

A large orrery, or mechanical planetarium, one of only two of its type in the world, models the solar system and its motions. Wall displays, models, and murals tell the story of many phenomena of the universe. The oldest and newest principles in telescopes are shown in actual examples and in models and murals, including the second largest refractor in the southeast.

Shows are given every evening at 8:30 and at 3:00 P. M. Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is 38 cents. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, is about 300 miles from Washington.

NEW MEMBERS

Oscar C. Butler, 628 Massachusetts Avenue, N. E. FR-0684

Richard Grant McCabe, 532-20th St. (6) RE-0461

James Sousy, 1237 12th St., N. W., Washington

William Weir CT3 U. S. Naval Communications Station, Cheltenham, Maryland Clinton -5

*James D. Ahlgren, 1860 Clydesdale Pl., N.W. (9) MI-4233

*Deborah W. Dorsey, 3303 Circle Hill Road, Alexandria, Va. TE-4062

Books of Interest

"The Soul of the Universe," Gustaf Stromberg, David McKay Co., Philadelphia 1949, 312 pp. \$3.50

Speculation by an astronomer on the "field" theory of organization of matter.

Articles of Interest

"Greek Astronomy," George de Santillana, Scientific American, April 1949, pp. 44/7

"Radio Astronomy," Charles R. Burrows, Scientific Monthly, May 1949, pp. 299/304

"The Literature of Atomic Energy of the Past Decade," H. H. Goldsmith, Scientific Monthly, May 1949, pp. 291/98
---R. J. Hinckley

Jewell Boling, Acting Editor, 1717 P Street, N.W. DU-2969

STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers

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JUNE CALENDAR

Date

1 Wed. Public observation night at Naval Observatory.

4 Sat. "Cosmic Rays Above the Atmosphere," Dr. James A. Van Allen. 8:15 p. m. Commerce Auditorium.

8 Wed. Public observation night at Naval Observatory.

18 Sat. Open house at Leroy Benfer's. Demonstrations of his aluminizing equipment. 3:00 p. m. 6130 Montrose Road, Cheverly, Maryland. See directions inside.

19 Sun. National Capital Parks Star Gazing at Campfire site, 16th and Colorado. 8:00 p. m.

23 Thurs. Open house at Young Memorial Observatory for junior NCAers. 4410 River Road, N. W. Call Mr. or Mrs. Robertson, EM 0119.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 7-10 p. m. telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. Telephone SH 9451.

DR. JAMES A. VAN ALLEN, Physicist, Applied Physics Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University, Silver Spring, Maryland, will be guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the NCA on Saturday June 4 at 8:15 in the Commerce Department Auditorium.

In his lecture, "Cosmic Rays Above the Atmosphere," Dr. Van Allen will give a description of experimental work on the intensity and nature of the primary cosmic radiation above the earth's atmosphere. This work has been done by means of Aerobee and V-2 rockets. Results of these studies will be presented and tentative conclusions offered. Experimental techniques will be illustrated with a short 16 mm. silent film and a number of lantern slides.

Prior to his association with the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, Dr. Van Allen was a Carnegie Research Fellow with the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and during the war served in the United States Navy. He received his doctorate from the State University of Iowa.

---Grace C. Scholz, Publicity Chairman

CLEVELAND CONVENTION. Latest news on the national convention of the Astronomical League, to be held in Cleveland over the weekend of July 4, appears in the May issue of Sky and Telescope.

1949-1950 OFFICERS ELECTED. President, Bob Wright; Vice President, Clay P. Butler; Secretary, Janet Perkins; Treasurer, Joseph Matthews; Trustee, David Rotbart.

THE STORY OF PALOMAR has again been brought to Washington audiences by the NCA in cooperation with the Carnegie Institute of Technology. It was shown during the week of May 16-20 in the city schools and the Commerce Department auditorium. About 12,000 persons saw the film.

MOREHEAD PLANETARIUM OPENS AT CHAPEL HILL MAY 10.

