



EDITORIAL

WILLIAM FREDERICK KING

Although William Brydone Jack founded Canada's first Observatory at the University of New Brunswick in 1851, it is W. F. King who must go down in history as the father of organized astronomy in Canada, inasmuch as his career is linked in a continuous way with present-day astronomy.

In the early 1870's land surveying was of the utmost importance in Canada, Manitoba, the North West Territories and British Columbia having been just annexed and the Treaty of Washington just signed. In 1872 William Frederick King was appointed to the Land Survey, soon rose to Chief Inspector of Surveys and, in 1890, to the position of Chief Astronomer.

It was King who urged the founding of an Observatory and who supervised its construction in 1903-1905. The Dominion Observatory was equipped not only for meridian observations but also for studies of double stars, stellar photography, spectroscopy and solar research. Its 15-inch refractor was among the largest on the continent. King was an excellent administrator, a skilful observer and a brilliant mathematician with a hobby for the theory of numbers. His name is still carried in methods of setting up telescopes and solving the elements of spectroscopic binaries.

There cannot be any more than two or three Canadian astronomers who remember King; the closest I can come is in having chatted at a cocktail party twenty years ago with one of his nephews named Snow. King had married Augusta Snow, and between the Snows in Toronto and the Kings in Ottawa there was a certain amount of visiting back and forth. Mr. Snow told me two anecdotes of his uncle Willie which brought him to life for me.

Early one morning when King was visiting the Snows in Toronto he announced that he was going downtown. The street car line which passed the Snow house was part of the famous old "belt-line" which did a circuit along Bloor, Sherbourne, King and Spadina. During the afternoon

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the little Snow boy who was out playing was delighted when the street car stopped in front of their house and the conductor got out and asked him if he knew that man who was sitting in the car. "Why sure", said the boy proudly, "that's my uncle Willie". "Well," said the conductor, almost in tears, "will you please get him off! He's been sitting there all day figuring away on a yellow pad, and whenever I speak to him he just looks right through me and goes back to his figuring". I wonder how close Uncle Willie came to finding the tenth perfect number that day!

On another occasion when the Snow boy was visiting the Kings in Ottawa he had the great privilege of accompanying his uncle on an observing session one winter night. Half-way through the evening when King had set on the next star and settled himself in the observing chair of the meridian circle for an "eye and ear" observation of a transit, he reached into his high over-boot and pulled out a small glass flask. Noticing that the boy's eyes were on him, he cleared his throat and said, "Now, my boy, no need to say anything to your Aunt Augusta about this; but it gets pretty cold sitting up here hour after hour, you know."

J.F.H.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Dr. Fernie attended a meeting of the Committee for Education in Astronomy (CEA) in Seattle on April 7, as well as the AAS meeting there the following week.

As a matter of general interest, the CEA has voted to disband itself, and recommended to the Council of the AAS that it be replaced by an 'Education Officer' who will delegate specific tasks to specific people. These activities will be automatically reviewed by a small Council-appointed committee after a few years, and the Council will then decide whether or not it wishes to retain this structure for its educational activities. The hope is that the general inefficiency of a committee will be obviated by having a single person responsible for the work.

Dr. MacRae attended the annual meeting of the Council of Institutions of Universities Space Research Association in Washington on April 5-6. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of USRA.

The following attended the A.A.S. Meeting in Seattle on April 9-12:

Drs. Coutts, Fernie, Gregory, Heard, Kronberg, Sanyal, Seaquist and van den Bergh. Mr. David DuPuy.

The following papers were given at the meeting:

Dr. Coutts - The Two W Virginis Stars in M5.

Mr. DuPuy - An Observational Study of the RV Tauri Stars.

Dr. Sanyal - Some Physical Properties of Nova Delphini 1967
During its Nebular Stage.

Dr. Seaquist - Circular Polarization of Compact Radio Sources at
3240 MHz.

