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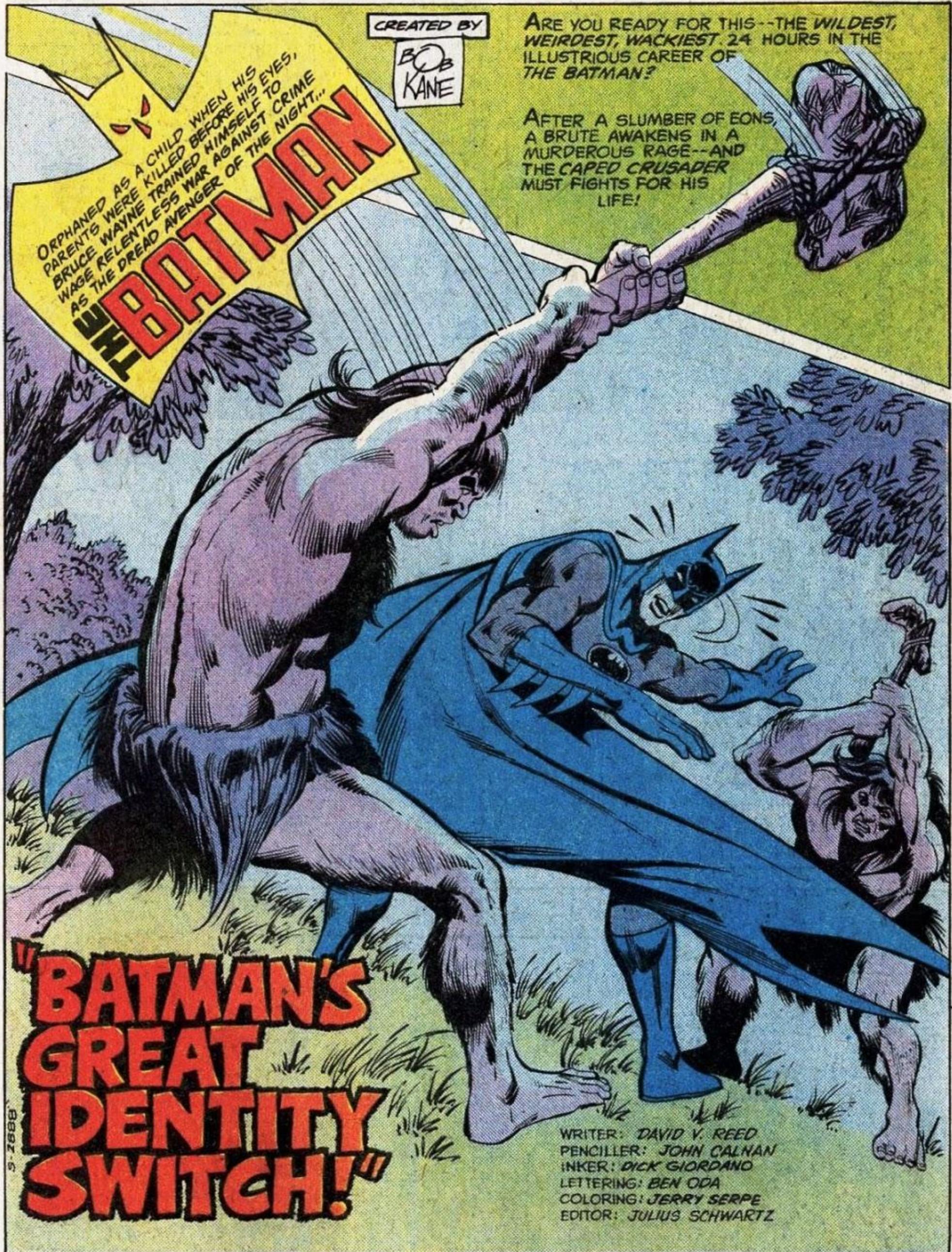
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IN THE DESERTED HALLS OF GOTHAM CITY'S MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY...



PAYOUT TIME FOR THE BATMAN--THE VIOLENT INSTANT THAT CAPS WEEKS OF PATIENT VIGIL AND PLANNING!



DOWN GOES THE BATMAN'S MANIACAL FOE WITH A SPINE-JARRING...



**WHUMP**



REFLEXIVELY, THE BATMAN WHIRLS  
AT THE SOUND--



AND IN THAT OFF-GUARD SPLIT-SECOND--



INDETERMINABLE SECONDS PASS...

IT'S THE BATMAN!

WE HEARD SOUNDS  
OF FIGHTING! WHAT  
HAPPENED?

I... I'M TRYING TO  
REMEMBER...



THEN--AS THE SECURITY GUARDS  
CONVERGE ON THE SCENE...

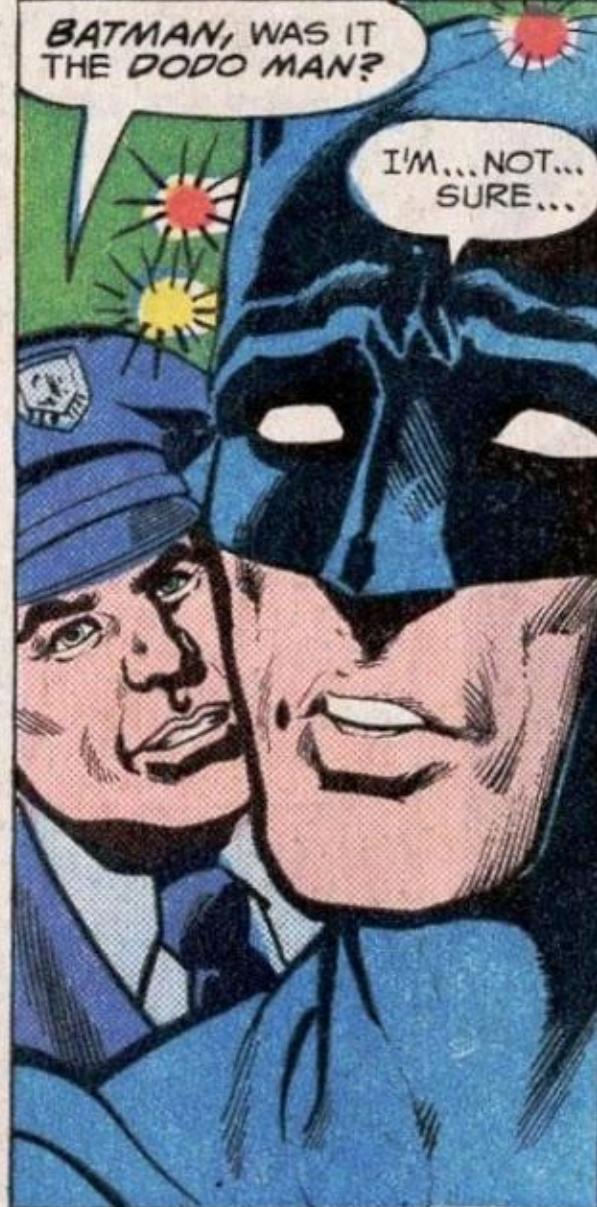
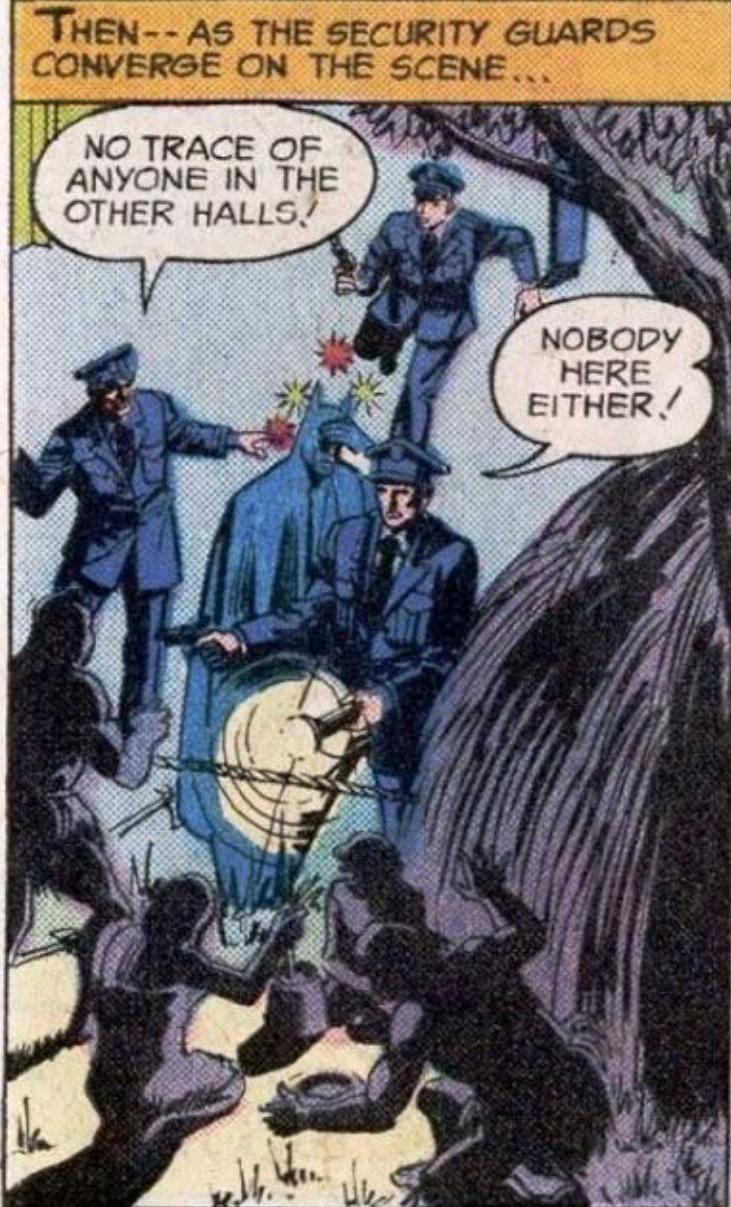
NO TRACE OF  
ANYONE IN THE  
OTHER HALLS!

NOBODY  
HERE  
EITHER!

BATMAN, WAS IT  
THE DODO MAN?

I'M... NOT...  
SURE...

WE'LL KEEP SEARCHING,  
BATMAN--AND WE'LL POST  
AN EXTRA DETAIL IN THIS  
WING FOR THE REST OF  
THE NIGHT!



MOMENTS LATER, AS THE  
MASKED MANHUNTER EXITS...

THE BAT-SIGNAL!  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON WANTS ME!



A QUICK CHANGE--  
AND INTO ACTION  
GOES--

--SHORTLY AFTERWARD-- A FAMILIAR  
ENTRANCE BY AN UNFAMILIAR FIGURE!...

BRUCE WAYNE!

WHAT'S GOING DOWN,  
COMMISSIONER?

THEN YOU ARE  
THE BATMAN!

FOR ONCE, SIR, LET'S NOT PLAY THAT  
WHO-THE-BATMAN-REALLY-IS GAME.

IT'S THE BATMAN, NO  
QUESTION--BUT HE'S  
DISGUISED AS BRUCE  
WAYNE FOR SOME  
REASON!... NOT THE  
FIRST TIME HE'S  
DONE IT!

JUST TELL ME WHY YOU SENT FOR  
ME AND I'LL BE ON MY WAY!

WE JUST GOT A TIP BIG MAX  
WEDGE SURFACED AN HOUR AGO  
-- IN DISGUISE -- IN A NEW  
GAMBLING JOINT AT  
12 CHARLTON PLACE!

I GET FIRST  
CRACK AT HIM,  
COMMISSIONER--!

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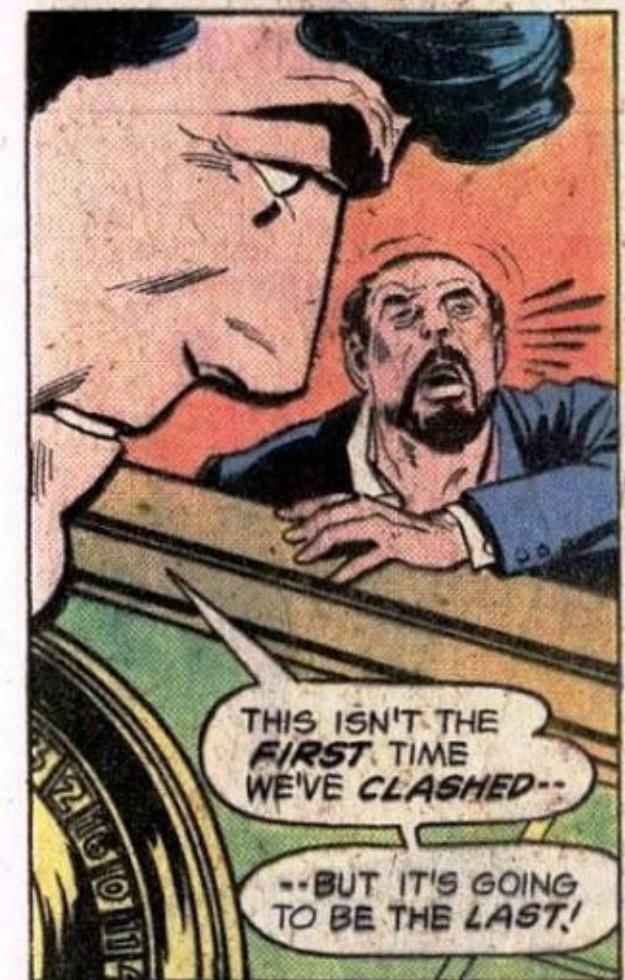
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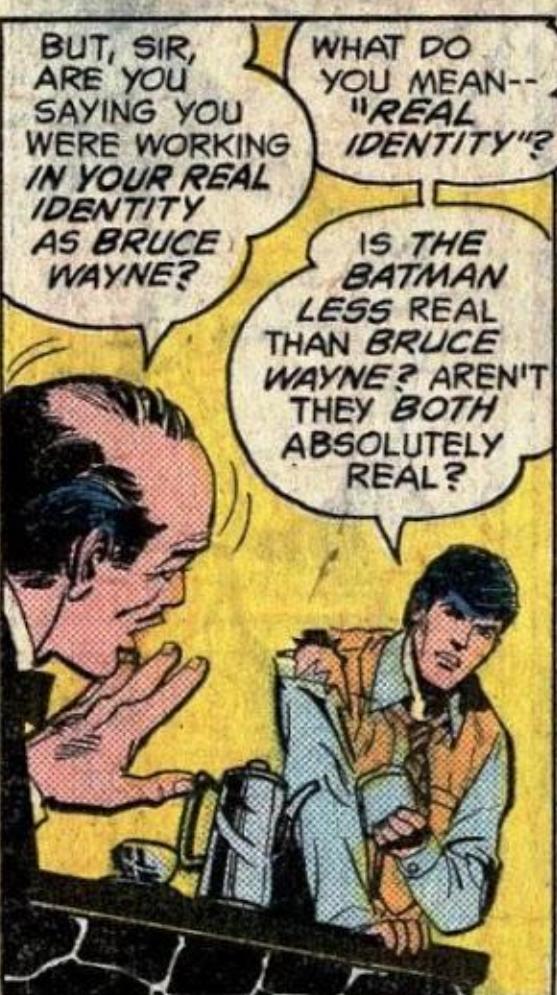
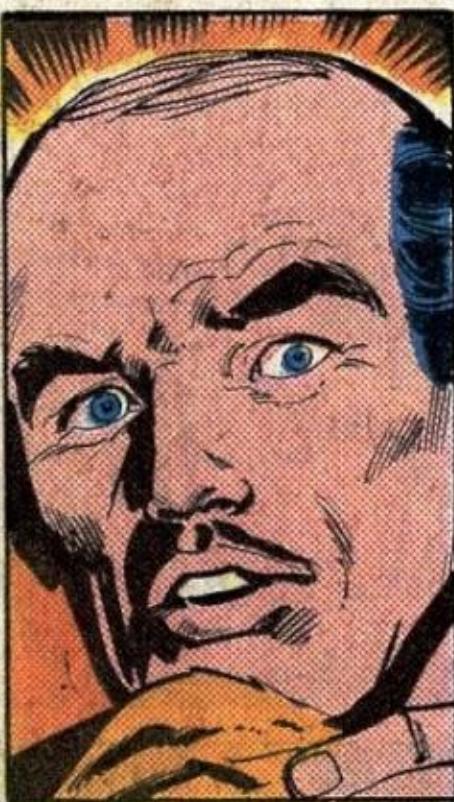


IT IS ALMOST DAWN AS BRUCE WAYNE FINALLY COMES HOME TO THE PENTHOUSE THAT IS HIS PUBLIC RESIDENCE IN HIS ROLE OF BUSINESS TYCOON AND MAN-ABOUT TOWN--AND THE ULTRA-SECRET RETREAT OF HIS ALTER EGO, THE BATMAN...

