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REINSTATED NCA MEMBERS

- Miles Davis, 1422 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. - Address until June 1953, Dunster House, E-51, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts KIRKLAND 7-75070
- Richard Grant McCabe, 3616 Fulton Street, N. W., Washington 7, D. C. EM 2-3511
- Clarence A. Peterson, 4845 V Street, N. W., Washington 7, D. C. WO 6-2614

JANUARY DISCUSSION GROUP drew an attendance of 27, the largest so far this year. A third of those attending brought pictures, negatives, movies, or slides. Our thanks to Lyle Johnson and Irene Warthen for the use of their projection equipment.

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY Division of Community Services offer two courses which should be of interest to NCA'ers. Courses run from around February 15 to the end of March. Fee is \$10.00. There are no academic requirements for admission. Registration can be by mail, at the door of the first meeting of the class, or at the College of General Studies, 706 20th Street, January 26-30 from 5:00 to 8:00 p. m. One course, HOBBIES IN SCIENCE, is being given by Benjamin Adelman, author of numerous popular science articles and member of NCA. He is giving an introduction to the hobbies which can be found in the science field, and has gathered information about the various hobby organizations in Washington, where they meet, what they do, and other facts about them. Covered as hobbies are these sciences: astronomy, cartography, entomology, archeology, geology, weather forecasting, cave exploring, chemistry, genetics, botany, seismology, and bird study. Meets Mondays 8:10 to 9:40 p. m. Monroe Hall, Room 303. ATOMIC ENERGY IN COSMIC AND HUMAN LIFE is given by Dr. George Gamow, author and lecturer well known to NCA'ers. He gives non-technical discussions designed to help the layman to form a clear picture of the achievements and possibilities of the atomic age. Wednesdays, 8:10 to 9:40 p. m., Room 103, Monroe Hall.

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FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Date

- Feb. 7. "THE HYDROGEN EXPLOSION IN THE SUN," lecture by Dr. Hari K. Sen, formerly with Allahabad University, India, and Harvard College Observatory, now with the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- Feb. 21. DISCUSSION GROUP will deal with observing. Foyer of Commerce Auditorium, 8:00 p. m.

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 Tuesdays.

"THE HYDROGEN EXPLOSION IN THE SUN" - What is the source of the sun's energy? How long will the sun's radiation last? These are just two of the many questions that may be asked about this fascinating subject and the answers will be the subject of the lecture at our February meeting, given by Dr. Hari K. Sen, physicist, National Bureau of Standards.

Dr. Sen received his doctorate in Astrophysics at the Allahabad University, India, and was formerly on the staff of Allahabad University and later of Harvard College Observatory. He is at present on the staff of the Central Radio Propagation Laboratory, National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Sen will talk about the source of the sun's energy - the amount and duration thereof - the thermomuclear reactions in the heart of the sun, which is the basis of the hydrogen explosion - its terrestrial

counterpart - and the constructive aspect of the solar hydrogen explosion. He will also discuss the birth, evolution and death of the sun and present his views on the evolution of stars and the universe.

--Abraham Robinson

FEBRUARY DISCUSSION GROUP on February 21 will deal with observing. Let Bob Wright know if you have any phase of observing you would like to discuss. Bring your copy of the Graphic Time Table with you.

MARCH DISCUSSION GROUP - Plans are being made to hold a special discussion group for March. Arrangements have been made to have the use of the foyer at the Department of Commerce starting at 1:30 p. m. on March 21. The program for this discussion will be along the line of telescopes, equipment, cameras, photography, telescope mounts, etc. It will be an informal get-together with plenty of time to answer questions. We are inviting Mr. Leo Schoenig of Pittsburgh to come down and lead this discussion group and we hope that he will bring several other AAA members with him. We are also inviting groups from Richmond and Norfolk as well as Philadelphia. The program is not complete at this time but should be ready for inclusion in the March issue of STAR DUST.

FOR SEVERAL YEARS THE NCA HAS HELD A DINNER, and at the January meeting the question was raised about holding one during February this year. We have decided not to hold a dinner this year, since our need for getting better acquainted in social groups is largely taken care of by refreshments at the Hot Shoppe after each lecture meeting and discussion group. If you have never joined in this activity we wish you would. There is always sufficient transportation for a ride both ways.

--Janet Wright

THE BENFER TELESCOPE has not been used for several months. See Bob Wright if you wish to borrow it. Remember it is NCA property, dedicated to the use of the NCA and its individual members.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION - The NCA Convention Committee held a planning meeting at Janet and Bob Wright's on Saturday, January 10. Twelve of the committee were present and the preliminary plans are coming along in fine shape. As time passes more and more NCA members will be asked to help out with the plans. It is hoped that each member will be willing to devote some time and effort in making this convention the outstanding AL convention. Your bit in helping at the present time will be to register for the convention. At this time it costs only \$1.00. It is the hope of the committee that every NCA member will be registered for this convention.

WOULD YOU LIKE A PLANETARIUM IN WASHINGTON? - We understand Mr. Herbert Williams of the Spitz Laboratories will be in Washington sometime during February at the Plastics Show, with a plastic dome and planetarium. We plan to meet with him and continue the discussion held with Armand Spitz a year ago about the possibility of a planetarium for Washington. We will have some discussion about this at our next meeting.

THE ROSTER OF THE NCA over the past years shows that each year we lose between twenty and thirty members, either because they have moved or lost interest. We are very pleased to report that our present roster shows that we lost fewer than ten persons this past year. We are glad to see the continued interest of all the members in the NCA.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION at Dallas have been received. The NCA's copy of these proceedings and also some from earlier conventions will be brought to the next meeting. Come early and look them over.

THE TELESCOPE MOUNT for the NCA 5" Alvan Clark refractor was the subject of attention until 1:00 a. m. after the last convention planning session. We hope that we can announce at the February meeting that this telescope is ready for use.