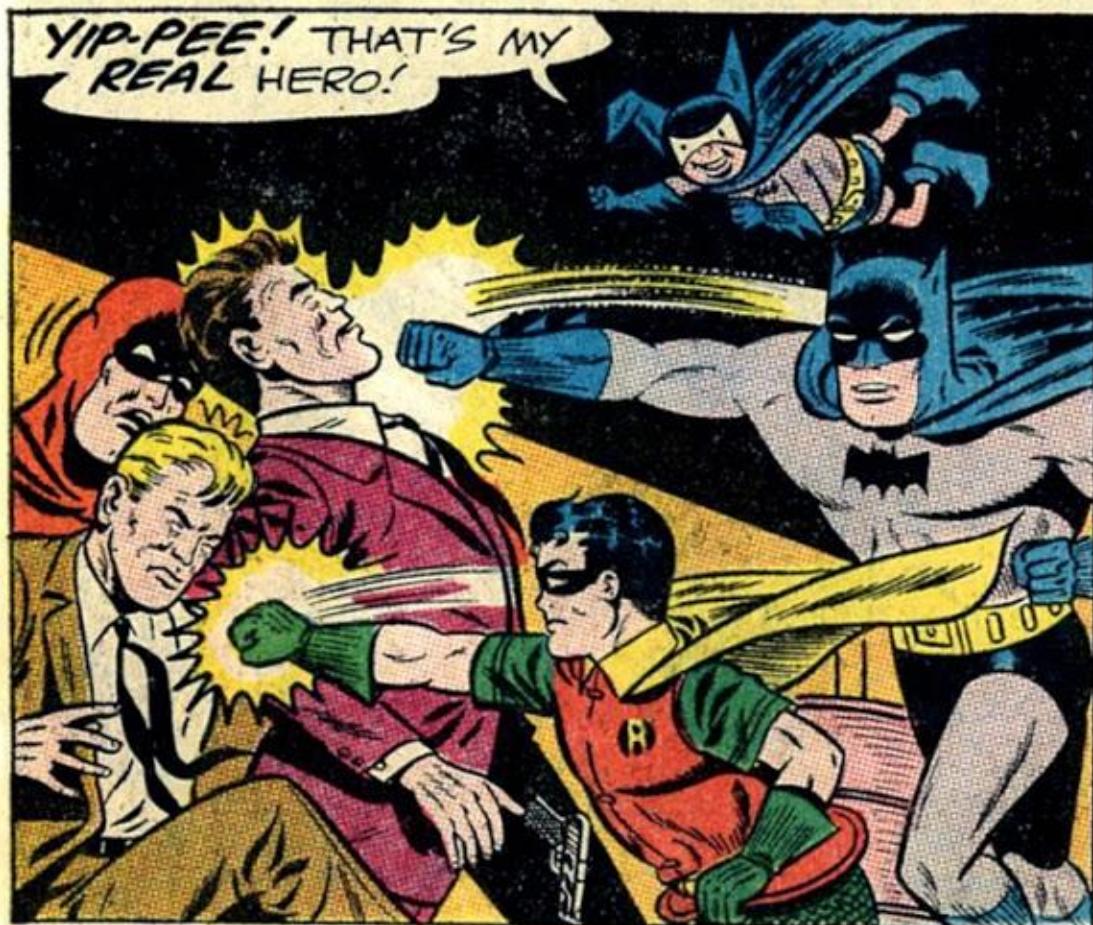
THEN, AS THE CRIMINALS TRIGGER THEIR WEAPONS...

H-HUH?
WATER
PISTOLS!

