



BAT-MAN



A MACABRE MYSTERY-
"THE CORPSE
CAME C.O.D.!"

25¢

NO. 271
JAN.
30430



BAT-MAN

FIRE AWAY,
LITTLE MEN!
NOTHING
CAN KILL
THE BATMAN!



Outgrown your old Daisy®? Maybe Dad can help you pick a new one.

You're bigger now. You could be ready for your second Daisy B-B gun. Dad can help you decide and then choose from the entire Daisy line. To find the one exactly right for you.

Imagine! A handsome new Daisy with long, lean lines and a real gun feel. With a man-sized Western or Monte Carlo stock. And the heft you can handle.

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BEHIND ITS EVERYDAY LIFE LIES THE EVER PRESENT THREAT OF CRIME--IN GUISES UNEXPECTED...DANGERS UNDREAMED OF--AND WHAT WAS SURELY ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE OF THEM FOR THE BATMAN BEGAN WHEN...

"The CORPSE CAME C.O.D.!"

5-212

STORY BY: DAVID V. REED

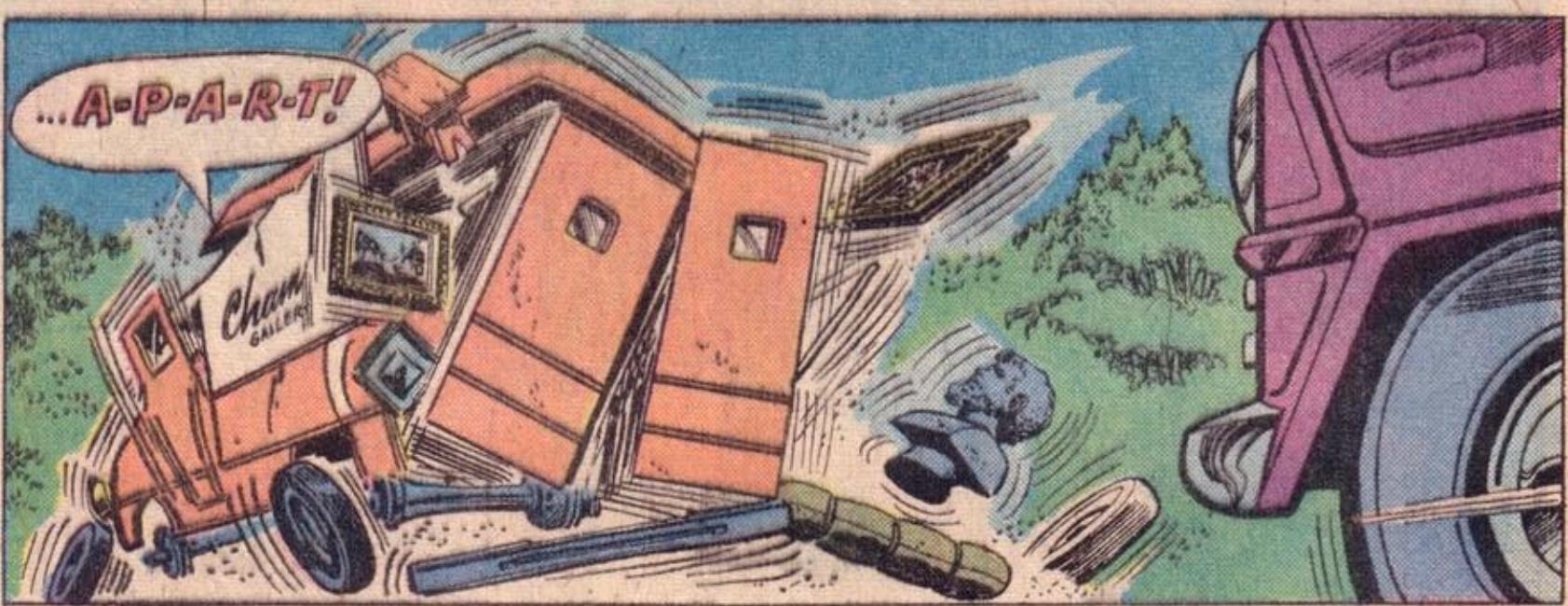
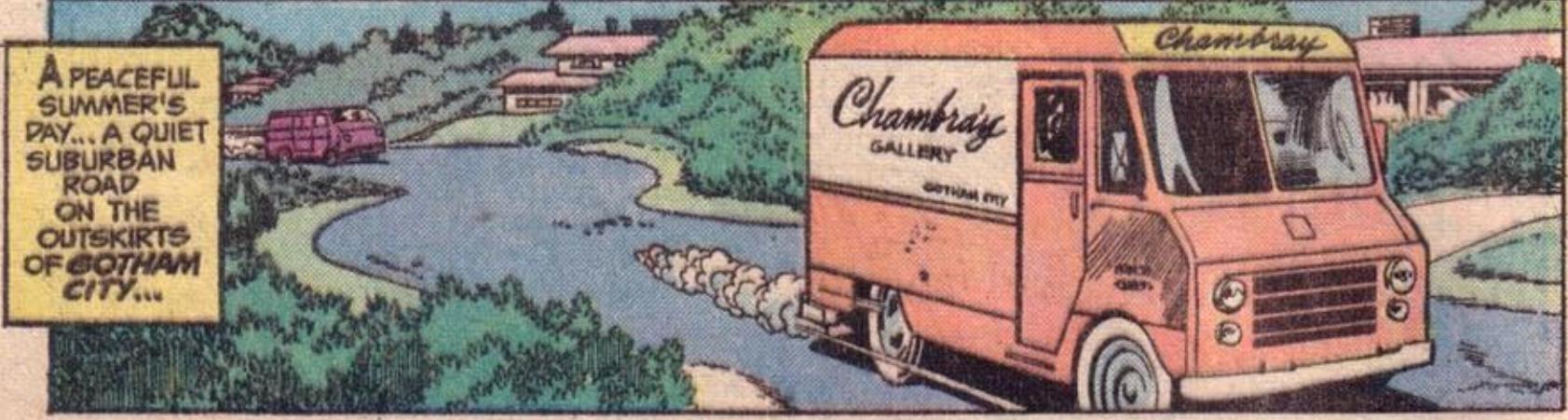
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A FEW HOURS LATER--AT THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT OF BRUCE WAYNE...

FOR MR. ALFRED PENNYWORTH--FROM THE CHAMBRAY GALLERY--C.O.D.!

AH, YES--I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR IT ALL DAY!

DEPOSIT IT IN THE NEXT ROOM, PLEASE...

I CAN JUST SEE THE JOY ON MASTER BRUCE'S FACE WHEN HE CONTEMPLATES MY BIRTHDAY GIFT TO HIM!

HE LOVES OBJECTS OF ART LIKE THIS... ESPECIALLY ANTIQUE RUGS...

NEXT MOMENT--A MOMENT OF HORROR!

GREAT
HEAVENS!
A CORPSE--
--ROLLED UP
INSIDE!

PARKSIDE TENNIS CLUB?--I MUST SPEAK TO BRUCE WAYNE AT ONCE!

N--NOW WHAT?
THE RUG'S CRUMBLING--
TURNING TO DUST....

THANK GOODNESS--
MASTER BRUCE IS ON HIS WAY!

IF EVER THERE WERE A MYSTERY FOR THE BATMAN--!

SHORTLY...

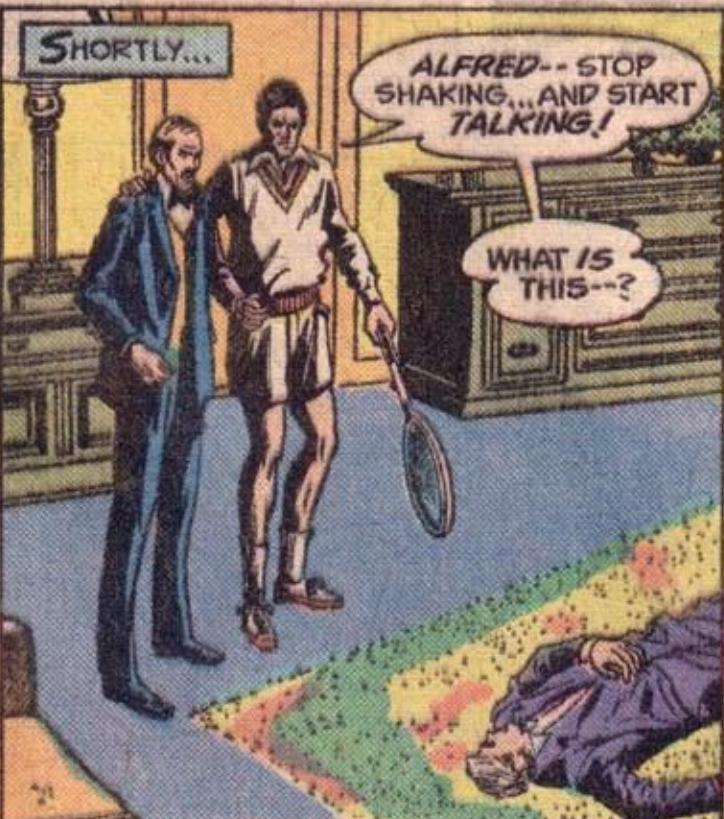
ALFRED-- STOP SHAKING... AND START TALKING!

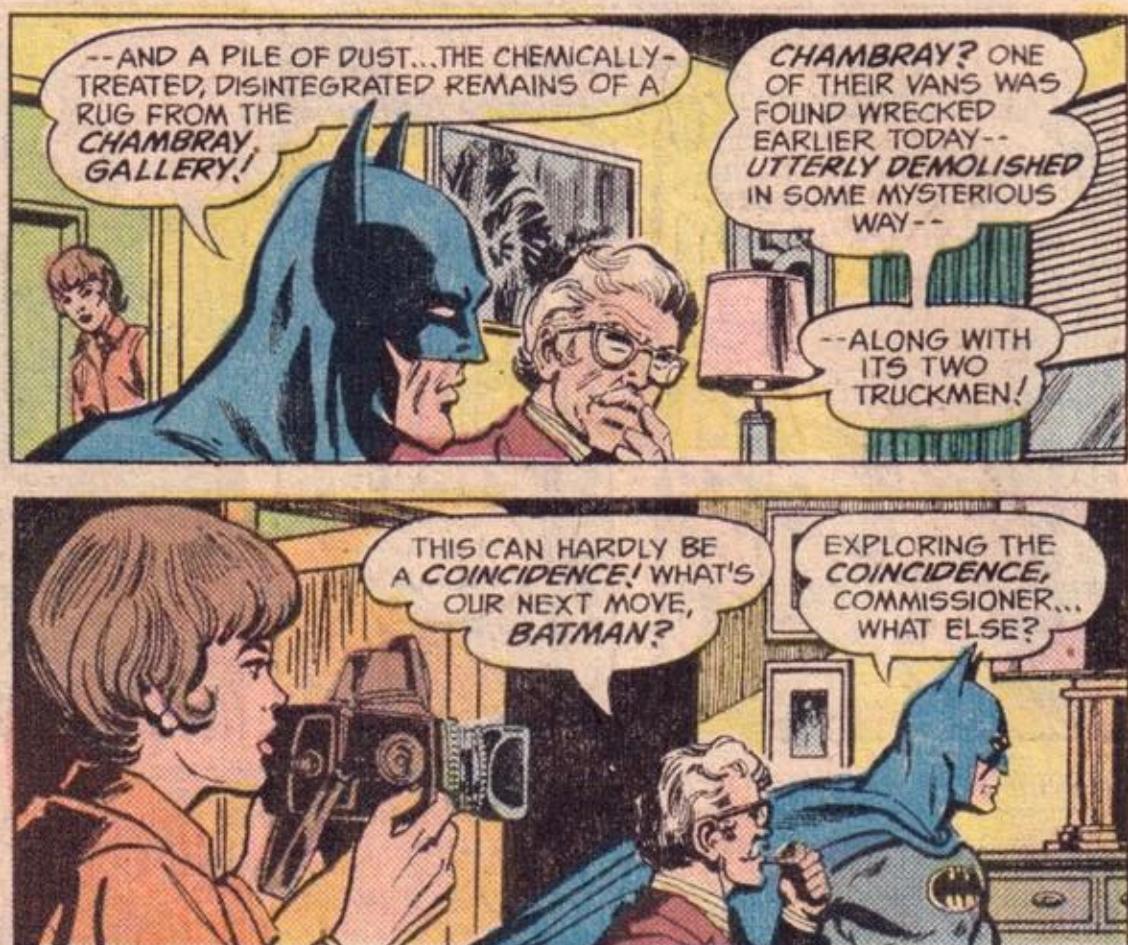
WHAT IS THIS--?

