

ASTRONOMER

A distant glory asked his eyes'  
Acceptance of its worth;  
Believe! it cried--and in surprise  
He gazed up from the earth.

Saw Rigel in Orion blaze  
Beyond the opening air;  
The Bull's red Eye, Aldebaran,  
The Eagle's Eye, Altair.

Accepting and believing thus,  
What darkly in a mirror  
He saw, he strove with mortal brain  
To sift the truth from error.

And what in distant glory blazed  
Through mirrors dark with space,  
With hope and with his Telescope  
He gazed at face to face

KATHARINE KENNEDY

ELIZABETH FAZEKAS is engaged. The lucky bridegroom will be William G. Lipscomb, an assistant cashier at the bank where Betty works. The wedding date is tentatively set for some time in the fall. Many years of happiness to a fine couple from all of us!

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

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STAR DUST  
National Capital Astronomers

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JUNE-JULY CALENDAR

June 2 "THE GLOBULAR CLUSTERS -- BEACONS OF OUR GALAXY,"  
(Sat.) Dr. Helen Hogg, Program Director for Astronomy,  
National Science Foundation; Dept. of Commerce  
Auditorium, 8:15 P.M.

June 16 EXPLORING THE SKY, Joint program of the NCA and  
(Sat.) the National Capital Parks, Fort Reno Park, 40th  
and Chesapeake Streets, N. W., 9 P.M. Come one  
and all and bring your telescopes if you have one.

July 3 EVENING ADVENTURE, Joint program of the NCA and  
(Tues.) the National Capital Parks, Barnard Hill Park, 1  
Eastern Avenue, N. E., and Bunker Hill Road,  
9 P.M. Come one and all and bring your telescopes  
if you have one.

July 15 EXPLORING THE SKY with the NCA at Fort Reno Park  
(Sun.) Again, come and if you have a telescope be sure  
to bring it too. 9 P.M.

Each Saturday morning through June 16, Telescope making  
class at Chevy Chase Community Center, 5600 block of  
Connecticut Avenue, N. W., 9-12 A. M. For more informa-  
tion, telephone Hoy Walls at Oliver 2-5395.

"THE GLOBULAR CLUSTERS -- BEACON LIGHTS OF OUR GALAXY"

Global clusters are among the most wonderful things in  
the universe. They are vast spherical clusters of thou-  
sands of stars scattered through the great depths of  
space. If men were living on a planet going around a  
star near the center of a globular cluster, their night  
sky would be lit up by hundreds of stars far brighter  
than the brightest stars we see.

Globular clusters present many interesting questions that astronomers are trying to solve. How far away are they? How old are they? How did they come into being? What kinds of stars make them up? These and other problems will be discussed by Dr. Helen Hogg, the Program Director for Astronomy of the National Science Foundation. Dr. Hogg has specialized in the study of globular clusters and her researches have greatly added to our knowledge of them. Slides of astronomical photographs of globular clusters will be shown.

--Benjamin Adelman

NCA OFFICERS ELECTED AT THE MAY MEETING - For the one year term beginning September 1956:

Glenn Neville	President
Robert McCracken	Vice
Elsa Dimick	Secretary
Gertrude Dellar	Treasurer
Larry White	Trustee (1 year term)

MIDDLE-EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION OF THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

- This was held in Washington on May 4-6 with NCA as host society. Highlights included:- Meeting and making friends from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Richmond, Harrisburg, Norfolk, and other societies in the region. Registration totaled 90 with about 60 from the NCA and 30 from other societies - Papers and discussion on the moon, comets, meteorites, eclipses, observing, instrumentation, amateurs, and particular emphasis on the IGY.

A steak-banquet - Perfect weather  
Mabel Sterns, Convention Chairman, please take a bow with your committee.

The Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, society extended an invitation to the region for the 1957 convention.

