

The Spectrum

July-August 1980

Darwin Christy, Editor

SUMMER STAR PARTIES

JUL-AUG 1980

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 evening. All star parties begin at sunset and end ??????. Whatever the date and wherever the location, bring your binoculars and portable telescopes. It will be advantageous to you as well as for those who do not have astronomical equipment. Starting before the usual star parties, Tom & Marty Dessert chose to have their party on June 14th at their home on So. Anne Dr. off Four Rod Rd. in Marilla. The other star nights are as follows:

NO party July 4th or 5th

July 11th - Beaver Meadows Observatory

July 18th - Ken Biggie's, 37 Villa Maria St., West Seneca

July 25th - David & Gilbert Brinks, 139 Segsbury Rd. Williamsville

July 27th - Annual picnic to be on Grand Island at Beaver Island

State Park.

August 1 - Beaver Meadows Observatory

August 2nd - Joe Provato - 35 Windsor St., Buffalo

August 8th - Beaver Meadow Observatory

August 15th - State University of New York at Buffalo,

Main and Bailey in Wende Hall (Old Hochstetter)

August 22nd - Darwin Christy - 216 Kohler St., Tonawanda

August 29th - Edith Geiger's - 6191 Ward Rd. Orchard Park

The annual picnic is a fun thing. Everyone is welcome to this family style picnic. Bring a dish to serve and whatever you may want for yourself. A small donation will be asked for to help defray any expense which might occur.

Additional Astronomical Events

The Lockport Astronomy Ass'n. has public nights each ^{Wednesday} Tuesday evening at the Lockport Senior High School on Lincoln Rd. off Rt. 78 in Lockport. They have a 12 inch Cassegrain to view the heavens. Stellafane will be held in Springfield, Vt. on August 8&9th. On Friday evening they have talks behind the club-house on Breezey Hill. These are informal talks and anyone is invited to participate. The afternoon of the 9th, presentations will include - "Touring the Universe" by David Healy - "Double Stars" by Glenn Chaple - An Evaluation of Nine Films for Astrophotography" by George Keene - "Work with a Blink Comparitor" by Gerald Dyck and "The HBO-400" by Bob Haughton and Jack Crossman. The evening talks will include, "Words of Welcome" by Gov. Joe Johnson - "Stellafane Shadowgram" by Walter Scott Houston and finally the Main speaker will present, "Africa was Darker - an Eclipse Safari to Kenya and Egypt" by George Keene.

The Syracuse Astronomical Society will host their 10th annual Summer Seminar in Vesper, N.Y. on July 11 - 13th. They have a 16 inch telescope in a secluded area 12 miles south of Syracuse. There are camping facilities and they do make a three day time of it.

BAA ANNALS

Rowland A. Rupp

5 YEARS AGO - there was no Spectrum for July - August 1975-- articles for publication were harder to come by then. We had a list of star parties, however. Sites were at Newstead Observatory, Beaver Meadow, Camp Sprucelands, and Tom Dessert's new home.

10 YEARS AGO - The list of star parties in 1970 also included Newstead and Camp Sprucelands. Irv Goetz and Les Stoklosa hosted parties at their homes as well.

A new set of officers was elected at the June business meeting. They were : President - Dick Zygmunt, Vice President - Les Stoklosa, Secretary - Larry Hazel, and Treasurer - Edith Geiger.

15 YEARS AGO - We were having star parties at Newstead and Camp Sprucelands then too. Walter Semerau and Irv Goetz invited us to their homes and the annual picnic was held at the Both's home in North Collins.

25 YEARS AGO - Still more star parties! We held one at Grover Cleveland golf course and another at Ellicott Creek Park. Walter Semerau was once again generous with his hospitality. His parties were different; they were held during the day so we could use his splendid coronagraph and observe the sun.

