

RONDOUT  COMICS

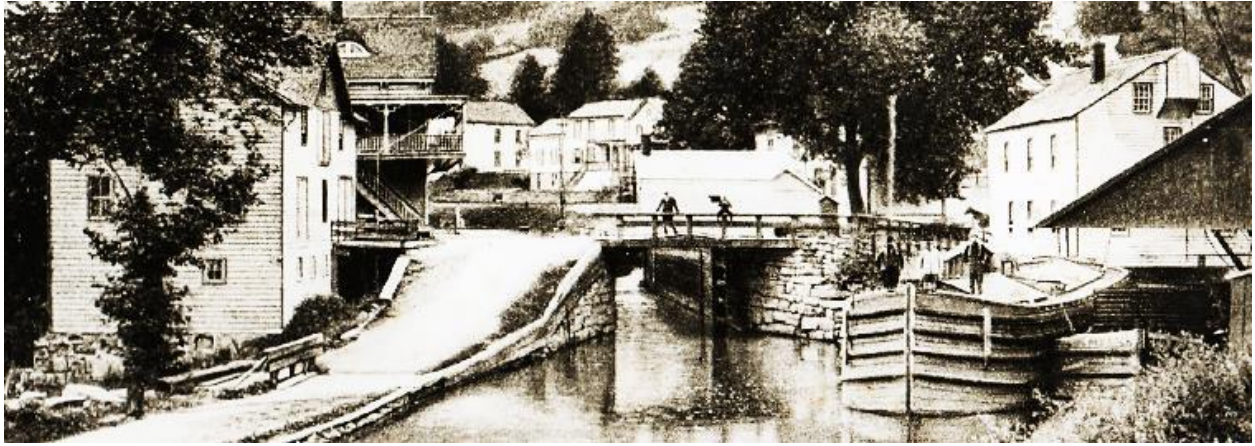
FREE & Fully Illustrated

From Eddyville, New York



AFTERLIFE

by Kevin Ahearn



Eddyville, New York 19th Century



The Creator – Walter B. Gibson 1931

Cover: George Rozen – “Creeping Death”

Part 3



"What now?"

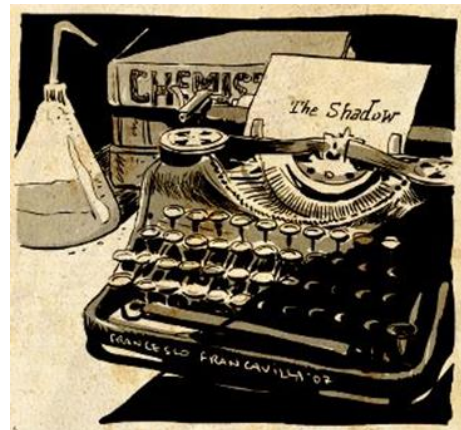
"Do I have a future?"

"Where else is there left to go?"

December 6, 1985



"Walter B. Gibson is gone. The ambulance came first, then the police. For crowd control! They feared the magic crowd and SHADOW fans would charge into Eddyville and overrun the house."



"That did not happen, and with not a word being typed in every room, the house got very quiet."

"For far too long."

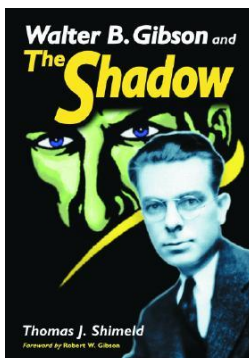
January 11, 1986



***"From up and down the RONDOUT,
and around the world, magic fans and
'SHADOWphiles' converged on St. John's Episcopal
Church in Kingston, on the Rondout to celebrate
the life and the immortality of my creator!"***



*"Walter's death ended one of the last links with
what has been termed "The Golden Age of Magic."
Walter could not only do magic - he was magic.
His interest in magic characterized his entire life."*





*"Walter consorted with legends,
and created a legend.
Now Walter, too, has become
a legend."*

