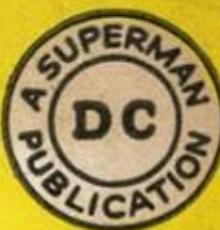


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NO.55

TEN CENTS



52
PAGES

BATMAN

BATMAN and ROBIN
BATTLE THEIR OLDEST ENEMY
STATE BY STATE
in
"The CASE of the
48 JOKERS"



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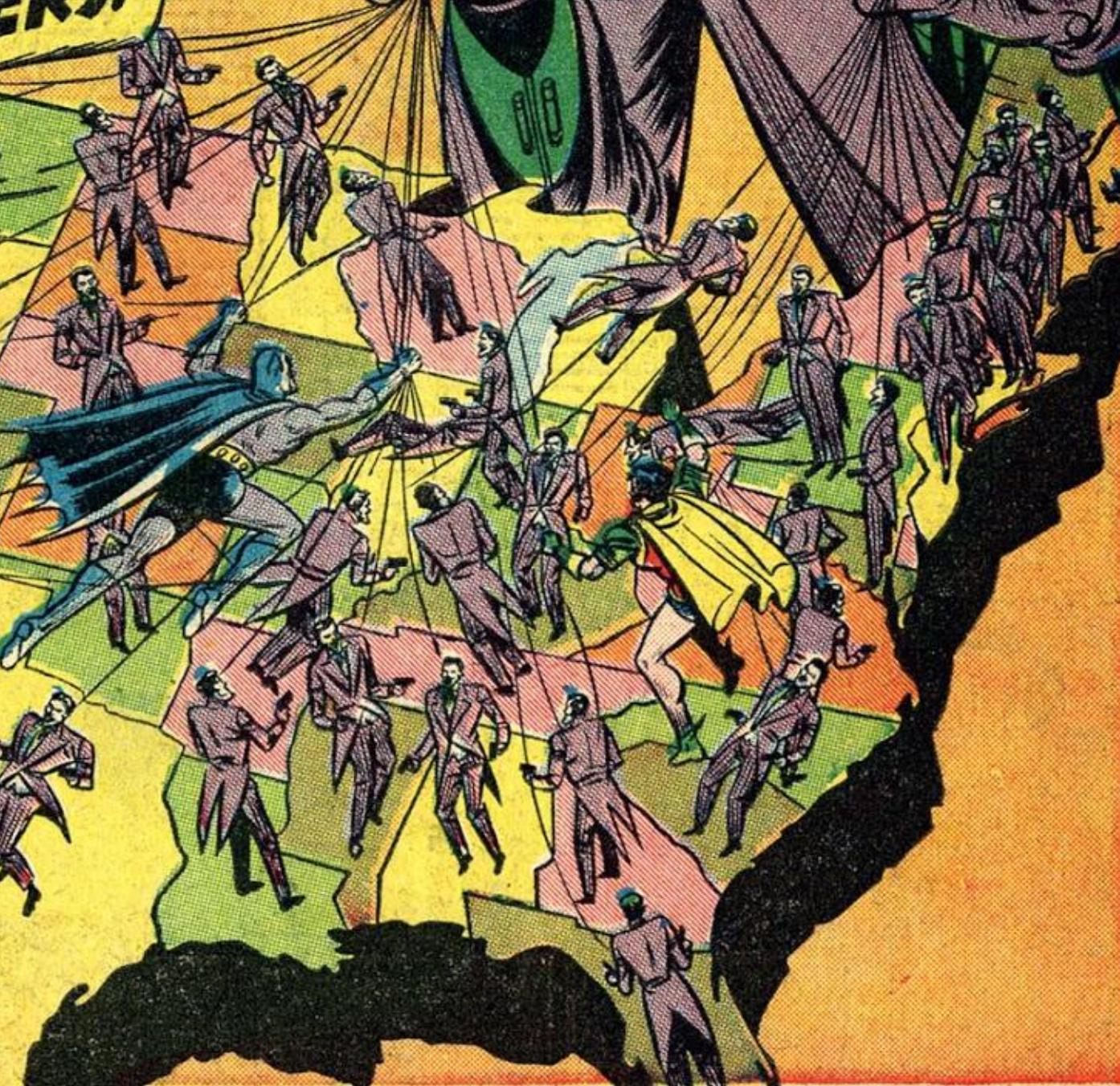
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

WHAT CAN BE WORSE THAN
ONE JOKER TO HARASS
BATMAN AND ROBIN?
THE ANSWER IS.... A WHOLE
SYNDICATE OF CRIME CLOWNS...
FORTY-EIGHT SINISTER
HARLEQUINS.. ONE FOR EVERY
STATE IN THE UNION!
AND WHEN 48 MADCAP MERCHANTS
OF MALEVOLENT MIRTH ARE ON
THE LOOSE, THEY ADD TO
BATMAN'S WORRIES. SUBTRACT
FROM HIS SLEEP, AND MULTIPLY
HIS TROUBLES! READ HOW THE
ONE AND ONLY ORIGINAL
CRIME CLOWN CREATES A CORPS
OF FELONIOUS FACSIMILIES
IN... "THE CASE OF THE
48 JOKERS!"

HA-HA **HO HO**
HEE-HEE!



BOB
KANE

BATMAN

ONE AFTERNOON, ON A BOULEVARD IN GOTHAM CITY'S RESIDENTIAL SECTION...



WHILE IN A PENTHOUSE HIGH ABOVE THE JOKER, A GAY PARTY IS IN FULL SWING...



SUDDENLY, THE JOKER'S KITE ZOOMS STRAIGHT FOR THE GLEAMING WATCH ON DISPLAY, AS...



THAT EVENING, IN THE JOKER'S BIZARRE HIDDEN RETREAT...

HO-HO! EVEN WHEN THE JOKER FLIES A KITE, HE IS ATTENDING STRICTLY TO BUSINESS...

BUT HERE'S A HOT ONE: WHILE THE JOKER WAS STEALING THE WATCH, A FABULOUS DIAMOND WAS ON DISPLAY SCARCELY TWO BLOCKS AWAY! WELL, HE CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME, THANK GOODNESS.



STUNG BY THE TAUNTING RADIO VOICE...

THIS IS VERY VEXING! A GREAT CRIME OPPORTUNITY MISSED BECAUSE I WAS THAT CONCLUDES BUSY ELSEWHERE! BUT WHAT COULD I DO?

... AND THE NEWS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE MULLER BRUSH CO.



REMEMBER—
THE MULLER BRUSH
MAN IS EVERYWHERE.
ONE WILL
CALL ON YOU
SOON...

HO-HO! THAT'S IT!
ONLY INSTEAD OF
BRUSH SALESMEN,
THERE'LL BE **JOKERS**
EVERYWHERE! I'LL
ORGANIZE A SYNDICATE
OF JOKERS, ONE IN EVERY
STATE OF THE UNION!

SWEPT AWAY BY HIS VISION OF 48 JOKERS, THE
CRIME CLOWN RAPIDLY GOES TO WORK...

TO BE A **JOKER**, ONE MUST FIRST
BE A GREAT **CLOWN**! HO-HO! I'LL
TRAIN THE MEMBERS OF MY
SYNDICATE AT A MAGNIFICENT
COLLEGE FOR CLOWNS!
HA-HA! HO-HO!



AND THE NEXT DAY,
AT A DESERTED LUMBER
MILL IN THE MOUNTAINS
NEAR GOTHAM CITY...

HA-HA! A PERFECT SPOT
FOR MY SCHOOL, AS SOON
AS I'VE FIXED UP
THESE BARRACKS!



IN A FEW WEEKS, THE **CLOWN COLLEGE** IS
IN READINESS. AND, AS THE **JOKER** CAREFULLY
SCREENS APPLICANTS CULLED FROM THE UNDERWORLD,

SO YOU WANT TO ENROLL IN
MY CLOWN COLLEGE, EH?
HA-HA! LET'S DISCUSS THIS
OVER A GOOD CIGAR...

GEE—
THANKS,
JOKER...

SUDDENLY THE CIGAR EXPLODES IN THE SURPRISED
THUG'S FACE, AND...

YOU SURE FOOLED
ME, JOKER? HA-HA!
A TRICK
CIGAR?

GOOD! GOOD! YOUR
REACTION WAS EXCELLENT.
YOU HAVE A SENSE OF
HUMOR! YOU ARE
ACCEPTED IN MY CLOWN
COLLEGE! HA-HA-HA!



BATMAN

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC

FINALLY, THE SCHOOL'S ROSTER IS COMPLETE!
ON THE FIRST DAY...

YOUR CLOWN UNIFORMS—AND GREASE
PAINT FOR YOUR MAKE-UP! HA-HA!
THESE WILL GET YOU YOUR
FIRST LAUGHS!

SO DAT'S
WHAT I'M GONNA
LOOK LIKE?
SAY-DIS IS
FUN!

HO-HO! I'LL SAY IT IS!
AND REMEMBER ALWAYS
TO USE THE SAME FACIAL
MAKE-UP, FOR THAT IS YOUR
TRADEMARK AS A CLOWN!

LATER THAT DAY, THE DEAN OF THE CLOWN COLLEGE INSTRUCTS
HIS EAGER PUPILS...

HA-HA! HERE ARE
THE CIRCUS "GAGS"—
TOOLS OF YOUR NEW
TRADE! WE'LL USE
THEM FOR
LAUGHS—
AND CRIME!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I MEAN!
HERE—I'LL USE THIS CIRCUS JALOPPY
AS A GETAWAY CAR,
PRETENDING THAT
YOU'RE THE COPS!
NOW WATCH!
HA-HA!



AFTER WEEKS OF HARD TRAINING, THE KING OF CRIME CLOWNS IS READY TO GRADUATE HIS FIRST CLASS!

EACH OF YOU WILL OPERATE IN YOUR OWN TERRITORY—A STATE! WHEN YOU ARE HANDED YOUR DIPLOMAS, LOOK AT THEM! EACH WILL BE A MAP OF A DIFFERENT STATE!



ORDERS WILL BE TRANSMITTED BY RADIO! WHEN WE STRIKE, WE WILL STRIKE AS ONE JOKER—AT THE SAME TIME, AGAINST THE SAME OBJECTIVE! HA-HA! HO-HO!



AND A WEEK LATER, WHEN THE 48 JOKER'S ARE POISED ACROSS THE NATION...



THE MUTUAL NATIONAL BANK HAS A BRANCH IN EVERY STATE—WE WILL MOVE AGAINST IT TONIGHT! HO-HO! SYNCHRONIZE YOUR WATCHES...

THAT NIGHT, THE GREATEST CRIME WAVE IN HISTORY STARTS AS THE JOKER SYNDICATE ATTACKS IN 48 STATES!



NEXT DAY...

JOKER SYNDICATE ATTACKS!

...JOKER STRIKES IN THIS STATE FOR FIRST TIME!

JOKER JOLTS JERSEY!



AND ATOP POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN GOTHAM CITY...

BATMAN, THIS IS OUR GREATEST CHALLENGE! THE SCOPE OF THE JOKER'S CURRENT CRIMES THREATENS THE ENTIRE NATION!

48 JOKERS!
HMM—WE MUST DESTROY THE SYNDICATE BY GETTING AT ITS SOURCE!

THE REAL JOKER!



AN URGENT MESSAGE FOR YOU, COMMISSIONER!



AND AS COMMISSIONER GORDON SCANS THE SLIP OF PAPER...

THE JOKER OPERATING IN NEW JERSEY HAS JUST BEEN CAPTURED! SO FAR THIS IS A SECRET, EVEN FROM THE NEWSPAPERS!

HMMW WE'D BETTER TALK TO THAT FELLOW! WIRE NEW JERSEY TO HOLD HIM INCOMMUNICADO UNTIL ROBIN AND I CAN GET THERE!



LATER, IN A SMALL COUNTY JAIL IN NEW JERSEY...

SO, THE NEW JERSEY JOKER IS NONE OTHER THAN DUKE WILSON, A THREE-TIME LOSER!

YOU'D BETTER TALK, DUKE-

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE YOUR HIDE THIS TIME!

OKAY, BATMAN—
I'LL TALK...



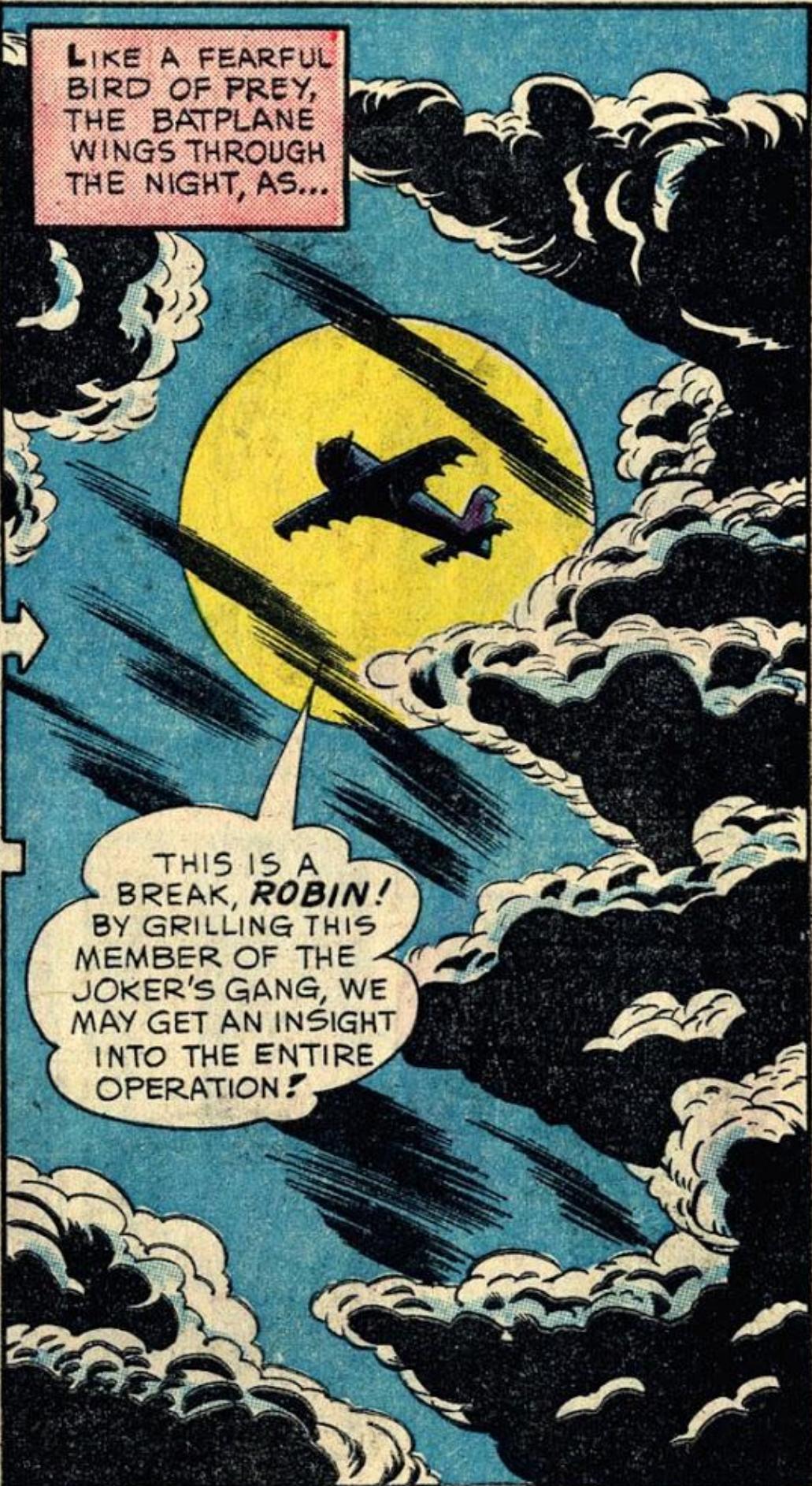
AS THE FRIGHTENED WILSON DIVULGES THE JOKER'S SET-UP, BATMAN AND ROBIN RACE INTO ACTION...

BUT WHY NOT JUST RAID THE JOKER'S HIDE-OUT? WE KNOW WHERE IT IS NOW...

NO—HE'D HAVE TIME TO BROADCAST A WARNING TO HIS CONFEDERATES! WE HAVE TO TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE AND THEN TRAP THE ENTIRE GANG!



LIKE A FEARFUL BIRD OF PREY, THE BATPLANE WINGS THROUGH THE NIGHT, AS...

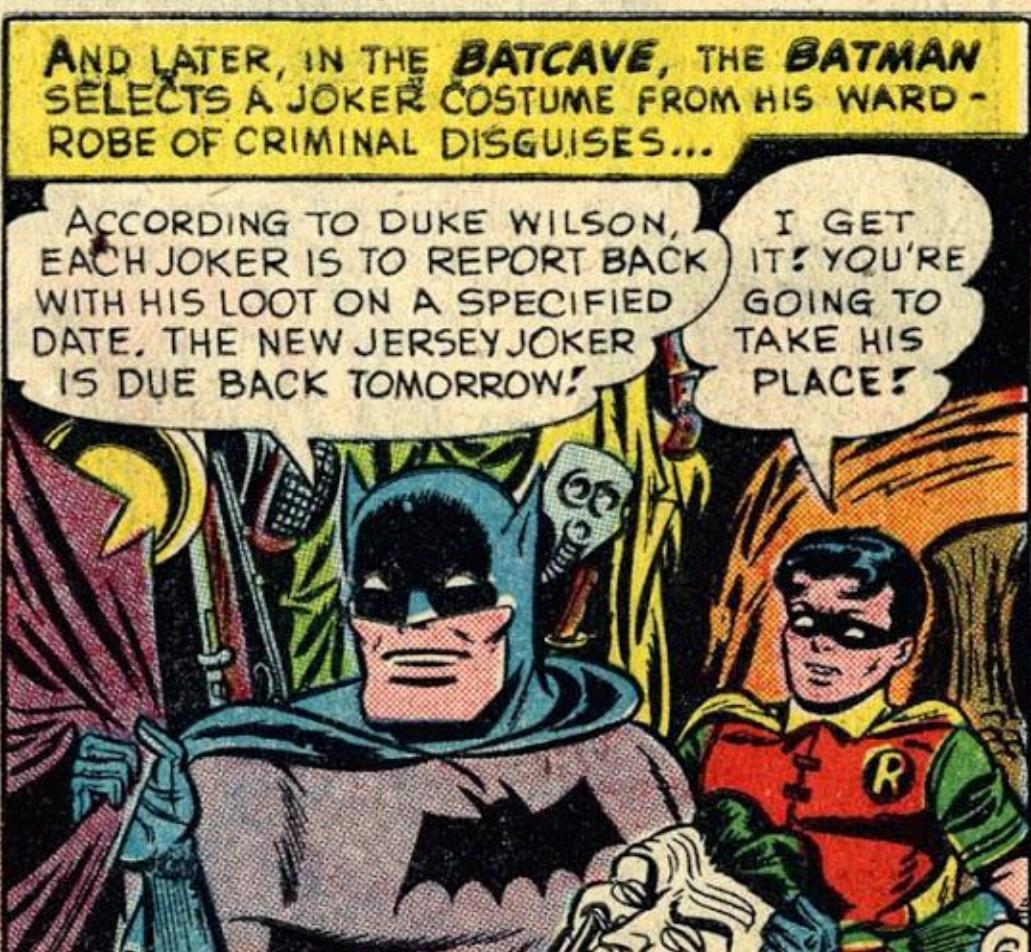


THIS IS A BREAK, ROBIN!
BY GRILLING THIS MEMBER OF THE JOKER'S GANG, WE MAY GET AN INSIGHT INTO THE ENTIRE OPERATION!

AND LATER, IN THE BATCAVE, THE BATMAN SELECTS A JOKER COSTUME FROM HIS WARDROBE OF CRIMINAL DISGUISES...

ACCORDING TO DUKE WILSON, EACH JOKER IS TO REPORT BACK WITH HIS LOOT ON A SPECIFIED DATE. THE NEW JERSEY JOKER IS DUE BACK TOMORROW!

I GET IT! YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE HIS PLACE!



BATMAN

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION DC

BE ON THE ALERT - I MAY NEED YOU AT ANY TIME! WELL - HOW DO I LOOK?

WONDERFUL! GOOD LUCK!



PRESENTLY, THE DISGUISED **BATMAN** APPEARS IN THE OFFICE OF THE MASTER JOKER HIMSELF, THE ORIGINAL BOLD BUFFOON...

I'VE GOT TO STALL HIM UNTIL I CAN GET TO HIS RADIO EQUIPMENT...

WELCOME, BROTHER JOKER! LET ME CROWN YOU WITH THIS BEAUTIFUL WREATH IN HONOR OF YOUR SUCCESS SMELL THE LOVELY FLOWERS! HA-HA! HO-HO!



BUT THE VIOLENT SNEEZE HAS LOOSENERED **BATMAN'S** JOKER MASK! UNAWARE, HE FACES HIS DEADLIEST ENEMY, AS...