WITHIN THE HOUR--COMMISSIONER GORDON ARRIVES TO FIND--

-THE BATMAN!
HOW DID YOU KNOW...?

NEVER MIND THAT NOW, SIR--
JUST LISTEN TO WHAT ALFRED HAS TO TELL US...





CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

M.C. Deucker

This could be your head!



Turn apples into Shrunken Heads
with the **SHRUNKEN HEAD™**
Apple Sculpture kit.

Before you know it, you'll have Shrunken Heads hanging from your belt. Or around your neck. Buy your kit now and get a Head-start on your friends!

Having a Shrunken Head is like having Halloween all year 'round!

You'll find SHRUNKEN HEAD Apple Sculpture kits wherever toys and crafts are sold. Look for Vincent Price's pretty face on the cover.

Shrunken Head™

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ALL THE EXCITEMENT
ALL THE REALISM
ALL THE "BIONIC" ACTION!™

YOU WORK HIS
POWERFUL
"BIONIC" ARM!
T.M.

It actually lifts the engine
block that comes
with Colonel Austin!



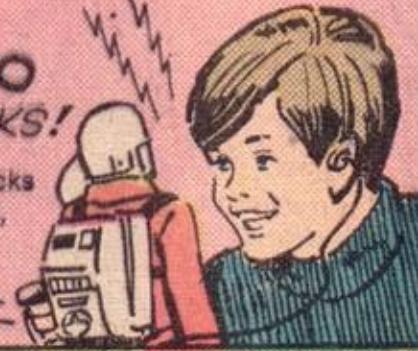
Col.
Steve Austin

THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN

ACTION FIGURE T.M.

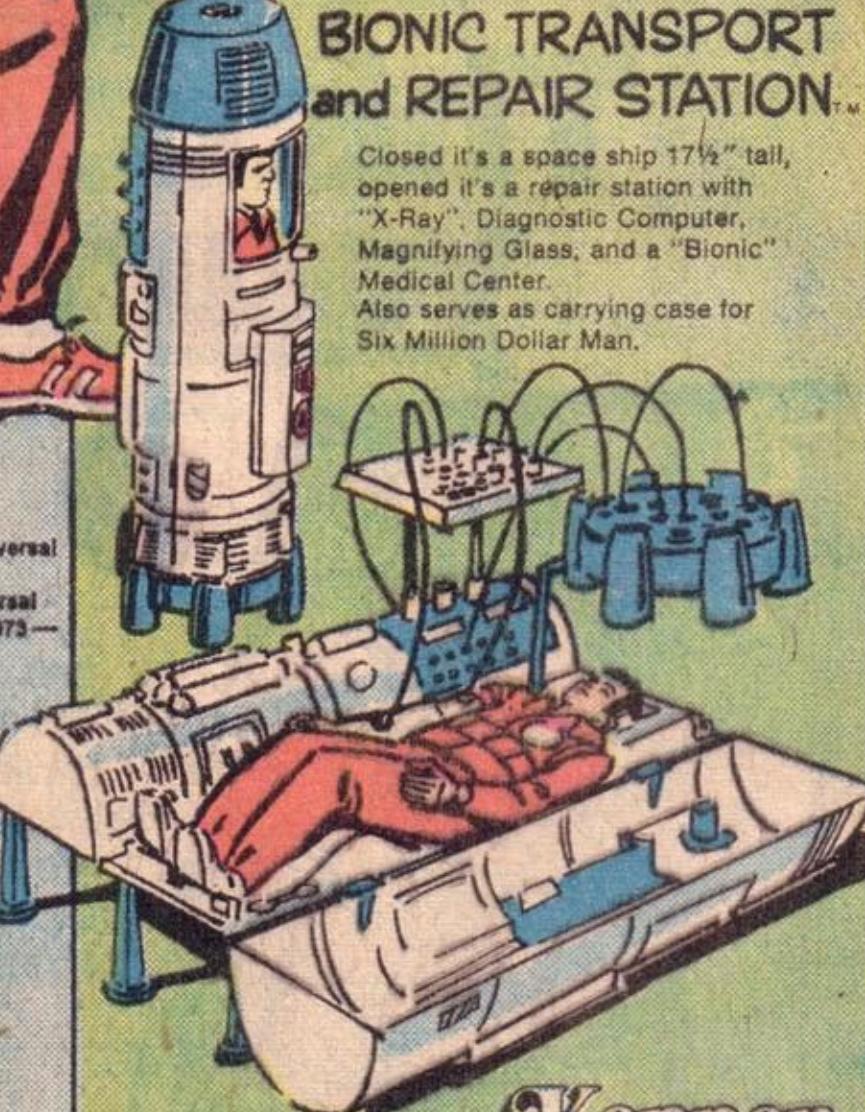
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Six Million Dollar Man.



SEE THROUGH HIS BIONIC EYE!

See everything, through a
wide-angle lens just as
Colonel Steve Austin sees
through his own Bionic Eye!

13' TALL

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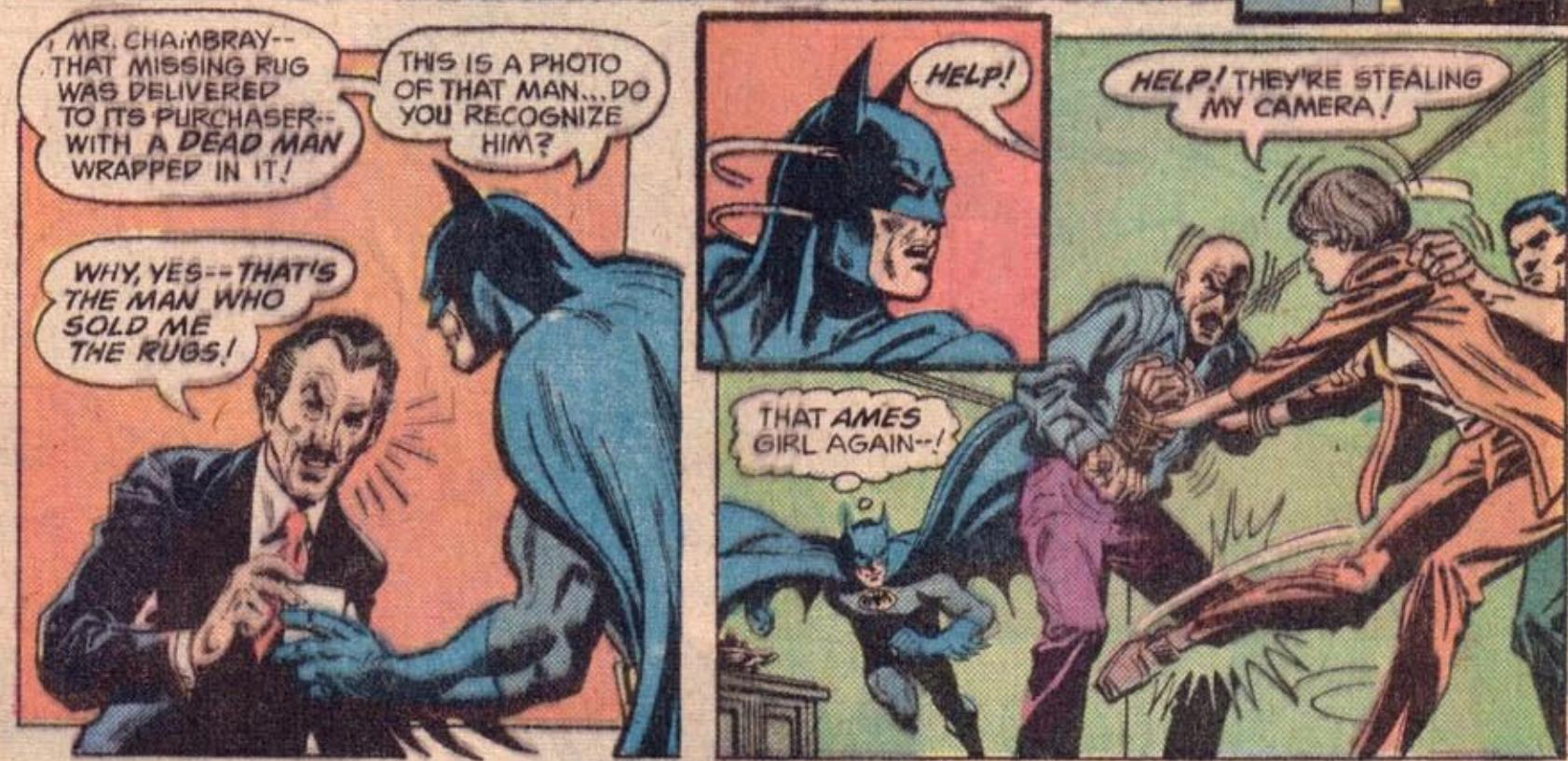
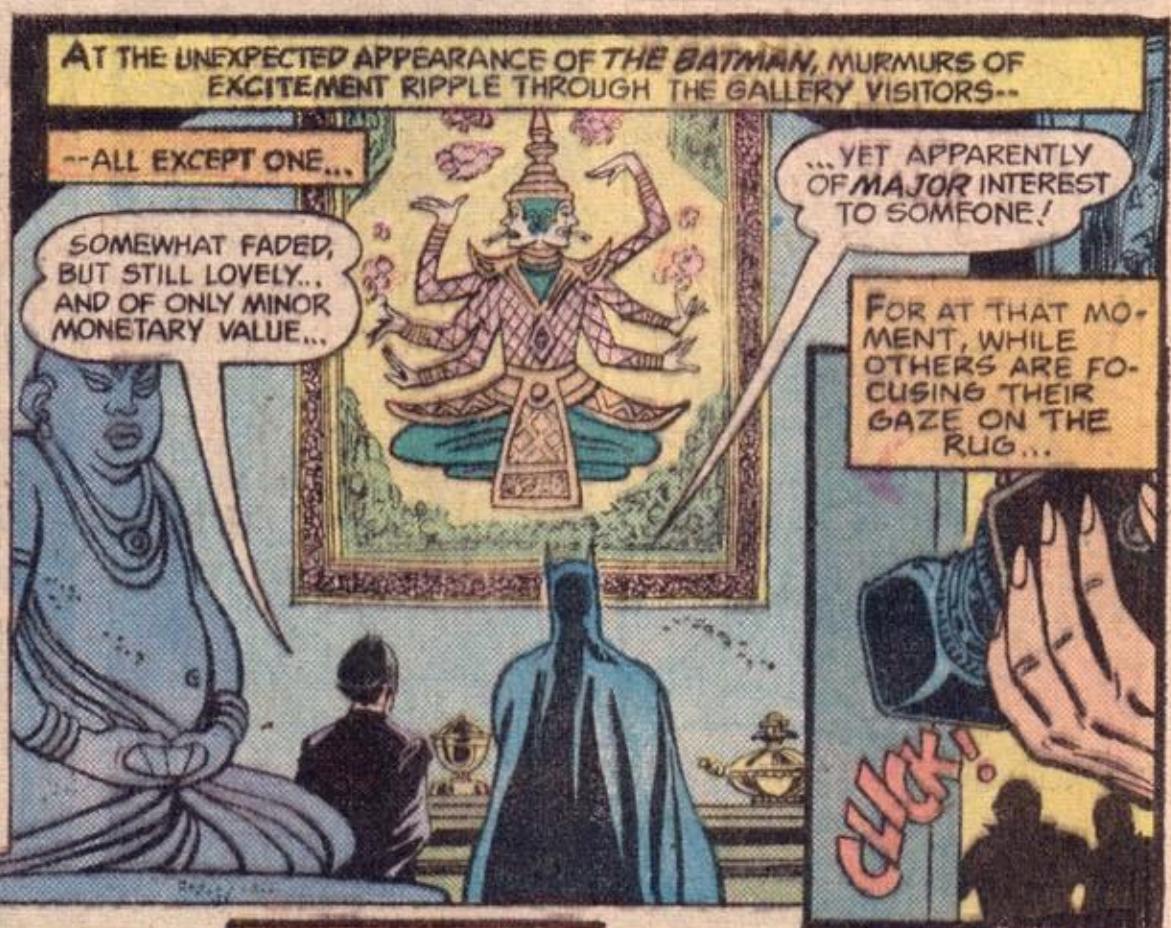
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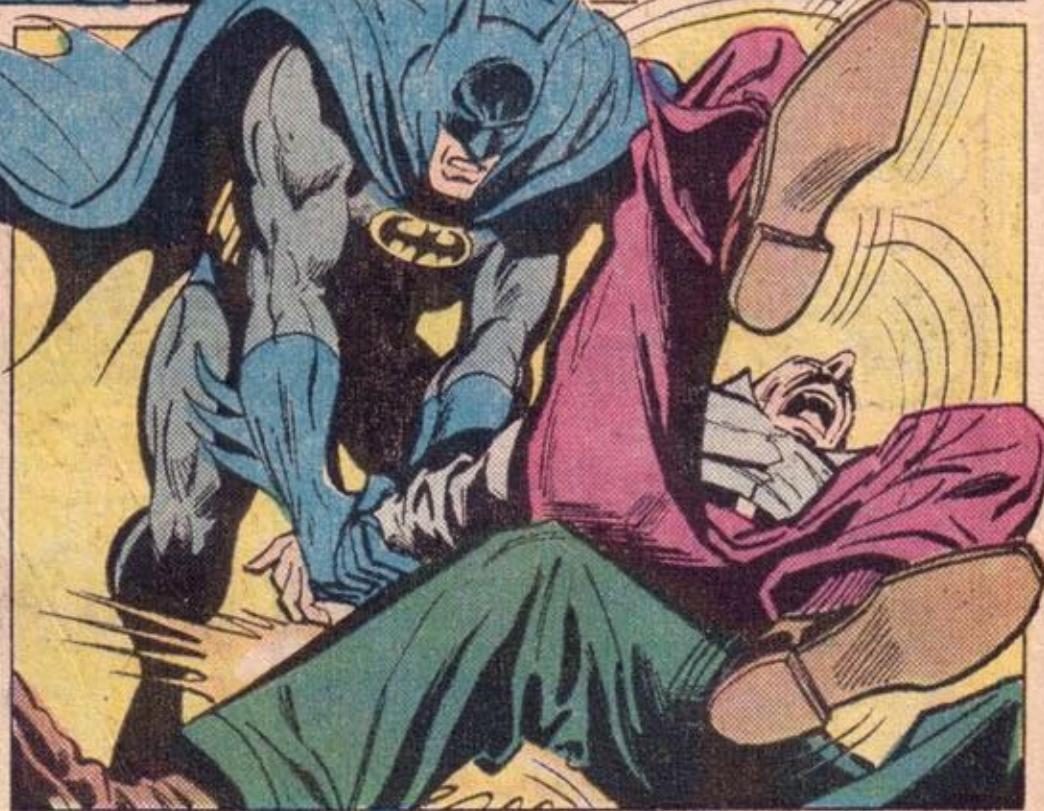
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Kenner.





