

PROGRAM

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE OF THE
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

*Admission & Bailey
Postmaster*



CELEBRATING THE OPENING
OF THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

Monday, August 30, 1948, 2 p. m.

Palomar Mountain, California

THE PALOMAR OBSERVATORY

CENTURY after century man has studied the stars and sought new knowledge of them. As he has advanced in knowledge, so too has his desire to know more and more about the vast universe of which our own planet is but an infinitesimal part. It has been this insatiable desire for new understanding about the universe that has driven men to design new, more intricate and larger instruments with which to study those "other worlds" about which we know so little.

The Palomar Observatory, with its giant 200-inch Hale telescope, is man's latest attempt to create new tools by which he can add further to his knowledge. The Hale telescope and the 18 and 48-inch Schmidt cameras atop Palomar Mountain are the instruments with which the astronomer will probe new distances into space—a billion light years from earth—and accumulate new knowledge of the entire heavens.

This already famous observatory, for which a commemorative stamp has been issued today, is symbolic of more than man's desire to see further into space. It is also symbolic of man's cooperative spirit. It was funds made available by the Rockefeller Foundation plus the time and energy given unstintingly by many men in many fields that enabled the California Institute of Technology to create this wonder of science. Now as it is about to go into operation, Palomar becomes a part of another vast cooperative project in which two observatories, Mt. Wilson and Palomar, are combined into a single enterprise with a single objective and common director.

The Palomar Observatory was conceived in 1928 by the late Dr. George Ellery Hale, for whom the 200-inch telescope was named, and today, 20 years later, it is nearing the time when it will go into full operation. Then will follow long periods of patient observation and even more patient study and analysis of those observations. From all this will come new enlightenment for all mankind.

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LEE A. DUBRIDGE, *Presiding*
President, California Institute of Technology

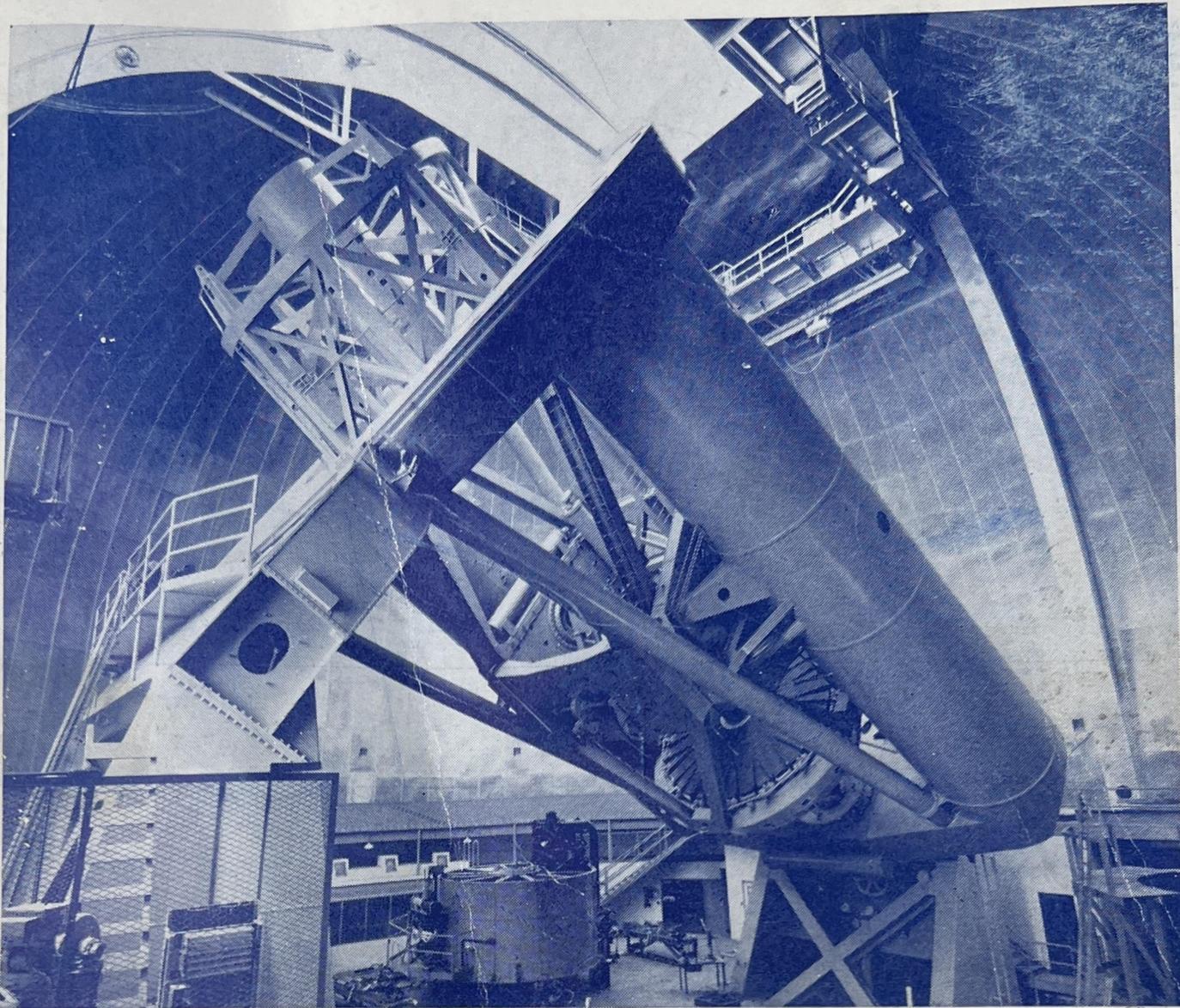
INVOCATION Rev. Charles Severns
University Christian Church, San Diego

WELCOME Honorable DeGraff Austin
Chairman, Board of Supervisors, San Diego County

REMARKS Clarence H. Dawson
President, Palomar Philatelic Society

PRESENTATION OF STAMP ALBUMS Honorable S. R. Young
Executive Assistant to Postmaster General

RESPONSE Ira S. Bowen
Director, Mt. Wilson and Palomar Observatories



THE HALE TELESCOPE showing the tube pointing to the north and at nearly full declination. The tube is within the prongs of the giant horseshoe bearing which makes it possible to point the telescope to the north polar star. The weight of the entire structure is 530 tons. The cover for the 200-inch mirror in the base of the tube is in the closed position. On the floor in the background is the tank in which the big 17-foot mirror was aluminized to give it its reflecting surface and convert it into a mirror. Overhead can be seen the huge 60-ton crane which moves across the top of the 1000-ton observatory dome.