

2 JAN 1951

STAR DUST  
National Capital Astronomers  
Washington, D.C.

LYLE T. JOHNSON ON LUNAR METEOR OBSERVING PROGRAM

In November STAR DUST I requested observations of the crescent moon to detect any impact flares that might be visible in the dark hemisphere. If any NCA members have attempted this observational program I should like to have their data. I observed for 38 minutes on November 12, 100 minutes on November 14, and 114 minutes on December 13. Except for a momentary faint flash which I only suspected on November 14 my searches were fruitless. I did see two terrestrial telescopic meteors. Favorable dates in coming months will be January 9-12, February 7-10, March 9-12, and April 8-11. Observations should be begun as soon as it gets dark, especially on the first two nights of each series when the moon sets early. It is best if the two observers can work together, taking turns at the eyepiece. A person working alone should take an occasional break to avoid fatigue. As the main objective of this program is simultaneous observation of phenomena all observers should take their breaks at the same time. I take five minutes off beginning on the hour and half hour and others working alone should do the same. This program requires patience as several hours at the eyepiece may be necessary before anything is seen, but I hope some NCA observers will participate.

--Lyle T. Johnson

NEW MEMBERS

- Brabham, Miss Ellen J, 3936 Morrison St. N. W. (15)  
EM 7006
- Gowdy, Herbert Eugene, U.S. Naval Receiving Station,  
C/o P.I.C. (25)
- \*Milburn, Alfred B., Jr., 102 Mankin Walk, Falls Church.
- \*Motes, Gesse H., 1610 N. Taylor St., Arlington, Va.

Those who didn't attend BOB WRIGHT'S PICNIC missed the boat. There were several telescopes, a lighted Christmas tree, and lots of fun. MRS. NORRIS' DISCUSSION GROUP developed into a round table on general astronomy which kept the participants talking until eleven o'clock.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N. W. NO 9621

January 1951

\*\*\*\*\*

JANUARY CALENDAR

- Jan. 2 Tue. Astronomy Class, Science Service, 8:00 P. M. Dr. Wells, Jim Cracroft.
- Jan. 3 Wed. Observing at the "NCA 5" on Naval Observatory Grounds. (If it rains will be on January 10.) Jim Crowell.
- Jan. 6 Sat. "THE MEASUREMENT OF SOLAR RADIATION AT RADIO WAVELENGTHS DURING THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF 12 SEPTEMBER 1950," Dr. John F. Hagen, 8:15 P. M. Commerce Auditorium.
- Jan. 17 Wed. Observation Night, Naval Observatory, 7:00 P. M. (Passes must be requested in advance.) Also, Observing at the "NCA 5" with Jim Crowell.
- Jan. 20 Sat. "PHILOSOPHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ASTRONOMICAL RESEARCH," Discussion Group, 8:15 Department of Commerce Foyer, Dr. Glen H. Draper, Nautical Almanac Office, author of "What Is Truth?", discussion leader.
- Jan. 23 Tue. Astronomy Class.
- Jan. 24 Wed. Observation Night, Naval Observatory.
- Jan. 27 Sat. Junior NCA Meeting, Science Service Center.

Every Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 P. M. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 313, 13th & Upshur, N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone L0ckwood 5-1237. Note: Miss Warthen will be present only on Tuesdays.

DR. JOHN F. HAGEN, who speaks on "The Measurement of Solar Radiation at Radio Wavelengths During the Total Eclipse of 12 September 1950" was the head of the expedition which made the observations. Other scientists from the Naval Research Laboratory and the National Bureau of Standards accompanied Dr. Hagen. Grote Reber was one of these. Dr. Hagen will discuss the preliminary results of the analysis of the eclipse observations as they affect our knowledge of temperature gradients in the sun's atmosphere and will show moving pictures and slides of the radio and optical equipment used and of the Attu, Alaska, eclipse location.

**CORRECTION!**

It is to be hoped that STAR DUST'S astronomy is more accurate than its anatomy. It wasn't my rib that was broken, as reported in the preceding issue, but my head!

Old Man Cilley, bless his breeches,  
Busted his head and had several stitches,  
Then to make a fine job finer,  
Ended up with a great big SHINER!

Boy! What a black eye!  
(But it wasn't a rib.)

—Morgan Cilley

**NIGHT SKY RADIATIONS FROM THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE**  
E. O. Hulbert, Naval Research Laboratory

**ABSTRACT**

A survey. About 5/6 of the night sky luminosity is due to radiations from the gases of the upper atmosphere and 1/6 is due to the stars. Present spectra of the gaseous glow show lines due to atomic oxygen and to molecular oxygen and nitrogen, with traces of hydrogen and sodium; many lines remain unidentified. The altitude from which the flow comes is about 80 to 300 km but is not well determined. The brightness is about the same in all latitudes thus far observed, -17° to +67°, when there is no aurora.

**THIS MONTH'S VIGNETTE**

Look around you at the next NCA meeting, see if you can find a tall man who has white hair, wears glasses and a "beat-up" brown beret--(not indoors). That's our past president and new trustee, Leo W. Scott--man of many talents. He's originally from upstate New York--has taught math, chemistry, and physics and once was Director of a Junior College -- no less! Right now, he's bringing home the bacon via the Optical Instrument Section of the Bureau of Standards. When your reporter inquired details, she was treated to a raised eyebrow and an expressive shrug. We know his work must be something terribly important to you know what. He will tell you all about the eclipse observed in Brazil in '47 at the drop of a hat--or without dropping a hat! He had a wonderful time with the National Geographic Expedition on that trip. Besides his interest in astronomy, he operates his own ham radio station W3QDI--tying this in with his work as a member of the First Aid Corps of the Disaster Services of the Red Cross. Just in case he hasn't a thing to do, he has a regular tour of duty each month, operating Emergency Station 3PZA, in his work as Secretary of the Conduit Road Fire Board. In between times you can find him crawling around in damp dark holes in the ground or camping out with all the Scotts. Which reminds me--It's hard for a man to have all these diversified hobbies without a mighty understanding person in the background. Leo has one he hauled up on the end of a rope back in the Potomac Trail Club days, name of Guinevere--and three little Scotts trail along now--Martha, 7, who raises hamsters, Philip, 5, and Margaret who is 3--a grand family for an outstanding member of the National Capital Astronomers.

—Bertha M. Rotbart

MR. WALTER H. HAAS, director of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers was the guest of John Lenkford and others with astronomical interests recently as he passed through Washington en route from White Sands to Aberdeen Proving Grounds.

"SOME STUDIES IN THE MILKY WAY," was the subject of the Colloquium of Naval Observatory's Mrs. Simone D. Gossner at Georgetown Observatory on December 12.