

RATHJE & WOODWARD

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Mr. Grote Reber
G.P.O., Hobart
Tasmania, Australia

Dear Grote:

In my last letter, I think I told you I thought I could get Muehlfelt to pay \$1000.00, instead of \$800.00, for the house. To date I have been unsuccessful. He says he will pay \$800.00, but will not go above that because of the cost of cutting wires, etc., due to the location. He indicates that that is quite an item. I do not know if that is true, but I did check around and found that that is about the standard price for houses to be moved. Frankly, I did not know that until I checked.

This afternoon I received a call from Schuyler's wife. They are apparently in desperate straits. She was weeping and apparently they really need the money. I offered to advance some in order to tide them over until the telephone deal is completed. She indicated that she was not sure whether to accept, because Schuyler might be angry about it. I told her, if necessary, she should tell Schuyler about it and call me, and that I would send them some money.

I am enclosing the Bill of Sale, which Muehlfelt will require. I would be very happy if you would sign it, together with the deed, and return them to me at your earliest convenience, as I do feel very sorry for Schuyler and his family. I realize that we cannot govern our actions by somebody else's distress but, unless you feel very strongly about holding up the deal, I think it would be well to help them out to the extent of enabling us to complete the deal.

Since Schuyler's wife called me, apparently without his knowledge, I would be glad if you did not mention her call in your letters to them, because it would only make it difficult for her and could serve no useful purpose. I have only taken the liberty of telling you about it because I felt you did not realize that they were in a difficult situation financially. I know nothing about their affairs, of course, and do not know any of their difficulties, but apparently she is very unhappy or she would not have called me as she did.

Mr. Grote Reber
1/8/57 - #2

The telephone company has also been harassing me on the matter but I have been holding off in the hope that I could get a little more out of Muehlfelt. As a result of her call, however, I am giving up on that and am sending the Bill of Sale to you for signature — if you see your way clear to, sign it. I really do not feel that the \$200.00 difference is worth the distress which they apparently are in.

I do not know if I mentioned anything in my last letter about our new office building. We purchased the lot next West of the old title building, — where the merry-go-round used to stand, when it would come to town, when we were kids. I remember those visits of the merry-go-round with nostalgia, because I had such a good time on them. By reason of my memories, I think I could still enjoy riding around on one, if it was located here and if they had a horse strong enough to hold a man weighing 235 pounds — which I doubt. I really do not need to worry about that any more, because we have erected our office building on the property. It is Williamsburg style of architecture, and has two dormers and a cupola with a weathervane on top, on which there is an iron horse and carriage and in which Abraham Lincoln, no less, is riding. Unfortunately, because of its elevation, you cannot distinguish who it is, unless you are told. As a matter of fact, you can't see that there is anybody in the buggy at all, when viewed from the ground. We have four offices, one for each of us, and a work room, library, a room for files and the safe, a "utility room" where we have our heating system, and a janitor's space. It is one story with attic. In the attic we have 150 linear feet of shelving, that should last for our life expectancy, I would think. I would be very happy if, when you come back to Wheaton, you would stop in and see our building. We are all quite proud of it, largely for the reason, I imagine, that we built it. I doubt if it will impress you as much as it does us, but anyway I will be most glad if you would come in and see us.

Be sure to let me know what to do with your share of the money, that is to say, shall I deposit it here for you, or send it to you.

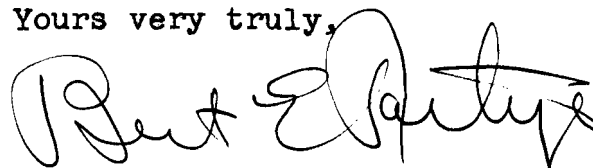
I do hope that you see your way clear to send the papers back at your early convenience, for the sake of Schuyler and his family, if for no other reason.

I hate very much to write you in this vein, but I did not realize the situation until today.

Mr. Grote Reber
1/8/57 - #3

Looking forward to seeing you, and with kind personal regards, I am

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bert E. Reber". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed phrase "Yours very truly,".

ber;lk

encl.