



GIANT BAT-MAN ANNUAL

80 PAGES

ISSUE
No. 6

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APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
C.C.
AUTHORITY

Detective
COMICS

Match wits with BAT-MAN and ROBIN
as they set out to solve
"The MURDER at
MYSTERY CASTLE!"

BATMAN!
LOOK OUT! THE
KILLER'S HIDING IN
THAT SUIT OF ARMOR!

A STAR-
STUDDED
Collection

8

BATMAN
and ROBIN'S
MOST THRILLING
MYSTERY
CASES!

Detective
COMICS

BATMAN and ROBIN
in the case of
"DOOM in
DINOSAUR HALL!"

LOOK OUT,
ROBIN! SOMEBODY
HAS SET THESE
ROBOT-CONTROLLED
MONSTERS INTO
ACTION!

BAT-MAN

BAFFLING ADVENTURES

BAT-MAN

Including
these
popular
**COVER
STORIES**!

"The
MYSTERY
of the SKY
MUSEUM!"

ROBIN--
BEING CARRIED
AWAY BY THAT
BALLOON! AND
I'M TOO LATE
TO STOP IT!

HOLD TIGHT,
ROBIN! HERE
I COME!

Featuring
A STORY OF
SUSPENSE--
"The MAP of
MYSTERY!"



GIANT BATMAN ANNUAL

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BATMAN
and ROBIN'S
Most THRILLING
MYSTERY
CASES !

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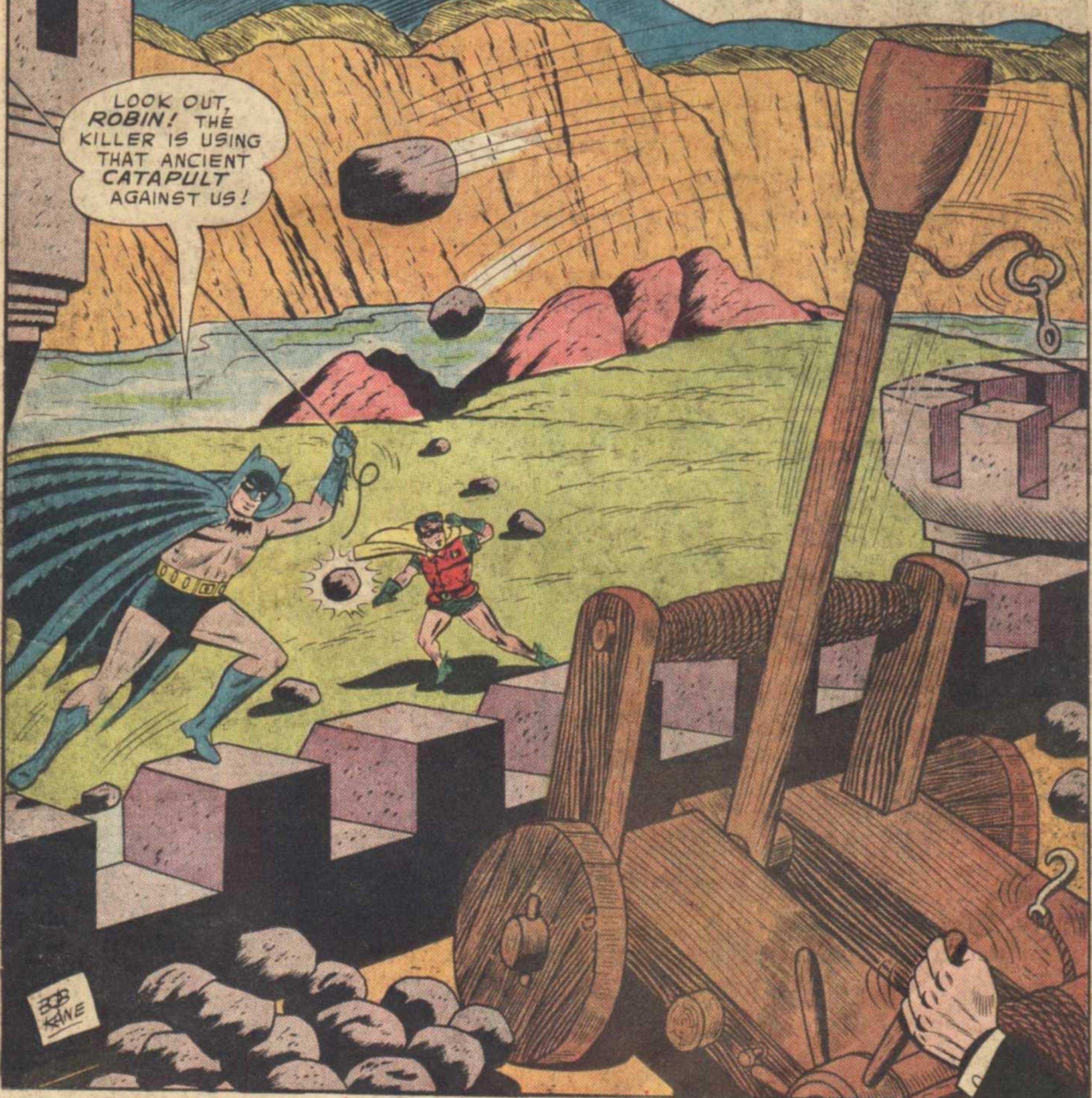
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

FROM OUT OF THE PAST COMES THE STRANGE HOME OF A MODERN MILLIONAIRE... A MEDIEVAL ROBBER BARON'S CASTLE BROUGHT TO AMERICA AND, FROM THE PAST, ALSO COMES THE ANCIENT WEAPON THAT STRIKES DOWN A VICTIM INSIDE THOSE GRIM WALLS! BUT WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEK THE KILLER, THEY THEMSELVES COME FACE TO FACE WITH...

MURDER AT MYSTERY CASTLE

LOOK OUT,
ROBIN! THE
KILLER IS USING
THAT ANCIENT
CATAPULT
AGAINST US!



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BATMAN ANNUAL



ON AN ISLAND UPRIVER FROM GOTHAM CITY, LOOMS A GRIM CITADEL...



THE GUESTS OF ITS MILLIONAIRE OWNER ARE AWE-STRICKEN BY HIS STRANGE HOME...

YES, JAMES BARHAM HAD THIS EUROPEAN CASTLE TAKEN DOWN, STONE BY STONE, AND ERECTED IT HERE!

HE EVEN INCLUDED THE ANCIENT WEAPONS USED TO DEFEND IT... LIKE THAT BATTERING-RAM AND CATAPULTS UP ON THE WALLS!

INSIDE, RELICS OF OLD LOOK DOWN ON THE BEGINNING OF A FATEFUL PARTY...

GLAD YOU CAME, SONDERS... YOU'VE ALREADY MET ROBERT CRAY, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BARHAM GUN COMPANY, AND MY COUSIN, ADAM BARHAM!

YES! THIS CASTLE IS OVERWHELMING, MR. BARHAM... I'D LIKE TO SEE ALL OF IT!



AS A FASCINATING TOUR BEGINS...

BEING A GUN MANUFACTURER, I BECAME INTERESTED IN WEAPONS THAT WERE USED BEFORE GUNS -- LIKE THE HALBERDS, ARBALESTS AND BATTLE-AXES, WHICH YOU SEE HERE, IN MY STUDY!

EXCUSE ME, SIR... MR. JOHN GORLEY HAS JUST ARRIVED!

AHHH... I DIDN'T EXPECT AN INVITATION TO YOUR FAMOUS CASTLE, BARHAM!

I INVITED YOU HERE TO EXPOSE YOU, GORLEY-- FOR THE CROOK AND SWINDLER THAT YOU ARE!



WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I PAID YOUR COMPANY THE FULL AMOUNT INVOLVED IN OUR DEAL!

YOU'RE LYING! I'M CHARGING YOU WITH FRAUD! CALL THE SHERIFF RIGHT NOW, CRAY!

Y-YES, SIR...





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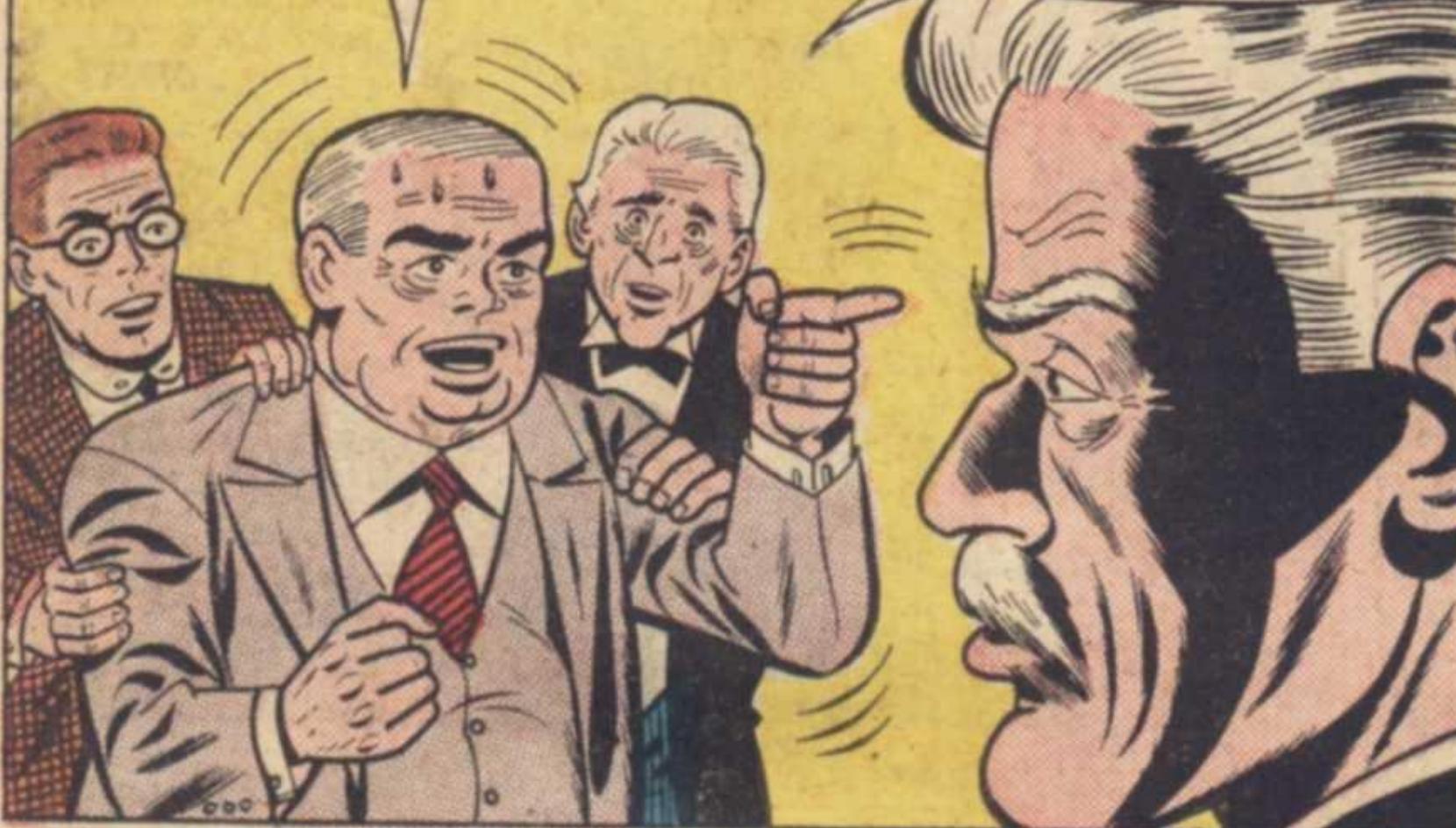


YOU'VE LIVED SO LONG IN THIS CRAZY CASTLE, YOU THINK YOU'RE A MEDIEVAL TYRANT! BUT TYRANTS DIDN'T LIVE LONG, BARHAM!

NOW, MR. GORLEY, I'M SURE IT CAN ALL BE SMOOTHED OUT... COME ALONG...

MOMENTS LATER, AT THE RADIO-PHONE INSTALLATION THAT LINKS THE ISLAND CASTLE TO SHORE...

YES, SHERIFF, MR. BARHAM WANTS YOU TO COME OUT HERE AND-- WAIT! WHAT'S THAT SOUND?



MR. BARHAM! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM?

HE'S BEEN MURDERED-- SHOT BY A STEEL BOLT FROM THAT MEDIEVAL CROSSBOW! BUT I DIDN'T DO IT-- I HEARD THE SOUND AND CAME RUNNING IN!

SOON, A PERPLEXED SHERIFF ARRIVES TO FACE A STRANGE MYSTERY...

MR. GORLEY DID THREATEN BARHAM-- YET ANYONE MIGHT HAVE SLIPPED BACK IN HERE WHILE I WAS TELEPHONING YOU!

IT'S TOO MUCH FOR ME... I'M GOING TO CALL IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON OF GOTHAM CITY!



THE CALL GOES OUT-- AND, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN THE HOME OF WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

THE BAT-SIGNAL, BRUCE... SOMETHING'S HAPPENED!

WE'D BETTER CHANGE TO BATMAN AND ROBIN FAST, AND FIND OUT WHY THE COMMISSIONER WANTS US!

AND WHEN THEY DO FIND OUT, THE TWO MOVE SWIFTLY...

WOW! I'VE SEEN BARHAM'S CASTLE FROM A DISTANCE, BATMAN-- BUT FROM THIS CLOSE, IT'S STUNNING!

THERE'S SHERIFF MARTIN WAITING ON THE BOAT-LANDING FOR US, ROBIN!





BATMAN ANNUAL



UPON REACHING SHORE...

NOBODY HAS LEFT THE ISLAND SINCE THE MURDER, BATMAN... THE KILLER MUST STILL BE HERE!

WE'D BETTER HURRY, BEFORE HE HAS A CHANCE TO TAMPER WITH THE EVIDENCE!

SUDDENLY...
LOOK OUT, SHERIFF!

WHY-- SOMEONE UP ON THE BATTLEMENTS IS USING AN ANCIENT CATAPULT!



AS THE MIGHTY WAR-MACHINE OF OLD RAINS DEADLY MISSILES...

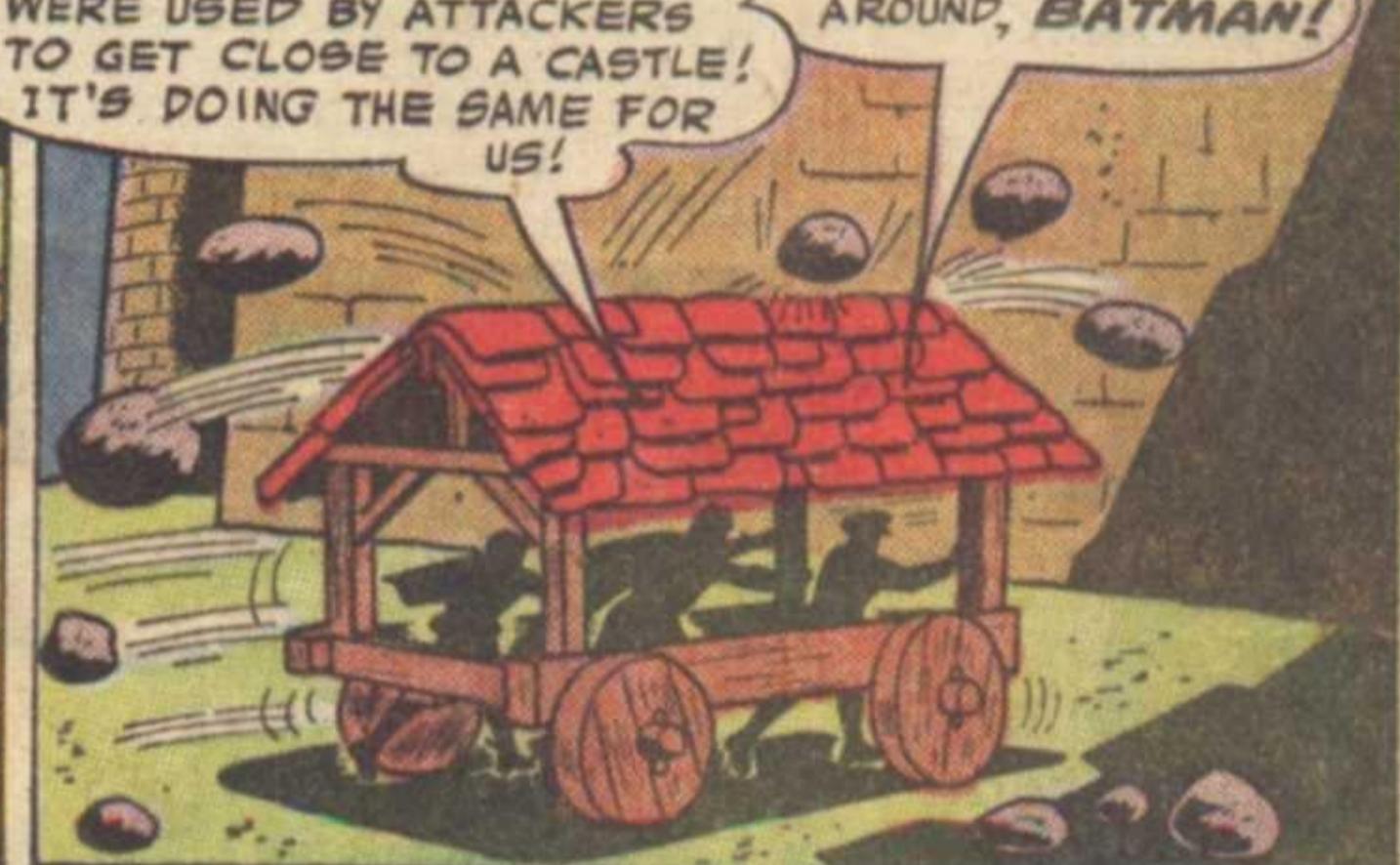
HE'S BOUND TO HIT US BEFORE WE GET TO THE CASTLE!

QUICK, INTO THAT MANTELET!

SECONDS LATER...

THESE WOODEN "TANKS" WERE USED BY ATTACKERS TO GET CLOSE TO A CASTLE! IT'S DOING THE SAME FOR US!

THE MURDERER SURE DOESN'T WANT YOU AROUND, BATMAN!



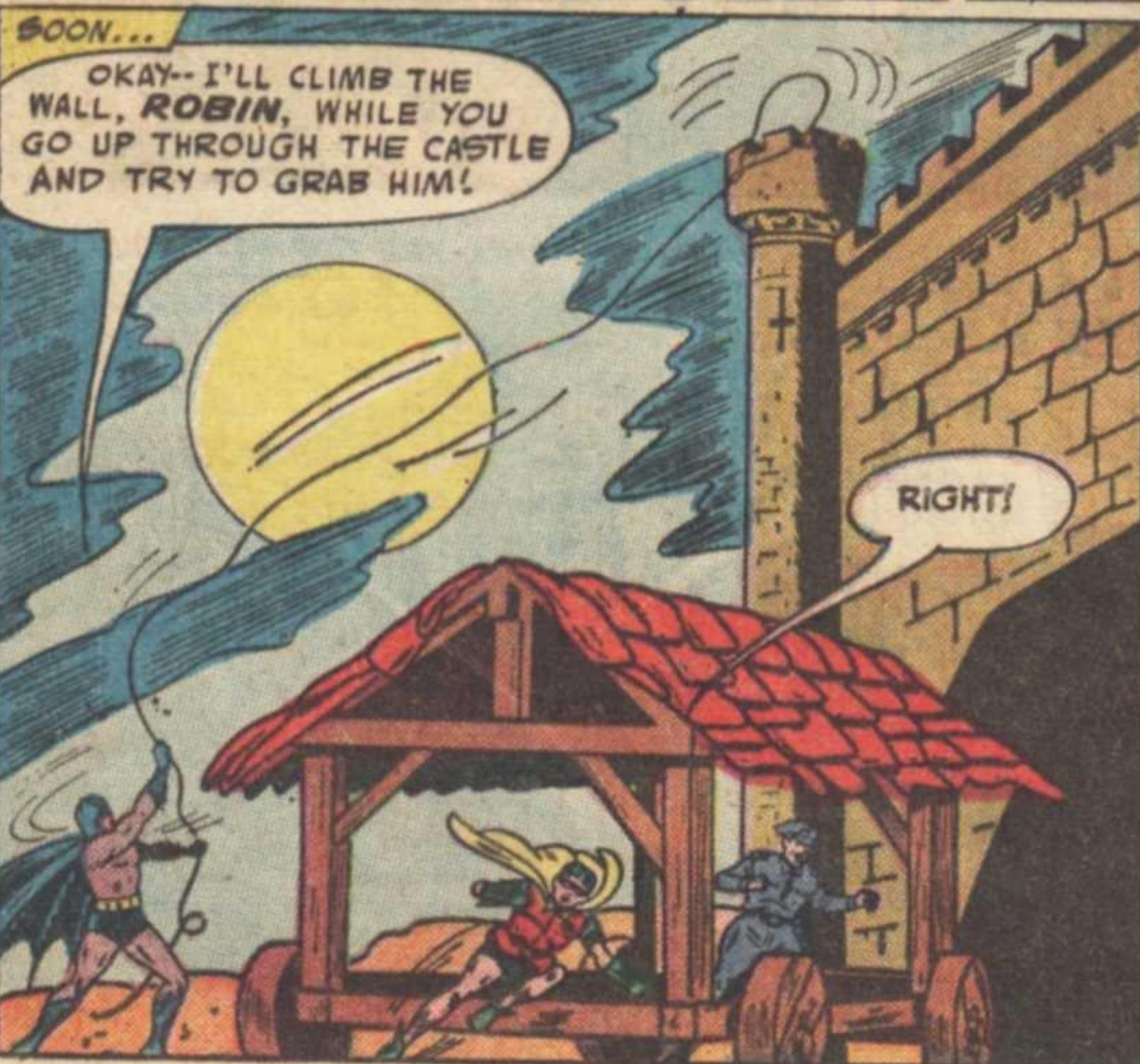
SOON...

OKAY-- I'LL CLIMB THE WALL, ROBIN, WHILE YOU GO UP THROUGH THE CASTLE AND TRY TO GRAB HIM!

RIGHT!

BUT AS BATMAN STARTS CLIMBING...

CAN'T HIT HIM BY DROPPING STONES-- HE SWINGS ASIDE! I'D BETTER GET BACK DOWN TO THE OTHERS, FAST!





BATMAN ANNUAL



THUS, BY THE TIME BATMAN REACHES THE TOP...

WHY--THERE'S NO ONE HERE... AND WE DIDN'T MEET ANYONE ON THE WAY UP! HOW DID HE GET AWAY SO FAST?

THERE MUST BE ANOTHER WAY DOWN FROM THE ROOF!



YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN... HERE'S A TRAP-DOOR AND LADDER SHAFT!

HMM... THAT PROVES SOMETHING! WE'D BETTER GO DOWN AND QUESTION THOSE SUSPECTS!



AWHILE LATER, IN THE STUDY...

I'M AFRAID NONE OF US HAS ALIBIS FOR WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW... WE WERE ALL IN OUR OWN ROOMS!

SOMEBODY WASN'T! BUT I'LL GET BACK TO THAT LATER... RIGHT NOW, I WANT TO LOOK AT THE MURDER WEAPON!

THE CROSSBOW WAS KEPT ON THIS TABLE! THE KILLER MUST HAVE GRABBED IT AND FIRED IT, THEN DROPPED IT THERE AS HE RAN OUT!

FUNNY... WHAT'S THAT WATER-STAIN DOING ON THE TABLE WHERE THE CROSSBOW WAS KEPT?



QUITE A GADGET! THIS CRANK PULLS THE STRING BACK, AGAINST TREMENDOUS TENSION, AND A TRIGGER-LATCH HOLDS IT UNTIL THE BOLT IS IN PLACE AND THE BOWMAN READY TO SHOOT!

GOSH-- I NEVER REALIZED THOSE OLD WEAPONS WERE SO POWERFUL!

ONLY YOU FOUR WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE STUDY TO HAVE SLIPPED BACK AND COMMITTED THE MURDER-- SO ONE OF YOU **MUST** BE THE KILLER!

BUT I WAS TALKING TO THE SHERIFF, ON THE TELEPHONE, AT THE EXACT MOMENT IT HAPPENED!





BATMAN ANNUAL



THAT'S RIGHT, BATMAN--
I EVEN HEARD THE TWANG
OF THE BOW, WHILE CRAY
TALKED TO ME!

BAH! WE'RE WASTING
TIME! GORLEY IS THE
ONE WHO THREATENED
JAMES BARHAM... HE'S
OBVIOUSLY YOUR MAN!

NO! IT WAS A MERE
THREAT BECAUSE I WAS
ANGRY! I'D PAID BARHAM'S
COMPANY THE MONEY I OWED
IT, AND HE CLAIMED I DIDN'T!
CRAY CAN CHECK THAT IN THE
COMPANY RECORDS!

YOU SAY THIS WAS THE
FIRST TIME EITHER
YOU OR SONDERS
VISITED THE CASTLE?

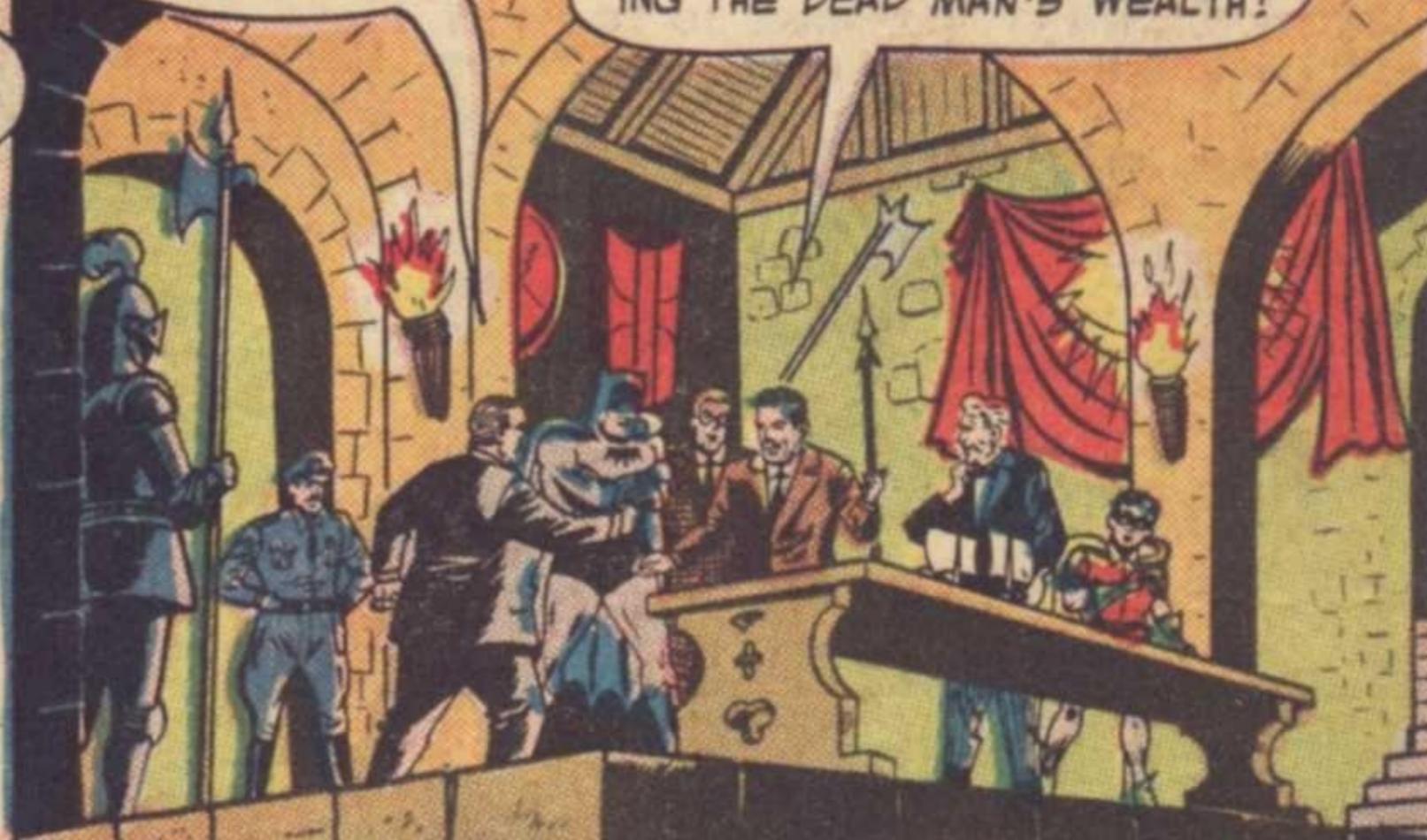


YES-- I WAS BUYING
10,000 RIFLES FOR
MY SPORTING-GOODS
STORES FROM THE
BARHAM COMPANY,
AND CAME OUT TO
CLOSE THE DEAL!

FINE, MR. SONDERS...
BUT I NEVER FOR-
GET A FACE IN
MY CRIME-FILE,
AND YOURS IS
THE FACE OF
VANCE SONDERSON,
FORMER RACKETEER!

HAH! IF THIS
MAN HAS A RECORD,
HE'S THE LIKELIEST
SUSPECT!

NO, I'M GOING STRAIGHT NOW-- AND
I HAD NO **MOTIVE**! YOU DID,
GORLEY, AND SO DID ADAM
BARHAM, WHO'LL BE INHERIT-
ING THE DEAD MAN'S WEALTH!



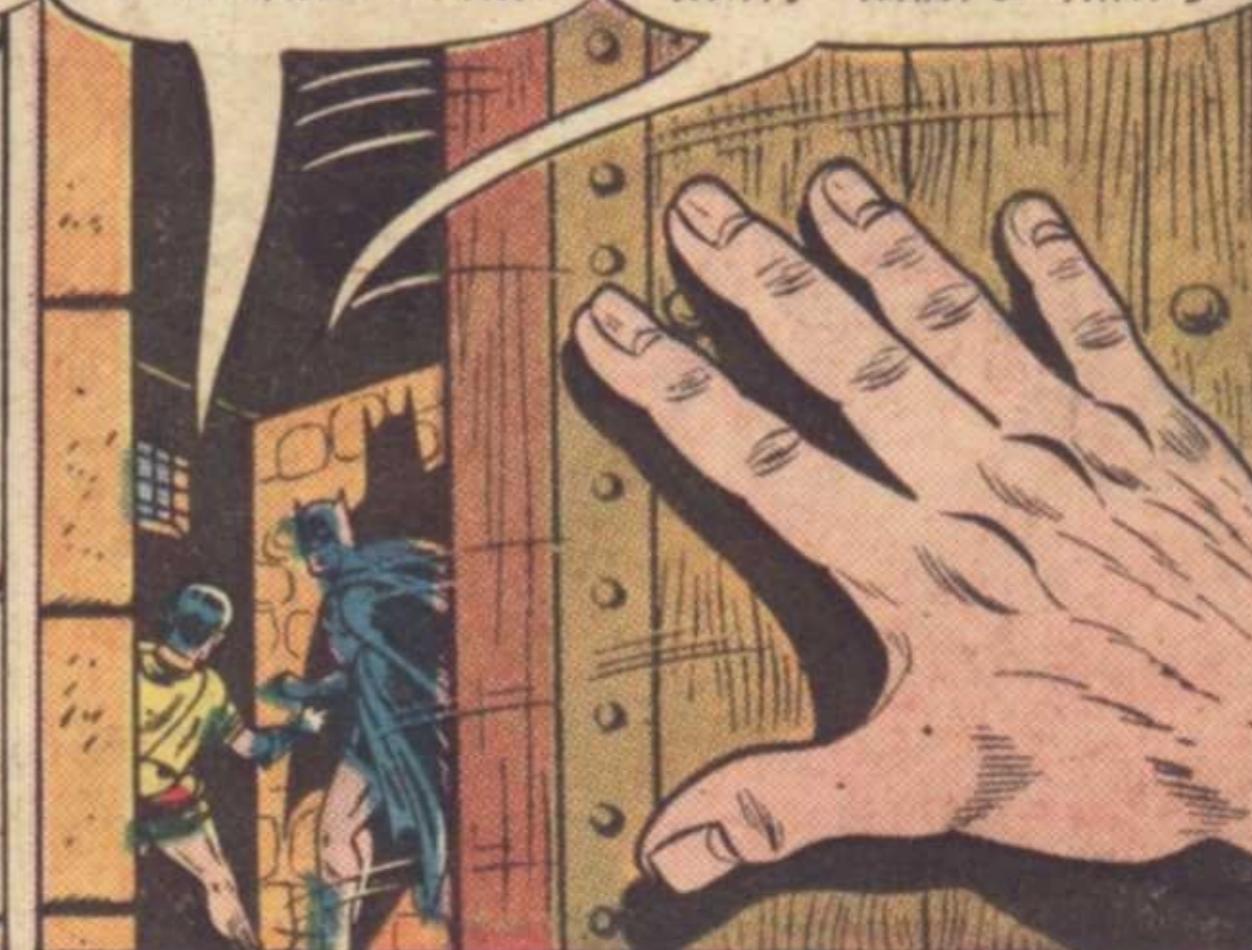
I WOULDN'T HAVE DREAMED
OF KILLING COUSIN JAMES!
IN MY OPINION, AN **UNKNOWN**
PERSON SNEAKED IN AND DID
IT! THIS OLD CASTLE IS FULL
OF SECRET PASSAGES,
DUNGEONS AND HIDING-
PLACES!

THAT'S A POSSIBILITY!
ROBIN AND I CAN SEARCH
THE DUNGEONS, SHERIFF,
IF YOU'LL CHECK THE
UPPER FLOORS!

AND AS THE SEARCH GETS UNDER WAY...

BR-R-R... THESE
DEEP CELLS ARE
COLD AND DANK!

NOBODY'S HIDING HERE,
SO WE'LL GO ON UP TO...
WAIT! WHAT'S THAT?



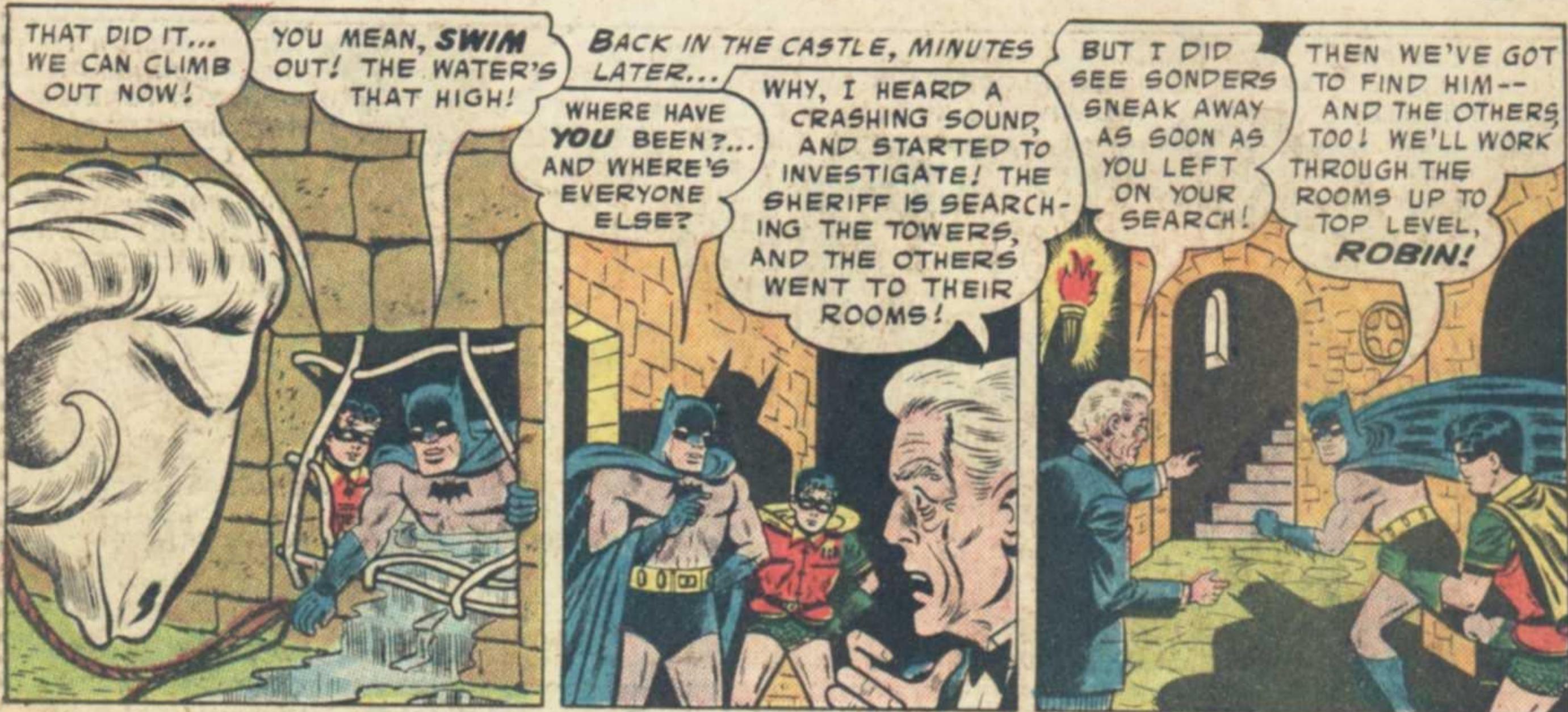


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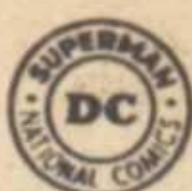


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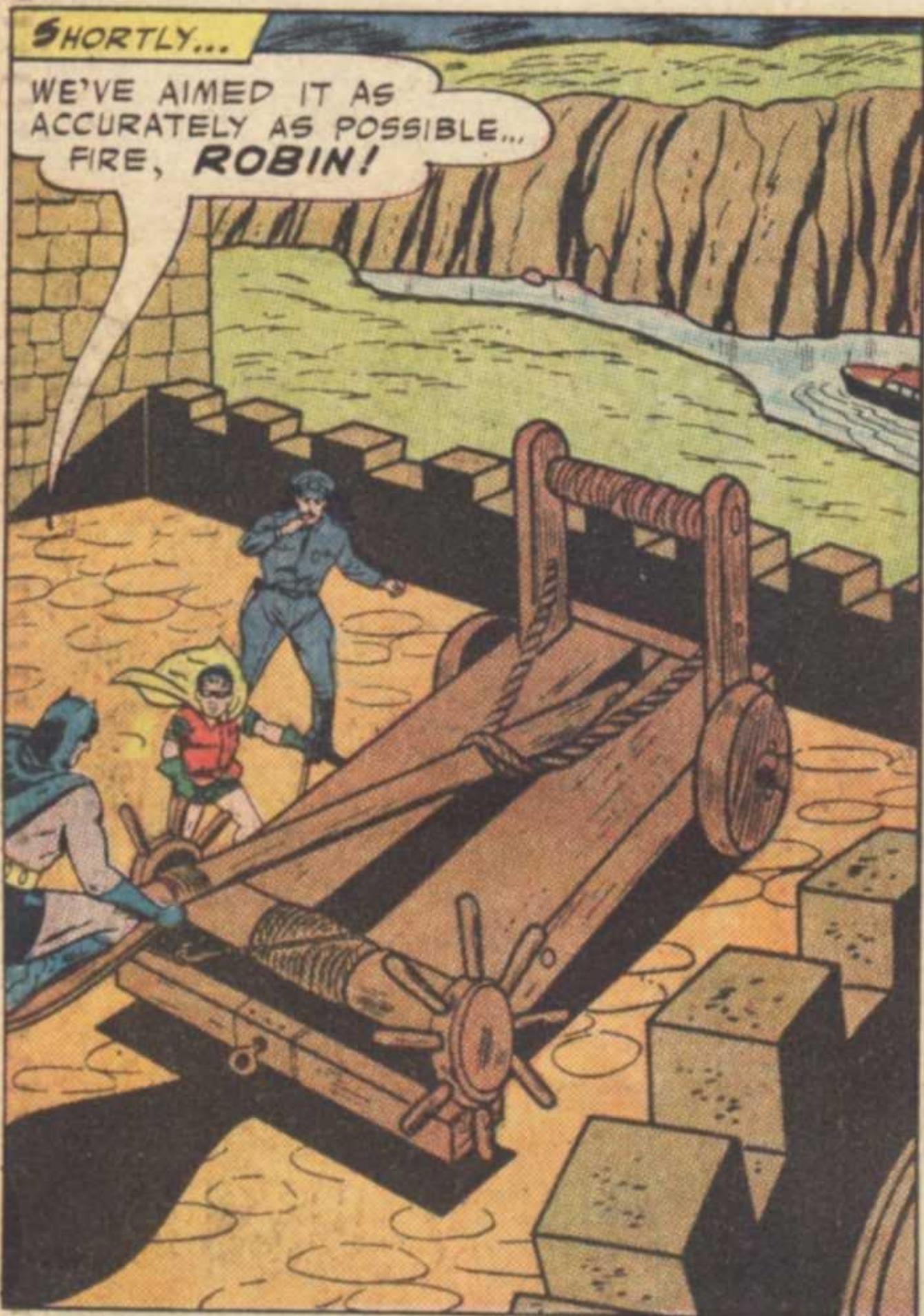


BATMAN ANNUAL



SHORTLY...

WE'VE AIMED IT AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE... FIRE, ROBIN!



AS THE MIGHTY MECHANISM HURLS BATMAN ALOFT...

GOT TO KEEP MY BODY STRAIGHT, OR I'LL CURVE OFF THE RIGHT COURSE...



HUH...? BATMAN... DROPPING FROM THE SKY!



WE'RE GOING BACK TO THE ISLAND, SONDERS!

I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD, BUT I DIDN'T KILL JAMES BARHAM!

BACK AT THE CASTLE...

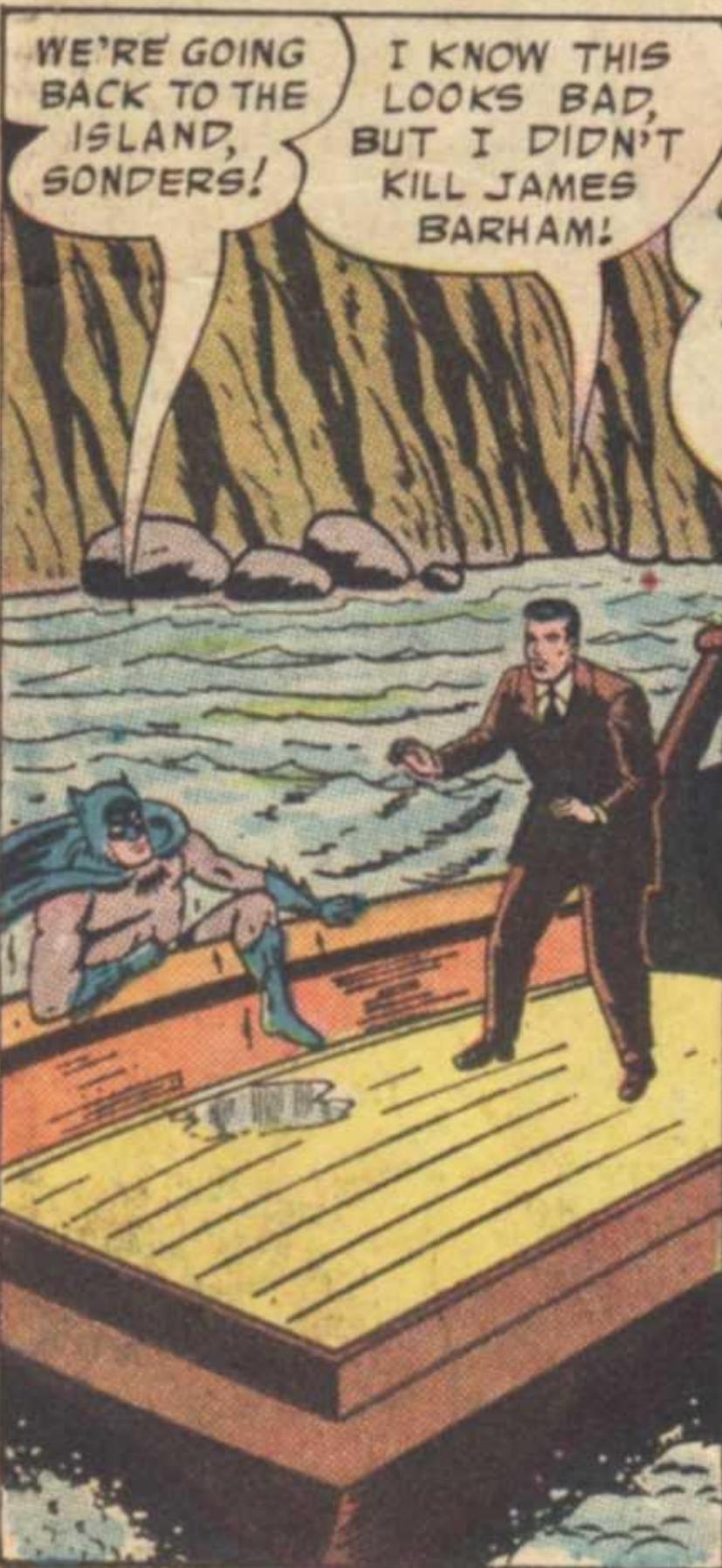
I WAS PLANNING TO SMUGGLE THE GUNS I BOUGHT FROM BARHAM'S COMPANY OUT OF THE COUNTRY! I RAN OFF BECAUSE I FEARED YOU'D FIND THAT OUT!

MAYBE BARHAM FOUND OUT YOU WERE A GUN-SMUGGLER... MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOU HAD TO MURDER HIM!

AND INSIDE...

I WANT YOU TO KEEP ALL THOSE UNDER SUSPICION IN THE MAIN HALL, WHILE I INVESTIGATE FURTHER, SHERIFF!

RIGHT, BATMAN-- THEY WON'T GET AWAY FROM ME TO PLAY MORE TRICKS!





BATMAN ANNUAL



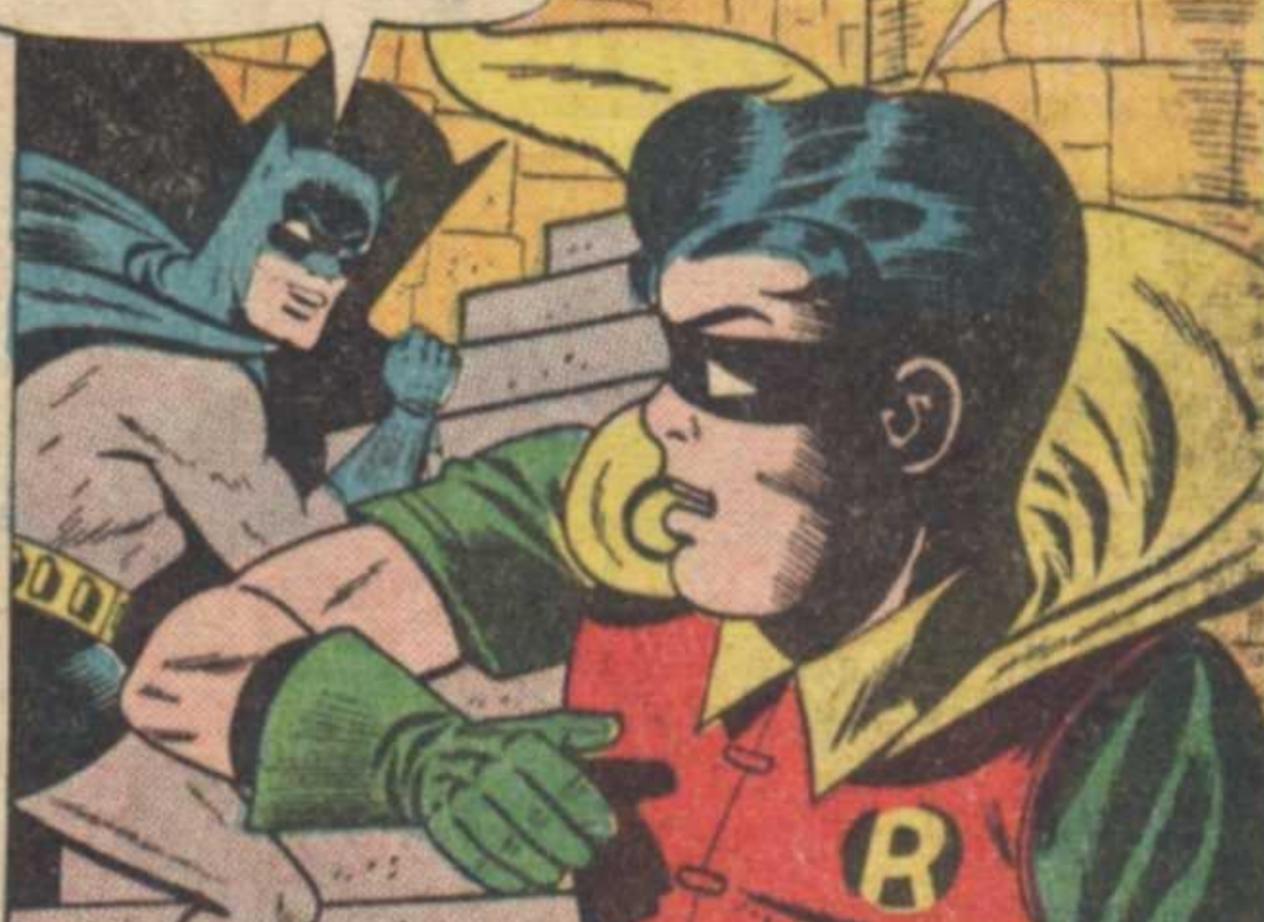
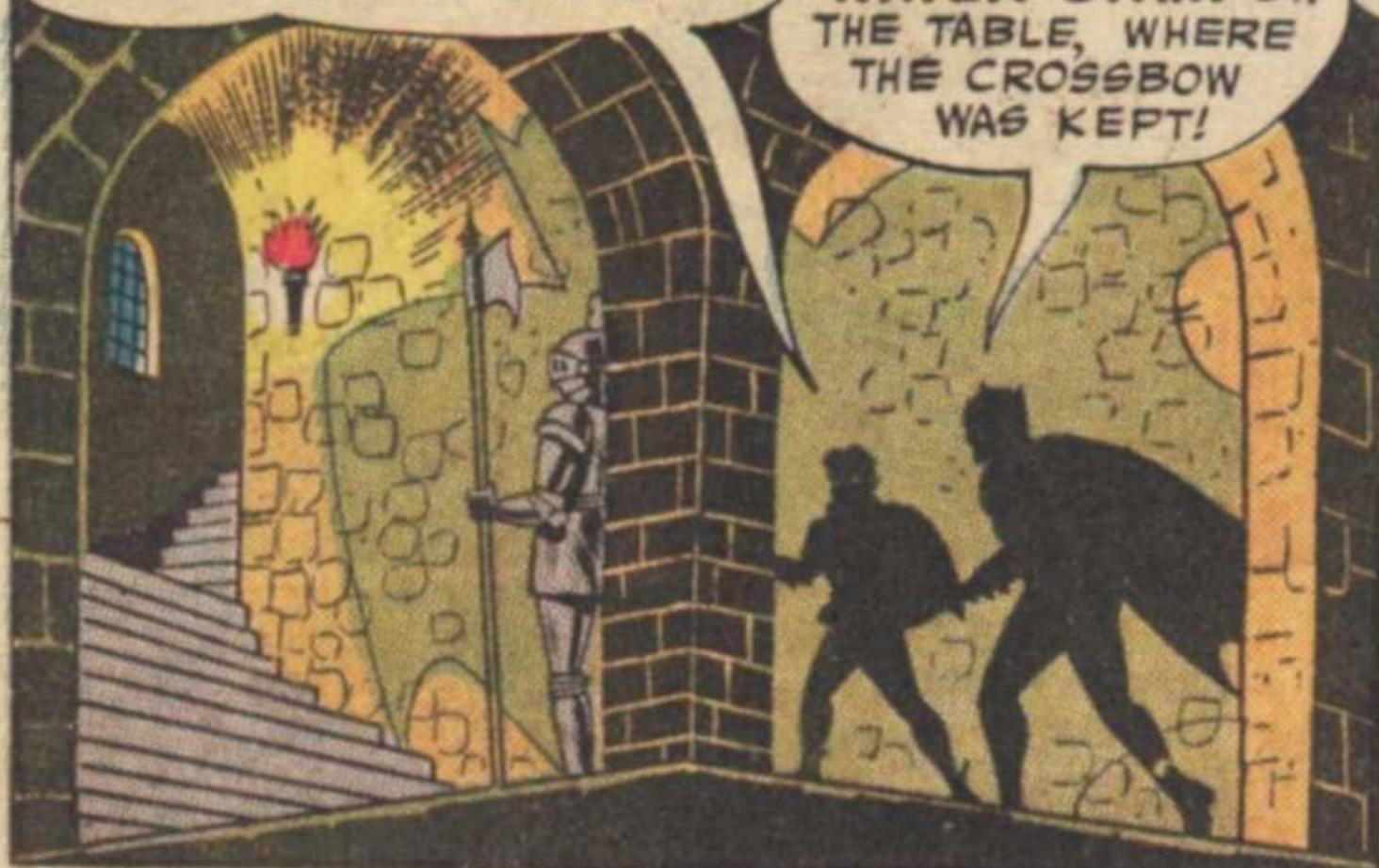
WHEN THE MASKED LAWMEN ARE ALONE...

SONDERS MIGHT BE TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT WHY HE TRIED TO ESCAPE... AND YET-- HOW CAN WE BE SURE?

I'M POSITIVE THE VITAL CLUE IN THIS CASE IS THAT **WATER-STAIN** ON THE TABLE, WHERE THE CROSSBOW WAS KEPT!

I'M GOING TO SEARCH THE SUSPECTS' LUGGAGE-- SEE IF I CAN FIND SOMETHING DEFINITE, TO PIN DOWN MY SUSPICIONS!

WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT, I'LL MAKE THE THINGS YOU WANTED!



PRESENTLY...

YOU WANTED IN THE REFRIGERATOR, **BATMAN!** DID YOU FIND ANYTHING IN THE SUSPECTS' BELONGINGS?

YES... THIS **VACUUM-BOTTLE**! YOU SEE, IT'S A SPECIAL TYPE TO HOLD FOOD AND KEEP IT ICE-COLD!

THEN THE KILLER USED THAT VACUUM-JAR TO TRANSPORT HIS MURDER-DEVICE TO THE CASTLE?

YES-- AND I KNOW NOW WHO HE MUST BE... BUT WE'VE GOT TO PROVE IT ABSOLUTELY!



DO YOU KNOW HOW JAMES BARHAM WAS KILLED -- AND BY WHICH SUSPECT?





BATMAN ANNUAL



LATER, WITH THE SUSPECTS ASSEMBLED IN THE MURDERED MAN'S STUDY...

YOU CAN SIT DOWN IN BARHAM'S CHAIR WHILE I QUESTION THE OTHERS, CRAY!

NO-- IT DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT FOR ME TO DO SO, SOMEHOW, WITH MR. BARHAM SO LATELY DEAD...

ABRUPTLY...

I'M AFRAID THE KILLER MIGHT STRIKE AGAIN AND...WHAT'S THAT?

LOOK OUT! SOMEONE USED ANOTHER ICE CATCH!

NO...THE CROSSBOW WAS UNLOADED THIS TIME, CRAY-- BUT I FIGURED THAT SOUND WOULD STARTLE YOU! YOU KNEW ABOUT THE ICE TRIGGER-CATCH BECAUSE YOU USED IT BEFORE-- TO KILL BARHAM!

YOU FOUND OUT... BUT YOU'LL NEVER ARREST ME!

WATCH OUT! HE'S LOOSENERED THE BIG CANDLE-CHANDELIER!

I LOCKED ALL DOORS-- HE CAN'T GET OUT OF THE CASTLE!

BUT THE TRICK HAS GIVEN THE KILLER A HEAD START...

NO-- THAT DOOR WAS LEFT AJAR AS A BLIND, WHICH MEANS HE DIDN'T GO THROUGH IT! HE'S HIDING RIGHT HERE!

CRAY'S BEEN HERE MANY TIMES... HE KNOWS THE SECRET PASSAGES! SEE?... HE WENT THAT WAY!

THIS ARMOR IS A TYPE DESIGNED TO GET INTO FAST, IN CASE OF ATTACK-- AND YOU'LL NOTICE THE DUST IS DISTURBED AT ITS FEET...

BATMAN! LOOK OUT! THAT IRON FIST...



