

secutive elections as applied to officers, and four consecutive years for a trustee. The matter will be discussed further at an early meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

- John D. D'Ardelet, 2601 24th Street N.E. (18). De. 1230
- Margaret B. Glock, 2701 14th St. N.W. Apt. 602. Co. 7400
- Russell J. Hinckley, 1760 Lanier Place N.W. (9).  
Columbia 6458.
- William E. Howard, 7101 Hampden Lane, Bethesda, Md.  
Oliver 4123. (Junior member.)
- Mrs. Bertha M. Rotbart, 4410 River Road, N.W. Em. 0119
- Paul D. Sheats, 2401 Calvert St., N.W. Columbia 4740.  
(Junior member.)
- Arthur Weinfeld, 3409 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Va.  
Glebe 7705. (Junior member.)

OCCULTATION PREDICTIONS

Morgan Cilley

May	Star or Sat. No.	Magnitude	Immersion E.S.T.	Hour Angle
9	66 B Sgr	4.7	0:33.7 A*	2.7 E
26	46 Leo	5.7	9:24.6 P	3.3 W
27	1657	6.7	7:46.6 P	0.8 E
30	48 Vir	6.5	0:27.3 A	4 W

\*Bright edge; emersion 1:10 A. All others occur on the dark edge. These occultations visible with the 5-inch.

BESIDES VARIABLE STAR OBSERVATIONS, Carroll Slemaker has taken some good lunar photographs with his own telescope. Carl Werntz will enter his telescope and an astronomical exhibit in the Science Fair at Commerce Auditorium May 19-23.

TELESCOPE MAKERS are increasing and we hear favorable reports of their progress.

STAR CHARTS OF THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE are available for 10¢ each from Mr. Windham.

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Mabel Sterns, President and Editor, 2517 K St. N.W. (7)

STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers  
Washington, D. C.

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MEMORY JOGS

- 1 Telescope class, 7:30 p.m. room 246 McKinley High School, 2nd and T Sts. N.E. Mr. McLellan.
- 2 FRIDAY INSTEAD OF SATURDAY. "Light of the Night Sky," Prof. Joseph Kaplan, Director, Institute of Geophysics, University of California. 8 p.m. Commerce Department Auditorium. Election of officers.
- 6 Constellation study clear Tuesdays in May except the 13th, in park at 5th and Underwood Sts. N. W. If weather is doubtful, call Miss Warthen, Shepherd 9451.
- 8 Telescope class.
- 13 Open house at Mr. Rotbart's observatory, 8 to 10 p.m., 4410 River Road N.W. Limited to members. Postponed to May 20 if weather is bad.
- 15 Telescope class.
- 17 Discussion group, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium. Miss Jewell Boling.
- 20 Open house, see May 13. Otherwise constellation observation.
- 22 Telescope class.
- 25 Observations of the moon and planets. Barnard Hill Park, Bunker Hill Road and 26th St. N.E. 8 to 10 p.m.
- 27 Constellation group.
- 29 Telescope class.

DATE OF THE MEETING WAS CHANGED TO FRIDAY this month to take advantage of Dr. Kaplan's presence in Washington. The enclosed circular gives full information. Business session and election of officers follow.

OPEN HOUSE AT ROTBART'S OBSERVATORY. Mr. and Mrs. David Rotbart have invited the NCA to visit their observatory Tuesday evening, May 13th, between 8 and 10 p.m. Mr. Rotbart has some unusual optical instruments, and the only amateur observatory we've heard about in the vicinity of Washington. In case of bad weather, the event will be postponed to May 20. Due to limited space, the invitation is to NCA members and applicants only. Transportation: Wisconsin Ave. streetcar to Ellicott St., walk about four blocks west to River Road.

CONSTELLATION OBSERVATIONS have been beset by weather gremlins, but the group will continue to hope for clear skies on Tuesdays. With the exception of the night at Rotbart's observatory, Miss Warthen will meet stargazers at 5th and Underwood Streets, N.W., the J-6 Takoma Park bus stop near Coolidge High School. The park across the street affords a good view of the sky.

"CELESTIAL COORDINATES IN RELATION TO THE EARTH" is the topic for discussion May 17, Miss Jewell Boling, moderator. We hope to have animated visual aids explaining arrangement and meaning of the poles, great circles, parallels, meridians, latitude, longitude, declination, zenith, nadir, and solstices.

"OBSERVATIONS ON THE MOON AND PLANETS" is the program scheduled for May 5, 8 to 10 p.m., at Barnard Hill Park, with cooperation of the National Capital Astronomers. Mr. Lyons will be chief astronomer. Anyone wishing to volunteer a telescope or just look will be welcome.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM P. HARRIS, JR., leave April 28 for Miami, Florida. Mr. Harris is an astrophysicist at the Astrophysical Observatory of the Smithsonian Institution and will take his post at the newly established station in Florida. Mrs. Harris is the daughter of Mr. Lyons. Both she and her husband have been members of NCA for many years.

