

The Atlanta Astronomy Club
May 1981

The Atlanta Astronomy Club's Annual Banquet will be held on Friday 15 at 7:00 PM in the Oak Room of Cox Hall, Emory University. Ray DuVarney is taking reservations thru Wed. 13th, 329-6584 day or 294-4293 night, tab \$8.00 each, and the after dinner entertainment is worth that. Julius Staal is our speaker. He is the man who suddenly appears during our meetings and invites everyone to visit his subterranean chambers in the bowels of Bradley to see a sky show. His repertory contains a strange shadow box, whispered to date from the time of Caligula, that he uses to project patterns of light on a domed ceiling, and proceeds to tell sometimes shocking and always interesting stories about the sky. At our banquet Julius will talk about Chinese Astronomy, a subject he is well versed in and has written a book about.

-club notes- Pres. Mark Christensen is planning club meetings during the summer and there will be a June news letter. Reminder Regular dues are \$20.00, students \$16.00. Send your check and your Sky & Tel renewal card to our club Treasurer. Also a SEARL Convention is planned by the Brevard Astronomical Society for June 25 - 27 at the Holiday Inn West, intrsc. I 95 & U S hwy 192, Melbourne Fla, near Coco Beach, Rick Armstrong 303-777-1905.

For enjoyable sky observing you must keep in touch with the elements and be ready to go when nature provides a window to the stars. Saturday May 2nd was an excellent night. About two thirds of the gung-ho members of the AAC swarmed on the Earber observing site. I found evidence that you don't need a lot of expensive equipment to have fun, a 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch RFT and a 8-inch Dobsonian[®] were the fastest 'scopes there. They were bringing down deep sky objects from all over the place. The Dobsonian even found the Jolly Green Giant (Uranus). All this while some fellow I know was fumbling with maps, score cards and setting circles; however, George happily added several new objects to his 'M' list. Names: David Roberts, Rick Clark, Alex Langoussis, Pat Sammons, John Marsh, Randy Falkenberg, Tom Gordon, George Reight, Terry Morris, Jim & Nadean Colehour, Jay & Carol Rhoads & two little ones.

A real-world arena is the best schoolroom. Last fall when this all started any qualms I had about my writing capabilities were run over by my desires of making things happen with words. In composing my letters the basic parts came first and the technical corrections came last except when I ran out of time. The most memorable response came at the February meeting when Bill Calder said was so old he could remember when the Universe looked completely different. Later I called him and tried to alibi away that error, I shouldn't of done that. The Chicago World Fair was in 1893 and his parents went to it on their honeymoon. The astronomy connection was from a large book about the fair in which there was a photograph of the great 40-inch Yerkes Refractor Telescope.

This past year has been a marvelous experience for me. Several people have complemented me on the news letter and I appreciated that very much. Regrettably I will miss the banquet. Good friends, Ed & Sara Flowers, have invited me for a week in the Gig Apple (NYC).

Next observing alert May 29 & 30

-Lee wilson