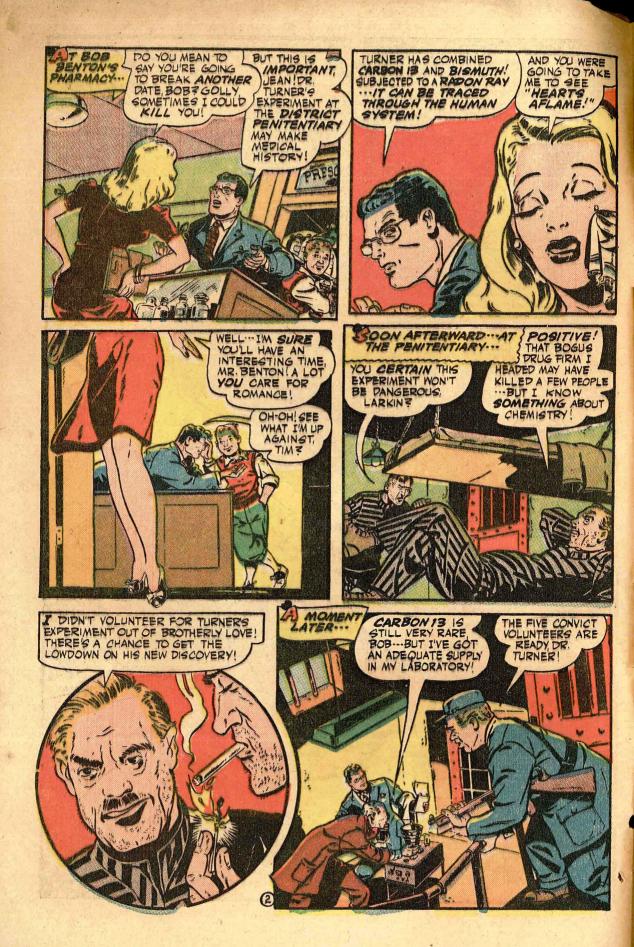


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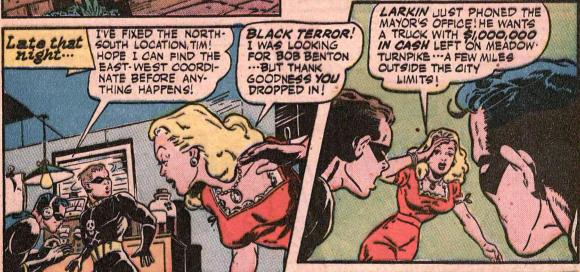


























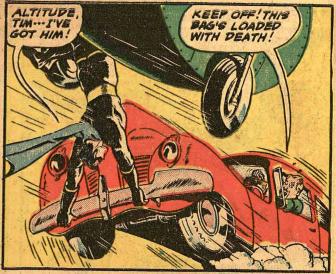




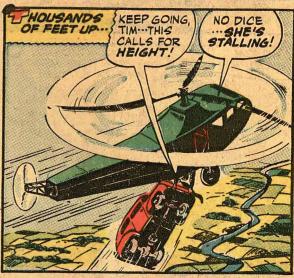


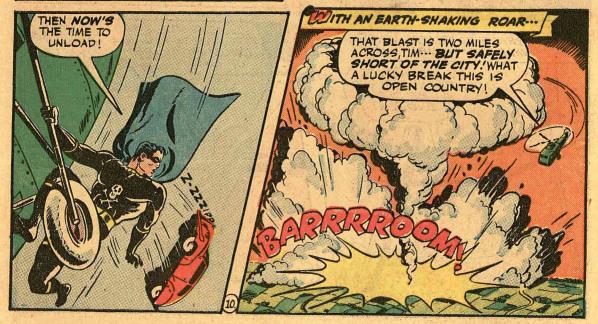










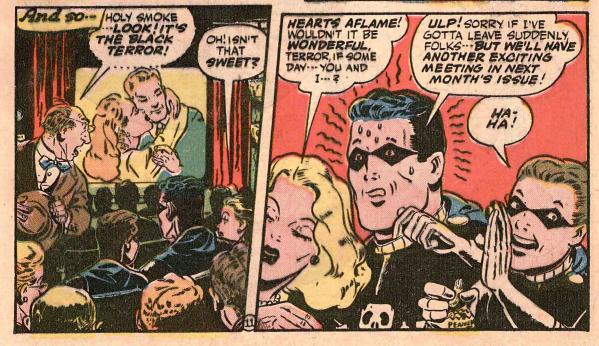














NIGHT TRAIL

By CHARLES STODDARD

Scout George Gilman Matches Wits With a Diamond Thief!

was an American diamond buyer who was visiting in a camp near the Broken Hill fields in Rhodesia. Ever since leaving New York, he traveled under a fear that American criminals were following him, and since his arrival in Capetown he felt certain that Barney Fall, one of the passengers on the American-South African boat, was on his trail.