WHY, WHAT'S THIS? IT'S **BATMAN**! AND HE DOESN'T KNOW HIS DISGUISE HAS SLIPPED! HA-HA! WILL THIS BE FUN?



NEXT DAY AT THE CLOWN SCHOOL, WHERE THE SINISTER HARLEQUIN IS PUTTING A NEW CLASS THROUGH ITS PACES...

HO-HO! THIS CIRCUS FIRE-FIGHTING SCENE GIVES US EXCELLENT PRACTICE WITH A HOSE! WAIT TILL WE TAKE THIS HOSE OUT ON A CRIME! THEN **BATMAN**, AND NOT JUST HIS DUMMY, WILL BE ALL WET! HO-HO!

THE JERSEY JOKER HAS JUST ARRIVED...



SUDDENLY...

HA-HA! HO-HO! SNEEZING POWDER! I COULDN'T RESIST THE OPPORTUNITY! HO-HO!



AND BEFORE THE FAMOUS LAWMAN REALIZES WHAT HAS HAPPENED...

SO **BATMAN** WOULD INVADE THE JOKER'S DOMAIN! HO-HO! WE SHALL SEE! HA-HA!



QUICKLY THE JOKER PRESSES HIS ADVANTAGE...

YOUR BELT-RADIO, IF YOU PLEASE, BATMAN!
HO-HO! WE MUST HAVE ROBIN AS OUR
GUEST, TOO! HA-HA!



A MOMENT LATER IN THE BATCAVE...

BATMAN
CALLING
ROBIN...
EVERYTHING
GOING NICELY
...MEET ME
AT ONCE
AT BAXTER'S
RUN...

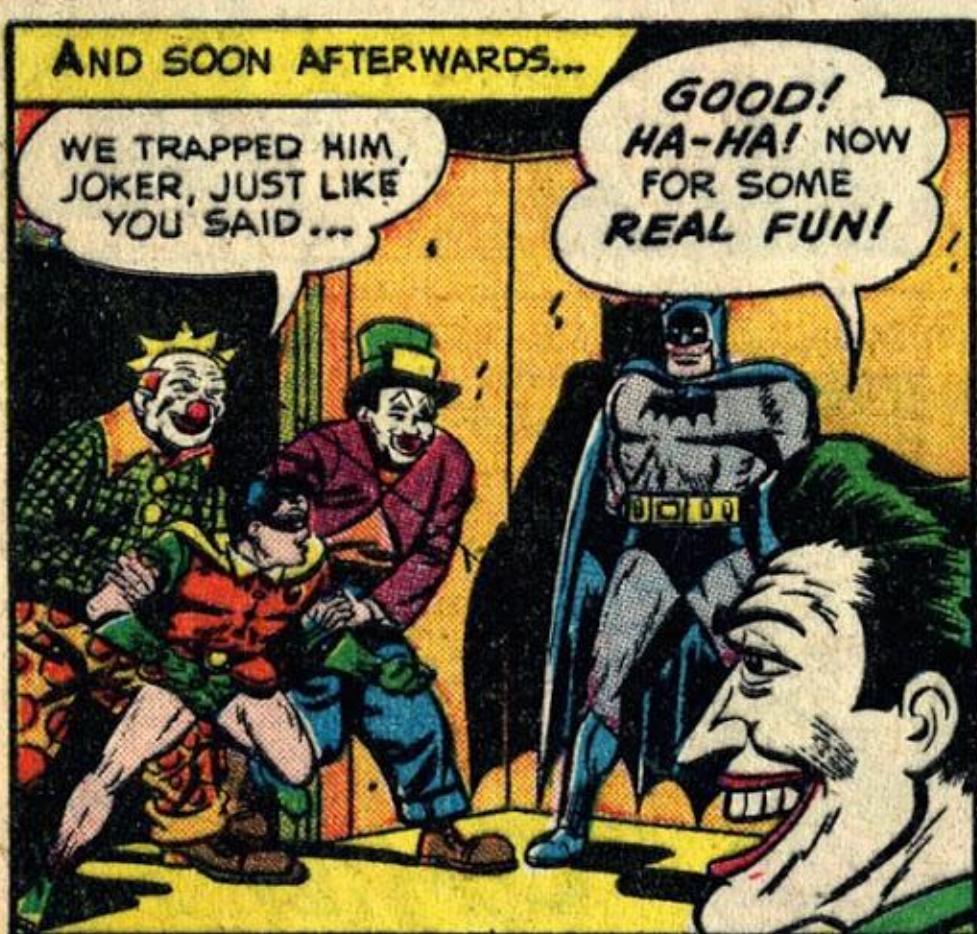
OH-OH?
BATMAN
MUST BE
READY TO
CLOSE HIS...



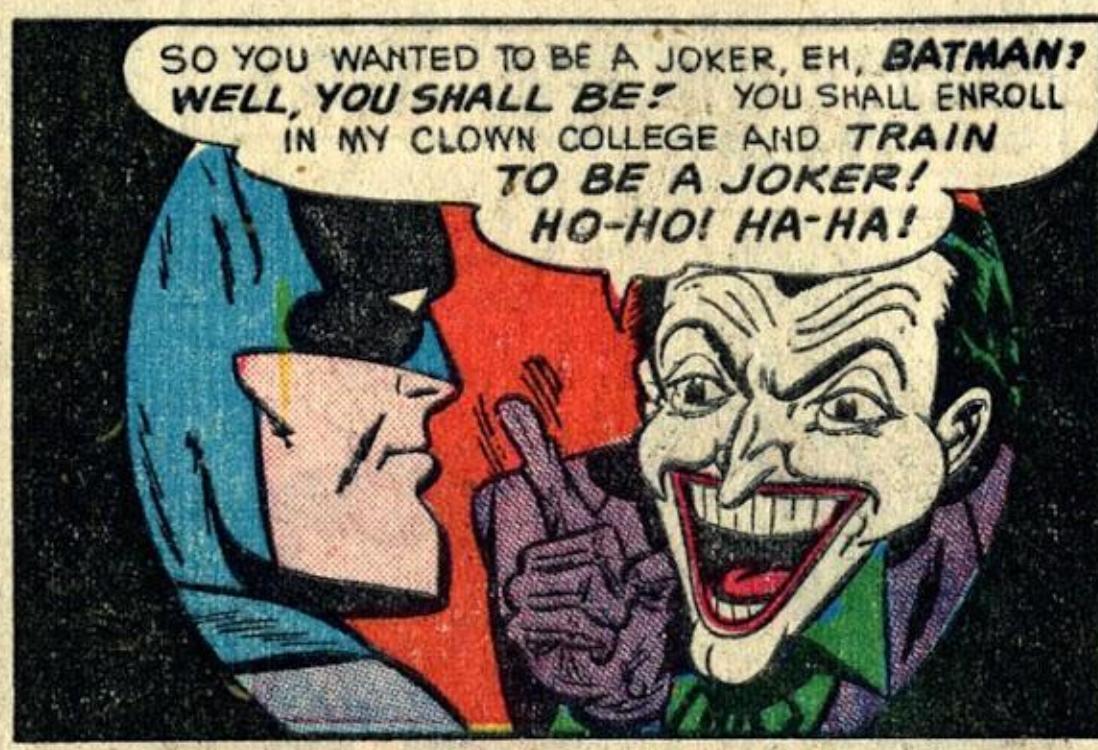
AND SOON AFTERWARDS...

WE TRAPPED HIM,
JOKER, JUST LIKE
YOU SAID...

GOOD!
HA-HA! NOW
FOR SOME
REAL FUN!



SO YOU WANTED TO BE A JOKER, EH, BATMAN?
WELL, YOU SHALL BE! YOU SHALL ENROLL
IN MY CLOWN COLLEGE AND TRAIN
TO BE A JOKER!
HO-HO! HA-HA!

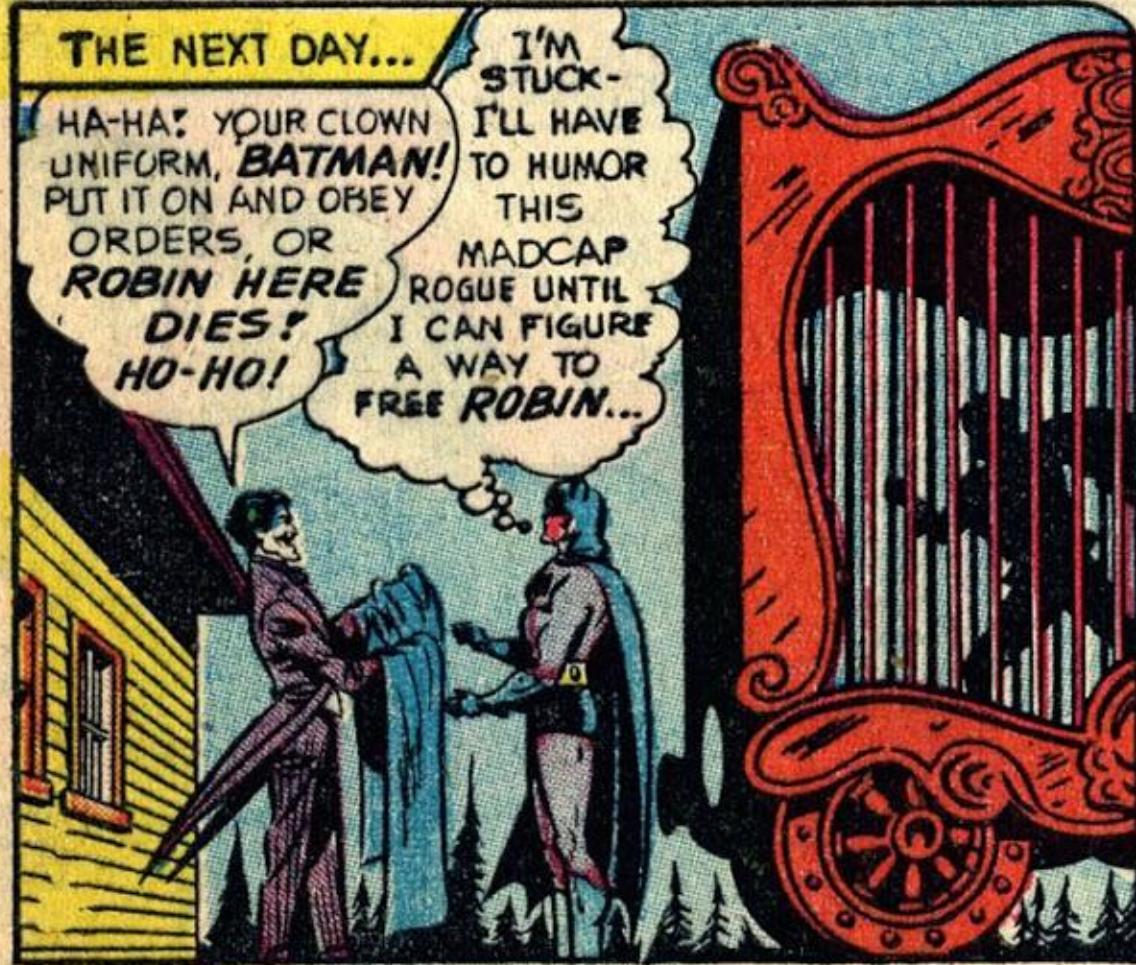


AND AS BATMAN DONS HIS SPECIAL UNIFORM, WHICH
IS A GROTESQUE IMITATION OF HIS OWN COSTUME...

THE NEXT DAY...

HA-HA! YOUR CLOWN
UNIFORM, BATMAN!
PUT IT ON AND OBEY
ORDERS, OR
ROBIN HERE
DIES!
HO-HO!

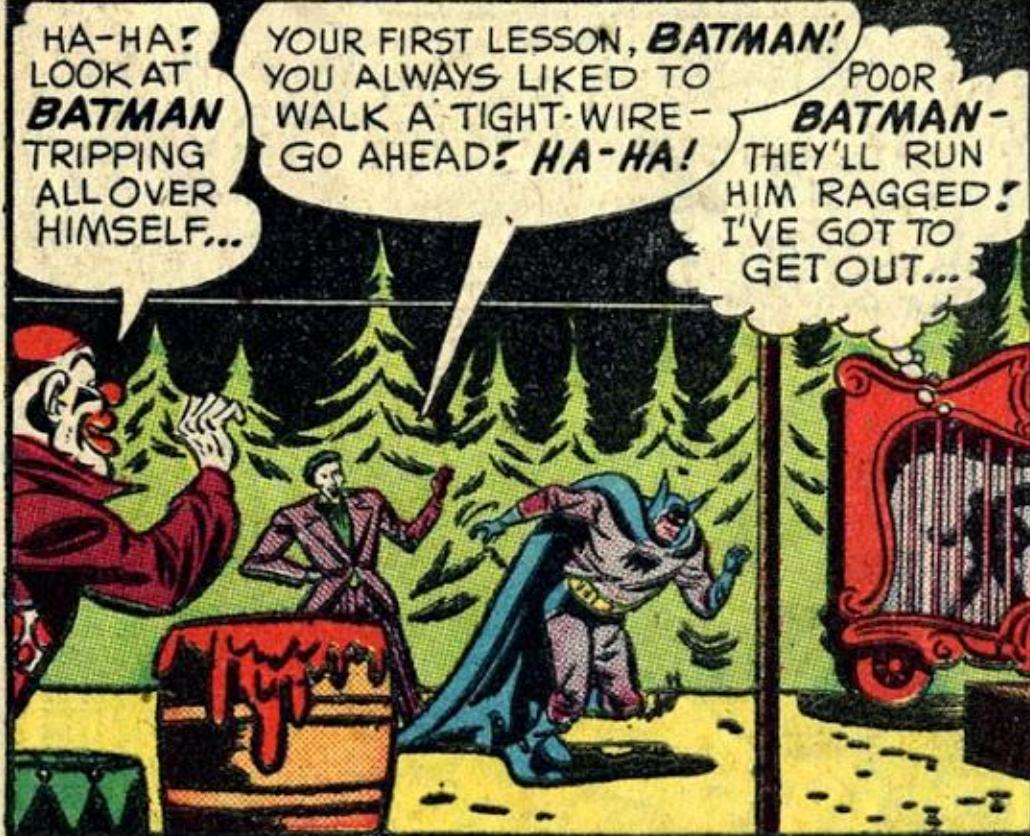
I'M
STUCK-
I'LL HAVE
TO HUMOR
THIS
MADCAP
ROGUE UNTIL
I CAN FIGURE
A WAY TO
FREE ROBIN...



HO-HO!
THIS IS
MARVELOUS!
LOOK AT
BATMAN,
THE
CLOWN!



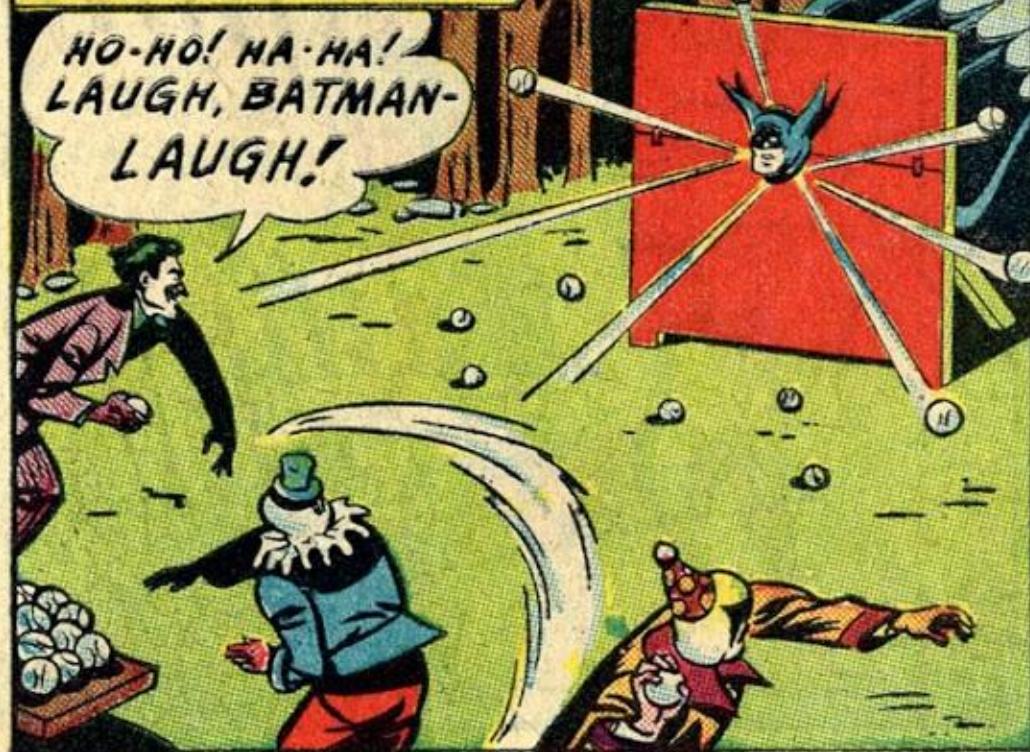
THEN, AS **BATMAN'S** CLOWN TRAINING BEGINS...



SUDDENLY...

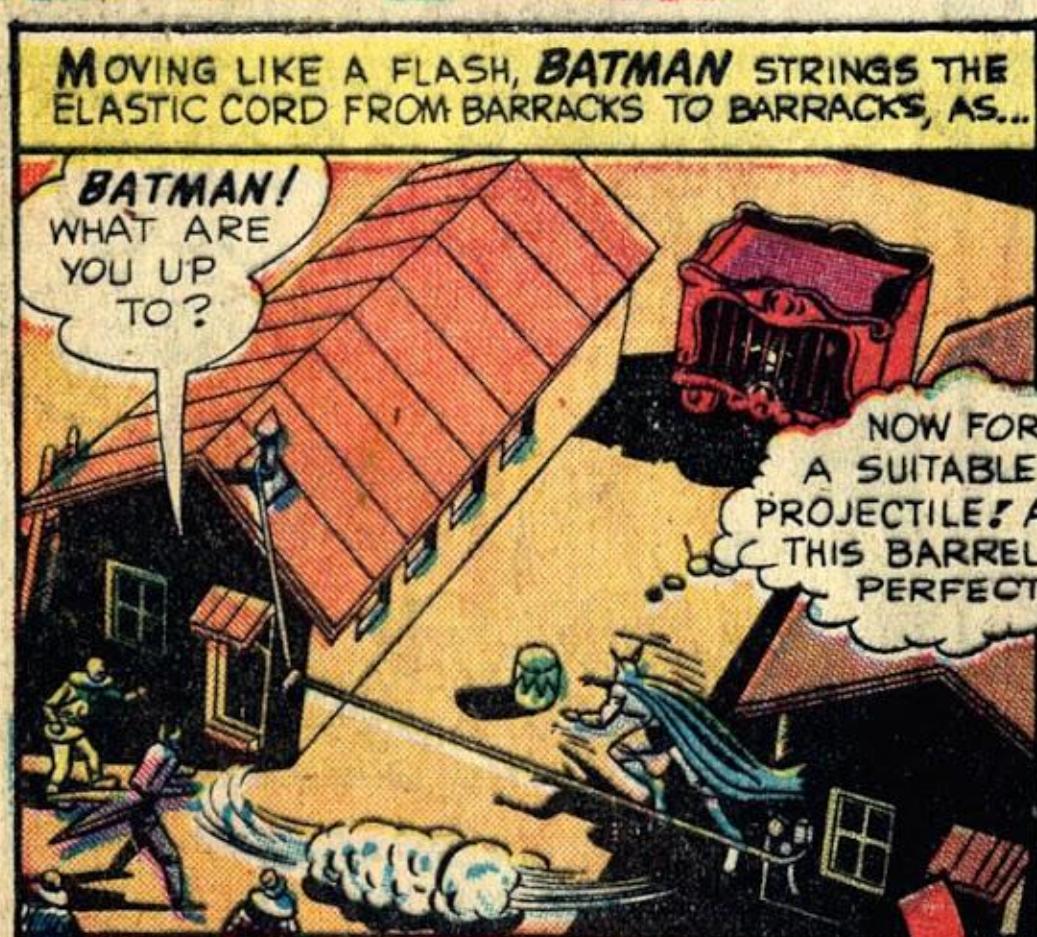
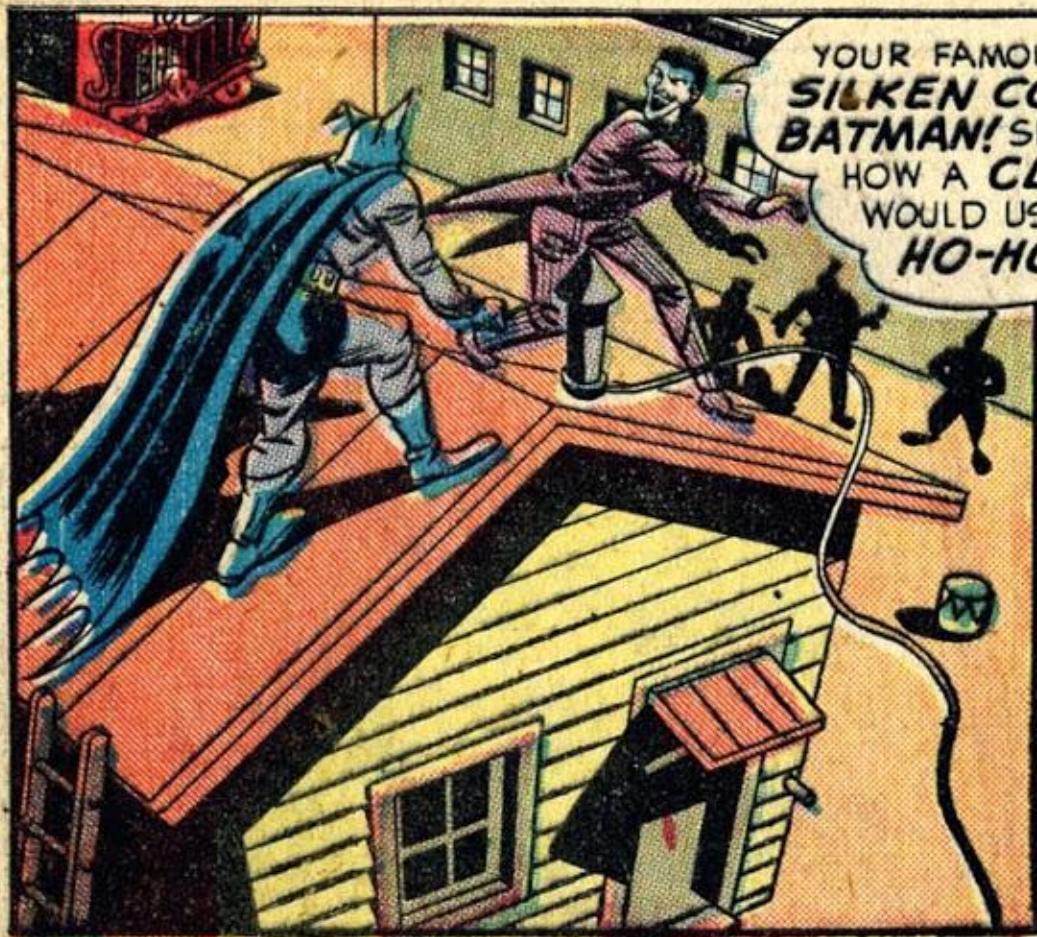


RELENTLESSLY, THE JOKER CONTINUES TO PLAQUE **BATMAN**, WHILE **ROBIN** TRIES UNSUCCESSFULLY TO EFFECT THE ESCAPE THAT WOULD FREE **BATMAN'S** HANDS...



