

DAVID DUNLAP DOINGS

Vol. 13, No. 1

JANUARY 31, 1980



Cover: p. 3

Photo - Karl Kamper

MORE ON CHARON

Last month's contribution from Dave Turner about Charon sparked some further digging. The name, it seems, was selected by the discoverer James W. Christy. In an interview with the Associated Press in June, 1978,* Christy said he wanted to name the moon after his wife, Charlene, but recognizing the long-established custom of using names from mythology, he searched for and found one which was similar.

Pluto, of course, was the god of the underworld, across the river Styx, and Charon was the ferryman. Cerberus, incidently, was his dog. So Charon fitted Christy's formula; it would seem that Christy was not aware of Edmond Hamilton and his fantasy.

According to Joseph Veverka (Observer's Handbook 1980, p. 7) Charon has a diameter of 1000 km (and an orbital inclination of 115°) at a mean distance of 15,200 km from Pluto, which itself has a diameter of 3,000 km. The diameters are, of course, rather uncertain, but it seems we are looking at a double planet (much more appropriately so-called than in the case of the Earth-Moon system). It follows that Charon should be called a companion rather than a satellite.

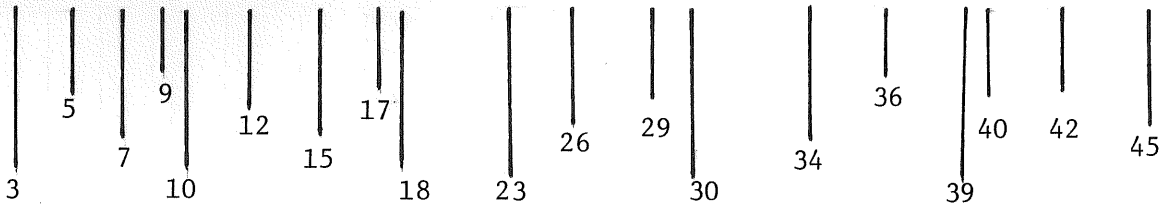
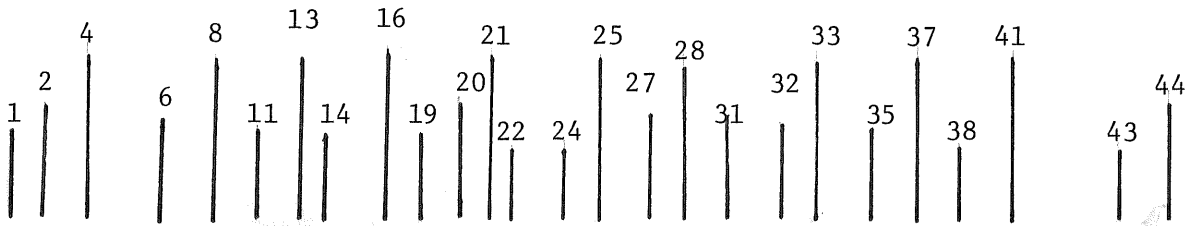
Though recently retired from the Herzberg Institute, Peter M. Millman continues as President of the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature, a committee of the Executive Committee of the IAU. The Working Group has five task groups, one of which is responsible for Jupiter and parts beyond. When interviewed by DDD Dr. Millman said that the name Charon was discussed at Montreal, was considered as suitable, but has not been formally adopted as yet. The panels meet next in Budapest on July 6 of this year.

Christy says the name Charon should be pronounced the way we say Karen. In the case of Pluto, that name was chosen with the initial letters of Percival Lowell in mind. In his choice of a name for Pluto's companion we just wonder if Christy might have been influenced as much by his wife's present surname as by her first name.

MR

* we are indebted to Helen Hogg for a clipping from her files.