Tonight he was spending his last evening in the bush with some South African boy scouts who had come up into the Broken Hill country for their winter camping tour.

George Gilman, patrol leader of the scouts, was fascinated by Nelson's stories of his work. The boys and the diamond buyer were seated around the camp fire when suddenly there was a stirring in the brush and a gruff voice shouted:

"This is as far as you go, Nelson. I'm collecting those diamonds right now."

Nelson turned to find Barney Fall standing there with a gun in his hand. The muzzle was weaving about, covering the boys and the man with them.

"Okay," Nelson finally agreed, not wanting to put the boy scouts into any danger. There was nothing else to do. The gun in Nelson's baggage was no help now.

Fall took the gems, then collected supplies for his journey into the wilderness. Young George Gilman helped him with the chore, and finally the diamond thief said:

"I guess I have everything I need now, but one thing Let me have your compass. There's a lot of wild country north of

here, and I don't want to get lost in it."

The patrol leader hesitated, then asked:

"What are we going to do ourselves?"

Barney Fall chuckled:
"That's up to you fellows.
But I don't think you'll have
much trouble. You can find
direction by the Big Dipper
and the North Star and those



things. I don't know anything about that."

George Gilman handed over the compass, and Barney Fall withdrew into the darkness. When he was well on his way, Jonathan Nelson turned to the boys and said: "Well, that sure wrecks me. I've sunk all my money into this trip, and now I'm broke."

"Don't let's worry about that," George Gilman declared "We may be able to turn the tables yet. Let's pack up and head south to the highway We can spread out along the road, and this time when Fall shows up we'll be ready for him. He won't be able to do much compass reading in the dark, and he won't want to attract pursuit with a flashlight."

Jonathan Nelson considered this, then pointed out one

thing that Gilman appeared to be overlooking.

"What good is it going to do for us to head South? Fall definitely said he was going north. We'll never find him."

Gilman chuckled, as did the other boys. They were finally packed and they set off in the darkness. Just before dawn they reached the highway running along the Zambesi River. On orders from the patrol leader the boys spread out and hid in the brush. Nelson stayed close to the older scout, his gun now ready in his hand. They were on a knoll that looked down upon a long stretch of the highway.

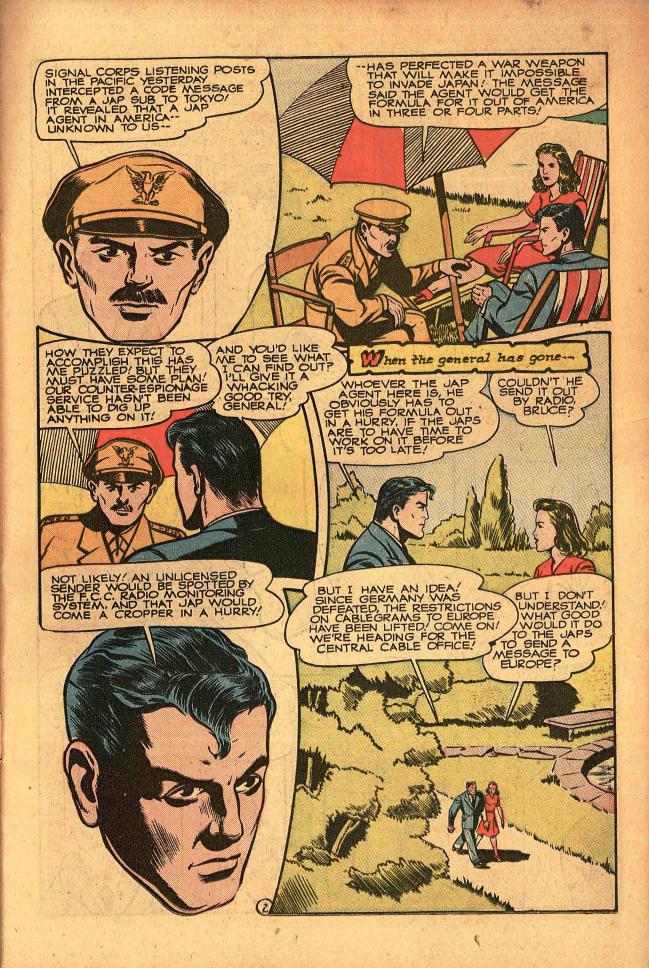
Suddenly, just after daylight, a familiar figure came out of the jungle and paused on the highway. Nelson drew his gun, and hurried along with George Gilman close behind him.

