

NEW MEMBERS

- W. Robert Brown, 1217 N. Kensington St., Arlington, Va.
JA 5-7119
- Lt. Col. Charles E. Fay, Jr., 2311 Dinwiddie St., Arlington
6, Va. JA 5-6980
- Sam C. Feild, Jr., 1502 Crane St., Falls Church, Va.
JE 4-1158
- Robert L. Misner, 1270 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Md.
JU 9-9892
- *Richard E. Armsby, 3718 Appelton St., N.W., D.C. (16)
WO 6-0491
- *Richard Fay, 2311 Dinwiddie St., Arlington 6, Va.
JA 5-6980
- *John H. Nelson, 1504 Oakcrest Drive, Alexandria, Va.
KI 8-4631
- *Howard S. Schwartz, 607 South View Terrace, Alexandria,
Va. TE 6-1468
- *Michael J. Wright, 715 West View Terrace, Alexandria, Va.
KI 8-1286

REINSTATEMENTS

- Donald L. Miller, 4314 Tenth Street, N.E. (17) LA 6-4731
- David H. Minton, 117 Moreel Circle, LaMesa Village,
Monterey, Calif.
- Col. Charles H. Mitchell, Mc-041731, Tokyo Army Hospital,
8059 A U Apo 1052 C/o Postmaster, San Francisco, Calif.
- Mrs. Eliz. M. Mitchell, 7417 Blair Road, N.W., Washington, DC
- Vinson Stephens, 305 N. Virginia Ave., Falls Church, Va.
JE 2-0006

THE ECLIPSE OF THE MOON on January 18 was viewed in various places by various NCA'ers. One group gathered at the Naval Observatory to observe it through the 5". One NCA'er saw it from Georgetown Observatory. Many observed in their own backyards. Most observers reported puzzlement over the apparent lack of complete totality-- that is, the corner of the moon which stayed bright. According to the Naval Observatory this was due to a refraction effect arising in the earth's atmosphere. Bob and Janet Wright report seeing a triple halo of rare color and brilliance, surrounding the moon about 11:30 on eclipse night.

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P Street, N.W. NO 7-9621

QB1
S79

STAR DUST

National Capital Astronomers

February 1954

Vol. 11, No. 6

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Feb. 6 "THE ORIGIN AND INTERNAL CONSTITUTION OF THE EARTH," Dr. Leason H. Adams, Past Director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- 9 Visit to Telescope Making Class (see details inside).
- 20 JUNIOR MEETING. Commerce Foyer. 7:00 p. m.
- DISCUSSION GROUP. Commerce Foyer 8:00 p. m.

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

OUR EARTH, whose firmness we take for granted, may once have been a globe of fiery hot molten rock. Even today, the rock many miles under our feet is extremely hot. How did this come about? What do scientists know about the birth of our world and what do they infer? Dr. Leason H. Adams, Past Director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, who has studied this problem for many years, will discuss the origin and development of the earth and present his own conclusions on this highly controversial subject. He will draw upon the latest evidence furnished by seismology, astronomy, geochemistry and his own researches. Dr. Adams has studied materials compressed by the terrific pressure of 300,000 pounds per square inch to stimulate conditions in the earth's interior.

--Benjamin Adelman

AMENDMENT TO BY-LAWS. A proposal for amending Article I of the By-Laws was submitted at the January meeting. Vote will be taken at the February meeting. The proposed changes are set out below. Substitutions and additions are underscored.

Article I - Membership, Dues, and Voting

Section 1. Membership in this corporation shall be composed of two grades:

(a) Junior membership - Annual dues, \$1.50; maximum age, 18 years. Junior members shall have all the privileges of membership except the right to hold office, and those rights specifically reserved for full members. Junior members shall have the right to vote on all issues, and each vote cast by a junior member shall be counted as one-half the vote of a full member. Junior members may elect the privilege of SKY AND TELESCOPE in which case the annual dues shall be \$3.50. Once elected this privilege must be included for each successive year of the individual's membership, until he becomes a regular member. (Underscored section is an addition to by-laws.) All previous motions or by-laws in conflict are null and void.

(b) Full membership, for which the minimum age shall be 16 years, is divided into the following classes:

(1) Regular membership - Annual dues, individual, \$5.00; (previously \$3.00); husband and wife, \$7.00 (previously \$5.00). Two dollars of the above dues shall be applied to the privilege of membership that includes SKY AND TELESCOPE (addition to by-laws).

(2) Life membership - consisting of those persons elected as such prior to the effective date of these by-laws as amended (February 6, 1954). Thereafter there shall be no new life members. (substitution for - "Life membership - \$50.00 paid at one time).

