The Upgrens visited Schenectady for a weekend in October, 1995 at the time of the Fall meeting of the Astronomical Society of New York. One of the topics that was discussed was the fact that Art would soon be completing 30 years of service at Van Vleck Observatory. Kristina suggested that we go to Middletown in April and celebrate the affair with a dinner. This idea soon grew to a much larger dinner to which local and more distant people would be invited. I then suggested that we celebrate the event with a two-day meeting at Van Vleck Observatory with the dinner being held on the middle evening. In the next weeks we checked with several astronomers in the area and we found wide support for such a meeting. A Scientific Organizing Committee was appointed of the following astronomers:

A. G. Davis Philip
Philip Lu
Peter Stetson
William van Altena

The Institute for Space Observations and Yale University were the initial sponsors of the meeting. Wesleyan University joined in supporting the meeting at a later time. We contacted former staff members, and graduate and undergraduate students at Wesleyan who had gone on to a career in astronomy. Over one third of the participants were from the former student groups. Institutions from which a group of astronomers attended the meeting were Yale University and NASA. Three Canadian astronomers attended the meeting as did one astronomer from Venezuela. The list of participants will be found on page xii.

We decided to call the meeting, "30 Years of Astronomy at The Van Vleck Observatory, a Meeting in Honor of Arthur Upgren". The people attending were invited to give papers concerning their work since they left Wesleyan. This gave us a program which covered many diverse subjects. Many of the participants had worked with Art and described work in common with him or work that had been suggested by previous collaborative efforts.

The banquet was held at Downey House, on the Wesleyan campus, on Friday evening. Peter Pesch gave the after-dinner talk followed by a number of shorter reminiscences by many in the group. On Saturday afternoon a reception was held on the back deck at the Upgren's home in Middletown.

Papers were prepared in ASCII format, for the most part, and emailed to Schenectady. WordPerfect was used to edit the papers. I made a wrong decision in trying to upgrade to WordPerfect7 in the middle of the process but the version I received was defective so I had to go back to WordPerfect6 to finish the job. Once laserjet copies of the papers were printed they were mailed back to authors for proofreading and the final text was prepared from the returned, corrected copy. This is a vital part of the editorial process and I thank
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the authors for participating in the editing of the proceedings in this way. Vytas Stražys and I had arranged that the proceedings of the meeting would be published in an issue of Baltic Astronomy, as a joint publication with the L. Davis Press. They will appear as the first part of Vol. 6 of the journal. Some style differences from that usually used by the L. Davis Press exist to match the style of Baltic Astronomy. The final pages of the index were typed into WordPerfect in the Upgren's home in February. After several more days of proofreading the manuscript was mailed to Vilnius for publication in Baltic Astronomy.

Wayne Osborn contributed a picture of the group which was taken on Saturday afternoon. This picture and the identifications will be found on the page xi.

I wish to thank Linda Shettleworth, at VVO, for her help in organizing the details of the meeting and for arranging the banquet at Downey House. Kristina Philip helped in proofreading parts of the book.

A. G. Davis Philip

02/25/97
Schenectady