



Warren Astronomical Society

25 Years: 1961-1986

Edited by Ken Strom
Second Edition – June 2009

PREFACE

This first edition of the history of the Warren Astronomical Society spans the first 25 years of the Society from its beginning as a high school related telescope making club to the Society as it is today.

From 1969 to the present, we have the WASP to guide us in the preparation of the history. Before that there was no permanent record of the Society's activities, so the history was reconstructed from newspaper clippings and interviews with some of the founding members. Clarence Trott, Charles Brisley, Gerry and Margaret Alyea, Dick Sumner, Kim Dyer, Dick Lloyd and Jean Baldwin all were very helpful in describing their fond memories of the early years of the Society. Frank McCullough, Doug Bock, Dave Harrington, Marty Kunz, Tim Skonieczny, Lou Faix and many others helped put the events of the '70s and '80s into perspective.

Thank you to all who participated in this, my first attempt at writing a history, especially the other members of the History Committee: Alice Strom, Beverly Bakanowicz, Russ Patten, Riyad Matti and Alan Rothenberg.

Since this is a first edition with many omissions due to incomplete information, I request that on finding an error or knowing some of the missing information, that you to write me a note to fill-in the missing information for the second edition.

Ken Strom
September 3, 1986



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	2
Table of Contents	3
Glimpses into the Past	4
Origin of the W.A.S.	4
Photos	6
Early Years.....	8
Building the 12.5" Telescope	9
Photos	11
Stargate Observatory	12
The Warren Astronomical Society Paper (WASP).....	13
Our Logo.....	13
Meetings	14
W.A.S. Trips through the Years	15
Great Lakes Region of the Astronomical League (GLRAL)	16
Bringing Astronomy to the Public	17
Personal Glimpses.....	18
In the Beginning	18
My Early Years with the W.A.S.....	19
A Life of Intellectual Adventure	20
WAS Officers 1961 to 1986.....	23
A Salute	25

GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST

Origin of the W.A.S.

The Space Race of the 1960s spawned a renewed interest in astronomy. Telescopes were about as expensive as a new car, so for most people, buying a telescope was out of the question. Building a telescope was feasible.

Jack Lighthouse persuaded Clarence Trott to bring his son to the Detroit Astronomical Society to learn how to make their own mirrors and how to put together a telescope. Soon there was a whole car load making the trek to the D.A.S. each week.

Dick Lloyd, Ernie Koslow, and Kim Dyer, members of the Detroit group, outlined a program for the formation of Warren Astronomical Society and the club held its first meeting in the Spring of 1961 at Weber Elementary School. The Society moved to County Line School and began to make their own telescopes. A year and a half later, the TRI-CITY PROGRESS wrote about the activities of the W.A.S.

Wed. June 12, 1963

THE TRI-CITY PROGRESS

Telescope Building An Activity For The Family

Area Hobbyists Have Stars In Their Eyes

******Astronomical Figures******

By Emlyn Thomas, Staff Writer

In these modern times, the word "astronomical" is often used to describe the national debt or the cost of putting a man on the moon. But there is a group of people in the area who use the word in its intended scientific sense, and it's a pretty good bet that when man does reach the lunar surface, he will step out of his spaceship under the watchful eyes of the Warren Astronomical Society.

The society is scarcely more than a year old but it already has more than 60 members and is growing every day. It was formed principally for the purpose of building telescopes, but as a natural consequence trains its members in the science of astronomy, so that when they do locate a star they'll be able properly to identify it.

It all began with the purchase of a telescope by the Warren Consolidated School District last year. Beginning with a nucleus of persons who belong to a similar society in Detroit, the society meets every Friday night in the County Line School to grind mirrors and attend astronomy classes. The group also takes field trips and camp-outs to study the stars and regularly visits planetariums and scientific museums.

Surprisingly, a large percentage of the members are school age youngsters who spend at least four hours a week grinding and polishing mirrors and attending classes. While its activities are not directly connected with the school program, officials consider it worthwhile educationally and provide space for the society at no charge. While it presently has its facilities at the County Line School, the society will soon be moving to the new Cousino High School.

Among those who pioneered in the formation of the group are Mrs. Edith Smith, a teacher at North Elementary School who was chairman of the district's science committee when the original telescope was purchased. Clarence W. Trott, president of the society, Charles Brisley, Gerry Alyea, all of Warren and Dick Sumner of Utica were instrumental in establishing the group. Brisley is the club's only "professional." He is a manufacturer of optical instruments. The others are strictly amateurs, active in the club only because they like to make telescopes and to pass their knowledge on to others willing to learn. Trott has a special interest. He wants to help the younger people and to stimulate their interest in telescope-making and astronomy. He has ample opportunity with so many youngsters in the club. "It's really amazing what they can do with a little bit of encouragement," Trott says of his young charges.

As an example, he points to 14-year old Gary Louzon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Louzon of Syracuse, Warren, and a student at Fitzgerald Junior High. Young Louzon already has qualified as a telescope builder and now is venturing into the radio telescope field. He has constructed a device which picks up radio waves emanating from distant stars. The waves are channeled through an ordinary home radio amplifier and thence to a voltmeter which measures the signal strength. As Gary sees it, the device is a very simple one. He is planning refinements as he learns more about the new field.

Another young man, 16-year-old Richard Schreiber, is combining photography with telescope building, and is already producing professional-style photos of celestial bodies with his camera and scope.

The youngsters too, are turning out parabolic mirrors which meet professional manufacturing standards. The Society has its own testing equipment which can detect a variation of 1/5,000,000th of an inch. Under the guidance of Trott, Alyea, Frisley and Sumner, the youngsters are grinding and polishing mirrors to a tolerance of 1/8 of the wavelength - which in the eyes of an astronomer, at least, is an extremely close tolerance.

The club now has approximately 40 telescopes which are complete or in some advanced stage of development. They are the reflecting type and range in size from 4 ½ to 12 ½ inches. Most of them are in the 6 to 8-inch class. Preparation of the mirror - grinding and polishing - requires more than 50 hours of painstaking work. It all begins with two thick pieces of glass. One piece eventually becomes the mirror and the second is used as a grinding device. The surfaces are coated with special grinding agents. As the two pieces of glass are ground together, the grinding motion gradually produces a concave surface on the mirror and a convex surface on the "grinder." During the final stages, the grinder becomes a "lap" which is coated with pitch for

use in the final polishing. After grinding and polishing is completed, the mirrors are sent out for aluminizing, the only process not performed by the telescope builders.

The society has become a family affair. "Usually," says Trott, "a child becomes interested and his parents come along to see what it's all about. Then they get interested themselves."

