

THE BUZZ WORD

Well, Hornet fans, this month marks the last instalment of **KATO OF THE GREEN HORNET** and the second issue of **TALES OF THE GREEN HORNET**. **KATO** has been pretty popular, and we are currently planning **KATO II**. We are discussing this possibility with Mike Baron and Val Mayerik.

TALES is doing well, too. It seems that many of you wanted to see the origin of the Green Hornet with your own eyes. Remember that after the origin story, James Van Hise will be giving you action-packed tales about each generation of the Hornet!

Read on, and the mystery of the Black Beauty will be revealed to you!

Joan M. Weis, Editor

THE BUZZ WORD
c/o NOW Comics
60 Revere Dr., Suite 200
Northbrook, IL 60062

Dear Buzz Word:

Here is the lowdown on the Black Beauty mystery: Dean Jeffries (not George Barris) built two Black Beauties in 1966 for the TV series. In the late '70s, Jeffries sold one of the cars to Barris. Jeffries kept the other car, and still has it to this day.

Barris then made a copy of his car (a bad one at that) and toured it for a few years. Then, Barris sold the original to the car museum in Chicago that was mentioned in **THE HORNET #2**. The copy was sold in an auction in 1983 to Walsh Trucking in North Bergen, New Jersey.

A few years ago, the car museum in Chicago went out of business, and a local doctor bought the car. After a couple of years sitting in a barn, it was bought by Vintage Motorcars Showplace in Cleveland, Ohio.

Before being sold to the woman in Michigan mentioned in issue 5, it was on display in March of 1991 at the Chicago

Hero Con with guests Van Williams and Wende Wagner, the stars of the TV series.

As for the fake Black Beauty in New Jersey, after sitting for a few years, it was taken to a local body and paint shop for restoration. While there, the owner of the shop made his own copy from the copy. This copy of the copy has been displayed at a couple of conventions, at which Van Williams was a guest.

I hope this clears up all the Black Beauty questions out there. I think the fans deserve to know.

Best regards,
Mark Puette
733 Brandlewood Way
Lilburn, GA 30247

Dear Mark:

Thus ends the Black Beauty mystery. Thanks for your help!

Dear Joan:

THE GREEN HORNET #3 was the most impressive issue of this title since it has returned from its hiatus.

Newell's cover was extremely nice. Did he use acrylics and/or some sort of wash to get this particular look? The interior Smith/Mowry visuals were also much less cartoonish this time around and, as a direct result, were much more effective. I was quite pleased to see the real Chuck Dixon step forward and assume the series' writing chores.

I enjoyed "Money to Burn" immensely, and as long as NOW is able to offer me such a quality product, I'll support it both financially and by word of mouth.

Peace,
Uncle Elvis Orten
Dawson Springs, KY

Dear Uncle Elvis:

For the cover of #3, Eddy started with a green board, on which he sketched a rough drawing. Next he applied watercolors and used col-

ored pencils for detail. The acrylics were used only to highlight.

I and many other people agree that Smith and Mowry get better and better as a team, especially when interpreting Chuck Dixon stories. Thanks for all of your support.

Dear Joan:

THE GREEN HORNET #3 was the first issue of this title that I purchased, but it most assuredly will not be the last.

The writing is interesting, the visuals are pretty nice, and the actual characters are almost mesmerizing.

The Hornet, as well as his blood relation the Lone Ranger, is truly a timeless character. And, speaking of the Ranger, why not give him his own monthly book?

Olivia Y. Rice
Nashville, TN

Dear Olivia:

We are, in fact, looking into the possibility of a Lone Ranger comic. Nothing is definite yet, but we're optimistic. Thanks for the comments!

NEXT ISSUE: The experimental police vehicle "Beast" is stolen by the Skid brothers who chase down the Black Beauty with the intention of destroying her, along with the Hornet and Kato!



The Buzz Word
c/o NOW Comics
60 Revere Dr., Suite 200
Northbrook, IL 60062

Dear NOW:

In issue 2 of THE GREEN HORNET, the subject of the TV series' Black Beauty was discussed. Well, lo and behold, a month later I'm looking in the October 1990 issue of the *DuPont Registry of Cars* (I work for an auto dealership), and what do I see but the Black Beauty herself. The time I spent torturing myself by looking at cars I couldn't afford in three lifetimes paid off. For now I'm able to perform a service for the best comics publisher in the world.

I'm proud to have helped locate the Black Beauty, and I love NOW Comics — especially THE GREEN HORNET.

