



12c

# BATMAN

APPROVED  
BY THE  
COMICS  
CODE  
C.C.  
AUTHORITY

MAY  
NO. 211



ARE YOU READY FOR  
*Batman's*  
MOMENT OF TRUTH?

# HERE'S A WHOLE TREASURE CHEST OF FUN



## THROW YOUR VOICE

Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth out of sight. Fool teacher, friends, family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist." No. 137 25c



## MAGIC CARDS

Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks.

No. 183 ..... \$1.98

## MONSTER SIZE MONSTERS



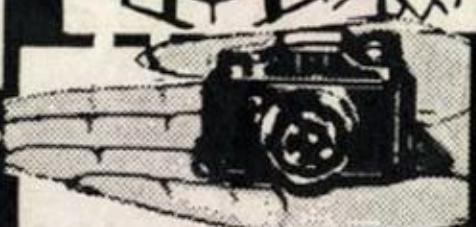
Imagine your friends' shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around . . . as BIG as life. . . . as horrible and sinister as any nightmare. and so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.

No. F17A-Dracula \$1.00  
No. F17B-Wolfman \$1.00

## MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.

No. 788 ..... \$1.00  
6 Rolls Film 98c



## SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.

No. 971 ..... 20c



## JACK POT BANK

Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes.

No. 2060 ..... 1.50



## SKIN HEAD WIG



Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex will fit all heads. For the executive that would like to change his appearance.

A35 ..... \$1.00

## JOY BUZZER

Most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless.

No. 239 ..... Only 50c



## MONEymAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a \$5 then the \$5 changes to \$10. A135 ..... 1.25



## TRICK BASEBALL

It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball.

No. 158 ..... 50¢



## SECRET BOOK SAFE

With combination lock only you can open.



## SECRET SPY SCOPE

Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket—6 Power Magnifier. 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope Item No. F59 ..... \$1.98

## WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream No. 247 ..... 50c



## ONION GUM

Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! Its too funny! 5 slices to a pack.

No. 281 ..... 20c

Honor House Prod. Corp.  
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Dept. 86 GK 53

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days Free Trial for full refund of purchase price.

Item	Name of Item	How Many	Total Price

- I enclose . . . in full payment. Same guarantee.  
 Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

Name . . . . . Zip . . . . .

Address . . . . . N.Y. State residents please add 2% sales tax.  
Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than \$1.00.  
Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.



## Monster-Size

### FULL SIZE SKELETON

This 5-foot "Mr. Bones" is scary enough at any time but wait'll you see him glowing in the dark! Shake him and his arms and legs move . . . you'd swear he's alive. If you like to haunt houses and frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang him in your room.

No. F200 ..... \$1.25



## X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties.

No. FL7 ..... \$1.00

# BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY: IRV NOVICK & JOE GIELLA

THE ADVENT OF A NEW "UNDERGROUND" SCANDAL-SHEET IN GOTHAM CITY CAUSES MANY A RAISED EYEBROW--AND MANY A WORRIED BROW! ...



FOUR CANDIDATES FOR OBLIVION! WHAT SENSATIONAL EXPOSÉ HAS CAUSED SUCH CONSTERNATION AND BITTER HUMOR IN THIS GAMUT OF GOTHAM CITIZENRY? HOW WILL THEY BE AFFECTED BY--

"BATMAN'S BIG BLOW-OFF!"

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Printed in U.S.A.

IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF  
IT'S YOUR BAG!...

A REAL BEAUT  
OF AN OPENING-  
ARTICLE, SCRIBE!  
BOUND TO ROCK  
THE SOLID  
CITIZENS OFF  
THEIR PLUSH  
PILLARS OF  
SOCIETY!

MAN, WILL  
THIS EVER  
GRAB THE  
CIRCULATION  
AWAY FROM  
THOSE STUFFED-  
SHEETS?

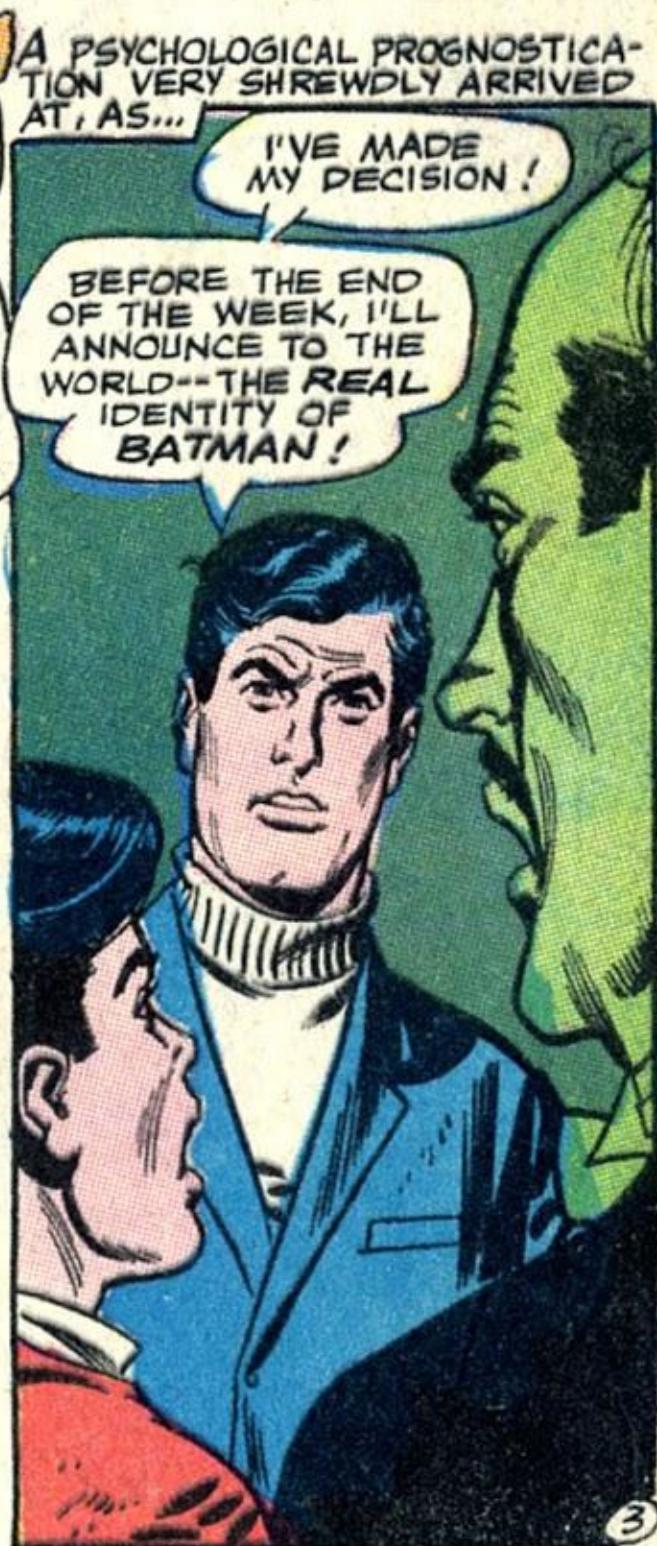
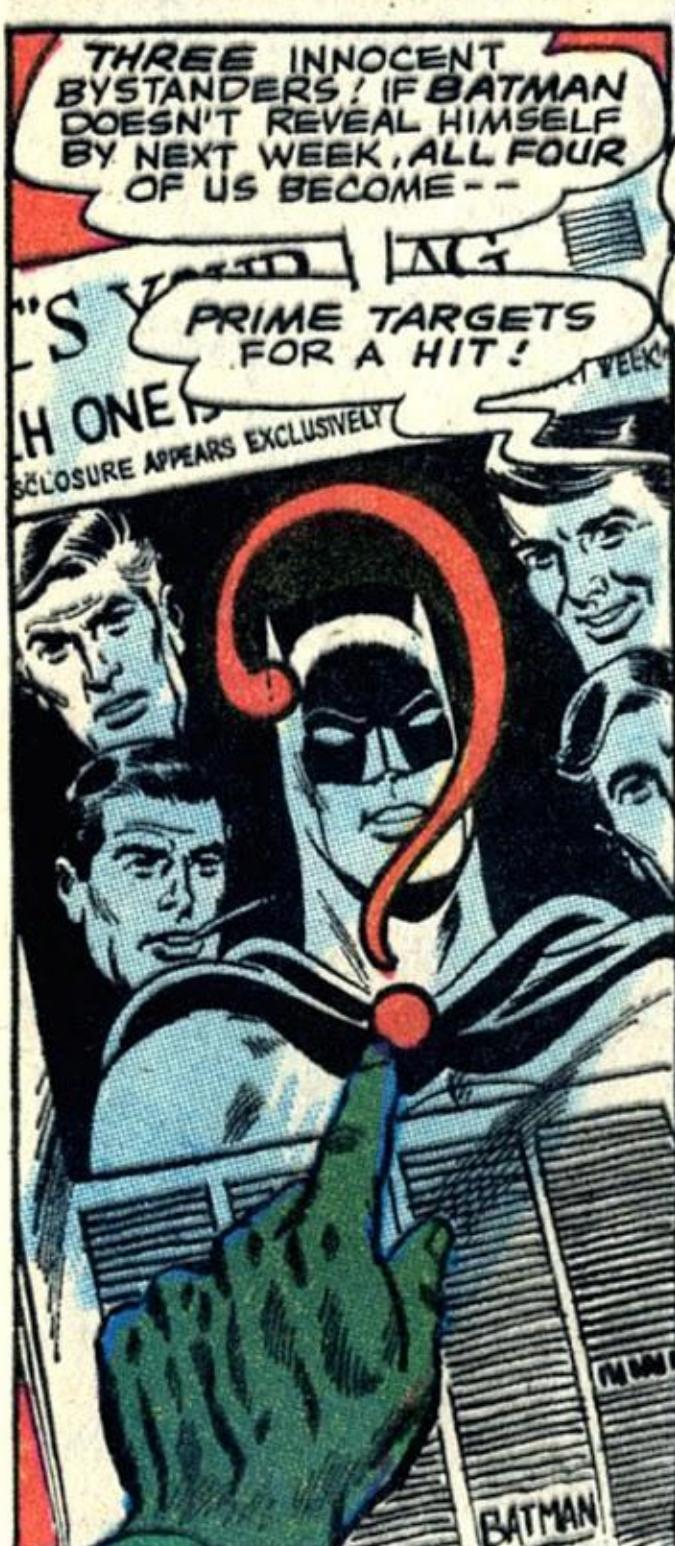
BUT WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO  
BACK UP THE DIRT  
IN THIS OPENER?  
HOW DO WE  
DELIVER THE  
GOODS IN  
NEXT WEEK'S  
FOLLOW-UP  
ARTICLE?

DON'T SWEAT IT, CHIEF,  
BY NEXT WEEK--ONE  
OF THOSE FOUR  
SUCKERS WILL  
DO IT FOR US!



# WHICH ONE IS YOUR BAG THE STARTLING DISCLOSURE APPEARS EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS PAPER NEXT WEEK! BY YOUR DIRT DIGGER... SCRIBE





BRUCE, YOU MUST BE KIDDING! DO YOU REALIZE THE CONSEQUENCES?

THE MOMENT YOU ANNOUNCE THAT BATMAN IS REALLY BRUCE WAYNE...

...THE BACKLASH SETS IN! LET'S SAY YOU'RE LEAVING FOR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION ONE FINE MORNING...

HOP IN, DICK! I'LL DROP YOU AT SCHOOL ON MY WAY...



THERE... THERE... PRETTY GRIM IMAGININGS, DICK!

ON THE OTHER HAND, LET'S TAKE THE POSITIVE SIDE!



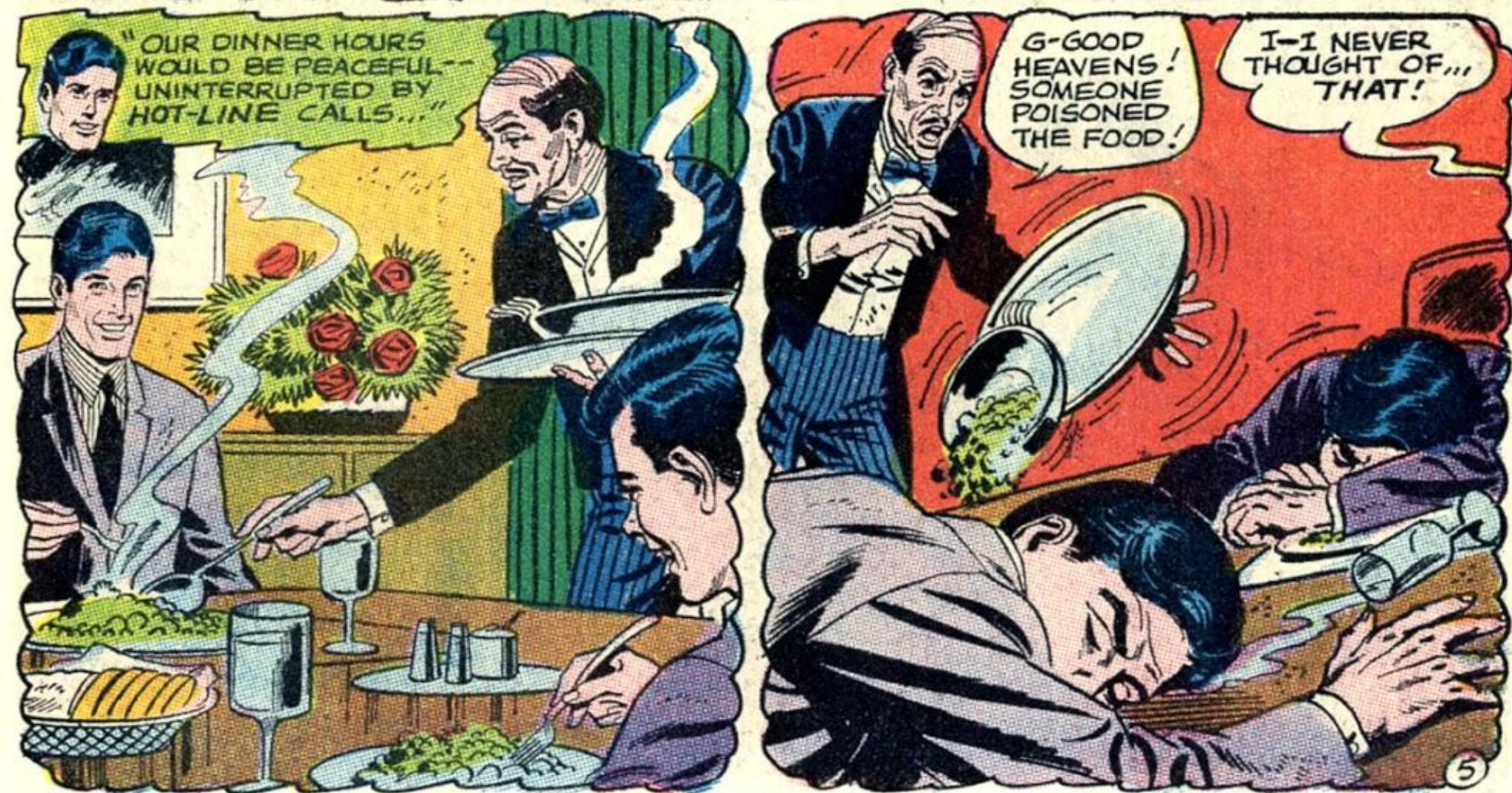
"NO LONGER WILL I HAVE TO PLAY A DOUBLE ROLE! I CAN TAKE MY PLACE IN SOCIETY AS A CRIME-FIGHTER AND LEADING CITIZEN..."

