



the Spectrum

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

Editor: Ernst E. Both

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MAY MEETING: We had originally planned to visit the Strasenburg Planetarium in Rochester for our May meeting; however, since we were unable to make suitable arrangements for such a visit, we will hold our meeting on Friday, May 14, at 8:00 PM (EDT) at the Buffalo Museum of Science, as usual. The program will be somewhat informal, consisting of astronomical slides and short reports by some of our members on their various recent astronomical activities. This is your chance to get to know your fellow members better, and we hope for a big turnout. COME ONE, COME ALL AND PARTICIPATE!!!

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* The B.A.A. Instrument Section Meeting, March 26, 1971. *
By Warren Steinberg.

The earlier part of the March 26 meeting of the Instrument Section was spent testing Darwin Christy's 12.5-inch mirror which showed, under Ronchi and Foucault tests (and after Ed Lindberg's confirmation) a badly turned edge. We were also willing to try out the train test (for a perfect mirror) but we lost the train schedules (maybe next time, Darwin). Other happenings: Rudy Neuhauser and Warren Steinberg displayed two types of three-legged spherometers; Ron Poling discussed fiberglass (tube) making; Rudy Buecking spoke on optical designing, and Irv Goetz, Frank Fronczak, Bill Gehrke, Tom Dessert and his brother, and Vern Siegel discussed various news on mirror making and observing.

Since Gretchen Schork expressed dismay how terrible it was to waste a good observing night, the meeting was moved to Newstead Observatory where we met Richard Janas. Besides doing some observing on a number of open clusters and double stars, we couldn't help but notice the necessary work needed and supplies required to keep the observatory in working conditions. These include: 1) repairing slow motion controls (perhaps motorize same in both axes); 2) improving the shutter movement (dome shutter); 3) mounting alignment; 4) improved dome drive; 5) a wheeled observing seat; 6) adjusting the setting circles; 7) chart table (with small red light); 8) photographic equipment; 9) small night lights (those which we had mysteriously disappeared); 10) make the dome more watertight - all of these were approved by Ed Lindberg, who directs the observatory.

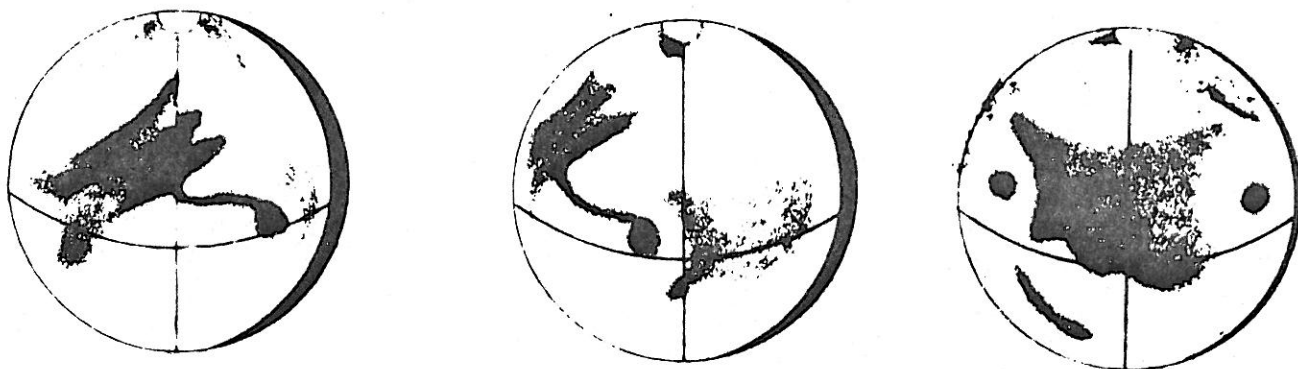
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* Some Thoughts on Light Pollution - Mostly Emotional * By Kurt Erland