*"Walter left this world on St. Nicholas Day,
and he was a indeed a kind of St. Nicholas
person - somewhat childlike, generous,
great company, conservative, sharing,
easy to be with, and easy to love. Walter was
a wonderful friend I shall always remember,
and shall always miss."*



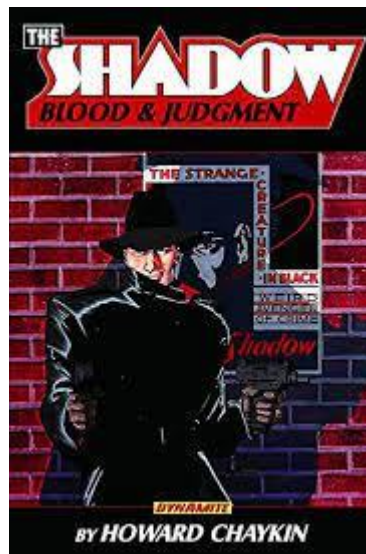
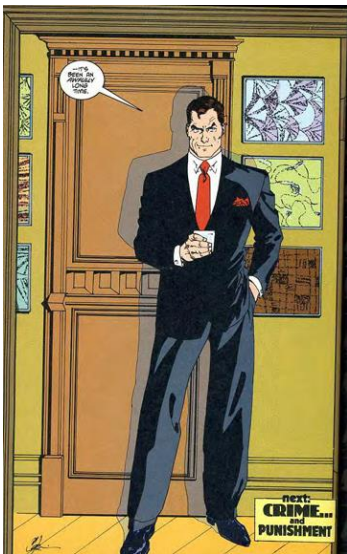
"Ha Ha Ha Ha Ha!"

***"Who knows what lies at the bottom of Rondout Creek?
Once the Enigma of All Media, magazines and movies,
reduced to a shadow of the SHADOW,
that's all I know now!"***

***"I am the spirit of Walter B. Gibson, the chimera of
his immortal creation!"***



*"Now all the world is holds me
to ridicule! And just when I believed
my afterlife could not get any worse..."*

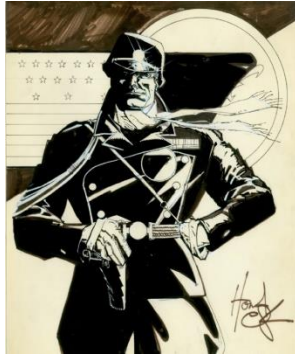


1986 – "He's back. God Help the Guilty!"



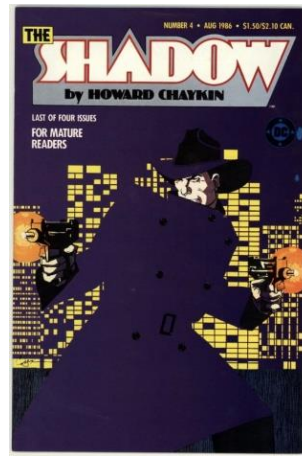
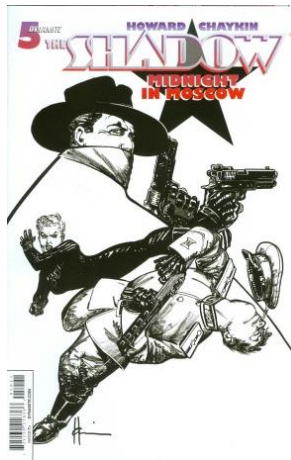
*"My Shadow was "going to piss the
fuck out of the 40-year old Shadow
fans. This I do affirm.
"I'm sure that the die-hard Shadow fans*

out there are going to much prefer the traditional approach because I'm sure that they do feel that Gibson's works shouldn't be tampered with."



"Gutless hack! You butchered me even worse than BLACKHAWK!"

"I don't believe that The Shadow as a property is a property worth approaching with that reverence."



