Occultation () Newsletter

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Occultation Newsletter is published by the International Occultation Timing Association. Editor and compositor: H. F. DaBoll; 6N106 White Oak Lane; St. Charles, Il 60175; U.S.A. Please send editorial matters to the above. Send new and renewal memberships and subscriptions, back issue requests, address changes, graze prediction requests, reimbursement requests, special requests, and other IOTA business, but not observation reports, to: Craig and Terri McManus; 1177 Collins; Topeka, KS 66604-1524; U.S.A. Co-editor for this issue: Joan Bixby Dunham; 7006 Megan Lane; Greenbelt, MD 20770.

5.00

FROM THE PUBLISHER

For subscription purposes, this is the fourth and final issue of 1989. It is the fourteenth issue of Volume 4.

Since moving our headquarters to Topeka, we have been unable to re-establish our VISA and MasterCard capability. Payments to IOTA should temporarily be made only in check, money order, or cash form. You could check on progress by phoning (913)232-3693.

IOTA membership dues, including o.N. and any supplements for U.S.A., Canada, and Mexico for all others to cover higher postal rates	\$17.00 22.00
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o.n. 4 (2) and later issues There are sixteen issues per volume, all still available.

Although they are available to IOTA members without charge, nonmembers must pay for these items:

Local circumstance (asteroidal appulse) predictions	(entire cur-
rent list for your location)	1.00
Graze limit and profile prediction (each graze)	1.50
Papers explaining the use of the predictions	2.50

Asteroidal occultation supplements will be available at extra cost: for South America through Ignacio Ferrin (Apartado 700; Merida for South America through Ignacio Ferrin (Apartado Fob, Merida 5101-A; Venezuela), for Europe through Roland Boninsegna (Rue de Mariembourg, 33; B-6381 DOURBES; Belgium) or IOTA/ES (see below), for southern Africa through M. D. Overbeek (Box 212; Edenvale 1610; Republic of South Africa), for Australia and New Zealand through Graham Blow (P.O. Box 2241; Wellington, New Zealand), and for Japan through Toshio Hirose (1-13 Shimomaruko 1-chome; Ota-ku, Tokyo 146, Supplements for all ather areas will be available from Jim Japan). Supplements for all ather areas will be available from Jim Stamm (11781 N. Joi Drive; Tucson, AZ 85737; U.S.A.) by surface 1.18 mail at the low price of 1.96 or by air (AO) mail at

Observers from Europe and the British Isles should join IOTA/ES, sending DM 40.-- to the account IOTA/ES; Bartold-Knaust Strasse 8; (Bankleitzahl) 250 100 30. Full membership in IOTA/ES includes the supplement for European observers (total and grazing occultations) and minor planet occultation data, including last-minute predictions, when available. See also IDTA/ES News on p. 337.

Single issue at ½ of price shown

² Price includes any supplements for North American observers.
³ Not available for U.S.A., Canada, or Mexico
⁴ Area "A" includes Central America, St. Pierre and Miquelon, Caribbean Islands, Bahamas, Bermuda, Colombia, and Venezuela. If desired, area "A" observers may order the North American supplement but curfices and the St. B. or but six (AD) meil at \$1.50 by surface mail at \$1.18, or by air (AO) mail at \$1.50. ⁵ Area "B" includes the rest of South America, Mediterranean Africa, and Europe (except Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and U.S.S.R.).

IOTA NEWS

David W. Dunham

<u>1989 IOTA Meeting.</u> The 1989 annual meeting of IOTA was held at the Lunar and Planetary Institute in Houston, TX, as planned and announced on p. 321 of the last issue. The executive secretary's report of the meeting is given on p. 337. The triannual election of officers was held, with the most important change being that Craig and Terri McManus. Topeka, KS, are now the secretary and treasurer; see the masthead and their separate note on p. 337. We should all appreciate their willingness to perform this important service to IOTA. We wish them the best in their efforts to streamline our operations by their future attempts to perform many of Derald Nye's and Joseph Senne's current duties. Please give them your support.

<u>Pleiades Predictions in Next Issue</u>. Unfortunately, this issue is far behind schedule. It contains the most time-critical information, especially my predictions of occultations by Solar System objects starting on p. 341. More information on some of the items mentioned only briefly will appear in the next issue, which will probably be smaller than this issue and follow it by only about 10 days, in order to include details of the March 3rd Pleiades passage (evening of March 2, local time) visible from Canada and the U.S.A. (especially the northern states) before that event. The March 3rd passage will also be covered in the March issue of Sky and Telescope. Earlier, we had hoped to distribute this issue in time for the February 9th total lunar eclipse, visible from the Eastern Hemisphere. But in mid-January, it was clear that could not be done, so a separate supplement about occultations during that eclipse was mailed separately to IOTA and IOTA/ES members, and to $\underline{O.N.}$ subscibers, in the region of visibility. In addition to the Pleiades passage data, the next issue will contain recommended corrections to current grazing occultation predictions, and progress on the 1989 July 3rd occultations of 28 Sagittarii by Saturn and Titan.

FROM THE CO-EDITOR

Joan Bixby Dunham

Mr. DaBoll was unable to complete the prepration of this issue of the Occultation Newsletter. Joan Dunham published this issue and will publish the next issue. Health permitting, Mr. DaBoll will prepare the final issue of Volume 4.

North Americans who have expiration notices enclosed with this issue should send their dues payment to Topeka promptly, to ensure receipt of the next issue before March 3. We hope to mail the next issue on either February 24 or 26, so if you are a little late mailing your payment, you might telephone the McManuses at (913)232-3693 to let them know you are renewing, so that a copy of the next issue can be mailed to you.

If you have a contribution that you want to appear in the next issue, it must be received by Joan Dunham; 7006 Megan Lane; Greenbelt, MD 20770-3012; USA by February 20. Telephone (301)474-4722 if you want to contribute something, and have not already sent it. This issue and the next are being assembled and distributed by Joan. We plan to distribute the following issue, #16, in May or June; contributions for it should be sent to H. F. DaBoll at the address in the masthead. We are very thankful for DaBoll's tremendous effort as editor and compositor of this newsletter, and for the high standards that he has established for it. He has been able to maintain these standards in spite of serious problems during the last few years; we hope that he recovers from his current illness in time to produce the last issue of this volume.

The McManuses have a supply of back-issues of recent issues of $\underline{O.N.}$; all requests for back issues should be sent to them. However, Derald Nye, Tucson, AZ, now has the bulk of the back issues; we thank him for storing them for IOTA.

My setbacks for this year's predictions (being two months late with this issue, missing Sky and Telescope's deadline for my 1990 planetary occultation article, not being able to produce supplements for any of the late 1989 Praesepe passages) were caused mainly by a combination of work for last August's lunar eclipse and the numerous trips that I made during the last half of the year. Things should be better for 1991, partly because fewer trips are planned this year, but mainly because Sky and Telescope insists on having my 1991 material to them by early September this year. Since I start generating IOTA predictions just after that, the IOTA data for 1991 should be distributed nearly two months earlier than they were for 1990. To help meet the earlier schedule, I would like to get some help with some of the computer prediction work; some local help would be especially helpful and welcome.

<u>Next IOTA Meeting.</u> The 1990 IOTA meeting will probably be held the weekend of August 18-19 in San Antonio, TX, a good location for the southern-limit graze of Jupiter by a 5% moon, as shown on my map on p. 69 of the January issue of <u>Sky and Telescope</u>. More information about it will be in issue #16.

<u>L-catalog Predictions from USNO.</u> L- and P-catalog total lunar occultation predictions for 1990 were distributed to observers on the U. S. Naval Observatory's (USNO's) active list in August-September, 1989, and a special subset of these (good Pleiades passages and the 1990 lunar eclipses) were sent to Eastern Hemisphere IOTA and IOTA/ES members for whom I have coordinates but who are not on USNO's list in late January. Some observers are confusing the two catalogs, especially in North America, where incorrect designations were given for some of the events in the chronological lists. USNO reference numbers prefixed with P in the main prediction list are stars from Eichhorn's Pleiades catalog, while those prefixed with L are from the 1989 L-catalog, which gives extended coverage for particular areas of the sky, described in 0.N. 4 (11), 263-266 (1989 March). In the table on p. 265, the last two entries said "not yet in L". Those parts were added in May, and corrected in July, 1989; the L-No. ranges are 24201 - 24384 for the 1990 Aug. 6 lunar eclipse field and 24385 - 24935 for the 1989 Aug. 17 lunar eclipse field.

Occultation Videos. I have received a few requests for copies of some of the occultation videotapes that have been mentioned in previous issues. I have created a 2-hour tape with the best parts of the most interesting events recorded through July 1989, and will sell a copy to those who send a check or money order, for \$10 payable to me, at 7006 Megan Lane; Greenbelt, MD 20770-3012; USA. There is an additional charge of \$100 for converting from American NTSC format to a different format. Any profits from this will be contributed to IOTA and IOTA/ES (which recorded some of the events). I cannot provide copies before March.

<u>Requests for Magnetic Tapes, etc.</u> With the relentless pressure of preparing articles for <u>Sky</u> <u>and Telescope</u> and other journals, and getting predictions and newsletters to you, I have had little time to answer individual requests, especially for star catalogs on magnetic tape, some requests for which are now even two years old. I apologize for these intolerably long delays in answering your letters and requests; I will make every effort to fill them promptly after the March Pleiades passage.

