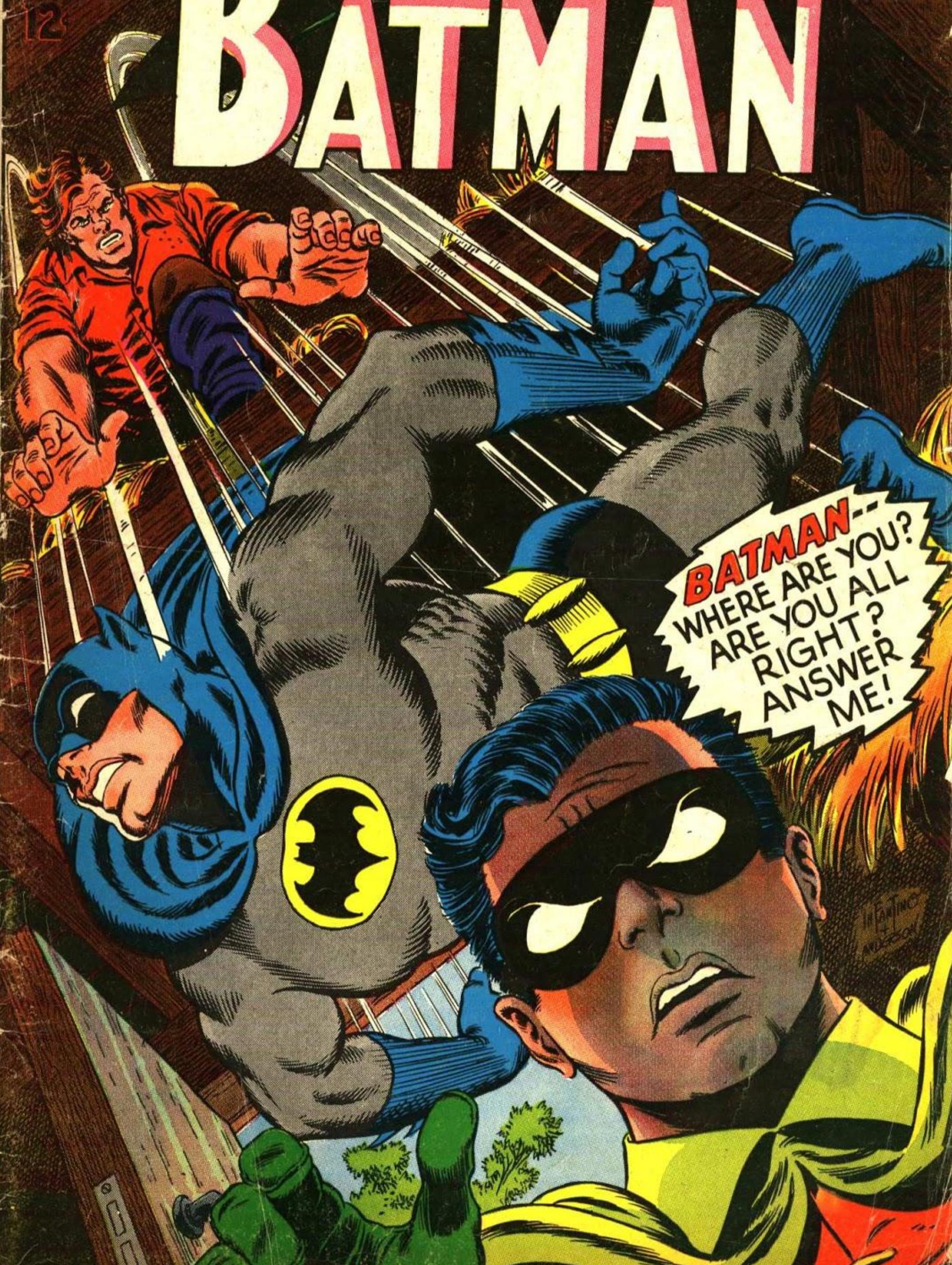




NOV.
NO. 196

BATMAN

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
COP
AUTHORITY



HEY GUYS!

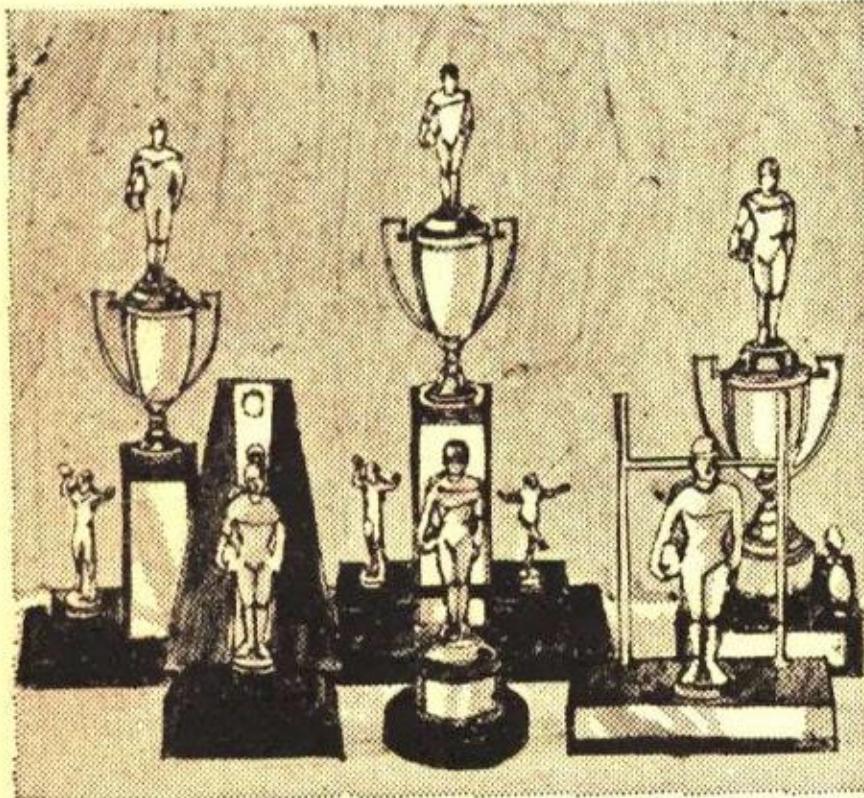
WE'RE GETTING READY TO ENTER THE
FORD-NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**PUNT, PASS & KICK
COMPETITION!**

IF YOU'RE BETWEEN
8 AND 13 YOU CAN
ENTER TOO!
**IT'S FREE!
IT'S FUN!**

LOOK AT THE TROPHIES YOU COULD WIN! EVERY
FORD DEALER WILL MAKE 18 LOCAL AWARDS.

You compete only with kids your own age, so you've got
a great chance to win a handsome trophy! And so many
other trophies, for other wins on the way to the National
Finals! More than 75,000 trophies altogether! Wow!



HERE'S ALL YOU DO TO ENTER.

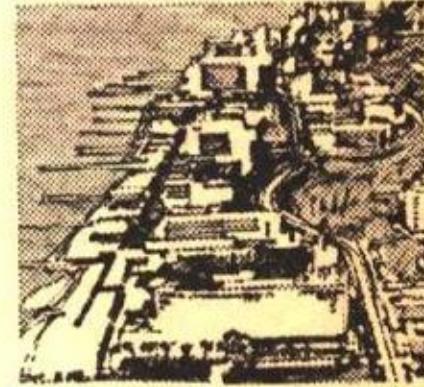


Just take your mom or dad to your participating Ford
Dealer and sign up! It's that easy!

FREE TRIPS, TOO!

Win a District Competition and you get a trip to an NFL
city! Plus a complete uniform free to compete in at half-
time.

Win a Division Competition and you go on a Tour of
Champions with all expenses paid for dad and mom, too!
Start off in Washington, then go on to Miami!



During half-time of the big NFL Play-Off Game you'll com-
pete for the National Championship right there in the
Orange Bowl! Boy, that's something!

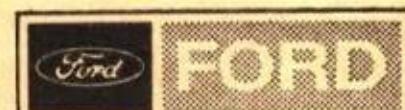
LOOK WHAT YOU GET FOR ENTERING



Just for signing up you get a swell PP&K pin to wear...
AND a Punt, Pass & Kick TIPS BOOK by the big NFL stars,
filled with hints to help you win. Free!

**HURRY! REGISTRATION CLOSES OCTOBER 6TH!
TAKE MOM OR DAD TO YOUR PARTICIPATING FORD DEALER TODAY!**

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WHEN THERE ARE NO CLUES TO A JEWEL ROBBERY - WHEN EVEN BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE STUMPED HOW TO PROCEED -- THERE DRAMATICALLY APPEARS AN INVESTIGATOR WHO SOLVES CRIMES BY MEANS OF EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS!

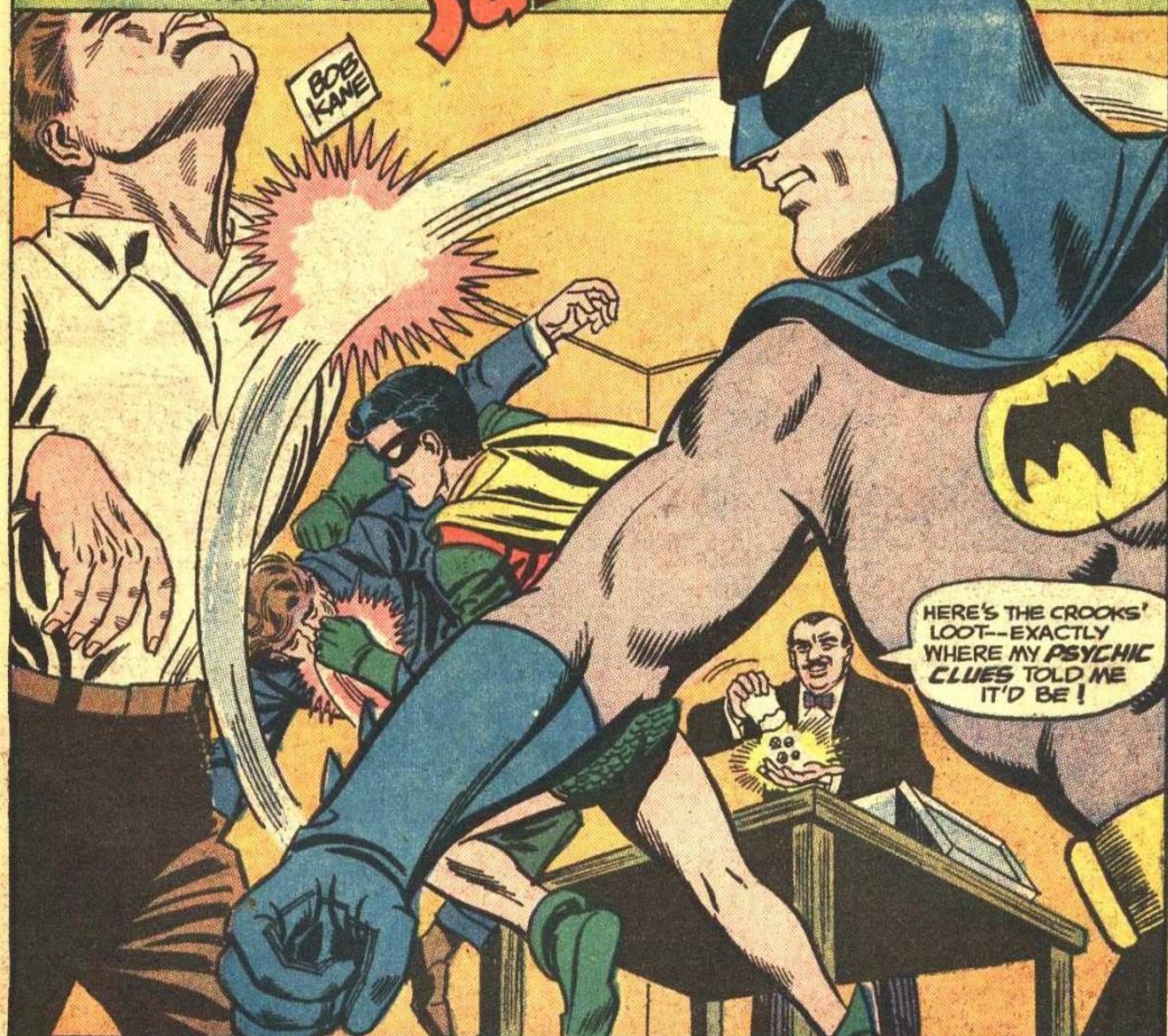
HE CAN TOUCH A DISCARDED JEWEL AND SENSE WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE ROBBERY -- HOW THEY COMMITTED IT -- AND WHERE THEY ARE HIDING OUT! FAR-FETCHED? SUCH FANTASTIC FEATS ARE ON POLICE RECORDS -- BUT NONE CAN COMPARE WITH THOSE OF PETRU DUBROV --



BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

The PSYCHIC SUPER-SLEUTH!



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Printed
in
U.S.A.

BATMAN, No. 196, November, 1967. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October, by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL 62286. Editorial, Executive offices and Subscriptions, 575 Lexington Ave., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879 Subscription for twelve 32-page issues in the U.S., \$1.75 including postage. Foreign, \$3.50 in American funds. Canada, \$2.00

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LATE ONE
EVENING
AS THE
BATMOBILE
HEADS
BACK
FOR THE
BATCAVE...

