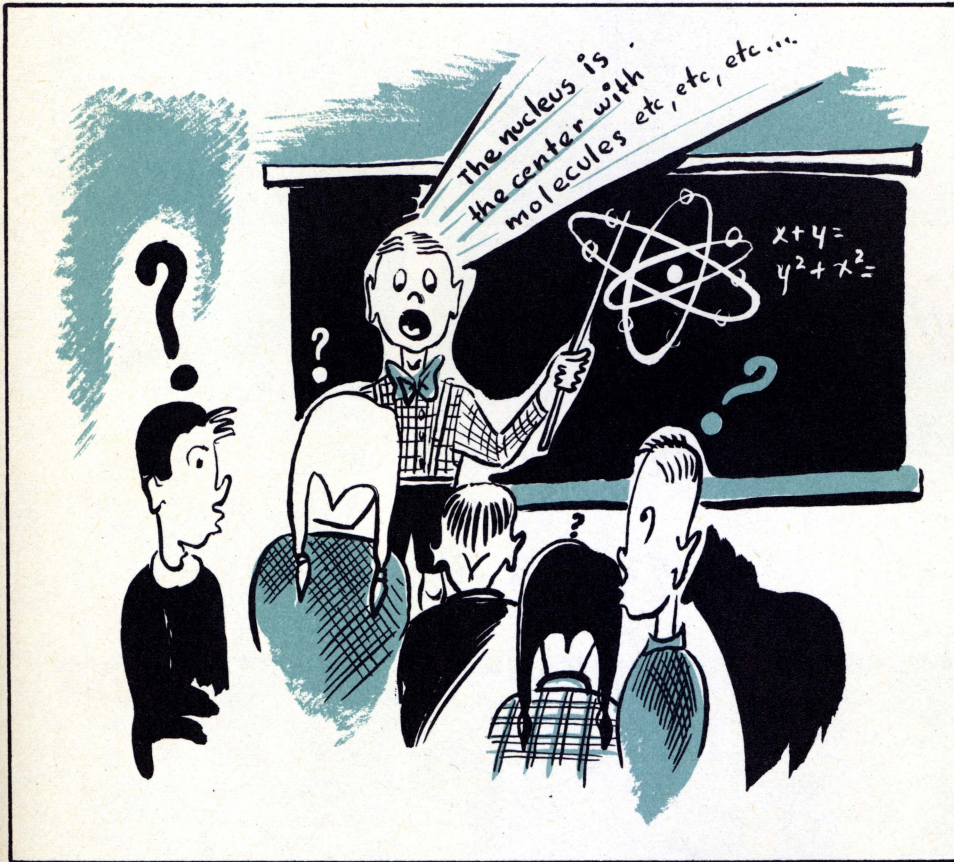


IN PRAISE OF ATOMS

COMIC BOOKS have come in for wide criticism as well as hearty praise. Some may call the series General Electric publishes "comics," but we refer to them as cartoon narratives, since they are in cartoon form and narrate a story on some phase of science.

social studies class, which by accident the superintendent of Des Moines schools heard. He asked Barry to appear before the school board. But Barry's father modestly wrote that he felt "it was substantially attributable to the information he had received from



The latest endorsement of the value of General Electric cartoon narratives has come to our attention in the form of a letter from a member of the legal department of *The Register and Tribune*, published in Des Moines, Iowa, and affiliated through ownership with *Look* and *Quick* magazines.

It all started because we received a request for some science material for Barry Zacherle, who has just entered junior high school. His father had asked us for any scientific materials we had at hand; so we shipped him a selection, including the cartoon narrative called "Adventures Inside the Atom," which deals simply with the atoms. Barry must have soaked up quantities of the material because he gave a talk on atomic energy in his

General Electric. We know that his only information in the field of atomic energy at this point has been received not from the schools but from his studies at home. Though he has some other atomic energy source material, the best of it and the most understandable at his level, comes from the comic books which you sent us."

EVERYONE'S WIRING

RESPONSE to our offer of booklets on "How to Wire Lamps with Monowatt Improv-A-Lite" has been so great that we've had to reorder these booklets from Monowatt at Providence, Rhode Island, several times. But we now have a good supply for those who still would like to know how to do

over an old lamp or how to wire wooden bases, bottles, jugs, and vases as well as how to make new lamps. Just write us at Department M6-318, Schenectady, New York.

One teacher, who thanked goodness that Hot Springs High School in New Mexico had retained its name even though the town name has been changed to Truth or Consequences because of the famous radio program, said our story on doing over an old lamp was most timely. Her crafts students have been working on just that for a project. A postscript added that "You might be interested in our ceramic lamp bases we are making with 'cut-out' designs in front—backed with sheet polyplastic and a 'Gone-with-the-Wind' wiring set-up. (By that we judge the base is lighted with a small lamp suspended below the lamp that lights the shade as the GWTW-style lamps were usually double-globed affairs.) Then we make our own lamp shades with either plastic sheets in soft-toned colors (polyplastic) or let the photo club make enlarged photographs of local scenes on translite film and tint them." Incidentally, we saw some of those double-barreled lamp wiring fixtures being made at Monowatt when we visited there several months ago.

AMONG our regrets about this issue is the fact that we're late getting this into the mails for you because of a low virus which upset editorial procedure and brought it to a halt for several weeks. We regret also that we didn't have an opportunity to go to New York this year to witness the third annual Pillsbury Bake-Off at the Waldorf-Astoria where four boys were among the junior contestants. But when that was going on, we were covering the George Junior Republic campus like the dew, soaking up atmosphere, and marveling at the spirit of the place and meeting such delightful people as those who direct activities, Mrs. Donald T. Urquhart and Mrs. Malcolm Freeborn, who were "citizens" themselves when they were teen-agers and are the daughters of the founder, William R. George, as well as their mother, "Mrs. Daddy," the widow of the founder.