

Barbara - here's the Canopus notes  
I sent to Sam Lamborne.

- Love, Angela

#### CANOPUS, ST BURYAN, CORNWALL

OLIVER ROWLAND WALKEY (ORW) was an astronomer and regarded Canopus as the centre of the universe.

Land purchased about 1929 from farmer who sold the lower part of field to ORW, Clerk in Holy Orders, occupying the benefice of the Parish of Lanner, south of Redruth. ORW planned the long bungalow which was built by Mabbott, a builder who had his premises in Penzance, opposite the railway station. In accordance with his recurrent practice, ORW gave up the parish after a couple of years and moved the family into the bungalow now complete. This was about 1930. He intended to establish a tutorial school for backward schoolboys and introduced it with a small folder on the front of which stood his name plus "assisted by a small staff", and illustrated by a couple of crossed canes.

The bungalow was built on a slope and the soil removed to make a flat area was piled up on the lower aspect of the slope and later formed a rockery along the whole of the front of the building. While still in the benefice of Lanner ORW took exception to a number (about 12) of pine wood pillars bordering the chancel and one week, without obtaining a Faculty from the Bishop of Truro, and with the aid of a saw removed these. He took these down to the developing bungalow and erected them to form a pergola along the front of the house at the top of the sloping mass of soil which his wife later made into a rockery - the joy of her heart.

ORW's tutorial activities were applied to the three older members of his family to whom he dictated the mysteries of History, Geography and English Grammar. To these he applied his own personal interpretations. The four children at the lower end of the register were under the tutelage of an earnest resident evangelist, Philip Stott. Sometimes children from France who wished to learn English were accommodated in the many bedrooms - about 7 - and also boys from a boarding school in North Devon whose parents were planters abroad, during their holidays.

There was a stream running through the rather wild garden. It flowed southward eventually having its mouth in Lamorna Cove. ORW who all his life had adopted a daily cold bath as one of the tenets of his faith, imposed the same upon his 4 sons. They had to run down to the stream, in which he had made a small dam, naked to take a dip before breakfast every day. One of them reckoned that he could accomplish this rigorous ordeal in a few hundredths of a second.

Eventually plans many and various to generate an income failed to meet the needs of about a dozen mouths and ORW had to surrender his cherished Canopus to the creditors and went to live near the Lizard, and later to Australia.

Written by Dr Ben Walkey, second son of Oliver Rowland Walkey, and Lucy (Elisabeth) Walkey, eldest daughter of ORW.