

YOU CAN'T BEAT THE LAW!



No. 2  
FEB.  
MAR.

A 52 PAGE  
MAGAZINE

TEN CENTS

# GANG BUSTERS

IN THIS ISSUE  
*A Sensational Exposé!*  
**"THE PRIVATE LIFE  
OF A PUBLIC ENEMY"**



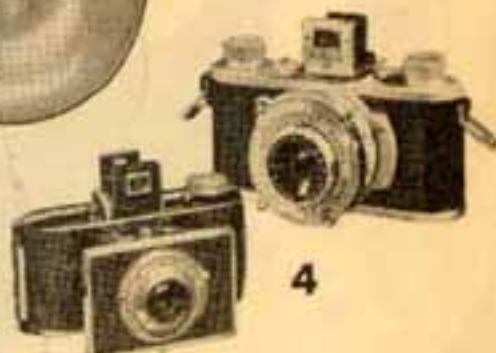
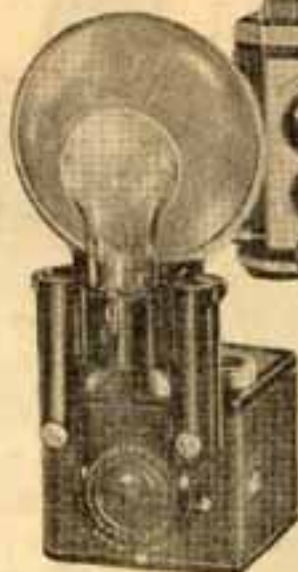
BASED ON THE SMASH RADIO HIT!





# How to buy a Christmas camera...

Who's it for? A beginner? Someone who already has the "bug" and wants a camera a little more advanced? Or the ace who really knows his stuff... and has his sights set high? At your Kodak dealer's, you'll find a model that rates "tops" with any of them. So grab your Christmas list. We're going shopping.



## Beginner?

1. **Simple little Brownie Cameras** . . . Baby Brownie Special and "Targets." Make swell snaps for those whose photography simmers down to "see it... shoot it."
2. **Brownie Cameras with Flash Equipment** . . . Brownie Flash Six-20; Brownie Reflex, Synchro Model. That flash feature permits picture-making indoors or out.

## Pretty Well Along?

3. **Kodak Folding Cameras** . . . Kodak Vigilant Junior, and three more advanced Vigilants with faster, more versatile shutters (some with built-in flash synchronization), keener lenses, adjustable focusing.
4. **Kodak Miniatures** . . . the Kodak Flash Bantam and the Kodak 35's. Travelers and the more serious fans go for these "little" cameras in a big way.

## All-Out Fan?

5. **The Kodak Reflex** . . . a camera star . . . the pop-up hood, the big, brilliant viewfinder that "previews" pictures full image size . . . a raft of other features. Costs more . . . but it's worth every penny.



**And remember...** anyone who gets a Kodak or Brownie camera will want to start shooting pronto! So include a roll or two of Kodak Verichrome . . . the film that "gets" the picture. The famous Kodak Film Family includes Kodak Plus-X, Kodak Super-XX . . . full-color Kodachrome and Kodacolor.

**EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY**  
Rochester 4, N. Y.

**Note:** Prices range from a few dollars for Brownie cameras, to over a hundred for the finer Kodak cameras. But at any price . . . a Kodak-made camera is your money's worth, *plus*.

# Kodak



A  
**GANG  
BUSTERS**  
STORY

# "The Private Life of a PUBLIC ENEMY!"

CRIMINOLOGY

## A GANGSTER DIES —

AND FRONT PAGE OBITUARIES ARE WRITTEN. YET, TOO OFTEN THE STORY LEAVES THE READER DISSATISFIED. THE READER ASKS QUESTIONS: WAS THE GANGSTER EVER IN LOVE? WHAT DO THE FOLKS OF HIS HOME TOWN THINK OF HIM? WHAT ABOUT HIS PARENTS? HERE IS THE INSIDE STORY OF SUCH A KILLER... HIS CHILDHOOD... HOME LIFE... SCHOOLDAYS! IT IS NOT PRETTY, FOR IT'S A TYPICAL ACCOUNT OF...

his  
PERSONAL  
HISTORY!

MURDER  
INC.  
OBIVION  
VOL.  
II



ALVIN KARPIS

JOHN "LEGS"  
DIAMOND

"BABYFACE"  
NELSON

JOHN  
DILLINGER



DAN  
BARRY

GANG BUSTERS, No. 2, Feb.-Mar., 1948. Published bi-monthly by National Comics Publications, Inc., 480 Lexington Ave., New York 17, N. Y. Whitney Ellsworth, Editor. Application as second class matter pending at the Post Office at New York, N. Y. Yearly subscription in the U. S. 75c including postage. Foreign, \$1.50 in American funds. For advertising rates address Richard

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ONE CRISP NIGHT IN THE FALL OF '47, AS A THEATRE CROWD EMERGED, POLICE CLOSED IN ON A MAN WEARING DARK GLASSES...

PUT UP YOUR HANDS, KELSEY  
WE'VE GOT THE BLOCK  
SURROUNDED!



YOU COPPERS  
AIN'T GETTIN' ME!

**BANG**



BUT IT WAS THE END OF THE  
TRAIL FOR LEO KELSEY!



THE NEXT DAY, THE DEAD OUTLAW'S STORY WAS  
BLAZONED ACROSS THE COUNTRY'S FRONT PAGES...



BUT ONE EDITOR WAS NOT SATISFIED...HE CALLED  
IN HIS BEST REPORTER....

LISTEN, REGAN--OUR RIVAL  
PAPERS ARE SENTIMENTALIZING  
THAT KELSEY INTO A HERO! I  
WANT YOU TO GO OUT AND  
GET THE STORY OF HIS LIFE--  
THE REAL STORY, UNDERSTAND?

WILL DO,  
CHIEF.







I'LL INTERVIEW PEOPLE WHO REALLY KNEW KELSEY. HIS OLD SCHOOL TEACHER... HIS FATHER... HIS OLD GIRL FRIEND...



WHAT KIND OF A BOY WAS KELSEY, MR. PETERS?

MR. REAGAN... I HAVE REASON TO KNOW THAT EVEN AS A BOY, KELSEY WAS CAPABLE OF **HATRED... GREAT HATRED!**



"I REMEMBER IT WELL... KELSEY AND A BOY NAMED TOM FORBES WERE BOTH TRYING OUT FOR SHORTSTOP ON THE SCHOOL TEAM..."

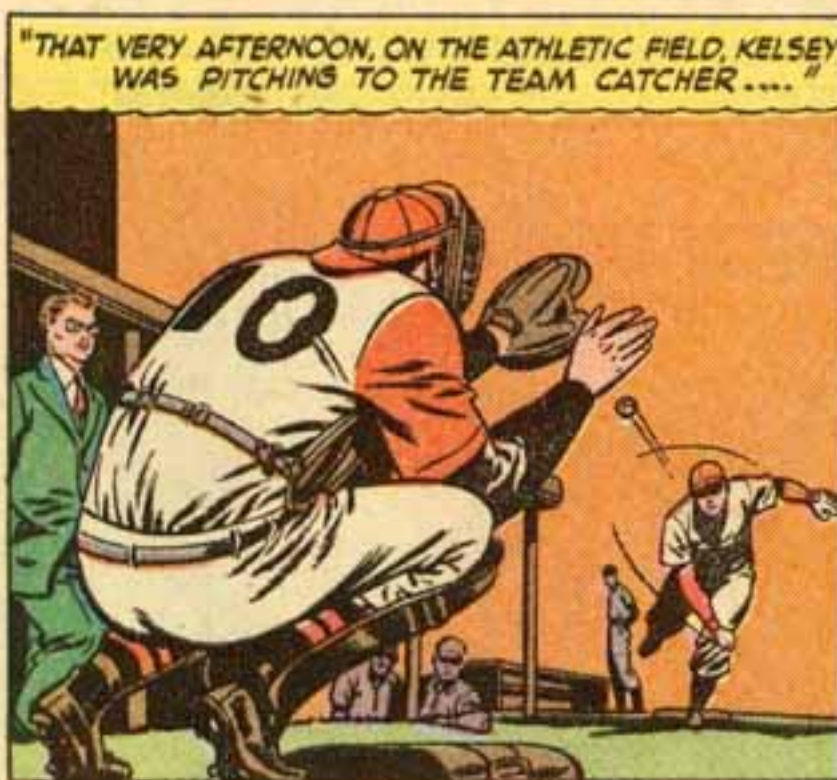
PRETTY GOOD, KELSEY, BUT FORBES IS BETTER! YOU CAN BE A SUBSTITUTE!



"BUT KELSEY COULDN'T STAND BEING SECOND TO ANYBODY..."

LEO, AREN'T YOU ASHAMED? YOU'RE BIGGER THAN TOM!

YEAH! MAYBE HE'S A BETTER SHORTSTOP, BUT I'M A BETTER FIGHTER!



"THAT VERY AFTERNOON, ON THE ATHLETIC FIELD, KELSEY WAS PITCHING TO THE TEAM CATCHER...."



"... WHEN FORBES CAME UP FOR SOME PRACTICE BUNTING. I SAW KELSEY EYE HIM..."



