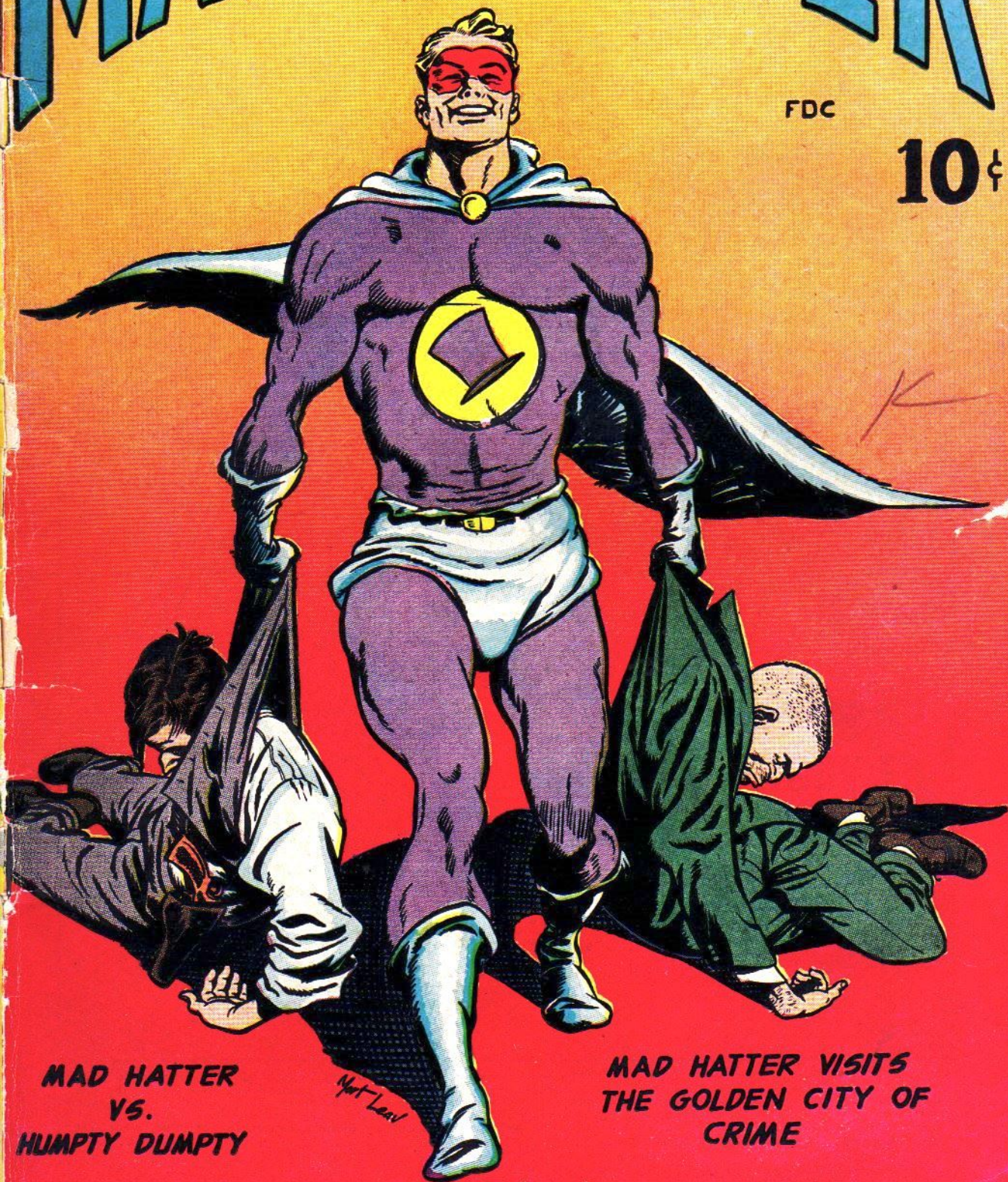


NO. 2 A NEW KIND OF COMIC MAGAZINE

MAD HATTER

FDC

10¢



**MAD HATTER
VS.
HUMPTY DUMPTY**

**MAD HATTER VISITS
THE GOLDEN CITY OF
CRIME**

HERE IT IS, BOYS & GIRLS THE NEWEST AND FUNNIEST OF ALL!

48
PAGES
IN
FULL
COLOR
10c



**now
ON SALE
AT YOUR
FAVORITE
NEWSSTAND**

**YES! "THE FUNNIEST ANIMALS
OF ALL" APPEAR IN
ANIMAL FABLES!**

THE MAD HATTER, Vol. 1, No. 2—Sept.-Oct., 1946. Published bi-monthly by O. W. Comics Corp., at 270 Broadway, New York 7, N. Y. J. G. Oxtom, President. Subscription rate, twelve issues for \$1.20 in U. S. & possessions. Single issue 10c. Application for entry as second class matter at New York is pending. Entire contents copyrighted 1945 by O. W. Comics Corp. Trade mark registration, U. S. Patent Office applied for. Reprinting in whole or in part forbidden except by permission of publisher. The stories, characters, names and incidents mentioned in this publication are entirely fictitious and no identification with actual persons, living or dead, is intended or should be inferred.

Printed in U. S. A.

The

MAD

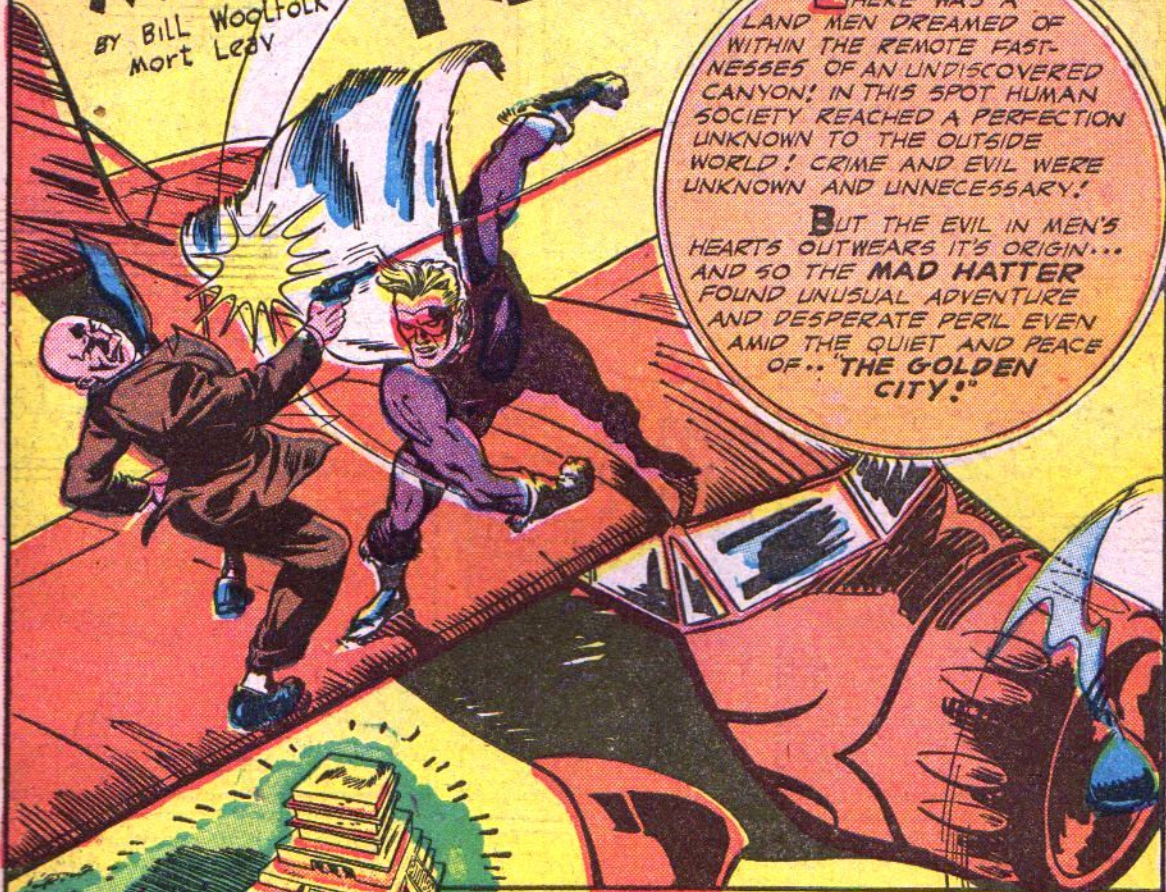
BY BILL WOOLFOLK
MORT LEAVY

HATTER



THERE WAS A LAND MEN DREAMED OF WITHIN THE REMOTE FAST-NESSSES OF AN UNDISCOVERED CANYON! IN THIS SPOT HUMAN SOCIETY REACHED A PERFECTION UNKNOWN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! CRIME AND EVIL WERE UNKNOWN AND UNNECESSARY!

BUT THE EVIL IN MEN'S HEARTS OUTWEARS ITS ORIGIN... AND SO THE **MAD HATTER** FOUND UNUSUAL ADVENTURE AND DESPERATE PERIL EVEN AMID THE QUIET AND PEACE OF... **"THE GOLDEN CITY!"**



IN THE YEAR 1528, A SPANISH EXPLORER NAMED FERNAND DE LEON STRUCK WEST-WARD ACROSS A NEWLY DISCOVERED CONTINENT! HE WAS SEEKING THE FABLED LAND OF INDIA - BUT ILLNESS OVERCAME HIM --



WE CANNOT
LEAVE YOU!
YOU ARE OUR
LEADER!

I AM A FOOL! ALL MY
LIFE I HAVE SEARCHED
FOR A LAND THAT DOES
NOT EXIST! YOU SOUGHT
TREASURE IN THE INDIES
BUT I DID NOT!

I SOUGHT A PLACE WHERE
MEN WOULD BE FREE TO LIVE
IN PEACE AND SECURITY! A
PLOT OF LAND WHERE ALL
MEN WERE EQUAL, AND
POVERTY AND EVIL WERE
UNKNOWN! NOW I FEAR
THAT I SHALL FIND IT ONLY
IN DEATH!

BUT
SUPPENLY
WHAT
IS IT?

A CITY! SUCH AS
NO MAN HAS
EVER SEEN! THE
BUILDINGS GLEAM
AS THOUGH MADE
OF GOLD!

I MUST LOOK UPON
THIS MIRACLE!
HELP ME!

DE LEON FOLLOWED HIS MEN
THROUGH THE CLIFF WALL! AN
ENTRANCE NEARLY CLOSED
OFF BY A LARGE BOULDER
LED TO A TINY PLATEAU!

THERE IT IS! I
CAN SEE THE
GOLDEN CITY!

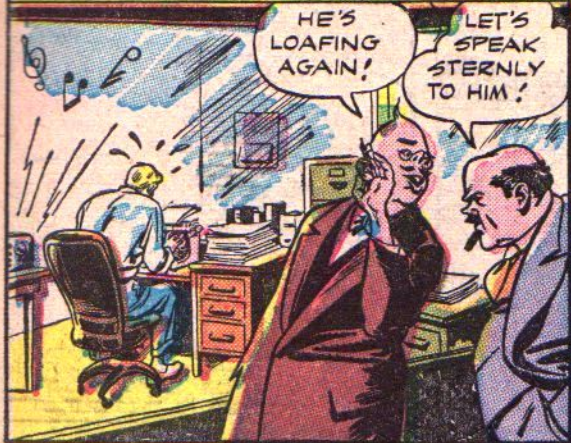
LITTLE DID FERNAND DE LEON GUESS THAT NO
OTHER HUMAN EYES WOULD LOOK UPON THE
GOLDEN CITY FOR CENTURIES TO COME ---

HAVE YOU THE STRENGTH
TO DESCEND INTO THE
VALLEY, SIRE?

THIS VISION GIVES ME
STRENGTH! LET US GO
DOWN TO IT AT
ONCE

DE LEON FOUND THAT THE
STRANGE GOLDEN CITY
WAS BUILT BY THE ANCIENT
AZTEC RACE WHO FLED THE
CONQUEROR CORTESZ ONLY
TWENTY YEARS BEFORE.
THESE PROUD PEOPLE SOON
LEARNED THAT DE LEON
WAS A SPANIARD OF
DIFFERENT METTLE - A MAN
WHO LOVED JUSTICE. THEY
MADE HIM THEIR RULER.
AND THENCEFORWARD
THE INHABITANTS OF THE
GOLDEN CITY ENJOYED
A CENTURIES LONG
ERA OF PEACE
AND
HAPPINESS ...

AND NOW, IN THE YEAR 1946, WE FIND GRANT RICHMOND WORKING BUSILY IN THE LAW OFFICES OF FUDDY AND BUSTLE --



MY BOY, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR JOB LATELY! YOU MUST BUCKLE DOWN! NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE!

A ROLLING STONE GATHERS NO HAY YOU KNOW!

ARE YOU CRAZY?



I'VE BEEN WORKING DAY AND NIGHT ON THESE REPORTS! I HAVEN'T EVEN LEFT THE OFFICE FOR MEALS AND YOU - WHAT'S THAT?

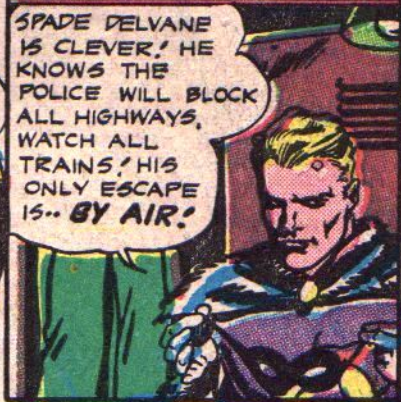


FOUR CRIMINALS WERE CAPTURED OR KILLED BY THE POLICE! SPADE AND ONE OF HIS HENCHMEN ESCAPED WITH FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN GOLD BULLION --



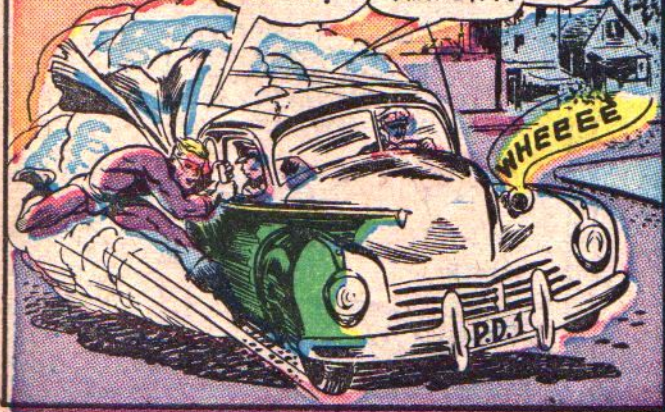
NEITHER FUDDY NOR BUSTLE SUSPECT THAT THEIR YOUNG JUNIOR PARTNER, GRANT RICHMOND IS THE MAD HATTER --

SPADE DELVANE IS CLEVER! HE KNOWS THE POLICE WILL BLOCK ALL HIGHWAYS, WATCH ALL TRAINS, HIS ONLY ESCAPE IS -- BY AIR!



THE MAD HATTER'S HELLO INTUITION PROVES BOYS! CORRECT - NEAR WHAT'S THE AIRPORT -- HURRY?

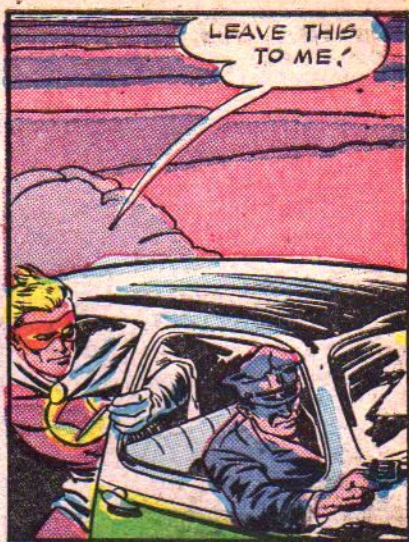
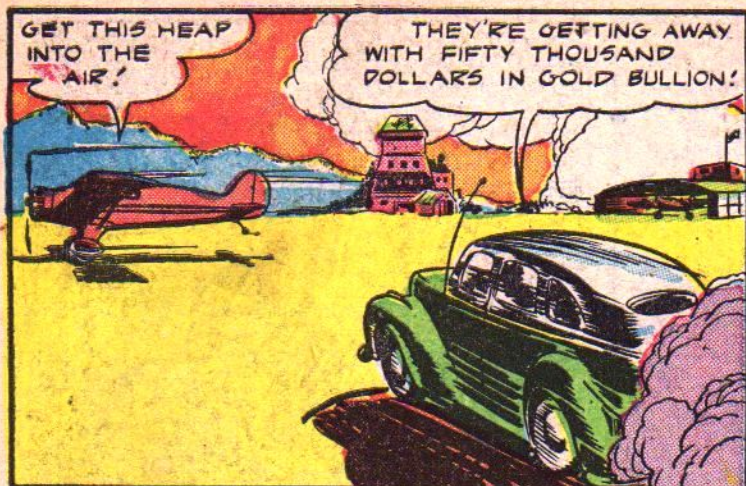
HANG ON! WE'VE PICKED UP SPADE'S TRAIL! HE WAS JUST SEEN AT THE AIRPORT!



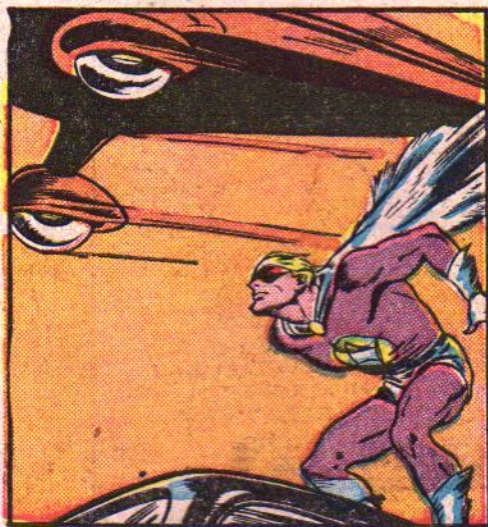
THERE HE IS!

COPS!

