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October 1953

Vol. 11, No. 2

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OCTOBER CALENDAR

- Oct. 3 "THE UNIVERSE" is the subject of "motion picture night", Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- Oct. 4 "EXPLORING THE SKY," joint program of NCA and National Capital Parks, Fort Reno Park, 40th & Chesapeake Street, N. W., 7 to 9 p. m.
- Oct. 17 DISCUSSION GROUP. 8:00 p. m. Commerce Auditorium. With Bob Wright.

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 LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Tuesdays.

"THE UNIVERSE" - This show takes us to the world's greatest observatories so we can look through the world's largest telescopes via the medium of the motion picture. The films were arranged and produced by Dr. Rucy Sibley with the full cooperation of the major American observatories. THE SUN is an exciting picture showing us the tremendous explosions that are continually erupting from the seething surface of this huge fiery globe. Part of the film was made with the coronagraph of the Harvard College-University of Colorado High Altitude Observatory. The film THE MOON provides in effect a survey trip to the moon. We seem to approach as close as 100 miles to the surface and view in fascinating detail the rugged terrain. THE SOLAR SYSTEM gives views of Jupiter and Saturn through the Hooker and Hale telescopes and a Lowell Observatory telescopic close-up tour of the planets. THE MILKY WAY is a film in which several observatories contribute photographic delights such as the North American Nebula, the Pleiades, the Great Nebula in Orion, the Ring Nebula

The Maryland Academy of Sciences advanced the publication date of its "Graphic Time Table of the Heavens" for 1954 in order to distribute it at the Convention, and also displayed the original drawings from which the charts were made.

Among commercial exhibits were a Spitz planetarium projector, meteorites from Ward's Natural Science Establishment, astronomical photographs and publications of Sky Publishing Corporation, and telescopes and parts by Harry Ross. Frank Dachtelle, author of "Target Earth," first saw the bound book complete with jacket, when he opened the box shipped by air to the Convention. A new "Bonner Durchmusterung" arrived from the printer in Germany just in time for Herbert Luft to bring it along.

--Dana Law and A. L. White

OCTOBER SKIES

Mercury is an evening star in October and is at greatest eastern elongation on the 23rd. At this time it is 24 degrees from the sun. Venus is a morning star seen low in the east just before sunrise. Mars is in Leo east of Regulus and is seen in the morning sky for about three hours before sunrise. Jupiter rises late in the evening and is the brightest object until Venus comes up. Saturn is in conjunction on the 23rd and too close to the sun for easy observation.

The maximum date for the Orionid meteor shower is October 22. This shower averages 20 meteors per hour. On the 15th at 11:00 p. m. (EST) the Milky Way spans the heavens from east to west crossing just north of the zenith and passing through Auriga, Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, and Aquila.

--A. L. White

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4/28/53

in Lyra, and the Southern Cross. THE DEPTHS OF SPACE-EXTERIOR GALAXIES shows the audience what the outermost stretches of the universe look like through the world's most powerful telescope, the 200-inch Hale telescope of Mt. Palomar Observatory.

--Benjamin Adelman

THE FOLLOWING have agreed to accept appointment to conduct special functions during the coming year:

William L. Isherwood      Observing at the 5"  
Paul Davis                  Parliamentarian

This supplements those listed in the September issue of STAR DUST.

THE NEW SPITZ PLANETARIUM recently installed at Fort Belvoir is open to the public on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 7:30 to 8:30 p. m. In September the Tuesday lecture will be "Skies Over Washington" and the Thursday talk, "Motions of Stars." In October "Mars" will be discussed on Tuesdays and "The Moon" on Thursdays.

DISCUSSION GROUP TOPIC for October has not yet been announced but Bob Wright has several subjects lined up for the coming months. Convention papers too have opened up some interesting new topics to be talked about.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR OCTOBER

| Date  | Star       | Mag. | Age of Moon |    | E.S.T.  |
|-------|------------|------|-------------|----|---------|
|       |            |      | d           | h  |         |
| 10-13 | 5C Sgts    | 6.8  | 6.0         | 7: | 09.7 PM |
| 10-18 | 186B Aquas | 6.2  | 11.0        | 8: | 30.9 PM |
| 10-26 | 125 Tau.   | 5.0  | 18.4        | 5: | 18.2 AM |
| 10-27 | 52B Gemi   | 6.4  | 19.3        | 3: | 45.7 AM |

Note: All stars are occulted on the dark limb.

-- A. L. White

CONVENTION EXHIBIT

Between convention sessions at the Carnegie Institution auditorium, convention goers browsed in the adjacent exhibit hall. High in interest was the exhibit giving a preview of the 1954 convention at Madison, Wisconsin.

