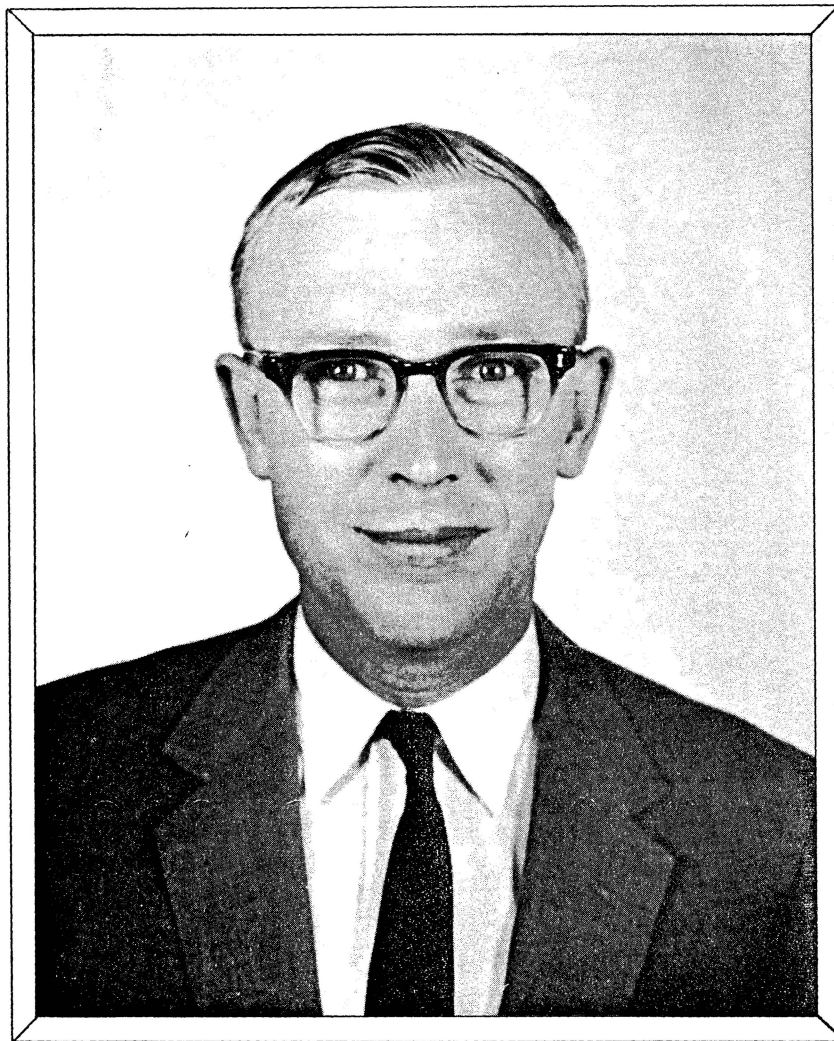


The O B S E R V E R

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Page 1



DR. DAVID S. HEESCHEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF NRAO

The Associated Universities' Board of Trustees, at its annual meeting in October named Dr. D. S. Heesch to be Director of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory, effective October 19, 1962.

Dr. Heesch has held the position of Acting Director of the Observatory since December, 1961, succeeding Dr. Otto Struve. Prior to being named Acting Director he held the position of Scientist and Head of Telescope Operations. During this period he also held the position of Assistant to the Director of the Observatory under Dr. Struve.

In naming Dr. Heesch Director, the Board noted with gratification the progress of the Observatory under his direction during the past year.

Progress at the 140' Telescope

During the month of October the shoring of bridges between Bartow and Green Bank was substantially completed. This operation was necessary to prepare for heavy loads which will be hauled during the coming months. This work has been done by the Pacific Crane & Rigging Company. They have the contract for assembling and erecting of polar axis shaft, yoke, counterweight, and superstructure for the 140' telescope.

At the job site, Pacific Crane & Rigging Company has been qualifying welders preparatory to the welding to be done on heavy aluminum sections of superstructure presently on hand at the job. In this connection, Bess Construction Company, subcontractors to Pacific Crane & Rigging Company, have completed foundation work for an assembly area where this superstructure will be welded together on a temporary platform. This foundation work includes 202 feet of track layout for a "short railroad" which will move the 210 ton completed superstructure from assembly platform to within reach of guy derricks for lifting into position atop the telescope pedestal. During the next month a large air vent, about 115 feet in diameter and 40 feet high will be erected to protect the welding operation.

Bob Butters, Project Engineer for Pacific Crane & Rigging Company at the 140' telescope, was giving out cigars last week. This makes forty little "Butter Fingers" at Bob's house now -- three girls and a boy.

