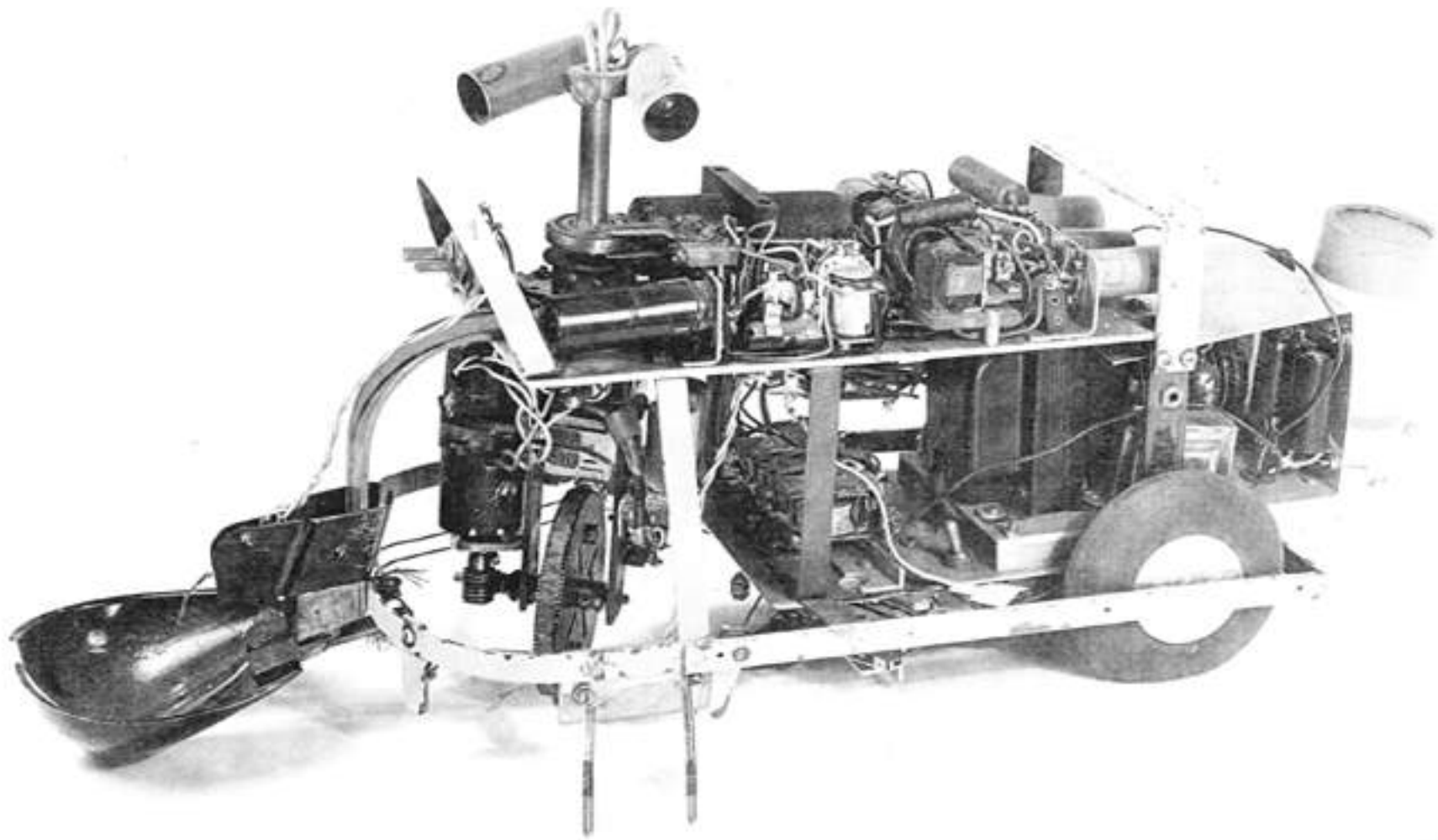


An electric squirrel designed and constructed in 1951 by Edmund C. Berkeley. Squee is a small robot squirrel which was able to collect 'nuts' (tennis or golf balls). Squee was the first robot to be able to carry out a defined task, as opposed to just steer towards light.

Squee was the first robot to have a manipulator under automatic control.

Squee is the first of the true robots.



Squee, the electronic robot squirrel. The two phototubes or "eyes" are at the top of the steering post; the scoop which opens and closes, or "hands", is at the front.

