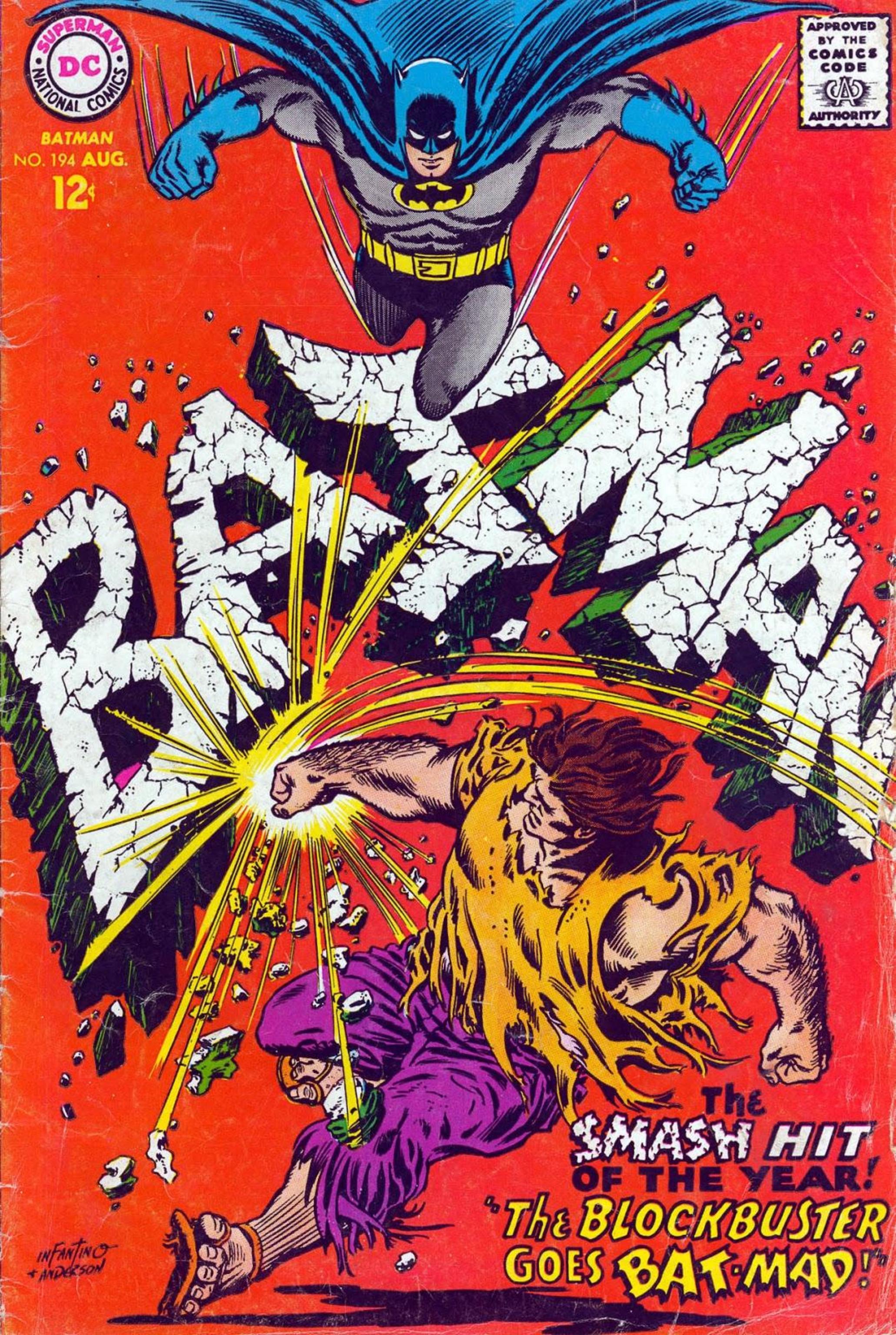




BATMAN
NO. 194 AUG.

12¢



The
SMASH HIT
OF THE YEAR!
"The BLOCKBUSTER
GOES BAT-MAD!"

INFANTINO
+ ANDERSON

THROW YOUR VOICE

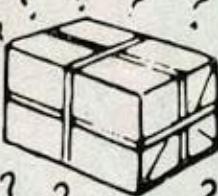
Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist." No. 137 25¢

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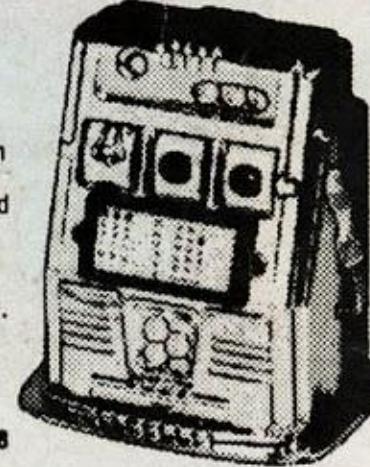
Deck is marked and stripped. Can be read from the back but looks like ordinary deck. With instructions for 10 terrific tricks. No. 183

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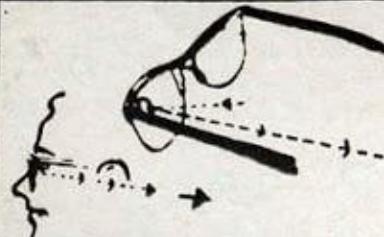
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Just light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling, mushrooming into a dense cloud, just like an A Bomb. No. 971 20¢

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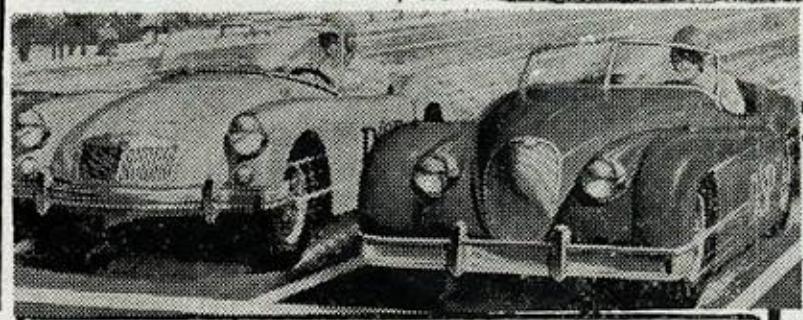
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Just slip it into the exhaust pipe of your friend's car . . . then watch him when he starts the engine! The howls and noises will make him think the motor's about to blow up or fall apart —while you roar with laughter. No. F193 50¢

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\$1.98

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ONION GUM
Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like . . . like . . . ONIONS! It's too funny! No. 281 20¢

MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film. No. 788 \$1.00
6 Rolls Film 98¢

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Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings. No. 247 50¢



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Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless. No. 575 Only 25¢

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An Hilarious Optical Illusion \$1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties. No. FL7 \$1.00



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BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THE HATE BLOCKBUSTER HAS FOR BATMAN-- THE LOVE BATMAN HAS FOR HIS FELLOW MAN-- WHICH HE DISPLAYS BY HIS UNSELFISH DEVOTION TO FIGHTING CRIME, AND BY HIS UNFLAGGING ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE HELPLESS AND THE OPPRESSED-- IS NEVER MORE DYNAMICALLY DISPLAYED THAN IN THIS GRIPPING BATTLE TALE BETWEEN THE TITANIC TERROR AND THE CAPE CRUSADER! FOR DEATH ITSELF IS THE FATE RESERVED FOR THE MASKED MANHUNTER WHEN ...

The BLOCKBUSTER goes BAT-MAD!



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IN THE GREAT EDIFICE THAT IS THE WAYNE FOUNDATION OF GOTHAM CITY, A NEW MEMBER OF THE SCIENCE STAFF IS BEING INTRODUCED TO HIS FELLOW SCIENTISTS...

--AND PLEASE CALL ME MARGOT, DOCTOR!

THAT'S VERY GOOD OF YOU, DOCTOR RANKIN-- MARGOT! I'VE READ YOUR BRILLIANT ARTICLES ON-- GOOD GOSH!

IS HE FOR REAL? THAT FELLOW'S CARRYING TWO COMBUSTION ENGINES THAT MUST WEIGH OVER A TON! NOBODY IS THAT STRONG!

MARK DESMOND IS! YOU MAY KNOW HIM BETTER AS THE BLOCKBUSTER!

EVER SINCE HIS TERRIFIC BRAWL WITH SOLOMON GRUNDY*...

*JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #47: "THE BRIDGE BETWEEN EARTHS!"

... HE HAS BEEN A DIFFERENT PERSON! FRIENDLY! HAPPY! HARMLESS! HE WORKS AS A HANDYMAN AROUND THE FOUNDATION WHILE WE WORK ON HIM...

OH, MARK-- MEET DOCTOR SLOANE!

FRIEND! FRIEND! SPEECHLESS WHEN HE CAME HERE, WE'VE TAUGHT HIM TO SAY A FEW WORDS, BUT HE STILL HAS THE MENTALITY OF A FOUR-YEAR OLD...

MMPPFFGG!

NEW FRIEND! ME BUY PRESENT!

TO SHOW HIS LOVE FOR PEOPLE NOW-- INSTEAD OF HIS FORMER HATE-- MARK BUYS THEM LITTLE GIFTS OUT OF HIS SALARY! PLEASE ACCEPT HIS GIFT WHEN HE HANDS IT TO YOU!

GULP! I WOULDN'T DARE REFUSE IT!

AND SO... LATER THAT SAME DAY WHEN HIS CHORES ARE DONE, MARK ENTERS A NEARBY DEPARTMENT STORE...

SUDDENLY HE HALTS -- AN ANGRY FROWN MARS HIS FACE...

GYAAA ???

TOYS

CONFRONTING HIM IS A LIFE-SIZE PAPIER-MÂCHÉ FIGURE OF THE CROWN PRINCE OF CRIME-FIGHTERS-- **BATMAN!** IN HIS CHILD'S MIND, THE REFORMED BLOCK-BUSTER SEES ONLY A FORMER-- AND HATED-- FOE ...



WHO IS BLOCKBUSTER? AS A FRAIL AND PUNY YOUTH, MARK DESMOND WAS SAVED FROM DEATH IN A QUICKSAND BOG BY BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE DURING A FEARFUL STORM *...

A YOUNG GENIUS, HE CONCOCTED A CHEMICAL SOLUTION WHICH CHANGED HIS BODY TO GIANT SIZE AND STRENGTH-- BUT WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY ROBBED HIM OF HIS MIND THROUGH A FAULTY ENDROCINE GLAND--AND TURNED HIM INTO THE SAVAGE **BLOCKBUSTER!**

AS A PAWN OF THE EVIL OUTSIDER, BLOCKBUSTER WAS ORDERED TO KILL BATMAN *



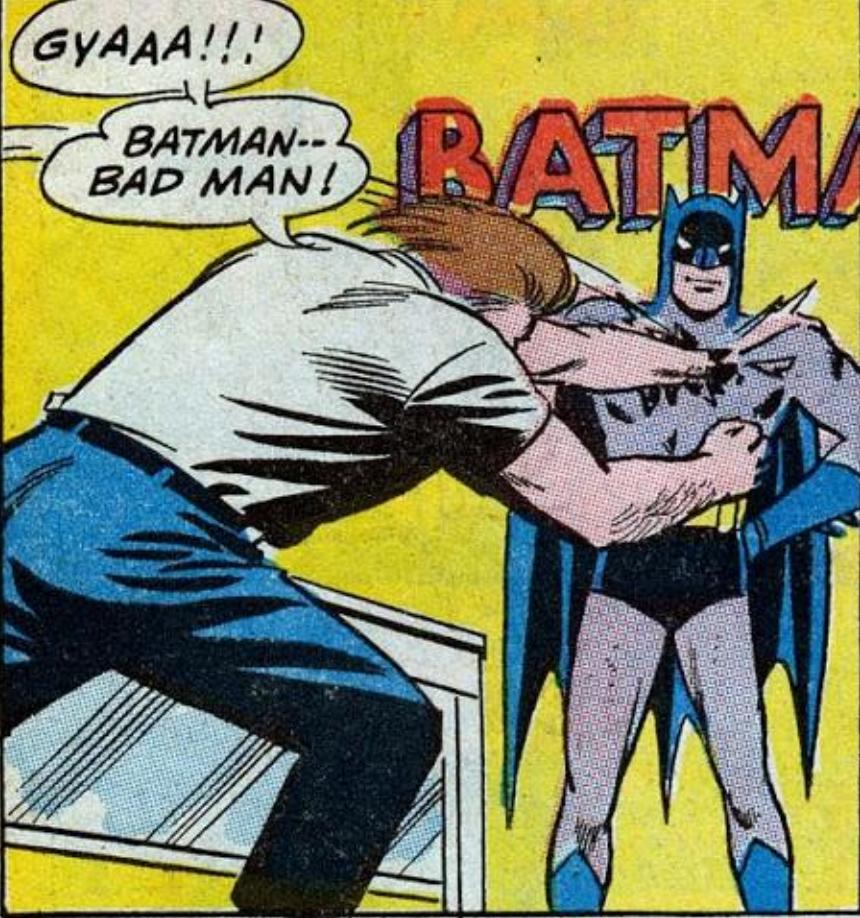
* DETECTIVE COMICS #345:
"THE BLOCKBUSTER INVASION
OF GOTHAM CITY!"

