

VIRGINIA JUNIORS

The first article in the BOOK OF THE SKY has been issued. Our closest star, the Sun, is its subject. This article, written by Barry Sperling, contains a description of his methods for solar observing, a study of the cycle of large sunspot formations, and a page of statistics. Other articles on astronomical subjects will be issued as they are completed by the members.

Several discussion sessions are planned for the coming fall season. The merits of refractors and reflectors will be one of the first on the agenda.

--- June LoGuirato
VA. Junior Editor

MARYLAND - DC JUNIORS

We of the MD-DC Juniors are much saddened to hear of Mr. Holloway's departure to California. He had been Junior Director for about five years. In addition to the monthly meetings at the Chevy Chase Community Center, in which he led the discussions or planned for a speaker, he also ably represented all of the Juniors within the society itself. Jim Krebs, our new director, will be an excellent choice and he shares Mr. Holloway's active interest in mathematics.

The summer observing program, consisting in large measure of three World Nights, was largely spoiled by bad weather. Of almost fifty societies contacted, only four responded to the request for drawings and photographs during the seventy-two hour periods. Furthermore, during August, only a few amateurs were not away on vacation. With more luck and better arrangements, next year's series could be the best yet, surpassing 1959's total of almost 200 drawings. At present, we have more observers and telescopes than two years ago, plus the very valuable assistance of the Virginia Juniors. A committee will soon be set up to inform others; actual correspondence should begin in January.

At our September meeting fifteen were present. Discussion included the observing program and the Echo Satellite. One interesting observational aspect raised: when would it be possible to see Echo transit the sun or moon, thus seeing for a brief instant its disk, 4" across?

Two of the Juniors' oldest members are leaving for college. Steve Klingelhofer, remembered as the first Junior Editor and the diplomat of the club, departs for Yale. Sam Friedman, a skilled observer, who won a Westinghouse Science Talent Search award for his work on Saturn, leaves for Harvard. The best wishes of the Juniors (and the Seniors too -Ed.) go with them; we know they will contribute as much to college life as they did for so long here.

--- Christopher Walker
MD-DC Junior Editor

NEW MEMBERS FOR JUNE AND SEPTEMBER

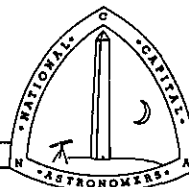
Regular

Duane A. Baugher	2928 K St., SE, Wash., DC	
Joseph W. Schutz	5704 33rd St., NW, Wash., DC	EM 2-2321
Charles P. Shepard	812 Cherokee Ave., Alexandria, Va.	
Douglas G. Weber	2137 N. Abingdon St., Arl., Va.	
John Edward Westfall	1225 13th St., NW, Apt. 412	DU 2-7127

Junior

Dean T. Jamison	5204 32nd Ave., Wash., D. C.	JO 8-8587
Douglas Richstone	4806 Wilwyn Way, Rockville, Md.	WH 6-3709

579 ★ STAR DUST



OCTOBER, 1960

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FATHER HAYDEN TO SPEAK ON PLANET SPECTROSCOPY



The only way in which we are going to know anything about the conditions of the planets on which space ships may land is by spectroscopic analysis of the sunlight that is reflected from them. Almost a century ago Father Secchi and Dr. Vogel studied the planets through small prism spectroscopes and noted some peculiar features about the tell tale absorption lines in their spectra. One fact in particular which they noted about Jupiter was the presence of some gas in its atmosphere which absorbed continuously in the blue and near ultra-violet. For many years astronomers paid no attention to this observed fact that both of these men recorded.

Recent repetition of this observation with spectrography at Georgetown have led to an effort to interpret the meaning of it. These interpretations will be the subject of this month's lecture and our guest speaker will be a long-time friend of the NCA, Father Francis J. Hayden, S. J., who is the Director of the Georgetown U. Observatory. For several years Father Hayden was on the staff of the Manila Observatory and received his Ph.D. in Astronomy from Harvard during the second World War. Among the activities for which he is best known are the eclipse expeditions which he has led and his work in photographing the Southern Milky Way. At Georgetown he has been actively engaged in developing new methods of timing solar eclipses. He also works actively with the Air Force on astronomical research.

