

NEW MEMBERS

- Gregory, William Frederick, 6712 Glen Carlyn Drive, Falls Church, Virginia. Falls Church 9745
- Koerner, Douglas, 5011 Yorktown Road, Green Acres, Md. Oliver 3359
- \*Beshers, Eric, 2914 Kanawha Street N.W. Ordway 7944
- \*Colby, Frederick J., 3735 Oliver St. N.W. Woodley 8112
- \*Rogers, Judith Ann, 147 Moncure Drive, Alexandria, Va. Alexandria 0854

BASIC OPTICS--some types of optical glass, will be Miss Hutzler's topic at discussion group; characteristics and how they are determined, use of optical glass in lens design, aberration and how to eliminate it.

BOOK REVIEWS

"The Universe and Dr. Einstein." Lincoln Barnett; pub. Wm. Sloane, N.Y. 1948, 127 pp. \$2.50. One of the most concise, readable, and effective popular descriptions yet written of the theory of relativity, it should be of particular interest to the amateur astronomer who wishes to sharpen his understanding of the fundamental physical science concepts underlying his hobby. Excellent illustrations and exposition of the relativity of distance and mass, space-time relationships, the mass-energy formula of nuclear physics, and the behavior of light in the universe. Some exception might be taken to certain of the author's reflections on scientific method in Einsteinian physics, but this does not detract in the least from the body of exposition. A brief introduction by Dr. Einstein includes his endorsement of the book as a valuable contribution to popular scientific writing.

---R. J. Hinckley

"The Face of the Moon," Ralph B. Baldwin, Univ. of Chicago Press, 1949, 225 pp. \$5. Mr. Lyons reports that the author has examined all earlier writings on the moon and concludes that lunar craters were caused by meteoric impact. Numerous plates and figures illustrate his arguments. See the book at the March meeting.

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Date

DON'T MISS

- 2 Wed. Public observation night at Naval Observatory, 7 to 11 p.m.
- 3 Thurs. Open house at Rotbart Observatory, 8-10 p.m. Call Emerson 0119. Cancelled if cloudy.
- 5 Sat. "New Aspects of Solar Activity," Dr. Helen W. Dodson, 8:15 p.m. at Commerce Auditorium.
- 9 Wed. Public observation at Naval Observatory, 7-11.
- 10 Thurs. NCA juniors radio broadcast 9:45 a.m. WURL 780 kc.
- 17 Thurs. Open house at Rotbart Observatory, 4410 River Road N.W. 8-10 p.m. if clear. Call EM-0119.
- 18 Fri. Junior observation night at the 5-inch. 8 p.m. John Lankford.
- 19 Sat. Discussion group, foyer of Commerce Auditorium, 8 p.m. Harriet Hutzler, "Basic Optics."
- 22 Tues. Regular members' observation with the 5-inch Carl Werntz.
- 25 Sat. Alternate junior night if the 18th is cloudy.

Mondays and Thursdays, telescope-making class 8-10 p.m. 505 Morse Street N.E. Miss Warthen, SH-9451, classroom TR-2224.

"NEW ASPECTS OF SOLAR ACTIVITY" will be the subject of Dr. Helen W. Dodson at the meeting March 5. She will discuss recent studies of the sun made at the McMath-Hulbert Observatory, 1'Observatoire de Meudon near Paris, and 1'Observatoire du Pic de Midi in the French Pyrenees. The talk will be illustrated with slides and 16 mm. sound film.

Assistant Professor of Astronomy at the University of Michigan, and Associate Professor of Astronomy and Mathematics at Goucher College, Dr. Dodson graduated from the latter and continued her studies in Michigan. She teaches at Goucher College from January through March and is engaged in solar research the rest of the year at the McMath-Hulbert Observatory. Recently she was sent by the Observatory to Europe where she spent some time at Meudon and visited the Pic de Midi. In addition to her teaching and research positions, she is a member of the Committee on the Solar Chromosphere of the International Astronomical Union.

---From Harriet Hutzler

PUBLIC NIGHTS AT NAVAL OBSERVATORY CHANGED. Instead of every Thursday night as heretofore, the Observatory will be open for public observation two Wednesdays a month on dates to be announced. Tickets may be obtained in advance, or visitors may go without reservations. Any or all of the 12-, 26-, 40-, and 10-inch domes may be open depending upon the size of the crowd. Each telescope will be focussed on a different object and visitors may see them all in turn. The new schedule began February 2 and 11 (alternate for the 9th). March 2 and 9 are the next, hours 7 to 11. Special parties on other dates may be arranged.

CARL WERNITZ HAS BEEN APPOINTED to assist Mr. Lyons in passing upon NCA regular members who wish to be on the list to obtain the key for the Clark telescope. Carl has been instructing in the use of the instrument, and it will be necessary for others wanting to learn, to make an appointment with him. Juniors who need the telescope for particular work, will continue to outline their projects in a letter to Mr. Lyons, Naval Observatory. He will weigh the matter and examine their qualifications.

NCA LIBRARY. Some years ago the society had a nucleus of a library which disappeared during the course of several movings. Rebuilding is now in progress. Mr. George Skirm has donated five years' issues of Sky and Telescope and we have a large folder of Astronomical Sheets. Other members may have books they wish to give or lend to the project. For the present, Mr. Robinson is in charge of the library. A sectional bookcase belonging to NCA has been in the custody of Mr. Lyons. Some day we will have a place of our own to house the library.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. It was with great reluctance that your president announced the appointment of Miss Grace Scholz as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Due to provisions of the by-laws, it became necessary to appoint a trustee who is already carrying far more than an equal share in the work of the NCA. Mr. George Skirm and Col. F. E. Reed have been appointed to act with Miss Scholz.

---G. R. Wright

TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA is being planned for Saturday, April 30. It will be an all-day bus trip, visiting Fels Planetarium, Franklin Institute (including observatory), and at least one other observatory in that area. Transportation cost will be about \$5. Save your money and hold the date open. More details later.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION July 2-4. The Cleveland Astronomical Society has invited the League to hold its 1949 convention there. Business sessions will be held in the physics lecture room, Case School of Applied Science. The Middle East Region will be responsible in large measure for the program. Details will be forthcoming. All member societies are urged to begin preparation of exhibits and papers.

PERSONALS. Miss Martha Stewart will be missed while she is a patient for a few months at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg, W. Va....Carroll Slemaker was to have addressed a new science club in junior high school Feb. 19....Mrs. Green Chandler Furman, nee Martha G. Morrow, will be at home April 1 in Guam, Marianas Islands; she was married January 21.