

IN MEMORIAM

Reverend Morgan Cilley, 77, retired Episcopal minister, civil engineer, astronomer, and honorary life member of the NCA, died June 29 at the Episcopal Eye, Ear, and Throat Hospital, Washington, D. C. Reverend Cilley was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was an astronomer and civil engineer before entering the ministry. He served as engineer on such monumental construction projects as the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels under the Hudson River at New York and on highways and other engineering projects in the Philippine Islands.

Reverend Cilley was early associated with the AAVSO and made over 20,000 variable star observations. He has many friends among the old timers in that organization including Leon Campbell of Harvard College Observatory and Mr. Elmer of Perkins-Elmer.

During World War II he was an astronomer at the Naval Observatory, being in charge of the 12-inch telescope and acting as a Lecturer to visitors to the Observatory. He retired from government service in 1952. Reverend Cilley was active in NCA and assisted many of the junior and senior members in the design and construction of their telescopes. He was active in junior programs and usually had two or three proteges whom he helped with various astronomical projects. Reverend Cilley is survived by his widow Rachel S., a daughter Mrs. Irvin Lechliter, and a granddaughter.

— Hoy J. Walls

From STAR DUST, January 1949 -- "MR. MORGAN CILLEY MADE HONORARY LIFE MEMBER. 'Your never-failing spirit of cooperation and your labors in assisting us to a better understanding of astronomy by teaching us both techniques of observing and the manipulation of astronomical devices are things for which we are all in your debt. Your career, too, is an inspiration to anyone pursuing astronomical interests. In middle life, you changed from another profession to that of astronomy, thereby proving that it is never too late to begin in a new field, and you have brought to this career of your 'second forty years' notable success and the ardor and tireless zeal for your work usually reserved for youth'".

Jewell Boling, Editor, 1717 P Street, N. W. NO 7-7693

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STAR DUST

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AUGUST CALENDAR

Aug. 9 (Tues.) EVENING ADVENTURE, Joint program of the NCA and the National Capital Parks. At Barnard Hill Park from the District turn left off Rhode Island Avenue to Eastern Avenue, N.E. Follow NATUREVAN signs from the intersection of Bunker Hill and Eastern Avenue. Evening Adventure program begins at 7:15. Please be there with your telescopes not later than 8:30.

Aug. 13 (Sat.) TRIP TO EASTERN MENNONITE COLLEGE OBSERVATORY and Planetarium at Harrisonburg, Virginia. See article inside on making arrangements for this overnight trip.

Aug. 21 (Sun.) EXPLORING THE SKY, Joint program of the NCA and the National Capital Parks. Fort Reno Park, 40th and Chesapeake Streets, N. W. 9-11 P. M. Come one and all and bring your telescopes.

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION -- Louisville, Kentucky - September 2-4, 1955. The Middle East Regional Convention opens at Louisville on Friday evening September 2, running through Sunday evening. Monday will be devoted to sight-seeing around Louisville. Besides several outstanding sessions on popular astronomical subjects the highlights of the convention will be the dedication ceremony of the Louisville Astronomical Society telescope and the Moore Observatory. A visit will also be made to the Miller Observatory on the University of Louisville campus. There will be special observing with telescopes, weather permitting. Registration should be made with Mrs. Virginia C. Lippard, 2421 Calvin Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky. Checks should be made payable to Mr. Richard Holsberg, Convention treasurer. The Louisville society will help with transportation

for those without cars. Meals may be obtained on the campus at reasonable prices. Accommodations, separate buildings for men and women, may be had at \$2.00 and furnished apartments for families at \$5.00. These will accommodate four persons.

Papers and exhibits are solicited and should be sent to Mr. Wilbur Johnson, Convention Chairman, 3911 South Second Street, Louisville 14, Kentucky.

Note to NCA Members: It is hoped that the NCA will be well represented at our Regional Convention. A member of our society, Miss Grace Scholz, is now President of the Astronomical League and as such will appreciate the support of our organization. At the present time about 12 persons have signified their intention of going to Louisville. Why not join the gang and have a wonderful astronomical outing, making many new friends and meeting old ones?

—Elizabeth Fazekas

GRACE SCHOLZ ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE.

