

SOME MEMORABLE QUOTES FROM THE LONGTIMERS

Edited by: M. Baldwin

The theme of the 67th Spring Meeting in Ann Arbor over the week-end of June 2, 1978, was "A Salute to Longtime Members," and several of our longtime members shared many of their experiences with us during the Saturday evening banquet in a finely balanced mixture of rollicking humor and nostalgia. Our younger members were exposed to the striking similarities of the youthful amateurs' problems and frustrations of half a century ago and those they face today, and everyone gained a renewed sense of AAVSO historical continuity when episodes from the past were vividly recreated for us by such well known characters as Ed Halbach, Edwin Friton, Lancaster Hiett, Claude Carpenter and Clint Ford.

More fuel was added to the fire when tidbits of the past were excerpted and read from letters sent by nearly all the "longtimers" who could not attend the meeting. A few quotes from these letters are reproduced here.\* We readily admit to being guilty of taking some of these quotes out of context, but collectively they illustrate the spark of humor and spirit of purpose that pervades the AAVSO.

*"...I attended my first AAVSO meeting at Vassar College. The date of that meeting was June 2, 1928...exactly fifty years ago."*

*Clinton B. Ford*

*"I was never very fast on locating variable fields. I did it mainly by brute force and awkwardness----"*

*Oscar E. Monning*

*"My first attendance at an AAVSO meeting was at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, on May 17, 1947. There I met Dr. Leon Campbell for the first time. This meeting was hosted by Dr. Leah Allen, Director of the John H. Williams Observatory. I still retain the Luncheon menu which included 'Beta Lyrae Cocktail, Maryland Nova, Omicron Ceti Salad and Long Period Berries and Short Period Cake.'"*

*F. Lancaster Hiett*

*"My first visit to Harvard Observatory was made in the Spring of 1918. I met a short, somewhat pugnacious man sitting behind a large desk in the corner room of the old Building A. He was surrounded by books -- on the wall, the desk and tables. At first, I guess I was a little bit scared because of his seeming gruff manner, for I was just a kid at the time, but I found him to be a kindly soul. His name was Leon Campbell."*

*Newton Mayall*

*"I have always loved the stars. When I was 5 years old I contracted typhoid fever. My mother knew that I was recovering when I sat up and demanded to be shown Jupiter. I can still remember seeing it through the southern window of my bedroom."*

*David W. Rosebrugh*

*"In retrospect I feel that my membership in the AAVSO has made it possible for me to associate with and gain knowledge from leaders in the field of astronomy and to, perhaps, be able to carry out ideas that I might not otherwise have attempted. Over the years the opportunity to meet and enjoy the friendship of so many warm and delightful people is most gratifying. Membership has, I am sure, opened doors which might have remained closed and I have, because of this, been able to lead a much more full and rewarding life."*

*Lewis J. Boss*

*"I shall not see the 100th anniversary of the AAVSO in 2011 A.D. but some who read this may. Vive le AAVSO!"*

*David W. Rosebrugh*

**\*We are preparing a booklet of all the letters and photographs received from our longtime members. This booklet may be obtained from the HQ, for any amount one wishes to contribute.**

*Janet A. Mattei*