

PRINCE GEORGES' COUNTY JUNIORS

At their regular monthly meeting, the PGC Juniors continued work on their bus trip to Edmonds and Fels Planetarium. (See advertisement below)

An observing program was planned which consists of a Messier race, meteor counts, etc.

- Mike Jewell

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TWO BUSES TO PHILADELPHIA ——— MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

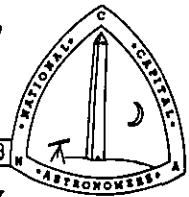
We are ready!!

The second bus is filling fast, so please help by phoning Ted Nebbe at LU 2-6721 and confirming your intention to go with the group. For \$7.50 you will enjoy a round trip to Philadelphia via Edmonds Scientific Co. at Barrington, N.J. and have your entrance fee paid into the Franklin Inst., Fels Planetarium, plus games and fun on the bus.

Of course, you have already been to Phila, but everybody enjoys an NGA trip in the spring. Come along with us — April 30 — support the Junior effort. The bus will leave the Commerce Department at 9:00 A.M. and return between 9:00 and 9:30 P.M. to the same place.

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★ STAR DUST



April 1966

Vol. XXIII, No. 8

NGA WELCOMES GUESTS FROM THE LEHIGH VALLEY SOCIETY



Marion Robson



Ernest Robson

At the April meeting, we will be visited by two fellow amateur astronomers, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Robson. The Robsons come to us from the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomy Society and will present a paper on "Composite eye piece images of globular clusters." The Robsons became interested in the globular clusters, first because of their spectacular images, and later because of the significance of their information when observed and recorded by self corrective perceptual methods. -

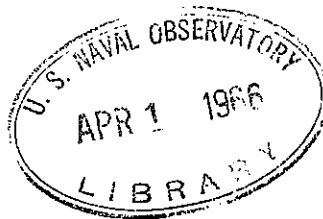
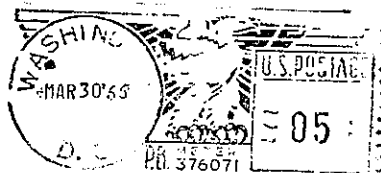
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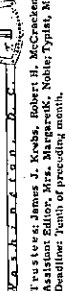
CALENDAR

- APRIL 2 COMPOSITE EYE PIECE IMAGES OF GLOBULAR CLUSTERS by Ernest and Marion Robson at 8:15 P.M. in the Interior Dept. Auditorium. Business meeting follows.
- 9 MD-DC JUNIORS meeting at 2:00 P.M. in the Chevy Chase Library, 8005 Conn. Avenue, Chevy Chase, Maryland. Program to be announced.
- 16 HOBBY SHOW at the Commerce Department on Fourteenth St., between Pennsy. Ave. and Constitution Ave. from noon until 10:00 P.M. Come anytime, browsing and discussions going on all day. For further information, see Page 2.
- 22 GROUP OBSERVING AT THE FIVE INCH on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory 8:00 P.M. with Larry White.
- 30 BUS TRIP TO PHILADELPHIA to visit the Franklin Inst. and the Fels Planetarium. For details see Page 4.
- 1,15,29 TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at McLean High School, McLean, Va. with Grady Whitney at 8:30 P.M.
- 5,12,19,26 TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at the Chevy Chase Community Center from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. with Hoy Walls
- 1,8,15,22,29 ADVANCED TELESCOPE MAKING CLASS at the Chevy Chase Community Center from 7:30 to 10:00 P.M. with Hoy Walls.

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Library,  
Naval Observatory  
Washington 25, D.C.



Marion Robson and Ernest Rebsen-Cont'd. from Page 1--Ernest Rebsen's professional work has been in the field of detergent chemistry and his interests have been in the acoustic patterns of poetry and observational amateur astronomy. An AB degree graduate from Amherst College 1924, he was a student of Robert Frost. As a detergent chemist, Robson was technical director of the New York Rug Cleaning Association 1955. His chemical background included graduation from Pratt Institute Chemical School with supplementary work at New York University and The City College of New York. He has delivered papers on the globular clusters to the Lehigh Valley Amateur Astronomy Society, The Symposium of Amateur Astronomers of New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania, and to the Lebanon Pennsylvania Amateur Astronomy Society. His language publications include: "The Orchestra of the Language" T.Yessloff 1959; Poems in "The Wind Listens" an anthology of poetry; and technical papers to The Speech Association of America.

Marion Robson taught in the New York City School system and participated in the experimental work for the revision of the arithmetic curriculum. Her other interests have been the graphic arts and the graphic representations of astronomy. She drew the composite images for the globular cluster project.

