

MIRROR GRINDING CLASS. It has been a long hard fight but we won. Regardless of what anyone tells you, or has told you about the class and the place and places we have held it, how dirty it was, how poor the testing equipment is, and all the ideas about how to improve it (that they were not willing to help do) we have finally finished a mirror. The mirror is a small $4\frac{1}{4}$ inch with an f 6 focal length and it belongs to Miss Perkins. This mirror was purchased from the NCA stock, NCA stock of abrasives was used, every minute of the grinding, polishing, and figuring of the mirror was done in the NCA class room. All of the work was done by Miss Perkins. There is not a scratch on the mirror (can't be too dirty).

Sure you have to use precaution, sure you have to work on it, the gremlins won't do it for you, but your reward can be a good mirror and you can do it in the NCA mirror grinding class.

---Bob Wright

NOTES

Ten people attended open house at Leroy Benfer's on June 18. Those attending saw actual demonstrations of the floride process of aluminizing and coating.

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Jewell Boling visited the new Morehead Planetarium at Chapel Hill and saw the initial show, "Let There Be Light."

NEW MEMBERS

- *Mary Cheseldine, 828 24th St., S, Arlington, Va. OT 9479
- *Richard J. Spiker, 3900 Cathedral Ave., Wash. 16 OR 7029

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

STAR DUST
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CALENDAR

- July 31 (Sun.) National Capital Parks Star Outing
- Aug. 3 (Wed.) Open house Naval Observatory
- Aug. 10 (Wed.) Open house Naval Observatory
- Aug. 10,11,12 Perseid Meteor Showers
(Plans under way for some NCA activity. Watch for announcement by mail.)
- Aug. 14 (Sun.) National Capital Parks Star Outing

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

REPORT ON CLEVELAND CONVENTION

Margaret B. Glock, Eugene Henning, Janet Perkins, Carl Wernz, Bob Wright, Mabel Sterns, Grace Scholz, and Jewell Boling attended the Astronomical League national convention in Cleveland July 2, 3, and 4. Janet Perkins and Jewell Boling served as section meeting reporters.

The big news is that Grace Scholz was appointed Executive Secretary of the League, succeeding James B. Rothchild, and Bob Wright was elected Chairman of the Middle East Region. Mabel Sterns is already a member of the National Council. NCA is very well represented regionally and nationally.

Charles LeRoy, of Pittsburgh, was elected president of the League, to succeed Helen Federer. Ed Bailey, astronomer with Franklin Institute, was elected vice-chairman of the Middle East Region. Both are well known to NCA'ers.

Even though Cleveland turned out to be the geographical center of the season's worst heat wave, the mercury promptly climbing to 98 and staying there, everyone had a very good time as well as acquiring a great deal of astronomical learning. The weather was fine and clear and ideal for observing. We were somewhat revived from the heat of the days on the cool balconies of the observatories we visited at night.

We heard many very good astronomical papers and were privileged to see a fine collection of slides of the planets which had never been shown before away from the Lowell Observatory.

Our host, the Cleveland Astronomical Society, arranged for us to have a royal time. We were busy all the time, night and day, with all sorts of affairs, little ones and big ones.

The biggest one was the Festival of Freedom given on the fourth of July in the Cleveland Stadium. The stadium holds 80,000 and it was packed. Astronomical Leaguers were given box seat tickets by the Cleveland society.

The second biggest event was the star party given on Saturday night by the Cleveland Press, attended by nearly 5,000 persons. Many telescopes, of every description, were set up at Wade Park, site of the party. Excellent movies and slides of astronomical subjects were shown. Very interesting commentaries were made by Charles Federer of Sky and Telescope and Dr. David Dietz.

The smallest affair, if we leave out jaunts for frozen custard and similar plebeian refreshments after pre-election campaigning in "smoke-filled" rooms, was the night Bob Wright took 12 of us out for watermelon after we had visited an observatory, telescope making class, and other places.

On Saturday night, preceding the Cleveland Press star party, we had dinner in the Crystal ballroom of the Tudor Arms Hotel (headquarters for most of us), and heard Dr. S. W. McCuskey lecture on "The Expanding Milky Way."

The most delightful occasion was undoubtedly our evening at the Warner and Swasey Observatory. Everyone agreed that this was the most beautifully appointed observatory in his or her "collection." After the tea in the late afternoon, our evening was given over to making astronomical observations and inspecting the models of heavenly bodies in the lobby and the ceiling mural of the solar system. Both the models and the mural are painted with special fluorescent colors that shine under invisible ultra-violet light, increasing the illusion of reality.

Particularly interesting were the following exhibits: comparative sizes of the different members of the solar system; all the known stars within 16 light years from the sun; the comparative size, color, and luminosity of giant and dwarf stars; the main characteristics of Cepheid variables; and Foucault pendulum demonstrating earth's rotation.

The highlight of the entire trip, from the observational standpoint, was the viewing of the spectrum of the Ring nebula in Lyra through the Warner and Swasey Observatory's 24-inch Schmidt. We were very much indebted to Dr. J. J. Nassau, director of the observatory, for this. Most of us had never made this observation before.