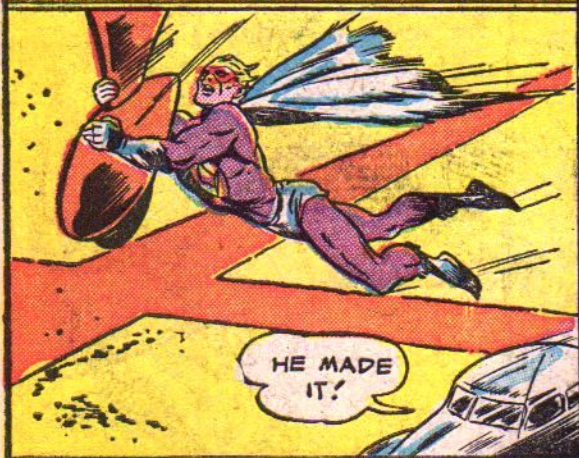




AS THE CRIMINAL'S PLANE THUNDERS ALOFT, THE MAD HATTER CROUCHES FOR A DESPERATE LEAP—

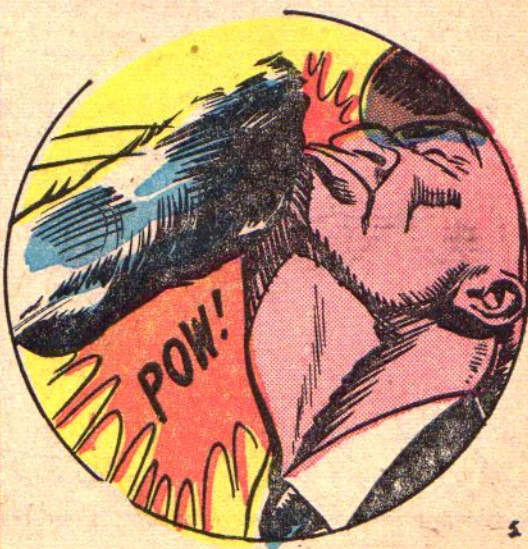
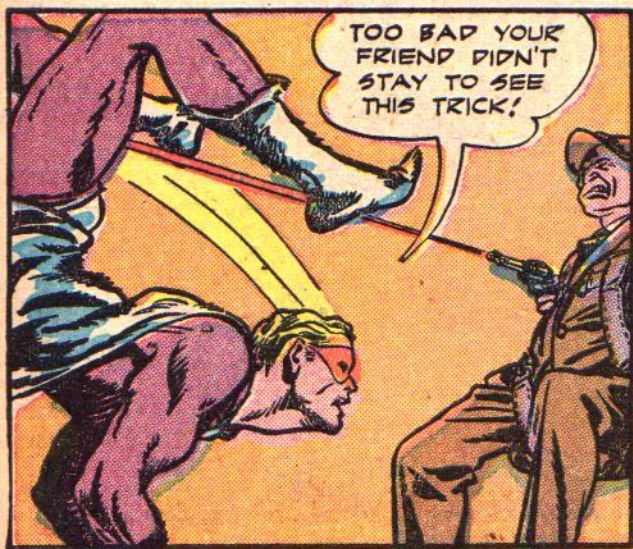
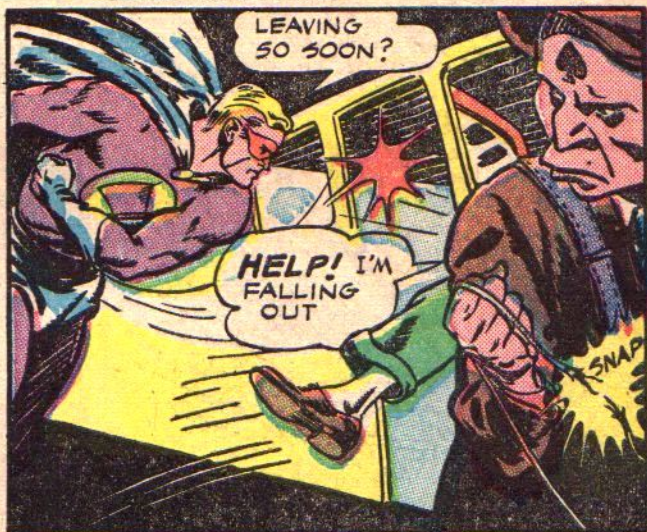
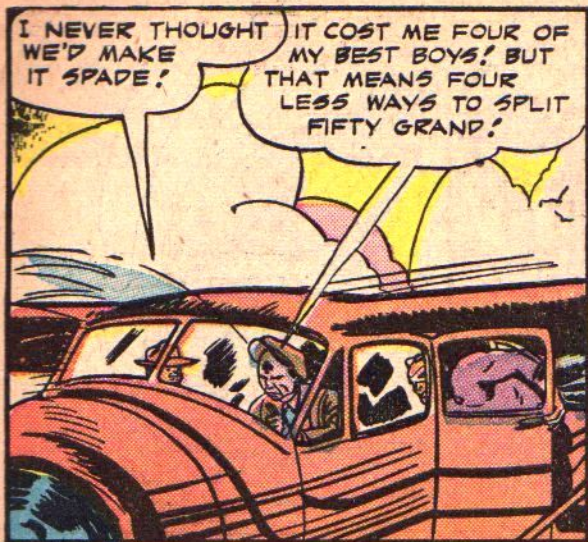


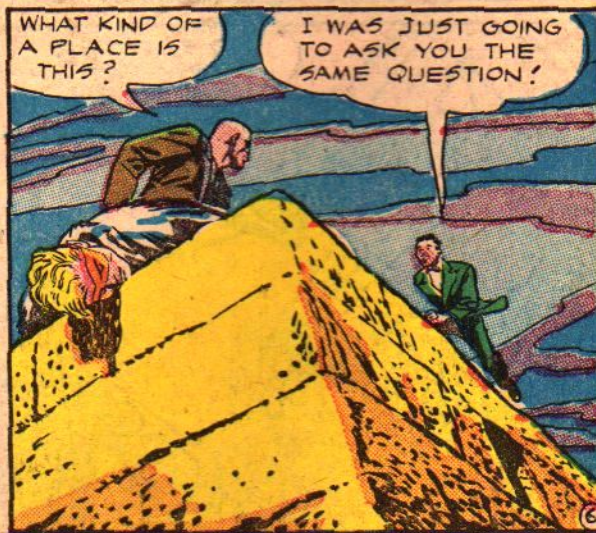
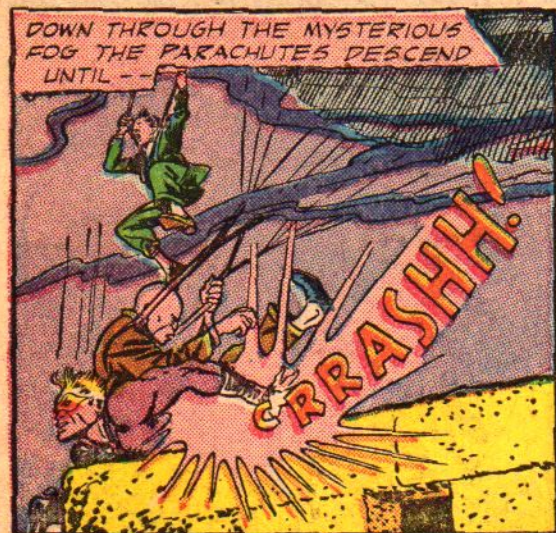
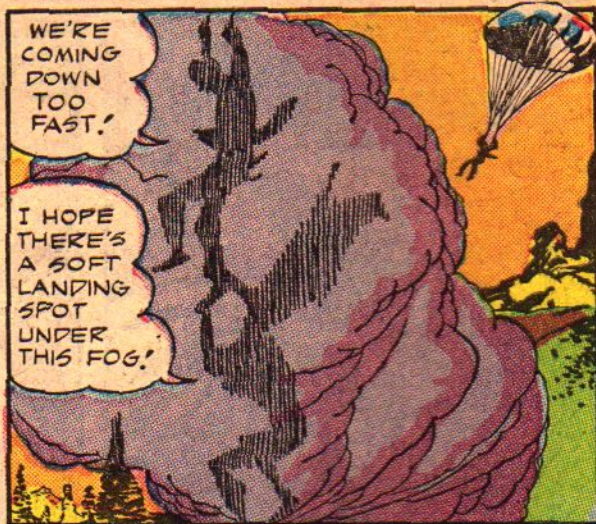
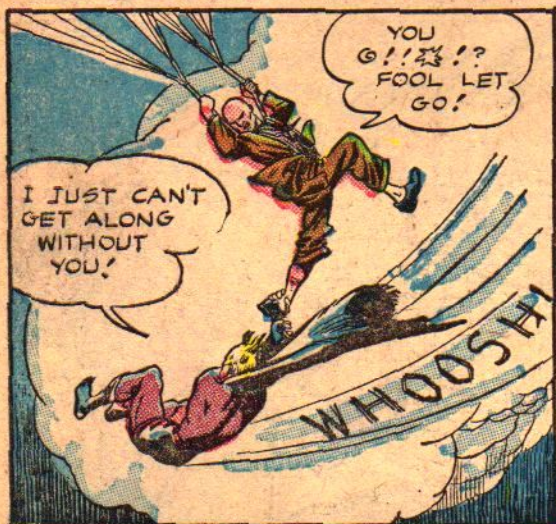
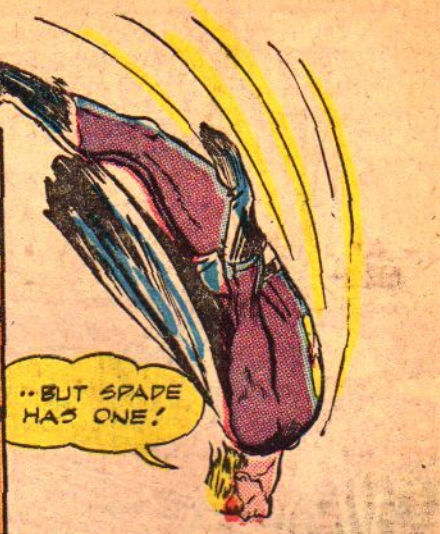
COILED MUSCLES EXPLODE INTO VIOLENT ACTION! THE MAD HATTER'S GROPING FINGERS LOCK ABOUT A WHEEL AND CLING GRIMLY—



THE PLANE'S HEADING WEST--TOWARD THE DESERT COUNTRY!







ANYWAY THIS IS
THE FINISH FOR
THE MAD HATTER!
I'LL PUT A BULLET
THROUGH HIS HEAD!

HOLD!

THERE WILL BE NO
BLOODSHED IN THE
GOLDEN CITY!
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU
PENETRATED OUR
CAMOUFLAGE FOG,
AND NOW YOU
MUST REMAIN!
REMOVE THEIR
GUNS!

WHO ARE
YOU?

MY NAME IS DE LEON! I AM
THE DESCENDANT OF THE
MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE
GOLDEN CITY! AS THE FIRST
VISITORS SINCE HIS TIME,
WE BID YOU WELCOME! YOU
WILL NOT FIND US
INHOSPITABLE!

COME
WITH
ME!

I DON'T
LIKE THIS
SET-UP!

NEITHER DO I, BUT
THERE'S NOTHING
WE CAN DO ABOUT
IT-- YET! THEY
TOOK OUR GUNS!

WHEN THE MAD HATTER HAS RE-
COVERED THE THREE VISITORS ARE
GRANTED AN AUDIENCE WITH DE LEON!

WE'RE HONEST MEN!
THIS COSTUMED BANDIT
TRIED TO ROB US...

AND SO I FOLLOWED THEM HERE!
I WANT TO BRING
THEM BACK TO
JUSTICE!
IT'S A PACK OF
LIES! DON'T
BELIEVE HIM!

HMM! YOUR
STORIES DISAGREE!
BUT IT IS NOT FOR
ME TO JUDGE...

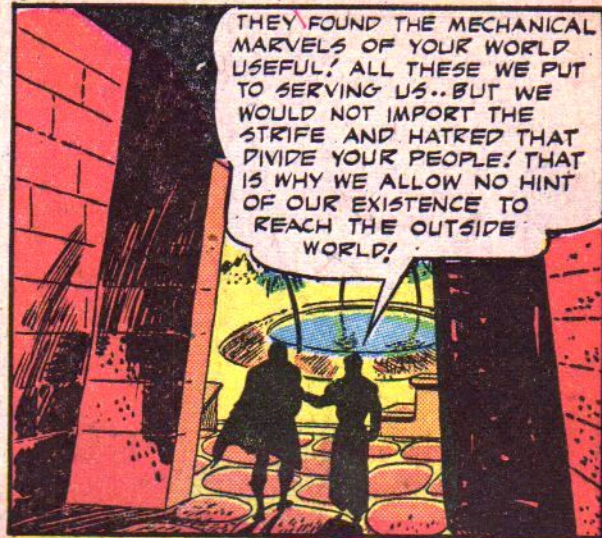
INDEED, YOUR PAST DOES
NOT REALLY MATTER!
SINCE YOU MUST SPEND
YOUR FUTURE DAYS WITH
US, YOU SHALL BE
JUDGED ON YOUR BE-
HAVIOR
HERE!



AS DAYS PASS, THE "MAD HATTER" LEARNS THE FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN CITY.

DID YOU REALLY MEAN THAT NO ONE CAN EVER LEAVE HERE?

YEARS AGO A SMALL BAND LEFT THROUGH THE CLIFF ENTRANCE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! THEY CAME BACK TO REPORT THAT THEY FOUND LITTLE BUT GREED, MISERY AND DISCONTENT AMONG MEN...



THEY FOUND THE MECHANICAL MARVELS OF YOUR WORLD USEFUL! ALL THESE WE PUT TO SERVING US..BUT WE WOULD NOT IMPORT THE STRIFE AND HATRED THAT DIVIDE YOUR PEOPLE! THAT IS WHY WE ALLOW NO HINT OF OUR EXISTENCE TO REACH THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

IS THERE NO CRIME HERE?

WHY SHOULD THERE BE? OUR WEALTH BELONGS TO ALL! FROM EACH WE ASK ONLY WHAT HE CAN GIVE AND TO EACH WE GRANT WHAT-EVER HE MAY NEED!

WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THE GOLDEN CITY THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO MEN WHO DO NOT SUBSCRIBE TO IT'S PHILOSOPHY!

SPADE! YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE IT!

WHAT'S THAT?

THE WHOLE CITY-- IT'S REALLY MADE OUTA GOLD! THE BUILDINGS AND STREETS AND EVERYTHING

SURE!

DE LEON SAYS THE AZTECS HAD MORE GOLD THAN ANYTHING ELSE! THAT'S WHY THEY USED IT TO BUILD WITH! THIS WHOLE PLACE IS FILTHY RICH!

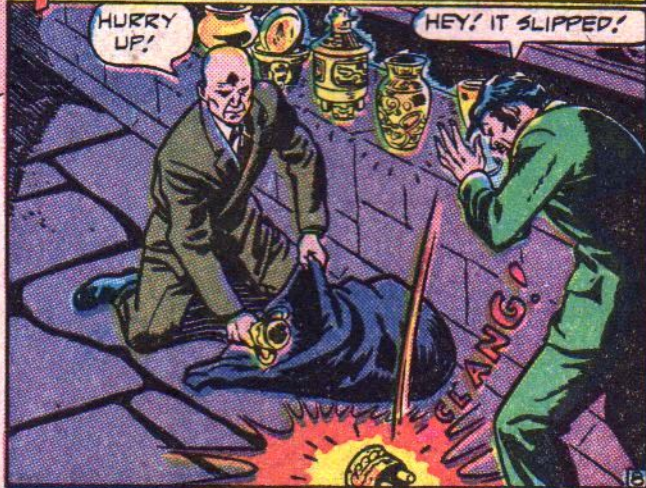
I'VE JUST BEEN WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO MAKE OUR MOVE! THEY'RE NOT SUSPICIOUS OF US ANY MORE! NOW'S THE TIME!

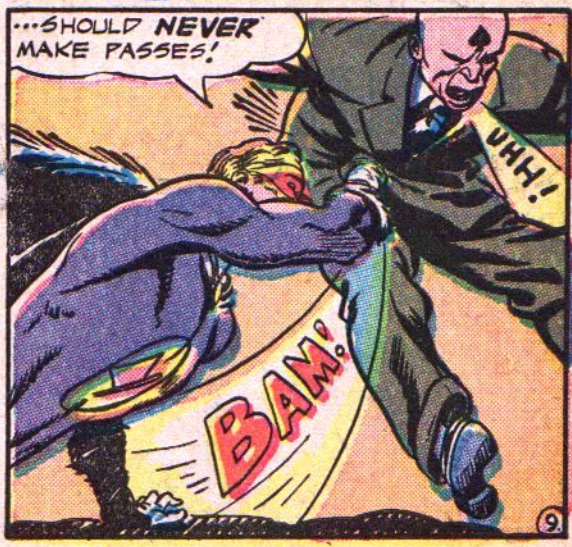
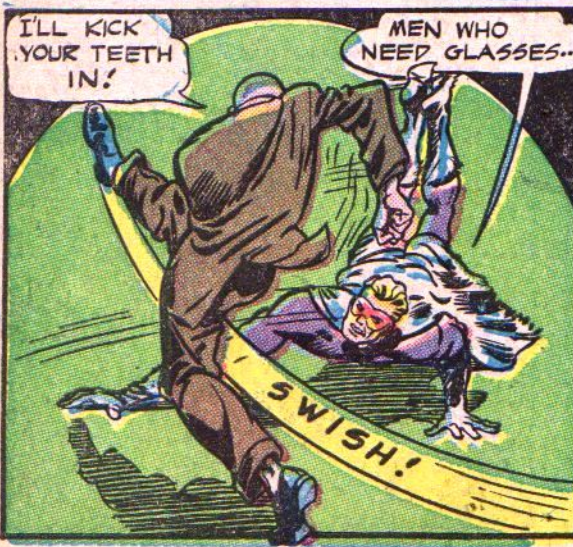
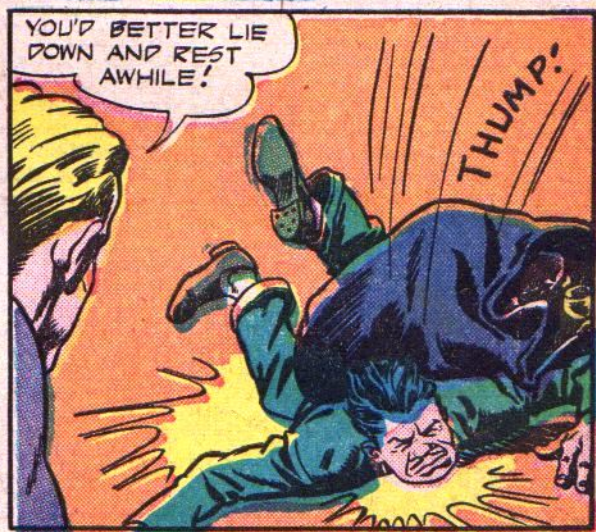
YOU KNOW A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE WITH THAT STUFF! I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU WOULDN'T MISS A BET, SPADE!

THAT NIGHT, WHEN EVERYONE IS ASLEEP...

HURRY UP!

HEY! IT SLIPPED!





I HEARD SOUNDS
OF FIGHTING!
WHAT IS WRONG?

THESE MEN TRIED
TO STEAL YOUR
ANCIENT
RELICS!



NOW PERHAPS
YOU'LL BELIEVE
THAT THEY ARE
CRIMINALS WHO
OUGHT TO BE
PUNISHED.

THEY HAVE COMMITTED NO
CRIME! THESE PIECES OF
GOLD BELONG TO EVERYONE
IN THE CITY AS MUCH AS TO
ME! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO
KEEPS THEM IN CUSTODY!



YOU FORGET, MY
FRIEND! HERE
EACH MAN CAN
TAKE WHAT HE
NEEDS! NO
OTHER MAN CAN
JUDGE WHAT HIS
NECESSITIES
ARE ...

SPADE
NEEDS A
PRISON CELL
A LOT MORE
THAN HE'LL
EVER NEED
THOSE
GOBLETS!
BUT I'M WILLING
TO FORGIVE
AND FORGET--
IF YOU
ARE!



LATER.

WE HAD A CLOSE
CALL, SPADE! LUCKY
FOR US THIS CITY
IS RUN BY A
SCREWBALL LIKE
THAT DE LEON!

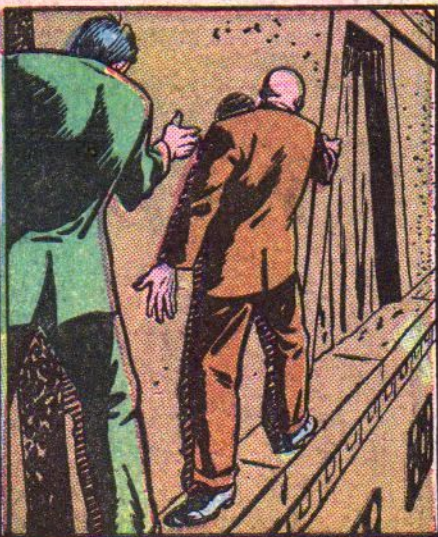
YEAH! HE'S
NUTTIER
THAN A
CAGE OF
CHIPMUNKS!
BUT HE SWINGS
A LOT OF
WEIGHT WITH
THESE PEOPLE!



THAT MAKES HIM
PERFECT FOR OUR
PLAN OF ESCAPE!
NOW, LISTEN ...



STILL
LATER
THAT NIGHT
THE EVIL
SPADE
AND HIS
HENCHMAN
MAKE THEIR
WAY TO
DE LEON'S
CHAMBERS--



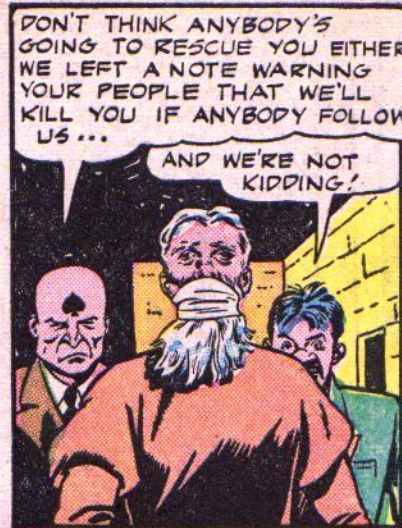
WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
HERE?

WE'RE
TAKING
A TRIP!
JUST THE
THREE
OF US!