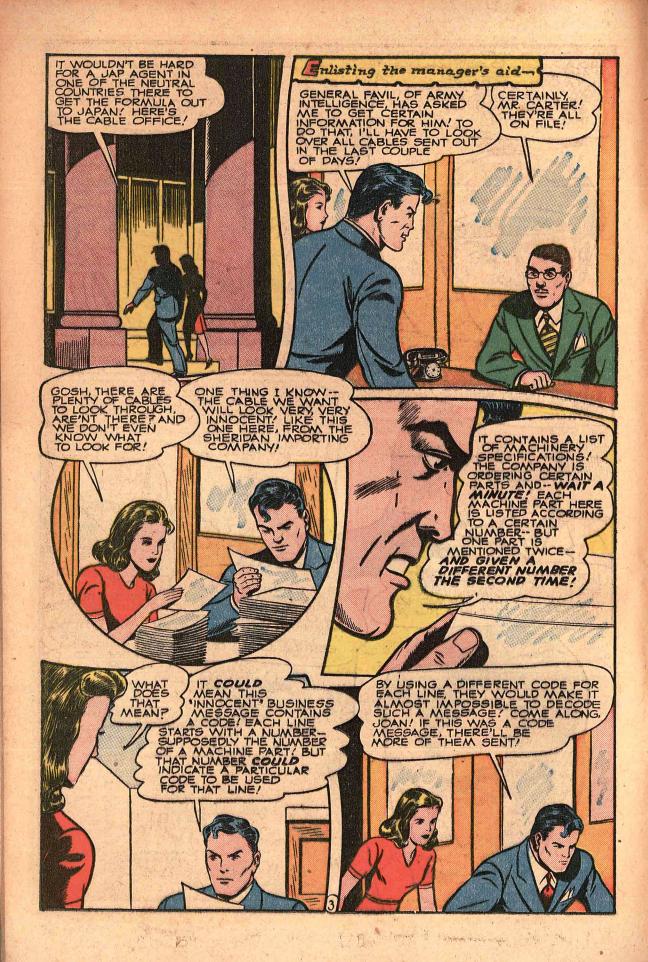
"It's Fall, all right. And this time we'll do the surprising." They crept up on the diamond thief, who was unaware of the other scouts closing in about him. When Nelson stepped out of the bush with his gun in his hand, Fall surrendered promptly.

Fall was led into the headquarters of the Rhodesian Police at Bwanamkubwa, and couldn't understand how he had been located. Young George Gilman laughed and

"It was that compass. When you're below the Equator, it points South, toward the Southern Cross, not North, toward the North Star and the Big Dipper We knew where you were going if you followed the compass, but you didn't." Jonathan Nelson and the boys had a good laugh at the diamond thief's expense.

