

The Green Hornet
by Fran Striker

THE MAN ON TOP

Number: 803

Date: November 18, 1947

(Handwritten scribble)

(Handwritten scribble)

Britt, Case, Axford, Kato, Gunnigan, Linda,
Dan Reid, Commissioner

~~Lassen~~ ~~As before~~

Grayling Middle-aged business executive

Voice
voice 2
NEWSBOY

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(USUAL OPENING)

Annrcr; Concerned about his son Britt, Dan Reid came East to seek information. Britt laid his cards face up on the table, admitting to his father that he was the Green Hornet. Much to Britt's surprise the older man was pleased. He agreed with Britt that there was need of an individual who could serve the ends of justice without regard for legal red tape, just as one of Britt's ancestors had done in the early West.

(CITY ROOM B.G.)

Gunnigan, the City Editor, came to work as usual at nine a. m.

(FOOTSTEPS SUSTAINING UNTIL CUE)

None of the reporters knew that the founder of the Daily Sentinal had ^{ARRIVED} ~~been~~ in the city ~~for several days~~. Gunnigan himself didn't know it. He removed his coat, pulled up his sleeves and sat down at his desk.

(CHAIR SCRAPES)

He scanned a sheet of copy - - -

Gunnigan; (EXPLOSIVELY) What's this?

(CHAIR PUSHED BACK FAST)

Annex; Gunnigan grabbed the sheet of typing and bounced to his feet...

Voice; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Hey, Gunnigan, what's the matter?

Gunnigan; This is the end! I'm going to have a show down with Britt Reid!

(FAST STEPS, DOOR SLAMS, CUT CITY ROOM)

(STEPS SUSTAIN FAST, AS:)

(MUTTERING) What does he think I am around here? An office boy? Things like this should be discussed with me! It's about time I found out where I stood!

(STEPS HALT, SNATCH DOOR OPEN)

Miss Case!

Case; Good morning, Gunnigan.

(DOOR CLOSSES)

Gunnigan; Good my eye! Is Britt Reid in?

Case; Not yet.

Axford; If he was, he'd have his door closed.

Gunnigan; Axford! What're you going here on time?

Axford; What's eatin' yez, Gunnigan?

Gunnigan; When he comes in, I'm going to have a showdown!

Case; Now, Gunnigan -

Axford; Showdown! Ha!

Gunnigan; Who does he think I am? That's what I want to know! Why confound it, I was in the slot when he was in kindergarten

- Axford; Well, he got out o' kindergarten, but you're still in the slot.
- Gunnigan; That's right! I'm still the C. E. and by thunder, I'll be consulted on important matters like this or know the reason why!
- Case; You're speaking of that reward item?
- Gunnigan; Yes! Of course I am! For years the Sentinel's been offering a reward for the capture of the Green Hornet! Now, without a word to me, with neither consultation or conference, the reward is withdrawn!
- Case; But Gunnigan ----
- Gunnigan; (BLOWING OFF) For years I've had to practically run this paper! Then, all of a sudden Britt decides to stop being a playboy and take over! Well, that's all right! That's the way it should be, but he can't ignore me! I won't stand for it! If he thinks he can ease me out of the picture, he's wrong! By thunder, I quit!
- Reid; (BACK) (BOOMING) That makes ten times that I know of!
- Axford; (GROANS) Oh-h-hh me!
- Gunnigan; (GASPS) Wh-who said that?
- Reid; (COMING IN) I said that and I wrote the statement withdrawing that reward! So you're still quitting periodically, eh Gunnigan?
- Gunnigan; (GASPS) M-Mr. Reid, () Casey! I asked you if Britt --
- Case; You didn't ask about his father.
- Gunnigan; (LIMP) M-Mr. Reid, I didn't mean -- I didn't know you were here.