See:

SMALL ROBOTS -- REPORT,

Edmund C. Berkeley,

Copyright 1956 by Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.,

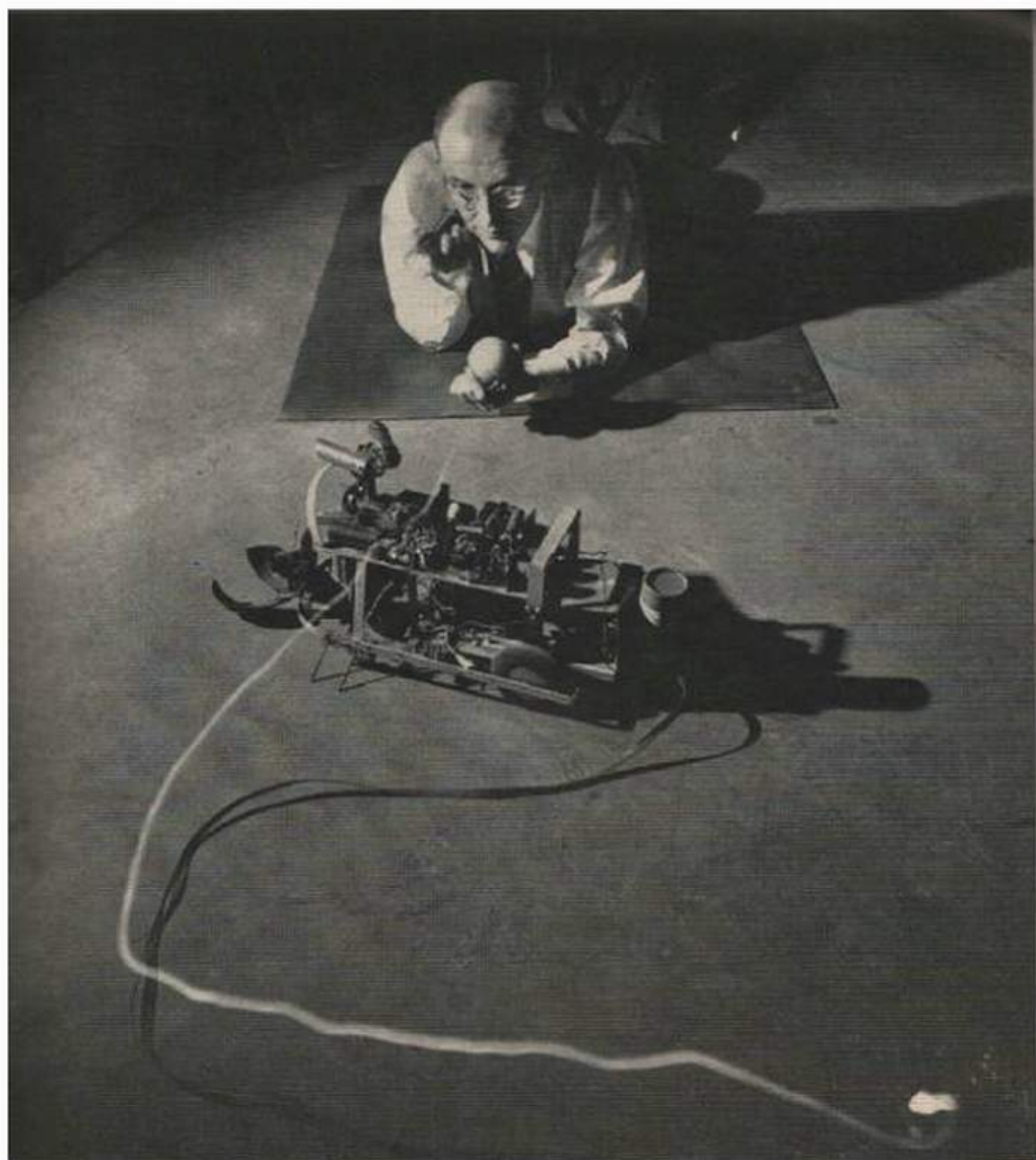
Published April, 1956, by Berkeley Enterprises, Inc.,

