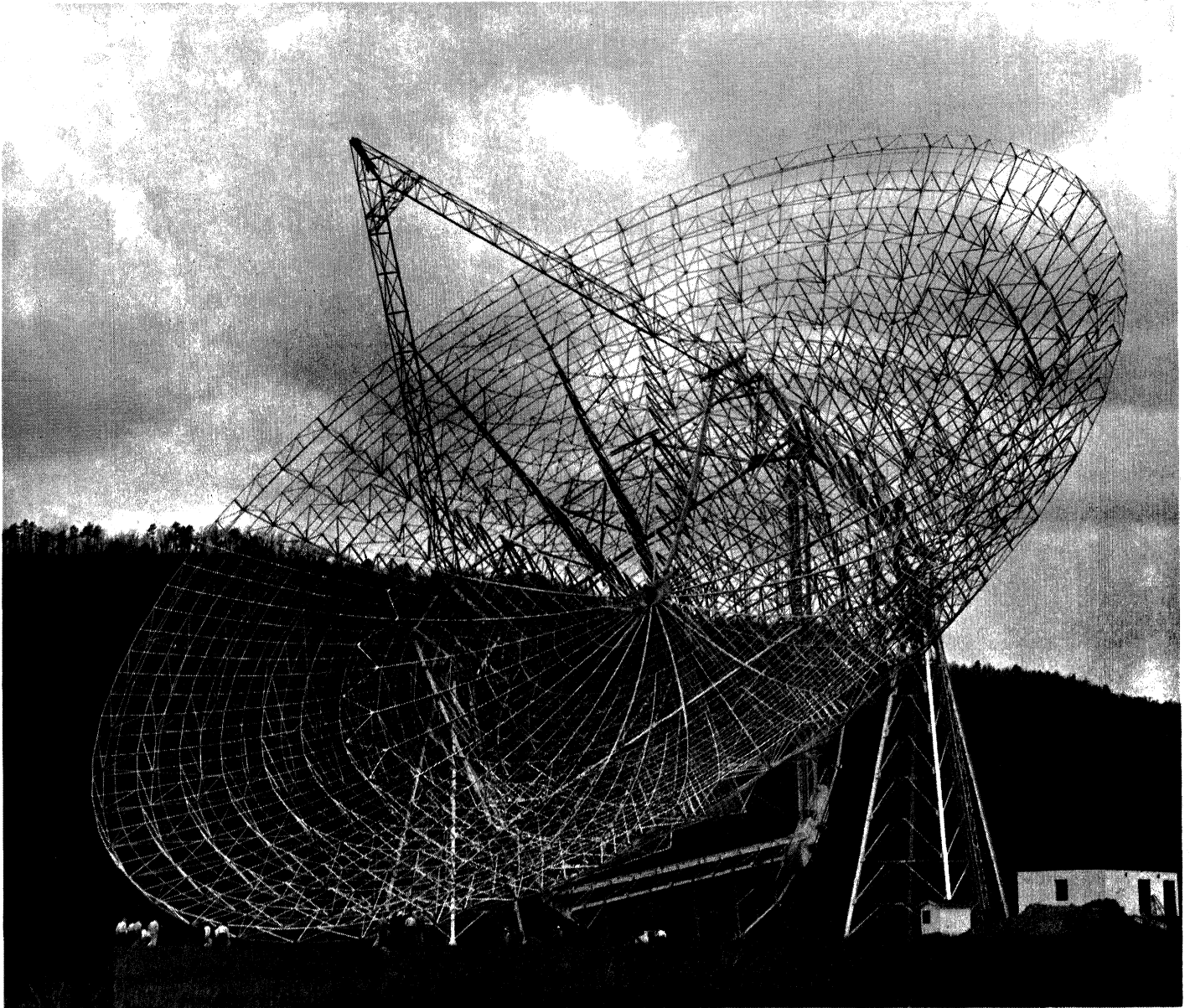


The O B S E R V E R

Volume 1, No. 6

May 31, 1962

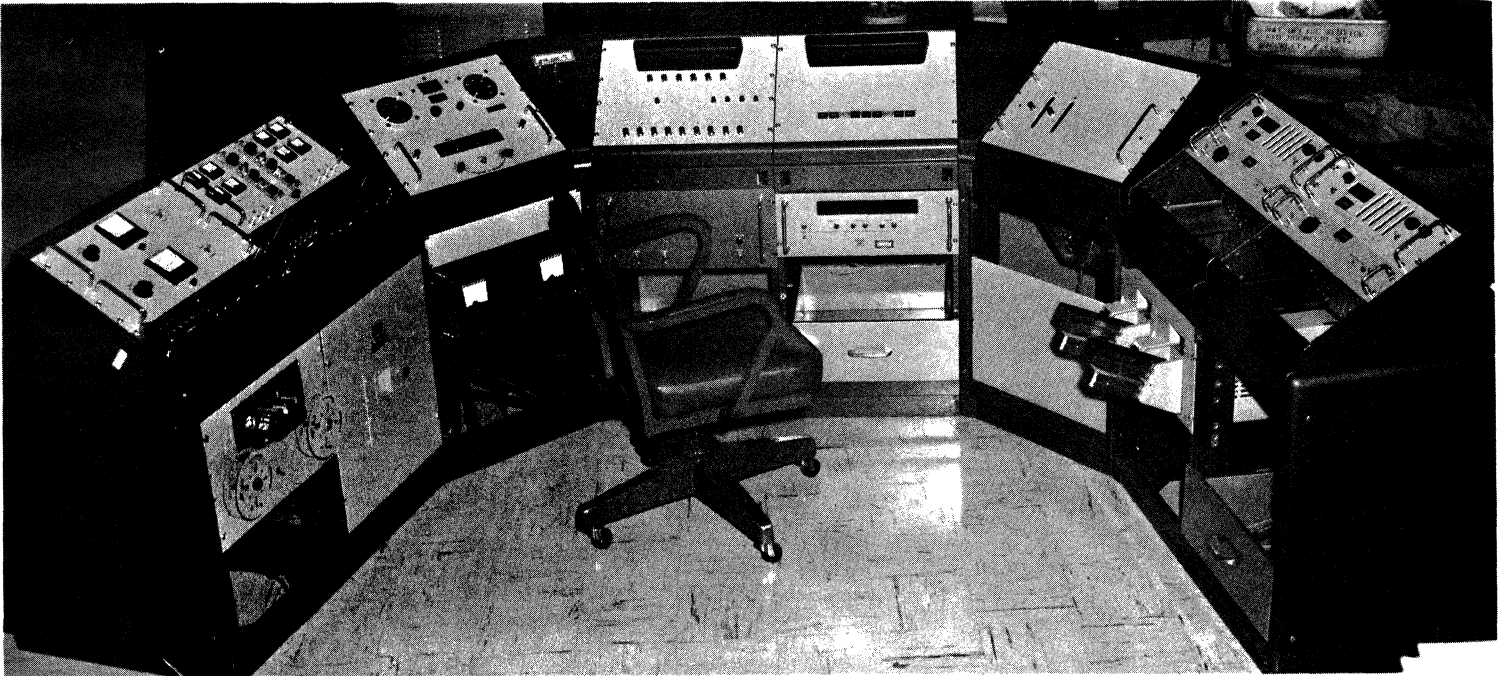
Page 1



The 300-foot Transit Telescope
Tilted South -- May 4, 1962

The angle of tilt is about 50° from the zenith. For the full 60° of tilt some excavation will be needed.

Work has started on fitting the mesh surface to the telescope, and, as the picture shows, the control building is almost complete.



300-Foot Telescope Control Console

The above picture is of the 300-foot telescope control console which has been under construction and fabrication in the lab for a couple of weeks. The comment of passersby has ranged from a complimentary, "What a beauty!" to a preplexed, "My gosh, what is that?"

In order to understand the purpose of such an elaborate console, one must be aware of two factors which are outstanding in the use of the 300-foot telescope for the taking of data. One of these factors is that the 300-foot is a transit type instrument, which means that it only moves north and south, consequently is limited to only one observation of each source per day. (This is in contrast to the 85-foot, for example, which can observe the same source for about 12 hours per day, and de-

pending on the type of observing routine can make 70 observations of that source.

The other factor is brought about by the size and consequently the resolution of the 300-foot. This telescope will have a beamwidth of 9 minutes of arc, or if our math is correct, about 36 seconds of time at the equator. This means that one observation will be limited to less than 3 minutes of actual observing time per source.

The above two mentioned factors then result in the very important consideration that there will be only one 3 minute period per day in which a source can be observed. This 3 minute period has to be at precisely the correct time, and if a mistake is made, the observation of the
(continued)

(continuation)

source to be observed is lost for the day.

The console is being arranged in such a way that all operational switches or dials are placed at the hand of the man operating the telescope and the data taking equipment. One cannot afford to waste time jumping about the observing room changing dials every three minutes, or would an operator be efficient by doing so. (Perhaps he would quit before the end of the first day's work.) Since every error means a 24 hour delay for any source being observed, equipment must be arranged in a manner conducive to few errors.

We think the arrangement of the console is ideal -- don't you?

