

THE
MAY-JUNE

BLUE BEETLE

10¢
NO. 2 

THRILLS!
INTRIGUE!
MYSTERY!

64
PAGES IN
FULL COLOR



ENTIRE BOOK
OF THE THRILLING
ONE AND ONLY
BLUE BEETLE

SMASHING THRU



THE BLUE BEETLE



CAPTAIN KIDD



THE GREEN MASK



DYNAMO



STARDUST



SAMSON



REX DEXTER



SPARK STEVENS



YARKO



PADDY O'DAY



THE FLAME



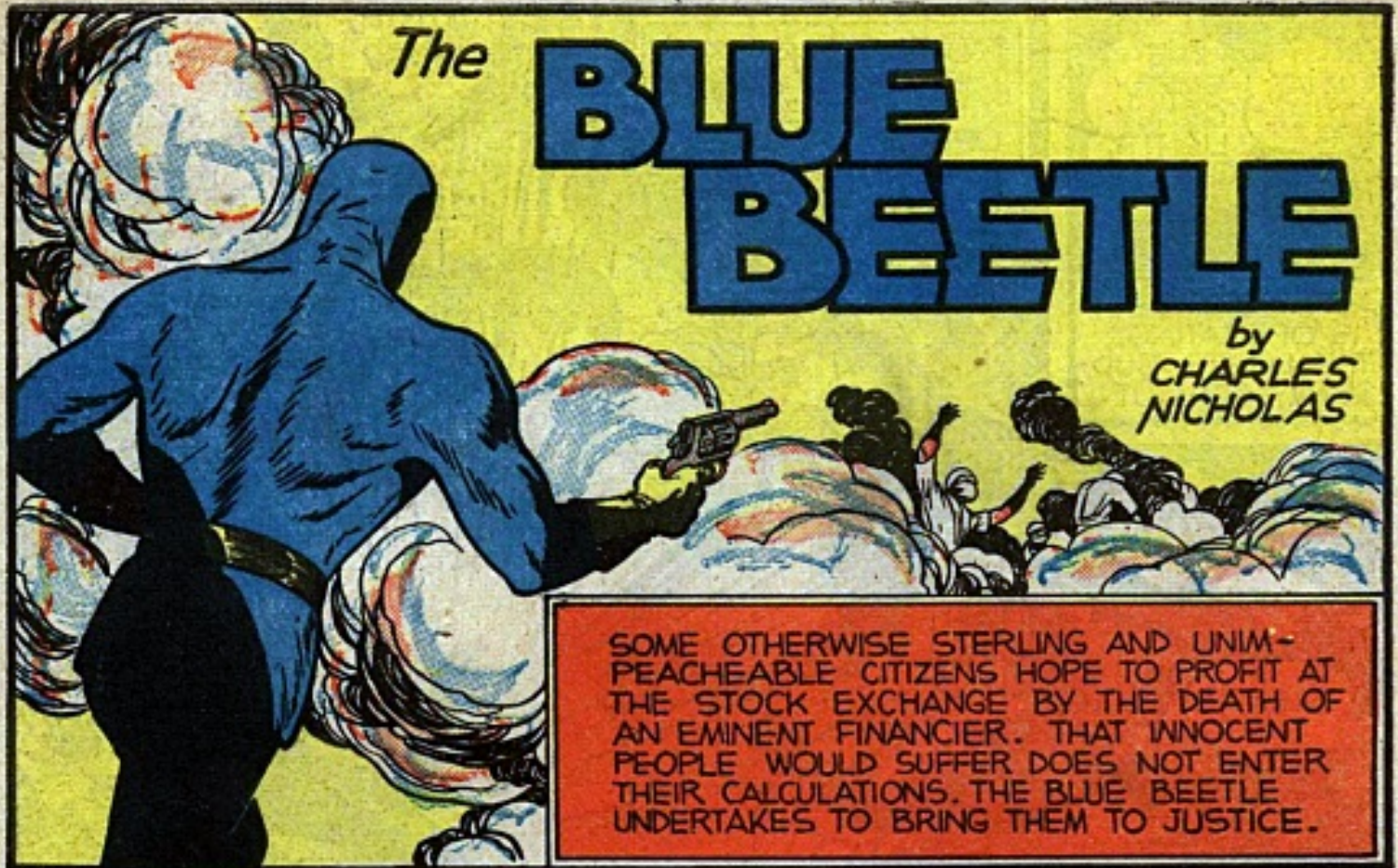
SUB SAUNDERS

WITH THE GREATEST
ASSORTMENT OF SUPER
HIT FEATURES EVER ASSEMBLED
FOLLOW THESE LEADING CHARACTERS
IN 5 GREAT BOOKS

WONDERWORLD • FANTASTIC • MYSTERY MEN • SCIENCE • WEIRD
COMICS COMICS COMICS COMICS COMICS

NEXT ISSUE OF THE BLUE BEETLE OUT JUNE 1ST

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The **BLUE BEETLE**

by
CHARLES NICHOLAS

SOME OTHERWISE STERLING AND UNIMPEACHABLE CITIZENS HOPE TO PROFIT AT THE STOCK EXCHANGE BY THE DEATH OF AN EMINENT FINANCIER. THAT INNOCENT PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER DOES NOT ENTER THEIR CALCULATIONS. THE BLUE BEETLE UNDERTAKES TO BRING THEM TO JUSTICE.

MR. ROBERT RIDLEY, THE EMINENT FINANCIER, IS ABOUT TO UNDERGO A DELICATE OPERATION, SO IMPORTANT THAT THE GREAT DR. BARTLETT CONSENTED TO OPERATE.



HOW'S IT?

ALL WELL, SIR



THINK HE'LL COME THROUGH?

DON'T KNOW. IT'S PRETTY DANGEROUS

HEAVEN HELP US IF HE DOESN'T



IF MR. RIDLEY SURVIVES, ALL'S WELL

THE MARKET'D CRASH IF HE DIES

IT'D BE THE BIGGEST CRASH IN HISTORY

PEOPLE TALK ABOUT NOTHING BUT MR. RIDLEY'S OPERATION.

TENSENESS PREVAILS ON THE STOCK EXCHANGE

WHAT THE...
THE EMERGENCY LIGHTS, QUICK!

AS DR. BARTLETT IS OPERATING, THE LIGHTS SUDDENLY GO OUT

SUDDENLY THERE IS AN EXPLOSION IN THE OPERATING ROOM

WHAT'S THAT?

SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO KILL MR. RIDLEY!

HOLD FAST!

STENCH GAS!

DR. BARTLETT STUCK TO HIS POST UNTIL THE GAS GOT HIM

THE INTERNE ALMOST FAINTED BEFORE HE REMOVED THE ETHER MASK. IT WAS TOO LATE

MR. RIDLEY IS DONE FOR

The Globe

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION KILLS MR. RIDLEY!

Doctors overcome by stench gas
Stocks fall in wildest crash in history

THE SERGEANT'S A GOOD SPORT TO ASSIGN US TO WATCH THE OPERATING ROOM

NAW, IT AIN'T BUT THE CHIEF TELLS HIM HE THINKS ME AND YOU'RE THE SMARTEST GUYS ON THE FORCE. HENCE HE TELLS THE SARGE TO PUT US IN THE CASE



THE TRANSACTION'S WELL TAKEN CARE OF

GOOD. I KNEW YOU CAN BE TRUSTED



WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY TRANSACTION? CAN IT BE...



IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THE TRANSACTION OF MR. CORCORAN AND MISS RIDLEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH MR. RIDLEY'S MURDER. I'LL FIND OUT!



THESE SKELETON KEYS WILL LET ME INTO THE PORTALS OF CORCORAN'S OFFICE. HOPE MY HUNCH'LL BE RIGHT.



AQUA REGIA'LL DISSOLVE THE SAFE KNOB AND LOCK - THE BOOKS'RE INSIDE... I NEED POSITIVE EVIDENCE BEFORE ACTING.



AH, HERE IT IS. MISS RIDLEY, 3000 SHARES OF RIDLEY STEEL, 5000 SHARES UNION AIRWAYS, AND SO ON, SOLD SHORT, PROFIT \$500,000. MR. CORCORAN HAS THE SAME. SAY, WONDER WHO MR. SMYTHE IS. HE'S THE ONLY OTHER ONE IN THE GAME



NOW, I'VE EVIDENCE. I'LL PAY A VISIT TO MR. CORCORAN AND WRING THE REST OF THE STORY FROM HIM



GOT YOU AT LAST, MR. BLUE BEETLE. STEP LIVELY TO THE GARAGE



STEP LIVELY TO THE COUPE. I'M TAKING NO CHANCES WITH A SLIPPERY GUY AS YOU. WE'LL FIND OUT WHO YOU ARE AT THE POLICE STATION

HIS GUN AGAINST MY BACK! MIKE MUST BE GETTING CARELESS



YOU SHOULD BE A BIT MORE CAREFUL, MY DEAR



SORRY I GOT TO DO IT



I'LL PUT HIM IN THE TRUCK. HE'LL BE SAFE UNTIL HE WAKES UP



MEN COMING! WHEW. THAT WAS CLOSE. NOW TO HIDE UNTIL THEY'RE GONE



EVERYTHING READY?

YES. THE BOSS SAYS TO MAKE IT SNAPPY



THEY'VE TAKEN MIKE FOR A RIDE! I'LL HEAR WHERE HE'S TRAVELLING TOMORROW. NOW TO GET TO BUSINESS

THE BLUE BEETLE HAS ARRIVED AT THE HOME OF MR. CORCORAN

IT'S ALL DONE YOUR PROFIT IS \$75,000

GOOD. THE STUPID POLICE'LL NEVER KNOW. I SET OFF THE BOMB. IT TOOK LITTLE TIME TO COVER THE FRAGMENTS WITH CHEMICALS THAT DISSOLVED THEM. THE ONLY WITNESS IS MISS RAE, HERE WE'LL LIQUIDATE HER SECRETLY

SO DR. BARTLETT IS MR. SMYTHE!

