

Ten Most Important Astronomical Events of the Half-Century

1. Development by Albert Einstein of his Special and General Theories of Relativity.
2. Discovery of the period-luminosity relationship in Cepheid variables by Harlow Shapley.
3. The Russel-Hertzsprung theory of stellar evolution.
4. Discovery of the red-shift in the spectra of extra-galactic nebulae and the theory of the expanding universe.
5. Discovery of cosmic rays by Robert Millikan.
6. Invention of the Schmidt telescope.
7. Discovery of Pluto by Clyde W. Tombaugh.
8. Construction of 200-inch and other big telescopes.
9. Theory of nuclear reactions as a power source in stars.
10. Invention and application of the photoelectric photometer to astronomy.

---the Junior Star Dust staff

OCCULTATIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Edge</u>	<u>Magn.</u>
Jan 2	885	7:15.5 PM	D	5.6
Jan 27-28	564	1:15.7 AM	D	6.1
Jan 30-31	1008	12:21.5 AM	D	5.0
Feb 1	1169	5:14.6 AM	D	5.4
Feb 22	371	5:19.8 PM	D	6.4
Feb 25	756	6:24.2 PM	D	6.5
Feb 27-28	1088	1:49.4 AM	D	5.6
Feb 27-28	1093	2:02.2 AM	D	6.4

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REVIEW OF 1949

The horns have blown, the bells have rung, and the last chords of Auld Lang Syne have faded from our ears. It is 1950, but before we go too far into the new year, let us review what we have accomplished astronomically in 1949.

The observation of variable stars heads the list, with 350 observations reported by Morgan Cilley, 250 by Miles Davis, 30 by John Edmonds, 131 by John Holloway, 464 by John Lankford and 100 by Carl Werntz. Both the spring and fall meetings of the American Association of Variable Star Observers were attended by NCA observers, while Miles Davis and John Lankford were elected to AAVSO membership. Morgan Cilley observed three occultations during the year, while John Lankford recorded three, J. D. Crowell one, and Carl Werntz one. Donald Miller sent 500 observations of meteors to the American Meteor Society, and other members have helped the Bureau of Standards in their radar meteor study.

During the closing months of 1949, the Junior Division under its new adviser, Edward Jones, held three meetings, an organization meeting at Science Service at which Eloise Monroe was elected secretary and Miles Davis was elected chairman, a meteor observation picnic, and a lecture-observing night at the Naval Observatory with an illustrated talk by John Lankford.

1949 also marked the resignation of the former junior adviser, Grace Scholz, and her organization of the Junior Regional Newsletter, later the Junior Newsletter as it was extended over the entire Astronomical League. And so in closing, we mark that, while 1949 was a busy and profitable year, 1950 will be more so.

---John Lankford and Miles Davis

(2)

Planets for January and February 1950

Mercury, during January will be visible for about an hour after sunset low in the west. It will be about 61.7 million miles from the earth on the 19th of January. The week of February 10th is the best time to see it, low in the east at sunrise and of magnitude 0.2. On the 28th, its distance will be 131 million miles.

Venus will be in conjunction with the sun on the 31st of January, so haste is in order if you want to get a last look at it. During the last part of February, it can be seen just before sunrise very low in the east.

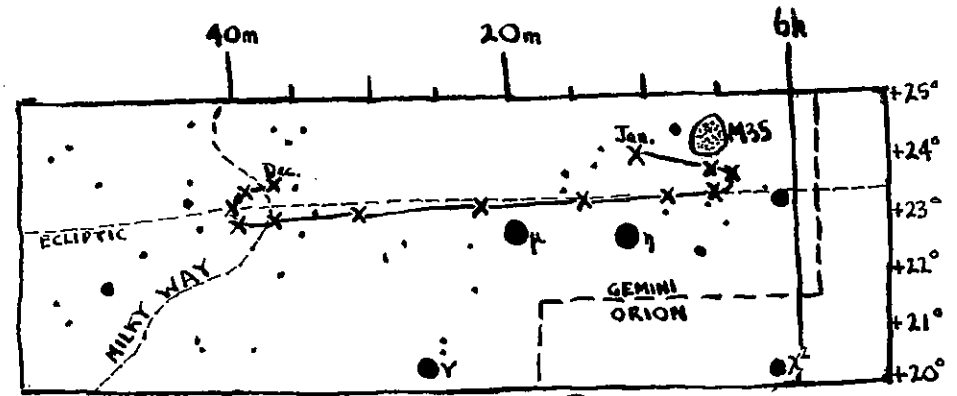
Mars is nearing opposition---a grand object in a fairly large telescope. It will rise about midnight in Virgo, and its average distance for January and February is 70 million miles.

Jupiter is too close to the sun to be observed throughout January and February.

Saturn will rise just before midnight in Virgo. The rings are edge on, and the distance on February first is 784 million miles from the earth.

Meteors for January and February 1950

<u>Date of Maximum</u>	<u>Shower</u>	<u>Radiant Point</u>
January 23	Quadrantids	Near the star Thurban in Draco.
January 17	Cygnids	Near the stars Kappa, Iota, and Theta in Cygnus.
February 5	Aurigids	Near Capella.



URANUS-1950

The x's on the chart show the position of Uranus for the first of each month, starting with January at the right.