FOR YEARS WE'VE WAITED TO GIVE OUR HEARTFELT THANKS...

HURRAH FOR BRUCE... BATMAN... WAYNE!

IMAGINE, DICK!  
NO MORE DISSEMBLING  
TO PROTECT MY IDENTITY  
AS BATMAN! PUBLIC  
APPEARANCES--INSPIRATIONAL  
TALKS TO YOUTH--

--AND PUBLIC  
EXPOSURE  
TO EVERY  
GUN-SIGHT  
THE UNDERWORLD  
CAN TROT OUT!



WHAT'S THE MATTER,  
BRUCE? YOU LOOK  
LIKE YOU'D SEEN  
A GHOST!

I--I DID! I  
NEED TIME TO  
THINK THIS OVER...

COULDN'T POSSIBLY  
TELL DICK-- BUT  
MORE INNOCENT  
LIVES THAN I THOUGHT  
HINGE ON MY  
DECISION!

AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM, SPOOKS MANSION  
ALSO FACES A DILEMMA...

OKAY, SPOOKS--A  
GAG'S A GAG! BUT  
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT  
YOU BEIN' BATMAN?



SINCE WHEN DO YOU  
BELIEVE EVERYTHING  
YOU READ IN NEWS-  
PAPERS, HUH?

SOME CREEP  
NEWSHOUND'S IDEA  
OF A CIRCULATION-  
GRABBER STORY!  
OR MAYBE--

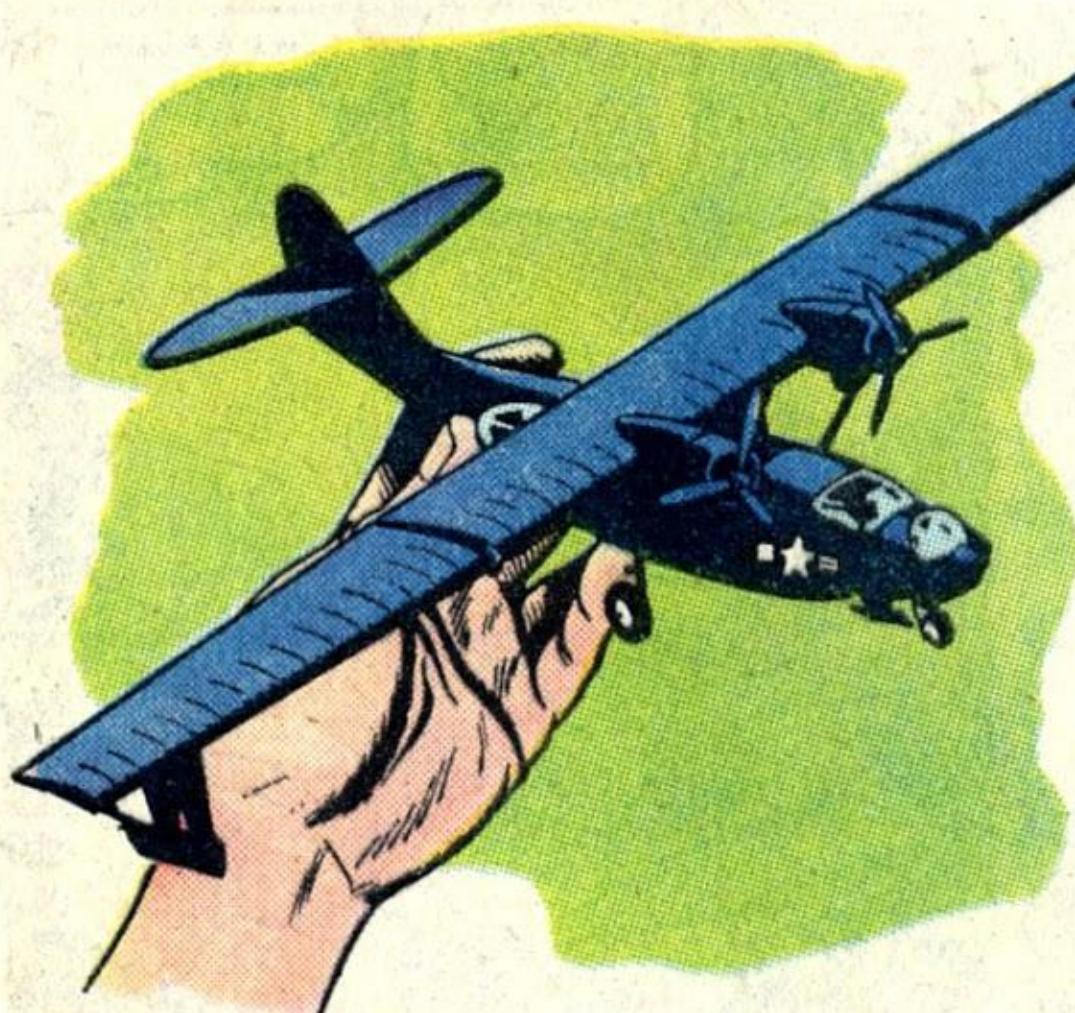


--MAYBE IT'S A "PLANT" BY  
BATMAN HIMSELF! FIGURING  
ON GETTING US TO DISTRUST  
EACH OTHER--SO WE DO HIM  
A FAVOR BY KNOCKING  
OURSELVES OFF!

I SAY WE  
COOL IT--TILL  
BATMAN  
MAKES A  
MOVE!



AND MAKE A MOVE BATMAN (BRUCE WAYNE)  
DOES--ON THE 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING!



## PLUCK

Build her, yourself! She's the plucky Navy PBY, and plucking downed pilots out of the sea during WWII was her specialty. She'd plop down on the water, pick up her boys, and off she'd fly again...all within a matter of seconds and a few hundred feet, and sometimes under direct enemy fire. No wonder so many fliers loved her. She was also the first flying boat to span the U.S. and first to explore unknown regions of the Arctic and New Guinea. And in WWII she laid mines, ferried men and supplies, and was a patrol bomber of the famed Black Cat Squadron. You can't seem to keep the old girl down. Now she's hard at work fighting forest fires! We think you'll learn to love her too, as you build Revell's beautifully authentic model of the classic PBY Catalina. She sells for under \$2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

Send 35¢ for new 1969 color  
catalog of Revell kits.  
Revell, Inc., 4364 Glencoe Ave.,  
Venice, California 90291



March, 1969 • Model of the Month  
PBY-5A Catalina

# FLASH! BONUS OFFER FROM MOTORIFIC®

BUY ANY OF THESE  
HOT MOTORIFIC RACING  
CARS AND GET A  
RACE TRACK ATTENDANT  
...RIGHT IN THE PACKAGE!

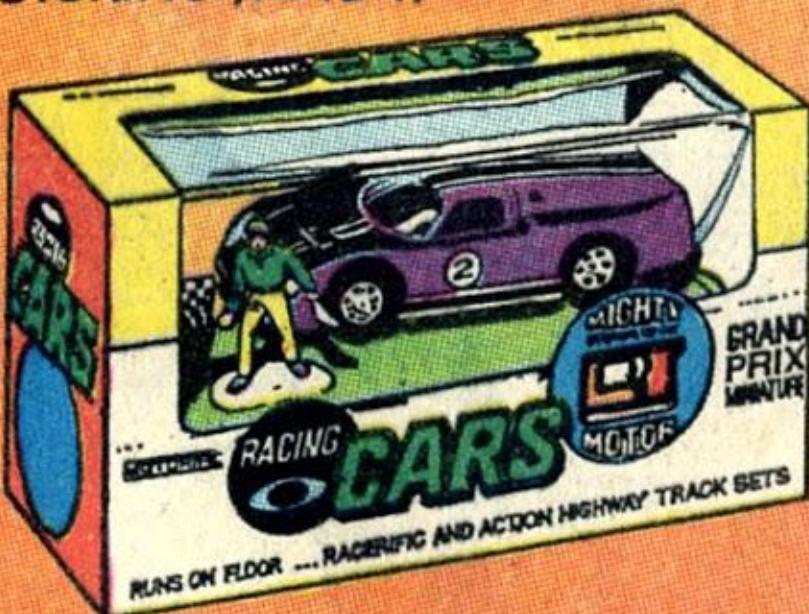


BACK ROW: FORD J / PORSCHE CARRERA 6  
FRONT ROW: CHAPARRAL / MAKO SHARK / FERRARI 250 / FORD MARK II.

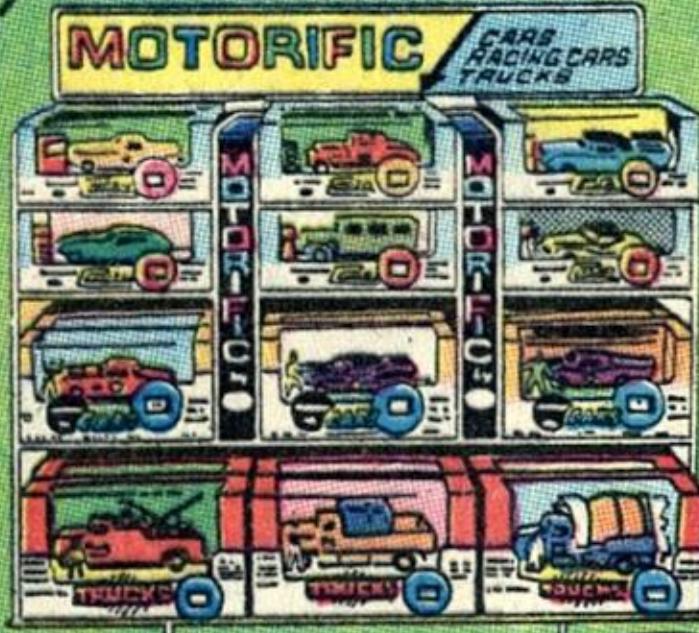
SIGNAL MAN FIREMAN • MECHANIC • ATTENDANT • TRACKMAN • FLAGMAN



EACH SET COMES WITH THE RACER  
OF YOUR CHOICE, THE NEW BONUS  
ATTENDANT, AND A HIGH-TORQUE  
MOTORIFIC MOTOR.



LOOK FOR THIS MOTORIFIC DISPLAY  
CENTER AT YOUR FAVORITE TOY STORE  
NOW!



IT'S MOTORIFIC, IT'S EXTRA  
EXTRA TERRIFIC... IT'S

IDEAL



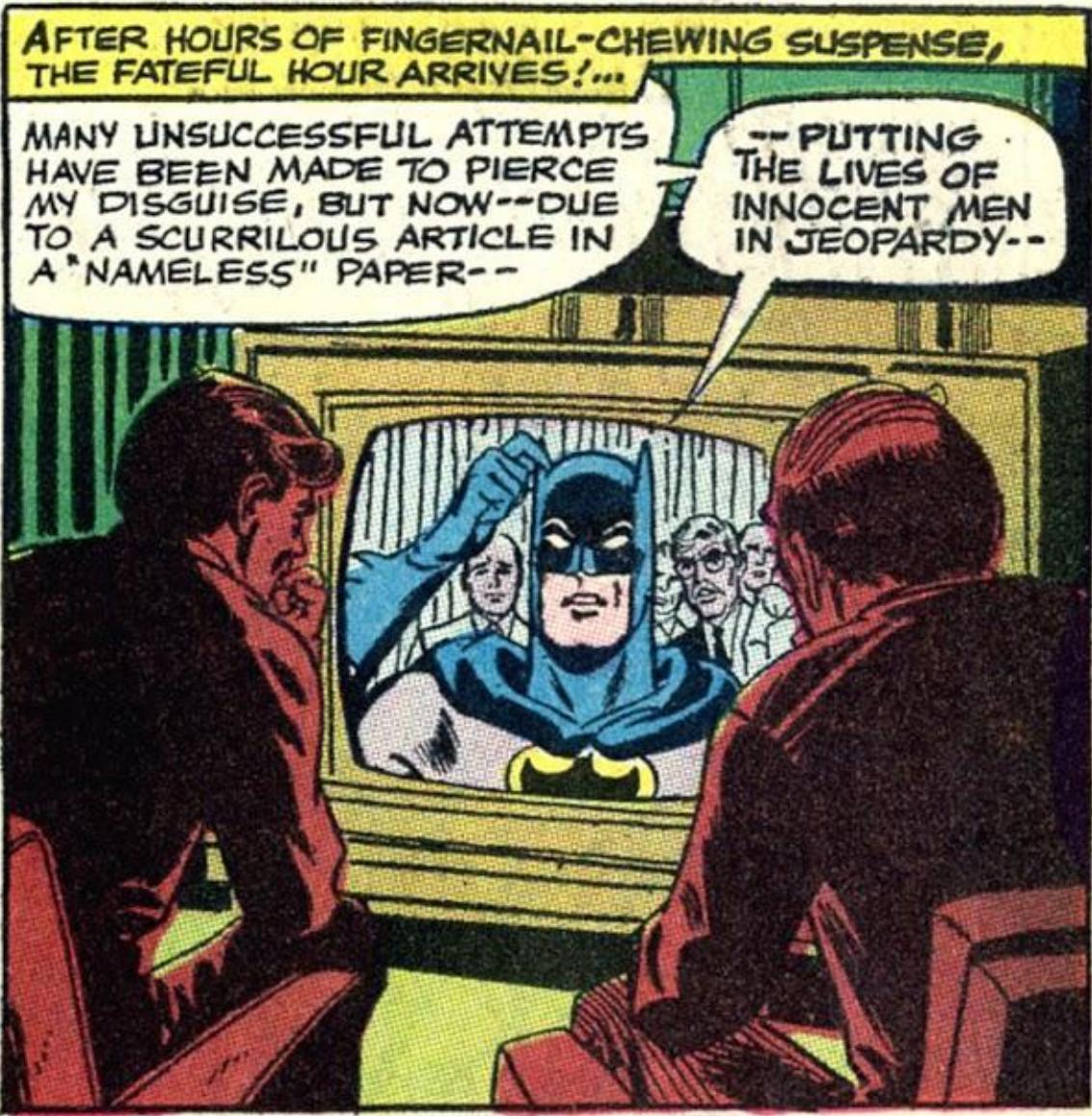
I CAN'T LET HIM DO IT! GOT TO GET TO THE STUDIO BEFORE THE TELECAST-- STOP HIM! HE'S SIGNING HIS OWN DEATH SENTENCE!

