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313 HOMECREST ROAD
JACKSON, MICHIGAN

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Dear Dick:-

You know, Dick, I really envy those loafers you see on the street corners and before pool-rooms, who have so much idle time on their hands that they have to dissipate it by staring away hours and hours? For to me, time is such a precious asset that there is never enough of it---between the things that I must do and my family-supporting job, there is very little time indeed to do the things I should do; to say nothing of those I would like to do. Apropos of this; my wife declared the other evening that that was the reason why in my stories I always had some race like the Vorkuls, who could do a dozen things at once---a subconscious desire to be a being like that myself, so that I could get more done.

However, I am very glad indeed that you wrote again; for, believe it or not, I value your friendship highly, and would hate to lose track of you altogether, even though I am such a notoriously poor correspondent.

I have been working really frantically for the last year on "Galactic Patrol"; and it is now done and accepted. Probably there will be an announcement concerning it in the next Astounding, or the next after that. Since you have been against it ever since its inception, I do not expect you to rank it very high---but you may find it acceptable reading. I like it in spots: but, as usual, now that it is too late to do anything about it, I find it is a lot weaker than I had hoped it would be. I have, however, selected my hero logically, for the first time in sf, I believe. After going through the mill that Kinnison did, and graduating number one, a guy would have to be a super-man---he couldn't be anything else but.

I rather agree with you that some of the modern sf is getting pretty tripy in straining after fantastic effects by indefensible means. But some of the boys like it---so what? Most of it is interesting (MOST, you notice I said, not all) and it takes all kinds of stories to keep the presses running. We had a lot of tripe in the good old days, too.

If you do get out here to Michigan this summer---or any other time---be sure to look us up. We have a real house here (notice change of address) in which we hope to live from now on; and in which we have ample room to put away our friends. And our friends' wives are ex officio our friends, also.

Cordially if belatedly yours,

Edward (Doc) Smith