* DETECTIVE COMICS #349:
"THE BLOCKBUSTER BREAKS LOOSE!"

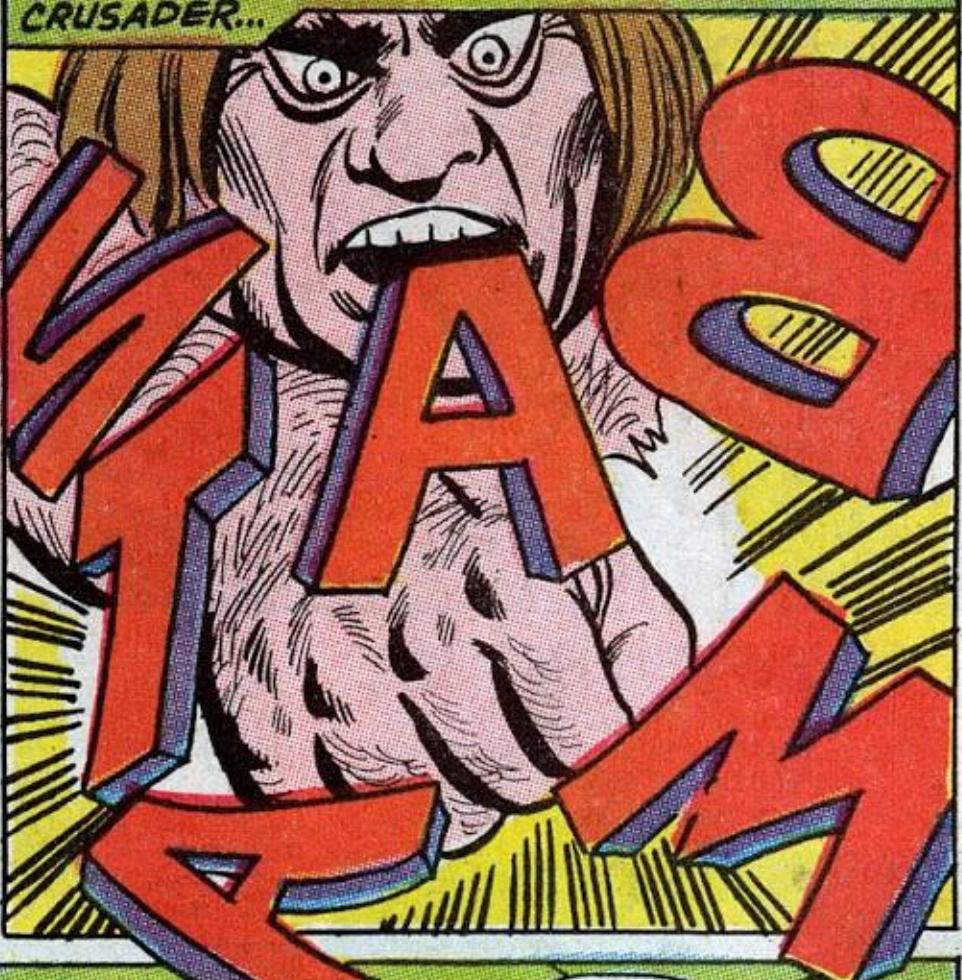
UNTIL HE CAME TO BLUDGEONING BATTLE-BLOWS WITH THE MARSHLAND MONSTER **SOLOMON GRUNDY!** DURING THIS CRUNCHING CONFLICT, EACH MANAGED TO KNOCK THE HATE OUT OF EACH OTHER!



NOW--A DORMANT MEMORY EXPLODES
INTO A FIERCE FLOOD OF HOT HATE AS...



AS IF GONE BAT-MAD, MARK DESMOND LASHES
OUT AT ANYTHING REPRESENTING THE CAPED
CRUSADER...



TWO
STORE
GUARDS--
THEIR
FACES
PINCHED
AND
WHITE
WITH
FEAR--
COME
ON
THE
RUN...



THE CHILDLIKE MIND OF THE TITANIC TERROR
REACTS TO THE SUDDEN APPEARANCE OF
THESE NEW FACES...



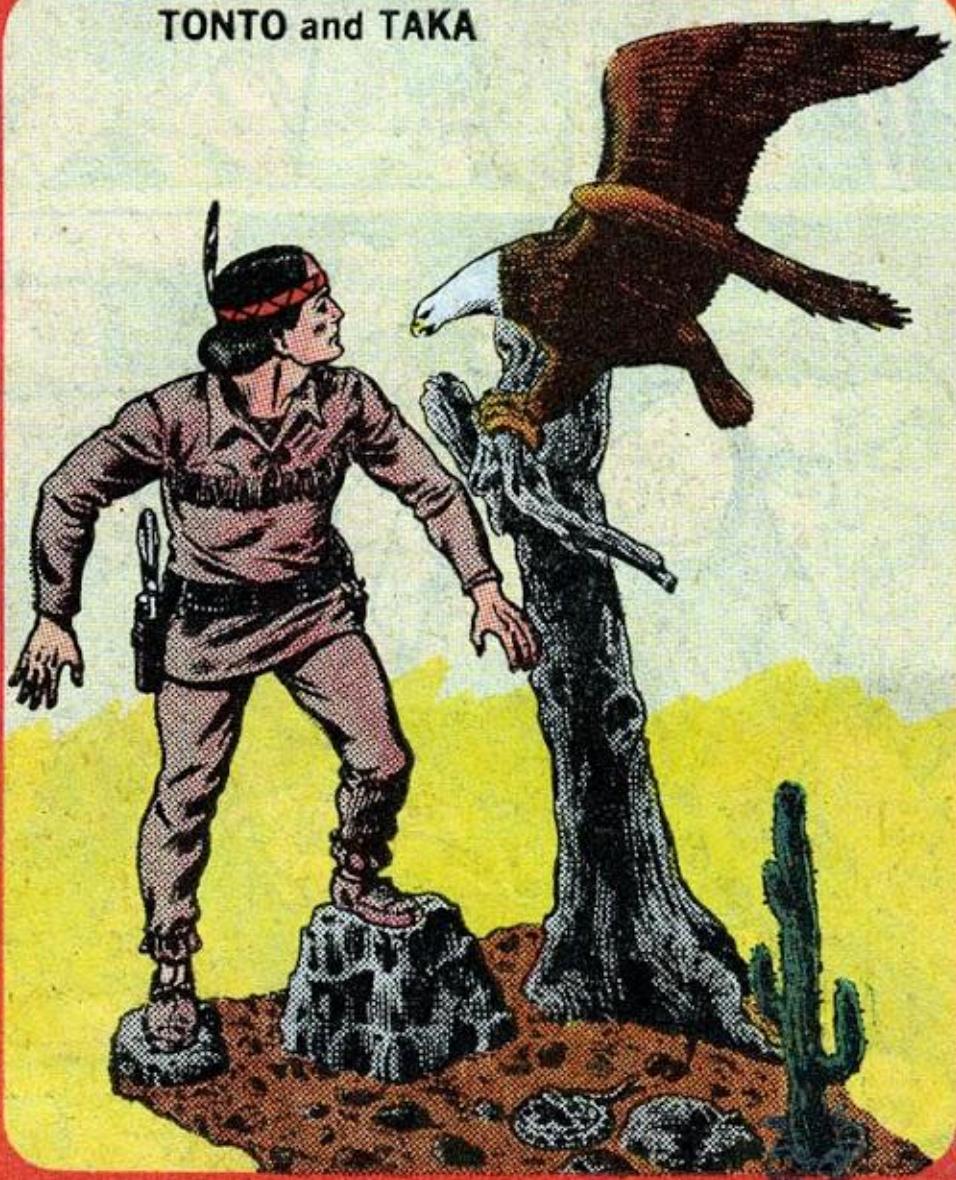
LIKE A TRUSTING BABE, HE PERMITS HIM-
SELF TO BE LED AWAY...



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING. 4

HI YO, KIDS!

TONTO and TAKA



THE LONE RANGER and SILVER



Now you can build
these new Aurora
hobby kits of me and
my Indian pal Tonto!

That famous team from the West just rode into your local hobby shop!

You've thrilled to their exploits as "pictures" on TV, in the movies, and in comic books. Now you can see them in "3D" when you add them to your collection of 'action' kits by Aurora. The masked man comes with his valiant steed Silver—Tonto is shown with his faithful mascot, the eagle Taka. Take it from Tonto, they're exciting to build, and heap big fun to display!

149
EACH

Models can be painted as shown. Kits do not include paint or cement.

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AURORA

IN A SPECIAL INTERROGATION ROOM AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS SOON AFTERWARD, MARK IS QUESTIONED BY WAYNE FOUNDATION SCIENTISTS...

NEW HOME! I'D FEEL BETTER IF BRUCE WAYNE WERE HERE! HE'S ME LIKE! A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MARK'S--BUT WHEN I CALLED WAYNE MANSION I WAS TOLD HE WAS OUT FOR THE EVENING!

WHAT UPSET YOU, MARK? YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD BOY NOW...

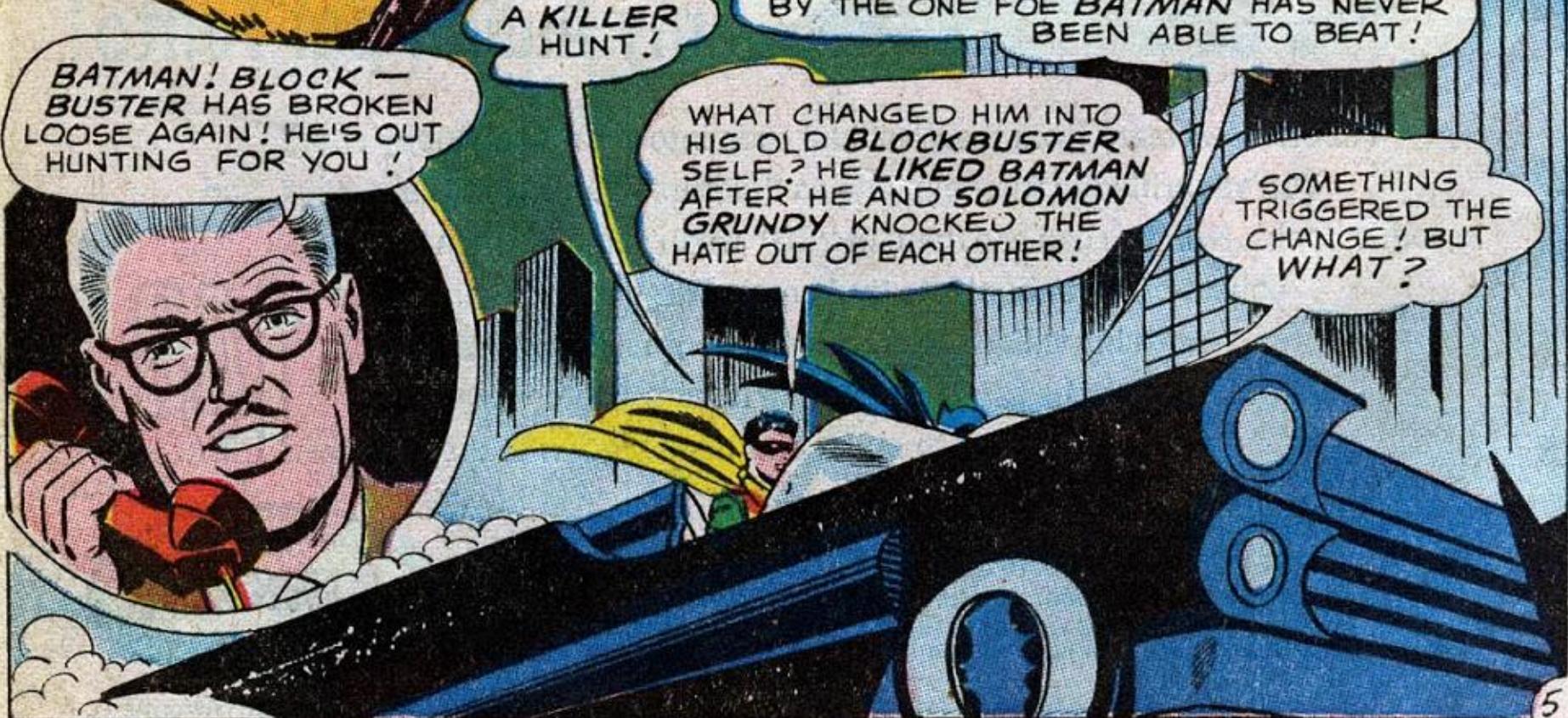
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THE SIGHT OF THE BATMAN FIGURE TOUCHED SOME CHORD OF MEMORY IN HIS MIND--

AS THAT HATED NAME RINGS IN HIS MIND LIKE A BELL CLANGING...

