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## A SUPER FIND

Imagine finding a valuable item hidden in a wall. What if it was worth more than the house it was found in? Now that would be an amazing find.

David Gonzalez fixes up old homes. In 2013, he was working on a house he had bought in Minnesota. Gonzalez tore down the walls and ceiling. Newspapers from 70 years ago had been stuffed inside. They had been used as insulation. As Gonzalez removed the papers, he came across something amazing. It was a copy of *Action Comics No. 1*.

This very rare comic book is from 1938. Within its pages, Superman appears for the first time. Today, the Man of Steel is one of the most popular superheroes ever.

Gonzalez did some research. The comic

was very valuable. He decided to auction it off. A fierce bidding war occurred. Many people wanted this rare comic. It eventually sold for \$175,000. That is over 17 times more than what Gonzalez paid for the house.

Another copy of the comic sold for \$2.16 million in 2011. That one was in better condition than Gonzalez's find. His copy could have sold for more. But the cover was damaged.

Work continued on the house. Gonzalez soon made another discovery. Another comic book had been hidden in the walls. This one was *Superman No. 4* from 1940. It was estimated to be worth between \$500 and \$5,000. That was much less than his first find. But it was still a lot of money. Especially since all Gonzalez had to do to find it was knock down a wall.

## THE STRANGE TRUTH

- ◆ Gonzalez sometimes leaves money in the walls of houses that he is working on. He hopes it might be discovered by someone in the future.
- ◆ Fifty-one people bid on Gonzalez's copy of *Action Comics No. 1*.
- ◆ Gonzalez and his wife's aunt got into an argument about how much the comic was worth and accidentally tore its cover. This tear knocked \$75,000 off its value.
- ◆ It is unknown if Gonzalez decided to keep or sell his copy of *Superman No. 4*.
- ◆ One town's mayor asked Gonzalez to search three houses for valuable items that may have been hidden within their walls.



## THE *BAYCHIMO*

In early October 1931, a cargo ship called the *Baychimo* became stuck in the thick Alaskan ice. The crew stayed aboard. They hoped the ice would break up soon. But a bad storm hit the area. Winds howled. Blinding snow fell. Violent waves rocked the ship.

Two weeks later, the ship was still stuck. Half the crew was airlifted to safety. The captain ordered everyone else to shore. There, they set up a small camp. Weeks went by as they waited for a break in the weather.

A blizzard hit on November 24. It hid the ship from view. By morning, the storm had finally passed. But the *Baychimo* had vanished. Had the ship broken up and sunk? That seemed to be the most likely explanation.

Several days later, a hunter visited the crew.

He told the captain he had seen the *Baychimo*. The crew followed the hunter's directions. They found the ship floating 50 miles from their camp. It appeared to have been damaged in the storm. Afraid that it would not sail for long, the captain decided to abandon the ship.

From that day on, the *Baychimo* has been a "ghost ship." It drifts aimlessly among the packs of Arctic ice. People have seen the ship. But it is always from a distance. Often it is surrounded by fog. Sometimes it is masked by rain or snow. The ice packs usually prevent other ships from getting close to it. Perhaps the *Baychimo* is indeed a ghost ship.

## THE STRANGE TRUTH

- ◆ After deciding to abandon the ship, the crew removed its cargo. Then they were airlifted to safety.
- ◆ The *Baychimo* has been seen 12 times since it was abandoned.
- ◆ In 1933, a group of Eskimos took shelter aboard the *Baychimo* for ten days while they waited for a bad storm to pass.
- ◆ Another crew got close enough to board the *Baychimo* in 1939. However, large pieces of ice prevented them from bringing the ship to shore.
- ◆ The last recorded sighting of the ship was in 1969. It has not been seen since. But wreckage has not been found either.