

3rd July 1964

Greetings Jennie:

Are you still there? Thanks for the R.C. 1963 Award bulletin and patents which arrived on 24th June. There has been more discussion about the latter in Physics Today, May 1964, pages 60-62. The R.C. annual report arrived on the 29th. I'm flattered by the comments about me on page 31; also most appreciative of the dominating sum listed on the following page. Expenses have been nominal during the past year. I still have about half the money provided in the last budget, so I do not expect to need any further funds during the coming year.

Solar activity continues to decline and observing conditions steadily improve. Last year I was delighted to get some results with my new installation, so the data looked good. Recently I re-examined these recordings and was surprised to note the poor quality. Most of such stuff I would now reject by this year's standards. The best parts confirm my latest observations. Even so, the present installation has a capability which is seldom fully realized due to limitations of the ionosphere. When the F layer is transparent and quiescent the sky seems covered with fine celestial detail which most of the time is blurred or completely fogged out. Perhaps next year will produce even better observing conditions. I seem to have pushed the wavelength rather far into the longwave region of diminishing returns. With my present experience, I could build a much improved installation, but its capabilities would be realized only on rare occasions. I propose to work the present installation out during this solar activity minimum and consider something vastly better for the next minimum.

Please contact the U.S. Map Service and secure: a general map showing the north half of the lower peninsula of Michigan; also a map index listing detail maps and giving position, area, and scale of each. These may be sent by sea mail. I will then pick out a series of detail maps for further study. I am looking for flat, open waste land between Traverse City and Saginaw.

Haldane has given my last two years bean results leading place in the next issue of the Journal of Genetics, pages 1-4!

He also wrote a very flattering letter requesting any further papers of this kind I might develop. The past years crop is all in but I've not done anything with it yet.

However I've examined the results from my climbing lily. This has setup a new train of thought on how to handle such biological data. I've worked out a new approach which should be much more delicate and capable of detecting exceedingly small differences in performance with high significance factors. I intend to try it on the most adverse part of this past years crop of beans.

A few weeks ago I gave a lecture to the Royal Society of Tasmania. The hall was packed with people standing at the rear. Very flattering! This is the first scientific society given a royal charter outside London. The early settlers must have had a tremendous spread of interest, talent, ability and background.

Until next month,

Best regards,

*Grote Reber*  
Grote Reber