- Reid; If you were on your toes, you'd have withdrawn that reward some time ago. The police don't want the Green Hornet! There's not a single charge against him!
- Gunnigan; But I ---
- Reid; No alibis! Wouldn't we look smart if someone turned in the Green Hornet and collected the reward!
- Gunnigan; B-b-but Mr. Reid - i-it - it never occurred to me that he had cleared his name - -
- Reid; It should have occurred to you! (BEGIN TO CHUCKLE)
You cadaverous old hairpin!
- Gunnigan; (GRINNING) Aw-w-ww boss, gosh! It's just like old times to hear you sound off.
- Reid; (LAUGHS) How are you, Gunnigan? Shake hands and say you're glad to see the old man back.
- Gunnigan; You know I am.
- Reid; You haven't aged a bit. You look just as gray and unhealthy as you did when I went away.
- Gunnigan; Thanks. () Guess I pulled a boner about that reward. I should have kept tabs on the charges against the Green Hornet. How long are you going to be in town, Mr. Reid?
- Reid; It's hard to say. How's my boy been doing?
- Gunnigan; Confidentially, boss, he's doing pretty good.
- Case; From you that's high praise.
- Gunnigan; He's really taken hold of things the last few weeks. You saw how he covered the Larsen story?

Reid; Larsen? He's the leader of that gang that was picked up for selling narcotics.

Axford; Like fun he is!

Gunnig; Huh?

Reid; What's that, Axford?

Axford; What I mean is, Larson's not the big noise in that narcotic organization. There's some hairpin that gave Larson orders, but the cops don't know who. I got it from me friends at the cops headquarters.

Reid; Um. I see.

(DOOR OPENS)

Axford; It's Reid. Hello Reid.

Britt; (SLIGHTLY BACK) Good morning... everybody.

Case; Good morning, Mr. Reid.

Gunnig; Hi Reid-

Britt; Looks like an open house. What's new, Gunnigan?

Gunnig; Humph! You're more likely to know than I am. (C)
(FADING) I've gotta get back to my desk.

(DOOR CLOSES AS)

Britt; What's the matter with Gunnigan?

Reid; He's nettled because he wasn't consulted about withdrawing the Hornet reward.

Britt; Oh. (CHUCKLES) I thought he'd be.

Reid; Come into your office. I want to talk to you.

Britt; Right.

Axford; (FADING BACK, CHUCKLING) By golly, Gunnigan's face was somethin' tuh look at -

(DOOR CLOSES)

Reid; I've been writing a follow-up on the Green Hornet - telling why the reward has been withdrawn.

Britt; Good.

Reid; I've told just exactly where the Hornet stands with the law. I'm letting people know he's not a crook. I'm revealing a lot of things that people never knew -

Britt; Don't tell the world that he's your son.

Reid; No, but I wish I could! (CHUCKLE) I'm proud of it.

Britt; We've got to keep the identity a secret.

Reid; I know that, Britt. But I - I'd like to tell the police commissioner.

Britt; Now, Dad-

Reid; Jimmy Higgens is my oldest friend. We rode together in Texas nearly fifty years ago. I know he can be trusted.

Britt; Let me think it over.

Reid; Britt, Higgens needs your help.

Britt; He has the Larson gang in jail. Wont that smash the dope ring?

Reid; Larson is not the leader of that outfit.

Britt; No? Then who is the man on top?

Reid; John Grayling, head of the Atlas Medical Supply.

Britt; Great Scott! He's a prominent man!

Reid; Very few people know about Grayling. The Commissioner is keeping it top secret. He told me in the hope that I could get the help of the Green Hornet.

Britt; But if Higgins knows Grayling is the head man —

Reid; He knows more than that. He knows there's a supply of dope in Grayling's home.

Britt; Why doesn't Higgins stage a raid — pick up Grayling — search his home?

Reid; You'd understand if you'd talk to the Commissioner. Britt, you became the Green Hornet because of the many cases where the hands of the police were tied by red tape. This is one of those cases.

Britt; Dad, I'll meet the Commissioner as the Green Hornet. But I want to think things over before he's told that the Green Hornet is Britt Reid.

Reid; Very well.

