

Late last summer, a number of the MD-DC Juniors began a systematic project for drawing the planet Mars. At that time Mars rose late at night, showing a tiny and extremely gibbous disk. As Mars was so distant, and we had only small telescopes to work with, our first drawings were rather crude and bore little resemblance to anything shown on maps of the planet. However, by November, we had acquired a good deal of experience, and, with the aid of Lewis Acker's 8" reflector, we began to make some really first class drawings. Then in late December, and early January, we made extensive use of the NCA 5" refractor, and it was with this telescope that our finest drawings were made. In February, when the project came to a close, we had a total of forty-seven drawings.

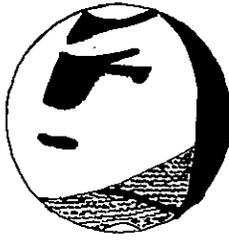
A map of Mars based on these drawings was then drawn up and copies of it were sent to the British Astronomical Association and the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers. This map was rough in some cases, as our placement of markings on the planet was somewhat inaccurate in places. Nevertheless, the project was a successful one and when we begin drawing Mars again this March, we will have a lot of experience behind us.

Roy Troxel, Project Leader

SAMPLES OF MARS DRAWINGS



M. Mattingly
Jan. 3, 1959



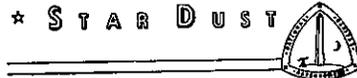
R. Troxel
Jan. 4, 1959



S. Friedman
Jan. 3, 1959

MD-DC JUNIORS will meet at 2 PM at the Chevy Chase Community Building, 5601 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase, D. C.

VIRGINIA JUNIORS will meet on October 9 and 23 (Friday), at the Westover Baptist Church, 1125 North Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington, Virginia, Room 234.

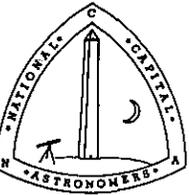


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★ STAR DUST



October 1959

Vol. XVII, No. 2

McCAMY TO DEMONSTRATE COLOR PERCEPTION



C. S. McCamy, Chief of the Photographic Technology Section of the National Bureau of Standards, will be the speaker at our October meeting. The story of color mixture and the factors effecting color perception will be demonstrated. The effects of adaptation, contrast, colored illumination, and memory on the apparent colors of objects will be shown. Three black-and-white slides will be used to produce a full-color picture, and projection systems using less than three primary-color systems will be outlined and two-primary systems will be traced from their beginning in 1895 to a quantitative formulation twenty years ago.

Mr. McCamy received degrees in chemical engineering and physics at the University of Minnesota. He taught mathematics there and physics at Clemson College before coming to the Bureau of Standards in 1952. His researches have included such diverse fields as colorimetry, fire detection, flame extinguishment, optical instrumentation, and photographic measurements and standards.

OCTOBER OCCASIONS

- 2 - SOLAR ECLIPSE
- 2,9,16,23,30 - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS - 7:30PM, Fairfax High School, Grady Whitney, Instructor
- 3 - "A DEMONSTRATION OF COLOR PERCEPTION AND ABRIDGED COLOR PROJECTION SYSTEMS" - C. S. McCamy. Meeting follows at Dept. of Comm. Auditorium 8:15PM
- 5,12,19,26 - TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS 7:30 - 10, Ch. Comm. Bldg. 5601 Conn. Av. Hoy Walls, Instructor
- TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS AT LEADERSBURG HS - Call Bill Isherwood, AP7-9419 for meeting dates
- 9,23 - VIRGINIA JUNIORS MEETING at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Dr., Arl. 8PM Rm. 234
- 10 - MD-DC JUNIORS MEETING 2PM Ch.Ch.Comm. Bldg., 5601 Conn. Av. Disc. on Eclipses - Leith Holloway, Dir.
- 10 - EXPLORING THE SKY 7:30 Ft. Reno Pk., 40th x Chesapeake Sts., NW. Bring telescopes and cameras
- 17 - DISCUSSION GROUP 8PM Dept. of Comm. Aud. - Eclipse Results
- 24 - TRIP TO FRANKLIN-MARSHALL COLLEGE
- 31 - OBSERVING AT THE 5" - 7:30PM at the Naval Observatory. Bring your membership card.