BATMAN

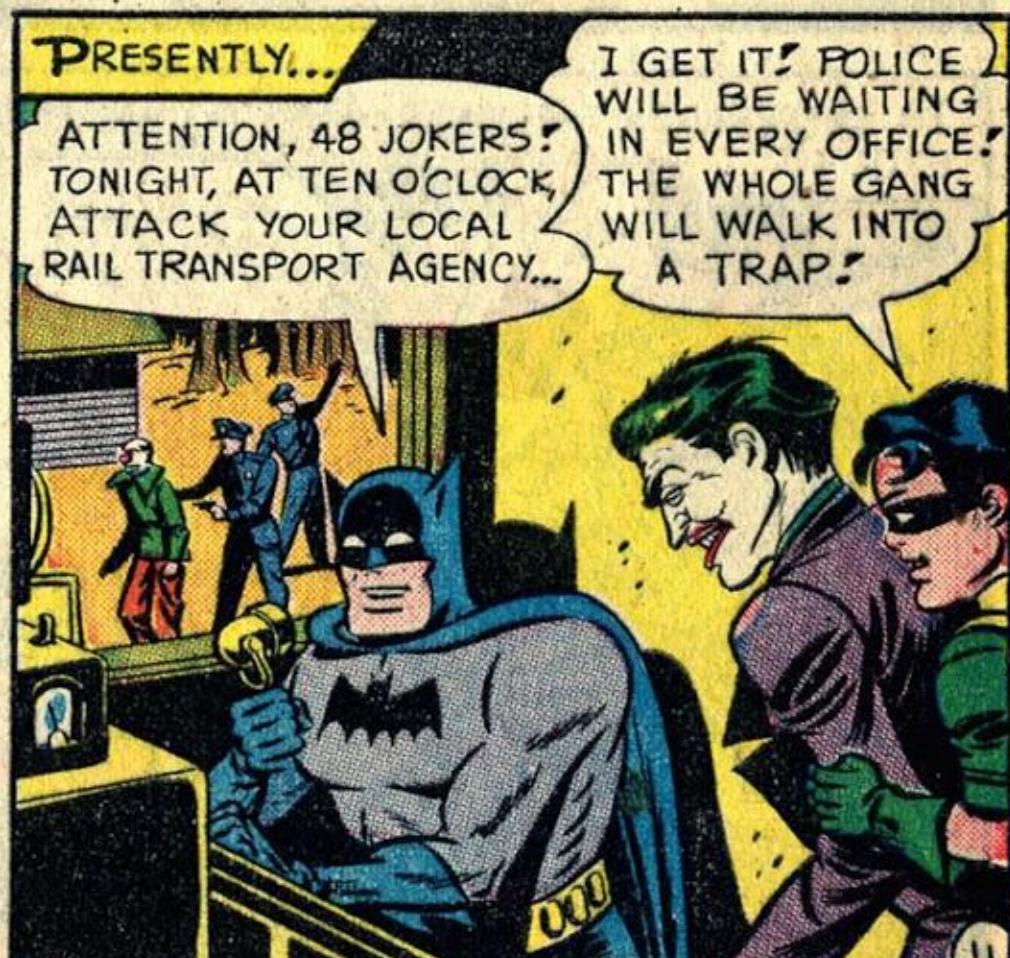
A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION DC



BATMAN

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DC

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DC



BATMAN

AN HOUR LATER...

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JAIL JUST YET, JOKER! I'M FIXING UP A LITTLE SURPRISE FOR YOU, WITH COMMISSIONER GORDON'S PERMISSION...

WE CALL IT A PRANK ROOM, JOKER! WAIT TILL YOU SEE!

AND WHEN THE PRANK ROOM IS COMPLETED...

ONE OF THOSE EXITS... BECAUSE AS LONG IS A REAL EXIT, AS YOU STAY JOKER - THE REST IN HERE WE'RE AKE BLINDS! YOU'D GOING TO USE BETTER HURRY AND FIND THE PUNCHING RIGHT WAY OUT...



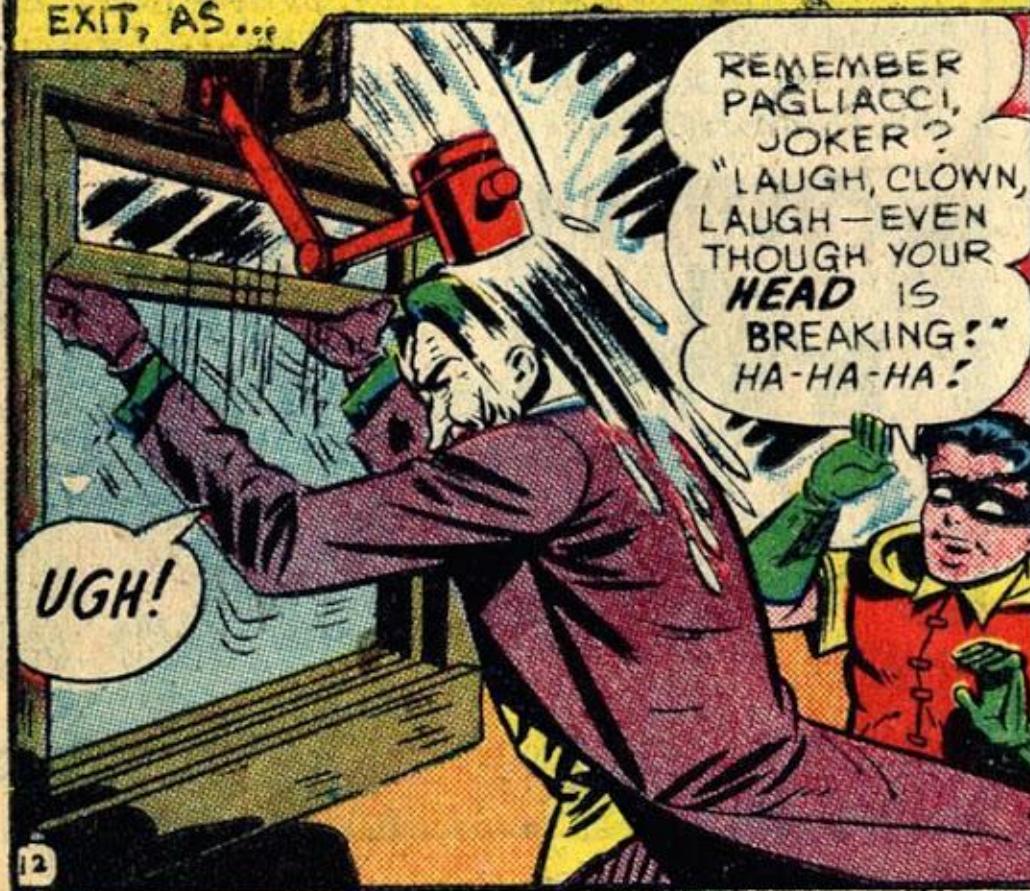
QUICKLY, THE FRIGHTENED JOKER RUNS FOR A DOOR, AS...

WRONG DOOR, JOKER! TRY AGAIN— HA-HA!



IN DESPERATION, THE JOKER SEEKS YET ANOTHER EXIT, AS...

REMEMBER PAGLIACCI, JOKER? "LAUGH, CLOWN, LAUGH—EVEN THOUGH YOUR HEAD IS BREAKING!" HA-HA-HA!



AND AT LAST THE JOKER QUILTS, AS HE BEGS FOR MERCY...

BAH! (GASP) SOOT! ENOUGH, BATMAN! ENOUGH! I BEG YOU TO TAKE ME TO JAIL!

WITH PLEASURE, JOKER! BY NOW THE REST OF YOUR SYNDICATE AWAITS YOU IN THE GOTHAM CITY JAIL!



ADVERTISEMENT

BOUDREAU

NAMED
"ATHLETE OF THE YEAR"
IN '48

VOTED AMERICAN
LEAGUE'S MOST VALUABLE
PLAYER, MGR. LOU
BOUDREAU LED HIS
CLEVELAND INDIANS
TO '48 WORLD
SERIES VICTORY.

A BRILLIANT ALL-AROUND FIELDER,
LOU TOPPED BIG LEAGUE SHORTSTOPPS
WITH .975 PERCENTAGE. ALSO
SPARKED INDIANS AT PLATE WITH
.355 BATTING AVERAGE.

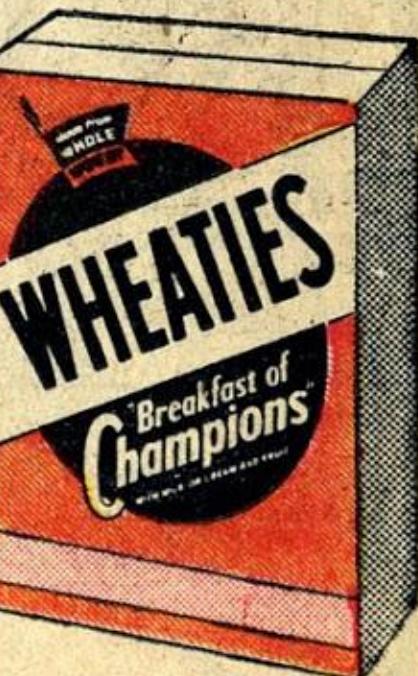
NOW WHEN THIS PLAY
COMES UP - WE'LL CALL
TIME OUT FOR MORE
WHEATIES!

SWELL
TRAINING
DISH!

"GIVE ME A BOWLFUL OF MILK, FRUIT AND
WHEATIES AND I KNOW I'M STARTING MY
BREAKFAST RIGHT," SAYS CHAMP BOUDREAU.
"WHOLE WHEAT NOURISHMENT IS GOOD IN
ANY SEASON, AND THAT WHEATIE'S
FLAVOR TAKES TOP HONORS WITH
ME MORNING AFTER MORNING."

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

WITH MILK AND FRUIT



ONE OF
BASEBALL'S
KEENEST
STRATEGISTS,
BOUDREAU TOOK ON
DOUBLE ROLE OF
PLAYER AND
MANAGER WHEN
ONLY 24 YEARS
OLD!

"Wheaties" and "Breakfast of Champions" are registered trade marks of General Mills, Inc.

THE CASE OF THE
50 YEAR OLD CLUE

DETECTIVE SAM SPADE IS INVESTIGATING A KIDNAPPING. HIS ONLY CLUE IS THE RANSOM NOTE WRITTEN ON A PIECE OF WALLPAPER

I'VE NEVER BEEN THIS FAR FROM MY BOTTLE OF WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, BABY! QUIET NOW!

DASHIELL HAMMETT'S Adventures of SAM SPADE

Howard Duff who plays Sam Spade in "The Adventures of Sam Spade" on CBS Sunday evenings can now be seen with Yvonne De Carlo in "Calamity Jane and Sam Bass" a Universal International picture in Technicolor.

WHY, SAM
I'VE NEVER SEEN
YOU WITH YOUR
HAIR DOWN
BEFORE



HERE, SAM - GOT IT AT THE CORNER DRUG STORE

HOLD IT, FELLOWS. I CAN'T LOOK LIKE A HERO WITHOUT WILDROOT CREAM-OIL ON MY HAIR.

HOW DID YOU EVER SUSPECT THAT OLD HOUSE, SAM?

JUST A HUNCH! THAT RANSOM NOTE WAS WRITTEN ON 50 YEAR OLD WALLPAPER AND THE OLD DAVIS MANSION HAS BEEN CLOSED SINCE 1903



SAM SPADE ASKS:
CAN YOUR SCALP PASS THE
FINGERNAIL TEST?

TRY IT! SCRATCH YOUR HEAD.
IF YOU FIND SIGNS OF DRYNESS
AND LOOSE, UGLY DANDRUFF,
YOU NEED WILDROOT CREAM-
OIL HAIR TONIC, NON-ALCOHOLIC
---CONTAINS SOOTHING LANOLIN

LOW AS
25¢
PLUS TAX



EFFIE SAYS:

SMART GIRLS USE WILDROOT CREAM-OIL FOR QUICK GROOMING AND FOR RELIEVING DRYNESS BETWEEN PERMANENTS. MOTHERS FIND IT WONDERFUL FOR TRAINING CHILDREN'S HAIR.



BATMAN

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

FATE CASTS MEN IN MANY
STRANGE ROLES, BRINGING
THEM CAREERS ON WHICH
THEY MIGHT NEVER EMBARK.

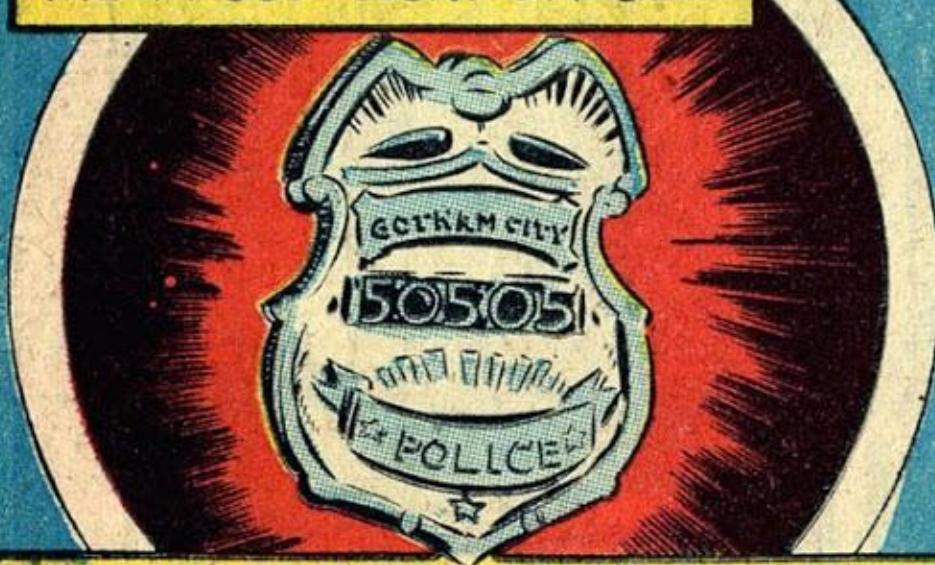
TO BRUCE WAYNE,
THE BATMAN,
FATE IS PARTICULARLY TRICKY-
WHEN, DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES
BEYOND HIS CONTROL, THE
GREATEST LAWMAN IN THE
WORLD BECOMES...

"**BRUCE WAYNE,**
ROOKIE,
POLICEMAN!"



BOB
KANE

ONE OF THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF THE GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT CENTERS ABOUT PATROLMAN'S SHIELD #50505—THE FAMOUS "GLORY-BADGE"...

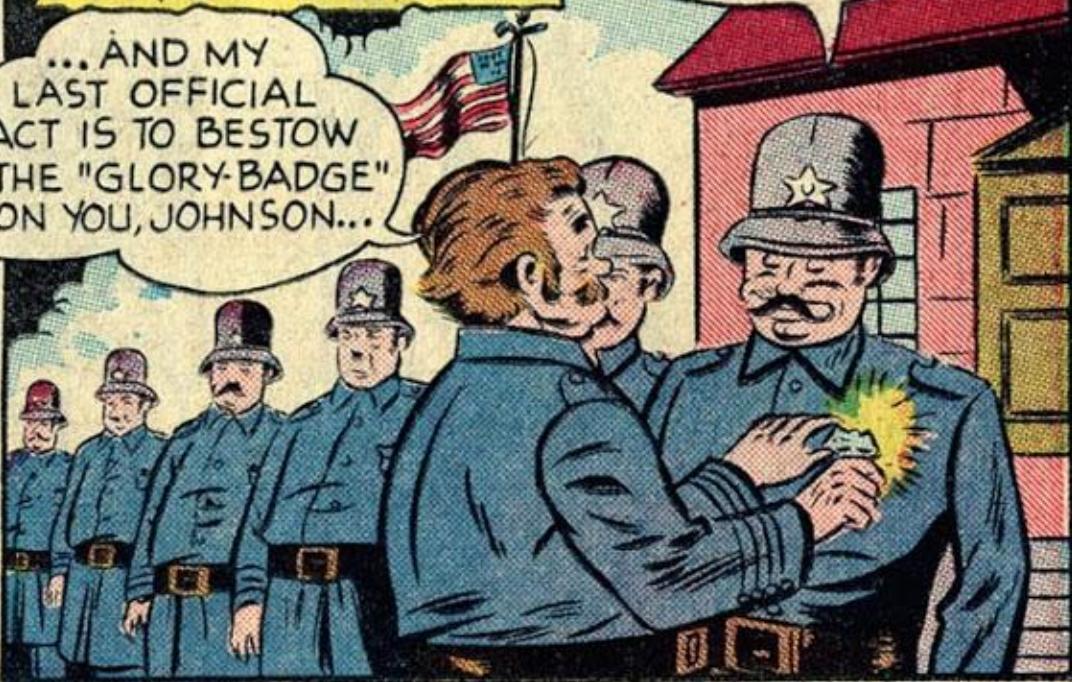


FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, THIS BADGE HAS BEEN WORN WITH DISTINCTION BY AN UNBROKEN SUCCESSION OF BLUE-UNIFORMED HEROES...

TRADITIONALLY, THE BADGE HAS ALWAYS BEEN HANDED DOWN, IN PERSON, FROM MAN TO MAN, IN PROUD CEREMONIES...

... AND MY LAST OFFICIAL ACT IS TO BESTOW THE "GLORY-BADGE" ON YOU, JOHNSON...

THANK YOU, SIR. MAY I WEAR IT AS GALLANTLY AS YOU HAVE.'



AS OUR STORY OPENS, THE "GLORY-BADGE" IS IN THE POSSESSION OF PATROLMAN MIKE GRANITE, TOUGHEST COP ON THE WATERFRONT SQUAD...

BENNETT, OUR NEXT ASSIGNMENT IS TO BRING IN THE "LONGSHOREMAN KID," A DANGEROUS KILLER!

OH, HE'LL BE DUCK SOUP FOR US, MIKE!



THAT EVENING...

LET'S SPLIT UP, MIKE—YOU TAKE ONE SIDE, I'LL TAKE THE OTHER. WE'LL GET HIM FOR SURE.

HERE WE ARE. AS CLOSE AS I CAN FIGURE, THE KID IS HOLED UP SOMEWHERE IN THESE THREE SQUARE BLOCKS.



RELUCTANT TO SPLIT HIS FORCES, THE OLDER, WISER COP IS FINALLY SWAYED BY BENNETT'S YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM...