NO, MASTER DICK! YOU MUSTN'T! MASTER BRUCE GAVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS!

AFTER HOURS OF FINGERNAIL-CHEWING SUSPENSE, THE FATEFUL HOUR ARRIVES!...

MANY UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO PIERCE MY DISGUISE, BUT NOW-- DUE TO A SCURRILOUS ARTICLE IN A "NAMELESS" PAPER--

-- PUTTING THE LIVES OF INNOCENT MEN IN JEOPARDY--



-- I HAVE CHOSEN TO REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY...

WHO'D HAVE GUESSED?

GASP!

IT'S-- HIM?

NO! IT CAN'T BE--!



# SUPER... SPECIAL...

**GIANT SUPER 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY ISSUE**

DC SUPERMAN NATIONAL COMICS

JUNE NO. 156

25c

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

PETE ROSS... YOU'VE STOLEN MY SUPER-POWERS, MY COSTUME, AND MY SUPER-DOG! I'LL DIE IF YOU LEAVE ME HERE!

TOO BAD, CLARK! NOW I'M GOING TO SMALLVILLE TO STEAL YOUR GIRL, LANA LANG!

Featuring SUPERBOY'S FAREWELL TO SMALLVILLE!

THERE GOES OUR ADOPTED SON--BACK TO ANOTHER PLANET WITH HIS REAL PARENTS!

ON SALE MAR. 6

TWO FANTASTIC BOOK-LENGTH NOVELS!

# SPECTACULAR!

H-HOW COULD  
BRUCE DO  
SUCH A THING?  
HE MUST KNOW  
HE COULD NEVER  
GET AWAY WITH--

YES, FRIENDS--  
BATMAN IS REALLY  
HOWARD HAYES!  
A MAN MOST  
OF YOU KNOW  
ONLY BY  
REPUTATION--

THE LAST  
PERSON  
I'D HAVE  
SUSPECTED!



--PASSING OFF  
BATMAN TO  
THE WORLD  
AS HOWARD  
HAYES--

THE WIDELY-  
KNOWN -- BUT  
SELDOM SEEN--  
RICHEST MAN IN  
THE WORLD!

MEANWHILE, AT SPOOKS MANSION'S PLACE...

WHATAYAKNOW!  
BATMAN-- THE  
CAMERA-SHY PLAY-  
BOY OF THE WESTERN  
WORLD!

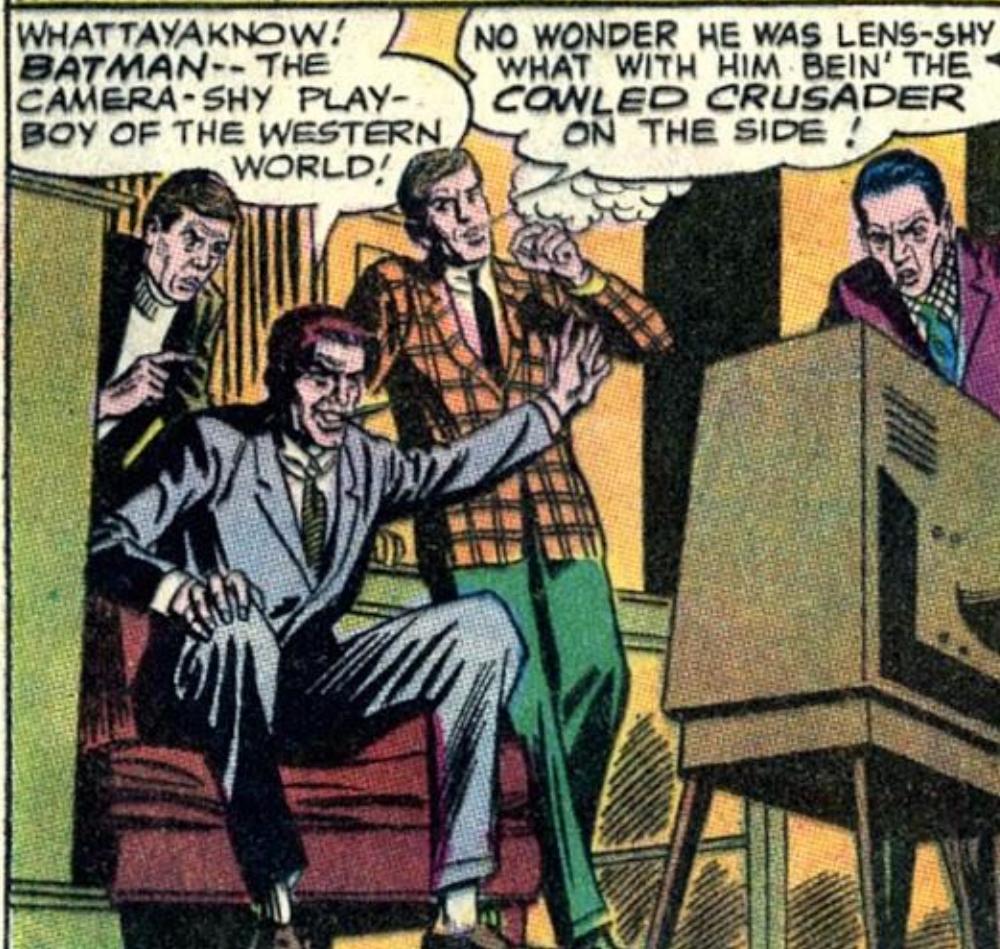
NO WONDER HE WAS LENS-SHY  
WHAT WITH HIM BEIN' THE  
COWLED CRUSADE  
ON THE SIDE !

AND BACK AT THE TV STUDIO...

YOU SURE "CALLED THE  
SHOT", SCRIBE!  
BRO-THER, DID YOU  
EVER!

I THOUGHT

I HAD THE  
INSIDE DOPE,  
CHIEF! HOW WAS  
I TO KNOW--



HIS ENTIRE NEWS-PROPHECY AT STAKE,  
SCRIBE LEAPS TO HIS ATTACK!...

I CHALLENGE THIS FAKER! HE'S  
NONE OF THE MEN I PREDICTED  
IN MY ARTICLE!

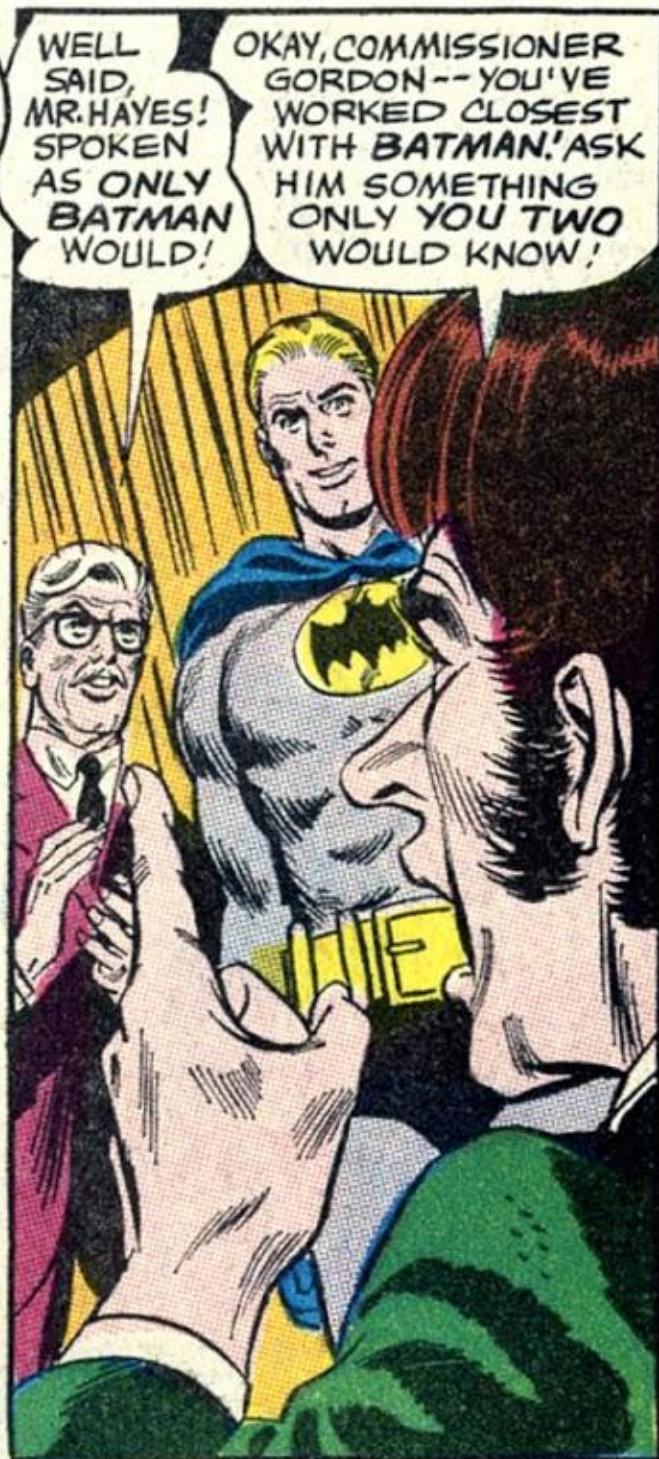
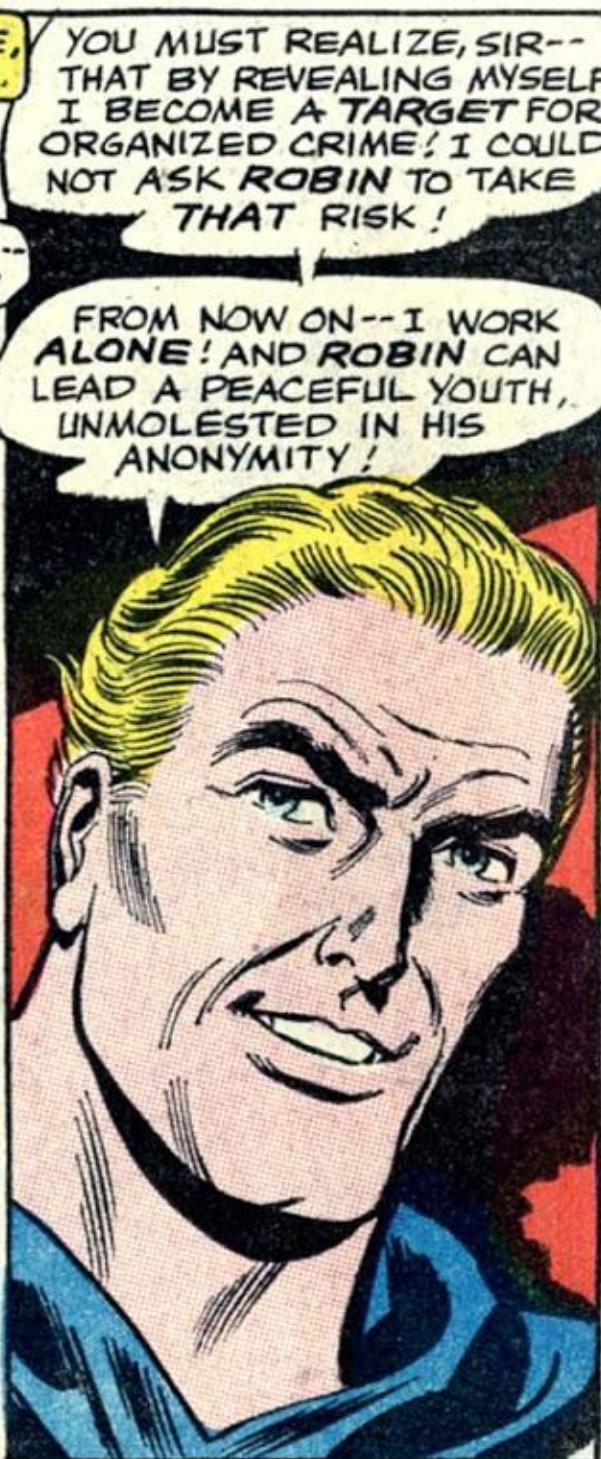
IF HE IS BATMAN--  
WHERE'S ROBIN?

