

Astronomical News Notes

Published by the Junior Members
of the National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D. C.

November-December 1949

Vol. 2, No. 1

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LEON CAMPBELL RETIRES FROM HARVARD

Nova Velorum, which occurred in 1940, was recently discovered by C. J. Van Houten at the Leyden Observatory in Holland. The plates of Leyden Observatory's southern station and of Harvard's South African Station showed that it reached a maximum of ninth magnitude on April 19, 1940 and that it has since faded to below the sixteenth magnitude. Its co-ordinates (Epoch 1900) are RA, 8h 55m 52s; decl., -52° 56.7'.

Dr. Shapley announced the ten most important developments of the year from October 1948 to October 1949. They included work on numerous big telescopes, the discovery of the Baade object, which will approach the earth closely nine years from now, the discovery of a new moon for Neptune, Dr. Menzel's work on the solar magnetic field, the Whipple ice comet theory, the discovery of a star that flares to three or four hundred times its minimum brightness ten times a day, new measures of color in double stars, and a series of observations of M42 in Mexico which proves that such globular clusters have large amounts of nebulosity in them, and changes the whole concept of the globular clusters.

The tenth highlight consists of measures of the radiation of the moon on the 1.25 cm. wavelength by W. W. Salisbury, using equipment lent by the office of Naval Research from a project at the Collins Radio Co.

The eclipse had little if any effect on the observed lunar temperature. The temperature of the radiating layer, which was five to ten cms. below the surface of the moon, remained practically constant at 240° absolute, although the visible surface changed greatly in temperature. The results are consistent with the extraordinary insulating effect of dust in a vacuum. A paper describing Mr. Salisbury's work will be given at the URSI meeting.

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After fifty years of meritorious service, Leon Campbell has retired from active duty at Harvard College Observatory and as Recorder of the American Association of Variable Star Observers.

In 1899, directly from high school, he came to Harvard as Prof. O. C. Wendell's observing assistant. After twelve years of service at the observatory, including three years of work on Volume Fifty-seven of the H. C. O. Annals and 12,000 variable star observations, he was sent to the Southern Station at Arequipa, Peru, as director. In 1914, he discovered comet 1914e.

Following five years at Arequipa, he returned to take Prof. Wendell's place at the fifteen-inch refractor, remaining active in the observation of his beloved variables. At the 1919 meeting of the AAVSO he became its third president, while six years later he took over the post of recording secretary. Later his job was modified and the title changed to recorder—the office that he held until this year's fall meeting. In 1928, he was appointed instructor in astronomy at Harvard College, and in 1931 he was given the title of Pickering Memorial Astronomer. Ten years later he and Luigi Jacchia collaborated on The Story of Variable Stars, one of the Harvard books on astronomy.

On the first of November, he will turn the office of Pickering Memorial Astronomer over to Mrs. Margaret W. Mayall, the new Recorder. We neophyte observers, who have watched our favorite variables circle the heavens only once, hope that Mr. Campbell's years of retirement may be as bountiful as his years of work and that the new recorder will advance the cause as much as he.

LK and DV

(2)

Planets for November and December 1949

Mercury is in the morning heavens until Nov. 21, and thereafter in the evening sky.

Venus on Nov. 20th reaches greatest eastern elongation, when it is about 17° above the horizon at sunset. On Dec. 26th, it will be of magnitude -4.4 —a swell Christmas star.

Mars rises just after midnight in Leo. On the 30th of November, Saturn and Mars are $9'$ apart, a very spectacular sight. On December 19th, Mars comes into quadrature with the sun and is in Virgo.

Jupiter is on the meridian at sundown and sets about midnight throughout November. In December it sets a few hours after the sun, and comes within 6° of Venus on the sixth.

Saturn comes into quadrature with the sun on December 11th and remains in Leo during both months. It rises about midnight.

Meteors for November and December 1949

- Nov. 1-17 Look for meteors from the head of Taurus.
- Nov. 10-17 The Leonid shower, one of the most dependable of the year, comes from the sickle of Leo.
- Dec. 12-13 Maximum is reached for the Geminids.

Meteor Observation Group

For all Juniors who are interested in meteor observation, a group will be organized at the Junior meeting on Friday, October 28th.

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Welcome to Edward H. Jones

The Junior Division welcomes its new adviser, Mr. Edward H. Jones. His energy and friendly spirit promise a bright future of mutual cooperation between the adviser and the advised. He is starting early on his campaign for more fun and more learning for NCA Juniors with a meeting of the Junior Division on Oct. 28, 1949, and let us hope that it will continue with profit to all concerned.

Meeting of the Junior Division

On Friday, October 28, 1949, at eight o'clock PM, a meeting of the NCA's Junior Division will be held at Science Service, 1719 N St., N.W. It will be a get-together, get-acquainted meeting, complete with refreshments, informal talks on the activities open to Juniors, and glorious plans for the future.

Morgan Cilley, John Lankford and Miles Davis attended the AAVSO meeting in Cambridge, Mass. on October 14-15, 1949. Several papers were given, including one on a new theory of solar prominences by Dr. D. H. Menzel of H. C. O. which will be given in greater detail at the URSI meeting which is described in Star Dust. It says that gas escaping from the poles of the sun is drawn into inverse-cone-shaped masses by a combination of the sun's magnetic field and that of the sunspots. These cone-shaped masses near the sun's equator and the solar prominences. Other papers included a description of an astronomical vacation in Europe.

Occultations for November and December 1949

Date	Star No.	Mag.	Inner.	Edge	HA
Nov. 10-11	1149	4.2	2:44.3 AM	B	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ E
Nov. 15	Saturn	1.2	8:31.1 AM	B	1W
Nov. 25	3130	5.5	5:12.9 PM	D	0
Dec. 24	3327	6.8	5:05.4 PM	D	1W
Dec. 30	472	5.0	11:26.8 PM	D	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ W

---Morgan Cilley