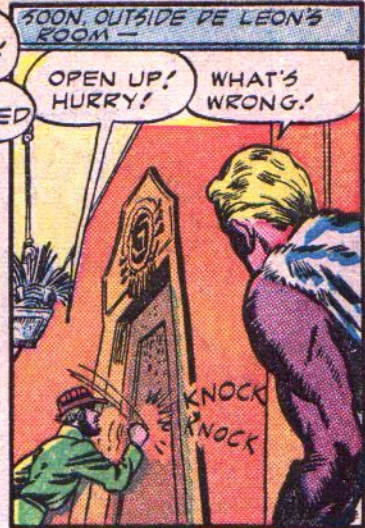


TAKE IT EASY!
IT WON'T HELP
YOU ANY TO
STRUGGLE!
YOU'RE GOING
TO SHOW US
THE WAY OUT
OF THIS PLACE!



DON'T THINK ANYBODY'S
GOING TO RESCUE YOU EITHER!
WE LEFT A NOTE WARNING
YOUR PEOPLE THAT WE'LL
KILL YOU IF ANYBODY FOLLOWED
US ...

AND WE'RE NOT
KIDDING!



SOON, OUTSIDE DE LEON'S
ROOM —

OPEN UP!
HURRY!

WHAT'S
WRONG?

KNOCK
KNOCK



SOMEONE STOLE
THE VISITOR'S GUNS
FROM THE VAULT!
THE GUARD IS
BADLY HURT!

THIS IS
SPADE'S WORK!
I THINK I KNOW
NOW HOW HE
PLANS TO
ESCAPE!



I WAS RIGHT! DE
LEON'S ROOM IS
EMPTY!

CRASH!



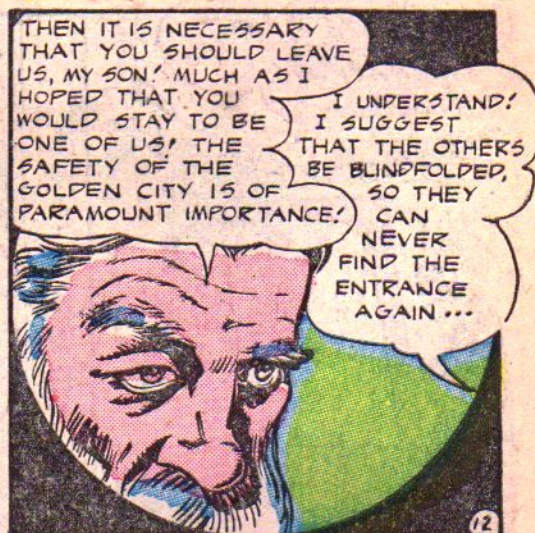
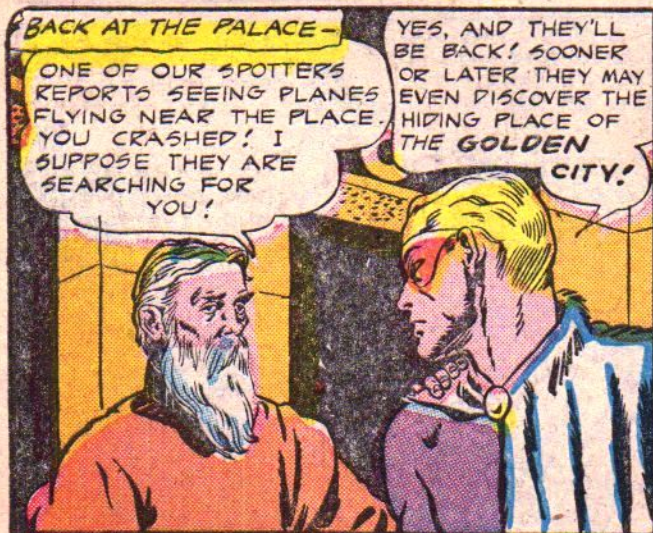
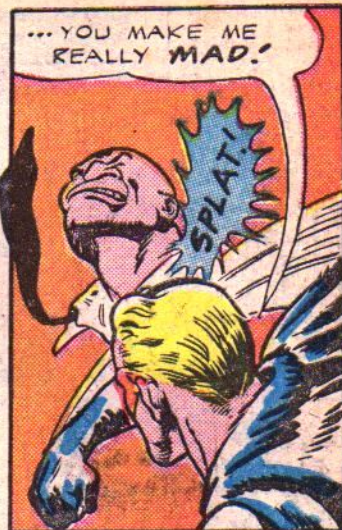
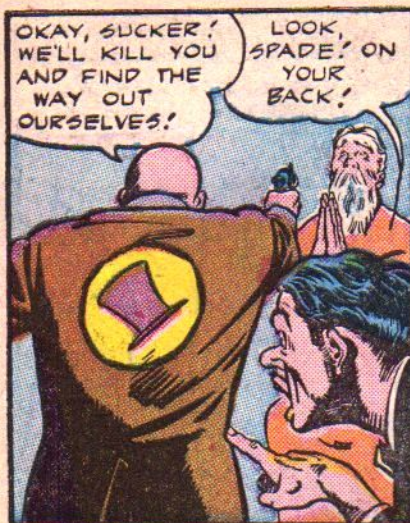
SOUND THE ALARM!
YOUR LEADER'S BEEN
KIDNAPPED!

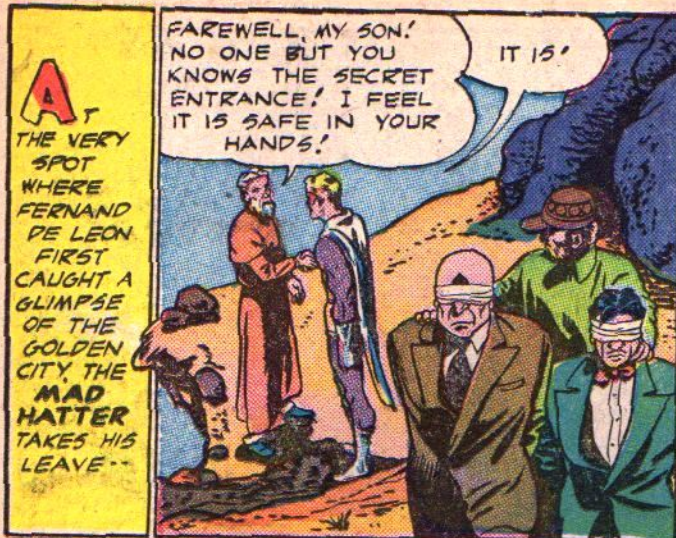
MEANWHILE



WE'VE BEEN WANDERING
AROUND FOR AN HOUR!
ARE YOU GOING TO
SHOW US THE WAY
OUT OR...

KILL ME, IF IT PLEASE
YOU! YOU SHALL
NEVER FIND THE
EXIT FROM THE
GOLDEN CITY!





A
THE VERY
SPOT
WHERE
FERNAND
DE LEON
FIRST
CAUGHT A
GLIMPSE
OF THE
GOLDEN
CITY, THE
MAD
HATTER
TAKES HIS
LEAVE--



A SHORT TIME LATER AN ARMY PLANE SPEEDS THE MAD HATTER AND HIS CAPTIVES HOME!

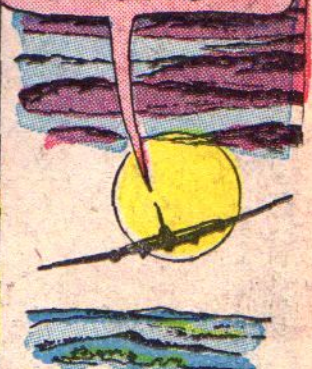
LOSING FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS IN GOLD MUST HAVE DRIVEN SPADE BATTY! HE KEEPS BABBLING ABOUT A GOLDEN CITY! IS HE OUT OF HIS MIND HATTER?



EACH OF US DREAMS OF A GOLDEN CITY! FEW MEN ARE PRIVILEGED TO FIND IT! THOSE WHO DO AREN'T LIKELY TO FORGET...

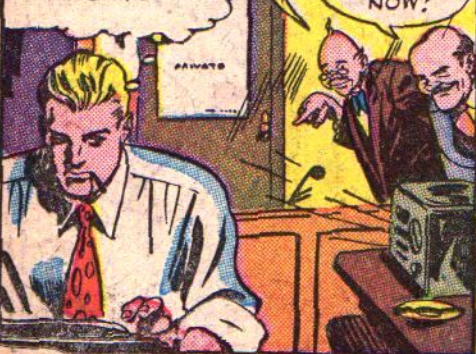


..SOONER OR LATER, THEY WILL ALWAYS GO BACK! AS LONG AS MEN CAN DREAM, THE GOLDEN CITY WILL NEVER DIE...



MORNING IN THE LAW OFFICES OF FUDDY AND BUSTLE --

OH-OH! HERE THEY COME! AND I'LL BET THEY'RE ANGRY!



MY BOY, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD LATELY! WE'VE DECIDED TO GIVE YOU A VACATION!



TAKE A WEEK OFF WITH PAY! DON'T COME NEAR THE OFFICE!

I WAS AFRAID THEY'D MISSED ME, BUT THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW I'VE BEEN AWAY! SOMETIMES I'M GLAD THEY'RE ABSENT MINDED!



The MAD HATTER



NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT GRANT RICHMOND OF BEING ANYTHING BUT A BRIGHT YOUNG MAN WITH A PROMISING FUTURE IN THE LAW OFFICES OF FUDDY AND BUSTLE.....

BUT THE DARK BYWAYS OF THE PLUNDERWORLD KNOW HIM AS THE MAD HATTER, SWIFT AGENT OF JUSTICE, RELENTLESS ENEMY OF CRIME!

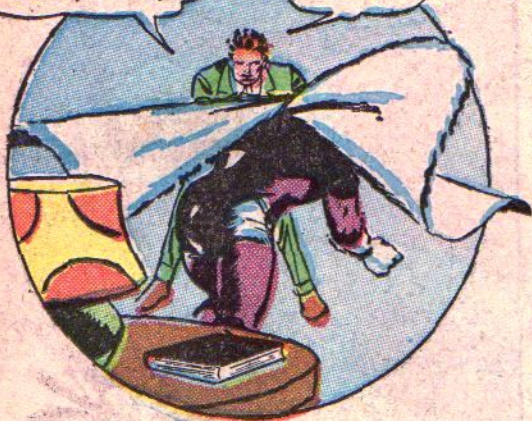
MASTER CRIMINAL IS THE MAN KNOWN AS FRANK FARO! BUT INEVITABLE JUSTICE OVERTAKES EVEN THE MOST GIFTED OF LAWBREAKERS...

THE MAD
HATTER!

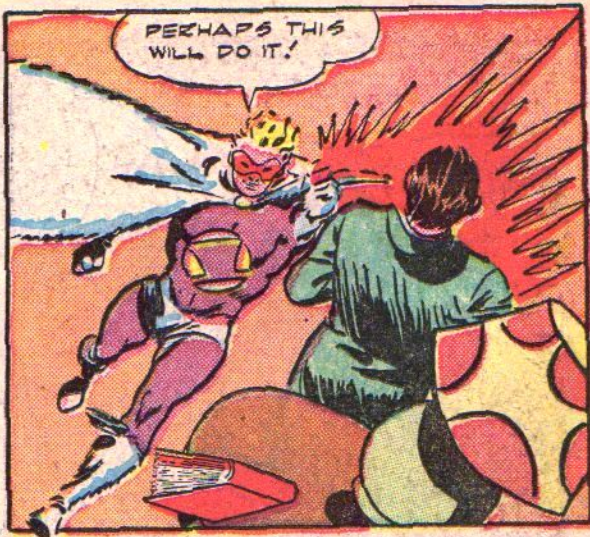


YOU'VE REACHED
THE END OF THE
TRAIL, FARO!

YOU'VE STILL GOT
TO CONVINCE
ME!



PERHAPS THIS
WILL DO IT!



OR DO YOU
STILL NEED
PERSUADING?



SO ANOTHER WOULD-
BE CRIMINAL GENIUS
FINDS THAT HE CAN-
NOT CHEAT THE LAW!
THE TRIAL OF FRANK
FARO MOVES
SWIFTLY! SOON...



AT THE PRISON MORGUE...

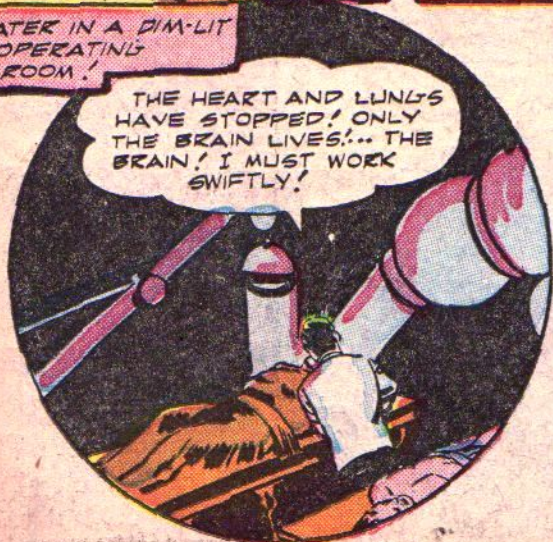
FRANK FARO
WAS EXEC-
UTED AN HOUR
AGO! I'VE
COME FOR
THE BODY!

YOU'RE THE GUY
WHO WANTED IT
FOR EXPERI-
MENTS, OKAY?
FARO DIDN'T OB-
JECT AND THE
WARDEN GRANTED
YOUR REQUEST!



LATER IN A DIM-LIT
OPERATING
ROOM!

THE HEART AND LUNGS
HAVE STOPPED! ONLY
THE BRAIN LIVES!... THE
BRAIN! I MUST WORK
SWIFTLY!



NO PULSE BEAT!
THEN I'VE FAILED!
ONCE MORE
DEATH IS THE
VICTOR!

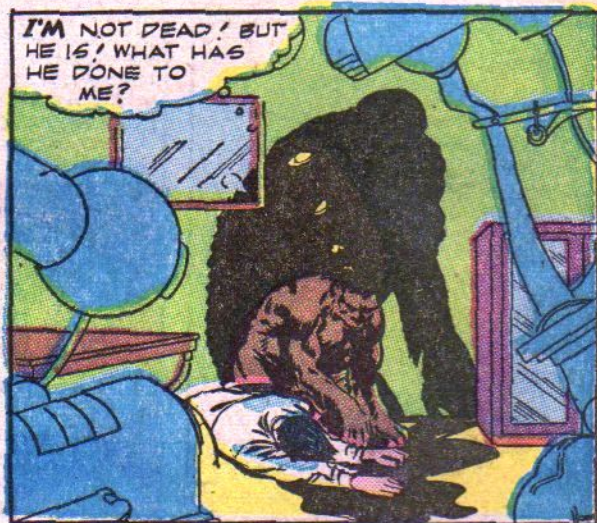
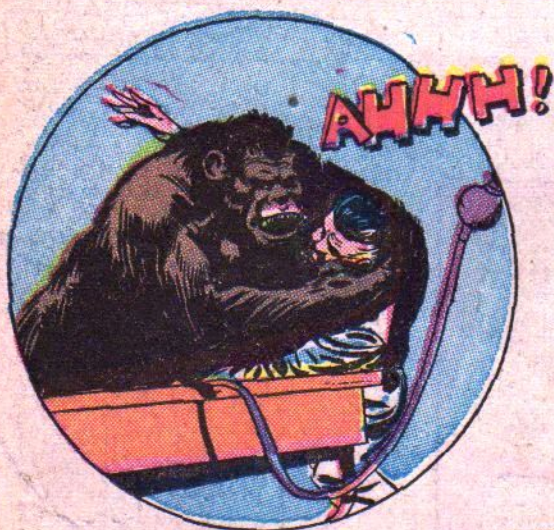




IT IS HOPELESS! NO MAN CAN RECONCILE THE ANTAGONISM BETWEEN MAN AND BEAST! NO MIND CAN LIVE IN AN ALIEN BODY!



I'VE BEEN A FOOL! IT'S TIME I CALLED AN END TO THESE VAIN EXPERIMENTS!



I'M NOT DEAD! BUT HE IS! WHAT HAS HE DONE TO ME?



MY FACE--LIKE A BEAST! THIS CAN'T BE ME! BUT I CAN THINK, AND THE THOUGHTS ARE MINE! I-I AM FRANK FARO!



I'LL NEVER ESCAPE! TRAPPED FOREVER--INSIDE THIS BEAST! I WISH I WERE DEAD!

BUT THIS WAS NOT THE END FOR FRANK FARO. LIFE STILL PULSED IN HIS STRANGE CARCASS, AND GRADUALLY HE BEGAN TO MASTER THE SHAMBLING CREATURE WHICH WAS HIS OUTWARD SELF. HE LEARNED TO STAND ERECT, EVEN TO FASHION WORDS OUT OF GUTTURAL GRUMBLINGS...

BUT THERE ARE OTHER NECESSITIES! A BEAST CANNOT ROAM A CITY UNMOLESTED...

HE IS THE RIGHT SIZE! UNLUCKY FOR HIM!



HOW SILENTLY HE DIES! A STRONG MAN! BUT WHOSE STRENGTH IS A MATCH FOR MINE?



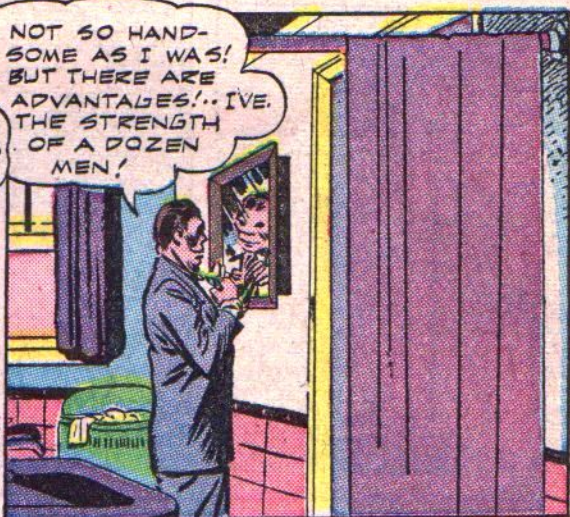
AT A MASK-MAKER'S SHOP THE MAN WHO WAS FRANK FARO COMPLETES HIS DISGUISE...

ALL THE THIEF TOOK WAS A RUBBER-FACE MASK? CAN YOU DESCRIBE HIM?

HE WAS A BIG MAN WEARING A GREY SUIT AND GLOVES! I DIDN'T SEE HIS FACE CLEARLY! WHY WOULD ANYONE STEAL AN ORDINARY FACE MASK?



NOT SO HAND-SOME AS I WAS! BUT THERE ARE ADVANTAGES!... I'VE THE STRENGTH OF A DOZEN MEN!



HA, HA! FRANK FARO IS DEAD! FROM THIS HOUR THE GARGOYLE LIVES!



IN A LONELY THIEVES HIDEOUT-

YOU ALL WORKED FOR FRANK FARO ONCE NOW YOU'LL WORK FOR ME! TONIGHT WE'LL VISIT JUDGE HASTINGS! I'M TOLD HE HAS A COLLECTION OF RUBIES!

FARO'S DEAD! WHY SHOULD WE WORK FOR YOU?

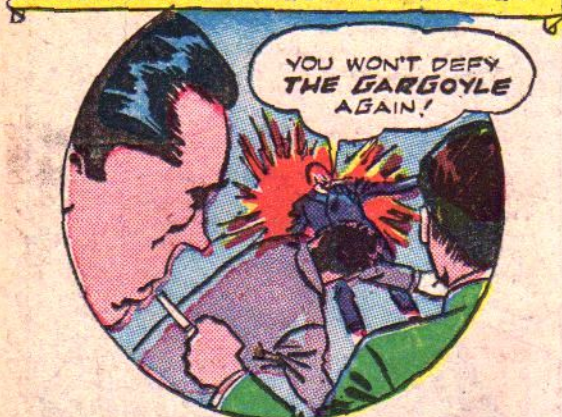


LET ME SHOW YOU WHY!

N-NO! PUT ME DOWN!.. **HELP!**



A SINGLE POWERFUL HEAVE AND A MAN'S
BROKEN BODY SMASHES INTO THE WALL -



I AM MASTER
HERE! IS THAT
UNDERSTOOD?

NOBODY'S ARGUING AFTER
WHAT HAPPENED TO
LEFTY! YOU GIVE THE
ORDERS, AND WE'LL
LISTEN!



MEANWHILE IN THE LAW
OFFICES OF FUDDY AND
BUSTLE CONFUSION
REIGNS AS USUAL...



