

Dr. Grote Reber
Wailuku, Maui
Hawaii.

March 12, 1954

Dear Dr. Reber,

Thanks for the material you just sent me. I had just about lost hope!

Please remember to send me any later photographs you may take as well as the article you will be preparing about your results.

A lot has happened on my project since we met one another. As you know, I spent a day looking over some of the correspondence you had with Schauer at the Research Corporation. It was most enlightening to me. One amusing incident was connected with it. In one of your letters to Schauer you mentioned that the Australians had selected an island off the coast for a radio observatory somewhat along the lines of yours--the juicy part of the story, of course, was that they had to blow the top off one of two mountains in order to get a clear field on the horizon. Well, I met ByY. Mills in Washington and asked him about this. He never heard of it, as he may have told you when he saw you on his way back to Sydney. Some day when you have a leisure moment I'd like to know more about this!

You may be interested to know that I shall be visiting Cambridge, Manchester, Malvern (J.S. Hey) and Leiden this spring. By the time that trip is over, I expect to qualify as the most informed person about radio astronomy among non-radio astronomers.

Also, I've been learning a good deal more about Jansky. I spent a day with his former associates at Holmdel, and have been corresponding with his brothers and his sister in Madison. His sister, Helen, sent me some interesting excerpts from letters he wrote her while he was with the Bell Labs. I think these excerpts would interest you very much and next time you are here you are free to see them. They indicate, among other things, that Jansky wanted to continue doing radio astronomy but couldn't find the time. He had very little encouragement. He planned to do much more than he actually did: "I will now make ~~an~~ a study of star static in the range from 3.5 meters to 12 meters...Friis is really beginning to show a little interest!" This was written in September 1935 and there is a lot more along similar lines. But he never did his later studies, the ones he planned.

Please excuse the length of this letter. But I thought first that you might just be interested, and second that it might be welcome to some one living 6000 feet up on a mountain in Hawaii--especially since no answer is called for or expected.

This is probably related to the 100 ft dish he tried to promote sometime prior to 1940 according to a conversation I had with Jansky in Washington about 1944.

Yours,
John Jeffers

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