

11:00 A.M., THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 1962

BERTRAND GOLDBERG ASSOCIATES
721 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
787-8622

CELESTIAL MAP PRESENTED TO MARINA CITY AT SPECIAL THANKSGIVING
DAY AND SECOND ANNIVERSARY CEREMONY

CHICAGO, Ill. . . . November 22. . . . An unusual celestial or "star map" inscribed in five languages was made public today as a permanent Chicago architectural record that conceivably could serve archaeologists centuries from now as a key to 20th Century understanding.

The celestial map, fixing the date of November 22, 1960, by the position of the planets, was presented by the Chicago Planetarium Society as a permanent record of the groundbreaking two years ago today for the spectacular Marina City project in downtown Chicago.

Robert S. Adler, President of the Planetarium Society, made the presentation to William L. McFetridge, President of the Marina City Building Corporation and former President of the Building Service Employees International Union, which is constructing the \$36 million dollar project with its twin 60-story apartment towers.

The presentation of the celestial map, inscribed on a silver placque and bearing the inscription in five languages, highlighted a Thanksgiving Day service and second anniversary celebration of the Marina City groundbreaking.

In attendance were Mayor Daley and a large gathering of other public officials and leaders in labor, business and industry, and civic affairs. The ceremony took place on the lobby level of the East Tower of Marina City just off State Street on the north bank of the Chicago river.

An interdenominational Thanksgiving Day service was conducted by clergy of the three major faiths - Father C. J. O'Malley, President of DePaul University; Dr. Kenneth Hildebrand, Pastor of the Central Church of Chicago, and Rabbi Ralph Simon, of Congregation Rodfei Zedek.

The celestial map with its five language inscription on the silver plaque represented a prototype of a "star map" on a copper scroll which in the near future is to be drilled deep into a huge concrete block in the foundation of Marina City as a permanent record of this spectacular project for centuries to come.

The celestial map, prepared by the Planetarium Society, shows the position of the planets on November 22, 1960, the groundbreaking date for the \$36 million dollar Marina City apartment and commercial project being built by the Building Service Employees International Union.

Adler, the President of the Planetarium Society, explained that the map was prepared for Marina City "in order that perhaps for centuries to come, scientists of all nations can easily read of the beginning of this architectural undertaking in the universal language of astronomy."

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"As astronomy itself faces new frontiers in the Space Age, it is fitting that the Chicago Planetarium Society join the developers of Marina City in a tribute to man's ever continuing effort to create on earth, whether in science, music or architecture, new forms which express man's search for greater understanding," said Adler.

Beneath the map on the silver placque and on the copper scroll being prepared as the permanent record is an inscription in English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew and Chinese as five major languages of the civilized world. This inscription, repeated in the various languages, reads:

"This building began on the 22nd day of November 1960 A. D. according to the Gregorian Calendar. The planets in the heavens were as shown on this celestial map. The universal language of astronomy will permit men forever to understand and know this date. Marina City and its towers are the dream of William L. McFetridge, the planning of Charles R. Swibel, and the architecture of Bertrand Goldberg."

In addition to being President of the Marina City Building Corporation, McFetridge, civic leader and former International Union President, is continuing to serve as President of the Chicago Flat Janitors Union, Local #1.

Swibel, a mortgage banker and civic leader, is President of the Marina Management Corporation. Goldberg is head of Bertrand Goldberg Associates, architectural firm with offices at 721 North Michigan Avenue.

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The silver placque with the "star map" and the inscription in the five languages will be placed on public display as a continuing exhibit in the lobby of the East Tower of Marina City.

As the permanent record for many ages, the celestial map and inscription on copper will be embedded as a scroll in a mass of concrete 50 feet in diameter and 8 feet thick that helps to form the foundation for the core of the East 60-story apartment tower of Marina City.

Upon being presented the celestial map, McFetridge said that the Building Service Employees' International Union and the Marina City management consider it a "high honor to be recognized for their endeavors with the Marina City project in such a unique manner by the Chicago Planetarium Society."

"For many years to come, the public will be afforded the unusual opportunity of inspecting this celestial map in the lobby of the East Tower of Marina City," said McFetridge.

"And for possible inspection by archaeologists many centuries in the future, the celestial map on the copper scroll will be safely preserved in the huge concrete mass at the base of the core of the West Tower," McFetridge said. "Because of its virtually everlasting quality, this recording deep in the foundation of Marina City could well be compared with the planting of a modern Rosetta Stone."

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Before being sealed by cement in the concrete, the copper scroll in its opening will be covered with hot asphalt as a protection against any effects of moisture. The embedding of this permanent record for Marina City, McFetridge said, is planned to be done in the next few weeks.

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