

August 17, 1959

Mr. Walter van B. Roberts
155 Hodge Rd.
Princeton, N. J.

Dear Mr. Roberts:

Thank you for your good letter of the 8th. Your ideas were very advanced for their time and I am pleased to learn of them. Unfortunately I have never had an opportunity to read your book on "How Radio Receivers Work" but it sounds very interesting.

By comparing the first and fourth paragraphs of your letter it seems to me that you invented the idea of stabilizing amplitude of oscillations much earlier than Black invented stabilized gain. I gather that the methods are rather similar. Perhaps by the time Black's ideas appeared there was a practical need for stabilization and so future development followed along these lines. Returning to your stabilized oscillator; I wonder if any measurements were made on harmonic content? The harmonics should have been quite low. Is this oscillator described in your book or in Radio Broadcast Magazine?

NRAC is still in the construction stage and our library is quite meager, especially on radio subjects. Also, we are far from any large city library. I am wondering if you have an extra copy of your book or your articles which I could borrow for a short time to examine?

The study of old radio gear is just a hobby of mine. During the past several years I have been out of the country. However upon my return about nine months ago, it became possible for me to indulge in this pastime again. I have quite a lot of interesting specimens. Several of the old jobs have reflex circuits which were popular in the early 1920's. It seems to me this idea might be used again for light, compact, low power consumption apparatus. I'll be making a weeks trip to NYC next month. On the way up I'd like to stop for a day and see you in Princeton, if convenient to you.

Unfortunately, I have never had the pleasure of meeting your brother. Please tell him to come by sometime. The Howard Tatal telescope is all finished and operating fine. We are quite proud of it and the results being secured.

Sincerely,

Grote Reber