The Morehead Planetarium, first in the South, sixth in the nation, and the only one connected with a university, was dedicated and opened to the public May 10. The formal opening was preceded by a preview and nation-wide radio broadcast on May 9. Speakers included the donor, John Motley Morehead, industrialist playing a leading part in developing nuclear and radar processes in recent years; Senator Frank Graham, former president of the University of North Carolina; and Gunnar Dryselius, consul from Sweden, where the Zeiss planetarium was procured. The planetarium is under the direction of Dr. Roy K. Marshall, formerly director of the Fels Planetarium in Philadelphia. Dr. Marshall serves also as professor of astronomy for the University.

The Morehead Building, costing over \$3,000,000, was designed by Eggers and Higgins, designers of the Jefferson Memorial, National Gallery of Art, and the Elgin Galleries of the British Museum. It is essentially three buildings in one.

The Genevieve B. Morehead Memorial Art Gallery on the main floor is a beautiful rotunda gallery providing a magnificent setting for the Morehead collection of pictures, including the Rembrandt Peale portraits of George and Martha Washington. The Morehead collection of rare china, glass, lace, and other objects of art, valued at a quarter of a million dollars, will be transferred there at an early date.

The planetarium seats 500 people. It is 68 feet in diameter and silhouettes the Chapel Hill sky line in miniature. The dome is 46 feet high. The planetarium projector is a Zeiss exactly like the Zeiss in the Hayden.

OPEN HOUSE FOR JUNIORS AT YOUNG MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY.

Since school will be closed a special invitation is given to all junior members (new and old) to visit with the Rotbarts on Thursday, June 23. Please call EM 0119.

DIRECTIONS FOR GETTING TO LEROY BENFER'S on

Saturday, June 18. Take the Cheverly bus from Mount Rainier. Get off first stop in Cheverly and walk one half block on first street to left of bus route to 6130 Montrose Road.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS. The following amendment to be Section 6 of Article I of the By-Laws of the NCA was presented for discussion at the last regular meeting. Vote will be taken in June.

"Honorary memberships shall be approved by the Board of Trustees before presentation to the membership."

CONTEST OPEN FOR LEAGUE EMBLEM. NCA members interested in submitting a design for a League emblem may secure information by calling Miss Mabel Sterns.

NCA JUNIORS MAKE APPLICATION TO BECOME A JUNIOR MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE. The NCA membership voted approval at the last regular meeting of a motion that the NCA juniors apply for membership as a junior organization of the Astronomical League.

PUBLIC STAR OUTING will be held again Sunday May 19 at 16th and Colorado. It is hoped that as many NCA members as possible will bring telescopes.

SIGURD VON NUMERS is returning to Finland shortly after six years with the Finnish embassy here. He will be active in astronomical groups there in which he has membership. He will be greatly missed at NCA gatherings. All NCAers wish him the best of luck and that he will return to this country some day.

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AN ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN, containing League announcements and news, under the editorship of Miss Mabel Sterns, 2517 K Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., will be issued five times during the coming year.

A QUARTERLY JUNIOR NEWSLETTER, national in scope, will be issued by the Astronomical League, succeeding the Regional Junior Newsletter. Miss Grace Scholz, National Chairman of Junior Activities, will serve as Editor. Miss Scholz is resigning as Regional Chairman of Junior Activities.

ANY NCA MEMBER can have his or her name put on the mailing list to receive the ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE BULLETIN or the QUARTERLY JUNIOR NEWSLETTER by making request to the executive secretary, Mr. James B. Rothchild, 209 West 21st Street, New York 11, New York. Stamped addressed envelopes should be enclosed. The envelopes should be No. 10 size ($9\frac{1}{2}$ x 4 inches), each with a 3-cent stamp affixed, and bearing the initials ALB or JN in the lower left corner, according to whether the Bulletin or the Newsletter is to be mailed. Send a supply of four envelopes for the JN or five for the ALB for the coming year.

PHILADELPHIA TRIP to visit the Franklin Institute was made by nearly 40 NCAers. Ed Bailey, astronomer at the Franklin Institute took our group on a very interesting tour. The planetarium show was "A Trip to the Moon." The return trip was made by way of Haverford College where Dr. Wilson, the astronomer in charge, conducted a tour of the library, the observatory, and the Peerless planetarium.

HOBBY SHOW, May 21, was attended by about 60 persons. A number of interesting exhibits of astronomical subjects were on display.

HARRIET HUTZLER leaves Washington in September to do graduate work in astronomy at the University of Wisconsin.