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EXHIBITS:

Exhibits for the Convention are in charge of Mr. Hoy J Walls. A number of very interesting exhibits have been arranged for the Convention. Several unique telescopes, grinding exhibits, casting exhibits, lenses, past Convention photos will be there for you to look over. We also hope to present several astronomical exhibits that were Science Fair Winners from this area. Some of these will be sent to the Seattle's World Fair for National competitions. We know there are many worthwhile projects among the NCA members and we hope that each of you will take it upon yourself to bring your pet project for exhibit. Please call Mr. Walls on OL 2 5395 and discuss your exhibit with him. Invitations have been issued to all the Astronomical League supporting members to either exhibit their products or to send "hand out" literature. Exhibits may be set up Saturday morning and should be removed after the NCA meeting that evening.

SIGHTSEEING AND GUIDES

Many of our visiting amateur astronomers have never been in Washington D.C. and may wish to do some sightseeing. To assist them in seeing the things they are most desirous of seeing we have arranged for a sightseeing session Sunday morning, May 13, at 9 AM in the morning. We are asking the folks to meet in front of the Department of Commerce. We hope that members of the NCA will offer the use of their cars and act as guides as may be required to make the 1962 Middle East Regional Convention an outstanding memory for all our visitors. If you will furnish a car or act as a guide will you please leave your name at the registration desk at the time you pick up your badge.

MD--DC JUNIORS

Since the Middle East Regional Convention occurs on the same day of the month as our regular meeting usually falls, the MD-DC juniors have not scheduled a separate meeting in May. All juniors are urged to attend as much of the Convention as they can.

In the March issue of STAR DUST we failed to give credit to yet a third NCA Junior member, namely Alan Creutz, who won honors in the 21st Annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search by writing a research report entitled, "Amateur Botanical and Zoological Study of 13.328 Acres."

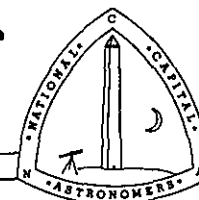
Leith Holloway, Junior Director

STAR DUST



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★ STAR DUST



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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING SIRIUS



The versatile director of the Sproul Observatory of Swarthmore College, and Chairman of the Department of Astronomy, will be the speaker for next month's meeting. This will take place the evening of the Middle East Regional Convention, May 12, 1962, and is scheduled for fifteen minutes later than the regular meeting.

Dr. Peter van de Kamp has chosen the title "The Importance of Being Sirius," and this lecture will deal with the visual binary, Sirius, which will be of particular interest to astronomers in the next two decades.

Sirius was the first star for which the companion was discovered from the perturbations in the proper motion of the primary component. For the past 25 years this same method of discovery has been applied at the Sproul Observatory to discover unseen companion stars in our immediate stellar neighborhood. The present status of this observing program, and the results will be the primary topic of this lecture.

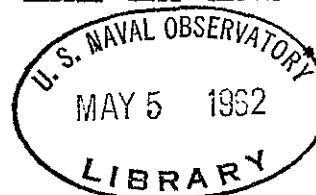
Dr. van de Kamp has been the director of Sproul Observatory since 1937. Apart from occasional research, dealing with the dimming of starlight in the galactic system, he has applied himself to the problems of distances, motions, and orbital motions of individual stars. He has concentrated primarily on a study of nearby stars by studying their positions and motions, as measured on photographs taken with the 24 inch refractor of the Observatory.

He is responsible for the two books "Basic Astronomy", written for the serious layman, and "The Architecture of the Universe" written in collaboration with F. Honnegger. He also has written for innumerable astronomical articles mostly in the Astronomical Journal.

Dr. van de Kamp is an accomplished musician, who plays well the violin, viola, and piano. He has conducted and composed.... having had several compositions published.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE *** MEETING NIGHT CHANGED TO MAY 12 due to MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON MAY 11, 12, & 13



DON'T FORGET *** REGULAR MEETING CHANGED TO May 12 ***

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the April Meeting the nominating committee presented the following slate.