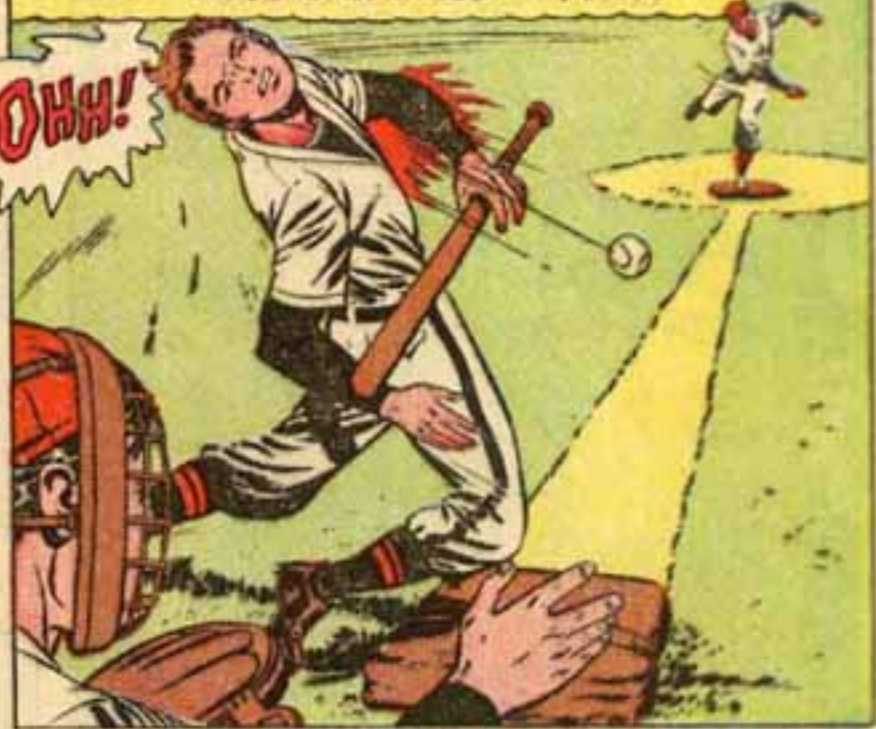


"KELSEY FINGERED THE BASEBALL, HIS ARM HIDING HIS FACE FROM THE CATCHER... BUT NOT FROM ME! HIS FACE WAS CONTORTED WITH THE MOST TERRIBLE RAGE I HAVE EVER SEEN!"



"... AND SUDDENLY... WITHOUT WARNING..."

OHH!



"THAT BALL FRACTURED FORBES'S SKULL! HE DIDN'T PLAY BASEBALL FOR A LONG TIME AFTER THAT!"

I'M SORRY, COACH... THE BALL SLIPPED!

EASY, SON... THE BEST BALL-PLAYER CAN MAKE A WILD PITCH... WELL, YOU'LL HAVE TO PLAY SHORTSTOP NOW!



I COULDN'T SAY ANYTHING! IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MERELY MY UNSUPPORTED WORD, BASED ON A MERE IMPRESSION OF AN EXPRESSION ON ANOTHER PERSON'S FACE!... BUT I KNEW!! KELSEY WAS VICIOUS!!



IT TOOK LONGER FOR REGAN TO TRACK DOWN SALLY MILLER, A FORMER SWEETHEART OF KELSEY...

YES... I SUPPOSE I WAS KELSEY'S GIRL FRIEND AT ONE TIME—ONLY I KNEW HIM AS JOHN GILL...







"I WAS ONLY SEVENTEEN THEN! I HAD GONE TO THE LOCAL CARNIVAL WITH A BOY NEIGHBOR, WHEN HE APPEARED..."

WHAT'S A PRETTY KID LIKE YOU DOING WITH A YOUNG SQUIRT LIKE THIS?

SAY... LOOK HERE...



BLOW, KID... YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO APPRECIATE SUCH BEAUTY!

OH!!



"I WAS YOUNG, IMPRESSIONABLE, AND JOHN'S SAVAGE GOOD LOOKS FASCINATED ME! I DIDN'T KNOW HIS NAME WAS AN ALIAS AND THAT HE WAS WANTED BY THE POLICE! THEN ONE DAY..."

"AND WHEN TOMORROW CAME..."

SALLY, TOMORROW WE'RE GOING TO THE BEST STORE IN TOWN AND PICK OUT AN ENGAGEMENT RING!

WE WANT TO SEE AN ENGAGEMENT RING!

YES, SIR... AND MAY I CONGRATULATE YOU! SHE'S THE SWEETEST BRIDE-TO-BE I'VE SEEN IN MANY A DAY!



OH, THIS IS LOVELY! LET'S TAKE THIS ONE, JOHN!

LET'S TAKE 'EM ALL, BABY! OKAY, THIS IS A **STICKUP!**

YOU NEVER LOVED ME! YOU JUST WANTED ME AS A HELP IN COMMITTING THAT ROBBERY!

RIGHT, KID... I PICKED YOU OUT SPECIAL! WITH A SWEET INNOCENT FACE LIKE YOURS, NO CLERK WOULD SUSPECT A ROBBERY, SO HE'D BRING OUT **TRAYS OF RINGS!**











LAST ON REGAN'S LIST WAS KELSEY'S FATHER...  
HE FOUND HIM IN A HOSPITAL BED ---

SO YOU WANT TO KNOW  
ABOUT MY SON, EH?  
ALL RIGHT, LISTEN...



"...I WAS A HAPPY MAN WHEN MY SON WAS BORN..."

SEE HOW STRONG  
AND SUPPLE HIS  
FINGERS ARE, DEAR!

PERHAPS SOMEDAY  
HE'LL BE A GREAT  
SURGEON AND SAVE  
LIVES!



"ARE ALL FATHERS TO BE AS DISILLUSIONED AS  
I WAS TO BE? I REMEMBER WHEN HE  
WAS JUST SEVENTEEN..."

ARREST HIM! THAT'S  
THE BOY WHO STOLE  
MONEY FROM MY CASH  
REGISTER!

OHH!



"MANY MONTHS PASSED BEFORE I MANAGED  
TO GET HIM PAROLED..."

ANOTHER SHOCK LIKE THIS  
WOULD STOP YOUR MOTHER'S  
WEAK HEART! PROMISE ME  
YOU'LL BE A GOOD BOY FROM  
NOW ON... FOR MOTHER!  
PROMISE ME!

SURE... SURE...  
ONLY STOP  
PREACHIN'!



"BUT ONE WEEK LATER..."



"WHEN HE KILLED THAT MAN, HE ALSO  
KILLED HIS MOTHER... FOR SHE NEVER  
RECOVERED FROM THE SHOCK!"

HE DIDN'T KEEP  
HIS PROMISE!





"YEARS PASSED, AND I HAD MY FILL OF HEADLINES ABOUT MY SON ...."



"PEOPLE WOULD POINT ME OUT AS THE FATHER OF LEO KELSEY, SO I MOVED TO ANOTHER CITY! THEN ONE NIGHT ..."



YOU GOTTA HELP ME! DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE MY FATHER!

I'M NOT FORGETTING THE FATHERS OF OTHER SONS YOU KILLED! YOU'RE NO SON OF MINE! I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE!



GET AWAY FROM THAT PHONE!... OKAY... YOU ASKED FOR IT!



PLEASE, MR. REGAN... THE MAN IS STILL WEAK FROM HIS BULLET WOUND! I THINK YOU'VE HEARD ENOUGH ...

DOC... I'VE HEARD TOO MUCH!



LATER... REGAN DELIVERED HIS STORY...

A GOOD JOB, REGAN! YOU'LL GET A BONUS FOR THIS!

THE ONLY BONUS I WANT IS FOR KIDS TO STOP ADMIRING AND MAKING HEROES OF CRIMINALS! THE PERSONAL HISTORY OF EVERY OUTLAW IS PRETTY MUCH THE SAME ... AND IT'S NOT HEROIC!





# "Chick" DAVIES

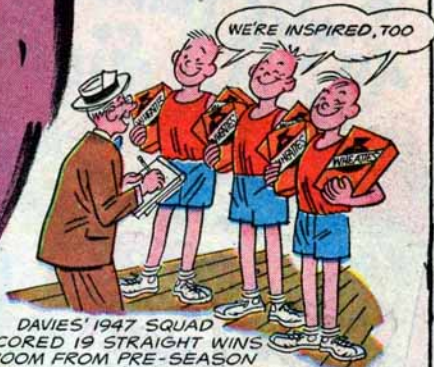
CHAMPION BASKETBALL COACH  
DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY



HE  
MUST'VE HAD  
HIS WHEATIES



ON SUCCESSIVE NIGHTS, DAVIES' SHARPSHOOTERS TURNED BACK THE TEAMS WHICH WERE TO WIN 1947'S TWO NATIONAL BASKETBALL TITLES. JAN. 3 THE DUKES DEFEATED HOLY CROSS (COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONS) 55-45; JAN. 4 THEY BEAT UTAH (INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONS) 59-50



DAVIES' 1947 SQUAD SCORED 19 STRAIGHT WINS TO ZOOM FROM PRE-SEASON 'OBSCURITY TO TOP-RANK AMONG THE NATION'S TEAMS. THE INSPIRED PITTSBURGH FIVE PILED UP 1235 POINTS IN 21 GAMES

"DROP AROUND MY HOUSE SOME MORNING," SAYS CHICK DAVIES, "AND YOU'LL PROBABLY FIND ME DIGGING INTO A BIG BOWL OF WHEATIES, WITH MILK AND FRUIT." VITAMINS, MINERALS, FOOD ENERGY IN THESE 100% WHOLE WHEAT FLAKES. FAMOUS SECOND HELPING FLAVOR. HAD YOUR WHEATIES TODAY? "BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS"!



WHEATIES  
**"BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS"**  
WITH MILK AND FRUIT

"Wheaties" and "Breakfast of Champions" are registered trade marks of General Mills, Inc.





HERE, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS  
REVEALED HOW I SOLVED  
MY MOST BAFFLING CASE AND  
TRAPPED ONE OF THE MOST  
NOTORIOUS GANGS.

# "I Smashed the HOT CAR MOB"

by CLYDE WILLIAMS  
CRACK INSURANCE INVESTIGATOR

A  
**GANG  
BUSTERS**  
STORY

**WARNING!**  
YOUR CAR MIGHT BE NEXT!  
630 ARE STOLEN EVERY DAY;  
MORE THAN A QUARTER OF A  
MILLION WERE STOLEN LAST  
YEAR! AUTO THEFTS ARE  
NUMBER 3 ON THE NATION'S  
CRIME LIST!

"LET'S GO BACK A FEW MONTHS TO MY OFFICE AT  
UNIVERSAL INSURERS IN OHIO. I WAS ON THE CARPET.  
THE BOSS WAS SO MAD, HE WAS CHEWING UP THE RUG  
UNDER ME."

AUTO THEFTS HAVE HIT AN ALL-  
TIME HIGH, AND YOU, OUR CRACK  
CLAIMS INVESTI-  
GATOR,  
HAVEN'T  
A CLUE!

LISTEN, IT TAKES  
TIME TO TRACK DOWN  
SUCH A SLICK HOT  
CAR MOB!

ALL I CAN DO  
IS HOPE FOR  
A BREAK  
THAT'LL GIVE  
ME A LINE.

THESE PUNKS  
MUST BE  
STOPPED—AND  
SOON, OR THAT  
LINE WILL BE  
AROUND YOUR  
OWN NECK!