PROPOSED OBSERVATORY AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY. Of the 44 replies received to date from the questionnaire, 9 are in favor of an NCA observatory on American University campus, 6 said yes with qualifications, 16 are opposed, 12 made no decision, and 1 thinks the location would be inconvenient. It is planned to vote on the matter in May.

HOUSE HUNTING AGAIN. The Commerce Auditorium will not be open to us on Saturdays next fall so we must find different quarters or change our meeting night. The search has been on for several weeks with no prospects of a place in sight. Please notify the president of any possible accommodations to investigate.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. For president: Edwin Smith, Mabel Sterns; vice president: Ray K. Windham, G. R. Wright; treasurer: Abraham Robinson; secretary: Jewell Boling; trustee: Grace C. Scholz, George L. Skirm.

The by-laws require two candidates for each office to be nominated by the committee. The committee reports in April which allows ample time for consideration by the membership. Additional nominations may be offered from the floor in May at the time of election. "Electees" take office in September. The lapse of time is for the purpose of organizing committees and programs for the following year to be put into effect in September.

In giving the committee report, Mrs. Windham, chairman, explained that every effort had been made to comply with the by-laws, but it was impossible to get the consent of two nominees for a few offices. This has been the case each year of the three that the rule has been in effect. Inasmuch as it has proven to be impracticable, Mrs. Windham suggested that the by-laws be modified to suit the need.

It has been proposed informally to require only one nominee and to restrict the term of office to two con-

MEN, WOMEN AND STARS

Miss Leah B. Allen, Director of Williams Observatory, presented a most interesting, informative, and well illustrated lecture at our April meeting.

Copernicus, the Polish astronomer, revolutionized astronomy by establishing the heliocentric view of the planetary system; Tycho Brahe, the Dane, introduced accuracy into the measurements of astronomical positions; Kepler, the German, analyzed Brahe's observations to find the true laws of planetary motion; Galileo, the Italian, brought the celestial objects closer to man by means of the telescope; Newton studied the physical laws of the universe and published his famous "Principia;" Halley, the Englishman, predicted the periodic reappearance of Halley's comet and the transits of Venus.

Herschel, Hanoverian born English astronomer, a musician by profession, created a reflecting telescope with 48-inch mirror mounted on a great outdoor scaffold. He discovered Uranus. Herschel was assisted in all his work by the unflinching devotion of his sister, Caroline, who recorded his observations, cheered him, and even brought food to enable him to continue his observations without interruption. Without her his monumental work could not have been accomplished.

Leverrier, the French mathematician, contributed much to planetary theory. His calculations and predictions led to the discovery of Neptune by Galle. Fraunhofer, the German optician, discovered the Fraunhofer lines in the solar spectrum. A sum of money from a wealthy passerby out of sympathy for his crippled condition, enabled him to buy a book on optics that furnished the foundation for his future professional activities. Kirschhoff, the German physicist, established the science of spectrum analysis and applied it to celestial objects. Huggins, an English astronomer, pioneered in spectroscopy and photography. He was assisted in great measure by Lady Huggins who, to save time, adopted one design for all her robes and bobbed her hair. That was before 1910.

Carrington, an English observer, studied the positions and movements of sun spots. Young, American astronomer, made important contributions to the knowledge of the nature of the sun, including spectroscopic research of the corona, sunspots, and prominences. Miss Cannon, another American, devoted her entire life at Harvard to spectrum analysis.

Miss Allen impressed one with the magnitude of that field which never ceases to inspire men and women to such zeal and devotion in its cause--astronomy.

---Marion F. Wagner

Hubert J. Bernhard, Dorothy J. Bennett, Hugh S. Rice.

"NEW HANDBOOK OF THE HEAVENS"

This new handbook is an entirely rewritten and greatly enlarged version of "Handbook of the Heavens" which went through several printings. In the current work, the three co-editors of the first book have together written the entire volume, giving it a greater unity of expression.

The book should be of interest to those amateurs who devote time to specialized astronomical observations. They are advised how they can make substantial contributions to astronomical fact and theory by doing their part in detailed observations in such specialized fields as comets, meteors, asteroids, double and multiple stars, variable stars, star clusters, and nebulae. There is an excellent chapter on asteroids. The chapter on variable stars is recommended reading to those of our association who are specializing in this field. Besides, there are chapters on photography, types of telescopes for home use, and focal lengths, eyepieces, etc., in connection with home telescopes. Finally, the book contains numerous charts, diagrams, photographs, and lists--the lists including meteor displays that occur each year, minor planets and their orbits, important variable stars, selected nebulae and star clusters. A glossary at the end of the book furnishes a handy definition of terms.

---Abraham Robinson