BATMAN--) OOPS! YOU SAID GYYAAA!! THE MAGIC WORD! IT SET HIM OFF AGAIN!



NEXT INSTANT...



THE DYNAMIC DUO PAUSES FOR A QUICK BRIEFING AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

OUR MAN ON THE BEAT CALLED IN THAT MARK DESMOND STOPPED OFF AT THE WAYNE FOUNDATION-- TO PICK UP HIS BLOCK-BUSTER CLOTHES!

HE SEEMS TO BE GOING BACKWARD FASTER AND FASTER! IF BLOCKBUSTER IS ON THE PROWL FOR BATMAN THE ONE PLACE HE MAY THINK TO FIND HIM IS IN THAT TOY SECTION OF THE DEPARTMENT STORE!

LET'S GO, ROBIN!

TEN MINUTES LATER, THE GREAT DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES OF THE MASKED MANHUNTER ARE PROVED CORRECT...

THERE HE IS ALL RIGHT--HAVING A FIELD DAY WITH BATMAN MERCHANDISE!

I'LL GET THE GUARDS AWAY FROM HIM WHILE YOU TRY TO CALM HIM DOWN!



MIND IF I BUTT IN?



BATMAN'S NEXT MOVE--TO REVEAL THE UNMASKED FACE OF BRUCE WAYNE...

SEE--I AM YOUR FRIEND! BRUCE WAYNE-- THE ONE WHO PULLED YOU OUT OF THE QUICKSAND BOG YEARS AGO!

ONCE AGAIN I'M FORCED TO REVEAL MY TRUE IDENTITY TO BLOCKBUSTER! ONLY--NOW THAT HE CAN TALK--I MAY BE SACRIFICING MY SECRET IDENTITY!

I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE! IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN HANDLE HIM!



**BRUCE WAYNE--
BATMAN-- SAME
MAN! NO FRIEND!**

**OH-OH!
MY SURE-
FIRE GIMMICK
BACKFIRED
ON ME!**

**KILL ONE
OF YOU--
KILL
TWO!**



**THOUGH DWARFED
BY THE
BRUTE BEHEMOTH,
BATMAN
HIMSELF
IS A HUMAN
FIGHTING
MACHINE
AND
STRIKES
BACK
SAVAGELY...**



**ONE MORE
HOPE OF
TRICKING
BLOCK-
BUSTER--
SPEAK TO
HIM WITH
THE VOICE
OF HIS BROTHER
ROLAND--
THE ONLY
PERSON ON
EARTH HE'S
BEEN TAUGHT
TO OBEY--**

**STOP HITTING
BATMAN!
GO BACK
PEACEFULLY
TO YOUR JOB
AT WAYNE
FOUNDATION!**

**BROTHER
SPEAK?**



THE ANSWER OF THE
TITANIC TERROR IS
SIMPLE AND
DIRECT...

YOU NO FOOL
ME! YOU BATMAN!
SPEAK BROTHER
VOICE! YOU
BAD!

ANOTHER IDEA
GONE WRONG--
BUT IF I'M GOING
TO LAST, I'D BETTER
FIGHT BACK--
AT LEAST GO
DOWN
FIGHTING--

BRACING
HIMSELF WITH BOTH
HANDS AGAINST THE WALL, BATMAN
LASHES OUT WITH HIS FEET...

ROCKED HIM BACK ON
HIS HEELS! THAT'S AN
UNEXPECTED
SURPRISE!

EITHER
BLOCK-
BUSTER'S
GETTING
WEAKER--
OR I'M
GETTING
STRONGER!

OWGG!

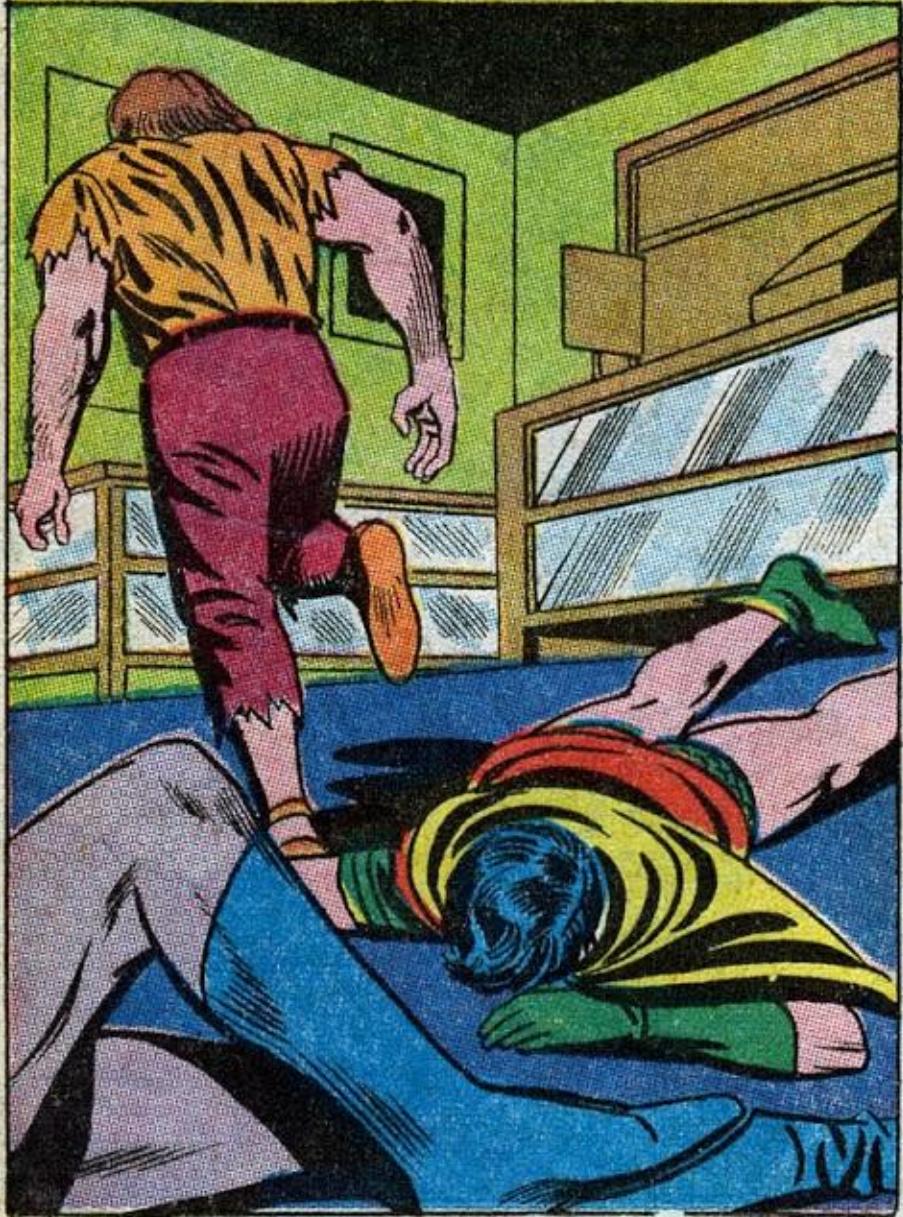
BUT THE
TITANIC
TERROR
HAS MERELY
BEEN
READYING
A
FINISHING
BLOW
OF HIS
OWN--
AND HERE
IT
COMES...

DOWN GOES BATMAN...IN COMES
THE RETURNING ROBIN ...

BATMAN! — HE CAN'T --
GET UP! — HE'S OUT
COLD!



MAN AND BOY LIE LIFELESS AS
THE FLOOR SHAKES TO THE TREAD
OF THE DEPARTING TITANIC TERROR...



ACROSS LAND AND WATER MOVES THE
BLOCKBUSTER UNTIL AT LONG LAST HE
STANDS ABOVE THE QUICKSAND BOG FROM
WHICH BRUCE WAYNE RESCUED HIM AS
A CHILD...



HIS SHOUT OF FRIGHT AND DESPAIR RINGS OUT ABOVE THE SWAYING TREETOPS OF THE DESOLATE ISLAND...

ME BACK IN SAND! HELP, BATMAN! HELLPP!



A SPLASH OF SHALLOW WATERS-- AND BLOCKBUSTER RELIVES HIS PAST-- THAT FATEFUL, DREADFUL MOMENT WHEN HE WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD AND SINKING INTO SOGGY SAND...



OFTEN IN THE PAST, IN THESE MOMENTS OF REGRESSION INTO HIS YOUTH, MARK DESMOND HAS COME TO THIS SAME SPOT, CRYING OUT HIS NEED AS HE RELIVES THE TRAUMATIC MOMENT OF FEAR AND HORROR! TONIGHT THAT FEAR HAS REACHED ITS CLIMAX...

YOU NO COME!
YOU LET ME DIE!



HIS MOOD QUICK-- SILVERS FROM FRIGHT TO RED, RAW RAGE! HIS FEATURES CONTORT WITH SAVAGE HATE! HE HOWLS IN FURY...

BATMAN, YOU
LET ME DIE!
GO FIND
YOU! MAKE
YOU DIE
TOO!



IN GOTHAM CITY, TWO UNIFORMED FIGURES STIR, RISE UP...

Ooooh, I'VE NEVER
BEEN HIT SO HARD!

WHERE'D THAT WALKING
TANK DISAPPEAR TO?

TO ONE OF TWO PLACES! EITHER TO THE PRISON WHERE HIS BROTHER ROLAND IS, TO FREE HIM-- OR BACK TO THE ISLAND WHERE HE USED TO LIVE!



YOU GO TO THE PRISON,
ROBIN, AND ALERT
THE AUTHORITIES OF
POSSIBLE DANGER--
WHILE I TAKE THE
BAT-BOAT TO THE
ISLAND...

BUT FIRST--
THERE IS
SOMETHING I
MUST DO!

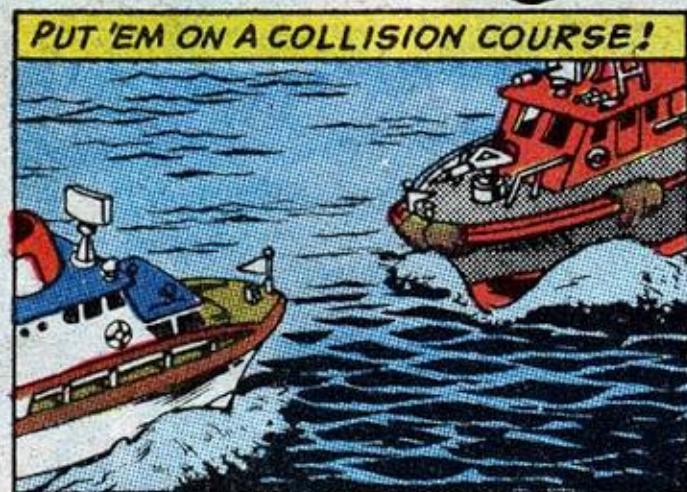
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HIGH SEAS
with

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POWERED by the FAMOUS
MOTORIFIC
MOTORS!

NOW HEAR THIS: NOW MOTORIFIC® TAKES TO THE WATER WITH BOATERIFIC. THERE ARE SIX GREAT BOATERIFIC BOATS AND EACH ONE HAS A FULLY STEERABLE RUDDER, REAL PROPELLER POWER, AN' AUTOMATIC BAILING PUMP AND SUPER-REALISTIC DETAILS. JUST SNAP IN A MOTOR... BATTEN DOWN THE HATCH AND FULL SPEED AHEAD WITH BOATERIFIC!



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DO ALL KINDS OF TRICKY MANEUVERS!



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PUMP KEEPS EACH BOAT
RIDING HIGH.



BE THE SKIPPER OF YOUR OWN BOATERIFIC FLEET... GET 'EM ALL!

