

Change of Address:

Bob Stephens (our Lame Duck President) has moved. New Address
1000 Central Ave. Apt. 1
Riverside, Ca. 92507
Ph. 788-0965

JANUARY MEETING:

Because of the holidays, we are changing our meeting date from the first Saturday to January 10, 1981.

PLEASANT MEMORIES

The Riverside Astronomical Society was founded on May 27th, 1957. A notice in the local paper was placed by Frank B. Jones; inquiring if any amatuer astronomers in Riverside wished to help form a society, please call him. I called him immediately and was told that I was the first caller. So he placed me as #1; Warren Estes, # 2; Wm Hepner, # 3; Hani Riley, # 5; Frank Daley, # 6; Junior Gonzales, #7; Helen Schneider, # 8: This was the first group. Mr. Jones was elected president, and Helen Schneider, Secretary. This meeting took place at Shamel Park. I was absent the first meeting due to a work committment. They resolved to meet every fourth Monday of the month.

The following meeting consisted of organization, programs, and generally finding our way to grow and be of service to the community. Our first task was developing star parties including student participation, etc.

Dr. H. Page Bailey offered the club his 15" Cass. Telescope if we could find a good place for it. We were unable to do this so we lost its use.

On July 22nd, we voted to join the A.A. of Lunar and Planetary Observers. This season we enjoyed watching Sputnik make its tumbling passage across the evening sky. By now, we have 25 regular members. We came out to the "Kaiser Observatory" for observing. Seeing, was excellent in those days. An invitation was received for us to join the Meteor Watch. This was a phase of the International Geophysical Year, then in progress. We accepted the challenge and received our information from Ottawa, Canada: headqtrs for that phase of the IGY. We organized a group of 9 people to sit in a circle, facing each other. One was the recorder. An example of the work we did; we observed on Dec. 12, 13, 14, 15, 20 21, and 22nd, 1957. The first IGY Meteor Watch officially began. This continued for 23 months. Those who attended regularly became very proficient in estimating the magnitude of meteors, which constellation it originated in, and which ones it passed through. They really knew the sky. Our club won first place several times, competing with organizations all over the world.

In the interim, we worked about four years with the Hobby Assn. We finally gave up on them, they sure wanted us to help them, but they wouldn't participate in our programs. We learned our lesson from them.

On April 3rd, 1958, Warren Estes was elected president. He was a teacher at Riverside Junior College (now R.C.C.) in the Astronomy Department. Hence he brought in many new members, and gave many fine lectures and demonstrations. This made our club a Mecca for students of Astronomy. Richard & Helen Lines joined the club, and as a Civil Engineer, he was able to lend much help to the club. So much so, that at the next election, Mar. 3rd, 1959, he was elected president. His job, however, sent him to Arizona, so I was elected to fill out his term on 12-1-59. I was re-elected for another term and was able to get our club in the W.A.A. and the A.S.P. I appointed Warren Estes to be Chief Observer and changed the By-Laws to conform. I also appointed him to be our delegate to the A.S.P. convention. Star parties were a regular feature at my home with my 12 1/2" F-8. Everyone really enjoyed the evenings with my wife making coffee and other refreshments, who would gripe? About this time we made Gene Purtick Program Chairman. This position later proved to be a very important one for the club. I was re-elected president in 1960, 1961, and 1962, and Gene Purtick in 1963. I was re-elected again in 1964, and this had to be my last term, as illness caused me to give up much of the work. So, in 1965, Cliff Holmes assumed the job of president. His record is proof of his ability, and he even received the Bruce Blair Award.

Now it is time for Cliff to write (for posterity) of his great achievements. A good leader he was. From here on....let him tell the story of the club. But, lest I forget, the club honored me in 1973 with a Life membership, which I prize more than anything I have ever had. KINDNESS...LIKE THE FRAGRANCE OF THE ROSE, LINGERS ON.

HAROLD KAISER

(continued next month)