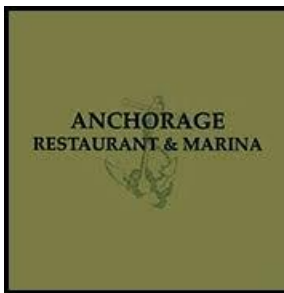
"A veritable tragedy! Just because you can draw me doesn't mean you can tell my story! You're not fit to change my Creator's ribbons!"



"Take the Rondout Creek Bridge out of Kingston and discover that Eddyville has been split in two, Upper and Lower Eddyville, on the Rondout."



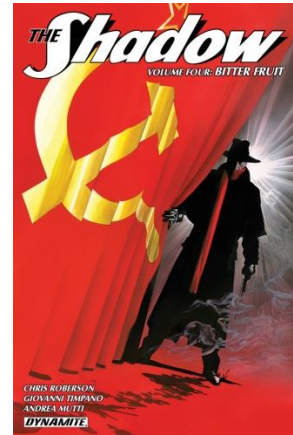
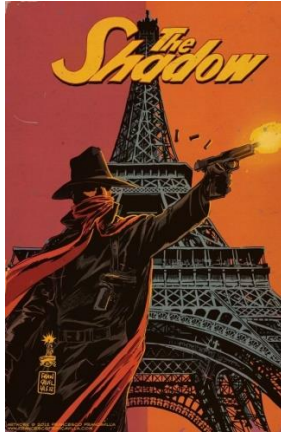
"Life as we know it in Eddyville? Just one place guaranteed!"



"Great food, great service, great prices, but..."



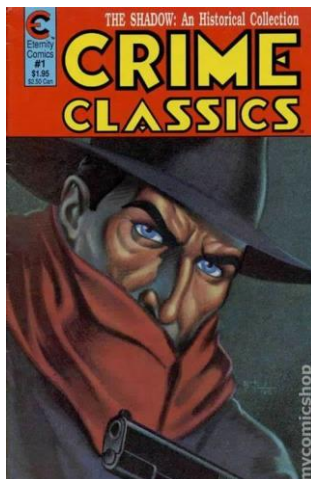
"PLEASE, don't tell anyone the SHADOW sent you!"



*"I've traveled the world to fight dozens of foes,
and Eddyville was the final home of my creator..."*



"On the Rondout!"



*"Oh, that nostalgia market! Royalties on reprints
kept paying the mortgage! The magical Litzka
would never have a want in her life!"*

In my afterlife, I had plenty...



"I missed the town where the SHADOW made his chops..."
"And I only root for teams older than I am!"



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*"New York City is a teeming collection of societies,
people of all colors and creeds, and gangsters
of every ilk."*



"Compared to the villains I faced in full color – PUNKS!"

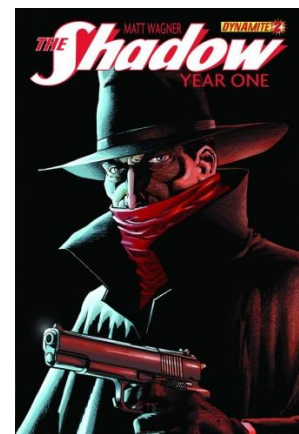
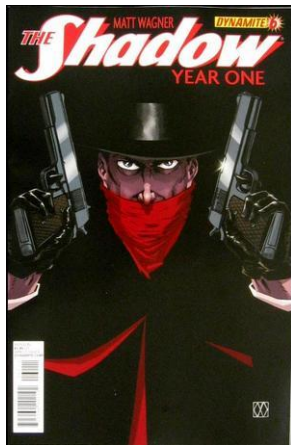




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“Organized crime had a retirement policy; A pat on the back administered by machinegun bullets!”



“You bet I gunned down more than my share. The weed of crime bears bitter fruit.”