Britt; Can you see the Commissioner tonight?

Reid; I can see him anytime.

Britt; Make a date for nine o'clock.

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annccr; At half past eight that evening, Britt Reid was ready to move out in his disguise as the Green Hornet. Kato was at his side and so was his father.

Britt; Dad, I'm going to show you where we hide our car.
The back of the clothes press is a sliding panel -

(PANEL SLIDES BACK)

Reid; Why, there's a passage behind that wall!

Britt; Follow me. () Come along, Kato.

(FOOTSTEPS SUSTAINING)

Anncr; Stepping thru the secret panel in the rear of the closet,
Britt Reid led the way thru a narrow passage built within
the walls of the apartment itself.

Britt; This passage leads to an adjoining building on the dark
side street.

Reid; That old place has been abandoned for years -

Britt; That's what everyone thinks, but wait 'till you see!

(STEPS HALT) (DOOR OPENS, AS:)

MUSIC: THEME, "PING"

Anncr; Looking down from the small balcony in the supposedly
abandoned building, the Senior Reid saw the sleek,
super-powered Black Beauty, the streamlined car of
the Green Hornet!

Reid; It looks pretty fine, Britt. I'd like to give it a
thorough inspection. In fact, I'd like to ride in it
when we have time.

Britt; All right, Dad.

Reid; I can't look at it now. I'll have to hurry to keep my
appointment with the Police Commissioner.

(TO & B)

Britt; Kato will take you to the Commissioner's house in
the convertible.

Kato; Yes, Mr. Britt.

Reid; Jimmy Higgins will bring me home. We'll keep the
rendezvous in his car.



TO 9

Britt; Don't forget the plans.

Reid; We're to drive thru the park, stopping at the old oak tree and wait there until the Green Hornet stops across the road.

Britt; That's it, Dad. (FADING) I'll see you later.

(STEPS GOING DOWNSTAIRS, FADING BACK)

Reid; The old oak tree, Kato. (SOFT LAUGH) I went there many times when Britt was a little boy. We used to make camp beneath the old oak tree and play cowboy and Indian --

Anncr; Britt stepped into the Black Beauty and pressed a button. The great car roared into life. A section of the wall in front raised automatically, then closed as the gleaming Black Beauty sped into the darkness!

MUSIC: BURST

(CAR COMING TO STOP)

Anncr; Garbed as the Green Hornet, Britt Reid parked the Black Beauty and looked at the official car at the opposite curb, beneath an old oak tree. It was a curious sensation after so many years of dodging the police to sit quietly while the Commissioner himself approached.

(FOOT STEPS COMING IN, CAR DOOR OPENS)

Britt; (DISGUISED VOICE) I know exactly how you feel, Commissioner. I feel the same way.

Higgins; (GETTING INTO CAR) I'm satisfied that you're all right. You have a good man on your side.

(CAR DOOR SLAMS)

Britt; Let's make this as brief as possible.

Higgins; Are you someone I know?

Britt; Why?

Higgins; I think you are. Otherwise you wouldn't be making such an obvious effort to disguise your voice.

Britt; Did you come here to learn my identity or to get help?

Higgins; First of all, I want to thank you for what you've done.

Britt; Skip it. What about Grayling? How did you get a line on him?

Higgins; When Larsen was captured, he had in his possession an odd looking key. His desperate efforts to get rid of the key aroused my suspicions. I turned it over to a couple of my most trusted detectives. They located the locksmith who had made it. He said he had made several like it for John Grayling.

Britt; Indicating a connection between Grayling and Larsen.

Higgins; I knew that Larsen was not the top man in the dope ring. I suspected that Grayling might be. I had Larsen brought to my office for a talk. He blames you for his downfall.

Britt; That's a compliment.

Higgins; I intimated that the Green Hornet had been seen frequently near Grayling's suburban estate.

Britt; Why?

Higgins; I was baiting Larsen and it worked.

Britt; How?

