lier efforts with Pamela Kennedy in Australia of compiling a photometric and spectroscopic database forming the early basis for his spectral catalogs. He was appointed emeritus professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy upon his retirement in 1988.

Bill very much loved to teach and to talk to young people about astronomy. His enthusiasm was infectious, and he was a welcome visitor in primary school classes on Chicago’s North Shore. His interests in the young students led him to be involved as a faculty associate in the residential colleges of the University. Bill’s interest in teaching extended beyond the Northwestern boundaries as he also lectured at other colleges and universities under the auspices of the Harlow Shapley Visiting Lectureship program of the American Astronomical Society and to gatherings of amateur astronomers. He was a member of the American Astronomical Society, Royal Astronomical Society, International Astronomical Union and Sigma Xi. Professionally, Bill was very meticulous in his approach and execution. His desire for perfection was reflected in his teaching as well. Some students felt that he was too demanding, but he had no sympathy for anyone who did not strive to go past mediocrity. He read extensively and made it a point to attend and participate in seminars and colloquia even late in his life. Since he made a very conscious effort to keep up with the latest developments in astronomy, he was very well versed in astronomical literature going back to many years.

He is survived by his wife, Royal, along with three sons (Peter, Martin, and Timothy), four daughters (Dawn, Eve, Lucy, and Katherine), 11 grandchildren, and a great grand child. His family remembers his smile, his wit, his integrity, his knowledge and his helpfulness.

Bill was a man of conviction and an active member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). He was firmly against violence and wars and was quite outspoken, expressing his opinions in public, forcefully and very directly. In private, he was more reserved and showed a good sense of humor. Bill was generous with his time for the cause of “Reading for the Blind,” regularly spending an afternoon at a taping session to record books on astronomy. He enjoyed listening to classical music. Bill was a loyal and generous friend.

Ronald E. Taam
John D. R. Bahng
Dearborn Observatory, Northwestern University

ERNEST HURST CHERINGTON, JR. 1909–1996

Ernest H. Cherrington, Jr., a long-time member of the AAS, died in San Jose, California on 13 July 1996, following a long illness. He had a short but active career as a research astronomer at Perkins Observatory at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio before World War II, in which he served as an officer in the Army Air Force. After the war ended he turned to full-time teaching and administration at the University of Akron, and then at Hood College in Frederick, Maryland.

Ernest was born on 10 September 1909 in Westerville, Ohio, where his father, Ernest H. Cherrington, Sr., was a leader in the temperance movement and publisher of American Issue, a Prohibitionist magazine. Ernest Jr.’s mother, Betty Clifford (née Denny) Cherrington, was a homemaker. He was an outstanding student in high school and at Ohio Wesleyan University, which he entered in 1927. The little university’s Perkins Observatory with its 69-inch reflector, briefly the second largest telescope in the United States, had just been built and gone into operation. After graduating with a BA magna cum laude in astronomy in 1931, Ernest stayed on one more year and earned his MS with a thesis on the motion of material in the tail of Comet Morehouse, supervised by Nicholas T. Bobrovnikoff.

In 1932 Ernest entered the University of California at Berkeley as a graduate student, with a one-year teaching assistantship in the Astronomical Department. This was followed by a two-year Lick Observatory Fellowship. In June 1933 he married Ann McAfee Naylor, who had been a classmate at Delaware High School and Ohio Wesleyan. Ernest did his PhD thesis on spectrophotometry of the Mg I b lines in the solar spectrum, using a high-resolution grating spectrograph on the Berkeley campus, designed by C. Donald Shane, his adviser. In this thesis, Ernest tested and improved the then current theory of strong absorption lines in stellar atmospheres. He also spent several short periods at Lick Observatory on Mount Hamilton, working in stellar spectroscopy with Joseph H. Moore.