OKAY—WE'LL FOLLOW YOUR PLAN—BUT BE CAREFUL!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME, MIKE!



MEANWHILE, A SLUMMING PARTY OF GOTHAM CITY SOCIALITES HAPPENS UPON THIS LAWLESS SECTOR. INCLUDED IN THE GROUP IS BRUCE WAYNE, THE BATMAN!

ISN'T THIS JUST TOO RUGGED FOR WORDS, BRUCE?



SUDDENLY...

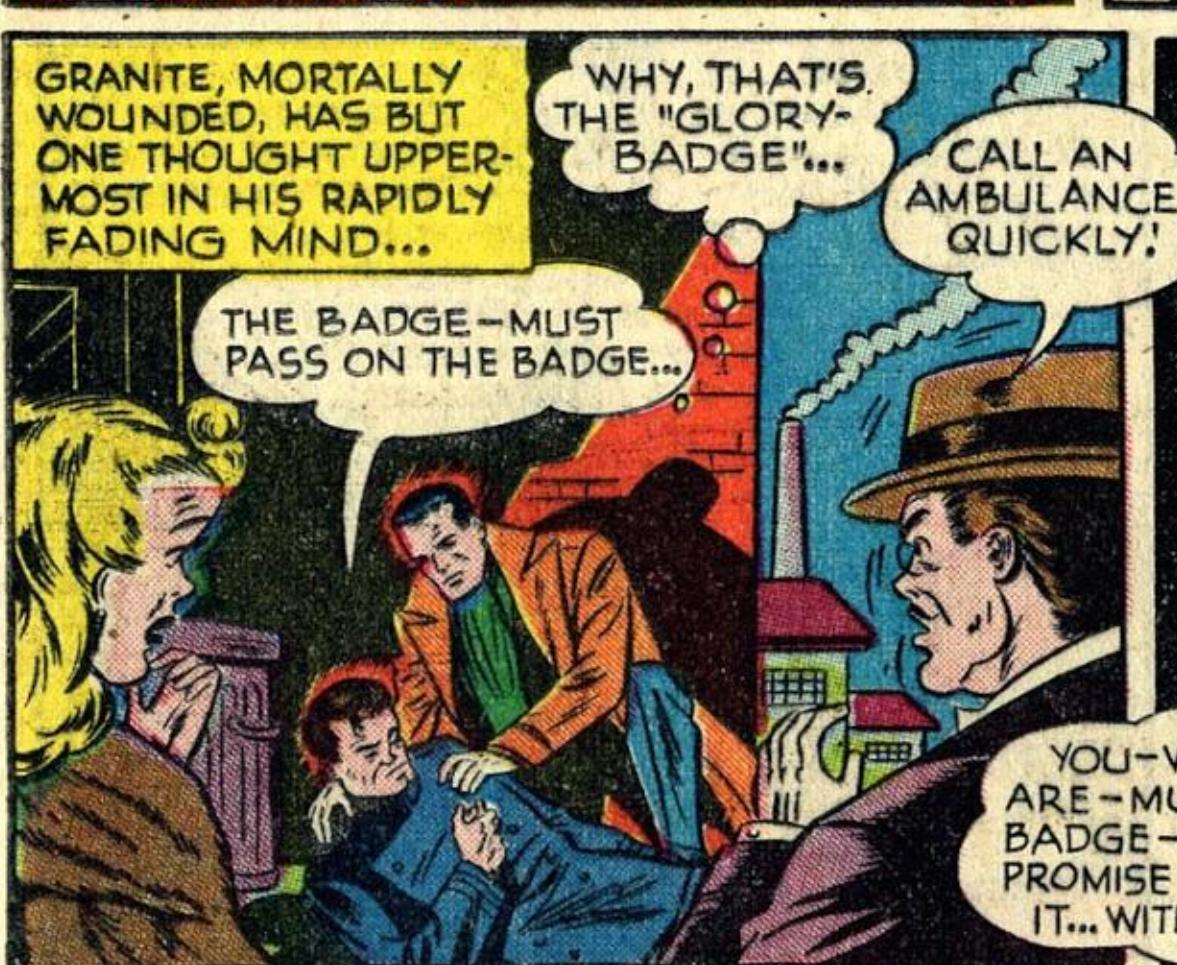
SHOTS! THAT POLICEMAN—HE'S BEEN HIT!



GRANITE, MORTALLY WOUNDED, HAS BUT ONE THOUGHT UPPERMOST IN HIS RAPIDLY FADING MIND...

WHY, THAT'S THE "GLORY-BADGE"...

CALL AN AMBULANCE! QUICKLY!



I PROMISE...

YOU—WHOEVER YOU ARE—MUST TAKE THIS BADGE—KEEP IT ALIVE. PROMISE ME YOU'LL WEAR IT... WITH HONOR. PROMISE...



MOMENTS LATER, WHEN GRANITE HAS PASSED ON...

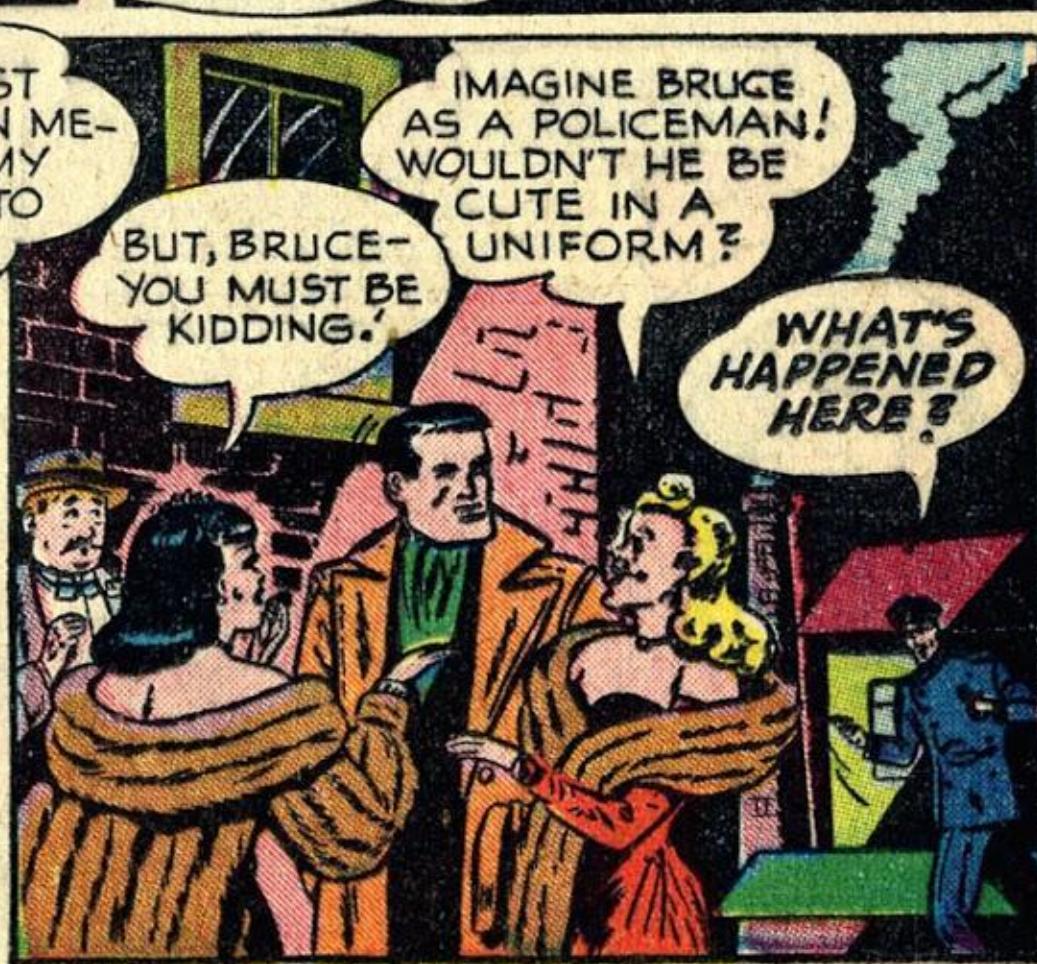
A SACRED TRUST HAS BEEN GIVEN ME—AND I'VE GIVEN MY WORD. I INTEND TO CARRY IT OUT.

BUT, BRUCE—DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS MEANS? YOU'LL HAVE TO BECOME A COP—AND, WELL—YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY THE TYPE!

IMAGINE BRUCE AS A POLICEMAN! WOULDN'T HE BE CUTE IN A UNIFORM?

BUT, BRUCE—YOU MUST BE KIDDING!

WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?



BATMAN

THE SHOCKED BENNETT'S GRIEF TURNS TO REMORSE, AS...

BUT THIS ISN'T RIGHT! I'M RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO MIKE—IT WAS MY FAULT. IT'S UP TO ME TO SQUARE IT... AND I SHOULD HAVE THAT BADGE...

I KNOW HOW YOU MUST FEEL, OFFICER, BUT...

SLOWLY BRUCE EXPLAINS, AND...

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. MIKE HANDED YOU THE BADGE, THEN YOU MUST WEAR IT. BUT MISTER—YOU'D BETTER BE ONE FINE COP!

ISN'T THIS TERRIFIC? I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE PAPERS!

AND, THE NEXT DAY...

Gotham  **Globe**
SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE JOINS POLICE FORCE; CAFE SOCIETY AGOG!
REGULATIONS RELAXED TO PERMIT SPEEDY ENTRY OF "GLORY-BADGE" WEARER.

THAT EVENING... IN THE PALATIAL HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

WELL, DICK—AS BATMAN AND ROBIN YOU AND I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN "POLICEMEN"; HAVEN'T WE? I'LL JUST BE WEARING A DIFFERENT UNIFORM...

GOSH, BRUCE—YOU'RE A REAL COP! I BET YOU NEVER EXPECTED THIS!

LATER, BRUCE RECEIVES A CALL FROM COMMISSIONER GORDON...

BRUCE, WE'RE OLD FRIENDS, BUT YOUR JOIN-

ING THE FORCE CHANGES EVERYTHING. I CAN'T DO YOU ANY FAVORS—YOU CAN'T EXPECT ANY HELP BASED ON OUR FRIENDSHIP...

THE NEXT DAY, BRUCE TAKES HIS PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, AND...

THIS OBSTACLE COURSE IS A SNAP—BUT I'LL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL—MAKE BELIEVE IT'S DIFFICULT—TO STAY IN CHARACTER...

I UNDERSTAND, COMMISSIONER...

BATMAN

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION

IMAGINE ANYONE
TEACHING THE BATMAN
JIU JITSU! I'LL HAVE
TO RIB HIM ABOUT
THAT TONIGHT!



TIME SPEEDS BY, AND PRESENTLY
BRUCE BEGINS HIS FIRST WEEK
AS A ROOKIE PATROLMAN...



SUDDENLY, A STRANGE BEAM LIGHTS UP
THE SKY—THE BAT-SIGNAL, SUMMON-
ING BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY
WONDER ON ANOTHER FORAY AGAINST
CRIME!

OH-OH—
BATMAN WANTED!
HOW CAN I BE IN TWO
PLACES AT ONCE?

MAYBE WE CAN
CLEAN THIS UP
AND GET YOU TO
REPORT FOR
DUTY ON TIME!

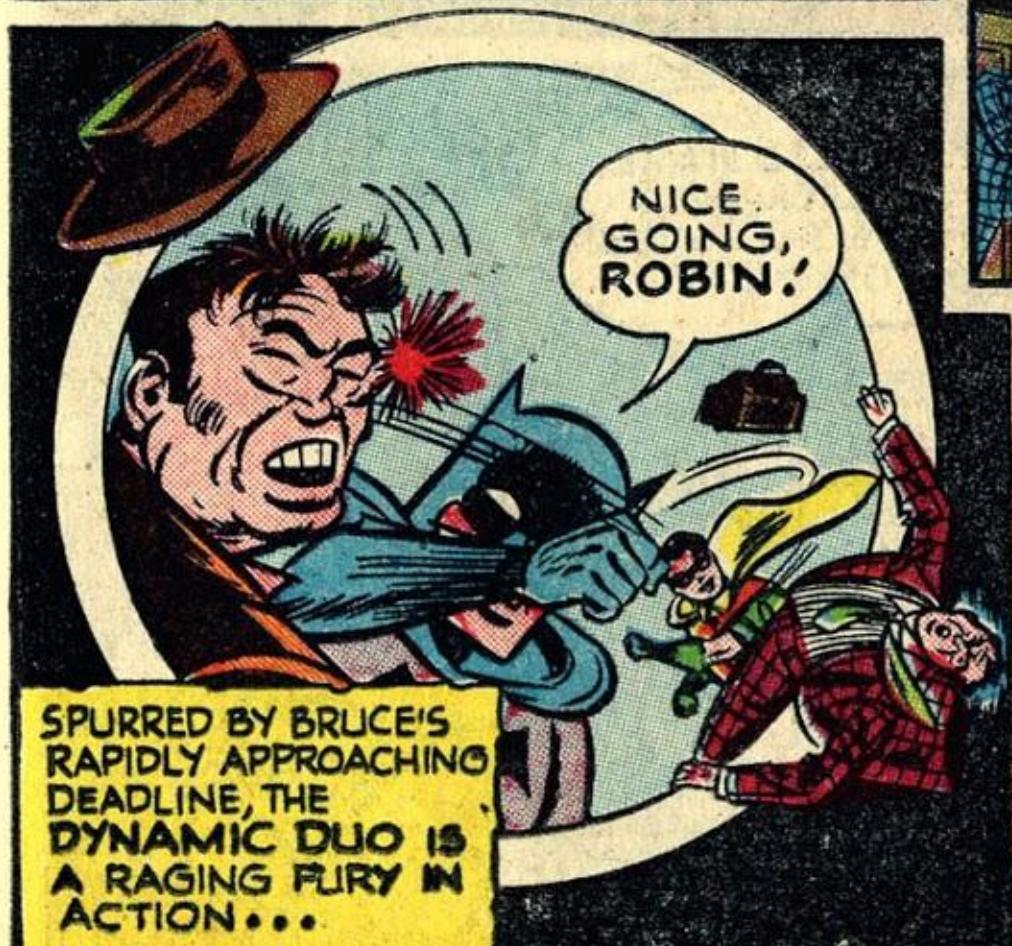


PRESENTLY,
ORDERED BY
GORDON TO THE
SCENE OF A DARING
DAYLIGHT HOLD-UP..

MAKE
EVERY MOVE
COUNT, ROBIN!
WE'VE GOT TO
FINISH THIS
QUICKLY!



NICE.
GOING,
ROBIN!



SPURRED BY BRUCE'S
RAPIDLY APPROACHING
DEADLINE, THE
DYNAMIC DUO IS
A RAGING FURY IN
ACTION...

BUT NEVERTHELESS, WHEN PATROLMAN BRUCE
WAYNE REPORTS FOR DUTY, HE IS 10 MINUTES LATE!

I'M SORRY, SERGEANT,
BUT I HAVE NO
EXCUSE!

YOU'VE MADE A
BAD START, WAYNE.
WATCH YOUR STEP
FROM NOW ON!



REGRETFUL BUT UN-DISMAYED, BRUCE CONCENTRATES ON HIS LIFE AS A ROOKIE COP...

HAVE AN APPLE, OFFICER!

WHY,
THANK
YOU!

APPLES

BUT BRUCE DARLING - HAVE A HEART! AREN'T WE OLD FRIENDS? TEAR UP THE TICKET! WON'T YOU FOR LITTLE OLD ME?

SORRY, BEVERLY - BUT I CAN'T MAKE ANY EXCEPTIONS... EVEN FOR MY SOCIETY FRIENDS. YOU KNOW IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO PARK BY A HYDRANT!

EVERYTHING HAPPENS
ON WAYNE'S BEAT.
ONE DAY...

WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?

MY PET CAT, CUDDLES - OUT ON THE END OF THAT FLAGPOLE, AND SHE'S TANGLED IN THE STRINGS. SHE CAN'T GET LOOSE!

AS THE TENSE CROWD WATCHES...

I GUESS THIS IS ALL IN THE DAY OF A HARD-WORKING COP.

LOOK - THE POLICEMAN IS TIGHTROPE-WALKING THE FLAG POLE!

HERE YOU ARE, MA'AM... AND NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR!

OH, THANK YOU, OFFICER!

BATMAN



THEN SUDDENLY, FROM A NEARBY BUILDING, A SCREAM PIERCES THE AIR!

OFFICER! OFFICER! COME QUICK!



OFFICER WAYNE RACES TO THE RESCUE, AS...

MY LITTLE BABY—HE'S—HE'S STOPPED BREATHING... (SOB) I'M AFRAID...

GIVE ME THAT CHILD!



GENTLY BUT FORCEFULLY, BRUCE BREATHES INTO THE INFANT'S MOUTH. SLOWLY, COLOR COMES BACK TO THE TINY CHEEKS...

YOU'VE SAVED HIM... YOU'VE SAVED HIM! BLESS YOU, OFFICER—BLESS YOU!

AND WHAT POLICEMAN'S LIFE WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT THE CHORE OF SELLING TICKETS FOR A POLICEMEN'S BALL?

I'M NOT MUCH GOOD AT SELLING TICKETS, BUT I WAS ALWAYS GOOD AT, BUYING THEM. AS BRUCE WAYNE, I CAN AFFORD TO BUY A THOUSAND!



THE NEXT DAY...

OH, IT'S EASY, SARGE—WHEN YOU KNOW HOW!

THIS IS AMAZING, WAYNE! YOU'RE THE GREATEST SALESMAN ON THE FORCE. HOW DID YOU GET RID OF ALL THOSE TICKETS?



THAT NIGHT, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE ONCE AGAIN CALLED OUT IN THE WAR AGAINST CRIME. WHEN THEY RETURN...

WE'VE BEEN LUCKY SO FAR IN THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN CALLED TO ACTION WHILE YOU'VE BEEN ON DUTY AS A COP...

YOU'RE RIGHT, DICK. AS BATMAN, I CAN'T REMAIN A POLICEMAN FOREVER... SOONER OR LATER, THINGS WOULD GET COMPLICATED...



NEXT MORNING...

BUT YOU'RE STILL ONLY A ROOKIE COP. THEY'D NEVER ASSIGN YOU TO THE WATERFRONT SQUAD.'

I'VE THOUGHT IT OVER, DICK. TO BRING MY CAREER AS A PATROLMAN TO A LOGICAL CONCLUSION, I MUST, WITH BENNETT'S HELP, CAPTURE THE "LONGSHOREMAN KID".

I THINK I CAN BE ASSIGNED TO WORK WITH BENNETT. I HAVE A PLAN WHICH YOU AND I WILL PUT INTO ACTION TONIGHT AS BATMAN AND ROBIN.

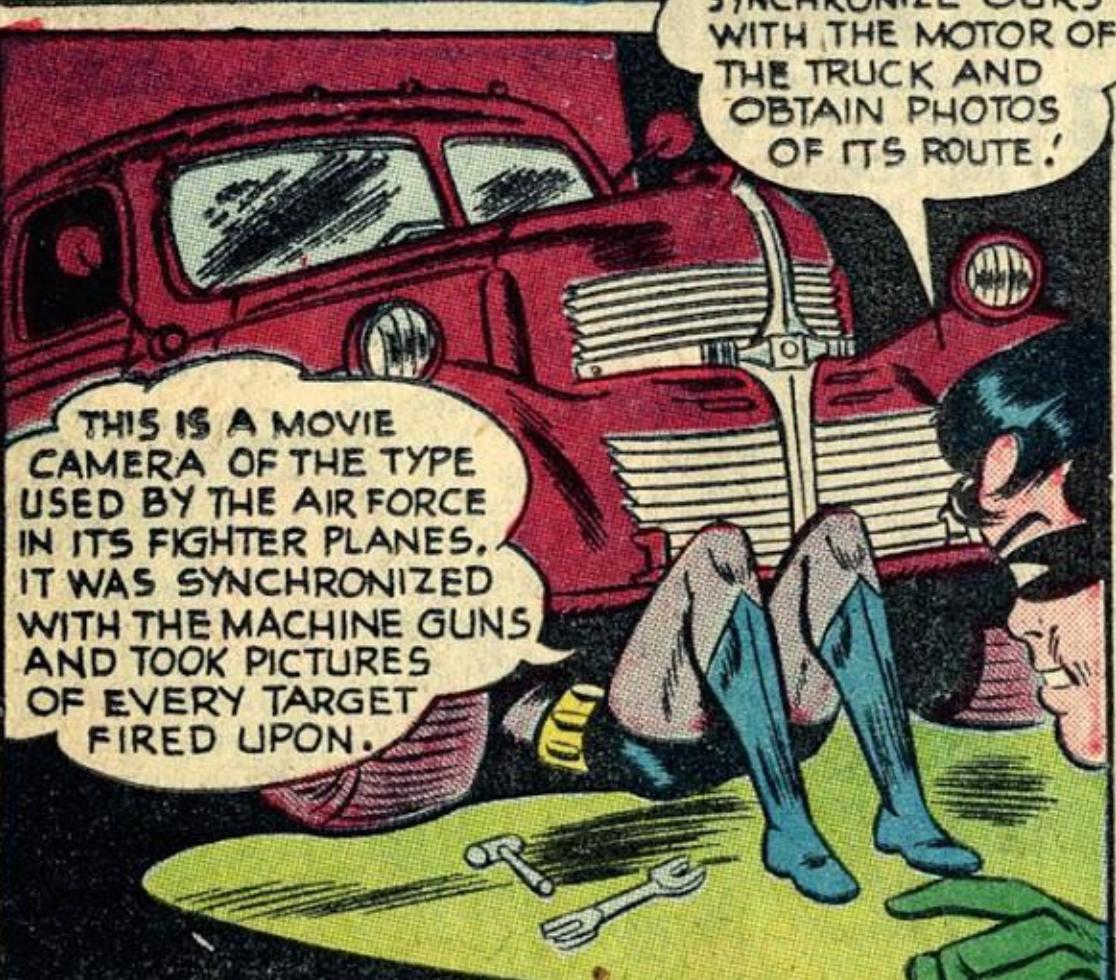


AND LATE THAT NIGHT...

