





STORY BY: GARDNER FOX

ART BY: DICK DILLIN & SID GREENE

AND HOW, YOU WONDER, CAN BOTH RAY PALMER AND HIS ATOM ALTER EGO BE OVERCOME AT THE SAME TIME? THE WONDER OF IT ALL IS REVEALED IN-

# "THE EXPLOSIVE EXPLOIT OF THE SPLIT-ATOM!"

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AS THE FAST-SHRINKING ATOM DROPS OUT OF SIGHT ...











HIS THOUGHTS FLASH

BACK TO THE PREVIOUS DAY WHEN HE WAS ...

**美国** 



ATOM. WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CRACK ANOTHER SPY CASE

SOME OF OUR FOREMOST SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED-FORCED TO REVEALTHEIR HIGH-PRIORITY SECRETS!

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO FIND OUT! ALL WE INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXTRACTED FROM THE SCIENTISTS THEY'VE BEEN RETURNED WITHOUT HARM!

AND WITHOUT MEMORY OF WHERETHEY

WERE TAKEN OR WHO THE



FORCED! IN WHAT

SO-WE NOT I HAYEA ONLY WANT TO SCIENTIST FRIEND, RAY THOSE SPIES PALMER! SUPPOSE WE BUT FIND OUT HOW THEY LET WORD DRAIN BRAINS LEAK OUT AND MEMORIES! THAT HE'S ANY SUGGES WORKING ON AN IMPORTANT TIONS, ATOM? PROJECT... LURE THE SPIES IN-TO STRIKING AT HIM!

NO--THAT'S COULDN'T ASK PALMER TO TAKE THE RISK!

I'M SURE HE'DAGREE TO COOPERATE -- WHEN WE TELL HIM WE'LL PUT AN FBI AGENT IN HIS PLACE - DISGUISED TO LOOK LIKE HIM!

翻翻翻

WHEN-AS I EXPECT -- THE SPIES GRAB "PALMER" I'LL SECRETLY FOLLOW THEM TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS AND WRAP UP THIS CASE!



THE PLAN-A FALSE RAY PALMER, REAL ATOM-TO SMASH AN UNKNOWN SPY ORGANIZATION! BUT THEN BEGAN THE MIS-ADVENTURE IN THE SHAPEOF TWO THUGS SEEKING VENGEANCE ON RAY PALMER AND GETTING THE PLAN

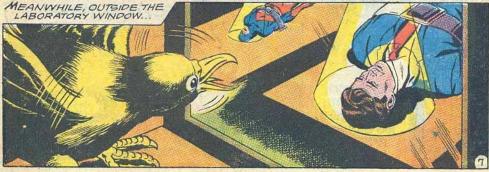


ALL FOULED UP!...



### "EXPLOSIVE EXPLOT OF THE SPLIT - ATOM" PART 2

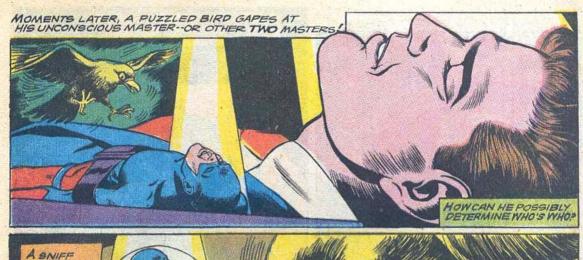


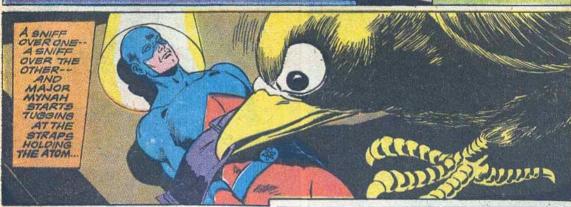


MAJOR
MYNAH--WHO
WAS RIDDEN
BY THE ATOM
AS HE
PURSUED THE
ABDUCTORS
OF "RAY
PALMER"-AND WHO
FOLLOWEP ON
HIS OWN THE
CAR BRINGING
HIS MASTER
TO THIS
FARMHOUSE...













