



EDITORIAL

THE MARSH FAMILY AND OBSERVATORY HOUSE

Recently a Willowdale man named Ted Chirnside has published a map of the area which is now Richmond Hill, showing the names of the owners of the farms in 1878. The farms were then mostly 200 acres each, extending for example, from Yonge to Bayview with about 1400 foot frontages. The $1\frac{1}{4}$ mile sections had been thus divided into five lots at the time the land was offered to settlers in about 1820.

Lot 42, most of which is now the Observatory property, is shown in the name of Alex Marsh, while lot 41, south of our property to 16th Avenue was in the name of Robert Marsh - probably a brother. Alex also owned about 50 acres east of Bayview directly behind lot 42, and Robert also owned 200 acres running from Yonge to Bathurst south of Weldrick Road. Hillview Avenue did not exist at that time, having been cut through later. (Until about 20 years ago it was known as Hunt's Lane, presumably having developed from a farm lane.)

From what Dr. Chant had told me and from other sources, I judge that lots 41 and 42 and the land east of Bayview and perhaps also the 200 acres west of Yonge all belonged to the father of Alex Marsh. It was this Senior Marsh who built Observatory House in 1865 to replace a frame or log house which stood a few hundred yards to the north-west. A daughter of Alex Marsh, whom I met in 1958 when she was about 70, told me that her grandfather then had four "hired-men" to help the family in the operation of their enormous farm. In its original form the house was bigger than it is now. Behind what still exists was a brick kitchen and a frame "summer kitchen". What is now the MacRae's family room was then the dining room; what is now the long living room was the parlour and the music room. The present dining room and kitchen were bedrooms. Upstairs in the main house were a sitting room and four bedrooms, and above the present family room there were three bedrooms for the hired men.

A nine-bedroom house!

Another member of the Marsh family whom I once met is Mrs. Earl H. Dudgeon (nee Mary Fenton Marsh, grand-daughter of Alex). Mrs. Dudgeon

is a graduate of U. of T., as is her husband, who is Senior Research Officer of the Gas Dynamics Lab of the Mechanical Engineering Section of NRC and who served a term a few years ago as President of the Ottawa Centre of the R.A.S.C.

By 1928 when Dr. Chant approached Mr. Marsh to negotiate the purchase of lot 42 (which Mrs. Dunlap and he and Dr. Young had decided was a satisfactory compromise between being too close to city lights and being too far from the University), he found that the front 50 or 60 acres had already been sold. What remained then seemed to have been about 143 acres, and Dr. Chant offered \$28,000, which was accepted. Even though the acreage turned out to be only 123, it was a good buy by present-day standards! Dr. Chant also tried to buy the front 50 acres from the owner, E.T. Stephens, but the latter held out for too much, and by the time he was more anxious to sell, Dr. Chant had decided that an entrance from Yonge St. wasn't desirable. Some years later Dr. Chant bought a corridor through to 16th Avenue and donated it to the University, thinking that an entrance from the south might be the most desirable. However, when the old right-of-way along Observatory Lane was abandoned in 1959, the decision was made to create the present access road from the north.

One icy Saturday night in the winter of 1936 I was observing with with the 74-inch, not expecting visitors, though we then had open house on Saturday evenings the year around. To my surprise two elderly ladies showed up about 9 o'clock, having taken the "radial" (electric line) from Toronto. One of them was a Marsh, a resident then of the U.S., visiting an old schoolfriend who lived in Toronto. They had come to see the old property and then they were to visit girlhood friends in Richmond Hill. Recalling old times together, they were very gay. As they left I warned them not to try to walk along icy Yonge St. at night, but to wait for a radial car. An hour or two later, after Gerry Longworth had come to relieve me, I was on my way home when I came upon an accident scene. The ladies had been hit by a car; the Marsh lady was seriously injured and her friend killed. A tragic end to a sentimental journey.

J.F.H.

OBSERVING

Algol

The recently-reported radio activity of Algol prompted Tom Bolton to begin spectral observations. With the co-operation of other observers spectrograms have been obtained on nearly all clear nights in February. Between the 11th and the 17th (but not seen on the 7th) the K-line had a P Cygni-like profile. This period coincided approximately with a period of intense radio activity. On Feb. 15th, the emission intensity at the K-line declined significantly in a two hour interval which coincided with a decline of a radio burst. During this P Cygni phase of the K-line the hydrogen cores were very complex compared to their usual appearance. A plate taken four days before the appearance of the P Cygni K-line, an emission line appeared at the HeI 4471 wave-

length. The observations continue.