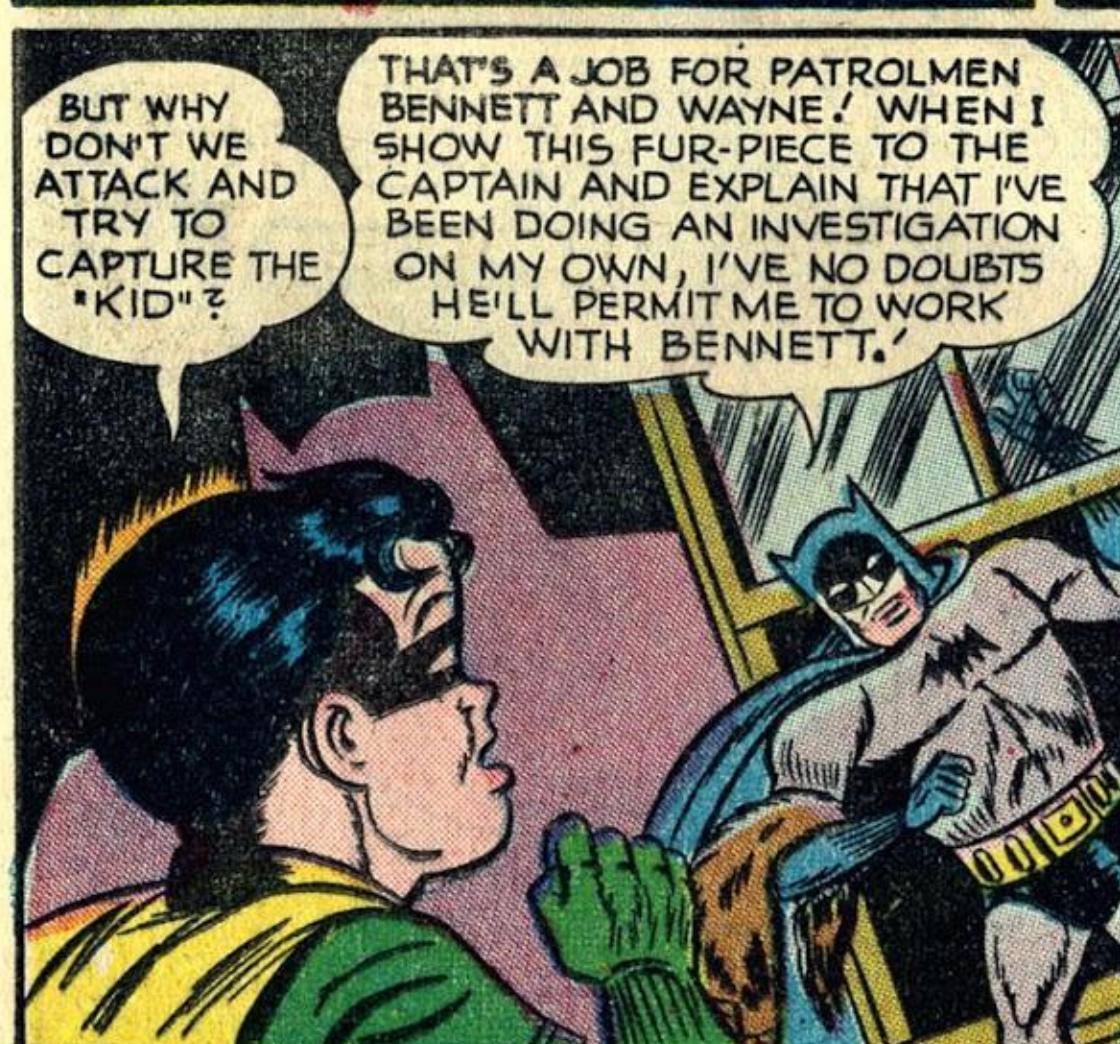
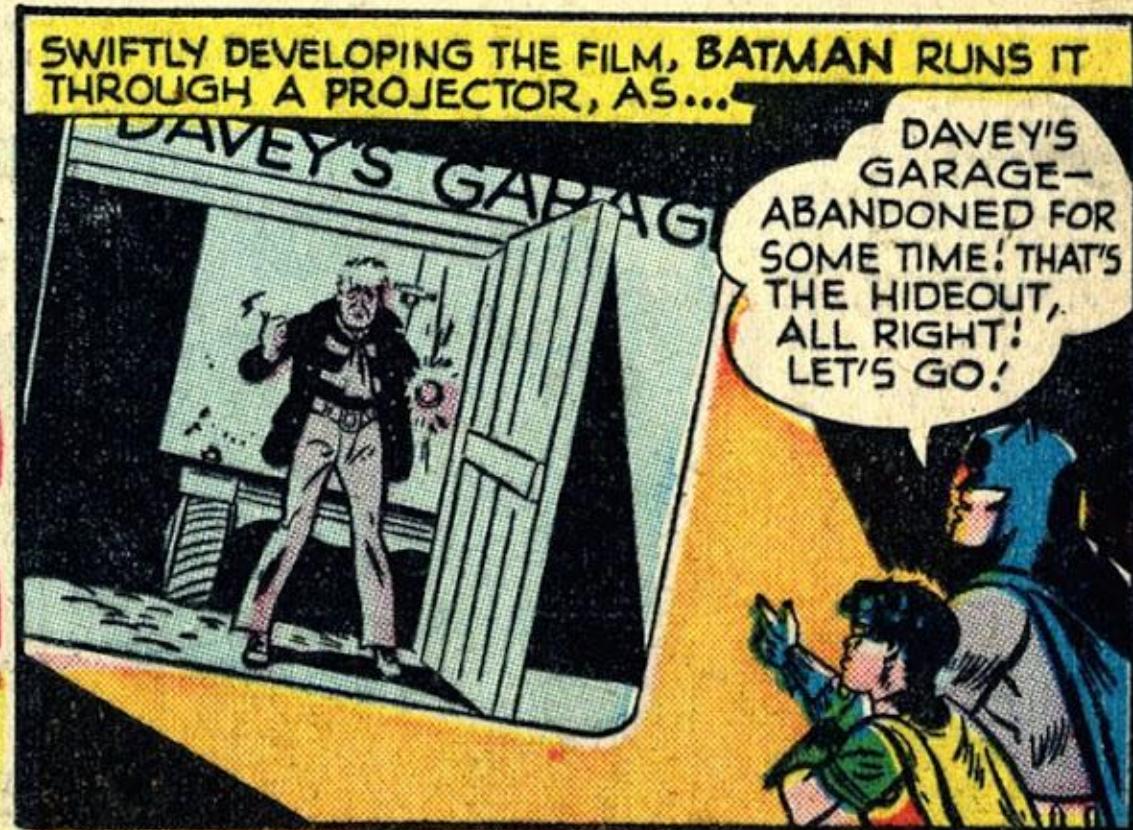
THE POLICE ARE SURE THAT THE "KID" USES THESE TRUCKS FOR HIS HIJACKING JOBS AND THEN RETURNS THEM TO THIS INNOCENT-LOOKING MOTOR POOL. BUT THERE'S NO PROOF. THE "KID" KNOWS WHEN THEY'RE BEING WATCHED AND DOESN'T USE THEM...

YOU MEAN, IF WE COULD FOLLOW THESE TRUCKS UNOBSERVED, WE'D FIND THE "KID'S" HIDEOUT? SAY, WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR HAND?

A LITTLE GADGET THAT'S GOING TO PERMIT US TO, IN YOUR WORDS, FOLLOW THESE TRUCKS UNOBSERVED!



BATMAN



BATMAN

A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
DC

LATE THAT NIGHT, OUTSIDE DAVEY'S GARAGE...

GIVE ME ABOUT 5 MINUTES' START, JACK. THEN YOU COME UP THE BACK WAY.

RIGHT!



INSIDE THE DARKENED STRUCTURE, BRUCE'S ALERT SENSES FLASH A DANGER SIGNAL!

HMM - CIGARETTE FUMES - PLENTY OF THEM - AND THE "KID" DOESN'T SMOKE! AND FOOTSTEPS! WE'RE WALKING INTO A TRAP! THE KID IS FAR FROM BEING ALONE!



WARIALLY, BRUCE MANEUVERS BEHIND A PACKING CASE, AS...

BENNETT'S A DEAD DUCK UNLESS I DO SOMETHING QUICKLY! YET, TO FIGHT AGAINST THESE ODDS, I'D HAVE TO USE EVERY TRICK IN THE BOOK - TRICKS THAT BRUCE WAYNE WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW. I'D REVEAL THAT I'M BATMAN!



ABRUPTLY, THE FAMED LAWMAN MAKES HIS DECISION, DONNING HIS BATMAN'S COSTUME OVER HIS POLICEMAN'S UNIFORM!

AS BATMAN, I CAN FIGHT FREELY - MAYBE EVEN SCARE THESE CROOKS INTO SUBMISSION. WHEN BENNETT ARRIVES, I'LL SAY I SENT BRUCE WAYNE AWAY FOR HELP...



SUDDENLY LIGHTS FLOOD THE GARAGE, AS...

ALL RIGHT, COPPER - YOU'RE TRAPPED. WAIT! IT ISN'T A COP - IT'S BATMAN!

SURPRISED, BOYS?



GET HIM! GET THE BATMAN!

EASIER SAID THAN DONE, MY FRIEND!



BATMAN

A SUPERMEN PUBLICATION
DC

SUDDENLY, AN UNANNOUNCED NEWCOMER ENTERS!

COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?

WE WERE TIPPED OFF THAT WAYNE AND BENNETT WERE WALKING INTO A TRAP. I CAME DOWN TO WARN THEM, AFTER I COULDN'T REACH YOU!



THEN, AS A THUG CREEPS UP BEHIND THE COMMISSIONER...

LOOK OUT, COMMISSIONER!



BUT, RUSHING TO THE COMMISSIONER'S AID, BATMAN TRIPS, AND...

WE GOT HIM! WE GOT THE BATMAN!

LOOK OUT! HERE COMES A COPPER-I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!



SUDDENLY, BATMAN BOLTS FOR A WINDOW, AS...

NO, YOU DON'T, BATMAN!
YOU HOID WHAT THE "KID"
SAID. HE WANTS TO
TAKE OFF YOUR
MASK!



AND, BEFORE ANYONE CAN INTERFERE, THE "LONGSHOREMAN KID" STRIPS AWAY THE MASK FROM BATMAN'S FACE!

PATROLMAN
BRUCE WAYNE!
WHAT IS THE MEAN-
ING OF THIS?!

IT'S WAYNE, THE
COPPER! LOOK-
THERE'S HIS UNIFORM
UNDERNEATH! IS HE
THE BATMAN?





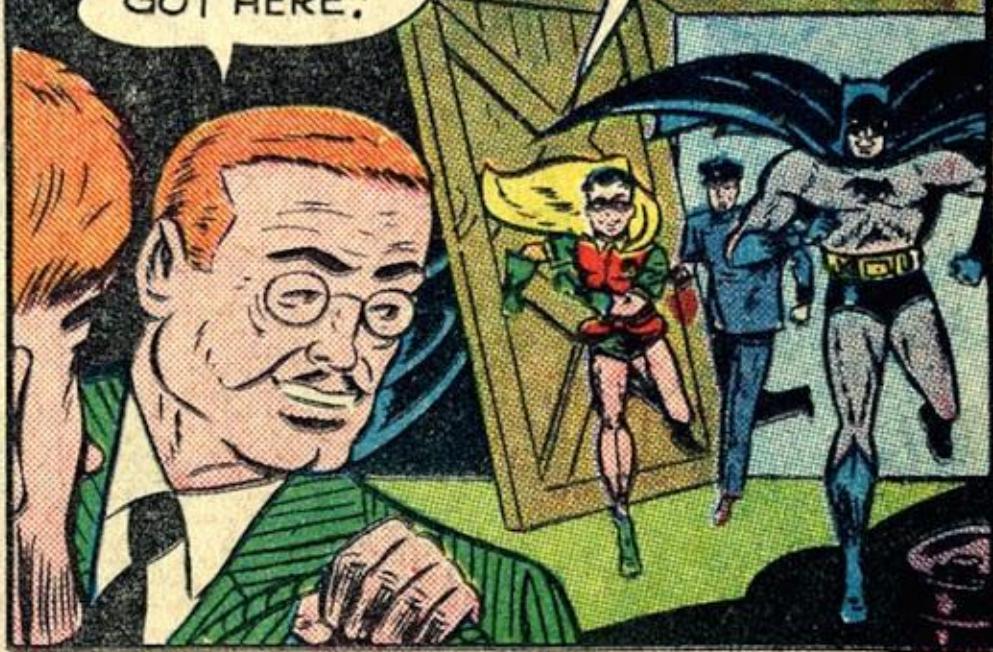


THINKING THEIR QUARRY SECURE, THE "KID" AND HIS MEN FALL VICTIM TO BRUCE'S LIGHTNING MOVE...

ALL RIGHT, REACH! THIS IS THE LAW TALKING! COMMISSIONER, TIE 'EM UP.'



SUDDENLY... WE ARRIVED AT THE POLICE STATION AFTER YOU LEFT. SO WE FOLLOWED YOU DOWN HERE...



BATMAN, YOU HAD AN IMPOSTOR HERE TONIGHT. HE WASN'T SO HOT AS BATMAN BUT AS PATROLMAN BRUCE WAYNE HE WAS TERRIFIC. BRUCE, I THINK YOU'VE FOUND YOUR NICHE IN LIFE. HOW ABOUT STAYING ON THE FORCE?

NO, THANK YOU, SIR. I WAS JUST VERY LUCKY. I'VE DONE MY JOB—AND I THINK NOW I'D BETTER LEAVE POLICE WORK TO CHAPS LIKE BENNETT HERE.



AND THE NEXT DAY... JACK, FROM NOW ON, YOU'RE THE BOY. AS MY LAST OFFICIAL ACT BEFORE RETIRING, I GIVE YOU THE "GLORY-BADGE".



THAT NIGHT... WELL, ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL. FOR A WHILE, THOUGH, IT LOOKED LIKE THE END OF BATMAN. IF I HADN'T BEEN ABLE TO SCUTTLE MY UTILITY BELT WHEN I MADE A BREAK FOR THAT WINDOW IN THE GARAGE, THE SECRET WOULD HAVE BEEN OUT.



YES, EVERYTHING WORKED OUT FINE. WHEN GORDON KEPT SIGNALING FOR YOU, THOUGH, AND YOU WEREN'T AROUND, ALFRED HAD TO SUBSTITUTE AS BATMAN.

IT'S FUNNY, TOO. GORDON IS CONVINCED THAT I WAS IMPERSONATING BATMAN—AND I WAS, WASN'T I?





ADVERTISEMENT

Bazooka

THE ATOM
MOUNTAIN
RESCUE

BUBBLE BOY

AWARD
OF MERIT
FOR QUALITY
STANDARDS

CAN YOU SEE
ANYTHING?

LOOK! THERE'S
A RED FLARE UP
NEAR THE TOP OF
MOUNT GIANT!

AN EMERGENCY
SIGNAL!

IT'S THAT
PARTY OF MOUNTAIN
CLIMBERS. THEY'RE
IN TROUBLE!



YIPPEE... WESTERN FANS!
10 DOUBLE FEATURE
TRUE COLOR PORTRAITS • MASKED ACTION SCENES

WILD WEST CARDS

FRONT BACK

TRUE COLOR PORTRAITS • MASKED ACTION SCENES



ONLY YOU
CAN SEE THE HIDDEN
SCENES WITH YOUR SPY GLASS!!

10 CARDS IN EACH SET 10 SETS ALL DIFFERENT



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5¢
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BIG CHEWS
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SEPT. 25
Please send me _____ sets of Wild West cards and the Magic Spy Glass. I enclose 5¢ and a Bazooka wrapper for each set of 10 cards.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

BUZZY says STAY IN SCHOOL- Give Yourself a Break!

THANKS FOR WAITING
FOR ME, BUZZY! BUT
WHY THE DOWNCAST
LOOK?

WOE IS
ME, SUSIE.
MY FUTURE
IS RUINED!

I HAVE JUST UNEARTHED
SOME FATAL FACTS IN
THE LIBRARY. STATISTICS
SHOW THAT THE AMOUNT
A YOUNG MAN WILL BE
ABLE TO EARN IN THE
FUTURE DEPENDS ON
THE AMOUNT OF EDUCATION
HE HAS HAD!

BECAUSE I DECIDED TO,
QUIT SCHOOL THIS FALL.
I FIGURED ON GETTING
THE JUMP ON THE OTHER
FELLOWS AND EARNING
MY OWN MONEY! NOW
I'M GOING TO BE
BEHIND THE EIGHT-
BALL RIGHT OFF
THE BAT!

UNLESS...
UNLESS THOSE
STATISTICS
ARE ALL WET.

NO, THEY'RE NOT, BUZZY... I HAPPEN TO
KNOW THAT ABOUT A MILLION BOYS
AND GIRLS LEAVE HIGH SCHOOL EVERY
YEAR IN THE U.S. - AND WISH THEY HADN'T.
IN LATER YEARS, THEY HAVEN'T THE BACK-
GROUND FOR THE BETTER JOBS!

GOSH, THEN
I'M SUNK!

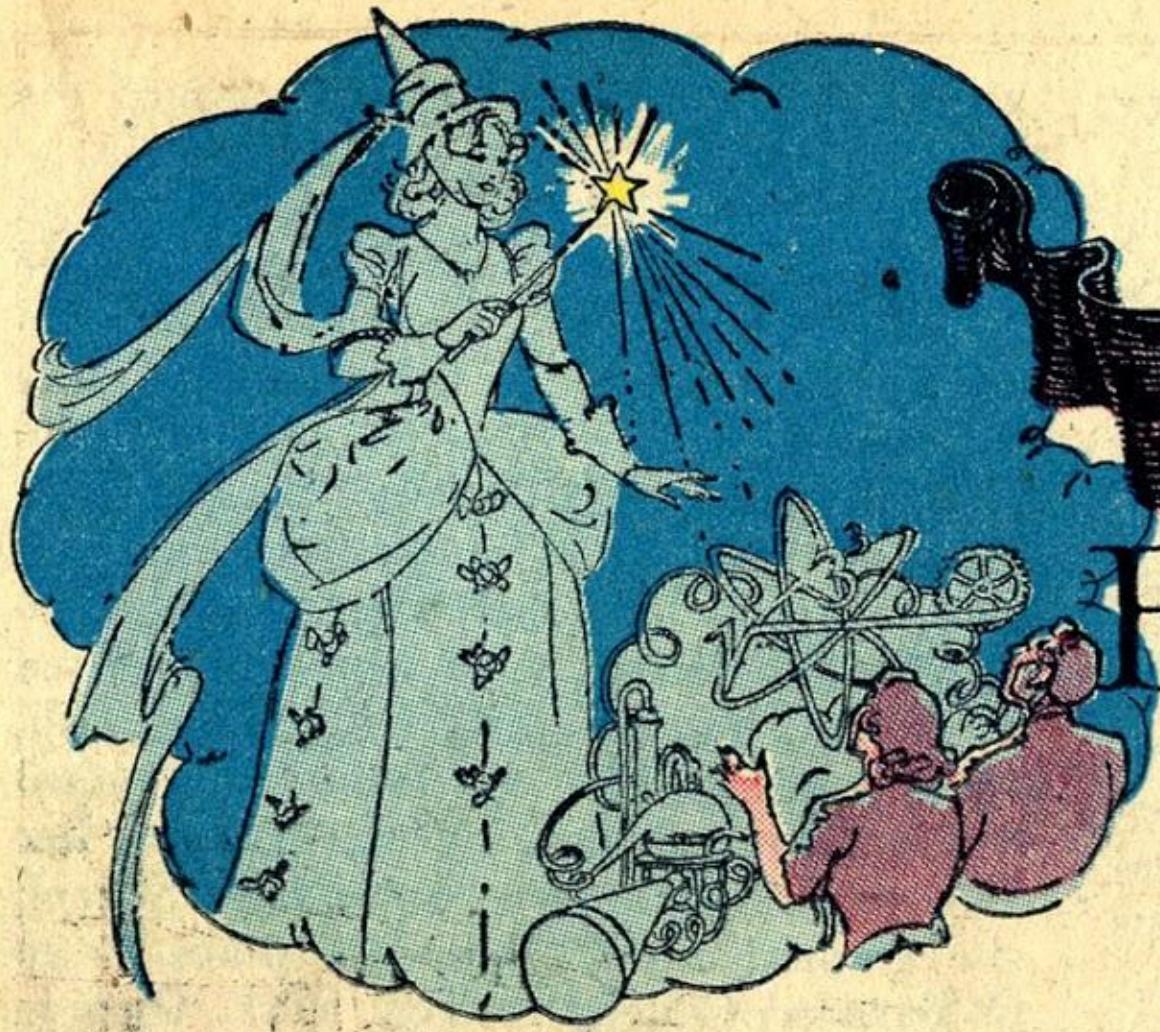
NO, YOU'RE NOT. YOU DON'T
HAVE TO QUIT! YOU CAN
GO BACK TO SCHOOL
THIS FALL!