BATMAN ANNUAL



IN THE NICK OF TIME, BATMAN SNATCHES UP
A SHIELD, AND...

STAY BACK,
ROBIN!

BUT HE'LL BEAT DOWN
YOUR GUARD!

CLANG

CLANG

ALL AT ONCE...

EYOW!

I KNEW HE'D OVERBALANCE IN
HIS HEAVY ARMOR, IF I LED HIM
TO THESE STEPS! GRAB HIM
WHILE HE'S
PRONE!

GORLEY DID PAY
THE BARHAM
COMPANY WHAT
HE OWED--AND, AS
VICE-PRESIDENT,
YOU POCKETED IT!
THAT WAS WHY YOU
KILLED BARHAM,
WASN'T
IT?

YES... BARHAM
WOULD HAVE FOUND
OUT IF HIS CHARGES
AGAINST GORLEY
WERE INVESTIGATED!

BUT CRAY WAS
TELEPHONING
ME WHEN IT
HAPPENED,
W-WASN'T
HE?

BACK IN THE STUDY, BATMAN CLEARS UP THAT
QUESTION, TOO... CRAY STRUNG THIS
CROSSBOW, WHICH WAS HIDDEN FROM VIEW
BY THE THINGS ON THE TABLE, AND HELD IT
BACK WITH A SOLID **ICE-CATCH** HE BROUGHT
IN A VACUUM-JAR! WHEN THE ICE MELTED
AFTER HE LEFT THE ROOM...

... THE BOW, AIMED
AT BARHAM'S
CHAIR, KILLED
HIM! BUT THE
MELTED ICE LEFT
A WATER-STAIN
ON THE TABLE!

BATMAN HAD
ME FREEZE MORE
ICE-CATCHES SO
WE COULD
STARTLE CRAY
INTO BETRAYING
HIMSELF!

IT HAD TO BE EITHER ADAM
BARHAM OR CRAY, BECAUSE
THE OTHER TWO WERE ON
THEIR FIRST VISIT HERE, AND
WOULDN'T KNOW THE SECRET
PASSAGES! FINDING THE
VACUUM-JAR IN CRAY'S
LUGGAGE CLINCHED
IT!

AND SO, AFTER THE SHERIFF HAS
TAKEN OVER...

I FEEL AS IF CRAY WENT BACK
WE'VE BEEN BACK IN
MEDIEVAL
TIMES,
BATMAN!

THE END.



BATMAN ANNUAL



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

FROM MEXICO TO AFRICA--FROM AFRICA
TO INDIA--FROM INDIA TO MALAY--
BATMAN AND **ROBIN** WENT ON A
DANGEROUS MANHUNT AND MADE THE TREK
IN JUST ONE SHORT HOUR! IMPOSSIBLE?
BUT IT REALLY HAPPENED--FOR NOTHING
WAS IMPOSSIBLE IN THE FANTASTIC
CASE OF...

THE **GOTHAM CITY SAFARI**



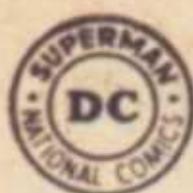
AT THE MANSION OF MILLIONAIRE SPORTSMAN ALEC JUDSON,
TWO HONORED GUESTS ARRIVE...

NICE OF YOU TO MAKE **ROBIN**
AND ME HONORARY MEMBERS
OF YOUR **SAFARI CLUB**,
MR. JUDSON!

WE OF THE **SAFARI CLUB**
HUNT BIG GAME, **BATMAN**,
BUT YOU HUNT A QUARRY FAR
MORE DANGEROUS...
CRIMINALS!

FIRST, MEET THE OTHER MEMBERS OF
THE **CLUB**-- BRAD JONES, ED YANCEY,
AND WILL TYLER--THEN I'LL TAKE
YOU ON A TOUR OF MY HUNTING
GROUNDS!





BATMAN ANNUAL



LATER, IN A HELICOPTER, JUDSON SHOWS OFF HIS FABULOUS ESTATE, EACH SECTION LANDSCAPED LIKE THE HABITAT OF BIG GAME...

HERE IS "INDIA"-- WHERE A RHINO AND WATER BUFFALO ROAM FREELY! NATURALLY, THEY CAN'T ESCAPE, BECAUSE MY ENTIRE ESTATE IS RINGED BY A HIGH WIRE FENCE!



HERE'S A BIT OF "AFRICA"-- BOTH DESERT AND JUNGLE-- WHERE LION, ELEPHANT AND OTHER BIG GAME WANDER ABOUT!



I EVEN HAVE MY OWN "MEXICAN" JUNGLE, WITH A FEROIOUS JAGUAR PROWLING ON THE STEPS OF A MOCK MAYAN TEMPLE!



LATER, WITH THE TOUR COMPLETED...

NOW FOR OUR ANNUAL CONTEST! EACH HUNTER, EQUIPPED WITH A RIFLE--FOR PROTECTION ONLY-- WILL ENTER A DIFFERENT LOCALE! THE FIRST HUNTER TO **TRAP** AN ANIMAL WINS THIS SILVER TROPHY!



BUT, NO SOONER DOES THE COMPETITION BEGIN THAN...

A SHOT!
IT CAME FROM THE "MALAY" SECTION, WHERE ED YANCEY IS HUNTING! HE WOULDN'T SHOOT UNLESS HE WAS IN TROUBLE! COME ON, ROBIN...



BY THE TIME THE OTHERS REACH THE "MALAY" JUNGLE...

YANCEY HAS BEEN MURDERED! AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT-- BUT HIS OWN RIFLE HASN'T BEEN FIRED! HE'S BEEN SHOT BY SOMEONE ELSE-- ONE OF YOU!





BATMAN ANNUAL



EXTRACTING THE MURDER BULLET,
BATMAN COMPARES IT WITH
THE OTHER RIFLES, BUT...

ALL YOUR WEAPONS
ARE OF A DIFFERENT
CALIBRE! HE'S BEEN
SHOT BY SOMEONE
ELSE... BUT

LOOK!
A WATCH
FOB! IT
MUST'VE
BEEN DROPPED
BY THE KILLER WHEN
HE STRUGGLED WITH
YANCEY!

WHY... IT'S MARKHAM'S GOOD
LUCK PIECE! HE WAS TERRIBLY
SUPERSTITIOUS...

NEVER WENT
HUNTING
WITHOUT
THIS!

WHO'S
MARKHAM?

BACK AT HIS MANSION, A WORRIED JUDSON
EXPLAINS...

THAT'S HIM-- THE
ENGLISH MEMBER OF OUR CLUB!
TWO YEARS AGO, ALL OF US WERE ON
A SAFARI IN AFRICA, WHEN SUDDENLY
WE WERE CHARGED BY A MADDENED
HERD OF ELEPHANTS...



"WHEN ELEPHANTS ARE ON THE RAMPAGE, THERE'S NOTHING TO DO BUT RUN FOR YOUR LIFE..."



TO TURN BACK WOULD HAVE MEANT
SACRIFICING OUR OWN LIVES
NEEDLESSLY! LATER, WE
DOCTORED MARKHAM AS BEST
WE COULD, AND GOT HIM TO A
HOSPITAL-- BUT HE'S NEVER
FORGIVEN US!

DON'T YOU SEE?... MARKHAM WANTS
REVENGE! HE INTENDS TO KILL US,
ONE BY ONE, BECAUSE HE THINKS
WE DESERTED HIM!

I SUGGEST YOU ALL STAY
HERE... THIS IS A MURDER
CASE NOW! **ROBIN** AND I
WILL BRING IN THE
KILLER!



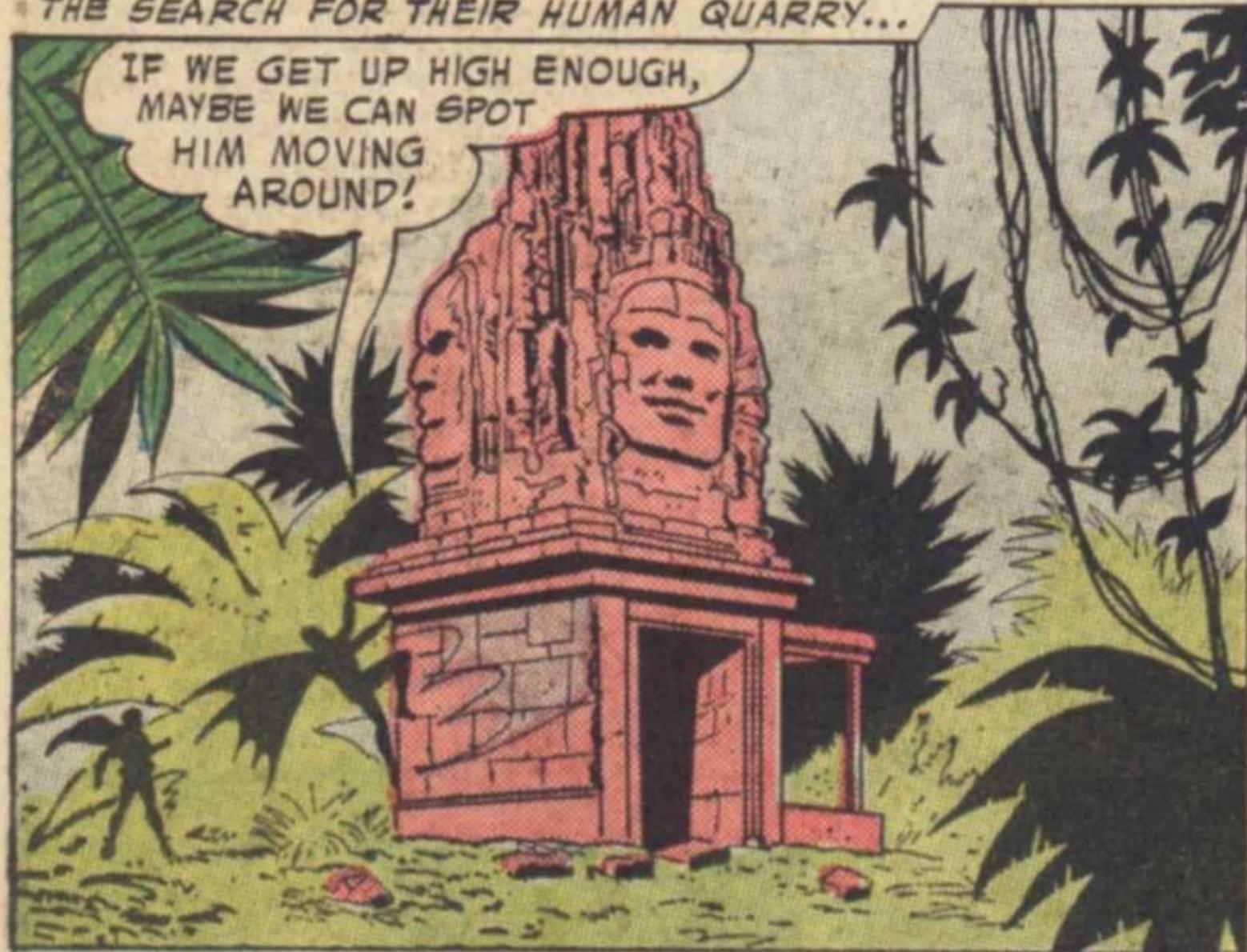


BATMAN ANNUAL



IN "INDIA", SHORTLY AFTERWARD, THE MANHUNTERS BEGIN THE SEARCH FOR THEIR HUMAN QUARRY...

IF WE GET UP HIGH ENOUGH, MAYBE WE CAN SPOT HIM MOVING AROUND!



SUDDENLY...

WHAT--? AN AMBUSH!

CRACK

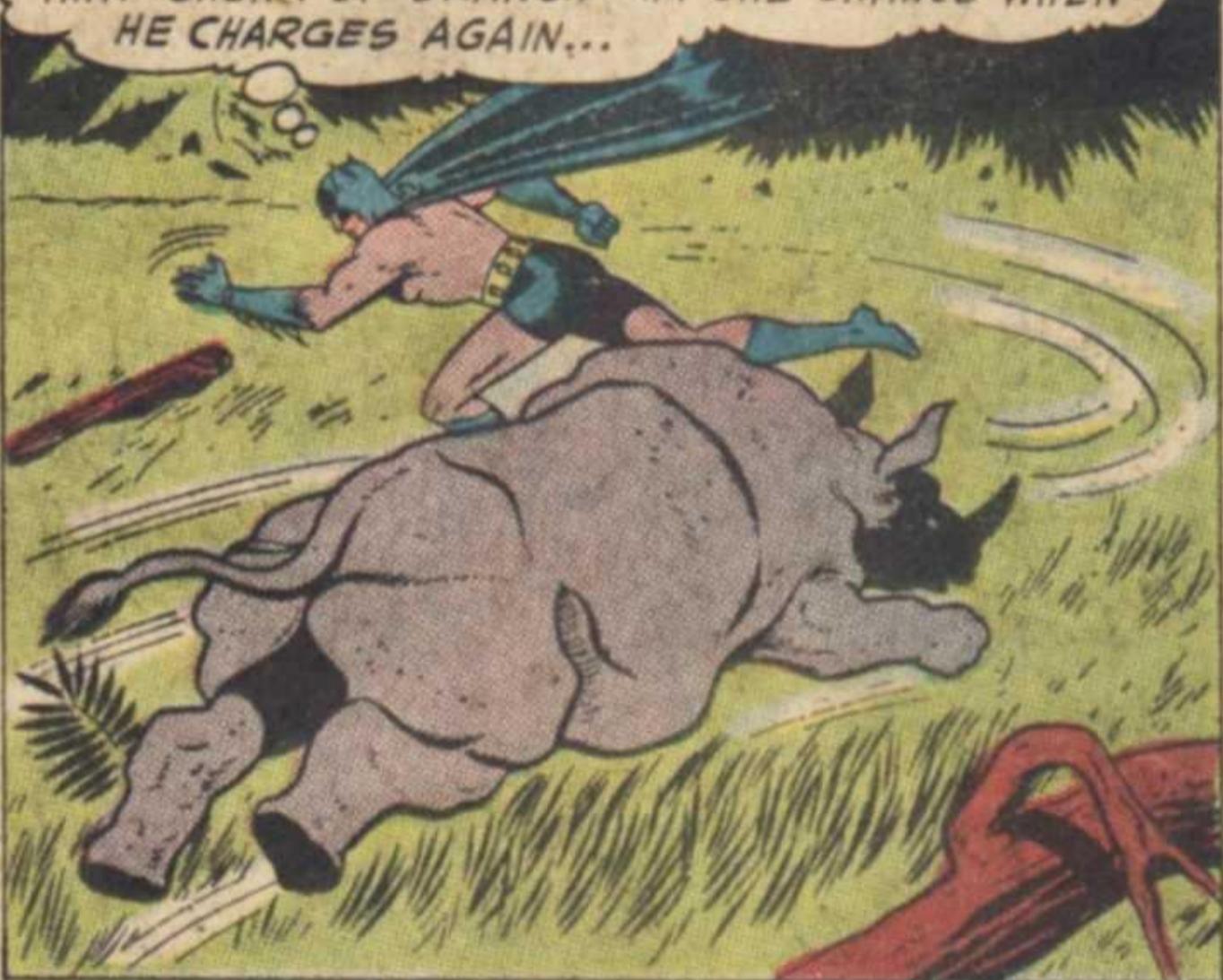


TWISTING HIS SUPERBLY TRAINED BODY IN MID-AIR, BATMAN MANAGES TO LAND ON HIS FEET--ONLY TO FACE A NEW DANGER...

A RHINO--MADDENED BY THE SOUND OF THE RIFLE!

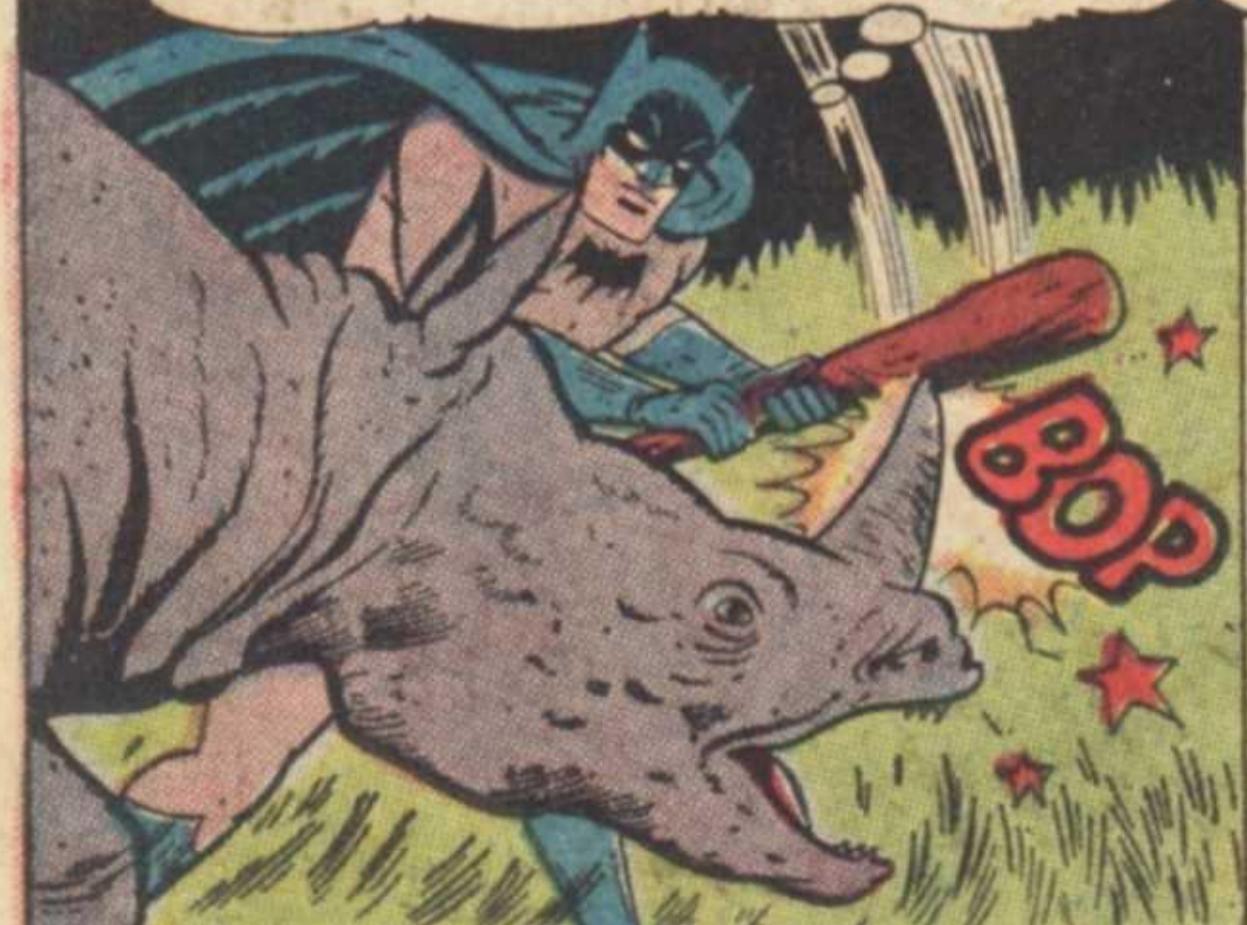


DEFTLY, HE SIDESTEPS THE CHARGING BEAST, AND... THAT CHUNK OF BRANCH--MY ONE CHANCE WHEN HE CHARGES AGAIN...



AND AS THE ENRAGED ANIMAL MAKES ANOTHER LUNGE...

THAT DID IT! A SHARP, VIOLENT BLOW ON THE TIP OF A RHINO'S HORN WILL KNOCK HIM OUT MOMENTARILY!

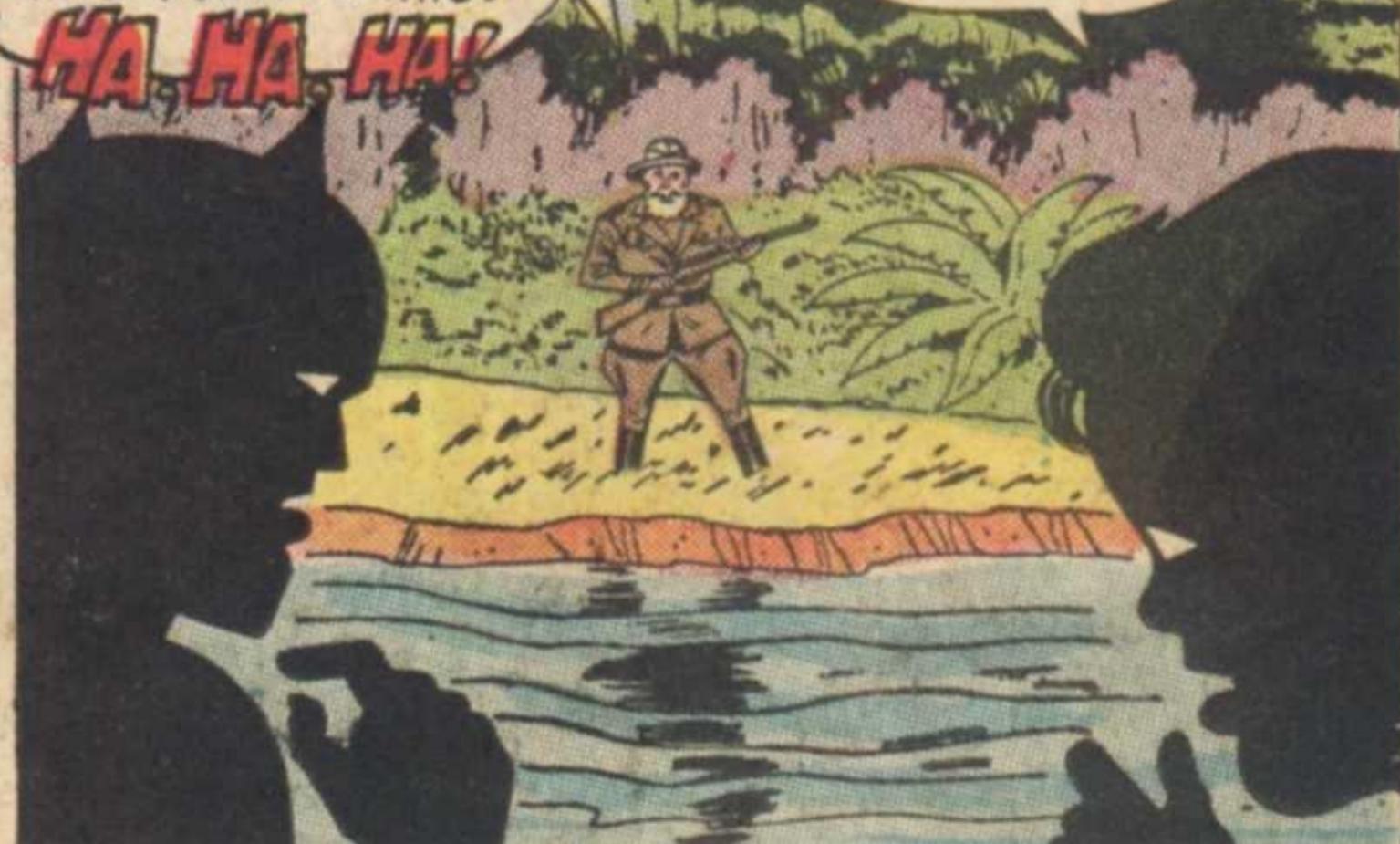


JUST THEN...

HA, HA... YOU'RE A CLEVER CHAP, BATMAN! THIS SHOULD BE A JOLLY GOOD HUNT NOW! BUT THE QUESTION IS-- WHO'S HUNTING WHO?

MARKHAM!

HA, HA, HA!





BATMAN ANNUAL



STARTLED BY THE MAD LAUGHTER, A BLACK PANTHER LEAPS OUT FROM THICK BRUSH, INTENT ON ESCAPE...

EH--? A BLACK CAT! CAN'T LET IT CROSS MY PATH... MEANS BAD LUCK! MUST GET AWAY!



HE'S SUPERSTITIOUS... THAT'S HIS WEAK POINT! WE MAY BE ABLE TO USE IT AGAINST HIM!

MAYBE WE CAN... BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT A LITTLE SWIMMING TO DO!



MID-WAY ACROSS THE STREAM, HOWEVER, AN UGLY SNOUT SUDDENLY VEERS UP...

BATMAN!
LOOK OUT... A CROCODILE COMING AT YOU!



BEFORE THE GIANT REPTILE CAN OPEN ITS HUGE JAWS, STURDY HANDS CLAMP ON THEM-- AND MAN AND BEAST THRASH IN THE WATER...



AS THE THRASHING BRINGS THEM CLOSE TO SHORE, BATMAN RELEASES HIS HOLD AND, IN ONE SPURT, WADES TO SAFETY...

GOSH--YOU JUST HELD HIS JAWS TOGETHER! I KNEW THAT THE MUSCLES WHICH OPEN A CROC'S JAWS ARE WEAK! IT'S HIS OTHER SET OF MUSCLES--THE ONES THAT CLOSE HIS JAWS--THAT ARE POWERFUL!



AT THAT MOMENT...

HA, HA... STILL THE CUNNING ONE, EH, **BATMAN?**

MARKHAM! WE'VE GOT TO CAPTURE THAT RAVING MADMAN!





BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT, AS BATMAN RUSHES FORWARD...

HA, HA... YOU WALKED
RIGHT INTO MY BUGANDA
LION TRAP! NOW THE FUN
BEGINS... HA, HA, HA!

BEFORE ROBIN CAN MOVE, THE HUNTER STUNS HIM WITH HIS
RIFLE BUTT, AND...

I'VE WON THE HUNT! I'VE
TRAPPED BOTH BATMAN
AND ROBIN... HA, HA, HA!

MUST GET OUT OF THIS NET--
FAST... BEFORE HE HARMS
ROBIN!



REMOVING HIS CAPE, BATMAN
POKES IT THROUGH THE NET AND
WAVES WILDLY...

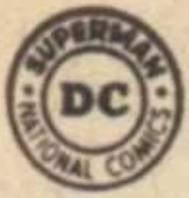
A LION GETS
FURIOUS AT THE SIGHT OF ANY
DARK, FLAPPING CLOTH... AND
THIS ONE BELOW IS HOPPING
MAD!

THE LION SPRINGS-- HIS RAZOR-
SHARP TALONS RAKING THE
ROPES...



SLIPPING OUT THROUGH THE
GASHED NET, BATMAN LEAPS
TO A TREE-- AND TO FREEDOM...





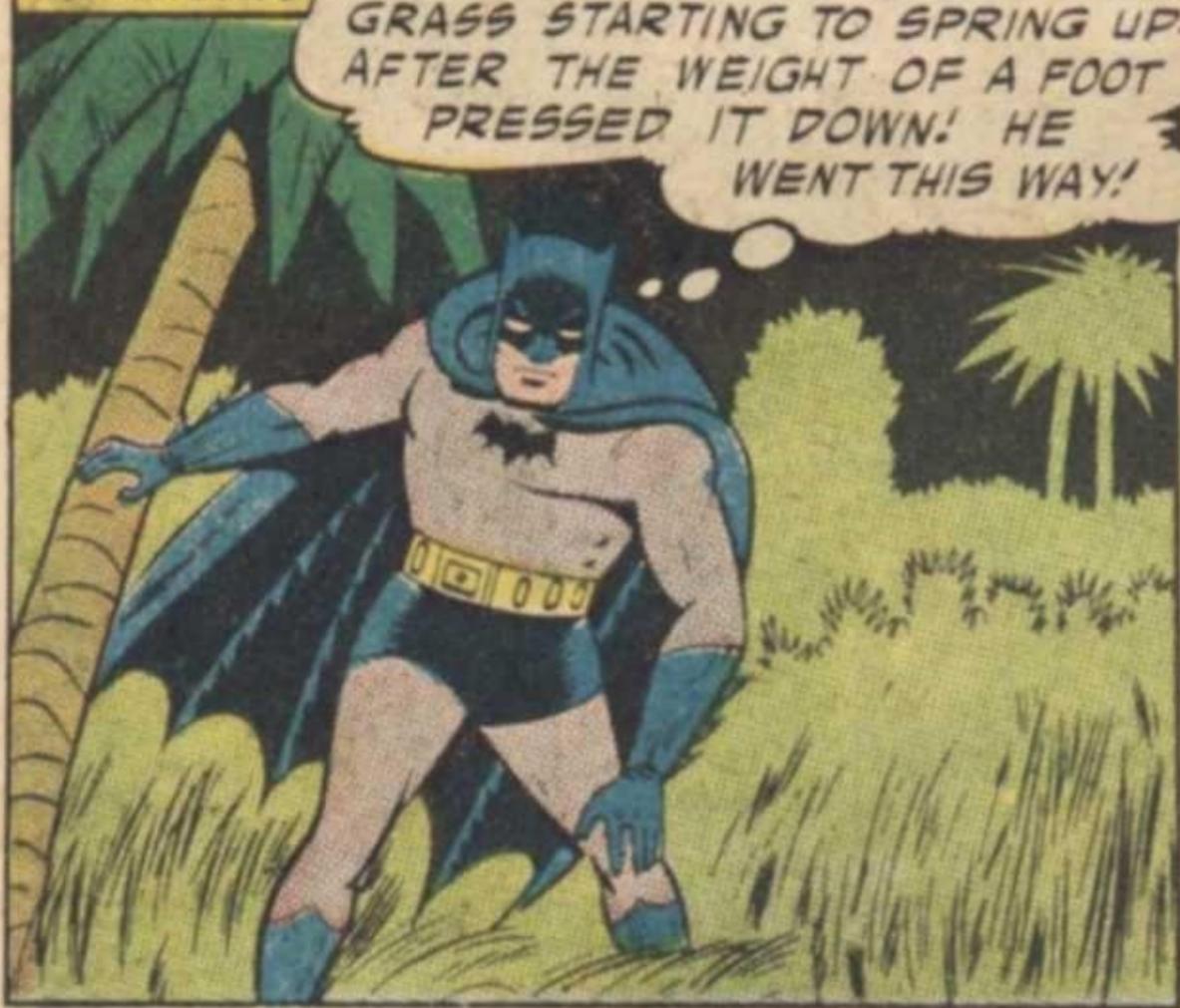
BATMAN ANNUAL

LATER, A GRIM MANHUNTER SCANS THE GROUND FOR THE SPOOR OF HIS HUMAN QUARRY...

GRASS STARTING TO SPRING UP... AFTER THE WEIGHT OF A FOOT PRESSED IT DOWN! HE WENT THIS WAY!

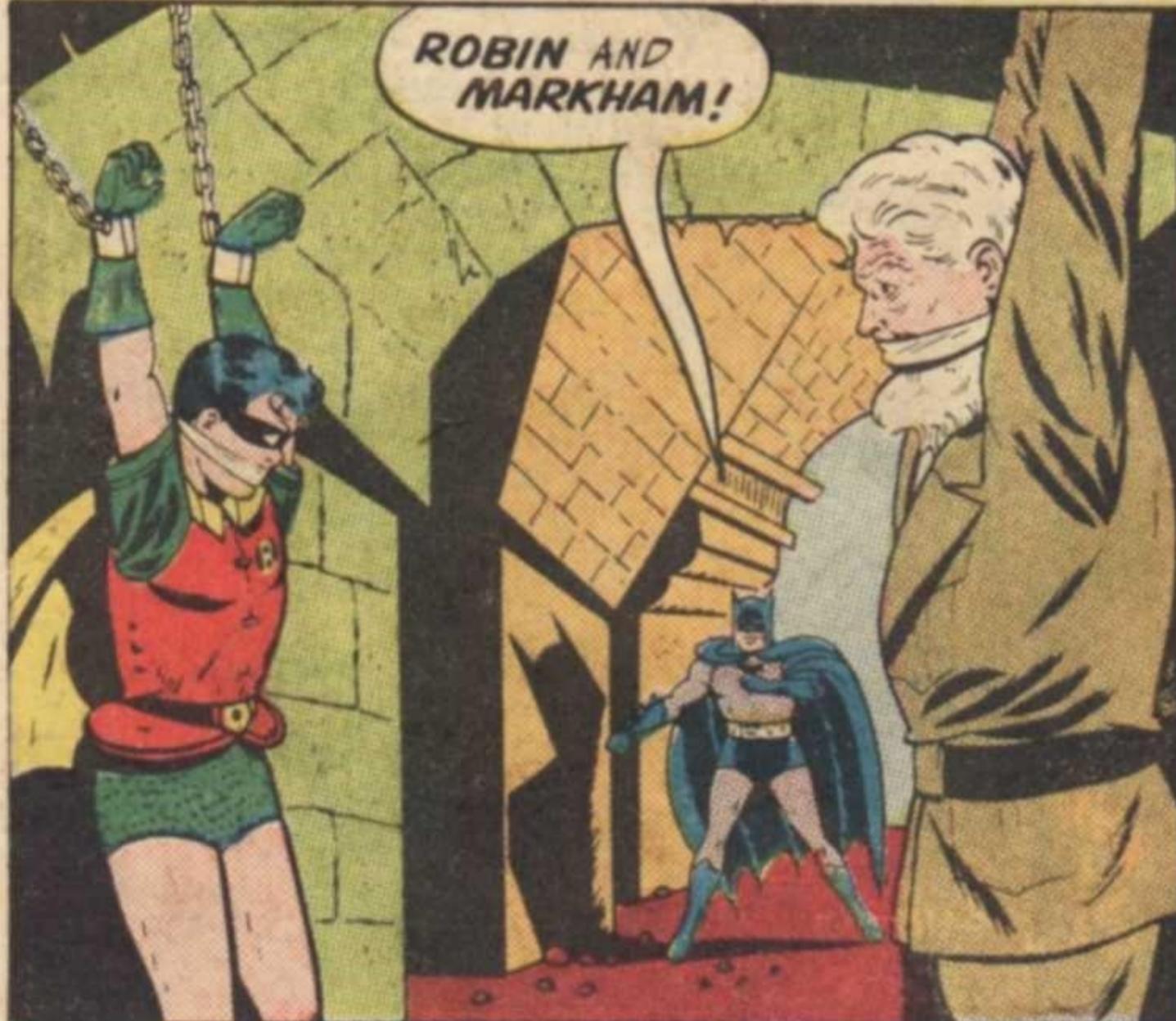
SOON, IN THE "MEXICAN" LOCALE...

THE TRACKS LEAD TO THAT MAYAN TEMPLE!



WARILY, HE ENTERS THE STRUCTURE, TO COME UPON...

ROBIN AND MARKHAM!



UPON FREEING THE PRISONERS...

I'M THE REAL MARKHAM... JUDSON IS IMPERSONATING ME! YOU SEE, I SPENT SO MUCH MONEY ON HOSPITAL BILLS, THAT I CAME TO AMERICA TO ASK JUDSON FOR A LOAN! INSTEAD, JUDSON TOOK ME PRISONER-- BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY!



WELL, BATMAN-- I INTENDED TO DROP THE BODIES OF ROBIN AND MARKHAM FROM THE TEMPLE ROOF, MAKING IT SEEM AS THOUGH BOTH FELL TO THEIR DEATH WHILE STRUGGLING! BUT NOW, I MUST REVISE MY PLANS...

NOW I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU AND ROBIN WITH THE RIFLE THAT KILLED YANCEY-- THEN I'LL SHOOT MARKHAM WITH MINE, SAYING I SHOT IN SELF-DEFENSE! SMART, EH?

I'VE GOT TO STALL HIM-- GET HIM OFF BALANCE...

NOT SO SMART, JUDSON! YOU MADE ONE MISTAKE IN YOUR IMPERSONATION OF MARKHAM...





BATMAN ANNUAL



WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I SUSPECTED AN IMPERSONATION WHEN YOU PRETENDED TO RECOIL FROM THE BLACK PANTHER! YOU DIDN'T KNOW THAT SUPERSTITIOUS ENGLISHMEN CONSIDER IT **GOOD LUCK** WHEN A BLACK CAT CROSSES THEIR PATHS!

'THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE BEFORE AND REMOVED THE SHELLS FROM THAT RIFLE!

YOU WHAT--?

THANKS FOR NIBBLING AT THE FALSE BAIT! YOU WALKED RIGHT INTO **MY TRAP** NOW!

TALK! WHY DID YOU KILL YANCEY?

HE-- HE FOUND OUT I WAS RUNNING AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME CARTEL-- AND THAT MY HUNTING TRIPS WERE A COVER-UP... A MEANS OF CONTACTING MY LIEUTENANTS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES!

YANCEY WAS BLACKMAILING ME-- SO WHEN MARKHAM VISITED ME, I DECIDED TO KILL YANCEY AND PLACE THE BLAME ON MARKHAM! I TRIED TO USE YOU AS PART OF MY PLAN, TOO-- BUT YOU WERE TOO SMART FOR ME!

AND SO IT IS THAT A NEW TROPHY OF THE HUNT RESTS IN THE **BAT-CAVE**...



To Batman--the hunter who trapped the most dangerous of all game--a human killer!

THE END



BATMAN ANNUAL



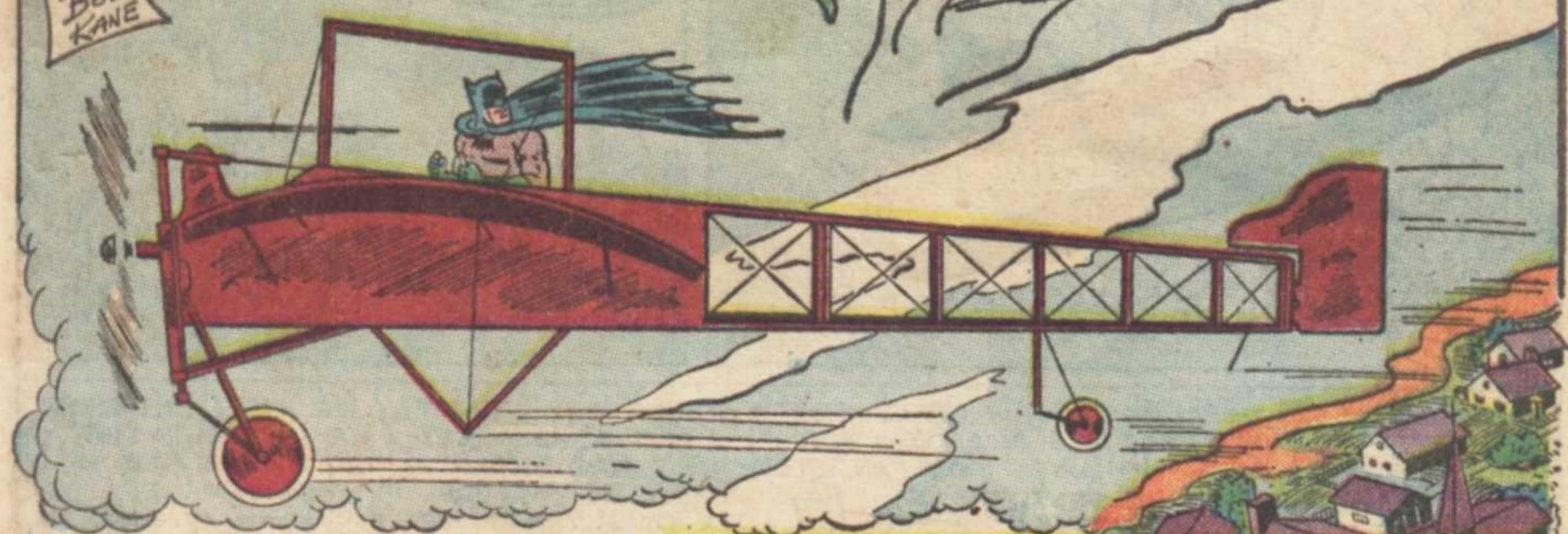
BAT-MAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

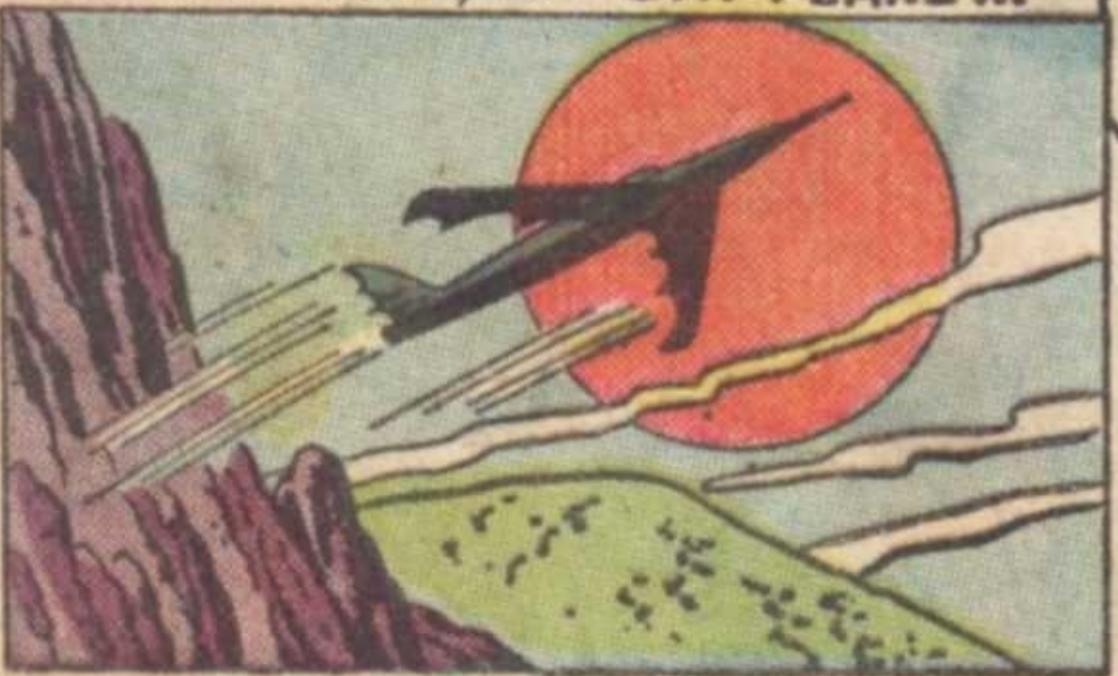
STRANGE AND GROTESQUE WERE THE WORLD'S FIRST AIRPLANES, BALLOONS AND DIRIGIBLES INVENTED BY GENIUSES WHO DREAMT OF FLYING. THOSE WEIRD FIRST FLYING-MACHINES ARE PRECIOUS RELICS NOW--BUT BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND PRESENT-DAY PERIL IN THEM WHEN THE DYNAMIC DUO SEEKS TO SOLVE THE MENACING...

MYSTERY OF THE **SKY MUSEUM!**

Bob Kane



OUT FROM THE SECRET BAT-CAVE SWEEPS THAT BLACK-WINGED SUPER-MODERN CRAFT, THE BAT-PLANE...



...BEARING BATMAN AND ROBIN ON A FATEFUL FLIGHT INTO YESTERDAY!

DIDN'T COMMISSIONER GORDON KNOW WHAT THE TROUBLE WAS, BATMAN?

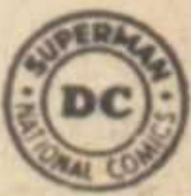


NO, ROBIN--HE TOLD ME ONLY THAT WILLIAM MALCOLM, CURATOR OF THE SKY MUSEUM, PHONED AND ASKED FOR OUR HELP AT ONCE! I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT SORT OF TROUBLE A PLACE LIKE THAT COULD BE HAVING!





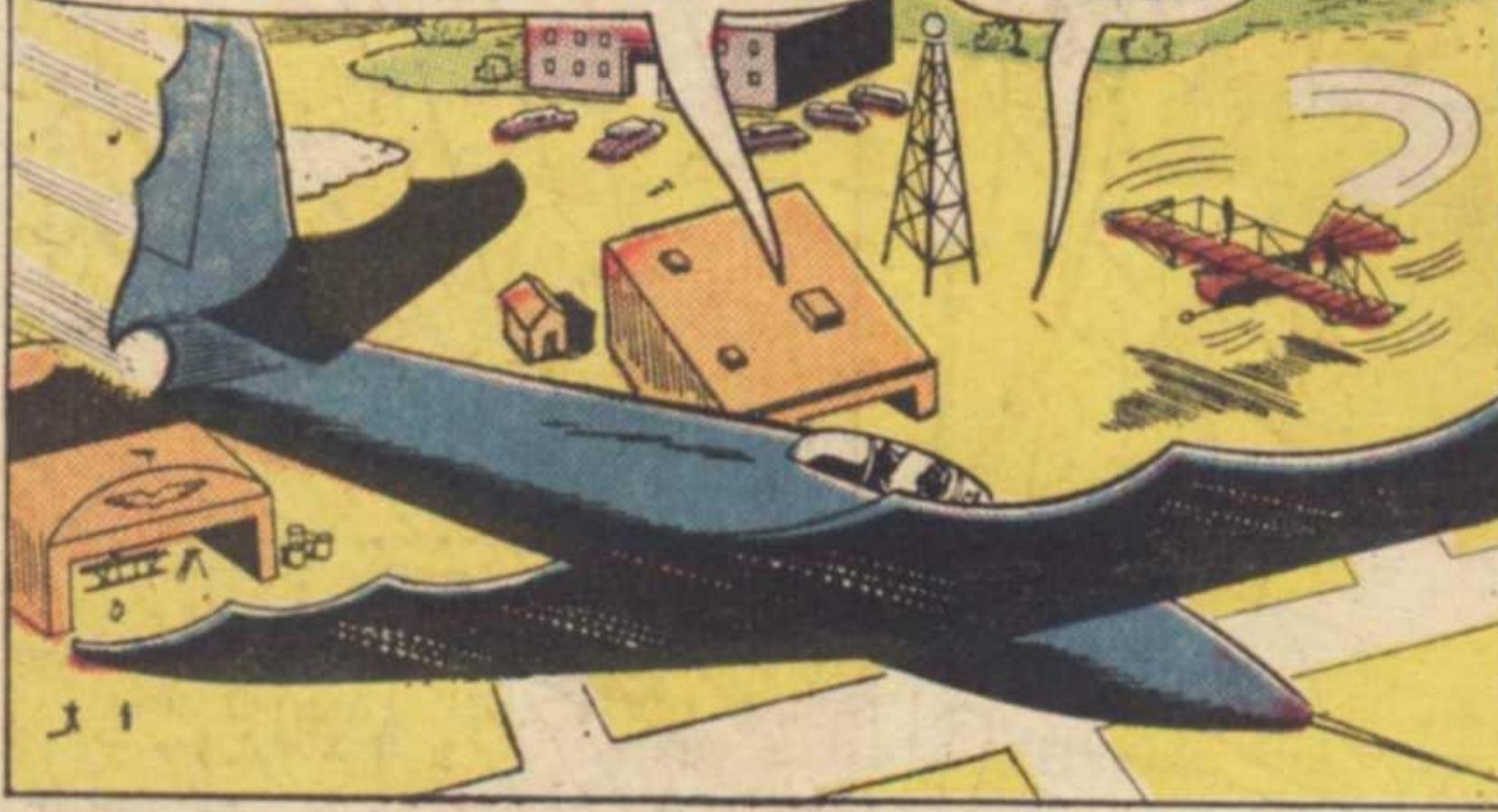
BATMAN ANNUAL



THE GREAT SKY MUSEUM, OUTSIDE GOTHAM CITY, IS A STRANGE PLACE INDEED...

THE WORLD'S GREATEST COLLECTION OF ANCIENT AIRSHIPS AND PLANES! WOW, LOOK AT THAT OLD BENSON-STRINGFELLOW FILER BELOW US!

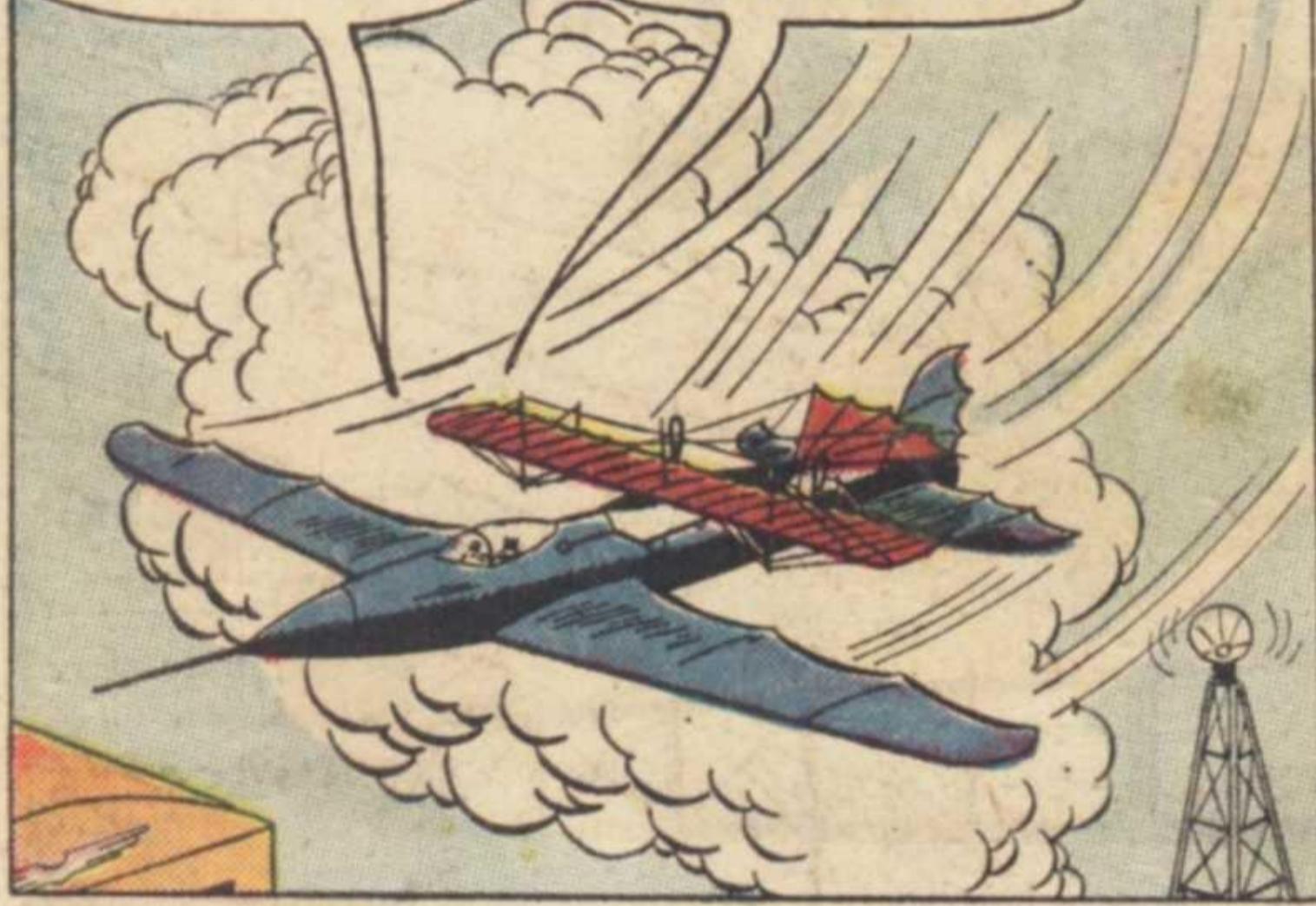
THAT OLD PLANE'S WOBBLING OUT OF CONTROL... THE PILOT'S IN TROUBLE!



DOWN TO THE RESCUE STREAKS THE BAT-PLANE...

WE CAN CUSHION THE SHOCK BY GETTING UNDER IT!

IT'S HITTING THE BAT-PLANE HARD, BUT WE CAN TAKE IT!



AND INSIDE THE TEETERING PIONEER PLANE...

THE RUDDER CONTROL WIRES BROKE... I'M SIDE-SLIPPING...



AND AFTER A QUICK LANDING...

THIS MAN'S BADLY STUNNED... SOMEONE CALL AN AMBULANCE!

WHY-- IT'S MR. MALCOLM, CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM!



SOON...

I'M JOHN GOSS, BATMAN-- MR. MALCOLM'S ASSISTANT!

THE DOCTORS SAY THE CONCUSSION WILL KEEP HIM IN A COMA FOR DAYS-- SO MAYBE YOU CAN TELL US WHY HE SENT FOR US, MR. GOSSI!

SORRY-- BUT I CAN'T! I HAD NO IDEA ANYTHING WAS WRONG HERE... BUT YOU CAN LOOK OVER THE MUSEUM FOR YOURSELVES, IF YOU WISH!

WE WILL! BUT FIRST, WE MUST SEE THAT THE BAT-PLANE IS NOT DAMAGED!





BATMAN ANNUAL



AFTER A KEEN EXAMINATION...

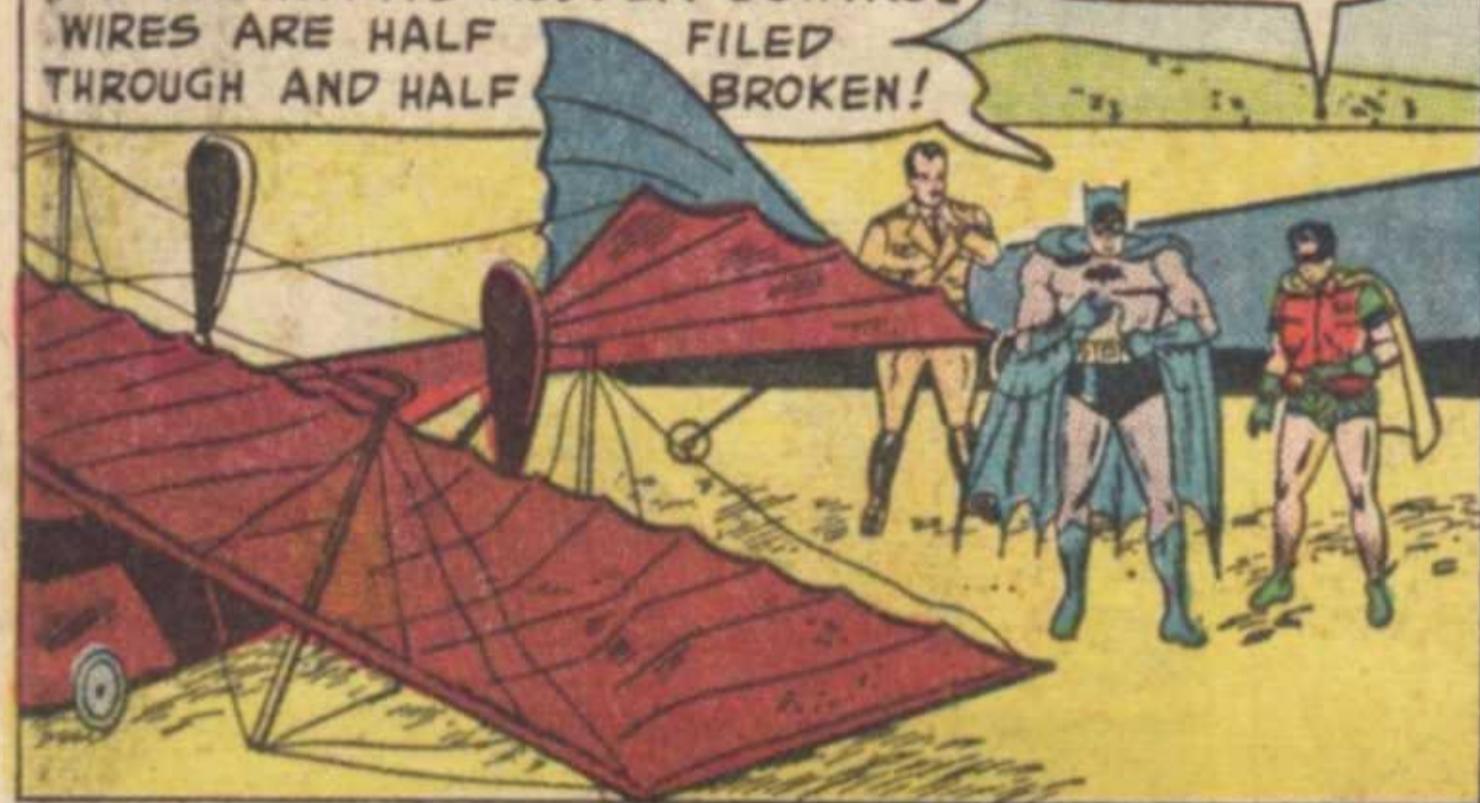
THE BAT-PLANE IS ALL RIGHT, BUT THIS OLD RELIC WAS SABOTAGED BEFORE MALCOLM FLEW IT! LOOK... ITS RUDDER CONTROL WIRES ARE HALF THROUGH AND HALF

FILED BROKEN!