NEXT INSTANT...

ESCAPING WITH HER
CAMERA!

BETTER CHECK
OUT AMES' SCREAM
FIRST-- THEN TAKE
AFTER THOSE
TWO!

THERE WAS A
THIRD ONE,
BATMAN!

HE GRABBED
THE RUG OFF
THE WALL AND
RAN OUT THE
BACK DOOR!



YOU'VE WOUND
UP EMPTY-HANDED
-- NO CROOKS...
NO RUG... NO
NOTHIN'!!

MOMENTS LATER-- IN THE GALLERY...

LISTEN, AMES--
WHO NEEDS YOU?

WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BY
FOLLOWING
ME HERE?

HOW'D
YOU
KNOW
WHERE
I'D BE?

REALLY,
BATMAN,
IT WASN'T
TOO HARD
TO GUESS!



WHY DID
THOSE
MEN
TAKE
YOUR
CAMERA?

I SAW YOU AND
CHAMBRAY DIS-
CUSSING THAT RUG
AND I TOOK A
SHOT OF IT AFTER
YOU LEFT THE
ROOM!

THAT'S WHEN
THEY CAME
AT ME...

...BUT SEE--I STILL HAVE THE
SHOT I TOOK OF THAT
RUG--

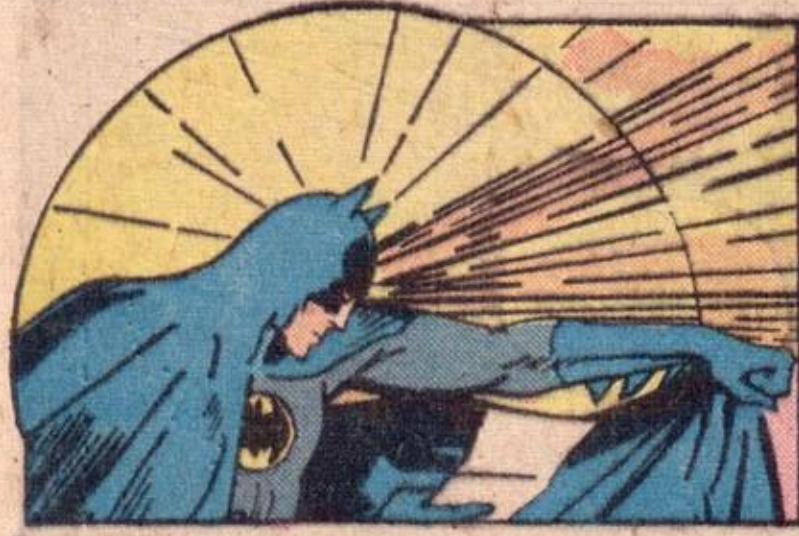
NOT THAT IT'LL DO
THEM MUCH
GOOD WHEN
THEY TRY TO
SELL MY
CAMERA...

...BECAUSE IT'S GOT MY
NAME AND THE ADDRESS
OF MY STUDIO ETCHED
INSIDE!

IN THAT CASE, AMES,
WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT
FOR YOUR STUDIO!

I HAVE A DISTINCT
FEELING WE MAY BE
IN BUSINESS!

CONTINUED ON 4TH PAGE FOLLOWING.



S-2168

LETTERS to the **BATMAN**

c/o NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC.,
75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019.

Dear Editor:

When I saw the cover of **BATMAN #267** ("Invitation to a Murder"), I expected a solid supernatural story—the kind I love to read. I didn't get the supernatural stuff, but the tale was top-notch nonetheless.

Ernie Chua's pencils and Dick Giordano's inks were flawless as usual, but please forgive my ignorance—who is David V. Reed? He appears to be one heckuva writer! The story was intriguing to the end, not using any boring switch-around plots or surprise endings. With a couple of setting changes, it would've made a Grade A television script. And I really loved the last panel where, when Commissioner Gordon asks how Django planted the crime invitations in his office, **Batman** replies, "I knew you'd bring that up! Well, sir, I'm still working on it . . . still working . . ." Beautiful!

ROD McLAUGHLIN, Ramsay, Mont.

(Praise poured in for David V. Reed's premiere **Batman** tale . . . and so did the question which opens our next letter!—BR)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

Who is this genius, David V. Reed? Everything about his story was very fine!

The little touches were what made "Invitation to a Murder" so great: The **Batman** logo on the moon on the splash page; Commissioner Gordon's rarely-shown office routine; The **Batman**'s varied knowledge that zinc sulfide makes parchment glow, firemen are led by white-helmeted officers, Betel nuts turn saliva red and teeth black which let the reader solve the mystery along with **Batman**; the fact that few people would, after all, know who crime bosses are; the use of the rock concert and gimmickry of **Batman**'s murder; and **Batman**'s ironic life-saving of the criminal bosses.

There were little problems, however, the worst being how Mr. Reed left hanging the way Django planted the glowing invitations on Gordon's desk. That's bad writing!

But all in all, "Invitation to a Murder" came off very nicely and I still want to know—Who is this David V. Reed?

DAVID L. SEIDMAN, Beverly Hills, Cal.

(Wouldja believe he's the same guy who writes for PLOP—as Coram Nobis?—BR)

* * * *

Dear Editor:

"Invitation to a Murder" began with all the mystery, suspense and excitement of a truly excellent **Batman** yarn, but evolved into a campy, stupidly-scientific, just-plain-dumb story! To begin with, the

evil Django was not what I call a diabolical villain. To me he was nothing more than a foreign cousin to the whirling Top! The dialogue was stupid. When the dying radio man says, "Man who shot me . . . had black teeth . . . black . . . teeth," I must admit I laughed. It was almost as if he had said, "Man who shot me . . . had bad breath . . . bad . . . breath!" The idea of the microscopic explosives in the invitations was too unbelievable to make the story anything but a dud!

KEN WOLF, YORKTOWN, N.Y.

(Gee, Ken, even though you didn't like it, aren't you going to ask us who David V. Reed is?—BR)

* * * *

Dear Julie & Co.:

Finally you have discovered a writer who can spin a serious mystery tale. David V. Reed's "Invitation to a Murder" was rich in the twists and deductions that have earmarked the greatest **Batman** epics of years gone by. The pacing was excellent; no scene was overlong and each sequence flowed smoothly into the next. Page 9 was an exercise in what the **Batman** was meant to be—the brooding, silent avenger on a personal vendetta to purge the world of evil. I consider this a victory for those of us who prefer a more serious treatment of **The Batman**. One final question, just who is David V. Reed?

KEVIN L. CALLAHAN, Brea, Cal.

(What would you say if we told you he's scripted such TV shows as **NAKED CITY**, **VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA**, **BILKO**, and **THE JACKIE GLEASON SHOW**—plus such old-time radio favorites as **SUPERMAN**, **MR. DISTRICT ATTORNEY** and **HOUSE OF MYSTERY**?—BR)

* * * *

Dear Julie & Bob,

David V. Reed is great! His line in #267—"Do as I say—or I'll tear your head off!"—showed the savagery which must come from someone who has fought crime as long as **THE BATMAN**. It fit the story perfectly. Just where did you find this great writer?

JOHN M. GALLO, Milwaukee, Wis.

(Well, we looked around the office and there he was! In addition to the information sprinkled throughout the preceding column, we can also tell you that Dave has written for such slick magazines as **COSMOPOLITAN**, **GOOD HOUSEKEEPING**, **COLLIER'S**, **MADEMOISELLE**, **ARGOSY** and science-fiction pulps like **AMAZING STORIES**, **FANTASTIC ADVENTURES** and **ASTOUNDING SCIENCE-FICTION**! But we're going to let you in on a secret —— Dave has done none of this writing under his real name! In fact, David V. Reed isn't even his real name! What do you think of that?!—BOB ROZAKIS)

BATMAN

AND

THE CAPTIVE COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE 3 SVENGALI BROTHERS, UNDERWORLD FIGURES. WITHOUT ITS COMMISSIONER, GOTHAM CITY IS IN TOTAL CHAOS.

ROBIN, UNTIL COMMISSIONER GORDON IS FREED, THIS CITY IS IN TROUBLE.

NOT JUST TROUBLE, BATMAN, REAL, DEEP, BIG TROUBLE!

YOU TWO GUYS GOTTA MAKE A DEAL WITH THE BATMAN, EITHER WE RUN THIS TOWN, OR NOBODY'LL EVER SEE THE COMMISSIONER AGAIN.

WE'LL "PERSUADE" THE BATMAN...
TO "TALK THINGS OVER."

DON'T TRY NUTHIN', BATMAN! THIS CAR IS COMPUTERIZED TO TAKE YOU TO OUR HIDEOUT, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!

IN THAT CASE, LET'S ENJOY SOME SNACKS!



YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT
IN EVERY BITE
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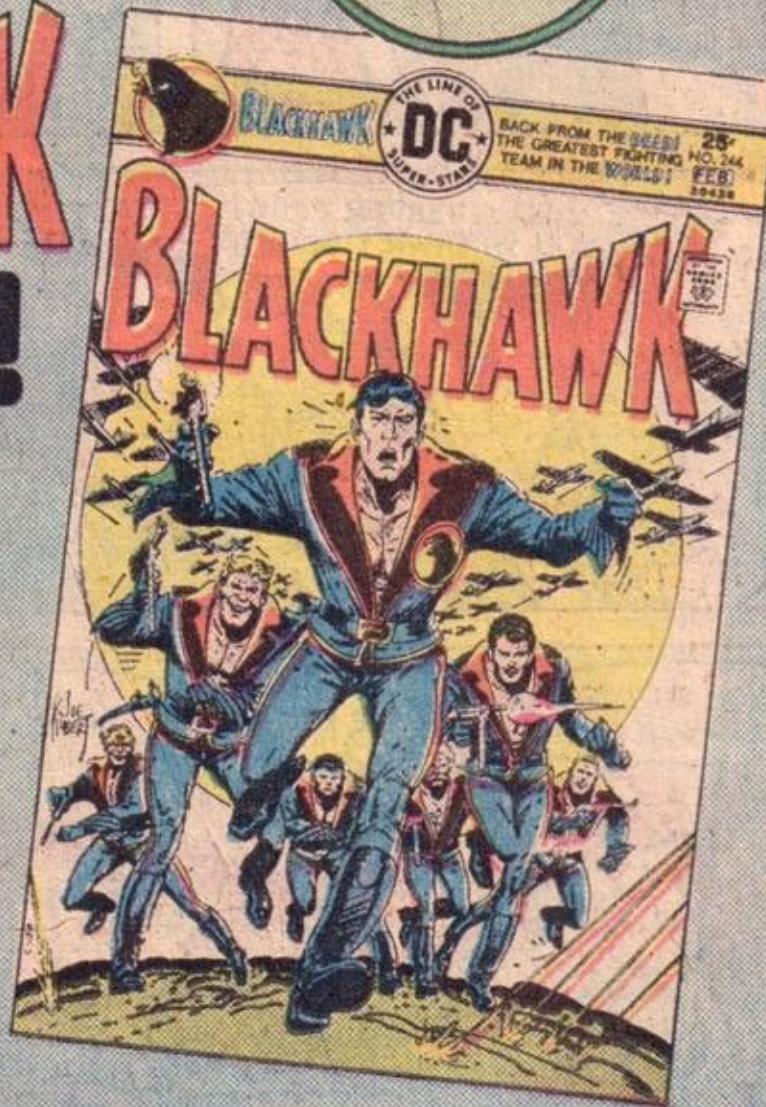
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Comics



ON SALE
THIS
MONTH!

BLACKHAWK
IS BACK!

GERRY CONWAY,
STEVE SKEATES
& GEORGE EVANS
PRESENT THE RETURN
OF THE WORLD'S
GREATEST
FIGHTING
TEAM!



AND SOON...

OKAY... NOW PROJECT THAT RUG-SHOT AT THREE TIMES ACTUAL SIZE!

FOCUS ON THE CENTER PART, AND MAGNIFY IT AT FULL BRILLIANCE...

SEE, I CAN BE USEFUL!

JUST AS I
THOUGHT--THE
FIGURE OF AGNI,
THE VEDIC
GOD OF THE
ALTAR FIRE!

THIS IS A
PRAYER RUG
OF AN OBSCURE
SECT OF THE
VEDAS... A
MOST SACRED
OBJECT...

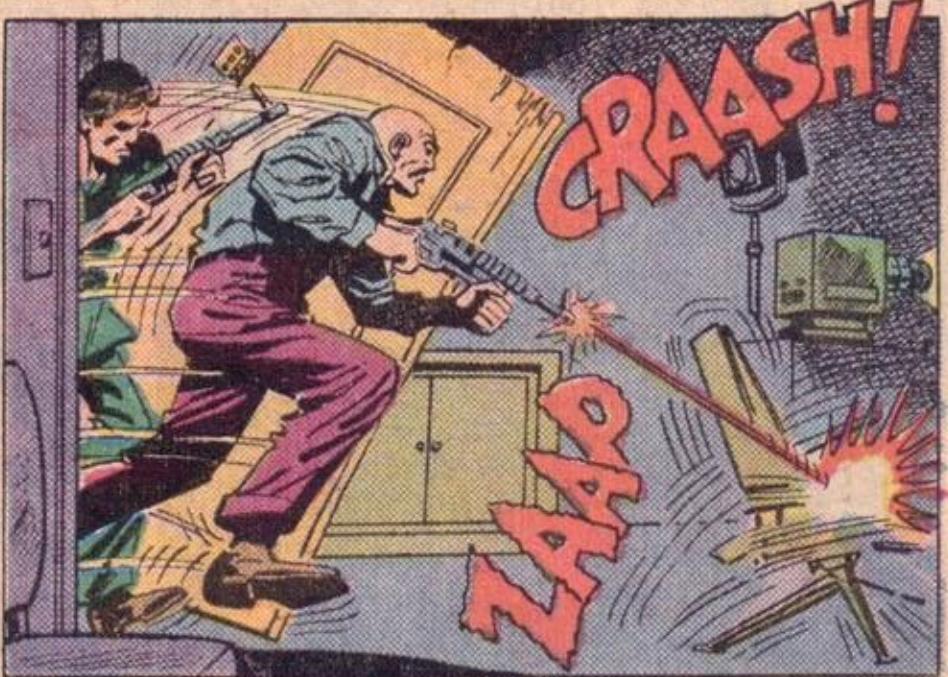
IN FACT, EVEN
PHOTOGRAPHING
IT IS CONSIDERED
DESECRATION!

SUDDENLY...

KRAACK!

“OH!! SOUNDS
LIKE MY DOOR'S
BEING SMASHED!

DUCK!--
HIDE!



YOU FORGOT TO
KNOCK BEFORE
YOU CAME IN--

--SO I'LL
DO IT
FOR YOU!





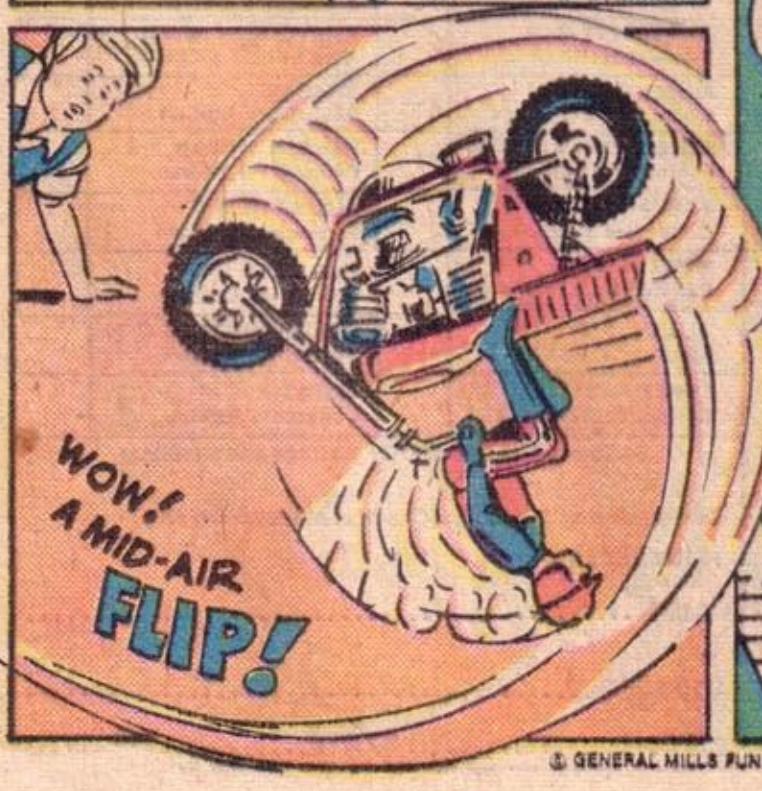
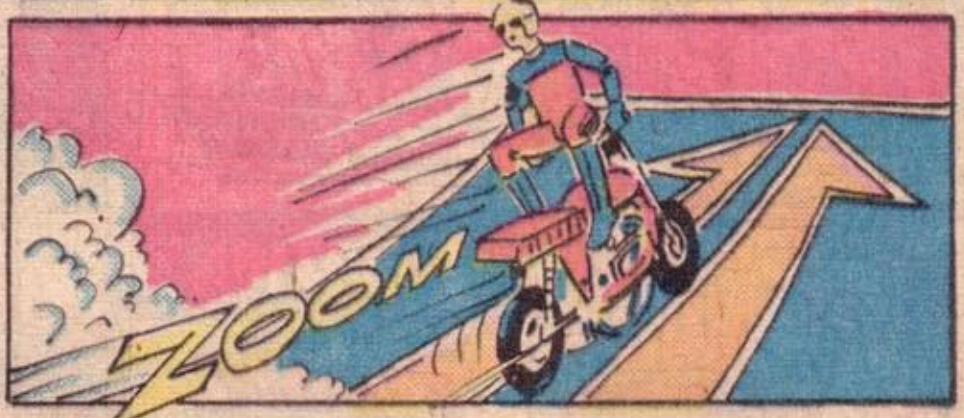
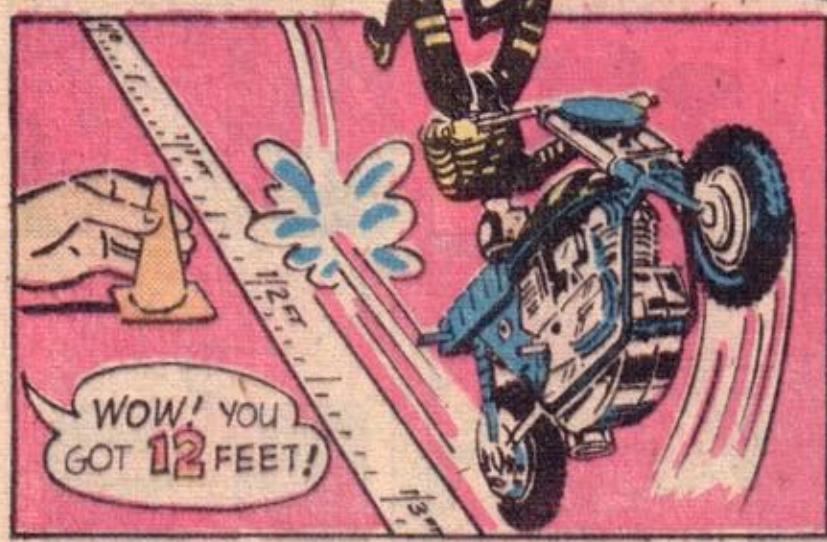
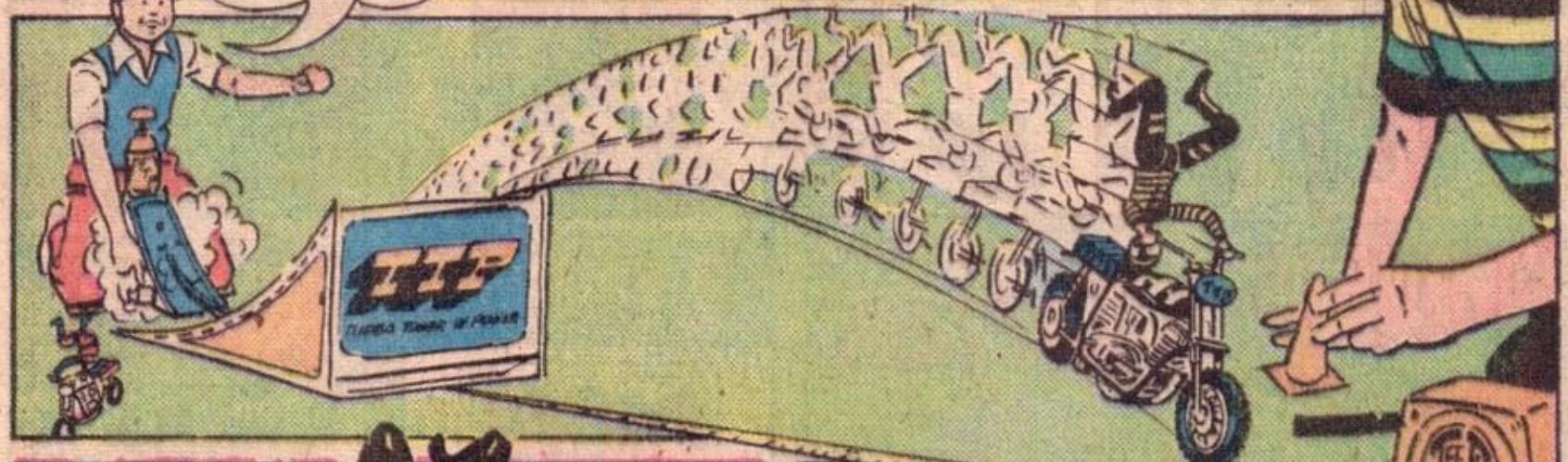
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HA! MY TEE-
TEE POWER DID
A HEADSTAND
LEAP YOU'LL
NEVER BEAT!