"IF I ONLY KNEW THEN, WHAT I KNOW NOW. AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN ..."

YOU KEEP PUTTING CARS ON MY LOT, TOM, AND WE'LL BOTH BE MILLIONAIRES.

HERE'S THE JOBS TONY CAN SNATCH. I'M GOING SHOPPING NOW FOR PARTS TO MATCH 'EM.

PETE MOORE'S MOTOR MART  
BARGAINS IN NEW and USED CARS

HMM... CYLINDER HEAD CRACKED, BUT MOTOR BLOCK'S OKAY.

I'LL GIVE YOU \$100 FOR THE HEAP.

SOLD!

I CAN HANDLE THAT '47 HUDSON NOW, TONY.

THE SEDAN I SPOTTED WHEN I WORKED AT THE ACME GARAGE? I GOT THE OWNER'S ADDRESS. SEE YOU TONIGHT.

"RETURNING FROM WORK THAT NIGHT, ELSIE BROWN DIDN'T KNOW HER CAR WAS MARKED FOR THEFT ALMOST AS SOON AS SHE BOUGHT IT."

SHE'LL PHONE ACME TO PICK IT UP— BUT I'LL USE THIS KEY I MADE TO SNATCH IT FIRST!

STOP, THIEF!

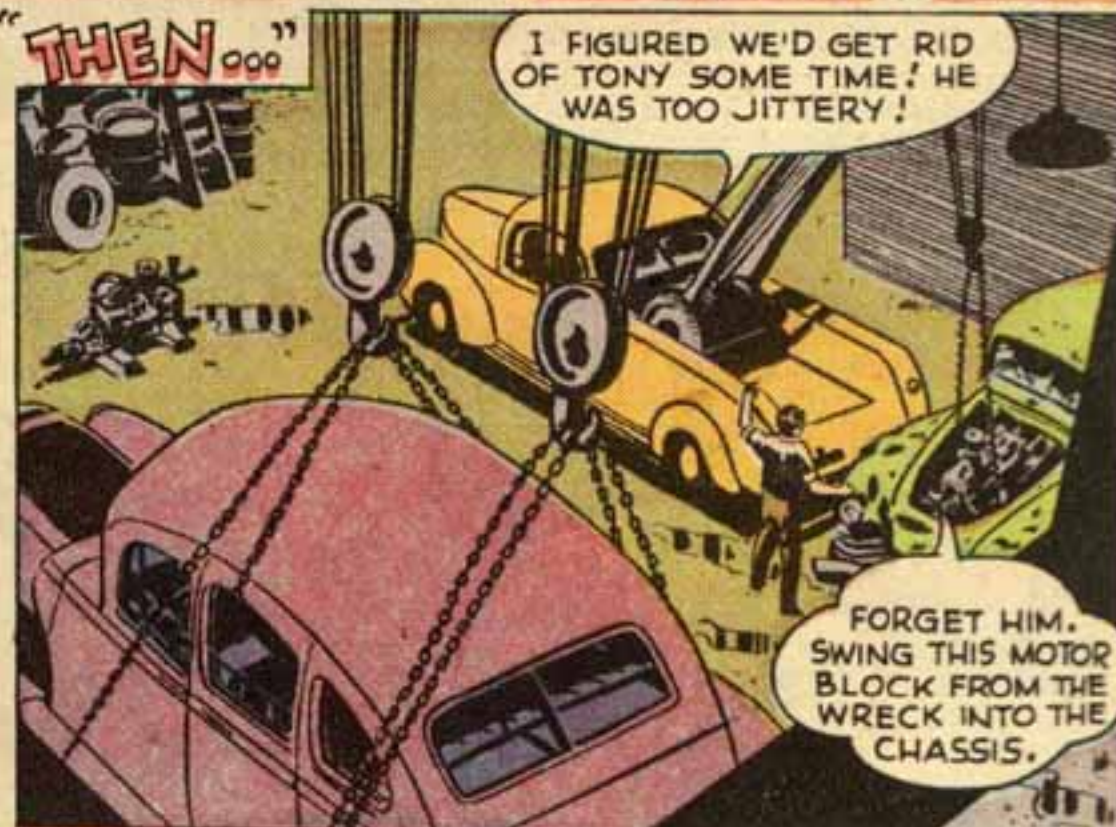
SHE SPOTTED ME—AND THE LAW'S RIGHT BEHIND!

WHAT'S UP?

HE'S DRIVING LIKE A MANIAC! HE'LL CRACK UP!









"ELSIE BROWN WAS ONE OF OUR CLIENTS. WHEN I FOUND THE TRANSFER OF A CAR OF SIMILAR MODEL AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..

HERE'S A HUDSON '47 SEDAN FOR SALE BY TOM GARVER. HIS NAME SHOWS UP OFTEN. KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM, LIEUTENANT?

HE'S A LICENSED DEALER, NEVER BEEN IN TROUBLE.



NOTHING SUSPICIOUS, WILLIAMS. WE'RE WASTING TIME.

YOU WON'T FIND NO HOT CARS HERE. MY BUSINESS IS ON THE LEVEL.



"BUT A WEEK LATER..."

HE'S THE MAN. HE WORKED AT THE ACME GARAGE.

KILLED THE NIGHT YOUR CAR WAS STOLEN—AND NOT BY POLICE BULLETS! MISS BROWN, THIS MAY BE THE BREAK I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR.



"AND I BEGAN TO FERRET OUT INFORMATION."

YEAH, WE FIRED TONY AND LOU WEBB FOR STEALING TIRES. LOU WORKS AT THE EXCELSIOR GARAGE NOW.

THANKS.

I WONDER IF HE'S MIXED UP IN THIS RACKET?..



"TO TEST HIM, I DEvised A PLOT."

A BLIND MAN COULD SEE THE MOTOR NUMBER WAS CHANGED.



SURE, CHIEF, BUT NOBODY WILL SPOT THE OTHER MARKS, SO WE CAN IDENTIFY THE CAR NO MATTER HOW IT'S DISGUISED.

"PRESENTLY, AT THE EXCELSIOR GARAGE..."

OIL'S OKAY, MISTER.

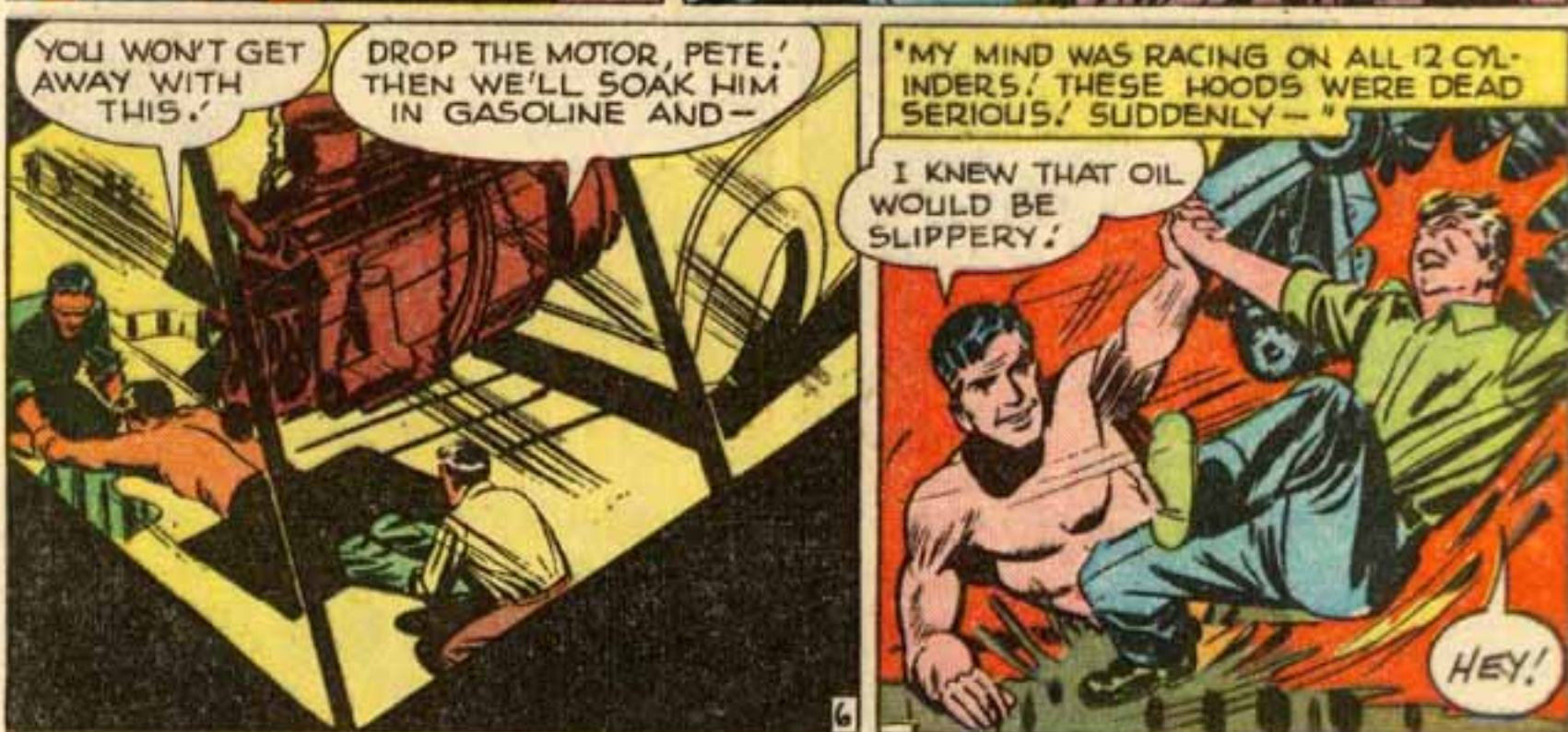
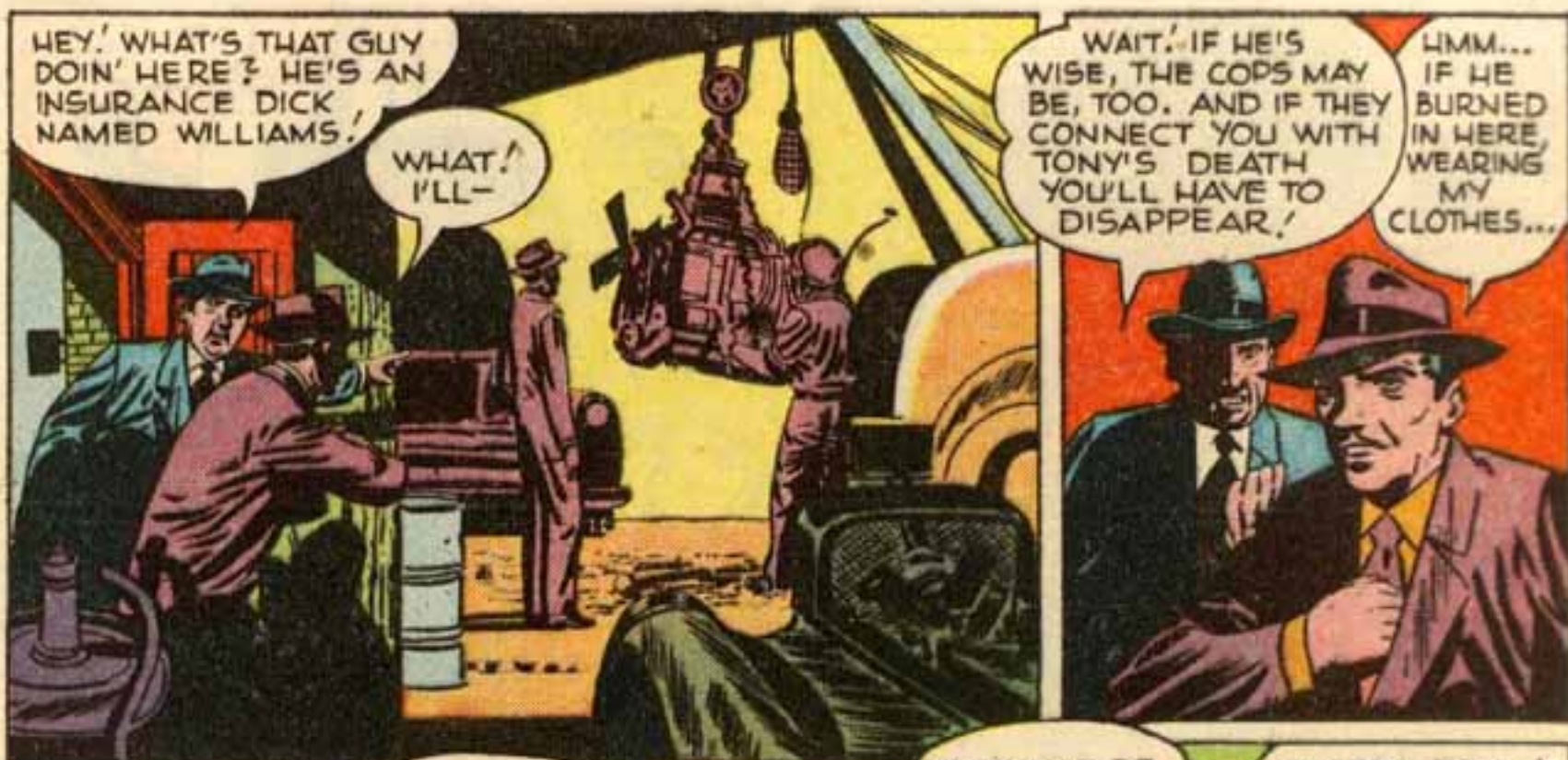
KNOW ANYBODY WHO'D LIKE TO BUY THIS JOB, BUDDY?



