

# THE

# SPECTRUM

An Analysis of the Elements that make up the Buffalo Astronomical Association

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Editor P. Redding

## BAA TO HOLD OPEN HOUSE

## Dr. Chapman To Be Main Speaker

OPEN HOUSE TO BE HELD  
ON FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 1958 at  
8:30 P.M.

The Buffalo Astronomical Association will hold an Open House on Oct. 3, 1958 at the Buffalo Museum of Science Auditorium in Humboldt Park.

The purpose of this Open House is to interest the people of the Niagara Frontier in the wonderful subject of Astronomy.

Opening the Open House will be the Buffalo Astronomical Ass'n President Mr. Herman Elson who will give a short talk on the Buffalo Astronomical Association past, present, and future.

The main speaker will be Dr. Seville Chapman of Cornell Laboratories in Cheektowaga. Dr. Chapman will speak on the topic of "Satellites and I.G.Y." and their relationships.

Following Dr. Chapman's talk, Louis Reinagel will give a talk "Auroral And Meteor Observation during I.G.Y."

Following Mr. Reinagel's talk Edward Lindberg leader of "Operation Moonwatch" will give a report on the "Organization of Operation Moonwatch in Buffalo" also at this time the film "Operation Moonwatch" will be shown.

At the end of the meeting there will be the presentation of the film to the club

(FOR INFORMATION)

President, Herman Elson by the Moonwatch leader Edward Lindberg.

All the club members are urged to attend this Open House and support the club in presenting the "Buffalo Astronomical Association in the International Geophysical Year" to the public.

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### MEMBERSHIP DEADLINE

Members are reminded that their annual Dues are due by Dec. 3, 1958. Dues are payable at any of regular meetings or any other association gatherings at which the Treasurer is present.

For those who wish to mail their dues may do so. Just send a check or Money-order to: Buffalo Astronomical Ass'n

12 Manhardt St.  
Buffalo 15, New York

But remember the Deadline is Dec. 3 as after this date the membership list will have been compiled and printed for the Jan. meeting.

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Total Eclipse of the Sun, Oct 12, 1958 at 6:00 P.M. in the South Pacific invisible in the United States.

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REGULAR BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING TO BE ON OCT. 1 at 8:00 P.M.

The Buffalo Astronomical Association will hold its regular meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the Museum of Science in Humboldt Park at 8:00 P.M.

The program for the evening will include a fairly long business meeting during which time the revised constitution will be presented to the club and several other important issues will be discussed.

Following the business meeting there will be a series of films from Bell Telephone Company. Afterwards weather permitting there will be observation on the museum roof.

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COPIES OF REVISED  
CONSTITUTION AVAILABLE  
ON REQUEST.

Due to the fact that the the revised const. is 4 pgs. long and the cost of printing huge quantities is prohibitive, copies of it will be available only on request. They may be had at the meetings or by writing this paper at: BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOC. 2 NEW SOUTHGATE RD. BUFFALO 15, NEW YORK

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## CORNING MAKING 84-INCH "EYE"

An 84-inch disk nearly half the size of the world's is in production in the Corning Glass Works for delivery next June.

The new glass, the company said is for the Ass'n of Universities for Research in Astronomy. It will be delivered to the National Observatory at Kitt Peak, near Tucson, Ariz.

The delivery month will be the 25th anniversary of Corning's delivery of the giant 200-inch disk, the world's largest, at Mt. Palomar, Calif.

The new mirror will be 13 inches thick and will weigh two tons.

The cost of the mirror was not announced. It is being financed by the Federal Government.

## B.A.A. TO CONDUCT TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS

Beginning in Jan. 1959 the B.A.A. hopes to conduct a Telescope Making class. at the present time this idea is in the planning stage and can be put into operation only if enough members are interested. Anyone interested give your name to the Recording Secretary by writing this paper.

Remember only you can make this possible.

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## GET MORE OUT OF YOUR HOBBY by Lou Reinagel

It seems surprising that in this day, with great advances in the world of science going on about us, that many amateur astronomers should still think that telescope making is an art restricted for the pleasure of a select few. True it takes a great deal of experience and knowledge to shape a disk 12" in diameter but any person with average intelligence and patience is more than capable of constructing a 6" diameter instrument.

However, many people have started such a project with a mind confused by a cluster of terms and facts he has accumulated from the several texts on the subject. Thus he will find himself not necessarily making mistakes but more often getting discouraged by the failure of the proceeding project in meeting his expectations. Unfortunately most texts on the subject are written by semi-professional or professional mirror makers who lose the perspective of the neophyte and end up giving the reader a professional viewpoint which is difficult to analyze.

For the average person interested in this type of project, it becomes necessary to have assistance in this respect. This is why the Buffalo Astronomical Association is making mirror grinding classes possible for you.

## B.A.A. TO HAVE A CLUB LIBRARY

The officers of the club have decided that it is time for the club to have its own library. After enough books and pamphlets have been accumulated they will be kept in cabinet no. 5 in the Hall of Astronomy.