1983



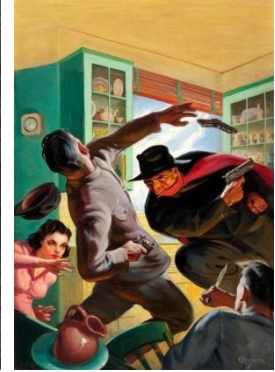
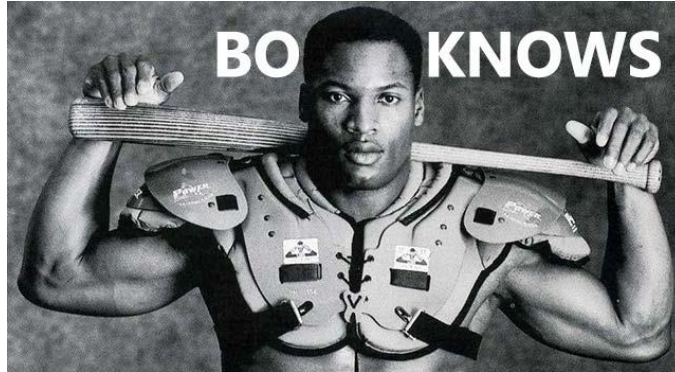
“NY’s new DA came on like gangbusters, convicting the last of the ‘God fathers’ One underling at a time, all the way to the top!”



Best Breakfast on the Rondout



"PLEASE, do NOT tell anyone The SHADOW sent you!"



"By 1990, America knew 'Who knows!'"



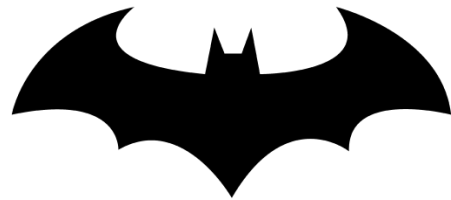
"The City wore on me to the point where I had to get away, up the Hudson, make a left at the Kingston/Rondout Lighthouse!"



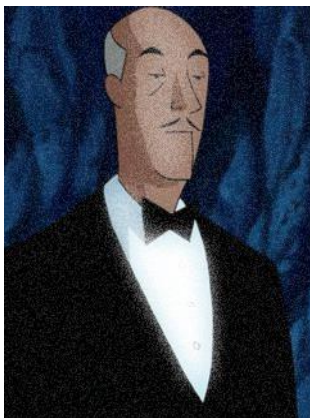
"I had lived a full, worldly life, took more than a few, and saved maybe twice that many, at least!"



"But I never found peace until Eddyville, on the Rondout!"



***"But it won't be peace that keeps the SHADOW alive!
The 'Master of Darkness' is no longer marketable on his own!
I needed a 'headliner' to stay in print and who more
appropriate than the hero who would not exist if
not for me!"***





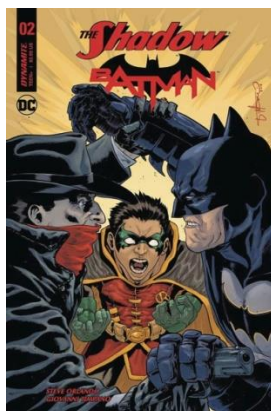
“Finally, the true story of the young Bruce Wayne held hostage in the middle of a bank hold-up!

“And seemingly from nowhere, the SHADOW appears and with a blow to the jaw of one thug and from a difficult angle, a bullet through the head of the second. That’s the SHADOW for you!”

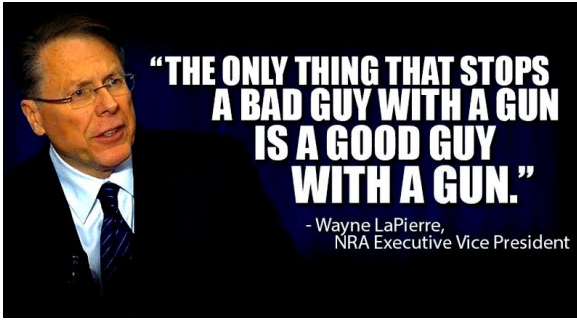


“So much in common.”

“Holy rip-off”!



“Batman declined my Colt 1911.”



