Radio 'Eye' On The Sun

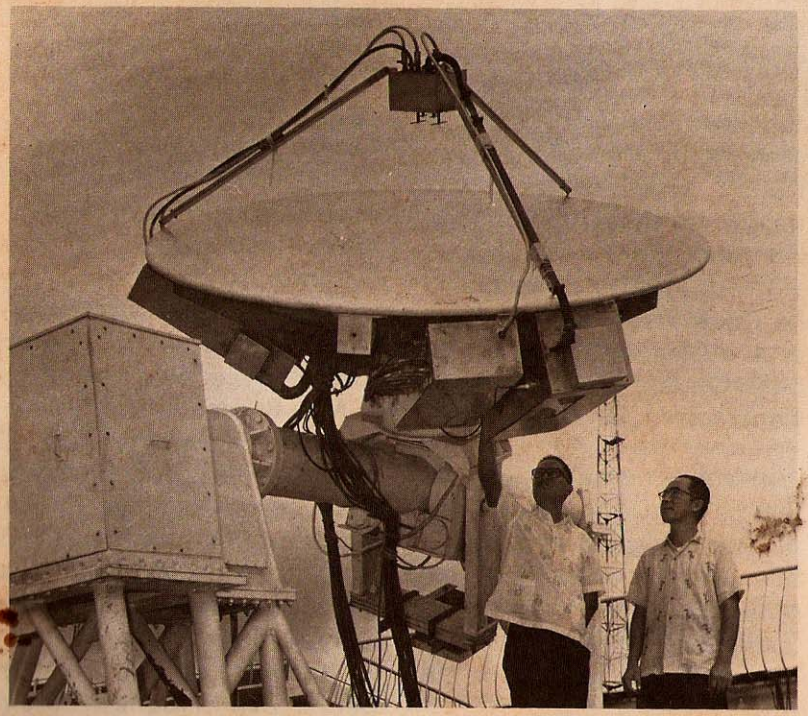
Equatorial Mount For Manila Observatory

To detect and record the various phenomena occuring on the surface of the sun, the Manila Observatory in Loyola Heights, Quezon City has a radio telescope accurately pointed at the sun from dawn to dusk. The radio telescope consists of an eight-foot diameter parabolic dish, a multi-frequency feed at the focus of the dish, and the low noise receivers and recording systems housed in an adjoining building.

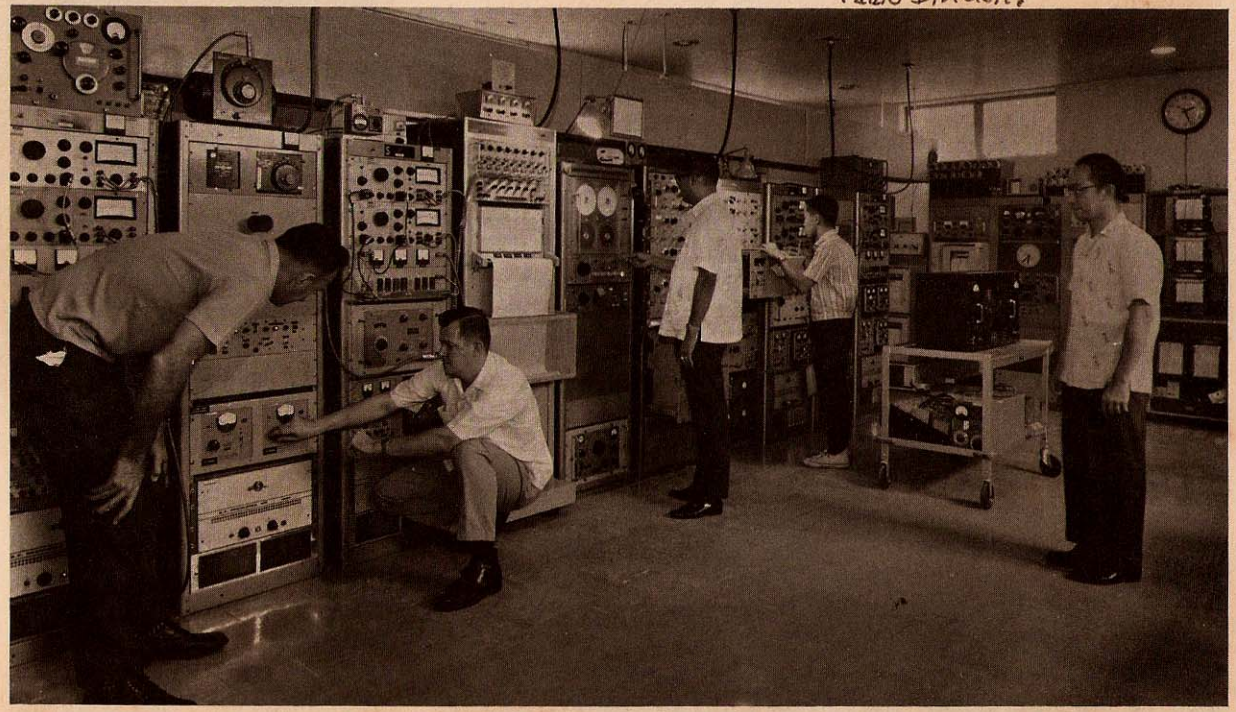
Automatic tracking of the sun which continually changes position with respect to the earth is made possible with the use of an equatorial mount for the radio telescope. One such equatorial mount was recently fabricated for the Manila Observatory by the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific Company based on designs and specifications provided by the Observatory.

Operating at four microwave frequencies — 1415, 2695, 4994 and 8800 MHz — the radio telescope is not a radar system but is essentially a passive system receiving signals from the sun. By means of the different frequencies, the Observatory is able to probe different levels of the sun's atmosphere.

The Rev. Fr. Victor Badillo, S.J. is the head of the Manila Observatory solar radio Division.



The radio telescope of the Manila Observatory assembled on an equatorial mount fabricated by AG&P. (Left to Right) Rev. Fr. Victor Badillo, SJ, and ~~Mr. Teofilo Orduña~~ of the Observatory.
MR. JOSE SALCEDO



The receivers and recording systems of the Manila Observatory. Observing the operation of the equipment, from left: Master Sgt. Malcolm McDonald, Technical Sgt. James Widman, ~~Rev. Fr. Victor Badillo, SJ,~~ Engineer Joe Salcedo, ~~and~~ Mr. Teofilo Orduña. and
VICTOR L. BADILLO S.J.

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