

15th May 1981

Kiber file

David H. DeVorkin
Associate Curator
National Air & Space Museum
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C., 20560

Dear Mr. DeVorkin:

Thanks for your interesting and flattering letter of the 4th. It arrived yesterday. I have nearly all the original equipment used at Wheaton; antennas, receivers, power supplies, signal generators, chart recordings, log books, data analysis, manuscripts of scientific papers and even many copper engravings of illustrations. The printer usually returned these with manuscript to author in those halcyon days. The copper parts of apparatus have turned brown. The rubber insulation on wiring has hardened and some fallen off. However, I have plenty of spare parts, tubes, etc. Nearly everything could be made to operate again in original condition if there were any point to it.

About 50 yards west of my dish at Green Bank is a stout brick building. Last time I was there in 1977, it was nearly empty with a few loose unused items. It would be a suitable place to deposit my materials, as above, when time and circumstances are auspicious.

There is some possibility Jansky's original apparatus could be duplicated. The Antique Wireless Association, Main Street, Holcomb, New York, 14469 has access to vast quantities of old apparatus. Their president is:

Charles M. Brelsford
255 Danbury Circle South
Rochester, New York, 14618

Early November 1979, I discussed this subject with him. He thought they could undertake the job. However, they would need parts list, drawings, circuit diagrams, plus instructions. A search thru literature will produce a variety of pictures of Jansky's equipment plus some block diagrams and other details. I suggest you contact

Mr. Alfred C. Beck
398 Paulus Court
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

I believe he is only living person with first hand knowledge of Jansky and Holmdel of 1930s. He may have additional pictures and be able to interpret the published material details.

If you can get Brelsford and Beck together, there may be some interesting and worthwhile outcome. Thanks for writing.

Sincerely yours,

Grote Reber
Grote Reber

General Delivery
Bothwell, Tasmania