

CRUSADER RABBIT

in Bubble Trouble

Authorized Edition



TOP | TOP
TALES

Whitman



CRUSADER RABBIT

in Bubble Trouble

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pictures by ROBERT BEMILLER and JAN NEELY





“There, that does it!” said Rags Tiger happily. And he stood back to read the sign he had just painted.



SUPER
DELIVERY
SERVICE
WE DELIVER
ANYTHING
ANYTIME
ANYWHERE

C. Rabbit, Pres.
Q. Tiger, Vice Pres.

25¢



“Look! Here comes our first customer!” exclaimed Crusader Rabbit excitedly as a man approached.



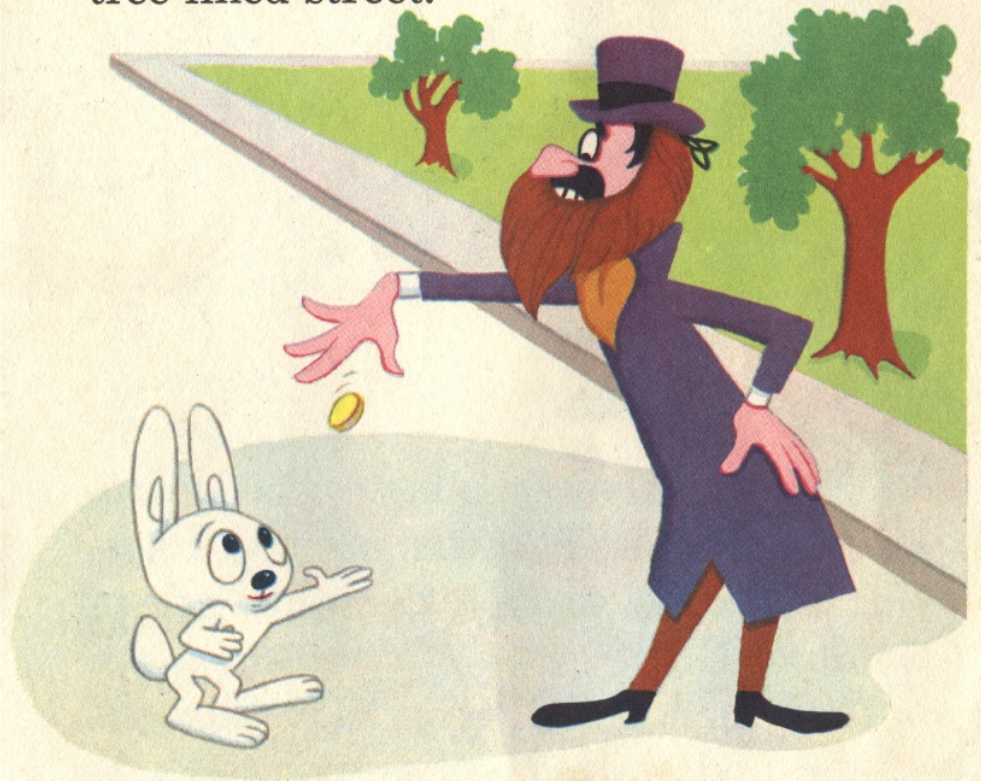
The man carried a big box that rattled as he set it on the counter. “Deliver this immediately!” he said gruffly. “Here’s the address!”



Crusader and Rags read the card. "To Mrs. Rose Bud, One Ghost Road, from Billie Bud."

"That's twenty-five cents, please," Crusader said, holding out his hand.

"Here's the money. I'd take it myself but I've got other business!" the man grumbled, and he almost ran down the tree-lined street.