There has been an interest shown in organizing a combo -- so now we must locate the talent. Rumor is that on our staff and among our employees we have a drummer, an accordionist, a pianist, an electric guitarist, and a saxophonist.

If you have any musical talent (not great, mediocre) get in touch with Carolyn StClair, Omar Bowyer, or T. O. Zatta, and they will get things organized and a jam session set.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ross attended the high school graduation of his brother in Salem, Ohio, on May 29.

Walley needs help. He has been asked to try to locate the grave of James Tallman, a Revolutionary Soldier, who lived and was buried in this vicinity.

It seems the D.A.R. would like to find this grave, as well as that of Tallman's wife, Nancy, so that it can be properly marked and preserved.

If the grave can be found, they would like to have the reading from the headstone.

If you can give Walley any enlightenment on where he might find the graves, please do so.

Observatory Open House-May 26

The Observatory Open House was well attended. Approximately 140 people signed the visitors register. No inventory of the cooky jar in the cafeteria was taken, so an accurate total number of people attending was not established.

Practically everyone attended the enlightening lecture given by Dr. Drake and many stayed for the movies that followed the lecture.

Many people indicated that the tour was very interesting. Scuttlebutt in the halls and even coffee, punch and cookies revealed that those installations normally "off-limits" got the biggest play.

A daughter, Anita Sue, was born to Mr. and Mrs. James Oliver on May 12. Congratulations.

Visitors this Month

Groups that toured the Observatory this month included a group of eighth grade students from Hillsboro, May 2, members and families of the Pittsburgh Section of the AIEE, May 5, members and families of W.Va. Lions, May 6, senior students from Hillsboro High School, May 7, science students from Roanoke High School, May 16, and Observatory employees and families during Open House on May 26.

The number of visitors for May, including daily, weekend, and group visitors was over 600.

Lions Clubs Visit NRAO

At previous Lions Club zone meetings held by Mr. William Dixon, Zone Chairman in this area, much interest was shown in holding an annual zone meeting at Green Bank and touring the Observatory. Ed Wilson, Secretary of the Marlinton Club, arranged this tour with Walley for May 6. Mike Waslo, Vice President of the Durbin Club, acted as master of ceremonies. There were about 130 in this group (Lions, their wives and guests), representing Clubs from Franklin, Elkins, Durbin, Marlinton, Lewisburg, White Sulphur Springs, Ronceverte, Beckley and Rainelle.

After the tour the group assembled at the Green Bank high school cafeteria for dinner prepared by

cafeteria personnel, under the supervision of Mrs. Cassell, music teacher, and the high school music class served the food. A piano recital was given by Mrs. Rexrode.

All proceeds from this dinner went to the high school music department. Since the Durbin Lions Club was the host, Mike Walso and Virgil Harris contributed much effort in making this zone social meeting a successful affair. (EW)

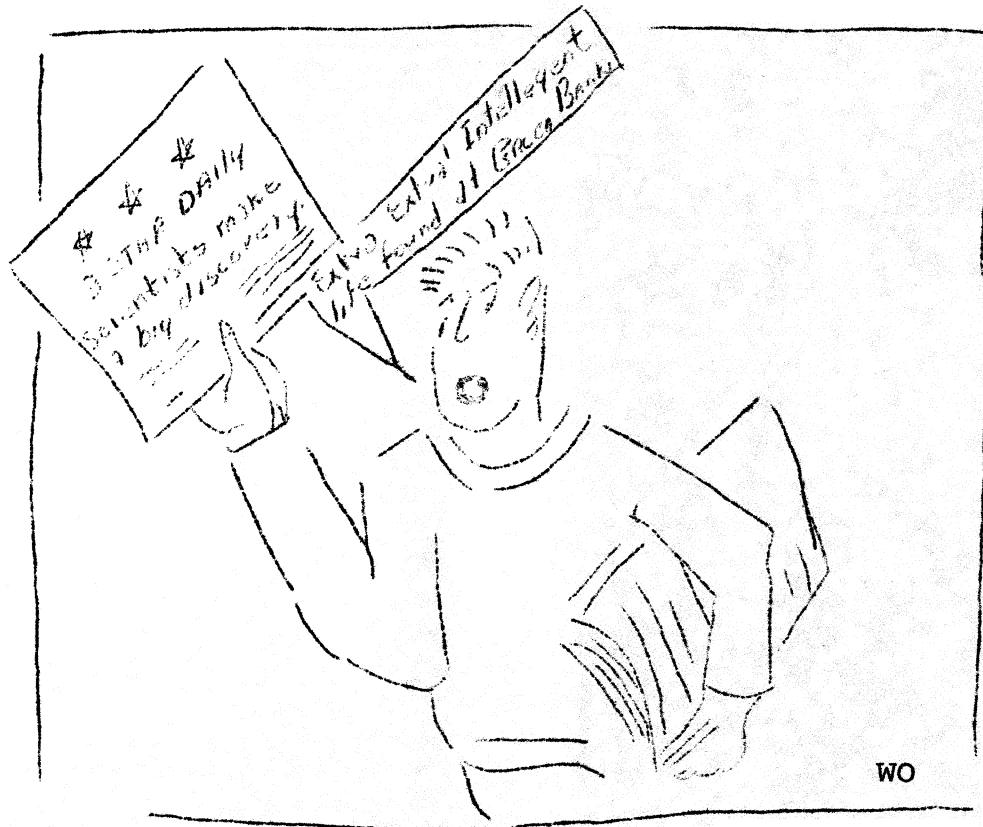
Birthday Wishes to:

Pat Hall	June 2
Tom Carpenter	19
Jack Plunkett	22
Herman Coleman	27

Dr. Marc Vinokur spent several days last week at the National Bureau of Standards in Boulder, Colorado.

Mr. Burns Conley, of Lynchburg, Virginia, has been employed as electronic technician, and is living in Arbovale.

Carolyn StClair, JoAnn Rose and Sis Michael were shopping in Roanoke, Virginia on May 5, and said they had an adventurous??? time.



A board of prominent American medical specialists were eagerly poring over the chest X-ray of a visiting Martian.

"Incredible!" exclaimed one. "They're run by machines! And what machines! Look at that delicate network of interlocking gears!"

"Wait a minute, men," he went on. "what have we here? This looks like writing on one of the wheels. By jove, it is. I think I can make it out. Yes. ...M-A-D-E-I-N-J-A-P-A-N ..."

A visiting Martian spotting a cluster of TV antennae atop an apartment house shouted up: "You kids get down from there before you fall and hurt yourselves!"

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY RECREATION ASSOCIATION

S O F T B A L L

May 29, 1962, is the opening day for the NRAORA softball season. Game time is 5:30 P.M. at the Hannah Bottom. Teams listed as Home Team are asked to pick up and return all the softball equipment to the Hannah House. In the event a game is rained out, it will be played the next day.

- Listing of Teams -

RED RAIDERS

DAVIS, CARL

Brown, H.
Cassell, B.
Cole, F.
Crews, F.
Gallagher, J.
Hiner, R.
McPherson, L.
Parker, J.
Perry, F.
Plunkett, J.
Ralston, J.
Ross, D.
Roth, A.
Smith, S.
St. Clair, C.
Vinokur, M.
Wilson, E.
Wimer, M.

BROWN BOMBERS

DAVIDSON, ARNOLD

Devlin, P.
Drake, F.
Filloy, A.
Gardner, E.
Grove, G.
Gum, M.
Hall, P.
Heeschen, D.
Hogg, D.
Hvatum, H.
Lusk, T.
Matheny, J.
Meredith, B.
McLaughlin, C.
Sipe, L.
Viers, R.
Waslo, M.
Wooddell, C.
Zatta T.
Brooks, L.

BLUE DEVILS

CARPENTER, TOM

Aldridge, R.
Callender, F.
Coleman, H.
Findlay, J.
Grandon, G.
Gum, M.M.
Gumm, B.
Johnston, O.
Mayes, C.
Oliver, J.
Orhaug, T.
Perry, R.
Scott, V.
Sheets, J.
Simmons, J.
Taylor, B.
Waltman, W.
Wooddell, W.

GREEN HORNETS

HENSLEY, JOHN

Bowyer O.
Cassell D.
Collins, A.
Crist, G.
Dugatkin, R.
Henderson, T.
Horner, N.
Kuhlken, W.
Nottingham B.
Oref, W.
Rader, J.
Riffe, T.
Slough, D.
Taylor, H.
Tacy, J.
Vance, B.
Wade, C.
Barkley, C.

SOFTBALL SCHEDULE

NRAORA

Brown Bombers - Home Green Hornets - Visitor	May 29, 1962
Blue Devils - Home Red Raiders - Visitor	May 31, 1962
Red Raiders - Home Brown Bombers - Visitor	June 5, 1962
Green Hornets - Home Blue Devils - Visitor	June 7, 1962
Brown Bombers - Home Blue Devils - Visitor	June 12, 1962
Red Raiders - Home Green Hornets - Visitor	June 14, 1962
Green Hornets - Home Brown Bombers - Visitor	June 19, 1962
Blue Devils - Home Red Raiders - Visitor	June 21, 1962
Red Raiders - Home Brown Bombers - Visitor	June 26, 1962
Green Hornets - Home Blue Devils - Visitor	June 28, 1962