

the Spectrum

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

Editor:
Lawrence M. Carlino

JULY - AUGUST 1978

SUMMER STAR PARTIES: The traditional summer star parties are scheduled for each Friday night during the months of July and August. In the event of inclement weather, Saturday will become the designated day. All star parties will begin at sunset and last until ?? Whatever the date and wherever the location, bring your telescope, binoculars, or other equipment in order to take full advantage of the spectacularly dark viewing locations available to us. The dates and sites are as follows:

July 7 - Camp Sprucelands (Friday only. If cloudy, alternate is on Saturday at Beaver Meadow.)

July 14-15, July 21-22 - Beaver Meadow

July 28-29 - at the Dessert's (see map)

August 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 - Beaver Meadow

August 20 - BAA PICNIC at Chestnut Ridge Park (see map)

August 25-26 - at the Miess's (see map)

* * *

There's nothing new about the BAA holding summer star parties. Twenty years ago the August 1958 issue of The Spectrum gave these sites for star parties:

Bowmansville	- Leader: Ed Lindberg
Silver Creek	- Leader: Carl Kalweit
East Aurora	- Leader: Bob Kirchgessner
Ellicott Creek Park	- Leader: Louis Reinagle

Can you imagine having a star party at Ellicott Creek Park in this era of light pollution?

This August 1958 Spectrum was the first edited by Paul Redding; and, I believe, the first issue of the BAA newsletter to carry the masthead The Spectrum. Before then, it was called BAA Bulletin.

