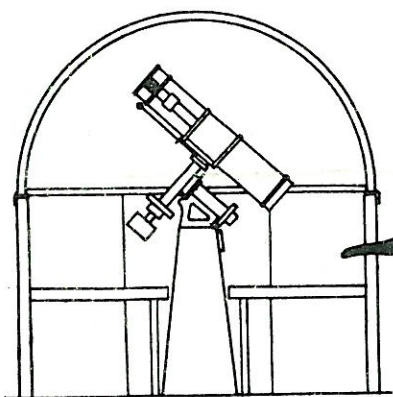


# THE

# SPECTRUM



BUFFALO ASTRONOMICAL ASSOCIATION INC.  
BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE  
HUMBOLDT PARKWAY  
BUFFALO NEW YORK 14211

JUNE 1969

JUNE MEETING : TRIP TO STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM, ROCHESTER, N.Y. : Friday, June 13, 1969 (be there at 7:45 PM, EDT): Please note that we will meet in Rochester, at the planetarium, 663 East Ave. DIRECTIONS: take N.Y. Thruway to exit 46 (= West Henrietta); from there take U.S. 15 north (= West Henrietta Rd.) for about 6 miles to Highland Ave.; make a Right turn into Highland, through Highland Park (for about 8/10 miles) to Goodman; there make a Left turn into Goodman, go for about 1.8 miles to East Ave.; there make a Right turn into East Ave. and the Rochester Museum will be a short distance from the corner (Goodman/East) on the right side of East Ave. The Planetarium is next to the Museum. The public planetarium for that evening is "MAN AND THE UNIVERSE." THE SHOW BEGINS PROMPTLY AT ~~8:00 PM~~. DOORS WILL BE LOCKED, LATECOMERS WILL NOT BE ADMITTED TO THE PLANETARIUM AFTER START OF SHOW. ~~Admission is \$ 1.25 (students 75 ¢),~~ *Free* tickets will be reserved for B.A.A. members. After the public show, Mr. Ian McClennon, Director of the Strassenburgh Planetarium, will present a lecture to our association dealing with the operations of the planetarium. *Changed to 9 PM*

PLEASE NOTE: We are driving to Rochester individually - allow at least 1½ hours to get there. THOSE WHO NEED A RIDE please contact Mrs. Edith Geiger at 833-4138; remember late comers will not be admitted to the public show, but will be able to attend the demonstration and lecture by Mr. Ian McClennon afterwards at 9:00 PM. The entire program should be over by 10:00 PM, so that everyone may be home by midnight. Needless to say - the Strassenburgh Planetarium will provide you with a very unique experience, inasmuch as this is easily the most modern installation anywhere today. We are very grateful for Mr. McClennon's arrangement of this tour. Our thanks also to Ed Lindberg and especially Edith Geiger for arrangements at this end.

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SUMMER STAR PARTIES WILL START IN JULY - a special issue of the SPECTRUM will reach you soon with the details and (hopefully) usable maps.

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B.A.A. ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT: If you have not as yet submitted your photographs for this important exhibit, please do so at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please contact Ernst Both at the museum, TX 6-5200. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of photographs from the following: Robert Burdick, Dr. Seville Chapman, Dale Hankin, John Riggs, Walter Semerau, and Walter Whyman.

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TO OUR PRESIDENT - DR. FRED PRICE - A PLEASANT TRIP TO ENGLAND. TO DALE HANKIN - CONGRATULATIONS ON WINNING IN THE N.Y. STATE SCIENCE FAIR \* \* \* \* \*

\* TO ALL B.A.A. MEMBERS - A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.\*

Mr. Fred W. Price

I am acutely aware of the fact that although I have been your President for nearly one year (Tempus fugit!) I have written very little in the pages of the "Spectrum". For quite a few months I have promised Ernst Both that I would be sending in articles but have not yet done so. He is a very patient and uncomplaining man and deserves our unreserved praise in the fine job that he has done and is still doing in producing our newsletter. He deserves our full and continuing support. Soon I shall be flying to England to visit my parents for the summer (June 5th to August 27th) so I thought that I should write these few lines as I will not be able to be with you at the June meeting.

