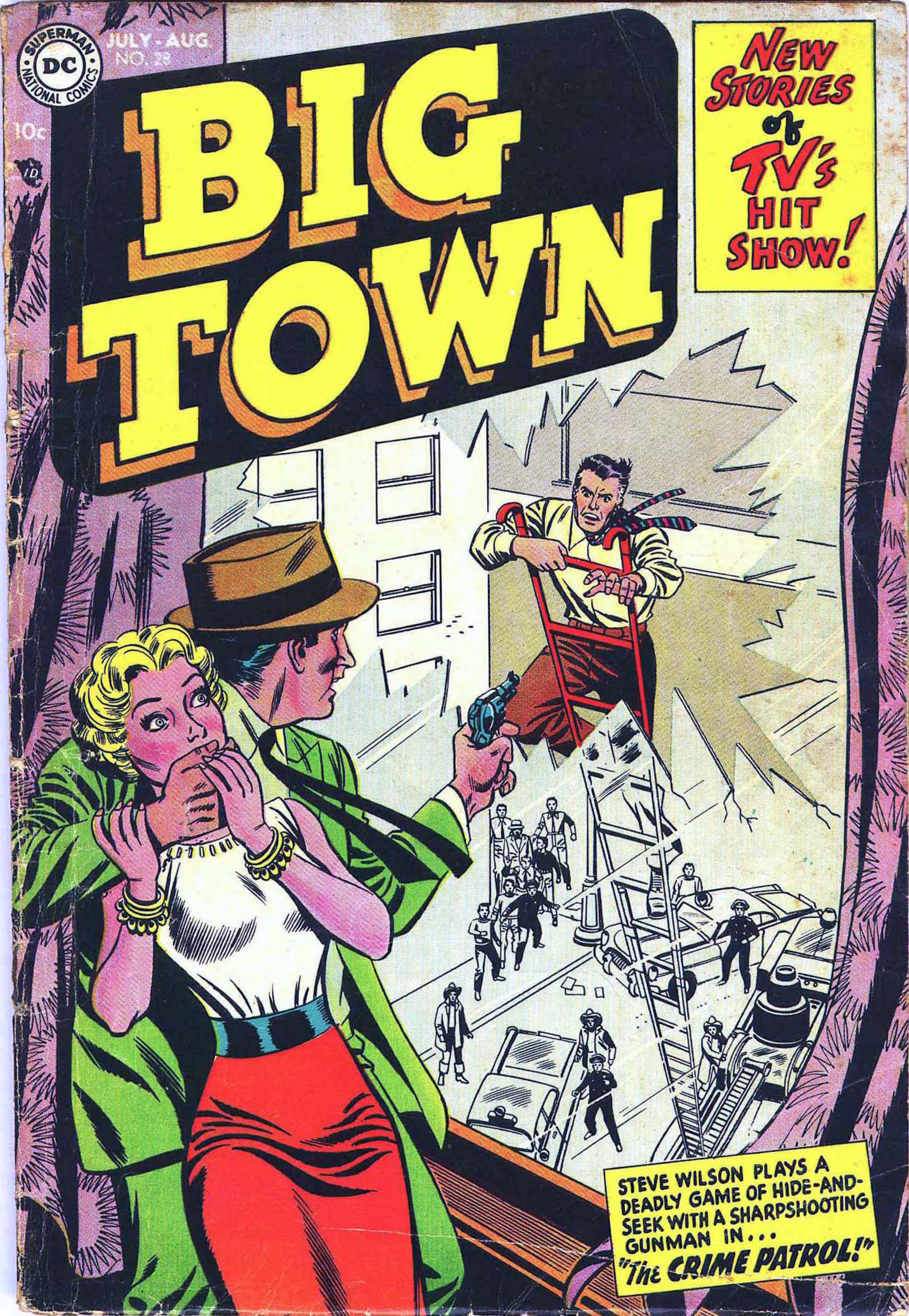
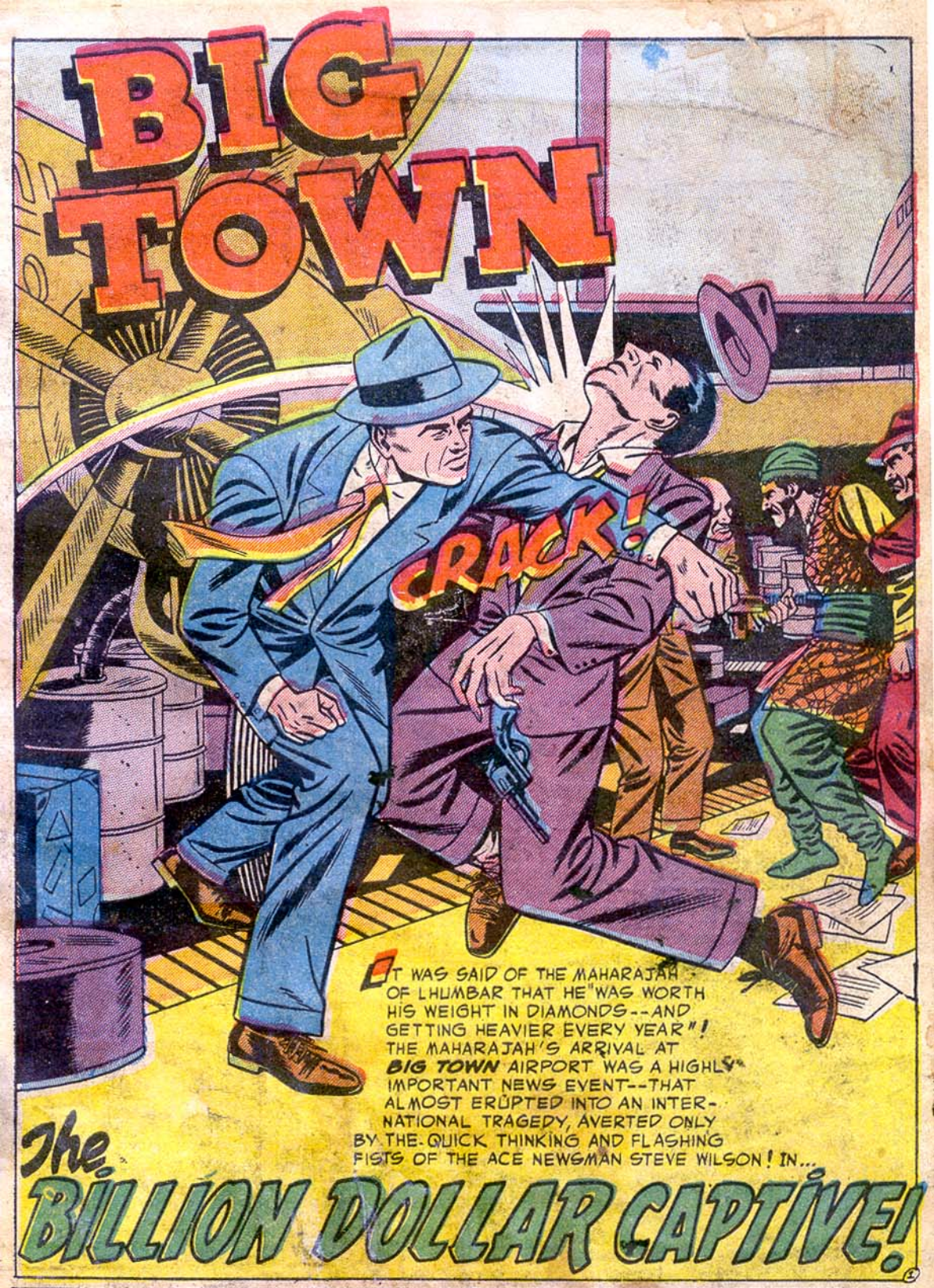

SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
JULY - AUG.
NO. 78
10¢
BIG TOWN
NEW STORIES of TV'S HIT SHOW!
STEVE WILSON PLAYS A DEADLY GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK WITH A SHARPSHOOTING GUNMAN IN...
"The CRIME PATROL!"

SUPERBOY says: "Don't Give FIRE A Place to Start!"

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.



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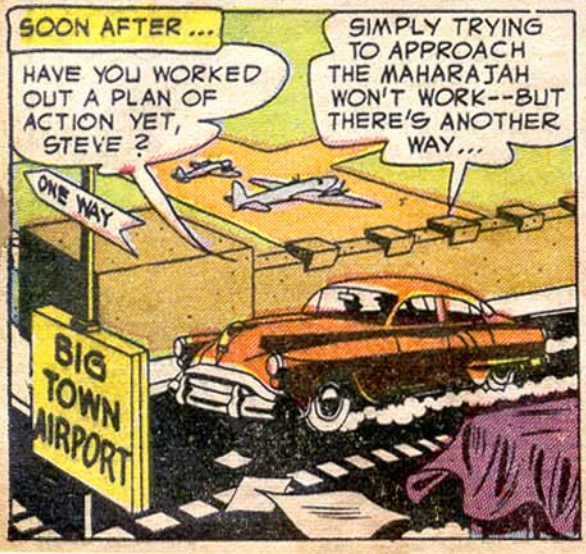
IN BIG TOWN'S PRESS CLUB, AS STEVE WILSON AND LORELEI KILBOURNE ENTER TO FIND A LIVELY DISCUSSION GOING ON...
WHAT'S ALL THE CHATTER ABOUT, FELLOWS?
WE'RE DISCUSSING THE MAHARAJAH OF LHUMBAR, STEVE! AS YOU AND LORELEI KNOW, HE'S NEVER BEEN INTERVIEWED--AND HE'S DUE HERE IN BIG TOWN THIS AFTERNOON!

WE NEWSMEN OF BIG TOWN CONSIDER THE MAHARAJAH'S DETERMINATION NOT TO BE INTERVIEWED AS A CHALLENGE TO OUR PROFESSION! SO WE HAVE DECIDED THAT ONE OF US IS GOING TO GET AN INTERVIEW!
HMMM! AND WHO HAVE YOU ELECTED FOR THIS ENVIABLE ASSIGNMENT?

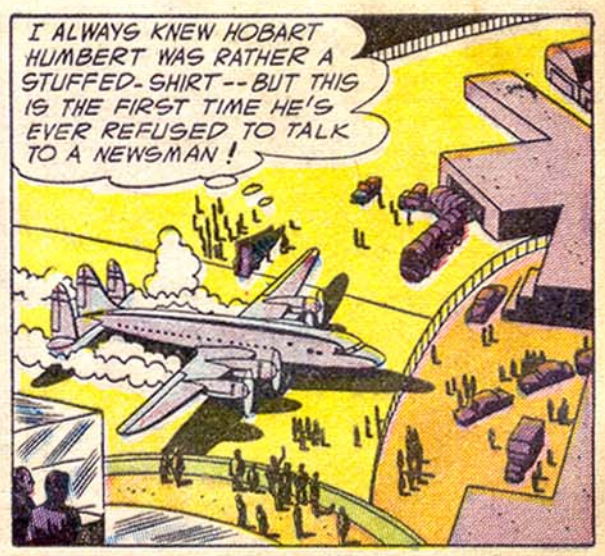
WE VOTED UNANIMOUSLY FOR THE MAN BEST SUITED TO BE OUR LOCAL CHAMPION AND REPRESENTATIVE IN THIS "AFFAIR OF HONOR"--YOU, STEVE WILSON!
M-ME!?

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE! OH, STEVE, YOU CAN DO IT!
ALL RIGHT, BUT YOU BETTER COME ALONG, LORELEI--AND SEE HOW THE IMPOSSIBLE IS ACCOMPLISHED!


SOON AFTER...
HAVE YOU WORKED OUT A PLAN OF ACTION YET, STEVE?
SIMPLY TRYING TO APPROACH THE MAHARAJAH WON'T WORK--BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY...
ONE WAY
BIG TOWN AIRPORT

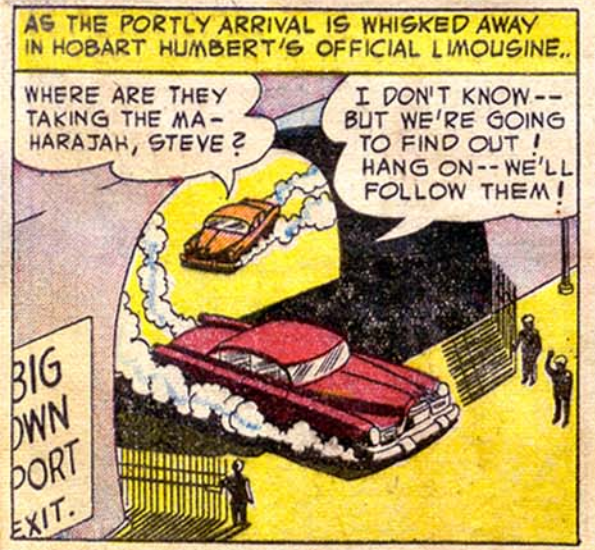
HOBART H. HUMBERT--THE OFFICIAL CITY GREETER OF BIG TOWN WHO ALWAYS WELCOMES DISTINGUISHED VISITORS--WILL MEET THE MAHARAJAH AT THE AIRPORT! BUT THERE'S TIME FOR A TALK WITH MR. HUMBERT FIRST...

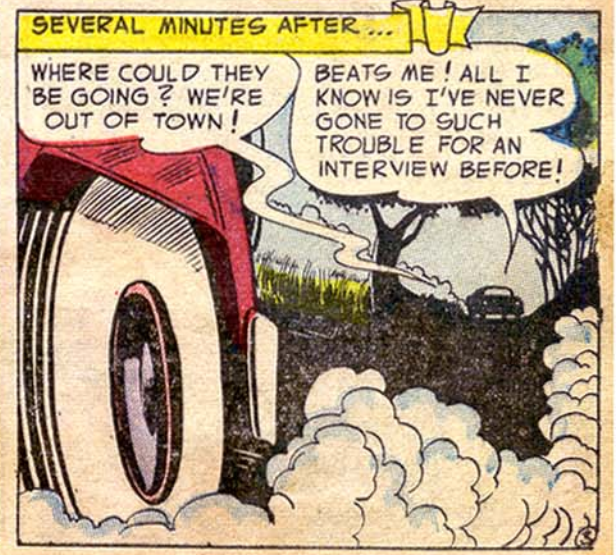
NEAR THE MAIN RUNWAY, MOMENTS LATER...
SORRY! NOBODY TALKS TO MR. HUMBERT NOW! ABSOLUTELY NOBODY!
THAT'S ODD!

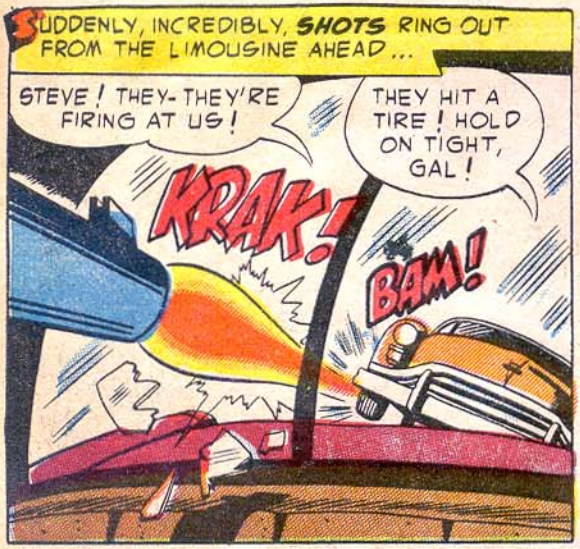

I ALWAYS KNEW HOBART HUMBERT WAS RATHER A STUFFED-SHIRT--BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME HE'S EVER REFUSED TO TALK TO A NEWSMAN!