Miss Scholz, NCA member and Trustee, well-known in astronomical circles throughout the United States, was elected President of the Astronomical League at the July convention in Seattle. Other officers elected include:

- Russell Maag, Sedalia, Mo., Vice President
- Chandler Holton, Atlanta, Treasurer
- Joseph Anderer, Chicago, Secretary
- Wilma Cherup, Pittsburgh, Executive Secretary

PAY YOUR DUES PROMPTLY WHEN BILLED IN AUGUST. All members received a notice from SKY AND TELESCOPE about prompt payment of dues to the local organization (NCA in our case) to insure a continuation of the SKY AND TELESCOPE subscription. Mr. John Lund, your NCA treasurer will bill you probably in early August. There will be no lapse in your subscription to SKY AND TELESCOPE even if dues are not paid until September. However, it will simplify the work of your Treasurer a lot if you will make prompt remittance by mail when billed.

DATES FOR 1955-56 MEETINGS

Lecture meetings at Commerce Department Auditorium

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|----------|---------|
| Sept. 10 | Feb. 4 |
| Oct. 1 | Mar. 3 |
| Nov. 5 | April 7 |
| Dec. 3 | May 5 |
| Jan. 7 | June 2 |

Discussion group meetings will be held in the Commerce Department Foyer on:

| | |
|----------|----------|
| Sept. 17 | Feb. 18 |
| Oct. 15 | Mar. 17 |
| Nov. 19 | April 21 |
| Dec. 17 | May 19 |
| Jan. 21 | |

TELESCOPE FOR SALE: Brandon 3-inch Altazimuth Refractor (described in December 1954 issue of SKY AND TELESCOPE, page 70). Slightly used. List \$196. Sale \$175 by Prof. M.T. Brackbill, Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, Va.

MABEL STERNS has a copy of "FRENCH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DIGEST, ASTRONOMY 2," which contains a list of the principal astronomical institutes and observatories in France, as well as a list of French books and articles on astronomy and related subjects.

If any of the National Capital Astronomers want the names of the observatories or books, call Miss Sterns at Columbia 5-6078 and she will be glad to quote them to you.

HAVE YOU BEEN FOLLOWING THE COMET? This comet has been visible telescopically only. It was located near the bowl of the Dipper but it is now becoming difficult to locate. It has been followed in Washington by Bob Wright, Dana Law, Hoy Walls, A. L. White, and Lyle Johnson that we know about.

VEGA is the title of an international monthly review of astronomical research, published in England. It is loaded with information slanted towards the serious amateur. Subscription rate is 16/0, Vega, 3 King's Crescent East, Broughton Chester, England.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR AUGUST

Mercury is too close to the sun for observation, being in superior conjunction on the 5th. Venus is a morning star but too close to the sun for easy observation. Mars is too close to the sun for observation, conjunction being on the 16th. Jupiter is too close to the sun for observation, being in conjunction on the 4th. Saturn is well down in the southwest at sunset and is visible for a few hours thereafter.

The date of maximum intensity for the PERSEID meteor shower is August 12. This shower averages fifty meteors per hour. A comet was discovered in Perseus about a month ago and has been observed by several members of the NCA. It has moved through CAMELOPARDALIS and was near the cup of the Big Dipper at the middle of July.

---A. L. White

NO LIFE ON SUN, ACCORDING TO HIGH COURT IN GERMANY.

The West Germany supreme court has decided that there is no life on the sun. The court upheld the ruling of a lower Saxony court giving a \$6,000 reward to the West German Astronomical Society. The reward had been promised by an amateur astronomer, Godfried Bueren, to anyone who could disprove his theory that the sun was habitable.

Bueren claimed that sun spots are holes in a hot sphere surrounding the sun. Because these holes are dark, he held it to be probable that temperatures on the sun's surface are low enough to support vegetation and human life.

The astronomical society presented a detailed review contradicting his theory, and an independent jury, which included Professor Wener Heisenberg, Nobel prize winner, agreed with the society's opinion.

The astronomers claimed the reward but had to go to court to get the money, since Bueren died in a traffic accident last year. The court ruled that the reward must be paid by Bueren's heirs.

--from THE OBSERVER, Yakima, Washington. July 1955.

