



## 60 YEARS • ALBERT G. WILSON

Thirty years ago this Autumn, the world's first great Schmidt Telescope was put into operation on Palomar Mountain. This instrument could not only penetrate to great depths in space, but unlike other large telescopes, it had a wide field of view. It could photograph the entire bowl of the dipper in one exposure, while the 200-inch telescope would require scores of exposures to cover the same area.

I had the privilege of working with this telescope as it revealed for the first time what our universe was like to a distance of a billion light years. Many startling and exciting objects were discovered, some of them possessing great beauty, like the nebulosity on the cover.

I discovered this particular object early in 1949 and gave it the prosaic name of "Cone Nebula." Now I feel the nebula should have a

new name more in accord with its rich beauty: "The Madonna Nebula."