SAAAY - THAT'S
RIGHT! SUSIE, YOU'RE
WONDERFUL! I'M GLAD
I TALKED IT OVER
WITH YOU!

THAT'S THE BEST THING
ANYBODY CAN DO WHO'S
THINKING OF LEAVING
SCHOOL! **TALK IT OVER**
WITH SOMEBODY - THEIR
PARENTS, TEACHER, OR
SOME FRIEND.

IF IT'S FINANCIAL HELP YOU NEED, THERE ARE
ORGANIZATIONS WITH SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS
OR ONES THAT CAN FIND PART-TIME WORK OR
ARRANGE A LOAN. YOU'LL FIND PROBLEMS
ALWAYS COMING UP IN LIFE. DON'T LET THIS
ONE MESS UP YOUR FUTURE! **GIVE**
YOURSELF A BREAK BY
STAYING IN
SCHOOL!





IT'S YOUR FUTURE

DO you know about the nation-wide Science Talent Search that was started back in 1942? Did you know that science talent, like movie talent, is discovered by effective "scouting?"

The Search was born of the idea that the ability of America to turn out topflight scientists depends upon the discovery of scientific ability among boys and girls in high school.

The Search is open to any high school senior—boy or girl—in the United States. Each year about 15,000 youngsters have entered the competition. This opportunity for science-minded students all over the country has been provided by Science Service and is supported by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

High school seniors enter the competition in September of each year and are notified of the results sometime in February. Forty finalists are then brought to Washington where they attend a five-day Science Talent Institute during which they meet some of the nation's outstanding scientists, learn of scientific developments and visit places of scientific and national interest. During these five days, the forty lucky finalists compete for the \$11,000 in scholarships.

In order to qualify, there are four hurdles to surmount. First, there is a three-hour exam to test the entrant's understanding of science. This is a test of one's apti-

tude for thinking scientifically rather than a test of how many facts one knows.

Secondly, students must submit an original, 1,000-word essay on "My Scientific Project."

Third, teachers and other school authorities furnish a transcript of the student's scholarship records plus a statement on the student's abilities. All this occurs in December of each year.

Fourth, the data is carefully sifted and inspected. The original number of entrants who fill all requirements are reduced by elimination to 600, then to 300, and finally to 40.

After the forty arrive in Washington, they are interviewed by a four-man board, consisting of the nation's top educators and scientists. Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard Observatory is chairman. The interviews of the forty finalists by the four men determine the scholarship awards. To the most promising boy or girl is awarded top honors—the four-year, \$2,800 scholarship. There is a second place \$2,000 award; eight \$400 scholarships; the remaining \$3,000 of the total \$11,000 is awarded at the discretion of the judges.

In addition to the business at hand, the youngsters have time to play, too. They are received at the White House by the President and his wife. They meet the scientists in whose footsteps they hope to follow. They stage a hobby show for each

~~other~~ and for invited guests. And they ~~sights~~ Washington thoroughly.

And now to take a look at some of the winners of the Search during the past years.

Medical research is a field that has attracted the interest of many finalists. Paul E. Teschan, of Shorewood, Wis., top boy finalist in the first quest in 1942, was graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School where he studied the response of the central nervous system to controlled heat changes, as a method of treating certain diseases. He also assisted in research on the causes of cancer, and studied the effects of infantile paralysis on children.

Marilyn Rohrer experimented with guinea pigs in the summer at the State Crippled Children's Hospital in her home town of Elizabeth, Pa. Marilyn, who plays a "hot" trumpet and is interested in brain surgery, is studying the use of tridione, the new synthetic anticonvulsant drug, for the treatment of epilepsy.

Two of the other girl finalists who are preparing for medical careers are Alice Dale, of Columbia, Tenn., who attended Vanderbilt University at Nashville, and Nancy Stafford, of Watertown, N. Y., who is at Radcliffe College doing work preparatory to specializing in neuropsychiatry.

From Altadena, comes this year's top winner, 17-year-old Dwight Willard Taylor. During three summers on Nantucket, an island off the Massachusetts coast, he collected 120 different species of mollusks. Previously only 46 species were known there. He believes his survey, compared with studies of fossil remains in the area, will yield valuable information about long-range climatic changes on the island. Dwight is currently investigating mollusks in the vicinity of the Webb School, at Claremont, where he is a senior. He's on the school paper and annual, a member of the stamp club, the Boy Scouts and the American Malacological Union (malacological means pertaining to the science of mollusks). In addition to his work with fossils and mollusks, he likes to play tennis

and badminton. Dwight plans to attend the University of Michigan.

Caroline Littlejohn, 16, of Oklahoma City, Okla., is the second winner. Since she is interested in a career in mathematical physics, her Science Talent Search essay was devoted to her researches in the mathematical theory of relativity. Caroline studied differential and integral calculus outside of school to help her progress in physical chemistry. She also is interested in biology, and has dissected gophers, fish, snakes and ducks to learn anatomical similarities and differences. First in her class of 520 at Classen Senior High School, she graduated this May, and plans to go to Barnard College in New York. Outside of class, she belongs to Science Clubs of America, the Junior Academy of Science, the German Club, the Campfire Girls, and is an honorary junior member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

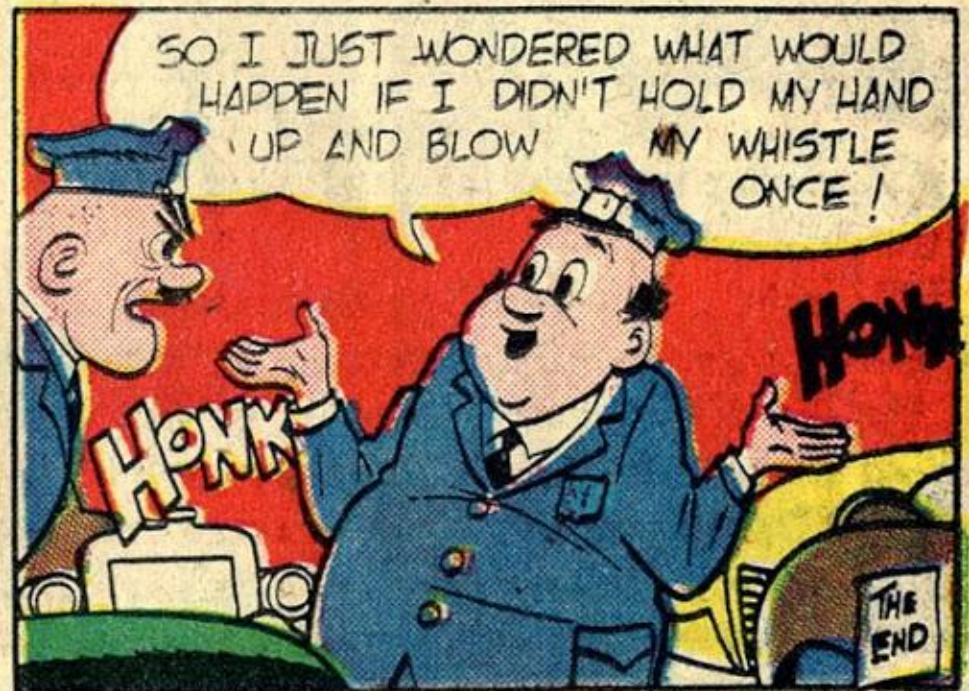
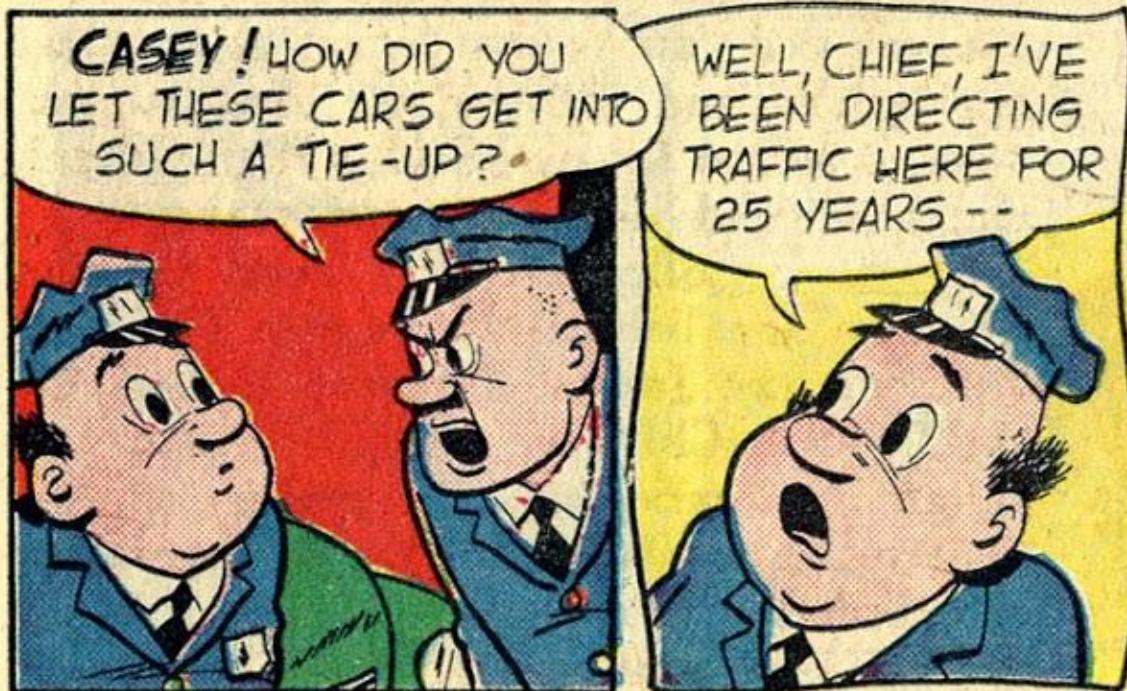
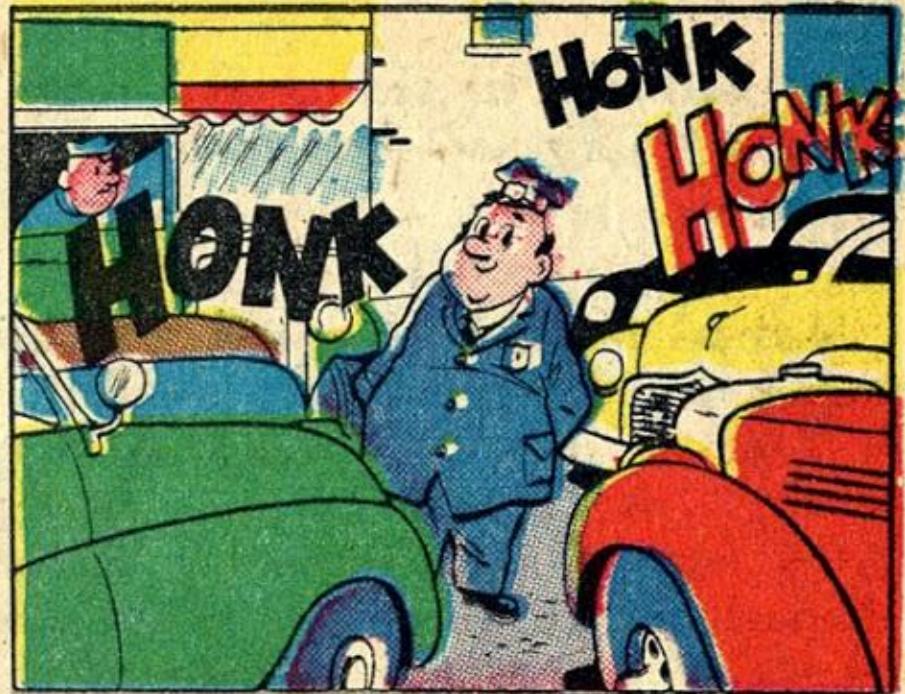
The third winner, who was also named as alternate for the top award, is Pierre Connor, of Lafayette, La. He built a Hilsch tube, which produces hot air from one end and cold from the other. Though the action of Hilsch tubes has not yet been satisfactorily explained, Pierre has his own theory about it. He thinks such tubes will be useful in jet airplanes, where they might be made to cool cockpits and melt ice from wings at the same time.

A senior at Cathedral High School in Lafayette, Pierre has his eye on a career in medical research. He plans to attend Tulane University or Johns Hopkins. In addition to his Hilsch tube work, he has experimented successfully with the separation of protein from yeast. President of his 4-H Club, he is also a Boy Scout, a member of the Junior Academy of Science and Science Clubs of America, debates and writes for the school paper. He is the first finalist from Louisiana to place in the Science Talent Search.

These are the young people who will help to build America's scientific manpower and whose talents will be devoted to the welfare of the nation and the world.

CASEY THE COP

HENRY
BOLTHOFF



ADVERTISEMENT

An advertisement for Superman socks. It features a large image of a pair of socks with the Superman logo on both the toe and heel. To the left is a package of socks with the same design. The word "SUPERMAN" is written in large, stylized letters across the top. Below it, the word "SOCKS" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. An illustration of Superman flying through the air is on the right. At the bottom, it says "COPR. 1949 NAT'L COMICS PUB., INC.".

FELLOWS . . . Here They Are . . .
With The Official Insignia On
Both Sides of Each Sock!

50c

PAIR

GUARANTEED
3 PAIRS FOR 3 MONTHS
WEAR OR 3 NEW PAIRS

Colorfast

NOW ON SALE
AT BETTER STORES
EVERYWHERE

RESCUE FROM THE RAVINE

AS DUSK SETTLES OVER THE WOODS AND THE BOYS PREPARE FOR AN OVERNIGHT CAMPING-TRIP--RAY GOES OFF IN SEARCH OF FIREWOOD, WHEN SUDDENLY...



BATMAN

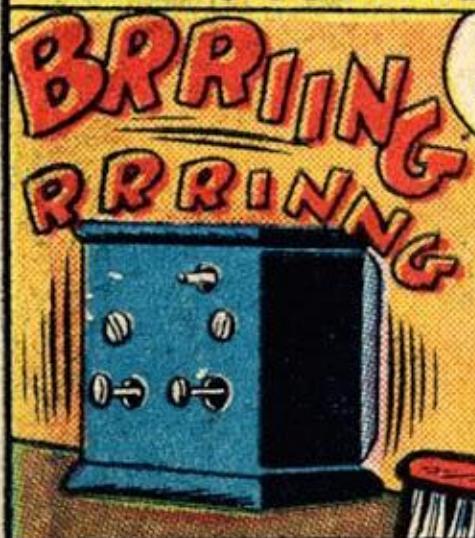
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

FROM MORNING TILL MIDNIGHT,
BELLS RING THROUGH OUR EVERYDAY
LIFE! GAY WEDDING BELLS, SHRILL
FIRE BELLS, HARRIED AMBULANCE
BELLS, THEY ARE ALL ABOUT US!
THEY JINGLE, THEY CLANG, THEY
CHIME, THEY TINKLE... THEY ARE THE
SOUNDS WE LIVE WITH... BUT WHEN
BELLS BEGIN TO TOLL A KNELL OF
CRIME, THEN BATMAN AND ROBIN
HEAR A RINGING IN THEIR EARS
AS THEY BATTLE...

"The BANDIT of
the BELLS!"



EVER SINCE HE COULD REMEMBER, ED PEALE HATED BELLS! AS A CHILD, HE HATED THE ALARM CLOCK BELL...



I WISH I COULD SLEEP ALL DAY! BUT THAT BELL ALWAYS WAKES ME UP!

BELLS! ALWAYS MAKING ME WORK... DO THINGS I DON'T WANT TO DO! BELLS... ALWAYS GIVING ME ORDERS, LIKE I WAS A SLAVE!

EVEN WHEN HE GREW UP, HE WAS DISCIPLINED BY BELLS... LIKE THE ONE HE HEARD WHEN HE HAD TO PUNCH A TIME CLOCK ON HIS FIRST JOB...

THEN ONE DAY PEALE'S BROODING THOUGHTS TOOK VIOLENT ACTION...

I WILL REBEL AGAINST BELLS! I WON'T OBEY BELLS... I'LL MAKE BELLS OBEY ME!

THERE WAS THE SCHOOL BELL...

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

HURRY UP! DON'T YOU HEAR ME?

YEAH... I HEAR... YOU AND THAT BELL!

HE READ ALL THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT BELLS, AND SOON HE WAS READY!

I'LL MAKE THEM DO EVIL, CRIMINAL THINGS! CRIME... YES... I'LL BECOME A BANDIT... AND I'LL CALL MYSELF—THE GONG!

A FIRE ENGINE... AN AMBULANCE... A PATROL CAR WERE USED AS A "SOUND COVER" FOR THE GONG'S FIRST CRIME!

RRR
RRR
BONG
BONG
BONG

HA! HA! ALL THE BELLS MERGE WITH THE SOUND OF THE ALARM BELL! IT'S EASY WHEN YOU MAKE THREE FALSE ALARM CALLS!

CLANG!

BJEWELRY BONG

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

HE GOT HIMSELF A GANG, AND ONE NIGHT, AFTER CLUBBING AN ELEVATOR STARTER ...

GET GOING, MEN! BY RINGING
THE STARTER'S **BELL**, I'LL SUMMON EVERY
ELEVATOR OPERATOR DOWN! NOBODY WILL
SPOT YOU CRASHING THE DIAMOND
CUTTER'S OFFICE!



WE HEARD
YOUR SIGNAL,
BOSS! YOU
WANT US?

YES... I'VE
PLANNED ANOTHER
"BELL" CRIME! SOON
THE GONG WILL
TOLL BAD NEWS
FOR THE LAW
AGAIN!

NEXT DAY... WITH THE GONG'S MEN DISGUISED AS A COAST GUARD CREW PATROLLING GOTHAM CITY HARBOR...

WE MUST BE RIGHT
ON SCHEDULE WHEN
THE FREIGHTER COMES
IN! WE'D BETTER
MAKE SURE OUR TIME
IS RIGHT! CHECK WITH
THOSE FISHERMEN!

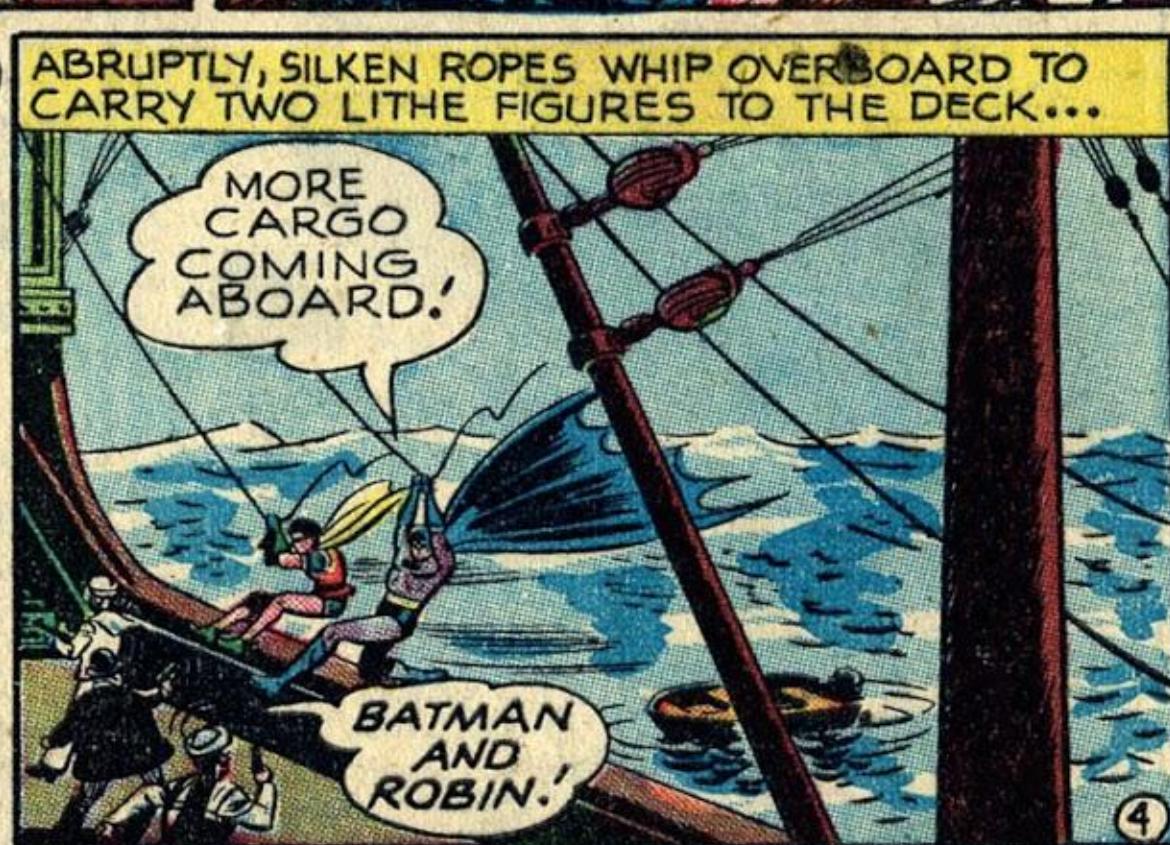


SURE!
IT'S JUST
8 BELLS!