NEXT INSTANT, THE ATOM STARTS EXPANDING TO HIS SIX-FOOT RAY PALMER SIZE...





AND AS HIS HEAD SHOOTS OUT OF RANGE OF THE IMMOBILIZ-ING LOBOTIKON BEAM...









### INSIDE THE ATOM-HAWKMAN!

Dear Editor: I was quite amused at your reply to my letter printed in The Atom 38. And all I can say to defend myself is your paradoxical term describes my feelings ex-

actly. You are indeed "innocently guilty".

The double Atom battle of issue 36 was, to my mind, contrived. But it was necessary to give the story some action — otherwise I would have been dead — and thus it was a necessary contrivance. Anyway, what the heck, if I can accept an 180-pound scientist who can shrink and traverse dimensions then a little thing like a spontaneous fight is a mere bagatelle!

But on to more recent matters!

As someone else, who is much more famous than I, once remarked: "To everything — turn, turn, turn, There is a season — turn, turn, turn, turn..."

Yes, sad though it may be, the old must ever give way to the new! Gil "Atom" Kane has departed for newer horizons, and lo and behold, Hawkman is merged with The Atom to return to the editorial domination of Julius Schwartz. The times are indeed changing.

But concerning this transitory issue:

For one, the cover was terrible. Not only is The Atom the world's smallest super-hero, but now he also has the world's smallest masthead. I do believe it's becoming as dimunutive as the Mighty Mite himself. I suppose that you just had to leave room so we could take in the entire beauty of that picturesque green leg, set oh!-so-strikingly

against a bright purple background.

The inside wasn't really much of an improvement Roussos' inks just don't fit with Sekowsky's pencils. The story didn't impress me very much either. It was on par with a science-fiction movie I saw wherein a highly intelligent piece of chocolate cake planned to take over the world by inhabiting a nuclear scientist's mind. Frank Robbins doesn't have Gardner Fox's ability to take a hack sci-fi plot and turn it into something readable. His story just remained a hack sci-fi tale, and in place of the chocolate cake were flying cells of energy.

All in all, I am left with the feeling that ye editor was beset with plans to convert the magazine into a double-header, and needed a quick-filler story to meet a deadline. I'm sure (after reading "Operation: Blindfold" in Batman 204) that Frank Robbins can do much better than this. —

Jim Vleko, Scarboro, Ont., Canada

(If Frank Robbins Atom-bombed with "Sinister Stopover ... Earth" it's hardly because it was written as "a quick filler story to meet a deadline". None - repeat, NONE - of our stories is ever plotted, written or illustrated that way. Then, again, the science-fiction slant that grated you hit the follow-up reader as GREAT! - Editor)

Dear Editor: Although I wouldn't go so far as to say that "Sinister Stopover... Earth" was the best adventure of the Tiny Titan to date, I will say that it was an excellent story, of which I hope to see more of. Why? This story was GREAT because it ran exactly like an A-plus science-fiction movie. The action was superb, as was the reason for the whole sticky situation. The art was interesting. Some of The Atom vs aliens scenes were really "way out".

I've been waiting for awhile to read a story like this. There is a fallacy to any of these world problems. Surely, a hero such as Aquaman, or even Hawkman would be affected by this type of menace. Other super-heroes and crime-fighting groups should have been involved in such a major problem as this. Don't say they were out on individual cases, because this one is so important, the others

could be dropped.

I wish you luck on your new venture, combining Atom with Hawkman. – Harvey Sobel, Commack, N.Y.

Dear Editor: I have some encouraging and discouraging words about Atom 38. Though it is not the easiest comic I have ever analyzed, I feel the main problem was the art. Although Sekowsky did a very nice job on the background, especially on the scenes inside the alien intelligences, it seems that he had some problems with the drawings of people. In very few panels I saw a picture of The Atom drawn the way I have grown to enjoy (if you think I'm getting touchy, you're right!). Even the Mighty Mite's alter ego, Ray Palmer, wasn't (if you can follow that). The characters didn't seem to be right with me like in most comics. They just seemed to be flat beings with square noses.