NCA BEGINS ITS 22nd YEAR



It has often been said, "it is not the number of hours we live that matter, but how we live those hours". Certainly, Bob McCracken has given not just two years, but 48 energetic hours a day to the NCA since becoming president. His enthusiasm has been contagious and particularly pertinent as we enter "the Space Age". In the competent hands of our new president, Lillian Gregor, he places his gavel as the world and the astronomers of our Nation's Capital look ahead to new frontiers.

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IN THE LINE OF DUTY

We are all sorry that Hoy Walls suffered such devastating effects to his car while serving the NCA above and beyond the call of duty. We are happy to say, neither he nor Bob McCracken, who was in the car, were hurt when Hoy's car was struck by a cab as the two of them were on their way to a meeting for the NCA. The car, we are sorry to say, seems to be beyond repair.

* * * * *

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS

Date	Star	Mag.	Phase	Age	Time (E.S.T.)	Angle
Oct. 5	Theta Lib	4.3	D	3.5	7:10.7 PM	113°
	7 305 B. (Oph)	6.4	D	5.5	7:29.0 PM	52°

* * * * *

The Man in the Moon
As he sails the sky
Is a very remarkable skipper.
But he made a mistake
When he tried to take
A drink of milk from the Dipper.
He dipped right into the Milky Way
And slowly and carefully filled it.
The Big Bear growled
And the Little Bear howled,
And frightened him so he spilled it.

The place to stay seems to be The Willows, an AAA road-Hotel which also has cottage accommodations. It is located on US 30, 5 miles east of Lancaster, and of all the places investigated (5 or 6) this seemed to have the best value for the lowest minimum. Here the rooms cost from \$5.50-11.00. The cottages run from \$7.50-13.50 with \$1.50 extra for each roll-away bed needed. The \$7.50 cottages are for 2 people, 1 dbl. bed; the \$9.00 ones, 2 people, 2 sgl beds, etc. . . . Reservations should be sent about 3 weeks prior to Oct. 24, so we were told, because the fall is one of the prettiest seasons in Pennsylvania when the leaves are turning, and there are still many tourists at that time. The address is: The Willows, RD #4, Box 620, Lancaster, Pa. The Willows also has a beautiful dining room where breakfast as well as dinner is served to the guests. Anyone who would rather stay close to town for dinner instead of going to the Amish Feast might eat here, or another alternative for those who would like to stay on the campus, there is the school cafeteria which serves very good meals.

The sight-seeing, for those who stay over till Sunday, offers the greatest possible variety. President Buchanan's house, "Wheatland", a charming 19th century mansion, is located in town a few blocks from the college on Marietta Ave. An Amish farm, open to visitors, is just next door to The Willows and should be enjoyable to the whole family. Ephrata Cloister, home of an unusual religious community begun in 1732, offers several interesting structures in Gothic, built in wood by a group of Seven-Day Baptists. It is situated about 20 miles NE of Lancaster. Even closer on the same road US 222, is Pennsylvania Farm Museum at Landis Valley, only a few miles out of Lancaster. Another attraction is the "Pretzeltown" Lititz, where you can see the first commercial pretzel bakery which dates back to 1861. This is approx. 10 miles due north of Lancaster on state road 501. They do not bake the pretzels on Sunday, but the bakery is open to go through and see. These are just some of the many things to see around this area with its beautiful countryside and many different groups and fold-ways. I am sure this trip will be an enriching experience for everyone, and we will certainly come back home with a world of new impressions.