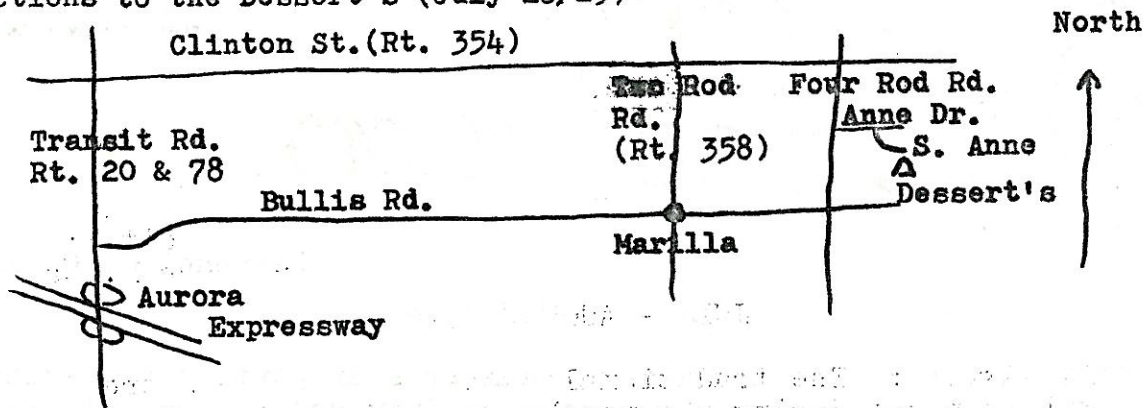
Rowland A. Rupp

* * *

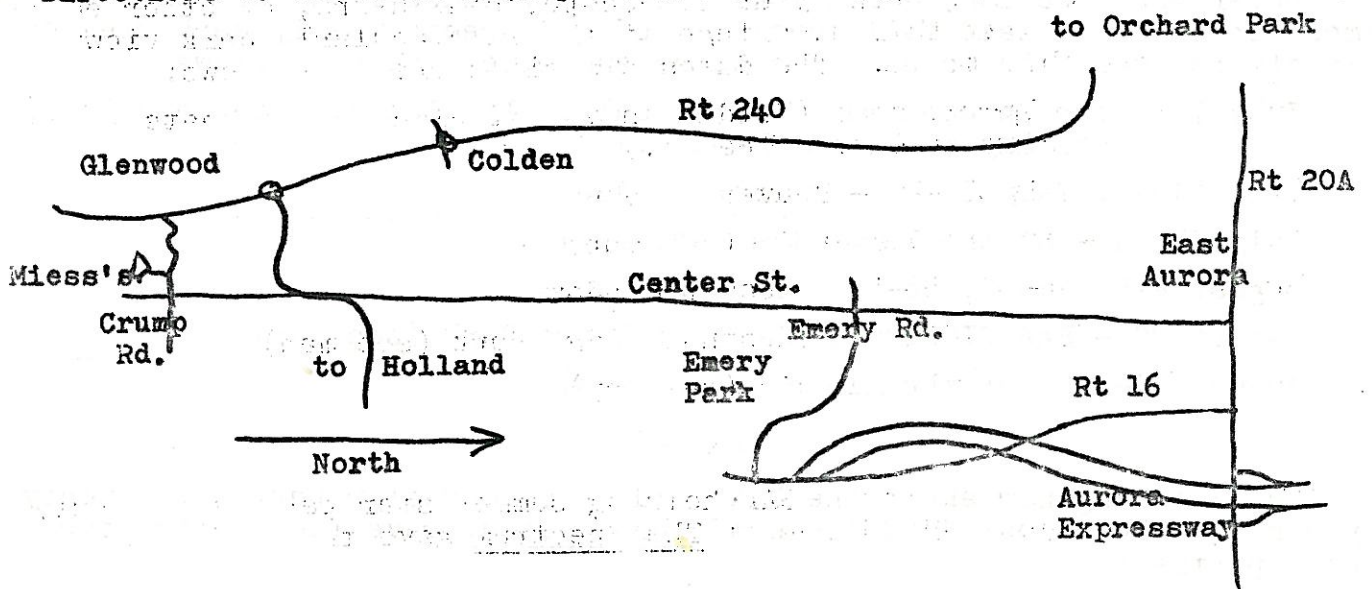
Former BAA president and long-term member Rudy Buecking is convalescing in California and would very much like to