EASTERN HILLS MALL EXHIBIT

The B.A.A. Mall exhibit at Eastern Hills was an overwhelming success. This success is, of course, due to our members skillful and enthusiastic support of the exhibit. Thanks are in order for several groups, the planning committee, the exhibitors and the persons manning the exhibit. The planning committee members were: Roland Rupp, Carl Milazzo, Ken Kimble, Jim Russel, and Bob Schneider. Exhibitors of equipment and/or photos, paintings and drawings were: Bob Dietrich, Gene Witkowski, Jim Russell, Walt Whyman, Bob Mayer, Elton Roch, Bob Schneider, Roland Rupp, Bob & Bill Hewitt, Edith Geiger, Fred Price, and Tom Dessert. An incomplete list of the manning the exhibit includes: Irene Rupp, Bob Mayer, Jim Russell, Bob & Bill Hewitt, Carl Milazzo, Roland Rupp, Darwin Christy, Walt Whyman, John Raymonda, Joe Provato, Gene Witkowski, Ken Biggie, Tom & Marty Dessert, Elton Roch, Bob Schneider, Edith Geiger, Gary Herrnreiter, and Ken Kimble. Special assistance was supplied by Carl Milazzo, Tom and Marty Dessert and Ken Kimble. CONGRATULATIONS B.A.A. MEMBERS.

Alphonse Kolodziejczak

METEOR SHOWERS

June 15 - Lyrids
June 20 - Ophiuchids
June 28 - Draconids
June 30 - Beta Taurids (Daytime shower)
July 6 - Sagittariids
July 14 - Alpha Cygnids

July 16 - Omicron Capricornids
 July 23 - Capricornids
 July 27 - Alpha-Beta Perseids
 July 29 - Delta Aquarids
 July 30 - Pisces Australids
 August 1 - Alpha Capricornids
 August 6 - Iota Aquarids
 August 11 - Epsilon Pegasids
 August 12 - Perseids
 August 20 - Kappa Cygnids
 August 22 - Omicron Draconids
 August 26 - Zeta Draconids
 September 1 - Beta Lacertids
 September 11 - Epsilon Perseids
 September 22 - Alpha Aurigids

NGC OBJECTS NEAR MESSIER OBJECTS

by Carl Milazzo

The Messier catalogue of nebulous looking objects was put together about 200 years ago containing about 100 objects. The NGC (New General Catalogue) collection was produced about 100 years ago and it contains about 7000 objects. Most NGC objects are usually a little fainter than the Messiers, but not all; in fact there is a surprising number of exceptions. Even some NGC's are bright enough to be seen with the unaided eye and more than a degree in size, but unfortunately none are near any Messier objects.

Often an amateur astronomer looks at the Messier objects, but is not aware that in or just outside the field of view of a telescope lies many times an NGC. Because some NGC's happen to be near a brighter Messier, it is a lot easier to find them.

When it comes to the region of the constellation of Coma Berenices and Virgo, there are too many NGC's to mention near Messier's. In fact they are usually surrounding them, so I'll skip over them.

$\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ ESE of M-6, is the 8th magnitude open cluster NGC 6416m which is 25' in angular size. Just on the NW edge on M-7 is the globular cluster NGC 6453, 11th magnitude and it is 1' in size. $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ E of M-8 is the open cluster NGC 6530, it is 7th magnitude and 20" of arc. In that cluster, amateurs can see about 100 blue and violet stars that are physically part of M-8. $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ NNE of M-13 is a galaxy, 12th magnitude called NGC 6210 and its size is 1' x 3' in size. MGC 205 is a satellite galaxy of 9th magnitude orbiting M-31 and is 5' x 10' of arc. MGC 604 is an emission nebula that is physically a part of M-33 and is the largest known in the universe. (1000 ly). It is 12' NW of the center of M-33 and 1' in size, and 11th magnitude. It is also placed at a distance of 2.3 million ly. distant. $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ SW of M-35 is the 11th magnitude open cluster NGC 2158, 4' of arc, 16000 ly. distant. The 9th magnitude open cluster MGC 1907 is $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ S of M-45 and is physically part of it; it is 5' of arc. Near the center of M-46 is the planetary nebula NGC 2438, 10th magnitude and 70" of arc across. It very much resembles the Ring Nebula, M-57. North of M-47 by $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ is NGC 2423, a 10th magnitude open cluster which has in an area of 20' about 200 stars. $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ N of M-65 and M-66 is an 11th magnitude galaxy NGC 3628 that appears to be 2' x 8'. SSE of M-101 about $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ is the 10th magnitude galaxy NGC 5474 which is 4' x 8'. $\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ NE of M-105 is the 11th magnitude galaxy MGC 3384, a six by ten minute oval. Finally NGC 4217, another 11th magnitude galaxy, $\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ SW of M-106, is about 3 x 5 minutes of arc.

