

# DETROIT ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Volume 3 No. 9

# Newsletter

JANUARY 1967

9900 EAST JEFFERSON

DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48214

## JAN. 8 MEETING TO FEATURE SOLAR ECLIPSE PHOTOGRAPHS

The January Meeting to be held at the University of Detroit Science Bldg. at 3:15 p.m. Sunday, January 8, will feature the report of the South American Solar Eclipse Expedition. Color photographs of the Sun's inner and outer corona will be shown. Exceptional color shots of other features such as Bailey's Heads, the Diamond Ring, and striking views of prominences on the sun's limb will also be shown for the first time, along with views of the equipment set up on the lower slopes of the volcano El Misti in the heart of the Andes. Dick Love, chairman of the expedition, will be the speaker. He will report the findings and data gathered by the teams and individuals on the various research projects undertaken by the expedition.

A short illustrated talk, "How to Use the Graphic Time Table of the Heavens", will be given by Dr. Blass. This Chart, prepared by the Maryland Academy of Science, is published each-year in the January issue of "Sky and Telescope". In this year's issue it is found on pages 34-35.

At the business session the three amendments proposed by the by-laws committee at the December Meeting will be voted upon.

## **HELP!** Help! help! help! help! help! help! help!

This winter we expect a lot of requests for speakers, particularly from the public schools.

If you would like to participate in the Society's Speakers Bureau, we need your help.

You would be assigned to talk only if the time and place is convenient for you.

We do ask that all members of the Speakers Bureau attend a seminar before going out to represent the Society. The seminar will consist of a series of meetings, once a week for three weeks. Each meeting will last 2 to 3 hours. You will find the seminar both interesting and instructive.

If you think you'd like to be part of this program, call Doc Marshall at 535-7117 any evening or at 393-6631 during the day.

## Dr. Donaldson Craig

Dr. Donaldson. Craig, past President of the D.A.S. passed away on December 3 at the age of 96. To his many friends Dr. Craig's death came as a surprise and shock, for despite his many years he seemed to grow more active and enthusiastic with every passing year.

Dr. Craig, who was born in Plymouth, Michigan, spent many of his early years as a Christian Missionary in China, India and Asia Minor. His later years were spent in the field of education, teaching Hebrew, Greek and Mathematics. He was one of the founders and faculty member of the Florence Clark School on Second Blvd. He served as President of the D.A.S. during 1953 and '54. An ardent amateur astronomer, he was also a member of the British Astronomical Assn. and Royal Canadian Astronomical Society and served as President of the Windsor, Ontario, Chapter.

He also carried on extensive correspondence with professional and amateur astronomers throughout the world. Many of our Society's present activities are the result of Dr. Craig's enthusiasm and organizing abilities. The Friday night sessions

( continued on page 3 )

# ELECTION

At the regular meeting on Sunday, Dec. 11, 1966, the election of officers and directors took place.

There were no nominations from the floor and the slate proposed by the nominating committee was unanimously elected. The 1967 Officers and Directors are:

## OFFICERS

President - Dr. G.A.Blass  
Vice-Pres - C.D.Marshall  
Secretary - Nelson Lewis  
Treasurer - R. S. Lloyd

## DIRECTORS

Larry Applebaum  
Elwyn Balch  
Edson Boyer  
John Hartleib  
Leigh Chapelle  
Joe Shires  
Vic Velasco

# Newsletter

Dr. Blass announced at the November Meeting that Leigh LaChapelle had resigned as Editor of the newsletter due to the press of other activities.

The new Editor is Linda Lloyd, who needs no introduction to D.A.S. members. Linda will appreciate receiving assistance from any of our members. See her on Fridays at Sylvia Allen Center, or call her at 837-7857 and offer your services.

## January Program of Events at Sylvia Allen Center

Friday, JANUARY 6, 1967

8:30 p.m.- Beginner's Class

THE CONSTELLATIONS LEO and GEMINI"

A short lecture on two of the Zodiacal Constellations which are prominent in the Winter skies, with emphasis on items for the observer with binoculars or telescope with aperture from 2 to 8 inches

9:00 p.m. Motion Picture "OUR MR. SUN"

This film, the first in the Bell Co. Science Series, explains how Solar energy is created by converting hydrogen into helium and more complex elements. Told in simple terms with the help of analogies, animated cartoons and humorous repartee. This picture furnishes entertainment and instruction understandable by the amateur from age 8 to 80.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1967

8:30 p.m. -- Beginner's Class

"NEBULAE and GALAXIES" - I

Fundamental facts about the clouds of gas in our corner of space in which new stars may be forming, and the distant island Universes which abound to the limits of our most powerful telescopes.

9:00 p.m.- Optics Class

"BEGINNING ALGEBRA SIMPLIFIED"

plus

"DIAPHRAM STOPS AND RECTILINEAR DISTORTION IN LENS SYSTEMS"

Basic mathematical operations useful in designing optical systems; A simple explanation understandable by those who have never studied Algebra or as a refresher for those who may have forgotten what they did learn. Also, control of light and distortion correction by diaphragms in optic systems.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 1967

8:30 p.m.- Beginner's Class

"STELLAR MAGNITUDES"

Explanation of the system of comparing the relative brightness of heavenly objects, with chart of reference stars for comparison.

9:00 p.m. GUEST SPEAKER, ERNEST KOSSOW,

Mr. Kossow, D.A.S. Vice-President in 1958 and avid observer for many years, will speak on Astronomical Phenomena and answer questions.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1967

8:30 p.m. Beginner's Class

"THE SATELLITES OF MARS"

These two tiny objects, Deimos and Phobos, discovered by Asaph Hall in 1877, were described and named by the English writer, Johnathan Swift, in 1726. Discussion of some recent theories concerning their origin.

