

DC 100

BATMAN

SUPER SPECTACULAR
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BATMAN

BATMAN
TODAY--
IN THE
SWINGING
'70'S



BATMAN
VS.
MAN-BAT
IN
"KING
OF THE
GOTHAM
JUNGLE!"

BATMAN IN THE
FABULOUS '40'S



BATMAN IN THE
FURIOUS '50'S



BATMAN IN THE
SIZZLING '60'S



BATMAN IN THE
FANTASTIC FUTURE

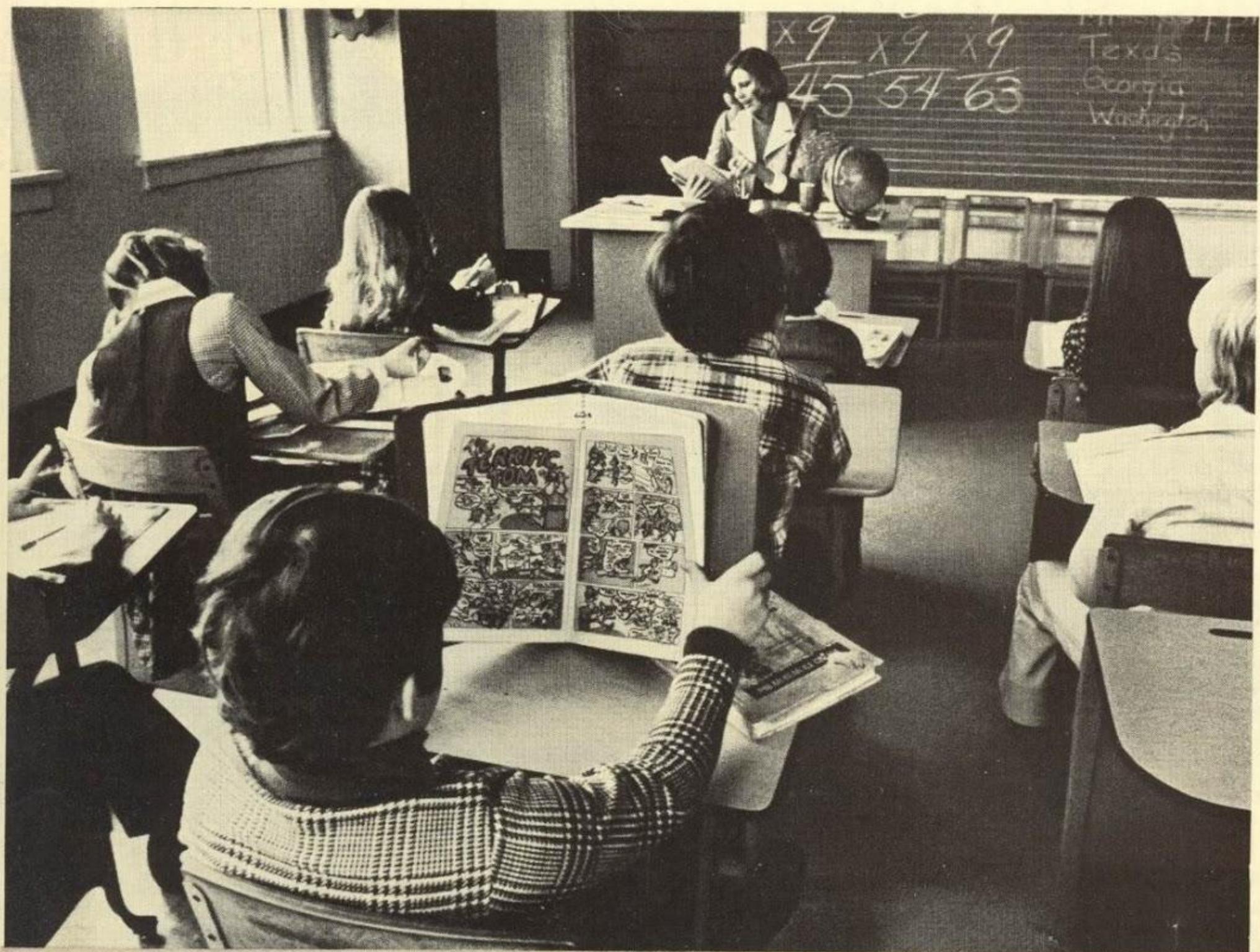


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"THE BULLET-HOLE"

"THE MAN WHO STOLE"

"THE SECOND BATMAN"



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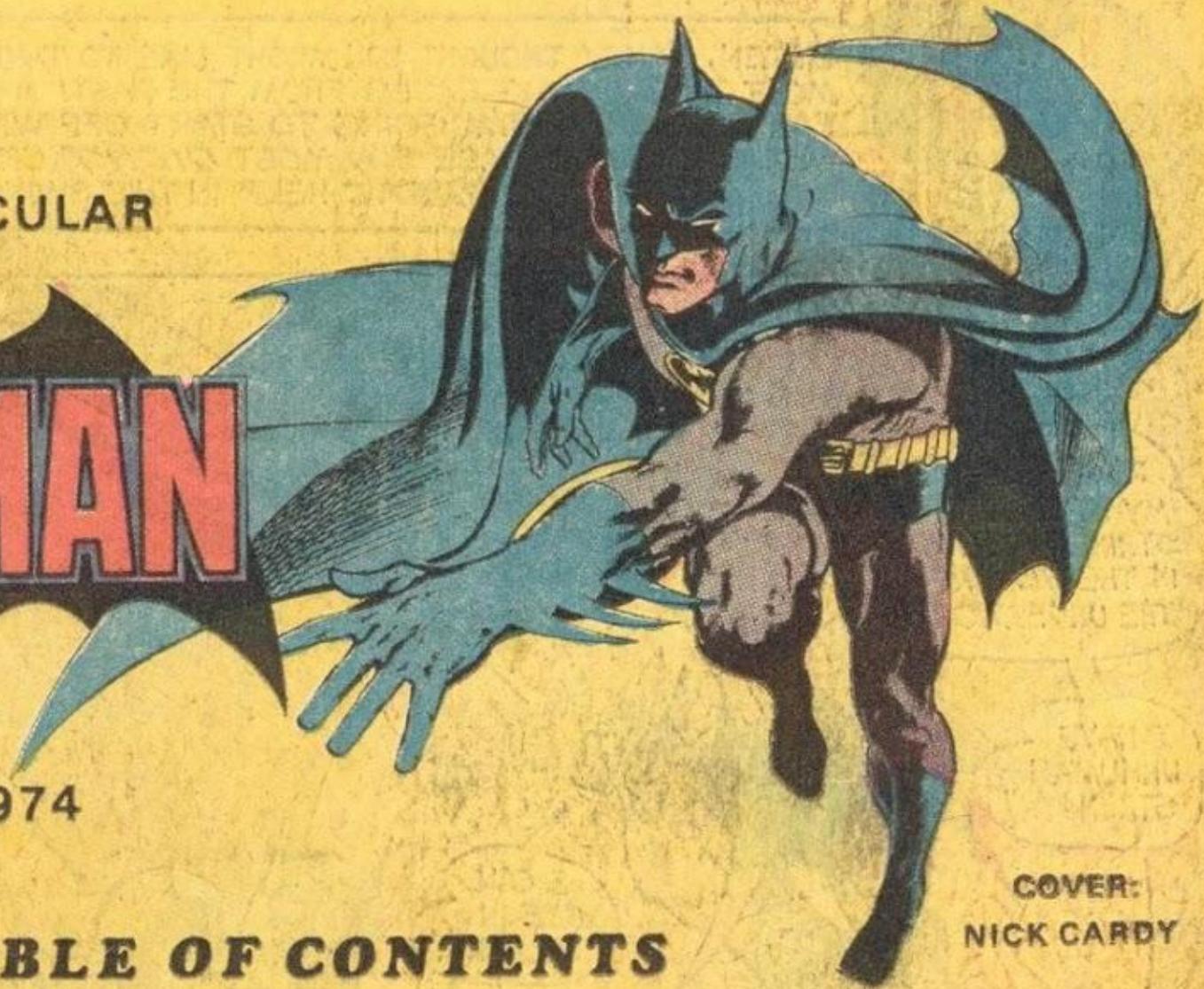


SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BATMAN

NO. 254

JAN.-FEB. 1974



COVER:

NICK CARDY

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BATMAN

LISTEN, GANG! THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO TAKE A LOOK AT SOME OF MY MOST INTERESTING CASES FROM THE PAST! A COUPLE OF 'EM GO PRETTY FAR BACK... BUT I'M GOING TO START OFF WITH MY VERY LATEST ADVENTURE... A CASE I ALMOST DIDN'T CRACK! STILL, I HAD SOME REALLY FANTASTIC HELP IN THIS SWINGING STORY OF TODAY!

SKREEEK!
MY APPEARANCE
STRIKES TERROR
IN THE HEARTS OF
THE UNDERWORLD!

I HAVE
UNHUMAN
STRENGTH!

WHAT CAN
YOU DO, BATMAN,
THAT I CAN'T
DO BETTER?

I CAN
SEE IN
THE DARK!
I CAN
FLY!

A PROVOCATIVE CHALLENGE
HURLED DOWN FROM ON
HIGH BY A TRUE "CREATURE
OF DARKNESS" — THAT
EERIE MAN-MADE MUTATION
KNOWN AS MAN-BAT!
HOW CAN THE...

BATMAN

... MEET THIS BRAZEN BID
FOR TOTAL SUPREMACY? OR
MUST HE BOW TO A SUPERIOR
CONTENDER FOR THE TITLE OF...

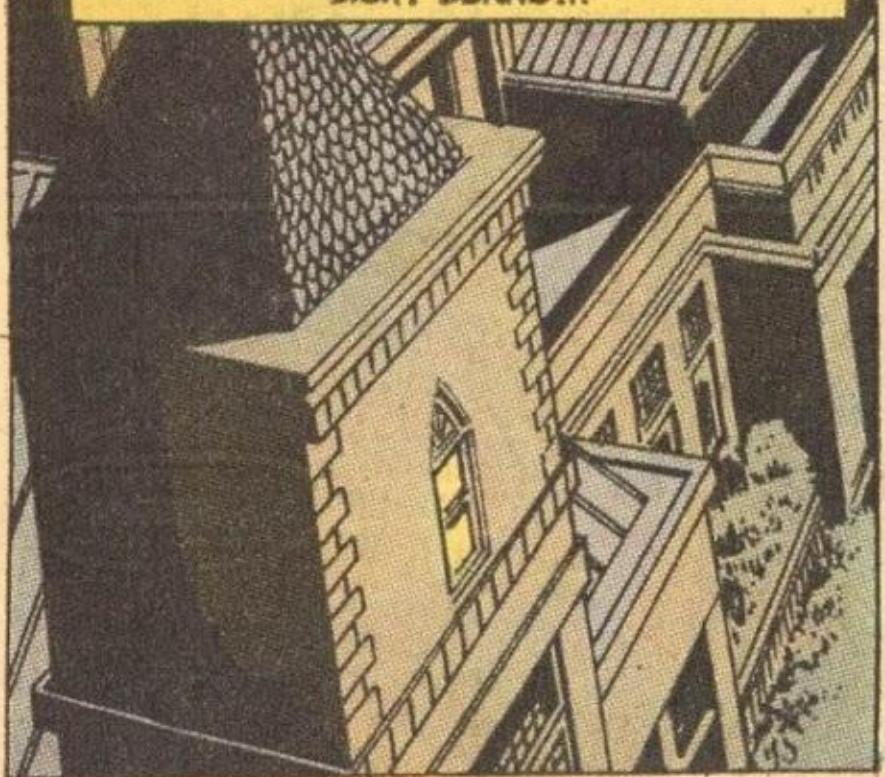
STORY:
FRANK
ROBBINS
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

ART:
IRV NOVICK &
DICK GIORDANO

"KING OF THE GOTHAM JUNGLE!"

THE DEAD OF NIGHT--AND IN GOTHAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM A SOLITARY LIGHT BURNS...

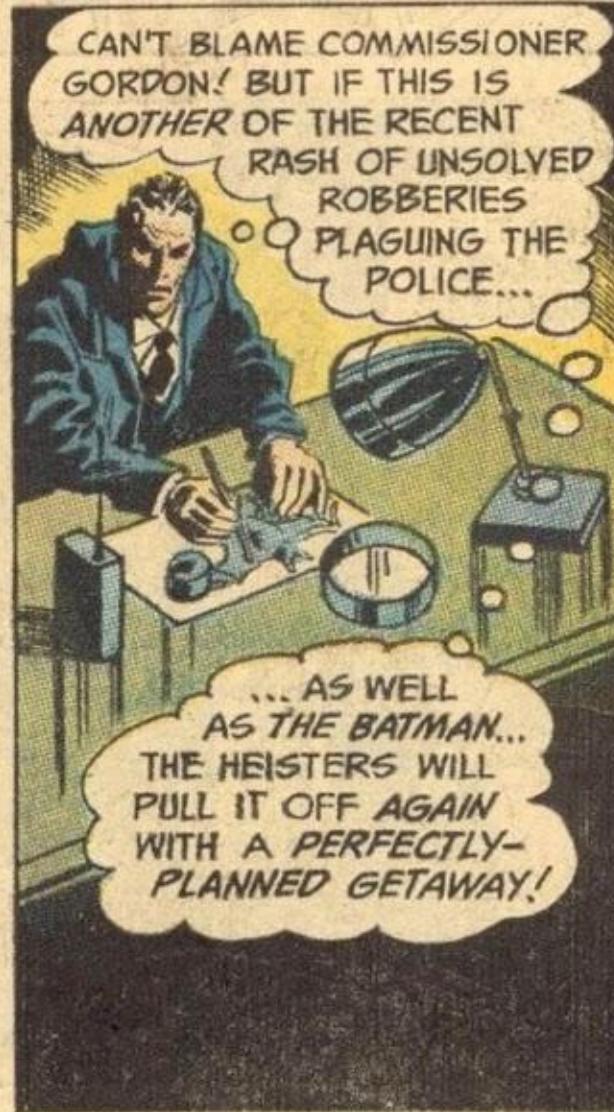
...LIGHTING THE WORK OF A MAN WHO CHOOSES TO LABOR THROUGH THE SUNLESS HOURS THAT MATCH HIS TEMPERAMENT AND HIS SUBJECT...



...A BROODING MAN OF DARKNESS, PREPARING A NOCTURNAL MAMMAL EXHIBIT--CURATOR KIRK LANGSTROM, BAT-SPECIALIST EXTRAORDINARY...



...WHOSE CONCENTRATION IS BROKEN ONLY BY THE OCCASIONAL INTERRUPTION OF A RADIO TUNED TO THE POLICE-BAND...



THERE WAS A TIME WHEN THE BATMAN AND I FOUGHT BACK-TO-BACK TO DEFEAT THE PREDATORS THAT PREY ON GOTHAM...

...BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY I GOT SIDE-TRACKED IN MY "MAN-BAT" EXPERIMENTS! LOST SIGHT OF MY ORIGINAL AIM...

...TO ASSIST THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTER, USING NIGHT-POWERS HE DOESN'T POSSESS!

HAS THAT TIME COME AGAIN?



WHILE KIRK LANGSTROM WEIGHS A DECISION FRAUGHT WITH PERIL, CAR 911 RACES TO THE REPORTED TROUBLE-SPOT...

THE WAREHOUSE'S SILENT BURGLAR-ALARM SHOULD GIVE US THE JUMP ON 'EM!

IT'S AROUND THE NEXT CORNER, SAL...

RIGHT, TIM--BUT...

...LOOKS LIKE THE BATMAN BEAT US TO IT! THAT'S HIS CAR PARKED BY THE ALLEY...

IF WE MOVE IN NOW--IT COULD MESS UP HIS OPERATION!

CHECK! SO WE STAKE OUT HERE--WITH OUR LIGHTS OUT--TO GIVE HIM BACK-UP SUPPORT--IF HE NEEDS IT!



AND THE MASKED MANHUNTER DOES HAVE HIS OWN PECULIAR STAKEOUT GOING...

IT'S THE SAME MOB, ALL RIGHT... BUT I'M NOT LETTING THEM SHAFT ME AGAIN!

THIS TIME I'LL LET THEM GET AWAY... TRAIL THEM AND MAKE THE NAB...

...WHEN THEY THINK THEY'RE IN THE CLEAR!



NO DOUBT ABOUT IT! EVERY JOB THIS CLEVER HEIST-GANG PULLS HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF THAT WILY SCHEMER!

THAT'S ONE TWIST THAT "GETAWAY GENIUS," ROY REYNOLDS,* WON'T BE PREPARED FOR!

THEN...

THAT'S THE LOT, GANG! BUTTON UP...

...AND MOVE OUT!



*EDITOR'S NOTE: THE "GETAWAY GENIUS" FIRST APPEARED IN BATMAN #170, MARCH, 1965.

NOW WHATEVER
GIMMICK REYNOLDS
HAD RIGGED FOR
A FAST VANISHING
ACT...

...IN CASE
THEY WERE
INTERRUPTED
DURING
THE CRIME...

...WILL BE
SCRATCHED!
WHICH LEAVES
HIM WIDE
OPEN...

...FOR A
SURPRISE TAKE-
OVER EN ROUTE!

I'LL TAG BEHIND,
BLACKED-OUT...
AND BIDE MY TIME!

INTENT ONLY ON HIS TARGET, THE USUALLY ALERT
BATMAN HAS OVERLOOKED AN UNEXPECTED
COMPLICATION--THE POLICE CAR!...

THE VAN IS TURNIN' INTO LEXINGTON
AVENUE! WE CAN CIRCLE THE BLOCK
AND CUT 'EM OFF AT THE INTERSECTION!

BETWEEN US AND
THE BATMAN WE'LL
BOX 'EM IN!

AND SO, PULSE-POUNDING MOMENTS LATER...

MADE IT!
NOW THEY'VE
GOTTA STOP!

?! OH, THOSE
EAGER-BEAVERS--
THEY'RE LOUSING
ME UP!

HOW'D THEY
GET INTO
THE ACT?

SKREEEEEEE...

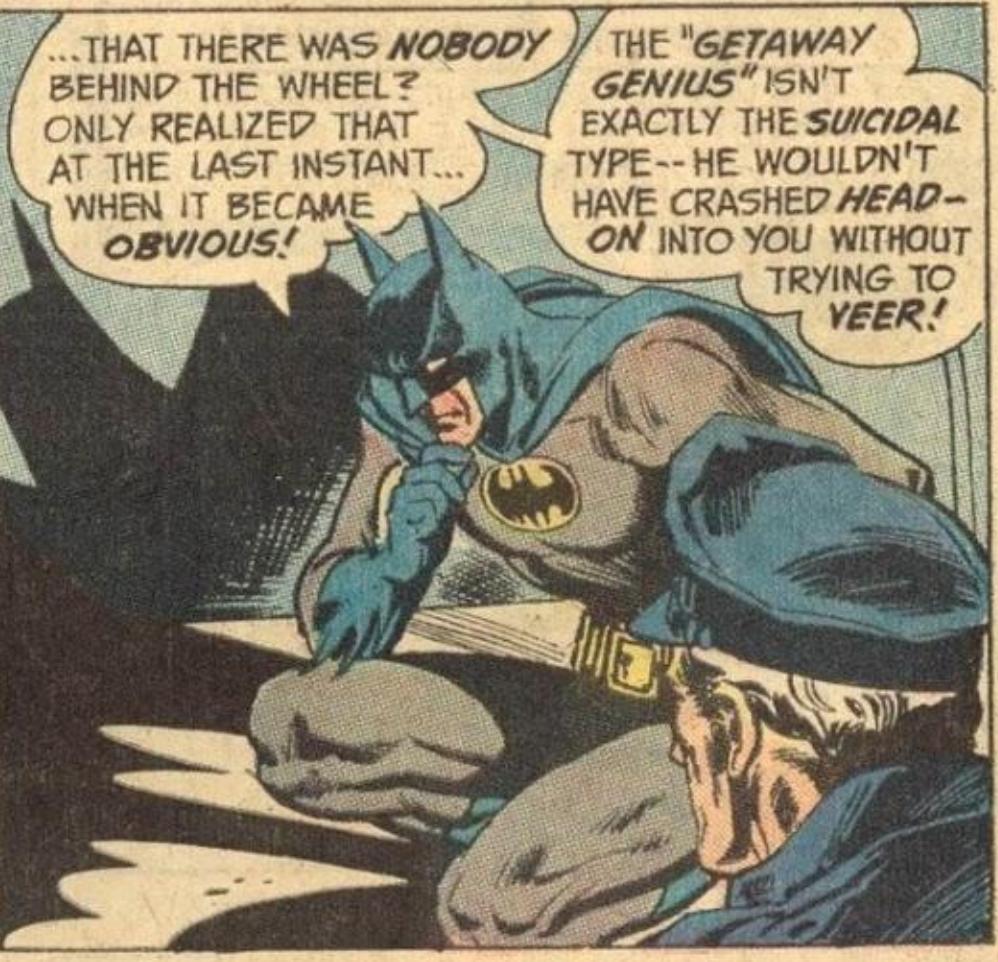
BUT THE SPEEDING VAN DOESN'T
STOP! IT'S HALTED ONLY BY...

KARAASH!

OKAY, PUNKS--
EVERYBODY
OUT!

BETCHA
YOU'RE TOO
LATE, BOYS!
THEY'RE ALREADY
OUT!





LATER, IN
COMMISSIONER
GORDON'S
OFFICE...

MY HUNCH CHECKED OUT,
SIR! APPARENTLY THE
"GETAWAY GENIUS" SET
UP AN UNDERGROUND
"BUCKET-BRIGADE"
SYSTEM...

... AND HIS MOB PASSED THE
LOOT HAND-TO-HAND TO ANOTHER
MANHOLE EXIT, WHERE THEY
TOOK OFF IN A STANDBY
VEHICLE!

BLAST IT,
BATMAN!
CAN'T WE
EVER BE
ONE JUMP
AHEAD
OF HIM?

I AIM TO BE, COMMISSIONER--
NOW THAT I
KNOW WHOM I'M
DEALING WITH
AND RECOGNIZE
HIS M.O.*!

WHICH IS--
FOR EVERY
CAPER REYNOLDS
PULLS, THE
ESCAPE-SCHEME
IS PLANNED
FIRST!

*METHOD OF
OPERATION--
EDITOR.

NIGHTS LATER, THE BATMAN'S
OPPORTUNITY TO PIT WITS
WITH HIS UNCANNY ADVERSARY
COMES, WHEN...

THAT LIT WINDOW!
COULD BE ANYBODY'S
BREAK-IN...

BUT THAT
HANDY PAINTING-
SCAFFOLD, HUNG
OUTSIDE, PROVES
IT ISN'T!

A TYPICAL "GETAWAY
GENIUS TRADEMARK"
... AN ESCAPE ROUTE
RIGGED IN ADVANCE!

A PRETTY OBVIOUS
ONE AT THAT... BUT
EVEN A "GENIUS"
CAN SLIP UP!

SO THE INSTANT I
SPOT A ROBBERY-
IN-PROGRESS--

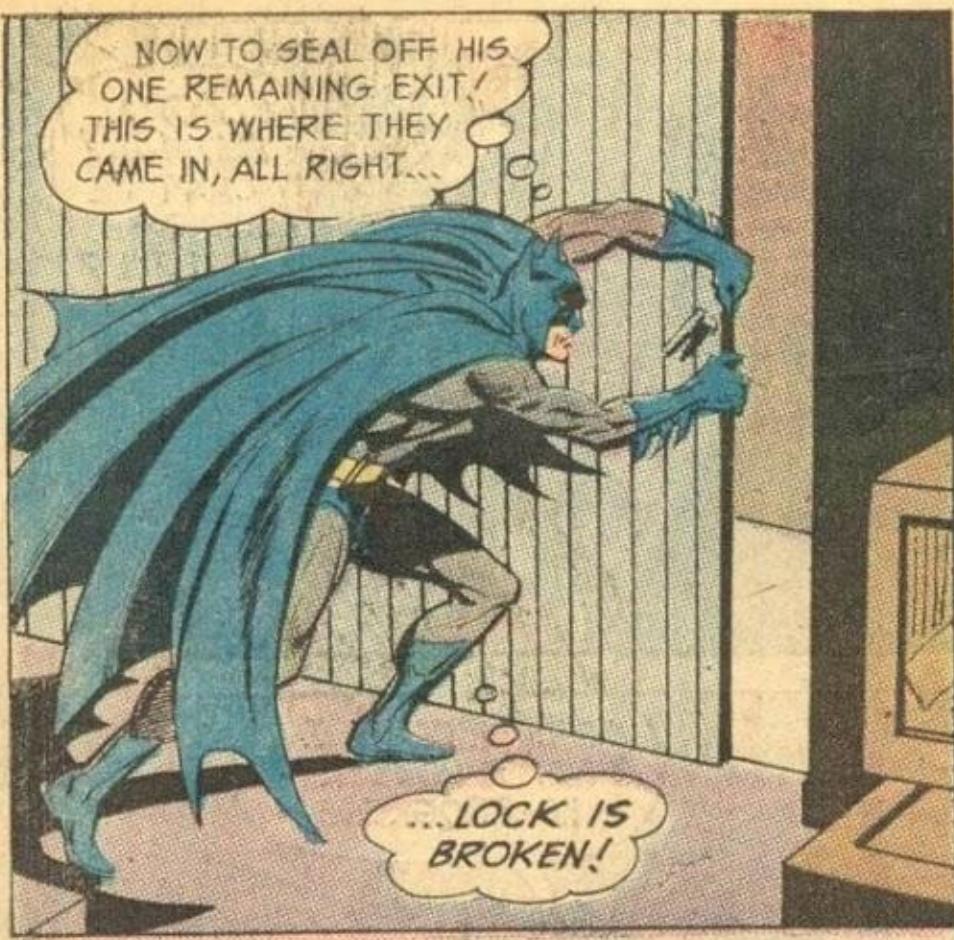
--I START
TO OUTGUESS
HIM ON
GETAWAY
POSSIBILITIES...

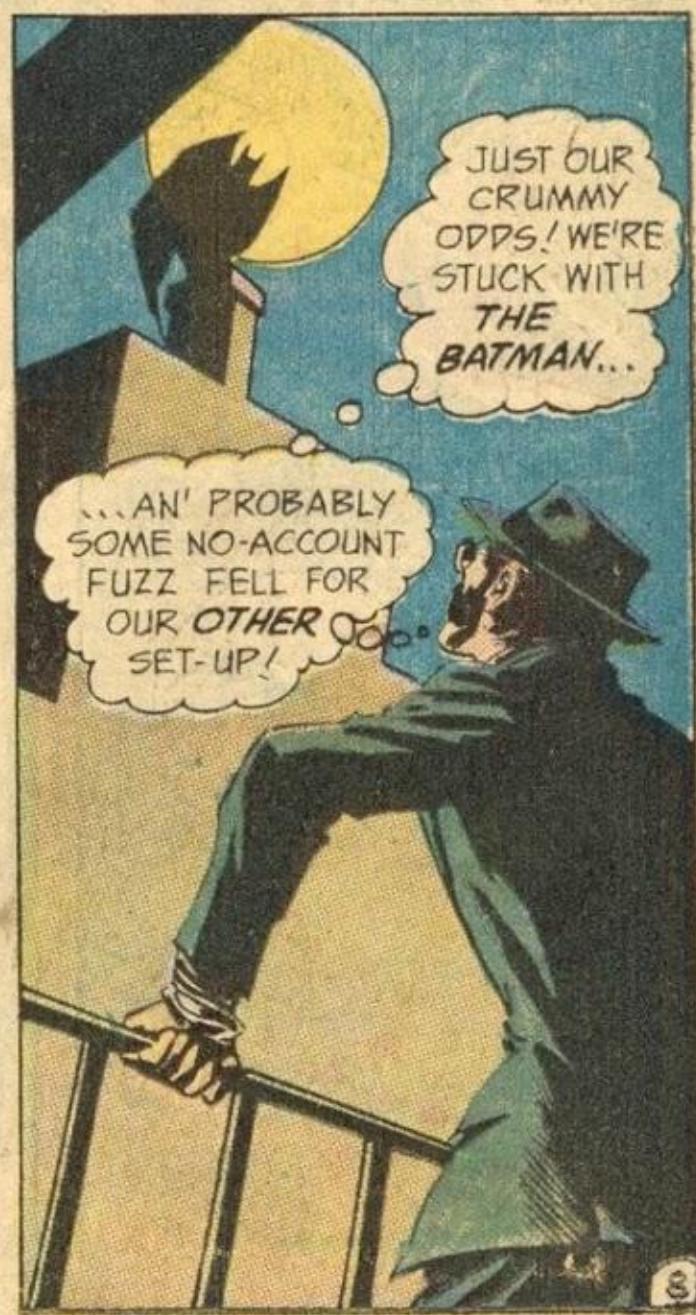
... AND GET
TWO JUMPS
AHEAD OF
HIM!

AND
THAT'S WHAT
I'VE BEEN
COUNTING
ON... ONE
LITTLE SLIP!

SO FIRST,
I TIE HIM
UP IN
KNOTS...

... BY HOISTING
THE SCAFFOLD
ABOVE REACH!





BUT LEAVE IT TO THE "STYMING GENIUS" TO HAVE A STAND-BY CONTINGENCY EXIT NO MATTER WHO SURPRISES HIM!...

PLAN NUMBER TWO! DESIGNED 'SPECIALY TO STYMIE THE BATMAN!

UP ON THE ROOF-- FAST!



THE ONE GETAWAY HE CAN'T STOP--

--'LESS HE SUDDENLY SPROUTS WINGS!

HAR! HAR!



SUDDENLY-- FROM THE OPPOSITE ROOF-- A BATLIKE FIGURE LAUNCHES ITSELF OUT INTO THIN AIR!...

SKREEK!



DIG HIM! HE'S REALLY "BATS"! HE THINKS HE CAN FLY!

HE'LL NEVER BRIDGE THAT GAP!



DOWN HE GOES... WITHOUT MY LIFTIN' A FINGER TO DUMP HIM!

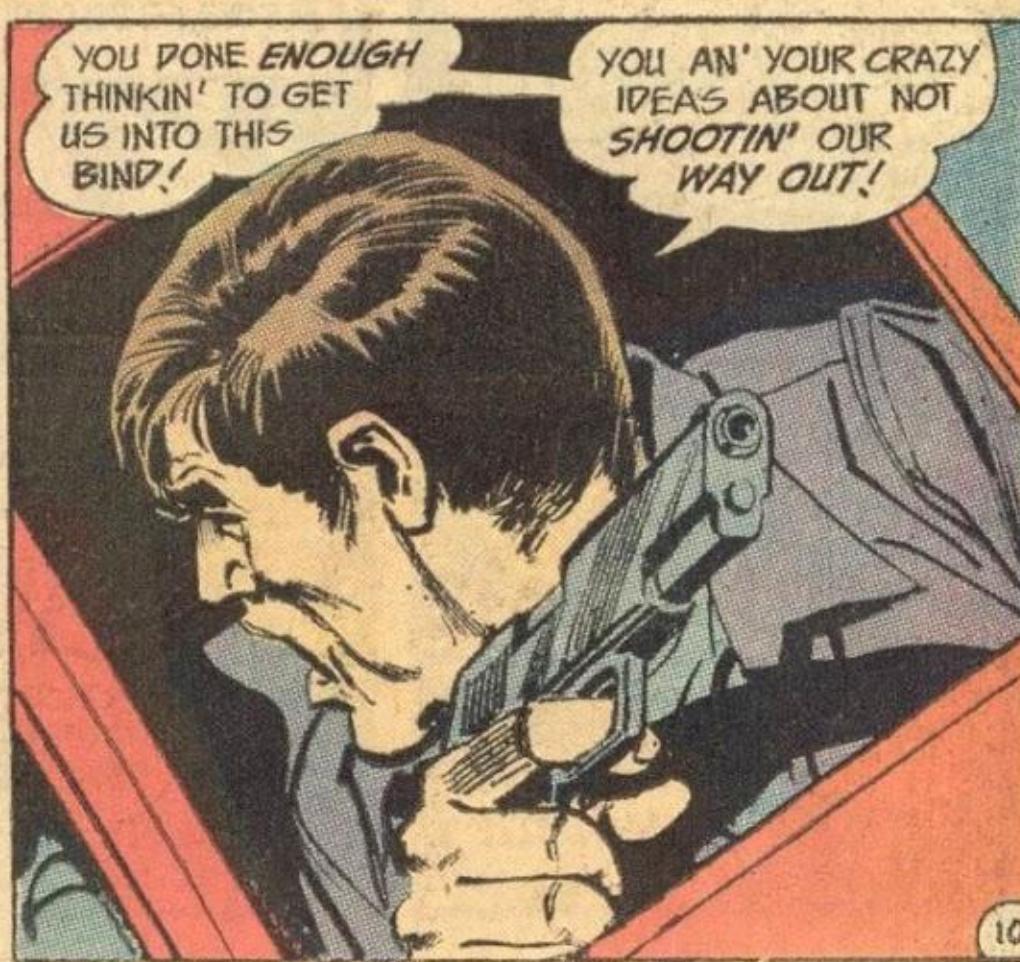
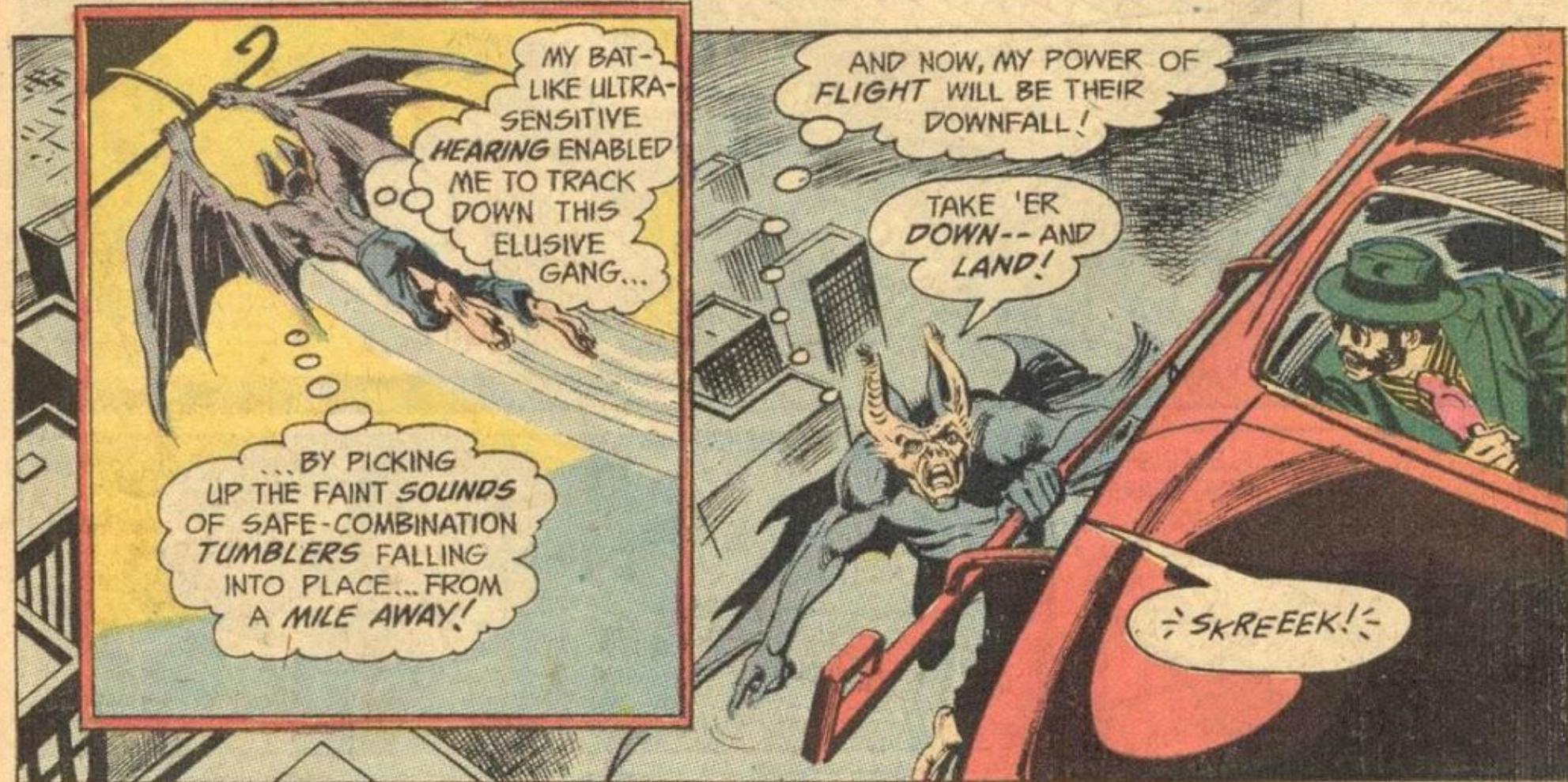
R-ROY-- HE AIN'T FALLIN'! H-HE'S...

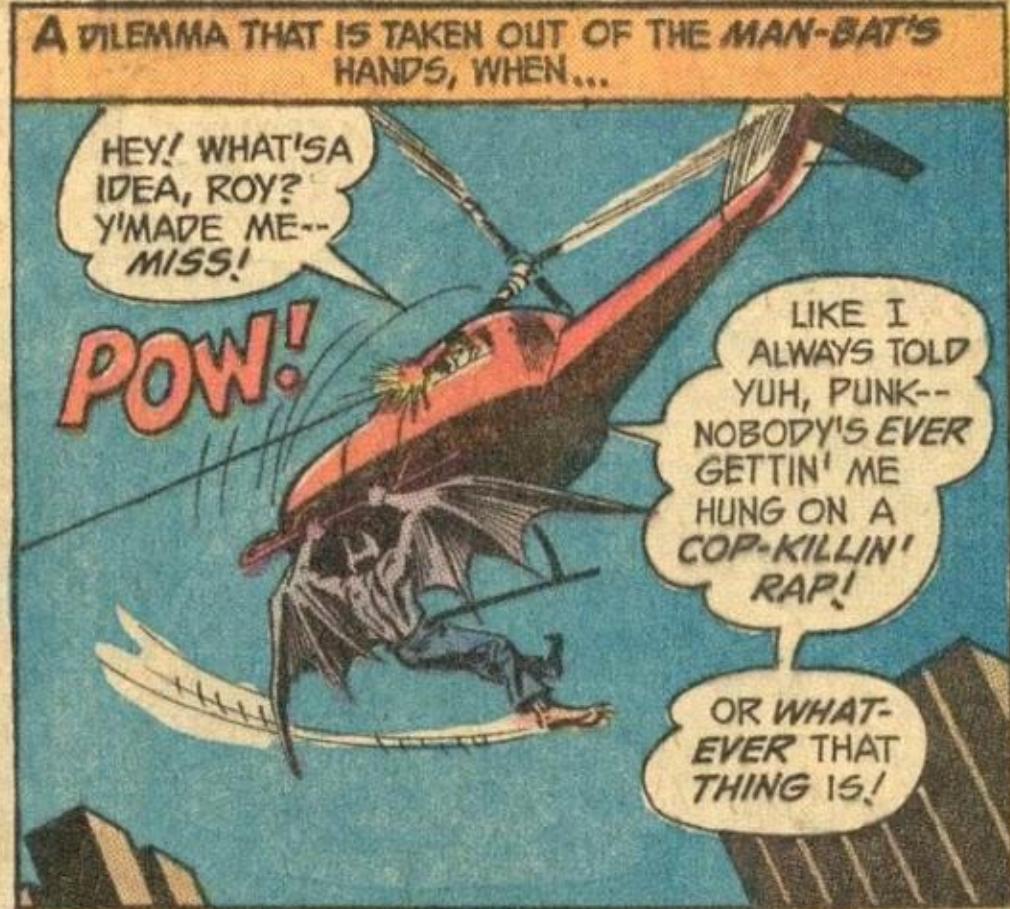


..RISING!

SKREEEK!

