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SHOWCASE *presents*



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10¢

The

ATOM

Featuring
**"BATTLE of the
TINY TITANS!"**



COMPLETE 4 PIECE MATCHED SET OF LUGGAGE

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IMPORTED AND MASS PRODUCED TO MAKE THIS PRICE POSSIBLE

This tremendous bargain is possible only through the use of pressed chip-board. This wonderfully versatile material bends around three sides and is bonded by sturdy wide stitching to the overlapping closing. Snap locks and handles are riveted in place. The big one has extra metal stripping for strength and long wear. Inside has laminated modern design print. Each piece fits inside the next larger which saves your storage space and makes our shipping easier.

NOT FANCY LUGGAGE — BUT USEFUL, PRACTICAL

You will be thrilled and delighted with the many, many uses you will find for this set. It will make a marvelous gift and your thoughtfulness will be appreciated for such a long time. Lightweight. It avoids the silly situation where the luggage weighs more than the clothing carried. When this offer was first made to us by the overseas company we couldn't believe our ears, but we were delighted when we saw it just a few days ago—and you will be too. Each piece serves a specific purpose such as vanity and cosmetic case (8"), personal Valer (10"), overnight case (12") or family size (14").

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Simply fill in the coupon and when your 4 piece matching set of luggage arrives, pay the postman only \$2.98 plus C.O.D. and shipping charges. Then, even use them for 10 full days. If you are not 100% delighted then simply return them for your full purchase price refund.

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Lynbrook, N. Y.

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Name _____

Address _____

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ONLY
\$6⁹⁸

FUN FOR
THE WHOLE
FAMILY



FEATURES:

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- Sing, Tell Jokes, Record



MAKE YOUR OWN RECORDS ANYWHERE

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You receive complete recording equipment, including recording arm and head, microphone, tracking disc, cutting needles, and full supply of blank records. It all attaches to your phonograph, and you're all set to record what you like, where you like and when you like. Takes only 30 seconds, and anyone can operate it. Records at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$, 45 or 78 R.P.M.'s Only \$6.98 plus 45¢ shipping charges. Additional blank recording disks are available from us at \$3.00 per package of 12.

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Name _____

Address _____

The ATOM



FROM THE STRANGE
COMBINATION OF WHITE
DWARF STAR AND
SUNLIGHT--PRODUCT
OF THE AWESOME
FORCES OF NATURE
AT HER MIGHTIEST--
STEPS A TINY TITAN
INTO A WORLD OF
GIANTS--

THE ATOM!

DEDICATED TO OVER-
COMING EVIL--ENLISTING
HIS SERVICES ON THE
SIDE OF LAW AND
ORDER AGAINST CRIME
AND INJUSTICE--HE
IS TO STARTLE THE
WORLD BY THE AMAZING
INVENTIVENESS OF HIS
BRILLIANT MIND AND
THE SHEER PHYSICAL
POWER OF HIS ATOMIC
BODY!

BIRTH OF THE ATOM!

STORY BY
GARDNER
FOX

ART BY
GIL KANE
&
MURPHY
ANDERSON

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INSIDE A NUCLEAR PHYSICS LABORATORY ON THE CAMPUS OF IVY UNIVERSITY, AN ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP BEAMS DOWN THROUGH A HIGHLY POLISHED LENS...

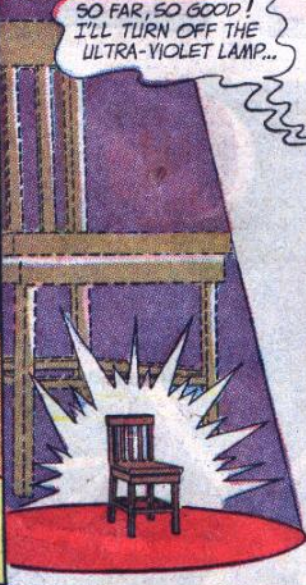
WELL, HERE GOES EXPERIMENT #145!

BATHED IN THE ULTRA-VIOLET RAY, A CHAIR GROWS SMALLER AND SMALLER UNTIL IT IS ONLY INCHES HIGH...

SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'LL TURN OFF THE ULTRA-VIOLET LAMP...

EYES GLUED TO THE TINY OBJECT, RAY PALMER, GRADUATE STUDENT AND FELLOWSHIP RESEARCH PHYSICIST, WAITS PATIENTLY...

NOW TO SEE IF THE EXPERIMENT "BLOWS UP" AGAIN...



SLOWLY THE MINUTES PASS, THEN SUDDENLY...

BAMM!

IT BLEW APART-- JUST AS DID ALL THE OBJECTS I'VE SHRUNK! IT'S ANOTHER FAILURE!

THEORETICALLY, MATTER CAN BE COMPRESSED INTO A SMALL SPACE! ACCORDING TO ONE ESTIMATE, BY COMPRESSING THE ATOMS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD-- ALMOST THREE BILLION-- THE WHOLE OF HUMANITY COULD BE PACKED INTO A THIMBLE!



HE TURNS TO A NEARBY TAPE RECORDER...

I'LL TAPE-RECORD MY FINDINGS ON EXPERIMENT #145! SUBJECT, COMPRESSION OF MATTER. IT WOULD ENABLE FARMERS TO GROW A THOUSAND TIMES MORE THAN THEY DO, ON THE SAME LAND! A SINGLE FREIGHT CAR COULD TRANSPORT THE GOODS OF A HUNDRED FREIGHT TRAINS...



"I WAS WORKING HARD ON THIS EXPERIMENT AND GETTING NOWHERE, WHEN-- THREE MONTHS AGO-- I SAW A METEOR FALLING FROM THE NIGHT SKY ..."

IT'S GOING TO LAND NEAR HERE! I'LL TRY AND RECOVER IT!



"DIGGING DEEP, I UNCOVERED A FRAGMENT OF WHAT ONCE MUST HAVE BEEN PART OF A WHITE DWARF STAR ..."

SO HEAVY-- I CAN HARDLY LIFT IT!



"PUFF! I DON'T KNOW THE ODDS AGAINST ONE WHITE DWARF HITTING ANOTHER OUT IN SPACE; PUFF; BUT IT COULD HAPPEN-- AND WHEN IT DID, THIS PIECE DRIFTED UNTIL IT LANDED IN THIS FIELD!"



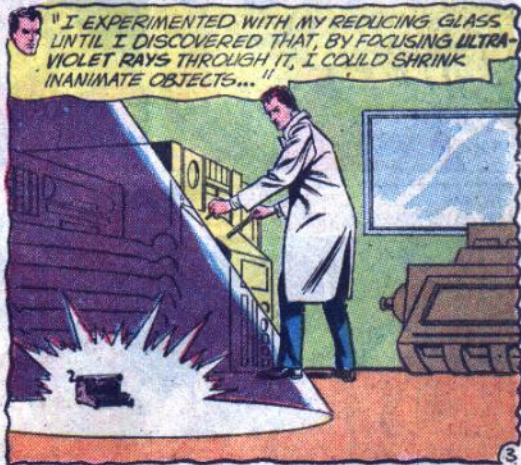
WHITE DWARF STARS ARE DENSE BECAUSE THEY'RE FORMED OF DEGENERATE MATTER; PUFF! MATTER FROM WHICH THE ELECTRONS HAVE BEEN STRIPPED, GREATLY COMPRESSING THEM!



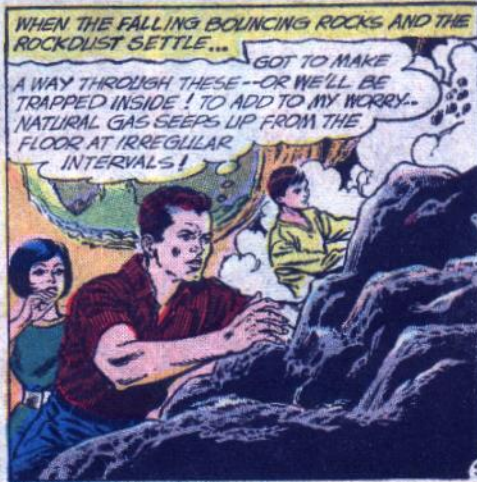
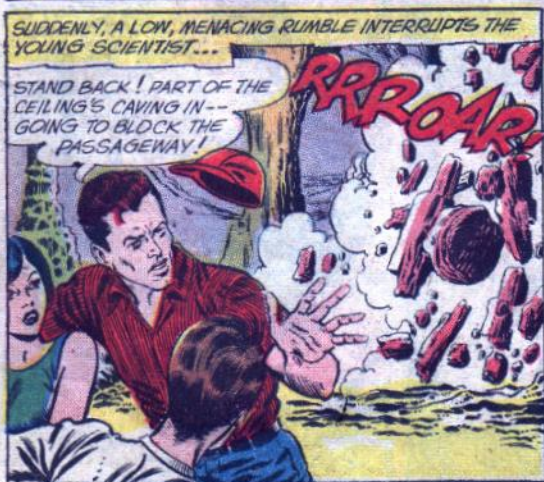
BY STUDYING THE WHITE DWARF FRAGMENT, I HOPED TO LEARN HOW TO COMPRESS MATTER WITHOUT LOSING ITS PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES! FROM THAT FRAGMENT I CUT AND POLISHED THIS REDUCING LENS!



