



the spectrum



MAY 1965

THE BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

B. COOK EDITOR

MAY MEETING

On May 14th the Buffalo Astronomical Association will meet at the Museum at 7:45 P.M. We are privileged to have as our speaker Ed Lindberg, who will tell us something about his trip around the world. It will be a travelogue illustrated with slides. He will tell us something of his work in Thailand and particularly about how people in other parts of the world live. There will even be some items in his talk relative to astronomy.

We will have the usual coffee hour and possible viewing of Mars through the museum's 8" telescope.

INSTRUMENT SECTION

The monthly meeting of the Instrument section of the Buffalo Astronomical Association was held at the Newstead Observatory. The group inspected the observatory and reports the bad news that a. the roof leaks b. the shutter doesn't work smoothly and c. the dome needs reinforcing. These are not unsurmountable obstacles and the suggestions made for correcting them will now be followed through.

ADVANCED STUDY SECTION

The advanced Study section will hold its May meeting on the last Saturday in May, the 29th, at 1:00 P.M. in the Buffalo Museum of Science.

A new series of lecture discussion programs entitled "Measurement in Astronomy", describing the development of and application of mathematics and geometry to astronomy will be initiated on this date. This would be an ideal time for any member not yet attending these meetings to improve his astronomical knowledge and interests.

ALLEGHENY TRIP ON JUNE 12TH

We have had a very good response to reservation requests for seats on our chartered bus to the Allegheny Observatory. We are nearly booked full, as of May 2nd, but 12 openings remain. If you wish to be included in this group, please notify Edith Geiger. As we have to confirm bus reservations four weeks in advance, we are asking all those who have requested us to hold seats to send in, or bring to the May meeting, the balance owing on their reservations. The trip will cost \$7.00 per person. Please make checks payable to the Buffalo Astronomical Association.

Some of our members who are taking the trip might be interested in the possibility of an alternate visit to the Buhl Planetarium in Pittsburgh. We are checking into the details of this, but there would not be enough time to visit both the Planetarium and the Observatory.

Our excursion schedule is as follows: Saturday, June 12th-

1:00 P.M. Leave Museum of Science
6:00 P.M. Arr. Allegheny Observatory
6:00 - 7:00 P.M. Refreshments and Rest
7:00 - 8:45 P.M. Observatory tour
9:00 P.M. Leave Allegheny
2:00 A.M. Arrive Buffalo

LUNAR SECTION

At the May meeting of the Lunar Section of the B.A.A., observational reports were given by Edith Geiger, Fred Price and Ernst Both. The next meeting will be held on May 29th at 3:00 P.M. in the Museum of Science.

WHAT IS AN AVERAGE STAR?

1. The largest visible star has a diameter about 500 times that of the sun; the smallest star is nearly as small as the moon.

2. The hottest known star is about sixteen times hotter than the sun; the coolest star has a temperature about $\frac{1}{4}$ that of the sun.

3. The most luminous stable star emits about half a million times as much energy as the sun; the least luminous emits about one-millionth the energy of the sun.

4. The most massive star known has a mass about 50 times that of the sun and the least massive $1/100$ th that of the sun.