(3) Honorary membership - No dues. Honorary membership is reserved for those persons who have made outstanding contributions to further the aims and objectives of this corporation. (Addition)

All full members shall enjoy the same privileges, except that the subscription to SKY AND TELESCOPE shall not be a privilege of membership of present Life members and Honorary members. However, present life members may elect

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is at greatest eastern elongation February 13 and may be seen at this time as an evening star low in south-west just after sunset. The planet will be 18 degrees from the sun and will look like a half-moon in a telescope. Venus is too close to the sun for easy observation in February. Mars moves from Libra into Scorpius this month. It is a morning star rising several hours after midnight. Jupiter is in Taurus and is well placed for observation. Saturn is in Libra and rises about midnight.

- A. L. White

DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY is the title of a course the Department of Agriculture Graduate School is giving this spring. The Instructor is Irving Greenbaum, Astronomer, U. S. Naval Observatory. The class meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:10 to 8:00 p. m. Fee is \$20.00 (2 credits). Registration can be made from January 30 through February 6 (Saturday, 9-11 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 9-6:30 p. m.) at the Patio, First Floor, Administration Building, Dept. of Agriculture, Independence Avenue, between 12th and 14th Streets. There are no prerequisites. The course is designed to give the layman and amateur astronomer a better understanding of the heavens about us. It deals in a nontechnical manner with our solar system, including the planets, their satellites and meteors; stars in our galaxy; and systems beyond our galaxy. The instructor will give a practical description of some of the fundamental laws and forces at work in our universe. Special tours and field work will acquaint class members with some of the equipment and methods used by astronomers, and will graphically represent various aspects of the skies. The course should give you a greater knowledge and enhanced perspective of the celestial world we live in.

ABOUT 20 PEOPLE braved the cold and snow on Saturday, January 23 to attend DISCUSSION GROUP and see and hear about Bob Rhynsburger's trip to Boulder, Colorado, and Mount Palomar. It was worth it.

this privilege upon the payment of \$2.00 per year, provided that the election is made on or before September 11, 1954, and that once elected by a life member the privilege remain continuous, for, if once dropped, it cannot be renewed. (Addition)

Section 2. Applications for membership shall be in written form, properly endorsed by one full member and accompanied by the dues for one year, and shall be submitted to the Membership Committee by the applicant in person. If approved by the Membership Committee, the application shall be brought before the corporation at a duly assembled meeting. Unless there is objection from the floor, a voice vote shall be taken and a majority vote shall constitute election to membership. If objection from the floor is voiced, a majority vote by secret ballot shall be required for election to membership. (No change here.)

Section 3. (at present) Annual dues shall be payable in September or upon admission to membership. Regular members joining the corporation at times other than at the beginning of the fiscal year on 1 September will be credited on the following year's dues at the rate of 25 cents per month for each month between September and the month of their election. Juniors shall be credited at the rate of 10 cents per month.

Section 3. (as per proposed amendment to by-laws) Annual dues shall be payable at the beginning of the fiscal year, September first. Members joining the corporation at times other than the beginning of the fiscal year will accompany their application with the full year's dues and at the beginning of the next fiscal year, they will be given credit toward the following year's dues at the rate shown below for each month from the beginning of the fiscal year to the month of their election.

- (a) Junior members without SKY AND TELESCOPE, 10 cents per month.
- (b) Junior members with SKY AND TELESCOPE, 29 cents per month.
- (c) Regular members, individual, 42 cents per month.
- (d) Regular members, husband and wife, 58 cents per month.

Section 4. Members, whose dues have not been paid by the October meeting, (substitution for "1 December") shall be dropped from the rolls. A delinquent may be reinstated to membership by paying the delinquent and current dues, or by making a new application for membership in the usual manner. The corporation cannot guarantee the continuity of SKY AND TELESCOPE to delinquent members.

(addition).
Section 5. One quarter of the number of full members in good standing shall constitute a quorum. A quorum must be present at any meeting of the corporation at which a vote is taken committing it to any proposal or action. Only members in good standing shall have the right to vote. To be in good standing, a member's dues must not be in arrears more than one month (substitution for "three months").

Section 6. Honorary membership shall be approved by the Board of Trustees before presentation to the membership. (no change)

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Star	Mag.	Age-d	Phase	E. S. T.
9	epsilon Arie m	4.6	6.5	D	11:26.5 p. m.
10	27 Taur m	3.8	7.3	D	5:49.0 p. m.
10	28 Taur m	5.2	7.3	D	5:51.4 p. m.
10	eta Taur	3.0	7.3	R	6:14.1 p. m.
13	87 B Gemi	5.8	10.4	D	8:01.3 p. m.
12-14	44 Gemi	5.9	10.6	D	3:23.8 a. m.
14-15	85 Gemi	5.4	11.6	D	1:17.8 a. m.
20-21	q Virg	5.4	17.6	R	1:19.6 a. m.

—A. L. White

TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS will be visited by a photographer and reporter from the Times-Herald on Tuesday night, February 9, at 8:30 p. m. to collect facts for a story about what the class is doing. We should like to have a good turnout for this occasion at the Roosevelt High School. Why don't you plan to visit the class on that evening and learn about this phase of NCA activity?