SEEMS TO ME
I HAVE AN
APPOINTMENT -
OR DO I?

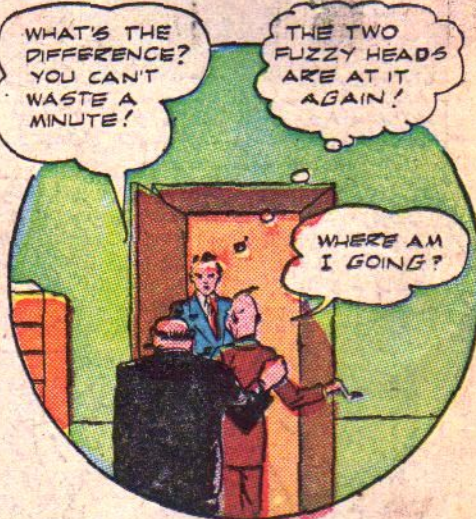
AN APPOINTMENT?
YOU'D BETTER
HURRY OR
YOU'LL BE
LATE!

BUT I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TIME THE
APPOINTMENT
IS!



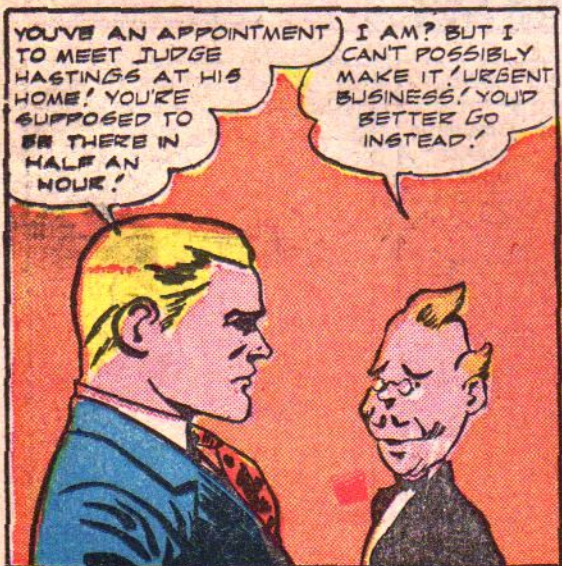
WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?
YOU CAN'T
WASTE A
MINUTE!

THE TWO
FUZZY HEADS
ARE AT IT
AGAIN!



YOU'VE AN APPOINTMENT
TO MEET JUDGE
HASTINGS AT HIS
HOME! YOU'RE
SUPPOSED TO
BE THERE IN
HALF AN
HOUR!

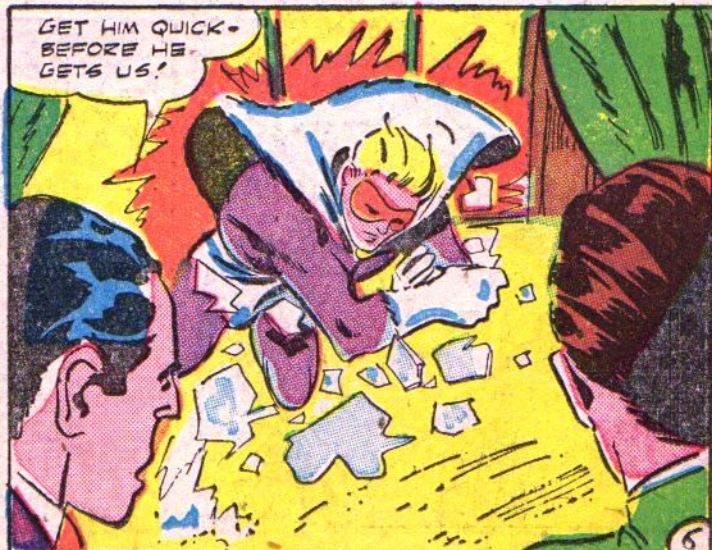
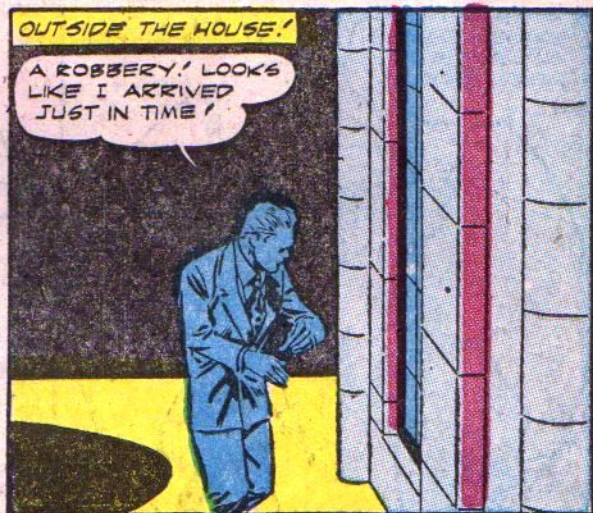
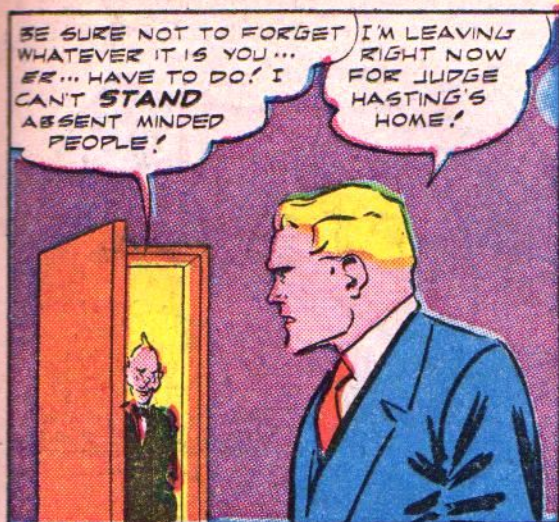
I AM? BUT I
CAN'T POSSIBLY
MAKE IT! URGENT
BUSINESS! YOU'D
BETTER GO
INSTEAD!

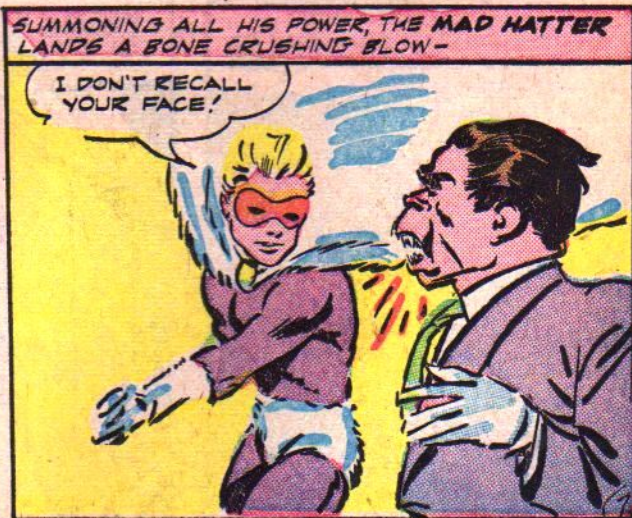


I CAN'T REMEMBER!
WHAT URGENT
BUSINESS DO
I HAVE?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
BUT DON'T MENTION IT
TO GRANT RICHMOND!
YOU'LL ONLY
CONFUSE
HIM!

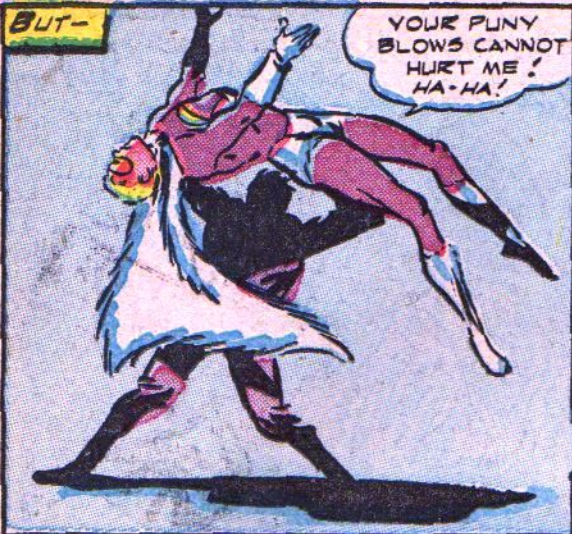






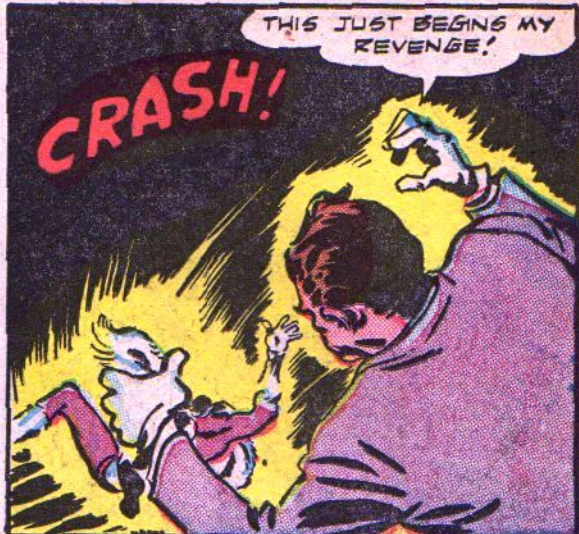
BUT-

YOUR PUNY
BLOWS CANNOT
HURT ME!
HA-HA!



CRASH!

THIS JUST BEGINS MY
REVENGE!



LUCKY I PRACTICED
TUMBLING AND KNOW
HOW TO FALL! OR
HE'D HAVE BROKEN
MY NECK! OH! OH!
HERE HE COMES
AGAIN!

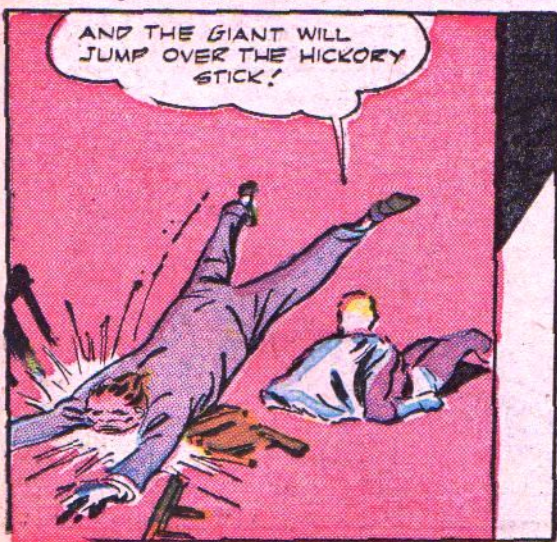


JACK BE NIMBLE
JACK BE QUICK-

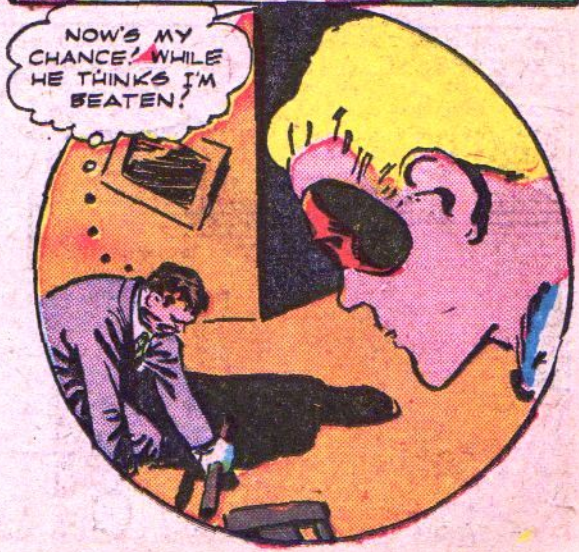
GO!

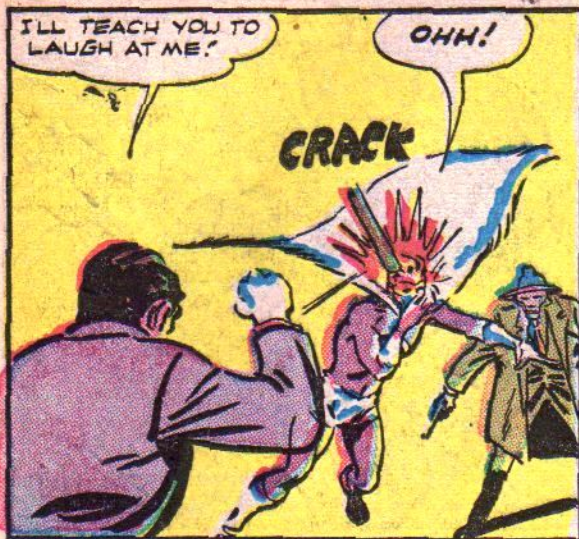


AND THE GIANT WILL
JUMP OVER THE HICKORY
STICK!



NOW'S MY
CHANCE! WHILE
HE THINKS I'M
BEATEN!





I'LL TEACH YOU TO LAUGH AT ME!

OH!!

CRACK



I'LL MAKE SURE HE'S DEAD!

NO TIME FOR THAT, GARGOYLE! LET'S BLOW BEFORE THE COPS GET HERE! WE'VE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR!

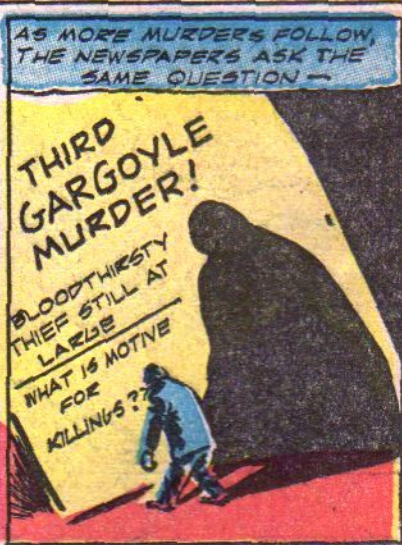


PAINFUL MINUTES LATER-

I CAN'T STAND MANY MORE WALLOPS LIKE THAT ONE! MY HEAD FEELS TWICE IT'S NORMAL SIZE ALREADY!



JUDGE HASTINGS WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED! APPARENTLY HE DIDN'T PUT UP A FIGHT EITHER! WHY DID THE ROBBERS KILL AN INNOCENT OLD MAN?

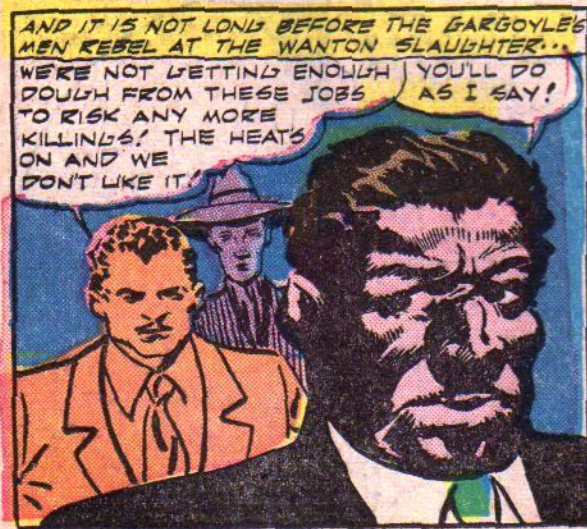


AS MORE MURDERS FOLLOW, THE NEWSPAPERS ASK THE SAME QUESTION -

THIRD GARGOYLE MURDER!

BLOODTHIRSTY THIEF STILL AT LARGE

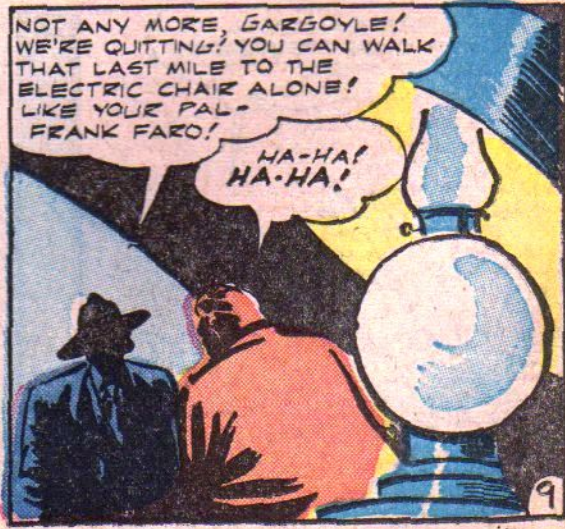
WHAT IS MOTIVE FOR KILLINGS??



AND IT IS NOT LONG BEFORE THE GARGOYLE'S MEN REBEL AT THE WANTON SLAUGHTER...

WE'RE NOT GETTING ENOUGH DOUGH FROM THESE JOBS TO RISK ANY MORE KILLINGS! THE HEAT'S ON AND WE DON'T LIKE IT!

YOU'LL DO AS I SAY!



NOT ANY MORE, GARGOYLE! WE'RE QUITTING! YOU CAN WALK THAT LAST MILE TO THE ELECTRIC CHAIR ALONE! LIKE YOUR PAL - FRANK FARO!

HA-HA! HA-HA!

WITH A SUDDEN SAVAGE GESTURE THE GARGOYLE TEARS OFF HIS PROTECTING MASK—

YOU FOOLS! I'M FRANK FARO!



NO LIFE IN YOU! THE TONGUE IS CHOKED IN YOUR THROAT! ONLY DEAD MEN KNOW MY SECRET!



HE'S GONE CRAZY! I'LL SHOOT— UGH!



THAT FIRE WILL DESTROY THEIR BODIES! THE GARGOYLE WORKS BETTER ALONE!



MEANWHILE, GRANT RICHMOND (ALIAS THE MAD HATTER) HAS BEEN PUZZLING OVER THE GARGOYLE'S CRIMES—

JOHN HASTINGS, DENIMORE, HARLEY... STRANGE! SEEMS TO ME I REMEMBER SOME CONNECTION BETWEEN THE GARGOYLE'S VICTIMS!



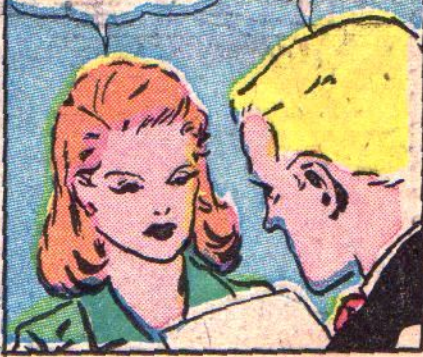
I REMEMBER NOW! DENIMORE AND HARLEY WERE ON THE BLUE RIBBON JURY THAT CONVICTED FRANK FARO! JUDGE HASTINGS SENTENCED HIM TO DEATH!



A HASTY VISIT TO THE FILE ROOM OF A GREAT NEWSPAPER—

I CHECKED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER JURORS. ONLY TWO ARE STILL IN TOWN! THEIR NAMES ARE CIRCLED—

JOHN SLATER AND TERESA DAGON! THIS IS JUST WHAT I NEED! THANKS, BARBARA!



A PHONE CALL ELIMINATES ANOTHER NAME FROM THE LIST -

MRS. DAGON WENT TO THE SKYLINE AMUSEMENT PARK WITH HER SON? NO - IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT! JUST TELL HER A FRIEND CALLED -



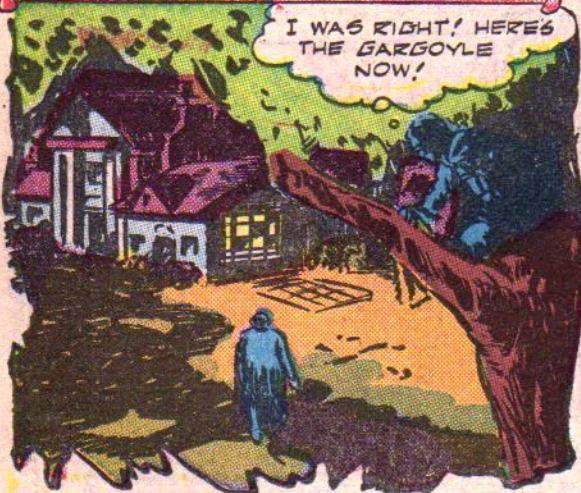
SPLIT SECONDS LATER A RACING SHADOW DARTS DOWN A DARK ALLEYWAY! THE MAD HATTER IS ABROAD!

TERESA DAGON IS SAFE TEMPORARILY! IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, JOHN SLATER NEEDS HELP!