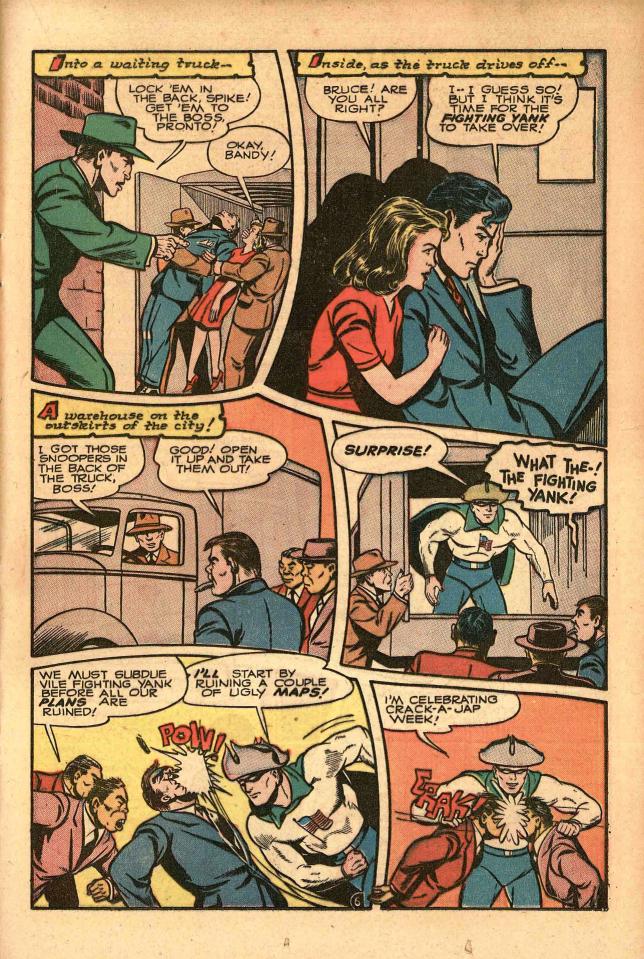


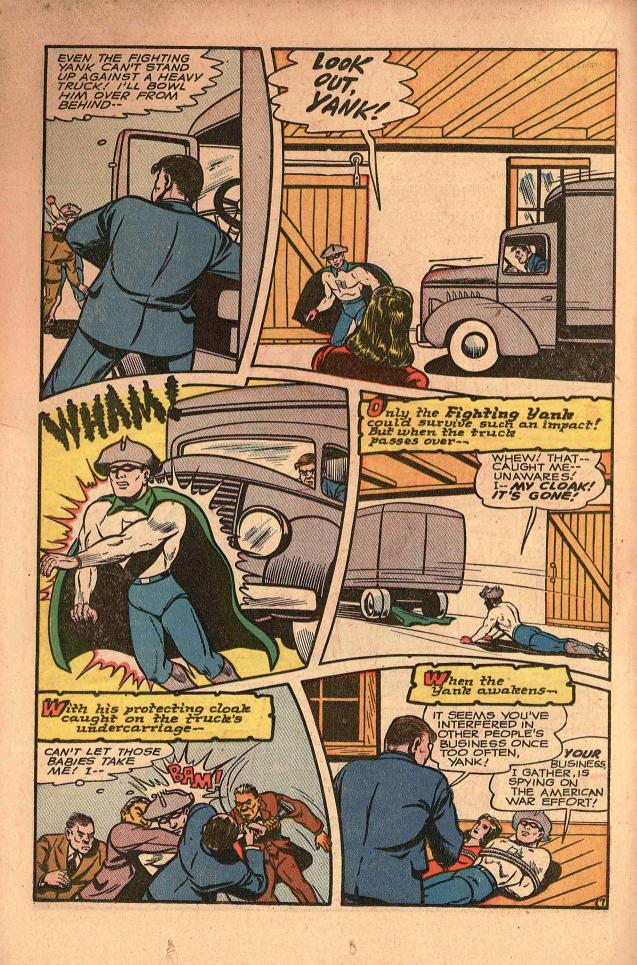




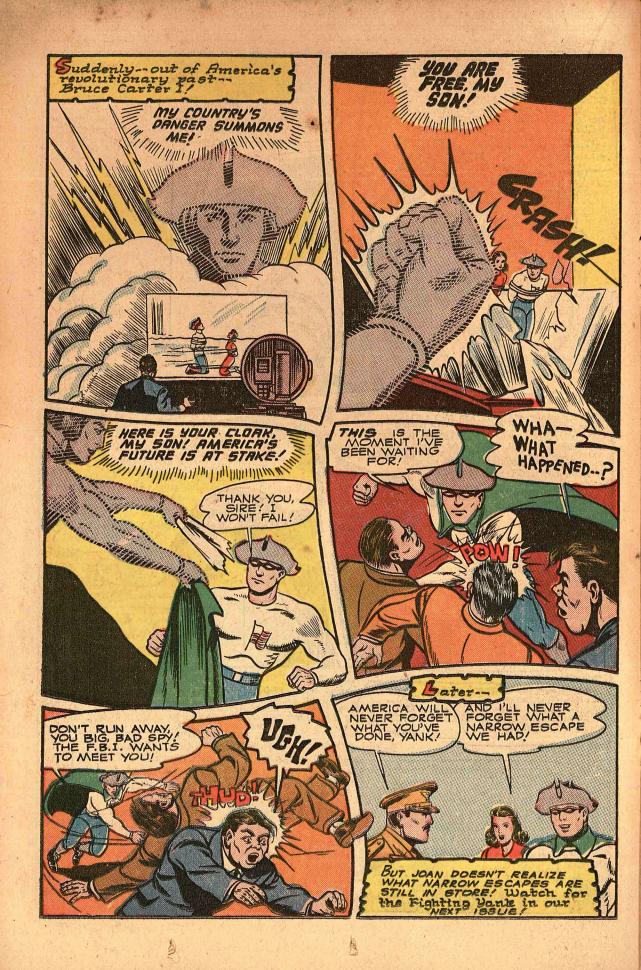


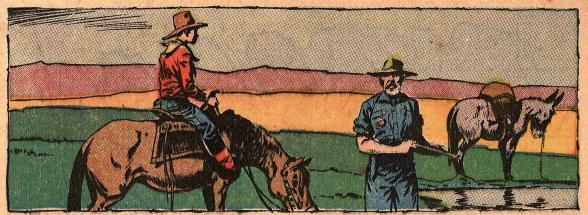












PROSPECTOR'S GOLD

By GERALD DEVERS

The Little Gray Burro's Habits Gave Danny an Idea!

anny Lancing
rode down the hill
and halted his horse
near the spot where
old Seth Dover was panning
the water of the creek for
gold. The boy smiled as the
gray-bearded prospector
glanced up.

"Any luck, Seth?" Danny called

"Doin' all right, boy," said Dover. He shifted the pan in his hand so the water ran out, leaving the scrapings from the bottom of the creek. "There's gold in this creek all right."

Danny dismounted, groundhitching his horse. He glanced at the prospector's burro. The little gray animal was standing a little distance away. Unconsciously Danny began to whistle and the burro lifted her head.

"Careful, Danny," said Seth Dover. "It ain't safe to whistle around Maude. I tried it a few times — and she just missed kicking me a mile away."

The boy stopped whistling as he found the burro was edging closer to him, and wheeling around so her back legs were aimed in Danny's direction.

