

NEW MEMBERS

Edson, J. B., 1233 North Stuart Street, Arlington, Virginia. OW 8380

Edson, Lilly S., 1233 North Stuart Street, Arlington, Virginia. OW 8380

\*Edson, Priscilla, 1233 North Stuart Street, Arlington, Virginia. OW 8380

Holland, L. W., Box 232, Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, Virginia. FA 3181 (In two to four weeks address will be Route 1, Box 26, Annandale, Virginia.)

\*Newman, Edwin Stuart, 4604 Addison Road, N. E., Washington 19, D. C. UN 8727

Souder, Thomas L., 4102 Madison Street, Hyattsville, Maryland. UN 8224

Sturgill, David A., 9604 48th Avenue, Berwyn, Md. TO 6298

NORFOLK CONVENTION MAY 5-7. A group of NCA members are planning on making the trip to Norfolk by boat for the Middle East Regional Convention. It will be necessary for them to go down Thursday night, May 4 and return by the boat Sunday evening, May 6. For information concerning boat travel to Norfolk call Sterling 2415. Fare one way, including tax, \$5.37. Stateroom prices range from \$1.73 to \$6.33.

JUNE MEETING. A joint meeting of the NCA and the Camp Fire group of the National Capital Parks will be held on the evening of Saturday, June 3 (regular NCA meeting night). Weather permitting, the NCA will meet with the Camp Fire group in the Sylvan Theater on the Monument Grounds. If the weather is bad the Camp Fire group will meet with us in the Department of Commerce Auditorium. The speaker for the evening will be Dr. Paul Watson of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, Baltimore. \*\*\*\*\*  
Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P Street, N.W. DU 2969

579

STAR DUST  
National Capital Astronomers  
Washington, D. C.

April 1950 Vol. 7, No. 7  
\*\*\*\*\*

APRIL CALENDAR

- April 1 Sat. "The History of Astronomy," by Ernest G. Reuning, Naval Observatory astronomer. 8 p. m. Commerce Department Auditorium.
- April 15 Sat. Annual Hobby Show of the National Capital Astronomers, 8 p. m. Commerce Department Foyer.
- April 19 Wed. Open house at the NCA 5-inch, Naval Observatory.

Every clear Wednesday night, open house Naval Observatory, 8 till 11 p. m.

Every Friday night, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Room 313. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. New address and telephone: 3008 Wheaton Road, Kensington, Maryland. L0ckwood 5-1237.

ERNEST G. REUNING, APRIL MEETING SPEAKER will trace the development in astronomical beliefs and practices from ancient times to the present and attempt to project this development into the near future.

The determination of orbits and distances of heavenly bodies, otherwise known as positional astronomy, was the main concern of astronomers until the 20th century. Then, through advances made in the analysis of light through spectroscopy, astronomers turned to astrophysics. It was due to World War II and the accompanying development of celestial navigation that positional astronomy once more came into the ascendancy.

With the interest of people now focused on rockets and the possibility of their use for travel from continent to continent and perhaps to the moon and other solar bodies, positional astronomy will probably continue to be the main concern of astronomers for some time to come.

Mr. Reuning has studied astronomy under Dr. Van De Camp at Swarthmore College. He is at present employed as an astronomer at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D. C.

SURELY YOU KNOW that copies of the Astronomical League Bulletin and the Junior Newsletter, both Astronomical League publications, are mailed directly to individuals at no charge. The cost to you--an envelope and a two-cent stamp. Seemingly fewer than half a dozen of regular NCA members are interested in what other societies are doing, or in amateur astronomical activities on a wider than local basis.

The Bulletin is issued five times annually, the Junior Newsletter quarterly. Nine stamped, addressed envelopes (big ones please) will secure these publications for you for one year. Mail them to me at 110 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

---Grace C. Scholz

NATIONAL CONVENTION. April 1 is the deadline for getting the lowest priced reservations for the National Convention of the Astronomical League to be held in Boston in July. Please reread details in flyer mailed with Star Dust last month.

HOBBY SHOW. The Annual Hobby Show of the National Capital Astronomers will be held in the Department of Commerce Foyer on Saturday evening, April 15. It is hoped that all members of the NCA will exhibit something of an astronomical nature. It may include telescopes, telescope accessories, lenses or mirrors in the various stages of completion, pictures of equipment, pictures taken with astronomical equipment, books, and articles on astronomy.

THE ANNUAL NCA DINNER was held Tuesday, February 21 at the Kennesaw Hotel. Thirty-five people were present. The dinner was astronomical in character, with each dish identified in astronomical terms. The cover of the menu was a photograph showing star trails of the big dipper.

Dr. J. B. Edson was master of ceremonies. Irene Warthen told the history of the NCA. Bob Wright delivered a presidential welcome and gave commendations to those who had been of especial help to him in the operations of the NCA during the past year. Each commendation consisted of a note of appreciation and a rose. To Irene Warthen went the remainder of the bouquet of roses because of the tremendous amount of time she has devoted to the telescope making class.

Dr. Wells turned magician for the occasion, amusing and confusing everyone. A series of astronomical games were played--unscrambling star names, naming the stars in Orion, and drawing that constellation from memory. Two teams competed with one another to see which one could first arrange the constellations of the Zodiac in proper order.

All in all, the dinner was the best in NCA history, and it was an enthusiastic group that finally dispersed. Our thanks go to Janet Perkins for her able planning of an enjoyable evening.

MAY MEETINGS. Due to the Middle East Region Convention in Norfolk on the date of our regular meeting the following changes will be made in the May schedule. While it is hoped that many of the NCA members will find it possible to attend the convention at Norfolk, for those who find it impossible to go to Norfolk, our discussion group will meet the night of May 6 in the foyer of the Department of Commerce. Our regular May meeting will be held on Saturday, May 20. The business session for that meeting will include the election of officers for the coming year.