1983 PALLAS OCCULTATION PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE ASTRONOMICAL JOURNAL

David W. Dunham and Joan Bixby Dunham

Our paper about the 1983 May 29 occultation of 1 Vulpeculae by (2) Pallas, with 44 co-authors, was sent to the Astronomical Journal at the end of November. It was recently accepted for publication, and will appear in their May issue. If you are one of the co-authors, we need to know if you need more than about 15 reprints. Regional coordinators will be sent at least enough reprints to distribute to all of the observers in their region who are mentioned in the article (this includes those who reported a miss, and those who attempted the event but were clouded out, as well as everyone who sent in timings). If you sent a report of that occultation or appulse to your regional coordinator. and have moved since then, you should notify him of your new address. The regional coordinators are all at their 1983 addresses except for Richard Nolthenius, the coordinator for California, who is now at Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA 95003.

Next, we plan to complete analyses of, and submit journal articles for publication, for the 1983 September occultation by (51) Nemausa, some other observed asteroidal occultations, and various eclipses, especially those in China in 1987 and in Sudan in 1985. Other analyses need to be performed as well; more local help for this is needed!

SECRETARY/TREASURER NEWS

Craig and Terri McManus

As was stated in previous newsletters, we have assumed the duties of Secretary and Treasurer from Homer DaBoll. We received the materials from Homer at the end of December and have been very busy sorting through renewals and updates. It is very important that all correspondence concerning requests for graze data, membership renewal, graze manuals, observer information sheets and all NON-EDITORIAL newsletter needs be addressed to us at the address below. (EDITORIAL items continue to go through Home DaBoll in St. Charles, IL.) We hope to keep the same high level of efficiency that Homer had in updating and keeping current any and all changes that you may have. However, we are new at the job and ask for a little patience here at the beginning. Part of your patience concerns the use of MC and VISA to renew your memberships. At this time we have not secured permission from either of the two bank card centers in Kansas to open and account. We hope to have this secured soon, but for now renewals and other items that require purchase need to be done by check or money order in US funds. We are sorry for the inconvenience that this may cause some of you. Please bear with us.

If you move or change your observation site, please send us updated coordinates to insure your receipt of accurate and useful predictions.

Craig and Terri McManus 1177 Collins Topeka, KS 66604-1524 USA

IOTA/ES NEWS

Eberhard Bredner

As secretary of the European Section of IOTA, my address remains: Astrag VHS Hamm; P.O. Box 2449-41; D-4700 Hamm 1; German Federal Republic. The telephone number there is 49-2381-172534, while the fax number is 49-2381-36770. Please note my new As secretary of the European Section of IOTA, my address remains: Astrag VHS Hamm; P.O. Box 2449-41; D-4700 Hamm 1; German Federal Republic. The telephone number there is 49-2381-172534, while the fax number is 49-2381-36770. Please note my new home telephone number: 49-2381-31774; the old number given on the IOTA/ES forms is no longer valid. The DM 40 IOTA/ES dues should be paid only by postal money order. If there is no other possibility, you may send a check payable to me, but in this case, you must pay DM 50, because there are expensive fees from the bank. Perhaps a better arrangement will be possible after IOTA/ES elects a new treasurer at a meeting (ausserordentliche Mitgliederversammlung) on March 24 in Hannover. For information about that meeting, contact Hans Bode at the address given in "From the Publisher", or telephone him at 49-511-424696.

Also, contact Mr. Bode if you are interested in joining an IOTA/ES expedition of about 10 people to travel to Siberia to observe the total solar eclipse of July 22. They will join the IOTA and Kiev University Observatory expedition; see p. 354. The 9th European Symposium on Occultation Projects (ESOP IX) will be held in Jena, German Democratic Republic, August 24-28. Mr. Bode and I will go to East Berlin on February 22-23 to start preparations. Please let us know if you might be interested in attending this meeting.

IOTA ANNUAL REPORT - 1989

Gary D. Nealis, Executive Secretary

The 1989 annual meeting of the International Occultation Timing Association was held on Dec. 16. at the Lunar and Planetary Institute, Houston, TX. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am CST by president David Dunham. 15 members were present, including the Dunhams from Greenbelt, MD; the McManuses and Rex Easton from Topeka, KS; Kent Okasaki from San Jose, CA; and Robert Sandy from Blue Springs, MO; the others were all from the Houston, TX, area. Officers present included David Dunham, the McManuses, Paul Maley, and myself.

IOTA business was discussed first. Homer DaBoll's treasurer's report was read; the IOTA balance was about the same in late September, 1989, as it was a year earlier, showing that the dues increase at the end of 1988 had the desired effect. The balance as of the meeting was about \$1000, so no dues increase was recommended. Terri and Craig McManus discussed the arrangements that they were making for assuming the job of secretary-treasurer; see their article on this page. Topeka member Richard Wilds will be added to the new IOTA bank account signature list, in case something happens to both McManuses. This was approved.

At 9:30 the membership report was given by David Dunham; there are nearly 300 members, about the same as last year. The secretary-treasurer maintains the official records, while Derald Nye in Tucson, AZ, maintains the computerized records on an IBM PC diskette, using instructions from the secretarytreasurer. Nye generates address labels and files of station data for predictions, as needed.

The election of officers began at 9:40. A total of 134 ballots were received by mail. 68 voted for the slate, 55 designated executive secretary Nealis as proxy, 7 did both, 1 designated Don Stockbauer proxy, 2 David Dunham, and 1 Homer DaBoll. 7 members present who had not mailed a ballot voted for the slate. The slate of officers was unanimously elected, with enough ballots to constitute a valid election by a wide margin. The officers for the next three years are:

President: David Dunham Executive Vice President: Paul Maley Executive Secretary: Gary Nealis Secretary and Treasurer: Terri and Craig McManus V.P. for Grazing Occ'n Services: Joseph Senne V.P. for Planetary Occ'n Services: Joseph Carroll V.P. for Lunar Occ'n Services: Walter Morgan Occultation Newsletter Editor: Homer DaBoll

A design for a lunar IOTA graze patch was passed around; see Richard Wild's article on page 339.

Occultation manuals were discussed. IOTA's Preliminary Occultation Manual (POM) is too long for some purposes. David Dunham sent the McManuses a copy of his one-page "Grazing Occultation Check List", which may serve the purpose of a "quick guide". The Dunhams solicited help for finishing the incomplete sections of POM, so that it might be published in "final" form and distributed to all members.

Eclipses, and possible expeditions for them, were discussed starting at 10:10. The February 9th lunar eclipse was described. See p. 354 for information on solar eclipses.

Starting at 11:20, Bob Sandy showed a Memorabilia slide show dating from 1960 to the present. This showed grazes, planetary and stellar occultations (by the Moon), and personnel and equipment for them. It described the work of Dr. C. B. Watts, including a description of Watts angle and its derivation, the history of lunar grazes, and early techniques. Then different techniques of data reduction and plotting of grazes were shown. Finally, pictures of aurorae and several cartoons were shown. It provided a good historical summary of a lot of what IOTA is about.

From noon to 13:30, attendies went to lunch at the local Piccadilly Cafeteria. After this, David Dunham discussed 1990 asteroidal occultations. The data shown would be in the February issue of <u>Sky and</u> <u>Telescope</u>. No occultations are outstanding for North America, with the brightest involving 8th-magnitude stars.

Starting at 14:02, David discussed lunar grazes for 1990. Plots are in the January issues of <u>Astronomy</u> and <u>Sky and Telescope</u>. On Aug. 18, Jupiter will be occulted, with the southern limit crossing the San Antonio and Houston areas. It is on the bright limb of a 5% sunlit waning Moon, near sunrise, and 4 days after a Pleiades passage. Aug. 18-19 is the tentative 1990 meeting date (it must be in Texas) to coincide with these events.

Starting at 14:29, David discussed 1989 asteroidal and lunar occultation observations. Occultations by Bamberga in March (when two short occultations near the northern limit were apparently timed by an observer in Albuquerque), Emita in May in AZ and WI, and Endymion and Eunomia in Australia in April were described. On Aug. 17, double grazes (at north and south limits) during a total lunar eclipse were attempted in the Midlands of England, in Egypt, and in Kenya. Apparently, no attempt was actually made in Kenya, and Bode's effort in Egypt was clouded out. However, the England expeditions had excellent skys and got many events. Two days later, the Vesta occultation led to establishment of several stations (National Geographic, National Science Foundation, etc.) in Ecuador and French Guiana, with mixed results. Derald Nye also viewed a Eunomia occulta-tion from the Amazon in November. The September occultation by Hermentaria in s. Florida generated one data point; there was no astrometric update. On Dec. 2, an occultation by Helio occurred in parts of IL, IN, and OH; it was cloudy in most other areas along the path. Urbana, IL, got a 1.5-second occultation. The July 3rd occultations of 28 Sagittarii, described in previous issues, were discussed. Videotapes of these events, as well as of several outstanding lunar events recorded during the past year, were shown.

At 16:19, European section news was discussed. The ESOP VIII meeting in Freiburg, German Federal Republic, was described. See also p. 337.

Starting at 16:50, computer-related developements were discussed. Tom Campbell has a Basic program (EASYILOC) that searches its data base (map data), generates plotting coordinates, and fills observation report forms. There is a new bulletin board called PINET; see p. 339. Help was requested for production of tables for total occultation predictions and for automated generation of graze reduction profiles.

Starting at 17:33, IOTA publications were discussed. An article about the December 1987 Bamberga occultation, with heavy IOTA involvement, was published in the <u>Astron. J.</u>. The large article about the 1983 May 29 Pallas occultation was sent to the <u>Astron.</u> <u>J.</u>. Articles are planned for other asteroidal occultations and for eclipses. We need to publish more to get help from professional groups.