OCTOBER OUTINGS

- 1 - Saturday - SPECTROSCOPY OF THE PLANETS - Father Hayden. Business meeting follows. Dept. of Commerce Aud., 8:15
 - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - Chevy Chase Community Building, 5601 Conn. Ave., 7:30-10, Roy Walls, Dtr.
 - 5, 12, 19, 26 - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - Bladensburg Material Center, 4600 Varnum St., 7:30-9:30, Bill Isherwood, Dtr.
 - 7, 14, 21, 28 - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - Fairfax High School, 7:30, Grady Whitney, Director
 - 8 - MD - DC JUNIORS MEETING - Chevy Chase Community Building, 5601 Conn. Ave., 2:30. Jim Krebs will lead a discussion on Galactic Structures.
 - 14, 28 - VIRGINIA JUNIORS MEETINGS - Westover Baptist Church, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Dr., Arl., Va., Room 254, 8 P. M.
 - 15 - DISCUSSION GROUP - "Sundials" led by William A. Cronin. Foyer of Department of Commerce at 8 P. M.
 - 23 - Sunday - PICNIC AND PLANETARIUM SHOW - Rook Creek Nature Center, Glover and Military Roads, E. W., Picnic at 4; Sky Show at 6.
 - 29 - Saturday - EXPLORING AND PHOTOGRAPHING THE SKY, 7 PM, Ft. Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Streets, N. W.
- Continuing on an alternate month plan, Larry White will call interested observers this month for observing when weather permits.

NCA INVADES CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE

A delegation of 19 NCA members traveled to Philadelphia for the 14th Annual Convention of the Astronomical League. Sessions were held on the beautiful campus of Haverford College, located in suburban Philadelphia, over Labor Day weekend.

The convention began Saturday morning with the Society Roll Call, and general business sessions. The afternoon was taken up with papers on a variety of subjects followed by an award winning film, "The Universe". Juniors then presented very interesting papers on Telescope Making, Electronic Meteor Detections, Classification on Deep Sky Objects, and an Eclipse Expedition, among other things.

The evening was taken up with tours of observatories: the Flower Cook Observatory at the U. of Penn., Villanova Observatory, and the Strawbridge Memorial Observatory of the Haverford College. We looked thru telescopes, watched "Echo", had refreshments, renewed old acquaintances, and made new acquaintances.

Sunday morning we began the bus tour which was the highlight of the Convention. First to the Franklin Institute and its Fels Planetarium, and roof-top telescopes where we had a fine view of the sun-spots, and the solar corona. There was also a film on Telescope Making shown in the Nickelodeon. Next we went to Barington, New Jersey, for a tour of the plant and salesroom of the Edmund Scientific Co. We were treated to a fine Char-Broiled Steak Dinner there, served by Mr. Norman Edmund, his family, and his staff. It was delicious! From here to the Spitz Laboratories we traveled, where our own Dr. Armand Spitz unveiled his model A.3 P. Planetarium, and showed us various other instruments, including the "guts" of a Planetarium. Then we had a very fine buffet supper on the pleasant Hilltop nearby. Lastly, we went to Swarthmore College in suburban Philadelphia to see the Sproul Observatory, which houses a 26 inch refractor. The weather was uncooperative, so we were able to look at and not through the big scope. We enjoyed touring the building, including a fascinating library, where we had a peek at the plates of the National Geographic Society-Palomar Sky Atlas, an interesting model of the Nearby Stars - the only one of its kind in the world, and the measuring machines used to accurately measure positions of star images.