AT THE CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN 1979



- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Pat Turner | 16. Dave Blyth | 31. Jim Thomson |
| 2. Donna Zubrod Grieve | 17. Wendy Freedman | 32. Chris McAlary |
| 3. Helen Hogg | 18. Bob Gauthier | 33. Barry Madore |
| 4. Bill Gilmore | 19. Frank Hawker | 34. Don MacRae |
| 5. Esther McCleary | 20. Jeff Clayton | 35. Rick Crowe |
| 6. Don Fernie | 21. Peter Martin | 36. Mario Pedreros |
| 7. Gail Archer | 22. Ed Anderson | 37. John Reid |
| 8. Bill Weller | 23. Mary Lane | 38. Linda Zimmerman |
| 9. Joan Tryggve | 24. Tony Estevens | 39. Ernie Seaquist |
| 10. Linda Twitchin | 25. Frank McDonald | 40. Dave Turner |
| 11. Zane Sterns | 26. Christine Coutts-Clement | 41. John Percy |
| 12. Dennis Crabtree | 27. Doug Gies | 42. Karen Finstad |
| 13. Archie Ridder | 28. Ron Lyons | 43. Chris Corbally |
| 14. Rick McGonegal | 29. Lindsey Davis | 44. Maurice Clement |
| 15. Dorothy Fraquelli | 30. Tom Bolton | 45. Pamela Sullivan |

COMINGS AND GOINGS

Larry Morrill resigned as Engineering Technician at the Observatory, effective December 31, to take up a position at Edwards Division of General Signal Ltd. in Owen Sound. His new job will be closer to home than DDO. Larry writes, "Of all the things that I miss most about the Observatory, it is not being able to play darts. I hope in my absence there is not too much cheating going on at darts!".

TRAVELS WITH JOHN

The runner-up for this year's Travel Award* must surely have been John Percy. Taking seriously his duties as National President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, John's goal during the year (actually 1 year and 6 weeks because the next General Assembly of the RASC, in Halifax, won't be until the July 1 week-end instead of the usual 24th of May date) is to visit each and every Centre. He's already passed the half-way point as the following tabulation shows:

Ottawa	(Sept. 14)	Vancouver	(Dec. 11)
Toronto	(Oct. 26)	Victoria	(Dec. 12)
Niagara Falls	(Nov. 9)	Calgary	(Dec. 13)
Windsor	(Nov. 13)	Saskatoon	(Dec. 14)
Edmonton	(Dec. 10)	London	(Jan. 19)

With time on his hands during the week of December 9-15, John chaired an RASC Council meeting in Edmonton and gave two seminars, one at the University of Alberta and one at DAO. That was just after his (very successful) run at KPNO from November 25 to December 5 keeping tab on a variety of variable stars with the 0.4 m telescope.

P O T P O U R R I

There has been a big increase in Astronomy undergraduate enrolment on the St. George Campus this term thanks to two very popular offerings. As of January 25, Don Fernie's "Astronomy Through the Ages" had attracted 514 students while Bob Garrison's version of "The Universe - An Appreciation" numbered 306, up 10% from Don MacRae's version in the fall term.

Each of the editors received a pleasant surprise at Christmas in the form of a postcard from Peter and Jody Biermann in Bonn saying that they enjoy reading DDD and would like to visit Toronto again. Peter in fact says he prefers DDD to Ap.J. but wishes to know whether he once owned the "Yellow Streak" - Yes you did, and thanks for the cards.

* Selected by Tom Bolton and dedicated to the famous T.J.J. See; Barry Madore was judged the winner of the trophy this year.

We are pleased to report that Professor *I.R. Pounder*, donor of a number of our departmental scholarships, is in good health and attended the Erindale College Scholarships and Awards banquet on November 1.

Bob Garrison and *Ernie Seaquist* both attended the 155th AAS meeting in San Francisco earlier this month. Bob gave a paper entitled "The Solar Spectral Type from IUE Observations" and Ernie, with co-author *Bill Gilmore*, presented "High Resolution Maps of SS 433 with the VLA".

Phil Kronberg was at the VLA January 5-12 obtaining observations for two different programs. In one of these he is collaborating with *Peter Kalberla* and *Wolfgang Reich* (Bonn) and *John Stocke* (Arizona) in a search for megaparsec extensions of QSO's. In the other, he and *John Dreher* (NRAO) are studying strong extragalactic sources. Phil was off again to the VLA on January 28, this time to observe highly redshifted QSO's in collaboration with *Jim Clarke* and *Margaret Burbidge*.