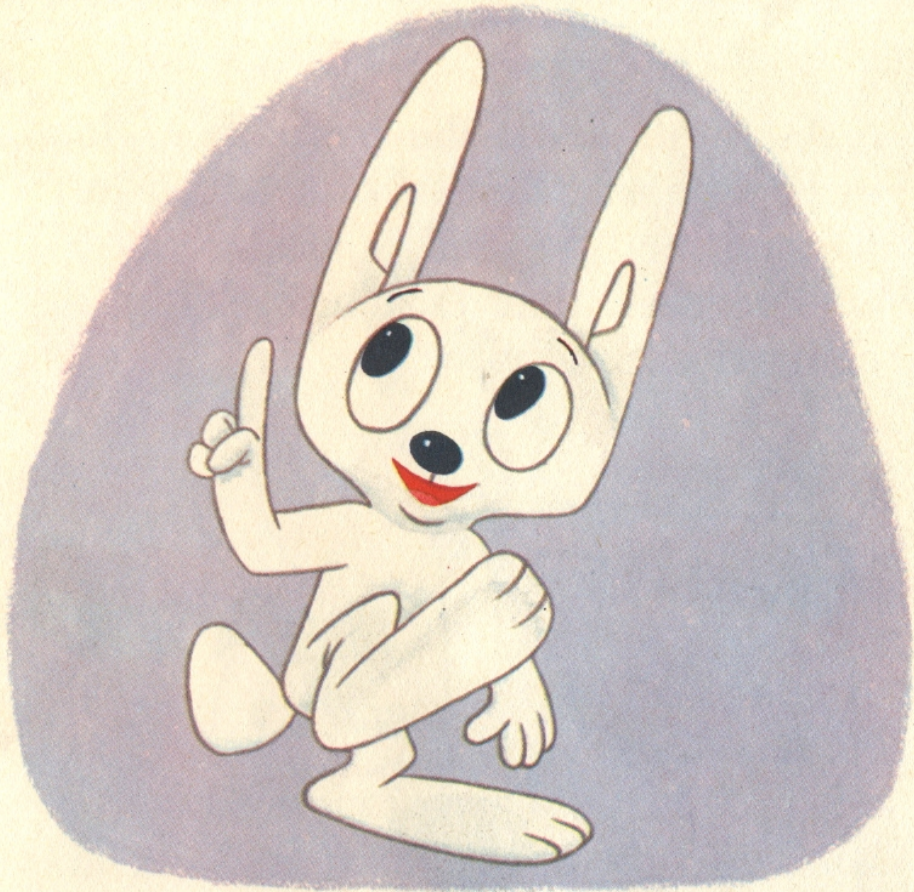
"He certainly is in a hurry!" said Crusader. "And we'd better be, too, Rags. Ghost Road is 'way on the other side of Galahad Glen!"

They loaded the bulky box into the wagon and started across town.

As they passed the post office, Rags stopped short. "Hey, look at that poster!" he said, and he read it aloud.

"I've seen that face before!" he exclaimed excitedly.





“Oh, Rags,” laughed Crusader. “You and your imagination! C’mon, we’ve got work to do!”



It was growing dark as they turned into Ghost Road. “Golly,” whispered Rags, “it sure is spooky around here!”

“Nothing to be afraid of,” replied Crusader bravely. “Where do you suppose the house is?”

Rags gulped. "I think th-th-that's it!"
And he pointed to an old house hanging
on the edge of a high cliff. "It l-l-looks
k-k-kind of *haunted!*"



"Now, there you go again!" Crusader
chuckled. "What an imagination!"





Just then a voice called, "Yoo-hoo! I've been waiting for you!"