ALL QUIET ON THE GOTHAM
CITY CRIME-FRONT,
BATMAN--

MAYBE NOT, ROBIN--
THERE GOES THE
HOT-LINE SIGNAL!

COMMISSIONER GORDON HERE ! THERE'S
BEEN A ROBBERY AT THE APEX GEM
BAZAAR ! THERE ISN'T A SINGLE CLUE
TO GO ON ! NEVERTHELESS, I EXPECT THE
CRIME TO BE
SOLVED
MOMENTARILY !

HUH ? WHAT'S
HE TALKING
ABOUT ? HOW
CAN ANYBODY
SOLVE A CRIME
WHERE THERE
ISN'T ANY
CLUE ?

LET'S GO THERE
AND SEE FOR
OURSELVES !

WHEN
THE
BAT-
MOBILE
BRAKES
BEFORE
THE
JEWELRY
STORE...

THERE IS NO NEED FOR CLUES
THE WAY I WORK, ROBIN !

BATMAN,
ROBIN--LET
ME INTRODUCE
PSYCHIC SLEUTH
PETRU DUBRON,
WHO IS VISIT-
ING US FROM
HIS NATIVE !
HUNGARY !

FILL ME
IN,
BATMAN...
WHAT'S
A
"PSYCHIC
SLEUTH" ?,
ARE A NUMBER
OF THESE GIFTED
MEN IN THE WORLD,
ROBIN-- LIKE
WARNER THOLEN
AND GERRARD
CROISSET !
BUT PETRU
DUBRON IS PER-
HAPS THE MOST
FAMOUS !

AN INVESTIGATOR
WHO USES EXTRA-
SENSORY PERCEP-
TION--ESP--TO
SOLVE PUZZLING
CRIMES ! THERE
ARE A NUMBER
OF THESE GIFTED
MEN IN THE WORLD,
ROBIN-- LIKE
WARNER THOLEN
AND GERRARD
CROISSET !
BUT PETRU
DUBRON IS PER-
HAPS THE MOST
FAMOUS !

INSIDE THE JEWEL SALON...
THE THIEVES CHOSE ONLY THE
FINEST GEMS IN THE STORE--
BUT IN MAKING THEIR
SELECTION, THEY TOUCHED--
AND DISCARDED--THE LESS
VALUABLE ONES--LIKE
THESE !

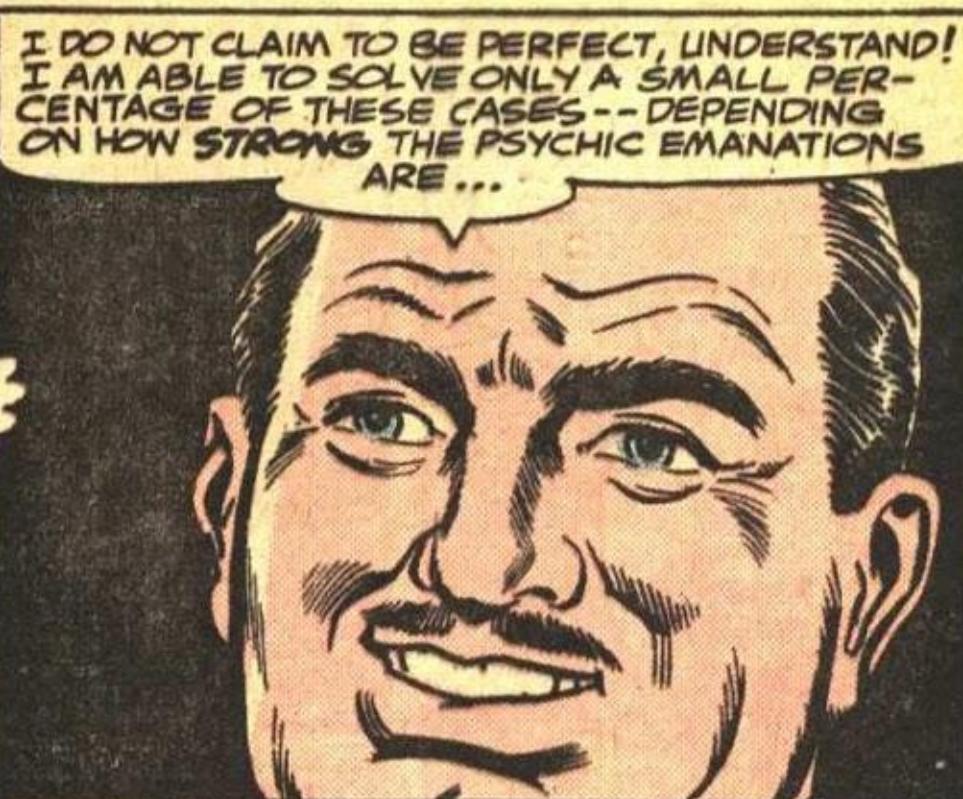
EACH SUCH JEWEL HAS
A PERSONAL AURA OF
THE MAN WHO TOUCHED
IT--ENABLING ME TO
KNOW SOMETHING
ABOUT THEM ...

IF I
STILL
WERE ON
A "HOLY"
KICK --
I'D SAY
"HOLY
SHERLOCK
HOLMES" !

I SENSE BY THEIR PSYCHIC
AURAS THERE WERE THREE
MEN--CONSTRUCTION
WORKERS, I SHOULD
SAY--WHO GAINED
ENTRANCE BY A
SPECIALY MADE
KEY ...

HE'S
NOT
PSYCHIC--
HE'S
JUST
PLAIN,
SICK !





PETRU AND I WILL TRAVEL AHEAD IN
MY CAR, BATMAN -- WHILE YOU TRAIL
US IN THE BATMOBILE!

HMPFF! PLAYING
SECOND FIDDLE TO
THIS GUY--I DON'T
LIKE IT!

MOREOVER, IT'S IN
THE RECORD THAT
AN AMERICAN LADY
IN NEW JERSEY--
A FLORENCE
STERNFELS--
ENABLED THE
BALTIMORE POLICE
TO LOCATE THE
BODY OF A DEAD
GIRL--EVEN DRAW-
ING A PICTURE OF
THE PLACE WHERE
THE BODY WOULD
BE FOUND--THOUGH
SHE HAD NEVER
BEEN IN
BALTIMORE!

BATMAN, DO YOU HONESTLY
BELIEVE THAT PSYCHIC
JAZZ?

WELL, ROBIN--THERE ARE PEOPLE
WHO CAN TELL COLOR WITH THEIR
FINGERTIPS. IT'S CALLED DERO-
OPTICAL PERCEPTION! SO YOU
SEE, MANKIND HAS HIDDEN SENSES
WE ARE NOW ONLY
BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND...

MOREOVER, SHE
HELPED LOCATE
FOUR OUT OF
FIVE MEN INVOLVED
IN A **BRINKS**
ARMORED CAR
HOLDUP...

POLICE DEPARTMENTS ARE TURNING MORE AND MORE
TO THESE STRANGELY GIFTED PEOPLE FOR HELP IN
SOLVING BAFFLING CRIME
CASES!

GOLLY, I'M
BEGINNING
TO FEEL
OUT OF
DATE!

ROBIN, I WELCOME ALL
THE HELP WE CAN GET IN
OUR PERPETUAL FIGHT
AGAINST CRIME! IF
PETRU DOBROY CAN
HELP US CAPTURE CROOKS,
I'M ALL FOR HIM!

SUDDENLY...

STOP! THAT
HOUSE THERE--
YES! I CAN FEEL
THE PSYCHIC
EMANATIONS
COMING
FROM IT!

YOU WILL
FIND
THE
JEWEL
THIEVES
INSIDE!

ROBIN, YOU AND I WILL CHECK OUT
THE HOUSE WITH DUBROV--WHILE
THE POLICE SURROUND THE HOUSE
TO PREVENT A POSSIBLE
GETAWAY!

WELL, AT LEAST NOW I'M
GOING TO GET A PIECE
OF THE ACTION!

A RING OF THE DOORBELL AND...

BATMAN!

JOEY TOLLIVER, THE EX-JEWEL THIEF!
BUT YOU'VE BEEN GOING STRAIGHT
SINCE YOU SERVED YOUR TIME!

I SURE HAVE! YOU GOT ME A JOB WITH
THE *NOSTRAND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY*--TOGETHER WITH MY BUDDIES
HERE, HANK AND KENNY!

WHEN THEY ARE INVITED INTO THE HOUSE...

NEVERTHELESS,
BATMAN--THESE
ARE THE THREE
MEN WHO ROBBED
THE APEX GEM
BAZAAR
EARLIER THIS
NIGHT!

ROBBED
THE--HEY!
WHAT'S
THIS
GUY
TALKIN'
ABOUT?

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING
CARDS ALL NIGHT LONG!
WE HAVEN'T BEEN OUT
OF THE HOUSE!

IF THEY'RE INNOCENT
THEY WON'T MIND
IF I SEARCH FOR
THE STOLEN
JEWELS

GO AHEAD!
WE GOT
NOTHIN' TO
HIDE!

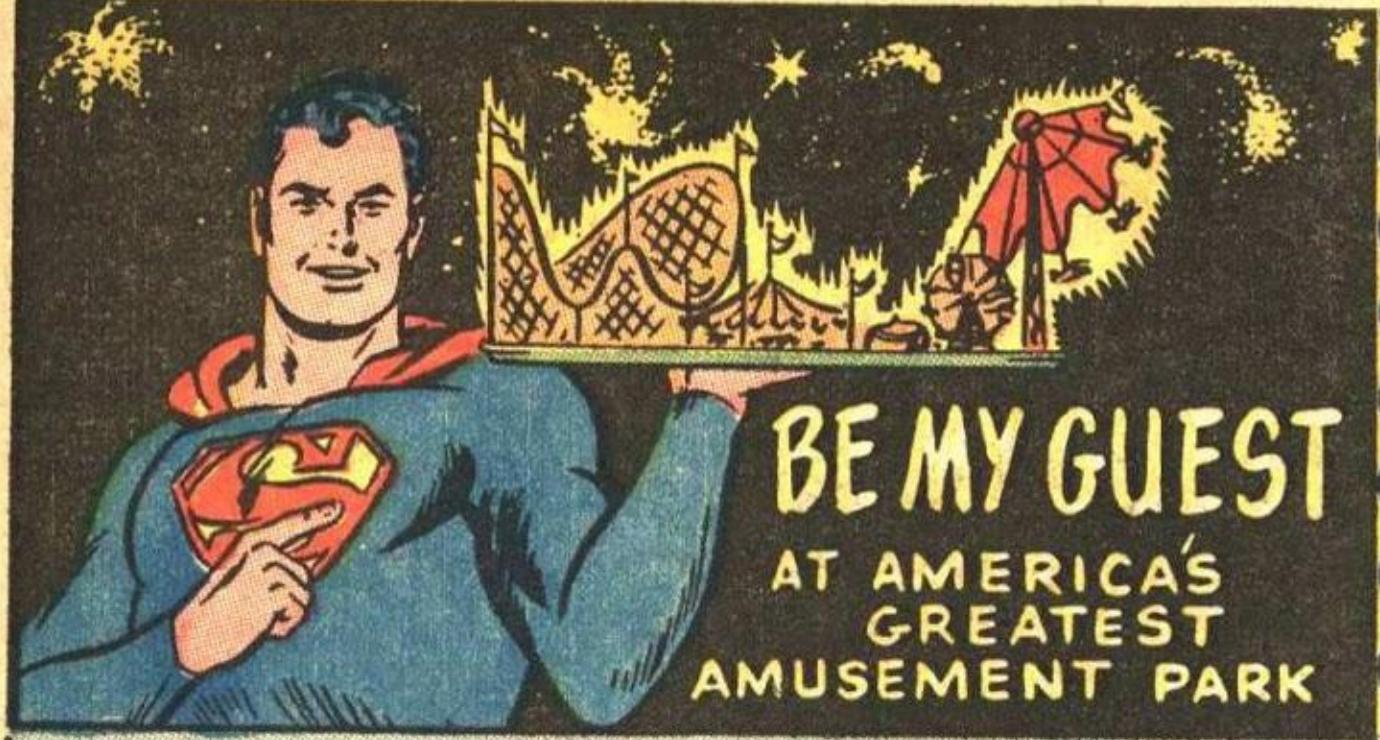
PETRU
DOBROV
HESITATES
ONLY A
MOMENT--
THEN
WALKS
STRAIGHT
TO A
TOOL
CHEST,
WHERE...

THE PSYCHIC AURA IS STRONGEST HERE
AND--AH! HERE'S THE LOOT--

HUH? HOW'D
THEY GET IN
THERE?

IT'S A FRAME! WE'RE
BEING USED AS PATSY'S
FOR THE REAL CROOKS!

CONTINUED ON 35th PAGE FOLLOWING



BE MY GUEST

AT AMERICA'S
GREATEST
AMUSEMENT PARK



PALISADES AMUSEMENT PARK N.J.

½ MILE SOUTH OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE



ADMIT ONE (1) to
PALISADES
AMUSEMENT PARK, N.J.

GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY
and FRIDAYS
(EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)
Until 7 P.M.