THAT DON'T MEAN
NOTHIN' TO ME,
BUB! WHAT'S THE
TIME IN PLAIN
ENGLISH?

WHY...
12
O'CLOCK!





BATMAN

RUSH 'EM, MEN!
WE'VE GOT 'EM
OUTNUMBERED!

DON'T TRY TO
BURN ME UP, PAL...
I'VE ALREADY GOT
A FIERY TEMPER!

SUDDENLY, THE
FOUNDERING SHIP
LISTS HEAVILY,
THROWING THE
CRIME-FIGHTERS
OFF-BALANCE...

THAT DOES
IT! LET'S
DUMP 'EM
OVERBOARD!

NOW...LOWER 'EM TO THE
BUOY AND CUT IT LOOSE!
KILL THAT BUOY LIGHT IN CASE
THEY LAST TILL NIGHT! THEY'LL
HAVE TO HOLD ON TO LIVE, BUT
SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL GET
TIRED, AND THEN--!

SOON AFTER, SET ADRIFT, THE BUOY RIDES
THE CHOPPY WATERS TAKING BATMAN
AND ROBIN ON A WILD SEA RIDE...

THIS WATER'S
ROUGH! IF WE HAD
OUR ROPES, WE
COULD LASH OUR-
SELVES TO THE
BUOY!

IF...BUT
OUR ROPES
ARE BACK
ON THE
FREIGHTER!

ONE HOUR PASSES!
THE ROLLING WAVES
ROCK AND TOSS THE
BUOY LIKE A BOBBING
CORK AS THE RIDERS
CLING DESPERATELY...

BATMAN...
HANDS
GETTING NUMB
...I CAN'T HOLD
ON MUCH
LONGER...

YOU'VE
GOT TO,
ROBIN...WE'VE
BEEN IN TIGHT
SPOTS BEFORE...
WE'LL BEAT THIS
ONE YET... I
HOPE!

I JUST REMEMBERED... BUOY
LIGHTS CAN BE SEEN FROM GREAT
DISTANCES BECAUSE BUOY LENSES
ARE POWERFUL MAGNIFIERS!
IF WE ONLY HAD SOMETHING
TO BURN THROUGH
THE LENS.

OUR CAPES ARE
SOAKING WET. BE-
SIDES, THEY'RE
FIREPROOF. WHAT
ELSE CAN YOU
BURN HERE?

BATMAN

REMOVING A LARGE SLIVER, BATMAN DESCENDS AND HOOKS HIS LEGS ON THE BUOY'S IRON RUNGS AND ...

MAYBE YOU DON'T KNOW IT, BUT IT'S TANKS OF ACETYLENE GAS THAT KEEP BUOY LIGHTS BURNING! I'LL GET THIS HATCH OPEN AND ...



ONE CONCENTRATED SPOT OF BLAZING SUNLIGHT HEATS THE INFLAMMABLE GAS AND IT SENDS UP A SPEAR OF FLAME.'

'YAHOO! THE ACETYLENE CAUGHT FIRE.'



NOT LONG AFTER, A LINER SPOTS THE BEACON'S LIGHT!

EH? A FLARE!
TWO FIGURES...
ON A BELL BUOY!



THAT NIGHT... THE NEWS MAKES BANNER HEADLINES...

GOTHAM GAZETTE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
RESCUED AT SEA!

THE GONG,
NOTORIOUS
CRIMINAL WHO
MAKES USE OF
BELLS IN HIS
CRIMES, AGAIN
RANG THE BELL
WITH PIRACY.
ON THE SEAS.



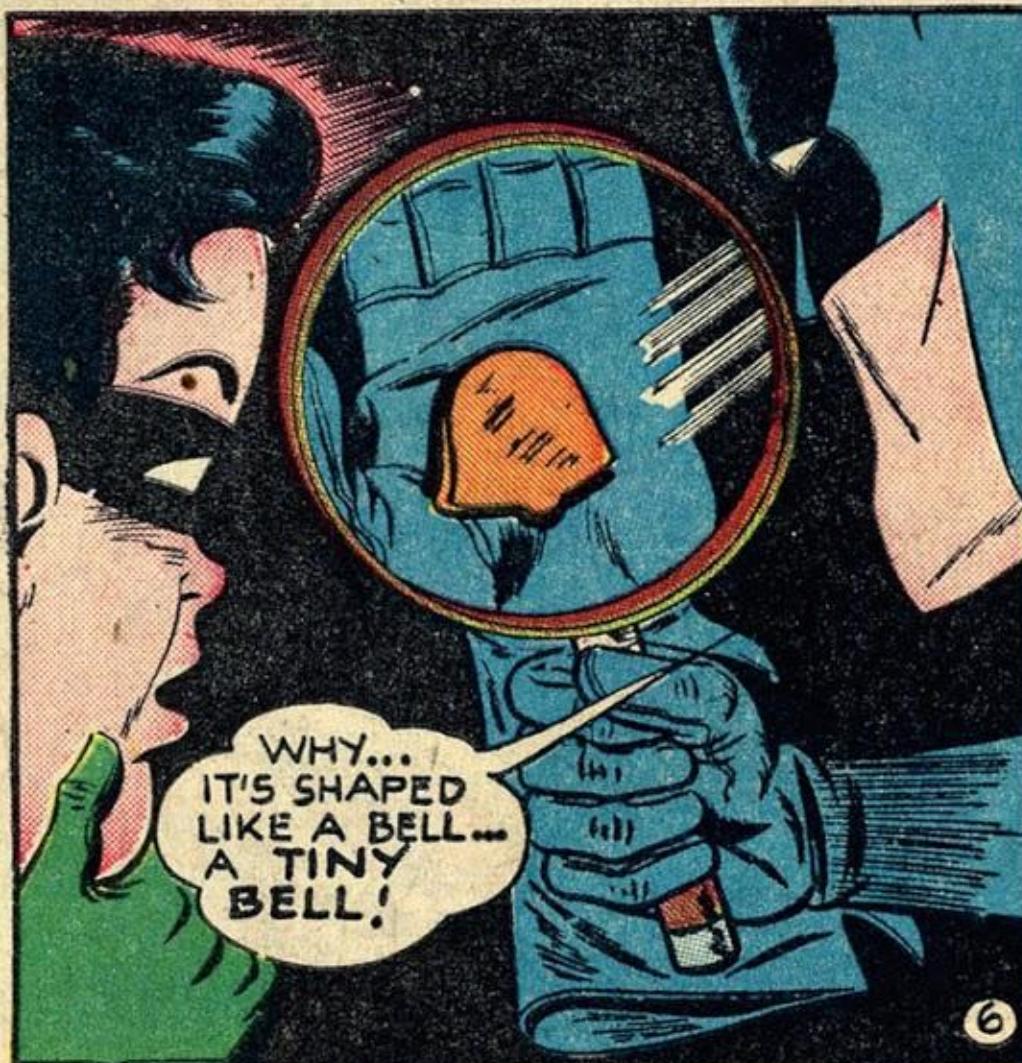
MEANWHILE, IN THE SUBTERRANEAN BATCAVE ...

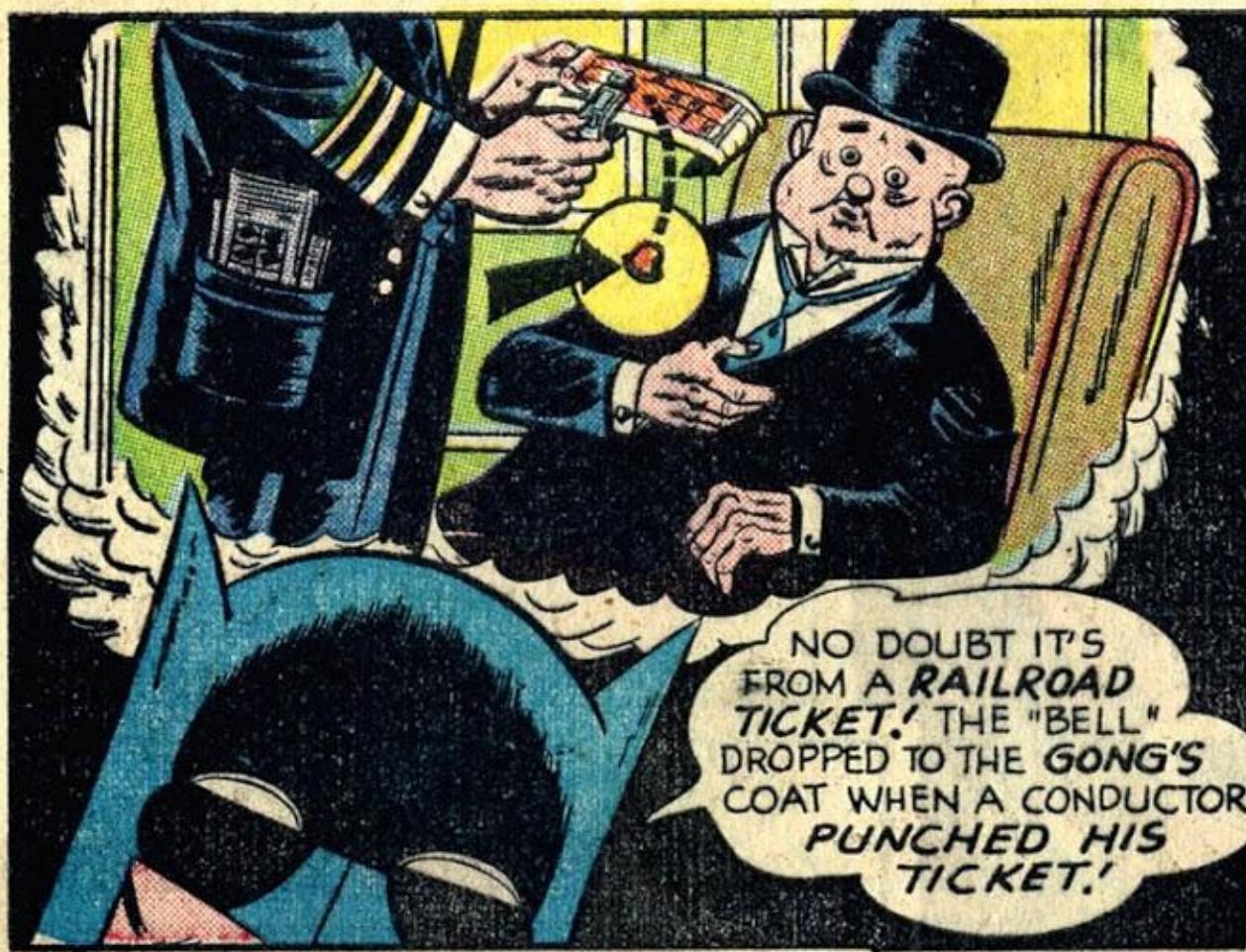
STRANGE! THERE'S A TINY BIT OF PAPER... OR CARDBOARD... INSIDE MY GLOVE.'

IT FEELS GOOD TO GET INTO DRY CLOTHES AGAIN!



WHY...
IT'S SHAPED
LIKE A BELL...
A TINY
BELL!





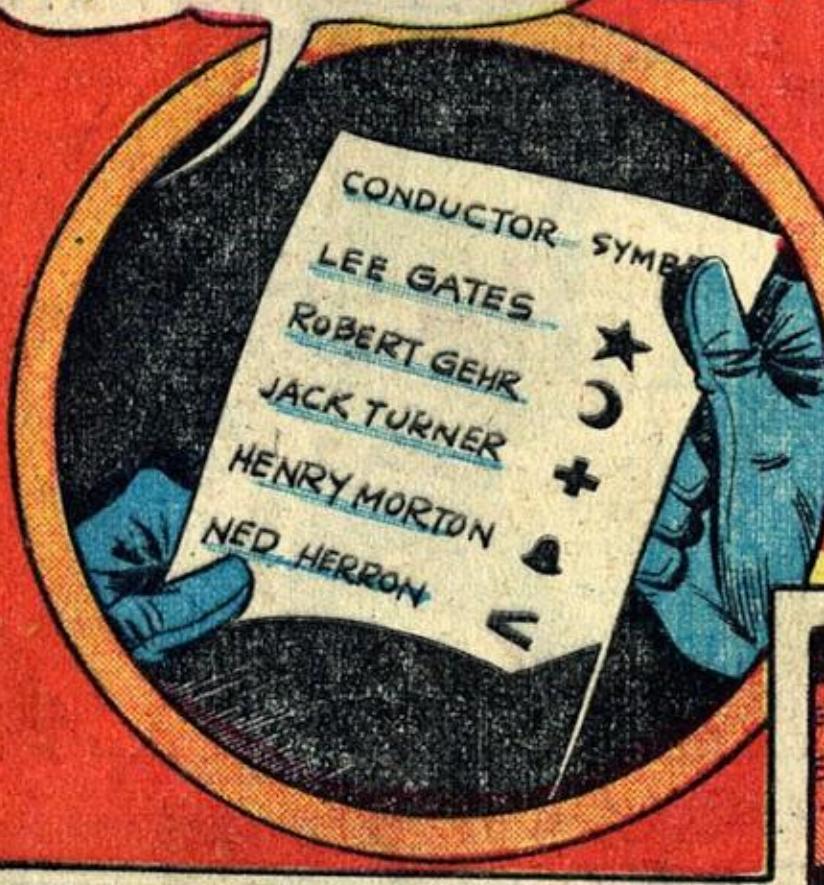
SOON AFTER, BATMAN CALLS ON A RAILROAD DISPATCHER...

YES, BATMAN, YOU'RE RIGHT! MOST RAILROAD LINES ASSIGN DIFFERENT PUNCH SYMBOLS TO EACH CONDUCTOR!

MAY I SEE THE PUNCH LIST?



SEE - CONDUCTOR MORTON'S PUNCH SYMBOL IS A BELL!



AFTERWARD, BATMAN SHOWS CONDUCTOR MORTON A SKETCH DRAWN FROM MEMORY...

IT'S HARD TO FORGET A FACE AND BODY LIKE THAT! HE GOT OFF AT A LOCAL STOP... A SMALL TOWN ... HICKSBURG!

DO YOU REMEMBER SEEING THIS MAN?



IN HICKSBURG'S TOWN HALL BELL TOWER, THE GONG POSES AS A BELL REPAIRER...

ONCE AGAIN A "BELL" CLUE POINTS THE WAY TO THE BELL BANDIT!

ROBIN, THAT PUNCH SYMBOL MUST HAVE FALLEN INSIDE MY GLOVE WHEN I GRAPPLED WITH THE GONG!

THIS MAY BE A LEAD AS TO WHERE THE GONG PLANS TO STRIKE NEXT! HICKSBURG... HERE WE COME!

ALL BELLS WEAR AWAY WHEN THE CLAPPER STRIKES THE SAME SPOT CONSTANTLY! I CAN PUT YOUR BELL ON A SWIVEL THAT PERMITS TURNING!

HMM! OKAY, THE JOB'S YOURS! TAKE THE BELL DOWN!

LATER, ALONE WITH HIS "HELPERS", THE GONG EXPLAINS...

AT ONE TIME, SUPERSTITIOUS PEOPLE ADDED GEMS AND VALUABLES TO A BELL WHEN IT WAS CAST... HOPING THE RICH TONES WOULD BRING THEM LUCK!

ONLY I KNOW THE TRUE HISTORY OF THIS BELL... FROM OLD RECORDS. IT ONCE BELONGED TO A RICH BUT SUPERSTITIOUS FAMILY! THAT BELL IS CRAMMED WITH GEMS AND GOLD NUGGETS!

NO KIDDIN'!

SUDDENLY...
WHEN I SAW MEN WORKING IN A BELL TOWER, I HAD A HUNCH I'D FIND YOU!

WHAT..?
BATMAN! C'MON, BOYS... JUMP ON THE BELL! WE'LL RIDE DOWN OUT OF HERE.

GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE ON THAT ELEVATOR?

HA! HA! SEE YOU ON THE WAY DOWN, BATMAN!

HIT HIM, BOYS—
HARD AND FAST!

BUT NOT EVEN BATMAN'S FRAME CAN WITHSTAND THE SLAMMING WEIGHT AND...

I'M COMING, BATMAN!

BATMAN

DC A SUPERMAN PUBLICATION
BC

LIKE A HUMAN BELL CLAPPER, ROBIN SWINGS OUT PAST THE PLUMMETING FIGURE...

OOF! MY ANKLES!

NICE TIMING, ROBIN!

BUT THE GONG'S GANG REACHES THE GROUND FIRST AND...

THAT SHOULD KEEP THE BATMOBILE OFF OUR TRAIL FOR AWHILE!

LATER, AFTER BEING WARNED BY BATMAN, THE POLICE REPORT BACK...

A TRUCK THAT SIZE COULDN'T DISAPPEAR! IT MEANS THE TRUCK IS STILL IN TOWN... HIDDEN SOMEWHERE!

WE'VE GOT PATROLS ON EVERY ROAD, BUT NO SIGN OF THE TRUCK SO FAR!

MEN, DOES HICKSBURG HAVE A SOUND FILM WITH THE CITY HALL BELL CHIMES ON IT?

SURE! WHY?

SOON AFTER, IN A LOCAL MOVIE THEATER...

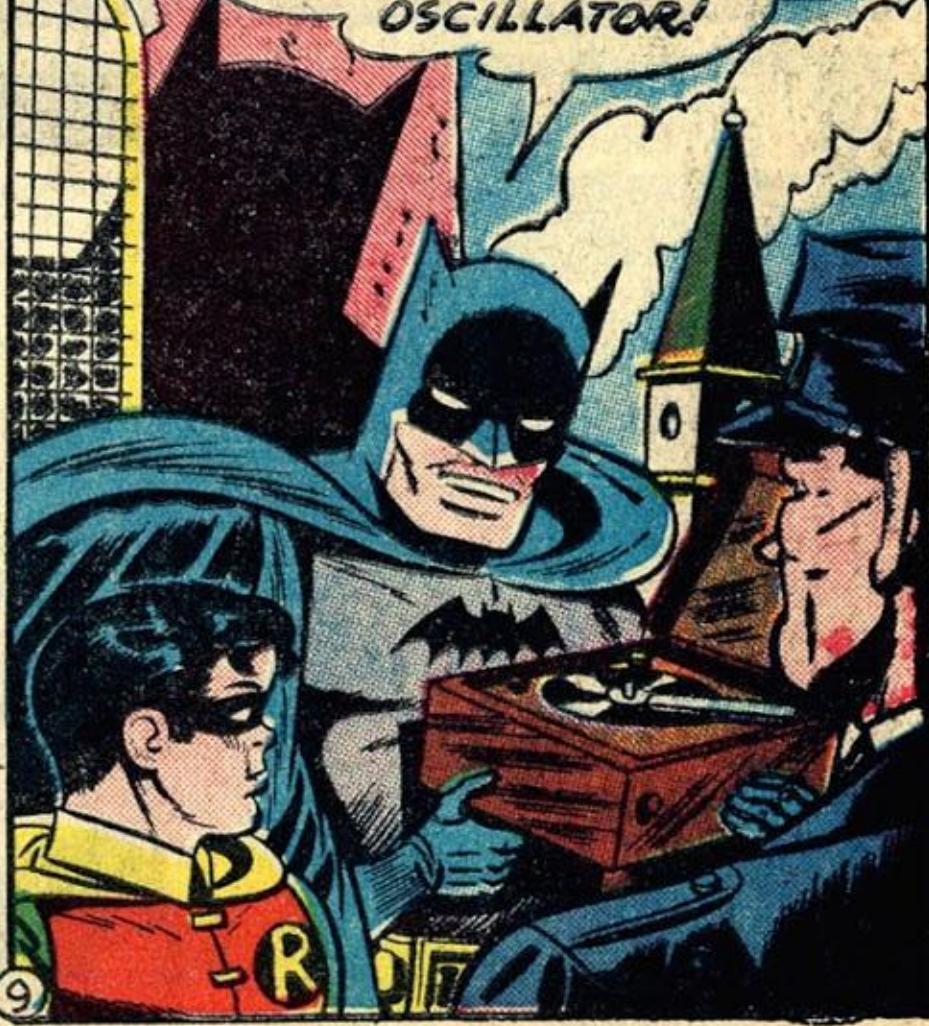
THE TOWN HISTORICAL COMMITTEE MADE THIS MOVIE OF THE MAYOR'S CAMPAIGN SPEECH!



