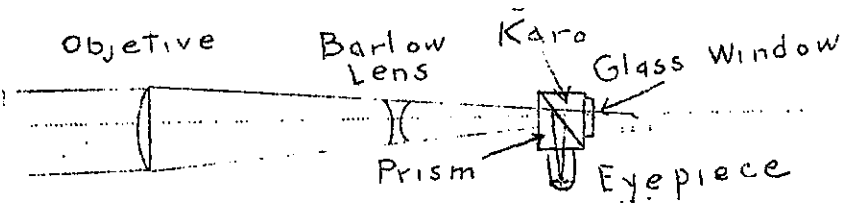


KARO SYRUP USED IN TELESCOPE

Quite often the amateur astronomer has an urge to view the sun and its attendant phenomena, but if proper equipment is not available it is a very dangerous thing to do. The usual procedure is to view the sun by projecting the image on a screen, but this is not as satisfactory as viewing directly.

The writer has recently constructed a sun telescope which is not too complicated for the average amateur to make. With it wonderful views of the sun may be had directly. The ball of fire stands out in contrast to the midnight black surrounding sky.

It is made of an objective of small diameter and rather short focus to reduce illumination, a Barlow lens to reduce still more, a 90° prism in a metal box which has been made liquid tight and filled with white Karo Syrup, and the usual eyepiece. This prism box is fitted with a small window of ordinary glass in the rear in order to let 90% to 95% of the light and heat escape. The remainder is transmitted to the eyepiece and it has been the writer's experience that no shade glass is needed.



---F. A. Kummell, 6244 Eastern Ave. N. E.

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"HOW WE GET THE TIME" will be the subject of a lecture by Mr. H. M. Bendler on Saturday, October 7, 8 p.m., in Room 43, U.S. National Museum. Mr. Bendler is a member of the Time Service and Zenith Tube Division, U. S. Naval Observatory.

A brief account of the historical development of the Time Service, and a description of the modern methods and instruments used in determining time from the stars and distributing it to the public is given in an article by the Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory, Capt. J. F. Hellweg, "United States Navy Time Service," Public. Astronom. Soc. of the Pacific, 52:17-24, 1940 Feb.

---Edgar W. Woolard

THE OFFICERS LISTED ABOVE were elected at the September meeting held at Palisades Field House. In addition, Mrs. Ray K. Windham was elected trustee for a term of four years. The other trustees are Dr. Woolard, Major Lyons, and Mr. Peterson.

Committees will be announced at the next meeting.

MEMBERS ARE INVITED to suggest subjects for discussion groups which they would be interested in attending during the coming winter. Groups that are desired by a sufficient number of members will be formed if leaders can be found. Some topics suggested last year are listed in "Star Dust" for October 1943.

Dr. Woolard is willing to conduct a series of monthly meetings on the "History of Astronomy Since the Invention of the Telescope," to supplement the general survey given last winter of the development of the fundamental principles of astronomy from ancient Babylonian and Egyptian times to the opening of the modern period.

ONE MONTH, sometimes less, is hardly sufficient time for the incoming president to engage a speaker for the next meeting, appoint committees, and outline a program for the year, in addition to his regular duties outside the organization. That is all the time allowed under the by-laws, Art. IV, Sec. 1, which provide that "The officers...shall be elected by ballot at the first meeting of the Association in the month of September of every year..."

Discussion of this matter favored an election at the last meeting in the spring, electees to take office in September. Thereby the outgoing officers would continue their summer program and the incoming ones would have ample time to arrange programs for fall meetings and appoint committees to start work at the opening of the new year. Such a plan would allow the month of September for regular activities instead of bringing everything to a full stop, reorganizing, and starting momentum again.

An amendment to the by-laws will be submitted at the next meeting, to be voted upon in November.

MAJOR LYONS HAS RETURNED to his old stand at the Naval Observatory after spending a year and a half or so at Army posts elsewhere. We hope he will be with us regularly from now on.

"WHEN THE COMET STRUCK," appearing in the Saturday Evening Post for September 9th, rambles all over the lot about the meteor crater in Arizona and Siberia and surrounds them with a dramatic, "Men-from-Mars" atmosphere. After wading through three pages of ifs, it-may-be-assumed, there-probably-was, and the like, it seems that aerial photographs of the Atlantic Coastal Plain area roughly 80 miles wide and 400 miles long, extending from Virginia into Georgia, reveal thousands of depressions in the earth resembling meteor craters. Many of them are two and a half to four miles across.

No date is given for this discovery, but in 1933 some scientists studied the region and reported that the pits were the result of an impact with a comet consisting of a swarm of giant meteors. The pictures show the depressions are regular, rounded, almost circular in shape, and so arranged that the long axes are parallel with each other, oriented northwest-southeast. Magnetometer tests "seem" to indicate the presence of metal southeast of certain bays.

Some geologists disagree with the astronomers' theory of a comet, so the question is still unsolved.

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Go to your tower, where busy science plies
Her vast antennae, feeling through the skies;
That little vernier, on whose slender lines
The midnight taper trembles as it shines,
A silent index, tracks the planets' march
In all their wanderings through the ethereal arch,
Tells through the mist where dazzled Mercury burns,
And marks the spot where Uranus returns.

---Holmes