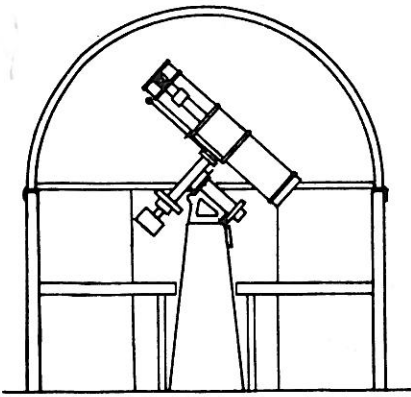


The

Spectrum

M A Y 1969



MAY MEETING: Please remember daylight saving time - our May meeting (May 9, 1969, 8:00 PM, EDT) will feature Mr. George T. Keene from Rochester, N.Y. His topic - ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY. Mr. Keene has been associated with Eastman Kodak since 1952 and has recently been involved in the Lunar Orbiter program. To amateurs interested in astrophotography he is well-known through his articles in Sky and Telescope and his book "Star Gazing with Telescope and Camera." George Keene has done graduate work at MIT (Master's in Chemical Engineering) and at the University of Rochester. He is a past president of the Rochester Academy of Sciences and a Fellow of the Rochester Museum of Science. It is our privilege to welcome Mr. George T. Keene!

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EDITORIAL: As Mr. Chapman pointed out at the last meeting, Mr. Erland committed some errors of fact in last month's article. The decision to table the proposed Nature Study Center was reached not by the full Board of Managers of the BSNS but rather by its Executive Committee. One of the main reasons was the problem of security in a relatively remote area (there are, however, any number of ways for solving that problem). More fundamentally wrong were other statements by Mr. Erland which I personally would like to briefly correct: the "lack of funds" issue is not merely an excuse but a very real, albeit sad, fact which is shared by many other museums, chiefly I suspect, because museums are still considered by some to be items of luxury rather than necessity from an educational viewpoint. And this museum is not merely "hanging on" - we have made some advances and anyone with an open eye can come and see them. I will agree that these advances are often painfully slow. But I am sure Mr. Erland knows why this is so - funds for one. At any rate I do not wish to carry this much further since THE SPECTRUM is not the place to argue about the merits of this or other museums. Below is a sample of reactions to Mr. Erland's article. Ernst E. Both. ***

ED LINDBERG: The last Spectrum was a fine production, with thought provoking articles. My compliments and thanks to yourself and to the writers. I am sorry to hear that the East Aurora project may not materialize, but, hopefully, there may be a way to arouse more interest in the Newstead Observatory. ***

CARL KALBIT: In the spring of 1959 a group of members met at Ed Lindbergs to discuss the proposed observatory ... toward the end of the evening a statement was made ... to the effect that unless the project was finished within a year or two, it could drag on and on and perhaps never be finished. Unfortunately this comment seems to have turned into reality ... the observatory has never been really finished.

The original reason for building the observatory seems to have been forgotten: a) it was agreed upon that a larger instrument, permanently mounted, would be better than a multiplicity of small portable ones; b) the observatory would be the nucleus around which the club would work and grow, rather than each person attempting to build his own.

To remedy the present, sadly neglected situation, I propose the following: 1. The shutter should be made operable. 2. The mirror should be aluminized rather than silvered. 3. The present door lock is not reliable in cold weather. If it can't be fixed, replace it. After the above items have been completed, a permanent director should either be appointed or elected. This person would be responsible for the maintenance and program of the observatory. He would make sure that when a member arrived to use the facilities, they would be in working order. In conclusion I would like to say that when I first joined the group in 1956, it was a "tea and crumpet" society. Since then it has changed and has accomplished a great deal. I hope that the recent apathetic trend is a passing one. ***

We have also received several anonymous letters, mostly supporting Mr. Ireland. While we do not like to publish anonymous material, we have selected two - one in support, the other for laughs.

BAA NATURE LOVER: Thanks to Mr. Ireland for his outspoken letter in last month's Spectrum concerning the rejection of the planned Nature Study Center by the BSNS Board of Managers. It is rather startling to realize that the Museum of Science would be so narrow in its thinking as to turn down the projected Nature Study Center which is rich in natural beauty, and which would encourage awareness of the excitement of learning from nature. The transfer of the BAA telescope from Newstead to the Center would make the telescope available to more people (with special concessions for BAA members) and offer greater facilities than are present at Newstead. I hope the Museum Board will give the Center some very serious thought before turning it down altogether. * * *

A REALIST: Is Mr. Ireland really a crackpot? This talk of a Nature Center is pure poppycock! After all, any day now California is going to sink into the ocean, and the earth is going to collide with a careening planetoid, so what's the sense of building up a beautiful area for people to enjoy. Save your money. * * *

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FOR SALE: 8-inch mirror, f/8 (1/10th wave) "panchro mirrors" - aluminized.
\$ 45.00, call 684-3850, after 5:00 PM.