Higgins; Larsen jumped to the conclusion that Grayling had double crossed the gang by sending the Hornet to get them before they could collect their share of the profits. Larsen was mad and he talked.

Britt; About Grayling?

Higgins; Yes. He named Grayling as the man on top and told about a vault in Grayling's basement where the drug supply is stored. This is the key I took from Larsen.

Britt; The one he tried to get rid of.

Higgins; Yes. It will open that vault. But if it is used, the contents of the vault will be destroyed.

Britt; Destroyed?

Higgins; Opening the door by force or with this key will make an electrical contact like the contact that turns on the light inside a modern refrigerator. That contact will do something to destroy the evidence. It will drop the evidence into a sewer, or fire an explosive charge or something of the sort.

Britt; Larsen didn't know what?

Higgins; No. Grayling had just begun to take Larsen into his confidence. He gave him this key and told him about the safety key.

Britt; The safety key?

Higgins; It's to a hidden lock that cuts off the power and makes it safe to open the vault. Grayling has that key and he's the only one who knows where the lock is located.

Britt; Can the electric power be cut off outside the house?

- Higgins; The current comes from batteries inside the vault.
- Britt; Have you tried to find this secret lock?
- Higgins; Yes. My men have been in the Grayling home posing as a meter reader from the electric company and a telephone man. They've given me a complete layout of Grayling's home and the location of the vault, but they couldn't find the lock. It's up to you.
- Britt; You have evidence enough to pick Grayling up.
- Higgins; But I want the contents of that vault. If we move in the usual way, Grayling will make sure that evidence is destroyed. We'll have to make the arrest in the morning. I'd hoped you might be able to do something tonight.
- Britt; Who knows about Grayling?
- Higgins; Just a trusted few of us -
- Britt; I want to see Grayling behind bars just as badly as you do.
- Higgins; Here's Larsen's key and a floor plan of the house. There's ^{more} one/thing you should know -
- Britt; What's that?
- Higgins; Every part of Grayling's house is protected by a burglar alarm. I don't know how you're going to get in, but I'm confident that I haven't underestimated the Green Hornet!

MUSIC: INTERLUDE

Annccr; We'll continue our story in just a moment . . .

(COMMERCIAL)

Annrc: After his meeting with the police commissioner, Britt Reid considered his problem while he guided the Black Beauty home. In his apartment, he discussed his plans with Kato, then called Linda Travis. . .

(DIALING PHONE)

Britt: We'll need help on this one, Kato. It's the toughest assignment we've ever had. . .

Kato: Yes Mr. Britt.

Britt; . . . and I've never been more eager to succeed. () Hello, Linda. You're needed. If you can be at the corner in half an hour, a black car will stop for you - -

(MUSIC BURST, FADE UNDER)

(DIALING PHONE)

Britt; (MUTTERS) Hope the Commissioner is home.

Kato Mask and weapon is ready -

Britt; Kato, you may need a weapon. Take the Thirty-eight. () (VOICE DISGUISED) Hello Commissioner. You know who this is? () Please listen carefully. If my plan succeeds at all, it will have done so between now and midnite. Will you have men standing by to move in on Grayling at a moment's notice?

(MUSIC BURST AND CUT)

(CAR RUNNING, COMING TO HALT)(DOOR OPENS)

Britt; Step in, Linda.

Linda; (GETTING IN) I've no idea what you want me to do.

Britt; Help Kato and me get the top man in the drug racket.

(CAR DOOR)(CAR STARTS)

His name is John Grayling.

Linda; Oh. But what can I do?

Britt; You'll have to set off a burglar alarm and get captured by Grayling and the henchman who lives with him. Then you'll have to put on an act. And it will have to be good! Now listen carefully. I'll brief you.

(CAR FADES OUT)

(MUSIC SOFT/TENSION, BG) (SNEAKOUT)

(NITE NOISES)

Annrc; With the Black Beauty parked in the darkness nearby, the Green Hornet and Linda worked at a french door in the rear of Grayling's big suburban home -

Britt; (LOW) You have a notebook and pencil?