At 17:56, the meeting adjourned. I went home, but several attendies continued discussions over dinner at a nearby restaurant. Don Oliver described progress with his effort to generate graze expedition summary information from a USNO graze observation database including all observed events that predate $\underline{O.N.}$ He needs help from David Dunham to overcome a problem in a libration subroutine.

We thank the Lunar and Planetary Institute for use of their facilities.

GRAZE PATCH

Richard E. Wilds

The Graze team of the Northeast Kansas Amateur Astronomers' League would like to propose a patch for IOTA graze observers. The patch was drawn by Don Stotz of Dallas, Texas. It is a stunning multicolored view of the Moon going through the Pleiades. The Moon is a crescent with plenty of earthshine. One of the Seven Sisters, Merope, is about to be grazed by the northern limb of the Moon. At the same time the Moon is about to occult the beautiful chain of 8-th magnitude stars just south of the main cluster stars.

We have had very good growth in our graze team in Topeka, Kansas. One of the reasons has been the reward of a pictoral reduction of a graze publicly awarded to each observer at local astronomy groups meetings. Since Messier certificates and Herschel awards for deep sky observing have become popular, we thought it might be worthwhile to have a shoulder patch honoring grazes. The patch would be awarded to any person who has observed a graze.

The NEKAAL team is willing to arrange for the patches and offer them to IOTA members for a nominal fee to cover expenses. The profits, if any, would be given to IOTA. Before we take this step, however, we want to know how much interest there is among IOTA members. We expect that the patch will cost \$5.00 each. Are you interested? Let me know by writing to the address below. If there is enough interest, we will announce the availability of the patches in a future issue of Occultation Newsletter.

Richard P. Wilds 710 Grandview Topeka, Kanses 66606 USA



ASTRONOMY AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS

Joan Bixby Dunham

Network Memberships CompuServe - David now has a CompuServe membership, with ID 71321,1746. I have a Pinet membership, with ID jbd. Pinet is the Ameri-can Institute of Physics network. It is unclear how useful Pinet will be. There are not very many members, as shown by the 3-letter ID. Pinet gives access to BITNET, Telex, FAX, and a few other networks (GSFCMAIL), but I have not discovered how to receive messages from other networks, only send. One of the reasons we got these memberships was to send and receive files electronically. If you want to send (or have sent) us a data set via one of these networks, let us know. Otherwise, it could be days before we notice the file. Also, be patient. We are just learning how to use these services. We will have more to say as we gain experience with them.

David also has a SPAN address, nssdca::dunham, as reported in the $\underline{O.N.}$ 4 (12), p. 289 and we both have GSFCMAIL accounts. David is DDUNHAM and I am JDUNHAM.

History The changing of the decade is a good time to reflect for a moment on the recent history of computing equipment. The last thirty years have seen very rapid changes in computing equipment. Computers are no longer the enormous, power guzzling heat generators owned by a few govenment agencies and universities. The single-user computing tool of the past was a slide rule or a Frieden adding machine and a 9 place log table. Mechanical calculators and their clunking computations have virtually disappeared, and slide rule manufacturers have turned to other fields. The evolution of calculating equipment is one of continued decrease in price and increase in capability. The pace of hardware development has outrun our ability to develope software and applications. Even if the hardware development were to freeze with the INTEL 80586 (Look for '586 computers in about 2 years), we would probably not see much slowing in the rate of change as we find new applications for what we already have.

EASYILOC 2.0 Tom Campbell is distributing version 2 of his graze organizer's software and is now working on version 3. We demonstrated his map finding software at the IOTA business meeting, although the demonstration did not proceed very far because it needed a printer, and we had not brought one. We discussed this software earlier, in <u>O.N. 4</u> (11), p. 269-270. The purpose of EASYILOC is to assist in graze planning and reduction, and in help in preparing a disk version of the final ILOC report. The software is in BASIC and runs on MS-DOS machines. Contact Tom Campbell at 5405 98th Ave, Temple Terrace, FL 33617 for more information.

Digitizers One of the most time consuming parts of reducing a graze is measuring accurate coordinates from a map. I have been investigating inexpensive digitizers, trying to determine if they are accurate enough and work well enough to be useful. Digitizers are tablets with a mouse that has a crosshair that communicate the (X,Y) location of the crosshair on the tablet to the computer as mouse is moved about the tablet. These are very similar to graphics tablets that help an artist make a freehand drawing in graphics software. To me, the difference between a graphics tablet and a digitizer is that the tablet cannot give accurate measurements across the tablet, while the digitizer can. Many people, though, use the terms interchangeably, and consider "digitizer" a fancy word for graphics tablet. Some of the newer small digitizers retail for under \$200, and even include some graphics software.

Aside from whether or not a given digitizer or graphics tablet can give accurate measurements, I also noticed that there can be significant physical hindrances to using some of the tablets with the large maps. No inexpensive digitizer has an active area big enough to hold an entire map. Aside from the undesirable cost and bulk of such a device, it is probably not necessary to have an entire map on the digitizer at one time. The maps include enough reference tics so that an area of the size of a standard page, 8.5 by 11 inches, is probably all that is necessary. However, some of the digitizers are designed so that the only practical way to work with just a portion of a map is to cut it into pieces, and I will not do that.

What I want is a digitizer that can work with parts of the map, getting measurements of locations on the map to an absolute accuracy of 0.01 inch, and generating data in a form that can be recognized by some of the more widely used pieces of software, such as Dr. Halo, Harvard Graphics, or Lotus 123. The quoted resolution accuracies of some digitizers are the accuracy with which the digitizer can detect the stylus has moved, and not the accuracy of measured points from the tablet. It may be that a digitizer with an ability to detect movement to a resolution of 1000+ lines per inch also can measure the relative separations of two points across its face to a high degree of accuracy. When the manufacturer does not give that information, however, it suggsts that the measurement accuracy is not very high.

THE GRAZE AT MCCOOL JUNCTION

Gary Hug

It's a far cry from the days of my youth, when I would drag the 3" Gilbert reflector from under my bed and set it up in the field across the street to gaze at the Moon. Several decades later, the field has been replaced with a school and associated megalights, my equipment involves 10" and 13" scopes, drive correctors, inverters, CCD cameras, computer imaging, and CB radio, and my setup areas now involve many miles of driving, including out-of-state travel. There is a tremendous amount of preparation involved now.

Last October 7-8 I used a 10", as a member of a graze team that travelled 200 miles to a site near York, Nebraska. Actually, I didn't really look through the telescope. Mounted in the focuser was a Panasonic CCD camera with nearly a quarter million pixels located on the $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (diagonal) chip. Once the camera was focused by way of a camcorder monitor, the modified tangent-arm drive was engaged on the scope to track the Moon and the star it was about to graze.

The short-wave radio was tuned to WWV and a microphone was placed near the speaker. The cord from the microphone was plugged into the jack on the camcorder. Wires were running everywhere. It seemed to take hours to get everything hooked up and checked. Eventually, after changin the battery in the camcorder, the image of the sourthern tip of the first quarter Moon and the star SAO 187717 (7th magnitude), were in view on the tiny monitor. The 0.5lux CCD camera was easily capable of picking up the star as it closed in on the lunar surface.

Forty minutes before predicted graze time, clouds had overrun the Moon. Taking my eye off the monitor, I began searching in hope of clear stretches of sky along the horizon. Dreading the worst, I began to question the saneness of all thre preparation, driving, and setting up an electrician's nightmare of wires. Time passes, and the clouds seemed motionless. Yet Venus, in the southwest, had popped back into view; there was still hope. Now there were twenty minutes before the 3-minute-duration graze. There were some patches of clear sky, but still numerous clouds blocked the view.

Finally, ten minutes before graze time, the clouds puffed away, leaving the monitor with the lunar sunlit peaks and the star quite close together.

I went through a mental checklist, making sure all components were turned on. With only moments to go I adjusted the field of view by nudging the telescope tube slightly, and intensified my scanning of the monitor. The atmosphere was very turbulent, but the first lunar peak blocked the starlight in an instant. That was to be the first of six events recorded by the the video equipment (see Bob Sandy's reduction profile).

During the star's apparent motion past the lunar terrain, I noticed a reappearance that seemed to be a stepped event; the star seemed to brighten gradually rather than instantly. Talking to the rest of the observers later by CB, I found they also reported a slow reappearance of the star. It is likely, while the star is known to have a companion roughly 45 seconds of arc away, there is a third star in this system, previously undetected. Although it may be some time before the third star can be verified, we may have been the first humans in all of history to have realized this particular star's existence.

You may note on the reduction profile how much difference exists between the lunar terrain as it was charted with old data and after the information was applied from this graze. Although not directly shown on the reduction, most of the graze team independently reported slow fades or reappearances in the report sent to IOTA.

Also, it may be noted that the mountain peak at WA 163° was seen to be shifted to 163°3. The valley at 164°3 is shifted to 164°6. The mountain at 165°6 can be seen at 165°9. In summary, it can be seen the entire profile was observed to be shifted 0°2 to 0°4 in Watts angle. Possibly in future predictions, a horizontal shift may be applicable.

Special thanks to all the participants of the McCool Junction, Nebraska graze; David Costales, Brenda Culbertson, Craig McManus, Rex Easton, Rich Wilds. Thanks also to Sharon Fahay for loaning a much-needed power converter.