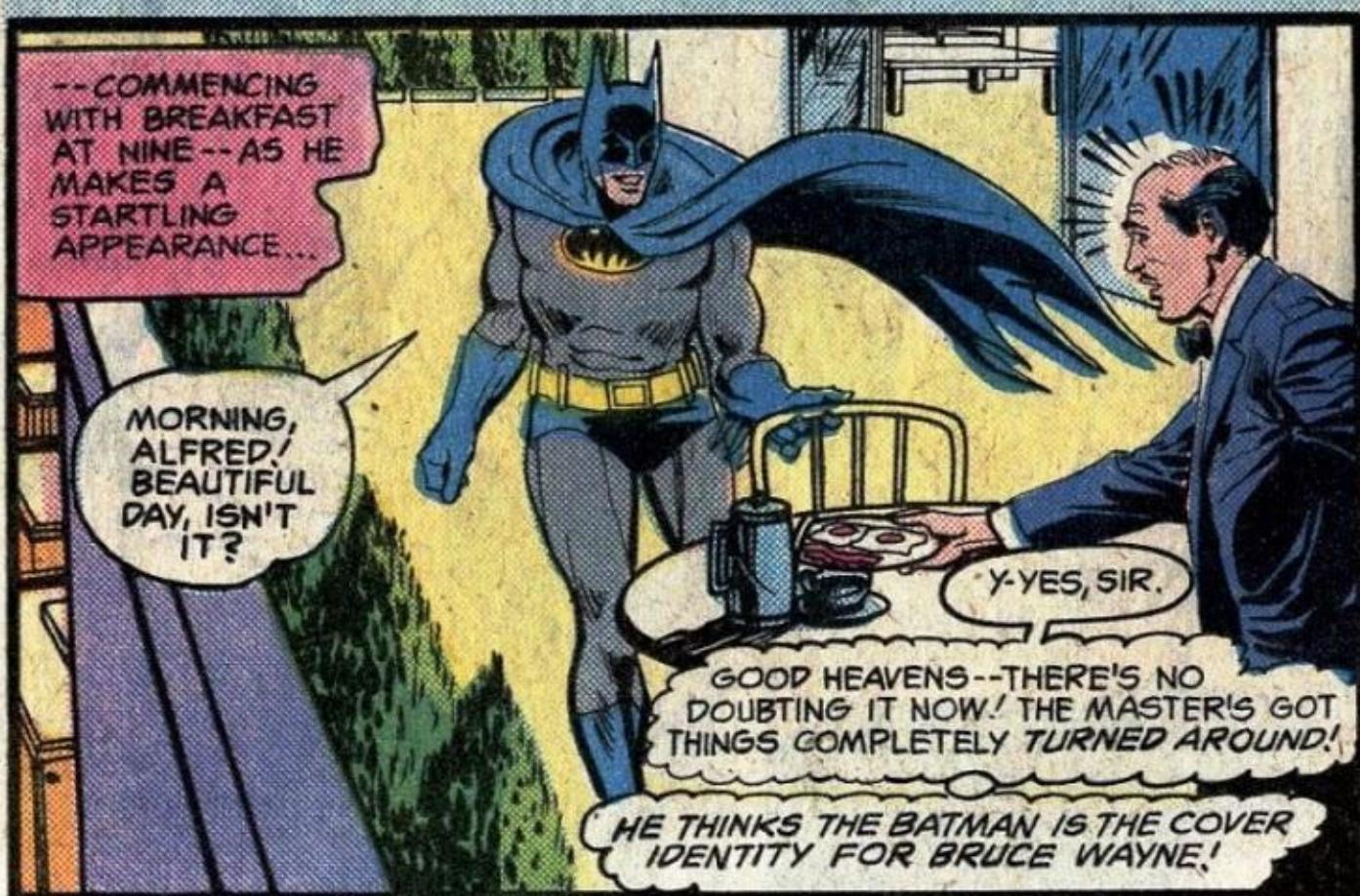
MASTER BRUCE--YOUR CLOTHES ARE IN TATTERS!

AND YOU'RE IN MUFTI! I... I THOUGHT YOU WERE OUT WORKING LAST NIGHT!

OF COURSE I WAS WORKING! HOW DO YOU THINK I GOT TO LOOK LIKE THIS?



THE MORNING PASSES IN ITS ACCUSTOMED WAY, FROM FIVE TO SEVEN, THE CRIMEFIGHTER TAKES HIS A.M. NAP... FOLLOWED BY A LONG WORKOUT IN HIS GYM... AFTER WHICH HIS DAY IS READY TO PROCEED--



A LITTLE LATER--DESPITE ALFRED'S UNCONCEALED CONSTERNATION AND PLEADING ...

MASTER BRUCE,  
PLEASE-- YOU  
MUST LISTEN--!

STOP CALLING  
ME BRUCE!  
WHAT ARE YOU  
TRYING TO DO  
--BLOW MY  
COVER?



AT THIS POINT, MANY A MAN FACED WITH SUCH A FRIGHTFUL DILEMMA MIGHT HAVE SURRENDERED TO DESPAIR--BUT NOT ALFRED THADDEUS CRANE PENNYWORTH!

HEAVEN ONLY KNOWS WHAT HE'S WALKING INTO!

AS FOR ME, THERE IS ONLY ONE COURSE... AND THAT IS-- TO QUOTE THE BATMAN--ACTION!

FIRST HE HAS A LONG--AND INCONCLUSIVE--TALK WITH HIS OWN DOCTOR... MENTIONING NO NAMES--

... SO THE PROGNOSIS FOR YOUR FRIEND IS UNPREDICTABLE. IT'S SOMEWHAT LIKE A TRAIN JUMPING A TRACK!



IF HE COULD BE RESTORED TO HIS "TRACK" WHERE THE JUMP OCCURRED, THAT MIGHT WORK!

OR, IN TIME, IT MAY CURE ITSELF...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, DOCTOR!

NEXT, HE DESCENDS TO THE BATCAVE... WHERE HE PORES THROUGH THE DETECTIVE'S CURRENT NOTEBOOKS-- "WORK IN PROGRESS"...



NOT A WORD HERE ABOUT WHAT HE DID LAST NIGHT--

HMM... HE SCHEDULED A STOP AT THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY!

NOW, WHERE ELSE DOES HE MENTION THE MUSEUM?... YES! --A MONTH AGO!... "THE M.O.N.H. OPENS ITS NEW HALL OF EXOTIC BIRDS NEXT WEEK... THE DODO MAN SHOULD FIND IT IRRESISTIBLE!... I PLAN A NIGHTLY CHECK."

THE DODO MAN!? I SEEM TO RECALL SOME MENTION ON THE NEWS... AH! HERE'S MORE ON HIM!

WORK  
IN  
PROGRESS

Dodo Man:  
Compulsively steals  
anything having to do  
with the extinct Dodo bird...  
has robbed museum of its  
priceless Savery\* painting...  
A books... and 16 valuable  
Dodo prints or loan from  
Vienna and Oxford.

\* ROELANDT SAVERY: 1596-1639 -- GREAT BELGIAN NATURALIST PAINTER. -- JULIE

"... DEMENTED AND HIGHLY DANGEROUS ...  
ATTACKS ANYONE IN HIS WAY, WITHOUT  
PROVOCATION. IF HIS FIRST MOVE FAILS, HIS  
M.O. CALLS FOR HIM TO STRIKE AGAIN THE  
VERY NEXT NIGHT..."

I BEGIN TO SEE  
A WAY... BUT  
DARE I TAKE  
THE CHANCE?

I'VE OFTEN WATCHED HIM,  
BUT WHAT IF I MAKE A  
MISTAKE? STILL, THERE'S  
NO REASONING WITH HIM!

MY MIND  
BOGGLES  
WHEN I  
CONTEMPLATE  
WHAT MAY BE  
HAPPENING TO  
HIM AT THIS  
MOMENT!

NOR ARE ALFRED'S FEARS  
EXAGGERATED--FOR AT THAT  
MOMENT, IN GOTHAM CITY'S  
COLUMBUS SQUARE...

WHY THE MOB  
SCENE?

SOME KOOK THERE  
ALL DRESSED UP LIKE  
THE BATMAN!

SOME GUYS'LL DO  
ANYTHING TO  
GET ATTENTION!

WELL, YOU KNOW  
THIS TOWN -- IT'S  
ALWAYS  
HALLOWEEN  
HERE!

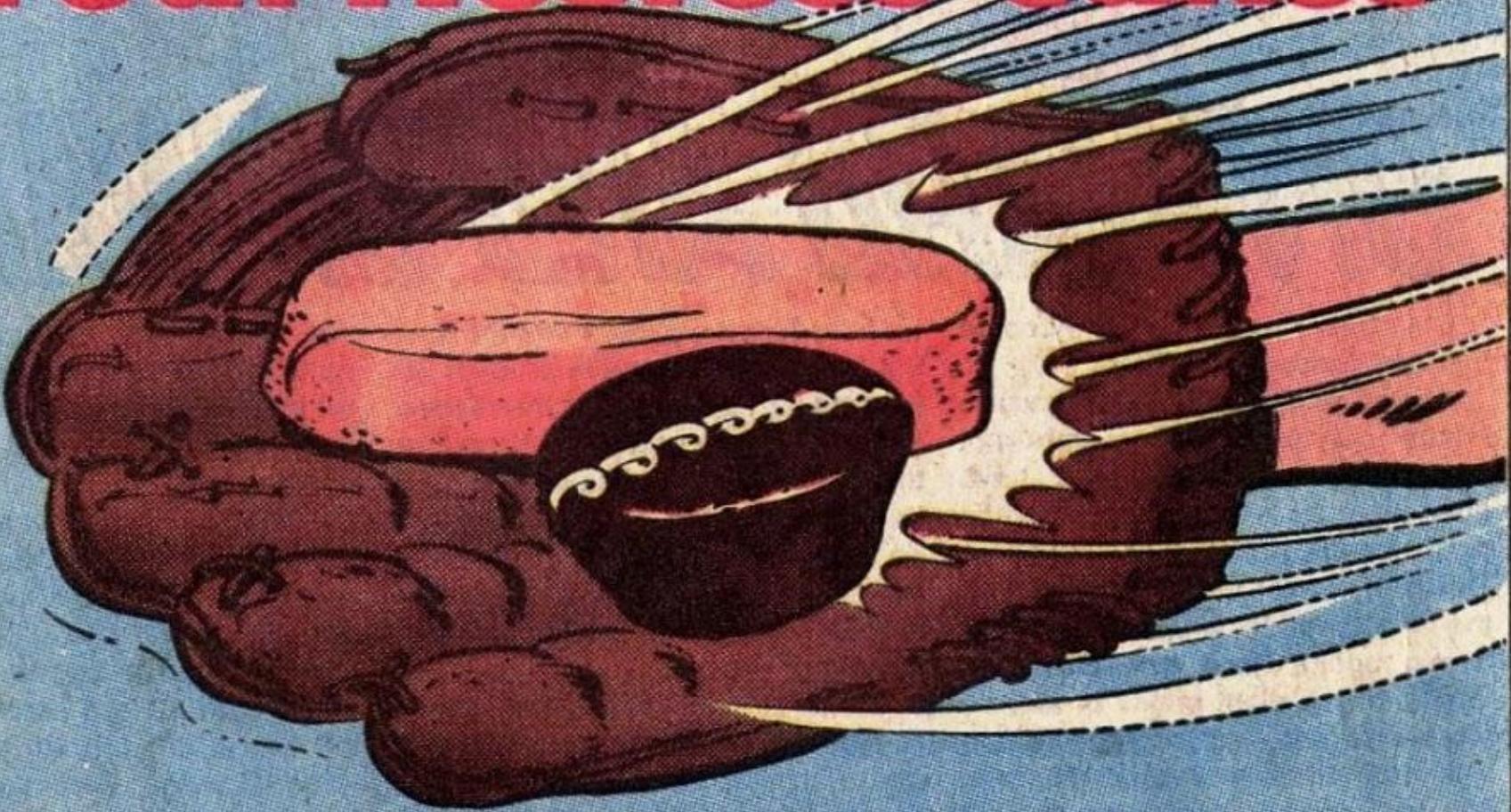
WHAT ARE THEY STARING AT  
ME FOR? THE STREET'S FULL  
OF PEOPLE IN ONE COSTUME  
OR ANOTHER!

ALL RIGHT--  
BREAK IT UP!

MISTER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE  
UP TO, BUT I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE  
IN YOUR CAPE WHEN THE BATMAN  
HEARS OF THIS!

THAT'S VERY INTERESTING,  
OFFICER-- BUT WHAT MAKES  
YOU THINK I'M NOT  
THE BATMAN?

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## Publisherial

# ONWARD AND UPWARD

Changes. These days, they come fast and furious.

As you've no doubt noticed, we've raised our price this month—not totally shocking, as comics have gone up in price every fifteen months or so for the past five or six years.

But hopefully you've noticed that the number of pages in our standard comic books have also gone up. We've added eight pages of all-new story—no ads, no reprints—along with the price increase. With the single exception of our story-packed Dollar Comics, this is the first time anybody in the field is *not* giving you less for your money.

In fact, it's a 47% gain in story, for a 43% raise in price.

Of course, we didn't have to do this. We could have tacked on another 5¢ for those 17 page stories. Before long, other publishers will be charging 40¢ for their 17-page stories, unless they follow our lead and provide more pages. You'll be paying 2.35¢ per page of story for theirs, and only 2¢ for ours. That's like getting about three pages free from DC.

I don't have to bore you with the ever-raising cost of absolutely everything. Each time anybody adds another nickel to the cost of the standard comic book, somebody composes a little essay about how phone calls used to cost 5¢ and hot dogs a dime.

But we really didn't want to take from our loyal readers (and even our casual readers, for that matter) without giving at least as much in return.

We're excited because we believe the 50¢ comic book, like the highly successful Dollar Comics package

we introduced eighteen months ago, will be a more attractive product for the retailer as well as for the reader. Being in a more profitable format for the retailer, our comics should be a little easier to find. Some places that do not carry comics will be handling DC titles before long. Most harder-to-find comics will get better distribution.

Better still, the twenty-five pages of story format gives us something we haven't had for the better part of a decade: the chance to do really full-length stories, with fully-developed sub-plots and characterization. We also have the chance to bring back some of your favorite characters that haven't been able to carry an entire 17 page title: *Enemy Ace*, *The Human Target*, *The Atom* and *Omac*, for example. And we're able to introduce a number of new characters of a more experimental nature: *Cinnamon*, *The Odd Man*, *The Amazon*.

The new format also gives us a bit of room to experiment. You'll see the return of *Swamp Thing*, original characters like *The Vixen*, new western and war titles—we'll even be able to schedule a couple of titles which will represent some of the best DC comics printed in the past four decades: *Archie Goodwin* and *Walt Simonson's Manhunter* series, the famous *Bat Lash* books, and so on.

And we'll also be making the Dollar Comics look even more attractive, because starting this month, we're taking out all the ads. You'll be getting an additional page or two of story, but now we'll have the freedom to run more two-page spreads and wrap around covers. The Dollar Comics—including our latest addi-

tion, *Adventure Comics*—will now have 68-pages of all-new story and art from cover to cover. Not a page of ads.

We've been calling all of this "The DC Explosion" and that's what it truly is—an explosion of new ideas, new concepts, new characters, and new formats. We now have near-limitless opportunities to experiment, to do longer and indeed better stories, to be more flexible in the type of material we're presenting. The best is getting better.

We couldn't do it without the encouragement and boundless energy of our creative staff—from new talents like Marshall Rogers and Joe Staton to established pros like Gerry Conway and Len Wein to (if they'll forgive me) vets like Curt Swan and now-editor Ross Andru. To each and every creator working with us, my deepest and sincerest thanks.

