

7th November 1961

Greetings Jennie:

Thanks for your letters of the 10th, 20th, and 25th October. The letter with carbon dates from Isotopes Inc. was posted on 6th September and arrived here on 20th October. Five good dates were secured as follows: 8700, 6050, 5220, 3750, 1500 years before the present. This is quite a scatter, but shows I am on the track of a good thing. Apparently, the blacks arrived here shortly after the ice receded about ten millenia ago. I intend to get on with this as rapidly as possible. The other five dates were failures. One gave an age of -1200 years! This seems to have raised the eyebrows of the people at Isotopes as never happening before. The trouble is that the sands of the west coast contain appreciable thorium and uranium. If these radioactive contaminants are not properly washed out, negative ages are secured. Perhaps, 3750 and 1500 are really much older.

Recently I visited the University of New England at Armidale, N.S.W. Apparently, the only trained and qualified archeologist in Australia is on the staff of the history department. Prof. Williams is in charge and he has engendered a lot of enthusiasm. They are doing high class work on a shoe string. Circumstances are much different there, but I could learn a lot on how to do it, what to look for and how to interpret the finds. In a few months I'll make another trip to see better what goes on and participate in their work. I suggested that he write to Hap and ask for \$2000. I also told him he wouldn't get it but might get a small sum now and more later. If he could be given \$500 now and an equal sum in six or eight months, it would look like an appreciable help. I believe there is a great future for archeology in Australia mainly because practically nothing has been done.

Also I visited Parkes for the dedication of the 210 ft. dish. It is an excellent job. During preliminary trials, two fine new radio sources were turned up by chance without even trying. It cost about two million dollars complete with roads, buildings, houses for astronomers, caretakers, etc. There are 900 adjusting points on surface of dish. After initial adjustment, 60% are within 1mm, 40% 2mm, 6 points 3mm, 1 point -5mm. When the steel has settled a few months, a final readjustment will be made. Compared to the 140ft dish; the Parkes dish has twice the area, three times the accuracy and cost about a quarter as much, if and when the former gets finished. Only by such a yardstick is it possible to see how incredibly bad the operation at Green Bank really is.

While on this subject, I am gradually coming to the opinion that Green Bank might as well be closed down. The most important work likely to ever be done there has already been completed and published; namely my beans. Discussion with various botanists produces mixed reactions but it appears the idea, approach and results are quite unorthodox. My new crop has come up and are mostly six inches high or better. Also I've gotten a few shoots of twining cactus started.

The operation at Bothwell hasn't been forgotten. Please have Campbell fish out the following cases from my stack at Funderene and add to the shipment. From Hawaii: No.5, drill press and motor \$120; Nos.16 & 19, personal effects, clothing, tools, etc. each \$150; These three each 14" x 21" x 23". No.28, large maps, tools, \$90, about 22" x 26" x 6". From Green Bank No.29, two radio receivers, \$200, 24" x 22" x 14". Also box or carton from James A. Smith which arrived at Funderne in February.

~~The operation at Botwell hasn't been forgotten. Please have Campbell fish out the following cases from my stack at Fingern and add to the shipment. From Hawaii: No. 5, grill press and motor \$120; Nos. 10 & 11, personal effects, clothing, tools, etc. each \$150; These three each 14" x 21" x 23". No. 28, large maps & tools, \$90, about 22" x 26" x 6". From Green Bank No. 29, two radio receivers, \$200 each, 22" x 22" x 14". Also box or carton from James A. Smith which arrived at Fingern in February. Probably about 20" x 20" x 15". Contains DeForest radio receiver. Value about \$75. Also box or carton from James H. Stegner which~~

probably about 20" x 20" x 15". Contains DeForest radio receiver. Value about \$75. Also box or carton from James H. Stegner which arrived in December or January. Contains two portable radios, value \$125. The last two may have to be put in wooden case. The Silastic bands may also be included with these. Please try to find another ship coming direct to Hobart so as not to transship at Sydney. The wire and rods may be stowed as general cargo. However the above small cases should be placed in a locked compartment. Also label Scientific Apparatus and not Radios. The latter excited the cupidity of larcenous wharfies, etc. One box of the previous shipment was broken open and ransacked. Fortunately, the goods were of such nature as to be unsaleable so nothing was stolen.

Please don't spend any more time on the old radios. That was just something to piddle with while I supervised the fumbling known as reconstructing my old dish at Green Bank. I'll get rid of most of that stuff eventually. If any more literature comes in just send it by sea at your convenience.

The book on Modern Space Science and the R.C. Annual Report arrived in good shape. Thanks. I trust the Grants Committee had a good time at Yosemite and did their duty.

Best regards,
Grote
Grote Reber

P.S. Add the following from Green Bank: Cases Nos. 9, 10, 11, 12. They are all 24" x 22" x 14". The first three contain paper work; the last has radio parts. Value unknown but say \$220 each. Also carton No. 121. This is part of an RCA set; is about 20" x 10" x 10". It can be packed with cartons from Smith & Stegner. Value about \$25. I can't use this stuff now but might as well send it along so as not to have to handle it again at a later date.

G.R.

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