At the present the club has only 3 books and one pamphlet, and we could use some more books, most of these books will have to be purchased, but at the present time the club doesn't want to buy any.

So anyone who wishes to DONATE any books may do so as they will be greatly appreciated. Just bring the books to any of the meetings and they will be promptly added to the library.

These books may be borrowed for ONE month at any meeting and returned the next.

So please try and support this club project as it is for the benefit of all the members.

Questions from the  
B.A.A. Mailbag

Q. What is the largest asteroid?

A. Ceres, the first minor planet discovered. It is about 480 miles in dia. lag. is about 10.

Fig. 1 - By far the most practical telescope for the elementary telescope maker is this inexpensive 6" instrument. As a matter of fact, people underrate this type because of its simplicity of design. Actually it can give you years of enjoyment and can be built in a manner that will

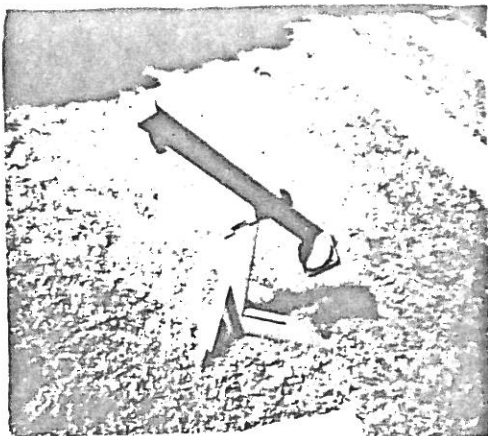


FIG. 1

familiarize the builder with basic concepts of telescope construction. The mounting is simply the threads on a 2" iron pipe but can even be steel axes set in wood or metal bearings as shown in photo. The feet are braced 2x4 and the tube, a 2x6 with simple prism and eyepiece holder. Photo courtesy: R. Duesching

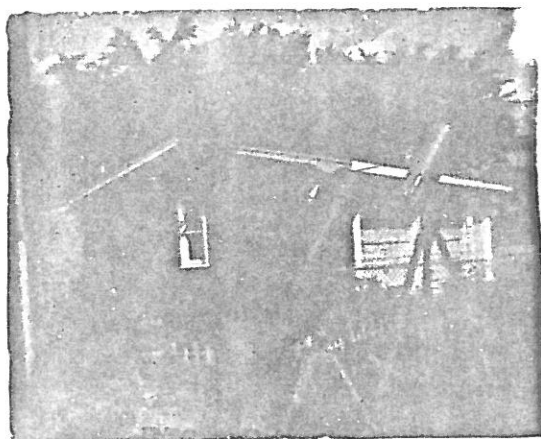


FIG. 2

FIG. 2 - The intermediate class of amateur telescope making has many offers to make as the photo to the left indicates. Most of the instruments in this photo can be made with the experience of having ground other mirrors and having had a little machine shop experience. From left to right the instruments are a pierced 12" Newtonian with open framework type of tube; a 10" Newtonian with a light-weight portable mounting; and a 6" Cassegrainian portable telescope. The Schmidt Camera in the foreground, although considered in the advanced class, can still be made by the careful worker with a few telescopes behind him. All or any one of these instruments can be used for photography if suitably mounted in a concrete fixed Equatorial with clock drive and a system of slow motion controls for each axis.

The telescope of particular interest here is the 6" Cassegrainian. (It should be here mentioned that all instruments in fig. 2 were built by Joseph Kovacik) This telescope uses a perforated primary mirror and a smaller, circular secondary where the prism of a Newtonian is normally placed to reflect light to the rear.

FIG. 3 - When a person reaches a point when he thinks himself of proper ability and experience, he usually thinks of limiting his observations to a field of research. Such was the case with Walter Semerau when he went into the work of logging solar observations by means of cameras. This recently taken photo shows his famous Coronagraph at the top with a optical tracking device mounted above it. Slung below the tube is a Spectroheliograph capable of photographing the sun in any element. Such is the world of an advanced astronomer. Photo courtesy- W. Semerau

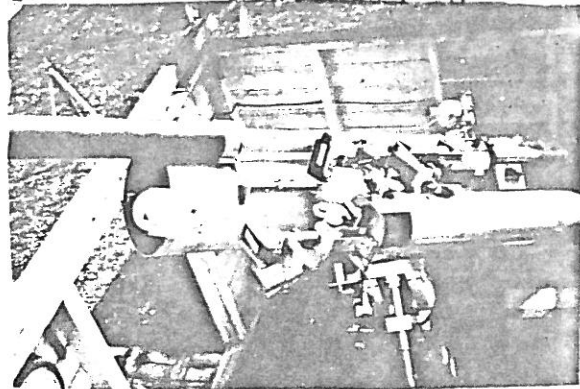


FIG. 3