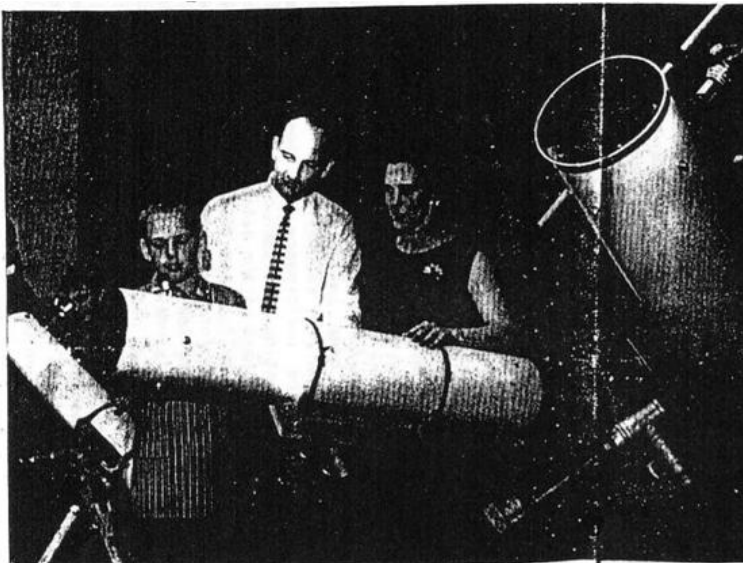
To provide something for those not inclined towards building telescopes, the society has a classroom program which enables non-builders to earn certificates as "Stargazers" or "Astronomers". Three separate certificates can be earned in each category. Telescope builders also earn certification for completion of a mirror, mounting it properly and using the scope to identify a certain group of celestial bodies. Credit for certification is earned in the classroom and on the group's regular field trips and campsouts.

The most refined instrument was built by Sumner over a nine-year period. It has a clock-driven motor which enables the astronomer to keep a given star within the field of vision for long periods of time. Because of the magnifying power of the telescopes, only a small portion of the sky can be viewed and the stars quickly move out of the field of vision. Even the club's smallest telescope is powerful enough to pick up an astronaut as he whirls through space - if the viewer could move the scope fast enough.

The society this year plans to expand its program into the schools, and already is establishing an Explorer Post to spearhead the project.

The society's members are "bugged" on their favorite pastime, and the uninitiated stranger who wanders into their midst is apt to be hauled off to the nearest mountain for an evening of stargazing. But they are having fun, and are providing many youngsters with a fascinating and educational pastime.

Photos



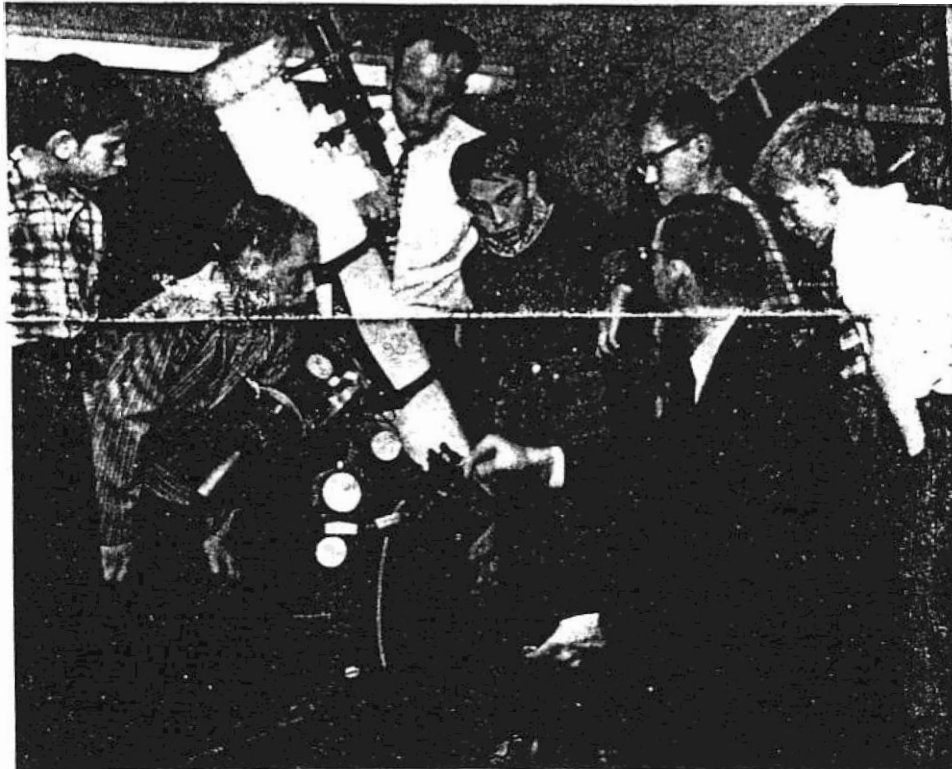
FAMILY AFFAIR. In many instances, the activities of the Warren Astronomical Society bring out entire families. While dad and the boys grind telescope mirrors and tinker with eyepieces and mounts, mom and the girls attend classes on astronomy, where they can earn certificates as "Stargazers" or "Astronomers." Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Burns and their son, Robert, of 5355 Botsford, Warren, are typical of the family groups. Robert built the family telescope, with assistance from his dad.

FAMILY AFFAIR - In many instances, the activities of the Warren Astronomical Society bring out entire families. While dad and the boys grind mirrors and tinker with eyepieces and mounts, mom and the girls attend classes on astronomy, where they can earn certificates as "Stargazers" or "Astronomers." Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Burns and their son, Robert, of 5355 Botsford, Warren, are typical of the family groups. Robert built the family telescope, with assistance from his Dad.

RADIO TELESCOPE - Gary Louzon, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Louzon of 21417 Syracuse, Warren, who already has built an optical telescope, is now experimenting with a radio telescope. The device he is showing to a fellow club member (Tex Dickerson) picks up invisible radio waves from stars deep in space. The radio waves are channeled through an amplifier and thence to a voltmeter which measures their intensity



RADIO TELESCOPE — Gary Louzon, 14-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Louzon of 21417 Syracuse, Warren, who already has built an optical telescope, is now experimenting with a radio telescope. The device he is showing to a fellow club member picks up invisible radio waves from stars deep in space. The radio waves are channeled through an amplifier and thence to a voltmeter which measures their intensity.



MOST REFINED — A clock-driven telescope which keep a fast moving celestial body in its visual field automatically is the society's most-refined instrument. It was built over a nine-year period by Dick Sumner of 4718 Sidney, Utica. Here he explains how it works to a group of interested youngsters.

MOST REFINED - A clock-driven telescope which keeps a fast-moving celestial body in its visual field automatically is the society's most refined instrument. It was built over a nine-year period by Dick Sumner of 4718 Sidney, Utica. Here he explains how it works to a group of interested youngsters.

Early Years

Once a month from Easter to Fall, there was a campout on the weekend nearest the first quarter moon at Lone Pine Campground in Bald Mountain State Park. Regulars in attendance were the Trotts, Kim Dyer and his scouts, the Alyeas, the Sumners, the Robinsons, the Burns, the Baldwins, the Winters, the Kwentuses and many others. They taught the constellations and looked for the Messier objects, stars and planets in their telescopes.

Once a year, the W.A.S. held an Open House for the public. Mr. Trott describes the excitement of the times, the event and the Society in the flyer for the Open House in January 1964.