The Frank D. Drakes have announced the arrival of their third child -- Paul Robert, 6 lb. 8 oz., October 11, 1962, Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins. Dr. Drake assisted in the birth of Paul, and will be here to offer helpful hints to those fathers who are expecting babies during the winter days.

Reserve Unit Being Organized

On October 15, 1962, Captain James Gwinn USAR of the 811th Ordnance Co. (ammo) spoke at the Mayor's Office in Marlinton to a group interested in the possibility of starting a reserve unit in Marlinton.

Such a unit would be beneficial both to the county and to those individuals returning from active duty who are compelled to attend reserve meetings and summer encampments. At the present time Lewisburg and Elkins are the closest units.

A member receives a days pay for each meeting attended and the amount of pay depends on rank held. Requirements are that a member be between the ages of 17 1/2 and 26 years (without prior service) and no age limit for personell with prior service records.

The next meeting will be held at the Mayor's Office or Fire House, Marlinton, 7:30 p.m., November 1, 1962.

For more detailed information contact Richard Skaggs (Electronic Department) or call Fred Burns, Jr., 799-4619.

Dr. Heeschen will attend the dedication of the Robert R. McMath Solar Telescope on Friday, November 2, 1962, at Kitt Peak near Tucson, Arizona. The following week, on November 9th, he will attend the dedication of the University of Illinois radio telescope at Urbana, Illinois.

Dr. Campbell Wade will spend approximately ten days during November in California with the Cal Tech. Group. Three of these days will be spent at their Bishop Station with the interferometer group.

New Employees During October

Six new employees were added to the NRAO payroll during the month of October. They are as follows:

John E. Brings, Electronic Engineer, from Simpsonville, Md.;

William W. Pleasants, Engineer, from Wynnewood, Pa.;

Richard H. Spurlock, Telescope Operator, from Hurricane, W.Va.;

Frank J. Low, Associate Scientist, Dallas, Texas;

James O. Ware, Electronic Technician, Cass, W.Va.;

William Terrell, Telescope Operator, from Greensboro, N.C.

The Terrell family is residing in one of the Cass Houses. Both the Bringe and Low families are residing in the new housing area.

INTERESTED IN SAVINGS BONDS???????

Several persons have mentioned the fact that they desire to have a deduction from their pay check for Series E Bonds. Anyone interested in participating in this plan contact Jim Dolan, Ext. 232.

A new system has been initiated at the Work's Area for tool check in and out. Jim Arbogast, a new employee, has been employed as clerk for this system.

Here's 'til Austria gets Hungary and fries Turkey in Greece.

Vacations

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Wilson made a short vacation tour of Kentucky and Tennessee, leaving on October 11th and returning home October 16th. En route they visited in the home of Mrs. Wilson's parents and other relatives. They also visited Mr. & Mrs. Carl Burgtorf, former residents of Marlinton.

The main road hazards were mainly the maximum speeds of 65 and 70 miles per hour, which really pushed the old Plymouth to keep up the pace. The only casualties of the trip were two new re-caps that couldn't take the pace and blew out.

John Matheny, central stock clerk, enjoyed two days vacation during October.

Big plans were made by Jack Plunkett for a big four day hunting trip the week-end of October 25th. All we can hear from Jack is: SNOWED OUT, NO GAME! Could it be he can't stand sleeping in a tent in freezing weather?? Better luck the next time, Jack.

Vincent Scott and family have moved from the Lazy S (1-Horse Ranch) in Dummore, to a new location on Sitlington road, about 1/4 mile from Dunmore. Scotty reports more house space there, and more acres. (Good luck, Scotty, we hope you'll have a two-horse ranch).

Ceramics

The Wednesday night workshop for ceramics is still in full swing - 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A good supply of greenware is now stocked so get busy and make some of your special Christmas gifts.

The Saturday workshop (2 p.m. - 5 p.m.) has been lagging behind in attendance. anyone interested in attending the Saturday workshop is requested to call Judy Callender, Arbovale 456-4651. You must call in advance if you want the workshop opened. We are glad to have this time available to all interested, but feel it is a waste of time to stay open all Saturday afternoon and no one attend.

For those members who almost froze to death last Wednesday night it will be welcome news to know that electric heat has been installed and it is not necessary to wear an overcoat.

For Sale: 1 pair of men's ice skates, size 7, almost new. Will sell half-price. contact Jamie Sheets, Ext. 261. (These are Bobby Sheets' out-grown skates.)

Did you know that sometimes a "psyco ceramic" is better known as a "crack pot"?