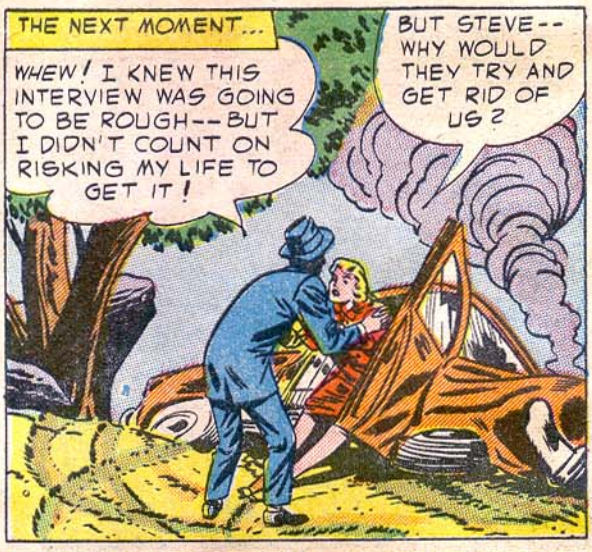
AND LOOK, LORRY--HUMBERT'S ASSISTANTS NEVER PACKED GUNS BEFORE!
IT MUST BE ON ACCOUNT OF THE MAHARAJAH, STEVE! DON'T FORGET--

--HE'S ONE OF THE RICHEST MEN IN THE WORLD AND NO DOUBT NEEDS EXTRA-PROTECTION!
I'M STILL GOING TO INTERVIEW HIM SOMEHOW!
ALM

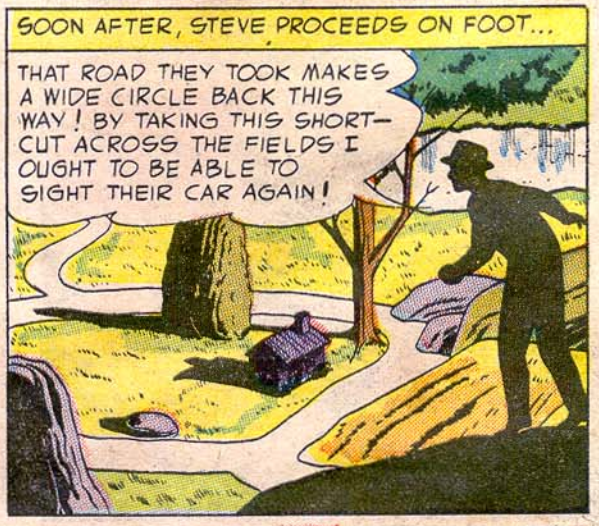

AS THE PORTLY ARRIVAL IS WHISKED AWAY IN HOBART HUMBERT'S OFFICIAL LIMOUSINE..
WHERE ARE THEY TAKING THE MAHARAJAH, STEVE?
I DON'T KNOW--BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT! HANG ON--WE'LL FOLLOW THEM!
BIG
OWN
PORT
EXIT.

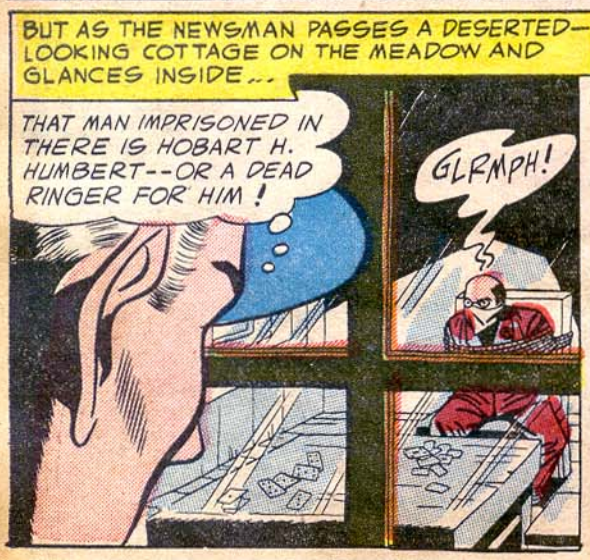

SEVERAL MINUTES AFTER...
WHERE COULD THEY BE GOING? WE'RE OUT OF TOWN!
BEATS ME! ALL I KNOW IS I'VE NEVER GONE TO SUCH TROUBLE FOR AN INTERVIEW BEFORE!


SUDDENLY, INCREDIBLY, SHOTS RING OUT FROM THE LIMOUSINE AHEAD...
STEVE! THEY-THEY'RE FIRING AT US!
THEY HIT A TIRE! HOLD ON TIGHT, GAL!
KRAK!
BAM!

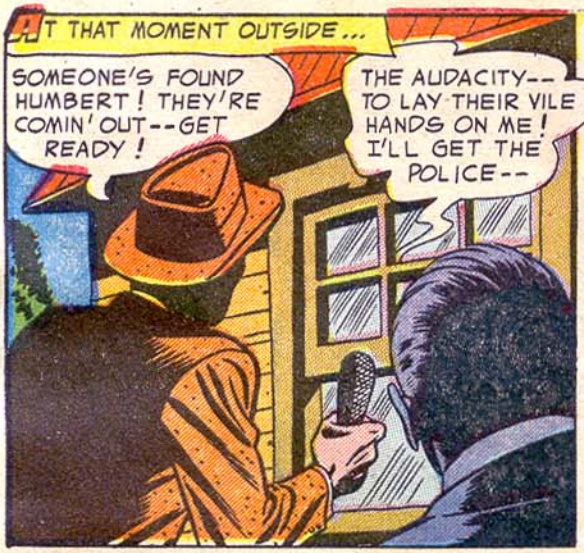

THE NEXT MOMENT...
WHEW! I KNEW THIS INTERVIEW WAS GOING TO BE ROUGH--BUT I DIDN'T COUNT ON RISKING MY LIFE TO GET IT!
BUT STEVE--WHY WOULD THEY TRY AND GET RID OF US?

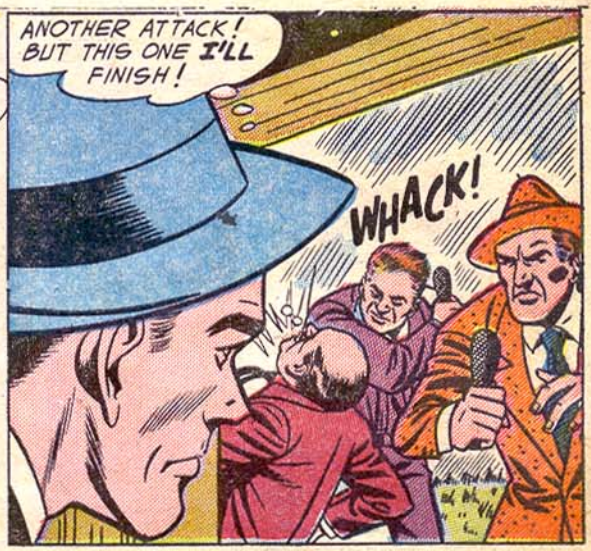
I'VE GOT A WACKY IDEA THAT WOULD EXPLAIN EVERYTHING... LISTEN! I WANT YOU TO GET BACK TO TOWN FAST AS YOU CAN--AND HAVE THEM HOLD UP THE NIGHT EDITION--UNTIL I PHONE IN!

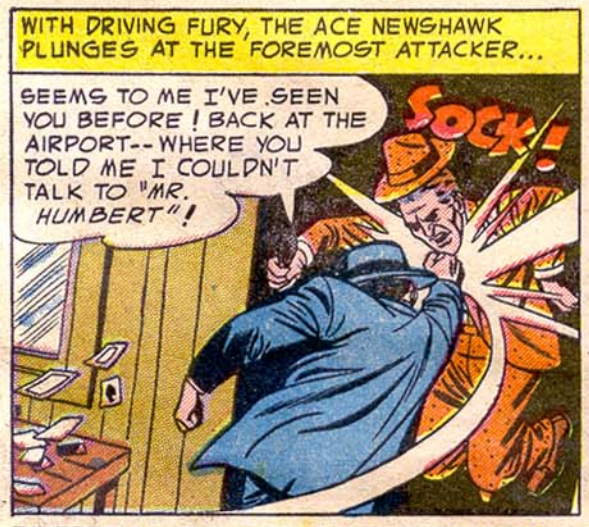

SOON AFTER, STEVE PROCEEDS ON FOOT...
THAT ROAD THEY TOOK MAKES A WIDE CIRCLE BACK THIS WAY! BY TAKING THIS SHORT-CUT ACROSS THE FIELDS I OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO SIGHT THEIR CAR AGAIN!


BUT AS THE NEWSMAN PASSES A DESERTED-LOOKING COTTAGE ON THE MEADOW AND GLANCES INSIDE...
THAT MAN IMPRISONED IN THERE IS HOBART H. HUMBERT--OR A DEAD RINGER FOR HIM!
GLRMPH!

SECONDS LATER...
BRRSK--HRUMPH! SOME DREADFUL RAPSCALLIONS KIDNAPED ME THIS MORNING!
THIS MORNING? SO MY HUNCH WAS CORRECT!


AT THAT MOMENT OUTSIDE...
SOMEONE'S FOUND HUMBERT! THEY'RE COMIN' OUT--GET READY!
THE AUDACITY--TO LAY THEIR VILE HANDS ON ME! I'LL GET THE POLICE--


ANOTHER ATTACK! BUT THIS ONE I'LL FINISH!
WHACK!

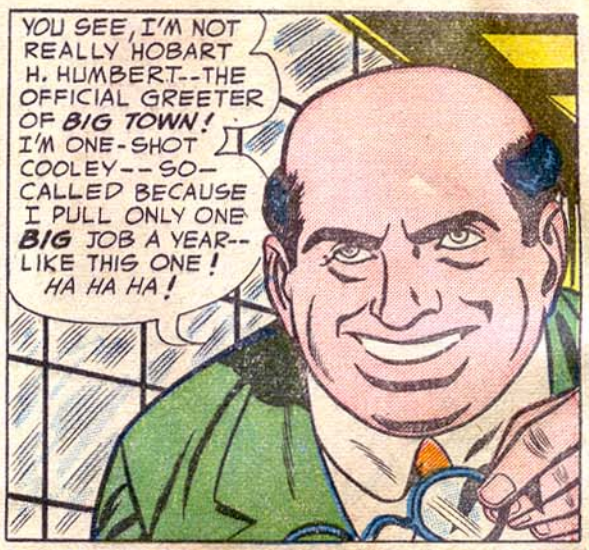

WITH DRIVING FURY, THE ACE NEWSHAWK PLUNGES AT THE FOREMOST ATTACKER...
SEEMS TO ME I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE! BACK AT THE AIRPORT--WHERE YOU TOLD ME I COULDN'T TALK TO "MR. HUMBERT"!
SOCK!

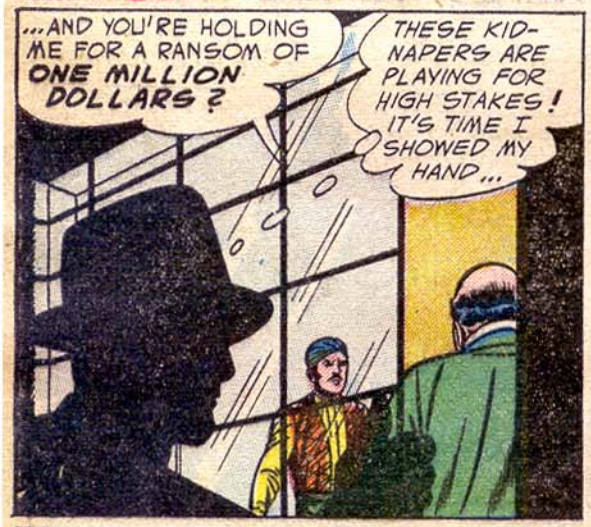
WHIRLING TOWARDS STEVE, THE SECOND ASSAILANT MEETS THE SAME DEVASTATING FATE...
THAT WAS A TIP-OFF TO WHAT WAS GOING ON--BECAUSE HOBART H. HUMBERT NEVER IN HIS CAREER REFUSED TO TALK TO A REPORTER!
SMACK!

THEN AS THE THUGS ARE TIED AND DEPOSITED IN THE COTTAGE...
I HATE TO DO THIS, BUT I'VE GOT TO LEAVE MR. HUMBERT HERE TEMPORARILY! EVERY SECOND COUNTS NOW--IF I'M GOING TO FIND THE MAHARAJAH AND SAVE HIM FROM DANGER!

SHORTLY, NOT FAR FROM THE COTTAGE...
THE FOOTPRINTS OF THOSE THUGS SHOW THAT THEY CAME FROM THAT BIG HOUSE--I'LL HAVE A LOOK IN THERE!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HUGE MANSION...
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND! WHY HAVE I NOT BEEN TAKEN TO MY HOTEL? WHERE ARE MY SERVANTS?
THERE'S A SIMPLE ANSWER, YOUR HIGHNESS...

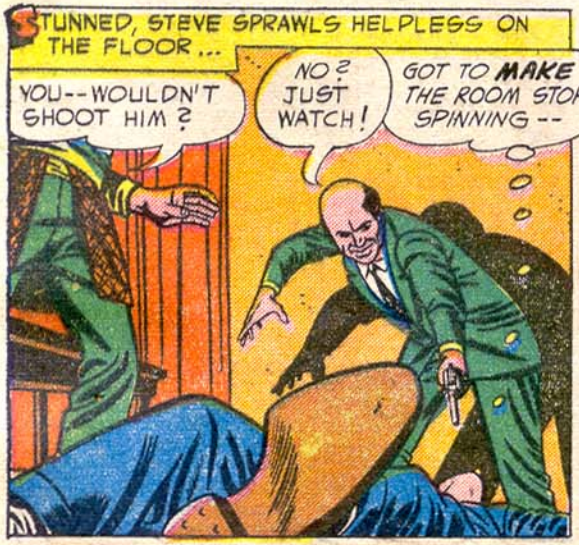

YOU SEE, I'M NOT REALLY HOBART H. HUMBERT--THE OFFICIAL GREETER OF BIG TOWN! I'M ONE-SHOT COOLEY--SO-CALLED BECAUSE I PULL ONLY ONE BIG JOB A YEAR--LIKE THIS ONE! HA HA HA!

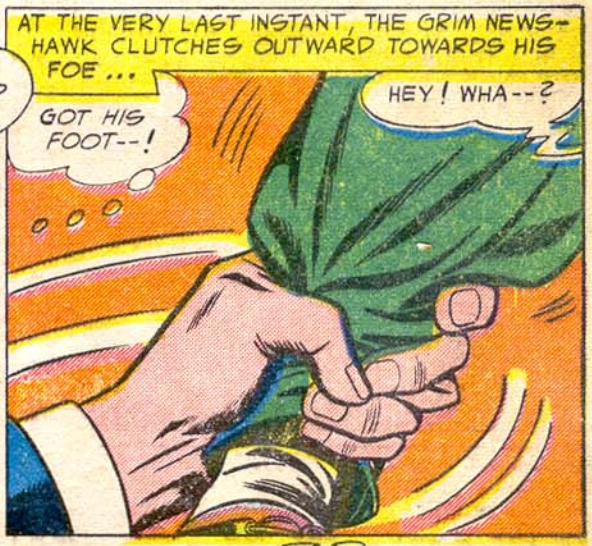

...AND YOU'RE HOLDING ME FOR A RANSOM OF ONE MILLION DOLLARS?
THESE KIDNAPERS ARE PLAYING FOR HIGH STAKES! IT'S TIME I SHOWED MY HAND...