"BARRACUDA" SPORT FISHERMAN



"ATLAS" HARBOR TUG



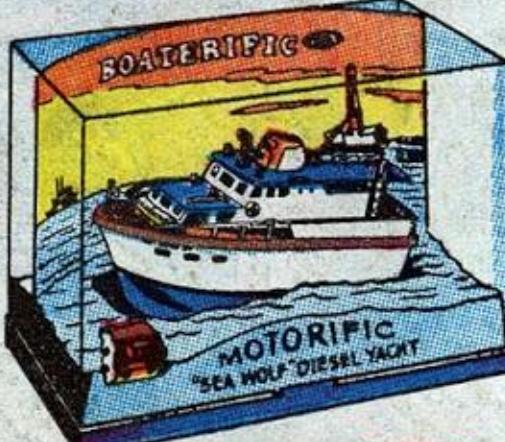
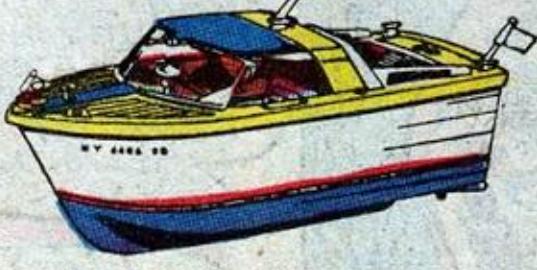
"MIGHTY BLAZE" FIRE BOAT



"KING OF THE SEA" CABIN CRUISER



"WHIRL-A-WAY" RUNABOUT



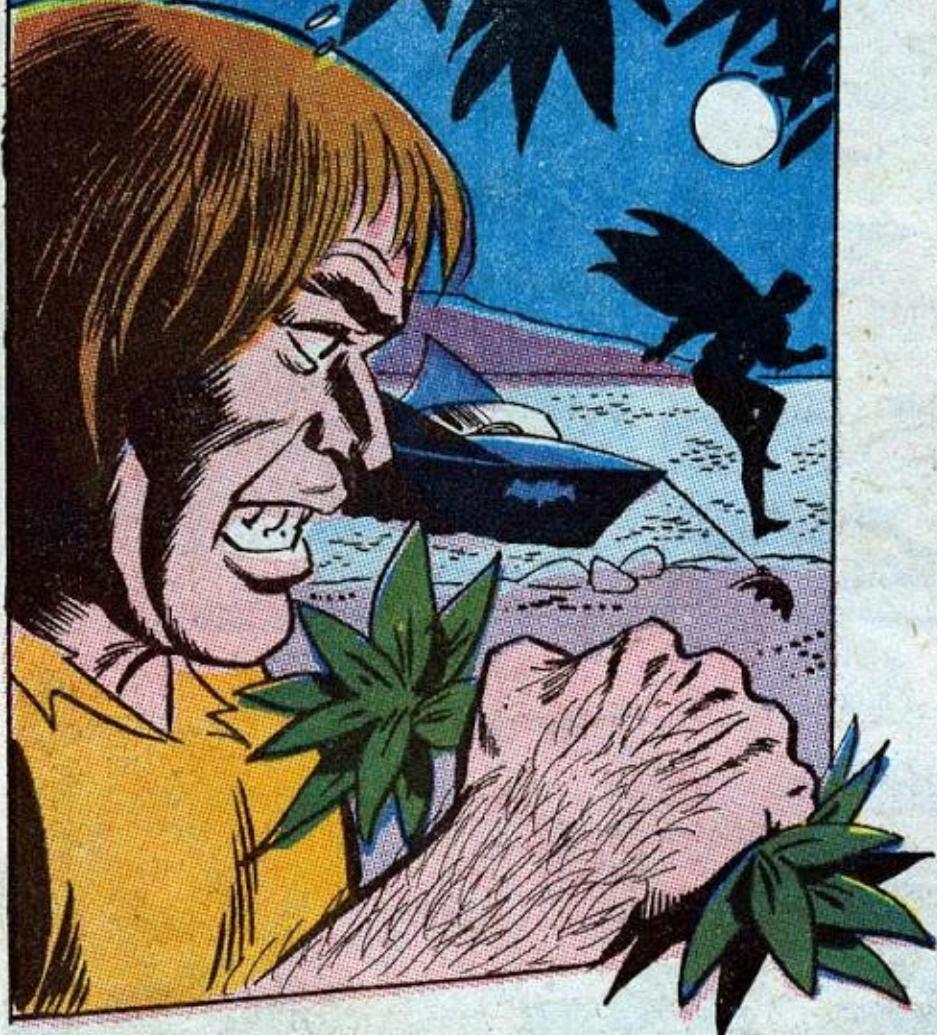
EACH BOAT COMES WITH A MOTORIFIC MOTOR,
STURDY HULL AND SNAP-ON SUPERSTRUCTURE
... ALL IN AN ACTION SETTING. YOU CAN EVEN
DISPLAY 'EM IN YOUR ROOM. THEY'RE THE BEST
LOOKIN' BOATS, IN AND OUT OF THE WATER!

BOATERIFIC™...it's TERRIFIC...IT'S

IDEAL

BLIND WITH FURY, THE BRUTISH BEHEMOTH STALKS HIS ISLAND HOME IN SEARCH OF THE COWLED CRUSADER-- WHEN SUDDENLY...

BATMAN-- COME! BUT TOO LATE! HE DIE IN QUICKSAND-- LIKE ME...



OUT OF THE GATHERING DUSK, TWO MASSIVE HANDS REACH AND CLUTCH...

YOU COME WITH ME!
YOU DIE WITH ME!



HELD LIKE A BABY IN THAT AWESOME FINGER-GRIP, BATMAN IS CARRIED THROUGH THE ISLAND FOREST...

HE'S GOT HANDS
LIKE STEEL
VISSES--
IMPOSSIBLE TO
BREAK HIS HOLD!

BUT I THINK I'VE
DEDUCED WHY
THE SIGHT OF
BATMAN
TRIGGERED OFF
THE BLOCK-
BUSTER'S
PERSONALITY
OF MARK
DESMOND,
WITH ALL HIS
HATE FOR
BATMAN!

MARK LEFT WAYNE FOUNDATION AND CAME HERE ON HIS DAYS OFF! THE WET SAND THAT COVERS HIM NOW SHOWS HE RECENTLY WAS IN THE QUICKSAND BOG FROM WHICH I RESCUED HIM AS BRUCE WAYNE! AND SO...

...HE CAME TO THIS POOL FROM TIME TO TIME TO RE-LIVE THOSE FEAR-FILLED MOMENTS WHEN HE WAS A YOUTH-- CAUGHT IN THIS VERY QUICKSAND BOG-- AFRAID HE WAS GOING TO DIE!

WHEN I FAILED TO RESCUE HIM AS I ONCE DID-- HE CAME TO HATE BATMAN-- BRUCE WAYNE ALL OVER AGAIN!



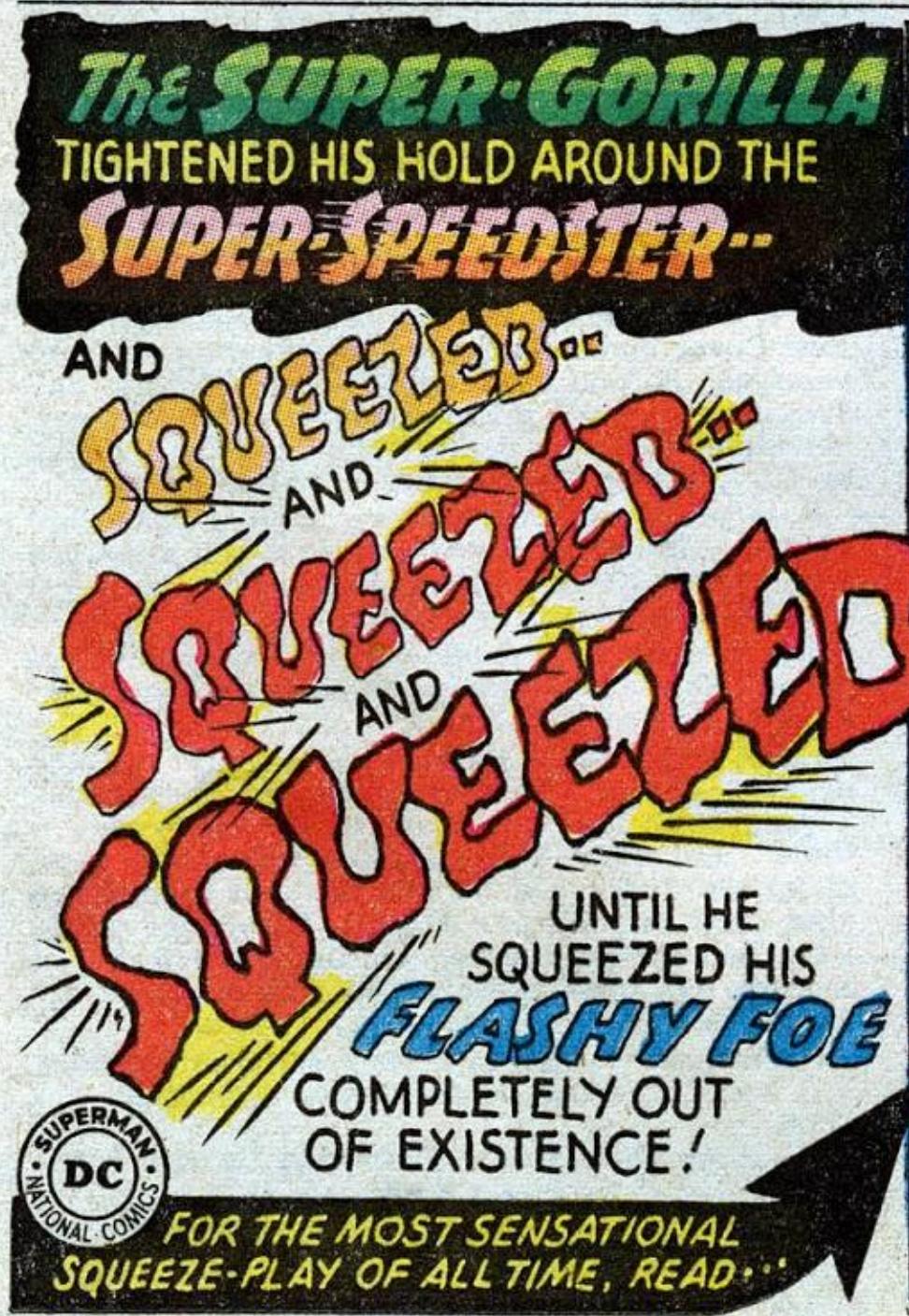
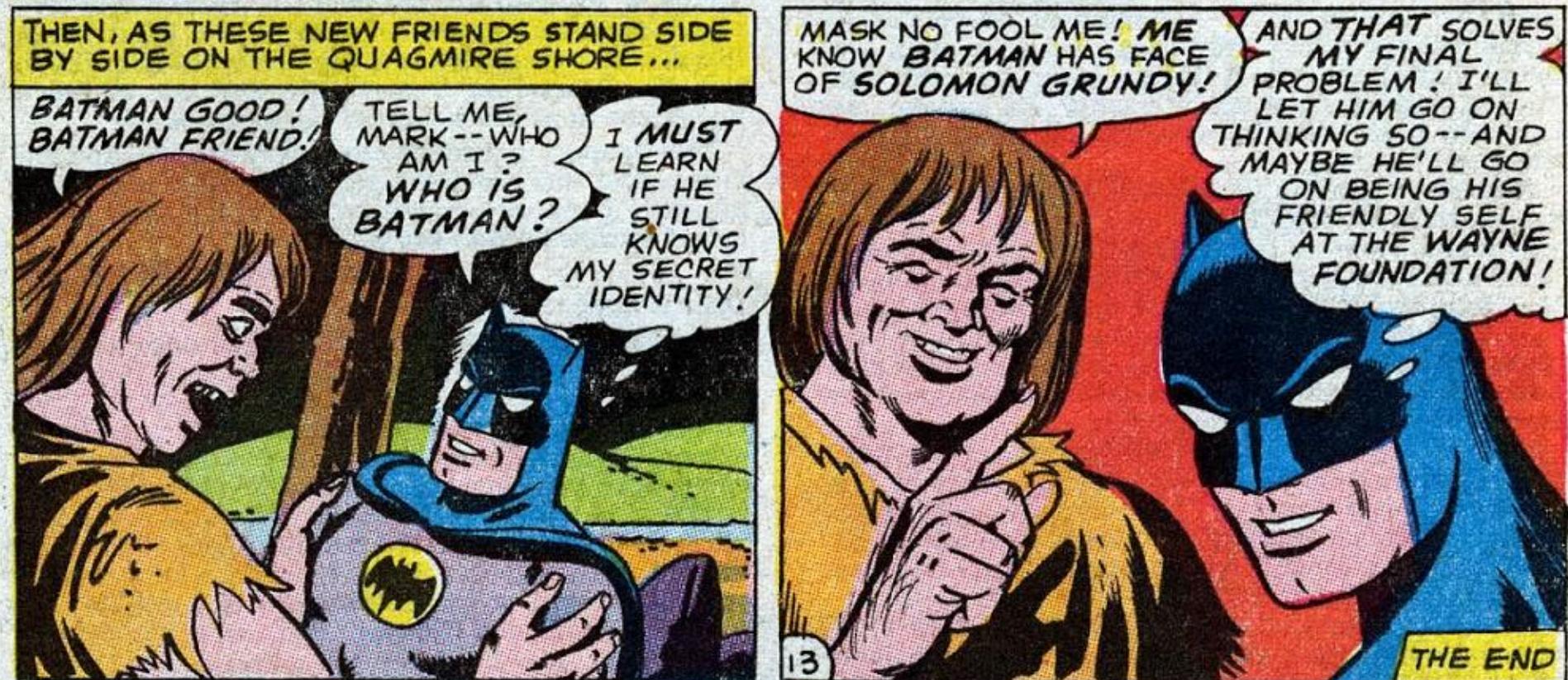
WITH A BELLOW OF PURE HATE,
BLOCKBUSTER HURLS BATMAN INTO
THE QUIVY QUAGMIRE...