Have you noticed a new shiny black '63 Chevrolet Impala SS traveling the main Road? If so, it belongs to Carolyn St. Clair.

Trustees' Meeting

On October 18 and 19, 1962, the Trustees of Associated Universities, Inc., held their annual meeting at NRAO. After the transaction of routine business by the Executive Committee on the afternoon of the 18th, a presentation of the Observatory's scientific program was made by members of the NRAO scientific staff. After the annual meeting of the full Board on the morning of the 19th, the following important appointments were announced:

I. I. Rabi - Chairman of the Board
G. F. Tape - President
D. S. Heeschen - Director, NRAO

During their visit, the Trustees and Officers toured the site, and several took advantage of our recreational facilities. Comments regarding the accomplishments and growth of the Observatory during the past year were highly complimentary. Attending this meeting were the following Officers and Trustees:

Officers

Chairman of the Board - I. I. Rabi
Vice Chairman - Ralph S. Halford
President - G. F. Tape
Treasurer - J. S. Alexander
Controller - L. R. Burchill
Asst. Treasurer - Joseph F. Lord
Secretary - Charles F. Dunbar

Trustees

Columbia University - Ralph S. Halford
I. I. Rabi
Cornell University - R. L. Sproull
S. S. Atwood
Harvard University - L. Gard Wiggins
The John Hopkins University - P. S. Macaulay
A. W. Kimball
Massachusetts Institute of Tech. - Carl F. Floe
Peter T. Demos
Princeton University - Val L. Fitch
E. F. Johnson

(Continued on page 5)

Trustees' Meeting

(Continued from page 4)

University of Pennsylvania -
 Carl C. Chambers
 University of Rochester -
 Ernst W. Caspari
 L. B. Thompson
 Yale University - C. H. Sanford
 V. W. Hughes
 Trustees at Large - Harold F. Weaver
 Edward M. Purcell
 Thomas Gold
 Annual Trustees - Leo Goldberg
 Edward Reynolds

Accompanying their husbands were Mesdames Halford, Rabi, Wiggins, Fitch, Johnson, Stanford, Hughes, Reynolds, Tape, Alexander and Dunbar.

W. W. Pleasants Joins Staff

Mr. W. W. Pleasants joined the staff as head of the Observatory's Engineering Division, effective October 22, 1962. In addition to supervising the efforts of this division, he has been assigned responsibility for overall direction of plant maintenance and operations activities.

Mr. Pleasants received his engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a registered professional mechanical engineer, and a member of the New Jersey Society of Professional Engineers. He brings to the Observatory a rich and varied engineering experience gained in responsible positions with the DuPont Co., Combustion Engineering Co., General Electric Co., the Atlantic Refining Co., and the Radio Corporation of America.

Mr. Pleasants is married and the father of two daughters. We are looking forward to meeting both him and Mrs. Pleasants, particularly when they take up full-time residence at the Observatory, sometime within the next few months.

Lab Cab

Bert Hansson attended the National Electronics Conference in Chicago.

EGAD! did you know we have two Jim Olivers in the Lab?? Jim "Turkey" Oliver and Jim Oliver Ware.

John Sapp is getting to be a good TWF snatcher, he's learning how and why they don't work. Good luck John.

Bertil Hoglund and Jim Dolan visited Burnell in New York and McCoy in Philadelphia. Are the taxi cab ramps as confusing in Philly as they are in New York, Jim??

Janice Galford says she won't take part in swapping peoples lunches anymore!

Hein Hvatum and Joe Carter took the Standard Receiver to A.I.L., so that the Maser tests can be completed.

Now we know why Carl Davis brought two pair of trousers to work with him for the last game of the World Series. Oh, well, after winning \$80.00 he shouldn't mind ruining one pair.

Ruben and Emilio are visiting Carnegie Tech in Washington. From all indications they survived their trip to the west coast. Emilio says one armed bandits in Nevada were suffering from malnutrition when he arrived but had put on considerable more weight when he left.

Carl Wooddell and Dick Skaggs have been burning the midnight oil getting receivers out on time. Do you suppose that's why they've looked so sleepy??

Ed Gardner was in Clarksburg the 17th inspecting equipment to be purchased by the machine shop.

(Continued on page 6)

Lab Gab

(Continued from Page 5)

Marvin Wimer has suggested that every Friday afternoon be spent as it was last Friday. However, he was disappointed that he was unable to get a turkey to answer his call.

Marc Vinokur has returned from a trip to Illinois and California.

Bill Kuhlken has acquired a taste for Maalox but still contends that he doesn't have an ulcer.