Despite the poor art, Frank Robbins came through with a beautiful story. After the lousy job he did on his debut with The Flash, I am glad he did a considerably better story. Although not the most original idea in the world, he filled each page with action, excitement, and mystery till it popped out of the reader's ears. The big let-down came when we were told that The Atom was going to be merged with Hawkman. This is a big mistake. Sure, it will be great to see the TINY TITAN and the WINGED WONDER together in one big mag. But this spoils all the fun of a guest appearance. At first, it's going to be simply wonderful. But after three or four issues, it will seem like any other mag., and the reader will remember how thrilling it was to see Atom in an issue and how ho-hum it seems to see them together now. -John Potter, Van Nuys, Calif.

(What you may miss in the mutual Atom-Hawkman exchange of guest appearances can be overcome in other ways — such as this issue's "dream-team" of artists on Hawkman! Long has the controversy raged of who was the ideal artist for Hawkman — Joe Kubert or Murphy Anderson. But in your most hoped-for-dream, did you ever envisage both these ace artists collaborating on the Winged Wonder? And then, to double your thrill, how about the surprising team-up of Dick Dillin and Sid Green on The Atom? Editor)

Dear Editor: Joe Kubert's cover for Hawkman 27 was the best one since Dillin-Cuidera took over last year. The novel for this issue, "When the Snow-Fiend Strikes", wasn't

too bad. I liked the change of setting and the earthly menace — plus the Thanagarian Body-Heat Regulating pill. I was pleased that the author managed to remember that Hawkman and Hawkgirl do come from the planet Thanagar.

I wish to state right here and now that it would be utterly, totally ridiculous for Hawkman to have a young side-kick, as has been suggested. That's all I have to say on the subject and I hope the editor has enough sense to not even consider such a childish move. I'm putting my trust in you, sir, so don't let me down! — Dave Truesdale, St. S. Paul, Minn.

(It would be equally ridiculous NOT to consider the "Kid Hawk" idea. All suggestions are considered and judged on their merits. As of this date, our verdict is NO — we KID you not! — Editor)

Address communications to INSIDE THE ATOM-HAWK-MAN, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022



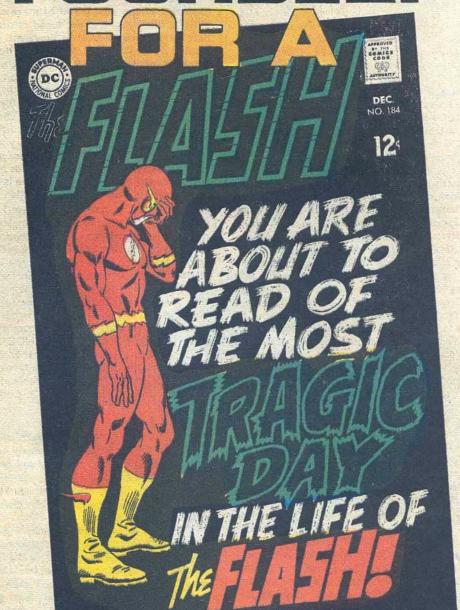






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### WHAT'S IN A FANZINE:

"What's in a fanzine? A fanzine by any other name would still"....be kinda hard to explain!

Fanzines are a very special kind of magazine written by, for, and, occasionally, about fans of a certain media. There's a wide assortment of fanzines, ranging through such varied areas of interest as science fiction, mystery stories, old movie serials and model making. But the ones we're interested in, of course, deal with the comics, and these are the most prolific of them all. I believe someone once counted over 100 actively published comics fanzines, and perhaps another 100 that are no longer being published.

As you can see, purchasing fanzines can be a pretty tricky business, and when I review a zine in this column, I only do it because I feel it is worthwhile. However, before I go on to explain just exactly what fanzines are all about, there are several points that must be made. Fanzines are not for all fans! Because they are privately printed, prices tend to run fairly high compared to the prices you're used to paying for comic books. A 48 page, photo-offset fanzine costing 75¢ is not considered exorbitant. If you just enjoy reading and collecting comics, there are probably very few fanzines which will interest you. However, if you'd like to delve into the history of the comics, or if you are an amateur writer or cartoonist, then there may be a great deal of enjoyment for you to be found in the fanzines.