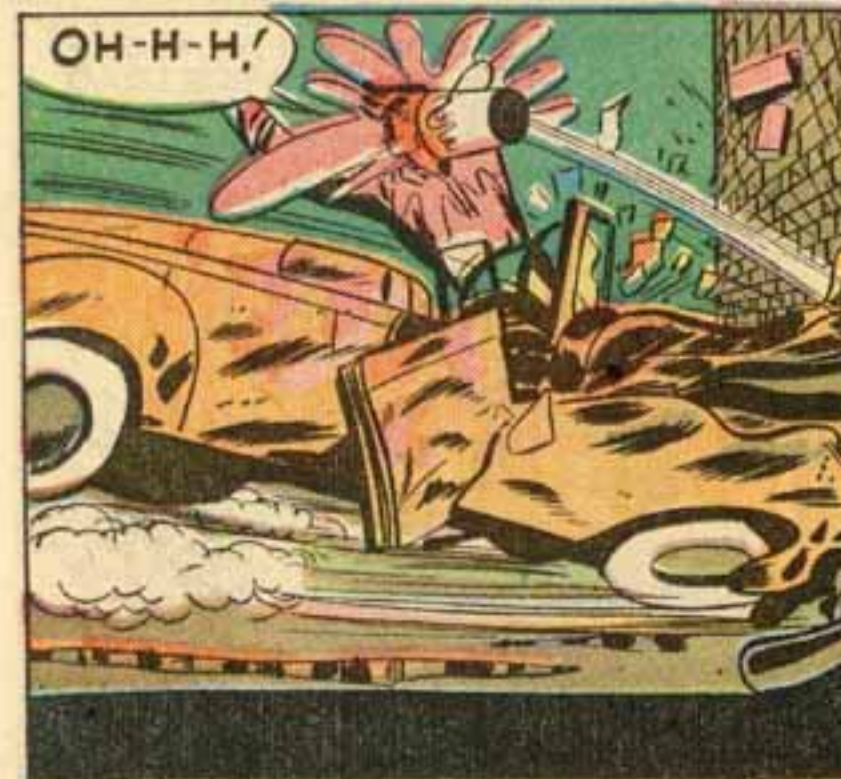
















DON'T KNOW IF-I CAN-  
MAKE IT-BUT, I'VE-  
GOT TO TRY!



"I COULDN'T LET HIM DIE IN THERE, EVEN IF  
HE HAD TRIED TO KILL ME."

ANYONE ELSE  
INSIDE?

ONE-IN A WRECKED AUTO.  
BETTER LET-FIREMEN TRY...



RUSH HIM TO THE HOSPITAL.  
HE MAY LIVE... BUT THAT LEG  
WILL HAVE TO BE  
AMPUTATED!



THERE HE GOES-  
MR. BIG SHOT.

AND HERE GO THE  
REST OF THEM!



"LATER, BACK AT MY OFFICE."

GARVER AND HIS GANG WERE  
SLICK OPERATORS, BUT THEY  
WEREN'T SMART OR THEY  
WOULDN'T BE CROOKED!

YOU DID  
A GOOD  
JOB.  
YOU  
DESERVE  
A REST.



THANKS, CHIEF,  
I CAN USE SOME  
TIME OFF.

SURE, HAVE FUN,  
CLYDE! BUT BE  
HERE TOMORROW  
AT 9!

THE END



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**WORLD'S FINEST COMICS**

## You Can't Beat the Law!

A FACT FEATURE



### ...BAD SPELLER...

IN 1897, THE NEW YORK POLICE HELD A KIDNAPPING SUSPECT WHO WAS PROVING TOUGH TO BREAK. ALL THEY HAD AS EVIDENCE WAS A MISPELLED RANSOM NOTE.

THE NOTE DEMANDED \$10,000. A DETECTIVE ASKED THE SUSPECT TO SEND A NOTE TO HIS LAWYER. THE SAME MISPELLED WORDS WERE FOUND IN THE TEST NOTE. SHOWN THE SIMILAR MISPELLINGS, THE CROOK CONFESSED.



### BOGUS ANTIQUES

A MUSEUM PAID \$300,000 FOR A STATUE OF THE GREEK GODDESS ATHENA FROM A MAN WHO CLAIMED HE HAD SMUGGLED IT OUT OF ITALY.

BUT JOHN MARSHAL, NEW YORK ARCHAEOLOGIST, NOTICED THAT THE GREEK STATUE HAD A ROMAN NOSE! A GANG OF CROOKS WAS CAUGHT.



A SHERIFF IN KANSAS CITY SIFTED THE ASHES OF AN ENTIRE HOUSE THAT HAD BURNED DOWN TO FIND A BULLET. IT CONVICTED A MURDERER.





# the KISS of DEATH

*Test YOUR Wits Against a Murderer!*







**I**T WAS A FAREWELL SUPPER THAT BILL GOFF HAD PLANNED FOR EVE GUION IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE, FOR AFTER ESCORTING HER TO HER DOOR THAT NIGHT, HE HURRIED HOME TO CONSTRUCT THE INSTRUMENT FOR HER **DEATH!**



FIRST, THIS COMPACT, WHICH WILL BE SENT TO EVE ANONYMOUSLY!

THEN, THIS SCORPION---- TO KISS EVE JUST ONCE---- A KISS OF DEATH! IF I CAN'T MARRY HER, NO ONE WILL!



NOW TO WIPE MY FINGERPRINTS FROM THE COMPACT---- AND ALEX WILL BE ACCUSED OF HER MURDER!



THE NEXT MORNING THE POSTMAN RANG ONCE FOR EVE GUION. THE PEAL OF HER DOORBELL WAS THE KNELL OF DEATH!



OH, HOW SWEET! I WONDER WHO SENT IT. ALEX OR BILL?

THE SCORPION STRUCK! AND PRETTY EVE GUION'S LAST POSE WAS A DEATH MASK!---- DETECTIVE LIEUTENANT LLOYD MCRAE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE BAFFLING CASE----



THAT COMPACT--- THE OPENED PACKAGE---THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING IN IT THAT CAUSED HER DEATH, DOC! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND IT!





LATER, AFTER A VISIT TO ALEX ELLIOT, LIEUTENANT McRAE SUMMONED BILL GOFF TO HEADQUARTERS-----



**WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

YOU KNOW MORE THAN LIEUTENANT McRAE ABOUT THE MURDER OF EVE GUION. HAS GOFF ERRED IN HIS DESIGN OF DEATH? OR IS THIS A **PERFECT CRIME?**



**T**HAT NIGHT, GOFF WAS AWAKENED BY THE PERSISTENT RINGING OF HIS DOOR BELL.

WHEN HE OPENED IT -----

WH-WHAT? YOU'VE GOT HIM, MCRAE?

RIGHT! I PROMISED TO PUT THE CUFFS ON THE MURDERER QUICKLY, AND I AM! --GOFF, YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

ME? WHY---

CUT IT, GOFF. IT WAS A SMART PLAN, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK. YOU TOOK THE PRECAUTION OF WIPING YOUR FINGERPRINTS OFF THE OUTSIDE OF THE CASE----

--BUT YOU OVERLOOKED A TELL-TALE PRINT INSIDE THE COMPACT!

