

# The Honolulu



# Advertiser

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## 'Amateur' Scientist Plots Cosmic Static on Haleakala

An "amateur" scientist who has built a huge radio-telescope on the rim of Haleakala crater is using the Pacific ocean as part of his equipment to explore the mysteries of outer space.

He is Grote Reber, formerly of Wheaton, Ill., and his achievements in tracking down the sources of "cosmic static" were disclosed last night at a meeting of the local chapter of the Institute of Radio Engineers.

It is announced that Mr. Reber is being nominated from the Hawaii section of the organization for its Pacific region Electronic Achievement award.

**THE NOMINATION** itself—the first ever made from the Islands—is a signal honor. The award when granted, is to give "early outstanding recognition to contribution to the electronic art."

Use of radio-telescope equipment to investigate the phe-

nomena of outer space is comparatively recent, but it offers astronomers and astrophysicists an entirely new method of collecting information.

Through it, scientists intercept and seek to interpret radio-like waves which apparently originate in stars and nebulae.

British and Australian investigators have built great antenna reflectors, some of them hundreds of yards in diameter, in their search for the best possible reception of the natural radio signals.

**BUT IT REMAINED** for Mr. Reber to use the greatest reflector of all—the Pacific ocean.

That was the reason for his coming to the Islands. His calculations showed that the combination required was a high mountain, surrounded by the sea.

Haleakala was one of the few locations in the world where

that combination existed, with the added advantage of good roads and power lines.

But it was only within the last few weeks that results began to prove that the choice of location was right.

**WHEN MR. REBER** first put his equipment in operation, its performance was sporadic. Sometimes, the signals from space were received just as they should be. At other times, they could not be recorded.

Then a comparatively simple change—a shift in the frequencies to which the equipment was tuned—brought a dramatic improvement. The stars' messages now are being received almost exactly according to prior calculations on wave lengths close to that of television Channel 4.

Mr. Reber began his scientific career as an amateur, with "backyard" equipment in Illi- (Continued on Page A6, Col. 7)

## Scientist

(Continued from Page 1)  
nois. But he became a recognized pioneer in his field.

**HIS CHANCE** to prove his theories with the actual installation on Maui came with the award of a grant from the Research Corporation of New York.

With his equipment showing consistent results, Mr. Reber now seeks to plot the locations in space where the radio waves originate. Recording and interpreting the receptions are a

major task that will give scientists new data on which to base their theories of the nature of the universe.

**BESIDES** announcement of the honor to Mr. Reber, business of the radio engineers' meeting included the nomination of new officers.

They are G. Warren Clark of Mackay Radio, for chairman; Harris Turner, Pearl Harbor electronics engineer, vice chairman; and John Sanders, Matson Co. electronics engineer, secretary-treasurer. Elections will be at the June meeting of the organization.

Memorial Day

Robert S. Allen Says