"I EXPERIMENTED WITH MY REDUCING GLASS UNTIL I DISCOVERED THAT, BY FOCUSING ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS THROUGH IT, I COULD SHRINK INANIMATE OBJECTS ..."







FAILING TO FIND AN OPENING, RAY DRAWS JEAN ASIDE...

I DON'T WANT THE KIDS TO PANIC! ENTERTAIN THEM, HON! TELL THEM STORIES OR HAVE THEM SING -- WHILE I EXPLORE FOR A WAY OUT...

I UNDERSTAND, RAY...

NO ONE ON THE OUTSIDE KNOWS WE'RE IN THESE CAVES! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO GET THOSE KIDS OUT SAFELY--AT ALL COSTS!



AFTER HALF AN HOUR OF DESPERATE SEARCHING...

THE ONLY OPENING I'VE FOUND IS THAT TINY HOLE UP THERE--BUT ONLY AN ANT COULD CRAWL THROUGH-- AN ANT?! THAT GIVES ME A WILD IDEA...!

SWIFTLY, HE PLACES TWO LARGE, FLAT ROCKS UPON TWO NEARBY STALAGMITES...

IT'S LUCKY I TOOK THE REDUCING LENS ALONG WITH ME! AFTER PLACING THE LENS ATOP THE ROCKS, I'LL STAND UNDER IT-- AND WHEN THE ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS IN THE SUNLIGHT SHINE THROUGH IT, I'LL SHRINK SMALL ENOUGH TO CRAWL THROUGH THAT HOLE...



HIS DEFT FINGERS TURN THE RIM OF THE LENS, ADJUSTING IT...

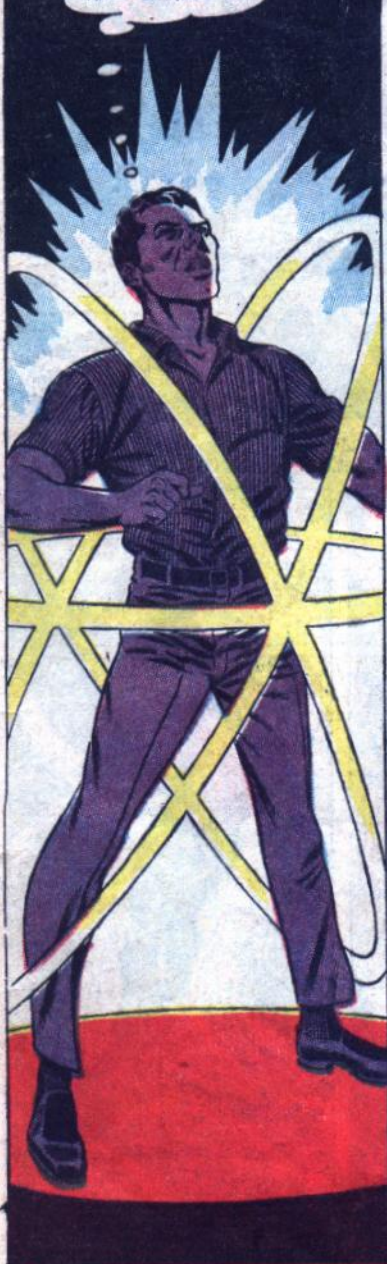
I'LL FOCUS IT TO FAN OUT THE ULTRA-VIOLET RADIATIONS SO THEY'LL COVER JUST MY ENTIRE BODY!

BEFORE I STEP UNDER THE LENS I'LL LEAVE MY DIAMOND RING OFF TO ONE SIDE! I HAVE AN IDEA HOW TO PUT IT TO GOOD USE!



THEN, AS THE SLOWLY MOVING BEAM OF SUNLIGHT STRIKES THE LENS...

IT'S WORKING! I CAN FEEL ENERGY SHOOTING THROUGH ME--MAKING ME SMALLER AND SMALLER!



SWIFTLY HE SHRINKS, LOSING SIZE AT EVERY SECOND, UNTIL...



THAT'S ENOUGH! FROM NOW ON, EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!



FROM PREVIOUS EXPERIMENTS I KNOW EVERYTHING REDUCED IN SIZE SOON BLOWS UP! I'LL SLIP THE RING OVER MY SHOULDER--AND GET TO WORK...

THE TINY FIGURE OF RAY PALMER RACES FOR THE CAVERN WALL...

THE WALL LOOKED FAIRLY SMOOTH BEFORE--BUT NOW I'M SO SMALL I CAN SEE PLENTY OF HAND-AND-TOE HOLDS!



HE CLIMBS SWIFTLY, SURELY...

I SEEM TO BE EVEN STRONGER IN THIS SIZE THAN I WAS BEFORE! I JUST HOPE I HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO DO THE JOB--AND SAVE THOSE KIDS!



GRASPING THE DIAMOND RING AS HE STANDS INSIDE THE TINY OPENING, HE SCORES THE STONE WITH DEEP GASHES...

A DIAMOND'S SO HARD IT EASILY CUTS THROUGH THESE ROCKS!



MUSCLES BUNCHED ON BACK AND ARMS, THE MIGHTY MITE RIPS AWAY MASSES OF ROCK FROM THE APERTURE, ENLARGING IT...

GOT TO MAKE THIS OPENING BIG ENOUGH SO NORMAL SIZED PEOPLE CAN USE IT! WILL I GET IT DONE IN TIME BEFORE THE BIG BANG?



FINALLY... LIHH--STRANGE RUMBLINGS IN MY BODY...NOT MUCH TIME LEFT! GOT TO GET BACK TO JEAN AND THE KIDS AND SHOW THEM THE WAY OUT!



HE LEAPS DOWNWARD, USING THE DIAMOND RING AS A TARGET..

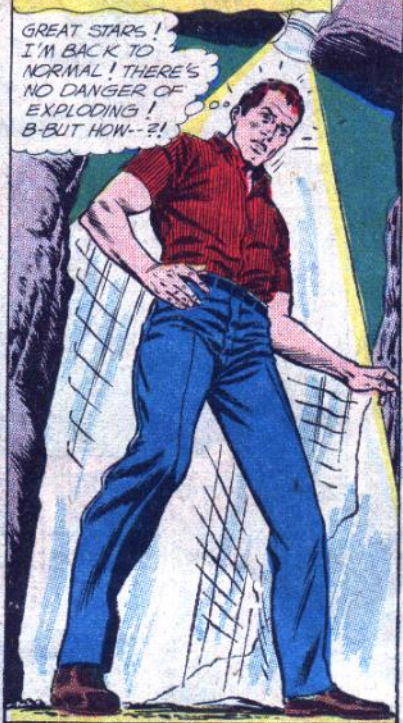


THEN, RACING WITH ALL THE SPEED AT HIS COMMAND, THE TINY HUMAN DASHES BETWEEN THE STALAGMITES SUPPORTING HIS REDUCING LENS...



ABRUPTLY--SHOCK-WAVES RIPPLE THROUGH HIS BODY! HE BEGINS TO GROW--TALLER AND BROADER--GIGANTIC COMPARED TO HIS FORMER SMALLNESS...

GREAT STARS! I'M BACK TO NORMAL! THERE'S NO DANGER OF EXPLODING! B-BUT HOW--?!



WITH TREMBLING FINGERS AND IN AWED SUSPENSE, HE LIFTS DOWN HIS REDUCING LENS...

WHY, IT'S COVERED WITH WATER WHICH DRIPPED FROM THE ROCK CEILING! SOME SPECIAL CHEMICAL IN IT--MUST HAVE ENABLED ME TO REGAIN MY NORMAL SIZE!



SHORTLY... COME ON, EVERYBODY--I'VE FOUND A TUNNEL TO THE OUTSIDE!

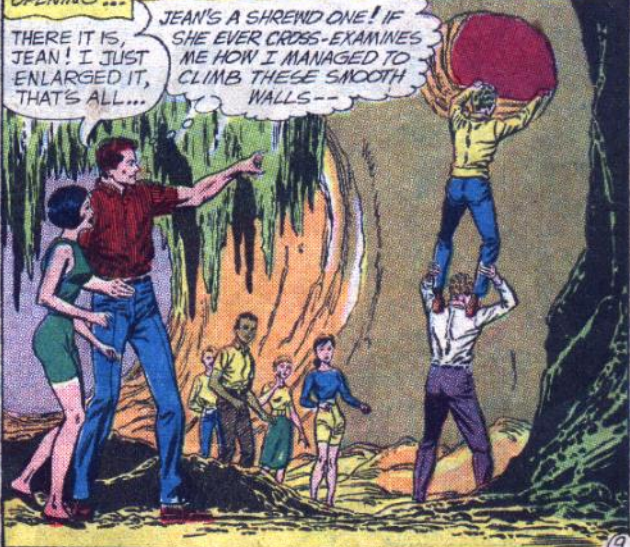
BUT THERE ISN'T ANY TUNNEL, RAY! YOU AND I ONCE EXPLORED EVERY PART OF THESE CAVES...



HIS HEART POUNDING HEAVILY, RAY POINTS TOWARD THE OPENING...

THERE IT IS, JEAN! I JUST ENLARGED IT, THAT'S ALL...

