



AAVSO Newsletter

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From the Director Arne A. Henden

The holidays are upon us yet again. For northern observers, it means longer (but colder!) nights, ideal for long time-series photometry or hitting all of those CV fields on your list. For southern observers, it means nice warm days to strengthen those bones for the upcoming winter season. Just the opposite is true for our solar observers, of course. One of the memorable occasions for me was observing at Kitt Peak in late June one year, where the nighttime observers were complaining about the short nights, and the solar observers (at the McMath) complaining about the long days and lost sleep. You just can't satisfy everyone!

I usually use this holiday period to reflect on what has happened over the past year, and think about what I want to do in the coming year. This year especially has been an interesting one for me. Scientifically, I found the V838 Mon conference and the IAU General Assembly extremely exciting and re-invigorating. The success of the Sonoita Research Observatory robotic telescope meant I could study some systems I had neglected since graduate school, and provide assistance to many observing campaigns that occurred this year.

RS Oph went into outburst, the first time in decades. This was a great early-year event, providing an object for visual and CCD observers alike, with the resultant data being important for many professionals. A week-long meeting will be held next summer in the UK on RS Oph, and I hope to attend and present the AAVSO results.

V2362 Cyg continues to excite everyone. This nova that occurred in April declined rapidly from $V=8$ to $V=12$ by mid-year, and then smoothly increased in brightness to $V=10$ by late November. As I write, it is dropping like a rock, perhaps returning to its quiescent brightness by the end of the year. The light-curve shape is reminiscent of V1493 Aql, but differs in many details. Being bright, it has been well-covered by the amateur community, and many smaller telescopes with spectrographic capability have also been monitoring the nova. I fully expect some important papers over the next year on V2362 Cyg.

The discovery by Japanese amateurs of Var Cas 06 in late October garnered the attention of many different professional communities. At first, it was thought that the event was a CV or perhaps a nova, but the light curve shape and lack of color evolution soon made it apparent that this event had to be something different. Mikolajewski et al. (ATEL 931) suggested in early November that this might be a microlensing event. If so, it is the closest and brightest one ever observed, and extremely rare (estimated to occur perhaps once every 30 years, if we monitored the entire sky!). The fading phase was well-covered by our observers. If you have any data from October, or know of any members of your local club that happened to be getting images of the region during this period, send the information to the AAVSO and we'll pass it on to the researchers.



AAVSO member Paul Valleli (L) shares a laugh with Director Arne Henden (R) at the AAVSO Open House, October 2006.

A campaign on W Vir for George Wallerstein, and the large campaign on NGC 6811 for Steve Howell, filled much of my remaining time. These are fun events with valuable scientific results. Unfortunately, they also result in massive amounts of uploaded data, so it will take us a while to process them all. Automation helps, but does not eliminate the work!

I enjoyed meeting with the many international amateur groups and seeing your success and excitement. Visual observing is alive and well, and an ideal method of training young observers in developing countries. The submitted data are scientifically useful, and in many cases, cover stars too faint, too bright, or just outside the horizon limits, of the upcoming surveys. We continue to look for older, archival visual observing datasets as well, to fill in the light curves of the long period variables. If you know of any observations that we don't have in the International Database, let us know! We're working with the BAAVSS and the RASNZ to include their databases, but more "lost" data certainly exist.

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The AAVSO Newsletter - Production Editor: Travis Searle. Additional editing and proofing by Elizabeth O. Waagen. Photo contributions in this issue from Haldun Menali, Elizabeth O. Waagen, and the AAVSO archives.

So, all in all, I think the year has been fruitful. We've made headquarters more efficient, getting ready for the influx of data from surveys and CCD observers. We've converted the International Database to a true relational database, making access easier for everyone. The website has been improved, and further improvements are just around the corner. Name something the AAVSO provides, and I bet it has changed for the better during the year. If not, wait until next year!

Speaking of that, the other aspect of this season is to look towards the future. I have several pages of goals for the coming year, and it is neat to consider that most of these items will come to fruition. We'll get the Variable Star Plotter (VSP) online. Better access to SRO and other robotic telescopes will be available. New Observing Manual translations will be online, and contacts with variable-star groups worldwide will hopefully bring our community closer together. Validation will become mostly automatic and fast. A new file server offers the potential of archiving images and spectra, along with scanned material from our century-long archives.