hear from club members. His current address is:

Rudy Buecking
Santa Monica Convallarium
1320 - 20th Street
Santa Monica, California 90404

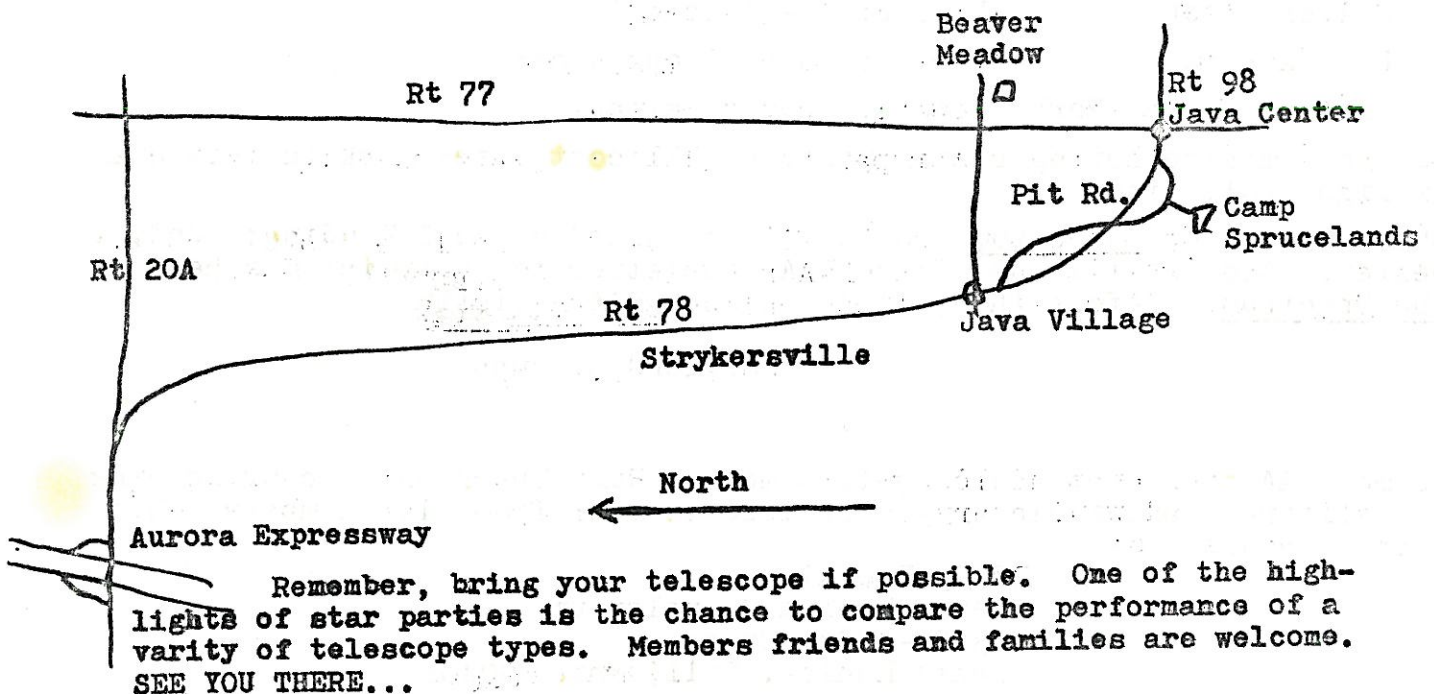
Directions to the Dessert's (July 28/29)



