

4th January 1963

Greetings Jennie:

I hope you had a nice vacation away from all the cold and snow the radio says covers your part of the world. Or, maybe you go in for winter sports?

The premier nautical event in Australia is the 680 mile open sea race from Sydney to Hobart which was won this year by an American boat Ondine. The Aussies pride themselves on being good sportsmen; but in view of the Gretel affair, this was a bit hard to stomach. Actually it was a good race. The elapsed time was fourteen hours less than the previous record. The wind blew strongly from the northeast most of the way. Then as the lead boats rounded southeast cape the wind obligingly changed to out of southeast. The Ondine and the Astor raced up the channel with full sail and a 20 knot wind behind them. The Ondine crossed the line at Battery Point just two lengths and fifteen seconds ahead of Astor. A real foto finish after 680 miles. Only one boat in over 25 entries was registered from Hobart. However, about half were built here and sold to mainland owners.

The most important business this month is to get some more charts for my microbarograph. These are Weather Bureau form WB 1068C revised August 1947. Instrument has pen arm 7.625" long. Axis is 3.375" above clock flange. Chart has range of 2.5" mercury in graduations of 0.02" Length of chart is 4 days 10 hours graduated in hours. Please send a package of 100 charts by sea mail insured. We are getting very good data with the instrument here. I intend to compare the results with those secured in Hawaii.

No word has come from NSF. I'm not anxious for an early decision, but would like an acknowledgment of the material. Please have Mr. Schauer make some inquiries.

Please enter a one quarter page ad as follows in four issues of each of the four journals listed below. They are all botanical field magazines but rather limited coverage and circulation. All are quarterlies.

W A N T E D

Information, Bulbs, Seeds and Specimens

Plants with random spiral twist. That is, half the population turning one way and half the population turning the other way.

Annual vine producing large seed pods and having spiral like left hand screw thread. Vine crosses in front of support from lower right to upper left.

Give details, quantity and cost in first letter.

GRÖTE REBER

Research Corporation, 405 Lexington Ave., New York 17, New York

Botanical Gazette, University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Castanea, Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, West Virginia University,
Morgantown, West Virginia

Rhodora, New England Botanical Club, Botany Museum, Cambridge, Mass.
Leaflets of Western Botany, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, Cal.

There is a package of back issues of Quastana in the carton atop the filing cabinet in storage room. Please send these and any other issues which may have come in by sea mail.

sent 29/1/63
arr. 6/3/63

The past couple of years I've been penalized about \$70 because I paid my income tax annually instead of quarterly. Please locate and send by sea mail two copies of the appropriate quarterly forms plus the instructions. With them, please include those slips you mention in your letters of 7th & 12th December; so I can see what kind of a number game that is. Eventually I'll need some annual forms but those can wait.

The bean vines are much poorer this year than last because they got off to a poor start. However some results should be forthcoming eventually.

My luck with the twining cactus has been much better. I think I've now learned how to handle this seed. Over a dozen shoots are doing well. They should be appreciable size plants by autumn.

The antenna array at Bethwell is finished and ready to operate. The electronic equipment still requires some tinkering which I'll get onto now that the holidays are over. The predictions for the ionosphere indicate the hole should open for a few hours most nights early in February. I hope that I'll be able to report some activity when I write again next month.

Al. Kelleher might be interested in "Home Grown Cargo Cults", by C. C. Gulliver, Discovery, May 1962, page 54.

Best regards,

Grote Raber

Grote Raber