

23rd April, 1956
G.P.O., Hobart,
Tasmania, Australia

Dear Schuyler:

Your letters of the 11th and 18th March arrived in good time. It is pleasant to learn that your new job looks so good and has a future. Certainly your last two letters are a great improvement over the kind you were in the mood of writing last year. It is difficult for me to judge how far you have progressed by now, but I gather that the pace is a bit hectic. It seems likely that you can do as well or perhaps better in Louisville on finding a suitable house as in Wheaton. I know you spent a lot of time looking last year.

I don't feel any urgency on getting rid of 212 W. Seminary. While the house is sort of run down and beaten up, I think it should be moved and not torn down. With some fixing it can be put in better shape than many houses now being built and I'm sure a lot of people would be very happy to live in it. I think I would object to tearing it down merely as a matter of expediency.

I couldn't tell from the list Hahn sent whether or not was included two copper hemispheres about 26" diameter and one aluminum cylinder 6" dia. and 3' long. These were, or are, on the rafters above the door in the garage. Please be sure to have Hahn get them as they were some of my most successful equipment and I prize them highly.

As I mentioned, the two weeks spent at Manchester and Leiden were very interesting and profitable scientifically. Living in England was rather unpleasant and uncomfortable but over in Holland I did much better. In spite of a lot of snow I went skating several times and had my picture taken in front of a windmill. I understand that it usually freezes without any snow. Then the skating opportunities are unlimited. It seems that 30-40 miles is considered a nice Sunday afternoon junket and that they have races up to 200km (120mi.). The experts can do this in less than 6 hours and a person with average stamina can cover the course in daylight. I rode around the big gulf called the Zuider Zee on their fine fast and clean electric trains to a place called Dwingelo where they have their new radio astronomy installation and a mirror 85 feet diameter just recently installed. All in all I was quite impressed with the Dutch. A much better cleaner and more industrious brand of people than the British. The British railroads I encountered were down right filthy. The trip back here was no bargain. I didn't see much and most of what I did produced no desire on my part to see more. The only place which looked interesting was Bangkok. I was rather impressed with the wide, spacious clean setup and the neat pleasant people. About 10am after leaving Djakarta we passed Bali. However from four miles high and ten miles away I could not tell anything about the condition of the Women. We also passed the southern tip of Timor where Bligh landed after the mutiny on the Bounty and saw the remains of the island of Krakatoa which blew up about 75 years ago. Apparently that explosion made atom and H bombs look like child's toys. Several

cube mile of material dropped and what was an island is now just water in the middle.

Things down here move at the usual slow pace. I made one error in judgment. Instead of coming back here immediately, I should have stayed in America for several months and secured and organized all my apparatus. It then could have been shipped complete in working order as was done a year ago with so much success. Presently, I'm mixed up in a variety of procurement problems. However I now have in hand most of what will be needed or can probably secure delivery on the rest in six weeks. My Pop tents arrived a few days ago in good shape. Present estimates indicate that I should begin to get some results toward the end of June and probably complete the observations in two months. Thus it will be September before I can leave. However if the experiments are successful, I'll return by boat and bring all my stuff with me. Then it is my intention to try the same thing again on a more lavish scale in northern U.S.A. or southern Canada. This decision will be deferred for a few months however. Right now I'm hunting around for a suitable valley to make the observations. There are plenty of vallies but so far I've not found one which will fulfill all the requirements. Tomorrow I take delivery on a good used Holden sedan which should expedite my movement a great deal over using rental cars.

Keep me informed on the progress of you and yours,

Grote Reber