Finally, my overriding end-of-year evaluation is: have I had fun? For me, the answer is a resounding "yes". You should do the same kind of self-inspection and see how you feel. Variable-star observing, and participation in the AAVSO, is supposed to be fun and exciting. If it is not, and if Headquarters can do anything to turn this around and make you enjoy your hobby more, never hesitate in suggesting changes to us. We are never too busy to listen.

Here is wishing you and yours a happy holiday season, and best wishes for the New Year!

Message from the President

David B. Williams

Season's greetings to all! I want take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make 2006 such a good year for the AAVSO. Our staff, first, but then we expect prodigies of productivity and efficiency from them. Nonetheless, we are blessed with a dedicated group of men and women who like working for the AAVSO and support our mission. Thanks to them, we achieved important steps forward during the past year, and there will be more news in the months to come.

Our observers continue to set new records, whether visual or digital. The AAVSO is grateful for your contributions, whether you are a full member of AAVSO, a member of one of our partner associations who generously add their data to the AAVSO International Database, or an unaffiliated observer. Every observation counts!

I also want to thank all our volunteers. Even though the AAVSO has a substantial full-time staff, we also depend upon many volunteers to help us achieve our mission. The Council and program committees, of course, but we also have groups such as the chart committee and database working group and some very talented individuals who have undertaken big projects and have performed wonders. We would need twice the staff to accomplish all this work, which is invaluable to the organization.

I also want to recognize all our donors: not only those who have made special gifts to AAVSO but also each of our regular dues-paying members. It's widely believed in the astronomical community that the AAVSO has a large endowment and so

doesn't really need additional financial support from our members and friends. Not true! If we wish to preserve (and grow) our endowment funds, we can only withdraw a small portion each year. So every dollar received as dues or donations helps us preserve the endowment for the future and accomplish even more in the present.

If you are a dues-paying member, you are supporting the scientific and educational work of the AAVSO. Occasionally, we receive letters from members who wish to resign. "I am no longer able to observe," they explain. But not being able to contribute observations is not the same thing as not being able to contribute. Every dues-paying member is making a contribution, and we are grateful for it. (And a double thank-you to those who can contribute at the sustaining dues level and those who make can make an additional annual donation or who remember AAVSO in their estate plans.)

So thank you, one and all - staff, observers, volunteers, members and donors. You all contributed to our success during the past year, and we are counting on you to continue your devotion and support in the years ahead.

Treasurer Lou Cohen Steps Down

As many of you know by now, Lou Cohen has stepped down as our Treasurer, and David Hurdis has been elected in his place.

Lou has served through the most difficult period of the entire history of the AAVSO. We had a long-standing treasurer in the 1990's: Ted Wales. Ted stepped down in 1999, with Wayne Lowder taking over. However, Wayne soon became ill and was not able to assume his duties. Ted remained on-board as an acting treasurer until Spring, 2001, when Lou Cohen was elected treasurer. Soon after Lou was elected, Ted became ill, and Lou basically stepped in with no mentor, with the bookkeeping in disarray, and had to learn the ropes the hard way.

Those of you with savings in the stock market realize that this was also the period of the large-cap "crash", where the market lost over 50 percent of its value. Lou brought us through that crisis; as well as through the ensuing crisis when Janet became ill. He not only kept our finances on an even keel, but also worked hard to find a new financial management company (Back Bay Financial Group) to safeguard our Endowment for the future. Throughout all of the turmoil, Lou has served as an advisor and friend to three Directors (Janet, Elizabeth, and Arne).

While Lou is taking a back seat so that he can pursue other interests (such as his music and granddaughter), we hope that he will remain active in the AAVSO so that we don't lose his experience and talents. He will be missed in the Council!

Upcoming Meetings

Mark your calendars now for upcoming AAVSO meetings!



June 28-July 1, 2007 - AAVSO 96th Spring Meeting
Calgary, Alberta, Canada - Joint Meeting with RASC/ALPO

October 26-27th, 2007 - AAVSO 96th Annual Meeting
Nantucket, MA - Maria Mitchell Observatory

Awards and Recognition

from the 95th Annual Meeting, Newton, MA, October 2006

38th AAVSO MERIT AWARD

Presented to **Louis Cohen** of Cambridge, MA

“in recognition of his outstanding service as Treasurer and as a trusted, steady advisor to the Directors throughout a period of fiscal and administrative uncertainty; and his guidance in reinvesting and restructuring the AAVSO’s endowments, assuring the Association’s financial security. His excellence in service, volunteerism, willingness to share knowledge and mentor observers, and his valued observations exemplify the ideals of the AAVSO.”