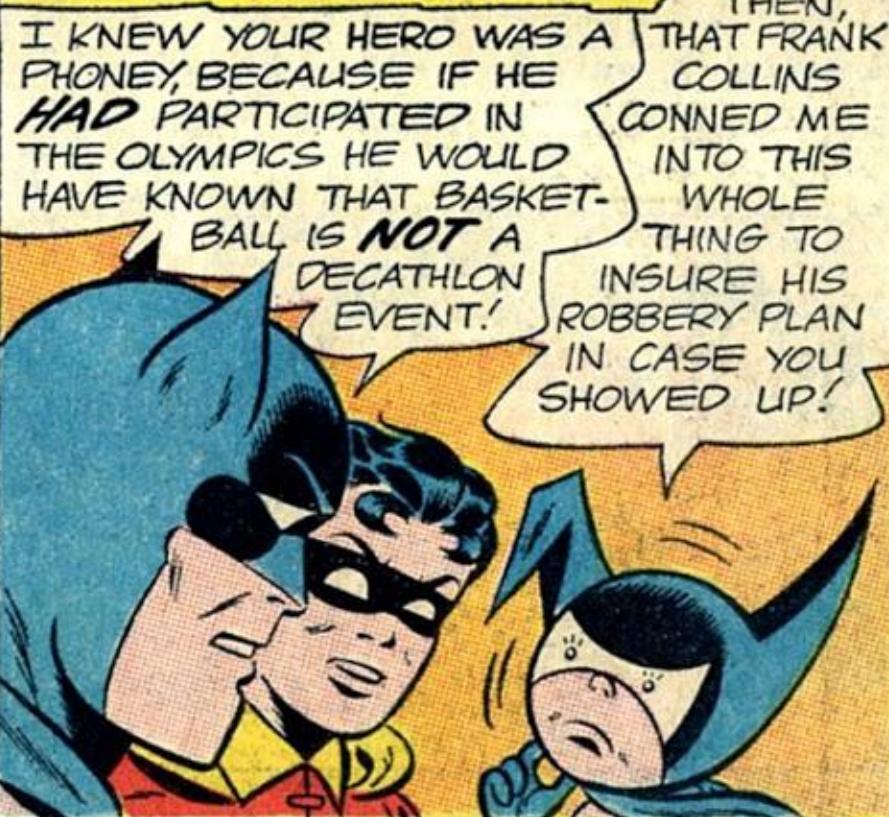
QUICK THINKING, BAT-MITE!
NOW, WE'LL BOWL THESE
CHARACTERS OVER...



**YIP-PEE! THAT'S MY
REAL HERO!**

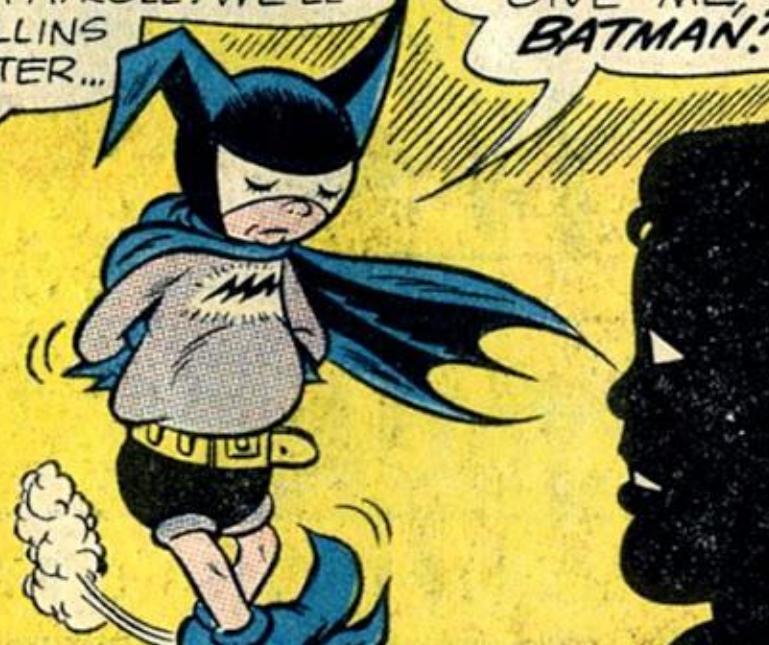


AND WHILE THE HOODLUM TRIO IS RE-GAINING CONSCIOUSNESS...



THAT'S RIGHT--AND WHEN WE DID APPEAR, YOUR PHONEY HERO PRETENDED TO CAPTURE HIS PALS SO THEY COULD ALL MAKE GOOD THEIR ESCAPE... WITH THE STOLEN PAYROLL! WE'LL PICK COLLINS UP LATER...