Monday morning was dedicated to the American Lunar and Planetary Observers. Interesting papers were presented on many phases of Lunar and Planetary Observation. After lunch, the Instrumentation session presented a varied program of papers on aspects of telescope making, as well as a paper on planetarium making. This was followed by the General Business Session of the League, in which officers were elected for the coming year. Mr. Norman Dalke of Seattle was elected President; Mr. Ralph Dakin of Pittsford, New York, Vice President; Dr. Herman Sehested of Fort Worth, Secretary; and Mr. Leonard Pardue of Miami, Florida, Treasurer.

A small session of the Middle East Region followed. Election of officers was the principal business transacted. David Meisal of Fairmont, W. Va. was elected Chairman; Anthony Doschek of Pittsburgh, Vice Chairman; Emil Volcheck of Wilmington, Secretary; Edward Naylor of Harrisburg, Pa., Treasurer, and Betty Lipscomb of Alexandria, Regional Councilor.

Dr. Louis G. Green, director of Strawbridge Memorial Observatory at Haverford was the speaker at the banquet that evening. His topic was "Rockets, Satellites, and the New Astronomy", amusingly illustrated with the assistance of Mr. Edwin F. Bailey, General Convention Chairman, whose head acted as a sphere.

--- Betty Lipscomb

PICNIC AND PLANETARIUM SHOW

Its time again for a combined picnic and astronomy outing for NCA. We have been invited by the National Capital Parks to come to the Rock Creek Nature Center on Sunday, October 23, to look at the many nature exhibits and attend a special show at the Spitz planetarium there. The "Theatre of Stars" we will see on the 24' dome has many added surprises, not generally used in planetarium shows. The nature sounds that would be heard if watching the stars out in nature have been worked into the show.

The show will start at 5 P.M., and what would be more natural than having a picnic at a nearby picnic site before our visit to the Center. We have reserved picnic areas #16 and #17 for the picnic. These two areas have fire grates and tables as well as playgrounds for the kids. The picnic should get underway between 3 and 3:30. Come when you like and bring your own picnic supper or just come for the planetarium show.

We will leave from the Department of Commerce main entrance at 2:30 where several cars will pick up members who want a ride. Members coming from Virginia, please stop on the way if you have room for an extra passenger.

Directions: Go to Military Road, N.W. and turn west from 16th Street or east from Connecticut Avenue. Go to Oregon Avenue and turn south (Nature Center sign is there). The picnic area is just to the right of the first fork in this road. Follow signs a little farther on to the Nature Center.

If it rains, we will just have the Planetarium show and visit to the Nature Center. Bring the whole family. Children under 7 are not allowed in the Planetarium, but can enjoy the nature wonders while the rest of the family sees the show. We'll have a baby sitter available.

-----Tove
Neville

SPECIAL OFFER FROM SPACE SCIENCE

Ben Adelman, the editor of Space Science and an NCA member for many years, has mailed each adult NCA member a free copy of the September issue of Space Science for their information, since many adult NCA'ers have not yet seen Space Science. Space Science features articles written for it by such eminent astronomers as Dr. Ernst J. Opik, Dr. Dorrit Hoffleit, and Mr. A. H. Mikesell. It is issued monthly from September through June. For its other features, see your copy!

Adult NCA members only (junior NCA'ers receive Space Science as a privilege of membership) may take advantage of this special offer and receive the other nine issues as they are published by sending fifty cents to: Space Science, 4211 Colie Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland.

--- Ben Adelman

SPACE AGE ASTRONOMY TELECOURSE

Of special interest to the members of the NCA will be this new television show. Designed as a non-technical, introductory course, SPACE AGE ASTRONOMY will be presented every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:00 A.M., beginning October 4, 1960, over channel 9, WTOP-TV in Washington. The telecourse will consist of 31 half-hour telecasts and will terminate on January 19, 1961. A kit of instructional materials will be available for \$12.00 to those who register. The address is: Instruction by Television, University College, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. The course will be taught by Professor John M. Cavanaugh, Curator of Astronomy at the North Planetarium of Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster. Many of us from the NCA had the privilege of meeting him when the NCA was the guest of North Planetarium last fall.