WILD RIDERS

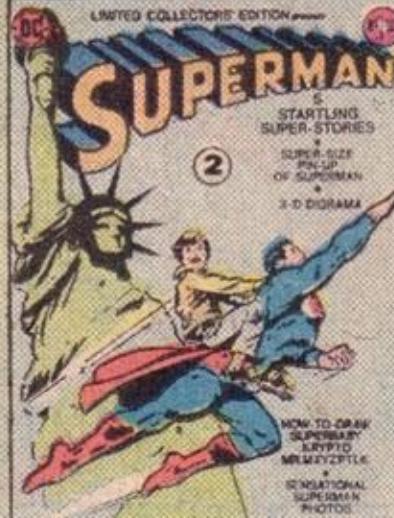
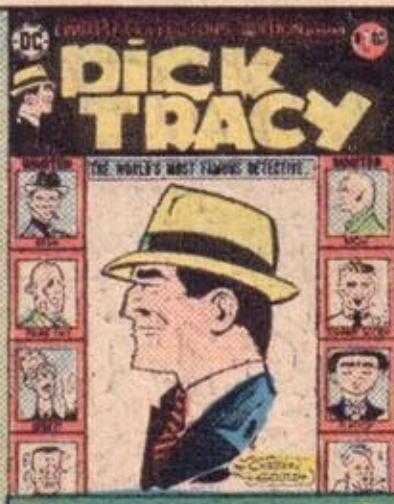
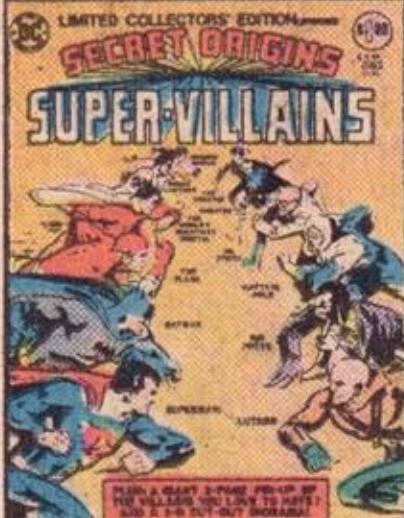
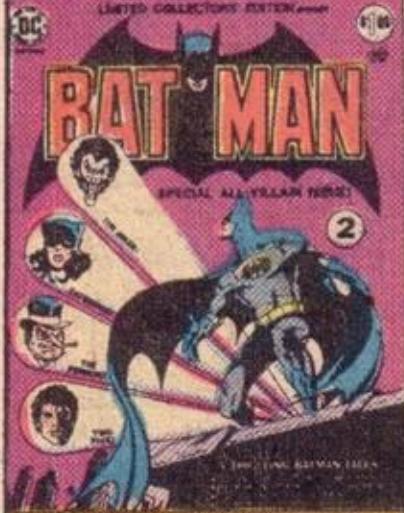
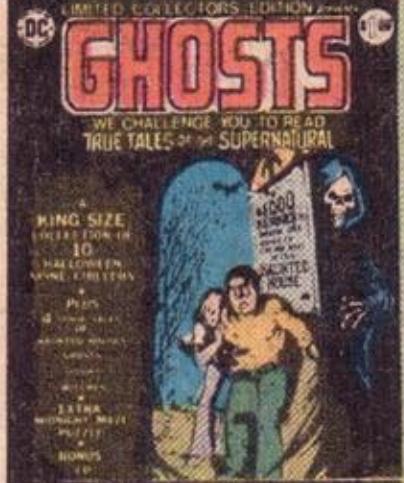
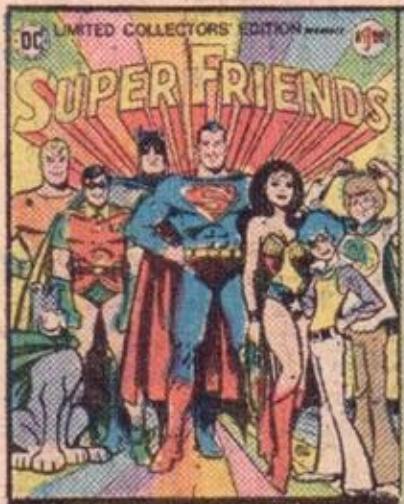
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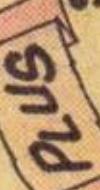
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GET ALL 6
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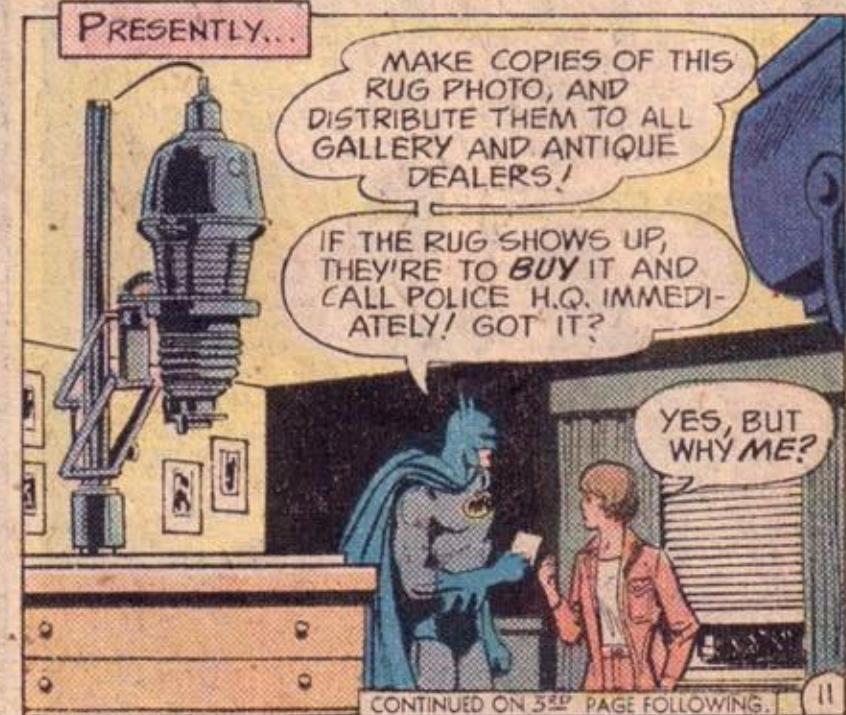
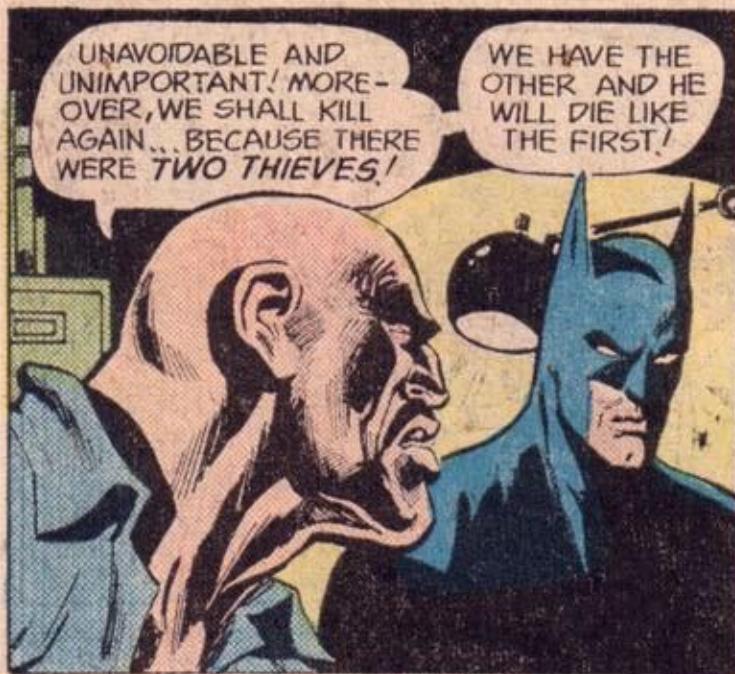
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I'LL WHIP 'EM INTO SHAPE BEFORE THEY CAN COUNT THE BOOMERANGS IN MY BANDOLIER!

MY STUNNER ARROWS WILL GIVE 'EM A FEW TIPS THEY WON'T FORGET.

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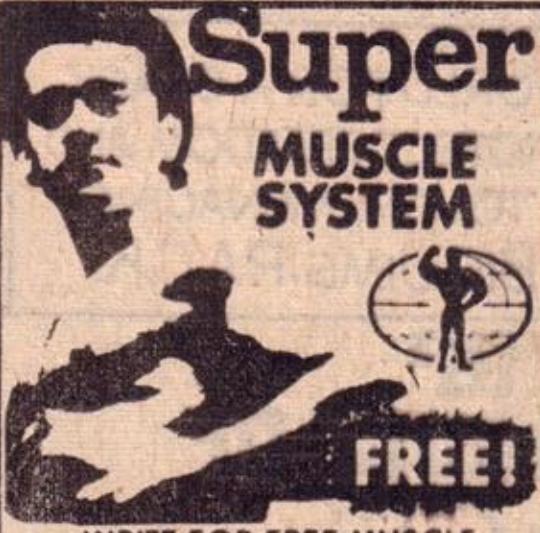
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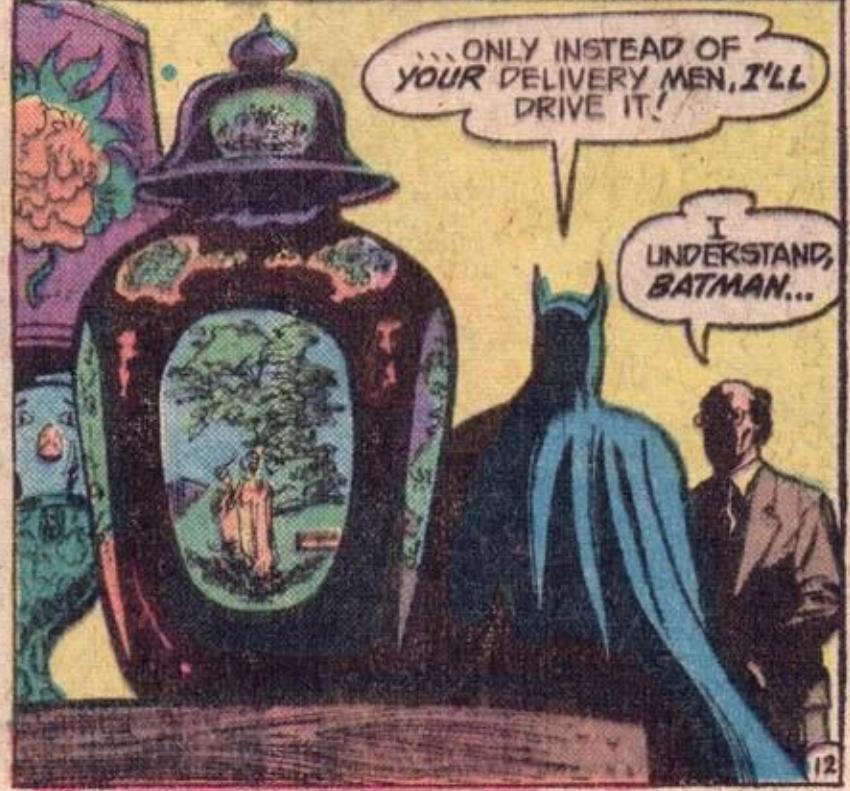
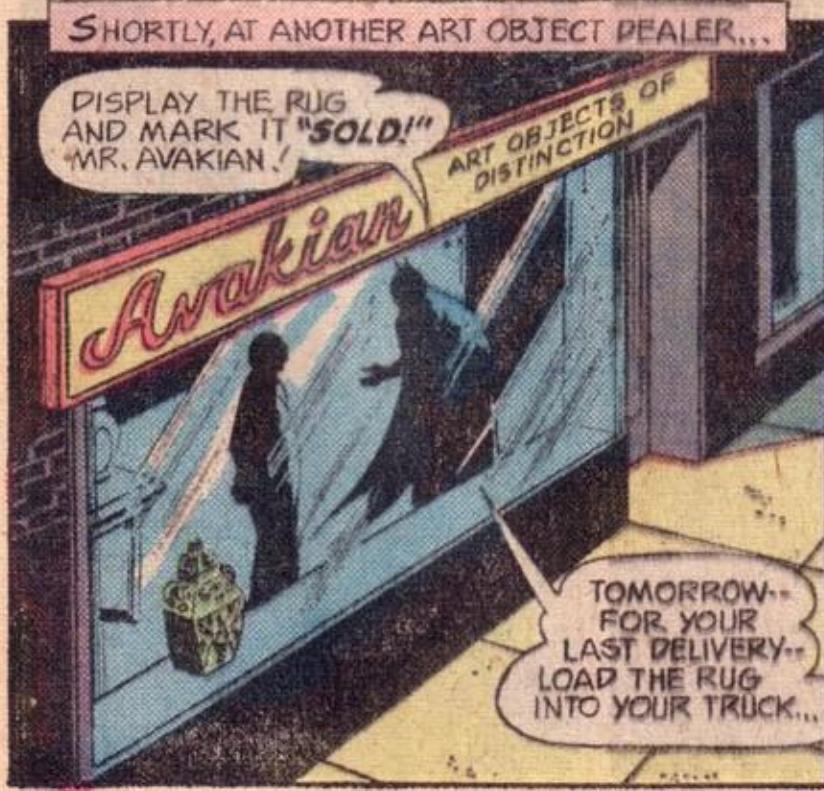
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AND ON THE FOLLOWING EVENING--THE BATMAN'S PLAN IS UNDER WAY--

