

ARTI FACT

BEHOLD THE UNIVERSE

"LIKE BURIED TREASURES, the outposts of the universe have beckoned to the adventurous from immemorial times. Princes and potentates . . . have felt the lure of the uncharted seas of space."

| WITH HIS OPENING in a 1928 issue of *Harper's Magazine*, astronomer George Ellery Hale hoped to convince Americans of the importance of exploring the universe. And just two years later, the edifice shown here depicted the heavens in their glory, arising on an artificial island along the Chicago lakefront. | THE ADLER PLANETARIUM—the first in the country and now a National Historic Landmark—sought to inspire through its form. Signs of the zodiac in bronze graced each corner. A dedication plaque in the lobby depicted the gods and goddesses of the planets. Twelve shallow pools, one for each month, led up to the entrance.

Architect Ernest Grunsfeld, whose grandson John became a NASA astronaut, designed the place, mobbed by 20,000 people a week when its doors first opened. With one of the world's finest collections of astronomical artifacts, the Adler was a star of the 1933-34 Century of Progress Exposition. | THE PLANETARIUM'S FIRST DIRECTOR, Philip Fox, said at the time that "in the modern city, with its smoke and its night sky with artificial light, there is scant opportunity to see the greatest of natural wonders, the starry heavens. The planetarium is a splendidly successful achievement for the renewal of this knowledge among city dwellers." An observatory, completed in 1977, was recently equipped with filters to partly block the lights of Chicago. | TODAY, the planetarium continues to inspire with its scene of the sky at night. In the words of founder Max Adler, a former vice president with Sears, Roebuck and Company, "In our reflections, we dwell too little upon the concept that the world and all human endeavor within it are governed by established order and too infrequently upon the truth that under the heavens everything is inter-related, even as each of us to the other."