AFTER AN HOUR OF CAUTIOUS WAITING -

I WAS RIGHT! HERE'S THE GARGOYLE NOW!



YOU GET UGLIER EVERY TIME I SEE YOU!

AGAIN? I SHOULD HAVE KILLED YOU WHEN I HAD THE CHANCE!



YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT! BUT THE CHANCE WON'T COME AGAIN!

I WON'T GET WITHIN REACH OF THOSE ARMS!

AND YOU CAN'T KEEP AWAY FROM MY FEET!

GOOF!



AS THE GARGOYLE REGAINS HIS FEET, AN
EERIE WAILING SOUNDS THROUGH THE NIGHT-

A POLICE SIREN!
SOMEBODY CALLED
A PROWL CAR!

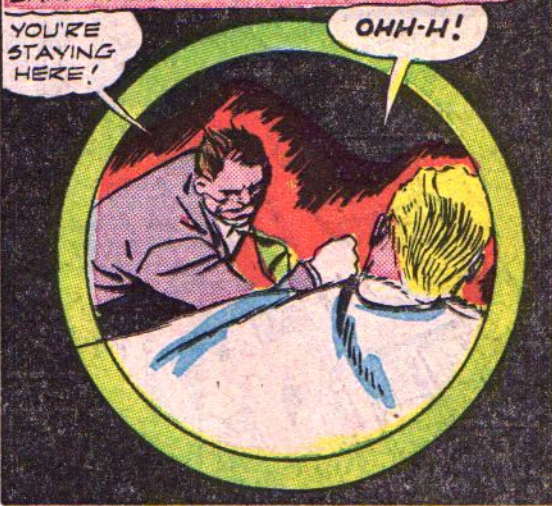
THEN IT'S
TIME FOR ME
TO LEAVE!



ABRUPTLY, THE GARGOYLE WHIRLS TO
LAND A SAVAGE BLOW--!

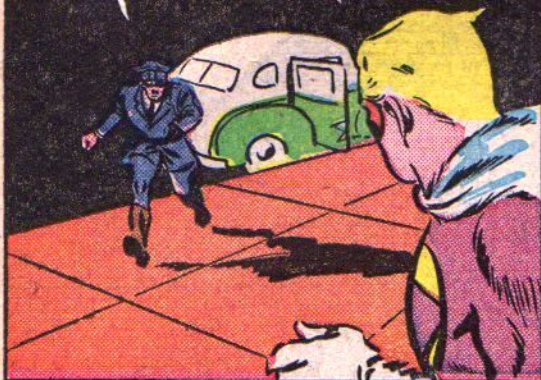
YOU'RE
STAYING
HERE!

OHH-H!



THE MAD
HATTER!
ARE YOU
OKAY?

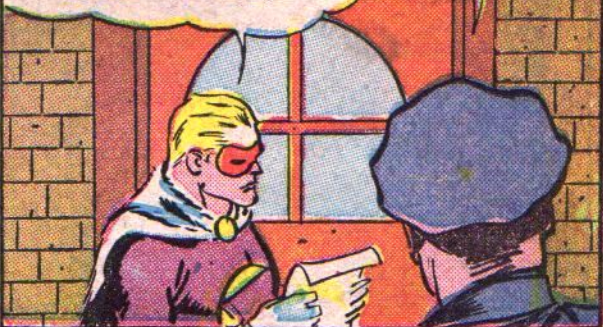
QUICK! THE GARGOYLE'S
HEADED FOR MRS. DAGON'S
HOME! DRIVE ME
THERE!



BUT FATE PLAYS A GRIM JEST. A FLAT TIRE
DELAYS THE POLICE CAR AND WHEN THEY ARRIVE-

SHE ISN'T HOME YET! SHE
LEFT THIS NOTE SAYING
WHERE SHE WAS GOING!
THAT MAY PROVE TO BE
A FATAL MISTAKE!

DO YOU THINK
THE GARGOYLE
READ IT?



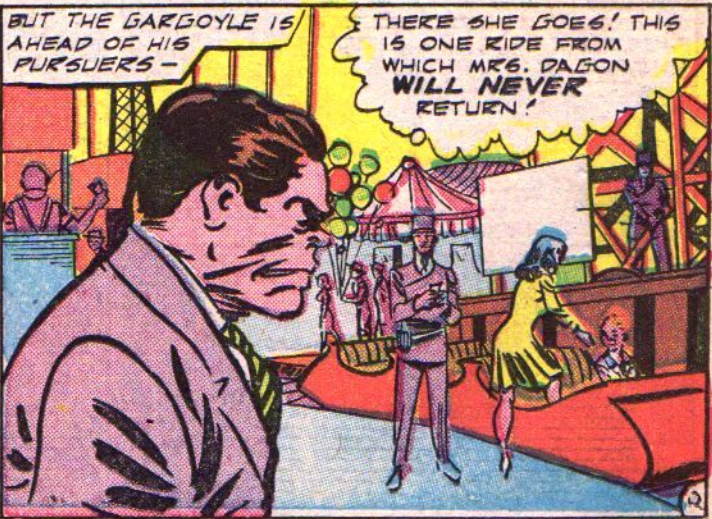
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE
HE'S HEADED FOR THE
SKYLINE AMUSEMENT
PARK NOW! WE'VE
GOT TO GET
THERE
FIRST!

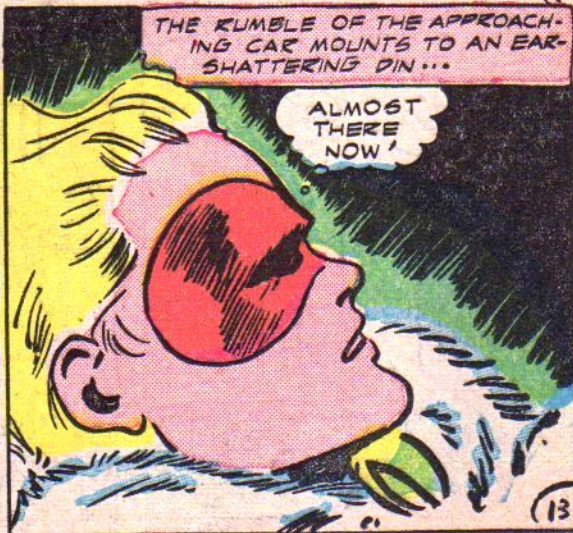
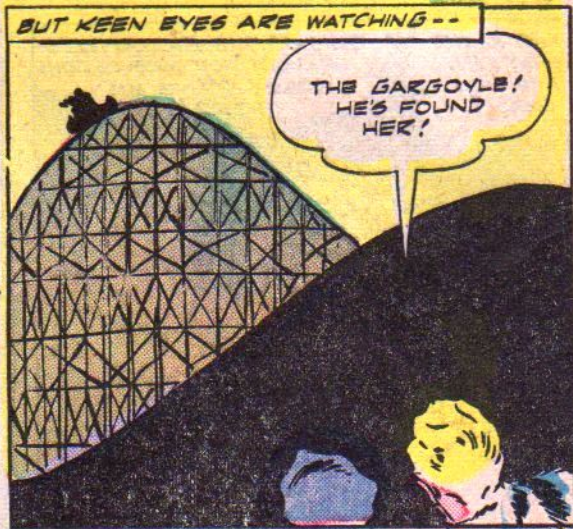
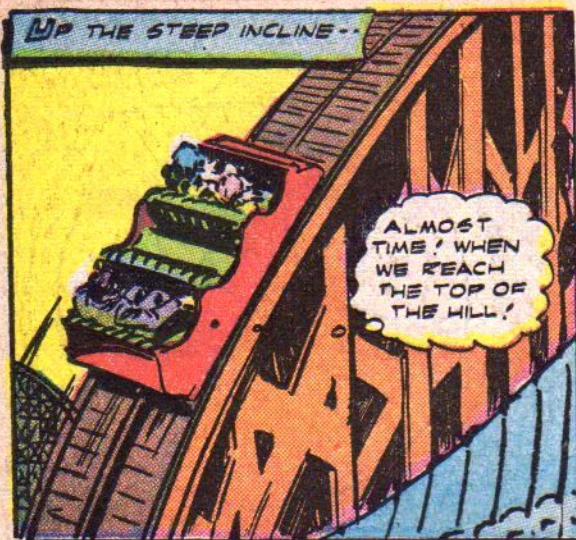
I'M
PUSHING
THIS GAS
PEDAL
THROUGH THE
FLOOR!



BUT THE GARGOYLE IS
AHEAD OF HIS
PURSUERS -

THERE SHE GOES! THIS
IS ONE RIDE FROM
WHICH MRS. DAGON
WILL NEVER
RETURN!





THUNDERING OVER THE KAILS, THE SWAYING CAR HURTTLES DOWN. UPON THE MAD HATTER -

THIS WILL BE CLOSE! BUT IT'S GOT TO WORK!

MUSCLES TENSED, THE MAD HATTER WAITS UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT. - THEN A WILD LEAP CARRIES HIM OUT INTO SPACE -

MADE IT?

THIS TIME IT'S A FIGHT TO THE FINISH, GARGOYLE!

BLAST YOU!

IT WILL BE YOUR FINISH! I'LL SEND YOU FLYING OFF THE CAR!

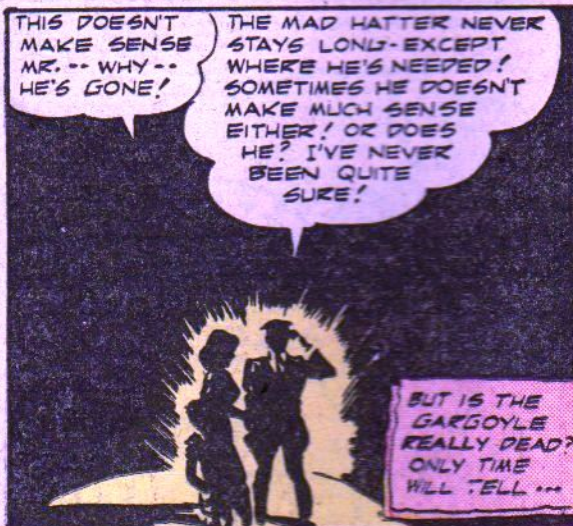
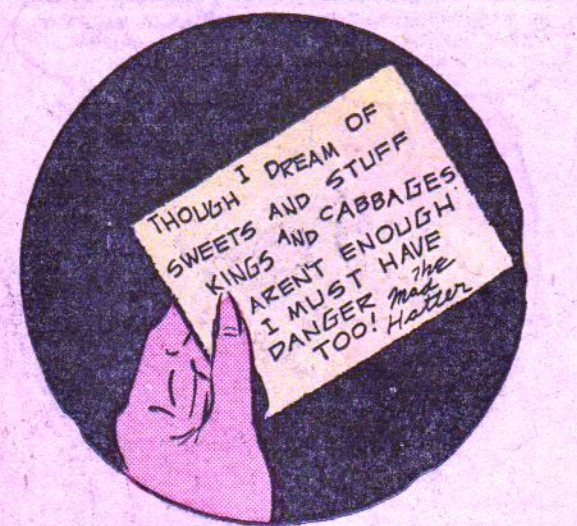
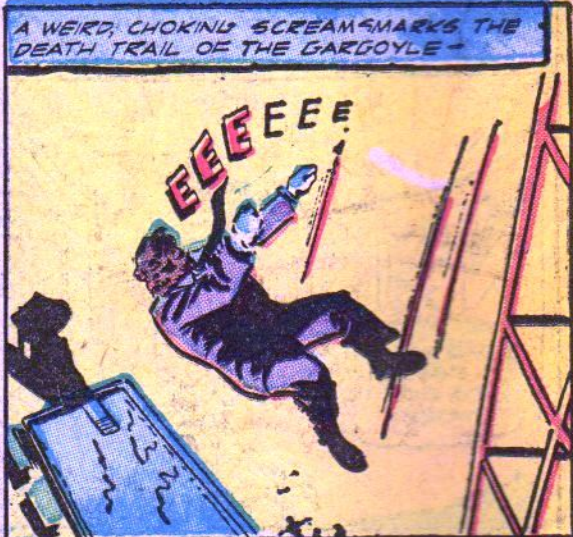
AN UNPLEASANT THOUGHT!

BUT THEN YOU'RE AN UNPLEASANT FELLOW!

ARRGH! MY MASK!

A BEAST-MAN! BENEATH YOUR MASK YOU'RE AN ANIMAL!

AND YOU'RE A DEADMAN!



HASTY and TARDY

WHATCHA DOIN' TARDY?

I'M JUST SPADING MY VEGETABLE GARDEN!

YA MEAN TO TELL ME YA'RE GONNA GROW VEGETABLES IN THERE! WHAT KIND?

TOMATOES AND CARROTS AND...

DID YOU SAY CARROTS?

SIZ BEAUTIFUL CARROTS!

JUST LIKE THESE IN THE BOOK!

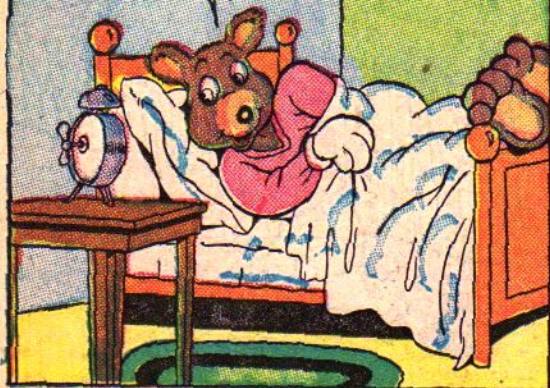
WELL, WELL! CARROTS, EH?

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK, TARDY! LEMME KNOW HOW THE CARRO... I MEAN, THE GARDEN IS COMING ALONG!

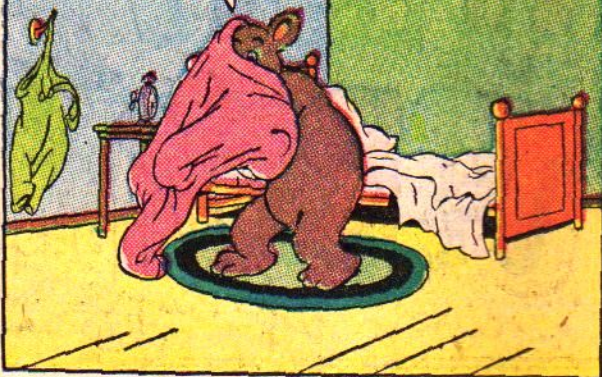
I SURE WILL, HASTY!

SEVERAL MORNINGS AFTERWARD -

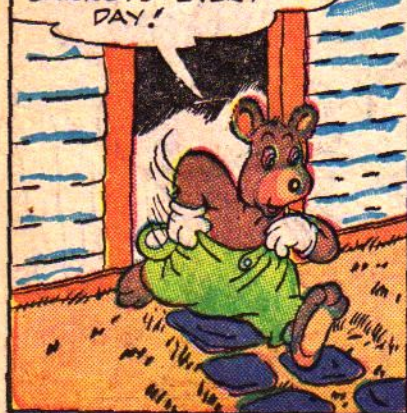
LAWSH! THIS IS A
WONDERFUL DAY!



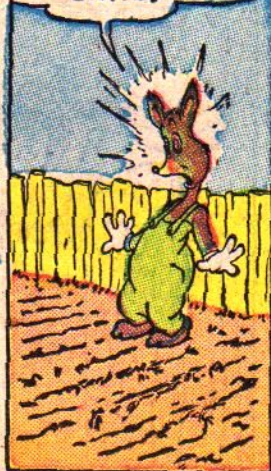
I LOOKED AT MY CARROTS LAST
NIGHT AND THEY WERE ALMOST
FULL GROWN! I MUSTN'T
FORGET TO TELL HASTY!



I NEVER KNEW HASTY WAS
SO INTERESTED IN
GARDENING! HE
ASKED ABOUT THOSE
CARROTS EVERY
DAY!

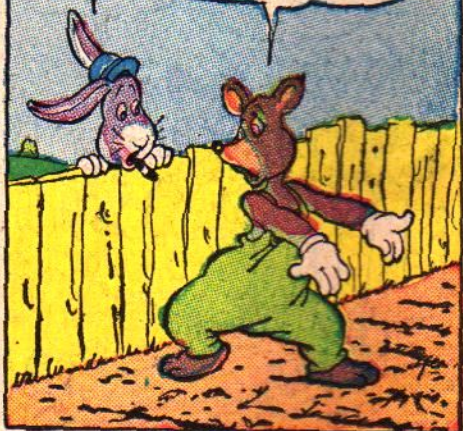


AWK! THEY'RE
GONE!



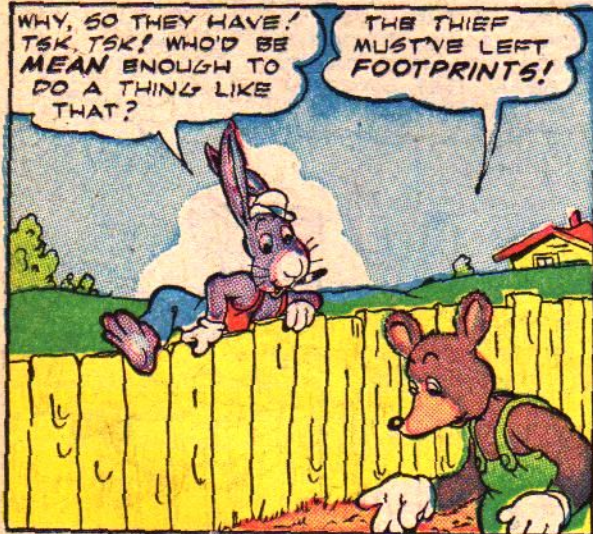
WHAT'S
GONE?

MY BIG BEAUTIFUL
CARROTS! SOMEBODY'S
EATEN THEM!



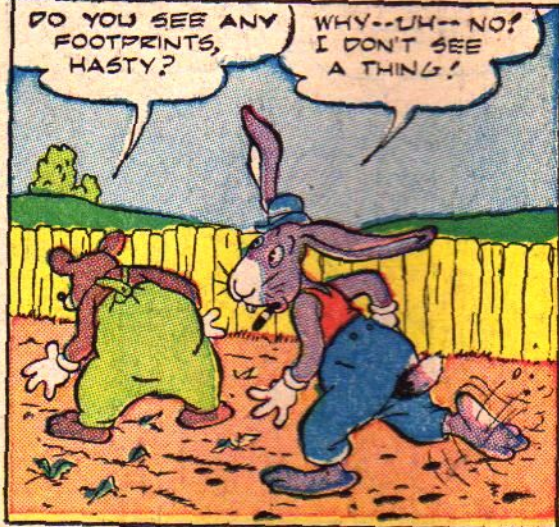
WHY, SO THEY HAVE!
TSK, TSK! WHO'D BE
MEAN ENOUGH TO
DO A THING LIKE
THAT?