FREE
ADMISSION
CIRCUS ACTS
PARKING

WORTH **85¢**

~ FREE RIDE ~

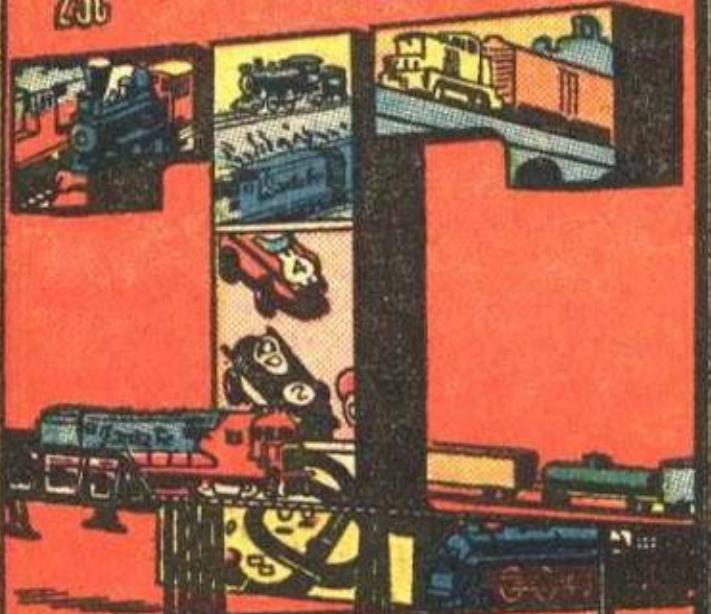
BATMAN^{SLIDE}

~ FREE RIDE ~

CAROUSEL

HO ROADRACING TRAINS
HOOD RACING
HOOD RACING HOOD RACING

25¢



TYCO®

THE WORLD'S GREATEST
HO SCALE ELECTRIC TRAINS
ARE MADE IN AMERICA

by **TYCO®**

- HEFTY ENOUGH TO REALLY ENJOY!
- RUGGED ENOUGH FOR YEARS OF FUN!
- UNMATCHED VARIETY!
- VALUES THAT AREN'T EQUALED!

IF YOUR DEALER IS OUT
OF STOCK ON TYCO CATALOGS,
SEND 25¢ TO DEPT. CTC7,
TYCO, WOODBURY HTS.,
N.J. 08097.

SEE THEM AT HOBBY SHOPS, TOY
AND DEPARTMENT STORES EVERYWHERE.
TYCO'S THE REALLY HOT LINE
IN HO ROADRACING TOO!

GO...TYCO®

IT'S SO MUCH MORE FUN TO OWN THE VERY BEST!

DIRECT CURRENTS

So you want to know what's in the works for the upcoming issues in the DC line? And if you don't, what are you reading this column for? Not that it isn't a beautiful piece of deathless prose! Oh, well. . .here are the previews. . .

CLAW! MAGNETO! TORPEDO! What are we talking about—a factory? Not on your life! They're the three latest foes to face **AQUAMAN!** And what a combo they make, as they invade the ATLANTIC PAVILION at EXPO 21st! Their goal? We can't reveal it here. . .but you'll find out in the **December issue, No. 36**, which goes on sale Sept. 7!

WONDER WOMAN turning fink? It seems that way, as the MIGHTY AMAZON is forced to trick all her sister AMAZONS on PARADISE ISLAND! But 'what is the reason for her strange actions? You'll find the startling answer revealed in—"WONDER WOMAN'S DARING DECEPTION!" It's in the **December issue, No. 173**, on the newsstands Sept. 7!

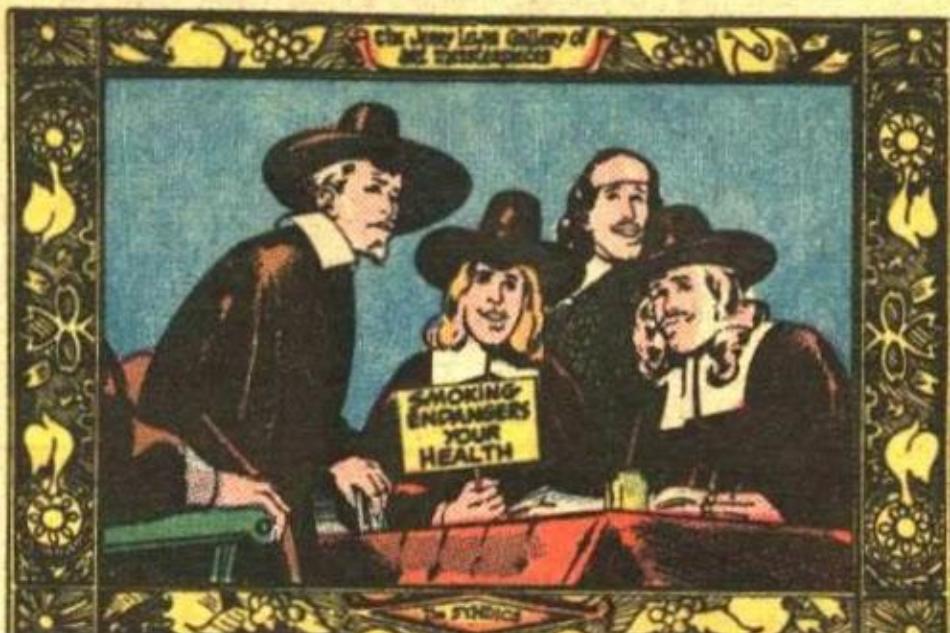
What? Our rugged RANGERS running from a fight? Those rough-and-ready RANGERS who faced guns point-blank? But they have a reason—a brute named MARNEY! Was he a madman or a crafty killer? They thought they had the answer to his dark secret—but were they surprised! In the **December TOMAHAWK, No. 113**, on sale Sept. 7.

A mysterious killer tries to murder BRUCE WAYNE. . .then an attempt is made on the life of CLARK KENT! Is someone out to assassinate the known friends of BATMAN and SUPERMAN? The **WORLD'S FINEST** team is up against the most baffling mystery of their crime-fighting careers. . .in the **November issue, No. 171**, on sale Sept. 12!

The motto of the UNITED NATIONS is "WE BELIEVE!" In a story that is bound to become a classic, young SNAPPER CARR, honorary member of the **JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA**, is vividly shown by the world's greatest heroes how brotherhood can—and must—be achieved! "MAN, THY NAME IS BROTHER!" **November issue, No. 57**, on sale Sept. 12.

Fresh from his smash debut, **BOMBA THE JUNGLE BOY** returns in another thriller. This one takes you deep into INCA territory, where DC's latest hero—and comedom's greatest jungle adventurer—tracks down "THE PHANTOM CITY OF DEATH!" If you missed him before, don't do so again! **December issue, No. 2**, on the stands Sept. 12.

Wanna hear the best news of your life? "SOME BODY SWIPED OUR SCHOOL!" And that's the title of the **December JERRY LEWIS, No. 103**! You'll rub your eyes with disbelief, gag from giggling, and roar with raucous delight when school days turn into a school daze! Plus No. 4 in **JERRY'S GALLERY OF ART MESSTERPIECES!** On sale Sept. 14.



Mountain-climbers scale mountains because they're there—but HUNTER'S HELLCATS have another reason—a daring secret mission! And the mountains aren't ALL that's there—for our heroes must battle enemy ski troopers and massive avalanches in—"MOUNTAINS FULL OF DEATH!" **December OUR FIGHTING FORCES, No. 110**, on sale Sept. 19.

Meet D.J. DEEJAY, the zaniest, kookiest, hippest disc jockey ever to hit the airwaves! But D.J. is maybe not all he SEEMS to be, as the **TEEN TITANS** learn in their **December epic, No. 12**, which goes on sale everywhere Sept. 19! Starring—as always—ROBIN, WONDER GIRL, KID FLASH and AQUALAD!

It happens at last! **THE INFERIOR FIVE** make their first trip through time, in the whackiest time machine yet! They wind up in PARIS during the FRENCH REVOLUTION, and the REIGN OF TERROR turns into a HAILSTORM OF LAUGHS! See the I-5 fight for truth, justice and survival in the **December issue, No. 5**, on sale Sept. 19!

Our human rubberband performs new and incredible feats in "PLASTIC MAN'S SOLD MAN," in the **December issue of PLASTIC MAN, No. 7**! For those who are familiar with PLAS from the old days, the return of WOOZY WINKS should be an epic event! And if you've never seen him, it's an introduction you won't forget! On sale Sept. 21.

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT--SO YOU GET IT FIRST!

JOEY--
TAKE IT EASY!!

YOU CAN ALWAYS SEE A LAWYER AND--OOOPPF!

WE'RE ALL EX-CONS--
WE WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!

NOT WITH OUR RECORDS!



YOU CAN COME ON OUT, SIR! THE JEWEL THIEVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN!

G-GOODNESS ME! I--I NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

WE'LL TURN THE STOLEN JEWELS AND THESE MEN OVER TO THE POLICE!



NEXT EVENING, THE MASKED MANHUNTER AND TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT AGAIN SET OUT ON THEIR NIGHTLY PATROL--BUT THINGS ARE QUIET UNTIL...

ROBIN--THAT MILK TRUCK! I KNOW THE WARRENS--A LARGE FAMILY WITH SEVEN YOUNGSTERS WHO LIVE IN THAT BIG MANSION--ARE IN MONTREAL FOR EXPO 67!

SO WHY WOULD THE MILKMAN BE DELIVERING MILK?

ANSWER--HE ISN'T! IT'S A CLOAK FOR SOME CROOKS!



AS THE BAT-MOBILE CUTS OFF THE MILK TRUCK...

HOLD IT, MILKMAN! WE WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS!



AS THEY RUN TOWARD THE MILK TRUCK, ITS REAR DOORS SLAM OPEN AND...

WE WERE RIGHT! THEY ARE CROOKS--DRESSED AS MODS--

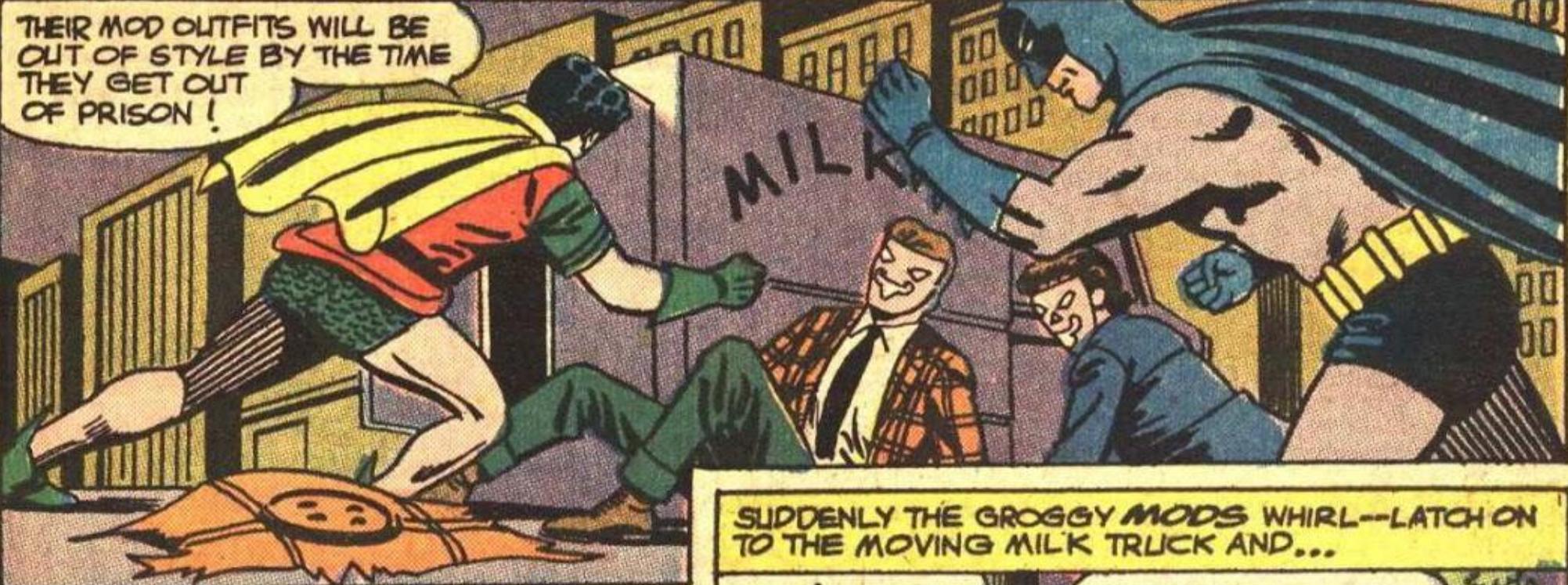
--AND MASKED AGAINST INSTANT RECOGNITION!



THOSE MASKS MAY HIDE YOUR FACES--BUT NOT YOUR INTENTIONS!



THEIR MOD OUTFITS WILL BE OUT OF STYLE BY THE TIME THEY GET OUT OF PRISON !



THE AIR IS FILLED WITH FLYING FISTS THAT LAND WITH SHATTERING IMPACT...



SUDDENLY THE GROGGY MODS WHIRL--LATCH ON TO THE MOVING MILK TRUCK AND...

HEY! THEY'RE CUTTING OUT ON US!

AFTER THEM--IN THE BATMOBILE!



BUT AS THEY TURN TOWARD THEIR CAR...

WE CAN'T FOLLOW THEM! THE BATMOBILE TIRES-- SLASHED BY THE DRIVER WHILE THOSE MOD MUSCLEMEN KEPT US BUSY!

I'LL PHONE GORDON ON THE HOT-LINE-- EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED--AND ASK FOR A POLICE EMERGENCY TRUCK TO BRING US A NEW SET OF TIRES!

