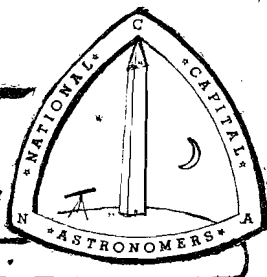
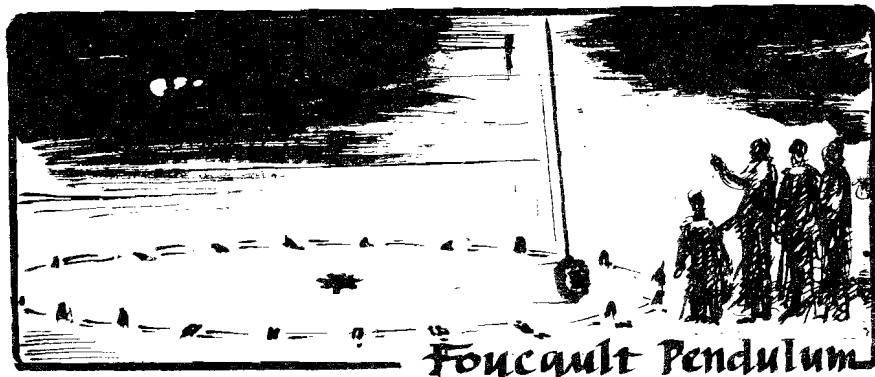


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JANUARY, 1970 ... VOL. XXVII ... NO. 5 ...



Foucault Pendulum

Lab Teaching Methods To Be Discussed

During the past decade, American Astronomy has become "big science", with major optical and radio installations being designed and supported by federal funds rather than private philanthropy as before. Along with this physical growth has come a large increase in the number of students aiming at astronomy as a profession or electing courses in it under liberal arts programs. Some teachers of astronomy have been actively developing new and better ways to teach the concepts involved; some ingenious laboratory exercises have been a by-product.

Dr. Elske Smith, already noted for her studies of optical polarization in the Southern Hemisphere Milky Way, chaired a conference on Laboratory Exercises in Astronomy at the August 1969 Meeting of the American Astronomical Society. Among the new developments she will discuss are a Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram of the Pleiades in relation to radiation laws; applications of the Lick Photographic Star Atlas, and an unusual illustration of the concept of orders of magnitude.

Dr. Smith will also deal with some crucial questions about education for a professional career in Astronomy, including current student weaknesses in Math and Physics and the place of Astronomy in the undergraduate curriculum. Thus, the January 1970 meeting is a must for many of our Juniors.

CALENDAR

January 3rd, 6:15 P.M. Dinner with Dr. Elske Smith at Bassins, 14th and Penna. Ave. N.W., Please Phone Winkler 762-5135 or Legowik at 946-8996 by Saturday noon for reservations.

8:15 P.M. January Meeting of the NCA at the Department of Commerce Auditorium, 14th and E. Streets, N.W. Dr. Smith will speak on Astronomical Laboratory exercises

The Junior members will meet at 7:30 PM, before the regular meeting.

January 10th, 2:00 P.M. Junior Division Meeting, Chevy Chase Public Library, 8004 Connecticut Ave., Chevy Chase Md.

January 17th, 7:30 P.M. Directors meeting at the Auditorium of the Department of Commerce Building, before the discussion group.

January 17th 8:15 P.M. Discussion Group, Dept. of Commerce Auditorium, 14th and E. Streets, N.W. A draft for a new pamphlet on the National Capital Astronomers will be discussed, and the possibility of an astrophotographic contest to illustrate it will be considered.

Observations through the Five-Inch at the Naval Observatory will be conducted by Mr. Larry White on the night of the 2nd January and by Dr. James Krebs on the 7th of January from 8:00 P.M. through 10:00 P.M.

Telescope-making classes will be conducted by Jerry Schnall every Friday evening from 8:00 to 10:00 at the Palisades Recreation Center.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Directors meeting (Trustee Meeting) will be called to discuss and vote on the acceptance of rules of procedures for the Directors meeting. The meeting will convene at 7:30, before the discussion group on the 17th of January. Any recommendations by members may be officially presented for future consideration by the directors, at this meeting.

John Korinthis is nominated chairman of membership committee. The other members are Jerry Schnall and Bob Bolster.

Juniors' Report

The M.D.-D.C. Juniors would like to thank Mr. Jerry Hudson, who presented a very interesting slide show at our November meeting. He also gave us some helpful hints on photography.

We discussed several photographs brought in by Peter Fiekowsky at our December meeting. An example of his work is shown. He used a 1/10 second exposure on Tri-X film pushed to an ASA of 1200 through his six-inch, f/8 reflector with a 7/8-inch eyepiece and a 2X Barlow lens. He used a Rolliflex camera with a 75mm lens. Albert Einstein High School will be conducting a free form education program in which I will be teaching a course in astronomy. We also discussed several possible topics to present in the course. If anyone has an idea of an innovation in teaching astronomical topics to high school students please call me at 933-0945.

All of the Junior Division is working on drawing and photographing the Messier Objects. It is important to get these drawings in to Sheila Duck. At Md.-D.C.'s January 10th meeting we will compare drawings of the Andromeda Galaxy, the Orion Nebula, and M36, M37 and M38 in Auriga. Everyone should have several drawings.

On Thursday, December 18th, a group from Walt Whitman High School and some Md.-D.C. juniors went to the planetarium at Montgomery College to hear a talk by Mrs. Moore.

Raymond Finkleman

Moon Maps Available

Of interest to those who desire both information as well as technical excellence, a striking set of geological maps are available from the Department of the Interior. The Department has constructed sixteen Geological Maps of the near side of the Moon. The maps have a scale of 1:1,000,000 and are multicolored, coded to material of differing reflectivity. The maps are constructed principally from telescopic data and so should be helpful to the lunar observer. Individual maps can be obtained at a cost of \$1.00 at the Department of the Interior sales. When you visit the sales department remember that this is a good source of topographic maps of the areas in which you will be observing the eclipse this coming March. J.L.

NEWS NOTES

The next convention of the Middle East Region of the Astronomical League is tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 19th and 20th. The Baltimore Astronomical Society will host the meeting, which will most likely be at the Quality Courts Motel — west on the Baltimore Beltway. The main hall seats 175 persons.

The Baltimore Astronomical Society is currently studying plans for an observatory to house its 8-inch refractor, currently not in use. One suggestion has been a site known to be good in Harford County. There is a possibility, however, that a site may be found in Howard County on high ground shielded from present and future developments, and equidistant from Baltimore and Washington. It might be a good idea for some NCA members interested in observing from a good site to investigate the possibilities for official or unofficial cooperation, either with NCA or one of its sub-groups.

I am interested in finding any members who would like to observe the eclipse from North Carolina, not as individuals doing the exact same thing as all other individuals at the eclipse, but as members of an organized project observing many aspects of an organized project to observe many aspects of the eclipse in astronomy and other fields. At least some of the work of the project is not likely to be duplicated by other groups. For further information, write me or see me at the meeting.

Norman Sperling

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