OVERNIGHT TRIP

WHAT AND WHERE: Picnic and overnight trip to Eastern Mennonite College Observatory and Planetarium, Harrisonburg, Virginia. WHEN: Leave Washington, Sat., Aug. 13, 10 AM, EDT (One hour for lunch en route) Arrive at College 3 PM, EST. PICNIC: Picnic lunch at College park fireplace or indoors if rainy. Bring lunch or buy the "fixings" in Harrisonburg. LODGING: Stay in dormitory at \$1 a person. No hot water for one night, no inner spring mattress, and NO smoking in buildings. If this is not for you, there are hotels \$2 up a person and motels \$5 a person and \$6 to \$7.50 a couple. Unless otherwise requested, you will be booked at the dormitory. PROGRAM: Visit observatory, planetarium, and other points of interest. Those who went last time under leadership of Janet and Bob Wright had a wonderful time. Since then another building has been added and the College hopes to have the motorized orrery mounted on the ceiling and in operation. BREAKFAST: In a Harrisonburg restaurant. RETURN: Drivers select return route. Some took Sky Line Drive last time. EXPENSES: Dinner en route; picnic lunch; dormitory lodging, \$1; breakfast; lunch; dinner on return trip, if any. Passengers pay car owners for gas and oil. ACT NOW: Please try to telephone us on or before Aug. 3 if you want a dormitory reservation, need or can furnish transportation. If you decide after Aug. 3 that you can go, telephone us anyway, and we will try to make some sort of arrangement for you. Thelma Cressy, Ho-2-2993; Elizabeth Goerner, Em-3-2492. Further written instructions for drivers if requested. The Director of the College Observatory has written that he is "looking forward with much pleasure to the coming of National Capital Astronomers." Let's not disappoint him. Plan to go and take your family along.

---Thelma Cressy

THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE CONVENTION at Seattle, Washington, July 1-4, provided wonderful experiences for those delegates lucky enough to attend. Most of the out-of-Staters combined sightseeing with the convention and as a result are sold on the northwest as an ideal place to live.

While the east suffered severe heat, we (Mabel Sterns and I) shivered with temperatures under 70 and plowed through snow on top of Mt. Ranier. Snow piled around the lodge rose higher than the tall first floor windows and necessitated a tunnel exit through the drifts. We hope our new movie camera shows how big the flowers really are.

Registration was good, considering the distance, and numbered over 150, with delegates from Florida, Georgia, D. C., Massachusetts, Michigan, Wisconsin, Missouri, Texas, Idaho, Illinois and California, as well as from Oregon and Washington.

The Junior Session, at which 9 papers were presented, provided an enjoyable feature. The session was covered by LIFE, which expects to present an article on the astronomical work of juniors in the near future.

The highlights of the convention were the addresses by Dr. T. S. Jacobsen, University of Washington, on the "Luminous Calcium Flashes of the Pulsating Star, Eta Aquilae" and by Dr. R. M. Petrie, Director, Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B. C. on "Astronomical Distances". At the conclusion of the convention we left by bus and ferry for Victoria on a three-hour boat trip through the picturesque San Juan Islands. There we observed through the 73" reflecting telescope of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. The following morning we ferried to Vancouver and thence back to Seattle.

--Grace C. Scholz

MR. WILLIAM PFEIFFER, NCA member for several years passed away in June. Mr. Pfeiffer had not been attending NCA meetings for the past year and a half because of ill health.

NEW MEMBERS

Regular

Mr. & Mrs. A. B. Goodall EM 2-3201
3201 Aberfoyle Place, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Leonard J. Siegel RA 6-0790
1327 Allison Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Junior

Gail E. Warren OL 2-1382
7211 Delfield Street
Chevy Chase 15, Md.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR AUGUST

| Date | Star | Mag. | Age | Phase | E. S. T. |
|-------|------------------------|------|------|-------|---------------|
| 6-7 | BD 1 ^o 4744 | 5.6 | 18.8 | R | 12:46.6 A. M. |
| 11-12 | 192 B. Tau. | 6.2 | 23.8 | R | 1:57.8 A. M. |
| 26 | 191 B. Oph | 6.3 | 9.2 | D | 8:25.1 P. M. |
| 26 | b Oph | 4.3 | 9.3 | D | 9:17.7 P. M. |

--A. L. White

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Miss Ruth Heisey ME 8-0141
625 Maine Avenue, S. W.
Washington 24, D. C.

Eylie Robinson
9303 Park Hill Terrace
Bethesda 14, Md.

Theodore Frontenac
4223-C Silver Hill Road
Washington 23, D. C.