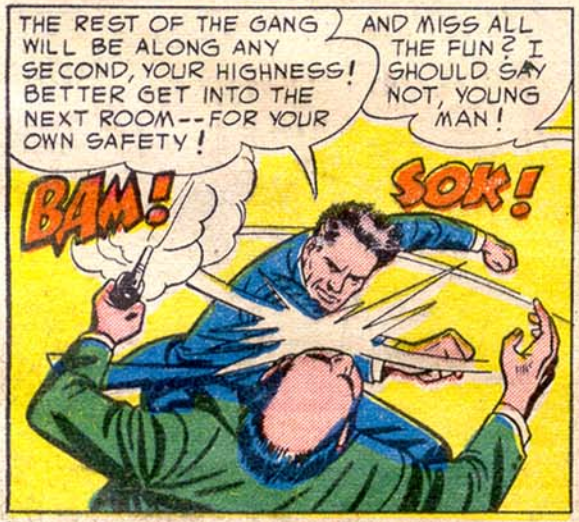
SILENTLY, THE ACE NEWSHAWK SLIPS INTO THE ROOM, BEHIND THE MASQUERADING CROOK...
DON'T MOVE, COOLEY! JUST TOSS YOUR GUN BEHIND YOU!
OKAY--B-BUT, DON'T SHOOT!

AS ONE-SHOT COOLEY STARTS TO OBEY THE CRISP COMMAND...
THAT'S IT! HURRY IT UP!
HE'S FALLING FOR IT!

THE NEXT MOMENT, THE GUNMAN WHIRLS AROUND WITH THE WEAPON AND...
THAT WAS DUMB OF YOU, WILSON--STANDING WHERE I COULD SEE YOU IN THAT MIRROR!
WHACK!


STUNNED, STEVE SPRAWLS HELPLESS ON THE FLOOR...
YOU--WOULDN'T SHOOT HIM?
NO? JUST WATCH!
GOT TO MAKE THE ROOM STOP SPINNING--


AT THE VERY LAST INSTANT, THE GRIM NEWSHAWK CLUTCHES OUTWARD TOWARDS HIS FOE...
GOT HIS FOOT--!
HEY! WHA--?


THE REST OF THE GANG WILL BE ALONG ANY SECOND, YOUR HIGHNESS! BETTER GET INTO THE NEXT ROOM--FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY!
AND MISS ALL THE FUN? I SHOULD SAY NOT, YOUNG MAN!
BAM!
SOK!

THE NEXT MOMENT...
HERE THEY COME NOW, MR. WILSON!
SAY! THAT'S FANCY FOOTWORK, YOUR HIGHNESS!

YOU SET THEM UP FOR ME, MAHARAJAH, AND I'LL FINISH THEM OFF!
CRACK!

IN A FEW FEVERISH SECONDS...
I HAVEN'T ENJOYED MYSELF SO MUCH SINCE MY FIRST ELEPHANT HUNT!
ER--THAT REMINDS ME, YOUR HIGHNESS--YOU MUST TELL ME ALL ABOUT YOURSELF!

SOON AFTER, WHEN THE POLICE SUMMONED BY STEVE HAVE ARRIVED ON THE SCENE...

THIS MIGHT HAVE CREATED AN INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT IF NOT FOR STEVE -- BUT WHERE IS STEVE? HE WAS HERE A MOMENT AGO!

AND **WHERE** IS THE MAHARAJAH?

MEANWHILE, OUTSIDE...

...NOW WHEN AN ELEPHANT CHARGES, STEVE, YOU'VE GOT TO STAND YOUR GROUND--AIM FOR A TINY SPOT BETWEEN ITS EYES! I REMEMBER...

GO AHEAD, YOUR HIGHNESS-- I'M ENJOYING EVERY WORD!

LATER, AT THE ***BIG TOWN*** PRESS CLUB...

HI, LORELEI! DID STEVE GET THAT INTERVIEW?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

HERE IT IS-- IN THIS ***ILLUSTRATED PRESS EXTRA!***

STEVE WILSON HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

ILLUSTRATED PRESS

MY INTERVIEW WITH THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD

BY STEVE WILSON

Maharajah of J...

The End

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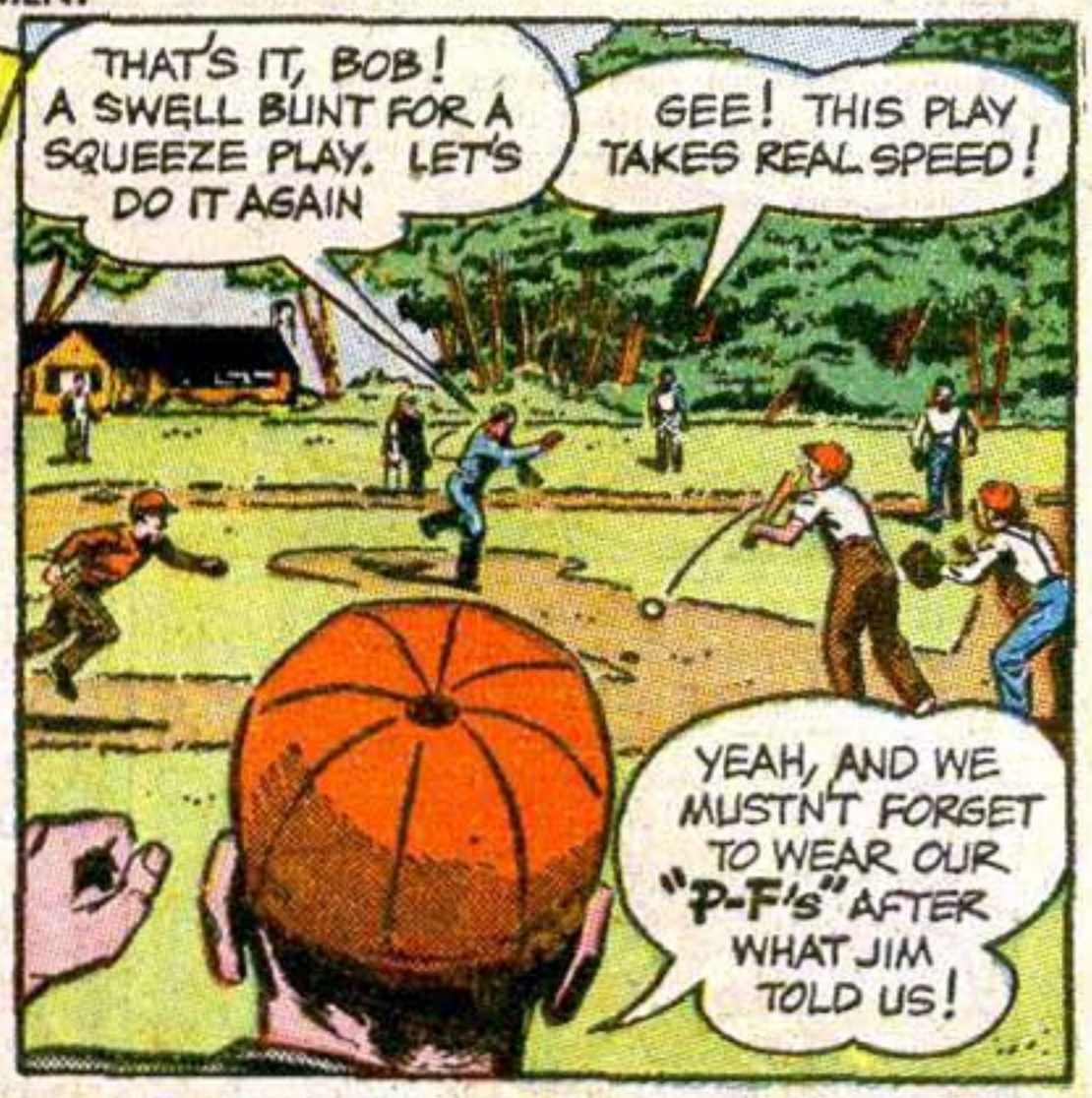
ANOTHER JIM WISE "P-F" ADVENTURE STORY!



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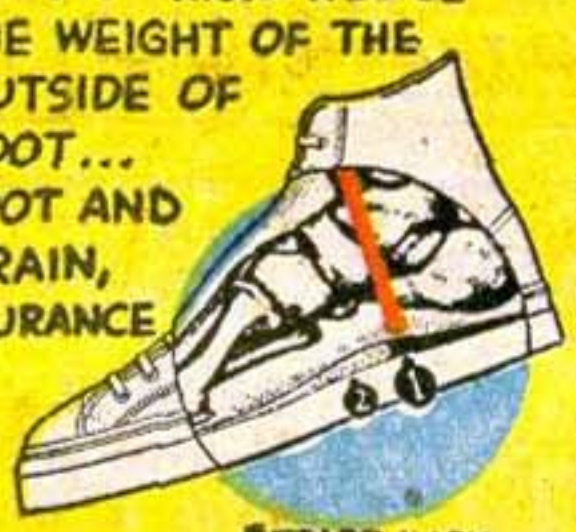
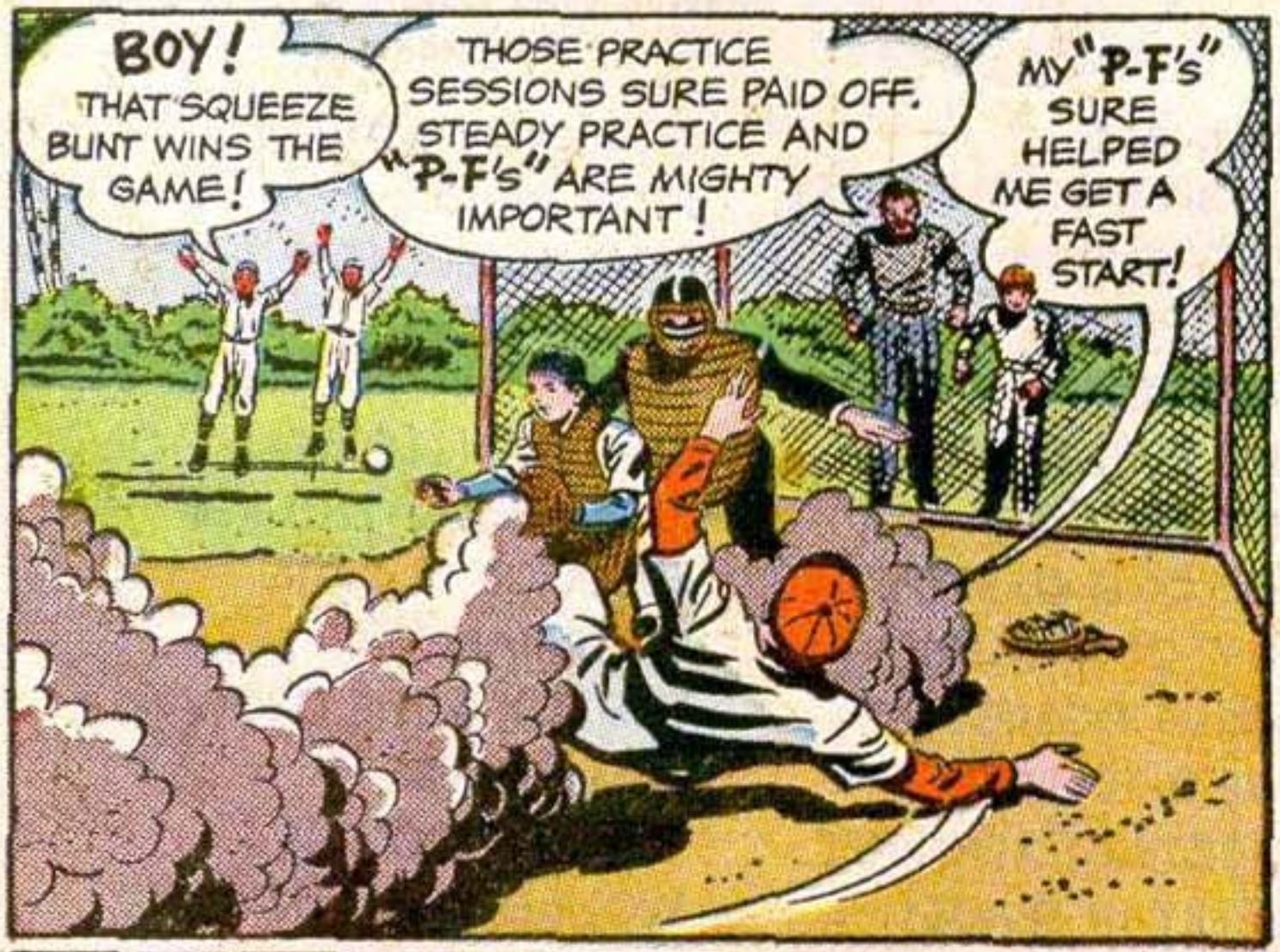
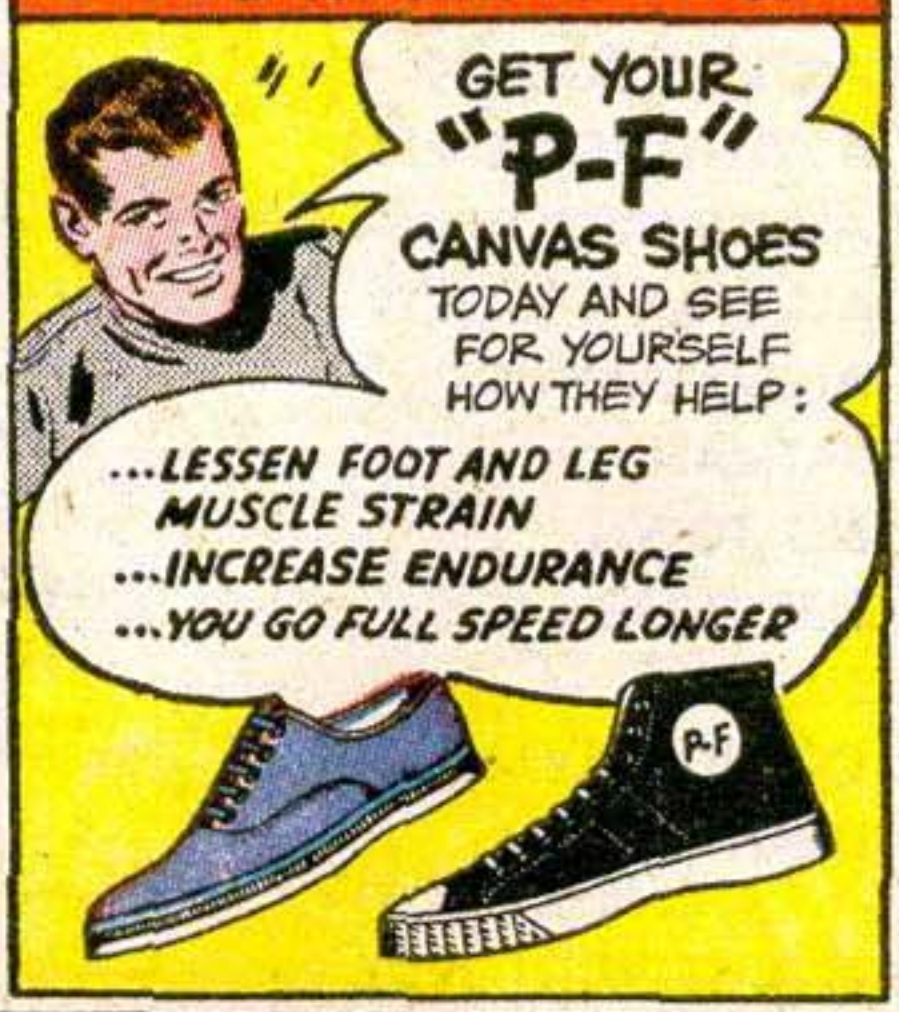


*TRADE MARK

"P-F"* MEANS POSTURE FOUNDATION



GOOD ADVICE FROM JIM WISE:



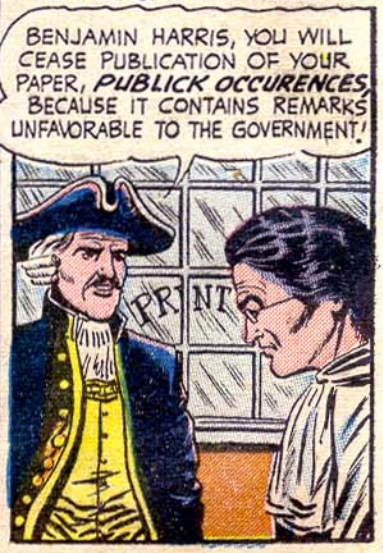
INSIST ON "P-F" CANVAS SHOES MADE ONLY BY B.F. Goodrich and Hood Rubber Company

PIONEER NEWSPAPERS

1500 YEARS AGO THE CHINESE WERE BELIEVED TO HAVE ISSUED THE FIRST NEWSPAPER, ***THE IMPERIAL GAZETTE*** (PEKIN)-- ALTHOUGH HISTORIANS STILL DISPUTE ITS AUTHENTICITY...