"I've done right good since you were here two weeks ago," said Dover as he waded out of the creek. *Got quite a lot of gold panned out and stored away up in my cabin. How's everything at the ranch, Danny? Yore folks all right?"

"Fine, Seth," said Danny.
"I was riding over this way today so I thought I would see how you were getting along."

"Gettin' hungry," said the old prospector. "Come on up to the cabin and we'll have somethin' to eat."

The old man and the boy walked up to the cabin. Danny led his horse by the reins and the burro followed them. They ate a noon meal and then when they had finished Danny decided it was time for him to started back to the Leaning L

He stepped out of the cabin, Seth Dover accompanying him. Just then a rough-looking man came around a corner of the shack with a gun in his hand

"Stand still, both of you!" snapped the outlaw with the gun. "I been listening to you talkin' to the boy while yuh was eatin', Dover. I want yore gold. Hand it over if you want to live."

Seth Dover stood glaring at the man. The old prospector was not armed Nor was Danny.

Danny glanced at the burro, which was quietly standing

behind the hard-faced man. The boy began to whistle loudly. The burro lifted her head.

"Shore glad to see you are so happy about this," said the hard-faced man. "Wouldn't like to think that I worried you folks." He listened to the tune that Danny was whistling and then nodded, "Always did like that tune."

The outlaw began to whistle loudly, and Danny quickly stopped. The burro edged closer and closer to the whistling man as Danny watched breathlessly.

Suddenly Maude's hoofs shot out and caught the outlaw squarely on the seat of the trousers with such force that he went flying through the air. The gun dropped out of his hand. Seth Dover leaped forward and grabbed up the Colt.

The old prospector had the outlaw covered when he finally staggered weakly to his feet.

"Smart of you to think of whistling, Danny," said Dover. "With Maude's help we shore caught a thief." The old prospector grinned at the boy. "What was the tune you two were whistling?"

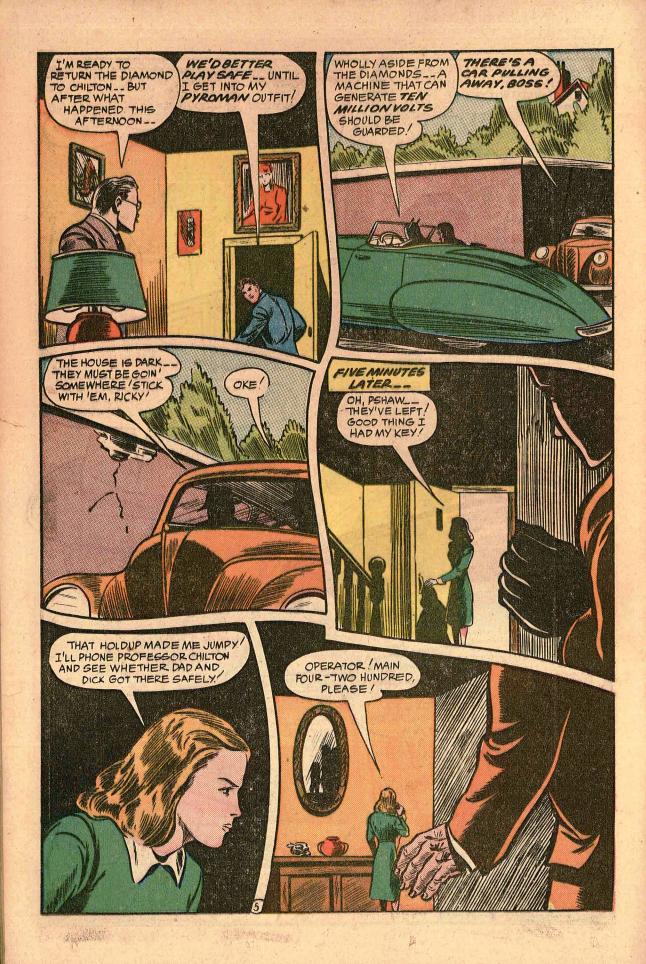
"'A Hot Time in the Old Town Tonight,'" said Danny with a smile.