WHILE THE SLASHED TIRES ARE BEING RE-PLACED...

THE CROOKS GOT AWAY, COMMISSIONER! BUT THEY LEFT US A CLUE!

A BUTTON TORN OFF A MOD JACKET! THAT'S ALL WE NEED TO GO ON...

WE CHECKED WHILE WE WERE WAITING FOR THE POLICE EMERGENCY TRUCK-- A NUMBER OF PAINTINGS ARE MISSING FROM THE WARREN HOUSE!

ALL THE LEG WORK REQUIRED ON CHECKING UP ON THAT BUTTON WOULD TAKE TOO LONG! PETRUL HERE CAN DO THE JOB A LOT FASTER!

IT'S EARLY ENOUGH IN THE CASE--THE PSYCHIC EMANATIONS FROM THE BUTTON ARE QUITE STRONG!

BATMAN, FOLLOW COMMISSIONER GORDON AND ME--AND I'LL LEAD YOU TO THOSE CROOKS!



NOT LONG AFTERWARD, INSIDE AN OPEN-ALL-NIGHT POOL ROOM ...

THERE THEY ARE !

HE DID IT AGAIN ! THEY SURE LOOK LIKE THE ONES WE TANGLED WITH ! TWO OF THEM ARE BANGED UP FROM THE FIGHT --

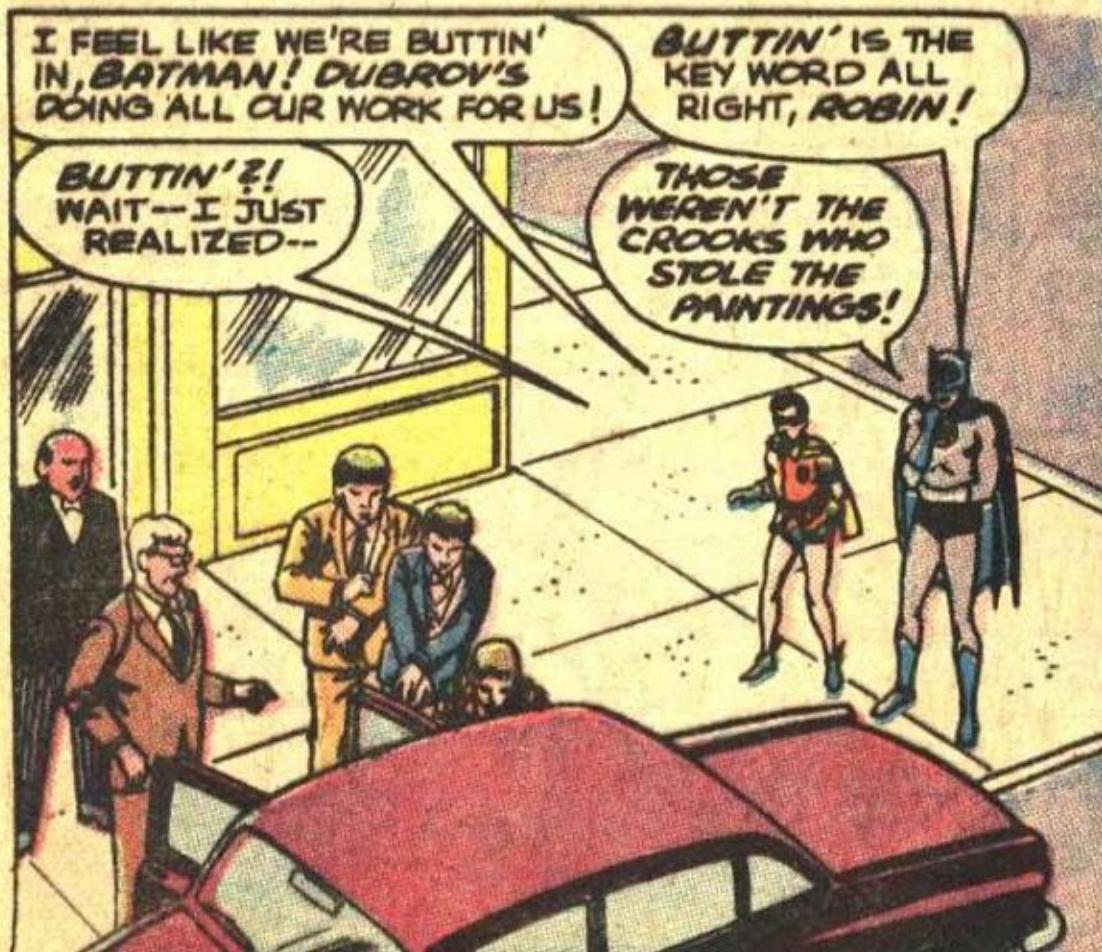
TEEN BEAT IS NOW !

QUITE WEEKLY, THE MODS GIVE UP WITHOUT A BATTLE ...

HOLD IT, S AND R !

MAKE PEACE -- NOT WAR ! YOU WANT US, YOU GOT US !

BUT WE'RE ALIBIKES ! WE'VE BEEN HERE ALL NIGHT !



SHORTLY,
IN COM-
MISSIONER
GORDON'S
PRIVATE
OFFICE...

--AND I RECEIVED THIS OVERSEAS LETTER
FROM PETRU DUBROV ADVISING ME HE'D
CALL UPON ME WHILE VISITING A FORMER
COUNTRYMAN OF HIS WHO LIVES JUST
OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY!

WITH A BIT OF LUCK--
THIS LETTER WILL TELL
US WHO HIS FRIEND IS--
AND WHERE HE LIVES--

B-BUT THE
LETTER
DOESN'T GIVE
US THAT IN-
FORMATION!

ASSUMING
DUBROV
WROTE TO
HIS FRIEND
FIRST--
ON A PAD OF
STATIONERY--
AND THEN
WROTE TO THE
COMMISSIONER--
THE IMPRINT
OF THAT FIRST
LETTER WILL
SHOW UP ON THIS
ONE, AS I SCATTER
POWDERED GRAPHITE
OVER IT!

IT'S COMING THROUGH
BATMAN!

BOY! IT'S ABOUT TIME WE
SHOWED WHAT WE
CAN DO!

THE MORNING IS WELL
ADVANCED WHEN THE
DYNAMIC DUO ARRIVES
AT A FARM SOME MILES
BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS...

WE'LL SPLIT UP HERE,
ROBIN! YOU TAKE THE
HOUSE--I'LL TAKE
THE BARN!

IN THE BARN, SECONDS
AFTERWARD...

AS HE CLIMBS A LADDER--A
BOOTED FOOT KICKS OUT OF
THE SHADOWS...

SOMEBODY UP
ABOVE-- HIDING FROM
ME! I'LL NAB HIM--
QUESTION HIM ABOUT
WHERE I CAN FIND
THE REAL PETRU
DUBROV!

HE'S
PLANNING
TO GET
IN THE
FIRST
BLOW...!

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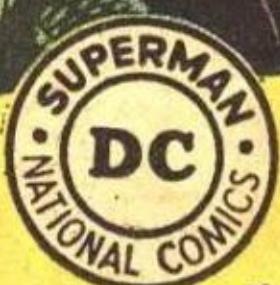
**Never too late...
to get on the
BOMBA TRAIL!**

TV'S FAMED
TEEN
JUNGLE
HERO--
NOW A
**COMICS
CLASSIC**--
RETURNS IN
ANOTHER
ALL-NEW,
SMASHING
SAGA!



JOIN THE
TREK TO
**DEADLY
DANGER** with

BOMBA
The JUNGLE BOY



ON SALE
SEPT. 12th

'HOLY PIN-UPS!' YOUR OWN POP GALLERY

ALL SIX for only

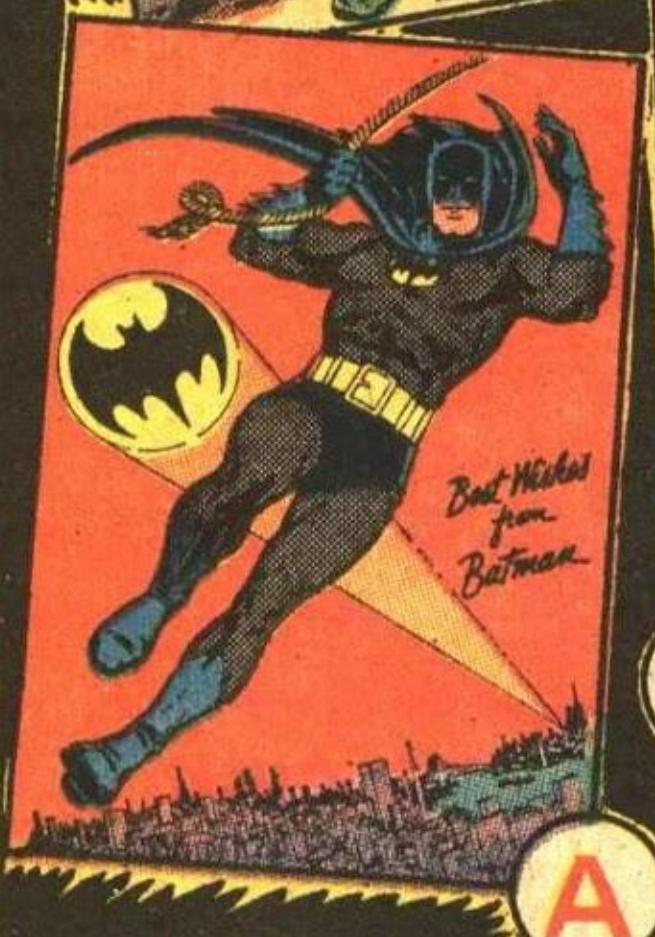
\$1.00



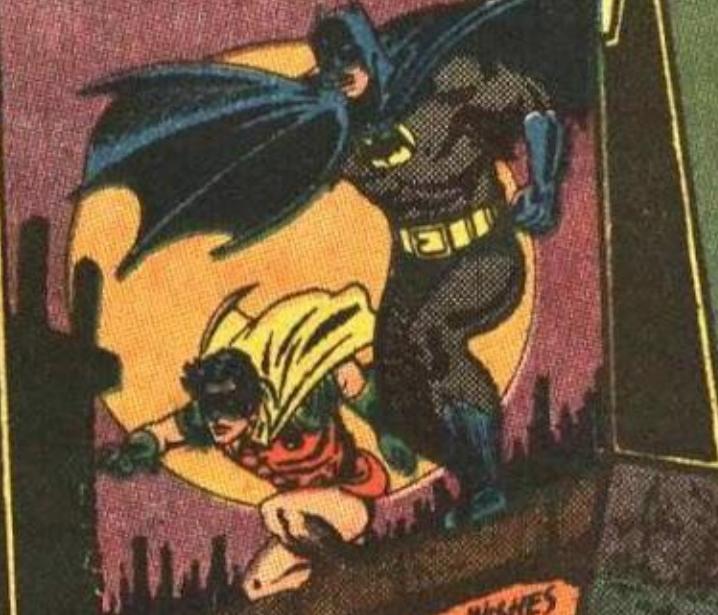
A



B



A



B

DON'T DELAY!
MAIL
COUPON
TODAY!

C



C

EACH PACKAGE CONTAINS
(2) PIN-UPS WRAPPED IN A
PLASTIC DUST-FREE BAG.

PACKAGE A INCLUDES
BATMAN and the RIDDLER
PACKAGE B INCLUDES BATMAN
and ROBIN and the JOKER
PACKAGE C INCLUDES THE
BATMOBILE and the PENGUIN

BATMAN PIN-UPS
575 LEXINGTON AVE. NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022

A

B

C

ALL

RUSH ME (CHECK THE BOX)
2 PIN-UPS (INCLUDING POSTAGE & HANDLING) 50¢
6 " " " " " \$1.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CANADIAN & FOREIGN ADD 25¢ PER ORDER U.S. INT'L. MONEY ORDER

THE REFLEX ACTIONS OF BATMAN ARE THOSE OF A CAT ! HIS HANDS REACH UPWARD--HS LEGS OUTWARD...

