



# the Spectrum



## XMAS MEETING

The annual Christmas meeting of the Buffalo Astronomical Association will be held at the Buffalo Museum of Science on Friday December 9th at 8:00 P.M.

Olga Lindberg will tell us about the "Eclipse of 1865 in Thailand". Her talk is historical in nature and will be illustrated with sketches and slides.

Edith Geiger will show pictures of ourselves as others see us on star lights in the summer. Those who cannot laugh at themselves will be excused during this part of the program.

There will be special gala Christmas refreshments. We suggest that your supper be a light one so that you can do justice to the cake, ice cream, etc.

## SECTION MEETINGS

Because of the busy holiday season there will be no section meetings this month. The schedule for the January meetings will be given in next month's Spectrum.

## MAGAZINE RENEWALS

A large majority of the magazine subscriptions for Sky and Telescope and Popular Astronomy are due to expire in January. Bruce Cook will again take care of your renewals and turn his commission over to the B.A.A. It would be helpful if those members who intend to renew their subscriptions would bring their money to the December meeting. Sky and Telescope is \$6.00 and Popular Astronomy \$4.00 for one year; reduced rates for longer terms. If you prefer to write him, his address is 33 Burbank Dr., Snyder, N.Y. 14226. His telephone number TF9-1396.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editors of the Spectrum welcome letters commenting on any subject relative to astronomy and in particular on subjects discussed in this news sheet. This month we are happy to publish the following from President Ron Clippinger:

In commenting on the recently published article "Where Is Everybody", I

would like to inject the following thoughts which are not strictly technical or astronomical in nature.

The author of "Where Is Everybody" correctly points out that any intelligent life in the universe wishing to observe us in a scientific manner would try to do so without revealing himself to the observed. This gives rise to the question: Is there any connection between our being observed and the reports of UFO's? For the sake of developing the argument let us answer with a tentative "yes" to the above question. This brings us to our second question: "Why have any of the observers been seen at all if the scientific method requires that they not be seen?"

To answer our second question- Why have they been seen at all? Firstly, they are seen by a tiny minority of the human population. I am concerned only with those sightings by reliable observers which are still listed as UFO's even after investigation. It has been the sensationalism of the unreliable observers of UFO's that has magnified the actual number of sightings out of all proportion to reality. May it not be that even our more intelligent observers have not perfected a mistake proof scientific method of observation.

The zoologist observing a tribe of gorillas may not be aware that he has been momentarily partially detected by one of the tribe who does not spread the alarm when unable to detect any further cause for alarm. The zoologist does not know exactly how well developed the detection senses of the gorillas are or, moreover, what interpretation the gorilla will give to the impressions he does receive. This is part of what the zoologist is attempting to discover.

In similar vein intelligent observers from elsewhere face the same problem in observing life on the earth. In other words, the relatively few reliable sightings of UFO's could result from errors in the observing technique made by the observer who has to face certain risks if he is to carry out his program of observation.

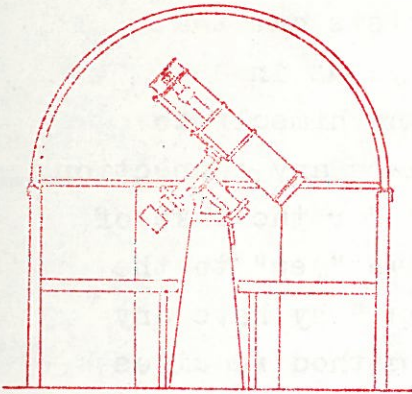
#### NEW MEMBERS

The members of the Buffalo Astronomy Association are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Mr Charles Burbules  
Mr. William Gallagher  
Mr. Roger Schmidt

Mr & Mrs. Lazzarolla  
Mr. Michael Lakshull  
Mr. Jack Hakin





Buffalo Museum of Science  
Mr. Ernest Both  
Humboldt Pkwy  
Buffalo, N.Y.  
14211