Rising from the smog-laden vally sometimes seen as Los Angles and adorning the peaks on conglomerates of mother earth's finest blends, rest the Mount Wilson and Mount Palomar Observatories. Steeped in the histories of the construction of these facilities I expect to stand amazed in the enclosed visitor's gallery beneath each telescope. But the mighty Hooker and Hale were not the highlight of each journey. My awe and wonderment were shifted as I drove up to the summit with the engineers and workers who labored up the path years before with far less horsepower than was under the hood of my modern compact. The vision and perseverance of the founders of these observatories haunted me. To pull thousands of ton of steel, hardware, and supplies over a narrow unprotected road and to build a long-lasting monument to science at each mountaintop inspired my enthusiasm - not so much for Astronomy itself, but for the courageous, man-created steps technology took to follow up on the visionary's dream.

Scientific discovery is not easy. Technological steps are not just moved into position and painted. Astronomy goes a step beyond in effort necessary to learn. The fastest computer, the mightiest jetliner, the most energetic particle beam, or the most efficient engine are all developed in an easily accesible, brightly lit, conveniently placed, and air conditioned facility. But the discovery of a new isolated quasar or eclipsing binary comes from conditions by comparison of relative hardship. To even construct the astronomical facility to do such work is a monument to human toil. Astronomy may be the queen of all sciences, but for every queen there are also 10,000 workers.

Orrin D. Christy

More on Words

An Old Ode to My Husband

I like the word galactic
it's a kind of prophylactic
that heals the hurting words
of magpie day.
What makes it so exciting
is I know that I am writing
graffiti
on the walls of Milky Way!

My husband says the world
was programmed for the start
the Creator knows the in-put
of every moving part.
There is no choice, no free-will
just a fatalistic gut
my husband ought to know
he was programmed as a NUT!

Esther L. Goetz

Esther L. Goetz

From her SORRY ABOUT THAT Collection

SPY AND TELL

Edith L. Geiger

Congratulations to Phil Cizdziel who has been accepted at the University of Hawaii in the master's-doctorate program in astronomy. On August 18th Phil reports for orientation. Our best wishes go with him.

Al Kolodziejczak is "up in the air" these days. He is so advanced in kite flying that he sends kites into the "wild blue yonder" which almost lift him off the ground. Al has turned kite flying into a science and an art.

Former art major at Buff State, Terrance Farrell, has changed to a business major and is working as a salesman in men's wear at Sattlers at Seneca Mall. On most clear nights, you will find him and his friends observing through his telescope.

On May 22, Carl Milazzo and John Raymonda, through influential friends, had the opportunity of hearing a Calspan sponsored talk by astronaut, Donald Slayton, at the Sheraton East.

Carl Milazzo and a University of Rochester student spent the night observing at the Mees 24' Cassegrain. Carl journeys to Syracuse to attend a seminar on July 11-12.

Darwin Christy is redoing the mount for his 12.5" scope because of lack of head room in his Honeyhouse Observatory. He is also doing a St. Helen's volcano fallout study in the same manner in which he does his micrometeorite work.

Charles Miess is very busy these days remodeling his home and planting numerous trees of various types.