JEAN'S A SHREWD ONE! IF SHE EVER CROSS-EXAMINES ME HOW I MANAGED TO CLIMB THESE SMOOTH WALLS--



IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW YOU DUG THE TUNNEL--LONG AS EVERYONE GETS OUT OF HERE SAFELY!

THAT'S A RELIEF! I WANT TO KEEP MY REDUCING LENS A SECRET UNTIL I TEST THIS NEW DISCOVERY OF MINE ABOUT THAT CHEMICALLY TREATED WATER!

BUT WHEN HE RETURNS TO HIS LABORATORY, RAY PALMER AGAIN MEETS WITH FAILURE...

IT--DIDN'T WORK! I THOUGHT SURE THE REDUCING LENS--TREATED WITH THAT SPECIAL WATER FROM THE CAVERN--WOULD SAFELY RETURN THE OBJECT I SHRANK TO ITS NORMAL SIZE!

BAM!

ONCE MORE HE SPEAKS INTO HIS TAPE RECORDER...

I CAN COME TO BUT ONE CONCLUSION--THAT SOME MYSTERIOUS FORCE IN MY OWN BODY--WHATEVER IT IS, I DON'T YET KNOW--ENABLED ME TO REGAIN MY PROPER SIZE! WITH FURTHER EXPERIMENTS I'LL BE ABLE TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM!

NOW THAT I AM ABLE TO TURN MYSELF INTO A HUMAN ATOM--WHO KNOWS WHAT STRANGE AND WONDERFUL THINGS MAY HAPPEN?

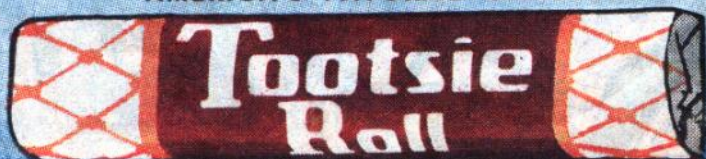
The End

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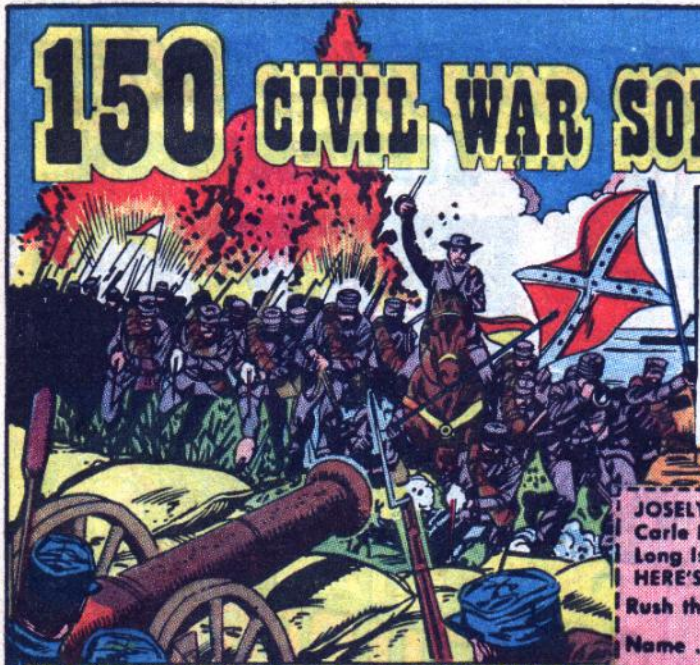
Tootsie Roll makes HISTORY!

The General who posed with one hand in his vest
Was Napoleon Bonaparte
He really was holding a **Tootsie Roll**
Which he always kept close to his heart.

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150 CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS! \$1.49



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Rush the CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS TO ME!

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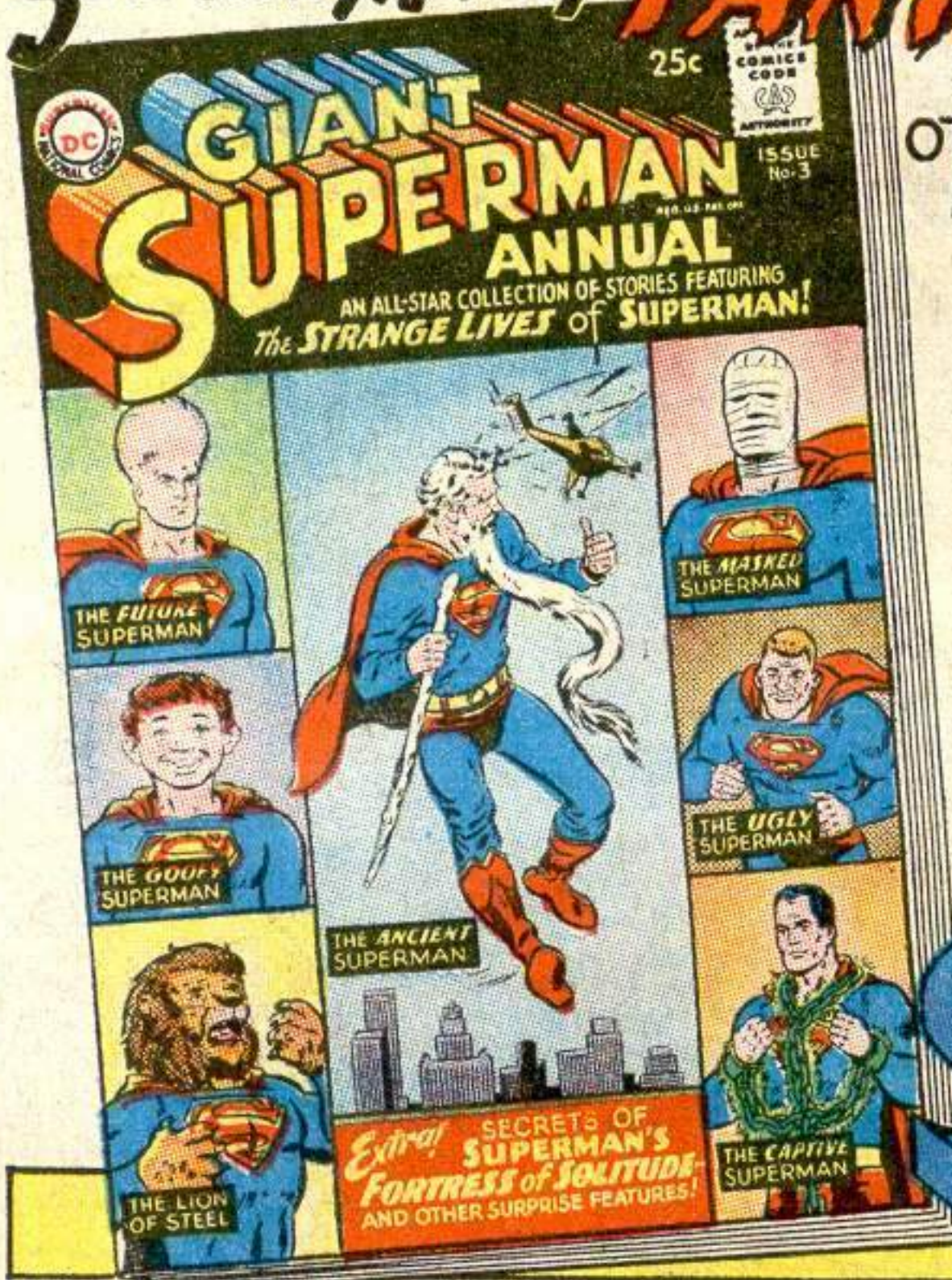


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Original ORIGIN is here!

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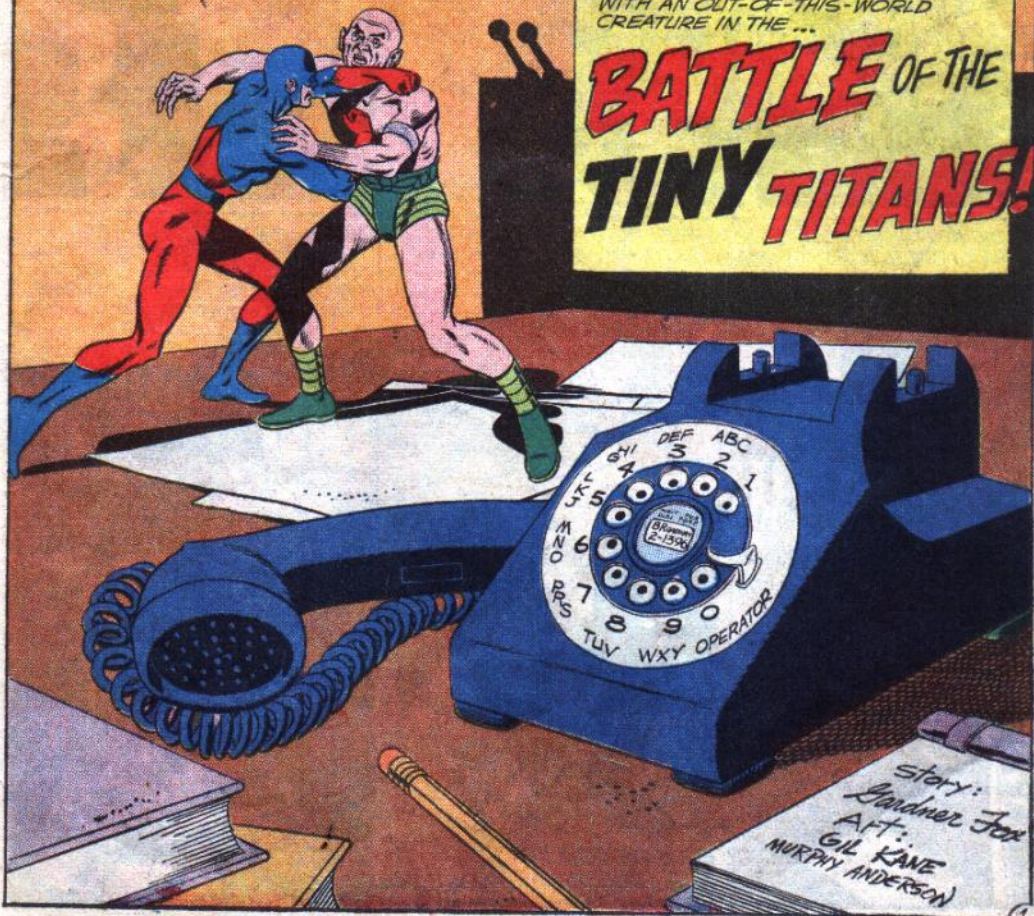
The ATOM