WARREN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

Clarence W. Trott, President
Friday, January 24, 1964
Cousino High School

Living in the Space-Age of orbital flight, space communications, satellites, inter-planetary probes and rockets, vast numbers of "earth bound" individuals have developed interest in the heavens above us. To many individuals, their newfound interest is nothing more than a hobby which satisfied the need for diversion. To others, the intense interest in the heavens takes on more serious proportions by probing the mysteries of the universe as far as the eye can see with the aid of the optical or radio equipment in the pursuit of their interest in the physics of astronomy.

The Warren Astronomical Society is a non-profit amateur association whose aim is the promotion of interest in Astronomy and the related sciences. Although only a numbered few possess advanced knowledge of Astronomy, its more than one hundred members, both youth and adults, pursue their interest in Astronomy as amateurs. Their activities range mirror grinding and polishing to telescope building; from both elementary and advanced star-gazing to celestial photography and radio astronomy. The Warren Astronomical Society is especially interested in fostering and providing an outlet for the curiosity and scientific aptitude of the youth of the community.

On display here this evening, you will have the opportunity to personally inspect many telescopes which have been built by the members from both commercial and hand-fabricated materials. They range in size from 4 ¼" to 8", costing from \$40 to over \$300. The performance of these instruments is comparable to commercial instruments costing as much as \$1200. The fabrication of mirrors and telescopes is a regular part of the activities of the Society at the regular meetings every Friday evening (7:30 p.m.-11:00) at this high school. Competent instructors are present to perform checking and testing as well as guidance. A member's only investment is for materials actually used. Visitors are always welcome at the Society's weekly meetings.

All interested persons are invited to become members and share in the fascinating study of Astronomy and the related sciences. No scientific or special training is required. As a member you will be entitled to share in the activities of the Society.

Building the 12.5" Telescope

The WAS moved from County Line School to Cousino High School, then to Lincoln High which had a dome, but no telescope. Friday night meetings were used to grind mirrors for the telescopes and to learn astronomy. The basement of Lincoln High was the telescope making area and the 12 inch telescope was installed in a dome on the roof.

The Stargate telescope started out as a club project to build a 12 inch telescope. The telescope, designed as an f/4 Newtonian and built by Gerry Alyea, George Robinson, Ken Roszmann and others, was the pride and joy of the WAS at its debut in 1966.

Tuesday, March 29, 1966

"INDOOR FUN"

THE MACOMB DAILY

THEY CAMP OUT, LOOK UP, WATCH STARS IN SKY

By Joe Cisneros, Staff Writer

WARREN- They've all got stars in their eyes, so they like to camp out and search for celestial mysteries. "The men stay up all night and search for the galaxies and nebulae," explained Mrs. Gerald Alyea, whose husband is president of the Warren Astronomical Society. "We women use flash lights to point out the constellations to the children," added Mrs. Alyea. The amateur astronomers, including entire families from Macomb, Oakland and Wayne Counties, look forward to the outings and jealously search the heavens in hope of new discoveries. "The friendships and the challenges of searching for things millions of light years away are a wonderful part of the camp-outs," Mrs. Alyea said. The outings give the some 76 active members an opportunity to apply what they've learned at the group's weekly meetings.

The members view scientific films, participate in discussions and hear talks by astronomy enthusiasts each Friday at Lincoln High School. The group's activities include lens grinding and polishing, design and construction of telescopes, and studies in elementary and advanced star gazing.

An 'Indoor Fun' reporting team visited a recent meeting and found a room full of adults and children admiring a 12 inch reflector telescope. The precision instrument, meticulously assembled by club president Alyea and other members over a year's time, was on display for the first time. Leonard Cram of Detroit stroked the \$1,200 telescope and commented, "you might say this is the crowning glory of the club." Cram noted that all of the club's ideals were adhered to in putting together the big 'scope. Like hand crafting most of the instrument's 20 moving parts, and patiently (100 hours) polishing to perfection the fragile reflector mirror.

While the 12-inch telescope was primarily a club project, many build their own instruments. James Lynch, 29306 Apolonia Drive, proudly displayed a six-inch reflector telescope he had just completed after a year of effort. "I've learned a lot about the sky that I didn't know before," commented Lynch, a commercial artist who joined the astronomy group six months ago.

Mrs. Lionel Burns, a science teacher at Lake Shore Junior High in St. Clair Shores is another enthusiastic member. "I'm a biology major and I teach general science," Mrs. Burns said, "so what I've learned through the club has helped me immeasurably in teaching astronomy." Mrs. Burns, of 5355 Botsford, said her 15-year-old son, Robert, was instrumental in getting the family interested in the Warren Astronomical Society. "Astronomy has always been the big object in Robert's life," Mrs. Burns said.

Members of the John Baldwin Family have been participating in its activities since the Astronomical Society was founded in 1961. Mrs. Baldwin said her family, which includes three children, has treasured the friendship made with other amateur astronomers. Mrs. Baldwin, of 4047 Hillcrest, added that "we've enjoyed the many years of polishing the lenses and building telescopes."

Mrs. Maurice Rochon, 21839 Ira, joined the others in praising the educational opportunities for children and adults found through club activities.

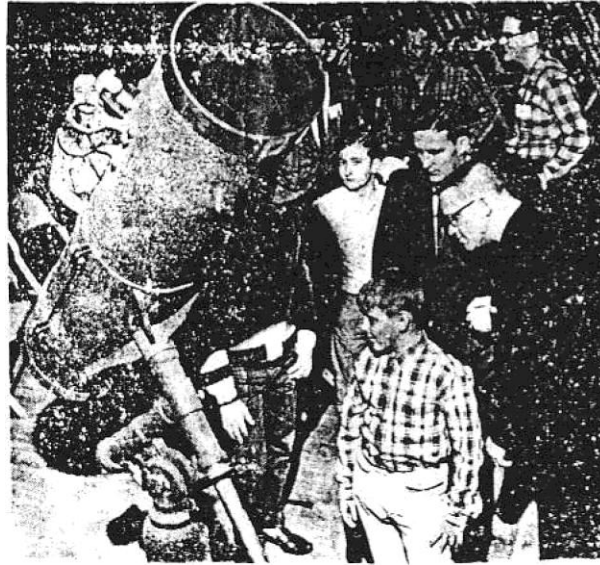
Young people are very active in the club, a fact which pleases George Robinson, Berkley, club vice president. "There's a lot of enjoyment in watching the kids make their telescopes," said Robinson who encouraged a neighbor boy to attend meetings because "I can't get my son interested in astronomy."

James Thomas, 16, a junior at Cousino High School, is a science buff who is fascinated by the "mysteries of astronomy." Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas, 11448 Irene Drive, said participating in club activities has permitted him to "get deeper into the subject than you would in the classroom."