AND THAT PRINT, WHICH MATCHES YOUR THUMB-PRINT, WILL SEND YOU TO THE CHAIR!

THE END.

ADVERTISEMENT

# Mickey Marvel by S.B. Black



Smith Brothers Cough Drops Help 3 Ways

- ① Eases tickle
- ② Soothes membranes
- ③ Loosens phlegm

★ for coughs due to colds







# Flames FOR PROFIT

*A Sensational  
Expose of a  
Firebug's Racket!*

A  
**GANG  
BUSTERS**  
- STORY

THE BLACK BOOK OF CRIME LISTS FEW UGLIER PROFESSIONS THAN THAT OF THE **ARSONIST**... SETTING FIRES FOR PROFIT! FRANK GANNO WAS ONE OF THE WORST OF THE BREED - AND ONE OF THE SHREWDEST.

BUT FIRE MARSHAL WILBUR G. DAVISON WAS SHREWDER, IN ANOTHER WAY - AND HIS BRILLIANT, HEROIC WORK HIGHLIGHTS THIS INSIDE STORY OF A VICIOUS ENEMY OF SOCIETY!



GALE-WHIPPED FLAMES SWEEP A BLOCK OF A GREAT LAKES CITY ON A BITTER SUNDAY NIGHT IN FEBRUARY!





FIRE MARSHAL WILBUR G. DAVISON WATCHED GRIMLY WITH THE OWNER OF THE VACANT TENEMENT WHERE IT STARTED...



NEXT DAY, DAVISON INSPECTED THE CHARRED RUINS WITH FRED DEWITT, INSURANCE COMPANY BROKER...

SO LENWICK INCREASED HIS INSURANCE FROM \$20,000 TO \$30,000 LAST WEEK?

YES—ON MY RECOMMENDATION. HE WAS PLANNING TO IMPROVE THE PROPERTY.



HMM... TERRIFIC HEAT OF AN INCENDIARY FUSE MIGHT HAVE SCORCHED THAT DEEP GROOVE. AND THESE DRUMS OF INFLAMMABLE PAINT...

THEY WERE HERE FOR REDECORATING. BUT MY REPORT WILL HAVE TO BE BASED ON EVIDENCE, NOT SUSPICION.



IF AN ARSONIST DID THIS, HE BURNED ALL THE CLUES. BUT IF INNOCENT PEOPLE DIED FOR SOMEONE'S CRIME, DEWITT—!

PROVE IT, MARSHAL, AND I'LL HOLD UP THE INSURANCE.



AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE FIRE VICTIMS DIED FOR THE CRIME OF **THREE PEOPLE.** TWO DAYS LATER...

FIVE GRAND FOR US AND TWENTY GRAND FOR LENWICK! IT AIN'T FAIR, DEWITT!

YOU'RE LUCKY TO GET ANY, GANNO! IF YOU EVER BUNGLER AGAIN, AND KILL A LOT OF PEOPLE, I'LL...

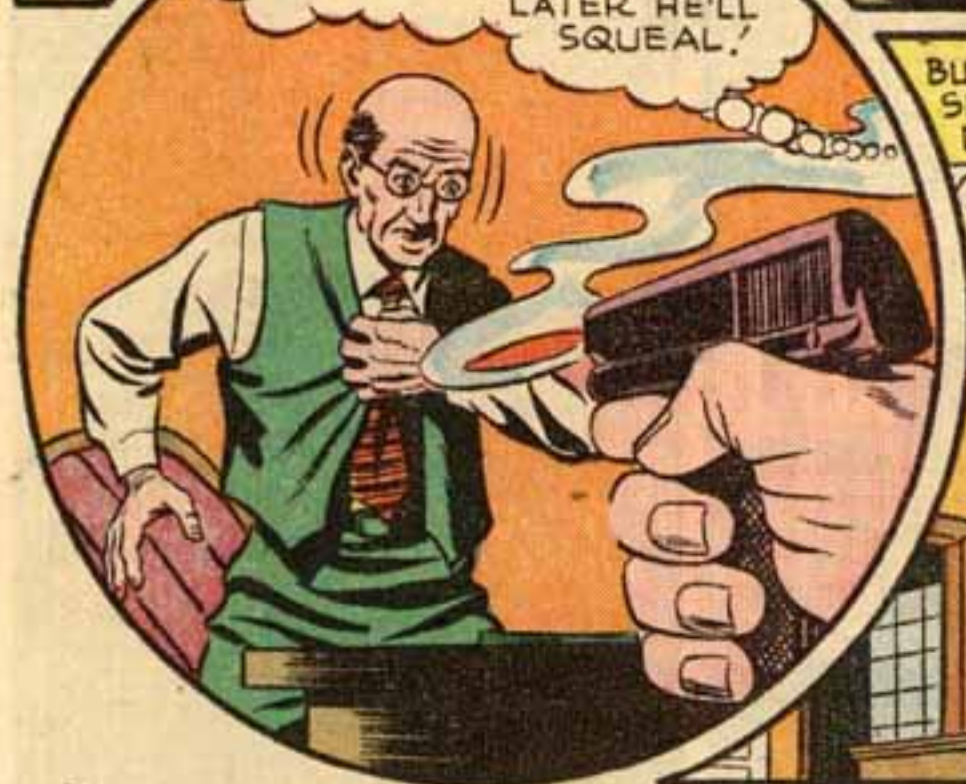


YOU'LL WHAT? TRY TO FRAME ME, MAYBE?

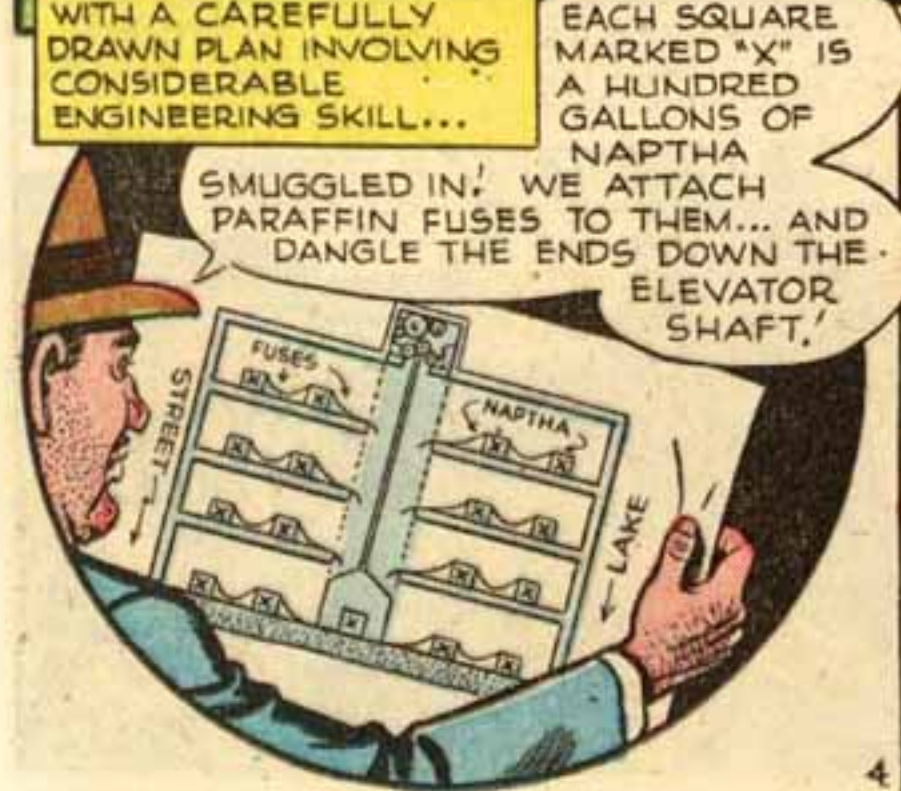
NO, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT! THE WIND SPREAD THE FLAMES! I—I GOT TO BE GOING.



















THE ELEVATOR MACHINERY WAS SET IN MOTION! TOOTHED COG WHEELS, GRINDING TINY INCENDIARY BOMBS, LOOSED A FIERY COMET...



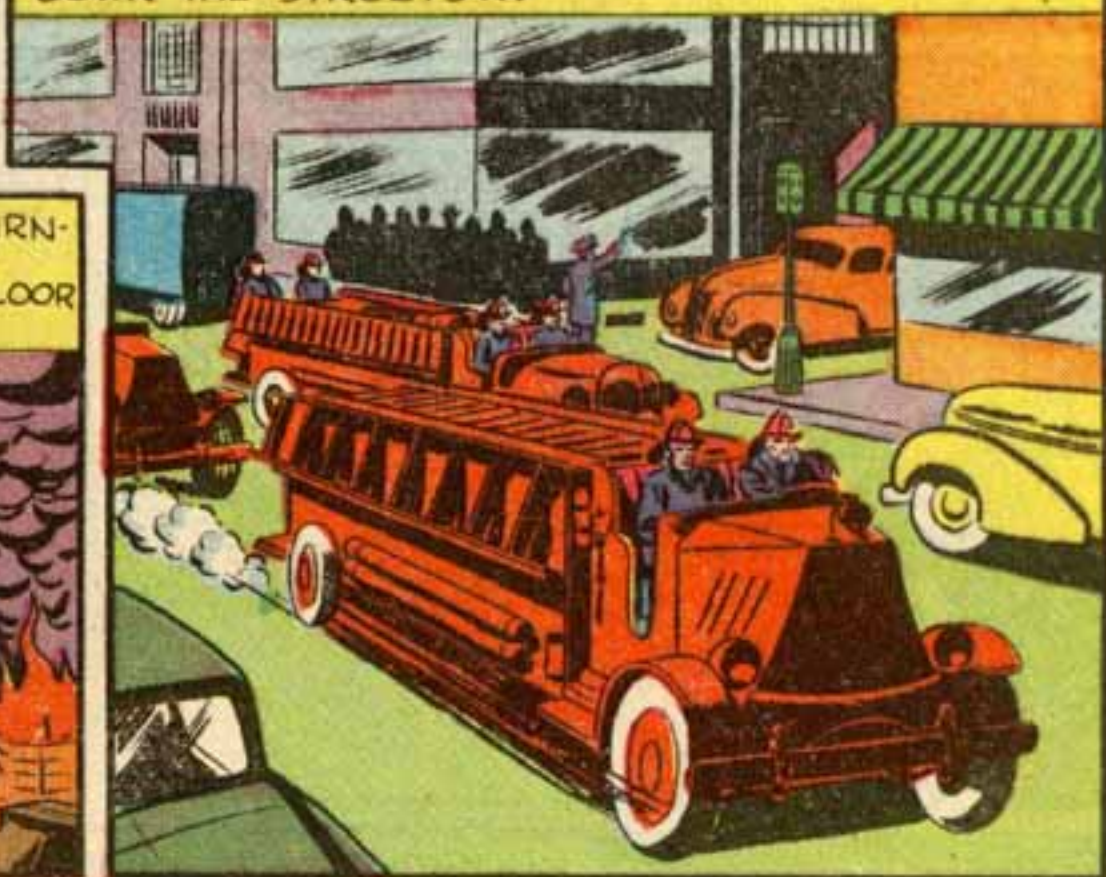
...WHICH PLUNGED INTO THE ELEVATOR ITSELF! EXPLODING NAPHTHA TURNED THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE WAREHOUSE INTO A RAGING INFERNO!