And to our faithful readers, who have shown us so much support and enthusiasm since we've started planting the seeds of change, I offer my thanks as well. We honestly could not have done it without your help.

But—and I know you're expecting this—we're not stopping here. Even as I write these words, I have working proposals on my desk for no less than ten new projects, not all of which are new titles. We're continuing to grow and branch out, to boldly go where no comics company has gone before.

And we're glad you're there with us—every step of the way.

Take care—

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JIM MEENEY".

OH, SURE! AND I'M  
ALL THE REST OF THE  
JUSTICE LEAGUE!

G'WAN--  
ON YOUR WAY,  
MOVE IT!

JUST AS YOU  
SAY, OFFICER!

SHIELD NUMBER  
0572! BRUCE  
WAYNE WILL HAVE  
A TALK WITH  
COMMISSIONER  
GORDON TONIGHT  
ABOUT POLICE  
HARASSMENT!

BUT AS THE GOTHAM  
GANGBUSTER TRIES TO  
SHAKE THE CROWD BY  
GOING INTO THE PARK...

AFTER HIM!  
BATS IS TRYIN'  
TO RUN AWAY!

NOT FROM US  
HE WON'T!

WOW!--LOOKIT  
HIM GO!

LIKE HE GOT SHOT  
OUT OF A CANNON!

AS FOR THE BATMAN--HIS NEXT ENCOUNTER SEEMS  
MORE REASSURING...

WHO'D HAVE  
THOUGHT I'D  
EVER NEED  
REFUGE  
AMONG  
HIPPIES?

HEY, BATMAN, BABY--NEAT  
OUTFIT! REST YOUR FRAME  
AND MELLOW  
OUT!

DIG HIM! AIN'T  
THAT ENOUGH TO BORE  
A HOLE IN YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE  
BOX?

ON SECOND  
THOUGHT--

TAXI!

ONE OF THEM  
SUPER-HERO  
FAN CONVENTIONS  
IN TOWN, HUH?  
HOP IN!

BUT WHEN THE CAB STOPS FOR A TRAFFIC LIGHT...

HEY, LOOK! --THE  
BATMAN RIDING  
A TAXI!

HONK HONK

HAHA! MAYBE HE  
PARKED THE  
BATMOBILE NEXT TO  
A HYDRANT--AND THEY  
TOWED IT AWAY!

MISTER, YOU'LL HAVE  
TO GET OUT AND WALK! YOU'RE  
A ONE-MAN TRAFFIC JAM!

ONCE AGAIN THE CAPE  
CRIME-FIGHTER IS  
FORCED TO FLEE--

HA HA HA

HA-HA-HONK  
BEEP BEEP  
HONK HONK

THE WATERFRONT BECKONS...  
OFFERING SOLITUDE--

WILL YOU  
GET A LOAD  
O' THAT?

HAW! HE  
MUSTA GOT  
DRAGGED  
IN WITH THE  
TIDE!

--BUT NOT FOR LONG...

WHAT'S THE IDEA,  
BUDDY? DON'T YOU  
KNOW THE BATMAN  
AIN'T EXACTLY  
POPULAR  
AROUND  
HERE?

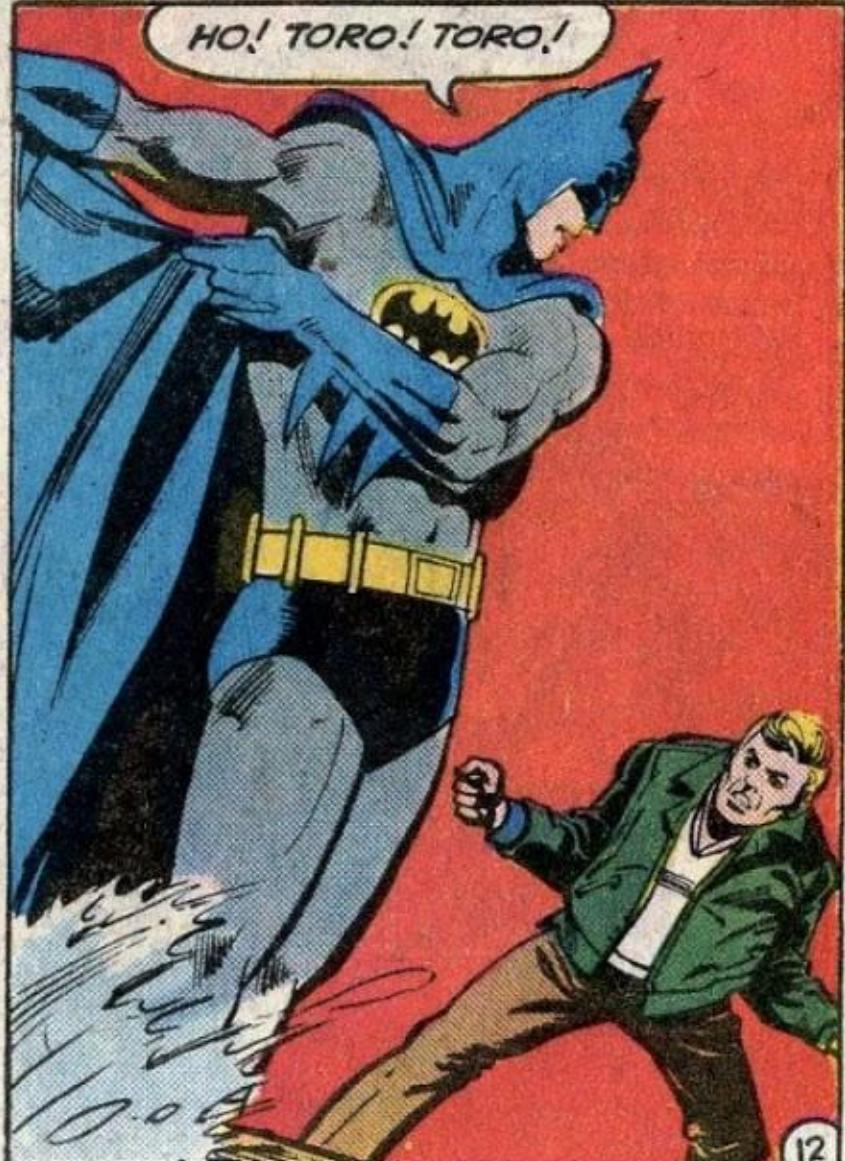
THAT OUTFIT  
IS AN OPEN  
INVITATION  
FOR SOME DUDE  
TO BUST YOUR  
SKULL!

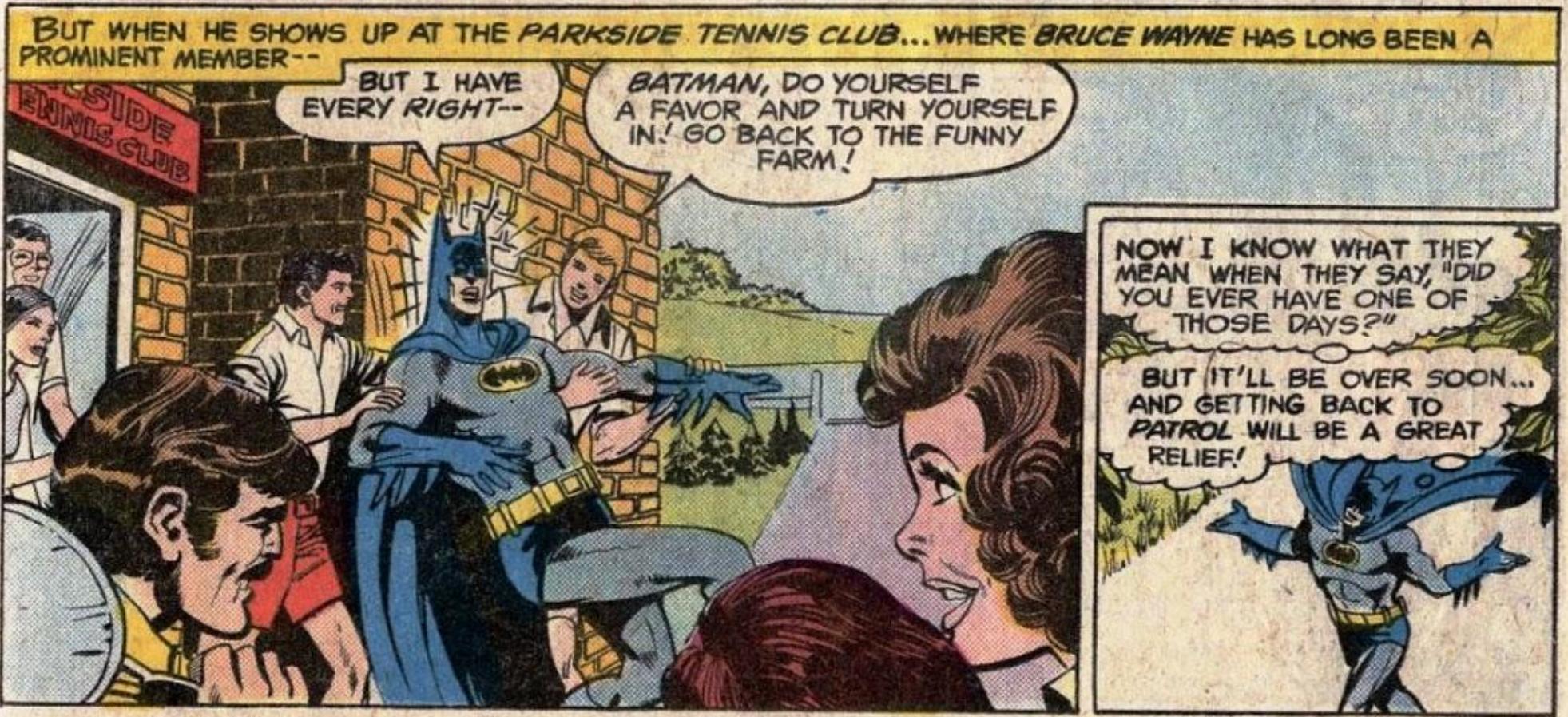
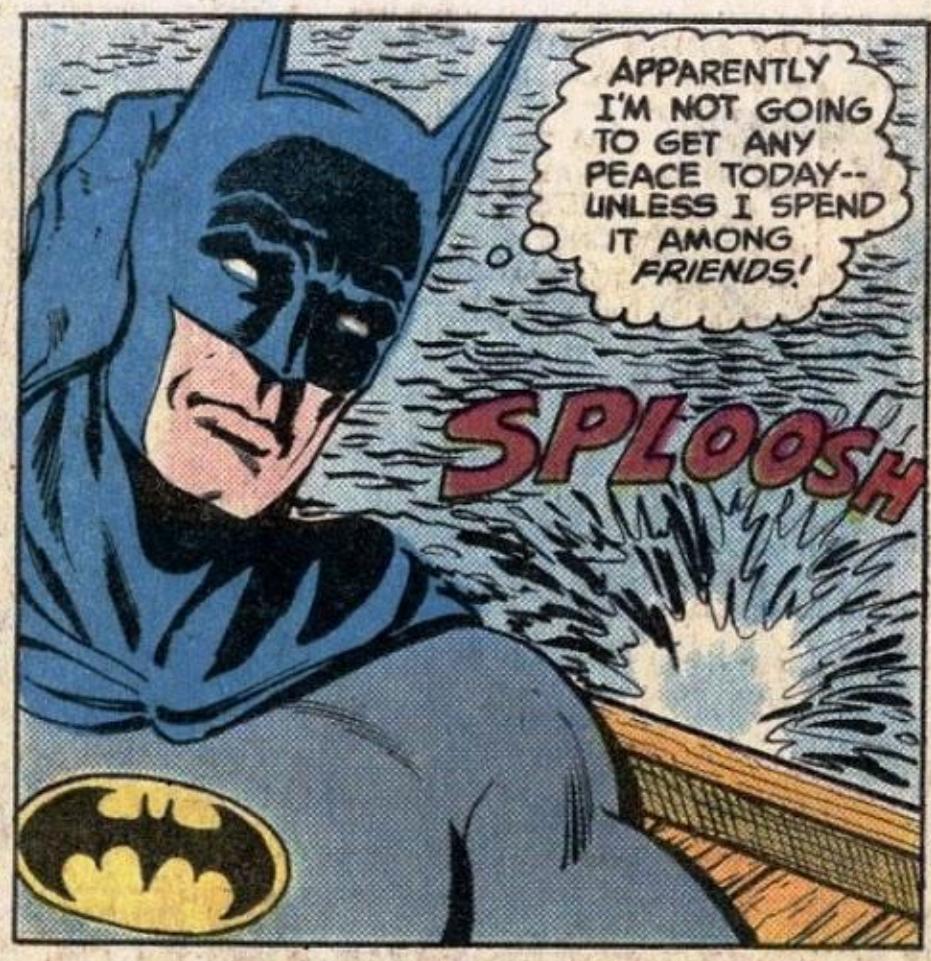
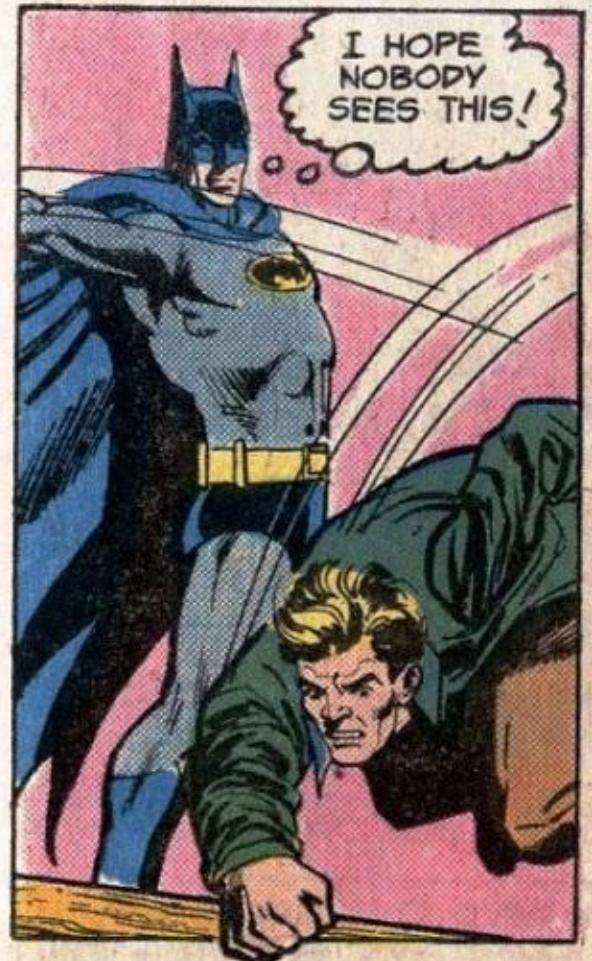
GENTLEMEN, I'VE  
HAD ALL THE  
NONSENSE I  
INTEND TO TAKE...  
SO KINDLY GET  
LOST!

AND...PREDICTABLY...UNAVOIDABLY...

BIG MOUTH... YA SAID  
TH' MAGIC WORD!

HO! TORO! TORO!





SHORTLY AFTER BRUCE WAYNE BEGINS THE BATMAN'S ROUTINE PATROL...



--IN NO TIME...