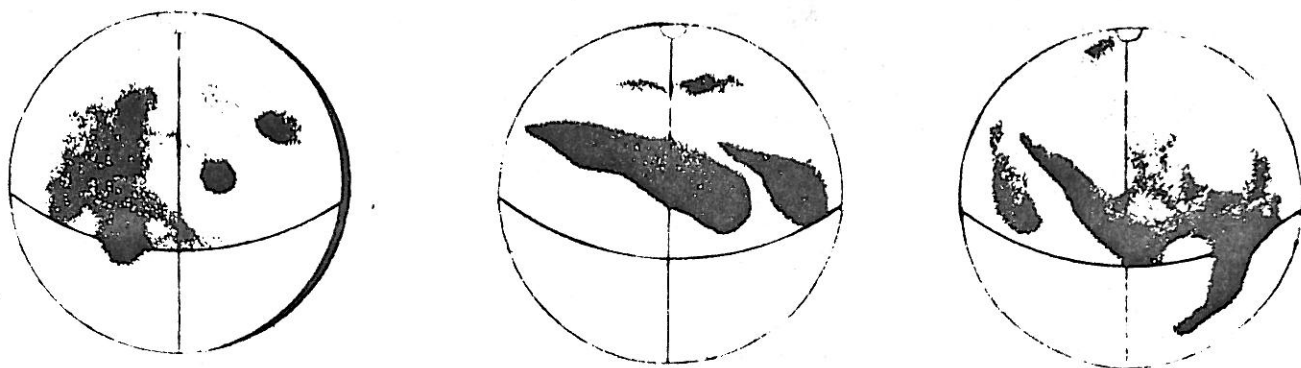
Recently the national press has alerted the public's attention to the plight of the large observatories threatened with extinction due to increasing brightening of the night sky by light pollution. Mt. Wilson is nearly dead, Mt. Palomar is dying rapidly, and even Kitt Peak is beginning to have convulsions, to say nothing about the observatories on the east coast. As everyone knows, night observing from the city is well-nigh impossible, save for the Moon and planets, and a few odds and ends. Recently the Buffalo Museum of Science has installed a battery of powerful lights to illuminate this edifice (largely for propaganda purposes) and I will readily admit that driving down the Kensington at night it is a splendid sight, imitating the Albright-Knox

Duration of Northern Summer to Southern Summer = 19 : 15; Intensity of sunlight,
Northern Summer to Southern Summer = 20 : 29.

Assuming that the heating of the planet is in relation similar to the illumination, it follows that the southern hemisphere has shorter, but warmer summers than the northern one. On the other hand, the southern winter will not only be longer, but also much more severe because of the greater distance from the Sun. This agrees with the observations of earlier astronomers who noticed the south pole spot even when the south pole was turned away from the Earth, indicating that it can reach down to latitude 45° S, while the same does not hold true for the northern spot.



From left to right: drawings made October 20 (7:52), October 20 (10:20) and October 13 (8:23). Notice the effect of rotation in a period of about 2½ hours between the second and third drawing. The round spot on the first and second drawing (and near the left edge of the third drawing) is the Meridiani Sinus with the Sabaeus Sinus stretching to the left. The triangular marking stretching below the equator on the first drawing is the Syrtis Major, one of the most conspicuous markings of the Martian surface. The third drawing shows the round Solis Lacus (round spot near the right edge) which has sometimes been called the "eye" of Mars. The drawings are arranged to show all sides of the planet and do not follow a chronological order.



From left to right: drawings made October 13 (10:28, compare with third drawing above, made about two hours earlier), September 27 (10:30) and September 24 (11:41). All drawings by Beer and Mädler. The first drawing shows Aurorae Sinus near the center of the disk with the round Solis Lacus above the equator and to the right. The large dark marking on the second drawing is Cimmerium Mare with Tyrrhenum Mare to the right. The prominent marking near the right edge of the third drawing, stretching below the equator, is Syrtis Major. On all of these drawings note the small souther polar cap. South is on top. While the actual rotation of the planet is from right to left in the inverted image, the nightly apparent rotation is from left to right, as arranged here.

