

33 Rippon Ave.,
Hillsdale, Mich.,
Jan. 2, 1932.

Dear Dick:-

Have been delaying answering your letter of Dec. 19 until I got done with the rough draft. Finished with it last night, and sent it to you, together with a picture, by express this AM. If you can't read it let me know and I will send you the typed, second rough draft. As to pictures, it's very poor technique to have sent you any at all, really---it's a shame to shatter illusions. I should have let you keep your ideals intact. That's one thing I don't like about Wonder Stories---the pictures they print of their authors make them look like nothing human. If they could print good half-tones it wouldn't be so bad, but the way it is I shudder to think what my pan would look like in Wonder!

Don't know yet who is going to get Triplanetary---or rather, who will reject it. Tell you better after I hear from Astounding about it---they get the first chance to turn it down. I don't know that I agree with you entirely on Astounding Stories. Quite a few of their stories contain mathematical impossibilities, such as a second moon always behind the moon from the earth---which is one of the most glaring astronomical absurdities I ever saw put into a story; and altogether too many of them contain bare-faced plagiarisms of Merritt and other top-notchers. However, there is always quite a lot of trash in any magazine---you have to pick out the high spots for your personal files---and on the whole it seems to me that Astounding Stories gets the best-written stuff of them all.

I do agree with you, though, in that Wonder Stories is picking up. Their stuff is getting better, no doubt of that. And for a month or so after the last change of management, Amazing Stories certainly did slump badly. They had a run of stuff for a while that was really pitiful. Take the last Quarterly, for instance, and the December number was just as bad. One good story---the leader---and the rest of it stuff that sounded as though it had been written by some eleven-year old girl who had gone to school only one day in her life--and that day it rained and the teacher didn't come. However, the last issue of Amazing Stories (January--I haven't got my Feb. copy yet) was a very pleasant surprise in that the percentage of drivel was comparatively small; and I am hoping that they are on their way back up to excellence. For, you see, I happen to have a tender spot in my heart for AS. Miss Bourne is a very fine little girl, who has had to put up with a lot of things, editorially and managerially, that you and I don't know anything about; and Sloane, whiskers and all, is a pretty good old egg. I like them both very much, and have no particular reason to be very keen about Gerasback---you see, I know them personally, from going to NY so often for the Company---and would like to string along with them, at least with the rest of the Skylarks and Spacehounds, if any more get written.

But, being such a slow writer, one magazine could print all I can possibly write; I don't have to sell them all to get an outlet, and money sings a siren song to us poor chemists. Also, I certainly hope that Amazing snaps out of it and starts getting something between its covers again.

Cordially yours,