Director Arne Henden with Lou Cohen as he accepts the 38th AAVSO Merit Award.

WILLIAM TYLER OLCOTT AWARD for DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

Presented to **Mary Ann Kadooka** of Honolulu, HI

“for her promotion of variable star astronomy through her tireless and inspirational work with educators and students as a leader, a mentor, and a friend to anyone wanting to learn astronomy.”



Director Arne Henden presents Mary Ann Kadooka with the William Tyler Olcott Award.

AAVSO SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

Presented to **Christopher Watson** of San Diego, CA



Arne Henden with award recipient Christopher Watson.

“for his dedicated efforts in supplying cutting-edge technological services to both the AAVSO and the astronomical community as a whole. His Variable Star Index (VSX) program is assisting thousands of variable star observers and researchers in their mutual quest to understand these enigmatic points of light.”

AAVSO NOVA AWARD

Presented to **Peter Williams**, of Heathcote, NSW, Australia for his discovery of Nova Ophiuchi 2006 No. 2 (V2576 Oph) on April 6.565 2006 UT.

AAVSO SOLAR OBSERVER AWARDS

Sunspot Observations:

Gema Araujo, Javier Ruiz, Kenichi Fujimori, John Kaplan, James & Shirley Knight, Gerd-Lutz Schott, Gerhard Stemmler, Hitoshi Takuma, and William M. Wilson.

SID Reports:

Paul Campbell
Nick Stoikidis (Larissa Observatory)

❧ In Memoriam ❧

The AAVSO extends its most sincere sympathy and condolences to the families, friends, and colleagues of the following members, colleagues, and friends who have passed away since the publication of the previous *Newsletter*.

Earl Ostroff - Westport, MA

Earl joined the AAVSO in the 1970s when Margaret Mayall was Director. He valued his membership, appreciated the Journals, and the annual holiday cards from Margaret and then from Janet Mattei. He unexpectedly met Janet at a Brandeis reunion in 1995. He read all things astronomical, avidly followed the annual astronomical calendars, and loved to explain the skies to his family and friends. He donated his telescope and accessories to Philips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire.

Peter Quinn - Racine, WI

Peter joined the AAVSO in 1980 at the age of 17 and had been a Sustaining member since 1999. A dedicated amateur, Peter belonged to the local Racine Astronomical Society and regularly attended star parties. He contributed 387 observations to the AAVSO International Database between 1980-2003.

The 95th AAVSO Annual Meeting

October 26-28, 2006 - Newton, Massachusetts

By Travis Searle



The 95th Annual Meeting of the AAVSO was held in Newton, Massachusetts, October 26-28th, 2006. AAVSO meetings provide members, observers, and friends with an opportunity to present their own research on variable stars and related topics. They also offer AAVSO'ers a chance to come together for some fruitful and enjoyable fellowship. This year's fall meeting was no exception. Whether at the Open House at Headquarters or during a coffee break at the paper session, one was sure to find new and old friends alike catching up on current projects or comparing notes on telescopic equipment and observing runs.

The meeting began on Friday morning at the Sheraton-Newton hotel with a terrific workshop organized by long-time AAVSO member and science education expert, Donna Young. The morning session was entitled "The Chandra X-Ray Observatory and AAVSO Collaboration." Donna highlighted details of the AAVSO's collaborations with the Chandra X-Ray Observatory, where AAVSO observers have worked closely with Chandra scientists in a unique and important amateur professional collaboration to study variable stars. Donna also showed attendees the progress of the much-anticipated update to the AAVSO's *Hands-On Astrophysics* curriculum. The popular HOA tools are now taking on new life in a web-based format, newly redesigned and updated to show how scientists view, study, and examine variable stars. Donna then had attendees participate in some educational activities on spectroscopy, variable stars, and stellar evolution. The session fostered many helpful suggestions and feedback regarding the HOA updates and discussion of new activities and resources available to present variable stars to the public and education audiences.