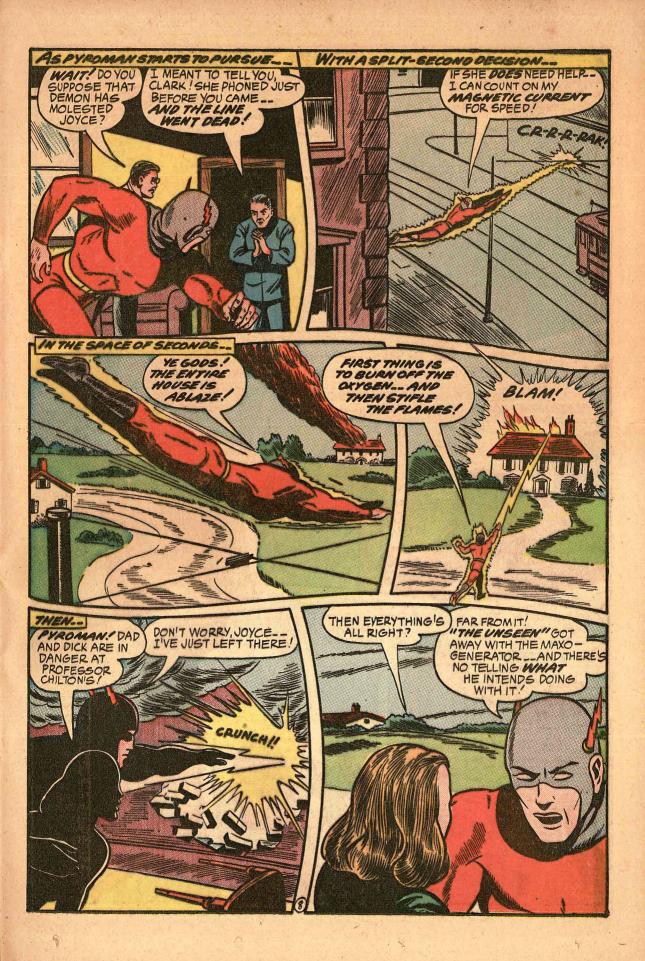




















DEEP PURPLE

By ROBERT MILES BROWDER

Eagle Scout Mullins Proves
His Mettle!



ARTHUR MULLINS was an Eagle Scout and was taking engineering courses in his first year at college During summer vacations he liked to go hunting with his father, George Mullins who was a Government agent.

"What are you working on now?" Arthur asked his father one July day as they were strolling along toward a

likely camp site.

"Moonshiners," replied George with something of a smile. "But I don't suppose there's much chance of finding them alone. They've got hideouts in these woods that an eagle couldn't find. The brush is so thick in some places, I doubt whether termites could get through. What are you specializing in, Son?"

"Well," laughed Arthur,
"we were specializing in municipal water systems before
I went away Working on tests

for leaking mains."

They suddenly came to a thicket of brush. George and Arthur talked things over,

then the father said:

"We'll split up and circle around to either side. I'll meet you up by the big spring at the other side. That way we'll be able to select the best camp spot. If you find anything, fire a shot."

Arthur strolled off—and had covered about a mile of the three-mile circle when suddenly a gruff voice said: "Hold up there, Stranger I suppose you're one of those smart Government men!"

Arthur did not deny this, for he realized that these men might be after his father. If they thought the youth was the one they were looking for, they might give his father a chance to get away Soon two

other men joined the first speaker, and Arthur heard them call each other Rufe, Zeb and Caleb. Rufe appeared to be the leader.

"What are you going to do with him, now that you've got him?" asked Caleb. "Going to tack his hide to a fence?"

"Not right away," laughed Rufe. "We'll take him down to the still and ask him some questions." The three men led Arthur off. The boy noticed that they were coming to the spring where he was supposed to meet his father. Rufe laughed at the boy's interest in the spring and said:

"Maybe you'd like to know how we work our moonshine. You ain't going to be able to tell no one, so it won't do no harm if you find out. This here spring carries the water right under the cabin wall and takes the mash out underground. The whole thing is

foolproof."

"Mind if I have a drink?" asked Arthur. Rufe agreed and the boy bent down to drink. As he did, a small package dropped out of his jacket pocket and fell into the spring. Then Rufe pulled him to his feet and herded him into an almost impenetrable thicket. Arthur then saw that there was a clear path for anyone who knew just where to look for it.

They traveled for several miles before reaching the cabin, always staying close to the tinkling water of the creek It was dark when they reached the cabin. Arthur was hurried inside and tied to a

"You've got quite a set-up here," he said, "but it don't seem hardly enough for three people. I'll bet there are times when you get jealous of each other. Especially when it's time to divvy up."

The three men darted glances at each other. Then Arthur asked for a drink of water. Rufe drew it from a bucket that was fed by a pipe coming from the creek. As Arthur brought the water to his lips, he said:

"Sure looks like someone put poison into this water, all right. Someone wants to kill

off his partners."

Rufe grabbed the dipper of water and held it to the light. It was a deep purple color. The burly fellow swung around and splashed water into the faces of Zeb and Caleb, then he whipped out a gun before either of the other men could recover from his surprise. In a moment the three men were fighting among themselves. Suddenly a harsh voice broke in and said:

"That'll be all fellows, I think I've seen enough now."

GEORGE MULLINS, gun in hand, was standing in the doorway. The three moonshiners were caught flatfooted. The Government agent untied his son, and Arthur disarmed Rufe.

"This is what happens when we try to double-cross each other," Rufe said Arthur and George Mullins laughed. Then the G-man said:

"No one double-crossed you, except Arthur He dropped permanganate of potash into the spring when he stopped for the drink. That turned the water purple and led me here. There's nothing wrong with the water." To prove it he drank from the dipper as Arthur decided that his water-testing solution had been a big help to him!

