

Telescope, Vice President; Mrs. Margaret Back, Detroit, Secretary; Carl P. Richards, Salem, Ore., Treasurer. Appointed by the Council: Neal J. Heines, Solar Div., AAVSO, Councilor; James B. Rothschild, Washington, Executive Secretary and Councilor. Science Service is allowing the League to use space at its offices, 1719 N St., N.W., for headquarters. The convention next year will be held about July 4th at Milwaukee.

National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D. C.

September 1947

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OCCULTATION PREDICTIONS

Morgan Cilley

Sept	Star	Magnitude	Immersion
23	248 B Sgr	5.6	6h 17m PM EST
26	3102	6.9	6h 57m PM EST
27	Tau/Aqr	4.2	6h 44m PM EST

All occur on the dark edge.

DR. A. D. MAXWELL succeeds Dr. W. A. Calder as Professor of Astronomy at Howard University. Prior to joining the Naval Observatory a year ago as senior astronomer in the Nautical Almanac Office, Dr. Maxwell taught at the University of Michigan for 19 years, the last nine of which he served as associate professor of astronomy. He earned his doctorate at the University of California in 1927.

Dr. Maxwell has specialized in comet orbits and asteroids. He recently computed the orbit of Wirtanen's comet discovered at Lick Observatory July 18. He assumes his new post September 1st.

Dr. Calder leaves to work with Agnes Scott College, Emory University, and Georgia Tech near Atlanta. Howard University has acquired his 12-inch reflector and mounted it on the roof, with a run-off housing on rails. There is also a 5-inch refractor on a portable pier.

"SKY AND TELESCOPE", \$3 a year, Sky Publishing Corporation, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge 38, Mass., is renewable for many members. If you are not familiar with this magazine, see a copy at the next meeting.

Mabel Sterns, editor, 2517 K Street N.W. District 9422

Sept.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 5 Constellation study, 8 p.m. Naval Observatory.
- 6 8 p.m., room 43 National Museum; "The Development of the Astronomical Telescope," Dr. Irvine C. Gardner, Bureau of Standards.
- 20 Discussion group, topic to be announced, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium.
- 22 Observation at the 5-inch, 8 p.m. "Surface Features of the Moon." If the sky is overcast at 7 p.m., it will be postponed until the 23d.
- 27 NCA night at the 12-inch, 8 p.m. Naval Observatory.

"DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPE," is Dr. Irvine C. Gardner's topic in September. The principles of design and construction of the astronomical telescope will be presented upon an historical framework. The lecture will cover early telescope makers: Galileo, Kepler, Huygens, Newton, and Dolland; early makers of large telescopes: Fraunhofer, Earl of Rosse; American makers: Clark, Lundin, Brashear, Ritchie, and Anderson; and the modern Schmidt camera.

A NEW PROGRAM OF OBSERVATION starts this month under the direction of Carroll Slemaker. The first will be Monday, September 22, or if the weather is unfavorable, postponed until the following night.

Mr. Cilley will continue with variable star observations by the junior members. Miss Irene Warthen has led constellation study throughout the spring and summer, devoting one evening each week to it although the skies were often cloudy. With the last meeting September 5th, the series will be discontinued until further request.

DUES FOR 1947-48 are payable to Mr. Abraham Robinson, incoming Treasurer. It will be a great help to him if members are prepared to pay him at the business meeting.

DISCUSSION GROUP will reconvene the third Saturdays at the same place as last year, with Bob Wright in charge. Under his leadership, the program is expected to be even more popular than last year.

TELESCOPE CLASS has been meeting Wednesdays at Central High School during the summer with R. M. McLellan, instructor. It will continue there until other arrangements are made.

NCA NIGHT AT THE 12-INCH Saturday, September 27th, has been arranged by Mr. Delaney through the courtesy of Mr. Gilley who will be chief stargazer, and the Naval Observatory. Remember to bring your membership card for any event at the Observatory.

SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S REPORT

Bank balance August 31, 1946	\$268.99	
Total receipts	196.76	
Unrecoverable expenses		\$146.35
Expenses toward inventory		189.53
Bank balance August 1, 1947		129.87
	<u>\$465.75</u>	<u>\$465.75</u>

STATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

	<u>Fiscal Year</u>	
	1947	1946
Regular members	68	51
Junior members	17	10
Honorary members	3	4
	<u>88</u>	<u>65</u>

Twenty-five regular members and ten juniors joined this year. One of the latter became regular; a few regular members hold joint memberships. Several were separated from the list for non-payment of dues.

TRUSTEES' MEETINGS are required at least once a year. Four were called during 1946-47, three of them jointly with the officers.

COMMEMORATING OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY, Miss Scholz has traced the development of our society by searching the minutes, pictures, newspaper accounts, individuals' scrapbooks and memories to compile a history that will prove a valuable part of our records.

METEOR NIGHT, August 11, at Argyle Country Club attracted 28 members, a few comets, and a blanket of clouds. Total meteor count by all observers was 26. Clouds broke up the gathering about 11 o'clock. Lyle Johnson at La Plata, Md., plotted 40 meteors in one evening.

PUBLIC OBSERVATION at Barnard Hill Park drew about 150 gazers and five scopes from the NCA July 27th. Skies were favorable and considerable interest was evinced. It was planned to have a public address system and several more telescopes for the program August 17th as well as a news photographer until heavy clouds cancelled it. That concluded the series for this year under the auspices of the National Capital Parks.

CONVENTION OF AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS LEAGUE

More than 200 persons, the largest attendance since national meetings have been held, registered for the convention at Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, July 4-6. NCA was represented by: delegates G. R. Wright, George Skirm, and Mabel Sterns; Grace Scholz and Carl Werntz on the temporary committee on junior activities; Janet Perkins, R. M. McLellan, Irene Warthen, Margaret Glock, Leroy Benfer, David Rotbart, John D'Ancelet, Martha Stewart, Maurice Delaney, Carroll Slemaker, Walter Gilbert, George Flachy.

Mr. Rotbart won a prize with his machine-gun camera and specially designed camera for comet trails. Miss Scholz has been appointed by Dr. Shapley as chairman of the Committee on Junior Activities. Further reports will be given at the business meeting.

Elected to take office in September: Edward A. Halbach, Milwaukee, President; Charles A. Federer, Sky and