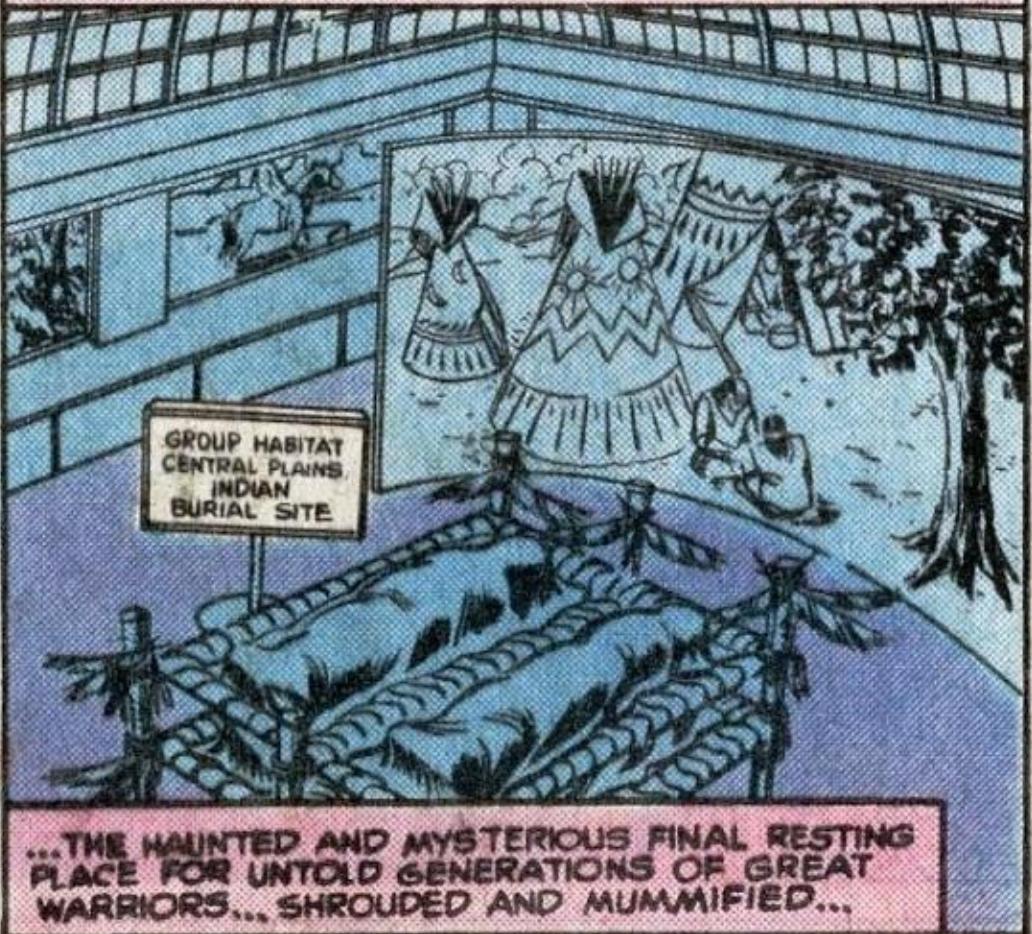


LAW PARKING  
G.C.P.D.

INSIDE, ALL IS STILL...



BUT AS THE GUARDS MOVE OUT--SCARCELY FIFTY FEET AWAY, IN THE HALL OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN...



SUDDENLY--  
A "WARRIOR"  
MOVES--



THEN...



[CONTINUED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING.]

HOLY  
TASTE BUDS!!  
IT'S THE FAMOUS  
CLARK BAR  
SUPERHERO  
SWEEPSTAKES!



# YOU COULD WIN A TRIP TO GOTHAM AND APPEAR IN A SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK!

Okay, all you characters out there. Here's your big chance to be a real character. Comic-book style.

You don't have to buy anything. Or do anything, except to mail us the Famous Clark Bar Superhero Sweepstakes entry blank with your name and address.

To find out what could be in it for you, just read on.

## FIRST PRIZE

If you're lucky enough to win the first prize, Clark will fly you and your family (limit of four people) to New York City and back.

You'll stay for three days and two nights. All expenses paid.

We'll take you on a tour of the DC Comics offices, so an artist can draw you into an upcoming issue of your favorite D.C. comic book.

# CLARK

## THE FAMOUS CLARK BAR SUPERHERO SWEEPSTAKES!

P.O. Box 55 Chicago, Illinois 60677

### RULES:

1. To enter, type or print clearly your name, address and zip code on this official entry blank, or on a plain piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can enter as many times as you want, but each entry must be mailed separately.
2. With each entry, send one wrapper from any Clark or Holloway candy product, or the words "FAMOUS CLARK BARS" printed on a piece of 3" x 5" paper. You can send wrappers from Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.
3. Send entries to Superman Sweepstakes, Box 55, Chicago, Illinois 60677.
4. Entries must be postmarked by November 1, 1978 and received by November 10, 1978.
5. Winners will be determined in random drawings conducted by H. Olsen & Company, an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final.
6. Prizes are non-transferable, and substitution of prizes is not allowed. Only one prize to a family. The odds of winning will be determined by the number of entries received. All prizes will be awarded.
7. This sweepstakes is open to all U.S. residents, except employees (and their immediate families) of Beatrice Foods, its advertising agencies, and H. Olsen & Company, Void in Missouri, and wherever else prohibited by law. Subject to all Federal, state and local laws and regulations.
8. If you want a list of winners, send a separate stamped, self-addressed envelope to Box 6260, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

The D.L. Clark Company, A Division of Beatrice Foods

You'll be part of the action, right along with one of DC's famous comic-book superheroes.

You'll have plenty of free time in Gotham, too. For seeing the Statue of Liberty, or taking boat rides, or just looking up at tall buildings a lot and saying "Wow!"

And, when your comic-book adventure is published, we'll send you 15 copies for your family and friends. They'll be proud to know a famous person like you.

## SECOND PRIZE

If you're one of the 20 second-prize winners, you'll get your choice of Famous Superhero watches. Superman, Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Batman, or (if your taste should happen to run to supervillains

instead) the Joker. The watches are Swiss-made, with full-color superhero pictures, and would normally sell for \$19.95 to \$23.95.

## THIRD PRIZE

If you're one of 100 third-prize winners, we'll send you a year's subscription to your favorite DC or Marvel comic book.

The Incredible Hulk, Red Sonja, Thor,

Green Lantern, Plastic Man, Captain America, Wonder Woman, Justice Society, Ms. Marvel, you name it. Even Little Lulu.

So find yourself a pen or pencil, fill in the entry blank (please print), and mail your entry to us before November 1, 1978.

Who knows? It could make you as famous as the Famous Clark Bars.



## BE A WINNER ALL YEAR LONG, WITH WRAPPERS FROM FAMOUS CLARK BARS!

Okay. What you just read about was a contest. This isn't.

What this is, is a terrific way to get Famous Superhero premiums any time you want them. By collecting wrappers from any of the Famous Clark and Holloway products. Clark, Crispy, Zagnut, Crunchy, Light, Peanut Butter Log, Milk Duds, Slo Poke, or Black Cow.

Here's what you can get. The order blank is on the next page.



ZING WINGS. Plastic flying saucer. Batman, Superman, or Spider-Man. Each, \$1.75 plus 2 wrappers.



FLASHLIGHTS. Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman. Includes Penlite battery. Each, \$1.25 plus 2 wrappers.

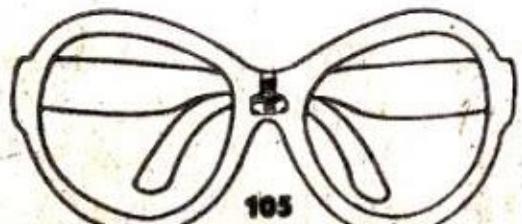


SUPERSTICKERS. Get four sheets of pressure-sensitive stickers in all sizes. Just peel off the backing and stick them anywhere. \$2.95 plus 6 wrappers.



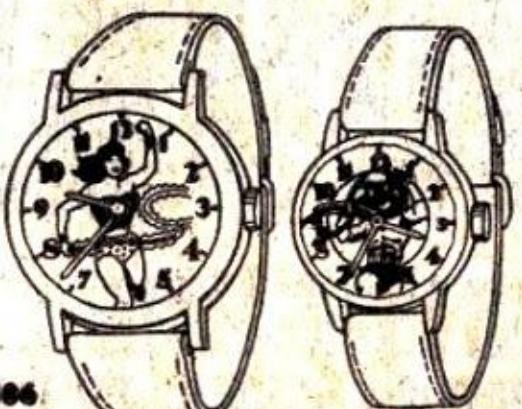
SUPERKITE. Look! Up in the sky! It's Spider-Man, in full color on a lightweight vinyl kite. \$2.50 plus 6 wrappers.

Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman and Robin. © Copyright 1978 DC Comics Inc.



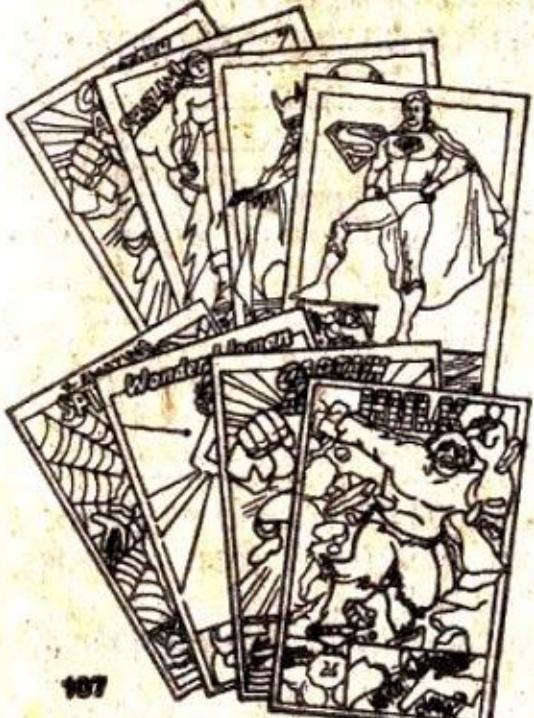
105

SUNGLASSES. Superman, Batman, Robin, Wonder Woman.  
Each, \$1.50 plus 2 wrappers.



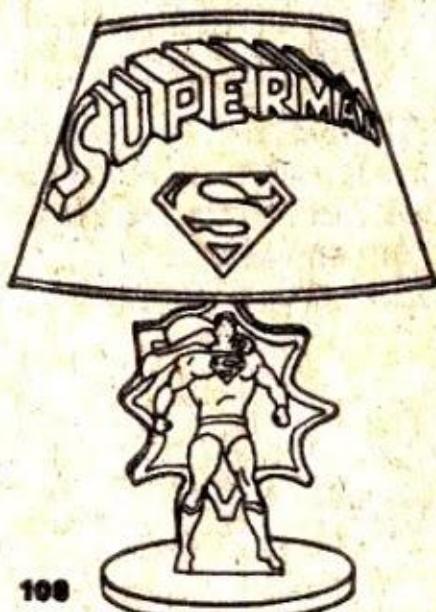
106

SUPERHERO WATCHES. Get Swiss-made watches with color pictures of Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Joker. Small or large sizes.  
Each, \$14.25 plus 12 wrappers.



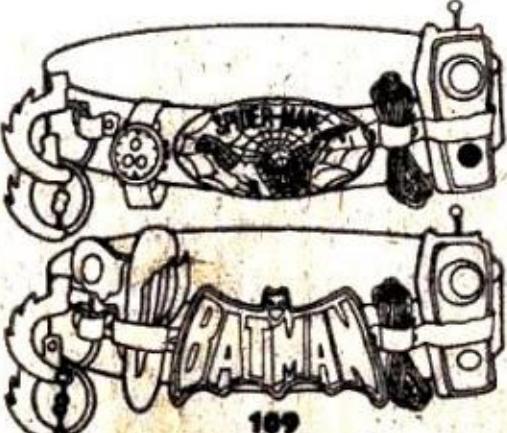
107

SUPERPOSTERS. Batman, Wonder Woman, Spider-Man, Captain America, Shazam, Superman, Thor, Hulk. In full color, 24" x 36".  
Each, \$2.75 plus 6 wrappers.



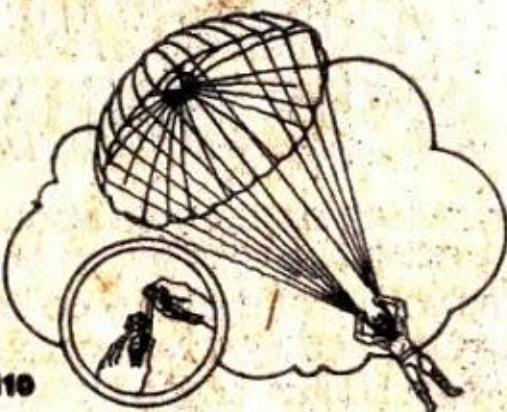
108

SUPERLAMPS. Light up your room with Batman, Wonder Woman or Superman, in full color on a 17-inch-high table lamp.  
Each, \$13.25 plus 12 wrappers.



109

UTILITY BELTS. Batman Belt with communicator, bat clicker gun, bat cuffs, bat grappler. Spider-Man Belt with communicator, spider web, grappler, hand cuffs, watch.  
Each, \$4.75 plus 4 wrappers.



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SUPER PARACHUTISTS. Superhero parachutists with launchers. Superman, Batman, Spider-Man.  
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To order, just fill in the numbers (#101, #102, etc.) of the premiums you want, along with quantity, price, number of wrappers enclosed, and which superhero you want (on items that have a choice). Send this order blank with a check or money order (please don't send cash) and the right number of wrappers to: Superheroes, Box 6366, Chicago, Illinois 60677.

QUANTITY	NUMBER	SUPERHERO	#WRAPPERS	PRICE
TOTALS				

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

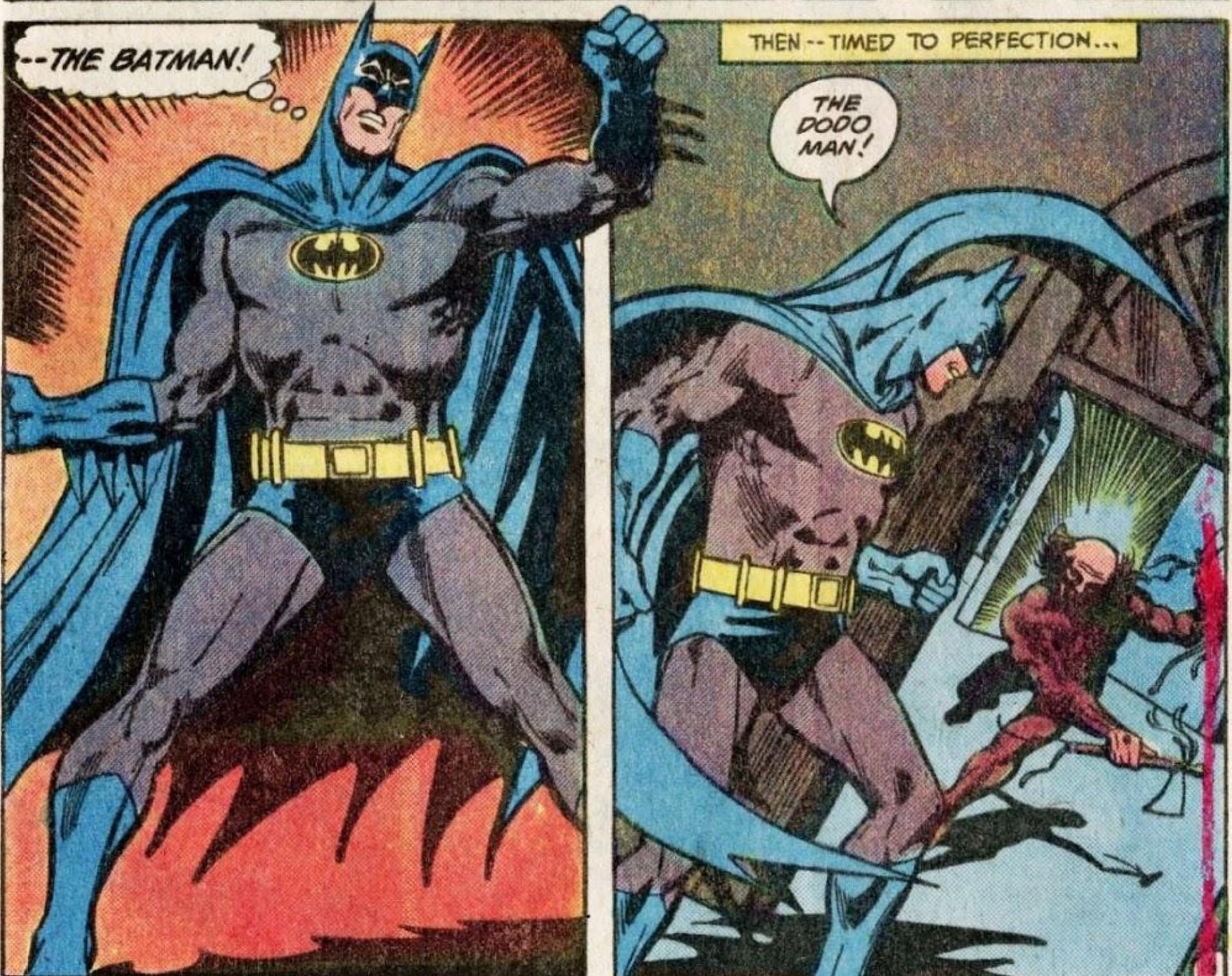
Offer expires February 1, 1979. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

WHILE AT THAT MOMENT--IN THE HALL OF EXOTIC BIRDS--  
BRUCE WAYNE REACHES THE END OF HIS SEARCH!...