THEN SOMEONE HERE WANTED TO KEEP MALCOLM FROM TALKING TO US! BUT WHO?

I CAN'T IMAGINE. NOBODY HERE WOULD TRY TO HARM MALCOLM! OUR MECHANICS AND PILOTS ARE ALL FINE MEN!

I'D STILL LIKE TO ASK THEM A FEW QUESTIONS-- AND LOOK AROUND! SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!



HERE'S JIM MEECHER, WHO'S RESTORING THIS FINE OLD MAXIM FLYING-MACHINE!

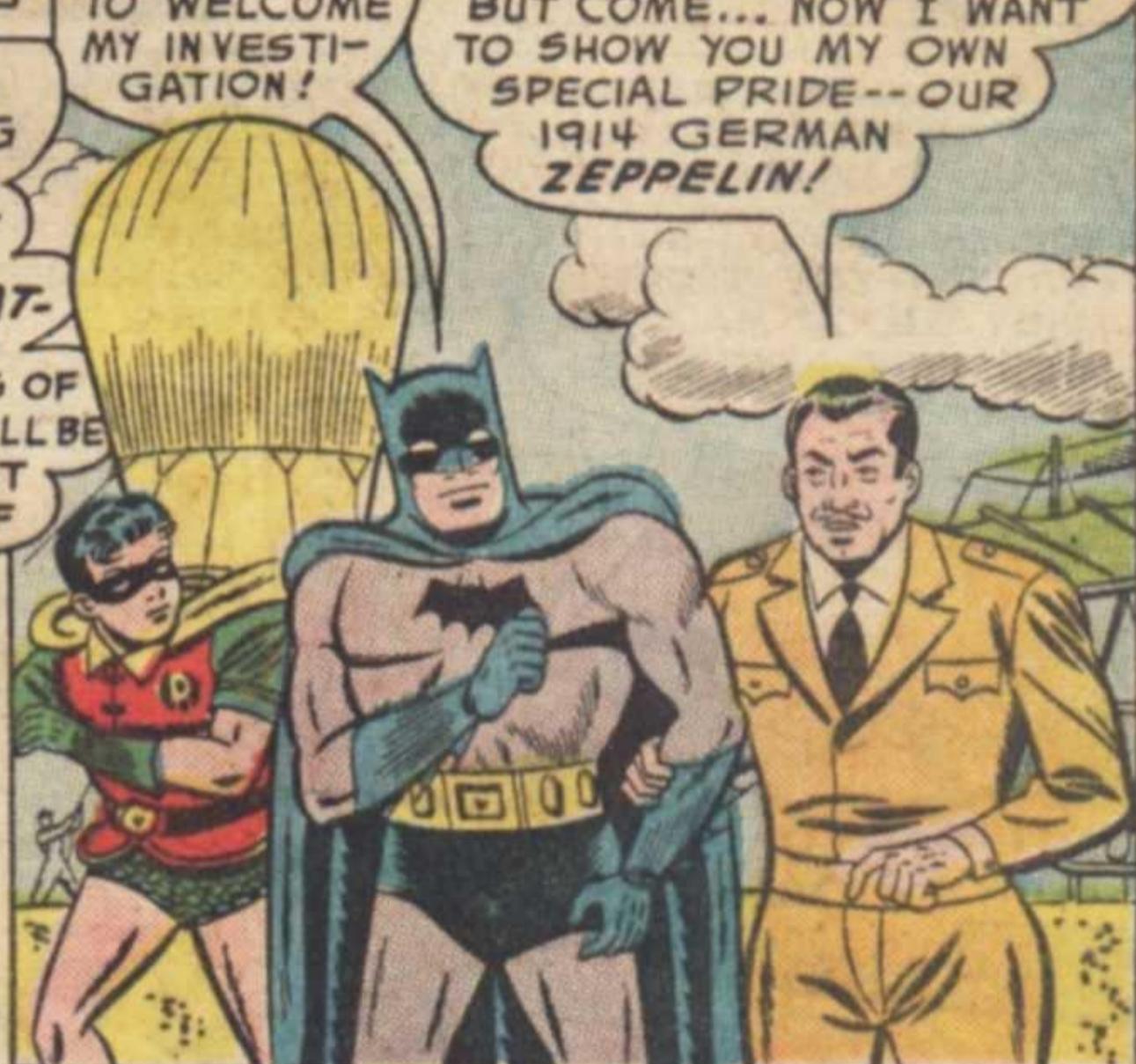
YOU'RE WASTING EVERYBODY'S TIME, BATMAN! THERE'S NOTHING HERE TO STEAL BUT THESE RELICS-- AND NO CRIMINAL COULD BENEFIT FROM THEM!

AND HERE'S FRANK FRAWLEY... HE WAS A PILOT IN THE OLD DAYS!

THERE'S NOTHING WRONG HERE-- EXCEPT THAT THAT FANCY BAT-PLANE OF YOURS SPOILS THE LOOKS OF OUR EXHIBITION! I'LL BE GLAD WHEN YOU GET THE THING OUT OF HERE!

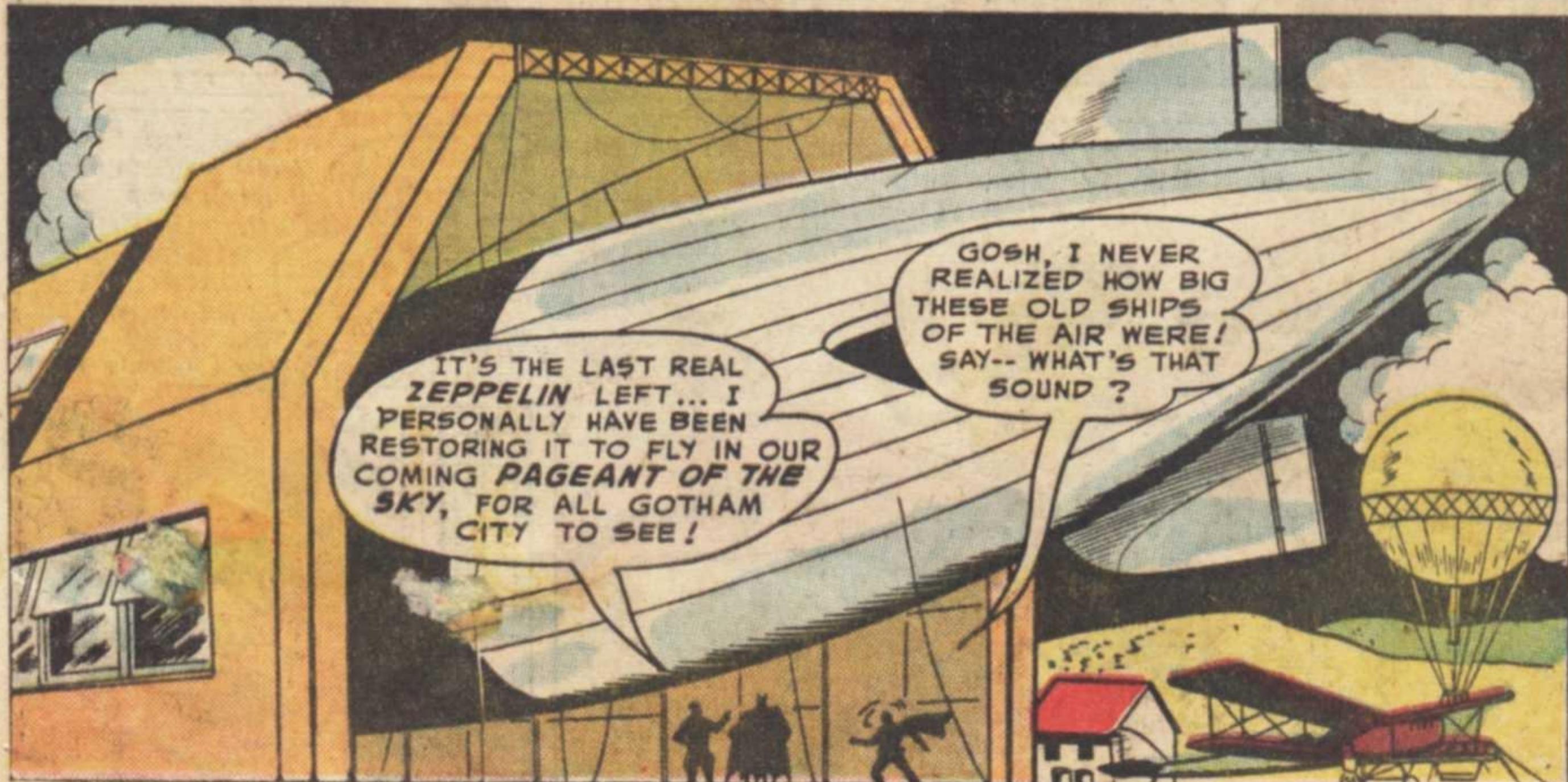
THESE MEN DON'T SEEM TO WELCOME MY INVESTIGATION!

OH, THEY JUST DON'T LIKE MODERN PLANES AND PILOTS! BUT COME... NOW I WANT TO SHOW YOU MY OWN SPECIAL PRIDE-- OUR 1914 GERMAN ZEPPELIN!



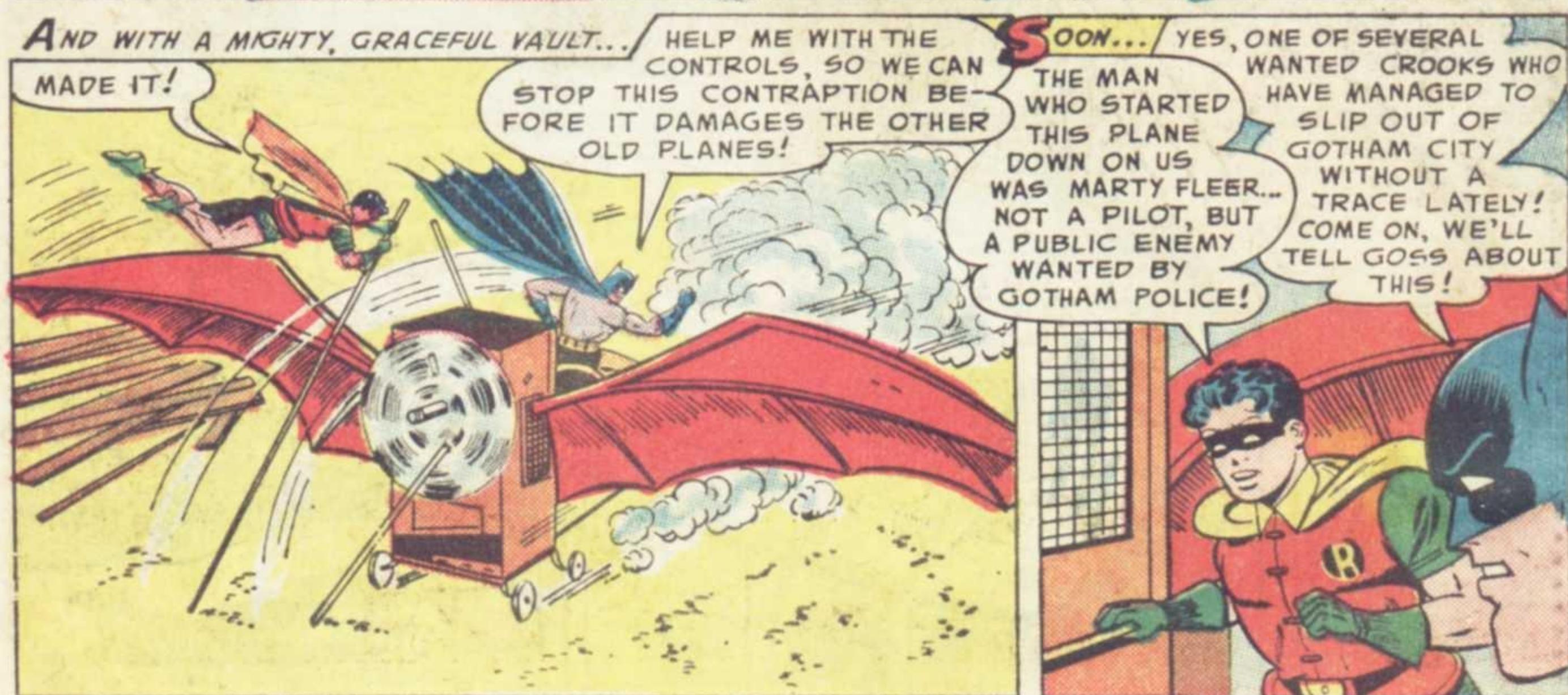
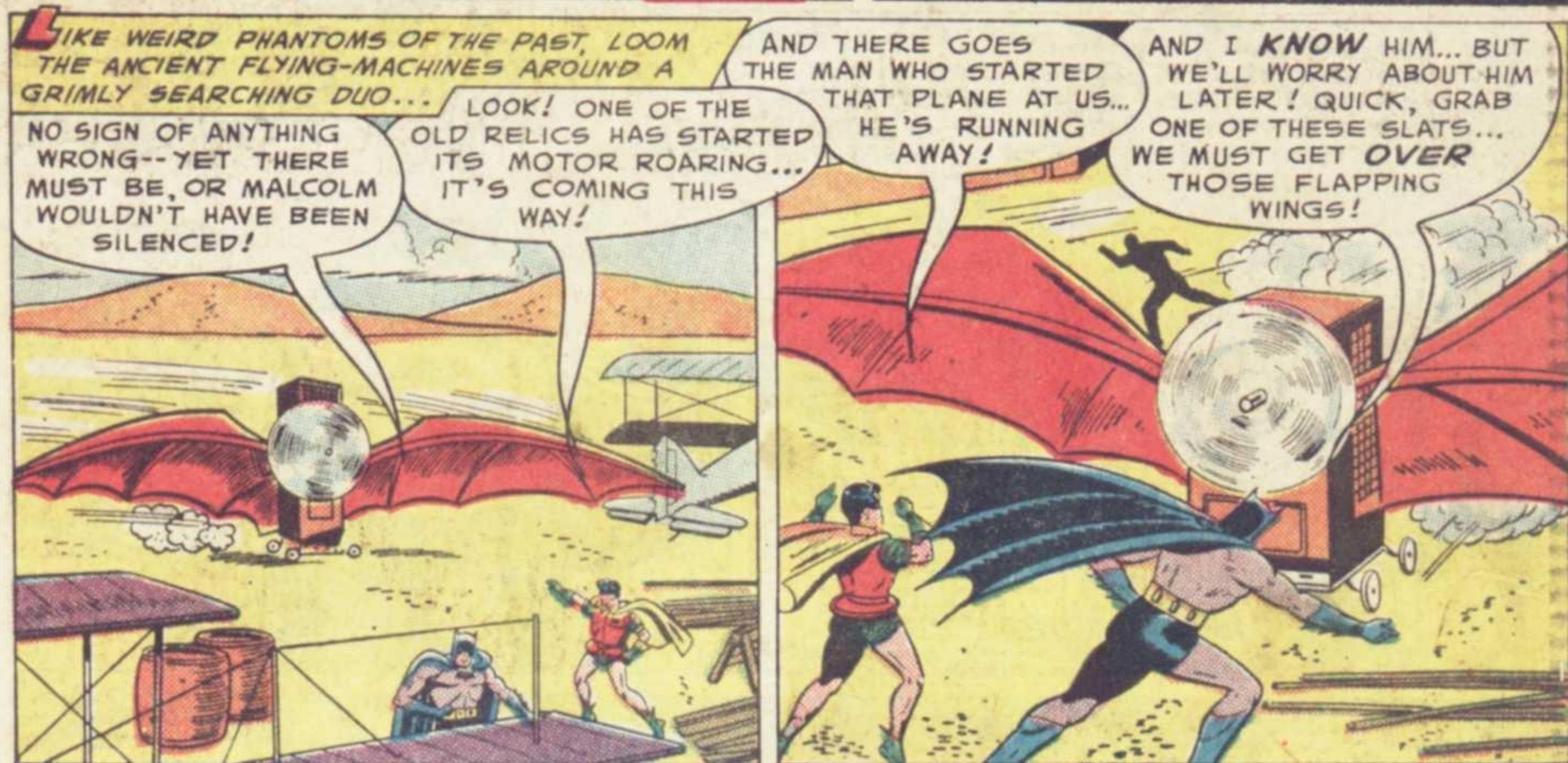
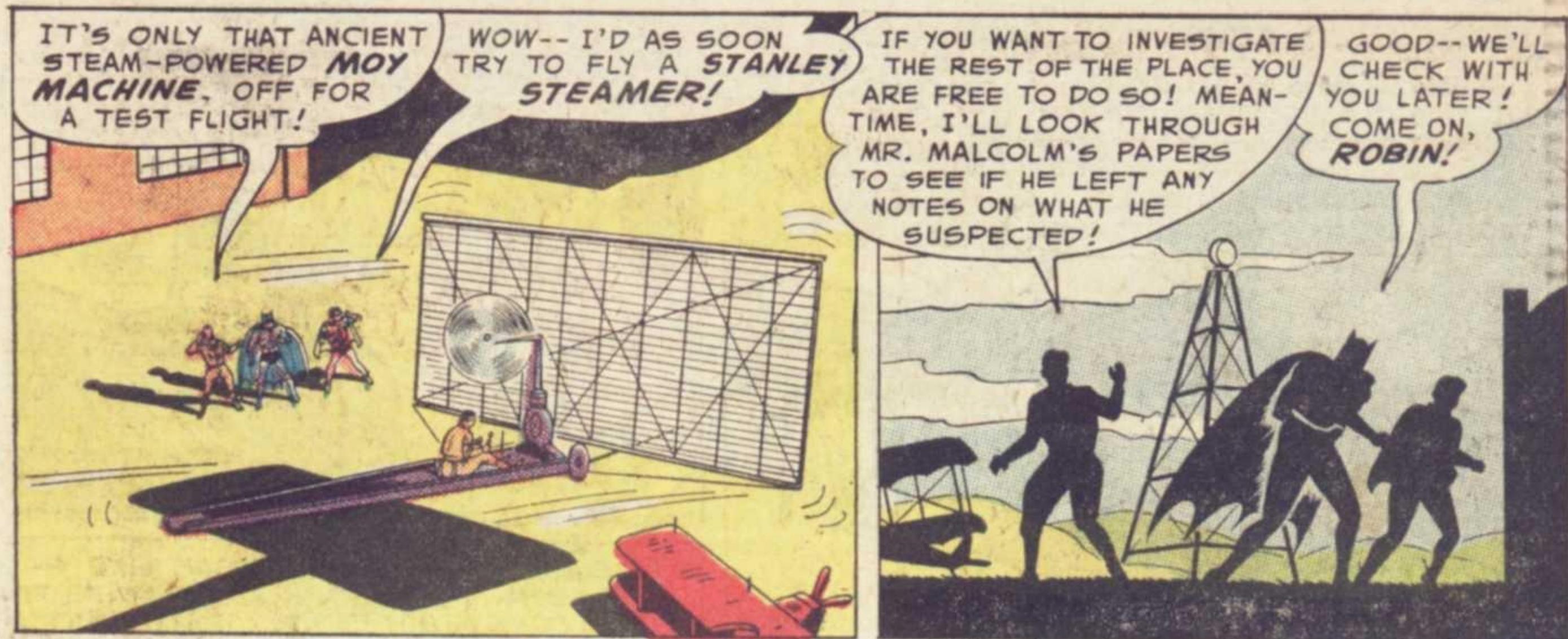
IT'S THE LAST REAL ZEPPELIN LEFT... I PERSONALLY HAVE BEEN RESTORING IT TO FLY IN OUR COMING PAGEANT OF THE SKY, FOR ALL GOTHAM CITY TO SEE!

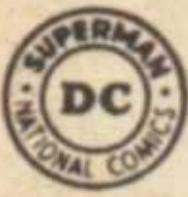
GOSH, I NEVER REALIZED HOW BIG THESE OLD SHIPS OF THE AIR WERE! SAY-- WHAT'S THAT SOUND?





BATMAN ANNUAL





BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT IN THE SKY MUSEUM'S ADMINISTRATION OFFICE, THEY FIND A SINISTER SURPRISE...

WHERE IS GOSS, MEECHER?

I DON'T KNOW! LOOKS LIKE HE WAS OVERPOWERED AND TAKEN AWAY, BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!



GOSS WAS PLANNING TO GO THROUGH MALCOLM'S PAPERS TO FIND OUT WHAT MALCOLM SUSPECTED--BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY STOPPED HIM BEFORE HE COULD EVEN START!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM, RIGHT AWAY! COME ON!



MOMENTS LATER, OUTSIDE...

YOU TAKE THAT END OF THE FIELD, ROBIN, AND I'LL TAKE THIS! AND YOU, MEECHER--ROUND UP EVERY MAN IN THE MUSEUM SO I CAN QUESTION THEM!

ALL RIGHT--I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!



AND AS THE BOY WONDER BEGINS HIS SEARCH...



SHORTLY AFTER, A SWIFT WIND CARRIES THE OLD-TIME BALLOON SKYWARD...



A HIDDEN ASSAILANT STRIKES -- AND ROBIN FALLS STUNNED...

I'LL SEND HIM ON A SKY-TRIP... AND WITH HIS HEAD HANGING OUT LIKE THIS, BATMAN WILL BE SURE TO SEE HIM!





BATMAN ANNUAL



MINUTES LATER, A STRANGE AWAKENING FOR THE BOY WONDER...

WOW! WHOEVER KNOCKED ME OUT REALLY SENT ME UP! DID HE DO THE SAME THING WITH GOSS? NO PARACHUTE HERE, SO I CAN'T JUMP!



BUT BATMAN-- AND HE'S SIGNALING SOMETHING! I GET IT... JUST THEN... HE WANTS ME TO OPEN THE GAS VALVE, SO THIS BALLOON WILL DESCEND-- AND THEN JUMP INTO HIS PLANE!



THEY LEFT YOU DANGLING OUT OF THE BALLOON SO I'D SEE YOU BEING CARRIED AWAY! THEY WANTED ME TO FOLLOW YOU, TO GET ME AWAY FROM THE MUSEUM, BUT THEY DIDN'T FIGURE I'D BRING YOU BACK THIS QUICKLY!

THOSE PUBLIC ENEMIES WHO ESCAPED FROM GOTHAM CITY SO MYSTERIOUSLY... COULD THEY HAVE GOTTEN AWAY THROUGH THESE OLD PLANES? IF SO, SOME OF THE PILOTS HERE MUST HAVE HELPED THEM!



WE CAN'T LAND IN TIME TO CATCH THEM... THEY'LL HAVE TAKEN OFF BY THEN!

BUT WE CAN TAKE A SHORTCUT BY LANDING ON THE HANGAR ROOF! THIS LITTLE PLANE CAN DO IT!



BATMAN ANNUAL

SECONDS LATER...

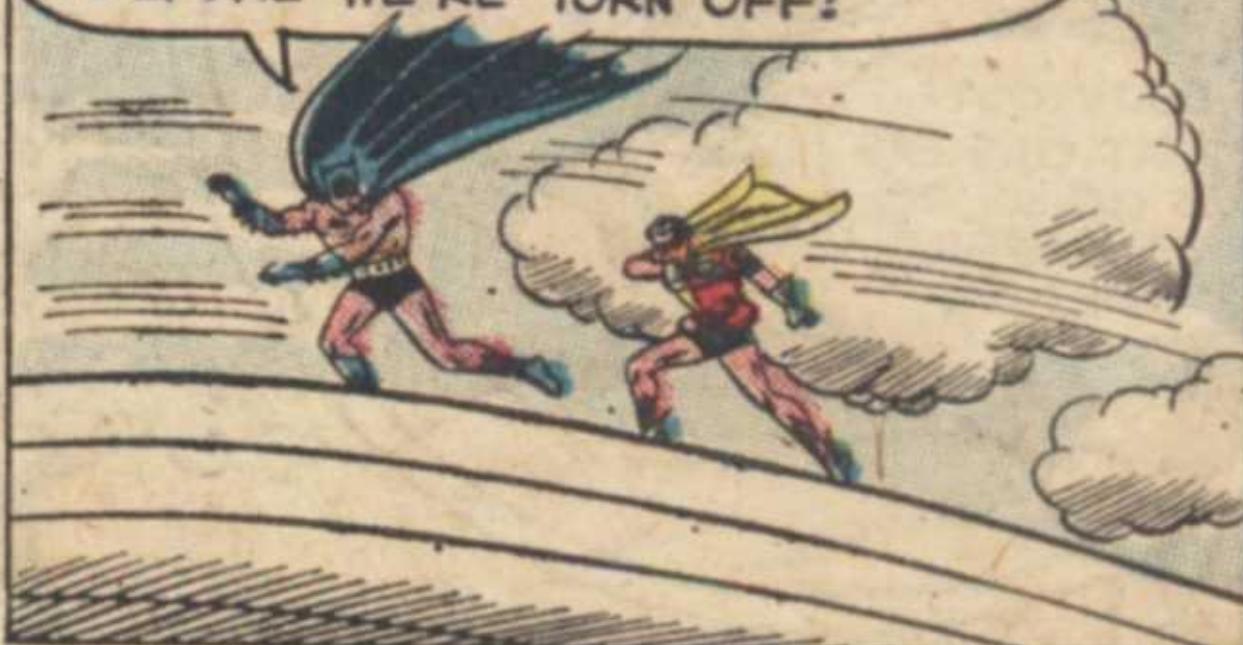
BATMAN AND ROBIN-- THEY CAME BACK FASTER THAN WE FIGURED!

TAKE OFF AT ONCE-- WE CAN SHAKE THEM IN THE AIR!



AND AS THE MIGHTY AIRSHIP OF THE PAST SOARS MAJESTICALLY SKYWARD...

QUICK, ROBIN-- THERE'S ALWAYS A HATCH LEADING DOWN INSIDE A ZEPPELIN FROM THE TOP! WE MUST GET TO IT BEFORE WE'RE TORN OFF!



SOON, INSIDE...

I THOUGHT A ZEPPELIN WAS ALL ONE BIG GAS BAG!

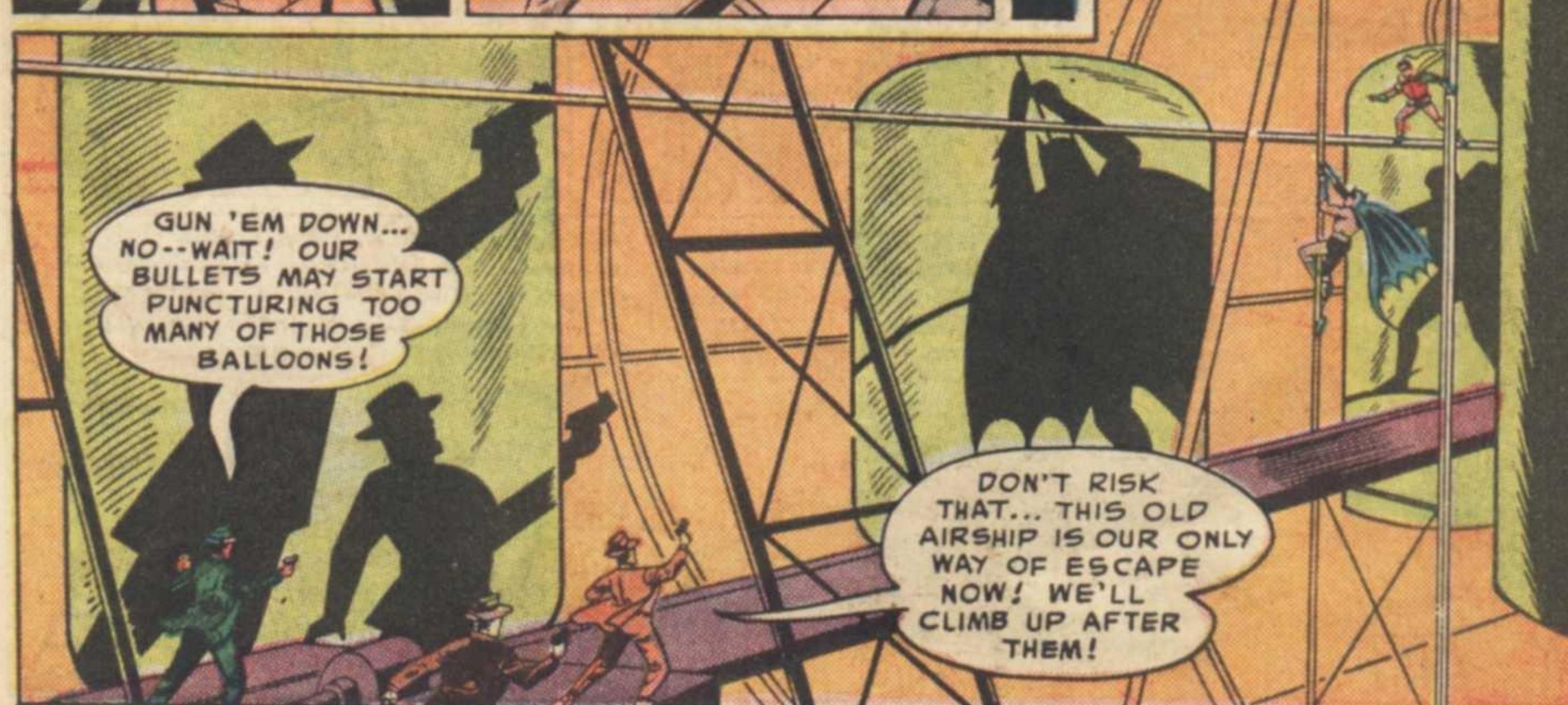
NO, THE OLD ZEPPELINS EACH CONTAINED MANY SEPARATE GAS-BALLOONS... SO IF ONE LEAKED, THE OTHER WOULD STILL BE BUOYANT ENOUGH TO HOLD THE SHIP UP!

LOOK-- THESE COTS... MEN HAVE BEEN HIDING INSIDE THIS OLD AIRSHIP!

THAT'S THE ANSWER! CROOKS LIKE FLEER, WHO DISAPPEARED SO MYSTERIOUSLY, GOT TO THE MUSEUM AND HID IN HERE UNTIL THEY COULD BE SMUGGLED OUT BY PLANE!

ABRUPTLY...

OH, OH... THEY'VE SPOTTED US! START CLIMBING, ROBIN!



GUN 'EM DOWN... NO--WAIT! OUR BULLETS MAY START PUNCTURING TOO MANY OF THOSE BALLOONS!

DON'T RISK THAT... THIS OLD AIRSHIP IS OUR ONLY WAY OF ESCAPE NOW! WE'LL CLIMB UP AFTER THEM!



BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT ABOVE THEM, BATMAN ACTS UNEXPECTEDLY...

THIS ESCAPE-EMERGENCY BLADE FROM MY UTILITY-BELT RIPS THE FABRIC EASILY!

LOOK OUT-- THAT GAS BAG IS GOING TO COLLAPSE ON US!

THAT DID IT! THE OTHER GAS-BAGS ARE ENOUGH TO HOLD THE ZEPPELIN UP! BUT WHAT ABOUT THE GAS WE RELEASED?

IT'S LIGHTER-THAN-AIR HYDROGEN THAT'LL ESCAPE THROUGH THE TOP HATCH! WE'LL TIE UP THESE THUGS, THEN GO FOR OUR REAL RASCAL!



AND SO, SOME DAYS LATER, WITH THE MYSTERY CLEARED, THE MUSEUM OF THE SKY HOLDS ITS GALA PAGEANT...

YOU KNOW, THOSE OLD MACHINES MAY NOT BE JET-POWERED, BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THRILLING ABOUT THEM!

YES, THERE ALWAYS WILL BE--BECAUSE THEY WERE THE REAL PIONEERS OF THE AIR AGE!



THE END.



BATMAN ANNUAL



BATMAN

With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

THREE'S ONLY ONE BATMAN! YES, THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE SAYS-- AND THEY'RE RIGHT WHEN THEY MEAN THAT THERE'S NO OTHER DETECTIVE WHO CAN MATCH HIM! BUT THERE CAN BE OTHER BATMEN OF A DIFFERENT KIND-- AS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTER LEARNS FOR HIMSELF WHEN HE TRIES TO SOLVE...

The MYSTERY of the FOUR BATMEN!

ONE NIGHT, ON A ROOF HIGH ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...

WE'VE TRACKED DUKE WALLING DOWN AT LAST, BATMAN--- AND MAYBE NOW WE CAN CRACK THAT INTERNATIONAL RING THAT HANDLES STOLEN VALUABLES!

WALLING IS SMART AND HAS EVERY APPROACH TO HIS HIDE-OUT GUARDED-- EXCEPT THE ONE WE'LL USE, ROBIN!

NEXT MOMENT, IN AN APARTMENT BELOW...

HUH--?
WH-WHERE'D
YOU COME
FROM?

YOU FORGOT
THAT BATS
CAN FLY,
DUKE!

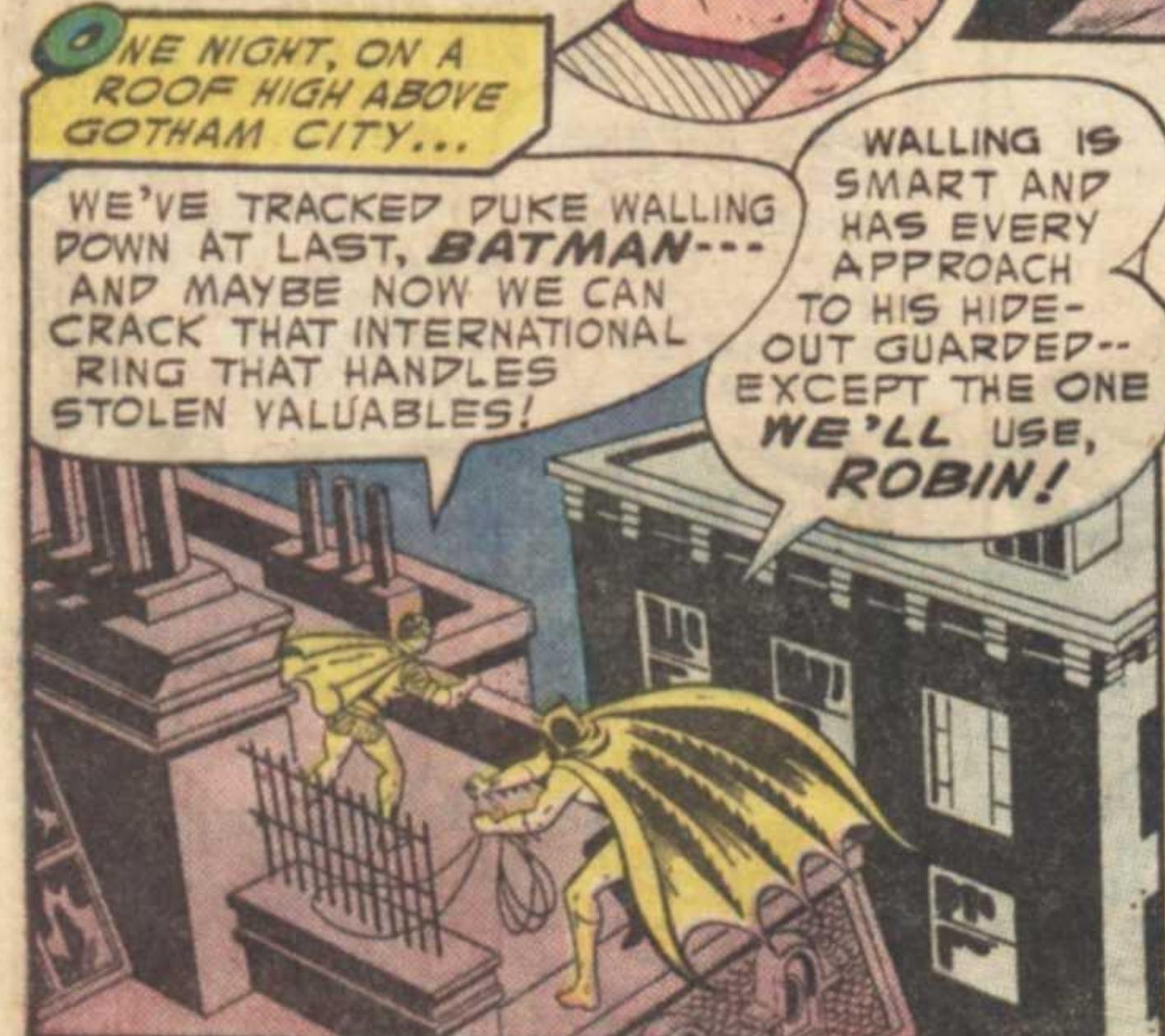
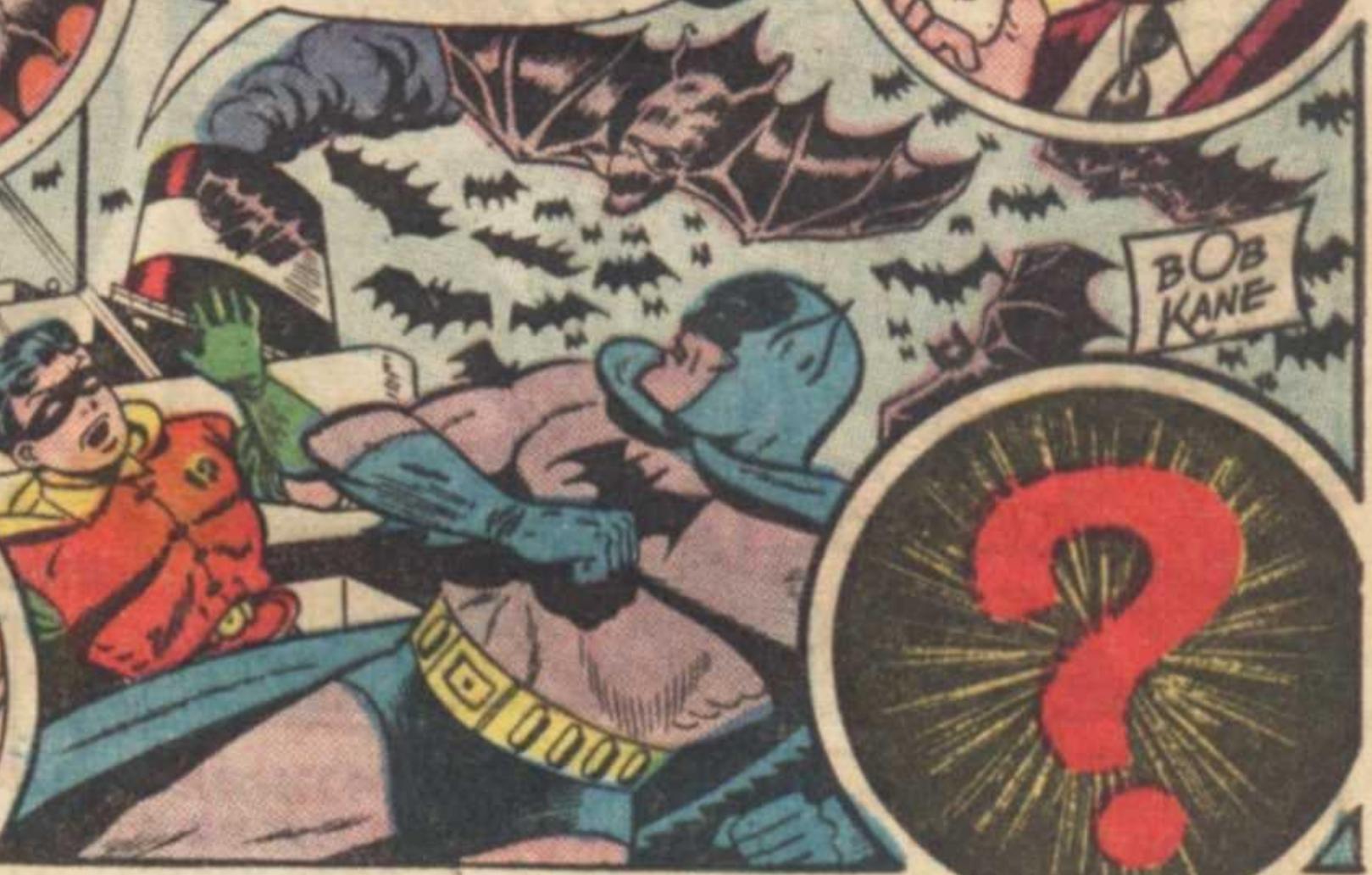
AND
ROBINS,
TOO!



ONE OF THE FOUR MYSTERY BATMEN LET THEM OUT-- BUT WHICH ONE?



BOB KANE





BATMAN ANNUAL



SOON...

OKAY--SO YOU'VE GOT ME! BUT YOU WON'T FIND ANY OF MY INTERNATIONAL PALS! I'M NOT TALKING!

MAYBE THAT'S ONE OF THEM ON THE PHONE NOW! MY ROPE WILL HOLD YOU WHILE I FIND OUT! BETTER GAG HIM TOO, ROBIN!



BRRING!

BUT SUDDENLY, A DESPERATE CROOK LASHES OUT...

WHAT'S THAT NOISE? AND WHY WOULD YOU WANT ME TO REPEAT THE PLAN? SOMETHING'S WRONG--YOU'RE NOT DUKE!

MMFF!



CRASH!

AFTERWARD, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, COMMISSIONER GORDON AND THE DUO FACE A BAFFLING RIDDLE...

HOW COULD A BATMAN ARRIVE ON THAT SHIP? DOES THIS CRIMINAL RING EXPECT AN IMPERSONATOR TO HELP THEM?

THE VARONIC SAILS FROM EUROPE TOMORROW, AND SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO THESE CROOKS WILL BE ABOARD IT--MAYBE BRINGING STOLEN VALUABLES! BUT WHO?

"BATMAN" COULD BE A CODE-WORD FOR SOMEBODY THEY EXPECT!



YES--AND SINCE DUKE WON'T TALK, MAYBE WE CAN GET A LEAD FROM HIS HIDE-OUT!

AND AS BATMAN IMITATES HIS CAPTIVE'S VOICE...

DUKE? THE BATMAN WE'RE EXPECTING WILL ARRIVE ON THE LINER VARONIC NEXT TUESDAY!

THAT'S GOOD! BUT... ER... YOU'D BETTER REPEAT THE WHOLE PLAN--SO I'LL KNOW YOU HAVE IT CORRECT!



THAT SCARED HIM OFF--BUT HE SAID A BATMAN IS ARRIVING ON THE VARONIC TUESDAY! WHAT DID HE MEAN, DUKE?

HA, HA--THAT'S WHAT YOU'LL NEVER FIND OUT!



A BATMAN ARRIVING ON A LINER? NO WONDER THE REAL BATMAN IS MYSTIFIED!

BUT AFTER A WHOLE NIGHT'S INVESTIGATION IN THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...

NOTHING REVEALING IN ANY OF DUKE'S PAPERS! WE'VE GOTTEN NOWHERE--AND BY NOW, THE VARONIC HAS STARTED ITS VOYAGE!

THE RING'S CRIME-PILOT CENTERS ON THAT LINER, AND WE'VE GOT TO BE ON IT BEFORE IT ARRIVES! ROBIN, WE'LL GO MEET THE VARONIC IN MID-OCEAN!





BATMAN ANNUAL



THUS, SOME TIME LATER, AS THE FAMED BAT-PLANE streaks eastward over the ocean on a mission into menacing mystery...

A SPECIAL COPPER DEVICE WILL ENABLE US TO LAND ON THE SHIP'S DECK!

YES, ROBIN-- AND WE MUST SOLVE THIS MYSTERY BEFORE THE LINER REACHES GOTHAM CITY!



AND IN THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN...

HERE'S THE PASSENGER LIST, BATMAN!

CAPTAIN! WE'RE WORRIED! IF BATMAN HAS COME, THERE MUST BE CRIMINALS ON BOARD -- AND MY PEARLS MAY BE IN DANGER!

AND MY DIAMOND BRACELET!

AND THESE ANCIENT PERSIAN STATUETTES I DUG UP... THEY'RE NOT WORTH MUCH MONEY, BUT ARE TREMENDOUSLY VALUABLE TO ARCHAEOLOGY!

I KNOW, DR. VEERING-- BUT THERE'S NO DANGER WITH BATMAN ABOARD!

HAVE THE PURSER LOCK UP YOUR VALUABLES, AND THEN YOU WON'T WORRY!



A LITTLE LATER, STUDYING THE DETAILED PASSENGER LIST, BATMAN MAKES A DISCOVERY...

THESE THREE MEN ARE THE ONLY "BATMAN" SUSPECTS I CAN FIND ON THE LIST!

A BASEBALL PLAYER, A POTTERY MAN, AND AN ORNITHOLOGIST? HOW COULD THEY BE "BATMAN"?



ROBIN LEARNS THE ANSWER WHEN THEY INTERVIEW LEFTY LINGARD, PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER...

A BATMAN... OF COURSE! EVERY BASEBALL PLAYER USES A BAT!

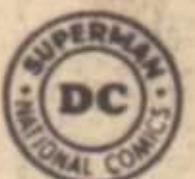
YEAH... BUT I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY CRIME-PLOT!

I'LL WANT TO QUESTION YOU AGAIN, LATER!





BATMAN ANNUAL



HORACE HUBERT, BUSINESSMAN IN THE POTTERY LINE, TURNS OUT TO BE A "BATMAN", TOO...

AREN'T THOSE POTTERY PLATES, IN THE FIRST STAGE OF MANUFACTURE, CALLED "BATS"?

THAT'S RIGHT! I'M GOING TO EXHIBIT MODELS OF MY NEW ELECTRIC KILN FOR MAKING BATS-- AND MY NEW ELECTRIC POTTER'S WHEEL! BUT I NEVER HEARD OF DUKE WALLING, OR ANY CRIME RING!



AND PROFESSOR EGBERT SMILLS, ORNITHOLOGIST--OR BIRD-SCIENTIST, IS AN OBVIOUS "BATMAN"...

YES, I'M BRINGING A FINE COLLECTION OF BATS BACK FROM SOUTHERN ASIA-- BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A "BATMAN" CRIMINAL OF SOME SORT!

NO ONE HAS ACCUSED YOU, PROFESSOR... I MERELY HAVE TO QUESTION CERTAIN PEOPLE!



LATER, WHEN THE TWO LAWMEN ARE ALONE...

SMILLS IS NOT SUNBURNED, AS A MAN FROM THE TROPICS SHOULD BE! I'M GOING TO ASK THAT ARCHAEOLOGIST ABOUT HIM!

THREE SUSPECTS-- AND EVERY ONE A "BATMAN"! IT'S TOO FANTASTIC FOR ME!

DR. VEERING, THE WORRIED ARCHAEOLOGIST, SOON FURNISHES A POSSIBLE LEAD...

I DIDN'T TALK MUCH WITH PROFESSOR SMILLS, BUT THE CAGE OF BATS HE'D PUT INTO THE HOLD DIDN'T LOOK LIKE ASIAN SPECIMENS TO ME!



SHORTLY AFTER...

ALL THREE OF OUR "BATMEN" BOOKED PASSAGE AT THE LAST MINUTE ON THIS LINER-- WHICH MAKES THEM ALL SUSPECT! YOU CHECK ON THOSE BATS... I WANT SOMETHING FROM

THE GYM HERE!

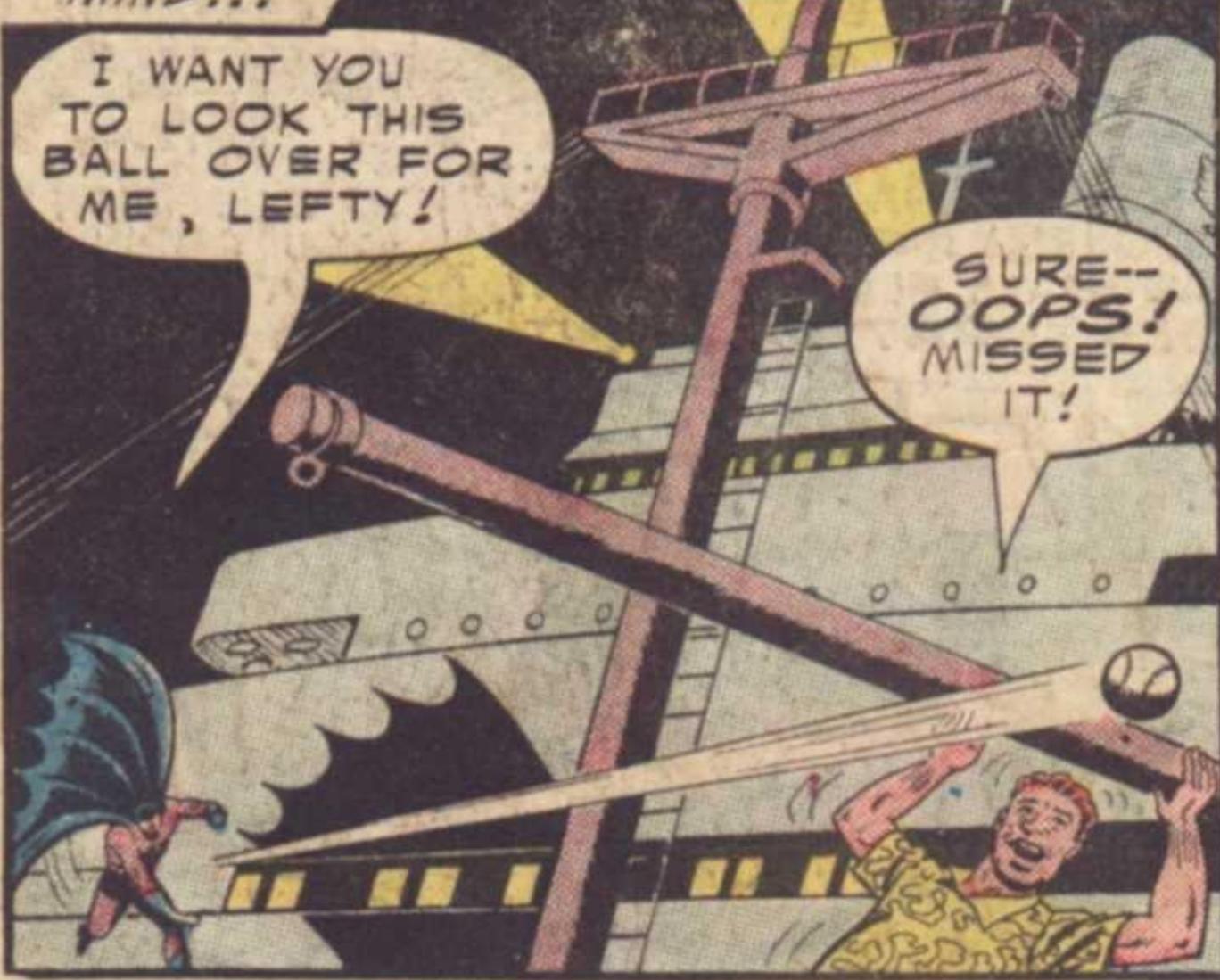


"BATMAN"-- AND NOW BATS! I'M GETTING CONFUSED!

AS NIGHT FALLS, BATMAN GETS HIS CHANCE TO TRY THE TEST HE HAS IN MIND...

I WANT YOU TO LOOK THIS BALL OVER FOR ME, LEFTY!

SURE-- OOPS! MISSED IT!



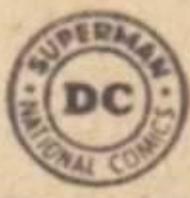
NO REAL BALLPLAYER WOULD MISS AN EASY CATCH LIKE THAT! I FIGURED YOU FOR A FAKE WHEN I SAW YOUR HANDS DON'T HAVE THE BAT-CALLOUSES A PROFESSIONAL BALLPLAYER DEVELOPS!

ALL RIGHT, MAYBE I'M NOT A BALLPLAYER! SO WHAT?





BATMAN ANNUAL





BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT BATMAN HAS ALREADY SEEN
BATS A-PLENTY!



MY BAT-COLLECTION-- GONE! ALL THE PRECIOUS SPECIMENS I SPENT MONTHS GATHERING IN THE EAST!

BUT YOU DIDN'T GET THIS BAT IN THE EAST, PROFESSOR SMILLS!



BATMAN AND I HAVE STUDIED BATS... WE KNOW THAT THIS IS A MADAGASCAR FRUIT BAT, WHICH DOESN'T COME FROM ASIA AT ALL!

ER-- THAT'S BECAUSE I BOUGHT A FEW EXTRA SPECIMENS FROM ANOTHER COLLECTOR! I'LL PUT THIS ONE BACK IN ITS CAGE!

NONE OF THE BATS LOOKED LIKE FAR EASTERN VARIETIES TO ME-- BUT SINCE THEY'VE ALL ESCAPED, I CAN'T PROVE IT!

IF SMILLS IS A FAKE, HE MAY HAVE LET THE BATS OUT HIMSELF, FOR THAT VERY REASON!



ONLY SMILLS' FINGER-PRINTS ARE ON THE BAT-CAGE LOCK, SO HE DID LET THEM OUT HIMSELF!

THAT PROVES HE'S A FAKE, AND A MEMBER OF THE CRIME-RING! BUT IF HE WAS HERE OPENING THE CAGE, HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ON DECK TO OPERATE THAT CARGO-CRANE... SO WHO DID?

ALL RIGHT. SO THE BAT-COLLECTOR STORY WAS A PHONY! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO GOT LEFTY!

I THINK YOU'RE LYING -- AND WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO HOLD YOU ON SUSPICION TILL WE DOCK!

IT LOOKS AS THOUGH HUBERT MIGHT BE OUR MAN! HE HAS NO PROVEN ALIBI FOR THE TIME OF THE ATTACK!

WE'LL KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON HIM-- BUT IT'S THE MYSTERIOUS FOURTH "BATMAN" THAT HAS ME WORRIED! WE'LL CHECK THE PASSENGER LIST AGAIN TO SEE IF WE CAN SPOT HIM!





BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT DAWN FINDS THE ENIGMA OF THE FOURTH "BATMAN" STILL UNSOLVED...

NOT ONE OF THE OTHER PASSENGERS COULD BE A "BATMAN" IN ANY SENSE OF THE WORD! AND WE'LL BE DOCKING SOON!

ONE OF THEM MUST BE! LEFTY SAID. "THERE'S A FOURTH BATMAN ABOARD AND IT'S... BUT HE NEVER NAMED THE MAN, UNLESS-- WAIT A MINUTE!"

THAT'S IT-- THE CLUE IN LEFTY'S WORDS I OVERLOOKED TILL NOW! WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST! ROBIN, YOU WEIGH LEFTY'S BALL-BATS, AND SEE IF ONE OF THEM WEIGHS SIX AND A HALF POUNDS!

WEIGH THEM? BUT-- WELL, OKAY-- IF YOU SAY SO!

AND IN THE BALLPLAYER'S CABIN...

NO, NONE OF THESE BALL-BATS IS THAT WEIGHT! BUT HOW CAN WEIGHING BATS HELP US FIND THE FOURTH "BATMAN"?

WHILE IN HORACE HUBERT'S STATE-ROOM...

MIND IF I WEIGH THESE CLAY BATS, HUBERT?

SURE -- BUT I DON'T SEE WHY!

HMM... THOSE SPECKS OF GREEN CLAY AREN'T FROM THESE POTTERY BATS! NOW I GET IT!

OH, OH... HE'S SPOTTED THOSE TRACES! THE GAME'S UP, UNLESS I STOP HIM!

AND AS BATMAN TURNS, A POTTERY EXPERT EMPLOYS A WEIRD WEAPON...

I WANT TO KNOW... OW! MY EYES!

THIS POWERED POTTER'S WHEEL, SPEEDED UP TO THE LIMIT, THROWS CLAY FAST!

GOT HIM-- AND WE'RE DOCKING NOW! MUST GET OFF THIS SHIP WHILE HE'S STILL STUNNED!



BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT A FLYING TACKLE HALTS THE CRIMINAL DEAD IN HIS TRACKS...

YOU DIDN'T STUN ME QUITE HARD ENOUGH, HUBERT! I'M TAKING YOU TO THE POLICE NOW!



LATER, HOWEVER, WHEN BATMAN JOINS UP WITH ROBIN AT THE CUSTOMS OFFICE...

BUT WHY NOT TAKE HIM TO HEAD-QUARTERS OURSELVES, BATMAN?

I WANTED TO MAKE THE REAL CRIMINAL THINK WE WERE MISLED, SO WE COULD FOLLOW HIM TO HIS CONFEDERATES! IN FACT, OUR FOURTH "BATMAN" IS GOING THERE RIGHT NOW!



AND BEFORE LONG, AFTER TRAILING AN UNSUSPECTING QUARRY, CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS CRASH IN...

BATMAN!
THEN I WAS TRICKED!