Directions to the Miess's (August 25/26)



Directions to Camp Sprucelands (July 7)



Remember, bring your telescope if possible. One of the highlights of star parties is the chance to compare the performance of a variety of telescope types. Members friends and families are welcome. SEE YOU THERE...

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT
of PARKS AND RECREATION

CHESTNUT RIDGE PARK

For reservations,
call:

Tom Dessert, 652-5530

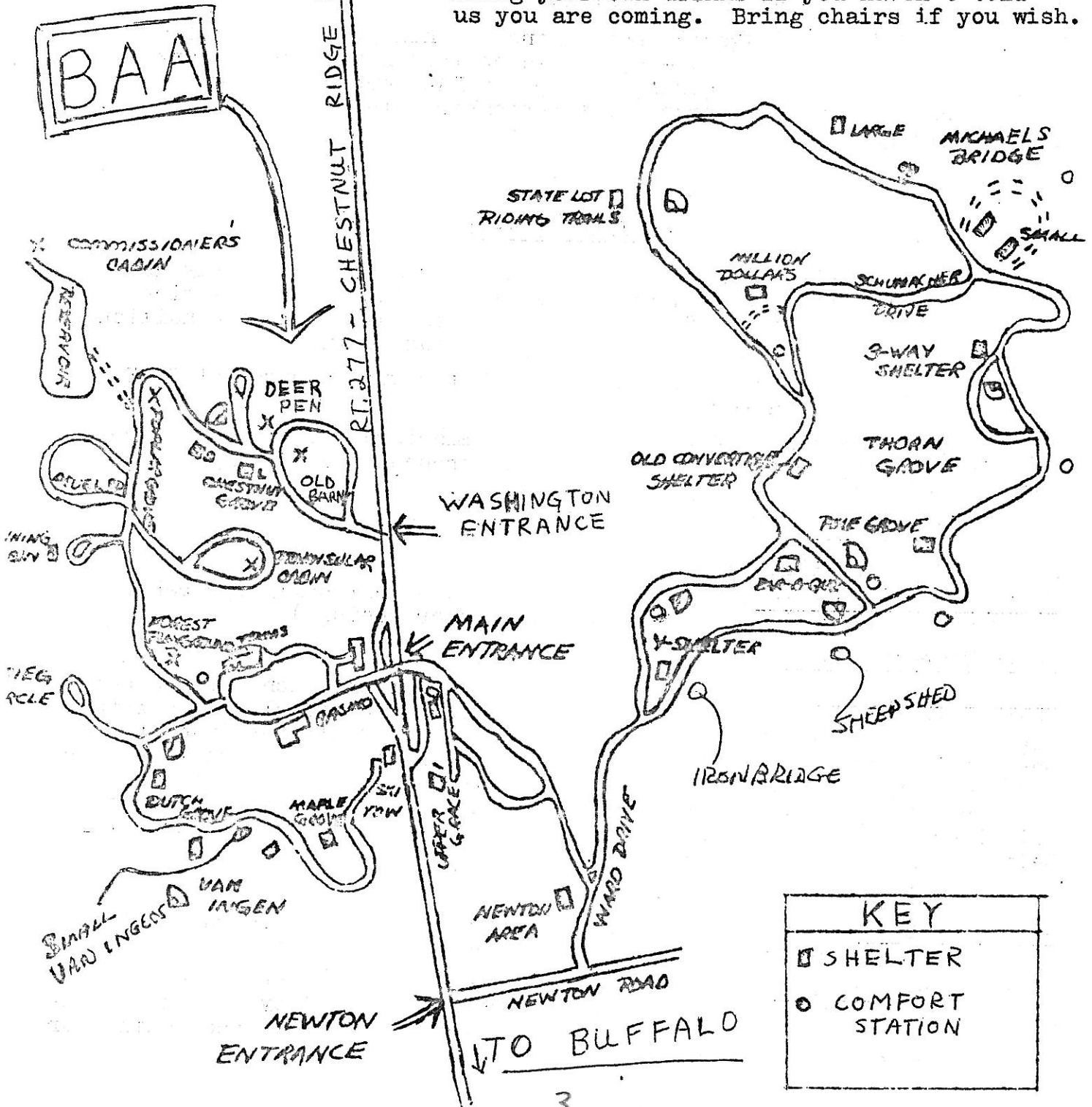
or

Rowland Rupp, 939-1842
before August 13th.

SELFERT
RD.

BAA PICNIC: All BAA members and their
families on Sunday, August 20, 1978,
1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., Deer Pen Shelter,
Chestnut Ridge Park.

Bring your own meat and charcoal and a
dish to pass (salad or dessert). The BAA
will provide drinks (beer & pop) for all
who make reservations before August 13th.
Bring your own drinks if you haven't told
us you are coming. Bring chairs if you wish.



BUSINESS MEETING: The BAA's annual business meeting was held at Buffalo State College on Friday, June 9, 1978. A summary of the year's general meetings was given by Fred Price. Secretary Rowland Rupp reported on the activities of the Board of Directors. Other brief reports were given by Tom Dessert, Edith Geiger and Bob Mayer on Beaver Meadow Observatory, Membership and the Instrument Section respectively.

The following members were re-elected to club offices for the 1978 to 1980 term:

Fred Price -	President
Ken Biggie -	Vice-president
Rowland Rupp -	Secretary
Joe Provato -	Treasurer

Edith Geiger's report on members' extracurricular activities added a light-hearted surprise to the meeting.

NOTE: Bill Deazley suggests that anyone planning to go to Stellafane for the weekend of August 4 - 6, should contact him. Carl Milazzo announced that he is organizing a trip for BAA members to the David Dunlop Observatory near Toronto for September 30th. Contact him if you want to go.

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JUPITER 1977-78

The 1977-78 apparition of the planet Jupiter was a particularly good one since opposition occurred almost exactly at the Winter Solstice. The northern declination of Jupiter is greatest under these conditions and hence affords the best opportunity for good seeing.

The telescope used was an eight-inch reflector with a power of 224X. Sixteen full disc drawings were made.

The general appearance of the planet is summarised below; there are some interesting differences from the appearances seen during the 1976-77 apparition.

South Polar Region. Pale, dusky, no detail seen.

South South Temperate Zone. Bright.

South South Temperate Belt. Faint, glimpsed occasionally (probably not seen at other times because of rather poor seeing.)

South Temperate Zone. Bright.

