

STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers
Washington, D. C.

NEW MEMBERS
William L. Isherwood, Jr., 4304 55th Avenue,
Hyattsville, Md. UN-9419

June 1950

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JUNIORS SHOW SLIDES. On May 18, Mr. Jones, Chairman of Junior Activities, John Lankford, and John Edmonds visited the Men's Club meeting of the Avondale Presbyterian Church and showed the NCA slides. John Lankford was chief commentator. About 35 persons attended.

JUNE CALENDAR

CLARENCE T. JONES, permanent president of the Barnard Astronomical Society of Chattanooga, Tennessee, has written us with reference to his search for additional astronomical books. He sends a list of the present titles in his library, numbering over 300. He is particularly interested in securing THE MOON by GOODACRE and would like to buy it from anyone willing to sell. He also invites any NCA members who might be in the vicinity of Chattanooga to call on the BAS. The BAS keeps open house every Friday night with Dr. Kerek Huger, professor of astronomy, at the 20 1/2 inch telescope, made by Mr. Jones, and now owned by the University of Chattanooga.

June 3 Sat. "A Trip Through Space," by Dr. Paul Watson, of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, will be the subject of the lecture to be given on this date under the auspices of the National Capital Parks and the National Capital Astronomers. If clear, the lecture is to be given in the Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds. Telescopes will be available for observing. NCA members are requested to bring telescopes. If raining, the lecture will be given in the Commerce Department Auditorium. Time 8:15.

June 21 Wed. Open house, Naval Observatory. Call in advance for tickets.

Nebulae, comets,
Stars!
Infinite number of stars!
Swirling through space.
Millions of light years distant,
Miles without number, billions or trillions,
What does it matter,
All are unmeasurable,
Thus is the greatness of God's universe.

June 28 Wed. Open house, Naval Observatory. Call in advance for tickets.

This is the first stanza of a poem sent us by Estelle Pfremer, Membership Chairman of the Saint Paul Telescope Club. It was written by Miss Jane Norval of St. Paul. We wish we had the space to print it in entirety.

Every Friday night, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Room 319. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. Telephone LO-1237.

OFFICERS FOR 1950. The following slate was elected Saturday, May 20:

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N.W. (6) DUpont 2969

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|----------------|---------------------|
| President | Mr. Edward H. Jones |
| Vice-President | Miss Grace Scholz |
| Secretary | Miss Janet Perkins |
| Treasurer | Mrs. Ione Alston |
| Trustee | Mr. G. R. Wright |

NORFOLK CONVENTION. Fifteen NCA'ers attended the Norfolk convention, making Washingtonians almost as plentiful as Norfolkers: Herbert V. Alford, Jewell Boling, George Borison, Thelma Cressy, Dr. and Mrs. James B. Edson, Margaret Glock, Robert Greene, Lyle T. Johnson, Richard McCabe, Janet Perkins, Grace Scholz, Mabel Sterns, Irene Warthen, and G. R. Wright. Also with the Washington contingent was Ricardo Cruz of Manila who is stationed at the Naval Observatory temporarily.

Sixty-five persons attended the convention from Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, North Carolina, and Philippine Islands.

The convention was held in the Museum of Arts, a very suitable building for the exhibits which covered all phases of astronomy, including mirror grinding, observing, photography, star-games, and program activities. Interesting highlights were the addresses by Mr. A. D. Husted of the U. S. Weather Bureau, Norfolk, on "Solar Radiation" and by Dr. James B. Edson on "The Atmosphere of Venus." Dr. Edson, a National Capital Astronomers member, is Scientific Consultant in the Office of the Chief of Ordnance and was formerly with the Lowell Observatory. Mr. Charles H. LeRoy, Astronomical League president, gave a report. The banquet on Saturday evening was held in Bell's restaurant.

A trip was made to the Cape Henry Weather Bureau, Ship Reporting Station, at Fort Henry. Examination of weather instruments and ship reporting facilities proved very interesting. This trip was made doubly memorable by the spectacle of a tremendous electrical storm crossing from Chesapeake Bay to the Ocean, combined with sparkling clear skies overhead. Sunday, too, was memorable with its trip around the Naval Air Station and the Naval Operating Base, climaxed by a tour of the U. S. S. Missouri.

BOB WRIGHT RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF MIDDLE EAST REGION. By unanimous vote Bob Wright was re-elected Chairman of the Middle East Region at the election held in Norfolk. Other officers named were:

Vice-Chairman	W. T. Stone, Richmond, Va.
Secretary	Mrs. Belva LuCaric, Bayden, Pa.
Treasurer	Maurice Parsons, Kalamazoo, Mich.

NORFOLK CONVENTION--GETTING THERE AND GETTING BACK. Most NCA'ers attending the Norfolk convention found the going and coming about as delightful as the convention itself. A number went down by the Old Bay Line, a truly pleasant way to get to Norfolk. Star gazing on deck, bingo playing inside, picture taking, and many other diversions were enjoyed. The return trip by way of Williamsburg taken by many of the convention goers is also a completely happy memory.

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION AT WELLESLEY is just a month away. From the beginning event, Informal Open House at Harvard Observatory on July 1 to the closing event, Field Trip to Harvard's Oak Ridge Station on July 4, the program is packed with interesting events, lectures by the world's top astronomers, including Dr. Shapley, Dr. Duncan, and Dr. Calder, instruction by experts in various astronomical fields, reading of astronomical and related papers, and diversified social and recreational activities. Many NCA'ers will be there, as well as ex-NCA'ers, including Leo Carroll, remembered by many of us. We hope many more NCA'ers who haven't yet registered, will yet decide to join us.

RICARDO CRUZ, formerly Assistant Professor of Astronomy at the University of the Philippines and now Chief of the Astronomy and Instruments Division of the Philippines Weather Bureau, leaves the Naval Observatory this week for Joliet. Mr. Cruz has been doing technical studies at the Naval Observatory since January. In about two weeks he will fly back to Manila. He expects to organize an amateur astronomical group in Manila. Mr. Cruz is a member at large of the Astronomical League.