Las Campanas

Dr. Nolan Walborn returned from Las Campanas on Feb. 13 from an 18-night run with the 24-inch. All nights were clear. Nolan took 180 spectrograms and 15 photographs and lost two nights because of power trouble. Dr. Garrison is down there now.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. MacRae was invited to Freeport in the Bahamas to take part, on Feb. 11, in the organization of the Bahamas astronomers association which hopes eventually to build an observatory in Nassau. Dr. Ken Franklin and Dr. Gordon Newkirk were also present for the occasion. The visitors found a nucleus of enthusiastic amateur astronomers who deserve to be encouraged in their ambitions. Dr. and Mrs. MacRae took advantage of the occasion to enjoy a brief winter holiday, returning to Observatory House (on foot for the last mile) during the worst snow storm of the winter!

Dr. Heard was in Ottawa for Royal Society of Canada Committee and Council meetings on Feb. 10-11. Dr. van den Bergh was there for meetings of the NRC Grant Committee on Feb. 14-15.

Dr. Bolton has been much in demand as a black-hole buff recently; speaking on "Optical Observations of Cygnus X-1"

Jan. 14-15, Princeton; at an informal symposium
on black holes.
Jan. 31 University of Rochester
Feb. 2 Don Mills Collegiate
Feb. 23 University of Toledo.

SEMINARS

February - as announced last month.

MARCH

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| Tues., 7th D.D.O. | Dr. van den Bergh, "The Use of Schmidt Telescopes for Extra-galactic Research". |
| Tues, 14th D.D.O. | Carl Bignell, "Polarization of Extra-galactic Radio Sources at Centimetre Wavelengths". |
| Tues. 21st | Dr. R. M. Hjellming, N.R.A.O., "Radio Stars" |
| Thurs. 23rd McLennan 102 | Dr. H. Friedman, N.R.L., "X-ray Astronomy" |
| Tues. 28th D.D.O. | Dr. Charles Cowley, Univ. of Michigan, "Element Synthesis on the Surface of Stars". |

SEMINARS cont'd

Wed. 29th
McLennan 137

Dr. Anne Cowley, Univ. of Michigan, "Problems
in Interpreting Spectra of Peculiar Binaries".

PAPERS SUBMITTED IN FEBRUARY

P.P. Kronberg, C.J. Pritchett and S. van den Bergh "The Nucleus of M82".

C.T. Bolton (with Hjellming and Wade) an I.A.U. Announcement Card report
on the optical and radio activity of Algol.

C.T. Bolton, The Identification of Cygnus X-1 with HDE 226868

R. F. Garrison, Spectroscopic Criteria for the Classification of Peculiar
B-Type Stars with Colour Spectrum Discrepancies.

School Liaison Activities

On Thursday, February 17th, Dr. Percy participated in the "Visiting lectures" program at the University of Toronto Schools, giving a general talk on "Astronomy" to interested students in the graduating year. On Friday morning, February 18th, Dr. Percy and Dr. Seaquist played host at the Department to about 15 teachers from Northern Secondary School, and on the same afternoon, about 25 secondary school teachers from Sarnia visited the Observatory. Despite the severe storm that day, the group from Sarnia arrived on time with 3 more teachers than expected! In the evening, this same group visited the Planetarium and attended Dr. Fernie's lecture at the R.A.S.C., Toronto Centre. On Tuesday, February 22, Dr. Percy gave two talks on "Activities in Astronomy" to a workshop for elementary school teachers from Oshawa and vicinity.

Town Meeting

On Feb. 22 staff and graduate students met for an hour and a half to discuss departmental structure, student evaluation and course structure. Relative to the first topic Dr. MacRae announced the acceptance of a proposal that two designated students should henceforth attend staff meetings. The topic of student evaluation occupied the remaining time, and the other topics had to be deferred.

At this time of year the staff is required by the School of Graduate Studies to provide an evaluation of students now in a Master's program who are applying to enroll in a Doctor's program in the fall, the principal purpose being arrangement of continuing financial support. The staff feels that it is also in the students' interest to know early whether or not they are to be advised to proceed with their graduate work so that they can make plans accordingly. On the other hand, the students feel harried and pressured by assignments which they know will have some weight in the assessment process; some of them would prefer

to have a decision deferred until fall even at the risk of losing an academic year. While recognizing the importance of continuous evaluation they contend that the most valid assessment could be made near the end of their Master's program.

No clear resolution of the various aspects of the problem emerged at the meeting, but the students agreed to try to formulate specific proposals which could be considered by the Staff-Student Committee.

CRESS NEWS

Our colleagues at the Centre for Research in Experimental Space Science at York University have just issued Vol. 1 No. 1 of CRESS Newsletter - an eight-page effort of excellent appearance and interesting content.

The Public Relations Subcommittee of the N.R.C. Associate Committee for Astronomy has recognized that public relations, like charity, should start at home, so it is asking all departments which have such newsletters to circulate them to other departments for PR files which could be kept in libraries or lunch rooms.

Anyway best wishes and long life to CN from DDD.

Elected

Dr. van den Bergh has been elected to the Council of the A.A.S. for the term 1972-75.

For Sale

1966 VW in A2 condition. See it, drive it, make offer. Enquire of Joan at Observatory.