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~~1984~~1985 * = 20th YEAR

1/25-26

20°

J. Child here with Aussie Friend for visual observations. Few openings in clouds but not many. Road very closed, nice trip on skis! All is ok here. Noted clock had stopped, and removed to check. Motor is Frozen, unable to fix.

3/22/85 - Jeff here for visuals, the road was plowed by AT&T. Sky is very bright w/ ski operators and LA wiping it all out. Seeing is pretty good.

4/13/85 Jeff here for visuals, excellent evening, no wind, seeing excellent, 50°. The antenna needs a new feed line.
WB

5/11/85 Jeff here on general check out. The FM antenna feed is done for. Will replace.
WB

May 16-17

60° → 38°F

43%

Poyser. Clear, cloudless sky with dying SW wind during night. Our good weather is returning - seeing average! Did tricolor set of M65-66 and NGC 3628. All fit in Eifle field - beautiful sight! Did NGC 3898 and companion and NGC 3941 photovisual for supernova atlas project. Good transparency. Scope tracked unusually well!

May 17-18

50° → 40°F

45%

NO WIND

Poyser - Another clear night - good transparency and average seeing. Tricolor of M 95-96. Also NGC 2681.

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May 18, Goff here for visuals, good evening, little wind. All is well.

WJG

June 7 Padilla, Sorenson & Stephenson. Visual & photographic. Windy, & very bright sky. Temp 60-50°F & humidity - 30%.

June 17-18 Ford, Scovil, Goff. Opened ca. 10 PM PDST. Seeing & transp'y fair to good, no wind. Obs'd (all three) till ca. 1 AM when Goff left. Scovil & Ford continued till dawn like 5 AM June 18. FD obs'd 14 total, incl'g 9 sanctums, CES 18 w/12 sanctum. Equipment all-Ok. Temp. unusually warm - 74°-62°; obs'g mostly in shirt sleeves.

June 18-19. Ford, Scovil. Opened up ca. 10 PM. Seeing good, transp'y fair, light wind which subsided. Obsns: CES, 14; CBF, 7 including 4 sanctums, due to mapping 3-4 AM. A good night! Stopped obs'g, dawn like 4 AM PDST.

June 19-20 Scovil and Royer. Lined up fields to photograph. Scovil continued variable estimates - Royer left early. Good night.

July 10-11 Royer, Padilla, Possant. Clouds coming in from SW with wind. Looked for Comet Machholz^{85a} in west. 80°F → 62° No Luck. Set up for photography - but clouds didn't break enough.

July 11-12 Royer and Padilla. Clear, slight SW wind. Again 33% systematically swept for Comet Machholz - No luck. 90°F → 62°F It may not have survived perihelion passage,

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which was 5 solar diameters. Did 4 variable star fields, DE+DF Her, FF Lyr + BX Lyr, AM Lyr, and RT Pra.

July 12-13 Royer and Padilla. Again searched for comet
no wind "MACH-HOAX" with 18", $\frac{1}{2}$ degree in dec. and 3°
90° → 63°F E and W. No comet. Did new photos of
28% DH, TU, and DX Aquilae. Found one rattlesnake
on road up to phone tower. Beware!

July 16-17 Royer and Tatter-Fred Middendorf, S.V.
80° → 59°F Found no snakes after search. Clearing sky, with
45% occasional gusts of wind - seeing good, transparency fair.
Did blind plate on comet Machholz, since it
is reported very faint after sun passage. (it burnt out)
Also following photovisual plates, HX Cyg, RW Sge,
SW + SX Aql and NGC 772.
Telescope tracking exceptionally good.

Aug 23-24 Padilla, Sorensen & Stephenson. Set up
80° → 66°F for astrophotography. Seeing excellent, no
20% wind. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary
of Ford Obs., searched for Halley's Comet.
Difficult to verify comet with existing chart.
Set telescope on comet's position & took 2
IIa-D plates unfiltered 5 min & 30 min.
Padilla took plates back to Mt. Wilson to develop.
Comet recorded on 30 min. exp. = faint fuzz ball.

Aug 24-25 Padilla & Stephenson. Astrophotography after
85° - 65°F moonset. Looked for Halley's Comet again
18% Very faint through 18", though predicted at 12.9 mag.
Bright eastern horizon. Did 40 min exp of Halley's
on IIa-D unfiltered.

Happy 20th Anniversary Ford Obs.!