UNLESS I CAN FIND
A WAY TO OVERCOME
YOU--YOU'LL KEEP
ON FIGHTING ME
UNTIL ONE OF US
IS DESTROYED!

YOU'RE THE ONLY
ONE ON EARTH WHO
WILL HELP ME, ATOM--
BUT SINCE I'VE BEEN
ORDERED TO SLAY
YOU--I MUST!

WHEN A MYSTERIOUS WAVE OF SEEM-
INGLY IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES STRIKES
IVYTOWN--AND WHEN JEAN LORING,
GIRL ATTORNEY, IS HIRED TO DEFEND
A CLIENT ACCUSED OF ONE SUCH
CRIME--
THEN THAT MIGHTY MITE WHO CALLS
HIMSELF THE ATOM MAKES HIS FIRST
APPEARANCE--TO SEEK A SOLUTION
TO THE BAFFLING THEFTS AND CLASH
WITH AN OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD
CREATURE IN THE...

BATTLE OF THE TINY TITANS!



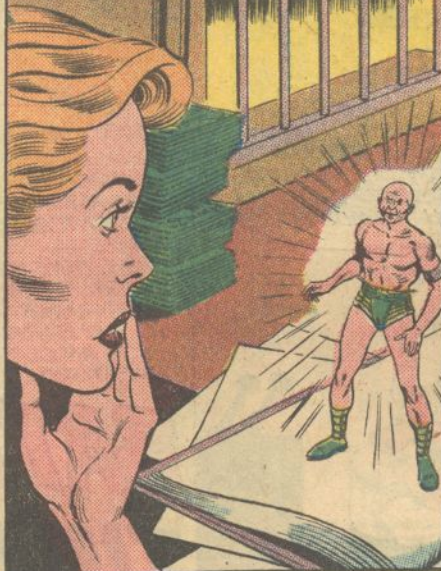
IT IS AFTER HOURS IN THE IVYTOWN BANK, AND TELLER ALMA WILSON IS ENGAGED IN BALANCING HER ACCOUNTS...

A FEW MINUTES MORE AND I'LL BE THROUGH...

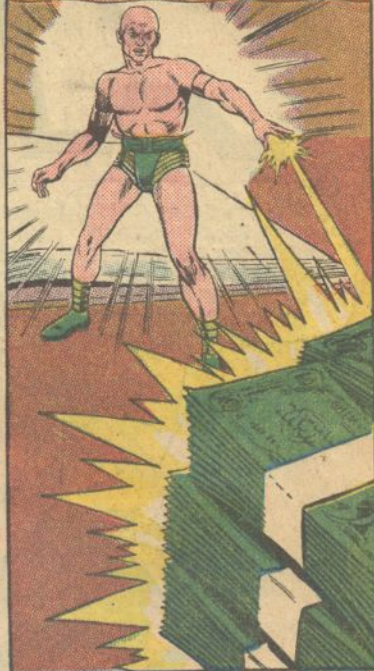


SUDDENLY HER EYES OPEN WIDE AS...

THAT TINY FIGURE SUDDENLY POPPED INTO SIGHT...



AS THE GIRL STARES IN FROZEN DISBELIEF, THE TINY CREATURE EXTENDS AN ARM, POINTS HIS FINGERS AND...



IN THE NEXT MOMENT, MAN AND MONEY HAVE UTTERLY VANISHED...

HELP! I--I'VE BEEN ROBBED!



WHEN THE HYSTERICAL GIRL TELLS HER TALE TO THE BANK OFFICIALS...

CALL THE POLICE, SIMMONS! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS HAREBRAINED STORY OF HERS FOR A MOMENT!

IT'S THE T-TRUTH! THERE WAS A LITTLE MAN, LIKE A GENIE-- AND HE MADE THE MONEY DISAPPEAR!



A MORE LIKELY STORY IS-- YOU HANDED THE MONEY TO A CONFEDERATE, THEN CONCOCTED THIS FANTASTIC NONSENSE TO COVER UP YOUR GUILT!

I'VE GOT TO CALL TO CALL **JEAN LORING**, MY FRIEND AND--A LAWYER! IF I'M GOING TO BE ARRESTED, I'LL NEED HER HELP!





SHORTLY, IN THE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY, RAY PALMER PREPARES ANOTHER OF HIS STARTLING SIZE-SHRINKING EXPERIMENTS.

IN ORDER TO CONTINUE MY SIZE-REDUCTION EXPERIMENTS, I FASHIONED A MINIATURE COSTUME OUT OF THE MATERIAL OF THE WHITE DWARF METEORITE I FOUND! AMAZINGLY, WHEN I STRETCH THE COSTUME OUT TO MY NORMAL SIZE--AS I'M DOING NOW--IT BECOMES INVISIBLE AND INTANGIBLE!

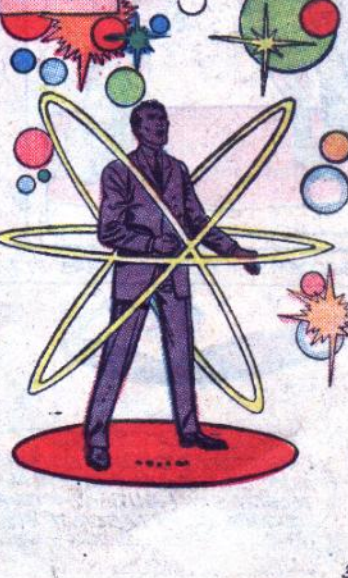


AS RAY DONS THE INVISIBLE UNIFORM ...

BY TOUCHING A CONTROL ATTACHED TO MY INVISIBLE BELT, I SEND A WAVE OF ULTRA-VIOLET THROUGH MY COSTUME, CAUSING MY BODY AND UNIFORM TO SHRINK! NOW TO TRY IT OUT "FOR SIZE"...



AS HIS HAND TOUCHES THE INVISIBLE CONTROL, A NIMBUS OF BRILLIANCE REVEALS THE AWESOME FORCES OF NATURE WHICH HOLD RAY IN THEIR GRIP...

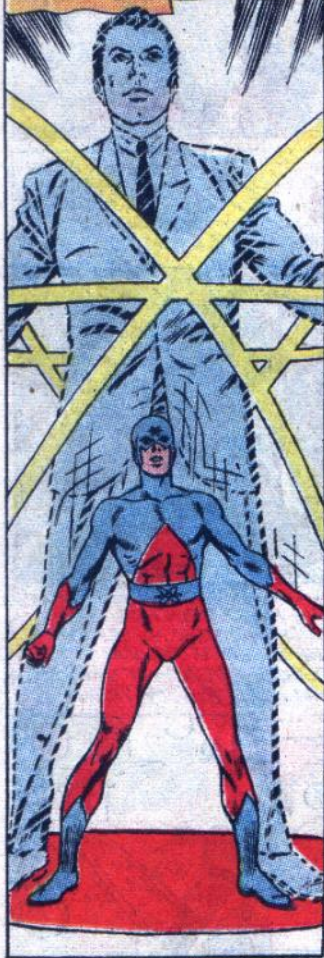




SHOWCASE



INSTANTLY, HIS BODY BEGINS TO SHRINK--AND THERE APPEARS THE FIRST HINT OF THE UNIQUE COSTUME HE HAS FASHIONED...



SMALLER AND SMALLER HE BECOMES UNTIL AT LAST ONLY A SIX-INCH HIGH MAN IS SEEN--THE ATOM!...

IT WORKED PERFECTLY! NOW TO CHECK MY WEIGHT CONTROL...



WHEN I FIRST REDUCED MYSELF IN SIZE, I RETAINED MY FULL NORMAL WEIGHT--AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MOVE AROUND! THAT'S WHY I SOUGHT A WAY TO REDUCE MY WEIGHT...

