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FEATURES:
- Handy Portable Carrying Case
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- Records at 33 1/3, 45, or 78
- Sing, Tell Jokes, Record

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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 OVERCOMING 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

"This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor to any mutilated condition, nor affixed to, nor as part of any advertising, literary or pictorial matter whatsoever."
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!

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...

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

I'LL TAPE-RECORD MY FINDING 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 ultraviolet rays through it, I could shrink inanimate objects..."
SHOWCASE

“But every time I shrink an object—It eventually exploded, due to the instability of the compressed atoms... Not until I learn how to prevent these explosions and return the compressed objects to their normal size—Will my experiment be a success!”

“Switching off the recorder, Ray Palmer turns to see the door opening...

“Jean, honey! What’s the lady lawyer doing here today?”

“My cage was adjourned in court, Ray—so I stopped by to accompany you on the nature club hike!”

“Now that you’re here, angel—it’s as good a time as any for proposal number fifty-seven! Jean Loring—will you marry me?”

“That’s a leading question, Ray! I reserve the right to answer it at a later date...."

“Besides, you know very well I’m determined to prove I can be a success as a lawyer before I give up my career and settle down!”

“Sure—just as you want me to prove myself as a research scientist!”

“Still no luck on your experiments, I see!”

“I’m glad I hid my reducing lens! When I discovered how to shrink matter, it’ll be a surprise to her! Then I’ll have proved myself!”

Within the hour, the nature club is hiking in the country....
At giant caverns...

This'll be a good opportunity to get rock samples! As your counsellor, I suggest we explore the underground caves!

In single file they penetrate deeper and deeper into the mighty grottoes...

Now--what are the calcium deposits called that hang from the ceiling--and which are the ones that form on the ground?

Stalagmites hang from the ceiling. No--they're called stalactites.

You seem confused! Well, here's a simple way to remember which is which--stalactite has a C in it, let it stand for ceiling! Stalagmite has a G, let that stand for ground! Stalagmites from the ceiling, stalagmites from the ground!

Suddenly, a low, menacing rumble interrupts the young scientist...

Stand back! Part of the ceiling's caving in--going to block the passageway!

When the falling bouncing rocks and the rock dust settle...

Got to make a way through these--or we'll be trapped inside! To add to my worry, natural gas seeps up from the floor at irregular intervals!
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-foo 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 bunch 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?

CRRACK!

Finally... uh-uh-strange rumblings in my body... not much time left! I 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! 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!

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

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

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

ONCE MORE HE SPEAKS INTO HIS TAPE RECORDER...

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

I CAN COME TO BUT ONE CONCLUSION—THAT SOME MISTERIOUS 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!

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All together in ONE MAGAZINE!

DON'T MISS THIS SPECTACULAR ISSUE! YOU'LL TREASURE IT ALL YOUR LIFE!
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 SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES STRIKES IVY TOWN -- AND WHEN JEAN LORING, GIRL ATTORNEY, IS HIRED TO DEFEND A CLIENT ACCUSED OF ONE SUCH CRIME -- THEN THAT MIGHTY MIKE WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE ATOM MAKES HIS FIRST APPEARANCE -- TO SEEK A SOLUTION TO THE BAFFLING THEFTS AND CLASH WITH AN OUT-OF-THE-WORLD CREATURE IN THE...

BATTLE OF THE TINY TITANS!

Story: Gardner Fox
Art: Gil Kane
Lettering: Murphy Anderson
It is after hours in the Ivytown Bank, and Teller Alma Wilson is engaged in balancing her accounts...

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...

A few minutes more and I'll be through...

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 Jean Loring, my friend and--a lawyer! If I'm going to be arrested, I'll need her help!
That evening, as Jean Loring and her sweetheart Ray Palmer walk home from a local restaurant...

Alma always tells the truth! If she says there was a genie, then there was!

It's okay for you to believe it—but how are you going to get a jury to believe it?

I—I'll find a way—somehow! Jean, take my advice and let a seasoned criminal lawyer handle this!

If I thought he'd help Alma more than I could, I would! I intend to make my mark in the legal profession, Ray—and I'm going to start with Alma Wilson!

All right! No sense proposing again tonight, I see! So—I'll say goodnight!

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...
In the first panel, the narrator says, "Instantly, his body begins to shrink—and there appears the first hint of the unique costume he has fashioned..."

In the second panel, it says, "Smaller and smaller he becomes until at last only a six-inch high man is seen—the Atom!..."

In the third panel, the narrator says, "It worked perfectly! Now to check my weight control..."

In the fourth panel, a clock is shown and it says, "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..."

In the fifth panel, the narrator says, "Good! I now weigh only 15 pounds!"

In the sixth panel, the narrator says, "Suddenly, a glow appears in the laboratory..."

In the seventh panel, the narrator says, "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 CATASTROPHICALLY LEAPS 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!

BATTING 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 grossy condition! Uhh...
NOW—WHO ARE YOU? WHERE'D YOU COME FROM & WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THIS LABORATORY!

