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THE SECRETARY'S MAIL during the summer has included advertisements for the following: A Starscope for aid in studying constellations, where advantage is taken of optical illusion that results in one eye seeing an illuminated and magnified star chart and the other eye, simultaneously, sees the actual stars in the sky. A PENTA-GLOBE, presenting the celestial sphere projected on the twelve pentagonal faces of a dodecahedron, 7 1/4 square inches in area, showing stars to the fifth magnitude. The PENTA-GLOBE comes in kit form for assembling. THE ATOM OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM by David Gordon, a revised edition of a book first published in 1941 presenting a new theory of gravitation. THE PLANET MARS by Gerard de Vaucouleurs, translated from French by Patrick A. Moore, presenting a summary of information about the "Red Planet."

— Janet Perkins

BOB WRIGHT'S METEOR OBSERVING PICNIC on August 11 was lots of fun, even though a flash thunder storm followed by a long downpour of rain prevented any meteor observing. Attending were: Bob himself, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Scott and their children, Janet Perkins, Edward H. Jones, Leroy Benfer, Nettie Mansker, Carl Wernz, Elmer Bergan, John Bond, Andrew Reed, his son and two friends, Irene Warthen, Thelma Cressy, George Borresen, Clarence Herreshoff, Herbert Alvord, Edward Jenkins, and Jewell Boling. Bob who makes everything himself from soap to telescopes and radios, is now constructing his own house. The house sets in a half acre of fine orchard overlooking a beautiful valley. It is on a high hill and Bob will build an observatory there later. One interesting feature of the house is that there will be loudspeakers in every room and two radios going continuously in addition to a long-play record system. There will also be television going and he will build in an amateur radio broadcasting and receiving system.

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

ASTRONOMICAL GROUP DYNAMICS

SEPTEMBER MEETING

MANY SMALL GROUPS \* ASTRONOMERS BUZZING

EVERYONE TALKING AT ONCE!

CONCLUSIONS ARRIVED AT IN THREE MINUTES

NOW? WHAT CONCLUSIONS???

What do you want to do this year? Have speakers as usual? Observe more? Or, what do you think? Make more telescopes?

Do you like to look through a telescope or do you like to discuss astronomy, or what do you think the NCA should do? What do you want to do? As a group, as a club?

This is the gist of the idea behind the September meeting. The thinking underlying this idea is that, while there are 150 NCA members, 80 per cent, or 120 of the membership, does little more than receive STAR DUST and attend an occasional meeting. Is that all we members want to do? Then SAY SO. . . Or, can we find interesting things to do that have not been tried before successfully that will attract your particular attention???. What about the members who like the romance of Astronomy, the history of the Arab pioneers, the biographies of famous amateurs like Herschel, the philosophical implications of astronomical research and observation, the mythological origins of constellations, the little known and odd facts about stars like Cor Caroli?

Some of us would like some parties, dances, more social activities. Then, let those have them and organize them themselves.

Many of us like to observe and hunt for various objects. Some observe variables, the sun, the planets (I saw seven moons of Jupiter last week with my three-inch), the meteors, etc., - and these amateurs make systematic reports which are invaluable to the continuing progress of astrophysical research. These members are already well-occupied in interesting astronomical work. Many of the members who like optics and instrument work are also well occupied. What about those of us who have no compelling interest in any of the above pursuits, but still are interested in Astronomy?? Can't we do something that will be both useful and will satisfy us more fully than we are now?? Or, is there nothing more we want to do? Then, SAY SO.

We have about twenty-five telescopes in our club. Wouldn't you like to look through these now and then, every clear night, once a month, once a year? Well, why not? Can it be arranged? We shall see-----

There are other possibilities for NCA this year. Can you suggest them? That's what we are to do in our September meeting - September 9 - the Astronomical Group Dynamics Session.

---Edward H. Jones

OCTOBER SPEAKER will be Dr. L. L. Rice, well-known Virginia astronomer. The date is October 7 and the subject, "Our Mysterious Universe."

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEE to fill the unexpired term of David Rotbart are to be made from the floor at the September 9 meeting.

JANET PERKINS has for sale 2 Norton Star Atlases.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept. 6 Wed. 6:30 to 9:30 p. m. CAMPFIRE WALK-NIC. Meet at Picnic Grove No. 6, along Beach Drive at Miller Cabin, just North of Military Road and Beach Drive in Rock Creek Park.
- Sept. 9 Sat. ASTRONOMICAL GROUP DYNAMICS NIGHT, 8:15 Department of Commerce Auditorium.
- Sept. 16 Sat. RECAPITULATION, ASTRONOMICAL GROUP DYNAMICS, 8:00 Department of Commerce Foyer.
- Sept. 20 Wed. Open house Naval Observatory.
- Sept. 25-26 Observation night, total eclipse of the moon. (Flyer will announce place of meeting.)
- Sept. 27 Wed. Open house Naval Observatory.
- Sept. 30 Sat. Junior meeting.

Tuesday and Thursday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope making class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, instructor. Telephone Lockwood 5-1237. Note: Miss Warthen will be present only on Tuesdays. For further details call Miss Warthen.

METEOR COUNT. Although the meteor count scheduled for August 11 was rained out, several NCA members carried out individual observations the following night and counted about 250 Perseids in about 2 hours.

MABEL STERNS wants to get February 1943 and December 1946 issues of Sky and Telescope to complete her files. Call her at DI-9422. We hope Miss Sterns will tell us more of her recent visit to the Dearborn Observatory at Northwestern University at a future NCA meeting.