IN ANCIENT ROME, NEWS BULLETINS CALLED ***ACTA DIURNA*** WERE POSTED ON STREET CORNERS, WHERE THEY COULD BE READ BY PASSERS-BY...

THE EARLIEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER WAS THOUGHT TO BE THE ***ENGLISH MERCURIE*** (1588), ON FILE AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM, BUT LATER PROVED TO BE A FORGERY. THE FIRST AMERICAN NEWSPAPER, ***PUBLICK OCCURENCES BOTH FOREIGN AND DOMESTICK*** (1690, BOSTON) LASTED BUT ONE ISSUE...



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Skyrider blue dial — chrome and red pointer—curved shatter-proof lens—gleaming metal case — the new "Cadet" will really *dress up* your bike. It's the real thing, too — not a toy! So *get it today*, at your bike shop, hardware, or department store.

STEWART-WARNER BIKE SPEEDOMETERS

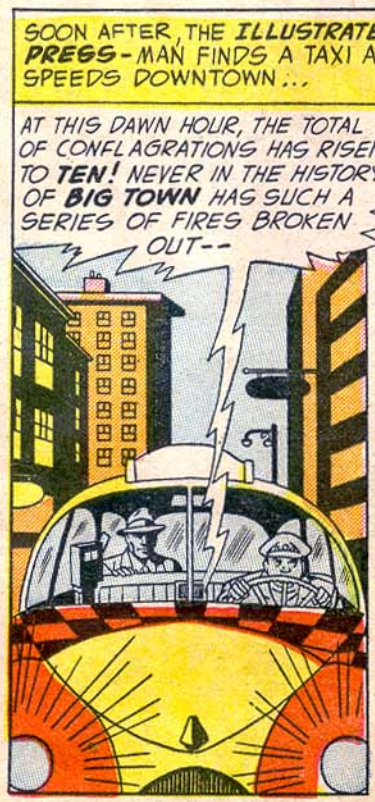
"It's fun to know how fast, how far you go"

Stewart-Warner, 1840 Diversey Parkway, Chicago 14, Illinois

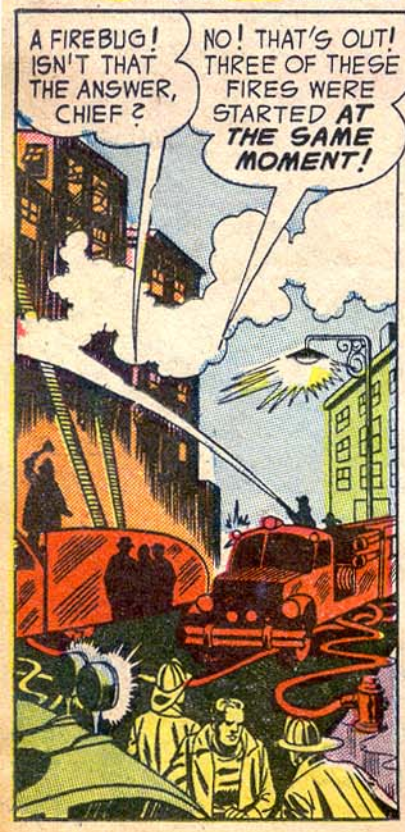
IT WAS A NIGHT OF TERROR THAT ***BIG TOWN*** WOULD NEVER FORGET! TEN TIMES THE DREAD ALARM OF ***FIRE*** CLANGED THROUGHOUT THE STUNNED CITY -- AND NO ONE COULD TELL WHO OR WHAT WAS BEHIND THE DEADLY ARSONIST ACTIVITY UNTIL STEVE WILSON, CRACK NEWSHAWK OF THE ***ILLUSTRATED PRESS***, FOUND THE MISSING LINK THAT TIED IT ALL TOGETHER!

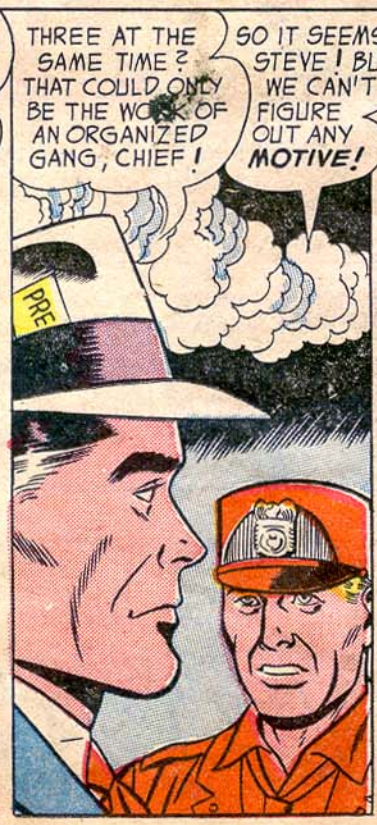
The CRIME PATROL!

EARLY ONE MORNING, STEVE WILSON IS AWAKENED BY HIS BEDSIDE TELEPHONE...
WHAT? EIGHT BIG FIRES IN THE LAST THREE HOURS! GET OUT ALL THE REPORTERS YOU CAN REACH, CHARLEY! I'LL BE DOWN THERE SOON AS I CAN!


SOON AFTER, THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS-MAN FINDS A TAXI AND SPEEDS DOWNTOWN...
AT THIS DAWN HOUR, THE TOTAL OF CONFLAGRATIONS HAS RISEN TO TEN! NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF BIG TOWN HAS SUCH A SERIES OF FIRES BROKEN OUT--

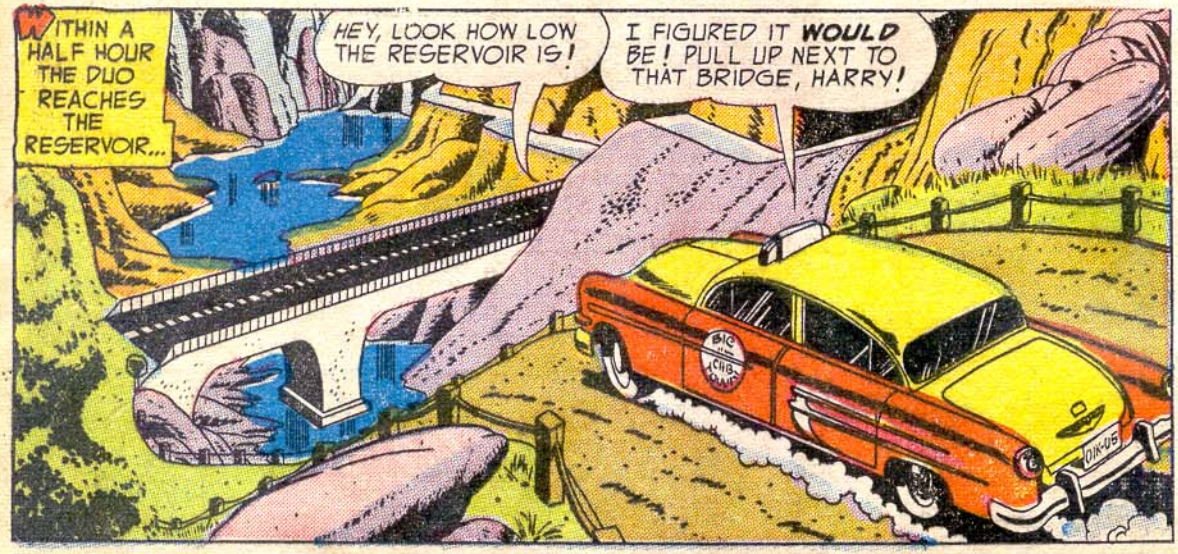
SHORTLY, AS THE DOUGHTY NEWSHAWK REACHES THE SCENE OF ONE OF THE FIRES...
CHIEF DAVIES, CAN YOU GIVE US A LEAD ON HOW THESE FIRES WERE STARTED?
STEVE, YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE RIGHT NOW..

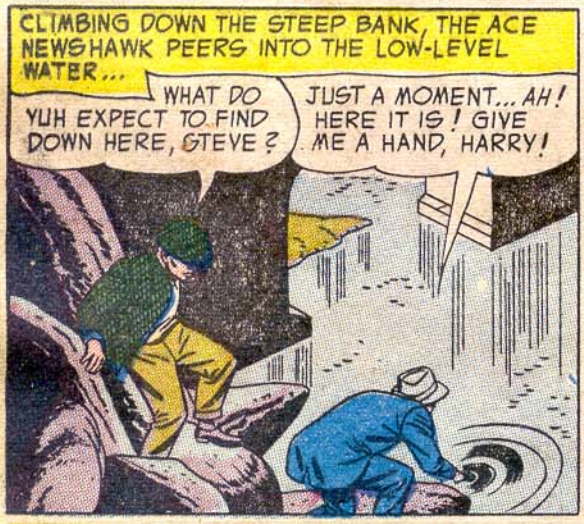

A FIREBUG! ISN'T THAT THE ANSWER, CHIEF?
NO! THAT'S OUT! THREE OF THESE FIRES WERE STARTED AT THE SAME MOMENT!

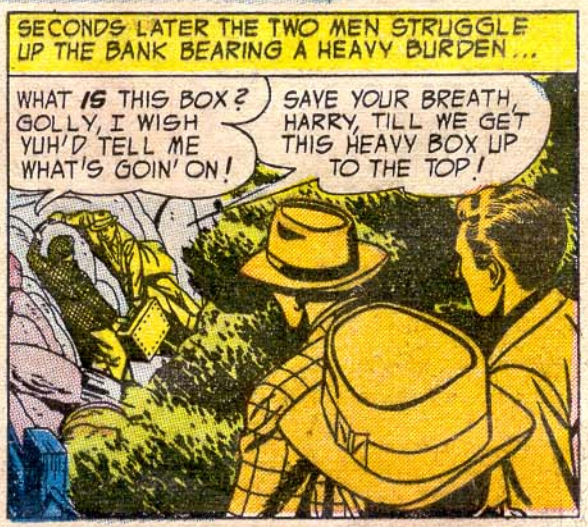

THREE AT THE SAME TIME? THAT COULD ONLY BE THE WORK OF AN ORGANIZED GANG, CHIEF!
SO IT SEEMS, STEVE! BUT WE CAN'T FIGURE OUT ANY MOTIVE!
PRE

NONE OF THE BUILDINGS SET AFIRE WAS OCCUPIED AT THE TIME! MOST OF THE TEN AREN'T INSURED! THEY'RE NOT EVEN TOGETHER--BUT IN WIDELY SCATTERED PARTS OF BIG TOWN!

AN HOUR LATER, IN STEVE'S ILLUSTRATED PRESS OFFICE...
The 10 BUILDINGS SET ON FIRE!
LISTEN--ALL OF YOU--THOSE BUILDINGS WERE SET ON FIRE FOR A REASON--AND WE MUST DETERMINE WHAT IT IS! SOMETHING LINKS ALL THOSE BUILDINGS TOGETHER! IT MAY TAKE US DAYS BUT WE'RE GOING TO FIND IT! NOW LET'S PITCH IN!
WATER, GAS, ELECTRICITY FIGURES.
AS MASSES OF STATISTICS ARE COMPILED AND HANDED TO STEVE...
NO PREVIOUS CRIMES AT THE LOCATIONS, STEVE! I WISH I COULD FEEL WE WERE GETTING SOMEWHERE, BUT--
HOLD ON, GAL! I'VE JUST SPOTTED SOMETHING--
THESE FIGURES ON WATER PRESSURE--IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE--AND YET--LORELEI, HERE'S WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO--!
RUSH THIS NOTE OVER TO INSPECTOR CALLAHAN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS AS FAST AS YOU CAN! MEANWHILE, I'LL GET HARRY THE HACK TO DRIVE ME UPTOWN!
RIGHT, STEVE!
SHORTLY, AS STEVE'S FRIEND HARRY THE HACK PILOTS HIS CAB SWIFTLY NORTHWARD...
SURE I KNOW THE ROAD TO AKOKAN RESERVOIR, STEVE! ONLY I WISH I KNEW WHY WE'RE GOIN' THERE!
YOU'LL SEE! STEP ON IT, HARRY!







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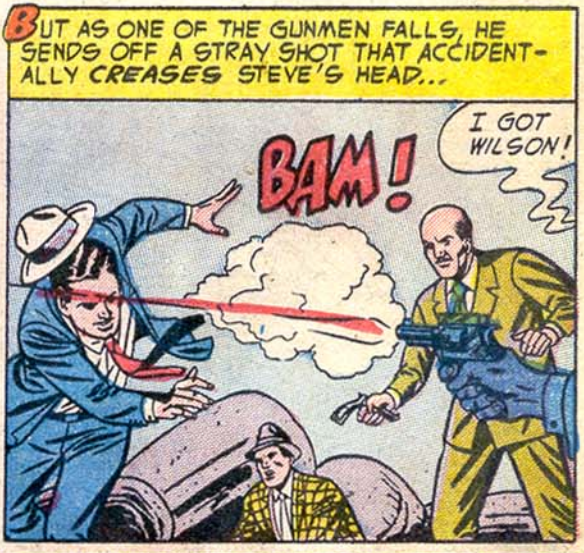
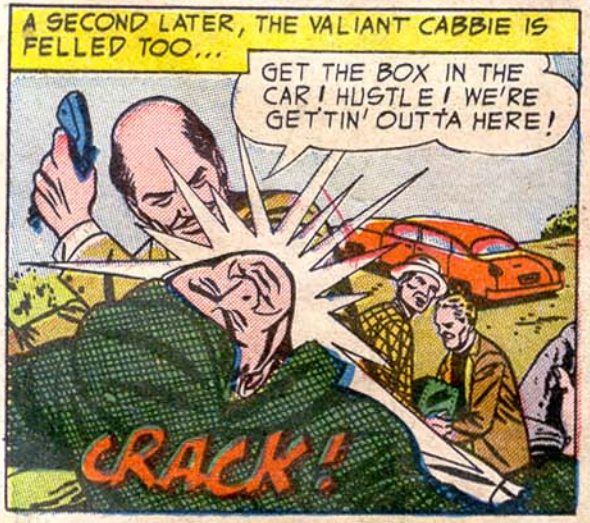
THREE! LET 'ER GO, HARRY!
WATCH OUT!
BAM!
CRASH!


BUT AS ONE OF THE GUNMEN FALLS, HE SENDS OFF A STRAY SHOT THAT ACCIDENTALLY CREASES STEVE'S HEAD...
BAM!
I GOT WILSON!

