

March 14th, 1955  
G.P.O., Hobart  
Tasmania, Australia

Dear Pfeiffer:

Thanks for your note of the 5th. Your manuscript arrived here late in January and I got it off early in February. By boat it takes about a month so you should have it by now. I thot it quite good and made only a few minor corrections. When you get some final proofs from the printer I'll be pleased to take another look at it.

A short account of my results in Hawaii appeared in the January 8th issue of Nature. A similar report on what was accomplished at NBS during my stay there was published in the following issue.

The situation here is a bit up in the air. I finally secured my apparatus two days before Christmas. About six weeks were required to get it into shape because I was not able to finish it while in Hawaii. We secured a few fairly good traces under conditions when the ionosphere criticals were too high toward the end of last month. Then we encountered a bit of bad luck with faults on the power line which caused such great disturbances that nothing else could be heard. This situation presently exists and I have been spending a lot of time running around with the people of the Wireless Branch of the Post Office Department and the engineers of the Hydro-electric Commission. Eventually we will get this trouble under control and be back in business. I expect to be here until August.

We haven't detected any hole yet but hope to before the winter (your summer) is out. The mechanism is quite complex and does not seem to appear in any text books. Your statement of how you visualize the hole is correct but the explanation is quite lengthy. The direction of the hole is neither at the zenith nor along the earths magnetic field but is tied up with the field direction and strength and the critical frequency of the F layer. Presently the whole business is merely a figment of the imagination of the theoretical boys. I'm here to give it a practical try. We'll know in a few months.

I'm still with the Research Corporation but the Aussies are leaning over backward to give me a hand. This I sincerely appreciate. XXX If I'd been able to get any cooperation at NBS even faintly similar to what I'm receiving here I'd still probably be at NBS!

It is good to hear that you obtained an extension on your grant from Gugenheim and that you will be able to make another trip to Europe. There is to be a conference on radio astronomy in England toward the end of August which you should attend. If I can get finished up here in time I expect to come back to America via Europe and take in the conference.

Wishing you the best of luck with your ventures, I am