A DUMB DETECTIVE IN A CIRCUS COSTUME? WELL, YOU'VE LOST YOUR GAME

SO THE BLUE BEETLE IS A REALITY, NOT A DRUNK REPORTER'S IMAGINATION!

THE FACT THAT THIS FELLOW IS ON OUR TRAIL IS UNGANNY

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR COMPLIMENTS

YOU CAME ON TIME, MR. BLUE 'BEETLE. DR. BARTLETT STAYED IN THE OPERATING ROOM LONG ENOUGH TO CUT MR. RIDLEY'S ARTERIES IN THE CONFUSION OF THE EXPLOSION. THAT WAS TO INSURE MR. RIDLEY'S DEATH. HE WAS ABOUT TO CUT ME UP AND BURN MY BODY.

NO CRIMINAL'S TOO SMART TO ESCAPE JUSTICE, DEARIES, EVIDENCE 1 IS IN YOUR BOOKS. THE POLICE WILL HAVE THE MOTIVE. EVIDENCE 2 IS WHAT DR. BARTLETT SAID. I ONLY HAVE TO TELL THE POLICE WHERE TO LOOK, AND THEY HAVE A COMPLETE CASE AGAINST YOU. EVIDENCE 3 IS THIS PRETTY WITNESS.

YOU'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL YOUR STORY!

TCH, TCH, TCH. MY LADY, SOME TEMPER. WHEW, THAT WAS TOO CLOSE

BANG!







THE NEXT DAY CHARLEY STORM MEETS DAN GARRET



The BLUE BEETLE

by Charles Nicholas



FROM TIME TO TIME, A CERTAIN CLASS OF FIENDISH MINDED PEOPLE PROFIT BY THE DEATH OF INNOCENT PERSONS. THEY INSURE THEM, AND KILL THEM AT THE RIGHT TIME. THE BLUE BEETLE UNDERTAKES TO SMASH ONE SUCH MURDER SYNDICATE



WHAT'S THAT?

SOMEONE IN DISTRESS!

HELP! HELP!

HELP! DON'T LET THEM KILL ME!



WHAT THE---

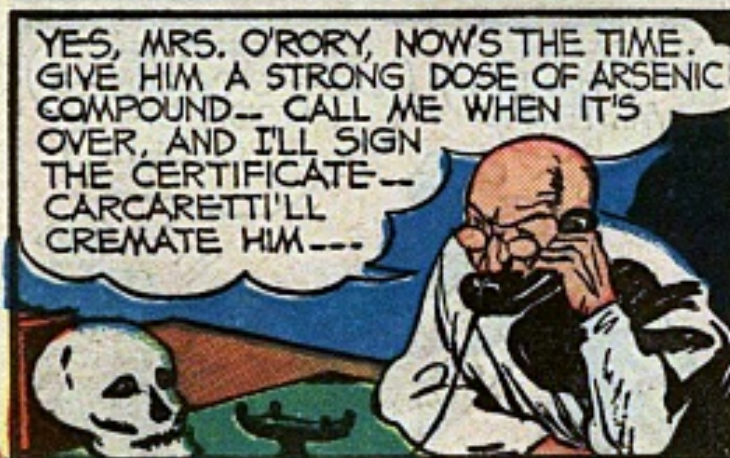
DON'T LET THEM TOUCH ME!

HOLD YOUR HORSES



YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS, MISTER

OUT OF THE BLUE SKY COMES A BOLT OF TROUBLE





YES, DR. DEATH. YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED

YOU KNOW IT ALREADY? WELL, WELL, LET'S BE FRIENDS. I'LL TAKE MY MEDICINE LIKE A MAN. HAVE A CHAIR WHILE I MIX SCOTCH AND SODA



WHY MAKE A FUSS OVER IT? HUMAN LIVES ARE CHEAP

THAT'S WHERE YOU AND I DIFFER. I STAND FOR JUSTICE AND MERCY FOR MAN-KIND



WITHOUT THE BLUE BEETLE SEEING IT, DR. HANRAHAN POURS PRUSSIC ACID, THE STRONGEST POISON IN THE WORLD, INTO THE BLUE BEETLE GLASS.



TO MY FUTURE IN THE ELECTRIC CHAIR

I'D SAY SO

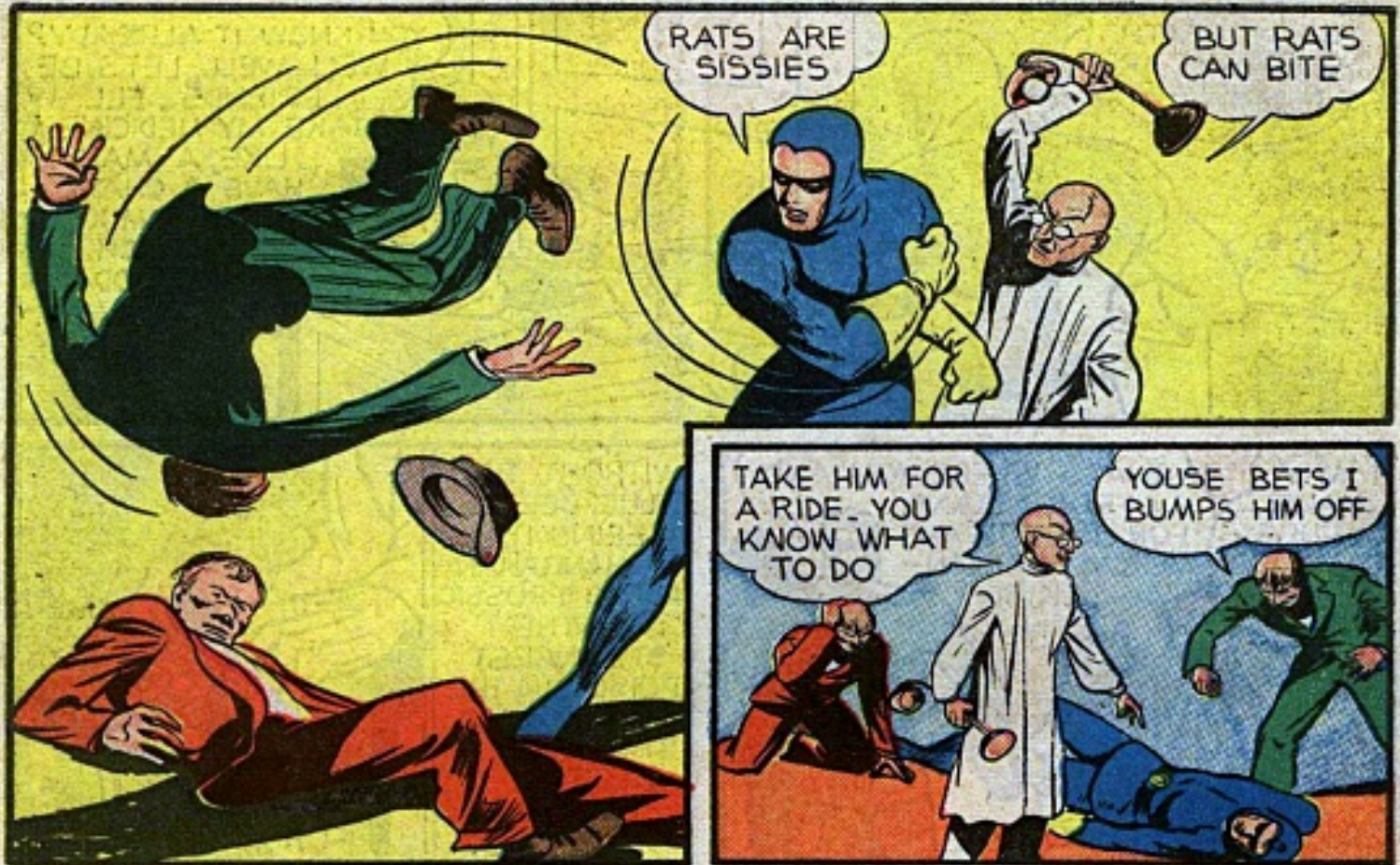


PRETTY CRUDE, DR. HANRAHAN. I'LL SAVE THIS FOR THE POLICE EVIDENCE ENOUGH TO CONVICT YOU



SEEING HIS FIENDISH PLOT FIZZLE, DR. HANRAHAN SIGNALS HIS TWO HENCHMEN WHO ATTACK THE BLUE BEETLE

SO YOU HAVE A PACK OF RATS IN YOUR NEST



RATS ARE SISSIES

BUT RATS CAN BITE

TAKE HIM FOR A RIDE. YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO

YOUSE BETS I BUMPS HIM OFF



NOW I EVENS SCORES WID DIS GUY

NOT YET, CLANCY. HERE COMES A HARNESS BULL



HEY, YOU YOUNG COUPLES, DON'T YOU KNOW IT'S AGAINST THE LAW TO NECK IN THE...

MANNIGAN APPEARS, AND SUSPICIOUS OF THE LONE CAR, OPENS THE DOOR



WE DON'T WANT NO DUMB COPPER BUTTIN' IN

YOU'RE JOINING THE BLUE BEETLE

THE BLUE BEETLE!





THE BLUE BEETLE'S POLICE TRAINING STANDS HIM IN GOOD STEAD





DR. HANRAHAN DRINKS POISON!





The BLUE BEETLE

by Charles Nicholas



RUTH MARTY, DAUGHTER OF A FAMOUS JUDGE, IS DARINGLY KIDNAPPED FROM HER HOME, LATE ONE NIGHT



MANNIGAN, I WANT YOU TO ROUND UP BLACKIE SMALL, WHO'S OUT ON PAROLE. WE WANT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT THE MARTY KIDNAPPING!