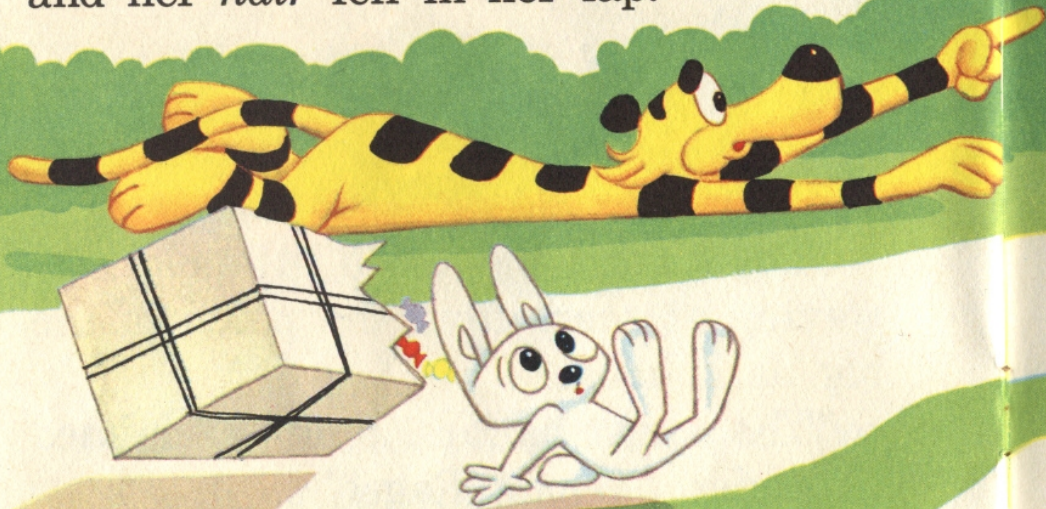


They turned and saw a little old lady waving at them from the porch of the big dark house.

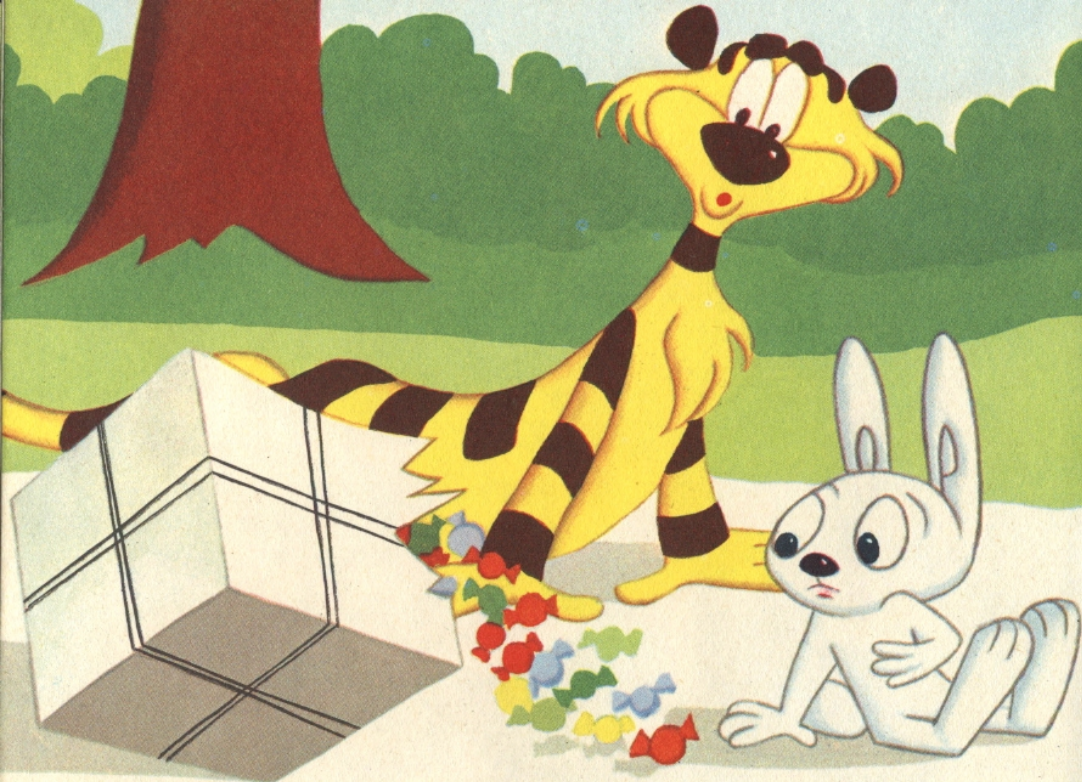
"That must be Mrs. Bud!" exclaimed Crusader. "C'mon, Rags!"

Mrs. Bud greeted them with a croaking laugh and said, "Just bring the box in here, dearies." And she backed toward the door.

Suddenly a big black cat swooped past them, tripping Crusader and Rags and tripping the little old lady. Her glasses flew to one side, her bonnet to the other, and her *hair* fell in her lap!



"Hey!" shouted Rags. "She's a MAN!"