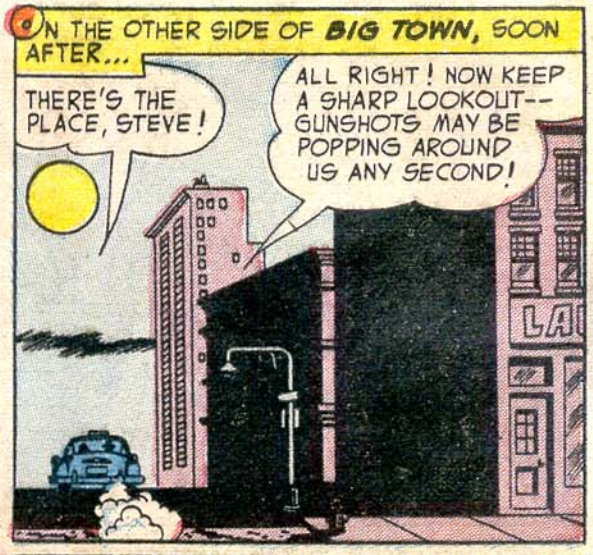

A SECOND LATER, THE VALIANT CABBIE IS FELLED TOO...
GET THE BOX IN THE CAR! HUSTLE! WE'RE GETTIN' OUTTA HERE!
CRACK!

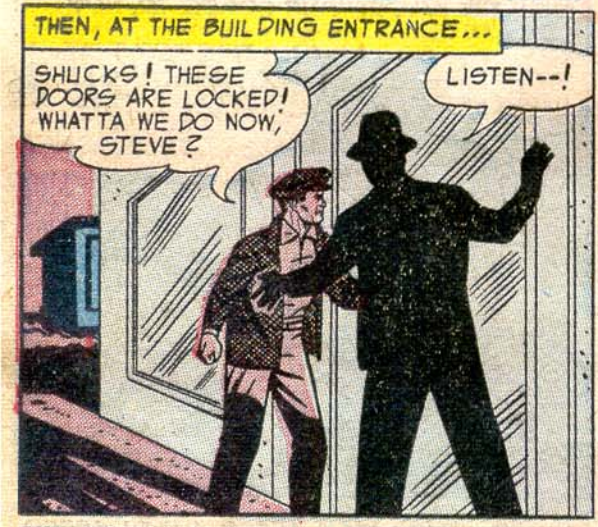
WHEN THE KAYOED PAIR COMES TO, NOT LONG AFTER...
STEVE! WHAT HAPPENED?
NO TIME FOR THAT NOW, HARRY! INTO YOUR CAB! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO THE NEAREST TELEPHONE!
543J

SHORTLY, AT A COUNTRY HOUSE NEARBY...
THAT'S RIGHT, LORELEI! I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THEIR LICENSE PLATE-- NUMBER 543 J! SEE IF YOU CAN FIND WHO IT BELONGS TO!

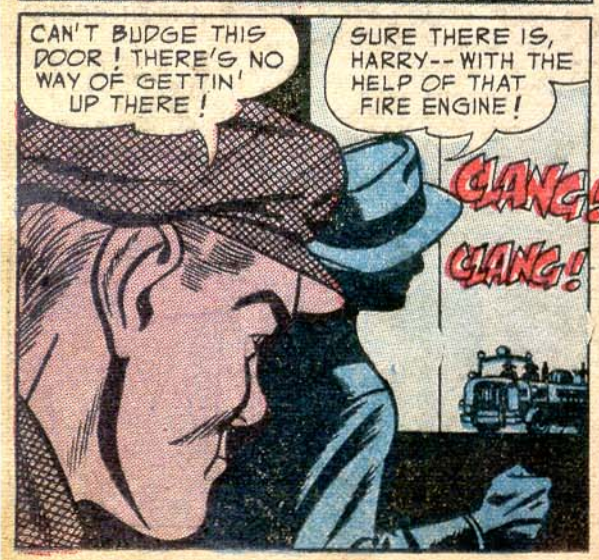
A HALF-HOUR LATER, AFTER A HIGH-SPEED DASH BACK TO TOWN...
LORELEI GOT THE INFORMATION, STEVE! HERE'S THE NAME AND ADDRESS! SHE'S ALREADY HEADED OVER TO THE PLACE--
WHAT? HOW CAN SHE EXPECT TO TACKLE THAT GANG SINGLE-HANDED?

HERE WE GO AGAIN, HARRY!
WHEW! YUH'RE NOT GIVIN' ME A CHANCE TO CATCH MY BREATH!


ON THE OTHER SIDE OF BIG TOWN, SOON AFTER...
THERE'S THE PLACE, STEVE!
ALL RIGHT! NOW KEEP A SHARP LOOKOUT-- GUNSHOTS MAY BE POPPING AROUND US ANY SECOND!


THEN, AT THE BUILDING ENTRANCE...
SHUCKS! THESE DOORS ARE LOCKED! WHATTA WE DO NOW, STEVE?
LISTEN--!

AS THE TWO MEN FALL SILENT IN ORDER TO HEAR BETTER, SUDDENLY FROM ABOVE THEM...
HELP!
LORELEI'S VOICE! SHE'S UP THERE--NEAR THE TOP OF THIS BUILDING--


CAN'T BUDGE THIS DOOR! THERE'S NO WAY OF GETTIN' UP THERE!
SURE THERE IS, HARRY--WITH THE HELP OF THAT FIRE ENGINE!
CLANG!
CLANG!

YES, WE'RE COMING BACK NOW FROM ONE OF THOSE MYSTERY FIRES, MR. WILSON--AND WE'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU IF WE CAN!
GOOD! LET'S GET TO THAT LADDER OF YOURS!

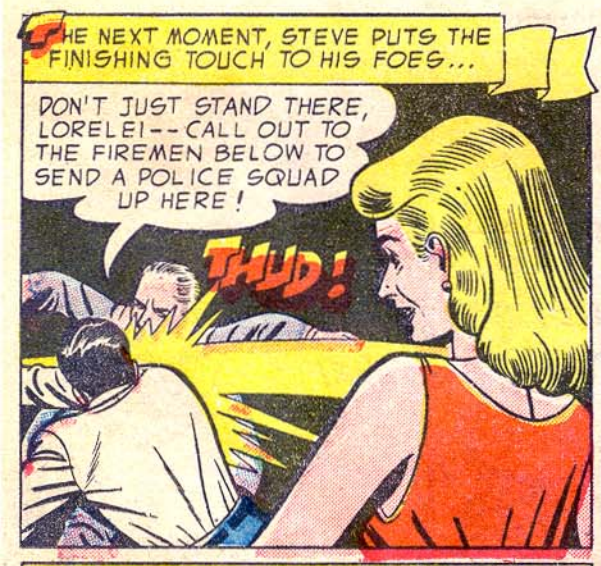
A MOMENT LATER, AS THE INTREPID NEWSMAN IS PROPELLED UPWARD...
UP THERE! ABOUT THE TENTH FLOOR!
WOW! TALK ABOUT CHARGIN' "INTO THE CANNON'S MOUTH"!

THIS IS AS FAR AS YOU GO, WILSON!

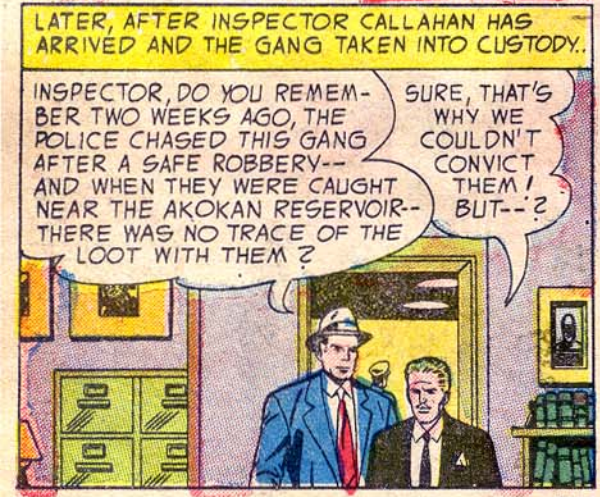
STEVE--TWO MORE BEHIND YOU! LOOK OUT!
KRAACK!

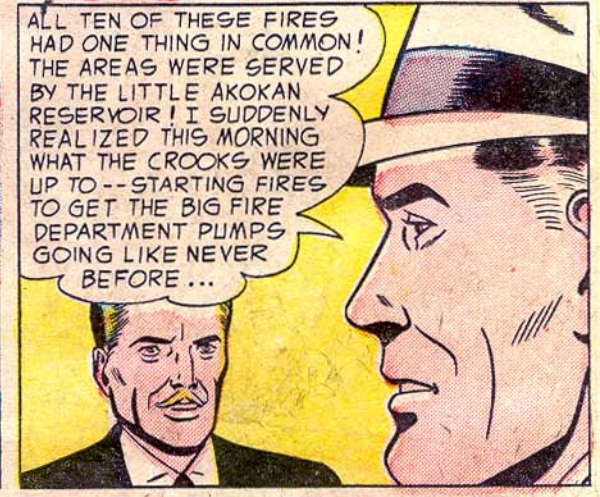
WITH BREATHTAKING DARING, STEVE DIVES FROM THE LADDER THROUGH THE WINDOW...
YOUR AIM'S GETTING WORSE, PAL! LAST TIME YOU BARELY CREASED MY SKULL--THIS TIME YOU CHALKED UP A COMPLETE MISS!
BAM!
BAM!
CRASH!

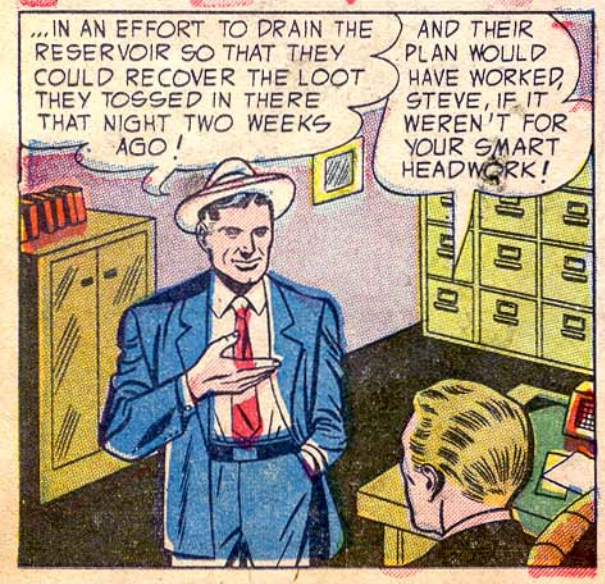
LIKE A WILDCAT, STEVE WHIRLS AND WITH THE SAME MOTION OVERTURNS A TABLE..
I CAN'T RIDE MY LUCK TOO FAR--I'M MAKING SURE YOUR GUNSHOTS MISS!
CRACK!
BLAAM!

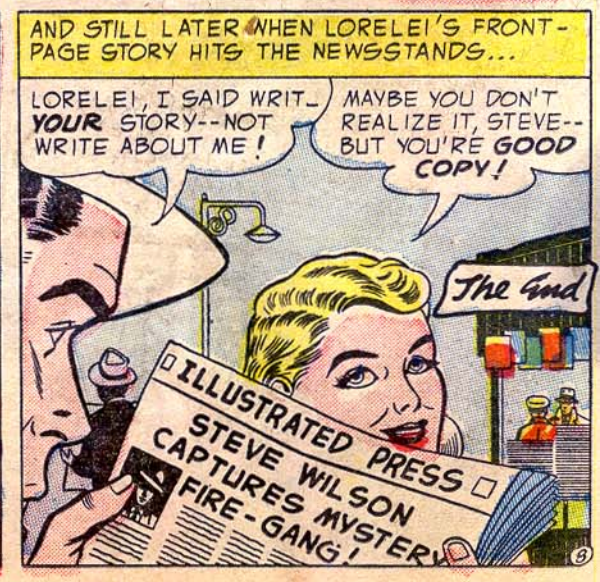

THE NEXT MOMENT, STEVE PUTS THE FINISHING TOUCH TO HIS FOES...
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, LORELEI--CALL OUT TO THE FIREMEN BELOW TO SEND A POLICE SQUAD UP HERE!
THUD!

SHORTLY, AFTER LORELEI HAS SHOUTED DOWN STEVE'S INSTRUCTIONS...
THEY'LL BE RIGHT OVER! OH, STEVE, I NEVER MEANT TO CAUSE YOU ALL THIS TROUBLE--!
FORGET IT... AT LEAST YOU'VE GOT YOUR STORY! GET BACK TO THE OFFICE AND WRITE IT!


LATER, AFTER INSPECTOR CALLAHAN HAS ARRIVED AND THE GANG TAKEN INTO CUSTODY..
INSPECTOR, DO YOU REMEMBER TWO WEEKS AGO, THE POLICE CHASED THIS GANG AFTER A SAFE ROBBERY--AND WHEN THEY WERE CAUGHT NEAR THE AKOKAN RESERVOIR--THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE LOOT WITH THEM?
SURE, THAT'S WHY WE COULDN'T CONVICT THEM! BUT--?


ALL TEN OF THESE FIRES HAD ONE THING IN COMMON! THE AREAS WERE SERVED BY THE LITTLE AKOKAN RESERVOIR! I SUDDENLY REALIZED THIS MORNING WHAT THE CROOKS WERE UP TO--STARTING FIRES TO GET THE BIG FIRE DEPARTMENT PUMPS GOING LIKE NEVER BEFORE...


...IN AN EFFORT TO DRAIN THE RESERVOIR SO THAT THEY COULD RECOVER THE LOOT THEY TOSSED IN THERE THAT NIGHT TWO WEEKS AGO!
AND THEIR PLAN WOULD HAVE WORKED, STEVE, IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOUR SMART HEADWORK!