YOU MUST REALIZE, SIR--  
THAT BY REVEALING MYSELF,  
I BECOME A TARGET FOR  
ORGANIZED CRIME! I COULD  
NOT ASK ROBIN TO TAKE  
THAT RISK!

FROM NOW ON--I WORK  
ALONE! AND ROBIN CAN  
LEAD A PEACEFUL YOUTH,  
UNMOLESTED IN HIS  
ANONYMITY!

WELL  
SAID,  
MR.HAYES!  
SPOKEN  
AS ONLY  
BATMAN  
WOULD!

OKAY, COMMISSIONER  
GORDON -- YOU'VE  
WORKED CLOSEST  
WITH BATMAN. ASK  
HIM SOMETHING  
ONLY YOU TWO  
WOULD KNOW!

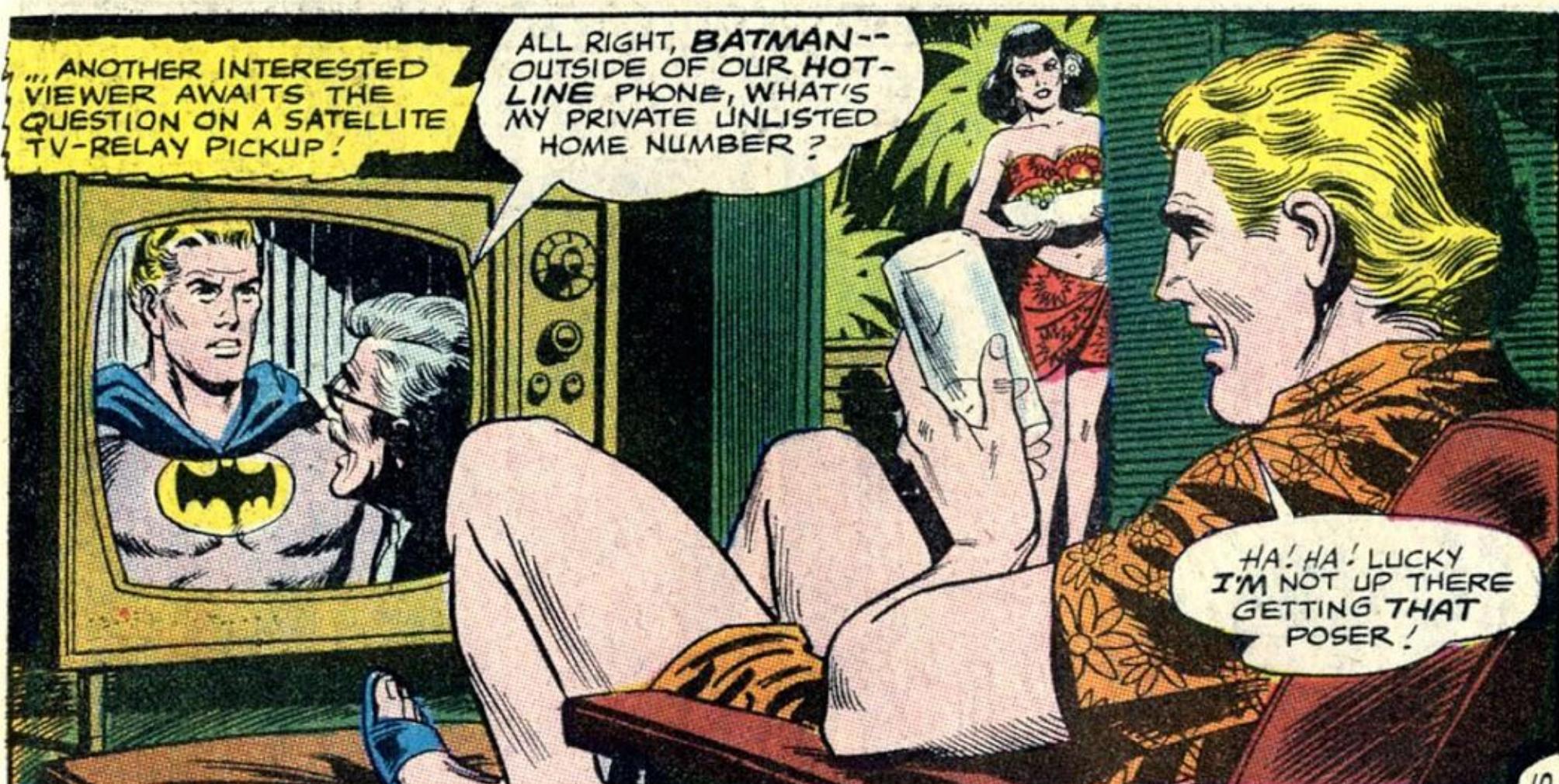


AND  
THOUSANDS  
OF MILES  
AWAY  
IN THE  
CARIBBEAN,  
ON A  
PRIVATE  
ISLAND...

ALL RIGHT, BATMAN--  
OUTSIDE OF OUR HOT-  
LINE PHONE, WHAT'S  
MY PRIVATE UNLISTED  
HOME NUMBER?

... ANOTHER INTERESTED  
VIEWER AWAITS THE  
QUESTION ON A SATELLITE  
TV-RELAY PICKUP!

X X ZZZ! GO AHEAD,  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON!  
ASK HIM!



HA! HA! LUCKY  
I'M NOT UP THERE  
GETTING THAT  
POSER!

ODDEST SENSATION SEEING  
MYSELF LIVE ON TV IN  
THAT BATMAN GET-UP!

BUT BETTER HIM THAN ME!  
WOULDN'T RELISH SETTING  
MYSELF UP AS A TARGET!

YOUR UNLISTED  
NUMBER WOULD  
HARDLY REMAIN  
PRIVATE IF I  
TOLD IT ON  
WORLD-WIDE TV,  
COMMISSIONER!

BUT I CAN WRITE IT  
DOWN SO ONLY YOU  
CAN SEE IT!

CORRECT!  
I DON'T  
NEED ANY  
FURTHER  
CONVINCING--  
BATMAN!

HE CAN HAVE MY  
GOTHAM ESTATE--  
AND ALL THAT GOES  
WITH IT! LET HIM  
PLAY "HOWARD  
HAYES"! I NEVER  
DID DIG THIS PUBLIC  
FIGURE ROLE!

REAL CLEVER, BATMAN!  
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE  
UNDERESTIMATED YOU  
WHEN YOU FIRST CAME  
TO ME WITH YOUR  
SCREwy SCHEME!

WHILE IN THE  
TV STUDIO...

YOU AND YOUR BIG  
PUBLICITY STUNTS!  
I-I'M RUINED...

SCRIBE,  
YOU'RE--  
FIRED!

YOU SURE RID GOTHAM  
OF A ROTTEN RAG,  
BATMAN--ER, MR.  
HAYES! BUT NOW I'M  
CONCERNED ABOUT  
YOUR SAFETY--LET ME  
GIVE YOU POLICE  
PROTECTION!

UH-UH--THANKS,  
COMMISSIONER GORDON.  
BUT HOW COULD I  
FUNCTION WITH AN  
ARMY AROUND  
ME?

GOING HOME--WHERE I CAN GET A  
PEACEFUL NIGHT'S SLEEP! AND,  
COMMISSIONER--DON'T CALL ME--  
I'LL CALL YOU!

Soon, at the Hayes Estate...

Welcome, Mr. H! Were we ever thrown when you came out with that Batman Block-Buster on TV!

THANKS FOR THE ACCOLADES, BOYS! JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SHOOT ME AS A PROWLER ONE NIGHT!

SURE MISS DICK AND ALFRED! BUT THEY'LL HAVE A QUIETER--AND SAFER--LIFE WITHOUT ME!

AND SO WILL HOWARD HAYES! WITH VERY LITTLE DISGUISE, HE CAN TRAVEL THE GLOBE--INCOGNITO--LIVING IT UP WITH ALL HIS MONEY!



A WAIT WHICH MAY NOT TAKE TOO LONG, AS...

DON'TCHA SEE IT, SPOOKS? IT'S A NATURAL--A SET-UP! NOW BATMAN CAN'T HIDE ANYWHERE NO MORE! AS HOWARD HAYES, HE'S OUT IN THE OPEN!

YE-AH, A PUSH-OVER FOR A "HIT"! AND--



NO--WE'LL JUST SIT ON OUR GUNS AND COOL IT! GET THE WORD AROUND--LET BATMAN STEW IN HIS OWN JUICES! I NEED TIME TO FIGURE HIS ANGLE!





AND THEN, TO THE COWLED CRUSADER'S AMAZEMENT...

REMEMBER THE WORD, BOYS!  
COOL IT!

EH--?

GREAT GOING,  
BATM-- MR.  
HAYES! YOU'VE  
DONE IT AGAIN!

EASIEST  
NAB I EVER  
MADE!

TOO EASY!  
WHAT'S THE  
UNDERWORLD'S  
ANGLE?



THAT TOPS IT! THE ONE THING I COULD NEVER BUY-- PUBLIC ACCLAIM... AND BATMAN JUST WALKS IN POSING AS ME...

AND THEY HAND IT TO HIM ON A SILVER PLATTER!

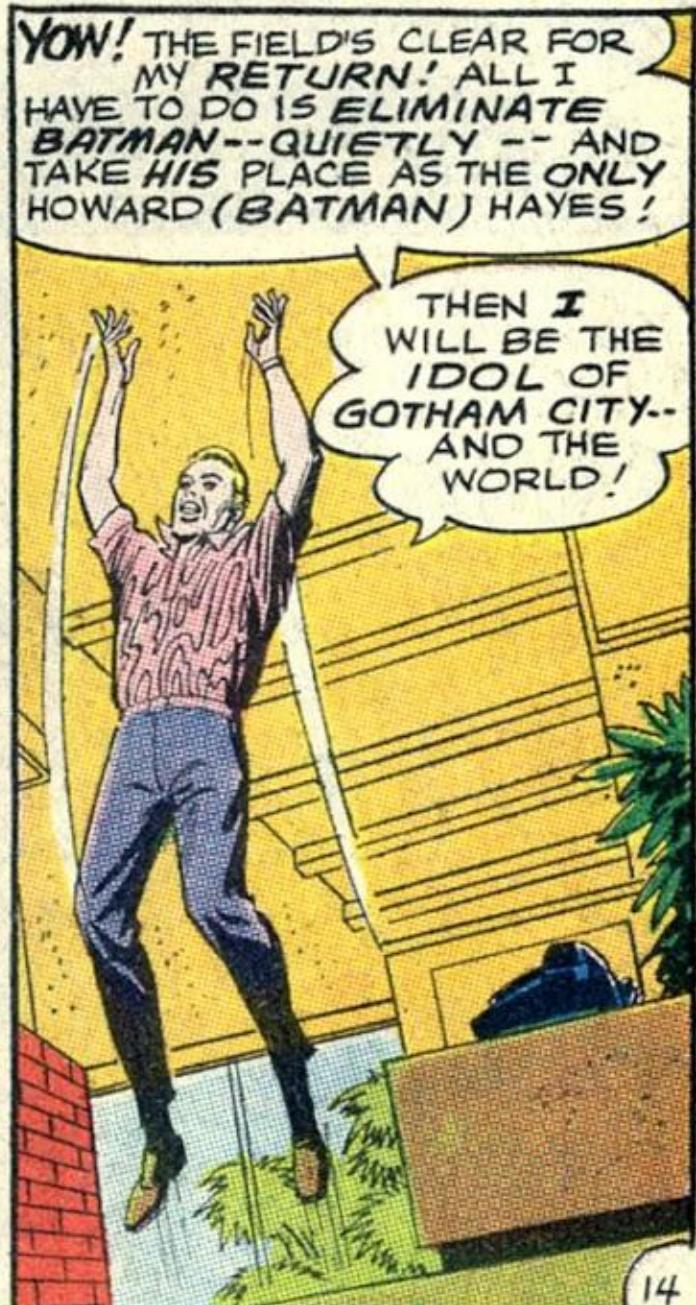
LONG DISTANCE-- GET ME GOTHAM CITY!

THIS IS HOWARD HAYES! WHAT'S THE LOWDOWN ON WHY THE BOYS ARE LAYING OFF BATMAN... ME?

THE WORD'S OUT, MR. HAYES -- TO COOL IT! NAW, I DON'T KNOW WHY!

YOW! THE FIELD'S CLEAR FOR MY RETURN! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ELIMINATE BATMAN-- QUIETLY -- AND TAKE HIS PLACE AS THE ONLY HOWARD (BATMAN) HAYES!

THEN I WILL BE THE IDOL OF GOTHAM CITY-- AND THE WORLD!



IN THE ENSUING DAYS, THE ATHLETIC HOWARD HAYES BRUSHES UP ON THE DEADLIEST KILLING TECHNIQUES KNOWN TO MAN...

HAI!

H-H-HA!

H-CHA!



NOW--I'M READY FOR HIM! NOT EVEN BATMAN CAN MATCH MY STRENGTH--SPEED--AND WITS!

AND WITH THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE ON MY SIDE...

AS THE DAY OF THE AWARD DINNER DAWNS...

IN A FEW HOURS THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS HOWARD HAYES WILL VANISH--

...AND I WILL TAKE HIS PLACE FOREVER AS THE MAN OF THE YEAR!



MANY HOURS  
LATER, THE  
BILLIONAIRE'S  
EXEC-JET  
LANDS AT  
GOTHAM  
AIRPORT...

NOW A JUDICIOUS PHONE-CALL  
TO MY EX-RESIDENCE--AND  
BATMAN BEGINS HIS FINAL  
JOURNEY TO OBSCURE  
OBLIVION!



AND AS "BRUCE" WORKS ON HIS ACCEPTANCE SPEECH, THE PHONE RINGS...