In coming from Washington through Baltimore, take US222 (state road 72) straight to Lancaster. Go right into town (here US222 is called Prince St.) and turn left on Lemon St. which takes you right to the college. It is just a few blocks and the North Museum and Planetarium is the first building you see, on the corner of Lemon St. and College Ave. It is only 107 miles all in all from Washington and should not take more than 2-3 hours to get there. The members who wish to get rides and those who come to pick up passengers will meet at the Commerce Bldg. at 9:30 AM in order that we may have time for lunch on the way. See you there.

Tove Neville
5006 Russell Rd.
Alexandria, Va.



TRIP TO FRANKLIN MARSHALL COLLEGE, OCTOBER 24-25

PLANETARIUM SHOW, TOUR OF UNIQUE NORTH MUSEUM, DAYLIGHT & EVENING OBSERVING, AMISH FEAST DINNER: PENNSYLVANIA-DUTCH COOKING, SIGHTSEEING OF ALL KINDS. Saturday, Oct. 24, the NCA is invited by the staff of the North Museum and Planetarium, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., to spend what I expect will be a most astronomically enjoyable day. The trip is planned for the whole week-end, but the actual program at the college will be over Saturday night, though at which hour I can not precisely report as it depends on when the evening observing is finished, and I suppose the sky is the limit.

There will be a special Planetarium show for us at 2PM. The large Spitz projector is equipped with many clever gadgets to help us on our way to "the Moon". From 3-5 we will visit the museum and do some day-light observing at the 11" refractor. The museum is delightful and includes many unusual collections.

For dinner we are going to have something really extra special: an Amish feast, served in an old country schoolhouse several miles out of town. It will consist of Pennsylvania Dutch Chicken corn soup, Sweets and sours, Chowchow, Cup cheese, Cottage cheese, Apple butter, India relish Pickles, Spiced apples, Pickled red beets with onions, Baked sugar-cured ham, Boiled chicken pot pie, Candied sweet potatoes, Buttered lima beans, Dried sugar corn, Stewed prunes, Dinner rolls and butter, Shoofly pie or raisin pie, coffee, tea, or milk. It is served family style by the Amish girls, and the price is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. It is necessary that reservations for this, incl. the number of adults and children (and the check or cash) be sent in to me by the 15th of Oct. at the latest. Our motorcade to go out to this dinner will leave from the North Museum at 5:30 PM, and we plan to be back at the college around 7:30-8 PM.

At 8 PM we begin our evening observing at the 11" refractor, and since many of the staff members at the museum are actively interested in astronomy - some are Moonwatch observers too - it would be very nice if some of our members would take their telescopes along so we can set them up on the field outside the observatory and show them to the staff. Should the sky cloud over by any chance of fate - or low pressures - we have found out that a play called "Ben Franklin" is given on campus at the Green Room Club this same evening so we will not want for entertainment.

THEY ALSO SERVE WHO ONLY STAND AND WAIT ---

Recognition Award

presented to

WASHINGTON, D. C. MOONWATCH TEAM

In Recognition of Valuable Services Contributed to the MOONWATCH Project,
Satellite Optical Tracking Program, International Geophysical Year, 1957-1958

by the

SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY



John R. Mather Director
J. Allen Hyatt Associate Director, and in Charge of
Satellite Optical Tracking Program
Lawrence A. Hinkle in Charge MOONWATCH Project

--- for bringing acclaim to the NCA; for patiently outlasting cold nights and wet mornings; and, even more, for serving not only your country, but all of this "small planet" ----- your fellow members thank you.

* * * *

COMET ALCOCK DUE SEPTEMBER 28

The Harvard College Observatory Card #1450 predicted that Comet Alcock (1959 F) would be in the following position on the evening of September 28: R. A. 13h 1m, Dec. + 10 $^{\circ}$.