GET OUT BEFORE YOU'RE TRAPPED!

I'M GOING UP! TURN IN A GENERAL ALARM! SEND MEN TO THE ROOF ON LADDERS!



RESPONDING TO THE ALARM, FIRE TRUCKS ROARED DOWN THE STREETS...



NOW, RISING SLOWLY, THE BURNING ELEVATOR TOUCHED OFF PARAFFIN FUSES, IGNITING FLOOR AFTER FLOOR!



AND THE "JAMES S. HOWE'S" SIREN MOANED ACROSS THE HARBOR!

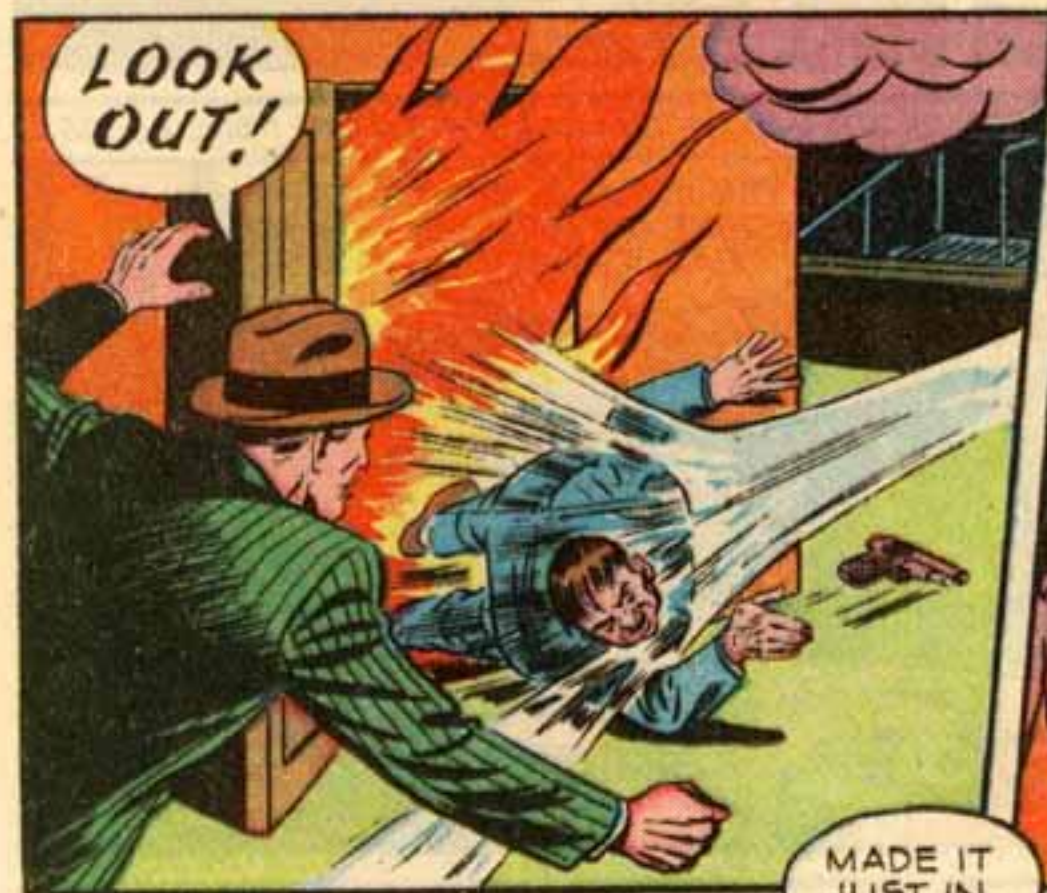


LOOK—ON THE ROOF! SOME OF THE MOB GETTING AWAY!

WATCH THIS!









SHORTLY, GANNO'S ACCOMPLICES WERE CAUGHT...



THEN...



A SEARCH OF GANNO'S CELLAR DISCLOSED DOZENS OF DEVICES FOR FUTURE TORCH JOBS...



ALSO FOUND WERE GANNO'S SCRAP-BOOKS...WITH MARGINAL NOTES BESIDE THE NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS...



HE CAN'T MAKE ANY CRACKS ABOUT THIS. I'LL WRITE IT FOR HIM...





# The Grapevine

## BEWARE OF PICKPOCKETS!

Pickpockets are enjoying prosperous days, thanks to the increased cost of living which makes it necessary for one to carry more money in his pockets. This is on the authority of a police captain of an eastern pickpocket squad. Constant vigilance by departments of various cities discouraged the practice for a time, but pickpockets now have resumed operations in quest of easy money.

To protect the unwary against light-fingered folk, police officials are flashing warnings to all citizens by familiarizing them with their sly methods.

Of the five types of pickpockets, the most cunning is the trouser-thief. A neat dresser, he joins throngs on subway platforms in department stores, ball parks, and at rallies, where he lifts wallets from pants pockets.

Sleep-rollers are the second type, generally operating in groups in deserted streets, railroad trains and subways. To remove the snoozing victim's wallet swiftly before detected, they often use sharp knives or razor blades to cut the pockets if the money is jammed tight.

The handkerchief-hoodlum comprises the third. He scouts around town looking for a crowd in which to mingle—a street accident, window-shoppers, theatergoers. Choosing a quarry, he approaches, draws out his handkerchief as if to blow his nose, but suddenly

drops it so that it covers his hand, and slips fleet fingers into the victim's pocket.

Then, there is the purse-snatcher, who cuts the straps of women's handbags and makes off with his prize; also, the culprit whose hand wanders into women's coat pockets while they are absorbed in shopping.

Some dips don't even use their hands while operating. Such items as a protruding wallet or a valuable stickpin are annexed by the simple expedient of a newspaper—"accidentally" brushed past the victim—to lift it loose. The booty slides down the length of the newspaper into the snatcher's hands.

Pickpocket gangs work with all the precision and speed required by teamwork. A shill (stall or setup) idly stands in front of the victim (sucker or mark) while a wire (hook) is slipped under his jacket from behind. Under cover of an opened newspaper, his hand darts in. If the wallet (oakus or poke) is not upright, he manipulates it right-side up until two fingers can deftly remove it from the hip pocket. As soon as the wallet is dropped into the newspaper, another member of the team brushes by, claims the newspaper and hurries away, as does the shill. If the victim cries that he's been robbed, nobody present can be accused because of the lack of evidence.

Despite police recommendations that wallets be carried inside jacket pockets rather than



hip pockets, thugs have managed even to overcome that difficulty.

The sole advice that the police can offer is to exercise extreme caution when among crowds.

★ ★ ★

## FINGERPRINT FORGERY

One of the most unique cases on Secret Service records was disclosed in the annual report of Chief James J. Maloney when he revealed that pension checks had been endorsed with a corpse's fingerprint!

The account concerned a Cheyenne Indian, widow of a U. S. scout, who, because of her inability to sign her name, was permitted to endorse her monthly pension checks by thumbprint. Through devious channels, the Treasury Department learned of the woman's death and subsequently was greatly surprised to learn that a check had been cashed since her demise.

Assigned to the case, Secret Service agents learned that soon after her death, a relative had claimed the pension check, took it to the undertaker's, inked her thumb, and pressed the check against it!

★ ★ ★

## WARNING! THUGS STAY OUT!

Heavy policing and traffic congestion today make New York City's financial district

a challenge to criminals. But some years ago, all suspicious characters were arrested on sight below "the deadline." An imaginary line separating the financial region from the rest of the city, "the deadline" was drawn by Inspector Thomas F. Byrnes, who threatened suspicious characters lurking in this area with immediate imprisonment.

★ ★ ★

## A STICKY STORY

Prison wardens still chuckle over the ingenuity of a lifer in executing his escape. In the dead of night, the convict picked the lock of his cell with a key fashioned from a shoe nail, crept cautiously along the corridor, carpeting the floor with flypaper. When guards gave pursuit, the flypaper clung to their shoes. The convict made good his escape through a tunnel dug under the prison wall. Years later, he was picked up by mid-western police and returned to jail.

★ ★ ★

## LIGHTS OUT FOR CRIME!

In an effort to secure evidence of criminals in the act of committing a crime in the dark, police agencies are employing an Army method which proved quite successful during the war. At that time, Army Intelligence perfected infra-red photograph equipment to take pictures at night while on reconnaissance missions over enemy territory. Here at home, police utilized a similar device for catching crooks red-handed—in blackouts.



# FEDERAL AGENT

**G-MEN!**... THE NATION'S WATCHDOGS! AND SELDOM IS THEIR WORK ROUTINE WHEN THEY MATCH WITS, FISTS, AND GUNFIRE WITH MINIONS OF CRIME! IN THIS STORY, **STEVE CARTER**, OF THE F. B. I., AND FORMER G. I.'S USE COMBAT METHODS TO TRAP DESPERATE THIEVES AS THEY LAY SIEGE TO... "HIDEOUT IN THE HILLS!"



**BANG!**

ONE FOGGY DAY...

WE GOT DA DOUGH, BOSS! LET 'ER GO!

WE'LL MAKE A CLEAN GET-AWAY IN THIS FOG!



LATER— AT F. B. I. HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, **STEVE CARTER** IS ASSIGNED TO THE CASE—

WE CALLED AIR PATROL RIGHT AFTER THE HOLDUP, BUT THEY COULDN'T GO UP IN THIS FOG!

