

staff at Sky Publishing Corporation spearheaded by Leif J. Robinson, the Executive Editor of Sky and Telescope magazine.

The VSA is finally completed and published after nearly eight years of work and the expenditure of over \$30,000. After seemingly endless controversy, the retail price of the Atlas has been established at \$39.95 per copy ---- a remarkable achievement considering the amount of work involved and the tremendous amount of information in the Atlas.

As Chairman of the VSA Committee, I would like to ask the AAVSO Council's permission at this time to discontinue the VSA Committee and my responsibilities re same. As a parting remark, I would like to say that my file on the VSA Committee (correspondence, chart samples, photos, reports, etc.) is about four inches thick. The main point, I think, is that the AAVSO Variable Star Atlas is finally a fait accompli, and one of which we may be proud.

NOVA SEARCH, Chairman: Carmine Borzelli
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As previously predicted, there were record numbers of observations in both programs. There were, however, no discoveries. There were a few "minor" scares in both programs which also indicates that our vigilance has also increased.

At the Fall AAVSO workshop in Cambridge, in 1979, supplemental search activities were discussed. For supernova search, Mike Mattei discussed a search pattern from the Sagittarius star cloud to Cassiopeia, which is similar to the Nova search dome search procedure. Its purpose is to discover a supernova within our own Milky Way Galaxy. Such a discovery is long overdue, as the last one was in 1604. The chairman wishes to include reporting of these searches in his future reports. This can be done by indicating on the SNS Long Form, (use of the short forms for both programs has since been discontinued by consensus at this same workshop), SNS Starfield under NGC or Messier No. column. This search should be done with the naked eye down to 3rd magnitude as it would be for a dome search.

In the Nova search program, it was suggested that the variable star fields themselves be used to discover novae. This is how Nova Cygni 1978 was discovered by W. Morrison. While the logistics of trying to report these kinds of observations are probably going to be unwieldy for the nova search chairman, any irregularity in these fields should be reported at once to the AAVSO Director. Also, even though the chairman has discontinued reporting Dome searches, regular observing and reporting of the entire visible sky down to 3rd magnitude should be continued by all observers.

Difficulty with the mail is still being experienced on an increasing scale so that if you have written and received no answer, write again to the chairman and AAVSO Headquarters. During the 1979 Fall Meeting, the chairman distributed approximately 25 sets of supernova star charts prepared by Tom Fetterman to be sky-checked. To date, only 3 reports were received. No decision can be made until further sky-checking is done. Information on this project as well as materials for both programs are available free from the chairman. In addition, program information is available from AAVSO Headquarters.