KEEP BATMAN HERE! NOW
WHEN I DIE -- HE ALREADY
DEAD!

FOR LONG MOMENTS
THE SOGGY SANDS
HEAVE AND QUAKE.
BUBBLES OF AIR
RISE AND BREAK.
THERE IS NO SIGN
OF THE MASKED
MANHUNTER!
IS THIS--THE END
OF BATMAN?

AND THEN--THE QUICKSAND JELLIES
--SHAKES WILDLY-- AS SOME-
THING PRESSES UPWARD...





LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

Dear Editor:

"The Penguin Takes a Flyer—into the Future" in *Batman* 190, made *Penguin* a better foe than ever before. Why? Because before his trick-umbrellas were no different than *Top's* tops, *Capt. Boomerang's* boomerangs, *Riddler's* puzzles, *ad infinitum*. But now *Penguin* has topped them all with these robot-umbrellas. All our "umbrella bird" (I'm surprised that one of your writers hasn't read of the *umbrella bird* and used it as a punny name for *Pengy*) has to do is sit back and press buttons! Unless the next *Riddler* or *Cluemaster* story is a masterpiece, I'd say the *Penguin* is my favorite *Batman*-foe. Don't do a thing to alter his personality! The way you portrayed him in "Flyer"—egotistical, snobbish (especially the way he acts so superior when puns are being made), in step with the latest scientific advances, and for once acting really evil, and not, as in years past, that he wouldn't kill a flea—is just the way I like him!

Now don't get the impression I thought the story was perfect. It had traces of campness in it, and you don't seem to be getting the idea that campness is on its way out. The only two good influences the *Batman-TV* show has had on your mag is that:

a) There at least seems to be something in the "New Look" utility belt besides the *batarang* and *batrope*. (Only the belt should be redesigned to look like it can hold all that stuff.)

b) The increase of super-villains, who, along with the smart normal crooks like Johnny Witts or the "Best Dressed Corpses" guy, are the only guys with any chance versus the *Caped Crusader*, who never gets hit by the two-bit thugs' bullets because they're too scared of him.

Let us first agree that criminals do not wear high silk hats in prison like *Penguin* does. Next let's agree that *batbrellas* are ridiculous for *Batman* to use. Leave umbrellas to the *Penguin*; besides, *Batman* could have found a more realistic flying apparatus. Speaking of ridiculous gadgets, don't let fans convince you that the *Penguin*-robot was ridiculous—it's getting so robots are the most believable science-fiction gadgets around.

I hope I haven't misinterpreted your statements but it seems to me that you think "if the readers want campness, let's give some to them—if we don't, we won't sell as many mags." Now, look. Your magazine will not drop in sales if you get rid of the *batbrellas*, the "holy—" ies, etc. If you think that your sales will be crippled without campness, remove the camp stuff from *Batman* and *Detective* and have those two mags for people like me; and for the Camp-ers, put *Batman* in another mag wherein he teams up with the *Inferior Five*, because to readers who won't read an "Uncamp Batman", he's just a bundle of laughs.

—Peter Sanderson, Jr., Boston, Mass.

(When we took our camp-line slant in *Batman*, we were going along with a trend. Many of our readers understood that—just as they understood that when camp went "out" our traditional type *Batman* stories would be "in". This issue's contents will show our forward-backward status!—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Just a few words on "The Penguin Takes a Flier—Into the Future" in the March *Batman*. It was the most ridiculous, absurd, fantastic, and unrealistic story to appear in the three years of the *New Look*. (Oh, by the way, Happy Anniversary—and I use the term "happy" very loosely.) I hope this is the last I see of the *Master of Fowl Play*, the *Man of 1,000 Umbrellas*, the *Bumbershot Buccaneer*, the *Birdman Bandit*, the *Wicked Waddler* for a long, long time.

I could barely survive the first half of the story,

but then—forget it! Those *robotellas* were the most idiotic things I've ever heard of. Then *Batman* and *Robin* had to get in the act with their *Batrellas*. If you ask me, I think someone hit ye editor with an umbrella, for he was *batty* to approve this story. I hope he recovers before the next issue.

—Gary Collins, New York, N.Y.

(Recovered in plenty of time—to print the follow-up, reverse-viewpoint letter!—Editor)

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

Even though the *Penguin* isn't one of my personal favorites, I must admit that the story "The Penguin Takes a Flyer—Into the Future" featured in the March *Batman*, was very remarkable. What made this novel so enjoyable was the better than fantastic Bob Kane artwork. This surely was one of Bob's finest jobs in all the years he's done *Batman*.

The weapon umbrellas were very original and exciting, and this along with the *Penguin's* new angle of future gimmicks, made for one of the most interesting stories in the past half-year.

—Dave Truesdale, Morton, Ill.

Dear Editor:

At least the *Penguin* has taste! For once a crook objected to the rotten puns *Batman* and *Robin* so habitually make. Not that I advise against them; oh no, it's one of their trademarks—but tone them down a little. I find it hard to believe that anyone could fight brilliantly, overcome the *Penguin's* gimmicks, and still coin so much corn. The same applies to "holy" gags. If I wanted them, I'd watch the TV show. You've been successful for years in your own way. Don't start copycatting now.

—Donna Crowley, Inglewood, California.

* * * * *

Dear Editor:

The third annual "Batmania Ballot" (for stories published in '66) results are hereby being presented to you as were the results of the first and second tabulations. I hope they are of interest to you, and that the additional comment of selected voters will be of some constructive value in shaping future stories.

"Death Knocks Three Times"—*Batman* 180, May, was a double award winner. It was selected as the Best Cover and Best Story of the year by the *Batmanians*. Second best cover was *Detective* 347 showing a vengeful, grieving *Robin* and a newspaper headlining *Batman's* death. "The Cluemaster's Topsy-Turvy Crimes" was runner-up as best story.

Best artist selection was virtually a draw, but Carmine Infantino edged out Bob Kane by two votes. John Broome won as top writer. The *Joker* was the *Bat-Fan* pick as a villain.

Overwhelming approval was given for more newspaper reprints in the *Batman Giants*, and fans want a full issue of such material.

Fan Comments: "A Batman that's camp . . . could never be champ!" This term aptly describes the no. 1 complaint. They are tired of the "Holy this 'n that's" and other TV orientated influences. Complaint no. 2: They don't like the split cover logos (*Detective* and *World's Finest*). Complaint no. 3: Less balloons and cover blurbs. Many feel that *Batman* has been overexposed with his guest appearances.

Continued success with your editorial pursuits, and may 1967 be as productive a year as was 1966.

—Biljo White, Editor, *Batmania*, Columbus, Mo.

* * * * *

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

**ANOTHER
"MYSTERY ANALYSTS
of GOTHAM CITY"
THRILLER!**

FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS,
ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE
MARTIN TELLMAN HAD BEEN
COLLECTING INEXPENSIVE COPIES
OF WORLD-FAMOUS PAINTINGS.
THERE WAS A STRANGE MYSTERY
CONNECTED WITH THOSE MASTER-
PIECES--A MYSTERY WHICH SO
COMPLETELY BAFFLED THE ACE
DETECTIVE THAT HE CHALLENGED
HIS FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE
MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM
CITY TO SOLVE IT!

BATMAN

THE PROBLEM OF THE PROXY PAINTINGS!

YEAH--BUT ON THE
OTHER HAND I
MIGHT GET
BATMAN!

DON'T SHOOT!
YOU MIGHT
HIT ME!



AT THE HOME OF ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE MARTIN TELLMAN, A FOURSOME HAS GATHERED FOR ITS REGULAR MONTHLY BRIDGE SESSION ! MILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST REGINALD STONEFELLOW AND HIS SON RONALD -- AND FILLING IN FOR THE AILING ARCHITECT RANDOLPH ABBOT, ART SCHOLAR HAVERFORD MIMMS...

REGINALD, YOU KNOW HAVERFORD MIMMS, THE CELEBRATED ART EXPERT ?

OF COURSE ! HE HELPED ME CHOOSE MY FAMOUS ART COLLECTION !

PARTWAY THROUGH A RUBBER, "DUMMY" MIMMS WANDERS OFF INTO THE LIVING ROOM-- AND RUSHES BACK...

MARTIN--I NEVER KNEW YOU WERE SO RICH !

ME ? WHAT EVER GAVE YOU THAT IDEA ?



AS THE ART EXPERT LEADS THE OTHERS INTO THE LIVING ROOM ...

THIS IS A GENUINE MATISSE, WORTH ABOUT \$50,000 ! AND ALONG SIDE IT AN ORIGINAL SEURAT--VALUED AT \$100,000 !



I'M SURPRISED AT YOU, HAVERFORD ! THOSE ARE ONLY COPIES OF ORIGINALS-- COSTING LESS THAN \$100 EACH !

WHEN IT COMES TO MYSTERIES, MARTIN, I BOW TO YOUR SUPERIOR KNOWLEDGE ! WHEN IT COMES TO ART, I AM NEVER WRONG ! I ASSURE YOU THERE'S ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS OF ORIGINAL PAINTINGS HANGING HERE !

I C-CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT...

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, ANOTHER MEETING--THIS TIME OF THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS OF GOTHAM CITY...

AND FELLOW MYSTERY ANALYSTS, I STILL CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE COPIES OF MASTERPIECES I BOUGHT TURNED INTO THE REAL THING ...



ONE AFTER ANOTHER EACH OF THE ANALYSTS THEORIZES...

MAYBE SOMEONE SMUGGLED THOSE PAINTINGS INTO THE COUNTRY...

...AND IS USING YOUR HOME AS A HIDE-OUT FOR THEM...

COULD YOUR WIFE HAVE SECRETLY BOUGHT THEM AS A GIFT?

MYSTERY NOVELIST,
KAYE DAYE

PERHAPS IT'S A FANTASTIC SERIES OF CLERICAL ERRORS! THE ORIGINALS WERE GIVEN TO YOU INSTEAD OF COPIES!

CRIME RE-PORTER,
ART SADDOWS

FOR ONCE, HAVERFORD MIMMS WAS MISTAKEN...

POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON

NO--NOT HAVERFORD MIMMS! THE ANSWER MUST LIE SOMEWHERE ELSE!

INDEED IT DOES, BATMAN! I'VE ALREADY CHECKED OUT EVERY ONE OF YOUR THEORIES-- AND MORE! NONE OF THEM FITS! THE PAINTINGS' AUTHENTICITY IS BEYOND QUESTION! HOW THEY GOT THERE--AND WHY-- ARE QUESTIONS INTRIGUING ENOUGH TO CHALLENGE THE MYSTERY ANALYSTS!

DISTRICT ATTORNEY DANTON

PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR,
HUGH RANKIN...

CAPED CRUSADER BATMAN

MARTIN, I'M SURPRISED YOU LEFT AN UNGUARDED FORTUNE OF PAINTINGS IN YOUR HOME TO COME HERE TONIGHT!

THAT'S ONE THING I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT, HUGH! I'M SAFE-GUARDED BY MY OWN SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM, CONNECTED DIRECTLY TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS! SO WHAT'S OUR FIRST MOVE, ANALYSTS?

A THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF THE ROOM WHERE THE PAINTINGS ARE HUNG! FRESH EYES MAY SPOT SOMETHING YOU MISSED!

COMMISSIONER GORDON, SUPPOSE YOU, KAYE, AND ART DRIVE ALONG WITH ME TO MARTY'S HOUSE? THE REST OF YOU PICK UP REGINALD STONEFELLOW AND SON AND BRING THEM TO MARTY'S...

WHY DO YOU WANT THEM? THEY SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING...