James Russell, who has his B.S. from U.B. and worked as a R.N. in Psychiatry, has a new job with Procter & Gamble which takes him to hospitals in different cities introducing medical products which the company is now making. Jim is also grinding an 8" mirror, with the help of Bob Schneider.

Esther Goetz has recovered from her early spring malady and is her usual spirited self.

The Bob Hewitts are planning to spend a week or two in New Hampshire this summer.

On June 2, Bob and son, Bill, gave an astronomical slide show at the 4H Camp on Genesee Road in East Concord for some students of the Baker Elementary School of Orchard Park.

Bill has a new job in research and development at Fisher-Price in East Aurora.

Daughter, Lynne, a 1980 graduate from Cornell in the college of arts and sciences, was awarded a double bachelor's in English and linguistics, graduating summa cum laude. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and has also won a Fellowship to study in India from August '80 to April '81 at the Institute of American Studies in Delhi. Congratulations on an outstanding achievement.

Orrin Christy has a new polyester type dog on a chain in his office at Moore Business Forms. This unusual pooch is called "Barfo", and is quite a sensation at the plant. If this arouses your curiosity, contact Orrin.

Edith L. Geiger

June Constellation

"Below Bootes thou seest the Virgin
An ear of corn held sparkling in her hand." Aratos
In mythology, Virgo is one of the most ancient of star groups. Virgo is supposed to represent Astraea, the daughter of Jupiter and Themis, the goddess of justice. During the Golden Age, it is said the gods lived upon the earth and that Astraea ruled the world. The Egyptians associated Virgo with the goddess Isis. When pursued by the monster Typhon, she dropped the sheaf of corn which she held in her hand, and the scattering corn became faint glistening stars that form the Milky Way. Virgo served as one of the signs of the Zodiac, and is in good position for viewing on the equator. This Virgin Lady has many interesting objects to pick out and observe. Virgo is bordered on the north by Bootes and Coma Berenices;

On the west by Leo; on the south by Corvus and Hydra; and on the east by Serpens and Libra.

Variable stars in Virgo include X, R, U, & S which are of the Mira type. Double stars are Gamma, Theta, Tau, and 84. Spica (Alpha Virginis) is a first magnitude star and just a bit north-west of it lies the 'Cup of Virgo'. Many Messier objects can be found in the 'Cup' such as Ms.-49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 84, 86, 87, 89, 90, and 104. Many other objects for the deep sky observer may be found throughout the constellation. Good observing.

July Constellation

This month we take a constellation of the past; CUSTOS MESSIUM "The Harvest Keeper". It was published by LaLande in his globe of 1775. It was formed out of some inconspicuous stars not far from the pole, between Camelopardalis, Cassiopeia, and Cepheus.

His alternative title, 'Le Messier', Smyth said, was "in poorish punning compliment to his friend, the 'Comet Ferret'", as King Louis XV had called him, who for thirty years was the gatherer and keeper of the harvest of comets, and the discoverer of twelve between the years 1794 & 1798. This title may also have been included by the fact that the two neighboring royal personages were rulers of an agricultural people, and the Giraffe an animal destructive to the grain fields; all perhaps selected because the Phoenicians are said to have imagined a large 'Wheat Field' in this part of the sky.

Its inventor was the enthusiastic astronomer who would spend nights on the Pont Neuf over the Seine, explaining the wonders of the variable Algol to all whom he could interest in the subject, and whose seclusion in his observatory, amid the turmoil of the French Revolution, enabled him to "thank his stars" that he had escaped to fate of so many of his friends. CUSTOS MESSIUM has now passed out of the recognition of astronomers.

August Constellation

A small but well studded with stars is the 'Shield', SCUTUM. Bounded by Aquilla, Serpens Cauda, and Sagittarius, this constellation contains M-11, a globular cluster, in a rich part of the Milky Way. The variable star 'R' Scuti often can be seen without optical aid. It is a semiregular variable, ranging from 5.0 to 8.5 magnitude in about 140 days. One way to find Scutum is to look directly above to the north of the Tea-Pot of Sagittarius.