For President: Dr. J. Q. Gant and Mrs. Ellen Stolarik
 For Vice-Pres.: A. I. Malstron and Ellis Marshall
 For Secretary: Morton Schiff
 For Treasurer: Roger Harvey and Daniel Spitz
 For Trustees: James Krebs and Robert McCracken

NEW MEMBERS: Regular

Hamid Mahdy, 7617 Atwood St., Wash. 28, DC. Tel. RE 5-3206

Junior Members:

Jay Amsbay, 5507 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, Md. Tel. OL 2-1953
 John Geweke, 5300 21st Road, Arlington, Va. KE 8-5198
 David Keselar, 11605 Labanon Terrance, Silver Spring 622-3038
 Polly Moore, 6002 Demsey St., McLean, Va. EL 6-7551
 Spence Rodder, 8405 Rayburn Rd., Bethesda, Md. OL 6-3757

MARCH DISCUSSION GROUP

It was great fun reminiscing at the March Discussion Group. I got so much material that it will be months before we can expect to see our story in SKY and TELESCOPE. My thanks to all of those who came out and contributed.

Betty Lipscomb

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL CONVENTION**WASHINGTON, DC, May 11, 12, 13

National Capital Astronomers - Host Society
 Bob Wright -- Chairman

The Middle East Section of the Astronomical League is composed of amateur astronomical societies located in the states of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, the southern portion of New Jersey and the District of Columbia. Most of the member societies in this area will have representatives and members in attendance. All societies in the region have been invited to attend whether or not they are members of the Astronomical League. Some of those present will give papers or discuss society activities. You will find out that most these societies have aims that are comparable with those of the NCA. You will be interested in hearing their reports. We urge you to register (application may be out out of STAR DUST) and to attend this Convention and to learn about observing programs and activities of our neighboring societies. The last Regional Convention to be held in Washington DC was in May 1958. The General Convention of the League was held here in 1953. We are sure that you will want to take some part in these affairs and become better acquainted with the visiting amateur astronomers.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY FRIDAY EVENING MAY 11, 1962

The opening Convention activities will be held at the Naval Observatory Friday evening May 11, at 8:00 PM. This event will be open to all that intend to be present at the Convention on Saturday morning at the Department of Commerce. The activities at the Naval Observatory are:

Tour of the Naval Observatory
 Observing through the 26-inch, weather permitting
 Open House at the NCA Observatory
 Star Party, weather permitting

The tour of the Naval Observatory and observing through the 26-inch were arranged by Mr. Robert Rhynsburger, Staff member of the Observatory, and member of the NCA. The Open House at our Observatory, will be in charge of Mr. Larry White. He will very much appreciate your help in bringing or asking others to bring telescopes for the Star Party. Scoopes will be set up in the area around our observatory and observing may continue until midnight. Your telescope and your presence will help to make this a success.

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE OBSERVATORY AND BUFFET DINNER:

The paper session on Saturday afternoon will end promptly at 5:00 PM. All those registering for the buffet dinner at Georgetown College and for the tour of their Observatory will be loaded into busses in front of the Department of Commerce and taken directly to the Observatory. The dinner and transportation to and from Georgetown are sold only as a single item. The cost is \$2.75 for each person. We have been requested not to bring individual cars to Georgetown due to lack of parking facilities at the Observatory. The buffet dinner will be served on the lawn adjacent to the Observatory. In case of inclement weather it will be served in the Gym. Busses will be loaded for the return trip to the Department of Commerce at 7:45 PM arriving back in plenty of time for the evening lecture by Dr. Peter van de Kamp of Sproul Observatory.

The tickets for this will be given out at the Registration desk at the Dept. of Commerce Saturday morning. However please let us know in advance that you desire to attend this affair. Please send your remittance to Mrs. Wm Lipscomb (In case you have already registered for the Convention please forward the enclosed registration form indicating that you have registered but also wish to go to Georgetown.) This should be received by May 10 in order that you will be sure of your reservation.

NCA REGISTRATION FORM NCA

Forward to Mrs. Wm. Lipscomb, 906 Waterford Road, Alexandria, Va.

Name _____ Address _____
 I will attend the Tour, U.S. Naval Observatory _____
 I wish to visit Georgetown Observatory Buffet Dinner _____
 \$2.75 per person (Must be in by May 10) \$ _____
 Registration (if not previously paid) \$1.00 \$ _____
 I will furnish a car and act as guide _____
 I will act as guide _____

Make checks payable to Mrs. Wm. Lipscomb