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U. S. NAVAL OBSERVATORY COMPLETE LUNAR OCCULTATION PREDICTIONS
COMPUTED FOR WASHINGTON (LAT 38.923 LONG 77.065) DISTANCE FROM STANDARD STATION = 0 MILES
STANDARD STATION AT LAT 38-920 LONG 77.065

Table with columns: DATE, TIME (H M S), ACC, V, D, I, C, USNO, S.A.O., MAG, SP, PH, PERCENT ELG, PA, CISP, VA, MOON, SUN AA, LIBRATON MIN, LONG, LAT, MAG. Rows list various occultation events from March 21 to March 31, 1968.

STAR DUST

March 1968 Vol. XXV No. 7

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY

Our attention this month will be focused on the early days of our growing American nation when John Quincy Adams' vision of "lighthouses of the skies" began to bear fruit in the 1840's. Central in the rapid growth of American observatories is the U.S. Naval Observatory, the outcome of the urgings of chiefly one Lieutenant James Gilliss, U.S.N. An interesting and important chapter in the history of science will be recaptured by Dr. David Musto, who has studied this period in some detail.

Dr. Musto is by profession a physician, but one whose orbit has been strongly perturbed by an absorbing interest in the history of science. He holds an M.A. degree in the history of science, obtained from Yale University; he is a member of Commission No. 41 (history) of the International Astronomical Union. He is presently a visiting assistant professor of history at Johns Hopkins University.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to hear his paper given at the A.L. Convention in July will look forward to its sequel, and another entertaining description of the beginnings of American astronomy.

CALENDAR

- MARCH 2..... 6:15 p.m. Dinner with the speaker. Bassin's at the corner of 14th and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Call Jerry Hudson; 948-2809 to make reservations.
- 2..... 8:15 p.m. THE EARLY DAYS OF THE NAVAL OBSERVATORY Dr. David Musto. Dept. of Commerce Auditorium. Followed by regular business meeting.
- 16..... 8:15 p.m. DISCUSSION GROUP. Dept. of Commerce, Room 2062. Topic will be variable stars; the emphasis is on amateur participation in this interesting and highly useful area. Conducted by Mr. Sterling Anderson.
- 1,8,15,22,29 Telescope making classes at Chevy Chase Community Center. 7:30-10:00 p.m.
- 29..... OBSERVING AT THE FIVE INCH on the grounds of the U.S. Naval Observatory 8-10 p.m. with Larry White.
- NEXT MONTH... The lecture topic for April promises to be meteoric, when Dr. Henderson, Smithsonian Institution--well-known expert in this area--will be our guest speaker.

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