* Election of Board Members, June 11, 1971 *

At our Annual Business Meeting (June 11, 1971) we will hold election for three members to our Board of Directors. Darwin Christy and Walt Whyman, both having served two terms, are the out-going members and we thank them for their conscientious and faithful service. Neither is eligible for re-election at this time. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following double slate: Robert Burdick, William Chambers (second term), Irving Goetz, Mrs. Sylvia Mosure, Dr. Fred Price, and Darl Washburn. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor at the June meeting. Please give this matter your earnest thought and consideration.

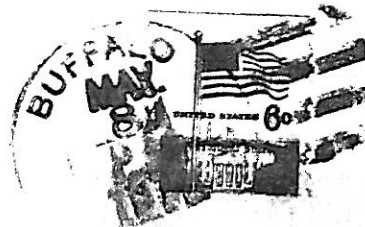
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DAYTON, Ohio Meeting, Saturday, June 19, 1971: Included with this issue is a general announcement of the Apollo Rendezvous sponsored by the Miami Valley Astronomical Society of Dayton, Ohio - this meeting is to be a get-together of amateur astronomers and telescope makers, combined with a telescope fair. It will begin on the evening of June 18th, but most of the program will take place on the following day, including several paper sessions. Guest speakers will include Dr. F. Story Musgrave, astronaut, and Dr. Kenneth E. Kissell, Ohio State University astrophysicist. If you are interested in attending or participating, write to: The Miami Valley Astronomical Society, Headquarters in the Apollo Observatory, 2629 Ridge Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45414. ***

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THIS WILL BE THE LAST ISSUE OF THE SPECTRUM YOU WILL RECEIVE IF YOU STILL HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES. PLEASE SEE EDITH GEIGER AT THE MAY MEETING IF YOU ARE AMONG THESE.

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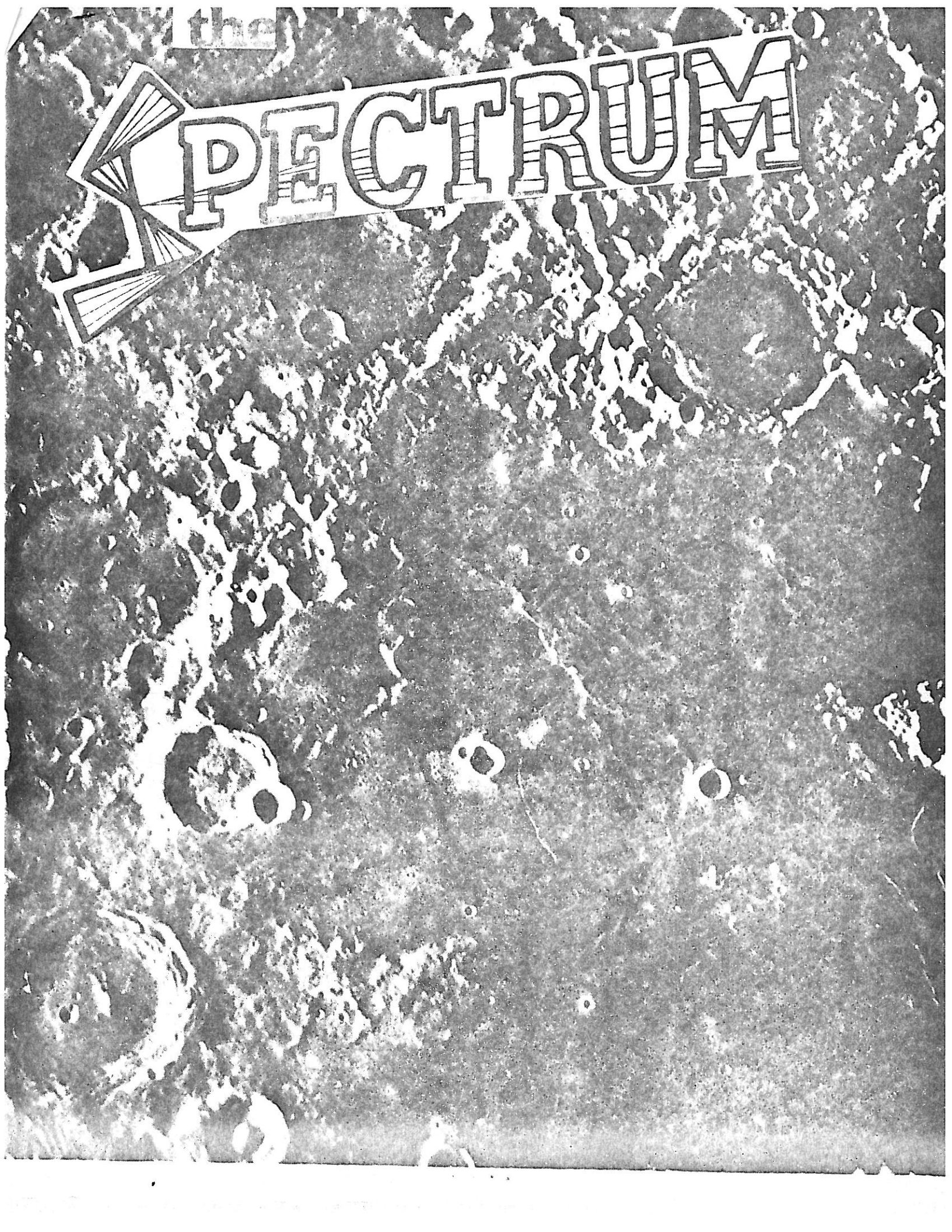


