

33 Rippon Ave.,  
Hillsdale, Mich.,  
Oct. 5, 1932.

Dear Dick:-

I gather from the tone of your letter of the 3rd that I owe you a letter---a gathering that a consultation of my file shows to be the case. 'Scuse it, please: even though I am not promising that it will not happen again. There simply isn't enough time on the clock to do all the things I want to do, so this will be an answer to yours of June 5th<sup>m</sup> as well.

I think I have handled the raison d'etre of the pure intellectuals and their dematerialization of Seaton's crew in a fashion which does not outrage ordinary common sense: and I am even more critical than you are, I think, when it comes to the senseless, trite, and altogether inexcusable subterfuges sometimes employed. They decide to dematerialize Seaton, not out of enmity or wrath---which they, of course, would not feel---but simply as a more or less incidental experimentation to discover whether or not the 'terrestrials' minds were strong enough to exist without material support. Also, as you plead, I have gone into their character development at some little length---particularly concerning the suicide of one of their number.

Not so much room for character drawing in this yarn, and it really isn't called for---we already know Seaton and his crowd pretty well, and the incidental characters don't need much.

Yes, ASTOUNDING STORIES wants another story---at least, Bates has suggested that before I start anything else, I should discuss with him certain things. However, I don't think that I will start anything else---except, of course, entries in my "ideas" notebook---until I get this Skylark out of the way.

Am glad you finally got the Moon Pool---but why two copies? I haven't hunted for that book particularly, as I have it in my files of AMAZING STORIES. And as to asking me any very serious questions in real science, I'm afraid that I wouldn't be of much help. Most of this modern stuff has come up since I got my degrees, you know, and what little studying I have been able to do on my own hook hasn't made me ANY rival of Millikan or Einstein, I'll tell the cockeyed world! I have tried to keep up, more or less, with my own narrow and intensely specialized line of cereal chemistry; but that is about all I have been able to do---besides earning a living, writing a little now and then, and playing enough to keep from turning into a crab.

No, the third Skylark is nowhere near complete. If every thing goes well, I expect to finish it sometime this winter. It is to be published in AMAZING STORIES, probably next summer.

As to chemistry being a paying proposition, nobody knows, and that kind of a question cannot be answered. So much depends upon the man; and whether or not the man gets a chance. Right now, things are very slow in chemistry, as in all other lines. However, by the time you are ready to go to work at it, things should have improved sufficiently to make chemistry as good as anything else---and chemistry will be good as long as anything is, and longer than most. If I had it to do over again, I would be a chemist again. Does that answer your question?

And as far as the meat heart, I know no line of human endeavor in which such a thing would be less desirable than in chemistry. Chemists do not seem to work hard physically, and are not usually subjected to any more or sudden physical or mental stresses. But now most of us that are working at all are working easy, and have at a driving pace, but we have no money by that---all business notes are in the same boat. *Don't*