

Dear Grotz: Hope this reaches  
you by Xmas. Have a wonderful  
1963. Jack & ~~Jack~~ sold our house  
& moved to a wheaton apt. Jan 14  
all happened in 3 weeks. That we  
needed a newer house. Glad fine  
All well here. Love Jimmy &  
Hope your ear is fine! Jack

# OT \$870,000 Radio Telescope ND at U. of Illinois Dedicated SS

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)  
Danville, Ill., Nov. 9—Several hundred scientists from throughout the United States today joined citizens of this community and University of Illinois officials to dedicate a new radio telescope that is expected to permit astronomers to probe farther into the universe than astronauts and space ships can ever hope to reach.

Built at a cost of \$870,000 over the last six years, the new radio telescope is known as the Vermilion river observatory. Located in a deep ravine formed by an unnamed creek five and a half miles southeast of here, it is almost on the Illinois-Indiana state line.

### Navy Financed Project

Among those here for the dedication were top officers of the United States office of naval research, which contributed \$741,000 to the project. The University of Illinois, which will staff and operate the telescope, contributed \$104,000, and \$25,900 was given by the National Science Foundation.

As the reflector for radio signals from celestial bodies billions of light years away, a natural ravine was shaped into a parabolic trough 600 feet long, 400 feet wide, and 65 feet deep. Running north and south along the center line is the 150 feet high wooden truss—supported by five wooden columns—on which a series of antennas have been placed to catch the radio beams from outer space.

### 10 Trillion Times

Radio receivers, operating on a band of 610-615 megacycles, corresponding to TV channel

37, were described as being 10 trillion times as sensitive as a home television set.

Prior to an inspection trip to the telescope site, the group of scientists, university officials, and citizens gathered for a dedication luncheon in the Wolford hotel here. Representing Gov. Kerner, Lt. Gov. Samuel Shapiro explained that one of the pioneers of radio astronomy—a science now only 30 years old—was a radio amateur, Grote Reber, who in 1936 built one of the first radio telescopes in his home town of Wheaton, Du Page county.

Reber, whom Shapiro described as a genius, was said to be now in Australia on assignment as a professional radio astronomer.

### The Extreme Depths

Representing the office of naval research, Capt. J. M. Ballinger said that the U. of I. radio telescope will "search the extreme depths of space among the most distant galaxies, far beyond the limits of terrestrial visual instruments, and into an area that can never be reached by earth-space travelers."

Prof. George C. McVittie, head of the U. of I. department of astronomy and director of the radio telescope project, said the new facility—the first of its kind ever built—would give man "a new instrument in his continuing efforts to discover the secrets of the universe."

Prof. George W. Swenson Jr., of the U. of I. electrical engineering and astronomy department, and project engineer for the observatory, said the first job with the telescope would be to map the Milky Way.

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veter had also

just barely

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