Regional officers elected were:

Charles H. LeRoy, Pittsburgh	Chairman
Dana Law, NCA	Vice-Chairman
Irene Alston, NCA	Secretary
Tom J. Ogburn, III, Richmond	Treasurer

A "SOLAR ENERGY AMATEURS' ASSOCIATION" is being proposed by the magazine "A Gateway to Science." They say "If we consider the modern movement for 'doing it yourself,' it ought to be possible for a man who is handy with tools and has acquired a knowledge of solar energy devices to replace his southern roof with a solar heat collection system, and thereby lower his fuel bill by a third or a half or maybe two thirds. If the fuel bill is \$400 a year, and half is saved, that is \$200; and an income of \$200 a year is the interest at 4% on \$5000 in the bank."

MOON CRATERLETS - The April issue of "The Chicago Astronomer" has an interesting article on these. Moon craterlets are very minute pits found on the lunar surface. They are always located on the summits of lunar mountains and hills.

These craterlets have been studied extensively by the volcanists who see in them strong evidence to refute the meteoric impact theory.

With good seeing conditions, interested observers should be able to see summit craterlets with six and eight-inch telescopes. Small craterlets crown the summits of the peaks Piton and Pico. They are also easily found in the northern portion of the Mare Imbrium.

"THE AMATEUR SCIENTIST," department of the "Scientific American" has had a number of articles of astronomical interest in the last several months:

Using the moon to occult the stars and increase telescopic resolution, Jan. 1955, p. 96.

A photographic telescope built by a high school senior, Philip Lichtman (of NCA), June 1955, p. 126.

An unusually steady telescope mounting, W. P. Overbeck, July 1955, p. 107.

The making of a coronagraph to view the prominences of the sun, Walter J. Semerau and others, Sept. 1955, p. 194.

A moving model of the solar system, George Graham, Nov. 1955, p. 126.

"THE INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR AND THE SPACE FRONTIER" - This was the lecture given by Dr. Homer E. Newell, Jr., on May 5. Dr. Newell emphasized the fact that during International Geophysical Year 45 nations are cooperating fully and completely in the open, no secret documents, no "hidden ball-plays". This is the most significant thing about the IGY. The knowledge that will be obtained will help the technicians but the trust which nations will have in each other as a result of friendly cooperation in science will benefit the plain man to the nth degree.

During the IGY these 45 nations will study magnetic storms, Stormer's Ring Effect, Aurora Borealis, etc. Of course, the high light is the launching of the satellite. This has been covered in several previous lectures. This is the third IGY. The first two were called Polar Years and occurred in 1852 and 1932, but these were limited to the Arctic. The IGY covers the entire earth and includes the Sun. 1957 was chosen because it is the sunspot maximum year.

The following items will be measured entirely by the satellite as they cannot be measured from the ground:

1. Pressure, temperature, and density of the air 50 miles up;
2. Solar radiations; ultraviolet light and X-rays;
3. Ionospheric Current flows;
4. Chemical and ion composition of the upper atmosphere;
5. Low energy particles, low energy cosmic rays, and aural particles.

The satellite panel is still considering a long list of suggested investigations; therefore, the above list may be changed when the satellite is finally launched.

-- Morton Schiff

AUDITING COMMITTEE. Mr. Stanley Davis and Mr. Abraham Robinson have again agreed to audit the NCA Treasurer's books during the summer. Both work at the General Accounting Office and we should get a good audit.

-- Dana Law

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR JULY

<u>Date</u>	<u>Star</u>	<u>Mag.</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Phase</u>	<u>E. S. T.</u>
11	237 B. Leo	6.3	3.8	D	8:13.8 P. M.
25	Kappa Aqr	5.3	18.0	R	9:56.8 P. M.
25-26	207 B Aqr	6.4	18.0	R	12:32.6 A. M.
26-27	9 Psc	6.4	19.1	R	1:13.6 A. M.
30-31	Pi Ari	5.4	23.2	R	2:38.3 A. M.