SOLAR SYSTEM OCCULTATIONS DURING 1990

David W. Dunham

The 1990 Asteroidal Occultation Supplement for North American Observers, prepared by Edwin Goffin with finder charts annotated by David Werner, were distributed with the last issue of O.N. for IOTA members and O.N. subscribers in North America. Copies of Goffin's predictions and charts applicable to other parts of the world were sent by Jim Stamm a few months ago to regional coordinators for distribution to members and subscribers in their regions. Goffin has continued to improve the orbits for many asteroids, and we have both used these for our predictions. Also, since Goffin used my Combined Catalog (CC), and my version of Fresneau's Astrographic Catalog (FAC), for his calculations, a much larger fraction of our predicted events are in common, and our predicted paths for the common events are in better agreement, than was the case for predictions for previous years. A practical advantage of this is that we need to publish fewer finder charts in the regular issues of O.N., since they have already been distributed with Goffin's predictions. In a few cases, we will publish 1° charts for some of the more crowded star fields on Goffin's charts, to facilitate locating the star to be occulted (the "target star"). These will be published alone, to be used in conjunction with Goffin's broader-field charts. Remember that the 1° charts are generated mostly from FAC data, which used blue-sensitive photographic plates. Comparison with the True Visual Magnitude Atlas (TVMA) often shows that some FAC stars are brighter, fainter, or very faint relative to their plotted magnitude, indicated with B, F, or VF, respectively. "N" $\,$ indicates that the star is not shown in TVMA.

There are a few minor problems with Goffin's use of the CC and FAC. The most significant problem was caused by an error that I made in creating the CC: The sign of the proper motion in declination of Yale catalog stars was inadvertantly omitted. This is usually not a serious problem, since correct data for virtually all Yale stars are given in the SAO and other catalogs, all of which had more priority than Yale when CC was created. The main purpose for merging Yale into CC was to obtain a few hundred Yale stars with southern declinations whose proper motions were not determined (zero used) and which are not in the SAO or most other catalogs. For stars with large negative proper motion in declination, the coordinate matching used to create CC did not work, resulting in many "false" stars whose only source was Yale. Two of Goffin's 1990 predictions involve these "false" stars, so the actual occultations will not be visible from the Earth's surface, including the occultations by (97) Klotho on March 14 that Goffin predicted for South America, and by (205) Martha on December 31 that he predicted for North America and Europe. Also, Goffin assigned sequential numbers to some of the catalog sources, including the FAC, where the stars remain unnumbered in my version. For the five different Lick-Voyager catalogs, he assigns one sequence number, rather than retaining the separate sequence numbers for the individual catalogs used both by Lowell Observatory in their predictions and by myself. Similarly, Goffin assigned one sequence number to the Astrographic Catalog (AC) stars in the CC, rather than retain the zone designations that I use.

Tables 1 and 2. My predictions of occultations of stars by major and minor planets during 1990 are given in two tables below, which are presented in virtually the same format as those for 1989 published in 0.N. 4 (10), 244. Four good events that occur early in 1991 are listed at the end, to give advance notice for planning purposes. A few changes from the tables for years before 1988, especially parameters for path computation, are described in O.N. 4 (6), 150. The previous tables are described in detail in O.N. 4 (1) (July, 1986). See also O.N. 4 (3), 45-47 for star designations and new source codes. For the 1990 calculations, I used the same version of the combined catalog as that for the 1989 predictions, with the updates described in O.N. 4 (10), 244. Many new orbits have been calculated for asteroids involved with occultations, so the accuracy of the predictions should continue to improve.

No values are listed under ∆m for occultations by major planets except in the cases where the star is less than five magnitudes fainter than the planets. In the latter case, the extent of the planet, and the fact that events can occur against its dark side, make Δm meaningless. Similarly, no value is listed under the Table 2 RSOI column, since this is always greater than 99999 km. Asterisks (*) and pluses (+) given after some dates indicate new and revised events, respectively; these are explained in the local circumstances/appulse prediction section. A slash (/) given after three dates indicate events that, for some unknown reason, are not plotted on my quarterly maps of the Western Hemisphere; Europe, Africa, and Middle East; and Australasia; although they should have been. Two of these events involve major planets whose centerlines miss the Earth and whose region of visibility is described under "Possible Path". The path for (165) Loreley on March 25 is described in an individual note. Also not on the guarterly maps are the new (*) events, polar-region paths entirely north of latitude +65° or south of latitude -50°, and all asteroidal occultations where the path does not intersect the Earth's surface at locations where the star is sufficiently above the horizon and the Sun enough below it for possible observation.

In Table 2, under Comparison Data, Shift, a "B" precedes the value if the comparison data (shift and time) are for the path of the star's B-component relative to the A-component, rather than the second star source catalog relative to the main source catalog. In these cases, the latter is the same for both components, so it is sufficient to list the second source catalog comparison only for the primary (A-component).

<u>Possible Path.</u> A change this year is the "Possible Path" in Table 1, called "Possible Area" in previous years. The time it took me to inspect maps to give a description of the location of each path became too great, so I spent the time this year to add code to the computer program to produce the path information automatically. Three pairs of numbers are now listed, giving in integral degrees the longitude (Lo_, east of Greenwich positive) and latitude (La_) of the first (suffix "1"), middle ("m"), and last (or end, "e") points of the predicted observable occultation path, respectively. The corresponding central time for the first and last points are given

Table 1. Part A

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under the Universal Time column. The path coordinates can be used to locate the paths on my quarterly maps showing the paths of all events worldwide, just as the coordinates for the center of graze paths are used to locate lunar occultation limits plotted in the grazing occultation supplements. You should know your own longitude and latitude so that you can tell which events are near you, but it is easier to estimate this from the direct calculations in the local circumstance predictions distributed by Carroll and Bode, or from examination of the regional maps. The "Moon Up" information is also now computed automatically, whereas I manually inserted this information previously. If the centerline of the occultation misses the Earth's surface, the system breaks down, in which case, I have manually inserted a discription of the possible region of visibility, as before.

<u>Stellar Angular Diameters.</u> Information relating to the estimated angular diameter of the occulted stars

Part A

Table 2.

is given in Table 3 only for events for which the stellar angular diameter is large enough for the edge of the asteroid to require more than 0.05 second to geometrically pass across the star during a central occultation. For these events, the effect of the stellar diameter might be noticed by visual observers, especially for nearly grazing events when the observer is near one of the edges of the occultation path. The star's double star code is

E N Dec. 10 247 247 292 292 37 4 13 23 16 -8 -24 28 28 28 28 28 28 -22 -19 24 24 24 -21 -19 27 25 25 4 \approx 40.8 45.0 18.8 9.2 43.2 45.6 11.6 6 h б 9 тO Ь 0 ∢ G S ഹ യയഹ 43. 12. 5 34.7 25.0 41. P P A. 40. 48" 45. 55 29. 34. 1 48. 48. 8 49. 12. 2 46 49. - <u>8</u> 39. 6 36, 40. 49. 54 17 ĝ ~ ~ ~ ~ ~ A 0.0 -0.5 -0.5 -0.5 -0.5 0 m -0.5 1.8 0.1 0.8 -1.6 0.5 Comparison Data AGK3 No Shift Time 4 0 40-0.4 6 ę 0.37 -0.10 0.45 B1.06 0.03 0,18 0.01 -0.46 -0.90 0.17-0.26 -0.62 -0.02 0.06 41 59 -0.106 -0.17 -0.02 0.27 0.01 32 36 31 0 ... ဝုံဝံ 1163 1595 185 1262 507 739 627 889 889 889 889 394 607 869 627 1057 958 715 942 3243 150 396 534 N17° N27 N17 N10 N28 N13 0 N15 N12 N13 N23 N16 N35 N18 N24 N24 N1 S 1 N17 α V41 N11 z z ЯŻ UCAUX HUXXUXC 88882 C US UX UX Seo × UUH S 14.51N 0.70W 2.65N 2.91N 2.17N 0.03S 0.598 3.025 3.025 3.025 0.53N 0.53N 2.56N 2.55N 2.55N 3.60S 1.51N 3.60S 1.51N 1.5NN 1.51N 3.21N 0.98S 1.30N 4.51N 1.805 0.745 17N 03S 75S 54N 10N 535 56N 38S 1.365 3.19N 0.255 2.18N 1.68S 1.46N 40N 80N Geocentric 0 N Sep. 54.8 6.0 16.7 7.2 39.3 3.4 53.1 53.1 49.1 7.9 29.0 229.0 229.0 23.4 57.1 57.1 Min. 5 55 52 22 22 1 2100 20974031209 69 <u>____</u>___ 04 0 3130 40 0 æ 4 < 1211 1931 13200 783 1813 5489 5776 3354 8 8 2542 1892 734 5057 3504 1705 4677 357 2263 5419 1113 65574 1919 152 302 304 665 4849 74398 13917 1053 2280 544 3862 A20°44211 4864 5 96 391 PI/WO +28 +13 A -10 L 2 -19 +14 +12 -15 +35 +40 +23 +16 6 ~ ŝ +24 6 6 α C23 4 B23 C24 +27 7 C29 B23 L 3 -21 Ţ Ŧ Ŧ ำ เ Ŧ ١ - + L + 1 160716 88468 77995 7660 42666 40699 78136 99210 I 62858 58069 96103 95992 79735 79735 163445 38614 157376 92841 S 78678 85139 135273 93964 R 98298 119541 1941 SAO 285.2 309.5 85.6 66.1 89.3 89.3 89.8 89.8 301.3 301.3 301.3 301.5 89.8 89.8 80.5 88.5 88.5 88.5 88.5 29.1 111.2 283.0 280.3 96.4 251.7 251.7 251.7 95.1 92.0 95.1 120.8 89.6 89.6 89.6 89.6 117.0 11 269°1 262.3 291.4 264.5 95.7 280.5 Ρ.Α. 80. 284. *i* 283. (295. *i* 0. 281. Motion 0.371 0.098 0.140 0.147 0.147 0.227 °/Day 0.451 0.251 0.458 0.106 0.136 0.211 0.339 0.339 0.371 0.371 0.371 0.098 0.229 0.121 0.151 0.340 .372 0.195 0.065 0.444 0.072 022 Type SNE NE SNO SNE S స్లంస SSSS S 0 101 474 629 1248 1248 4100 705 1164 281 872 227 1865 628 2013 534 820 862 862 135 377 377 377 377 377 222 796 672 1143 9721 E T RSOI 286 357 577 630 992 746 253 351 254 537 2 0.08 0.08 0.10 0.10 0.09 0.09