HIS PLANS--

AND MINE--CLASHED !
MINE WON !--

ONE THING'S SURE--HE'S NOT GOING TO VOLUNTARILY GIVE ME THE INFORMATION I'M AFTER--



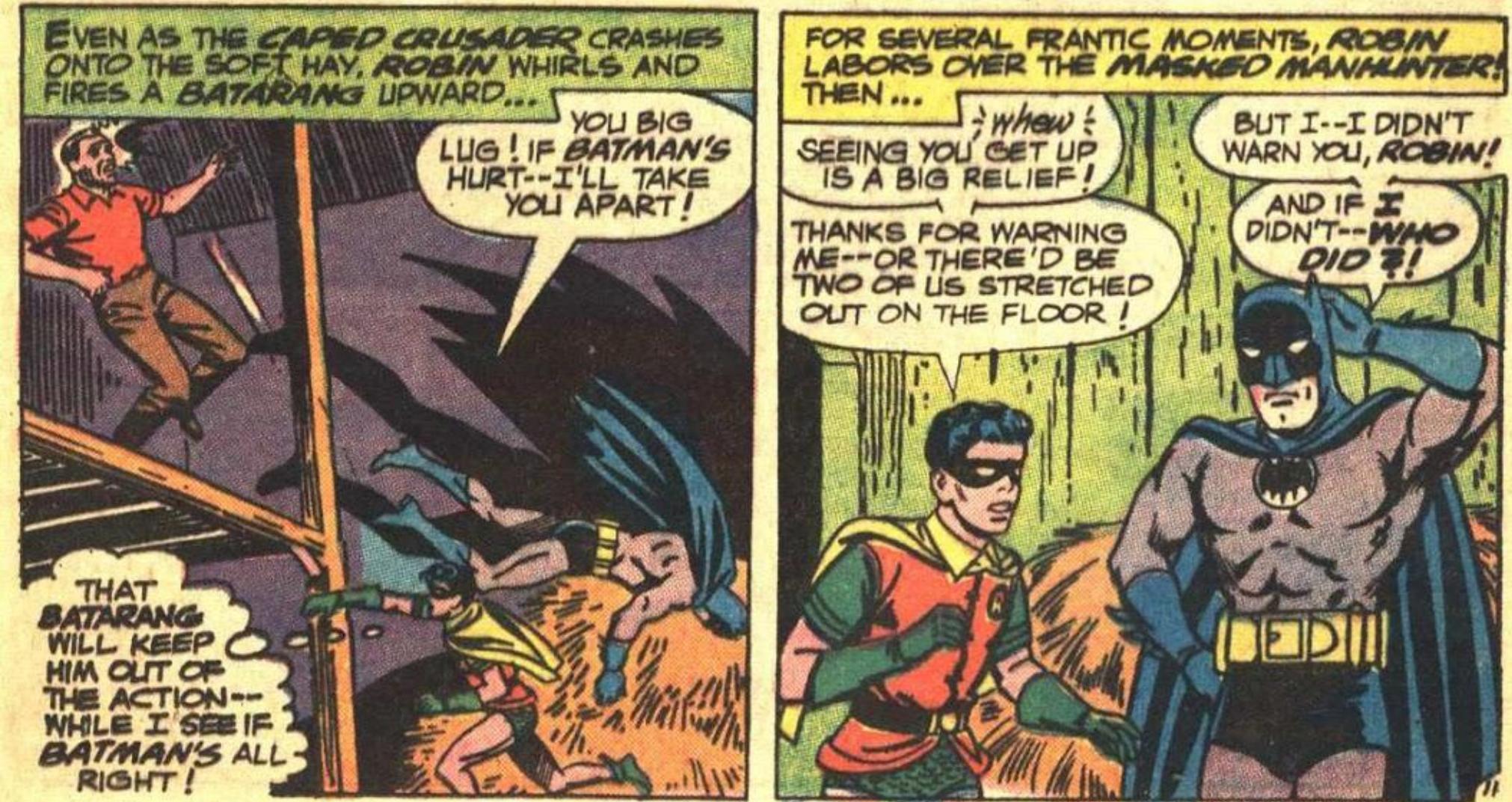
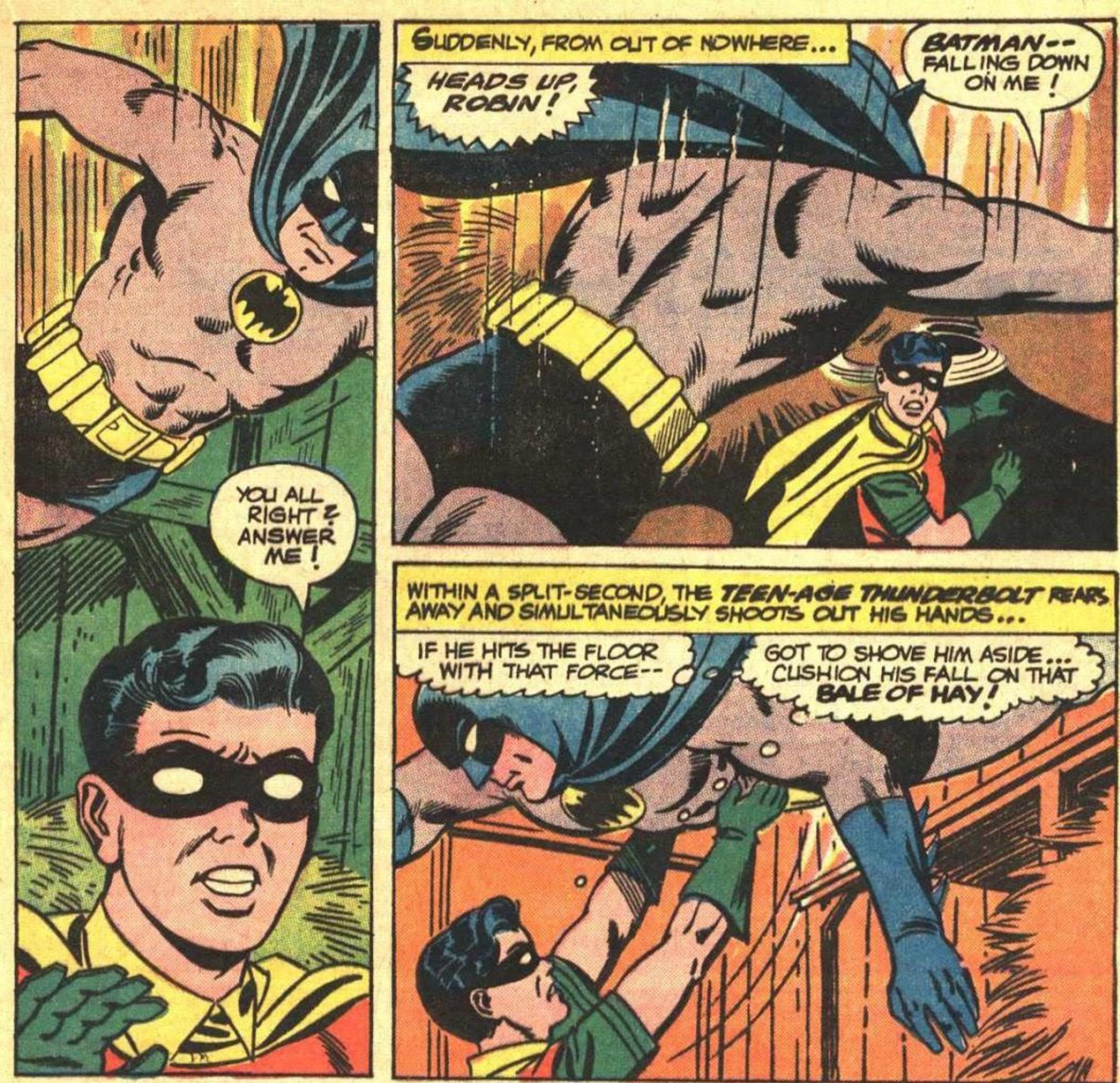
DRIVEN BACKWARD BY THAT AWESOME BLOW,
THE MUSCLEMAN GRIPS A ROPE --YANKS
HARD AND FREES A BIG PULLEY...

NEXT INSTANT THE INERT CRIME-FIGHTER IS LIFTED HIGH IN MIGHTY HANDS ...

BATMAN ! WHERE ARE YOU ?

HOW CONVENIENT ! HERE'S WHERE I GET RID OF
BATMAN AND ROBIN !





IS IT POSSIBLE YOU HEARD A TELEPATHIC VOICE?

BUT HOW COULD ANYONE USE TELEPATHY TO--

IF THE REAL PETRU DUBROV IS INSIDE THE BARN--HE COULD HAVE WARNED YOU WITH HIS EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS!

HE MUST BE BOUND AND GAGGED OTHERWISE HE'D HAVE SHOUTED A WARNING! LET'S CHECK THE CONTENTS OF THAT CRATE!

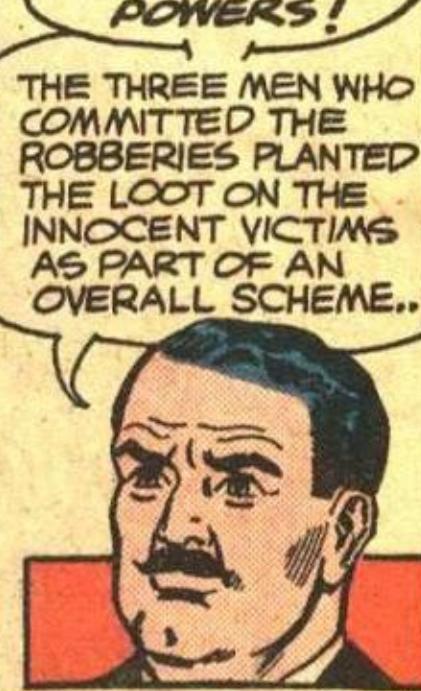
MOMENTS LATER...

YES, ROBIN-- I TELEPATHED THE WARNING INTO YOUR MIND!

WHEN I CAME TO VISIT MY FRIEND AT HIS FARM HERE--HE TURNED ON ME--LEFT ME BOUND AND GAGGED IN THIS CRATE! HE BOASTED HE WAS GOING TO PASS HIMSELF OFF AS ME TO THE POLICE...

BY CHECKING AROUND, HE FOUND SOME EX-CONVICTS WHOM HE COULD BLAME FOR CERTAIN ROBBERIES HIS GANG WOULD COMMIT--MAKING IT SEEM THAT PETRU DUBROV EXPOSED THEM WITH PSYCHIC POWERS!

THE THREE MEN WHO COMMITTED THE ROBBERIES PLANTED THE LOOT ON THE INNOCENT VICTIMS AS PART OF AN OVERALL SCHEME...



HIS PLAN WAS TO INSTILL A BELIEF IN "MY" POWERS-- SO THAT WHEN THE BIG ROBBERY TOOK PLACE--THE HOLDUP OF AN ARMORED CAR CARRYING A MILLION DOLLARS-- HE WOULD LEAD YOU ON A WILD-GOOSE CHASE...

...GIVING HIS GANG TIME TO GET AWAY SCOT-FREE WITH THE STOLEN MILLION!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE THE HOLDUP WAS TO TAKE PLACE!

IT'S TOO LATE NOW TO PREVENT THE HOLD-UP--BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT THEIR GETAWAY ROUTE IS!

BY ESP, eh? LET'S GET GOING!



AND SO-- AT A TOLL BOOTH ON THE GOTHAM TURN-PIKE...

THERE THEY ARE, ROBIN! AFTER THEM...

WE'VE NEVER SEEN THEM UNMASKED! HOW COULD BATMAN KNOW?



TO THE DYNAMIC DUO'S SURPRISE...

WE SURRENDER! WE COULDN'T TAKE ANOTHER FIGHT AGAINST YOU TWO!

SO THAT'S HOW YOU RECOGNIZED THEM.. FROM THE BRUISE MARKS WE INFILTED ON THEIR FACES IN OUR FIRST FIGHT!



LATER, AT THE SCENE OF THE ARMORED CAR ROBBERY-- AFTER THE THREE CROOKS, THE MUSCLEMAN AND THE STOLEN MILLION HAVE BEEN TURNED OVER TO THE POLICE...

COMMISSIONER GORDON, I'M STILL TRYING TO PICK UP A PSYCHIC EMANATION OF THE ARMORED CAR CROOKS...

COME OFF IT, YOU PHONY PSYCHIC! WE'VE ALREADY SOLVED THAT CASE AND ARE WISE TO YOUR MASQUERADE!



YOU KNOW, MR. DUBROV, AT FIRST I WAS SKEPTICAL ABOUT THOSE ESP POWERS--THEN I WAS HALF-INCLINED TO BELIEVE THEM --UNTIL NOW I'M CONVINCED YOU HAVE THEM!

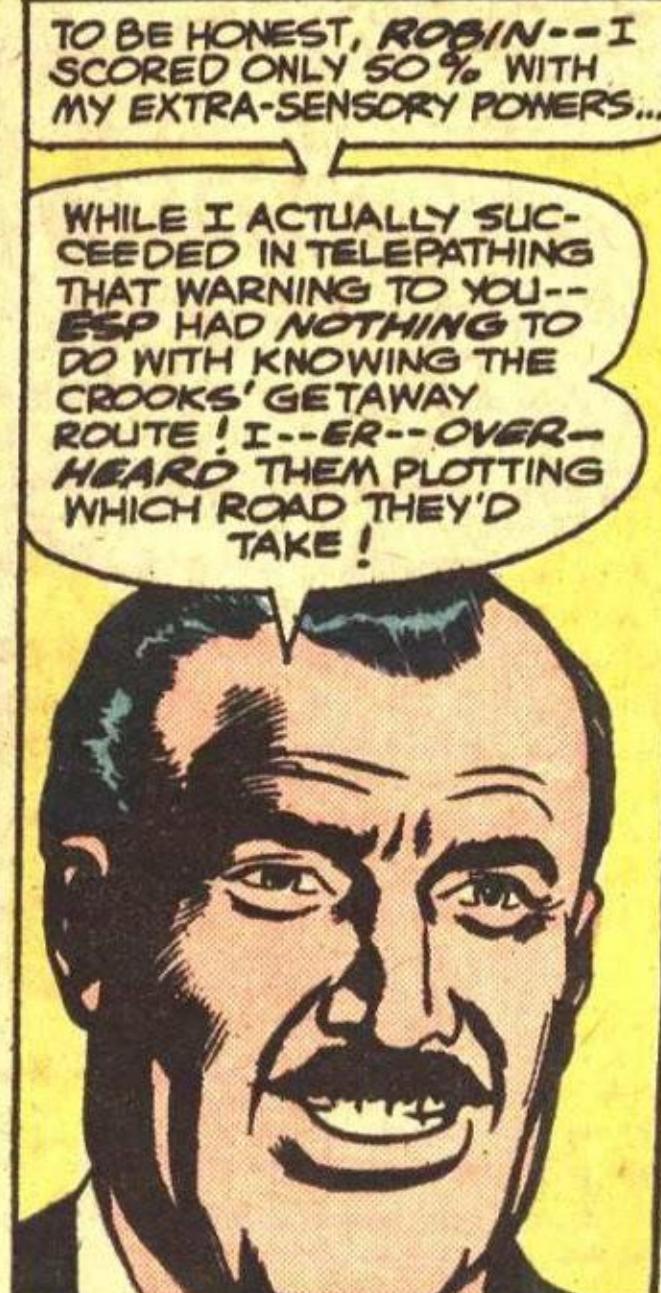
HOW ELSE COULD YOU TELEPATH THAT WARNING TO ME IN THE BARN-- AND KNOW ABOUT THAT GETAWAY ROUTE?