SUDDENLY,  
INSTINCT TAKES  
OVER!--AN  
INSTINCT HONED  
BY YEARS OF  
UNTHINKING,  
UNQUESTIONING  
REACTION TO THE  
SENSE OF  
DANGER!...

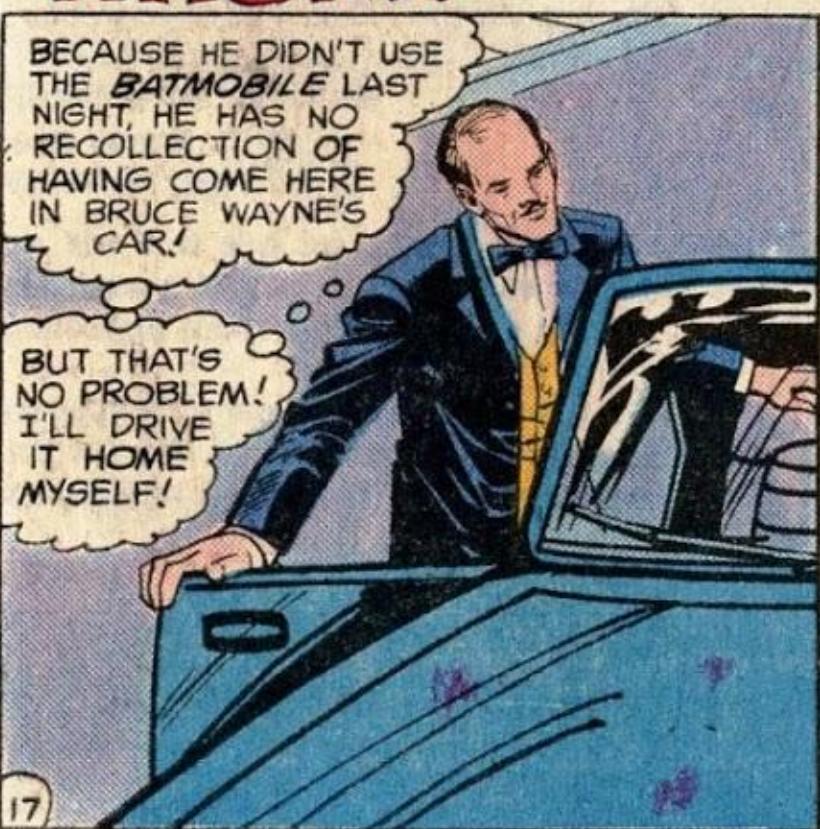
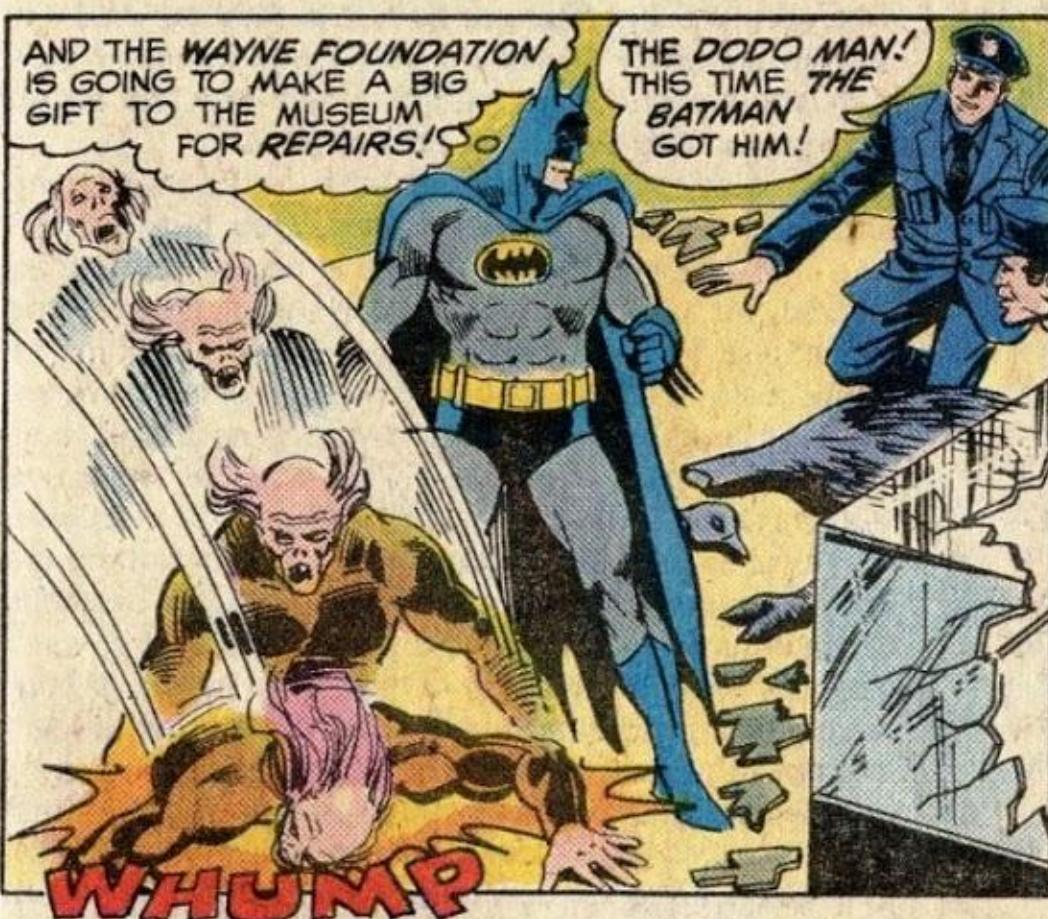
A QUICK CHANGE--  
AND INTO ACTION  
GOES--





-- POSITIONED HIMSELF IN AN  
EXHIBIT--





ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN JUNE

# BAT SIGNALS

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019 #S-2945

Our conversion to this new, increased size has pushed our deadlines ahead by a couple of weeks, which leaves us without your comments on BATMAN #289. But it gives us an opportunity to present some general comments about the Caped Crusader . . . and your reader-reactions to "Island of Purple Mist" will be here next issue!

\* \* \* \*

Dear Editor:

Is it always correct to portray villains as pitiable creatures whose reason for being criminals are deep-rooted emotional abnormalities with no chance of recovering and leading a normal life? If so, then the manner in which the Mad Hatter was portrayed in BATMAN #287 was another example of portraying a villain "correctly".

But I don't agree that this idea is necessarily a sound one. What would have been wrong with showing the Mad Hatter as a criminal attempting to go straight, failing each time because of a lack of outside help? Instead of ending his saga with a no-hope verdict, why not let it end with some chance that the Mad Hatter might be able to really go straight? Sure, he'll need outside help, but who is better suited for that than The Batman? Unfortunately, at the end of #287, it seems all Batman can do is make sarcastic remarks to Commissioner Gordon and then worry about his jolly playboy life.

Batman's role as a crimefighter shouldn't end when he has apprehended a villain and returned the stolen goods to the proper owner. It only seems obvious that The Batman could also be shown as someone who cares about rehabilitating criminals after he has put them behind bars. Instead of locking the door and throwing away the key (as society does to a great many of our criminals), why not help them too? They are human beings after all, the same as you and I . . . though a little bit different in some ways.

STEPHEN SETTER  
11 Early Drive

Portsmouth, VA 23701

Yes, you could say that someone with green hair and a pasty white face (not to mention a penchant for bizarre murders) is a "little bit different"! As for The Batman taking an active role in rehabilitation of his foes, it sounds like a great idea. However, since comic book villains always seem to have a large following, the odds on any of them going straight for good is highly unlikely!—BR

\* \* \* \*

Dear Editor:

Who is The Batman? Is he the mysterious figure of the night who strikes fear into the hearts of felons? Or is he a master detective who matches cunning and wits against equally masterful villains? He's both and much more; a man of many moods and facets who can be mysterious, cunning, or even belligerent depending on the circumstance.

In BATMAN #281, reader Paul Emrath remembers a Batman who "struck terror into the hearts of the underworld minions." I remember it too, but those stories bordered on the ridiculous with the notion that all criminals are superstitious and would be more scared of a man in a Bat-costume than the rest of us. The Batman of today strikes terror not because he represents some dark creature, but because he is The Batman. And it is not the underworld minions who are his primary concern any more; it is master criminals like The Joker, Catwoman, Two-Face and Ra's al Ghul.

Larry Lisowski states in #289 that for all intents and purposes, there is no Bruce Wayne. True, but I'd like to take that one step further: There is no Batman either. Instead, we have a man who is the son of Thomas and Martha Wayne, who avenges their deaths each time he brings a criminal to justice. His motive is simply revenge and both Batman and Bruce Wayne are mere tools to be used in fulfilling his purpose. This is a man obsessed with the relentless pursuit of lawbreakers and those who prey on others, possessed with the ideal of ridding the world of crime, continuing his fight against the denizens of the underworld for he can do naught else. If he can't eliminate the world's crime, an ideal which is unrealizable considering human nature, he must at least attempt to reduce it as much as possible.

Unlike heroes who have super-powers and use them to battle criminals because they feel obligated to do so, The Batman fights because of an intense hatred of crime. And it is that which makes him the greatest crimefighter of them all!

MARK C. SCHLINKER  
720 W. Bundy Ave.  
Flint, MI 48505

An interesting analysis, Mark, and one that will no doubt send our readers to their pens and typewriters for a reply . . . which will appear in some upcoming issues!

Meantime, we'd like to thank all of you for joining us here and we hope you'll continue to do so. The DC Explosion is just beginning . . . and there are further blasts to come!—Bob Rozakis



There is no imagination necessary here! You get the equipment, the battlefield and the rules on how to Locate, Occupy and Destroy the enemy. This is not just another juvenile game it is actually played and tremendously enjoyed by over 200,000 people including members of our real Armed forces.

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*You Receive*

2 GIGANTIC BATTLESURFS a total size of 3 square feet. (Six Islands in the Pacific Ocean beautifully colored.)

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375 RED BOMBER—enough to record the massive bombings and shelling.

#### Simple Directions

for a tense battle on land, sea and air. The general best able to strategically place his forces and direct his firing will be the only survivor of this terrific battle.



# TANK TRAP

A COMPLETE GAME WITH

- H.Q. COMMANDER
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- 25 TANKS
- 6 EXPLOSIVES TENTS
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- 2 TANK BOMBERS
- SIMPLE DIRECTIONS
- 3-D plastic—safe and reusable

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HELEN OF TOY, CO.  
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SPECIAL!! Complete game and 88 extra toys (total of 176 toys) — \$2.20

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U.S.A. add 50¢ postage to each item checked above.  
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ORDER TODAY TO RECEIVE FREE A "CHESS" GAME PLUS A CATALOG WITH EACH ORDER — Please don't delay your order(S) by forgetting to ADD POSTAGE to price on EACH of the items ordered.

# THE D C EXPLOSION!

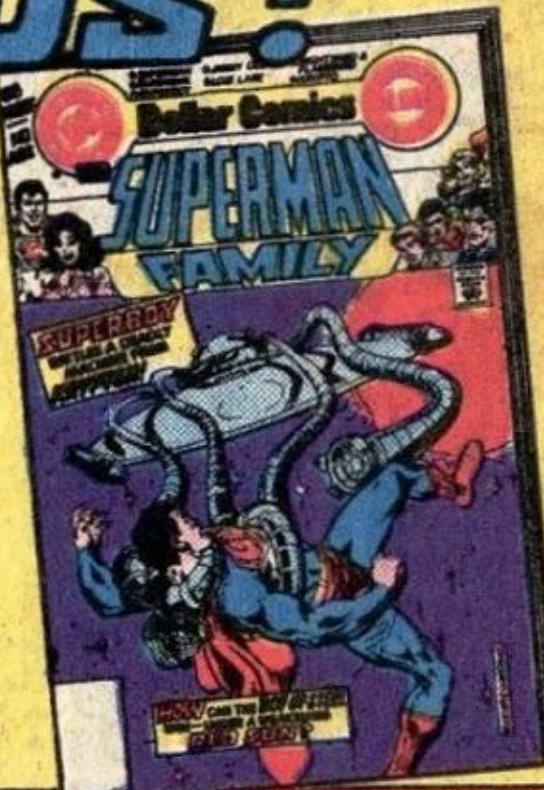
## Dollar Comics

NOW FEATURE COVER-TO-COVER  
ALL-NEW STORY AND ART!

## NO ADS!

SUPERMAN FAMILY #191

starring  
**SUPERMAN,**  
**SUPERRGIRL,**  
**LOIS LANE,**  
**NIGHTWING and**  
**FLAMEBIRD,**  
**KRYPTO**  
**JIMMY OLSEN and**  
**SUPERBOY—**  
GUEST-STARRING  
THE DOOM PATROL  
and THE NEWSBOY LEGION  
ON SALE JUNE 20<sup>th</sup>



ADVENTURE COMICS #459

starring THE FLASH,  
WONDER WOMAN,  
DEADMAN,  
GREEN LANTERN,  
THE NEW GODS and  
THE ELONGATED MAN

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

FROM THE PAGES OF G.I. COMBAT

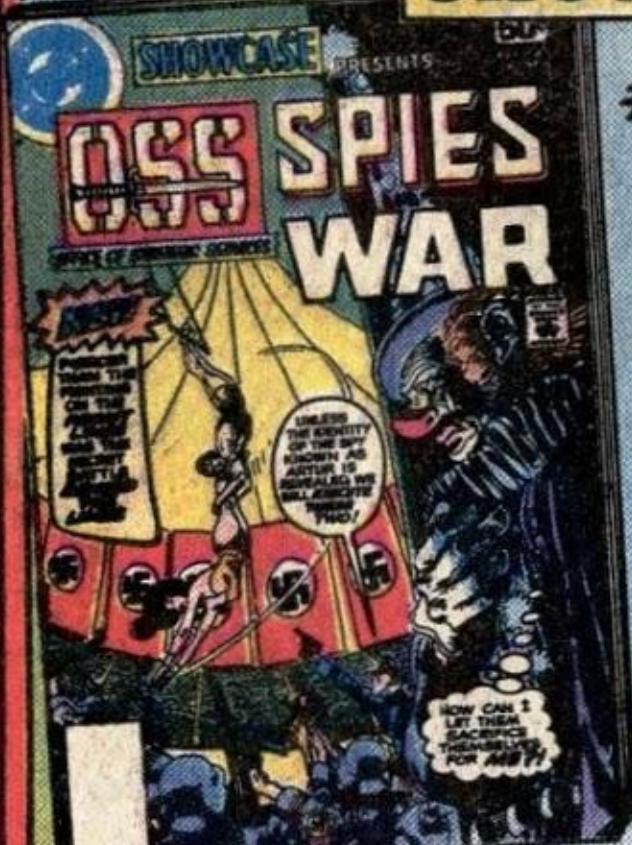
## OSS SPIES IN WAR

25 PAGES of COMBAT ESPIONAGE

in SHOWCASE

# 104

ON  
SALE  
JUNE  
15<sup>th</sup>!



## CLASSICS!

THE BEST IN  
COMICS ENTERTAINMENT!

BATTLE CLASSICS #1

featuring  
SGT. ROCK  
THE HALIBUTED  
TANK  
and JOHNNY  
CLOUD...  
TOGETHER!!