AS YOU TRIED TO TRICK ME, BY HAVING THREE RED-HERRING "BATMEN" SAIL ON THE LINER SO I WOULDN'T SUSPECT YOU WHEN I GOT THAT LEAD! YOU DIDN'T DARE CANCEL YOUR OWN PASSAGE, BECAUSE THAT WOULD LEAD TO SUSPICION OF YOU!

I RECALLED THEN THAT A "BATMAN" IS A UNIT OF WEIGHT IN IRAN AND THE EAST, EQUAL TO SIX AND A HALF POUNDS! AND WHEN I SAW TRACES OF GREEN CLAY LIKE THIS IN HUBERT'S KILN, I KNEW WHAT THE FOURTH BATMAN WAS!



STOLEN JEWELS, SMUGGLED BY BAKING THEM INSIDE THIS PHONY ANCIENT STATUETTE, WHICH WEIGHS SIX AND A HALF POUNDS -- OR ONE "BATMAN"! THIS IS THE "BATMAN" THE RING WAS SMUGGLING IN!

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE, BATMAN EXPLAINS A CUNNING CRIME-PLOT...

THEN VEERING IS THE FOURTH "BATMAN"?

NO, THE FOURTH ONE WASN'T A PERSON AT ALL! I REMEMBERED THAT LEFTY SAID, "A FOURTH BATMAN ABOARD AND IT'S..." IF IT WERE A PERSON, LEFTY WOULD HAVE SAID "HE'S..."



AND SO, LATER, UPON RESUMING THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

I HOPE CRIME STAYS QUIET SO YOU CAN BE JUST BRUCE FOR AWHILE! RIGHT NOW, I FEEL I'VE SEEN TOO MANY BATMEN LATELY!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN!



THE END



BATMAN ANNUAL



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

I CAN'T ESCAPE
THIS FANTASTIC
CREATURE MUCH LONGER--
AND IF I SURFACE, IT
WILL SURELY MEAN
MY DOOM!

APPARENTLY, THE ISLAND LEGEND
WAS TRUE-- FOR OUT OF THE
DEPTH OF TIME STALKED A
FANTASTIC, INVULNERABLE BEAST!
COULD THE MODERN-DAY SKILLS
OF BATMAN AND ROBIN COPE
WITH THIS THING FROM THE PAST?
OR WOULD THEY, TOO, FALL
VICTIM TO...

**THE
CREATURE
FROM THE
GREEN LAGOON**

BB
KANE



BATMAN ANNUAL



FAR OUT OVER THE PACIFIC SOARS
THE FAMED BAT-PLANE...

SHORTLY, A TENSE FIGURE
GREETS THE DYNAMIC DUO...

AND AS THE THREE HEAD TOWARD
A FRIENDLY NATIVE VILLAGE...

HERE WE ARE,
BATMAN...
OUR DESTINATION--
**SKULL
ISLAND!**

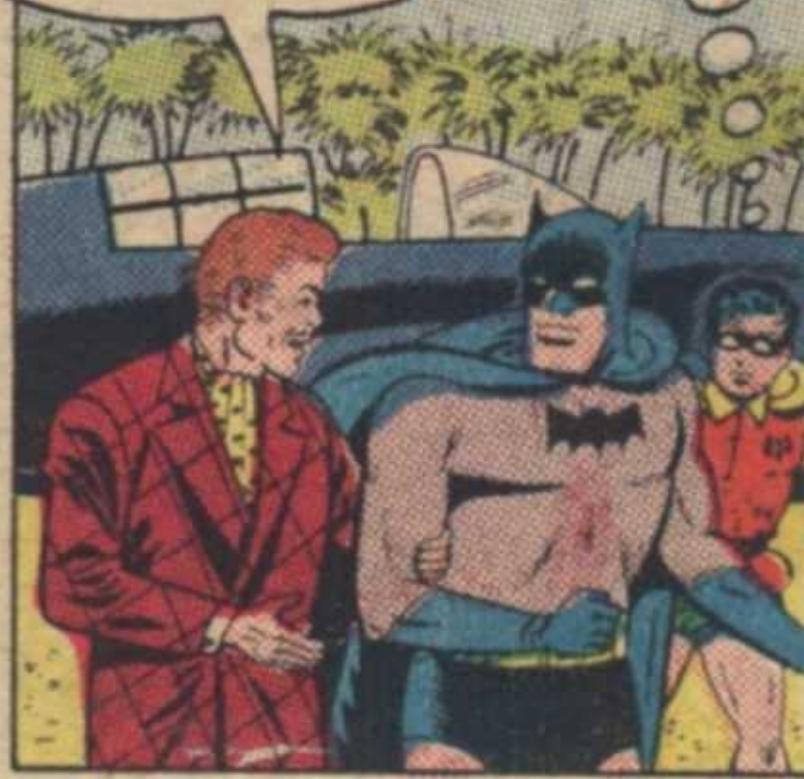
RIGHT, **ROBIN**--
AND I'M CERTAINLY
ANXIOUS TO LEARN
WHY MY FILM-
PRODUCER
FRIEND, CORY
BLANE, IS SO
ANXIOUS TO
SEE US!

THANK
GOODNESS
YOU'VE COME,
BATMAN!
LET'S HEAD
BACK TO MY FILM
QUARTERS!

GOSH, HE'S
SURE
HAPPY TO SEE
BATMAN!
WONDER
WHAT'S UP?

THAT FANTASTIC
WALL--CUTTING
OFF THE ENTIRE
SOUTH SIDE OF
THE VILLAGE...
WHAT'S ITS
PURPOSE,
BLANE?

YOU'LL LEARN
PRESENTLY,
BATMAN...
THAT'S WHY I
SENT FOR YOU!
BUT FIRST, I
WANT YOU TO MEET
MY ASSOCIATES!



WHEN THEY REACH THE FILM LOCATION TENT...

BATMAN, MEET OUR TECHNICAL
ADVISERS, PROFESSOR CARTER, BIG-GAME
HUNTER CHARLES DEVON, AND MY ASSISTANT,
TOD MARTIN!

GLAD TO KNOW
YOU, GENTLEMEN!

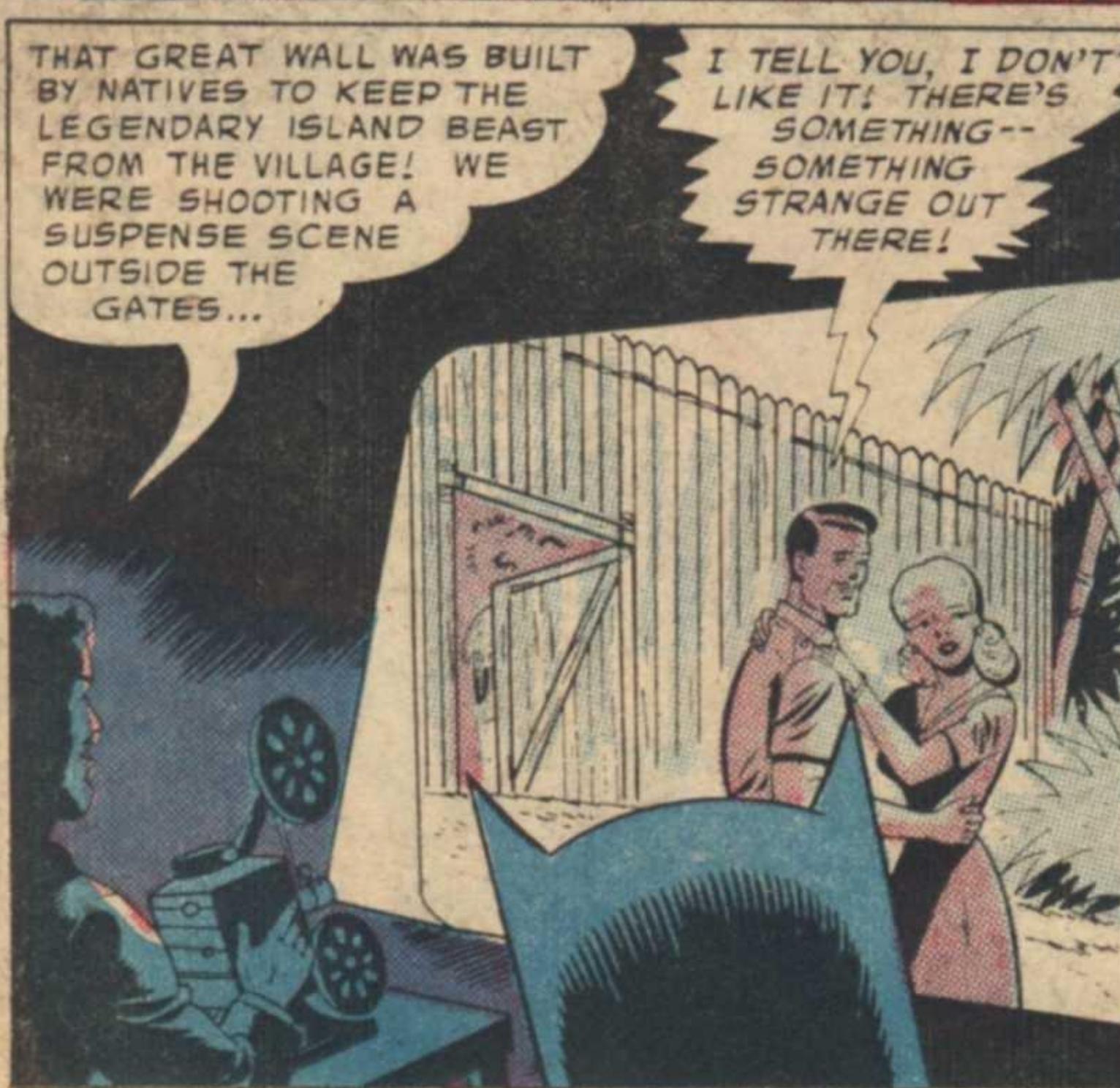
WE CAME HERE TO MAKE A
PICTURE ABOUT A LEGENDARY
CREATURE, WHOM THE NATIVES
CALL **LOCTO**! A FILM CLIP
OF THE FIRST WEEK'S
SHOOTING WILL SHOW YOU
BETTER THAN WORDS
WHAT I'M UP
AGAINST!



THAT GREAT WALL WAS BUILT
BY NATIVES TO KEEP THE
LEGENDARY ISLAND BEAST
FROM THE VILLAGE! WE
WERE SHOOTING A
SUSPENSE SCENE
OUTSIDE THE
GATES...

I TELL YOU, I DON'T
LIKE IT! THERE'S
SOMETHING--
SOMETHING
STRANGE OUT
THERE!

AT THIS POINT, THE CREATURE--
PLAYED BY A STUNT MAN, OF
COURSE -- CAME INTO THE
SCENE!





BATMAN ANNUAL



... BUT, SUDDENLY, OUR TERRIFIED CAMERAMAN
SAW A FORM RISE BEHIND THE ACTORS--THE
REAL THING!



"THE CREW RACED BACK TOWARD THE WALL
GATES, WHILE I SOMEHOW FOUND THE NERVE
TO KEEP A CAMERA TURNING ON THE DESTRUCTION
THAT FOLLOWED..."



DEVON, OUR BIG-GAME HUNTER,
TOOK A POTSHOT AT THE BEAST
AS IT SMASHED OUR EXPENSIVE
EQUIPMENT, BUT THE BULLET
GLANCED OFF ITS SCALES,
AND IT STALKED AWAY!



I'VE THROWN A FORTUNE
INTO THIS PRODUCTION,
BATMAN! IT TOOK
TIME AND MONEY JUST TO
FIND PROPER SHOOTING
LOCATIONS FOR THESE
LAST FEW SCENES, AND
HAVE MY ASSISTANT
CHECK THEM!

AND NOW YOUR
WHOLE PRODUCTION
IS THREATENED
BY THIS--THIS
LOCTO, EH?

GREAT, SCOTT!
THE BEAST IS
BREAKING DOWN
THE WALL GATES,
BATMAN!

TOO LATE TO BAR HIS ENTRANCE!
ROBIN-- THAT FLOODLIGHT...
FOCUS IT ON HIS FACE AS
HE BREAKS THROUGH!



JUST THEN...
AI-I-I-I-EEEE! LOCTO
HE COMES! HE COMES!

OH NO! NOT
AGAIN!





BATMAN ANNUAL



THIS FILM SET CONSTRUCTION CRANE-- IT'S THE ONLY THING POWERFUL ENOUGH TO HALT THE THING!

THEN, AS A FANTASTIC HULK BURSTS THROUGH THE GATES...



THE ANSWER COMES WITH SKILFUL MANEUVERING OF THE CRANE LOOP...

LASSOED HIM WHILE HE STOOD BLINDED! NOW, IF WE CAN RESTRAIN HIS LIMBS...

NO... NO!

AND AS BATMAN CRAWLS FROM THE CRANE CAB...

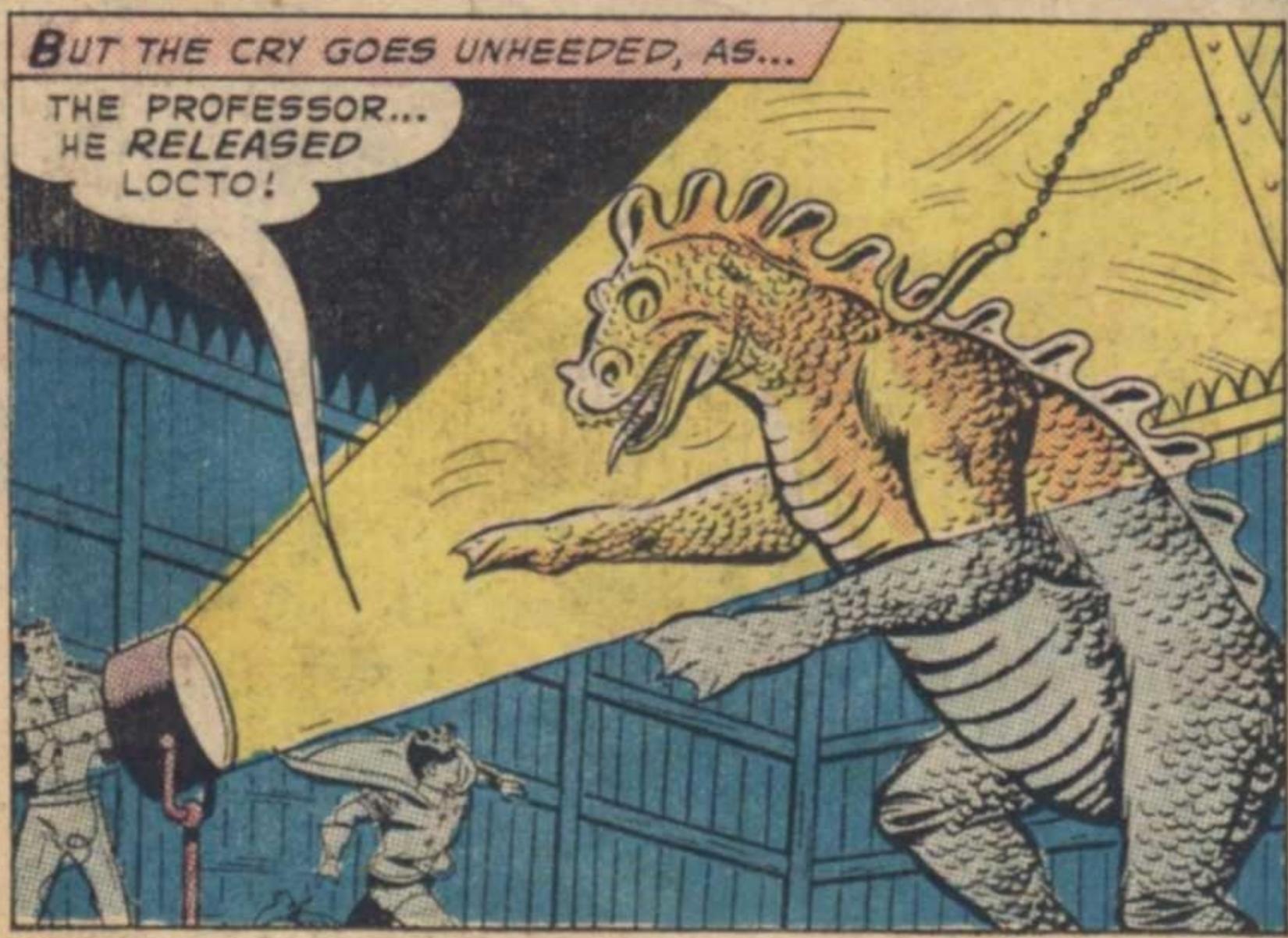
PROFESSOR CARTER! DON'T TRIP THAT RELEASE!



BUT THE CRY GOES UNHEEDED, AS...

THE PROFESSOR... HE RELEASED LOCTO!

HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED US ALL-- BUT THE GREAT POWER OF THE CRANE MUST HAVE CONFUSED HIM! HE'S RUNNING AWAY!





BATMAN ANNUAL

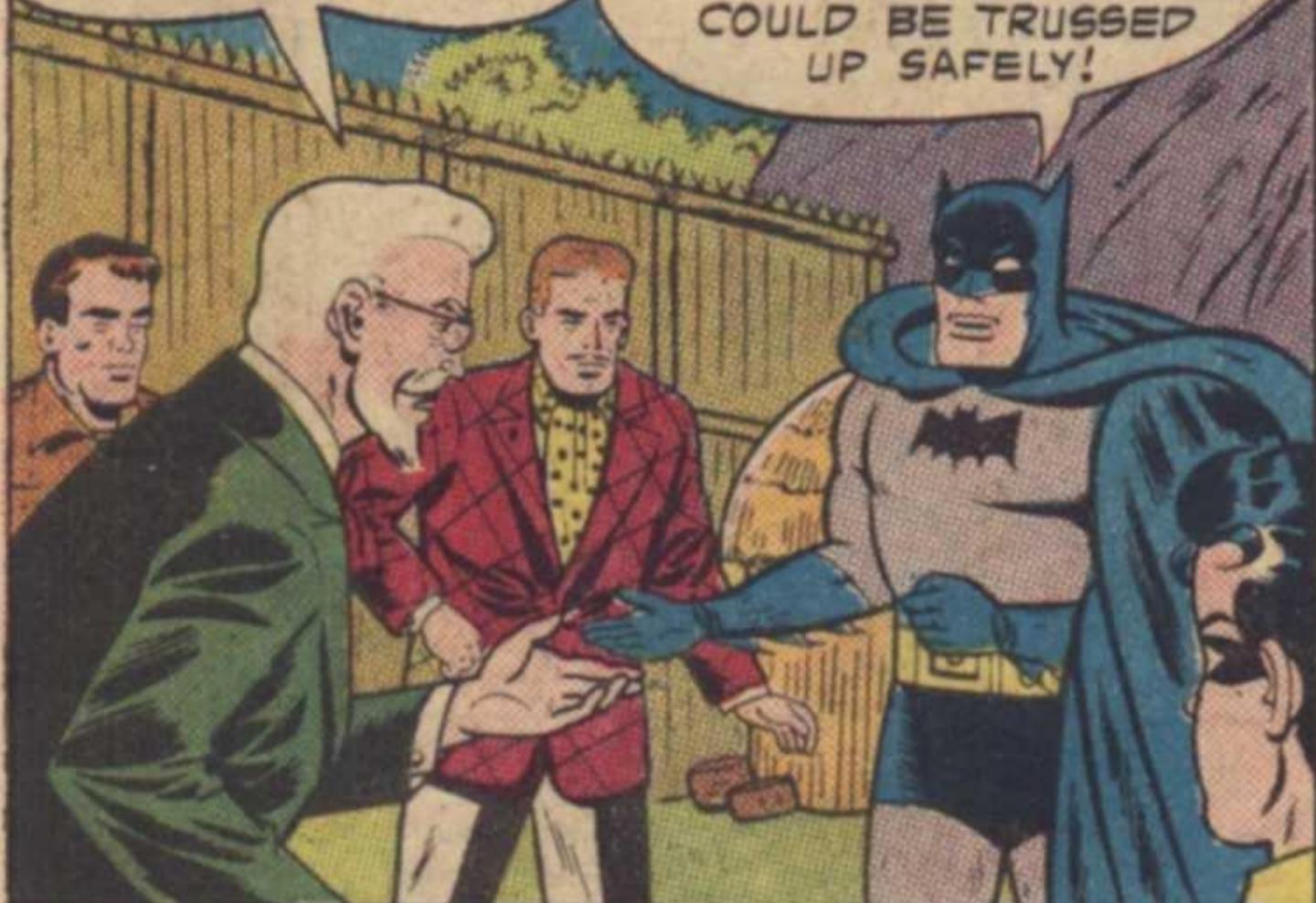


SORRY, BATMAN...
I--I SIMPLY COULDN'T
LET YOU DESTROY
LOCTO! HE BELONGS
TO SCIENCE... ALIVE!

TRUE, PROFESSOR, BUT
I HAD NO INTENTION OF
KILLING THE BRUTE! I
INTENDED ONLY TO HOLD
HIM SUSPENDED SO HE
COULD BE TRussed
UP SAFELY!

WHY... WHY DID THE
THING HAVE TO
ESCAPE? MY WORRIES
WOULD HAVE BEEN
OVER!

NO POINT FRETTING
ABOUT IT, BLANE!
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE
GOT A JOB--
REPAIRING THAT
SMASHED WALL
GATE!



LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN DISCUSS THE UNUSUAL
SITUATION...

EVEN IF THAT
REINFORCED WALL GATE KEEPS
LOCTO AWAY, HOW CAN THE
CAST BE PROTECTED OUTSIDE,
AT THE NATIVE RUINS
TOMORROW?

WE'LL PUT SOME THOUGHT
INTO THAT, ROBIN,
AFTER WE'VE GOTTEN
SOME SLEEP!

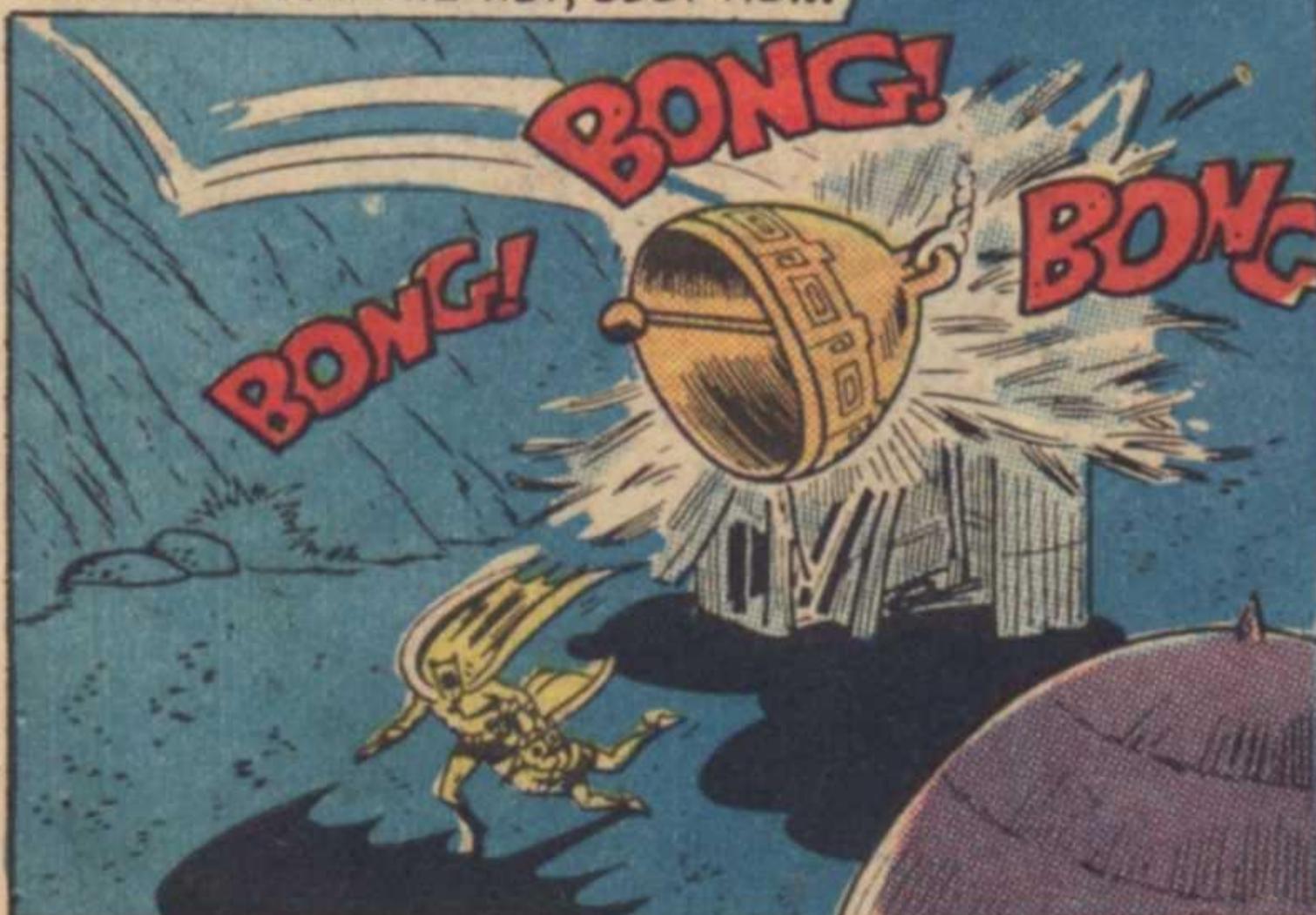
BUT SUDDENLY, AS THEY REACH THEIR
HUT...

WHAT'S THAT,
BATMAN?

THE NATIVE
CEREMONIAL GONG...
IT'S--GREAT SCOTT!



A THRUST OF BATMAN'S MIGHTY FOREARM YANKS
ROBIN FROM THE HUT, JUST AS...



AND WHEN THEY EXAMINE THE CAUSE OF
THEIR CLOSE CALL...

ODD... BOTH SUPPORTING
ROPES ARE FRAYED
THROUGH! THAT'S A
REAL PECULIAR
ACCIDENT!

YES... MIGHTY
UNUSUAL THAT
BOTH ROPES
SHOULD FRAY
THROUGH AT
ONCE!





BATMAN ANNUAL



GOLLY... IF SOMEONE DELIBERATELY FRAYED THOSE ROPES, THE GONG'S SWINGING IN THE NIGHT BREEZE WOULD EVENTUALLY BREAK THEM!

RIGHT-- GIVING OUR WOULD-BE KILLER PLENTY OF TIME TO ESCAPE! COME ON. LET'S FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO BED DOWN!

NEXT MORNING, AS BATMAN COMPLETES A PLAN OF DEFENSE AGAINST THE ISLAND BEAST...

A GREAT IDEA, BATMAN!.. IF LOCTO APPEARS, WE CAN ELECTRIFY THAT STEEL MESH NET, AND STUN HIM! BUT HOW CAN WE MAKE HIM STEP ON IT?

THAT WILL BE MY PROBLEM, BLANE! START YOUR ISLAND RUINS SCENE ANY TIME YOU'RE READY!

FOR AN HOUR, THE CAMERAS WHIR SMOOTHLY...

VERY REALISTIC, ROBIN! BUT THAT ACTOR-BEAST CAN'T MATCH THE REAL ONE FOR FEROCITY!



ALL AT ONCE...

AROOOWWW!

LOCTO! THE ISLAND CREATURE COMES!

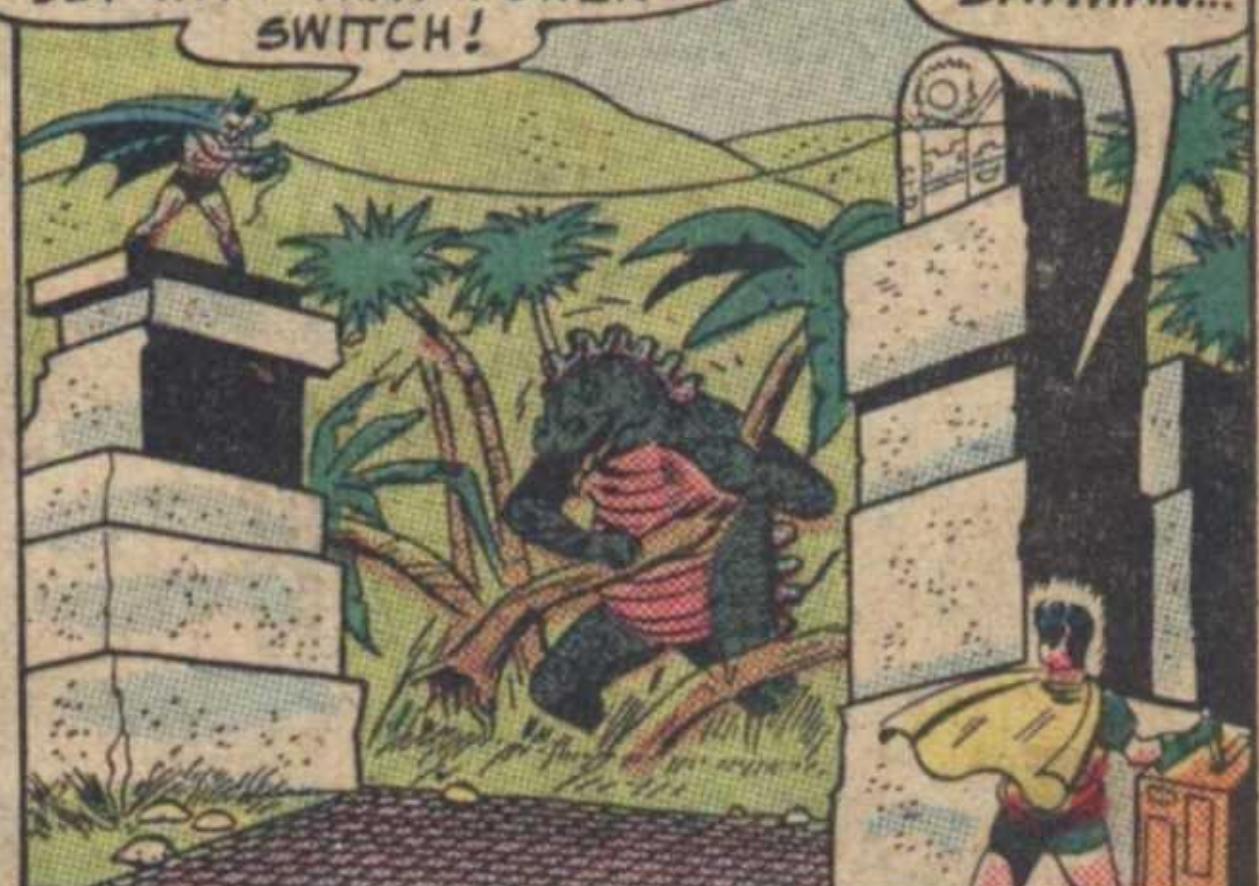
LET'S GO, ROBIN... WE'VE GOT TO MANEUVER THAT BEAST ACCORDING TO PLAN!



QUICKLY, BATMAN MOUNTS A TOWERING RUIN, AND...

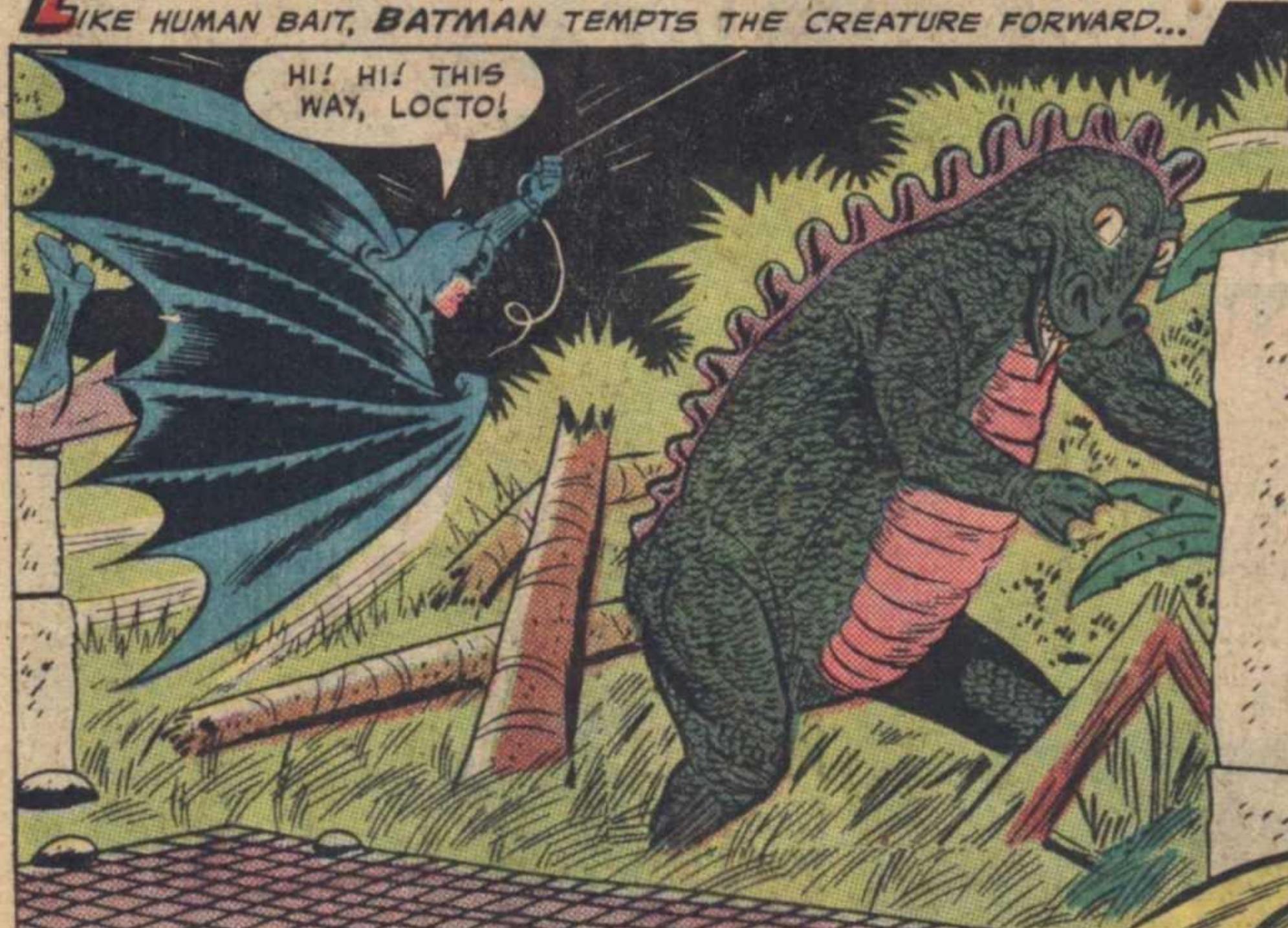
ALL RIGHT, ROBIN-- GET SET WITH THAT POWER SWITCH!

RIGHT, BATMAN...

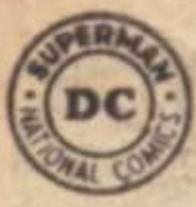


LIKE HUMAN BAIT, BATMAN TEMPTS THE CREATURE FORWARD...

HI! HI! THIS WAY, LOCTO!



SO FAR, SO GOOD...



BATMAN ANNUAL



BUT AT THAT MOMENT...

LAST TIME, MY CARTRIDGE CALIBER WAS TOO SMALL TO DROP THE BEAST! THIS HIGH-CALIBER JOB WILL DO THE TRICK, BATMAN!

DEVON--HE INTENDS TO SLAY LOCTO!

HOLD IT, DEVON!
YOU'LL SPOIL MY PLAN!

LOCTO'S ON THE NET! NOW!



BUT, AMAZINGLY, THERE IS NO REACTION AS THOUSANDS OF VOLTS COURSE THROUGH THE NET...

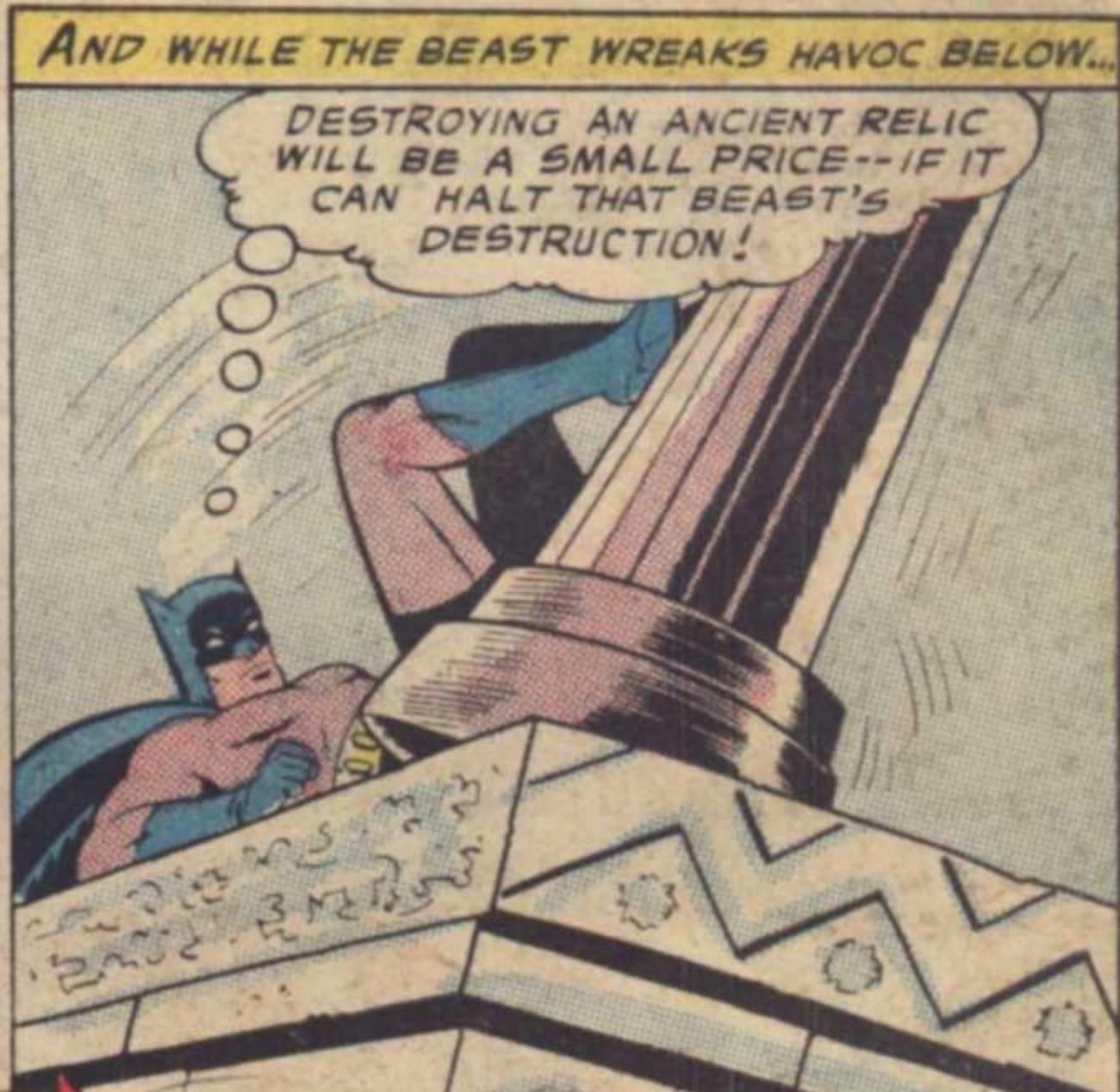
BATMAN! SEA SPONGES HAVE CAUGHT ON HIS FEET! THEY MUST BE INSULATING HIM AGAINST THE SHOCK!

GREAT SCOTT!



AND WHILE THE BEAST WREAKS HAVOC BELOW...

DESTROYING AN ANCIENT RELIC WILL BE A SMALL PRICE--IF IT CAN HALT THAT BEAST'S DESTRUCTION!



FRANTICALLY, THE CAPE FIGURE SWINGS OUT, AS...

TRAP'S BACKFIRED... GOT TO MAKE THE ANCIENT SUNDIAL TOWER!

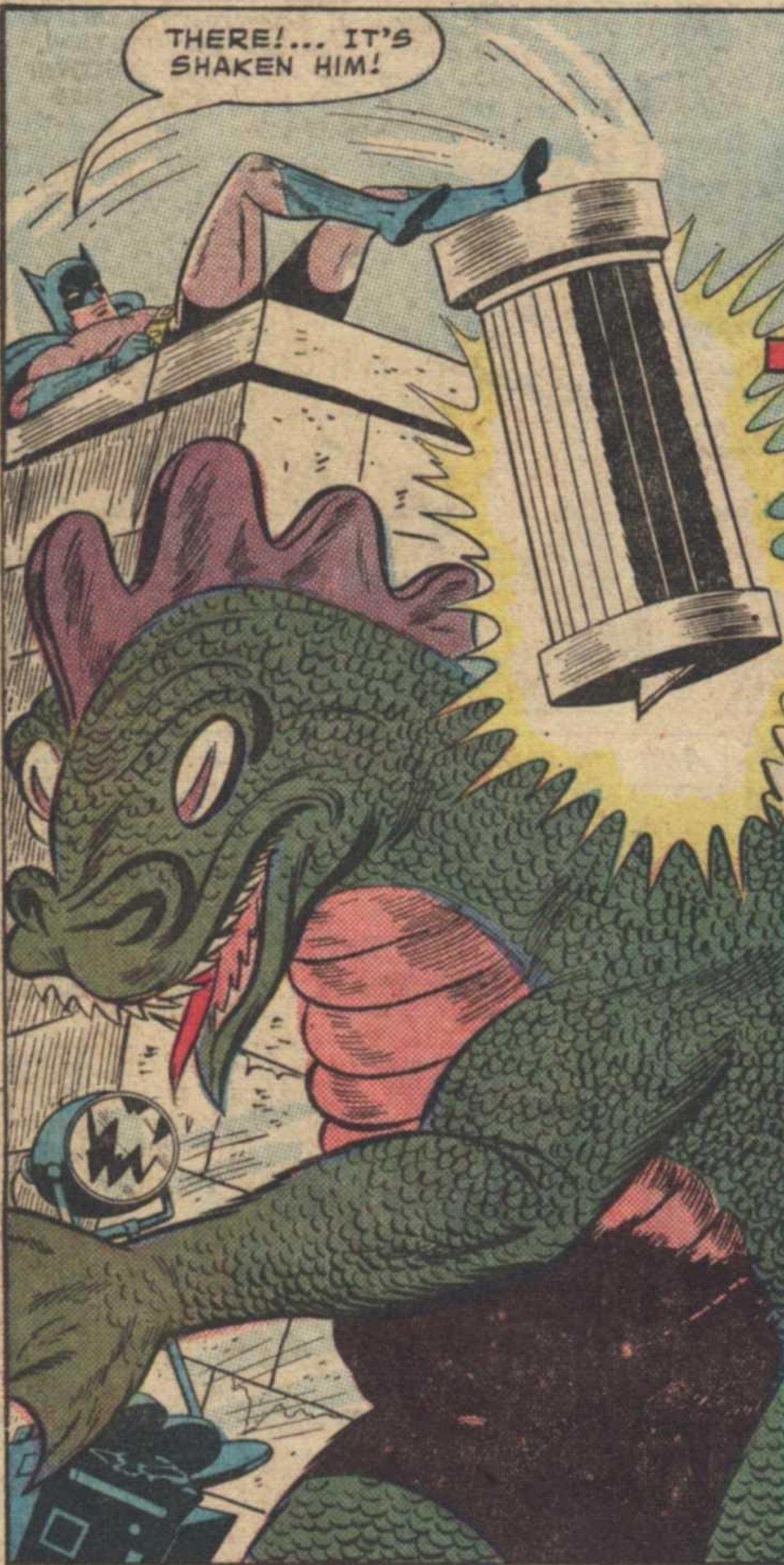




BATMAN ANNUAL



THERE!... IT'S
SHAKEN HIM!



AND AS THE GREAT HULK SHUDDERS AND STALKS OFF...

AFTER HIM, ROBIN! WE CAN'T RISK ANOTHER LOSING ENCOUNTER! WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIS LAIR!

CHECK!

BUT, UPON REACHING THE THICK JUNGLE BRUSH...

HE CRASHES THROUGH THE JUNGLE GROWTH WITH HIS GREAT WEIGHT... WE'RE TOO LIGHT! HE'S ELUDING US!

YES, ROBIN, BUT WITH THOSE TREMENDOUS PRINTS HE SHOULD BE SIMPLE ENOUGH TO TRACK!

SOON... HE ENTERED THE STREAM-- BUT WHICH WAY DID HE GO?

MORE IMPORTANT, ROBIN, THAT BRUTE'S SHOWN HUMAN INTELLIGENCE, BY ENTERING A STREAM TO THROW US OFF HIS TRACK!

HUMAN INTELLIGENCE? DO YOU THINK SOMEONE'S WEARING A CREATURE-DISGUISE, LIKE THE ACTOR IN THE FILM?

YES, ROBIN, AND I ALSO NOTICED THOSE INSULATING SPONGES WERE TIED TO HIS FEET!

THAT MEANS THE PERSON BEHIND IT KNEW WE PLANNED AN ELECTRICAL NET TO TRAP THE CREATURE!

AND ONLY SOMEONE IN THE CAST OR CREW COULD KNOW THAT!



BATMAN ANNUAL



BATMAN! DO YOU THINK THE PROFESSOR DELIBERATELY THWARTED OUR ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE THE CREATURE, ON THE PRETENSE OF SAVING IT FOR SCIENCE?

PERHAPS... AND DEVON, THE BIG-GAME HUNTER, MIGHT HAVE PUT ON AN **ACT** WITH HIS GUN, TO THROW SUSPICION OFF HIMSELF!

GOSH, IT COULD BE ANYONE ON THE ISLAND!

YES, **ROBIN**, SOMEBODY'S OUT TO DESTROY BLANE'S PRODUCTION, AND IT'S UP TO US TO DISCOVER THE **WHO** AND **WHY** BEHIND THIS SABOTAGE!



NEXT DAY, A CAUTIOUS BATMAN AND ROBIN PREPARE TO PROTECT THE FILMING AT BIZARRE GRAVEYARD BEACH...

GOSH... A FLOATING GENERATOR TO USE FOR WATER SEQUENCES! DO YOU THINK THAT BEAST CAN ATTACK IN WATER, **BATMAN**?

I'M AFRAID HE'S GEARED FOR ANYTHING, TO SABOTAGE THIS PICTURE, **ROBIN**! DIRECTLY BEHIND THE BEACH IS THE LAST SHOOTING LOCALE!



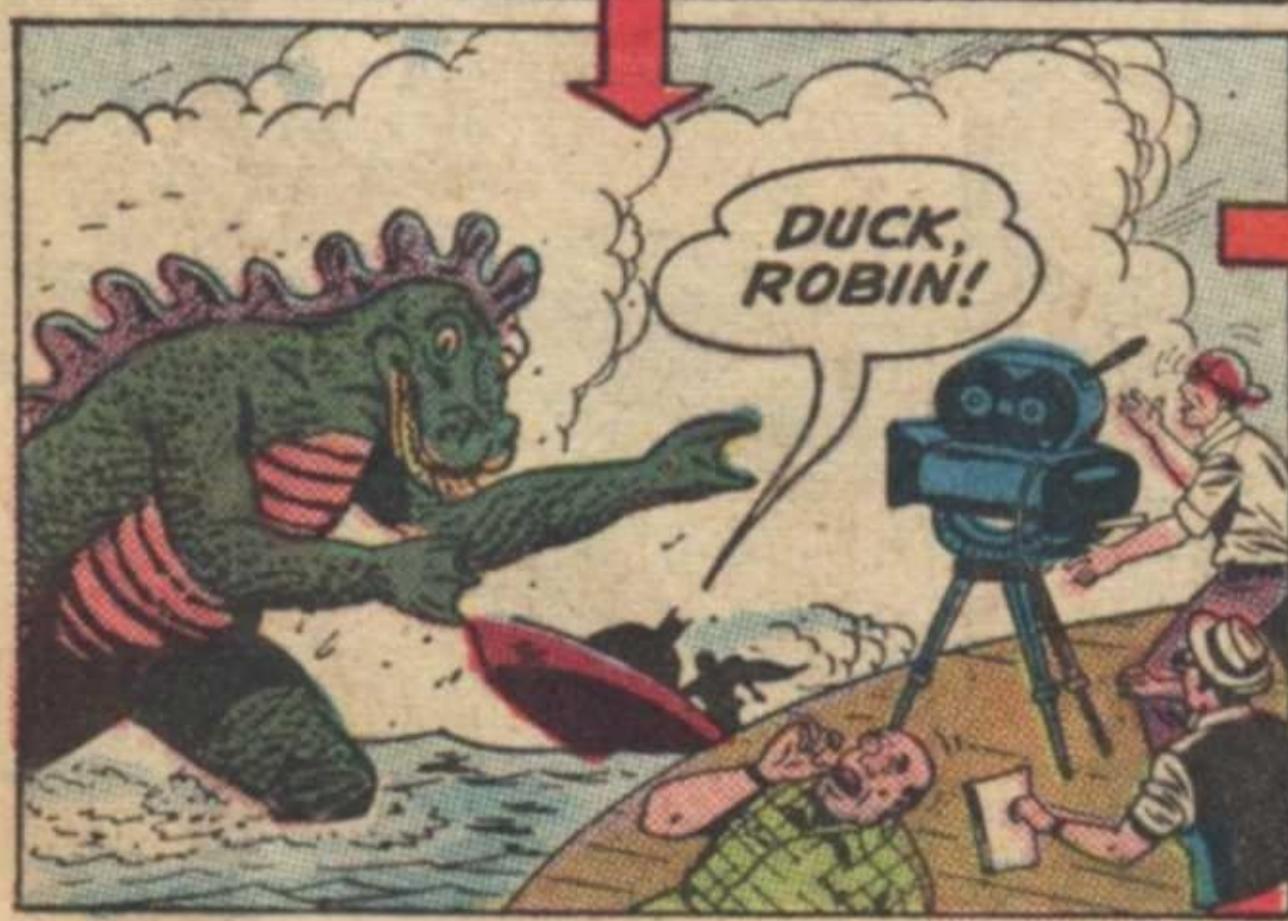
ABRUPTLY...

BATMAN! THE CREATURE! HE'S RISING OUT OF THE WATER!

HANG ON! MAN OR MACHINE, THAT MONSTER'S GOING TO GET RAMMED BEFORE HE CAN START HIS DESTRUCTION!



AS BEAST AND BOAT MEET IN A RENDING CRASH...

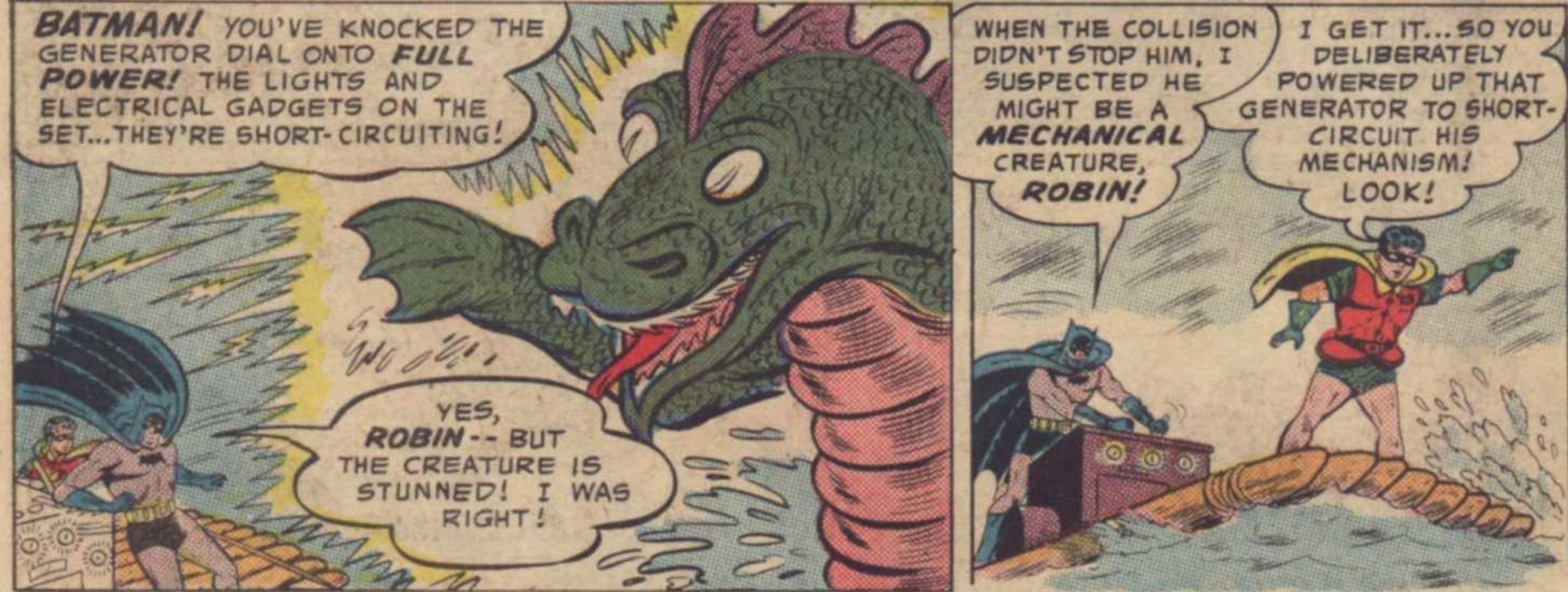
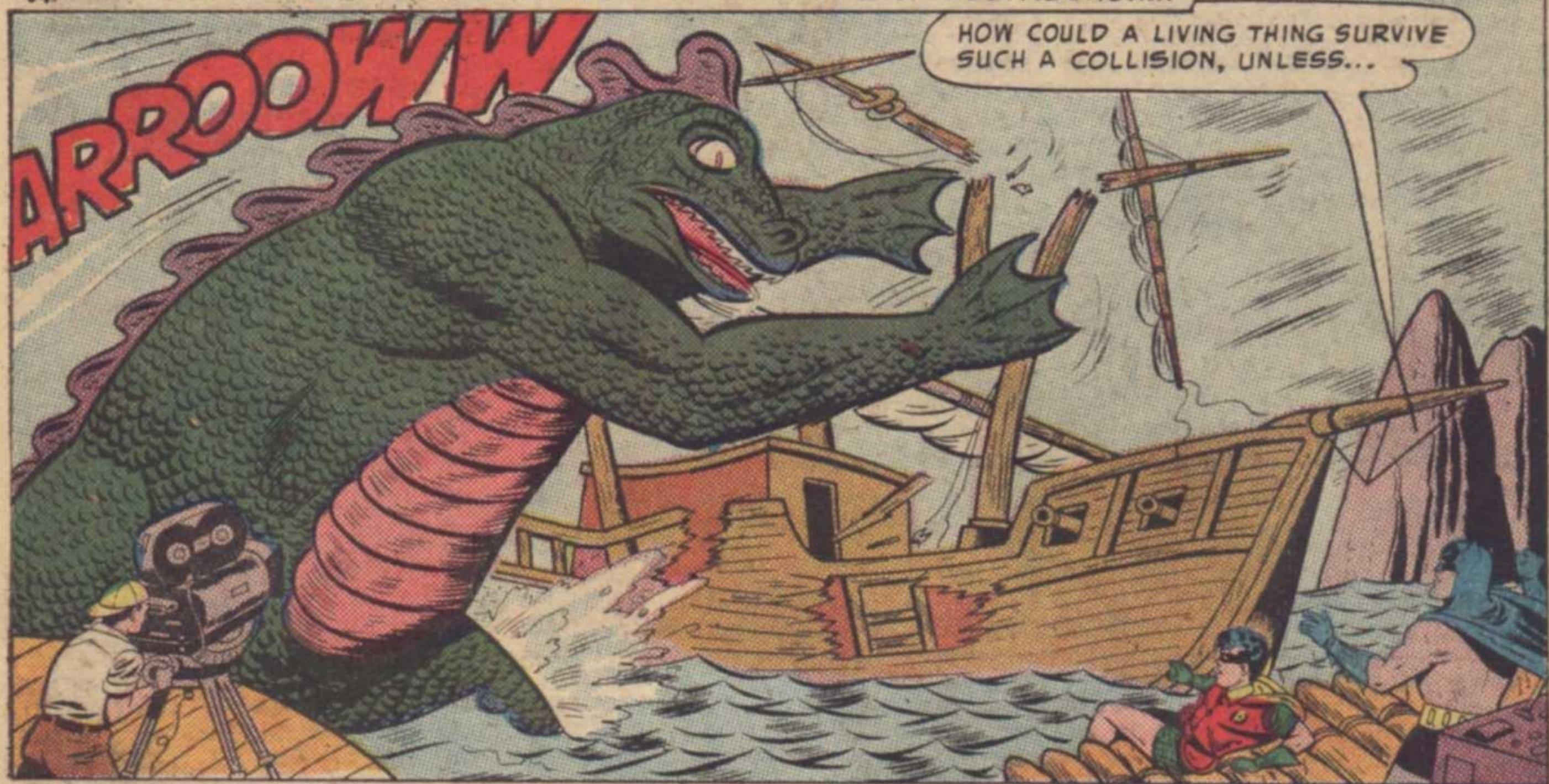




BATMAN ANNUAL

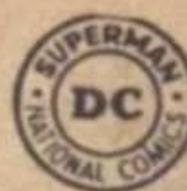


AND AS THE MADDENED CREATURE GOES ON A RAMPAGE OF DESTRUCTION...





