

Limited space precludes reproducing it here, but his many friends will be glad to read it and the letter at our next meeting. It is interesting to note that the Norfolk amateur astronomers were organized as a result of a hobby show.

Halloween is one of the numerous traditions and customs that have an astronomical association: It represents a survival of the dread rites of the ancient Druids originally determined by the midnight culmination of the Pleiades.

The Pleiades have always been among the most noted objects in the poetry and mythology of the heavens, and the custom of regulating calendars and determining festivals by their annual rising or by their midnight culmination has been widespread among primitive people and civilized nations in many lands at all times in history. An especially common custom has been a festival connected with the memory of the dead, at the time of the midnight culmination; and in particular, the three-day festival of the dead held by the Druids was the origin of the three holy days of our calendar known as All Hallow Eve, All Saints' Day, and All Souls' Day.

This subject is discussed at length by J. F. Blake, "Astronomical Myths," an English version of Flammarion's "History of the Heavens" published at London in 1877.

---E. W. Woolard

Deadline for items in the next bulletin is November 17th.

Mabel Sterns
2517 K St. N.W.
District 9422

National Capital
Amateur Astronomers Association
Washington, D.C.

November 1943

Vol. 1, No. 2

- President, Dr. Edgar W. Woolard, 1232 30th St. N. W.
Michigan 8287
- Vice Pres., Capt. U. S. Lyons, 4315 Chesapeake St. N.W.
Woodley 3284
- Treasurer, Mr. George L. Skirm, 4304 Brandywine St.N.W.
Woodley 1216
- Secretary, Miss Dorothy F. Harris, 1621 T Street, N.W.
Dupont 4200

H. A. Marmer, Assistant Chief of the Division of Tides and Currents, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, will speak on "Tides and Their Prediction," and also show slides at the meeting on November 6th, 8 p.m. at the National Museum. Mr. Marmer has been engaged in the tidal work of the Survey since 1907. He has carried on research in tidal phenomena and physical oceanography, and is the author of a popular book on the tides, and of many papers in scientific journals.

For members who may wish to do some reading on the tides, the following references are recommended in addition to the brief discussions found in all textbooks of astronomy: H. A. Marmer, "The Problems of the Tide," Scientific Monthly, vol. 14, p. 209-222, 1922. H. A. Marmer, "The Tide," Appleton Co. publishers, 1926. Sir George Howard Darwin, "The Tides and Kindred Phenomena in the Solar System," 3 ed. 1933, a classical book and a model of popular scientific exposition. The author who lived 1845-1912, was a distinguished British mathematical physicist and son of the famous Charles Darwin. Encyclopaedia Britannica, article "Tides." ---E. W. Woolard

A dinner meeting was held at the Kenesaw Apartment on October 2nd. Members and friends of the Association gathered early to meet our new president and Mrs. Woolard. After the dinner, Dr. Woolard addressed the group. In his talk he reviewed high spots in the history of astronomy, discussed the various activities in which an association such as ours can participate, and promised help in the establishment of any activity that the members wish to undertake. A short business meeting followed.

---Grace C. Scholz

Keep these bulletins for reference because addresses will not always be repeated. Those not given in current numbers will be found in previous issues.

COMMITTEES

Lecture: Dr. E. W. Woolard, chairman
Capt. U. S. Lyons
Geo. L. Skirm
Leo W. Scott, 5013 Wakefield Road, Green Acres,
Md. Oliver 5013

Observation: Irene Warthen, chairman, 626 Silver Spring
Ave., Silver Spring, Md.
Robert McClellan, 4600 Chewton Ave. S. E.
Hillside 0757
R. W. Parnell, 1630 Park Road, N. W.
E. V. Smith

Publications: Mabel Sterns, chairman. Members will be asked for reviews of astronomical publications.

Entertainment: Clarence DeW. Herreshoff, chairman
Grace C. Scholz
Ens. Marion F. Wagner, 5035 Saratoga Ave.,
Friendship Station, 16, Glen Cove, Md.

Membership: Maj. Ray K. Windham, chairman, 4885 Edgemoor
Lane, Bethesda, Md. Wisconsin 6342
Paul Sandefer, 2644 South Veitch Street,
Arlington, Va.

Publicity: Grace C. Scholz, chairman, 4335 Harrison St.
N. W. Ordway 5552
Dorothea Lamore, 4707 Guilford Road, College
Park, Md. Warfield 8510
Dorothy F. Harris

The Observation Committee reports that the telescope needs repairing, due to being left uncovered in a damp room. It will be necessary to find other quarters for the instrument and each member is urged to investigate any suitable shelter.

Will all members please send Major Windham the names and addresses where possible, of former members who have dropped.

Response to the appeal for discussion groups has come mainly from leaders. Commander C. V. Lee, 3005 West Franklin Road, Arlington, Va., has offered assistance in celestial navigation. Dr. Woolard has suggested a class in the history of astronomy and study of original writings. Also, one for the prediction of astronomical phenomena in lieu of mathematical astronomy. One can go as far in the study of methods for predicting phenomena as his mathematical knowledge permits. The amateur astronomers are fortunate in having these opportunities available. A few persons have expressed interest in photography. It is hoped that definite plans can be made at the next meeting.

A June meeting will be proposed at the next business session. Shall we extend the regular lectures one month later in the spring? Bring your ideas or objections.

A hearty welcome to Mrs. U. S. Lycns, 4315 Chesapeake St. N.W., who has formally become a member. She has given her support to the Association since its inception, and now completes the family of amateur astronomers.

From "other latitudes" comes word from Raymond G. DeFrees, Lynnhaven, Va., with a bit of his poetry.