

Observatory was welcomed with great enthusiasm.

Whitford enjoyed hiking in the Sierra even into advanced years. Mike Rich recalled his hardiness when, during one of their observing trips to Chile, Whitford tackled climbing a hill behind the Tololo compound, and went on hikes in the Elqui Valley, all this in his advanced years. Whitford especially liked travel to distant places. In the course of his life, he succeeded in setting foot on every continent. He took special pride in adding Antarctica to the list when in his 80's he stepped from a dinghy to the Antarctic shore, having boarded a cruise ship at Chile's Puerto Montt. He was also a fan of the San Francisco Opera. We went together on one occasion and I recall his being bowled over by Gwyneth Jones's portrayal of Isolde in Wagner's opera. Could this lie behind one of Whitford's especially trenchant *bon mot*'s? When lamenting a bout with a staff member, he was heard to say "I can put up with a prima donna, (long pause) . . . If she can sing!"

I am reminded too that, despite his generally quiet and thoughtful demeanor, Whitford was a very sociable dinner guest whose engaging remarks revealed his deep interest in national and international politics, in addition to astronomy. On other occasions, long and somewhat awkward pauses were a characteristic facet of his conversation. It was as if Whitford were searching for words of exactly the right weight, color and judiciousness before making any further commitment on a given subject. It was entirely in character. Of the several UCSC students who were mentored or advised by Whitford, and this includes Nick Suntzeff, Mike Rich, Don Terndrup, and Dave Burstein, all have spoken of his willingness to serve as a sounding board for their ideas as they struggled with the task of learning to do research astronomy. One spoke of Whitford's advice to take refereeing seriously, another his admonition to limit one's objectives in any given research paper and eschew diffuseness. Yet another recalled his surprise when he first observed Whitford in the course of a colloquium. "Whitford would sit in the back of the room . . . with his eyes closed and one would think him asleep. Except, when the colloquium ended, he was usually the first with the most penetrating question possible!" Albert Whitford was not a man given to garrulousness and did not wear his heart on his sleeve. But one could get to know him a bit more intimately with the slow passage of time. We were deeply impressed by his sharply informed knowledge of the research literature and his continued contributions to it almost to his 90th year. His sense of personal loyalty to Lick was deeply intertwined with his own research. Occasionally a visitor or even a staff member might express surprise, in Whitford's company, that a man in his 80s would make the daily sojourn to his UCSC office to do research, talk to students and faculty, and listen to the colloquia. To this comment, I recall that Whitford had an especially poignant response: "But this is my home; this is where my family is."

Robert P. Kraft
UCO/Lick Observatory

KENNETH OSBORNE WRIGHT, 1911–2002

Kenneth Osborne Wright died of the effects of Parkinson's disease on 25 July 2002, nearly nine months after cel-

ebrating his ninetieth birthday. He was born in Fort George, British Columbia, Canada, to Charles Melville and Agnes Pearl (née Osborne) Wright on 1 November 1911. His father was a Presbyterian minister. Ken spent almost all his life and virtually all his professional career in his native province. His student years, however, were spent at the University of Toronto. He graduated with a BA in 1933, winning the Gold Medal awarded by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (RASC) for the best student in the graduating astronomy class. Ken earned an MA in Astronomy in 1934, also at Toronto. During the academic year 1934–1935, Ken was an astronomical assistant at the University of Toronto. During the following academic year he held a similar post in the University of Michigan. In 1936, Ken returned to British Columbia to take up a full-time appointment on the staff of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory (DAO) in Victoria. He was awarded a PhD from the University of Michigan in 1940 for a dissertation based on his research at DAO. Except for short absences at the University of Toronto (1960–1961), Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories (1962) and Amherst-Mount Holyoke Colleges (1962), Ken remained at the DAO until he reached the then mandatory retirement age of 65 in 1976. For the last ten years of that period, he was the DAO's director. Precluded from active war service by a defect in one eye, Ken also served as a lecturer at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver during 1943 and 1944.

When Ken arrived at the DAO in 1936, virtually all work there was stellar spectroscopy (carried out, of course, with photographic plates) and, particularly, studies of spectroscopic binaries. Ken's dominant interest, the structure and chemical abundances of stellar atmospheres, fitted well with the Observatory programs. From early days he engaged in



Kenneth O. Wright, 1911–2002
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