

various activities in which an association such as ours can participate, and offered to help establish activities that members wish to undertake.

Dr. Woolard conducted the members on an astronomical tour of the National Museum on January 23d. The trip included the geological section, exhibit of meteorites, the Aztec calendar stone in the Mayan section, Babylonian boundary stones, and the cast of the Rosetta Stone.

On Saturday, July 22d, twenty-four members and friends held a picnic on the Palisades Field House grounds. The weather was exceptionally fine and except for interference from lights nearby, conditions for observing were good. Five or six telescopes were set up and several passersby stopped to have a peek.

About half a dozen of us met at Montrose Park on August 12th to watch for meteors falling from the Perseid meteor shower. The weather was stiflingly hot and humid with the sky partly overcast, and hazy in the areas free from clouds. Under these adverse conditions only one meteor was reported. Two telescopes were set up, but visibility was not satisfactory.

IN MEMORIAM

Friends of Col. Robert P. Parrott were shocked to hear of his recent death at Mt. Alto Hospital after an illness of several months.

Colonel Parrott joined the NCAAA shortly after it was organized and gave his wholehearted support. He was active on committees and did a great deal to promote the welfare of the organization. He was also a member of some professional astronomical societies and was widely known in other technical fields.

The Association extends deep sympathy to Mrs. Parrott who was also one of our members.

STAR DUST

National Capital
Amateur Astronomers Association
Washington, D. C.

September 1944 Vol. 2, No. 1

- President, Dr. Edgar W. Woolard, 1232 30th St. N. W. Michigan 3287
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- Treasurer, Mr. George L. Skirm, 4304 Brandywine St. N.W. Woodley 1216
- Secretary, Miss Dorothy F. Harris, 1621 F Street, N.W. Dupont 4200

SEPTEMBER 9TH is the date of the annual meeting at the Palisades Field House. Bring lunch for a picnic supper at 7 p.m. or come later for the election of officers and other business at 8, followed by observations if the weather permits.

Reach the Field House at stop 15 on the Glen Echo-Cabin John car line, or drive out MacArthur Boulevard from Georgetown, turn left on Dana Place, then right at Sherrier to Edmunds.

THESE EXCERPTS FROM THE BY-LAWS are thought to be timely:

Art. III, Sec. 3. No member shall have any privileges over those enjoyed by any other member, irrespective of the type or class of membership.

Art. VI, Sec. 1. Fifteen members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present at any meeting of the Association at which a vote is taken committing it to any proposal or action.

Art. VI, Sec. 2. Only members in good standing shall have the right to vote. To be in good standing, a member's annual dues must not be in arrears for more than two months.

IN SUMMARIZING THE PROGRESS of the Association for the year just ended, we have reports from some of the officers and committees:

At a time when many amateur groups are finding it necessary to discontinue entirely their meetings and activities, the NCAAA may take satisfaction in having been able to continue so well during the past year. It is a matter for regret that some of the former activities have had to be discontinued or curtailed; the primary measure of success, however, is not a large number of members or a great variety of different activities, but rather the amount of interest and enthusiasm shown by the members in the particular activities that can be carried on. The record of the past year gives promise of an equally favorable coming year, and encouragement to look forward to a time when both membership and activities may be expanded.

---Edgar W. Woolard, President

Treasurer's Annual Statement

September 1, 1943 to August 31, 1944

<u>Receipts</u>	
Bank balance Sept. 1, 1943	\$229.14
Dues, etc.	112.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
"Star Dust"	\$37.05
Hall for meetings	21.00
Postage and stationery	18.74
Printing	12.20
Fee returned	2.00
Bank balance Aug. 31, 1944	250.15
Totals	<u>\$341.14</u> <u>\$341.14</u>

---Geo. L. Skirm, Treasurer

Lecture Committee. The NCAAA is in a favorable position to secure speakers for its lecture meetings, because of the large number of eminent scientists residing in Washington, and the temporary presence of many others now on war work. The Lecture Committee secured speakers for seven of the meetings during the year and also arranged for attendance of the members at an astronomical conference at Science Service in March. The Committee is indebted to other members of the NCAAA for suggesting some of these programs. The speakers included three professional astronomers--Dr. Keenan of the Yerkes Observatory, and Dr. Herget and Dr. Eckert of the Nautical Almanac Office--and two professional scientists from related fields--Dr. Heyl of the National Bureau of Standards, and Mr. Marmier of the Coast and Geodetic Survey; in addition, Mrs. Margaret Ionides Cochran and Dr. Woolard spoke as amateur astronomers.

---Edgar W. Woolard, Chairman.

Membership Committee presented nine applications all of which were accepted.

Publications Committee. After a trial of ten months, "Star Dust" begins its second volume with hopes of becoming a stronger link between members and a medium of expression for the Association. In its ten issues, the bulletin has presented 22 contributions by eleven members of NCAAA. We thank those who have participated and should like to hear from others as well.

It has been our aim to stimulate reading by all of the members rather than by a small committee, with the result that five books were reviewed in "Star Dust."

---Mabel Sterns, Chairman.

Entertainment Committee. On October 23, 1943, thirty members and friends of the Association attended a dinner at the Kenesaw Apartments to welcome the new president, Dr. Woolard; and Mrs. Woolard. Dr. Woolard spoke on the history of astronomy and also pointed out