Chandra software specialist Terry Matilsky led the afternoon session of the workshop on "The Chandra X-Ray Observatory Data Analysis Software, Resources & Activities." Terry explained the Chandra DS9 software package, which allows educators, students, amateur astronomers, and the general public to investigate and analyze a host of astronomical objects. Attendees were able to download the software and follow along with the presentation.

Friday evening featured an Open House at AAVSO Headquarters. 2006 marks the 20th anniversary of the AAVSO at its current Birch Street location, The Clinton B. Ford Astronomical Data Research Center. The always popular (and always delicious) dinner buffet was followed up by two scrumptious cakes for dessert, adorned with candles to celebrate the occasion. The staff

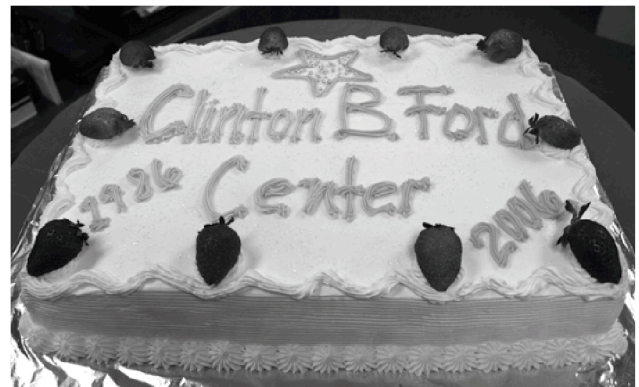
led guests in a chorus of "Happy Anniversary" (set to the tune of the "Happy Birthday.") Then, the cakes were cut, soothing a room full of sweet teeth. The Open House is always among the more popular social events of the fall meeting. You can check out the festivities for yourself by logging onto the AAVSO website to watch a short QuickTime movie of the evening at <http://www.aavso.org/aavso/meetings/archivefall06.shtml>.

On Saturday morning President David Williams kicked off the Membership Meeting that included various committee reports and the announcement of AAVSO Council election results. Outgoing Treasurer Lou Cohen presented his financial report, which indicated the AAVSO continues to be fiscally stable and strong. Director Arne Henden delivered his annual report, highlighting the various projects and endeavors of the organization. He also reported on AAVSO website statistics, observing campaigns, the current membership and observer totals, and formally announced the completion of the software tools Variable Star Index (VSX) and the newly christened VSP, or Variable Star Plotter. (Arne's full report in PowerPoint format is available online on the AAVSO website.)

Afterwards, Arne and David presented the 38th AAVSO Merit Award - the AAVSO's highest award - to Lou Cohen. Lou has volunteered countless hours of his time to the AAVSO as treasurer, guiding the organization financially through uncertain times, and helping to secure the financial future of the AAVSO through sound advice and management of the organization's investments.

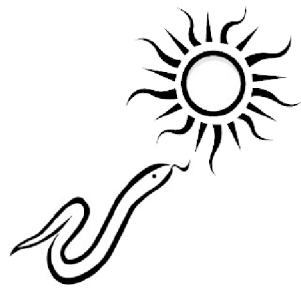
The afternoon paper session was filled with interesting scientific talks from members and observers, including a fun physics demonstration from Mary Ann Kadooka. 14-year-old Theo Jones, a finalist in the 2006 Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge and an AAVSO associate member, gave an excellent talk on his work with the University of Arizona's curriculum packet "In the Hunt for Variable Stars."

On Saturday evening attendees gathered for the closing banquet. Director Arne Henden handed out several awards, including the very special William Tyler Olcott Award for Distinguished Service, which was presented to a very surprised Mary Ann Kadooka. Arne, Rebecca, and other staff members had struggled to keep the award a secret, and had to do some quick thinking when Mary announced at the start of the meeting that she wasn't going to attend the banquet! The AAVSO also honored Chris Watson with a Special Recognition Award for his hard work creating the Variable Star Index. The evening was capped off by a delightful and informative talk from long-time AAVSO'er and Past President Al Holm. His talk, entitled "Three eyes on the cosmos: HST, Kepler, and JWST," detailed the updates planned



for the forthcoming HST servicing mission and highlighted the fascinating contributions of the three Space Telescope Science Institute satellites. Al stressed that much vision for the future of astronomy exists in the creative minds of the AAVSO, and he used Fred West's 1996 paper on the possibility of observing transiting exoplanets as an example. Al reminded us all just how important amateur contributions continue to be to professional astronomy and how the AAVSO continues to lead the way.