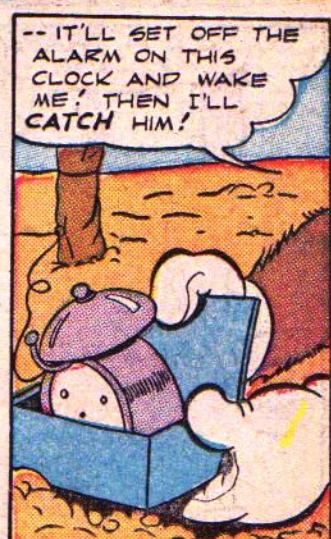
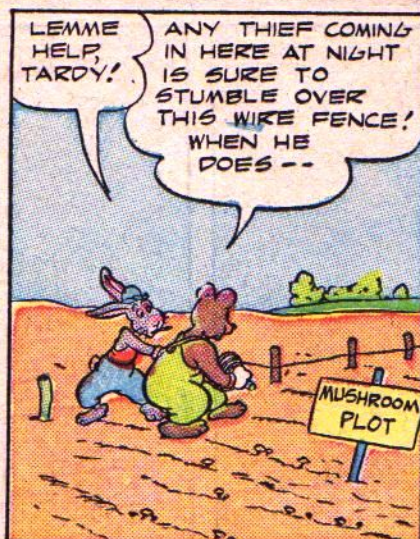
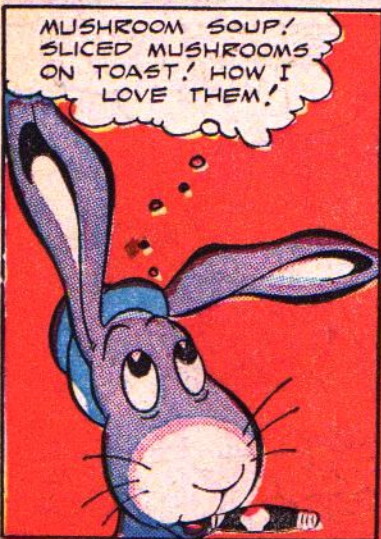
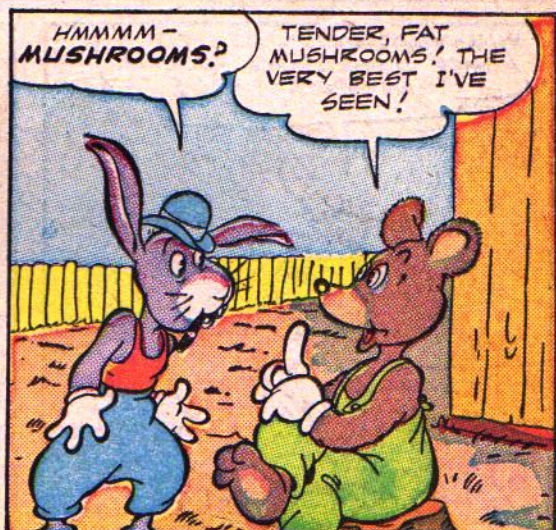
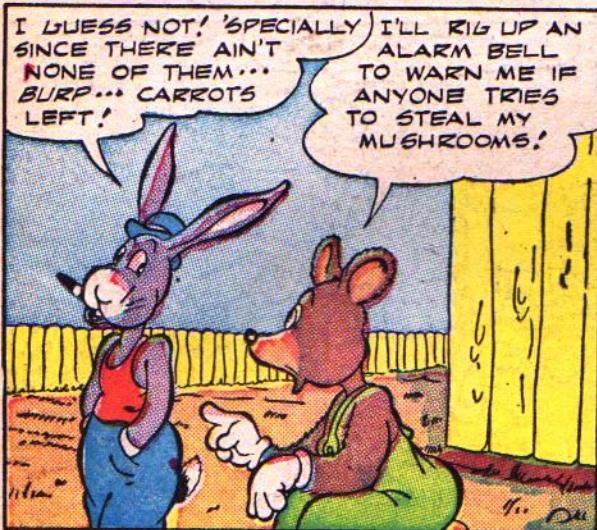
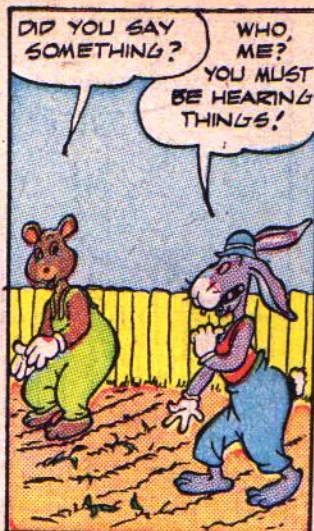
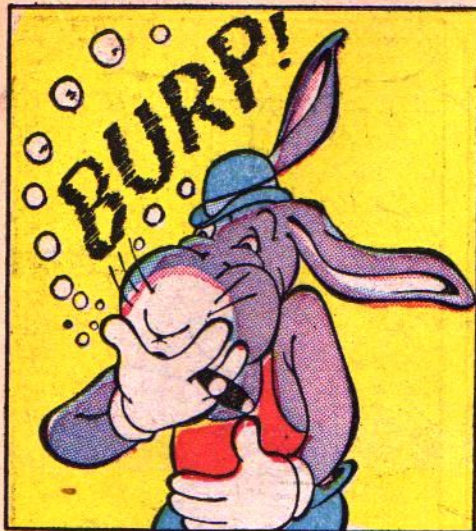
THE THIEF
MUST'VE LEFT
FOOTPRINTS!

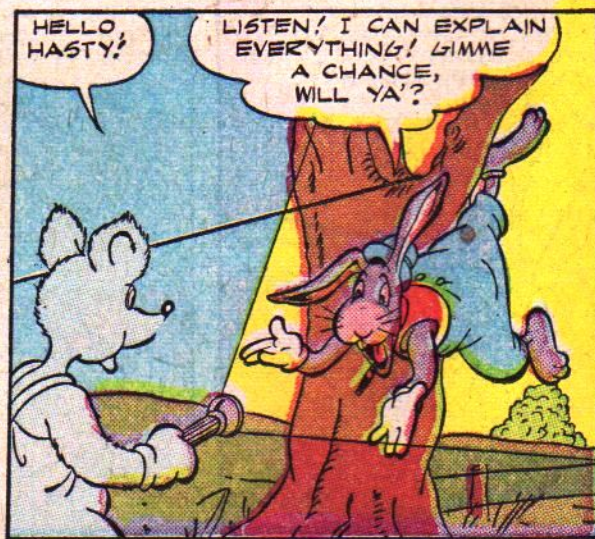
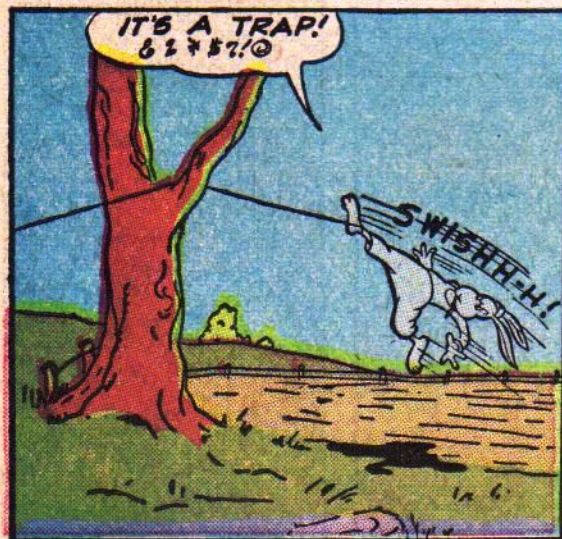
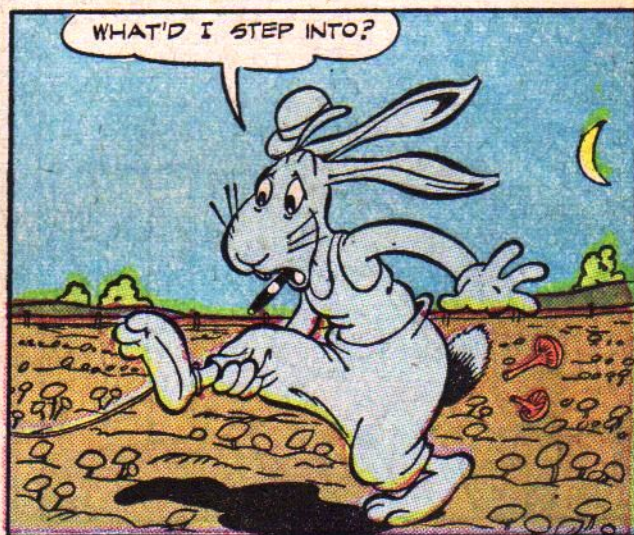
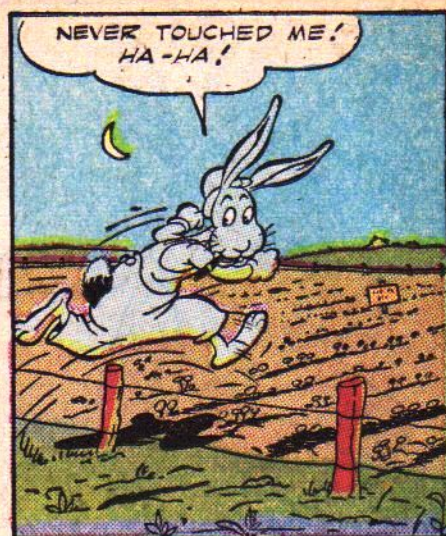
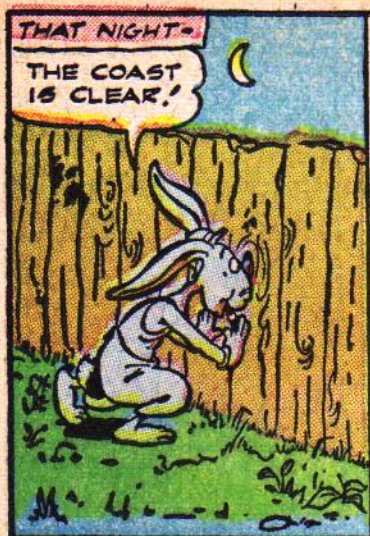


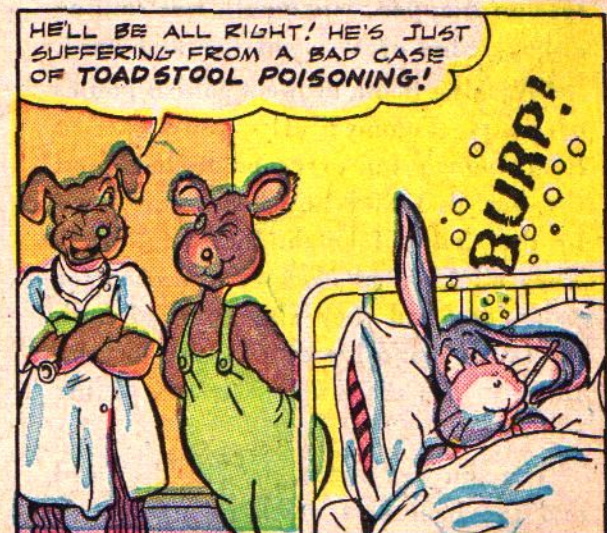
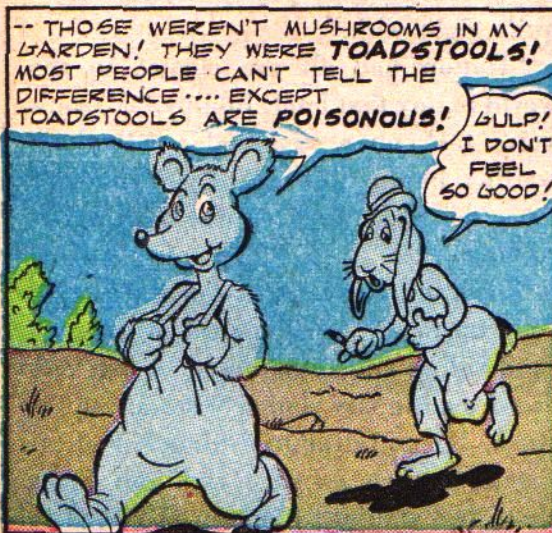
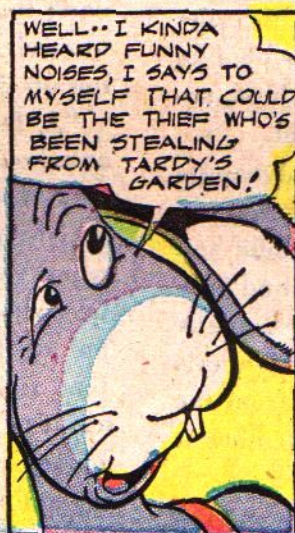
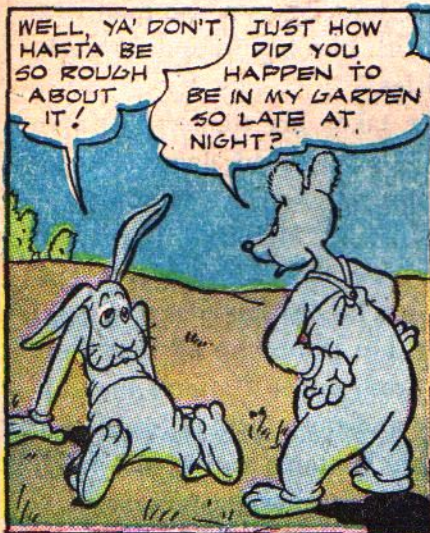
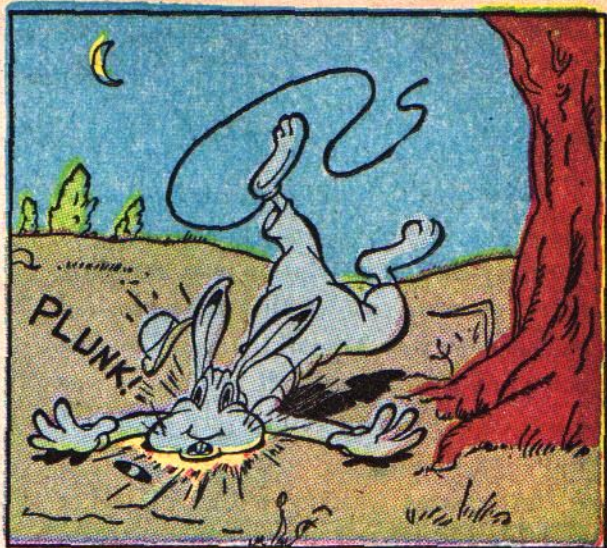
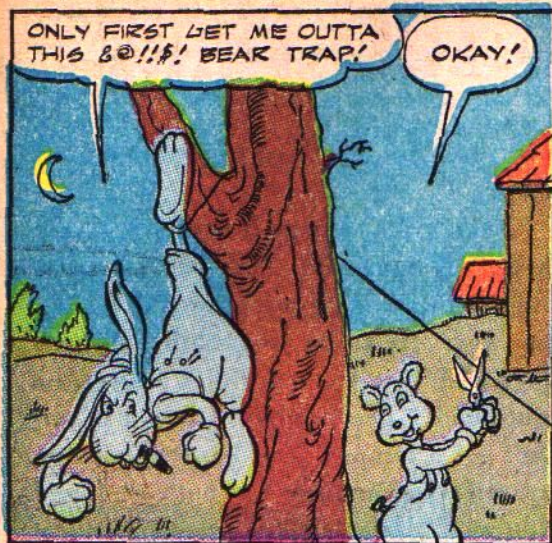
DO YOU SEE ANY
FOOTPRINTS,
HASTY?

WHY--UH--NO!
I DON'T SEE
A THING!









MURDER RIDES THE TRAIL

TOMMY MASON set the empty glass down on the bar and turned to leave the saloon. As he did so the door opened abruptly and Jake Hatton was standing there, so near to him that they blocked each other's way. One of them had to give way, but which one? All at once it was quiet in the saloon and every man was watching them.

Hatton was wearing a flannel jacket and his right hand strayed instinctively to the gun shoulder holster which the jacket did not quite conceal. His pig-like eyes swept Mason's body to his hips, noticing that Tommy was unarmed.

It was a situation filled with dynamite because of the background of the two men, because the place was public and everyone could see who gave ground first. Mason felt foolish. He'd never actually fought anyone in his life. Besides, this feud was not of his doing, but from the time he was old enough to remember it had been forced on him.

Suddenly Hatton stepped aside and the tension snapped. His mouth was smiling although his eyes stayed flat and hard.

"Rushing home to them golden ponies of yours, Tommy?" His voice carried loud enough for everyone to hear and the fact that they heard was confirmed by the shout of laughter that followed. They all knew of Mason's obsession for palaminos and they also knew of both his father's and his own failure to raise them in the dried-up wasteland of the southwest.

The sun was almost directly overhead and the heat beat down relentlessly as the dusty figures of Mason and his fore-

man, old Johnny Knight, rode out of town.

"I don't like the way Hatton acted back there," Knight said. "He backed down when he was toting a gun and that ain't his way. He's got something up his sleeve." When Tommy didn't answer, he continued. "The trouble with you is you ain't got a temper. You know this country ain't big enough for both you and Hatton. 'He's out to get you, and it don't matter how. More'n one man who quarreled with him has wound up pushing up daisies."

"A feller takes his chances," Mason answered. "Getting mad doesn't help."

"But can't you see his side of it?" Knight persisted. "He's still burned at what your paw did twenty years ago. O'course what he did was perfectly legal an' all that, but to buy up all that there land right from under Hatton's nose an' use it to try and raise them taffee-colored horses when Hatton's cattle was fairly screaming for grazing pasture, well, I know more'n one guy it wouldn't set quite right with."

"Hatton had all the chance in the world to buy that land, Johnny." Mason's voice took on a slight edge. "He kept waiting, hoping to beat the government's price down. He's got no one but himself to blame."

A few minutes later Mason and Knight rode up to the wooden shed at the railroad siding and dismounted. A fat, red-faced man in city clothes was waiting for them. Mason introduced himself and his foreman, then asked: "Did you bring those two stallions like you promised in your letter?"

"I did," came the reply from the fat man, "but it'll cost you almost twice what I was originally asking for 'em. Some gent named Hatton was just down here and offered me that amount in cash. I wouldn't take it till I talked to you. I promised you first call and I'll stick to it. How about it? Can you swing it?"

Mason's face flushed slightly, but he kept his temper. His voice, when he answered, was low and steady. "Yeah, I guess so—just about. Come on down to the bank and I'll get you the extra cash." It was a lousy deal, but he knew Hatton would buy the horses out of spite. Anything to put a crimp in his plans was his whole idea.

It was a long trail home, and right from the start things went wrong. The golden stallions had been loaded onto two carts, with Mason driving the first and Knight the second. A steady rain had started to fall and the road was turning into a dark brown mass of mud. The trip back to the ranch would take twice as long and to make matters worse neither cart had a roof to shield the animals from the torrents of water.

One of the stallions began to twist and buck out of sheer discomfort, it's hooves beating a tattoo on the floor of the cart. Finally, with a sickening lurch, the right front wheel of the cart gave way as it sunk, axle-deep, in the soft mud. There was nothing for the two men to do but call a halt and pitch camp for the night.

When Knight had got a small brush fire going, Tommy came over to him, leading his horse by the bridle.

"I'm riding home for help, Johnny," he said. "Hold the fort till I get back."

Day was only a gray shadow when he returned, but the fire was still burning brightly. "Hey, Johnny," he called. "I'm back. Some of the men'll be along any

minute with another cart."

There was no answer and immediately he thought. "Something's happened to the stallions! They've got away!" He kicked his horse into a gallop and plunged into the circle of light. Knight was sitting by the fire. As soon as he saw Mason he shouted. "Tommy, look out!"

Instinctively, Tommy leaped from the saddle and hit the ground head first, just as a shot rang out from the darkness beyond the fire. While he crouched, waiting, the gunman, sure of himself, sidled into the open, his face covered by a mask.

Suddenly, Tommy laughed crazily. The sound, coming from an unarmed man, seemed to unnerve the killer. As his gun hand jerked up, Mason struck. Not with his fists but with the bullwhip he'd uncoiled from around his arm. His arm flicked back and forth, the crack of the lash as loud as the echoing gunfire. Something burst past his cheek and in a flash he'd thrown himself upon his attacker.

As the two men struggled, the gunman's mask slipped sideways and off his face. From Knight in the background came a shout. "It's Hatton. Git outta the way so's I can plug him."

Mason's answer was a tortured gasp. "Leave me be, Johnny. I'll handle this—or die trying."

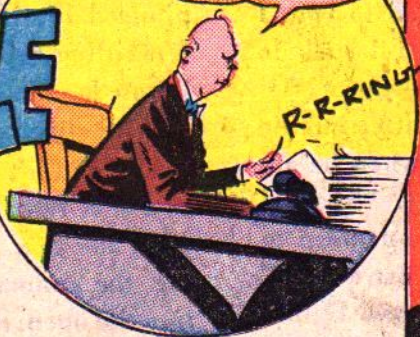
Bloody minutes later Mason pulled himself off Hatton's prostrate form. Johnny Knight was hopping about excitedly. "Tommy, you did it. You finally got mad! This'll be a day to remember."

Mason's smile was a little bitter. "It wasn't myself I was thinking about, Johnny. When I thought something had happened to those stallions I guess I saw red." He looked at his bruised knuckles. "Getting mad sometimes helps. I'll have to try it more often."

FUDDY and BUSTLE

ONE DAY IN THE BUSY
OFFICES OF FUDDY
AND BUSTLE ...

WHAT AM I LOOKING
FOR? OH, YES! THE
REWARD POSTER FOR
"SWEET TOOTH SAMUELS".
HE USED TO BE A
CLIENT OF OURS!



THE POLICE ASKED ME TO
FIND HIM! BUT I CAN'T OR
CAN I? WHO AM I TALKING
ABOUT?