DOGSTRANGE



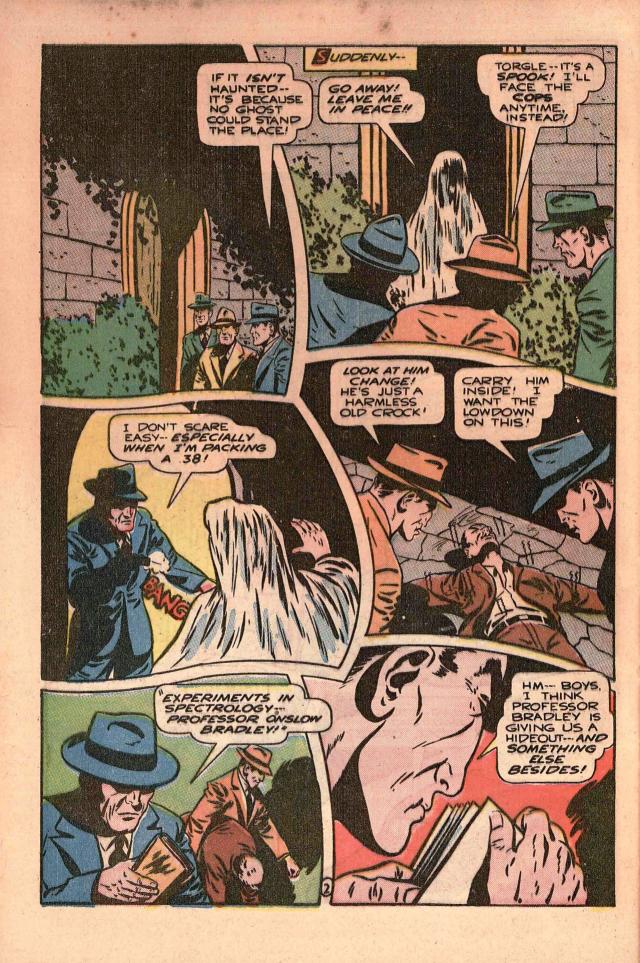
WITH THE
COPS HUNTING
US IN THREE
STATES -- WE
GOTTA FIND
AN OUT-OF-THEWAY HIDEOUT!

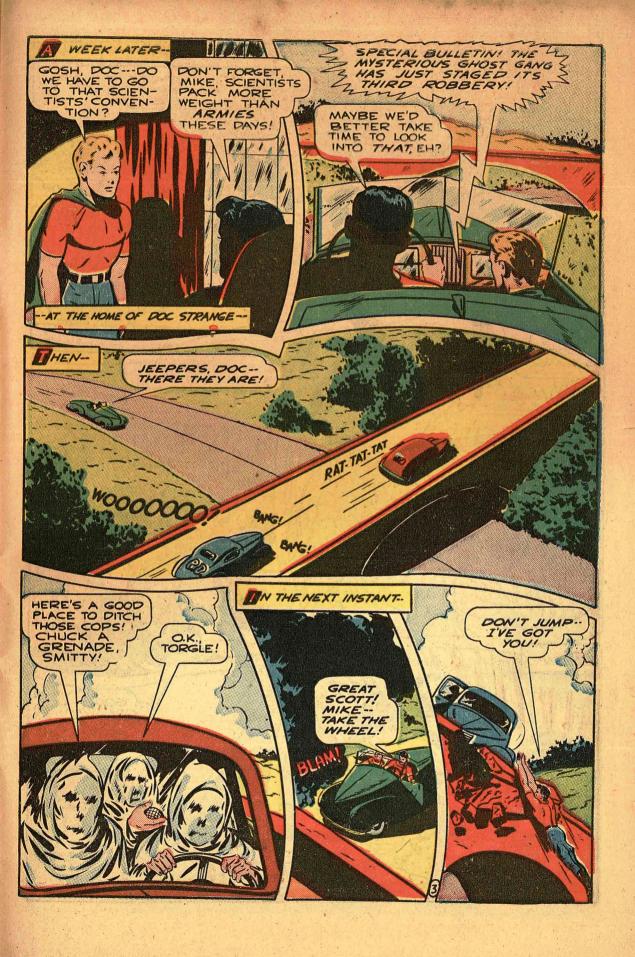
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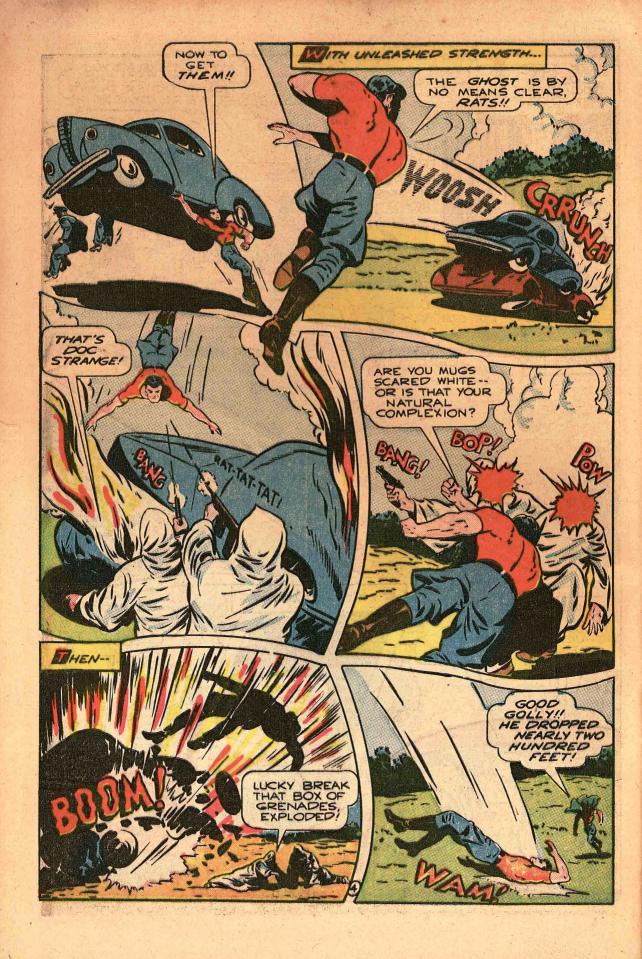
WHAT ABOUT THAT BAT ROOST, TORGLE?