-Stellar Attractions-

The explosion from a NEUTRON Star has just recently been discovered. About 150,000 years ago this emission of Gamma rays took place in the Large Magellanic Cloud, over trillions of miles in space. It is the largest burst to have ever been recorded. Nine of earth's man-made satellites discovered it at the same time.

STUDY GROUP MEETING

Ken Kimble

Most of our members agreed to help Ernst Both with public viewing during May so we did not have a regular study group meeting. On our regular meeting night, the third Friday, we assisted Ernst with over 400 people. We had 4 additional telescopes on the roof from a 60mm refractor to an 8 in. Celestron. We all had an enjoyable time helping at the telescopes and answering questions.

Due to summer schedules, vacations, etc. we will decide at Tom Dessert's star party on the practicality of a June meeting.

EDITH GEIGER

"Throughout life - there are acquaintances, good friends, and one or two who are more than that. There are those we may love, but there remains one, who is more than that" (A. Nash).

Edith Geiger is more to the B.A.A. than member, officer, or fellow observer. She is its heart - kind and full of good cheer, its mind - with her incredible observational drawings of the Moon, and its soul - with her ever present camera and her photographs 'exposures' of various members. Thirteen years have passed since the last biography of Edith appeared in our 'Spectrum', yet she continues to be productive, energetic, and inquisitive in numerous and varied capacities. She has served us in the past as Vice-President (6 years) and Treasurer (4 years). Presently she serves the BAA as membership chairman, member's biographer, photo historian, and as a member of the nominating committee.

This multi-faceted member went to high school in Ashtabula, Ohio. There she studied both art and music - two life long avocations. She continued her studies at the world renown Eastman School of Music in Rochester. There she studied piano, trombone, organ, and voice. She met Carroll Geiger at Eastman and they were married one year after her graduation.

Music has been a major force in her life. She has supervised, taught or been a consultant to the Frewsburg Center Schools, the Buffalo Public Schools and the Head Start and Early Push Federal Projects. Edith has composed numerous musical pieces and been a church organist, Piano teacher, and speaker on various topics related to music over the years.

Edith's interest in art has gained her great fame. Her ceramic shows have earned her over 100 ribbons and several "Best of Show" awards.

In addition to music and art her hobbies and interests include paleontology, philosophy, poetry, photography, hiking, gardening, membership in the Audubon Society and, of course, ASTRONOMY. Edith owns both 12.5 and 6" Dynascopes. With these scopes she has produced her legendary sketches of lunar phenomena which are truly aesthetic and scientific masterpieces.

Those members of our club who are active Beaver Meadow observers owe Edith a special debt of gratitude. Edith headed the ticket drive for the two Philharmonic concerts which helped to finance our observatory. Because of her involvement in so many activities, Edith was awarded the B.A.A.'s highest honor in 1977 - "Fellow of the BAA".

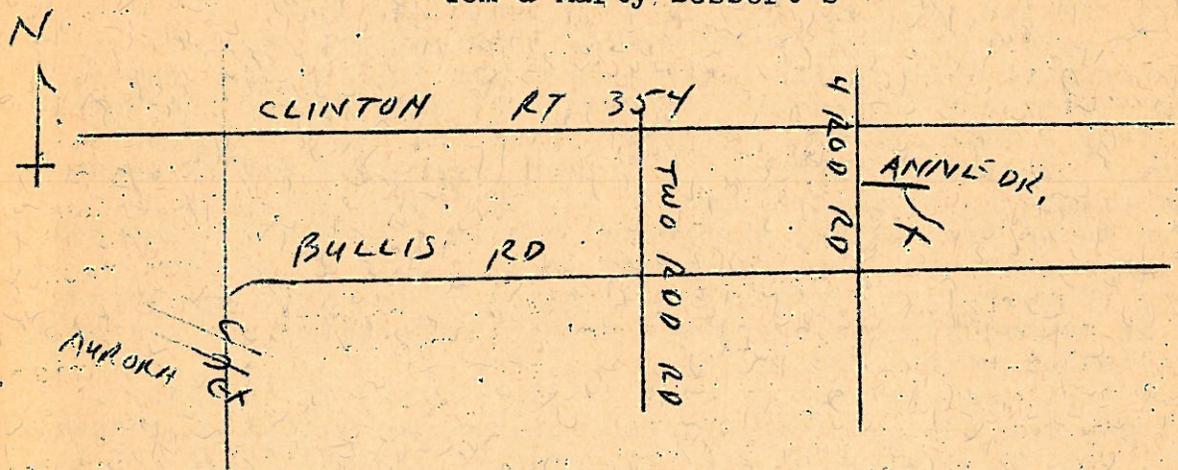
It is most difficult to imagine the BAA without Edith Geiger. Her personality makes us feel comfortable and warm, her competence amazes us and her sense of humor entertains us all. We are truly in her debt.

