

# Sea Waves Originate From Earthquakes

by James

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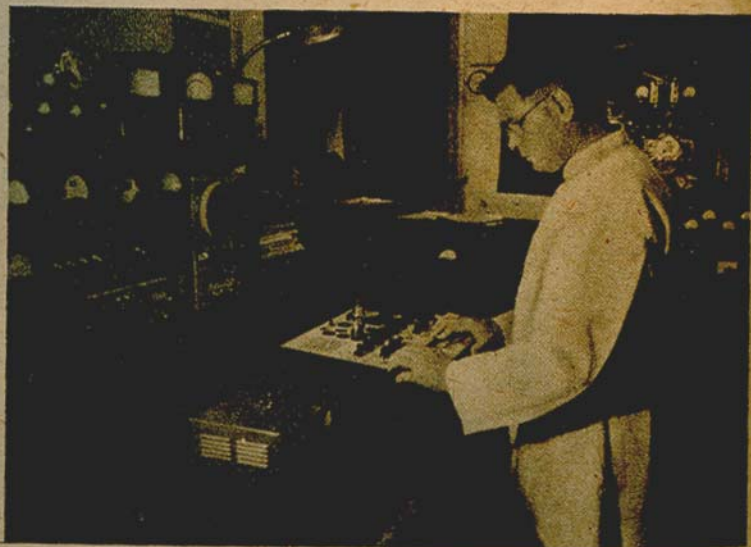
more properly as a seismic sea wave. The first is a misnomer since the wave is not due to sun or moon tides. The technical name, taken from the Japanese, is *tsunami*.

Why were these two tidal waves so different in their

outcomes?

Unquestionably some credit must be given to the Seismic Sea Warning System. The 1946 catastrophe pointed to the need for an adequate warning system to serve the coasts of islands in the Paci-

fic whenever another wave might strike. A system has been set up whose purpose was to alert coastal dwellers, vessels in harbors and planes on beaches, well in advance of the arrival of a tidal wave.



VACUUM tube in the ionosphere station is tested by Fr. James J. Hennessey, SJ, present Manila Observatory director.

A SEISMIC sea wave has its origin commonly though not always when an earthquake displaces a part of the ocean floor. The waters flow away from the part of the sea bed which is raised and rush toward the part which is lowered. Thus the sea wave triggered by the earthquake gets started in the ocean and moves out in all directions. As it travels across the ocean deep, the water rises only two or three feet so that ordinary sea going vessels scarcely observe the wave. Out in the ocean these waves are very long. Approaching land they change their shape. The bottom of the first wave is slowed by contact with the land. But the top of the wave rush-