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THE MOST INTERESTING STAR

The December lecture will be given by James S. Pickering, Assistant Astronomer and Supervisor of Guest Relations at the American Museum - Hayden Planetarium in New York City.

Mr. Pickering will discuss the sun as our sample star, for it is the only star whose surface we can see in detail. Fortunately it is also one of the most common types of stars. By all systems of measurement and classification the sun represents the average of all the stars we know. The processes that give light and energy to the sun have become the most important processes for good or evil, of which the world now knows. Mr. Pickering will discuss these processes, the physical properties of the sun, the various forms of activity that are taking place on and in it, which are our present knowledge, how we discovered the possible evolution, and the extreme importance of solar energy to our lives. Mr. Pickering is one of the most widely recognized interpreters of astronomy in the United States. In addition to his lectures at the American Museum - Hayden Planetarium, he has conducted many radio and television programs, including the award-winning, popular series "Astronomy for You" which was produced in 1966. His book: "The Stars are Yours". "One Thousand Questions Answered about Astronomy", and "Captives of the Sun" have had wide circulation throughout the world. He is the editor of the astronomical section of the World Almanac.

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CALANDER FOR DECEMBER

2 THE MOST INTERESTING STAR by James S. Pickering, Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 P.M. Business Meeting follows.

5,12 TELESCOPES MAKING CLASS at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 6601 Conn. Ave., N.W., 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. with Roy Walls

9 MD-DC JUNIORS MEETING at the Chevy Chase Community Center, 6601 Conn. Ave., N.W., 2:00 P.M. with Leith Holloway. Lecture on "Celestial Mechanics." For additional information phone Leith at 581-7870.

NO DISCUSSION GROUP in December because of the holidays.

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NOA REGRETS THE PASSING OF DR. PAUL REIL, HONORARY LIFE MEMBER.
OBSERVING AT THE FIVE-INCH

Friday evening, Nov. 10, found six NOA members including two juniors and observing chairman, Larry White at the NOA five inch but not on the Naval Observatory grounds. The evening was clear but chilly. Messier objects were the target for the evening and with several atlases as well as TIPS in hand we easily found the Dumbbell nebula M27 with its characteristic shape faintly visible. M71 showed up as a slight smudge but M5 and M65 presented fine open clusters in Cygnus. The last mentioned cluster somewhat resembled the lighted vertices of a cube.

Since the asteroids Vesta and Ceres were nearing opposition they were also sought out. Both asteroids were between 7th and 8th magnitude and were located in Taurus. Due to the small angular distance between Ceres and a fainter star it was possible to detect the motion of this minor planet during an observation period of less than an hour.

The five inch refractor is open for use by any qualified NOA member. This instrument and the many homemade reflectors in the area provide the means for a much more active observing program than has been evident in the recent past. Anyone interested in forming an M-CLUB for observing Messier objects can contact me at LK 2-1247.

***** Jim Krebs *****

As evidence by the many inquiries at the Oct. business meeting, the dinbats separating major subjects in the Oct. 1961 issue of STARLIGHT stirred the curiosity of the NOA membership as anticipated. For those who were not present at that meeting, these beautifully flowing inscriptions are quotations in the native tongue of modern Iran (Parsi) and were contributed by our fellow member Ellis Marshall, by evocation a student of the antiquities as well as of astronomy.

Parsi (or Pharsi) derives from "Pars"—an Iranian province—which is also the root, through the Greek, of the Anglicized name for Iran, i.e., Persia. Mr. Marshall provides the following free translations and commentary for the subject quotations from the region of the ancient birthplace of astronomy.


2. The opening lines of one of the most famous poems of Edwarsh Shahs a-Din Mohammed Hafez. Sairai, better known as Hafez. It has been translated by the well known orientalist Dr. A. J. Arbbery as follows:

"Sweet maid, if thou would'st charm my sight,
And bid these arms thy neck inflow;
That rosy cheek, that lily hand,
Would give thy poet more delight,
Than all Socrates' vaunted gold,
Than all the gems of Samarouda.

TELESCOPE MAKING NEWS

The following persons are build telescopes in NOA Telescope Making Classes.

Cherry Chase Recreation Center
John Scarlits 6" Newtonian Joan Dunn 6" Newtonian
Hoy Wells, Instructor.
Luray Stein 6" " Mike Mahoney 6" "
Murray Stein 6" " Eliyad Ember 6" "
Willie Cooper 6" " Eli Mantel 4" "
Johnny Reed 6" " " 4" "
Walter Lea 6" " John Saleh 8" "
Bob Houston 6" " Thomas Watson 6" "
Chris Kowalke 6" " Chris Sanger 6" "
Richard Stanger 6" " Eugene Davis 4" "
Herbert Brown 6" " Larry Shotland 6" 
Tommy Linaquait 6" " Michael Shotland 4" "
Ernest Goodwin 6" Cassegrainian

Fairfax, Virginia High School
Grady Whitney, Instructor

Paisley Rockwell 6" Newtonian Bill Biswas 6" Newtonian
Gary Minor 6" " Andy Oliver 6" "
Philip Judge 6" " Gay Blu 6" "
Fred Bolland 6" "
Edward Lusby 10" Cassegrainian
L. K. MacMillan 6" Newtonian Richest Field
Gary Cohen and Dave McLean 12" Newtonian Richest Field
Chris Harvey 10" Newtonian for McLean High School Astronomy Club

The McLean High School Astronomy Club has been planning for several years to build an Observatory and permission has been obtained from the school officials to erect a small structure on school property. Over $600 has been raised by the club in various ways and the telescope is well under way. The 10" mirror has been ground and polished and is now being figured. This club has been quite active and is to be congratulated on the excellent progress it has made.

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TELESCOPE FOR SALE

This is an unusual telescope: a 12" Cassegrainian with a F/8 perforated primary. Effective focal length is 66". Included with the telescope are; a Focuser 10mm orthoscopic eyepiece, a Gudwin barlow, a camera attachment that will take 2½ x 2½ cut film or plates (two holders included), and a finder with a 1½" aperture objective. The stand is an undriven, equatorial, and quite heavy. The whole works is in a sliding roof observatory. Price: $600 for the telescope and associated equipment; $250 for telescope and equatorial mount. (For the $150 the buyer is also entitled to the observatory, but he must help me disassemble it.)