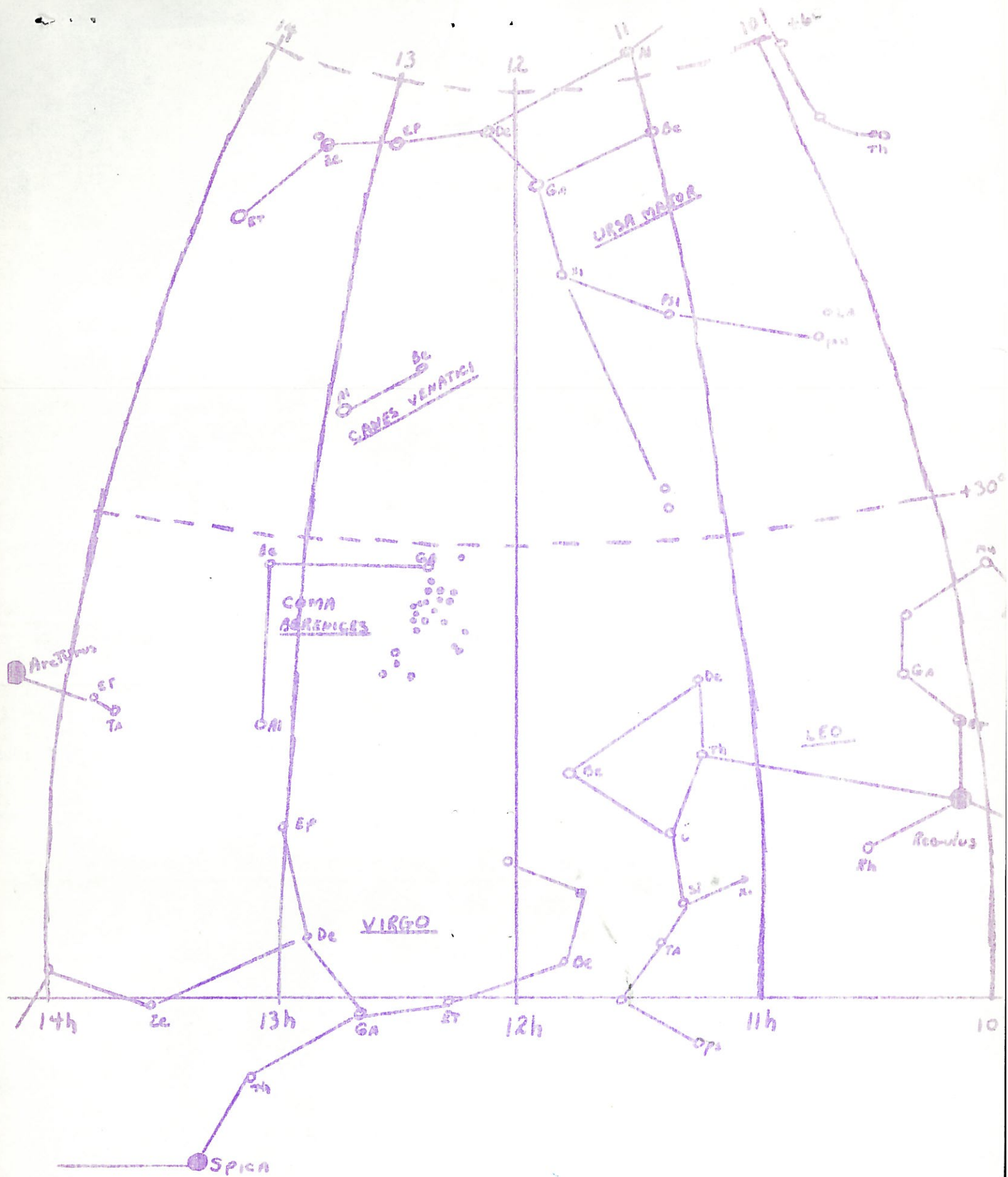
Obviously it is impossible to speak of an "average" star.