HELLO! IS
THIS ELMER
FUDDY?



WHY, YES!
HOW DID
YOU
KNOW?

I NEED HELP
DESPERATELY!
MY HUSBAND
IS MISSING!



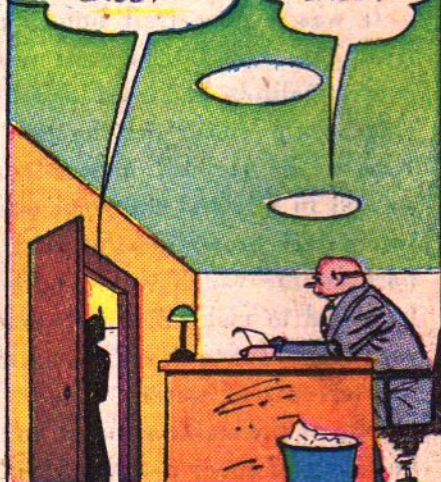
HE'S A SMALL MAN AND
HE WEARS GLASSES. IF
YOU FIND HIM, SEND HIM TO
22 LENOX AVENUE AT
ONCE! PLEASE DON'T
FAIL ME!

YOU CAN
DEPEND ON
ME, MADAM!



HURRY UP, BUSTLE,
WE'VE GOT A
CASE!

WHAT
KIND OF A
CASE?



AFTER ELMER FUDDY EXPLAINS...

BAH! WE'RE BECOMING A
REGULAR LOST AND FOUND
AGENCY! FIRST THE POLICE
WANT US TO FIND "SWEET
TOOTH SAMUELS". NOW
WE'RE LOOKING FOR
SOMEBODY ELSE!

LET'S TRY
HANDMAN'S
DEN. THAT'S
A GOOD PLACE
TO SEARCH!
BESIDES THEY
SERVE ICE
COLD BEER!



AT THE HANDMAN'S DEN --

HE LOOKS
LIKE OUR
MAN!

UNDOUBTEDLY!



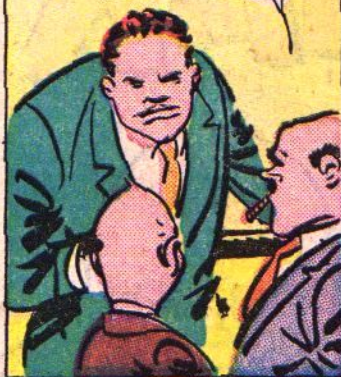
COME ALONG
QUIETLY' YOU
OUGHT TO BE
ASHAMED...

..MAKING
YOUR GOOD
WIFE WORRY
LIKE THAT'



SO YOU TWO SHYSTERS
ARE WORKIN' WITH
THE COPS
NOW!

OHH!



THERE'S SWEET
TOOTH SAMUELS!
GRAB HIM!

COPPER'S!
I'M
TRAPPED'



LATER...

CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU'LL SHARE IN
THE REWARD FOR
CAPTURING
SWEET
TOOTH
SAMUELS?

NO WONDER
HIS FACE
LOOKED
FAMILIAR!
HE WAS A
CLIENT OF OURS!
THE LAST TWO
TIMES HE WAS
CONVICTED'



COME TO THINK OF IT,
SWEET TOOTH SAMUELS
DECIDEDLY WASN'T A
SMALL MAN!
AND HE
DIDN'T
WEAR
GLASSES!

WE MUST
TELL THE
POOR
WOMAN WE
COULDN'T FIND
HER HUSBAND!
WHAT WAS
THAT ADDRESS
AGAIN?



WELL, IT'S ABOUT
TIME YOU GOT
HERE, ELMER
FUDDY!

GRACIOUS!
22 LENOX
AVENUE IS
MY HOUSE!

YOUR OWN
WIFE WAS
LOOKING
FOR YOU'



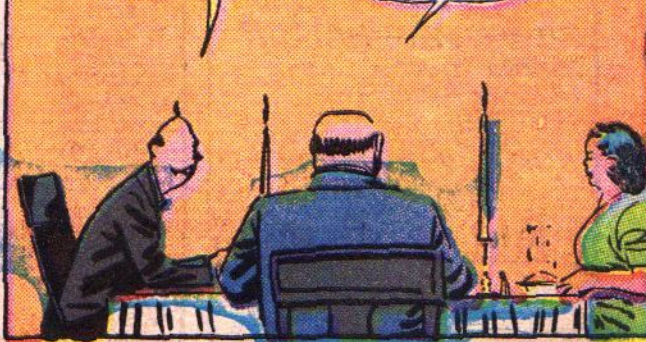
THIS WAS THE ONLY
WAY I COULD BE
SURE OF GETTING
YOU HOME FOR
DINNER!

VERY
THOUGHTFUL OF
YOU, MY DEAR!
SOMETIMES I
AM A LITTLE
ABSENT
MINDED'



WAIT UNTIL YOU HEAR
ABOUT OUR ADVENTURE
TODAY! WE CAPTURED -
UH-- WHAT WAS HIS
NAME, BUSTLE?

WHOSE NAME? YOU
CAN'T EXPECT ME TO
REMEMBER EVERY-
THING, YOU KNOW!
PASS THE POTROAST!



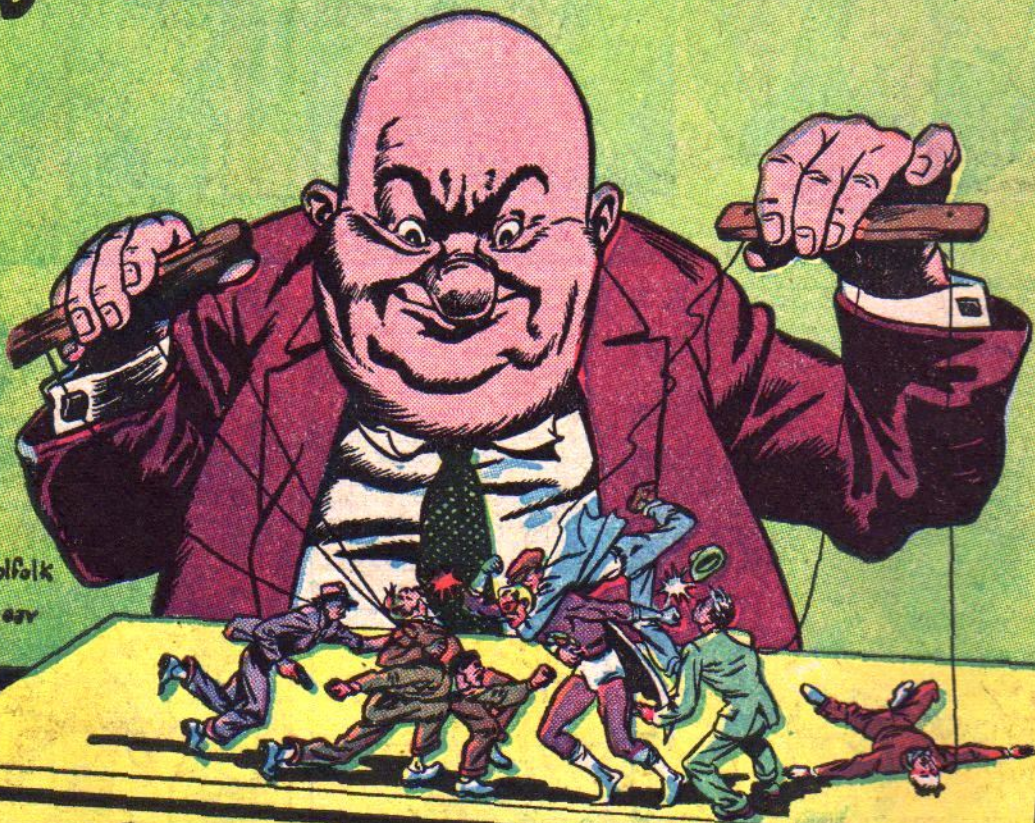


THE
MAD

HATTER

VERSUS
HUMPTY
DUMPTY

Bill Woolfolk
and
Mort Lazz



W

WHO IS THE WORLD'S
LAZIEST MAN? WHY,
OF COURSE--

HUMPTY DUMPTY!

BUT THE **MAD HATTER**

LEARNS THAT A LAZY
BODY BY NO MEANS
CONNOTES A LAZY
MIND WHEN
HUMPTY DUMPTY
PLIES HIS UNIQUE
"WARES AS A..."

"CRIME CONSULTANT!"

DARKNESS
SHROUDS
THE
WATERFRONT,
BUT
THROUGH
THE
DARKNESS
A DENSER
SHADOW
MOVES.
THE
MAD HATTER
IS
ABROAD!



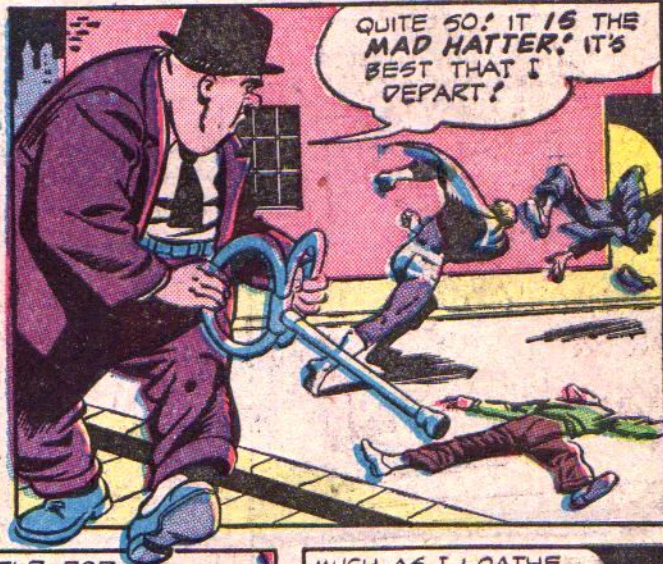
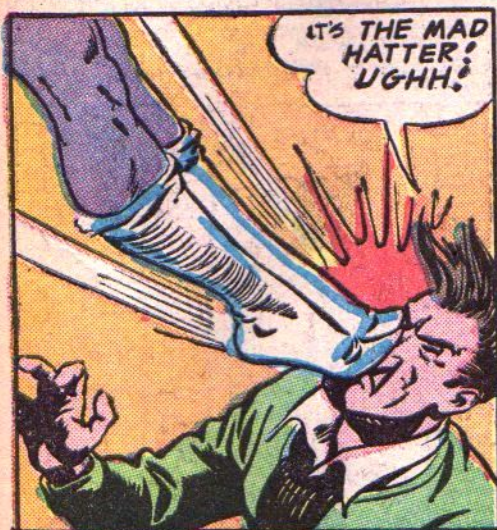
AND THIS IS THE SCENE THAT HOLDS THE MAD HATTER'S ATTENTION! THE MASTER VILLAIN HUMPTY DUMPTY IS HARD AT WORK—

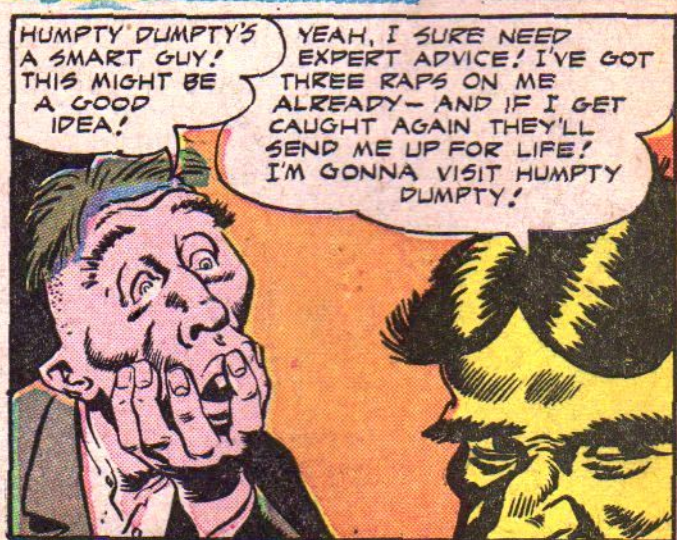
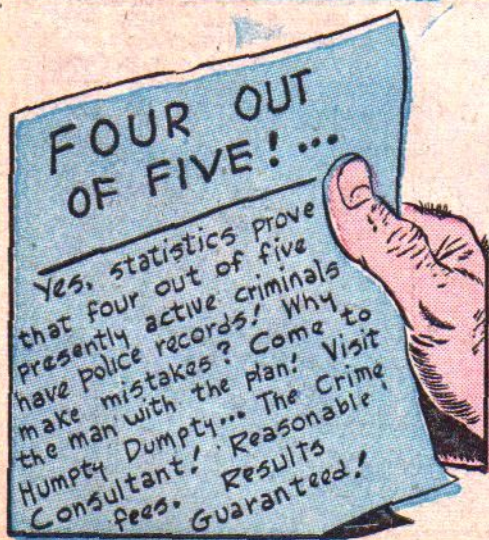
HO-HUM! ALL THIS ACTIVITY IS MAKING ME WEARY! FINISH THE JOB QUICKLY!

WE'RE DOING OUR BEST, HUMPTY DUMPTY!

WAREHOUSE

SUDDENLY— PERHAPS YOU NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU!

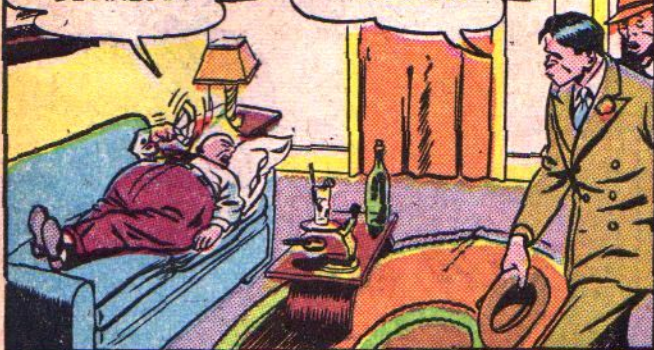




LATER, IN THE BACK ROOM OF AN INNOCENT APPEARING TOY SHOP -

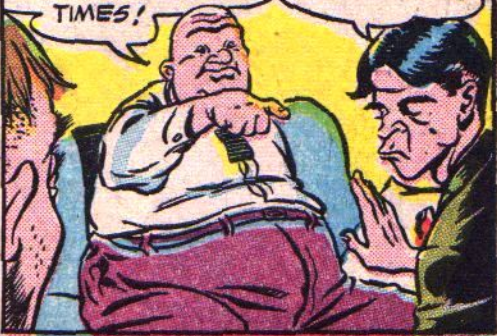
COME IN, GENTLEMEN!
I PRESUME YOU WANT
TO CONSULT ME ON
A MATTER OF
BUSINESS!

THAT'S RIGHT!
WE AIN'T MAKIN'
A SUCCESS OUT
OF OUR CRIME
CAREERS!



AH, YES! FREDDY GAUNT,
YOU WERE ARRESTED
RECENTLY AND
JUMPED BAIL! AND
YOU SPARROW
SAUNDERS HAVE
ALREADY BEEN
CONVICTED THREE
TIMES!

DON'T REMIND ME!
I WANNA
FORGET DE
UGLY PAST!
TELL US HOW
TO DO BETTER IN
THE FUTURE!



YOUR CASES BETRAY
PARALLEL SYMPTOMS!
BOTH OF YOU STRIVE TOO
MUCH AFTER THE CON-
VENTIONAL IN CRIME! I
SUGGEST A CHANGE OF
SCENERY! A NEW
METHOD OF APPROACH!
DO YOU LIKE THE
RACES?

'YA MEAN
HORSE
RACING?
SURE!

THEN I'VE JUST
THE TONIC FOR
YOU! YOU WILL
FIND HERE A
DETAILED PRE-
SCRIPTION, SHOW-
ING WHERE AND
HOW TO COMMIT
THE CRIME!
GOOD LUCK,
GENTLEMEN!

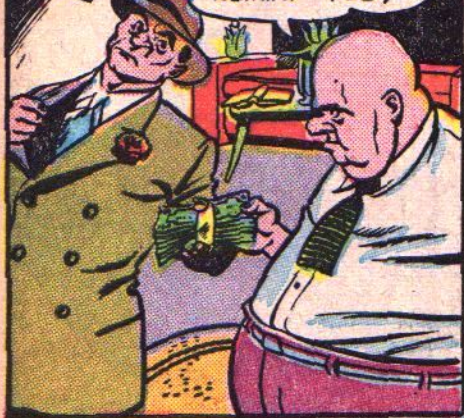
GEE!
THANKS
A MILLION,
HUMPTY
DUMPTY!

DON'T MENTION IT!
MY .. ER.. AH.. FEE
FOR THIS
CONSULTATION
WILL BE TEN
THOUSAND
DOLLARS!



OH, YEAH!
I ALMOST
FORGOT!

I HAVE A GOOD
MEMORY FOR THESE
DETAILS! YOU MAY
RELY ON ME TO
REMINDE YOU!

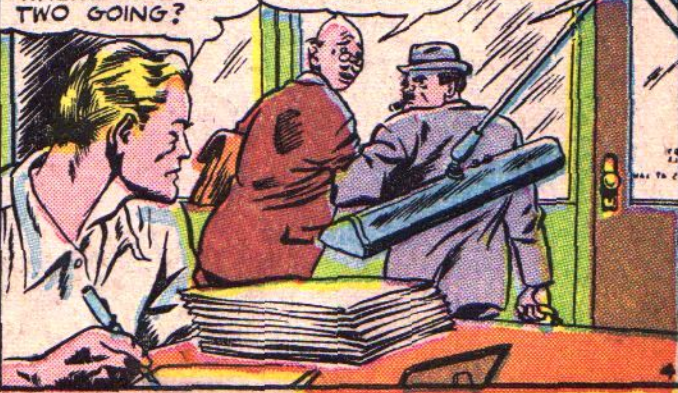


SPEAKING OF MEMORIES, LET US LOOK INTO THE
LAW OFFICES OF THE ABSENT-MINDED DUO--
FUDDY AND BUSTLE-- WHERE GRANT RICHMOND
IS HARD AT WORK...

WHERE ARE YOU
TWO GOING?

TO THE
COURTROOM!

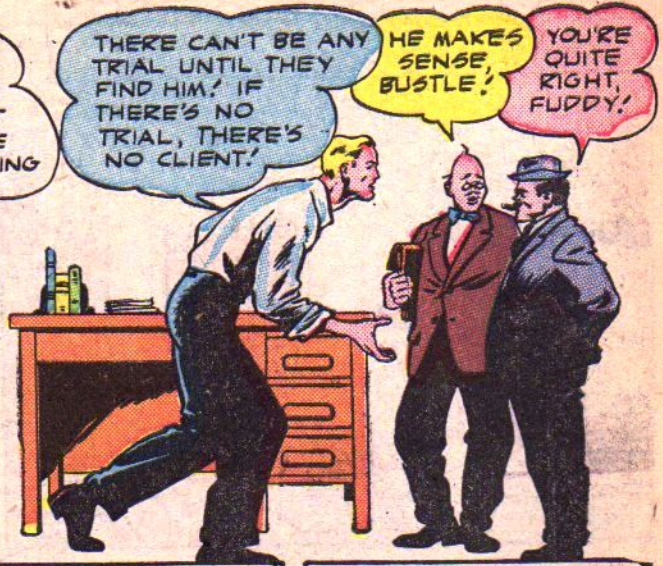
NATURALLY!





WE'RE GOING TO DEFEND OUR CLIENT, FREDDY GAUNT!

HAS IT SLIPPED YOUR MIND THAT FREDDY GAUNT JUMPED BAIL LAST WEEK? THE POLICE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR HIM!



THERE CAN'T BE ANY TRIAL UNTIL THEY FIND HIM! IF THERE'S NO TRIAL, THERE'S NO CLIENT!

HE MAKES SENSE, BUSTLE!

YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT, FUDDY!



THEN OUR DUTY IS PLAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND FREDDY GAUNT, SO WE CAN TURN HIM OVER TO THE POLICE! THEN WE'LL HAVE A CLIENT TO KEEP FROM GOING TO JAIL!

DO YOU THINK FREDDY GAUNT WILL APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS!



IT'S ALL INCLUDED IN OUR FEE! GO FIND HIM! YOU CAN EVEN TAKE AN EXTRA HOUR FOR LUNCH, IF NECESSARY!

OH FINE!