AND STILL LATER WHEN LORELEI'S FRONT-PAGE STORY HITS THE NEWSSTANDS...
LORELEI, I SAID WRIT- YOUR STORY--NOT WRITE ABOUT ME!
MAYBE YOU DON'T REALIZE IT, STEVE--BUT YOU'RE GOOD COPY!
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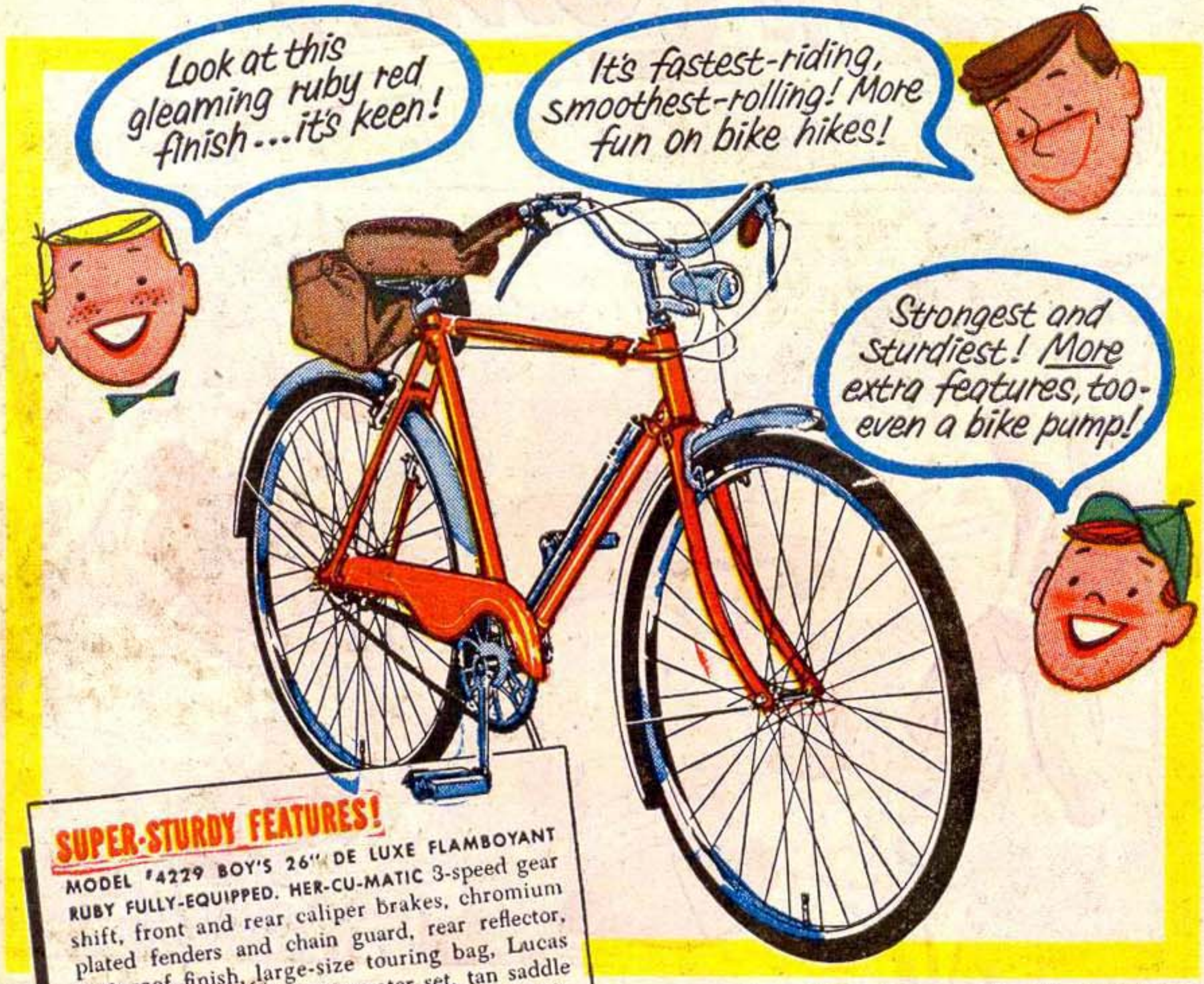

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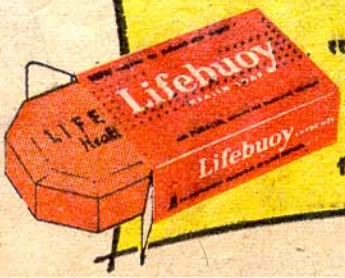
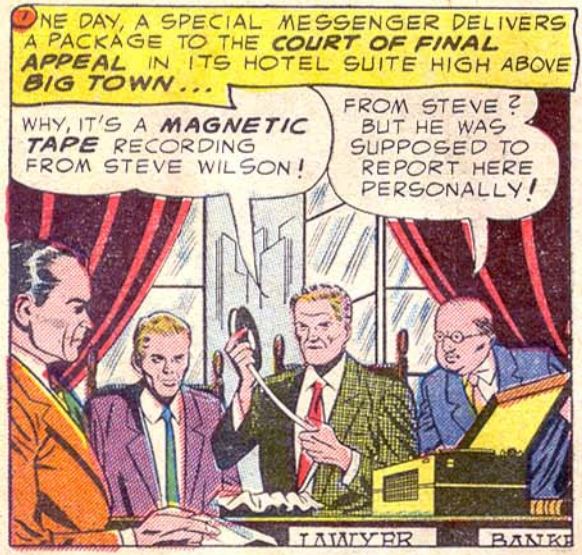
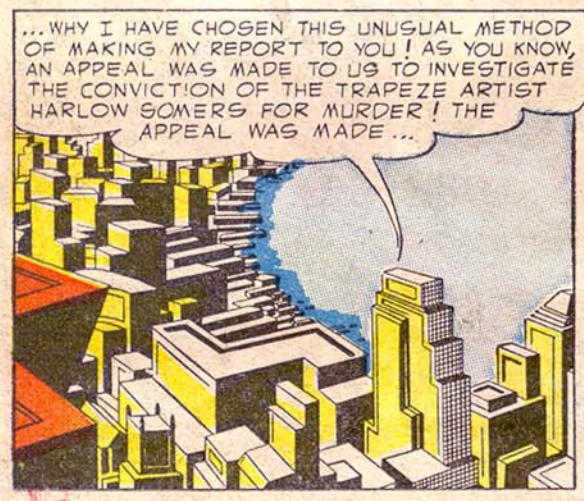


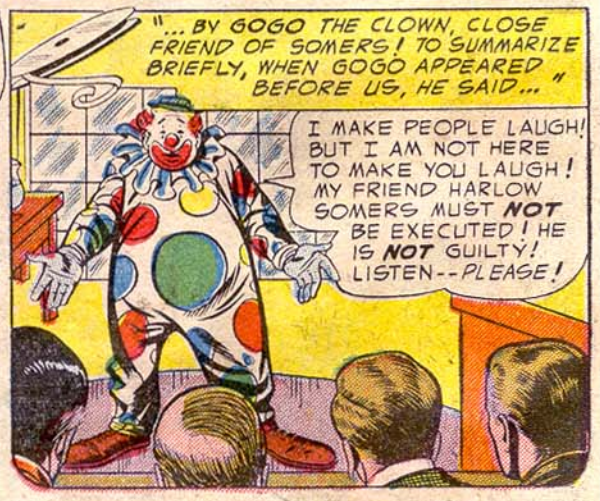
THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL! THROUGHOUT THE LAND--BUT ESPECIALLY IN ***BIG TOWN***-- THESE WORDS RING A BELL OF HOPE FOR ALL THOSE UNJUSTLY ACCUSED OF CRIME OR MISTAKENLY CONVICTED! AND THIS TIME, WITH ACE NEWSPAPERMAN STEVE WILSON FOLLOWING UP ON THE **COURT'S** INITIAL INVESTIGATION, THE TRAIL LEADS TO THE EXCITING WORLD OF THE CIRCUS! ***In...***

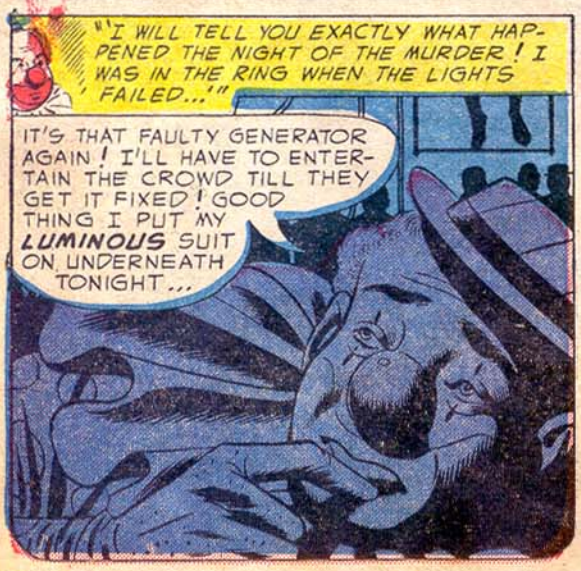
The 3-RING MURDER CASE!

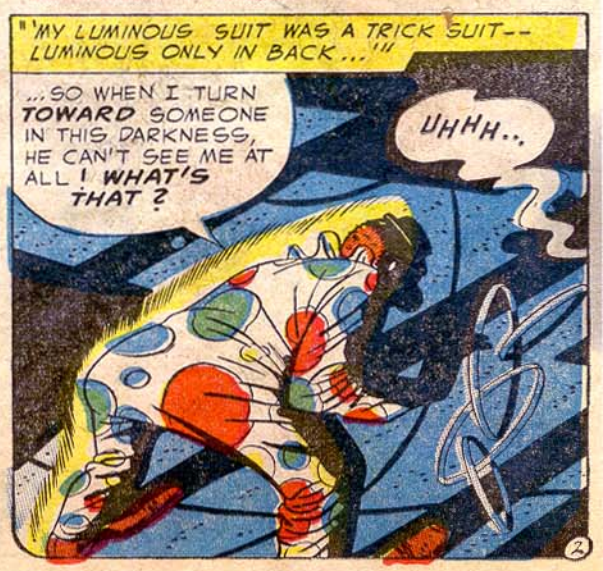

ONE DAY, A SPECIAL MESSENGER DELIVERS A PACKAGE TO THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL IN ITS HOTEL SUITE HIGH ABOVE BIG TOWN...
WHY, IT'S A MAGNETIC TAPE RECORDING FROM STEVE WILSON!
FROM STEVE? BUT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO REPORT HERE PERSONALLY!
LAWYER
BANKE

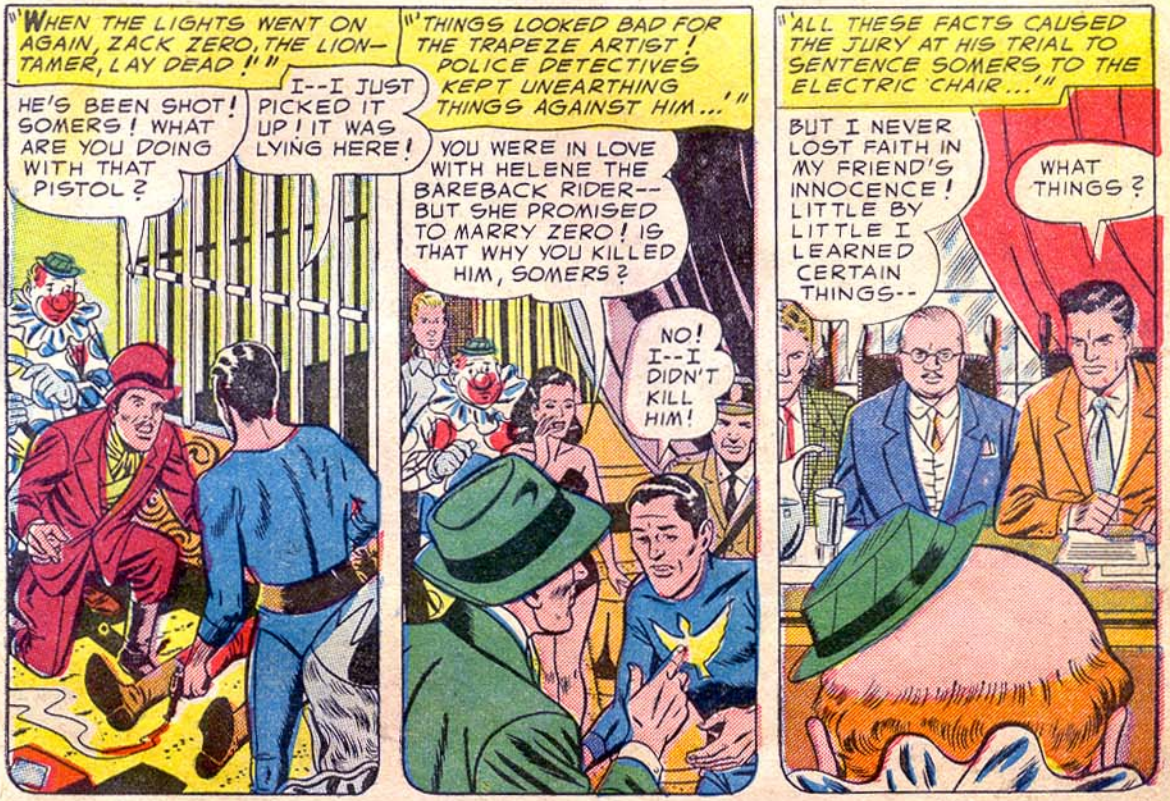
AS THE SPOOL IS PUT ON A PLAY-BACK MACHINE...
I HOPE NOTHING'S HAPPENED TO HIM!
SHH-- IT'S BEGINNING!
FELLOW MEMBERS, YOU'LL UNDERSTAND WHEN THIS RECORDING IS ENDED...
RECORDER
CLICK!

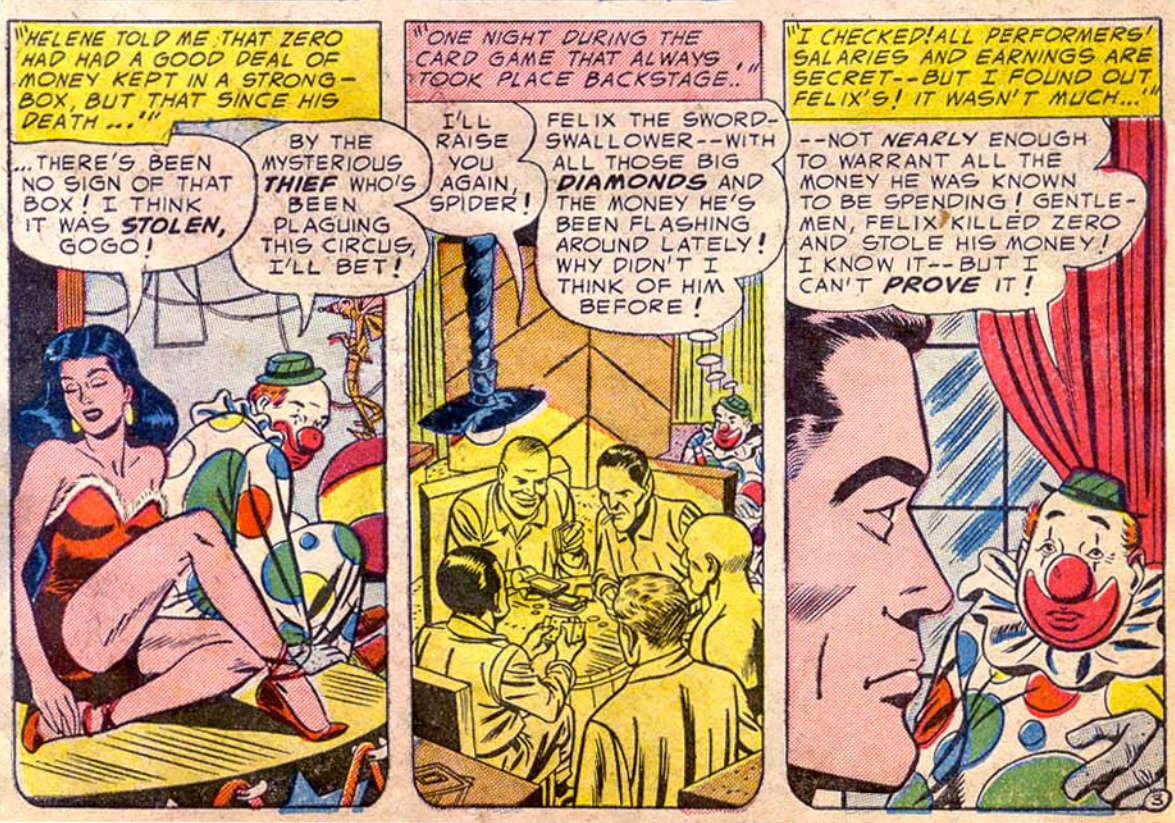

...WHY I HAVE CHOSEN THIS UNUSUAL METHOD OF MAKING MY REPORT TO YOU! AS YOU KNOW, AN APPEAL WAS MADE TO US TO INVESTIGATE THE CONVICTION OF THE TRAPEZE ARTIST HARLOW SOMERS FOR MURDER! THE APPEAL WAS MADE...