815 Washington St., Newtonville 60, Mass.

<http://www.blinkenlights.com/classicomp/berkeley/report.html>

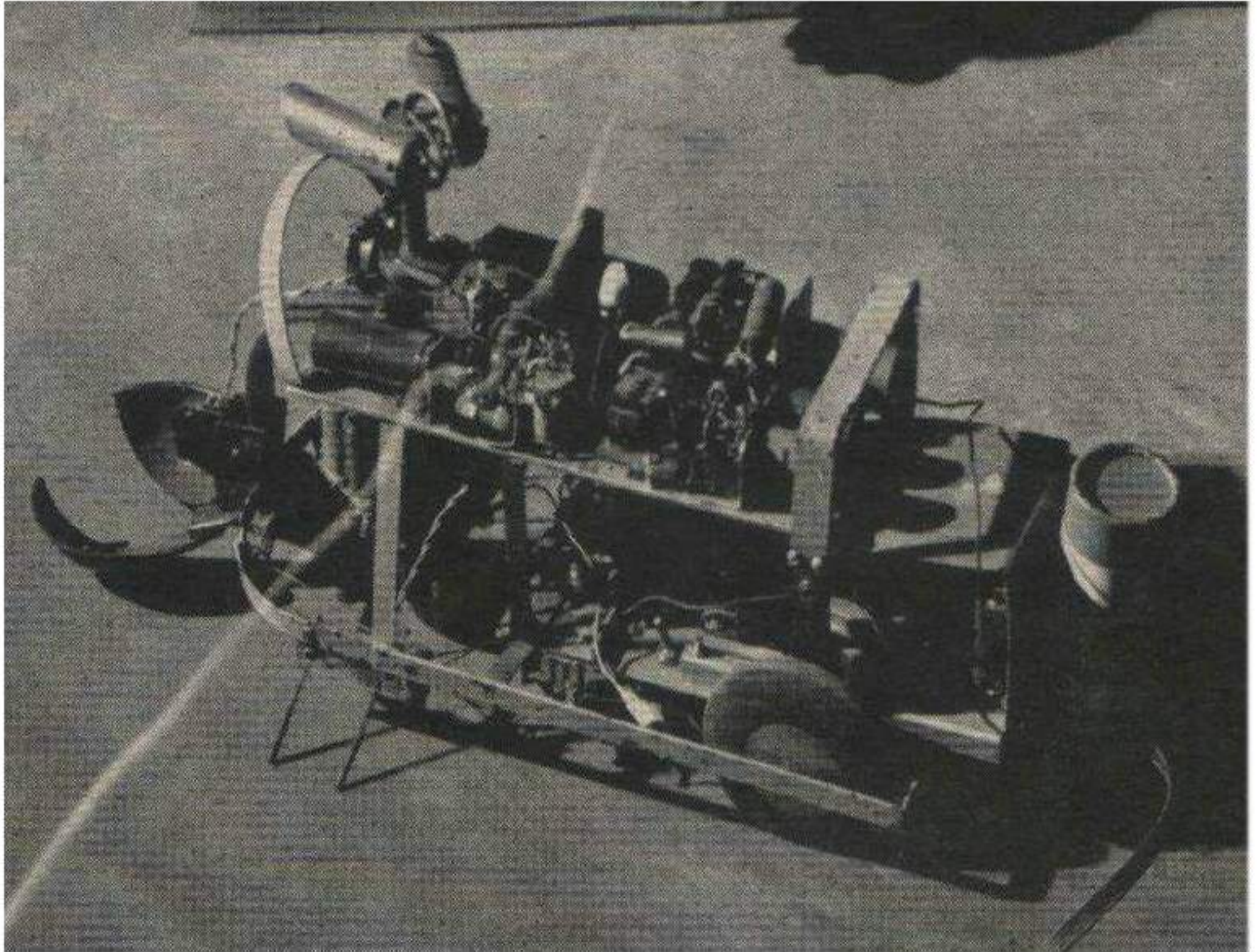
extract

**Squee** (named after "squirrel") is an electronic robot squirrel. It contains four sense organs (two phototubes, two contact switches), three acting organs (a drive motor, a steering motor, and a motor which opens and closes the scoop or "hands"), and a small brain of half a dozen relays. It will hunt for a "nut". The "nut" is a tennis ball designated by a member of the audience who steadily holds a flashlight above the ball, pointing the light at Squee. Then Squee approaches, picks up the "nut" in its "hands" (the scoop), stops paying attention to the steady light, sees instead a light that goes on and off 120 times a second shining over its "nest", takes the "nut" to its "nest", there leaves the nuts, and then returns to hunting more



Berkeley beckons "Squee" with flashlight - *Life Magazine* 19th March 1956

Note in this 1956 picture Squee has already had its batteries removed and been fitted with a mains power supply and umbilical.



*Contributor - Reuben Hoggett*

*Thank you David Mitchell for telling me about Squee.*

According to BLINKENLIGHTS ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE Pop Quiz: [What was the first personal computer?](#) it was Simon by Edmund Berkeley. He first described Simon in his 1949 book, "Giant Brains, or Machines That Think" and went on to publish plans to build Simon in a series of Radio Electronics issues in 1950 and 1951, and by 1959, over 400 Simon plans were sold.

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