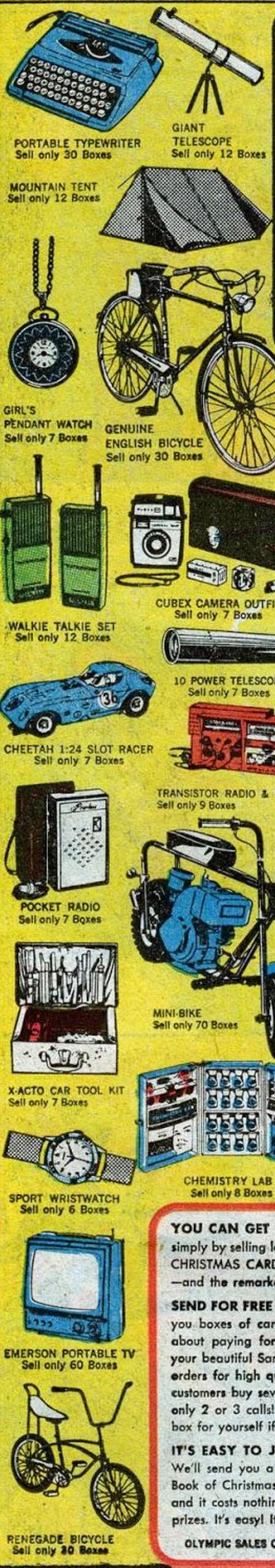
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I WANT TO SEE THEM! BECAUSE--REGINALD-- DOESN'T--KNOW-- ANYTHING!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

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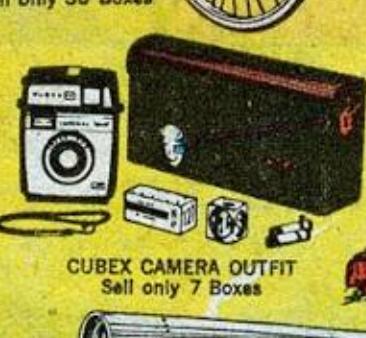
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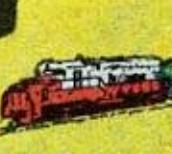


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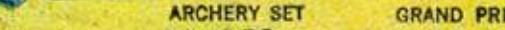
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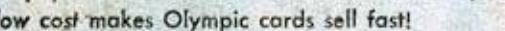
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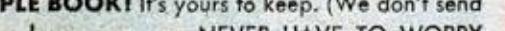
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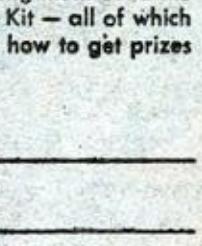
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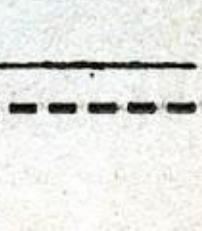
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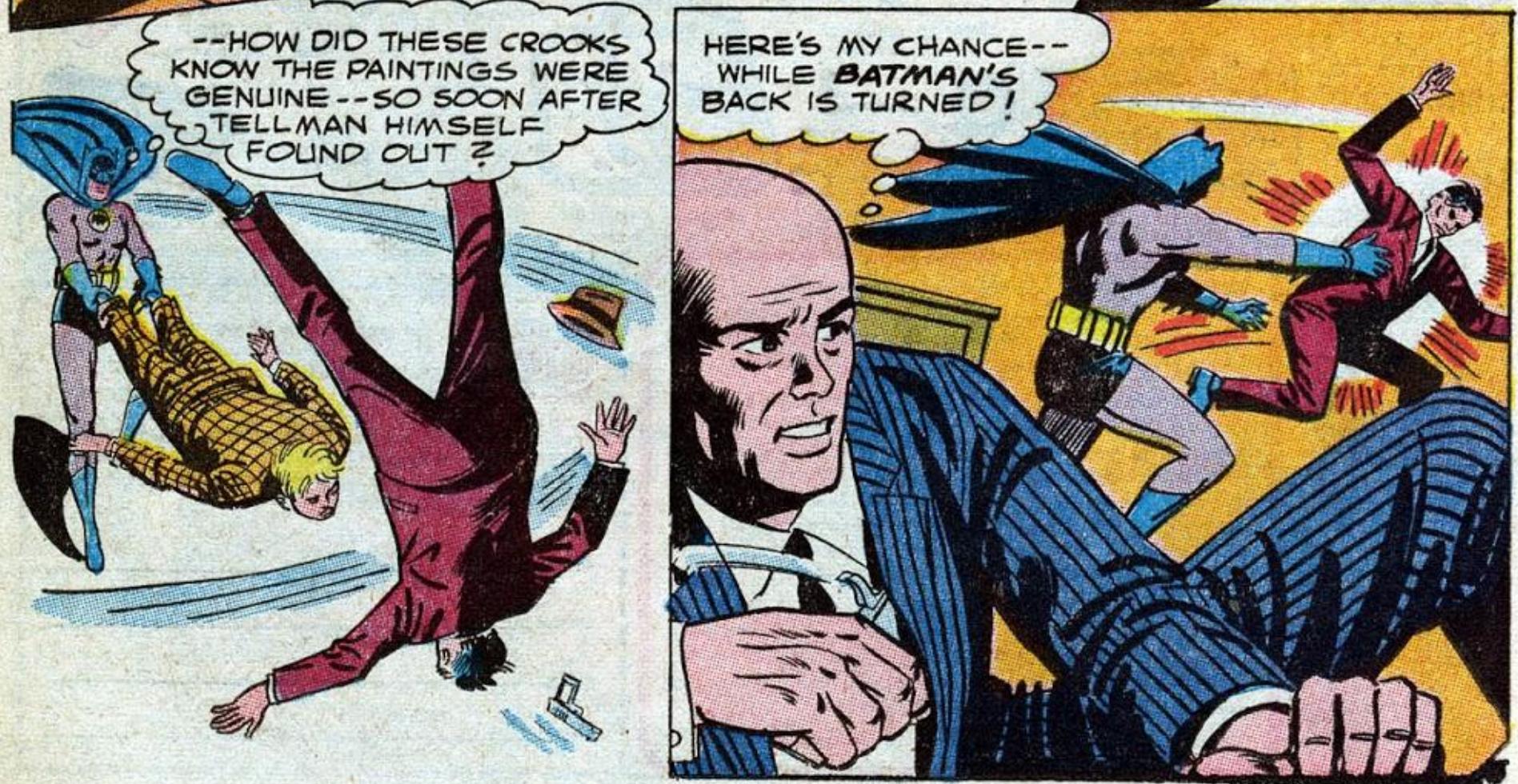
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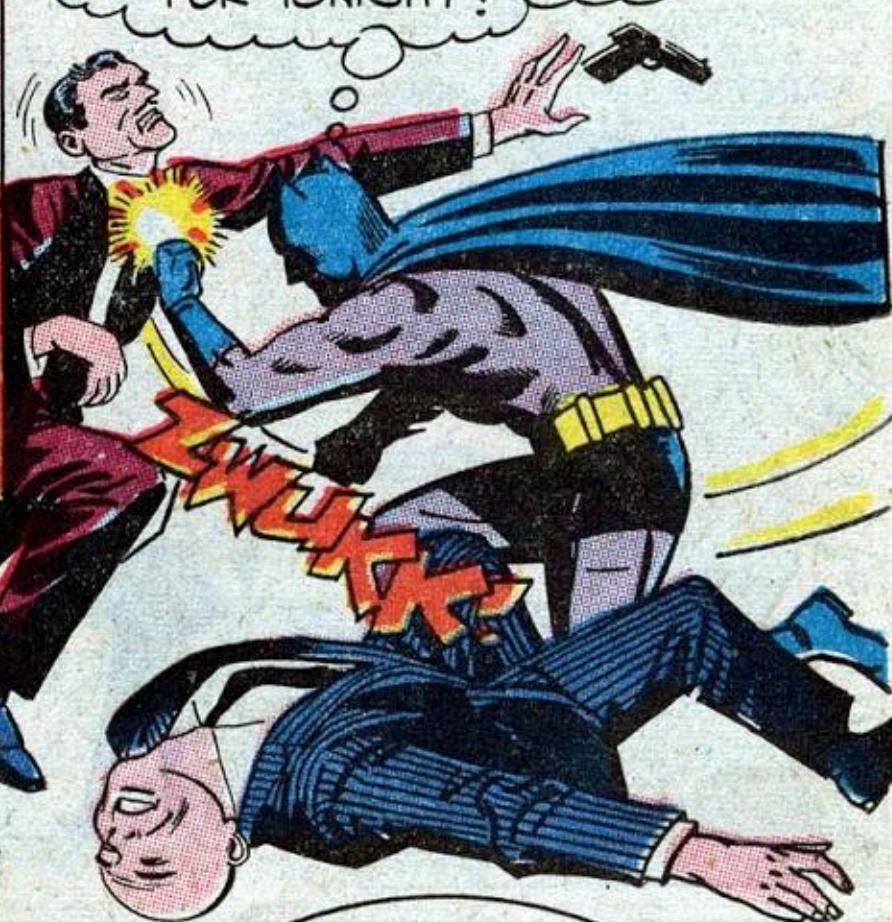
HEARING A FAINT--BUT TELLTALE SOUND--
BATMAN PULLS A METAL PLAQUE OFF
THE WALL AND...

YOUR REVOLVER
HAMMER CLICKED
WHEN YOU
COCKED IT!



A LEAP--A FIST
THAT LANDS
LIKE A LIVING
HAMMER...

AND THAT
TAKES CARE OF THE LAST
BEHIND-THE-BACK ATTACK
FOR TONIGHT!



LATER, AFTER THE SUMMONED POLICE HAVE
COME AND GONE, REGINALD AND RONALD
STONEFELLOW ARRIVE WITH THE OTHER
ANALYSTS ...

MARTY TELLS ME
YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING WHY I
DIDN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE
TRUE VALUE OF THOSE PAINTINGS!
THE ANSWER IS -- BECAUSE I
GAVE THEM
TO HIM !

YOU--YOU,
REGINALD?!
BUT
WHATEVER
FOR?

--BUT YOU
ABSOLUTELY RE-
FUSED TO ACCEPT ANY
REWARD! HOWEVER, I'M A
MAN WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO BE
INDEBTED TO ANYONE! WHEN I SAW
WHAT COPIES OF PAINTINGS YOU BOUGHT
FROM TIME TO TIME, I WENT OUT AND
PURCHASED THEIR ORIGINALS!



SINCE DAD AND I FREQUENTLY PLAYED BRIDGE HERE, IT WAS SIMPLE FOR US-- WHEN EITHER OF US WAS DUMMY-- TO REMOVE THE COPY AND REPLACE IT WITH THE ORIGINAL WE BROUGHT ALONG IN THE CAR ...

HOW DID THOSE CROOKS SUDDENLY DISCOVER THE VALUE OF THOSE PAINTINGS?



I DON'T KNOW! SURELY YOU'RE NOT ACCUSING ANY OF US OF ATTEMPTING TO STEAL THE PAINTINGS--?

CERTAINLY NOT! BUT-- WHO ELSE IS THERE THAT KNEW THEIR TRUE WORTH?

HAVERFORD MIMMS IS ABOVE SUSPICION!

I WOULDN'T TRY AND STEAL MY OWN PROPERTY!

WAIT--WHAT DID RONALD DO WITH MARTIN'S COPIES AFTER HE REPLACED THEM WITH THE ORIGINALS?

I SOLD THEM TO THE GOTHAM ART CURIO SHOP--

THE GOTHAM ART CURIO SHOP? WHY, THAT'S WHERE I BOUGHT THE COPIES-- FROM THE OWNER JOHN BURELSON!

AH! NOW SUPPOSE THIS

BURELSON LEARNED

FROM THE ART JOURNALS THAT REGINALD STONEFELLOW HAD PURCHASED THE GENUINE PAINTINGS-- SHORTLY AFTER HE HIMSELF HAD SOLD MARTY THE COPIES?