President Williams adjourned the meeting, and the happy attendees departed looking forward to the next AAVSO gathering.



Observing Sunspots

A Tale from Susan Oatney (OSN)
Partridge, Kansas, USA

Sunspot activity during the 2005-2006 period was on its way to minimum. Usually in Kansas, I have learned to try and catch my observations of sunspots early in the day before the wind picks up here on the Plains. Most times it only takes me a few minutes to get my count and if there is a particularly interesting group or I am having difficulty in deciding how many groups there are, I like to make a sketch with the correct orientation of movement. I have a couple of journals of these drawings, and looking at them reminds me of the excitement I felt when I could plainly see that a group was set to 'fire' up some flares because of an obvious light bridge or because of a significant sized spot.

In September of 2005 there was an extremely active group on the face of the Sun: #798, which produced the 4th largest flare on record, an X 17 monster that triggered auroras even in Kansas. I had invited a school group of 35 students to take a look at the group one day and we viewed it for quite some time, although clouds had cropped up on us and the last handful of students went away without ever getting to see this strange group of spots on the Sun. Several other people also were able to come and view this group. My enthusiasm for sunspots tells me when there are large groups like this people just HAVE to see them!

It is my habit to take something with me to the observatory to read if there are clouds passing through. During these times of intermittent clouds, I set my drive to tracking the Sun and proceed with my reading. I never have trouble telling when to look up from my book since the intensity of the light changes along with the temperature.

It was now the first week of October and the 'ghost' of #798 was coming around the limb of the Sun and I wanted to continue with my series of sketches of all aspects of this group. There were a few sunspots on the Sun and the appearance of lots of solar faculae. As it turned out, this group was the most active sunspot group in 15 years and I wanted proof that I had observed it.

I was reading Lucy Jago's *The Northern Lights* as I waited out the clouds on this quiet, cool autumn morning. Back in the house I had tomatoes processing in my boiling-water bath canner, so from time to time I left off my reading and would trot across the yard, pass under the honeysuckle trellis, and swing open the garage door and run in the house to check on my tomatoes. I was doing a lot more reading that morning than observing and had made

several trips to the house. I decided that I had better go in and just take that batch of tomatoes out of the water and headed back to the house.

The garage door has a habit of locking on me, so I like to leave a stick propped in the opening, leaving the door ajar just a little so there is no chance of the latch making contact and shutting me out. I was rather absent-mindedly approaching the garage door since it appeared the Sun might be going to make a rather quick apparition and I was afraid I would miss it while I was in the house. As I looked up to check the clouds I also reached out for the garage door handle to fling it open. As I paused with my hand on the door handle looking up to the sky, I was aware of something moving over the surface of my fingers on the handle. I glanced down to see what it was, expecting it to be some sort of insect. What I saw was long, tapered and greenish-tan flicking back and forth over my knuckles. As I concentrated my gaze on this strange insect, I realized it was not an insect at all, but the final 5 inches of the end of a snake's tail! As I followed the end of the tail over my knuckles, around the door handle and inside the ajar door, I realized the snake was climbing UP the inside of the door on the glass and its height had extended within an inch of the top of the door! Its body was writhing back and forth with its head precariously tilting away from the glass in a searching motion, as if it were trying to get out. I quickly withdrew my hand from the handle and with a mighty scream and a kick I slammed the door shut, hoping to catch the snake in the door.

The snake dropped to the garage floor out of my sight (for now the door was locked). The snake was securely locked in the garage, and I was locked out. Fortunately, there is a door on the opposite side of the garage, so I left the garden area through the gate and went around to the other door. I proceeded with great caution as I entered the garage. I was pretty sure this reptile was a Bull snake. We had a problem with mice entering the garage (probably because I always leave the door propped open) and this mouse sleuth had probably come looking for an early lunch. Bull snakes can be rather terrifying to encounter. I have seen them hiss and raise their heads up like a cobra with their wide mouth agape seemingly intent on murder. My husband and son had killed one in our shop that was a full six feet in length that had put on just such a show. I soon located the snake (probably scared to death of my antics) behind the electric stove beside the garage door curled into a typical snake pile. I fought with the door until I could unlatch it and decided to leave it propped open WIDE hoping the snake would exit. I left it open that way the rest of the morning and when I checked later, could not find any trace of the snake. I had hoped it had slithered off to parts unknown when I later closed the door. Many nights and sunlit mornings as I passed through the garage out the door to the garden and the observatory I wondered where that snake was.