FIRST CLASS

Mr. Walter Whyman
193 Oak St.
Batavia, N. Y.
14020

the

SPECTRUM



*The Miami Valley Astronomical Society
will host a convention of astronomers
and amateur telescope makers, on June
19th in the APOLLO OBSERVATORY at the
Dayton Museum of Natural History, to
be known as ---*

The First Annual **APOLLO RENDEZVOUS** *and Telescope Fair*

This announcement is being sent to amateur astronomers, astronomical societies & clubs, and ATM's ---- inviting their participation. It is hoped that the central location will make it convenient for both east and west coast enthusiasts to join midwest amateurs in an exchange of information and ideas at this meeting. Notice is being given at this time, so that projects now under way can be scheduled for completion in time for their entry in June.

Amateur-built telescopes & related instruments will compete for awards in a variety of categories, including a junior division. A panel of well qualified judges will rate the entries on the basis of optical and mechanical excellence.

Amateur astronomers are invited to enter scientific papers and discussions illustrated by astronomical slides. It is expected that all areas of amateur astronomy will be covered by the papers and slide presentations accepted for the Apollo Rendezvous. Both senior and junior (under 18) papers will be read.

A key-note speaker with a world-wide reputation in his field will address the gathering.

There are large exhibit areas for displays of an educational nature from NASA, manufacturers, and developers of astronomical and space related equipment, and from the manufacturers of telescopes & accessories.

The spacious workshops, meeting room, and lobby of the Apollo Observatory will be augmented by the facilities of the Dayton Museum of Natural History with its Tait Auditorium and Planetarium. A pavillion in adjacent Triangle Park will also be used for the Telescope Fair and other exhibits.

A special program at the Dayton Museum of Natural History Planetarium will be followed by an informal "Show and Tell" session for Those who wish to arrive on Friday evening June 18th. Individuals and representatives of astronomical societies & clubs are invited to bring their slides and photographs and participate in this event. Advance registration forms will carry a space for notifying the committee of the intent to show slides and provision will be made on the Friday evening program for as many as there is time for --- on a first come, first served basis.

Future bulletins at two month intervals will be sent to inform you of developments in our plans. If you know someone who would be interested in entering the contest or just attending APOLLO RENDEZVOUS and Telescope Fair, please send us his name and address at your earliest convenience.

Suggestions will be welcomed and should be sent to:

APOLLO RENDEZVOUS Committee
Mr. Robert Wetz, Chairman
Apollo Observatory
2629 Ridge Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45414