RATHER DARING, ROBBING BANKS BY DIRIGIBLE!

National Reserve Banks















BUT THE DRAMA IN THE HILLS IS NOT OVER, FOR BELOW, IN TOWN, THE G-MEN ARE ON THE JOB...

—AND THEN, MR. CARTER, WE TRAILED THE THIEVES TO THEIR HIDEOUT. IT'S IN A CAVE—A ROCK FORTRESS!

I SEE! AND MEANWHILE, THEY'RE ROB-BING AND KILL-ING OTHER PROSPECTORS!



YOU BOYS ARE ARMY VETERANS—HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN UP AGAIN, FOR A DAY OR SO?

I'LL DO ANY-THING TO GET THOSE CROOKS!



BILL WAS A PARATROOPER! MAYBE HE CAN DIG UP A 'CHUTE AND DROP DOWN ON THEM!

AND I WAS IN THE INFANTRY! I CAN BLAST THAT STRONGHOLD LIKE I DID A PILLBOX!



LATER, IN A MOUNTAIN CABIN—

THIS OLD NAZI SOUVENIR 'CHUTE IS GOING TO COME IN HANDY!

AND THIS HOME-MADE BANGALORE TORPEDO IS GOING TO HAND THEM A SURPRISE!



HMM—THIS IMPROVISED FLAME THROWER MIGHT WORK! SEEMS WE'RE PRETTY WELL SET!

THIS IS ONE "FRONT LINE" DUTY I'M GOING TO ENJOY!

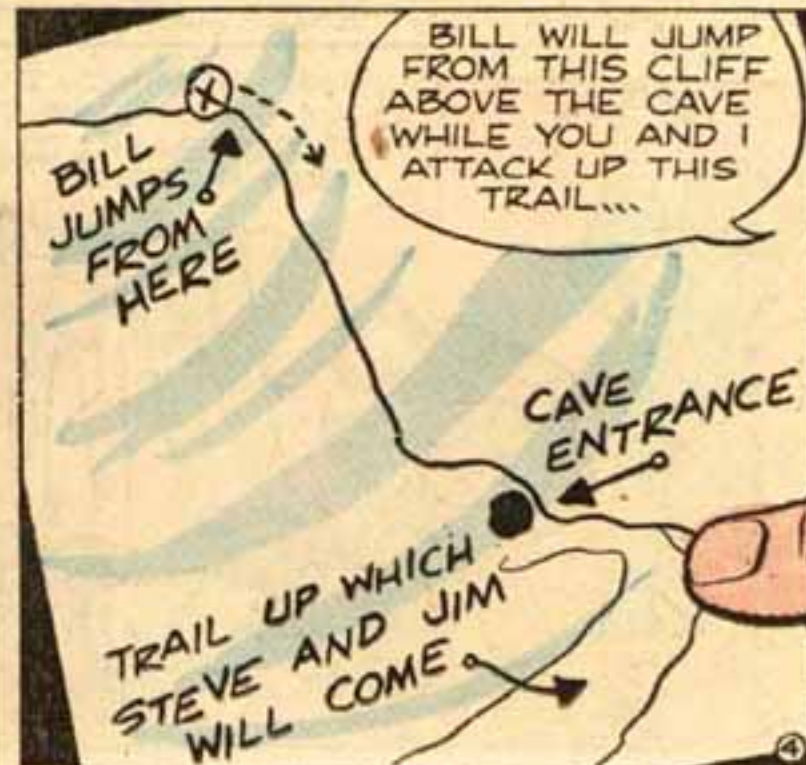


BILL JUMPS FROM HERE

BILL WILL JUMP FROM THIS CLIFF ABOVE THE CAVE WHILE YOU AND I ATTACK UP THIS TRAIL...

CAVE ENTRANCE

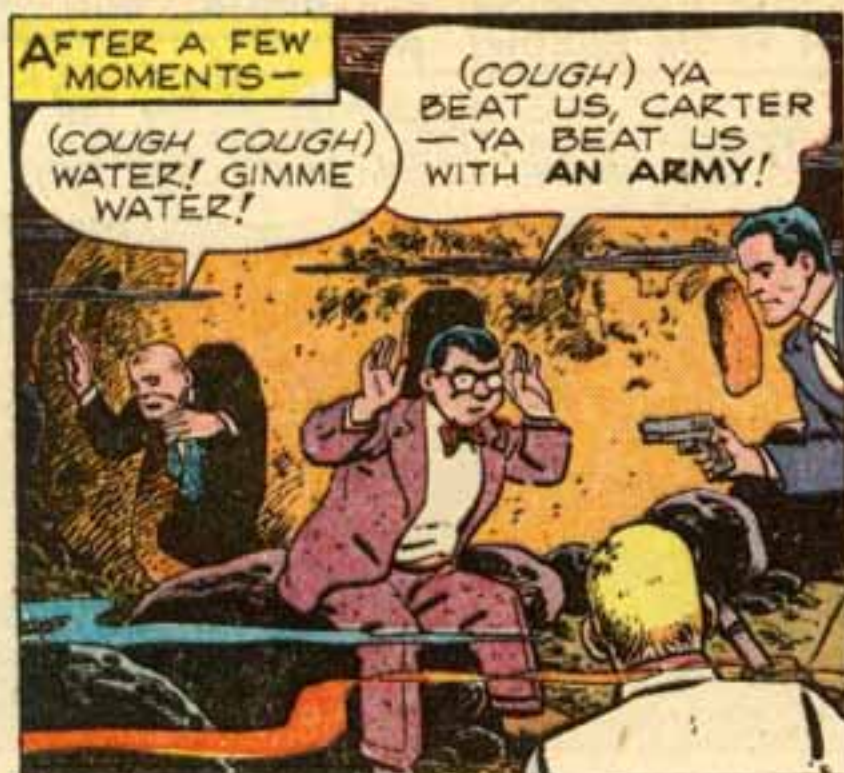
TRAIL UP WHICH STEVE AND JIM WILL COME











READ  
HOW  
THE  
FIGHTING  
F.B.I.  
TRAINS  
in  
**REAL  
FACT**  
COMICS  
Now on  
Sale!



# HERE'S A **FACT** MAGAZINE WITH SUPERMAN **PUNCH!**

WOW! REAL FACT  
COMICS IS *REALLY*  
DIFFERENT! IT'S  
LOADED WITH ACTION!

THE SAME KIND OF  
SPEEDY ADVENTURE  
YOU GET WITH  
BATMAN AND ROBIN!



STORIES  
ABOUT REAL  
PEOPLE PACK  
PLENTY OF  
PUNCH!

THE WHOLE  
FAMILY WILL  
GET A REAL  
KICK OUT OF  
REAL.FACT!

GOSH!  
I WISH I  
COULD READ!

**ASK FOR IT**  
AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWSSTAND  
**TODAY!**





# "The Little Charlie GANG!"

A  
**GANG  
BUSTERS**  
STORY

THE CASE IS CLOSED NOW — BUT FEW KNOW THE STARK DRAMA THAT TOOK PLACE BEHIND THE SCENES. WE'RE PRIVILEGED TO BREAK THE SEAL OF RECORDS IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF A NEW ENGLAND CITY TO REVEAL FOR THE FIRST TIME THE THRILLING, POWERFUL, INSIDE STORY OF PATROLMAN TIMOTHY FABIAN!



THE NEW YEAR WAS BEING RUNG IN, AND A LARGER, FUN-MAD CROWD HAD NEVER THROGGED THE SQUARE... WHILE ONLY TWO BLOCKS AWAY THE SHRILL COUGHING OF TOMMY GUNS WAS DROWNED OUT IN THE DIN OF CELEBRATION...







"IT ALL STARTED DURING THAT CRIME WAVE A MONTH AGO. THE LITTLE CHARLIE GANG WAS SUSPECTED, BUT NOBODY COULD PROVE ANYTHING ON THEM..."





"SURE, THE OTHERS ON THE FORCE TURNED THEM DOWN. BUT WHEN THEY CAME TO ME..."

IT'S EASY DOUGH, FABIAN! A C-NOTE FOR DOIN' NOTHIN'!

\$100! BOY-IT'D HELP TOWARD THAT CAR I WANT TO BUY!

YA KNOW THE WAREHOUSE ON YER BEAT? JUS' PATROL SOMEWHERE ELSE TONIGHT AT TEN O'CLOCK.

OKAY, GIVE ME THE MONEY. BUT NO ROUGH STUFF! NO SHOOTING!



"SO I PLAYED BALL-FOR 100 MEASLY DOLLARS!"

WHAT'S YER HURRY? THAT COP FABIAN AIN'T GONNA SPOT US!

THIS IS THE LAST BALE! LET'S GET GOIN'!

"BUT WE HADN'T COUNTED ON A CRUISING PROWL CAR..."

HEY, THEY'VE RAIDED THE WAREHOUSE!

AFTER 'EM!



I GOT THE DRIVER, CHARLIE! THEM COPPERS IS GONERS!

CRASH!

"LATER..."

YOU COULDN'T HELP IT, TIM! ONE COP CAN'T COVER HIS WHOLE BEAT AT ONCE. TOUGH BREAK, THAT'S ALL!

BUT JOHNSON'S INJURED AND O'LEARY—HE'S DEAD!







"O'LEARY'S DEATH WAS MY FAULT, I FELT. YET I HAD THE NERVE TO GO TO HIS FUNERAL..."



"THINK I COULD LIVE WITH MYSELF? LOOK AT MY DOUBLE-CROSSING FACE EVERY DAY?"

YOU KILLED O'LEARY! HE'D BE ALIVE IF YOU HADN'T WORKED WITH THOSE CROOKS! NOW O'LEARY'S DEAD!



O'LEARY LEFT A WIFE AND KID! HE'S DEAD BECAUSE I WENT CROOKED!



"MY CONSCIENCE WAS BEATING ME. I HAD TO DO TWO THINGS. FIRST, I VISITED O'LEARY'S WIDOW..."

I BORROWED THIS \$100 FROM YOUR HUSBAND SOME TIME AGO.



"THEN, LITTLE CHARLIE..."

NEW YEAR'S EVE, BUT NOT A HAPPY ONE FOR ME UNTIL I CUT LOOSE FROM THAT MOB!



CHARLIE? HE'S IN BACK!

HMM-BUSINESS LOOKS GOOD TONIGHT.



FABIAN!