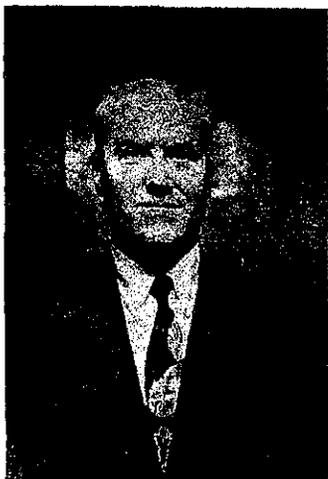
Leith Holloway gathers from this data that the comet should be visible shortly after sunset near Epsilon in Virgo which will be about 15 $^{\circ}$ above the western horizon at sunset. It will be approximately third magnitude and, therefore, should be visible if Virgo is not too low at dark.

* * * *

SOLAR ECLIPSE DUE OCTOBER 2

The members of the NCA will not want to miss the solar eclipse at 6:47 AM on October 2. Although we will only get about 70% totality in this location, the eclipse may be televised from New England where the visibility will be better or, better still, join the group of NCAers who plan to make the pilgrimage to cover 50 seconds of totality. A group has met to prepare and coordinate their efforts. Amongst other things, they are interested in the light curve, the general illumination curve, and time lapse motion pictures. You might check your charts and newspapers for further information as the date draws nigh.

KNOW YOUR



LEO SCOTT

Leo Scott was born and educated around the Schenectady, N.Y. area. He majored in Physics, Math, and Chemistry at Union College and taught these subjects at colleges in New York and Vermont before coming to Washington to work for the Bureau of Standards. There he is the Deputy Safety Engineer. He carries this job into his very busy private life where he is active in the Red Cross and his local Fire Board. He is married and his three children have been responsible for his interest and work in the Scouts. He also is a real amateur radio addict and loves hiking and rock climbing. As for astronomy, his interest began when someone lifted him up to see Halley's Comet when he was "about two" - and he can still remember it. He has been a member of the NCA almost since its beginning and has served as vice-president and president.

Larry White was born in Spartanburg, S. C. He moved to Washington in December, 1946 to analyze water, minerals and uranium ores for the Geological Survey. He joined the NCA a few years later when Bob Wright was president. Larry is presently employed as a Senior Project Chemist at the Engineer Research and Development Laboratories engaged in the development of scintillation crystals for use in the detection of radiation. His interests include mineralogy, telescope making, and the observing of planets, double stars and haloes. The Moonwatch Program presented an opportunity to do some constructive astronomical observing and he has served as leader of the team sponsored by the Laboratories for several years. This activity is continuing beyond the IGY and the number of satellites in orbit is growing.



LARRY WHITE

TRUSTEE

Our "lady - trustee" was born in Ohio, but moved to Portsmouth, Va. when she was 12. Following high school, two important occurrences were to shape her later life. She went to work in a bank and she taught herself the constellations. The bank job eventually led to a job at Riggs and, consequently, to Washington in 1951 where, in 1956, she married her boss - our Treasurer, Bill. The constellations led her to the Norfolk Astronomer's Club where she served as Sec.-Treas. In 1947, she attended the Convention which formed the Astronomical League and the following year became the Secretary of the Middle Eastern Region. She was very active as Registrar at the 1949 and '51 Conventions. Through this work she was well acquainted with the NCA when she came to DC and has served as Treasurer. She also studied voice for many years and almost made singing her career. So, she loves serious music almost as much as astronomy.



BETTY LIPSCOMB

Glenn Everette Neville was born in Johnstown, Pa. in 1918 but the next year moved to Florida and was raised in Bradenton. While in high school he became interested in radio and in 1941 joined the Army and started his career in electronics. After the service he entered the U. of Florida and obtained his M. S. in Physics in 1951. He and his wife, Tove, then moved to D.C. where he worked for Melpar, Reed Research, and JHU/APL before he joined DOFL in 1954 where he is presently employed as an electronic scientist. His interest in astronomy was stimulated by an eclipse he saw in 1930. He joined the NCA in 1954 and he and his wife have both been active members. He became President in '56 and a Trustee in '58. They have formed a neighborhood group of juniors and he has been assisting Mr. Walls with telescope making class and has been assistant leader of the Springfield Moonwatch Team.



EVERETTE NEVILLE