

Astronomical News Notes

200-inch Telescope Back in Operation

The mirror of the Hale telescope at Mt. Palomar has been aluminized and replaced in its cell. Several photographs have been made, and of them Dr. Bowen, Director of the observatory, said, "These photographs leave no doubt that the Hale is a thoroughly successful instrument."

Near DISASTER at the Naval Observatory

Astronomer Reuning of the Naval Observatory reports that a near disaster occurred at the fifteen-inch astrographic telescope located there. The call of the object lens caused it to warp, and if Mr. Reuning had not noticed the trouble, the glass could have been permanently impaired. The lens has been commended to its maker for repair.

Occultations

<u>Date</u>	<u>Star No.</u>	<u>Magn.</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Edge</u>
Feb. 28	1206	5.9	8:08.3 PM	dark
Feb. 28	1211	6.2	9:15.7 PM	dark
Mar. 23	587	6.4	8:46.3 PM	dark
Mar. 25-6	885	5.6	12:03.3 AM	dark
Mar. 26	1022	5.8	7:49.7 PM	dark
Mar. 27-8	1169	5.4	12:15.3 AM	dark

---Morgan Gilley

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JUNIOR STAR DUST

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COMING JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

At a recent meeting of the NCA Junior Division, plans were made for a number of interesting Junior activities for the spring. It was decided that Junior meetings would henceforth be held on the fourth Saturday evening of each month, beginning with this March. Since the places of meeting will have to be decided individually for each meeting, cards will be sent to the Junior members as in the past. To start the program, the March meeting, on the 25th, will feature observations of Mars and Saturn, since they are near opposition about this time. Future programs will include movies on the fundamentals of astronomy and a variable star instruction night when the weather gets a little warmer.

---Miles Davis

NOVA LACERTAE 1950

On the evening of Monday, January 23, 1950, a nova was discovered by Charles Bertaut of the Meudon Observatory near Paris, France. It was in the constellation of Lacerta, the lizard, not far from Cassiopeia. On the 25th, Science Service received word of the discovery and the same evening Morgan Gilley, John Lankford and Miles Davis of the NCA made visual estimates of its magnitude, 6.3, 6.1, and 6.5, respectively. Also the same night, J. S. Hall and A. H. Mikesell determined the magnitude as 6.10 with a photoelectric photometer. These observations were the first reported in the United States.

---LK and DV

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Planets for March and April 1950

Mercury during March is poorly placed for observation. On the 22nd of April it will be very well placed, 18° above the horizon at sunset.

Venus in March and April will rise about two hours before the sun. It attains its greatest distance west on April 11.

Mars---At last! Mars again rolls into opposition. The great event occurs on March 23rd, and the planet will be nearest the earth on the 27th. Mars is halfway between Spica and Saturn and of magnitude -1.1, diameter $14.4''$. In April it will be well up in the east at sunset and will have moved toward Saturn.

Jupiter will be visible just before sunrise in the south-east by the end of March. During April it will rise about two hours before the sun.

Saturn will come into opposition on the 7th of March. It will be located in Leo halfway between Mars and Regulus. On the evening of April 28th, there will be a close conjunction of Saturn and the moon.

Uranus and Juno---See page three of this issue and the January-February issue for ephemeris and charts.

---J. E. Lankford

Meteors for March and April 1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Radiant</u>	
Mar. 10-12	Bootids	Between Corona Borealis and Boötes.	
April 20-22	Lyrids	Near Vega.	--D.L.Miller

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Ephemeris of Juno 1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>R.A.</u>	<u>Decl.</u>	<u>Magn.</u>
2/18/50	12N 8.50M	-0° 52'	9.5
2/28/50	12N 2.18M	+0° 39'	9.3
3/10/50	11N 54.51M	+2° 12'	9.2
3/20/50	11N 46.51M	+3° 47'	9.2
3/30/50	11N 39.12M	+5° 10'	9.4
4/9/50	11N 32.44	+6° 32'	9.6

---U. S. Naval Observatory
Circular No. 5.

Ephemeris of Uranus, 1950

<u>Date</u>	<u>R.A.</u>	<u>Decl.</u>
March 1	6N 4M	+ 23° 42
April 1	6 5	23 42
May 1	6 9	23 41
June 1	6 15	23 39
July 1	6 23	23 36
Aug. 1	6 31	23 31
Sept. 1	6 37	23 27
Oct. 1	6 40	23 24
Nov. 1	6 40	23 25
Dec. 1	6 37	23 29

---American Ephemeris and
Nautical Almanac, 1950