

When one achieves another birthday, his thoughts tend toward retrospection, and the same tendency is manifest when an association of men come to their last meeting of the year, and even more especially so when that year ends a decade - as recorded in the decimal systems of the measuring devices of man. These events being in syzygy today, December 17, 1969 - the birthday of your scribe and the multipurpose meeting tonight of SAAAA, the last of the year, it will be good for S&H to take a backward look.

At the turn of the decade, Dr. Roy E. Moon was talking astronomy and seeking to establish a club of amateurs. Our first meetings often were held in Prof Claude Wooley's science classroom at Central High School, but Dr Moon had outfitted a very attractive hall and darkroom as an adjunct to his observatory, and more and more the meetings came to be held there. Throughout the decade, Dr and Mrs Moon have been the mentors of the San Angelo Amateurs. His declared purpose was to offer the opportunity for interested young people to learn the lore of the stars along with their scholastic activities.

That this desire has been brilliantly successful is attested by the achievement records of many young members of SAAAA through the years - far above the average in proportion to numbers. When it was my privilege to speak to the Science Club at Central High upward of two years ago, I found to my delight that almost every one present were also members of SAAAA. Certainly, the challenge of the stars has captured the imagination of the youth of America to a greater degree than anything ever beguiled their forbears. There has been a proliferation of amateur groups such as ours throughout the land, a great upsurge in observatory building, and most amazing of all, when at the turn of the decade the nations' rockets were fizzling and being aborted on their launching pads, now at the close of the same decade they have repeatedly gone to the moon, and in this final year American men have walked on the moon and have been the very first of mankind to do so, they have returned safely to earth, achieved pinpoint landings on both earth and moon, and probes to Mars and Venus have returned unprecedented information about these next stations on the way to the stars.

SAAAA organized with a formal constitution and by-laws early in the '60s, when Neville Lawton was President of the club, and by 1964 the group had settled into a regime inasmuch that the by-laws were stabilized with a small revision, and the constitution and by-laws mimeographed so each member could have his copy. Early that year your present scribe came out with the first issue of Starbeams and Heliowinds. This club journal has become a feature that is appreciated both in this city and over the nation, and in some lands abroad - for it has been mailed out occasionally with Cyclo*Flame and the Avalon publications. The frequency has been irregular, usually 12 issues a year, but with this one, only 5 this year. In the mid-sixties, the club studied Baker's Astronomy, the entire textbook.

In Dec 1964 Mr Windell was elected President, and Vernon Payne Secy*Treas, and these two incumbents have continued in the same office to this last meeting of '69. The office of Vice-President has been held by various younger members, much to the benefit of the club, the membership being composed mostly of high-school age members. The office has of late been charged with the responsibility of arranging programs.

We have been regularly inspired by the research and resourcefulness of Mr Windell, and sustained by the cuisine and largess of his excellent wife, Mary Day. SAAAA has been greatly pleased that the progress of Dr J. Dexter Eoff in telescope making has culminated in his completion of a 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ " reflector this year. He has it mounted at his home in Ballinger and a number of us have been hosted and allowed to fully enjoy and appreciate the excellence of this scope by Dr and Mrs Eoff. We have been of use in our community by various speaking assignments by invitation of various civic and art groups, and the West Texas Boys Ranch. Doubtless we could have done better, but it is with a sense of gratification and accomplishment that we close the books on the momentous '60s, and anticipate the awesome superlative Seventies!