

311 Shady Lane  
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126  
September 18, 1967

Dr. Lloyd Bertholf  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Bloomington, Illinois

Dear Dr. Bertholf:

I have read a recent article concerning the replacement of Behr Observatory by the new Evans Observatory. I was naturally very disappointed in the change of name but I can well understand that as President of the University, your primary concern is expansion and enlargement of all facilities to maintain an ever growing institution of higher learning. I realize that to accomplish this, funds are necessary, and to obtain funds, principles may have to be compromised. I am referring to the principle of honoring the original founders and benefactors whose foresight made available facilities for early training of students in Astronomy long before Astrophysics became a recognized science. Now in our age of space exploration, new benefactors can see the need for such facilities but how many could foresee it in 1894.

Several years ago the University solicited funds to rehabilitate the building and equipment. Though my Mother's was heavily burdened with doctor and hospital bills, she nevertheless purchased two annuities to help with the work.

I do not mean to belittle Mrs. Evans contribution in the least, but please bear in mind that in 1894, one dollar would do what it takes ten dollars to do now. So my Grandfather's contribution certainly compares favorably with that of Mrs. Evans.

Mrs. Evans contribution should certainly be recognized as being on a par with the original founder of the observatory and therefore I respectfully request that the name should be Evans-Behr Observatory. I don't believe Mrs. Evans and her family should or will have any objections to this since they will likely find themselves in the same position in years to come.

As you mentioned in your remarks at my Mother's graveside service, all too often original founders and benefactors are forgotten as the years pass. Since I believe you were sincere in your remarks, I feel sure you will give my request careful consideration.

Very truly yours,

*Richard B. Hart*

Richard B. Hart

To "D.R. Bartholp"  
P Wk. & return  
Let's confer.  
LMB

March 28, 1968

*This looks OK to me unless some  
in science wants any of the equipment*

Illinois Wesleyan University  
210 E. University  
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

ATTN: President Bertholf

Dear Sir;

I am writing to you in behalf of the Twin City Amateur Astronomers of Bloomington-Normal. As we spoke the other day by telephone I expressed the desire of our amateur group in having our own observatory.

Our group has heard the Illinois Wesleyan University is planning a new building that will house an astronomical observatory, and that the University will be shortly disposing of the Behr Observatory building. Through our past association with Dr. Kessler, he advised us that there may be a possibility of the University granting us the Behr Observatory building rather than relegating it to destruction.

Our group envisions the reality through your grant and through negotiations with Mr. D. Anderson of the Normal Recreation Department.

We have already discussed the possibility of the moving of the Behr Observatory to the Fairview Municipal Park in Normal with Mr. Anderson and he is to present this project for financing to the Normal Council if the University favors our request.

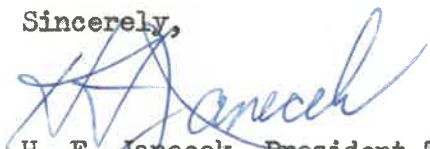
Our plans for the observatory is to install an 8" reflector we have available at this time and eventually replacing this with a 10" reflector which is a club project.

In connection with the Normal Recreation Department this facility which they would sponsor would be made available to the general public with our club as an operating agency.

The facility we are planning would also give our members who are doing serious work as amateurs a fine piece of equipment to do their work.

We shall anxiously await word from you.

Sincerely,



H. F. Janacek, President T C A A  
1206 Maplewood Drive  
Normal, Illinois

HFJ:rb