

# THE SPECTRUM

Newsletter of the Buffalo Astronomical Association Inc.

Published Bi-Monthly

Buffalo, New York

Sep - Oct 1997

## MEETINGS NOTICE

FRIDAYS: SEP 12, OCT 10

### Sep 12th: "The Science in Sci-Fi"

John Allen Price, published SciFi author, will be speaking at our September meeting. His topic will be "Researching and Using Science Facts in S/F Novels."

### Oct 10th: "The Possibility of Colonizing Mars"

Member Tom Bemus will speak on the how, why and when people may be living on Mars. Also Tom will present a short travelogue on some southwest astronomical sights.

Meetings: 2nd Fridays @ 7:30 PM Sep-June.

Location: New Science Building Auditorium at Buffalo State College on Elmwood Ave.

We hope to see you at these meetings.  
As usual refreshments will follow.

Bring a friend and see what's poppin!

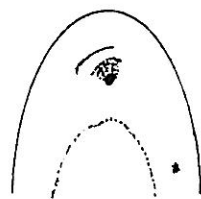
## Observations of Hale-Bopp

During that part of the apparition of Comet Hale-Bopp when it was brightest I was at my home town just outside London in my native England. Although London is ten degrees of latitude further north than Buffalo, the comet was fairly high in the sky. On opening my front door which faces north-west about an hour after sunset during late March to early May this year, I would see the comet hanging in the sky if the evening was clear. It was an exquisite sight even in 8 x 30 binoculars.

The accompanying drawings are a selection of several that I made on different evenings of the head of the comet using a low power (90 X) on my eight-inch Newtonian reflector. These were made with pencil and so are "negative" - the darkest parts are actually the brightest as seen in the telescope. Plainly visible was the nucleus and the curved "hoods" surrounding it, some of these apparently connected to the nucleus by light-coloured material. Slight but definite changes in these details were seen almost from night to night.

All of the photographs I have seen of this and other comets seem to be exposed to reveal tail detail rather than details immediately surrounding the nucleus which are over-exposed in such photographs. I imagine that many BAA members took pleasing photographs but how many went to the trouble of doing some visual observation with our largest telescope and make drawings? This would have been a wonderful opportunity to put the telescope to valuable use.

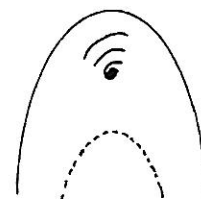
... continued on page 4



MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup> 19.40 UT



MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> 19.40 UT



APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 19.40 UT



APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 20.25 UT

DETAIL WITHIN THE COMA OF  
COMET HALE-BOPP  
MARCH-APRIL 1997.

F.W.PRICE. 8-INCH NEWTONIAN X90.  
LONDON, ENGLAND.

### MEETINGS CANCELLATION POLICY

If, for any reason, (most likely snow or ice storms), there might be cause for cancellation of the meetings of the B.A.A., tune your radio to either WBEN (930) or WGR (550). Also if Buffalo State College has been closed due to inclement weather, so will the meeting of the B.A.A. be cancelled.

### BEAVER MEADOW TELEPHONE

The telephone at Beaver Meadow, 716-457-3104, is for emergency use only at no cost. Local calls may be placed for a small charge - see the collection box by the phone. This phone cannot make long distance calls.

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TAXACOM computer bulletin board - 716-896-7581  
for more information call Jack Empson at 716-745-3138

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Joe Orzechowski

I must open this column with an apology to the BAA membership for failing to submit a Membership Corner article for the previous issue of the Spectrum. I'm afraid that I let my commitments at work get in the way of my responsibilities to the club. I'll try to make sure that it doesn't happen again. On the other hand, I heard no great outcry from the membership regarding the absence of my column, so maybe I can goof off on one or two issues every year.

Seriously, I have been very busy this summer and it has taken its toll on my astronomical pursuits. I have only managed to take my scope out twice and have been to the observatory only once. I've missed a whole set of constellations and I completely forgot about the Perseids. I didn't even make it up to Starfest this year. Well, I certainly hope that the rest of you have had more time to stargaze. Be sure to take the opportunities when you have them because you never know when something will come up that will prevent you from enjoying your hobby. I've certainly missed my stellar acquaintances and my more earth-bound friends as well.

The BAA has gained two new members recently. **Carl Ericson**, who lives in my neck of the woods, uses binoculars to view the sky. Among other things, he lists amateur radio as one of his interests. I know we have a few "hams" in our ranks, so if you happen to meet Carl at a meeting or at the observatory, share some of your radio tales with him. **Jim Russell** enjoys deep sky observing and is also interested in astrophotography. I'm sure there are a few people out there who can steer Jim in the right direction (and away from some of the pitfalls no one bothered to tell you about). For those of you who are interested in the particulars, here they are

Carl Ericson  
183 Burbank Drive  
Snyder, NY 14226  
839-3942

Jim Russell  
312 Smith Street  
Buffalo, NY 14210  
826-0377

*Welcome!!*

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that it's that time of year once again. If you have not yet renewed your BAA membership for the 1997-1998 year (and some of you already have), then it's time to make your annual dues payment. Believe it or not, the membership rates are still the same as when I joined the BAA five years ago. I'm surprised that the Board of Directors has not received any complaints about the low membership dues we are forced to pay. Maybe you should get your payment in early, just in case somebody does complain. See you in September at our first meeting of the new membership year.



**All members  
are welcome to  
attend our public  
night events to  
get better  
acquainted with  
the night sky.**

**They are held  
the 1st & 3rd  
Saturday nights,  
April - Oct., at  
Beaver Meadow  
Observatory.**

**Hurry, it's  
now September!**

## BAA ANNALS

Rowland A. Rupp

**5 YEARS AGO** - Larry Carlino led the summer star party parade at his site in Lockport where his 22.5 inch telescope was located. Others who held star parties in 1992 were Bill Halbert, Bill Smith and Carol Lorenc, Irene and Rowland Rupp and Dan and Melissa Marcus. According to "Spy and Tell" Bill Halbert had the lead role in Ralph Vaughan Williams' opera "Sir John in Love", given at the University at Buffalo's Opera Workshop.

Ed Lindberg wrote an "Instrument Notes" article for the SPECTRUM about mirror testing techniques. Bill Smith wrote an observing report on the "Coathanger" asterism in Cygnus and an article on star-hopping. Darwin Christy's ancient constellation was Antinous. The SPECTRUM carried obituaries for Leonard Milks and Carroll Geiger.

