



the spectrum



FEBRUARY 1966

THE BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION

B. COOK EDITOR

B.A.A. MEETS FEB. 11TH

The Buffalo Astronomical Association will hold its February meeting on Friday the 11th at 8:00 in the Buffalo Museum of Science. As a very appropriate follow up of our last meeting, when we were entertained with a history of the B.A.A. Observatory and telescope, we will hear a talk by Darwin and Orrin Christy on the trials, tribulations and successes of building an observatory in their own back yard. This has been a six year venture which has culminated in what they call "Honey House Observatory". It should be most interesting to compare individual and group projects of this sort.

After the meeting there will, as usual, be a discussion and social period with refreshments.

ASTRONOMY COURSE

A college credit course in Astronomy is being offered on U.H.F., the Education Television station, beginning February 7th. It is entitled "Eye on the Universe" and will be taught by Dr. H.E. Crull, Planetarium Director and professor of Astronomy of the

State University of New York at Albany. There will be 47 half hour T.V. sessions on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays beginning February 7th and ending May 25th. Each lecture will be repeated three times a day - at 8:15 A.M., 12 noon and 6:30 P.M. so as to reach the largest possible audience.

If you wish to enroll in this course for the three college credits, Write to the State University College of Buffalo at 1300 Elmwood Ave. Buffalo, N.Y. 14213 for an enrollment form. The number of the course is AY4 Astronomy. Two exams will be given - one at mid-term and one at the end. The tuition is \$40.50 and you will be sent a syllabus and instructions when your application is accepted. Applications must be in by February 21st.

Even if you are not interested in college credits this course should prove very instructive for anyone interested in Astronomy.

SECTION MEETINGS

Due to conditions beyond our control the Advanced Study Section did not meet in January. The group will convene on Friday, February 25th at

at 7:00 P.M. in the Buffalo Museum of Science. The topic under discussion will be the same as that proposed for January - "Spectroscopic Star Classes".

The Lunar Section will meet the same evening at 8:30 P.M.

INSTRUMENT SECTION

On Friday, January 28th due to the snow storm, the Instrument Section was forced to abandon its plan to meet at the observatory and instead convened at the Museum of Science. Pessimists expected an attendance of 5 at the most but upwards of 15 showed up. Telescope makers are not intimidated by weather. Mirrors must be tested.

John Fojka, a former member, has again become very active and brought his focal testers.

Mr. Hazel and his son arrived with two mirrors. One tested out extremely well. The other was dropped and chipped but it will be kept for the purpose of showing how not to grind a mirror.

The group is particularly proud of 15 year old Ed Daulki who started with the group working on a 6" blank. Unfortunately he dropped this and broke it.

So he started grinding an 8" mirror. This also he dropped and broke. It would appear that instrument makers have butter fingers.

Not daunted, Ed began again with a 10 " mirror which he finished. It tested out pretty well and it was recommended that he prepare a tube for it.

Then Christmas came and Ed's parents gave him a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " blank. With unbounded enthusiasm and working entirely by hand he has set out on this, his biggest project. The know-how he has developed on his earlier attempts has stood him in good stead, and his progress has amazed the entire group. Ed is well on the way to becoming an expert craftman. Congratulations, Ed, and please- no more butter fingers!

BIG BANG

Notice to all Steady State theorists!

The current Reader's Digest has a neatly wrapped up, easily understood article on the Big Bang theory. Read it; it just might shake your faith.

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