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Jan. 7, 1936.

Dear Dick:-

This time I really do feel ashamed of myself, even though I have warned you that I am probably the world's worst answerer of letters. However, I hope and trust that you will not take the time-of-answering-letters as a measure of my regard for you!

You needn't worry about us folks forgetting our three-days' guest---we all hope that you (and possibly a Mrs. Dodson) can find time sometime to spend several times that long with us.

But to get back to the issue---thanks a lot for the two or three letters and the Christmas card you have written since I wrote you at all. They were highly appreciated, even though neglected. In fact, what gave me the urge to write this time was the fact that your birthday is next week---and since a man gets to be 21 years old only once, it would seem self-evident that a letter from old Doc Smith should get to young Dick Dodson on or shortly before January 15th. Felicitations from the whole Smith gang, Dick---may you live long and prosper, and may your shadow never grow less!

No, the new yarn is coming darn slow. I've been working for a living---believe it or not! It seems as though I have been handling more and more stuff all the time---but I think that I made good, and that is what counts. In fact, I'm sure of it, and here's the proof. I'm leaving Stock's next week---the night of the 15th, your birthday, in fact---to take up the duties of superintendent of production and research for a big (of its kind) outfit specializing in doughnut flour; with a sideline of other fully prepared flours!

The new job will be right down my alley and the salary (well over five thousand a year) is to be augmented by 25% of the net profits of my department. Therefore the better doughnut flour I make the more they will sell of it and the greater the Smith income. Not so bad, wot? I'm all hopped up about it; the only drawback being that I won't have any time at all to write scientific fiction for probably a year, until I get the new job rolling smoothly.

My address⁶, however, will remain as at the top of this letter until after school is out in June. Then maybe I will be able to rouse myself from torpor enough to send you whatever my new address is going to be.

Cordially yours,