"And look what was in the box!" cried Crusader. "BUBBLE GUM! This must be Bulgy Bill's hide-out!"

"Now I know! That face on the poster!" Rags exclaimed. "Bulgy Bill was our first customer!"



"You're right!" snarled the little man as he got to his feet. "Only Bulgy Bill is really Dudley Nightshade! My name's Robin Hoodlum!"

Then he turned and called, "Hey, gang! We got company!"

Crusader and Rags gasped as four tough characters surrounded them.

"Al and Sam, take these two and lock 'em in the storeroom till the boss gets here," ordered Robin Hoodlum.



They pushed Crusader and Rags into a large room stacked high with boxes of stolen bubble gum.

Crusader glanced around quickly for some way to escape.



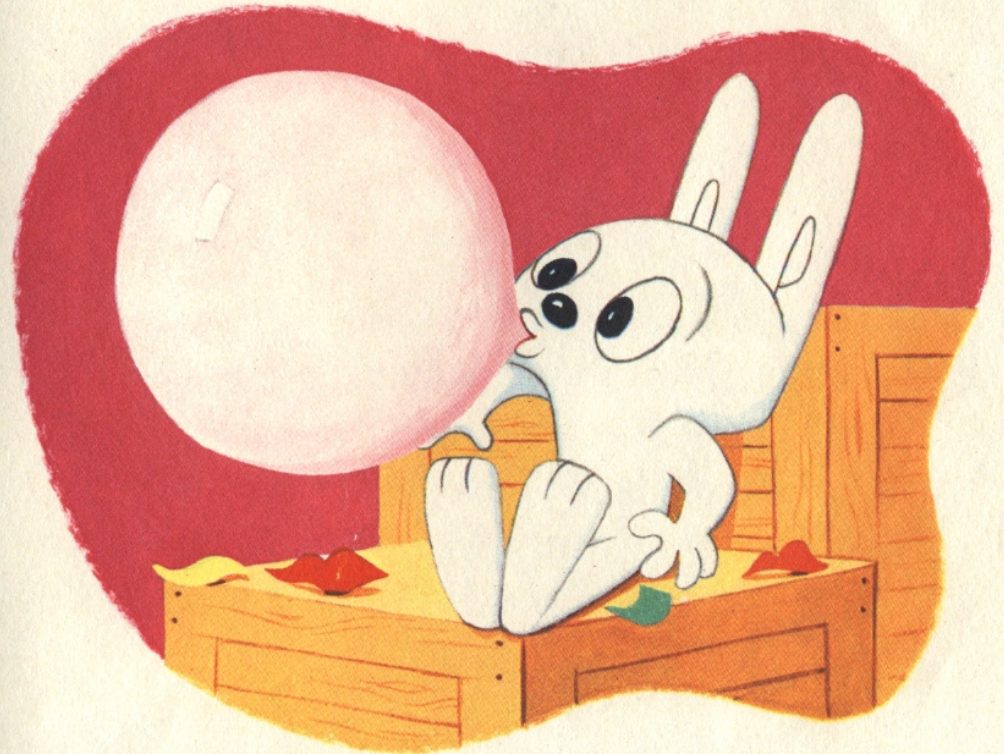
“Look, Rags!” he shouted. “A window! We can get out that way!”