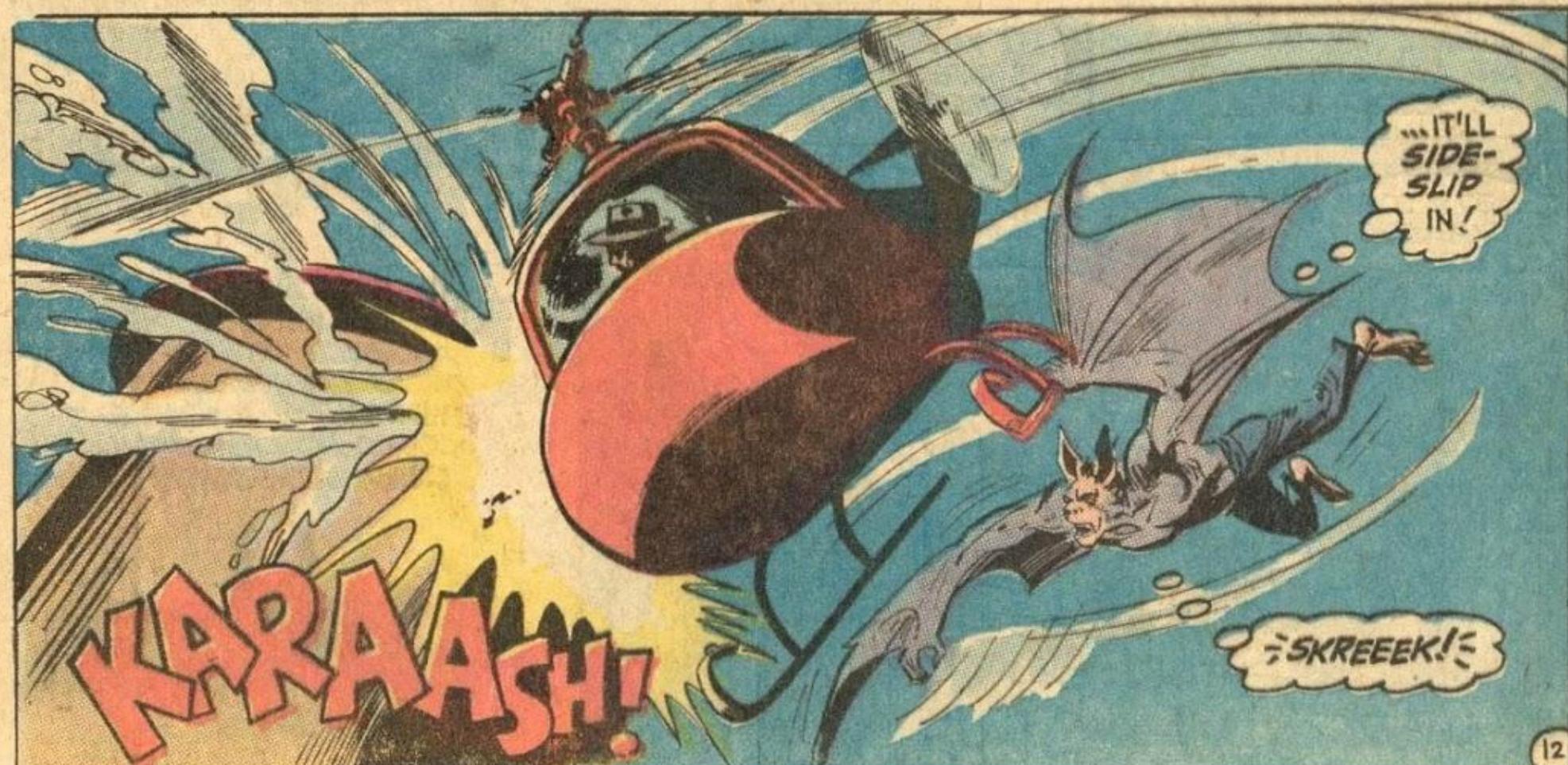
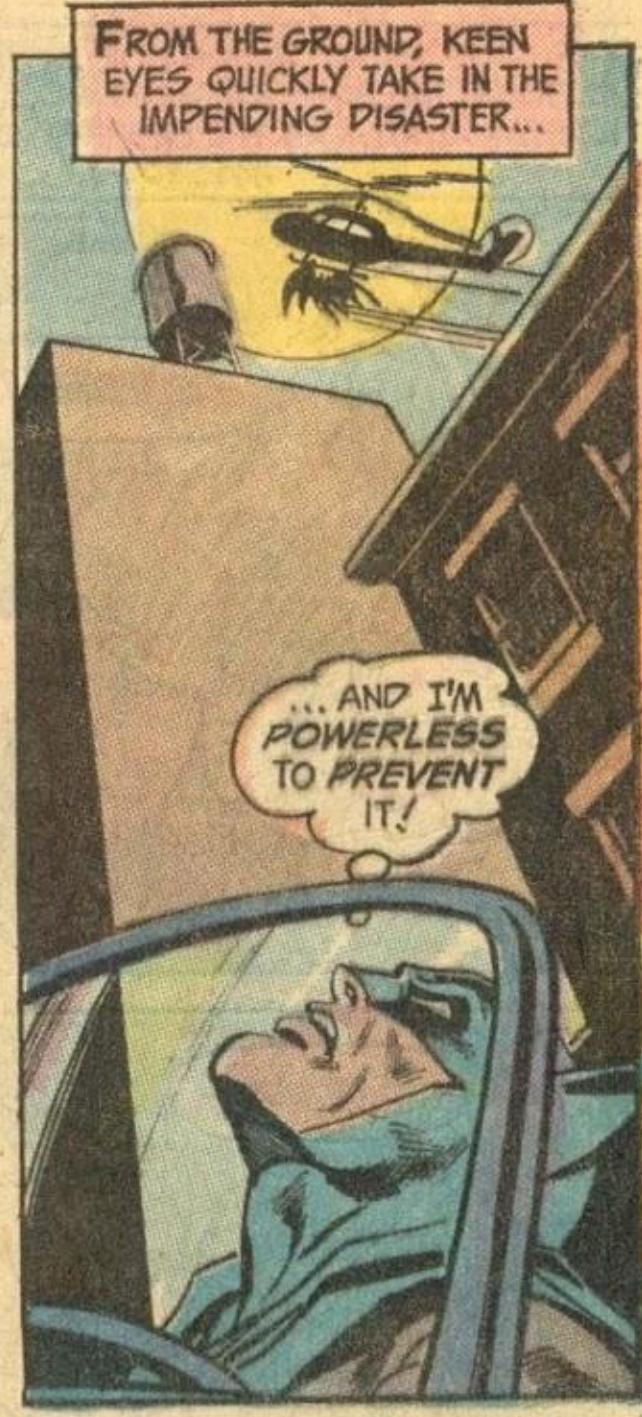






AND THEN, FOR ONE FLEETING INSTANT BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS BEHIND TOWERING BUILDINGS...





WITH SPLIT-SECOND TIMING WORTHY OF THE REAL BATMAN, THE MAN-BAT LETS GO... FLAPPING WILDLY TO STAY ALOFT... AS THE CHOPPER ENDS UP A TOTAL WASHOUT!...



AND AS DAZED AND DRENCHED CRIMINALS FLOUNDER OUT, THE NEAR-VICTIM BECOMES THE RAGING AVENGER...



LATER... OUTSIDE GOTHAM'S NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM AND KIRK LANGSTROM'S SECOND HOME...



I-I TRIED, BATMAN! GUESS IT TAKES MORE THAN JUST SPECIAL POWERS...

HEAVY! COULD THIS BE THE BEGINNING OF AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN TWO DREAD CREATURES OF THE NIGHT... A WINNING COMBO NO CRIMINAL COULD WITHSTAND?



THE END.

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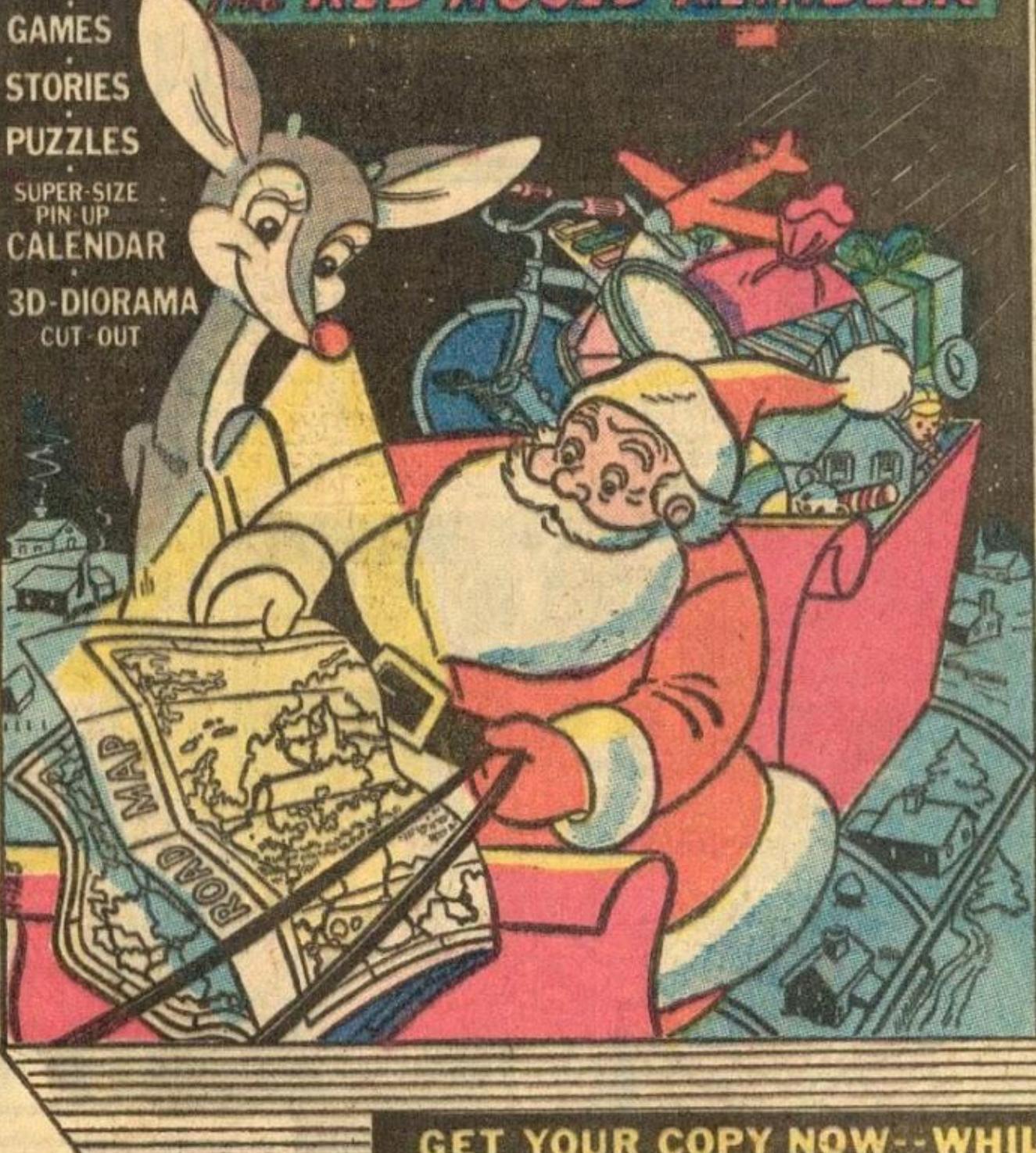
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THAT MAN-BAT! THERE'S ONE GUY WHO'LL NEVER NEED A COSTUME FOR HALLOWEEN! SPEAKING OF WHICH...IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN...THE SEASON OF BATS AND WITCHES! AND THIS BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT STORY...A MURDER...BY A WITCH...THAT'S THE THEME OF THIS TALE FROM THE FABULOUS FORTIES!

BATMAN

WITH
Robin
- THE BOY WONDER -

GAY WORLD'S BEST
COMICS CO., INC.

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BATMAN, EERIE NEMESIS OF CRIME, AND HIS YOUNG DAREDEVIL AIDE, ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER, FIND THEMSELVES STALKING THE TRAIL OF A STRANGE AND UNCANNY FIGURE WHOSE CRIMINAL EXPLOITS ARE A MYSTERY... WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE IS A MYSTERY.... YET IT IS THESE TWO, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO ARE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS ENIGMA AND BRING ABOUT AN END TO THE STRANGE CASE OF "THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM!"



OUR STORY OPENS ONE WILD, RAINY NIGHT. LIGHTNING FLASHES THROUGH THE HEAVENS, THUNDER ROLLS IN GREAT WAVES. IN A ROOM, A MAN SITS WRITING AT HIS DESK....



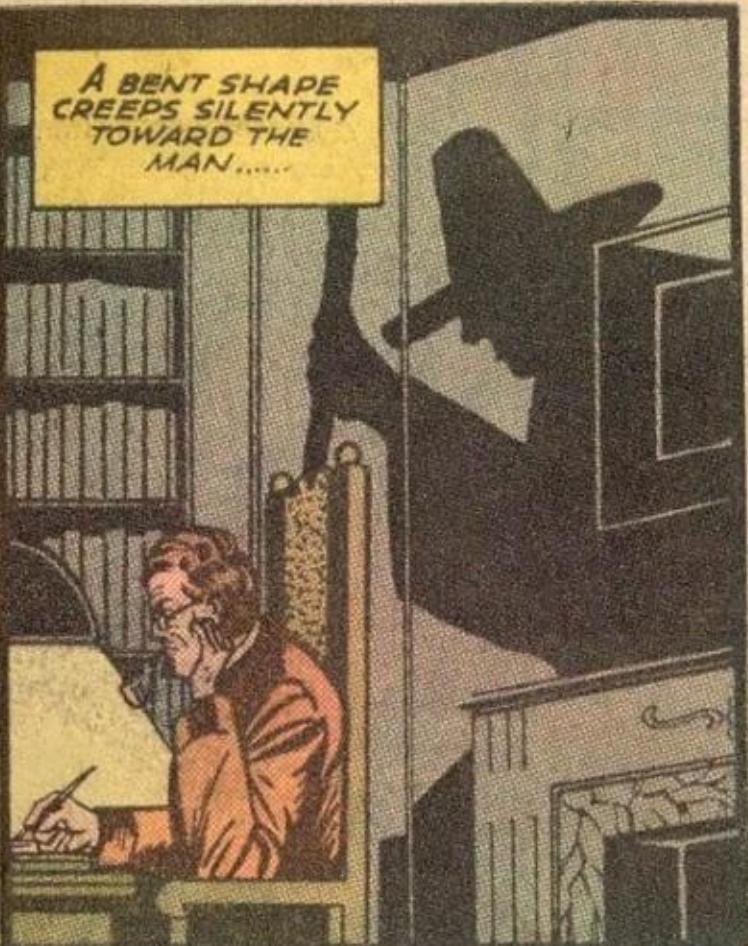
MY
BOOK IS
ALMOST
FINISHED
NOW!



THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM



A BENT SHAPE CREEPS SILENTLY TOWARD THE MAN....



THERE IS A DULL THUD AND THE MAN SLUMPS FORWARD....



SUDDENLY, THE DOOR SWINGS OPEN..... THE BUTLER BLUNDERS UPON THE SCENE....



WITH A LOUD CRY, THE BUTLER HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE INTRUDER....

HELP! MURDER!



THERE IS A FURIOUS STRUGGLE, BUT THE STAFF DESCENDS AGAIN AND THE BUTLER LIES MOANING ON THE FLOOR!



THE HIDEOUS FIGURE VANISHES IN THE PROTECTING DARKNESS, LEAVING BUT A SINGLE CLUE.... PART OF A SHEET OF PAPER WHICH HAD BEEN TORN OFF IN THE STRUGGLE....



PAINFULLY, THE BUTLER DRAGS HIMSELF TO THE TELEPHONE....

GET ME THE POLICE! MY MASTER—ERIK DORNE—HAS BEEN MURDERED!



IN HEADQUARTERS, POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON CHATS WITH HIS OLD FRIEND, BRUCE WAYNE, A WEALTHY SOCIETY PLAYBOY.

TELL ME, BRUCE, IS GOING OUT TO NIGHTCLUBS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN?

OH, NO—I LIKE TO PLAY A LITTLE POLO NOW AND THEN!

A CALL JUST CAME IN, COMMISSIONER—A MURDER!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



WITH A LAUGH, THE WITCH PEELS OFF HER "FACE".....

THAT'S MAKEUP!
MISS WARE PLAYS
A WITCH IN THE
PLAY
SHE IS STARRING IN.

WHAT
IS IT YOU
WANT TO
TELL ME
COMMISSIONER?

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
TO SAY IT,
BUT YOUR
HUSBAND—
HE'S DEAD!

SO HE'S
DEAD?
THAT MEANS
YOU'RE
FREE
AT
LAST?

BUT
YOU ARE
OF THE
POLICE?
DOES
THAT
MEAN...?

YES?
MURDER?
AND
PERHAPS,
NOW,
YOU CAN
EXPLAIN
THIS
GENTLEMAN'S
REMARK?



I WANTED
A DIVORCE
FROM
ERIK
SO I
COULD
MARRY
HARVEY
MORROW, HERE—

—BUT
HE
WOULDN'T
GIVE IT
TO HER.
NOW WE
CAN GET
MARRIED
AT
LAST!

NOT A
BAD
EXCUSE
FOR A
MURDER,
EH,
MR.
MORROW?

WHEN BRUCE AND GORDON
LEAVE....

YOU KNOW,
JANE WARE
COULD HAVE
SNEAKED OFF
DURING STAGE
INTERMISSION,
KILLED DORNE,
AND GOT BACK
IN TIME TO
CONTINUE
HER ROLE.

PERHAPS
SHE, IN
HER
MAKEUP,
WAS THE
WITCH THE
BUTLER
SAW.

LOOK: DORNE'S
STORY CONCERN'S
A REAL WITCH—
JOSHUA GRIMM
WRITES BOOKS
ABOUT WITCHES—
WRIGHT PUBLISHES
THEM—MISS
BRUNT LOOKS
LIKE A WITCH,
AND JANE
WARE'S STAGE
ROLE IS THAT OF
A WITCH? LORD?

THE
TROUBLE IS
YOU DON'T
KNOW WHICH
WITCH
IS WHICH!

DORNE WAS
KILLED
BECAUSE HIS
STORY WAS
GOING TO
EXPOSE A
PERSON WHO
WAS A WITCH.
THAT'S WHY
THE MANUSCRIPT
WAS STOLEN!

SOMEONE
LIVING TWO
SEPARATE
LIVES, EH? WELL,
COMMISSIONER,
IT'S TOO DEEP
FOR ME.
PARDON ME
WHILE I GO
HOME AND
DREAM ABOUT
WITCHES?
TA-TA!

UPON REACHING HIS HOME,
BRUCE ACQUANTS HIS YOUNG
WARD, DICK GRAYSON, WITH
THE FACTS OF THE CASE....

WHAT'S
THAT
IN YOUR
HAND?
LOOKS
LIKE
HAIR!

IT IS? I PICKED
IT UP FROM THE
MURDER ROOM
FLOOR! IT'S HAIR
FROM A WIG—
PROBABLY TORN
OFF WHEN THE
BUTLER
STRUGGLED
WITH THE
WITCH!

I WANT YOU
TO GET ME A
SAMPLE OF HAIR
FROM THE WIG
WORN BY JANE
WARE IN HER
"WITCH" STAGE
ROLE.

I
GET IT—
IF THE
HAIRS
MATCH,
THAT MEANS
JANE
WARE IS
GUILTY!



THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

THE NEXT NIGHT,
THE TWO DON CLOSE-
FITTING COSTUMES,
WHICH REVEAL
PHYSIQUES OF BREATH-
TAKING SYMMETRY....

IF MISS BRUNT
KILLED DORNE, THEN
SHE MUST HAVE
HIDDEN THE
MANUSCRIPT? I'M
GOING TO LOOK IN
HER HOME!

MOMENTS LATER, A SLIM
FIGURE DARTS PAST THE
UNWARY STAGE-DOOR WATCHMAN....

WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO, THE BATMAN AND
ROBIN, INVESTIGATE, EVEN PERFECT CRIMES CAN
BE SOLVED?

THE BOY WONDER MOVES SWIFTLY
UP THE STAIRS THAT LEAD TO
THE DRESSING ROOMS....

THIS IS
THE ROOM!
NOW, FOR
THAT
WIG!

AS ROBIN PULLS HAIRS
FROM THE WIG, THE DOOR
SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN....

MOVING INCREDIBLY
SWIFT, ROBIN BOUNDS
ACROSS THE ROOM...

THE FIRST
ACT IS...
WHA...?

A SNEAK
THIEF?

SORRY I
HAVE TO DO
THIS, MISTERI

MPHT.

AS ROBIN DASHES OUT
ONTO THE STAIR RAMP,
STAGE HANDS RUN
FORWARD AS MORROW
CRIES OUT...

GET
HIM! HE'S
A THIEF!
STOP
HIM!

OH-OH!
COMING
AT ME
FROM
ALL
SIDES!

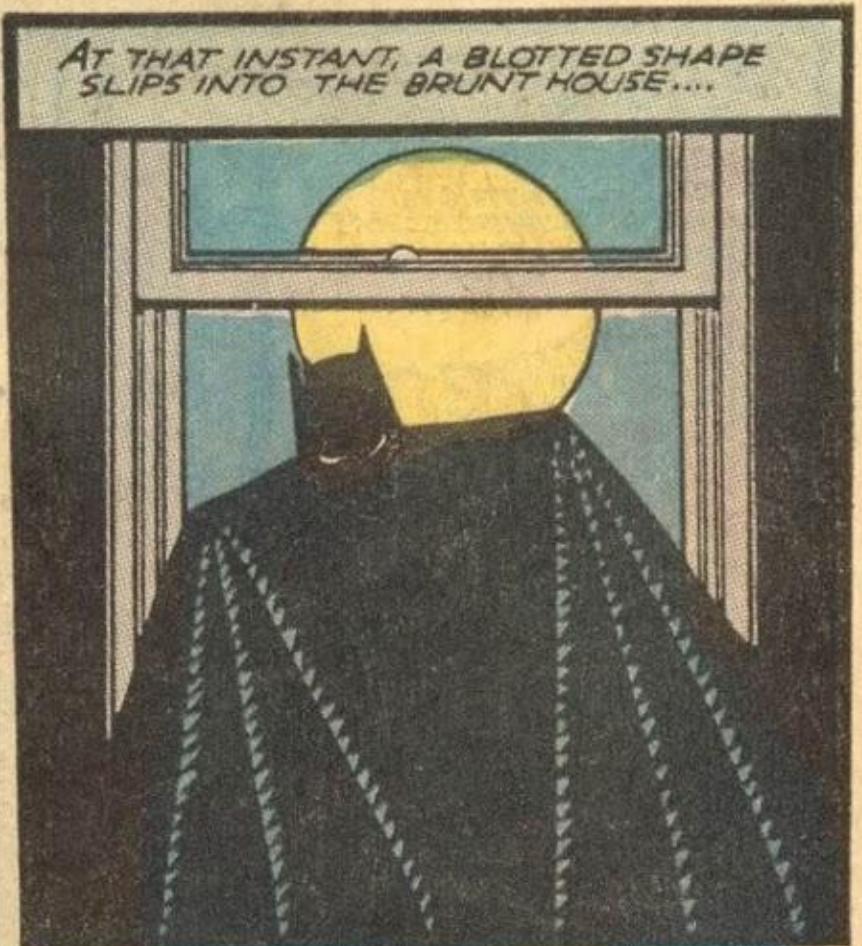
WELL
GET
IM!

ROBIN DECIDES UPON A HEADLONG
DIVE INTO SPACE....

BETTER
THIS
WAY?



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

MOVING WITH THE SWIFTNESS
OF A MONGOOSE DARTING AT
A COBRA, THE BATMAN'S
HAND SLAPS AT THE VASE ON
THE TABLE.....

THIS CALLS
FOR ACTION:
SOME
FLOWERS
FOR
YOU!

THE FLYING VASE FINDS A
TARGET!

MIGHTY MUSCLES
LAUNCH THE DARK
KNIGHT CLEAR
ACROSS THE
TABLE.....

NOW
FOR THE
OTHER
"CHARMING"
GENT!

DROP
YOUR
GUN AND
LET'S
ARGUE!

A SHORT, CHOPPY UPPERCUT
LIFTS THE MAN OFF HIS HEELS!

I'VE CHANGED MY
MIND. I DON'T FEEL
LIKE TALKING!

YOUR
NEPHEWS
ARE SO
IMPETUOUS!
ADIEU,
MISS
BRUNT!

LATER....

HERE
ARE
THOSE
HAIRS?
I RAN
INTO A
LITTLE
TROUBLE
GETTING
THEM!

NOW, ISN'T THAT
STRANGE? I RAN
INTO JUST A
WEE BIT OF
TROUBLE
MYSELF!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE BATMAN PLACES THE DIFFERENT HAIRS UNDER HIS MICROSCOPE FOR COMPARISON....

HMM!



WHAT HAS THE BATMAN DISCOVERED ABOUT THE TWO HAIRS?

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, THE MYSTERIOUS WITCH LAUGHS.....

IT WOULD NEVER DO FOR THE POLICE TO READ THIS MANUSCRIPT! NEVER!
HEE HEE!



THE NEXT DAY....

I'VE BEEN THINKING OVER WHAT EACH SUSPECT SAID, AND I THINK I KNOW NOW WHO IS GUILTY! ...AND I'VE GOT A PLAN TO PROVE IT!



BRUCE DIALS A NUMBER.....

YOU SAY YOU ARE A POLICE REPORTER?

YES! I'VE JUST COME FROM THE HOSPITAL. THE BUTLER IS STILL IN A BAD WAY, BUT HE KEEPS MUMBLING ABOUT A DUPLICATE MANUSCRIPT HIDDEN IN ERIK DORNE'S ROOM!



NATURALLY, THIS WOULD AFFECT YOUR OCCUPATION! HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THOSE PAPERS?

NO COMMENT! SORRY! CLICK!



I'VE PLANTED THE BAIT! NOW, LET'S HOPE OUR PARTY TAKES A NIBBLE AT IT!



WHO DID BRUCE PHONE? WHO DO YOU THINK IS THE WITCH?

NOISELESSLY, IT GLIDES INTO THE ROOM.... AT THAT MOMENT, THE MOON SLIPS OUT FROM BEHIND DARK CLOUDS AND REVEALS IN ITS LIGHT.....THE WITCH!

THAT HIDDEN MANUSCRIPT MUST BE AROUND SOMEPLACE!

THAT NIGHT, A SHADY FIGURE POSES OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE LATE ERIK DORNE'S ROOM.....





THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM



ABRUPTLY, TWO FIGURES LEAP OUT OF DARKENED CORNERS....THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!

HUH?

GOOD EVENING, WITCH.

THEN, ONE OF THOSE UNFORESEEN LITTLE THINGS HAPPENS....THE BATMAN TRIPS OVER A FOOTSTOOL IN HIS PATH....

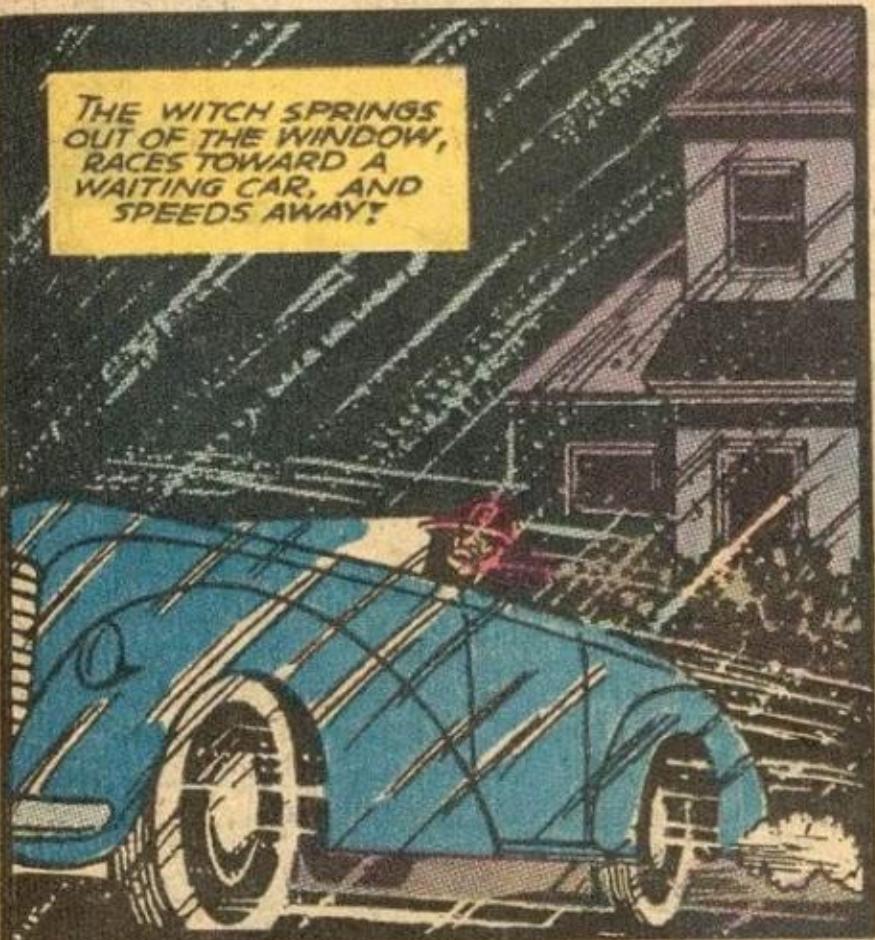
THE WITCH IS QUICK TO TAKE ADVANTAGE AND WHIRLING SWIFTLY, BRINGS THE STAFF DOWN ON ROBIN...

WHA...?

NOT SO FAST, BOY!



THE WITCH SPRINGS OUT OF THE WINDOW, RACES TOWARD A WAITING CAR, AND SPEEDS AWAY!



THE DYNAMIC DUO PURSUES....

WELL HAVE TO BORROW THIS CAR HERE.

LUCKY THAT STAFF ONLY GRAZED ME!



JAGGED STREAKS OF WHITE LIGHTNING LEAP IN THE SKY AS THE MAD CHASE BEGINS...

IF THIS WERE THE BATMOBILE, WE'D BE ON TOP OF THAT CAR IN NO TIME!

THIS IS ONE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CASE I NEVER EXPECTED!

IT IS A WEIRD SCENE AS THE WITCH'S SHRIEKING, INSANE LAUGHTER IS HEARD ABOVE THE STORM'S FURY...

HEE-HEE-HEE-



ON THEY RACE, MILE AFTER MILE... UNTIL...

LOOK! THE WITCH IS GOING INTO THAT HOUSE!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



A BIG, GABLED HOUSE LOOMS SULLEN AGAINST THE GREY BLUR OF THE STORMY SKY....



....BUT AS THE WITCH REACHES THE HOUSE, SHE YANKS HARD AT A ROPE THAT DANGLES FROM A NEARBY TREE....



TOO LATE! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN FEEL THE GROUND GIVE WAY....



....AND FALL THROUGH THE CAMOUFLAGED TRAP DOOR!



WHEN THE DUO AWAKENS...



SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE, ETC. NATURALLY, YOUR USEFULNESS AS A FOREIGN AGENT DEPENDS UPON YOUR IDENTITY BEING SECRET - EVEN KEPT FROM YOUR OWN MEN - HENCE, THE BIZARRE DISGUISE!

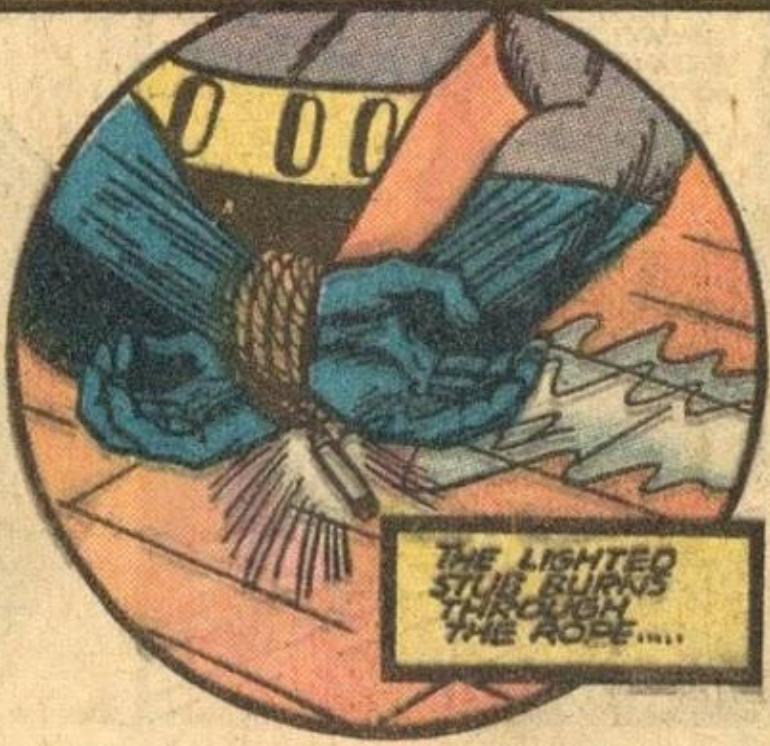
TRUE! THAT'S WHY I KILLED ERIK DORNE. SOMEHOW, HE FOUND OUT MY LITTLE SECRET AND THREATENED TO EXPOSE ME WITH HIS BOOK UNLESS I PAID UP!

BLACKMAIL!



THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES NOTE A FALLING CIGARETTE!

WHEN THE WITCH AND THE FOREIGN AGENTS BUSY THEMSELVES WITH THEIR PAMPHLETS, THE BATMAN'S HANDS CLOSE ABOUT THE CIGARETTE....



THE WITCH AND THE MANUSCRIPT OF DOOM

AS SOON AS HIS HANDS ARE LOOSE, THE BATMAN SLIDES A BLADE FROM HIS BELT AND FURTIVELY SLICES ROBIN'S BONDS.....



ABRUPTLY, ROBIN SPRINGS FROM THE FLOOR.....



HIS STRONG HANDS CLOSE ABOUT THE CHANDELIER, HE SWINGS OUT, RELEASES HIS GRIP....



DOWN COMES ROBIN.....



THE TABLE ACTS LIKE A SEE-SAW AS THE WEIGHTED END GOES DOWN - AND THE OTHER END SNAPS UP....



THE STAFF CATCHES THE BATMAN ON THE SIDE OF THE HEAD.



YOU'LL NEVER TAKE ME!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE WITCH PULLS AT THE STAFF,
AND A GLEAMING SWORD FLASHES
IN THE LIGHT....

THE BATMAN TUGS AT THE CARPET
STRIP AND....

THE WITCH DRAWS
A GUN....

THIS IS
YOUR
END,
BATMAN!

A VARIATION
OF THE
OLD SWORD-
CANE
TRICK?

ANOTHER
OLD TRICK
TO MATCH
IT!



AND THE BATMAN AND
WITCH LOCK IN A DEATH
STRUGGLE....

I AM
AFRAID
YOUR HAUNTING
DAYS ARE
OVER!

SUDDENLY... WITH A
MIGHTY HEAVE.... THE
WITCH GOES FLYING....

I KNOW IT'S
NOT NICE TO
FIGHT WITH A
LADY, BUT
YOU'RE NO
LADY!...

THE BATMAN RIPS AWAY THE
DISGUISE AND REVEALS...

WRIGHT -
THE
PUBLISHER -
JUST AS
YOU
SUSPECTED!

WRIGHT, THE
PUBLISHER OF
BOOKS AND SUBVERSIVE
LITERATURE? YOU
WERE ON YOUR WAY HERE
WHEN YOU MURDERED
ERIK DORNE,
EH?

YES, THEN
I CAME BACK
AFTER
LEAVING
THE DISGUISE
IN MY
CAR!

WITH THE WITCH, ALIAS WRIGHT,
IN CUSTODY, BRUCE AND DICK
DISCUSS THE CASE AT HOME...

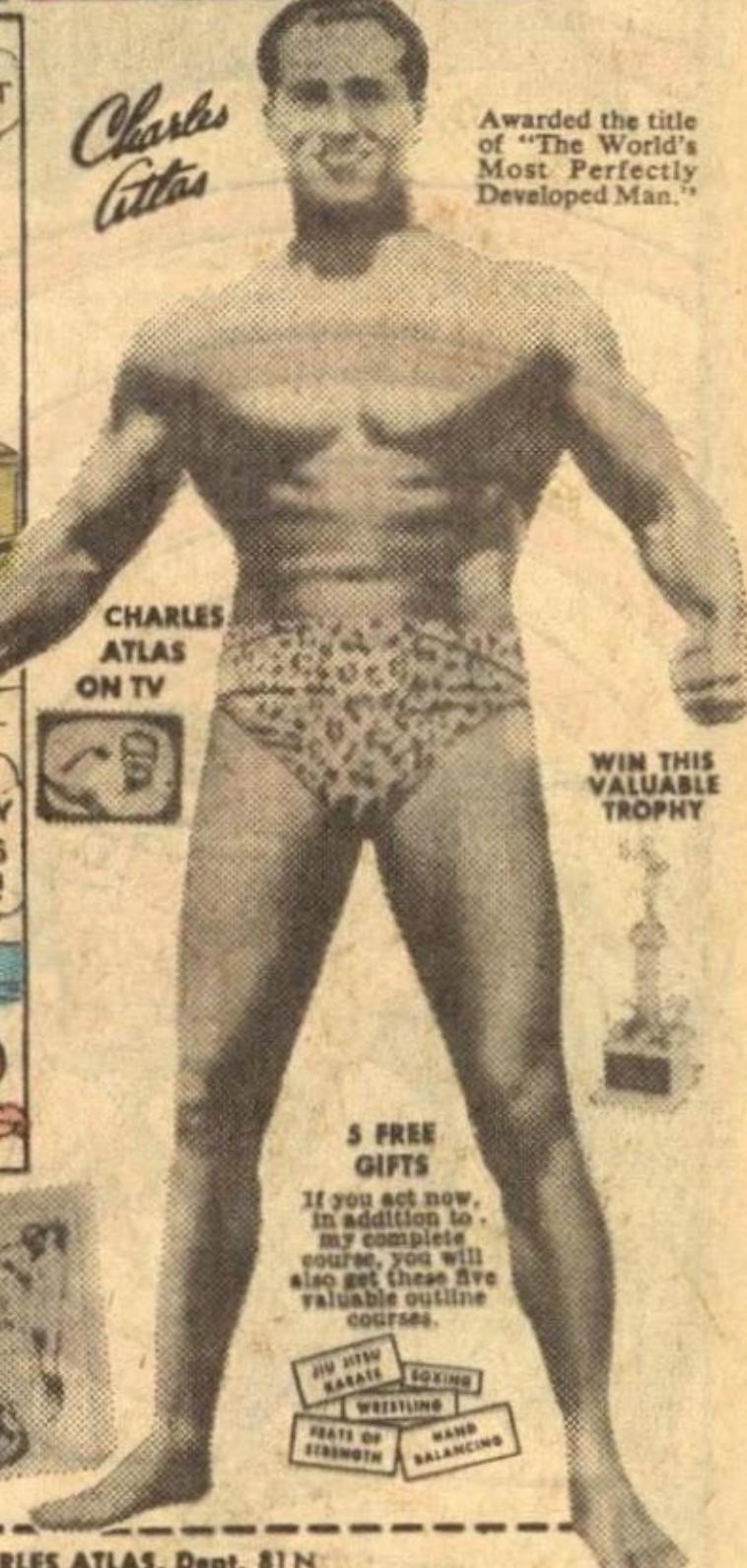
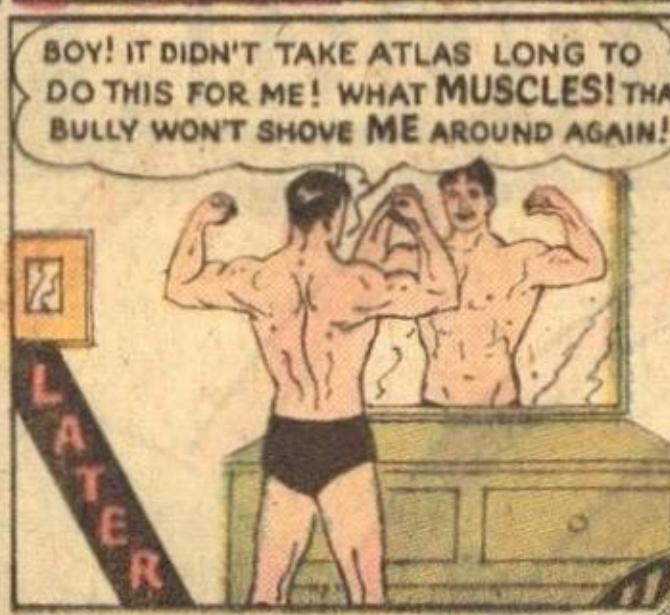
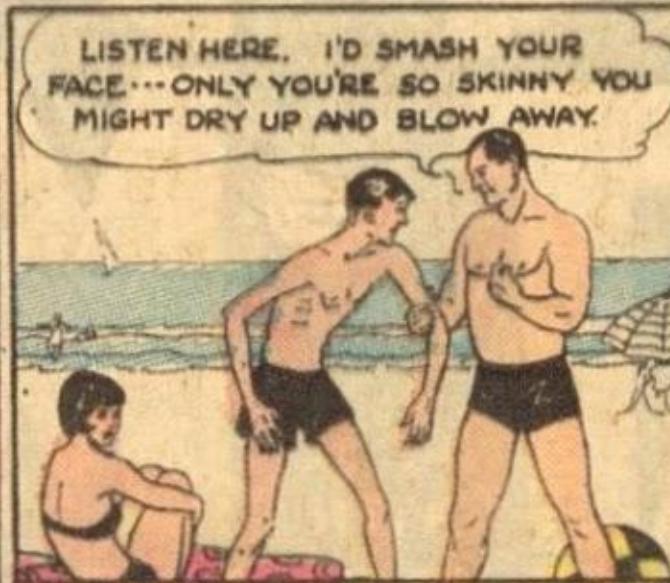
I SUSPECTED
WRIGHT BECAUSE
HE SAID DORNE
TOLD HIM OF
THE MANUSCRIPT.
AS THE PUBLISHER,
HE WAS THE
ONLY ONE WHO
KNEW ITS
CONTENTS! THE
OTHERS
COULDN'T!

