

8th July 80

Dear Hap:

Certainly glad to receive your letter of 21/6/80. I was on verge of writing to Jennie to find out if some mishap had befallen you. Over a year ago I tried to talk to farmer about poles. He was uninterested; only suggested they could be pulled out. Obviously, he was thinking of fence posts. During past four years he has had a sick and gradually declining wife. After several operations, she has reached condition of being incapacitated. She may linger on a long time yet. Obviously, his domestic problems are increasingly difficult and unhappy. His son now runs the ranch. He is a pleasant young man gradually gaining experience. I will discuss poles with him. I'm sure any agreement we come to will be approved by farmer. My rent is paid to 5/5/81.

My activities at Palatine and Dallas are completed. It is now clear I will not be living or working in the States (name for U.S.A. here) again. It has taken me a long time to come to this decision. I am keeping my States citizenship, at least for time being.

My arrangements with Jennie were entered into as a matter of expediency about 20 years ago. I am very appreciative of her service and attention far beyond the call of duty. I knew Jennie would retire, but didn't know when. Last summer at Palatine, I made inquiry in Chicago. There are trust companies who purport to provide this bookkeeping service. Actually, they would really be one more group of ignorant, irresponsible, shifless, everchanging clerks for me to check up on.

I wish to keep money in States for items I may desire to purchase and possible travel expenses. Also it makes me independent of vicissitudes of Australian exchange regulations. Accordingly I've decided to try to handle my own affairs from here. During next few weeks I'll get out appropriate letters to all companies. Also I'll tell Jennie to send certificates to me here by registered mail.

These measures should close up my affairs with RC in a responsible and amicable manner after 30 years of pleasant association. I've no plans to be in States. However, sometime, I hope to see you in San Diego. We can go over old times and new with a feeling of mutual friendship and admiration. I think we've both lived a vigorous and satisfying life. I still plan to be here quite a while yet. Winter is really quite pleasant in Tasmania. No severe cold or great snow. The sun is low in north but shines nearly every day. I think Tasmania is one of few places left fit for human habitation.

P.S. When Jennie retires, she will receive a present. I would like to be part of it. Please tell me when and where to send my donation.

G.R.

Best wishes,

Grote
Grote Reber
General Delivery
Bothwell, Tasmania
Australia 7411