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ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY CLASS had its organizational meeting and is starting regular class sessions once every two weeks. The class leader will be Dr. Francis P. Wells. Those who have joined the class are:

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|----------------|------------------|
| C. J. Spiker   | Richard McCabe   |
| Richard Spiker | Michael Salm     |
| Irene Warthen  | Irene Hebard     |
| Thomas Wright  | Douglas Koerner  |
| Margaret Glock | Abraham Robinson |
| Janet Perkins  | Thelma Cressy    |
| James Cracroft | I. H. Halpern    |
| Mary Dwyer     | Louise Horton    |
| Herbert Alvord | G. R. Wright     |

JOHNSONIAN TELESCOPE ARTICLE IN SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN. The September issue of Scientific American Amateur Astronomy Department devotes four pages to the story of the new telescope developed by Lyle T. Johnson of LaPlata, Maryland. Mr. Johnson has been a member of the National Capital Astronomers for a good many years. Be sure to read this article.

— Bob Wright

Other Articles of Interest

- "Sky Atlas of Five Million Stars," Science Digest, September 1949.
- "Double Stars," Scientific American, October 1949.
- "Radio Astronomy," Grote Reber, Scientific American, September 1949.

— R. J. Hinckley

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

STAR DUST  
National Capital Astronomers  
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NOVEMBER CALENDAR

- Nov. 2 Wed. Open house Naval Observatory.
- Nov. 3 Thurs. Open house Young Memorial Observatory. Call the Rotbarts, EM-0119.
- Nov. 5 Sat. "The Ninth Planet - Pluto," by its discoverer, Clyde W. Tombaugh. Commerce Auditorium 8:15 p. m.
- Nov. 9 Wed. Open house Naval Observatory.
- Nov.15 Tues. Open house at the NCA 5-inch Naval Observatory.
- Nov.17 Thurs. Open house Young Memorial Observatory, 4410 River Road, N. W.
- Nov.19 Sat. Technical Discussion Group, 8:00 p. m. Department of Commerce Foyer.
- Nov.30 Wed. Open house Naval Observatory.

Every Friday night, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Room 313. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. Telephone SH 9451.

DISCOVERER OF PLANET PLUTO, CLYDE W. TOMBAUGH will speak to NCA on November 5 on "THE NINTH PLANET-PLUTO." He will review the history of events from the predicted existence to the discovery of the planet, describing the methods and techniques employed. The lecture will be illustrated by slides, including copies of the portions of the original discovery plates on which Pluto was found.

In 1908 Professor Lowell had estimated the probable position of a new planet. He called it "planet X" and inaugurated a photographic search by his assistants at the Lowell Observatory. The work continued after his death in 1916. On February 18, 1930 Mr. Tombaugh, working at the observatory, found that planet which in apparent path and rate of motion conformed approximately to Lowell's prediction. Mr. Tombaugh is at present employed as astronomer in the Ballistic Research Laboratory at White Sands Proving Ground, New Mexico.

NOTED ASTRONOMERS TO SPEAK IN WASHINGTON. On October 31 and November 1 at the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W., a joint meeting will be held of the USA National Committee, International Scientific Radio Union, and Professional Group on Antennas and Wave Propagation of the Institute of Radio Engineers. Of particular interest to NCA'ers will be the Commission on Extraterrestrial Radio Noise, Dr. D. H. Menzel, Chairman, and the Commission on Cosmic and Geophysical Effects, Dr. Newbern Smith, Chairman. The following lectures will be given on November 1, the first two beginning at 9:30 a. m.; the last three at 2:00 p. m.

The Origin of Solar Flares - Donald H. Menzel, Harvard College Observatory, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Possible Sources of Solar Noise - Donald H. Menzel.

Observations of Solar Noise on 205 Mc - Charles L. Seegar, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

Solar Radiation Effects upon Long-distance Electric-Power Transmission - Jack T. Wilson, Allis-Chalmers Company.

Observations of a Total Lunar Eclipse on 1.8 cm. - Winfield W. Salisbury, Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

These lectures are open to the public.

NEW MEMBERS

Regular

- George Bass, 11 Revell Street, W. Annapolis, Md. Annapolis 4070
- Harold D. Seielstad, 4300 Alton Place, N. W. (16) OR 6247
- Clarence J. Spiker, 3900 Cathedral Ave., N. W. (16) OR 7029
- Mary Nan Steel, 5525 Nevada Ave., N. W. (15) WO 0665

Junior

- James R. Newcomb, 816 Cleveland St., Arlington, Va. CH 4296

NEW BOOKS

"Skys shooting," R. N. Mayall and M. L. Mayall, Ronald Press, N. Y., 1949, 174 pp. \$3.75

On amateur astronomical photography, Illustrated with good photographs.

"The Conquest of Space," Willy Ley and Chesley Bonestell, Viking, N. Y. 1949, 160 pp. \$3.95

Text by Ley (rocket specialist), with famous astronomical paintings of Bonestell reproduced in color.

"The Atmosphere of the Earth and Planets," Dr. Gerard P. Kuiper (Ed.), University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1949, 366 pp. \$7.50

Collection of papers given at Chicago in 1947 celebrating 50th anniversary of Yerkes Observatory. This excellent symposium gives the kind of coverage that is of interest to both the technical and general reader.

--R. J. Hinckley