IT WASN'T
UNTIL YOU
TOLD ME
THAT THE
HAIR FROM
THE WITCH'S
WIG AND
JANE WARE'S
DIDN'T MATCH
THAT I
SUSPECTED
HIM!

NOW,
WHAT SAY
TO A
MOVIE?
THEY'VE GOT
"THE
WITCH
WALKS!"

NO,
THANK
YOU, I'VE
HAD
ENOUGH
OF WITCHES
TO DO ME
A LIFE-
TIME!

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'



Let Me PROVE I Can Make YOU A NEW MAN!

ARE you "fed up" with seeing the huskies walk off with the best of everything? Sick and tired of being soft, frail, skinny or flabby — only HALF ALIVE? I know just how you feel. Because I myself was once a puny 97-pound "runt." And I was so ashamed of my scrawny frame that I dreaded being seen in a swim suit.

The Secret of How I Got My Build

Then I discovered a wonderful way to develop my body fast. It worked wonders for me — changed me from the scrawny "runt" I was at 17, into "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man." And I can build up YOUR body the very same natural way — without weights, springs or pulleys. Only 15 minutes a day of pleasant practice — in the privacy of your room.

My "Dynamic-Tension" method has already helped thousands of other fellows become real he-men in double-

quick time. Let it help YOU. Not next month or next year — but Right NOW!

"Dynamic-Tension" Builds Muscles FAST!

If you're like I was, you want a powerful, muscular, well-proportioned build you can be proud of any time, anywhere. You want the "Greek-God" type of physique that women rave about at the beach — the kind that makes other fellows green with envy.

Mail Coupon Now for My 32-Page Illustrated Book

Mailing the coupon can be the turning point in your life. I'll send you a copy of my 32-page illustrated book, "How Dynamic-Tension Makes You a NEW MAN." Tells how and why my method works; shows many pictures proving what it has done for others. Don't delay. Mail coupon NOW. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 81N, 115 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

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115 East 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010**

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(Check as many as you like)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broader Chest and Shoulders | <input type="checkbox"/> More Energy and Stamina |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ironhard Stomach Muscles | <input type="checkbox"/> More Magnetic Personality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tireless Legs | <input type="checkbox"/> More Weight—Solid—in the Right Places |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Slimmer Waist and Legs | |

I enclose 10c. Please send me a copy of your famous book showing how "Dynamic-Tension" can make me a new man. 32 Pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. This does not obligate me in any way.

Print Name..... Age.....

Address..... Zip.....

City & State..... Code.....

In England: Charles Atlas, 21 Poland St., London, W.1

SO MUCH FOR THE FORTIES... ROBIN AND I HAD OUR SHARE OF CLOSE SHAVES THROUGHOUT THOSE YEARS! THAT'S HOW WE CAME TO BE MEMBERS OF ONE OF THE MOST EXCLUSIVE CLUBS IN GOTHAM CITY! EVERY MEMBER HAD CAUGHT A BULLET AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT! WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY STORY FROM THE FURIOUS FIFTIES...

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

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Batman and Robin
take great pleasure
in inviting you
to spend some of the most exciting
moments of your life
as their guests
in Gotham City's
famed and fabulous--
"Bullet-Hole Club".

BOB
KANE



THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB



ONE EVENING, AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF GOTHAM CITY'S FABULOUS BULLET-HOLE CLUB...

Bullet-Hole Club

SOME SHINDIG! SAY—WHO BELONGS TO THIS BULLET-HOLE CLUB, ANYWAY?

MEMBERSHIP IS RESTRICTED TO LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WHO AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER WERE WOUNDED BY A BULLET IN THE LINE OF DUTY!

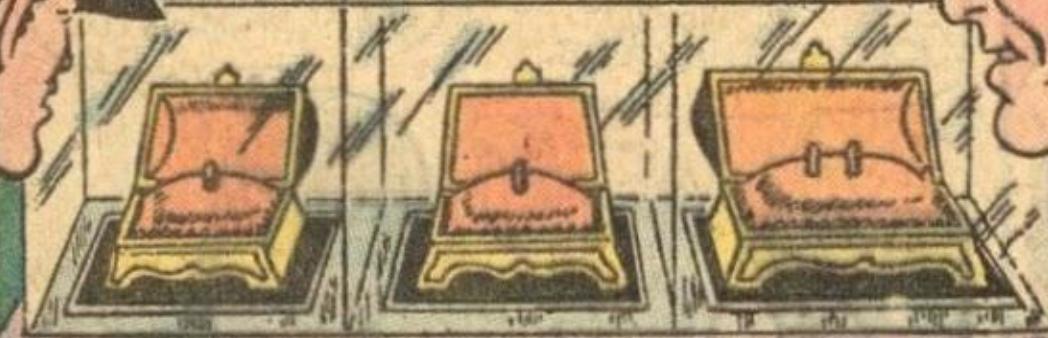


I GET IT! SORT OF A PURPLE HEART CLUB, EH?

THAT'S RIGHT. AND THE ONLY INITIATION FEE IS A BULLET LIKE THE ONES DISPLAYED RIGHT HERE!

THIS IS THEIR HONOR ROLL! THE MORE BULLET WOUNDS A MEMBER HAS, THE HIGHER HE RATES IN THE ORGANIZATION...

GOLLY! I CAN SEE NOW WHY BATMAN IS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB!



SLUG TAKEN FROM THE LEFT THIGH OF PATROLMAN VINCENT DUFFY, BADGE NO. 95521. THE WOUND WAS INFlicted BY "KILLER" THOMAS, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS CAPTURE, JUNE 23, '48.

SLUG TAKEN FROM THE LEFT FOREARM OF DETECTIVE PETER R. WELLS, 10TH PRECINCT. THE WOUND WAS INFlicted DURING THE GREY BANK HOLD UP ON MARCH 13, '48.

TWO SLUGS TAKEN FROM THE ABDOMEN OF BATMAN. THE WOUNDS WERE INFlicted BY "MAD DOG" BILLIE Z, DURING HIS UNSUCCESSFUL LAST STAND ON DEC. 11, 1948.

NAME	NUMBER OF BULLET WOUNDS
BATMAN	NINE
DET. PARRY GILL	THREE
DET. JAMES B. WHITE	THREE
DET. J. COHEN	THREE
DET. R. SMITH	THREE
DET. HENRY T. COLLINS	TWO

AND AS BATMAN RAPS ON THE TABLE FOR ORDER...

IT'S QUITE AN HONOR TO BELONG TO THIS CLUB—I THINK IT'S THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD!

IT'S NOT FOR ME! WHY—A GUY HAS TO JOIN THIS THE HARD WAY—ONLY AFTER HE'S BEEN TAGGED BY A BULLET—PSSST! WE'RE READY—HERE COMES BATMAN!

GENTLEMEN! BEFORE OUR BANQUET GETS UNDER WAY, I'D LIKE TO INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER—CUSTOMS AGENT HOWARD KILEY, WHO NABBED THE CASE STREET SMUGGLERS LAST NIGHT!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AND HERE IS AGENT KILEY'S INITIATION FEE -- A BULLET HE CAUGHT IN HIS ELBOW LAST NIGHT! WILL THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PLEASE PREPARE A SHOWCASE FOR THIS BULLET!



LATER, AFTER COFFEE HAS BEEN SERVED...

OUR MAIN BUSINESS THIS EVENING, GENTLEMEN, IS TO DISCUSS THE WAYS AND MEANS OF CREATING THE PROPOSED PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF EACH MEMBER'S BULLET WOUND INCIDENT...

THIS POLICE PHOTO OF BATMAN IN ACTION GIVES YOU AN IDEA OF WHAT THE RECORD WILL LOOK LIKE...



UNFORTUNATELY, ONLY A FEW MEMBERS WERE EVER ACTUALLY PHOTOGRAPHED LIKE THIS, DURING THE ACTION WHEN THEY WERE WOUNDED... SO IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT WE RE-STAGE AS BEST WE CAN EACH MEMBER'S WOUND INCIDENT SO THAT WE CAN PHOTOGRAPH IT FOR THE RECORD!



AND, WHILE THE MEMBERS DISCUSS THE NEW PROJECT...

BATMAN, THERE'S A PRIVATE DETECTIVE NAMED FLINT OUTSIDE-- SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE YOU ABOUT JOINING THE CLUB.

HMM -- THE DISCUSSION IS ROUTINE RIGHT NOW-- I GUESS I CAN LEAVE IT FOR A FEW MOMENTS..



THEN, IN AN ANTEROOM...

SO YOU'RE PRIVATE DETECTIVE JOE FLINT-- YOU'VE BEEN WOUNDED IN A FIGHT WITH CROOKS-- AND YOU WANT TO JOIN OUR CLUB?

THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN! HERE -- I'LL SHOW YOU WHERE THE BULLET HIT ME!



BUT AS FLINT REVEALS HIS WOUND TO BATMAN...

WAIT A MOMENT, FLINT! THAT BULLET MERELY GRAZED YOU! SORRY-- BUT TO JOIN THIS CLUB, A BULLET WOULD HAVE HAD TO LODGE IN YOU-- AND THE BULLET ITSELF WOULD HAVE BEEN YOUR ADMISSION TICKET!

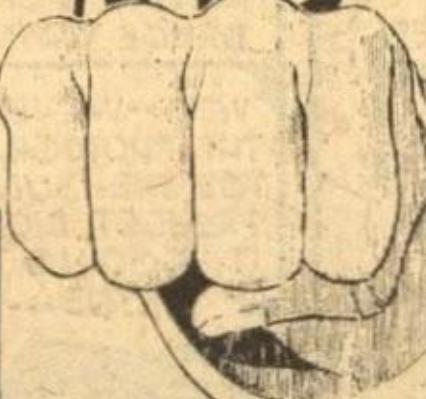
BUT IT ISN'T FAIR! AN INCH THE OTHER WAY, AND I WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED! I DESERVE TO JOIN THIS CLUB, BATMAN!



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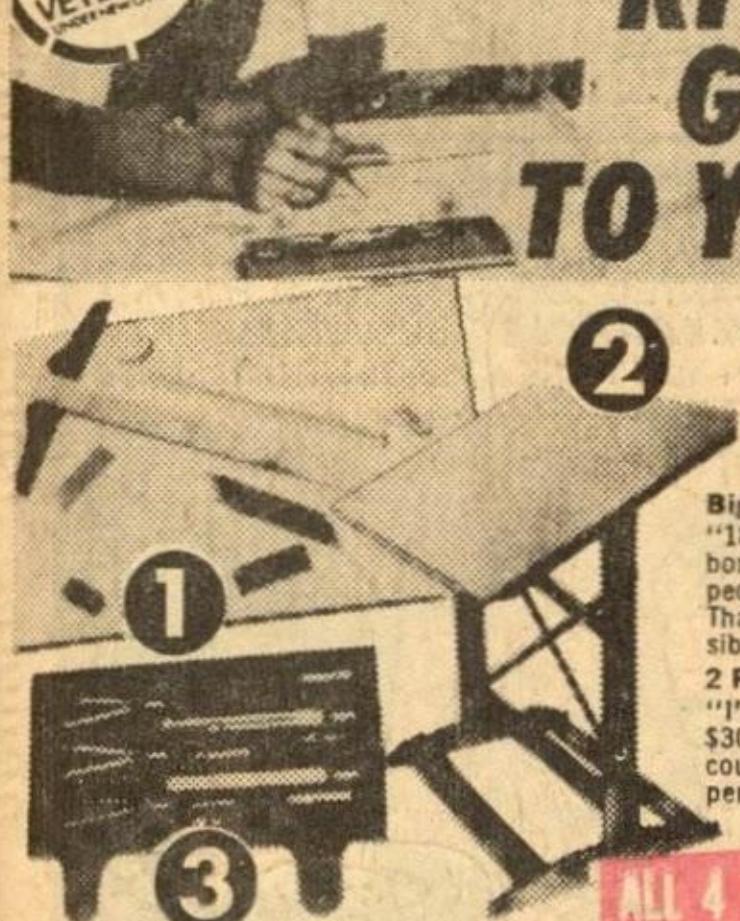
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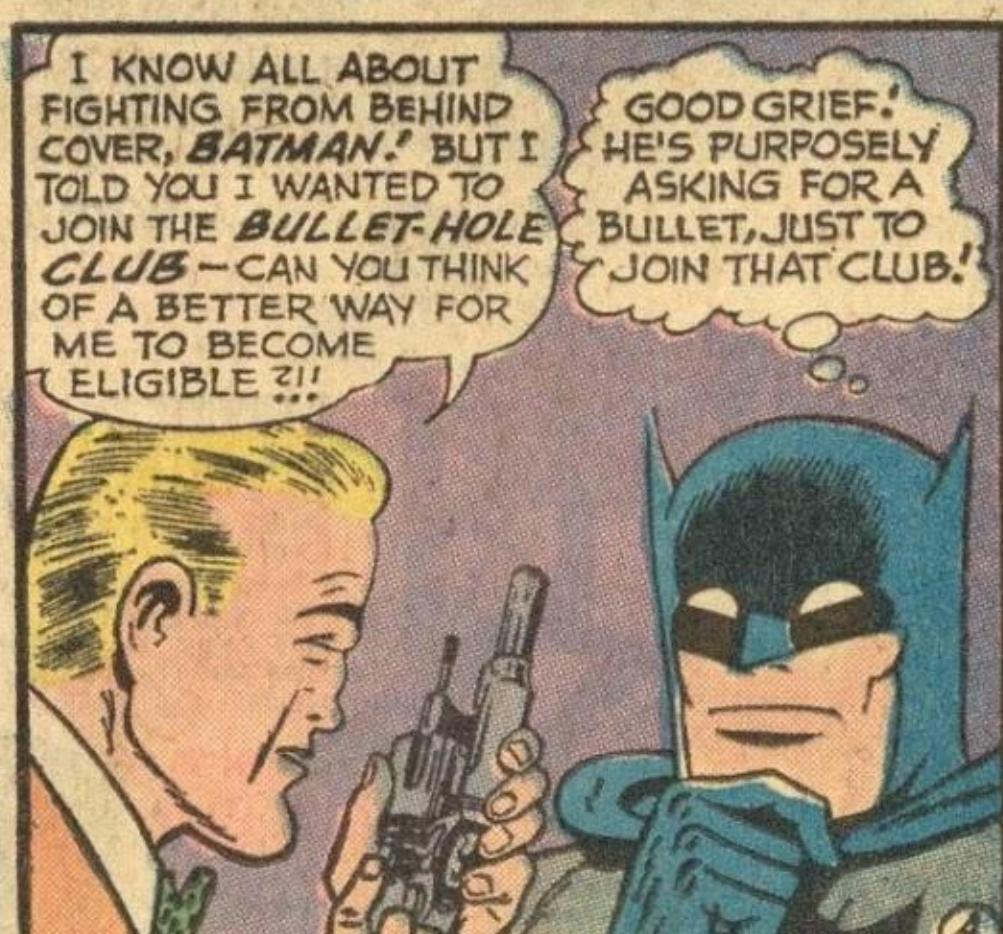
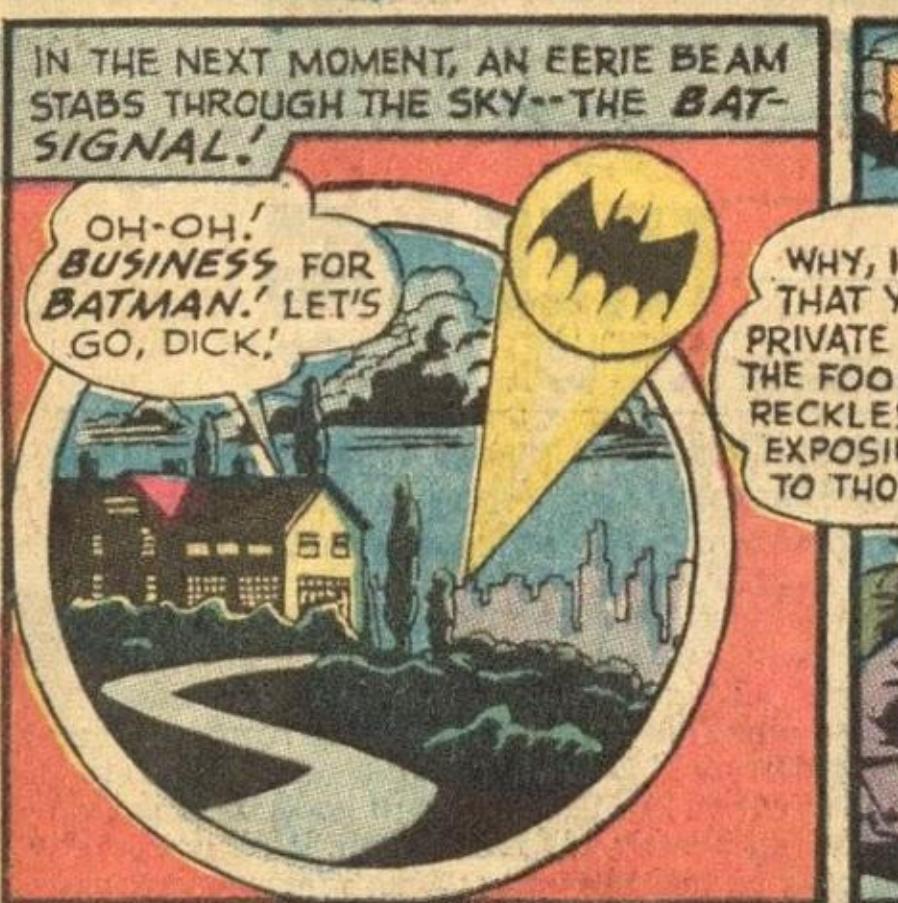
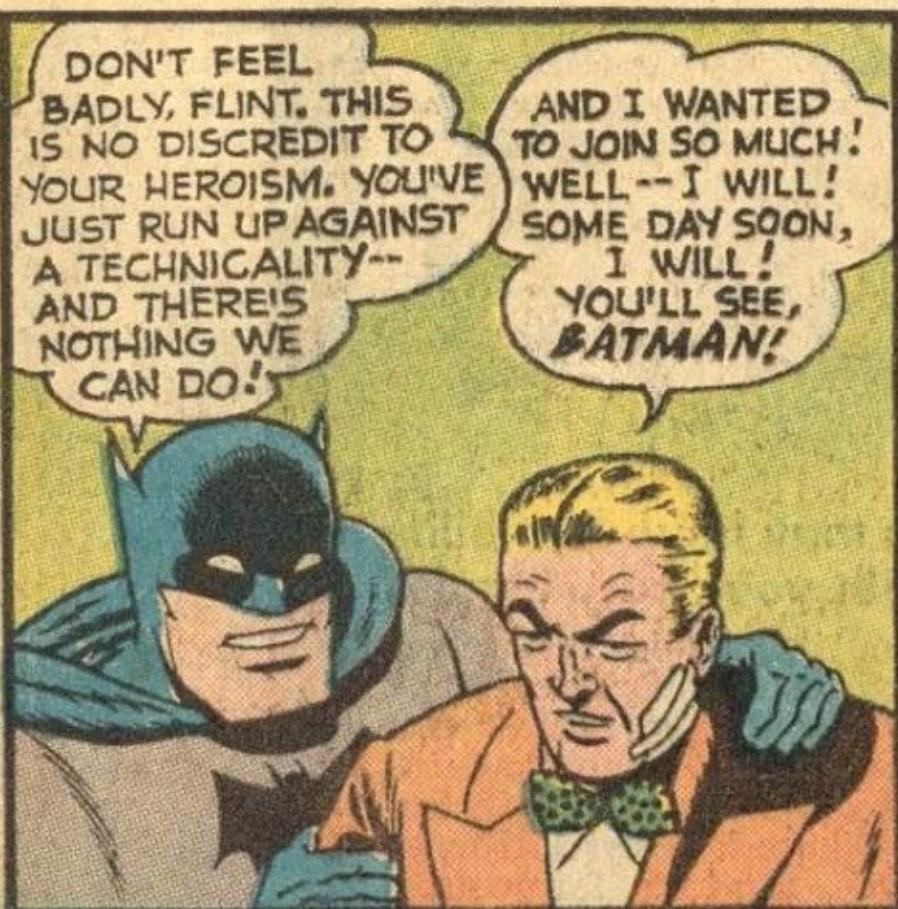
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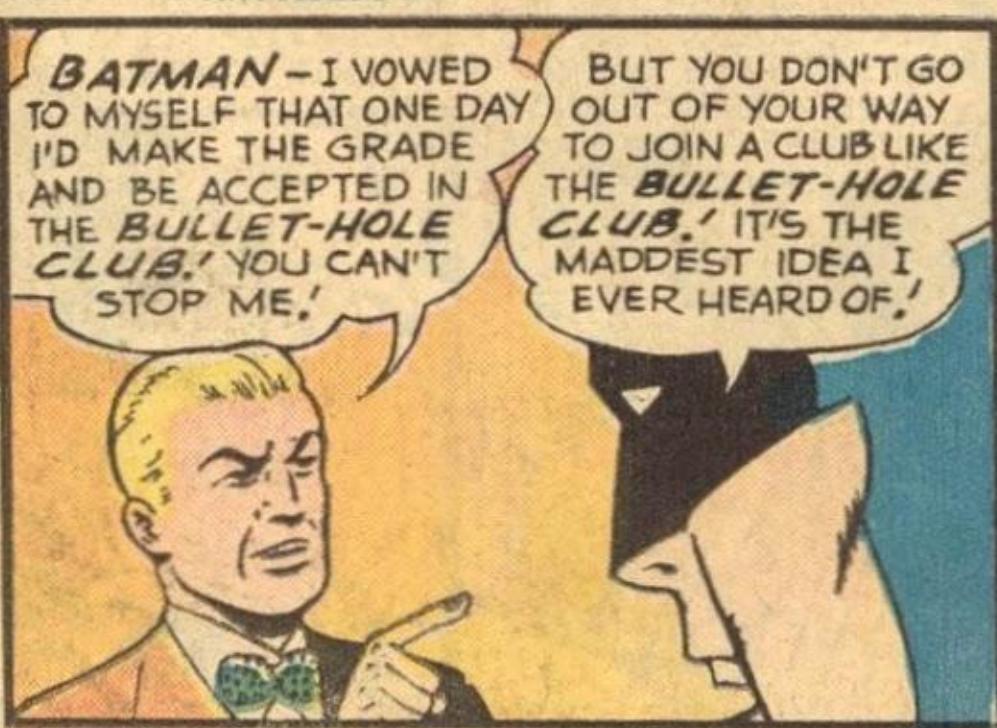
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A home-study program in association with Cleveland Engineering Inst.

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



(FLINT'S STORY) "SIX MONTHS AGO, I BECAME A LICENSED PRIVATE DICK TO COVER A COUNTERFEIT RACKET I HAD WORKED OUT..."



THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

"I WATCHED MY CHANCE--AND A FEW NIGHTS LATER, I AMBUSHED COLLINS WITH A BULLET! BUT WHEN I RETURNED TO MY OFFICE, I MADE A HORRIFYING DISCOVERY!"

WHAT A FOOL--I USED THE WRONG GUN! THIS ONE'S REGISTERED WITH THE COPS--BALLISTIC MARKINGS AND EVERYTHING! THEY'LL SURELY TRACE THE SLUG TO ME!



"BUT A SUPER-SECRET WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT MADE COLLINS A MAN OF MYSTERY! HE WAS PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO LOCATE--AND THEN..."

--ALREADY A MEMBER OF THE FAMED BULLET-HOLE CLUB, G-MAN TERRY COLLINS WILL RECEIVE SPECIAL HONORS AT THE CLUB'S NEXT SHINDIG...

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB! OF COURSE! THE ONE PLACE THAT COLLINS ATTENDS REGULARLY!



OKAY--HIT MY LEG IN THE FLESHY PART OF THE CALF, AND THEN RUN LIKE BLAZES! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST!



"BUT THEN I GOT A BREAK! COLLINS DIDN'T DIE--AND WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS A 1,000-TO-1 SHOT THAT MADE ALL THE PAPERS..."

SIX WEEKS! I'VE GOT SIX WEEKS TO GET TO COLLINS AND DUMP HIS BODY IN THE RIVER--BEFORE THEY EXTRACT THAT SLUG!

WOUNDED G-MAN RECOVERING!

G-Man Terry Collins was resting comfortably today, while doctors marveled at the freak of nature that permitted him to live while a bullet was lodged within him! Noted surgeon Dr. Henry Gavik pointed out to remove the bullet now is a dangerous operation--but that in six weeks' time, when adequate scar tissue is formed, the operation can take place. Meanwhile, the patient will lead a perfectly normal existence.

RIGHT! AND NOW THAT WE'RE READY, LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS. FROGGY--YOU'RE GOING TO PLUG ME!

SEE, FROGGY? WE TRIED TO WAYLAY COLLINS AT THE CLUB, BUT HE ALWAYS COMES AND GOES WITH AN ESCORT--THAT'S WHY THE BOSS HAS TO GET ON THE INSIDE!



MEANWHILE, IN THE GUN MUSEUM OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...

SOME DISPLAY, EH, ROBIN? ALL THE WEAPONS THAT WOUNDED OUR CLUB MEMBERS--WE'LL NEED SOME SHOTS OF THIS FOR OUR RECORD!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

REAL WORKS OF ART--EACH GUN AUTHENTIC, RIGHT DOWN TO EVERY MOVING PIECE! I'LL SAY WE'LL PUT IT IN THE RECORD!

OKAY, BATMAN! WE'RE READY ON THE ROOF FOR PHOTOGRAPHY!

AND ON THE BROAD ROOF OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...

THIS IS A RE-STAGING OF PATROLMAN BENSON'S GUN-FIGHT WITH "DALLAS EDDIE" ON A LEDGE OF THE GOTHAM STATE BUILDING!

IT'S A WONDERFUL REPLICA! BENSON LOOKS LIKE HE'S REALLY ENJOYING THIS-- AND DETECTIVE RAINES MAKES A FINE "DALLAS EDDIE."

THEN, AS THE DYNAMIC DUO MOVES TO ANOTHER SPOT ON THE CLUB'S ROOF...

REMEMBER THIS ONE, BATMAN? ROOKIE POLICEMAN EDDIE JENKS SHOT IT OUT WITH THE GANG THAT TRIED TO HOLD UP THE CIRCUS!

I REMEMBER IT WELL--AND SO DOES JENKS, I IMAGINE!

A FEW MOMENTS LATER...

BATMAN-- YOU'RE WANTED AT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL! A PRIVATE EYE NAMED FLINT HAS BEEN SHOT!

LET'S HURRY!

AND, AT THE HOSPITAL...

WELL, BATMAN-- I GUESS I'M ELIGIBLE NOW FOR THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB, EH?

HMM..LUCKY IT GOT YOU WHERE IT DID--NOT A BAD WOUND AT ALL. HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB



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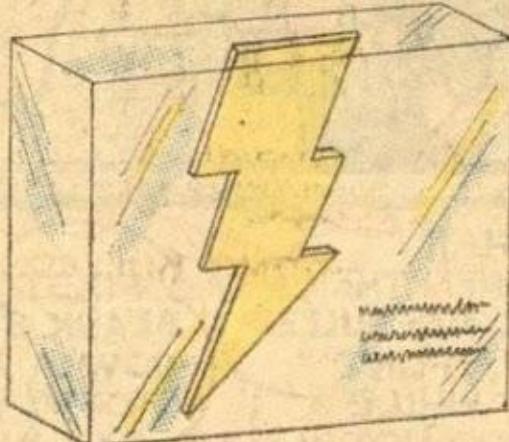
BEHIND THE SCENES

AT THE



COMIC WORLD

SHAZAM! It's a few minutes after midnight and I'm trying to get my thoughts together so I can tell you about the 1972 annual **SHAZAM AWARDS** given by the *Academy of the Comic Book Arts*, the organization of comic professionals. Every year at this time ACBA holds an annual banquet to honor those professionals who have produced the best work in the industry during the previous year.



Heading the list of *National's* award-winners are a pair of very special awards that ACBA gave to Julie Schwartz and Gerda Gattel, two of the people who have kept *National* Number One since the Golden Age of Comics.



Fittingly, Julie Schwartz won his *Shazam* for "Superior Achievement By An Individual" for the year which featured the return of the *Shazam Family* of characters to the newsstand under his editorial guidance. I'm sure that our super-editor's other heroic work wasn't ignored by the Academy, though. After all, the super-hero was returned to popularity in the mid-50s under his editorship too.

Most of you have probably never heard of Gerda Gattel, but she's been *National's* proofreader for many years. Gerda couldn't believe that she had won an award, because the *Shazams* weren't

around in the days when she was a demon letterer, and there's no proofreader category. The ACBA board knows better than to worry about categories though . . . It gave her a special award "for bringing her special warmth to our industry."

MEMBERS OF
ACBA: MAY I
PRESENT THE
SWAMP
THING!



One of our newer super-stars had a very good night. *The Swamp Thing* walked away with several honors. On the basis of the first issue, the only one eligible in this year's awards, the mag captured best story (for "Dark Genesis" from *Swamp Thing* #1), and helped his creators to best writer and penciller (dramatic) awards. Or did creators Len Wein (whose sensational scripting also is featured in the *Justice League* and *Human Target* series) and Berni Wrightson (whose mystery art is the most acclaimed ever to grace DC's mags) help Swampy to his awards? Or does it matter?



I shouldn't have slighted editor Joe Orlando in the *Swamp Thing* listing, but I wanted to save his kudos for this paragraph, where I'll mention that he edited all three of the "Best Story" award winners. Besides "Dark Genesis" in the dramatic story category, there was the best dramatic short story, "The Demon Within" from *House of Mystery* #201, by John Albano and Jim Aparo. John's scripting can be found in most of the Orlando family of books, and Jim's art is in every issue of *Brave & Bold*, *Detective Comics*, and *Adventure Comics*. The third winner was in the "best humor story" category, and it was "The Poster Plague" from *House of Mystery* #202, by Steve Skeates and Sergio Aragones. This story helped inspire *PLOP!* Steve's stories appear in *The Phantom Stranger* magazine, and best humor inker Sergio Aragones' art lurks in *Plop* and *MAD Magazine*.

THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

AND THE FOLLOWING WEEK, WHEN THE FULLY RECOVERED FLINT HAS BECOME A MEMBER OF THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB...

THE MUSEUM HAS RECEIVED A NEW WEAPON, GENTLEMEN--AND IT'S TO BE DEDICATED NEXT WEEK!

THIS GUN--WHAT A BEAUTY! AND IT'S AIMED RIGHT FOR THAT PLATFORM! IF I COULD ONLY GET AMMUNITION FOR IT--AND FIND A WAY OF GETTING COLLINS ON THAT PLATFORM!

AS YOU KNOW, CUSTOM CALLS FOR AN ELECTION OF THE MOST POPULAR MEMBER OF THE MONTH TO CONDUCT THE DEDICATION FROM THIS PLATFORM!

YOU'LL BE GIVEN THESE TWO-PIECE "VOTING BULLETS." SIMPLY WRITE THE NAME OF YOUR CHOICE ON A SMALL PIECE OF PAPER, INSERT IT IN THE BULLET AND RETURN IT TO THE BALLOT COMMITTEE...

LATER...

A "VOTING BULLET," EH? MAYBE MY IDEA OF USING THAT GIANT GUN WASN'T AS WILD AS I THOUGHT!

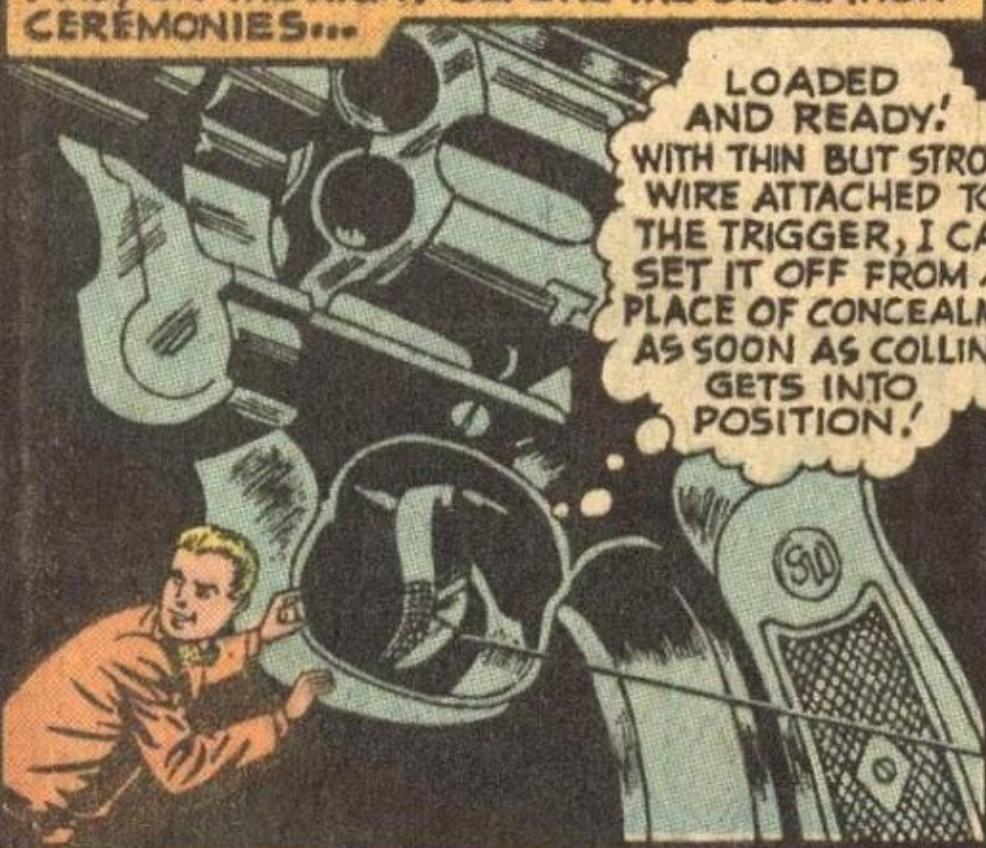
AND THAT EVENING...

THIS CARTRIDGE HAS BEEN SCALED EXACTLY TO FIT THAT SMITH AND WESSON IN THE MUSEUM--AND IT WILL BLOW COLLINS TO SMITHEREENS!

I'LL STUFF THE BALLOT BOX WITH THESE "BULLET-VOTES" FOR COLLINS--NO ONE WILL KNOW THE DIFFERENCE--AND HE'LL BE ON THAT PLATFORM FOR THE KILL!

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AND, ON THE NIGHT BEFORE THE DEDICATION CEREMONIES...



THEN, MOMENTS AFTER FLINT HAS SNEAKED OUT OF THE MUSEUM...



BUT THAT'S DANGEROUS! HOW FAR CAN WE LET HIM GO!??

I'VE AN IDEA! THESE DISPLAYS ARE ON CIRCULAR SECTIONS OF FLOOR THAT REVOLVE TO ACHIEVE DIFFERENT DISPLAY EFFECTS. WHAT WILL FLINT SAY IF HE SUDDENLY FINDS THIS GUN POINTED RIGHT AT HIS HEAD?



AND THE NEXT DAY, AS COLLINS PREPARES TO MOUNT THE PLATFORM FOR THE DEDICATION...

OKAY, ROBIN! PRESS THE BUTTON AND TURN THE TABLES ON MR. FLINT! THEN WE'LL GRAB HIM!



BUT, ALL AT ONCE...

THE CONTROLS JAMMED! THE FLOOR SECTION WON'T MOVE!

THAT GUN WILL GO OFF AT ANY MOMENT! HOW CAN I POSSIBLY STOP IT!?



SUDDENLY...

BATMAN'S CLICKED THE SAFETY CATCH! BOY, THAT WAS FAST THINKING!



THE BULLET-HOLE CLUB

AND AS FLINT'S PLAN BLOWS UP IN HIS FACE,
HIS MIND SUDDENLY SNAPS, AS...

YOU'LL NEVER
GET ME, BATMAN--
NEVER! HA-HA-HA!

CAREFUL,
ROBIN!
HE'S GONE
MAD!

LOOK! HE'S
GOING TO
JUMP OUT
THAT WINDOW!

HA-HA! I
TOLD YOU YOU
WOULDN'T GET
ME, BATMAN!

LOOKS LIKE
I HAD TO **SHOOT**
THE WORKS TO
NAIL THIS CHAP,
ROBIN!

OHHH!
MY LEG!

BATMAN'S
PULLED THE
TRIGGER--AND
THE FIRING PIN
HAS TRAPPED
FLINT!

LATER ... AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

FLINT WILL BE COMMITTED
TO A MENTAL HOSPITAL. HE'S
DELIRIOUS--BUT WE'VE PIECED
TOGETHER A FULL CONFESSION
FROM HIS BABBLINGS...

AND, THAT
NIGHT...

THE DOCTORS EXPECT
TO OPERATE ON
COLLINS NEXT WEEK.
I SEE YOU'RE NOT
LOSING ANY TIME!

THAT'S RIGHT--BUT THIS
IS **ONE** BULLET THAT
CERTAINLY CAUSED
ENOUGH TROUBLE!
I CAN'T WAIT TO GET
IT IN THIS SHOWCASE!

SLUG TAKEN FROM THE CHEST
OF G-MAN TERRY COLLINS.
THE WOUND WAS INFILDED
BY JOE FLINT,
OCT. 1, 1949.

THE END

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Action Games

by KOHNER

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and watch the action begin!