**10 YEARS AGO** - In 1987 Ken Biggie was President, John Yerger was Observatory Director, Darwin Christy was SPECTRUM editor and the Instrument Section still met under the leadership of Ed Lindberg. Jack Empson was in charge of star party arrangements. Hosts were the Rupps, Ken and Diane Biggie, Richard Jakiel, Bill Kirst, the Marcuses, Jerry and Adrienne Morris and Larry Carlino. A trip to the Dunlop Observatory in Toronto was also scheduled that summer.

A brief article on the direction of rotation of the arms in spiral galaxies appeared in the SPECTRUM, but the author was "unknown". Which way do they go anyway? Richard Jakiel wrote an article on observing Saturn in preparation for its coming apparition. Edith Gieger wrote an abbreviated report on Patty Rupp who was then graduating from the University of Rochester. One observing report appeared in the SPECTRUM--by Carl Milazzo.

**15 YEARS AGO** - The SPECTRUM doesn't tell who organized star parties in 1982, but the hosts were: Miro Catipovic, Jerry Morris and Adrienne Kaczmarke (you see, progress was made by 1987), Steve Desmond, Tristan DiLapo and Darwin Christy. Steve Desmond had just received an award in a Graphic Arts and Printing contest. He since became a professional photographer.

The conclusion of Ernst Both's two part article on sun-grazing comets was featured in the SPECTRUM. Ed Lindberg described a method of polar axis alignment using the noon day sun as a reference. A tongue-in-cheek article by Anonymous on the possibility that the phases of the moon are reversed in the southern hemisphere graced the SPECTRUM. And who wrote the lone observation report? You guessed it--Carl Milazzo. President Al Kolodziejczak thanked members for their contributions to the BAA for the year. He cited twenty-seven names, too many to record here, but it sounds like a roster of the BAA of the past.

**25 YEARS AGO** - Les Stoklosa, Edith Geiger and Octavia Black held star parties a quarter of a century ago. Other meetings were scheduled at the club's Newstead Observatory where the 12-inch scope was then housed. To guide us about what to see at these meetings, John Riggs wrote an article on "Deep-Sky Observing for July and August".

An observation report of an aurora seen by members at Newstead was written by Warren Steinberg. Ed Lindberg reported on the second Summer Seminar held by the Syracuse Astronomical Society. Ed was one of the astrophotography judges. Just as a matter of interest--the agreement between the BAA and Cornell Aeronautical Laboratories, dating from 1960, was given in this SPECTRUM. Its appearance was prompted by the sale of the lab, and the impending loss of the site. Curiously enough, the address of the BAA was given as 258 Saranac Ave. I wonder who lived there at the

(Continued on page 3)

## Officers

Bob Hughes - President (833-2407)  
Gene Witkowski - Vice President (876-4301)  
Lynn Sigurdson - Secretary  
Bev Orzechowski - Treasurer  
Dr Jack Mack - Museum Representative

## Board members at large

Joe Orzechowski - Bill Smith  
- Bob Titran  
Rowland Rupp - Fellow Representative  
Joe Orzechowski - Membership  
(839-9109)

## Observatory Directors

Neil Dennis & >> open position <<

## SPECTRUM STAFF

Bill Smith - Editor / Layout  
Bev Orzechowski - Circulation

BAA Annals continued from page 2

time

**40 YEARS AGO** - In 1957 our newsletter was the BAA CLUB BULLETIN and Lou Reinagel was its editor. But the star parties were still prime summer activities (next to observing as you shall see) Bob Kirchgessner hosted one in Colden, Walter Semerau hosted another in Tonawanda, the rest were held in Ellicott Creek Park.

The International Geophysical Year was in full swing, and the BAA had several observing committees in support of it. These included the Moonwatch Committee, Aurora Committee and the Meteor Committee. The latter two groups planned to observe "somewhere in the Ellicott Creek area", while the 15 member moonwatch group had an observing station in Clarence, NY. These observing plans preceded the launch of Sputnik and the "Space Age" by just a few months.



**SPY AND TELL**

*Edith L. Geiger*

**Melissa Marcus**, who is well-known for her expertise in floral design, won a blue ribbon (1st prize) in miniature design at the Niagara Regional International Flower and Garden show held at the Niagara Falls Convention Center on April 11-13th. On April 12th, she won the Petite Flower Show Award for her miniature hanging design at the Orchard Park Garden Club's flower show, the theme of which was "Salute to Dr. Seuss".

Melissa's brother, Richard Price, is a member of Psallite! (Joyful Singing) a small acappella group, which presented a Renaissance program, "All in a Garden Green," at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Elmwood and Ferry. Members appeared in Renaissance attire, as did some of the members of the audience. The reception featured sweets from the Renaissance period, prepared by Melissa, her sister and mother. These delights were: wafers of grown corn; excellent small cakes with currants popping forth; ring shaped cakes (ciambelletto); mince meat tarts; marzipan; puff pastries with parmesan; and fresh strawberries. Melissa designed a beautiful Renaissance floral arrangement for this special occasion.

**Jim Lemon** retired 20 years ago as a chemical engineer at Occidental Chemical. Jim's son, Jim Jr., known as Skip, has purchased a run-down farm below Hornell in South Canisteo, Steuben County. It is at the foothills of the Alleghenies at an altitude of around 2000 feet. Skip, with the help of his father is working to get the barn back in shape. There are 200 cows and Jim Sr. has taken domestic geese from our area to become part of the farm. He is also busy cutting down trees to improve the landscape. Jim heads to the farm whenever he is needed, which is fairly often. He owns a Questar. Sounds like a great place to enjoy the star-strewn heavens.

**Bud and Ella Abate** returned the last of April from a 10 day vacation trip to Daytona in Florida, getting away from our bizarre weather to the warmth and beauty of a place free from snow.

Bud has been remodeling his home, adding a room for Scott, their 13 year old son, who has a "budding" interest in astronomy and has accompanied his father at Starfest conventions.

Daughter Leisa is employed at Praxair, Inc., a chemical company in Tonawanda, and son Mark (23) owns his own business, Sound Choice Audio, 79 Blackmon Rd., Grand Island. (phone 775-3333)

Bud continues with his own business, which he runs from his home as manufacturer of labels from bumper stickers to OPC symbols, the labels being produced in Lockport.

During the summer the family will enjoy slumming over the water in

their 21 foot motor boat.

