

December 14th, 1951
212 W. Seminary Ave.
Wheaton, Illinois

Mr. John P. Hagen
Radio Division
Naval Research Laboratory
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Hagen:

A couple of days ago I returned here and found your letter of November 21st awaiting me. Thanks very much.

Last spring I took a vacation and went to Hawaii to learn first hand about circumstances out there. Inquiry showed things to be quite auspicious for doing experiments in Radio Astronomy. Thus I decided to stay instead of returning to NBS where the future seemed quite vacant.

I have been fortunate in securing a lease on Kolo Kolo shown on the enclosed foto. From there one looks over the tops of West Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe. The Koolau range on Oahu sticks up slightly beyond the water to the west. Only to the southeast do Mauna Kea and Loa On Hawaii obscure the sea horizon. Even at this azimuth water reflections may be obtained from the Alenuihaha channel. At the latitude of Maui all the milkyway rises from and sets into the sea. Thus Kolo Kolo should be a good place to do Lloyds mirror experiments.

So far I have a building with heat, light and power; also a steel turntable running on a track 82 feet in diameter. Presently I am organizing my affairs here with the intention of spending the next few years in the Islands. Since the top of the mountain is unsuitable for outdoor work the first three months of the year, I'll probably be around the States until spring.

By chance, I met Bowen in Honolulu (crossroads of the Pacific). He mentioned the URSI meeting in Camberra next August. Since it is only 23 hours from Hawaii to Australia, I think I will be present at both URSI and IAU meetings; but probably not give any paper as it is doubtful if I will have any results at that time.

It is gratifying to learn that the 50 foot dish is now in operating order. That development represents a great deal of an outlay in time and money. However, I am firmly convinced that the future of radio astronomy is directly associated with larger and larger pieces of equipment.

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318 W. Seminary Ave.

A year ago I believe you were planning to observe the eclipse in Egypt. I am wondering how this business is progressing and whether or not you still expect to go.

I expect to be at the A.A.S. meeting in Cleveland ^{and} after Christmas. If I don't see you there, I'll be in Washington for a couple of days in January and will drop in at NRL to see you, Haddock and the 50 foot dish. Until then,

Mele Kalikimaka Hauoli Makahiki Hou

(Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year)

Grote Reber

Called up on 1-10-52. They were leaving for Sudan that afternoon, so I didn't see him.