

## ASSA NEWS

### F N G ORPEN (1911 - 1997)

We are sorry to have to report the death on 17th September 1997 of Garrett Orpen, Treasurer of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa for the enormously long period of 37 years (1950 to 1987).

Mr Orpen's father Redmund was member of the Cape Senate for Barkley West, retiring before the Union of South Africa was formed to farm in Griqualand West. Francis Newanham Garrett Orpen, to give him his full name, was born on 27th July 1911 on their farm Hilldown. He was named after Edmund Garrett, a former editor of the Cape Times and a friend of the family.

Garrett worked in the Local Accountant's Office of the South African Railways from the late 1930s until 1973. Besides his interest in astronomy he was a railway enthusiast. He was a founder member of

the Western Cape Branch of the Railway Society of Southern Africa in 1961. He was also the treasurer of that society for many years as well as its chairman for a period. During his annual leaves he always took lengthy train journeys and kept detailed records of them.

Mr Orpen was never married. He was a rather frail person who nevertheless gave of his best to the causes in which he was interested, and ASSA was indeed fortunate to have been one of these. He was made an honorary life member of ASSA in 1981 and similarly of the Railway Society.

The funeral service was held at St James Church, Kenilworth on 22nd September, and was attended by several members of the Society who had known Mr Orpen for many years.

### NEW MEMBERS

The following new members were elected at the Council Meeting on the 9th September 1997:

Mr J C Jooste, PO Box 176, Reitz, 9810

Mr R Lawrence, 16 Ninth Avenue, Gonubie, 5257

Mr P M Mihalik, PO Box 95069, Waterkloof, 0145

Ds C Pretorius, Posbus 250, Posmasburg, 8420

Mrs L Saks, Box 10819, Port Elizabeth, 6015

Mr A D Sparrius, PO Box 20331, Alkantrant, 0005

Dr M Strong, 14 Ridgeway, Durbanville, 7550

Mr A B W Swart, Box 11793, Astron Manor, 1630

### ORDERING SKY & TELESCOPE

*Sky & Telescope* may be ordered through the Society at a current cost of US \$45 p.a. instead of the normal \$50 and will always run for 12 months from whatever time of the year it is ordered.

Because of foreign exchange fluctuations, the Rand amount required to be paid to the Society to meet the US \$45 subscription has been set at R 220.00. This figure will be updated in every issue of *MNASSA*.

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR JAN HERS

At the first meeting of the new Council since the AGM it was proposed that honorary membership be conferred on Mr Jan Hers for his long and loyal service to the Society. Jan was President of the Society in 1967/68 and was for many years associated with the old ZUO time signal which was broadcast on 5 MHz.

He has been Director of the Society's Variable Star Section since 1977 and was previously co-ordinator of grazing occultations for many years.

Thank you Jan for all those efforts which we know you will continue into the future.