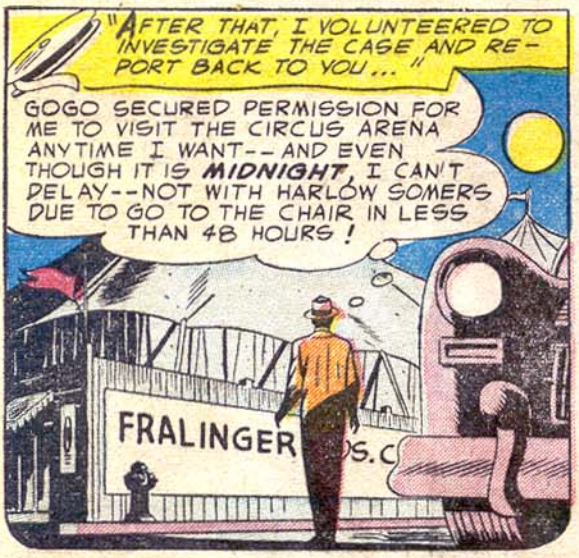

"...BY GOGO THE CLOWN, CLOSE FRIEND OF SOMERS! TO SUMMARIZE BRIEFLY, WHEN GOGO APPEARED BEFORE US, HE SAID..."
I MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH! BUT I AM NOT HERE TO MAKE YOU LAUGH! MY FRIEND HARLOW SOMERS MUST NOT BE EXECUTED! HE IS NOT GUILTY! LISTEN--PLEASE!

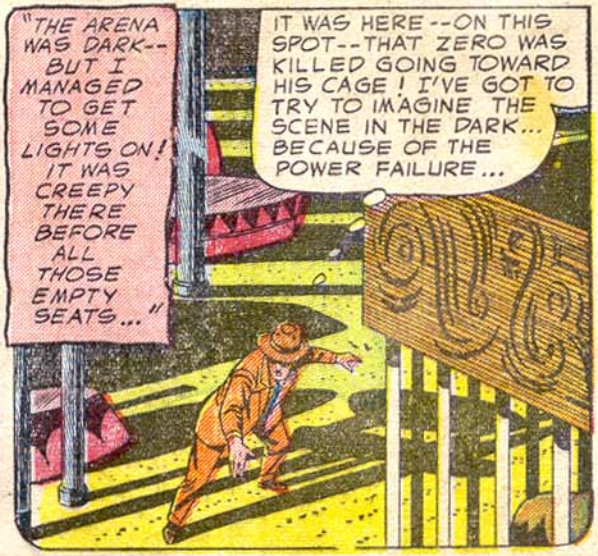

"'I WILL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT OF THE MURDER! I WAS IN THE RING WHEN THE LIGHTS FAILED...'"
IT'S THAT FAULTY GENERATOR AGAIN! I'LL HAVE TO ENTERTAIN THE CROWD TILL THEY GET IT FIXED! GOOD THING I PUT MY LUMINOUS SUIT ON UNDERNEATH TONIGHT...

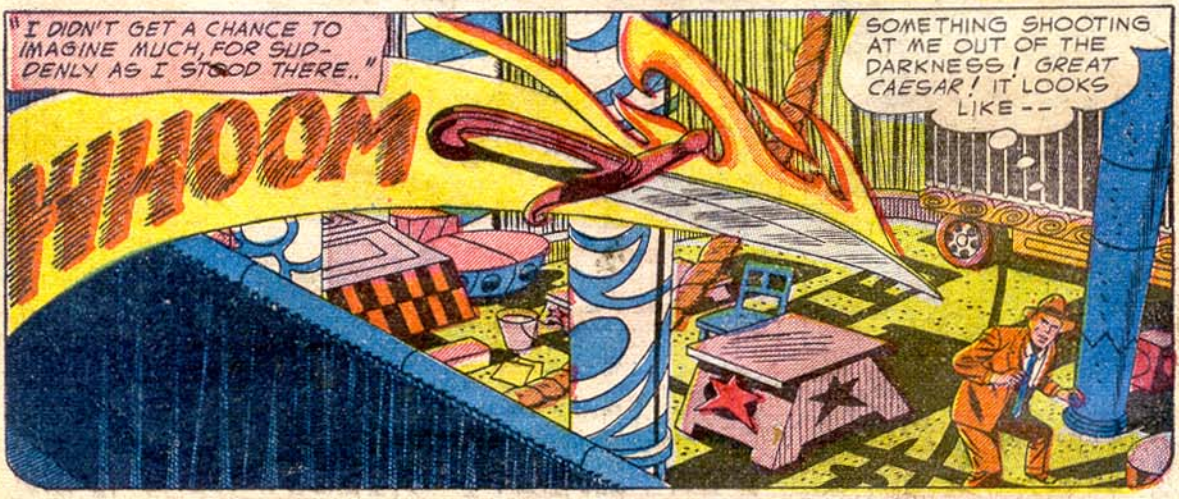

"'MY LUMINOUS SUIT WAS A TRICK SUIT-- LUMINOUS ONLY IN BACK...'"
...SO WHEN I TURN TOWARD SOMEONE IN THIS DARKNESS, HE CAN'T SEE ME AT ALL! WHAT'S THAT?
UHHH...


"WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT ON AGAIN, ZACK ZERO, THE LION-TAMER, LAY DEAD!"
HE'S BEEN SHOT! SOMERS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT PISTOL?
I--I JUST PICKED IT UP! IT WAS LYING HERE!
"THINGS LOOKED BAD FOR THE TRAPEZE ARTIST! POLICE DETECTIVES KEPT UNEARTHING THINGS AGAINST HIM..."
YOU WERE IN LOVE WITH HELENE THE BAREBACK RIDER--BUT SHE PROMISED TO MARRY ZERO! IS THAT WHY YOU KILLED HIM, SOMERS?
NO! I--I DIDN'T KILL HIM!
"ALL THESE FACTS CAUSED THE JURY AT HIS TRIAL TO SENTENCE SOMERS TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR..."
BUT I NEVER LOST FAITH IN MY FRIEND'S INNOCENCE! LITTLE BY LITTLE I LEARNED CERTAIN THINGS--
WHAT THINGS?


"HELENE TOLD ME THAT ZERO HAD HAD A GOOD DEAL OF MONEY KEPT IN A STRONG-BOX, BUT THAT SINCE HIS DEATH..."
...THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF THAT BOX! I THINK IT WAS STOLEN, GOGO!
BY THE MYSTERIOUS THIEF WHO'S BEEN PLAGUING THIS CIRCUS, I'LL BET!
"ONE NIGHT DURING THE CARD GAME THAT ALWAYS TOOK PLACE BACKSTAGE..."
I'LL RAISE YOU AGAIN, SPIDER!
FELIX THE SWORD-SWALLOWER--WITH ALL THOSE BIG DIAMONDS AND THE MONEY HE'S BEEN FLASHING AROUND LATELY! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF HIM BEFORE!
"I CHECKED! ALL PERFORMERS' SALARIES AND EARNINGS ARE SECRET--BUT I FOUND OUT FELIX'S! IT WASN'T MUCH..."
--NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO WARRANT ALL THE MONEY HE WAS KNOWN TO BE SPENDING! GENTLEMEN, FELIX KILLED ZERO AND STOLE HIS MONEY! I KNOW IT--BUT I CAN'T PROVE IT!

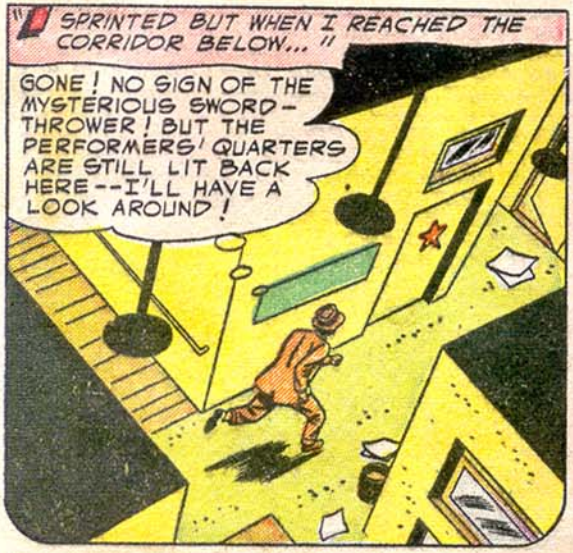

"AFTER THAT, I VOLUNTEERED TO INVESTIGATE THE CASE AND REPORT BACK TO YOU..."
GOGO SECURED PERMISSION FOR ME TO VISIT THE CIRCUS ARENA ANYTIME I WANT--AND EVEN THOUGH IT IS MIDNIGHT, I CAN'T DELAY--NOT WITH HARLOW SOMERS DUE TO GO TO THE CHAIR IN LESS THAN 48 HOURS!
FRALINGER


"THE ARENA WAS DARK--BUT I MANAGED TO GET SOME LIGHTS ON! IT WAS CREEPY THERE BEFORE ALL THOSE EMPTY SEATS..."
IT WAS HERE--ON THIS SPOT--THAT ZERO WAS KILLED GOING TOWARD HIS CAGE! I'VE GOT TO TRY TO IMAGINE THE SCENE IN THE DARK... BECAUSE OF THE POWER FAILURE...

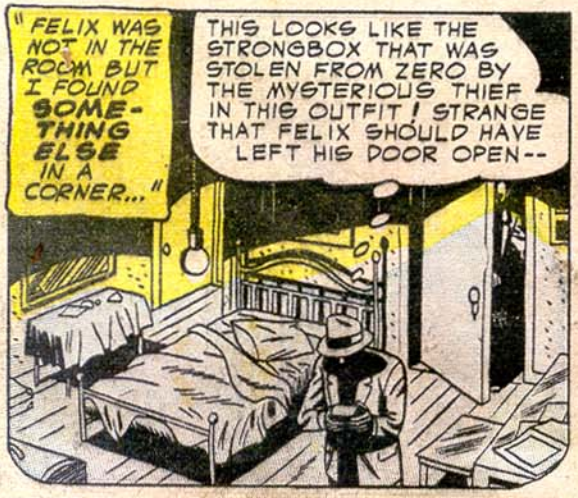

"I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO IMAGINE MUCH, FOR SUDDENLY AS I STOOD THERE.."
WHOOM
SOMETHING SHOOTING AT ME OUT OF THE DARKNESS! GREAT CAESAR! IT LOOKS LIKE--

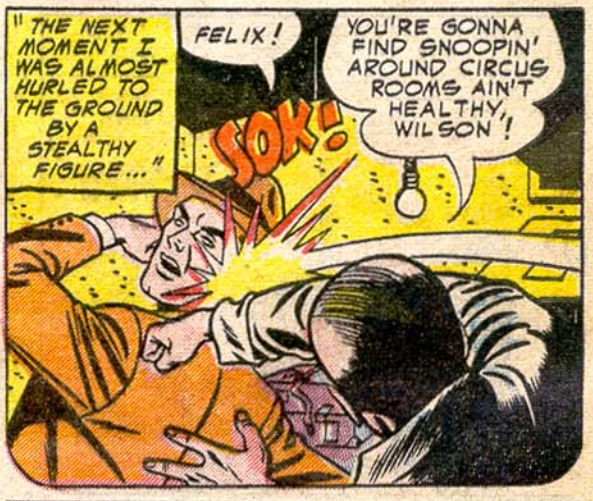
--A FLAMING SWORD!
CLUNK!

"BEFORE I COULD EXAMINE THE WEAPON MORE CLOSELY, A THUDDING SOUND AS OF FOOTSTEPS AROSE FROM BEHIND ME..."
PLUNK!
SOMEBODY RUNNING--DOWN THAT RAMP! GOT TO CATCH HIM!
PLUNK!
PLUNK!

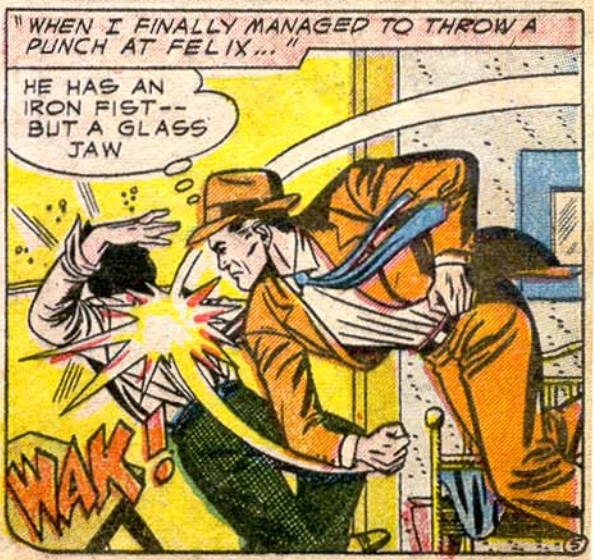

"I SPRINTED BUT WHEN I REACHED THE CORRIDOR BELOW..."
GONE! NO SIGN OF THE MYSTERIOUS SWORD-THROWER! BUT THE PERFORMERS' QUARTERS ARE STILL LIT BACK HERE--I'LL HAVE A LOOK AROUND!

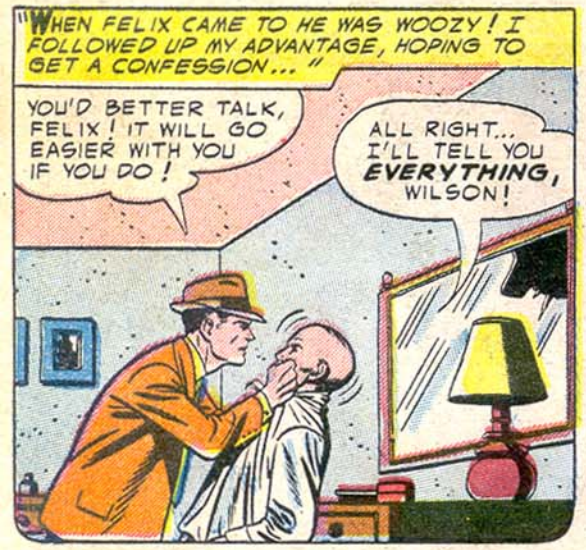
THIS IS FELIX THE SWORD-SWALLOWER'S ROOM! I THINK IT'S TIME HE AND I HAD A LITTLE TALK!
FELIX

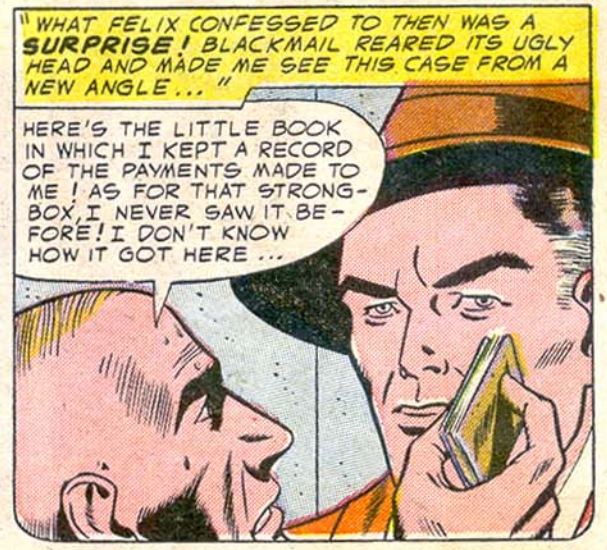

"FELIX WAS NOT IN THE ROOM BUT I FOUND SOMETHING ELSE IN A CORNER..."
THIS LOOKS LIKE THE STRONGBOX THAT WAS STOLEN FROM ZERO BY THE MYSTERIOUS THIEF IN THIS OUTFIT! STRANGE THAT FELIX SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIS DOOR OPEN--


"THE NEXT MOMENT I WAS ALMOST HURLED TO THE GROUND BY A STEALTHY FIGURE..."
FELIX!
YOU'RE GONNA FIND SNOOPIN' AROUND CIRCUS ROOMS AIN'T HEALTHY, WILSON!
SOK!