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* TWO NOTES ON CELESTIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. * By Orrin D. Christy

1. Focusing the Telescope: By far the easiest way to focus the telescope-camera system is to have a camera with a single lens reflex system. Unfortunately, many of the cheaper and middle-priced cameras on the market do not have this system.

A common and convenient way of coupling the camera to a telescope is by using the camera, with its lens, coupled directly to the eyepiece of the telescope. Using this, the afocal system, the camera lens is set to infinity, and

and the telescope is focused. Focusing may be done with the eye, however a more accurate method is usually needed. For this, hold a low power spotting scope previously focused to infinity to the eyepiece of the telescope. A finder scope, or a pair of binoculars can be used for this, but it should be less than about 10 power. Holding this up to the eyepiece, now focus the telescope as best as it can be focused. Since this system has a very high power (= power of telescope times power of spotting scope) the images will not be sharp, but the sharpest image that can be obtained will be at the precise point of focus of your telescope.

2. High-speed color emulsions: With the advent of more rapid emulsions and better techniques, color films now are made fast enough to use in astronomical photos. Ansco originally came out with their Anscochrome 500, which has a film speed of ASA 500. (Tri-X Pan == ASA 400, Plus-X Pan == ASA 160). This is excellent for star pictures, but much resolution is lost on the moon and planets with its coarse grain. Kodak's fastest commercial color emulsion has been High-Speed Ektachrome with a film speed of ASA 160. But with a new special process, ESP-1, the film speed is raised to ASA 400. This is without any loss in the relatively fine grain it has. The price is about one dollar extra for processing. It is fine to use with its faster speed and fine grain, for detail on the moon and planets. The response to orange light is somewhat reduced in the process, thus eliminating the characteristic reddish tinge found on many lunar photographs. But it is extremely sensitive to mercury vapor lights, which flood the sky from street lights and fog the picture.

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** IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ** BAA ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT ** IMPORTANT - N O T E **

The astronomy department of the Museum of Science will sponsor an exhibit of celestial photographs taken by members of the BAA. We invite everyone to submit prints of photographs of any astronomical object or event, of any size and shape. Prints should be unmounted, at least 4 X 5 (preferably 8 X 10 or larger) and should be accompanied by the photographers name, address, instrument used, time, date of the event depicted, and any other information necessary for a better appreciation of the picture in questions.

Prints should be mailed or otherwise submitted to: Ernst E. Both, Curator of Astronomy, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, N.Y. 14211 before May 20, 1969. There is no limit to the number of photographs an individual may submit; however, depending on the number of exhibitors, we reserve the right to make selections. Photographs will be exhibited in glass cases, either in the Hall of Astronomy or in Room 302.

This is your chance to show what you have done with your instrument - and to show it to a large audience. Moreover, this is your chance to support both your association and the museum with which it is affiliated. Let's have a 200% response!! Remember - any and all astronomical subjects, color or black-and-white, any size within reason, and any number within reason. eeb.

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* SPY AND TELL: * Our sincere congratulation and best wishes for a very happy future go to former president of the BAA - Ron Clippinger - on his marriage to Miss Amelia Pezek (April 19, 1969, at Holy Trinity R. C. Church in Niagara Falls). Paul Redding served as Best Man, Ernst Both one of the ushers. Spotted the Geigers,

the Rabes, the Schuarts, the Lindbergs (all BAA) at the Wedding. Mr. + Mrs. Clippinger all in astronomical smiles as they came down the aisle. * * * The Reddings (Paul and Diane) happily expecting to increase their family ... * * * Congratulations to Dale Hankin for his prize-winning lunar work at the recent science congress - well done!! * * * John Riggs, usually peering into the extra-galactic wild blue yonder has taken up lunar photography with very excellent success. Hope you submit it for the upcoming exhibit, John! * * * Bob Burdick has taken some very fine comet and deep-sky photos, once in a while he furtively shows them to a few members, let's see them in the open - they are very fine, Bob ... * * * Our President (BAA that is) has moved again - when will your peregrinations stop, Fred? Herewith latest hide-out: Dr. Fred Price, 580 Potomac Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14222, phone 882-1306... * * *

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IN MEMORIAM: Kurt Erland, 1895 - 1969. It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the death of Mr. Erland, just as we go to press. Very few of our members ever met Mr. Erland, although his name was becoming familiar to the readers of the Spectrum, most recently in his letter dealing with the proposed Nature Study Center. Mr. Erland joined the BAA in the 1930's, when it was being formed by the late Mr. George Davis - as a matter of fact, the two were, as far as I know, very good friends. By profession Mr. Erland had been a teacher, although retired for the past 10 years due to poor health. As far as I know, he pursued astronomy only in an arm-chair fashion, although he apparently possessed a fairly good private astronomical library. For the past three weeks he had been in Boulder, Colorado, visiting relatives and apparently died of a heart attack. To my knowledge he does not have any family in this area. I shall personally miss him greatly, since I knew him more intimately than most. I shall miss his contributions to the Spectrum. eeb.

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