-- A. L. White

THE SECRETARY'S MAILBOX

Joint Board on Science Education - The Secretary received a letter on behalf of the Joint Board on Science Education in the Greater Washington Area. In this, the chairman, Mr. Raymond J. Seeger, expresses his thanks for the cooperation of our members in the special substitute program for science teachers on March 15-16. More than 1500 scientists and engineers volunteered to participate, and about half of this number was actually used. The program has been given many compliments from the schools. One superintendent said that it was "a marvelous experience for the students and quite a stimulant to the teachers."

Mr. Nelson Griggs and Mr. Ben Adelman participated from the NCA.

Miami Convention - For the members who are interested in the Miami convention, the secretary has the monthly bulletins available at every meeting, and this month's mail has netted besides letters and brochures from:

1. The McAllister Hotel which offers rates from \$5 to \$34 a day and gives you plenty to choose from.
2. The Peninsular and Occidental Steamship Company, which offers a package deal on S/S "Florida" roundtrip with three nights in Havana; or another southbound on S/S "Florida" and return by plane.

- Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company which recommends its East Coast Champion to our conventioners. It will leave Washington at 6:40 P. M. - daily - and arrive in Miami at 3:40 the following afternoon. It is one of the newest models with respect to both Pullman and coach facilities. Roundtrip from \$51.10.

Further details and some brochures are available. My phone is JA 7-4130.

-- Tove Neville, Secretary

#### NEW MEMBERS

Walter L. Conway, 2 B Gardenway, Greenbelt, Md., GR 3-3147  
 Phyllis M. Seips, 10-J Parkway Rd., Greenbelt, Md.  
 GR 3-4041

Edward S. Mohn, Jr., 1721 N. Veitch St., Apt. 1,  
 Colony House Apt., Arlington, Va. JA 2-8231

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Jackson Carle, 432 House Office Bldg., Washington 25, D.C.  
 Pauline Friedland, 5060 MacArthur Blvd., N. W., D. C.  
 W. Holland, 501 32nd Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
 Marc Imlay, 3913 Jeffry St., Silver Spring, Md. WH 6-9317  
 Wyle T. Johnson, Welcome, Maryland  
 Robert L. Misner, Jr., 1270 East-West Highway, Silver  
 Spring, Maryland  
 Edward J. Fortke, 5420 Ferndale St., N. Springfield, Va.  
 Leonard Siegel, 1301 Longfellow St., N. W. Washington, D.C.  
 RA 3-9079

#### OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR JUNE

Mercury reaches greatest western elongation June 20th and may be seen at this time low in the east just before sunrise. Venus may be seen low in the west after sunset, during the first part of the month. The planet reaches inferior conjunction on the 22nd. Mars is in Aquarius and is prominent in the southeastern sky after midnight. Jupiter is near Regulus and low in the west at sunset. Saturn is in Libra and well up in the southeast at sunset. The date of maximum intensity for the DRACONID meteor shower is June 28. This shower averages twelve meteors per hour. The moon occults no bright stars in June.

#### OBSERVATIONAL DATA FOR JULY

Mercury is poorly placed for observation in July, and reaches superior conjunction on the 19th. Venus is a morning star and may be seen during the latter part of the month just before sunrise. The planet is at its greatest brilliancy on the 28th and is in conjunction with Mercury on the 3rd at 3:40 A. M., E. S. T. Mars is in Aquarius and reaches the meridian before sunrise. Jupiter is low in the west at sunset and sets an hour or so later. The planet passes very close to Regulus early in the month. Saturn is nearly at the meridian at sunset and sets soon after midnight. It is stationary in right ascension on the 31st and then resumes direct motion. The date of maximum intensity for the DELTA AQUARID meteor shower is July 30th. The shower averages 20 meteors per hour. On the 15th at 11:00 P.M. (E. S. T.) the Milky Way spans the heavens from north to south passing through Perseus, Cassiopeia, Cygnus, Aquila, and Sagittarius.

-- A. L. White