

GEORGE C. SOUTHWORTH
19 WILLIAMS ROAD
CHATHAM, NEW JERSEY

April 20, 1960

Mr. Grote Reber
General Delivery
Wailuku, Maui
Hawaii

Dear Grote:

Thanks for your kind letter of April 15, received yesterday. I will hasten to answer telling you how matters stand with regard to data on Jansky's equipment.

I left Holmdel in the autumn of 1951 and have been back but once since. I retired in 1955. There are but a few of Janskys contemporaries left. I have talked to two of them and I find a genuine interest in your project and it remains to make a last final dragnet search for the needed data. I suspect that most of the data have been lost but certainly something can be done. Certain dimensions can, for example, be deduced from a knowledge of the wavelength and the number of elements in the Greek fretwork array.

Mr. A. Le Beck who, I believe, spent a time working with Jansky has very kindly agreed to go through Jansky's notebooks and records and report his findings direct to you. Mr. Beck is deeply conscious of the importance of this project and also with your seriousness of purpose. To make sure that he has all of the facts I have not only talked with him about this case, but I have sent him a copy of your letter. I am sure that when, he has completed his search you can depend on it, everything possible has been done.

As you know, a large organization such as the Laboratories, is, by necessity, highly impersonal and often accomplishments are soon forgotten except by close associates. It was for this reason that I attempted in 1956 to preserve a little of the personal side of the Jansky story by writing "Early History of Radio Astronomy" for Scientific

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Monthly. It is interesting that I first submitted this story to IRE through its editor J. R. Pierce, a Laboratories man, and it was rejected. It was then that I sent it to Scientific Monthly. As you know, another editor later felt better about the idea and asked Jansky's brother to prepare an article for the special issue of Proc. IRE that was devoted to Radio Astronomy. He was able to make use of certain features of my previous article.

Trusting that you will hear from Mr. Beck when he has had time to go through Mr. Jansky's records I am,

Very sincerely,

GCS:jlb

George C. Southworth

P. S. I am sending you a copy of "Early History". I am sure that you have seen it but it may not be close at hand.