In December we had decided to invite whoever wanted to come see Saturn through the telescope after church on a Wednesday evening. I had made star and moon cut-out cookies and a hot drink for the top of the stove in the garage. I cleaned up the garage, moved out the car and the truck, and we set up chairs for people to read my handout about Saturn and wait their turn in the observatory at the eyepiece. While I was cleaning the garage and moving some boxes, I came across a very large, complete skin of a snake.

I didn't mention it to anyone that beautiful December night, but I did keep the skin and I still wonder where the snake is.

The William Tyler Olcott House

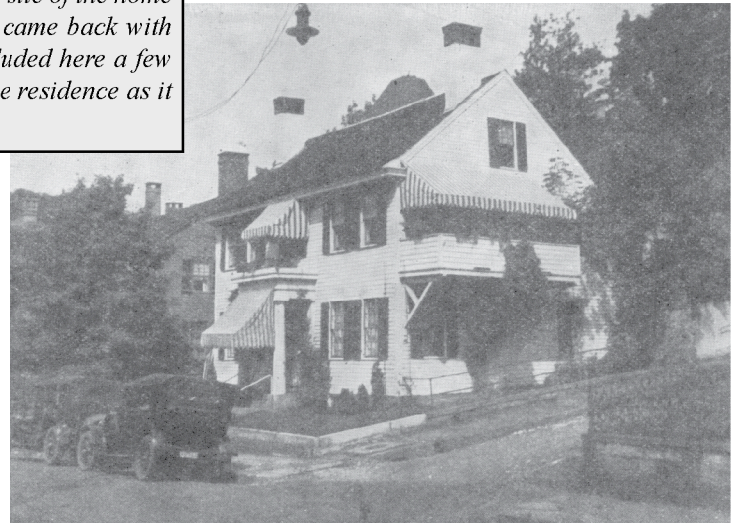
—then and now

Compiled by Michael Saladyga

Recently AAVSO Treasurer Dave Hurdis made a pilgrimage to the site of the home of AAVSO founder and first Secretary, William Tyler Olcott. He came back with these pictures, and a short account of his trip. We have also included here a few photos and clippings from the AAVSO archives, showing the same residence as it was in the 1920s and 1930s.

As far as my search for the house goes, there was nothing to it. I just looked up 62 Church Street, Norwich, CT, in “Mapquest” and drove right to it. I recognized it right away from the pictures that were shown at the Annual Meeting. The house is now broken up into four apartments, with parking spaces behind it (up the hill). A young (twenty-something) guy came out of the door after visiting a friend who lives there. I felt obliged to explain why I was photographing the house and mentioned the name “William Tyler Olcott.” He shrugged, looked at me strangely, and went on his way. The only other observation I would make about the site is that “back in its day” the house must have had a commanding view of Norwich Harbor, which is located at the confluence of the Yantic and Shetucket Rivers. They merge to form the Thames River, which flows about twelve miles, passing New London on its way to Long Island Sound. The view from the house is now mostly obstructed by newer buildings.

—Dave Hurdis



The Olcott residence, 62 Church Street, Norwich, Connecticut. The observatory dome is visible between the chimneys. Photo taken probably in 1921 when the dome was built. From an article by Olcott in *Popular Astronomy*, January 1930.



The Olcott residence, as it appears today. Below: rear view of the house today, the observatory gone. Contemporary photos by Dave Hurdis.



Rear view, about 1921, showing the newly-built octagonal observatory which Olcott named “Starlight House.” From *Popular Astronomy*, January 1930.



The Olcott Observatory—A Last Look

In March of 1958, the trustees of the Otis Library of Norwich, Connecticut asked me to assist them in planning a possible renovation of the top floor of the Olcott House to install a small planetarium and also to reactivate the observatory. The Olcott House, at this time, was a children's library owned by the Otis Library.

I corresponded with two planetarium manufacturers (Spitz and Zeiss) and Spitz had a unit suitable for a small space. Various telescope manufacturers were contacted for a 3" refractor similar to the one Olcott described in his books.

The Otis Library trustees decided against the planetarium and observatory plan and directed their funds to the purchase of a van to carry books to the elderly and handicapped who could not make it to the library.

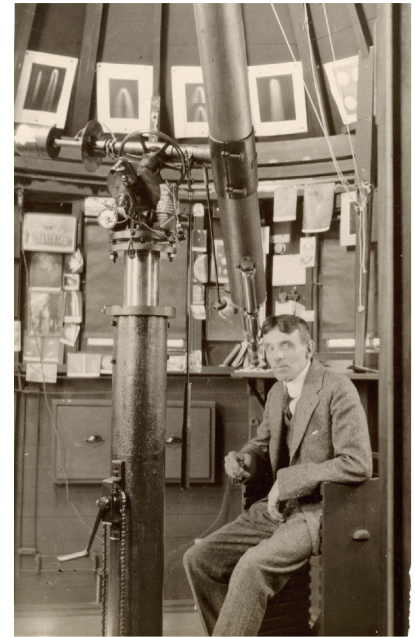
I recollect my last look at the Olcott observatory as follows:

Upon entering the doorway into the observatory, one sees an octagonal configuration which measures 10 feet across the flats of the octagon. The dome was made of [painted canvas] and had several rollers on which the dome rotated. A single wooden handle was fastened to the dome structure and the dome was rotated by pushing the handle. On each wall panel of the octagon were numerous watercolor paintings of various astronomical objects. The telescope pier was a very massive 8" diameter steel pipe and had a rising pier feature. The pier could be cranked from a height of 56" to 94" to permit placement of the telescope eyepiece to a convenient height.

Robert Tumicki
Norwich, Conn.

Feb. 28, 1982

(from the AAVSO Archives, W. S. Houston Collection)



Olcott in his octagonal observatory in 1927. AAVSO Archives.

Right: Clara Hyde Olcott (wife of W.T.O.), Annie Jump Cannon of Harvard College Observatory, W.T.O., and Edwin F. Carpenter of Steward Observatory, Univ. of Arizona. About 1933. AAVSO Archives, Olcott Collection.

Below: A 1954 newspaper clipping reporting transfer of ownership of the Olcott house from Christ Church to the Otis Library of Norwich. AAVSO Archives, Houston Collection

OTIS LIBRARY BUYS OLCOTT RESIDENCE; WILL BE USED AS CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

FEB 26 1954

The stage was set Thursday for a new children's library when title to the Olcott residence at 62 Church street was conveyed to the Otis library by Christ church parish. The sale price was not divulged.

Attorneys Henry H. Pettis and Charles V. James acted for the library in their capacity as trustees and Attorney Richard L. Norman represented the church. The deed was later recorded at the office of Town Clerk J. Dyer Potter.

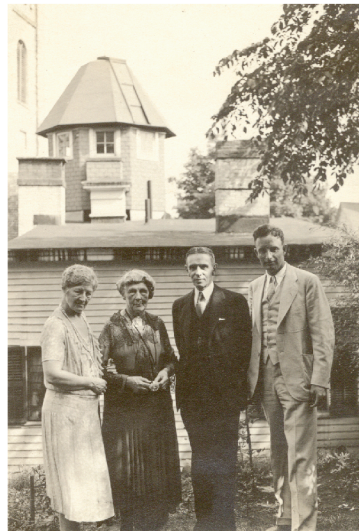
Necessary alterations and improvements will be made to the 2 1/2 frame structure and it will be opened up as a branch of the Otis library, for use by children in the community, as soon as possible. It will be staffed by a librarian and supplied exclusively with children's books and other literature. Since there are a number of large rooms in the building, it is hoped that a portion of the place may be made available at a later date for meeting purposes.

Since the building is within reach of the Otis library it should prove an ideal location for the contemplated addition. Once the children's department is established

there the arrangement will relieve the presently crowded conditions in the Otis library.

The Olcott residence was built 200 years ago by Rev. John Tyler, first rector of Christ Episcopal church. It remained in the family down through the years and was the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Tyler Olcott for a long time. Under the will of Mr. Olcott his wife had the life use of it and following her death it reverted to Christ church. It was the intent of Mr. Olcott that the property be used possibly as a rectory or parish house but the church purchased a new rectory a few years ago and the need of a parish house was not deemed expedient since all church activities are centered at the edifice on Washington street.