Linda; (LOW) Yes.

Britt; (LOW) As soon as this lock is forced, the alarm will sound. After that, you're on your own. Ready?

Linda; R-ready -

(METALLIC CLICK./^{DISTANT}BURGLAR ALARM SOUNDING)

I - I can hear the alarm -

Britt; Quickly. Step inside and get caught.

(STEPPING IN, NIGHT NOISES TAKEN OUT)

Grayling;)APPROACHING) It's in here, Grieg. The den.

Grieg: (COMING IN) I'm with you, Boss.

Grayling: (COMING IN) It's a girl!

Grieg; And How!

Grayling; Stand where you are. You're covered.

Linda; Y--you are John Grayling!

Grayling; I am! Why did you break into my house?

Linda; Because I'm a dope! I should have known thatva man as smart as you would never be taken by surprise. I suppose that's a burglar alarm I hear.

Grieg; That's right!

Grayling; Who are you?

Linda; Linda Travis of the Daily Sentinal. I did a story on the Larson capture.

Grayling; A reporter!

Linda; Yes. () Please put that gun away. I'm not armed.

Grieg; I can see that, Boss. There's no gun hid under that outfit. Uh-uh!

Grayling; I'll take your bag. Go into my study. I want to talk to you.

Linda; You'll have to show it to me--

Grayling; Go thru that door and to the right. () Grieg, cut off that confounded burglar alarm, then fix the lock on that door.

Grieg; Right, Boss. There's a switch right over here.

Grayling; Get going, Miss Travis.

Linda; (FADING BACK) This is a beautiful home. I wish I were here under different circumstances.

(DOOR CLOSES, SLIGHTLY BACK)

(SWITCH. STOP ALARM)

Grieg; (MUTTERS) There. That'll stop the clangin'. () Hope that dame didn't bust the lock on the door--

Britt; Sorry, Grieg (EFFORT)

Grieg; (GASP) What the -

(SMASHING BLOW)

Britt; (MUTTERS) That did it. (EFFORT) Ease him to the floor so he doesn't fall with a thud.

KATO: (COMING IN) You need help?

Britt; Just watch him, Kato. If he starts to come to, rap him again. In just ten minutes, turn that switch and start the burglar alarm again.

Kato; Will ten minutes be enough time for things that must be done?

Britt; It'll be time enough for me to fix things at the vault, and I hope it will be plenty for Linda.

MUSIC: BRIDGE

Grayling; (FADING IN) It's taking Grieg a long time to close that door.

Linda; I'm afraid the lock was broken.

- Grayling; Miss Travis, I insist on knowing why you came here!
- Linda; You know, Mr. Grayling, you're not at all as I pictured you. You're a marvelous subject for an article -- a human interest article.
- Grayling; You're guilty of breaking and entering. Aren't you afraid your paper will fire you for that?
- Linda; The Sentinel wouldn't like it but I'm not afraid. You're not the type to report me to the police -- or to my boss. You're the kind of man who handles things on the spot -- Please let me look at you --
- Grayling; But --
- Linda; (MURMURING) The air and manner of the old time buccaneers who made their own laws -- devil-may-care mouth -- and eyes - eyes that can laugh at danger - sparkle with the thrill of combat --
- Grayling; (SHARPLY) Miss Travis!
- Linda; (WINCE) Ooohh- you're hurting my wrist!
- Grayling; Why did you come here?
- Linda; Please, Mr. Grayling --
- Grayling; Tell me!
- Linda; All right. All right, I'll tell you. Please let me go. I'll tell you. You'll know anyway in a little while --
- Grayling; I'll know what?
- Linda; Larsen has talked.
- Grayling; Larsen?