OFFHAND --- IT FILLS
THE BILL! LET'S HAVE
A LOOK!



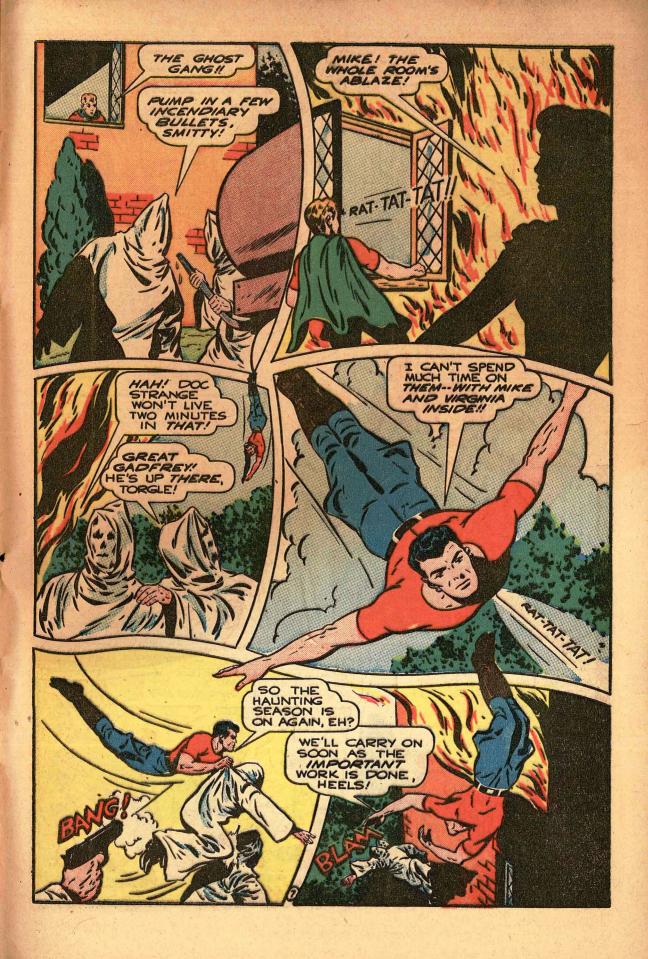


















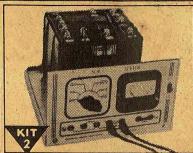




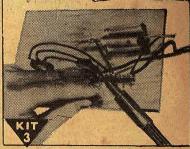
LEATH RADIO Send You by Practicing in Spare Time



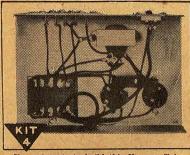
I send you Soldering Equipment and Radio Parts; show you how to do Radio soldering; how to mount and connect Radio parts; give you practical experience.



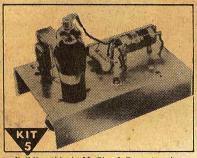
Early in my Course I show you how to build this N.R.I. Tester with parts I send. It soon helps you fix neighborhood Radios and earn EXTRA money in spare time.



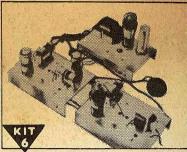
You get parts to build Radio Circuts; then test them; see how they work; learn how to design special circuits; how to locate and repair circuit defects.



You get parts to build this Vacuum Tube Power Pack; make changes which give you experience with packs of many kinds; learn to correct power pack troubles.



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