BATMAN ANNUAL



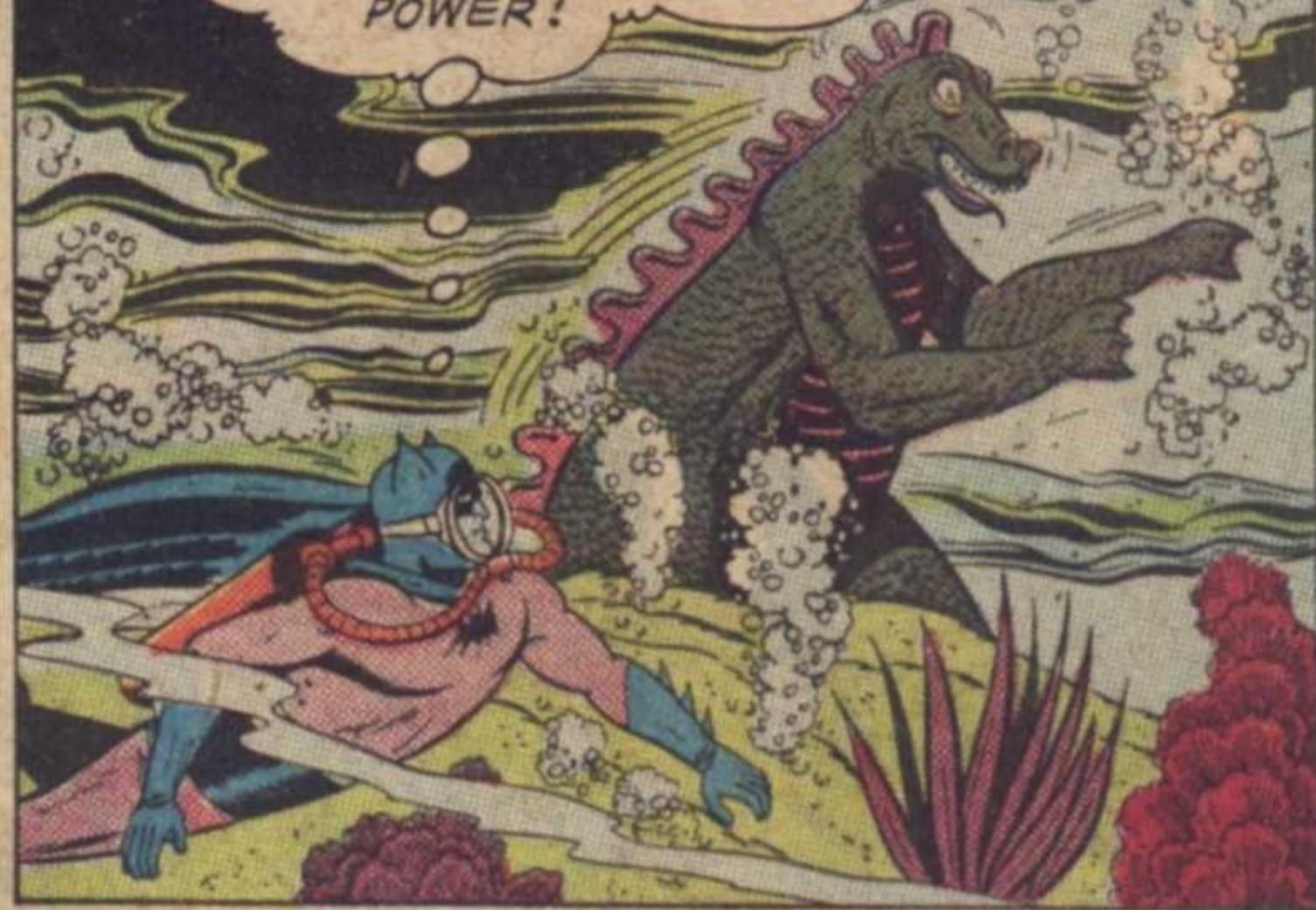
QUICKLY, BATMAN SHUCKS SEVERAL OYSTERS WITH A KNIFE FROM HIS UTILITY BELT, TO DISCOVER...

A RARE BLACK PEARL! OF COURSE!... THIS PRIZE OYSTER BED IS WHAT OUR CRIMINAL SOUGHT TO KEEP THE FILM COMPANY FROM FINDING! AND ONLY ONE MAN WOULD KNOW OF ITS TREASURES!



SUDDENLY...

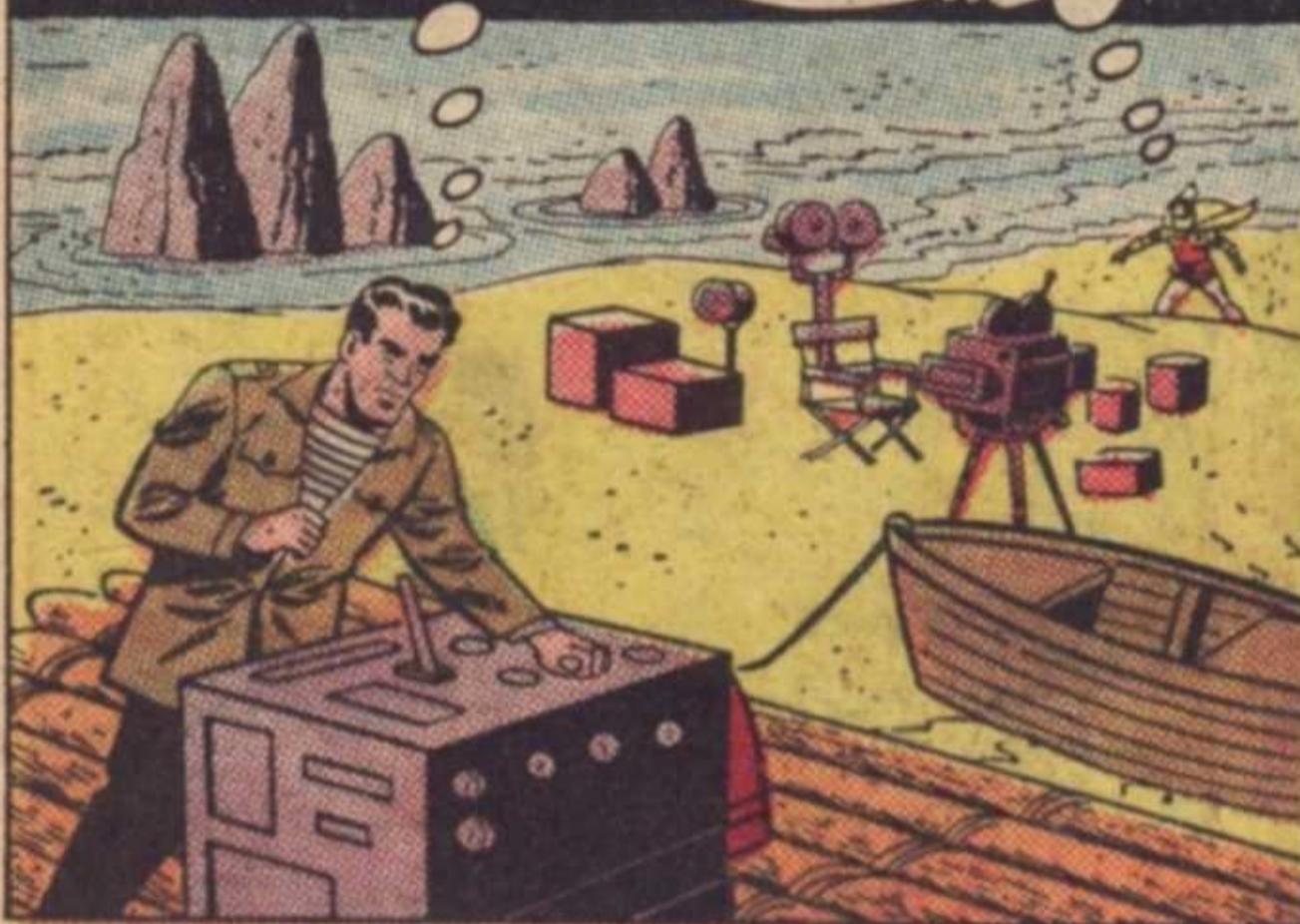
IT'S BEING ACTIVATED AGAIN! SOMEBODY'S RETURNED THE GENERATOR ON THE RAFT TO NORMAL POWER!



WHILE UP ABOVE...

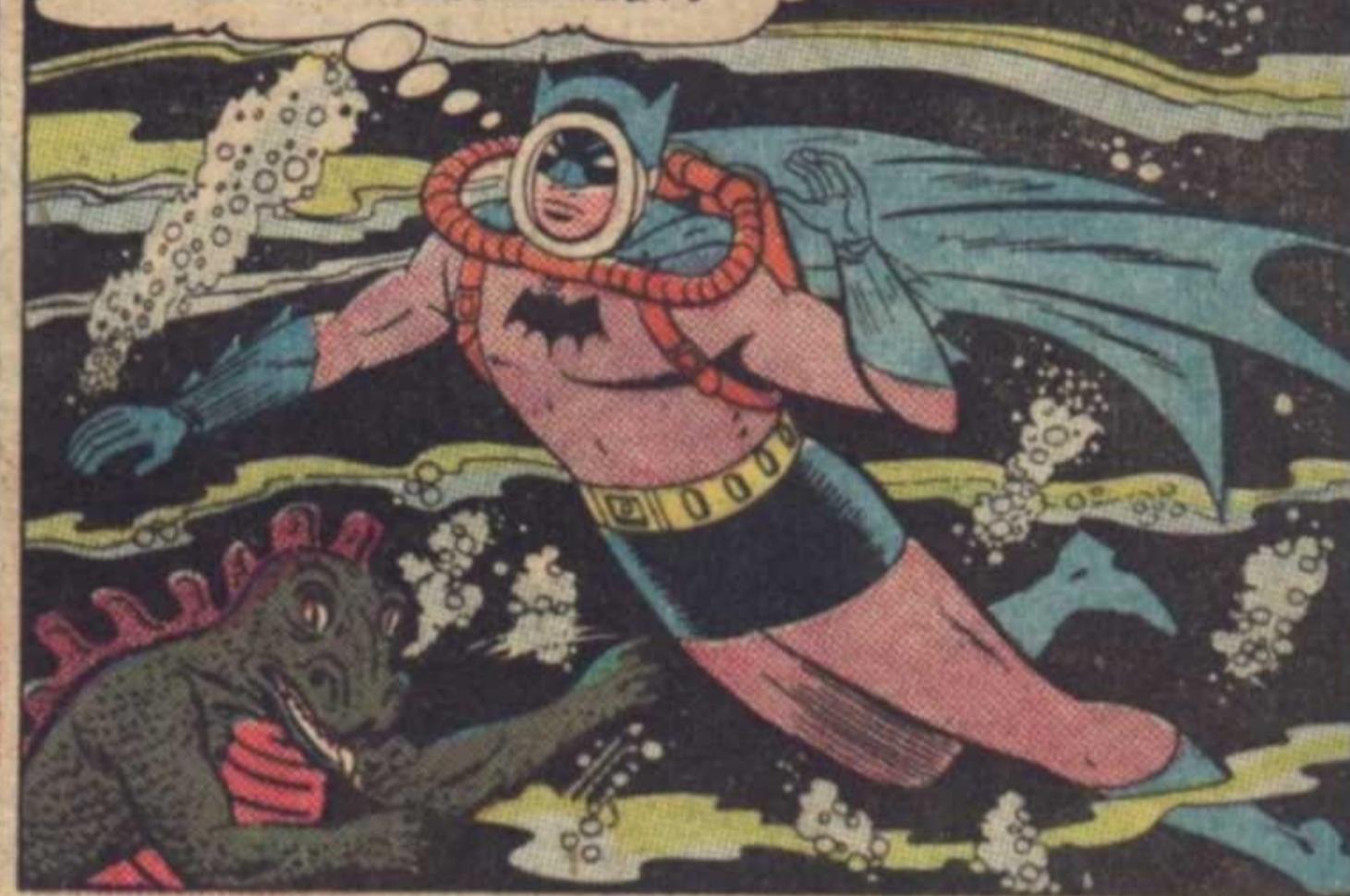
THERE... THAT WILL DO IT!

MARTIN--ADJUSTING THE POWER DIAL OF THE GENERATOR! IS HE JUST REPAIRING IT OR...?



BELOW, BATMAN MOVES TOWARD THE SURFACE AS...

THAT THING'S THRASHING ABOUT WILDLY FOR ME--AND THE PERSON WHO CONTROLS THAT MACHINE ON SHORE CAN DIRECT IT AFTER ME ACCURATELY!



I'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE AVOIDING IT UNDERWATER... IT'S FLAILING WILDLY!



IF ONE OF THOSE WILD SWINGS HITS ME, THOUGH, I'M DONE FOR! I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL...



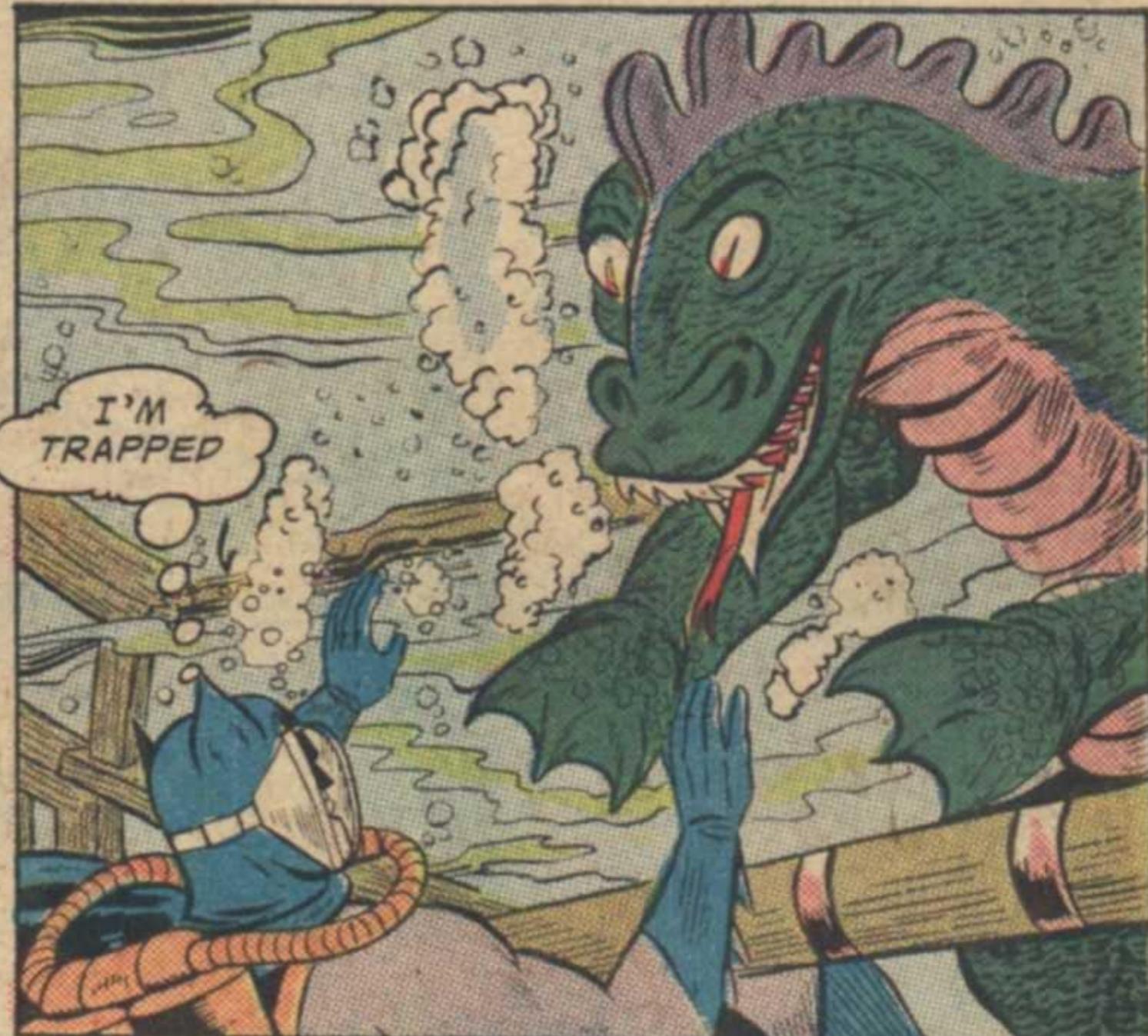
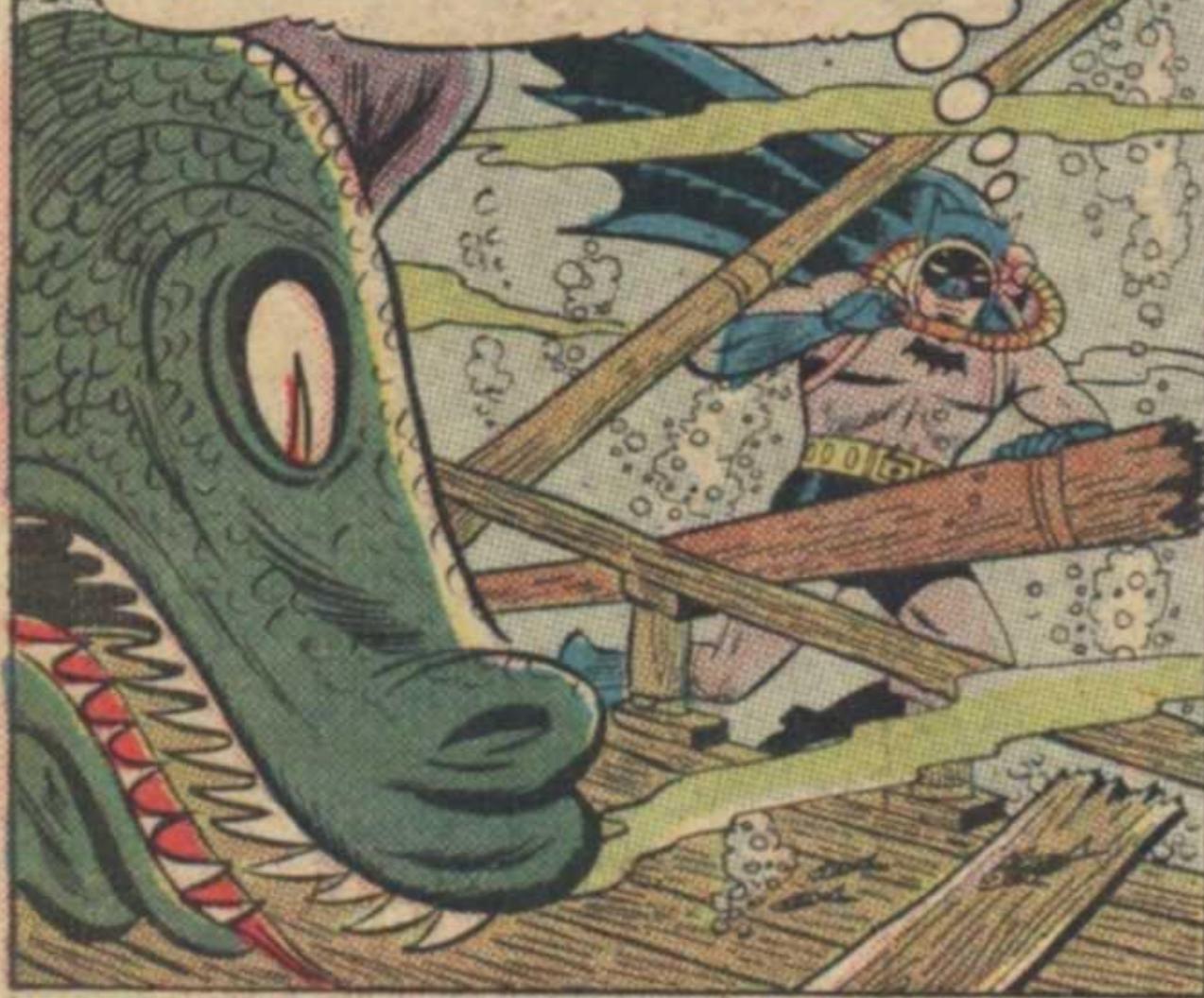


BATMAN ANNUAL



AS THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTER SEEKS TO ELUDE HIS MECHANICAL PURSUER AMID SUNKEN HULLS...

THE DISTURBANCE MY BODY CREATED IN THE WATER-- IT'S TOPPLED THAT ROTTED MAST...



BUT JUST WHEN SWIFT UNDERWATER DOOM SEEMS CERTAIN...

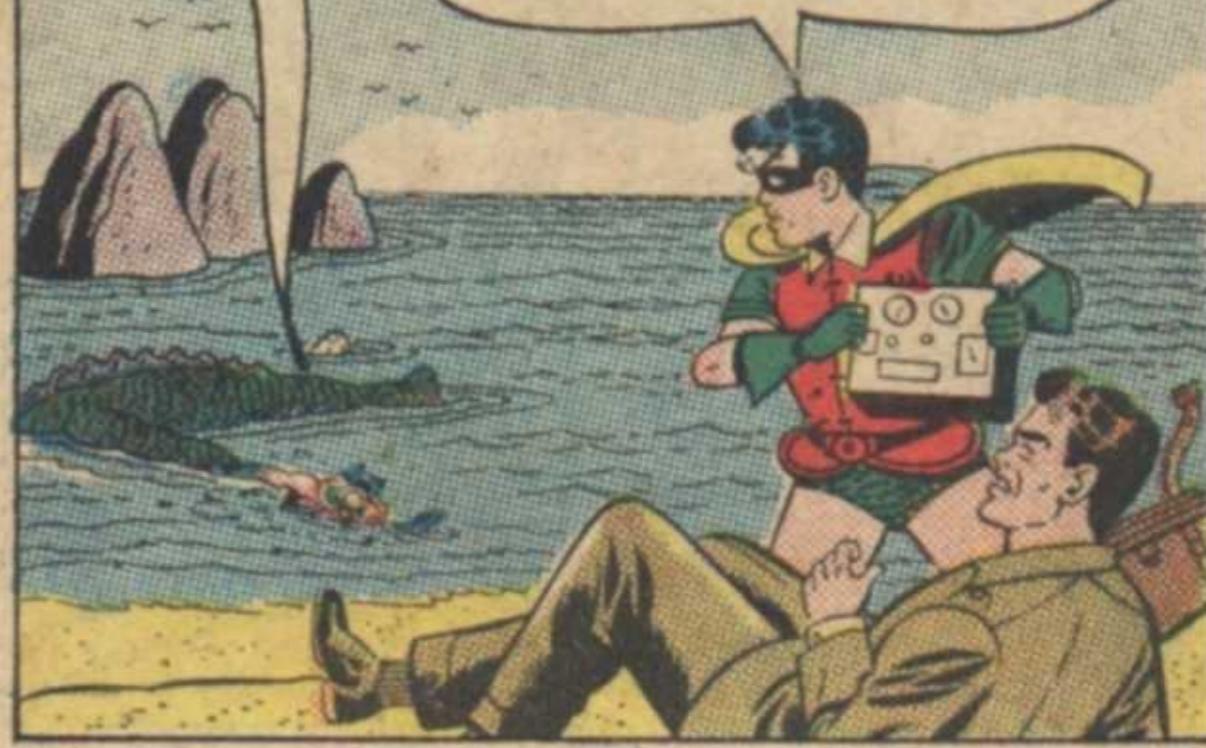
ITS MECHANISM HAS STOPPED! THE THING'S POWER HAS BEEN SHUT OFF!



MOMENTS LATER, UP ABOVE...

MARTIN-- YOU'RE ON TO HIM ALSO, ROBIN!

RIGHT, BATMAN... I CAUGHT ON WHEN HE RE-ADJUSTED THE GENERATOR! THIS BRIEFCASE HE CARRIED HOLDS A RADIO CONTROL UNIT TO OPERATE THE ROBOT!



WHEN PRODUCER BLANE ARRIVES...

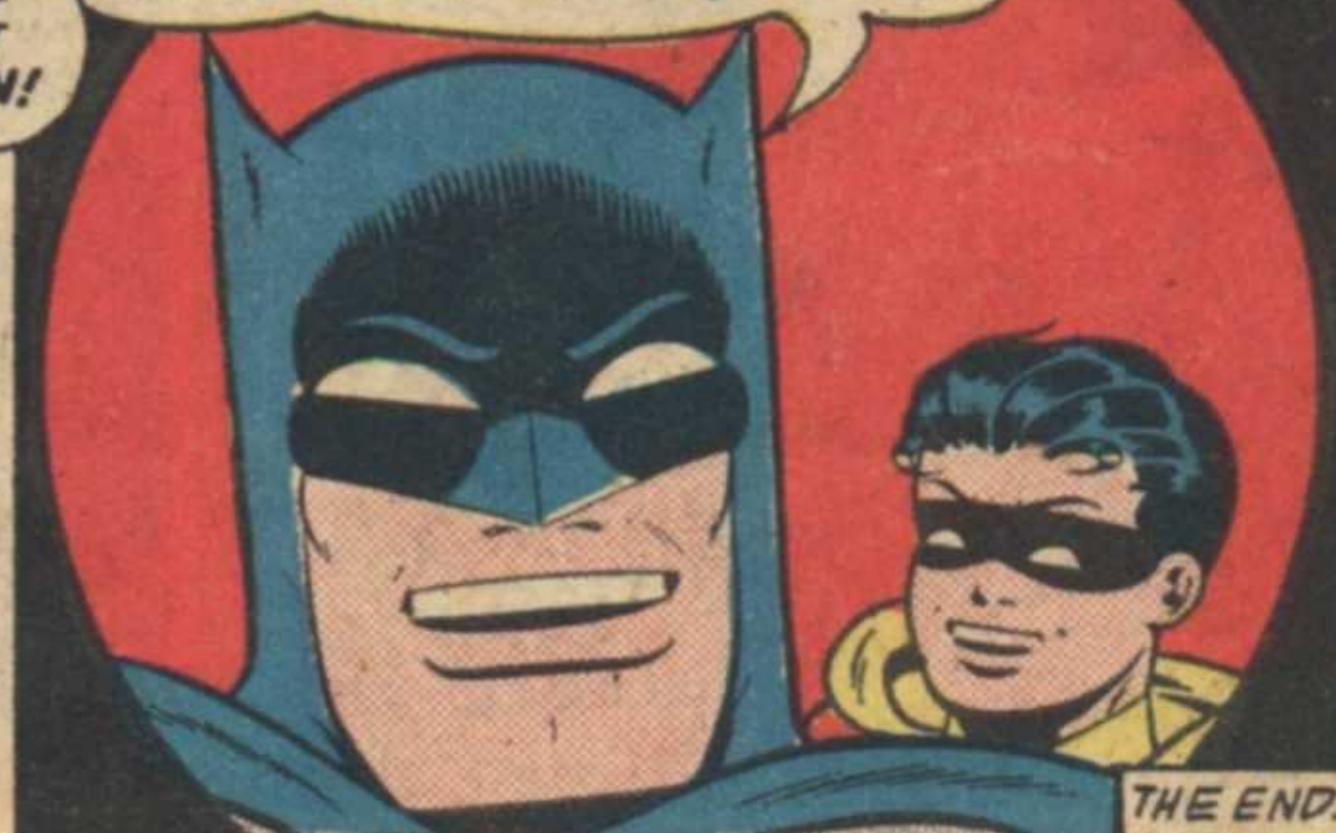
THANKS, ROBIN... YOU SURE TUMBLED TO MARTIN IN THE NICK OF TIME! ANOTHER MINUTE AND HIS ROBOT WOULD HAVE FINISHED ME!

I CAN'T

BELIEVE IT-- MARTIN SABOTAGING MY FILM TO KEEP THE LOCATION OF A BLACK PEARL BED FROM BEING REVEALED WHEN WE SHOT IN THE GREEN LAGOON!



YES, YOUR ASSISTANT WENT TO LOCALES TO BE FILMED IN ADVANCE, THUS LEARNING THE SECRET OF THE PEARL BED! I WAS BELOW THE SURFACE WHEN I REALIZED THAT! GOOD THING ROBIN WAS ON HIS TOES UP ABOVE, BLANE!



THE END.



BATMAN ANNUAL

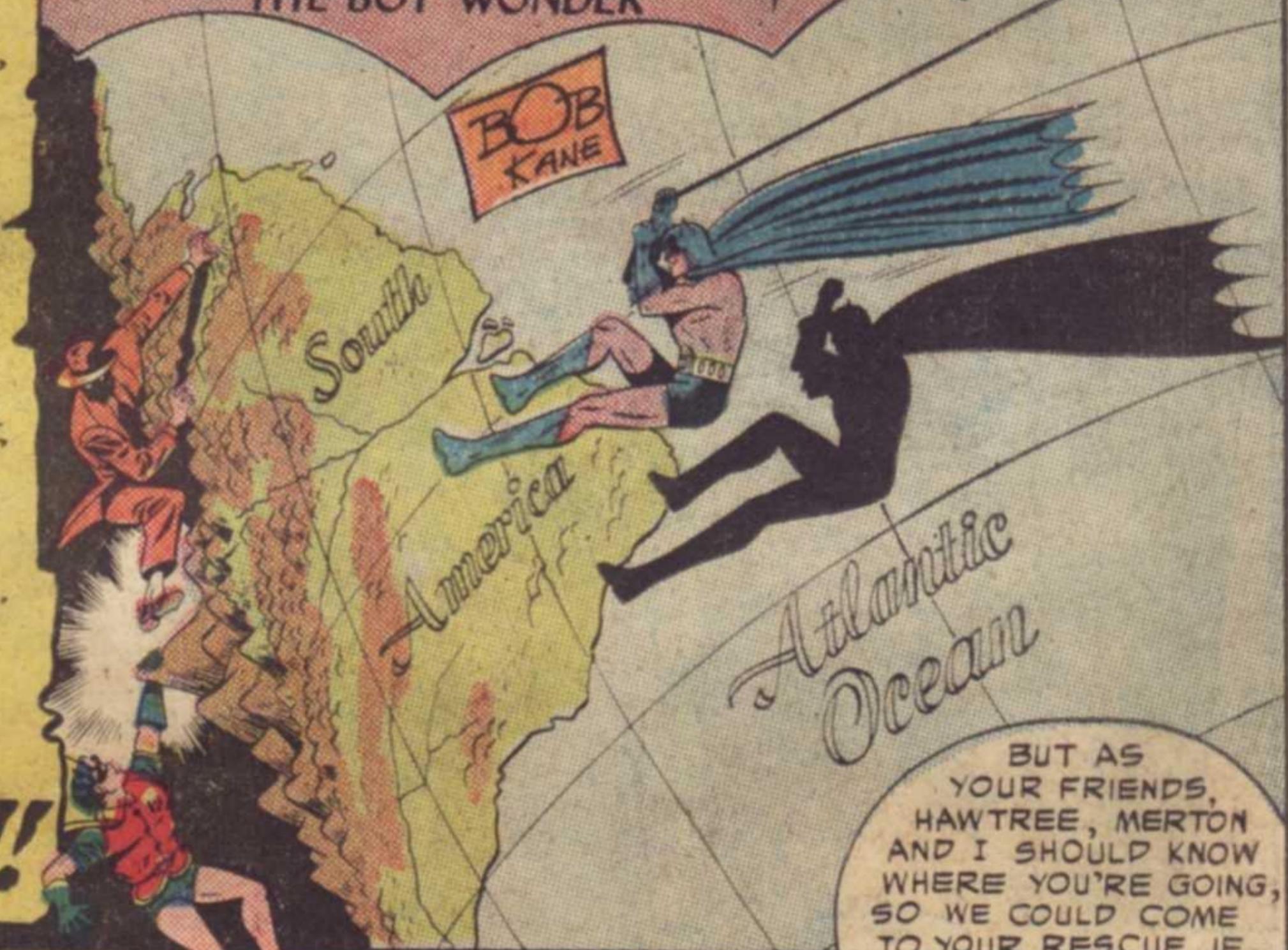


BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

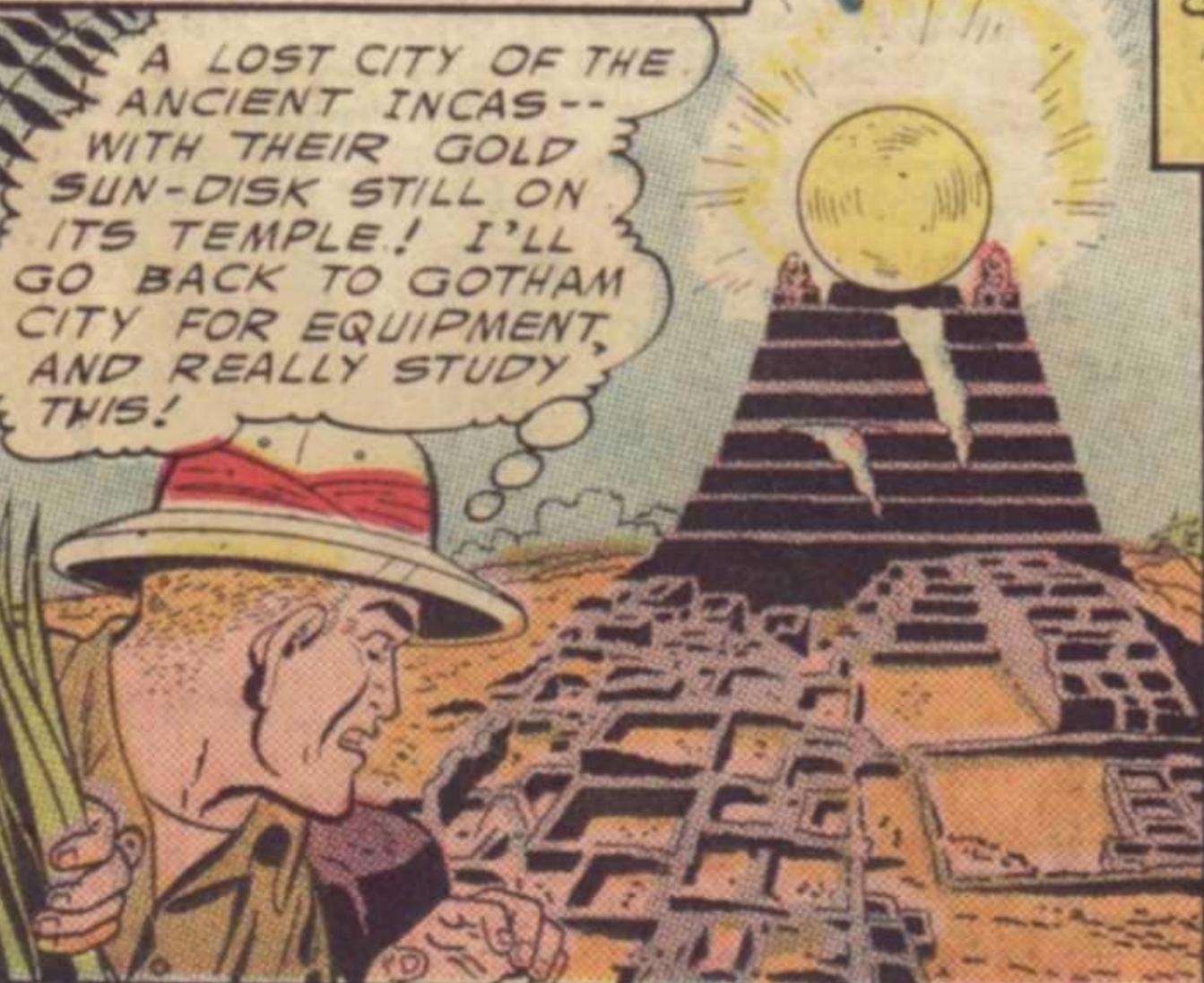
MAPS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SIGN-POSTS TO ADVENTURE, FROM THE OLD PIRATE TREASURE CHARTS TO THE BIG AND MODERN MAPS THAT FLIERS USE TODAY! BUT MENACE IS WRITTEN ACROSS A MAP IN GOTHAM CITY-- ONE WHICH HOLDS A STARTLING SECRET, AND BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND DRAMATIC DANGER IN THE CRYPTIC CARTOGRAPHY OF...

The MAP OF MYSTERY!



ONE DAY, DEEP IN THE SOUTH AMERICAN JUNGLES...

THUS, THE FOLLOWING WEEK, AS ARCHAEOLOGIST GUY HAWTREE SETS OUT FROM GOTHAM CITY ON A FATEFUL SECOND TRIP TO HIS FIND...





BATMAN ANNUAL



SOME DAYS LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN CONDUCT AN EARLY-MORNING PATROL OF THE CITY...

LOOK, BATMAN -- SOME KIND OF TROUBLE AT THE EXPLORATION CLUB!

EXPLORATION CLUB

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE EXCITED IN THERE, ALL RIGHT! WE'D BETTER GO SEE WHAT'S UP!

GENERAL JOHNSON
EAJ

AND AS THEY RACE OUT INTO THE STREET...

YES, THAT DRAIN LET THEM EMERGE INTO GOTHAM PARK! OVER THERE -- SEE?

THEY EAT THEIR WAY THROUGH EVERY LIVING THING -- AND WE DON'T DARE USE FIRE OR POISON, HERE IN THE CITY, TO STOP THEM!

THE DYNAMIC DUO SOON DISCOVERS A DREAD MENACE AT LARGE...

MY AFRICAN ARMY-ANTS... I BROUGHT BACK THOUSANDS FOR STUDY, AND SOMEONE JUST RELEASED THEM FROM THEIR CASES!

ARMY-ANTS? THEY CAN BE A TERRIBLE THREAT! HMM... THAT DRAIN-PIPE IS THE ONLY WAY THEY COULD GET OUT!

NEXT MOMENT, A BIG HOT-TAR TRUCK SPEEDS ON A MISSION OF URGENT DANGER...

QUICK--AROUND THE CORNER, OR THEY'LL GET THROUGH!

I'LL SOON HAVE A COMPLETE CIRCLE AROUND THEM!

THEY CAN BE GATHERED UP SAFELY NOW AND RECAGED! BUT, BATMAN-- THOSE CASES WERE OPENED PURPOSELY!

EXACTLY -- AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHY SOMEONE DID THAT!

BACK AT THE EXPLORATION CLUB...

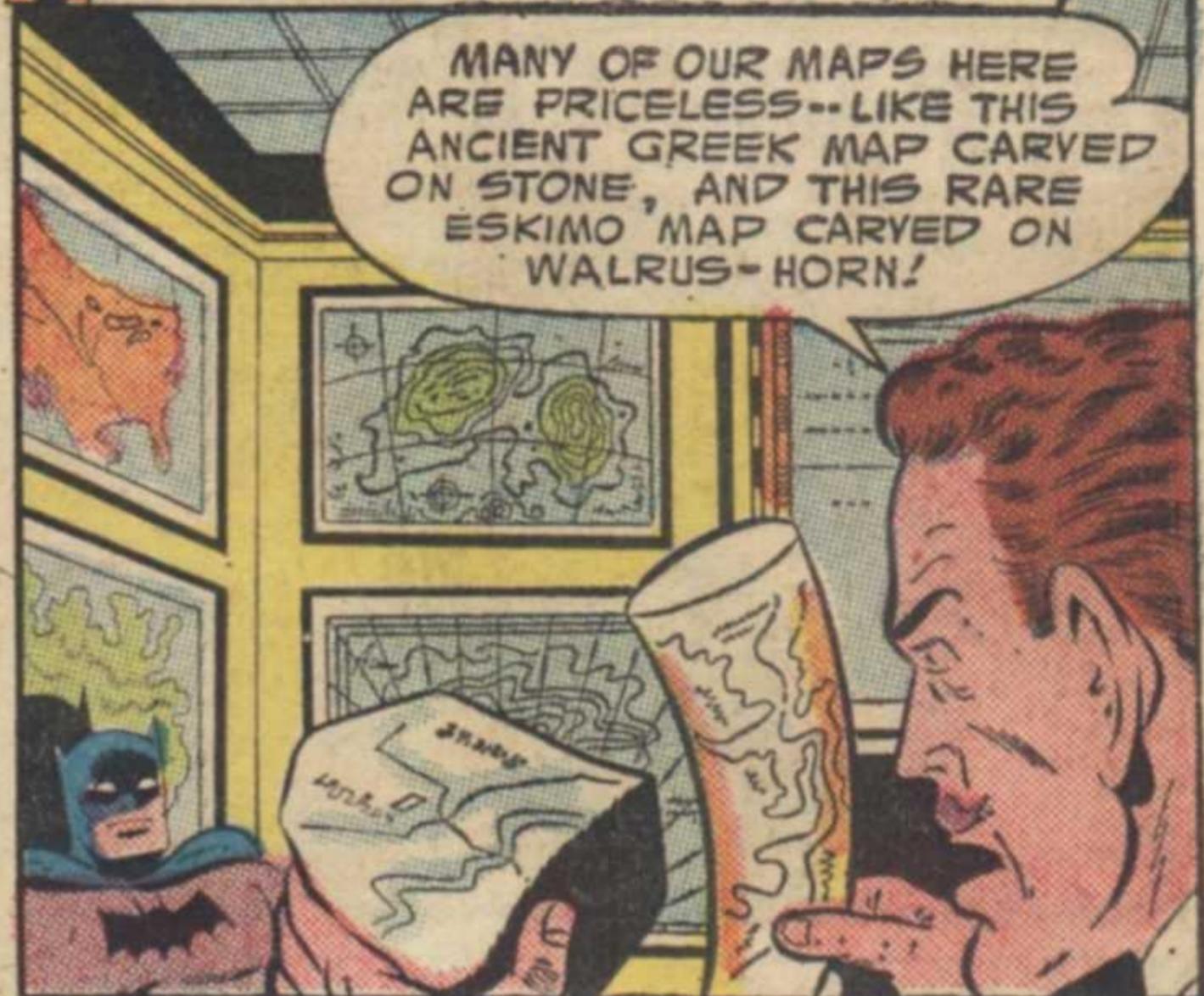
BATMAN, WE'VE BEEN ROBBED! I'M HERBERT MERTON, THE MAP CURATOR OF THE CLUB -- AND DURING THE PANIC OVER THE ANTS, SOME OF MY MAPS WERE STOLEN!

THAT MAY BE WHY THE ANTS WERE RELEASED! LET'S SEE WHAT'S MISSING!



AND IN THE CLUB'S BIG MAP ROOM...

MANY OF OUR MAPS HERE ARE PRICELESS--LIKE THIS ANCIENT GREEK MAP CARVED ON STONE, AND THIS RARE ESKIMO MAP CARVED ON WALRUS-HORN!



AND THIS OLD SPANISH MAP, WHICH MISTAKENLY SHOWS CALIFORNIA AS AN ISLAND, IT TOO IS RARE!

BUT EXACTLY WHICH OF YOUR MAPS HAVE BEEN STOLEN?

MY DETAIL MAPS OF WESTERN SOUTH AMERICA HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN!

WHY, THOSE ARE THE MAPS HAWTREE CONSULTED BEFORE HE LEFT! SOMEONE'S AFTER HIS SECRET!

WHAT SECRET?

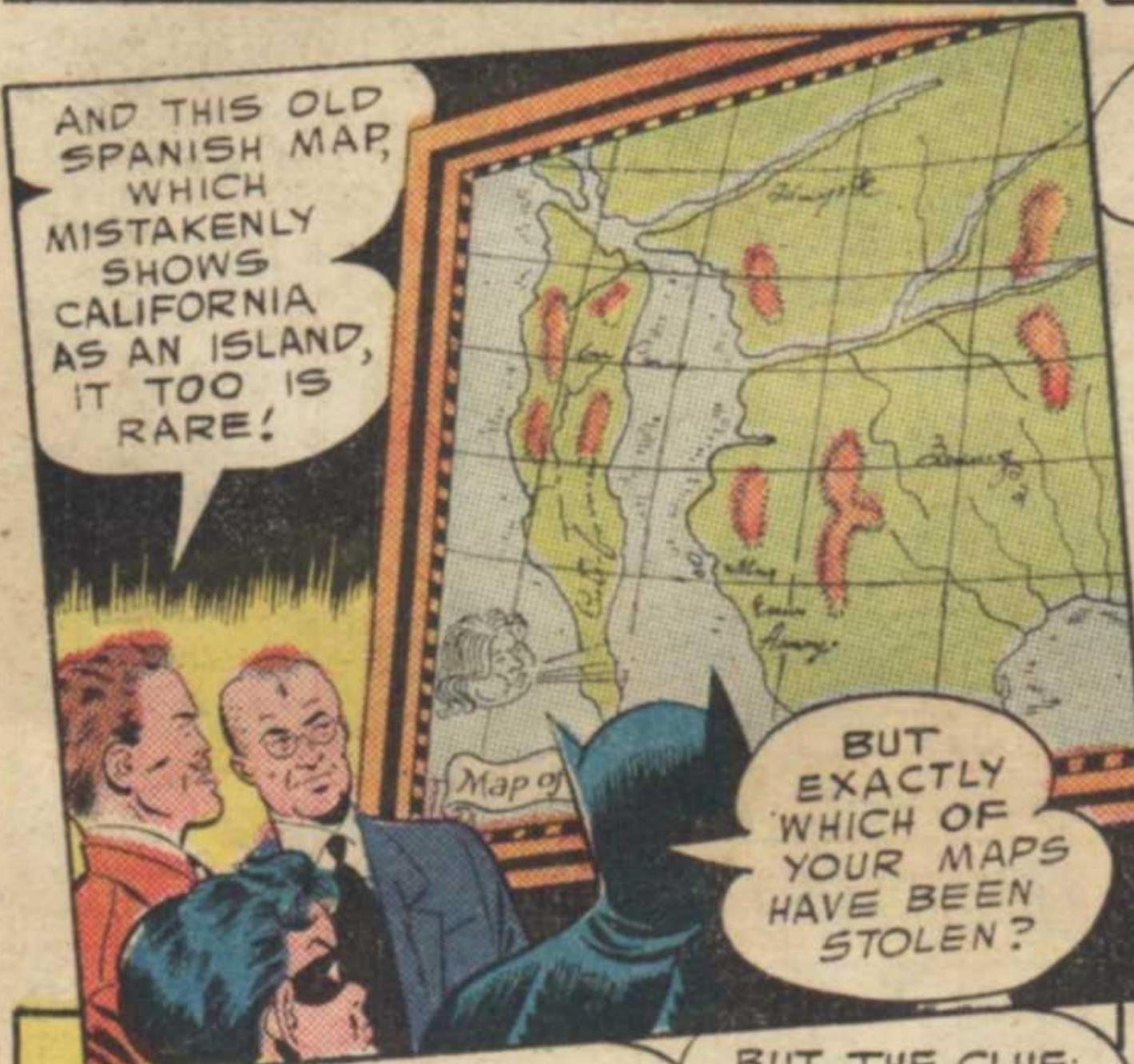
AND BATMAN AND ROBIN HEAR FROM RAND BLANNING THE STORY OF HAWTREE'S GREAT DISCOVERY...

...HE WOULDN'T TELL WHERE HIS LOST CITY IS, LEST GOLDSEEKERS SWARM THERE FOR TREASURE! ALL HE LEFT WAS A CLUE TO IT!

BUT THE CLUE WASN'T ON ANY OF THE MAPS HE CONSULTED HERE! THEN YOU SEARCHED THEM FOR THIS SECRET?

WELL--ER--I THOUGHT I SHOULD KNOW IT, IN CASE HAWTREE DIDN'T COME BACK, SO WE COULD RESCUE HIM!

I SEE! YOU SAID HAWTREE HAD ROOMS HERE... LET'S LOOK INTO THEM!



BATMAN ANNUAL



SHORTLY AFTERWARD, ON ONE OF THE UPPER FLOORS...



BUT AFTER A THOROUGH COMBING OF THE LITTLE APARTMENT...

I CAN FIND NO CLUE TO HAWTREE'S SECRET HERE!

THIS TELESCOPE HE HAD AT THE WINDOW--IT MAY BE A LEAD! I'LL CHECK ON IT, BUT I'D BETTER TAKE SOME PRECAUTIONS FIRST!

WELL, GENTLEMEN, I'LL CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE! OF COURSE, IF I DO UNCOVER HAWTREE'S CLUE, I'LL KEEP HIS SECRET SAFE FOR HIM!

HMPH! I STILL THINK WE OUGHT TO KNOW WHERE THAT INCA CITY IS, SO WE CAN RESCUE HAWTREE IF HE DOESN'T RETURN!

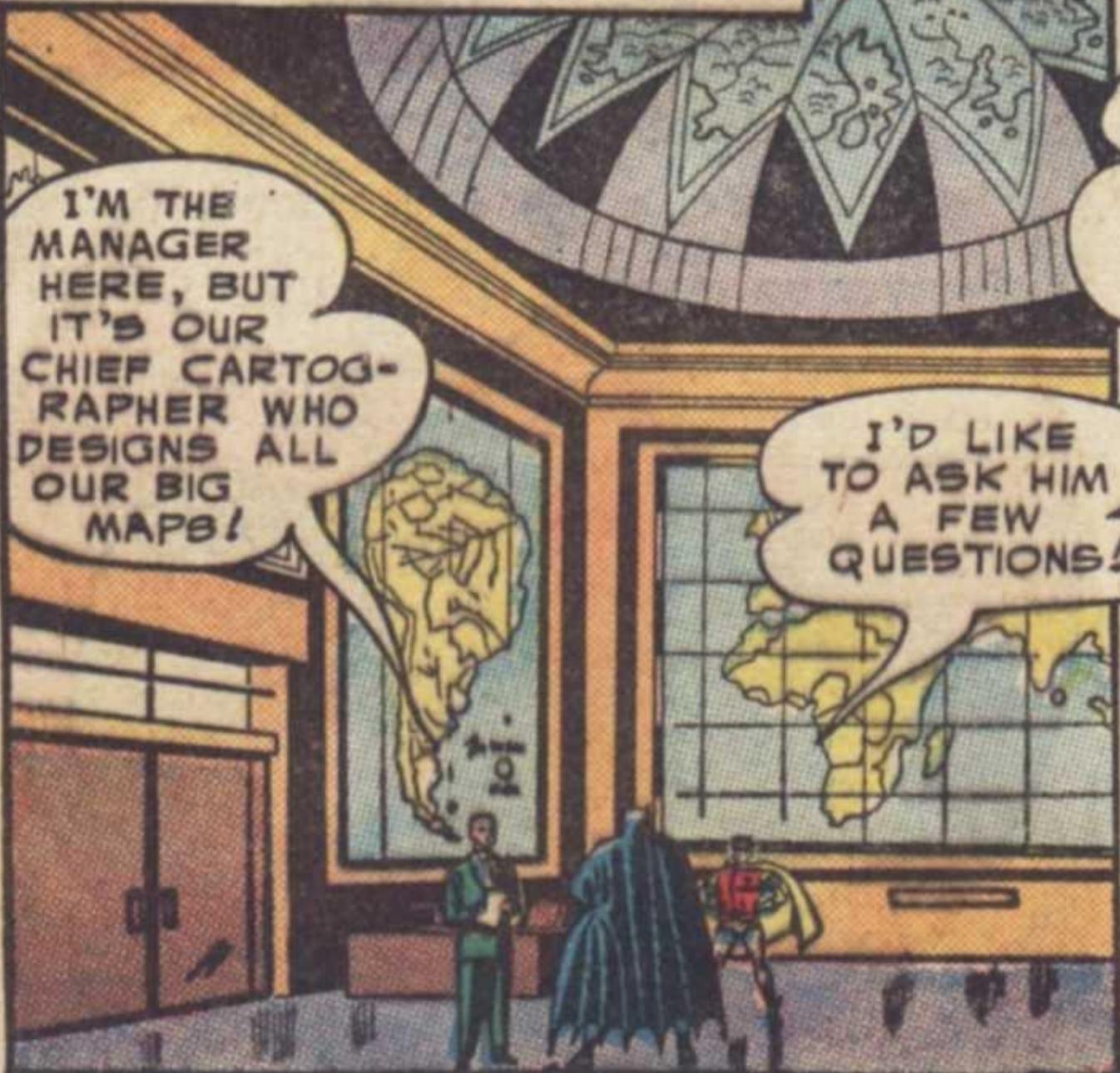
A LITTLE LATER...

THE THIEF EFFECTIVELY COVERED HIS ROBBERY BY RELEASING THOSE ANTS-- BUT DID HE GET THE SECRET?

IF I'M RIGHT, HAWTREE HID THE CLUE TO HIS LOST CITY CLEVERLY! THEY MAY BE ABLE TO HELP US HERE AT THE GOTHAM MAP COMPANY!



AND INSIDE THE UNIQUE FIRM...

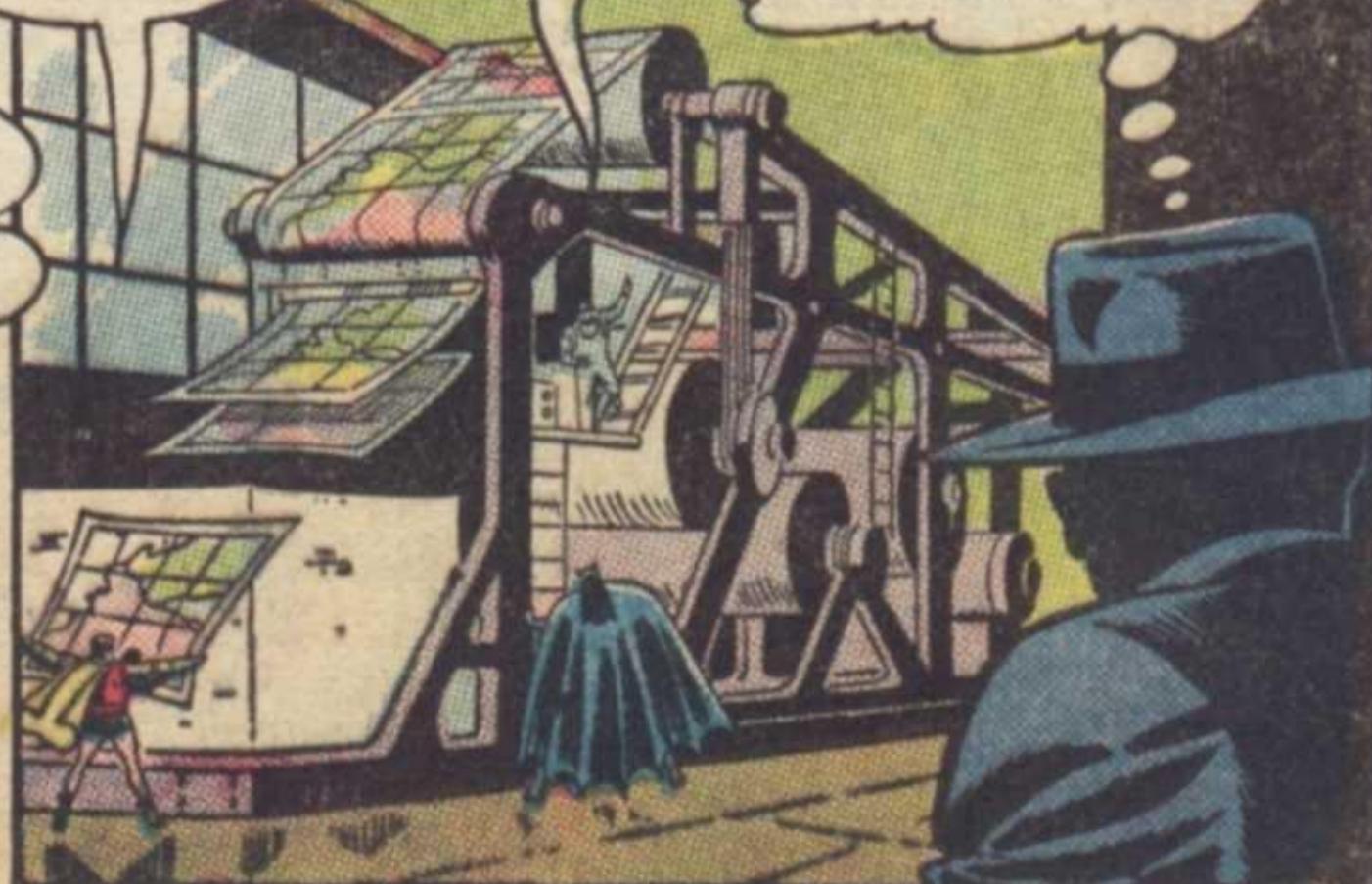


UPSTAIRS, IN THE BIG PRINTING FACTORY...