ASTRO*ERRORS

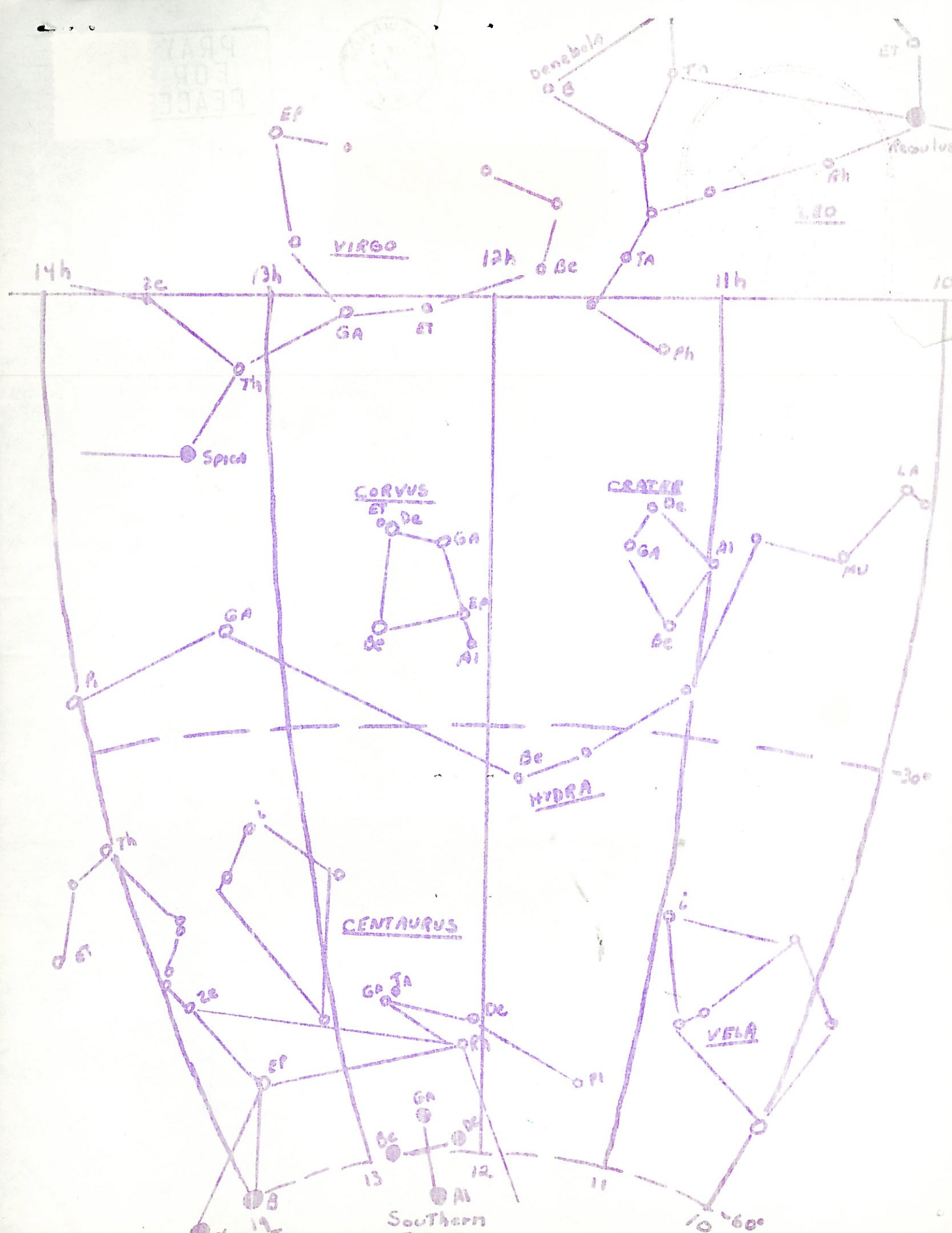
"The Oldest Amateur Astronomer"

As authority we quote the April-May issue of The Review of Popular Astronomy where we find two references to the late editor of Amateur Telescope Making, the three volume "bible" of amateur telescope makers.

"Albert G. Ingalls, known as 'Unk', wrote a column on telescope making in Scientific American for several centuries."

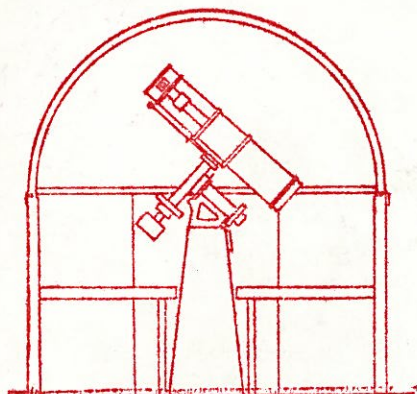


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