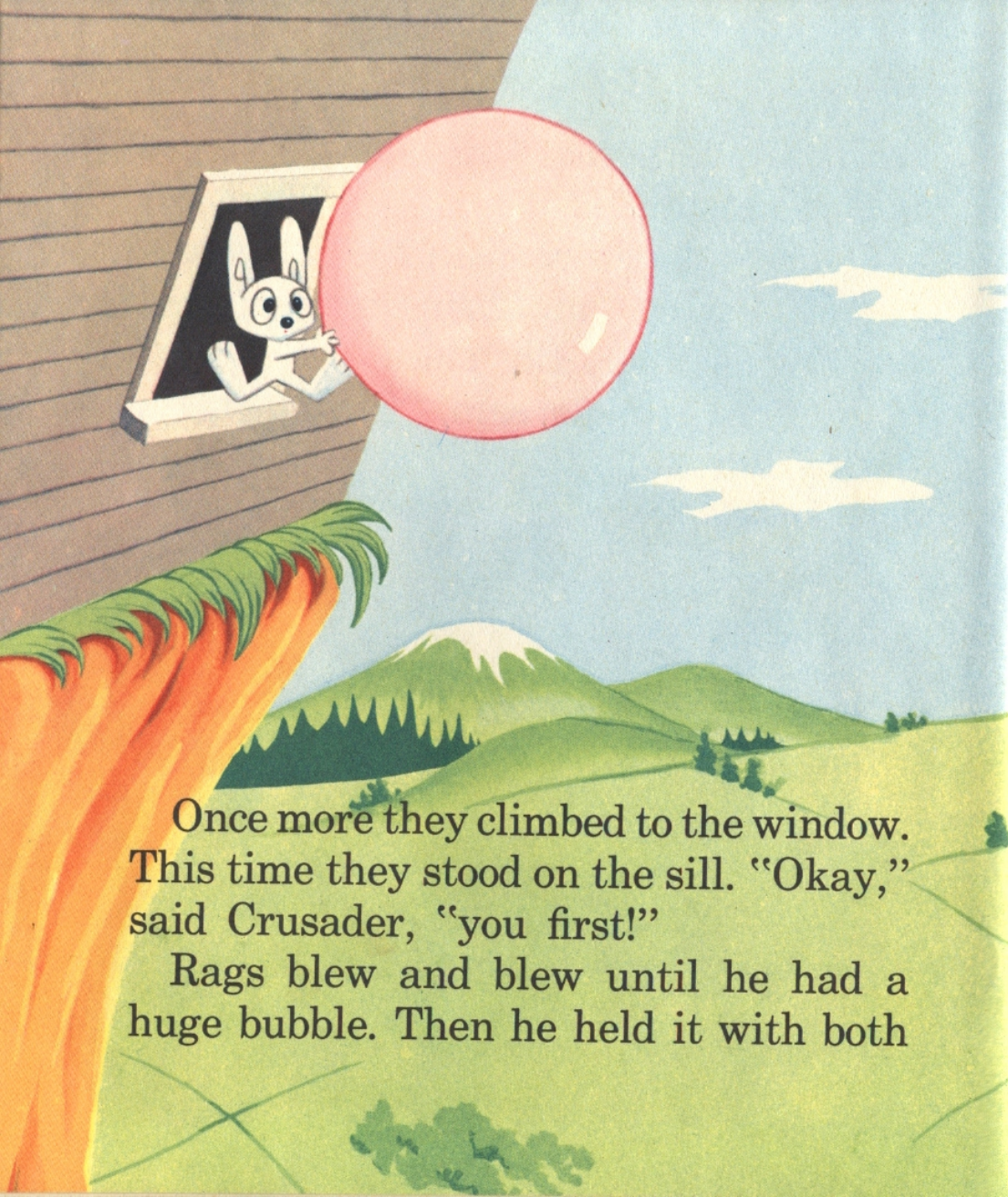
They climbed to the tiny opening high in the wall and looked out. “Oh, no!” groaned Rags. “It must be at least a hundred feet down there! We need wings, or a balloon!”

“That’s it!” cried Crusader. “I’ve got a plan! Listen.”

Quickly they tore open the boxes and began chewing gum. Then they practiced blowing bubbles. Big ones.