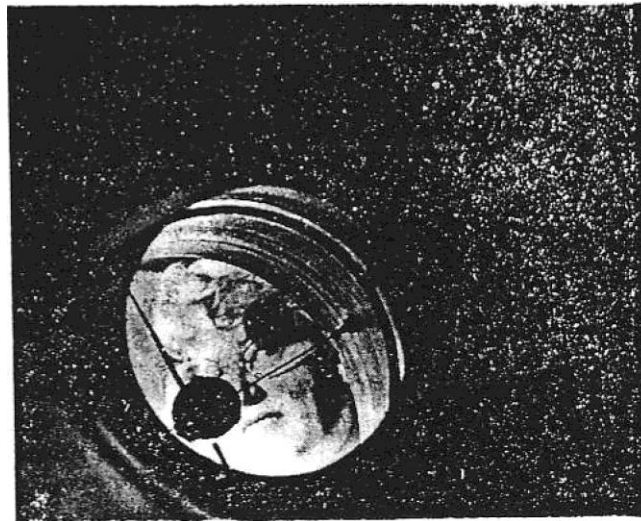
"I've been interested in astronomy since I was five years old." commented Robert Burns, a student at Fuhrmann Junior High. Robert credits knowledge gained through the club activities with enabling him to build a telescope "that would cost \$300 to buy".

Club President Alyea, a tool and die leader, said, "I think most kids can build a telescope if someone is available to guide them." There are many willing adults ready to help. Of the estimated 40 telescopes being assembled, a large number belong to young club members. To encourage their interest, a program has been established under which young people are given certificates after completing studies in basic astronomy lens making and stargazing. Members credit John L. Winters, 22261 Fairfield, a club vice president, and his wife, Lois, with developing the interesting and varied weekly club activities.

Photos



MEMBERS admired a 12-inch reflector telescope that is the pride of the Warren Astronomical Society.



WHAT THE 'SCOPE looks like from the other side - Mrs. John Baldwin peers through a 12-inch telescope.

Stargate Observatory

Over the years, Stargate Observatory and Camp Rotary became the rallying point for campouts, Messier contests, meteor observing and stargazing. Ken Wilson described the origin of Stargate for the WASP.

Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Stargate Observatory*

Ken Wilson

June 30, 1973

Once upon a time (in the year 1969, to be more precise), the Warren Astronomical Society held its general meetings at Lincoln High School. Among its many attractions was the nice, domed observatory which housed the club's 12 1/2" Cassegrainian reflector. But the general membership soon grew tired of just looking at the moon with their big telescope. So, the search began for a new telescope site where the stars might also be seen, away from the bright city lights.

The first possible site was a 40 acre farm, suggested by Mr. (Harold) May to his neighbor, Dick Polus (then president of the W.A.S.). This site was soon discarded because of its lack of protection against vandalism.

The next and final site was also proposed by Mr. May. It seems that he was a member of the Rotary Club, which had a camp in Ray Township near Romeo. And, they were in need of an "attraction" to bring more youth groups to the camp. He therefore suggested that we build our new observatory at Camp Rotary where their ranger could keep watch over it 24 hours a day. This arrangement solved both organizations' problems.

The first design for the new observatory was a simple roll-off-roof shed, designed by Mr. Polus. We soon discovered that the Rotary Club had something different in mind. They wanted a building with a dome. And, since they were willing to construct most of the building for us, the W.A.S. was perfectly willing to accept it.

Construction of the cinder block building began in the fall of 1969, while Mr. Gerald Alyea (former president of W.A.S.) was refiguring the mirrors of the 12 1/2" and the W.A.S. was planning and constructing the dome. Steel angle-iron for the dome's framework was purchased from Hofley Manufacturing, who rolled it to the required curves free of charge. Three evenings were spent in Mr. Polus' garage, cutting and fitting this angle iron for later assembly at Camp Rotary. After several weekends of work, the frame was completely welded together. Sheet aluminum, purchased wholesale from M & M Metal Products was then cut and riveted to the frame. Thanks to Mel Mazzline, the dome was then placed on top of the newly completed building. With the installation of the refigured 12 1/2" Cass., Stargate Observatory went into operation in the Spring of 1970.

Where did the name "Stargate" come from? Well, nominations were taken and ballots marked. When the vote was tallied, Chris Edsall's "Stargate" won. (Strange how some of those ballots had the same handwriting on them... hmmm...) At any rate, Stargate Observatory, with the help of many dedicated individuals (like Don Mission, who did the wiring) is now in full operation, serving both the public and our own members.

The End

* But Didn't Know Who To Ask!

THE WARREN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY PAPER (WASP)

Gene Francis, Dave Ther, Martin Butley and Frank McCullough originated and printed the first WASP in March 1969 as a mimeographed paper for the few dozen members in the club at that time. Frank McCullough, the first editor, was the one who produced and printed the paper. For you history buffs out there, the editors from past to present are: Frank McCullough, Ken Wilson, Carl Noble, Ray Bullock, Gary Boyd, Roger Civic, Jeff Stanek, Brad Vincent, Tim Skonieczny, Bob Wilson, Judy Butcher, Colleen Nicolai and Ken Kelly.

The WASP has published articles on club news, observing, astrophotography, telescope making and use, trips and humor. All too often, it has been the fruits of the editors' labors, while at other times it's filled with contributions from many authors. It is our paper and each of us should consider it a responsibility to contribute to it. In preparing this history of the W.A.S., the WASP has been more valuable than the memories of the old-timers to this historian.

The name WASP stands for the Warren Astronomical Society Paper. It is an odd name of absolutely no astronomical significance. In fact it was first questioned in 1971, changed to VESPA (Latin for "wasp") in 1976 and back in 1977. The name has stuck and has come to represent our best efforts in modern day journalism. A special collection of the best articles from the first 10 years was published in March 1979. It is a good edition and nice reading.

OUR LOGO

The symbol of the Society is the winning design of Roger Civic in a competition for best logo design. It prominently features the first reflecting telescope, that of Isaac Newton, in the center.



MEETINGS

In the '60s, grinding of mirrors and telescope making were a regular part of the meetings. Usually the Friday Night meetings consisted of a movie or slide show on space and teaching of the constellations. Awards were given in Stargazing, Telescope Making and Cosmology. There were three degrees in each: Brown for basic, Blue for intermediate and Gold for advanced knowledge and skill. For instance in Telescope making, finishing a mirror earned a Brown Certificate, assembling and using the telescope earned a Blue Certificate and ability to find Messier and other objects would earn a Gold Certificate. Charles Brisley was the Chief Instructor of Telescope Making. He recalls that perhaps 2000 telescope mirrors were begun during the early to mid '60s. Clarence Trott says that many turned into fine instruments.

In the '70s, meetings were first Thursday for the Messier Club, second Thursday for the Astrophoto Group, third Thursday for the General Meeting and the Camp-out. Besides the WAS meetings, some of the members also attended meetings of the Detroit Astronomical Society, the Kalamazoo Astronomical Society and the Grand Rapids Astronomical Association. The Awards were offered in 6 certificate levels from Stargazer Minor to Advanced Observer and also in Cosmology and Telescope Making. The WAS branched out and took an active role in the national Astronomical League, and the Great Lakes Region of the Astronomical League (GLRAL). The Astronomical League offered the Messier Certificate for observing the elusive Messier objects and several members of the WAS won theirs. In 1974, WAS and Michigan State hosted the national meeting of the Astronomical League and it was a great success.