TO BE HONEST, ROBIN--I SCORED ONLY 50% WITH MY EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS...

WHILE I ACTUALLY SUCCEDED IN TELEPATHING THAT WARNING TO YOU--ESP HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH KNOWING THE CROOKS' GETAWAY ROUTE! I--ER--OVER-HEARD THEM PLOTTING WHICH ROAD THEY'D TAKE!

BATMAN AND ROBIN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I WOULD NEVER SET MYSELF UP AGAINST YOU AS DETECTIVES! MY RECORD CAN'T COMPARE TO YOURS!

YOUR RECORD IS 100%--INCLUDING SAVING ME AND CATCHING MY IMPOSTOR!



LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

A few comments on the June *Batman* if I may. To start off with, your cover was excellent, as have been the previous three of the new year. Out of all my *Batman* mags, I don't think you've ever used that shade of green on your *Batman logo* and it really improved the cover.

The thing I liked most about "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman" was the return of Johnny Witts. I think he is easily capable of being used again and again because he really does seem to think ahead of *Batman* at every turn. The thing that always perplexes me is when a crook captures *Batman*, he then fails to take off his cowl or his disguise. I guess they're all too devilish on destroying him to think about that though.

The second story—"Dick Grayson's Secret Guardian"—was absolutely the best *Robin* story to date. We really got to see into Dick Grayson's school life for once and it turned into a dandy of a story. I'm glad you didn't have Dick Grayson play the "sissy" in his social life and it was really neat the way he showed *Toughy* up without even hitting him! I'm going to credit both stories to Gardner Fox because he wrote the other story featuring Johnny Witts back in '65 and because he also wrote other *Robin* "solo" stories.

Finally, it seems you have gotten away from most of the campy stuff in *Batman*, and you can sure tell it from the way *Batman* and *Detective* have improved since the start of this year. All I can say is, thanks!

—Dave Truesdale, Morton, Ill.

(Having *Batman* in the palm of his hands is, as you surmise, more than enough for an excited villain to handle—hence the repeated failure to unmask the *Caped Crusader*. However, there have been several cases where villains have managed to keep their cool and sought to uncover the bare facts behind the prize prisoner's mask—only to draw a blank! Your Foxy guesses as to both stories' authorship are correct.—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

In this, my senior year in high school, I'm taking a lot of interesting classes, and one of the most interesting is *Humanities*, in which I study music and art and painters and such. One of the things I've picked up from this course is an eye for composition, and I've been putting my education to the test of late by looking for this factor in one of my pet art forms, the covers of comic magazines. Praise be, I have found an example of almost perfect composition with the Infantino-Anderson cover of *Batman* 192.

The stage is set for a scholarly discussion of just why this particular cover is so well-composed, but I am a mere student and can't whip off all the terms a true patron of the arts could if he were writing this missive. However, I can guess that it was triangular composition that the old master, Carmine Infantino, used when he created the eerie scene. The eye of the viewer of any painting—or cover—is immediately and naturally drawn to the point just above the center of the work . . . in this case, we find ourselves confronted with the baleful countenance of the *Swami*, as demonish a character as any comic artist's ever placed on paper. The brightly lit stalwartness of *Batman* just beneath him nicely balanced the pull of the *Swami*'s face and almost succeeded in becoming the center of our attention. Despite the shafts

of light streaming from the *Masked Manhunter* (gahh!) . . . tending to give him a saintly effect, in contrast to the *Swami*'s satanic scowl, a purposeful move, I'll bet . . . my attention was always drawn back to that vicious face under the turban . . . truly this is one of the Infantino-Anderson team's better efforts.

Now that I've used up two lengthy paragraphs talking about the cover, I'll move on to the story, "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman." This was no masterpiece, but I imagine it will get the usual amount of praise. Pardon me if I don't join in on the hip-hoorays . . . nowadays it takes more than a "usual" story to get the "usual" amounts of praise from me.

"Dick Grayson's Secret Guardian" was interesting solely because the hoods in the tale were realistic and believable. Too bad the hero wasn't . . . the *man-amplifier* is such a valuable piece of equipment, and as far as I know still experimental, that no father in his right mind would let his son borrow it (unless he didn't know about it, which would have been something new, at least). But the top goon's one-panel reform described by *Robin* on the last page was absolutely cringeworthy . . . especially since the author had so successfully built up his image as a first-rate shnook. But to close on a lighter, more complimentary note, I like the *solo-Robin* series and I pray it comes back soon. But not with the Madison Avenue ghost of teenagedom in mind . . . we aren't all the banal blobs of giggle the men with the money make us out to be. And I'm certain you know that . . . and here's a hope you'll put that knowledge into effect soon!

—Guy Lillian, Walnut Creek, Calif.

(Leave it to our favorite "Guy" to explain to his fellow readers—and us—just what it was about the *Swami* cover that held us spellbound!—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Let me be among the few thousand to compliment you on *Batman* 192.

The first story, "The Crystal Ball that Betrayed Batman," was just a little above average. The best point was the return of Johnny Witts. I like Witts mainly because he has become a master criminal and quite a formidable foe of the *Masked Manhunters* without putting on a stupid awkward costume. (No offense, but sometimes even *Batman* looks more funny than "fear-striking.") But then what should happen in this story? Witts makes his grand entrance in a cape and turban as the *Swami!* Ecch! But at least he managed to stay "one step ahead" in the old Witts fashion. By the way, thanks for those extra touches, like having *Batman* miss with the first boot (no man is perfect) and the new twist ending.

I was sorry to see that Witts did not get a full-length until I saw that this issue had a *Robin* solo. It was good to see Dick Grayson in there fighting, especially since the fighters were all teens.

Just out of curiosity, have you planned anything spectacular for the upcoming issue 200?

—Billy Neville, Raleigh, North Carolina

(You can bet your bottom 12 cents we have! But you'll have to stick around long enough to find out just what!—Editor)

* * * * *

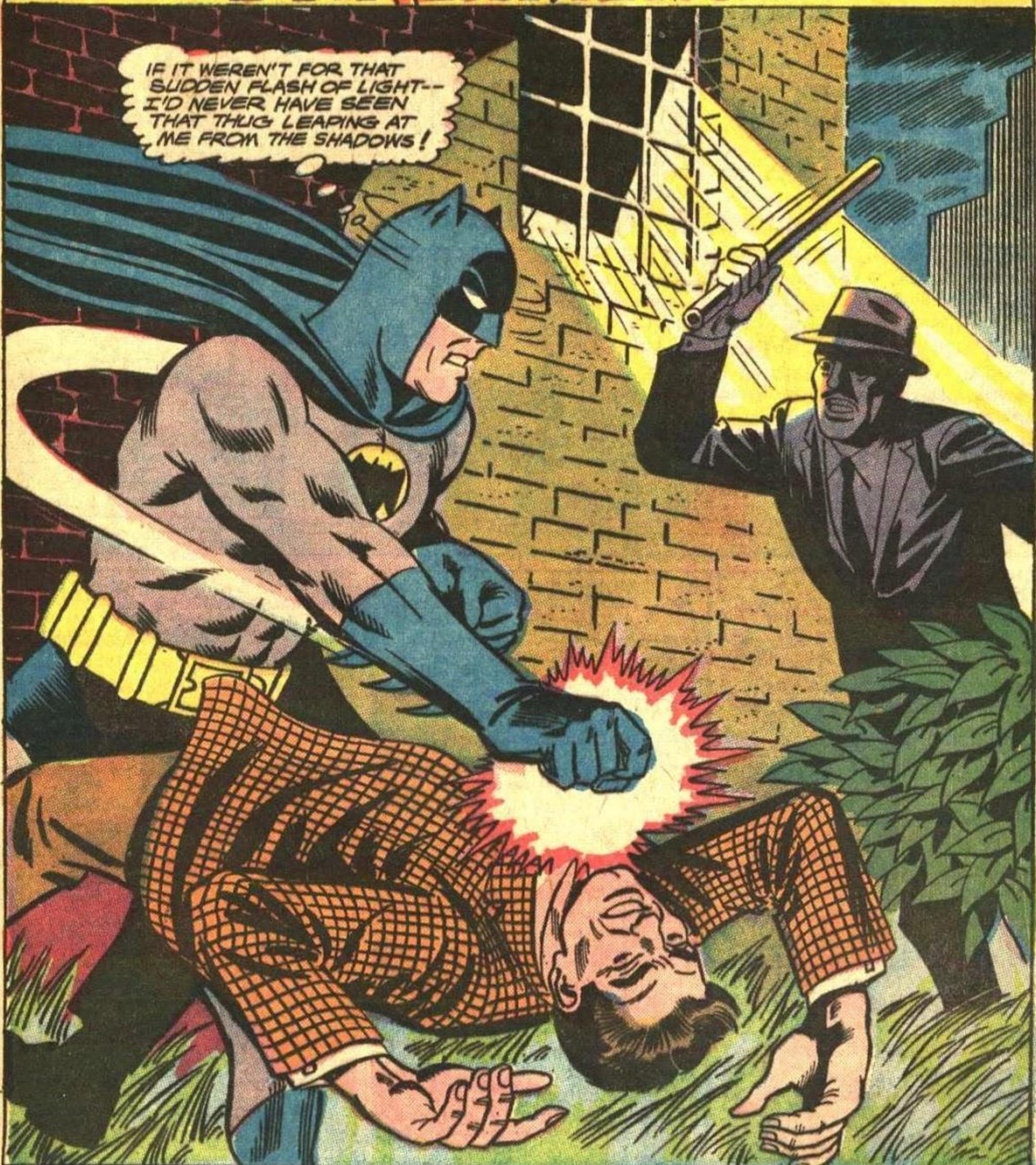
Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

A BLAZE OF
BRILLIANCE
IN THE
NIGHT-TIME
DARKNESS
HERALDS THE
OCCURRENCE
OF A
STARTLING
CRIME! FRAMED
IN ITS RADIANCE,
FATE HAS
SPOT-LIGHTED
THE CAPE
CRUSADER.
AS IF DESTINY
ITSELF WERE
HIGHLIGHTING
HIS SWITCH
FROM A CASE
OF BANK
ROBBERY TO...

BATMAN

The PURLOINED PARCHMENT PUZZLE

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT
SUDDEN FLASH OF LIGHT--
I'D NEVER HAVE SEEN
THAT THUG LEAPING AT
ME FROM THE SHADOWS!



AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON QUESTIONS A WITNESS AT A PRE-TRIAL HEARING IN A GOTHAM CITY COURT-HOUSE...

JAMES FROST,
STATE YOUR OCCUPATION!

I AM A GUARD AT THE CLIFFORD MARLOWE PRIVATE MUSEUM-

"ON THE NIGHT OF MARCH 21ST LAST, I WAS STATIONED WITH HOWARD PURLEY, ANOTHER GUARD, BEFORE THE LOCKED DOORS OF THE MUSEUM'S ANTIQUITIES ROOM..."

SURE THE DOOR'S LOCKED, HOWIE?

I AM--AND ONLY DONALD CONNERY AND I HAVE A KEY TO IT! SO RELAX!

"INSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM, CONNERY--A NOTED HISTORIAN AND AUTHORITY ON PAST CIVILIZATIONS--WAS CAREFULLY EXAMINING A RARE PARCHMENT FIND..."

AMAZING! THIS ANCIENT ROMAN PARCHMENT IS THE FINO OF THE CENTURY!

BUT EVEN MORE AMAZING IS ITS REMARKABLE STATE OF PRESERVATION! IT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE YESTERDAY FOR ALL THE WEAR IT SHOWS! I MUST FIND OUT WHAT CHEMICAL IT WAS TREATED WITH, TO MAKE IT LAST IN SUCH EXCELLENT CONDITION ALL THESE YEARS!

"AT TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE, HAL WENT DOWN THE HALL FOR A CUP OF WATER..."

BE
RIGHT
BACK,
JIM!

BRING ME BACK
A CUP, HOWIE!

"IT WAS THEN THAT I HEARD A LOUD THUMP--LIKE THAT OF A FALLING BODY--INSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM AND..."

CONNERY?
YOU ALL
RIGHT?
ANSWER ME!

HOWIE!
GET BACK
HERE!
HURRY
UP!
SOMETHING'S
HAPPENED!

BANG GLOOM!

GET TURNED ON
TO A REAL
OUTASITE
HAPPENING--

TEEN BEAT

The ONLY 12¢
NOW-MAG
in FULL COLOR--

INSIDE ^{with} FAX
ON ALL YOUR
FAVES!

Make
the
Scene--
SEPT. 5th

"WHEN PURLEY OPENED THE DOOR AND WE BURST IN..."