Amateurs exhibited a variety of observing equipment and results of observing. Among the telescopes was one with a motor-driven star camera of 4" aperture with an 8" x 10" plate, built by junior astronomer Philip Lichtman of Washington, D. C. James Kaler, a junior from Albany, New York, brought his planetarium made from tin cans. Telescopes and displays by other young astronomers were equally interesting. Lunar, planetary, and galactic photographs, drawings, and charts arrived with amateur astronomers from various parts of the country. A large collection of lunar lore was presented by Dr. J. Q. Gant, Jr., of Washington, D. C. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and a few League societies were represented in the exhibit.

Exhibits by government agencies in the Washington area showed how astronomy related to their work. The Army Map Service displayed a Cassegrainian telescope which is being used in a program to measure the precise size and shape of the earth. The telescope has photoelectric equipment and is used in observing lunar occultations. The National Museum provided a case of meteorites, and the Astrophysical Observatory, also of the Smithsonian Institution, displayed several instruments used in solar research. Photographs by the National Bureau of Standards pertained to its study of meteors by radar. Another series of photographs taken by the National Institutes of Health showed collisions of cosmic rays and nuclei.

Several panels gave a graphic description of the Coast and Geodetic Survey's work on tides and the earth's magnetic field, and near them were publications and charts of the Navy Hydrographic Office used in celestial navigation.

## ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION REPORT

The convention really came alive for the NCA on August 21, when all the committee chairmen and members met at the Wrights to exchange information and plans. It turned into a work session, for the programs and covers had arrived, and every one helped to fold and assemble them. The final few days before the convention saw several "supper meetings" and many hours spent on arranging the final details at Carnegie Institution, bus transportation, details for the trips, and the buffet supper.

Folks began to arrive on September 3. By the evening of September 4 more than 150 were on hand for the trip to the Naval Observatory. We were each handed a map and given free rein to visit any or all of the eight points of interest. The sessions began Saturday morning. At the Middle East Regional Meeting the following were elected as new regional officers: Chairman, P. Nash Anderson (Norfolk); Vice-Chairman, Thomas LuCaric (Baden, Pa.); Secretary, Eleanor Vadala (Philadelphia); Treasurer, Charles Strull (Louisville). The first general session turned out to be a surprise. Dr. V. Ben Meen, in Washington conferring with the National Geographic Society, was present to tell about discovering a new meteor crater in Canada. The sessions proceeded on through reports, general business, and papers on various phases of observing.

Saturday evening, at adjournment time, we were greeted with a thundershower, which turned into an intermittent drenching rain all evening. The buffet supper at Georgetown was moved indoors. The buses traveled as close to Georgetown Observatory as possible in the downpour. About two thirds of the party defied the rain and walked the last distance to inspect the Observatory. After a quick inspection the buses were loaded with damp passengers and returned to the hotel. A much cooler Sunday morning arrived and three buses were again loaded -- this time for the trip to Naval Research Laboratory. With their return, the convention committees breathed easier, for all trips were over and the bulk of our work was done. However, the long sessions of sitting and listening were just starting.

Sunday afternoon began with another business session. The following officers for the Astronomical League were elected: President, Rolland R. LaPelle (Meadville, Pa.); Vice-President, James H. Karle (Portland, Oregon); Secretary, Russell C. Maag (Sedalia, Mo.); Treasurer, Mrs. Ralph Buckstaff (Oshkosh, Wisc.); Executive Secretary (3-year term); Mrs. Olive Grunow (Detroit, Michigan).

The session proceeded with papers from Juniors and talks on radio astronomy. The Sunday evening session was very well attended to hear papers on selected subjects. Monday morning the instrument makers took the first portion and then we learned about the plans for observing the eclipse and attending the convention next year. Before 2:00 p.m. most of the exhibits had been dismantled and final good-bys were being said at the restaurant and hotel.

Comments and praise were generous, and were especially appreciated from those who had arranged earlier conventions. The general feeling was that all details had been worked out, and that everything had run very smoothly. While the convention committees were printed in the program, we wish to mention each one here, so that all NCA members may know:

Registration: Ione Alston, Ruth Heisey

Exhibits: Mabel Sterns, William Isherwood, Dana Law,  
Roger Smith, H. J. Walls, Alexander White,  
Leo Scott

Facilities and Projection Equipment: Lyle T. Johnson

Hospitality: Elizabeth Goerner, Thelma Cressy, Gertrude  
Dellar, Irene Warthen

Publicity: Abraham Robinson

Transportation: Leo Scott

Treasurer: Betty Fazekas

The Program was not the responsibility of the NCA, but was arranged by Mr. Charles H. LeRoy. We wish to thank all of the above, and also the many other NCA members who attended the convention for the part they played in making a success of the 1953 General Convention.

--- Janet and Bob Wright