Sincerely,
Hans C. Hush
Poughkeepsie, NY

Dear Hans:

Thanks for the information. Steve Chapman of *DuPont Publishing, Inc.* in Tampa, Florida, kindly gave me permission to print the Black Beauty excerpt from the *DuPont Registry of Cars*. Nick Deeter of *Vintage Motorcars Showplace* in Cleveland, Ohio (the company that placed the spot in the *DuPont Registry*), gave me permission to reprint the spot as well. He also gave me some valuable information.

He clarified that Dean Jeffries created the Beauty, and George Barris customized it. The Beauty shown in this picture was sold in September of 1991 to a woman from Michigan. Neither Mr. Chapman nor Mr. Deeter has any more information on the Hornet's cars, but I'm sure they will let me know if they hear anything further.

Now that we've successfully found one Black Beauty, let's work on finding the others! Write me if you have any leads, HORNET fans!

Dear Joan:

Issue three of THE GREEN HORNET was a much more solid issue. Thanks for clearing up the relation of Diana [see *The Buzz Word* from #3].

The Crimson Wasp/Mishi has stolen the spotlight of the story. But don't be too anxious to reveal the mystery. Let it be savored.

I feel it's good to have a deluxe format book such as this which does not have gratuitous language or violence making it a "mature" book.

Melissa Page
Nortonville, KY

Dear Melissa:

Don't worry; we're not going to give away the mystery of Mishi just yet. Thanks for the comments.

Dear NOW:

It's great to have THE GREEN HORNET back. I've been a fan since the television series. The 1940s serial offers another



THE GREEN HORNET "BLACK BEAUTY" WONDER CAR

Built by George Barris, creator of other Hollywood Star cars such as the BATMOBILE, the MUNSTERMOBILE and the MONKEYMOBILE. This unique television car which is loaded with special features, is finished in 30 coats of metal-flake pure black green pearl of essence lacquer. First was the movie Batman, now Dick Tracy. Will the next comic book character movie be the Green Hornet???



written comic on the market. The artwork both on the covers and between them is magnificent. The best part is that there is no unnecessary violence. Keep up the great work, and please reconsider Mishi!

Take Care,
Mike Zunino
Eatontown, NJ

Dear Mike:

Mishi will never be Kato again, but as you can see, we've brought her back as a new character with great potential: The Crimson Wasp. As for your confusion about the licensor, the comic/licensor relationship is more symbiotic than you think. They aren't an outside source; they own the trademarks on THE GREEN HORNET. We cooperate with each other to keep the storyline and characters consistent and to keep things interesting. The licensor simply felt that this new Kato (Mishi) was not consistent with the Kato of the past. Just think of all of the excitement everyone would have missed out on if Mishi were still Kato, and there was no Crimson Wasp.

The dead has arisen!

NOW Comics and THE HORNET are back with a new logo! Nice. "Money Talks" is a fantastic story, from the first panels with the voice-commanded Black Beauty to the last with her boxed in. As Kato said, bring back the Lincoln (Chrysler Crown Imperial). Is the Black Beauty still in the Chicago Historical Antique Automobile Museum in Highland Park? I'm looking forward to future GREEN HORNET titles!

Ed Spyra
Tuscon, AZ

Dear Ed:

I checked thoroughly (information, several phone books, the Encyclopedia of Associations, and

the Illinois Department of Tourism) and discovered that not only is the Black Beauty not in Illinois, but there are no antique auto museums in the state! If anyone out there has information on where any of the Black Beauty models are, please write in and tell us.

Dear NOW:

I have never bought comics made by anyone other than DC and Marvel, but I picked up THE GREEN HORNET and was more than pleasantly surprised by just how great this book is. There seems to be something extra in the storyline and the art that other books just don't have. I can't wait until all of THE GREEN HORNET spin-offs are released. I just hope that you plan on giving your new readers insight into this character's background.

Sincerely Yours,
Richard Azzolino
Brooklyn, NY

Dear Richard:

In that case, you'll be pleased to know that we have a new monthly comic coming out this fall called TALES OF THE GREEN HORNET. This series will reinforce the lineage that was established in our previous GREEN HORNET series, and it will include some classic HORNET stories. The first issues will relate the origin of THE HORNET and how he met Kato. This full-color monthly is a must if you need background.

Also, check the comic shops for old issues #1 and #2, which contain the Reid and the Kato family trees; and get your hands on a collectors' edition of old issue #1, which doesn't have a family tree, but has a detailed family history.