9:00 p.m. Optics glass

"DESIGN and TESTING OF TELESCOPE and MICROSCOPE OCULARS"

The ocular, or eyepiece, is an important component of the telescope or microscope. Explanation of basic principles for designing and testing these units will be detailed, covering such problems as color aberration, width of field and methods for testing on the telescope.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1967

8:30 p.m.- Beginner's Class

"LUNAR OCCULTATIONS"

As the moon moves in orbit around the earth it sometimes blots out one of the distant stars. This is termed an occultation. Methods of calculating and observing these events will be discussed.

DR. CRAIG (cont. from page 1)

and telescope making workshop had their beginning in the basement of the Clark School. The first Eclipse Expedition sponsored by the Society which successfully

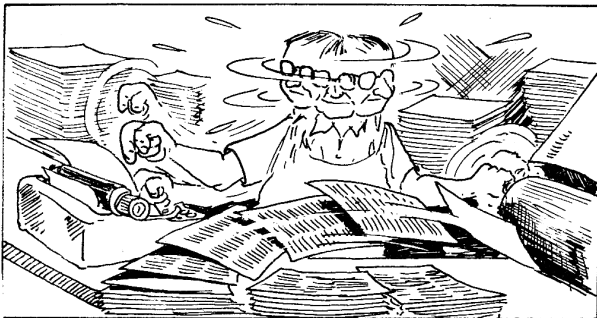
photographed and measured the Total Solar Eclipse at Melin, Wisconsin, occurred during 1954 when Dr. Craig was President. Dr. Craig was made an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1962.

## Our chance to give credit and say THANKS for a Job well done!

This issue is edition 33 of the D.A.S. Newsletter. Publication began in May of 1964 and has continued without interruption since that time. Since the first printing of 200 copies so many requests from school teachers, Science Clubs and other groups have been received that the monthly mailing is now more than double that amount.

From its birth 'til this month the Newsletter has been principally the effort of one person, A.G. Leigh LaChapelle of Farmington, Michigan.

At the November meeting Dr. Blass announced that due to the press of other activities, Mr. LaChapelle had resigned as Editor, Publisher, Chief Writer, and Compositor of our monthly paper. (He is still working for the D.A.S. as Director, Auditor and Lecturer at the Grunow Planetarium.)



Aw Shucks! There's really nothing to getting out a little monthly newspaper!

A Committee had to be organized to publish this issue and the new editor is bemoaning the fact that the officers and directors allowed Leigh to slip off the hook. There is just one fortunate bit connected with losing our editor. Now we can write something about him. Until now he has been successful in Keeping his name out of print.

Leigh joined the Society in 1959, when he took up Astronomy as a result of another hobby, chasing Fire Engines. (He is also a numismatist.) On a Sunday afternoon he met Doc Marshall, another fire engine fancier, at an interesting blaze. Doc, who at this time was the D.A.S. Treasurer,



Leigh LaChapelle

mentioned that he was on his way to an Astronomy Meeting and talked Leigh into accompanying him. A short time later Doc talked him into taking over half of the Treasurer's job. The following year he was elected Treasurer. After serving three years in this office, in which time he inaugurated the use of graphs showing trends of membership and activities, fact sheets detailing transactions, etc., he was elected to the Board of Directors, a position he still holds.

The need for a monthly publication has been a perennial topic for many years. A number of times in the past several such efforts have been launched only to expire after a few months. About three years ago the Board of Directors found out that Leigh had served as Editor and writer on various company and institutional newspapers and house organs. Naturally, they prevailed upon Leigh to start the D.A.S. newsletter. The record shows how wise they were in their choice. We know that the entire membership joins us in a big "Thank You" to Leigh and the wish that he may in the future find time to get back in the harness again.

Maybe Doc can talk him into this also.

# OBSERVING JUPITER

During the month of January, the planet Jupiter will be well placed in the sky for observation. Rising shortly after sunset at the first of the month, it will be found the meridian at midnight. On the evening of 19-20 December it will be found on the meridian at 12:32 a.m. EST, being then at conjunction. At this time the Sun, Earth and Jupiter are arranged in a straight line with the distance between the two planets at a minimum (397,300,000 miles). Jupiter will not approach this close again until February 22, 1968. At this distance planet presents a disk 48 seconds of arc in diameter. For purpose of comparison this is about the size that the lunar walled plain Copernicus appears at a given power through the telescope. However, a pair of 6 power field glasses or binoculars will show the planet as a disk and reveal the four Galilean Satellites. With larger apertures and power of 80 or more the cloud bands and festoons may be observed and the larger satellites resolved as tiny disks. By observing some prominent feature of the surface for a half hour or more one is made aware of the high speed of rotation of the planet.

Another impressive phenomenon of interest to both the beginning and experienced observer is the eclipses and transits of the Jovian satellites. These may be observed with instruments of two inches or greater. Page 56 Of the Royal Canadian Society Observer's Handbook lists 16 eclipses and 21 transits for January. The time (EST) of each occurrence is also listed. Page 73 of the same publication gives the position of the satellites for each night of the month. Satellite position is also given on a chart on page 63 of the January "Sky and Telescope". In both instances the positions are from left to right as seen in the inverting telescope. Those using field glasses should remember to reverse the order. Next month we plan to publish a few notes on photographing Jupiter.

## By-laws Amendment

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee, after a review of the document, recommended three amendments to the By-Laws. These were reviewed and accepted by the Bd. of Directors.

In accordance with the By-Laws, the three amendments were read at the December 11, 1966 meeting and will be voted on at the January 8 Sunday Meeting.

The Detroit Astronomical Society  
9900 East Jefferson  
Detroit, Michigan 48214