Pop'ee



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Ages 6 and up



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Ages 5 and up



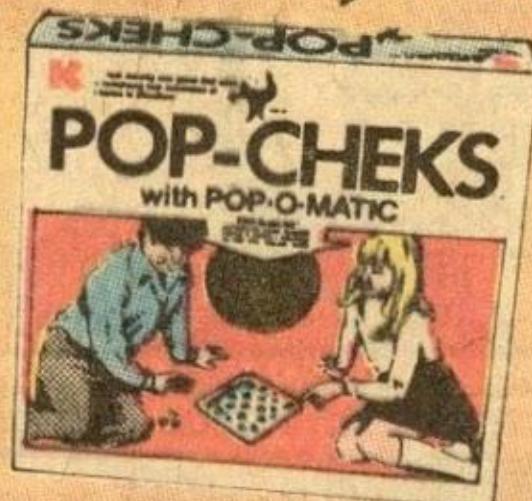
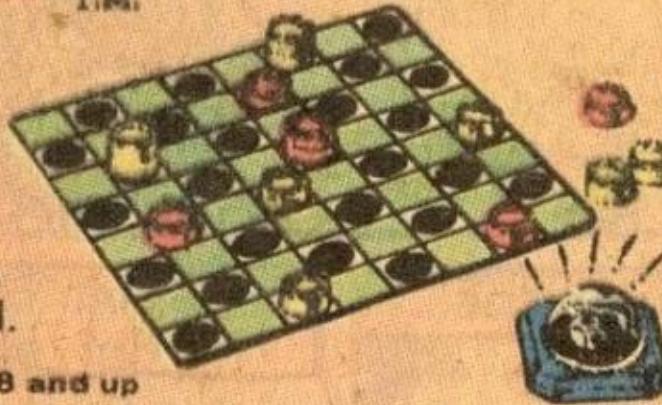
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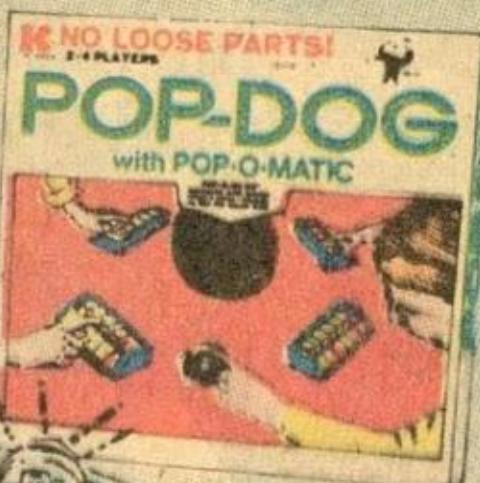


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every pop! NO LOOSE
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IF YOU READ "GOTHAM GANG LINE-UP," IN THE JANUARY DETECTIVE, YOU KNOW THAT, A FEW YEARS BACK, ALFRED, BRUCE WAYNE'S BUTLER, WAS APPARENTLY KILLED! IT WAS SOON AFTER THIS, WHILE I WAS SETTING UP A MEMORIAL FOUNDATION IN ALFRED'S NAME, THAT I RAN INTO PERHAPS THE MOST FANTASTIC VILLAIN I'VE EVER FOUGHT! YOU'LL FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT HIM IN THIS ADVENTURE FROM THE SIZZLING SIXTIES!

THROUGHOUT HIS LONG AND DISTINGUISHED CAREER, BATMAN HAS ALWAYS PROTECTED THE PROPERTY OF OTHER PEOPLE! NOW HE SUFFERS THE LOSS OF SOME OF HIS OWN PRIZED POSSESSIONS--THE BATMOBILE! THE BATBOAT! EVEN ROBIN HIMSELF! ALL HAVE BEEN STOLEN FROM HIM BY AN ELUSIVE THIEF WHO HAS SINGLED OUT BATMAN AS HIS PERSONAL PREY!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

STORY:
GARDNER FOX

The MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN!

MY LATEST CRIME-Scoop --
THE THEFT OF
ROBIN, THE
BOY WONDER!

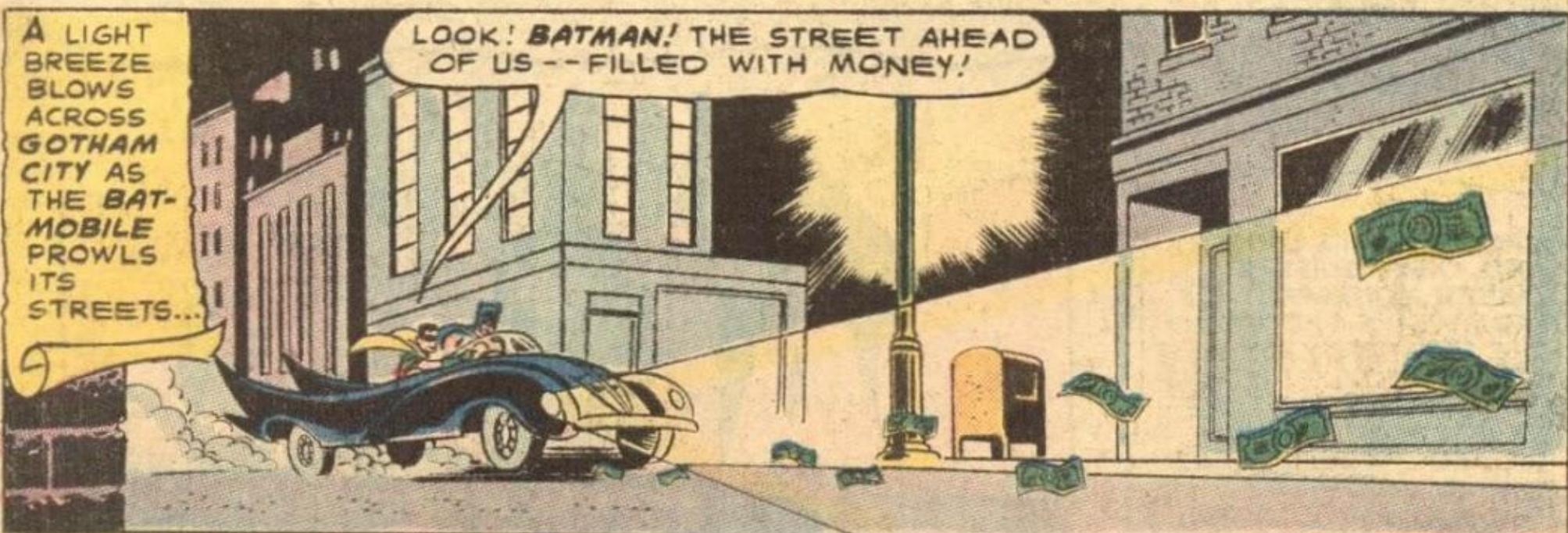
N-757

BOB
KANE

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

A LIGHT BREEZE BLOWS ACROSS GOTHAM CITY AS THE BAT-MOBILE PROWLS ITS STREETS...

LOOK! BATMAN! THE STREET AHEAD OF US -- FILLED WITH MONEY!



THE MONEY-TRAIL TAKES A TURN AT THE NEXT CORNER WHERE...

I SPOTTED SOMEONE TURN DOWN THIS DEAD END STREET...

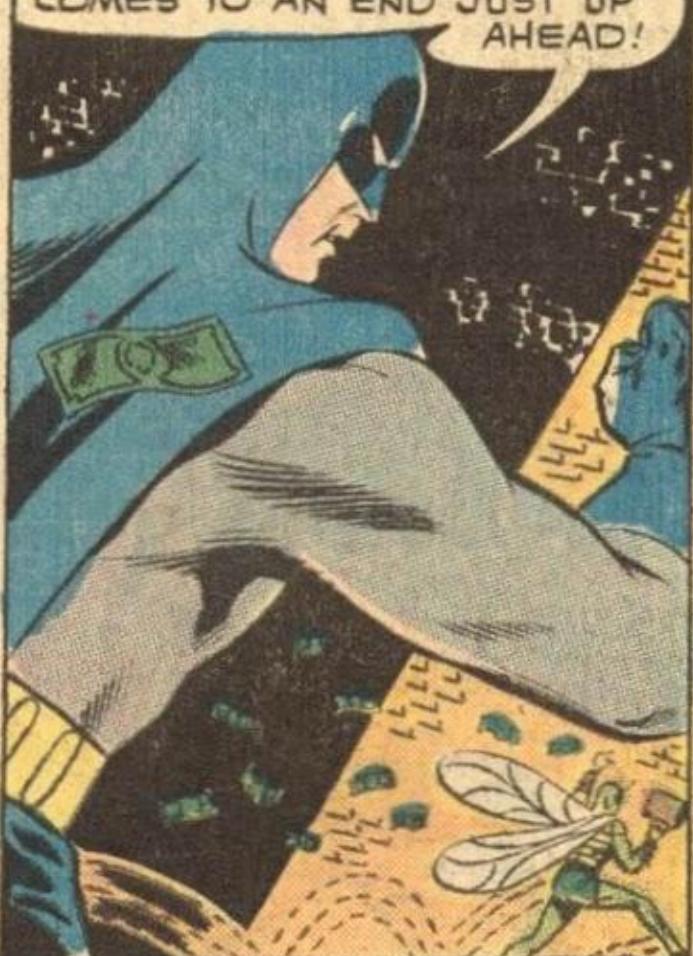
OUR BEST BET NOW IS TO OVERTAKE HIM ON FOOT!

THROUGH THE DIMLY LIT CORRIDOR LEAPS A STRANGELY GARBED FIGURE -- WHILE FALLING FROM A BLACK BAG HE CARRIES ARE THE GREENBACKS...



MOVING WITH TREMENDOUS LEAPS AND BOUNDS, THE INSECT-LIKE MAN SPRINGS DOWN THE NARROW STREET...

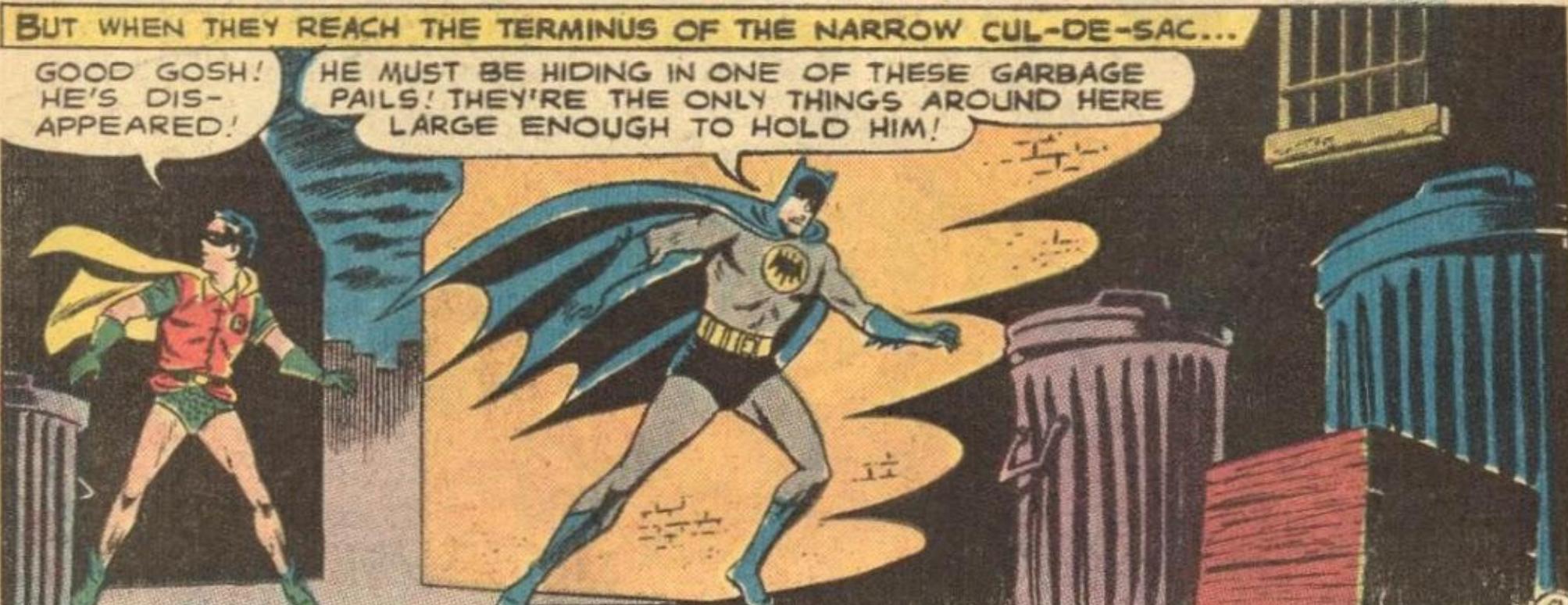
HE'S RUNNING OUT OF MOVING SPACE! THE STREET COMES TO AN END JUST UP AHEAD!



BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE TERMINUS OF THE NARROW CUL-DE-SAC...

GOOD GOSH! HE'S DIS-APPEARED!

HE MUST BE HIDING IN ONE OF THESE GARBAGE PAILS! THEY'RE THE ONLY THINGS AROUND HERE LARGE ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM!





THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN



WHEN A FRUSTRATING SEARCH FAILS TO REVEAL THEIR QUARRY...

BATMAN!
ROBIN!
HERE I AM--UP ON THIS ROOF!

INCREDIBLE!

NOT INCREDIBLE--FOR I AM THE GRASSHOPPER! AND LIKE THE INSECT I EMULATE, I HAVE MIGHTY LEG MUSCLES THAT ENABLE ME TO MATCH ITS LEAPING PROWESS!

TWIN BAT-ROPES FLY THROUGH THE AIR AS...

ALL I HAD TO DO WAS JUMP OUT OF THAT DEAD END--AND PRESTO! HERE I AM AND THERE YOU ARE--UNABLE TO COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO CAPTURE ME!

WHERE HE JUMPED...WE CAN CLIMB, ROBIN!

WITHIN MOMENTS, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND BOY WONDER ARE CLAMBERING UP THAT AWESOME HEIGHT...

FASTER--FASTER--OR YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE OF CATCHING ME!

BUT WHEN THEY REACH THE ROOFTOP, SECONDS LATER...

HE'S GONE! HE MUST'VE JUMPED TO A NEARBY ROOF!

HE LEFT A NOTE FOR US--LOOK THERE!

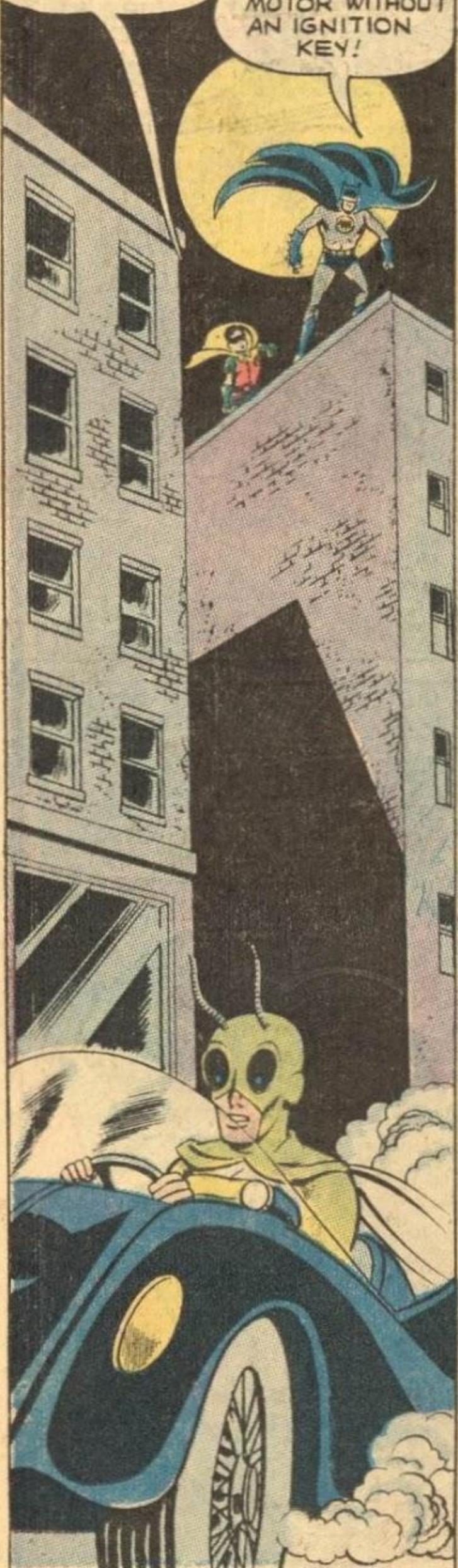
LISTEN! "THIS IS THE OPENING BLOW IN MY CAMPAIGN TO STEAL YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS, BATMAN! EVEN AS YOU READ THIS, I AM STEALING YOUR BATMOBILE! AFTER THAT--BUT YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE!"

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE NEXT MOMENT, THE ROAR OF A MIGHTY MOTOR ECHOES IN THE NIGHT...

HE WASN'T KIDDING! THERE HE GOES WITH THE BAT-MOBILE!

DESPITE ALL OUR SAFE-GUARDS, HE KNEW HOW TO START THE MOTOR WITHOUT AN IGNITION KEY!



IT'LL BE KIND OF EMBARRASSING REPORTING A STOLEN CAR TO THE POLICE!

WE'LL HOLD OFF ON THAT, ROBIN! THIS IS A PERSONAL MATTER BETWEEN THE GRASSHOPPER AND US! WE'LL FIND THE BATMOBILE ON OUR OWN!

SLOWLY, THE COWLED CRUSADER AND THE BOY WONDER TRUDGE HOMeward...

I WONDER WHEN AND WHERE HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN-- WHAT "PRIZED POSSESSION" HE'LL BE AFTER NEXT?

ALL WE CAN DO IS WAIT-- BE ON THE ALERT!

UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER--WE'RE GOING TO LEAD OUR NORMAL LIVES! WHICH REMINDS ME THAT AS BRUCE WAYNE -- I'M TO ACT AS HOST OF THE ALFRED FOUNDATION CHARITY AUCTION ABOARD THE YACHT WATER BABY-- TOMORROW NIGHT!



LATER, IN THE BATCAVE, THEY RESUME THEIR CIVILIAN IDENTITIES AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON ...

YOU SAY THAT BATMAN IS TO BE GUEST OF HONOR AT THAT AFFAIR, BRUCE? BUT HOW CAN YOU BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME?

I'VE WORKED OUT A PLAN BUT--IT CERTAINLY PROMISES TO BE A HEKTIC NIGHT!



IN VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED, MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO CANCEL THE CHARITY AUCTION!

NOTHING DOING! ALL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE! THE ALFRED FOUNDATION NEEDS THE MONEY! BESIDES-- YOU'RE GOING TO BE STANDING BY AS ROBIN!



THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

NEXT EVENING, ON BOARD THE YACHT WATER BABY, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS FILE PAST HOST BRUCE WAYNE...

MR. AND MRS. TRUXTON -- WELCOME ABOARD!

I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET THAT MARVELOUS BATMAN!

AS THE VESSEL LIFTS ANCHOR AND MOVES OUT OF GOTHAM HARBOR...

BATMAN IS DUE HERE AT TEN O'CLOCK -- JUST A FEW MOMENTS FROM NOW -- AND WE'LL BEGIN THE AUCTION THEN! MEANWHILE, PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES...

THE YOUNG MILLIONAIRE EXITS FROM THE ROOM...

MY QUICK-CHANGE ARTISTRY WILL COME IN HANDY HERE...

IN THE DARK SHADOWS OF THE DECK, HE SHEDS HIS SPECIALLY PREPARED FALAWAY FORMAL CLOTHES AND REVEALS HIMSELF AS THE -- MASKED MANHUNTER...

ANOTHER SECOND TO ADJUST MY MASK AND LIFT MY COWL...

HE SLIPS FROM HIS SHOES AND ROLLS UP HIS BAT-BOOTS...

AND LESS THAN FIVE SECONDS AFTER BRUCE WAYNE HAS DEPARTED THROUGH THAT SAME DOORWAY...

OF COURSE, MR. WAYNE! I'LL BE HAPPY TO START THE FESTIVITIES!

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

THE COWLED CRUSADER TAKES HIS PLACE ON THE DAIS AND UNVEILS A GREAT BOX FILLED WITH MEMENTOS OF HIS MEMORABLE CAREER...

I'VE DONATED A FEW ARTICLES I'VE USED IN MY MANY CASES -- TO BE AUCTIONED TO GET THE ALFRED FOUNDATION CHARITY FUNDS DRIVE OFF TO A GOOD START!



HERE IS THE BATARANG THAT HELPED ME SAVE ROBIN'S LIFE IN THE CASE OF THE "TWO-WAY GEM CAPER"! * HOW MUCH AM I BID FOR IT?



*EDITOR'S NOTE: SEE BATMAN #164.

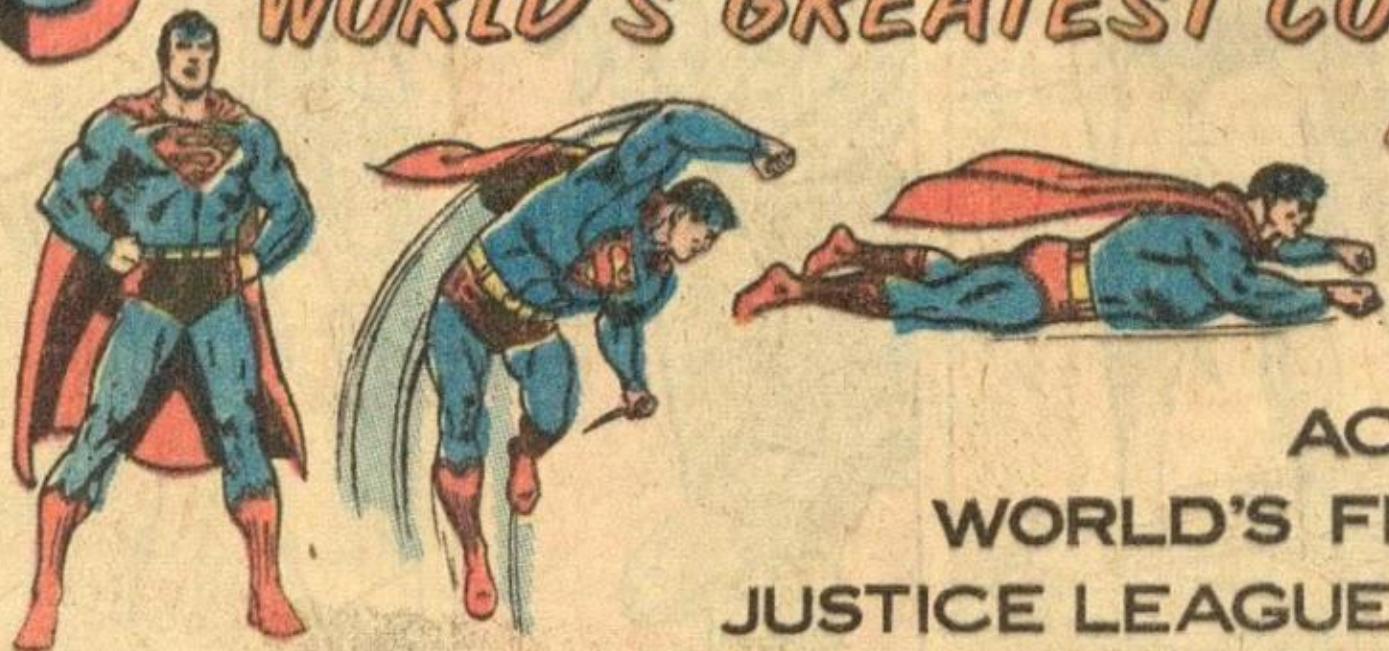
BEFORE A BID CAN BE MADE -- A HAND BURSTS OUT OF THE AUCTIONEER'S STAND AND...



I'LL TAKE THAT BATARANG, BATMAN! ANOTHER OF YOUR POSSESSIONS TO ADD TO MY LIST!

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING! 6

SUPERMAN THE MAN OF STEEL - WORLD'S GREATEST COMICS HERO



APPEARS IN
SUPERMAN
LOIS LANE

JIMMY OLSEN
ACTION COMICS

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS
JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA

THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

ERUPTING FROM THE AUCTIONEER'S STAND, THE GRASSHOPPER CANNONS INTO BATMAN, HURLING HIM BACKWARD, OFF BALANCE! SCREAMS OF DISMAY FILL THE AIR AS THE STUNNED ON-LOOKERS OBSERVE THE MASKED MANHUNTER'S LATEST NEMESIS IN ACTION...



A HOP--A STEP--AND A LONG JUMP CARRY THE GRASSHOPPER ACROSS THE ROOM AND THROUGH A DOORWAY...

THE WORLD RECORD FOR THE HOP, STEP AND JUMP IS AROUND SIXTY FEET--BUT WITH MY SPECIAL ABILITIES I CAN DO FAR BETTER THAN THAT!

GOT TO STOP HIM!



FEET BARELY TOUCHING THE FLOOR, THE COWLED CRUSADER HURTELS AFTER THE MASTER THIEF...

HE'S GOING INTO THAT CABIN! THAT DOORWAY'S THE ONLY WAY IN OR OUT! HE WON'T ELUDE ME THIS TIME!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

BUT WHEN HE CAREENS INTO THE STATEROOM...

I'VE RUN INTO A BLANK WALL AGAIN! HOW COULD--
WAIT! THAT PORTHOLE! HE MIGHT HAVE GONE OUT
IT-- WHILE I CAME IN! CAN'T OVERLOOK ANY
POSSIBILITY!



SHORT MOMENTS BEFORE, THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT WAS CRUISING CLOSE TO THE YACHT IN THE BATBOAT WHEN...

THERE'S THE GRASS-HOPPER AGAIN! GOT TO GET ON BOARD AND STOP WHATEVER CROOKED BUSINESS HE'S PULLING OFF NOW!



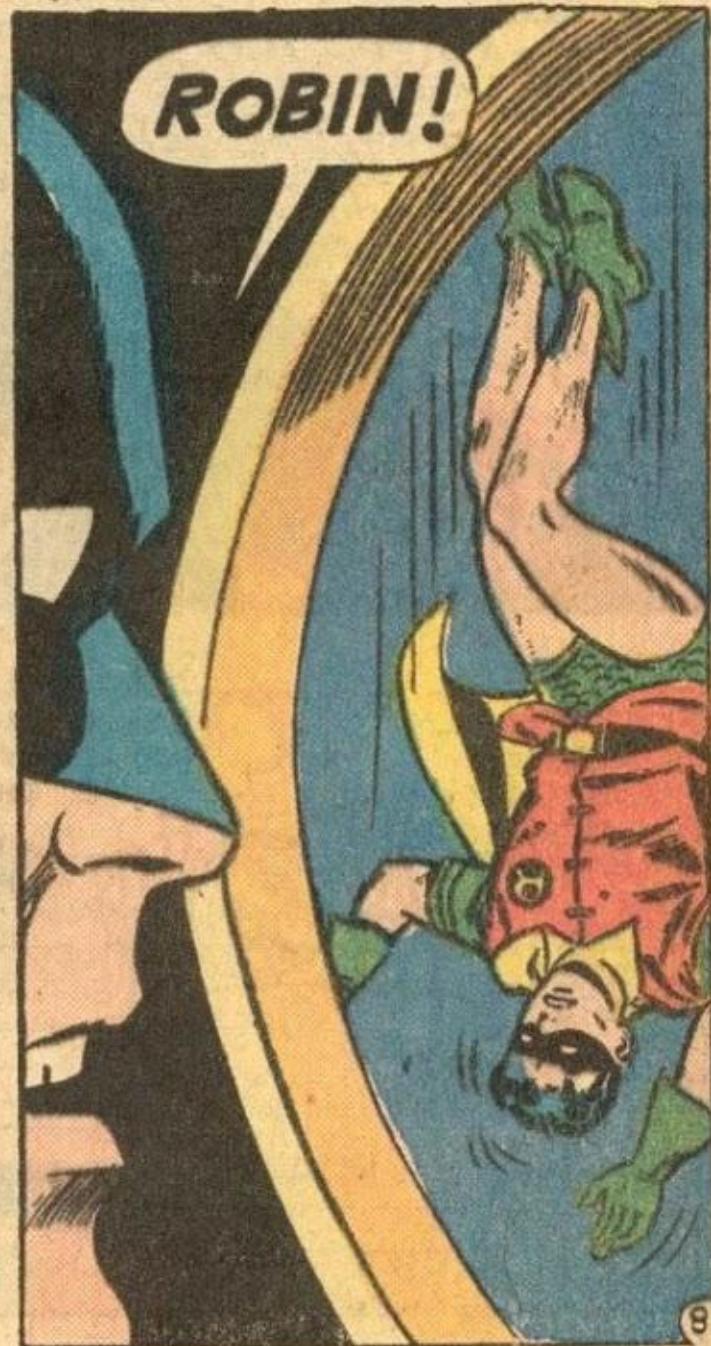
SWIFTLY CLIMBING UP THE SIDE OF THE SHIP, ROBIN RACES FORWARD...

THIS SHOULD BE A CINCH!
HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW
I'M HERE!

OUT OF A LIFEBOAT COMES A LEAPING FIGURE...

YOU WEREN'T SCHEDULED TO MAKE AN APPEARANCE HERE, ROBIN-- SO OVER YOU GO!

AND AS THE BOY WONDER PLUMMETS TOWARD THE WATER-- BATMAN'S FACE APPEARS IN THE PORTHOLE...



THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

UNAWARE THAT HIS QUARRY IS COILED UP INSIDE THE OVERHEAD CHANDELIER, THE COWLED CRUSADER RACES OFF ON HIS RESCUE MISSION...

ROBIN CAN SWIM LIKE A FISH--BUT HE MAY BE UNCONSCIOUS!

BATMAN NEVER SUSPECTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE TWO GRASSHOPPERS-- AND THAT OUR DOUBLE-JOINTED AGILITY ENABLES US TO HIDE IN MIGHTY UNUSUAL PLACES!

HE'S GONE TO "RESCUE" ROBIN, WHOM MY TWIN BROTHER PUSHED OVERBOARD! BEFORE WE STOLE THE BATMOBILE, IT WAS MY TWIN'S JOB TO HIDE IN THAT DEAD END STREET BY FITTING HIMSELF INTO A SMALL BOX, WHILE I HID ON THE ROOF! WHEN THEY CHASED ME, MY BROTHER STOLE THE BATMOBILE!

"TONIGHT, AS I RAN INTO THIS STATEROOM, I USED A SPECIAL POLE FOR VAULTING UP TO THIS CHANDELIER..."

"ONCE I REACHED THE CHANDELIER, I CURLED MYSELF UP INSIDE IT AND RETRACTED THE SPECIAL POLE SO THAT HE COULDN'T SEE A THING..."

BY THE TIME BATMAN GETS TO THE DOORWAY, I'LL BE SAFELY HIDDEN!



EVEN AS THE MASKED MANHUNTER RUSHES OUT ON DECK, THE NIGHT AIR IS SPLIT BY THE THUNDER OF THE BATBOAT'S POWERFUL ENGINE...

I'M ALL RIGHT, BATMAN--BUT THE GRASSHOPPER IS STEALING THE BATBOAT!

THAT ISN'T ALL I'M GOING TO STEAL!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



A SWIFT ONRUSH THROUGH THE HARBOR WATERS--A NET DIPPING INTO THE WAVES AND...



UPWARD COMES THE TEEN-AGER, DRIPPING WET AND HOPELESSLY ENTANGED IN THE NETTING...

ANOTHER OF BATMAN'S PRIZED POSSESSIONS--ROBIN HIMSELF!



AS THE YOUTH IS DRAGGED ON BOARD, THE GRASSHOPPER HURLS A BATARANG AT BATMAN...

MY TWIN BROTHER HANDED THIS TO ME AS HE HOPPED OUT OF THE ROOM WHERE HE STOLE IT! BATMAN DIDN'T SEE THE TRANSFER, NATURALLY!



WITH DISMAY IN HIS EYES, THE COWLED CRUSADER WATCHES HIS YOUNG PROTÉGÉ CARRIED OFF INTO THE UNKNOWN--EVEN AS HIS HANDS REACH OUT TO SNARE HIS STOLEN BATARANG...

I'LL GET YOU BACK SAFE AND SOUND, ROBIN! I SWEAR IT!



THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN

HIS LIPS TIGHTEN GRIMLY AS HE READS A NOTE ATTACHED TO THE BATARANG...

"BATMAN!
I HAVE STOLEN TWO MORE OF YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS-- THE BATBOAT AND ROBIN! ARE YOU BEGINNING TO SUSPECT WHAT MY NEXT PRIZE WILL BE?"

WITHOUT A BOAT IN WHICH TO FOLLOW THE GRASSHOPPER AND THE BOY WONDER, BATMAN CHANGES INTO HIS BRUCE WAYNE GARB AND BIDS HIS GUESTS AND CREW GOOD NIGHT...

THANKS FOR EVERYTHING! YOU CREW MEMBERS DID A FINE JOB!

GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE, MR. WAYNE!



I HAVE ONLY ONE CLUE TO THE GRASSHOPPER--BUT AT LEAST THAT CLUE IS ENOUGH TO TELL ME HE IS--TWO MEN! I HEARD "HIM" SPEAK TWICE--ONCE ON THE ROOF ABOVE THE DEAD END STREET AND AGAIN--AS HE WAS STEALING THE BATARANG!



ALONE IN THE STATEROOM, HE MAKES ANOTHER QUICK-CHANGE OF CLOTHING...

THE VOICES WERE DIFFERENT ENOUGH TO TELL ME THE SAME MAN HAD NOT SPOKEN BOTH TIMES! SUDDENLY, THE EXPLANATION BEHIND THE GRASSHOPPER'S DISAPPEARANCE DAWNED ON ME! HE DIDN'T JUMP FROM THE DEAD END STREET UP TO THE ROOF--

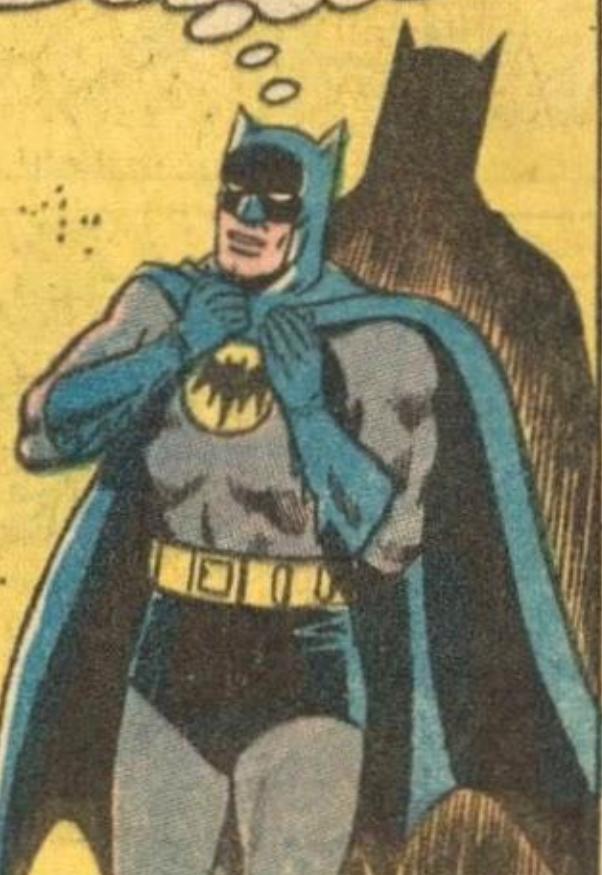
LEAVING THE SHIP, HE WALKS THROUGH DARKENED STREETS...

HE HID IN SOME SMALL CONTAINER, JUST AS HIS TWIN HID SOMEWHERE IN THE STATEROOM! SO--WHEN ONE GRASSHOPPER LEFT IN THE BATBOAT--THE OTHER ONE HAD TO REMAIN ON BOARD SHIP!

FOOTFALLS ECHO WITH EMPTY, HOLLOW THUMPS IN THE DARK NIGHT AS BATMAN TRAILS HIS QUARRY...

I MADE IT A POINT TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO EVERYONE ON THE YACHT, KNOWING THAT WHEN I HEARD THE GRASSHOPPER'S VOICE I'D SPOT HIM IN HIS CIVILIAN DISGUISE! HE'S THAT SEAMAN UP AHEAD!

BATMAN FIGURED OUT WHO I MUST BE-- AND IS TRAILING ME--JUST AS PLANNED!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



SOMEWHAT LATER, HE STANDS OUTSIDE A BUILDING JUTTING OUT OVER THE HARBOR WATERS...

WHAT'S THIS? A GRASSHOPPER TIED UP? THEN, THAT MUST MEAN ROBIN BROKE FREE AND CAPTURED HIM! I BETTER GET IN THERE--GIVE HIM A HAND!



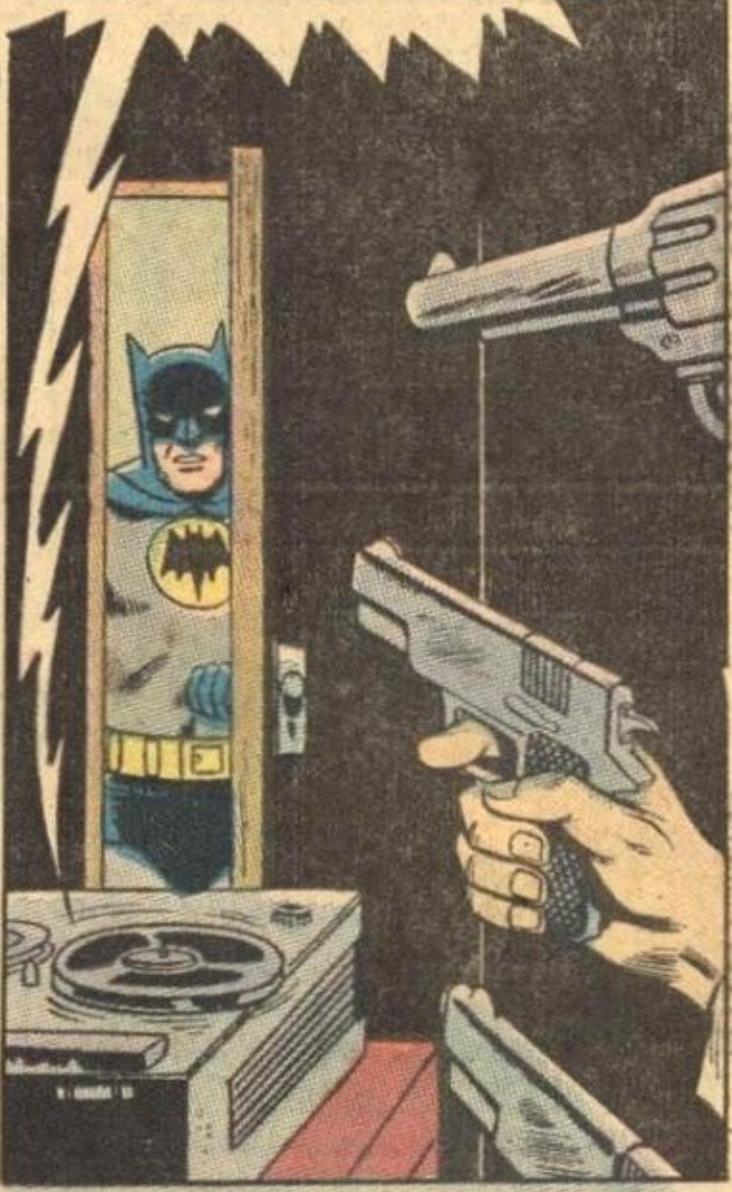
IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR THE ATHLETIC DETECTIVE TO SLIP INTO THE BUILDING BY A SKYLIGHT AND SEARCH THE PREMISES...

NO SIGN OF ANYONE YET! I'D CALL OUT--EXCEPT THAT I DON'T WANT TO TIP OFF ANY OTHER CROOKS THAT I'M HERE!



AS HE PASSES A PARTIALLY OPENED DOOR, HE HEARS A FAMILIAR VOICE...

BATMAN, THIS IS ROBIN...! COME IN... I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!



NEXT INSTANT, BATMAN CATAPULTS IN OVER A RENDING CRUNCH OF SPLITTING WOOD...

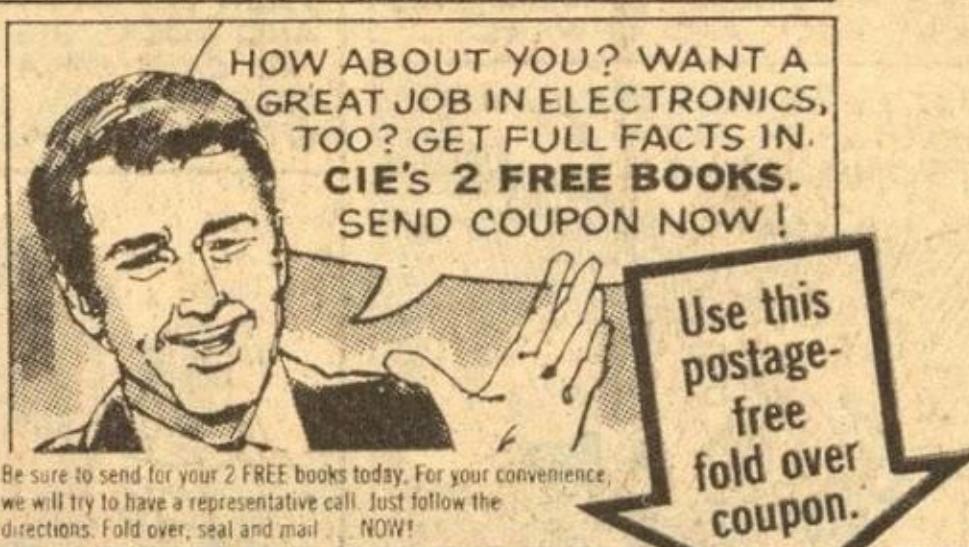
THAT WAS ROBIN'S VOICE--BUT NOT ROBIN SPEAKING IN PERSON! MEANING--IT'S A TRAP TO CATCH OR--KILL ME!