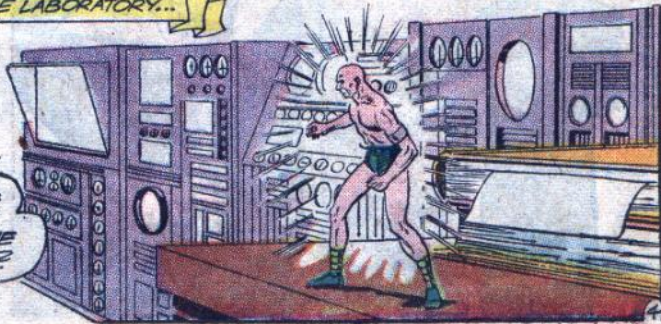


GOOD! I NOW WEIGH ONLY 15 POUNDS!

SUDDENLY, A GLOW APPEARS IN THE LABORATORY...



THAT TINY FIGURE--! WHY--HE MUST BE THE SAME ONE ALMA WILSON SAW! BUT--WHAT'S HE DOING IN MY LABORATORY?



THE ODD LITTLE MAN PROJECTS HIMSELF UPWARD...

HE'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR MY CHEMICAL SUPPLIES! I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM-- CAPTURE HIM FOR JEAN!

WITH A MIGHTY BOUND, THE YOUNG PHYSICIST CATAPULTS HIMSELF UPWARD ON AN INTERCEPTION COURSE...

FORTUNATELY, MY MUSCLES ARE JUST AS POWERFUL AS THEY ARE WHEN I'M NORMAL SIZE--AND SINCE MY WEIGHT IS SO LITTLE--I CAN LEAP LIKE A GRASSHOPPER!

THE TINY FIGURES MEET IN MID-AIR...

WHO ARE YOU? I THOUGHT HUMAN CREATURES ON THIS PLANET ARE GIANTS!

HE'S TELEPATHING HIS THOUGHTS AT ME!

JUST CALL ME--THE ATOM!

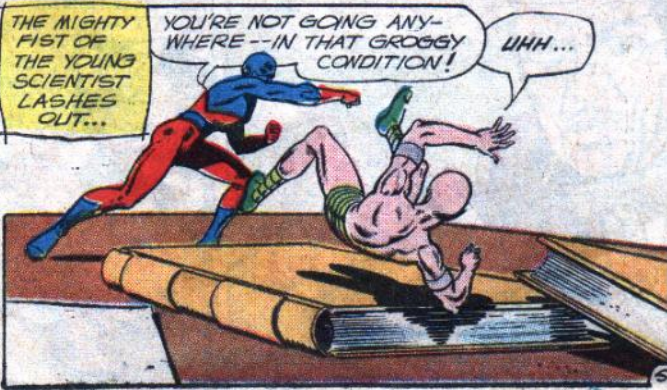
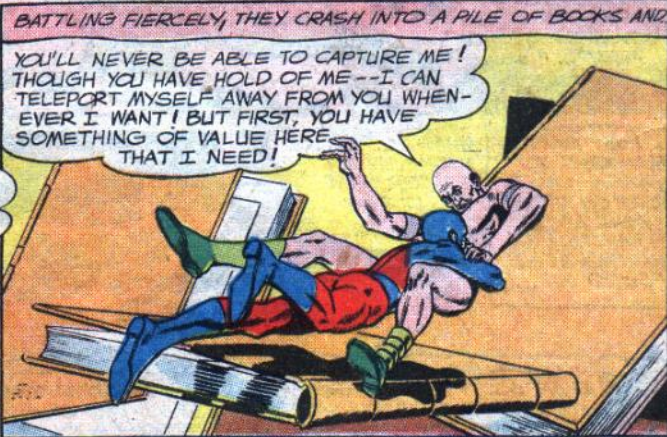
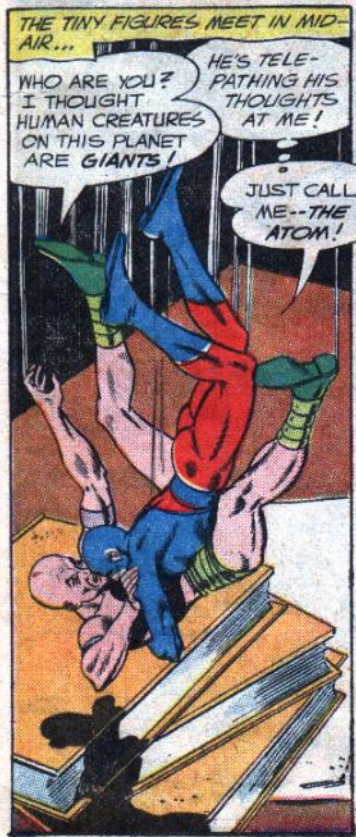
BATTLING FIERCELY, THEY CRASH INTO A PILE OF BOOKS AND

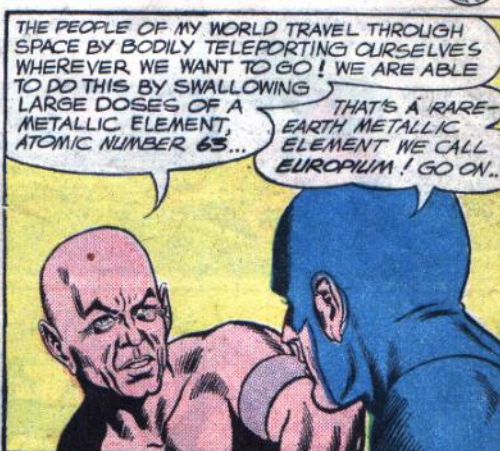
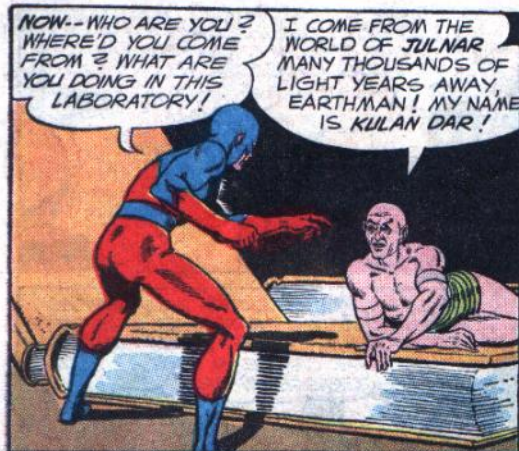
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CAPTURE ME! THOUGH YOU HAVE HOLD OF ME--I CAN TELEPORT MYSELF AWAY FROM YOU WHENEVER I WANT! BUT FIRST, YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF VALUE HERE THAT I NEED!

THE MIGHTY FIST OF THE YOUNG SCIENTIST LASHES OUT...

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE--IN THAT GROGGY CONDITION!

UHH...



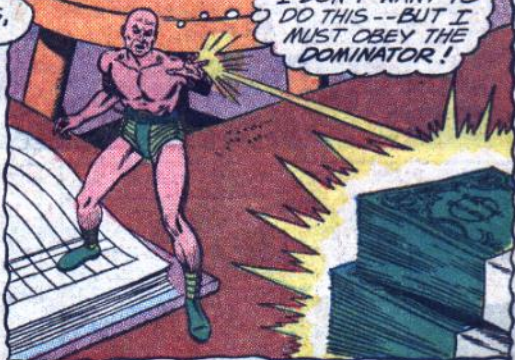
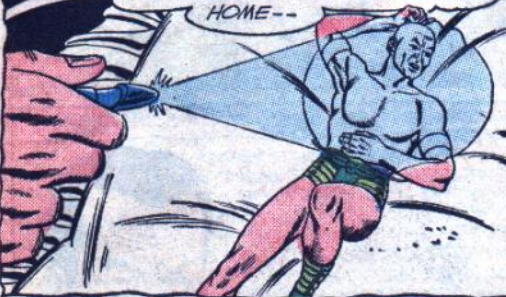


"HE PLAYED THE DOMINATOR ON ME, TURNING ME INTO HIS SLAVE AND FORCING ME TO OBEY HIS EVERY COMMAND..."

FIRST I'LL USE THIS GADGET TO DOMINATE YOU! AFTER YOU'VE FULFILLED ALL MY COMMANDS, MAYBE I'LL FEED YOU ENOUGH EUROPIUM SO YOU CAN RETURN HOME--

"WHEN I RECOVERED STRENGTH, HE GAVE ME A TINY DOSE OF EUROPIUM TO ENABLE ME TO TELEPORT INTO A BANK AND ROB IT FOR HIM..."

I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS--BUT I MUST OBEY THE DOMINATOR!



"I'M NO CRIMINAL, ATOM! ALL I WANT IS TO TELEPORT MYSELF BACK TO MY WORLD! MY ONLY CHANCE OF DOING THAT WAS TO LOCATE A NEARBY SUPPLY OF EUROPIUM..."

MY TELEPATHIC POWERS HAVE SEARCHED OUT A SUPPLY OF EUROPIUM NOT FAR FROM HERE! THERE'S STILL ENOUGH EUROPIUM LEFT IN ME TO TELEPORT MYSELF THAT SHORT DISTANCE!



THAT'S WHY I CAME HERE! NOW--WILL YOU GIVE ME THE EUROPIUM I NEED TO RETURN TO MY OWN WORLD?