Attention, single girls: It doesn't happen often but we have an eligible bachelor on the payroll -- Richard Spurlock, one of the new telescope operators.

Mrs. Ted Riffe returned home Monday, October 29th, from a short visit at the Memorial General Hospital in Elkins. We're happy to report that she is having a speedy recovery. Welcome home, Clara!

Electromagnetic Perception and Coat Hangers

Last Monday a phenomenon of a special nature was being investigated at the west end of the electronics lab. Several people were subjected to exhaustive tests to demonstrate their electromagnetic perception. These people demonstrated that they were able to detect buried pipe with two pieces of coat hangers.

The coat hangers were bent into an L shape. The short part of the L was held in the hand and the long part of the L extended out perpendicular from the body and parallel to the ground. As the EMP walked slowly over the ground holding the two wires in this position they were seen to move from a

parallel position to a position in line with each other. This change occurred in only certain positions. Later an authority verified that pipes were underground at these positions. The direction the two wires assumed, was the direction in which the pipe ran.

At least fifteen persons tried their hand at EMP - only eight were successful. Even after the newly discovered EMP's had vouched they felt the presence of a "force" the NO-EMP's skeptically denounced the EMP's as harmless cranks.

Possible or not possible. No one has been able to put forth a good explanation of why these wires moved when over buried metal pipe. Try it. You may be an EMP and we welcome you into this exclusive circle. Remember! There is always ridicule where there is no understanding.

Meteorite, Meteorite, Where Art Thou??

The search for the Mad Ann Meteor ended on September 29, 1962 after an air search by helicopter. For two days meteorite investigators flew the probable impact area near Falling Springs, Va., looking for features usually associated with crashing meteors. Except for several man-made features, nothing resembling such features were seen. By evening of September 29 the investigators were convinced that the probable impact area had been thoroughly searched and they ended the search.

The Mad Ann Meteor started a very promising prospect. Many people had witnessed the descent of September 1, "fireball" into the earth's atmosphere and reported their observations to the Observatory. Eye witnesses were interviewed and data obtained from them was used to calculate the probable impact area. Allowing a margin for observational errors, an area much larger than calculated impact area was selected to be searched. Subsequently this designated area was searched.

(Continued on page 7)

Meteorite

(Continued from page 6)

Many eye witnesses said that a sudden illumination of the sky made them look up. Others said that they had heard a strange hissing sound first and then looked up. Almost all of them agreed that it appeared as large as a full moon and as bright as one. Objects were made to cast shadows and a few said that you could have read a newspaper. The majority confirmed a "sonic boom" (the meteor's collision with the earth's atmosphere) immediately after seeing the ball of fire but only a few had witnessed the "fireball" disintegrate into about two dozen fragments. To date none of these fragments have been found.

There was some humor associated with the "fireball" investigation. One witness confessed that she thought it was a burning rocket plunging earthward and imagined men trapped inside. It frightened her so that she dashed inside the house screaming, "They're falling, they're falling".

Another said, "He thought it was them darned neighbors kids settin off rockets".

In several cases it was impossible to convince witnesses that it was a meteor that was being searched for. They were convinced that the search was for parts of a space ship or a man-made rocket.

On the next to the last day, one on-looker at the helicopter base casually mentioned that a farmer up the road had found a strange looking object in his field.

The farmer and the object were shortly tracked down and the curious black object examined. It turned out to be a round black stone implement used by Indians to grind corn.

Wild goose chases, erroneous reports, spectacular imaginations, and frustrations are part of the meteor search game.

Copying from the words of that grizzly old gold prospector who said gold was found when you find it, we might add meteorites are found the same way.

There is still the possibility that someone around Falling Springs will stumble over a piece of the meteorite while walking in the woods. One thing is fairly certain. The local people are well aware of what was being sought and will be looking for fragments of the meteor wherever they walk.

300' Open House

Despite the snow and cold, visitors and guests from far and near attended the 300' Open House on October 26th. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Scherer of the National Science Foundation, as well as other representatives of NSF, Bristol Steel & Iron Works, B. F. Parrott & Co., Penn Metals, Link-Belt, Lockheed Electronics, A.U.I., Rohr Aircraft and Nelson Studs were on hand to see the "big dish" in operation.

A buffet luncheon was served in the cafeteria for the guests. Due to bad weather and hazardous roads, many began their journey home early in the afternoon. At 3:30 p.m. Observatory employees joined the guests in the cafeteria for refreshments -- which turned out to be quite a party.

John and Phyllis Rader moved into their new home October 10, 1962 -- a new trailer, 55' X 10' Liberty Early American.

