

Amateur Astronomers

DENVER CONVENTION PROGRAM

A FOUR-DAY meeting of amateur astronomers from all over the country is scheduled for Denver, Colorado, August 20-23. Early registration begins at 3 p.m. on Tuesday the 19th, with an evening social hour and observing at Chamberlin Observatory.

Registration reopens at 8:30 the next morning, at the Student Union of the University of Denver. The official convention opening is at 10 a.m., and at 11:30 a group of 40 delegates will leave for a tour of NORAD. This trip costs \$5.00 and is limited to U. S. citizens over 18 years of age. Wednesday afternoon will be devoted to amateur papers, and that evening there will be a special showing at the Gates Planetarium in downtown Denver (\$1.50).

Amateur talks occupy morning and afternoon sessions on Thursday. In the evening as many as 200 delegates will journey to Elk Falls Ranch for a mountain picnic and star party (\$6.00). Friday morning's sessions will precede an afternoon outing to Boulder, to tour ESSA and NCAR installations (\$2.00). In the evening two events are scheduled: a star party at Chamberlin Observatory and a special panel discussion of the Condon Committee report.

The regularly scheduled papers conclude on Saturday morning, but the afternoon is open for meetings by special-interest groups. At 6 p.m. the banquet formally closes the convention (\$4.00).

Advance registration at \$7.00 includes a copy of the convention proceedings and also covers members of the registrant's immediate family. Checks made payable to National Amateur Astronomers may be sent to NAA Registrar, 1591 S. Cherry St., Denver, Colo. 80222. If the NORAD trip is desired, include \$5.00 additional per person.

Housing will be in the University of Denver residence hall, at \$9.25 per person

a night for a double, \$11.25 for a single (breakfast and lunch included).

Exhibit arrangements may be made with H. D. Fiske, 2273 S. Fillmore St., Denver, Colo. 80210. July 20th is the deadline for papers; they should be submitted to A. R. Gassmann, Box 625, Castle Rock, Colo. 80104.

+++ Amateur Briefs +++

English observers have a new organization for variable stars. The Binocular Sky Society hopes to amend chart magnitudes and search for new variables, in addition to watching former novae for new outbursts. Apply for membership (\$2.50 per year) to James Muirden, 44d The Mall, Ealing, London W.5, England.

The May issue of the *Yakima Observer* reports: "Plans are moving forward rapidly for the 1969 Northwest Regional Convention to be held in Seattle, Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13. The Seattle Astronomical Society, Inc., is sponsoring the convention, which will be held at Seattle Pacific College, 3rd Ave. W. and Bertona." Subscriptions at \$1.00 a year to the *Observer* may be sent to its editor, Edward J. Newman, 509 N. 6th St., Yakima, Wash. 98901.

The 19 member societies of the Astronomical League's Middle East Region will

hold their annual convention June 13-15 at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. There is a star party on Friday evening the 13th, regular convention business and papers are on Saturday, and on Sunday there is a field trip to Pulpit Rock, where a new amateur observatory for a 20-inch reflecting telescope is presently under construction.

Headquarters for the meeting will be the Bethlehem Hotel, with the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomical Society as host. For further information contact George H. Maurer, Star Rte., Coopersburg, Pa. 18036.

PLANETARIUM LISTING

The September issue of *SKY AND TELESCOPE* is tentatively scheduled to carry Planetarium Notes, a listing of installations in the United States and Canada. Any planetarium that conducts a regular schedule of showings for the public is invited to supply the following specific information:

1. Name of planetarium and address, including telephone number and person in charge.

2. Schedule of showings, including days of the week and times.

3. Admission charge, if any, and type of projector.

To insure an up-to-date compilation, this information should be sent promptly to this magazine; otherwise the listing in the September, 1968, issue (page 164) may not be reprinted.

AN INDIAN AMATEUR'S OBSERVATORY

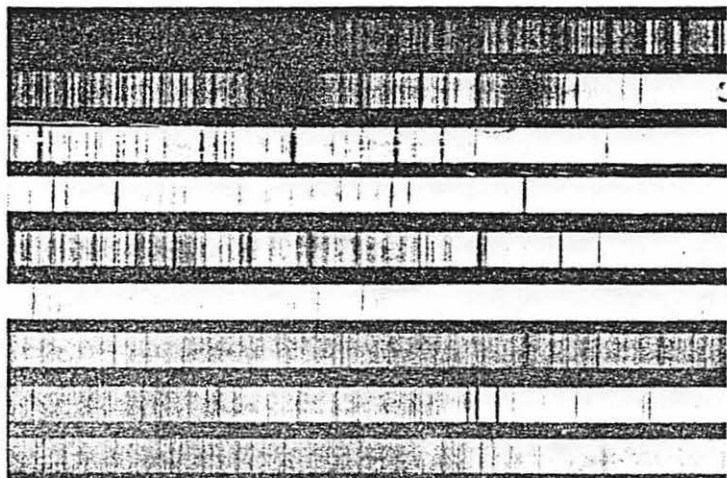
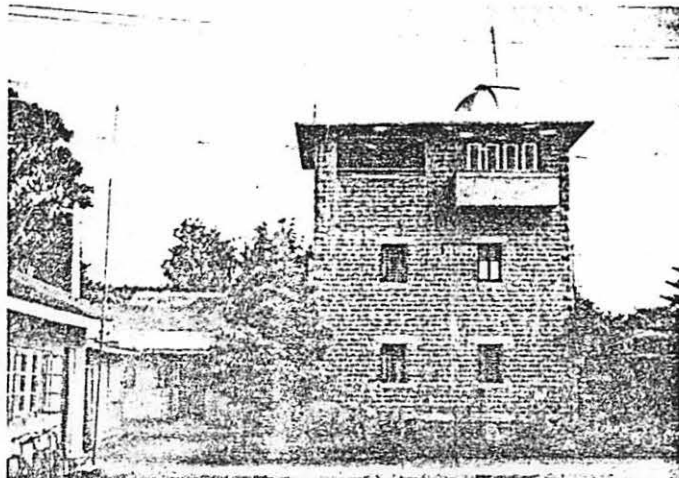
ASTRONOMY has been my hobby since 1941. I continue to enjoy it, although I have just turned 80 and have retired from regular work.

My observatory, pictured here, contains a 6-inch refractor with an air-spaced objective. The 12-foot aluminum dome of double-seam construction was made following instructions in *Amateur Telescope Making - Book II*. The shutter is of the telescoping type, and is operated with a

convenient rope and pulley arrangement.

My refractor is fitted with a Littrow-type spectrograph having a 3-inch 60° prism and a half prism (90°-60°-30°), together with two 4-inch mirrors of 90 inches focal length. The spectrum of the sun reproduced here is a contact print from one of my negatives.

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... of his house in Poona, a city about 75 miles southeast of Bom-