



Berton C. Willard's 8-inch reflector won first prize. A counterweight beneath the main tube balances the long guiding telescope mounted on top. In the right background is the well-equipped control console. Stellafane photographs by Robert E. Cox.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; best in photographic work, Peter A. Wehinger, Goshen, New York; and best effort by a young exhibitor, John Sanford, Newburgh, New York. For exhibits other than telescopes, special prizes were made for a homemade microscope, a photographic exhibit of the construction of a 12-inch Cassegrainian, and a homemade sidereal clock.

The evening program, conducted by Dr. Charles H. Smiley, Ladd Observatory, started with welcoming talks by Governor Johnson and Senator Flanders, both for-

mer telescope makers in the Springfield club. Dr. Spitz discussed especially the problems of organizing flybys of simulated satellites for the practice sessions of the amateur observing stations.

Another Springfield amateur, Mrs. Margaret Beardsley, stressed the importance of using amateur telescopes for regular observing, followed with regular reports to such groups as the AAVSO. Walter J. Semerau, Kenmore, New York, spoke on the construction of a solar coronagraph and a spectroheliograph. He showed photographs of amazingly intricate prominences on the sun, taken in hydrogen light. He has completed an electronic automatic guiding system to keep the coronagraph pointed at the sun.

Color movies of earlier Stellafane meetings, picturing Russell W. Porter and many of the old-time telescope makers, were shown by a Springfield amateur, Ernest Flanders.

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#### AAVSO FALL MEETING

The annual fall meeting of the American Association of Variable Star Observers will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 4-5, at Amherst College Observatory, Amherst, Massachusetts. Nonmembers are invited to attend the sessions, which cover a wide range of topics of interest to amateur astronomers. Additional information can be obtained from the director, Mrs. Margaret W. Mayall, 4 Brattle St., Cambridge 38, Mass.



Notable among the Stellafane exhibits was this reflector, with a hexagonal wooden tube, an alarm-clock drive, and adapters for photography. It was made by Albert Nagler, New York City.

#### THIS MONTH'S MEETINGS

**Detroit, Mich.:** Detroit Astronomical Society, 2:30 p.m., State Hall, Wayne University, Oct. 13, Lovell Lawrence, Jr., "Past, Present, and Future of Rocketry."

**Madison, Wisc.:** Madison Astronomical Society, 8 p.m., Washburn Observatory, Oct. 9, William Binney, "Telescopes and Telescope Making."

**Washington, D. C.:** National Capital Astronomers, 8:15 p.m., Commerce Department auditorium, Oct. 5, Dr. James C. Bartlett, Jr., "Planetary Observations."

#### TELESCOPE MAKING CLASSES IN CLEVELAND

A course in the construction of reflecting telescopes is being conducted by the Cleveland Amateur Telescope Makers, a group sponsored by the Cleveland Astronomical Society and the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The classes are held on Tuesdays, from 6 to 9 p.m., at the planetarium building of the museum, 2717 Euclid Ave. They will run throughout the winter, in order to give each student plenty of time to finish his instrument.

Conventional 6-inch Newtonian telescopes, equatorially mounted, with powers up to 200x, have been made in this class in past years. The course fee includes the mirror blank and tool, abrasives, and optical materials, while castings and other mounting parts are furnished at cost. All the necessary tools, machines, and testing equipment are available in the workshop. The volunteer staff of instructors is directed by James L. Russell and John R. Faloon.

#### NORTHWEST CONVENTION

About 60 amateurs attended the 10th annual convention of the Northwest Region of the Astronomical League, which was held at Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington, on July 27-28. The Amateur Telescope Makers of Spokane was the host society.

The program featured an address by Dr. H. Ward Crowley, University of Idaho, on colliding galaxies and radio astronomy. There was a showing of two motion pictures about the moon, produced by amateur astronomers of Jacksonville, Florida, the second film depicting the November 18, 1956, total eclipse by means of time-lapse photography. Howard Thomas, Coulee Dam, Washington, demonstrated how to make a pitch lap.

Elected as regional officers were Richard Caputo, Spokane, chairman; Mr. Thomas, vice-chairman; Mrs. Margaret E. Kobs, Portland, Oregon, recording secretary; Mrs. Rose A. Brophy, Spokane, treasurer; Norman C. Dalke, Seattle, executive secretary; and Edward J. Newman, Yakima, Washington, national council representative.