GOSH, THEY'VE GOT MILLIONS OF MAPS HERE!

THORPE, OUR CARTOGRAPHER, IS UP IN THE INK ROOM ABOVE!

IF BATMAN SEES ME, I CAN EXPLAIN AWAY MY PRESENCE--BUT I MUST GET THE SECRET FIRST!





BATMAN ANNUAL



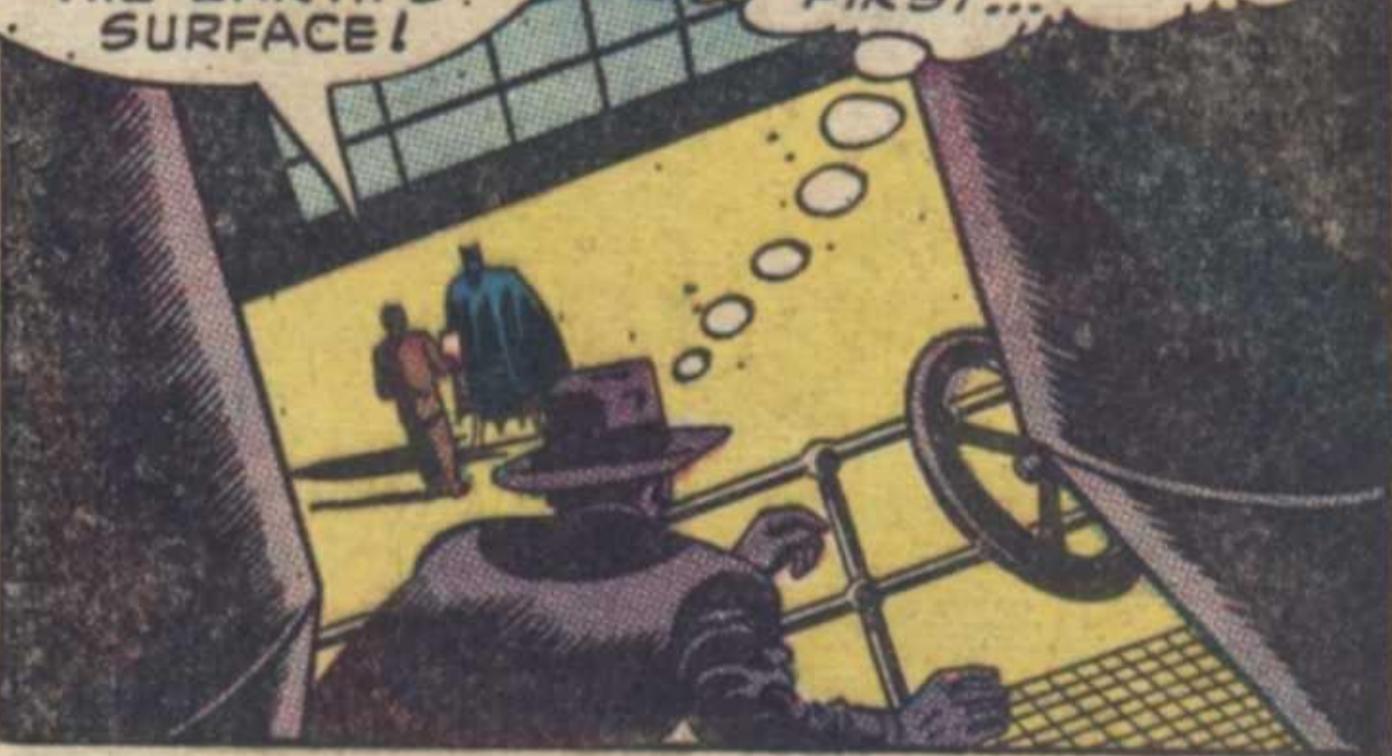
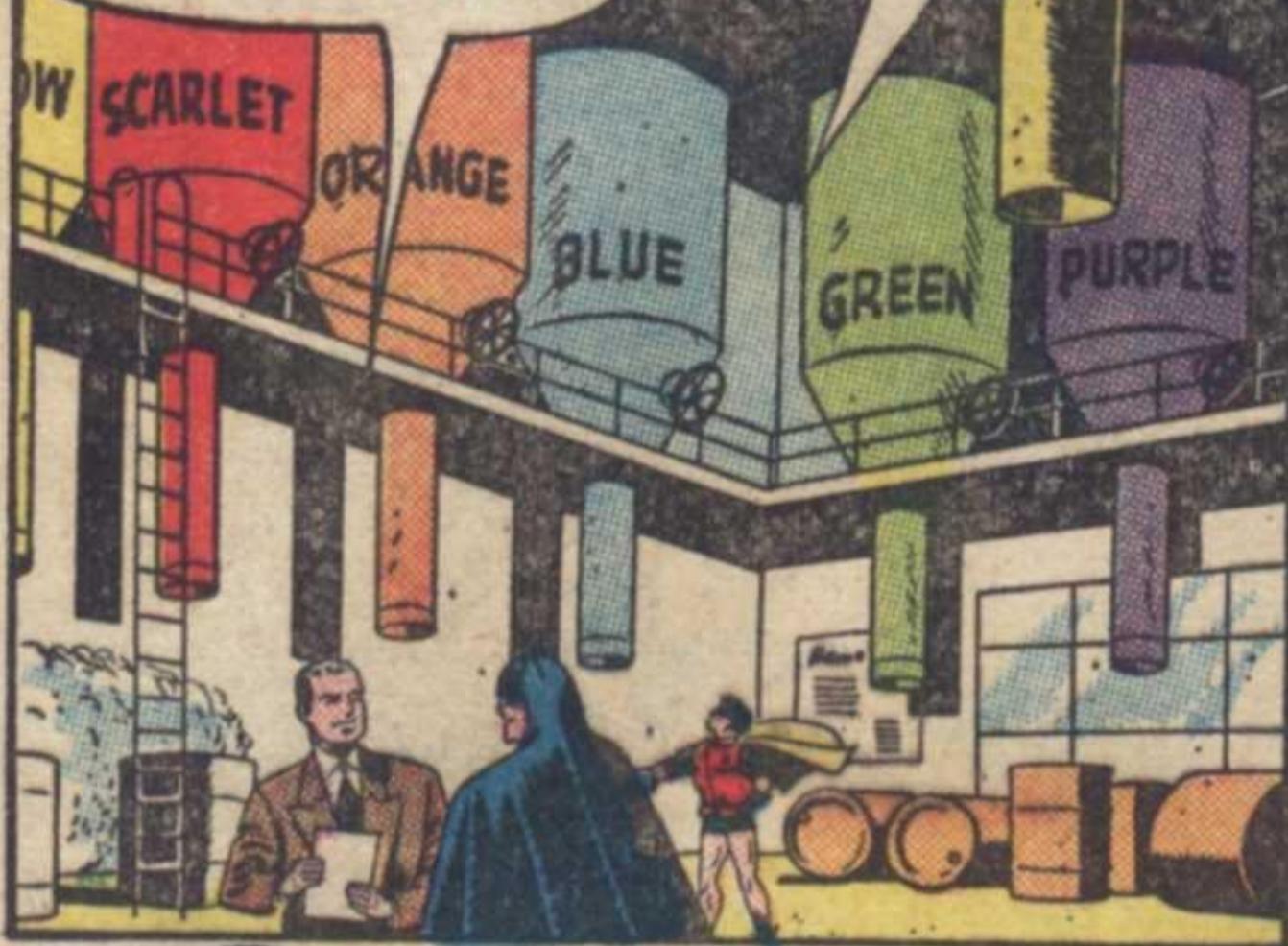
PRESIDENTLY...

YES, I'M THE CHIEF CARTOGRAPHER! THIS IS WHERE WE MIX THE COLORED INKS FOR OUR MAPS!

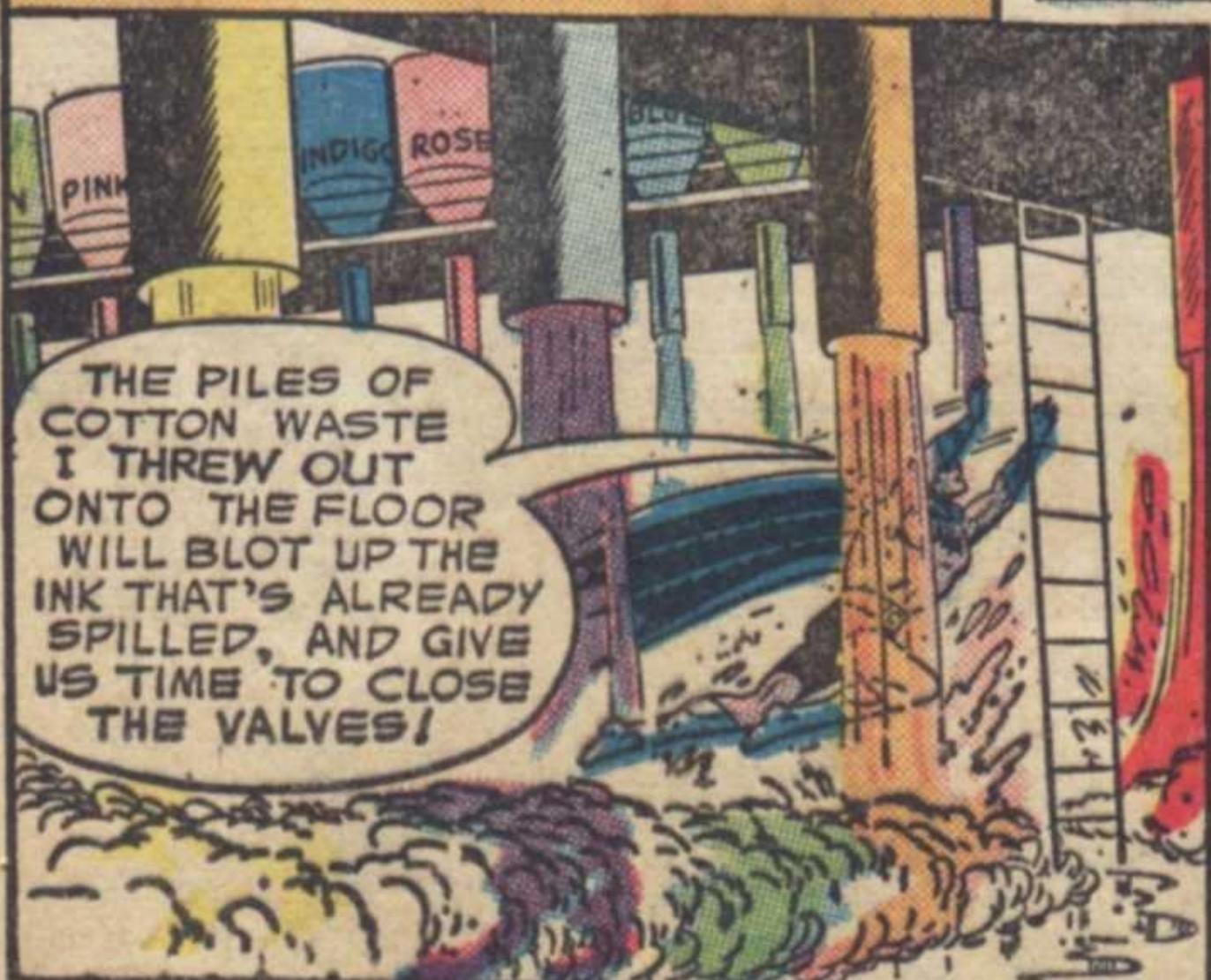
YOUR COMPANY MADE THE HUGE GLOBE-MAP ATOP THE WORLD BUILDING... IS THAT AN ACCURATE GLOBE?

YES--THAT BIG GLOBE WAS MADE AS AN EMBLEM FOR THE WORLD BUILDING! IT'S A PERFECT REPRODUCTION OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE!

SO THAT'S BATMAN'S LEAD--THE GLOBE ON THE WORLD BUILDING... HAWTREE'S SECRET MUST BE MARKED ON IT! I'LL GET THERE FIRST...



THEN, AS BATMAN RACES TO PREVENT A MANY-HUED DISASTER...

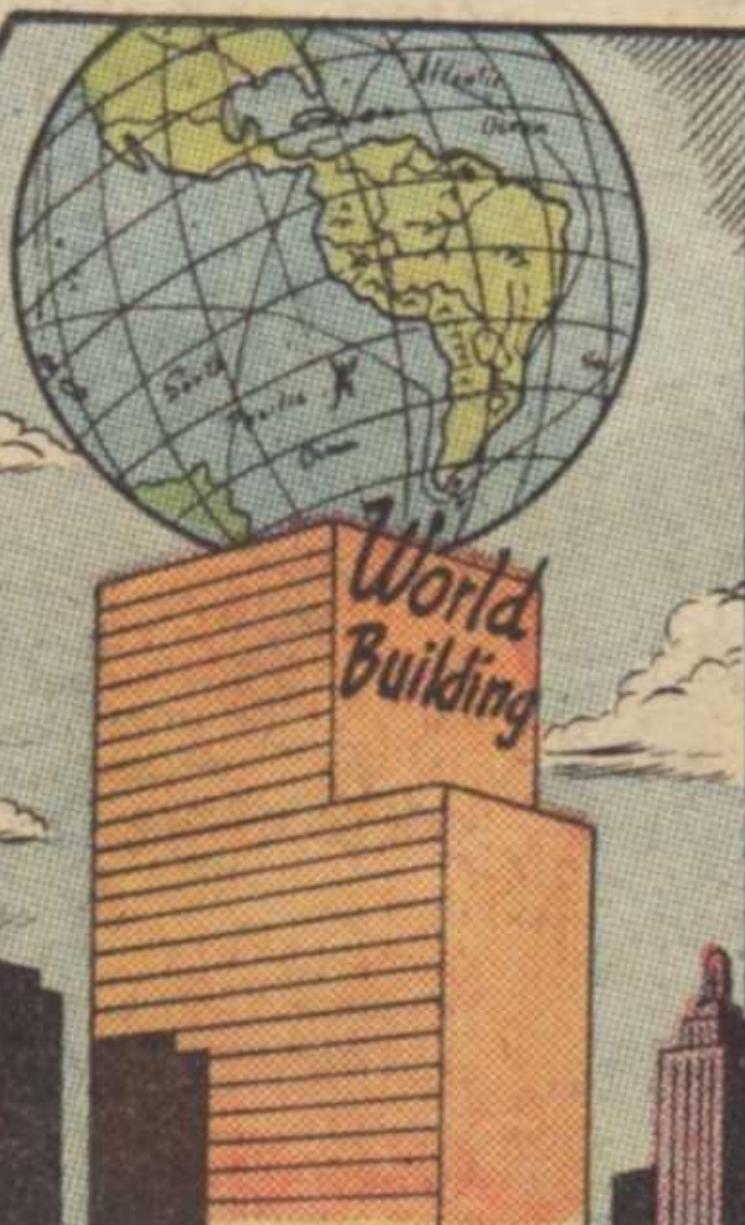




BATMAN ANNUAL



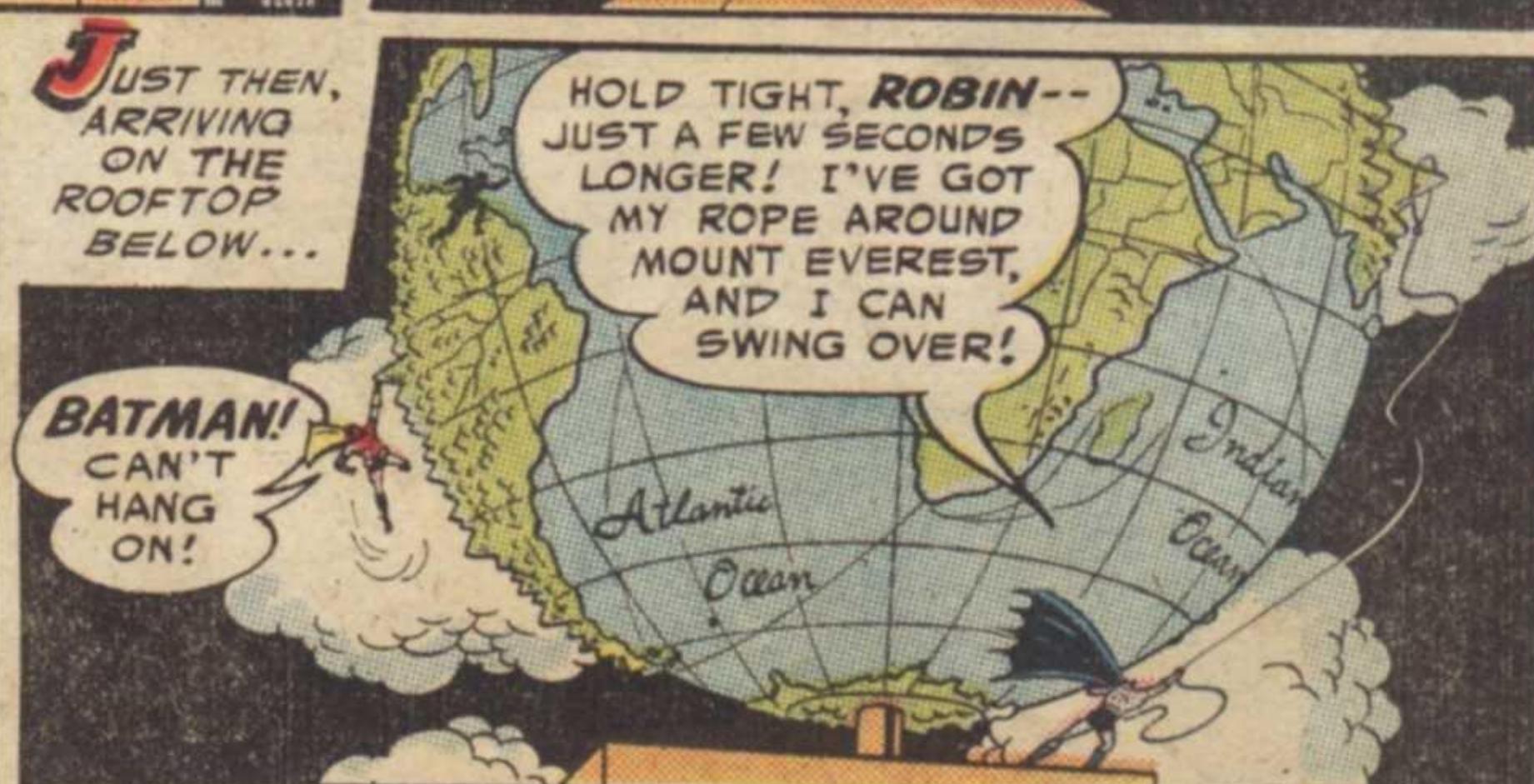
INDEED, AT THIS
VERY MOMENT...



BUT FROM ABOVE THE
"EQUATOR", A MASKED, MENACING
FIGURE SUDDENLY APPEARS...



JUST THEN,
ARRIVING
ON THE
ROOFTOP
BELOW...



NEXT INSTANT...



UPON INVESTIGATING, THE DUO FINDS
A SECRET GONE...

THE
SECTION OF
GLOBE-SURFACE
ON WHICH GUY
HAWTREE MARKED
HIS LOST CITY'S
LOCATION--THE THIEF
CUT IT COMPLETELY,
INSTEAD OF JUST
QUICKLY DEFACING
IT!





BATMAN ANNUAL



YES WE CAN,
ROBIN! I
THOUGHT THAT
TELESCOPE IN
HAWTREE'S
ROOMS MIGHT
BE A KEY--
SO WITH MY
UTILITY-BELT
CAMERA I
PHOTOGRAPHED
THE SCENE IN
FRONT OF IT,
OUTSIDE HIS
WINDOW, TO
STUDY LATER!

THEN YOUR
PHOTO OF THE
**WORLD
BUILDING**,
ENLARGED,
WOULD SHOW
HIS MARK
ON THE BIG
GLOBE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN--
THERE IT IS! HAWTREE
KNEW THAT IF HE
NEVER RETURNED,
HIS SECRET
WOULD BE
FOUND WHEN
THE GLOBE
WAS
ULTIMATELY
REPAINTED!

BUT
SOMEONE'S
HOURS AHEAD
OF US! WE'D
BETTER FLY
SOUTH FAST!

PERU!
X
LOST
INCA
CITY
RIO
SOLIN

Hours later, in their secret Bat-Cave...

IT'S A GOOD
ENLARGEMENT--
BUT DOES IT SHOW
HAWTREE'S
MARKING?

LOOK THROUGH THIS
MAGNIFYING GLASS!

So the mighty Bat-Plane takes
to the air in an urgent inter-
continental flight...

WITH OUR JETS,
WE CAN MAKE IT IN
HOURS -- BUT WE MAY
STILL BE TOO LATE!
HAWTREE HIMSELF
IS IN DANGER AT
THAT INCA CITY!

SOON...

THERE'S
HAWTREE'S
PLANE -- AND
ANOTHER! THE
THIEF IS AHEAD
OF US,
BATMAN!

I'M LANDING FAST,
ROBIN!

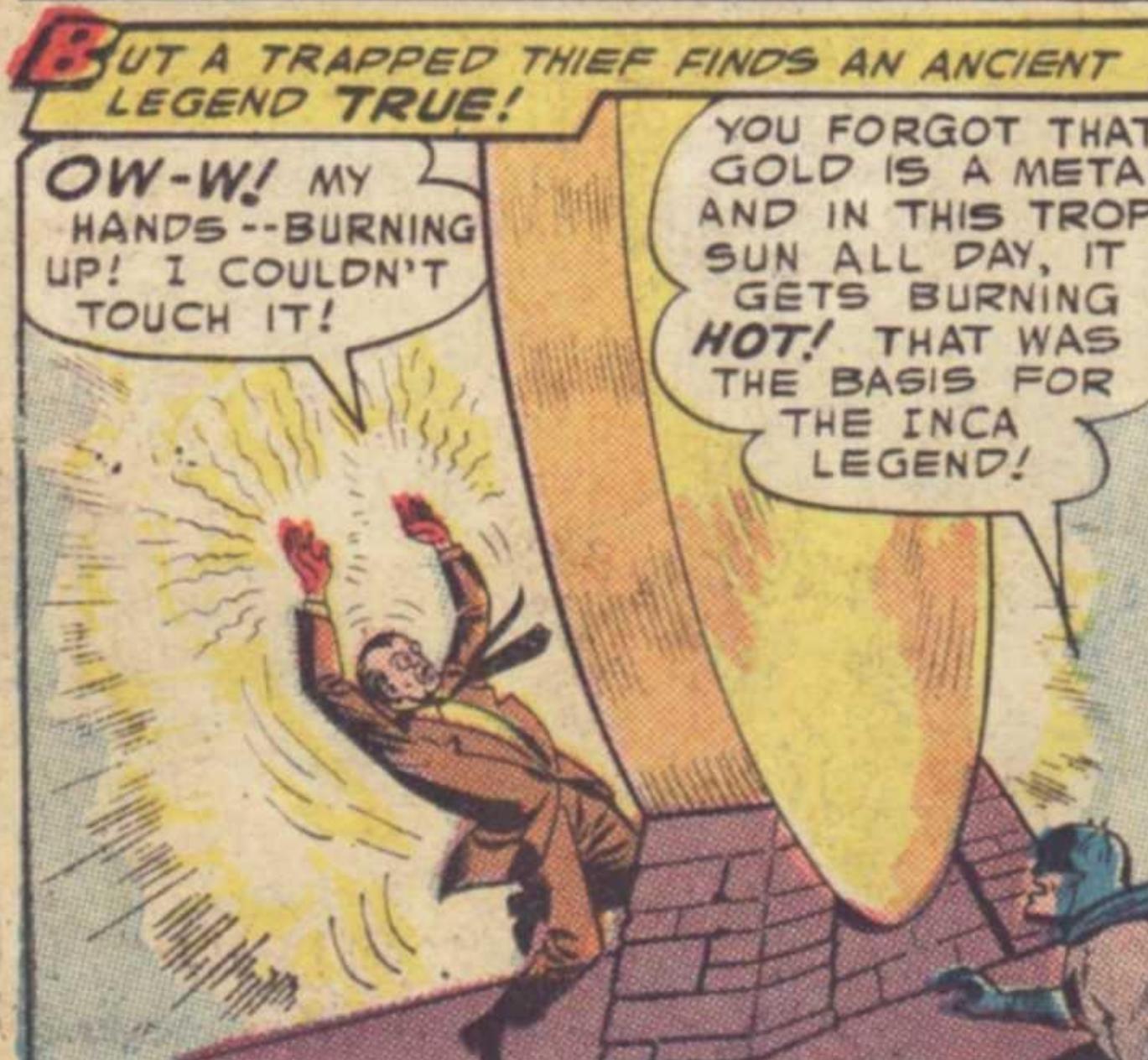
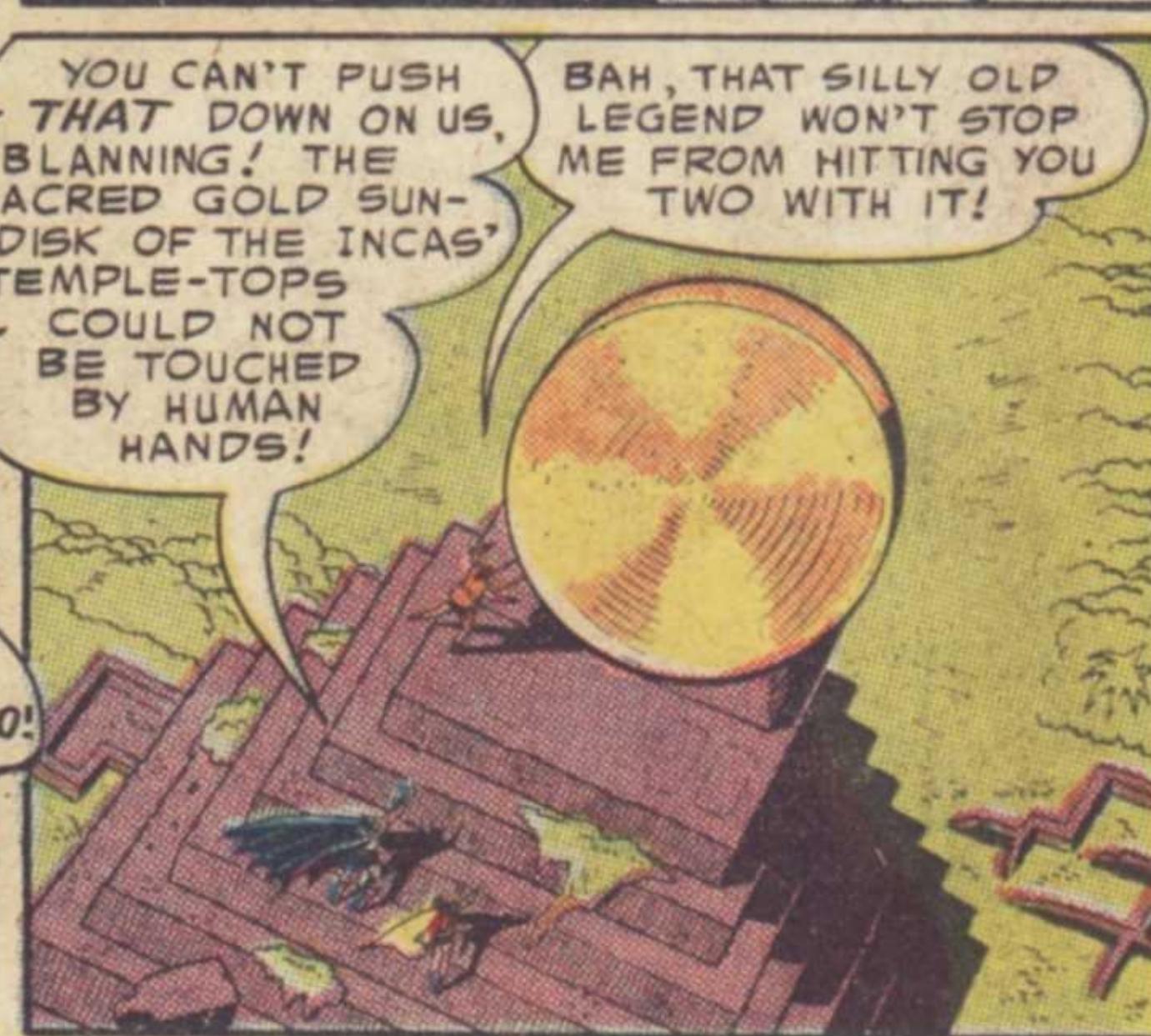
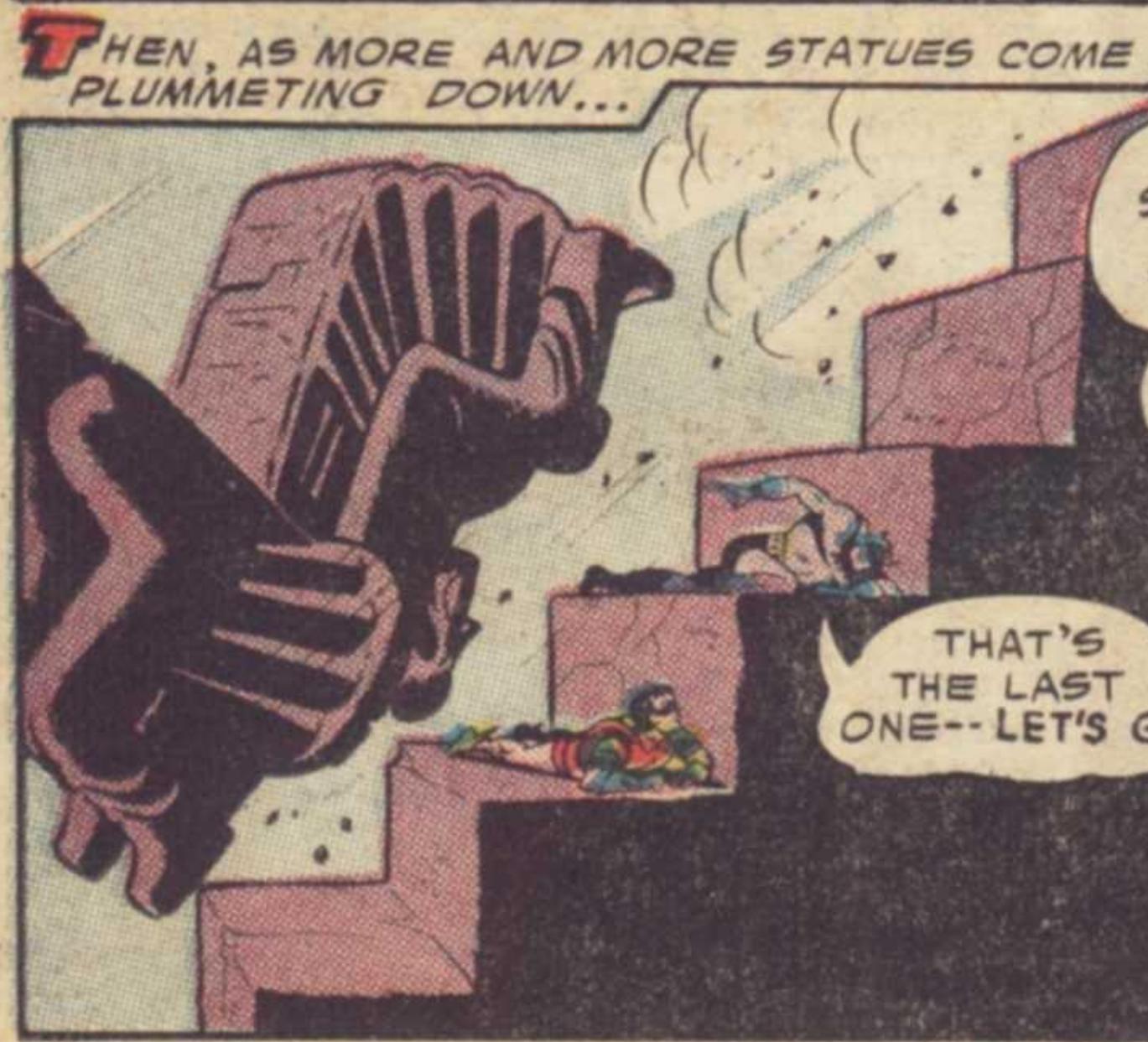
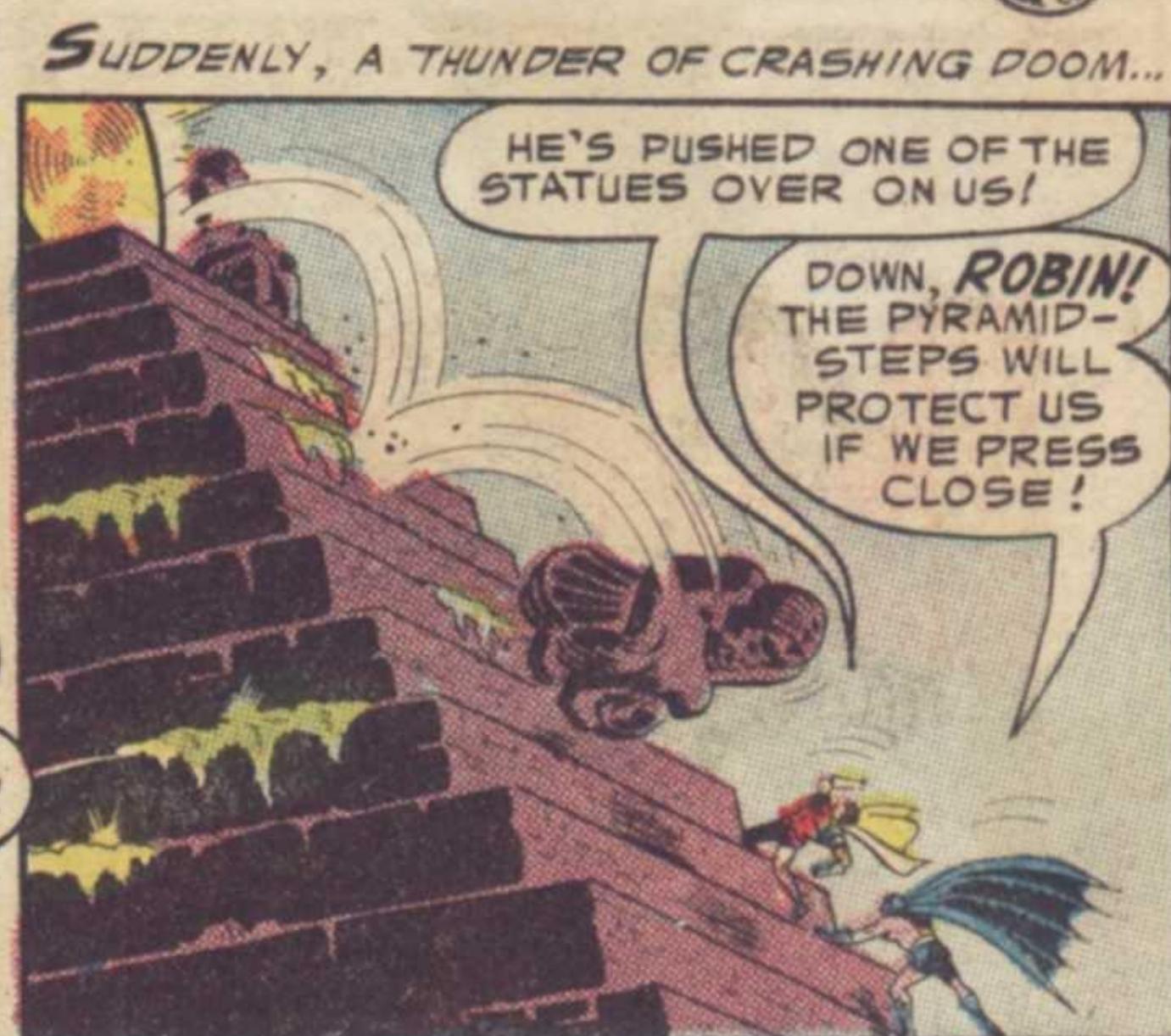
AND WHEN THEY ENTER THE LOST CITY...

HAWTREE'S
BEEN
STUNNED!
YES, BY HIS "FRIEND"
BLANNING! AS A MAP
EXPERT, MERTON
WOULDN'T NEED TO
CUT OUT THAT SECTION
OF THE GLOBE, ONCE
HE SAW THE LOCATION...
HE'D ONLY HAVE DEFACED
IT! SO IT HAD TO BE
BLANNING!





BATMAN ANNUAL





BATMAN AND ROBIN

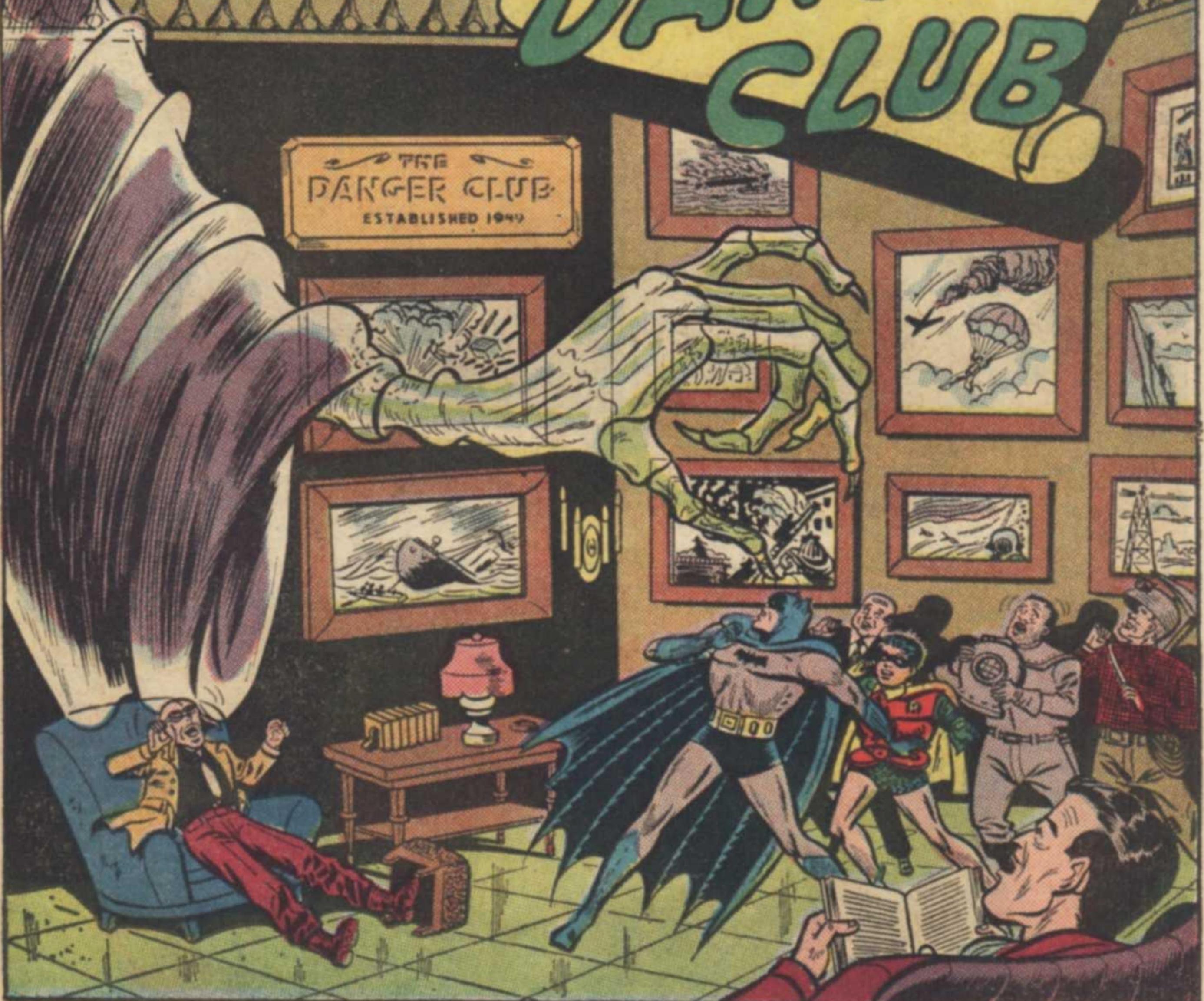
By

Bob
Kane

THE
DANGER CLUB
ESTABLISHED 1949

THE DANGER CLUB

EVERY DAY THEY
DUELED WITH DEATH.
THEIR JOBS WERE
SO PERILOUS THAT
NO COMPANY WOULD
INSURE THEIR LIVES.
DARED DIZZYING HEIGHTS... THE
JET-PILOT WHO FLEW FASTER THAN
SOUND... THE DEEP-SEA DIVER WHO
BRAVED UNCHARTED DEPTHS. IT IS
THIS CIRCLE OF SUPER-HEROES THAT
THE FAMED BATMAN JOINS WHEN
HE BECOMES A MEMBER OF...





BATMAN ANNUAL



EACH DAY, IN GOTHAM CITY, A GROUP OF HEROIC MEN PURSUE THEIR PERILOUS OCCUPATIONS. THERE IS THE PILOT WHO TESTS NEW, UNTRIED JET PLANES...

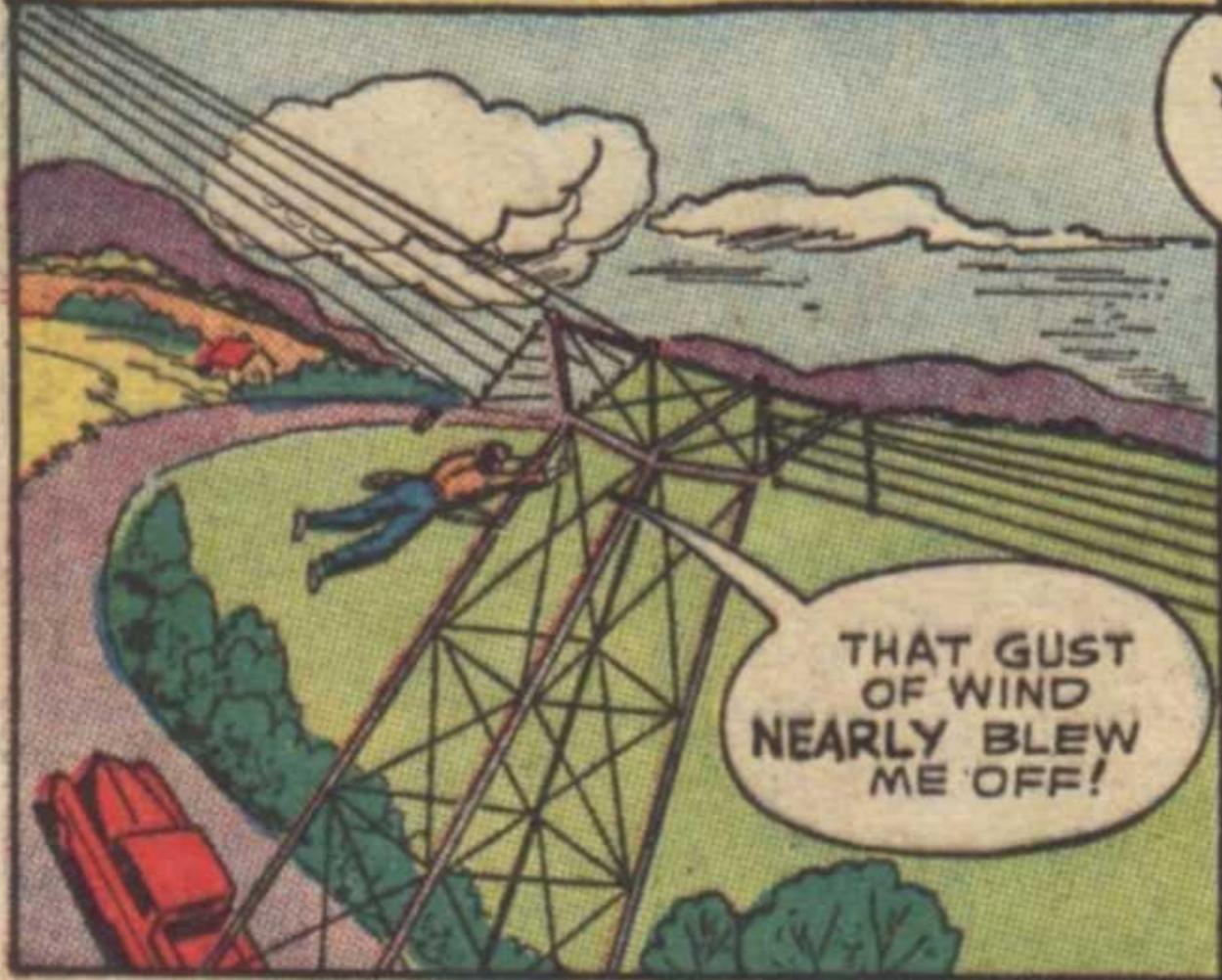


AND THE CHEMIST WHO EXPERIMENTS WITH DANGEROUS NEW EXPLOSIVES!

IF MY NEW SAFETY DEVICE
DOESN'T WORK, I'LL BE
BLOWN TO KINGDOM
COME!



AND THE TROUBLE-SHOOTER WHO WORKS HIGH IN THE AIR UPON HIGH-VOLTAGE WIRES!



IT IS SUCH MEN OF HAZARD WHO HAVE FORMED GOTHAM CITY'S MOST EXCITING ORGANIZATION ... THE DANGER CLUB...

YOU OUGHT TO SAVE YOUR MONEY INSTEAD OF BLOWING IT ALL ON GAY PARTIES, MILDING!

LOOK, LARSON. A JET-PLANE TEST-PILOT LIKE ME MAY GET KILLED ANY DAY... I'M ENJOYING LIFE WHILE I CAN!



AND ADMISSION TO THE DANGER CLUB IS NOT EASY, AS ITS PRESIDENT, EXPLOSIVES-EXPERT JOHN CAREW, EXPLAINS TO A NEW APPLICANT!

BUT I'M A TAXI-DRIVER, AND DRIVING CAN BE DANGEROUS! CAN'T I BECOME A MEMBER?

NO, JACK THORN... OUR CLUB IS ONLY FOR MEN WHO HAVE SUPER-DANGEROUS JOBS, AND CAN'T GET LIFE INSURANCE. IT'S FOR OUR PROTECTION... WE ALL CONTRIBUTE TO AN ACCIDENT-FUND WE KEEP IN CASE ONE OF US GETS HURT!

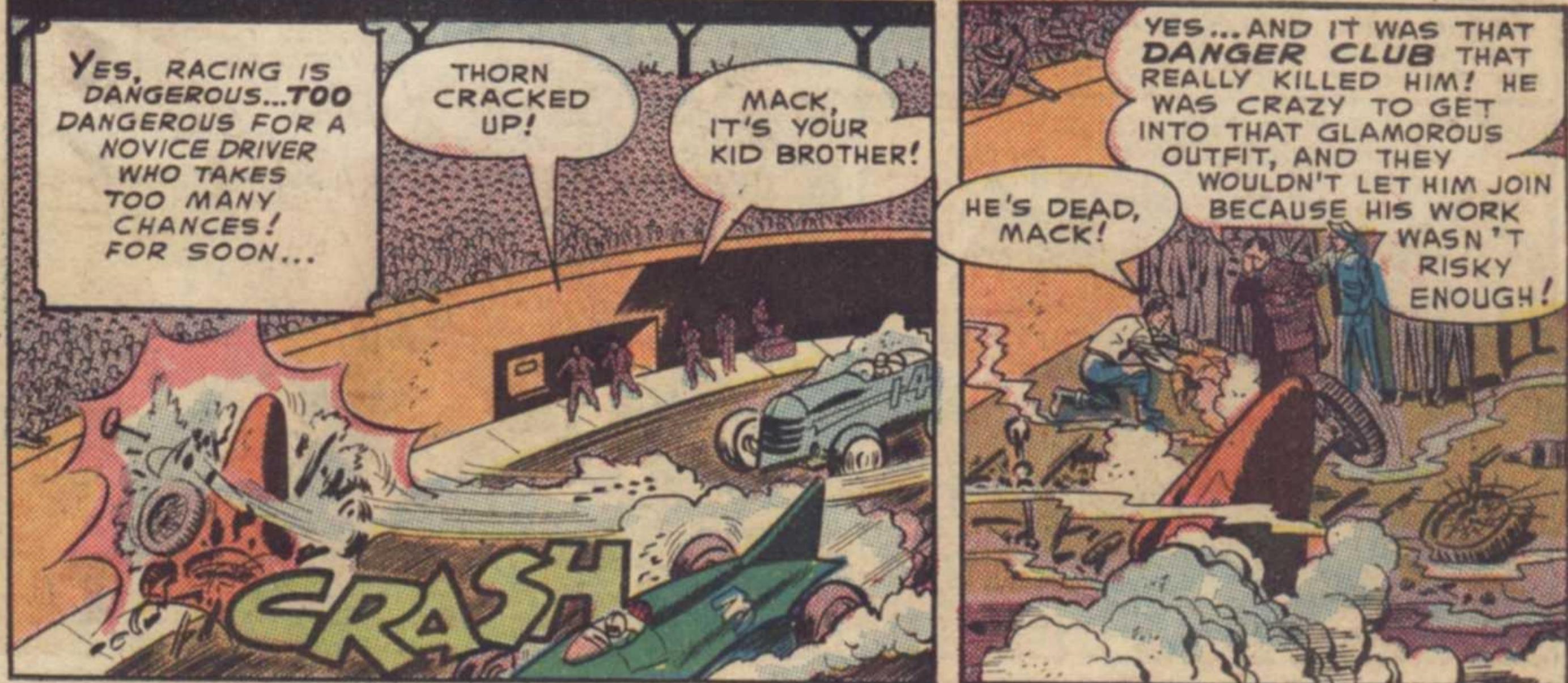
YOUR OCCUPATION IS NOT RISKY ENOUGH, SO WE CAN'T TAKE YOU! WE'RE A VERY SMALL GROUP!

BUT I WANT TO JOIN THE DANGER CLUB SO MUCH... I'LL CHANGE MY JOB! I'LL BECOME A RACE-TRACK DRIVER! THAT'S DANGEROUS ENOUGH!





BATMAN ANNUAL



AND THAT NIGHT, TO THE DANGER CLUB'S WEEKLY MEETING, COMES A GRIM ACCUSER...

YOU AND YOUR DANGER CLUB CAUSED MY BROTHER'S DEATH! I HOPE THAT THE DANGEROUS JOBS EACH OF YOU MAKES SO MUCH OF WILL KILL EVERY ONE OF YOU!

BUT IT'S NOT OUR FAULT THAT YOUR BROTHER CHOSE THAT CAREER!

THAT MAN WAS THREATENING US!

HE'S ONLY GRIEFTSTRICKEN... WE'LL FORGET IT! I'M LEAVING NOW. I HAVE TO PREPARE AT THE PLANT FOR A BIG BLASTING JOB TOMORROW!

BUT THAT NIGHT, THE DANGER HE HAS LONG DEFIED BRINGS DEATH TO JOHN CAREW, PRESIDENT OF THE DANGER CLUB!

THE PLANT STOREHOUSE BLEW UP! AND ONLY CAREW, THE EXPLOSIVES EXPERT, WAS IN THERE! HE MUST HAVE ACCIDENTALLY SET OFF A BLAST!

ROLLING THUNDEROUSLY ACROSS GOTHAM CITY, THE DISTANT STROKE OF DOOM REACHES THE EARS OF TWO EERIE CAPED FIGURES HIGH IN THE LOFTY CITY...

BATMAN, THAT WAS A BIG EXPLOSION FROM THE SUBURBS!

WE COULD BE NEEDED! QUICK, ROBIN BACK TO THE BATMOBILE!





BATMAN ANNUAL



AS THE SLEEK BATMOBILE HURTELS
THROUGH SLEEPING STREETS, ALARMS
ARE ALREADY SHRILLING THEIR WARNING!

LOOKS LIKE THE GOTHAM
ENGINEERING COMPANY'S
OFFICES... THE FIREMEN
MUST BE THERE
ALREADY!



THEIR EXPLOSIVES
EXPERT, JOHN CAREW,
WAS IN THERE ALONE...
HE WAS A CAREFUL MAN,
AND I CAN'T SEE HOW
THIS HAPPENED!

CAREW WAS PRESIDENT
OF THE DANGER CLUB,
BATMAN! WE'VE
SENT FOR ITS OFFICERS,
MAYBE THEY CAN GIVE
US MORE INFORMATION!



WHEN THE OFFICERS OF THE DANGER CLUB
ARRIVE, THE INFORMATION THEY GIVE IS
STARTLING...

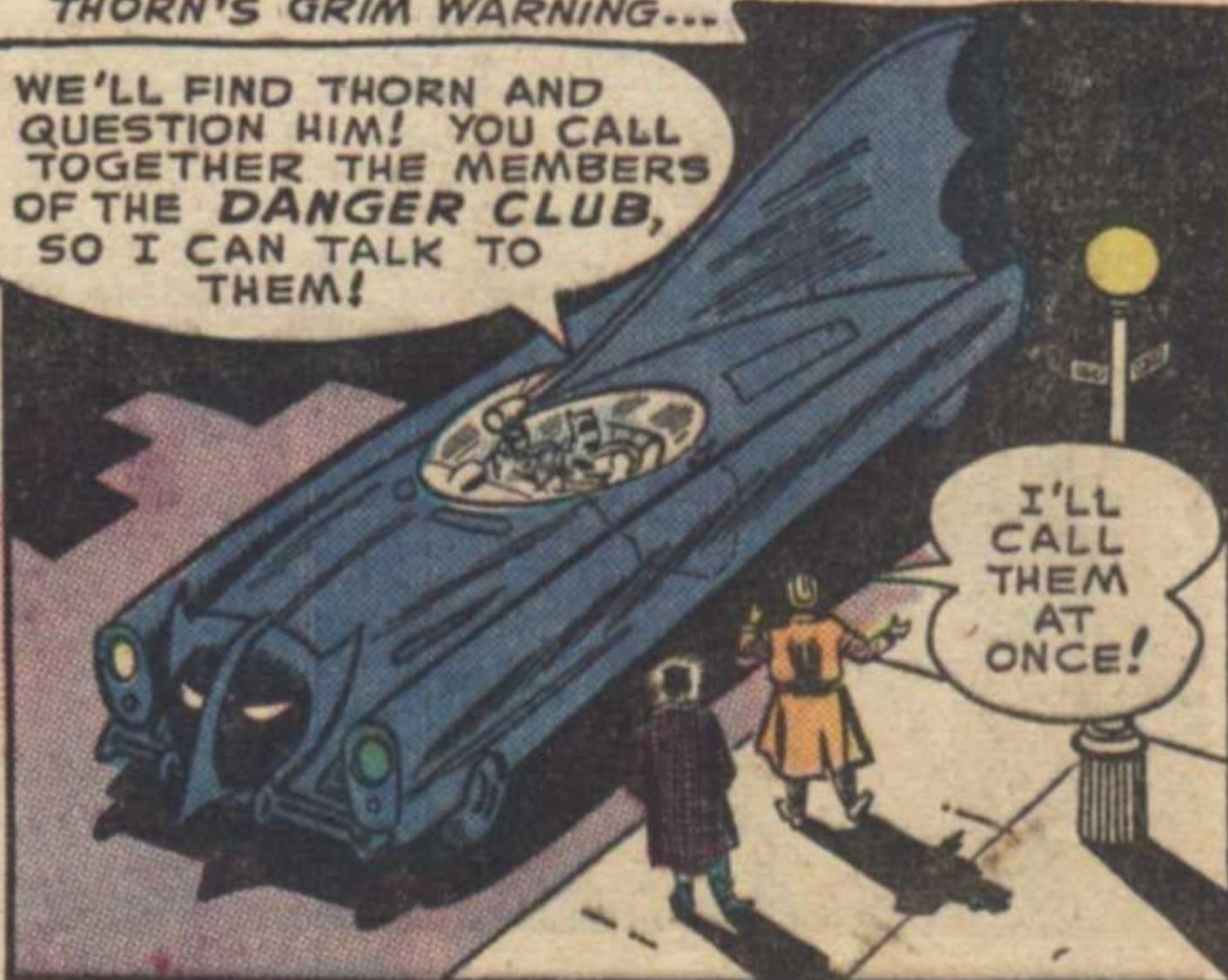
I'M LARSON, VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE CLUB, AND THIS IS
MILDING, OUR SECRETARY!
I SUSPECT THAT CRAZY
MACK THORN WHO
THREATENED WE'D ALL
DIE FROM OUR DANGEROUS
JOBS HAD A HAND IN
THIS!