By the mid '70s, there were two formal meetings a month: Cranbrook Institute of Science on the First Thursday and Macomb Community College on the third Thursday. The campouts dwindled to one in the Spring and one for the Perseid Meteor Shower. Of course, there were expeditions to the Thumb area and Up North to view in clear skies away from city lights.

In the '80s, we still enjoy our two meetings a month at Cranbrook and Macomb, and our star parties at Stargate and Northern Cross Observatory (at Doug's). We have an Observer's Certificate to award for observing 50 objects from a list of 90 or so. If there is interest maybe we'll offer Certificates in Cosmology and Telescope Making as well. The Astronomical League still offers its Messier Certificate, and now a more difficult Herschel Certificate.

We maintain the tradition of a Annual Awards Banquet in December and award the coveted E. John Searles Award for dedication to Astronomy, the Distinguished Service Award, the Astronomer of the Year Award and of course, the Armchair Astronomer Award. Some of our most award earning members are Frank McCullough, Pete Kwentus, Lou Faix, Larry Kalinowski, Doug Bock and Ken Kelly. Notable award winners also include Jean Baldwin, Dave Harrington, Bill Whitney, Dave Dobrzelewski and Alan Rothenberg.

W.A.S. TRIPS THROUGH THE YEARS

By Alice Strom

Group trips have always been a part of WAS club activities and we have had a history of active attendance at many astronomical events. One of the main types of excursions was solar eclipses. The excitement of these trips was infectious, and the great camaraderie was one of the main reasons people carried away unforgettable memories of them. The experiences were always shared through articles in the newsletter and slide show programs, which inspired participants for future trips.

Some of the main locations were the following:

Bar Harbour, Maine	July 1963
Perry, Florida	1970
Cap-Chat, Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec	July 1972
Canberra Cruise, Africa	June 1973
Fairsea Cruise, Mexico	Oct 1977
Winnepeg, Canada	Feb 1979
Greenville, S. Carolina	May 1984

The number of participants from the club on these cruises and trips was outstanding. For example, members of the WAS formed the second largest group on board the Canberra cruise of any organization (10 people) and had the largest telescope (14.5 inch). The planning of these trips as regards the best location with respect to the path of totality, was always excellently mapped and plotted (usually by Dave Harrington and Tim Skonieczny) so that the choice of a cruise or site would most probably yield clear skies. Some of the cruises had lectures by notable scientists and astronomers to increase the interest of daytime activities which also included such fun as sunbathing, exercising, movies, dancing, and of course feasting on the five meals a day for which cruise ships are noted.

The excitement of the actual moments of totality were generously described in detail for all club members to enjoy. One first-hand description follows;

Then suddenly with no sign of a break (in the clouds), the crescent sun broke through allowing all of us to get it in our instruments. We lost the crescent once again and watched darkness fall over us, then someone hollered "There it is!", and there it was!!! More beautiful than any other natural sight to this astronomer's eyes. I could see corona around and quickly looked to the scope where I saw the corona whirling around like a pinwheel. This was probably due to the movement of the clouds since no one else seemed to have seen this. No, I wasn't high or drunk either. The eclipse whizzed by as fast as my knees were knocking and after seeing prominences and reappearance, it was all over, and a cheer went up from all around the hillside. The best quote I've ever heard from anyone about an eclipse came from Bob Ross from Kalamazoo, when he said, "That was the fastest two minutes of my life!" That it was.

Frank McCullough, description of Canberra eclipse trip.

Rocket fever infected the club in 1971, 72 and 75 when Apollo launches from Kennedy Space Center were witnessed in Florida. 1981 saw STS-1 blast off with several club members there to record the sights and sounds of the first space shuttle adventure. STS-2 through 4 were also seen first-hand.

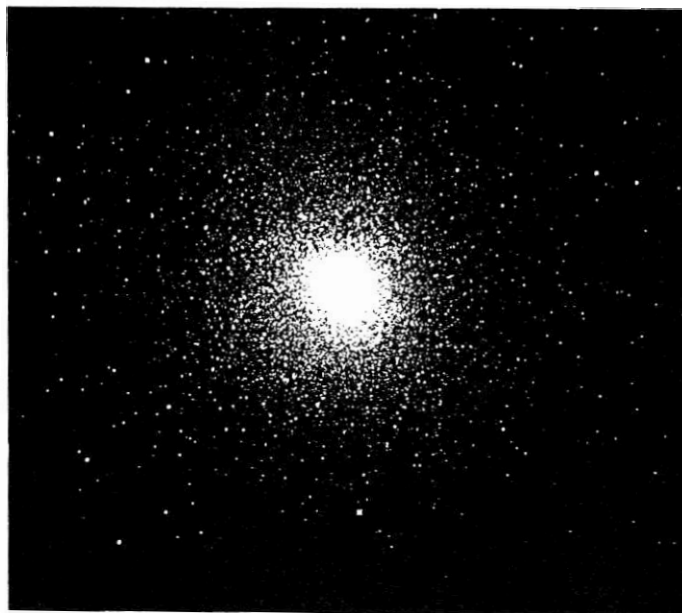
The return of Comet Halley spawned many trips this year. Club members travelled to several observing areas in search of better skies and more southerly views. Some of these included Texas, Florida (National Halley Rally area), and Tucson, Arizona. Having been on the Tucson trip, this author can attest to the excitement and just plain fun time which these trips provide. Having a previous WAS member like Rik Hill to personally provide us with a night of observing at Kitt Peak is an event we'll never forget.

Here's hoping the club will always provide opportunities as good as these past trips for members in the future to make their memories of the WAS!

GREAT LAKES REGION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE (GLRAL)

Since the '60s, the Society has attended regional and national conventions of the Astronomical League. In the 1971, the WAS joined the Astronomical League's Great Lakes Region and attended the GLRAL convention at Oakland University. Frank McCullough became Chairman of the GLRAL in June 1972 and brought the Society into greater participation in the Astronomy on a regional and national level. Since then Lou Faix, Doug Bock and Ken Kelly have become Chairman of the GLRAL. Doug Bock, Robin Bock and Jon Root have served as Vice Chairman of the GLRAL. We hosted the GLRAL convention in 1982 at the Cranbrook Institute of Science with Dr. Robert Kirshner as the keynote speaker on the "Hole in Space" and it was a good convention.

Currently, Ken Kelly, the WAS Secretary, is the Chairman of the GLRAL and Jon Root, the former 1st VP, is the Vice Chairman.



