



DAWN OF A NEW ERA

At breakfast Johnny went out to the barn to milk the cows. It was still predawn. He carried a huge cup of coffee and a chocolate donut for his older brother.

"'lo, Ralph. You okay?"

Ralph had been up all night tinkering but now sat in an old cloth easy chair awaiting the results of his invention. He nodded an okay sleepily to his brother and took the donut and coffee.

"Whatcha got?"

"It's like a battery. You can recharge it, too. I'm making it AC from the get-go and it's 110."

He lifted a lump of goop and kneaded it with both hands. It looked like modeling clay, bright like Play Doh. When he had squeezed it into a rough ball-shape he inserted an ordinary extension cord from an unlit lamp into it, then flipped the lamp on; it lit as though plugged into a wall.

"Cool! How long's that battery last?"

Ralph frowned in concentration, trying to figure, then replied, "'Bout a year, I reckon. Maybe more."

"That's a good battery, all right. Can I have your other donut if you don't want it?"

"What other donut?"

"It's in the kitchen."