



EDITORIAL

"Tommy" McKenzie

It is at this time of year, when the winter winds are drifting the snow and the mercury is plunging repeatedly below the zero mark, that I think most often of the late Tom McKenzie, Observatory caretaker from 1935 to 1955. He had been a resident of the area when the Observatory was being built, and was employed on various odd jobs all that time. He proved so reliable and competent that the University offered him full-time employment as caretaker when the buildings were completed.

In those days winter was a great hardship to us all. The Administration Building was heated by an enormous, so-called automatic soft-coal burner, the hopper of which had to be refilled by shovel, and the clinkers broken up in the firepot and hauled out onto the furnace-room floor. In the coldest weather Mr. McKenzie would spend the whole night in the furnace room, snatching what little sleep he could, so that the building would be habitable in the morning.

The lane was another trial. This was the old lane that ran out to Yonge Street, and never was there a worse snow-catcher. There was no money in those depression days to hire a plow, so Mr. McKenzie and his son Gordon would actually shovel the entire half-mile of road so we could drive in and out. On one occasion they spent one whole day shovelling through enormous drifts, reaching Yonge Street by dark. The next morning the road was completely filled again, so the two McKenzie's spent the next day repeating their task. The great December snowfall of 1944, however, was too much even for these iron men, and the road remained closed to all but foot traffic until spring.

As one could guess, Tom McKenzie was a Scot. In 1938 King George VI and Queen Elizabeth visited Canada and had the Observatory pointed out to them by Prime Minister McKenzie King as their special train sped south to Toronto on the CNR, and as the staff and our families stood in the lane and waved at the windows of the coaches. That evening as I was waiting to observe I said to Mr. McKenzie,

"I suppose you're proud of your Scottish Queen just now". "Aye", he replied; and then after a long pause, "I went to school wi' her; she was a bonnie wee lass; we used to call her Libby". Another long pause, and then he explained that his father had been a tenant farmer on the Bowes-Lyon estate, and when the family were in residence there the children were sent to the local school for a few weeks. "Libby" was a good deal younger than Tom, but he knew her older brother fairly well and, if I remember rightly, served as his batman during part of World War I.

Mr. McKenzie was a slave to duty, and duty to him was uncompromising enforcement of a set of rules which had been set out by "Misther Shorthreed", his boss in the Superintendent's Office. Woe betide the student who dared enter the library after 5 o'clock; if he as much as passed through it on his way to the kitchen, (instead of going, as required, by way of the basement) Mr. McKenzie would track him down by his footprints. If Gerry left the water trickling to wash plates overnight, he would be waiting with fire in his eyes as Gerry came in the front door next morning. Even Dr. Young wasn't immune from the fearless Tommy's ire; on one occasion some oily metal filings were tracked from the workshop, and Tom traced the misdemeanor to Dr. Young, and pulled no punches in letting him know what a horrible thing he had done.

Beyond his own province of keeping the buildings spotless and tracking down evildoers, whether staff, students, visitors or mischievous kids, Tom McKenzie never stepped. From Director down we all respected him and he us. We were very sorry when he finally retired at the age of 70, and still sorrier when, at the age of 80, he collapsed and died after spending the day scything the weeds from the fence corners of his little place on Hillview Drive.

J.F.H.

OBSERVING

74-inch Drive Clock

In the beginning the original weight-driven clock of the 74-inch telescope was whisper-quiet, and our biggest noise was that of the motor-generator sounding its roar up the open stairway. But within a few years we replaced the clock with the synchronous motor drive and the noise of the gears was frightful. A few years ago we put up the glass partition, and the generator faded almost into inaudibility, but the noise of the drive remained. Earlier this month Gerry Longworth and his helpers installed some new fibre gears and now there is nothing but a low whine. The quietest it's ever been.

IR Photometry

Dr. Roeder will be reporting today at Countdown on the progress of infrared photometry with the 74-inch. He and Bob Hawkins had a few fairly good (though very cold) nights to get the bugs out of the equipment, and at the time of writing they are getting within shooting distance of their aim to observe the Qassars.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. van den Bergh attended the Greenstein "Memorial" Symposium in Pasadena on Jan. 12-13, and observed with the 48-inch Schmidt on Jan. 10, 14, 15.

Dr. Garrison is still in Chile and due home next week.

Dr. and Mrs. MacRae were in Houston for a week early in January. As Chairman of the Council of Representatives of the Space Research Association, Dr. MacRae was one of the speakers at the dedication of the Lunar Science Institute, and Mrs. MacRae unveiled a plaque commemorating the occasion. They remained for several days of the conference at which scientists presented the detailed result of their investigations on the Apollo 11 specimens. Dr. MacRae is away again today in Ottawa to speak to the R.A.S.C. Centre there.

Barry Madore spent the period Dec. 10-23 observing in Chile on the Dunlap Southern Milky Way Survey Project.

SEMINARS

JANUARY

January seminars were as announced except that Dr. Morrison of M.I.T. was unable to come because of a death in his family, and the topics for the last week of the month were as follows:

- Jan. 27: Dr. Racine, "Reflection Nebulae".
Dr. Roeder, "First IR Observations at DDO".
- Jan. 28: Dave DuPuy, "Instabilities of Systems of Galaxies"
(G 2000 series).
- Jan. 29: Dr. K. Shivanandan, "IR Rocket Astronomy". Room 137
McLennan
- Jan. 30: Dr. David Hogg, "Brightness Distributions in Radio
Sources". Room 202, McLennan.

