

work by noted scholars of the world. Of particular interest are: "Newton," by E. N. du C. Andrade, pp. 3/23; "Newton the Man," by the late Lord Keynes, pp. 27/34; and "Newton's Contribution to Observational Astronomy," by Dr. W. Adams (USA), pp. 73/81. (At Library of Congress.)

OCCULTATIONS

Morgan Gilley and H. E. Burton

Sept.	Object	Magnitude	Immersion	Hour	Angle
6	Mars	1.5	5:06 PM	2	W
9	2420	7.4	7:10 PM	1 1/2	W
11	2727	7.2	9:18 PM	2	W
13	2998	6.2	7:34 PM	1 1/2	E
13	3012	6.7	11:50 PM	3	W
14	3141	6.0	11:13 PM	1 1/2	W

All on dark edge.

INTERNATIONAL LATITUDE OBSERVATORY at Gaithersburg

drew 16 persons in spite of unpromising clouds at a late hour on August 12th. Mr. Earl Williams, director, entertained for a considerable time with a discussion of how change in latitude is determined by observing positions of certain stars. The telescope is equipped with measuring devices of fine precision. Lack of space precludes a full description. About an hour was spent watching for meteors with only fair success, probably due to the fact that it was too early.

PUBLIC OBSERVATIONS AT BARNARD HILL PARK have been popular, with the largest attendance of the first three estimated at 120. Miss Warthen, Miss Perkins, Messrs. Wright, Little, D'Andelet, Crowell, Lyons, Lankford, Rotbart, Johnson, Delaney, Benfer, and Slemaker volunteered their telescopes, and Mr. Lyons described the objects under observation. The amplifier furnished by the National Capital Parks enabled visitors to hear without leaving the queues. During a cloudy period, Mr. Evans projected his astronomical slides with power generated by Mr. Kammer's motor brought for the purpose. The last of the series will be held August 29th after this goes to press.

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STAR DUST

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Sept. NCA EVENTS

- 11 Second Saturday, Commerce Auditorium, 14th and D Sts. N.W., 8 p.m. Note change in date and place. "Astronomy in the War," Thomas <sup>B</sup> Henry.
- 18 Discussion group, 8 p.m. foyer of Commerce Auditorium. Charles Little will explain his meteor radar; slide illustrations.
- 24 Junior night at the 5-inch; John Lankford star gazer. 8 p.m. Alternate, Monday the 27th. Telescope class Mondays and Thursdays, 8 to 10 p.m., 505 Morse Street N.E.

MORE ROOM FOR A LARGER AUDIENCE in the Commerce Auditorium. Room 43 at the Museum just would not hold the number who came to hear these popular lectures on astronomy. With the additional seating capacity, you can bring your friends without fear of standing room only. September meeting to be held the second Saturday.

Mr. Thomas <sup>B</sup> Henry, science editor of the Washington Star, was a war correspondent for five years and has written science articles for several publications. His review of "Astronomy in the War" will include setting the date for D-Day, and development of new instruments for infra-red detection, which have become major tools of astronomy.

NCA EXHIBIT AT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 8th and K Sts, opens September 15 for one month. Miss Cole of the Technology Division has put three display cases at our disposal. Small objects, photographs, and charts will lend themselves best to the space available. Please notify the editor if you have an entry.

ALL ANNUAL DUES are payable in September--regular members \$3, joint membership \$5, junior \$1.50; prorated sum for those who have been members less than a year. Payments should be made to Mr. Abraham Robinson, 7019 Georgia Ave. N.W.

PALOMAR OBSERVATORY STAMP is to be placed on sale August 31. Mr. Samuel R. Young, Executive Assistant to the Postmaster General and a member of NCA, has been designated to represent the Postmaster General at the Palomar Observatory ceremonies on that date.

ROTBART'S OBSERVATORY was the center of interest July 13th although skies did not permit observing. However, there was much to examine in the observatory and the workroom on the top floor of the house that drew enthusiastic praise of the visitors. Refreshments served by Mrs. Rotbart were an added feature.

STELLAFANE: AMATEUR TELESCOPE MAKERS CONVENTION, August 7-8. From the New England states, Canada, and even the Argentine, a happy group of ATMs converged on Breezy Hill, near Springfield, Vt., to exhibit their home-made telescopes, talk shop, enjoy an outdoor feast roasted over huge fires, and observe the stars, numerous early Perseids, and an aurora. Twenty-five telescopes were on display and later intensively used by over 220 amateur astronomers. First prize was given for a unique "grasshopper mounting" in which the polar axis served as one of the tripod legs.

Among the notables present were Prof. C. H. Smiley of Brown University, and "Wally" Everest, inventor of the HCF lap. A message of greeting from R. W. Porter was read. The largest delegation was 23 persons from the New York City AAA whose secretary reported the recent award to Mr. Porter of the first Amateur Astronomers Medal for his work on the design of the 200" telescope at Mt. Palomar. Cool weather, magnificent scenery, and clear skies helped make the meeting a memorable one for all. ---George V. Plachy

family had just arrived from the conclave at Pasadena and Mt. Palomar.

