

THE SPECTRUM

JUN 1963

BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR B. COOK

ELECTIONS AT JUNE MEETING

The B.A.A. will meet on Friday June 14th at 7:45 in the Buffalo Museum of Science. As required by our constitution, the annual election of officers will take place at this time. The following candidates have been tentatively nominated subject to approval by majority vote of the association's membership.

President - Ronald Clippinger

Vice President - Edith Geiger

Secretary - Louis Reinagel

Treasurer - Paul Redding

Ron will be standing for reelection to his first full term as president. He was elected to this office last November to succeed Herman Elson who moved to Florida. I think we will all agree that during his term in the presidency he has proved himself to be a very capable and well liked executive.

Edith will also be standing for reelection to her first full term as vice president. She became a B.A.A. officer when she succeeded Ron as vice president. As vice president she is chairman of the program committee and has been largely responsible for the highly successful programs we have had at our monthly meetings this past year.

Louis is a veteran of many years

experience as secretary of the B.A.A. and has always performed the duties of this office with great precision and reliability. Due to his efforts the business meetings have become models of efficiency.

Paul is standing for elected office for the first time, although he has been a B.A.A. member for a long time and is well known to all our members as membership-secretary, an appointed position, which he has ably held for a number of years.

Marjorie Meyer, who has been our treasurer for the past five years, has declined renomination for personal reasons. Marge has proven herself to be a very capable officer and member of the B.A.A., and we wish to express our appreciation for the contributions she has made to the success of our organization.

The business meeting will be followed by a very interesting program. The evening's speaker will be Thad Topoczky who will present a study of our nearest star. As with the other talks from the advanced Study Group series this past year, Thad's talk will combine a sizeable bibliography with firm analysis and argument in an effort to shed light on the numerous phenomena of the sun.

As usual, a refreshment and discussion period will follow the meeting.

MAY MEETING ENJOYED BY ALL

The May meeting, our first visit to the Niagara Falls Planetarium, proved to be highly successful. Everyone managed to locate the Planetarium without undue difficulty and was able to see the many fascinating capabilities of the large Spitz projector, efficiently demonstrated by Mr. Arthur Young of the Planetarium staff. Everyone agreed that the visit was well worth the extra effort it required to organize and plan it, and the time it took to make the trip.

BOOKLET TO BE PRESENTED AT JUNE MEETING

Edwin Banaszakhas, by using sources with which he has contact, been able to obtain for members of B.A.A. a very nicely printed edition of the outstanding address given by Edith Geiger at our January meeting. The booklet entitled Our Family of Worlds will be presented to all members attending the June meeting by Edwin Banaszak, who certainly deserves our sincere thanks and appreciation for all the efforts he put forth in making this generous gift to B.A.A. members.

SPECIAL ISSUE OF SPECTRUM DUE SOON

As has been our practice in previous years the B.A.A. plans to hold a series of Star Parties during the summer months in lieu of our regular monthly meetings which will not be resumed until September. Information as to time and place of these star parties is now being compiled and will be published late this month in a special summer issue of The Spectrum. Our star parties last summer were very successful, considering the weather obstacles we have in our locale, and we hope that this summer's parties will be even more successful.

ASTRO*ERRORS

Vanishing Trick by a famous Astronomer

"The way in which the author relates the explosion of a supernova to form the Sun and planets and then disappears into space as a black dwarf is quite fascinating." -

News item found in an essay on Fred Hoyle's "The Nature of the Universe" - written by a student at the University of Illinois, June 1958.

TELESCOPE TIPS

Although small telescopes work fairly well mounted on a tripod, their performance and the convenience of working with them can be considerably improved by mounting them on a pier or post.

The advantages gained are: 1. a greater rigidity in the mounting and 2. the elimination of the tripod legs which are often a nuisance when trying to observe at high elevations and are always a hazard to trip over on a dark night. These advantages make mounting your telescope on a pier well worth considering, even if you do not have the ideal location, that is, an unlimited horizon and freedom from annoying lights. If your best location only affords a view of the zenith areas, remember that this is the area where seeing is the best and all celestial objects are best observed when they are nearest to this area.

It is certainly not very difficult to make the mounting adapter on the top of your pier interchangeable with your tripod head, so that the telescope can be mounted on the pier or on its tripod at will. This will permit you the use of your telescope tripod for field trips or to observe those sky areas cut off from the position where you locate your pier. Piers for refractors up to 4" aperture and reflectors up to 6" in size are best made from a length of 4" diameter iron pipe. Its height should be such that when your telescope is mounted on it and pointed to the zenith, the eye end of a refractor should be 3 to 4 feet above the ground level; or the mirror end of a reflector should be 1 to 2 feet above the ground. Add 2 feet to this length for "bury".

The special summer issue of the Spectrum will continue this topic in which we will describe various ways of erecting your pier and ways in which to make it serve a double purpose.

115-1390

MRS. EDWARD COOK
33 BURBANK DR.
SNYDER 26, N.Y.

755-1121