GOL-LEE GEE... I'VE BEEN STUPID! CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME, BATMAN?



WELL, IF YOU'LL POP OFF TO YOUR DIMENSION NOW AND GIVE US ALL A LITTLE TIME, BAT-MITE...

'NUFF SAID, BAT-MAN! SO LONG... FOR AWHILE... I'LL BE BACK!

THAT'S JUST WHAT WE'RE AFRAID OF!



The End

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(Act of Oct. 23, 1962; Section 4369, Title 39, U.S. Code)

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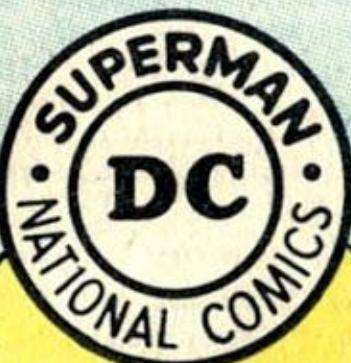
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CASEY, GO INVESTIGATE THIS COMPLAINT.

THE KIDS PLAY BALL IN FRONT OF MY STORE. THE WINDOW'S BEEN BROKEN ONCE!

HENRY
BOLTOFF

BUT WE HAVE NO OTHER PLACE TO USE AS A BALL FIELD!

HMM - MAYBE I CAN DO SOMETHING SO EVERYBODY WILL BE HAPPY.

I FIXED THE BALL SO IT CAN'T REACH YOUR WINDOW!

