

Chris Miskiewicz – Historical Watson Research December 2013

I started a new hobby on the history of Paul Watson here is what I learned talking to Elmer Kreisel tonight and digging on the internet:

Paul Watson work as the curator for The Maryland Academy of Sciences as well as conducting Planetarium Shows. He taught astronomy at Morgan State during the summers. I plan to check in with Morgan State for more info. I am checking with someone at Johns Hopkins to see if Watson ever work there.

Paul interested in deep sky objects and rarely looked at solar system objects. I was thinking we could start a Watson Catalogue to include some Galaxies, Ring Nebula, Orion Nebula, etc A list of target to observe on opening night in his honor. There were photos taken with the scope but not sure were to start tracking them down, if it is even possible.

There were regular public viewing for the BAS every Thursday at Pratt Library before they were forced to move and become something bigger check here for history <http://www.mdsci.org/about/history/>

Towson University named there planetarium after Watson and Thomson King who were both prominent figures in astronomy at the time.

Paul was totally deaf. He wore a hearing aid to let people know he was deaf but it did not help him hear at all. He was an excellent lip reader.

The Magothy Observatory was located in Black Hole Creek off of the Magothy River in Anne Arundel County MD. Paul sold sections of his land when times were bad to in laws. They may be only living relatives. Paul's daughter was intellectually disabled, no other info on her.

Sister scope in Northwood MD family bought house in recently said they wanted to restore the observatory. I am going to try and contact them tomorrow. Article Below:

<http://static.squarespace.com/static/51301fa4e4b095f36e7103f4/t/522788eee4b0ba1abb1054d5/1378322670851/ONA%20Netwo rk%20-%20Fall%202013.pdf>

Both of the telescope's mountings were made by Joseph Woods who owned the house/scope mentioned above. The optics were made in Pittsburgh, PA by Flecker. I grew up in Pittsburgh and I plan to look into this company some more since I remember passing by a factory that had a lot of glass outside of it. Pieces like magnifying glass optics. I was a kid the last time I was in that area but would be amazing if it was the same company.

<http://www.mariamitchell.org/tag/fecker-telescope-company>

<http://www.philharrington.net/old50.htm>

<http://www.butler.edu/holcomb-observatory/history/jw-fecker/>

We should change the website about the Johns Hopkins to info above.

Elmer believes the telescope was a 12.5" but I am sure Marty Notice the size.

More to come...hopefully

Chris