CERTAINLY
POOR CAREW
DIED FROM
HIS
DANGEROUS
JOB!



WHEN BATMAN HAS HEARD THE TALE OF
THORN'S GRIM WARNING...

WE'LL FIND THORN AND
QUESTION HIM! YOU CALL
TOGETHER THE MEMBERS
OF THE DANGER CLUB,
SO I CAN TALK TO
THEM!



BUT AT MACK THORN'S COTTAGE HOME...

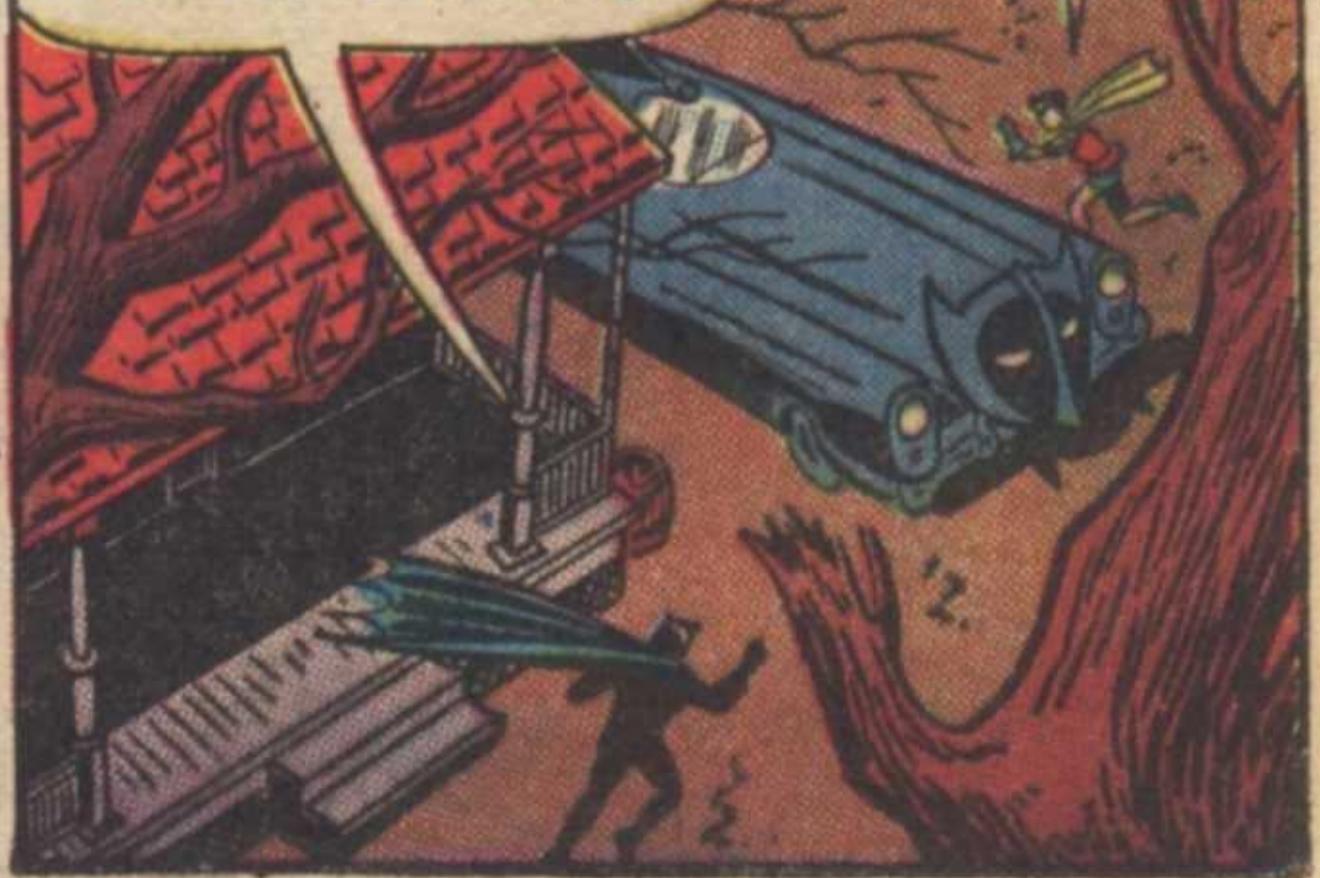
HE'S NOT AT HIS TRUCK-
DRIVING JOB, NOR IS
HE HERE! **BATMAN**,
THORN MUST BE GUILTY
IF HE'S HIDING
OUT!

LOOKS LIKE IT!
HMM... THIS OLD
SNAPSHOT SHOWS
THAT THORN WAS
ONCE A MERCHANT
SAILOR!



MOST LIKELY THORN
WOULD TRY TO ESCAPE
BY SHIPPING OUT...
YOU CHECK ALL SHIPS
ABOUT TO SAIL! I'LL
BE AT THE
DANGER CLUB!

RIGHT! I'LL
CALL YOU BY
BEAT-RADIO
IF I GET
ON HIS TRAIL!





BATMAN ANNUAL



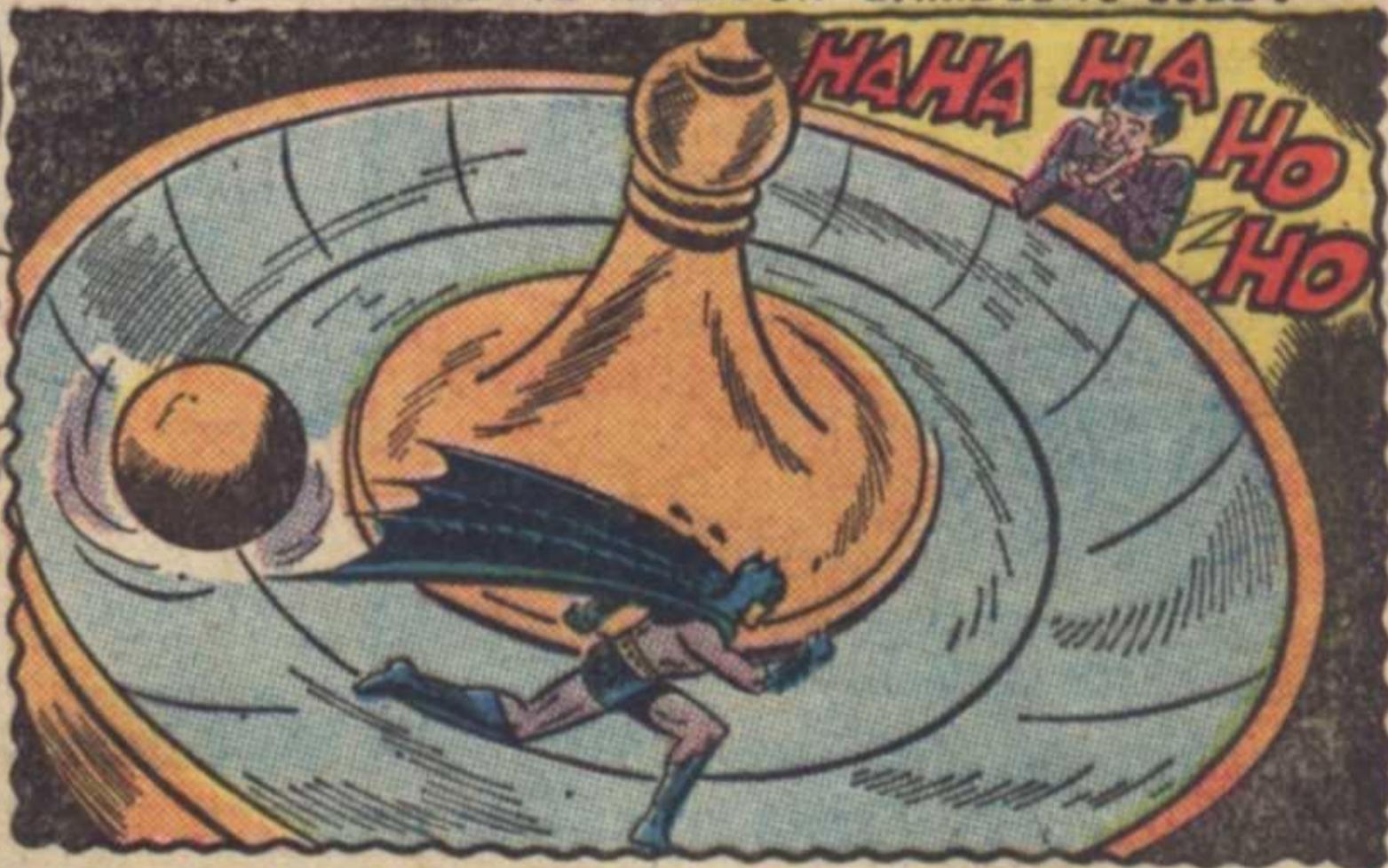
SOON, AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE DANGER CLUB!

YOU MAY ALL BE IN DANGER OF BEING MURDERED! I SUGGEST THAT, SINCE ALL MEMBERS ARE MENACED, I JOIN YOUR CLUB TO INVESTIGATE THIS PERIL!

WE'D FEEL HONORED TO HAVE YOU! BUT, AS A FORMALITY, ALL NEW MEMBERS MUST TESTIFY THAT THEY'VE PASSED THROUGH AT LEAST THREE SERIOUS DANGERS! WE KNOW YOU'VE HAD HUNDREDS BUT PLEASE REPORT THREE!

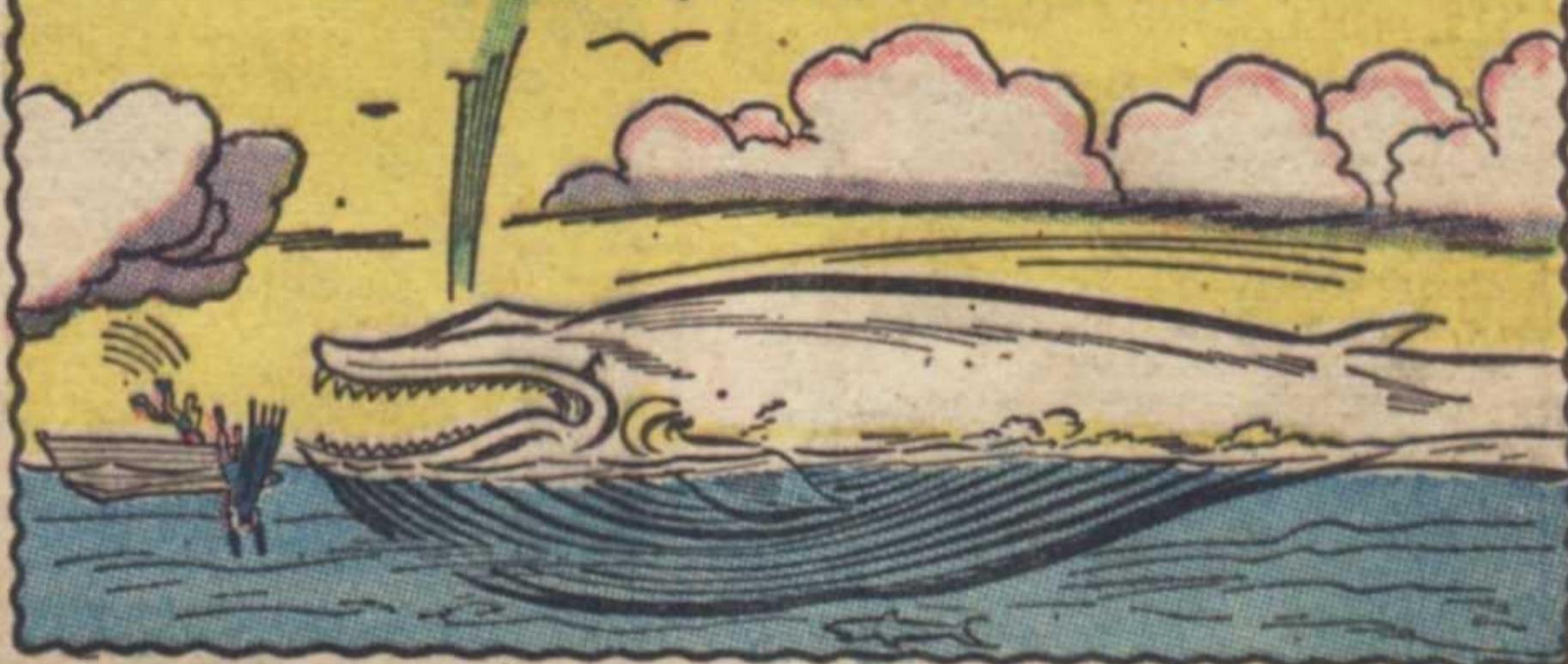


BATMAN'S TESTIMONIALS OF DANGERS! "FIRST..." THERE WAS THE TIME THE JOKER TRAPPED ME IN, THAT GIANT ROULETTE WHEEL ON 'GAMBLER'S ISLE'!"



"THEN THERE WAS THE TIME DR. DOOM PENETRATED THE BAT-CAVE AND TURNED OUR OWN ROBOT DINOSAUR-TROPHY UPON US!"

"AND THE TIME, IN OUR SEARCH FOR THE MYSTERIOUS WHITE WHALE, WHEN IT FOUND US!"



UNANIMOUSLY, THE DANGER CLUB ACCEPTS BATMAN AS A MEMBER! AND AS THE MEETING BREAKS UP...

BATMAN, I'M WORRIED... I HAVE A NEW JET PLANE TO TEST TOMORROW MORNING! IF THORN ISN'T CAUGHT BY THEN, MAYBE HE'LL TRY FOR ME, TOO!

DON'T WORRY, MILDING! I'LL BE COVERING YOUR TEST, JUST IN CASE!



LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE HIDDEN UNDER THE MANSION OF SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE, BATMAN'S OTHER IDENTITY...

I CHECKED ALL SHIPS BUT NO LUCK SO FAR!

KEEP AT IT, ROBIN! I'M GOING TO USE THE BAT-PLANE TO COVER MILDING'S TEST-FLIGHT IN THE MORNING, IN CASE THERE'S AN ATTEMPT ON HIM!





BATMAN ANNUAL



IT'S A NERVOUS PILOT WHO PREPARES FOR A DANGEROUS TEST!

THIS NEW PLANE SEEMS ALL RIGHT... BUT THORN MIGHT STRIKE AT ME FROM ANOTHER PLANE!

TO MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T, I'VE BROUGHT THE BATPLANE... I'LL FLY NEAR YOU!

PRESENTLY, THE EXPERIMENTAL JET-POWERED PLANE SCREAMS INTO THE SKY, BUT THE SUPER-POWERED BATPLANE KEEPS PACE WITH IT!



MILDING SEEMS SAFE ENOUGH! THERE'S NO OTHER PLANE AROUND AND NOTHING... BUT WAIT! THAT'S SMOKE COMING FROM MILDING'S PLANE!

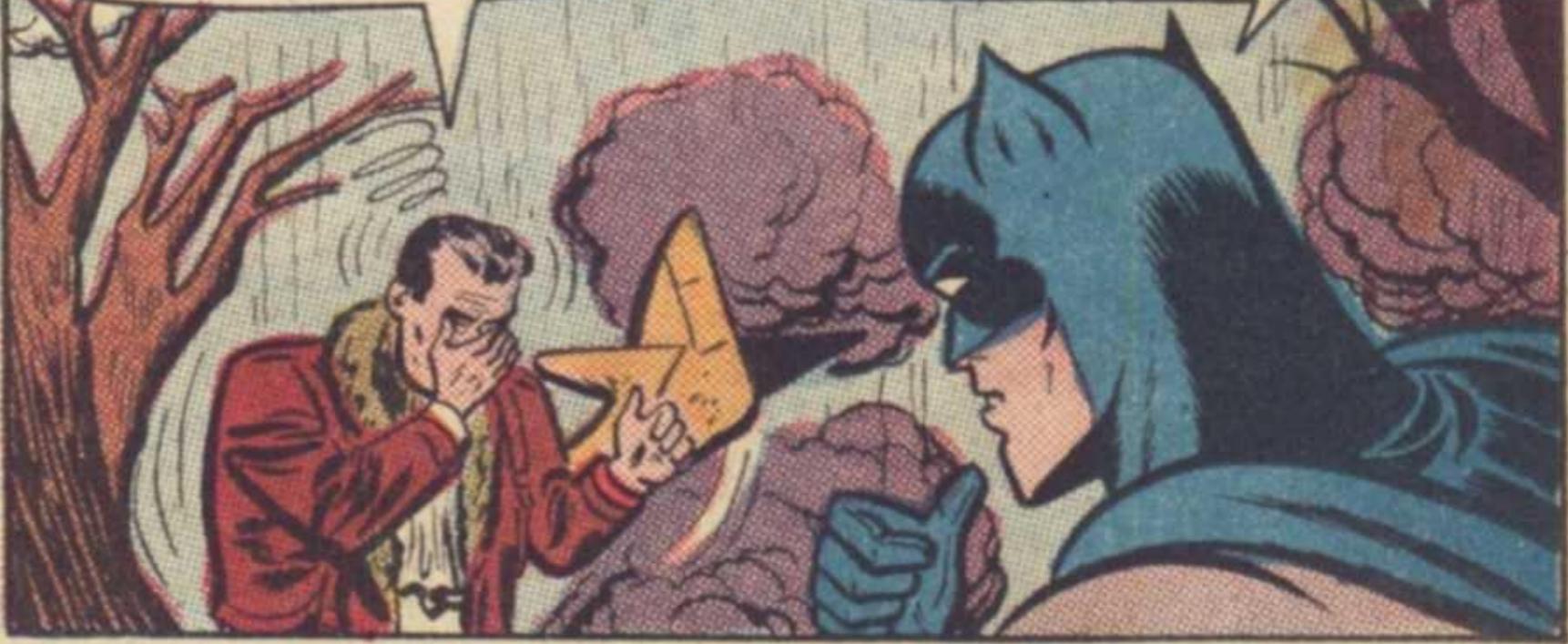
AND SUDDENLY, A SWIFT SHIP PLUNGES TOWARD ITS DOOM...



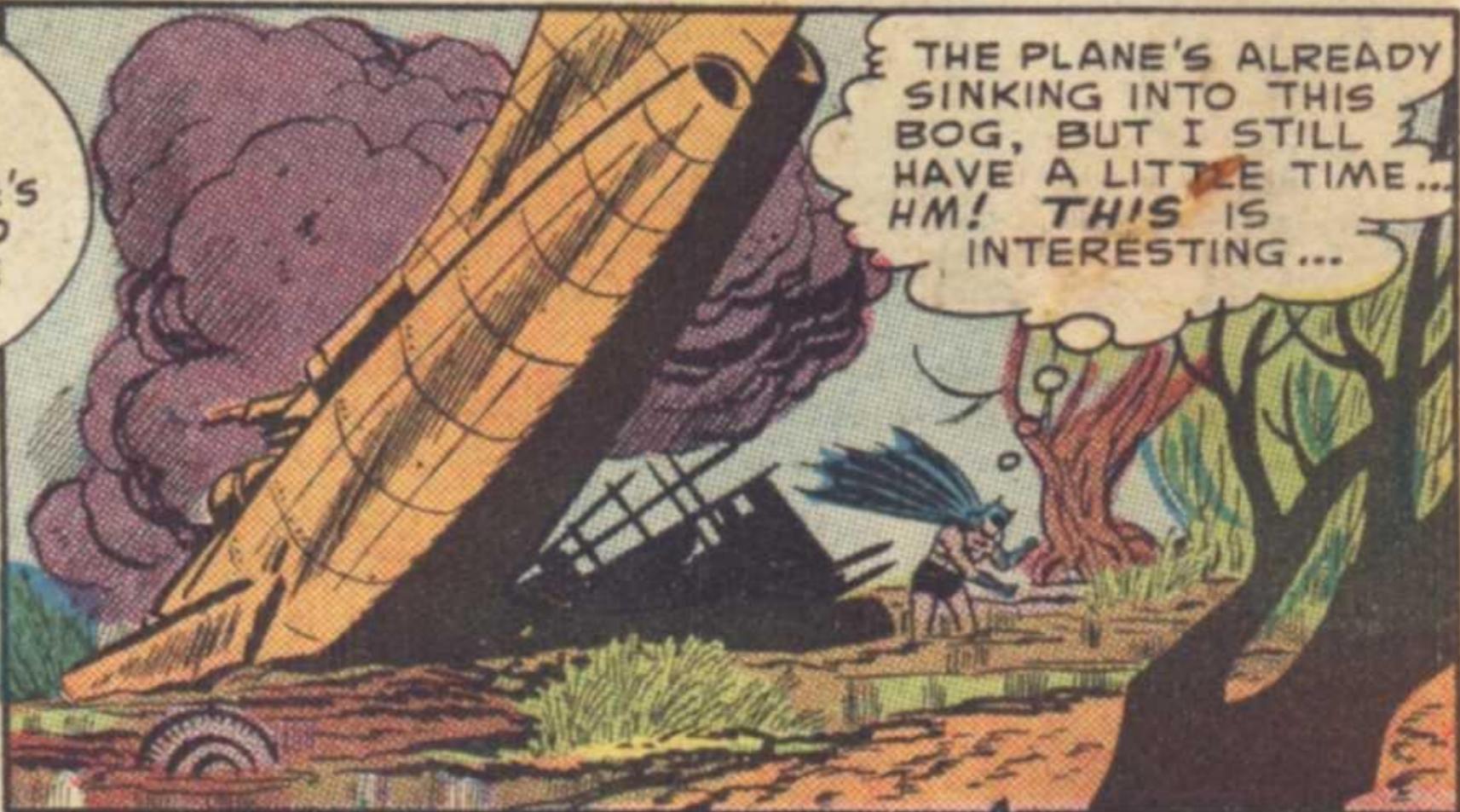
MILDING BAILED OUT IN TIME! BUT I'D BETTER LAND... THERE'S FIRM GROUND BEYOND THE SWAMP!

I'M NOT HURT, BUT I'M SHAKEN UP! THE PLANE'S MOTOR FAILED STRANGELY, ALL OF A SUDDEN!

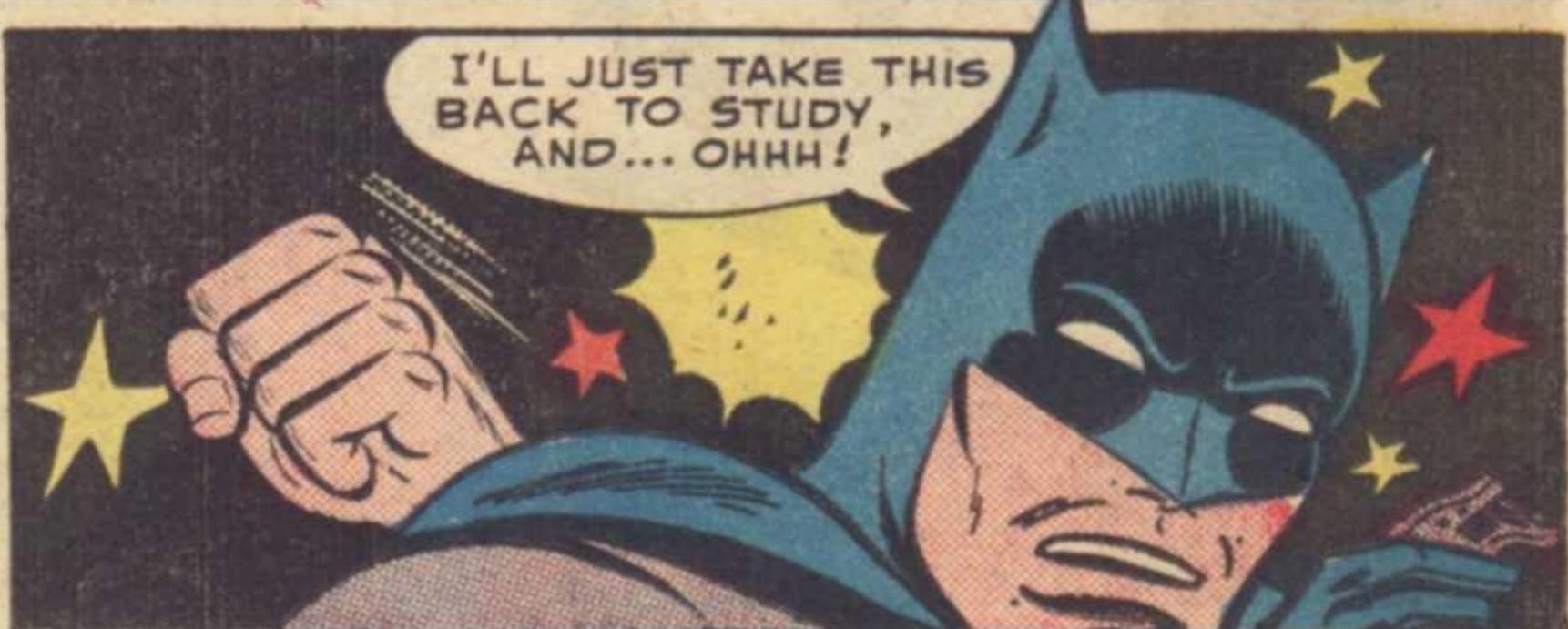
YOU'D BETTER GO ON HOME... I'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THAT PLANE'S WRECKAGE!



THE PLANE'S ALREADY SINKING INTO THIS BOG, BUT I STILL HAVE A LITTLE TIME... HM! THIS IS INTERESTING...



I'LL JUST TAKE THIS BACK TO STUDY, AND... OHHH!





BATMAN ANNUAL



YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO MIGHT TRACK ME DOWN, BATMAN... BUT YOU'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE! SLEEP SOFT... IN HALF AN HOUR YOU'LL BE GONE WITHOUT A TRACE!

THE MINUTES TICK BY... AND TO THE BATMAN COMES A TERRIBLE AWAKENING...

I'M CAUGHT IN THIS QUICKSAND MUD! CAN'T USE MY ROPE TO PULL OUT WITH, FOR THERE'S NOTHING SOLID TO LOOP IT AROUND! MY ONLY CHANCE IS TO GET ROBIN BY BELT-RADIO!

ROBIN, GET HERE FAST! COME ALONG THE SWAMP ROAD... I'LL MAKE A SMOKE-SIGNAL TO GUIDE YOU TO ME!

THESE ISOLATED REEDS WON'T BURN FAR AND THE WIND WILL CARRY THE FLAME AND SMOKE AWAY FROM ME...

I'LL BE THERE IN MINUTES, BATMAN! HANG ON!

A FRENZY OF ANXIETY BRINGS THE BOY WONDER SPEEDING, ALMOST TOO LATE...

IT SEEMS HOPELESS, ROBIN! YOU CAN'T PULL ME OUT BY YOUR OWN STRENGTH!

BUT I CAN RUN THE BATMOBILE ONTO THE NEAREST FIRM GROUND AND USE ITS EMERGENCY-CABLE TO HOOK ONTO YOUR ROPE AND YANK YOU!

THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE, IN DIRE EMERGENCY, SERVES ITS OWNERS WELL!

THEN WHOEVER SABOTAGED MILDING'S PLANE WANTED TO MAKE SURE YOU FOUND NO CLUE IN THE WRECKAGE!

BUT I DID FIND A CLUE... PART OF THE BOMB HIDDEN IN HIS PLANE! WE'LL LOOK IT OVER BACK IN OUR LABORATORY!





BATMAN ANNUAL



IN THE BAT-CAVE'S CRIME-LABORATORY, THE TWO SLEUTHS STUDY A VITAL CLUE!

BUT NO HIGH EXPLOSIVE BOMB WE HAVE RECORD OF HAS SUCH A VALVE-DEVICE AS THAT!

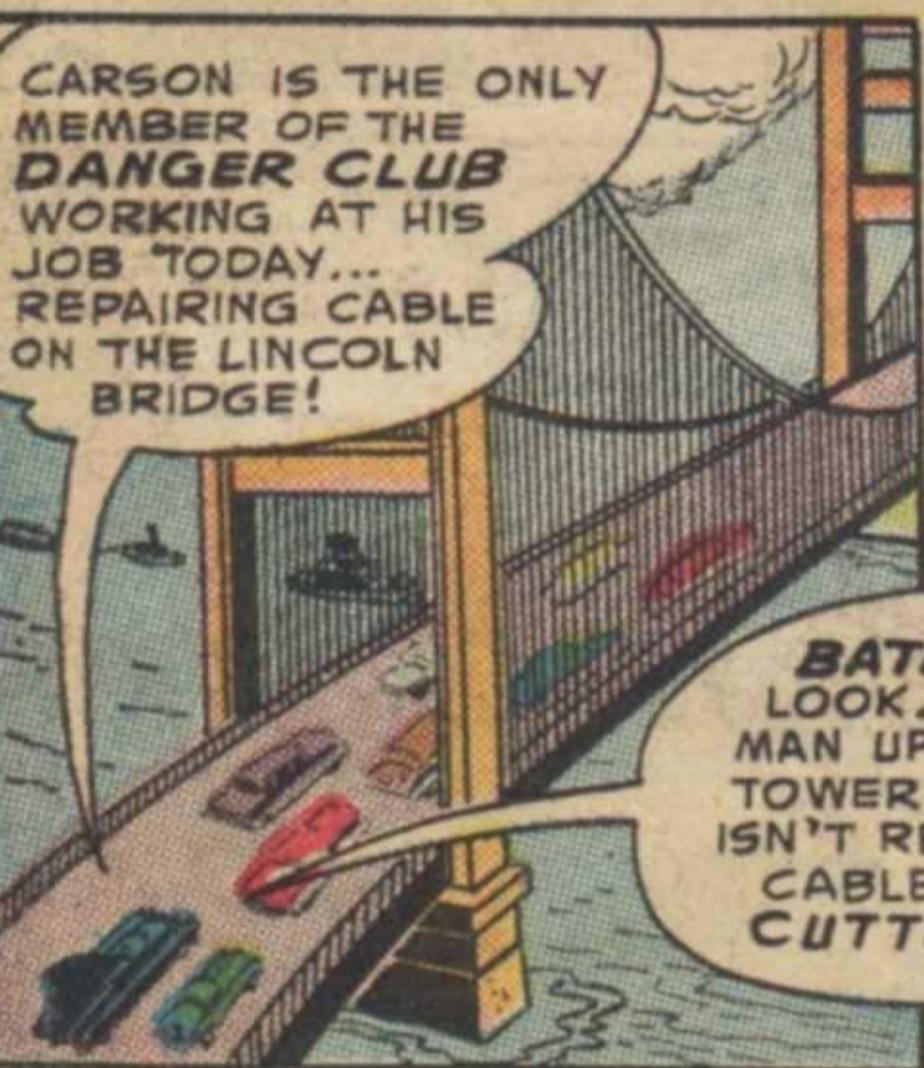
SUCH VALVES AS THIS ARE ONLY USED ON GAS OR VAPOR BOMBS... AND THAT'S THE CLUE THAT POINTS OUT THE KILLER!

HE BELIEVES I'M DONE FOR, AND WILL STRIKE FAST AT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DANGER CLUB! ROBIN, WE'VE GOT TO HURRY TO STOP HIM!

I STILL DON'T SEE WHAT YOUR CLUE MEANS, BUT AS LONG AS THORN IS LOOSE THERE'S DANGER!



CARSON IS THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE DANGER CLUB WORKING AT HIS JOB TODAY... REPAIRING CABLE ON THE LINCOLN BRIDGE!

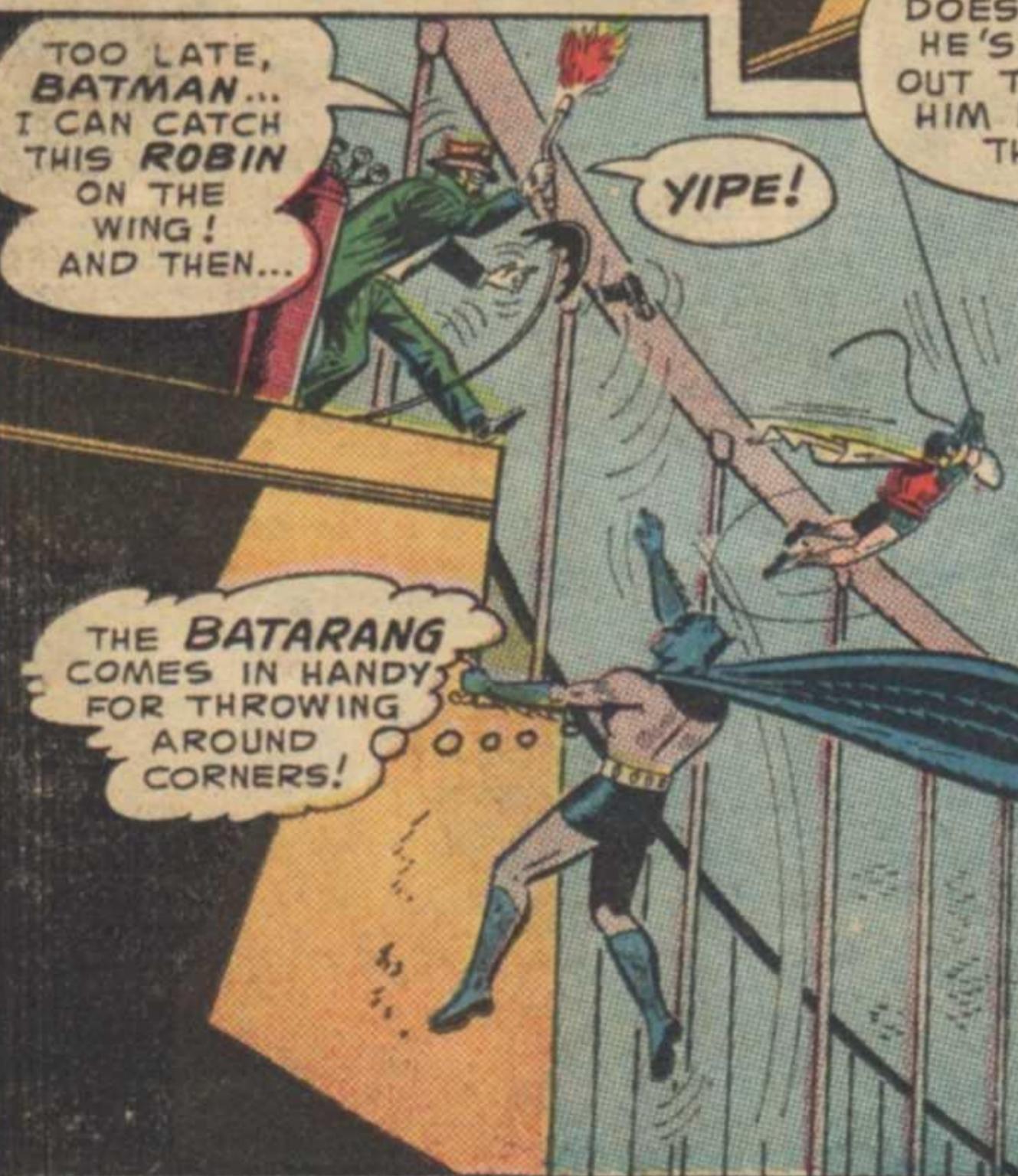


WITH THE SUPERB AGILITY OF TRAINED ACROBATS, THE TWO CAPE FIGURES SWIFTLY SCALE THE TOWER, AND THEN...

BATMAN!

BATMAN, LOOK... THAT MAN UP ON THE TOWER THERE ISN'T REPAIRING CABLE, BUT CUTTING IT!

LOOK OUT, BATMAN... HE HAS A GUN! AND THAT CABLE'S RED-HOT... I CAN'T GRAB HOLD OF IT!



GO BACK, ROBIN! CARSON DOESN'T KNOW HE'S IN DANGER, OUT THERE... GET HIM DOWN OFF THE CABLE!

BUT AS THE BATMAN TRIES TO CLOSE WITH THE MASKED KILLER...

I'VE GOT A WARM RECEPTION FOR YOU, BATMAN!



THE BATARANG COMES IN HANDY FOR THROWING AROUND CORNERS!

I CAN'T GET UP THERE WHILE HE HAS THE TORCH... MY ROPE IS THE ONLY CHANCE...



BATMAN ANNUAL



THE SILKEN ROPE FLASHES UP WITH ALL THE EXPERT SKILL OF BATMAN BEHIND IT!

IF I CAN KEEP IT CLEAR OF THE FLAME AND SLIP IT AROUND THE ACETYLENE-TANK... DID IT!



WHAT...

A SWIFT YANK... AND THE DEADLY TOOL HURLETS DOWN TOWARD THE RIVER FAR BELOW...

NOW WE CAN MEET ON EVEN TERMS!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!



TWO FIGURES PLUMMET DOWN THE STANCHION-ROD IN A DIZZY SLIDE TO BRIDGE LEVEL, BUT AS THE SECOND REACHES IT...

WHEN EMERGENCY REPAIRS HAVE BEEN MADE...

CARSON, I WANT YOU TO CALL THE DANGER CLUB TOGETHER AT ONCE... TELL THEM I'LL PRODUCE THORN THERE! I THINK I KNOW NOW WHERE HE IS!

BUT HE GOT AWAY... ALL RIGHT, I'LL CALL THEM!

AND SOON, A FATEFUL MEETING OF THE DANGER CLUB...

THEN YOU DID FIND THORN! HE'LL PAY FOR CAREW'S MURDER!

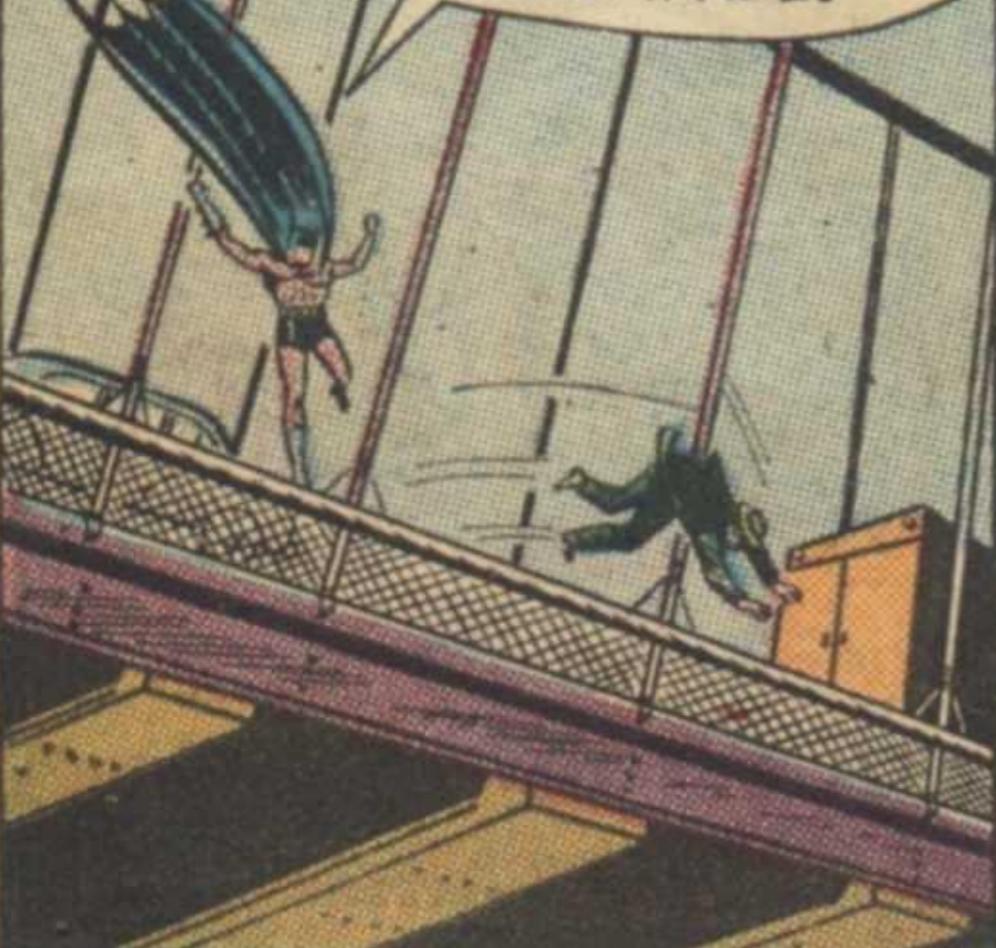
I... I DIDN'T MURDER ANYONE! SOMEONE KNOCKED ME OUT, DRUGGED ME... I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING MORE TILL BATMAN WOKE ME UP!

A LIKELY STORY!

HE'S GETTING AWAY... BUT WITH THAT CABLE HALF-CUT, I HAVE TO GET TRAFFIC ON THIS BRIDGE STOPPED UNTIL REPAIRS ARE MADE!

BUT IT'S TRUE, MILDING! IT WASN'T THORN WHO TRIED TO KILL THE DANGER CLUB MEMBERS! IT WAS ONE OF YOU MEMBERS, WHO THOUGHT THORN COULD BE MADE THE SCAPEGOAT BECAUSE OF HIS THREAT!

ONE OF US? THAT'S INSANE! WHAT MOTIVE WOULD ONE OF US HAVE?



MILDING, AS SECRETARY
YOU HAD CHARGE OF THE
CLUB'S BIG ACCIDENT FUND!
IF THE OTHER MEMBERS
DIED, AS SOLE SURVIVING
MEMBER IT WOULD
ALL COME TO
YOU!

BUT... BUT
THE KILLER
TRIED TO
MURDER ME,
TOO!

YOU ONLY FADED THAT
ATTEMPT... BY SETTING
OFF A **SMOKE-BOMB**
IN YOUR PLANE AND
THEN DELIBERATELY
BAILING OUT AND LETTING
IT CRASH! I FOUND PART
OF THAT BOMB AND
KNEW THEN!

AND WE FOUND
THORN DRUGGED
AND TIED UP IN A
CLOSET OF YOUR
HOME! YOU
PLANNED TO
TURN HIM
LOOSE WHEN
YOU'D MURDERED
THE OTHER
MEMBERS, AND
HE'D HAVE NO
ALIBI!



I... I HAD TO DO IT! I'D USED THE
CLUB FUND FOR GAY PARTIES, AND WOULD
HAVE BEEN FOUND OUT! THAT'S WHY
I STARTED TO ELIMINATE THE OTHER
MEMBERS,

BY SETTING A
BOOBY-TRAP
FUSE TO
DETONATE
CAREW'S
EXPLOSIVES!

WE'LL DISSOLVE
THE **DANGER CLUB**...
THE CLUB ITSELF
PROVED THE BIGGEST
DANGER WE EVER
FACED!

THERE'S ALWAYS
DANGER WHEN GREEDY
MEN BREAK THE LAW...
AND FOR SUCH LAW-
BREAKERS, THERE'S
ALWAYS DOOM!

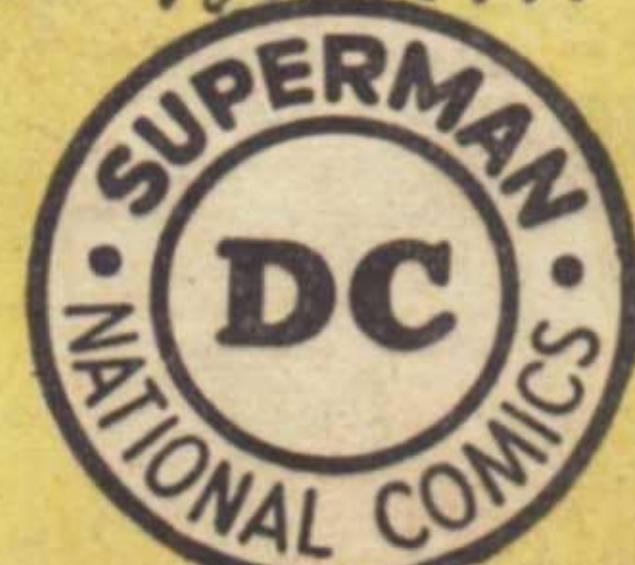


To the
Boys and Girls
of America

THIS FAMOUS
SYMBOL
IS YOUR

GUARANTEE

OF THE **BEST** IN COMICS READING





BATMAN ANNUAL



BATMAN

With
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

AMID BIZARRE CREATURES OF THE PREHISTORIC PAST, **BATMAN** FACES ONE OF HIS GREATEST CHALLENGES--AND ONE OF THE GREATEST THREATS TO HIS LIFE. FOR A DESPERATE MURDERER IS ON THE LOOSE--AND IN THESE MECHANICAL MONSTERS, HE KNOWS, IS THE KEY TO PREVENTING THE CAPE LAWMAN FROM SOLVING THE...

DOOM IN

DINOSAUR HALL!

BATMAN DOESN'T KNOW IT--BUT HE'S RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THAT STAMPEDING MECHANICAL MAMMOTH!





BATMAN ANNUAL



WHILE VISITING POLICE HEADQUARTERS, BATMAN RECEIVES A CALL FROM A GOOD FRIEND...

BATMAN, THIS IS PROFESSOR HALE! I WANT YOU TO SEE SOMETHING IMPORTANT! I'VE GOT SOME MEATY EVIDENCE HIDDEN FROM A CERTAIN HUMAN JACKAL WHO'D LIKE TO GET HIS PAWS ON IT!

HA, HA... YOU AND YOUR CRYPTIC STATEMENTS, PROFESSOR! OKAY, ROBIN AND I WILL COME RIGHT OVER!

LATER, AS THE CAPE CRIME-FIGHTERS SPEED TOWARDS A BUILDING OF UNIQUE DESIGN...

YOU REMEMBER PROFESSOR HALE, ROBIN... HE'S THE HEAD OF THE NEW MECHANICAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, DUE TO OPEN TOMORROW!

YES--I HEAR ALL THE EXHIBITS THERE ARE ROBOT-CONTROLLED SO THAT THEY SEEM TO BE ALMOST ALIVE!

MECHANICAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

UUPON ENTERING THE RAMP BEFORE THE ANIMATED DISPLAY OF GIGANTIC MECHANICAL DINOSAURS...

GREAT SCOTT-- WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE?

WE WERE WORKING IN DIFFERENT MUSEUM ROOMS, AND HEARD A CRY! WHEN WE RUSHED IN HERE, WE FOUND PROFESSOR HALE LYING THERE--DEAD!

HE MUST HAVE SET THE DINOSAURS IN MOTION, TO INSPECT THE EXHIBIT FROM THE CATWALK-- LEANED OVER TOO FAR-- AND WAS SWEPT OFF BY THE LASHING TAIL OF THE TYRANNOSAURUS!

IMAGINE--A MAN IN THE 20TH CENTURY BEING MURDERED BY A DINOSAUR!

BUT, WHEN BATMAN INSPECTS THE CATWALK...

HMM... SCUFF MARKS-- SIGNS OF A STRUGGLE! NO DINOSAUR KILLED HALE! A 20TH CENTURY HUMAN BEING THREW HIM OFF THE CATWALK!

SOMEONE OVERHEARD HALE TELEPHONING ME--AND MURDERED HIM TO PREVENT ME FROM SEEING WHATEVER IT WAS THAT HALE HAD HIDDEN!



BATMAN ANNUAL



QUESTIONING THE ONLY FOUR PERSONS PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE DEATH, BATMAN ENDS UP WITH FOUR SUSPECTS...



ALBERT LINKE--
MUSEUM TAXIDERMIST--
HALE'S RIVAL FOR
THE LOVE OF A GIRL
THEY BOTH KNEW.

CARL DANTON--
MUSEUM SECRETARY--
QUARRELED WITH HALE OVER
MOUNTING EXPENSES OF
EXHIBITS.



MARIO NAZZARA--
ENVIOUS AND
BITTER BECAUSE
HALE, NOT HE,
WAS APPOINTED
HEAD CURATOR OF
MUSEUM.



JOHN LOGAN--
MASTER ELECTRICIAN--
QUARRELED WITH
HALE ABOUT
TECHNICAL DETAILS
OF ROBOT-
CONTROLS.

EACH ONE HAD A
MOTIVE! THE GUILTY
MAN MIGHT HAVE
KILLED HALE IN
ANGER-- BUT I
THINK THE REAL
MOTIVE INVOLVES
WHATEVER IT WAS
THAT HALE WANTED
TO SHOW ME! I
WONDER IF HALE
HAS IT IN A
POCKET...

BUT A CAREFUL CHECK
OF THE MURDERED
MAN'S POCKETS REVEALS...

JUST THE USUAL ITEMS...
KEYS, FOUNTAIN PEN,
MONEY CLIP, SOME
CHANGE--AND THAT'S
ALL!



WAIT--LOOK! A CUFF
LINK FROM HALE'S
OWN SHIRT, CLUTCHED
IN HIS HAND! NOW
WHY DID HALE GO
THROUGH ALL THE
BOther OF REMOVING
A CUFF LINK WHILE
HE WAS DYING--
UNLESS...

UNLESS HE
WANTED TO
LEAVE US A
CLUE TO HIS,
ATTACKER!



AND THE CUFF LINK OBVIOUSLY
NAMES YOU, ALBERT LINKE!
YOU KILLED HALE BECAUSE
YOU WERE JEALOUS OF HIS
ATTENTIONS TO THE GIRL
YOU WANTED!

NO--NO! I
NEVER KILLED
HALE! I
SWEAR--I'M
INNOCENT!



LATER, AFTER TAKING LINKE TO JAIL, AND
SENDING THE OTHERS HOME, BATMAN
AND ROBIN SECRETLY RETURN TO THE
MUSEUM...

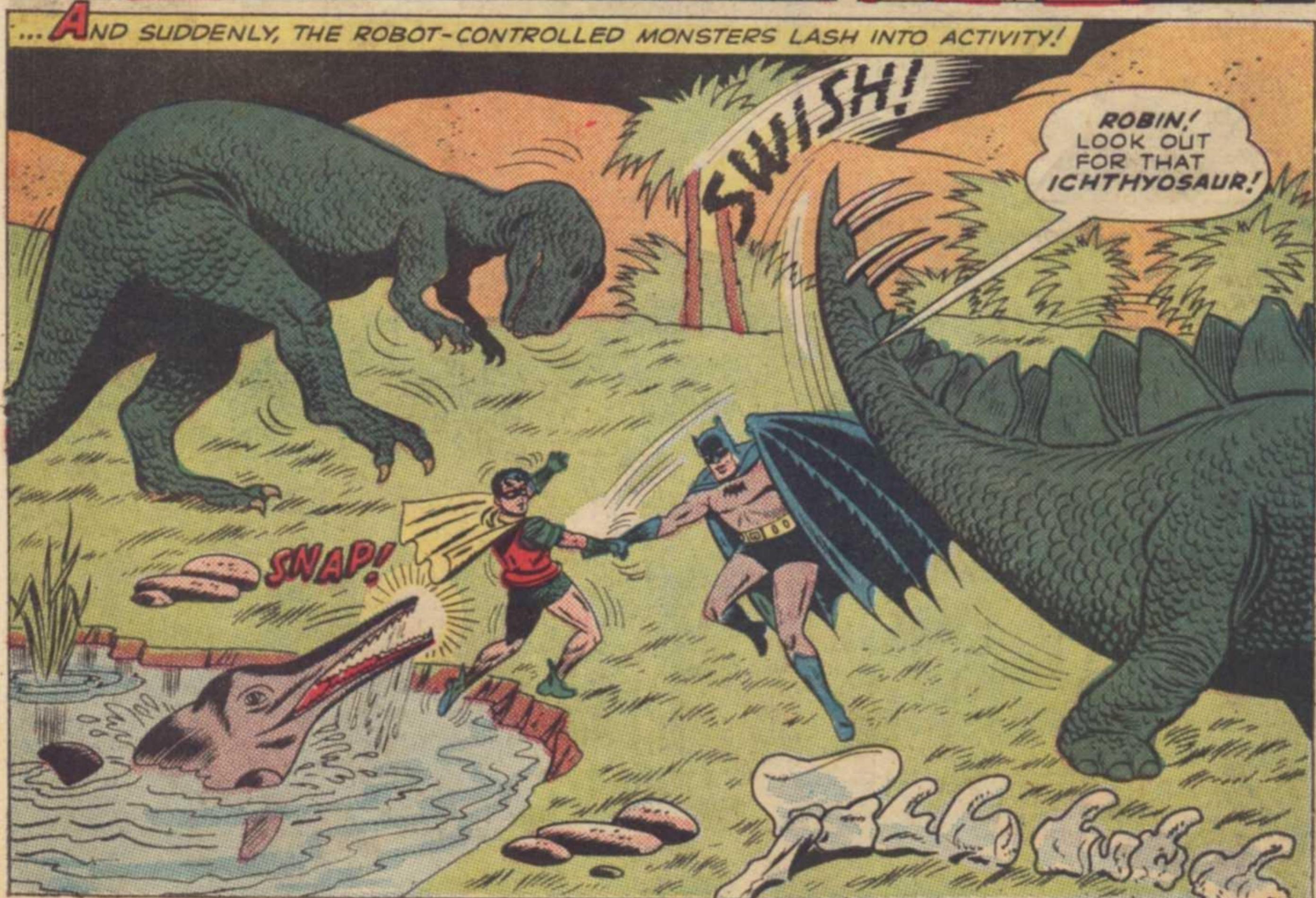
JUST IN CASE
YOU'RE WONDERING WHY,
ROBIN, WE'RE COMING BACK
TO FIND HALE'S KILLER--
THE MAN WE'LL CALL
"MR. X"!



WHAT--? BUT
I THOUGHT,
WHEN YOU
ARRESTED
LINKE...



BATMAN ANNUAL

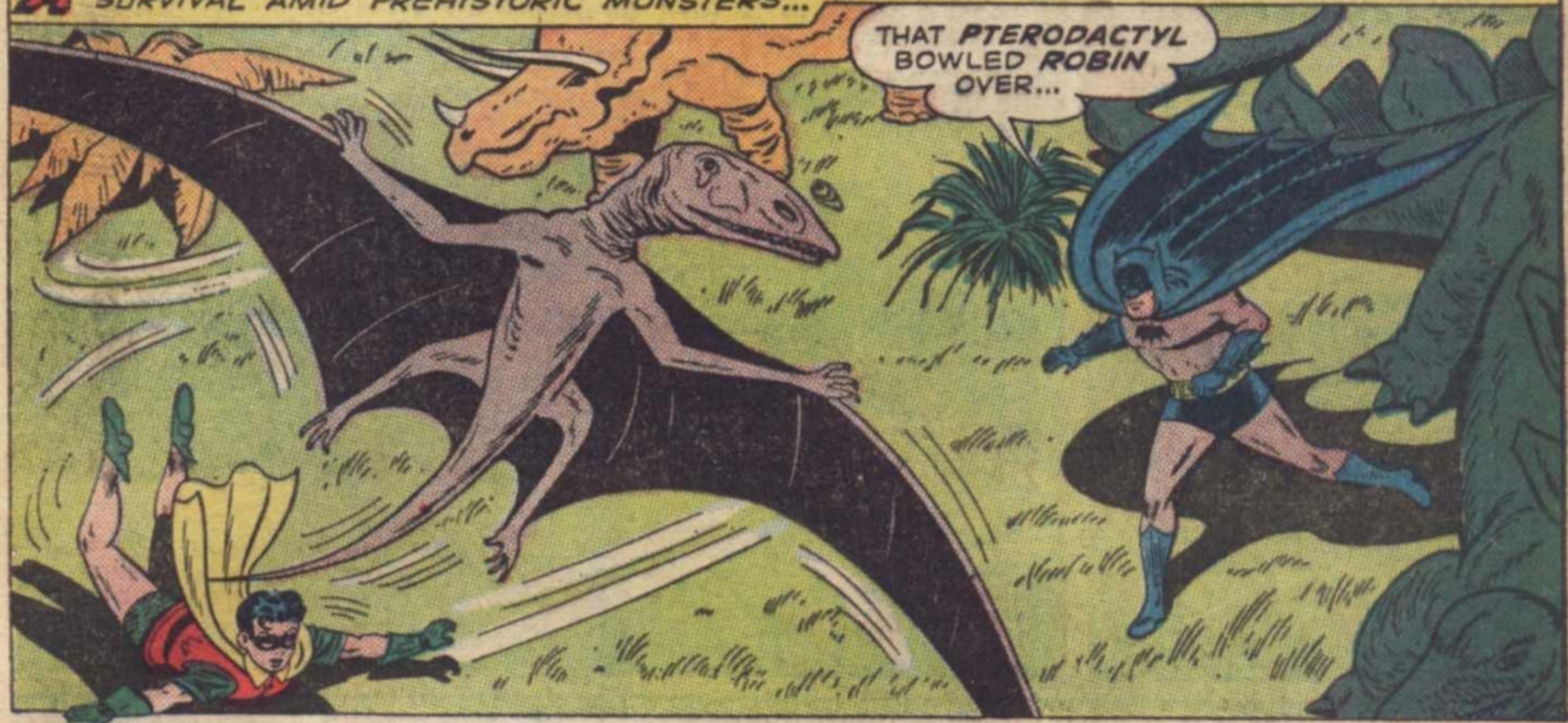




BATMAN ANNUAL



AS IF IN A FANTASTIC DREAM, BATMAN AND ROBIN FIND THEMSELVES FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL AMID PREHISTORIC MONSTERS...