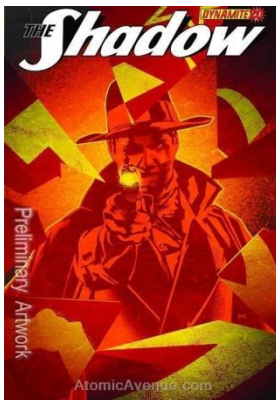
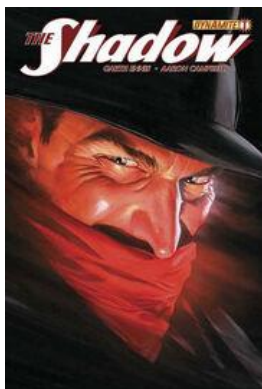
"Or two!"



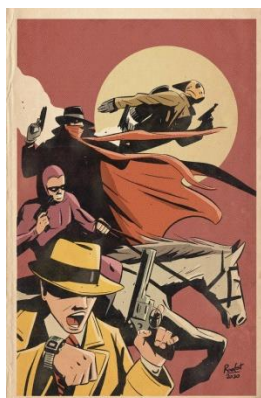
"The ideal America Hero, a Man in Black with a Gun!"



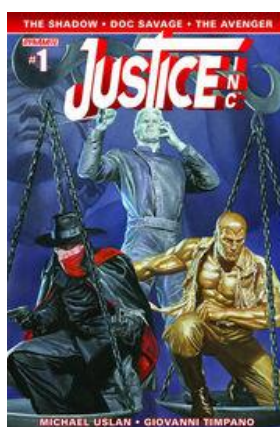
"I left all those cowboys in the dust!"



"Comic books, comic books, once the very bottom of literature! Now they are saving my afterlife!"



"And the 'team-ups'! Anything to sell, sell, SELL! Or was this yet another sign that I could not sell on my own?"



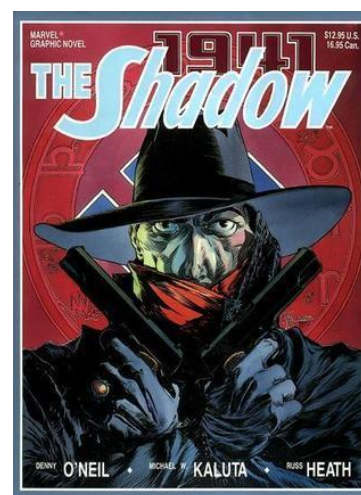
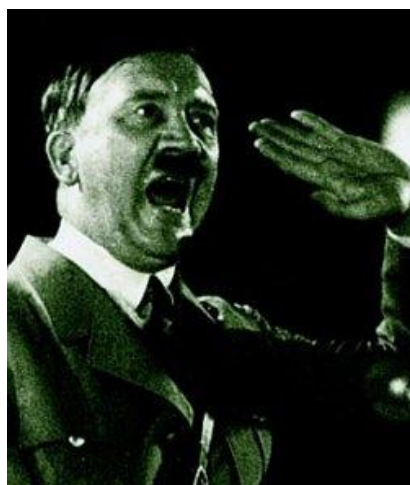
"Comic books are a stopgap, only delaying my final plunge into obscurity and literary extinction!"



'An equal to my creator...'



*"A posthumous tribute to giants of fantasy!
I felt honored to be a part of it!"*



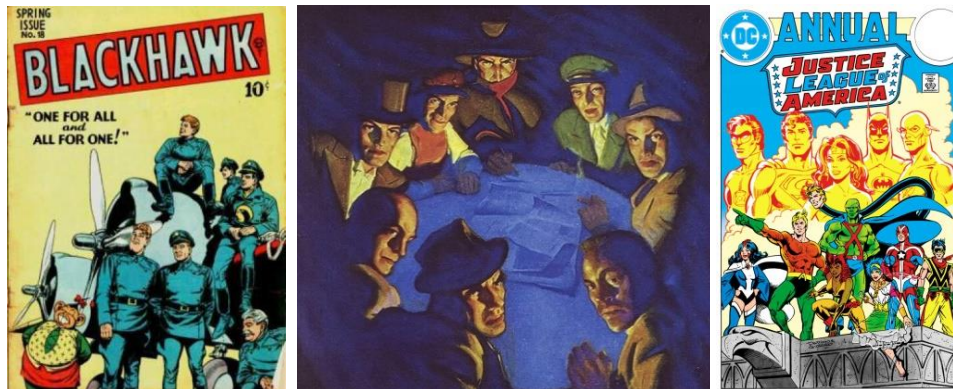
*"And in my humble opinion, the best SHADOW
Comic ever was published by...MARVEL!"*



"My dedicated team, an international cadre of specialists!"



