

LEAGUE CONVENTION NOTES

Among the interesting things planned for delegates to the League Convention is a trip to McDonald Observatory in Scenic West Texas at the close of the Convention. It is the third largest telescope in the world--having a mirror 82 inches in diameter. The fifth moon of Uranus and the second moon of Neptune were discovered with this mammoth telescope.

We can secure air-conditioned buses (37-passenger) for the round trip at a cost of \$14.45 per person. For an additional \$4.00 per person, we can return by way of the famous Carlsbad Caverns of New Mexico. This privilege is for registered Convention Delegates only and you will be admitted to the observatory by your Convention badge. Anyone preferring to drive his own car may do so but the same rule applies for admittance to the observatory. Each person pays for his own meals and lodgings. Arrangements must be made at the registration desk.

OCCULTATIONS

June 2	Mu Leonis	4.50	7:51½ P.M., EST
June 3	127B Virg.	7.1	9:43 P.M., EST
June 29	359B Leon.	6.3	9:48½ P.M., EST
July 2	562B Virg.	6.9	9:22½ P.M., EST

--Morgan Cilley

All of these are on the dark edge of the moon. Mr. Cilley furnished us with these and will furnish us with occultation data for the remainder of the year.

Dr. Markowitz is succeeding Mr. Paul Sollenberger as head of the Time Service at Naval Observatory. NCA'ER Bob Rhynsberger has taken a position with the Naval Observatory.

NEW MEMBERS

Griggs, Nelson 10419 Julep Ave., Silver Spring, Md. LO-5-0201
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JUNE CALENDAR

Date

7 (Sat.) "COSMIC RADIATION", Dr. Herman Yagoda, author of "Radioactive Measurements with Nuclear Emulsions," Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.

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.

July 3-6 ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION, DALLAS, TEXAS.

ASTRONOMERS AND PHYSICISTS alike have long been interested in finding the origin and composition of cosmic radiation, that strange shower of matter and energy coming to us apparently from interstellar space. Dr. Yagoda will discuss the history, composition, and properties of cosmic rays. Emphasis will be given to recent discoveries made by using special photographic emulsions. Two of these findings are the pi-mu meson decay process and the presence of a component of heavy nuclei. The talk will be illustrated with typical cosmic ray events that have taken place in the emulsions of specially prepared photographic plates. Some of these plates were exposed on mountain tops and others were carried up to the stratosphere by balloons or rockets.

Dr. Yagoda is employed at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, where he is engaged in the development of methods for the study of ionizing radiations. Dr. Yagoda gave this same lecture on "COSMIC RADIATION" before the Philosophical Society a couple of months ago. Several NCA'ers who attended report the lecture to be unusually interesting.

1952-1953 OFFICERS

President	Janet Wright
Vice-President	Hoy J. Walls
Secretary	Ruth Heisey
Treasurer	Elizabeth Fazekas

LYLE JOHNSON was elected as trustee.

GROUP SUBSCRIPTION TO "SKY AND TELESCOPE" will not be presented for action at the June meeting as had been hoped. It may be possible to present this desirable move at an early meeting in the fall.

DISCUSSION GROUPS for the past year ended with possibly the most interesting one. During the year we have talked about various phases of observing, but this time we did more than talk. Bob Wright, in a practice session for the occultation of May 28, brought stop watches, a radio receiver for WWV signals, a large picture of the moon, and a disappearing star. Eighteen persons enjoyed trying their hand at timing the simulated occultations. It was a sad realization that the occultation of May 28 would not offer a second chance to get over "buck fever."

AUDIT COMMITTEE has been appointed: Alexander White and R. Grant McCabe.

THE NCA has on order a projection screen for use at our meetings. This will supplement the slide projector and collection of slides owned by the NCA. These items may be borrowed by members who wish to make use of them in giving talks. The screen will be of the new plastic type, which affords good viewing from all angles, rather than the usual glass-beaded type which provides the best pictures for only those directly facing the screen. It is hoped that it will be received in time for use at the next meeting.

REGIONAL CONVENTION for our region, the Middle East Region, will be held in Detroit the week end after Labor Day, September 6-7. Plan now to attend. Further details will be provided later.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONVENTION was held in Rochester, New York, over Memorial Day. We expect to hear about this convention from some of the following: Irene Warthen, Mabel Sterns, Grace Scholz, Betty Fazekas, Janet and Bob Wright.

NCA TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS GETS FULL-PAGE SPREAD IN THE EVENING STAR. The Evening Star of Wednesday, May 21, carried a wonderful story, covering about half a page, of the telescope making class. One large picture showed Irene Warthen and Janet Wright, Janet checking her telescope and Irene looking on. Another picture showed Nickie Dobi, 10, of Hyattsville, grinding his mirror. The article contains an account of the telescope making class, its accomplishments, its equipment, and the kinds of grinding that are taught. Irene, the article states, is the only woman teaching such a class. There are approximately 60 telescope making classes going on throughout the country.