**Joe Cavaluzzi** has been a 7th grade math teacher at Clarence Middle School for 14 years. Previously, he spent 11 years as a 6th grade teacher at the Cheektowaga Elementary School. The Cavaluzzi's have two children. Ann will be visiting colleges in preparation for next year. She may possibly go to either Geneseo or Fredonia to study speech and auditory. Son, Joe, who is a freshman at Clarence High School enjoys hiking with his father, and in July they will be tramping through the Adirondacks. On Aug. 13 the family will be flying west to visit the National Parks in Utah and Colorado.

**Mark Revelle** and **Carl Milazzo** spoke on astronomy at the Lake Shore Public library in Hamburg from 7 to 9 on the evening of May 20. There were 23 people, mainly elementary school children.

Before retiring, **Norbert Belter** was a fireman at Engine 28, on Gold Street in the Lovejoy district of Buffalo. He is a man of many hobbies including: fishing at Spooner Creek Rt. 219-39 and Ischua Creek off Rt 16 below Franklinville and hunting for wild turkey which he has no problem finding. Then there is his fascination with model airplanes which he has been putting together since grade school along with his 30 year hobby as a philatelist. He has more hobbies of which we will hear at a later date. From April 22-26, he took a trip to Las Vegas for a group reunion of the 405th Fighter Bombers.

**Steve Kramer** is trying to understand the Internet. Once he understands, he is thinking of starting a Web Site for the Antikythera. In the classified section of the May issue of Sky and Telescope, pg. 125, Steve found an interesting site about the origin of the moon.

On May 3rd, **Tom Bemus** and **Katherine Still** were married in a church on the shores of Lake Chautauqua. It was a beautiful wedding and "Kat" was a lovely bride.

Tom met "Kat" at Fleet Bank in Jamestown, where she is an account manager. He asked her out to lunch and that was the beginning of a romance. Their wedding trip took them to New Mexico where they enjoyed some star gazing under very dark skies.

Congratulations and best wishes for every happiness.

**Fred Price** sent a few items for the Spectrum from his home in Greenford, Middlesex, England:

While on holiday in his native England during March-June of this year, Fred made several observations from his home near London, of the comet Hale-Bopp with his eight-inch Newtonian reflector. He will be sending some of the several drawings he made of the details in the coma of Hale-Bopp for possible publication in the Spectrum.

He recently attended a lecture at Alexandra Palace in north London, on the Cassini Mission to Saturn, given by one of the scientists involved in the mission, Dr. Carl Murray. Dr. Murray is Professor of Mathematics at Queen Mary College, University of London.

As well as being interested in the immensities of space, Fred has been interested in the microscopic world since boyhood. He owns several microscopes. Before coming to the U.S., Fred became a member of the Quekett Microscopical Society, named after John Thomas Quekett, a celebrated microscopist and pathologist who worked at the Royal College of Surgeons in London more than a century ago. It is the major amateur microscopical organization of England, with an international membership of hundreds. Fred was editor of their Journal before leaving England. Recently, he was elected unopposed to the committee of the Society.

Fred returned to Buffalo on June 24th for eight weeks.

On June 11th, **Darwin Christy** gave a talk to a group of retired men at the Presbyterian Church in Tonawanda. He spoke on a subject which

*(Continued on page 5)*

**SPECTRUM DEADLINE**

The deadline for the Nov-Dec issue is

**Nov 14th.**

Send all submissions to Bev Orzechowski  
125 Roycroft Blvd., Buffalo, NY, 14226.

Preferred format is typed or PC readable WordPerfect for DOS 5.1 or earlier, MS Word for DOS or ASCII.

-- scanning available --

Handwritten or other formats are fine too -- we really like submissions!



**ASTRONOMICAL HAPPENINGS****VIA BILL AQUINO****TIME WELL SPENT IN ASTRONOMY****Moon**

New Sep 1	1st Qtr Sep 9	Full Sep 16	Last Qtr. Sep 23	New Oct 1	1st Qtr Oct 9	Full Oct 15	Last Qtr. Oct 22	New Oct 31
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NOTE: After midnight events are listed for the proper day! Thus 1 am on the 10th means you must be prepared be up late on the evening of the 9th.

**THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to the following members who helped out at Astronomy Day:

Ed Cerazani  
Frank Chalupka & daughter Kristin  
Neil & Carol Dennis  
Bob Hughes  
Steve Kramer  
Jack Mack  
Rowland Rupp  
Bob Titran

- Gene Witkowski

Date	Event, elevation above noted horizon @ time listed [binos or small scope helpful]
Sep 7	Mars is 5° below the Moon, 14° above SW @ 8:15 pm
Sep 12	<b>MEETING OF THE BAA</b>
Sep 14-16	It may be possible to see all of the planets in one night
Sep 15	Look for Neptune in binos 3° below the Moon, 26° above S @ 9:00 pm
Sep 20	<b>PUBLIC NIGHT @ Beaver Meadow Observatory — No Moon!</b>
Sep 22	Last qtr. Moon within a few degrees of Aldebaran, 61° above SE @ 5:15 AM
Oct 4	<b>PUBLIC NIGHT @ Beaver Meadow Observatory — Thin Moon!</b>
Oct 5	Venus, Mars and the Moon are together, 10° above SW @ 7:15 pm
Oct 10	The Moon is 5° above Uranus, 27° above S @ 8:15 pm
Oct 10	<b>MEETING OF THE BAA</b> Mars is within 8° of the Moon, 40° above SW @ 10 pm
Oct 12	Mars, Venus and the bright star Antares are close, 10° above SW @ 7:10 pm
Oct 15	The Moon passes within 3° of Saturn, 35° above SE @ 10 pm
Oct 16	Venus is within 2° of the bright star Antares, 10° above SW @ 7 pm
Oct 18	<b>*Last* PUBLIC NIGHT @ Beaver Meadow Observatory</b>
Oct 19	Big Moon 0.3° north of Antares, 60° above SW @ 5 AM
Oct 21	Fair prospects for the Orionid meteor shower as the the Moon is at last qtr.
Oct 26	Venus is within 2° of Mars, 11° above SW @ 7 pm

**Busy signal on Mars pathfinder?**

If the NASA Mars pathfinder site on the Web is too busy, try this mirror site:

<http://mars.tc.cornell.edu/default.html>

Share interesting sites & addresses with the SPECTRUM for listing.

Hale-Bopp continued from page 1

I have several old books on astronomy, some of them over a century old, which contain many beautiful drawings of visual observations of comets made with large-aperture reflectors. These show fascinating details in the immediate vicinity of the nucleus which, in my opinion, is the most interesting part of a comet. These details do not show in most modern photographs.

Also, during these months, the planet Mercury was well placed for observation after sunset. I saw it - for the first time in my life - on one of those evenings!

Fred W. Price



**FOR SALE**

*Orion Skyline 4.5".*

1/8 Newtonian reflector. 25mm and 10mm eyepieces, 6x30 finder, very sturdy equatorial mount with adjustable aluminum tripod and slow-motion controls on both axes. Exceptionally fine optics. Excellent condition. Asking \$340. Larry Carlino: phone 716-433-3432.

**BEAVER MEADOW OBSERVATORY 457-3104****Observatory public nights end in October**

The observatory is open for Public Night on the first and third Saturdays of each month, rain or shine, from April through October. It takes many of us to run successful Observatory events. Also, the more the merrier! We still will need a lot of help with lectures, members to run the scopes, bring their own equipment (read toys) and of course answer questions. We would also appreciate any suggestions concerning the observatory and its operation.

**Are you new to the observatory?**

The combination to the observatory changes yearly. Call Neil Dennis or President Bob Hughes for the new combination if you have been checked out on observatory procedures and are a dues paid member.

**Assistant Director still and (yet still) needed!**

Someone is needed to help co-director Neil Dennis with public events and observatory needs. Neil is our equipment guy who often helps with public events but we need to fill our open observatory public event post. To get a briefing call Dan Marcus, 773-5015.

**Two burning questions ...**

- 1) *What happened at the observatory this summer?*  
(Calling for observatory reports)
- 2) *Where are all the observation reports?*  
(These spur others to observe)

## Spy and Tell continued from page 3

he gave at a BAA meeting some time ago about ancient constellations. (We remember his column on the subject which appeared regularly in the Spectrum during the years he served as editor.) A second segment of the talk was devoted to slides from large telescopes showing what can be seen in the heavens without light pollution, explaining the causes of the fluorescent gases created by a central star. The third part of his lecture was on comets, from whence they come, and the devastation they can cause if they ever strike the Earth. He spoke on Comet Hale-Bopp, but had more to say on the breakup of Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 that plummeted into Jupiter. Darwin also had pictures of the Tunguska explosion of 1908 in Siberia, showing trees leveled over 1200 square miles, and 1500 reindeer that were killed. He said it was thought to be caused by a small comet. The reactions to his talk were numerous. The biggest one was that they never realized how small we really are in this vast universe.

On June 19th, Gene Witkowski gave a fine presentation on video imaging to the Niagara Falls club.

The Star Trek Convention was held June 20-22 at the Radisson Hotel across from the airport. Those in attendance included: Bob Hughes, Steve Kramer, Gene Witkowski, Carl Milazzo and Dan Marcus. Carl and Dan were among the speakers at the event.

On July 7th, Carl Milazzo spent most of the day at Fort Niagara for the two day reenactment of the War of 1812. He had a permit to attend the festivities. He took many pictures of life being portrayed as it was during the war, where authentic tents, candles (no flashlights) and much more from that time were to be seen. Carl quizzed a number of the people involved to see how much they knew about the war, and was surprised to find some who gave satisfactory answers. He was there from early morning until 7 p.m. and went home and returned at 9:30 to take some astrophotos with foreground pictures at Fort Niagara. He also showed some constellations to about 15 people who were standing nearby. The planetarium director from Albany was a visitor at the event, so Carl had a chat with him.

Carl has come up with an idea whereby he can get a permit to go to see anyone or anything anywhere. Check with him for details. He may be able to make it possible for you.

A happy summer to all.



## GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY?

Last January I was asked if I could give talks on Comet Hale-Bopp at the various schools in the Buffalo area. I made up a set of slides, a couple of over-head projector slides and came up with a talk that lasted about a classroom period--roughly thirty-five minutes. That left five or ten minutes for questions. I ended up giving this talk at about six different schools ranging from Akron to Springville, and had a good time doing it. The kids were pretty interested, for the most part, and the teachers were appreciative of an hour off, I'm sure. By the way, the comet was quite prominent by the time I gave my last talks, and when I asked how many had seen it, it seemed every hand went up.

The result is that I have been approached by the BOCES Science Teacher Coordinator to investigate if the BAA would come up with a list of presenters who could give various topics in a similar format at different schools next year. The grade range of students is tentatively set at 5th through 12th. It has been pointed out that this might be a golden opportunity for the BAA to acquaint the public with astronomy, and attract some new members, parents and kids, as well.

I asked the coordinator to have the science teachers generate a list of topics that would be suitable for these presentations. The following topics have been suggested:

1. Telescopes, Observatories, Hubble--How they work, emphasizing high school level optics.
2. Orbital and Celestial Mechanics--probably this should be limited to the Earth's motion through space and the apparent motions of the

celestial sphere and the planets.

3. Extraterrestrial Life.
4. Asteroids, Meteors and Comets-- What are they? Dangers and precautions.
5. Cosmology and Cosmogony.
6. Solar System--Planets and their characteristics.
7. A Planet--Give a detailed talk about any particular planet.
8. The Earth--as it might be viewed by observers from another world.
9. Voyager and Galileo Missions.
10. Future of Space Travel.
11. Development of the Heliocentric Theory.
12. Magnitude of Scale in the Universe.
13. What is a Star--how does it work--Hertzsprung-Russell diagram.
14. Stars--how many, how distant, how do they congregate. Make comparisons to earthly quantities, e.g. grains of sand on the beach, etc.
15. Science Fiction--the reality of it.

**HELP!!**

Obviously this is an extensive list. We are to pick and choose from it, or add to it. We are encouraged to speak from our strengths, rather than just speak to a given topic. Also, some of these topics might make a slide presentation difficult. There are few slides available from the Big Bang, for instance.

Anyone interested in coming up with one or more of these talks should contact me at 839-1842. If you already have a talk, great. If not, I may be able to help you to develop one. Remember, if you work, you may have to take time off to give the talk.

I'm to meet with the Coordinator toward the end of July to firm up the final list of topics. A science teachers meeting is scheduled for early October, and the hope is that several of these talks can be given a dry-run at that time so they can decide which will be suitable for their classes, and to provide some constructive criticism for improvement. That's only three months from now so we have to get cracking. However, if this project starts out successfully there is no reason why presenters can't develop more topics as we go along.