I COME FROM THE WORLD OF JULNAR MANY THOUSANDS OF LIGHT YEARS AWAY! EARTHMAN! MY NAME IS KULAN DAR!

THE PEOPLE OF MY WORLD TRAVEL THROUGH SPACE BY BODILY TELEPORTING OURSELVES WHEREVER WE WANT TO GO! WE ARE ABLE TO DO THIS BY SWALLOWING LARGE DOSES OF A METALLIC ELEMENT, ATOMIC NUMBER 65...

THAT'S A RARE-EARTH METALLIC ELEMENT WE CALL EUROPIUM! GO ON...

I WAS TELEPORTING FROM ONE OF OUR COLONY WORLDS TO JULNAR, WHEN MY BODY UNEXPECTEDLY PASSED THROUGH A COSMIC IONIZATION FIELD....

THE HIGH IONIZATION IS NEUTRALIZING THE EUROPIUM IN MY SYSTEM! I BETTER TELEPORT MYSELF TO THE CLOSEST PLANET...

I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO CRASH-LAND HERE ON EARTH! AS I LAY EXHAUSTED, AN EARTH—BEING FOUND ME....

WHAT A LIFE-LIKE MANNIKIN! I WONDER WHAT IT'S DOING HERE...

GREAT SCOTT! IT'S A LIVING MAN! AND HE'S BEEN HURT! STRANGE... I SEEM TO BE ABLE TO HEAR HIS THOUGHTS—JUMBLED—CONFUSED--

THE MAN WHO FOUND ME, I LEARNED LATER, IS A SMALL-TIME CRIMINAL RECENTLY RELEASED FROM PRISON! IN MY WEAKENED CONDITION I UNWITTINGLY REVEALED ENOUGH TELEPATHIC INFORMATION TO HIM TO PUT MYSELF IN HIS POWER....

SO YOU NEED SOMETHING THAT HAS 65 REVOLVING ELECTRONS* TO TRAVEL AROUND & I'LL HAVE TO LOOK THAT UP! AND YOU USE THIS DOMINATOR GADGET TO CONTROL CREATURES ON YOUR COLONY WORLDS...  

*Editor's Note: EUROPIUM.
“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...”

“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!”

“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 cinch Ray. Palmer can't help Jean! But maybe the atom can! Hmmm, 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...
A MID THE FUROR IN NEWSPAPERS AND ON RADIO AND TELEVISION CAUSED BY THESE IMPOSSIBLE CRIMES, RAY PALMER VISITS THE LOCAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS.

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

I'M 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 LATER, THE WHITE DWARF REDUCING LENS AND THE BOTTLE IS SHRUNK 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—to 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...

I'll fasten the shrunken bottle to my belt—then visit Carl Ballard the fastest way possible!

Tiny hands remove the telephone receiver and dial a lakefront number...

Whirrrr!

Story continues on fourth page following!
The INSIDE STORIES of BATMAN and ROBIN'S Top SECRETS

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THIS COUPON APPEARS IN ALL SEPT. and OCT. 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.

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 kidnapping 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,

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
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.
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?

Tick-Tock!

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 D'ar explained that the Dominator has no effect on Earth-people, because it isn't attuned to control them!
The Atom hits his opponent with all the might of a sledgehammer, but even as the crook is blacking out...

I command you to get him, Kulan Gah! Keep fighting him until you destroy him... Ohh!

Hurtling forward, the "Genie" slams into the Atom...

I don't want to do this... but I can't help myself! I'm under the control of the Dominator!

I came prepared for this emergency!

The tiny Titans battle furiously, until with a sudden surge of concentrated power, the Atom sends his opponent reeling...

I brought along that ionized bottle to hold him... after I knocked him out!

After the bottle is enlarged to its original size...

Since that segment of ionized space neutralized the Europium in his body--preventing him from teleporting--I figured this ionized bottle would do the same and hold him prisoner!

Stepping onto the porch overlooking the lake, he hurled the imprisoned genie into the water...

I know he'll break out of the bottle soon enough--but since he can't teleport his way back, he'll have to swim--giving me time to get my hands on that Dominator!
But as the mighty mite 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 Galkar will keep fighting until one of us—dies!

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 Jilnab 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... Kulan Gark! 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 utter 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!
-- And here comes Ballard now, in the custody of the police, together with his stolen loot!

I've done it! I've won my first case!

I turned Ballard and his loot over to the police as the Atom.
Then secretly brought the "Genie" here as Ray Palmer! Since he's leaving Earth, it doesn't matter that he knows I'm the Atom! No one else does...

After Kulan Gah has teleported back to his home planet, Jean and Ray leave the courthouse... I wish I could thank this Atom for what he's done, Ray! After all, he did help me win my first case!

I've begun to make my mark! Who knows? A few more courtroom victories and--I might even consider marrying you!

In that case, the Atom will be mighty busy helping Jean, but in a way that she won't realize she's being helped... until we're safely married!

The Atom explodes into action again in the next issue of Showcase!

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