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- Aug 26-27 Padilla & Baker. Visually looked for Halley's Comet comparing with Palomar Sky Survey print for field stars. Very faint. Fainter than predicted mag.
- Sep 13-14 Padilla & Sorensen. Set up for photographic, however extremely difficult to set up with refractor due to control box for cage being in the way! Cloudy in morning hours. Looked at conjunction of Comet Giacobini-Zinner & Halley's Comet. Did 1 hr exp. on piggy-back 35mm.
- Sept 18-19 Rel Hum 65% temp 40 - 34. Setup on Altair to set circles. Clouds, fog, and light rain rest of night. NO effective observing. Visitors from Mt. Wilson - Larry Webster, Mike Misch.
Royer, Padilla, & Tom Cragg; Royer & Cragg overnight. Found water on observing floor in morning evidently due to leak in flexible caulking on upper section of shutter door. Royer will mend on next trip up. Freshened all H₂O in gallon bottles at Clint's place giving us a chance to check everything out.
- Oct. 9 - Royer + Padilla. Fixed leak in shutter, 1 qt. hydraulic fluid in shutter. Mounted on refractor for Comet Halley guiding - left at 10:30 P.M. - snowing!
- Oct 11-12 Padilla & Sorensen. later joined by Stephenson & Schroeder. Set up for prime focus with 4x5 camera. Photo'd Halley's Comet on O98 emulsion. 20 min. ea. One unfiltered, other with Wr. 12 filter. Also piggy back 35mm with Ektachrome 200. Visually, Halley is finally much easier to see - though appears to be running about a mag. fainter than predictions. A fuzzy coma with no tail visible.

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Oct 12-13 Padilla. Drove to Mt. Wilson during day to develop last night's plates. Returned in evening. Photographed Comet Hartley - Good in early eve. 20 min exp. on ~~IIa-D~~ IIa-D. Photographed Halley's. Three plates 20 min ea. - IIa-D unfiltered, 098 unfiltered & 098 with wk. 12 filter. Also prime focus 35 mm Ektachrome 200. @ 15 min & 20 min exp.

Oct. 16-17 Boyer and Padilla. Clear night - no wind, seeing good. 40°F 30% Did AAUSO fields V1329 Cyg - had to I.D. and FU Ori. Looked at Comet Hartley - Good about 8th mag - fuzzy ball - no tail. Comet Halley at 11.8 or fainter - less than predicted for this date of 10.1. Used U Ori field for estimates - between 11.6 and 12.3 comp. stars. Strong central condensation, with extensive outer coma. Did photo, had to guide on refractor due to faintness.

Scope left in photo mode, and 2 098 Pan plates left in downstairs supply room in styrofoam box. Let's keep a photo record!

OCT 17-18 J. STEPHENSON & J. SCHROEDER. CLEAR CALM NIGHT, FAIR SEEING, SKYGLOW. 098 PLATE ON C. HALLEY 20 MIN EXP. STARTING 1:31 P.M. HALLEY FAINT, NO CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK. PIGGYBACK & PRIME PHOTOS ON E-400 & VS 1000. SAW SEVERAL NICE GEMINIDS. JRS

Oct. 19 A.M. - Boyer - 2 plates of Halley - restored scope to usual mode.

Oct. 19 - G. Bilodeau and Girl Scout troop 133 (4 adults and 8 children. We observed from 8:30 P.M. to 11:15 P.M., observing the moon, Jupiter, the ring nebula and β Lyr. Seeing 4-5 transparency 6-7 Temp. 48°-43° F. A very pleasant night. The troop and their leaders were impressed. The girls were

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Very well behaved - I was impressed!

Nov. 6-7 Poyer and Padilla, Comet Halley 9.3 - 9.7 mag
 40°F 32% Strong central condensation, fanning coma to SW,
 NO WIND very faint outer coma, quite extensive. This baby is
 growing rapidly. Did 7 35 mm frames on hypered
 Tech-Pan, 2' to 20', some filtered yellow.
 Guided by $\frac{1}{2}$ second west button each minute.
 Works well, except for E-W drive drift.

Nov. 8-9 Ford, Bildeau, Jeff, L.W. Cook. Windy,
 Temp. 22°/20°. Seeing poor. Obs'd 5 different
 vars. + Halley comet. Est'd Halley ca 9.0
 (nucleus). Clouded up, too windy + cold, ca midnight
 PST.

Nov. 19-20 at Wrightwood House. Obs. road too icy to navigate.
 Ford, Mary Grogg, Steve Padilla, Poyer. Used binoculars
 and C-8 for Comet Halley. Did not use variable field
 for estimate, but it is visible to unaided eye.
 Looks like a dim M13 - Hercules cluster, about $\frac{1}{5}$ lunar
 diameter. In scope shows strong central condensation,
 with large halo. Some east fanning.

Dec. 4-5 W/W house. Poyer. Autograph + C8. First plate of
 tail of Halley - Broken High Coris.

Dec. 26-27 Poyer and Mary Grogg. Hiked into Ford Obs., much
 45% 40°F snow + ice on road, but only took 1 hour, 5 minutes.
 slight W All OK at Obs. Demounted cage rotor and put on
 wind, slight refractor to guide Halley, 3 plates - tricolor, 10'
 high coris, exposures due to Full Moon. Comet not visible to
 broken unaided eye due to moonlight. Left photo set-up
 Beautiful for further expeditions. Check with Poyer for proper
 night accessories, he has them down below.

Could not see tail in 18" f7 - sky too bright.