Joan Wrobel left on January 29 for a two or three month stay at NRAO Charlottesville. Joan will be reducing VLA and VLB Network data she acquired last fall.

PAPERS SUBMITTED

A. Ferro	On the $\lambda 4330$ Interstellar Band: A Statistical Study
J.R. Percy	The Variability of HR 8768
M.Simard-Normandin and P.P. Kronberg	Rotation Measures and the Galactic Magnetic Field
W. Gilmore and E.R. Seaquist	Aperture Synthesis of the Radio Structure of SS 433
B.F. Madore and J.P. Brodie	The Period-Luminosity Relation for Cepheids: II The Value of the Colour Coefficients from Observations of Large Magellanic Cloud Cepheids
Jane M.A. Few, B.F. Madore and H.C. Arp	Observations and Dynamics of the Southern Ring Galaxy AM 064-741: Der Rheingold

COLLOQUIA*

- February 6 Donna Zubrod and Jeff Clayton, University of Toronto
G-2000 Current Literature Seminar
- February 7 (Thurs.) Cyril Ponnampereuma, University of Maryland
"Chemical Evolution and the Origin of Life"
(Joint Astronomy-Physics, Room MP 102, 4:10 P.M.)
- February 11 (Mon.) Paul Feldman, Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics
"The Radio Search for Extraterrestrial Life: A
Personal Perspective"
Room 2082, Erindale College
- February 13 Robert Wing, Ohio State University
"The Biggest Stars: VX Sagittarii and Other Extremely
Cool Supergiants"
- February 28 (Thurs.) Lynn Margulis, Boston University
"The Earliest Life on Earth", a Snyder Memorial Lecture,
Erindale College.
(Room 2074, Erindale, 8:00 P.M.; for reservations
phone 828-5217). Dr. Margulis will also speak on
Symbiosis and cell evolution, on the St. George campus
on February 29, time and place to be announced.
- March 5 Nebosja Duric and Wendy Freedman, University of Toronto
G-2000 Current Literature Seminar
- March 12 T.W. Jones, University of Minnesota
Topic T.B.A.
- March 19 Rick Crowe and Mercedes Davis, University of Toronto
G-2000 Current Literature Seminar
- March 26 Dave Gray, University of Western Ontario
"Motions in the Atmospheres of Late-Type Stars"
- April 2 William Fowler, Cal Tech
"The Solar Neutrino Problem"
- April 3 (Thurs.) William Fowler, Cal Tech
"The Age of the Universe, the Galaxy, and the
Chemical Elements"
(Joint Astronomy-Physics, Room MP 102, 4:10 P.M.)

* Unless otherwise noted colloquia are held on Wednesdays at 4:00 P.M. in Room MP 137 with TEA at 3:45 in the Reference Room, MP 1404.

"HAVE A NICE DAY, YOU HEAR"

It's a long haul from Las Campanas to Toronto but it's never boring. One year I left stand-by "to anywhere north" on good advice - a few days later the airport was closed and so was the country. Things have changed a lot since the revolution, but if the Chilean military can't make every flight exciting then Canadian Pacific or US Immigration can.

Being "wait listed" for a flight in Chile is largely waiting and very infrequently being listed. CP now runs a one-stop direct(?) flight from Santiago to Toronto once a week. It is not an easy flight to get on. Seventeen people who were "confirmed" on this last flight found that out a bit late. After waiting in and around beautiful downtown Santiago most of Saturday, repeated inquiries to CP made it painfully clear that being "wait listed" on an over-booked flight was not going to get me anywhere. Braniff International was expecting me on one of its milk-run flights so I took that last option, skipping up South America to arrive bleary-eyed in JFK/NYC - The Big Apple as it is now affectionately known.

We arrived "on sched" after having encountered only a little "clear air turb" which "I hope didn't bounce you all around too much back thar". But not to be outdone the baggage took another hour and a half to arrive, presumably from the same plane that brought us, but that wasn't clear. My bags were on the last cart of the last load, but I wasn't as badly off as the NBC TV newsman who warned the Braniff Rep to watch the tube tonight "because after 5 million miles of travelling this was the worst service he had encountered". He was then informed that his baggage was not late - it wasn't even on the plane.

