

Discussions between Reber and CHS opened in November of 1950 subsequent to the latter's article of that year in PHYSICS TODAY. Reber had begun his "cosmic Static" research in 1937 at his home in Illinois, but failed to get support from any government agency because of the research failing of "practical" or "military" significance. Reber conceived the idea of a high point surrounded by water to serve as a reflector and developed this to the point of settling upon the island of Maui, the hill of KoleKole in the Hawaiian Islands. Reber, determined to go on with the project regardless of Research Corporation's decision pro or con giving him financial assistance, was at this period constantly a number of jumps and deals ahead of CHS. At Reber's suggestion, CHS contacted Otto Struve and W.L. Everitt, both of the College of Engineering at U. of Ill., who provided the warmest endorsements - "outstanding individual in the field of radio astronomy in the world"; "sound suggestions"; "greatly impressed"; "unusual person, approaching genius" -- for the Advisory Committee's consideration.

Pressing forward, Reber used his vacation from his Bureau of Standards job to go to Hawaii during April and May of 1951 while the Committee was considering his proposal for support. Writing from Maui, Reber advised CHS under date of May second that he thought he could go ahead on his own and had already leased KoleKole hilltop, asked for bids for foundation construction for the antenna-telescope, and seeking bamboo for structural use. Apparently he just forgot about his BS position. CHS inquired as to his meaning re financial ability to carry project. K.Aa. Strand wrote unsolicited letter, 6/28/51, urging RC to extend support to Reber's venture "can only be successful."

Exploration of the problem of an institution or a similar vehicle to be the recipient of the funds to be granted eliminated the U. of Hawaii, and a number of industrial organizations, and finally came to rest on the choice of (and agreement of the officials of) the Maui Voc. School.

3/9/52 Grote Reber reports all in order on his return to Maui, some kind fairy having even widened the turns on the road to the top of KoleKole. Happy with the Voc. School handling of his account.

4/8/52 Reber expresses desire for Fullbright or some such grant to pay travel to International meeting in Australia where radio astronomy will be the main subject. Does not want to use grant or own funds as meeting not important enough. CHS, bewildered, suggests reconsider using grant money.

5/22/52 Speculates on possible conversion of Cosmic Static into mechanical energy.

7/28/52 Won't go "down under" because best time to do construction coincides. Bamboo, after Reber's extensive engineering study, proved not to have desirable structural characteristics for all members but he finds it very promising as a structural material. Financial summary shows nearly all of first \$3,000 spent for construction materials and labor. Second installment requested - sent by CHS 8/18/52.

9/29/52 Center part of antenna framework made. Finish scheduled for 1953. Work during coming bad weather will indoor electronics work. More convinced

AGE

POSITION

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

APPLIC. NO.

NAME

COPY

REF. LET.

ACCEPT

APPROV.

CHECK

ACKNOW.

G209 GROTE REBER

INSTITUTION: