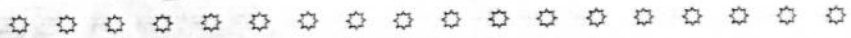




Los Angeles Astronomical Society



Submit Bulletin inquiries and materials, including articles, information, and ads, to Lewis Chilton, Bulletin editor, 1951 So. Seneandoah St., #10, Los Angeles, Calif. 90034.

All other inquiries and correspondence should be directed to the Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Box 27787, Los Feliz Station, Los Angeles, Calif. 90027. Please indicate on envelope the general nature of correspondence or to whom it is being directed.

CALENDAR

- July 12 Star Party - LAAS Lockwood Valley site, dark till dawn.
- July 14 General meeting - Kinsey Auditorium, California Museum of Science & Industry, Exposition Park; 7:45 p.m.
- July 21 Star member meeting - Palms Recreational Center, Overland Avenue near the Santa Monica Freeway, 7:45 p.m., (213) 838-3838.
- July 28 Executive Board of Directors meeting - Same as above.

GENERAL MEETING

Professor Ashley McDermott, chairman of the department of physics and astronomy at the College of the Desert, will discuss "Problems in the History of Astronomy" at the July meeting. Those who've had the good fortune to hear Professor McDermott before will not miss this meeting. Plan to attend.

BRITISH AUTHOR TO SPEAK

At the time of this writing the prospects are good that the speaker for our August meeting will be none other than the famous British author and television personality Sir Patrick Moore. Known by amateur and professional astronomers the world over by the great number of books on astronomy that he has written, particularly in the areas of planetary astronomy and telescope making, Sir Patrick has agreed to speak before our Society. However, the evening that he has free is Wednesday, August 13. As things now stand, the meeting date for August only will be for Wednesday evening, not Monday. Refer to the August Bulletin for last minute confirmation.

DELINQUENT DUES A PROBLEM

Because of heavy commitments to work and school, secretary Alvano Dean resigned his office, turning over Society records to treasurer Alfred Bond.

One consequence of Dean's difficulties in fulfilling his responsibilities of office has been the failure of many members to receive their annual renewal notices. By the June 2nd Board meeting, fifty members were delinquent in their dues, presumably because they did not receive renewal notices. To facilitate reinstatement of these members, delinquent dues should be made payable to the Los Angeles Astronomical Society and mailed directly to Alfred Bond, LAAS treasurer, 6204 Condon Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 90056. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A FINAL RENEWAL NOTICE. No reinstatement fee will be assessed any member in arrears since January of this year. This waiver of reinstatement fee expires July 31, 1975. The same consideration will also be extended to star members who have not been likewise notified.

FISCAL YEAR IN OUR FUTURE

Problems encountered this year with dues renewals (as described above) have occupied a major portion of the Board of Directors' time the past several months. Treasurer Alfred Bond's suggestion to make all members' dues fall due at the same time was discussed at great length and eventually passed by a unanimous vote at the June 2nd Board meeting. However, much debate followed when details of implementation were discussed, but a plan was eventually devised. It now remains for the (Continued on page two.)

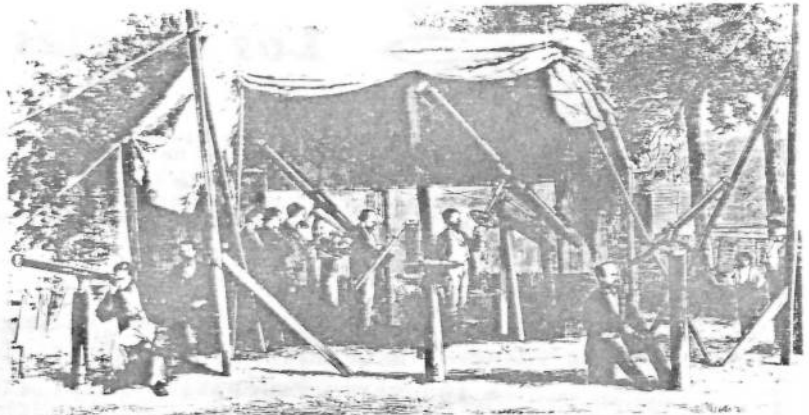
Board to present its plan in the form of a constitutional amendment to the Society for ratification. This may take another month or two.

JULY STAR PARTY

Members are reminded that this year's star party season at the Lockwood Valley site occurs at a time when a great deal of construction activity is taking place. Construction material lies scattered about and caution must be exercised to the utmost. Use a red-filtered flashlight to find your way about.

In the high desert areas of California rattlesnakes are common, and our property is no exception. Stay in the observing and other cleared areas. Again, exercise caution. Do not traipse through the chaparral. Also, be courteous. Do not shine your flashlight indiscriminately. Keep conversation at a comfortably audible level, particularly in the wee hours. People are trying to sleep nearby (I'm usually one of them! - ed.). Keep a litter bag in your car or camper: haul out ALL your trash, including pop-tops. (Editor's note: A bill is now before the California state legislature to ban aluminum can pop-tops. I for one fervently hope this bill becomes a law! If and when it does, we'll all be shining up our old, rusty church keys.)

Bring adequately warm clothing in the event that temperatures dip to freezing (that is very possible). Remember, facilities are minimal: no water, no electricity and only one outhouse. And lastly, enjoy yourselves. Impossible, you say? Well, just gaze up at that star-strewn sky and you decide!



GROW SCOPE STATUS REPORT



The primary instrument in the Lockwood Valley observatory will be the 14½-inch newtonian reflector donated by the widow of the late Frank T. Grow. The telescope's fork mounting will be clamped to a concrete pier in the south side of the observatory floor. The telescope is controlled remotely by an electronics console that is, for all practicality, finished. Power will be provided by a 12 volt car battery until 115 volt facility power is installed at the site. The telescope is equipped with a clock drive on the polar axis and slow motion on the declination. Both axes have two-rate slew motors. The focal plane has been altered to accept a series of attachments.

With the installation of the support structure to tie down the mounting to its pier, the Grow telescope becomes operational and the long-held dream of the Society for an observatory is at last realized.

- David Sovereign

ASTRO CALENDAR

- July 4 Mercury reaches greatest western elongation, placing it in the morning sky. On this date it will be twenty-two degrees from the sun at magnitude 0.7 with a diameter of approximately eight seconds of arc. This is a very favorable event for us northerners, so plan to make use of it!
- July 8 Conjunction between Venus and Regulus with Venus being located 0.4 degrees south of Regulus. An interesting photograph?
- July 22 Venus reaches greatest brilliancy, attaining a magnitude slightly brighter than -4.2 and a diameter of 37.9 seconds. It (Continued on page three)

ASTRO CALENDAR (cont'd)

is no myth that Venus can be seen in daylight on just about any clear day. Honest! Measure off about forty degrees around this date and amaze yourself and your friends.

July 27-28

Delta Aquarids meteor shower. This being the best of three showers this month. The others succumb to the moon (this one does too!) but the moon is substantially old enough (18 days) to obtain a fairly decent view. Maximum occurs on these dates with a rate of about 35 meteors per hour. The shower is good into August. It is also noted for its double radiant, each radiant being separated by some seventeen degrees.

- Dana Patchick

VICE PRESIDENT

On June 2nd the Board of Directors reluctantly accepted the resignation of vice-president Norman Muir. Norm, a longtime and ever-popular member, gave as his reason for resigning a heavy schedule and a return to school.

Mike Simmons was appointed interim vice-president by president Cave. At the following Board meeting on June 30th, with the president and treasurer on vacation, the new v.p. stepped in and chaired the meeting in a most competent manner.

CLASSIFIED

Wanted: 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch reflector telescope without mount. To be used as a photographic guidescope on my 8-inch reflector. For Sale: 36-exposure rolls of Kodak 103a-F astro-photographic film at \$2.50 per roll. See Sam Sjogren at general meetings or phone (213) 628-1433.

For sale: 8-inch f/16 cassegrain, 1/16 wave optics by Coulter. Three eyepieces (40, 20, 12mm), 12X Unitron finderscope, aluminum pedestal with equatorial mount and clockdrive, white fiberglass tube. Asking \$400. Peter Granet, 2806 Rinconia Drive, Hollywood, Calif. 90068 or phone (213) 467-2639.

Wanted: Four to six inch portable telescope with or without mount but preferably of cassegrain design. Chris Denove, 4008 Mariner Circle, Westlake Village, Calif. 91361, or phone 889-6426.

FED UP WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING ON THIS PLANET? Get a fresh start on another world. The Astronomical Society of the Pacific, in pursuit of donations to support its nonprofit educational activities, is now offering for "sale" land areas on the planet Mercury.

Land is being sold in selected localities in the following price range:

CATEGORY	LAND SIZE	PRICE PER PARCEL
Recreational Site	14,000 Acres	\$10.00
Homesite (with crater)	56,000 Acres	\$25.00
Ranches/Estates (with spectacular crater)	126,000 Acres	\$50.00

In addition, a limited number of selected industrial sites, airport locations, recreational parks, and other development areas are available to interested corporations and individuals. Prices range from \$250 to \$1,500 depending on size, location, and availability of resources. The low tax base, liberal zoning laws, and a pollution free environment makes these sites most desirable. Further information on large land purchases can be obtained directly from the society's executive officer, Dr. Richard Reis, at the address below.

Each grantee will receive a handsome Mercury quitclaim deed from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific identifying, through an enlarged photograph, each land area purchased. Both the deed and the photograph are suitable for framing. Please indicate your choice of parcels, number desired, and name(s) in which the deed is to be recorded; and send with a check or money order to:

Mercury Development Office
Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 75 Southgate Avenue, Daly City, California 94015

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIETY ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

LAND ON MERCURY WOULD MAKE A UNIQUE AND LASTING GIFT FOR A FRIEND OR RELATIVE.