Needless to say I was not even able to confirm a flight from New York to Toronto a month in advance, but I was "wait listed" on several so my ticket assured. I was anxious to confirm but getting baggage does not entitle you to walk into the United States without delay. Customs and Immigration come first. I explained that I was "in transit", despite having only checked my luggage to New York. The officer listened but was not impressed. "Open them up" he replied "All of them!" Well you'd think that he had never seen a contact lens case or the inner lining of a suitcase before the way he felt and carefully examined each of my valuable, crumpled, dust covered belongings. He was satisfied, I was late, but he wasn't going anywhere. Neither was I as it turned out.

I hoisted my back-pack, grabbed my suitcase balancing myself with my attaché case full of paper tapes and finding charts, I headed for the door. But something was flapping at my back - No not flapping, tugging. Actually the best word in retrospect was that something, rather someone, was arresting me. I was being "detained". Two, not one, but two, large official agents wanted a word with me. In that unidirectional jocular way that only television could have inspired the one to my right said "Hey, man, you nearly got away from us" with sarcasm that only comes with an equal measure of stupidity I replied "Well I thought that was the idea". Dope smugglers aren't supposed to have a sense of humour, agents of the law certainly don't.

I was promptly, politely but firmly escorted into a nearby room, and the door was closed. Enroute I asked if I could make a telephone call (strike two?) and they said they would take care of that. But I hadn't even told them that I wanted to call Air Canada to confirm my flight. Dumb!

At least I didn't have to strip but it started with emptying my pockets and taking off my shoes. One fellow sat and filled out a long "Search and Seizure" form while the other ransacked my jacket and coat, pointed to the debris and said "You can put that stuff back now". Turning to my boots he inquired "How'd you tear these?" "Playing volleyball out in the parking lot at the Observatory" I replied." I only have one pair of boots", I added. He was unimpressed.

Next came the body search. Now there is an interesting form of sport. Not what you'd call competitive but there is an element of hide-and-seek in it mixed with perverse adult humour. Working his way down he grabbed one of my ribs and said "Is that you?" I replied in the affirmative and gave him a direct view of my ribs and my Chilean suntan. He paused, and then said "What's the matter, man, didn't they feed you on that flight". The ice was melting. They weren't going to find anything and we both knew it. The rest was a matter of how to save face.

The quiet one with the paper, that is the one who could write and read, said, "Hey, you really an astronomer?" That was my cue. As they said in a recent movie "Now I've got them right where they want me". "Yeah", I said nonchalantly "just finished a run with 90% photometric nights" The look of disappointment was unmistakable; they had nabbed themselves an academic, and he wasn't even one that could cast a horoscope. Silence.

The search continued unabated. They too had no plane to catch. They were going to be there all day. But now they were asking me what was in each folder and pouch. I answered but they looked anyway. They were walking straight into a trap I had hoped but never dreamed could come true - and they bit. He pulled out a brightly wrapped package, something I had grabbed at the last minute in the souvenir shop at the airport. "And what's this?" he said. "Just a little pot" I said, very slowly, savouring every word, every pause between words. He just looked at me. I broke the silence. "So to speak" I said making the pun blatant for his peace of mind. Without taking his eyes off me he jammed his thumb through the top of the wrapping of my contraband.

"So what are these black hole things?" I was amazed but still not satisfied. "Well you know there are some forces in nature that prevent me putting my fist through (I paused) this wall, for instance, but when the gravity ("of the situation", deleted by speaker) becomes so great everything goes" He liked that explanation. "So could a black hole eat the Sun?" "Yes, if you put one there" "Wow, them black holes sure are neat things, and I thought the Sun was a tough mother to beat" "Learn something every day, don't you" "Sure do" they both replied.

"Tell me", I finally asked, "how do you choose people to search?". "Oh, just at random". "And what's your success rate?" "Not as good as yours up there on that mountain - have a nice day, you hear!" "You too", I said passing through the door.

Oh, yes, I made my flight.

Barry Madore