I'M OFF FOR THE NIGHT, MIKE. SEE YOU TOMORROW

HOLD IT, MANNIGAN! TELEPHONE!

FAITH AND WHO COULD BE CALLIN' ME? SO LONG DAN, ME BOY!

IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY, OFFICER REILLY, CAPTURED BY THE KIDNAPPERS, TALKS TO MIKE.

SAY WHAT WE TOLD YOU, OR WE'LL BLOW YOU APART

I CAN'T SAY MUCH, MANNIGAN! IT'S ABOUT THE MARTY KIDNAPPING. MEET ME IN AN HOUR AT...

SURE, REILLY, SURE AND I'LL BE THERE!



I WONDER WHAT REILLY HAS FOUND ABOUT THE KIDNAPPERS! CRAZY PLACE FOR HIM TO WANT TO MEET ME!

THE NEXT INSTANT A BIG BLACK SEDAN ROARS TOWARD THE WAITING MIKE MANNIGAN

SO IT WAS A TRAP, EH? GOOD THING THOSE BLATHERSKITES HAD BAD AIM!

KILL THE COPPER, MEN

WELL, I'LL BE... I DROPPED JUST IN TIME!

JOE REILLY! SPEAK TO ME, REILLY! WHO DID THIS? I'LL... I'LL...

SORRY. MIKE... THEY... MADE ME... OOH!

SO THEY WERE AFRAID YE HAS TOLD ME WHAT YE HAS LEARNED ABOUT THE KIDNAPPING... JUST LAY QUIET, LIKE, REILLY, WHILE I GO PHONE FOR AN AMBULANCE

WHILE MIKE MANNIGAN MAKES HIS CALL THE BLUE BEETLE SPRINGS ONTO THE SCENE

TOO BAD I DIDN'T GET HERE IN TIME TO NAB THAT MURDER CAR! I'LL SEE IF I CAN LEARN ANYTHING FROM POOR REILLY, WHILE MIKE IS OCCUPIED!

KIDNAPPERS... PANT!... HAVE GIRL...

DEAD! BEFORE HE COULD FINISH THE MESSAGE! BUT THAT WAS ENOUGH I'LL GET THE MURDERERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS!

2



THE BLUE BEETLE!...
HEY! HALT, YE'RE
UNDER ARREST

NOT TONIGHT,
PAL! I'VE
TOO MUCH
TO DO!



IN AN
ALLEY
OUTSIDE
THE "BLUE
BELLE" CAFE,
DAN GARRET
CHANGES
FROM HIS
COSTUME
INTO
STREET
CLOTHES!



REILLY SAID SOMETHING
ABOUT A GIRL BEING IN
A BAR, OR SOMETHING!
THE BLUE BELLE IS A
GANGSTER HIDEOUT.
I'LL GO IN
AND SNOOP
AROUND



AT THE
BAR OF
THE "BLUE
BELLE,"
GARRET
MEETS
LEO STUTZ,
A CROOKED
LAWYER



STILL DRINKING
MILK; EH, GARRET?...
HEAR REILLY FROM
YOUR PRECINCT GOT
BUMPED OFF,
TONIGHT?

YOU MOUTHPIECES SURE GET
NEWS FAST, BUT YOU WERE
MISINFORMED! REILLY LIVED!
HE'S AT ST. LUKES
HOSPITAL

HE'LL SPREAD
THAT AROUND,
AND WORRY
THE KILLERS!
GOOD TRICK
IF IT WORKS!



SO LONG, GARRET! IF YOU
CATCH THE CULPRITS
RECOMMEND ME FOR
THEIR LAWYER!
HEH-HEH!

SO
LONG,
LEO!

STUTZ MUST BE
AT LEAST FIFTY...
AMAZING THAT
THERE'S NO GRAY
IN HIS HAIR



NICK NAROLDI, THE OWNER
OF THIS DUMP, GOING
INTO HIS OFFICE! THINK
I'LL HAVE A TALK WITH
NICK!



AS
NICK
NAROLDI
ENTERS
HIS
OFFICE
HIS
PHONE
RINGS!



WHAT?...
REILLY NOT DEAD!
IMPOSSIBLE! THAT
COPPER, GARRET WAS
LYING, TRYING TO...

WHAT THE...?

GIVE ME THAT PHONE!

DAN GARRET, ONCE AGAIN THE BLUE BEETLE, INTERRUPTS THE CALL!

HELLO! HELLO! WHAT'S THE MATTER, NICK? OH, I SEE! CLICK!

WHOEVER THAT WAS, IS SMART, KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG! HE HUNG UP!

I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ON THE PHONE! WHO KILLED REILLY AND KIDNAPPED THE MARTY GIRL? WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS?... TALK BEFORE I WALLOP THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOU!

I-I CAN'T! THE BIG SHOT'D KILL ME!

NO TIME TO PLAY WITH RATS! I SAID. TALK!

HE WOULD HIT HIS HEAD AGAINST THE WALL BEFORE I COULD PRY INFO OUT OF HIM! BETTER CALL THE POLICE!

BLUE BEETLE USES THE WIRELESS PHONE HE WENTED

THE BLUE BEETLE IS COWARDLY CLUBBED FROM BEHIND

POLICE! COME RIGHT DOWN TO THE... UGH!

THIS TIME THE BLUE BEETLE WON'T GET AWAY!

THE BIG SHOT OUGHT TO GIVE US A BONUS FOR THIS

STILL OUT, THE BLUE BEETLE IS BOUND, GAGGED, AND CARRIED AWAY IN A SPEEDING CAR!

4



WONDER IF THEY'VE MADE THAT MARTY DAME TALK, YET?

I WONDER WHAT WAY THE BIG SHOT WILL THINK UP TO KILL THIS GUY!

THE BLUE BEETLE COMES FACE TO FACE WITH NICK NAROLDI, OWNER OF THE "BLUE BELLE" AGAIN!



WE MET AGAIN, UNDER DIFFERENT CONDITIONS! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID TONIGHT, BEETLE

LET ME SLIT HIS THROAT, BOSS!

TALK IS CHEAP, NAROLDI!



TELL ME WHAT I WANT, RUTH MARTY, OR I'LL CUT OUT HIS EYE AND HANG IT AROUND YOUR THROAT FOR A NECKLACE!

STOP! I CAN'T LET SOME ONE ELSE SUFFER BECAUSE OF ME! I'LL TALK!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO, MISS MARTY. I CAN TAKE IT!



THE COMBINATION OF MY FATHER'S SAFE IS LEFT-44-RIGHT-28 - TWICE MORE LEFT TO 10, THEN RIGHT

WHAT KIND OF A PONEY SNATCH IS THIS? NAROLDI AND THE BIG SHOT ARE AFTER SOMETHING BIGGER THAN RANSOM MONEY.



WE'LL TEND TO HIM LATER! GOT TO HURRY TO THE JUDGE'S SAFE!

STRUGGLING TO HIS FEET, THE BLUE BEETLE OPENS A MEDICINE CABINET WITH HIS TEETH, KNOCKS OVER A BOTTLE



NOW FOR A PIECE OF THAT SHARP GLASS!

ANOTHER SECOND AND I'LL BE FREE!



JOHNSON'S HAIR BLACKING TINT UP GRAY OR WHITE HAIR TO NATURAL COLOR WITH THIS HAIR

I THOUGHT LEO STUTZ'S HAIR LOOKED UNNATURAL! SO HE'S THE ONE BEHIND THIS! BUT WHY?



GOT TO WORK FAST, NOW!



THE BLUE BEETLE! HE'S LOSE! SHOOT FOR YOUR LIFE!

BETTER PUT THOSE POP GUNS AWAY!



MIND IF I TURN THE TABLES ON YOU, BOYS!

HELP! LOOK OUT!!



UGGGH!... OWOOWCH!...



WHERE DID THEY GO?

DON'T KILL ME! ... TO THE JUDGE'S HOUSE!



THEY HAD THE GIRL CAPTIVE ON A BARGE! THAT'S WHAT REILLY WAS TRYING TO SAY, ONLY HE DIED BEFORE HE COULD FINISH THE WORD BARGE!

ARRIVING AT THE HUGE HOME OF JUDGE MARTY WHO IS LIVING AT A HOTEL SINCE HIS DAUGHTER'S KIDNAPPING...

LEO STUTZ WILL PROBABLY BE HERE, TOO!

THE ALARMS CUT.. THE SAFE OPEN.. AND NOW TO GET THE PAPERS!

THE BLUE BEETLE!... ULP!

AWWKKK!

REMEMBER ME?

I KNOW THAT LEO STUTZ IS BEHIND ALL THIS! WHERE IS THE RAT? QUICK!

I--- I D-D-DONT---

HERE I AM, MR BLUE BEETLE! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO ARRIVE NOW I CAN KILL BOTH YOU AND THIS TRAITEROUS RAT, NAROLDI, AT THE SAME TIME!

THESE PAPERS ARE THE SIGNED CONFESSION OF BLAKIE SMALL, TELLING HOW I USED CROOKED METHODS TO GET HIM OUT OF PREVIOUS RAPS! JUDGE MARTY HAS CARBONS IN A VAULT AND THE ONLY WAY I COULD GET THEM WAS TO KIDNAP HIS DAUGHTER! THIS DOUBLE-CROSSER, NICK NAROLDI, WAS GOING TO STEAL THE ORIGINALS. BLACKMAIL ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!

THAT'S WHY YOU HAD BLACKIE KILLED!

DONT KILL ME, BOSS I-I WASN'T GOING TO DOUBLE CROSS YOU!