Rowland A. Rupp

## (G)ASTRONOMICAL RECIPES

### Oyster Stew No. 5

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 pint                 | oysters             |
| 1 can                  | chicken broth       |
| 1 can                  | water               |
| 2 tbs                  | soy sauce           |
| 1/4 tsp                | grated ginger       |
| 2 cups                 | cut chinese cabbage |
| 8 oz                   | sliced mushrooms    |
| 1/2 cup                | bean sprouts        |
| 4 tops                 | cut green onions    |
| salt & pepper to taste |                     |

**HEAVENLY!**

Heat chicken broth, water, soy sauce and ginger root to boil in a 3 quart sauce pan. Add oysters (with liquid), cabbage, mushrooms and bean sprouts. Bring back to boiling, reduce heat, cover and simmer until cabbage is crisp-tender, about 2 minutes. Ladle soup into bowls; garnish with green onions. \*\*\*Pea pods may be substituted for the bean sprouts.\*\*\*

Yields 6 servings.

Darwin Chrsty

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The following letter has been edited and abridged. The full letter is available by mail from the editor.

I would like to express my response to articles by Joe Orzechowski and Bill Smith. Both Joe's and Bill's articles were excellent, and partly help to fill a commitment void which has existed for almost a year now. In my opinion, the ramifications of this, and the poor attitude of the board, has gradually stifled the members' involvement with the club and the club spirit.

In my opinion, several board members have expressed excuses as to why our club members are not more intensely involved with the BAA — the economy, or that people are too busy. But, if that were true, lack of member involvement would be happening to all clubs — not so. Some cities have more than one club; for example, Hamilton has two. Some local clubs with poor commitment have become extinct, such as Geneva, Lockport, Jamestown N.Y., and in northern Pennsylvania, Warren and Erie. This is something our club members would learn from the NFCAAA (a local federation of astronomy clubs) annual report. Do we have a representative to the NFCAAA since Ed Lindberg passed away?

In Bill Smith's article in the May/June issue of the Spectrum, he expressed how much higher the quality of our club is since he joined in 1986. I disagree, and would like to express my opinion based on my knowledge since first joining in 1971.

I seem to remember, in previous years, our newsletters regularly had 10 to 17 members contribute articles and reports. Club meetings often had an audience of 40 to 70 people and once over a hundred. We had Star Party observing sessions for members, every weekend all summer, with turnouts of 25 to 50, and many brought with them personal scopes, many of them were homemade. For many years we had 52 public nights a year, 23 volunteers, and public turnout usually ranged from 50 to 75, and occasionally 150.

I remember that each year the club would put on an International Astronomy Day display at a location where thousands of the general public could gather indoors if it rains, which it often does. Most years, 40 to 50 members would help out, and the event was held at such places as Buffalo State, Buffalo Museum of Science, Erie Community College, or at a Mall.

I remember that often the BAA would go on a field trip with 10 to 40 members to places like a major regional observatory or planetarium. Some examples are David Dunlap, Alfred U. of Rochester, and Strasenburgh. Two years ago the club was promised a tour of Binghamton's observatory complex, which was never kept. Back in March, we were promised Toronto.

Our club built an observatory at the best site then known, and housed the best equipment; first it was the Newstead site, later it was moved to Beaver Meadow. I remember that every other weekend, the very best members were attracted to the site. Members with lesser astronomy skills could watch experts in action, ask numerous questions, get help on the spot, and make rapid progress.

In my opinion, years ago, all of the club's most active and talented members were our board members, making up its majority, and most were under the age of 30. In my opinion, they have been discouraged, on strike, have quit the club, or are active independently. I remember that every three or four years, the club would have a half page, or full page story about the club and its most outstanding members, in the newspaper, on the radio, and TV, for an entire show.

In my opinion, when a person first joins, or thinks of joining an Astronomy club, there is a shyness factor, everyone in the club is a stranger. In my opinion, our club leaders need to change their attitude of expecting a new person to approach them; instead, the leaders need to make the first step. They should give them a list of all club benefits, which informs them exactly how to acquire them, and who and how to contact the person in charge. Our leaders always need to wear their name tags, and it should identify what they are in charge of. All benefits should be given to new members immediately, not just a membership card. We need to find out from day one, as to how the club can help them, and what they already know, by giving them a questionnaire from the start.

In my opinion, we need to treat our volunteers much better, by stop taking them for granted. In every issue of the Spectrum, we need to honor individually, every thing they do for the club and the public. These unsung

heroes should be asked what special privilege you would like, in exchange for doing something extra for the club. Incentives like these will help motivate members of all levels to continue to volunteer over the long term. The BAA has been quite stingy in giving out annual awards. None have been presented to any member in the past two years. Other clubs have honored four or five a year. In my opinion, a number of our most active and talented members have quit because of our coldness.

In my opinion, our club's poor communication has left many members feeling lost in a fog. They have no idea what to expect three, six, twelve months in the future. What goals are being planned, what progress can be expected, and how soon. All members should be asked if they would like to be in charge of Astronomy Day, doing the audit, setting up a field trip, or setting up Star Parties the way they prefer. More than one person should be allowed to serve on the nomination committee.

In my opinion, because of all these things, we are in a quagmire; we need bold leadership and a progressive club with a dynamic agenda. If the board can't come up with fresh ideas, then its time for fresh blood. This club has missed some rare golden opportunities with the public and the media. They had no where to view through a telescope, the comet impact on Jupiter, comets Hyakutake and Hale-Bopp. In my opinion, organized and well publicized viewing events could have easily doubled our club's membership, with fresh blood and new leaders. Many clubs around the world succeeded with such events — for example, a club in Edmonton, Canada is located where it is colder than Buffalo, yet 22,000 of the public came out to view Hale-Bopp through their club's scopes.

I would like to suggest that now that our club has portable scopes, we can take them to where the crowds are, like John Dobson has done for over 30 years. We can set them up at campgrounds, marinas, parks like the world's famous Niagara Falls, festivals, movie theaters, etc. Our comet talks and locally taken images would have resulted in "standing room only" in the auditorium where we hold our monthly meetings.

Carl Milazzo

*We invite your comments and opinions - Editors.*

## Team vs Task management

Is the BAA's current structure working as well as it should? Is it inefficient or even dysfunctional?

Has the task management by committee approach used in the past (and currently used) become overburdened in some areas?

A case in point in our inability to find an observatory director. Due to many demands on people's time, perhaps having several directors, each responsible for a 1-2 month period of time is better? The board would certainly welcome comments in this and any other aspect of the club.

- Bill Smith

## Review: Starmaster 7" Oak-Classic Telescope (\$700)

There is a new name in the mid-sized telescope market. For many years the 8" class has been dominated by SCTs and Dobs from Meade, Celestron, Orion and Coulter. These scopes have offered modest quality at a low price, a combination that been successful in making 8" scopes very common. A major change of very high quality has finally come to this class of scope.