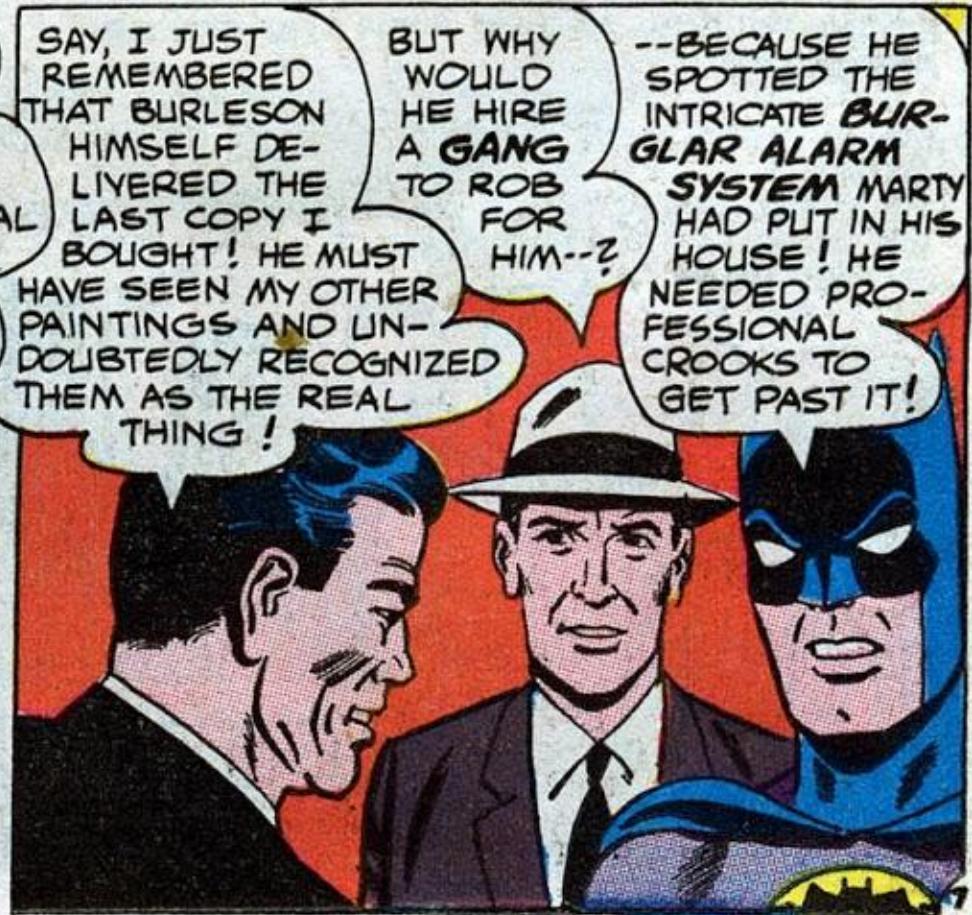
OVER THE YEARS, HE WOULD HAVE RECOGNIZED A PATTERN! THIS, WHEN THE COPIES WHICH HE HAD SOLD MARTY WERE RETURNED TO HIM, ONLY DAYS AFTER EACH ORIGINAL HAD BEEN PURCHASED--

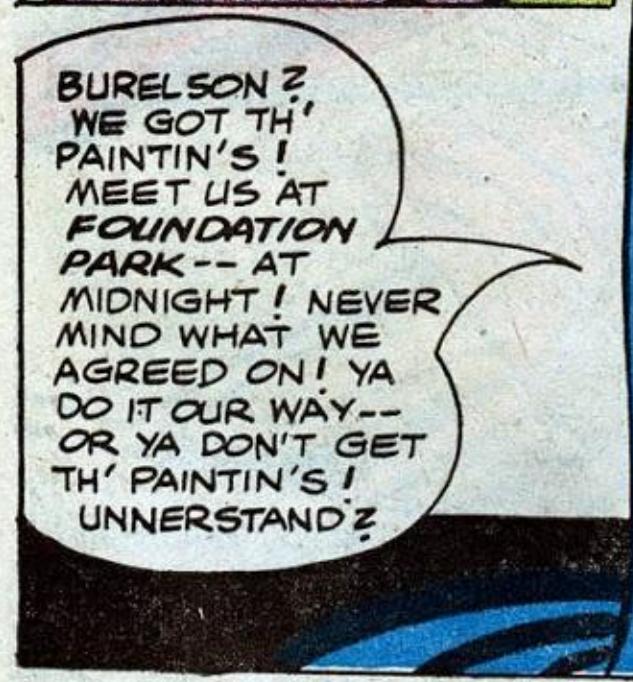
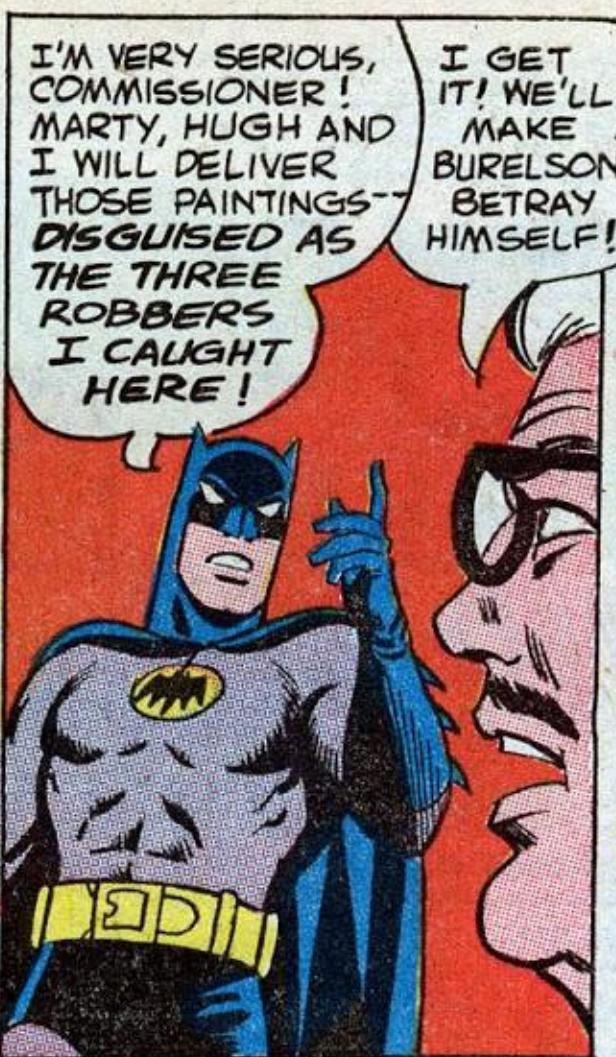
--WHICH HE RECOGNIZED AS THE VERY SAME COPIES HE SOLD TO MARTY-- THROUGH HIS SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION MARK-- HE'D HAVE BECOME SUSPICIOUS!

SAY, I JUST REMEMBERED THAT BURLESON HIMSELF DELIVERED THE LAST COPY I BOUGHT! HE MUST HAVE SEEN MY OTHER PAINTINGS AND UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZED THEM AS THE REAL THING!

BUT WHY WOULD HE HIRE A GANG TO ROB FOR HIM--?

--BECAUSE HE SPOTTED THE INTRICATE BURGLAR ALARM SYSTEM MARTY HAD PUT IN HIS HOUSE! HE NEEDED PROFESSIONAL CROOKS TO GET PAST IT!





AS THE CLOCK TOWER IN FOUNDATION PARK CHIMES THE HOUR OF MID-NIGHT...

WE'LL PUT THE SACK DOWN HERE-- AND STAY FIFTEEN FEET FROM IT-- JUST IN CASE !

WHEN BATMAN SAYS "JUST IN CASE", HE'S GOT SOMETHING SPECIAL FIGURED OUT !

THROUGH THE MOON-CAST SHADOWS COMES JOHN BURELSON...

ARE CAUTIOUS CRIMINALS ! YOU THINK I'M OUT TO CHEAT YOU, eh ?

YOU CERTAINLY JUST LOOK AT THE PAINTIN'S, THEN GIVE US OUR PAYOFF !

YES, THIS IS THE STUFF I SENT YOU FOR-- BUT YOU MADE A FATAL ERROR !

A GUN BARREL GLEAMS IN THE MOON-LIGHT AS BURELSON TENSES INTO SUDDEN MOVEMENT...

I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE--BUT YOU'RE NOT THE THREE HOODS I HIRED TO STEAL THESE PICTURES !

HOW CAN YA SAY A THING LIKE THAT, PAL ?

BECAUSE I TOLD THOSE HOODS NOT TO BRING THE SMALL MODIGLIANI ! IT ISN'T WORTH MORE THAN A THOUSAND DOLLARS--SO I DIDN'T WANT IT ! NOW-- GET READY TO DIE !

EVEN BATMAN COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN SOMETHING LIKE THAT ! NO CHANCE TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO BURELSON TO STOP HIM FROM KILLING US--

BEFORE THE CURIO SHOP OWNER CAN TIGHTEN HIS TRIGGER FINGER-- "BATMAN" PURES DOWN HARD WITH HIS FOOT AND...

I DELIBERATELY PLACED THE SACK THERE SO THAT WHEN I'D STEP ON THIS AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEM STARTER-- BURELSON WOULD BE IN POSITION TO GET THE FULL EFFECT OF THE WATER!

THROUGH THE SPRAY OF WATER FLYS THE DISGUISED BATMAN...

I REALIZED WE MIGHT GIVE OURSELVES AWAY BECAUSE OF SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW! SO I TOOK PRECALUTIONS! THAT SUDDEN GEYSER OF WATER DISTRACTED BURELSON JUST ENOUGH...

SOME DAYS LATER IN THE GOTHAM CITY MUSEUM OF ART...

MARTIN DONATED ALL HIS ORIGINAL PAINTINGS TO THE MUSEUM!

AND IN RETURN THEY NAMED THIS PART OF THE MUSEUM--THE MARTIN TELLMAN ROOM!

WHICH IS REWARD ENOUGH FOR ANY MAN!



THE END

DOWN DOWN DOWN

YOU'LL SHRINK
to SUB-MICROSCOPIC
SIZE!

AND THEN YOU'LL
ENTER THE MINISCULE
WORLD WHERE

AQUAMAN
KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS,
AND **The ATOM**, WORLD'S
SMALLEST SUPER-HERO, ARE
TRAPPED AND IMPRISONED!

IT'S ANOTHER
GREAT DC
TEAM-UP IN...

BRAVE and the BOLD

ON SALE JUNE 22nd



This **WOLF BOY**
is **JIMMY OLSEN!**



GROWL!

This **WITCH DOCTOR**
is also
JIMMY OLSEN!



And this
GIANT TURTLE MAN
is **JIMMY OLSEN**, too!



ALL THESE AND MORE OF THE
WEIRDEST ADVENTURES
OF **SUPERMAN'S PAL**
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CAPTIVE OF THE SUPERMEN!

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BE MY GUEST
AT AMERICA'S
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SAY PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN THIS COLLECTION. YOU'LL BE PLUCKING COINS FROM
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YOU'LL ACTUALLY DO OVER **238** BAFFLING TRICKS, INCLUDING:

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- THE SECRET OF NUMBER 9
- PHANTOM WRITING
- GROWING MONEY TRICK
- THE COIN LEAPING TRICK
- DISAPPEARING HANDKERCHIEF
- THE KNOT THAT UNTIES ITSELF
- THE DISAPPEARING COIN
- MAKING A BALL ROLL BY ITSELF
- MIRACLE CARD JUMPING TRICK
- THE PHANTOM MONEY TRICK, etc.

**ANYONE... 6 TO 60... CAN
PERFORM THESE FEATS OF MAGIC...
ONCE YOU KNOW THEIR SECRETS!**

COMPLETE SECRETS REVEALED!

EVERY SINGLE TRICK FULLY EXPLAINED! YOU SAW SOME OF
THEM ON T.V. MANY WERE PERFORMED BY SUCH MASTER
MAGICIANS AS HOUDINI, THURSTON, etc. AND NOW... **YOU!**
CAN DO ALL OF THESE FAMOUS MAGIC TRICKS. THEY'RE FUN!

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The Old Electrician is back with another battery of super-charged stories, so jam-full of electrifying action that they're sure to deliver the biggest jolt since someone told Ben Franklin to go fly a kite! But you aren't here to read introductions, no matter how magnificent the prose it's written in. So, without further ado—on to the previews of coming attractions!

Can the KING OF BEASTS make himself EMPEROR OF EARTH? LION-MANE not only possessed the super-powers to accomplish this feat—he was under an irresistible compulsion to do so! "ATTACK OF THE JUNGLE JUGGERNAUT" in the September issue of HAWKMAN, No. 21, which hits the stands on June 8! Don't miss this one!