THE BLUE BEETLE TRIES A CLEVER, DESPERATE RUSE, REMEMBERING STUTZ'S VANITY ABOUT HIS HAIR.



STUTZ'S GANGSTERS COME RUSHING AT SOUNDS OF THE STRUGGLE!



The BLUE BEETLE



THE CARNIVAL AROUND THE CORNER HAS JUST CLOSED FOR THE NIGHT. TWO THUGS WALK TOWARD JOHN DORE'S TENT, BENT ON "INDUCING" HIM TO USE THEIR CROOKED SLOT MACHINES...

BY CHARLES NICHOLAS

FINALLY, THEY ARRIVE AT THE CENTRAL TENT WHERE THE MANAGER IS PREPARING FOR BED.



WELL, YOU AGAIN.

I'M GIVING YOU YOUR LAST WARNING !!



EITHER YOU LET US PUT OUR SLOT MACHINES IN DIS PLACE OR ELSE !!



OR ELSE NOTHING, YOU RAT!



AND THE NEXT TIME YOU COME, I'LL PUT SOME "SLOTS" IN THAT DIRTY FACE OF YOURS!

GIVING TWO PATROLMEN A VACATION, THE POLICE CHIEF SUMMONS DAN GARRET AND MIKE MANNIGAN.



I'M PUTTING YOU TWO MEN ON PATROL DUTY AT THE CARNIVAL.

YES, SIR.

YES, SIR.

THE NEXT DAY THE TWO POLICE-MEN ARE PATROLING THEIR NEW BEAT.



STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS!



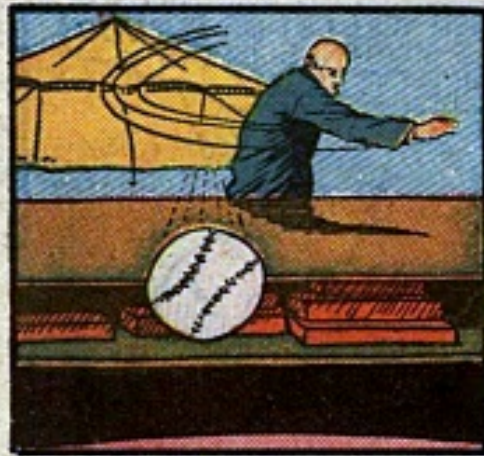
SURE, AND I WAS THE BEST PITCHER FOR THE BROOKLYN MUDHENS IN ME YOUTH, DAN.

YEAH? LET'S TRY THAT BASEBALL CONTEST.



O.K. MIKE, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU CAN DO... TAKE IT EASY!

SURE, AND HERE IS A STRIKE!



ER-AHEM-I THINK WE OUGHT TO TRY THE MERRY-GO-ROUND...



SUDDENLY, THE TWO OFFICERS ARE STARTLED BY A TERRIFIC NOISE...

WHAT'S THAT?!

DAN GARRET AND MANNIGAN QUICKLY ARRIVE AT THE SCENE OF THE CRASH.



HURRY, MIKE, COME HERE!

RIGHT WITH YOU, DAN!

IN A FEW MINUTES, DAN GARRET AND HIS FELLOW OFFICER HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.....



I'LL CALL A DOCTOR. YOU MUST BE HURT PRETTY BAD!

NO! NO, I'M ALL RIGHT.. NEVER MIND.



IT-IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT..NOTHING AT ALL! YOU CAN GO, NOW.. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP..

ALL RIGHT, IF YOU SAY SO.

LATE THAT NIGHT IN THE BACK ROOM OF A DRUG-STORE, DAN GARRET PREPARES FOR THE ROLE OF THE BLUE BEETLE...



THAT MAN ACTED VERY PECULIAR..I HAVE A FEELING SOMETHING'S WRONG

HERE ARE YOUR WIRELESS PHONE AND BELT, DAN



I THINK VON HEUGER HAS A HAND IN THIS..HE'S ALWAYS AROUND WHERE THERE'S A CARNIVAL!

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, THE BLUE BEETLE ARRIVES AT THE CARNIVAL.



HMM... LOOKS LIKE I'M JUST IN TIME!

INSIDE, TWO GANGSTERS ARE TRYING TO "PERSUADE" JOHN DORE, THE MANAGER OF THE FAIR..



SO OUR LITTLE ACCIDENT DIDN'T CHANGE YOUR MIND? WELL, THIS WILL!

SOCK!



SUDDENLY,

THE BLUE BEETLE!



THE OTHER THUG CAUTIOUSLY LOOKS OUT OF THE TENT..



MINUTES LATER, THE THUGS REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, AND QUICKLY DEPART..



THE TWO GANGSTERS ARRIVE AT AN ORDINARY APARTMENT HOUSE..



AH! THE DOOR WILL OPEN IN A MINUTE!



AFTER HEARING OF HIS HENCHMEN'S UNSUCCESSFUL MISSION, VON HEUGER GOES INTO A BLAZING TIRADE..





LATER, THE THUG EMERGES WITH A SMILE OF SATISFACTION ON HIS FACE.



JOE DRIVES BACK TO THE CARNIVAL, AND AT THE POINT OF A GUN ROUSES THE MANAGER FROM DEEP SLUMBER..





FOLLOW THE 'BLUE BEETLE' IN HIS NEXT EXCITING ADVENTURE !!

Mass Murder by Radioactive Salt

BY CHARLES NICHOLAS

"Hello, Eli?" inquired reporter Charley Storm excitedly, of the York City Sun editor. "The Blue Beetle struck again. Wait, no, I don't know who the Blue Beetle is yet. I only tell you he's in extreme danger."

"Well, remember how the children of the State Orphanage became mysteriously ill? The doctors diagnosed it as radium poisoning, but how it happened was a first class mystery to them. There's no radium factory within miles of the orphanage. Professor Eduardo Schrapelli, he's a famous physiologist or something who's been responsible for the children's foods, serving without pay, claimed that radium watches were the cause. It seemed that some welfare lads gave the kids watches with radium dials. Professor Schrapelli says they licked the watches. The funny thing was that the watches showed no such traces, but the doctors thought it the right idea and banned them."

"The children got better, but temporarily. They became dangerously ill again. Remember that news story,



how ten died last week? Yes, that's it. You're asking what the Blue Beetle has to do with it? Wait, give me a chance.

"One night, as Professor Schrapelli was working in his laboratory, a little blue beetle fell on the table. The professor was scared. Guilty conscience? I don't know, but listen to the rest of the story.

"The Blue Beetle!" he yelled.

"Yes, the Blue Beetle in person," a voice from the professor's back drawled.

"The professor whirled around. Standing in the door, entirely at ease, was the Blue Beetle.

"What do you want?" the professor asked.

"The Blue Beetle said

nothing. He walked straight ahead and pushed the professor aside. He picked a jar of common salt and held it close to the professor's face.

"Taste that, will you?" the Blue Beetle said.

"The professor shirked away from the bottle, scared.

"No, no, don't force that stuff into my body."

"Why didn't you think of it when you fed the kids this radioactive salt?" the Blue Beetle said, "You know that radioactive salt looks and tastes like ordinary salt, but it is as dangerous as radium. Of course it doesn't last long, but why did you give it to the kids all the time?"

"The professor stared at the Blue Beetle like one struck with a guilty conscience, but he didn't have any. He was afraid of the consequences of the discovery of his crime. He was sort of a maniac.

"I know why you did it, professor," the Blue Beetle said coldly, "You took this job on purpose. You needed human guinea pigs to find

out how radioactive salt works in the human body. You sacrificed the lives of children to back your international reputation as a scientist.

"The professor glared at him with a wild expression. He rushed at the Blue Beetle and pushed him into a store-room whose door was open. Before closing it, the professor threw a bottle into the room and locked the door.

"The Blue Beetle had struck his head against a shelf and fell on the floor. He shook his head. Something assailed his nostrils. He recognized the danger. The professor had thrown a bottle of fluoride into the room. The bottle broke and fluoride fumes filled the air.

"Listen, Eli, you know fluoride fumes make a dangerous poison gas. Get the idea of the hole the Blue Beetle found himself in?

"The Blue Beetle shook his head to clear his sagging brains. The fumes were killing him. His eyes burned painfully.

"He looked at the door. He measured the distance. He rushed at it and threw his body against it.



"Bang!" The door flew open.

"The professor, waiting for the Blue Beetle to die, was startled. He ran away. The Blue Beetle followed him, fresh air clearing his lungs.

"The professor was no mean sprinter. He reached the stairs first and rushed down. The Blue Beetle took a chance. He jumped over a railing and landed on the professor's back. They tumbled down one flight, their bodies intertwined.

"The Blue Beetle was up first. He dug his fist into the professor's belly and followed with a right uppercut that knocked the professor cold.

"He picked up the professor's body and carried it to the laboratory. He bound the professor and pocketed

the bottle of radioactive salt. He carried him to a sedan and drove to the home of Dr. Martin, one of the doctors in charge of the orphanage radium poisoning case. He left the professor and bottle with the doctor after explaining the matter.

"Yes. The professor's booked at Powell Street Magistrate's Court. Better send a photographer, Eli."

Charley Storm hung up the receiver with a shrug. He lit his old pipe and sauntered out of the telephone booth.

"Now I'll see Dan Garrett and Mike Mannigan," he said to himself, "Mike's trying to catch the Blue Beetle too. I wonder about Dan Garrett. He's a smart kid, but he doesn't seem to be interested in the Blue Beetle."

He puffed his pipe, not knowing that Dan Garrett was the Blue Beetle.