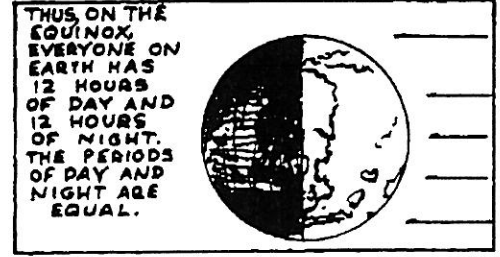
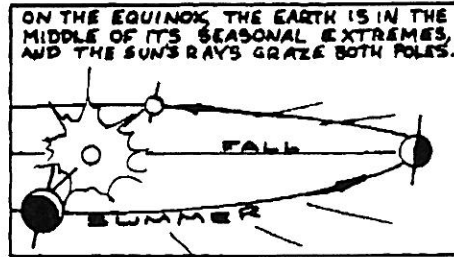
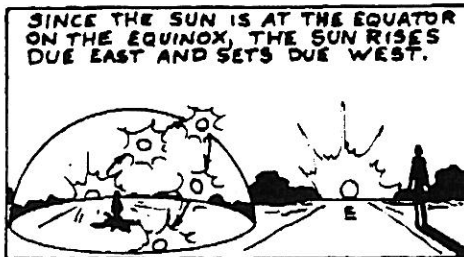
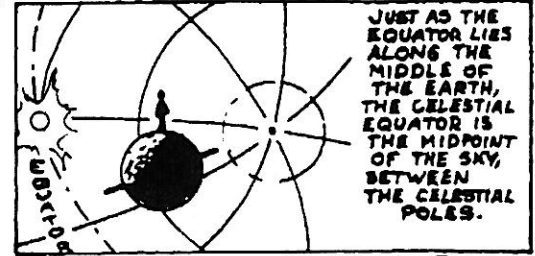
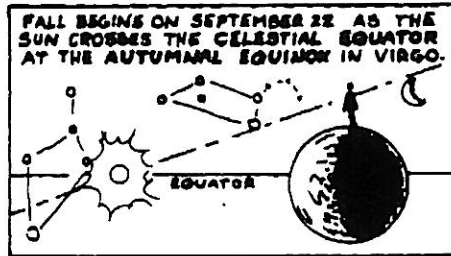
The 7" Oak-Classic from Starmaster is mechanically, esthetically and optically excellent. Viewing is a delight. The dobsonian mount is all oak plywood and well made. Motions and hardware are smooth and a big cut above average (2" focuser and balance system are standard equipment). Two members of the Martz (Jamestown) club own them and are ecstatic

- Tom Bemus

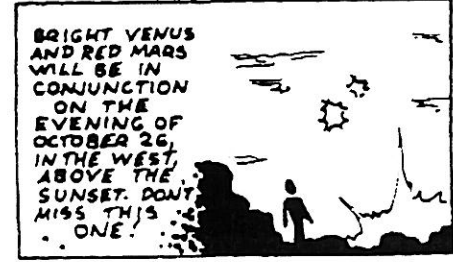
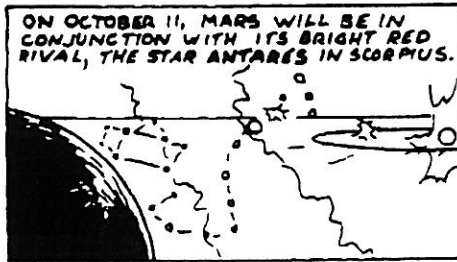
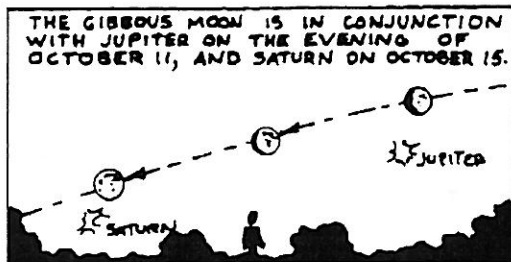
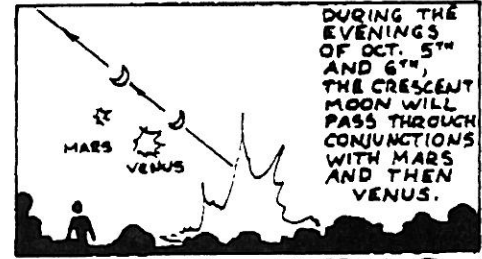
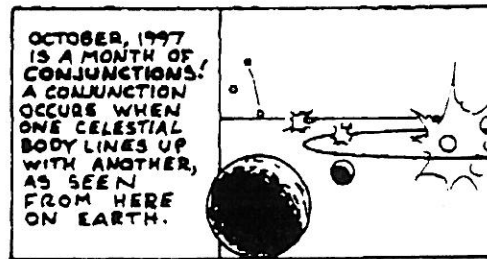


The following 'educomics' are supplied by Jay & Debbie Ryan, two amateur astronomers from Cleveland, Ohio.

## For September



## For October



## POETRY CORNER:

### Orion

Occultation of Orion  
Begin with many a blazing star,  
Stood the great giant Algebar,  
Orion, hunter of the beast!

His sword hung gleaming by his side,  
And on his arm, the lion's hide  
Scattered across the midnight air  
The golden radiance of his hair.

— Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

## METEOR OBSERVING:

Nature's firework displays! On clear nights when good meteor showers are predicted you may see meteor after meteor split the sky, perhaps a few leaving smoke trails and a rare one creating shadows. At these times a meteor a minute is possible. Normally, during most meteor showers, you just wait. Typically 1 or 2 bright ones per hour may brighten the usual view of faint streaks. Time is on your side.

Meteors can be seen from anywhere: your backyard or in the country. Of course the darker the site and lower the horizons the better. Observing is easy. Just toss down a blanket, sleeping bag or use a chaise lounge and watch the skies! No telescope or binoculars are needed — just your eyes. Don't do it solo, these are events that are fun to share with children, friends and family. Be comfortable (extra clothes handy), keep your eyes open, and remember to look up. At any time a bright meteor may suddenly light up the night and present you an indelible, lifelong memory.

## ROWLAND A. RUPP

One of the outstanding leaders of the BAA through the years has been Rowland Rupp. He has served as president for two terms, vice president, secretary, member of the Board of Directors, and for several years has represented the College of Fellows on the board. He has devoted many hours helping with decision making on important issues involving our association.

