

RECENT ASTRONOMICAL LECTURES HERE

"STORMY WEATHER ON THE SUN," was the subject of the eighteenth annual James Arthur lecture on the sun, given on March 22 at the Smithsonian. The lecturer was Dr. Walter Orr Roberts, Astrophysicist of the High Altitude Observatory, Boulder, Colorado. "THE FORMATION OF STARS" was what Dr. Lyman Spitzer, Jr., Director of the Princeton University Observatory, spoke of to the Philosophical Society on the occasion of its annual Joseph Henry lecture on March 23. He talked about "cloud" stars and "primeval" stars and showed how "cloud" stars are formed. "SOME PROBLEMS IN SOLAR PHYSICS," was the subject of the fourth Astronomy Colloquium at Georgetown University, and the speaker was Dr. Carl C. Kiess, Department of Spectroscopy, National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Kiess discussed several of the unsolved mysteries of the sun, the unknown lines, the ionization states that are not yet clearly comprehended. The fifth Colloquium was on "SOME PROBLEMS IN METEORITES," and the speaker was Mr. E.P. Henderson, Curator of Meteorites of the National Museum. He spoke on the various types of meteors, their velocities, their markings, and how to tell one type from another.

DAVIS PLANETARIUM TRIP TO BALTIMORE was made by 33 people. A special show on meteors, showing meteors crashing to earth, was put on for the National Capital Astronomers and a special welcome was given by Dr. Paul Watson of the Maryland Academy of Science. Dr. Watson is building a new observatory and a 12-inch reflector. He has extended an invitation to the NCA to visit it upon its completion this fall. Some of the NCA party visited the Northwood Observatory of Mr. Joe L. Woods. Mr. Woods has a 12-inch reflector, a fine astrographic camera, and elaborate dark room equipment. He has photographed about three-fourths of the sky from latitude Baltimore but the city lights have become so strong that the project has been halted. He has done some very interesting lunar work, described in April Sky and Telescope. Among these are eight charts showing the moon under various stages of illumination, with over 300 lunar features labeled.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

- April 7 Saturday "THE TIDE: AN ASTRONOMICAL PHENOMENON," Dr. Embert A. LeLacheur, Mathematician, Division of Tides and Currents, U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. 8:15 p. m. Commerce Department Auditorium.
- April 8 Thursday "EXPLORING THE SKY," National Capital Parks Outing. Fort Reno Park, 41st Street and Chesapeake, N.W. 7 to 9 p. m. Observations of Venus and Saturn. Bob Wright in command. Telescopes wanted !!
- April 11 Wednesday Observation Night, Naval Observatory, 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. (Passes must be requested in advance.) Also observing at the NCA 5".
- April 13 Friday ANNUAL NCA DINNER, Campfire Cafe, 3060 16th Street, 7:30 p. m. See item inside.
- April 18 Wednesday Observation Night, Naval Observatory.
- April 21 Saturday Discussion Group. Mr. Thomas R. Henry, Science Editor of "The Evening Star," will lead discussion on a topic of his choosing. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Foyer.
- April 23 Monday "PALOMAR OBSERVATORY," Dr. Ira S. Bowen, Director of Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories. 8:00 p. m. National Academy of Science Auditorium, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.
- April 25 Wednesday Observing at the NCA 5"
- April 28 Saturday Junior NCA Meeting. Science Service Center.

AND TELESCOPE MAKING, FAITHFULLY, AS ALWAYS, every Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur, N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, who has been instructor for three years and associate instructor before that, is present on Fridays. She can be reached over telephone LO-5-1237. A number of fine telescopes have been ground and mounted in this class.

COMING UP! !

- May 11, 12, 13 The American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO) holds its convention at Georgetown University and Observatory. Father Heyden is chairman of the convention. Watch for complete details on program in May STAR DUST. There will be a trip to the Naval Research Laboratory.
- June American Astronomical Society meets here. May or June STAR DUST will carry more details. There will be many fine lectures.
- September The Astronomical League Convention at the Morehead Planetarium and the annular eclipse of the sun. The news releases on the tentative plans sound very exciting. More about this too in next STAR DUST.

THE STORY OF THE TIDES is one of the phenomena associated with the law of gravitation. The cause of the periodic rise and fall of the waters of the ocean may be regarded as a case of disturbance due to the action of the moon and the sun. This disturbance in turn affects the rotation of the earth and the revolution of the moon. Dr. Embert A. LeLacheur, our speaker at the April meeting, will trace the development of the theories and beliefs concerning tides from the ancient times, through the Newtonian theory, to the present day thoughts on the subject. Dr. LeLacheur has been associated with the Coast Geodetic Survey since 1919 and is a recognized authority on tides, tidal currents and tidal bench marks, having written a number of government publications and magazine articles on the subject. He will illustrate the lecture with slides and motion pictures.

RESERVATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL NCA DINNER may be made at the April 7 meeting or by calling Miss Heisey, DU 0574. Place: Campfire Cafe. Time: 7:30. Price \$2.25 (including tip). The address of the Campfire Cafe is 3060 16th Street and it may be reached by Mount Pleasant car line or 16th Street bus lines.

DONALD L. MILLER, member of the junior division of NCA, of Woodrow Wilson High School, was one of three awarded certificates of merit by the Washington Academy of Science in its annual science award competition. Donald received the award for his observations of meteors.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE APPOINTED. President Ted Jones at the March meeting appointed the following as the nominating committee for the current year; Chairman, Leo Scott, Robert W. Rhynsburger, Jewell Boling.

COMMITTEE TO ASSIST WITH THE AAVSO CONVENTION appointed. At the March meeting President Ted Jones appointed all members of the Meteor Observing Committee, of which Arthur Wubnig is chairman, as members of a special committee to assist with registration and other details at the forthcoming AAVSO convention. Other members of this committee are: Dana Law, Nettie Mansker, Janet Perkins, Irene Warthen, Robert Greene, Donald Miller, Mabel Sterns, Grady Whitney, Edward Jenkins, and Richard McCabe.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS OUTINGS, which everyone enjoys so much; get under way again this month, under the able direction of Bob Wright. Everyone is urged to bring out telescopes to these affairs. The date of the May one will be the sixth, April one the eighth.

PAUL STEVENS, CHAIRMAN OF THE NORTHEAST REGION, who was attending the optics convention being held at the National Bureau of Standards, was a guest of NCA to hear the lecture of Harlow Shapley.

NEW MEMBERS

Walters, Clyde N., 1332 Massachusetts Ave., N. W. Apartment 21 ME 7637