The

BLUE BEETLE

by Charles Nicholas



A FOREIGN NATION, FEARING THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE DRAWN INTO WAR AND TIP THE SCALES IN HER ENEMY'S FAVOR, SENDS SPIES AND SABOTEURS TO WRECK THE ARMY'S NEWEST AIRPLANES. THE BLUE BEETLE INTERRUPTS THE SABOTAGE ACTIVITIES.



IT'S BEEN AWFULLY QUIET LATELY

RIGHT. ELI CRANE THINKS OF REDUCING HIS STAFF.

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM?



I WON'T BE SURPRISED IF IT'S DUE TO THE BLUE BEETLE. GANGSTERS LIKE PINKIE RADNEY AND BULLET SHATOFF ARE LAYING LOW BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID THEY'LL CROSS THE BLUE BEETLE

NONSENSE. I BELIEVE THE BLUE BEETLE A CROOK PURE AND SIMPLE



MEANTIME, ABOVE THE TALKING MEN, AN ARMY PLANE IS IN TROUBLE



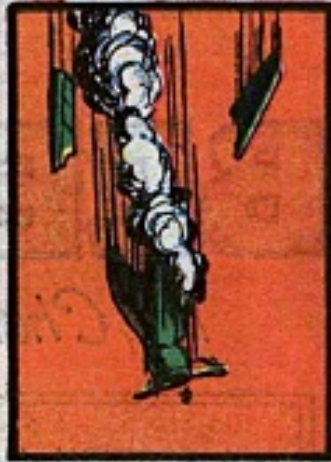
LOOK AT THAT ARMY PLANE! IT'S IN TROUBLE!

I'D HATE TO BE IN THAT PILOT'S SHOES

WHY, IT'S THE NEWEST TWO-SEATER PURSUIT SHIP!



THE WINGS OF THE PURSUIT PLANE BREAK OFF!



I'LL GET THAT GUY BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

DAN, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING

THAT'S SOME STORY!



THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE FOR YOU, BUDDY



I MAY BE OUTSIDE THE LAW IN DOING IT, BUT THESE BROKEN BOLTS SHOW SIGNS OF HAVING BEEN TAMPERED WITH





LUCKY NO ONE'S SEEING ME



THE RIGGED SEARCH-LIGHT WORKED BEAUTIFULLY. HE FELL FOR IT HOOK, LINE, AND SINKER. HE'S TAKING ME TO HIS HIDEOUT. I WONDER WHO CAPTAIN X-13 IS



OKAY. GOT TO SEE CAPTAIN X-13. IT'S IMPORTANT

IT'D BETTER BE GOODS NEWS



THE PLANE'S READY FOR A QUICK GETAWAY. GOOD. THEY WON'T CATCH US



NOW TO TELL CAPTAIN X-13



WAIT FOR ME. YOUR SHOOTING WAS SIMPLY HORRIBLE

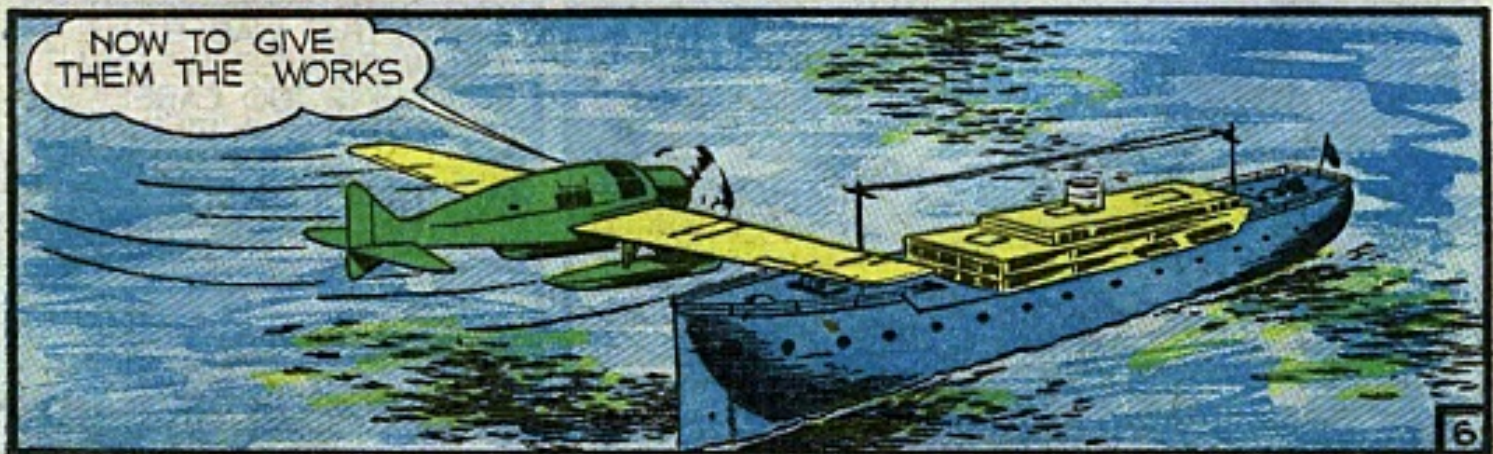


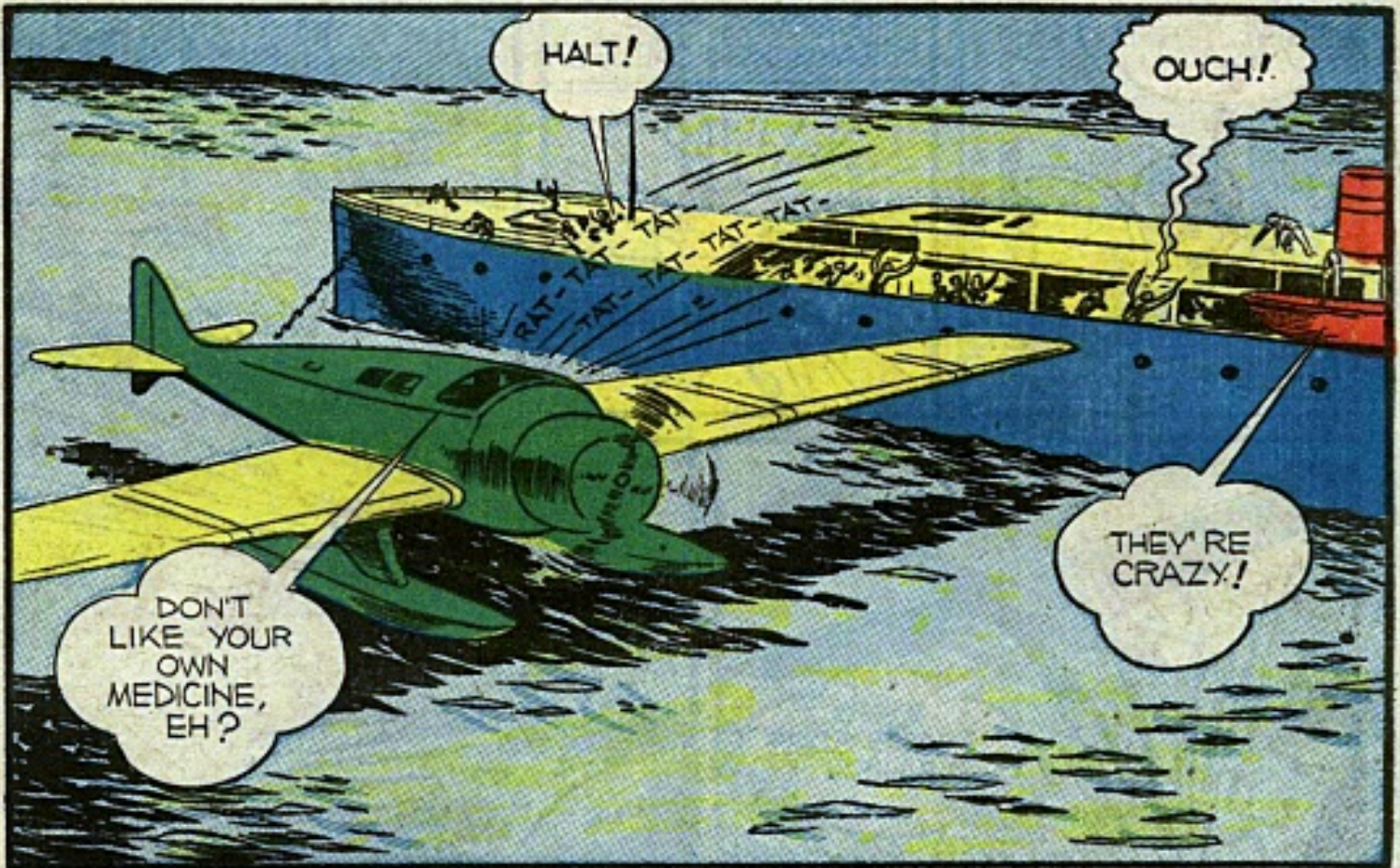
BUT I CAN'T ENJOY THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY



REALLY, YOU SHOULD BE WAITING FOR ME THAT'S INSURANCE TO HOLD YOU HERE UNTIL I NEED YOU

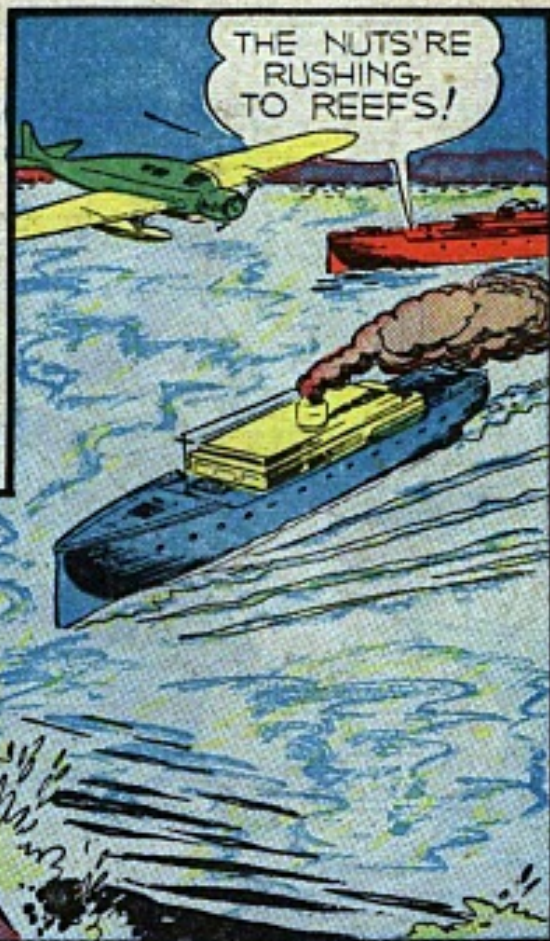






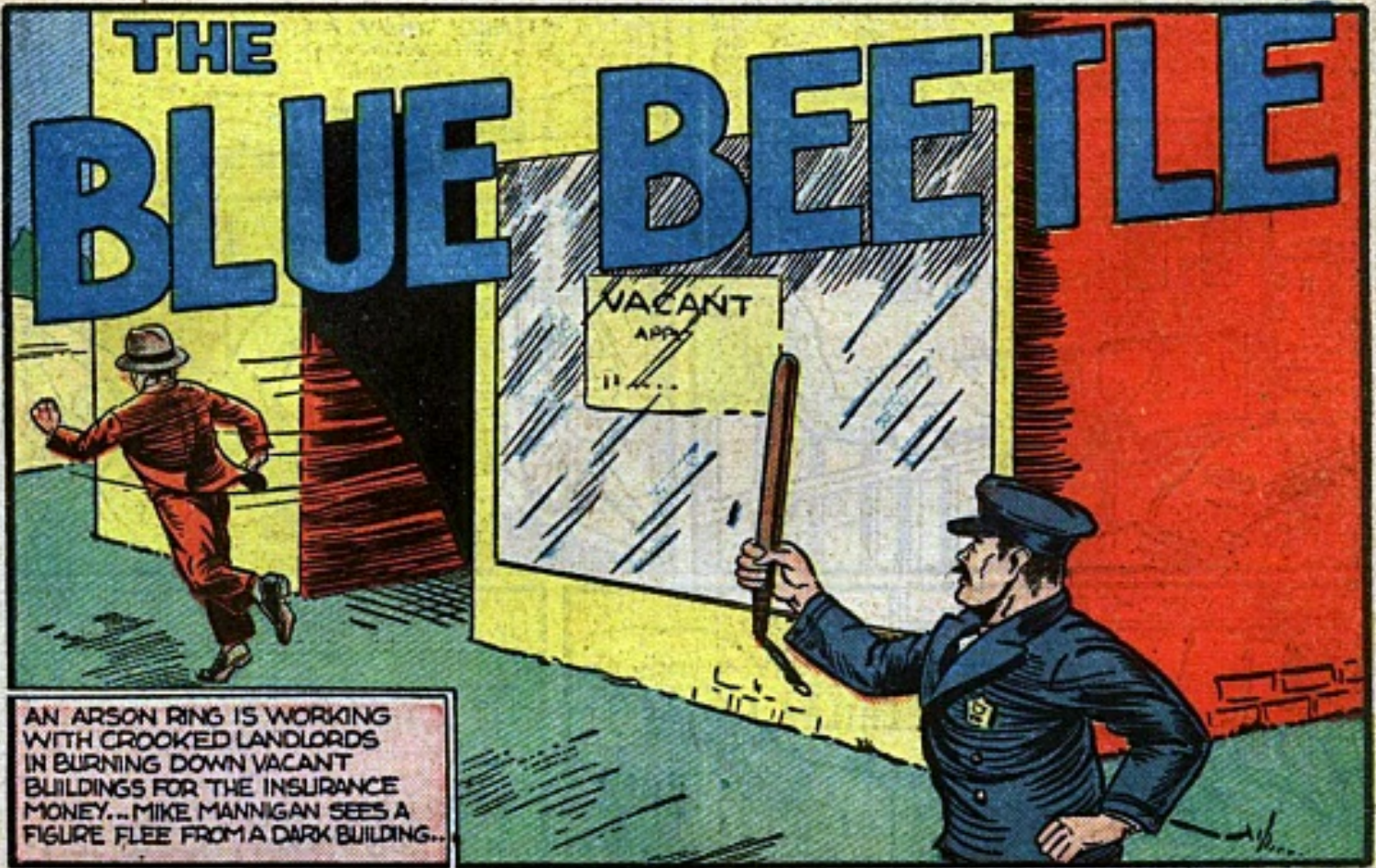


IN THE ENGINE ROOM...



THE DOOMED YACHT SINKS, CARRYING EVERY OF HER CREW TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA -----





AN ARSON RING IS WORKING WITH CROOKED LANDLORDS IN BURNING DOWN VACANT BUILDINGS FOR THE INSURANCE MONEY...MIKE MANNIGAN SEES A FIGURE FLEE FROM A DARK BUILDING...

THE ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING SUDDENLY EXPLODES...



ARE YOU HURT, MIKE?

NO, I'M ALL RIGHT, DAN... JUST HAD THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF ME!



DAN RACES TO A SECLUDED ROOM AND EMERGES AS THE BLUE BEETLE...



I'LL STOP THIS RUTHLESS ARSON GANG!



THERE'S THE SAME FELLOW THAT SET THE LAST FIRE ... THE REST OF THE GANG MUST BE IN THE BUILDING!



THERE THEY ARE SETTING A BOMB AND SPREADING OIL AROUND!

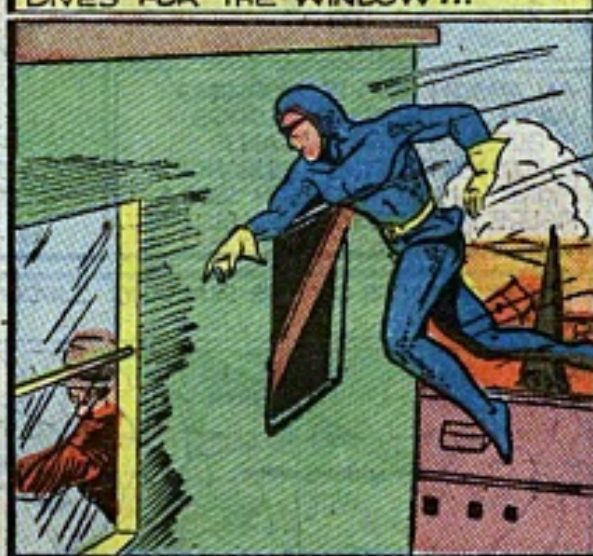
SUDDENLY IN THE BUILDING ...



LOOK, BOSS ... THE SIGN OF THE BLUE BEETLE!

HURRY UP, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

AT THAT MOMENT THE BLUE BEETLE DIVES FOR THE WINDOW ...



NOT SO FAST BOYS THIS IS YOUR LAST JOB!

OH...YEAH... WELL HERE'S A LITTLE LEAD TO WET YOUR APPETITE!



LEAD DOESN'T BOTHER BULLET-PROOF ARMOR, SONNY BOY!

OOF!

WOW !!



UH!

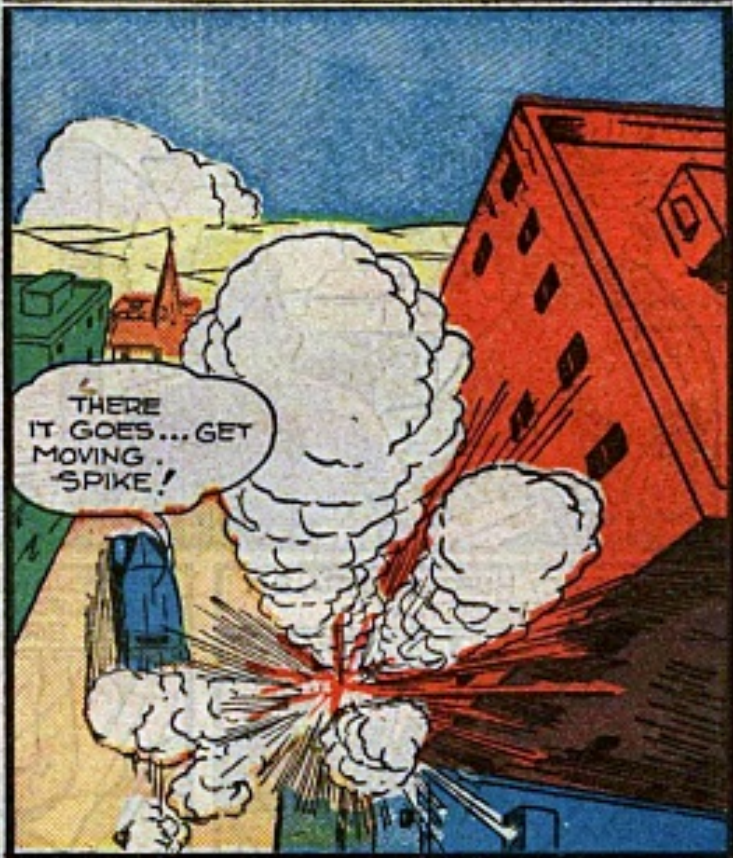
THIS'LL STOP YOU BLUE BEETLE!



HE'S OUT COLD ... C'MON, GET THE REST OF THAT OIL SPREAD AROUND! WE'LL BURN HIM AND THAT NOSEY GIRL REPORTER WITH THE REST OF THE DUMP!

O'KAY, BOSS, IT'S ALL SET. LET'S GO!

