

NATIONAL RADIO ASTRONOMY OBSERVATORY

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1 April 1981

Alan Bridle  
1811 Lead Avenue, SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Alan:

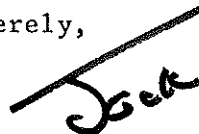
Last Saturday night's party was the climax of forty-three years' work in engineering and people relationship. Phyl and I will always remember and treasure it. We'd like to express our most sincere appreciation to those who planned it, those who worked to make it a success and those who were able to attend.

Should anyone not know our plans, we have rented our house for two years and bought a forty-two foot sailboat. We take it over on April twelfth in Stamford, Connecticut and will sail the east coast until November when Dave Heeschen, Cam Wade and Bob Brown will help us take it on the twelve-day voyage to the Virgin Islands in the Carribean. From there, who knows? It could be Europe or the South Pacific seas. When the odyssey is over, we're going to hasten back to Socorro for retirement.

Not too many of you saw the gift you gave us, so I'm enclosing a catalog sheet. Cam Wade picked the perfect gift; something of great value you wouldn't afford yourself; something which will be tremendously useful on our trip and save many hours of laborious navigational calculations, and something that's fun. The waveguide section is great and will hang in our family room when we return, as it is too heavy for the trip.

You built a magnificent instrument, one we all can take great pride in. It was a challenge which we met and won. You have the job now of making the VLA work to its greatest potential and keeping it as the finest radio astronomy tool in the world. Phyl and I are proud we could be a part of it and will value our association and friendships the rest of our days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".