

Astronomical Society of South Africa (Cape Centre)

Twenty-eighth Session.

Minutes of first Ordinary Meeting of the Session held at the Royal Observatory on Wednesday the 13th August 1941 at 8.15 P.M. Mr. Schonegevel presided. There was a moderate attendance.

The Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on the 18th June 1941 were read and confirmed.

Mr. D.I. McMillan of "The Tuglenook", Newlands Road, Claremont, whose name had been considered and passed by the committee, was declared elected a member of the Society.

Mr. Schonegevel announced that the following books had been bought for the library of the Centre: "Life on Other Worlds" - by Dr. H. Spencer Jones, and "The Giant of Palomar".

Dr. Jackson in a lecture on the 200-inch telescope, traced the historical development of the astronomical telescope from the time of Galileo to the present day. Dr. Jackson gave three reasons for the fact that the 40-inch refractor of Yerkes Observatory has remained the largest refractor for so many years: namely,

- (1) The difficulty of obtaining a large homogeneous sheet of glass of the required thickness for a lens.
- (2) The fact that glass is not quite transparent, and so that an increase in diameter of a lens means an increase of thickness of glass through which light has to pass, which entails loss of light out of proportion to the increased aperture.

- (3) The fact that great thicknesses of glass supported at the edges, bend under its own weight, thus distorting the star images.

The many difficulties encountered in

the making of the 200 - inch mirror were enumerated, together with the story of their solution.

At the conclusion of the lecture, a vote of thanks proposed by Mr. Andrews and seconded by Mr. Schryver was passed with acclamation.

The Chairman announced that Mr. Hirst was to speak at the next meeting.

This concluded the business for the evening.

HW Schryver
Chairman

10/9/41