I'LL BE HAPPY TO--AFTER YOU TESTIFY IN COURT TO SAVE MY GIRL FRIEND'S CLIENT!

THE NEXT INSTANT...

HE'S DISAPPEARING! WHY WOULD HE DO THAT--UNLESS HIS "MASTER" NOTICED HIS ABSENCE AND USED THE DOMINATOR TO MAKE HIM RETURN!

SECONDS AFTERWARD, BY REVERSING THE UNIFORM CONTROLS, RAY RETURNS TO HIS NORMAL SIZE AND...

JEAN? I KNOW IT'S LATE BUT I HAD TO CALL! LISTEN TO WHAT HAPPENED...



AS RAY DESCRIBES HIS RECENT ENCOUNTER, ELIMINATING ANY REFERENCE TO HIS PARTICIPATION AS THE ATOM...

OH, THAT'S WONDERFUL NEWS! OR--IS IT? YOU CAN'T TESTIFY ABOUT THE LITTLE MAN! EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE MY BOY FRIEND--YOU'D BE CONSIDERED A PREJUDICED WITNESS! BUT RAY, IF HE APPEARS AGAIN, CAPTURE HIM AND HOLD ON TO HIM!



FROWNING THOUGHTFULLY, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST HANGS UP...



IT'S A CINCIN PALMER CAN'T HELP JEANI BUT MAYBE THE ATOM CAN! HMMMM, WHAT DID THE GENIE SAY ABOUT HIS MASTER? HE'S A SMALL-TIME CROOK AND RECENTLY SERVED TIME IN JAIL...

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SMALL ROOM SOMEWHERE IN IVYTOWN...

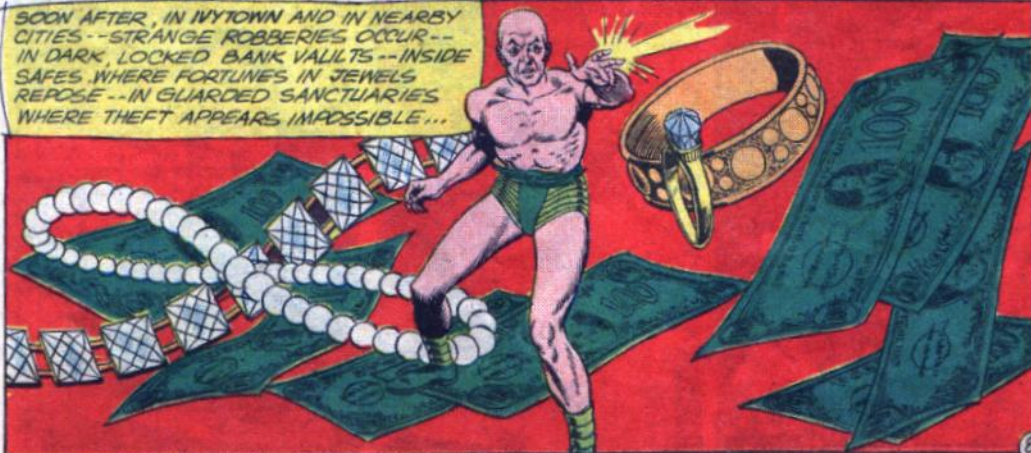


SO YOU THOUGHT YOU'D ESCAPE ME, HEY? WENT OUT HUNTING FOR EUROPIUM, HEY? WELL, I'LL STOP ALL THAT NONSENSE--BY TURNING THE DOMINATOR ON YOU AND FORBIDDING YOU EVER TO DO THAT AGAIN!

AND WITH YOU TO DO MY EVERY BIDDING, I WON'T BE A SMALL-TIME CROOK ANY LONGER--BUT MR. BIG--THE KINGPIN OF CRIME! AND--THERE ISN'T ANYONE ON EARTH WHO CAN STOP ME!



SOON AFTER, IN IVYTOWN AND IN NEARBY CITIES--STRANGE ROBBERIES OCCUR--IN DARK, LOCKED BANK VAULTS--INSIDE SAFES, WHERE FORTUNES IN JEWELS REPOSE--IN GUARDED SANCTUARIES WHERE THEFT APPEARS IMPOSSIBLE...



AMID THE FURORE IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON RADIO AND TELEVISION CAUSED BY THESE "IMPOSSIBLE" CRIMES, RAY PALMER VISITS THE LOCAL POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS.

SINCE THE SMALL-TIME CROOK WAS ONCE ARRESTED, HIS PICTURE WILL BE IN THE POLICE "MUG BOOK".



73
PRECINCT

I'M-er-DOING SOME RESEARCH ON CRIMINAL FACIAL TYPES! COULD I LOOK THROUGH YOUR "MUG BOOK" FOR REFERENCE MATERIAL?

SURE, RAY! GO AHEAD!



FOR LONG MINUTES, THE YOUNG PHYSICIST SCANS THE FACES...

I SAW A "MENTAL" PICTURE OF THE MAN I'M HUNTING WHEN KULAN DAR TELEPATHED HIS THOUGHTS AT ME! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS FIND HIM--



HERE HE IS! HIS NAME IS CARL BALLARD! AND HE'S LIVING IN A SMALL CABIN OVERLOOKING THE LAKE-FRONT! NOT ONLY MUST I HELP JEAN FREE ALMA-- BUT I'VE GOT TO GET BALLARD BEHIND BARS!



SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HAVING RETURNED TO HIS LABORATORY, HE BUSIES HIMSELF PREPARING A SPECIAL TYPE OF BOTTLE...



I'M GOING TO HAVE A SPECIAL USE FOR THIS BOTTLE!

A FEW MOMENTS UNDER THE WHITE DWARF REDUCING LENS AND THE BOTTLE IS SHRUNKEN TO MINIATURE SIZE...



THE SHRINKING PROCESS WILL LAST ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE THE BOTTLE BLOWS UP! HOWEVER WHEN I MAKE IT LARGER AGAIN, IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT! FROM NOW ON EVERY MOMENT COUNTS!

THEN--TOUCHING THE SIZE-SHRINKING CONTROL--ON HIS INVISIBLE UNIFORM--RAY PALMER ONCE MORE BECOMES BATHED IN A WEIRD RADIATION...



AND WHEN THE COMPRESSION IS COMPLETE...



TINY HANDS REMOVE THE TELEPHONE RECEIVER AND DIAL A LAKEFRONT NUMBER...



STORY CONTINUES ON FOURTH PAGE FOLLOWING!

10

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ISSUES

INSIDE THE ATOM

To those of you who are reading *Showcase* for the first time—welcome! And to those who are regular *Showcase* fans—hello again!

For the benefit of our new readers, we'd like to explain that *Showcase* is just about what the name implies—it serves as a display for our new line of merchandise. If enough customers buy our product, we continue to issue it in its own magazine-package. Should the venture prove unprofitable, it is discontinued.



FIGURE 1

When this experimental type of magazine found favor with the public, we followed it up with a companion magazine along the same line—*Brave and Bold*.

Perhaps our most successful ventures to date have been the revival of heroes who had a vogue back in the 1940's—and then went out of style. Included among these two-timers are *The Flash*, *Green Lantern*, *Justice League of America*, and *Hawkman* (although the returns are not in as yet, we're confident that the *Winged Wonder* will make the grade and continue in his own magazine).

After due deliberation, we have chosen *The Atom* for the next revival. You readers have been emphatic in telling us that you want to know something about the original *Atom* character which our revised version is based on. Accordingly, we are happy to oblige with a capsule history of the first *Atom*.

The Mighty Atom made his debut in the October, 1940 issue of *All-American Comics*, being introduced with the blurb:

"An atom is absolutely the smallest thing on earth—so we find our little friend, Al Pratt, much to his discomfort dubbed 'Atom Al' by

his college friends—who constantly kid him about his small size."

The first story—a six-pager credited to Ben Flinton and Bill O'Connor—related how Al Pratt, after being berated by his girl friend Mary James for not putting up any resistance when they were held up by a crook (for a facsimile reproduction of this scene, see figure 1), was befriended by a veteran fight trainer and given intensive athletic training. At the end of the year Al developed a perfect body, with tremendous strength, which he subsequently used to foil a kidnaping of his ex-girl friend Mary.

In the next issue, *All-American Comics* No. 20, *The Atom* made his first appearance in his distinctive uniform (for a facsimile reproduction of *The Atom's* initial uniformed appearance, see figure 2), which he wore under his regular clothes. The reason for his wearing a uniform (no mention was made where he obtained it) was: "Al decided to keep his mighty strength a secret so that he may carry on his dual role as *The Atom*."

For the next issue—*All-American Comics* No. 21—the title *Mighty Atom* was dropped,



FIGURE 2

and the simpler and final form used—*The Atom*—a title which continued through most of the 1940's.

No history of *The Atom* would be complete without reference to his role as one of the charter members of the illustrious *Justice Society of America* (forerunner of today's *Justice League of America*)—along with such all-star members as *The Flash*, *Hawkman*, *Green Lantern*, *Spectre*, *Sandman*, *Doctor Fate*, and

Hourman. (For a facsimile reproduction of the original members of the *Justice Society of America*, see figure 3.)