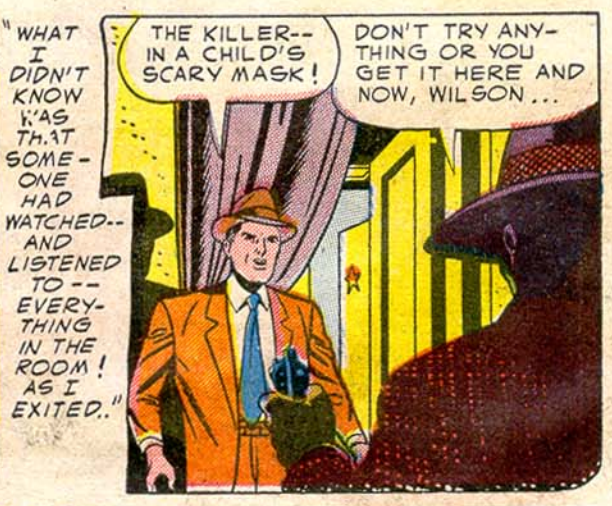
"FELIX FOUGHT WITH SUCH TIGERISH FURY! I COULDN'T LAND A PUNCH ON HIM..."
WHEW! HE'S HARD AND STRONG AS ONE OF HIS STEEL SWORDS!
KRACK!


"WHEN I FINALLY MANAGED TO THROW A PUNCH AT FELIX..."
HE HAS AN IRON FIST--BUT A GLASS JAW
WAK!

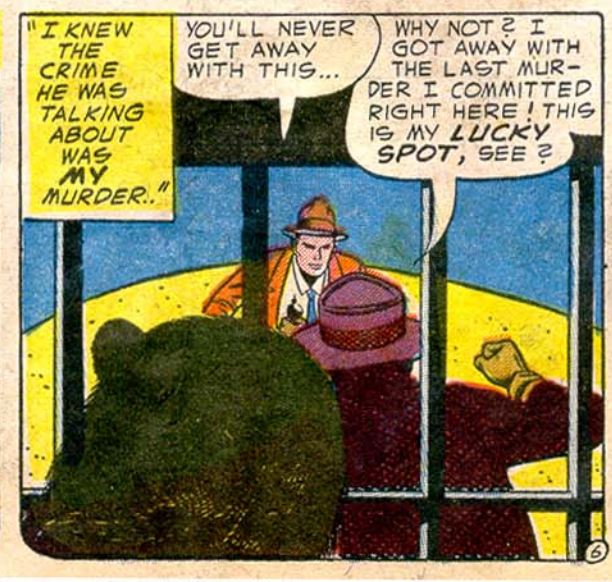

"WHEN FELIX CAME TO HE WAS WOOZY! I FOLLOWED UP MY ADVANTAGE, HOPING TO GET A CONFESSION..."
YOU'D BETTER TALK, FELIX! IT WILL GO EASIER WITH YOU IF YOU DO!
ALL RIGHT... I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING, WILSON!


"WHAT FELIX CONFESSED TO THEN WAS A SURPRISE! BLACKMAIL REARED ITS UGLY HEAD AND MADE ME SEE THIS CASE FROM A NEW ANGLE..."
HERE'S THE LITTLE BOOK IN WHICH I KEPT A RECORD OF THE PAYMENTS MADE TO ME! AS FOR THAT STRONG-BOX, I NEVER SAW IT BEFORE! I DON'T KNOW HOW IT GOT HERE...

"EVERYTHING FELIX SAID ADDED UP! SUDDENLY I KNEW THE ANSWER-- I KNEW WHO THE MURDERER WAS!"
DON'T LEAVE HERE, FELIX! THE POLICE WILL WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. WILSON...

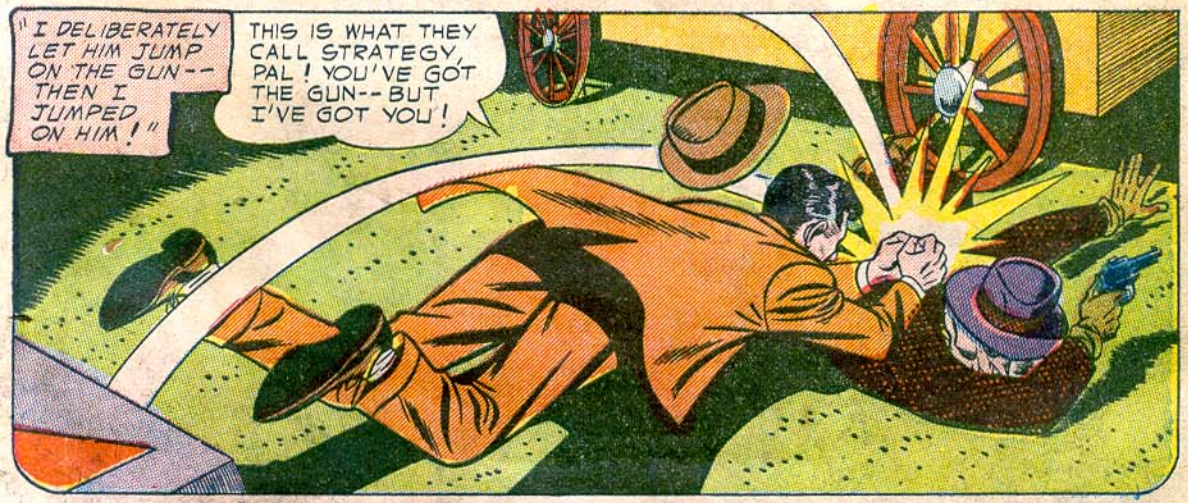

"WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT SOMEONE HAD WATCHED-- AND LISTENED TO-- EVERYTHING IN THE ROOM! AS I EXITED.."
THE KILLER-- IN A CHILD'S SCARY MASK!
DON'T TRY ANYTHING OR YOU GET IT HERE AND NOW, WILSON...

"THAT GUN HE POINTED AT ME LOOKED LIKE A CANNON! I DIDN'T DARE TRY TO DO ANYTHING..."
IF ANYBODY DOES SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, WILSON--THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY ME! THEY'LL PROBABLY PIN THE CRIME ON THE WRONG GUY! HA HA...

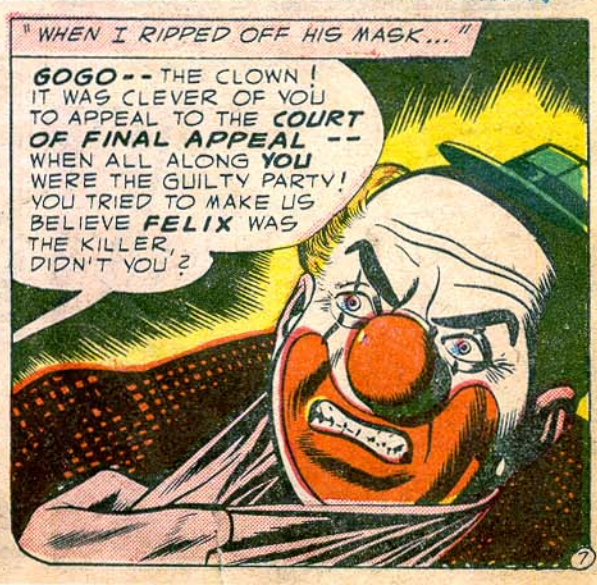

"I KNEW THE CRIME HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WAS MY MURDER.."
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS...
WHY NOT? I GOT AWAY WITH THE LAST MURDER I COMMITTED RIGHT HERE! THIS IS MY LUCKY SPOT, SEE?

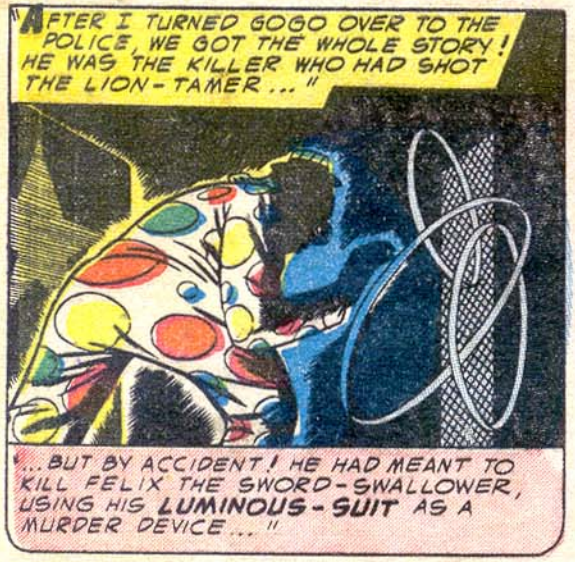
"I NEVER DID FORESEE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT! BUT FORTUNATELY FOR ME, NEITHER DID THE KILLER, AS THE CAGED LION SUDDENLY CAME TO LIFE AND..."
MY GUN!
RRRRR!

"THE GUN LANDED ON THE FLOOR--RIGHT PLUNK IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THE TWO OF US..."
THERE HE GOES... LUNGING FOR THE GUN...


"I DELIBERATELY LET HIM JUMP ON THE GUN--THEN I JUMPED ON HIM!"
THIS IS WHAT THEY CALL STRATEGY, PAL! YOU'VE GOT THE GUN--BUT I'VE GOT YOU!

"TURNED OUT THE GUN DIDN'T DO HIM A BIT OF GOOD BECAUSE HE NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO USE IT..."
THE MASQUERADE IS OVER--AND SO'S YOUR MURDER GAME!
WAK!


"WHEN I RIPPED OFF HIS MASK..."
GOGO--THE CLOWN! IT WAS CLEVER OF YOU TO APPEAL TO THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL--WHEN ALL ALONG YOU WERE THE GUILTY PARTY! YOU TRIED TO MAKE US BELIEVE FELIX WAS THE KILLER, DIDN'T YOU?


"AFTER I TURNED GOGO OVER TO THE POLICE, WE GOT THE WHOLE STORY! HE WAS THE KILLER WHO HAD SHOT THE LION-TAMER..."
...BUT BY ACCIDENT! HE HAD MEANT TO KILL FELIX THE SWORD-SWALLOWER, USING HIS LUMINOUS-SUIT AS A MURDER DEVICE..."

"HE HAD THE LOADED PISTOL ON HIM! THE ELECTRIC GENERATOR HAD BEEN HALTED BY A TIMING DEVICE THAT HE HAD SET INTO IT SECRETLY..."
"A LONG CAPE WAS PART OF HIS MURDER-PLAN! BY DONNING IT HE BECAME INVISIBLE FOR A MOMENT--JUST THE MOMENT HE NEEDED..."

"GOGO KNEW AT THE INSTANT OF DARKNESS, FELIX WOULD BE WARMING UP FOR HIS SWORD-SWALLOWING ACT TO FOLLOW..."
I CAN SEE FELIX IN THE LIGHT OF THAT FLAMING SWORD! HE'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT HIT HIM...

"BUT AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, NOT FELIX, BUT THE LION-TAMER WHO UNWITTINGLY STEPPED INTO THE PATH OF THE BULLET WAS KILLED!"
UGH!
GET THOSE LIGHTS ON QUICK! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED NEAR THE LION CAGE!
BAM!

"FELIX HAD LEARNED THAT GOGO HAD ONCE ESCAPED FROM PRISON AND WAS BLACKMAILING HIM..."
...AND THAT IS WHY GOGO TRIED TO KILL HIM! WHILE YOU ARE LISTENING TO THIS, I WILL BE PUTTING OUT A SPECIAL FIVE-COLUMN SPREAD ON THE STORY FOR THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS!

IN THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLISHER OF THE ILLUSTRATED PRESS...
A SWELL JOB, STEVE! BUT HAVE YOU INFORMED YOUR COLLEAGUES OF THE COURT OF FINAL APPEAL ABOUT THE CASE?
YES, SIR, MR. McGRATH! BY NOW THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!
STRATED PRESS
The End

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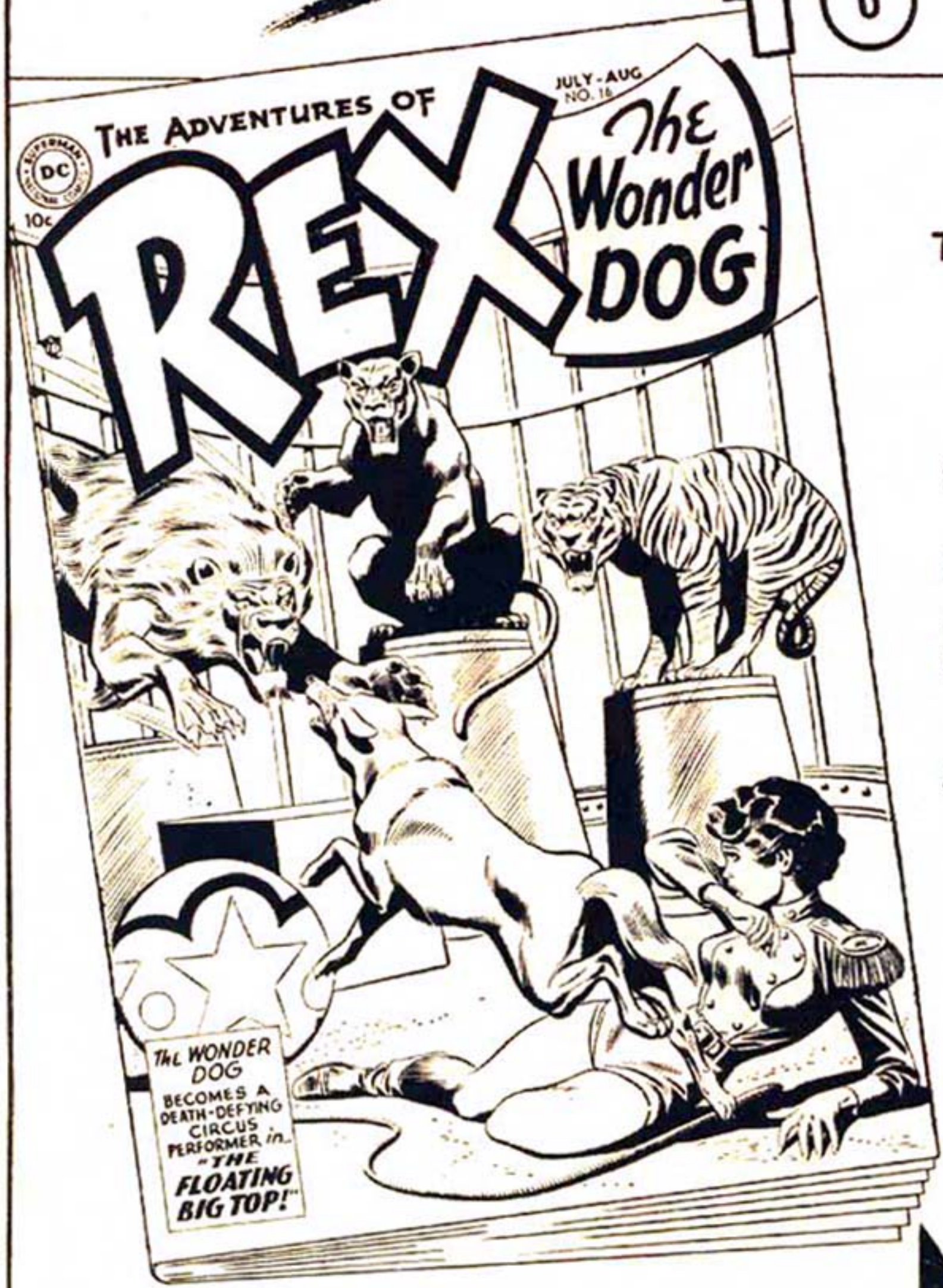
"THE DOG YOU'D LIKE TO OWN!"



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