My absence during the summer means that for the second consecutive year I shall be unable to attend the summer star nights, which I regret. I remember with affection those first summer nights of observing when I was still quite a newcomer to the BAA. I hope to bring my parents to the USA for a vacation next summer and so I hope to be able to join the star parties then.

Some of you may be surprised to learn that during these trips to England I actually observe the Sun with my worthy three-inch refractor. I delight in sketching sunspot groups and maybe when I next return I shall display some of these efforts on the front table during one of our meetings. Maybe if in so doing I can convince just one or two members possessed of small telescopes that quite a lot can be seen even with 2- and 3-inch telescopes, then my labors will have been more than a pleasurable pursuit for they will have served a useful purpose. Our friend Ernst Both has more than once rightly remarked that our astronomical observations do not necessarily have to result in contributions to the general body of scientific knowledge in order to be worthwhile; the time is well spent even if it only enlarges our own personal knowledge and appreciation of the starry heavens. Today, much emphasis is placed on creativity and productive scholarship in most spheres of scientific inquiry. However, I stoutly maintain that we should not lose sight of the fact that the purely appreciative and self-illuminating type of scholarship is just as important, if not more so, if we are to be a cultured and educated people.

The time has come when myself and the BAA Board Members need to discuss the program for next year and whom we are going to have for speakers. I am confident that we will have no difficulty in finding willing and able people and I might add that I plan myself to inflict on you yet another lunar lecture. We are also on the look-out for fresh speakers; please contact me or other Board members if you wish to speak at a meeting - now is the time of year to get your candles from under the bushel. This year we were fortunate in hearing presentations given by two of our younger members, Dale Hankin and John Riggs, this being their first talk. I hope that they and other of our younger astronomers will give talks in the future. Just recently I wrote a letter to Mr. Henry C. King of the McLaughlin Planetarium in Toronto. I am hoping that I can persuade this noted astronomer to come to Buffalo to address our Association at some time in the coming year. Please keep your fingers crossed. If I achieve nothing else as President of the BAA (but I hope I will!) I shall feel that if Mr. King does consent to come and give us a talk, then my tenure of that coveted office will not have been entirely lacking in tangible achievement.

As most of you will know, during some of my recent visits to England I have met Mr. W. H. Paxter, Director of the Solar Section of the "big B.A.A.," and have been treated to views of the Sun in his home solar observatory. During this summer, I



plan to visit another notable, this time a lunar observer, Mr. K. W. Abineri, who is well known for his beautiful delineations of lunar features. Those of you who are familiar with the pages of "The Moon" by Wilkins and Moore will have seen Abineri's splendid drawing of the crater Schickard, which is typical of his style. He observes with an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch reflector from his home in Wembley Park, a suburb of London and just a short bus ride from my own home.

My departure for England will occur a few days before the June visit to the Rochester Planetarium, so this will be another interesting experience which I shall be unable to share with you. I am sure that it will turn out to be a great success as I know the star nights will be. I look forward to meeting you all again at the September meeting. In the meantime, my best wishes for a happy and relaxing summer.

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\* COMMENTS ON THE USE OF THE NEWSTEAD OBSERVATORY.\* By Dr. Seville Chapman

To get the key at Cornell Lab requires that most people go out of their way. For anyone who would travel from west of the airport and south of the Kensington Expressway the extra time is zero. For people living north of Main and west of the Youngmann Expressway the extra time is 7 minutes. For people who would travel past Transit Road and Genesee, 4 minutes. For someone east of Newstead, 18 minutes, in all cases, each way. For almost all our members this time burden of 15 minutes or less round trip is not significant in an observing evening of several hours.