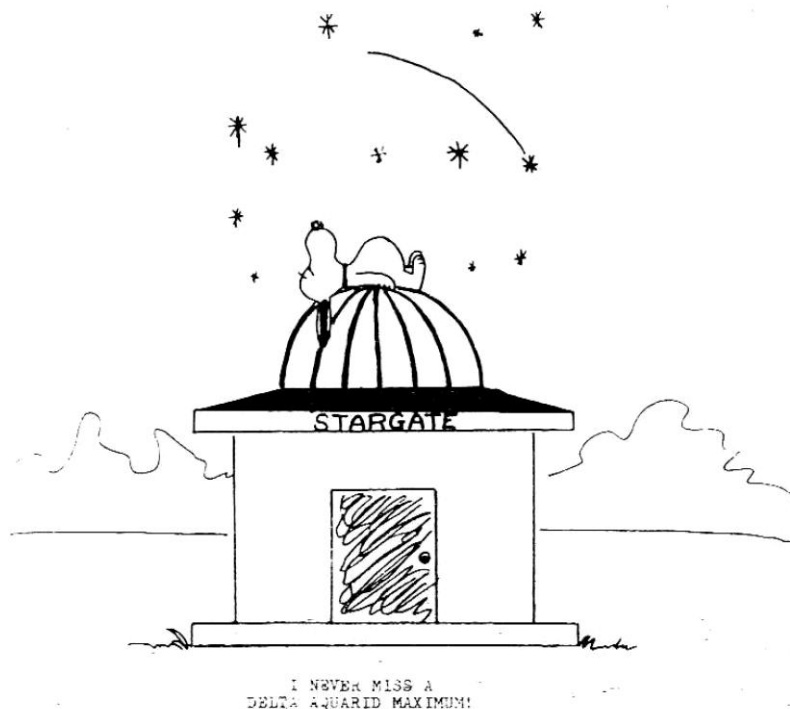
BRINGING ASTRONOMY TO THE PUBLIC

One event which occurred in this 25th Anniversary Year was the return of Comet Halley. This celestial event was important for the club in more ways than one. The interest generated by the comet gave the club a perfect opportunity to interact with the general public. Metro Beach Metro Park was the site where more than 12,000 people attended our slide shows and observing sessions in March, April and May. For some, it was their first look through the scopes, while for others it renewed that spark they already had and opened up to them a way to continue to improve their knowledge of astronomy. For several old-timers, it was the second look at a comet they had seen 76 years earlier!

These nights were extremely well-attended, generated several new members, and fulfilled the mission of the club very well - that is to foster an appreciation of astronomy. The Huron-Clinton Metro Authority Board of Commissioners awarded the Society a Resolution of Appreciation for our efforts and invited us back. We returned to Metro Beach for two weekends in July to guide the public in observing Mars at opposition, Venus and Saturn. This was again a great success by bringing hundreds more the awe of the red planet and the ringed planet.

The WAS regularly participates in Astronomy Day and Members Nights at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Usually we have from 5 to 10 telescopes on hand to observe the Sun and Venus during the day, and the Moon, planets and stars at night. We give slide shows, talks and explain the telescope and observing techniques to the attendees.

One of our continuing contacts with the public are the weekly lectures at Stargate Observatory for the Scouts staying at the Camp Rotary. At these outings, we demonstrate the telescope, give a lecture on observing and look through the scope. The lectures and observing are usually well received and stimulate interest in the further study of Astronomy.



PERSONAL GLIMPSES

In the Beginning

Interview with Clarence Trott, August 1986

In 1960, I had a friend in Jack Lighthouser who was going to the Detroit Astronomical Society meetings to build a telescope. He encouraged me to bring my oldest boy, Tom, to the DAS to build telescopes and become active in the group. We started to build telescopes and after a while brought our friends' 6" and 8" along. We go down to the DAS meeting with 10-12 of us crammed in a station wagon.

We finally decided that it was a long way downtown and decided to form our own club. We convinced the local school to give us a room after hours, got some 55 gallon drums and started grinding our own mirrors. Not long after, we went on campouts to use the telescopes and learn the stars. The Society set up a system of award certificates in Stargazing, Telescope Making and in the Theory of Astronomy. In Stargazing for example, you had to identify 10 first magnitude stars and 10 constellations for a Brown Certificate. For the Blue Certificate you had to know more and the Gold was very difficult. Probably only two were given out.

In telescope making, the club members turned out some fine mirrors, often better than those available commercially. Making the mirror earned a Brown Certificate. Putting the telescope together earned a Blue Certificate. For the Gold, you had to use the telescope to find a whole list of objects.

Whole families would go camping together at Bishop Lake or Bald Mountain for the weekend and stay up all night watching the stars. One of the first campouts was on the long Easter weekend, but much to our surprise, we all learned that Easter comes on the first Sunday after the first Full Moon in Spring. From then on, we scheduled campouts for the first quarter moon.

I taught school in Warren and used that leverage to get us rooms in the Warren Consolidated Schools. There were a lot of people who helped out with all the busy tasks that went into making the Society work. Our meetings would feature a movie and mirror grinding. Charley Brisley would supply all of the grit and glass used in making the mirrors. We turned out mirrors from 4 1/4" all the way up to 12".

In July 1963, some members camped out at Proud Lake near Ann Arbor to view a partial eclipse of the Sun. A small group and my family traveled to Maine to see the total eclipse. When we got there it was raining and there wasn't much hope of seeing it, but we climbed 2500 feet up to the top of the mountain and found about 300 people up there waiting. The Sun only came out once, then disappeared behind the clouds. The Sun came out just before totality and the eclipse was gorgeous, lasting about 60 seconds and raining on 3 sides of us. The NASA team of scientists at the base of the mountain never even saw it.

One of the field trips was to the Adler Planetarium in Chicago. About 20 of us went and camped out in a man's basement. We went all over Chicago, to the Planetarium and the Science Museum.

It was a lot of fun and a good family affair. Wow; I can't believe it's been twenty-five years. Keep it up.

My Early Years with the W.A.S.

Frank McCullough, September 1986

My first active involvement in the club was when I met with Martin Butley, Gene Francis and Dave Ther in my basement to kick around the idea of forming a club newspaper. After several hours, we came up with what we thought would be good departments for the paper.

The name of the paper turned out to be very easy to decide upon. We thought about several astronomical names, but many were already in use. What we did have was the unique situation of having the initials W.A.S. and by adding a P for paper (or publication depending on how formal you wanted to get) it spelled out (you know what!) W.A.S.P.

It was unique, it was different, it was us!!!

The first paper in March of 1969 consisted mostly of our literary talents (or lack of them). We had "Constellation of the Month", "Club Activities", "Salute of the Month" and we progressed from there. I remember things being so tough as far as people not writing articles that one paper had a cover, a blank back page, and a statement "This is your paper!" Only once do I remember not putting out a WASP. In high school, I remember spending 8-10 hours writing and typing just so we could have a paper, especially after Gene, Martin, and Dave went to college.

I actually did not want to get involved politically in the club, but I knew that if someone did not do something to generate more memberships, there would not be a club. The night it sank in was when I went to one of the meetings at Warren Lincoln High School. We always seemed to have 12-15 maybe 20 people on a good night, but this night we were down to 8. People had left the club, some had gone to college, the space race fever was subsiding, and kids were not grinding mirrors. It seemed that the club I had just found and loved, was disappearing right before my eyes.

I had been nominated in '69 for President but declined. The next time, I would run, and if people had faith in me, I'd give it a try. I was very lucky to have two very good friends in Ken Wilson and Tim Skonieczny. I had a chance to share my thoughts with them and discuss the direction the club should take. We knew everyone enjoyed being entertained and yet also knew that some wanted more technical presentations. We decided that if elected, which I was, we would have a two part program and would beef up the WASP by writing more articles telling of upcoming activities and guest speakers.