South Temperate Belt. Narrow, dark. Third most prominent of the belts next to the North and South Equatorial Belts. Occasionally seen with a light bay ('Oval') indenting its southern edge. No longer fused for part of its extent with the South Equatorial Belt as was seen last year. A large segment apparently missing, in extent equal to about three quarters of a hemisphere in longitude. Whether this missing segment coincides in position with the segment fused with the South Equatorial Belt last year was not determined.

South Tropical Zone. Bright.

Great Red Spot. Faint, pale pinkish color, oval shape, intruding into the South Temperate Belt and South Equatorial Belt.

South Equatorial Belt. Broad and fairly dark, similar appearance to last year. Great Red Spot forming an indentation or 'bay' in the southern edge and the belt dividing into two components (north and south) for some distance to the following end of the bifurcation.

Equatorial Zone. Quite dusky in some longitudes, lighter in others.

Equatorial Band. Faint but distinct (not seen last year).

North Equatorial Belt. Seems fainter than last year, now of about the same intensity as the South Equatorial Belt. Has not the 'turbulent' appearance of last year. Divided into two components (north and south), the south component the broader of the two, the two components separated by a very narrow light rift. Occasional wisps and blunt protuberances seen on the southern edge.

North Tropical Zone. Bright.

North Temperate Belt. Faintly seen at times (probably obscured at other times by poor seeing).

North Temperate Zone. Bright.

North North Temperate Belt. Faint, glimpsed rarely, again probably poor seeing making it difficult to see at times.

North North Temperate Zone. Bright. Short horizontal dark linear condensations sometimes seen in this region.

North Polar Region. Dusky, more extensive than the South Polar Region. No detail seen.

* * *

BAA PROFILE

Edward Lindberg

Ed Lindberg joined the Amateur Telescope Makers and Observers in 1949, before the name of the organization was changed to the Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc., and he has been a steadfast and enthusiastic member ever since.

This friendly, warm gentleman was born in a suburb of Pittsburgh, of Swedish parentage. When he was five years old, his father bought a farm in Mayville, N.Y. where Ed spent his boyhood midst the picturesque countryside of rolling hills and waving fields of grain.

At an early age, Ed became interested in the wonders of radio, and learned its workings all by himself. After building a "ham" radio set, he received a license, and found endless excitement in contacting other "ham" radio operators from near and far.

After graduating from Mayville High, Ed found himself confronted with the depression years, with jobs hard to find. He said goodbye to the country and headed to the big city. He found work in Buffalo in a radio shop where he repaired radios, another skill that he learned by himself. He spent his evenings learning railroad telegraphy in the old Lackawanna depot at the foot of Main Street. He was employed by that railroad, but later transferred to the New York Central Terminal where he worked as a telegrapher for three years.

Electronics held a great fascination for Ed and in much of this area he was self taught. He decided to further his study of the subject by going to night school and taking courses in electronic engineering, while still working as a telegrapher.

With Ed's knowledge of electronics, he found work at the Wurlitzer Company as an electronic technician. Some of the juke boxes you may have heard could have been, in part, the work of versatile Ed.

Realizing the importance of a college education, he decided that he would, somehow, obtain a college degree. He enrolled as an engineering student at the University of Buffalo. In order to go to school, he had to continue in a full time job as an electronic technician in local industries. Working a full time job while being a student takes great stamina and determination. For sixteen years Ed kept his goal before him. There was, however, some time taken from his studies when he took a year off to build a telescope, and when he found that work hours interfered. Finally he was awarded his well-earned B.S. degree in physics.

Ed is a very gifted man. At a state convention in Rochester he won the speed championship for western New York in receiving Morse code. His record was copying forty words per minute, with a pencil, for three minutes without an error.

Photography has long been one of Ed's hobbies. The quality of his work is such that the Courier Express has used three of his pictorial colored photographs on the cover of the Sunday magazine section of the paper. His black and white shots have appeared from time to time in both the Courier and the Buffalo Evening News, and also in several magazines on mechanics. Perhaps you recall seeing, a few year ago, his pictures on maple sugaring, as well as other news shots.

