

*Answered June 15, 1970
Revised draft by Sept Ex Com. Mtg*

June 10, 1970

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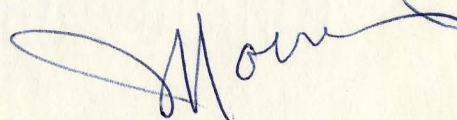
Dear Nelson:

This is a personal note to tell you about my history activities. I had the pleasure last week of being "inspected" by Prof. Mac VanValkenberg of Princeton, who this year is on the IEEE Executive Committee with the responsibility of reporting to the Executive Committee on our history activities. He was a very nice person and curious as to what the history committee had in mind. I called Reed Crone, who came over, and the three of us had lunch at the Essex Club. I told Mac of the doldrums in which the history committee had found itself after Haraden Pratt's death. He seemed to be aware of the fact that we had not paid attention to anything other than biographies of certain scientifically minded people. He himself is a Bill Everett disciple and a follower of Terman; however, he is not too electronically minded. I told him of your work on the merger which interested him greatly. He seems to favor histories of electrical organizations as opposed to histories of individuals. I think perhaps his greatest interest would be, however, in the history of development of theories, circuits, and the like. This I am not capable of doing as you know.

I finally arrived at the point where I gave a kind of oration saying that IEEE history could be divided into four categories: science, physical engineering, people and organization. He liked this division and asked me to write it up for him for presentation at the next board meeting. I did not take too kindly to this idea and suggested instead that I discuss the problem with the Executive Committee at its September meeting. This apparently is what he had in mind all the time and he seemed delighted with the idea; he was very helpful.

My opening gun, of course, will be your history of the merger because everyone is interested in that. I do not suppose that you plan to work on it during the summer as I hope you will find your way up here to see your Pennsylvania (New York?) grandchildren. I am wondering if you have anything that will be meat for my chopper. If you have, I shall be grateful. My very best to Adeline and I hope that you and she have the happiest of happy summers.

Sincerely,



MDH:RDS

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