

The death of A.G.I. on August 13 at the age of seventy brought a great sense of loss to his many friends and correspondents throughout the world. He never recovered from a serious road accident suffered almost a year before—through no fault of his. He was a member of our Association for thirty-two years.

His three books on *Amateur Telescope Making* will be a lasting memorial, but they represent only a fraction of his work to arouse the enthusiasm of his countrymen towards telescope making and astronomy.

Ingalls was born in the 'finger lake' district of New York State, and he liked to spend summers at his home-built log cabin on Lake Seneca and explore the region where his forbears, only a few generations ago, struggled with nature and the Indians.

He received his B.A. at Cornell University in 1915 and became assistant curator to a Philadelphian museum in the same year. After a short spell in a publishing firm he went to France with the American Forces from 1917 to 1919. Returning to America he married, and in 1924 became Associate Editor of the *Scientific American*.

At that time England was considered to be the leading country in the telescope-making hobby, largely through the work of the stalwarts of the old *English Mechanic*, including Ellison, Calver, and Hindle.

Ingalls had an ambition to extend the hobby to America, and he was now in a good position to do so. In 1925 he visited Ellison at Armagh and acquired the American rights for the newly published and excellent book *The Amateur's Telescope*. In 1926 this was introduced as the first edition of A.T.M. with additional matter and fine drawings by Ingalls' great friend Russell W. Porter (co-designer of the Palomar 200-inch and its Observatory). Later editions of A.T.M. were greatly enlarged with the experiences of advanced amateurs in America and elsewhere. In 1937 Ingalls published a companion volume, *A.T.M. Advanced*, which was a pot-pourri of much valuable information on instruments and observation gathered by him from many sources.

He had by this time fully achieved his ambition and had acquired a world-wide reputation for his monthly pages on *Telescopes* in the *Scientific American*. His correspondence with amateurs was massive—delightful letters with much native wit. They covered a wide field of interests, history and the humanities, as well as telescopes. Envelopes bulged with cuttings on the current topics and with letters in circulation among the active amateurs. His generous character endeared him to all and he gave his time unsparingly to all who wrote for help and guidance. When America entered the second world war, the optical capacity of the country was inadequate for the great needs of the forces. More particularly the great demand for roof prisms

(which need specially skilled work) could not be met in the first war year. Ingalls organized a Roof Prism Gang from among the advanced amateurs. Details and guidance were quickly circulated and thousands of prisms were produced—just filling the gap until factory production could take over.

Quite a few of these war helpers became professionals, and their firms are now dealing with the current great demand for astronomical telescopes in the U.S.A.—a demand which the work of Ingalls greatly stimulated.

Just before his retirement in 1955 he published *A.T.M. Book 3*, containing rather more advanced matter and data on modern designs—a book consulted as much by scientists as by amateurs.

Lunar craters have been named after both Ingalls and Porter and will help to perpetuate memory of his work. He is survived by his wife, a son, and a daughter.—H.E.D.