HE'S HURT--MAYBE DEAD!
WHERE'S THE RARE
PARCHMENT HE WAS
WORKING ON?

IT'S
GONE!
I'D
BETTER
CALL
THE
POLICE!

AFTER HOWARD PURLEY HAS CONFIRMED
THE TESTIMONY OF JAMES FROST, POLICE
LIEUTENANT BERT SAVELLI IS SWORN IN..

DID YOU VISIT THE
MARLOWE MUSEUM
ON THE EVENING
OF MARCH 21 ST
LAST?

I DID--AT MIDNIGHT!
AS SOON AS OUR
PATROL CAR PICKED
UP THE NEWS OF THE
ROBBERY FROM
HEADQUARTERS
ON OUR RADIO!



GOOD GOSH! DON'T TELL ME
YOU'VE CAUGHT THE
MUSEUM ROBBERS
SO SOON, BATMAN!

THESE ARE BANK ROBBERS, LIEUTENANT! I
THOUGHT YOU WERE HERE TO TAKE THEM
OFF MY HANDS SO I COULD CONTINUE
WITH MY NIGHTLY PATROL!

"JUST AS
I WAS
GETTING
OUT OF
THE CAR,
BATMAN
ARRIVED
WITH FOUR
PRISONERS..."



"I SURE
WAS GLAD
TO SEE
THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
DETECTIVE!
AFTER SUM-
MONING
ANOTHER
SQUAD CAR
TO TAKE
IN THE
BANK
ROBBERS.."

DID EITHER OF
YOU MEN
TOUCH ANY-
THING HERE?

NO, SIR--EXCEPT THE TELE-
PHONE TO CALL THE POLICE!



THE WINDOW IS BURGLAR-PROOF!
BESIDES, IF ANYONE HAD
ENTERED AND LEFT BY
THAT WINDOW, HE COULDN'T
HAVE PULLED DOWN THE
SHADE BEHIND HIM! THE
DOOR WAS LOCKED--
AND THERE ARE NO MARKS
OF VIOLENCE ON CONNERY...

ARE YOU THINK-
ING WHAT I AM--
THAT CONNERY
RIGGED ALL THIS
TO STEAL THE
PARCHMENT FOR
HIMSELF? BY
HIDING IT FIRST...
THEN KNOCKING
HIMSELF OUT, AS
AN ALIBI?

DID YOU
TEST THE
COFFEE
IN THE
CARAFE,
LIEUTENANT?

YES, SIR--WITH BATMAN--
USING SPECIAL EQUIP-
MENT FROM HIS BAT-
MOBILE--AND FOUND
THAT THE COFFEE
CONTAINED KNOCK-
OUT DROPS!



DID YOU MAKE A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM FOR THE MISSING PARCHMENT?

I DID--BUT DIDN'T FIND IT! BECAUSE HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO PRESUMABLY COULD HAVE DISPOSED OF THE PARCHMENT, CONNERY WAS CHARGED WITH THE THEFT...

NOW IT IS THE TURN OF THE CAPE CRUSADER TO TAKE THE STAND...

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THIS CASE, BATMAN?

AT ELEVEN-THIRTY THAT NIGHT I WAS ON PATROL ALONG BANKER'S ROW WHEN...

"I SPOTTED THREE MEN DASH OUT OF THE GOTHAM MERCANTILE BANK AND HOP INTO A MOVING CAR..."

NO TIME TO INTERCEPT THEM! I'LL HAVE TO GIVE CHASE...

"THE PURSUIT WAS LONG AND TRICKY-- BUT I FINALLY FORCED THEM INTO A ROAD BEHIND THE CLIFFORD MARLOWE MUSEUM..."

JOURNEY'S END, BOYS! WILL YOU GO QUIETLY-- OR BLACK AND BLUE?

"SO YOU SEE, I WAS OUTSIDE THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM FIGHTING BANK ROBBERS..."

OKAY! SOME BLACK AND BLUE MARKS COMING RIGHT UP!

Oooof! BATMAN HAS TO GIVE OUT WITH COLORFUL CRACKS YET!

I'LL GET YOU
WHEN YOU'RE
OFF BALANCE!

THE SECRET OF FIGHTING
MORE THAN ONE MAN AT
ONCE-- IS NEVER TO BE
CAUGHT OFF BALANCE!



"I CONTINUED MY ROLL-OVER AND LANDED ON MY FEET-- JUST AS A FLASH OF LIGHT SHOT OUT FROM A MUSEUM WINDOW..."

THE LAST CROOK--
LEAPING AT ME
OUT OF THE
SHADOWS--! . . .



"I CAST A QUICK GLANCE UPWARD INTO THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM EVEN AS I TENSED TO HANDLE THE FINAL BANK ROBBER..."

"I DUCKED-- WHIRLED-- AND GRABBED MY ATTACKER, APPLYING A VARIATION OF THE SEDI OTOSHI JUDO THROW-- THE KNEELING SHOULDER TOSS ..."



AS THE LAST BANDIT WENT DOWN, I HEARD AN APPROACHING POLICE CAR SIREN, AND WENT TO MEET LT. SAVELLI! IT WAS IN THIS MANNER THAT I WAS DRAWN FROM ONE CASE TO ANOTHER ...



WHEN YOU SAY "THE REAL THIEF"... ARE YOU INDICATING THE MAN BEING TRIED FOR THE CRIME-- DONALD CONNERY?

NO, SIR!

IF IT WASN'T CONNERY--WHO DID IT?

I WONDER IF BATMAN KNOWS THE GUILTY PARTY?

ORDER! ORDER IN THE COURT! I DECLARE A RECESS FOR LUNCH! COURT WILL RECONVENE AT TWO O'CLOCK!

AFTER LUNCH, IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE COURT-ROOM...

GREAT WORK, BATMAN! DID YOU REALLY FIND THE PARCHMENT IN THE ROLL OF THE WINDOWSHADE? WHO--?

HOLD IT, FROST! WE'LL HEAR THE REST OF BATMAN'S TESTIMONY IN COURT!



WHEN THE HEARING IS RESUMED...

YOU TESTIFIED WHERE THE PARCHMENT WAS HIDDEN, BATMAN! WHAT PROOF CAN YOU OFFER?

THE MISSING PARCHMENT! BECAUSE IT IS SO SUPPLE, DUE TO THE CHEMICAL USED TO TREAT IT SO LONG AGO, IT FITTED EASILY AROUND THE ROLLER OF THE WINDOW SHADE!

AS AN EXPERT IN CRIMINOLOGY, CAN YOU TELL THIS COURT HOW THE CRIME WAS COMMITTED-- AND BY WHOM?

I BELIEVE SO...



"AS THAT LIGHT FLASHED OUT OF THE MUSEUM WINDOW, I AUTOMATICALLY GLANCED INTO IT! MY PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY ENABLED ME, LATER, TO REALIZE THAT THE HANDS OF THE WALL CLOCK DID NOT SHOW TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE -- BUT TEN O'CLOCK!..."

MOMENTS LATER, WHEN I ENTERED THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM WITH LT. SAVELLI, THE CLOCK HANDS WERE PAST TWELVE O'CLOCK! IT WAS CLEAR THEN THAT SOMEONE MUST HAVE RESET THE CLOCK TO THE CORRECT TIME IN BETWEEN THE FLASH OF LIGHT I SAW AND WHEN I ENTERED THE MUSEUM! CONNERY COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT! THE TESTIMONY REVEALS HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS!



"TO ACCOUNT FOR ALL THE FACTS, I FINALLY MANAGED TO RECONSTRUCT THE CRIME AS FOLLOWS: AT TEN O'CLOCK, HISTORIAN DONALD CONNERY TOOK A DRINK OF COFFEE AS WAS HIS KNOWN CUSTOM..."



"AS THE KNOCK-OUT DROPS TOOK IMMEDIATE EFFECT, HE TUMBLED SIDEWAYS AGAINST THE WALL. HIS HAND, REACHING OUT TO SUPPORT HIMSELF, CAUGHT HOLD OF THE ELECTRIC CLOCK CORD, PULLING THE PLUG FROM ITS SOCKET..."



"ALL THE TIME FROM TEN UNTIL TEN MINUTES TO TWELVE, CONNERY LAY UNCONSCIOUS, WHICH MR. X KNEW. BUT HE HAD TO BE ALONE TO DO WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE, SO HE WAITED UNTIL HOWARD PURLEY WENT DOWN THE HALL BEFORE HE OPENED THE DOOR..."

BECAUSE I HANDLE THE MUSEUM KEYS QUITE OFTEN, IT WAS EASY FOR ME TO FASHION A DUPLICATE KEY TO THE ANTIQUITIES ROOM-- AND BIDE MY TIME UNTIL THE MUSEUM ACQUIRED SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY TO STEAL...

"IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF SECONDS FOR MR. X TO RUN INTO THE ROOM--SNATCH UP THE PARCHMENT AND..."

OHHH! CONNERY YANKED THE CORD OUT OF THE WALL CLOCK, STOPPING IT AT TEN! I'VE GOT TO FIX THAT--AFTER HIDING THIS PARCHMENT!

"UNAWARE THAT I WAS OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, MR. X DREW ASIDE THE WINDOWSHADE AND MANEUVERED THE PARCHMENT AROUND THE ROLLER..."



"THEN HE REMOVED THE CLOCK-CORD FROM CONNERY'S HAND AND AFTER RE-SETTING THE CLOCK, PLUGGED IT IN..."

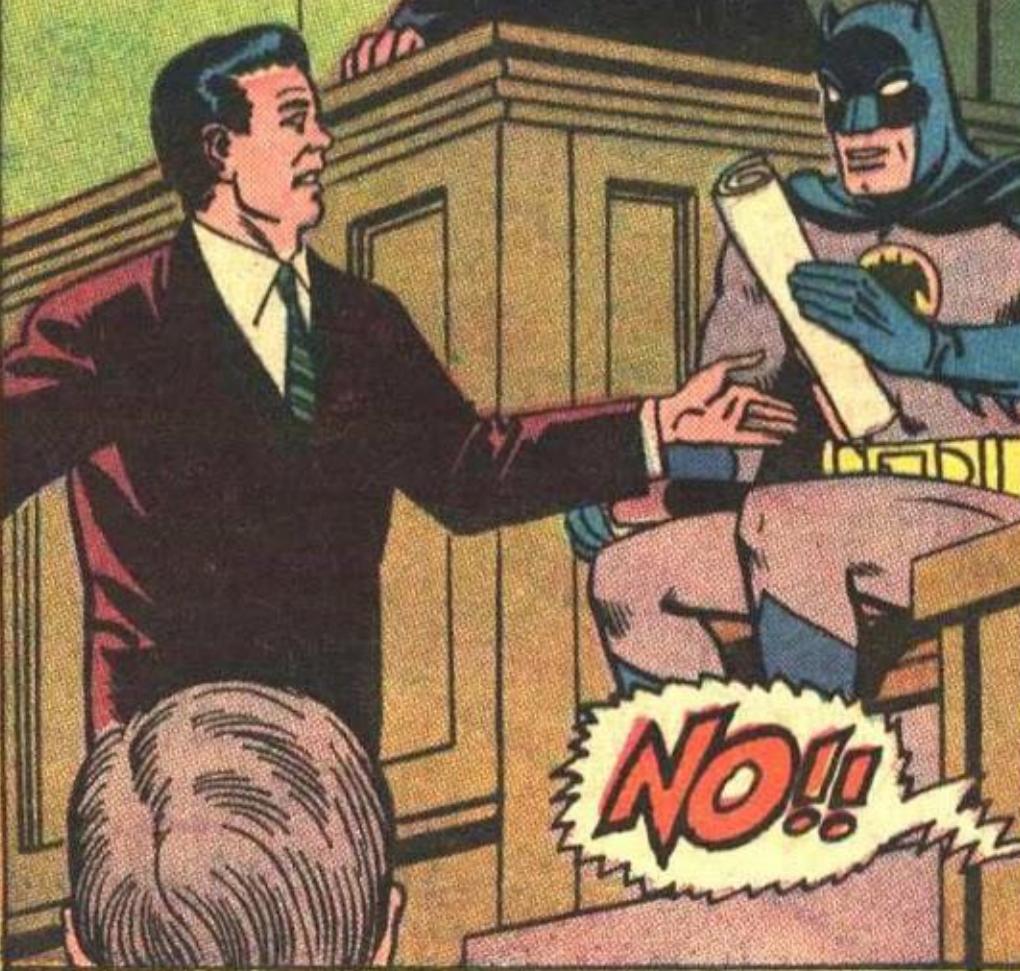
NOW TO GET OUTSIDE AND RE-LOCK THE DOOR! MY ALIBI'S ALL SET-- AND SO IS CONNERY'S GUILT!



AS BATMAN CONCLUDES HIS THEORETICAL CASE...

NON, BATMAN-- ARE YOU READY TO POINT OUT THE GUILTY MAN-- MR. X?

AN EXAMINATION OF THIS PARCHMENT FOR THE CRIMINAL'S FINGERPRINTS WILL REVEAL--



SCREAMING IN MINGLED FURY AND FRUSTRATION, GUARD JAMES FROST HURLS A TINY GAS-BOMB ON THE COURTROOM FLOOR...

SMART AS YOU ARE, BATMAN-- YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME! I FIGURED WITH YOU IN ON THIS CASE, I'D HAVE TROUBLE-- SO I CAME PREPARED!