It is clear that getting the key is not the real reason people don't use the observatory. The advantages of Newstead are a better sky than closer in, plus guard protection against vandalism. If current arrangements at Cornell are not satisfactory, most likely they can be changed. The future ownership of the Laboratory is not a factor. If someone can devise a financial arrangement for a center elsewhere, adequately protected, where there are more people who would use the telescope, then I would support a proposition to move it.

COMMENT by Ernst E. Both: Speaking as a Board Member of the BAA and as one who played some sort of a role in proposing the moving of Newstead Observatory, I heartily concur with Dr. Chapman the "getting the key is not the real reason" - it may be one of many. The original suggestion of a move was made only because in the late Mr. Hall's plans for a Nature Center there was room for an observatory. I felt then that it would be natural to affect a closer alliance between BAA and BSNS. It would have meant that Newstead Observatory would get far more use (from students, public, etc.) than it can ever get where it is now. As long as it is only the concern of the BAA, one could not think of a better location than the present. Needless to say, we all are extremely grateful to Cornell Lab for allowing us its present location. Unfortunately, the bitter truth of the matter is that currently the observatory is used perhaps 3-4 times per year. To my mind, such extremely marginal use hardly justifies an observatory.

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\* DEEP-SKY OBSERVING IN JUNE.\* By John Riggs

The June sky brings into view the rising summer Milky Way. There are innumerable objects coming up this time of year, so don't just look at the ones I have selected from the ten or so brightest Messier objects, but venture off on your own to the neglected deep sky objects tucked away in the folds of the Milky Way. Located in Ophiuchus north of  $\chi$  are three globular clusters, M 9, NGC 6342, and NGC 6356. All are easy to find, being located near a triangle of 6th magnitude stars. NGC 6342 with the 10-inch reflector is just a small faint, hazy patch; M 9 at low power is a fuzzy

haze, but at high powers the outer portions of the globular cluster are resolved. NGC 6356 is again a faint hazy patch, but hints of resolution can be seen at high powers. Moving up to the northern border of Ophiuchus and Serpens Cauda, located between Theta Serpentis and 72 Ophiuchi are two extremely beautiful open clusters, IC 4726 and NGC 6633. Both clusters are magnificent and readily visible in the 6-inch reflector at 32X. NGC 6633 stretches across the field of view like a silvery band of star dust. Both of these clusters can be seen effectively in the suburbs.

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SINCEREST APOLOGIES, WITH A VERY RED FACE: Due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, I announced the death of Mr. Kurt Erland in the May issue. I am sure our readers will be happy to learn that he is alive and well. The death-notice I received from Mr. Erland's landlady, Mrs. Maria Paolini, referred to the death of Kurt Erland's brother, Karl. My apologies and deepest sympathy are extended to Mr. Erland. Herewith a brief excerpt from a recent letter by Mr. Erland: "... I suppose there aren't too many people who manage reading their own obituary! I can only tell you that it is a really weird feeling .. Unless you object seriously to my effusions, I shall again send some articles now and then .... at the moment I don't know when I'll be back in Buffalo..." (eeb)

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\* HOW MANY STARS? \* By Kurt Erland (submitted February, 1969)

Modern estimates place the mass of our galaxy near  $2 \times 10^{11}$  solar masses. That is to say, if all the stars have the same mass as our Sun, there would be some 200,000,000,000 stars in our galaxy. Suppose you were to draw an accurate picture of our galaxy in which each star were represented by a dot (.), and suppose further that you were to produce five dots each second without ever stopping, then you would have to start the dotting process somewhere in the year 700 A.D. (in a rough calculation) to finish by the year 1969! \*\*\*

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Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc.  
c/o Buffalo Museum of Science  
Humboldt Park  
Buffalo, N.Y. 14211



FIRST CLASS

Mr. & Mrs. Duane J. Lundell  
4495 East Overlook Dr.  
Williamsville, N.Y.  
14221