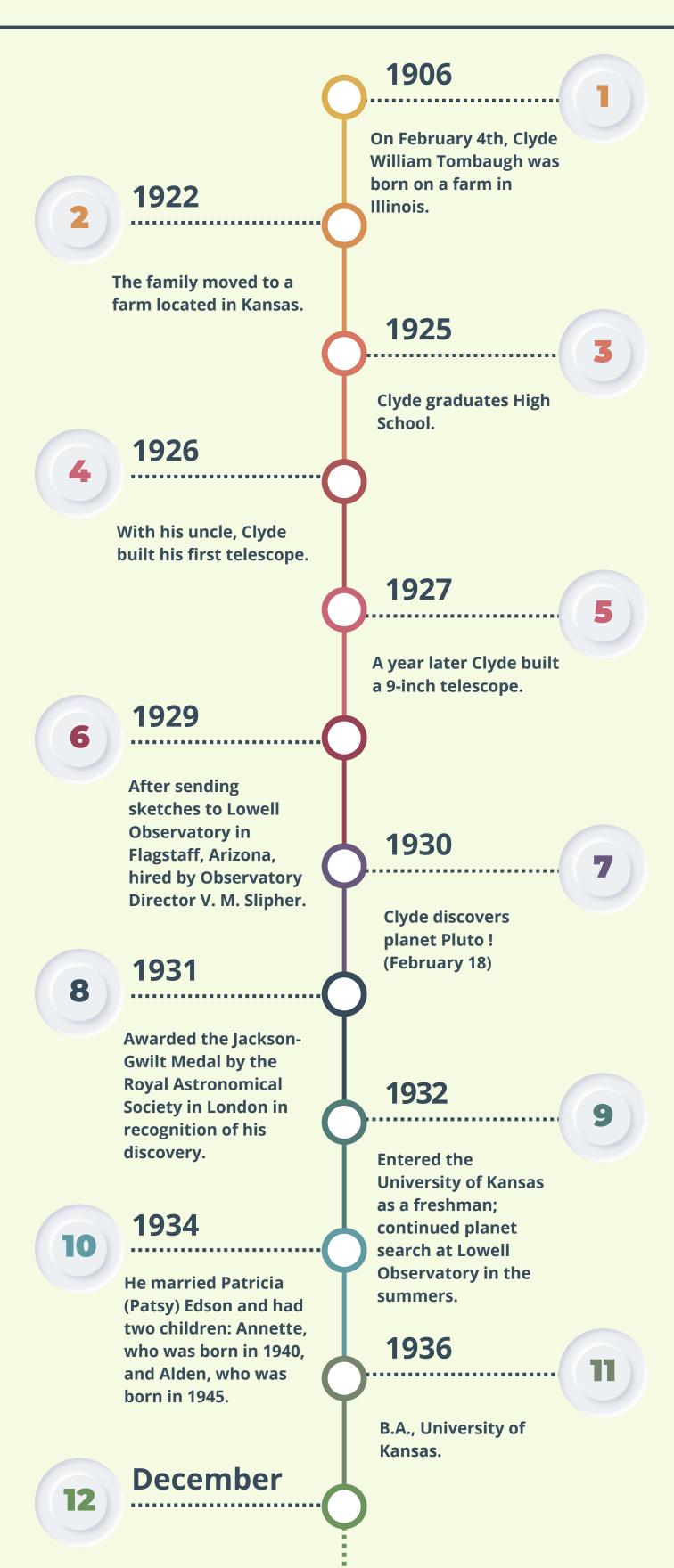
Clyde W. Tombaugh Biographical Timeline

Compiled by New Mexico State University Library, Photo Archives and Special Collections



M.A., University of Kansas.

Clyde W. Tombaugh Biographical Timeline

1946

Moved to Las Cruces,
New Mexico, to work at
the White Sands Proving
Grounds. He managed
the tracking telescopes
used to photograph
rockets and missiles
during test flights.

1958-1973

Initiated and led photographic Planetary Patrol of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn.

1960

6

8

10

12

Received an honorary doctorate from Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona.

1970

Successfully established Department of Astronomy doctoral program.

1973

Retired from NMSU as Emeritus Professor of Astronomy.

1997

Died at his home near Las Cruces, New Mexico (January 17). 1943-1945

Taught physics at
Arizona State Teachers
College (now Northern
Arizona University) in
Flagstaff.

1953-1955

Initiated and led Near Earth Satellite Search that was transferred to the Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

1959-1968

Started at the new NMSU Research Center as an associate research professor. In addition to the planetary patrol work, Tombaugh carried out projects studying the geology of Mars.

1961-1970

Taught astronomy halftime in the Department of Earth Sciences (renamed Department of Earth Sciences and Astronomy in 1965) while continuing research at NMSU Research Center.

1972

Dedication of the Clyde W. Tombaugh Observatory on the NMSU campus.

1980

Published Out of the Darkness, The Planet Pluto, an autobiographical account of the discovery. Awarded NASA Distinguished Public servant medal. University of Kansas names their observatory after him.

1

3

5

7

9

11