

2nd August 1963

Greetings Jennie:

Your letter of 28th June and Mr. Schauer's of 5th July were quite welcome. The book by Lynn White arrived on 24/6/63. It has more substance and scholarly presentation than the book by Derek Price. Both have been passed around and read with interest. The Almanac, reprints, Castanea and Burpee's catalog arrived on 17 & 19/7/63. One picture of pole beans appears to have been turned left to right causing vine to turn backward. I have written to Mr. David Burpee requesting seeds from this or an equal plant.

The RC annual report arrived from Blake Yates. I'm quite flattered by the comments on page 23. According to page 31, I gather the 1000 megawatt alternator was cancelled. Too large a percentage of system capacity in one machine; or hoped for improved thermal efficiency not to be realized; or atomic power more economical at this size level?

Thru my ad in the Victorian Naturalist, I have secured roots and plants of a twining asparagus which may have stalks going both directions. New shoots are coming up. My ad appeared in March 63 Castanea. It was well done. Please buy and send to me one copy of "Common Seed Plants" by Strausbaugh, \$3.00 from The Book Exchange, 152 Willey St., Morgantown, W.Va. } Rec'd on 26/9/63

One of my Flinders Island plants drowned because of too much watering. The other I have on a more arid diet. It is doing well. Soon I'll try the seed. Some was sent to my statistical friend in Calcutta. He recently quoted my beans article at length in a report of his in the Journal of Genetics. The local professor of botany here was totally disinterested until he read Davis' article. Now I'm supplying his department with seed. *Bowiea volubilis* has a twining flower stalk about 3" high. It seems to like the piece of hanging string I gave it. Presently, I keep my plants in the CSIRO green house.

Rumor has it a company named Geochron has started making carbon date analysis in Cambridge, Mass. Please have them send to me literature on their equipment, processes, accuracy, sample size, time and cost. I intend to have another couple of samples run; write up the study and call it closed.

You can keep the deposit slips from Harris until I need them. I'll write a proposal for Mr. Schauer describing what has been done, the results, desired improvements, how much, etc. The money matter can rest for now.

The Franklin Institute has been sent a picture and biography. I was in USA less than a year ago, so another trip now would be mostly a waste of time, money and effort. I propose that Al Kelleher go to Phila. as representative of RC on 10th October and pickup and forward the medal to me. I'll write a nice thankyou note to F.I. I think RC would get more for its money by sending someone to Tasmania to see what has been accomplished and what is proposed for the future. How about Mr. Hinkley paying a call upon his Sydney representative?

The installation at Bothwell continues to produce results up to 12 hours on some nights. July was better than June which was rather poor due to a resurgence of solar activity. The spot count rose to a third maximum value for several days. Apparently the old spot cycle is hanging on. The minimum may be a few years off yet. I'm teaching my men at Bothwell to scale the charts, which should allow me more time for other matters.

We're having fine winter weather here. It never snows in Hobart.

Best regards,

Grote

Grote Reber