

GEORGE C. SOUTHWORTH
19 WILLIAMS ROAD, CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY

November 26, 1955

Mr. Grote Reber,
Wailuku,
Maui,
Hawaii.

Dear Mr. Reber:

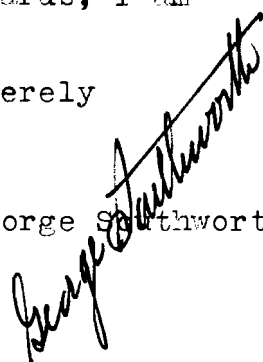
I am preparing an article for the Scientific Monthly on the early history of radio astronomy. It will feature the important steps, as gleaned from Karl Jansky's notebook, that led him to his very important discovery, but it will mention also my part in the early work on the Sun. Near the end of the section relating to Jansky I refer to your work. What I have said is based somewhat on hearsay as contrasted with positive knowledge. Therefore I should like to have you look over what I have said to make sure that it is in accordance with fact and that it is altogether satisfactory to you. As the article has already been accepted and the editor is now awaiting my final release, I shall be glad if you can give me a rather prompt answer. If your answer is sufficiently brief it can be sent collect via cable, care of Dr. W.O. Baker, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Murray Hill, N.J.

You may be interested to know that on August 24 I reached the age where retirement from the Bell Telephone Laboratories is mandatory. I am now enjoying myself writing Forty Years of Radio Research, doing a little consulting work for companies interested in waveguides and perhaps being just a little bit lazy.

With my very best wishes for the coming Christmas season and with my very best personal regards, I am

Very sincerely

George Southworth



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to other duties and his work in radio astronomy came to an end. His interest nevertheless continued.

It is of interest that following Mr. Jansky's pioneering work, the study of extra-terrestrial noise passed to Mr. Grote Reber another lone-worker in the field. Working in his own back-yard observatory in Wheaton, Illinois under the severe handicap of carrying on at the same time full-time employment, he was able to extend very materially Mr. Jansky's results. As many readers know, his work is still in progress *but not now* under far more favorable conditions. Its importance, through the years, speaks very eloquently for itself. Not only have important contributions been made but more or less single handedly he maintained the dreary night watch which together with Mr. Jansky's work has given us nearly a quarter-century of nearly continuous radio astronomy. Indeed when written, *of the history* Chapter 2_A of radio astronomy promises to be quite as thrilling as Chapter 1.

The Detection of Radio Waves from the Sun

It will be noted that Mr. Jansky's discovery was one in which an experiment set up for another purpose led to the discovery of a phenomenon which at that time was altogether unknown and even unsuspected. In contrast, radiation from the sun was a phenomenon that had long been expected. Both the principles of radiation from incandescent bodies and resistance noise, perhaps two aspects of the same phenomenon, had pointed to sources of energy of this kind. True enough there was doubt in some minds that the laws of