...AND HE'S FALLEN RIGHT IN THE PATH OF THE TYRANNOSAURUS! HE'LL BE CRUSHED UNDERFOOT, UNLESS I FLIP MY BATARANG FAST!

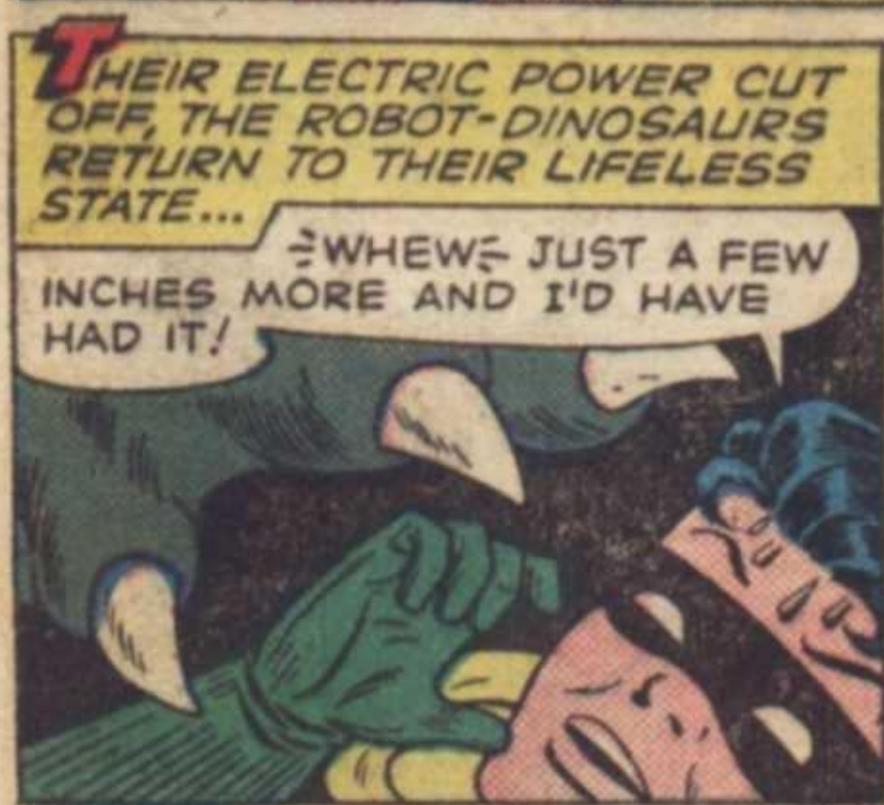


LIKE A BULLET, THE BATARANG FLIES TO ITS TARGET--THE CONTROL PANEL ON THE WALL NEARBY...



THEIR ELECTRIC POWER CUT OFF, THE ROBOT-DINOSAURS RETURN TO THEIR LIFELESS STATE...

—WHEW—JUST A FEW INCHES MORE AND I'D HAVE HAD IT!



LATER... WEREN'T THE POLICE CHASING FINGERS NOLAN LAST NIGHT, FOR STEALING THE VAN DORF NECKLACE?

YES--HE ESCAPED NEAR THE MUSEUM! NOLAN MUST'VE HIDDEN THE NECKLACE SOMEWHERE HERE SO THE POLICE WOULDN'T FIND ANY EVIDENCE ON HIM, IN CASE HE WAS CAUGHT!





BATMAN ANNUAL



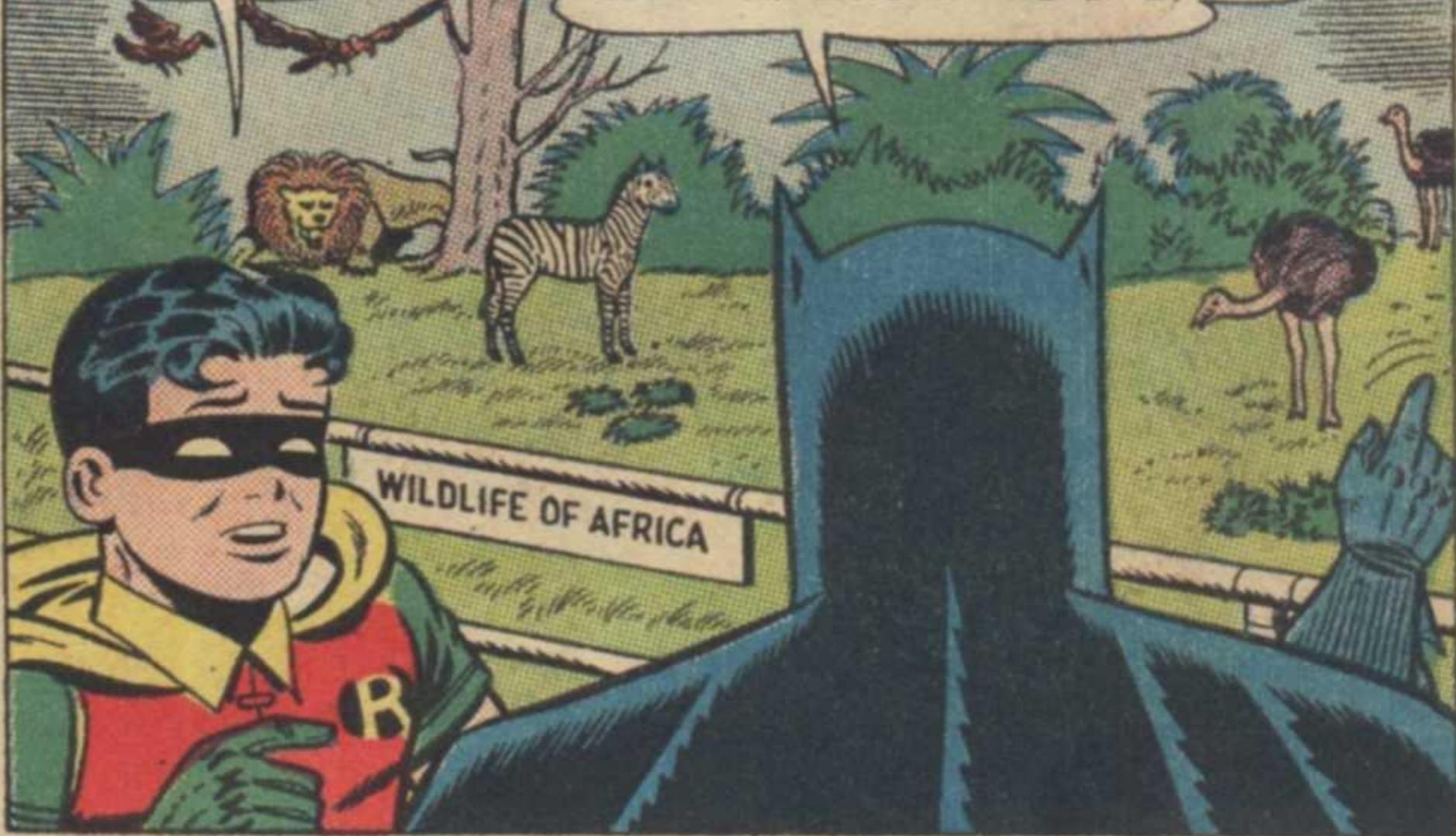
SO NOLAN CAME BACK FOR THE NECKLACE TONIGHT-- OVERHEARD HALE PHONING YOU -- AND SILENCED HIM! BUT NOLAN HASN'T RECOVERED THE NECKLACE YET...

RIGHT... MAYBE WE CAN BEAT HIM TO IT!

CREATURES OF OUR MODERN WORLD



JUST THEN, BATMAN'S KEEN EYES SPOT SOMETHING UNUSUAL... WHAT'S WRONG, BATMAN? THAT SMALLER OSTRICH... IT SHOULDN'T BE HERE! IT BELONGS IN THE EXHIBIT OF SOUTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE!



THE AFRICAN OSTRICH HAS ONLY TWO TOES, BUT THE RHEA-- THE SOUTH AMERICAN OSTRICH-- HAS THREE! NO CURATOR WOULD EVER PUT A RHEA HERE!

MANY EXHIBITS WEREN'T COMPLETELY ASSEMBLED YESTERDAY-- SO MAYBE NOLAN SAW THE RHEA IN AN OPEN PACKING CASE, HID THE NECKLACE INSIDE IT-- AND PUT THE RHEA IN THE AFRICAN EXHIBIT HIMSELF, BECAUSE A CURATOR DOING IT MIGHT HEAR THE NECKLACE RATTLING AROUND!



THAT WAS NOLAN'S MISTAKE! HERE'S THE NECKLACE...

AND HERE I AM! HAND 'EM OVER, SHERLOCK!



AS FINGERS NOLAN BACKS OFF WITH HIS LOOT, BATMAN SUDDENLY JABS AT THE CONTROL PANEL CLOSE BY, AND...

R-O-A-R!

YI-II-II!



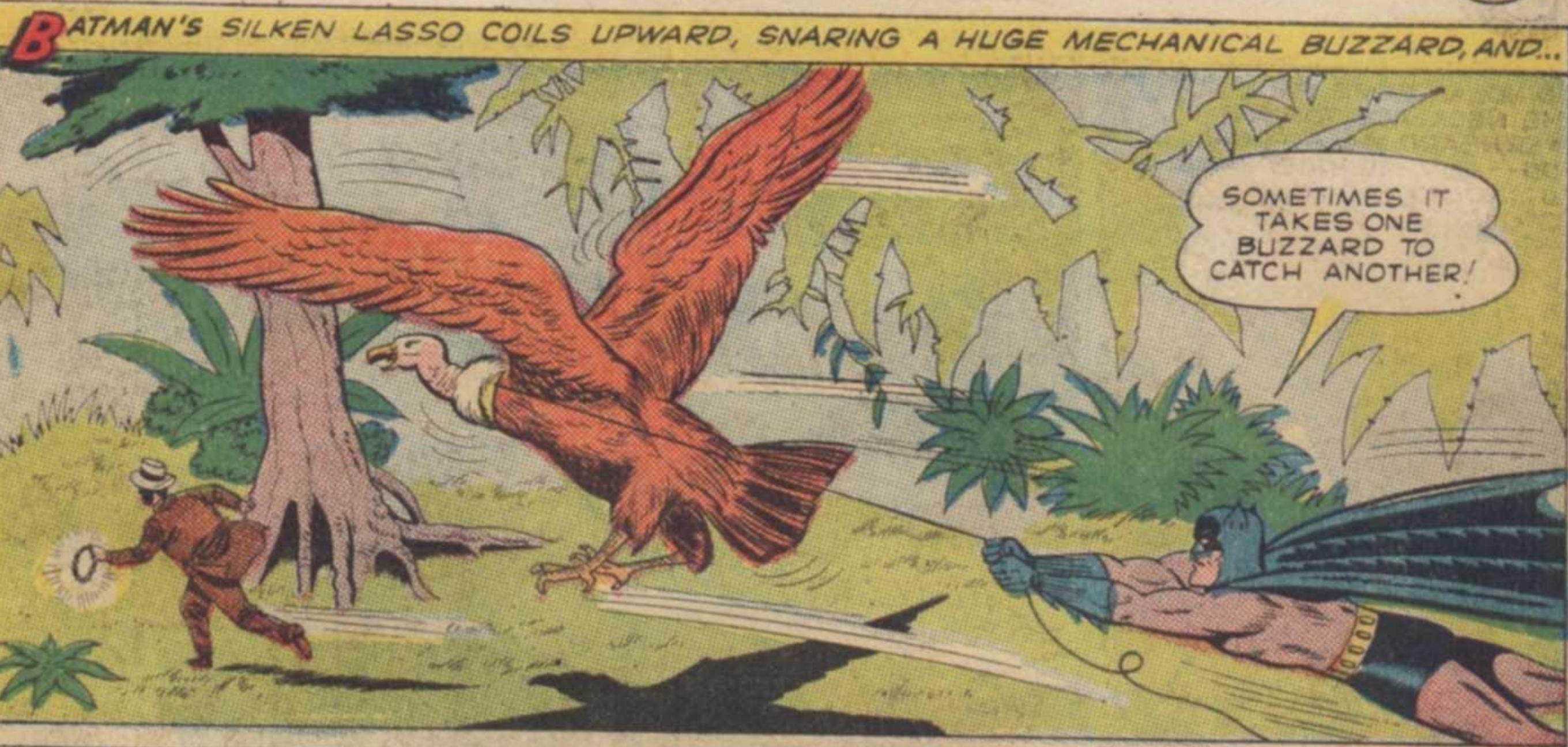
MAKING THE EXHIBIT COME TO LIFE GOT HIM SO SURPRISED HE DROPPED HIS GUN-- BUT HE'S STILL GOT THE NECKLACE!

RELAX, ROBIN-- HE WON'T GET FAR!





BATMAN ANNUAL





BATMAN ANNUAL



TO SAVE TIME, WE'D BETTER SPLIT UP! I'LL SEARCH HALE'S OFFICE, ROBIN, AND YOU GO OVER THE STOCK ROOM!

GOOD IDEA...

BUT UPON ENTERING HALE'S OFFICE, BATMAN REALIZES SOMEONE HAS BEEN THERE BEFORE HIM...

HMM-- THOSE LEDGERS HAVE BEEN DISTURBED...

AND AS HE DEPARTS, AFTER A FRUITLESS SEARCH...

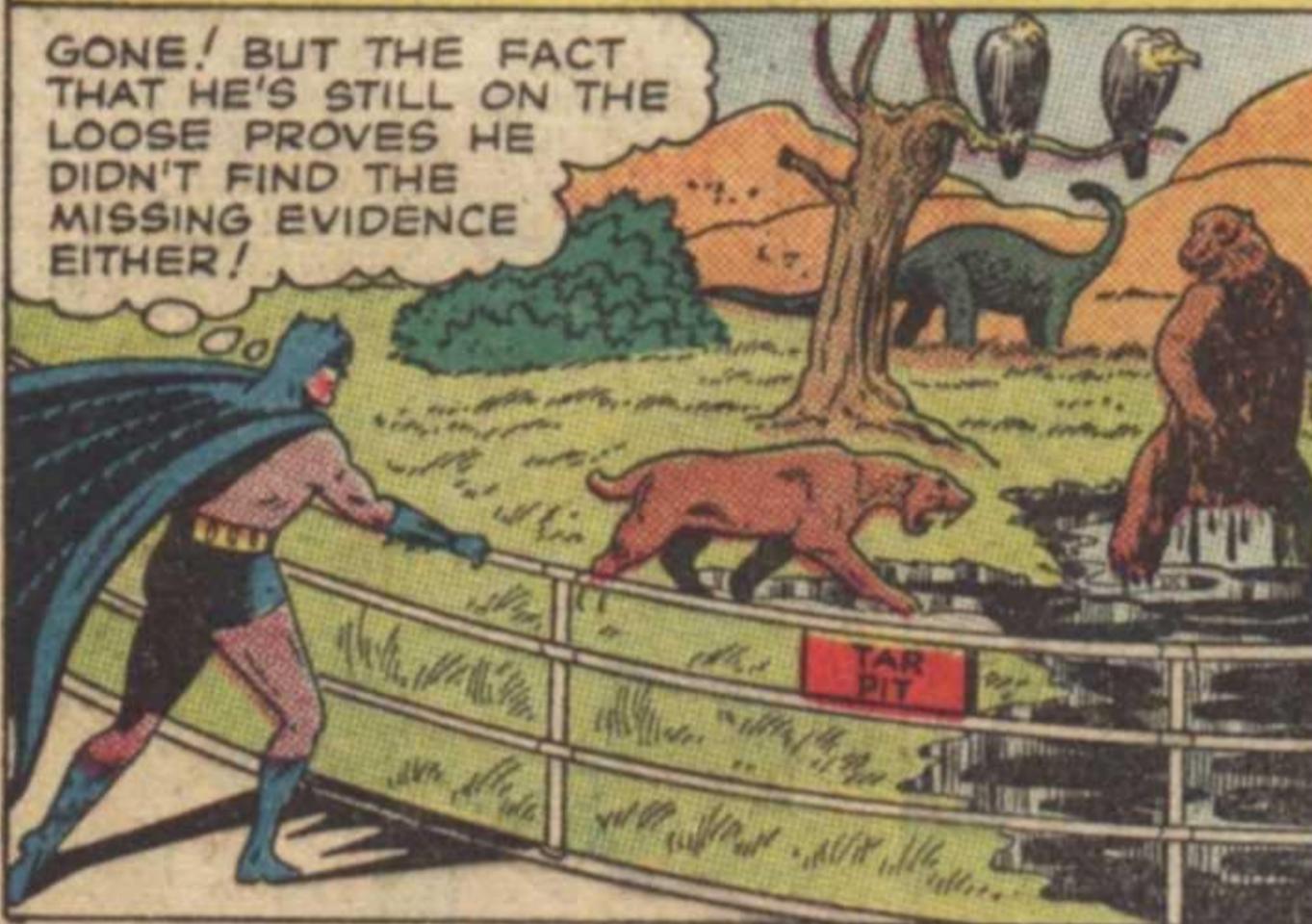
A MAN IN A CLOAK-- HIDING HIS FACE INSIDE AN AFRICAN WITCH DOCTOR'S MASK! HE MUST BE MR. X!

BATMAN!
I'VE GOT
TO GET AWAY!



SPRINTING FORWARD, BATMAN PURSUES THE GROTESQUE FIGURE--BUT...

GONE! BUT THE FACT THAT HE'S STILL ON THE LOOSE PROVES HE DIDN'T FIND THE MISSING EVIDENCE EITHER!



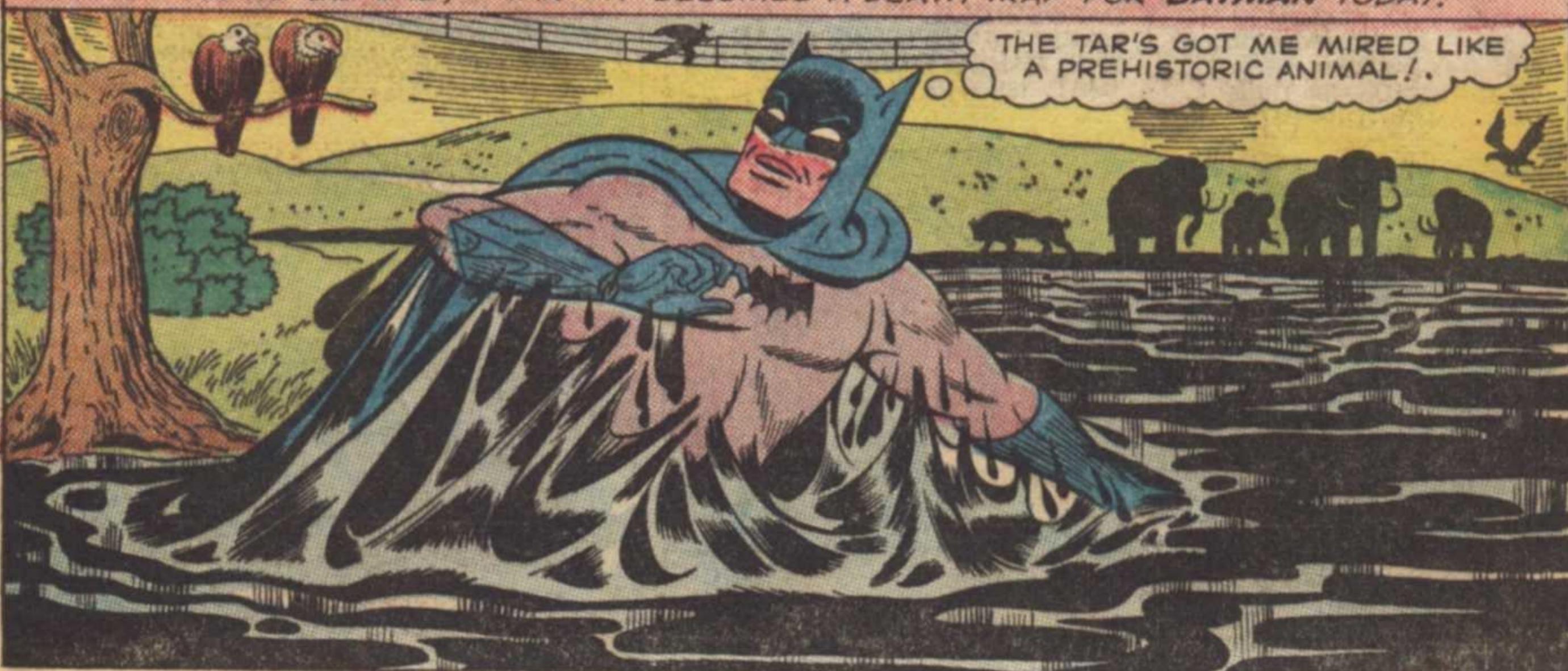
SUDDENLY...
OOF!

HA, HA...YOU FOOL! I DELIBERATELY LURED YOU TO THE TAR PIT SO I COULD DO THIS!



AND AS THE CALIFORNIA TAR PITS WERE NATURE'S DEATH TRAPS FOR BEASTS HALF-A-MILLION YEARS BEFORE, A TAR PIT BECOMES A DEATH TRAP FOR BATMAN TODAY!

THE TAR'S GOT ME MIRED LIKE A PREHISTORIC ANIMAL!





BATMAN ANNUAL





BATMAN ANNUAL



AFTER BATMAN FREES ROBIN, AND EXPLAINS WHAT HAPPENED...

IT'S OBVIOUS MR. X MUST HAVE SPOTTED YOU SEARCHING HALE'S OFFICE, AND FIGURED YOU'RE GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH!

THE FACT THAT HE TRIED TO PUT ME OUT OF THE WAY PROVES IT! AND I'VE NOW GOT A HUNCH WHAT THAT MISSING EVIDENCE IS...

...BUT FIRST, I WANT TO GET A SPARE COSTUME FROM THE BATMOBILE! THIS ONE'S COVERED WITH STICKY TAR!

LATER, AS MR. X CONTINUES HIS DESPERATE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING EVIDENCE, HE SUDDENLY HEARS...

ROBIN! I'M IN THE CAVEMAN EXHIBIT! LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE CAVE!

BATMAN'S VOICE! HE'S ALIVE! IS IT POSSIBLE HE FOUND THE EVIDENCE?

HE'S GOT A BOOK! IT MUST BE THE ONE!

SWIFTLY, MR. X TOUCHES THE ROBOT-CONTROL-- AND INSTANTLY, A MECHANICAL MAMMOTH LUMBERS TO LIFE!

DOWN GOES THE CAPE FIGURE, FLUNG ASIDE BY THE ONRUSHING ROBOT BEAST!

NOW I CAN SWITCH OFF THE CONTROLS! BATMAN IS FINISHED--FOR GOOD!

IS IT POSSIBLE? IS THIS THE END OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST LAWMAN?



BATMAN ANNUAL



GLOATING, MR. X BENDS OVER THE INERT FIGURE--AND RECEIVES THE SHOCK OF HIS LIFE!

HUH? IT'S ONLY THE MECHANICAL CAVEMAN--IN A BATMAN COSTUME!

EXACTLY! I SET THE CAVEMAN ROBOT CONTROLS TO START HIM WALKING IN MY COSTUME...

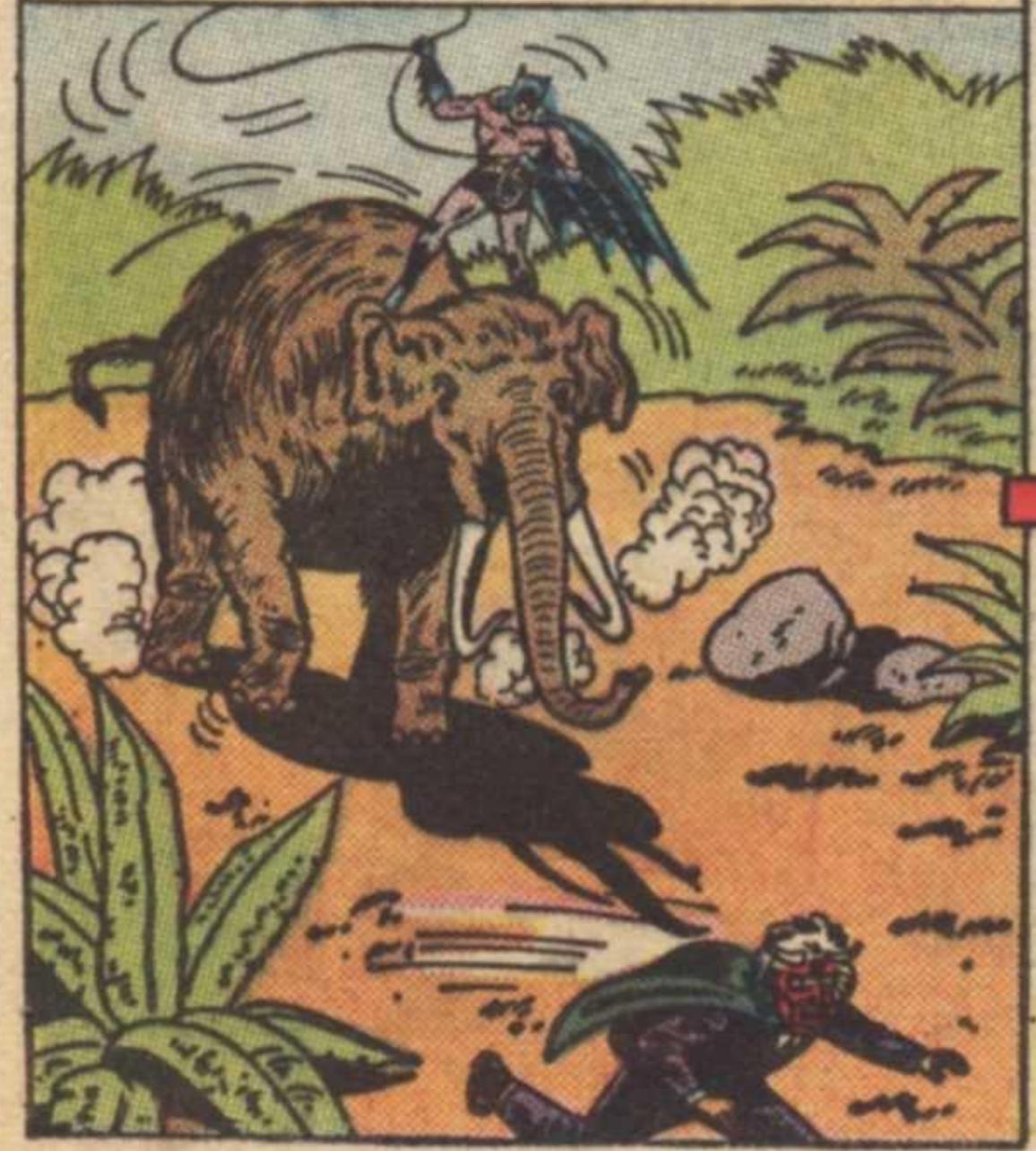


...AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT ME!

ROBIN! WORK THE CONTROLS AS I SHOWED YOU BEFORE!



INSTANTLY, ROBIN PRESSES CERTAIN BUTTONS--AND BATMAN RIDES A FANTASTIC MOUNT FROM THE PAST!

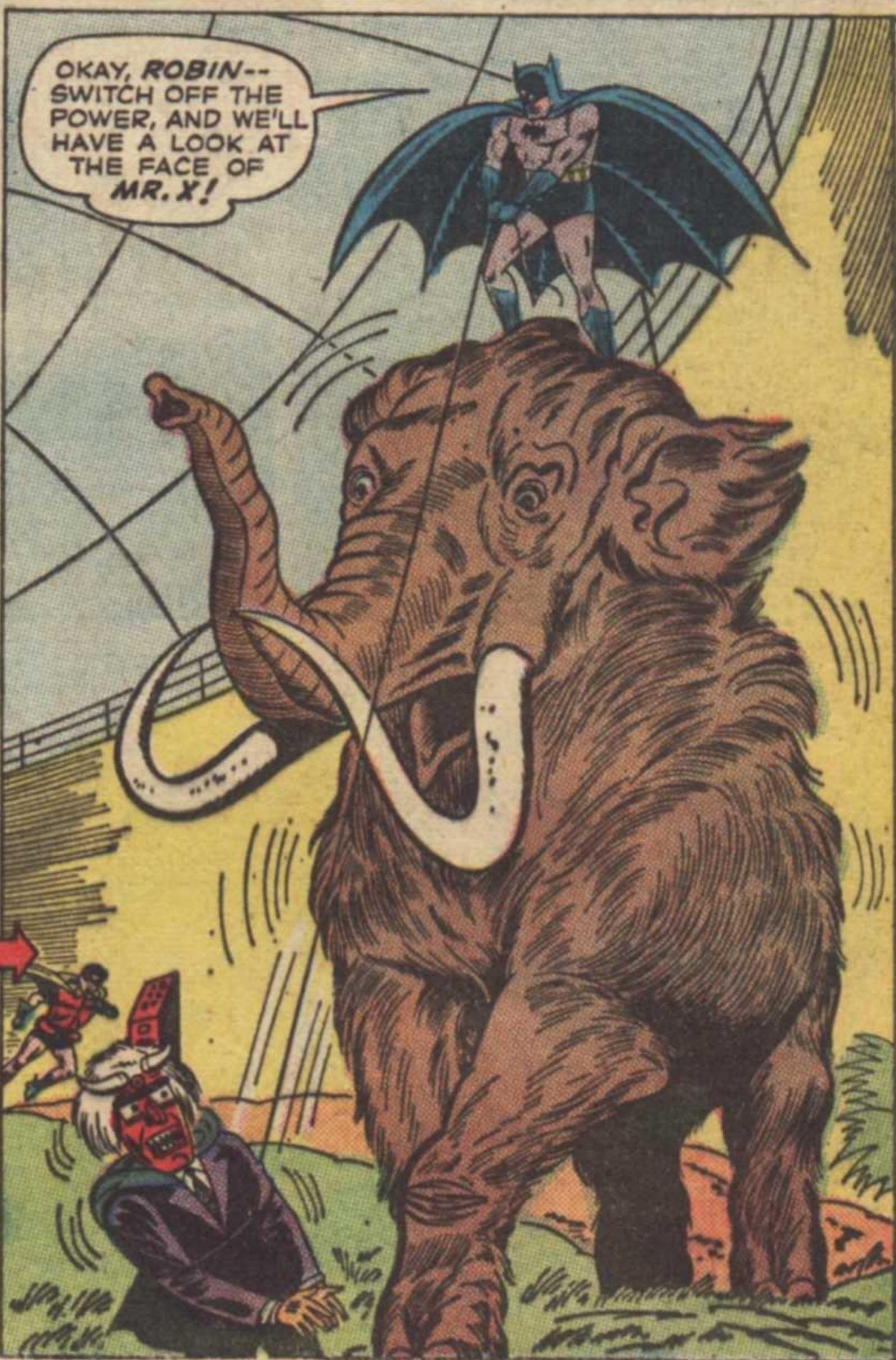


...AND IT MADE YOU WALK, TOO--RIGHT INTO THE TRAP I BAITED WITH THAT BLANK LEDGER!

I KNEW YOU SUSPECTED THE TRUTH WHEN YOU SAW THOSE DISTURBED LEDGERS! BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOT THE RIGHT LEDGER...



OKAY, ROBIN--SWITCH OFF THE POWER, AND WE'LL HAVE A LOOK AT THE FACE OF MR. X!





BATMAN ANNUAL



THE GROTESQUE MASK IS REMOVED-- TO REVEAL THE SNARLING FEATURES OF CARL DANTON, THE MUSEUM SECRETARY!

SO WHAT? SURE, I TRIED TO GET YOU-- BUT YOU CAN ONLY ARREST ME FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER! YOU CAN'T PROVE I DID AWAY WITH HALE!

TRUE... I'D NEED THE LEDGER HALE HID TO PROVE A CASE AGAINST YOU! BUT I'VE GOT A HUNCH WHERE TO FIND IT!

BATMAN LEADS DANTON AND ROBIN TO THE AFRICAN HALL, WHERE...

I SUDDENLY RECALLED HALE'S WORDS TO ME WHEN HE PHONED! HE SAID, "I'VE GOT SOME MEATY EVIDENCE HIDDEN FROM A HUMAN JACKAL WHO'D LIKE TO GET HIS PAWS ON IT!" AND I ALSO REMEMBERED THAT HALE LIKED TO MAKE CRYPTIC REMARKS...

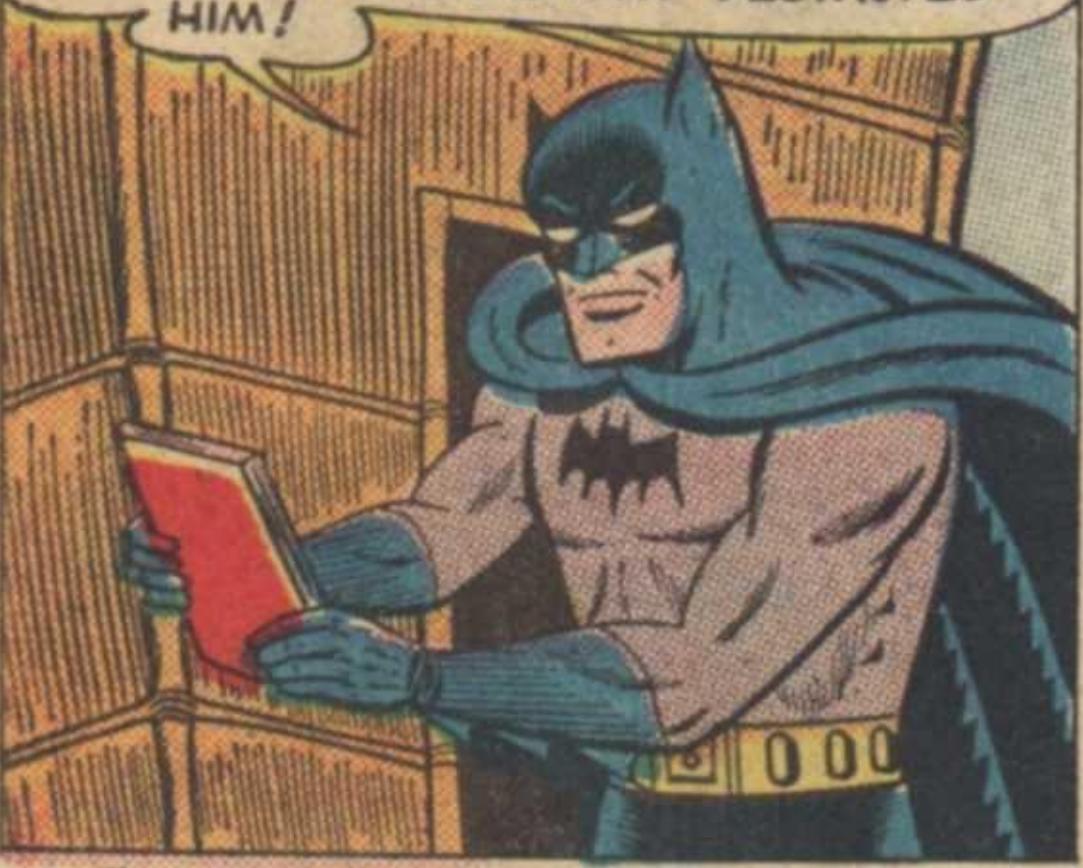


IT SUDDENLY OCCURRED TO ME THAT CERTAIN AFRICAN TRIBES HIDE MEAT INSIDE TREE HOUSES SO JACKALS CAN'T GET AT IT! AND HERE'S THE MEATY EVIDENCE HALE HID FROM THE HUMAN JACKAL WHO DESTROYED HIM!

IT'S A LEDGER-- WITH FALSE ENTRIES FOR MUSEUM EXPENSES! DANTON, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF MUSEUM FUNDS... HALE SUSPECTED YOU WERE DIVERTING MONEY INTO YOUR OWN POCKETS, BY KEEPING TWO SETS OF ACCOUNT BOOKS!

WHEN HALE FOUND THIS SECOND BOOK OF ENTRIES, HE HID IT, TO GIVE TO ME AS EVIDENCE AGAINST YOU! THAT WAS YOUR MOTIVE FOR MURDER, DANTON!

I WAS AFRAID OF YOU ALL ALONG, BATMAN-- AFRAID YOU WERE TOO GOOD A DETECTIVE FOR ME TO BEAT!



AND SO, THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WHEN THE CAPE CRIME-BUSTERS, IN THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES, ATTEND THE MUSEUM'S OPENING...

OH-- ISN'T THIS EXCITING?

NOT AS EXCITING AS LAST NIGHT, EH, BRUCE?

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN, DICK!



The END

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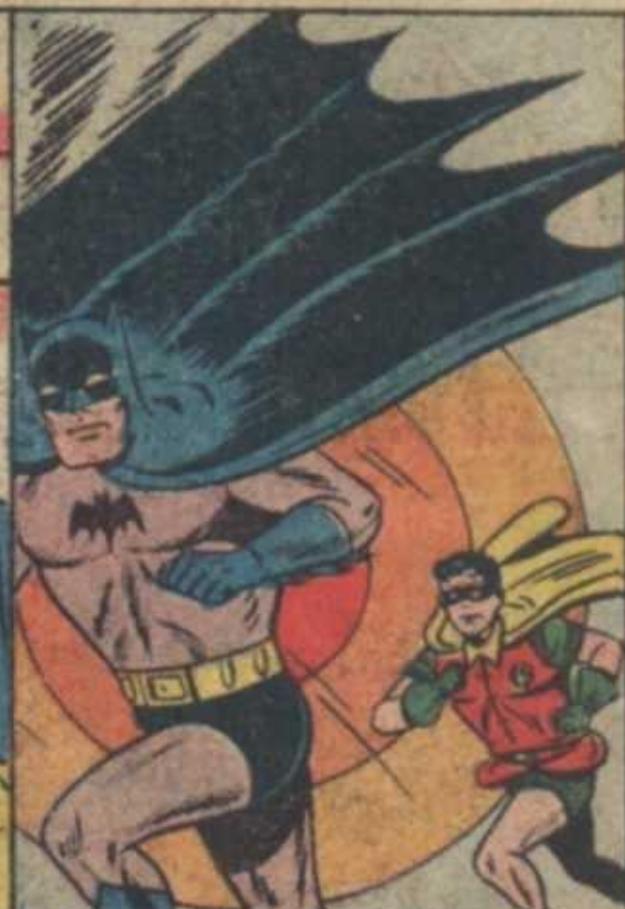
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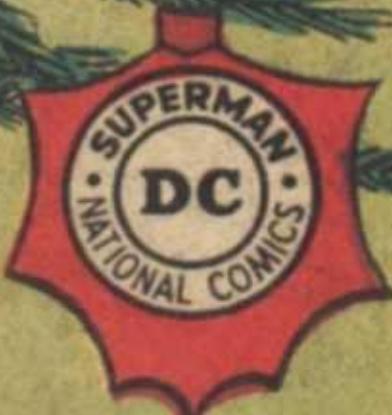
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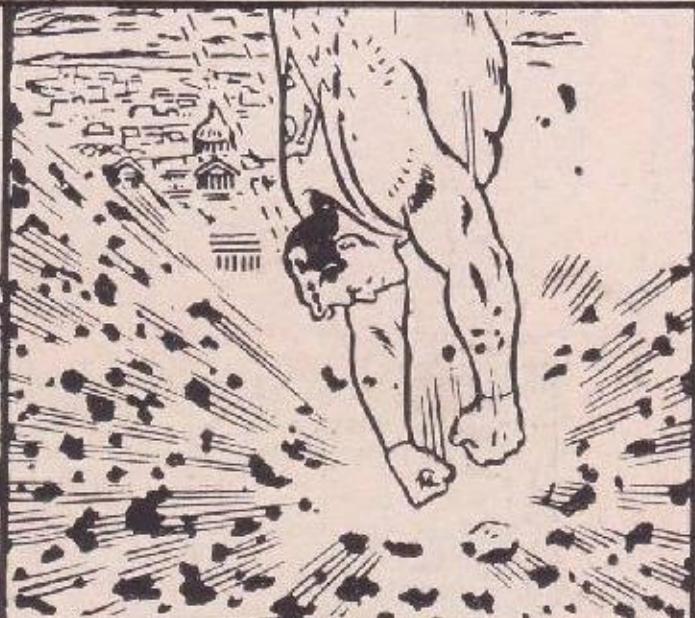
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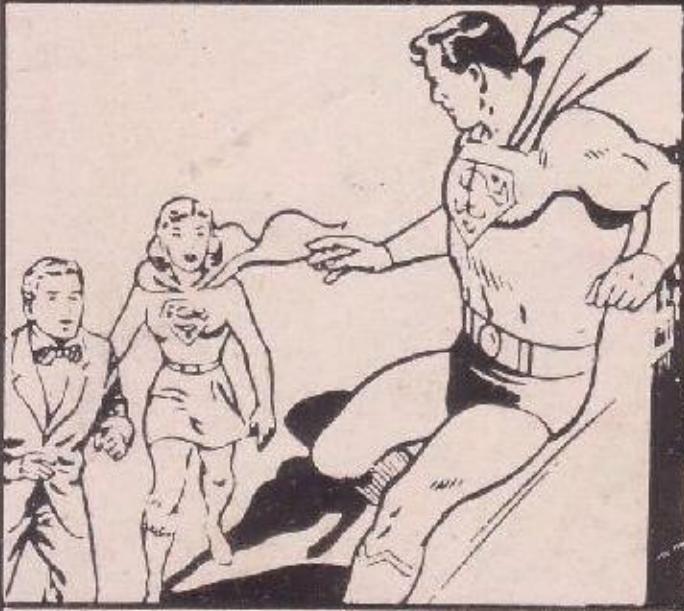
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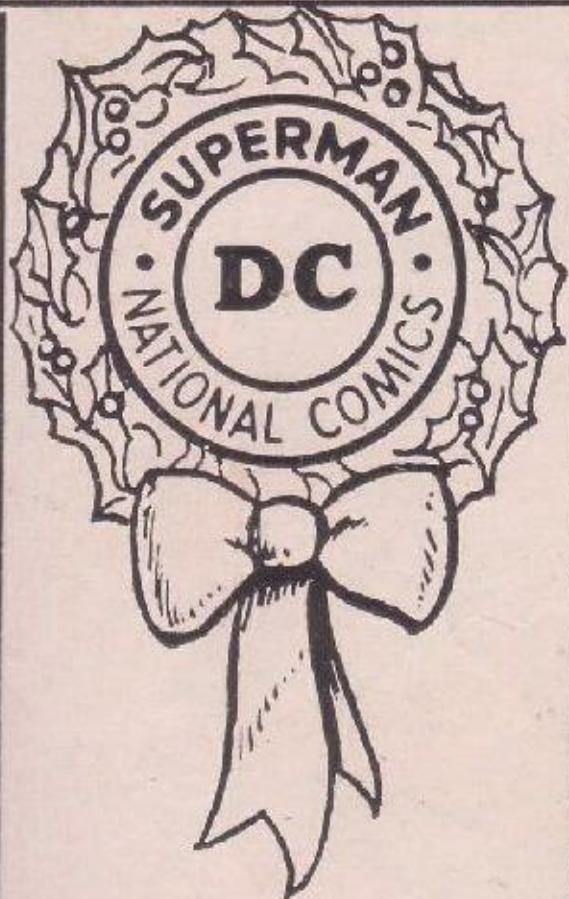
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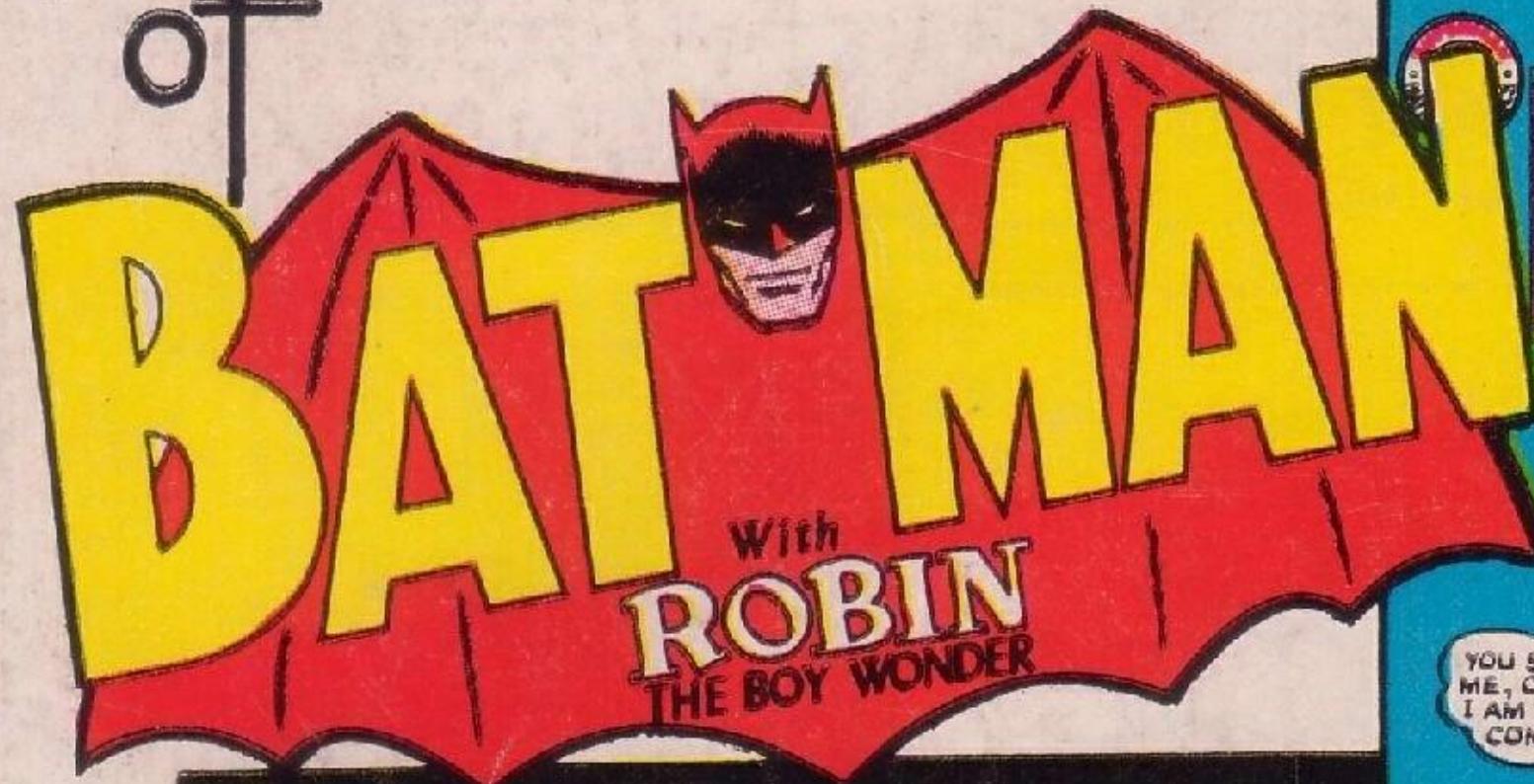
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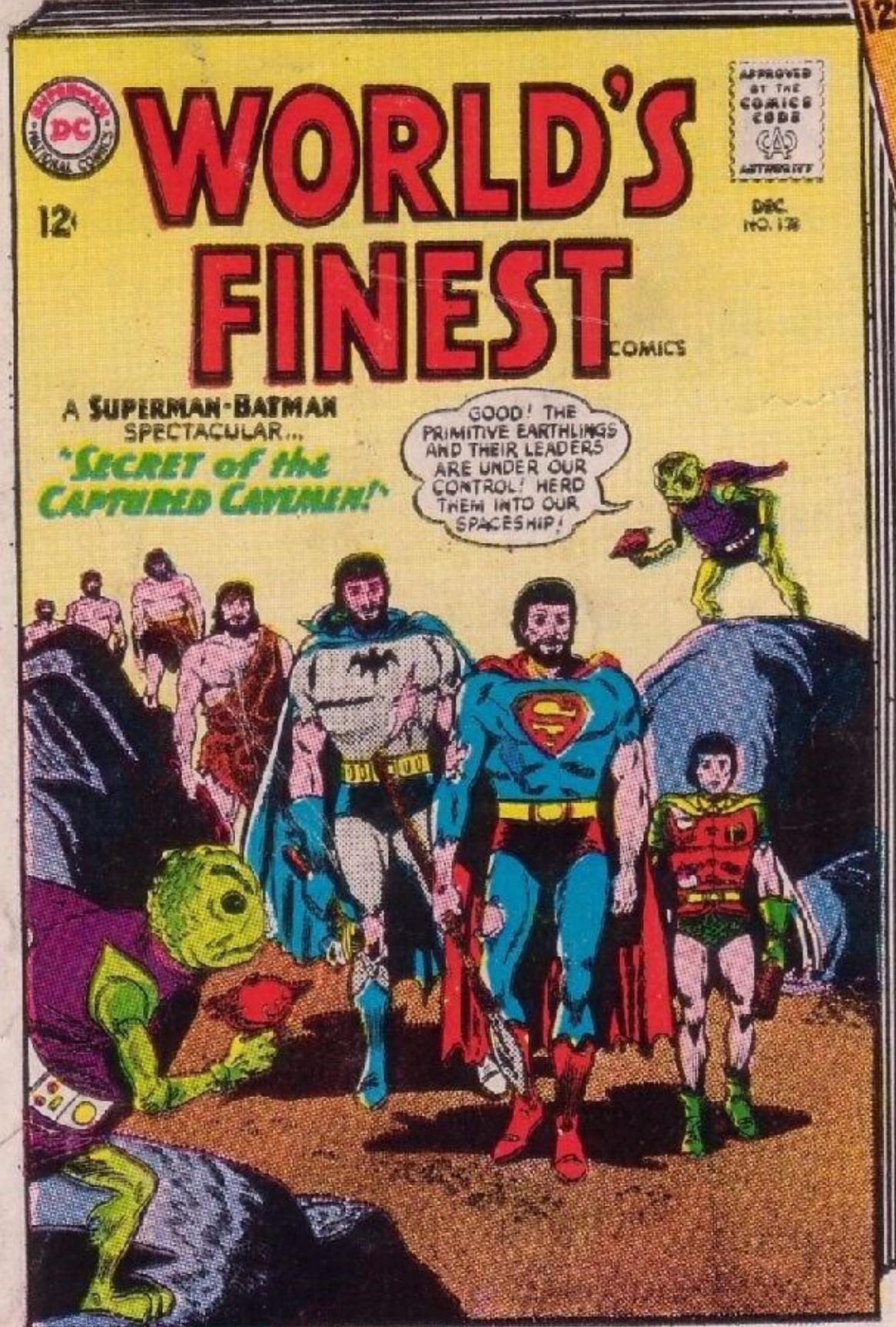
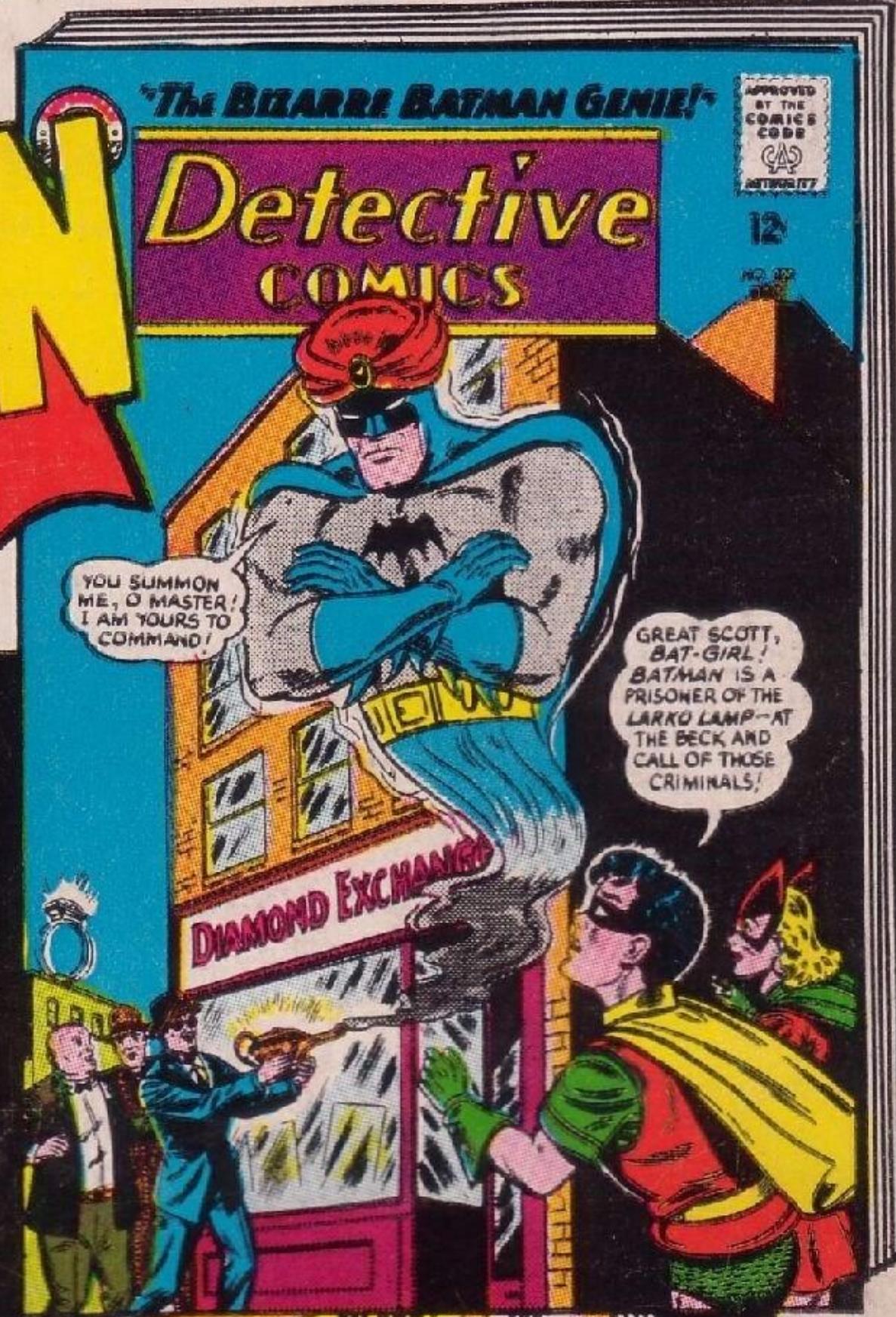
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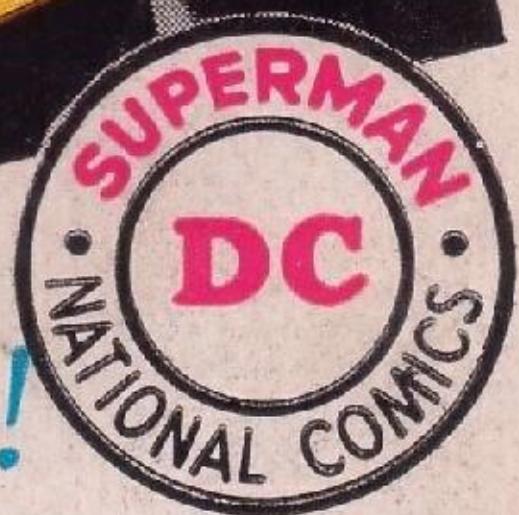
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BAT-MAN

BAT-MAN

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