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JUNIOR STAR DUST

Astronomical News Notes

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THE FORTY-FIRST WINNER——MILES DAVIS

For the last nine years, Science Service and the Westinghouse Electric Corporation have been sponsoring the Science Talent Search. It is for high school seniors all over the country, who must take a three-hour examination, write a thousand-word essay on their scientific projects, and get recommendations from their science teachers to compete. The forty who score highest in these categories are brought to Washington each spring for a week of sight-seeing, hearing lectures, visiting laboratories, and talking with eminent scientists.

You may remember that last year Carl Werntz and Walter Gilbert won the STS and lived in the lap of luxury at the Statler Hotel for a week. This year we had a somewhat different problem. We all knew when Carl and Walter won, but with Miles it was different. From the first of February on, he went around with a grin on that would shame a Chesire cat. He would say nothing, only smile. At the words, Science Talent Search, the whole Davis family would cringe and look at each other. After a month of suspense, the news was out. Miles admitted that he was one of the winners, but because he is his father's son, and his father is Director of Science Service, he could not receive a scholarship.

The news was not officially released until the final awards dinner on the sixth of March, when the story was told by Dr. Harlow Shapley of the Harvard College Observatory.

——John Lankford

Nova Lacertae is now about 3.5 magnitude.

An artificial star of carefully determined color temperature is playing a major part in determining the distances of stars more precisely than ever before. It was developed at Lick Observatory by Dr. Joel Stebbins, formerly Director of the Washburn Observatory, and Dr. Gerald Kron. It is placed on a peak 1,000 to 3,000 feet from the observatory, where it simulates a red star like Arcturus or Betelgeuse.

Unmistakable changes in the craters Grimaldi and Eratosthenes were observed by Walter Haas, of the University of New Mexico's Institute of Meteoritics, after the October 6, 1949, eclipse of the moon. The changes, variation of the brightness of spots within the craters, had been suspected, but this is the first definite observation.

——Miles Davis and John Lankford

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Planets for May and June 1950

Mercury will be an evening star until the 14th of May and thereafter be in the morning sky. On the ninth of June it will be about 10° above the horizon at sunrise.

Venus during May and June will be the brightest object in the morning sky. By June, however, it will have faded to magnitude -3.4 and will have 75% of its disc illuminated.

Earth has not been observed, according to our reports, for some time. It would seem that observations with large telescopes and a recomputation of its orbit is necessary.

Mars during May and June will be on the meridian at sunset and will set about midnight. By the end of June it will have become very much fainter and will have moved toward Spica.

Jupiter in May will be well up in the morning sky by sunrise, and in Aquarius for both months. During June it rises soon after midnight.

Saturn will be half-way between Mars and Regulus in both months, and will set about midnight.

Uranus See volume 2, numbers 2 and 3 of Junior Star Dust.

Meteors for May and June 1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Radiant</u>
May 4-6	Aquarids	Aquarius
May 11-24	Herculids	Hercules
May 30	Pegasids	Pegasus
June 2-17	Scorpid	Scorpius
June 27-30	Draconids	Draco

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Comets for May and June 1950

The only comet that is visible in a small telescope during May and June is Comet Johnson (1949a). Ephemerides are given below, and the magnitude is based on the r^4 law.

<u>Date</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>Decl.</u>	<u>Magn.</u>
May 7.0	9h 55m	$+ 63^\circ 57'$	12.0
May 15.0	9h 38m	$+ 62^\circ 39'$	12.2
May 23.0	9h 26m	$+ 61^\circ 20'$	12.3
May 31.0	9h 19m	$+ 60^\circ 06'$	12.5
June 8.0	9h 15m	$+ 58^\circ 58'$	12.7

Mirror Grinding Exhibit

A group of eleven boys, aging from 12 to 14, of Boy Scout Troop 624, presented a telescope making exhibit at the Scouting Exposition held at the National Guard Armory, March 17 and 18.

The boys were grinding and polishing a five-inch mirror. A second five-inch mirror was mounted for trial on the Foucault Test. A third was mounted in an exhibition telescope which had a focal length of 40 inches and a fifty power ocular.

—Jimmy Weinstein

Occultations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Star No.</u>	<u>Magn.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Edge</u>
May 29	2157	6.1	11:51.8 PM	D
June 5	3288	5.9	3:46.1 AM	B
June 14	522	3.0	9:10.3 AM	B*

*Daylight

---LK