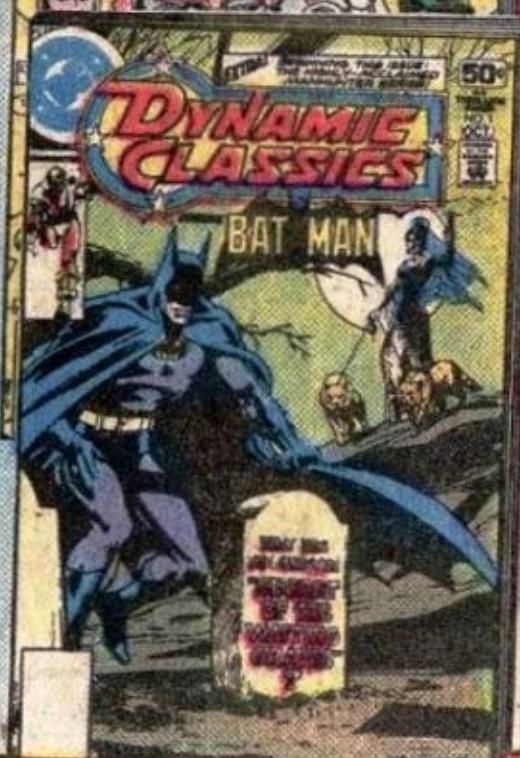
ON SALE  
JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup>



DYNAMIC  
CLASSICS #1

featuring  
BATMAN  
and  
MANHUNTER

ON SALE  
JUNE 8<sup>th</sup>



UNSOLVED CASES OF THE BATMAN

# IF VULTURE BEED FERVED

OKAY, ALFRED, THIS  
CASE GOES INTO THE  
TIME CAPSULE INSTEAD  
OF THE REGULAR FILES!  
IF ANYONE EVER GETS  
INTO THE BATCAVE, I  
WOULDN'T WANT THEM  
READING ABOUT IT!

THE WORLD SHOULD  
KNOW WHAT REALLY  
HAPPENED TO BUZZY  
MCKAME AND MARTY  
RAIL... AND WHEN THE  
TRUTH GETS OUT AFTER  
MY DEATH, NO REAL HARM  
WILL BE DONE... I HOPE!

THE STORY BEGINS  
LAST SUMMER... THE  
HOTTEST IN THE HISTORY  
OF GOTHAM CITY...

WRITER: DENNY O'NEIL  
ARTIST: MICHAEL GOLDEN  
INKER: JACK ABEL  
LETTERER: MILT SNAPINN  
COLORIST: ADRIENNE ROY  
EDITOR: JULIUS SCHWARTZ

"...107 DEGREES THE STEAMY JULY AFTERNOON THAT I, AS BRUCE WAYNE, MEET ANGUS MCKAME ON THE COURTS OF THE GOTHAM TENNIS CLUB..."

SURE YOU WANT TO PLAY, ANGUS? IT'S HOT AS--

IT WON'T BOTHER ME NONE, BOY!



I GREW UP IN DEATH VALLEY, WHERE WEATHER LIKE THIS IS CONSIDERED DOWNRIGHT COOL!

I SMASH A BULLET-SERVE AND AS THE OLD MAN MOVES TO RETURN IT--

AAAGH



ENOUGH VOLLEYING... LET'S PLAY!

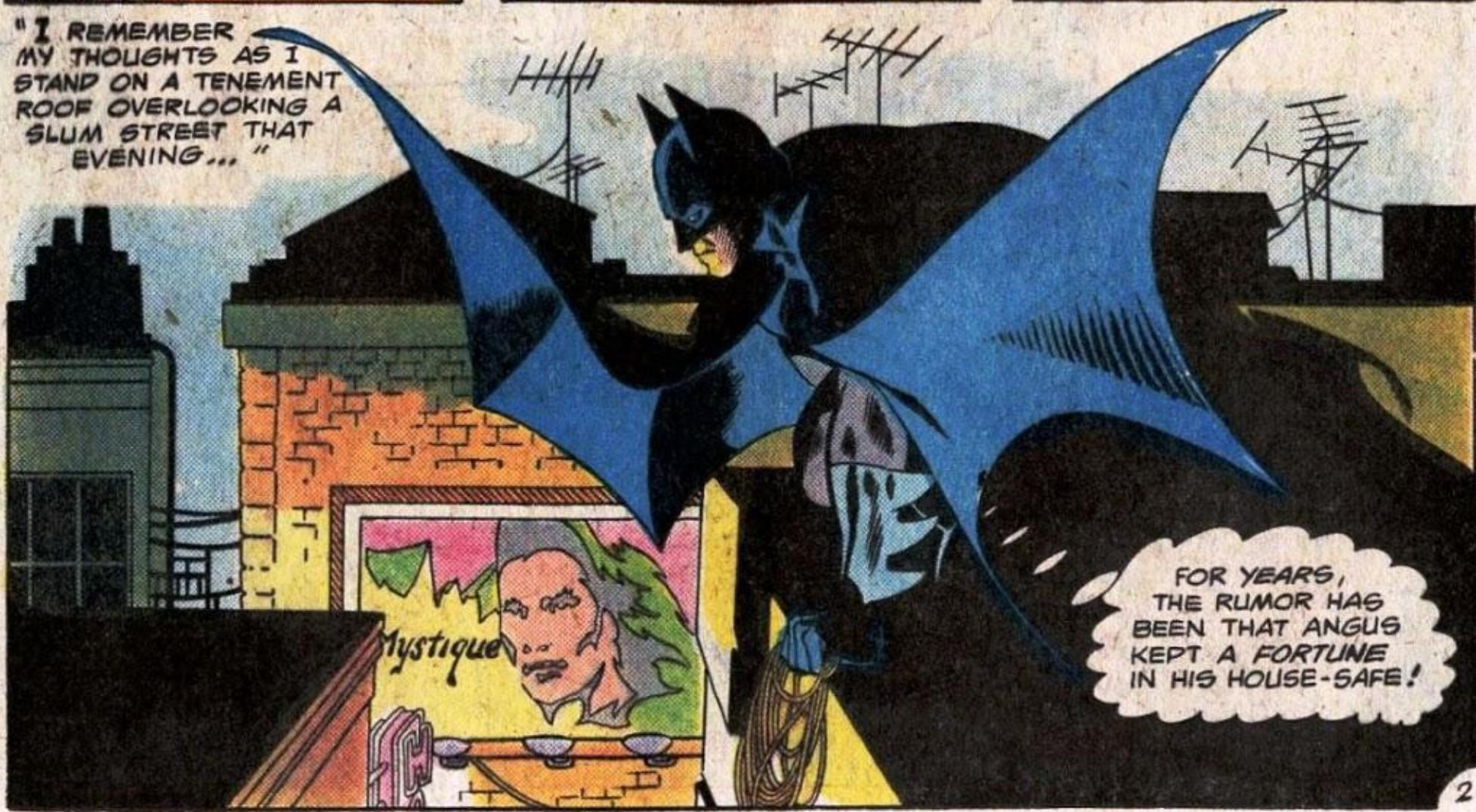
I JUMP THE NET, FEEL FOR A PULSE--THEN REACH UNDER HIS SHIRT...

THE CLUB DOCTOR IS ON THE WAY!

HE BETTER HURRY... THIS HEART-MASSAGE IS NOT BRINGING HIM AROUND!

"NOR DID IT..."

I REMEMBER MY THOUGHTS AS I STAND ON A TENEMENT ROOF OVERLOOKING A SLUM STREET THAT EVENING..."



IF THAT'S SO, IT'S STRANGE! --ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING THAT HE INSISTED ON LIVING HERE... IN THE CITY'S WORST NEIGHBORHOOD!

HE HAD ENOUGH ASSETS TO LIVE IN THE BEST--

HELP!

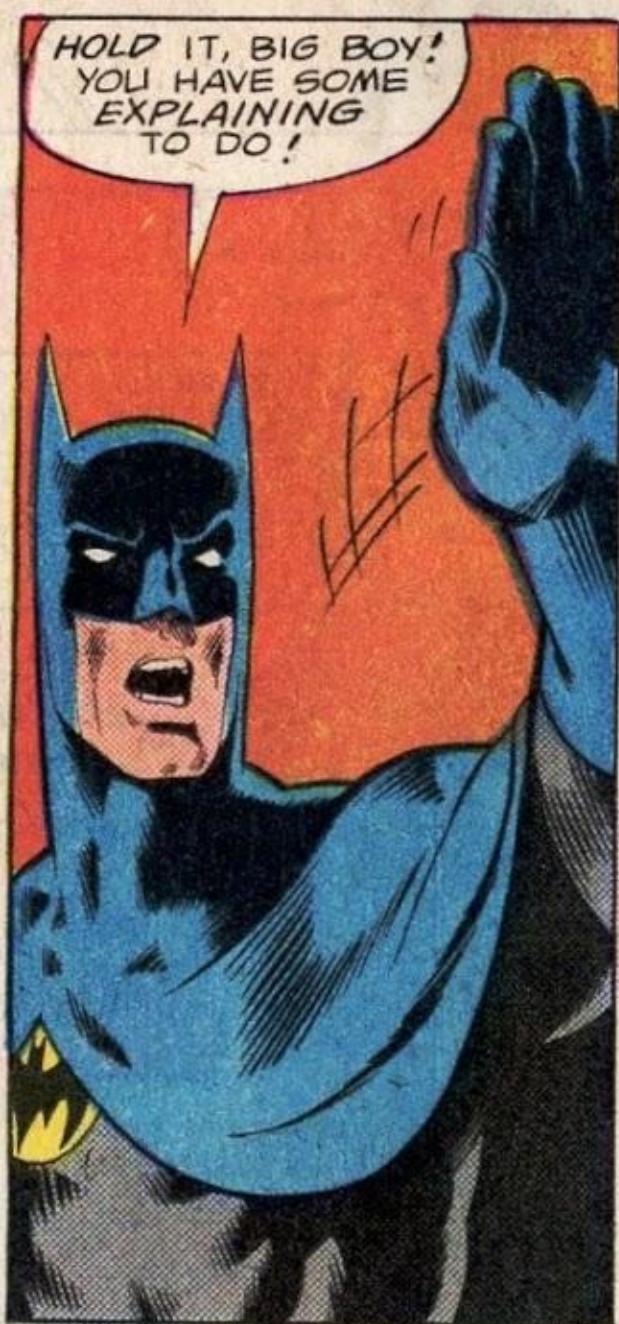
EH--? TROUBLE BELOW!

YOU SHOULDN'T ASK! I DON'T LIKE YOUR PAPER-- THE YELLOWWEST RAG IN FOUR STATES--BUT YOU HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS ANYONE!

"I TURN AND SEE HIM THEN--"

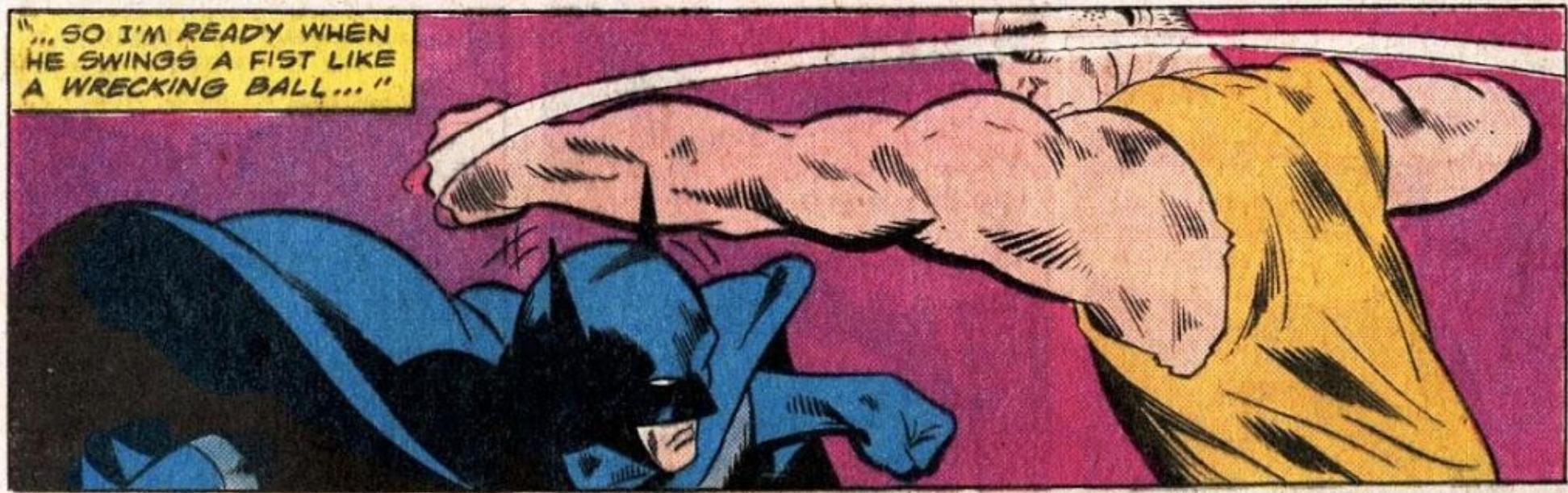


"...A MONSTER OF A MAN... AT LEAST SEVEN FEET TALL AND 250 POUNDS OF BULGING MUSCLE..."



"I SEE HIM TENSE AND I CAN ALMOST FEEL THE VIOLENCE IN HIM..."

"...SO I'M READY WHEN HE SWINGS A FIST LIKE A WRECKING BALL..."



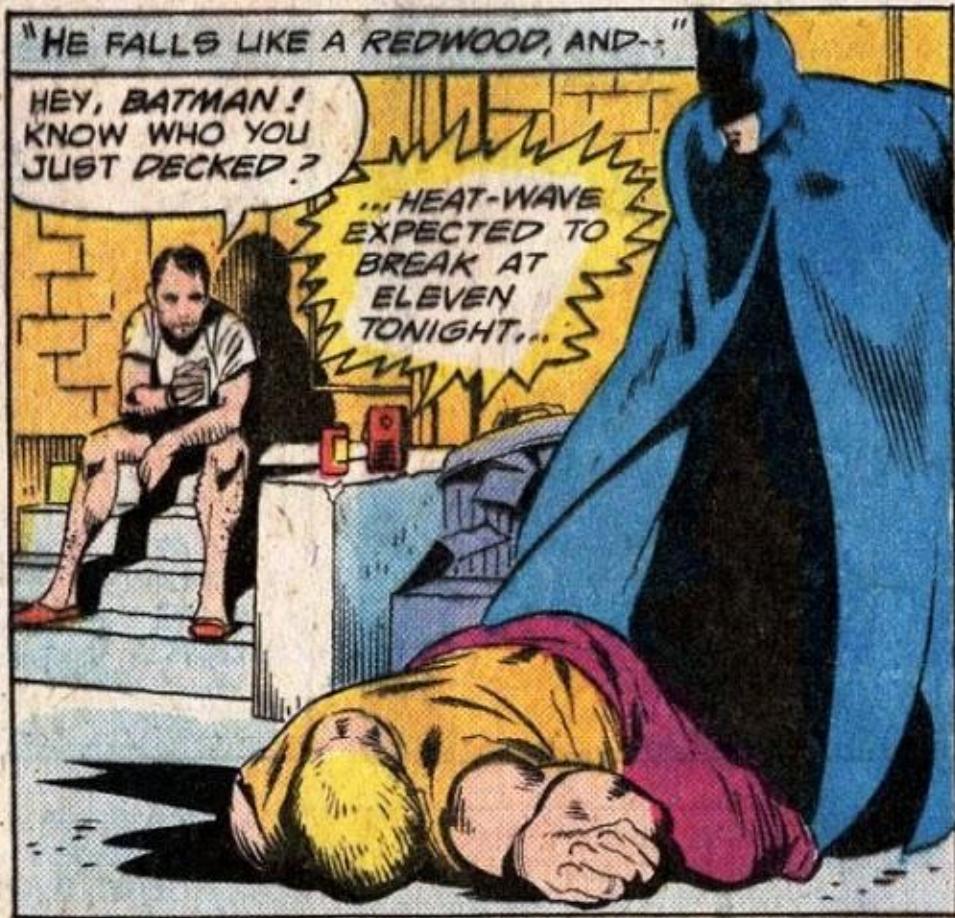
"--AND BEFORE HE CAN REGAIN HIS BALANCE, I CHOP TO THE NERVE-CENTERS IN HIS NECK!"



"HE FALLS LIKE A REDWOOD, AND--"

HEY, BATMAN!  
KNOW WHO YOU  
JUST DECKED?