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## NEW MEMBERS FOR NCA

The following persons have applied for junior membership in NCA; if you have any comments about these people please phone an NCA officer or Trustee.

Paul N. Powell, III  
3423 81st Avenue  
North Ferrestville, Maryland

Peter M. Lewentrout  
1445 Waggaman Circle  
McLean, Virginia

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## HOBBY SHOW .....APRIL 16

- Notes from Margaret Noble -

Are you ready? Don't delay another day. Get your favorite astronomical gadget ready to bring to the NCA Hobby Show at the U. S. Commerce Dept. The exhibits can be set-up at noon, so please bring your part early in the day and enjoy the whole afternoon browsing and discussing "things astronomical."

Look in March STAR DUST and contribute some information that is needed as was indicated on the comprehensive list. Mabel Sterns is compiling an exhibit that shows what is being done in Astronomy in the Washington, D. C. area. Let Mabel know what you have found as every bit of information will help to make this exhibit very worthwhile.

NCA would like to hear from the nearby astronomical societies concerning some exhibits or things astronomical that they would be willing to bring. We would enjoy having MERAL Societies participating. Let's make this HOBBY SHOW a memorable one. Mark your calendar Saturday, April 16, 1966 at the Commerce Dept. at 14th Street, between Pennsylvania Ave. & Const. Ave. Come in the 14th Street entrance.

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- Notes from Mabel Sterns -

This thing of finding out what's going on in astronomy around Washington could be the start of a long-range program.

We have received material from the Predictions Section of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Carnegie Inst., Nature Center in Rock Creek Park, and Dr. O'Keefe at Goddard Space Flight Center. More and more names of astronomy sources turn up until it is apparent that we won't be able to represent them all at the hobby show unless members put in phone calls and get the facts--who, what, where, when, and how.

Mrs. Noble, President of NCA, has suggested that if the display is worthwhile, we take it to Harrisburg for the regional convention in June. Looking still farther ahead, why not keep it current and growing? Even amateur astronomers should know what's going on around them in a city like ours.

## Notes from Mabel Sterns - Continued

As a few suggestions to work on, what connection is there between the National Geographic Society and astronomy? (It's an important one and we have no material on it.) The National Museum has some good astronomical exhibits which could be listed, at least, for the show. We also need something from the Army Map Service.

No doubt you have some other ideas. Bring whatever you can (in addition to your own display, of course) to the hobby show. Any questions? Call: 265-5219 - Mabel Sterns.

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## MARCH LECTURE - THE LUNAR SURFACE

Man will bring a piece of the lunar surface back to earth sometime around 1970, but our March speaker, Dr. John O'Keefe of the Goddard Space Flight Center says that we already have many samples of the moon's surface; namely, tektites. However, only about half of the authorities believe tektites have a lunar origin. The opposition headed by Drey think they are terrestrial.

There are three mutually exclusive theories on the origin of the lunar seas. One says that they are the product of erosion from the highlands, but without water on the moon it is difficult to visualize how this is possible. Kuiper thinks the seas are flows of black lava. Finally O'Keefe believes them to be deposits of volcanic ash.

According to O'Keefe, meteors striking the moon knock fragments off of the lunar surface, and about half of these eventually reach the earth as tektites. Particles of meteoric iron in tektites prove to O'Keefe that they are extraterrestrial. However, they probably did not come from the asteroid belt because they do not contain aluminum 26, a radioactive substance found in regular meteorites. Furthermore, Australian tektites have unmistakable markings showing that they passed through the earth's atmosphere at hypersonic speeds being subjected to ablation of 30 to 40 percent of their mass. They must have come from the moon for they could not have been that much ablated by bouncing from one part of the earth to another.

Tektites appear black, but on a thin edge they may show an olive green or brown color. Chemically, tektites differ from terrestrial glass by having low water and potash content. They contain a high pressure form of silica which would be completely destroyed by the amount of heating required to convert sedimentary rock on earth to glass. Therefore, tektites must have been glass before impact with the earth. O'Keefe believes that the lunar seas are ash flow of tufted glass (welded bits of glass) and that tektites are samples of this material.

- Leith Holloway

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## George Boreson -- Charter NCA Member

Mr. George Boreson passed away suddenly on February 22, 1966. The Officers and Members of the National Capital Astronomers wish to express their deepest sympathy to the family and friends of a fine gentleman. Mr. Boreson was an excellent lens maker and tool maker. Even in his last days, he spent time grinding on an optical flat. His intense interest in astronomy helped to fill his life that was so affected by his loss of hearing. Many NCA members will miss this dedicated man.