Although *The Atom* of old played a minor role in comics, we feel that in today's atomic age he deserves a chance to move up to the big league with our major super-heroes. In line with the modern trend, we have updated *The Atom's* costume, given him a brand-new civilian identity and origin, and have expanded his original power (limited to mighty strength) to enable him to reduce himself in size.

Thus, curiously enough, *The Atom's* original nickname *The Mighty Mite* has become true in the full meaning of the term!

Whether the three-issue tryout of *The Atom* in *Showcase* will explode upon the reading public with the force of an atom bomb, remains to be seen. Please write us your comments, criticisms, suggestions—and we'll print the best of them in this department. Address: INSIDE THE ATOM, c/o National Comics, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, New York.



FIGURE 3. LEFT TO RIGHT: ATOM, SANDMAN, SPECTRE, FLASH, HAWKMAN, DOCTOR FATE, GREEN LANTERN, HOURMAN.

AND NOW for the explanation of the amazing telephone trick pulled by *The Atom* in "Battle of the Tiny Titans":

When he dialed the telephone, *The Atom* caused an electric impulse to travel from the phone to the central telephone exchange where, by means of an "electric brain," these impulses were released to travel on to three conductors. (These conductors select the telephone dialed, either causing it to ring or send back a busy signal.)

When the call was completed and Carl Ballard lifted the phone, *The Atom* leaped into the transmitter, merging the atoms of his microscopically small body with those of the thin diaphragm which is part of the transmitter. This metal diaphragm is set in vibration by sound waves—either the human voice, or as in the case of *The Atom*, by the sound of the metronome. In vibration, the diaphragm pushes against the carbon granules which are also part of the transmitter, crowding them together and permitting the electric current (which is caused by the sound waves) to travel almost instantaneously to the telephone at the other end of the call.

The Atom was hurled along at telephonic speed by these electric impulses which (at the other telephone) were translated back into sound waves by the receiver.



SHOWCASE



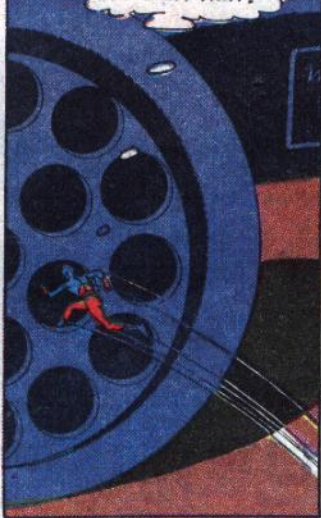
AS THE LAST CLICK FADES AWAY.

THIS METRONOME MAKES A RHYTHMIC SOUND AS IT SWINGS BACK AND FORTH! THE DELICATE TRANSMITTER OF THE TELEPHONE WILL PICK IT UP!



TOUCHING A SECOND CONTROL STUD, THE ATOM SHRINKS AGAIN-- SMALLER AND SMALLER-- UNTIL...

AS SOON AS BALLARD LIFTS HIS TELEPHONE RECEIVER--HE'LL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO VISIT HIM!



IN THE NEXT INSTANT...

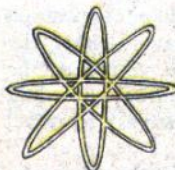
HELLO-- CARL BALLARD!

WHAT IN THE WORLD?



HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR THE ATOM TO TRAVEL THROUGH A TELEPHONE WIRE, YOU WONDER?

RATHER THAN INTERRUPT OUR STORY AT THIS POINT, YOU'LL FIND THE FULL EXPLANATION IN THE "INSIDE THE ATOM" DEPARTMENT, ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE!



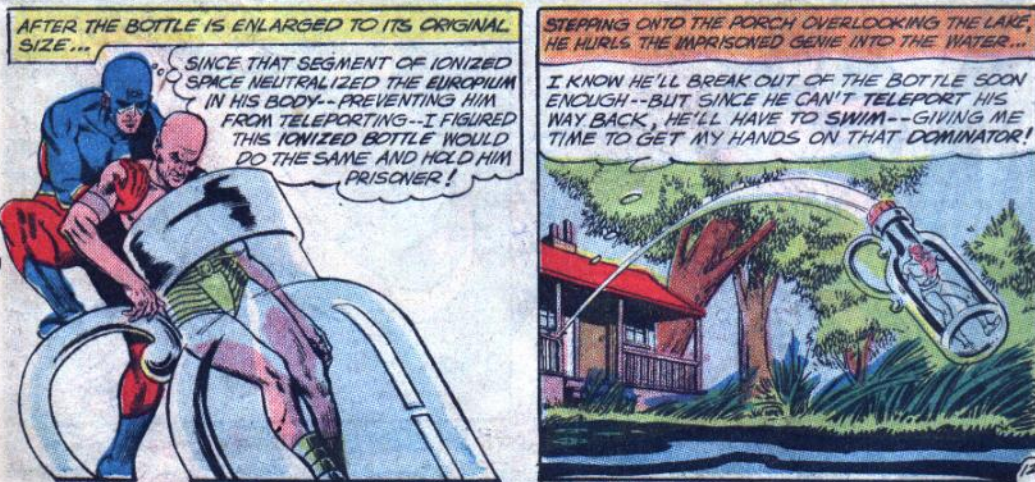
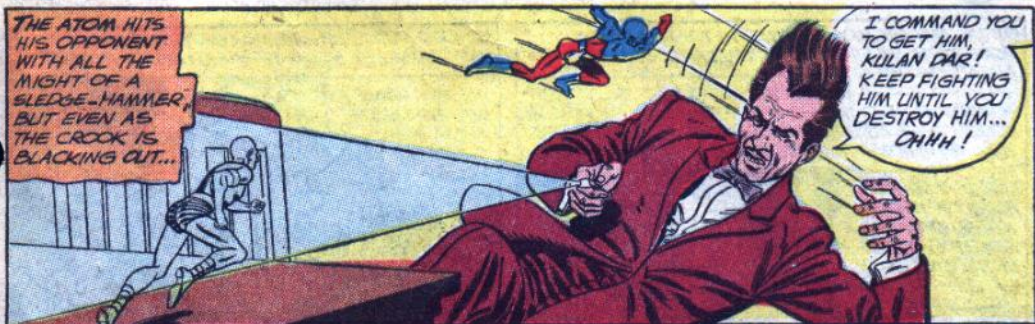
THE MIGHTY MITE GROWS SWIFTLY BEFORE THE BULGING EYES OF THE CRIMINAL...

ANOTHER LITTLE MAN? I'LL USE THE DOMINATOR ON HIM JUST AS I DID ON THE OTHER ONE!



BALLARD DOESN'T KNOW IT--BUT KULAN DAR EXPLAINED THAT THE DOMINATOR HAS NO EFFECT ON EARTH-PEOPLE, BECAUSE IT ISN'T ATTUNED TO CONTROL THEM!





BUT AS THE MIGHTY NITE TURNS TOWARD THE DOMINATOR HE FINDS CARL BALLARD ONE STEP AHEAD OF HIM...

OH, NO YOU DON'T! I'LL TOSS THE DOMINATOR INTO THE LAKE WHERE YOU'LL HAVE A TOUGH TIME FINDING IT! BY THAT TIME MY "GENIE" WILL BE BACK--TO FINISH YOU!

I'VE GOT TO GET HOLD OF IT OR KULAN DAR WILL KEEP FIGHTING UNTIL ONE OF US--DIES!



UPWARD FROM THE RAILING LEAPS THE ATOM, HIS FIST RAMMING HOME WITH EXPLOSIVE POWER...

I DON'T WANT ANY INTERFERENCE FROM HIM AGAIN!



THEN SWIMMING RAPIDLY ACROSS THE LAKE...

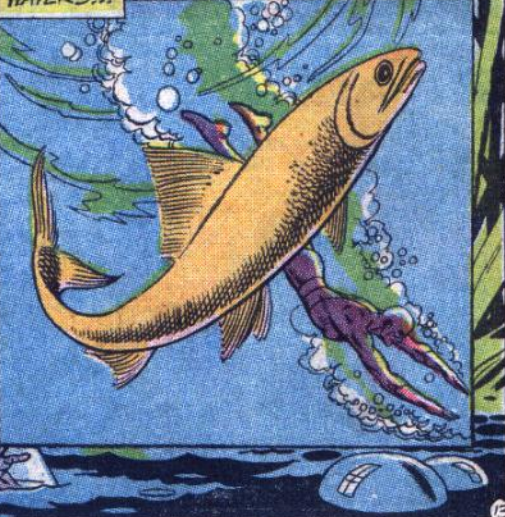
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I MUST DO BEFORE I GO AFTER THAT DOMINATOR!



I'VE GOT TO HAMMER THIS CORK TIGHTER TO KEEP THE "GENIE" AWAY FROM ME--UNTIL I CAN FREE HIM FROM BALLARD'S CONTROL!

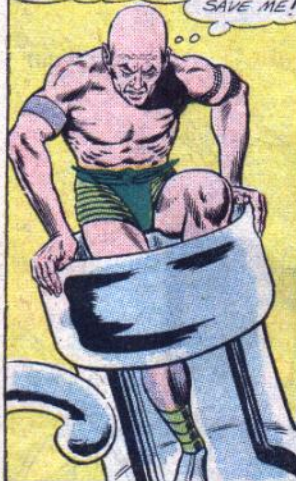


SECONDS LATER, THE TINY THUNDERBOLT IS PLUMMETING DOWNWARD THROUGH THE LAKE WATERS...