INSTEAD OF HAVING TO HUNT FOR THEIR TEMPLE, I'LL LET THEM TRANSPORT ME TO IT!

THAT MUST BE THEM BEHIND ME NOW... CLOSING IN...

Arakian
ART OBJECTS
OF DISTINCTION

THE VIBRATIONS! MY WHOLE BODY THROBBING... PULSATING FASTER AND FASTER!

EVEN WITH MY DEFENSIVE AMULET, I FEEL IT! WITHOUT IT, I'D BE A SHATTERED MESS!

ANOTHER MOMENT AND--



WITHIN MINUTES, THE HIJACKERS ARE SAFELY MILES AWAY--



-THEIR MISSION MORE THAN FULFILLED--

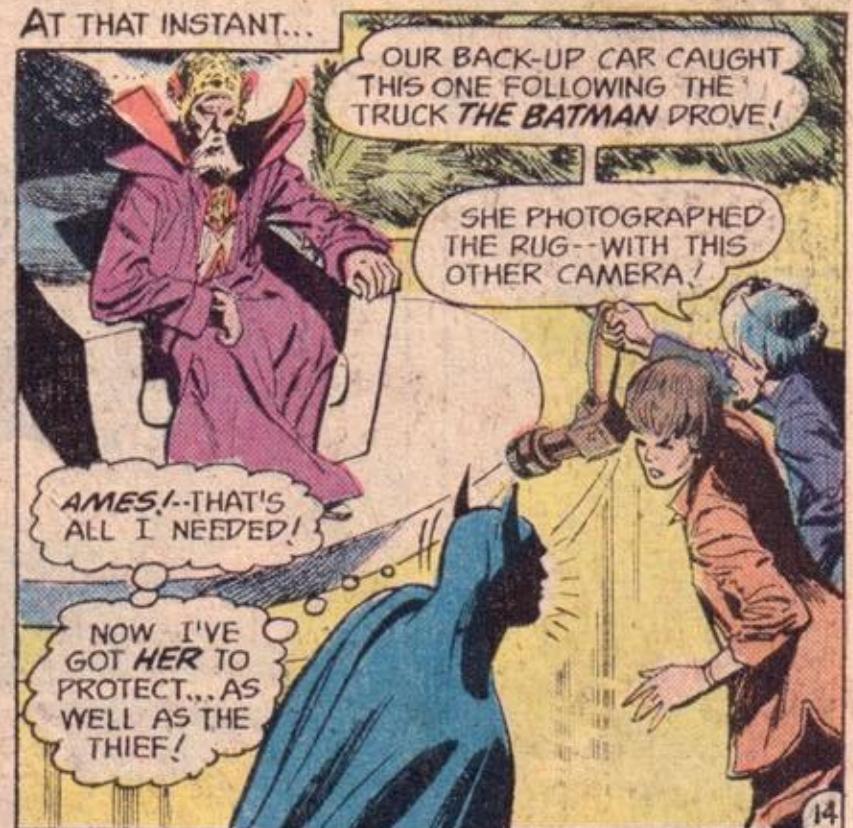
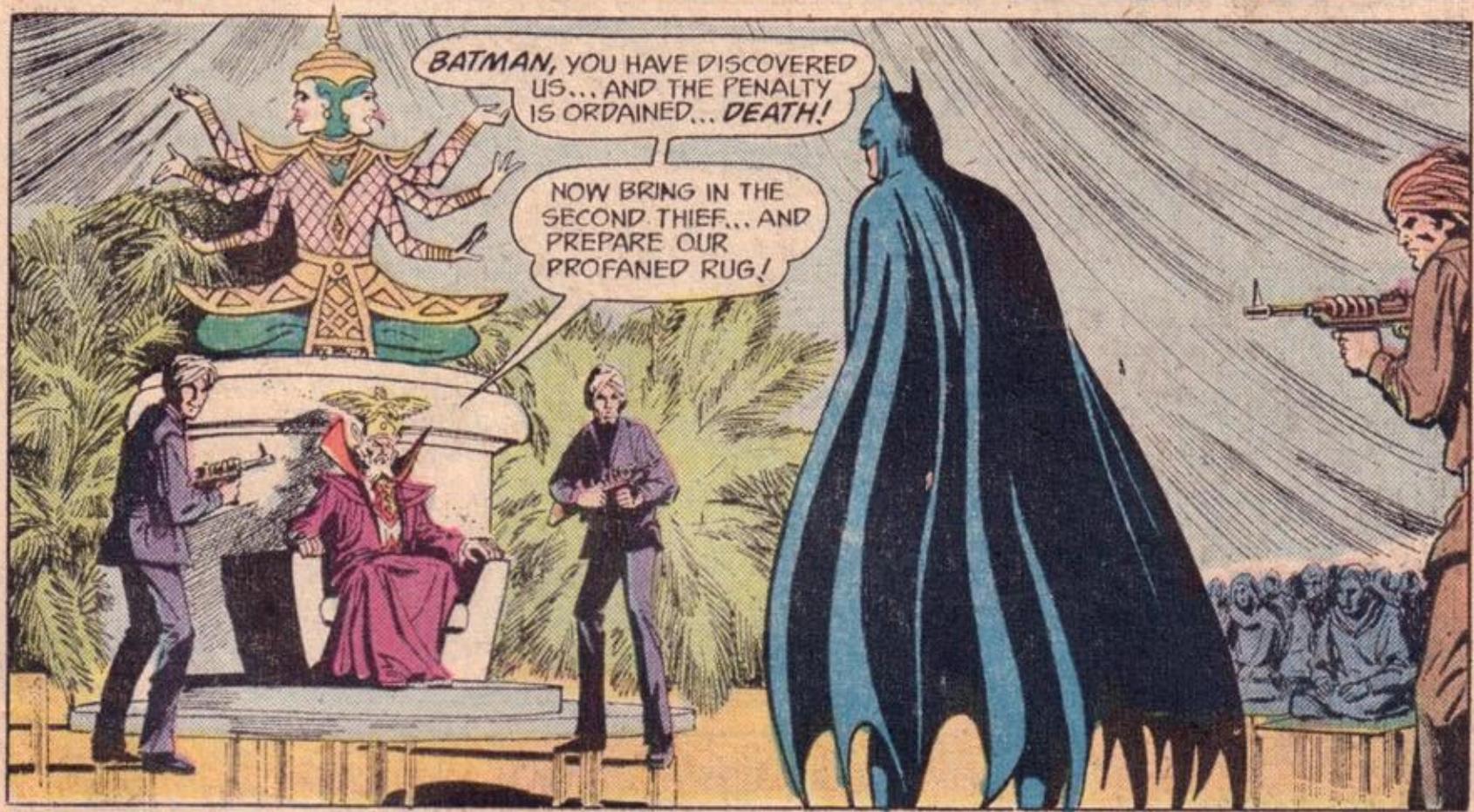
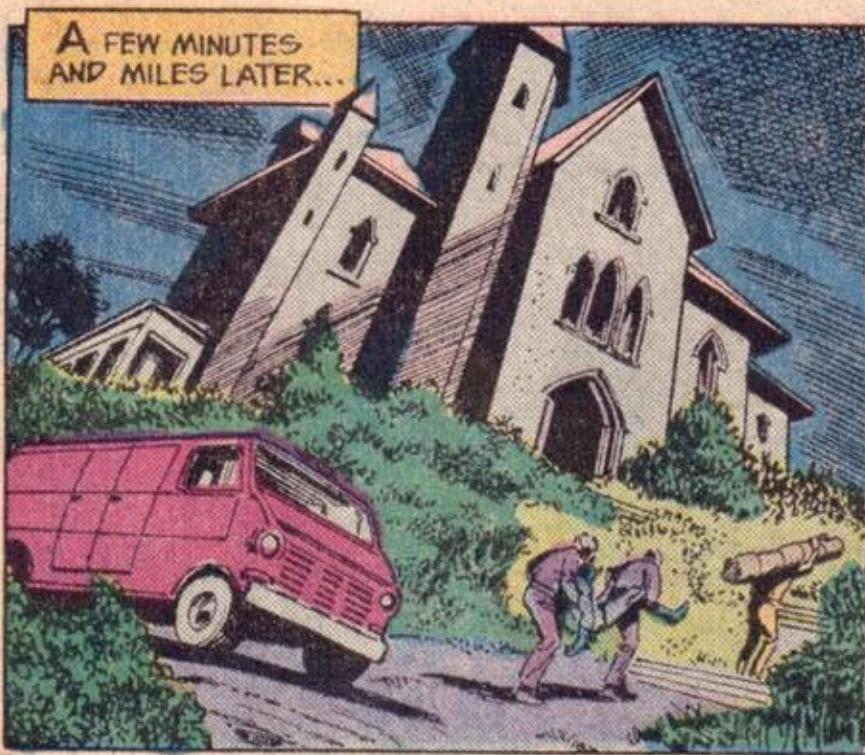
--OR SO THEY BELIEVE...

NOW TO DRILL A LITTLE HOLE IN THE SIDE OF THE TRUCK... AND DIG THE SCENERY!