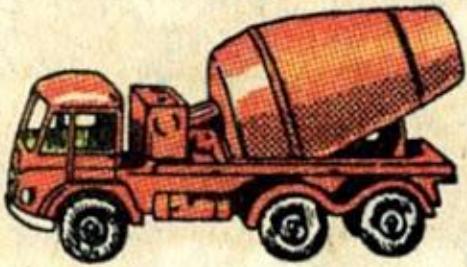
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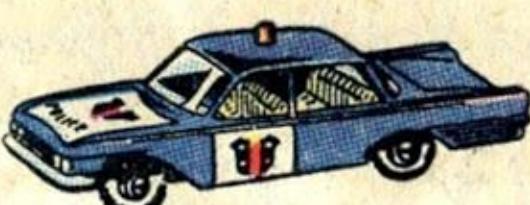
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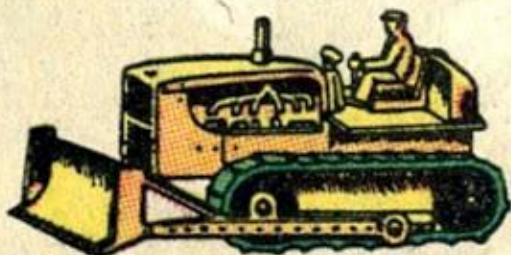
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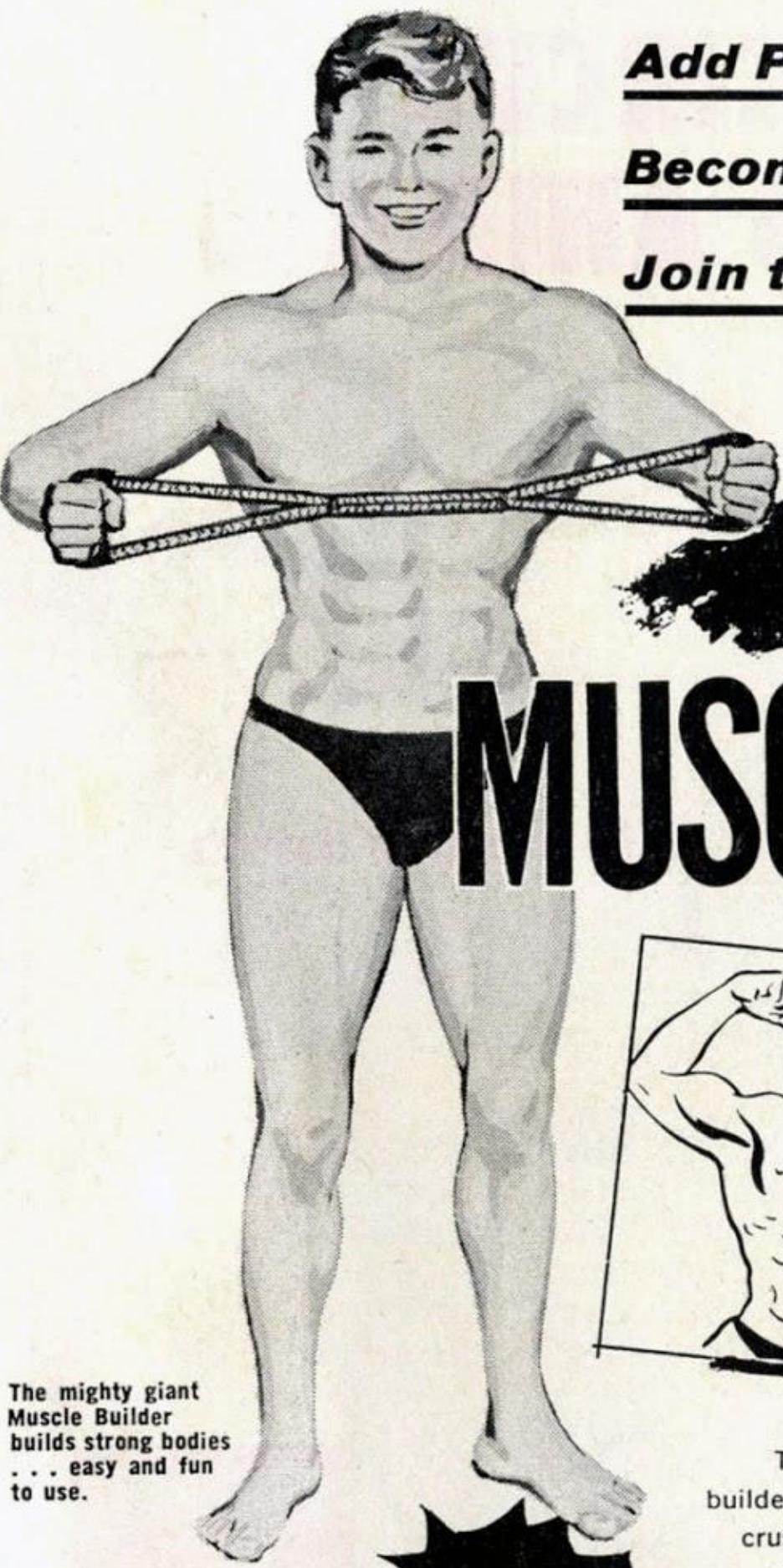