There are several types of comics fanzines, perhaps the least in number of which are the ad-zines. These are the small number of zines which carry ads for old comics that are for sale or trade and little, if anything, else. Next there are the article-zines, which primarily feature articles about the history and qualities of various characters, titles, artists, writers and companies as well as articles of commentary on these subject. Then there are the "ama-strip" zines, which can best be described as "amateur" comic books, created, written, drawn and published by the fans themselves. Lately, however, the distinction between the article and ama-strip zine have broken down, and many fanzines now feature both types of material.

Another point of difference in fanzines is the processes by which they are printed. In the early 1960's, when fandom was first becoming organized and fanzines began to spring up, they were printed mainly by the "ditto" process, which limits the quality of reproduction as well as limiting the print run to between 200 and 300 copies. When the numbers of fans began to outgrow this limitation and, because of its larger print run and better reproduction. Today many fanzines are produced using the more expensive but "professional looking" photo-offset process, although there are still a large number of ditto and mimeo zines of quality being produced.

What's in a fanzine??? Like I said, it's kinda hard to explain.

#### FANZINE REVIEW

THE COMIC CRUSADER is one of the better examples of the new breed of more competently written, illustrated and produced fanzines that are becoming more and more prevalent in fandom. Printed by photo-offset, this fanzine doesn't waste space on inferior artwork or writting as too many other zines are wont to do. The consistant high quality of this fanzine is due to the fine taste and judgement of its editor and publisher, Martin Greim. Although the zine is open to contributions, most of the written material and illustrations are done by Martin himself; a situation which isn't as bad as it might at first appear to be, since Martin is a "talented amateur" in both fields of endeavor.

The contents of an average issue is varied, and usually ranges from articles on Golden Age comics and characters, to analysis of the work and career of an artist, to an amateur comic strip, to commentary on the modern comics scene. Among the contents of the first two issues are articles on the golden age Green Lantern's lovely foe-woman, The Harlequin; the artistry of Steve Ditko; Alex Raymond's original Flash Gordon newspaper strip; The JSA's first encounter with the Injustice Society; and "funny animal" super-heroes; as well as a serialized, original super-hero comic strip called DAVID MANNING, THE DEFENDER.

Comic Crusader is published four times a year and the length of an issue usually runs between 14 and 16 pages. Copies are available at 25¢ a copy from Martin L. Greim, Box 132, Dedham, Mass. 02026.

#### **FANZINE REVIEW**

FANDOM CALLING should be classified with the "old school" of comics fanzines, basically because of the purpose behind its being published and because of the method by which it is printed. The printing process employed is "ditto" duplication which limits the print run to about 250 copies, and consequently limits the number of fans who can subscribe.

The intent behind Fandom Calling is also "limited". This fanzine's purpose, according to editor and publisher Mike Raub, is to act as a newsletter for and about fandom. Therefore, the contents of an issue would normally consist of a listing of new fanzine issues which have become available; news of happenings and events of interest to comicdom; and a letter column for discussions of any subject of interest to comicdom. The listing of various fanzines, with information as to where and how they are attainable, makes this zine extremely valuable to new fans who have fust started, or are merely contemplating buying fanzines for the first time.

Fandom Calling is published on a monthly schedule, and sent via first class mail. It is available at 15¢ per copy or six issues for 75¢, from Mike Raub, 128 W. Fairground Street, Marion, Ohio 43302.





































LIKE A DARTING PETREL, THE FLYING FURY DRIVES INTO THE TOPPLING TONS OF THUNDERING WATERS...







IN THE NEXT ISSUE! THE STARTLING AND SUSPENSE-FILLED SEQUEL-



It's hard to believe, even when you see it. But the monster is here.

Long, low and mean-looking slimy green body. Great big Ford engine with GMC huffer. Headers that fan out like a giant black spider's legs. Wide Goodyear slicks on rear with louvered fenders which permit rubber

dust, smoke and "stuff" to escape. Detailed interior.

Make the t'rantula with chute closed or open. Chute pack and fourpanel blossomed chute both included in kit along with 1½ inch molded tarantula, the giant spider and decals.

Get a t'rantula now—at your favorite store.



Monogram Models, Inc., Morton Grove, Illinois.