WHY'D YOU KILL O'LEARY? I WARNED YOU ABOUT SHOOTING!









"LITTLE CHARLIE MADE GOOD HIS THREAT. HIS GANG BROKE INTO A FURRIER'S..."

DA BOIGLAR ALARM! I KICKED IT!

DON'T WORRY. THE LAW'S ON OUR SIDE!

CARTER FURS

CLANG! CLANG!

IT'S FABIAN—HE GOT OUR TIRES!

I'LL FIX HIM—THE DOUBLECROSSER! QUICK—INTO THE BREWERY AND OUT THE BACK STREET!

JAB BREWERY

BLAM! BLAM!

PHOOO

OKAY—HERE'S WHERE THE CITY GETS ANOTHER DEAD COP! YOU ASKED FOR IT!

"I ROLLED WITH THE CRACK OF A SHOT—"

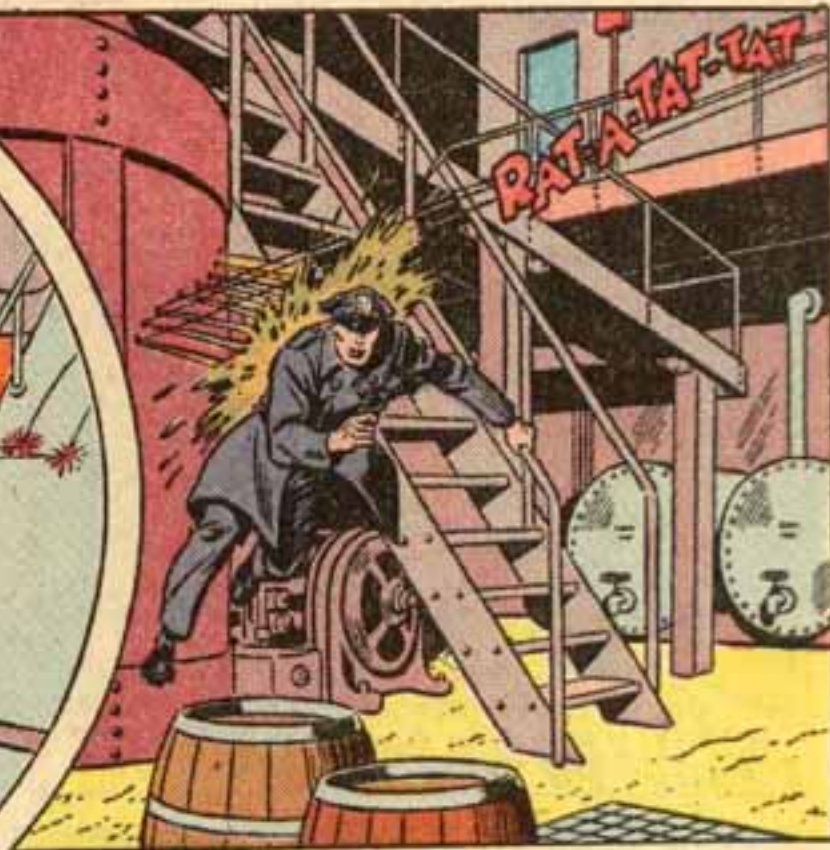
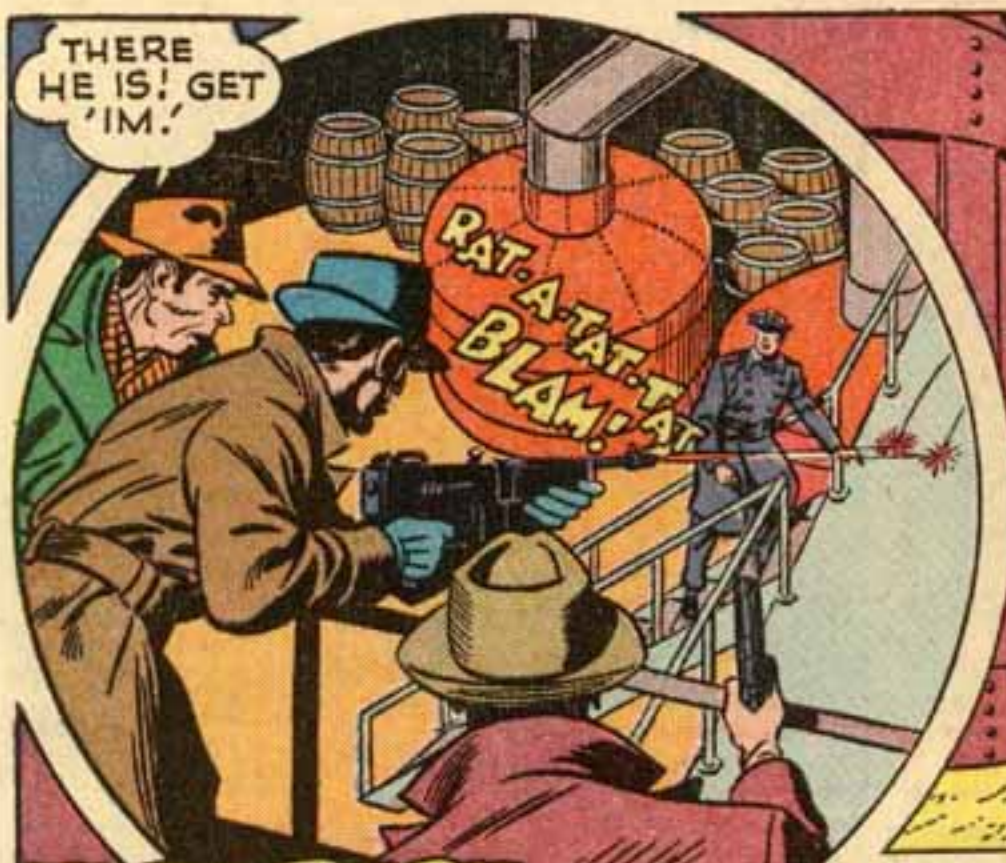
BAM!

"BUT NOT FAST ENOUGH."

JUST A SHOULDER WOUND! THEY'RE HIDING BEHIND THE TANKS!

"IF I CAN GET UP HERE AND CIRCLE AROUND BEHIND THEM..."









Listen in to  
GANG BUSTERS ...

Every Saturday Night on  
AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY



# Prizes for Everyone!

Here's your opportunity to secure any of the premiums shown below (plus many others as they appear in our latest catalog). Simply send for fast selling Garden Spot Seeds. Sell at once to friends and neighbors at 10c each. Return the money collected and select your prize in accordance with our offers. **SEND NO MONEY — WE TRUST YOU.**

**FOR BOYS AND GIRLS**

## CANDID TYPE CAMERA



Fixed Focus, eye level view finder, 16 exposures. Beautiful Black case.

Yours for selling two 40-packet orders of Garden Spot Seeds.

## Blue Bird COOKING SET

5 piece set. Durable. A welcome addition to any kitchen.

Sell only 40 packets of Garden Spot Seeds.



**FOR MEN AND WOMEN**

## Full Size UKULELE



Easy to play. Instruction Sheet included. Sell only 40 pkts. of Garden Spot Seeds.

## BASKET BALL

Rubber. Valve type bladder. Lacing needle and lace included.

Yours for selling two 40-packet orders of Garden Spot Seeds.



## Exquisite DINNER SET

... Nineteen pieces of latest fashion dictated pieces.

Sell only two 40 packet orders of Garden Spot Seeds.



Cent Express Collect

## PRIZE TYPEWRITER

Yours for selling only 40 Pkts. of Seed

WE WILL PAY TOTAL OF \$10 FOR BEST, NEATEST, NICEST COMPOSED LETTERS WRITTEN ON THIS MACHINE AND SENT TO US BY JULY 1, 1948



## SCHOOL OUTFIT

Self filling Fountain Pen, Mechanical Pencil, School Bag, and Webster Dictionary all for selling only 40 pkts. of Seed.



## POCKET WATCH for Men

Dependable & faithful companion. Pull-out pendulum set. (Supply Limited)

Sell 40 packets of Garden Spot Seeds.



## ROLLER SKATES

Sturdy Type. Ball Bearing. Built for Fun and Hard Usage.

Sell only two 40 pkt. orders of Garden Spot Seeds.



## Good Luck FISHING OUTFIT

Steel rod, sturdy 50 yard capacity reel medium weight spool, tested line, 6 hooks and 2 lead sinkers, attractive cork float and metal lure.

Sell only 40 packets of Garden Spot Seeds.



## WRIST WATCHES

Choice Models for Men, Women, Boys and Girls. Guaranteed by Nationally known manufacturers. Reliable.

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\* SUPPLY LIMITED - All watches are offered subject to our ability to get delivery from the manufacturers.

THIS BOOK YOURS AS A...

**REWARD** FOR ANSWERING THIS AD



26 page Book of Parlor Puzzlers... fun for Children and Grown-Ups. Will be sent right along with the seeds.

**MAIL COUPON NOW**

**41st YEAR**

LANCASTER COUNTY SEED COMPANY  
Station 460, Paradise, Penna.

Please send me 40 packets (one order) of Garden Spot Seeds to sell at 10c a pkt. for a fine prize. I will sell and pay for seeds in 30 days. Include the free Book of Parlor Puzzlers.

Check here ☐ for 80 packets if you want to sell for a "2-order" premium.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POST OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

STREET OR R.F.D. \_\_\_\_\_ BOX \_\_\_\_\_

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Save 2 cents by filling in, pasting and mailing this coupon on a 1c Post Card TODAY





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Print Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Print Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone No. \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
(if any)

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

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*This won't happen to  
you if you know*



# HOW TO CHANGE A TIRE AT NIGHT



1.

*Get off the road quickly! If that can't be done, be sure you're parked on a straightaway. Set a warning light 25 paces behind you so that an onrushing car won't crash into you. And you'll be all the safer if that warning light is a brilliant-beamed, dependable flashlight powered by the new "Eveready" batteries... they outlast all other brands!*

*Smart motorists always keep two flashlights ready and handy! Prop up the other one for a working light. Remove your spare before jacking up the car. A good idea too, says the American Automobile Association, is to keep all your tire-changing tools tied or packed together so you don't have to search or fumble around for them.*

2.



**PROOF!...IN THE LABORATORY...IN YOUR OWN FLASHLIGHT...**

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That's why "Eveready" batteries *outsell* any other brand—because they *outlast* any other brand!\*

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