THREE GUNS EXPLODE! BULLETS MISS THE ROLLING COWLED CRUSADER AND DRILL HOLES IN THE FALLING DOOR...



"I'm sick and tired of my Job!"



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BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

LIKE A BATTERING RAM, THE MASKED MANHUNTER CANNONADES INTO THE GRASSHOPPER...

THE GRASSHOPPER "TIED UP" OUTSIDE WAS ONLY A TRICK TO LURE ME HERE AND MAKE ME THINK ROBIN MIGHT BE FREE!

LIKE AN ANGRY STALLION, HE KICKS BACK AND UPWARD...

BUT HE'LL BE FREE IN A MINUTE OR TWO-- I PROMISE THAT!

THEN HE DROPS FLOORWARD AND LOCKS HIS LEGS ABOUT THE CALF OF A GUNMAN, TOPPLING HIM SIDEWAYS AND INTO THE GRASSHOPPER...

HE COMES TO HIS FEET IN ONE EASY MOTION-- THAT SENDS ANOTHER GUNMAN HARD INTO A CHAIR...

THEN THE COWLED CRUSADER RAMS THE GRASSHOPPER-- EVEN AS A SECOND GRASSHOPPER STANDS IN THE DOORWAY, GUN IN HAND...

OOOF!

ONE OF US WAS BOUND TO GET BATMAN-- AND IT MIGHT AS WELL BE ME!



THE MAN WHO STOLE FROM BATMAN



BUT THE MASKED MANHUNTER HAS BEEN EXPECTING THE NEW ARRIVAL AND SO...

"YOU GOT HERE JUST WHEN I FIGURED YOU WOULD-- SINCE YOU REALLY WEREN'T TIED UP AT ALL!"



A SLEDGE-HAMMER OF A FIST PILE-DRIVES FORWARD...

"THAT'LL KEEP YOU PUT TILL I CAN FIND ROBIN!"



A QUICK SEARCH OF THE PREMISES REVEALS ROBIN-- TOGETHER WITH THE STOLEN BATMOBILE AND BATBOAT...

"I CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU KNEW IT WASN'T ME INVITING YOU IN FOR THAT 'SURPRISE'!"

"AS SOON AS YOU SAID, 'THIS IS ROBIN'-- I BECAME SUSPICIOUS! YOU'D KNOW THAT I WOULD RECOGNIZE YOUR VOICE, SO THERE WAS NO NECESSITY TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF! THE GRASSHOPPER WANTED TO BE SO SURE I'D THINK IT WAS YOU-- HE BECAME TOO CAREFUL AND GAVE THE WHOLE SHOW AWAY!"



AFTER THE POLICE ARRIVE AND TAKE AWAY THEIR PRISONERS...

"BUT HOW DID THEY EVER GET THAT MESSAGE ON TAPE -- IN MY VOICE?"

"MY GUESS IS THAT WHEN THEY HELD YOU PRISONER HERE, THEY BUGGED THE ROOM AND SLANTED THEIR QUESTIONS TO MAKE YOU ANSWER WITH THE KEY WORDS THEY NEEDED! BY SPLICING AND CUTTING, AND USING SOME HIGH-FIDELITY EQUIPMENT, THEY WERE ABLE TO MAKE A PERFECT REPRODUCTION OF YOUR VOICE!"



"WE'LL COME BACK FOR THE BATBOAT TOMORROW! WHAT PUZZLES ME IS-- WHY WOULD THE GRASSHOPPERS STEAL FROM ME? THEY COULD SCARCELY EXPECT TO PROFIT BY IT!"

"THE HOT-LINE PHONE IN THE GLOVE COMPARTMENT! DON'T TELL ME POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS ANOTHER CASE FOR US SO SOON!"



AS BATMAN ANSWERS THE HOT-LINE PHONE...

I AM--THE OUTSIDER! YOU HAVE NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD OF ME BEFORE THIS MOMENT! YET IT WAS I--THROUGH MY HIRELINGS, THE GRASSHOPPERS--WHO SET OUT TO STEAL YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSIONS!

ALL DURING THE ACTION I HAVE REMAINED UNSEEN--UNSUSPECTED.. UNTOUCHABLE! YOUR PERIL IS ONLY BEGINNING, BATMAN! IT WILL END -- WHEN I TAKE AWAY YOUR MOST PRIZED POSSESSION--YOUR VERY LIFE!

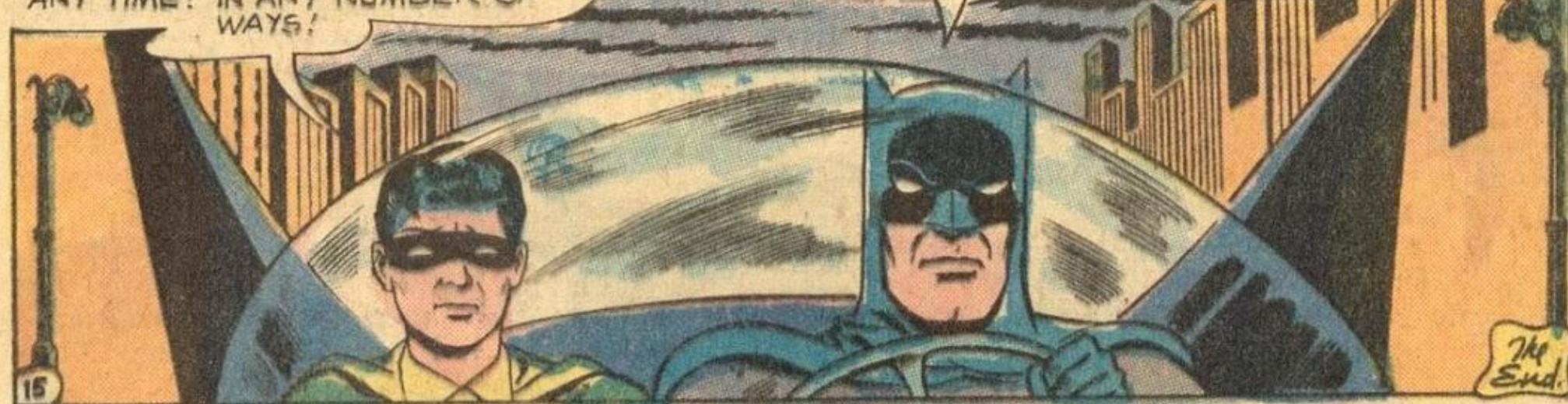
WHEN I HAD THE **BATMOBILE** IN MY POSSESSION, I PREPARED THIS RECORDING--SET TO TURN ON WHEN YOU STARTED YOUR **BATMOBILE**--INDICATING YOU HAD DEFEATED ME... TEMPORARILY! NEXT TIME WE LOCK HORNS... YOUR DAYS WILL BE FILLED WITH UNIMAGINED PERILS!



AS THE RECORDED VOICE FADES AWAY...

:Whew!: THE OUTSIDER REALLY IS TRICKY! HE CAN STRIKE AT US AT-- ANY TIME! IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS!

YES, ROBIN! FROM NOW ON, OUR WAY OF LIFE MUST BE--ETERNAL VIGILANCE! WE CAN NEVER RELAX WITHOUT WONDERING--WHAT NEW SURPRISES THE OUTSIDER HAS IN STORE FOR US!





HOT PEPPER GUM. Flavored with delicious mint but hidden within the mint is RED HOT PEPPER! The more they chew the hotter it gets. Not harmful but a joke they'll remember. Package of 5 sticks.

□ No. 174 2 pkgs. \$1.00



SECRET SAFE. Looks like an attractively bound book, in simulated leather, but open reveals a combination lock said to camouflage your valuable papers, money, etc. 4 x 6 x 1 1/2". □ No. 613 \$1.00



SECRET AGENT SPY CAMERA. Easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Takes secret or surprise pictures as well as regular candid shots. Solid all metal construction. Precision ground lenslet. Speed, 1/25th of a second and time exposure. Takes 10 pictures per roll.

□ No. 109 Camera only \$1.49
□ No. 110 Pigskin Case .49
□ No. 112 Hi-Speed Film 3 Rolls \$1.00



WHOOPIE CUSHION. Simply place it on someone's chair or couch. When your favorite victim sits down—watch the fun and whoopie begin! Strange sound effects, better imagined than described, will fill the air much to their embarrassment.

□ No. 108 75¢



SNEEZING POWDER. Place a little of this powder on your hand, blow into the air, step back and watch the fun begin. Everyone in the room will begin to sneeze without knowing why. More fun than a barrel full of monkeys.

□ No. 104 25¢ Each
5 for \$1.00



ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. Wind it up and wear it like a ring. Shake hands and watch your friends J-U-M-P! Place it on a chair and they will H-I-L-T the ceiling when they sit on it.

□ No. 114 75¢



IT'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE. Every hobbyist, camper, sportsman, hunter, scout, will want one. You get all the following in this little (only 3 1/2" when folded) wonder: 1 — Heading lens. 2 — Compound microscope. 3 — Adjustable telescope. 4 — Focusing binoculars. 5 — Directional compass. 6 — Solar time clock. 7 — Flat mirror. 8 — Magnifying mirror. 9 — Fire lighter. 10 — Code transmister.

□ No. 775 \$1.00

Extra Amico 75¢



MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies to 9,999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Gives homework answers. Fast, easy to operate and accurate. 5 1/2" x 5" x 4". Fits anywhere.

□ No. 135 \$1.25
□ No. 135A Extra Amico 75¢

□ No. 157 \$1.00



SNOWSTORM TABLETS. Create a miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigarette. Watch them run for the snow shovel.

□ No. 109 25¢ Pkg.
5 pkgs. \$1.00



POTATO GUN. Here's a new, fast action gun, that shoots potato pellets as far as 50 ft. with more than 300 shots from a single potato. Absolutely harmless...and you never run out of ammo.

□ No. 758 \$1.00



BE A VENTRILOQUIST! It's fun to be a ventriloquist. Fool everyone when your voice comes from under a table or back of a door. Small gadget fits in mouth. Gag gift, booklet and easy instructions.

□ No. 500 \$1.00

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TWO STICKUP MEN TO SPRINT
FROM THE COLOSSEUM RACEWAY
BOX-OFFICE TO THEIR GETAWAY
CAR -- WHERE...

TROUBLE,
GUYS! --
THE
CAR'S
STALLED
OUT!

THAT'S WHAT WE GET
FOR USING A
STOLEN CAR!



AS THE THREE
LEAP TOWARD A
TAXI-STAND...

HEY,
THAT'S
MY
CAB!

WAS
YOUR
CAB,
DUDE!

415 SOUTH STREET
IN NEW CARTHAGE,
CABBY--AN' DON'T
SPARE THE
HORSEPOWER!



THE NEXT MOMENT, THROUGH A
DEADLY DRIZZLE OF BULLETS FLIES...

ROBIN

THE TEEN WONDER



"THE
PHENOMENAL
MEMORY OF
LUKE GRAHAM!"

STORY BY:
ELLIOT MAGGIN

ART BY:
DICK DILLIN &
MURPHY ANDERSON

EDITING BY:
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

PANICKY CRIMINALS ARE EASY MARKS FOR A TEEN TITAN--UNLESS A STRAY BULLET HITS HIS ROPE IN MID-SWING...

IN WHICH CASE HE HAS PROBLEMS...

SNAP

LUKE GRAHAM... LOOKS HURT!



NEXT DAY, IT IS THE SAME STORY THAT LUKE TELLS HIS HUDSON UNIVERSITY CLASS-MATE--DICK GRAYSON, ALIAS ROBIN...

I MEAN, IF I HEARD ANYTHING THE CROOKS SAID THAT MIGHT HAVE HELPED ROBIN--IT'S LOST TO THE WORLD NOW!

TOO BAD YOU CAN'T REMEMBER...

AND WHEN THE DUO ENTERS PROFESSOR RAYMOND'S CLASS...

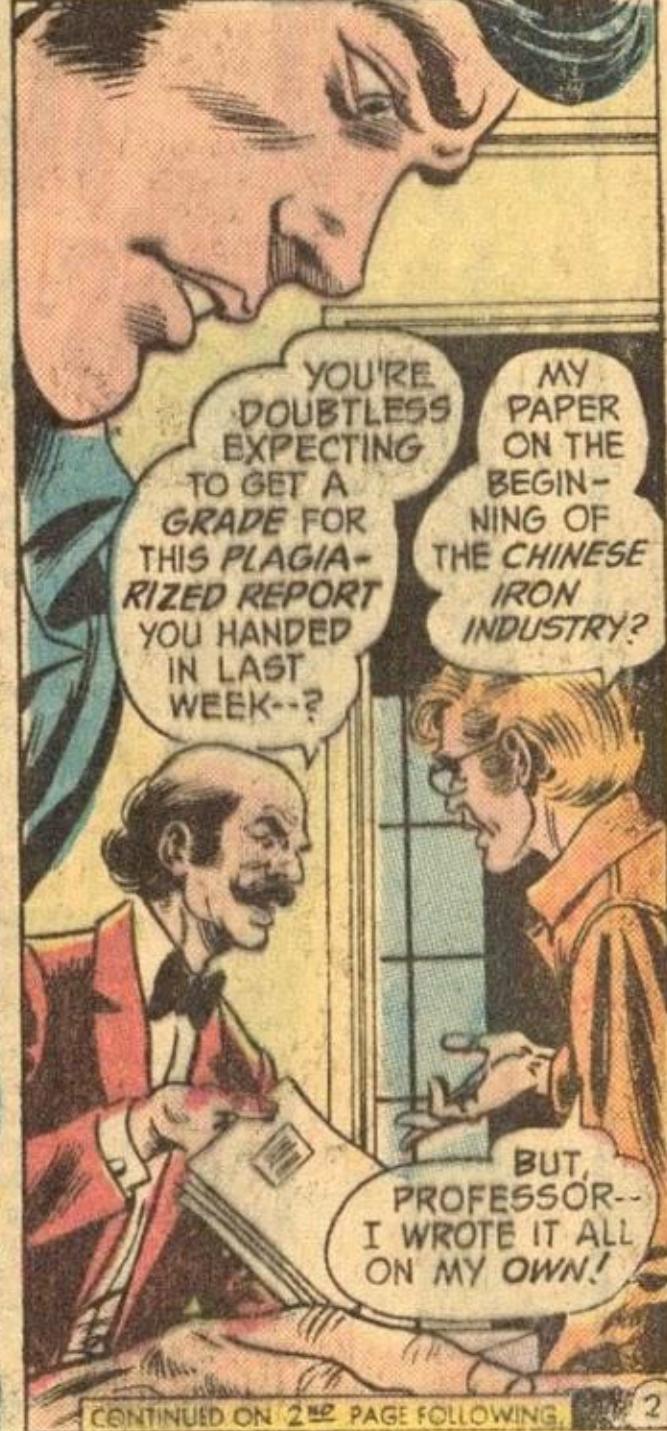
WELL, MR. GRAHAM--I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE SHOWN YOUR FACE HERE TODAY!

M-ME? WHA--

YOU'RE DOUBTLESS EXPECTING TO GET A GRADE FOR THIS PLAGIA-RIZED REPORT YOU HANDED IN LAST WEEK--?

MY PAPER ON THE BEGINNING OF THE CHINESE IRON INDUSTRY?

BUT, PROFESSOR-- I WROTE IT ALL ON MY OWN!



CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

Save These Valuable Postage Stamps **NOW** While They Last!

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STAMPS**

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10¢ for mailing)

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With the Free 40 Red China Stamps we send you, we'll also include 110 additional stamps from Britain's Lost Empire (alone worth over \$3 at catalog prices!) plus a complete set of England's 42 Kings and Queens, and this illustrated Specialty Album. This Special Bonus will be yours to keep Free just for buying \$1 or more from our Approval Selection. You'll have hours of fun and fascination — perfect relaxation, too — matching stamps with illustrations, mounting them in their places, reading their stories of adventure, intrigue, travel and history! But even if you buy nothing, the 40 Red China Stamps and "How To Collect" booklet are yours to keep anyway!

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Be among the first to get these valuable Red China postage stamps—banned to American collectors from the very beginning by the U.S. Gov't. Now at last you can legally own them — but supplies are strictly limited so you must act fast. A great opportunity to peek through the Bamboo Curtain with these 40 fascinating, historical stamp issues. We'll also include a copy of our "How To Collect Stamps" booklet. A sensational Free Get-Acquainted offer to introduce you to Stamp Collecting — World's Most Rewarding Hobby — and selections of unusual world-wide stamps from our famous Free Examination Stamps-On-Approval Service. NO OBLIGATION TO BUY—NOW OR EVER. Cancel Service anytime. Send 10¢ today for mailing.

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KENMORE STAMP CO, MILFORD RC-471, N. HAMP. 03055
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Rush me your introductory offer! I understand that while I have to buy \$1 worth of stamps from your approval selection to keep the Illustrated Album, 110 British Empire Stamps and a complete set of England's 42 Kings & Queens as my Special Bonus — the 40 Red China Stamps and "How To Collect" booklet are mine to keep FREE. In return, I agree to examine your unusual Stamps-On-Approval Selections from which I may purchase any or none — return balance in 10 days — and can cancel service anytime. I enclose 10¢ for mailing.

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7 FEET
TALL

In Authentic Colors With
GLOW in the DARK EYES

ONLY \$1.00

TEN DAY FREE TRIAL

Honor House Dept. 86MR24
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me my 7 foot tall glow in the dark
monsters. Send me Frankenstein Boney the Skeleton

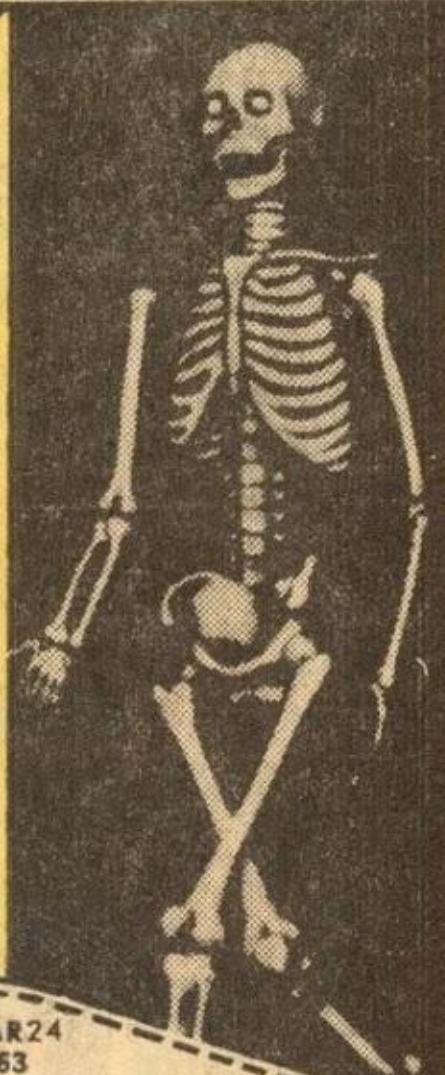
I enclose \$1 plus 35c for postage and handling for each.
If I don't get shivers of delight, I can return my pur-
chase within 10 days and you will refund the full pur-
chase price.

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Just imagine your friends shock when they walk into your room and see the "Monster" reaching out—bigger than life-Frankenstein, the original man-made monster, that creation of evil genius that terrorized the world. A giant 7 feet tall, his eyes glow eerily as his hand reaches out—as awful and sinister as the wildest nightmare. Yes—Frankenstein is 7 feet tall, in authentic colors on durable polyethylene, and so lifelike you'll probably find yourself talking to him. Won't you be surprised if he answers? Comes complete with eyes that glow even in the pitch dark for a special thrilling chill.

Boney the Skeleton. And then there is Boney—stark scary with nothing left but his bare bones. A 7 foot monster out of the grave—his bones white, his eyes staring—even glowing in the dark.

Money Back Guarantee.

Just send \$1.00 plus 35c to cover postage and handling for each mon-
ster you want. Your money back if not
satisfactorily horrified.

REALLY? THEN HOW COME IT'S THE SAME-WORD-FOR-WORD--AS IN THIS BOOK ON THE SUBJECT--PUBLISHED IN HONG KONG IN 1958?

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY YOU COULD HAVE GOTTEN THE INFORMATION...

...BY COPYING YOUR PAPER DIRECTLY FROM THIS BOOK AFTER "BORROWING" IT FROM MY PERSONAL LIBRARY!

B-BUT I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING LIKE THAT, PROFESSOR RAYMOND!

AFTER A LESS-THAN-COMFORTABLE HOUR IN THE CROWDED CLASSROOM...

LUKE-- HOW ABOUT GIVING A FLAT-FOOTED FELLOW STUDENT A LIFT TO HIS BOARDING HOUSE?

SURE, DICK
--HOP IN!

NO MORE ARGUMENTS, GRAHAM! I BOUGHT THIS COPY WHEN I WAS IN ASIA, AND IT'S NEVER BEEN AVAILABLE IN THIS COUNTRY!

I THINK I'D DO WELL TO TALK TO LUKE ABOUT THIS REPORT HE GOT THROWN BACK AT HIM!

...AND LUKE DOES TALK...

YOU KNOW WHAT A WEIRD MEMORY I'VE GOT, DICK... HOW SOMETIMES I CAN REMEMBER THINGS FROM WAY BACK...

...AND OTHER TIMES, CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME!

"LIKE ONE DAY JUST LAST WEEK-END..."

--BUT IT'S AFTER ELEVEN! I'M LATE FOR MY CLASS IN--

THERE AIN'T NO CLASSES HERE TODAY, SONNY!--IT'S SUNDAY!

"...AND THEN LAST WINTER, WHEN STARLY'S CAR WENT INTO A SKID ON THE SNOWY TURNPIKE AND NO ONE KNEW HOW TO GET OUT OF IT BEFORE WE GOT HIT BY ANOTHER CAR..."

"IF YOU START TO SKID, DO NOT BRAKE OR ABRUPTLY DECELERATE. STEER GENTLY INTO THE SKID. AS YOU RE-COVER CONTROL, GENTLY STRAIGHTEN THE WHEELS..."

OH, WOW... LUKE'S QUOTING WORD-FOR-WORD FROM A DRIVER'S MANUAL HE READ THREE YEARS AGO! WHAT A PHENOMENAL MEMORY!

IT IS?
OH, I FORGOT...

HMM... SEEMS LUKE'S MEMORY WORKS BEST UNDER STRESS!

WHICH MEANS THERE'S AN OUTSIDE CHANCE IT COULD HELP ME TRACK DOWN THOSE RACEWAY ROBBERS!

THAT NIGHT, A FURTIVE, NIGHT-BLANKETED FORM JIMMIES OPEN A DORMITORY WINDOW AND...

I HATE SNEAKING INTO LUKE'S ROOM LIKE THIS, BUT IF DICK GRAYSON ASKED HIM THESE QUESTIONS, MY SECRET I.D. WOULD BE SUSPECT...

BESIDES, I DON'T WANT TO KNOW ANYTHING LUKE'S CONSCIOUS MIND WOULD REMEMBER!

I'M TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT LUKE COULD SLEEP THROUGH THE END OF THE WORLD!

EARTHQUAKE!-- EARTHQUAKE!!

THE BUILDING'S FALLING IN!

UNPFF! LEMME SLEEP... TELL THE EARTHQUAKE TO GO 'WAY!

OH, LUKE-- SOMETHING HIT YOU ON THE HEAD...

JUST LIKE YOU GOT HIT ON THE HEAD LAST NIGHT...

...REMEMBER?

HIT ON HEAD... YEAH--AT RACE-WAY!

TAXI! COULD YOU DRIVE ME...

...BACK TO HUDSON UNIVERSITY?

SURE, KID!

HEY, THAT'S MY CAB...

415 SOUTH STREET... NEW CARTHAGE...

...THAT'S WHEN I GOT HIT ON THE HEAD...

SAYY!-- MY REPORT PAPER-- I DIDN'T PLAGIARIZE IT! I GOT IT FROM...

NEXT MORNING, A DOOR-BELL'S RING BREAKS THE QUIET IN THE HOUSE AT 415 SOUTH STREET...

GOOD MORNING, SIR! I'M WORKING MY WAY THROUGH COLLEGE SELLING STARBURST VACUUM CLEANERS AND --

BEAT IT, KID! I NEVER TOUCH THE STUFF!

IF YOU WILL ONLY GIVE ME A MINUTE TO DEMONSTRATE--

UH, MAY I SEE THE LADY OF THE HOUSE..?

JUST ME AN' TWO OTHER GUYS LIVE HERE! WE'RE BORROWIN' THE HOUSE FOR A FEW DAYS--HEY! GET YOUR FOOT OUTA THE DOOR!

YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG FOR A KID.. LISTEN, WHYN'TCHA GO HOME?

NOT BEFORE I DEMONSTRATE STARBURST'S AMAZING SUCTION ACTION, SIR!

THESE COULD BE THE THREE I'M AFTER-- BUT I'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE!

YA DUMMY, WHADDYA DOING?!

ALL RIGHT, PUNK--THAT'S ENOUGH!

VERY WELL, GENTLEMEN-- I CAN TAKE A HINT!

BUT COULD I PLEASE CALL MY MOTHER FOR A RIDE HOME?

I DON'T CARE IF YOU GOTTA CALL THE GOVERNOR!

AWW...LET THE POOR KID CALL HIS OLD LADY!

AS THE YOUNG SALESMAN IS ALLOWED TO DIAL HIS NUMBER...

HELLO, SERGEANT GALLAGHER ... THIS IS ROBIN...

I'VE FOUND THE TRIO WHO PULLED THE RACE-TRACK ROBBERY AND MURDERED THE CABBY!

SEND A SQUAD CAR TO 415 SOUTH STREET...

I'M REALLY GLAD TO SEE YOU GUYS...

URFPH!

...DECIDED TO RUSH IN ON ME LIKE THIS!

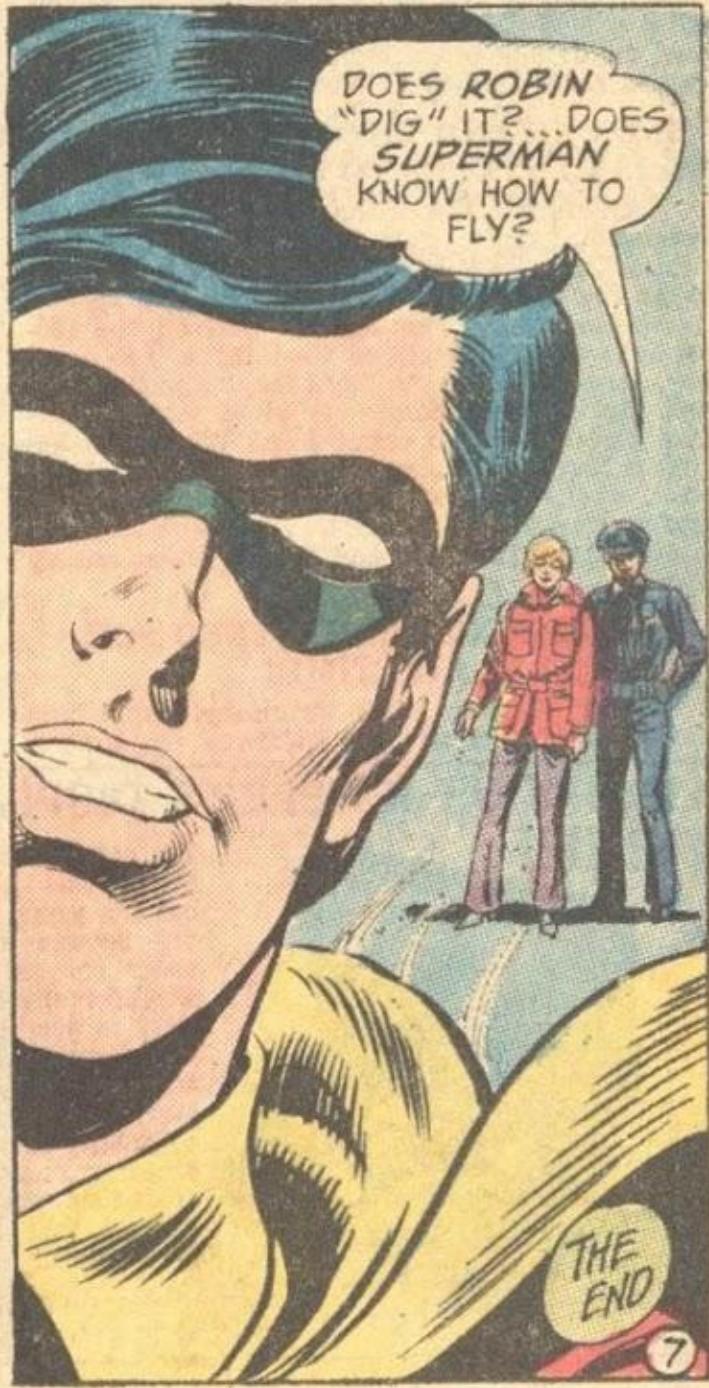
MEANS YOU ARE THE TRIO I'M LOOKING FOR...

...BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO WAKE UP IN A CELL!

AND I DON'T HAVE TO WAIT AROUND FOR THE POLICE TO SHOW...

LATER,
AT A
POLICE
LINEUP...

THAT'S THEM, DEFINITELY--THE
FIRST, FOURTH AND FIFTH!



GUARANTEED!

Triple your money in less than 30 days...or get your money back

THAT'S RIGHT! Now there's a *guaranteed-safe* way for you to TRIPLE your money in 30 days or less... without risking one red cent! You can start small or start large... watch a \$50.00 investment grow to \$150.00, or watch \$500.00 grow to \$1,500.00 — all within a month! Or, if you wish, you can start with no investment whatsoever, and still enjoy the same fantastic 200% profits that have made the spare time of others worth as much as \$25.00... \$50.00... yes, even as much as \$100.00 per hour!

These highest-ever profits are waiting for you to collect them right now, just as soon as you start to show Merlite Rings to your friends, neighbors, people at work! And we do mean show — you don't have to sell these remarkable rings, because they literally sell themselves, and sell themselves FAST, on sight! You don't need a "sales pitch," you don't need to knock on doors, you don't need to do any hard work at all! Just SHOW Merlite Rings to folks you know... and watch your money TRIPLE before your very eyes! WE GUARANTEE IT.

STUNNING MAN-MADE STONES THAT RIVAL NATURE'S OWN!

Merlite Rings feature a variety of genuine and simulated stones, including the DIA-SIM®, the fabulous "look-alike" that only a jeweler can distinguish from a natural diamond. Like a diamond, the DIA-SIM® is hard enough to scratch glass... yet it's *guaranteed* never to break, chip, or discolor. To bring out all their fiery beauty, we set them in exquisite 10K gold-filled, 18K heavy gold electroplated, and sterling silver mountings. The result: rings which look like they should sell for hundreds, even THOUSANDS of dollars... but which you can offer to your customers for only \$6.00 to \$39.00 each! And remember... every ring they buy from you puts a whopping 200% profit in your pocket! Sell a \$15.00 ring, and pocket \$10.00. Sell a \$39.00 ring, and pocket \$26.00. Sell three, four, five rings in an hour, and you're on your way to Easy Street!

DOZENS AND DOZENS OF FAST-SELLING STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

The Merlite Collection includes over 100 of irresistible styles for men, for women, for children, for EVERYBODY! What's more, new styles are constantly being added, plus special promotions to let you cash in BIG on the tremendous buying sprees at Christmas, Valentine Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day. What's more, each Merlite Ring comes complete with a beautiful gift box at no extra cost! When you become a Merlite Jewelry Dealer, every day of the week, every day of the year means profits, profits, and MORE profits... profits so huge, so effortless, that you can forget about money worries.

EVERY RING GUARANTEED FOR A LIFETIME!

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MERLITE INDUSTRIES, INC. DEPT. 231
114 EAST 32ND STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

Under the terms of this Guarantee, the ring may be returned to Merlite Industries at any time, in any condition, and for a service fee of just \$3.00, we will repair it or replace it with a brand-new ring, and return it promptly to the owner. *This sales-clinching Guarantee even applies to rings with missing stones!*

SAME-DAY DELIVERY! FREE DROP-SHIP SERVICE!

What's more, you and your customers won't have to wait for delivery on Merlite Rings! Your orders are processed the same day we receive them, so that shipments are speeding back to you within 24 hours or less. And as an extra FREE service to you, we'll even drop-ship rings directly to your customers, so that YOU don't have to spend your valuable time making deliveries!

YOUR CHOICE OF TWO NO-RISK MONEY-MAKING PLANS!

As a Merlite Jewelry Dealer, there are TWO ways for you to make the most fantastic profits of your life. If you wish you can start without investing one penny in inventory: simply show our gorgeous 44-page, full-color Customer Presentation Catalogue to your customers, collect your money, and forward the orders to us for immediate delivery. Or start with a *protected* inventory of Merlite Rings and make money even faster by offering on-the-spot delivery. If you do decide to start with inventory, you won't be risking a penny: regardless of the size of your first order, we GUARANTEE that you'll sell out quickly and easily within the first 30 days. If not, Merlite Industries will buy back any unsold rings for every penny you paid for them. And under either plan, you make a full 200% profit on each and every sale!

SEND NO MONEY — BUT MAIL COUPON TODAY!

Regardless of which plan you decide to start with, the most important thing is to get started NOW! Just take a moment to fill in and mail the coupon below. By return mail we'll rush you EVERYTHING you need to start making big, easy money next week: the lavish 44-page Customer Presentation Catalogue, an accurate ring-sizer, wholesale order forms, plus full details of our fantastic TRIPLE-YOUR-MONEY Profit Offer. It's all FREE, there's no obligation, and nobody will call on you. Don't miss out on the biggest Profit Bonanza of a lifetime — mail the coupon TODAY!

MERLITE INDUSTRIES, INC. DEPT. 231

114 East 32nd Street • New York, N.Y. 10016

I'm ready for TRIPLE PROFITS with Merlite Rings! By return mail, rush me everything I need to start cashing in at once, including the lavish full-color Customer's Presentation Catalogue! I understand that everything is FREE and without any obligation on my part!

MR. MRS. MISS

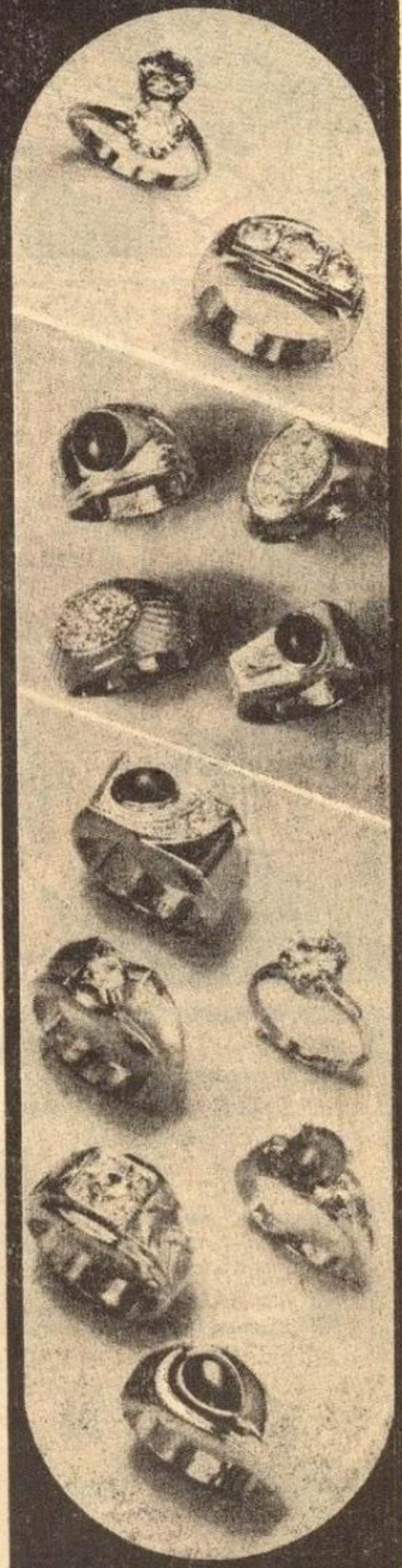
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BATMAN ODDITIES!



THE JOKER
IS THE ONLY MAJOR BATMAN
VILLAIN WHOSE REAL NAME
HAS NEVER BEEN REVEALED!

HE HAS USED MANY ALIASES, BUT
NEVER HIS TRUE NAME!

THE JOKER AS HE
FIRST APPEARED IN
BATMAN #1, SPRING,
1940



IN THE EARLY BATMAN
STORIES, HIS HOME BASE
WAS ESTABLISHED AS
NEW YORK!

THROUGH THE DARK OF A
NEW YORK NIGHT...



ACTUALLY, THE NAME OF
GOTHAM CITY WAS
FIRST USED IN DETECTIVE
#48; FEB., 1941!

TWO NIGHTS LATER... GOTHAM
CITY... IN A PRIVATE OFFICE
OF THE TOP HAT CLUB...

LISTEN,
RENALOO....
THIS CLUB
OF YOURS
AIN'T DOING
SO HOT. NOW,
HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE A CHANCE
TO MAKE
SOME DOUGH—
BIG DOUGH?

YOU
INTEREST
ME
STRANGELY,
NICK....
KEEP
TALKING!



THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, THE
BATMAN, AND DICK GRAYSON,
WHO IS IN REALITY ROBIN, THE
BOY WONDER...



IN ONE STORY (DETECTIVE
#41; JULY, 1940), BOTH
BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK
GRAYSON HAD BROWN HAIR!
(EXCEPT ON PAGE ONE,
WHERE ROBIN'S HAIR
WAS BLUE-BLACK!)

THIS SAME ISSUE WAS
THE FIRST IN WHICH THE
HEROES USED THEIR
BELT-RADOS! NOTE
THE ODD RECEIVER ON
THE BATMAN'S BELT-
BUCKLE!

THE BATMAN IS INFORMED
OF ALL THAT HAS TRANSPRIED!



NICE GOING, ROBIN! AND NOW THAT WE'VE COVERED OUR ADVENTURES OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY...WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW? WHAT DOES THE FANTASTIC FUTURE HOLD?

THAT'S FOR ME TO TELL, SIR! AFTER ALL, THIS GLIMPSE AT WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN TO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IS MY STORY... TOLD IN MY OWN WORDS...

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!





THE SON OF THE JOKER

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

I, ALFRED, AM 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!



