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DETROIT ROLLED OUT THE WELCOME for the Middle East Regional Convention -- complete with Wayne University speeches of welcome; the President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and a judge of one of the courts who introduced the Governor of Michigan. Those in attendance from Washington were Nathan Apple, Joan Vickery, Jean Robinson, Janet and Bob Wright. A very interesting program of papers had been arranged and while the exhibits were few in number they were very interesting. One was a home-made planetarium with a folding cloth dome. Visits were made to the Wayne University Planetarium (the instrument was donated by the Detroit group) and to the private planetarium owned by Mrs. Olive Grunow, a member of the Detroit group. Also a trip was made to the museums and observatory of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, as well as a trip to the Michigan State Fair to see the exhibit of the Detroit group. This exhibit included a small tent in which they had hourly shows of films on astronomical subjects, several telescopes ranging in size from 4" to 12" reflectors, and what is reported to be the largest "Cameraobscura" in the world. The banquet, held Friday evening, was attended by 100 persons. The following regional officers were elected for the coming year: Chairman, Edwin F. Bailey of Philadelphia; Vice-Chairman, George Carhard of Pontiac; Secretary, Eleanor Vadala of Philadelphia; Treasurer, Elizabeth Fazekas of Washington.

--Janet Wright

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Hazel Chisholm, an NCA member from 1949 through 1951, died Saturday, September 20, in Johns Hopkins Hospital. Mrs. Chisholm resigned from NCA last year after her illness prevented her attending meetings. She became interested in astronomy during the period of her initial illness five years ago when she was in the hospital for a long time. She has often spoken of how much her NCA membership meant to her in giving her opportunity to learn more about the stars she loved.

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

STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers
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OCTOBER CALENDAR

Date

- Oct. 4 "WHAT DO THESE FACTS ABOUT METEORITES MEAN, MR. ASTRONOMER?" lecture by Dr. E. P. Henderson of the Smithsonian Institution. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- Oct. 11 EXPLORING THE SKY, with National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W., near end of Wisconsin Avenue Street Car line. 7-9 p. m.
- Oct. 18 DISCUSSION GROUP. Foyer of Commerce Auditorium, 8:00 p. m.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts., N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone L0ckwood 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Fridays.

"WHAT DO THESE FACTS ABOUT METEORITES MEAN, MR. ASTRONOMER?" is the engaging title Dr. E. P. Henderson has selected for his coming lecture to us. Meteorites are lumps of solid matter which occasionally can be seen to fall from the sky. Until near the end of the eighteenth century the study of meteors was not considered to belong properly to astronomy at all; their flashes were believed to be atmospheric phenomena and the falling of stones from the sky was regarded as a miracle or discredited as impossible. Since then, they have been accepted as a natural phenomena; hundreds have been observed and found, and many are preserved in museums.

Dr. Henderson is in charge of one of the best collections of meteorites in the country, located at the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Henderson is one of the most widely known authorities on the subject of the properties of meteorites. Although the chemical elements of meteorites are known, Dr. Henderson believes that there have been some general propositions relating to the properties of meteorites, advanced by geologists, which warrant reexamination. He expresses the opinion that there has been some misinterpretation of these properties and he believes that a discussion of the problem with amateur astronomers will be helpful to him as it will provide him with a fresh approach and may result in the introduction of fresh ideas. With this challenge, the listener is invited to contribute his ideas in the discussion. The lecture will be illustrated by slides.

FIELD TRIP. Plans are under way for a field trip some time during the month of October. Letters have been written inquiring about the possibility of visiting the Leander McCormick Observatory of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville and also the Observatory and Planetarium at the Eastern Mennonite School at Harrisonburg, Virginia. Present plans are for an overnight trip with the return to Washington by way of Skyline Drive on a Sunday during the colorful fall season. Plans should be complete so that announcement can be made at the October meeting. A flyer will be sent to all members since it is impossible to include information in this issue of STAR DUST.

1953 GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE. The National Capital Astronomers have extended an invitation to the Astronomical League to hold its 1953 Convention in Washington. Since invitations have been extended by the Pittsburgh and Kansas City societies, the decision as to where the convention will be held will be made by the Council of the League. We expect this decision will be announced in the November STAR DUST.

COURSE IN ELEMENTARY ASTRONOMY. Consideration is being given at the present time to the holding of another course in elementary astronomy. As to whether or not this will be possible depends upon how many are interested in taking such a course. The course under consideration will cost each person \$10.00 plus the text to be used and any other small incidentals necessary to carry out the instructions. In case you are interested please inform Janet Wright at the next meeting. In case you are unable to attend the meeting, please send her a card signifying your interest.

PROPOSED OBSERVING PROGRAM. With the last copy of STAR DUST was enclosed a single sheet with information concerning a proposed "AT HOME OBSERVING PROGRAM." All that was asked was to complete at least a part of the sheet in either category, for those either with or without telescopes, and return the sheet. I wish to report that as of September 15 only one person had returned his observations. Unless there are at least fifteen or twenty papers returned prior to the next meeting this program will not be continued.

—Bob Wright, Observing Chairman

LAST DISCUSSION GROUP: on September 20 was attended by fourteen people who discussed what they had done or seen astronomically during the summer. Ione Alston reported on her trip to Mexico, Ed Johnson on his recent trip to Lick Observatory and the progress on grinding the 120", Bob Wright on the Astronomical League Convention in Detroit, Betty Fazekas on seeing the fireball which passed over Washington a few days ago, and others on planetarium trips.

NEW MEMBERS

Lichtman, Paul A. Md. 4320 - 45th St., N. W. (16)
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Lichtman, Philip Robert 4320 - 45th St., N. W. (16)
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