A special treat was the trip to Yerkes Observatory. After a welcome by Dr. Van Biesbroeck and a short talk by Mr. Harris of the observatory, skies cleared to permit a view of Epsilon Lyrae through the world's largest refracting telescope. Another evening was spent at the Milwaukee Astronomical Society Observatory where several scientific programs are in progress.

The telescope making session was allotted 30 minutes; it lasted over two hours and then broke up on account of the dinner bell. Several very good papers were given, according to Mr. Wright. The making and testing of refractor lenses, a new design for prism holders and its effect on still images, and an economical type of telescope mounting were among the many subjects discussed, he reported. Other sessions scheduled for the same period were "clouded out" by the more popular T.Ms.

Officers elected: Mrs. Helen S. Federer, Cambridge, Mass., president; William C. Oberem, Buffalo, N.Y., vice president; Mrs. Margaret Back, Detroit, secretary; Carl P. Richards, Salem, Ore., treasurer. No site was selected for the next convention.

BOOKS

R. J. Hinckley

John Couch Adams and the Discovery of Neptune, Sir Harold Spencer Jones; Cambridge University Press, 1947, 43 pp. 2s. net. This little pamphlet by the Astronomer Royal is a gem of exposition and as absorbing as any detective story. It provides a good popular account of the events leading to the discovery of the planet and the complex controversy which followed over the award of credit. The groups supporting John Couch Adams and those championing the French astronomer, Le Verrier, provide some amusing episodes such as can only occur when savants fall out. (At Library of Congress.)

Newton Tercentenary Celebration, 15-19 July 1946, The Royal Society of London, Cambridge University Press, 1947, 92 pp. A fine collection of lectures on Newton's life and

## 1947-48 IN RETROSPECT

The calendar of events covered more than half the evenings from September to June: ten lectures; six round-table discussions; two astronomical hobby shows; visits to the 12-inch at the Naval Observatory, Williams Observatory at Hood College, and the 40-inch at N.O.; also Rotbart's Observatory and International Latitude Observatory; observed meteors by radar at Sterling; four public observations under the auspices of the National Capital Parks; three observations for special groups. Five-inch night was scheduled each month; constellation study group was active part of the year. One picnic-observation and a dinner comprised the social events.

A history of the society was compiled; scrapbook of pictures and articles about the association was collected, and another started showing publicity efforts; eleven issues of Star Dust appeared and several special notices. Publicity was increased, releases were sent to newspapers and other periodicals.

Seven members attended the regional conference in Pittsburgh, and eight went to Milwaukee. The junior contingent increased to 24, held its own observations at the 5-inch, and carried on several individual programs.

Telescope makers met at McKinley High School three evenings a week during the school term. Forty-six persons joined the class, ranging in age from 11 to 65. Of these, 29 are National Capital Astronomers. The society has gained 8 members from that source. Mr. McLellan, the instructor, advised in matters of grinding, polishing, testing, and machining the mounts cast at a suburban foundry.

Finished scopes: one 3", four 6", and two 8" reflectors; one 4" and one 5" refractor. At the close of school, castings were being made for 4", 6", 8", 10", 12", 15" 16", and 24" telescopes.

On July 15th the class was resumed at 505 Morse Street N.E. and is now well under way. The following have registered: William H. Evans, 24"; Nathan Apple, 8"; Lloyd Luther, Margaret Glock, S. P. Young, Andrew Reed, J. B. Matthews, Jr., John Holloway, Thomas Walsh, H. J. Normant, and J. H. Beyers and son, a 6" apiece.

The average attendance has been 14 including members and spectators. There are on the shelves eight unfinished mirrors that are unclaimed. It is requested that those who do not intend to join the class take steps to remove their mirrors in order to prevent accidental damage. The class cannot assume the responsibility for them. There is still room for more NCAs to start mirrors. For information, call Miss Warthen, SH-9451.

Membership count -	Regular	Junior
Sept. 1947	76	10
Resigned	6	8
Died	1	-
New	<u>32</u>	<u>22</u>
Now	101	24
Increase	25	14

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION at Milwaukee found Grace Scholz, Janet Perkins, Irene Warthen, Margaret Glock, G. R. Wright, Richard St. John, Aaron Herschfeld, John Holloway, and Mabel Sterns there.

It was agreed that the convention was one of the best. A detailed account of it appeared in Sky and Telescope for August. Briefly, of special interest were the reports of societies; papers: "Guide to the Use of Star Maps," Herbert W. Cornell of Milwaukee, "Popularizing Astronomy" by Carl H. Gamble of Moline, and of course the three from NCA copies of which accompanied the last STAR DUST. J. T. Wilson of Allis-Chalmers Co. discussed "Recent Investigations of the Sun's Radiation" and showed movies of solar prominences taken at the High Altitude Observatory. President Halbach gave a highly interesting account of his expedition to observe the annular eclipse in Burma. Charles A. Federer, editor of Sky and Telescope, was speaker at the dinner on Sunday. He and his