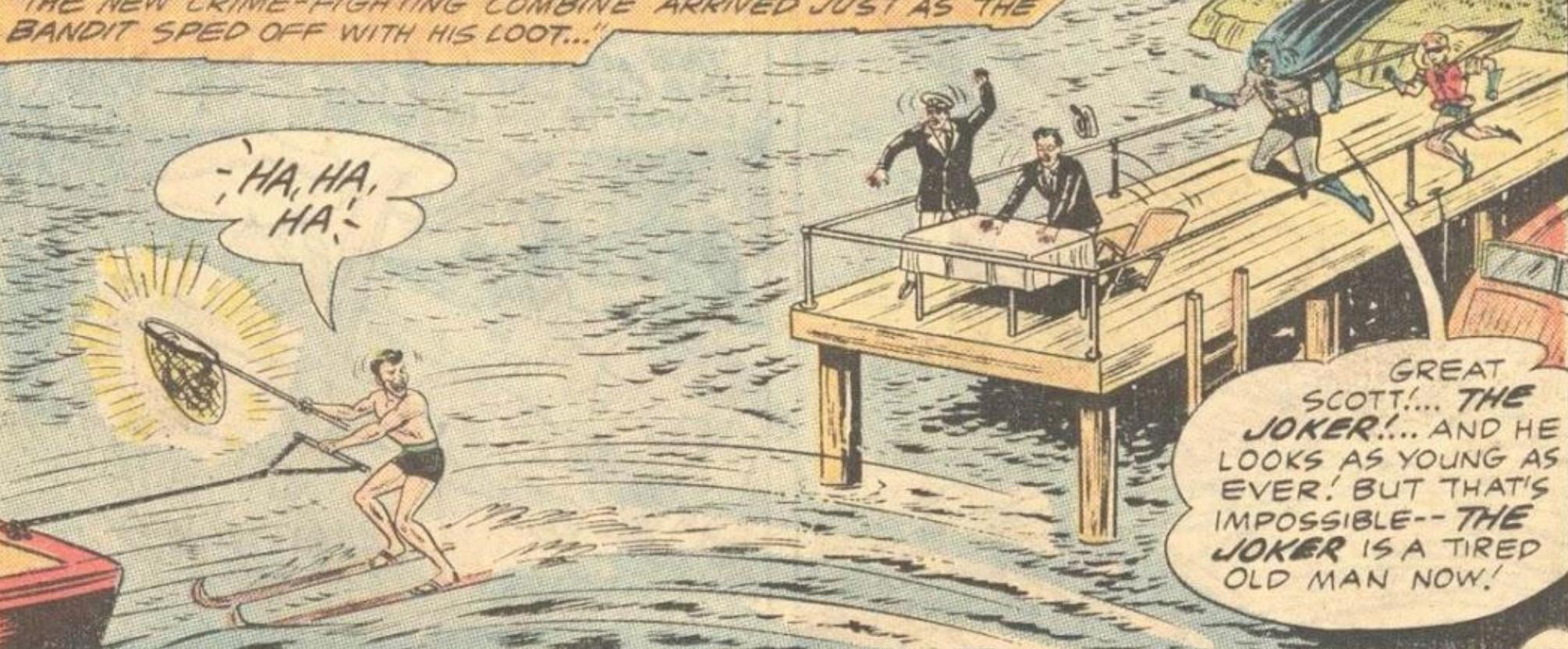
"AT THE JUDGES' PLATFORM, BEFORE THE RACE STARTED, A MOTORBOAT SUDDENLY FLASHED OUT FROM BENEATH THE PIER, AND..."

I'VE JUST DECLARED MYSELF THE VICTOR. ;HA, HA, 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!

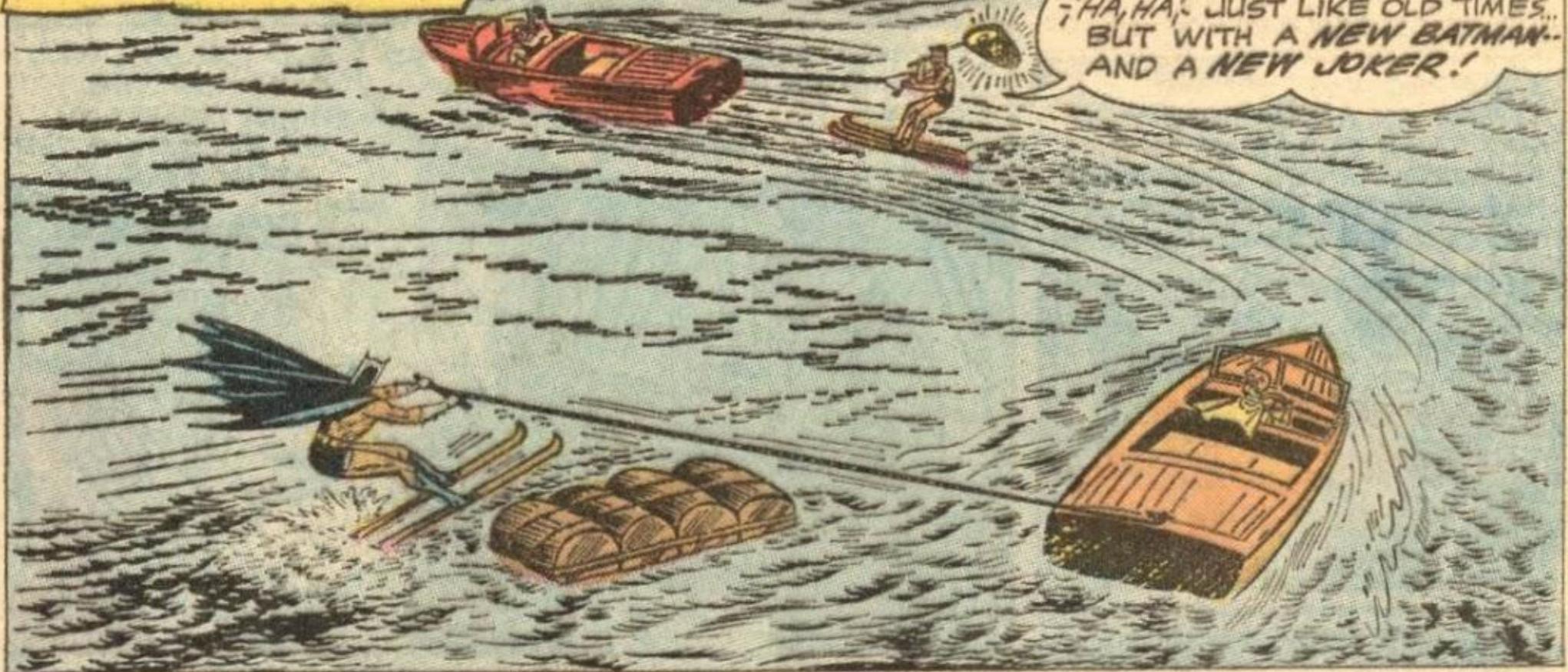


GREAT SCOTT!... THE JOKER!... AND HE LOOKS AS YOUNG AS EVER! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE--THE JOKER IS A TIRED OLD MAN NOW!

BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

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

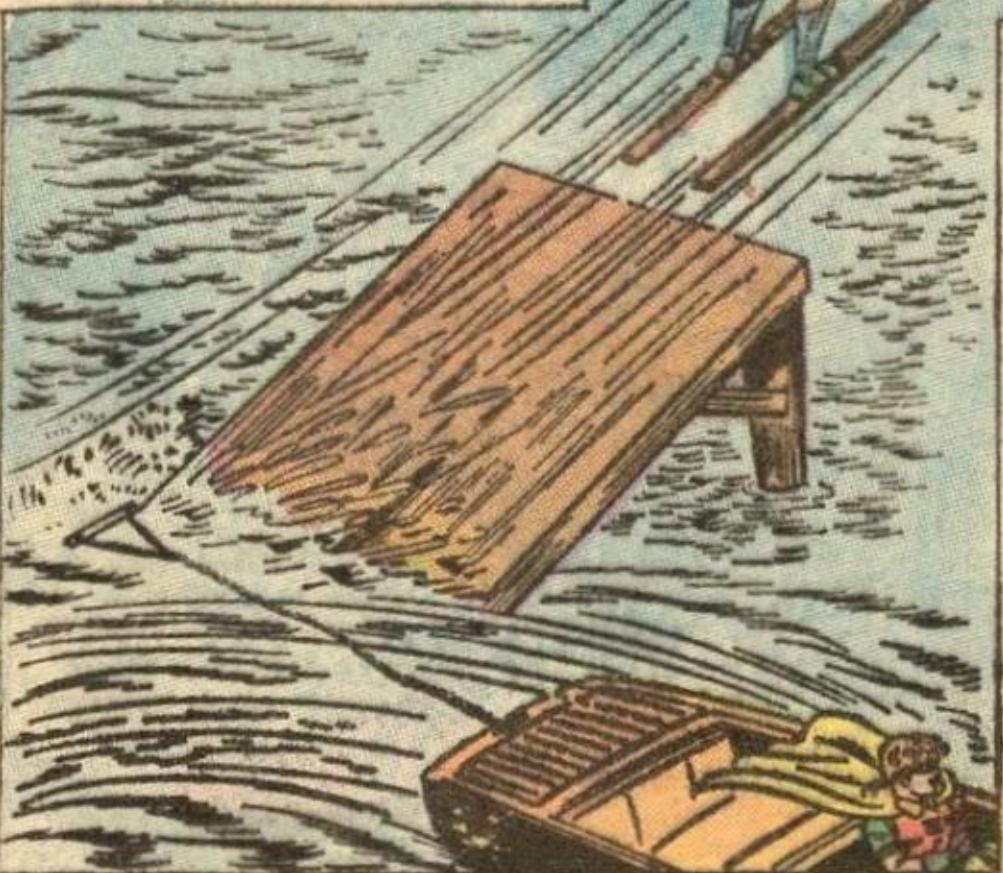
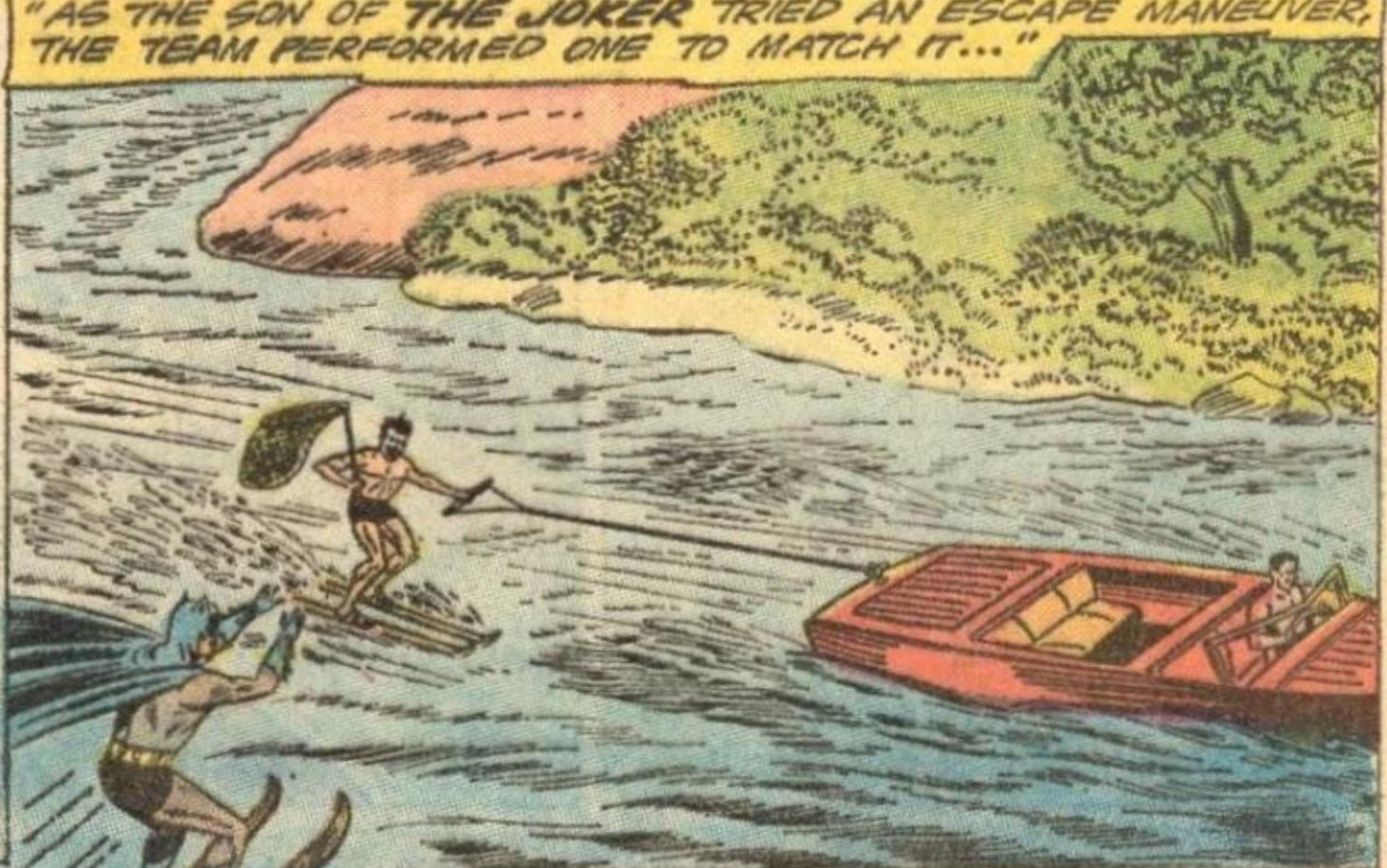
"HA, HA!, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES... BUT WITH A NEW BATMAN-- AND A NEW JOKER!"



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..."



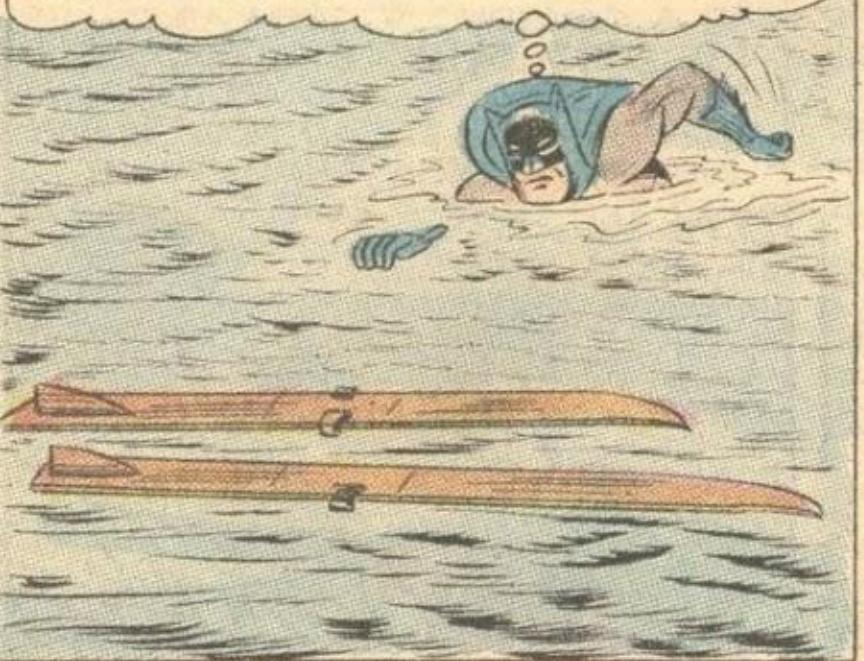
THE JOKER'S SON, EH? WELL, YOU'RE
ONE CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK THAT'S
GOING TO BE BLOCKED!



THE SON OF THE JOKER

"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 DROVE 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 SUPER-SPECTACULAR



"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!"



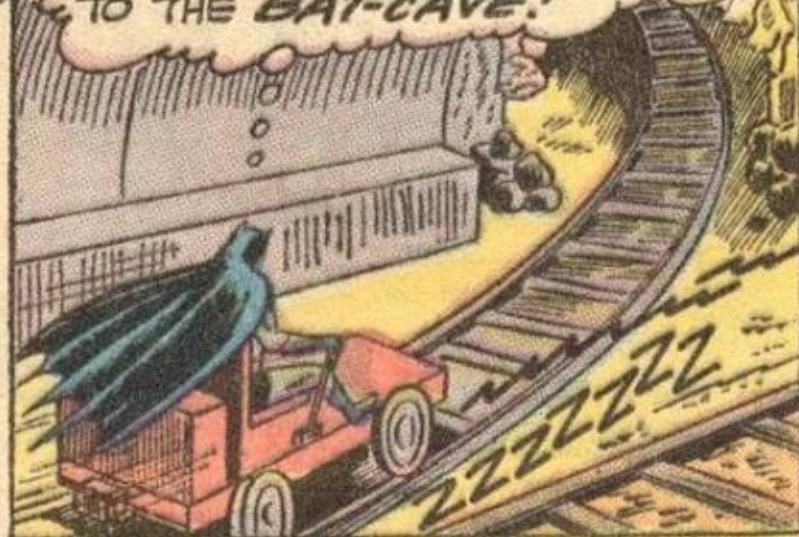
"THE NEXT NIGHT, IN A BROWN-STONE WHERE DICK GRAYSON NOW LIVED ALONE, HE LIFTED A SECRET TRAPDOOR..."

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..."

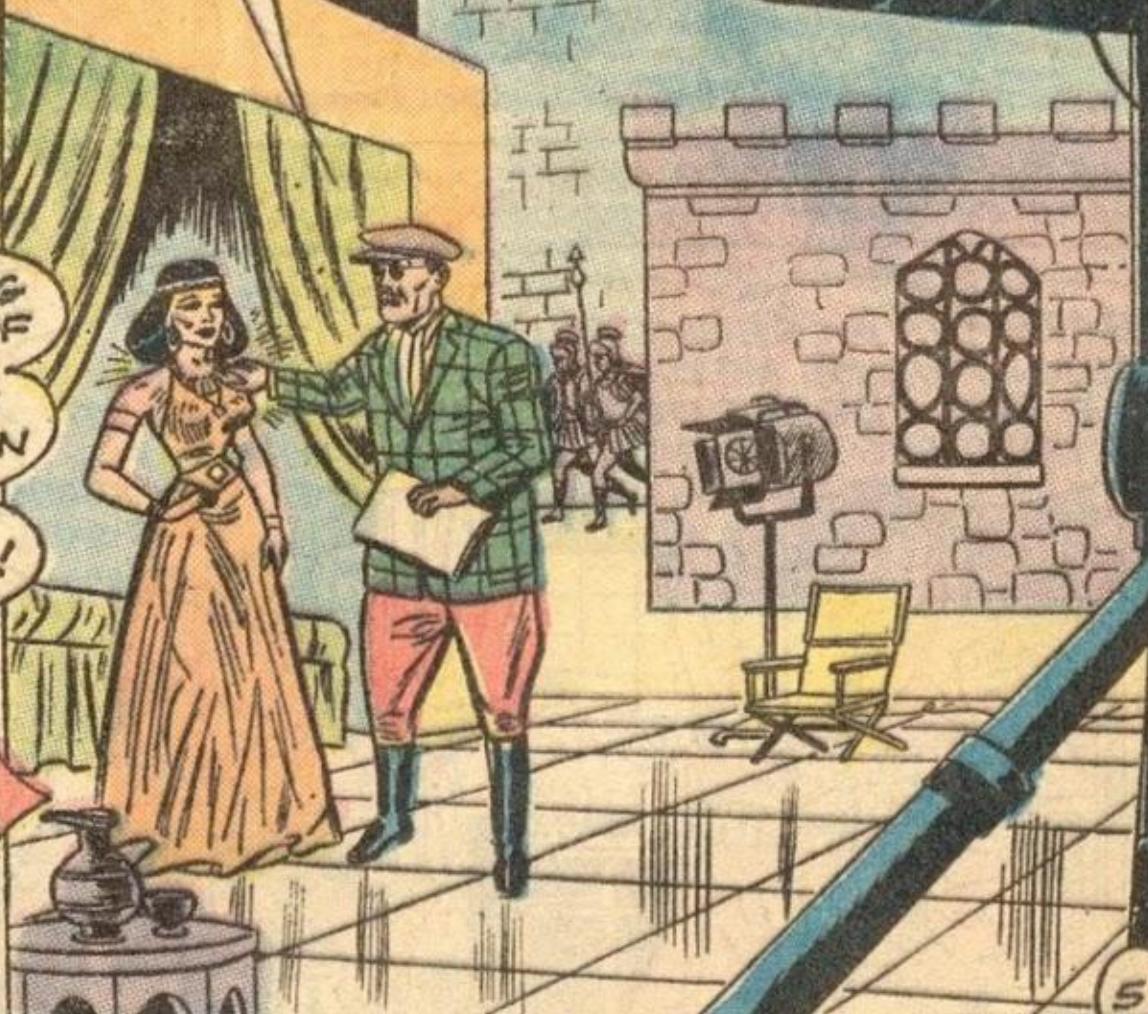
REMEMBER, THIS IS THE ACTUAL NECKLACE WORN BY AN EARLY ROMAN QUEEN! IT'S PRICELESS--WE HAD TO BORROW IT FROM A MUSEUM... BUT WE GOT A LOT OF PUBLICITY WITH IT!



"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!



THE SON OF THE JOKER

"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!



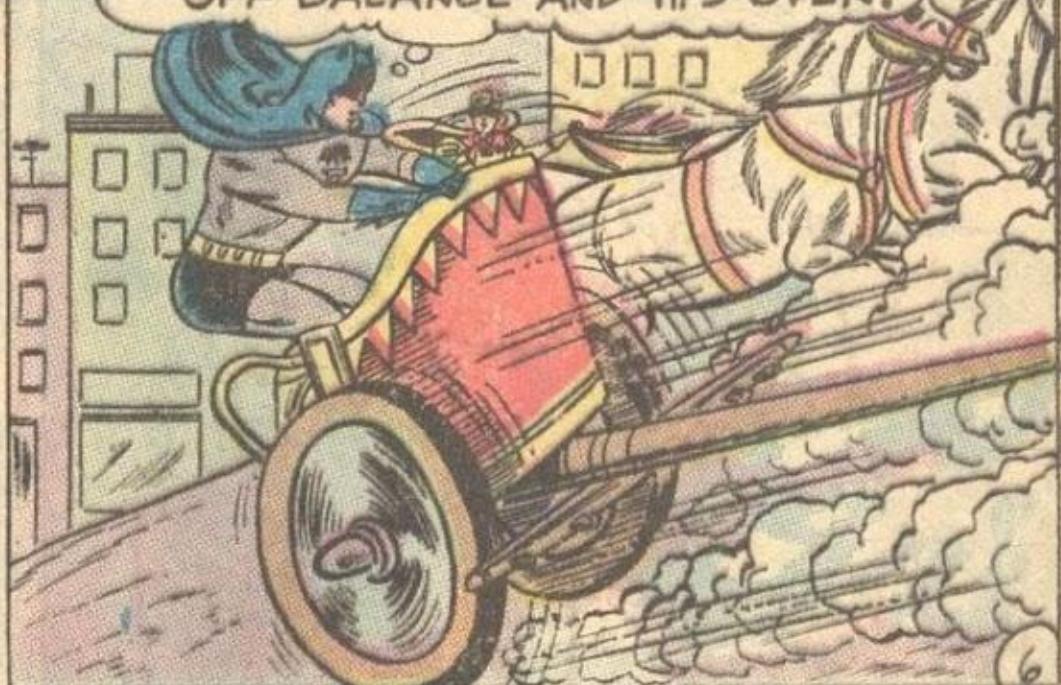
BATMAN, HE MAY BE BLUFFING--TO STALL US OFF!

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 SUPER-SPECTACULAR



"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!

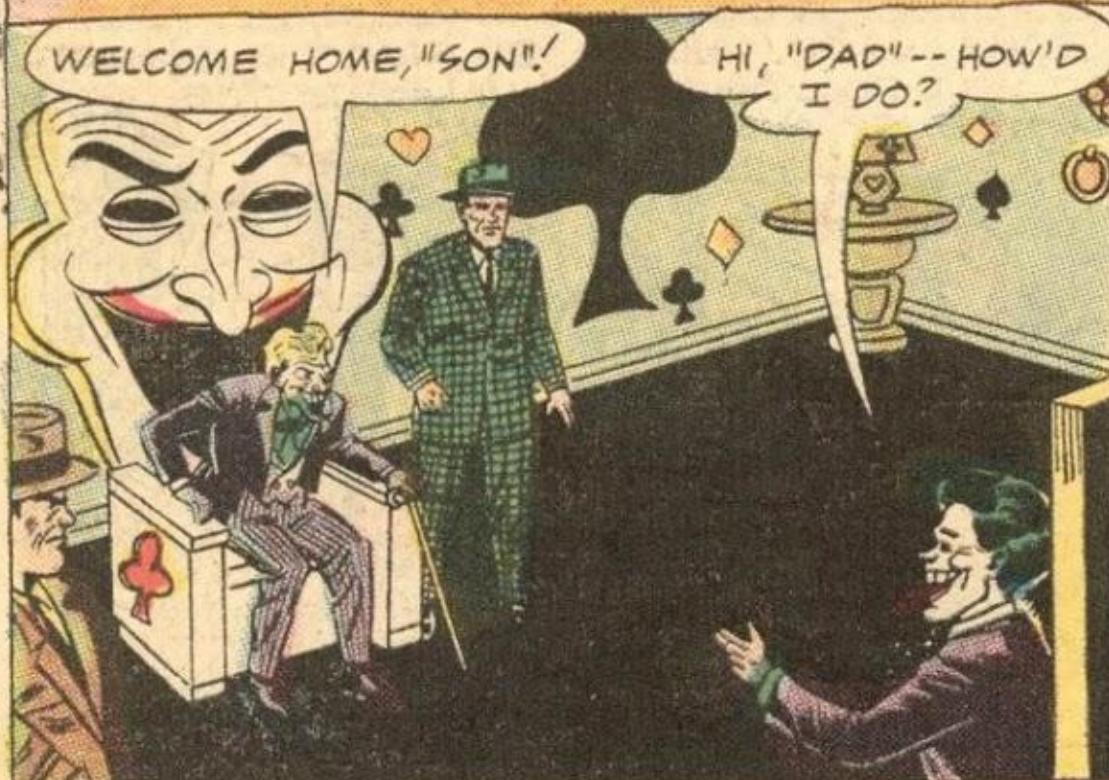
SYCAMORE DRIVE? THAT'S WHERE THE FIRST JOKER HAS HIS HOUSE!



"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 PROTÉGÉ, 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?



THE SON OF THE JOKER

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...”

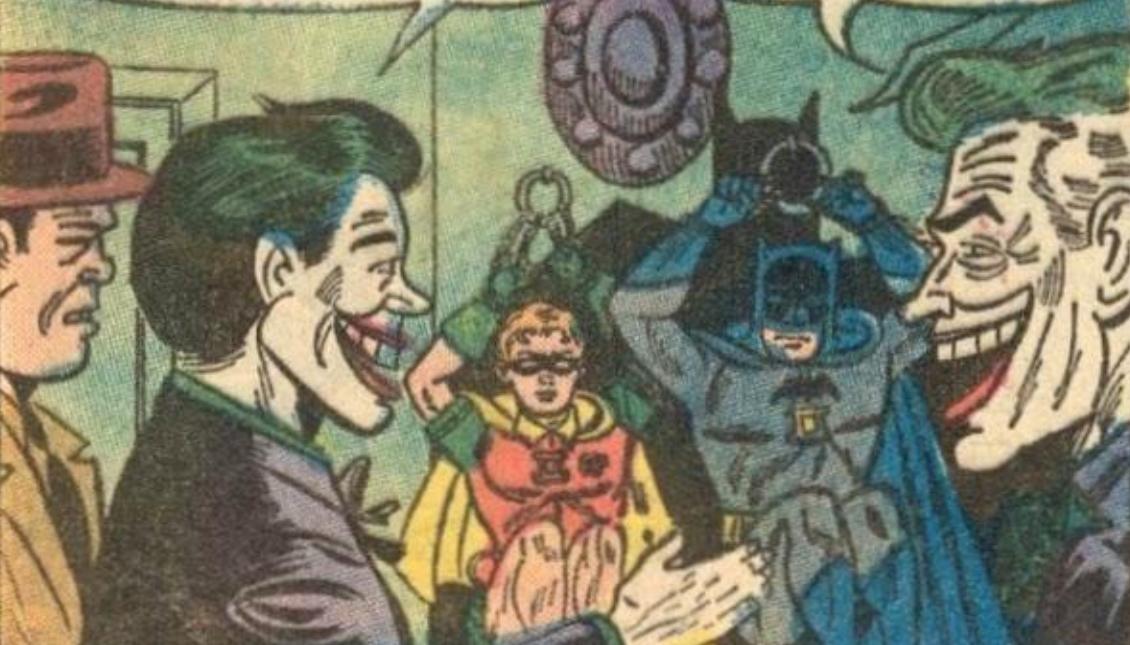
“FEELING AROUND THE SOIL, BATMAN SOON DISCOVERED THE ANSWER...”



“MEANWHILE...”

WELL, “POP”—THE TAR TRICK YOU TAUGHT ME LED THEM HERE, JUST AS YOU SAID IT WOULD!

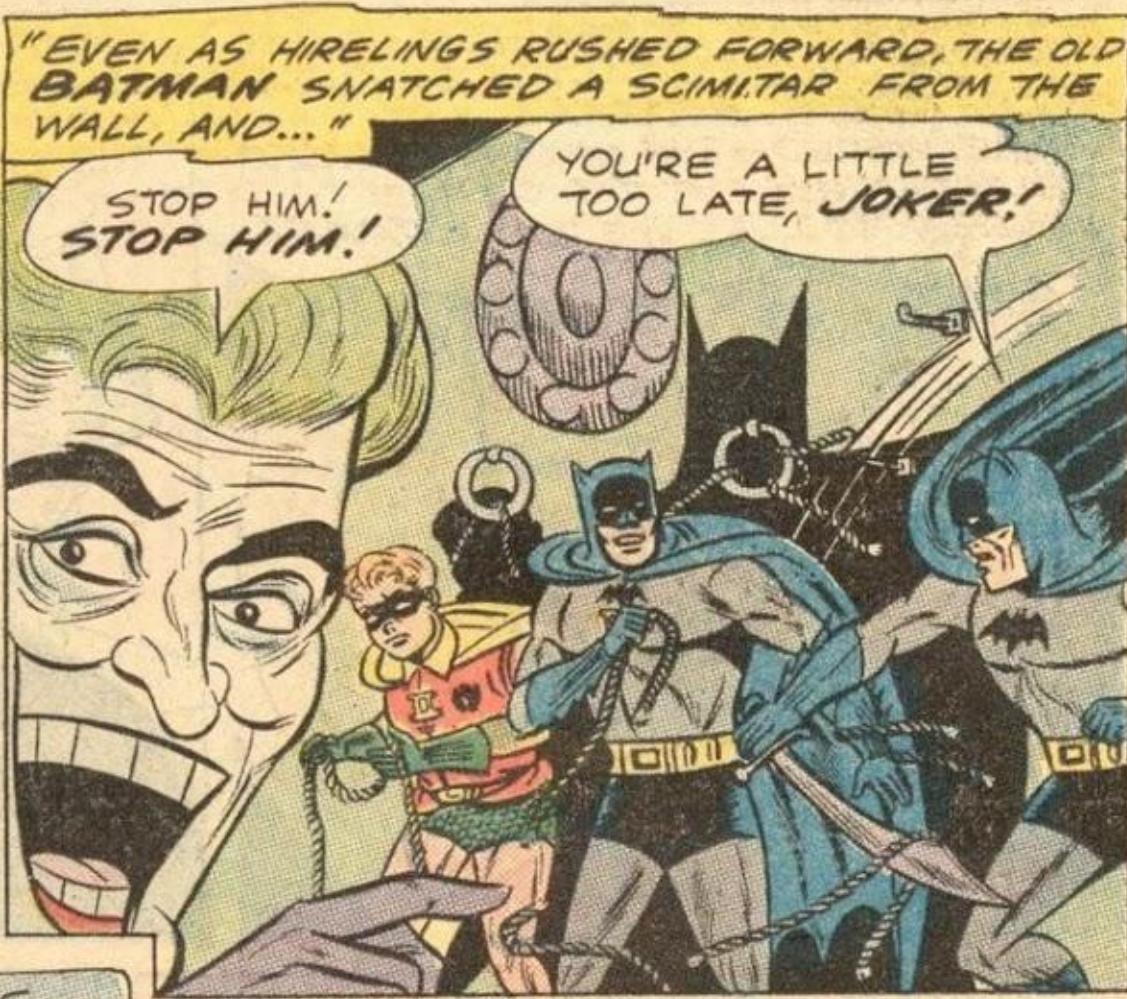
YES, “SON”—AND KNOCKOUT GAS BOMBS GOT THEM QUICKLY, THE MINUTE THEY ENTERED THE HOUSE... HA, HA!



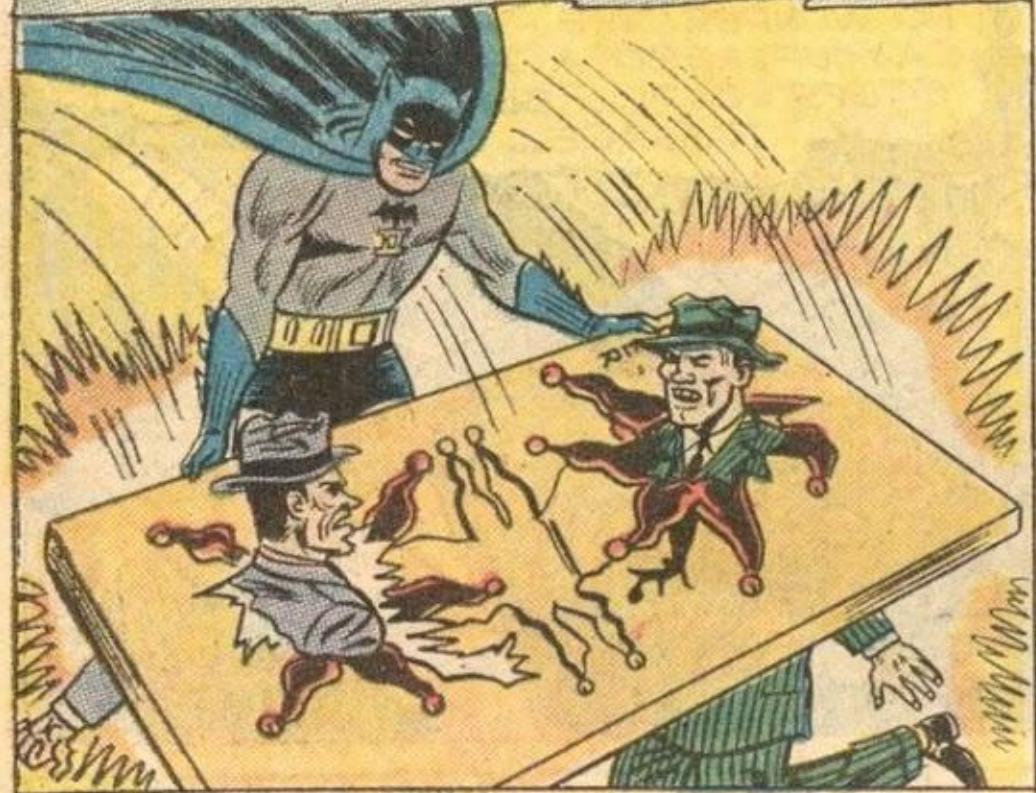
NOW, AT LONG LAST, I'M GOING TO FULFILL MY DREAM--TO UNMASK BATMAN! ONCE I KNOW BATMAN II'S IDENTITY--THEN I'LL ALSO KNOW THE SECRET IDENTITY OF BATMAN I!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



"NEXT INSTANT, THREE GENERATIONS OF CRIME-FIGHTERS UNITED TO COMBAT THE ENEMIES OF LAW AND ORDER!"



"BUT AS BATMAN SEIZED HIS PRISONER..."

OH-OH... THE JOKER'S "SON" HAS DICK AT HIS MERCY-- UNLESS MY SON CAN HANDLE HIM!

"AND, IRONICALLY, IT WAS BATMAN'S SON WHO OVERCAME THE JOKER'S 'SON'--TO THE SATISFACTION OF HIS PROUD FATHER!"

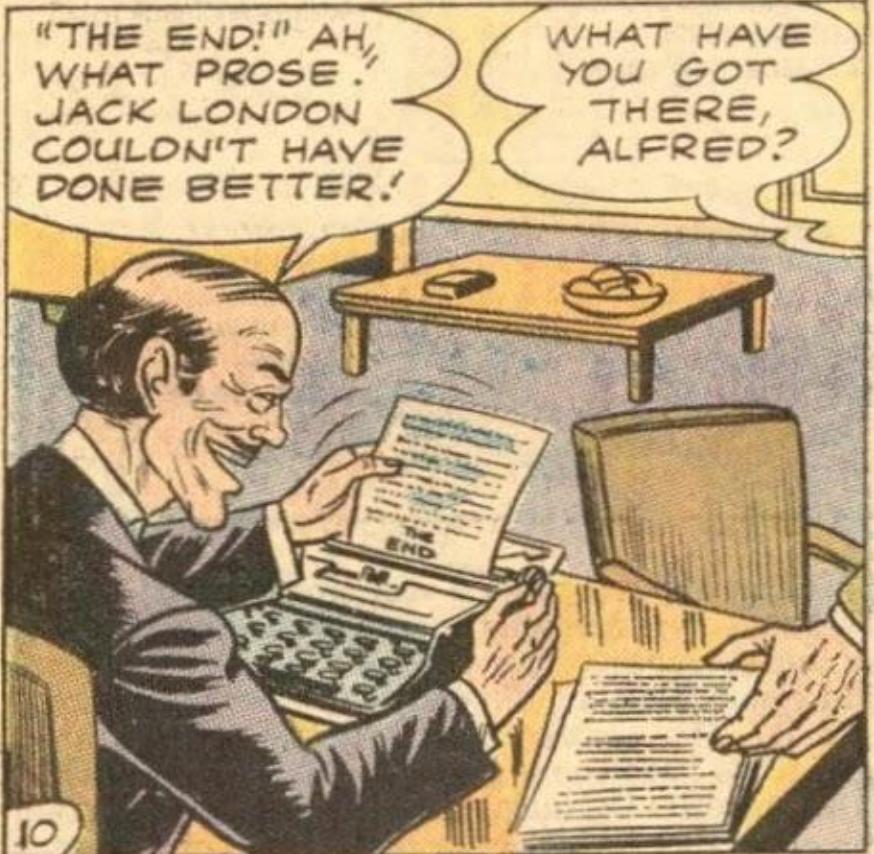
WELL, JOKER-- IT SEEMS YOUR COMEBACK GOT A COMEDOWN!

THAT FOOL! HE'S NOT WORTHY OF MY FAMOUS NAME! BAH!



"THE END!" AH, WHAT PROSE. JACK LONDON COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER!

WHAT HAVE YOU GOT THERE, ALFRED?



I'VE JUST WRITTEN ANOTHER IMAGINARY ADVENTURE OF THE FUTURE! NATURALLY, ONLY YOU AND MASTER DICK CAN READ IT--BUT I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY IT, MASTER BRUCE!

I HOPE SO... I KNOW YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT YOUR READERS!



DC TAKES A GIANT STEP IN '74!

"THE DAY SHAZAM WENT APE!"

ON SALE OCT. 18TH



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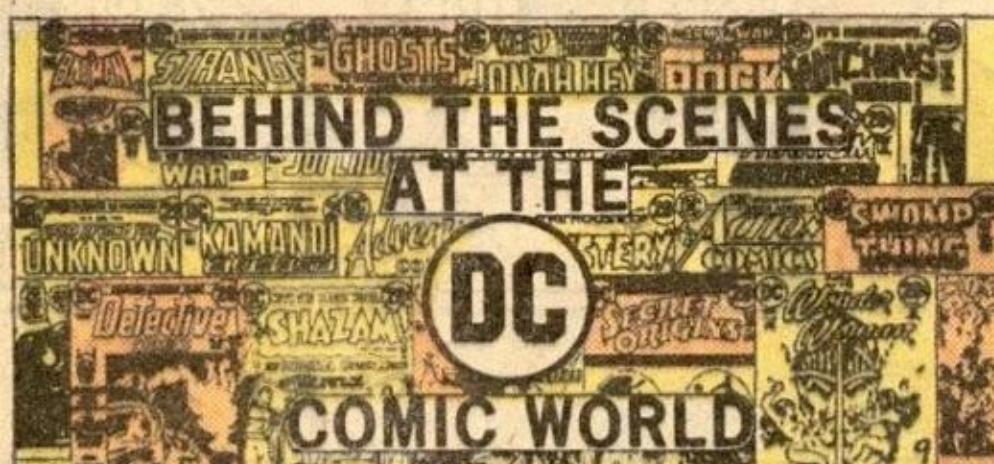
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ALLOW 10 WEEKS FOR FIRST DELIVERY!



HERE COMES THE COMICS-MAN!

Have you ever had trouble finding a store that carries DC Comics magazines? Have you ever had a hard time locating a particular issue that just didn't seem to go on sale anywhere? Then, it's time you heard about DC's latest and greatest project, the COMICMOBILE!

