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STAR DUST
National Capital Astronomers

April 1954

Vol. 11, No. 8

APRIL CALENDAR

THE MARCH DISCUSSION GROUP was voted a huge success by the more than 100 members and visitors who participated. We were pleased to welcome Mr. Beauford Ragland from Richmond, Mr. Edwin Bailey from Philadelphia and Mr. George Placky from New York. The afternoon session opened with time to view the exhibits and eclipse pictures. The new method of mirror grinding developed in the Bureau of Standards excited much interest among telescope makers. Mr. Hoy Walls showed his patterns for casting mountings and explained the procedures he has used. He also demonstrated a light test for a telescope lense. Miss Irene Warthen told about the procedures employed in the Telescope Making Class. Messrs. William Isherwood, Luc Secretan, and Philip Lichtman discussed camera drives and astronomical photography, and Mr. Lyle Johnson showed photographs of his telescope with camera attachment.

The evening session opened with a discussion of methods of mirror testing by Mr. Irvin Schroader of the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. This was followed by Operation Eclipse during which Mr. Secretan described his experiences during the partial eclipse in 1951, Mr. Ragland discussed timing, and Mr. Johnson showed some of his photographs. This was followed by Mr. Frank Harrington of Georgetown who told of Father Heyden's plans for observing the 1954 eclipse of the sun. Mr. George Placky concluded the events of the day with his discussion of activities of the AAA of New York in several eclipse expeditions. He demonstrated observation plans and procedures through a series of on-the-spot films. He stressed the importance of a well-planned, integrated program, with previously assigned functions for all members of the expedition.

Bob Wright is to be congratulated for his excellent planning of this second "all-day" discussion group.

---Grace Scholz

CORRECTION. The title of the Joseph Henry Lecture given to the Philosophical Society on March 26, announced in STAR DUST last month, was "ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF A CAUSAL INTERPRETATION OF QUANTUM MECHANICS." Through an error in printing the word "causal" was changed to "casual".

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P St., N. W. (6) NO 7-9621

- April 1 "THE ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY," Dr. Charles G. Abbot, former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Auditorium of Museum of Natural History, 10th and Constitution, 8:15 p. m.
- 3 "ASTRONOMY AND THE TIDES," U. Sherman Lyons, Astronomer of U. S. Naval Observatory. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.
- 9 OBSERVING AT THE NGA 5 INCH, NAVAL OBSERVATORY. With Mr. Isherwood.
- 9 OPENING DATE OF THE 1954 SCIENCE FAIR. American University Gymnasium. North side of Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., just beyond Ward Circle.
- 17 JUNIOR MEETING. Commerce Department Foyer, 7:00 p. m.
- 17 DISCUSSION GROUP. Commerce Department Foyer, 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 LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Fridays.

IN ANCIENT TIMES, people believed that the tides simply meant that the earth was breathing. The correct explanation of the cause of the tides has been known for less than 300 years; yet today, the tides are accurately predicted by machine for one year ahead for all the important harbors of the world. The development and application of the theory of the tides has been one of the great achievements of astronomy. It is an achievement that affects our daily life in many ways. The interesting

3/30/54

ory of how astronomy has solved the problem of the
des will be described by Mr. U. S. Lyons, as as-
onomer of the staff of the U. S. Naval Observatory.
---Benjamin Adelman

"THE ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY," lecture on April 1 will
date the distinguished history of this Observatory, which
is organized nearly 65 years ago by Samuel Pierpont
Angley, and will tell of the important research this agen-
has done and is doing, both in Washington and at its
eld stations throughout the world, in scientific studies
solar energy and radiation as related to life on the
rth. Dr. Charles G. Abbot, the lecturer, is a former
rector of the Astrophysical Observatory and also a re-
red Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution. Illustra-
ons will accompany the lecture and it will not be too
chnical for popular understanding.

THE EIGHTH WASHINGTON AREA SCIENCE FAIR will open
ril 9 at the American University gymnasium. It is ex-
cted to be the biggest one yet. The two top young
ientists from the Washington Fair will be sent by the
shington Daily News on all-expense paid trips to Perdue
ompete in the National Fair there. Keith Johnson,
airman of the local science fair committee reports that
tter than 1500 spaces are expected to be taken for ex-
bits for this year's fair. He says it looks as if exhi-
ts will be "hanging from the rafters."

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION PROGRAM
iday, July 2 - 6:30 Side trip to Yerkes Observatory
aturday, July 3 - 10:15-12:00 Observing Session (Solar)
 3:15- 5:00 Observing Session (Planetary)
 7:00 Convention Banquet
nday, July 4 - Morning Exhibits
 1:30 - 3:00 Observing Session (Lunar)
 3:15 - 5:00 Junior Session
 7:30 Eclipse Reports
nday, July 5 - 9:00 -11:15 Instrument Session

ther permitting, University of Wisconsin Planetarium,
shburn Observatory, and Madison Astronomical Society
servatory will be open for inspection.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is west of the sun all month and is too close to
it for observation. Venus is an evening star becoming now
a prominent feature low in the west just after sunset. By
the 15th of April Mars has moved from Scorpius to Sagittarius
and rises about midnight. It has now brightened appreciably
to stellar magnitude -0.2. Jupiter is in Taurus, well past
the meridian at sunset and sets about midnight. Saturn is
just east of Spica and rises about an hour after sunset on
the 15th. The planet is in opposition on the 26th. The date
of maximum intensity for the Lysid meteor showers is April 21.
This shower averages ten meteors per hour.

---A. L. White

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR APRIL

Date	Star	Mag.	Age.	Phase	E. S. T.
9	Delta Gemi	3.5	6.5	D	8:55.3 p. m.
9	Delta Gemi	3.5	6.5	R	9:51.4 p. m.
12-13	89 B. Leon	6.3	9.7	D	1:45.4 a. m.

--- A. L. White

NEW MEMBERS

- Miss Pauline Friedland, 3825 Calvert St., N. W. EM 2-2523
- Dr. William W. Michaux, 806 Allen Street, Falls Church, Va.
JE 3-8463
- Mrs. Kathleen C. Michaux, 806 Allen Street, Falls Church, Va.
JE 3-8463
- David Rotbart, 5333 Potomac Avenue, N. W. (16) EM 3-6302
- *Kenneth Birk, 4113 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, Md.
AP 7-0578
- *Paula Friedman, 3722 Appleton St., N. W. (16) EM 3-6738
- *"Buzz" (William, Jr.) Michaux, 806 Allen St., Falls
Church, Va. JE 3-8463

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION FEES

Registration fees are \$1.00 if paid before May 1; \$1.50
before June 1, or \$2.00 if paid at time of convention.
Send fees to Convention Treasurer, Mrs. Harold B. Porter-
field, 1001 University Bay Drive, Madison 5, Wisconsin.