Astronomy has had a strong hold on Ed since he was a child. Ed's father was interested in astronomy and his interest was captured by his son. Ed used to lie on the ground at night and gaze at the clear open sky with its many stars. As he did not have a telescope, he became a fine naked eye observer, and with the aid of some star maps he learned the constellations. The starry heavens were always to be a part of his life.

It was through the B.A.A. that Ed learned optics. He joined Rudy Buecking's telescope making class, and made a mirror under Rudy's direction. Ed continued his interest in telescope making and built a 6" telescope; started an 8" which was interrupted by electronic projects; made three optical flats; made the fine mirror for our Beaver Meadow telescope, and has helped over one hundred other telescope makers with their instruments. He ground the 8" mirror for the spectroheliograph at the Buffalo Museum of Science, an instrument for obtaining solar spectra. He has headed the very successful instrument making section of the B.A.A. for over ten years. Because of Ed's knowledge of telescope making, he was, for several years, a judge at the Stellafane Conventions.

One of Ed's greatest accomplishments was undoubtedly his major role in founding the NFCAAA (Niagara Frontier Council of Amateur Astronomical Associations) which has brought together eight area clubs for meetings twice each year. The exchange of knowledgeable speakers made possible by the organization's meetings and the general exchange of ideas and techniques has been a boon to amateur astronomers throughout the Western New York area.

In 1964, Ed was honored by the B.A.A. in being one of the first four members to be elected to the College of Fellows. He was cited for his long active membership as well as his past presidency of the B.A.A.; for his leadership of the Instrument Section and for his optical work on the telescope for the Newstead Observatory.

Ed has been a speaker on astronomy before thirteen societies in the northeast, five of which were for conventions (including the Stellafane Convention), and several for annual dinners. He gave a paper at the Northeast Regional Convention of the Astronomical League when it was

held in Buffalo in 1967. He spoke at the National Convention of the RASC, in Toronto, on "The Story of Stellafane". He has also been a speaker before the Astronomy Section of the Rochester Academy of Science, of which he is a member.

Ed's position as assistant physicist at Cornell Laboratories came about through his hobbies of photography and optics. At one time he was sent to Thailand by Cornell Lab on a special assignment involving photography and radio. With the change of management at Cornell Lab, Ed became employed by the Photo-Sol Corporation in Buffalo as an electronic engineer.

At present, Ed is a free-lance electronic engineer for local industries. With all this, he is finding time to design a motor speed control for a factory truck.

With Ed's hobbies and technical abilities, he has found enjoyment in membership in numerous local and national organizations. These include the: Radio Association of Western New York; Kenmore, Buffalo, Tonawanda Radio Club; American Radio Relay League; Photographic Society of America; Optical Society of America, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Ed, who spoke two languages at home as a boy, found that languages were fun, and easy to learn. While in high school Ed became interested in Esperanto, the international language. He taught himself the language and today he is the president of the International League of Esperanto-speaking Radio Amateurs which he founded in 1963. From a charter membership of eight, the group now numbers over 300 ham-radio operators in 40 countries. Ed converses over the miles to some of his Esperanto friends living in countries from Germany and Russia to Brazil, Australia and New Zealand, to name a few. He has a 50 foot tower in his backyard in Bowmansville with which he can pick up voices of his Esperanto friends from around the world.

Ed and his wife, Olga, are avid travelers and have visited 25 countries since 1965. They have given over 100 travel talks in the last 20 years, either separately or together. Where will they be going next? To wherever the spirit moves.

Articles by Ed have appeared in: Popular Mechanics, Popular Science, Radio News, Radio World, and other magazines. An article on the history of astronomy in the Buffalo area appeared in Science on the March, the former magazine of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

It was through the Museum Camera Club and a hiking club that Ed met his very talented and gracious wife, Olga, who is a well-known writer. Together they enjoy many things. The home of this delightful couple is filled with numerous interesting and unusual mementoes from the many countries they have visited.