- Linda; Yes. I got an inside tip from police headquarters.
- Grayling; Larsen talked about what?
- Linda; About you. He told of your connection with the dope racket, and about your vault in the basement and the supply of drugs you keep there. The Commissioner has kept it secret for several days so he could investigate quietly --
- Grayling; He has eh?
~~??/XYX/Y?/XY/++~~
- Linda; I -- I wanted to have a scoop. I wanted to be ready with a story about your home when the police picked you up.
- Grayling; (LAUGHS) So that's it! Well, I'm sorry to disappoint you Miss Travis, but the police have nothing on me.
- ~~Linda~~
- Linda; Larsen told them --
- Grayling; Larsen! A cheap, notorious hoodlum! What's his word against mine?
- Linda; But he gave the Commissioner a key to your vault --
- Grayling; A key, eh? (LAUGHS) The police are free to use that key. They can look into my vault anytime they want to. They'll do it at their own risk.
- Linda; (HURRIEDLY) Larsen told them all that. They know all about the secret lock. They sent men to pose as a telephone -- (SHARP GASP) Oh! What am I saying?
- Grayling; (SHARPLY) A telephone man! Confound! I thought there was something peculiar about him -- and that man from the electric company. It took him a mighty long time to read the meter! They were both detectives -- snopping around!

Linda; (HALF SOB) Oh I've talked too much! I --

(BURGLAR ALARM STARTS, AND SUSTAINS)

Grayling; The alarm again! (SHOUTS) Grieg! Grieg! Where are you!

Linda; I - I've got to go. I -

Grayling; (ROUGHLY) You come with me!

Linda; (HALF STRUGGLING) My arm!

Grayling; Come on! I'll see what this is all about!

Linda; Please, please! Put that gun away!

Grayling; Shut up!

(JERK DOOR OPEN)

Linda; (GASP)

Grayling; Grieg! What's happened to you?

Linda; Is -- is he dead?

Grayling; Someone came thru that door after Grayling had closed it!
I'll see about this! (EFFORT) Come with me!

Linda; Please! Please!

(RUNNING STEPS THRU CORRIDOR)

Grayling; Keep going and don't try any resistance or I'll shoot!
This game's for keeps! Open that door!

Linda; B-b-but m-my arm --

(DOOR OPENS)

Grayling; Go down those stairs right ahead of me. If anybody tries
to shoot me, they'll get you first!

(DOWN STAIRS AS:)

Linda; (HALF SOBBING) Y-y-you despicable coward! You'd use me for a shield!

Grayling; You bet I would! Now walk straight ahead toward that vault!

(STEPS ON CEMENT)

Linda; I'm not to blame for your trouble --

Grayling; There's the vault --

(STEPS HALT)

Linda; (GASPS) There's a key in the lock!

Grayling; I see there is. I wonder if someone's gotten inside. If they found that secret lock they could have had a key made for it and opened the lock without setting off the explosion.

Linda; I -- I don't know anything about that --

Grayling; You will! Stand right where you are. I'm going to open that door and if someone's in there, there'll be gunplay!

Linda; You'll blow us up!

Grayling; Oh no I won't! I have the safety key here. Don't try to get away. I'll not hesitate to shoot. () I thought this lock was well hidden, but they may have found it.
I --

Britt; (BACK) I want that key!

Grayling; (STARTLED GASP) What the --

(SHOT)

Linda; Oh!

Britt; You shot too fast! Try this gas!

Grayling; (GASPS) You - you --- that mask!

Britt; You can't level a gun after that gas hits you!

Grayling; (AD LIB GAGGING AND COUGHING)

(FALLING BODY)

Britt; That does it!

Linda; Gosh! I'm glad to see you!

Britt; Linda, are you all right?

Linda; Yes.

Britt; You were great! (EFFORT) I'll take this key off Grayling's watch chain and put it on my own.

Linda; You saw where the lock was hidden?

Britt; Yes. You show it to the police when they arrive.

Linda; If you'll leave that safety key, they can go into the vault

Britt; The Commissioner's going to get this key. He'll be the one to enter that vault.

Linda; Oh.

