

Grote Reber Still Seeing Things

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Some 25 years ago, Grote Reber saw things through a home made telescope in his backyard in Wheaton that, presumably no one had ever seen before, and became one of the pioneers in radio astronomy.

Today, Reber is again on the threshold of a new venture in the same field, but this time it's not in his or anybody else's backyard.

Radio astronomy has grown out of the baling-wire stage of those early days, and Reber and his fellow-researchers now have the laboratories and equipment they need to carry on.

The new venture is, in fact, a research laboratory in West Virginia which Reber will help organize for his company, the Research Corporation in New York. It will be known as the National

Radio Astronomy Observatory, in Green Bank, W. Va.

The Grote Reber clippings in The Daily Journal files fill two envelopes. They include mention of articles in science magazines and the mass circulation slicks. Reber hasn't had too much chance to visit Wheaton during these busy years, but he found time last weekend to visit his cousin, Mrs. J. M. King, at 1020 Garner, while on his way south --also to update the Journal files

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disappointed through of about 50,000 persons were still on the square with no further hope of paying their last respects in person to their dead Pontiff.

Grote Reber

on Latter Day R.A.
Reber poured coffee and sat in his shirtsleeves answering questions for an hour Saturday about R.A., as the initiated have named it.

R. A. is to astronomy like a second pair of eyes, he explained. Before R.A., astronomers scanned the sky for gas set, of impulses: heat and light waves from hot objects, or stars

But R.A. picks up motion "waves" from — well that's the question — from what. Until the radio astronomer find out, they are calling them "radio stars" for want of a better term. But they may not be spheres, like the stars, at all. They may be the spaces between the spheres, or they may be gassy clouds.

Radio astronomy is a wide open field, according to Reber. There's a great deal of work to be done, there is money available for experiments, there are facilities in which to do the work, but the laborers, or trained technicians, are few, he says.

There are "presumably plenty of people applying, but how many of these people are going to do any good?" he asks.

But then, a great deal has been accomplished, much of it through the pioneer work of Grote Reber. As he puts it, "We have opened up the realm of the observable."