THIS SLEEP-GAS WILL KNOCK OUT EVERYBODY IN THE COURTROOM BUT ME!



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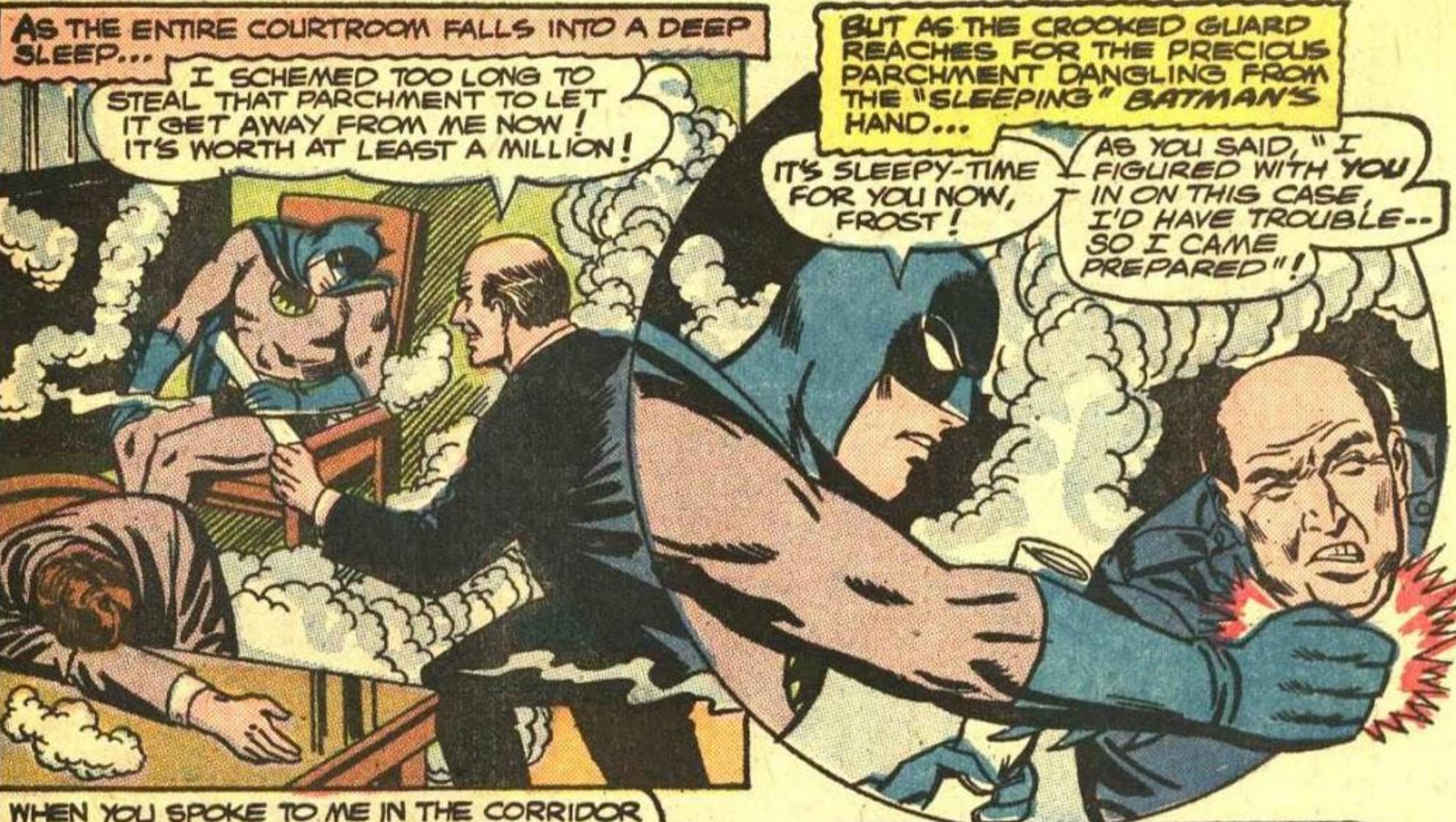
AS THE ENTIRE COURTROOM FALLS INTO A DEEP SLEEP...

I SCHEMED TOO LONG TO STEAL THAT PARCHMENT TO LET IT GET AWAY FROM ME NOW! IT'S WORTH AT LEAST A MILLION!

BUT AS THE CROOKED GUARD REACHES FOR THE PRECIOUS PARCHMENT DANGLING FROM THE "SLEEPING" BATMAN'S HAND...

IT'S SLEEPY-TIME FOR YOU NOW, FROST!

AS YOU SAID, "I FIGURED WITH YOU IN ON THIS CASE, I'D HAVE TROUBLE-- SO I CAME PREPARED!"



WHEN YOU SPOKE TO ME IN THE CORRIDOR DURING RECESS --TRYING TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH I KNEW-- YOUR VOICE TONES WERE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR VOICE THIS MORNING WHEN YOU TESTIFIED!

THEY WERE DEEPER-- MORE NASAL!

IT MEANT YOU HAD INSERTED FILTERS IN YOUR NOSTRILS-- AS I WELL KNOW FROM THE TIMES I HAD DONE THE SAME THING!

YOU'D NEED FILTERS ONLY IF YOU INTENDED TO USE SOME GAS TO MAKE AN ESCAPE AFTER BEING EXPOSED AS THE THIEF! SO I SLIPPED FILTERS OUT OF MY UTILITY BELT AND INSERTED THEM IN MY OWN NOSE!



LATER, WHEN JIM FROST HAS BEEN LEAD AWAY, RE-PORTERS FLOCK ABOUT THE MASKED MAN-HUNTER...

BUT, BATMAN-- IF YOU SAY THAT THE SWEAT, BODY DIRT AND GREASE OF FROST'S FINGERPRINTS COULDN'T SHOW ON THE PARCHMENT-- BECAUSE OF THE SPECIAL CHEMICAL POWDER CONNERY HAD BRUSHED ONTO IT--

WHY DID FROST PANIC?

I KNEW THAT-- BUT FROST DIDN'T!



Hmm...
DID YOU
STOP TO
THINK
FROST
MIGHT
HAVE
WORN
GLOVES?

THAT WAS THE ONE
THING THAT BOthered
ME! BUT FROM
FROST'S REACTION
TO MY TESTIMONY,
HE DIDN'T BOther
TO! HE FIGURED
WHATEVER PRINTS
OF HIS WERE
FOUND IN THE
ROOM WOULD BE
THERE BECAUSE
OF HIS NORMAL
DUTIES!

ALL ALONG I WAS
CONFIDENT FROST
WAS GUILTY BUT I
COULDN'T PROVE IT!
SO WITH THE CO-
OPERATION OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
THE POLICE COM-
MISSIONER AND
COURT, WE ARRANGED
THIS PRE-TRIAL... IN THE
HOPE FROST WOULD
GIVE HIMSELF AWAY!

STILL LATER, IN THE BATCAVE...

AND SO YOU SEE
ONCE AGAIN, ROBIN--
THAT NO MATTER
HOW CAREFULLY A
CRIMINAL PLOTS
THE "PERFECT
CRIME"-- THERE
IS NO SUCH THING!
THE WORLD WE
LIVE IN IS TOO
COMPLEX FOR
HIM TO THINK
OF EVERY
CONTINGENCY
THAT MAY ARISE!

RIGHT!
THAT'S
THE BIG
ADVANTAGE
WE HAVE
OVER LAW-
BREAKERS!
THEY
MUST
MAKE A
MISTAKE--
AND ALL
WE HAVE
TO DO IS
FIND IT!

HE DID-- AND
THEREBY
CLEARED
DONALD
CONNERY!

The End

MARKED for DEATH

Bruce Wayne
Clark Kent
Perry White
Alfred

...and other friends of
BATMAN and
SUPERMAN!
They're all on...
"The EXECUTIONER'S
LIST!"

WARNING... DO NOT REVEAL
THE SHOCK ENDING
OF THIS STORY
TO YOUR FRIENDS!

WORLD'S FINEST

DC

MON.
NO. 171
12.

I MUST DESTROY
THIS LIST BEFORE
BATMAN CAN
DECIPHER IT IN
HIS BATCAVE!

PLEASE DON'T TELL
YOUR FRIENDS
THE SECRET OF...
*THE
EXECUTIONER'S
LIST*

STARRING:
BATMAN

BY THE
CREATORS
OF THE
BAT

12c

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE EXTRA

Dear Editor:

This will be one of the most thought-provoking letters you have ever received. As it deals with an important subject that applies to all your mags, I hope you will print it so that all your fans can see what I have to say. (I'm not just trying to get a letter printed; I think the contents of my letter are *important!*)

There are two things that I want to comment on: 1. Villains' prison sentences, and 2: why your heroes never age. Right, hold tight, here we go!

First, how is time measured in your mags? Has *Batman* and *Robin* been going for about 28 years or so, or is it only about 7 as a reader suggested in a fan page? However, this raises a snag. How could all his adventures have been crowded into about 7 years? Note this fact: If Batman is only *supposed* to have been going about 7 years (one-fourth of what he's been *actually* going) that means that one magazine month is equivalent to only about a week for your characters. Now, each month *Batman* has two adventures in *Batman* and one in *Detective*. He also has one adventure in *World's Finest* and one in *Justice League of America*. That's five adventures per month of *actual time*. In the comics, a month is only a week. How's he manage five adventures a week? He must be a poor, tired *Caped Crusader*! And how can *Robin* manage it with his schooling?

Now let's say that the *Dynamic Duo* is supposed to have *really* been going for 28 years. Why haven't they aged? I have a solution, but it's a bit unrealistic. You could say that since it's only *fiction* we can suppose that people, instead of living to about 70 or 80 actually live to about 300 or so! Since people live about 4 times as long, they also only age 4 times as *slowly*! This would seem to be a solution even if not a very good one. However, this too has a snag. *Robin* has been at school for 28 years. Wait, perhaps we could say that people only learn one-fourth as fast, yet even if you say that *Batman*'s supposed to have been going for only 7 years, there are some heroes that you can't say that about: *Blackhawks*, for instance, they were going during the war, and they're still going today. Why haven't they aged any? Boy, is this getting complicated!

Now let's consider the villains' prison sentences. A villain battles a hero, is defeated and sent to prison. Then he's back again before he could have possibly served his sentence. The thing is, how long is it for robbery first time? Let's say it's about 5 years. That means to let him serve his sentence and not escape you'd have to leave him out of the action for 5 years. Now 5 years is only if you take a month of actual time as being a month for your characters (which means *Batman* has been going for 28 years). However, I suppose you could use the other alternative in which a month is a week. In that case a villain sentenced to 5 years would have to be kept out of the mag for 20 years! And that would be only if he was a first offender. Fourth offenders get life, don't they? There are an awful number of DC villains that should be locked up for keeps! The greatest offender in this respect is the *Joker*. He must have been sentenced to life a long time ago. Yet he keeps returning to battle *Batman*. Which ever time you use, the month equals month or month equals week, the villains aren't in for long enough.

Of course it would be absurd for you to keep the villains out of your mags for years and years. You've got to use them. So, let's see if we can come up with an excuse. We could say that they just keep escaping. However, with so many of them filling the prisons, maybe the authorities would have a bit of a job keeping them all in. You know, I think that's perhaps a good excuse. Another excuse is that the underworld keeps springing them, knowing that they'll be rewarded for doing so. Or perhaps there's some force for evil, just a spirit or something that keeps springing the men who uphold evil. No, I think we'd better just say that the villains keep escaping somehow.

All very complicated, hey? That's about it! I'll just repeat that I'm not doing this to try and get in print, but I would like to see it printed, because I think it would be of great interest to the fans. And I'd hate to think I'd struggled through all this for nothing. Anyway, I'd like to see what my fellow fans have to say as regards the points I have raised.

One final thought. About your heroes aging. You've got to do as you do, otherwise you'd just have to pack in all your heroes, or have them chasing villains in wheel chairs. That and the point about the villains' sentences are just things you're forced to overlook, and that's that.

Incidentally, despite the points I've raised, they don't prevent me from enjoying your great mags.

Paul Broughton, Beeston, Motts, England.

(This must surely rate as one of the most thought-provoking letters we've ever been privileged to receive! While we expect our readers to offer their own prize comments, we'd like to horn in with our own to the effect that in a comic magazine world of "unreality" time itself must of necessity be "unreal"!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I would like to start out by saying I'm a fan of *Batman* comics as well as the *Batman-TV* series. Although now I don't enjoy the TV series like I always did, I make up for it by reading all the *Batman* comics I can lay my hands on. When I spotted the first letter in February *Batman* in the *Letters to the Batcave—Extra*, I had to respond and give my opposing view to Gary Collin's so-called opinion of the "New Look."

Before Batman came on TV I read all the issues of the mag, questioning myself whether or not they were worth the reading time. I slacked off from *Batman* comics until the TV series appeared. After that, I was praying that all the mags would change to the "New Look." Finally, my prayers were answered, and I enjoyed reading *Batman* more than any mag. Now I'm keeping a tab on all the new issues, and all I can say is—Success! Now my short reading time is made enjoyable by *Batman* comics, making up for the skipping of the TV series.

Now, as for Gary Collins—maybe the producers are making fun of *Batman*, but my buddies in my outfit agree that the *Caped Crusader* is more a crime-fighter than he ever was, made possible by this "New Look!"

Our helmets are off to *Batman*!

PFC. William Alwine, Saigon, Vietnam

Address communications to LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

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