BATMAN? I  
GUESS YOU'RE  
WONDERING  
WHY WE LET  
YOU LIVE--  
WHILE YOU  
CONTINUE TO  
INTERFERE  
WITH OUR  
ACTIVITIES--

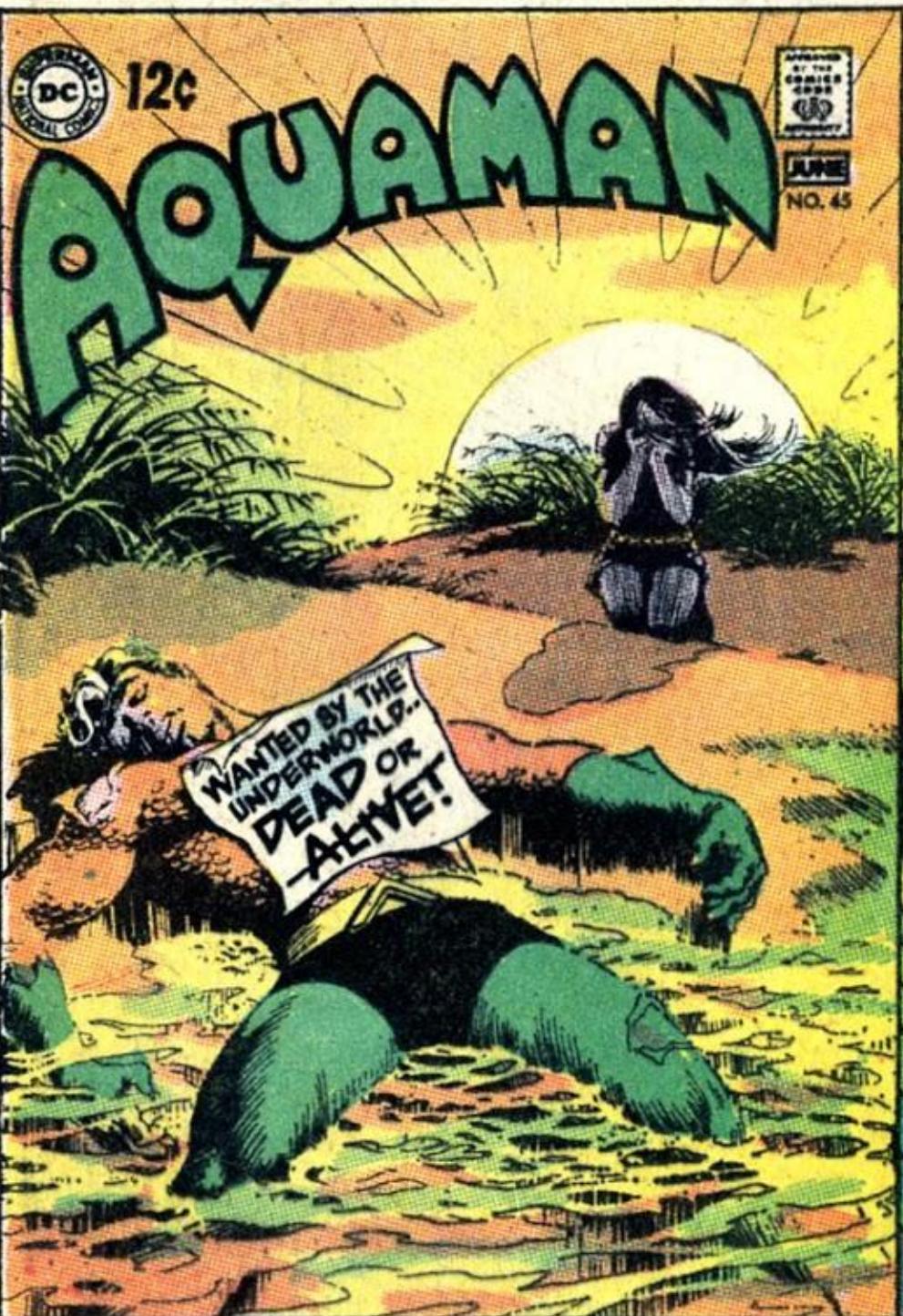
THAT VOICE -- SOUNDS  
FAMILIAR! BUT I  
CAN'T PLACE IT...

WHO ARE  
YOU?

YOU'D NEVER GUESS!  
BUT IF YOU WANT  
TO FIND OUT--

MEET ME  
IN ONE HOUR  
OUTSIDE HANGAR  
7 AT GOTHAM  
AIRPORT!

THE FOUL TRAP IS LAID! WILL BATMAN WALK  
INTO IT? WITH BAITED BREATH, WE PAUSE  
FOR 2 PAGES!





# Detective Comics #27 (May, 1939)

## FACT FILE #7

S-138

The comics readers of thirty years ago always could depend upon getting a great buy for their money whenever they picked up on a copy of *Detective Comics*. For more than two years straight it had produced some of the most exciting adventure stories in the still young comics field. In fact, the magazine was the first ever to print all brand-new stories. By the time #27 rolled around, it was solidly established as a reader's favorite.

A leading reason for *Detective Comics'* popularity was its regular features. The best known at the time was a character called *Slam Bradley*. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, the creators of Superman, were the people behind the strip originally and the writer-artist team of the story in #27. The tale begins with *Slam* and his partner *Shorty Morgan*, both private detectives, being run off the side of the road by a hurtling car. Catching up to the reckless driver, *Slam* discovers that he is an escaped killer, "Black Jack" Benson. *Slam* makes short work of recapturing the criminal, but the story is just beginning. The killer escapes from jail with the aid of an accomplice and he is believed to have gone to Switzerland. *Slam* and *Shorty* follow the trail to a ski resort, where they encounter a ski instructor who seems familiar. After a harrowing experience on the slopes, *Slam* is suspicious of the instructor. So one night he follows the instructor as he skis away from the resort. *Slam* and *Shorty* overcome him at a cave, only to be surprised by "Black Jack," who turns out to be the ski instructor's brother. *Slam* and *Shorty* are tied to a toboggan and sent speeding down a mountain-side toward a chasm. At the last instant they fling themselves over and stop their flight. After freeing their bonds, they surprise the criminals and capture them. *Slam Bradley* was a very popular feature that continued until the late 1940's.

Another strip that was well-received was another Siegel-Shuster series entitled simply "Spy." *Bart Regan* was no *James Bond*, but he always managed to involve himself in some fairly fantastic scheme that threatened our national security. In this particular story in issue #27, two members of a five-man congressional committee suddenly die, apparently of internal injuries. *Bart's* boss suspects murder and sends him to investigate. While eating lunch with a third congressman, the latter suddenly falls dead, with the same cause of death as the other two. *Bart* quickly rushes the last remaining congressmen into a hotel and registers them under false names. He then begins to pour over old committee files. While doing so, a hobo breaks in and forces *Bart* to give him his lunch, which *Bart* gladly allows him to eat anyway. Then the hobo falls dead and *Bart* realizes that his food was poisoned. He races to the congressmen's hotel room and searches their food. He discovers a miniature

bomb that had a covering that would dissolve in the stomach and explode, killing whomever had taken it. Back at his apartment, *Bart* has two visitors who say they have come to question him about the hobo's death. He goes with them, expecting to clear himself with their superiors, only to find that they are fakes who really are working for the man behind the murders. However, in a bit of quick thinking, *Bart* turns the tables on his captor and the villain falls victim to his own destructive device. Back at headquarters, *Bart's* boss remarks, "You certainly cleaned up that case pronto!", to which *Bart* merely replies, "That's old stuff—bring on another case!" *Bart's* career as "Spy" continued until the end of World War II.

*Slam Bradley* and *Spy*, of course, were not the only strips in the *Detective Comics* issues of those days. There was also featured *Speed Saunders*, another ace investigator, who in issue #27 solved the Red Crescent murders of the "Killers of Kurdistan." Then *Buck Marshall*, a Western range detective, solved the murder of a cowboy in "Bullet Bluff." The *Crimson Avenger*, a popular costumed hero in later years, appeared as a *Shadow*-type investigator in his strip. Other minor fillers completed the issue. The old-timers in the audience will remember *Cosmo*, *The Phantom of Disguise* . . . *Plain Clothes Pete* . . . *Flatfoot Flannigan* . . . *Bruce Nelson* . . . not to mention the well-done adaptations of Sax Rohmer's *Dr. Fu Manchu*.

Naturally the main event of *Detective Comics* #27 was the first appearance of *The Batman*. This classic first story is now being featured in the 30th anniversary celebration for *Batman* in the May *Detective Comics*. Bob Kane and Bill Finger combined to produce a character that fit right into the *Detective Comics* bag but changed the entire direction of the magazine and of the comics industry itself. Here was a character which operated as a detective, solving the murderous crimes of the day, as did most of the other features in the book. However, there was an added development. The cat (or should I say bat?) had the very essence of mystery surrounding him. With his dark costume and ever-mysterious appearances and disappearances, he seemed to personify the image of the perfect detective. Comics were never the same afterwards. And *Detective Comics* was never the same again, either. The continuing success of *Batman* led to other costumed characters in the magazine throughout the years: *Air Wave*, *Crimson Avenger*, *Robotman*, *J'onn J'onzz*, *Elongated Man*. Today *Batman* shares what has now become "his" *Detective Comics* with his fellow Bat-characters, *Robin the Boy Wonder* and *Batgirl*.

# A SAGA OF SWORD and SORCERY!



DC

SHOWCASE

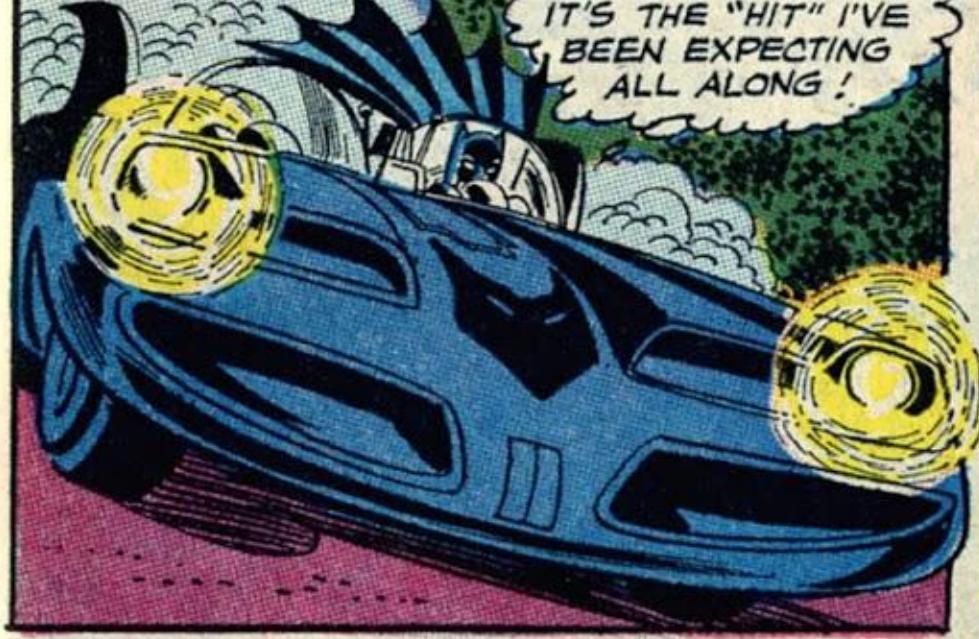
ON  
SALE  
MARCH  
13<sup>th</sup>

SHORTLY  
AFTER THE  
MYSTERY  
CALL...

COULD BE AN UNDERWORLD  
TIPSTER LOOKING TO PICK UP  
A QUICK BUCK BY SPILLING  
SOME INSIDE INFO...

OR MORE LIKELY  
IT'S THE "HIT" I'VE  
BEEN EXPECTING  
ALL ALONG!

KNEW CURIOSITY WOULD  
KILL THIS CAT! BUT--I  
CAN'T KILL HIM HERE!



ONE INTENTIONALLY  
MISSSED SHOT--TO  
ALERT HIM! THEN  
HE'LL FOLLOW ME--  
TO WHERE I CAN  
DISPOSE OF HIM  
UNSEEN!

MY UNKNOWN  
TIPSTER  
IS NOWHERE  
IN SIGHT!  
WHICH  
MEANS...

A PULLED LEVER ON THE DASHBOARD...



AND  
DENSE SMOKE  
POURS OUT OF  
THE REAR OF THE  
BATMOBILE!

WH-WHERE'D  
HE DISAPPEAR  
TO?



MY  
SECOND  
HUNCH WAS  
RIGHT! I WAS  
PREPARED  
FOR THIS HANGAR  
HANG-UP!



TO WHERE YOU'D  
LEAST EXPECT  
ME, HIT-MAN!

YOU'RE GOING TO  
EARN YOUR CONTRACT  
THE HARD WAY!



YAWK!

THANKS FOR KNOCKING  
THE GUN OUT OF MY  
HAND, BATMAN! YOU  
FREED BOTH OF THEM  
SO I CAN GIVE YOU  
MY FULL ATTENTION!

BESIDES, I  
WANTED TO  
DO THIS JOB  
SILENTLY!

HAVE TO CHANGE  
MY PLAN--FINISH  
HIM HERE!  
DUMP HIM ELSE-  
WHERE...

HOLD THAT POSE,  
BABY! YOUR NECK'S  
JUST READY FOR  
THE CHOPPING  
BLOCK!

NEVER DID HAVE  
THE PATIENCE  
TO POSE! I'M TOO  
RESTLESS!

KRANG

CONTINUED ON 2<sup>nd</sup> PAGE FOLLOWING.

1B

**There's a  
NEW  
EXCITEMENT  
about  
ADVENTURE  
COMING!**

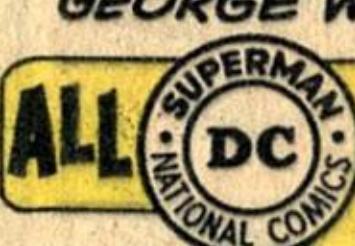
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Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE CAROUSEL

BESIDES, I'M NOT CUT OUT TO BE KINDLING WOOD!

NOW TO SEE WHO YOU ARE--

HOWARD HAYES??

