

JUNIOR REGIONAL NEWSLETTER. The second issue of this paper was published in March. The first issue was run off by the A.A. of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, and the current issue was duplicated by the A.A.A. of Pittsburgh.

John Edmonds, Judy Wubnig, Donald Miller and John Lankford have articles in this issue. Several copies will be on hand at the May meeting, and may be inspected by those interested. The JUNIOR REGIONAL NEWSLETTER is distributed direct to all junior members in the Middle East Region of the Astronomical League.

Beginning with the third quarterly issue in June, this regional paper will become a National publication. With that issue its name will be changed to the JUNIOR NEWSLETTER. The change is being made for two reasons, first, so that juniors outside the Middle East Region may benefit from the publication and may contribute to it, and second, because the expense is too great for the Middle East Region to continue to bear. The cost of reproduction will be borne in the future by the Astronomical League. The Junior Astronomy Club of New York City will duplicate the copies of all issues from stencils that will be prepared under the direction of the Chairman of the National Committee on Junior Activities. Members of the Middle East Regional Committee will become members of the National Committee on Junior Activities, and will continue to function as they have been. They will be advised by the Chairman of the change.

This change from a regional to a national publication means that the distribution will increase from 150 copies to about 750 copies.

We hope that junior membership in member organizations of the Astronomical League will continue to increase as it has been. Many societies have begun to seriously consider setting up a junior division of membership, and we believe that the excellent quality of this junior publication will help to influence their decisions.

--Grace C. Scholz, Chairman  
Committee on Junior Activities, Astronomical League.

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Miles Davis, Editor.

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SCIENCE FAIR, 1949

On April 1, 1949, over four hundred school children of the District gleefully got excused from their classes (preferably English) to set up their exhibits in the Third Annual Washington Science Fair.

But the story goes back farther than that. It goes back to the labors of gathering material, constructing exhibits, filling out forms, and worrying over where to get samples of uranium oxide or a variable star. Even farther back, it goes to the foresight and meticulous planning of Mr. Keith C. Johnson, Head of the Science Department, Divisions 1-9, Washington Public Schools. Without his planning the Science Fair would never have existed. Nor should the invaluable efforts of Mr. Rayford, Mr. Johnson's counterpart in Divisions 10-13, be neglected.

However, this is not telling the story. After the exhibits were set up, they were judged by a board of prominent scientists. While not all the exhibitors won science grants, most felt that the important thing was to exhibit, not to win. Speaking of winning, John E. Lankford received a first grant on his exhibit about the moon. Several other NCA exhibits, including mine on variable stars, were exhibited.

As the Science Fair closed, the contestants struggled out the door of the Commerce Department with their exhibits, each vowing to come back again and win.

--Miles Davis.

CARROLL SLEMAKER has returned from Jacksonville, Florida for a short visit with his old cronies in the NCA.

NO LUNAR ECLIPSE OBSERVATIONS were made on the night of April 12-13. Why? Uncooperative skies.

PLANETS FOR MAY 1949.

MERCURY. During the first part of the month, Mercury will be its best as an evening star at a point 18° above the horizon.

VENUS. Venus is now in the evening sky reaching a point about 10° above the horizon near the end of the month.

MARS. Mars is still too close to the sun to be observed.

JUPITER. This planet is well placed for observation in the morning sky, rising about midnight.

SATURN. The planet Saturn is in the evening sky in the constellation of Leo. On the twentieth it is in quadrature and sets about midnight.

URANUS AND NEPTUNE. For those with circles on their telescopes, here are the positions of these planets for the fifteenth. Uranus: RA 5h 54m, Decl. 23° 39' N. Neptune: RA 12h 50m, Decl. 3° 34' S.

PLANETS FOR JUNE 1949.

MERCURY. This planet is in inferior conjunction on the third, hence in the morning sky. On the 28th of the month it will reach greatest western elongation.

VENUS. Venus is in the west at sunset, but too low to be observed.

MARS. Still too close to the sun to be observed.

JUPITER. The planet Jupiter is now rising a little before midnight and is visible in the southeast until dawn.

SATURN. Saturn is now a little east and north of Regulus and sets about 11:30 P.M.

URANUS AND NEPTUNE. For you lucky people with circles, here are the positions for the 15th of the month.

Uranus: RA 6h 1m, Decl. 23° 40' N. Neptune: RA 12h 48m, Decl. 3° 26' S. —John E. Lankford.

METEORS FOR MAY AND JUNE.

May.

1-6. Look for meteors from Aquarius.

11-24. Meteors may be seen coming from the star Zeta in Hercules.

30. On that night meteors will be seen coming from Pegasus.

June.

2-17. Meteors will be seen coming from the constellation of Scorpius.

15-30. In the early morning meteors will be seen coming from Cepheus.

27-30. Meteors will be seen coming from around the star Etamin in Draco.

—John E. Lankford.

VARIABLE STARS FOR A THREE INCH TELESCOPE.

(All stars listed are brighter than 8.0 magnitude)

Number	Name	Magnitude
094211	R Leonis	7.0 D
104620	V Hydrae	6.0 *
115158	Z Ursae Majoris	6.8
132706	S Virginis	7.0
154639	V Coronae Borealis	7.8
183308	X Ophiuchi	6.8 I
184208	R Scuti	4.5 *
200938	RS Cygni	7.2

"I" denotes that the star is increasing in brightness.

"D" denotes that it is decreasing.

\* means that the star needs special attention.

—Leon Campbell, Recorder, AAVSO

OCCULTATIONS

May	Star	Magnitude	Immersion E.S.T.	Edge	H.A.
4-5	1270	6.1	7:10.7 PM	Dark	1 1/2 W
5-6	1393	6.7	7:02.6 PM	Dark	1 1/2 W
7-8	1645	6.6	12:19.7 AM	Dark	4 W
7-8	1648	7.0	1:04.5 AM	Dark	5 W
8-9	1746	7.1	9:14.8 PM	Dark	0
30-31	1105	6.5	8:19.3 PM	Dark	6 W
<u>June</u>					
2-3	1485	7.2	8:45.9 PM	Dark	3 1/2 W
3-4	1603	7.1	9:25.8 PM	Dark	3 1/2 W
10-11	2366 *	1.2	9:38.3 PM	Dark	2 1/2 E

(\* Immersion time of Antares is given above.)

Emersion: 10:36.1 PM, bright edge, HA 1 1/4 E, position 251°).

—Morgan Gilley.