THE GANG RUSHES OUT AND AN EXPLOSION SENDS HUNGRY FLAMES SHOOTING UP THROUGH THE BUILDING ...



THERE IT GOES... GET MOVING. SPIKE!



UH... W-WHAT HAPPENED? THIS PLACE IS FULL OF SMOKE - COUGH ... COUGH!

HE STAGGERS TO THE DOOR ...



THIS PLACE IS A ROARING FURNACE!

MEANTIME IN THE LOCKED CLOSET ...



THE PLACE IS ON FIRE ... I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE OR I'LL BE BURNT ALIVE!

HEARING A NOISE HE FORCES OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR



GOOD HEAVENS ... IT'S A GIRL ... HOW DID YOU GET IN THIS INFERNAL PLACE?

I FOLLOWED THE GANG HERE ... THEY DISCOVERED ME AND LOCKED ME IN HERE!



WE'RE IN A BAD SPOT, SISTER, OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO JUMP FROM THIS WINDOW!

WE'RE AWFULLY HIGH... BUT I'M NOT AFRAID... I KNOW YOU... YOU'RE THE BLUE BEETLE, LET'S GO!

HE STANDS DIZZILY FOR A MOMENT ON THE WINDOW SILL AS THE HOT FLAMES LICK HIS BACK.



HANG ON TIGHT, MISS... HERE WE GO!

O'KAY, PARDNER!

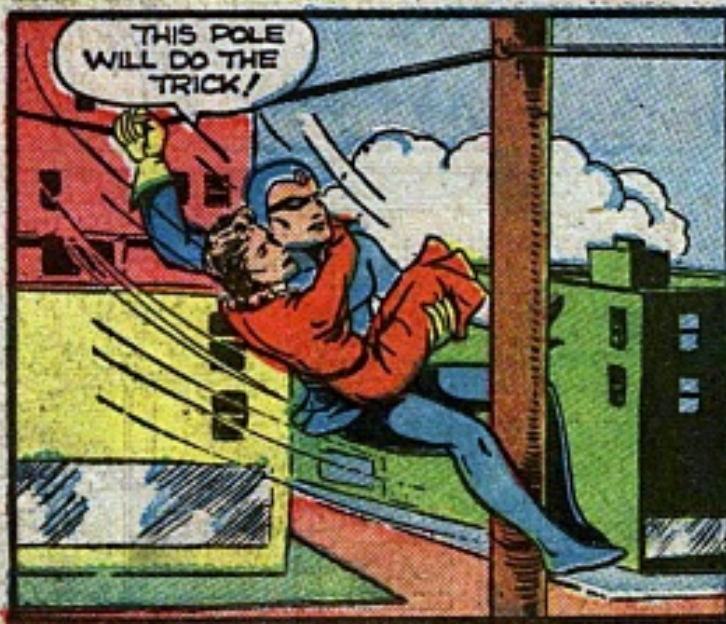
DOWN THEY HURTLE, STRAIGHT FOR THE STREET...



SUDDENLY THE BLUE BEETLE GRABS FOR A SLACK PHONE CABLE BREAKING HIS FALL...



THERE, THAT STOPPED US JUST IN TIME!



THIS POLE WILL DO THE TRICK!



THERE YOU ARE, MISS... SAFE AGAIN!

THAT WAS WONDERFUL... ONLY THE BLUE BEETLE COULD GET OUT OF A TIGHT SPOT LIKE THAT... I'M SURE GLAD THAT YOU SHOWED UP!



O'KAY... BLUE BEETLE!

TURN IN A FIRE ALARM IN THAT BOX DOWN THE STREET, I'M GOING AFTER THAT GANG!



A WHILE LATER THE GANG'S CAR PULLS UP IN FRONT OF ANOTHER VACANT BUILDING...

THIS IS THE NEXT JOB WE'RE PULLING... GET OUT THE STUFF!

THIS LOOKS LIKE AN EASY ONE, BOSS!



YOU STAY DOWN HERE, SPIKE, AND LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING TURNS UP!

I GET YA, BOSS!



THIS IS A SOFT RACKET... YOU PULL A COUPLE OF JOBS AND CLEAN UP! THEY SHOULD BE DOWN PRETTY SOON!



W-WHAT TH'... IT'S THE SIGN OF THE BLUE BEETLE!



I'D BETTER WARN THE GANG UPSTAIRS!



NOT THIS TIME, YOU RAT!

UH... IT'S THE BLUE BEETLE!



SUDDENLY A WEIRD BLUE LIGHT FLOODS THE ROOM

WITH A CRASH THE BLUE BEETLE APPEARS..





THE HEAD OF THE GANG EDGES TOWARD THE DOOR



THE BLUE BEETLE MISSES HIM TOO LATE...



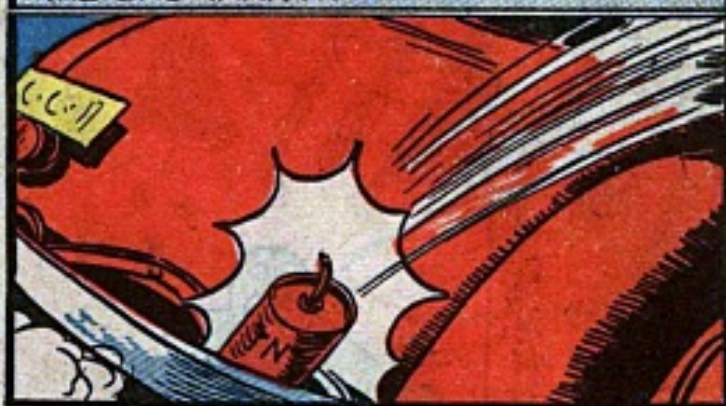
DASHING BACK INTO THE ROOM THE BLUE BEETLE PICKS UP ONE OF THE GANG'S BOMBS AND LIGHTS IT.



WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE HE THROWS THE BOMB DOWN AT THE DEPARTING RINGLEADER'S CAR...



IT CATCHES IN BETWEEN THE BUMPER AND THE GAS TANK ...



... AND EXPLODES TEARING THE CAR TO BITS ...



THE BLUE BEETLE JUST CALLED...GET OVER TO FULTON STREET, HE'S GOT THAT ARSON GANG!

I'M ON MY WAY, AND I'LL GET HIM TOO!

POLICE DEPT



SOME TIME LATER...

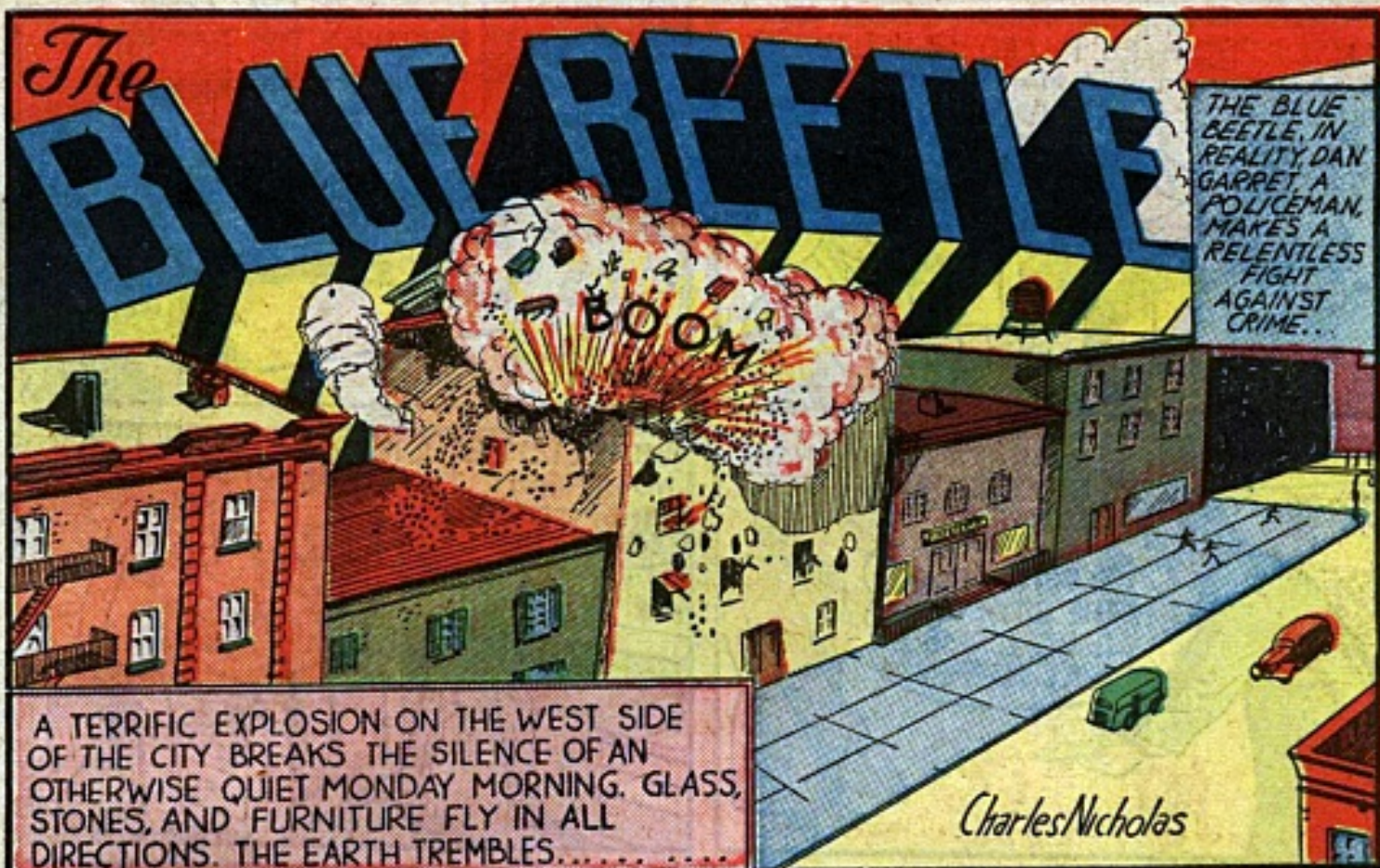
I HEAR YOU ALMOST GOT THE BLUE BEETLE, MIKE!