FEBRUARY

Tues. Feb. 10:
D.D.O.

Jack Winzer, "Mass Loss from Stars".

Tues. Feb. 17:
D.D.O.

Dr. V.E. Hughes, Queen's University, "Optical Depth and Excitation Temperature of Hydrogen in the Galactic Plane".

Thurs. Feb. 19:
Room 103, McL.
Joint lwith Physics

Dr. Melvin Ruderman, Columbia University, "Inside Neutron Stars".

Tues. Jan. 24
D.D.O.

Dr. Garrison "The Life and Work of Dr. A.J. Deutsch."

G2000 SEMINARS

(Wednesdays, Room 202, McLennan, 4:10 p.m.)

Feb. 4

Walter Gorza "The Spectra of Novae".

Feb. 11

Jeff. Crelinsten, "The Magnetic Fields of the Local Spiral Arm from Radio Astronomical Observations".

Feb. 18

Tom Barnes, "Infrared Properties of Galactic Nuclei".

Feb. 25

Ted Bednarek, "Radio Emission from Planetary Nebulae".

PAPERS SUBMITTED IN JANUARY

S. van den Bergh

"The Extra-Galactic Distance Scale" accepted for publication in Nature.

MISCELLANEOUS

Resignation

It was with great regret that the resignation of Alice Streit, Assistant Secretary of the Department was accepted. Alice is returning soon to Switzerland where her husband has accepted an academic appointment.

Arrival

Irene Gates reported for work at the Observatory on Jan. 7 for a term of three months. Irene is a first year science student at Waterloo working on the program that calls for alternate periods of study and work in industry or a scientific institution. During January she has been measuring plates for radial velocity and assisting Mrs. Lehmann in the library.

Recovered

Ursula Dewsbury has returned to full-time duties after hospitalization for surgery last month.

on Jan 28th

Over and Out

Greg Fahlman passed his Senate Ph.D. oral last Friday and has left for Cambridge where he will hold an N.R.C. Post-doctoral Fellowship.

Alumna

Dr. Hogg has heard from Linda Poole (M.Sc. 1969) who is now working in Houston for McDonnell Douglas Astronautics, helping to develop simulators and experiment systems for the Apollo telescope mount for the Manned Orbiting Scientific Laboratory.

Bomb Scare

The McLennan Laboratories and the Galbraith Building were evacuated for an hour last Thursday when a telephone threat to "bomb the Physics Building at 3 p.m." was received. No bomb.

I.A.U. Travel Again

Dr. Vic Gaizauskas' survey failed to find 40 persons willing to fly at the same time to and from the Brighton General Assembly. Meanwhile, however, he has been informed by Air Canada that they are confident of being able to offer a 29-45 day excursion fare of \$286 for the season commencing Aug. 10.

Talks

Dr. Hogg spoke in the U. of T. extension series in the Richmond Hill Library Jan. 5 on "Contemporary Astronomy", and to the Zonta Club of Toronto on Jan. 14 at their meeting to commemorate Amelia Earhart.

Born

To Dr. and Mrs. Lorne Braun on Dec. 17, 1969, a son, Steven Anthony.

Visitors

Christmas season visitors to the Observatory included George Mitchell (Ph.D. 1968), now Assistant Professor in the Physics Department at St. Mary's University Halifax) and his wife, Patricia; the complete Wehlau family from U.W.O.; Vic and Barbara Gaizauskas.

Christmas Party

Dr. and Mrs. MacRae entertained 105 of the staff and their families at their traditional Christmas party at Observatory House on Dec. 20.

Hurrah for Astronomy

Dr. van den Bergh is delighted (and so we all are) that Time's ten most significant scientific accomplishments of the decade just ended includes no less than five astronomical feats. They are Maarten Schmidt on the great distance of quasars 1963; Mariner photographs of Mars 1965; Cosmic background radiation, 1965; Discovery of pulsars 1967; moon landing 1969.

How Davie Dunlap Can Tell a Star from a Star Reporter's Head

A Star reporter named Martha Guran apparently was assigned to re-write our 1970 Visitors' mimeogram. She talks about the "many" telescopes of the "Davie Dunlap Observatory" whose purposes, among other things, is "promoting public interest in astrology". She says "some of the telescopes have been made by the staff who will be pleased to talk about their hobby" and that "finding out that stars are not pointed, but round like the sun, may be quite a discovery". And 'throughout the rest of the year (November to April) one night a week is allowed for visits; phone 884-2112."

"GALAXY"

Bill Sherwood (M.Sc. 1967) writes from Edinburgh:

"We have just had a press conference for GALAXY (General Automatic Luminosity And XY). It measures ~1000 stars/hour both in X and Y (ie position) to better than 1μ and in "magnitude" (a spiral scan of the image yields a size profile measured to better than 1%).

"It has measured a region near $\lambda + \kappa$ Persei and found several thousand OB stars where previously only 15 were known.

"The beauty of this instrument is that the Schmidt plate is placed in "galaxy" and then automatically scanned for stars (it can reject dirt and scratches). This search tape is then used (resubmitted for the automatic position and measure determinations.

"I have two problems involving "Galaxy"; the more interesting one is to determine parallaxes of stars selected only if they are on a Schmidt plate ie Galaxy will measure everything and one looks (with a computer) for displacements. The third epoch is being taken right now, 3 exposures per fine grain plate, ten plates per epoch. We hope to measure (on our Schmidt) parallaxes as small as $0''.08$. To test this Dr. Gliese has sent me his new Cat. and we have 47 stars in one field to measure. We are very excited!"