Ed is a very energetic, industrious man with a zest for living. He is always trying his hand at new skills, and finding new avenues to explore. As a member, a past president, a long time member of the Board of Directors, a member of the College of Fellows and leader of the Instrument Section, he has been a strong force in the B.A.A. and we greatly appreciate his years of devoted service to our organization.

Edith L. Geiger

SKY TEST

The Cave 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Transportable Newtonian Reflector

Owning a large-aperture telescope is the dream of many an amateur astronomer, and the arrival of my 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Cave Newtonian last December was the culmination of my own personal "big 'scope" fantasies.

I was immediately startled by the sheer bulk and mass of the instrument. Subsequent use has shown it to be anything but portable, the approximate 300 pound all-up weight making even the emplacement of the tube assembly in the mount cradle a two-man job.

Optically, using this sharp F/5.5 system has been a revelation. Double stars show as well-resolved and distinct pinpoints of light with near classic diffraction patterns at high magnification. Even the challenging companion to Sirius is an easy object under indifferent seeing conditions. Likewise, the 'scope's planetary images leave little to be desired: Jupiter shows so much belt and zone detail that making an accurate sketch is virtually impossible, and Mars displays a fine array of minute surface, atmospheric, and transient markings. Saturn shows several minor ring divisions with impressive clarity.

Deep-sky objects are truly awesome when viewed under dark sky conditions, the big 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch mirror even compensating somewhat for the normally murky atmosphere at my observing site. M13 is spectacularly resolved into hundreds of stars, and the brighter galaxies such as M51, N65, M66 are bright and neatly defined.

From the glowing commentary on the telescope's optical performance, one might easily assume that its mechanical components function with similar precision. Such is not the case. Although the German equatorial mount appears sturdy and well-machined, it is not really equal to the task of providing adequate stability. Part of the problem is the six-inch clock drive gear - too small to prevent backlash in R.A. Certainly most commercially produced telescopes share this failing, but the constant oscillations can be a real annoyance at times. At least, the general quality of materials does seem good - all except for the cheap-looking spiral paper tube with its overcoating of white paint. Fiberglass would be much superior.

In conclusion, I must laud Cave Optical for the telescope's fine optical performance and give them a grade of "average" for the mechanical and general "quality" parameters. But for my dealings with the company itself, even a grade of "F" would be a gift. The promised five-month delivery time for the instrument was totally erroneous. Numerous letters and phone calls to Cave Optical in order to ascertain the status of the 'scope produced the same runaround and no satisfaction. My full payment for the instrument sat in Cave's hands while they evidently completed the telescope at their leisure. Threats of legal action and the aid of

Astronomy magazine were finally necessary to get results - and the results even then did not come quickly. A one year wait and these unpleasant hassles made the arrival of the telescope something of an anticlimax.

Having heard of other BAA members encountering similar difficulties with Cave, I cannot in good conscience recommend their product to any sane person. A good product is really no good at all when one must traverse the river Styx and Hades to get delivery.

L.M.C.

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The B.A.A. and its Beaver Meadow Observatory got a real plug in the Wednesday, June 21st issue of the Buffalo Evening News, on page 45. If you didn't see it, we suggest you look it up at your friendly neighborhood library. Robert Wagner, the author of the "Naturally" column in the News, gave us a great write-up, including a picture of the Beaver Meadow telescope, and a photo of Andromeda by BAA Member Nancy Miess.

The heartening and surprising sequel to the article was that over 100 persons showed up at the observing session the next Saturday, June 24th.

We know we have a good thing going at Beaver Meadow - it's about time the rest of the world found out about it too! New members for our club mean new interests, new ideas, new enthusiasms. We need these. Talk about the BAA to your friends, to your local school, to your acquaintances at work. Bring them to the Star Parties this summer. We'll see you there.

The Buffalo Astronomical Association, Inc.
c/o Lawrence M. Carlino, Editor - The Spectrum
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FIRST CLASS