

Minutes of the meeting held at the Cape Centre
on 10/6/81 at 8 pm.

Miss Booth opened the meeting. Present were
21 members and 4 visitors.

Apologies for absence were received from
J. Thomas, E. Banner, Mrs. Spencer-Jones,
Mrs. van der Riet, Mrs. Kettle.

As the secretary was not present, it was agreed
by the floor that the minutes of the previous
meeting be read at the next meeting.

The monthly notices were read out.

Miss Booth then introduced Dr. David
Evans, an old friend of the Society,
last resident here 13 years ago.

Dr. Evans spoke about the history of the
McDonald Observatory. He had been in the
process of researching the history of to
write a book about it.

The Observatory was started on 5th May
1939 as a result of a 1,3 million dollar
estate left to the Texas University for this
purpose by a Texas businessman: W. J.
McDonald. After several court cases by
his relatives, this amount was reduced
to \$800,000, of which \$375,000 was used
to build an 82" telescope, then the second-
largest in the world. The Observatory was
situated in an area 700 km west of
Austin Texas. At present there are several
other telescopes, one being a 107"

Otto ~~Struve~~^{STRUVE}, the first director of the
Observatory, seconded from Yerkes ("Yerkies")
Observatory, discovered interstellar hydrogen

from the site even before the first telescope was built.

Warner and Swasey built the first telescope and Mr Lunden from France ground the mirror. It was however later re figured. It was of a similar pattern to the Radcliffe Telescope. The original mirror cast at Corning glass should have been 80" but after it was permitted because it had so many cracks it flowed out to 82"

In 1963 the first director from Texas University was appointed.

Prof Walker thanked Dr Evans on behalf of the centre. At 9.30 the meeting was closed for tea.

Shook

Chairman 8/7/81.