by Anonymous.

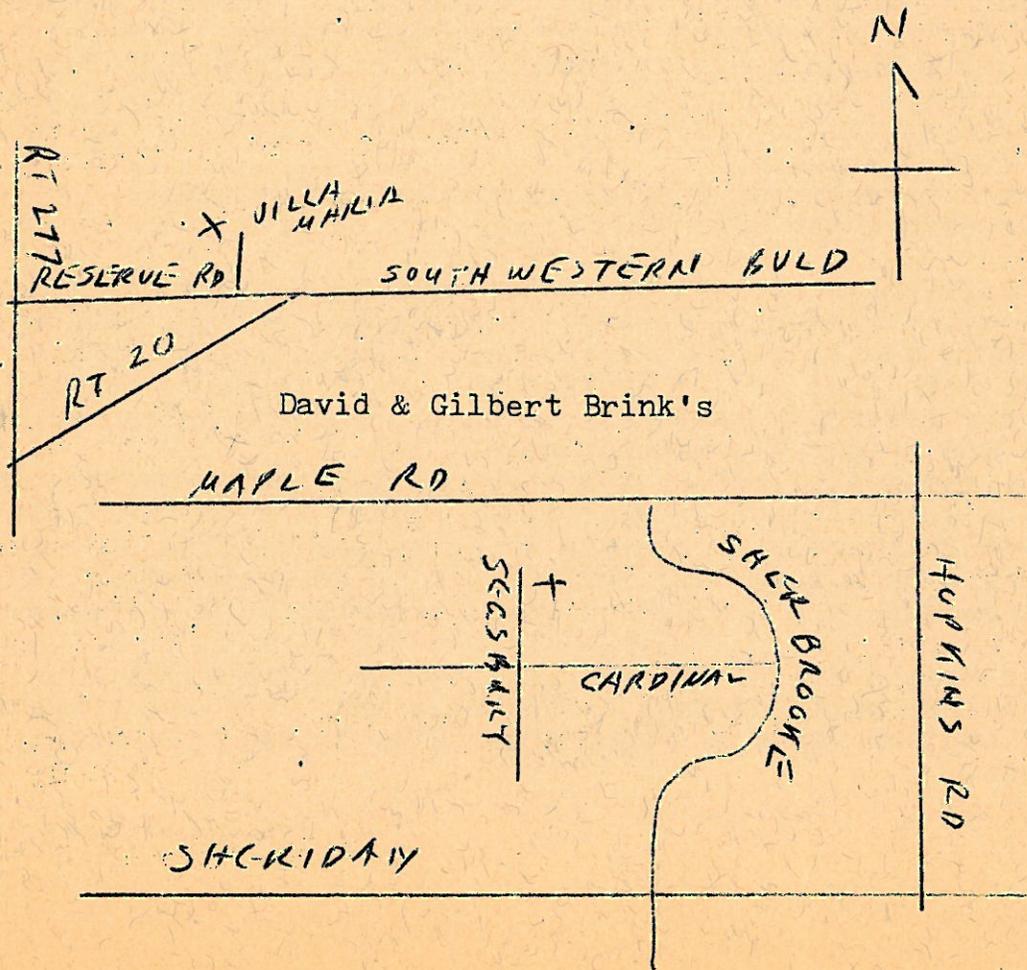
Maps to star parties

The Annual Picnic is being held at Beaver Island State Pak on Grand Island. After entering Beaver Island, take the first right to picnic area #4. Follow the BAA signs.

