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OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is at greatest western elongation on November 14th. The planet is visible for several days at this time in Libra, some ten to fifteen degrees above the southeastern horizon just before sunrise. Venus is at inferior conjunction on the 15th and is too close to the sun for observation most of the month. Mars has moved to Capricornus after remaining in Sagittarius for seven months. The planet is visible low in the southwest and sets about an hour before midnight. Jupiter is in Gemini and rises several hours before midnight. It is stationary in right ascension on the 17th and then will move westward among the stars. Saturn is in conjunction on the 4th and is too close to the sun for easy observation this month. The date of maximum intensity for the LEONID meteor shower is November 16. This shower averages 20 meteors per hour.

---A. L. White

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age	Phase	E. S. T.
2	347 B Sgtr	7.0	7.2	D	6:48.5 P. M.
3	95 B Capr.	6.0	8.2	D	7:07.7 P. M.
28	168 B Sgyr	6.3	3.4	D	6:05.3 P. M.

---A. L. White

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHY was the topic for Discussion Group on October 16. A group of 20 people spent a very profitable evening. Arthur Hoag from the Naval Observatory enthusiastically presented advanced photographic ideas for the amateur. Other papers were presented by Lyle Johnson on photographic techniques and by Philip Lichtman on drives for telescopes. Discussion Group for the evening was in charge of Philip Lichtman.

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STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers

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NOVEMBER CALENDER

- Nov. 6 (Sat.) "ASTRONOMY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST," Dr. Edgar A. Woolard of the U. S. Naval Observatory, Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.
- Nov. 18 (Thurs.) NCA trip to Enoch Pratt Planetarium in Baltimore. This will be an evening trip. Contact Elizabeth Goerner at EM 3-2492 for arrangements.
- Nov. 20 (Sat.) DISCUSSION GROUP with Betty Fazekas. "LET'S LOOK AT THE CONSTELLATIONS AS DID THE ANCIENTS." Commerce Department foyer, 8:00 P. M.

Each Saturday morning, Telescope making class with Irene Warthen at Chevy Chase Community Center, 9-12. Phone Irene at Lockwood 5-4058.

"ASTRONOMY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST" - Today, astronomy is the most advanced and spectacular of the sciences. On the one hand, it is related to atomic energy; on the other to the promise of space travel. Yet the astronomy of today with its giant telescopes, its ability to predict events hundreds of years in the future, its incredible vistas of time and space, is not the sudden growth of the past few decades. Its roots go back thousands of years to a faraway, ancient land.

Dr. Edgar A. Woolard of the U. S. Naval Observatory will describe the beginnings of astronomy in ancient Babylonia and show how astronomy gradually developed and was transmitted from country to country until it has advanced to its present state.

---Benjamin Adelman

11/2/54

ELECTRONIC ASTRONOMY - At the last meeting of the National Capital Astronomers, on Saturday, October 2, we were presented with a very fascinating talk by Dr. John O'Keefe of the Army Map Service on "STAR OCCULTATIONS AND EARTH MAPPING." Dr. O'Keefe talked about one of the newest and most promising of all the astronomical fields, the field of electronic astronomy. Here is a field in which the amateur can really be of great value in aiding the growth of astronomical knowledge. Dr. O'Keefe urges all amateurs to try a hand in this field. Already tremendous strides have been made in variable star studies by means of the photoelectric tube, and now photometers are being used in double-star work, and the charting of lunar occultations. A telescope as small as 4" in diameter may be adapted for this type of work. A photoelectric cell may be attached to a meter gauged in magnitudes which could be set in a box and fitted over the eyepiece holder. The starlight would register the magnitude correctly on the meter, and with a little work a graph of magnitudes could be made. A simple motor, or hand drive should be attached to the telescope for accurate tracking. The Army Map Service urges those who are interested in mapping or electronic astronomy to join their Astronomical Department. The map service is in need of people to operate their equipment. If you have such an interest it would be of value to speak to Dr. O'Keefe to find out more about the Army Map Service Program.

---Joel Lubar

TELESOPES FOR SALE -- 4-inch Alvin Clark complete with circles and tripod, also a 3-inch Mogeey refractor complete with tripod. Both beautiful telescopes. Call Mrs. Samuel Young, ADAMS 2-6565.

3-inch English made telescope, complete with case, tripod, diagonal and three eyepieces. Price \$50.00. See Bob Wright.

MYTHOLOGICAL CHARACTERS OF THE CONSTELLATIONS will be the general subject of the November 20 Discussion Group by Betty Fazekas. Betty has made somewhat of a hobby of mythology of the constellations. Interesting chapters include the independent assigning of the same animal to a group of stars by peoples not in communication with each other.

BALTIMORE PLANETARIUM TRIP - Thursday, November 18, is the date we visit the Davis Planetarium, Maryland Academy of Sciences, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore. The subject of the nine o'clock planetarium showing will be "Fragments from Space, the Story of Comets, Meteors, and Meteorites." The 4 1/2-inch refractor telescope on the observing deck will be focused on the moon, and if the 7-inch Breashear reflector telescope is reconditioned in time, it too will be available. If you can furnish a car or need transportation, please write Elizabeth Goerner, 20 Plattsburg Court, or tell her at the November 6 meeting. Each driver will set his own time for leaving and place for picking up and discharging passengers. For instance, Chevy Chase drivers might like to meet at the Chevy Chase bus terminal. Those who went with us about five years ago know that Director Paul Watson gives us a good show. Let's get there before the nine o'clock showing in time to look at the astronomical exhibits and photographs and not interrupt the program by being late. The exhibits are really good. Take Baltimore Washington Expressway to center of Baltimore. Turn right onto Route 40, Mulberry Street (not Route 40 Alternate). Proceed 4 blocks to 400 Cathedral Street. Library (planetarium) is at Cathedral and Mulberry Streets. Look for parking lot immediately after turning right on Mulberry.

NEW MEMBERS

Christopher Caldwell, 3413 Thornapple St., Chevy Chase, Md. OL 4-5939
David G. Chase, 7411 Foster St., District Heights, Md. RE 5-7704
Mrs. Marie Schiff, 2901 18th St., N.W., Apt. 602 Washington 9, D.C. CO 5-6345
Miss Lula Whittaker, George Washington High School, Alexandria, Va. KI 9-3092

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER will be included with December issue of STAR DUST. If you have a change of address or telephone number notify Elizabeth Goerner by November 6 (monthly lecture meeting) so that the correction can be made in the new roster.