"Crimefighting in complete secrecy!"



"A full decade before the BLACKHAWKS and thirty years before the JLA, my team and I took on the world's worst and won!"



"My finest agent and the love of my life – Margo Lane!"



“Walter Gibson did not create Margo; she was ‘born on the radio.’

“Walter was pressured into her addition by Street & Smith, who wanted the magazine to reflect the radio program more closely.

“Before Margo, I was distant and from my agents; after her arrival, things were more like a family rather than the efficient spy ring they had operated as for years.



“Originally, Margo bungled frequently and I had to repeatedly rescue her. With time, she found operating in high-society circles to be her area of expertise.

“However, the magazine adventures would never be the same as they had in the beginning...

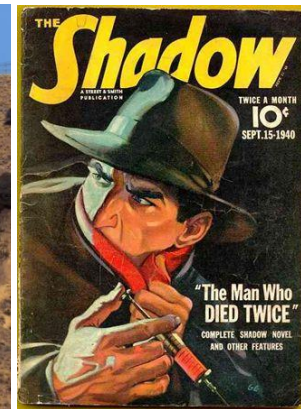
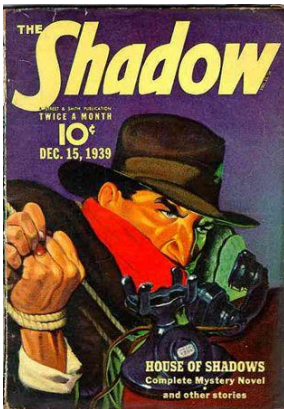
“Two things to remember: Margo is NOT dead and she is NOT Lois Lane’s older sister!”



“I’m not dead either, merely ‘between publications’, a dying media of diminishing returns. For the SHADOW to be resurrected, I’ve got to be in a blockbuster movie, a grand production in Technicolor!”



"I could not help but think of Walter – all the sweat and pained fingers to create me, and for the most part, television and Hollywood never did him or me justice!"

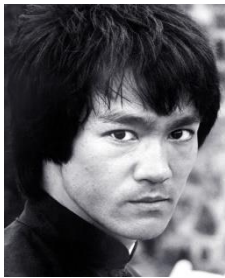


"But I was 'pulp' and the beancounters judged me a 'risky investment'."



"I was left to imagine what new take on me Hollywood might ...if they had any guts!"

1950s



"The brilliant Howard Hawks with Brando, Monroe and as my Asian arch enemy. This kid from Hong Kong!"

1960s



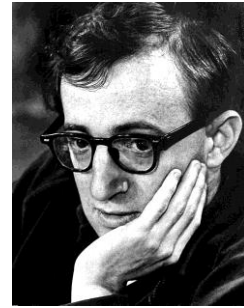
"An R-Rated bloodbath kills almost every hoodlum in New York City!"

1970s



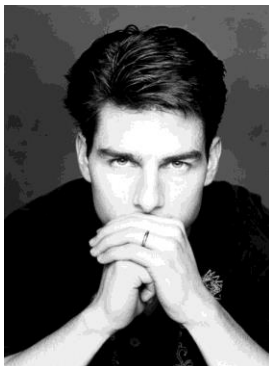
"A black & white cheapo and me with a mustache!"

1980s



"I bet they'll go through a hundred young actresses before they finally cast Margo Lane!"

1990s?



"Who knows what lurks in the minds of Hollywood honchos?"

"Sure wish I did!"

Next...