After earning his PhD in 1935, Ernest taught mathematics and astronomy for one year at Syracuse University, and then in 1936 returned to Ohio Wesleyan as an assistant astronomer and instructor in physics and astronomy. In 1940 he was promoted to assistant professor. He did good spectroscopic
research on Be stars, especially a long study of the variations in the spectrum of $\gamma$ Cas, an unusually active star of this class which he followed as it threw off several shells. It was a program well suited to the telescope, spectrograph, and site available to him. Ernest attended several meetings of the AAS, reported on his research in oral papers, and published them. However after America entered World War II he went into the Army Air Force in 1942, serving as a Captain in the Air Force Training Command. He had an important job directing ground training of officers, cadets, and enlisted men at various fields in California and New Mexico.

After the war, although he could have returned to Perkins Observatory, he realized that the future was not hopeful for astronomical research there, and decided to switch to academic administration. He was at Centenary College, Louisiana for two years, 1946–48, and then went to the University of Akron as professor of astronomy and dean of the College of Liberal Arts from 1948 to 1960, then of its Graduate Division from 1960 to 1967. He loved teaching astronomy and continued to do so while holding these deanships. Ernest was a good writer, and he published several articles on astronomy and science in the New York Times Sunday Magazine and other mass-circulation magazines in those years.

Ernest retired at Akron in 1967 but moved to Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, as professor of astronomy, a full-time teaching position with no administrative duties. Soon after arriving there he published Exploring the Moon with Binoculars, a very popular book in the early days of the NASA program of lunar photography from unmanned space vehicles. All the ground-based photographs in his book came from Lick Observatory, most of them taken by Moore and Fred Chappell, with whom he had worked. About 1979 he retired from Hood College and he and his wife moved to San Jose, near the home of their surviving son, Robert N. Cherrington. Ernest was always a good family man, devoted to his wife and children. I met Ernest at his home in San Jose and interviewed him several times in preparation for the Lick centennial in 1988; he had warm memories of Lick and the Berkeley Astronomical Department. In 1984 he had updated his book to Exploring the Moon through Binoculars and Small Telescopes, with additional photographs from lunar orbiting vehicles and one taken by Neil Armstrong of Buzz Aldrin on the moon’s surface. Ernest’s wife Ann died in 1988 and he followed her eight years later.

There are about one hundred letters to, from, or about Ernest, written in the years 1931 to 1948, in the Mary Lea Shane Archives of the Lick Observatory, McHenry Library, University of California. These letters, his published papers and book, and Perkins Observatory annual reports, together with information provided by Robert N. Cherrington and my own notes and memories of conversations with Ernest and Ann formed the basis of this obituary article.

Donald E. Osterbrock
Lick Observatory, University of California, Santa Cruz

SIDNEY EDELSON, 1916–2002

On 24 March 2002, the solar physicist Sidney Edelson died in Santa Barbara, California. Sidney was born in Brooklyn, NY on 24 August 1916 to Benjamin and Sarah Edelson. His father worked in the garment industry. He obtained his BA from Brooklyn College (1938) and a MA from New York University (1949). He entered Georgetown University in 1950 and received both a MA (1953) and PhD (1961). His PhD thesis was entitled “A Study of Long and Short Term Variations in Solar Radiation at Radio and Optical Wavelengths.”

When the U.S. entered World War II, Sidney enlisted as an apprentice seaman and retired as a Lt. Commander. He was active in both the European and Pacific theaters. He was captain of a minesweeper in the northern Atlantic and commanded a LST vessel landing troops at Normandy on Omaha beach. Later on, he was part of the amphibious forces that landed the 5th Marine Division at Okinawa. After the war, he commanded the USS Typhoon repatriating Japanese POWs from China to Sasebo, Japan. For this, he was given a certificate of appreciation by Chiang Kai-shek.

After the war efforts, he served in 1946–47 as a port captain for the China Waterways Transport in Shanghai. It was at this time that he met and married Erny Margaret Anderson, a surgical nurse. They were unable to have children because of a bayonet wound suffered by Erny during a 1937 Japanese attack upon the Catholic Mission hospital where she was working.

The majority of his research work was in the area of solar physics; he noted the time relationships between centimeter wavelength bursts and Hα solar flares (1959), studied the

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