Britt; We're nearly thru, Linda. Don't muff the last act. I'll call the Commissioner on the phone upstairs. The police will be here in a few minutes. They'll find you on the floor just recovering consciousness. You were gassed by the Green Hornet. Got it?

Linda; Got it, but why can't I go with you?

Britt; You've got to show the police the secret lock and warn them not to open that vault. Now get down on the floor as if you'd been gassed. You'll not have long to wait!

MUSIC: BURST, FADE UNDER

Britt; (INTO PHONE) This is it, Commissioner! Send the boys to pick up Grayling and his pal - a hood named Grieg!

MUSIC: BURST, FADE UNDER

Higgins; (INTO PHONE) Get going, buys! It's time to arrest the man on top!

MUSIC: BURST AND UNDER

(POLICE SIRENS AND CARS COMING IN AND STOPPING AS:)

Britt; (CLOSE) There they are, Kato.

Kato; Police get here very quick.

Britt; They were just a quarter of a mile away, waiting for a call by radio. Step on it, Kato! Let's get going!

(CAR STARTS)

MUSIC: BURST, FADE UNDER:

(MANY STEPS COMING IN ON CEMENT FLOOR)

Voice; There's Grayling!

Voice 2; He's out cold!

Linda; Help! Help me!

Voice; Great scott! It's a girl!

Voice 2; It's Miss Travis from the Sentinel!

Linda; Grayling - Grayling and I -- the Green Hornet was here--

Voice; The Green Hornet? Great day!

Voice 2; Where is he now?

Linda; He's gone. He took a key from Grayling's chain -

Voice; There's a key in that vault -

Linda; Don't open that vault! Don't do it without the key the Green Hornet took away!

Voice; But Miss Travis -

Linda; I'll tell you everything as soon as I've ~~called~~ called the Daily Sentinel!

MUSIC: BURST TO FINISH

Annrc; It was the following day at noon. Britt Reid's father and the police commissioner had met for luncheon at the Civic Club.

(RESTAURANT B.G.)

Higgins; Confound it, Reid, you've got to come thru! I have Grayling under arrest, but I can't hold him for long without some evidence.

Reid; Evidence, eh?

Higgins; That's what I said. All we have against him is the statement made by Larry Larsen. That won't do. I've got to get into Grayling's vault, but I can't do it without the key -- that safety key.

Reid; You're sure the Green Hornet has it?

- Higgins; Of course he has! The Travis girl said so. Tell me who the Green Hornet is. I've got to reach him!
- Reid; Sorry, Jim, I can't. I promised I wouldn't reveal his identity.
- Higgins; You - you ---
- Reid; Here comes Britt.
- Britt; (COMING IN) Sorry I'm late, Dad. How are you, Commissioner Higgins?
- Higgins; Not so good.
- Reid; Sit down, Britt. () Higgins is upset because the Green Hornet made off with the key to a secret lock on Grayling's vault.
- Britt; According to Linda Travis, the police found the lock.
- Higgins; Yes, but it calls for a very special type of key, a long, thin one.
- Britt; Long and thin, eh?
- Reid; Like the key you're twirling on the end of your watch chain.
- Britt; This? () I'll take it off my chain. () Commissioner, are you looking for a key like this one?
- Higgins; Like --- (GASP) Say ---
- Britt; Dad's wanted to let you know the identity of the Green Hornet.

Higgins; (GASP) Great scott! Britt -- you -- () I thought there was something familiar about your voice. Last night in the car you tried to disguise it, but I recognized it as the voice of someone I knew.

Britt; I thought you might.

Higgins; Britt, you're all right. I want to talk things over with you, but right now I've got to be going.

Reid; But you haven't eaten --

Higgins; Who cares about that? I'm going out and get the goods on Grayling. You two had better stand by because I'm going to make a headline for the Daily Sentinel!

MUSIC: BURST

NEWSBOY: Sentinel, extra, paper! Commissioner finds hidden dope in Grayling home -- the Man On Top behind bars! Green Hornet sends key to Police! Read all about it! Sentinel, Extra, Paper!

T H E M E