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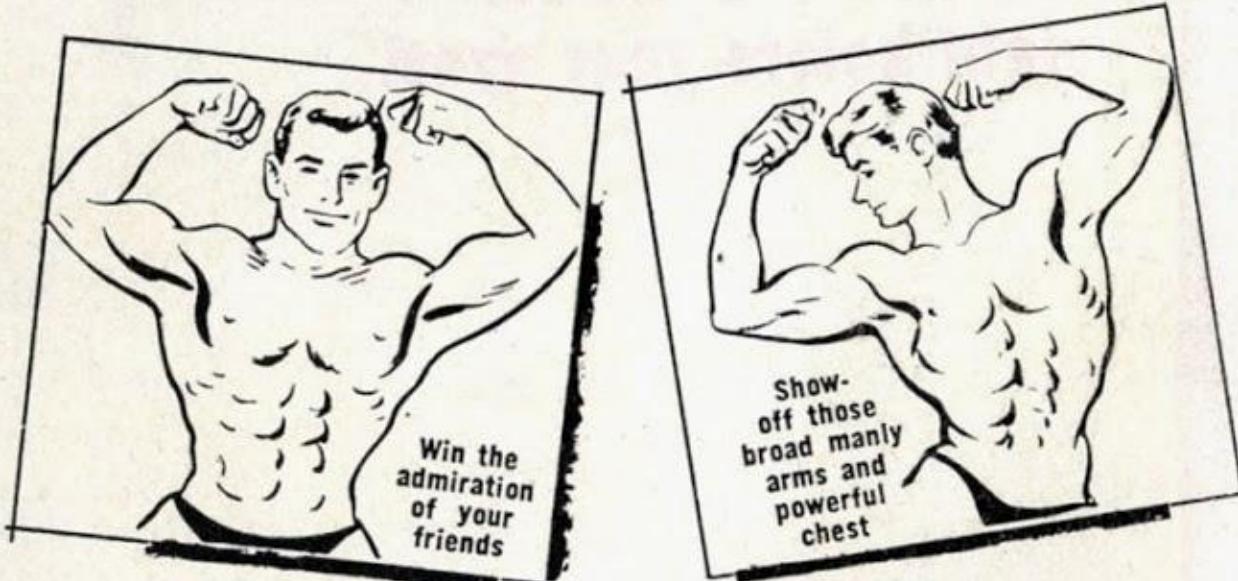
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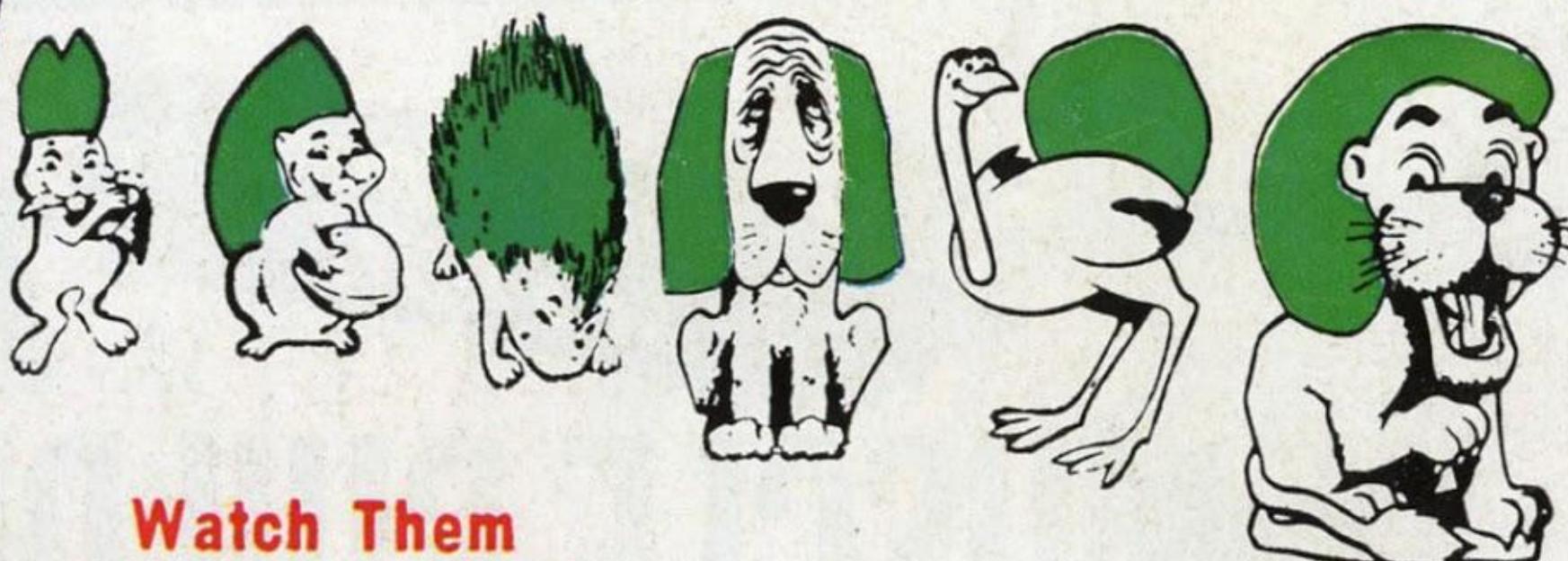
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