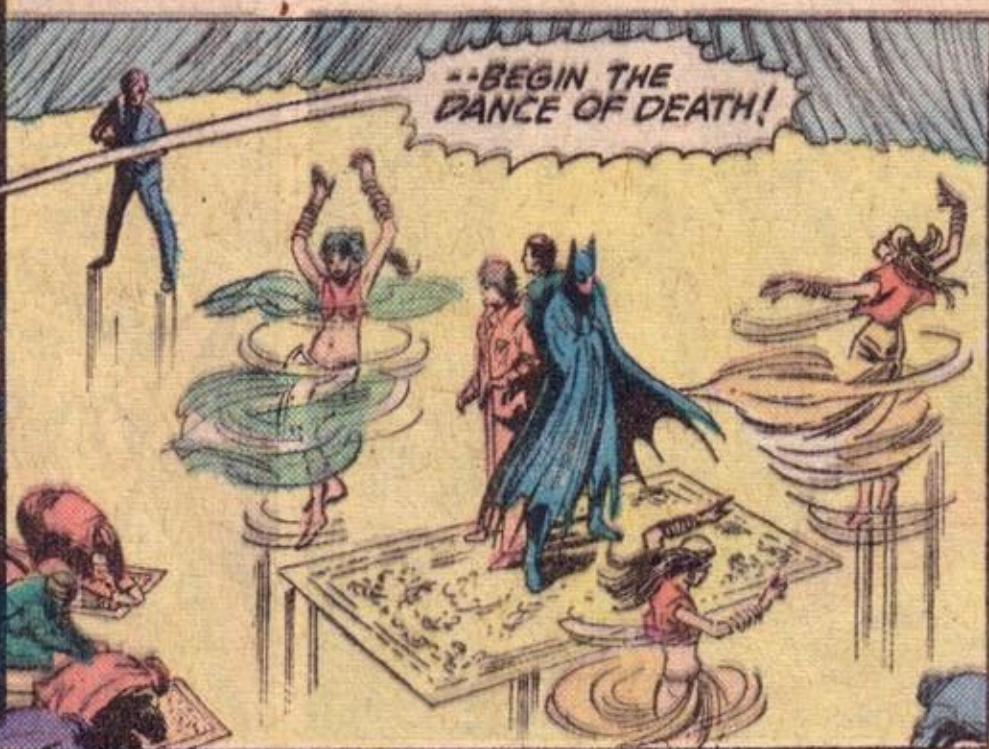


ONLY ONE ROAD AROUND HERE LIKE THIS... LEADING TO THE OLD ASHLAND MANSION... BOARDED UP FOR YEARS...





WILDLY,
ECSTATICALLY,
THE FATAL
CEREMONY
COMMENCES!
THE
DANCERS
WHIRL
FASTER
AND
FASTER...
AS THE
WORSHIPPERS
OF AGNI
KNEEL
AND
PROSTRATE
THEM-
SELVES IN
DEVOTION...



WHAT TO SINK YOUR TEETH INTO WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY AND YOU'RE NOT A WEREWOLF.

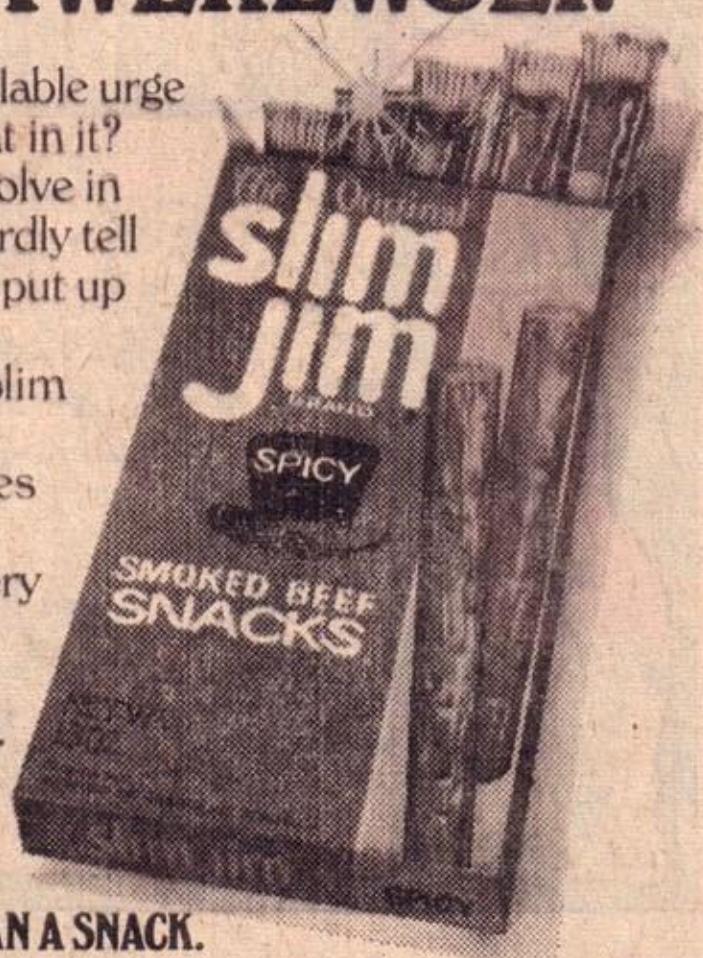
Every now and then, do you get this uncontrollable urge to bite into something that's really got some meat in it?

Are you tired of sugar-sweet snacks that dissolve in your mouth, and crunchy snacks that you can hardly tell you ate, and all the other boring stuff you have to put up with, every day?

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You might want to carry a few extra ones, too. Then, if you meet a werewolf, you can give him something to sink his teeth into instead of you.



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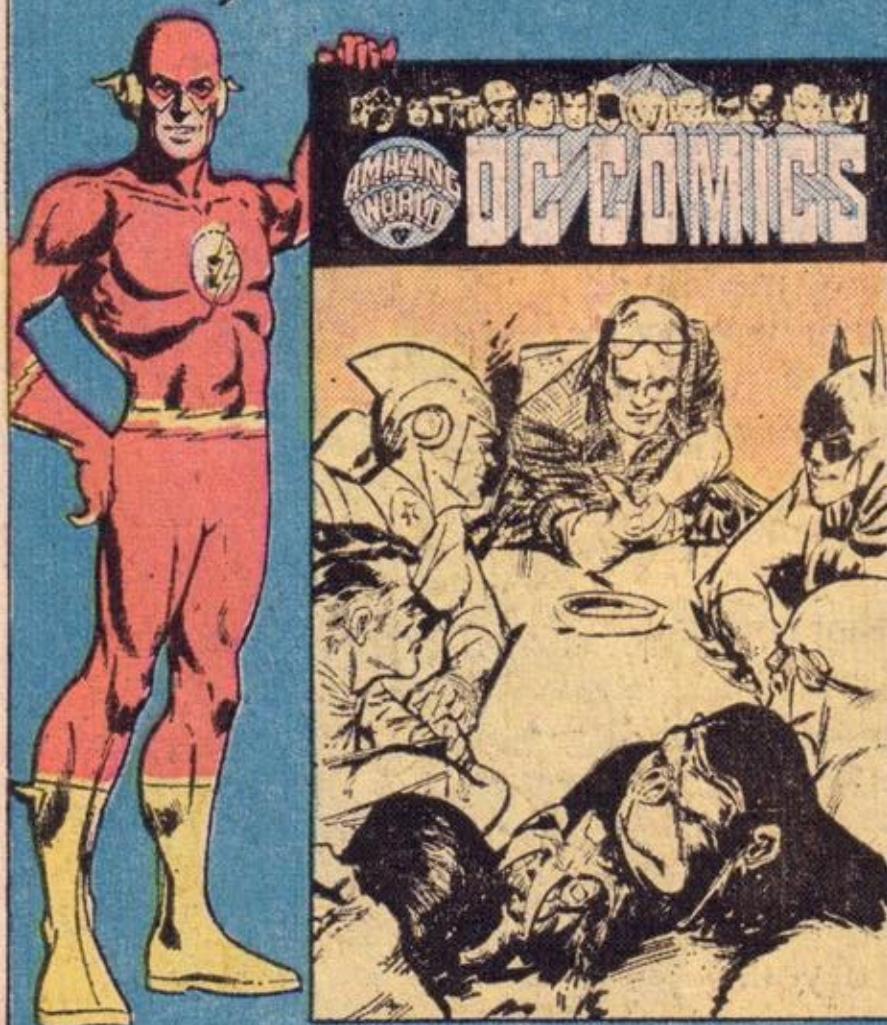
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MY HANDS!--AND DON'T
LET GO!



THE AMULET'S WORKING--
ATTRACTING AND
ABSORBING
THE LETHAL
ENERGY--

--CANCELING
OUT THEIR
VIBE-GUNS!

THE OTHER CANCELING
OUT--I'LL HAVE TO DO
BY HAND--

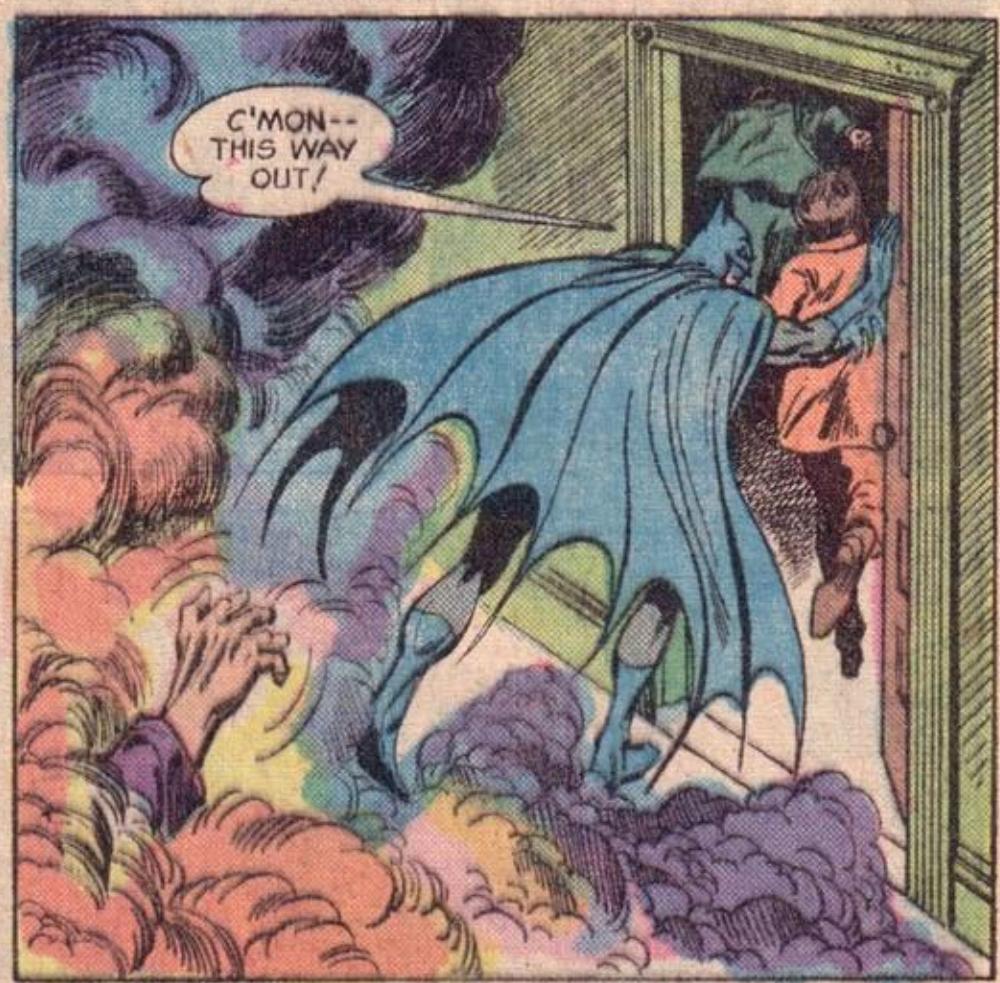
--AND ONE
HAND AT
THAT!

