

33 Rippon Ave.,
Hillsdale, Mich.,
May 14, 1932.

Dear Dick:-

This acknowledges with beaucoup thanks your letter of May 1st, the announcement of your graduation, and the picture received about fifteen minutes ago. Thanks particularly for the picture. From your letters, etc., I have long known that you are a keen youth, and it is nice to have photographic evidence not only corroborative of the above assumption, but indicative also that you are a highly personable one as well.

Perhaps I should have answered your letter sooner, but I haven't been able---or, at least, have not been taking the time---to keep up with my correspondence lately. What with doing the work of my job, preparing a paper that I've got to read at the convention of the American Association of Cereal Chemists on May 23rd, working a little on the third Skylark, and scrapping with Olive Robb, of England---as well as trying to find out why I can't hit a golf ball this spring ---there seems to be just about half enough time on the clock.

Congratulations! First in physics, First in Chemistry! That sounds like you should have been born a Norlaminian, doesn't it? No kidding, either---you certainly have something to be proud of. Keep it up---that's the kind of effort that put Linus Pauling where he is, and he's still going.

No, I haven't done much on the new Skylarkm considering the time and work I've put on it. The first third is pretty well lined up, but I haven't been able to get the rest of it exactly where I want it---and of course, until I do get it exactly where I want it, it won't go anywhere. You may be glad to know, however, that the master mind you wanted in the yarn is already in it, clear to the neck. He was the only thing I could think of that would be able to give Seaton any opposition, in his present state of development. He meets Seaton and Crane out in "Three", between galaxies, and decides to dematerialize the whole outfit this time, without getting talked out of it. To do so, he concentrates cosmic forces which gradually use up Three's stock of power uranium. So, to avoid dematerialization, Seaton has to abandon Three, by twisting "Two" out of space into the fourth dimension. In that dimension time is distorted as well as space, giving rise to some rather interesting situations and adventures. When they get back into normal space they are so far away that an object-compass focused upon our entire galaxy does not register, and they get into several jams in an unknown Universe. From there on it's pretty nebulous as yet, but the Firsts of Norlamin get on the job; having assured Seaton that the enemy should not be allowed to prevail. Seaton builds "Skylark Four"---which is SOME SKYLARK---and the grand climax is to be the great final meeting between Seaton, Rovol, and the surviving pure intellectuals. I don't know just how I will handle that yet. Several ways possible, will have to wait and see how things develop. We can (1) wipe them out, (2) banish them from our Universe, (3) Imprison them in a stasis of time, or (4) make friends of them. Which would you suggest?

Doc
Cordially yours,