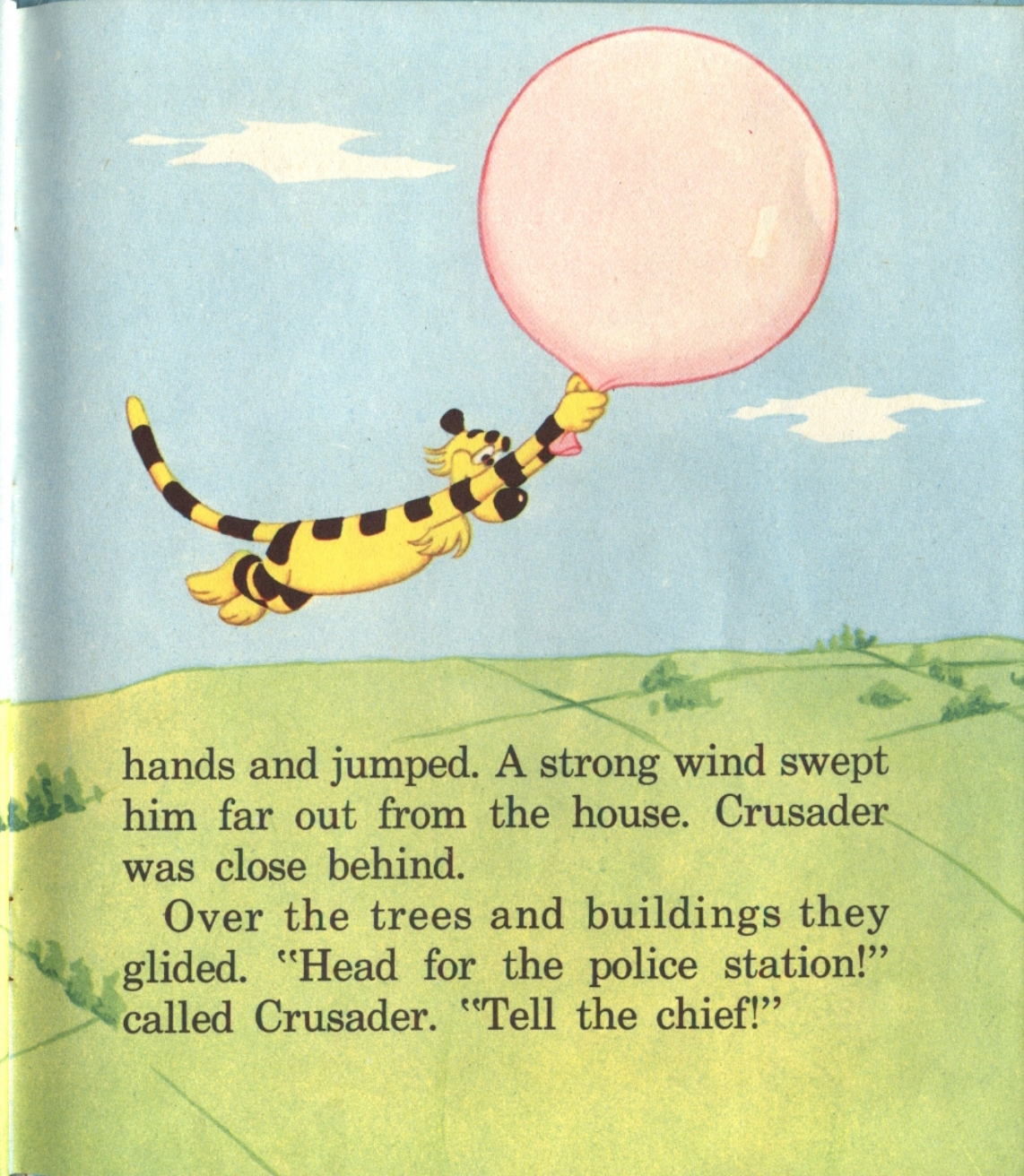
Finally Crusader said, “I think this’ll do it. C’mon!”





Once more they climbed to the window. This time they stood on the sill. "Okay," said Crusader, "you first!"

Rags blew and blew until he had a huge bubble. Then he held it with both



hands and jumped. A strong wind swept him far out from the house. Crusader was close behind.

Over the trees and buildings they glided. "Head for the police station!" called Crusader. "Tell the chief!"

A short time later, all the crooks were behind bars—Robin Hoodlum, Al Catraz, Sam Quinten, and even the head of the gang, Dudley Nightshade, alias Bulgy Bill!



“Nice work, boys,” said the mayor, shaking hands with Crusader and Rags. “You really BLEW UP the bubble gum gang! And here’s your reward!”

"Wow!" shouted Crusader Rabbit.
"Now we can open our Super Duper
Delivery Service, eh, Rags?"

"You bet," Rags called. "But I'm going
to do some more sign painting *first!*"

