

William Cecil (Bill) Bentley

(1916 – 1998)

Bill was born in York in England in 1916 and came to Durban at the end of 1918. He was educated at Highbury and Michaelhouse in Natal before attending UCT where he graduated with a BSc degree in Land Surveying in December 1938. At UCT he met his wife Eugenie who in later years gave him tremendous support through an illness lasting many years. He died on 30 September 1998.

He served in the 46th Survey Company of the South African Engineers in North Africa and Italy with the rank of Captain.

He practised as a Land Surveyor in Cape Town after the war and was a keen sportsman playing golf, squash, tennis and bowls. He also enjoyed a game of Bridge. But his hobby, if not passion, was astronomy.

He was a member of the Cape Town Moonwatch team and a long time active

member of the Astronomical Society. From as early as 1965, if not earlier, he was involved with MNASSA, being Circulation Manager, later changed to Business Manager, and continued till 1986 when ill health forced his retirement from this position.

In 1970-71 he was President of the ASSA and in 1985 he was made an Honorary Member of the Society.

He also served on the Council of the Institute of Land Surveyors of the Cape from March 1956 till December 1966 and served for two years as President of the Institute in 1961 and 1962.

He is survived by his two sons, his brother and two sisters but sadly his widow passed away in January this year.

(Rupert Hurly)