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF BATMAN'S CONSTERNATION AT THE STARTLING REVELATION OF HIS WOULD-BE KILLER, HAYES REACTS WITH AMAZING RECUPERATIVE POWER!...

THE SAME, BATMAN! YOU BORROWED MY NAME--

NOW I'M CALLING IN MY LOAN!

ZOK! TUNG!

I'M RECLAIMING MY IDENTITY-- AND ADOPTING YOURS! AND SINCE YOU'VE MADE BATMAN AND HOWARD HAYES THE SAME PERSON--

THAT MAKES YOU ONE-TOO-MANY BATMEN!

YOUR "DISAPPEARANCE" WILL NEVER BE NOTICED-- SINCE BATMAN WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST!

SWITCHING TO AUTOMATIC-PILOT, THE IMPOSTOR  
REJOINS HIS CAPTIVE AUDIENCE...

IT SHALL BE MY PLEASURE TO  
CARRY ON THE MAGNIFICENT  
BATMAN TRADITION FOR  
YOU--A ROLE I'M OBVIOUSLY  
WELL EQUIPPED TO TAKE  
OVER!

YOU'VE BOUND ME--  
WITH MY OWN BATROPE!  
WHAT DO YOU PLAN--?

FAREWELL!  
BATMAN IS DEAD--  
LONG LIVE THE  
**NEW BATMAN!**

TO BURY YOU AND THE  
PLANE AT THE BOTTOM  
OF THE MID-ATLANTIC!  
AFTER I BAIL OUT,  
NATURALLY! THERE'S  
ENOUGH FUEL FOR AN  
HOUR'S FLIGHT!

AS THE JET BORES RELENTLESSLY ON OVER  
THE VAST EXPANSE OF NOTHINGNESS, THE  
MASTER OF ESCAPE STRUGGLES DESPERATELY  
AGAINST TIME...

JETS BEGINNING  
TO SPUTTER! NOT MUCH TIME  
TO FREE MYSELF...

BUT TIME  
THERE ISN'T,  
AS THE  
TURBINES  
FLAME OUT!...

**SPUT-  
SPUT!**

AND THE JET DIVES STRAIGHT DOWN!...

FREE...!  
BUT...FOR WHAT?  
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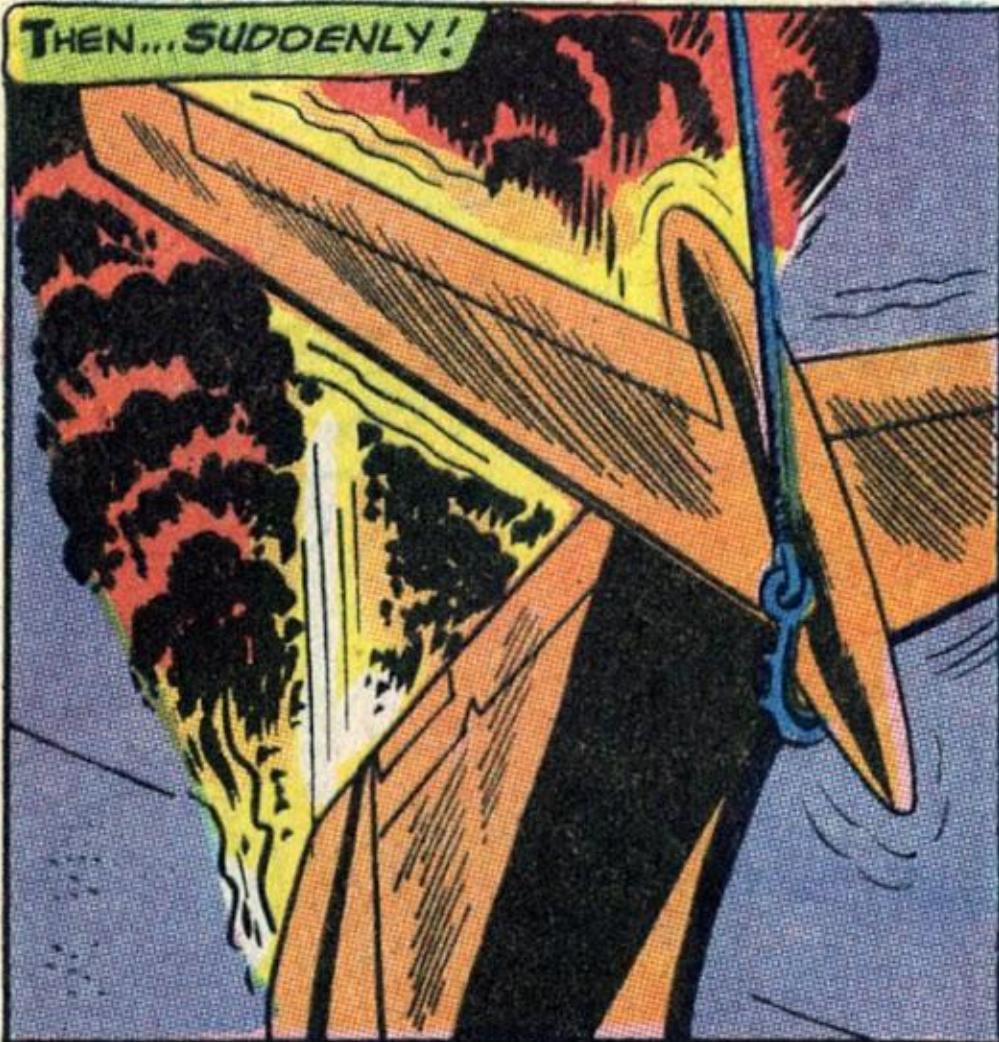
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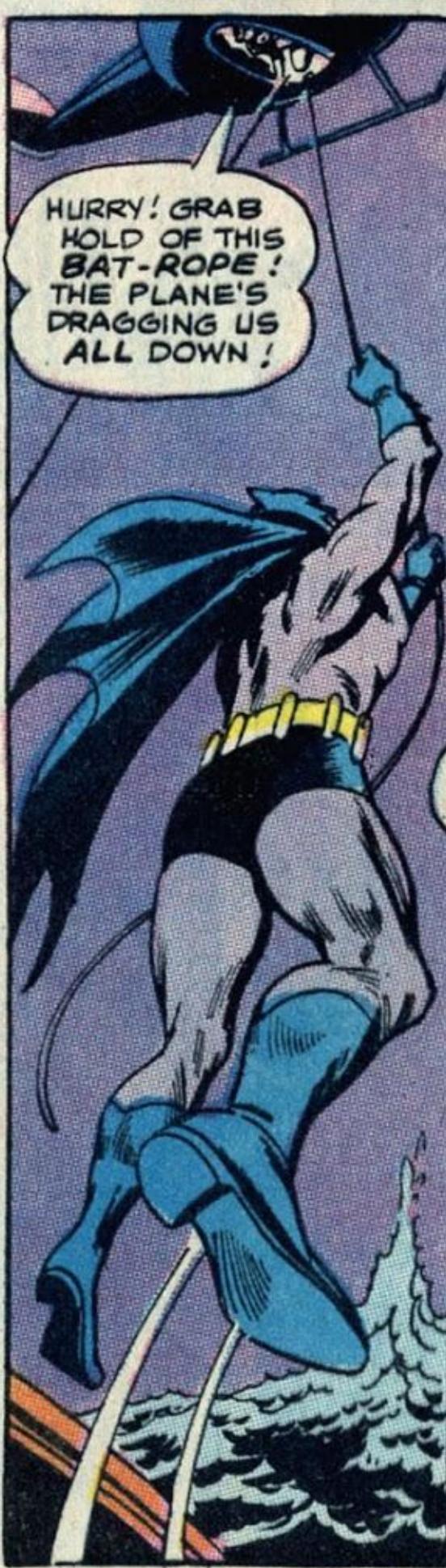
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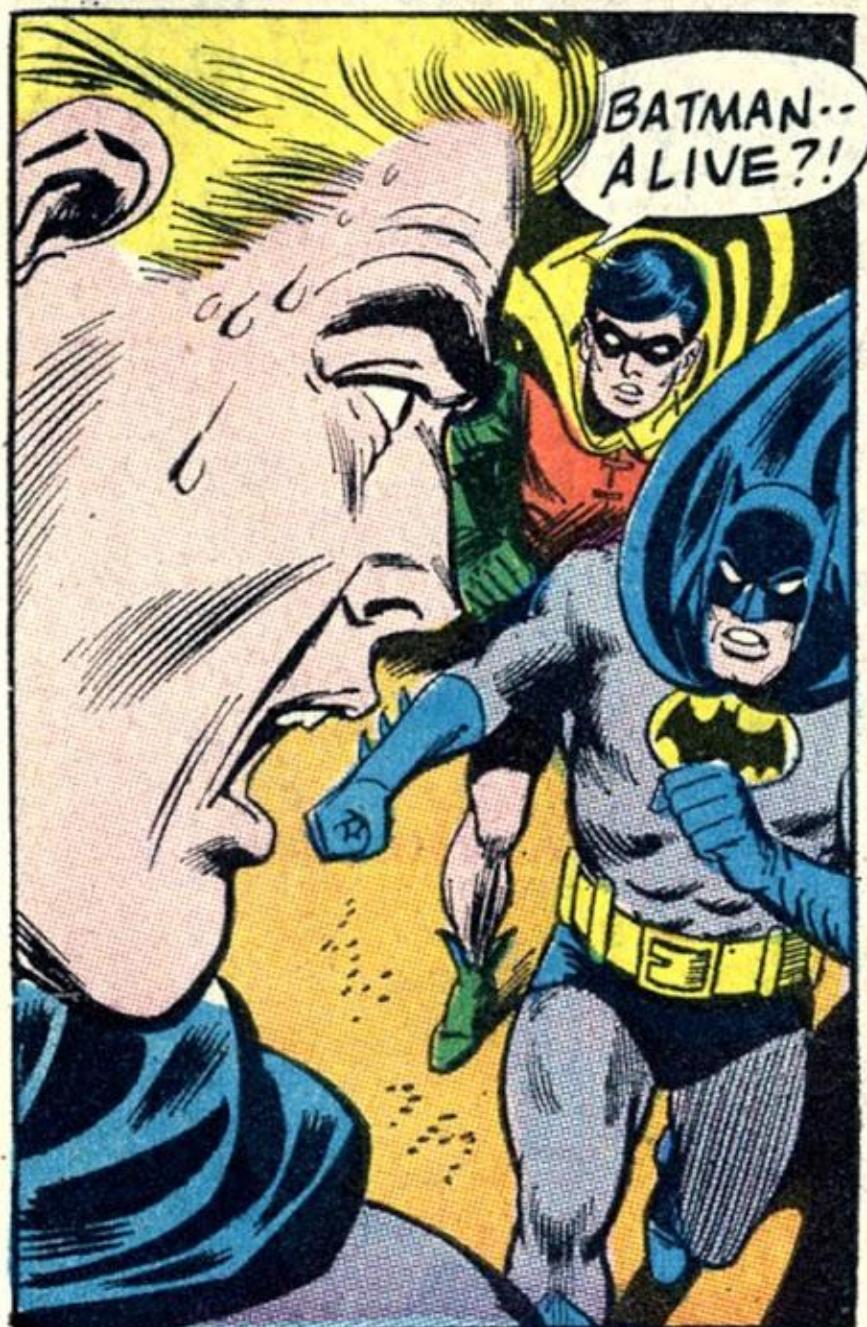
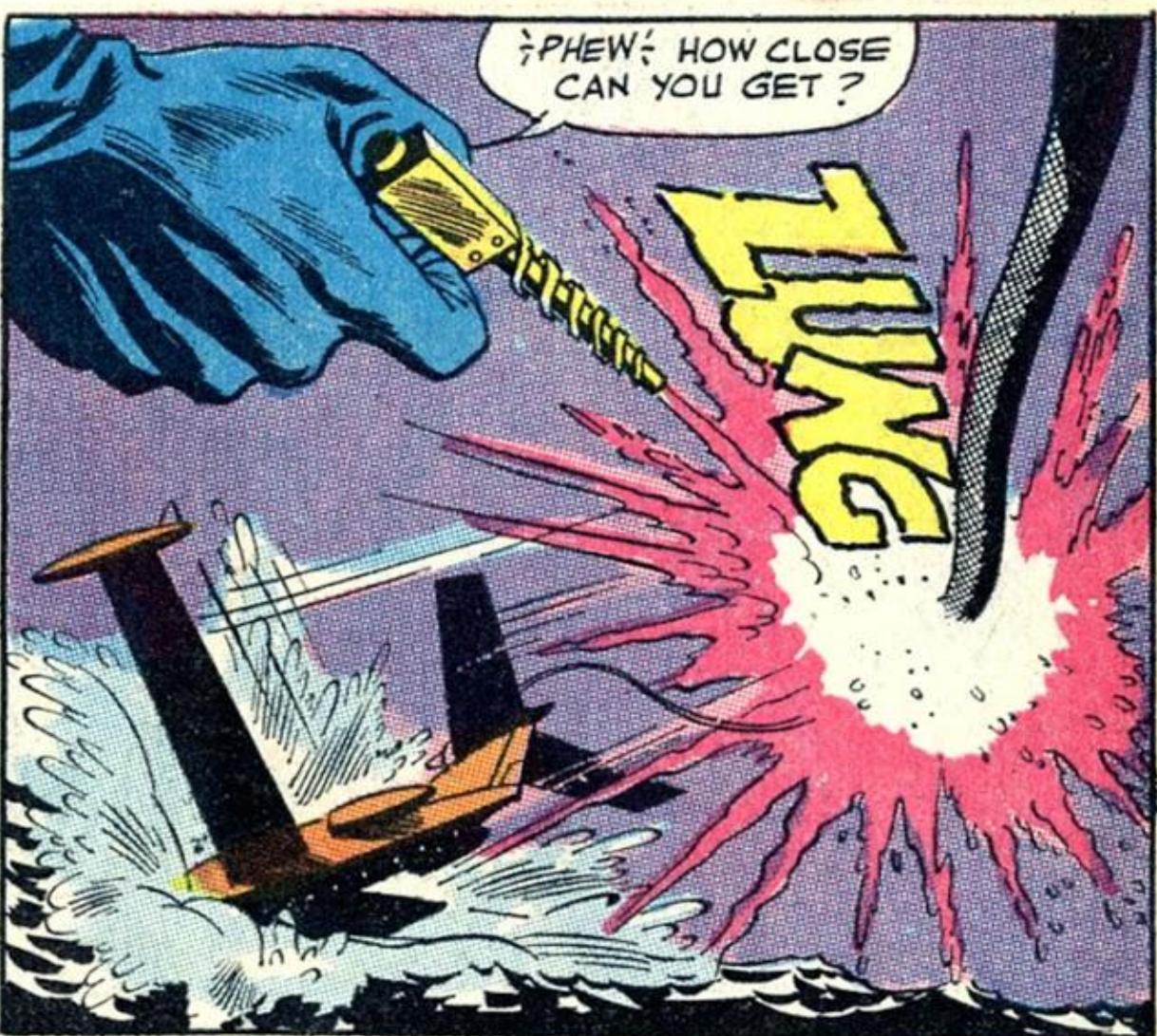
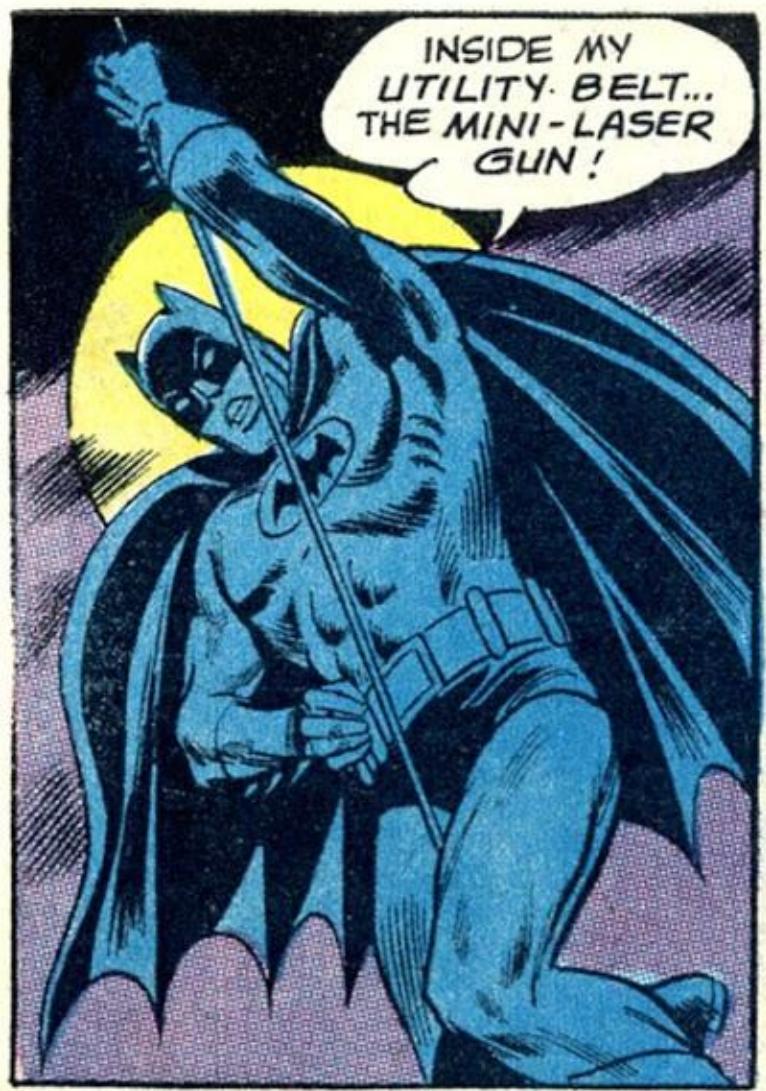
THEN... SUDDENLY!



