

There was a wedding of two CFHT staff members on October 17, 1981 - resident astronomer Carol Christian and electronic engineer Patrick Waddell were married in Cincinnati, Ohio. Our congratulations and best wishes to them both.

Users manuals are now available for most of the fully commissioned instruments. Copies are normally provided to observers with assigned time on the instrument. Currently available manuals are:

- Prime Focus Camera
- Users Guide for ITT 90mm Image Tube
- CFHT Wide Field Corrector Objective Gratings
- CFHT Photographic and Darkroom Facilities
- Plate Baking Procedures
- 1872 Reticon at Coudé
- Coudé Spectrograph f/7.4
- RETICENT User's Instructions
- RTE FORTH User's Manual

Prime focus observers should note that two 10x10 inch filters have recently been broken - the OG 570 and the RG 610. Replacements are not expected before April 1982.

The National Research Council of Canada and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique of France have provided funds for the construction of our new base facilities to be built in Waimea. Construction is to start early January and should be completed in October of this year.

Staff changes

Edward TYLER, software technician, now has a permanent position with CFHT. Ed will continue to help with instrumentation software development.

Ken BARTON has been recruited as a telescope operator, replacing Meg Whittle at the controle console.

Charles POMASKI has been hired as observatory electrician. Charles has joined the crew at the summit.

Lori FICKES joined CFHT last July as a secretary. Lori has replaced Hannah Thornton in the front office.

Patrick WADDELL, electronic engineer, has come to CFHT from Kitt Peak National Observatory. Pat is responsible for testing and repairing instrumentation and telescope electronics.

Philippe BOURLON left CFHT on July 31, 1981 after six years of service to the Corporation. Philippe was in charge of the Instrumentation Program, and was closely involved with the early definition of most CFHT instruments. He has now taken a position with the new Franco-German Institut de Recherche en Astronomie Millimétrique.

Telescope Progress

The main features of this past semester were the commissioning of the Cassegrain bonnette and of the infra-red upper end.

The cassegrain bonnette arrived as scheduled and was tested on the telescope with the assistance of the Haute Provence observatory team during the month of July. Tests were very satisfactory except for flexure in use of the guiding mirror arms. This has been solved since but sky tests are required to confirm it.

The infrared upper end was modified during the summer months. First light was obtained on October 21, and the upper end worked perfectly. During the following days the Cassegrain upper end was also put on the telescope to check the mechanical and electrical parts. It is now ready for tests with the F/8 mirror in early 1982.

The polishing of the 1.8m cassegrain mirror itself has been completed by DAO, Victoria, Canada, and the mirror accepted in the shop in September. It is excellent except for two narrow inner grooves and a turned down edge which are probably acceptable. The mirror was delivered to CFHT in December and will be tested on the sky in April.

The telescope polar axis has been realigned both in azimuth and elevation. Drifts are now minimal except for tracking speed which still needs to be improved for manual operation (This effect is automatically corrected for under computer control).

The installation of the new prime focus module has been delayed due to a wrong process used during manufacturing. The faulty parts have had to be redone and installation on the telescope is scheduled for May 1982.

The primary mirror was realuminized in September. An excellent coating about 700A thick was obtained.

Following serious breakdowns and leaks in the dome, the dome has been completely overhauled during the summer and is now working smoothly. The rotation speed has also been increased by a factor of two thus reducing the setting time and shortening the time lost in accessing to and from the prime focus cage.

Finally an extensive remodeling of the observatory labs and rooms is underway as a result of the experience acquired during the first two years of operation. This will result in better efficiency and convenience for both the support staff and the visiting astronomers.