 Nuwa
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 Leonora
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 Mars
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 Stereoskopia
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 Chloris
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 Chloris
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 Gaspra
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 0.08

 Hilda
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 Hilda
 175
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 Stora
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 0.02

 Gaspra
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 Beatrix
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 Chloris
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asteroid's distance from the Earth. The time in milliseconds that it takes the edge of the asteroid to geometrically pass across the star during a central occultation is given under time. Lastly, under \underline{df} , the subtended diameter of the star is expressed in units of Fresnel diffraction fringe

given in the "D" column immediately after the SAO number. Parameters relating to the stellar angular diameter are given in the last four columns. The first of these, under \underline{m} , is the angular diameter in milliarcseconds (units of 0.001). Under \underline{m} is given the distance in meters that the star subtends at the

MPC13442 MPC11041 NA0001 MPC12189 MPC12187 MPC12190 MPC12190 MPC14158 Landgraf MPC14930 MPC11508 EMP 1982 Herget78 EMP 1982 Goffin86 Goffin86 Goffin87 EMP 1987 EMP 1987 EMP 1989 EMP 1989 MA0001 MAC001 EMP¹982 MPC13294 JPLDE130 Yeomans Goffin86 MPC15528 MPC1230528 MPC12305 Goffin86 Goffin86 Goffin86 Goffin86 MPC13294 MPC13298 MPC15528 Yeomans Goffin86 EMP 1986 MPC11333 Goffin86 EMP 1986 4930 2304 2686 2686 Goffin89 5524 5529 Ephem. Source Goffin8(MPC1 MPC1. MPC1 MPC1 MPC1 all all all e 44E e166E none w 73W w 64E w170W none w169W none w105W w141W w151W all e108W e165E none 51W none w128W none e156E all v 24W e145W none 42E 50W none w140E all all all 50E 30E all all all all all all all 69h 2h > 긝 e e e 3 3 Ψ, υ υ 0 0 ZSn1 71+ 88+ 99-86-44+ 99+ 99+ 95-51-51-65-40-17+ ΣШ Sun S 52 66 54 66 66 66 66 05 23 153 LoeLae Possible Path LolLal LomLam 0.1 Occultation $\begin{array}{c} 2.8 \\ 2.6 \\ 2.6 \\ 2.6 \\ 1.2 \\ 2.6 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\ 3.4 \\ 1.2 \\$ $\begin{smallmatrix} & 46^{-}\\ & 46^{-}\\ & 46^{-}\\ & 66^{-}\\ &$ A R R.A. (1950)Dec. -15^{-1} $\begin{array}{c} 15^{h} 48^{m}_{19} - 15^{\circ}_{17} \\ 8 & 32.4 & 18 \\ 8 & 32.4 & 18 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 40.3 & 29 \\ 6 & 19.6 & 19 \\ 6 & 10 & 31 \\ 18 & 52.5 & -19 \\ 13 & 55.2 & 55 \\ 13 & 35.6 & 5 \\ 14 & 55.6 & 5 \\ 14 & 55.6 & 5 \\ 14 & 55.6 & 5 \\ 14 & 55.6 & 5 \\ 15 & 50.6 & 5 \\ 17 & 50.6 & 5 \\ 17 & 50.6 & 5 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.6 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.6 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.6 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.6 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\ 18 & 50.7 & 50.7 \\$ 725 158578 3. 1 K 725 158578 3. 3 K 335 139390 4.7 M0 396 10.7 F8 10.7 F8 10.3 10.3 10.184196 9.7 F0 08 161981 9.1 A2 51 110334 7.8 F2 110334 7.8 F2 110.3 10.3 110.3 4 7.8 F2 110.3 4 7 18 11316.6 F0 7 93670 8.0 F5 1 93670 8.0 F5 1 11.1 F7 1 18131 6.6 F0 7 9365 7.4 A0 1 11.1 F7 1 11.1 F5 1 10.5 13 1 10.5 1 F5 A0 2 K0 1 K0 1 F8 1 F8 1 - भ 5 9.4 K5 9.5 B9 10.7 10.7 11.1 11.1 10.6 A3 5 10.2 10.0 3 8.2 A0 60 F5 B33 F0 00040 È 00000 211943 8 4 118683 8 158578 9 139390 4 146135 211865 159545 183899 165147 109369 119760 ~§| **SAO** 74 Tercidinal2.1 1.508 15
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β

Table 1. Part

separation. If it is 3 or larger, diffraction will be negligible and the occultation lightcurve will be essentially geometric. If it is 0.3 or less, the star's angular diameter will manifest itself only as a very slight modification to a point-source Fresnel diffraction pattern, which could only be measured from a high signal-to-noise-ratio photoelectric recording. Between these values, the occultation lightcurve will be a complex combination of the two effects. This information is available for <u>all</u> events listed in Tables 1 and 2, of possible use to those who want to analyze high signal-to-noise photoelectric records, upon request to me at: 7006 Megan Lane; Greenbelt, MD 20770-3012; USA.

Local circumstances/appulse predictions. Joseph E. Carroll; 4261 Queen's Way; Minnetonka, MN 55345, USA, computes the IOTA appulse predictions for all

^{[able 2, Part}

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Table 1, Part C

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IOTA members. Hans-Joachim Bode distributes similar predictions to IOTA/ES members. Carroll's predictions are computed and listed in the same format as those for 1988 discussed in O.N. 4 (6), 149. Carroll generated the predictions for 1990 in late December, and distributed them during the first week of January. He distributed with it a page of finder charts for January and early February events, and a note of explanation noting that this issue of O.N. would be late, prepared by me. Unfortunately, at the end of January, I received the February issue of the <u>Astronomical</u> <u>Journal</u>, which listed several

new events in an article, "Occultations of stars by Solar System objects. VIII. Occultations of catalog stars by asteroids, planets, Titan, and Triton in 1990 and 1991" by Lowell astronomers L. Wasserman, E. Bowell, and R. Millis [Astron. J. 99 (2), 723-734]. These events, not in Carroll's predictions, are indicated with an * after the date in Tables 1 and 2 here; more information about them is given in the major and minor planet sections

below. Also, in the basic data that I sent to Carroll, I did not have time to include data for the separate components of three double stars, nor for updates to the predictions based on new orbital elements calculated at the Leningrad Institute for Theoretical Astronomy published in the late December <u>Minor Planet Circulars</u> #15524-15529; these are indicated with a + following the date in Tables 1 and 2. These differences, which <u>have</u> been

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incorporated in Tables 1 and 2, and the quarterly maps, are listed in Table 4 on p. 350. In that table, the component of a double star is listed under \underline{D} . The differences are in the sense, (Table 1 and 2 data as given here) minus (Carroll's early January prediction). The time correction given in

the last column needs to be applied to the U.T. in Carroll's January prediction with the sign indicated. The separation correction should be added to the distance in arc seconds (//) in Carroll's January prediction if it is <u>S</u> above, and it should

be <u>subtracted</u> if it is \underline{N} , since the distance in the

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1 54 Sophrosyne 12
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Table

appulse prediction is the distance that the star is from the asteroid (or other object; negative if the star is south of the object). The new orbit for 196 Philomela shows that its occultation on May 23 will not be visible from the Earth's surface, so it is not listed in Tables 1 and 2, although it is in Carroll's early January predictions. Also, in his predictions distributed in early January, Carroll used a smaller diameter for (4) Vesta than the 561 km

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value used in Tables 1 and 2 here, based on the 1989 August occultation recorded by Millis <u>et al.</u> in Ecuador reported in <u>Bull. Amer. Astron. Soc.</u> <u>21</u> (4), p. 1247. A revised list for these (+ in Tables 1 and 2) events, and appulse/local circumstance data for the new (*) events, will be supplied upon request to Carroll at the address above; interested observers in the USA should send him a long SASE.

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Table 2, Part

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Dat	e	No.	Name	Number	<u>m</u>	m	c me	ui
Feb	5	153	Hilda	157376	0.10	226	111	0.6
Feb	15	30	Urania	92841V	3.00	4853	160	16.5
Feb	21		Venus	162858	2.50	733	131	5,8
Mar	19		Jupiter	77995	0.31	1146	104	2.6
Mar	25	165	Loreley	97660	0.10	193	105	0.6
Mar	29	3	Juno	140699	0.85	1569	168	5,0
Apr	2	431	Nephele	163445A	1.66	3441	117	10.3
Apr	21	97	Klotho	99210	0.11	162	75	0.6
Apr	21	345	Tercidina	159545	0.46	499	56	2.1
Mav	13	147	Protogeneia	118683	0.50	983	290	3.0
Mav	16	106	Dione	139390	5.22	10742	930	32.3
Juľ	9	39	Laetitia	119674	9,08	19525	1110	5/.5
Jul	15	3	Juno	140133	0.32	6/8	103	2.0
Jul	20	211	Isolda	109369K	0.34	616	61	2.0
Aug	1		Triton	187435	0.53	11227	542	10.5
Aug	9	679	Pax	186343	0.61	665	00	2.0
Aug	19	38	Leda	127831	0.68	9/1	157	3.5
Aug	28	139	Juewa	109768	0.62	1095	15/	3.0
Sep	6	377	Campania	109317	0.33	380	54	1.5
Sep	30	51	Nemausa	163983	0.53	684	144	2.0
0ct	2	9	Metis	79607	2.91	4444	1/1	15.5
Nov	7	19	Fortuna	/8566	0.41	418	300	1.8
Nov	14	9	Metis	80375	1.51	1/86	163	/.!
19	91			00000	0 00	217	02	1 2
Jan	4	4	Vesta	93228	0.23	31/	156	7.5
Jan	13	381	Myrrha	95912	1.27	2304	120	1.5

Table 4. Revisions to Carroll's early January appulse predictions for 1990.

