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school. An hour was spent looking over the astronomical models and study helps Professor Brackbill uses in teaching. After the evening meal we visited the Vesper Heights Observatory, a combined planetarium and observatory with a 16 foot dome. The observatory houses a 12-inch reflector, a 6-inch refractor, a 4-inch refractor and two large binoculars. One pair of binoculars is instantly adjustable for use at any height from 40 to 80 inches. After about two hours of observing we convened under the dome and were shown the planetarium together with various pieces of auxiliary equipment, most of which was built by Professor Brackbill. The planetarium is the first built by the Spitz Laboratories.

After this we were all asked to one of the cottages where mysteriously a large chocolate cake appeared as a birthday surprise for Mrs. Ione Alston. Some of the party observed quite late with a small telescope and binoculars and counted about 15 meteors. On Sunday -- another perfect day -- after breakfast in Harrisonburg the groups set out for a day of sightseeing. Most of the group went to Chimney Rocks, southwest of Harrisonburg, and then east to Skyline Drive and back to Washington. The scenery can best be described by the many pictures taken by the group. To the best of our knowledge this is the first overnight field trip ever made by an NCA group. We hope that it isn't the last, and we hope that everything can be as wonderful another time. Fifteen NCA members, and a total of twenty-one persons made the trip as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ione Alston | Dr. and Mrs. F. P. Wells |
| Elizabeth Goerner | Leslie Wells |
| Betty Fazekas | Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wright |
| Dorothy Lamore | Mr. and Mrs. Morton Schiff |
| Norma Leinhard | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas LuCaric |
| Mabel Sterns | Brent LuCaric |
| Marian Ambleau | Larry White |
| Irene Warthen | Lyle Johnson |
| | David Minton |

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STAR DUST
 National Capital Astronomers
 Washington, D. C.

November 1952 Vol. 10, No. 3
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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Date
- Nov. 1 "FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA TO THE TOP OF THE ATMOSPHERE," Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit of the Harvard College Observatory. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
 - 15 DISCUSSION GROUP. Foyer of Commerce Auditorium, 8:00 p. m.
 - 24 VISIT TO NAVAL OBSERVATORY TO SEE THE 26". Conducted by Mr. Arthur A. Hoag of the Observatory. 8:00 p. m. Administration Building.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts., N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone Lockwood 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Fridays.

MILLIONS OF METEORS enter the earth's atmosphere daily, although only a few ever reach its surface. Those that fall to the ground are called meteorites. Meteorites can be of any size, but usually are quite small. Smaller bodies and meteoric dust that have come down have been collected and identified as miniature meteorites.

"FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA TO THE TOP OF THE ATMOSPHERE," which is the topic of the lecture at our November meeting, will be primarily a review of discoveries of meteoric dust.

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The places and conditions under which meteoric material has been found provide a good mystery story on its origin. The possible relation of such dust to some other natural phenomena will be discussed, and the relation of meteoric to cosmic dust and their bearing on stellar evolution will be briefly touched.

Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, who will be the speaker at the November meeting, graduated from Radcliffe College and received her doctorate at the same school. She has been associated with the Harvard College Observatory as an astronomer and research associate. Dr. Hoffleit states that the talk will be non-technical and will not cover the chemical or mineralogical composition of the meteoric dust. The lecture will be illustrated with slides.

--- A. Robinson

A VISIT TO THE 26" TELESCOPE AT THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY has been arranged for us by our September speaker, Mr. Arthur A. Hoag. The date, Monday, November 24, 8:00 p. m. This trip is for NCA members only. Meet in the lobby of the Administration Building, Naval Observatory. This trip is canceled if the weather is cloudy or raining.

DISCUSSION GROUP ON NOVEMBER 15 will take a slightly different twist from usual. We believe that many NCA members own books on astronomy and are interested in the books which others own. Come to the discussion group and bring with you a new book on astronomy, an old book on astronomy, or your favorite reference-- or bring several books if you wish. Opportunity will be given to tell about the books and ample time will be allowed to look over each others' books.

A REQUEST FOR SLIDES OR A TELESCOPE was received from the fourth grade of the Burgundy Farm Country Day School. We wish to thank Mr. David Minton for offering to take care of this group.

EXPLORING THE SKY with the National Capital Parks on September 13 was probably one of the most successful programs held during recent years. A very clear evening, nine telescopes, and a good attendance made for a profitable evening. However the October 11 date was not so successful. Cloudy and uncertain skies made necessary long drives from the homes of the Wrights and Isherwoods, but we were soon excused by the Park Ranger. We wish to thank all the NCA members who have assisted in this project during the 1952 season. We have already been asked to assist in the program another year.

--- Janet Wright

NEW MEMBERS

- A. D. Barber, 1302 Irving St., N. W. HO 7592
- Paul Kanstoroom, 1016 G St., S. E. EX 6848
- *Paul Cico, 2624 N. Sycamore St., Arlington JE 30827
- *John R. Anderson, 6598 Williamsburg Blvd., Arlington JE 20919
- *Harry Wallace Blair, 11 Forest Hill Road, Alexandria TE 2462

A PERFECT WEEK END - We are quite sure that every one who went on the overnight trip to Harrisonburg, Virginia, will agree that it was as nearly a perfect week end as could ever be possible. First the weather was wonderful. The trip to Harrisonburg on Saturday, with its clear skies, and the beautiful scenery were alone worth the entire trip. Second, the very gracious reception we received from the College made the trip doubly enjoyable.

All cars but one checked into the Ash Lawn Motor Court by 3:00 p. m., had their rooms assigned, and by 4:00 were ready to leave for the Eastern Mennonite College. There we were met by one of the Astralites (a member of the school astronomy club) and conducted to the reception room in their new dormitory building. Professor Brackbill and his wife arrived shortly, and we were conducted to the Physics Laboratory of the