One of our first major speakers was Paul Strong from Macomb College. We all tried to talk up the meeting so we would not embarrass ourselves and the club with a meek turnout. I remember it being not too bad of a turnout, but not great.

In the weeks to come, Paul and I talked about our club's involvement with the college. He even suggested we move to MCCC (South Campus), and hold our meetings in one of the buildings. We took Paul up on his offer in Fall '71 and left the restricted, hard-to-find room in Warren Lincoln High. It served its purpose and now we as a club became accessible to college students, teachers and the general public.

Paul has always been great in promoting our club during and after his classes. He would walk the length of the campus just to get us a projector or help us run off our paper (an expensive project).

Well, I'm happy to say the club grew and we met new friends. Tim and Ken became editors and officers, and people like the Faixs, Kwentuses, Harringtons, Civics, and Dyers all helped build a good strong club.

A Life of Intellectual Adventure

Douglas H. Bock, September 1, 1986

I became aware of the Warren Astronomical Society in February of 1973, after making a phone call to the Cranbrook Institute of Science. There they told me of Jean Baldwin. When I contacted her she asked me where I lived and told me a little bit about the Society. Then she gave me a number to call of someone who lived near me and belonged to the Club. I called this number and the gentleman at the other end told me he was Lou Faix and that he would be glad to introduce me to the Club. Well I was thrilled that there might be other people who were as enthusiastic as I. I went to the March meeting that year and learned how little I really knew about astronomy. Who was Charles Messier anyway? I had heard the name before and knew about M objects before coming to the meeting but I learned more about his catalogue and how these people here were interested in observing these objects and photographing them. Photography. Wow, that would be neat. Capturing those little wisps of light in the sky on film. What a prize.

I joined the next month. The months went by and I learned about telescope making, observing techniques and the observatory which was just 4 miles from my home. I found myself riding my bike to Camp Rotary on occasion to use the observatory. I had a 2.4 inch refractor of my own but I wanted to have a larger scope. I started working on it in September of 1973. Lou Faix had finished a 6 inch scope and was explaining it at one of the meetings. After that I started grinding my 8 inch telescope. I also worked on a mounting system at the High School machine shop. Pete Kwentus gave me a great deal of advice and materials. I will always be indebted to him for his kind and enthusiastic support. Soon my 8 inch was done and operational. It was January 1974.

While I was building the scope a lot of things happened in the club. The African eclipse cruise and the ensuing slide shows, star parties, Messier contests, a transit of Mercury, Messier club meetings, astrophotography meetings, pool parties at Lou Faix's house and Chess problem solving .. It was a lot of fun. The star parties usually had a couple of dozen people there and everyone had something to share. New ideas or new equipment and projects. It might have been a cold camera or a new Schmidt camera, or a new atlas, or even the latest and greatest eyepieces. The thing I remember most though, was the fresh air, the sparkling stars and the great and awesome spirit all had for this hobby. Such drive I had never seen or felt before. The cosmos beckoned and we responded in kind.

In 1974, we hosted the Astronomical League National Convention at Michigan State University in East Lansing. A spectacular array of great amateur astronomers attended and many excellent talks were given. I had never seen so many people all interested in this hobby. There were dozens of exhibits both

professional and amateur of telescopes, camera equipment and systems for the astrophotographer. Art work of some of the more talented, expressed the great beauty of the universe.

That year I was off to College at Michigan State University. I enrolled as an Astro-physics major my freshman year. I thought I wanted to try my luck at being a professional Astronomer. Such was the impact of the hobby. The Club kept on as it always had and I would come to meetings from Lansing on the 3rd Thursday of every month just to be with this great band of people. It was a 2.5 hour drive one way. Meanwhile I joined the MSU club also. We did a lot of interesting things in that club also, but that is another story.

The Warren Club slowly changed as the mid seventies went by. There were heavy astrophotography interests there. Great results were achieved by many people. I remember outstanding slide presentations by Lou Faix, Pete Kwentus, Larry Kalinowski, Paul Strong, Frank McCullough, Ken Wilson, and a host of others.

In 1976, the DOAA astronomy organization hosted the Great Lakes Regional Convention of the Astronomical League at the Oakland University. This started Friday with "A Night at Big Jack's". This was a festive social event which had a spectacular slide show "When a Man Looks Up". The night was a hit as everyone around this area of the country met and became friends. The next day brought good talks and exhibitions. Observing that night at the University observatory, which was a new facility at the time.

When I was through with college I took a job in the Detroit area. I was married now and my wife Robin had been attending the Warren meetings with me since 1975. We both became active in the club again when we moved back to this area in 1977. 1977 also brought another Eclipse Cruise to the mid pacific. An adventure I wished I could go on. But again I was a little short of money as I was in 1973, so we wished those who were going the best of luck. Another slide show was born when they got back.

Since my activity in the club increased I began to find myself participating more as the others had in the past. Observing, astrophotography and building of new equipment. I remember observing out at Brighton State Park, since I lived on the west side of Detroit. Many a memorable night out there. The Club did not do so well in membership from 1978 to 1980. But those that were there were very active. With the 1979 eclipse in Canada we had a very large contingent go there. That was a cold eclipse. But my first Solar eclipse. It was quite thrilling to watch as the world became dark for a few moments in the middle of the day. Now I could see why the ancients were afraid. It was a moment I will never forget That was the year our dear friend E. John Searles died. That was his last eclipse as a mortal.

The eighties opened with uncertainty, we had our meeting place taken from Macomb Community College due to financial cutbacks. We were meeting at the Green Acres Elementary School. This was a nice place to meet, but we had lost one of our identifying trademarks: '3rd Thursday at Macomb.' This cost us a lot of memberships I am sure. However, we worked through those years.

In 1981, the first shuttle launch, a new adventure for us to go on. A caravan left for Florida to see this launch. I would suggest to anyone traveling there not to drive yourself the whole trip in 1 day. I learned from this trip that the body does funny things driving 25 hours straight or eating shrimp bisque. The launch had been delayed for 2 days after we had stayed up for about 30 hours the first time. So we had to do it again 2 days later. But when it went off I felt the second thrilling moment in my life. That launch

was a real knee rattler. I could hardly stand up during that exhilarating few minutes. Flames shooting out hundreds of yards and the noise was a tremendous pounding on the surroundings. Another slide show was born.

Speaking of slide shows I forgot to mention all the Christmas banquets where great entertainment was the norm. I don't know how many times I felt greatly moved with emotion by the sounds and sights of my fellow astronomers work. Many awards were given at these festive occasions. I personally felt great admiration for all who helped to make this club what it was and still is.

