

Cedar Mountain, NC 28718  
03 January, 1977

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
Department of Genetics  
Stanford University School of Medicine  
Stanford  
CA 94305

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

First of all, I have to correct the date of the party at which George Beadle announced the isolation of the eye color hormone. It was actually 18 February. I got somewhat mixed up in the dates. My son was born on the 16 of February, and the party was two days later. I attended the party without my wife, of course.

The course, that Ed started was given for the first time in the spring of 1941. I know that, because it was the last year that I was to be at Stanford, and I had already gotten some training from Kees van Niel in teaching comparative biochemistry, as Ed had. But, Ed did never mention in the course the story of Neurospora. That was supposedly a closely guarded secret by Beadle. It struck me very forcefully at that time, because it was so reminiscent of the atmosphere in Kogl's institute, of absolute secrecy. We were told by Kogl that we would not talk about our research with anybody else, and I was kind of surprised to find the same attitude with Beadle.

Laboratory work with Neurospora started in the Spring of 1941, Let me be a little bit more accurate, it started in February 1941. It was then, that Beadle came to my quarters to use the X ray machine, and did not want to tell me what he was doing.

Sincerely  
Wj van Wageningen