

MR. KRAL AND MR. SCOTT entertained a packed house with motion pictures and running comment on the 1947 eclipse, at the February lecture. Mr. Kral showed his own pictures, Mr. Scott was commentator. Then followed a reel photographed by the National Geographic Society. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the program.

OBSERVATION AT THE 40-INCH drew a large crowd. In fact, it looked like Navy Day. NCAs and their guests filled the dome of the 40-inch, the 5-inch house, some were in the Administration Building and scattered about the grounds. Those who stood in line long enough, saw the moon, Orion nebula, Saturn, and Mars.

It may be well to hold future events for NCAs only, now that our membership has increased, and for a while, at least, we must require that each junior member 12 or under be accompanied at the 5-inch or special activity by a regular member. Discipline will be enforced.

"ENERGY SPECTRA OF SOME OF THE BRIGHTER STARS," C.G. Abbot and L.B. Aldrich, Pub. 3914, Smithsonian Institution, Feb. 27, 1948, 9 pp. (1 plate). A preliminary technical report by two Smithsonian scientists describing their observations of the distribution of energy in the spectra of stars. Radiometer measurements were taken of eight stars at Mount Wilson in September 1947. Results were highly tentative and not productive of satisfactory spectral energy curves. More conclusive results are anticipated from a 1948 expedition and possible future use of the 200-inch. ---R. J. Hinckley

OCCULTATIONS

Morgan Gilley and Edwar W. Woolard						
April	Star	Magnitude	Time EST	H. A.	Edge	
15	1105	6.5	9:57 PM	4 W	Dark	
16	1251	5.9	10:46 PM	4 W	"	
18	1393	6.7	12:47 AM	5 W	"	
18	1499	7.3	8:08 PM	1/2 E	"	
19	1514	6.1	12:40 AM	4 W	"	
20	1733	5.2	7:05 PM	3 E	"	
21	1749	6.1	1:36 AM	3 1/2 W	"	

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STAR DUST  
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- Date APRIL CALENDAR
- 3 "Solar Spectrum from V-2 Rockets," Dr. John J. Hopfield, 8 p.m. National Museum.
  - 15 Thursday, 8 p.m. 5-inch night at Naval Observatory for regular members and guests. Alternate, April 29. Carroll Slemaker.
  - 16 Junior night at the 5-inch, 8 p.m. Alternate, April 18. Carl Werntz.
  - 17 Hobby show, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium.
- Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, telescope making, room 235 McKinley High School, 6:30 to 9:51 p.m.

DR. JOHN J. HOPFIELD, Johns Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory, will illustrate his lecture, "Solar Spectrum from V-2 Rockets," with 16 mm films of rockets taking off; pictures of the earth taken from a rocket, and slides of the solar spectra.

The ultraviolet spectrum as seen from the earth is cut off at 3000 Angstroms due to the absorbing blanket of air. Photographs taken from V-2 rockets well above that layer give surprising results: The continuum of the spectrum falls off in intensity much more rapidly than one would expect using the black body of radiation law and assuming temperature of the sun to be 6000° K.; they also reveal strong absorption regions of Mg2 at about 2800 A. The novel feature is that there are emission spectra overlying the absorption. These spectra apparently originate in the magnesium cloud and the prominences in the sun above the reversing layer.

HOBBY SHOW APRIL 17. The last one was a success and the next should be even larger. In view of all the projects under way, we expect a fine showing of scopes, charts, rare books, models, photographs, drawings, and gadgets. Bring whatever you have: we want to see it. Visitors will enjoy the exhibit, too. Foyer of Commerce Auditorium; G. R. Wright, promoter.

DISCUSSION GROUP in March heard Mr. Lyons recount the difficulties that beset the television broadcast from the 40-inch March 18. In spite of inauspicious preliminaries (no rehearsal because of clouds, breakage of \$1700 cathode ray tube, and other incidents) the broadcast was a complete success. It takes only a little imagination to visualize a regular program of popular astronomy.

Mr. Young interrupted a business trip in order to spend an hour with the group. He delighted his hearers with a travelogue of his visits to observatories, planetariums, and the binocular assembly section of Bausch & Lomb.

Fifty views of amateur observatories were projected showing slide-off roofs; domes with petal, hatch, single and double shutters, portable, canvas covered, and solid framework; observatories square, round, and perched on larger buildings, constructed of brick, stone, lumber, woven wire, asbestos shingles, and wall-board. Discussion of NCA plans was cut short by time.

5-INCH NIGHT, Thursday, April 15, will observe the moon. If weather is unfavorable, April 29 will be the alternate night. This event is for regular members.

JUNIOR NIGHT was clouded out in March. Next observation will be Friday, April 16, or the 18th if cloudy. Anyone under 12 must be accompanied by an adult on the Observatory grounds. Likewise, any regular member should be accompanied by a junior at this event.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE--U. S. Lyons, chairman; Janet Perkins, Franklin H. May--will report at the April meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor as well. Annual election of officers and one trustee held in May.

NCA EXHIBIT CHAIRMAN for the amateur astronomers' conventions at Pittsburgh in May and Milwaukee in July is Leroy H. Benfer. Entries in the hobby show and science fairs may be suitable. We hope to have a number at both exhibits. Please notify Mr. Benfer (Warfield 8360) what you expect to submit.

Mr. Benfer has been appointed also to the Instruments Section of the Astronomical League. In recognition of his specialized experience in coating lenses, Mr. Halbach, League President, has asked him to serve on the committee the purpose of which is to correlate telescope making and other instrumental activities of amateur astronomers.

MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION of the Astronomical League to meet May 14-16 at Pittsburgh, Pa. Business sessions will be held in the Lecture Hall of Buhl Planetarium, Federal and Ohio Streets. Hotel accommodations at Fort Pitt Hotel. Make your own reservation well in advance. Registration \$1; each individual will arrange for his own meals and transportation.

"Get acquainted meeting" in connection with regular meeting of AAA of Pittsburgh, Friday 8:15 p.m. First business session of convention Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Visit Allegheny Observatory that evening. Sunday: planetarium show, conducted sightseeing tour.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- Mrs. F. J. Sisson, 1882 Columbia Road, N.W. CO-3340  
\*Javier Pazos, 6435 Barnaby St. N.W. (15) Emerson 0160  
\*Carter Oliver Timmons, 5316 28th St. N.W. Ordway 3992  
\*Bobby Zupnik, 5348 29th Street N.W. Emerson 3000  
\*Harrison Bordner, 6500 Barnaby St. N.W. Woodley 0616  
\*Douglas Anderson, 3332 Tennyson St. N.W. Emerson 8991