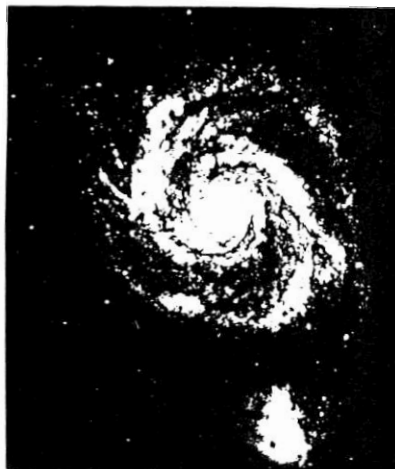
In 1982, two things happened that I am very proud of: the birth of my daughter Sharon and the 1982 Regional Convention which we hosted. My daughter is now a member of the club and thinks daddy's observatory is 'neat. ' The convention was a great success in the quality category. Many excellent talks were given.

Another shuttle launch and eclipse and many other adventures later I find that the Warren Astronomical Society is alive and well. I now live in the Fenton area and have my own observatory. This leads me to tell you about two individuals who built observatories. Dave Harrington built his observatory under great resistance from his neighbors. Some thought him to be a Russian spy or an oversexed peeping Tom. Indeed he wanted to use his 14 inch to look in his neighbor's window at her wart on her nose. So they thought. Of course we all know that Mr. Harrington is nothing but a fine upstanding and morally sound gentleman who is no more a pervert than either you or I. Now you know why he got in trouble. (Hee hee.)

The other individual is Lou Faix. His contains a 10 inch reflector last I heard and the observatory design was rather inventive as is usual with Lou. It look like a small gasoline tank sitting next to his swimming pool. The last I heard these two gents have converted them to sheds for storing their pool equipment.

The future looks bright for astronomy, as in street lights. Maybe we can think about the possibilities to combat this menace. Build an observing station up North, or convince politicians to curb the light dome growth. The first option sounds easier to me.

In any case the club has thrived for 25 years and I hope it keeps up the good work ala Kim Dyer for another 25 years. I am looking forward to it, and I hope you are too.



WAS OFFICERS 1961 TO 1986

	President	1st VP	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership
1961-62	Clarence Trott				
1962-63	Clarence Trott				
1963-64	Clarence Trott	Maurice Rochon	Shirley Rochon	Richard Sumner	Judith Sumner
1984-65	Maurice Rochon			Jean Baldwin	
1965-66	Gerry Alyea	John L. Winters		Jean Baldwin	
1966-67					
1967-68	Dick Polus			Jean Baldwin	

	President	1st VP	Corr. Secretary	Record. Secretary	Treasurer	WASP Editor
1968-69	Dick Polus	Gene Francis	Margaret Alyea	Frank McCullough Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough	
1969-70	Larry Kalinowski	Frank McCullough	Margaret Alyea	Diane Bargiel	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough
1970-71	Frank McCullough	Larry Kalinowski	Mary Francis Riley	Diane Bargiel	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough
1971-72	Frank McCullough	Tim Skonieczny		Diane Bargiel	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough
1972-73	Frank McCullough	Judy Strong		Diane McCullough	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough

	President	1st VP	2nd VP	Secretary	Treasurer	WASP Editor
1973-74	Frank McCullough	Pete Kwentus	Dave Harrington	Diane McCullough	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough Ken Wilson
1974-75	Frank McCullough	Pete Kwentus	Dave Harrington	Diane McCullough	Jean Baldwin	Frank McCullough Ken Wilson
1975-76	Carl Noble	Lou Faix	Dave Harrington	Diane McCullough	Jean Baldwin	Ken Wilson Carl Noble
1976-77	Pete Kwentus	Rik Hill	Roger Civic	Dolores Hill	Don Mission	Roger Civic
1977-78	Lou Faix	Frank McCullough	Dennis Joswik	Loretta D. Caulley	Gary Morin	Roger Civic Ray Bullock Newberry
1978-79	Dave Harrington	Doug Bock	Dennis Joswik	Loretta D. Caulley	Robin Bock	Jeff Stanek Brad Vincent
1979-80	Dave Harrington	Judy Strong	Frank McCullough	Loretta D. Caulley	Robin Bock	Tim Skonieczny
1980-81	Frank McCullough	Doug Bock	Dave Dobrzelewski	Connie Shannon	Nancy Tomczyk	Bob Wilson
1981-82	Doug Bock	Frank McCullough	Alan Rothenberg	Nancy Tomczyk	John Wetzel	Frank McCullough Judy Butcher
1982 Fall	Doug Bock	Roger Tanner	Ron Vogt	Ken Kelly	John Wetzel	Frank McCullough Judy Butcher
1983	Frank McCullough	Roger Tanner	Ken Strom	Ken Kelly	Bob Lennox	Judy Butcher
1984	Frank McCullough	Joe Galino	Ken Strom	Ken Kelly	Bob Lennox	Judy Butcher
1985	Ken Strom	Jon Root	Steve Franks Riyad Matti	Alan Rothenberg	Alice Strom	Colleen Nicolai Ken Kelly
1986	Ken Strom	Alan Rothenberg	Riyad Matti	Ken Kelly	Alice Strom	Ken Kelly

A SALUTE

September 6, 1986

Stargate Observatory

25th Anniversary of the Warren Astronomical Society 1961-1986

The Society Salutes Its Founders and Those Who Distinguish Themselves In Service To The Society.

Clarence Trott	Founder and First President
Maurice Rochon	Founder and Second President
Gerry & Margaret Alyea	Founders, Third President and Telescope Maker
John & Jean Baldwin	Jean was the longest serving Treasurer (12 terms)
Charles Brisley	Founder and Chief Telescope Making Instructor
Lionel & Elaine Burns	Founders
Leonard Cram	Active Member
Kim Dyer	Founder and still Active Member
George & Doris Robinson	Active Members
Ken Roszmann	Telescope Maker
Charles & George Schwarb	Supplied Casting for Telescopes and Active Members
Richard Sumner	Founder, Treasurer and Telescope Maker
John & Lois Winters	Active Members
Dick Polus	President and builder of Stargate Observatory
Larry Kalinowski	President and Telescope Maker
Frank McCullough	President (8 terms), 1st VP (4 terms), First Editor of the WASP and Editor (8 terms)
Martin Butley	Active Member
Gene Francis	1st VP and Active Member
Dave Ther	Active Member
Paul & Judy Strong	Active Members and Judy was 1st Vice President
Pete & Ginger Kwentus	President, 1st VP, Active Members, Telescope Makers, and Expedition Planners
Dave Harrington	President and 2nd VP
E. John Searles	Active member
Diane Bargiel	Recording Secretary (7 terms) and Active Member
Ken Wilson	Editor and Active Member
Lou Faix	President, 1st VP and Active Member
Roger Civic	2nd VP, Editor and Active Member
Doug Bock	President, 1st VP and Active Member
Robin Bock	Treasurer and Active Member
Tim Skonieczny	1st VP, Editor and Active Member
Ken Kelly	Secretary, Editor and Active Member
Rik & Dolores Hill	1st VP and Secretary, respectively, Active Members
Don Mission	Treasurer and Active Member
John Wetzel	Treasurer and Active Member
Alan Rothenberg	1st VP, 2nd VP, Secretary and Active Member