199	90				Dift	fere	nces	in
Dat	ce	ļ.	Asteroid	D	Separa	atio	n T	ime
		-		_				
Mar.	13	78	Diana	Α	0,53 \$	S -	-2.8	min.
Mar.	13	78	Diana	В	0.53	N -	+2.8	min.
Apr.	21	97	Klotho		1.34 1	N -	-6.4	min.
June	28	55	Pandora		0.34 1	Ν	-1.8	min.
July	2	451	Patientia		0.18	N -	+0.5	min.
July	5	196	Philomela		0.57 1	N -	-2.1	min.
July	5	466	Tisiphone	А	0.06	S-	+0.7	min.
July	5	466	Tisiphone	В	0.50	Ν.	-5.8	min.
July	10	196	Philomela		0.57	N.	-2.3	min.
Sep.	1	81	Terpsichore		0.28	N.	+0.9	min.
Sep.	30	451	Patientia		0.50	S +	13.6	min.
Oct.	6	21	Lutetia	А	0.00		0.0	min.
Oct.	6	21	Lutetia	В	0.01	N.	-0.2	min.
Oct.	11	196	Philomela		0.42	N.	+1.0	min.
Oct.	22	120	Lachesis		0.02	s.	-1.0	min.
Dec.	5	107	Camilla		0.20	N.	+1.2	min.
Dec.	10	451	Patientia		0.20	N ·	-2.3	min.
Dec.	19	451	Patientia		0.00		-2.7	min.

Occultations by major planets and their satellites. The brighest star to be covered by a major planet this year will be 6.4-mag. SAO 165147 = Zodiacal Catalog (ZC) 3310 = 58 Aquarii, which is a spectroscopic binary. It will be occulted by Mars on April 28 in parts of Africa. For the first time, Wasserman <u>et al.</u> include predictions of occultations of the brighter stars by planets in their recent <u>Astron. J.</u> article, noting that such predictions were prepared by Gordon Taylor for many years. They note that since Taylor's retirement, such predictions have been restricted primarily to the outer three planets, although they have always been published in <u>O.N.</u>, with the better events given in my annual articles in <u>Sky and Telescope</u>. For the inner five planets (excluding Earth), I have generated the predictions with computer searches since 1987, and used search results provided by Wasserman after Taylor's retirement and before 1987. In their article, Wasserman <u>et al.</u> list, for 1990, only the April 28th Mars occultation and an occultation of 8.8-mag. 186951 by Mercury, visible December 8 at about 21h 40m U.T. from Brazil with a solar elongation of 21°. Douglas Mink lists other occultations by Mercury, from 1987-1995, most of them very difficult events and most are close approaches rather than occultations, in <u>Icarus 71</u> (3), pp. 578-481. I do not now have a machine-readable Mercury ephemeris for combined-catalog searches, although I plan to get one for 1991 predictions.

Only one event (Neptune on May 25) involving the outer three planets is in my tables, but data about other much more difficult events, requiring major observatory facilities, have been published by D. Mink and A. Klemola in <u>Astron. J. 90</u> (9), 1894 (1985 September). The stellar identification for the May 25th event, N 57, is Mink and Klemola's designation. Some of the star fields are very crowded, which posed problems for the automatic plate scanning, so that some observable occultations may have been missed. Occultations of many stars even fainter than those found by Mink and Klemola, but suitable for monitoring in the infrared, have been published by P. Nicholson et al. in Astron. J. 95 (2), 562 (1988 February). Mink and Klemola are now working on predictions of occultations of the outer three planets during the next several years. A paper giving predictions of occultations by Pluto has just recently been sent to the Astronomical Journal. The new article will list some different events, even for 1990, from those given in the 1985 article due to recent improvements in Pluto's and Charon's ephemerides. The article for Uranus and Neptune events will be submitted in a few months; its preparation has just begun.

Wasserman used the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's NAIF ephemerides for Titan and Triton to find two events involving these satellites listed in the Astron. J. article noted above. He provided portions of these ephemerides for my own calculations of these events, which are listed for March 18 and August 1 in Tables 1 and 2. These are described more in individual notes about the events. The 1989 July 3 occultation of 28 Sagittarii by Titan was described in articles in the last issue of <u>O.N.</u> by Dunham <u>et al.</u> (p. 322-323) and Beisker <u>et al.</u> (p. 324-326). The diameter that I used for Titan is a half-intensity-level derived from a subset of those Titan occultation observations analyzed by Sicardy et al. in Nature 343 (6256), p. 351 (1990 Jan. 25) and by Hubbard et al. on p. 354 of the same issue of <u>Nature</u>. Wasserman supplied me with the preliminary Voyager diameter of Triton, which he got from B. A. Smith, Avia. Week Space Technol. 131, p. 18 (1989). However, the diameter of 2705 km given on p. 153 of this month's issue of <u>Sky and Telescope</u> is probably a better value, and would imply a central occultation duration of 130 seconds and an angular diameter of 0"13.

As far as I know, nobody is currently predicting occultations by the other natural satellites, including the Galilean satellites, the satellites of Saturn other than Titan, and the Uranian satellites. Whenever there is an occultation by Mars, an occultation by Phobos and/or Deimos is also likely in a narrow path across the Earth's surface.

Occultations by minor planets. I computed ephemerides for combined-catalog searches for asteroids for which Edwin Goffin predicted favorable occultations, omitting mainly his occultations of faint stars by asteroids with angular diameters less than 0.08. I also included the objects listed by Wasserman on p. 167 of the 1990 <u>R.A.S.C. Observer's</u> <u>Handbook</u>. In addition, I calculated searches for a few small asteroids of special interest, such as 951 Gaspra, which is a target for Galileo. This formed the basis for my first set of predictions, which were used by Carroll and Bode to compute appulse predictions, as noted above. But several favorable events not in Goffin's predictions were in Wasserman \underline{et} al.'s recent Astron. J. article, noted above, so I added those asteroids also to my searches. FAC searches were performed only for the larger or more important asteroids, including numbers 1, 4, 6, 15, 18, 31, 41, 121, 146, 216, 243, 451, 532, 704, 951, 2060, 3123, and the giant comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 1 (P/SW-1). Other large or important asteroids. such as 2 and 51, were not searched against FAC since those objects remained south of the southern edge of FAC coverage, declination about +3°8, during 1990. CC searches were performed for aster-oid numbers 1-6, 8-10, 15, 18-20, 30, 31, 38-41, 46, 51, 55, 57, 60, 78, 81, 83, 86-91, 93, 97, 106, 107, 120, 121, 134, 139, 146, 147, 150, 153, 161, 165, 184, 185, 187, 196, 211, 213, 216, 243, 276, 345, 362, 372, 377, 387, 404, 410, 431, 444, 451, 466, 476, 501, 511, 521, 532, 537, 554, 566, 584, 624, 679, 696, 704, 747, 790, 804, 951, 2060, 3123, and P/SW-1. In addition, searches were performed for early 1991 for 4, 216, and 381. I was able to generate predictions for most of Wasserman et al. events (the "Lowell" events) given in this month's Astron. J. article, but there are some differences. due mainly to use of newer orbits by me in a few cases, and my use of Harrington's 1987 Zodiacal Zone (ZZ87) catalog data for several other events. I did not compute a few of the Lowell events that have already happened, or that will be visible only from areas with no known observers, such as the Indian Ocean or the South Atlantic Ocean. For one of the omitted events, involving (200) Dynamene and 9th-mag. SAO 80281 near the Praesepe on Feb. 9, the percent of Moon sunlit is given as 100. However, it is really be zero, since the event occurs near midtotality of a lunar eclipse. The Moon is only 15° away. According to Goffin's and my calculations, 3 of the Lowell events, also listed on p. 167 of the 1990 <u>R.A.S.C.</u> <u>Observer's Handbook</u>, will not be visible from the Earth's surface. The first event is an occultation of 8.4-mag. SAO 139319 by (39) Laetitia on March 9. Lowell used Lick-Saturn (LS or L 2) data for the star, which they identify as LS 2057 with a declination of -0° 2' 43". However, in my version of the LS catalog, the declination is -0° 3' 20", which agrees with the SAO and ZZ87 positions for this star, so I am confident that the shadow will miss the Earth's surface by a wide margin. For an occultation of SAO 186298 by (8) Flora on September 9, Lowell used SAO data. However, in 1990, the star's declination in ZZ87 and the Lick-Uranus (LU) catalog differs from SAO by about 5" of arc; in a note at the end of the Astron. J. article, Wasserman concedes that the event will probably not happen for these reasons. Finally, on November 18, Lowell predicts that (508) Princetonia will occult a 12thmagnitude Pleiades star (#339) in northern Canada.

but my position for this star is about 2" south of that used by Lowell, giving a miss by 0.3 Earth radii. This discrepency has not yet been resolved. For (19) Fortuna and (521) Brixia, Lowell does not refer to the mean motion corrections given in MPC 13923, but those corrections make little difference in the ephemerides computed for these asteroids.

