

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Cape Central  
held at S.A.A.O. on wed 10/9/1980.

Present were the chairman Miss Pat Booth,  
14 members and 6 visitors including  
Professor Stubbs and Mr Jan Hers.

Apologies for absence were received from Bekker,  
Littley, Sumanov, Mr Mike Kramer, and Mr Duven.  
Mr Watts produced a number of photos of  
the South Pole Base which were passed  
around.

Two new Committee members Pat Kramer  
~~and~~ (membership, subscriptions in arrears etc)  
and Martin Bredenkamp (Hon Treasurer)  
were introduced. Mr Bredenkamp  
takes over from Dr Thomas who is leaving  
for Zambia.

The coming trip to Sutherland was discussed.  
Dr Dean ~~gave~~ then gave a mini lecture  
on how to set up a telescope using  
setting circles.

Then Dr Walker (Astrari) gave a talk  
on Pluto.

It all started with the discovery of  
Uranus by Herschel. Uranus perturbed  
the orbits of the outer planets eg Saturn  
and its position was thus located.

Thus began the search for more and  
more outer planets. Next followed  
Neptune. Using Bode's law one  
can anticipate the distance of  
the planets approximately. But  
Neptune was found to be the  
exception. Percival Lowell also very

famous for imagining canals on Mars started an intense search for "Planet X". He predicted a mass of  $7 \oplus$  for planet X.

Down through the years after its discovery by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930 estimates of its size have come down steadily so that today we hold it to be  $0,0023 \oplus$

The Occultation of a "bright" star by Charon, Pluto's moon in April 1980 lasted 50 seconds and the moon has thus a minimum diameter of 1200 km. Many old photographs of Pluto are oblong in shape ~~the~~ but no earth based instrument could resolve the pair ~~separately~~. Pluto's angular diameter is about  $0,2''$  and its moon about  $\frac{1}{2}$  of that. It is no longer disputed that Pluto has a moon. as the occultation has confirmed our suspicions.

Mr Neal thanked the speaker at 9:25 when ~~at~~ the Chairman closed the meeting for tea.

Signed as correct  
/brooth

Chairman

8/10/80.