

Scientist Atop Haleakala Probing Space Mysteries

By DAVE STRONA

ATOP MT. HALEAKALA, MAUI, HAWAII, October 2 — In a small building at 10,000 feet elevation an HC&S diesel engine purrs along generating electricity for one of the most interesting scientific experiments in the world. When we first heard of these goings on, it immediately raised the question as to why Maui was chosen for this amazing scientific exploration and what it was all about. This information, we decided, would interest you; so here it is.

At first, we heard rumors that the experiment involved radio waves from outer space, and that they had something to do with the control of flying saucers. It is probably best to make it clear at the beginning that the experiment in no way is connected with flying saucers.

We interviewed the man who has come to Maui to conduct the studies. Garbed in khakis and denim shirt, Grote Reber tried his best to explain the scientific studies he is making. Of course, much of it was about as understandable as an income tax form, but we gained a knowledge of at least a few of the facts involved.

It seems that there was a scientist named Jansky experimenting with radio waves in thunderstorms about 25 years ago, and he became somewhat concerned when his receiving apparatus, while centered at a certain spot in the sky, picked up radio waves even when there was no thunderstorm. Also, the waves were just a static and did not carry a message or a code. As the disturbance apparently was coming from some unknown space source, he called it, "cosmic static". He wrote a few reports on the matter, and that seemed to be that . . . except for Grote Reber, who took an interest in this strange phenomenon.

According to Reber, his curiosity was aroused because he was interested in both astronomy and radio. He was a "ham" operator, and also spent a great deal of his time visiting the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, near his home. He



GROTE REBER

is a resident of Wheaton, Illinois, and a graduate electrical engineer from the Armour College of Engineering of the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. He has also done graduate work in astronomy and its allied sciences at the University of Chicago, while employed as an engineer for various radio companies there.

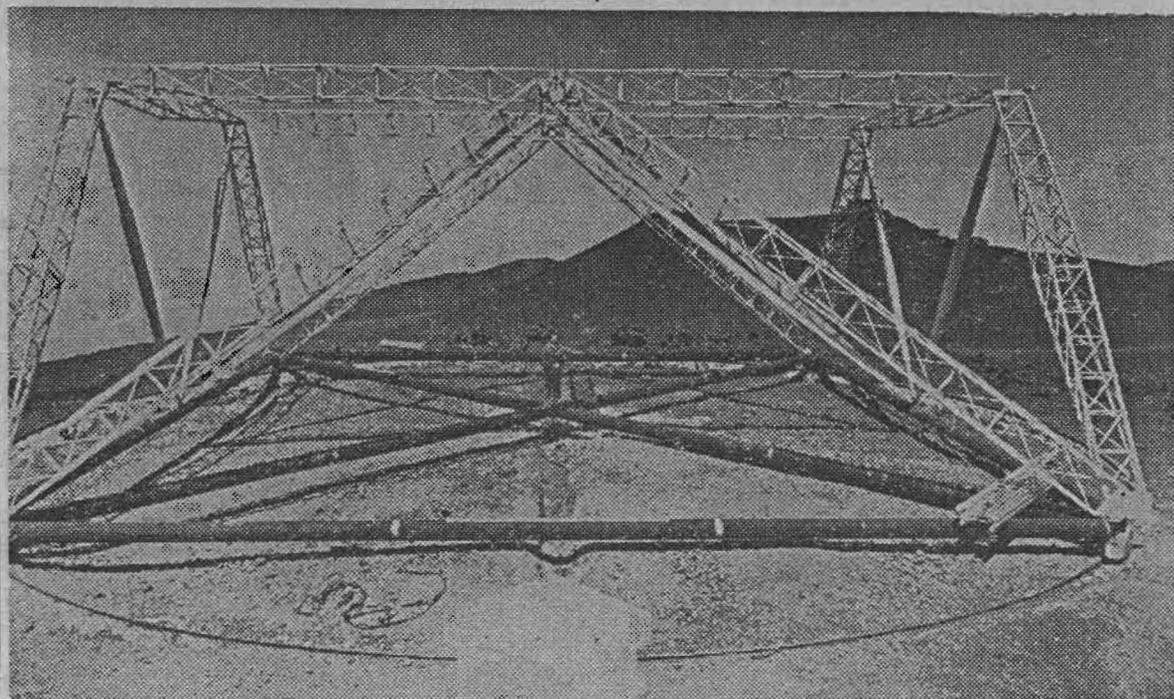
At first, Reber made a few experiments with some equipment he rigged up at his home. From these trials, he learned that the "static" was coming from a definite place in the sky. The area it was coming from was in the Milky Way and seemed to be about the size of the cup of the Big Dipper. Naturally, being a scientist, he was not satisfied with so general a location of the static. He wanted to pin-point it, and try to find out exactly where its source was, and what was creating it.

That's how the HC&S diesel engine got to the top of Haleakala. Grote Reber picked that location for his work because he wanted a tall mountain peak surrounded by water to set up his apparatus. The water surrounding Maui acts as a great mirror, reflecting the radio waves from the sky up to the top of the mountain where it is picked up by Reber's equipment. The diesel engine supplies electricity for the experiments.

Today, if you journey to the top of Haleakala, you will see an imposing structure that looks like a railroad trestle. This is the revolving table which supports the aerials picking up the radio waves. While you're there, drop in on Reber and ask him what is causing the cosmic static. Maybe he'll know sooner than you think. And as a result, it may open up a new field for the astronomers who are trying every day to figure out how "it all got here".

H.C.&S. BREEZE

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YOU'RE WRONG! THAT'S NOT A STEEL BRIDGE STRUCTURE. Rather, it is part of the experimental apparatus constructed by Radio Engineer Grote Reber atop Haleakala to catch "cosmic static". The static, according to Reber, comes from space, somewhere in the "Milky Way." In the interest of astronomy, he is trying to find where these radiations are coming from, how strong they are, and what their source is. The wave-receiving gear above is mounted on wheels and can be revolved slowly to a position where the waves come in best in order to aid in locating the "source" of this phenomenon.