My predictions are in better agreement with Goffin's, since we used the same star catalogs and, in most cases, the same orbits. However, for a few events, there are differences, apparently due to differing step sizes used in the computation of astrometric ephemerides from the orbital elements. I believe the largest discrepancy occurs for the September 30 occultation of SAO 163983 by (51) Nemausa, where Goffin's north-south path crosses California, about 2" east of my path in the Pacific Ocean. Wasserman computes a miss by about 6". The event occurs near a stationary point, where agreement has been hard to achieve in the past.

Occultations by (216) Kleopatra have special value, since radar and lightcurve data suggest that it is a dumbbell-shaped contact binary. I found several new events during late 1990 by an FAC search, and Arnold Klemola has refined the positions of the most important of these stars by measuring existing recent Lick Observatory plates.

Note that magnitudes from the AGK3 are photographic. The visual magnitudes will be considerably brighter, and the magnitude drops larger, for AGK3 stars of spectral type K and M.

Soma's world maps are published here only if the event is not included in Edwin Goffin's predictions; or if the star is mag. 8.0 or brighter; or if the star is double, and I have drawn a line showing the second component path on Soma's map; or if there has been a recent update to the asteroid's orbit.

Priority List. In Table 5 below, EAON is the European Asteroidal Occultation Network and I (IOTA) usually refers to attemts that will probably be made by William Penhallow in Rhode Island and possibly at Van Vleck Observatory in Middletown, CT. Arnold Klemola often helps by providing measurements of secondary faint reference stars from existing Lick Observatory plates. Some otherwise good events that occur during the lunar waning gibbous phases are excluded. since effective astrometry of faint asteroids is usually impossible near full moon, when the plates would have to be taken. The EAON events are from their "observational program"; astrometric updates may not be attempted for all of them. Similarly, events in the "I" column consti-tute an "observing program" of events on which North Americans should concentrate. Some of the EAON events are of asteroids with small angular sizes that are not in Tables 1 or 2. When possible, numbers give a relative ranking of the priority, with "1" indicating the highest priority. Lowell does not consider any of their 1990 predicted events to be worthy of astrometric updates, although I hope that they might help out for some of my new events, such as those involving (216) Kleopatra and (704) Interamnia in the table below. Similarly, EAON will probably add a few of my new events to their observation program.

Table 5. Priority List for Astrometric Updates.

199 Dat	0 .e	<u>Ast</u>	eroid	EAON		Ī	199 Dat	0 .e	<u>Ast</u>	eroid <u>E</u>	AON	Ī
Jan	8	404	Arsinoe	X	(1	Sep	2	679	Pax		1
Jan	8	696	Leonora	×	C		Sep	2	9	Metis		2
Feb	5	153	Hilda			1	Sep	16	121	Hermione		1
Feb	12	213	Lilaea	>	(Sep	24	19	Fortuna	х	
Mar	11	444	Gyptis	>	<		Sep	27	216	Kleopatra		1
Mar	13	584	Semirami	s >	<	2	Sep	29	19	Fortuna	х	
Mar	13	83	Beatrix	>	<		Sep	30	51	Nemausa		1
Mar	18	39	Laetitia	,	<		Oct	7	8	Flora		3
Mar	19	747	Winchest	er		1	0ct	14	537	Pauly		3
Mar	25	165	Loreley	>	<		0ct	22	139	Juewa	х	
Mar	29	679	Pax			2	0ct	24	127	Johanna	х	_
Apr	2	86	Semele			3	0ct	30	804	Hispania		2
Apr	13	397	Vienna	;	ĸ		Oct	30	506	Marion	х	-
Apr	21	146	Lucina			2	Nov	6	88	Thisbe		3
Apr	30	1	Ceres			3	Nov	15	704	Interamni	a	1
May	2	89	Julia	;	x		Nov	17	924	Toni	х	
May	6	584	Semirami	s		3	Nov	17	216	Kleopatra	l	1
May	16	106	Dione			3	Nov	20	838	Seraphina	X	
Jun	16	476	Hegwig			2	Dec	4	31	Euphrosyn	е	3
Jul	4	176	Iduna	2	х		Dec	5	107	Camilla	х	_
Jul	9	39	Laetitia	à		2	Dec	9	704	Interamni	a	3
Jul	11	46	Hestia			2	Dec	10	451	Patientia	ιx	
Jul	28	-98	Flora			1	Dec	12	216	Kleopatra	l	2
Aug	9	679	Pax		Х		Dec	14	17	Inetis	х	~
Sep	1	81	Terpsic	nore		1	Dec	25	216	Kleopatra	1	2

All of the 1991 events are IOTA priority 1 events, except possibly the Myrrha event, which may be priority 2. Astrometry will likely be attempted by Lick and/or Lowell Observatories for the 1991 Vesta and Kleopatra events in Tables 1 and 2. The EAON Dec. 31 occultation by (205) Martha is not included, since it involves a Yale false star, as noted above.

Notes about Individual Events.

Jan. 8, (404) Arsinoe: Penhallow's astrometry for the event indicated a considerable south shift from my prediction, so that the updated path was just a

Jan. 8, (404) Arsinoe: Penhallow's astrometry for the event indicated a considerable south shift from my prediction, so that the updated path was just a little north of Goffin's prediction in the 1990 Asteroidal Occultation Supplement for North American Observers. The updated path went north of Mexico City and over Maui, but with enough uncertainty that the other Hawaiian islands could be in the path. I notified observers in both areas. The only observation that I know of in the uncertainty area was negative, by William Albrecht at Pahala on the island of Hawaii.

Jan. 14: Mars was 96% sunlit, so the defect of illumination (maximum width of dark crescent) was a negligible 0.14.

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Jan. 18: The star is probably a double, with vector separation 0.4 in position angle (p.a.) 108°, according to an occultation observed visually in Derby, England; see $0.N_{-}1$ (11), 120.

Jan. 30-31: The star is ZC 1823.

Feb. 5: Three exposures were obtained with the 20inch refractor at Van Vleck Observatory on Feb. 1, measured at Yale Observatory, and reduced by Arnold Klemola at Lick Observatory using secondary reference stars from a 1984 Lick plate. The correction to my path prediction was 0"96 south $\pm 0"07$. The time correction was $\pm 1"\pm 2"$, but the true error must have been larger than this formal value, since Hilda's motion was virtually nil, less than 1" during each 15-min. exposure. The updated path and its uncertainty included the southern Bahamas, eastern Cuba, Jamaica, Belize, most of Guatemala, and Chiapas state in Mexico. Unfortunately, I did not know of any observers in those areas to notify, and videorecorded a miss at my home in Greenbelt, MD.

Feb. 15, (30) Urania: The star is ZC 326 = 19 Arietis, a spectroscopic binary, a suspected variable (#100168), and in the Zeta Her group.

Feb. 21: Disappearance will be on the sunlit side of Venus' 25%-sunlit disk. The southern-limit graze visible from northern Nigeria and vicinity will be on the dark side 8° from the south cusp.

Mar. 1: (951) Gaspra is likely to be the first asteroid visited by a spacecraft, by Galileo about two years from now.

Mar. 13, (78) Diana: The star is ADS 6394, with separation 2"3 in p.a. 171°; separate predictions are given for the two components. If seeing is so bad that the stars can not be resolved, the effective magnitude drop will be only 0.7 if one of the stars is occulted.

Mar. 16, (363) Padua: This event is in Goffin's 1990 Asteroidal Occultation Supplement for North American observers, but is not in Tables 1 and 2 due to the small angular size of Padua. David Werner notes that Uranus should be on Goffin's finder charts; see p. 66 of the January issue of <u>Sky and</u> <u>Telescope</u> for a chart locating Uranus.



Anonymous by Chiron 1990 Feb 2

Mar. 18, Titan: Lowell's prediction, using the Lickb-Neptune position for the star, is 0.4 north of my ZZ87 path. If they are right, the event will be visible from Chile south of about lat. -30° . But the uncertainty is such that even observers in the eastern USA should monitor the event; the small solar elongation will probably preclude a meaningful astrometric update. Titan will be 134" from the center of Saturn in p.a. 113°.

Mar. 19, (747) Winchester: The nominal path for this good event extends nearly due east-west from Oregon to Wyoming.

Mar. 19, Jupiter: Jupiter will be essentially full, with a negligible defect of illumination, 0"36.

Mar. 25: My nominal path extends almost due north to south across Brazil, in good agreement with Goffin's prediction.

Apr. 2, (431) Nephele: The star is ZC 2963 = Sigma Capricorni = ADS 13675. Its 9.0-mag. companion, 55"9 away in p.a. 181°, will not be occulted.

Apr. 21, (97) Klotho: The star is ZC 1553.

Apr. 28, Mars: Mars' disk will be 89% sunlit. Emersion will be on the narrow dark crescent, whose maximum width will be 0"67. The star, 58 Aquarii (ZC 3310), is a spectroscopic binary.

Notes for occultations during May and later months will be given in the next issue.

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SOLAR ECLIPSE NEWS

David W. Dunham

1990 July 22, total. If you are planing to observe this eclipse from Finland or the USSR, note that the best Pleiades passage of 1990 will occur the morning of July 18, 4 days before the eclipse, in the U.K., and central and southeastern Europe (not Scandinavia). More information about it will be in the next issue. Graze paths are shown in the 1990 European grazing occultation supplement, which was distributed to European members of IOTA and IOTA/ES at the end of 1989. One of the best will be the northernlimit graze of 4.0-mag. Maia, on the dark limb of the thin waning crescent, in Greece and near Kiev. If logistics permit it, some of the IOTA eclipse chasers may also try a Pleiades graze.

