

RESULTS OF THE TELESCOPE INVENTORY are not yet complete. So far we have:

Portable reflectors:

- 7 6-in. 2 of them have no tripod and need repair.
- 1 4 1/4-in. f. 4 16-in. tube, "cuddlescope."

Portable refractors:

- 5-in. Alvin Clark, property of society.
- 1 3/4-in., 18 inches long
- 1-in., 12 or 15 inches long
- 2 1/4-in. portable tube, permanent mounting, 35 X
- 2 1/4-in., 4 tubes with terrestrial and astronomical eyepieces and sunshade. Professional instrument. Own make: tripod, altazimuth mounting.

Binoculars, 1 6.5 x, 3 power not given. 1 field glasses 4 x, 1 power not given,

Other devices: 1 6" mirror. 5-in. circular map illuminated showing constellations, planets, stars to 10th magnitude. Rotated by motor.

The Observation Committee has names of the owners. The object of such a list is to show how we stack up as astronomers and what is available for planning public star gazing. Some scopes are incomplete or need repair. The telescope making committee might undertake to see that present equipment is finished and in good condition by the end of the year.

MODEL OF A PLANETARIUM is actually included in the model of postwar Washington, on view at the Corcoran Art Gallery, on the site of the old Naval Observatory about 23d and C Streets. Inquiry of the Parks and Planning Commission reveals that no one knows how it got there, when it will be constructed, how financed, or who started the idea. No plans have been drawn up.
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Editor, Mabel Sterns, 2517 K St. N.W. District 9422

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"THE MIDDLE AMERICAN CALENDAR" is the topic of an illustrated lecture to be given by Dr. M. W. Stirling of the Smithsonian Institution, November 3d, 8 p.m. at the National Museum.

Last June Dr. Stirling returned from Mexico after completing the seventh successive year of archeological exploration in southern Mexico (National Geographic Society-Smithsonian Institution Archeological Expedition), principally in the States of Veracruz, Tabasco, Campeche, and Chiapas. The work has been primarily in tracing out the early Olmec culture, which apparently preceded the classic Maya and all of the other high culture centers of Mexico and Central America. It was this early group who apparently introduced the Long Count calendar which was subsequently adopted and elaborated by the Maya. At Tres Zapotes, in Veracruz, Dr. Stirling located the earliest date yet found in the New World; and at Cerro de las Mesas, also in Veracruz, were found two other monuments containing very early dates, all of these being far outside the Maya territory. The expeditions found many beautiful carved monuments which were the work of these people, including colossal heads of basalt and skillfully made altars of the same material. Large quantities of jade were found in many of the sites, as it was the most precious and desired material in the possession of these people.

Last season Dr. Stirling excavated a buried temple in a mound in the highlands of Chiapas during a period of three months. Subsequently a new and very important Olmec site was discovered in southern Veracruz. This site appears to be the largest and most important ruin of this interesting culture which has yet been discovered.

STANDING ROOM ONLY confronted latecomers at the October meeting. A full house of 97 persons bulged the walls to hear Dr. Paul S. Watson of the Maryland Academy of Science conduct "A Voyage Through Space" via slides and motion pictures.

The time of departure was almost astronomically exactly as scheduled, and with the speed of modern mechanics we were whirled to outer space, stopping for a view of each object in the solar system, phenomena of our galaxy, and neighboring universes in something like half an hour. Dr. Watson's assistant at the projectors deserves credit for his smooth operation of the two machines, which enabled the lecture to flow rapidly without a break.

MR. ROLAND, president of the Jacksonville Astronomical Society was there. His society is primarily interested in photographing, nebulae especially. They have built several telescopes, some as large as 12 in. They are campaigning for \$30,000 to build an observatory and have the promise of a good photographic telescope when it is completed.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE listed below has held two meetings to discuss duties of officers and general administrative affairs. It promises a report of the matters considered, its findings and recommendations "soon." The next session will be November 15th, 8 p.m. at the home of Major and Mrs. Windham.

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| Leo Scott | Blanche Windham |
| Ray K. Windham | Clarence A. Peterson |
| Eugene S. Henning | Clarence deW. Herreshoff |
| Helen Harris | U. S. Lyons |
| Edgar W. Woolard | Mabel Sterns |

PRINTED HANDOUTS have been authorized for distribution to visitors at the Observatory on Navy Day. Frequent calls there ask where to find a group in astronomy. Surplus handbills will be used at meetings.

NAVAL OBSERVATORY RESUMES PUBLIC OBSERVATION NIGHTS on Navy Day and every Thursday thereafter. Once more the welcome mat is out, the Marine guards are gone, no

frisking at the gate. Write well in advance for free tickets.

STEPHEN NAGY DIES

The death of Stephen Nagy on September 28th was a great shock to the National Capital Amateur Astronomers Association. If any one man could be credited with fostering the early growth of the Association, it was Mr. Nagy. It was he who managed to convince the Naval Observatory that amateurs had a contribution to make to the cause of astronomy, and who, as the first president of our organization, led its activities for five years.

An optical worker at the Navy Yard, Mr. Nagy was keenly interested in telescope making and personally supervised the grinding of many mirrors. For several years he taught classes at Central High School for those interested in constructing small telescopes at low cost. He also took an active part in our observational meetings at the Naval Observatory and in the public parks. Throughout the years he insisted that there should be a planetarium in the nation's capital, and bent every effort toward interesting influential people in his dream, a dream yet to be realized.

Although he had to leave the society when his work took him to Chicago in 1942, amateur astronomy was always close to his heart. It was by no means his only interest, however, for among his hobbies he enjoyed music, painting, microscopy, and photography.

Mr. Nagy's jovial and cheerful personality will be greatly missed in the Association, and we wish to express our sincere sympathy to his nearest relatives.

---Helen Lyons Harris

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY. Harvard Books on Astronomy; The Story of Variable Stars, by Leon Campbell and Luigi Jacchia.

Between the Planets, by Fletcher G. Watson.
Earth, Moon, and Planets, by Fred L. Whipple.