Dr. and Mrs. Racine left on April 18th, for a 3 week spring vacation in France, Italy and Switzerland. While in Europe, Dr. Racine will lecture on Extragalactic Globular Clusters at the Padua University and will attend the CERN "Large Telescope Conference" in Geneva, May 1-5. They will return to Montreal on May 10th where one will attend the CAS Meeting at the Université de Montreal and the other will recover Bertrand and Julie from the babysitters.

Dr. Hogg returned to Richmond Hill on Saturday after a 10-day visit to Geneva, Switzerland and a brief visit to Italy.

Dr. van den Bergh is in Europe visiting the Observatoire de Paris, Meudon; Vatican Observatory, Castel Gandolfo; the University of Padua, Asiago Observatory. From May 2 - 5 he will attend the ESO-CERN Telescope Conference.

Rick Salmon is now at Las Campanas. Dr. Garrison is there for a 3-week observing run.

SEMINARS

April - as announced plus the following:

Dr. Y. Terzian from Cornell University, Ithaca, spoke on Radio Recombination Lines in Planetary Nebulae at the U. of T. on April 7th.

MAY

Tues. 9th Dr. T. Barnes, University of Texas, "Fourier Transform
D.D.O. Spectroscopy at the McDonald Observatory.

Tues. 23 Dr. Brosche, National Radio Astronomy Observatory,
D.D.O. Charlottesville, Va. - Topic to be announced.

PAPERS SUBMITTED IN APRIL

- R. F. Garrison "Some Characteristics of the Moderately Old Open Cluster NGC 752.
- Anand and Naylor "Structure of Close Binaries. III Interior Models of Uniformly Rotating Binaries.
- J. D. Fernie "Miscellaneous Observations of Symbiotic Stars".

MISCELLANEOUS

John Percy has been elected a Visiting Scholar at Corpus Christi College for the duration of his sabbatical which begins on July 1, 1972.

Ph.D. Degree

Carl Bignell completed the requirements for his Ph.D. degree on March 30th. He and his wife, June, left shortly afterwards for the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Charlottesville, Va., where Carl is an NRC Post-doctoral fellow.

John Booker, B.A., M.Sc., frequent associate in our Extension course, will conduct the summer course in astronomy at Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba, this coming summer.

Born

To Henry and Debbie Beintema on March 26th, a daughter, Theresa Dawn.

To Kim and Sandra Innanen at Women's College Hospital on April 17, a son, a brother for Sally.

Alumnus

Jeff Crelinston popped into town around April 24th to say Hello!! He is now teaching in the Humanities of Science Dept. (soon to be called the Dept. of Science and Human Affairs) at Sir George Williams University in Montreal. His intellectual horizons have expanded since he left us; -

R.S.C. Symposium

Mrs. MacRae and Mrs. Hogg attended the Special Symposium of the Royal Society of Canada on "Communications into the Home", at the National Library of Canada, Ottawa, March 26-28. Mrs. Hogg was appointed one of the leaders of a Workshop Group, as an on-the-spot replacement for a leader who was ill.

Married

Mrs. Marie Fidler who for 14 years served the R.A.S.C. so very efficiently as Executive Secretary was married on April 23 in Leamington, Ont. to Mr. Sam Litchinsky, a very active member of the Calgary Centre of the R.A.S.C. Mr. and Mrs. Litchinsky will reside in Calgary, and we hope that Mrs. Litchinsky will continue to help with the editing of the Journal and Handbook. Her successor in the College Street office is Miss Rosemary Freeman, a native of Australia and a former employee of the C.N.R. offices in Toronto.

Transformations

I (J.F.H.) returned today from a 10-day holiday on the West Coast after the A.A.S. and found all the above interesting copy already assembled by Joan Topley (for which many thanks) and a completely transformed secretarial office - new rustic wall-to-wall carpeting and a very efficient-looking rearrangement of the desks. The old carpet has been cut to fit the little computer room, and a handsome floor length drape has been installed on the front window of the lecture room. These improvements are not only attractive but will serve to cut down on the noise of typewriters, key-punch and projection equipment.