Rowland was born in Buffalo and spent his early years on Taunton Place in the North Park section of the city. He graduated from School 81, and Bennett High School, and continued his education by enrolling at the University of Buffalo, majoring in electrical engineering, and graduating with a B.S. degree in 1956. He earned his Masters degree in electrical engineering at the same university in 1963. Rowland was honored by being elected to membership in Sigma Xi, a National Scientific Research Society, for his research project, "An Avalanche Pulse Generator."

After graduation in 1956, he became employed at Bell Aerospace Textron as an analog and digital circuit designer, where he remained for 36 years until his retirement in 1992.

From 1962 through 1967, Rowland taught Fundamentals of Transistors for a number of terms in the evening extension division at Erie Community College. He was in charge of, and taught astronomy courses at the Buffalo Museum of Science along with Al Kolodziejczak, Ken Kimble and yours truly since the early 1980s. He taught astronomy courses at Niagara County Community College following his retirement, and taught a course in Extraterrestrial Intelligence for Amherst Adult Education.

Rowland first became interested in astronomy when, as a ten year old school boy, he was studying geography with the usual maps, a globe, and an atlas. It was in the atlas that he found a representation of the solar system which held such a fascination for him that he proceeded to memorize the page, including distances, diameters, and number of moons known at that time, which he continues to have at his command to this day, and no doubt has added the newly discovered moons to his list.

When Rowland was in eighth grade, he received a 25x spy glass which opened up with five extensions. This helped him to appreciate the wonders of the heavens to a greater degree. During high school, a variety of activities caused his interest in astronomy to wane, and it wasn't revived until the space program, when its astronauts, and exploration, sparked once more his curiosity about the sky above. He purchased an Edmund 3-inch reflector which he used for three years, and still uses on occasion though he owns a 6-inch Dynascope.

While visiting Baltimore on business trips in 1972-73, he met a gentleman from the Bendix Corporation who was a member of the astronomical group in that city. He suggested that Rowland check with our museum to find out if there was an astronomical group in Buffalo. Finding that the BAA was an established organization, Rowland joined our association in 1973.

One of his early interests was in astrophotography. In 1970 he took pictures of a partial solar eclipse with his 25x spy glass, and photographed the moon, Jupiter, and Saturn with his 6-inch telescope using the afocal system. He also photographed the constellations using the "piggy back" method. Along the way he bought a used 12-inch telescope on an equatorial mount, and claims to have looked through it less than a half dozen times, as it is too big to handle with no place to mount it permanently. According to Rowland, "The tube looks like a water-heater standing in my garage."

Rowland gets enjoyment from teaching astronomy and reading about it. He gave 14 lectures on Hale-Bopp in the public schools last winter and spring, and often speaks on astronomy to visitors at Beaver Meadow on public nights. It should be noted that he is a collector of early astronomy books, and has a number dating from the middle and late 19th to the early 20th century.

His prime interest in astronomy is in public and personal education, specifically history and extraterrestrial intelligence. He is a member of the Lockport Camera Club, and will be teaming up with Carl Milazzo in October to present, "Astronomy Night at the Lockport Camera Club."

In 1958, Rowland met Irene Marks, a physicist, who was also employed at Bell Aerospace Textron. They were married in 1960, and have

three children. Patty is a physician in New Hampshire, and is an excellent swimmer who has won many awards. She does an annual marathon swim for charity. On October 22, 1994, she was inducted into the University of Rochester Sports and Recreation Hall of Fame. Anthony is a successful attorney with a local firm. Anthony and Linda Leone were married in January 1997. Ned has engineering and history degrees. He is employed at Radio Shack, and also works part-time on numerous projects at Niagara Systems and Software, Inc.

These young people are also instrumentalists with Patty and Ned playing cello, and Anthony playing trombone. Their interest in music has been nurtured by their father who has a deep appreciation of the classics, especially the compositions of Beethoven, Dvorak and Schubert along with the works of Rossini, Von Suppe, and Johann Strauss. He has made many taped recordings of the masters.

Pitching horseshoes is another of Rowland's hobbies that brings him great joy. He belongs to leagues in Getzville and Delevan, N.Y., and enters tournaments on occasions in which he is very successful. For the last several years he has directed the Lockport tournament which is held in early June.

Rowland is a connoisseur of fine wines and has found great satisfaction in making wine for some 25 years. Those he used from grapes grown in his backyard in Snyder did not meet his standards, but robins now benefit from his rejection. Rowland is of the opinion that "Napa Valley has nothing to fear from Snyder vineyards." At one time he had some choice vines of Foch and Leon Millot grapes he hoped would produce abundantly to make exquisite wines.

The summer cottage at Lime Lake is well-known to the BAA, where the Rupps entertain the members and families at an annual star party. Because of the lights along the lake, observing is minimal. However, it is a super event with sparkling conversation, picnicing, and boating.

As a board member, much of what the BAA has achieved is due to Rowland. He is capable of seeing flaws or weaknesses in a plan under discussion, thus keeping the BAA on track, and free from hidden pitfalls. Years ago, understanding the need for revision and clarification of the BAA By-Laws, he took charge of a meeting in which present by-laws were established. He also helped in the finance and construction of the addition to our Beaver Meadow Observatory in 1993.

Rowland is known for his ability and reliability. He is a man of intelligence, insight, energy and action, with a vivifying touch of humor. We appreciate his many years of continuing service to the BAA.

Edith L. Geiger

## BAA HISTORY

For new members who might be interested in the history of the Buffalo Astronomical Association, its history, starting with predecessor clubs in the 1930s and ending in 1993, is still available. The cost is \$7.50 with a \$1.50 additional if you want it mailed. Contact Rowland Rupp at a meeting or at 839-1842 if you want a copy.

Rowland A. Rupp

## (G)ASTRONOMICAL RECIPES

### Butterfield Weiners No. 42

1 lb	weiners
1/4 cup	honey
12 oz.	barbecue sauce

Hot dog!

Cut weiners crosswise in three pieces. Cut each piece in half lengthwise to make six pieces. Slit each piece through the ends leaving 1/4 inch joint in center. Set aside. Mix honey and sauce in 1 1/2 quart casserole. Cover with wrap and microwave on high for 1 minute. Add weiners, cover and microwave 3 minutes on high or until ends curl up.

Yields 8 servings.

Darwin Christy



## BAA ANNALS

Rowland A. Rupp

For September & October

**5 YEARS AGO** - Charlie Fassel from the Niagara Centre RASC opened the meetings for the year. His topic, "Niagara Centre at Work, Eh!", highlighted the recent achievements of our neighbors across the river. At our October meeting Dave Meisel from SUNY at Geneseo talked about CCDs. We didn't have a CCD camera yet; in fact, President Bill Smith had a brief pitch in the SPECTRUM extolling its virtues.

