

WATTS CRATER. Word has just been received that one of the craters on the moon has been named the Watts Crater for Dr. Chester B. Watts, Chief of the Six Inch Transit Circle Division of Naval Observatory. Not very many people are so honored. The announcement was made by Dr. H. Percy Wilkins of the Royal Astronomical Society and the British Astronomical Society, one of the world's authorities on the moon, who spoke to us this past July. The Watts Crater was formerly named Kastner B. It is a small crater on the extreme western limb of the moon. Dr. Watts for the past few years has been heading a program concerning the lunar profile, making a study of the degree of roughness of the edges. This work will result in an atlas which is due to come out in 1956 or 1957. The atlas will be like a contour map, giving a profile of the edge of the moon as it appears against the sky. This work involves very exacting research to take advantage of the effects of the moon's libration. Many geodetic applications will be possible when the work is finished, among them more precise measurements of the distances between continents. Mr. U. S. Lyons is also associated with this program. For more particulars, refer to SKY AND TELESCOPE, April 1950, page 134.

DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY, a nontechnical survey of the universe around us, will be given each Monday, 7:00 - 9:40 P.M., at Northern Virginia University Center, 1312 North Quincy Street, Arlington. This is the Extension Division of the University of Virginia. Telephones JA 7-3125 and JA 8-6660. Registration period is September 1 to September 29. The office is open from 9:00 A. M. until 8:00 P. M. Monday through Friday and 9:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M. on Saturday. The course gives 3 hours credit and the fee is \$8.50 per credit hour. Classes will be held in the Washington-Lee High School, Washington Boulevard, between North Quincy and North Stafford Streets, in Arlington. From Washington any No. 2 WVM bus leaving 11th and E Streets goes direct to Washington Blvd. & N. Quincy.
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STAR DUST
 National Capital Astronomers

September 1954 Vol. 12, No. 1
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SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Sept. 11 (Sat.) "THE JUNE, 1954 ECLIPSE OF THE SUN," Francis J. Heyden, S. J., Director of Georgetown Observatory. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P. M.
- Sept. 12 (Sun.) EXPLORING THE SKY, Joint program of the NCA and National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W. 8-10 P. M. Please bring telescopes.
- Sept. 18 (Sat.) DISCUSSION GROUP. NCA members' pictures and first hand accounts of the June, 1954, eclipse of the sun. Commerce Foyer, 8:00 P. M.
- Sept. 26 (Sun.) EXPLORING THE SKY, Joint program of the NCA and National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Sts., N. W. 7-9 P. M. Please bring telescopes.

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN IN JUNE was one of the most dramatic and widely publicized events of the year. Those who were not lucky enough to be in the path of totality were able to watch it on television for the first time in history. Paradoxically, the astronomers who observed the eclipse were too busy with their instruments to spend much time watching the sun. At its opening meeting of the season, the National Capital Astronomers will hear the "inside story" of the sixteen eclipse expeditions from Father Francis J. Heyden who worked with the Air Force on coordinating this worldwide scientific project. Father Heyden was responsible for selecting the sites along the eclipse path that stretched from Nebraska clear across the globe to Pakistan. He led the party

of astronomers that made observations in Iran. Father Heyden is Director of the Georgetown Observatory and an authority on eclipses of the sun.

—Benjamin Adelman

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR 1954-55 SEASON

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VICE PRESIDENT	Bob Rhynsburger		Grace Scholz
SECRETARY	Elizabeth Goerner		Hoy Walls
TREASURER	John Lund		(One vacancy)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE: Chairman, Dana Law; Ben Adelman; Lyle Johnson; Grace Scholz; Leo Scott; Bob Rhynsburger; Hoy Walls; Larry White; Bob Wright.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Thelma Cressy

DISCUSSION GROUPS: Anticipated that these will be moderated by various members throughout the year.

TELESCOPE MAKING: Irene Warthen

JUNIORS: Betty Fazekas

OBSERVING CHAIRMAN: Bill Isherwood

Custody of Benfer Telescope—see Hoy Walls

To get on list to use 5" at Naval Observatory -

see Bill Isherwood or Hoy Walls.-

Observing information for STAR DUST - Larry White

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TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS. Many of the District Recreation Activities, as well as the NCA sponsored telescope making class, which have heretofore been held in Roosevelt High School, are being moved to the Girls' Industrial School on Wisconsin Avenue. The Girls' Industrial School Building is being renovated and will not be ready until January 1. Unless someone comes up with a suitable place for the class to meet during September-December there will be no organized instruction. Irene Warthen informs us, however, that anyone wishing to continue work this fall may do so at her home at 3008 Wheaton Road, Kensington, Maryland. Miss Warthen has all the equipment, including all work in process last spring, at her home. Please write her or see her if you wish to do any lens grinding or polishing during September-December.

SEPTEMBER DISCUSSION GROUP on Saturday, September 18 at 8:00 P. M. in the Commerce Foyer will be a bull session on eye witness accounts of the June 30 eclipse. The discussion will be moderated by Bob Rhynsburger. Those who witnessed the eclipse please bring your pictures and wet your whistle to say a word or two, for the benefit of usn's who weren't so lucky to see it.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR SEPTEMBER

Mercury is east of the sun all month but too close to it for observation. Venus is at greatest eastern elongation September 6th and the planet is visible for almost two hours after sunset in the southwest. It is in conjunction with Saturn on the 15th at approximately 8:00 p. m., E.S.T. Mars is still in Sagittarius where it has been since April. It is visible low in the south until nearly midnight. Jupiter rises after midnight and dominates the eastern sky until dawn. Saturn is very low in the southwest at sunset and sets about two hours later.

There are no occultations of bright stars by the moon in September.

—A. L. White