YEP, DAN, IT WAS AS CLOSE AS THAT...I'LL GET HIM SURE NEXT TIME!



YOU'RE BOUND TO GET HIM, IF YOU KEEP AFTER HIM, MIKE!

THE BLUE BEETLE FIGHTS FOR LAW AND ORDER IN HIS NEXT DARING ADVENTURE



The BLUE BEETLE

THE BLUE BEETLE, IN REALITY, DAN GARRET, A POLICEMAN, MAKES A RELENTLESS FIGHT AGAINST CRIME...

A TERRIFIC EXPLOSION ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE CITY BREAKS THE SILENCE OF AN OTHERWISE QUIET MONDAY MORNING. GLASS, STONES, AND FURNITURE FLY IN ALL DIRECTIONS. THE EARTH TREMBLES.....

Charles Nicholas



DAN GARRET AND HIS FRIEND, MIKE MANNIGAN, ARE PATROLLING THEIR BEAT.

LOOK, MIKE, THAT BUILDING!

GLORY BE!



SOON, THE TWO POLICEMEN ARE IN THE MIDST OF THE CONFUSION, AIDING IN EVERY POSSIBLE WAY.

EASY, MIKE



SEVERAL HOURS LATER

IT'S ALL OVER, MIKE.

SURE, AND IT'S A SORRY SIGHT, DAN.



EXTRA THE RECORD EXTRA
EXPLOSION ROCKS CITY!

EXTREE!
FOURTH
EXPLOSION
THIS
WEEK!

THE MAYOR IS GREATLY DISTURBED BY THE DREAD NEWS OF THE BLAST..



"SEVERAL PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND MANY INJURED."

AND AS USUAL, THEY CAN'T FIND THE CAUSE!

JUST THEN, A MESSENGER BOY BRINGS A TELEGRAM.



THANK YOU, SON.



JOHN, IT SAYS HERE THAT IF I DON'T HAVE THE POWER PLANT SHUT OFF THE SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO THE CITY, SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN!



BUT I'LL DO NOTHING OF THE SORT!

I'LL CALL THE G-MEN, SIR!

THE NEXT DAY, IN THE BASEMENT OF A HOSPITAL, A MAN ATTACHES A QUEER OBJECT TO THE METER..



AH! THIS'LL DO.

SEVERAL MINUTES LATER, HE HURRIEDLY CLIMBS INTO A WAITING AUTO..



NOW THE MAYOR WILL FIND OUT WE WEREN'T BLUFFING!

MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE OPERATING ROOM, A DELICATE OPERATION IS IN PROGRESS.....



MORE LIGHT, NURSE!

THE NURSE REACHES FOR THE SWITCH, AND AS SHE PASSES THE BUTTON.....



BOOM

IN THE BACK ROOM OF A DRUGSTORE, DAN GARRET AND DR. FRANZ DISCUSS THE LATEST NEWS...



THIS IS PROBABLY THE WORK OF SOME MANIAC... PLANS TO TERRORIZE AND ROB THE CITY, DAN!



AND THE REASON HE SO ANXIOUSLY WANTS THE POWER PLANT SHUT DOWN IS SO THAT HE CAN EASILY ROB THE CITY WHEN IT HAS NO ELECTRICITY! THE BLUE BEETLE HAS A BIG JOB TONIGHT!

MEANWHILE, A CAR PULLS UP BEFORE THE POWER HOUSE... AS TWO BURLY MEN GET OUT, THE WATCHMAN APPEARS.



EVERYTHING'S ALL SET, BOYS, COME IN.

INSIDE THE HUGE PLANT...



O.K. BOYS-GET GOING!

SUDDENLY, FROM BEHIND A GENERATOR, RISES THE OMINOUS FIGURE OF THE BLUE BEETLE...



NOT SO FAST, BUD!

HELP!



I'LL GET 'IM!

STOP SQUIRMING!



YOU GOT HIM, JOE!

BANG

NOW WE CAN FINISH OUR JOB!

MIKE MANNIGAN IS PUT ON SPECIAL DUTY TO GUARD THE MAYOR'S SON.



THE KIDNAPPERS TAKE THE MAYOR'S BOY TO A NEARBY LAKE, WHERE A MOTOR-BOAT LIES.



CROSSING THE LAKE, THEY ARRIVE AT A SMALL ISLAND AND OPEN A SECRET DOOR



THE GANGSTERS ENTER A SPACIOUS ROOM. THEIR HEAD, CALLED 'BOSS X', WELCOMES THEM AND THEN ISSUES ORDERS



SOON, BOSS'S MEN BEGIN RAVAGING THE ENTIRE METROPOLIS...



KILLINGS, ROBBERIES AND EXPLOSIONS TAKE PLACE UNDER THE PROTECTING COVER OF DARKNESS.



MEANWHILE, IN HIS CELL, THE BLUE BEETLE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS... AS HE RISES.



IN THE ADJOINING ROOM, THUGS GLOAT OVER A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL DAY...





AS THE THUG LIFTS THE COVER, HIS EYES ALMOST POP OUT OF THEIR SOCKETS



AS SEVERAL THUGS RUSH IN, THEY ARE MET BY THE BLUE BEETLE.



THE GANGSTER PULLS THE TRIGGER, BUT JUST IN TIME, TOM DEFLECTS HIS AIM





RACING DOWNSTAIRS, THE PAIR ARRIVES JUST IN TIME TO SEE A MOTORBOAT LEAVING..



THE BLUE BEETLE DIVESTS HIS HEAVY MAIL COSTUME




WITH POWERFUL STROKES, THE BLUE BEETLE SLIPS SMOOTHLY THROUGH THE SPLASHY WATER.....



IN A FEW MINUTES, THE BLUE BEETLE OVERTAKES THE SPEEDY BOAT..



THE POLICE CHIEF RECEIVES A CALL WHICH HIGHLY EXCITES HIM...



WHAT'S THAT?! THE BLUE BEETLE ON RONAL'S ISLAND? YES, BUT WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?!

ON RONAL'S ISLAND, THE BLUE BEETLE HAS THE SITUATION WELL IN HAND..



AHOY THERE?

HERE COME THE POLICE



I'LL HAVE TO BE GOING NOW, TOM. THANKS FOR SAVING MY LIFE!

AH, GEE, IT WAS NOTHING!



SO LONG, BLUE BEETLE!

CONTINUE THE ADVENTURES OF THE BLUE BEETLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

FOLLOW THE EXCITING ADVENTURES OF THE ONE AND ONLY BLUE BEETLE

NEXT ISSUE OUT JUNE 1st

RESERVE YOUR COPY NOW



THE BLUE BEETLE

THE BLUE BEETLE

by CHARLES NICHOLAS



GOLDEN FEATHER, A FAVORITE OF THE CHARITY RACE HANDICAP IS KIDNAPPED BY A SYNDICATE OF GAMBLERS



RICARDI AND BOLES DID A GOOD JOB. IT WAS A CINCH, EH, PREYSTER

YEAH. WAIT TILL WE ENTER HIM IN THE CHARITY RACE. MONNETT



I AM ASSIGNING YOU TO THE CHARITY RACE. I'VE A TIP THAT THERE'S SOMETHING CROOKED AFOOT

WE'LL DO OUR BEST

YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME



HOT DAWG. I'VE NEVER SEEN THE CHARITY RACES

DON'T BET OR YOU'LL HAVE TO HOOF IT HOME IF YOU LOSE

GARRETT AND MANNIGAN ARE WALKING IN THE HALL



AT THE TRACK

I'M BETTING ON "BROWN STAR"

"BROWN STAR" FOR ME, TOO

BROWN STAR



SUDDENLY SOMETHING DROPS FROM THE ROOF





AND YOU ASKED FOR THIS!
SPOIL YOUR GAME,
WILL YOU!!



GOT TO HAND IT
TO YOU, PREYSTER

WE'LL GET RID
OF HIM THE USUAL
WAY



GIVE IT
TO HIM,
BOYS

YEAH, SAY
YOUR PRAYERS



MANNIGAN DOES A LITTLE INVESTIGATING
OF HIS OWN... AND HEARS THE NOISE. —

THE BLUE BEETLE,
EH?— REACH FOR
THE SKY



TAKE THAT,
HARNESSE
BULL

BANG!



GET THE CAR. WE'VE
SOME WORK BEFORE
BLOWING TOWN

POOR
MANNIGAN



KEEP YOUR EYE
ON THE BLUE
BEETLE

BETCHA







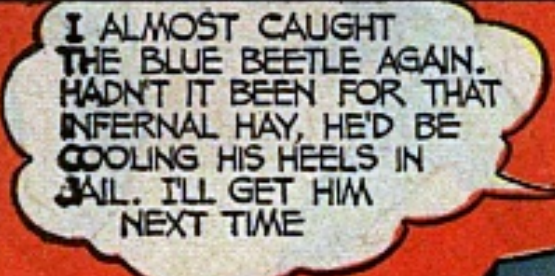
MIKE MANNIGAN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS



HAY OVERWHELMS MANNIGAN



THE NEXT DAY--



WATCH FOR THE "BLUE BEETLE" IN THE NEXT ISSUE!!

NEXT ISSUE OF BLUE BEETLE OUT JUNE 1st

THE BIG
5
OF COMICS



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