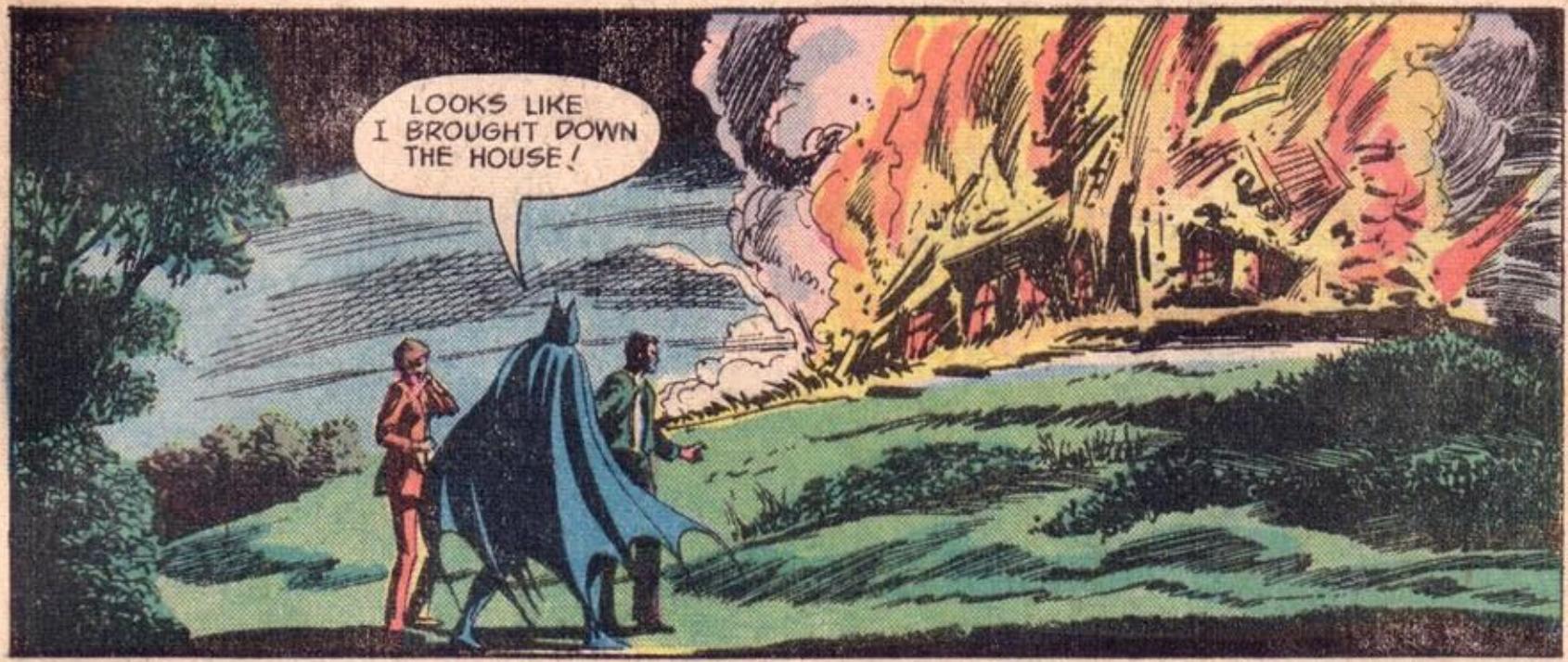


THAT'S IT--DON'T
BREAK THE
CONNECTION!

I'M YOUR SHIELD
AGAINST THOSE
DEADLY VIBRATIONS!







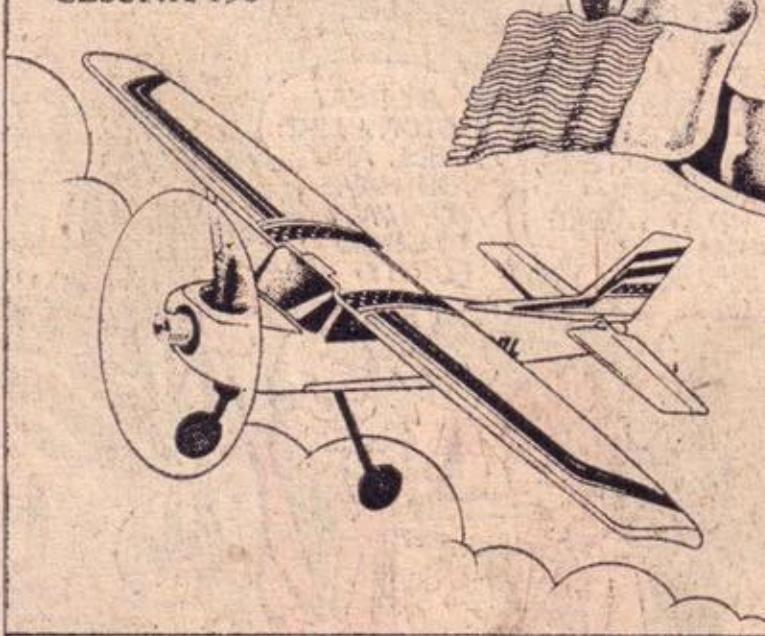
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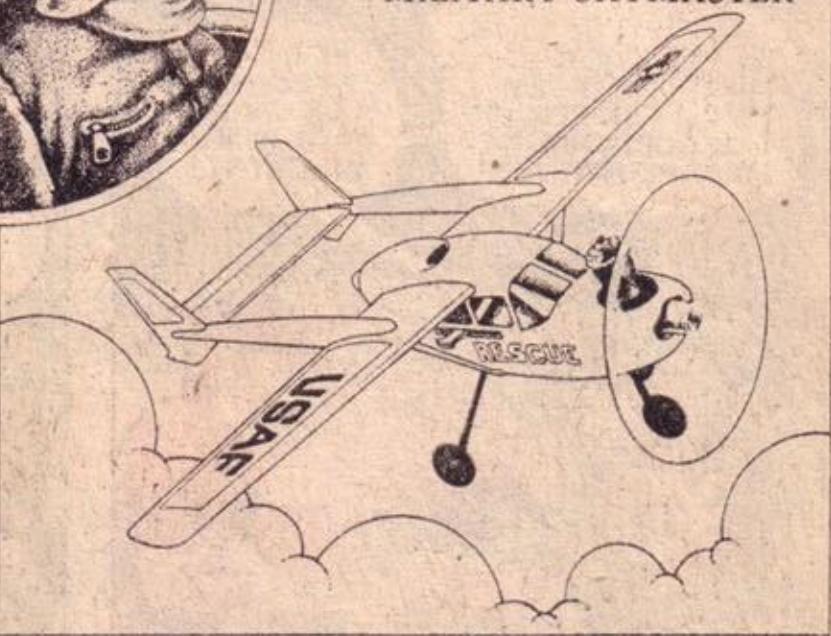
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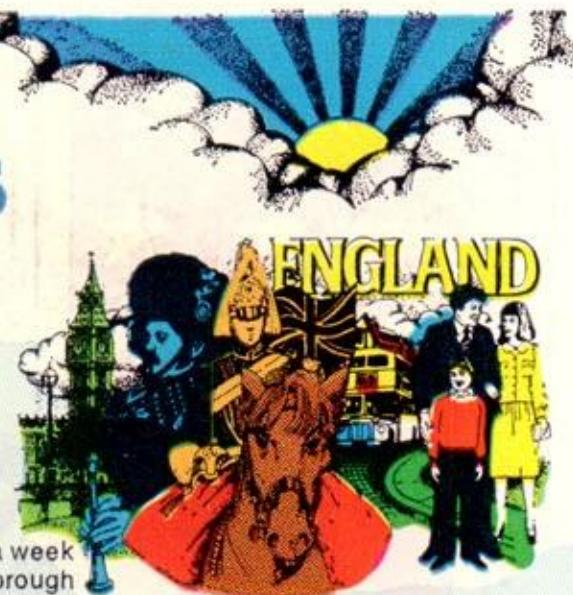
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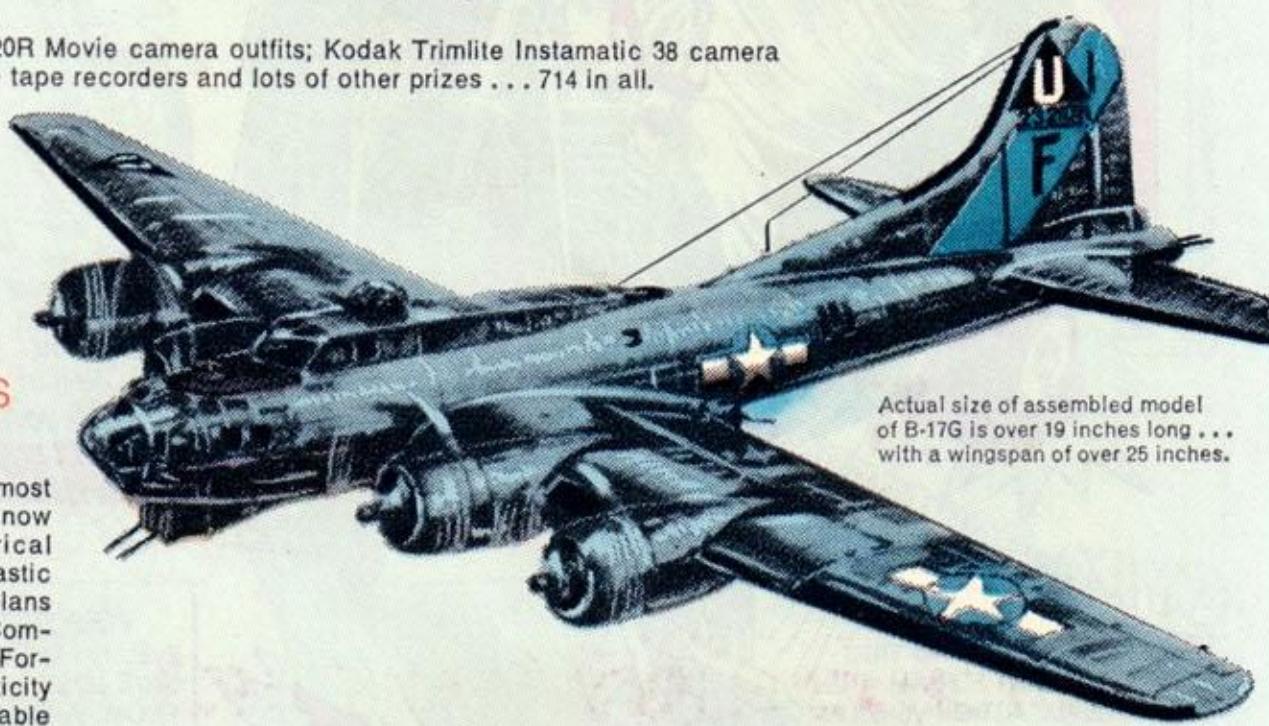
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NAME _____

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STARRING THE B-17G FLYING FORTRESS

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3. All winners will be determined in a random drawing of correct entries by an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.
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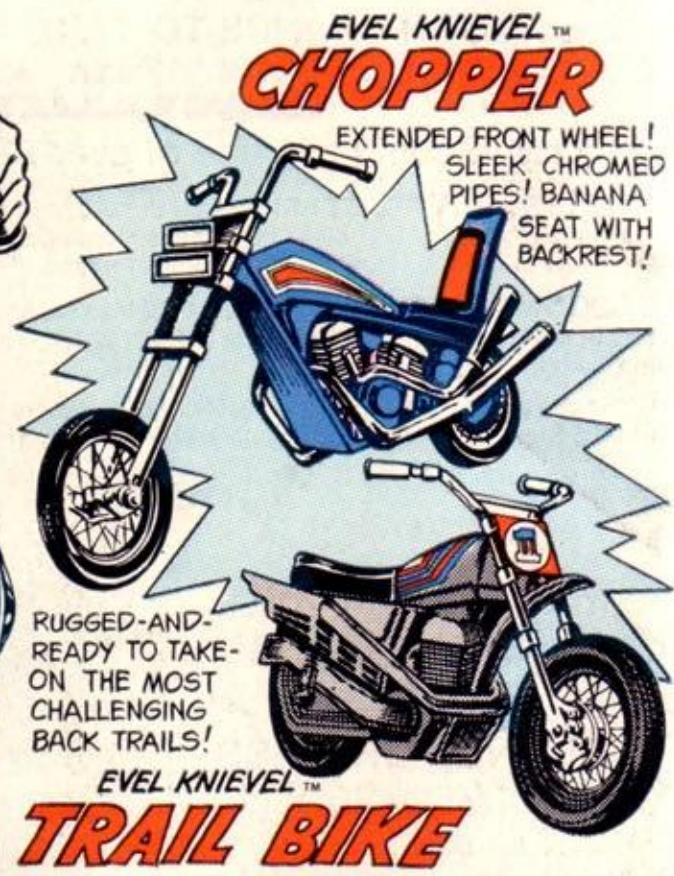
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