...HEAT-WAVE  
EXPECTED TO  
BREAK AT  
ELEVEN  
TONIGHT...



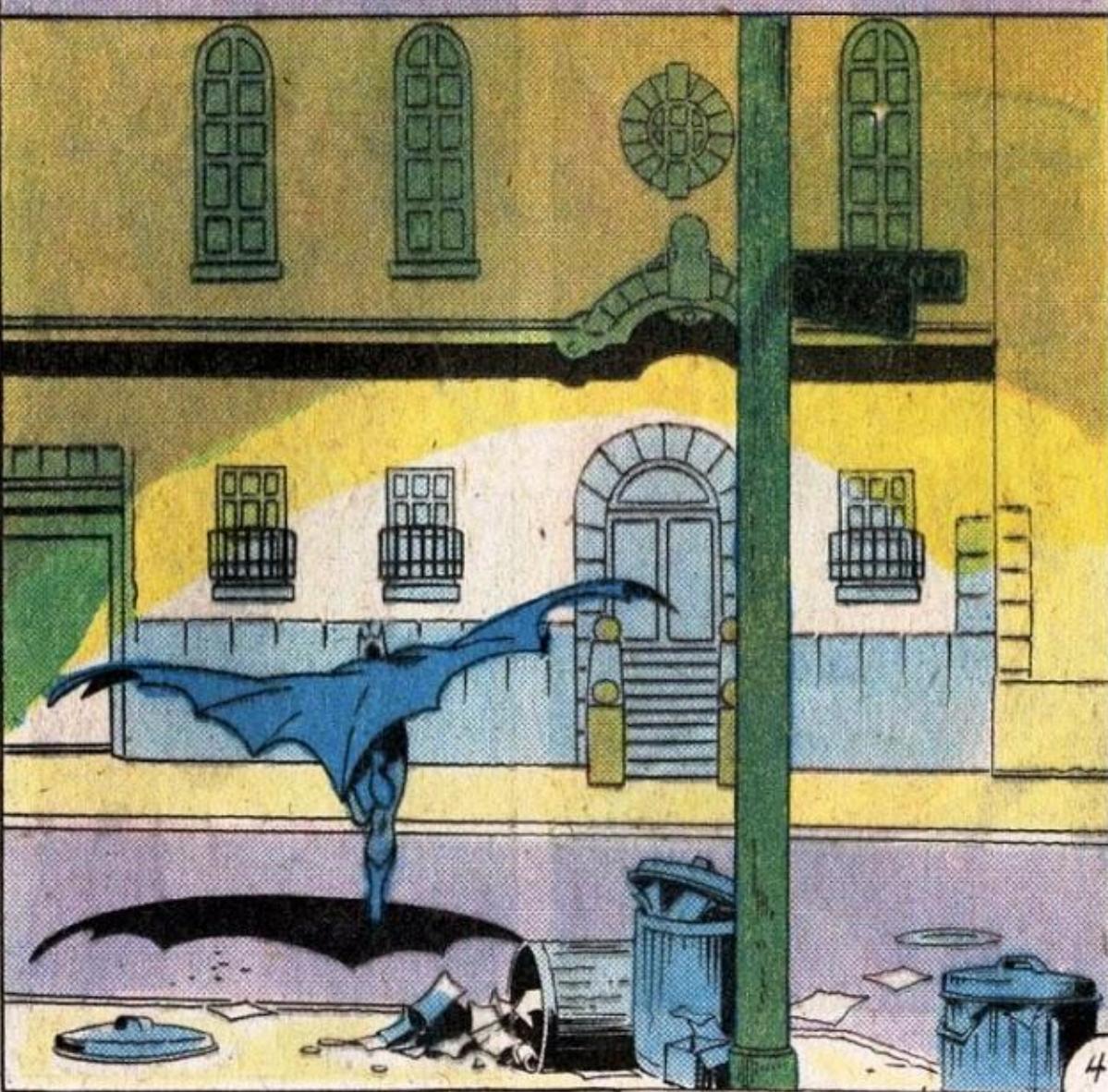
THAT'S BUZZY  
MCKAME... ANGUS'S  
KID!

"TWO THINGS HIT  
ME AT ONCE... NEWS-  
MAN MARTY RAIL  
IS GONE... AND I  
SENSE I'VE MADE  
A TERRIBLE  
MISTAKE..."

...STORM  
WARNING IS  
IN EFFECT  
FOR THE  
GOTHAM  
AREA...

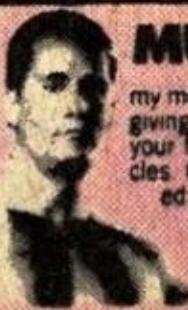


"AFTER CHECKING TO BE SURE BUZZY ISN'T BADLY HURT, I  
PASH DOWN THE BLOCK TO THE MCKAME MANSION..."



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1940 to 1976  
over 100,000 in stock  
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"IN THE DEN, I FIND  
ANGUS'S HOUSEKEEPER--"

-- ALL GONE! THAT  
SNEAKY REPORTER...  
HE STOLE EVERYTHING!

AND BUZZY  
CHASED HIM--?

HE DID, THE  
GOOD, BRAVE  
CHILD! HE  
ISN'T VERY...  
WELL, VERY  
SMART, BUT  
HE LOVED HIS  
STEPFATHER!

ANGUS  
MCKAME  
WASN'T  
HIS REAL  
PARENT?

NO! ANGUS ADOPTED BUZZY  
AT AGE SIX... AND HAS CARED  
FOR HIM EVER SINCE!

THAT'S WHY HE CHOSE  
NOT TO MOVE ELSEWHERE!  
HE THOUGHT BUZZY WOULD  
BE--WELL...

...MORE  
COMFORTABLE  
ON THE  
STREET  
WHERE HE  
WAS BORN!

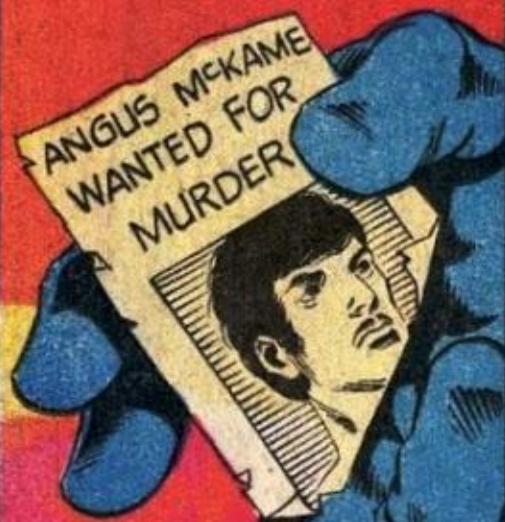
A SCRAP OF  
NEWSPAPER  
CATCHES  
MY EYE...

...APPARENTLY IT  
SLIPPED FROM THE  
THIEF'S GRASP! OLD,  
YELLOWED, BRITTLE  
AND CRUMBLING, IT  
TELLS A GRIM STORY..."

ONE MORE QUESTION... HOW  
MUCH MONEY DID MARTY RAIL  
TAKE?

NO MONEY!  
ONLY PAPERS  
AND  
SOUVENIRS!

I DO WHAT I'M CERTAIN  
BUZZY MCKAME HAS  
ALREADY DONE--LOOK  
UP MARTY RAIL'S ADDRESS  
IN THE PHONE BOOK..."



...OF A CRIME COMMITTED  
FIFTY YEARS EARLIER IN A  
TOWN NEAR DEATH VALLEY..."

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April - 1978

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"I STEP OUTSIDE TO FIND MYSELF FACING A MOB. I SEE THE SWEAT GLEAMING ON FACES TWISTED WITH ANGER AND HEAR THE HOARSE VOICES..."

WE'RE GONNA TEAR YUH APART, BATMAN!

PUNCHIN' BUZZY LIKE YUH DONE--

"I HAVEN'T TIME TO REASON WITH THEM...OR REGRET MY OWN HASTY ACTIONS..."



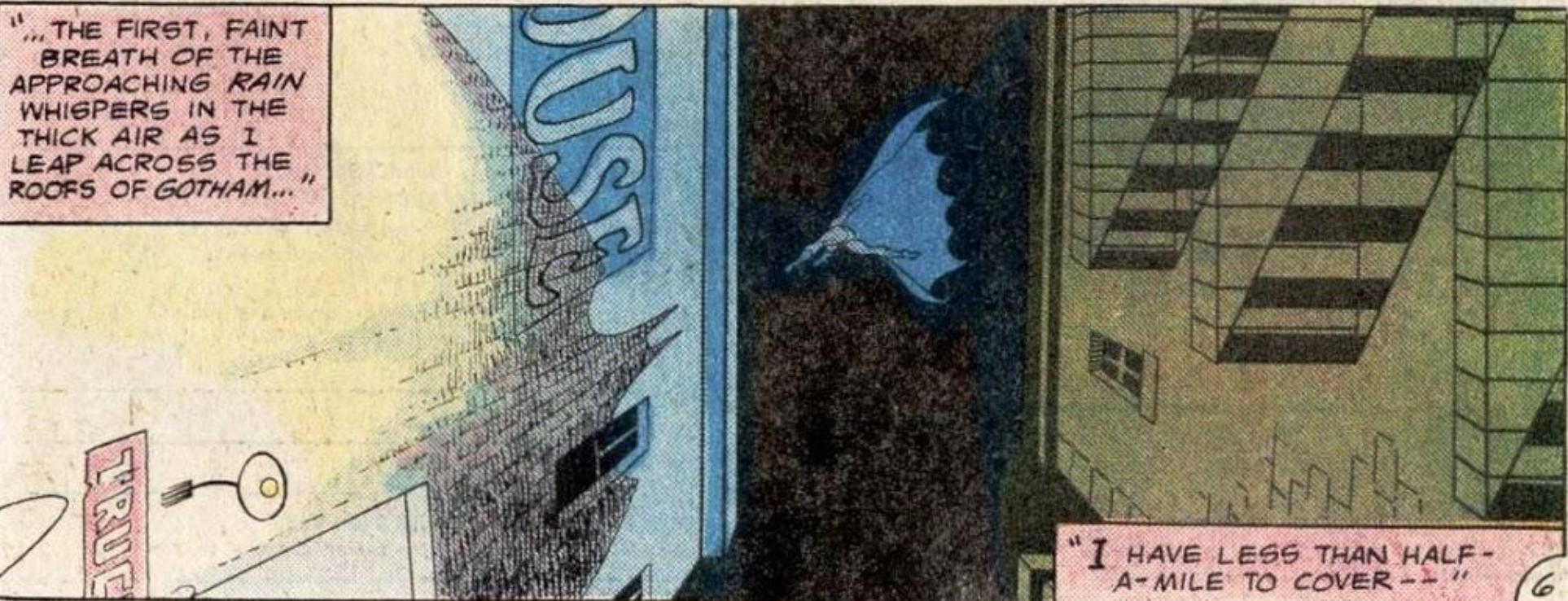
--AIN'TCHA HEARD HIS OLD MAN SPENT MILLIONS FEEDIN' OUR KIDS...PAYIN' OUR RENT...?



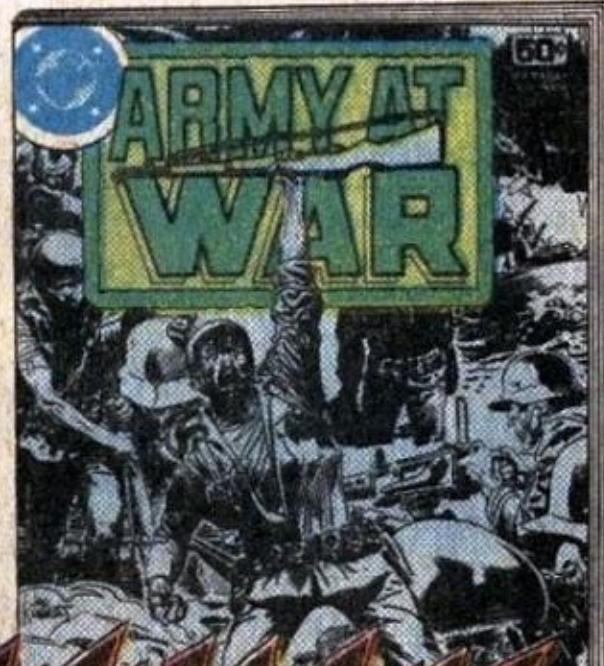
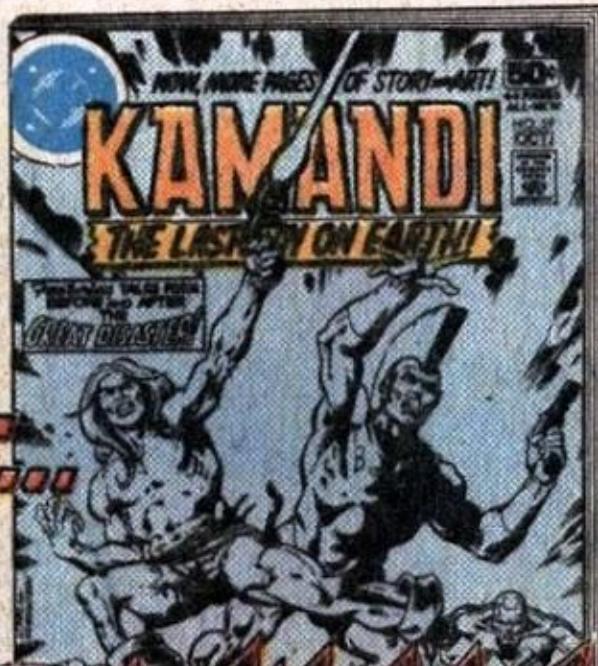
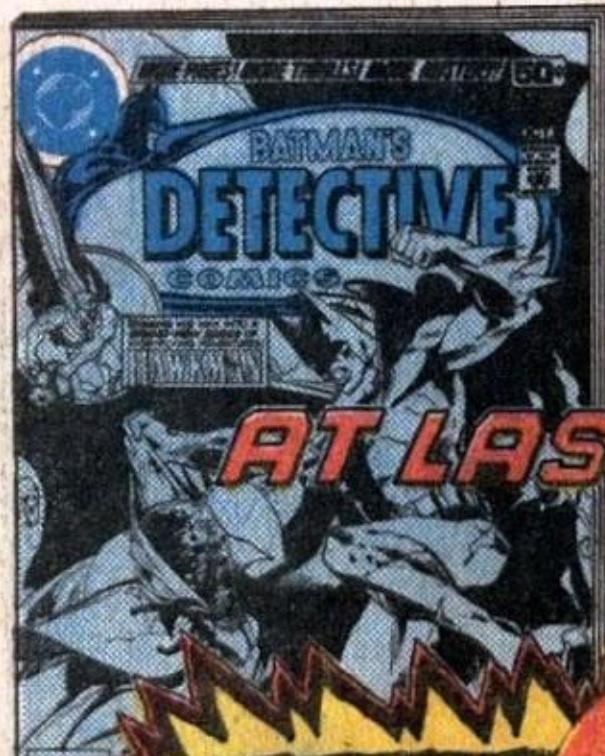
"AS I STREAK OVER THEIR HEADS, I HEAR THE RUMBLE OF THUNDER MINGLE WITH THEIR SHOUTS AND A GLANCE AT THE SKY SHOWS ROILING STORM CLOUDS..."



