



-EDITORIAL-

Sidney Girling

When I was in Victoria last month Dr. Wright and I paid our biennial visit to Mr. and Mrs. Girling at their little house perched on the embankment of Cordova Bay near the foot of Mount Douglas. They live in retirement, Mrs. Girling tending what must be one of the loveliest gardens in the Victoria area, and Mr. Girling inventing things and carving beautiful garden ornaments and manufacturing fine little humming-bird feeders and fishing for cod. He can't bring himself to kill the beautiful game fish of the Pacific, but cod, he says, are so stupid that they don't even know they are caught, and anyway when properly cooked, they make better eating than salmon.

Sidney Girling is 84, Marjory 71. They were married about 15 years ago, he being then a bachelor and she a widow. The story (or rather stories, for there are his version and hers) of their courtship is something I always ask them to re-tell because they make it funnier with each telling.

Mr. Girling was born in England, and he and his brother, Albert, were, I gather, trained as mechanics and designers by their father. In 1909 the two brothers designed a three-wheeled gasoline-powered delivery van and brought it into production in 1912. The cars were a success but the business wasn't, and after the first world war Sidney migrated to Victoria while Albert stayed on in England and continued in mechanical designing. His greatest success was in the area of automobile brakes; anyone familiar with sports cars will have heard of the Girling disk brake.

For some years Sidney Girling operated a small machine shop in Victoria. Dr. J.S. Plaskett (who himself had been a machinist before going to University) discovered that Girling had a real genius for design and a talent for very superior machine work. He employed him on a number of small contracts, and finally invited

him to join the D.A.O. technical staff. There one of his biggest projects was to supply the detailed design and do the machine work for the universal Cassegrain spectrograph of the 72-inch telescope which was the concept of Dr. C.S. Beals.

When we were planning our grating spectrograph we decided that we could do no better than to adopt the general plan, especially as to the optical support system, of the very successful Beals spectrograph. So we invited Mr. Girling (then retired) to spend two months with us in the autumn of 1960. He and Gerry and I conferred almost daily, and between conferences Mr. Girling, although severely handicapped at that time with cataracts, produced the set of detailed drawings from which the spectrograph was finally completed in 1964.

When I work with our spectrograph I often think of Mr. Girling. Perhaps he narrowly missed being a British Henry Ford, but he made many good contributions to astronomy and, still possessed of a fine talent and a great love of nature, and married to a charming and witty wife, he must be a very happy man.

J.F.H.

OBSERVING

Spectrographic - 74-inch

The Cassegrainian secondary was aluminized in May and this made another big difference, so that the spectrograph is reasonably fast, and 9.6 mag. stars can be had in three hours or less at 12 A/mm. Following a conversation with Ed. Lee of the D.A.O. we decided to bake the IIaO plates again. Anson Moorhouse finds that baking at 50°C for 16 hours improves the speed by about 40%, but that the effect lasts only about two weeks - at least that is the case with the current batch of IIaO's.

Spectrographic - 24-inch

Dr. Garrison is having excellent results from the classification spectrograph of the D.D.O. 24-inch, built to his specifications by David Blyth. At the moment Dave is completing a slightly modified version for the Chile 24-inch. Anyone interested in good design and workmanship should have a look at these little spectrographs.

Canadians in Chile

Dr. van den Bergh reports that at the time of his most recent

visit to Cerro Tololo (mid-June) the Chile Observatory was firmly in Canadian hands. The two largest telescopes on the mountain were being used by SvdB, David Hartwick (of U. Vic.) and Gretchen Hagen. At the same time the night assistant on the Curtis-Schmidt telescope was carrying out observing programs for Drs. Racine, FitzGerald (of Waterloo) and Coutts. On June 20 Dr. Garrison was slated to replace Gretchen Hagen on the 36-inch.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. MacRae was in Pasadena on June 18 conferring with Dr. Babcock concerning the installation of the U. of T. 24-inch telescope on Cerro Las Campanas.

See also "Canadians in Chile" above.

Dr. Heard observed with the D.A.O. 72-inch on May 27-28.

Dr. van den Bergh gave two colloquia at Columbia University: May 25, "Optical Observations of Cas A"; May 26, "Extragalactic Distance Scale". He also spoke on the same topics at the University of Wisconsin on May 27 and 28.

Gretchen Hagen spent a few days in Mexico following her observing session in Chile before returning home on the 26th.

SEMINARS

June

The June Institute was a resounding success, thanks again to the untiring efforts of Drs. Anand and Roeder. The number of "outside" visitors was 95, and it was encouraging to notice that the attendance was well maintained throughout the week. By actual count there were 120 in attendance at the final session Friday afternoon.

July

Plans are being made for a "Town Meeting" on July 14 on the topic of Ph.D. general examinations which has been a subject of considerable discussion among teaching staff and students recently.

PAPERS SUBMITTED IN JUNE

- J.F. Heard "Stellar Radial Velocities and Spectroscopic Binary Systems". - The Ruth Northcott Memorial Lecture presented at the R.A.S.C. General Assembly in Edmonton on May 17. - R.A.S.C. Journal.
- R.F. Garrison "Spectral Classification in the Association.III Cephei"
- D. DuPuy "New Observations of Blue Haro Galaxies".

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Roeder has been appointed Acting Chairman of the Physical Sciences Group of the Division of Science at Scarborough College.

SUMMER ASSISTANTS

The following students, new graduate enrollees (G) and others are working in the Department and at the Observatory for the summer:

At the Observatory:

Alice Hine assisting Dr. Garrison
Bill Herbst (G) assisting Dr. Fernie
Mark McCutcheon assisting Dr. Heard
Roslyn Shemilt assisting Dr. Percy
Pearl Topley assisting in the office

On Campus

John Kormendy assisting Dr. Anand
Kayll Lake assisting Drs. Percy + Hogg
Charles Lumsden assisting Dr. Seaquist
Michael McGowan assisting Dr. Roeder
Michael Shara assisting Dr. Anand

MISCELLANEOUS

Retirement Party

An Observatory Tea was held on June 23 to mark the occasion of Mrs. Lehmann's retirement as Observatory Librarian. Dr. MacRae

spoke of Mrs. Lehmann's great contributions during her 8-year term of office and expressed the thanks of students and staff. As tangible expressions of our gratitude Mrs. Lehmann was presented with two Eskimo carvings and two colour photographs of the Observatory.

Suffers Accident

Dr. Hogg suffered a painful accident at her Dunstable home on June 11 when she twisted her right ankle stepping off a porch and fractured it in two places. She was in hospital for a few days and now is back home in Dunstable, but confined to a wheel chair. Just when she will return to Richmond Hill depends upon how fast the bones knit, but she fears it will be a few weeks at the best.

Mitchell's Here

Dr. George Mitchell (Ph.D. 1967) and his wife Pat spent the early part of the summer at the Observatory working on a galaxy survey of some 48-inch Schmidt plates which were taken by Dr. Racine recently. He left on Tuesday last.

New Vehicles

The little white Renault, subject of much barbed wit, has been replaced by a brand new blue Renault - same model but with manual transmission. The old Dodge station wagon was replaced a few months ago by a Ford van.

Barry Gunn Located

Barry Gunn, former Secretary-Librarian-Night Assistant about whom we wrote a year or so ago, was referred to in a recent Star article on Eskimos as Baffin Island Regional Director.