AS THE PLUNGING JET IS JOLTED TO A SLOW DESCENT, A STUNNED BATMAN LOOKS UP!...



THAT CABLE'S STRONGER THAN STEEL! BUT THERE'S ONE OUTSIDE CHANCE...





B--BUT I'M STILL PERPLEXED! ONE-- HOW DID HAYES KNOW MY PRIVATE UNLISTED NUMBER WHEN I ASKED HIM THE TEST QUESTION?

AND TWO-- WHY WOULD THE WORLD'S RICHEST MAN WANT TO STEAL YOUR IDENTITY, BATMAN?

ONE--HE DIDN'T! IT WAS I-- MASQUERADE AS "HOWARD HAYES"--UNTIL HE GOT THE BRIGHT IDEA OF MASQUERADE AS BATMAN!

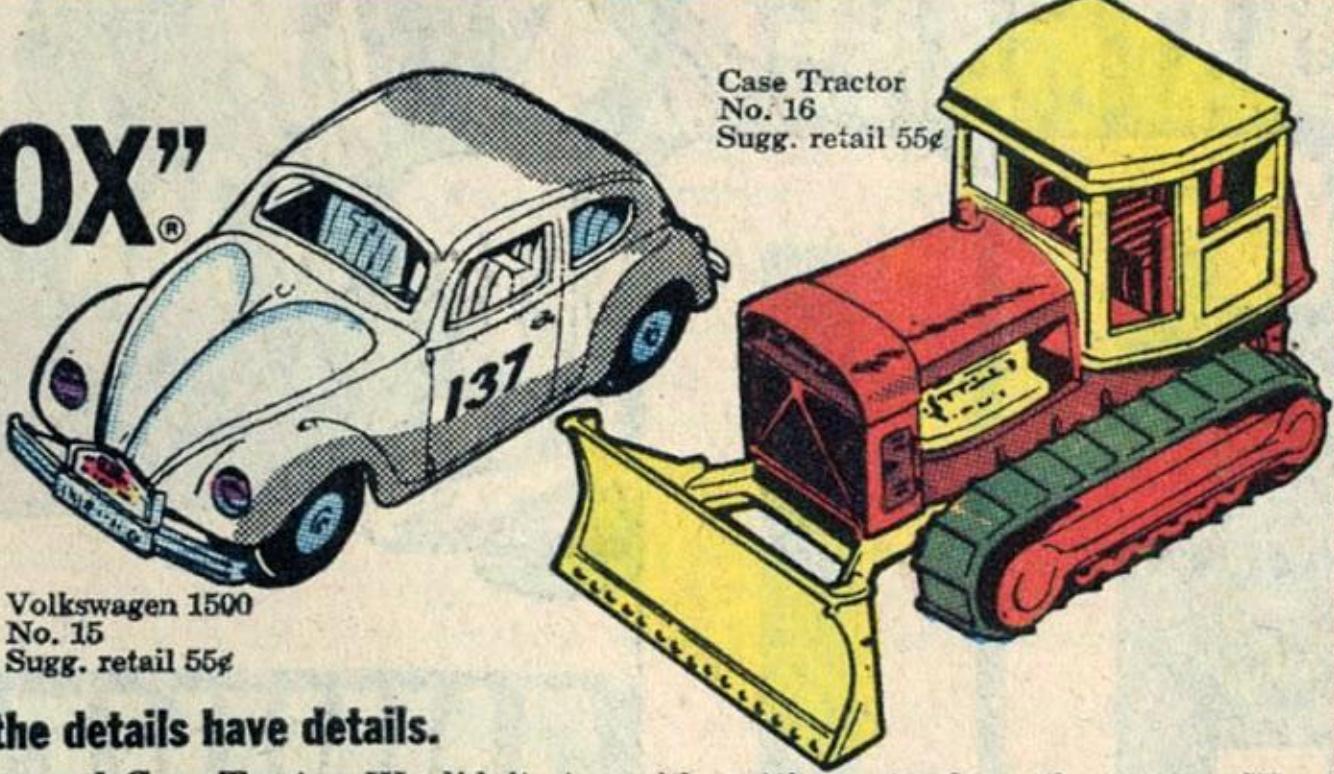
TWO-- BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS THAT ALL THE WEALTH IN THE WORLD CAN'T BUY!

TRUE, BATMAN-- THE LOVE AND ADULATION OF A GRATEFUL CITIZENRY-- THAT CAN ONLY BE EARNED!

THE END.

23

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WE'RE  
HAVING  
HAPPENING

A VERY  
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12¢

BATMAN'S 30 ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



NO. 387  
MAY

# Detective COMICS

Detective  
COMICS

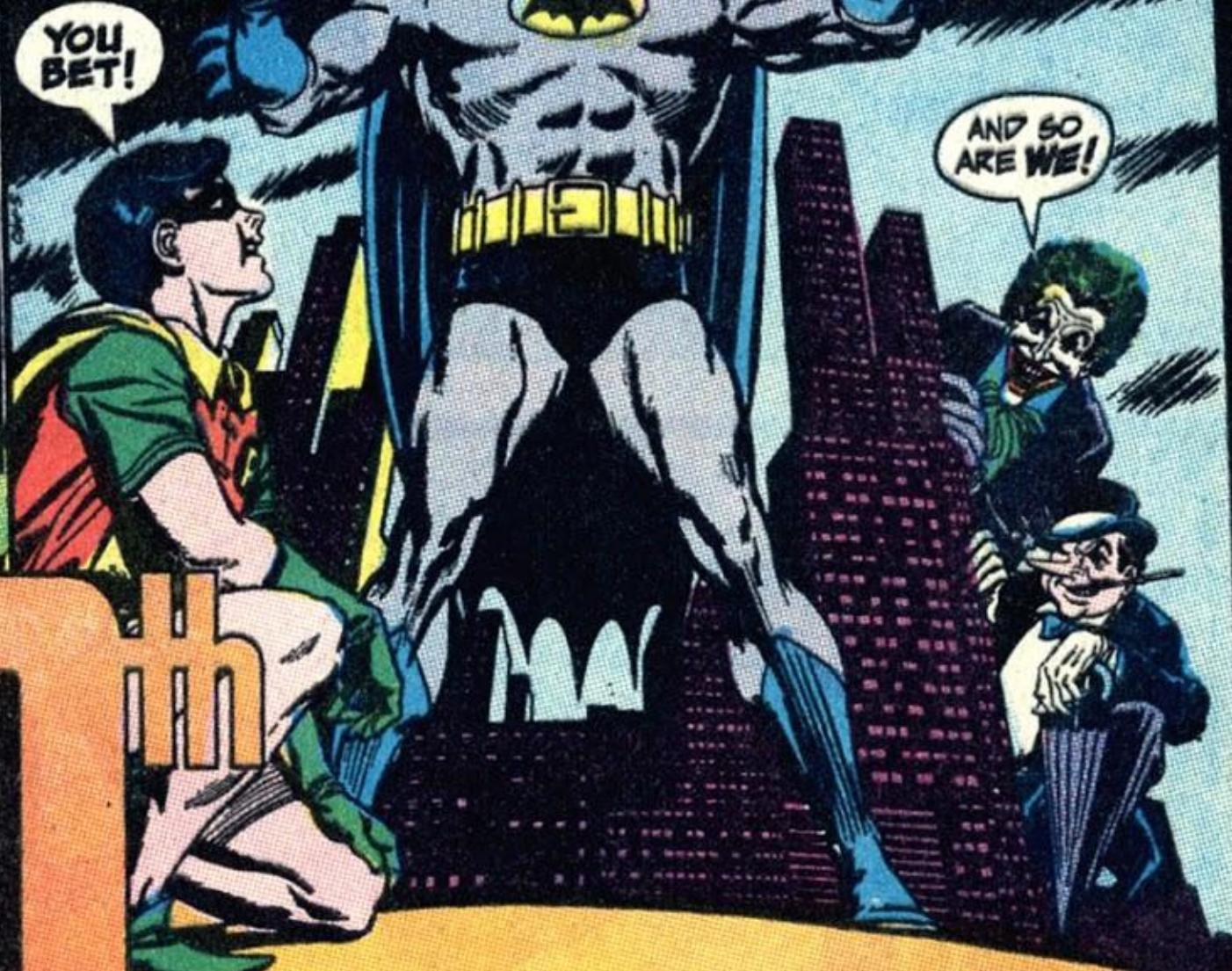
WELL, ROBIN...  
READY FOR ANOTHER  
30 YEARS?

YOU  
BET!

AND SO  
ARE WE!

BATMAN'S

# 30th ANNIVERSARY!



# LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-126

Dear Editor:

One wonders what could make *dragnet* stories, such as "The Doomsday Ball" in *Batman* #207, so absorbing. We know that you can't kill eight million people along with *Batman*, so how can we get worked up about a story in which we know the ending? For one thing, we can marvel at the detective ability *Batman* uses to obtain his clues. We watch the *Dynamic Duo* at their fighting best, and try to match wits with them on how to escape deathtraps. But most of all, we get that feeling of desperation. We start to get impatient and wonder when the *Caped Crusader* is going to meet *Skinnay* and receive his big clue. If it were not for that, I think that many stories would come off with a big HO-HUM!

You put in this feeling of anxiety quite well. It took 14 pages before *BM* got his first clue. What was really great was the way you put so many situations in one issue. We had the information of the dilemma, fight scenes with deathtraps, the meeting of *Brill's* district-captains, the search in the *Gotham* slum area, and meeting *Skinnay* (*Skinnay*?? Where'd ya get that?), the discovery of the bomb, the showdown with the *Mad Bomber*, and the bomb's deactivation. My compliments to writer Frank Robbins.

I would think that *Skinnay's* mother would have called the police or at least started yelling "Bloody Murder!" If the two costumed characters burst in like that, I'd have the police on the phone so fast . . . ! Since people in that neighborhood don't have phones, radios, or TV sets, they probably wouldn't know about *Batman* and *Robin*!

One thing more: We never got a look at the *Mad Bomber's* face. The last panels of page 21 showed the true criminal, desperately afraid when cornered. Their fear overcomes them so that they don't know what they're doing.

—JOE RUSNAK, Montville, N.J.