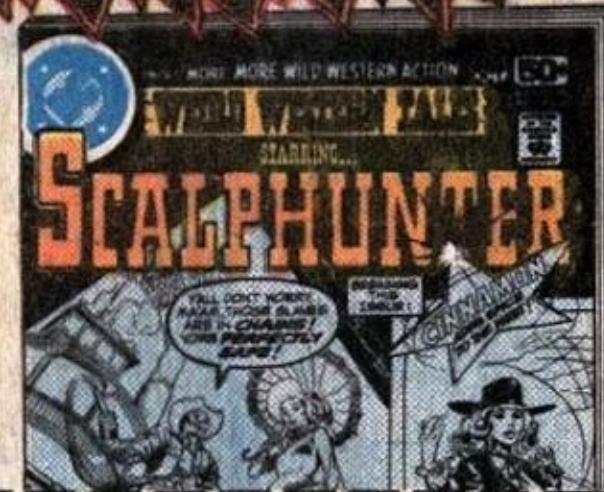
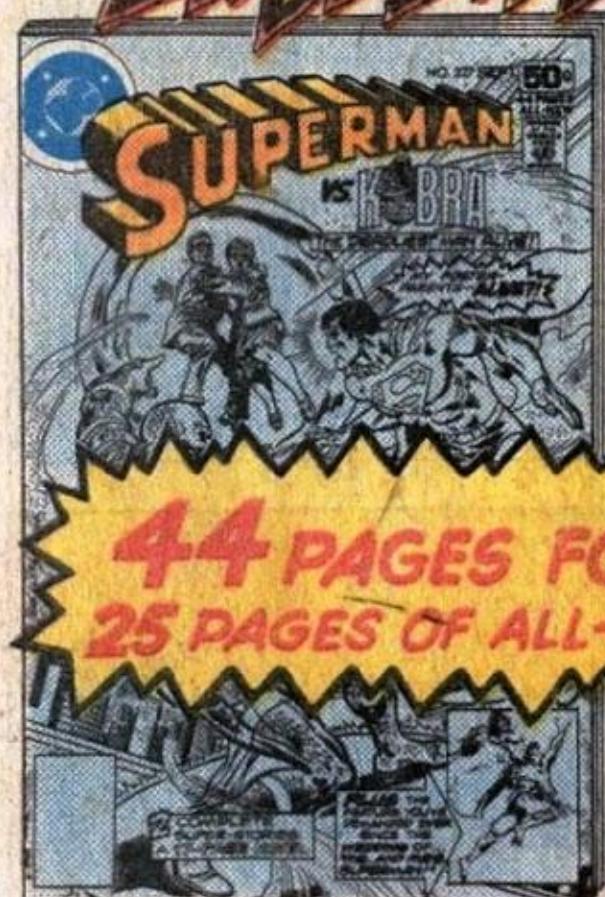
"...THE FIRST, FAINT BREATH OF THE APPROACHING RAIN WHISPERS IN THE THICK AIR AS I LEAP ACROSS THE ROOFS OF GOTHAM..."



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



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FAST... BUT NOT  
FAST ENOUGH!"

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THE GRIMY BUILDINGS STRIKE  
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CASE WILL PROVE THE  
SAINTLY DO-GODDER  
ANGUS MCKAME WAS  
REALLY A MURDERER!

YOU CAN  
GET LOST,  
PUNK--



SO SUE ME... BUT WHEN  
I SPLASH IT ON THE  
FRONT PAGE, IT'LL MAKE  
ME IN THE NEWS  
BUSINESS!

GIVE ME!

STAY  
WAY,  
OR--

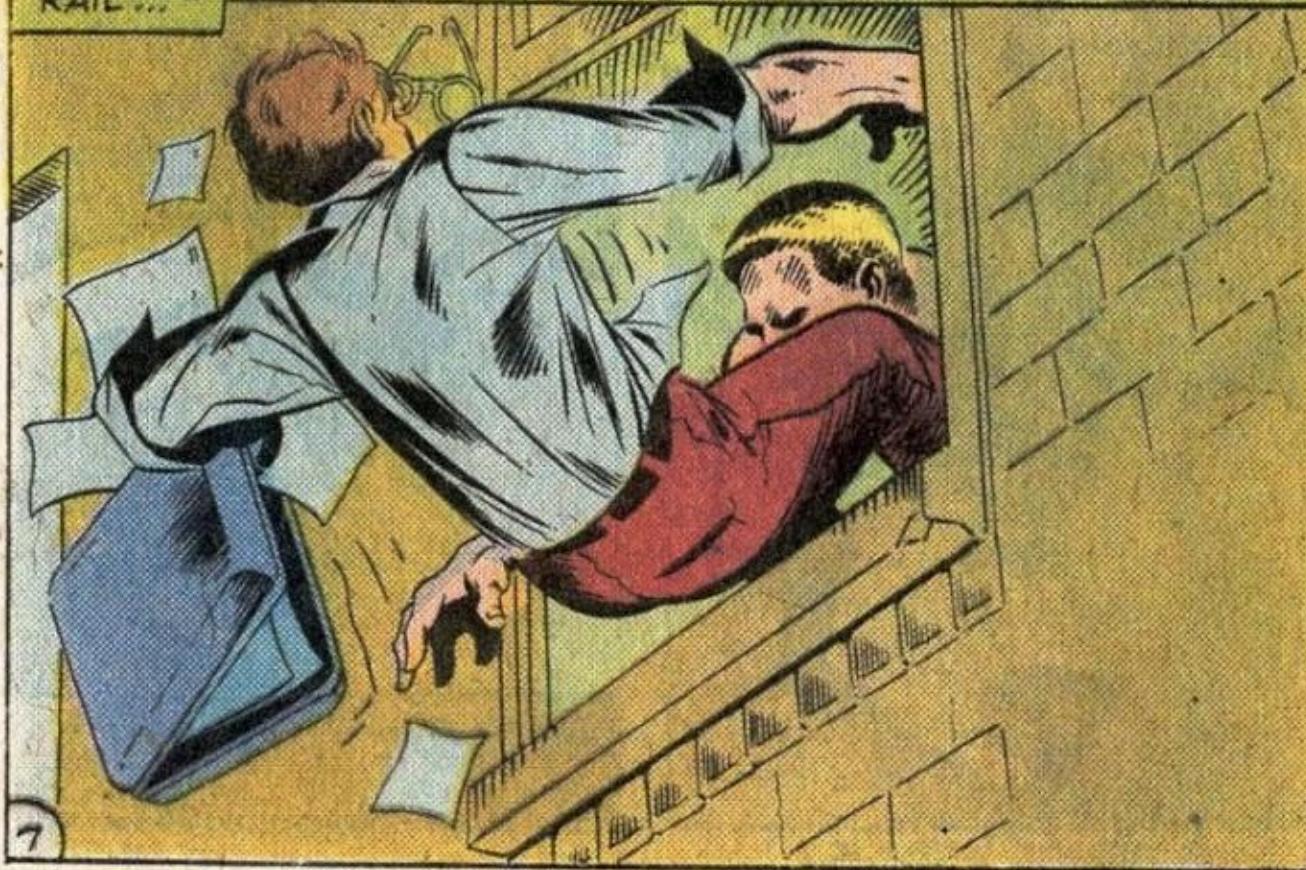


THEY'LL  
GOBBLE IT  
UP ON THE  
SUBWAYS!



BLAM  
BLAM

"IGNORING THE LEAD BURNING HIS INSIDES, BUZZY LURCHES  
FORWARD, HIS ENORMOUS WEIGHT SLAMMING INTO MARTY  
RAIL..."



"I REACH FOR HIM... TRY DESPER-  
ATELY, TO SAVE HIM--BUT..."

"I TOUCH BUZZY AS HE GASPS HIS PITIFUL LAST..."

NOT FAIR...

LIFE SELDOM IS, BUZZY!

"THOSE ARE THE LAST WORDS HE EVER HEARS..."

BATMAN...  
WHAT'S THIS  
ABOUT?

I...I'M NOT  
PREPARED TO  
SAY, EXACTLY!

NOTHING MUCH,  
COMMISSIONER!  
NOTHING  
IMPORTANT!

"NOTHING EXCEPT EVIDENCE  
OF A CRIME THAT'S BEEN PAID  
FOR A THOUSANDFOLD!"

"STORM WINDS SNATCH  
THOSE DAMNING SCRAPS  
AND CARRY THEM TO THE  
SEA, WHERE THEY WILL  
NEVER BE FOUND..."

"ANGUS MCKAME THE KILLER  
WILL BE FORGOTTEN -- AND  
ANGUS MCKAME THE DECENT,  
KIND MAN WILL BE REMEMBERED!  
AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE!"

NEXT ISSUE: THE PUBLIC LIFE OF BRUCE WAYNE!

"I FIND COMFORT IN THAT AS  
I WALK INTO THE COOLING  
SHADOWS...AND LEAVE BEHIND  
A CASE 'UNSOLVED'!"

# THE



# FEATURE PAGE

Q: Has Wonder Woman ever teamed up with Batgirl?—Carl Hippensteel.  
A: Beck in *BRAVE & BOLD* #78, where both were joined by Batman.  
Q: Is there a Doctor Fate on any other Earth than Earth-2?—Jason Brown.  
A: Not that we know of!  
Q: Are there any plans for a second *FIVE STAR SUPER-HERO SPECTACULAR*?—Duane Simolke.  
A: No, but the success of the first one is what prompted us to make *ADVENTURE COMICS* a Dollar Comic, with many of the same stars!  
Q: When did the *Teen Titans* first appear?—Eddie Mitchell.  
A: Robin, Kid Flash and Aqualad joined up in *BRAVE & BOLD* #54 and became the *TTs* officially when Wonder Girl came along in *B&B* #60!

Q: How can I write a letter to *SUPER FRIENDS*?—Leslie Dale Johns.  
A: You can write to *SUPER FRIENDS* or any of our magazines at DC Comics Inc., 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019. (That's also the address for your friendly neighborhood Answer Man.)

Q: Is Swamp Thing going to appear

IT'S A BIRD!  
IT'S A PLANE!  
IT'S THE ANSWER MAN!

again soon?—Daniel DeReuter.  
A: The second edition of *THE ORIGINAL SWAMP THING SAGA* (featuring issues 3 and 4 of the magazine) is now on sale!

Q: When did the Legion of Super-Heroes get their new costumes?—Phil Bernstein.  
A: The change was

gradual, but began when the Legion got its feature in *SUPERBOY* #197! Q: What are the secret identities of the Golden Age Atom, Sandman and Mr. Terrific?—Glenn Cupo.  
A: Atom is Al Pratt, Sandman is Wesley Dodds and Mr. Terrific is Terry Sloane.

Q: Will there ever be a Green Arrow/Black Canary TV show? Or a Teen Titans TV show?—Steve Bleshara.  
A: There were plans for a *TT* cartoon series at one time, but they were not carried out. As for GA/BC, anything is possible!

Q: Can a red sun and kryptonite take away Superman's powers or do they just make him faint?—Matt McCurdy.  
A: The Man of Steel has no powers under a red sun. Kryptonite weakens him, drains his powers away (making him faint) and can eventually kill him.

Q: How can I tell what year a comic was printed?—Bryan Brown.  
A: You can find the publication date in the Indicia, that block of copy found at the bottom of page one in our magazines.

Steve Mitchell remembers those summertime Thursdays vividly. He'd always eat the same lunch—two hot dogs, an orange drink, and a slice of chocolate cream pie—before taking *The Tour*.

The Tour—there was, of course, no other—took you through the old eighth floor offices of DC Comics at 575 Lexington Avenue to see how comic books were made. Steve now admits to having been quite a pest—of asking lots of questions and cajoling freelancers into doing sketches. It eventually paid off, though, for today Steve works for DC as production assistant—making art corrections, preparing covers, and putting together ads for new comics.

Steve also does some freelance inking. He's done work for *Superman Family* and several ink jobs for the war and mystery books. He also did some inking for Marvel Comics.

It was those tours that encouraged

## dc profiles number 38 steve \*mitchell\*

Steve to break into comics. In 1970, his samples caught the eye of then-Vice-President Sol Harrison who offered him some freelance work. More followed and Steve soon found himself attending Hunter College by day and freelancing at night.

When Neal Adams and Dick Giordano opened Continuity Associates in 1971, Steve found work and expert guidance under the master hand of Dick Giordano. For awhile, he mixed freelancing with staff work at DC and travel to Europe. He then accepted the position of production manager for the short-lived Seaboard/Atlas

Comics line. While at Seaboard, Steve wrote the first issue of *The Cougar*, his own creation.

After his stint there, Steve took some time to co-author a screenplay before returning to DC. Last year, he married novelist Barbara Petty.

Today, if you walk into DC's Production Offices, you're likely to see a 6'4" 200-lb. version of Billy Batson talking on the telephone. That's Production Ace Steve, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Michael Gray, the actor who played Billy on the Saturday morning *Shazam!* TV series. Steve, by the way, insists that it's Gray who looks like him.

Even though Steve's post keeps him busily working at his drawing board all day, he still finds time to study filmmaking at New York University and act as Contributing Editor to *Filmmaker's Newsletter*, penning articles and conducting interviews with film notables.



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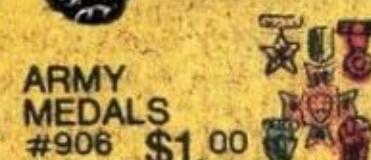
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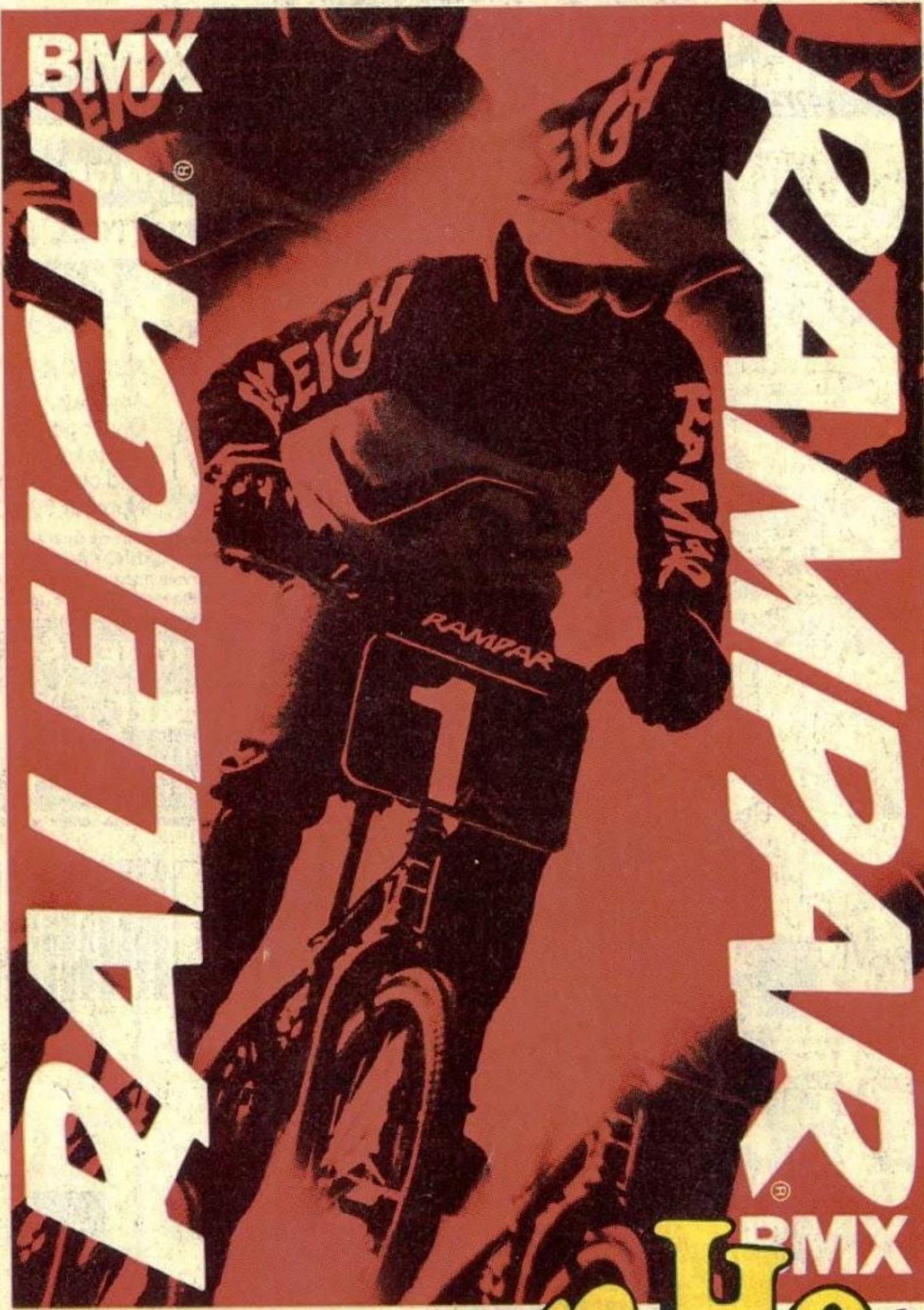
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