

and making ourselves generally useful. Each of us is able to answer a few questions and identify some of the objects, all of which will add to the success of the evening. The park service is anxious to have our help. If we respond, public observations may become a regular activity. Call Miss Wagner or Mr. Lyons (Woodley 3284).

National Capital
Amateur Astronomers Association
Washington, D.C.

September 1945

Vol. 3, No. 1

DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS have never been clearly defined with the result that there has been no uniformity in keeping financial records, membership records, and many other details. This has caused embarrassment to the society at times and at best is unbusinesslike. New officers are unfamiliar with past practice and have no guide for reference. A study is now under way to determine who does what and how and the conclusions will be presented at the next business meeting. Bring your brick-bats and bouquets so we can polish up a smoothly running system.

President-elect, Leo W. Scott, 5013 Wakefield Road, Green Acres, Maryland. Oliver 5013.
Vice President-elect, Ray K. Windham, 4885 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda 14, Maryland. Wisconsin 6342.
Treasurer-elect, Eugene S. Henning, 205 North Edison Street, Arlington, Virginia. Chestnut 7464.
Secretary, Mrs. Wm. P. Harris, Jr., 4315 Chesapeake Street N.W. (16). Woodley 3284.

AVAILABLE AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY: "Telescopes and Accessories," George Z. Dimitroff and James G. Baker. Harvard Books on Astronomy. 1945. A non-mathematical introduction to the principal instruments and procedures of use in astronomical observations.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 8 p.m. at the National Museum, Mr. E. P. Henderson of the Smithsonian Institution will give us "Some Interesting Facts About Meteors." (And he has some, too, as we found when we peeked into his domain last spring.)

33 METEORS, 30 of them Perseids, was the official count by Mr. Lyons at Windham's, not including those the others saw. Five were very bright--3 with zero magnitude and two with a slight, audible swish. One left a trail from 40-45° for several seconds, and another streaked through the Big Dipper for 25°. They were most numerous between 10 and 10:30 and were clouded over by 1 o'clock.

Associate Curator of Mineralogy, Mr. Henderson has also been acting for Dr. Foshag in the latter's absence. Author of several articles and descriptions of individual meteorites, which appeared in "Scientific Monthly," "American Mineralogist," and other publications. The speaker is interested in all phases of geology and attended the last International Geological Congress in Leningrad. He also made an extensive tour of Japan and Ceylon, among other places, where he visited universities and museums and exchanged specimens of rare minerals.

THE ECLIPSE brought only five amateurs with the Association's telescope to the foot of the Monument where a number of passers-by stopped for a view of the phenomenon. Clouds partially obscured the sun while we watched the moon slide across.

STAR DUST carried 19 contributions and one full page design by 14 authors during the past year. It is only with such cooperation that the bulletin is possible. It depends entirely on you for its contents and the extent of your help marks its success or failure.

Mabel Sterns, Editor. 2517 K Street N.W. Dis. 9422.

1945 GOALS

During the coming year there seem to be several goals toward which our association should head.

First, the prime object of the association is to further the study and appreciation of the stars. I know of no better way that this can be done than by direct observation of the stars themselves. Hence we should seek means to have more observation nights, with the observations so planned that a large variety of objects can be seen. It would be well if a base were prepared for the tripod legs of the five-inch telescope so that the setting circles can be used. In this way more difficult, but interesting, objects can be exhibited.

The association has an excellent chance to further astronomical knowledge in the general public by cooperating with the park service in holding public observation nights in the various city parks.

Second, the association should look toward means for extending its membership to a more varied people. For instance, we have very few young people on our membership rolls. Any society which does not attract young people is headed for extinction. We might arrange observation periods at the local schools in cooperation with the science departments.

Third, now that war is over we should look forward to arranging an early return to the Naval Observatory. If and when this is accomplished, perhaps we could prepare a concrete base for our telescope to increase its usefulness.

Your president would be glad to hear from anyone having ideas for furthering these objectives.

---Leo W. Scott

COMMITTEES 1945-46

Lecture: U. S. Lyons. Speakers have been chosen for the first four months this season.

Publications: Grace C. Scholz.

Observations: Marion F. Wagner, chairman; Helen Harris. Plans are under way for a committee meeting as this goes to press, and further activities in September.

Telescope Making: Clarence A. Peterson.

Membership: Ray K. Windham.

Entertainment: vacant.

Publicity: Mabel Sterns, chairman; Dorothy Harris. Notices of lectures will be sent to Sky and Telescope; Washington News, Post, Star, and Times-Herald; Informal Education distributed by the Public Library; bulletin of the Washington Board of Trade; and if possible, posted on bulletin boards of various government agencies.

Additional committeemen will be announced as appointed. Chairmen are asked to notify the editor of committee meetings and developments. Anyone wishing to serve on a committee will be welcomed.

PUBLIC STAR STUDY September 16th, Sunday, 8:30 to 10 p.m. at Barnard Hill Park, adjacent to 26th and Randolph Street N.E. Meet in open place at top of hill. If the sky is cloudy, the event will be canceled.

Mr. Lyons is chief stargazer. This is one of the Natl. Capital Parks outings and one of our best opportunities to introduce people to wonders of the skies. Miss Wagner (Wis. 7388) has asked that we volunteer telescopes and aid in answering questions, pointing out constellations,