(In slum areas, you're apt to hear the nickname Skinny pronounced as Skinnay. Besides, if you were a swinger of 30 years ago you'd know of Skinnay Ennis, famous drummer with the Hal Kemp band ("Got a Date With an Angel . . .")!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

I was ready to give up on *Batman*. However, as there will always be *Baker Street Irregulars*, I suppose I will always be a *Batmaniac*.

Your "New-Old-Look" trend starting in *BM* #204 has got me going again. As far as stories go, I can't remember when I enjoyed three better in "Blindman," "Last Mile," and "Deathtrap." These had the mystery, suspense, and detective qualities *Batman* fans like to see. I could elaborate and point out minor faults, etc. These I leave for the other *Bat*-fans who like to see their letters printed. Stories OK—a step in the right direction.

Art: No tirade this time. It's not what I want but it'll have to do. You could greatly improve it by having Joe Giella making *Batman's* head a little more square. He always inks *Batman's* head a little too oval-like. Refer to *Batman* #207 at the bottom of pages 10 and 11 for those darn oval-heads. As for Bob Brown in *Detective Comics*, I think you're kidding. If that ain't Bob Kane with a super-ink job, I owe you a buck.

—PITTSBURGH SAM, Pittsburgh, Pa.

(You blew the buck, Pittsburgh Sam—but we'll call it all even if you'll reveal your real name!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

The cover of *Batman* 207 is the only justification I can find for seven pages of fighting which logically should not have taken place. No crime-boss as big as "Big Brill" needs to cringe when *Batman* wants to talk to him, nor would he be so foolish as to direct his henchmen to destroy *Batman* in his own apartment building. He certainly would feel secure enough to face *Batman* without a gun. Perhaps we can understand his panic as the superstitious fear all criminals have for the *Caped Crusader*, but I personally feel that's going a bit too far to justify a "deathtrap" cover which is a take-off of a similar cover a few years back. Neither the cover nor the scene was worth using, since neither idea was clever. (And I'm tired of seeing six guys firing at close range miss the *Dynamic Duo* completely! It just isn't possible!) May I add, a bit facetiously, that otherwise the story was "just great"?

—IRENE VARTANOFF, Lake Forest, Ill.

(Thanks for your welcome ending, Irene! It caught us by surprise!—Editor)

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Editor:

October is always a special time in Rutland, Vermont; October of 1969 promises to be even more so. Why? Well, the 31st of the month marks the 10th "birthday-anniversary" celebration of the annual *Batman-Halloween Parade*. And it bids to be great in the tradition of the past.

Had you been in Rutland this past Halloween, you would have witnessed why *Batman* and Halloween have become synonymous in the Rutland celebration. Chill was in the air, but with the excitement and music, no one minded. Hundreds of all ages came to march in costume and hundreds more lined city byways to watch. Bands played and crowds hurrahed as "Gabby" Kessop, wearing the *Batmanian* colors, wheeled the *Bat-Float* out onto the streets.

"BAT POWER!" proclaimed the huge poster backdrop. Pictured in large, colorful splendor was a gigantic *Batman* with swinging, clenched fist; *Robin* in an equally exciting action pose, and *Batgirl*, likewise ready.

Side banners read, "BATMAN FOR PRESIDENT" and "ROBIN FOR VICE PRESIDENT"—"BATTY GIRL FOR FIRST LADY." And acknowledging the greetings of their fans were all three caped figures, along with *Bat-Mite*, who true to form fluttered onto the float just at the last minute. Confronting them was a well-known comic magazine villain who failed to depose *Batman* as parade marshall.

All too soon, the parade was over . . . *Batman*, *Batgirl*, *Robin* were surrounded by hordes of youngsters wanting to shake hands, have pictures taken with their heroes and insisting the *Bat-Family* share trick 'n' treat goodies.

And for you, curious about such things: Yes, *Batman* did receive a presidential vote or two the following Election Day. It's officially recorded so on Rutland City records.

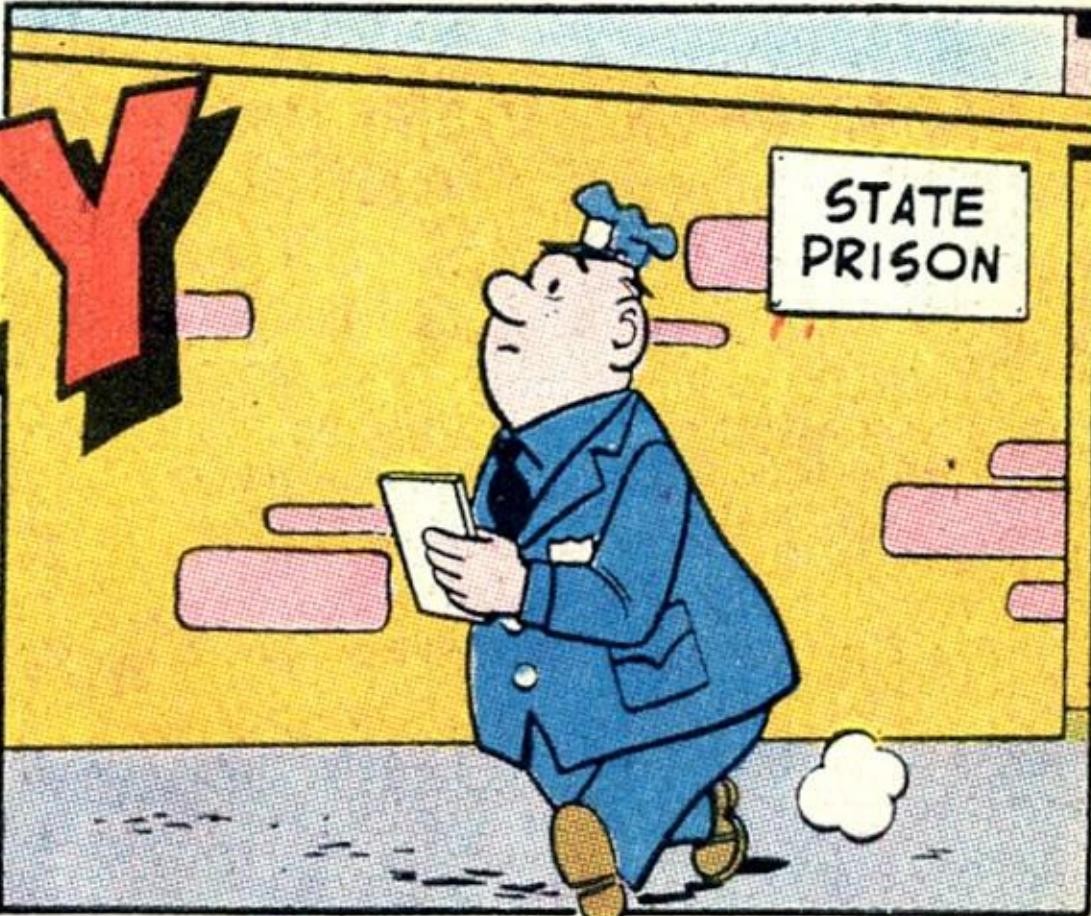
—TOM FAGAN, Rutland, Vermont

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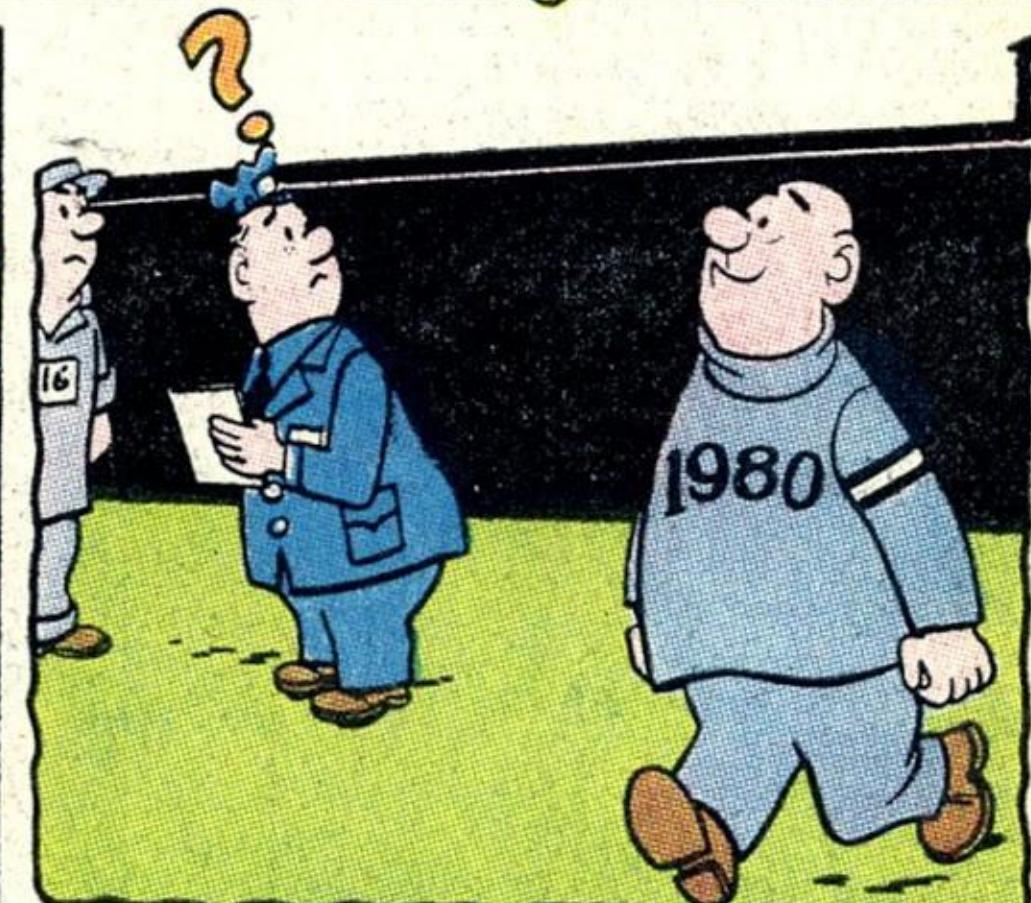
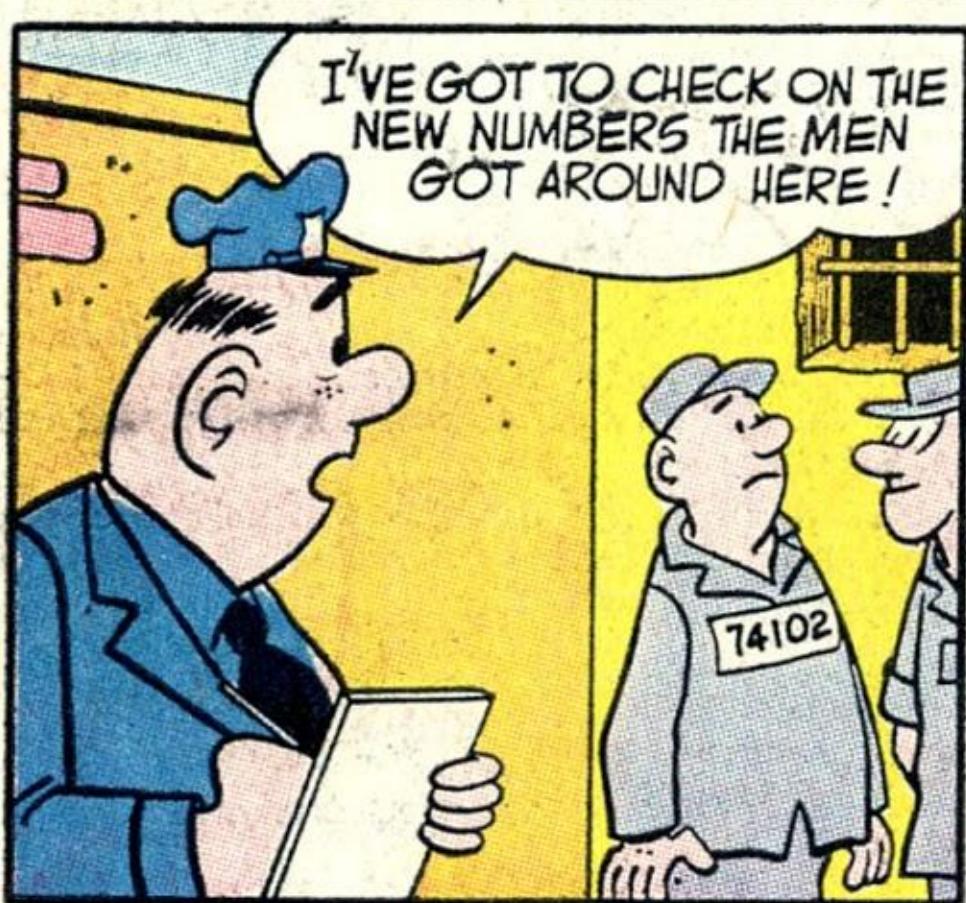
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022.

# CASEY THE COP

5-143



I'VE GOT TO CHECK ON THE  
NEW NUMBERS THE MEN  
GOT AROUND HERE!



WHAT'S THAT NUMBER  
DOING ON BUTCH'S  
SWEATER?



HIS AUNT SENT IT TO HIM!  
THAT'S WHEN HE GETS  
OUT OF PRISON!



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The Animals  
Herb Alpert  
Blues Magoos  
The Beach Boys  
The Beatles  
Johnny Mathis  
Ventures  
Peter, Paul and Mary  
Righteous Brothers  
The Yellow Balloon  
Five Americans  
Moby Grape  
The Love Generation  
Lettermen  
Tony Bennett  
Englebert Humperdinck  
Dave Clark Five

Aretha Franklin  
Temptations  
Bill Cosby  
The Monkees  
The Yardbirds  
Rolling Stones  
Herman's Hermits  
Four Tops  
Paul Revere  
The Bee Gees  
Dionne Warwick  
Lovin' Spoonful  
Petula Clark  
Harpers Bizarre  
Supremes  
Stevie Wonder  
Elvis Presley  
Sonny and Cher  
Frank Sinatra  
Nancy Sinatra  
Mamas and Papas  
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