Over the past two years, DC's Vice-President and Production Manager, Sol Harrison, has received hundreds of letters from readers who have had difficulty in locating the DC line of comics. One answer to the problem appeared to be subscriptions, and all DC mags began carrying the proper form offering fifteen issues for \$3.00. Realizing that few readers could afford to subscribe to all the titles they collect at once, Mr. Harrison developed the totally unique concept of the COMICMOBILE with the blessing of Carmine Infantino, the publisher of DC, and it was all systems go!

Picture, if you will, a brightly decorated van, covered with all the heroes and heroines comprising the DC line of super-stars. With a blaring "Here Comes the Comics-Man!" wrapped around the Supervan, and with covers of the latest issues filling the windows, the project that in jest had been known as Solly's Folly around the office began taking our comic magazines right to neighborhood

SUPER-HEROES

- 1 ACTION
- 2 ADVENTURE
- 3 JIMMY OLSEN
- 4 LOIS LANE
- 5 SUPERBOY
- 6 SUPERMAN
- 7 WORLD'S FINEST
- 9 SHAZAM
- 11 THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD
- 14 THE FLASH
- 16 JUSTICE LEAGUE
- 17 MISTER MIRACLE
- 20 WONDER WOMAN
- 21 SUPERGIRL
- 22 SECRET ORIGINS

MYSTERY

- 30 GHOSTS
- 31 HOUSE OF MYSTERY
- 32 HOUSE OF SECRETS
- 33 PHANTOM STRANGER
- 34 THE UNEXPECTED
- 35 THE WITCHING HOUR
- 37 SWAMP THING
- 40 FORBIDDEN TALES OF DARK MANSION
- 41 SECRETS OF SINISTER HOUSE
- 42 WEIRD MYSTERY TALES
- 43 THE SHADOW
- 70 WEIRD WESTERN TALES

WAR

ADVENTURE

- 75 TARZAN
- 76 KORAK
- 77 WEIRD WORLDS
- 78 KAMANDI

- 60 G.I. COMBAT
- 61 OUR ARMY AT WAR
- 62 OUR FIGHTING FORCES
- 63 STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES
- 64 WEIRD WAR TALES

streets and appears to be a stunning success.

Test sites were carefully chosen in the Long Island and New Jersey areas where comics were not distributed. Could comic books be brought to the people the way ice cream is? The answer is yes! Readers from three to ninety-three kept coming back to the COMICMOBILE for their favorite DC magazines, every one from Action to Young Romance, every character from Atom to Zatanna.

Inside, the van is decorated with posters of Batman, Robin, Superman and Plop!, the number one selling comic book so far in the Comicmobile's journeys. Original artwork and pictures of Superman line the interior along with giant buttons proclaiming "Shazam Is Coming!"

While stopping at day camps, parks, beaches and the New York Giants Summer training camp, the COMICMOBILE has run Superman cartoons to entertain its customers in between purchases of comics. T-shirts, pennants and souvenirs from the Amazing World of Superman in Metropolis, Illinois.

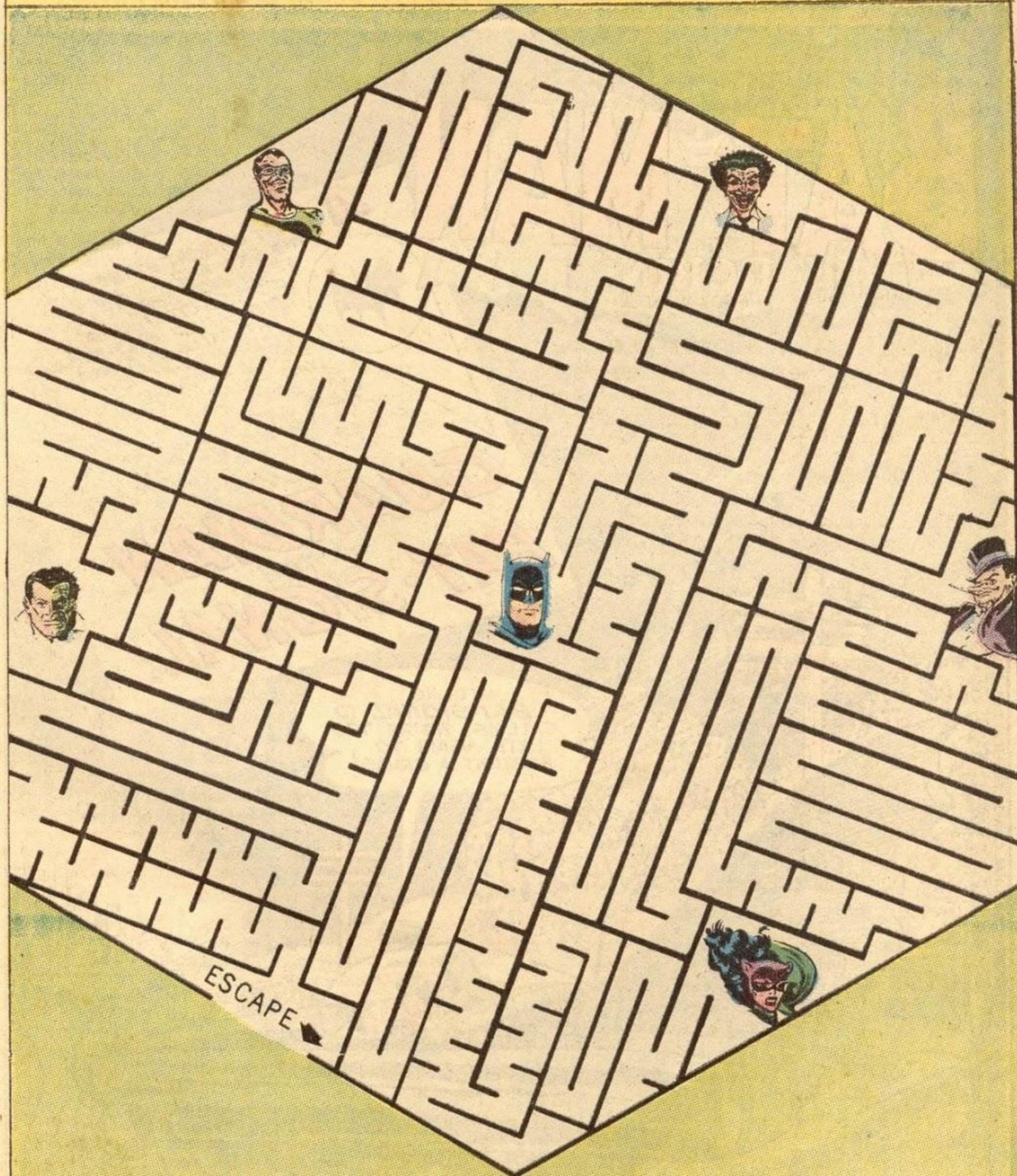
Messrs. Harrison and Infantino may well revolutionize comic magazine distribution with their possible plans of beginning a fleet of COMICMOBILES all around the country. Not only can we at DC tell which of our mags the readers are buying, but we can also see just who is reading them and get direct feedback from these fans. Our ultimate goal is to make sure that every adult and child who wants comic magazines can find them. Yet, while we send out our COMICMOBILES to a few cities we want to help our readers anywhere who have problems finding our comics. If your area is not getting comic books or if you can't locate all the titles you want, send a letter describing the trouble spot to: The DC COMICMOBILE, c/o Sol Harrison, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019.

Meanwhile, keep your ears open for a ringing bell and the words "Faster than a speeding bullet . . ." echoing down your street. The DC COMICMOBILE may be coming to your neighborhood next!

BAT-MAZE

P-19

by BOB ROZAKIS



Five of the Batman's most dangerous foes, the Joker, the Penguin, the Riddler, Catwoman, and Two-Face, have teamed up and captured the Caped Crusader. Now they have him imprisoned in a maze and each of them waits in his own private trap, hoping that the Gotham Goliath will stumble into it.

However, the villains admire the Batman's great detective ability and have left one escape route from the building. Can you help the Masked Manhunter find it without getting trapped by one of the villains?

(SEE SOLUTION NEXT ISSUE!)

THANKS, ALFRED! YOU SPIN A GOOD YARN! BUT NOW, LET'S WIND UP THIS ISSUE WITH A SPECIAL STORY ABOUT A VERY SPECIAL PERSON IN THE LIVES OF ROBIN AND MYSELF! READ IT... I THINK YOU'LL ENJOY THIS, ONE IN A SPECIAL WAY...

BAT-MAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

A

SHAFT OF LIGHT STABS INTO THE SKY, AND A GRIM AND EERIE SIGN APPEARS OVER GOTHAM CITY! YES, IT IS THE FAMED BAT-SIGNAL THAT CALLS BAT-MAN AND ROBIN TO ACTION... A SIGNAL OF DOOM FOR MANY WHO FOLLOWED CRIME! BUT THE SUMMONING SKY-SIGN FAILS, AND BRINGS DANGER TO THE DYNAMIC DUO THEMSELVES, WHEN A SINISTER FATE STRIKES AT... The

GUARDIAN of THE **BAT-SIGNAL!**

WITH NO
BAT-SIGNAL TO
CALL US, WE'RE TOO
LATE AGAIN TO
PREVENT A CRIME!

THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL

ONE NIGHT, AS TWO CRIMINALS ATTEMPT A ROBBERY
AT GOTHAM CITY HARBOR...

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY,
HARVEY! HURRY, OR THEY'LL
ESCAPE IN THEIR LAUNCH!



BUT AT THAT INSTANT, ANOTHER LAWMAN
JOINS THE CHASE...

NICE WORK AT THE
CRANE-CONTROLS,
ROBIN! THAT
DOES IT!



LATER, AS POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON
REPRIMANDS A VETERAN OF THE FORCE...

THIS OLD BULLET-WOUND FROM
A CROOK'S PISTOL MAKES
ME SLOW SOMETIMES--BUT
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN,
COMMISSIONER!



BUT, COMMISSIONER...
THE POLICE FORCE IS
MY WHOLE LIFE! YOU--
YOU JUST CAN'T
RETIRE ME!

GOSH--THIS IS BREAKING THE OLD
SERGEANT'S HEART... BUT I'VE
AN IDEA THAT MAY SAVE HIM!

COMMISSIONER, YOU NEED A MAN TO
TAKE CHARGE OF THE BAT-
SIGNAL! WHY NOT LET SERGEANT
HAINER DO THAT?



THUS, ON THE HIGH ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AN
OLD POLICEMAN SOON TAKES OVER NEW DUTIES...

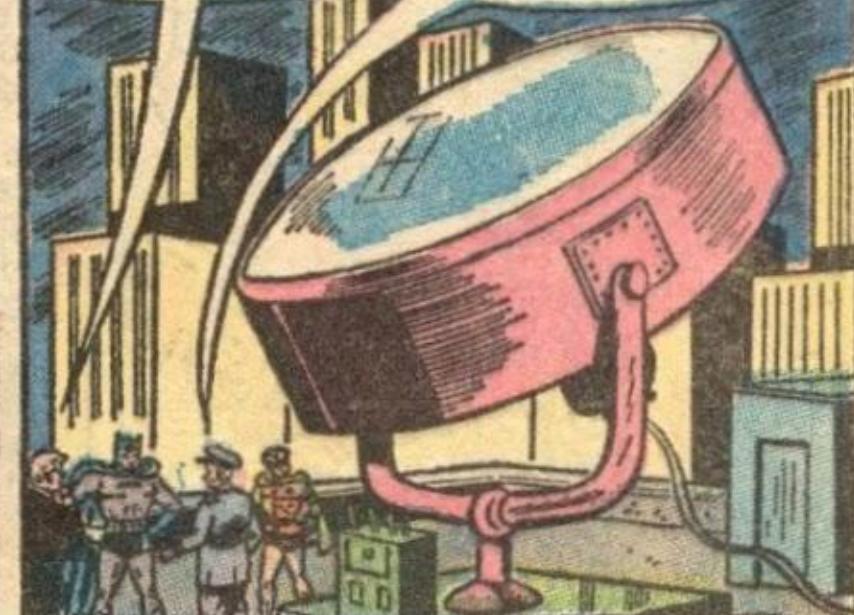
WHEN I WANT THE BAT-SIGNAL
FLASHED, I'LL BLINK THIS RED
WARNING LIGHT!

YOU CAN DEPEND ON
ME, COMMISSIONER!



TAKE GOOD CARE
OF IT... IT'S 100
TIMES AS POWERFUL
AS ANY ORDINARY
LIGHT-- AND THAT
GLASS IS BULLET-
PROOF!

DON'T WORRY... I'LL
KEEP IT IN GOOD
CONDITION! I
APPRECIATE YOUR
GETTING ME KEPT
ON THE FORCE,
BATMAN!



YES, BATMAN HAS DONE A
GOOD DEED-- BUT ONE HE WILL
SOON HAVE CAUSE TO REGRET...



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



...FOR THE FOLLOWING EVENING, AS HE AND ROBIN RELAX IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON...

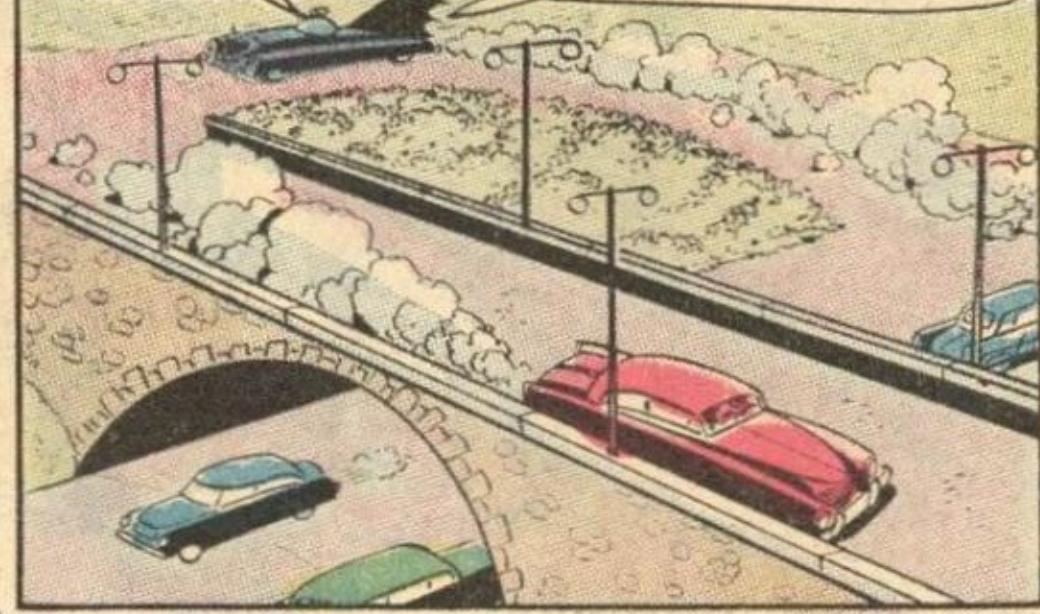
BRUCE! A POLICE-RADIO FLASH! THE **DIAMOND EXCHANGE** WAS JUST ROBBED, AND THE THIEVES ARE SPEEDING NORTH!

BUT WHY WASN'T THE **BAT-SIGNAL** USED TO CALL US IN? WELL--NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW!

A QUICK CHANGE OF GARMENTS, AND THE MIGHTY **BATMOBILE** ROARS FROM THE HIDDEN **BAT-CAVE** BENEATH THE WAYNE MANSION, AND SPEEDS TOWARD GOTHAM CITY...

THE LAST RADIO-FLASH SAID THE THIEVES WERE IN A BLACK SEDAN, HEADING NORTH!

THERE THEY GO UP THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY, AS I GUESSED THEY WOULD! HOLD ON, **ROBIN!**



AND AS BULLETS PUNCTURE THE TRUCK'S TIRES...

WE CAN'T CATCH THEM NOW--BUT I RECOGNIZED THAT BUNCH...THEY'RE THE LEW LAKERS MOB!

GUESS WE'D BETTER GO ON TO THE **DIAMOND EXCHANGE** AND SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND OUT!

BUT AT THE SCENE OF THE ROBBERY, COMMISSIONER GORDON GREETS THEM WITH A STRANGE PROBLEM...

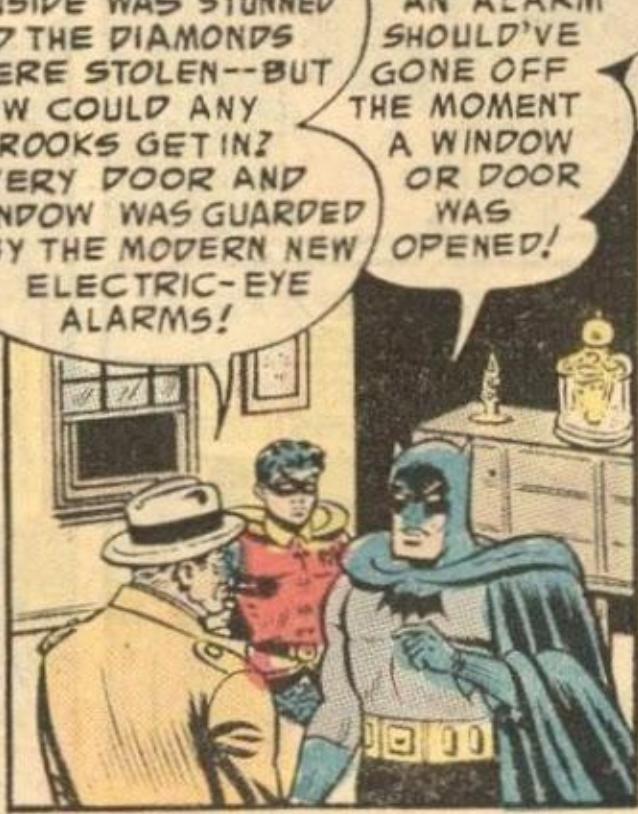
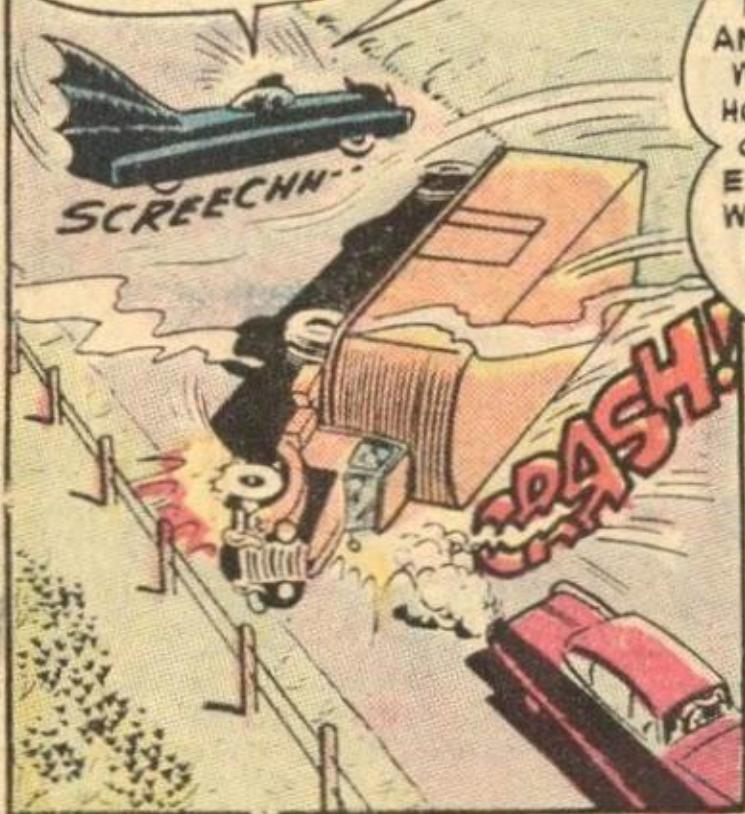
THE WATCHMAN INSIDE WAS STUNNED AND THE DIAMONDS WERE STOLEN--BUT HOW COULD ANY CROOKS GET IN? EVERY DOOR AND WINDOW WAS GUARDED BY THE MODERN NEW ELECTRIC-EYE ALARMS!

IN OTHER WORDS, AN ALARM SHOULD'VE GONE OFF THE MOMENT A WINDOW OR DOOR WAS OPENED!

EXACTLY...AND THE ELECTRONIC EYE **DID** SOUND THE ALARM WHEN THE CROOKS **ESCAPED**

THROUGH THIS WINDOW! BUT HOW DID THEY GET IN WITHOUT AN ALARM?

HMM... THESE FOOTPRINTS HAVE TRACES OF TAR ON THEM! LET'S LOOK AT THE ROOF!



THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL

SHORTLY, ATOP THE BUILDING...

YES, THE TARRED ROOF PUT THOSE TRACES ON THEIR SHOES, AND-- AND... THERE'S A PARACHUTE!

BATMAN, THIS IS SOMETHING BRAND-NEW! ONE OF THEM GOT IN FROM THE ROOF, A PARA-CROOK, WHO MUST HAVE JUMPED FROM A LOW-FLYING PLANE!

PARA-CROOKS ARE SOMETHING NEW AND DANGEROUS! A ROOF IS ANY BUILDING'S LEAST-GUARDED SPOT!

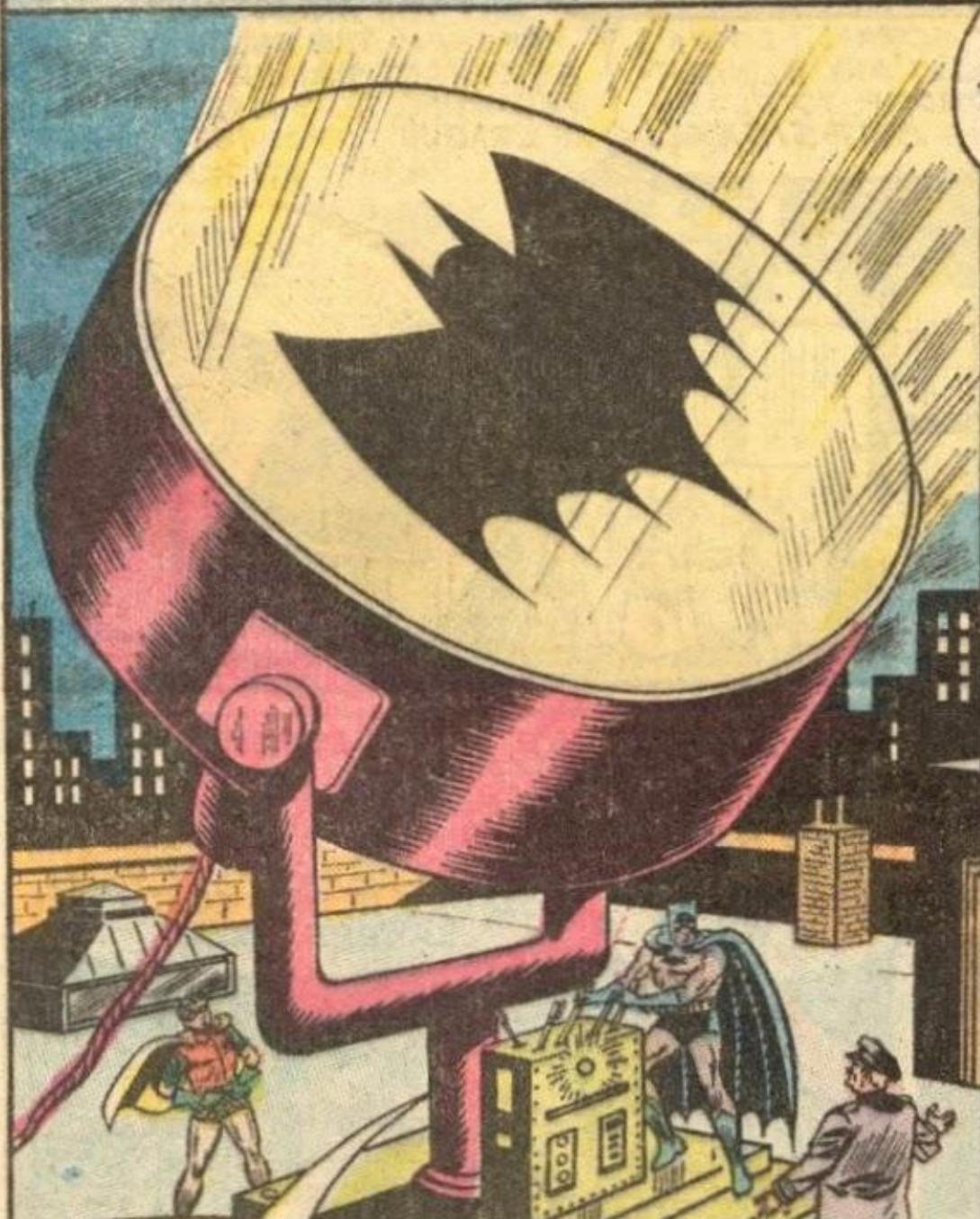
YES, THIS IS SERIOUS... SO SERIOUS, IN FACT, THAT I'M SURPRISED YOU DIDN'T FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL WHEN YOU GOT THE ROBBERY ALARM!

BUT I DID ORDER THE BAT-SIGNAL FLASHED! I TURNED ON THE BLINKER THAT ALERTS SERGEANT HAINER!

YET IT DIDN'T SHOW! I'D BETTER CHECK WITH THE SERGEANT!



AT HEADQUARTERS, SERGEANT HAINER HAS AN EXPLANATION--BUT NOT A VERY CONVINCING ONE...

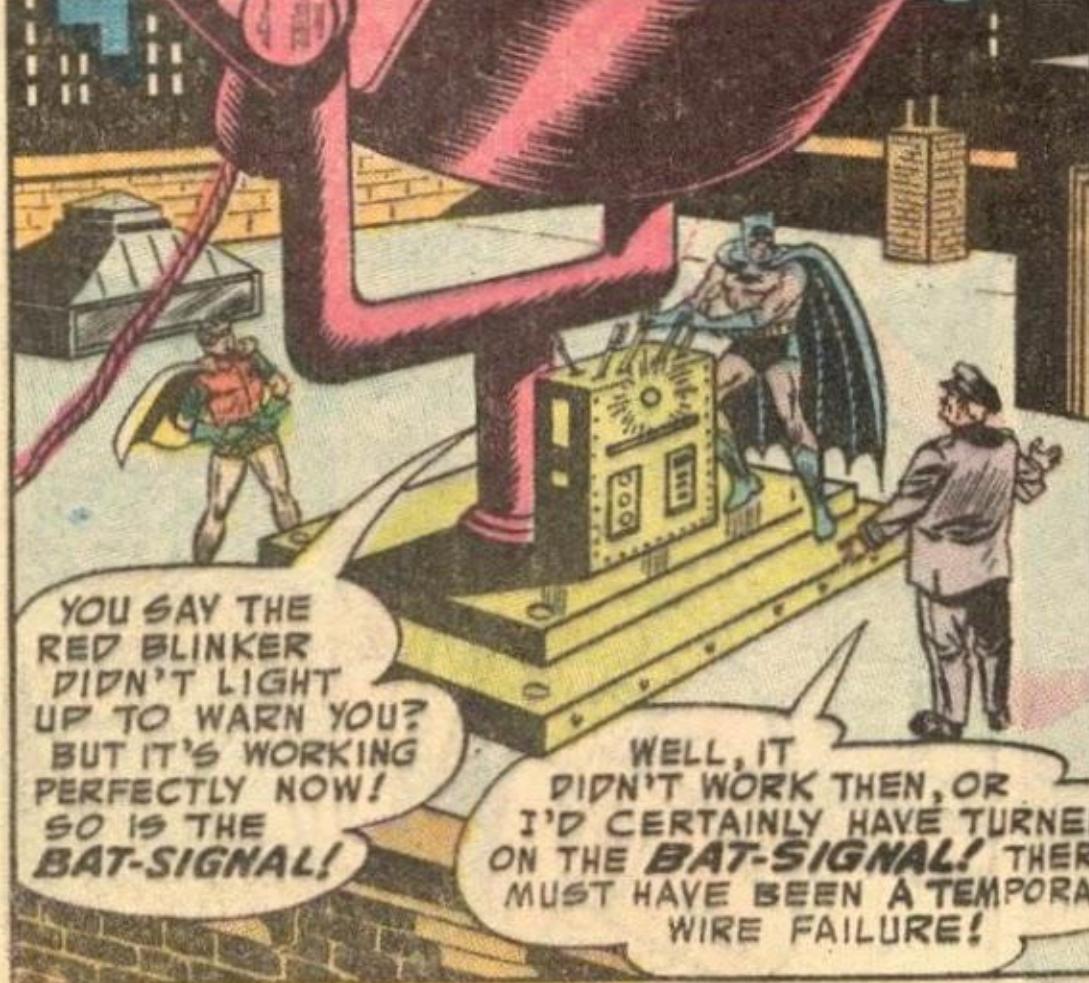


AFTERWARDS...

BATMAN, SERGEANT HAINER ACTED AS THOUGH HE WERE HIDING SOMETHING! DO YOU SUPPOSE HE'S DELIBERATELY STALLING ON THE JOB?



IT'S UNLIKELY--YET HE MAY RESENT HIS PROMOTION! WE'LL KNOW SOON ENOUGH, BUT RIGHT NOW, WE HAVE SOME INVESTIGATING TO DO!



LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE, TWO MASTER DETECTIVES CONSULT THEIR CRIME-FILES...

YOU SAY THE RED BLINKER DIDN'T LIGHT UP TO WARN YOU? BUT IT'S WORKING PERFECTLY NOW! SO IS THE BAT-SIGNAL!

I'LL START CHECKING THE CARNIVALS WHERE SUCH TRICK PARACHUTISTS WORK!

WELL, IT DIDN'T WORK THEN, OR I'D CERTAINLY HAVE TURNED ON THE BAT-SIGNAL! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY WIRE FAILURE!

THIS MAN, JOE POLMAN, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT FIT! HE'S A PROFESSIONAL TRICK PARACHUTE JUMPER, WHO HAS A CRIMINAL RECORD!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

AND WHILE ROBIN BEGINS HIS SEARCH, BATMAN CONDUCTS AN AERIAL VIGIL OVER THE CITY...

NO SIGN YET OF LEW LAKERS' MOB! FUNNY, THOUGH... I CAN'T KEEP FROM WORRYING ABOUT OLD HARVEY! WHY DID HE ACT SO STRANGELY?

JUST THEN...

OH, OH---THOSE POLICE CARS... HEADING FOR THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK... SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! I'D BETTER LAND IN THE PARK AND INVESTIGATE!



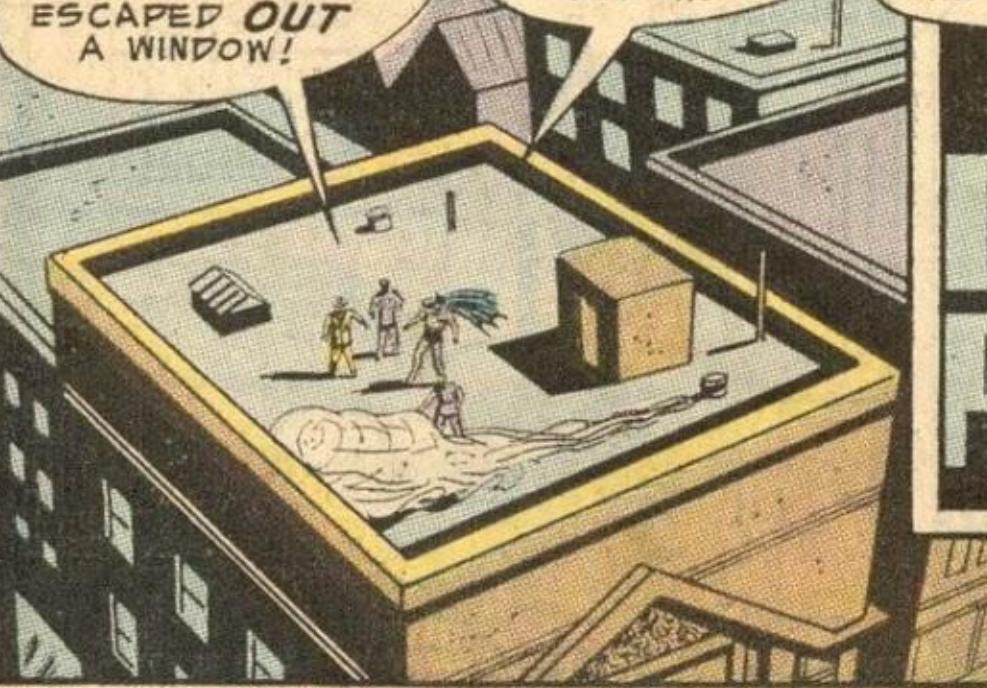
BUT ALREADY, THERE HAS BEEN A FATAL DELAY, SO THAT BY THE TIME BATMAN REACHES HIS DESTINATION...

YOU'RE TOO LATE! IT WAS A ROBBERY BY PARACHUTE AGAIN! THE NEW ELECTRONIC ALARM DIDN'T GO OFF UNTIL THEY ESCAPED OUT A WINDOW!

THE BAT-SIGNAL WOULD'VE GOTTEN ME HERE IN TIME! I'M GOING TO SEE WHY IT DIDN'T FLASH!

SORRY... I DIDN'T GET ANY BLINKER-ORDER TO FLASH THE BAT-SIGNAL!

AT HEADQUARTERS, HOWEVER, THE UGLY MYSTERY ONLY DEEPENS... BUT YOU MUST HAVE! I PRESSED THE BUTTON! SERGEANT HAINER, I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT YOU'RE IN LEAGUE TO PROTECT THESE PARA-CROOKS!



THIS IS THE MAN WHO HEADS THAT MOB! ARE YOU PROTECTING HIM BY NOT TURNING ON THE BAT-SIGNAL?

WHY SHOULD I? I NEVER SAW HIM BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

NOW I KNOW HE'S LYING, BATMAN-- BECAUSE HE TWICE ARRESTED LEW LAKERS, AND KNOWS HIM WELL!

WE'LL LEAVE HIM IN CHARGE OF THE BAT-SIGNAL FOR THE TIME BEING! I'LL FOLLOW HIM WHEN HE GOES OFF DUTY, TO SEE IF HE'S CONTACTING LAKERS' MOB!





THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL



AND NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL STARTS HOME...

HE'S TAKING A TAXI... AN EXPENSIVE HABIT FOR A POLICEMAN! I'LL TRAIL HIM FROM A SAFE DISTANCE!



SOON... HE STOPPED AT HIS DOCTOR'S OFFICE FIRST, THEN CAME STRAIGHT HOME! I'LL KEEP TABS ON HIM FROM A NEIGHBORING ROOFTOP!



MINUTES LATER, BATMAN GETS A STRANGE SURPRISE...

GREAT SCOTT! THE WAY HE'S SEATED AT THE WINDOW, EATING HIS BREAKFAST... NOW I THINK I UNDERSTAND HIS SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR!



WHAT CLUE HAS THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTER UNCOVERED? CAN YOU GUESS?

AT THAT MOMENT, FROM BATMAN'S BELT-RADIO...

ROBIN CALLING! GOOD BOY! I'VE LOCATED THAT PARACHUTIST, JOE DOLMAN, ONCE! THIS SERGEANT HAINER BUSINESS CAN WAIT AWHILE!



PRESENTLY, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...

DOLMAN MAKES A JUMP HERE EACH DAY TO ADVERTISE THE CARNIVAL! HE'S DUE NOW!



BUT AS THE EXPERT PARACHUTIST LEAPS...

TOUGH BREAK! HE SAW US WAITING AND SIDE-SLIPPED HIS CHUTE SO HE'D LAND A LONG WAY FROM HERE!

COME ON... WE CAN STILL CATCH HIM WITH THE BATMOBILE, IF WE'RE FAST ENOUGH!





BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR

EXPERT MANEUVERING BRINGS THE BATMOBILE TO THE RIGHT SPOT AT THE RIGHT TIME...

GOT HIM!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME, BATMAN? I'VE GONE STRAIGHT SINCE I SERVED TIME FOR THAT SMUGGLING JOB!



WITH YOUR EXPERT CHUTE-CONTROL, YOU COULD HAVE LANDED ON DOWNTOWN ROOFS AND OPENED UP BUILDINGS FOR LAKERS' MOB!

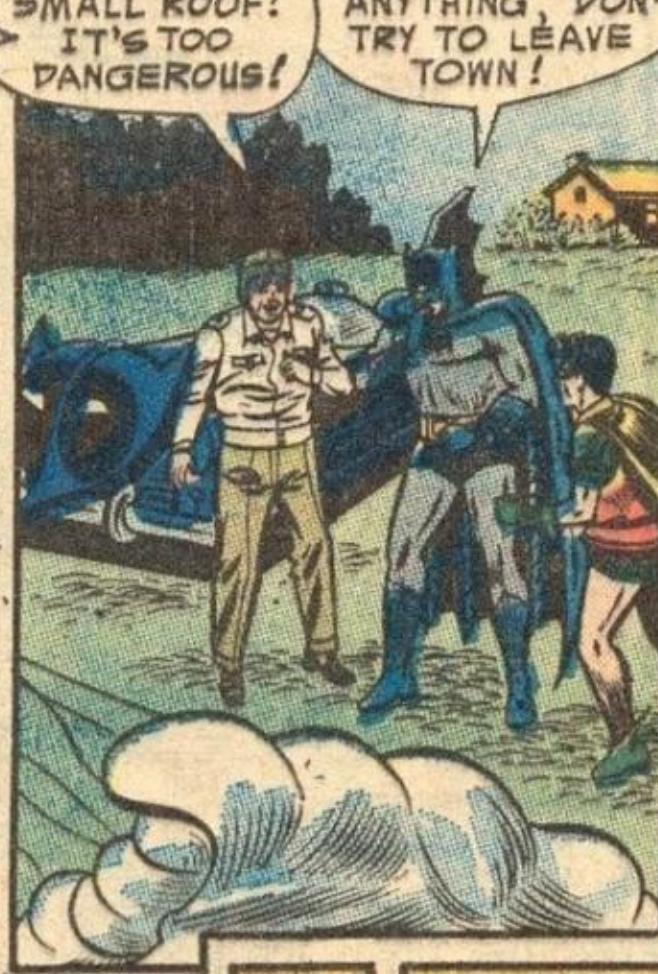
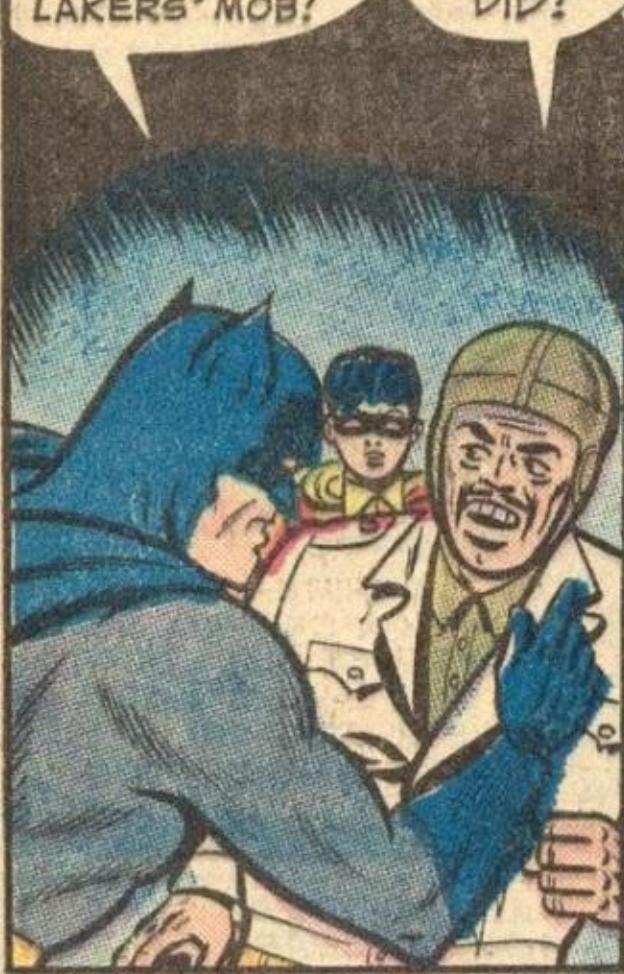
BUT I DIDN'T! YOU CAN'T PROVE I DID!

