

THE ROSTER OF NCA MEMBERS will be published in STAR DUST later in the year. A temporary list has been prepared, and many changes of address have been reported. If you have not reported a change of address, please advise the secretary, Miss Heisey. Secure your copy of the roster at the next meeting.

A LETTER FROM MR. SELAH P. YOUNG has been received. He is now located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He has his 12 1/2" refractor mounted in his back yard and reports that seeing conditions aren't much better out there than they were back here (at least in summer). He expects shortly to have the drive and circles in his telescope. It is designed so that interchangeable diagonals and prisms are used in the telescope. A small 1" prism replaces the 2" elliptical diagonal when high powers are desired and a 6" Barlow lens is used ahead of the prism. The diagonal or prism holder and eyepiece holder are designed to slide in the telescope tube to accommodate the focal lengths of the various combinations. To date he has not met any amateur astronomers. He has access to the astronomy books at the University of New Mexico which is within walking distance of his home. His address is 316 South Harvard Street, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

---Janet Perkins

"SOLAR RADIO NOISE AND PLASMA OSCILLATION" was the subject of the eighth Astronomical Colloquium at Georgetown University. The speaker was Dr. Hari K. Sen of the Bureau of Standards.

REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER for the NCA for the next three years will be Miss Irene Warthen who has been reelected to this position.

DALLAS, TEXAS is to be the site of the Astronomical League Convention next year -- probably on July 4. Start now on your "Vacation Fund." Details on costs and time involved will appear in later STAR DUSTS.

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N. W. North 9621

OCTOBER CALENDAR

- Oct. 6 Sat. "TELESCOPES - GOOD, BAD AND DIFFERENT", John W. Streeter, Assistant Director of Philadelphia's Fels Planetarium, Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- Oct. 11 Thu. Junior Observing Night at the NCA 5". With Ted Jones.
- Oct. 13 Sat. EXPLORING THE SKY; National Capital Parks Outing, Fort Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake St., N. W. 7-9 p. m.
- Oct. 20 Sat. DISCUSSION GROUP, Commerce Foyer, 8:15 p. m.
- Oct. 24 Wed. NCA MEMBERS Observing Night, Glover Road, South of Military Road and Oregon Avenue in Rock Creek Park, 7:30 p. m. With Ned Johnston.
- Oct. 25 Thu. Alternate Junior Observing Night at the NCA 5".

Tuesday and Friday, 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. Miss Warthen is present on Fridays.

ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPES have been in use for about three hundred forty years, and during this time there have been many chapters written in the story of man's efforts to build a good telescope and make it work. We shall hear about this most interesting part

of the history of astronomy from John W. Streeter, Assistant Director of Philadelphia's Fels Planetarium. Telescope troubles are not confined to the amateur astronomer. Something is quite apt to ail even the instruments of professionals. Telescope stories begin with Galileo, who plotted all the stars he could see in Orion, but never saw the nebula. Kepler invented an astronomical telescope but never looked through one. Later on in the story, we find that the Naval Observatory was once only a storehouse for charts, and that the 26-inch telescope had to be remounted before it could be satisfactorily used. Behind-the-scenes tales can also be told about the well-known telescopes of today --even about the 200-inch.

Mr. Streeter has visited many of the leading observatories of the world, and has contributed articles on the history of astronomy to professional journals. He received his training at Yale and Harvard Universities and was instructor in astronomy at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, prior to his entry into the field of "public astronomy."

----Mrs. Harriet Malitson

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE ECLIPSE CONVENTION AT CHAPEL HILL

was attended by the following NCA'ers and their relatives: Norma Leinhard, Ione Alston, R. G. McCabe, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Scott, Martha Scott, Philip Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy J. Walls, Mabel Sterns, Grace Scholz, Dr. R. A. Bell, Janet Perkins, Bob Wright, Ruth F. Heisey, Lyle T. Johnson, Dorothy Geare, William Dworzan, Thelma Cressy, Margaret Glock, Irene Warthen, Mrs. R. A. Bell, Mrs. Carrie E. Boling, and Jewell Boling.

Details of the Convention will come to all NCA'ers via the League Bulletin. Suffice to say that it was an extremely well organized convention carrying out its central objective of instruction in observing techniques with a thoroughness never before achieved at a convention. The use of the planetarium in connection with this was a method not tried before at a convention. Congratulations to Convention Chairman Bob Wright and

to the various members of the Convention Committees.

There was some heartbreak over the fact that a fog bank managed to boil up between us and the sun just at eclipse time, but we did get a glimpse of the partial sun in the central phase through the clouds. As the moon began to slide off the sun the fog bank promptly cleared away.

Big convention news of course was the election of Bob Wright as the new League President, succeeding Charles LeRoy of Pittsburgh.

THE NCA OBSERVING PARTY was held at Fort Reno, Thursday, September 19. The following NCA'ers assembled at dusk with their telescopes: Bob Wright, Ted Johnston, Janet Perkins, Hoy J. Walls, and Leo Scott. The party was well attended by GI's from the military encampment nearby. About 10 came over and enjoyed viewing Jupiter and the moon, together with variables, double stars, and nebulae. After the observing, the NCA'ers adjourned to the Scotts for hot cocoa and to lay plans for future observing nights. We had a lot of fun this night. Too bad more NCA'ers were not present.

---Leo W. Scott

NEW MEMBERS

- Anderson, Ralph Ewen, Jr., Company E, 1st School Bn., Ft. Belvoir, Va.
- Malitson, Mrs. Harriet H., 1430 Belmont St., N.W. (9) Dupont 3705
- *Isherwood, Miss Estelle, 4304 55th Ave., Bladensburg, Md. AP 9419

JUNIOR MEMBERS OF THE NCA will be permitted the use of the 5" refractor at the Naval Observatory only under supervision during the next few months. Definite observing nights for Juniors will be arranged each month, under the supervision of Ted Jones.