

NEW MEMBERS

- Clay P. Butler, 4004 Nichols Ave. S.W. (20) LU-3956
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Edmonds, 3141 Mt. Pleasant St. N.W. (10) Hobart 5961
- F. F. Reed, 5830 Chevy Chase Parkway (15) EM-1629
- \*James S. Culp, 2825 Northampton St. N.W. (15) OR-1826
- \*Andrew M. Reed, 5830 Chevy Chase Parkway (15) EM-1629

OCCULTATIONS

Morgan Cilley and Edgar W. Woolard

March	Star	Magnitude	Time EST	Hour	Angle	Edge
14	391	7.4	8:04 PM	5	W	Dark
16	676	7.1	10:46 PM	6	W	"
18	994	6.5	9:30 PM	2 3/4	W	"
22	1544	5.7	7:03 PM	3 1/2	E	"
28	2290	2.5	11:13 PM	4 1/2	E	Bright

NOTIFY EDITOR BY MARCH 6 if you want to prepare a paper to be read at national convention in July. Fifteen-minute subjects: telescopes, comets, meteors, eclipses, solar research. Probably related subjects also; must be of interest to amateur astronomers. In case several papers are submitted, selection will have to be made. All entries may be read before the NCA.

NCA DOINGS

A sample survey shows: E. P. Jenkins is working on photographic lens designs...Carroll Slemaker observes the sun, variable stars, occultations, photographs moon, planets...Leroy Benfer, astrophotography, lens coatings...Charles Drayton, making a telescope, writing a book on general science for junior high school students...Irene Warthen, building a 4" scope and more astronomical demonstration gadgets...Herbert Alvord, an 8"...William Evans, Schmidt telescopes, spectroscopic inventions, aspherics...Leo Carroll, variable star observations...John Lankford, observations of planets with emphasis on Mars...Robert Harrison, 6" scope...Harriet Hutzler, 8" scope...Nathan Apple, 8"...Bob Wright built Foucault test, spectroscope, another gadgeteer...Charles Little says the most difficult part of building his meteor radar is done.  
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 Mabel Sterns, editor, 2517 K Street N.W. (7) DI-9422

STAR DUST

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Date MARCH PROGRAM

- 6 "The 1947 Eclipse Expedition to Brazil," Leo W. Scott and Franklin Kral, National Museum, 8 p.m.
- 13 Visit to the 40-inch, Naval Observatory, 8 p.m. U.S. Lyons conducting. If clouded out, 5-inch night will be March 18.
- 16 Junior night at the 5-inch, 8 p.m. Carl Werntz.
- 20 Discussion group, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium. G. R. Wright.

Mondays ) Telescope making, 6:30 to 9:51 p.m. room  
 Wednesdays) 235, McKinley High School. R. M. McLellan,  
 Thursdays ) instructor.

LEO SCOTT AND FRANKLIN KRAL, joint speakers at the March meeting, were official members of the National Geographic Society-Army Air Forces eclipse expedition to Brazil last year. Mr. Scott, ex-president of NCA, will show color slides taken by the Natl. Geographic Society of the eclipse preparations. Mr. Kral, formerly an NCA and recently reinstated after his return to Washington, will project his own 8 mm. film of the trip and the eclipse itself. Both are on the staff of the Bureau of Standards.

FORTY PUPILS AND PARENTS of Mrs. Dorothy Stafford's Sunday School class of All Souls' Church turned out February 15 to see the moon and planets through Carroll Slemaker's 3 1/2" reflector. Place of observation was upper Meridian Park. Because more telescopes failed to appear, we have invited the group again in April when we will make a better showing.

5-INCH NIGHT AND THE SPECIAL EVENT will be combined Saturday, March 13 in a visit to the 40-inch reflector at the Naval Observatory. This is the first time our society has been privileged to use the instrument. Arrangements were made through the courtesy of Mr. U. S. Lyons.

The 40-inch dome is the largest one on the right of the driveway a short distance from the first Y in the road. Keep to the right instead of going straight ahead. If the event is clouded out, 5" night will be held Thursday, March 18.

The visit to the meteorite section of the Museum as announced in February was cancelled. We were unsuccessful in making arrangements.

DISCUSSION GROUP drew a larger attendance in February than ever before. Bob Wright exhibited a spectroscope of his own construction, then introduced Charles Drayton who led with a question on light. For the next hour and a quarter there was a lively discussion of spectroscopy and what it reveals. There followed a quiz on astronomy and a demonstration of Miss Warthen's orrery.

March 20 is the date of the next discussion. Topic will be announced.

JUNIOR NIGHT AT THE 5-INCH was well attended. The portable 6" reflector also was put to use in viewing the planets. Next observation will be Tuesday, March 16, 8 p.m. when Carl Werntz will focus on the moon.

#### BOOKS

"How to Find the Stars and Planets," published by the Cincinnati Observatory. Mr. Robinson will have several copies at 25¢ each.

"On the Astronomical Dating of the Earth's Crust," Harlow Shapley. Pub. 3872, Smithsonian Institution, 1947 (pp. 139/150 of the 1946 Smithsonian Report.)

"Atomic Power in the Laboratory and in the Stars," Robert S. Richardson. Pub. 3873, Smithsonian Institution, 1947. (pp. 151/160, 1946 Smithsonian Report.)

Two reprints of excellent short papers (1945) by the Harvard and Mount Wilson astronomers, respectively. The first is an interesting discussion of some of the significant factors in general cosmogony, and astronomical evidence and considerations which must enter into formulation of an acceptable theory of the origin and career of the earth. The second paper explains the differences between the nuclear reactions in the sun and stars, and those developed in the laboratory, culminating in the nuclear fission of uranium. The essential unity of the theoretical work of the astronomer and the physicist in investigating the structure of matter is pointed out.

---R. J. Hinckley

"One, Two, Three...Infinity," George Gamow, Viking Press, N.Y. 1947. 340 pp. \$4.75. (Brentano's; Public Library.) A collection of interesting facts and speculations in many fields of modern science. The four main divisions of the book are headed: Playing with Numbers (some problems of higher mathematics); Space, Time and Einstein (relativity and space-time relationships); Microcosmos (molecules, atoms, and cells); and Macrocosmos. The last named section, consisting of 66 pages, is of particular interest for its sketch of astronomy, a detailed discussion of the neutrino theory of the collapse of supernovae, and recent developments in planetary theory. The astronomical chapters are short because of coverage of much of the subject matter in earlier popular works by the author.

The book is written in the usual entertaining popular style of Dr. Gamow, and profusely illustrated with his drawings. There are a few misprints and inaccuracies, and despite the disarming, informal style, there are spots of difficult reading owing to the complicated concepts treated.

---R. J. Hinckley