At the present time the MD-DC Juniors are in the process of mimeographing their old project reports. The 1959 Venus report has already been printed and in four pages long. It contains all the important information concerning Venus that was obtained from February to August, 1959. We plan soon to have available yearly reports on Jupiter and Saturn as well as several accounts of the minor planets. These shall be sent out to groups across the country that are participating in the World Night program. Indeed, one of the goals of this year's World Night project is the production of reports on the major planets by each society and the sending of them to other societies. I think that this method is a most interesting way of exchanging information, better than the old way of copying drawings by hand and allowing the recipient to draw his own conclusions. Anyone interested in receiving copies of these reports should see me or one of the MD-DC Juniors at the monthly meeting.

In addition, the astrophotography project is coming along quite well. Good photographs of Venus, the Pleiades and constellation groups have been obtained. All the major technological problems have been solved on Lewis Acker's 8" cross-axis reflector and only minor problems (such as tube balancing) remain before it shall be an instrument of the first rank for astrophotography. Photographs of widely differing scales, from sky areas the size of Ursa Major to small planets such as Mars, are feasible using a variety of cameras, including an aerial one. Next month I shall begin a description of the project, and the month after, I shall include some results of our efforts. I think that you will find it most interesting.

--- Chris Walker
Junior Editor

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"It is one thing for the human mind to extract from the phenomena of nature the laws which it has itself put into them; it may be a far harder thing to extract laws over which it has no control. It is even possible that laws which have not their origin in the mind may be irrational, and we can never succeed in formulating them."

--- Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington

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* STAR DUST *

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[Discussion Group, Hobby Night, Telescope Making Classes]

APRIL APPOINTMENTS

8 - WORLD WITHOUT END by Dr. Raymond J. Seeger followed by monthly meeting in Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15PM

8 - MD-DC JUNIORS MEETING - Chevy Chase Community Building, 5601 Conn. Ave., N. W., 2:00 PM

14 - JUNIORS MEETINGS at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Dr., ARL., Va, 7:30PM

22 - DISCUSSION GROUP - HOBBY NIGHT - Telescopes and Accessories led by Mr. Ed Bailey. Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 8:00 to 10:30 PM

TELESCOPE MAKING CLASSES

Mondays - Chevy Chase Comm. Bldg., 5601 Conn. Ave., N. W. with Bill Isherwood

Wednesdays - Fairfax High School with Dr. Whitney

Thursdays - Bladensburg Nat. Bldg., 4600 Varnum with Bill Isherwood

* Date of meeting changed because of Easter week-end.
Merritt B. Booth  Fairhaven, Maryland  AL 7-4464
Samuel Gordon  4606 72nd Ave., Landover Hills, Md.  872-7064
Harold B. Jordan  1504 Ellison St., Falls Church, Va.  J5 4-5872
Jay H. Miller  5805 Greenlawn Dr., Bethesda, Md.  EM 5-5990

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for the May 1961 elections is as follows:

Mr. Leo W. Scott, Chairman
Mr. James J. Krebs
Mr. U. S. Lyons

It gives me great pleasure to confirm the appointment of these three members to this very important committee.

Their task of selecting a slate of suitable candidates is important to the welfare of our society. At the same time the task should be relatively easy because of the many fine, able and willing members from which to make their selections.

The slate on nominees determined by this committee is to be presented to the membership at the April regular meeting.

Henry I. Metz
President

NCA ASTRONOMICAL HOBBY SHOW

There will be a NCA Astronomical Hobby Show in connection with the April discussion group session between 6:00 and 10:30 PM on Saturday, April 27, 1961.

Discussion group will be on telescopes and accessories and will be led by Mr. Ed Bailey, Planetarium lecturer from the Fels Planetarium of the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia. Mr. Bailey is an ardent telescope maker.

All members of the NCA, in addition to attending the discussion session, are asked to bring in their pet astronomical projects for the Hobby Show: small telescopes (please do not bring large heavy units), telescope accessories (cameras, eye pieces and drives), pictures, books, magazines, negatives and whatever you have that you are interested in or have done. We are sure it will be of interest to others.

Please bring your exhibit early and have it set up by 7:00 PM if possible. All exhibits must be removed that evening.

If additional information is required, call Bob Wright, E Vergreen 4-6748.

PLANET CHARTS

We are delighted to include for your handy reference this ephemeris for the five bright planets for 1961. These charts were composed for us by Larry White who once again urges anyone interested in observing at the 5-inch to call him at J5 3-3261.