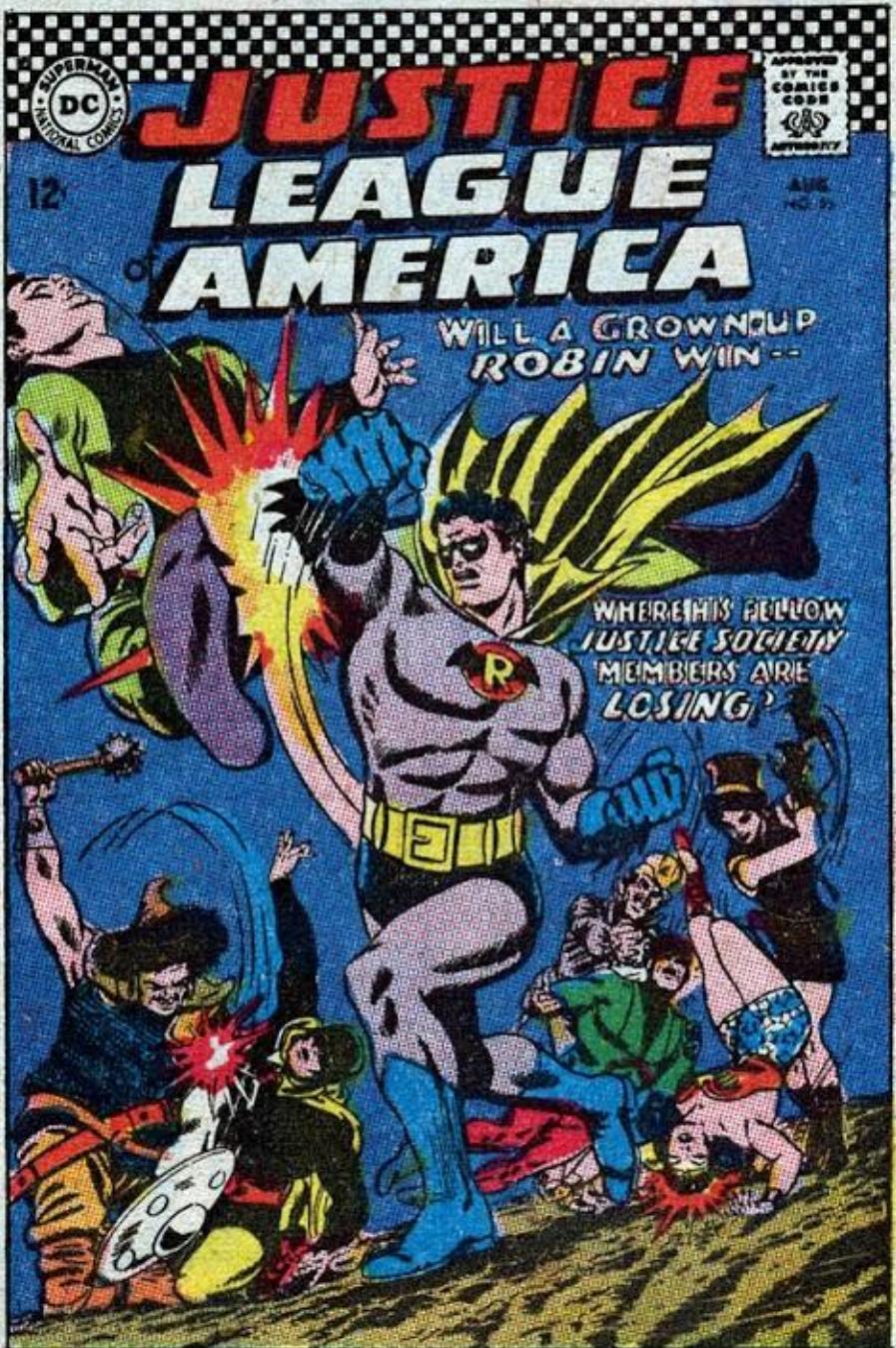
The HAUNTED TANK was on the most rugged mission of its explosive life! It was the only armored vehicle left which was still valiantly trying to obey its C.O.'s order—"STAY ALIVE UNTIL DARK!" This tense, suspenseful tale of battle adventure rumbles your way in the September G.I. COMBAT, No. 125, on June 8!



You wanted him back . . . so the COMPOSITE SUPERMAN returns in the August WORLD'S FINEST, No. 168! Yes, SUPERMAN and BATMAN again tangle with the only villain who has ever defeated them BOTH . . . the crook who has ALL the powers of the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! You've never seen such a battle . . . and you'll never guess the surprise finish! On sale June 13.

JIMMY OLSEN's weirdest adventures are featured in the September 80 PAGE GIANT, No. 104! You'll see him as a Wolf Man, a Witch Doctor, a Giant Turtle Man, a modern GULLIVER, trapped by tiny men . . . and learn of the fantastic HOAX he once put over on his best pal, SUPERMAN! Also, a thrilling ELASTIC LAD adventure! On sale June 13.

Once again, in the August JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, No. 55, is the annual treat for fans of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA! The line-up in "THE SUPER-CRISIS THAT STRUCK EARTH-TWO" includes HOURMAN, WILDCAT, HAWKMAN, WONDER WOMAN, JOHNNY THUNDER, MR. TERRIFIC—and a GROWN-UP ROBIN, replacing EARTH-TWO'S BATMAN! On sale June 13.



Those TERRIBLE TWINS, ROMULUS and RUFO, are still bugging the BLACKHAWKS! Only now they're getting help from a foreign power that wants to lay its mitts on the U.S. government's top-secret weapon! You'd better believe it . . . the MAGNIFICENT 7 really have their hands full in the August BLACKHAWK, No. 235, on sale June 13!

Twice the fun for the price of one is guaranteed in the September FOX AND CROW (WITH STANLEY AND HIS MONSTER), No. 105! Those two friendly feuders, FAUNTLEROY FOX AND CRAWFORD CROW, cross swords and words, while little STANLEY introduces his benign beast to education in the classroom with laugh-provoking results. On sale June 15.

The PT Boat was tracking an enemy destroyer, only to find itself being tracked down by monster hunters from a lost world! It's another battle blockbuster from the WAR THAT TIME FORGOT, heading your way in the September issue of STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES, No. 134, which hits the newsstands on June 15!

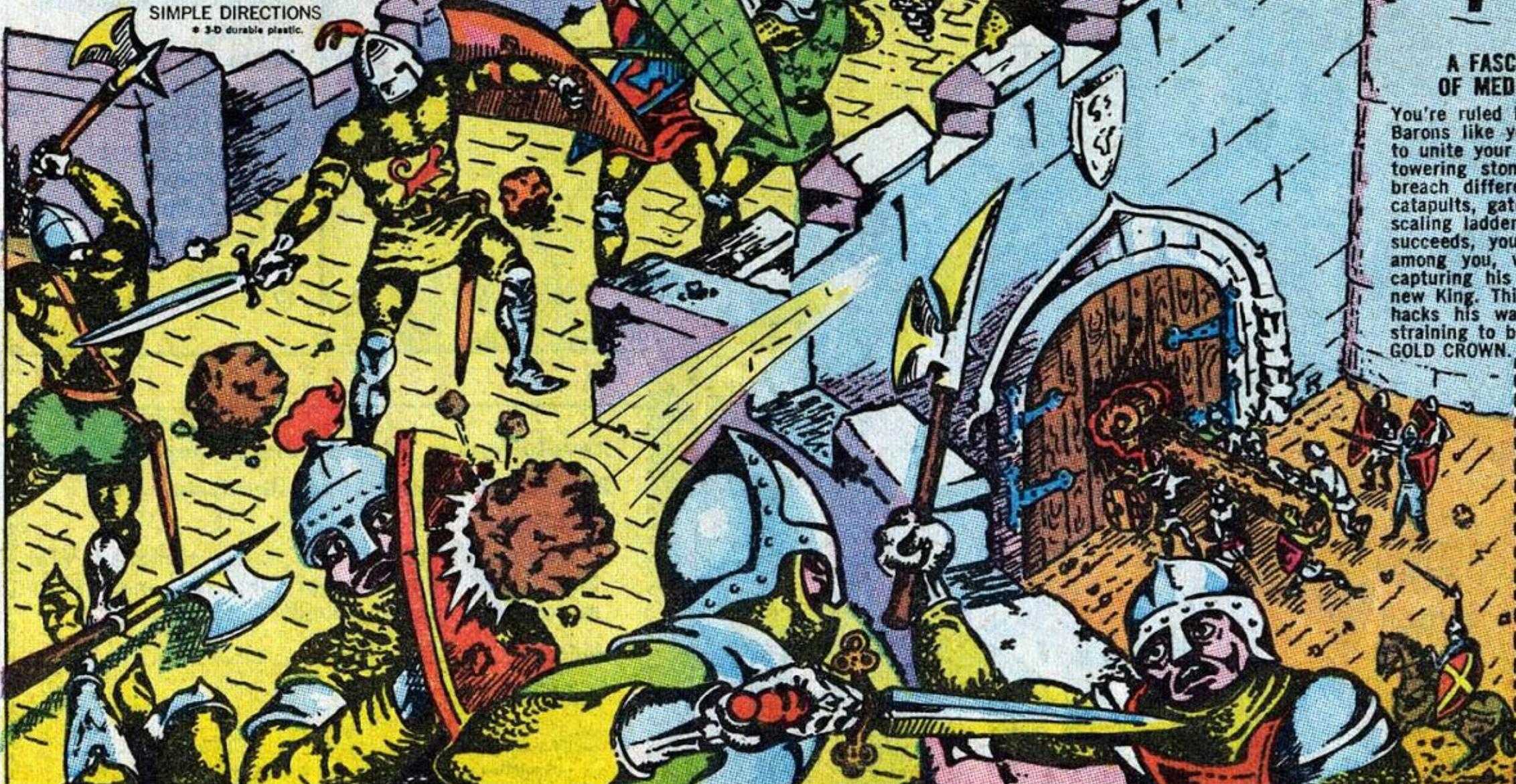
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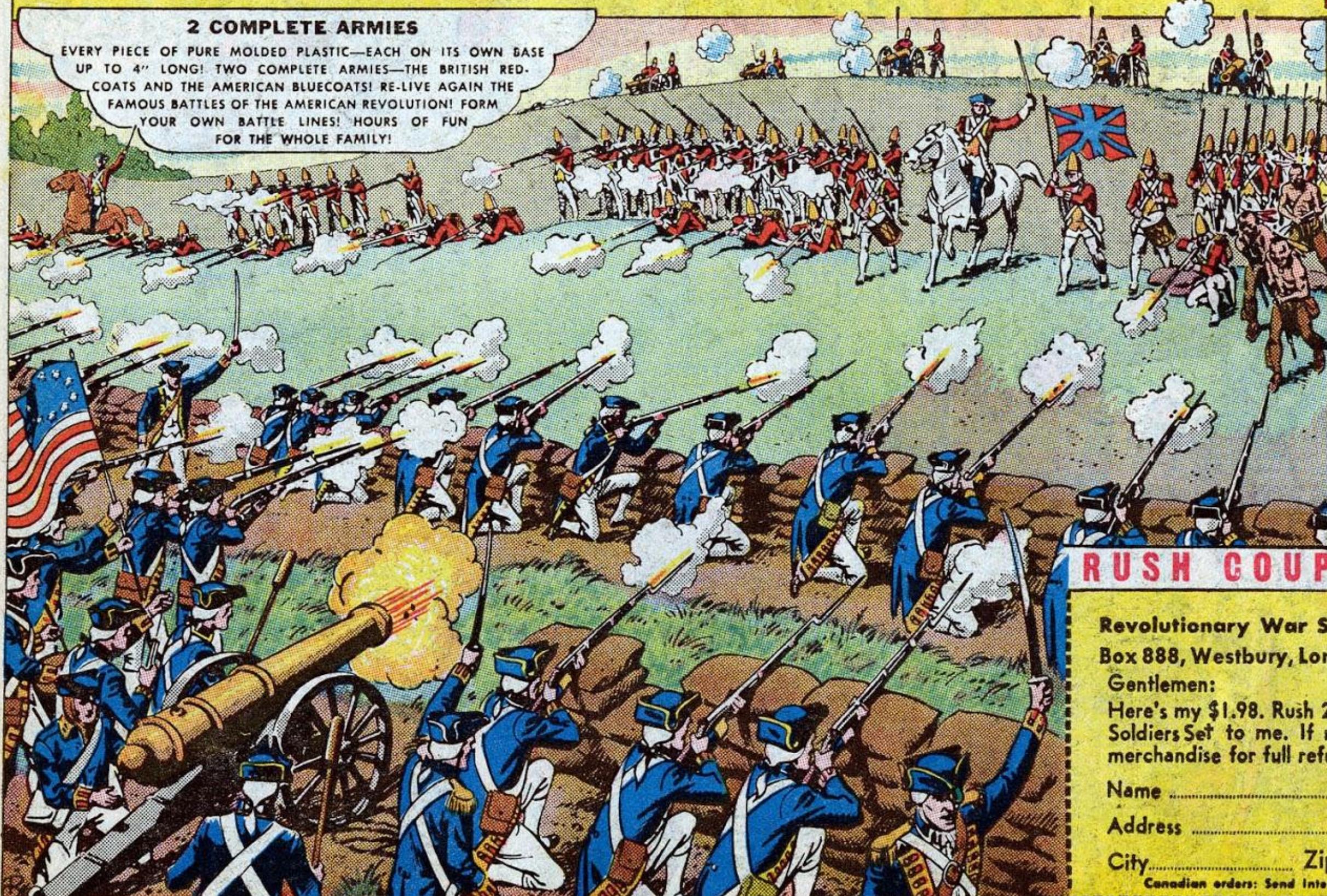
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