ALL I'M INTERESTED IN IS HEARING THE PITCH OF THE CITY HALL BELL!

AFTERWARD, BATMAN EXPLAINS...

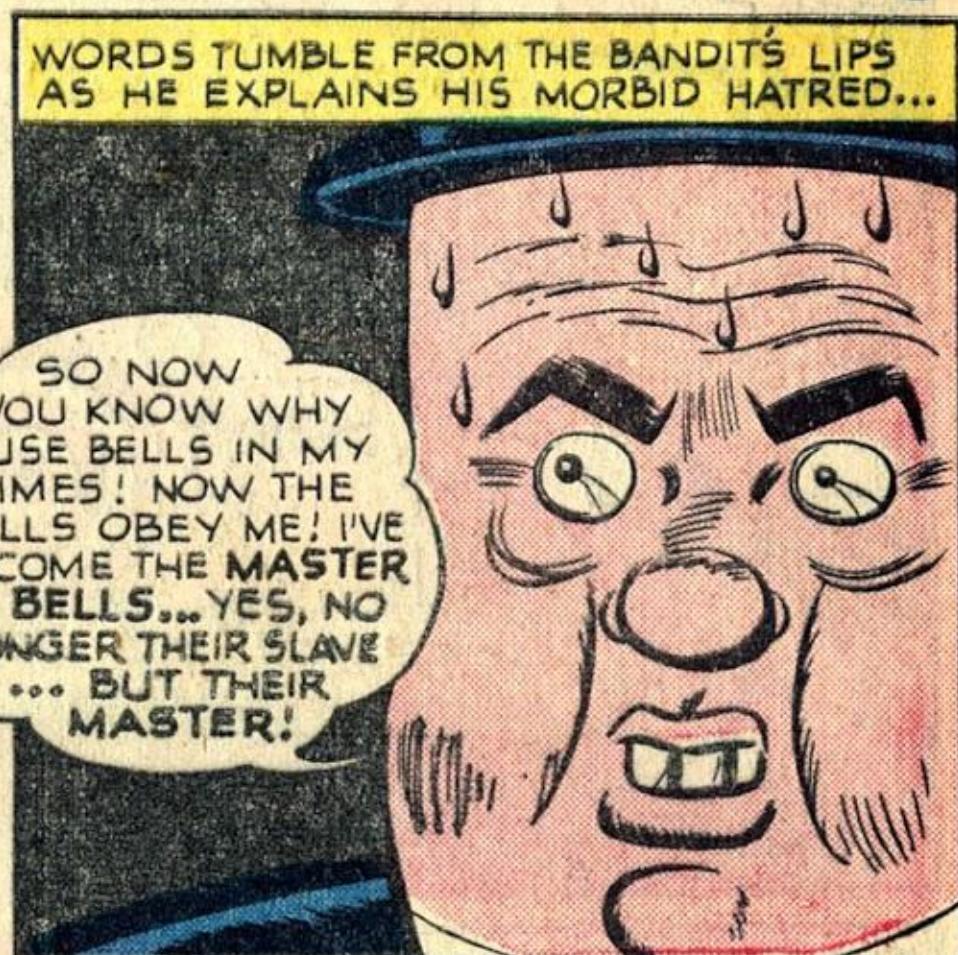
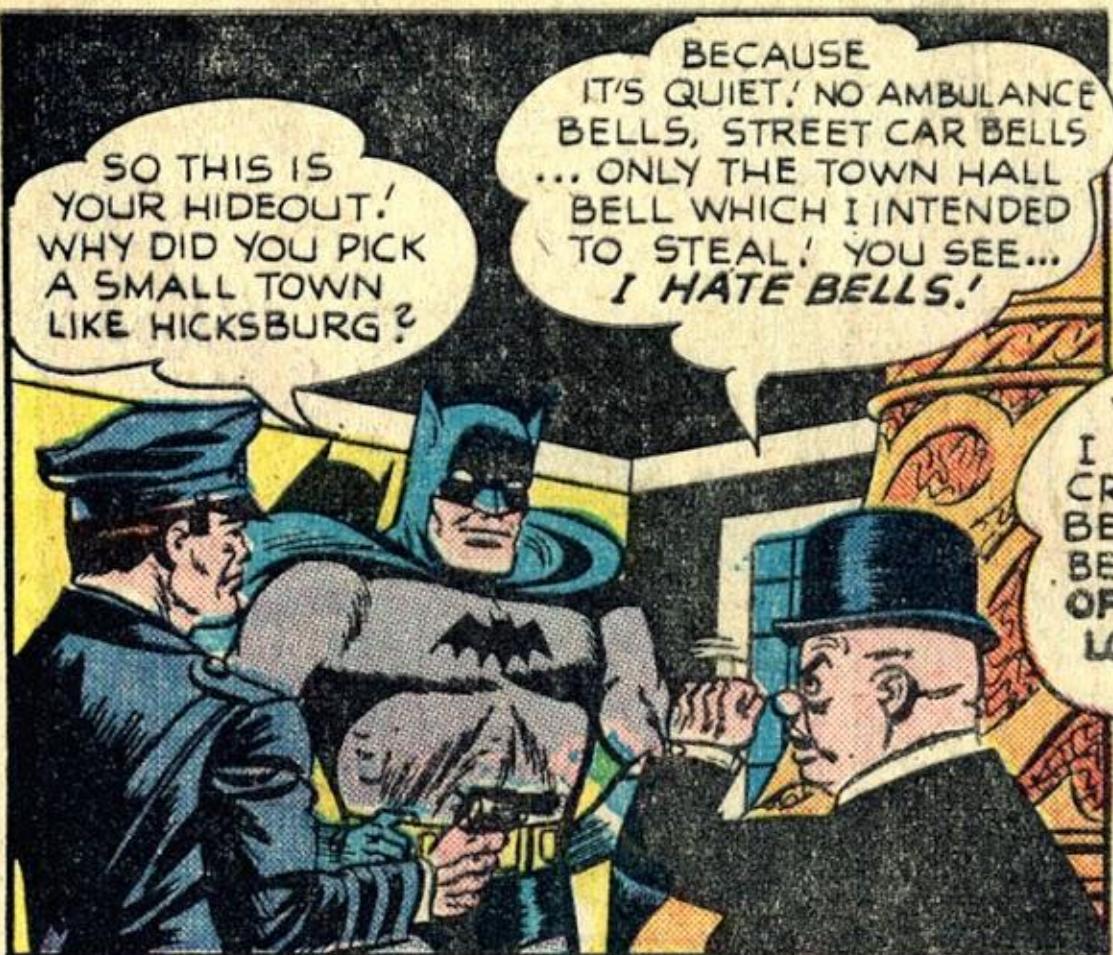
ALL OBJECTS RESPOND TO VIBRATIONS AND GIVE OFF A SOUND! I'VE RECORDED THE BELL'S SOUND AND HOPE TO TRACK IT DOWN WITH AN INSTRUMENT CALLED A VARIABLE SONIC OSCILLATOR!



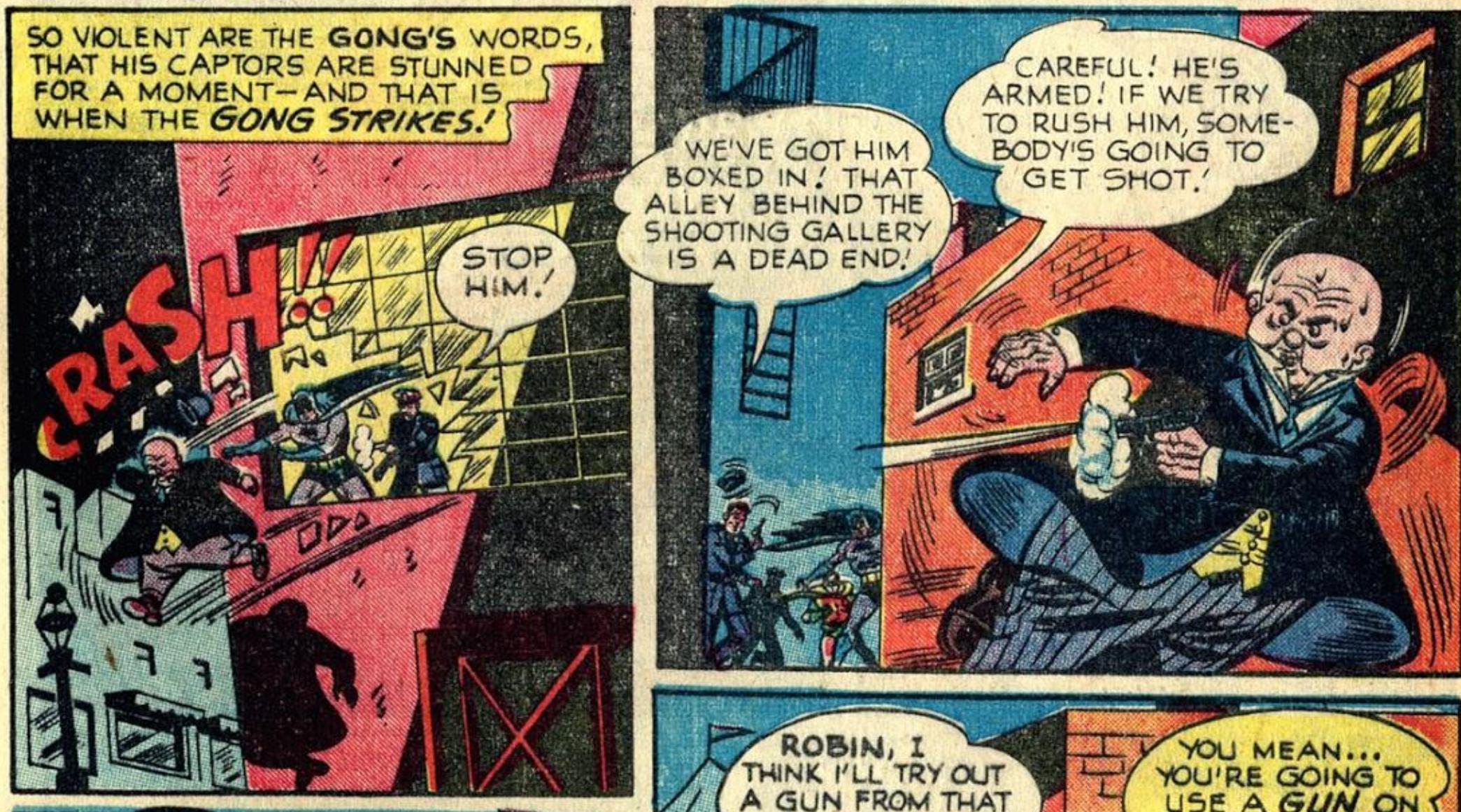
BATMAN

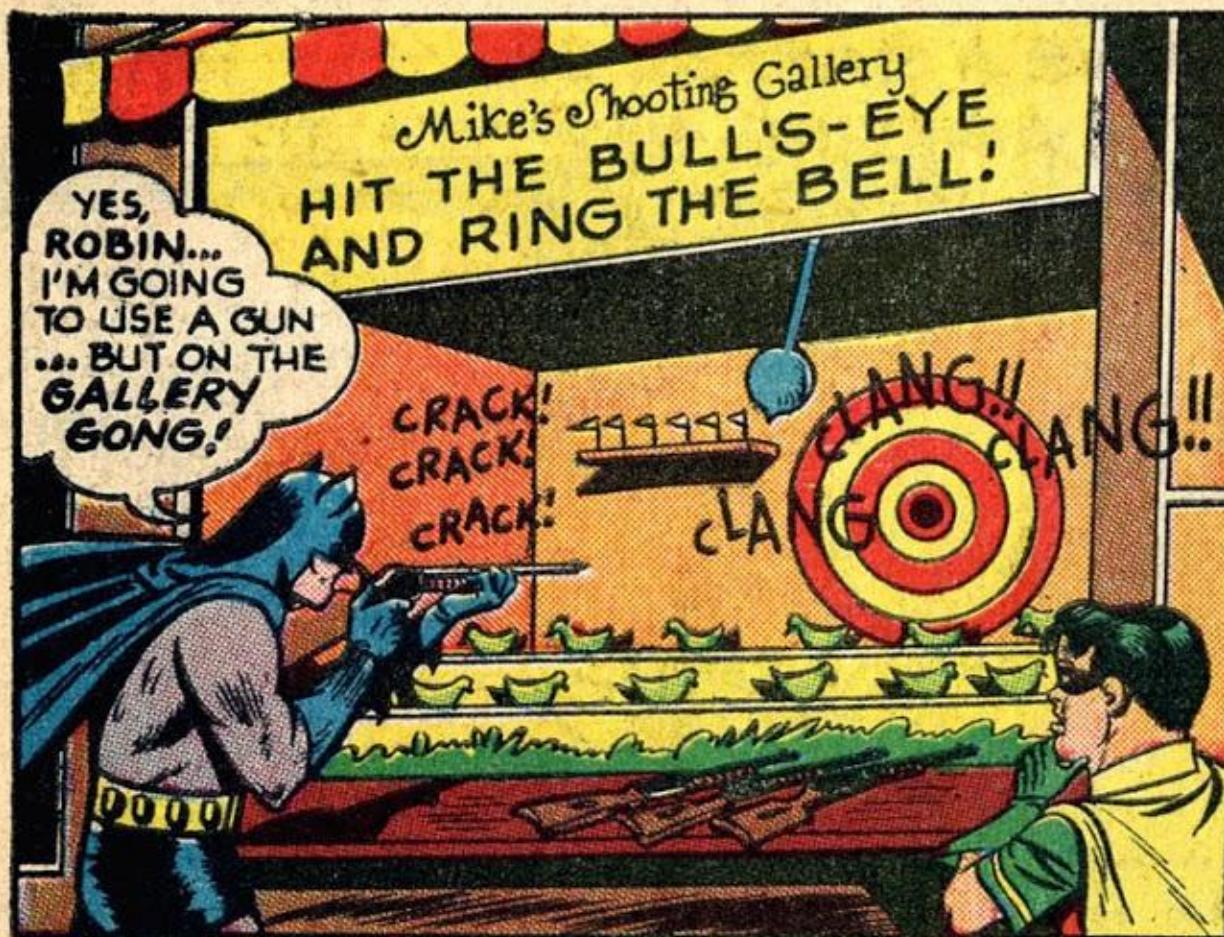
LATER, ROBIN RETURNS WITH THE BATPLANE, AND FROM ABOVE BOMBARDS VARIOUS TOWN SITES WITH SOUND VIBRATIONS... AND AS THE WAVES BOUNCE OFF THEY ARE RECEIVED BY BATMAN!





SO VIOLENT ARE THE GONG'S WORDS, THAT HIS CAPTORS ARE STUNNED FOR A MOMENT—AND THAT IS WHEN THE GONG STRIKES!





HE'S SMALL BUT HE'S DYNAMITE WHEN HE BECOMES A DETECTIVE!
SEE ROBIN THE BOY WONDER IN STAR SPANGLED COMICS!

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HERE'S
HOW
IT
WORKS

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THE MYSTERY
MONKEY MAN
SURE HAS THE
GIRLS ALL AGOG

WHO IS HE
AND WHERE
DID HE GET
THAT MASK?

BOY! WOULD
I HAVE FUN
WITH THAT
MONKEY FACE

YOU'RE
FUNNIER
WITH YOUR
OWN

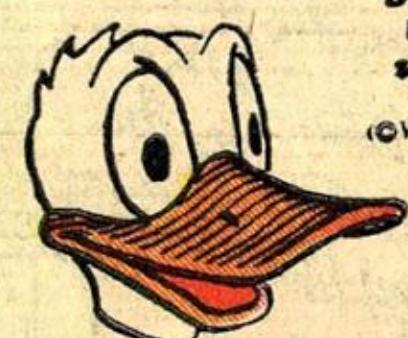
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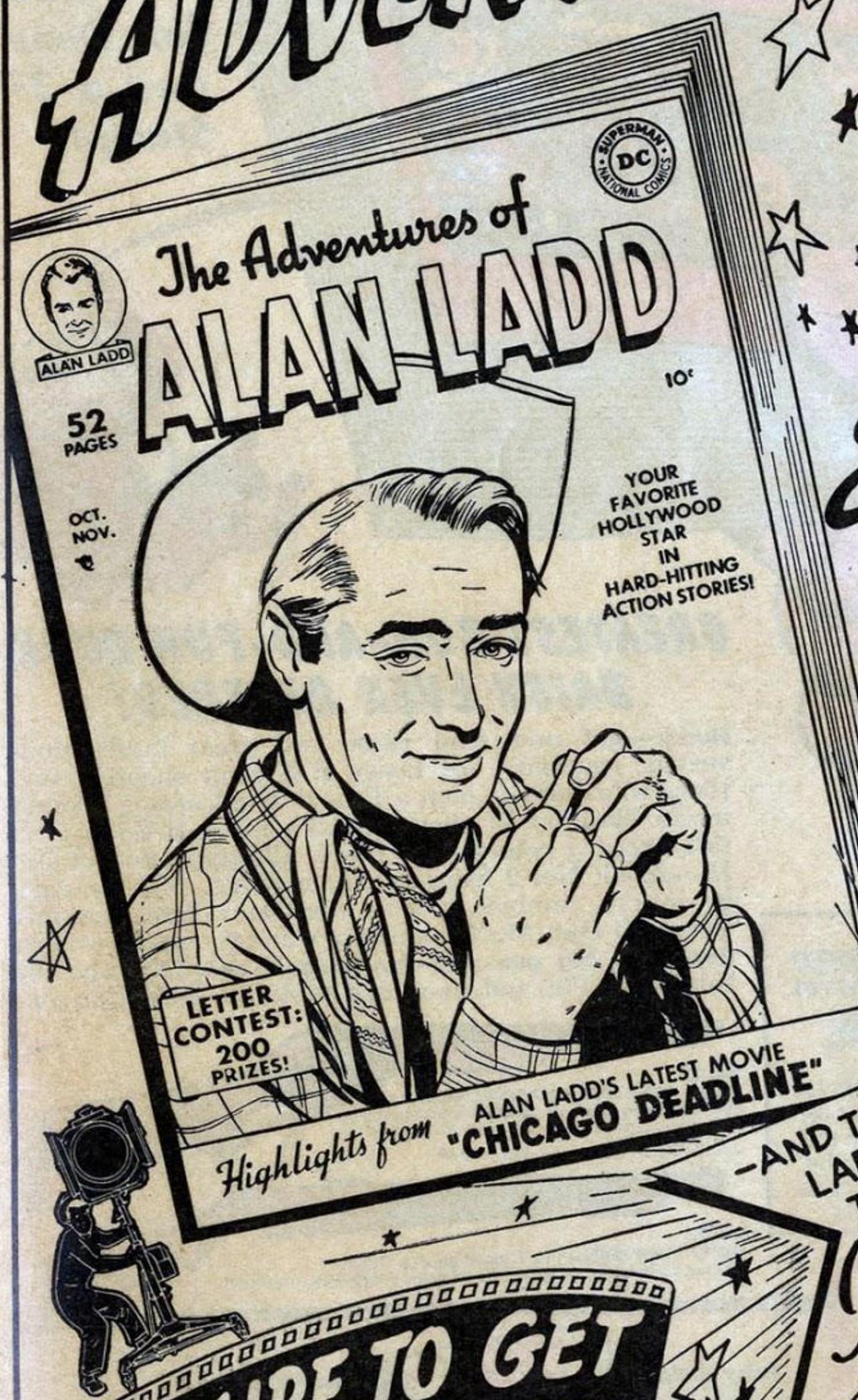
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ROPE 'EM BOTH, PARTNER!



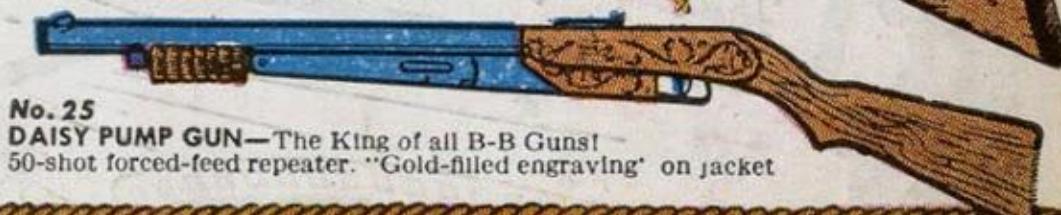
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