THE POLICE HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR FREDDY GAUNT FOR WEEKS! NOW I'M SUPPOSED TO FIND HIM DURING MY LUNCH HOUR!

NO SOONER DOES GRANT RICHMOND DEPART, THAN THE TWO SENIOR PARTNERS SUFFER ANOTHER ATTACK OF ABSENT-MINDEDNESS..



WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH OUR BRIEF CASES, BUSTLE?



WE'RE ALL DRESSED UP TOO! WE MUST'VE BEEN GOING SOMEPLACE!



NOW I REMEMBER! WE WERE GOING TO THE COURT-ROOM!

A BRILLIANT DEDUCTION, FUDDY! WE PROBABLY HAVE A CLIENT AWAITING US THERE!

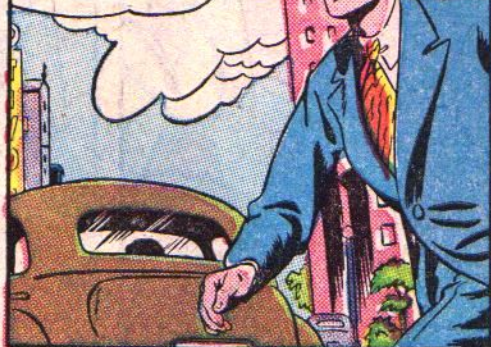
SEEKING INFORMATION, GRANT RICHMOND PAYS A CALL ON HIS FRIEND, INSPECTOR CRAIG -

SORRY! THE INSPECTOR JUST LEFT! HE'S SPENDING THE DAY AT THE RACE TRACK!

THANKS!

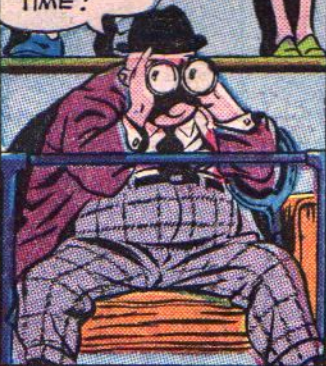


NEXT STOP -- THE RACES! IF I WIN THE DAILY DOUBLE, FUDDY AND BUSTLE WILL PROBABLY TAKE IT OUT OF MY SALARY!

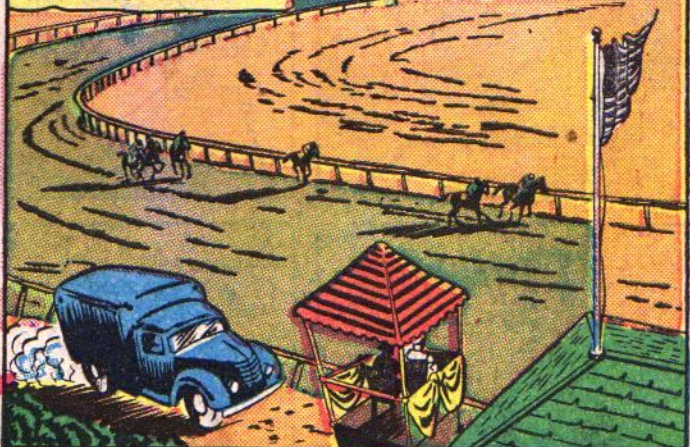


A FINE SPRING AFTER-NOON ALSO BRINGS THE MASTER FORTH TO ADMIRE HIS HANDI-WORK!

THE BIG STAKE RACE IS ABOUT TO START! HA! MY TWO FRIENDS ARE HERE -- RIGHT ON TIME!



ALMOST UNNOTICED BY THE HUGE THROG, A TRUCK PULLS TO A STOP NEAR THE WINNER'S CIRCLE --

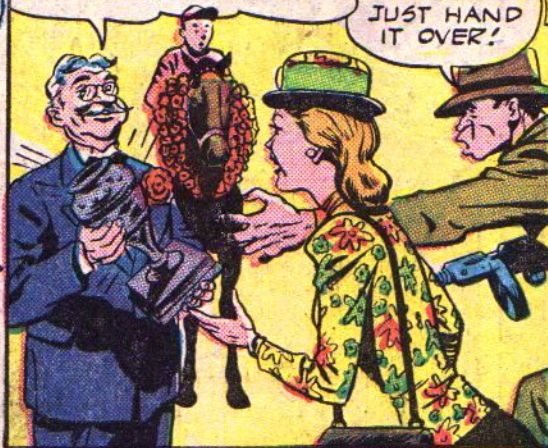


THE RACE IS OVER! NOW THE FUN WILL REALLY BEGIN! THAT DIAMOND STUPPED VICTORY CUP IS WORTH A FORTUNE!



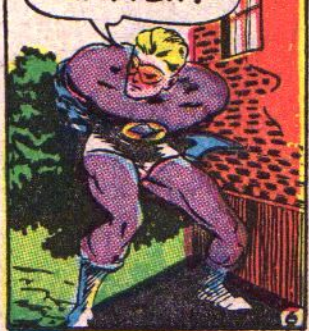
IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO AWARD THIS DIAMOND STUPPED VICTORY CUP TO THE WINNER...

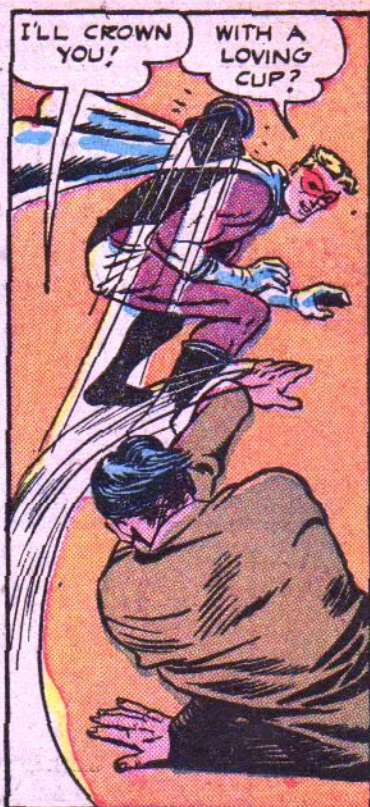
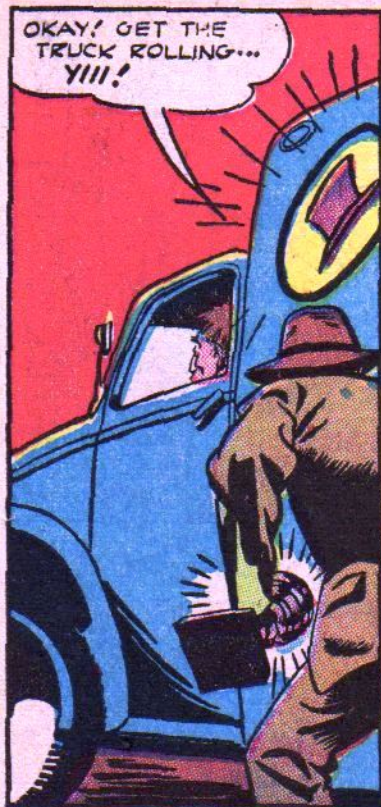
NEVER MIND THE PRETTY SPEECH! JUST HAND IT OVER!



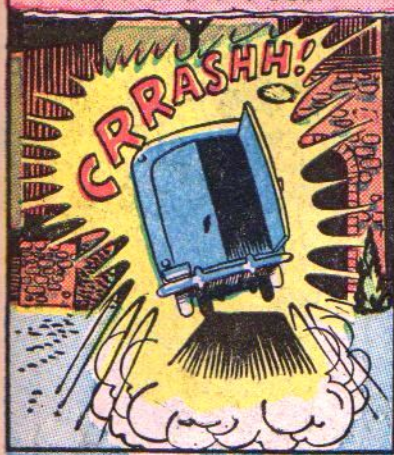
IN THE SHADOW OF THE CLUBHOUSE, GRANT RICHMOND IS A WITNESS TO THE DARING CRIME --

IT'S TIME FOR THE MAD HATTER!





BUT THE CAREENING TRUCK
CARRIES THE MAD HATTER
TO SHATTERING DOOM—



AND AT THIS MOMENT—

A STRANGE INTUITION
TELLS ME THAT IT'S
TIME TO LEAVE!

JUST A
MINUTE,
YOU



I'M INSPECTOR CRAIG,
OF POLICE HEAD-
QUARTERS!
AREN'T YOU...



YOU WERE GOING TO
ASK ME IF I'M HUMPTY
DUMPTY! THE
ANSWER IS YES!

HELP!



CLIMBING STAIRS IS TOO
STRENUOUS! BUT, AT
THAT IT'S EASIER THAN
FALLING DOWN
THEM!

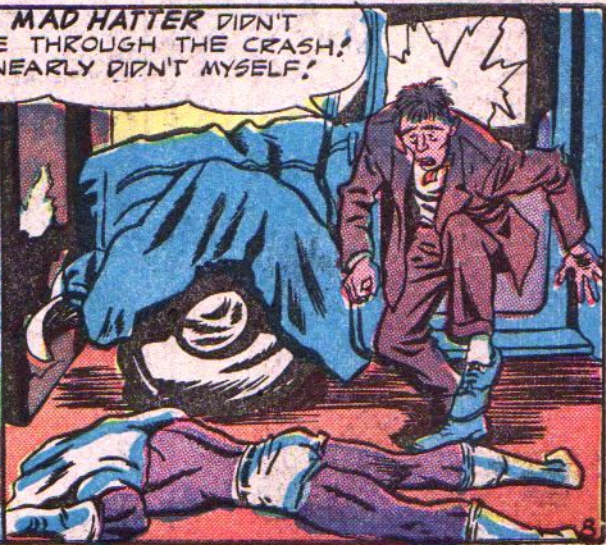


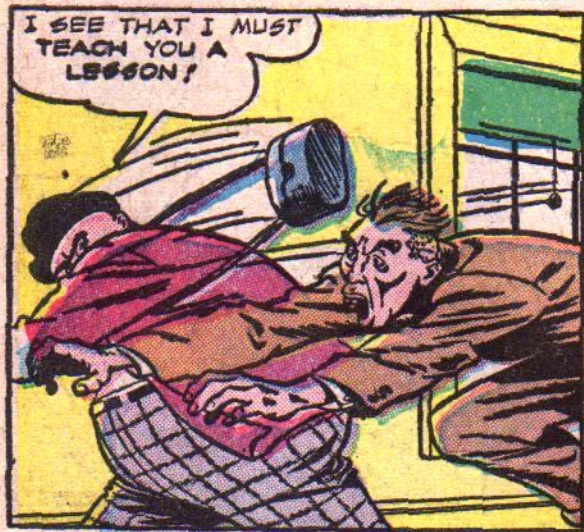
I'LL TAKE REFUGE UNTIL
THE EXCITEMENT DIES
DOWN! THAT IS JUST
THE PLACE!

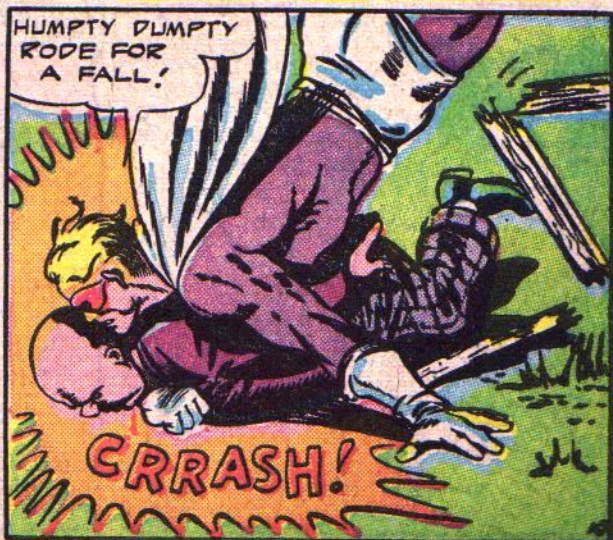
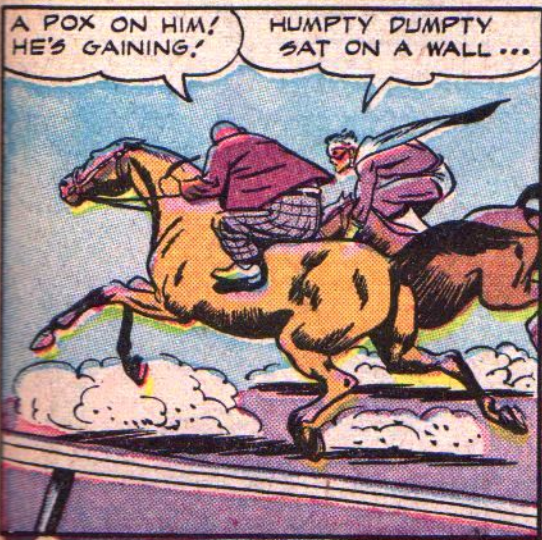
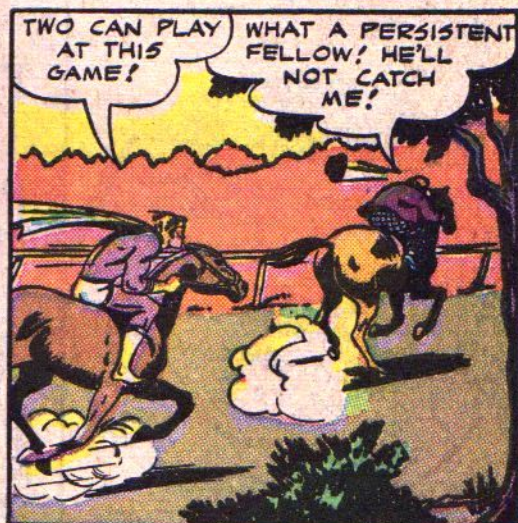
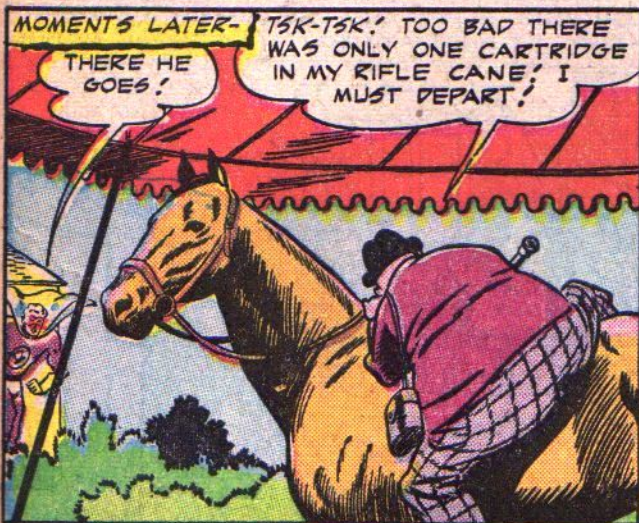
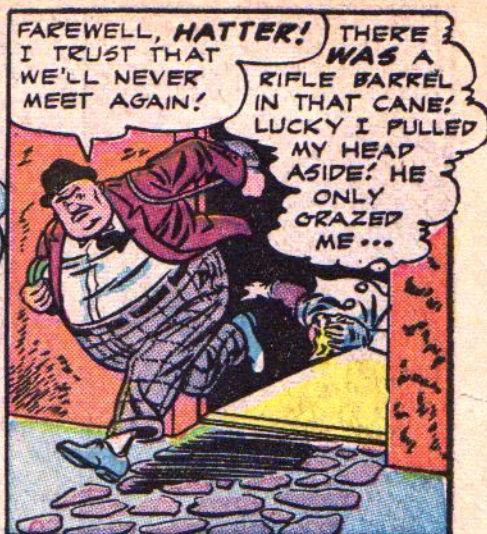


THE MAD HATTER DIDN'T
LIVE THROUGH THE CRASH!
I NEARLY DIDN'T MYSELF!

M
E
A
N
W
H
I
L
E







THE RACE IS OVER! I'LL LET THE KING'S MEN PUT HUMPTY DUMPTY TOGETHER AGAIN!



IT'S TIME FOR ME TO BE LEAVING!

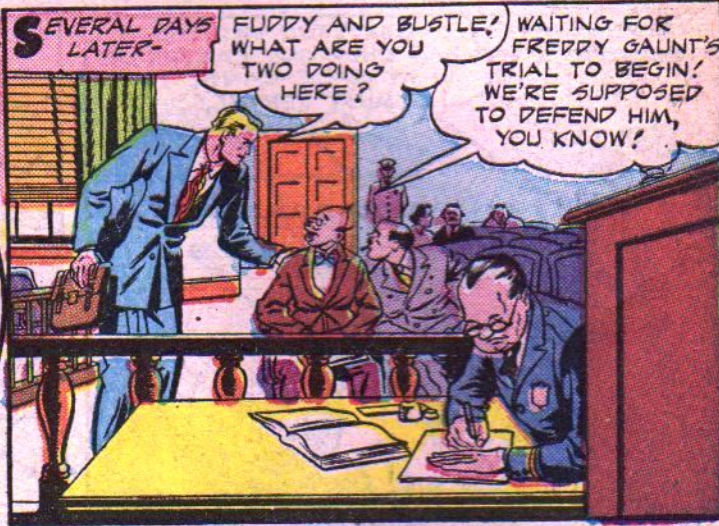


WE FOUND THIS NOTE ON HUMPTY DUMPTY! IT'S FROM THE MAD HATTER!



LET ME SEE IT!

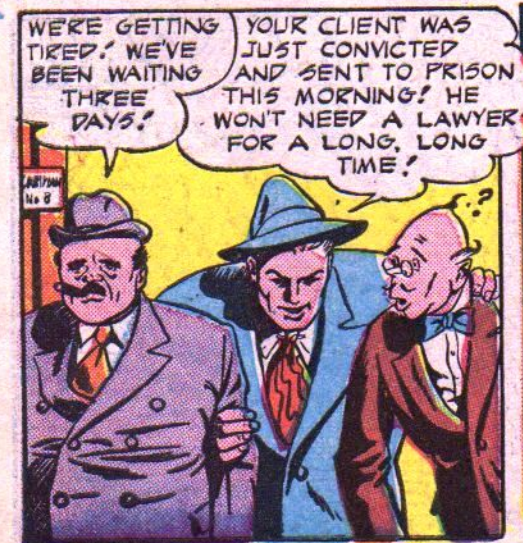
A clever man who gave crooked advice as free as a bird was he. Tell his counsel failed and now in a trice in a prison cage he'll be!



SEVERAL DAYS LATER-

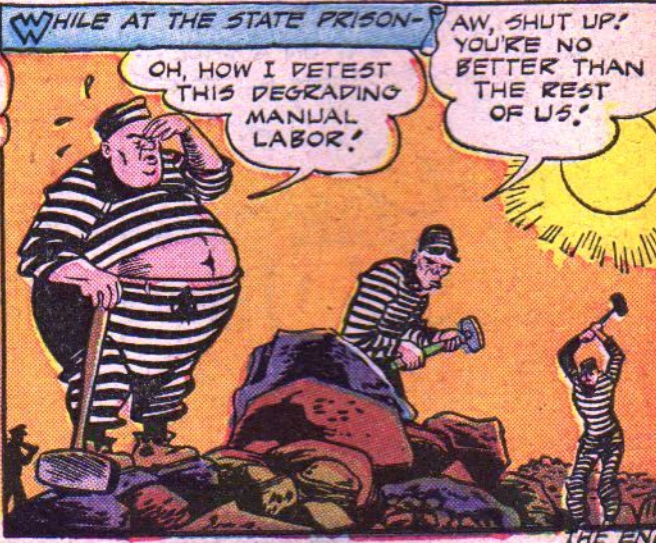
FUDDY AND BUSTLE! WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING HERE?

WAITING FOR FREDDY GAUNT'S TRIAL TO BEGIN! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO DEFEND HIM, YOU KNOW!



WE'RE GETTING TIRED! WE'VE BEEN WAITING THREE DAYS!

YOUR CLIENT WAS JUST CONVICTED AND SENT TO PRISON THIS MORNING! HE WON'T NEED A LAWYER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME!



WHILE AT THE STATE PRISON-

OH, HOW I DETEST THIS DEGRADING MANUAL LABOR!

AW, SHUT UP! YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US!

THE END



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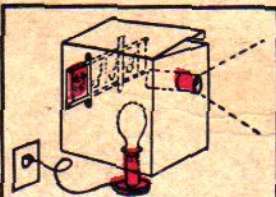
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