Speaking of the SPECTRUM, Larry Carlino had a detailed summary of what telescopes were available in several price ranges. Maybe a five year update of that article is in order. It might be a handy item to have available at BMO when the public inquires about what telescope to buy.

Edith Geiger's *Spy and Tell* noted that I was to include a report on activities at BMO in a talk to be given to the Buffalo Audubon Society. I proposed the addition to house the 20-inch telescope at that time, which ended in their funding the project that we completed about a year and a half later. Edith also noted that Olga Lindberg was cited for her writings on the history of the Niagara Frontier that appeared in several publications. Ed Lindberg's *Instrument Notes* covered the development of the pinhole and slit in testing telescope mirrors. Bill Smith's observation report included Comet Shoemaker-Levy, apparently before its encounter with Jupiter that broke it apart.

**10 YEARS AGO** - Raymond Rusk, a Phd. candidate at the University of Toronto, was our September 1987 speaker. He talked about the mysterious jets observed near quasars and BL Lacerta objects. We were still searching for an October speaker.

Ralph Dakin wrote an article for the SPECTRUM on "Matching a Binocular to Your Eyes". Another article, written by Leslie Martin, traced the history of how astronomers explained the origin of solar energy. Carl Milazzo contributed an article on "Active Galactic Nuclei". He covered diverse objects including black holes, Seyfert galaxies and, apparently in anticipation of our September speaker, quasars and BL Lacerta objects.

The obituary for Bob Mayer, long-time board member, College of Fellows member, and a master machinist who frequently donated his time to help BAA members with their projects, appeared in this SPECTRUM.

**15 YEARS AGO** - "Astrophotography With a Surplus Lens" was Larry Hazel's topic at our opening meeting fifteen years ago. Charlie Fassel was around back then too. In October, he addressed us on "Space Exploration, Early Days to Colonies in Space".

John Riggs, Observatory Director in 1982, reported that the horizontal beams supporting the roll-off roof rotted and were replaced. John estimated that 50 to 60 people attended clear public nights during the summer. Edith Geiger's member profile happened to be on John Riggs.

SPECTRUM highlights included Ed Lindberg's *Instrument Note* on "The Eye as an Instrument". Masahiro Yamaguchi, our Japanese contributor, wrote an article on "The Brightness of the Totally Eclipsed Moon: 1939-1978". These results were obtained from his own observations, and demonstrate that the brightness of the eclipsed moon varies in a relatively unpredictable way. Observation reports from Darwin Christy, Carl Milazzo and Rowland Rupp also appeared.

Officers for 1982-1984 were: President--Rowland Rupp, Vice-President--Ken Biggie, Secretary--Ken Kimble, and Treasurer--Edith Geiger.

**25 YEARS AGO** - For September 1972 the topic was "Total Solar Eclipse - Roundup", an informal series of talks by members who "chased this eclipse". I don't know where they chased it--do you? In October, BAA member Walt Semerau, an expert solar astrophotographer, spoke on "Activity on the Sun". New officers took over in late 1972, they were: President--Darwin Christy, Vice-President--Tom Dessert, Secretary--John Riggs and Treasurer--Bob Kartyas.

Edith reported in *Spy and Tell* that Mike Dlugosz was co-owner of a 16-inch telescope, believed to be the largest in the Buffalo area.



## RUTH CHRISTY

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Ruth Christy (nee Lyons) on May 21st. Ruth lived in her family homestead on Kohler Street in Tonawanda from the time of her birth until her death.

She graduated from Tonawanda Senior High where she was a very bright student and a member of the National Honor Society. Ruth was an accomplished pianist, and while in high school gave recitals or performed as soloist in the schools and at church for students and the public. One of her high school recitals ended with one of the Polonaises by Chopin.

She later attended Bryant & Stratton to study business, and as a result became employed for several years at Warner Brothers Distributors in Buffalo.

Ruth and Darwin were married on October 14, 1943. Three days later the war took Darwin to Denver and the service. He returned home on October 31, 1945. They were happily married for 53 years.

Ruth was a very kind and talented lady. She had worked as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels since 1963, and sent baked goods to DeGraff Memorial Hospital for many years. When she found that the hospital was short on help, she volunteered as a member of the DeGraff Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, working in the gift shop. Ruth received a certificate of appreciation for 2200 hours of service. She was a great cook, and volunteered to help with refreshments for funerals.

Few members of the BAA realize that during the 16 years that Darwin was editor of the Spectrum, Ruth was a constant help for 14 years, putting pages together and typing when necessary.

Though she battled cancer for 23 years, it was a massive heart attack that ended her life. She will be greatly missed. Our condolences go out to Darwin, their family and many friends.

e.l.g.

## ANCIENT CONSTELLATIONS

### DRACO

With vast convolutions Draco holds

Th' ecliptic axis in his scaly fold,

O'er half the skies his enormous rears,

And with immense meanders parts the Bears.

- Erasmus Darwin's 'Economy of Vegetation'

This constellation winds between the two Bears. It is, from long past, an ancient constellation (probably in 3000 century B. C.). Although dragons were commonly pictured having a lizard-like body and containing limbs, this heavenly version has at most been depicted as a serpent-like creature.

(Continued on page 10)

**Ancient Constellations** continued from page 9

In the legends of the Greeks, the dragon played a major role in the sky. It was supposed to be the guardian of the Garden of the Hesperides with its Golden Apples. It was supposed to have been slain by Hercules -- as in the 'Shield of Hercules' -- with the two Dogs, the Hare, Orion and Perseus:

The scaly horror of a dragon, coiled  
full in the central field;

The mythologists claimed that it was the Snake which Minerva snatched from the giants and whirled into the sky. It also is known as the monster which was killed by Cadmus at the fount of Mary. Cadmus sowed the monster's teeth for a crop of an army.

Referring to Draco's change in position with respect to the precession, Proctor wrote in his 'Myths and Marvels of Astronomy':

One night almost, if fancifully disposed, recognized the gradual displacement of the Dragon from his old place of honour, in certain traditions of the down-fall of the great Dragon whose, "tail drew the third part of the stars of Heaven," alluded to the 'Book of Revelations' - chapter XII - verses 3 & 4.

The conclusion of this verse, "didst cast them to the earth," probably showed a reference to meteors.

Darwin P. Christy

**Inside:**

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- 2 Membership corner  
BAA Annals
- 3 Spy and Tell
- 4 Astronomical Happenings  
Beaver Meadow Observatory

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**FIRST CLASS**

September starts the membership renewal cycle.