I know of 7 members interested in joining IOTA's expedition to Siberia to record Bailey's beads from a few km inside the path edges: David & Joan Dunham, Charles Herold, Paul Maley, Derald and Denise Nye, and Glenn Schneider. If you want to join this effort, please telephone me at 301-474-4722.

About November 20th, over two weeks after I had sent in my material for the last issue and nearly two months after I had sent my "Lunar Occultation Highlights for 1990" article to <u>Sky and Telescope</u>, I

telephoned Bering Air in Nome, Alaska, to ask about their service to Provideniya near the easternmost tip of Siberia. I was told that the service had been terminated just a few days before, when Soviet officials began strictly applying rules whose previous lax enforcement were crucial to the operation. Bering Air is seeking official approval to resume their flights to Siberia, but it will probably be no earlier than 1991 before the necessary arrangements are completed, too late for this year's eclipse. A recent inquiry showed no change in the situation. So we are planning to go to the eclipse via Moscow, which will unfortunately increase our costs. A note about this will be in the March Sky and Telescope.

Hans-Joachim Bode informs me that about 10 IOTA/ES members are also interested in this trip. We plan to join an expedition from Kiev State University Observatory, which plans to also observe from just inside the edges of the path of totality. In a recent letter from Kiev, Dr. V. Telnyuk-Adamchuk requested our help with the observations, and said that Kaperveem (or Keperveyem, as it is called on p. 39 of the USNO circular), near the northern limit closer to Cherskiy than to Markovo, would be the best area to observe the eclipse (they are also arranging sites near the southern limit).



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Paul Maley recently found out that there will be favorable geometry for GPS measurements near Markovo in July. Unfortunately, GPS has recently been downgraded to 100-m accuracy for civilian users. This is adequate for prediction and preliminary reduction purposes, but not for detailed reductions in the event (unfortunately also unlikely) that skies are clear enough at both limits to obtain high-quality Bailey's-beads observations.

A detailed proposal for our effort will be sent to the Foreign Relations Department of the Soviet Astronomical Council soon. As soon as they inform me of amounts and arrangements for making payments, I will inform prospective members of the IOTA group. A minimal trip will likely cost about \$2500, while a full 2-week tourist trip (which we are not planning) may be about \$4000.

<u>1991 January 15, annular.</u> Both limits are easily accessible in New Zealand, where IOTA will probably concentrate its efforts, although Australians are sure to mount separate expeditions in their country. A 2-week tourist-type trip to New Zealand will probably cost more than \$2500. We will fit the trip between the important (4) Vesta and (216) Kleopatra asteroidal occultations in the USA on Jan. 4 and 19, respectively; see my planetary occultation article starting on p. 341. But accommodating the Jan. 13 occultation of Gamma Geminorum (Alhena) by (381) Myrrha on Jan. 13, visible from the central Pacific and China, would be difficult; Alhena will be the brightest star to be occulted by an asteroid during both 1990 and 1991.

1991 July 11, total. If you are already planning to go to Baja California for this eclipse, please let me know, even if you do not plan to observe near the northern limit there (although that would be preferred). We want to coordinate all of the path-edge observations, and also want an IOTA presence at the Research Amateur Astronomy Symposium at La Paz on July 8-12. This is being organized by Steve Edberg, John Westfall, Norm Sperling, David Crawford, and others. To reserve your space in this symposium, send a check or money order for US \$130 payable to: Corp. for Research Amateur Astronomy; PO Box 16542; San Francisco, California 94116; USA. Note also the favorable graze of ZC 551 that will occur in the La Paz area during the good Pleiades passage the morning of July 8, as shown on p. 322 of the last issue. The spectacular (perhaps naked-eye) graze of Atlas is only a little farther north, but the main highway intersects it closer to the west coast, where morning marine fog is more of a threat. We need advice from weather records about this.

Alan Fiala, USNO, hopes to observe near the northern limit on Maui. One prediction shows that the northern limit may miss the island; refined calculations will be performed in the next month or two at USNO to establish whether some totality will be





SAO 162858 by Venus 1990 Feb 21



Anonymous by Gaspra 1990 Mar 1

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visible from the south coast. If you are interested in joining this effort, contact Dr. Fiala at the U.S. Naval Observatory; Washington, DC 20390.

IOTA and IOTA/ES plans to have their main effort at Puerto Vallarta, where there is a virtually inexhaustible supply of accommodations. Details will be announced at least in issue #16. I'm seeking volunteers to lead expeditions for some of the Pleiades grazes shown on p. 322 of the last issue. Guillermo Mallen warns me that skies are very cloudy, in general, in central and southern Mexico in July, and that Baja may be best for the Pleiades. But most of the action is farther southeast, and the cloudiness is mostly convective daytime buildup, which tends to dissipate by the early morning hours of the Pleiades passage. We need more weather statistics before making detailed plans.

SOLAR ECLIPSE - FINLAND 1990 JULY 22

Anyone planning to go to Finland for the total solar eclipse of 1990 July 22 is again reminded to write for information to: Ursa Astronomical Association; Laivanvarustajankatu 3; SF-00140 Helsinki; Finland. Literature is available in both Finnish and English.

REPORTS OF ASTEROIDAL APPULSES AND OCCULTATIONS

Jim Stamm

If you do not have a regional coordinator who forwards your reports, they should be sent to me at: 11781 N. Joi Dr.; Tucson, AZ 85737; U.S.A. Names and addresses of regional coordinators are given in "From the Publisher" on page 335.

(521) Brixia and SAO 147658, 1989 Oct. 23: So far I have received three reports of this event. Tony Murray reported a negative observation at Georgetown, Georgia, as did G. Samolyk at West Allis, Wisconsin. Paul and Susan Pavlakis, who were in the predicted path at Waterbury, Connecticut also reported "no event." However, Christof Sauter who observed north of the predicted path at St. Margarethan, Switzerland timed a 11.1-second disappearance beginning at 02:17:44.0. There are several regular observers who live in or near the path of the occultation, so more data are likely to follow.

I am also awaiting some promised reports for the second half of 1988, so that summary will be delayed — until the next issue.





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LONGITUDE

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CAMERA GROUP PURCHASE ALMOST READY; OTHER VIDEO NEWS

David W. Dunham

P. Manly and I mentioned a group purchase for the Philips low light level CCD video camera in O.N. 4 (12), p. 291 (1989 Aug.). Eight subscribers have expressed an interest in a group purchase, so we need only two more to get the discount price. But some of the information in the August article is not correct, so some of the eight may want to change their minds. The price is closer to \$400 than \$300; we have heard different prices quoted, so we will shop around for the lowest one as soon as we have ten interested purchasers. Also, the camera in the group purchase comes without the housing and a few connectors. These cost only a few dollars, and we will provide a list of the Radio Shack part numbers and basic information that might be needed for final assembly of the camera. The eight prospective purchasers at the moment are: C. Bader, T. Hockey, G. Lucas, P. Manly, J. Miller, J. Thrush, W. Warren, and E. Wells. If your name should be added to, or subtracted from, this list, please telephone me at 301-474-4722. After the first ten are purchased, we will accumulate names for a second group of ten.

Another important development is the availability of a power inverter which can be used to power an inexpensive ordinary AC-power VCR, and other equipment, from a car battery. G. Hug uses one for his equipment; see p. 340. The device, the Model III Pocket Power Inverter by Statpower Technologies Corp. (STC), can be purchased by mail for \$134 from Overton in NC, phone 800-334-6541. Other sources can be found by phoning STC in British Columbia at 604-420-1585. The continuous output is rated at 100 watts; I noticed that the specs for my AC-powered VCR is well under this at 19 watts. Other similar devices may be available.

Two articles on video astronomy have appeared recently, one good and the other bad (that is, for occultations). The good news is Peter Manly's article, "On the Application of Video Technology to Occultation Photometry", in <u>I.A.P.P.P. Comm. #36</u>, p. 15-21 (June 1989). Observation with and without an image intensifier is described. Sections include Prior Observation Techniques, System Operation, Observation Methods, and Data Reduction. In the same issue, Gerald Persha describes the Optec SSP-5 Photometer on pages 28-31.

The bad news is Alan MacFarlane's "A Primer for Video Astronomy" on pages 226-231 of this month's Sky and Telescope. The article concentrates on obtaining good images of the planets and the Moon, and even has a good view of the July 3rd occultation of 28 Sagittarii by Saturn. But the methods that he describes are the opposite of what is needed to obtain high time-resolution data of transient events involving faint objects. For the latter, you need a low-light-level black-and-white camera, not a color camera. A large-screen TV monitor is a nuisance, especially for portable use, where battery-powered equipment is desirable, if not essential. For occultations, you only need enough resolution to clearly record the star that you are trying to observe; this can usually be obtained with simple 4inch or 5-inch monitors. MacFarlane gives a few

useful hints, but keep in mind that what he's trying to do is almost diametrically opposite to the aims of videorecording occultations.

There are other corrections that need to be made to the August article, and I have some other new information, including some camera sky comparisons that we have made here in Greenbelt, MD, which I will describe in a longer article in the next issue.





L 3 1919 by Flora 1990 Mar 3



SAO 79735 by Diana 1990 Mar 13



SAO 188468 by Titan 1990 Mar 18



SAO 77995 by Jupiter 1990 Mar 19



SAO 97660 by Loreley 1990 Mar 25



SAO 140699 by Juno 1990 Mar 29

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