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Dear Frank:

After talking with you on the phone this morning, I dismissed the surveyor-engineer, Mr. J. Kenneth Kampf. I had met him at Ostrand's at 10 AM and he was dismissed at exactly 10.45 AM.

We had met Mr. La Grange who was driven by his nephew. He could not get out of the car. He told us approximately the lines of the land he offers to us for a site. After both had gone and instead of returning to Schenectady, I decided to trace out this approximate line myself from the description given.

I had a most horrryng experience. I entered the woods from the main road at the foot of the mountain in the endeavor to trace an old so-called fence extending westerly to the crest of La Grange's plot. I suddenly stepped into space and before I knew it had tumbled down into a sharp ravine of about 65 feet in depth. I never thought I would hit bottom. The good Lord was with me. I came out of it with some bodily bruises, some cuts on my legs and a bad elbow, but otherwise O.K.

The small tress, bushes and undergrowth cushioned my fall, thank goodness. Otherwise I might not be here at the moment. I would not repeat that experience again for all the tea in China.

Undaunted, I continued my quest until I reached the so-called westerly boundary of the La Grange tract. I then walked through heavy wooded land with plenty of ravines and ditches - in a northerly direction toward the Pinnacle Road until I came out almost opposite WBCA's transmitter station. The La Grange line starts at the station's corner fence post.

I went to Ostrand's for lunch and went back again into the woods to prove if possible that this mythical line existed and to what extent it merges with the Camp Pinnacle property. Its an impossibility to keep in a stright line, the woods are so dense and the ravines so steep. It will have to be surveyed to get the correct dividing line. I finally located an opening about a thousand feet along that field you know about (owned by Camp Pinnacle people) but could in no way indicate if it belongs to La Grange or Camp Pinnacle. If it is La Grange's property, we could use it as a site. A road would have to be built to it along the easterly line of the open field (the left hand side going in from the Pinnacle Road) and this might involve getting a right of way from the latter people.

I spent all day in the mountains and have just landed home at 5.30 P.M. all "pooched" out - and sore all over. I reviewed several other sites I had looked at previously and also contacted Harold Blodgett,

who is the principal owner of WBCA and who has a camp on the same ridge as his transmitter station to the north. I have known Harold many years. He is one of Schenectady's leading attorneys. I asked him if he would sell us a piece of land to the north of his station but he said no one could buy any of that land even if they covered it with 21 karat gold-plate.

There is a camp just north of him along the same ridge. The lane that goes through the WBCA gate continues to Blodgett's camp and then to the other camp just mentioned. I have been unable to learn the owners name but expect to get a line on it Monday. This latter camp has a right of way through the WBCA property. Back of this camp is an old road which winds up in back of the tennis courts of Camp Pinnacle higher up on the next ridge. I am not sure just how much of this land is owned by Camp Pinnacle or if any of it is owned by this other camper. I plan to find out if I can.

The whole darned thing is so confused and messed up that it is a real problem to unravel. Of course, it can be unraveled if anyone is interested enough to get the land surveyed. An old man who lives in a shack at the foot of the mountain told me this afternoon that the state of New York made a complete surevey of all this land a few years ago and insists it is all shown on county and township maps. I found some of the state markers in the woods but they are all Greek to me. This is surveyors work. I am no surveyor.

On Monday I will go to Albany and spend some time with the County Clerk in an effort to get this tangle unraveled. I dont expect too much from their records but it may help clarify the situation pending my next visit with Mr. Reed.

I inspected the La Grange property very carefully from the Camp Pinnacle road southerly. Immediately off the road just south of the open field below the high ridge is heavily wooded land. I climbed all over it. There is a deep raving which runs zig-zag all over the land in a southerly direction and as far as I could determine not a single piece of land big enough to build a station or erect a tower. For anything but a site I would not take the land for a gift. A self-respecting rabbit would starve on such land. It is absolutely worthless.

Unless we have the La Grange land surveyed, there is no sense trying to get a bead on his boundaries. We would only be guessing and in the end find that we guessed wrong and got on some body else' land. La Grange sold his land to GE and WTRY and to WBCA without a map or legal discription. He merely staked out parcels from the main and sold it off that way, necessitating that the purchasers had to do their own surveying and make their own maps.

You dont like long letters and I dont like to write them, but I cant see how in the world I am going to give you an exact picture of the situation without writing one occasionally. My girl is away and I'm punching this out myself.

Summarizing, as near as I can determine with the information and picture I have of the La Grange property, if the piece I previously mentioned is really on his land and I can get the Camp Pinnacle people to give us right-of-way to it, then we could use it very effectively. We might have to erect a small tower to get elevation. I'm not too sure we would, however.

If you can visualize the location of this piece (by continuing to walk southerly you would run into the GE property) there is some Camp Pinnacle land which stands between La Grange and GE property all the way down to the main road to New Salem. I am toying with the idea that we might approach this piece from the GE property by building a road from there rather than from the Pinnacle road, by asking GE for a right of way. I think they would readily grant us such a right-of-way.

Frank, I think that this job from now demands the services of an experienced real estate man, that is, with respect to any other parcel than the Camp Pinnacle property which I can handle myself. There may be other parcels available but I have been unsuccessful other than the ones you know, including the Van Antwerp land to the west. Why not get someone to do some scouting for us through this region. Someone must know this country thoroughly and could get the facts much more effectively than strangers like ourselves.

If you say so, I will hunt up a real estate man close-by who would take such an assignment. Maybe it might be the answer. I cannot believe that if we dont get the Camp Pinnacle deal across that all is lost. I continue to believe that there is a site we can get if we look deeply enough for it and have the patience to wait it out. I also continue to believe that if I stick to the Camp Pinnacle people I will wear them down and get something from them - eventually. That is, if we can wait that long. There's the rub,- time.

Frankly, I've never worked harder or with greater frustration than I have on this Heldeberg matter - not in my entire business career. I've been out ther dozens of time since February and despite all I'm not discouraged. I just have a feeling we will come out O.K. come hell or high water.

I'll call you on the phone after my trip to Albany county court house on Monday.

Mr. Frank L. York
The Troy Record Co.
Troy, N.Y.

Very sincerely,


Ernest A. Barbeau