NOT EVEN AN EXPERT PARACHUTIST WOULD TRY SUCH A JUMP ON A SMALL ROOF! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!

YOU'D SAY THAT ANYWAY, DOLMAN! BUT I'VE GOT A LEAD NOW-- AND THOUGH WE CAN'T CHARGE YOU WITH ANYTHING, DON'T TRY TO LEAVE TOWN!

LATER, ENROUTE BACK TO THE CITY...

I BELIEVE I KNOW WHY HARVEY FAILED IN HIS DUTY... BUT BEFORE I CAN BE CERTAIN, I WANT TO STOP SOMEWHERE FIRST!



AND AFTER A VISIT TO HARVEY'S DOCTOR...

LEARN ANYTHING, BATMAN? YES-- I'VE VERIFIED MY SUSPICIONS! WE'RE GOING TO HAVE IT OUT WITH HARVEY WHEN HE COMES ON DUTY!

THAT NIGHT, WHEN THE VETERAN POLICEMAN REPORTS AGAIN TO HIS POST AT THE BAT-SIGNAL...

THAT PROVES IT! YOU WERE GOING TO WALK RIGHT INTO ME! HARVEY, YOU'RE BLIND!

WHAT--? H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT?





THE GUARDIAN OF THE BAT-SIGNAL



WHEN I SAW YOU SITTING IN THE FULL BLAZE OF THE SUN WITHOUT BLINKING THIS MORNING, I GUESSED THE ANSWER! THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T FLASH THAT **BAT-SIGNAL**... BECAUSE YOU COULDN'T **SEE** COMMISSIONER GORDON'S SIGNAL!

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, **BATMAN**... MY SIGHT **HAS** BEEN FAILING ME -- BECAUSE OF THAT OLD BULLET WOUND! BUT THE DOCTOR SAID I'D SOON RECOVER -- AND I WANTED TO STAY ON DUTY UNTIL I COULD SEE WELL AGAIN!

I UNDERSTAND, HARVEY-- AND I'M GOING TO HELP YOU OPERATE THE **BAT-SIGNAL** WITHOUT SEEING! FROM NOW ON, WE'LL USE A **PHONE** FOR ORDERS FROM THE COMMISSIONER!

WONDERFUL! I COULD HEAR HIS ORDERS THEN, AND TURN ON THE SIGNAL!

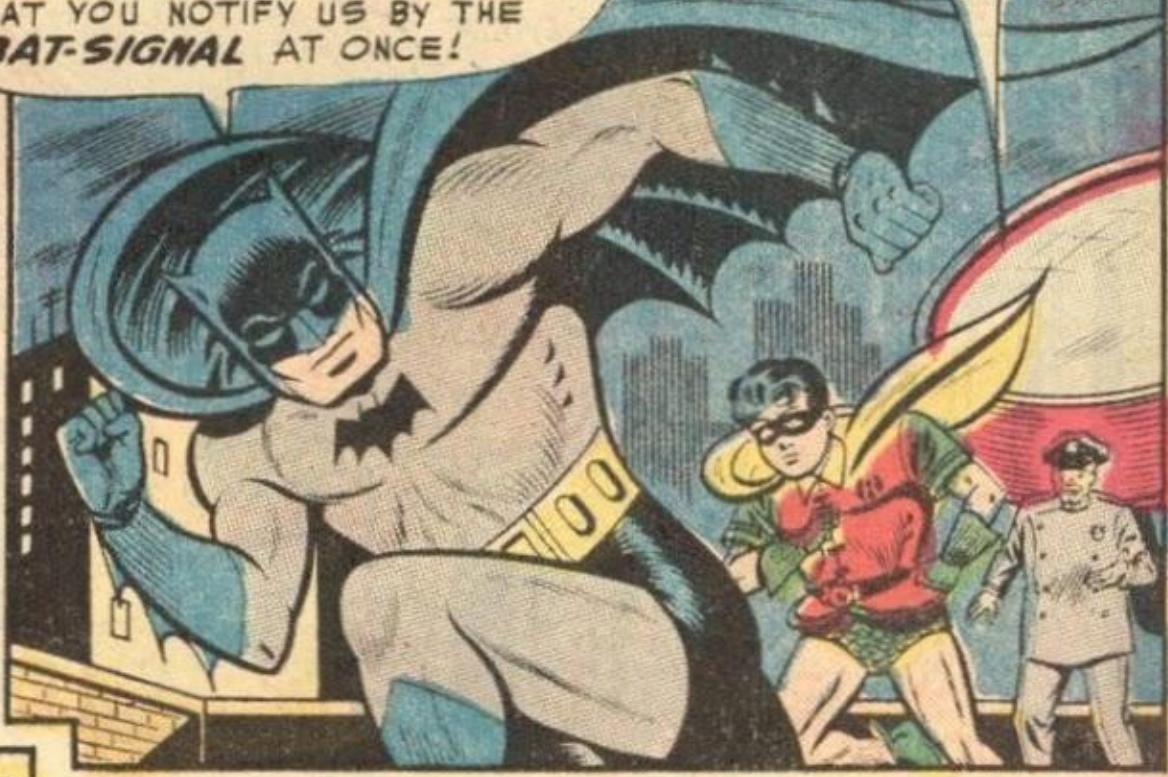


RIGHT! USE ONE HAND TO OPERATE A RHEOSTAT-CONTROL, AND PLACE THE OTHER ON THE LENS! THAT WAY, YOU CAN TELL BY THE **HEAT** IF THE BEAM IS ON!

SEEMS SIMPLE ENOUGH!

NOW WE'RE GOING TO TRACE DOWN A LEAD! BUT IF ANOTHER ROBBERY BREAKS, IT'S VITAL THAT YOU NOTIFY US BY THE **BAT-SIGNAL** AT ONCE!

DON'T WORRY... FROM NOW ON, YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME!



LATER, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RE-VISIT THE SCENE OF THE FIRST PARACHUTE CRIME...

YES, OUR ALARM SYSTEM WAS JUST RECENTLY INSTALLED BY THAT NEW **ELECTRONIC ALARM COMPANY**! UNFORTUNATELY, IT DIDN'T SEEM NECESSARY TO GUARD THE ROOF!

HMM... ALL THE INTERIOR WIRING SEEMS INTACT!

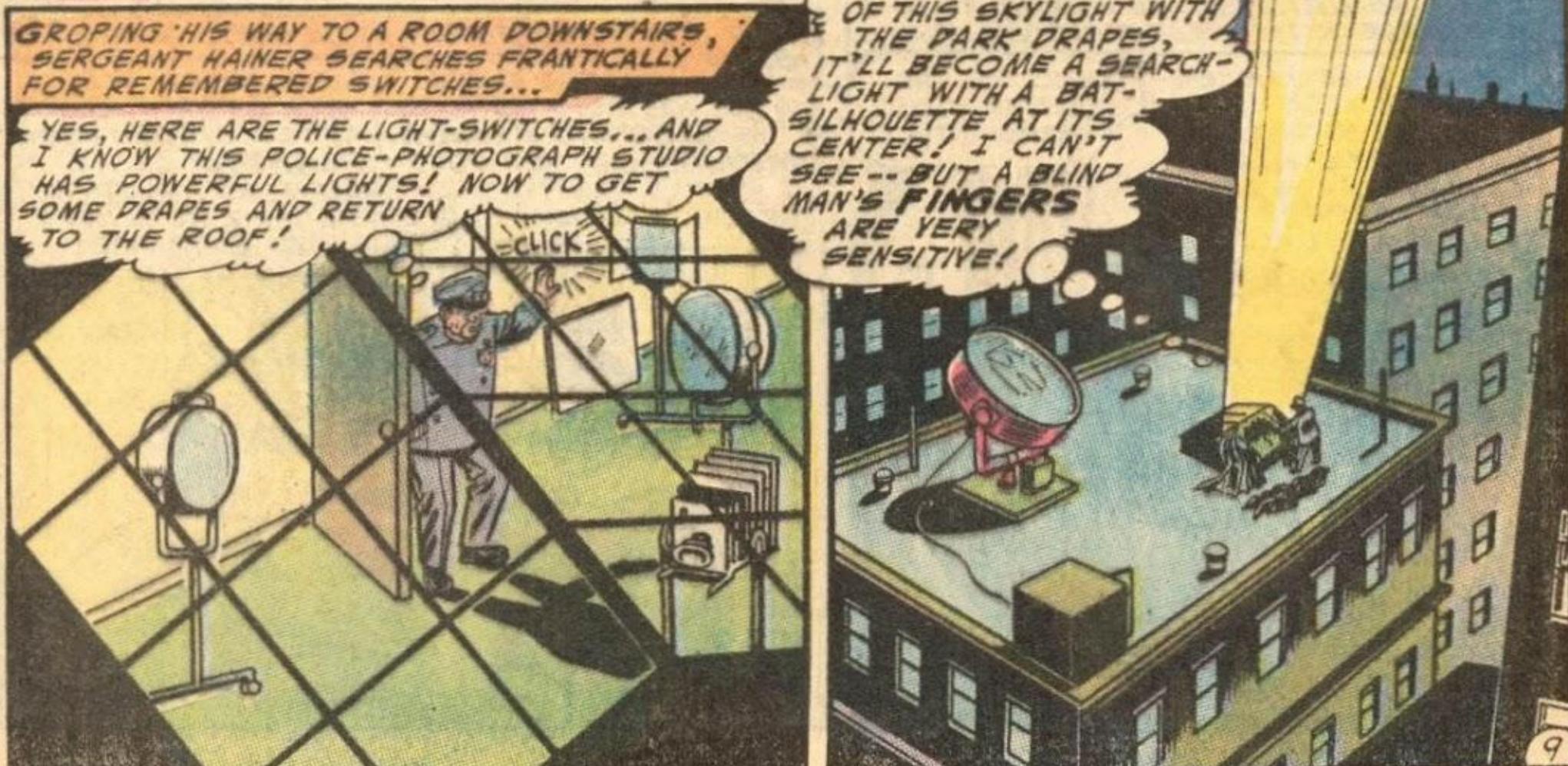
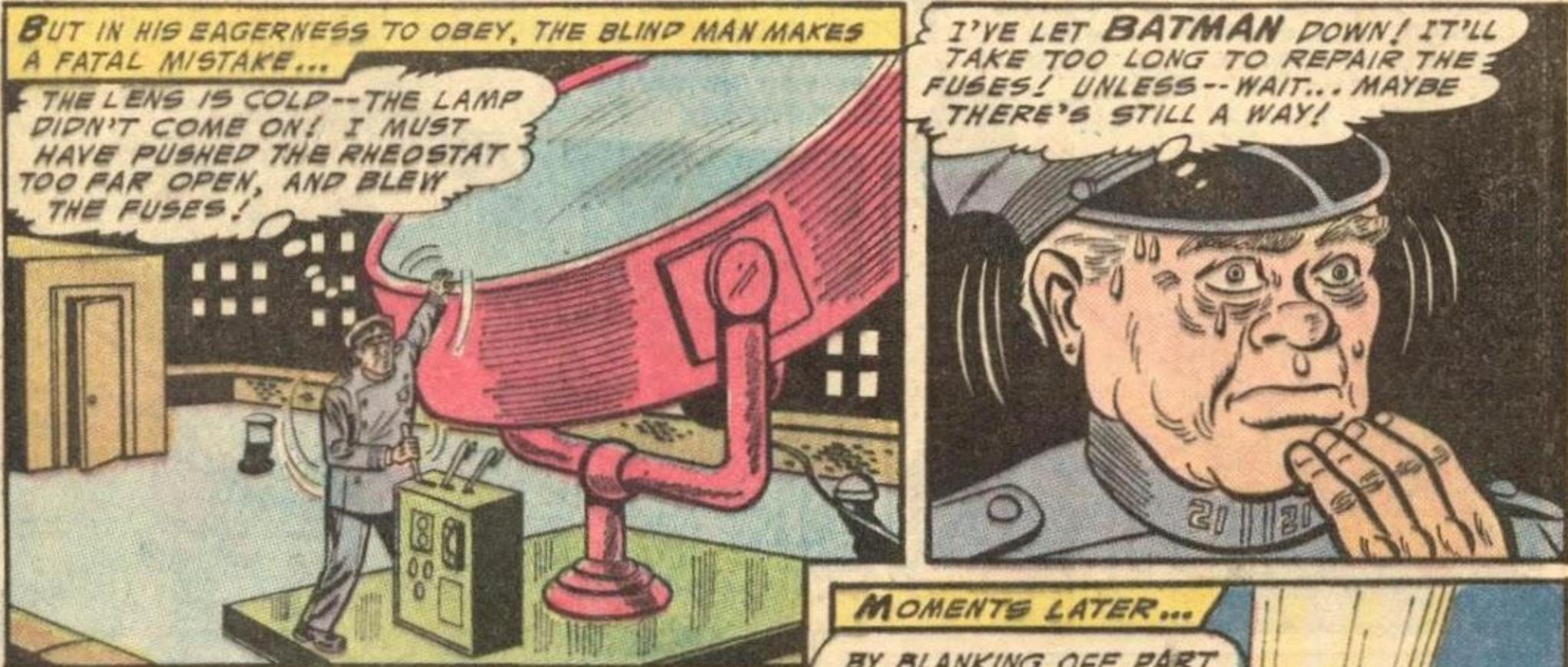
AND IT'S THE SAME STORY AT THE FIRST SUBURBAN BANK...

SO THE BANK'S SYSTEM WAS ALSO INSTALLED BY THE **ELECTRIC ALARM COMPANY**-- BUT HOW DOES THAT HELP US NAB THE PARACHUTE CROOKS?

THERE NEVER WERE SUCH CROOKS, **ROBIN**! THOSE CHUTES WERE PLANTED ON THE ROOFS, AS A BLIND TO COVER THEIR REAL MODE OF ENTRANCE!



BATMAN SUPER-SPECTACULAR



AND IN THE NIGHT SKY, AN EERIE SIGN FLARES ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...

THE BAT-SIGNAL!
THAT MEANS ANOTHER
"PARA-CROOK" ROBBERY!
LET'S GO, ROBIN!



YES -- AND AFTER WHAT WE'VE FOUND, THERE'S NO DOUBT WHERE TO GO TO FOR THE ROBBERS!

WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, AS JUBILANT CRIMINALS RETURN TO THEIR HIDEOUT...

THIS BURGLAR-ALARM COMPANY IS A PERFECT FRONT FOR OUR JOBS! NOBODY'LL EVER FIGURE OUT HOW-- HEY! ALL THESE WIRES AND BELLS ... WHAT--?

WE DON'T WANT TO ALARM YOU BOYS, BUT WE HAD THESE WIRE TRAPS READY FOR YOU!



AND SO, BACK AT HEADQUARTERS...

LATER, WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...

WHEN THEY INSTALLED ALARM SYSTEMS, THEY LEFT ONE WINDOW DISCONNECTED -- SO ENTRANCE WAS EASY! THEN THEY CONNECTED THE ALARM, JUST AFTER "BREAKING OUT" OF THAT SAME WINDOW!

AND WITH THE PARACHUTE THEY LEFT ON THE ROOF, NO ONE WOULD DREAM HOW THEY REALLY GOT IN!

SERGEANT HAINER,
YOUR QUICK THINKING HAS EARNED YOU A VACATION WITH PAY!

THANKS, SIR! AND WHEN MY SIGHT IS NORMAL AGAIN, I WANT THIS SAME JOB AT THE BAT-SIGNAL! IT ISN'T EVERYONE WHO CAN SAY HE'S A PARTNER OF BATMAN!



SOMETHING BIG IS COMING FROM DC IN '74

DON'T MISS AN ISSUE OF BATMAN'S SUPER-SPECTACULAR MAGS!

IN THE FEBRUARY-MARCH SUPER-SPECTACULAR
DETECTIVE COMICS #439...

ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN NOVEMBER

AND IN THE MARCH-APRIL SUPER-SPECTACULAR
BATMAN #255...

PLUS... "THE OUTSIDER STRIKES AGAIN!"

BATMAN IN A STARTLINGLY DIFFERENT TALE... OF MURDER AND REVENGE!

PLUS...
"BATMAN'S BEWITCHED NIGHTMARE!"
THE ALL-NEW MANHUNTER AND OTHER EXCITING FEATURES!

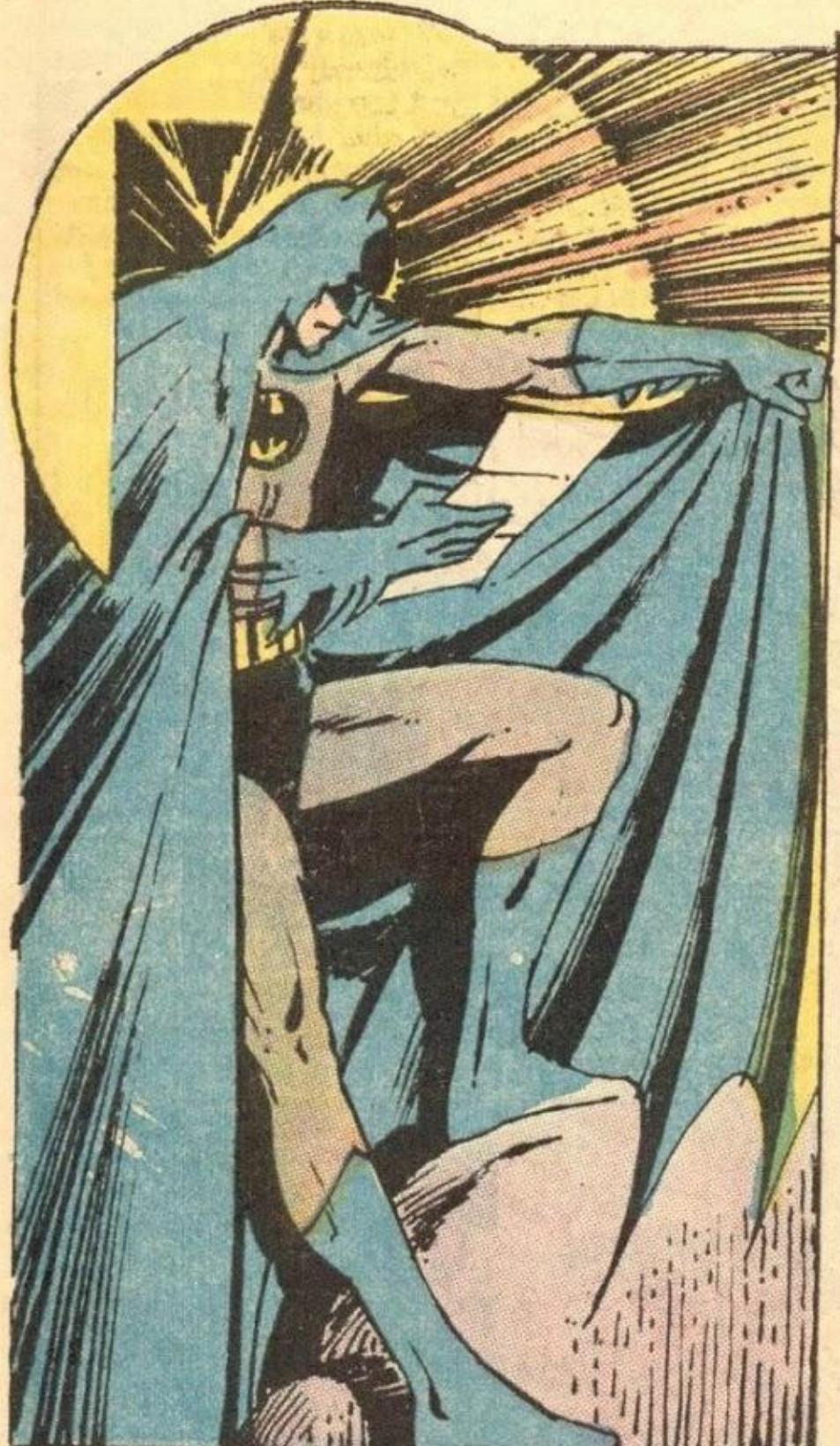
AN ALL-NEW BATMAN NOVEL...
"MOON OF THE PROWLING WOLF!"

WRITTEN BY:
LEN WEIN

ILLUSTRATED BY:
NEAL ADAMS & DICK GIORDANO

ON SALE DURING THE LAST WEEK IN DECEMBER

and OTHER CLASSIC BAT-TALES!



Dear Batman Fans:

With this issue of BATMAN, DC takes a GIANT step forward into 1974! Included in this surprise 100-page package (covers included in the page-count!) are the 20 all-new pages that would have appeared in the 32-page, 20¢ issue of Batman #254—"King of the Gotham Jungle" and "The Phenomenal Memory of Luke Graham!"

And for exciting extras there are 60 super-spectacular pages featuring cream-of-the-crop stories from Batman's history-making career, plus other special material.

Should this project prove profitable, we plan to increase the amount of original material; while it's great to be able to look back at Batman, it's even better to look forward at what's in store for him (and Robin) next. And coming up in the next Batman (#255) is "Moon of the Prowling Wolf," an all-new 20-page, novel-length thriller by the Shazam-winning Len Wein, illustrated by the ever-popular, ever-procrastinating Neil Adams! And once again there'll be 60 pages or so of super-spectacular Batman material of yesteryear.

Now . . . on with LETTERS TO THE BATMAN . . . increased to two pages for this issue. Should that be the length you favor, that's the way it'll be from now on, right? Write!

—JULIUS SCHWARTZ, Editor



Dear Editor:

Denny O'Neal Adams . . . one name from two . . . a label this comix fan has found convenient time and again to capsulate what he finds best, most mature, most respectable, most fascinating, about comic-reading in the late sixties and early seventies.

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

S-1647

Denny O'Neil, the writer that DC trusted with the task of bringing the real world into the comix magazine universe; Neal Adams, the supremely realistic artist, the natural choice to put O'Neil's scripts into panel form. Through the great *Green Lantern/Green Arrow* series and several adventures of *The Batman* in his own mag and *Detective*, they created for the field a new standard of excellence. In *Batman* #251 their latest, and very long-awaited resuscitation of the greatest comix villain of all, the *Joker*, comes to be, and well, *wow!* It's truly a terrific issue.

"The old Joker is back . . . the killer!" So I heard Editor Julius Schwartz describe "The Joker's Five-Way Revenge" on a recent visit to New York. And indeed this *Joker* is so old . . . so different from the battle-of-witsy friendly enemy he was when we last saw him that many of my fellow readers must have wondered what O'Neil has done with this ancient and well-established character.

I'm luckier than most because the homicidal lunatic in this story was not unfamiliar to me . . . I had the pleasure of reading *Batman*'s first issue, 33 years old now, once upon a time, and I could catch the references. That first story featured a mad killer with a deformed face, a criminal tracking down people that sent him to jail and killing them with a poison that left them with faces like Sardonicus, curled in a laugh-ictus.

Denny O'Neal Adams is nothing if not contemporary . . . and their GL/GA hallmark was topical relevance, the real world. So it was here, too . . . for how much more real is it to have a criminal mad, or old, or punch-crazy, or simply stupid, than just-one-of-the-characters, more enviable and intelligent than most? I applaud the realism of this *Joker*, because although it hurts a little to say good-bye to the laughing villain Cesar Romero played so well on the tube, that pain is the pain of recognition. It was a fine story, and I hope the two men who combine to make one name, and one triumphant statement of the value of comix, come back before us again.

—GUY LILLIAN III, New York, N.Y.

(How appropriate that we initiate this department with a LOC from our favorite Guy . . . whose famous III tag should be replaced with a C . . . the Roman numeral for 100, representing the number of letters Guy's had published!—JS)



Dear Editor:

FEAR! Gentlemen, *Batman* #251 has left me rattling in FEAR! Never again will I be able to drive in my car on a rain-swept night without the image of that maniacal face from the splash page screaming in my mind. You see, gentlemen, that's why the *Joker* frightens me far more than a hundred vampires could ever hope to do. That *Joker* is the real thing, and he doesn't need a gush of blood flowing in every other panel to send shivers up my arms and down my spine. Just a small gesture of a smile from that white-bleached face; let those grotesque teeth pose menacingly from that triangulated mouth just once, *Mr. Joker*, and you'll find me madly running in any direction away from you!

Neal Adams has done what I thought only Jack Kirby could do—create a really true evil villain. The kind that only visits you in your dreams. (Dreams? Nay, nightmares!) This is the *Joker* as he should be—stripped of his muscles, his body a spindly bony structure that only his warped mind could occupy. Kudos to Adams for this new and far more exciting insight into the *King of Evil*.

Double kudos need to go to Denny O'Neil for this eerie tale. The way *The Batman* and Packy White went from

punching bag to fisticuffs to downright fight was beautiful—just beautiful. And those grizzly saccharine smiles on all the victims . . . absolutely stunning. Then the *Joker* appears on page 6. Here he's been out doing all this dirty work and at last we see him in ghastly action . . . laugh and all. And then that absolutely notorious appearance on page 10, panel 3. My God, my teeth are still chattering!

Now that kudos have been justly handed out, I'd like to give special thanks to all those responsible for *Batman* #251. This issue represents everything I believe a good horror story can be in the comix format.

And OH! Please give extra special thanks to *The Batman* for capturing the *Joker* and allowing me a good night's sleep . . . for this is the stuff that sends you clutching for the covers.

—JOHN BACON, Davenport, Iowa

(You may think you are safe in bed, but keep those covers handy for clutching . . . for even at this very moment the *Joker* is laughing up his sleeve as he plans his next plot against *Batman & Company* for a forthcoming issue! One thing's for sure: if the Clown Prince of Crime fails to show up soon, the Feline Fury is all set to make an appearance in an all-new 20-pager, "Catwoman's Circus Caper," courtesy of Denny O'Neil, Irv Novick, Dick Giordano, and—JS)



Dear Editor:

Ten months is a long time to wait for anything, even for an O'Neil/Adams *Batman* story about the *Joker*; and after all that time I found the story disappointing. The writing was excellent, the art extraordinary, the cover outstanding; but I think "The *Joker's Five-Way Revenge*" fell short of being a classic, and a classic is what I had been anticipating.

I was not enthusiastic about this story because I thought that the *Joker's* personality and character were badly misinterpreted. The *Joker* was too much like *Two-Face*: he was utterly and totally insane. The *Joker* as I remembered him was just slightly cracked—and possessed a weird and rather sick sense of humor. He also seldom worked alone, and he seemed almost naked to me without his mob.

I was not satisfied with Neal Adams' artistic interpretation of him either. His face was diabolically magnificent—it has never been drawn better. But he was too tall and much too skinny—too freakish in figure as well as face. He seemed much too insubstantial for me.

All in all this was an excellent issue and I hope we do not have to wait ten months for Neal Adams to strike again. I also hope it will not be another six or seven years for the *Joker's* next appearance. The *Joker* heads the list of *Batman's* all-time foes, and I do not think it would be using him too much if he showed up every couple of years.

—MICHAEL SLOAN, Canaan, N.H.

(The *Joker* will definitely be appearing more often in the future than he has been in the past—whether in an all-new "classic" or a gem from yesteryear, or whether teaming up with (or against) The *Batman* in *Brave & Bold* #111 in "Death Has the Last Laugh!" As for your dissatisfaction with Neal's artistic interpretation of the *Joker*, consider this extract from a letter written by a fellow-critic.—JS)



Dear Editor:

The *Joker*! This is the *Clown Prince of Crime* as he was always meant to be! Not the watered-down version whom we were subjected to for so long, but the **REAL** *Joker*: grotesque, insane, fiendishly brilliant. The murders were well in keeping with the *Joker's* personality, especially the third, which was at once shocking and hilarious. As for the art, Neal Adams' is the definitive portrayal of this, perhaps the most fascinating villain in comix.

—JIM SHEA, Medford, Mass.

(And let us not neglect the co-star of this "classic", as the next correspondent classifies it.—JS)

Dear Editor:

May I say that *Batman* #251 was a classic in its field? If I can't, it's tough, because I already did!

The *Joker's* return was just too perfect for words. The script was ooh! The art was ahhh! Neal's art has now reached a peak of excellence unrivaled at any time in the comix world. His work on the mad *Joker* made the character come alive; *The Batman* once again became the grim, determined—yet human—creature of the night. That is as he should be. Neal's art, coupled with Denny's brilliant writing, makes *Batman* what he truly is . . . he is a fantasy; he is reality; he is a tight-lipped avenger; he is superhuman; no matter what you may call him—he is. Perhaps he is more human inside than he could ever show. Perhaps, instead of worship, he should be pitied, for his self-inflicted life of justice-seeking. But he is something!

—GAIL BURT, Temple City, Calif.



Dear Editor:

In *Batman* #251 I noticed something peculiar. On page 18 *Batman* is fighting the shark and we can see that he is wearing his utility belt. On page 19 and all the pages that follow we can see that he is not wearing his utility belt. But there is no break in the action, no opportunity to remove the belt and no reason for doing so even if there had been one. The story does not seem to be incomplete but the lack of the belt does not look like a mistake; it looks deliberate. Is there an explanation for this mystery?

—WILLIAM J. DENHOLM III, Menlo Park, Calif.
(There is indeed an explanation for the missing utility belt; an excellent explanation, Neal Adams assures us. Neal promised to send us his explanation in time to tag it onto your letter, but as usual, NEAL ADAMS HAS MISSED ANOTHER DEADLINE!—JS)

Dear Editor:

The latest, greatest *Batman Super-Spec* (DC-20, Sept., 1973) devoted to the *Caped Crusader's* paradoxical foe *Two-Face* was enough to make a fan rush right out and buy a couple more copies of this masterpiece, just for good measure! For the first time, readers were able to see the entire saga of the world's most pathetic and frightening villain, within the pages of one magazine.

The *Two-Face* series was a well-planned and carefully written one, something quite rare in comix, particularly at that time. Even the art was superior. The climax of *Two-Face's* career and his return to the "good side" of the law was beautiful! It makes one realize that years later, poor Harvey Kent (renamed Dent) should again suffer facial scars and take his place once more among the villains of *Batman's Rogues' Gallery*.

The *Black Canary* story was excellent, but I've yet to read one that wasn't. She, too, had artists and writers that might have soared her to great heights, had *The Flash* mag she appeared in not been cancelled so early in her career. *Wildcat's* bout with the *Huntress* was quite good, too. Gil Stack's art seems oddly like Jack Kirby's work of that period.

The *Dr. Mid-Nite* and *Starman* stories were enjoyable, but both had weak plotlines and ended too abruptly. Both heroes are good ones but I've seen them in better stories than these. The *Blackhawk* story was nice. Enough said.

The *Spectre* story was just short of a full-scale disaster. Art was poor, writing was worse. The monsters the *Spectre* fought were too cartoonish to be frightening. Let's face it: the *Spectre* stories of the 60's were 100% better than those of the 40's.

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(Gil Stack at that period, even as now, acknowledges his Jack Kirby influence. Furthermore, the "Gil Stack" of yesteryear is the Gil Kane of today!—JS)

Address all communications to LETTERS TO THE BATMAN, National Periodical Publications, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10019.

hey!

SKINNY GUYS!

NOW YOU CAN HAVE

MUSCLES!

Yes, believe it or not, you really could have a body like "Mr. Universe" (pictured here). It was not by accident that he got to look that way. He was not a natural superman. He was just an average fellow. Then he followed our HERCULES II® Muscle Building Course for just a few short weeks, and gained 3" on each arm, 4" on his chest, and beefed up his legs and stomach muscles until he reached his present Super-Build — a body good enough to win him the World's coveted "Mr. Universe" title.

Yes, our Muscle Building Secrets contained in Hercules II® will help you to transform your present body into the kind of handsome rippling muscularity that other men must respect, and all girls admire.

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— Peter Bonham

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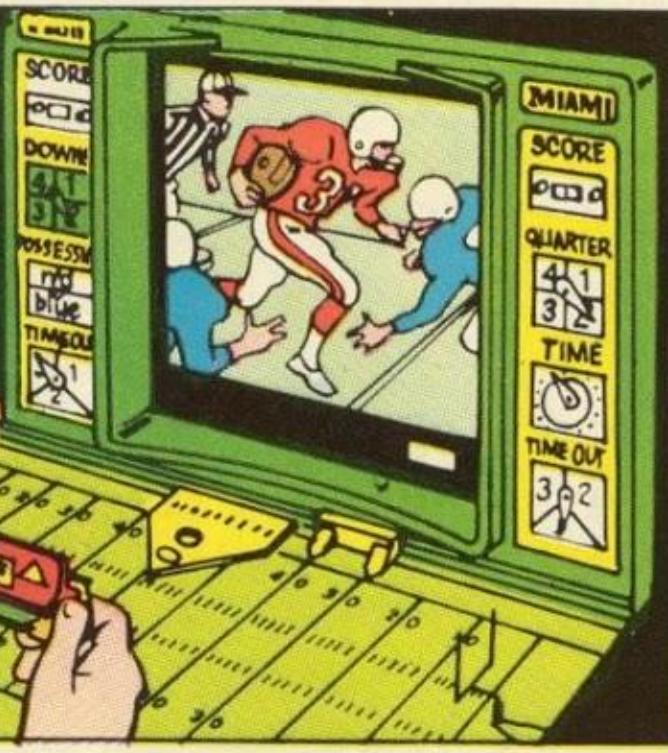


BOARD GAMES ARE NO FUN!

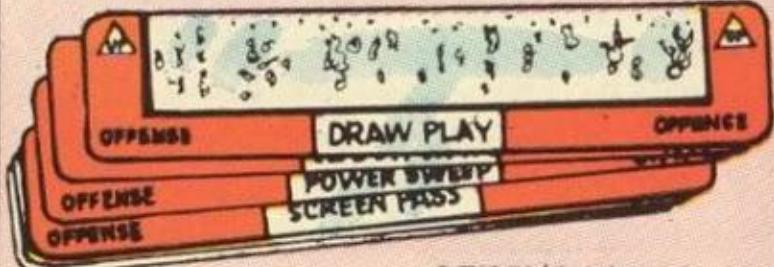
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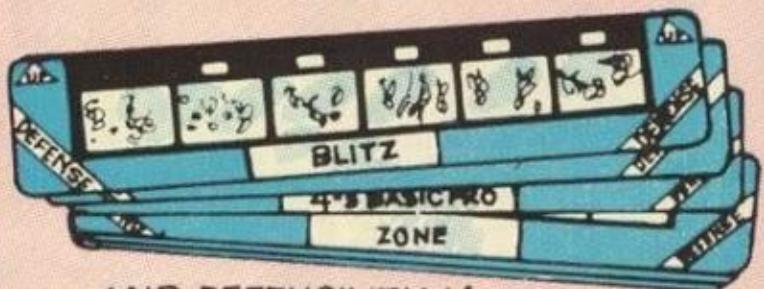
IT'S THE **ONLY** GAME WHERE YOU **SEE** THE PLAYS DEVELOP ON THE SCREEN!



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FUMBLE!



FIELD GOAL BLOCKED!

HA! YOUR TRAP DIDN'T WORK!

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ONLY 2 MINUTES TO GO!

RED TEAM HAS BALL ON
BLUE TEAM'S 35 YARD LINE!



HMM--3RD AND 6--HE'LL EXPECT THE LONG PASS--MAYBE I CAN FOOL HIM--OR--

HMM--HE'S GOT TO GO WITH THE LONG PASS--BUT HE'S TRICKY. I THINK I'LL SET UP FOR--



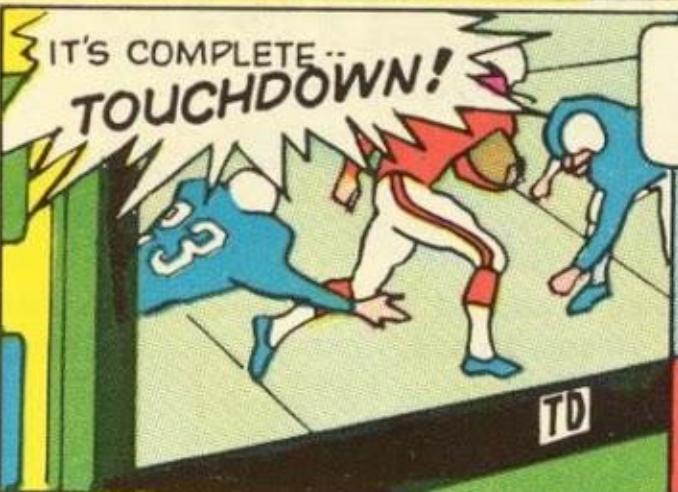
AW, HECK! YOU PICKED THE LONG BOMB!



MY 4-3 BUMP AND RUN DEFENSE SHOULD WORK!



LOOK--I GOT THE PASS OFF!



IT'S COMPLETE--
TOUCHDOWN!

WATTA GAME--
ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF REAL FOOTBALL!



Kenner

SEE-ACTION FOOTBALL GAME™

INCLUDES PROJECTOR, 16 OFFENSIVE AND 12 DEFENSIVE PLAY SLIDES, MANUALLY OPERATED SCOREBOARD, ACTION SCREEN, PLAYING FIELD, BALL & DOWN MARKER, LABELS FOR ALL PRO TEAM CITIES, ETC.--USES 4-D BATTERIES (NOT INCLUDED)

Another Adventure with the **READY RANGERS**



HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES TO
BE A READY RANGER?
ALL YOU NEED IS AN AURORA
READY RANGER MOBILE FIELD PACK.

HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS, AN AVALANCHE OF ROCKS
HAS CUT OFF THE RANGERS' TRAIL.

WE'RE TRAPPED!
OPEN UP THE
READY RANGER
MOBILE FIELD PACK
AND SET UP
READY RANGER
HEADQUARTERS."

MY DISTANCE COMPUTER
INDICATES WE'RE
THREE MILES FROM THE
STATE PARK."

I'LL CALL FOR
HELP THROUGH
MY P.A. HORN.
HELP! HELP!

AS NIGHT FALLS, THE RANGERS PITCH THEIR TENTS AND
HUDDLE TOGETHER IN THEIR READY RANGER PONCHOS.

I'VE LOCATED THE
NORTH STAR WITH
MY READY RANGER
STARFINDER."

THE LOOKOUT TOWER
SHOULD SPOT OUR
READY RANGER
SIGNAL LIGHT.

AFTER COUNTLESS SIGNALS...

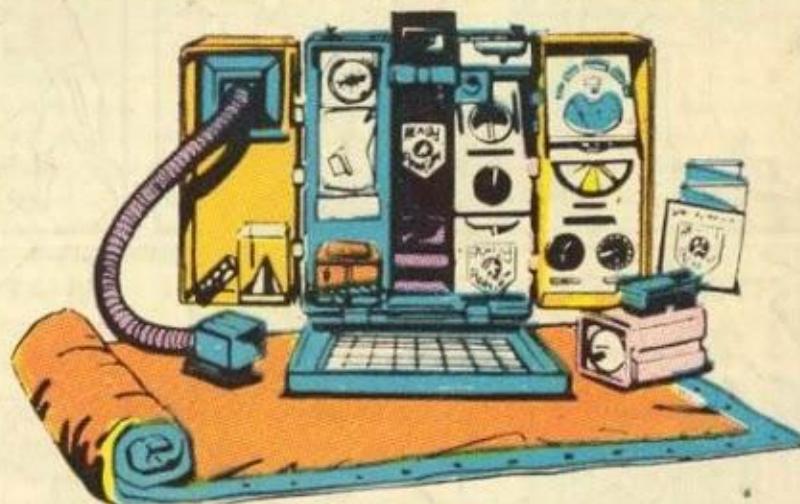
LOOK A LIGHT!
THEY'VE SPOTTED
OUR SIGNAL.

AT DAYBREAK,
A HELICOPTER LIFTS THE RANGERS TO SAFETY.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT,
OUR READY RANGER
MOBILE FIELD PACKS
SAVED OUR LIVES.



GET YOUR
READY RANGER MOBILE FIELD PACK.
WHEN YOU'RE A READY RANGER, YOU'RE
ALWAYS READY FOR ANY DANGER.



READY RANGER MOBILE FIELD HEADQUARTERS.

1. PONCHO BEDROLL
 2. COMMUNICATIONS POWER PACK
 3. P.A. HORN
 4. PERISCOPE
 5. INTRUDER DETECTOR
 6. STARFINDER
 7. COMPASS
 8. INVISIBLE SATELITE
- ACCESSORIES: TENT, DISTANCE COMPUTER, CANTEEN.

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AURORA®