ABOVE HIM, THE TINY MAN FROM THE PLANET JULNAR FORCES HIS WAY FROM HIS IONIZED PRISON...

WHAT IRONY! I'M COMPELLED TO DESTROY THE ATOM--EVEN THOUGH HE'S TRYING TO SAVE ME!



THE ALIEN DIVES DOWNWARD TOWARD THE LAKE BOTTOM...

THERE HE IS! NOW TO FINISH HIM OFF!



BUT JUST AS HE REACHES FOR THE TINY TITAN...

RECOVERED THE DOMINATOR JUST IN TIME!

KULAN DAR! I ORDER YOU TO IGNORE THE COMMANDS OF CARL BALLARD.



AN HOUR LATER, RAY PALMER SITS IN THE COURTROOM WHERE HIS SWEETHEART FIGHTS A LOSING BATTLE...

IT ISN'T GOING WELL, RAY! LISTEN TO THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY HARANGUE THE JURY...

JEAN DOESN'T KNOW IT--BUT THE "GENIE" IS ABOUT TO BECOME A-SURPRISE WITNESS!

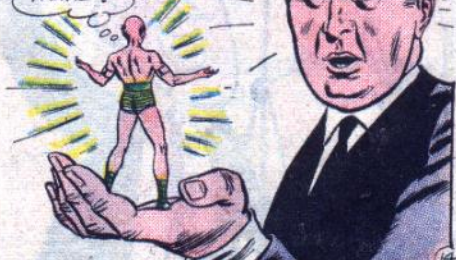


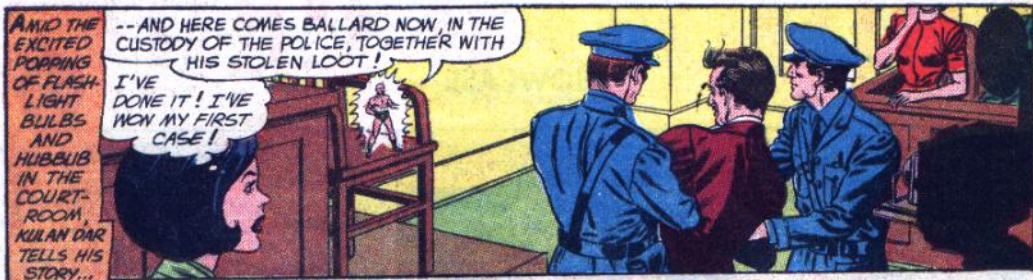
DID YOU EVER HEAR SUCH LITTER NONSENSE? A ROBBER GENIE! LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY--IF THERE IS SUCH A CREATURE--I COMMAND HIM TO APPEAR BEFORE ME--NOW!



YOU SUMMONED ME, SIR! I AM HERE TO TESTIFY THAT ALMA WILSON IS INNOCENT!

MY FRIEND THE ATOM GAVE ME AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF EUROPIUM--SO AS SOON AS I FINISH TESTIFYING--I'LL TELEPORT MYSELF HOME!





THE ATOM EXPLODES INTO ACTION AGAIN IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **SHOWCASE!**

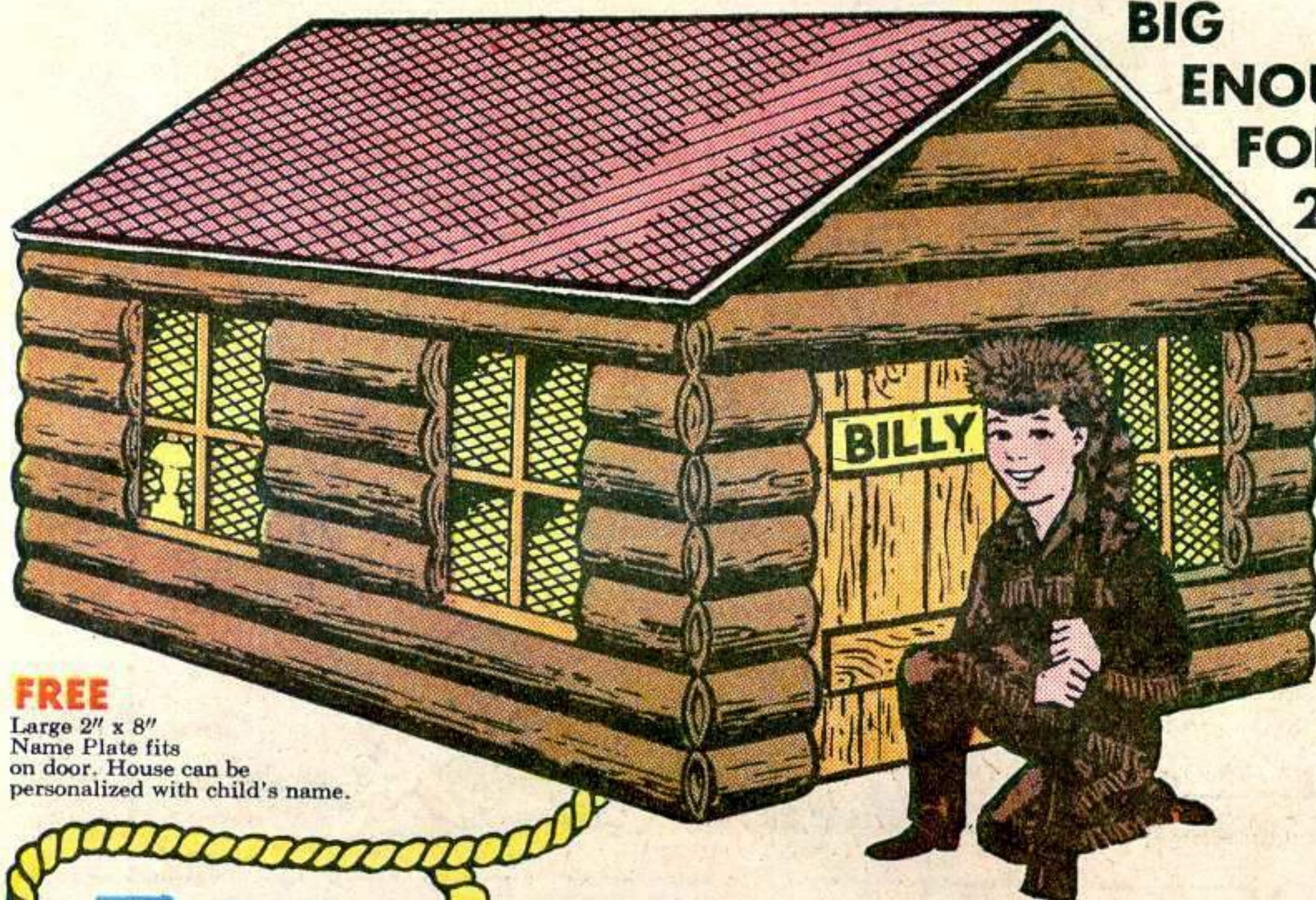


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Samples of Popular-Priced, Name-Imprinted PERSONAL CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thrill your friends and neighbors and make even MORE MONEY for yourself with exquisite, custom-designed NAME-IMPRINTED Christmas Cards at amazingly low prices. A large variety of exclusive, original designs for folks who want the finest quality in Personalized Christmas Cards at prices everybody can afford. They sell just by being shown. It's easy, too, because... *we ship direct to your customers and we pay the postage.* You have no bother, no trouble and wasted time making deliveries. Send the coupon right away for your FREE Samples of the 4 Great New Lines of these fast-selling Personalized Christmas Cards!

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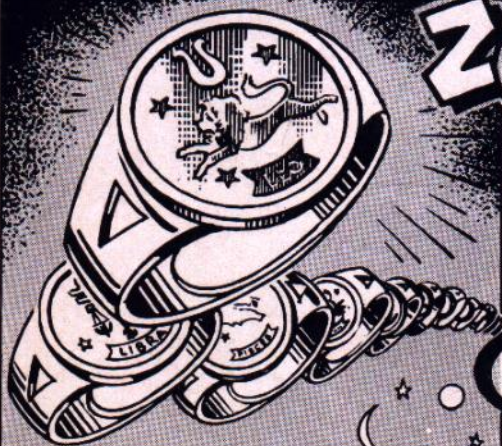
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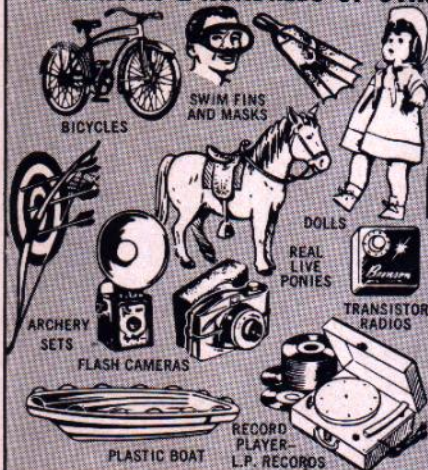


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