Tom & Marty Dessert's

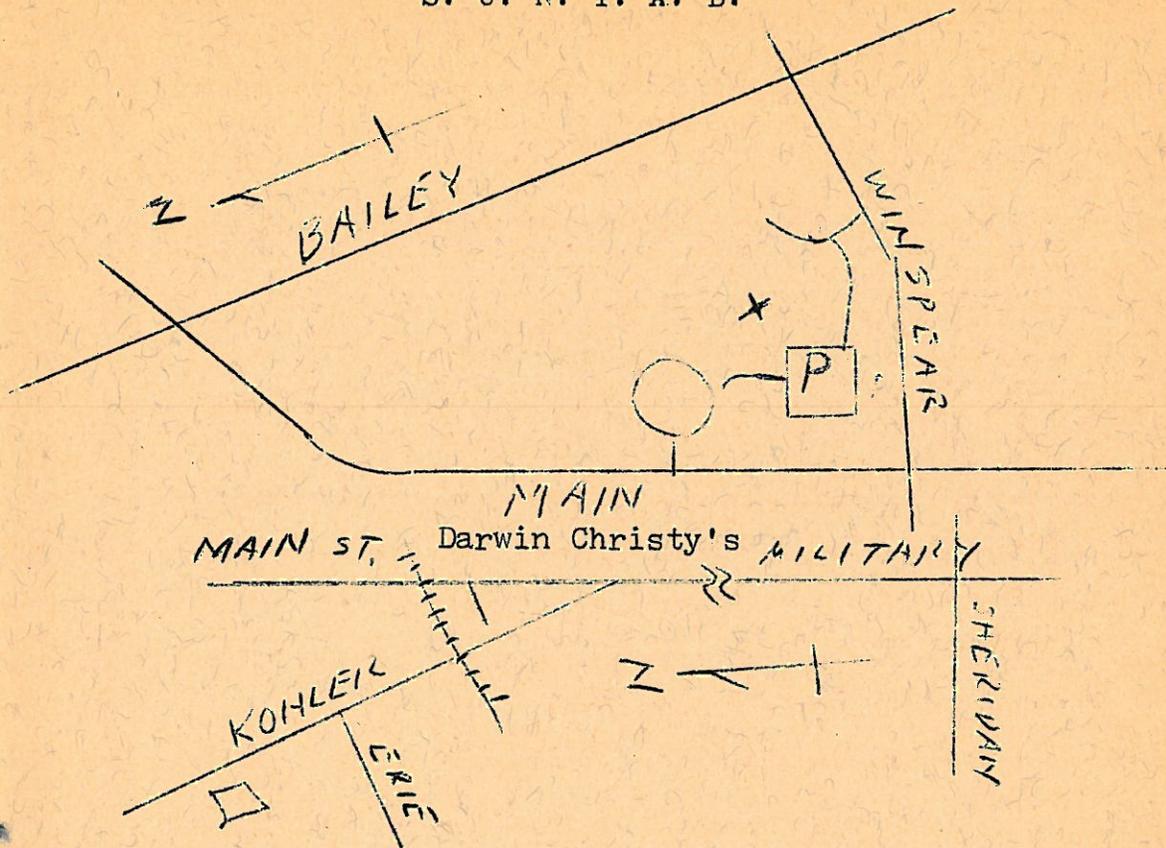


Ken Biggie's



David & Gilbert Brink's

S. U. N. Y. A. B.



Edith Geiger's