The church was later authorized to sell the place and arrangements were made to convey it to the library. The house has six rooms on each of two floors and is located on a lot that has 52 feet frontage on Church street. The lot has a depth of 132 feet, rising in terraces at 25 degree grade to School street in the rear. Bordering it is a 15 foot lane which is seldom used.



Rear view, about 1921, showing the dome; W.T.O. in the window. AAVSO Archives.



Rear view of of the Olcott House as it looks today.

2005-2006 AAVSO Observer Totals

Table 1. AAVSO Observer Totals 2005 – 2006 by Country*

<i>Country</i>	<i>No. Observers</i>	<i>No. Observations</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>No. Observers</i>	<i>No. Observations</i>
ARGENTINA	28	617	ITALY	28	14,640
AUSTRALIA	32	68,116	JAPAN	4	1,707
AUSTRIA	4	601	MALTA	1	29
BELARUS	3	25	NETHERLANDS	13	8,765
BELGIUM	21	82,077	NEW ZEALAND	2	26,191
BERMUDA	1	11	NORWAY	6	12,578
BRAZIL	22	3,485	PERU	2	17
CANADA	33	118,631	PHILIPPINES	1	8
CHILE	3	65,395	POLAND	22	18,273
CROATIA	1	14,210	PORTUGAL	4	7,184
CYPRUS	1	101	ROMANIA	12	9,458
CZECH REPUBLIC	2	124	RUSSIA	5	3,610
DENMARK	3	19,371	SINGAPORE	2	6
ENGLAND	30	44,506	SLOVAKIA	1	2,374
FINLAND	10	6,000	SOUTH AFRICA	8	62,046
FRANCE	29	31,600	SPAIN	31	10,801
GERMANY	42	17,885	SWEDEN	5	1,671
GREECE	11	4,195	SWITZERLAND	4	504
HUNGARY	43	9,026	TURKEY	2	630
INDIA	3	48	UKRAINE	4	581
IRAN	1	123	UNITED ARAB EMIRATES	1	12
IRELAND	3	194	USA	265	264,507
ISRAEL	2	186	TOTAL	751	932,119

Table 2. AAVSO Observer Totals 2005 - 2006 USA by State or Territory*

<i>State</i>	<i>No. Observers</i>	<i>No. Observations</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>No. Observers</i>	<i>No. Observations</i>
ALABAMA (AL)	1	58	NEBRASKA (NE)	2	171
ARIZONA (AZ)	15	13,739	NEVADA (NV)	2	95
ARKANSAS (AR)	1	9	NEW HAMPSHIRE (NH)	2	6,855
CALIFORNIA (CA)	36	23,012	NEW JERSEY (NJ)	2	45
COLORADO (CO)	6	112	NEW MEXICO (NM)	7	56,878
CONNECTICUT (CT)	5	1,127	NEW YORK (NY)	11	5,815
FLORIDA (FL)	8	23,429	NORTH CAROLINA (NC)	3	15
GEORGIA (GA)	3	1,258	OHIO (OH)	8	588
HAWAII (HI)	2	1,288	OKLAHOMA (OK)	5	585
ILLINOIS (IL)	16	11,818	OREGON (OR)	2	38,594
INDIANA (IN)	7	4,724	PENNSYLVANIA (PA)	8	1,116
IOWA (IA)	2	1,160	PUERTO RICO (PR)	1	61
KANSAS (KS)	4	6,760	RHODE ISLAND (RI)	3	207
KENTUCKY (KY)	1	89	TENNESSEE (TN)	4	290
LOUISIANA (LA)	3	256	TEXAS (TX)	14	4,854
MAINE (ME)	3	3,403	UTAH (UT)	1	143
MARYLAND (MD)	14	2,359	VIRGINIA (VA)	6	446
MASSACHUSETTS (MA)	21	20,629	WASHINGTON (WA)	5	231
MICHIGAN (MI)	10	3,660	WEST VIRGINIA (WV)	2	666
MINNESOTA (MN)	7	6,181	WISCONSIN (WI)	9	21,748
MISSOURI (MO)	2	32			
MONTANA (MT)	1	1	TOTAL	265	264,507

* Please note that the table of individual observers and their totals (Table 3) will be posted on the AAVSO website (www.aavso.org) and will be published in the *Journal of the AAVSO*. Totals shown here include provisional Eclipsing Binary and RR Lyrae star numbers; final numbers will be included in the website and *Journal* tables.